In this section we will use include and import module to add another tasks or complete playbook into another playbook.

**include module**

**Use include module to add tasks to the playbook**

We can create separate yml file which will only contain tasks using the YAML syntax which can be used inside a playbook by using include module. I have created this tasks-1.yml file with following content:

[ansible@controller ~]$ cat tasks-1.yml

---

- name: Play 1 - Task 2

debug:

msg: Play 1 - Task 2

...

In this example I have used --- to mark the start of the playbook and ... to mark the end of the playbook as this yml file is going to be included in another playbook so it is recommended to mark the start and end of the playbook

Now I have the parent playbook include\_tasks.yml which will contain our tasks-1.yml

[ansible@controller ~]$ cat include\_tasks.yml

---

- name: Working with include\_tasks module

hosts: localhost

gather\_facts: false

tasks:

- name: Play 1 - Task 1

debug:

msg: "Play 1 - Task 1"

- include: tasks-1.yml

Now let us execute this playbook:

[ansible@controller ~]$ ansible-playbook include\_tasks.yml

PLAY [Working with include\_tasks module] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

TASK [Play 1 - Task 1] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

ok: [localhost] => {

"msg": "Play 1 - Task 1"

}

TASK [Play 1 - Task 2] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

ok: [localhost] => {

"msg": "Play 1 - Task 2"

}

PLAY RECAP \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

localhost : ok=2 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=0 rescued=0 ignored=0

So both the tasks i.e. the one which was included from tasks-1.yml and the other which was part of the playbook are successfully executed. If you notice the **output is not showing any indication whatsoever that any include was used** or all the tasks were part of the playbook.

**Use include module to add one complete playbook into another**

Playbook files can include other whole playbook files. This construct can be useful to tie together a few independent playbooks into a larger, more comprehensive playbook. Playbook inclusion is a bit more primitive than task inclusion. You cannot perform variable substitution when including a playbook, you cannot apply conditionals, and you cannot apply tags, either. The playbook files to be included must exist at the time of execution as well.

Here I have created a new playbook include\_playbook.yml which uses include module to import another playbook i.e. play2.yml and it also uses include to add another

**NOTE:**

Observe the syntax, We have defined empty - (hyphen) which denotes that the playbook contains a list item wherein the current playbook is one of the list item while we have added another list item at the end of playbook using another hyphen.

---

# The minus in YAML indicates a list item. The playbook contains

# a list of plays, with each play being a dictionary

-

name: include playbook

hosts: localhost

gather\_facts: false

tasks:

- name: Play 1 - Task 1

debug:

msg: "Play 1 - Task 1"

- include: tasks-1.yml

- include: play2.yml

...

**HINT:**

Prior to Ansible 2.4, playbook inclusion was achieved using the include keyword—however, this is deprecated and will be removed in Ansible 2.8, and so it should not be used

Here is the content of play2.yml

[ansible@controller ~]$ cat play2.yml

---

- name: Play 2

hosts: localhost

gather\_facts: false

tasks:

- name: Play 2 - Task 1

debug:

msg: "Play 2 - Task 1"

...

Now we will execute include\_playbook.yml playbook:

[ansible@controller ~]$ ansible-playbook include\_playbook.yml

[DEPRECATION WARNING]: 'include' for playbook includes. You should use 'import\_playbook' instead. This feature will

be removed in version 2.12. Deprecation warnings can be disabled by setting deprecation\_warnings=False in

ansible.cfg.

PLAY [include playbook] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

TASK [Play 1 - Task 1] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

ok: [localhost] => {

"msg": "Play 1 - Task 1"

}

TASK [Play 1 - Task 2] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

ok: [localhost] => {

"msg": "Play 1 - Task 2"

}

PLAY [Play 2] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

TASK [Play 2 - Task 1] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

ok: [localhost] => {

"msg": "Play 2 - Task 1"

}

PLAY RECAP \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

localhost : ok=3 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=0 rescued=0 ignored=0

We are getting a DEPRECATED warning because include playbook is not recommended anymore and we should use import\_playbook module instead. But the playbook has executed successfully and tasks from both the PLAY have been executed.

**include\_tasks module**

Next we will analyse the include\_tasks module using the same set of playbook and tasks-1.yml file. But we will replace include with include\_tasks module inside include\_tasks.yml playbook

---

- name: Working with include\_tasks module

hosts: localhost

gather\_facts: false

tasks:

- name: Play 1 - Task 1

debug:

msg: "Play 1 - Task 1"

- include\_tasks: tasks-1.yml

Now let us execute this playbook:

[ansible@controller ~]$ ansible-playbook include\_tasks.yml

PLAY [Working with include\_tasks module] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

TASK [Play 1 - Task 1] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

ok: [localhost] => {

"msg": "Play 1 - Task 1"

}

TASK [include\_tasks] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

included: /home/ansible/tasks-1.yml for localhost

TASK [Play 1 - Task 2] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

ok: [localhost] => {

"msg": "Play 1 - Task 2"

}

PLAY RECAP \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

localhost : ok=3 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=0 rescued=0 ignored=0

As you can see from the output, the include tasks was counted as another TASK and in total 3 tasks were executed including the one which was included. The TASK 2 informs the operator of the include\_tasks activity which was performed by the playbook unlike include module.

Advertisement

**import\_tasks and import\_playbook module**

Now in this section we will use import\_tasks and import\_playbook module in the same play. Earlier we had got a DEPRECATED WARNING when we used include for adding a playbook so we will use the same example but with import\_tasks and import\_playbook this time:

---

# The minus in YAML indicates a list item. The playbook contains

# a list of plays, with each play being a dictionary

-

name: import playbook

hosts: localhost

gather\_facts: false

tasks:

- name: Play 1 - Task 1

debug:

msg: "Play 1 - Task 1"

- import\_tasks: tasks-1.yml

- import\_playbook: play2.yml

...

You can check our import\_playbook.yml file, here I am using the same list format by adding a hyphen and then towards the end I have added import\_playbook to import play2.yml inside the same play. We are also using import\_tasks to import the content of tasks-1.yml in the PLAY-1

Let's execute this playbook and check the output:

[ansible@controller ~]$ ansible-playbook import\_playbook.yml

PLAY [import playbook] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

TASK [Play 1 - Task 1] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

ok: [localhost] => {

"msg": "Play 1 - Task 1"

}

TASK [Play 1 - Task 2] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

ok: [localhost] => {

"msg": "Play 1 - Task 2"

}

PLAY [Play 2] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

TASK [Play 2 - Task 1] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

ok: [localhost] => {

"msg": "Play 2 - Task 1"

}

PLAY RECAP \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

localhost : ok=3 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=0 rescued=0 ignored=0

So no more WARNINGs this time and all the tasks from both the PLAYBOOK have been executed successfully. We also don't see any additional task for the import action which was performed.