

Special Variables

Magic variables

These variables cannot be set directly by the user; Ansible will always override them to reflect internal state.

`ansible_check_mode`

Boolean that indicates if we are in check mode or not

`ansible_config_file`

The full path of used Ansible configuration file

`ansible_dependent_role_names`

The names of the roles currently imported into the current play as dependencies of other plays

`ansible_diff_mode`

Boolean that indicates if we are in diff mode or not

`ansible_forks`

Integer reflecting the number of maximum forks available to this run

`ansible_inventory_sources`

List of sources used as inventory

`ansible_limit`

Contents of the `--limit` CLI option for the current execution of Ansible

`ansible_loop`

A dictionary/map containing extended loop information when enabled via `loop_control.extended`

`ansible_loop_var`

The name of the value provided to `loop_control.loop_var`. Added in 2.8

`ansible_index_var`

The name of the value provided to `loop_control.index_var`. Added in 2.9

`ansible_parent_role_names`

When the current role is being executed by means of an `:ref:`include_role <include_role_module>`` or `:ref:`import_role <import_role_module>`` action, this variable contains a list of all parent roles, with the most recent role (in other words, the role that included/imported this role) being the first item in the list. When multiple inclusions occur, this list lists the *last* role (in other words, the role that included this role) as the *first* item in the list. It is also possible that a specific role exists more than once in this list.

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For example: When role **A** includes role **B**, inside role **B**, `ansible_parent_role_names` will equal to `['A']`. If role **B** then includes role **C**, the list becomes `['B', 'A']`.

`ansible_parent_role_paths`

When the current role is being executed by means of an `:ref:`include_role <include_role_module>`` or `:ref:`import_role <import_role_module>`` action, this variable contains a list of all parent roles paths, with the most recent role (in other words, the role that included/imported this role) being the first item in the list. Please refer to `ansible_parent_role_names` for the order of items in this list.

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[docs] [docsite] [rst] [reference_appendices] special_variables.rst, line 47); *backlink*

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ansible_play_batch

List of active hosts in the current play run limited by the serial, aka 'batch'. Failed/Unreachable hosts are not considered 'active'.

ansible_play_hosts

List of hosts in the current play run, not limited by the serial. Failed/Unreachable hosts are excluded from this list.

ansible_play_hosts_all

List of all the hosts that were targeted by the play

ansible_play_role_names

The names of the roles currently imported into the current play. This list does **not** contain the role names that are implicitly included via dependencies.

ansible_playbook_python

The path to the python interpreter being used by Ansible on the controller

ansible_role_names

The names of the roles currently imported into the current play, or roles referenced as dependencies of the roles imported into the current play.

ansible_role_name

The fully qualified collection role name, in the format of `namespace.collection.role_name`

ansible_collection_name

The name of the collection the task that is executing is a part of. In the format of `namespace.collection`

ansible_run_tags

Contents of the `--tags` CLI option, which specifies which tags will be included for the current run. Note that if `--tags` is not passed, this variable will default to `["all"]`.

ansible_search_path

Current search path for action plugins and lookups, in other words, where we search for relative paths when you do
`template: src=myfile`

ansible_skip_tags

Contents of the `--skip-tags` CLI option, which specifies which tags will be skipped for the current run.

ansible_verbosity

Current verbosity setting for Ansible

ansible_version

Dictionary/map that contains information about the current running version of ansible, it has the following keys: full, major, minor, revision and string.

group_names

List of groups the current host is part of

groups

A dictionary/map with all the groups in inventory and each group has the list of hosts that belong to it

hostvars

A dictionary/map with all the hosts in inventory and variables assigned to them

inventory_hostname

The inventory name for the 'current' host being iterated over in the play

inventory_hostname_short

The short version of *inventory_hostname*

inventory_dir

The directory of the inventory source in which the *inventory_hostname* was first defined

inventory_file

The file name of the inventory source in which the *inventory_hostname* was first defined

omit

Special variable that allows you to 'omit' an option in a task, for example - `user: name=bob home={{ bobs_home|default(omit) }}`

play_hosts

Deprecated, the same as *ansible_play_batch*

ansible_play_name

The name of the currently executed play. Added in 2.8. (*name* attribute of the play, not file name of the playbook.)

playbook_dir

The path to the directory of the current playbook being executed. NOTE: This might be different than directory of the playbook passed to the `ansible-playbook` command line when a playbook contains a `import_playbook` statement.

role_name

The name of the role currently being executed.

role_names

Deprecated, the same as *ansible_play_role_names*

role_path

The path to the dir of the currently running role

Facts

These are variables that contain information pertinent to the current host (*inventory_hostname*). They are only available if gathered first. See [ref:vars_and_facts](#) for more information.

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ansible_facts

Contains any facts gathered or cached for the *inventory_hostname*. Facts are normally gathered by the [ref:setup](#) `<setup_module>` module automatically in a play, but any module can return facts.

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ansible_local

Contains any 'local facts' gathered or cached for the *inventory_hostname*. The keys available depend on the custom facts created. See the [ref:setup](#) `<setup_module>` module and [ref:local_facts](#) for more details.

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Connection variables

Connection variables are normally used to set the specifics on how to execute actions on a target. Most of them correspond to connection plugins, but not all are specific to them; other plugins like shell, terminal and become are normally involved. Only the common ones are described as each connection/become/shell/etc plugin can define its own overrides and specific variables. See [ref: general_precedence_rules](#) for how connection variables interact with [ref: configuration settings<ansible_configuration_settings>](#), [ref: command-line options<command_line_tools>](#), and [ref: playbook keywords<playbook_keywords>](#).

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`ansible_become_user`

The user Ansible 'becomes' after using privilege escalation. This must be available to the 'login user'.

`ansible_connection`

The connection plugin actually used for the task on the target host.

`ansible_host`

The ip/name of the target host to use instead of *inventory_hostname*.

`ansible_python_interpreter`

The path to the Python executable Ansible should use on the target host.

`ansible_user`

The user Ansible 'logs in' as.