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## Introduction

The Ansible® Oracle® RAC ASM collection installs Oracle RAC 19c on AIX® operating System running IBM® Power® Systems servers. It has been tested on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 nodes clusters. The version v1.2.1 collection is tested with powerVC version 2.1.1 for 2-node RAC deployment with AIX 7.3TL0SP1. The collections also tested on 2-node RAC with AIX 7.2TL5, AIX 7.3TL1SP1(AAP2 GUI) and AIX 7.3TL3

Setting up an Oracle Application Clusters (RAC) on AIX involves setting up an AIX environment on the hosts that meet the RAC's specific requirements from kernel tunables, network attributes, shared disk attributes, passwordless to user equivalent ssh connections etc. The manual process to accomplish these tasks is tedious and error prone. During the Grid and Database install, the GUI frequently prompts for entering input that ties up the user for a long time. The whole installation can take two days for seasoned users.

With the help of Ansible Oracle RAC ASM collection, it takes typically 5 hours to complete a 4-node RAC installation, a tremendous time saving. It's completely hands-free and can consistently recreate Oracle RACs for other projects. The value of this collection helps your organization to improve significant productivity.

#### New in Version V1.3.3

- Supports multiple software staging options: nfs, remote (Ansible controller), and local (managed host).
- Added cluvfy\_subdir and cluvfy\_zip variables to support the use of the latest CLUVFY utility
- Bug fixes

#### New in Version V1.3.2

• Supports installation of 19.18+ RU versions

#### New in Version V1.3.1

- Now the Oracle DB home can be on JFS2 filesystem. Added the "acfs\_flag" option. If the flag is set to True, the oracle database home is created on shared ACFS filesystem. If the flag is set to False, the oracle database home is created on AIX JFS2 file system local to each node.
- Added precheck tasks to check the availability of Node VIPs and SCAN VIPs before installing Grid. If these VIPs are in use before the grid install, the task will fail; if they are available, the Grid installation will proceed.
- Added a task to validate SSH equivalence for users grid and oracle before grid install. The task fails if the ssh equivalence is not setup is unsuccessful.
- Added support for executing the Playbook from Ansible Controller AAP2 using execution environment via GUI
- DNF will be used for installing RPM packages; yum has been removed.

#### **New in Version V1.2.X**

- Added new roles related powervc for infrastructure automation and supports the 2-node RAC deployment.
- Added "use\_ignore\_prechecks" flag option to ignore prechecks during oracle software installation
- Added "use\_powervs\_std\_nim" flag option, which eliminates use of nfs if the filesets/NIM location already exist on the LPAR
- Ignore the use of yum/dnf if rpms are already got installed on AIX LPARs.
- Bug fixes

#### New in Version V1.1.X

- Added support for AIX 7.3
- Added support for Ansible Automation Platform v2 (AAP2)
- Tested on PowerVS LPARs

# Assumptions when using collection

- The user is familiar with Ansible and should have at least the basic knowledge on YAML for the purpose of setting up the variables to run the playbook. Refer to Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Docs at <a href="https://docs.ansible.com/automation.html">https://docs.ansible.com/automation.html</a>
- The user is familiar with AIX administration and Oracle RAC configuration environment requirements. Refer to Oracle Grid Infrastructure Installation and Upgrade Guide 19c for IBM AIX on Power Systems (64-bit) at <a href="https://docs.oracle.com/en/database/oracle/oracle-database/19/books.html">https://docs.oracle.com/en/database/oracle/oracle-database/19/books.html</a>
- The user is familiar with installing packages on the Operating Systems supported by Ansible.
   <a href="https://access.redhat.com/articles/3168091">https://access.redhat.com/articles/3168091</a>

Below Figure.1 shows the system topology diagram, where the LPARs are manually created from HMC, networks and storage disks are assigned to the LPARs manually. Once the infrastructure is ready, the rac automation playbook is executed from ansible controller.

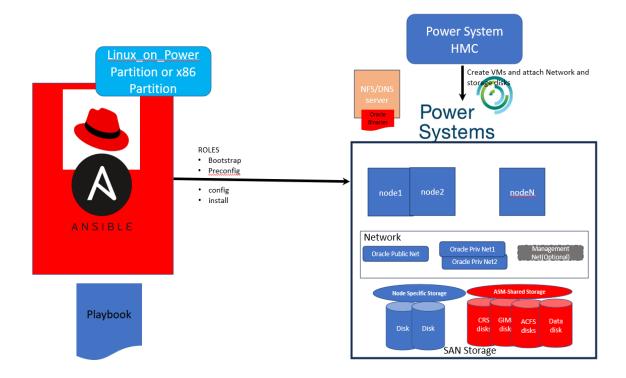


Figure 1. System Topology

# Supported environment

- AIX 7.2 TL4 or later, AIX 7.3 TL0 SP1 or later. Tested on AIX 7.2 TL4 SP1, AIX 7.2 TL5 SP2, AIX 7.3 TL0 SP1, AIX 7.3 TL1 SP1, AIX 7.3 TL2.
- Oracle 19c RAC Standalone Cluster configuration type is supported. The base release 19.3 alone is not supported. However, base release 19.3 is supported for installation up to 19.17 using the -applyRU option and the installation of version 19.18 and higher is also supported using the opatch auto option. Tested releases include 19.8, 19.11, 19.12, 19.14, 19.17, 19.18, 19.24, 19.26 and 19.27. Refer to Appendix for methodology that was followed for installing 19.18+ RU versions. Oracle database home is installed using Software install on ACFS shared filesystem and on localJFS2 filesystem.
- Ansible 2.9 or above. Tested versions were Ansible 2.9.11, 2.12.1, 2.15

# RAC nodes configuration requirements

- Each RAC node should have AIX 7.2 TL5 SP1 or above freshly installed.
- Three types of networks for RAC should be appropriately configured and tested for connectivity. Each RAC node must have:
  - Internet access network for downloading software packages, which connects to AIX toolbox for RPM install. This can be optional if the required rpm packages are already installed before running the playbook.

- Oracle public networks (if this network can access the Internet, the Internet access network does not need to be configured).
- Oracle private networks. Two networks are dedicated to Oracle for Interconnect and ASM traffic. Separate ASM networks and Interconnect networks is not supported.

All network interfaces must be consistent across the nodes. E.g. en0 on all nodes are connected to the same physical network, likewise for en1 and en2 etc. The playbook will perform consistency check and connectivity check on Oracle public networks and Oracle Interconnect networks.

- ASM shared disks are free of physical volume IDs (PVIDs), do not belong to any AIX volume groups nor has ASM disk group header. Refer to Appendix Disk headers and PVIDs for more information.
- ASM shared disks are consistent across all RAC nodes, for instance, hdisk10 on each node is indeed the same LUN off the storage. They playbook will check for shared disk consistency.
- Oracle Grid HOME is on a local filesystem created out of an AIX volume group, make sure the disks for the volume group do not have previous volume group associated with them.
- AIX filesets(Optional), Opatch zip files, Grid Infrastructure/Database install zip files, IBM XIC compiler(Optional) filesets are available to the RAC nodes through NFS mount points.

### DNS server(s) requirements

The RAC environment must have DNS server(s) for Domain Name resolution to resolve Oracle RAC SCAN name, Oracle Virtual IP addresses and for downloading software from the Internet. There are two choices:

- A DNS server that resolves Domain Name addresses for software download from the Internet, Oracle SCAN address, and Oracle Virtual IP addresses.
- Two DNS servers one for resolving Domain Name addresses for software download from the Internet only, another for Oracle SCAN name and Oracle Virtual IP addresses. The two servers can be on different networks.

# Ansible controller configuration requirements

- The Ansible controller has network connectivity to all RAC nodes. It has been tested with the controller and the RAC nodes connected over WAN/VPN as well as within the lab.
- Create a regular user such as 'ansible' for installing Ansible and running the playbook.
- Install python3 and python3-pip, python3-netaddr(pip3 install netaddr) packages. It is assumed that the python3 on ansible-controller is at path /usr/bin/python
- The controller has perl and expect RPMs installed.

- The controller has Ansible 2.10 or above installed. For details visit https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/installation\_guide/index.html
- Download the Ansible Oracle RAC collection and create a "top directory" for the collection.
- Install power\_aix collection as the user who runs Ansible playbook.
  - \$ ansible-galaxy collection install ibm.power\_aix
  - For details, visit https://ibm.github.io/ansible-power-aix/installation.html
  - The collection is installed in ~/.ansible/collections/ansible collections/ibm/power aix.
- The controller has access to the Internet for downloading software.
- The openstacksdk must be installed, when using the powervc automation
- On some ansible servers ansible utils collection is required for the Oracle RAC collection to work. If it is not installed then use "ansible-galaxy collection install ansible utils" to install it.
- Ansible Oracle RAC collection has three files that need to be modified for your environment:
  - ansible.cfg
  - inventory specifies the IP addresses of the RAC hosts.
  - When using powervc for automating the infrastructure, review the variable files vars/powervc.yml & vars/powervc\_rac.yml and specify the values for variables
  - When you are not using the powervc where the lpars are created manually, review the variable file vars/rac.yml – specifies values for variables to configure the RAC hosts, AIX, Grid Infrastructure and RAC database.

## Features of the Collection

- The playbook has been developed with idempotency in mind. Idempotent means a task operation is only performed once, regardless the task is invoked many times thereafter. However, if a configuration variable that affects the outcome of the operation has changed after the operation has already been performed, it will perform the operation in most cases but not all. For instance, the playbook allows disks to be renamed to better indicate their intended purposes, but if the tasks prior to the renaming disks task need to be rerun maybe due to the disks have been renamed incorrectly. In this scenario, tasks that reference renamed disks will fail, and manual intervention is needed. Accommodating changes like this is a best effort attempt, therefore it's crucial to have the correct values for the variables the first time.
- The recommended AIX tunable values and various settings are applied according to applicable Oracle documentation for running a RAC in the areas of networking, kernel, and

disk attributes etc. They are built into the Ansible tasks. Refer to Oracle Grid Infrastructure Installation and Upgrade Guide 19c for IBM AIX on Power System (64-bit) at <a href="https://docs.oracle.com/en/database/oracle/oracle-database/19/books.html">https://docs.oracle.com/en/database/oracle/oracle-database/19/books.html</a>

- The dsm fileset for distributed shell (dsh) will be installed to ease the cluster administrative tasks. The collection also depends on it.
- IBM XL C 13 for AIX compiler installation is optional. It is installed on the named RAC host(s) specified in vars.yml. It requires the filesets to be accessible through NFS mount point.
- VNC server RPM will be installed on the RAC nodes when it is specified(optional). Users
  other than 'root' in the vars.yml will have VNC files created in ~/.vnc/passwd.
- Ansible uses ssh passwordless connections to drive the setup tasks on the RAC nodes. The
  bootstrap role (see below) creates the ssh passwordless configuration without the need to
  manually perform it beforehand. Ansible relies on the host's IP addresses and the root login
  password specified on the var.yml to create such configuration.
- AIX system files /etc/environment, /etc/hosts, /etc/security/limits, /etc/pam.conf and /etc/syslog.conf etc. are saved before they are modified. They are saved in <Ansible work directory>/saved directory, where <Ansible work directory> is specified in global section of vars.yml.
- When nim mount is already exists in LPAR then there is no need of NFS server for installing filesets. The LPARs created with powervs standard images have /usr/sys/inst.images filesystem mounted. If you want to install filesets from a specific location set "use\_powervs\_std\_nim" to true and specify the filesets location "powervs\_loc" in vars/rac.yml file

use\_powervs\_std\_nim: true
powervs\_loc: '/usr/sys/inst.images/installp/ppc'

• If you want to ignore known prechecks failures during oracle installation, you can the set flag "use\_ignore\_prechecks" to true in vars/rac.yml file. The oracle installer uses "-ignorePrereqFailure" option during installation

use\_ignore\_prechecks: true

 Use ru\_version variable in vars/rac.yml to the version number which you are planning to install

ru\_version: (19.3 till latest ru version)

- Use the oracle\_binary\_location variable in vars/rac.yml to specify where the Oracle binaries are located. Valid options are: nfs, remote, or local.
  - If oracle\_binary\_location is set to remote or local, use the remote\_local\_mount variable to define the parent directory where the Oracle binaries are located.
  - If oracle\_binary\_location is set to nfs, use the nfs\_mount variable to define the parent directory.

After defining the appropriate parent directory, specify the subdirectories using the following variables:

- opatch\_subdir
- base subdir
- cluvfy\_subdir
- ru\_subdir
- Use the cluvfy\_subdir variable in vars/rac.yml to specify the subdirectory (relative to the parent directory) where the latest CLUVFY utility is located. The parent directory is determined by the value of oracle\_binary\_location, which can be either nfs\_mount (if oracle\_binary\_location is set to nfs) or remote\_local\_mount (if oracle\_binary\_location is set to remote or local).

# Oracle RAC playbook roles

The RAC automation playbook is divided into the four roles:

- bootstrap sets up the basic environment to enable full functionality of Ansible, set
   nameserver, binding and passwordless connections to the RAC nodes.
- preconfig sets up basic environment such as time of day, configure for accessing
   Internet and consistent AIX version, release, TL, and SP. NFS mounts AIX
   filesets and installs the filesets.
- config sets up AIX to meet the requirements for installing a RAC.
- Install creates ASM disk groups, ACFS, prepares for installing Grid and database and finally install GRID\_HOME on JFS2 filesystem and Database ORACLE\_HOME on ACFS shared Filesystem/JFS

# Steps for executing the Playbook when Infrastructure Is created manually

Architecture is same as shown in Figure 1.

- Download the collection from ansible galaxy. Go to collection directory. Review and update the ansible.cfg file and inventory file https://galaxy.ansible.com/ibm/power aix oracle rac asm
- 2) Ensure that the system meets the requirements of ansible controller and rac nodes
- 3) Gather the details necessary for filling the vars/rac.yml variable file

Network	Minimum 3 networks are needed
	(net1: ora_rac_public, net2: ora_priv1, net3: ora_priv2)
	Each node will have one node-vip runs on net1
	3 Scan-VIPS for cluster runs on net2

	All the network interface names should be same across all nodes in the cluster
SAN Storage volumes	Node specific storage volumes are need for staging the oracle Binaries Shared Storage disks are need for ASM Diskgroups(OCR_VOTE, GIMR, ACFSDG and DATA)
DNS server	The nameserver details are needed which will be updated in /etc/resolv.conf file of cluster nodes during playbook execution.
NFS Server	NFS server details are need which will provide the AIX Filesets and oracle software binaries (optional)
NTP server(optional)	NTP server will help is synchronizing the time on cluster nodes. If the time on nodes are in sync, ntp server details are optional

- 4) Sample values were given to variables in vars/rac.yml file. Review the variable file and update the variables based on your environment.
- 5) Update the install\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml playbook shown below
  - Uncomment the hosts: line and set the field by specifying the inventory group name
  - Uncomment the first variables file (named vars/rac.yml) to have its variables included in this execution.

```
$ cat install_and_configure_Oracle_RAC.yml
# install_and_configure_Oracle_RAC.yml
# Powervc based deployments uses variable files vars/powervc.yml,vars/powervc_rac.yml
# If the LPARs are build manually, to automate oracle RAC deployment use variable file vars/rac.yml
#- hosts: "{{ racName }}" # racName variable is defined when you use the powervc automation scripts for building the AIX LPARs
                   # Get the group name from inventory file which contains the oracle cluster nodes
- hosts: orac
gather_facts: no
vars_files:
 vars/rac.yml
# - vars/powervc.yml
# - vars/powervc_rac.yml
 roles:
  - role: bootstrap
   vars:
    download_dir: "~"
    target_dir: "/tmp/.ansible.cpdir"
   tags: bootstrap
  - role: preconfig
   tags: preconfig
  - role: config
   tags: config
  - role: install
   tags: install
```

6) Execute the Playbook ansible-playbook install\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml 2>&1 | tee play.out

You can also run single or multiple roles using tags option

ansible-playbook install\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml — tags bootstrap 2>&1 | tee play\_bootstrap.out ansible-playbook install\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml — tags preconfig 2>&1 | tee play\_preconfig.out ansible-playbook install\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml — tags config, install 2>&1 | tee play.out

Some the roles runs for longer duration, you can run the playbook in background using nohup

nohup ansible-playbook install and configure Oracle RAC.yml > play.out 2>&1 &

It is recommended to use the latest version on power aix collection

## Troubleshooting

When rerunning the failing role, it is helpful to use -vvv debug option to obtain more debug information with more readable STDOUT and STDERR messages.

Suppose Ansible failed in config role, and the issue is fixed, rerun starting from config role using the -tags option like this:

\$ ansible-playbook -vvv install\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml —tags config,install 2>&1 | tee play.out Ansible will run the config and install roles.

**Note**: While installing openssl dependent packages/rpms using yum or dnf it will fail if openssl version is < 1.1. Refer to Appendix for more details.

The bootstrap role uses the code from power\_aix collection, if any issues seen while configuring the dnf/yum/python refer to known issues of power\_aix collection

https://github.com/IBM/ansible-power-aix/issues

It is recommended to use the latest version on power\_aix collection

Issue 1: Installation failed during remote copy phase

First check /tmp/ansible/done/grid\_install\_1918\_plus.out file

In General the installation logs will be present at /u01/app/oralnventory/logs/

### orac2:General Errors:

PRCF-2056: The copy operation failed on node: "orac2". Details: /usr/bin/scp: realpath /tmp/mttrans\_w3689436\_1/: No such file /usr/bin/scp: upload "/tmp/mttrans\_w3689436\_1/": path canonicalization failed

/usr/bin/scp: failed to upload directory /tmp/mttrans\_w3689436\_0 to /tmp/mttrans\_w3689436\_1/

The workaround for this issue is

SSH Keys Fails With "Algorithm Negotiation Fail" (Doc ID 2982829.1)
Added following 2 lines to /etc/ssh/sshd\_config
HostkeyAlgorithms +ssh-rsa
PubkeyAcceptedAlgorithms +ssh-rsa
Restart sshd daemon
stopsrc -s sshd; startsrc -s sshd
Another solution is to set "export SRVM\_DISABLE\_MTTRANS=true" in grid user .profile file

Issue 2: Cluvfy precheck fails with message "Algorithm negotiation fail"

\$ ./cluvfy stage -pre crsinst -n orac1,orac2 -verbose -method root Enter "ROOT" password:

orac2: PRCZ-2006: Unable to establish SSH connection to node "orac2" to execute command "/usr/bin/id" Algorithm negotiation fail

If you skip the cluvfy message by setting the use\_ignore\_prechecks=true then RDBMS home installation might get failed.

[FATAL] [INS-32128] Installer has failed to login as 'root' user with the specified password. Specify a valid 'root' user password.

\*ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:\*

Summary of node specific errors

orac2

- PRCZ-2006: Unable to establish SSH connection to node "orac2" to execute command "/usr/bin/id"

Algorithm negotiation fail

- Cause: Cause Of Problem Not Available

- Action: User Action Not Available

The workaround (needs to be done on both nodes) for this issue is

SSH Keys Fails With "Algorithm Negotiation Fail" (Doc ID 2982829.1)
Added following 2 lines to /etc/ssh/sshd\_config
HostkeyAlgorithms +ssh-rsa
PubkeyAcceptedAlgorithms +ssh-rsa
Restart sshd daemon
stopsrc -s sshd; startsrc -s sshd

You can revert the workaround changes after the installation

# Steps for executing the Playbook with Infrastructure automation using PowerVC

Using the ansible openstack modules the infrastructure creation can be automated on PowerVC. The PowerVC version that is currently supported is 2.1.1. The PowerVC provides the capability of creating the new OS image which from existing. The new image can have the AIX filesets and RPM packages that are required for Oracle RAC. Currently with powervc automation we support only the 2-node oracle RAC setup.

The power\_aix\_oracle\_rac\_asm collection contains the following 5 roles pertaining to the infrastructure layer provsioning:

- **powervc\_create\_network\_ports**: creates an openstack port to be used during the node creation. A port defines the IP address and network to be used for a given interface.
- **powervc\_create\_nodes\_without\_rac\_volumes**: It uses parameters set in the vars/powervc.yml file to create the new cluster nodes.
- **powervc\_obtain\_token:** obtains a PowerVC access token to establish a REST API connection from Ansible server to PowerVC server. The subsequent ASM disks creation role requires REST API access, hence the need for the token.
- **powervc\_create\_and\_multiattach\_asm\_volumes**: creates the ASM disks one at a time. Upon creating each disk, this role attaches it to all nodes and runs cfgmgr to ensure the disk maintains the same hdisk number in all nodes as required by Oracle RAC installer.
- **powervc\_add\_nodes\_to\_inventory**: update the inventory file with the nodes and additional parameters to set it up for ansible management. This role prepares the environment for

execution of the second playbook that is responsible for grid and database software installation.

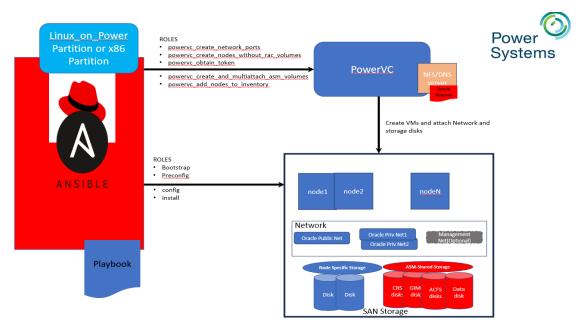


Figure 2. System Topology – Infrastructure automation using PowerVC

Below are the steps that needed to be followed while doing Infrastructure automation for 2-node oracle RAC deployment

- Download the collection from ansible galaxy. Go to collection directory. Review and update the ansible.cfg file <a href="https://galaxy.ansible.com/ibm/power\_aix\_oracle\_rac\_asm">https://galaxy.ansible.com/ibm/power\_aix\_oracle\_rac\_asm</a>
- 2) Ensure that the system meets the requirements of ansible controller and rac nodes
- 3) Gather the details necessary for filling the vars/powervc.yml variable file

Network	Minimum 3 networks are needed (net1: ora_rac_public, net2: ora_priv1, net3: ora_priv2) Each node will have one node-vip runs on net1 3 Scan-VIPS for cluster runs on net2 All the network interface names should be same across all nodes in the cluster
SAN Storage volumes	Node specific storage volumes are need for staging the oracle Binaries Shared Storage disks are need for ASM Diskgroups(OCR_VOTE, GIMR, ACFSDG and DATA)
DNS server	The nameserver details are needed which will be updated in /etc/resolv.conf file of cluster nodes during playbook execution.

NFS Server	NFS server details are need which will provide the AIX Filesets and oracle software binaries
NTP server(optional)	NTP server will help is synchronizing the time on cluster nodes. If the time on nodes are in sync, ntp server details are optional

- 4) Sample values were given to variables in vars/powervc.yml file. Review the variable file and update the image section in the vars/powervc.yml file in the collection with the image, image\_aix\_version and image\_password with the latter set to the AIX root password value. Update the other variables that are need for the execution. Also review the vars/powervc\_rac.yml variable file as the most of the values are defined from vars/powervc.yml file.
- 5) Optionally, using powervc you can create a new image which contain all required AIX filesets, rpm packages and other required settings. Since some of the ansible tasks are already defined in the new image, during the execution these tasks will get skipped and playbook execution time will get reduced.
- 6) Copy PowerVC certificate file from /etc/pki/tls/certs/powervc.crt file in the PowerVC server to the ansible server to be used in the next step.
- 7) Copy the /opt/ibm/powervc/powervcrc file from the PowerVC server to the ansible server, update its OS\_CACERT to where you copied PowerVC certificate file to. Also update it with the user id and password of the PowerVC server and source it.
- 8) Update the install\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml playbook shown below
  - Uncomment the hosts line and racName is supplied during playbook execution.
  - Uncomment the variables files (named vars/powervc.yml and vars/powervc\_rac.yml) to have its variables included in this execution.

```
$ cat install_and_configure_Oracle_RAC.yml
#install and configure Oracle RAC.yml
# Powervc based deployments uses variable files vars/powervc.yml,vars/powervc rac.yml
# If the LPARs are build manually, to automate oracle RAC deployment use variable file vars/rac.yml
- hosts: "{{ racName }}"
#- hosts: orac
gather facts: no
vars_files:
# - vars/rac.yml
 - vars/powervc.yml
 - vars/powervc_rac.yml
 roles:
 - role: bootstrap
   vars:
    download_dir: "~"
    target dir: "/tmp/.ansible.cpdir"
   tags: bootstrap
  - role: preconfig
   tags: preconfig
  - role: config
   tags: config
  - role: install
```

tags: install

9) Review the vars/powervc.yml file and execute the playbook "powervc\_build\_AIX\_RAC\_nodes.yml" for automatic creation of 2 AIX Lpars and then automate the Oracle RAC installation.

- name: Build and configure the RAC nodes using PowerVC # Must update the vars/powervc.vars var file then call this as follows: # ansible-playbook build\_AIX\_nodes\_for\_Oracle\_RAC.yml -e racName=<theRACname>" # e.g. ansible-playbook build\_AIX\_nodes\_for\_Oracle\_RAC.yml -e racName=orac hosts: localhost tasks: - include\_vars: "vars/powervc.yml" msg: "racName is required for this playbook to build a dual-node Oracle RAC." when: racName is not defined - name: Display the input name prefix and count of VMs to be built msg: "Creating nodes {{racName}}1 and {{racName}}2 for this dual-node Oracle RAC." - name: define the network ports based on the networks and IP addresses to be used. import\_role: name=powervc\_create\_network\_ports - name: Create new AIX VMs to act as Oracle RAC nodes import\_role: name=powervc\_create\_nodes\_without\_rac\_volumes - import role: name=powervc obtain token - include\_role: name=powervc\_create\_and\_multiattach\_asm\_volumes with items: "{{ disks }}" - name: Now the nodes are good to go, add them to the inventory file to be managed by Ansible import\_role: name=powervc\_add\_nodes\_to\_inventory # Importing the playbook to be used for installing and configuring the Oracl RAC. - import\_playbook: install\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml

## ansible-playbook powervc\_build\_AIX\_RAC\_nodes.yml -e racName=orac

Here the racName is given as orac, the playbook will create 2 nodes named as orac1 and orac2.

If you want to execute the playbook "install\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml" separately you can comment the import\_playbook line. Later you can execute the rac playbook using below command

 $ansible-playbook\ install\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml\ -e\ racName=oracle\_RAC.yml\ -e\ racName=oracle\_RAC.yml\$ 

## RAC setup on PowerVS LPARs

- 1) Create LPARs that are need for RAC cluster with Networks that are needed for oracle RAC
- 2) Create small size LPAR, configure DNS and NFS to stage oracle software
- 3) Set the root user password for RAC nodes
- 4) Add Local and shared storage LUNs that are needed for oracle RAC installation

5) Extend the rootvg volume group, In PowerVS LPAR the boot LUN size is fixed AIX73/72/71 – 20G . This is need to accommodate swap space and ansible remote location requirements. Here hdiskX is the newly added disk, this disk size can be > 40G.

```
chvg -t 4 rootvg
extendvg -f rootvg hdiskX
chlv -x 1024 hd6
```

6) Fill the vars/rac.yml file and Execute the play book

# Executing Collection using Ansible Automation Platform 2 (AAP2)

Ansible Automation Platform 2 is fully restructured for a hybrid cloud-native world and enables to execute automation in containerized environments.

Here in this section we will show how to create the containerized image and execute the playbook using execution environment(Containerized image).

At first "ansible-builder" is used to build the Container Image

For more info regarding ansible-builder refer to below

• <a href="https://docs.redhat.com/en/documentation/red">https://docs.redhat.com/en/documentation/red</a> hat ansible automation platform/2.1/ht ml/ansible builder guide/indexCreate the execution-environment.yml

```
$ cat execution-environment.yml
# Execution Environment
version: 3
images:
base image:
name: registry.redhat.io/ansible-automation-platform-24/ee-minimal-rhel8:latest
package manager path: /usr/bin/microdnf
additional build steps:
append_base:
- RUN microdnf install dnf
- RUN microdnf install python3-pip
- RUN /usr/bin/pip3 install netaddr
- RUN microdnf install expect
- RUN microdnf install perl
dependencies:
galaxy: requirements.yml
$ cat requirements.yml
collections:
- ibm.power_aix
- ansible.utils
```

• Create container image using ansible builder

\$ ansible-builder build -t oracle\_rac\_aix\_ee -f execution-environment.yml Running command:

podman build -f context/Containerfile -t oracle\_rac\_aix\_ee context

Complete! The build context can be found at: /var/lib/awx/oracle\_rac\_aix\_ee/context

\$ podman images

REPOSITORY TAG IMAGE ID CREATED SIZE

localhost/oracle\_rac\_aix\_eelatest8d597e0a1babAbout a minute ago493 MBlocalhost/oracle\_aix\_eelatesta7d4b0992ea42 months ago475 MBlocalhost/powerodbalatest3d1b75b3ee163 months ago910 MB

registry.redhat.io/ansible-automation-platform-24/ee-supported-rhel8 latest

b2d26de2d8de 11 months ago 1.79 GB

registry.redhat.io/ansible-automation-platform-24/ee-minimal-rhel8 latest

c239714e9480 11 months ago 380 MB

quay.io/ansible/ansible-runner latest bec0dc171168 2 years ago

816 MB

 A context directory is created, and we can see the Container file inside it. Displaying the content of Container/Docker file

### \$ cat Containerfile

ARG EE BASE IMAGE="registry.redhat.io/ansible-automation-platform-24/ee-minimal-rhel8:latest"

ARG PYCMD="/usr/bin/python3"

ARG PKGMGR\_PRESERVE\_CACHE=""

ARG ANSIBLE\_GALAXY\_CLI\_COLLECTION\_OPTS=""

ARG ANSIBLE\_GALAXY\_CLI\_ROLE\_OPTS=""

ARG PKGMGR="/usr/bin/microdnf"

# Base build stage

FROM \$EE\_BASE\_IMAGE as base

**USER** root

ARG EE\_BASE\_IMAGE

ARG PYCMD

ARG PKGMGR\_PRESERVE\_CACHE

ARG ANSIBLE\_GALAXY\_CLI\_COLLECTION\_OPTS

ARG ANSIBLE\_GALAXY\_CLI\_ROLE\_OPTS

ARG PKGMGR

RUN \$PYCMD -m ensurepip

COPY \_build/scripts/ /output/scripts/

COPY \_build/scripts/entrypoint /opt/builder/bin/entrypoint

RUN microdnf install dnf

RUN microdnf install python3-pip

RUN /usr/bin/pip3 install netaddr

RUN microdnf install expect

RUN microdnf install perl

# Galaxy build stage

FROM base as galaxy

ARG EE\_BASE\_IMAGE

ARG PYCMD

ARG PKGMGR\_PRESERVE\_CACHE

```
ARG ANSIBLE_GALAXY_CLI_COLLECTION_OPTS
ARG ANSIBLE_GALAXY_CLI_ROLE_OPTS
ARG PKGMGR
RUN /output/scripts/check_galaxy
COPY _build /build
WORKDIR /build
RUN ansible-galaxy role install $ANSIBLE_GALAXY_CLI_ROLE_OPTS -r requirements.yml --roles-path "/usr/share/ansible/roles"
RUN ANSIBLE_GALAXY_DISABLE_GPG_VERIFY=1 ansible-galaxy collection install $ANSIBLE_GALAXY_CLI_COLLECTION_OPTS -r require-
ments.yml --collections-path "/usr/share/ansible/collections"
# Builder build stage
FROM base as builder
WORKDIR /build
ARG EE_BASE_IMAGE
ARG PYCMD
ARG PKGMGR PRESERVE CACHE
ARG ANSIBLE_GALAXY_CLI_COLLECTION_OPTS
ARG ANSIBLE_GALAXY_CLI_ROLE_OPTS
ARG PKGMGR
RUN $PYCMD -m pip install --no-cache-dir bindep pyyaml requirements-parser
COPY --from=galaxy /usr/share/ansible /usr/share/ansible
RUN $PYCMD /output/scripts/introspect.py introspect --sanitize --write-bindep=/tmp/src/bindep.txt --write-pip=/tmp/src/require-
ments.txt
RUN /output/scripts/assemble
# Final build stage
FROM base as final
ARG EE_BASE_IMAGE
ARG PYCMD
ARG PKGMGR_PRESERVE_CACHE
ARG ANSIBLE_GALAXY_CLI_COLLECTION_OPTS
ARG ANSIBLE_GALAXY_CLI_ROLE_OPTS
ARG PKGMGR
RUN /output/scripts/check ansible $PYCMD
COPY --from=galaxy /usr/share/ansible /usr/share/ansible
COPY --from=builder /output/ /output/
RUN /output/scripts/install-from-bindep && rm -rf /output/wheels
RUN chmod ug+rw /etc/passwd
RUN mkdir -p /runner && chgrp 0 /runner && chmod -R ug+rwx /runner
WORKDIR /runner
RUN $PYCMD -m pip install --no-cache-dir 'dumb-init==1.2.5'
RUN rm -rf /output
LABEL ansible-execution-environment=true
USER 1000
ENTRYPOINT ["/opt/builder/bin/entrypoint", "dumb-init"]
CMD ["bash"]
```

ansible-navigator is used for executing the playbook in CLI using execution environments (Container image). Go to power\_aix\_oracle\_rac\_asm collection and create ansible-navigator.yml file

```
$ cat ansible-navigator.yml
---
ansible-navigator:
execution-environment:
container-engine: podman
enabled: True
environment-variables:
set:
```

ANSIBLE\_CONFIG: ansible.cfg
image: localhost/oracle\_rac\_aix\_ee:latest

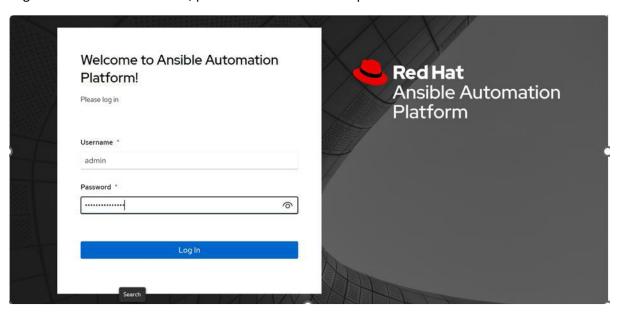
\$ ansible-navigator run play.yml --pp=missing -m stdout 2>&1 | tee play\_aap2.out

For more details regarding ansible-navigator refer to below link

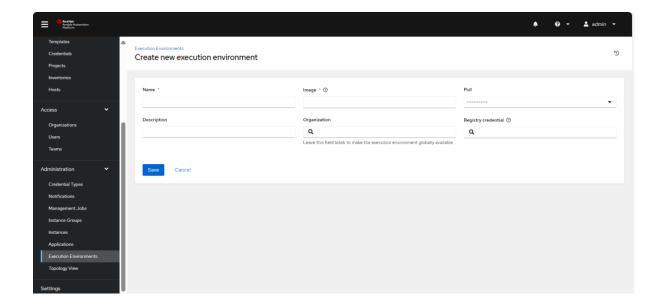
https://ansible.readthedocs.io/projects/navigator/

# Executing the Playbook from Ansible Controller AAP2 using execution environment via GUI

Login to the Ansible controller, provide the username and password.



To create a new execution environment, please click on the "Execution Environments" option under the Administration dropdown and click on Add



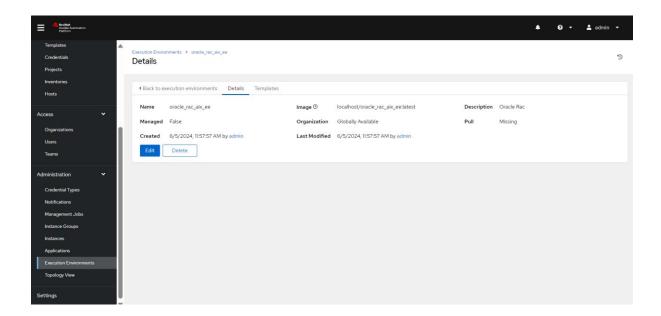
Please provide the following details to create a new execution environment:

Name: [Enter the name of the execution environment]

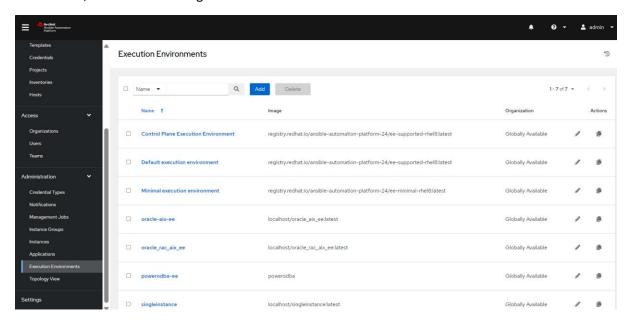
Image: [Specify the Docker image for the execution environment]
Pull Details: [Provide any additional details for pulling the image]

Once provided, click on "Save" to create the new execution environment.

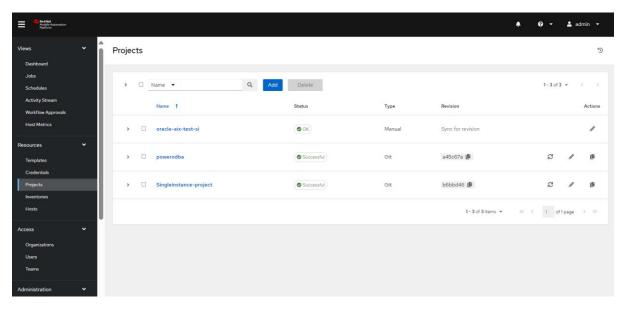
Once saved, we can see the following details to crosscheck.



Once saved, the container image will be listed in Execution Environments



To create Projects, click on the "Projects" option under the Resources dropdown and then click on the "Add" button to create Projects.

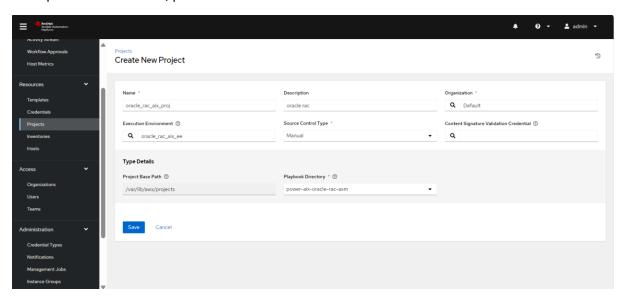


Please provide the following details:

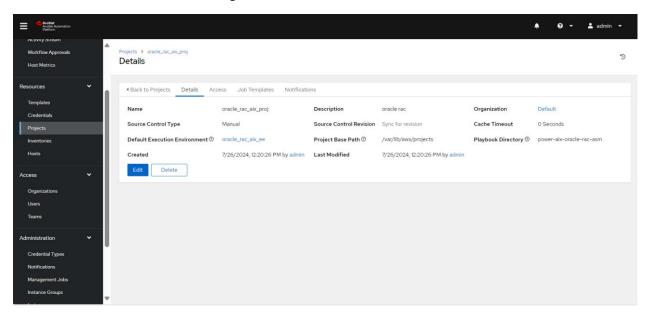
- Name: [Provide the name of your project]
- Description: [Briefly describe your project]
- Organization: [Select the organization for your project]
- Execution Environment: [Select the corresponding execution environment created earlier]
- Source Control Type: Manual
- Project Base Path: /var/lib/awx/projects [where the collection code is placed]

• Playbook Directory: [Specify the directory where your playbook is located]

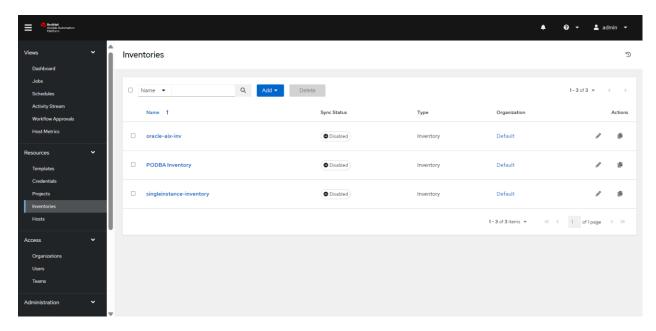
Once provided the details, please click on "Save



Once saved, we can see the following details to crosscheck.



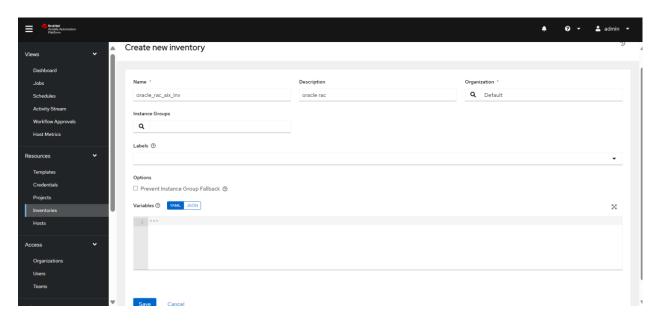
To create Inventories, click on the "Inventories" option under the Resources dropdown and then click on the "Add" button to create Inventories.



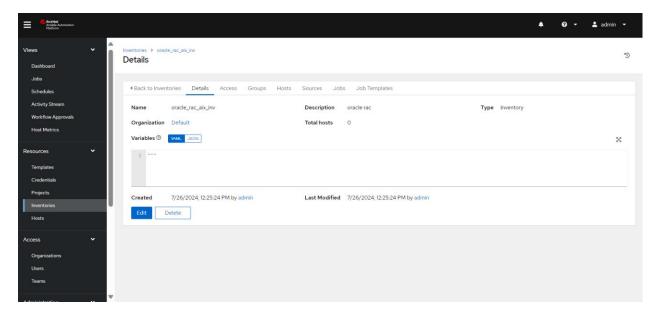
Please provide the following details:

- Name: [Enter the name of your project]
- Description: [Enter a brief description of your project]
- Organization: [Select the organization for your project]

After providing the required information, click on "Save".

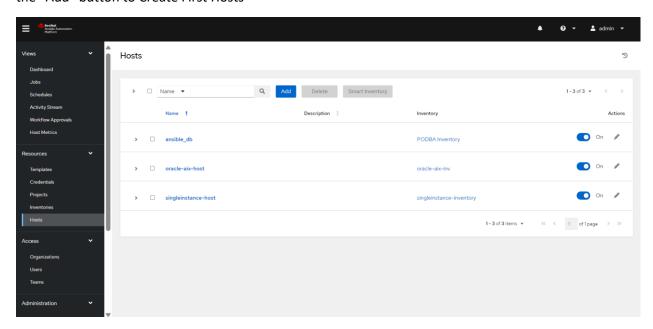


Once saved, we can see the following details to crosscheck.



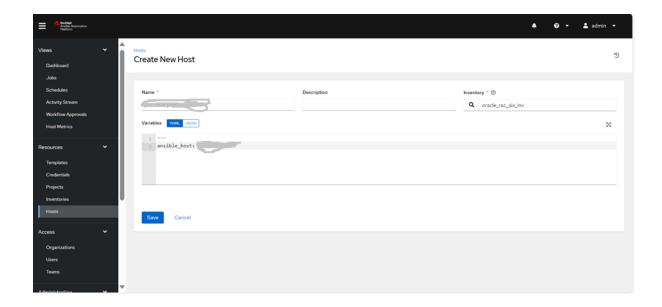
## Create Two Hosts to support RAC

To create First hosts, click on the "Hosts" Option Under the resources dropdown and then click on the "Add" button to Create First Hosts

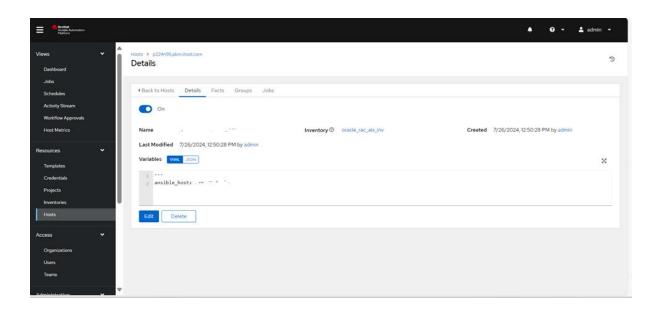


Please provide the following information for the host 1:

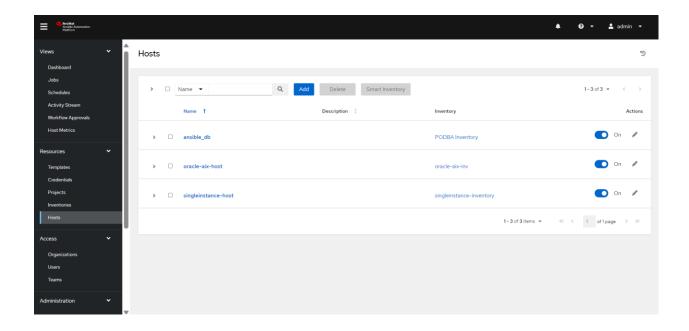
- Name: [Enter the name of the hostname of target machine, not with any name]
- Description: [Enter a brief description of your project]
- Inventory: [Select the inventory that was earlier created]
- Variables: ansible-host: <IP Address>



Once saved, we can see the following details to crosscheck.



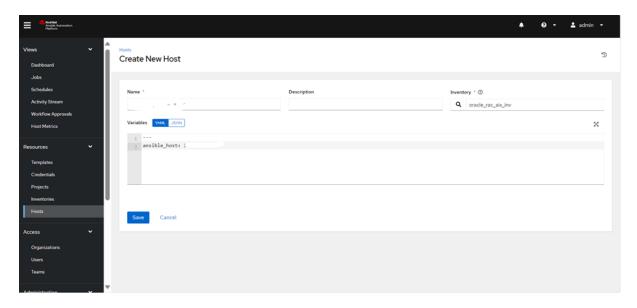
To create Second hosts, click on the "Hosts" Option Under the resources dropdown and then click on the "Add" button to Create Second Hosts



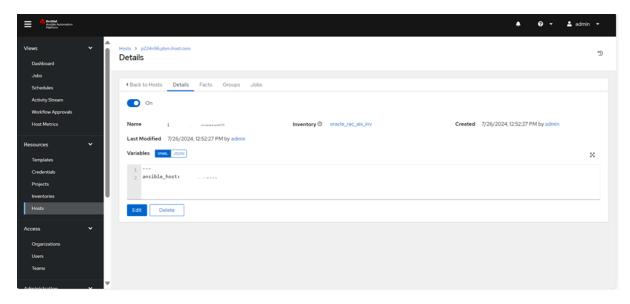
Please provide the following information for the host 2:

- Name: [Enter the name of the hostname of second target machine, not with any name]
- Description: [Enter a brief description of your project]
- Inventory: [Select the inventory that was earlier created]
- Variables: ansible-host

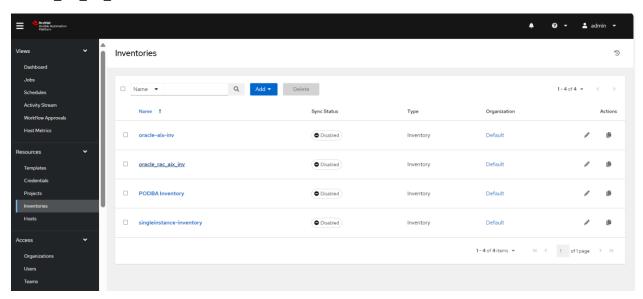
After providing the required information, click on "Save".



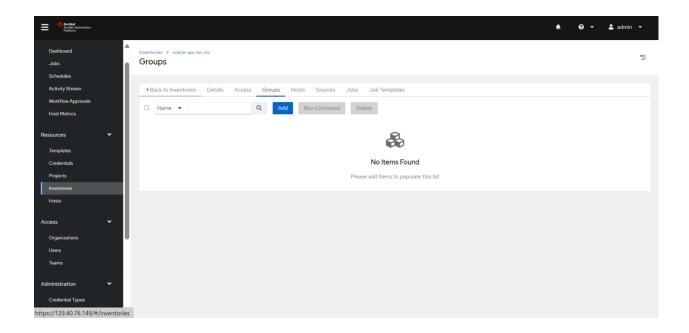
Once saved, we can see the following details to crosscheck.



To create Groups, click on the "Inventories" option under the Resources dropdown and then click on the Inventory which we have created before to this step, in our case the inventory name is "oracle\_rac\_aix\_inv".

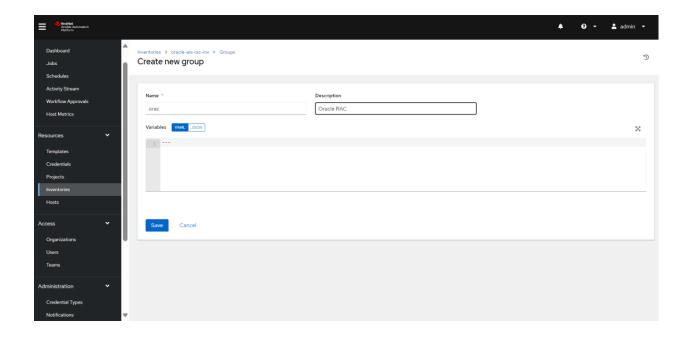


On the opened inventory (oracle\_rac\_aix\_inv) page, click on the Groups tab and Click on "Add" button to create Group.

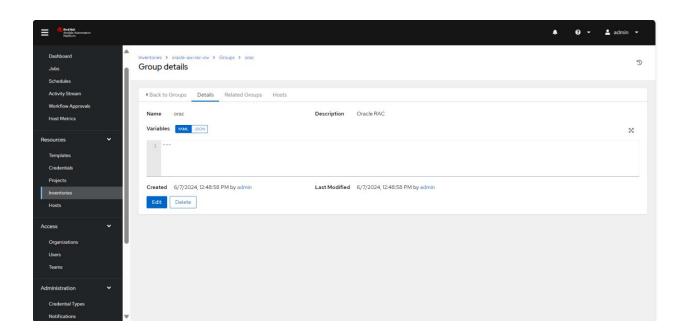


## Please provide the following details:

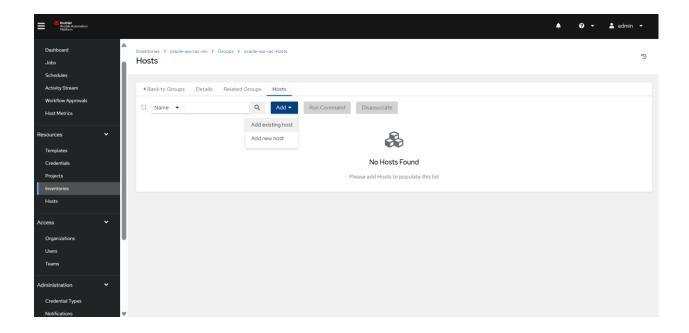
- Name: orac
  - If you decide to use a different name instead of "orac," please update the playbook 'in-stall\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml' file by changing '- hosts: orac' to '- hosts: [new\_name]' and then update the **Name**: field to the new name.
- Description: [Enter a brief description of your project]



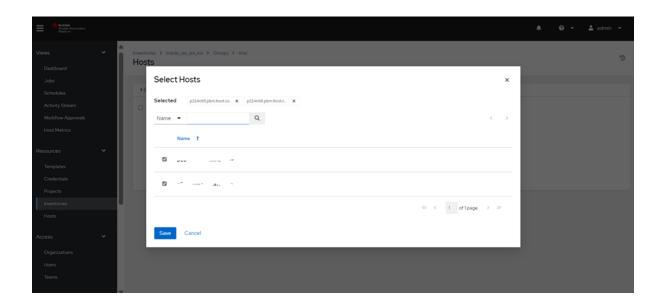
Once saved, we can see the following details to crosscheck.



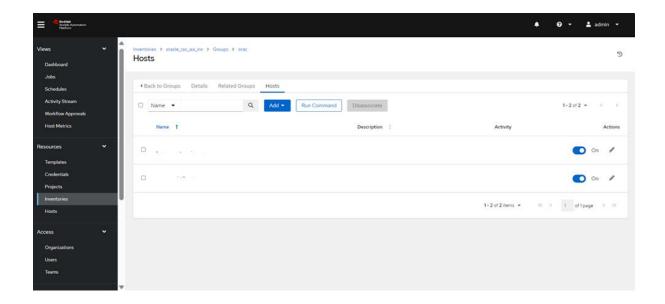
Click on the "Hosts" tab on the Group Details page and Click on "Add"  $\rightarrow$  "Add existing host"



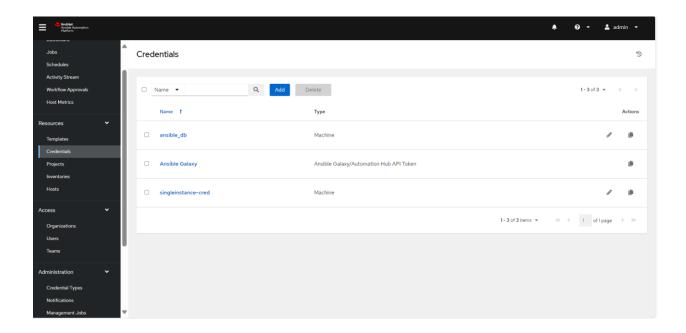
Select the hosts which have created recently and click on "Save"



Now the Hosts have been added to the Group and the Group is added to the inventories.



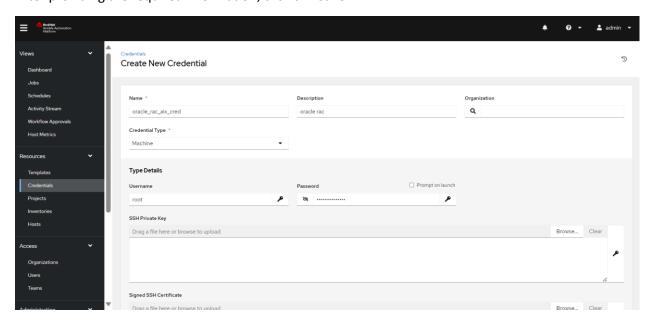
Now, to create Credentials, click on the "Credentials" option under the Resources dropdown and then click on the "Add" button to create Credentials



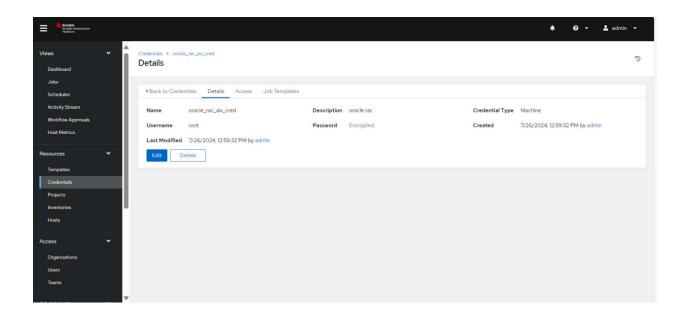
## Please provide the following information:

- Name: [Enter the name of your credential]
- Description: [Enter a brief description of your credential]
- Organization: [Select the organization for your credential]
- Credential Type: Machine
- Username: [Enter the username for the machine]
- Password: [Enter the password for the machine]

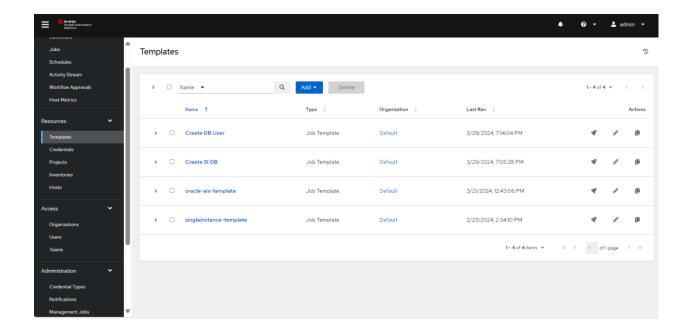
After providing the required information, click on "Save".



Once saved, we can see the following details to crosscheck.

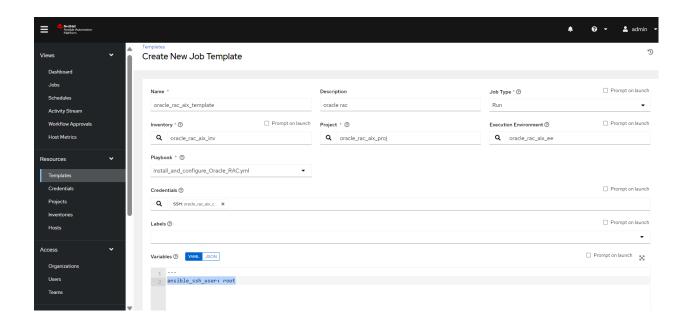


Now, to create Templates, click on the "Templates" option under the Resources dropdown and then click on the "Add" button to create Templates.

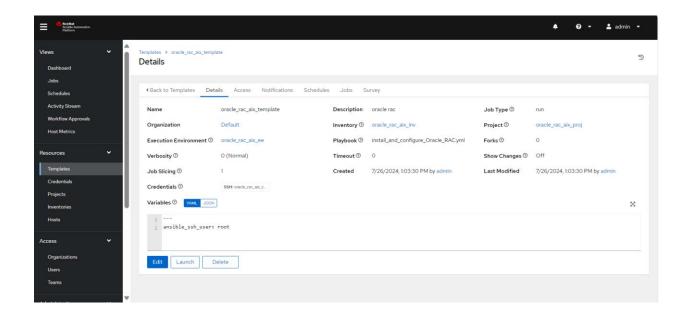


Please provide the following details if you want all the roles ('bootstrap, preconfig, config, install') in the playbook 'install\_and\_configure\_Oracle\_RAC.yml' to be executed:

- Name: [Enter the name of your job]
- Description: [Enter a brief description of your job]
- Job Type: Run
- Inventory: [Select the inventory that was earlier created]
- Project: [Select the project that was earlier created]
  - o Execution Environment: [Select the execution environment that was earlier created]
- Playbook: [Enter the name of your playbook file]
- Variables: ansible\_ssh\_user: root



After providing the required information, proceed with executing the job by clicking on the "Launch" button

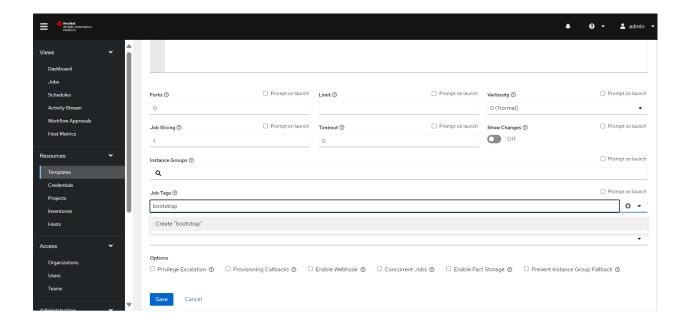


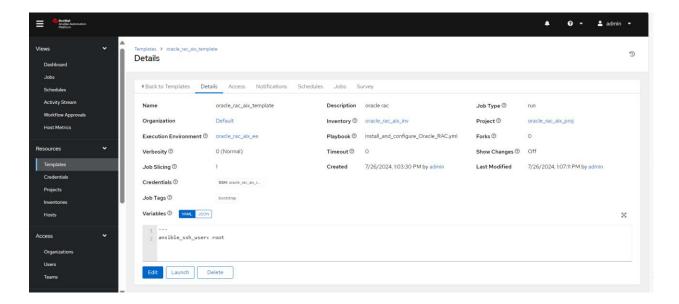
If you want to execute only the bootstrap role, then along with the other details you add "Job Tags"

- Name: [Enter the name of your job]
- Description: [Enter a brief description of your job]
- Job Type: Run
- Inventory: [Select the inventory that was earlier created]
- Project: [Select the project that was earlier created]
- Execution Environment: [Select the execution environment that was earlier created]

- Playbook: [Enter the name of your playbook file]
- Variables: ansible\_ssh\_user: root
- Job Tags: bootstrap

After providing the required information, click on "Save".

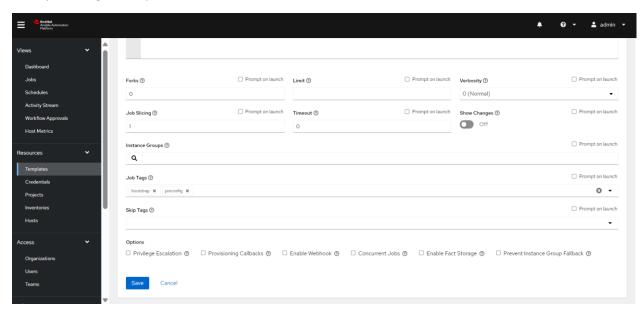


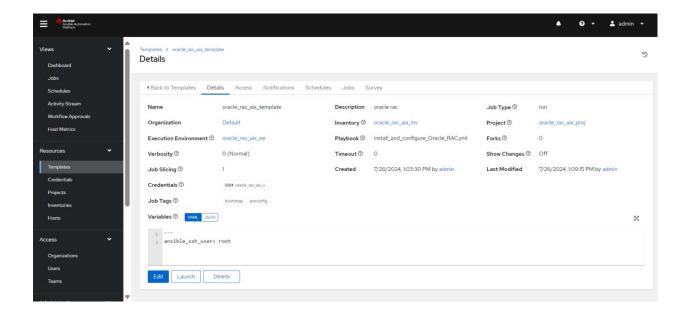


If you want to execute only the 'preconfig' role, then along with the other details, you need to add "Job Tags". Keep in mind that the 'preconfig' role depends on the 'bootstrap' role, as the 'bootstrap' role configures the necessary SSH settings required for the 'preconfig' role to function properly.

Name: [Enter the name of your job]

- Description: [Enter a brief description of your job]
- Job Type: Run
- Inventory: [Select the inventory that was earlier created]
- Project: [Select the project that was earlier created]
- Execution Environment: [Select the execution environment that was earlier created]
- Playbook: [Enter the name of your playbook file]
- Variables: ansible\_ssh\_user: root
- Job Tags: bootstrap, preconfig

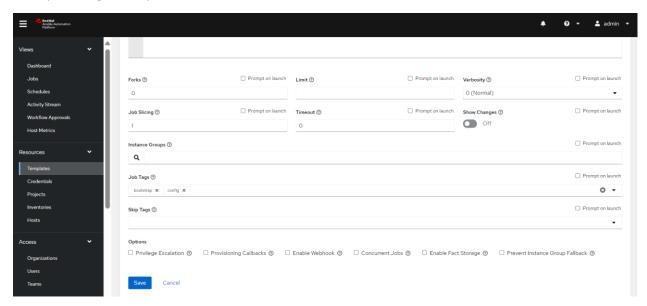


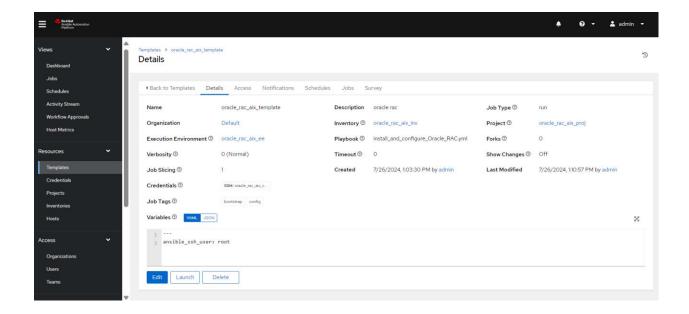


If you want to execute only the 'config' role, then along with the other details, you need to add "Job Tags". Keep in mind that the 'config' role depends on the 'bootstrap' role, as the 'bootstrap' role configures the necessary SSH settings required for the 'config' role to function properly.

Note: config role have a dependency on bootstrap role

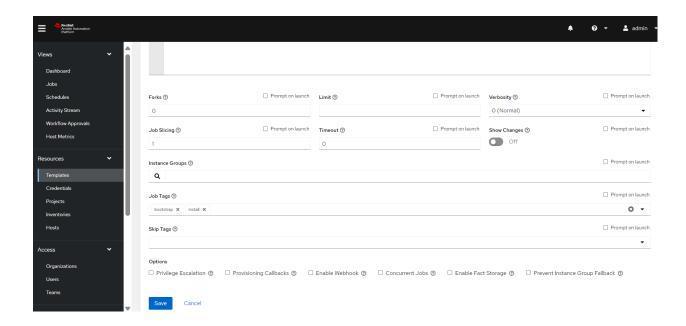
- Name: [Enter the name of your job]
- Description: [Enter a brief description of your job]
- Job Type: Run
- Inventory: [Select the inventory that was earlier created]
- Project: [Select the project that was earlier created]
- Execution Environment: [Select the execution environment that was earlier created]
- Playbook: [Enter the name of your playbook file]
- Variables: ansible\_ssh\_user: root
- Job Tags: bootstrap, config

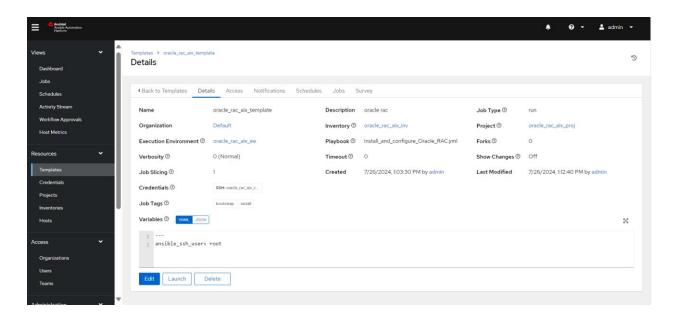




If you want to execute only the 'install' role, then along with the other details, you need to add "Job Tags". Keep in mind that the 'install' role depends on the 'bootstrap' role, as the 'bootstrap' role configures the necessary SSH settings required for the 'install' role to function properly.

- Name: [Enter the name of your job]
- Description: [Enter a brief description of your job]
- Job Type: Run
- Inventory: [Select the inventory that was earlier created]
- Project: [Select the project that was earlier created]
- Execution Environment: [Select the execution environment that was earlier created]
- Playbook: [Enter the name of your playbook file]
- Variables: ansible\_ssh\_user: root
- Job Tags: bootstrap, install





# **Appendix**

## • Programming languages used

Apart from YAML and Jinja2, many tasks are implemented in Korn Shell 93 and Perl.

#### Customization/enhancement requests

The files under each role directory have been tested. Unless additional functionalities/features are desired beyond this release provides, making changes should proceed with caution. Good understanding of the task flow and dependency is important to ensure successfully outcome.

Alternatively, it's recommended to submit enhancement requests.

#### Limitations

- Passwords in plain text are stored in in vars.yml and in the scripts. Some templated scripts contain passwords are pushed out to the RAC nodes. Security measures should be taken such as limit the access to the Ansible controller and the RAC nodes prior and during the installation and change the passwords as soon as the installation is successful.
- Proxy environment is not supported.
- Grid Naming Service (GNS) virtual IP address is not supported.

#### Openssl check

All openssI dependent packages updated after Aug 5, 2022 require openssI 1.1. The bootstrap and config roles which use yum/dnf will get fail if you are trying to install the openssI dependent packages/rpms when openssI version is < 1.1.

OpenssI fileset needs to be upgraded manually, refer to below url for steps

https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6833478

https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/720655

```
# Islpp -||grep openss|
openssl.base 1.0.2.2104 COMMITTED Open Secure Socket Layer
openssl.license 1.0.2.2104 COMMITTED Open Secure Socket License
openssl.man.en_US 1.0.2.2104 COMMITTED Open Secure Socket Layer
openssl.base 1.0.2.2104 COMMITTED Open Secure Socket Layer
```

#### Installation Methodology for 19.18+ RU version

Installation Of GI Software Fails On AIX Platform With GI RU above 19.18 (Doc ID 3056455.1)

#### "GRID home install"

-- Sequence of GRID install SW -> patch -> Reinstall

Step 1: Install Grid using gridInstaller as "Set Up Software Only" option on local node

./gridSetup.sh

Step 2: Apply the latest RU patch on the installed grid home.

./opatchauto apply [patch location] -binary -oh \$ORACLE\_HOME

Step 3: Install Grid using gridInstaller as "Configure Oracle Grid Infrastructure for a NewCluster"

./gridSetup.sh

#### "Oracle home install"

-- Sequence of Oracle install SW -> patch -> Reinstall

Step 1: Install Oracle home using runInstaller as "Set Up Software Only" then select "Single instance database installation" option

./runInstaller.sh

Step 2: Apply the latest RU patch on the installed oracle home.

./opatchauto apply [patch location] -binary -oh \$ORACLE HOME

Step 3: Detach oracle database home

\$ORACLE\_HOME/oui/bin/runInstaller -silent -detachHome
ORACLE\_HOME="\$ORACLE\_HOME" ORACLE\_HOME\_NAME="OraDB19Home1"

Step 4: Install Oracle using runInstaller as "Set Up Software Only" then select "Oracle Real Application Clusters database installation" option

./runInstaller.sh

#### Disk headers and PVIDs

Disks may have AIX volume group, Oracle ASM diskgroup headers, and PVIDs left on the disks by a previous project. When creating a volume group or an ASM diskgroup, the PVIDs and/or headers cause the volume group or ASM diskgroup creation to fail. If it is certain the disks can be reused, clear the header on the disks before starting the playbook like this:

dd if=/dev/zero of=/dev/hdiskX bs=1024k count=100

To determine a disk has an ASM diskgroup header, use Iquerypv -h /dev/hdiskX

https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/do-not-mix-oracle-asm-disks-lvm

Example showing ASM header:

To determine if a disk has an on-disk PVID, use Iqueryvg -Ptp hdiskX

https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/resolving-missing-or-removed-disks-aix-lvm

If PVID exists, the exit code is 0, otherwise it is 1.

To determine if a disk has a Volume Group Descriptor Area (VGDA), use readvgda -t hdiskX.

https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/how-determine-volume-group-physical-partition-size-readvgda

If VGDA exists, the exit code is 0, otherwise it is 1.

Alternatively, if disks can be reused for sure, the vars.yml config.asmdisks.diskgroups and config.ora\_vg has options "clear\_pvids" and "zero\_disks" which free the user from executing the extra commands to clear the PVIDs, AIX volume group headers, and ASM diskgroup headers.

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