

Tutorial for ansible-playbook

- -c191213
- author: engel-ch@pm.me
- license: MIT

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File & directory structure

```
hosts
./group_vars/all
./group_vars/t_rewrite
./roles/
./roles/⟨⟨roleName⟩⟩/vars
./roles/⟨⟨roleName⟩⟩/tasks
./roles/⟨⟨roleName⟩⟩/tests
./roles/⟨⟨roleName⟩⟩/meta
./roles/⟨⟨roleName⟩⟩/README.md
./roles/⟨⟨roleName⟩⟩/defaults
./roles/⟨⟨roleName⟩⟩/files
./roles/⟨⟨roleName⟩⟩/templates
./roles/⟨⟨roleName⟩⟩/.travis.yml
./roles/⟨⟨roleName⟩⟩/handlers
./host_vars/t-rewrite-cl.yml
./host_vars/t-rewrite-srv.yml
```

1. group_vars contains variables for a group or all hosts.

This directory usually contains the file `all`. This file is used for all hosts. Beside of this one, files like `t_rewrite` can exist. This file would only be applied for systems in the `t_rewrite` group. This file has precedence over entries in the `all` file.

2. `host_vars` contains files for specific hosts. These files end with the suffix `.yaml`
3. `roles/` contain the roles as usual. A role with all potential directories can also be created using the `ansible-galaxy` command.
4. `hosts` lists the actual hosts and defines groups of hosts

hosts file

```
[t_rewrite]
t-rewrite-cl
t-rewrite-srv

[consul]
consul1
consul2
consul3
```

Hint: ansible issued a warning if the group name `t_rewrite` was written with a dash, e.g. `t-rewrite`.

Execution

For all hosts in the hosts file

```
ansible-playbook -i hosts main.yaml
```

For specific hosts

```
ansible-playbook -i consul1, main.yaml
```

For some grouped hosts

```
ansible-playbook -i hosts --limit t_rewrite main.yaml
```

Tagged Execution

This call executes the commands in the `main.yaml` file for all hosts in the `./hosts` file.

```
ansible-playbook -i hosts --limit t_rewrite -t dbg2 main.yml
```

Variables

Variables can be set on different levels:

1. variables for the execution in `ansible.cfg` or `.ansible.cfg` or `/etc/ansible.cfg`. These variables are usually not accessible in tasks.
2. global variable in `group_vars/all`
3. host group variables in `'group_vars/<>'`
4. task variables in `roles/<<roleName>>/vars/main.yml`
5. CLI specified variables supplied using the `--extra-vars <<varName>>=<<value>>` option

Example for host-specific variables

This call executes all commands tagged with `dbg2` for all hosts specified in `./hosts`.

Here an example for host-specific variables.

```
ansible-playbook -i hosts --limit t_rewrite -t hostname2 main.yml
PLAY [test1] *****
TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [t_rewrite-cl]
ok: [t_rewrite-srv]
TASK [hostname2 : show hostname debug] *****
ok: [t_rewrite-cl] => {
    "msg": "echo t_rewrite-cl.ioee2-cloud.com"
}
ok: [t_rewrite-srv] => {
    "msg": "echo t_rewrite-srv.ioee2-cloud.com"
}
```

Roles

create new role

```
ansible-galaxy init roles/profile
```

This command is helpful, because it shows a full-blown directory tree for a role. Some, good documentation is contained in the created `README.md` file.

Main `main.yml` file

This file can contain tasks and roles:

```

- name: test1
  hosts: all
  become: yes
  become_method: sudo
  gather_facts: true    # not sure whether it can be done if python is not installed

  tasks:
  - name: dbg
    debug:
      msg: " echo {{ message }}"

  - name: dbg2
    debug:
      msg: "echo dbg2 {{message}}"
    tags:
      - dbg2

  roles:
  - name: profile
    roles:
      - profile
    tags:
      - profile

  - name: hostname2
    roles:
      - hostname2
    tags:
      - hostname2

```

Gather Facts

gather facts

```
ansible all -i hosts -m gather_facts > ansible.facts
```

ansible-playbook CLI-options

```

--list-tags
--list-tasks
--list-hosts
--skip-tags .... # do not execute the specified tags
--tags ...       # execute the specified tags

```

Execution parameters

They can be specified in `./ansible.cfg`. These values cannot easily be accessed in the ansible execution. Access requires either the action plugin or vars plugin.

Here is an example file:

```
[defaults]

timeout = 33
interpreter_python = /usr/bin/python3
```