[matrix]

Introducing Ansible to matrix.org

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Who are we?

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Decentralised, federated chat

Open protocol specification

FOSS reference implementations

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Ecosystem of organisations including New Vector

Ops engineer for a year

New Vector Operations

Consultancy

Software as a Service

Internal services

Before Ansible

Previous tooling

Wiki pages with commands (sometimes missing/out of date)

git repo of configuration (sometimes with local changes)

Previous tooling

@reboot cronjobs

Also manual tasks to run on boot

`ps auxf` before reboot 'for safety'

Ansibilzation
(is that even a word?)

All new things are ansible

Needed a postgresql databases crafted from source for testing

Converted existing wiki script into ansible role

All new things are ansible

Crafting ansible roles from scratch is slow

Crafting large ansible playbooks is hard

All new things are ansible II

Needed a gitlab install

Pulled a playbook from galaxy

All new things are ansible II

Demonstrate locally before you pushing same thing to live

From agreement to deployment is fast

Find one boring task and automate

Creating users and managing ssh keys

We already had an existing script

Find one boring task and automate

… actually, ansible is slower

… and more complicated

…and maybe I wasted my time

Find one boring task and automate II

Install prometheus'
node_exporter

Started from out of date, mixed
versions, no deployment script

Find one boring task and automate II

node_exporter worked really well.

Anything is faster than manual

Simple to check if it worked

Start with inventory and adhoc

Inventory is inherently useful

```
host_vars/hermes.matrix.org/vars
internal_ip: 10.25.2.1
external_ip: 83.16.22.12
```

Start with inventory and adhoc

```
ansible -i production -m shell -a
  "ps auxf | grep mystery"

ansible -i production -m shell -a
  "sudo netstat -nap | grep 6824"
```

Make it easier to standardise later

Move to systemd unit files everywhere

Even if they're user-specific ones

Make it easier to standardise later

Not exactly ansible, but helped preparation for it

Better than @reboot cronjobs

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Don't mandate 100% ansible deployments

Keep existing change process

```
ansible-playbook -C -D
```

My job to pull back to ansible

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Don't mandate 100% ansible deployments

But do use `{{ ansible_managed }}`

Expect this to cause questions

Use questions to evangelize

So what?

No one thing works

Combination of all approaches

Move on if a tactic isn't working

It will take time

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Top three suggestions

Make it your inventory source

Start by fixing unmanaged things

Mix ansible with non-ansible

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Roles open - https://vector.im/

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