

# Ansible Core Documentation

## About ansible-core

Ansible is an IT automation tool. It can configure systems, deploy software, and orchestrate more advanced IT tasks such as continuous deployments or zero downtime rolling updates.

Ansible core, or `ansible-core` is the main building block and architecture for Ansible, and includes:

- CLI tools such as `ansible-playbook`, `ansible-doc`, and others for driving and interacting with automation.
- The Ansible language that uses YAML to create a set of rules for developing Ansible Playbooks and includes functions such as conditionals, blocks, includes, loops, and other Ansible imperatives.
- An architectural framework that allows extensions through Ansible collections.

Ansible's main goals are simplicity and ease-of-use. It also has a strong focus on security and reliability, featuring a minimum of moving parts, usage of OpenSSH for transport (with other transports and pull modes as alternatives), and a language that is designed around audibility by humans--even those not familiar with the program.

We believe simplicity is relevant to all sizes of environments, so we design for busy users of all types: developers, sysadmins, release engineers, IT managers, and everyone in between. Ansible is appropriate for managing all environments, from small setups with a handful of instances to enterprise environments with many thousands of instances.

You can learn more at [AnsibleFest](#), the annual event for all Ansible contributors, users, and customers hosted by Red Hat. AnsibleFest is the place to connect with others, learn new skills, and find a new friend to automate with.

Ansible manages machines in an agent-less manner. There is never a question of how to upgrade remote daemons or the problem of not being able to manage systems because daemons are uninstalled. Because OpenSSH is one of the most peer-reviewed open source components, security exposure is greatly reduced. Ansible is decentralized--it relies on your existing OS credentials to control access to remote machines. If needed, Ansible can easily connect with Kerberos, LDAP, and other centralized authentication management systems.

This documentation covers the version of `ansible-core` noted in the upper left corner of this page. We maintain multiple versions of `ansible-core` and of the documentation, so please be sure you are using the version of the documentation that covers the version of Ansible you're using. For recent features, we note the version of Ansible where the feature was added.

`ansible-core` releases a new major release approximately twice a year. The core application evolves somewhat conservatively, valuing simplicity in language design and setup. Contributors develop and change modules and plugins, hosted in collections since version 2.10, much more quickly.

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Unknown directive type "toctree".

```
.. toctree::
    :maxdepth: 2
    :caption: Installation, Upgrade & Configuration

    installation_guide/index
    porting_guides/core_porting_guides
```

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Unknown directive type "toctree".

```
.. toctree::
    :maxdepth: 2
    :caption: Using Ansible Core

    user_guide/index
```

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Unknown directive type "toctree".

```
.. toctree::
    :maxdepth: 2
    :caption: Contributing to Ansible Core
```

```
community/index
community/contributions
community/advanced_index
dev_guide/style_guide/index
```

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```
.. toctree::
    :maxdepth: 2
    :caption: Extending Ansible

    dev_guide/index
```

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```
.. toctree::
    :maxdepth: 1
    :caption: Reference & Appendices

    collections/index
    collections/all_plugins
    reference_appendices/playbooks_keywords
    reference_appendices/common_return_values
    reference_appendices/config
    reference_appendices/general_precedence
    reference_appendices/YAMLSyntax
    reference_appendices/python_3_support
    reference_appendices/interpreter_discovery
    reference_appendices/release_and_maintenance
    reference_appendices/test_strategies
    dev_guide/testing/sanity/index
    reference_appendices/faq
    reference_appendices/glossary
    reference_appendices/module_utils
    reference_appendices/special_variables
    reference_appendices/tower
    reference_appendices/automationhub
    reference_appendices/logging
```

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```
.. toctree::
    :maxdepth: 2
    :caption: Roadmaps

    roadmap/ansible_core_roadmap_index.rst
```