

Lab 03.02 Creating a Puppet Module

IN719 Systems Administration

Introduction

A Puppet *module* is a collection of related resources that can be applied to a node as a single unit. For example, you may want to manage a service, together with its configuration files. In this lab we'll create a simple module to manage `sudo`

Creating the module

Modules can be placed in few standard locations, Depending on the version of Puppet we're using, the way it's configured, and your organisation's practices. In the paper we will create our modules in `/etc/puppet/code/modules`. To begin, create the following directories, all under `/etc/puppet/code/modules` on your mgmt server.

```
sudo
sudo/files
sudo/templates
sudo/manifests
```

Also create the file `sudo/manifests/init.pp`. Every module must have this basic structure.

Next, edit the `init.pp` file so that it contains the following:

```
class sudo {
  package { 'sudo':
    ensure => present,
  }
  file { '/etc/sudoers':
    owner  => 'root',
    group  => 'root',
    mode   => '0440',
    source => 'puppet:///modules/sudo/etc/sudoers',
    require => Package['sudo'],
  }
}
```

We defined a class, “sudo” with two resources in it. The first makes sure that the sudo package is installed. The second directs Puppet to copy the configuration file we’ll place in the module. It also sets various properties on the copied file. The source directive says to take the file from `etc/sudoers`, which will be found under the `files` subdirectory of the module. The last directive, “require” directs Puppet to ensure that the sudo package is installed before copying the configuration file.

In the future we can make changes to the configuration file in the module and that updated configuration will be distributed to any agents that need it without requiring us to update the manifest or take any other action.

We still need to place a copy of a sudoers file in the module. Take a good copy of your sudoers file and copy it to `/etc/puppet/code/modules/sudo/files/etc/sudoers`. (N.B.: sudoers is a file placed inside the directory `/etc/puppet/code/modules/sudo/files/etc/`.)

Applying the module to a node

Once the module is ready we can apply it to a node. To do this you only need to add one line to the `site.pp` file. Inside the node resource you created for the DB server in that last lab, add the line

```
include sudo
```

You can watch the agent apply the configuration by starting it manually:

```
sudo puppet agent --server=mgmt-x.foo.org.nz --no-daemonize --verbose --onetime
```

Remaining tasks

Using Puppet to configure one server is a bit masturbatory. Get puppet agents running on your remaining Linux hosts, create node resources for them, and start creating modules for the resources that they have in common. Don’t forget that the management server should also be an agent.

Soon we will configure our Puppet agents to run as daemons, but for the time being it’s helpful to invoke the agents manually so that we can observe the process and troubleshoot it if necessary.

A question for next time

Under the sudo module directory, there is a `templates` subdirectory. What is that for? How do you use it.?