

The Power of Local Facts

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ANSIBLE



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ABOUT ME

I'm a Linux contractor about to go Permy.

I currently contract @ WorldPay as a Linux/DevOps Engineer.

I work with Ansible every day.

I also run the London Infrastructure as Code meetup.

TODAY



Overview of Local Facts

What are they and why should i care?



Quick Demo on how to set them up and use them

Github code repo and demo



Pros & Cons for your use case

do you need local facts?

OVERVIEW

Some basic information about local facts

Local Facts

Are really locally supplied user values.
You might call them local custom facts.

example.fact

Any file that lives in this directory ending
with .fact can supply local facts (JSON,
INI or executable files returning JSON)



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Where do they live?

The default location is
/etc/ansible/facts.d (no need to define it
in the ansible.cfg file)

Local Wins

Local facts win over facts of the same
name in the ansible playbooks.

https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/user_guide/playbooks_variables.html

Demo



Follow along

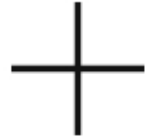
https://github.com/dmccuk/ansible_local_facts

PROS & CONS

on the attributes of multinational corporations.

Cons

Pros



Unable to query

There's no CMDB/ENC for local facts. You can't see how many of "something" is out there.



Quick and easy to setup

You get the benefit of local facts immediately

Missing .fact will break your playbook

If your playbook expects local facts to be there, when it can't find them, your code will break. Set up a default value in your code.



Ansible/script can create them

The .fact file can be generated at build time, or later by Ansible or a script.

Lose flexibility

If you add in all the logic to your playbooks, they'll work on anything. More work involved.



No additional logic in your playbooks

Instead of setting up logic to determine what should happen, you just use the local value.

T H A N K Y O U

If you'd like a copy of the slides I can make them available

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dennismccarthyuk/>

https://twitter.com/Lon_iac_meetup

