

Return Values

Topics

- [Common](#)
 - [backup_file](#)
 - [changed](#)
 - [diff](#)
 - [failed](#)
 - [invocation](#)
 - [msg](#)
 - [rc](#)
 - [results](#)
 - [skipped](#)
 - [stderr](#)
 - [stderr_lines](#)
 - [stdout](#)
 - [stdout_lines](#)
- [Internal use](#)
 - [ansible_facts](#)
 - [exception](#)
 - [warnings](#)
 - [deprecations](#)

Ansible modules normally return a data structure that can be registered into a variable, or seen directly when output by the *ansible* program. Each module can optionally document its own unique return values (visible through *ansible-doc* and on the [ref: main docsite<ansible_documentation>](#)).

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\reference_appendices\ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (reference_appendices) common_return_values.rst, line 8); [backlink](#)

Unknown interpreted text role "ref".

This document covers return values common to all modules.

Note

Some of these keys might be set by Ansible itself once it processes the module's return information.

Common

backup_file

For those modules that implement *backup=no|yes* when manipulating files, a path to the backup file created.

```
"backup_file": "./foo.txt.32729.2020-07-30@06:24:19~"
```

changed

A boolean indicating if the task had to make changes to the target or delegated host.

```
"changed": true
```

diff

Information on differences between the previous and current state. Often a dictionary with entries *before* and *after*, which will then be formatted by the callback plugin to a diff view.

```
"diff": [
  {
    "after": "",
    "after_header": "foo.txt (content)",
    "before": "",
    "before_header": "foo.txt (content)"
  },
  {
    "after_header": "foo.txt (file attributes)",
```

```
    "before_header": "foo.txt (file attributes)"
  }
```

failed

A boolean that indicates if the task was failed or not.

```
"failed": false
```

invocation

Information on how the module was invoked.

```
"invocation": {
  "module_args": {
    "_original_basename": "foo.txt",
    "attributes": null,
    "backup": true,
    "checksum": "da39a3ee5e6b4b0d3255bfef95601890afd80709",
    "content": null,
    "delimiter": null,
    "dest": "./foo.txt",
    "directory_mode": null,
    "follow": false,
    "force": true,
    "group": null,
    "local_follow": null,
    "mode": "666",
    "owner": null,
    "regexp": null,
    "remote_src": null,
    "selevel": null,
    "serole": null,
    "setype": null,
    "seuser": null,
    "src": "/Users/foo/.ansible/tmp/ansible-tmp-1596115458.110205-105717464505158/source",
    "unsafe_writes": null,
    "validate": null
  }
}
```

msg

A string with a generic message relayed to the user.

```
"msg": "line added"
```

rc

Some modules execute command line utilities or are geared for executing commands directly (raw, shell, command, and so on), this field contains 'return code' of these utilities.

```
"rc": 257
```

results

If this key exists, it indicates that a loop was present for the task and that it contains a list of the normal module 'result' per item.

```
"results": [
  {
    "ansible_loop_var": "item",
    "backup": "foo.txt.83170.2020-07-30@07:03:05~",
    "changed": true,
    "diff": [
      {
        "after": "",
        "after_header": "foo.txt (content)",
        "before": "",
        "before_header": "foo.txt (content)"
      },
      {
        "after_header": "foo.txt (file attributes)",
        "before_header": "foo.txt (file attributes)"
      }
    ],
    "failed": false,
    "invocation": {
      "module_args": {
        "attributes": null,
        "backrefs": false,
```

```

        "backup": true
    },
    "item": "foo",
    "msg": "line added"
},
{
    "ansible_loop_var": "item",
    "backup": "foo.txt.83187.2020-07-30@07:03:05~",
    "changed": true,
    "diff": [
        {
            "after": "",
            "after_header": "foo.txt (content)",
            "before": "",
            "before_header": "foo.txt (content)"
        },
        {
            "after_header": "foo.txt (file attributes)",
            "before_header": "foo.txt (file attributes)"
        }
    ],
    "failed": false,
    "invocation": {
        "module_args": {
            "attributes": null,
            "backrefs": false,
            "backup": true
        }
    },
    "item": "bar",
    "msg": "line added"
}
]

```

skipped

A boolean that indicates if the task was skipped or not

```
"skipped": true
```

stderr

Some modules execute command line utilities or are geared for executing commands directly (raw, shell, command, and so on), this field contains the error output of these utilities.

```
"stderr": "ls: foo: No such file or directory"
```

stderr_lines

When *stderr* is returned we also always provide this field which is a list of strings, one item per line from the original.

```
"stderr_lines": [
    "ls: doesntexist: No such file or directory"
]
```

stdout

Some modules execute command line utilities or are geared for executing commands directly (raw, shell, command, and so on). This field contains the normal output of these utilities.

```
"stdout": "foo!"
```

stdout_lines

When *stdout* is returned, Ansible always provides a list of strings, each containing one item per line from the original output.

```
"stdout_lines": [
    "foo!"
]
```

Internal use

These keys can be added by modules but will be removed from registered variables; they are 'consumed' by Ansible itself.

ansible_facts

This key should contain a dictionary which will be appended to the facts assigned to the host. These will be directly accessible and don't require using a registered variable.

exception

This key can contain traceback information caused by an exception in a module. It will only be displayed on high verbosity (-vvv).

warnings

This key contains a list of strings that will be presented to the user.

deprecations

This key contains a list of dictionaries that will be presented to the user. Keys of the dictionaries are *msg* and *version*, values are string, value for the *version* key can be an empty string.

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-  
devel\docs\docsite\rst\reference_appendices\ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst)  
(reference_appendices) common_return_values.rst, line 242)
```

Unknown directive type "seealso".

```
.. seealso::

:ref:`list_of_collections`
    Browse existing collections, modules, and plugins
`GitHub modules directory <https://github.com/ansible/ansible/tree/devel/lib/ansible/modules>`_
    Browse source of core and extras modules
`Mailing List <https://groups.google.com/group/ansible-devel>`_
    Development mailing list
:ref:`communication_irc`
    How to join Ansible chat channels
```