Second, Ansible and Terraform seem to be the clear leads in terms of popularity.

Another interesting trend to note is how these numbers have changed since the first edition of the book. Table 1-2 shows the percentage change in each of the numbers from the values I gathered in the first edition back in September 2016. (Note: Pulumi is not included in this table, as it wasn't part of this comparison in the first edition of the book.)

*Table 1-2. How the IaC communities have changed between September 2016*

| | Source | Cloud | Contributors | Stars |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chef | Open | All | +34% | +56% |
| Puppet | Open | All | +32% | +58% |
| Ansible | Open | All | +258% | +183% |
| CloudFormation | Closed | AWS | ? | ? |
| Heat | Open | All | +40% | +34% |
| Terraform | Open | All | +148% | +476% |

a In earlier editions of the book, I used CloudFormation templates in the awslabs GitHub rep AWS Quick Starts in this edition, so the numbers aren't directly comparable.

Again, the data here is not perfect, but it's good enough to spot a clear trend: Terraform and Ansible are experiencing explosive growth. The increase in the number of contributors, stars, open source libraries, and Stack Overflow posts is through the roof. Both of these tools have large, active communities today, and judging by these trends, it's likely that they will become even larger in the future.

## Mature Versus Cutting Edge

Another key factor to consider when picking any technology is maturity. Is this a technology that has been around for years, where all the usage