Red Hat Enterprise Linux Automation with Ansible

FEEDBACK TRANSLATIONS CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

Guided Exercise: Managing Ansible Configuration Files ☆

In this exercise, you will customize your Ansible environment by editing an Ansible configuration file.

Outcomes

You should be able to create a configuration file to configure your Ansible environment with persistent custom settings.

Log in to `workstation` as `student` using `student` as the password.

On `workstation`, run the `lab deploy-manage start` command. This script ensures that the managed host, `servera`, is reachable on the network.

```
[student@workstation ~]$ lab deploy-manage start
```

Procedure 2.2. Instructions

1. Create the `/home/student/deploy-manage` directory, which will contain the files for this exercise. Change to this newly created directory.

   ```
   [student@workstation ~]$ mkdir ~/deploy-manage
   [student@workstation ~]$ cd ~/deploy-manage
   [student@workstation deploy-manage]$
   ```

2. In your `/home/student/deploy-manage` directory, use a text editor to start editing a new file, `ansible.cfg`.

   Create a `[defaults]` section in that file. In that section, add a line which uses the `inventory` directive to specify the `./inventory` file as the default inventory.

   ```
   [defaults]
   inventory = ./inventory
   ```

   Save your work and exit the text editor.

3. In the `/home/student/deploy-manage` directory, use a text editor to start editing the new static inventory file, `inventory`.

   The static inventory should contain four host groups:

- `[myself]` should contain the host `localhost`.
- `[intranetweb]` should contain the host `servera.lab.example.com`.
- `[internetweb]` should contain the host `serverb.lab.example.com`.
- `[web]` should contain the `intranetweb` and `internetweb` host groups.

   3.1. In `/home/student/deploy-manage/inventory`, create the `myself` host group by adding the following lines:

```
[myself]
localhost
```

3.2. In `/home/student/deploy-manage/inventory`, create the `intranetweb` host group by adding the following lines:

```
[intranetweb]
servera.lab.example.com
```

3.3. In `/home/student/deploy-manage/inventory`, create the `internetweb` host group by adding the following lines:

```
[internetweb]
serverb.lab.example.com
```

3.4. In `/home/student/deploy-manage/inventory`, create the `web` host group by adding the following lines:

```
[web:children]
intranetweb
internetweb
```

3.5. Confirm that your final `inventory` file looks like the following:

```
[myself]
localhost

[intranetweb]
servera.lab.example.com

[internetweb]
serverb.lab.example.com

[web:children]
intranetweb
internetweb
```

Save your work and exit the text editor.

4. Use the `ansible` command with the `--list-hosts` option to test the configuration of your inventory file's host groups. This does not actually connect to those hosts.

```
[student@workstation deploy-manage]$ ansible myself --list-hosts
  hosts (1):
    localhost
[student@workstation deploy-manage]$ ansible intranetweb --list-hosts
  hosts (1):
    servera.lab.example.com
[student@workstation deploy-manage]$ ansible internetweb --list-hosts
  hosts (1):
    serverb.lab.example.com
[student@workstation deploy-manage]$ ansible web --list-hosts
  hosts (2):
    servera.lab.example.com
    serverb.lab.example.com
[student@workstation deploy-manage]$ ansible all --list-hosts
  hosts (3):
    localhost
    servera.lab.example.com
    serverb.lab.example.com
```

5. Open the `/home/student/deploy-manage/ansible.cfg` file in a text editor. Add a `[privilege_escalation]` section to configure Ansible to automatically use the `sudo` command to switch from `student` to `root` when running tasks on the managed hosts. Ansible should also be configured to prompt you for the password that `student` uses for the `sudo` command.

5.1. Create the `[privilege_escalation]` section in the `/home/student/deploy-manage/ansible.cfg` configuration file by adding the following entry:

```
[privilege_escalation]
```

5.2. Enable privilege escalation by setting the `become` directive to `true`.

```
become = true
```

5.3. Set the privilege escalation to use the `sudo` command by setting the `become_method` directive to `sudo`.

```
become_method = sudo
```

5.4. Set the privilege escalation user by setting the `become_user` directive to `root`.

```
become_user = root
```

5.5. Enable prompting for the privilege escalation password by setting the `become_ask_pass` directive to `true`.

```
become_ask_pass = true
```

5.6. Confirm that the complete `ansible.cfg` file looks like the following:

```
[defaults]
inventory = ./inventory

[privilege_escalation]
become = true
become_method = sudo
become_user = root
become_ask_pass = true
```

Save your work and exit the text editor.

6. Run the `ansible --list-hosts` command again to verify that you are now prompted for the `sudo` password.

When prompted for the `sudo` password, enter `student`, even though it is not used for this dry run.

```
[student@workstation deploy-manage]$ ansible intranetweb --list-hosts
BECOME password: student
  hosts (1):
    servera.lab.example.com
```

Finish

On `workstation`, run the `lab deploy-manage finish` script to clean up this exercise.

```
[student@workstation ~]$ lab deploy-manage finish
```

This concludes the guided exercise.

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