

# Lab 2. Managing our first minion.

Now that we have configured our salt master as a minion, we want to use salt to install some common packages.

Create our base directory for our salt installation. The default is `/srv/salt`. Note that if you wish to change this, edit the `file_roots:` directive in `/etc/salt/master`.

In the `/srv/salt` directory, create a *top.sls* file. Here we will describe some packages that will be commonly installed from our base environment.

For all minions, define a state that says to run the *common.sls* file.

The *common.sls* file will contain five states,

a package install of vim

management of the vimrc file.

A package install of git.

Create a vimrc file with a single line of data:

syntax off

This is the file that will be managed. Make sure that this file is located in

`/srv/salt/base`. That is the default mapping for the salt:// URL.

Next, we will define a common user that will allow us to log in to any minion

as a non-root user.

Please use your userid as the common user. Define a *user.present* state that will automatically create a user on all minions controlled by your salt master.

Optional:

Finally, we will manage our *sources.list* file for the apt package. We want to run *apt-get update* everytime our *sources.list* file is changed for all minions. To do this, we will create a new script *update.sh* which will run *apt-get update*.

Use the *stateful* option to the *cmd* module and put the following lines into the *update.sh* file.

```
echo "" ## This echos an empty line and is required
```

```
echo "changed=yes comment='apt-get update executed successfully'"
```

```
echo "" ## This echos an empty line and is required
```

```
echo "changed=no comment='apt-get update failed to execute'"
```

This way, the output string will appear on the result output from the *state.apply* command.

