Migrating Roles to Roles in Collections on Galaxy

You can migrate any existing standalone role into a collection and host the collection on Galaxy. With Ansible collections, you can distribute many roles in a single cohesive unit of re-usable automation. Inside a collection, you can share custom plugins across all roles in the collection instead of duplicating them in each role's <a href="file:"file:"file:"file:"file: file: file:

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (b:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 8); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "file".
```

You must migrate roles to collections if you want to distribute them as certified Ansible content.

```
Note
```

If you want to import your collection to Galaxy, you need a Galaxy namespace.

See ref. developing collections for details on collections.

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\ (ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 16); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "ref".
```

- Comparing standalone roles to collection roles
- Migrating a role to a collection
- Migrating a role that contains plugins to a collection
- Using ansible.legacy to access local custom modules from collections-based roles

Comparing standalone roles to collection roles

ref: Standalone roles <playbooks_reuse_roles>` have the following directory structure:

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 26); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "ref".
```

The highlighted directories above will change when you migrate to a collection-based role. The collection directory structure includes a :file:`roles/` directory:

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 45); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "file".
```

```
mynamespace/
â""a"câ"E mycollection/
â"œâ"eâ"E docs/
å"œâ"eâ"E galaxy.yml
â"œâ"eâ"E plugins/
â", a"mâ"eâ"E modules/
à", a", a"mâ"eâ"E modulel.py
â", a"œâ"eâ"E inventory/
à", a"mâ"eâ"E inventory/
à", a"mâ"eâ"E inventory/
à", a"mâ"eâ"E inventory/
à", a"mâ"eâ"E roles/
à", a"œâ"eâ"E toles/
```

You will need to use the Fully Qualified Collection Name (FQCN) to use the roles and plugins when you migrate your role into a collection. The FQCN is the combination of the collection name, and the content item you are referring to.

So for example, in the above collection, the FQCN to access role1 would be:

```
mynamespace.mycollection.role1
```

A collection can contain one or more roles in the :file: roles/ directory and these are almost identical to standalone roles, except you need to move plugins out of the individual roles, and use the abbr: FQCN (Fully Qualified Collection Name) in some places, as detailed in the next section.

```
System \ Message: ERROR/3 \ (b:\onboarding-resources\ample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\) (docs) \ (docsite) \ (rst) \ (dev_guide) \ migrating\_roles.rst, line \ 79); \ backlink
```

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Unknown interpreted text role "abbr".

Note

In standalone roles, some of the plugin directories referenced their plugin types in the plural sense; this is not the case in collections.

Migrating a role to a collection

To migrate from a standalone role that contains no plugins to a collection role:

1. Create a local :file: ansible_collections directory and ed to this new directory.

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\((ansible-devel)\) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 92); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "file".
```

Create a collection. If you want to import this collection to Ansible Galaxy, you need a Galaxy namespace.

```
$ ansible-galaxy collection init mynamespace.mycollection
```

This creates the collection directory structure.

 Copy the standalone role directory into the :file: roles/ subdirectory of the collection. Roles in collections cannot have hyphens in the role name. Rename any such roles to use underscores instead.

```
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```

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\$ mkdir mynamespace/mycollection/roles/my_role/
\$ cp -r /path/to/standalone/role/mynamespace/my_role/* mynamespace/mycollection/roles/my_role/

- 4. Update galaxy.yml to include any role dependencies.
- 5. Update the collection README.md file to add links to any role README.md files.

Migrating a role that contains plugins to a collection

To migrate from a standalone role that has plugins to a collection role:

1. Create a local :file: `ansible_collections directory` and cd to this new directory.

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\ (ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 120); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "file".
```

Create a collection. If you want to import this collection to Ansible Galaxy, you need a Galaxy namespace.

```
$ ansible-galaxy collection init mynamespace.mycollection
```

This creates the collection directory structure.

Copy the standalone role directory into the :file: roles/ subdirectory of the collection. Roles in collections cannot have hyphens in the role name. Rename any such roles to use underscores instead.

Unknown interpreted text role "file".

```
$ mkdir mynamespace/mycollection/roles/my_role/
$ cp -r /path/to/standalone/role/mynamespace/my_role/\* mynamespace/mycollection/roles/my_role/
```

4. Move any modules to the :file: 'plugins/modules/' directory.

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\ (ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 138); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "file".

Move any other plugins to the appropriate :file: plugins/PLUGINTYPE/ directory. See :ref: migrating_plugins_collection' for additional steps that may be required.

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\ (ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 144); backlink

Unknown interpreted text role "file".

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel\) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 144); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "ref".

- 6. Update galaxy.yml to include any role dependencies.
- Update the collection README.md file to add links to any role README.md files.
- 8. Change any references to the role to use the abbr: FQCN (Fully Qualified Collection Name).

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```
---
- name: example role by FQCN
hosts: some_host_pattern
tasks:
- name: import FQCN role from a collection
   import_role:
    name: mynamespace.mycollection.my_role
```

You can alternately use the collections keyword to simplify this:

```
---
- name: example role by FQCN
hosts: some host_pattern
collections:
- mynamespace.mycollection
tasks:
- name: import role from a collection
import role:
    name: my_role
```

Migrating other role plugins to a collection

To migrate other role plugins to a collection:

Move each nonmodule plugins to the appropriate: file: 'plugins/PLUGINTYPE/' directory. The
 file: 'mynamespace/mycollection/plugins/README.md' file explains the types of plugins that the collection can contain
 within optionally created subdirectories.

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\((ansible-devel)\) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 186); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "file".

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Unknown interpreted text role "file".

\$ mv -r mynamespace/mycollection/roles/my_role/filter_plugins/* mynamespace/mycollection/plugins/filter/

- Update documentation to use the FQCN. Plugins that use doc_fragments need to use FQCN (for example, mydocfrag becomes mynamespace.mycollection.mydocfrag).
- Update relative imports work in collections to start with a period. For example, file: '/filename' and file: './asdfi/filestuff' works but file: 'filename' in same directory must be updated to file: '/filename'.

 $System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\sample-devel) (docs) \\ (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 194); \\ backlink$

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Unknown interpreted text role "file".

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\((ansible-devel)\) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 194); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "file".
```

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 194); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "file".

If you have a custom $\verb|module_utils|$ or import from $_init_.py$, you must also:

Change the Python namespace for custom module_utils to use the abbr: FQCN (Fully Qualified Collection Name)
 along with the ansible collections convention. See ref: update_module_utils_role.

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\ (ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 199); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "abbr".
```

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 199); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "ref".
```

Change how you import from __init__.py. See ref_update_init_role.

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 201); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "ref".
```

Updating module_utils

If any of your custom modules use a custom module utility, once you migrate to a collection you cannot address the module utility in the top level ansible.module_utils Python namespace. Ansible does not merge content from collections into the Ansible internal Python namespace. Update any Python import statements that refer to custom module utilities when you migrate your custom content to collections. See ref module_utils in collections <collection module_utils> for more details.

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 209); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "ref".
```

When coding with module_utils in a collection, the Python import statement needs to take into account the abbr: FQCN (Fully Qualified Collection Name) along with the ansible_collections convention. The resulting Python import looks similar to the following example:

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\((ansible-devel)(docs)(docsite)(rst)(dev_guide)migrating_roles.rst, line 211); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "abbr".
```

from ansible_collections.{namespace}.{collectionname}.plugins.module_utils.{util} import {something}

Note

You need to follow the same rules in changing paths and using namespaced names for subclassed plugins.

The following example code snippets show a Python and a PowerShell module using both default Ansible module_utils and those provided by a collection. In this example the namespace is ansible example and the collection is community.

In the Python example the ${\tt module_utils}$ is ${\tt helper}$ and the ${\tt abbr.}$ FQCN (Fully Qualified Collection Name) is ${\tt ansible_example.community.plugins.module_utils.helper:}$

```
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```

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```
module = AnsibleModule(
    argument_spec=argspec,
    supports_check_mode=True
)

_request = HelperRequest(
    module,
    headers={"Content-Type": "application/json"},
    data=data
)
```

In the PowerShell example the <code>module_utils</code> is hyperv and the <code>abbr:FQCN</code> (Fully Qualified Collection Name)' is ansible example.community.plugins.module utils.hyperv:

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 249); backlink
```

Unknown interpreted text role "abbr".

Importing from __init__.py

Because of the way that the CPython interpreter does imports, combined with the way the Ansible plugin loader works, if your custom embedded module or plugin requires importing something from an :file: __init__py' file, that also becomes part of your collection. You can either originate the content inside a standalone role or use the file name in the Python import statement. The following example is an :file: __init__py' file that is part of a callback plugin found inside a collection named ansible_example.community.

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 273); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "file".
```

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docs\te\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 273); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "file".
```

from ansible_collections.ansible_example.community.plugins.callback.__init__ import CustomBaseClass

Example: Migrating a standalone role with plugins to a collection

In this example we have a standalone role called my-standalone-role webapp to emulate a standalone role that contains dashes in the name (which is not valid in collections). This standalone role contains a custom module in the <code>library/</code> directory called <code>manage webserver</code>.

```
my-standalone-role.webapp
å"œâ"€â"€ defaults
å"œâ"€â"€ files
å"œâ"€â"€ handlers
å"œâ"€â"€ library
å"œâ"€â"€ meta
å"œâ"€â"€ tasks
å"œâ"€â"€ templates
å"œâ"€â"€ tests
å"œâ"€â"€ vars
```

1. Create a new collection, for example, acme.webserver:

```
$ ansible-galaxy collection init acme.webserver
- Collection acme.webserver was created successfully
$ tree acme -d 1
acme
a""a"6a"6 webserver
a"ca"6a"6 docs
a"ca"6a"6 plugins
a""a"6a"6 roles
```

2. Create the webapp role inside the collection and copy all contents from the standalone role:

```
$ mkdir acme/webserver/roles/webapp
$ cp my-standalone-role.webapp/* acme/webserver/roles/webapp/
```

3. Move the manage_webserver module to its new home in acme/webserver/plugins/modules/:

 $\$ \ \text{cp my-standalone-role.webapp/library/manage_webserver.py acme/webserver/plugins/modules/manage.py}$

Note

This example changed the original source file manage_webserver.py to the destination file manage.py. This is optional but the abbr. FQCN (Fully Qualified Collection Name) provides the webserver context as acme.webserver.manage.

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 Change manage _webserver to acme.webserver.manage in :file: tasks/ files in the role (for example, my-standalone-role.webapp/tasks/main.yml) and any use of the original module name.

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Unknown interpreted text role "file".

Note

This name change is only required if you changed the original module name, but illustrates content referenced by abbr: FQCN (Fully Qualified Collection Name)` can offer context and in turn can make module and plugin names shorter. If you anticipate using these modules independent of the role, keep the original naming conventions. Users can add the ref: collections keyword <collections_using_playbook>` in their playbooks. Typically roles are an abstraction layer and users won't use components of the role independently.

System Message: ERROR/3 (p:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel)\(docs)\(docsite\) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 332); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "abbr".

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\(ansible-devel)\(docs)\(docsite\) (fine 332); backlink

Unknown interpreted text role 'ref'.

Example: Supporting standalone roles and migrated collection roles in a downstream RPM

A standalone role can co-exist with its collection role counterpart (for example, as part of a support lifecycle of a product). This should only be done for a transition period, but these two can exist in downstream in packages such as RPMs. For example, the RHEL system roles could coexist with an example of a RHEL system roles collection and provide existing backwards compatibility with the downstream RPM.

This section walks through an example creating this coexistence in a downstream RPM and requires Ansible 2.9.0 or later. To deliver a role as both a standalone role and a collection role:

1. Place the collection in :file:\usr/share/ansible/collections/ansible_collections/.

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\dev_guide\((ansible-devel)\) (docs) (docsite) (rst) (dev_guide) migrating_roles.rst, line 344); backlink
Unknown interpreted text role "file".

Copy the contents of the role inside the collection into a directory named after the standalone role and place the standalone role in :file:`/usr/share/ansible/roles/`.

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Unknown interpreted text role "file".

All previously bundled modules and plugins used in the standalone role are now referenced by abbr: FQCN (Fully Qualified Collection Name)' so even though they are no longer embedded, they can be found from the collection contents. This is an example of how the content inside the collection is a unique entity and does not have to be bound to a role or otherwise. You could alternately create two separate collections: one for the modules and plugins and another for the standalone role to migrate to. The role must use the modules and plugins as abbr: FQCN (Fully Qualified Collection Name)'.

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The following is an example RPM spec file that accomplishes this using this example content:

```
Name: acme-ansible-content
Summary: Ansible Collection for deploying and configuring ACME webapp
Version: 1.0.0
Release: 1%{?dist}
License: GPLv3+
SourceO: acme-webserver-1.0.0.tar.gz
```

```
Url: https://github.com/acme/webserver-ansible-collection
 BuildArch: noarch
  %global roleprefix my-standalone-role.
%global collection_namespace acme
  %global collection_name webserver
   \label{lem:collection_dir ${\_datadir}/ansible/collections/ansible\_collections/%{collection\_name} and the collection_name of the collect
  Ansible Collection and standalone role (for backward compatibility and migration) to deploy, configure, and manage the ACI
   %setup -qc
  %build
  %install
mkdir -p %{buildroot}/%{collection_dir}
cp -r ./* %{buildroot}/%{collection_dir}/
 mkdir -p %{buildroot}/%{ datadir}/ansible/roles
for role in %{buildroot}/%{collection_dir}/roles/*
                                                \begin{tabular}{ll} $$ \protect\ \foles \
                                              \label{eq:mkdir-p %{buildroot}/%{ pkgdocdir}/$(basename $\{role\})$ for docfile in README.md COPYING LICENSE }
                                                      do
                                 if [ -f ${role}/${docfile} ]
                                                      then
                                                                        cp -p ${role}/${docfile} %{buildroot}/%{ pkgdocdir}/$(basename ${role})/${docfile}
                                 fi
  done
  %files
   %dir %{_datadir}/ansible
  %dir %{_datadir}/ansible/roles
%dir %{_datadir}/ansible/collections
 %dir %{ datadir}/ansible/collections/ansible_collections %{ datadir}/ansible/roles/ %doc %{ pkgdocdir}/*/README.md %doc %{ datadir}/ansible/roles/%{roleprefix}*/README.md
   %{collection_dir}
   %doc %{collection dir}/roles/*/README.md
 %license %{ pkgdocdir}/*/COPYING
%license %{ pkgdocdir}/*/LICENSE
```

Using ansible.legacy to access local custom modules from collections-based roles

Some roles within a collection use ref'local custom modules developing_locally that are not part of the collection itself. If there is a conflict between the custom module short name and the collection module name, you need to specify which module your tasks call. You can update the tasks to change <code>local_module_name</code> to <code>ansible.legacy.local_module_name</code> to <code>ensure</code> you are using the custom module.

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