

DO467

Travis Michette

Version 1.0

## **Table of Contents**

l. Installing Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform
1.1. Explaining the Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Architecture
1.1.1. Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform
1.1.2. Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Components
1.1.2.1. Ansible Core
1.1.2.2. Ansible Content Collections
1.1.2.3. Automation Content Navigator
1.1.2.4. Automation Execution Environments
1.1.2.5. Automation Controller
1.1.2.6. Automation Hub and Private Automation Hub
1.1.2.7. Red Hat Insights for Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform
1.1.3. Why Use Ansible Automation Platform?
1.2. Installing Automation Controller and Private Automation Hub
1.2.1. Planning the Installation
1.2.1.1. Standalone Automation Controller with a Database on the Same Node
1.2.1.2. Standalone Private Automation Hub with a Database on the Same Node
1.2.1.3. Automation Controller and Private Automation Hub with External Database Servers 1
1.2.1.4. Advanced Deployment Scenarios
1.2.2. Installation Requirements 2
1.2.2.1. Database Storage
1.2.3. Subscription and Support
1.2.4. Installing Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform
1.2.4.1. Installing Automation Controller
1.2.4.2. Installing Private Automation Hub
1.2.5. Replacing the CA Certificate
1.2.5.1. Gathering Certificates and Private Keys
1.2.5.2. Preparing the Systems
1.2.5.3. Trusting Custom CA Certificates
1.2.6. DEMO: Installing Automation Controller and Private Automation Hub
1.3. Initial Configuration of Automation Controller and Private Automation Hub
1.3.1. Configuration Overview
1.3.2. Making Automation Execution Environments Available from Private Automation Hub 7
1.3.2.1. Synchronizing Automation Execution Environments
1.3.2.2. Manually Adding Container Images
1.3.2.3. Managing Container Repositories, Images, and Tags
1.3.3. Synchronizing Ansible Content Collections

1.3.3.1. Synchronizing Red Hat Certified Ansible Content Collections
1.3.3.2. Synchronizing Ansible Content Collections from Ansible Galaxy
1.3.3.3. Manually Adding Ansible Content Collections
1.3.4. Testing Basic Automation Controller Functionality
1.3.4.1. The Demo Project. 8
1.3.4.2. Default Execution Environment Registry Credential
1.3.4.3. The Demo Credential
1.3.4.4. The Demo Inventory 8
1.3.4.5. The Demo Job Template
2. Managing User Access 9
2.1. Creating and Managing Automation Controller Users. 9
2.1.1. Role-based Access Controls 9
2.1.2. Automation Controller Organizations 9
2.1.3. Types of Users
2.1.4. Creating Users 9
2.1.5. Editing Users 9
2.1.6. Organization Roles 9
2.1.7. Managing User Organization Roles 9
2.2. Managing Automation Controller Access with Teams
2.2.1. Teams in Automation Controller
2.2.2. Creating Teams 9
2.2.3. Team Roles
2.2.4. Adding Users to a Team and Assigning Team Roles
2.2.5. Organization Roles 9
2.2.6. Managing Organization Roles 9
2.3. Creating and Managing Users and Groups for Private Automation Hub
2.3.1. User Access
2.3.1.1. Creating Groups
2.3.1.2. Creating Users
2.3.1.3. Creating Groups to Manage Content
3. Managing Inventories and Machine Credentials
3.1. Creating a Static Inventory 11
3.1.1. Red Hat Ansible Inventory
3.1.2. Creating an Inventory Using the Automation Controller Web UI
3.1.2.1. Creating a New Inventory
3.1.2.2. Creating a Host Group in an Inventory
3.1.2.3. Creating Hosts in an Inventory
3.1.3. Inventory Roles

3.1.3.1. Assigning Roles	11
3.1.4. Inventory Variables	11
3.2. Creating Machine Credentials for Access to Inventory Hosts	11
3.2.1. Storing Secrets in Credentials	11
3.2.2. Credential Types	11
3.2.3. Creating Machine Credentials	11
3.2.4. Editing Machine Credentials	11
3.2.5. Credential Roles	11
3.2.6. Managing Credential Access	11
3.2.7. Common Credential Scenarios	12
3.2.7.1. Credentials Protected by Automation Controller, Not Known to Users	12
3.2.7.2. Credential Prompts for Sensitive Password, Not Stored in Automation Controller	12
4. Managing Projects and Launching Ansible Jobs	13
4.1. Creating a Project for Ansible Playbooks	13
4.1.1. Automation Controller Projects	13
4.1.2. Creating a Project	13
4.1.3. Project Roles	13
4.1.4. Managing Project Access	13
4.1.5. Creating SCM Credentials	13
4.1.6. SCM Credential Roles	13
4.1.7. Managing Access to SCM Credentials	13
4.1.8. Updating Projects	13
4.1.8.1. Update Revision on Launch	13
4.1.8.2. Manual Updates	13
4.1.9. Support for Ansible Content Collections and Roles	13
4.2. Creating Job Templates and Launching Jobs	13
4.2.1. Job Templates	13
4.2.2. Creating Job Templates	13
4.2.3. Modifying Job Execution	13
4.2.4. Prompting for Job Parameters	13
4.2.5. Job Template Roles	14
4.2.6. Managing Job Template Access	14
4.2.7. Launching Jobs	14
4.2.8. Evaluating the Results of a Job.	14
5. Advanced Job Configuration	15
5.1. Improving Performance with Fact Caching	15
5.1.1. Fact Caching	15
5.1.1.1. Enabling Fact Caching in Automation Controller	15

5.2. Creating Job Template Surveys to Set Variables for Jobs	15
5.2.1. Managing Variables	15
5.2.2. Defining Extra Variables	15
5.2.3. Job Template Surveys	15
5.2.3.1. Managing Answers to Survey Questions	15
5.2.3.2. Creating a Job Template Survey	15
5.3. Scheduling Jobs and Configuring Notifications	15
5.3.1. Scheduling Job Execution	15
5.3.1.1. Temporarily Disabling a Schedule.	15
5.3.1.2. Scheduled Management Jobs	15
5.3.2. Reporting Job Execution Results	15
5.3.2.1. Notification Templates	15
5.3.2.2. Creating Notification Templates	15
5.3.2.3. Enabling Job Result Notification	15
6. Constructing Job Workflows	16
6.1. Creating Workflow Job Templates and Launching Workflow Jobs	16
6.1.1. Workflow Job Templates	16
6.1.2. Creating Workflow Job Templates	16
6.1.2.1. Using the Workflow Visualizer	16
6.1.2.2. Adding Multiple Nodes with the Same Relationship.	16
6.1.2.3. Creating Convergent Nodes	16
6.1.2.4. Workflow Job Template Surveys	16
6.1.3. Launching Workflow Jobs	16
6.1.3.1. Evaluating Workflow Job Execution	16
6.2. Requiring Approvals in Workflow Jobs	16
6.2.1. Approval Nodes	16
6.2.2. Adding Approval Nodes to Workflows	16
6.2.3. Approving and Denying Workflow Approval Requests	16
6.2.4. Approval Time-outs	16
6.2.5. Approval Notifications	16
7. Managing Advanced Inventories	17
7.1. Importing External Static Inventories	17
7.1.1. Importing Existing Static Inventories	17
7.1.2. Storing an Inventory in a Project	17
7.2. Configuring Dynamic Inventory Plug-ins	17
7.2.1. Dynamic Inventories	17
7.2.2. OpenStack Dynamic Inventories	17
7.2.3. Red Hat Satellite 6 Dynamic Inventories	17

7.3. Filtering Hosts with Smart Inventories	
7.3.1. Defining Smart Inventories	
7.3.2. Using Ansible Facts in Smart Inventory Filters	
7.3.2.1. Creating a Smart Inventory Based on Ansible Facts	
7.3.3. Other Smart Inventory Filters	
8. Automating Configuration of Ansible Automation Platform	
8.1. Configuring Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform with Collections	
8.1.1. Automating Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Configuration	
8.1.2. Getting the Supported Ansible Content Collection	
8.1.3. Exploring the Supported Ansible Content Collection	
8.1.3.1. Reading Documentation with Ansible Content Navigator	
8.1.3.2. Reading Documentation on Automation Hub	
8.1.4. Examples of Automation with ansible.controller	
8.1.4.1. Creating Automation Controller Users	
8.1.4.2. Creating Automation Controller Teams	
8.1.4.3. Adding Users to Organizations and Teams	
8.1.5. Community-supported Ansible Content Collections	
8.2. Automating Configuration Updates with Git Webhooks	
8.2.1. Introducing Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Webhooks	
8.2.1.1. What Are the Benefits of Webhooks	
8.2.2. Configuring Webhooks	
8.2.2.1. Configuring a Webhook for a Job Template	
8.2.2.2. Creating the Webhook for the Repository in GitLab	19
8.2.3. Use Cases for Using Webhooks	19
8.2.3.1. Triggering Different Job Templates Using Branches	19
8.2.3.2. Configuration as Code for Automation Controller	19
8.3. Launching Jobs with the Automation Controller API.	19
8.3.1. The Automation Controller REST API.	
8.3.1.1. Using the REST API	19
8.3.1.2. JSON Pagination	
8.3.1.3. Accessing the REST API From a Graphical Web Browser	
8.3.2. Launching a Job Template Using the API	19
8.3.3. Launching a Job Using the API from an Ansible Playbook	
8.3.3.1. Vault Credentials	19
8.3.4. Token-based Authentication	
9. Maintaining Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform	20
9.1. Performing Basic Troubleshooting of Automation Controller	20
9.1.1. Automation Controller Components	20

9.1.1.1. Starting, Stopping, and Restarting Automation Controller	20
9.1.1.2. Supervisord Components	20
9.1.2. Automation Controller Configuration and Log Files	20
9.1.2.1. Configuration Files	20
9.1.2.2. Log Files	20
9.1.2.3. Other Automation Controller Files	20
9.1.3. Common Troubleshooting Scenarios	20
9.1.3.1. Problems Running Playbooks	20
9.1.3.2. Problems Connecting to Your Host	20
9.1.3.3. Playbooks Do Not Appear in the List of Job Templates	20
9.1.3.4. Playbook Stays in Pending State	20
9.1.3.5. Error: Provided Hosts List Is Empty	20
9.1.4. Performing Command-Line Management	20
9.1.4.1. Changing the Automation Controller Admin Password	20
9.2. Backing Up and Restoring Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform	20
9.2.1. Backing Up Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform	21
9.2.1.1. Backup Procedure	21
9.2.2. Restoring Ansible Automation Platform From Backup	21
9.2.2.1. Restoration Procedure	21
10. Getting Insights into Automation Performance	22
10.1. Gathering Data for Cloud-based Analysis	22
10.1.1. Introducing Red Hat Hybrid Cloud Console Services	22
10.1.2. Collecting Data for Cloud Services	22
10.1.3. Registering Managed Hosts with Insights for Ansible Automation Platform	22
10.1.4. Accessing the Red Hat Hybrid Cloud Console	22
10.2. Getting Insights into Automation Performance	22
10.2.1. Insights for Ansible Automation Platform	22
10.2.2. Generating Remediation Playbooks with Advisor	22
10.2.2.1. Automating Remediation of an Issue for Multiple Systems	22
10.2.2.2. Automating Remediation of Multiple Issues for One System	22
10.2.3. Comparing Systems with Drift	22
10.2.3.1. Finding Differences Between Systems	22
10.2.3.2. Comparing the State of One System at Different Times	22
10.2.3.3. Comparing Systems to a Standard Baseline	22
10.2.4. Sending Alerts Based on Ansible Facts with Policies	22
10.3. Evaluating Performance with Automation Analytics	23
10.3.1. Automation Analytics	23
10.3.2. Reporting Playbook Execution Status	23

10.3.3. Examining Job History	. 23
10.3.4. Monitoring Notifications	. 23
10.4. Producing Reports from Automation Analytics	. 23
10.4.1. Producing Reports from Automation Analytics	. 23
10.4.1.1. Choosing an Appropriate Report	. 23
10.4.1.2. Using Automation Calculator to Compute Savings	. 23
10.4.1.3. Exporting a Report	. 23
10.4.2. Predicting the Cost Savings of Automation	. 23
10.4.2.1. Creating a Savings Plan	. 23
10.4.2.2. Reviewing the Cost Savings Calculations	. 23
11. Building a Large Scale Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Deployment	. 24
11.1. Designing a Clustered Ansible Automation Platform Implementation	. 24
11.1.1. Running Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform at Scale	. 24
11.1.2. Automation Mesh	. 24
11.1.2.1. Benefits of Automation Mesh	. 24
11.1.2.2. Types of Nodes on Automation Mesh	. 24
11.1.2.3. What Are Instance Groups?	. 24
11.1.3. Planning Network Communication and Firewalls	. 24
11.1.3.1. Requirements for Control Nodes and Hybrid Nodes	. 24
11.1.3.2. Requirements for Hop Nodes	. 24
11.1.3.3. Requirements for Execution Nodes	. 24
11.1.4. Planning for Automation Mesh	. 24
11.1.4.1. Providing Resilient Services	. 24
11.2. Deploying Distributed Execution with Automation Mesh	. 24
11.2.1. Configuring Automation Mesh	. 24
11.2.1.1. Creating Instance Groups	. 24
11.2.1.2. Adding Nodes to the Automation Mesh	. 24
11.2.1.3. Removing Nodes from the Automation Mesh	. 24
11.2.2. Visualizing Automation Mesh Topology	. 24
11.2.3. Automation Mesh Design Patterns	. 25
11.2.4. Validation Checks	. 25
11.3. Managing Distributed Execution with Automation Mesh	. 25
11.3.1. Managing Instance Groups in Automation Controller	. 25
11.3.1.1. Creating Instance Groups	
11.3.1.2. Assigning Execution Nodes to an Instance Group	
11.3.1.3. Running a Health Check on the Nodes	. 25
11.3.1.4. Disassociating a Node from an Instance Group	
11.3.2. Assigning Default Instance Groups to Inventories and Job Templates	

11.3.2.1. Configuring an Inventory to Use Instance Groups	25
11.3.2.2. Configure a Job Template to Use Instance Groups	25
11.3.2.3. Running a Job Template with Instance Groups	25
11.3.3. Testing the Resilience of Automation Mesh	25
11.3.3.1. Testing Control Plane Resilience	25
11.3.3.2. Testing Execution Plane Resilience	25
11.3.4. Monitoring Automation Mesh from the Web UI	25
11.3.5. Monitoring Automation Mesh from the Command Line	25
11.3.5.1. Listing Nodes and Instance Groups	25
11.3.5.2. Monitoring Automation Mesh Using the <b>receptorctl</b> Command	25
Appendix A: References and Additional Information	26



# 1. Installing Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

## 1.1. Explaining the Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Architecture

Section Info Here

- 1.1.1. Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform
- 1.1.2. Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Components
- 1.1.2.1. Ansible Core
- 1.1.2.2. Ansible Content Collections
- 1.1.2.3. Automation Content Navigator
- 1.1.2.4. Automation Execution Environments
- 1.1.2.5. Automation Controller
- 1.1.2.6. Automation Hub and Private Automation Hub
- 1.1.2.7. Red Hat Insights for Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform
- 1.1.3. Why Use Ansible Automation Platform?

## 1.2. Installing Automation Controller and Private Automation Hub

- 1.2.1. Planning the Installation
- 1.2.1.1. Standalone Automation Controller with a Database on the Same Node
- 1.2.1.2. Standalone Private Automation Hub with a Database on the Same Node
- 1.2.1.3. Automation Controller and Private Automation Hub with External Database Servers



### 1.2.1.4. Advanced Deployment Scenarios

### 1.2.2. Installation Requirements

- 1.2.2.1. Database Storage
- 1.2.3. Subscription and Support
- 1.2.4. Installing Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform
- 1.2.4.1. Installing Automation Controller
- 1.2.4.2. Installing Private Automation Hub
- 1.2.5. Replacing the CA Certificate
- 1.2.5.1. Gathering Certificates and Private Keys
- 1.2.5.2. Preparing the Systems
- 1.2.5.3. Trusting Custom CA Certificates

### 1.2.6. DEMO: Installing Automation Controller and Private Automation Hub

Automation Controller and Private Automation Hub can both be installed from the **same** machine provided that they are both specified in the inventory file and that the installation user and installation machine has access to all systems specified in the **inventory** file and that the user has the ability to SSH/SUDO without passwords.



Automation Hub and Controller Placement

Ansible Controller and Ansible Private Automation Hub must be installed on separate systems and cannot be installed on the same system.



#### Example 1. DEMO: Installing Automation Hub and Controller

1. Obtain the bundled installer and untar the file

```
[student@workstation ~]$ tar xvf ansible-automation-platform-setup-bundle-2.2.0-
6.1.tar.gz
[student@workstation ~]$ mv ansible-automation-platform-setup-bundle-2.2.0-6.1
AAP2
[student@workstation ~]$ cd AAP2/
```

2. Update the inventory file with the system FQDNs or IP Addresses

Listing 1. Update the Inventory File

```
[student@workstation AAP2]$ vim inventory
```

```
[automationcontroller] ①
controller.lab.example.com
[execution_nodes]
[automationhub] ②
hub.lab.example.com
[automationcatalog]
[database] ③
db.lab.example.com
[all:vars]
admin_password='redhat' 4
pg_host='db.lab.example.com' 5
pg_port=5432 6
pg database='awx'
pg_username='awx'
pg_password='redhat' ⑦
registry_url='hub.lab.example.com' (8)
```



```
registry_username='admin' ⑨
registry_password='redhat' 100
# Automation Hub Configuration 11
automationhub_admin_password='redhat'
automationhub_pg_host='db.lab.example.com'
automationhub pg port=5432
automationhub_pg_database='automationhub'
automationhub pg username='automationhub'
automationhub_pg_password='redhat'
automationhub_pg_sslmode='prefer'
# SSL Settings 12
custom_ca_cert=/home/student/certs/classroom-ca.pem
web_server_ssl_cert=/home/student/certs/controller.lab.example.com.crt
web server ssl key=/home/student/certs/controller.lab.example.com.key
automationhub_ssl_cert=/home/student/certs/hub.lab.example.com.crt
automationhub_ssl_key=/home/student/certs/hub.lab.example.com.key
postgres_use_ssl=True
postgres_ssl_cert=/home/student/certs/db.lab.example.com.crt
postgres_ssl_key=/home/student/certs/db.lab.example.com.key
```

- ① Specify the Controller Node
- ② Specify the Private Automation Hub Node
- 3 Specify the Database Node
- 4 Specify the **admin** password for Controller
- **5** Specify the Database FQDN
- **6** Specify the Database Port
- 7 Specify the Database Password
- 8 URL and Registry for Container Images/Execution Environments
- 9 Username for Registry
- 10 Password for Registry
- 1 Ansible Automation Hub Configuration Settings
- 12 SSL Settings



#### Database



If you are running the database locally and not as a separate installation, you can leave the database section blank and the **pg\_host** and **pg\_port** blank. This will cause the installer to setup the database locally with the deployed AAP application.

#### Registry



Setting the registry for **hub.example.com** will allow the installer to link and configure Ansible Automation Hub to Ansible Controller. It will also ensure that the execution environments container in the bundled installer will be loaded properly into Ansible Automation Hub.

#### SSL

The classroom and lab environment has been configured to run with SSL enabled. In order for the certificates to work properly, the SSL certificates have been supplied in the /home/student/certs directory. These certificates must be specified in the inventory file. In the default inventory file, the certificates and SSL settings are generally commented out, so it is possible to just place the certificate information at the bottom of the inventory file to prevent searching for each line.



### Listing 2. Default SSL Certificate

```
# SSL-related variables
```

# If set, this will install a custom CA certificate to the system trust store.

# custom\_ca\_cert=/home/student/certs/classroom-ca.pem

# Certificate and key to install in nginx for the web UI and API

# web\_server\_ssl\_cert=/path/to/tower.cert

# web\_server\_ssl\_key=/path/to/tower.key

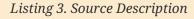
#### 3. View final inventory file



```
[student@workstation AAP2]$ grep -Ev "^#|^$" inventory
[automationcontroller]
controller.lab.example.com
[automationcontroller:vars]
peers=execution nodes
[execution_nodes]
[automationhub]
hub.lab.example.com
[automationcatalog]
[database]
db.lab.example.com
[SSO]
[all:vars]
admin_password='redhat'
pg_host='db.lab.example.com'
pg port=5432
pg_database='awx'
pg username='awx'
pg password='redhat'
pq sslmode='prefer' # set to 'verify-full' for client-side enforced SSL
registry_url='hub.lab.example.com'
registry username='admin'
registry_password='redhat'
receptor_listener_port=27199
automationhub admin password='redhat'
automationhub pg host='db.lab.example.com'
automationhub_pg_port=5432
automationhub pg database='automationhub'
automationhub_pq_username='automationhub'
automationhub_pg_password='redhat'
automationhub pg sslmode='prefer'
automationcatalog_pg_host=''
automationcatalog_pg_port=5432
automationcatalog_pg_database='automationservicescatalog'
automationcatalog_pg_username='automationservicescatalog'
automationcatalog_pg_password=''
sso keystore password=''
sso_console_admin_password=''
custom_ca_cert=/home/student/certs/classroom-ca.pem
web server ssl cert=/home/student/certs/controller.lab.example.com.crt
web_server_ssl_key=/home/student/certs/controller.lab.example.com.key
automationhub_ssl_cert=/home/student/certs/hub.lab.example.com.crt
automationhub_ssl_key=/home/student/certs/hub.lab.example.com.key
postgres_use_ssl=True
postgres_ssl_cert=/home/student/certs/db.lab.example.com.crt
postgres ssl key=/home/student/certs/db.lab.example.com.key
```



Using **grep** to remove comments and blank lines





```
grep -Ev "^#|^$" <FILENAME>
```

4. Run the installation **setup.sh** script as the root user with **ignore\_preflight\_errors=true** as the systems in this course don't meet the minimum hardware requirements.

```
[student@workstation AAP2]$ sudo -i
[sudo] password for student:

[root@workstation ~]# cd ~student/AAP2/

[root@workstation AAP2]# ./setup.sh -e ignore_preflight_errors=true
```

Bundled Software Installer



It is important to at least save the bundled software installer archive **TGZ** file or to save the entire bundled installation directory. In addition, you will also want to save the **Inventory** file that was created so that adding additional components later, performing system backups/restores, and other administrative and maintenance tasks can be performed easily.

- 5. Install the licenses for Controller by providing the **manifest.zip** file to controller in the WebUI.
- 6. Verify Automation Hub is installed

## 1.3. Initial Configuration of Automation Controller and Private Automation Hub

- 1.3.1. Configuration Overview
- 1.3.2. Making Automation Execution Environments Available from Private Automation Hub
- 1.3.2.1. Synchronizing Automation Execution Environments
- 1.3.2.2. Manually Adding Container Images
- 1.3.2.3. Managing Container Repositories, Images, and Tags



### 1.3.3. Synchronizing Ansible Content Collections

- 1.3.3.1. Synchronizing Red Hat Certified Ansible Content Collections
- 1.3.3.2. Synchronizing Ansible Content Collections from Ansible Galaxy
- 1.3.3.3. Manually Adding Ansible Content Collections
- 1.3.4. Testing Basic Automation Controller Functionality
- 1.3.4.1. The Demo Project
- 1.3.4.2. Default Execution Environment Registry Credential
- 1.3.4.3. The Demo Credential
- 1.3.4.4. The Demo Inventory
- 1.3.4.5. The Demo Job Template



## 2. Managing User Access

## 2.1. Creating and Managing Automation Controller Users

Section Info Here

- 2.1.1. Role-based Access Controls
- 2.1.2. Automation Controller Organizations
- 2.1.3. Types of Users
- 2.1.4. Creating Users
- 2.1.5. Editing Users
- 2.1.6. Organization Roles
- 2.1.7. Managing User Organization Roles

### 2.2. Managing Automation Controller Access with Teams

Section Info Here

- 2.2.1. Teams in Automation Controller
- 2.2.2. Creating Teams
- 2.2.3. Team Roles
- 2.2.4. Adding Users to a Team and Assigning Team Roles
- 2.2.5. Organization Roles
- 2.2.6. Managing Organization Roles

## 2.3. Creating and Managing Users and Groups for Private Automation Hub



- 2.3.1. User Access
- 2.3.1.1. Creating Groups
- 2.3.1.2. Creating Users
- 2.3.1.3. Creating Groups to Manage Content



# 3. Managing Inventories and Machine Credentials

## 3.1. Creating a Static Inventory

Section Info Here

- 3.1.1. Red Hat Ansible Inventory
- 3.1.2. Creating an Inventory Using the Automation Controller Web UI
- 3.1.2.1. Creating a New Inventory
- 3.1.2.2. Creating a Host Group in an Inventory
- 3.1.2.3. Creating Hosts in an Inventory
- 3.1.3. Inventory Roles
- 3.1.3.1. Assigning Roles
- 3.1.4. Inventory Variables

# 3.2. Creating Machine Credentials for Access to Inventory Hosts

- 3.2.1. Storing Secrets in Credentials
- 3.2.2. Credential Types
- 3.2.3. Creating Machine Credentials
- 3.2.4. Editing Machine Credentials
- 3.2.5. Credential Roles
- 3.2.6. Managing Credential Access



### 3.2.7. Common Credential Scenarios

- 3.2.7.1. Credentials Protected by Automation Controller, Not Known to Users
- 3.2.7.2. Credential Prompts for Sensitive Password, Not Stored in Automation Controller



# 4. Managing Projects and Launching Ansible Jobs

### 4.1. Creating a Project for Ansible Playbooks

Section Info Here

- 4.1.1. Automation Controller Projects
- 4.1.2. Creating a Project
- 4.1.3. Project Roles
- 4.1.4. Managing Project Access
- 4.1.5. Creating SCM Credentials
- 4.1.6. SCM Credential Roles
- 4.1.7. Managing Access to SCM Credentials
- 4.1.8. Updating Projects
- 4.1.8.1. Update Revision on Launch
- 4.1.8.2. Manual Updates
- 4.1.9. Support for Ansible Content Collections and Roles

## 4.2. Creating Job Templates and Launching Jobs

- 4.2.1. Job Templates
- 4.2.2. Creating Job Templates
- 4.2.3. Modifying Job Execution
- 4.2.4. Prompting for Job Parameters



- 4.2.5. Job Template Roles
- 4.2.6. Managing Job Template Access
- 4.2.7. Launching Jobs
- 4.2.8. Evaluating the Results of a Job



## 5. Advanced Job Configuration

## 5.1. Improving Performance with Fact Caching

Section Info Here

- 5.1.1. Fact Caching
- 5.1.1.1. Enabling Fact Caching in Automation Controller

# 5.2. Creating Job Template Surveys to Set Variables for Jobs

Section Info Here

- 5.2.1. Managing Variables
- 5.2.2. Defining Extra Variables
- 5.2.3. Job Template Surveys
- 5.2.3.1. Managing Answers to Survey Questions
- 5.2.3.2. Creating a Job Template Survey

## 5.3. Scheduling Jobs and Configuring Notifications

- 5.3.1. Scheduling Job Execution
- 5.3.1.1. Temporarily Disabling a Schedule
- 5.3.1.2. Scheduled Management Jobs
- 5.3.2. Reporting Job Execution Results
- 5.3.2.1. Notification Templates
- 5.3.2.2. Creating Notification Templates
- 5.3.2.3. Enabling Job Result Notification



## 6. Constructing Job Workflows

# 6.1. Creating Workflow Job Templates and Launching Workflow Jobs

Section Info Here

- 6.1.1. Workflow Job Templates
- 6.1.2. Creating Workflow Job Templates
- 6.1.2.1. Using the Workflow Visualizer
- 6.1.2.2. Adding Multiple Nodes with the Same Relationship
- 6.1.2.3. Creating Convergent Nodes
- 6.1.2.4. Workflow Job Template Surveys
- 6.1.3. Launching Workflow Jobs
- 6.1.3.1. Evaluating Workflow Job Execution

## 6.2. Requiring Approvals in Workflow Jobs

- **6.2.1. Approval Nodes**
- 6.2.2. Adding Approval Nodes to Workflows
- 6.2.3. Approving and Denying Workflow Approval Requests
- **6.2.4. Approval Time-outs**
- **6.2.5. Approval Notifications**



## 7. Managing Advanced Inventories

## 7.1. Importing External Static Inventories

Section Info Here

- 7.1.1. Importing Existing Static Inventories
- 7.1.2. Storing an Inventory in a Project

## 7.2. Configuring Dynamic Inventory Plug-ins

Section Info Here

- 7.2.1. Dynamic Inventories
- 7.2.2. OpenStack Dynamic Inventories
- 7.2.3. Red Hat Satellite 6 Dynamic Inventories

## 7.3. Filtering Hosts with Smart Inventories

- 7.3.1. Defining Smart Inventories
- 7.3.2. Using Ansible Facts in Smart Inventory Filters
- 7.3.2.1. Creating a Smart Inventory Based on Ansible Facts
- 7.3.3. Other Smart Inventory Filters



# 8. Automating Configuration of Ansible Automation Platform

## 8.1. Configuring Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform with Collections

Section Info Here

- 8.1.1. Automating Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Configuration
- 8.1.2. Getting the Supported Ansible Content Collection
- 8.1.3. Exploring the Supported Ansible Content Collection
- 8.1.3.1. Reading Documentation with Ansible Content Navigator
- 8.1.3.2. Reading Documentation on Automation Hub
- 8.1.4. Examples of Automation with ansible.controller
- 8.1.4.1. Creating Automation Controller Users
- 8.1.4.2. Creating Automation Controller Teams
- 8.1.4.3. Adding Users to Organizations and Teams
- 8.1.5. Community-supported Ansible Content Collections

## 8.2. Automating Configuration Updates with Git Webhooks

- 8.2.1. Introducing Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Webhooks
- 8.2.1.1. What Are the Benefits of Webhooks
- 8.2.2. Configuring Webhooks
- 8.2.2.1. Configuring a Webhook for a Job Template



- 8.2.2.2. Creating the Webhook for the Repository in GitLab
- 8.2.3. Use Cases for Using Webhooks
- 8.2.3.1. Triggering Different Job Templates Using Branches
- 8.2.3.2. Configuration as Code for Automation Controller

## 8.3. Launching Jobs with the Automation Controller API

- 8.3.1. The Automation Controller REST API
- 8.3.1.1. Using the REST API
- 8.3.1.2. JSON Pagination
- 8.3.1.3. Accessing the REST API From a Graphical Web Browser
- 8.3.2. Launching a Job Template Using the API
- 8.3.3. Launching a Job Using the API from an Ansible Playbook
- 8.3.3.1. Vault Credentials
- 8.3.4. Token-based Authentication



# 9. Maintaining Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

## 9.1. Performing Basic Troubleshooting of Automation Controller

Section Info Here

### 9.1.1. Automation Controller Components

- 9.1.1.1. Starting, Stopping, and Restarting Automation Controller
- 9.1.1.2. Supervisord Components
- 9.1.2. Automation Controller Configuration and Log Files
- 9.1.2.1. Configuration Files
- 9.1.2.2. Log Files
- 9.1.2.3. Other Automation Controller Files
- 9.1.3. Common Troubleshooting Scenarios
- 9.1.3.1. Problems Running Playbooks
- 9.1.3.2. Problems Connecting to Your Host
- 9.1.3.3. Playbooks Do Not Appear in the List of Job Templates
- 9.1.3.4. Playbook Stays in Pending State
- 9.1.3.5. Error: Provided Hosts List Is Empty
- 9.1.4. Performing Command-Line Management
- 9.1.4.1. Changing the Automation Controller Admin Password

## 9.2. Backing Up and Restoring Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform



### 9.2.1. Backing Up Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

9.2.1.1. Backup Procedure

### 9.2.2. Restoring Ansible Automation Platform From Backup

9.2.2.1. Restoration Procedure



# 10. Getting Insights into Automation Performance

### 10.1. Gathering Data for Cloud-based Analysis

Section Info Here

- 10.1.1. Introducing Red Hat Hybrid Cloud Console Services
- 10.1.2. Collecting Data for Cloud Services
- 10.1.3. Registering Managed Hosts with Insights for Ansible Automation Platform
- 10.1.4. Accessing the Red Hat Hybrid Cloud Console

### 10.2. Getting Insights into Automation Performance

- 10.2.1. Insights for Ansible Automation Platform
- 10.2.2. Generating Remediation Playbooks with Advisor
- 10.2.2.1. Automating Remediation of an Issue for Multiple Systems
- 10.2.2.2. Automating Remediation of Multiple Issues for One System
- 10.2.3. Comparing Systems with Drift
- 10.2.3.1. Finding Differences Between Systems
- 10.2.3.2. Comparing the State of One System at Different Times
- 10.2.3.3. Comparing Systems to a Standard Baseline
- 10.2.4. Sending Alerts Based on Ansible Facts with Policies



# **10.3. Evaluating Performance with Automation Analytics**

Section Info Here

- 10.3.1. Automation Analytics
- 10.3.2. Reporting Playbook Execution Status
- 10.3.3. Examining Job History
- 10.3.4. Monitoring Notifications

## 10.4. Producing Reports from Automation Analytics

- 10.4.1. Producing Reports from Automation Analytics
- 10.4.1.1. Choosing an Appropriate Report
- 10.4.1.2. Using Automation Calculator to Compute Savings
- 10.4.1.3. Exporting a Report
- 10.4.2. Predicting the Cost Savings of Automation
- 10.4.2.1. Creating a Savings Plan
- 10.4.2.2. Reviewing the Cost Savings Calculations



# 11. Building a Large Scale Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Deployment

# 11.1. Designing a Clustered Ansible Automation Platform Implementation

- 11.1.1. Running Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform at Scale
- 11.1.2. Automation Mesh
- 11.1.2.1. Benefits of Automation Mesh
- 11.1.2.2. Types of Nodes on Automation Mesh
- 11.1.2.3. What Are Instance Groups?
- 11.1.3. Planning Network Communication and Firewalls
- 11.1.3.1. Requirements for Control Nodes and Hybrid Nodes
- 11.1.3.2. Requirements for Hop Nodes
- 11.1.3.3. Requirements for Execution Nodes
- 11.1.4. Planning for Automation Mesh
- 11.1.4.1. Providing Resilient Services

## 11.2. Deploying Distributed Execution with Automation Mesh

- 11.2.1. Configuring Automation Mesh
- 11.2.1.1. Creating Instance Groups
- 11.2.1.2. Adding Nodes to the Automation Mesh
- 11.2.1.3. Removing Nodes from the Automation Mesh
- 11.2.2. Visualizing Automation Mesh Topology



### 11.2.3. Automation Mesh Design Patterns

#### 11.2.4. Validation Checks

## 11.3. Managing Distributed Execution with Automation Mesh

### 11.3.1. Managing Instance Groups in Automation Controller

- 11.3.1.1. Creating Instance Groups
- 11.3.1.2. Assigning Execution Nodes to an Instance Group
- 11.3.1.3. Running a Health Check on the Nodes
- 11.3.1.4. Disassociating a Node from an Instance Group

### 11.3.2. Assigning Default Instance Groups to Inventories and Job Templates

- 11.3.2.1. Configuring an Inventory to Use Instance Groups
- 11.3.2.2. Configure a Job Template to Use Instance Groups
- 11.3.2.3. Running a Job Template with Instance Groups

### 11.3.3. Testing the Resilience of Automation Mesh

- 11.3.3.1. Testing Control Plane Resilience
- 11.3.3.2. Testing Execution Plane Resilience

### 11.3.4. Monitoring Automation Mesh from the Web UI

### 11.3.5. Monitoring Automation Mesh from the Command Line

- 11.3.5.1. Listing Nodes and Instance Groups
- 11.3.5.2. Monitoring Automation Mesh Using the receptorctl Command



# Appendix A: References and Additional Information

Ansible Docs/Tips and Tricks

- Installing Software and other Packages: https://ansible-tips-and-tricks.readthedocs.io/en/latest/os-dependent-tasks/installing\_packages/
- Ansible Tips and Tricks (Examples): https://github.com/nfaction/ansible-tips-and-tricks/wiki
- Ansible Product Demos: https://github.com/ansible/product-demos
- Ansible Workshops: https://github.com/ansible/workshops/tree/devel/provisioner
- Red Hat CoP Automation Good Practices:
  - https://redhat-cop.github.io/automation-good-practices/
  - https://github.com/redhat-cop/automation-good-practices/
- Ansible Controller Collection: https://console.redhat.com/ansible/automation-hub/repo/published/ ansible/controller/docs?keywords=

#### Ansible KB Articles and Solutions

 How Do I Perform Security Patching / OS Package Upgrades On Ansible Tower/Automation Controller Nodes Without Breaking Any Ansible Tower/Automation Controller Functionality
 https://access.redhat.com/solutions/4566711

#### Ansible Filters and Collections

- Using filters to manipulate data (Jinja2 Templating): https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/user\_guide/playbooks\_filters.html
- **Community** General: https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/collections/community/general/index.html

#### Ansible Blogs and Articles

• When localhost isn't what it seems in Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform 2: https://www.ansible.com/blog/when-localhost-isnt-what-it-seems-in-red-hat-ansible-automation-platform-2

#### Ansible Execution Environments

• Execution Environments: https://docs.ansible.com/automation-controller/4.2.0/html/userguide/execution\_environments.html#ee-mount-options