Action plugins

Action plugins act in conjunction with :ref:`modules <working_with_modules>` to execute the actions required by playbook tasks. They usually execute automatically in the background doing prerequisite work before modules execute.

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\plugins\(ansible-devel)(docs)(docsite)(rst)(plugins)action.rst, line 10); *backlink*
>
> Unknown interpreted text role "ref".

The 'normal' action plugin is used for modules that do not already have an action plugin. If necessary, you can :ref:`create custom action plugins <developing_actions>`.

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\plugins\(ansible-devel)(docs)(docsite)(rst)(plugins)action.rst, line 12); *backlink*
>
> Unknown interpreted text role "ref".

Enabling action plugins

You can enable a custom action plugin by either dropping it into the `action_plugins` directory adjacent to your play, inside a role, or by putting it in one of the action plugin directory sources configured in :ref:`ansible.cfg <ansible_configuration_settings>`.

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\plugins\(ansible-devel)(docs)(docsite)(rst)(plugins)action.rst, line 19); *backlink*
>
> Unknown interpreted text role "ref".

Using action plugins

Action plugin are executed by default when an associated module is used; no action is required.

Plugin list

You cannot list action plugins directly, they show up as their counterpart modules:

Use `ansible-doc -l` to see the list of available modules. Use `ansible-doc <name>` to see specific documentation and examples, this should note if the module has a corresponding action plugin.

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\plugins\(ansible-devel)(docs)(docsite)(rst)(plugins)action.rst, line 36)
>
> Unknown directive type "seealso".
>
> ```
> .. seealso::
>
>    :ref:`cache_plugins`
>        Cache plugins
>    :ref:`callback_plugins`
>        Callback plugins
>    :ref:`connection_plugins`
>        Connection plugins
>    :ref:`inventory_plugins`
>        Inventory plugins
>    :ref:`shell_plugins`
>        Shell plugins
>    :ref:`strategy_plugins`
>        Strategy plugins
>    :ref:`vars_plugins`
>        Vars plugins
> ```

```
`User Mailing List <https://groups.google.com/group/ansible-devel>`_
    Have a question?  Stop by the google group!
:ref:`communication_irc`
    How to join Ansible chat channels
```