Introduction to "Chef" framework

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What Is Chef?

- Open Source (Apache License v. 2.0)
- Framework
- Ruby
- Infrastructure configuration management tool

Chef Is Young

Released on January 15th, 2009



Why To Use Chef?

- Only one administration guy in company?
- Forces order in system
- Existing solutions for your problems
- Best practices

How To Use Chef?

- chef-client + chef-server
- chef-client + Opscode Platform
- chef-solo

Chef Server

- Ruby gem (chef-server)
- Stores cookbooks
- Stores information about nodes
- Accessbile by REST API

Chef Server Elements

- CouchDB stores node informations
- SOLR data indexing
- RabbitMQ helps in indexing
- Merb API and web user interface

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That is lot of stuff

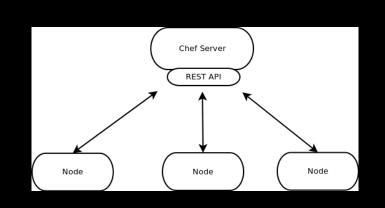
Opscode Platform

- Free plan (upto 5 nodes)
- Configuration step by step
- Organizations and users managment

Chef Client

- Ruby gem (chef)
- Runs on machine that we want to configure
- Communicates with chef server
- Authenticates using RSA keys

Server – Clients



Chef Solo

- Part of chef gem
- Standalone run (without connecting to server)
- Uses cookbooks from local tarballs

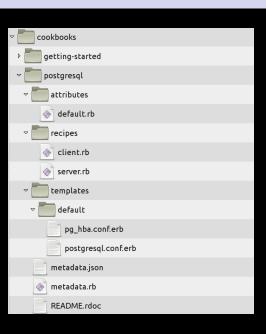
Simple Workflow

- Write cookbook with recipe
- Upload it to chef server
- Define run list by:
 - editing node on chef server
 - passing JSON file to chef-client
- Run chef-client on desired machine

"Cookbooks for Chef are like RubyGems for Ruby" ¹

¹I couldn't find author

Cookbook Skeleton



Example Attributes File

```
set[:postgresql][:version] = "8.4"
set[:postgresql][:dir] =
   "/etc/postgresql/#{node[:postgresql][:version]}/main"
```

```
include_recipe "postgresql::client"
package "postgresql-#{node[:postgresql][:version]}" do
  action :install
template "#{node[:postgresql][:dir]}/postgresql.conf" do
  source "postgresql.conf.erb"
  owner "postgres"
  group "postgres"
 mode "0600"
service "postgresql-#{node[:postgresql][:version]}" do
  action :start
end
```

```
include_recipe "postgresql::client"
package "postgresql-#{node[:postgresql][:version]}"
service "postgresql" do
  service_name "postgresql-#{node[:postgresql][:version]}"
  supports :restart => true, :status => true
  action :nothing
template "#{node[:postgresql][:dir]}/postgresql.conf" do
  source "postgresql.conf.erb"
  owner "postgres"
  group "postgres"
 mode "0600"
 notifies :restart, "service[postgresql]"
```

Package Providers

- Apt
- Yum
- MacPorts

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Many more

Supported Systems

- Debian
- Gentoo
- FreeBSD
- MacOSX
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And more

- package
- template
- file
- user
- execute
- script (bash, ruby, perl, python, csh)
- http request
- deploy

²http://wiki.opscode.com/display/chef/Resources

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Additional Tools - Ohai

- Released as a gem ohai
- Collects system configuration/information
- Returns JSON

Additional Tools - Knife

- Part of chef gem
- Console tool for chef server managment

Tips

- If using RVM, use rvmsudo for chef-client
- Take a look at chef bootstrap³
- Remember that Ruby (Chef) uses sh, not bash

 $^{^3} http://wiki.opscode.com/display/chef/Bootstrap+Chef+RubyGems+Installation$

Useful Links

- http://www.opscode.com/chef/
- http://help.opscode.com/faqs/start/how-to-get-started
- http://cookbooks.opscode.com/
- https://github.com/opscode/cookbooks

Questions?