

Ansible Workshop - Exercises

Automation Platform

Learn to manage and run your Ansible
content in AAP.



4 - Surveys

Objective

Demonstrate the use of Ansible Automation controller [survey feature](#). Surveys set extra variables for the playbook similar to 'Prompt for Extra Variables' does, but in a user-friendly question and answer way. Surveys also allow for validation of user input.

Guide

You have installed Apache on all hosts in the job you just ran. Now we're going to extend on this:

- Use a proper role that has a Jinja2 template to deploy an `index.html` file.
- Create a job **Template** with a survey to collect the values for the `index.html` template.
- Launch the job **Template**

Additionally, the role will make sure that the Apache configuration is properly set up for this exercise.



Tip

The survey feature only provides a simple query for data - it does not support four-eye principles, queries based on dynamic data or nested menus.

The Apache-configuration Role

The playbook and the role with the Jinja2 template already exist in the Github repository <https://github.com/ansible/workshop-examples> in the directory `rhel/apache`.

Head over to the Github UI and have a look at the content: the playbook `apache_role_install.yml` merely references the role. The role can be found in the `roles/role_apache` subdirectory.

- Inside the role, note the two variables in the `templates/index.html.j2` template file marked by `{{...}}`.
- Notice the tasks in `tasks/main.yml` that deploy the file from the template.

What is this playbook doing? It creates a file (**dest**) on the managed hosts from the template (**src**).

The role deploys a static configuration for Apache. This is to make sure that all changes done in the previous chapters are overwritten and your examples work properly.

Because the playbook and role is located in the same Github repo as the `apache_install.yml` playbook you don't have to configure a new project for this exercise.

Create a Template with a Survey

Now you create a new Template that includes a survey.

Create Template

- Go to **Resources** → **Templates**, click the **Add** button and choose **Add job template**
- Fill out the following information:

Parameter	Value
Name	Create index.html
Job Type	Run
Inventory	Workshop Inventory
Project	Workshop Project
Execution Environment	Default execution environment
Playbook	rhel/apache/apache_role_install.yml
Credentials	Workshop Credential
Limit	web
Options	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Privilege Escalation

- Click **Save**

Warning

Do not run the template yet!

Add the Survey

- In the Template, click the **Survey** tab and click the **Add** button.
- Fill out the following information:

Parameter	Value
Question	First Line
Answer Variable Name	first_line

Answer Type	Text
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- Click **Save**
- Click the **Add** button

In the same fashion add a second **Survey Question**

Parameter	Value
Question	Second Line
Answer Variable Name	second_line
Answer Type	Text

- Click **Save**
- Click the toggle to turn the Survey questions to **On**

Launch the Template

Now launch **Create index.html** job template by selecting the **Details** tab and clicking the **Launch** button.

Before the actual launch the survey will ask for **First Line** and **Second Line**. Fill in some text and click **Next**. The **Preview** window shows the values, if all is good run the Job by clicking **Launch**.

After the job has completed, check the Apache homepage. In the SSH console on the control host, execute `curl` against `node1` :

```
[student1@ansible-1 ~]$ curl http://node1
<body>
<h1>Apache is running fine</h1>
<h1>This is survey field "First Line": line one</h1>
<h1>This is survey field "Second Line": line two</h1>
</body>
```

Note how the two variables were used by the playbook to create the content of the `index.html` file.

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