

# Cliconf plugins

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Cliconf plugins are abstractions over the CLI interface to network devices. They provide a standard interface for Ansible to execute tasks on those network devices.

These plugins generally correspond one-to-one to network device platforms. Ansible loads the appropriate cliconf plugin automatically based on the `ansible_network_os` variable.

## Adding cliconf plugins

You can extend Ansible to support other network devices by dropping a custom plugin into the `cliconf_plugins` directory.

## Using cliconf plugins

The cliconf plugin to use is determined automatically from the `ansible_network_os` variable. There should be no reason to override this functionality.

Most cliconf plugins can operate without configuration. A few have additional options that can be set to affect how tasks are translated into CLI commands.

Plugins are self-documenting. Each plugin should document its configuration options.

## Viewing cliconf plugins

These plugins have migrated to collections on [Ansible Galaxy](#). If you installed Ansible version 2.10 or later using `pip`, you have access to several cliconf plugins. To list all available cliconf plugins on your control node, type `ansible-doc -t cliconf -l`. To view plugin-specific documentation and examples, use `ansible-doc -t cliconf`.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\ansible-devel\docs\docsite\rst\plugins\[ansible-devel] [docs] [docsite] [rst] [plugins] cliconf.rst, line 40)**

Unknown directive type "seealso".

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.. seealso::

   :ref:`Ansible for Network Automation<network_guide>`
      An overview of using Ansible to automate networking devices.
   `User Mailing List <https://groups.google.com/group/ansible-devel>`_
      Have a question? Stop by the google group!
   `irc.libera.chat <https://libera.chat/>`_
      #ansible-network IRC chat channel
```