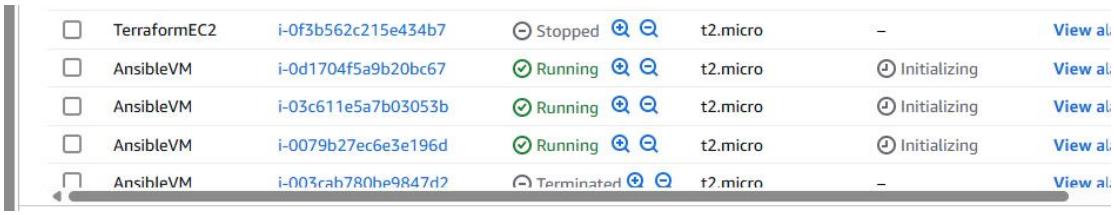
Ansible part II

Configuration management tool

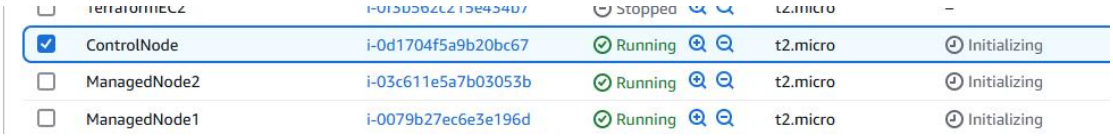
Setup: Setting up to work with Ansible

1. Create 3 Linux VMs in AWS
2. 2 VMs as Managed nodes
3. 1 VM as Control node

I have created 3 machines:

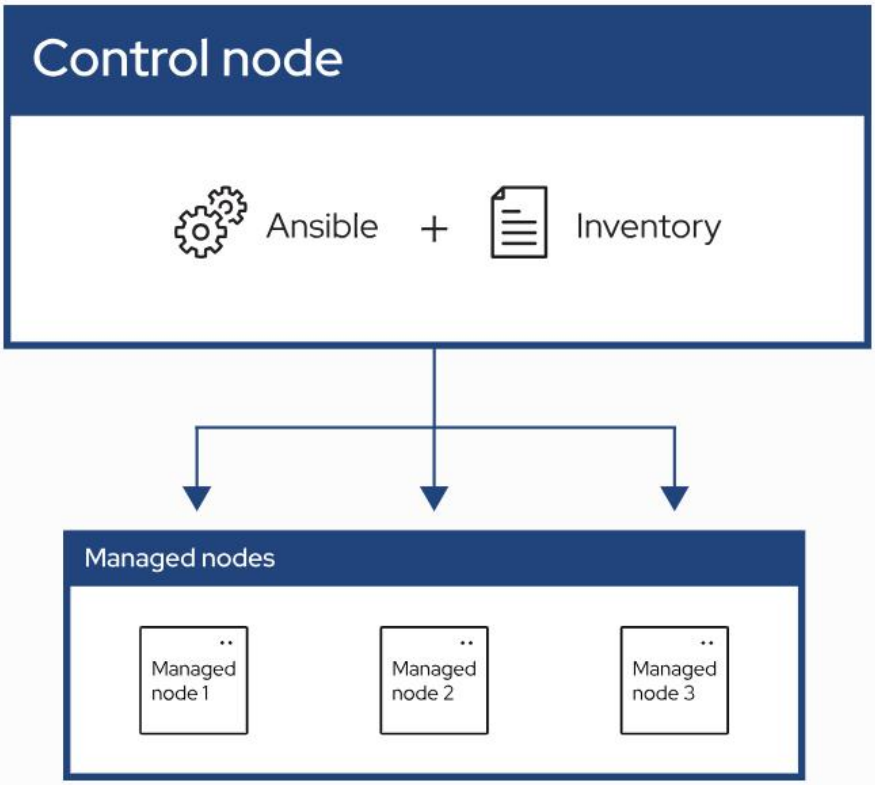


Rename VMs



Getting started with Ansible

Ansible automates the management of remote systems and controls their desired state.



As shown in the preceding figure, most Ansible environments have three main components:

Control node
A system on which Ansible is installed. You run Ansible commands such as `ansible` or `ansible-inventory` on a control node.

Inventory
A list of managed nodes that are logically organized. You create an inventory on the control node to describe host deployments to Ansible.

Managed node
A remote system, or host, that Ansible controls.

Setup User and Configure user in Sudoers file and update
SSHD config file in all 3 VMs
a. Create User (All 3 VMs)
sudo useradd ansible
sudo passwd ansible

b. Configure user in sudoers file
   i. sudo visudo
c. ansible ALL = (ALL), NoPasswd: ALL
d. Update SSHD config file: sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config
e. Install Ansible in ControlNode: Switch to Ansible user sudo su ansible
   i. cd ~
f. Install Python
   i. sudo yum install python3 -y
g. To check Python version
   i. python3 --version
h. Install pip (Python package manager)
   i. sudo yum -y install python3-pip
i. Install Ansible using Python PIP
   pip3 install ansible --user
j. Verify Ansible version

i. ansible --version

k. Create Ansible folder under /etc

i. sudo mkdir /etc/ansible

l. Generate SSH key in our Control Node & copy SSH key into Managed Nodes

m. Switch to Ansible user

a) sudo su ansible

n. Generate SSH key

a) ssh-keygen (just push enter-enter-enter) don't write anything

o. Copy it to Managed Nodes as Ansible user

i. ssh-copy-id ansible@<ManagedNode-PrivateIP>

p. Update Host inventory in Ansible server

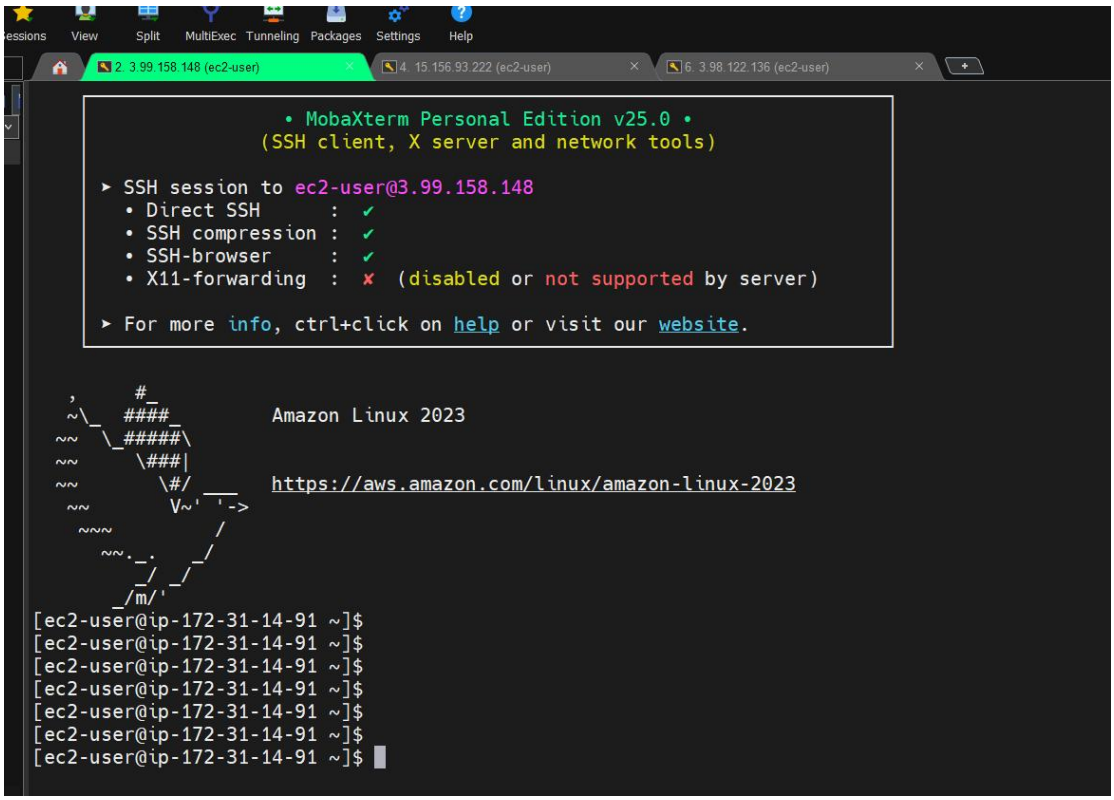
i. sudo vi /etc/ansible/hosts

q. Test connectivity

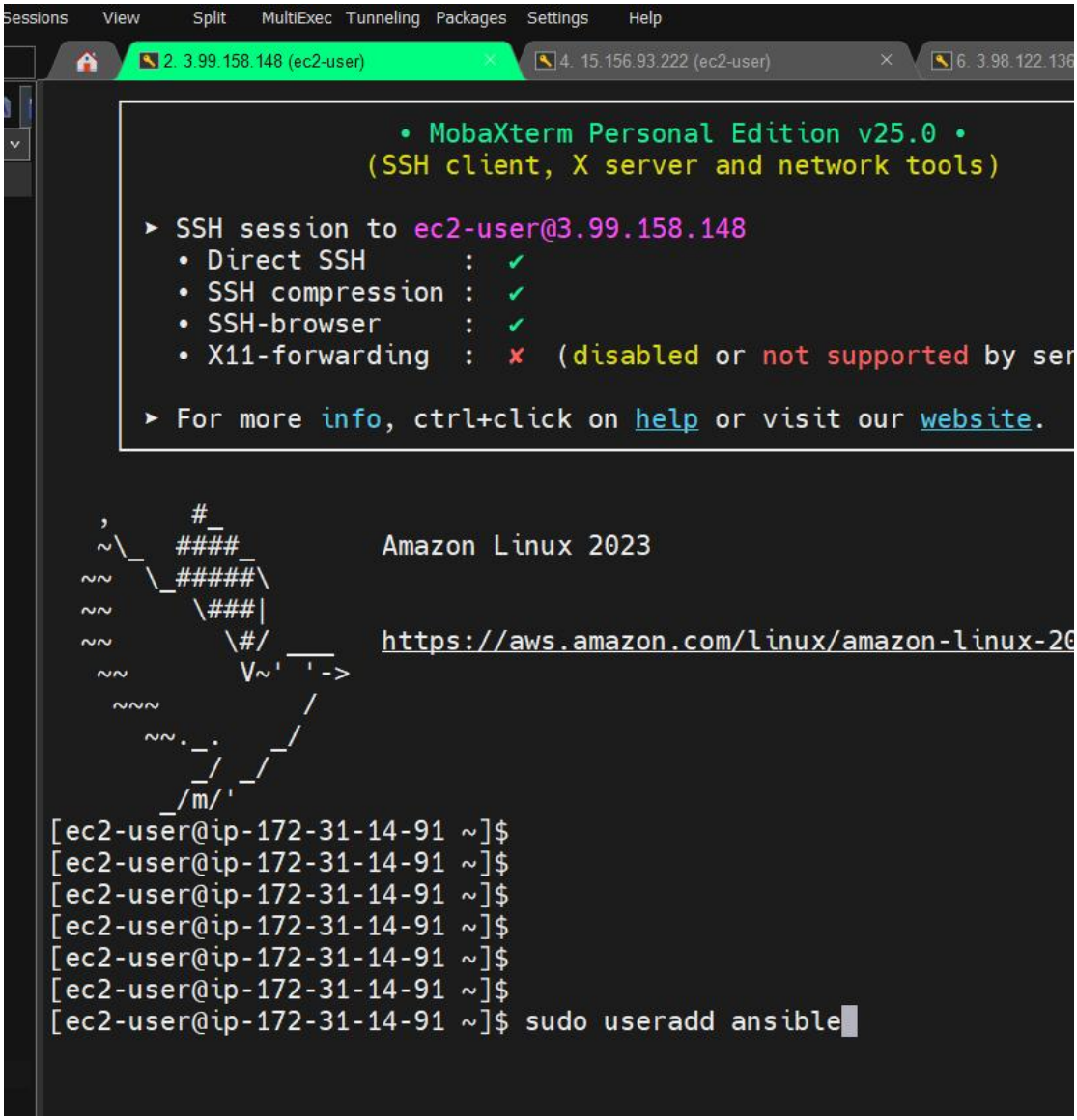
i. ansible webservers -m ping

Create user ansible in all 3 VMs: sudo useradd ansible

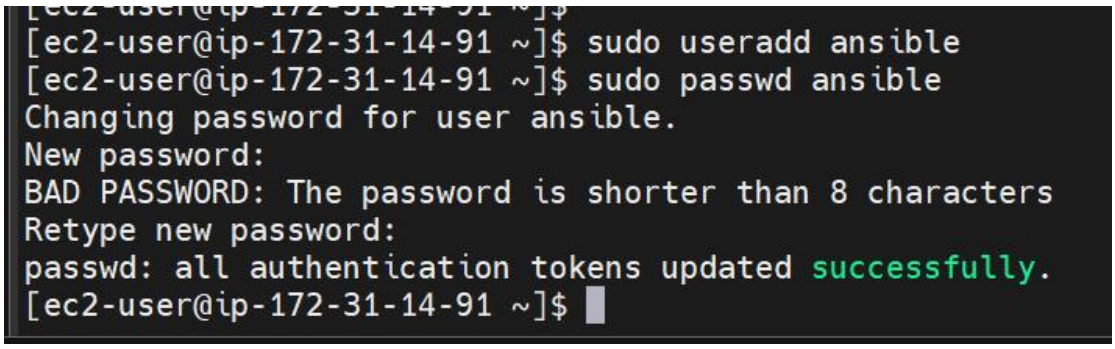
Green tab is the control node others are managed nodes



In the Control Node



[ec2-user@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ sudo useradd ansible
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ sudo passwd ansible



Do the same thing in Managed User also

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-5-77 ~]$ sudo passwd ansible
Changing password for user ansible.
New password:
BAD PASSWORD: The password is shorter than 8 characters

Retype new password:
passwd: all authentication tokens updated successfully.

r. Create User (All 3 VMs)
sudo useradd ansible
sudo passwd ansible

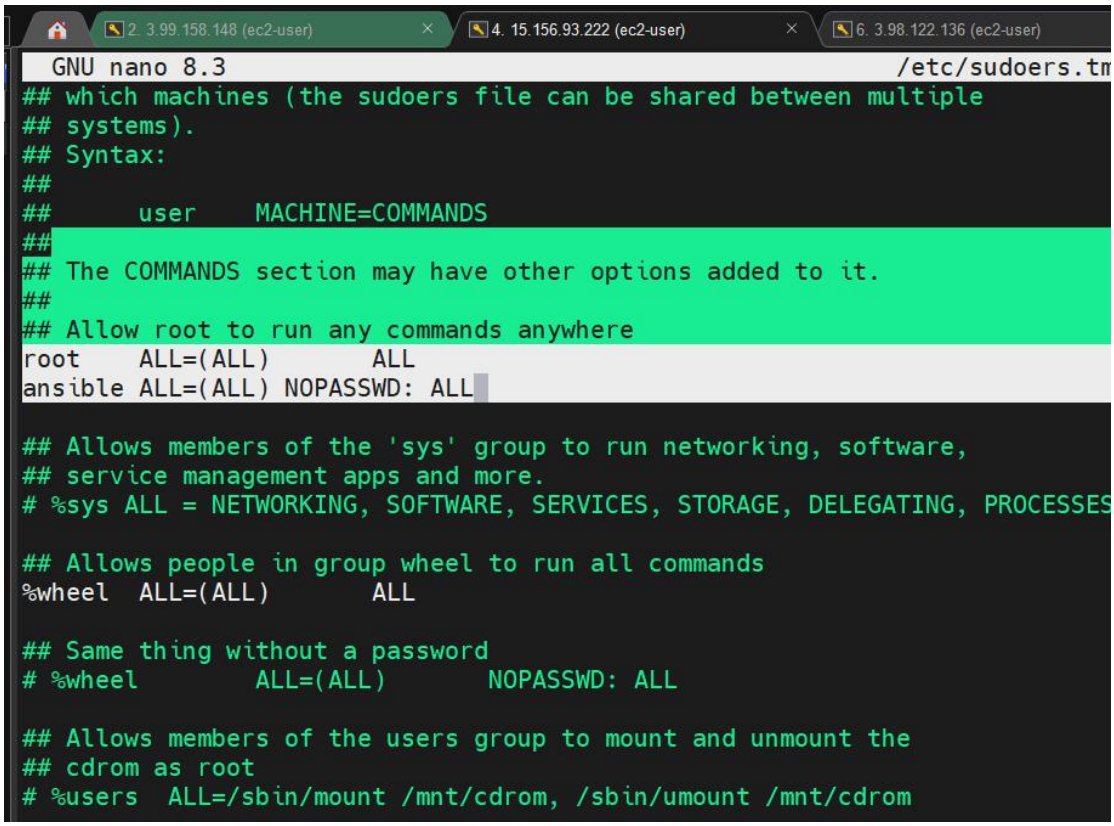
s. Configure user in sudoers file
i. sudo visudo
t. ansible ALL = (ALL), NoPasswd: ALL
u. Update SSHD config file: sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config

Install Ansible in Control Node

Open sudoers file:
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-5-77 ~]$ sudo visudo

Scroll down and say

The COMMANDS section may have other options added to it.
##
Allow root to run any commands anywhere
root ALL=(ALL) ALL
ansible ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD: ALL

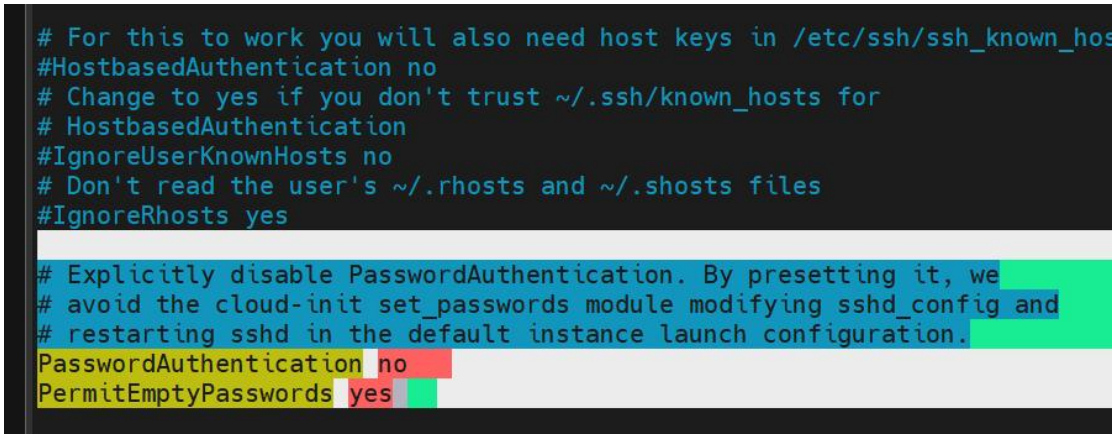


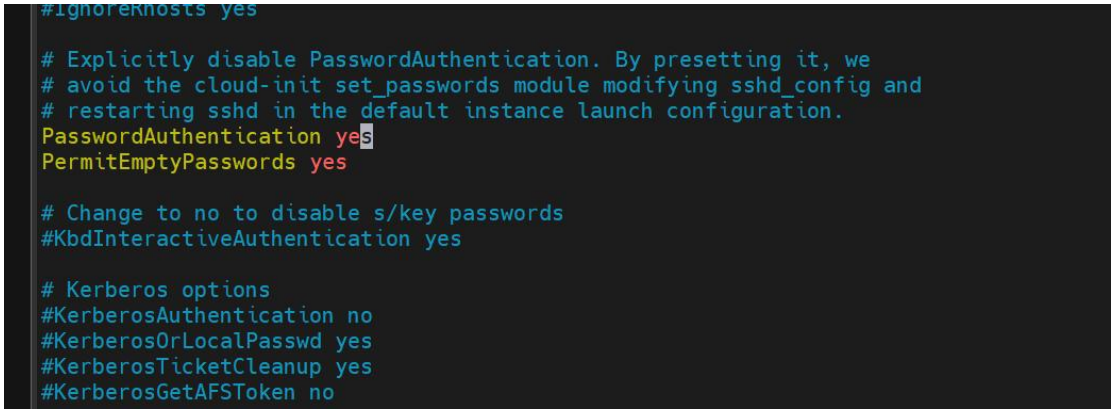
Ctrl + X --> push Y, enter

DO the same things in all 3 VMs
ansible ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD: ALL

Next:
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config

Change PermitEmptyPasswords to yes
Explicitly disable PasswordAuthentication. By presetting it, we
avoid the cloud-init set_passwords module modifying sshd_config and
restarting sshd in the default instance launch configuration.
PasswordAuthentication yes
PermitEmptyPasswords yes
PubkeyAuthentication yes





Same step please do in other machines as well

Restart sshd service in all 3 VMs

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ sudo service sshd restart
Redirecting to /bin/systemctl restart sshd.service

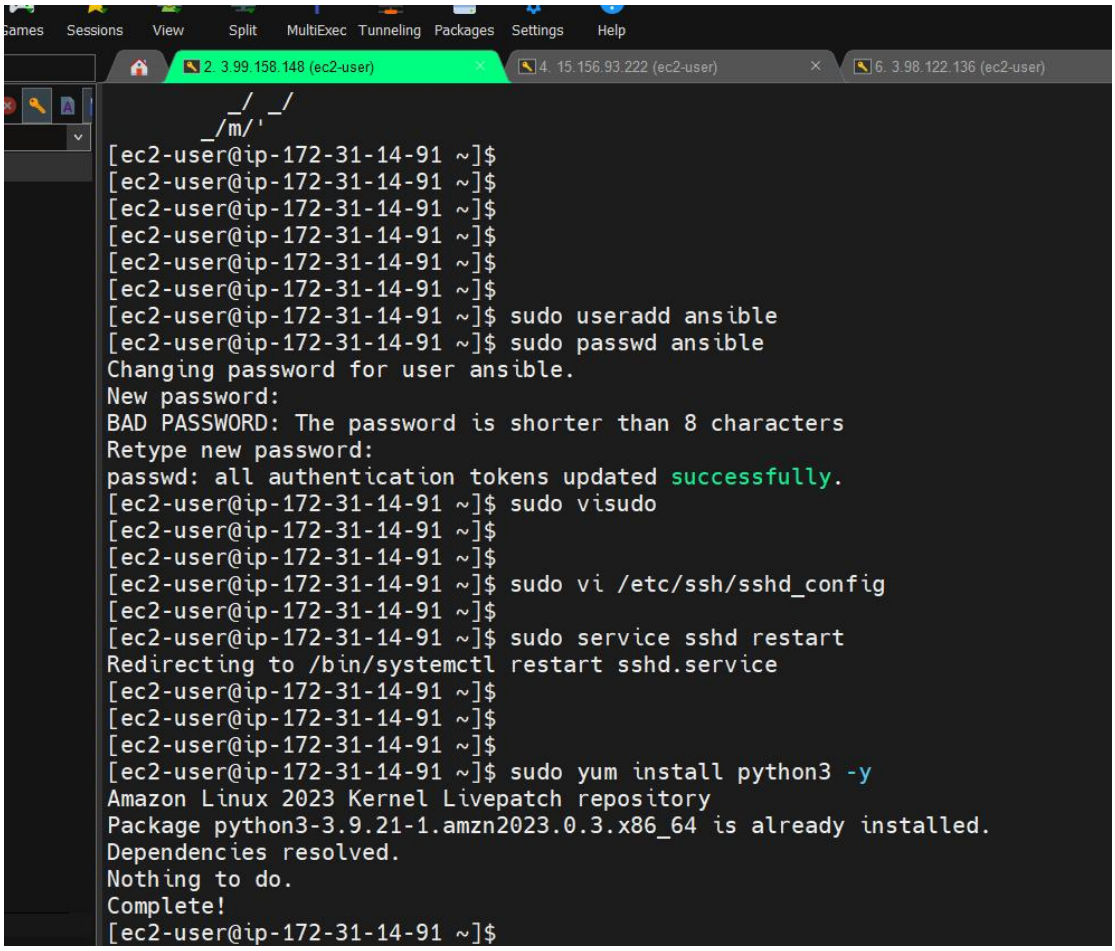
Install Ansible in Control Node

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ sudo yum install python3 -y

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ sudo yum install python3 -y

Amazon Linux 2023 Kernel Livepatch repository 140 kB/s | 15 kB
00:00
Package python3-3.9.21-1.amzn2023.0.3.x86_64 is already installed.
Dependencies resolved.
Nothing to do.
Complete!

Installed Python for Ansible only in Control Node



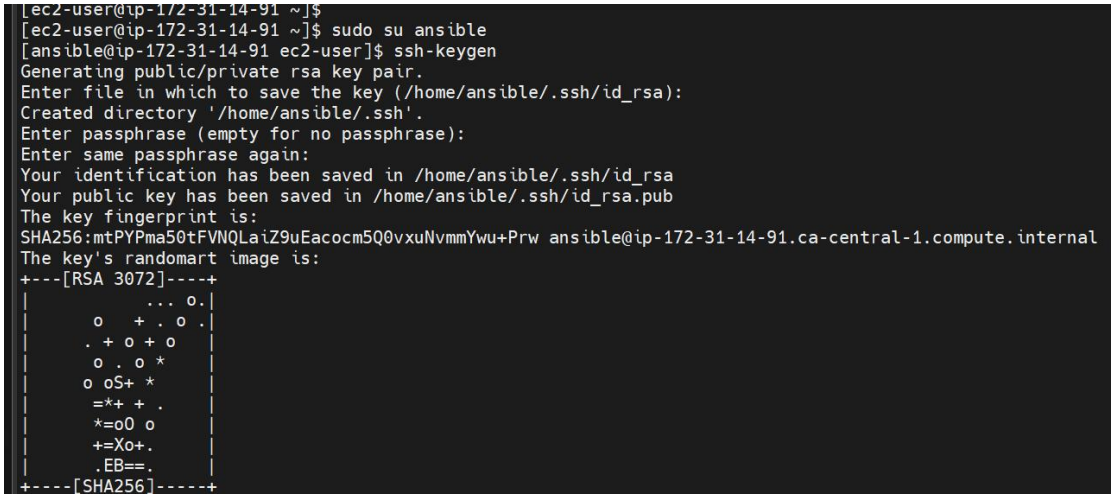
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ sudo yum -y install python3-pip

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ pip3 install ansible --user

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ansible --version
ansible [core 2.15.13]
  config file = None
  configured module search path = ['/home/ec2-user/.ansible/plugins/modules',
'/usr/share/ansible/plugins/modules']
  ansible python module location = /home/ec2-user/.local/lib/python3.9/site-packages/ansible
  ansible collection location = /home/ec2-user/.ansible/collections:/usr/share/ansible/collections
  executable location = /home/ec2-user/.local/bin/ansible
  python version = 3.9.21 (main, Mar 19 2025, 00:00:00) [GCC 11.5.0 20240719 (Red Hat 11.5.0-5)]
(/usr/bin/python3)
  jinja version = 3.1.6
  libyaml = True

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ sudo mkdir /etc/ansible

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ sudo su ansible
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ec2-user]$ ssh-keygen
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/ansible/.ssh/id_rsa):
Created directory '/home/ansible/.ssh'.
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in /home/ansible/.ssh/id_rsa
Your public key has been saved in /home/ansible/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
The key fingerprint is:
SHA256:mtPYPma50tFVNQLaiZ9uEacocm5Q0vxuNvmmYwu+Prw ansible@ip-172-31-14-91.ca-central-1.compute.internal



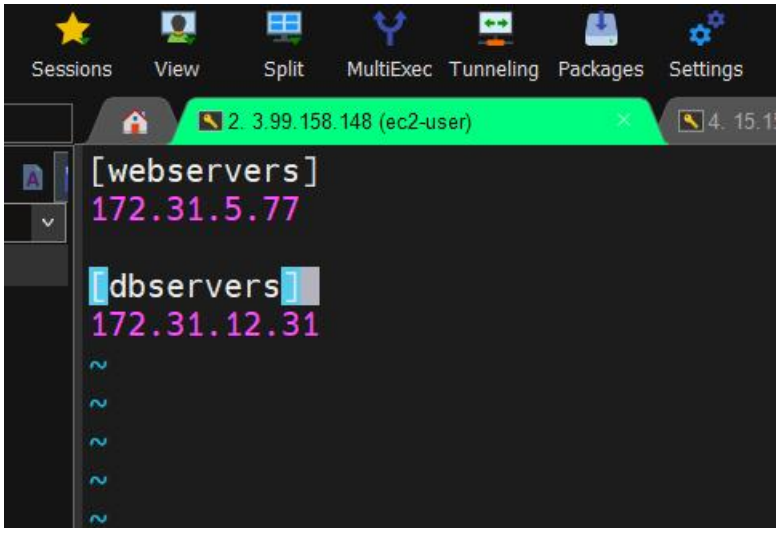
ssh-copy-id ansible@<ManagedNode-PrivateIP>

ManagedNode1 PrivateIP: 172.31.5.77
ManagedNode2 PrivateIP: 172.31.12.31

Run this in the Control Node
ssh-copy-id ansible@172.31.5.77
ssh-copy-id ansible@172.31.12.31

What's Host inventory? All Managed Nodes

Update Host inventory in Ansible server to add Managed Node Server details
sudo vi /etc/ansible/hosts
In Control Node
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ec2-user]$ sudo vi /etc/ansible/hosts




```
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ssh-copy-id ansible@172.31.5.77
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: Source of key(s) to be installed: "/home/ansible/.ssh/id_rsa.pub"
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: attempting to log in with the new key(s), to filter out any that are already installed
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: 1 key(s) remain to be installed -- if you are prompted now it is to install the new keys
ansible@172.31.5.77's password:

Number of key(s) added: 1

Now try logging into the machine, with:   "ssh 'ansible@172.31.5.77'"
and check to make sure that only the key(s) you wanted were added.

[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
```

```
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ssh-copy-id ansible@172.31.5.77
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: Source of key(s) to be installed: "/home/ansible/.ssh/id_rsa.pub"
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: attempting to log in with the new key(s), to filter out any that are already installed
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: 1 key(s) remain to be installed -- if you are prompted now it is to install the new keys
ansible@172.31.5.77's password:

Number of key(s) added: 1

Now try logging into the machine, with:   "ssh 'ansible@172.31.5.77'"
and check to make sure that only the key(s) you wanted were added.

[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ssh-copy-id ansible@172.31.12.31
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: Source of key(s) to be installed: "/home/ansible/.ssh/id_rsa.pub"
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: attempting to log in with the new key(s), to filter out any that are already installed
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: 1 key(s) remain to be installed -- if you are prompted now it is to install the new keys
ansible@172.31.12.31's password:

Number of key(s) added: 1

Now try logging into the machine, with:   "ssh 'ansible@172.31.12.31'"
and check to make sure that only the key(s) you wanted were added.

[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
```

[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ cat /etc/ansible/hosts
[webservers]
172.31.5.77

[dbservers]
172.31.12.31

```
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ cat /etc/ansible/hosts
[webservers]
172.31.5.77

[dbservers]
172.31.12.31
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
```

We should get SUCCESS

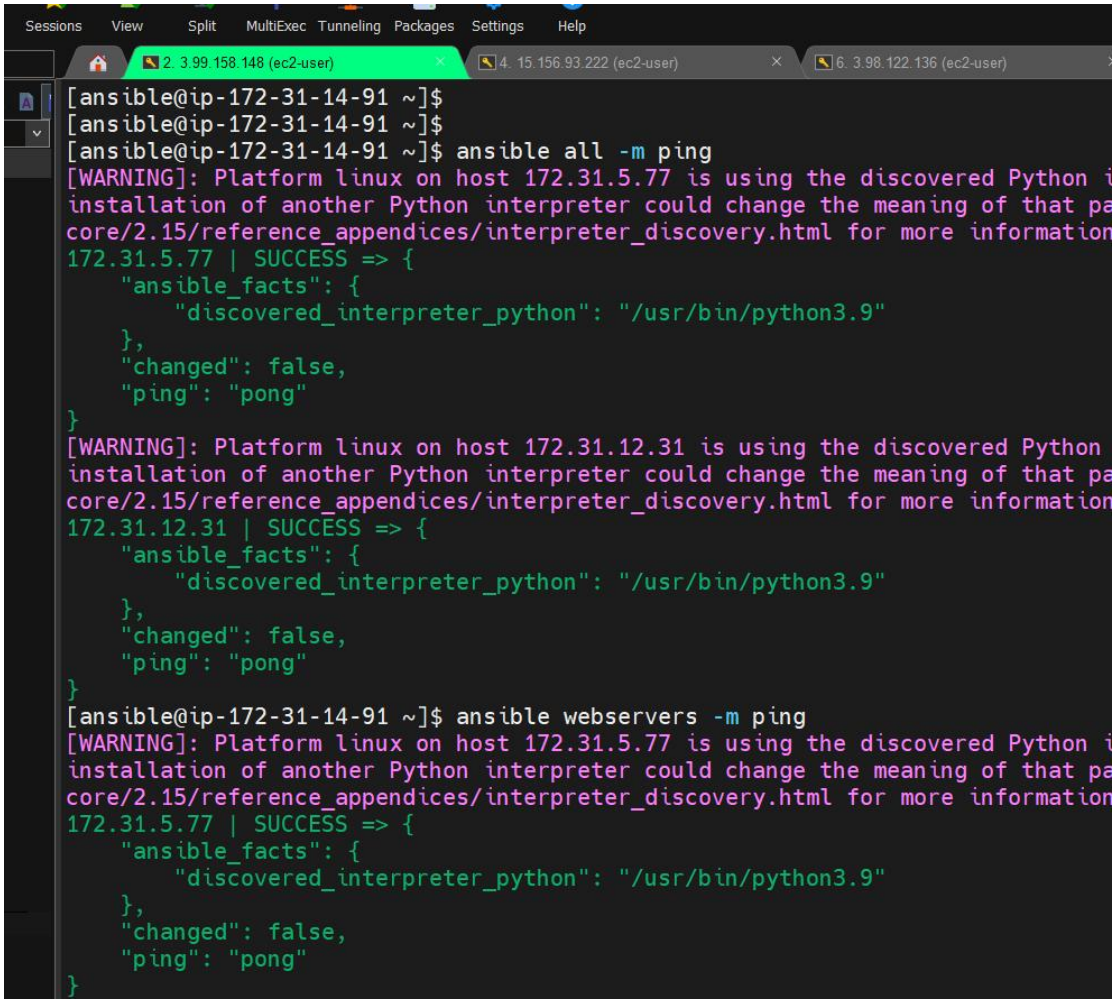
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ansible all -m ping

```
172.31.12.31
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ansible all -m ping
[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.5.77 is using the discovered Python interpreter at /usr/bin/python3.9, but future
installation of another Python interpreter could change the meaning of that path. See https://docs.ansible.com/ansible-
core/2.15/reference_appendices/interpreter_discovery.html for more information.
172.31.5.77 | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3.9"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.12.31 is using the discovered Python interpreter at /usr/bin/python3.9, but future
installation of another Python interpreter could change the meaning of that path. See https://docs.ansible.com/ansible-
core/2.15/reference_appendices/interpreter_discovery.html for more information.
172.31.12.31 | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3.9"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
```

[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ansible webservers -m ping

```
}
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ansible webservers -m ping
[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.5.77 is using the discovered Python interpreter at /usr/bin/python3.9, but future
installation of another Python interpreter could change the meaning of that path. See https://docs.ansible.com/ansible-
core/2.15/reference_appendices/interpreter_discovery.html for more information.
172.31.5.77 | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3.9"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
```

Everything from Control Node



Ansible Ad-Hoc commands
Ansible [all/group-name/host-name/ip] -m <module> -a <args>
ansible all -m ping

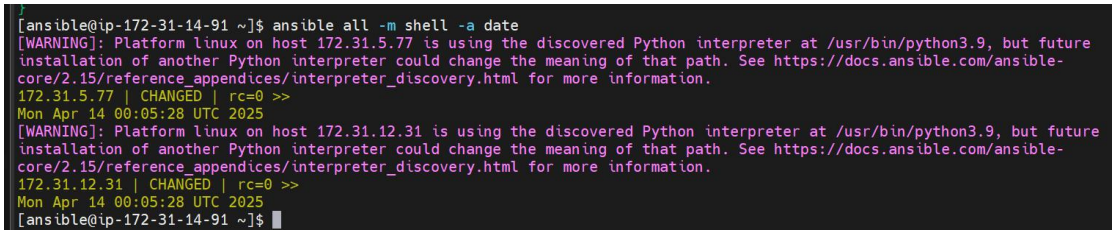
We have many modules in ansible to perform configuration management
ping, shell, yum, copy, service

ping module --> $ ansible all -m ping, ansible webservers -m ping

shell moule --> $ ansible all -m shell -a date, $ ansible all -m shell -a uptime

yum module --> $ ansible webservers -b -m yum -a "name=git"

Get date from both machines



Manage machines remotely

```
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ansible all -m shell -a date
[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.5.77 is using the d
installation of another Python interpreter could change the
core/2.15/reference_appendices/interpreter_discovery.html fo
172.31.5.77 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
Mon Apr 14 00:05:28 UTC 2025
[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.12.31 is using the
installation of another Python interpreter could change the
core/2.15/reference_appendices/interpreter_discovery.html fo
172.31.12.31 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
Mon Apr 14 00:05:28 UTC 2025
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
```

ansible all -m shell -a uptime

```
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$  ansible all -m shell -a uptime
[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.5.77 is using the disc
installation of another Python interpreter could change the mea
core/2.15/reference_appendices/interpreter_discovery.html for m
172.31.5.77 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
 00:07:10 up  6:37,  3 users,  load average: 0.00, 0.00, 0.00
[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.12.31 is using the dis
installation of another Python interpreter could change the mea
core/2.15/reference_appendices/interpreter_discovery.html for m
172.31.12.31 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
 00:07:10 up  6:37,  2 users,  load average: 0.00, 0.00, 0.00
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
```

[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ansible webservers -b -m yum -a "name=git"

```
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ansible webservers -b -m yum -a "name=git"
[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.5.77 is using the discovered Py
installation of another Python interpreter could change the meaning of t
core/2.15/reference_appendices/interpreter_discovery.html for more infor
172.31.5.77 | CHANGED => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3.9"
    },
    "changed": true,
    "msg": "",
    "rc": 0,
    "results": [
        "Installed: perl-Error-1:0.17029-5.amzn2023.0.2.noarch",
        "Installed: perl-File-Find-1.37-477.amzn2023.0.6.noarch",
        "Installed: perl-Git-2.47.1-1.amzn2023.0.2.noarch",
        "Installed: git-core-2.47.1-1.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64",
        "Installed: perl-TermReadKey-2.38-9.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64",
        "Installed: git-core-doc-2.47.1-1.amzn2023.0.2.noarch",
        "Installed: git-2.47.1-1.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64",
        "Installed: perl-lib-0.65-477.amzn2023.0.6.x86_64"
    ]
}
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
```

Installed git-core-2.47.1 in the Amazon machine

Now I go into Managed VM1
Git is already installed remotely from Control Node

```
[ansible@ip-172-31-5-77 ec2-user]$
[ansible@ip-172-31-5-77 ec2-user]$ git -v
git version 2.47.1
[ansible@ip-172-31-5-77 ec2-user]$
```

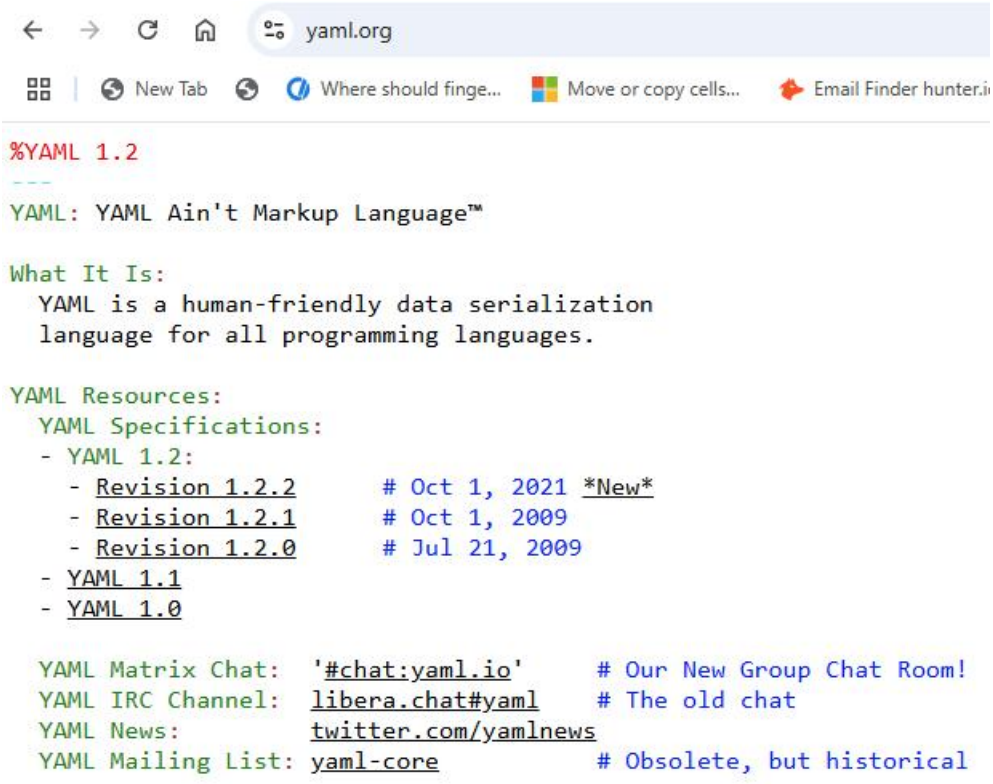
Ansible Playbooks
Playbook is a YAML file, which contains one or more tasks
Using Playbook we define what tasks to be performed and where to be performed

Example YML format

```
Student:
    Id: 5
    Name: Abc
    Gender: Male
    Hobbies:
        - Cricket
        - Chess
        - VideoGame
    Address:
        City: Cincinatti
        Country: USA
```

Note: Ident spaces are the most important in yml file

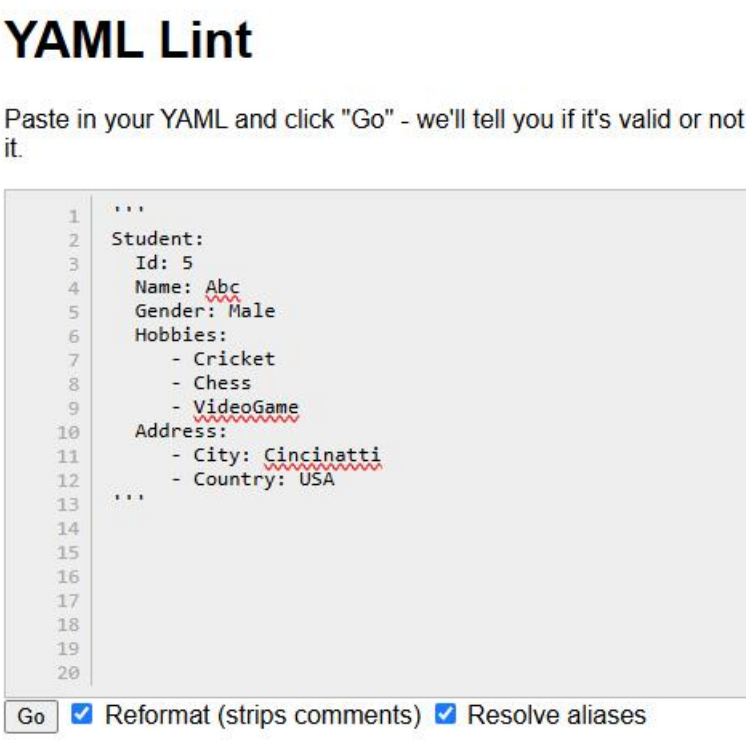
Website: https://yaml.org/ shows the syntax

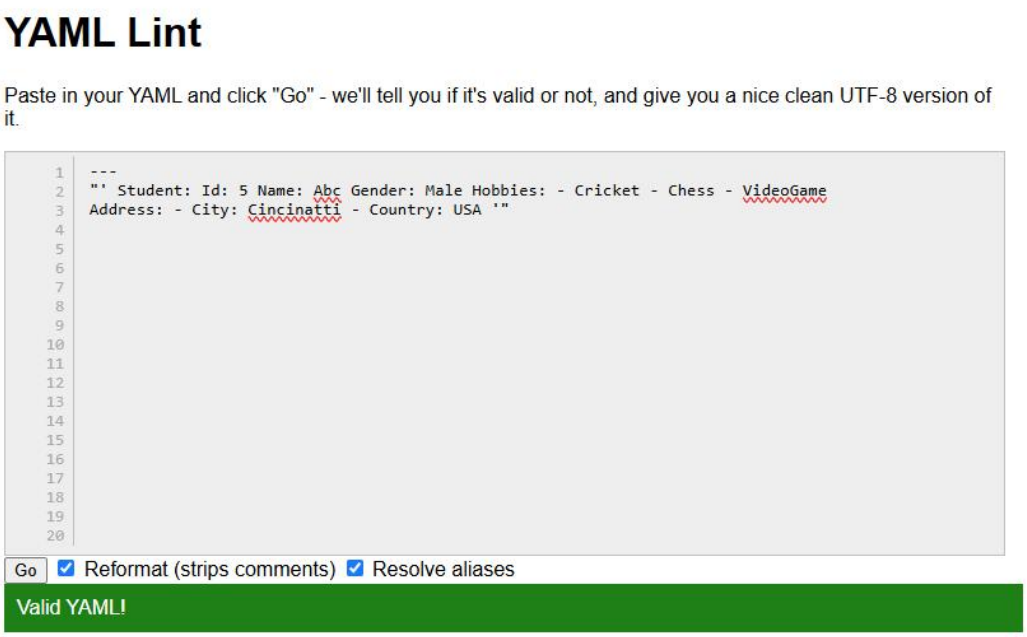


For yaml syntax validation: https://www.yamllint.com/

'''

```
Student:
  Id: 5
  Name: Abc
  Gender: Male
  Hobbies:
    - Cricket
    - Chess
    - VideoGame
  Address:
    - City: Cincinatti
    - Country: USA
'''
```





Hit Go

Yaml stats with --- and ends with …

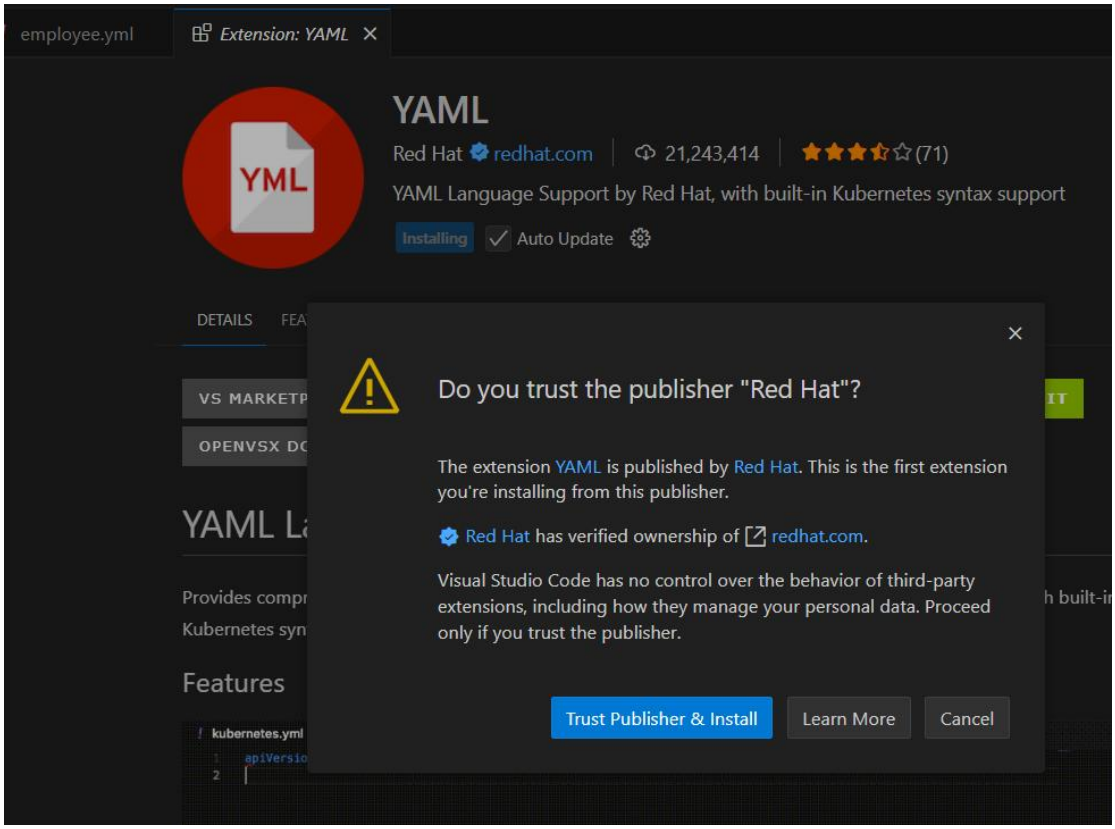
Writing Playbooks

3 major sections: Host section, Variable section, Task section
Host section: Represents Target machines to execute tasks. This configuration depends on Ansible inventory file
Variable section: used to declare variables in Playbook execution
Task section: defines what operations or tasks we want to perform using Ansible

$ ansible-playbook <playbook-yml-filename>

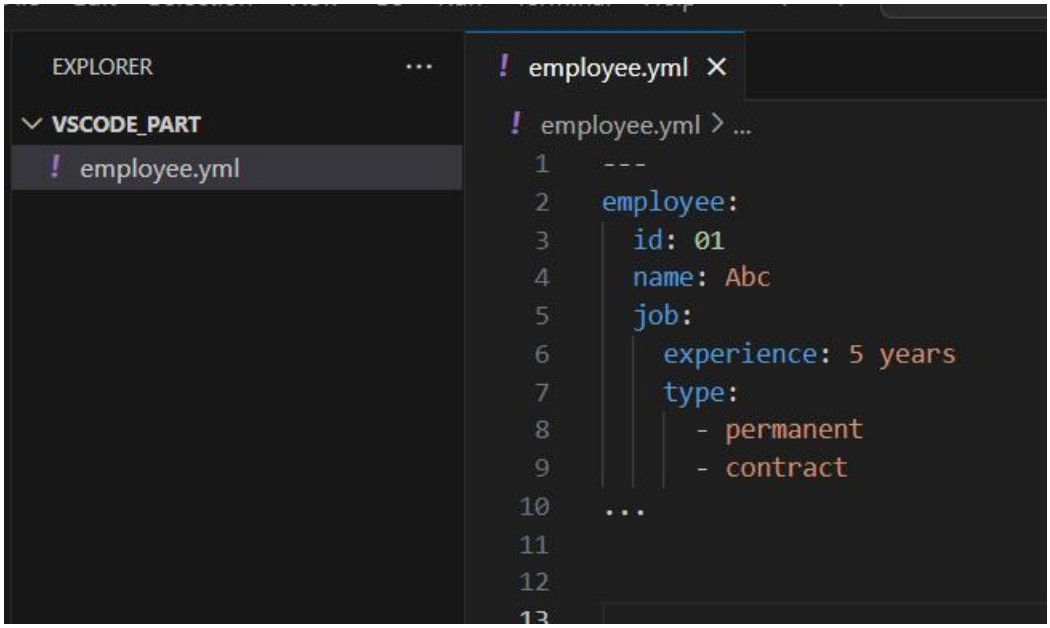
Open VSCode

Install



---
employee:
 id: 01
 name: Abc
 job:
  experience: 5 years
  type:
   - permanent
   - contract
...

Create employee.yml




```
---
employee:
  id: 01
  name: Abc
  job:
    experience: 5 years
    type:
      - permanent
      - contract
student:
  id: 5
  name: Xyz
  skills:
    - edit videos
    - graphic design
…

---
- hosts: all
  tasks:
    - name: Ping all the managed nodes
      ping:
      remote_user: ansible
...
```

Go to Control Node VM
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ vi 01-ping.yml

```
total 4
-rw-rw-r--. 1 ansible ansible 108 Apr 14 01:10 01-ping.yml
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ cat 01-ping.yml
---
- hosts: all
  tasks:
    - name: Ping all the managed nodes
      ping:
      remote_user: ansible
...
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
```

[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ansible-playbook 01-ping.yml

```
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ansible-playbook 01-ping.yml

PLAY [all] ************************************************************

TASK [Gathering Facts] ************************************************
[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.5.77 is using the discover
installation of another Python interpreter could change the meanin
core/2.15/reference_appendices/interpreter_discovery.html for more
ok: [172.31.5.77]
[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.12.31 is using the discov
installation of another Python interpreter could change the meanin
core/2.15/reference_appendices/interpreter_discovery.html for more
ok: [172.31.12.31]

TASK [Ping all the managed nodes] *************************************
ok: [172.31.5.77]
ok: [172.31.12.31]

PLAY RECAP ************************************************************
172.31.12.31               : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0
172.31.5.77                : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0

[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$
```

[ansible@ip-172-31-14-91 ~]$ ansible-playbook 01-ping.yml --syntax-check

playbook: 01-ping.yml