

How to collect information about your environment

- [Introduction](#)
- [Scenario requirements](#)
- [How to collect information](#)
 - [Datacenter](#)
 - [Result](#)
 - [Cluster](#)
 - [Result](#)
 - [Result](#)
 - [Datastore](#)
 - [Result](#)
 - [Folder](#)
 - [Result](#)
 - [Result](#)

Introduction

This section shows you how to utilize Ansible to collect information about your environment. This information is useful for the other tutorials.

Scenario requirements

In this scenario we've got a vCenter with an ESXi host.

Our environment is pre-initialized with the following elements:

- A datacenter called `my_dc`
- A cluster called `my_cluster`
- An ESXi host called `esxi1` is in the cluster
- Two datastores on the ESXi: `rw_datastore` and `ro_datastore`
- A dvswitch based guest network

Finally, we use the environment variables to authenticate ourselves as explained in [ref: vmware_rest_authentication](#).

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel] [docs] [docsite] [rst] [scenario_guides] [vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 30);  
backlink
```

Unknown interpreted text role "ref".

How to collect information

In these examples, we use the `vcenter_*_info` module to collect information about the associated resources.

All these modules return a `value` key. Depending on the context, this `value` key will be either a list or a dictionary.

Datacenter

Here we use the `vcenter_datacenter_info` module to list all the datacenters:

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel] [docs] [docsite] [rst] [scenario_guides] [vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 44)
```

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/collect_a_list_of_the_datacenters.task.yaml
```

Result

As expected, the `value` key of the output is a list.

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel] [docs] [docsite] [rst] [scenario_guides] [vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 51)
```

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/collect_a_list_of_the_datacenters.result.json
```

Cluster

Here we do the same with `vcenter_cluster_info`:

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel] [docs] [docsite] [rst] [scenario_guides] [vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 58)
```

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/Build_a_list_of_all_the_clusters.task.yaml
```

Result

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel][docs][docsite][rst][scenario_guides][vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 63)

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/Build_a_list_of_all_the_clusters.result.json
```

And we can also fetch the details about a specific cluster, with the `cluster` parameter:

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel][docs][docsite][rst][scenario_guides][vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 67)

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/Retrieve_details_about_the_first_cluster.task.yaml
```

Result

And the `value` key of the output is this time a dictionary.

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel][docs][docsite][rst][scenario_guides][vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 75)

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/Retrieve_details_about_the_first_cluster.result.json
```

Datastore

Here we use `vcenter_datastore_info` to get a list of all the datastores:

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel][docs][docsite][rst][scenario_guides][vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 82)

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/Retrieve_a_list_of_all_the_datastores.task.yaml
```

Result

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel][docs][docsite][rst][scenario_guides][vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 87)

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/Retrieve_a_list_of_all_the_datastores.result.json
```

Folder

And here again, you use the `vcenter_folder_info` module to retrieve a list of all the folders.

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel][docs][docsite][rst][scenario_guides][vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 94)

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/Build_a_list_of_all_the_folders.task.yaml
```

Result

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel][docs][docsite][rst][scenario_guides][vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 99)

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/Build_a_list_of_all_the_folders.result.json
```

Most of the time, you will just want one type of folder. In this case we can use filters to reduce the amount to collect. Most of the `_info` modules come with similar filters.

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel][docs][docsite][rst][scenario_guides][vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 103)

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/Build_a_list_of_all_the_folders_with_the_type_VIRTUAL_MACHINE_and_called_vm
```

Result

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\scenario_guides\vmware_rest_scenarios\[ansible-devel][docs][docsite][rst][scenario_guides][vmware_rest_scenarios]collect_information.rst, line 108)

Unknown directive type "literalinclude".

```
.. literalinclude:: task_outputs/Build_a_list_of_all_the_folders_with_the_type_VIRTUAL_MACHINE_and_called_vm
```