

# Welcome



ANSIBLE

Ansible London Meetup  
Feb 27<sup>th</sup> 2025

# Agenda

18:30 – Introduction and welcome

Why not grab a drink and have a chat

18:40 – The Tao of Ansible

Mastering Automation with Simplicity and Grace

Presenter: John Stilia

19:15 – Pizza and refreshments

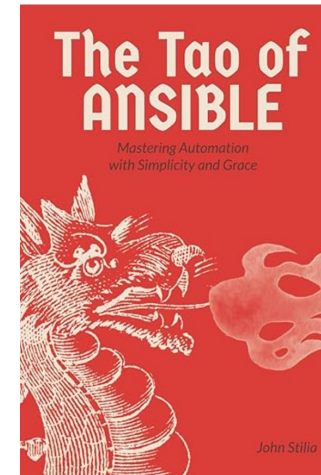
food and another drink?

19:45 – Hints and tips

Open Forum Q & A

Open to anyone to ask or answer

Phones to silent please





# Have a great talk or story about ansible?

Come have share it at an Ansible meetup

Submit your idea.

<https://github.com/ansible-community/ansible-london-meetup>

London meetup and past presentations

# Tips and Tricks

Discussions and Interactive



# About

## Mark Bolwell

25+ years experience as a Nix admin

Principal Engineer on open-source project Ansible-lockdown.

Passionate about Automation and Standards – generally making life easier

Founder of [Krameff](#) Solutions Limited - UK Consulting Company

- Providing Automation adoption and training services
- Working in partnership with Mind Point Group - Cyber security specialists

## Achievements

- Writing with Ansible since 2014
- Responsible for its adoption worldwide in global MSP
- Presented at Ansible-fest San Francisco, Austin and London
- Assists in running Ansible London Meetup



# Hints and tips

- There is more than one way to do things a lot of time it not technical it approach.
- Keep it simple
  - Easier to maintain
  - Easier to fault find
  - Easier adoption
- Test
  - Ensure your system works as expected
  - Capture backup/snapshot
  - Know your current state
  - Know your expected state
  - Test driven development (may work it multiple cases)
- Layout
  - Consistentcy
  - Ansible-lint
    - Fqcn (fully qualified collection names)
    - Good practices
  - Yamllint
  - Pre-commit



# Hints and tips

- Debug and pause
  - -vvv
  - Debug module is your friend
  - Pause module – great on larger task lists to stop at a certain point
    - TASK RHEL9-CIS : pause]  
\*\*\*\*\*
    - [RHEL9-CIS : pause]
    - Press enter to continue, Ctrl+C to interrupt:
    - ok: [rocky9\_efi]
- Missing file
  - Sometimes a file has been rotated or not yet created
  - Use register
    - ansible.builtin.file:
      - path: “{{ item }}”
      - owner: root
      - group: root
      - mode: 'u-x,go-wx'
      - failed\_when: discovered\_file\_exists.state not in '[ file, absent ]'
      - register: discovered\_file\_exists
    - loop:
      - - /etc/security/opasswd
      - - /etc/security/opasswd.old



# Your Turn

- There are many ways to do things
  - Often different perspectives can help you see more options
  - Share and discuss
- Feel free to share your hints and tips
  - Will add updated slides with feedback
- Anything you are stuck on that maybe the room can help?
- Your Story?





# Resources

- <https://forum.ansible.com>
  - Centralised place for updates and community support and all things ansible
- <https://github.com/ansible-community>
  - All things ansible community
- <https://ansible.readthedocs.io/projects/lint/>
  - ansible lint documentation
- <https://github.com/ansible-community/ansible-london-meetup>
  - London meetup and past presentations
- <https://github.com/ansible-community/awesome-ansible>
  - Collection of popular tools, roles and tutorials
- <https://galaxy.ansible.com/ui/>
  - Managed collections/roles available via ansible-galaxy commands



# Resources (feedback)

- <https://pre-commit.com>
  - Great way to carry out a number of tests prior to any commits
- [https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/playbook\\_guide/playbooks\\_debugger.html](https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/playbook_guide/playbooks_debugger.html)
  - Ansible debug different way to approach it
- [Ansible Variable precedence](#)
  - How variable can be overridden and precedence
- <https://github.com/ansible/workshops>
  - Great for demonstrating or learning capabilities
- <https://redhat-cop.github.io/automation-good-practices/>
  - Redhat communities of practice
- <https://www.redhat.com/en/interactive-labs/ansible>
  - Redhat online labs



# Thank you



- Venue and Refreshments

Presenters: John Stillia

All of you for attending



# Those who asked about lockdown

**GitHub** [uk-bolly](#)



[Mark-Bolwell](#)

- Products
  - <https://github.com/ansible-lockdown>
  - <https://goss.rocks/>
- Support
  - Community – Discord –
  - <https://www.lockdownenterprise.com/discord> – invite link
  - <https://lockdownenterprise.com> – Ask me for more
- Videos
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sblfaNsoszM>
- Vendors
  - <https://krameff.co.uk>
    - [info@krameff.com](mailto:info@krameff.com)
  - <https://mindpointgroup.com>

