Ansible is free software for deploying and managing systems, remote systems, servers, machines, etc.

First thing you need is an inventory. An inventory is a list of machines that you want to do things to. It can be as simple as a text file.

You can also create groups of machines in your inventory. You can put machines in multiple groups.

You can perform simple command line tools. For instance:

*$ ansible database -I inventory -m ping*

The database can be all, but for now I am just selecting a group. The -I option lets me know where the entry is. The -m option just lets me know that I am using the simply ping module.

Check out this next example:

*$ ansible database -i inventory \ -m apt -a “name=msql-server state=present”*

It is slightly more complicated. Still using the same database group within the inventory but now it is using the apt module. The apt module just installs packages on linux servers. The -a is specifying arguments. We are installing MySQL Server and I want to make sure it is present.