

PUPPET vs ANSIBLE

PUPPET:

- Puppet follows a client-server (or agent-master) architecture;
- you install Puppet Server on one or more servers and then install Puppet Agent on all the nodes you want to manage.
- Puppet uses its own declarative language (also called domain-specific language, or DSL).
- The company says installation takes 10 to 30 minutes, depending on the environment and needs.

ANSIBLE:

- Ansible has a master but no agents running on the client machines—all functions are performed over SSH protocol.
- Being agentless is one of the features most touted in discussions about Ansible's simplicity. And Ansible uses YAML syntax.
- Complex tasks are handled in configuration files called playbooks, and commands can be written in almost any programming language.
- Plus, Ansible is written in Python, which is built into most Unix and Linux deployments, making setup even easier/faster.

ANSIBLE VS. PUPPET: MANAGEMENT AND SCHEDULING:

- Management of Ansible vs. Puppet focuses on push and pull configurations.
- In Puppet, the client pulls configurations from the server, whereas in Ansible, the server pushes configurations to the nodes, for instantaneous deployment.
- Plus, in Puppet, you have to write the configurations in Puppet's language, as mentioned, whereas in Ansible you use YAML, which is close to English.
- As for scheduling, in the default settings, Puppet Agent checks every 30 minutes to make sure the nodes are in the desired state. The free version of Ansible doesn't include that capability;

ANSIBLE VS. PUPPET: GUI

- Puppet's graphical user interface (GUI) is more highly developed than Ansible's. It's used for viewing, managing and monitoring; for more complex tasks, you'll probably use the command-line interface CLI, which is based on Ruby.
- When it was introduced, Ansible was a command-line-only tool. Now you can get a UI if you use the enterprise version, but it's by no means perfect. In fact, the GUI is sometimes not in sync with the command line, and it can't do all the same things as the CL.

SO, WHICH IS BETTER, ANSIBLE, OR PUPPET?

- The answer is, it depends. Both tools are excellent for different reasons, and each has advantages and disadvantages. The major differences between Ansible and Puppet mean that the right choice really comes down to your organization's specific needs. Many use Ansible for small, fast and/or temporary deployments, whereas Puppet is often used for more complex or longer-term deployments. If you have a mostly fixed set of machines to maintain, Puppet might be the better option, whereas if your machines are often being reprovisioned, Ansible might be the way to go.