Backporting and Ansible inclusion

Each collection community can set its own rules and workflow for managing pull requests, bug reports, documentation issues, and feature requests, as well as adding and replacing maintainers. Maintainers review and merge pull requests following the:

ref.`code of conduct`

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• :ref:\maintainer requirements\

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• ref. Committer guidelines < committer general rules>'.

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PR review checklist

There can be two kinds of maintainers: ref. collection maintainers and ref. module maintainers.

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Collection maintainers

Collection-scope maintainers are contributors who have the write or higher access level in a collection. They have commit rights and can merge pull requests, among other permissions.

When a collection maintainer considers a contribution to a file significant enough (for example, fixing a complex bug, adding a feature, providing regular reviews, and so on), they can invite the author to become a module maintainer.

Module maintainers

Module-scope maintainers exist in collections that have the collection bot, for example community general and community network.

Being a module maintainer is the stage prior to becoming a collection maintainer. Module maintainers are contributors who are listed in <code>.github/BOTMETA.yml</code>. The scope can be any file (for example, a module or plugin), directory, or repository. Because in most cases the scope is a module or group of modules, we call these contributors module maintainers. The collection bot notifies module maintainers when issues / pull requests related to files they maintain are created.

Module maintainers have indirect commit rights implemented through the collection bot. When two module maintainers comment with the keywords shipit, LGTM, or +1 on a pull request which changes a module they maintain, the collection bot merges the pull request automatically.

For more information about the collection bot and its interface, see to the Collection bot overview.

Releasing a collection

Collection maintainers are responsible for releasing new versions of a collection. Generally, releasing in the collections consists of:

- 1. Planning and announcement.
- 2. Generating a changelog.
- 3. Creating a release git tag and pushing it.
- 4. Automaticly publishing the release tarball on Ansible Galaxy through the Zuul dashboard.
- 5. Final announcement.
- 6. Optionally, file a request to include a new collection into the Ansible package.

See ref: releasing collections' for details.

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Backporting

Collection maintainers backport merged pull requests to stable branches following the semantic versioning and release policies of the collections.

The manual backport process is similar to the ref. ansible-core backporting guidelines
backport_process>'.

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For convenience, backporting can be implemented automatically using GitHub bots (for example, with the Patchback app) and labeling as it is done in community.general and community.network.

Including a collection in Ansible

If a collection is not included in Ansible (not shipped with Ansible package), maintainers can submit the collection for inclusion by creating a discussion under ansible-collections/ansible-inclusion repository. For more information, see the repository's README, and the Ansible community package collections requirements https://github.com/ansible-collections/overview/blob/main/collection_requirements.rst.

Stepping down as a collection maintainer

Times change, and so may your ability to continue as a collection maintainer. We ask that you do not step down silently.

If you feel you don't have time to maintain your collection any more, you should:

- Inform other maintainers about it.
- If the collection is under the ansible-collections organization, also inform relevant ref. communication_irc`, the community chat channels on IRC or matrix, or by email ansible-community@redhat.com.

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- Look at active contributors in the collection to find new maintainers among them. Discuss the potential candidates with other maintainers or with the community team.
- If you failed to find a replacement, create a pinned issue in the collection, announcing that the collection needs new maintainers.
- Make the same announcement through the Bullhorn newsletter.
- Please be around to discuss potential candidates found by other maintainers or by the community team.

Remember, this is a community, so you can come back at any time in the future.