

Installing and Setting Up Ansible on Windows 11

Since Ansible primarily runs on Unix-based systems, you cannot run Ansible natively on Windows. However, you can install it using WSL (Windows Subsystem for Linux) or a Linux VM. The recommended approach is WSL 2 with Ubuntu.

Step 1: Enable WSL 2 on Windows 11

1. Open PowerShell as Administrator and run:

```
wsl --install
```

This installs WSL and Ubuntu as the default distribution.

2. Restart your computer after installation.
3. Open Ubuntu (WSL) from the Start menu.

Step 2: Install Ansible on Ubuntu (WSL 2)

1. Update your system packages:

```
sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y
```

2. Install Ansible:

```
sudo apt install ansible -y
```

3. Verify installation:

```
ansible --version
```

You should see output similar to:

```
ansible [core X.X.X]
```

Step 3: Configure Ansible

1. Create an Inventory File:

- Create a file:

```
sudo nano /etc/ansible/hosts
```

- Add the target machine's IP or hostname:

```
[windows]
```

192.168.1.100

2. Install pywinrm for Windows Management:

```
pip install pywinrm
```

3. Set Up SSH or WinRM for Windows Control:

- To manage Windows machines, configure WinRM on the Windows target system using:

```
winrm quickconfig
```

Step 4: Test Ansible with Windows Host

1. Run a basic command:

```
ansible windows -m win_ping -i /etc/ansible/hosts --user administrator --ask-pass
```

2. If everything is set up correctly, you should see a success response.

Alternative: Running Ansible in a VM (If WSL Is Not Preferred)

If you prefer not to use WSL, you can install Ansible on a Linux VM using VirtualBox or Hyper-V, then configure it the same way.

Would you like help setting up Ansible Playbooks for managing Windows?