Ansible EPS

What's ansible EPS?

AnsibleEPS is a **collection of ansible playbooks** (little ansible programs) to manage Linux/Unix hosts of your network.

Management permits in a centralized way: **software management** (install, update, delete), **services** (start, stop, configure), **users** (add, modify, delete), **security**, and much more.



CENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION OF YOUR SYSTEM

What can I do with AnsibleEPS?

Especifically, ansibleEPS does the following tasks:

Common management for all hosts (installation, configuration and checking)	 Locales
Hosts file (/etc/hosts) management for all hosts (configuration and checking)	Three level configuration • Global, to apply on all hosts • Group, to apply on all hosts belonging to group selected • Host, to apply on host selected

Sudo file (/etc/sudoers) management for all hosts (installation, configuration and checking)	Three level configuration • Global, to apply on all hosts • Group, to apply on all hosts belonging to group selected • Host, to apply on host selected
TCP Wrappers (/etc/hosts.allow & /etc/hosts.deny files) management for all hosts (configuration and checking)	Three level configuration • Global, to apply on all hosts • Group, to apply on all hosts belonging to group selected • Host, to apply on host selected
PAM Access (/etc/security/access.conf file) management for all hosts (installation, configuration and checking)	Three level configuration Global, to apply on all hosts Group, to apply on all hosts belonging to group selected Host, to apply on host selected
NRPE management for all hosts (installation, configuration and checking)	Three level configuration • Global, to apply on all hosts • Group, to apply on all hosts belonging to group selected • Host, to apply on host selected
IPTables management for all hosts (configuration and checking)	Three level configuration • Global, to apply on all hosts • Group, to apply on all hosts belonging to group selected
Crontab management for all hosts (configuration and checking)	 Host, to apply on host selected Three level configuration Global, to apply on all hosts Group, to apply on all hosts belonging to group selected Host, to apply on host selected
Proxmox servers management (configuration and checking)	Configuration of Proxmox servers
Bacula servers management (configuration and checking)	Configuration of Bacula servers
DHCP servers management (configuration and checking)	Configuration of DHCP servers
Munin servers management (configuration and checking)	Configuration of Munin servers
Nagios servers management (configuration and checking)	Configuration of Nagios servers
Email addresses list of QMail server	Addresss list generation of Qmail server

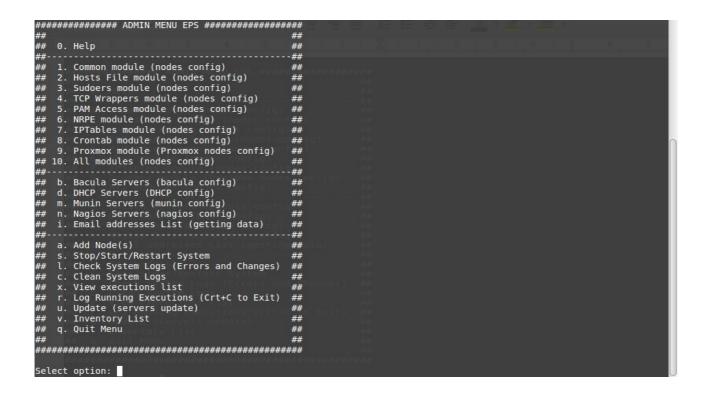
How does it work?

Management can be done in **two ways** (we can use both):

(A) **Direct Mode**, using the **Admin Menu**, and selecting preferred option and arguments as: host to be managed, group of hosts to be managed, or any other argument required.

Nodes Administration (Direct Mode)



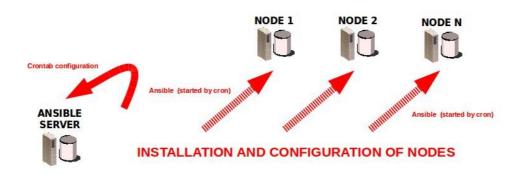


This way, we can manage anything for a host, a group or all hosts, just selecting option and arguments

(B) **Scheduled Mode**, we can select time (usually at night) to execute all managements for all hosts. This way we'll be sure that next morning every feature of every hosts will be correctly configured.

All changes made and errors produced will be saved in log files to be watched next morning.

Nodes Administration (Scheduled Mode)



Installation & Configuration

We have to install and prepare system to be ready for management. There are some step to do:

Installation

- (1) Copy tgz package 'ansibleEPS.tgz' and installation script 'install.py' (located in install directory) in a directory on a CentOS 6 host (this will be our 'Ansible Server').
- (2) Execute 'install.py' script to install 'AnsibleEPS'.

Configuration

(1) First of all, we have to **configure a host as node**. What's a node?

A node is a host directly SSH accessed by Ansible server (host where Ansible was installed) with a predefined user and no password.

By default, user predefined connecting to nodes is 'ansible', but we can change it modifying 'ansible ssh user' variable in '/etc/ansibleEPS/group vars/all/all' main configuration file.

To configure a host as node, simply select 'add node' option in Admin menu '/etc/ansibleEPS/menu.py'. Select 'user to connect' and hostname or IP. The script will try to connect by SSH to host as 'root' (we have to type password), then it will create 'user to connect' and 'authorized_keys' file with 'Ansible server' public key, also it will install 'sudo' package and configure 'sudoers' file permitting execute everything to 'user to connect'.

(2) Second step: add nodes to inventory

Inventory file is '/etc/ansibleEPS/eps'. Nodes are introduced to inventory inside groups.

Ansible Documentation at: http://docs.ansible.com/ansible/intro_inventory.html#inventory

- (3) **Modify Admin variables**. Every data we need to manage nodes are located at:
 - '/etc/ansibleEPS/group vars/all' directory, with global data to manage nodes
 - '/etc/ansibleEPS/group_vars' directory, with group-level data to manage nodes
 - '/etc/ansibleEPS/host_vars' directory, with host-level data to manage nodes

Example: In 'all' configuration file exists a variable 'nameserver' with IP's of DNS servers for all nodes. It can be different for a group of hosts (a group called 'remote', defined at inventory with nodes inside), then DNS server has change, so we have to create a file '/etc/ansibleEPS/group_vars/remote' and define 'nameserver' variable inside with different values. The same way, DNS servers can be different for a specific node (called 'special'), so we have to create a file '/etc/ansibleEPS/host_vars/special' and define 'nameserver' variable inside with other values.

(4) Execute playbooks from Admin menu '/etc/ansibleEPS/menu.py'

Does it work for all Operating System?

Most playbooks need to install specific software on nodes. By default playbooks work with 'yum' and 'apt' package managers. To add new package managers, its necessary to modify playbooks code.

System is ready to work with the following Operating System (all of them with 'yum' or 'apt' package manager):

- CentOS 6
- Debian 4
- Debian 6
- Debian 7
- Debian 8
- Ubuntu 14

There's a specific file for every Operating System and version in '/etc/ansibleEPS/group_vars' directory. They include variables and specific values. For example: specific users, repositories, software, configuration files, etc.

Adding a new Operating System and Version (based on 'yum' or 'apt' package manager) is very simple: just create a new file in '/etc/ansibleEPS/group_vars/' directory with name 'OperatingSystem-Version' and fill it with variables and specific values (easier copying other similar file and modifying values).

Example: To prepare system for RedHat 7 nodes, we can copy 'CentOS-6' file (the most similar) to 'RedHat-7', verifying values and changing if necessary.

Basic infrastructure example

AnsibleEPS has a basic inventory and variables created as a example of use. This is the insfrastructure schema:

EPS infrastructure

