4: Creating a Custom Resource



Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

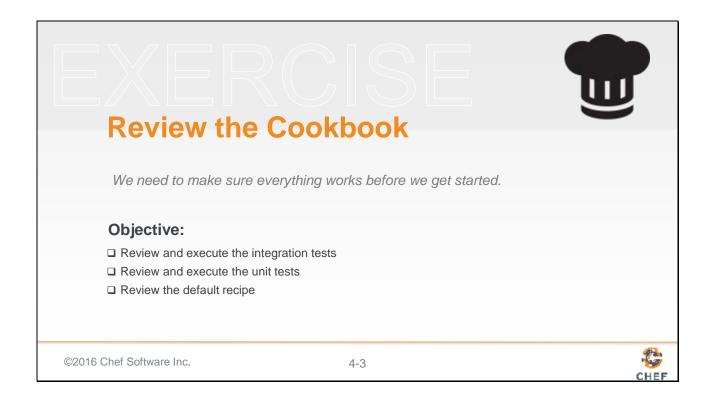
- > Create a custom resource file
- > Define a custom resource action
- > Extract Chef resources into a custom resource action implementation
- > Create custom resource properties

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After completing this module you should be able to: create a custom resource file; define a custom resource action; and extract Chef resources into a custom resource action implementation.



Before we begin creating this custom resource it is important to review the cookbook. We will start looking at the integration tests defined.

```
Reviewing the Existing Integration Tests

-/httpd/test/recipes/default_test.rb

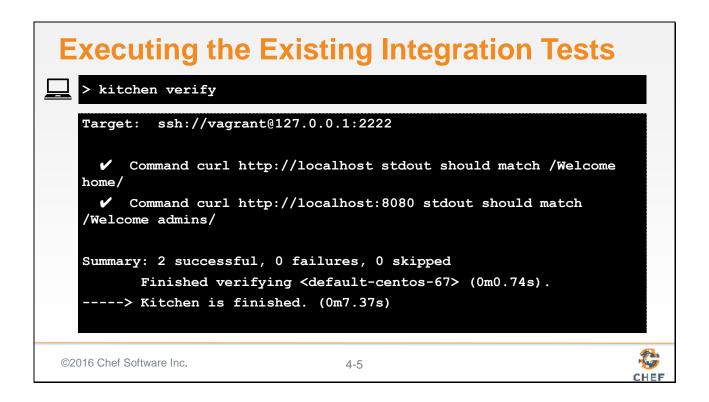
describe command('curl http://localhost') do
   its(:stdout) { should match(/Welcome home/) }
   end

describe command('curl http://localhost:8080') do
   its(:stdout) { should match(/Welcome admins/) }
end

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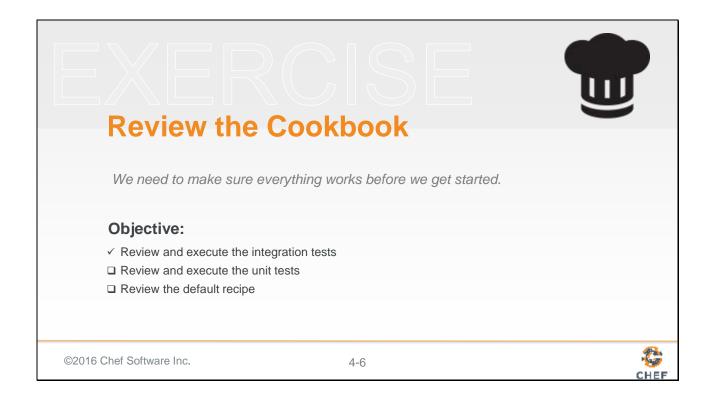
4-4
```

There are two tests define that assert that the a default website is available on port 80 and a second website available on port 8080. Each of these websites cater to the different possible roles one could have with the website. The standard user visits the sit on port 80 where admins visit the site on port 8080.



Before refactoring the cookbook it is important that you verify that the cookbook is in a known good state. To do that you would want to use Test Kitchen to execute the two test are defined.

Each example should pass without failure.



Let's examine the unit tests that are defined within the cookbook.

```
Reviewing the Existing Unit Tests

-/httpd/spec/unit/recipes/default_spec.rb

require 'spec_helper'

describe 'httpd::default' do
    context 'When all attributes are default, on an unspecified platform' do
    let(:chef_run) do
    runner = ChefSpec::ServerRunner.new
    runner.converge(described_recipe)
    end

it 'converges successfully' do
    expect { chef_run }.to_not raise_error
    end

# ... CONTINUES ON THE NEXT SLIDE ...
```

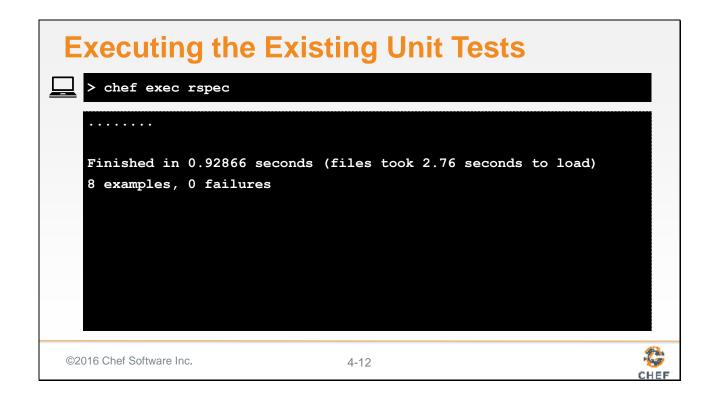
There is a single specification file defined for the default recipe. The first expectation defined is the generic one that assures us that the chef run should converge without raising an error.

The next few expectations ensure that the necessary packages are installed and the services are started and enabled.

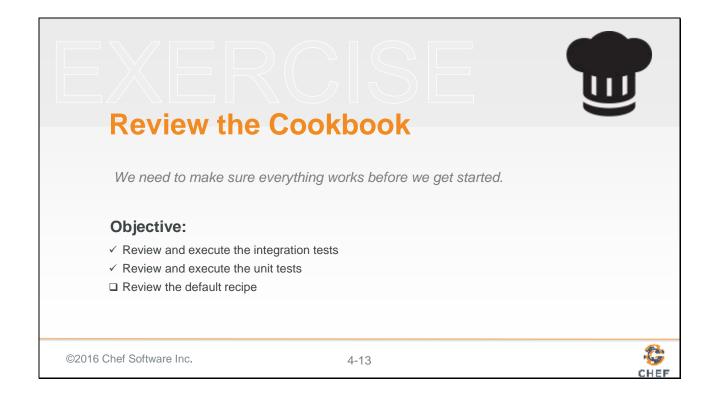
The next expectation ensures that the default site has an html page that is written out and contains a small amount of content that we assume should be present within that file to ensure our guests are welcome to the site.

For the admin site we ensure that the site directory is created, a configuration file is written, and that the home page displays a welcoming message to the admins visiting the site.

This is the end of the file showing the remaining 'end' keywords necessary to properly close the blocks that were opened (with the do keyword) above. Comments follow each one to show their matching 'do' in the file above.



After reviewing the expectations it is important to execute them to ensure that all of them pass.



Finally it is time to review the default recipe.

```
Reviewing the Default Recipe

-/httpd/recipes/default.rb

# Cookbook Name:: httpd
# Recipe:: default
#
# Copyright (c) 2016 The Authors, All Rights Reserved.
package 'httpd'

file '/var/www/html/index.html' do
    content '<hl>Welcome home!</hl>
end

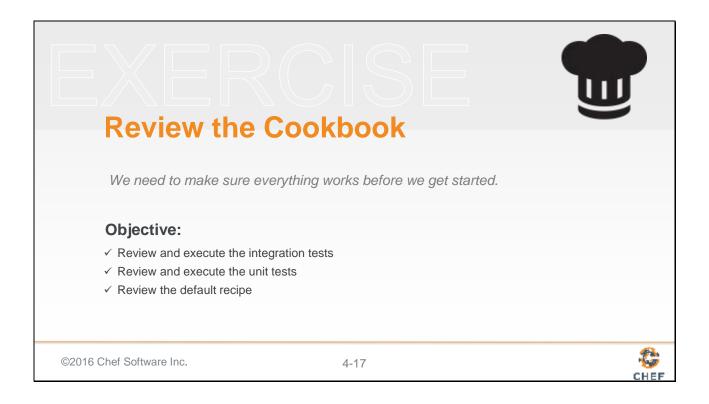
# ... CONTINUES ON THE NEXT SLIDE ...
```

First we see that the recipe installs the necessary packages to install the web server. An html page is written out for the default site to contain the appropriate welcome message.

```
Reviewing the Default Recipe
~/httpd/recipes/default.rb
   # ... CONTINUES FROM THE PREVIOUS SLIDE ...
   directory '/srv/apache/admins/html' do
    recursive true
    mode '0755'
   template '/etc/httpd/conf.d/admins.conf' do
    source 'conf.erb'
    mode '0644'
    variables(document_root:'/srv/apache/admins/html', port: 8080)
     notifies :restart, 'service[httpd]'
   file '/srv/apache/admins/html/index.html' do
    content '<h1>Welcome admins!</h1>'
   # ... CONTINUES ON THE NEXT SLIDE ...
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                                          4-15
                                                                                      CHEF
```

The next three resources setup the admin site. First creating the directory for the admin site to store the html it will display. A configuration file is written to ensure the webserver will find the new site that we have defined. Last an index html file is added to the admin site with a welcoming message.

For the webserver to work correctly with the default site and the admin site the service needs to be started. We also enable the service to ensure the web server will start again if the instance this is being executed on happens to reboot.



Reviewing the integration tests, unit tests, and recipe gives us a good understanding of what this cookbook accomplishes.



With a working cookbook it is time to refactor it to use custom resources. A custom resource will help make the recipe we define express our intentions more clearly and allow us to hide some of the implementation details that make it harder for us to ataglance understand what a recipe is accomplishing. It will also assist us if we wanted to support multiple different sites for other roles that have yet been defined.



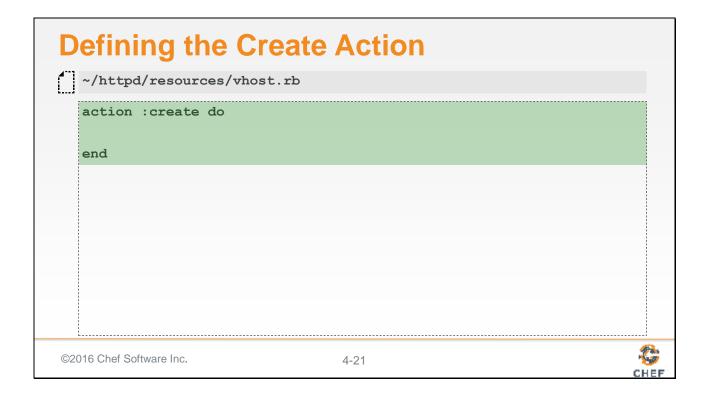
The chef command-line tool allows you to generate some initial directories and resource file. While we are developing a Custom Resource the former name for them was called Light Weight Resource Provider or LWRP. The chef command still uses the acronym lwrp as the generate sub-command.

We call these multiple different sites, available on different ports, a virtual host. This is often abbreviated as 'vhost'. Create a custom resource with the name 'vhost'.



A LWRP (light-weight resource provider) requires two directories. A resources directory and a provider directory. The custom resource implementation requires only the resources directory.

The providers directory is not needed so it should be removed.



Within the resources directory a file named 'vhost' should exist. Within it we are simply going to define an action with the name :create. This create action is where we will define the resources necessary to create a new vhost.

```
Implementing the Create Action
~/httpd/resources/vhost.rb
   action :create do
    directory '/srv/apache/admins/html' do
      recursive true
      mode '0755'
     template '/etc/httpd/conf.d/admins.conf' do
      source 'conf.erb'
      mode '0644'
      variables(document_root: '/srv/apache/admins/html',port: 8080)
      notifies :restart, 'service[httpd]'
     file '/srv/apache/admins/html/index.html' do
      content '<h1>Welcome admins!</h1>'
   end
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                                        4-22
                                                                                  CHEF
```

To create a new virtual host we need to generate a directory, add a configuration file, and define an html file. This is similar to the exact same resources that we defined for the admin site in the default recipe.

Our first implementation for our custom resource will create the exact same admin site exactly as it is done in the default recipe. These values are hard-coded to the admin site which we will address after getting our implementation working.

Now that those three resources are defined within the custom resource we want to use it within our recipe. We can now remove the use of these three resources within the default recipe.

Remove the directory resource, the template resource, and the file resource that generate the admin site.

```
Refactoring the Default Recipe

-/httpd/recipes/default.rb

template '/etc/httpd/conf.d/admins.conf' do
    source 'conf.erb'
    mode '0644'
    variables(
        document_root: '/srv/apache/admins/html',
        port: 8080
    )
    notifies :restart, 'service[httpd]'
    end

file '/srv/apache/admins/html/index.html' do
    content '<hl>Welcome admins!</hl>'
    end

service 'httpd' do
    action [:enable, :start]
    end

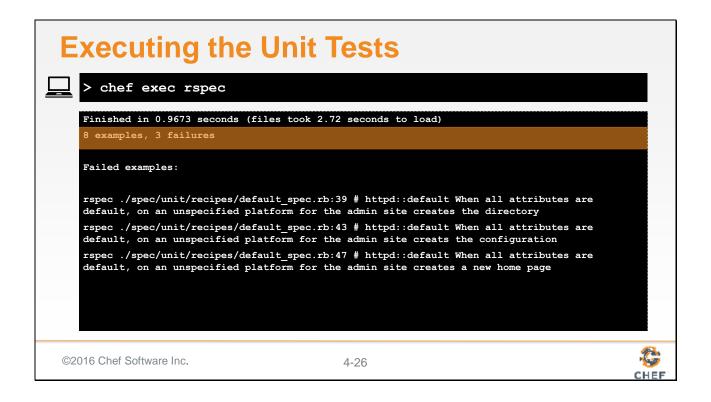
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```

Remove the directory resource, the template resource, and the file resource that generate the admin site.

Now we can insert the custom resource that is create for us. The full name of the custom resource comes from the name of the cookbook joined with an underscore to the name of the ruby file defined within the resources directory.

In this instance the cookbook's name is 'httpd' and the ruby file is named 'vhost' so the default name for the resource is 'httpd_vhost'. We inform the resource that we want to generate the site for admins, though the name of the resource is not used in any way in our definition. We explicitly state that the resource will use the create action.

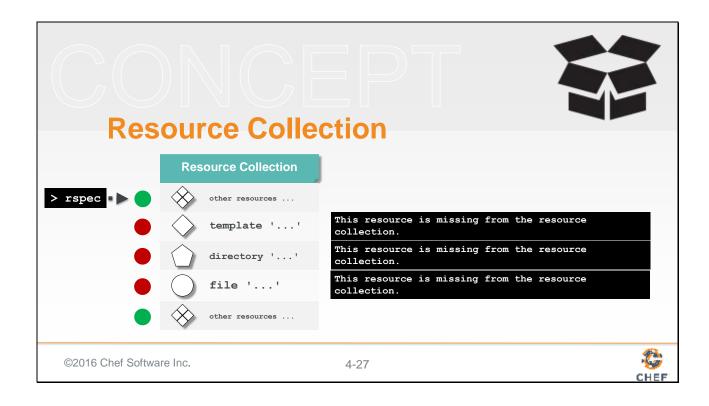


With the custom resource defined now within the default recipe it is time to run our unit tests to ensure that we have not broken our implementation.

When executing the tests you will see three failures. These three failures will instruct you that it does not see the following resources created: the directory for the admin site; the configuration file built from the template; and the html file.

This does not seem right. The resources defined within the custom resource do just that.

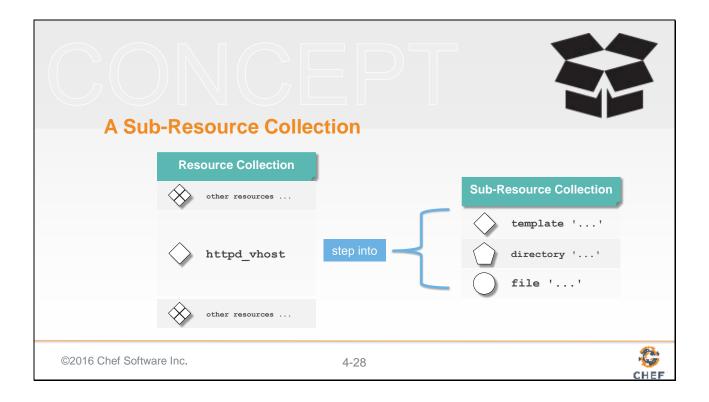
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Remember the ChefSpec expectations are validating the contents of the state of the resource collection.

When we created this custom resource we moved the three resources within the recipe into the action we defined. This changed the state of the resource collection and caused the failures we see when we execute the test suite.

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This custom resource created a resource collection within our resource collection; a sub-resource collection. ChefSpec by default does not step into this sub-resource collection. We can however enable that behavior if we modify our test setup to explicitly state we are interested in evaluating the contents of this sub-resource collection.

We will discuss more about the implications of having a sub-resource collection in the follow-up module.

The unit tests fail because the resources defined within the custom resource are now no longer placed onto the resource collection. This is because the custom resource is placed on the resource collection and the resources internally within it are placed on a secondary resource collection that the custom resource owns.

To ask our unit tests to verify the resources defined within our custom resource we need to explicitly ask the ChefSpec runner to step into the resource and examine the resources it uses to accomplish it's work.

```
Executing the Unit Tests

> chef exec rspec

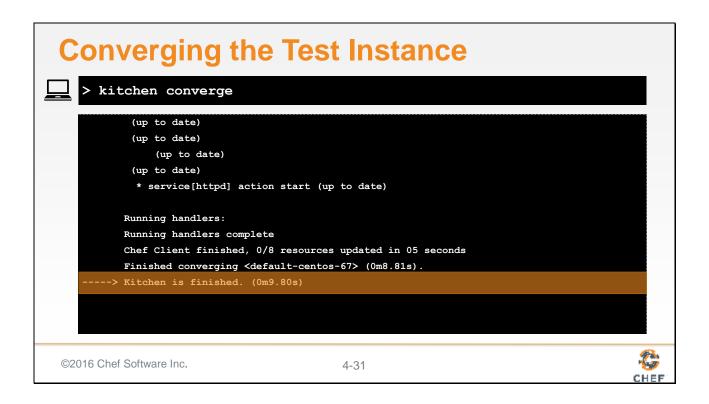
......

Finished in 0.98788 seconds (files took 2.95 seconds to load)
8 examples, 0 failures

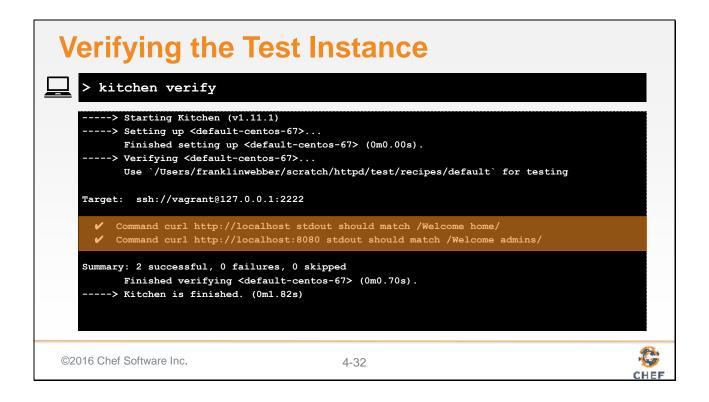
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4-30
```

Running the unit tests again should show all the expectations have been met.

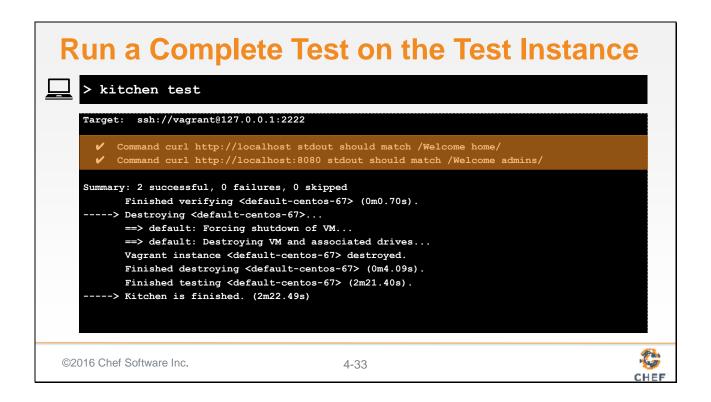


It is also important to execute the integration tests defined. First converging the test instance to ensure the recipe is defined correctly and converges successfully.



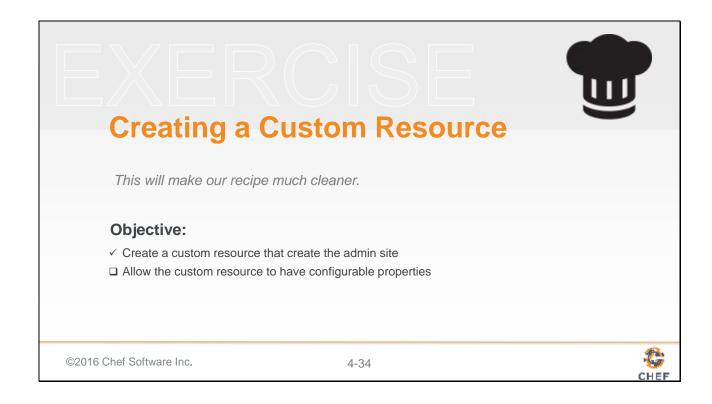
And finally we verify that the state of the system is still hosting our two sites.

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We made changes to the recipe and then used kitchen to converge this recipe against the test instance. This ensured that our recipe will successfully converge against a system that has already been configured and not raise any errors.

However, we still need to ensure that the recipe will converge successfully on a brand new instance so it is important to ask Test Kitchen to destroy the instance, converge a new instance, and verify the results. This can be done with the 'kitchen test' command.

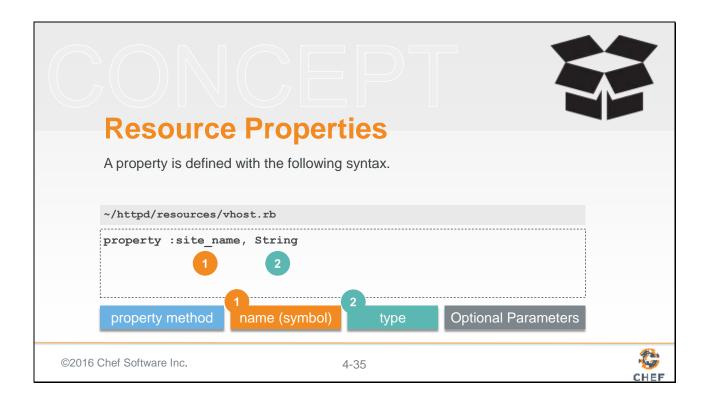


The initial implementation of the custom resource has been created and we have verified that it works by running our two test suites.

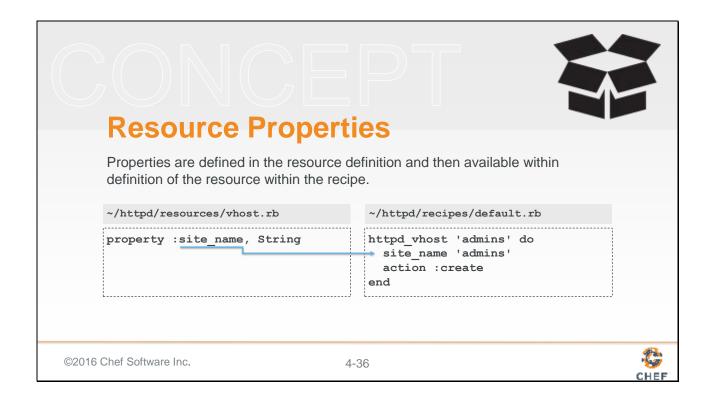
Now it is time to address the problem with the implementation having hard-coded values specific to the admin site. We want to make it more generic so that it can deploy a different, custom site for us if needed.

This can be done through properties that you defined on the custom resource.

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Properties are defined in the same file as you define the resource actions. Generally these are defined at the top of the file to make them immediately visible. A property is defined by specifying a method named property with two required parameters and a third set of optional parameters. The name of the property is defined as a Ruby Symbol. The type is a Ruby class name. This type enforces what kind of values are supported by this property; typically it is a String for text and a Fixnum for numbers. The optional parameters are defined as a Hash. We will explore defining a property with these parameters in the next module.



The property that you define within the custom resource definition becomes part of how you can describe the resource within the recipe.

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```
Defining a Property to Manage the site_name

-/httpd/resources/vhost.rb

property :site_name, String
action :create do

directory "/srv/apache/#{site_name}/html" do
recursive true
mode '0755'
end

template "/etc/httpd/conf.d/#{site_name}.conf" do
source 'conf.erb'
mode '0644'
variables(document_root: "/srv/apache/#{site_name}/html", port: 8080)
notifies :restart, 'service[httpd]'
end

# ... CONTINUES ON THE NEXT SLIDE ...
```

Let's start by defining a property named 'site_name' that will contain the name of the site we want to create. The name of the site will be used to create the directory for our index page, the configuration file details, and the message we send out to the visitor.

The 'site name' is going to be a text so we specify the type as String.

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```
Updating the Action to use the Property
~/httpd/resource/vhost.rb
   action :create do
    directory "/srv/apache/#{site_name}/html" do
     recursive true
     mode '0755'
     template "/etc/httpd/conf.d/#{site name}.conf" do
     source 'conf.erb'
      mode '0644'
      variables(document_root: "/srv/apache/#{site_name}/html", port: 8080)
      notifies :restart, "service[httpd]
     file "/srv/apache/#{site name}/html/index.html" do
      content "<h1>Welcome #{site_name}!</h1>"
     end
   end
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                                        4-38
                                                                                  CHEF
```

Within the action implementation we want to remove the mention of 'admin' and replace it with the value found within the 'site_name' custom property. A resource property creates a method with the same name as the property.

Now we need to replace the 'admin' text with the result of the property. This requires us to update a number of our resources to use String interpolation to express the directory created, the configuration path, and then default html page.

This property is not automatically defined and does not contain a default value so we must add this property to the custom resource implementation with the default recipe. In this case we are adding 'site name' and specifying the value is 'admins'.

This means our implementation should be exactly the same as before but the details are now configurable through this property instead of being hard-coded to 'admin'.

```
Executing the Unit Tests

> chef exec rspec

......

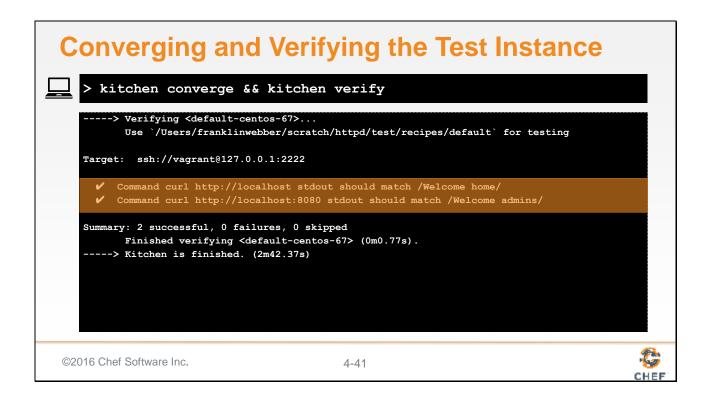
Finished in 1.22 seconds (files took 7.58 seconds to load)

8 examples, 0 failures

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4-40
```

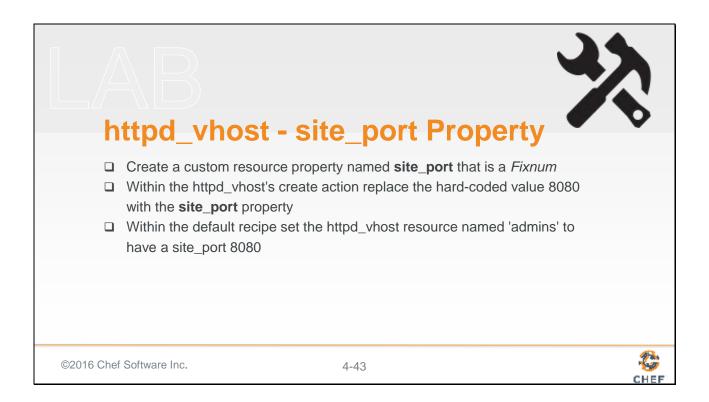
The unit tests should pass when executed.



The integration tests should pass when executed.



We now have a custom resource implementation that has helped express our intentions more clearly in the default recipe.



The custom resource still needs a little more work to make it configurable. The create action is still hard-coded to specify the port 8080 for all sites that are created.

During this exercise you will define a new property within the custom resource that allows a port to be specified for the site. Replace any hard-coded port values within the resource action implementation and then add the new property to the implementation of the custom resource in the default recipe.

```
Defining a Property to Manage the site_port
~/httpd/resource/vhost.rb
   property :site name, String
   property :site_port, Fixnum
   action : create do
    directory "/srv/apache/#{site_name}/html" do
      recursive true
      mode '0755'
    end
     template "/etc/httpd/conf.d/#{site name}.conf" do
      source 'conf.erb'
      mode '0644'
     variables(document_root: "/srv/apache/#{site_name}/html", port: site_port)
      notifies :restart, 'service[httpd]
   # ... REMAINDER OF CUSTOM RESOURCE ...
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                                         4-44
                                                                                     CHEF
```

The property is defined near the top of the resource file. A port is generally a whole number so we want that reflected in the type.

A Fixnum can contain negative integers and floating point numbers so this type does not perfectly represent the domain of acceptable values. Later we may explore ways to ensure better restrictions on the values provided to properties.

Within the action implementation the 8080 value should be replaced with the value found in 'site_port'.

In the default recipe, within the 'httpd_vhost' resource, we must define a value for this site_port. Similar to before we simply define the value that was previously hard-coded here as a property.

```
Executing the Unit Tests

> chef exec rspec

......

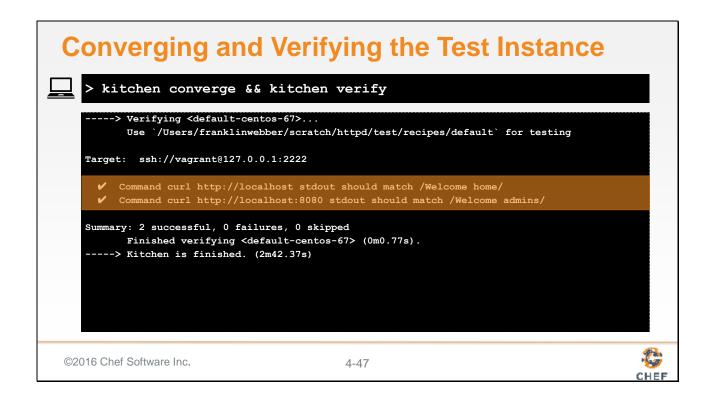
Finished in 1.22 seconds (files took 7.58 seconds to load)

8 examples, 0 failures

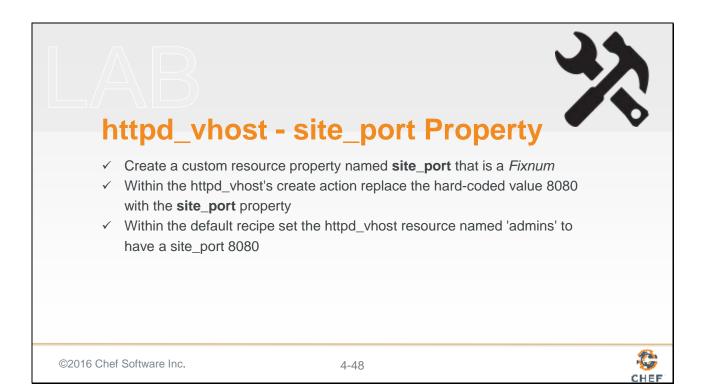
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```

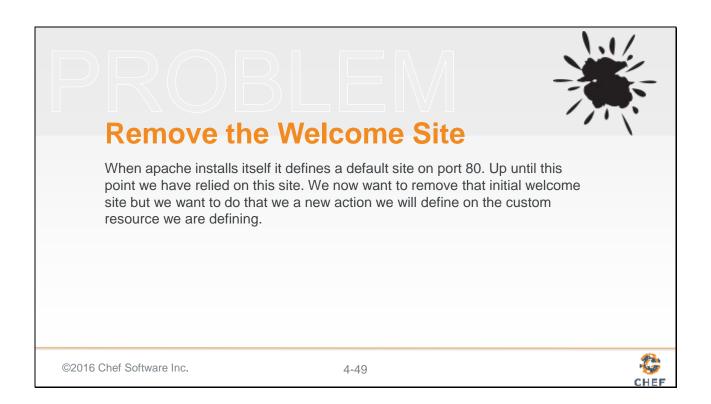
The unit tests should pass when executed.



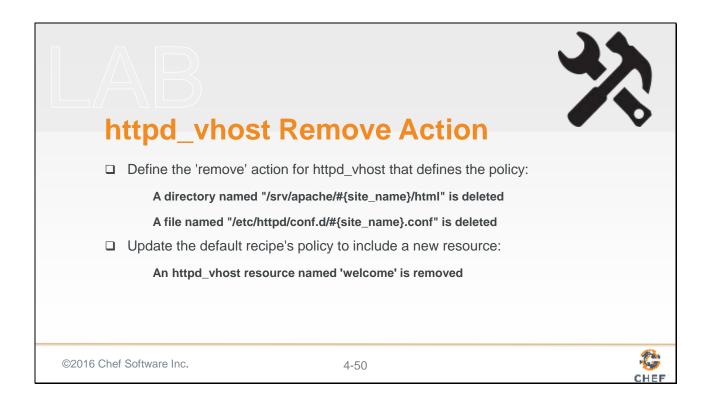
The integration tests should pass when executed.



With the site_port property developed the 'httpd_vhost' custom resource is now capable of being used to create more sites if needed for different roles on different ports for our web server.



By default Apache creates a welcome configuration file within the same directory we are creating our new virtual hosts. We want to delete this configuration file but we want to create a resource that will also cleanup any html files that our resource might create as well. This will allow us to create and remove sites as we want.



This next lab exercise challenges you to create the remove action for the custom resource, use that remove action to remove the default site that ships with the webserver, and deploy a new site instead which welcomes users.

```
Defining the Resource's Remove Action

-/httpd/resources/vhost.rb

# ... CREATE ACTION ...

action :remove do
    directory "/srv/apache/#{site_name}/html" do
        action :delete
    end

file "/etc/httpd/conf.d/#{site_name}.conf" do
    action :delete
    end
end

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```

The remove action asks that you remove the directory that may or may not exist at the location dependent on the site_name provided as a property. We also want it to remove the configuration file from the webserver's default configuration directory.

```
Adding the Resource with Remove Action to the Recipe

-/httpd/recipes/default.rb

package 'httpd'
httpd_vhost 'welcome' do
site_name 'welcome'
action :remove
end

httpd_vhost 'admins' do
site_port 8080
site_name 'admins'
action :create
end

service 'httpd' do
action [:enable, :start]
end

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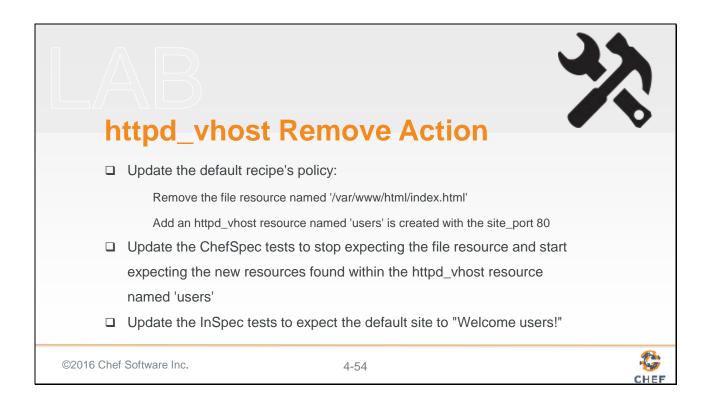
4-52
```

When httpd initial sets itself up it deploys the first, default site, with a welcome configuration file that we want to remove. While the 'welcome' directory does not exist the configuration file does and so we want that removed from the system.

This will ensure the default site that is deployed on port 80 is no longer deployed.



The resource now has two actions and we have removed the initial welcome site.



This next lab exercise challenges you to create the remove action for the custom resource, use that remove action to remove the default site that ships with the webserver, and deploy a new site instead which welcomes users.

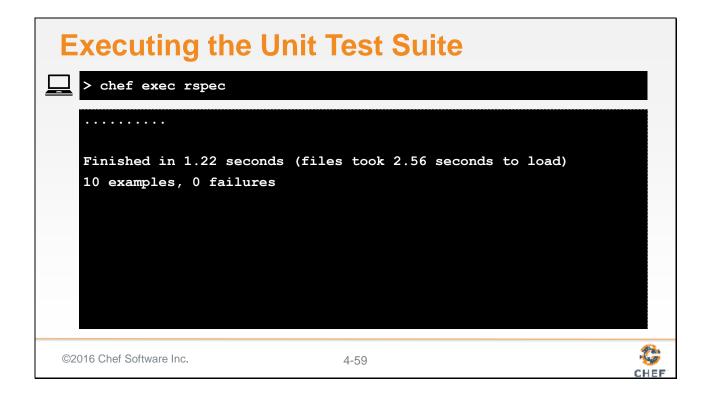
The file resource within the default recipe modifies a generic files that httpd deploys. Manipulating this resource is no longer important so we want to remove this resource.

Now we want to add in our users site with our custom resource. We define a site_port and and site_name to ensure we receive the correct message on the correct port.

This changes our default expectations that the site will say welcome home so we want to remove that content from our unit test.

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And add a new series of expectations that are very similar to the admins site. We want to ensure that the following are created: a directory to store the html; a configuration file for users; and a new html file that contains a message for the users.



Executing the unit tests we should see all these brand new expectations passing.

```
Updating the Expectation for the users Site

-/httpd/test/recipes/default_test.rb

describe command('curl http://localhost') do
   its(:stdout) { should match(/Welcome users/) }
end

describe command('curl http://localhost:8080') do
   its(:stdout) { should match(/Welcome admins/) }
end

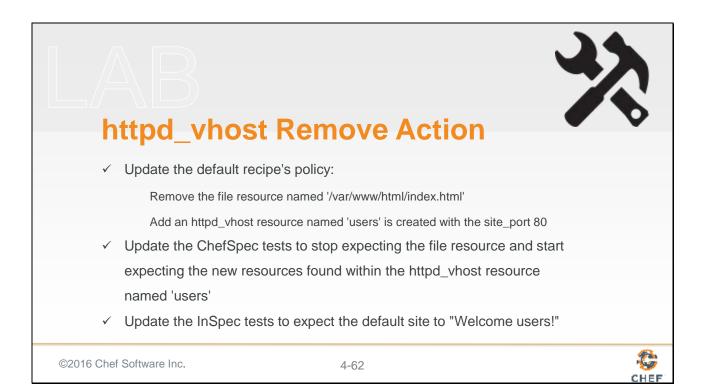
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4-60
```

Finally we want to change the integration test to verify the message on port 80 to welcome users and not to welcome visitors home.

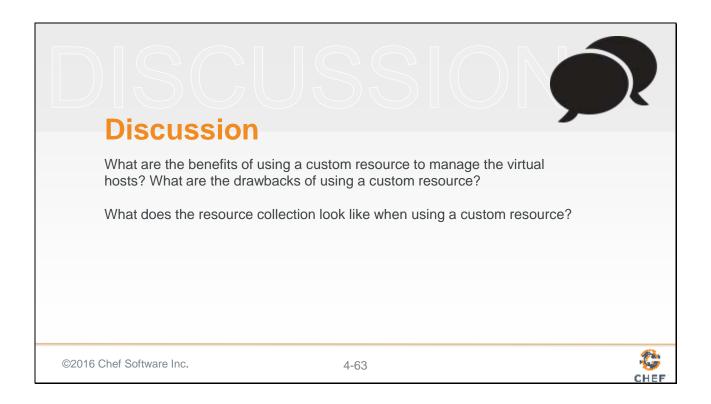


Executing the integration tests should result in all examples passing successfully.



The initial file resource has now been removed and we are creating a new apache virtual host on port 80 for our users' site. We have also updated all the expectations to correctly verify the state of the run list. Finally we also updated the tests that were executed on the virtual machine

Congratulations! The custom resource now is able to create sites and remove them. There are still more things to learn about custom resources that we will explore in the next module.



Let's finish this module with a discussion. Answer these questions. Remember that the answer "I don't know! That's why I'm here!" is a great answer.



What questions can we answer for you?

