



# **Red Hat** Ansible Automation Platform

## Ansible Linux Automation Workshop

Introduction to Ansible for Red Hat Enterprise Linux Automation  
for System Administrators and Operators



**Red Hat**

# What you will learn

- Overview of public cloud provisioning
- Converting shell commands into Ansible commands
- Retrieving information from hosts
- Deploying applications at scale
- Self-service IT via surveys
- Overview of System Roles for Red Hat Enterprise Linux
- Overview of Red Hat Insights integration

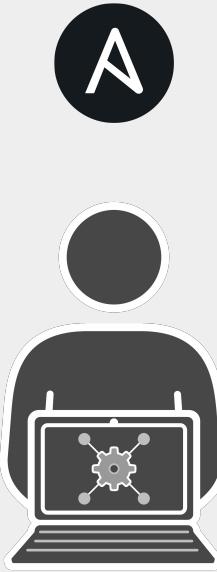


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# Introduction

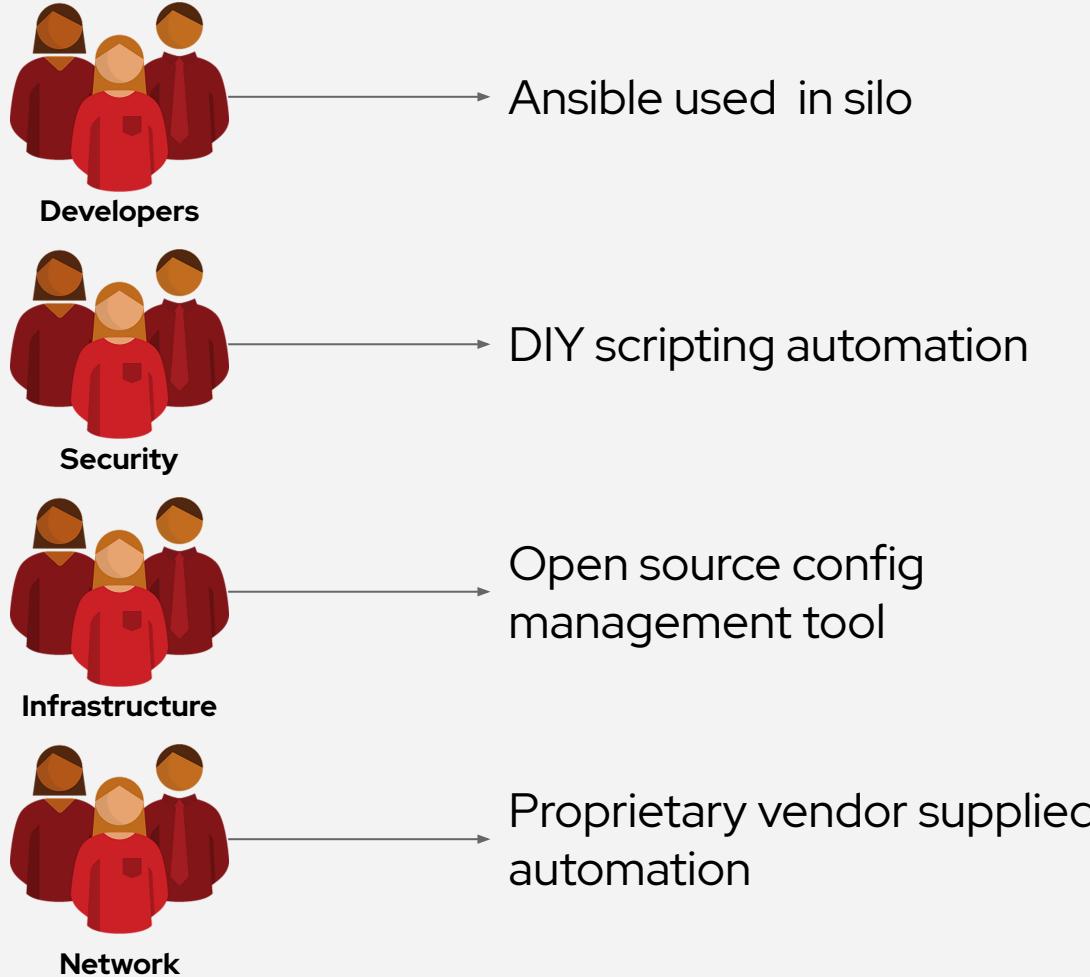
Topics Covered:

- What is the Ansible Automation Platform?
- What can it do?



Automation happens when one person meets a  
problem they never want to solve again

# Ad-hoc Automation is happening in silos



Is organic  
automation enough?

# Teams are automating...



Lines Of Business



Network



Security



Operations



Developers



Infrastructure

# Why Ansible?



## Simple

Human readable automation

No special coding skills needed

Tasks executed in order

Usable by every team

**Get productive quickly**



## Powerful

App deployment

Configuration management

Workflow orchestration

Network automation

**Orchestrate the app lifecycle**



## Agentless

Agentless architecture

Uses OpenSSH & WinRM

No agents to exploit or update

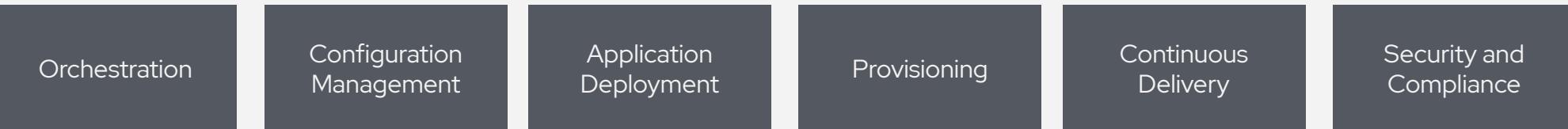
Get started immediately

**More efficient & more secure**

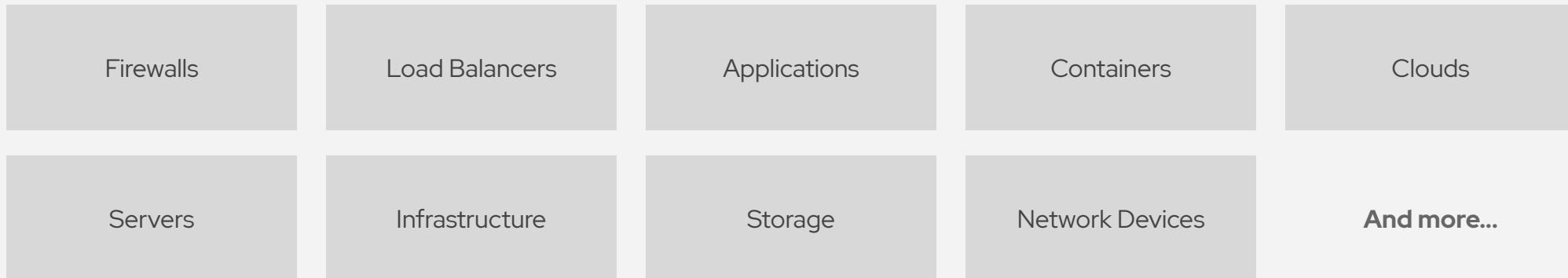
# What can I do using Ansible?

Automate the deployment and management of your entire IT footprint.

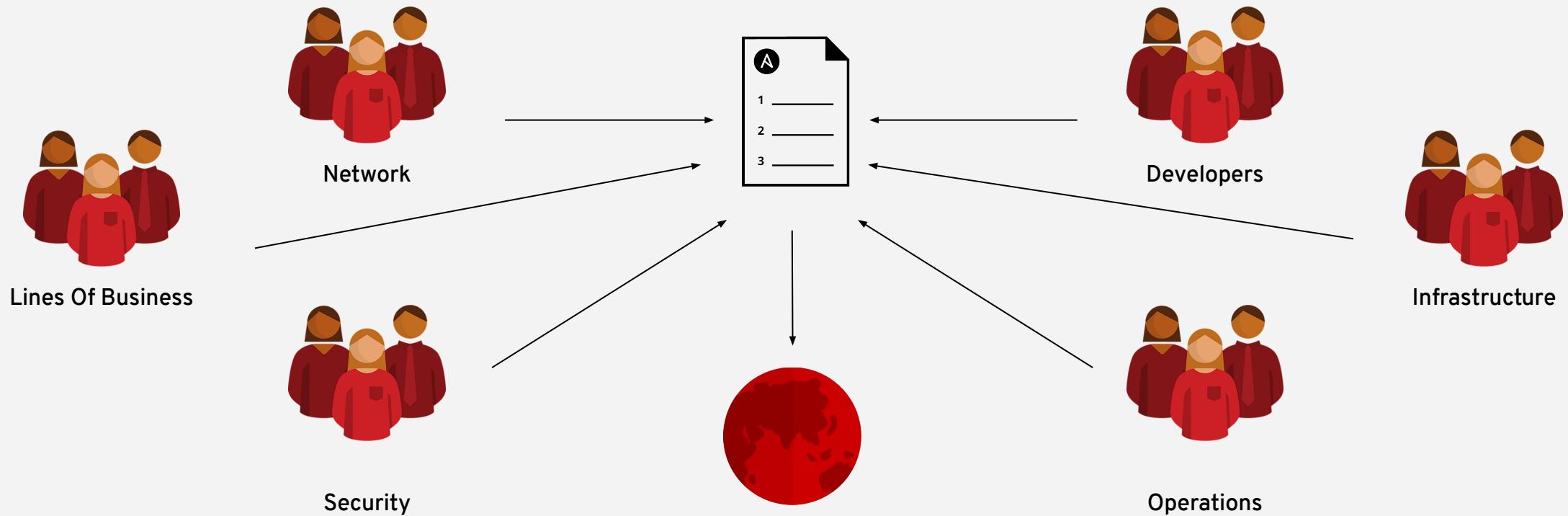
**Do this...**



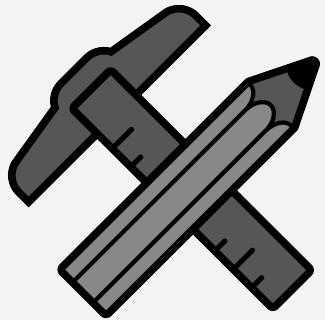
**On these...**



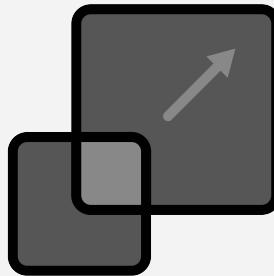
# When automation crosses teams, you need an automation platform



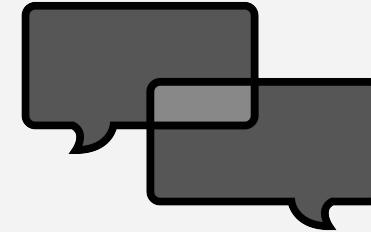
# A platform can help you:



Create

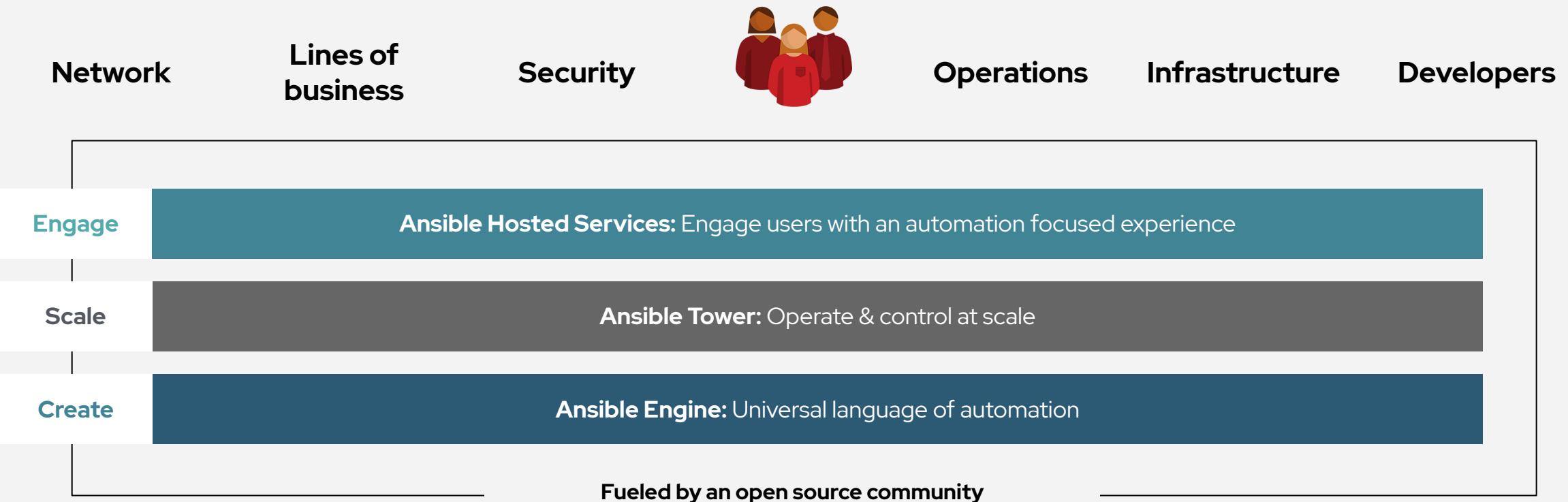


Scale



Engage

# Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform



# Ansible automates technologies you use

Time to automate is measured in minutes

| Cloud             | Virt & Container | Windows  | Network    | Security   | Monitoring   |
|-------------------|------------------|----------|------------|------------|--------------|
| AWS               | Docker           | ACLs     | A10        | Checkpoint | Dynatrace    |
| Azure             | VMware           | Files    | Arista     | Cisco      | Datadog      |
| Digital Ocean     | RHV              | Packages | Aruba      | CyberArk   | LogicMonitor |
| Google            | OpenStack        | IIS      | Cumulus    | F5         | New Relic    |
| OpenStack         | OpenShift        | Regedits | Bigswitch  | Fortinet   | Sensu        |
| Rackspace         | +more            | Shares   | Cisco      | Juniper    | +more        |
| +more             |                  | Services | Dell       | IBM        |              |
| Operating Systems | Storage          | Configs  | Extreme    | Palo Alto  | Devops       |
| RHEL              | Netapp           | Users    | F5         | Snort      | Jira         |
| Linux             | Red Hat Storage  | Domains  | Lenovo     | +more      | GitHub       |
| Windows           | Infinidat        | +more    | MikroTik   |            | Vagrant      |
| +more             | +more            |          | Juniper    |            | Jenkins      |
|                   |                  |          | OpenSwitch |            | Slack        |
|                   |                  |          | +more      |            | +more        |

# Red Hat Ansible Tower

by the numbers:

**94%**

Reduction in recovery time following  
a security incident

**84%**

Savings by deploying workloads  
to generic systems appliances  
using Ansible Tower

**67%**

Reduction in man hours required  
for customer deliveries

Financial summary:

**146%**

**ROI on Ansible Tower**

**<3 MONTHS**

**Payback on Ansible Tower**

SOURCE: "The Total Economic Impact™ Of Red Hat Ansible Tower, a June 2018 commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting on behalf of Red Hat."  
[redhat.com/en/engage/total-economic-impact-ansible-tower-20180710](http://redhat.com/en/engage/total-economic-impact-ansible-tower-20180710)



# Cloud

Topics Covered:

- Understanding the Ansible Infrastructure
- Check the prerequisites



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# The lab environment today

- **Drink our own champagne.**

Provisioned by, configured by, and managed by Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform.

<https://github.com/ansible/workshops>

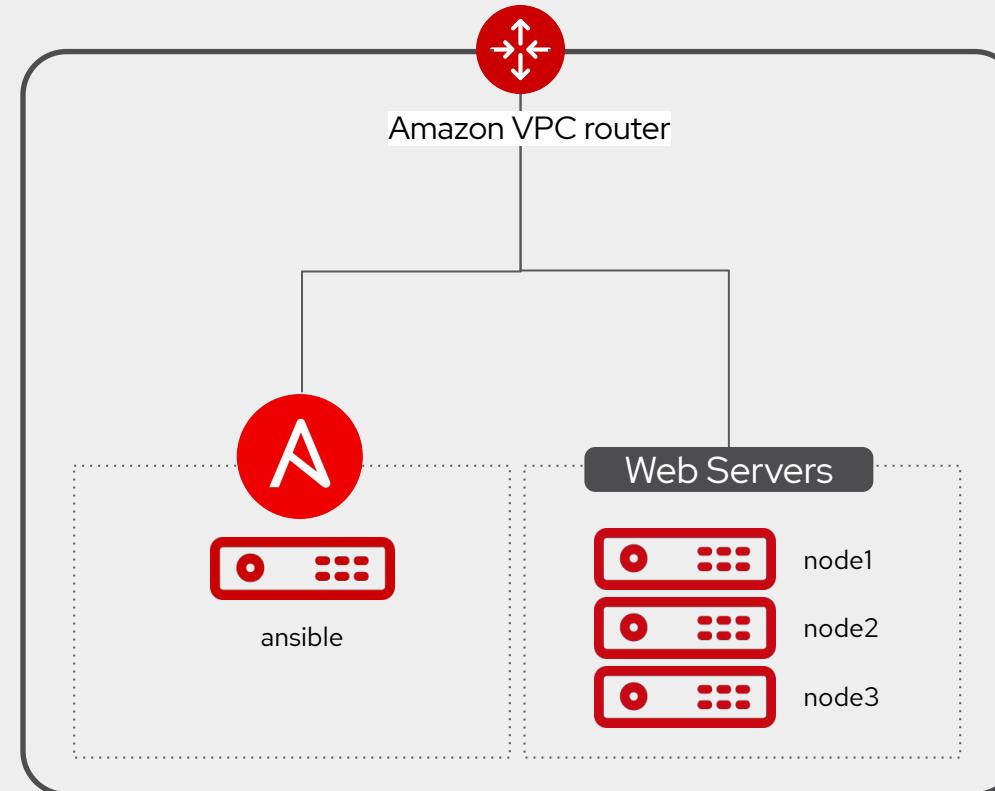
- **Learn with the real thing**

Every student will have their own fully licensed Red Hat Ansible Tower control node. No emulators or simulators here.

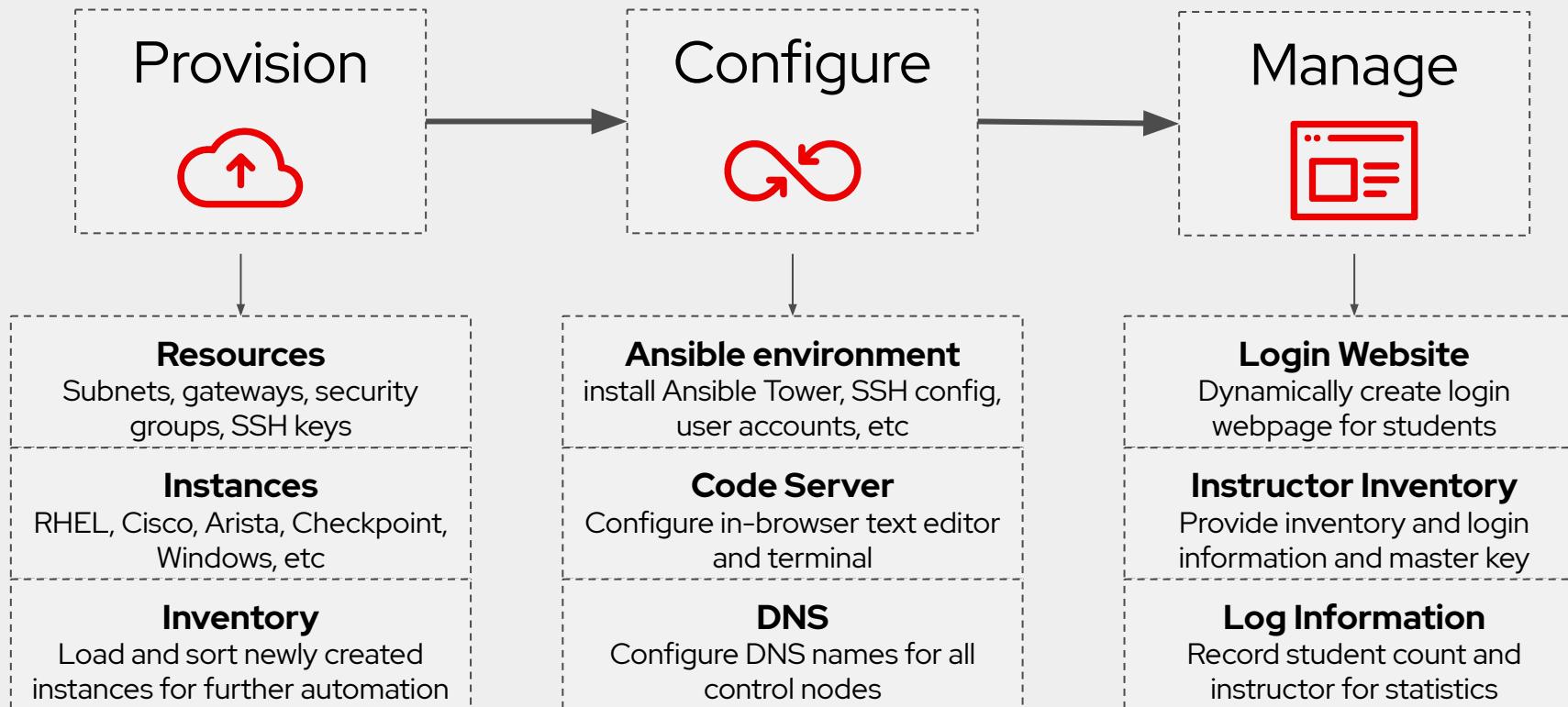
- **Red Hat Enterprise Linux**

All four nodes are enterprise Linux, showcasing real life use-cases to help spark ideas for what you can automate today.

Workbench Topology



# How does it work?



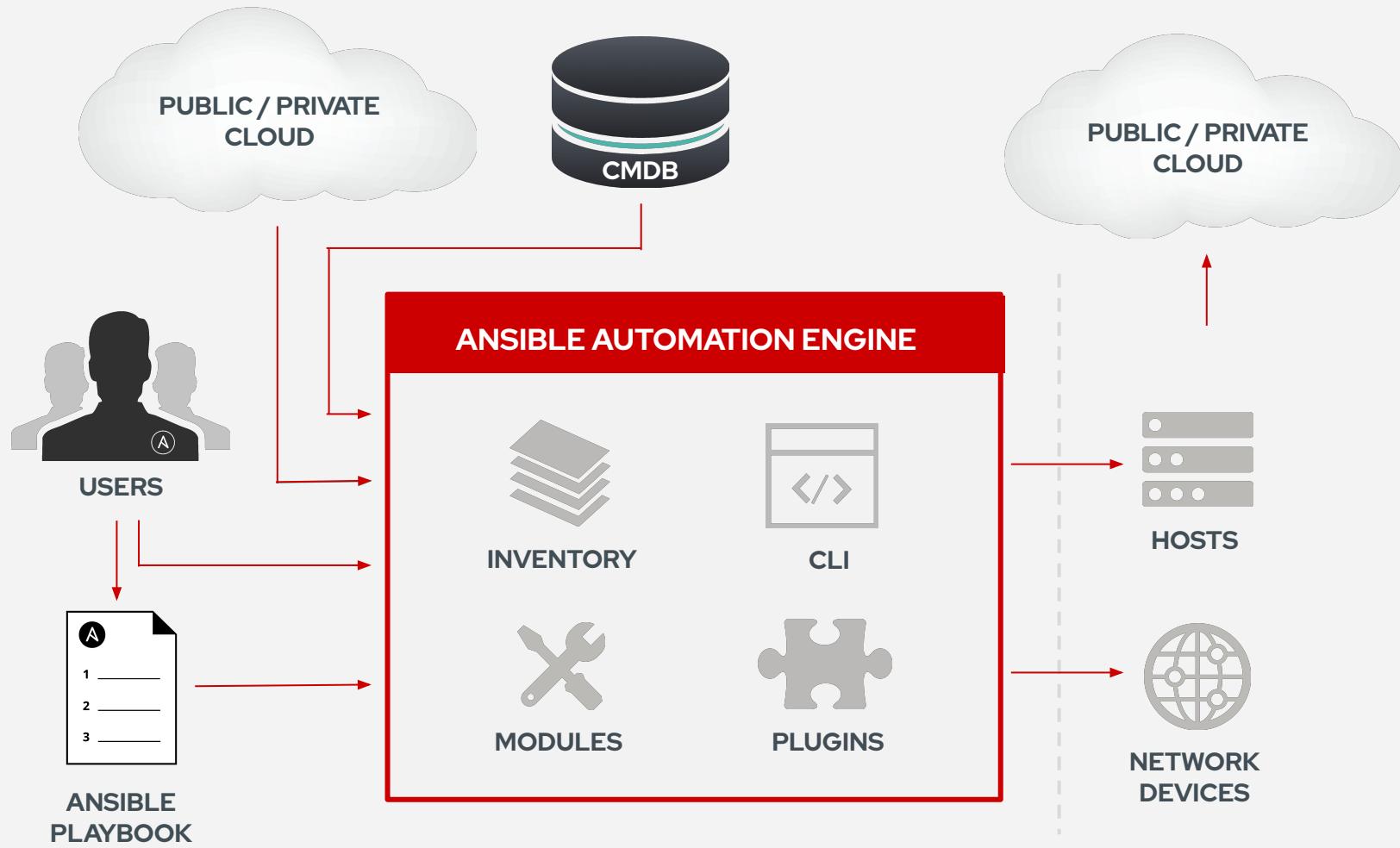


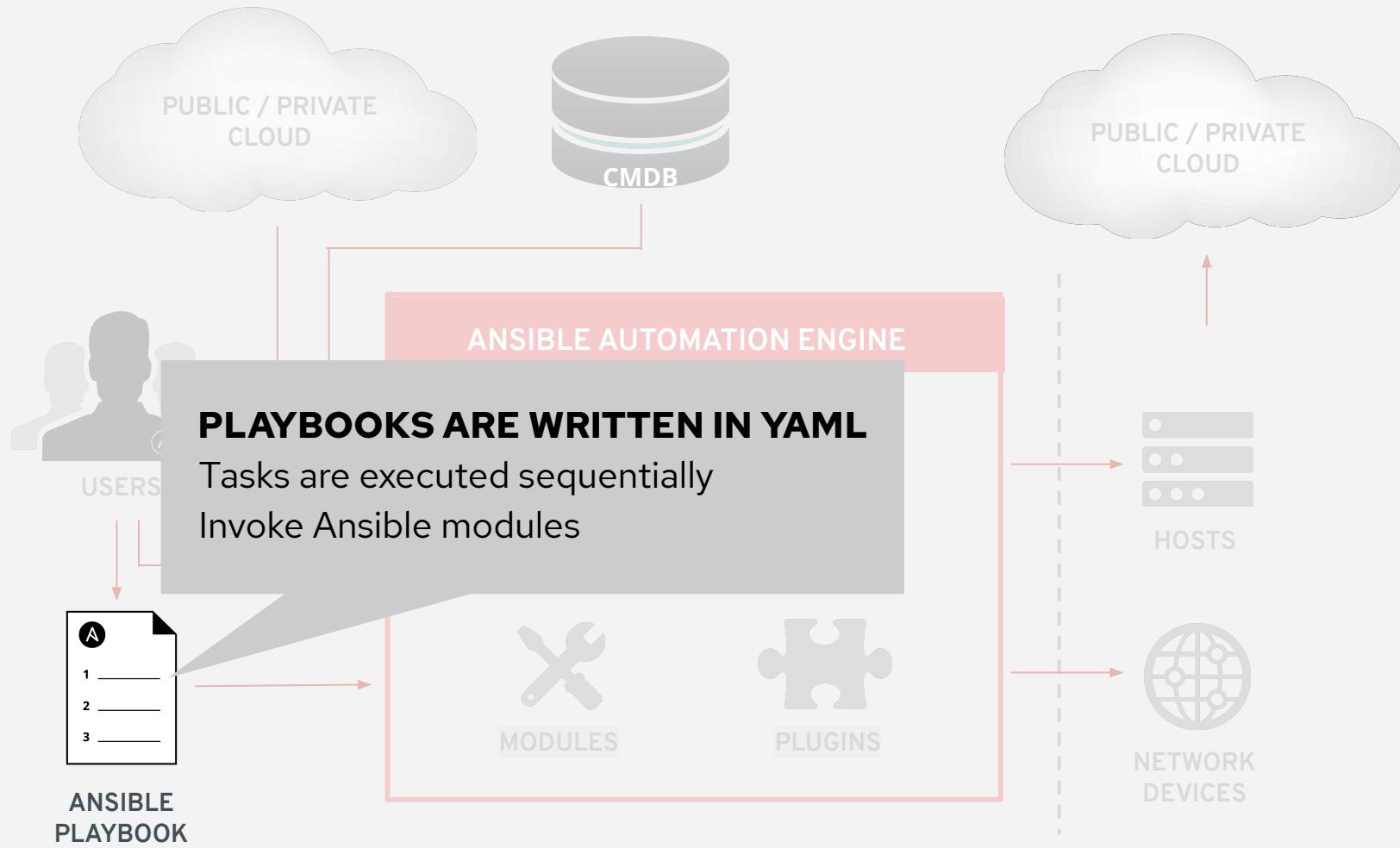
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# Exercise 1

Topics Covered:

- Understanding the Ansible Infrastructure
- Check the prerequisites



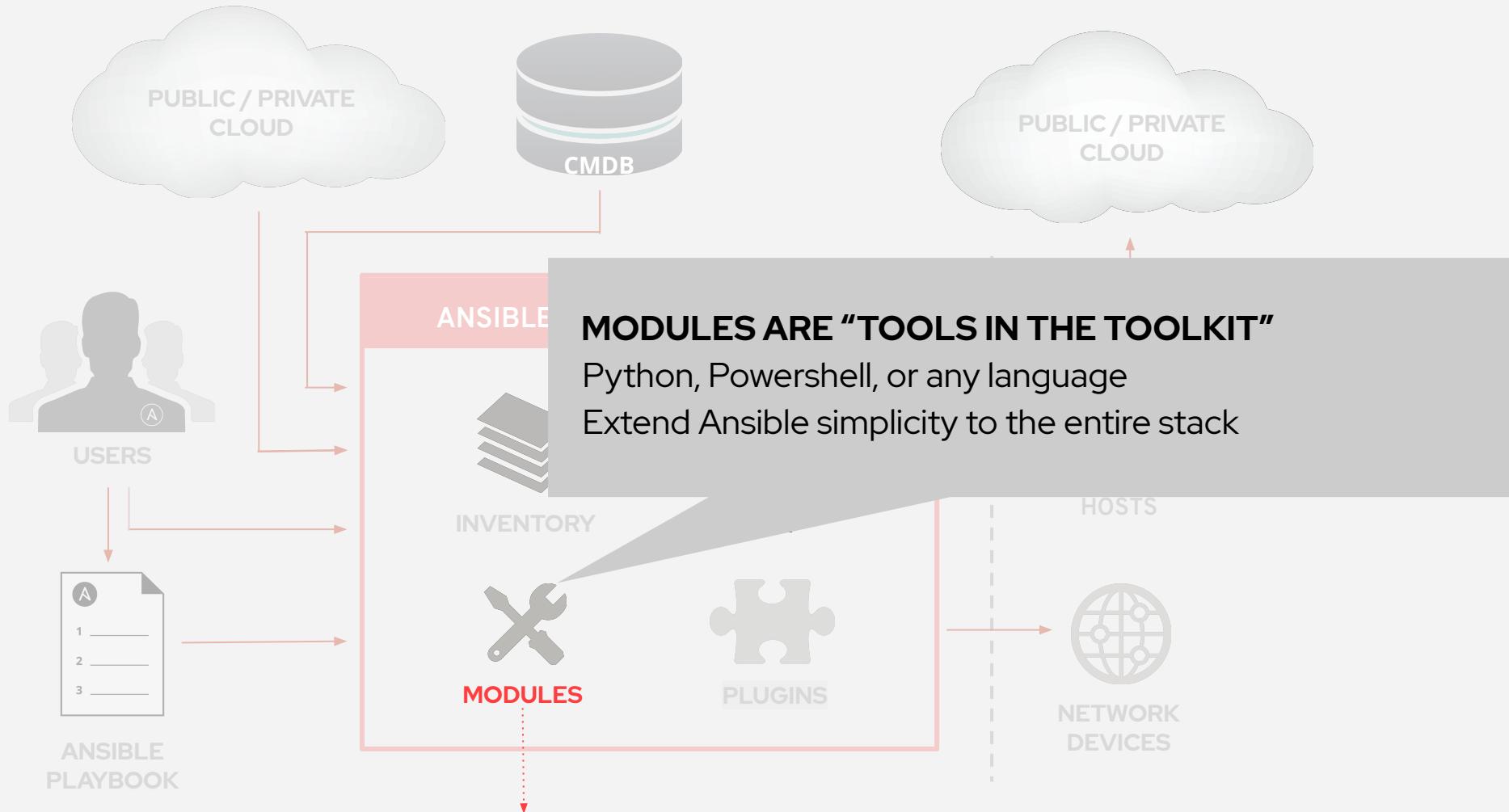


```
---
```

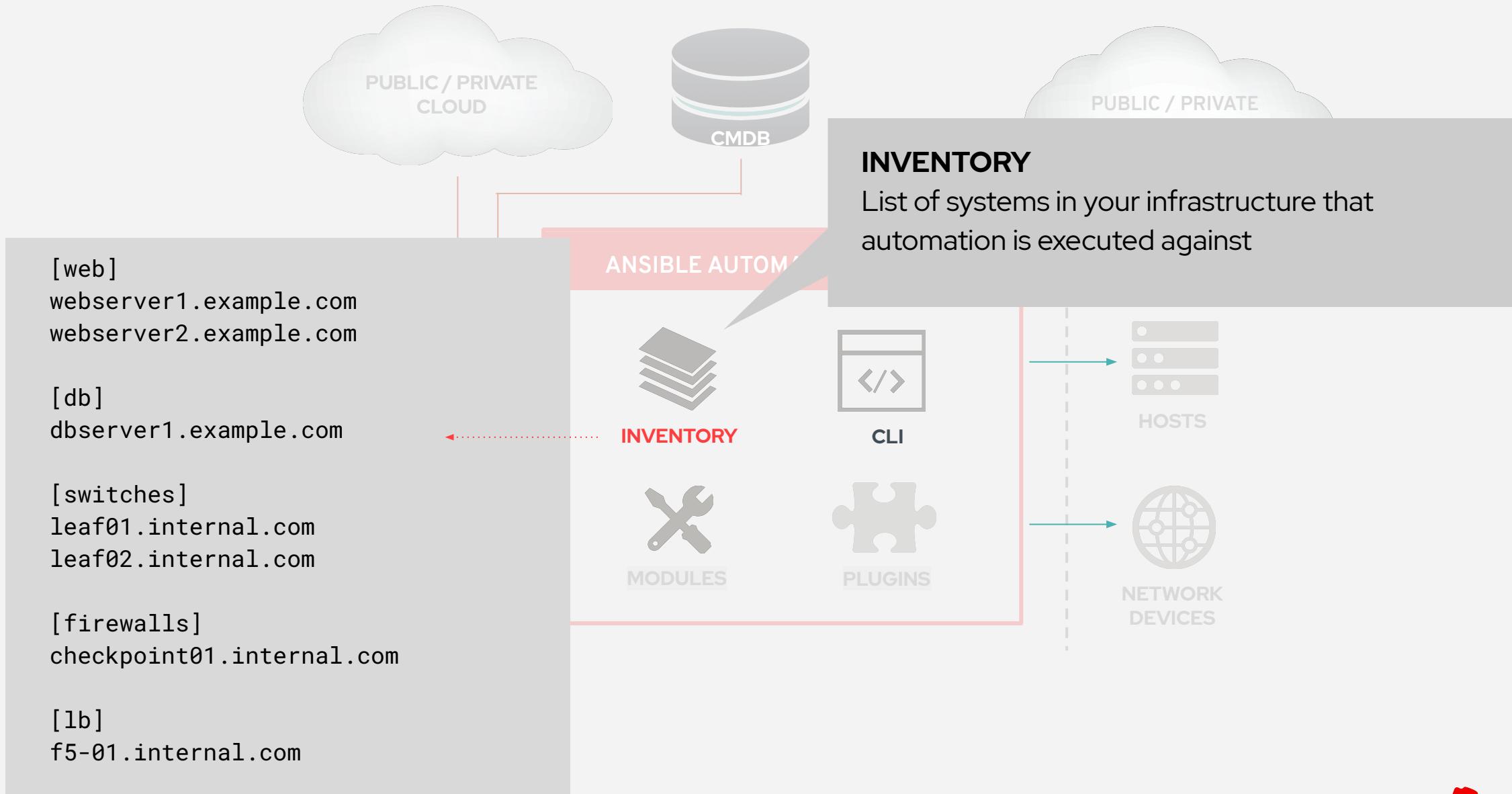
- **name: install and start apache**  
**hosts:** web  
**become:** yes

**tasks:**

- **name: httpd package is present**  
**yum:**  
    **name:** httpd  
    **state:** latest
- **name: latest index.html file is present**  
**template:**  
    **src:** files/index.html  
    **dest:** /var/www/html/
- **name: httpd is started**  
**service:**  
    **name:** httpd  
    **state:** started



```
- name: latest index.html file is present
  template:
    src: files/index.html
    dest: /var/www/html/
```



# LINUX AUTOMATION

**150+**  
Linux Modules

**AUTOMATE EVERYTHING  
LINUX**

**Red Hat Enterprise Linux, BSD,  
Debian, Ubuntu and many more!**

**ONLY REQUIREMENTS:**  
**Python 2 (2.6 or later)**  
**or Python 3 (3.5 or later)**

[ansible.com/get-started](http://ansible.com/get-started)





# Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

## Lab Time

Complete exercise **1-setup** now in your lab environment



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# Exercise 2

## Topics Covered:

- Ansible inventories
- Main Ansible config file
- Modules and ad-hoc commands
- Example: Bash vs. Ansible

# Inventory

- Ansible works against multiple systems in an **inventory**
- Inventory is usually file based
- Can have multiple groups
- Can have variables for each group or even host

# Understanding Inventory - Basic

```
node1  
node2  
node3  
ansible  
10.20.30.40
```

# Understanding Inventory - Basic

## [web]

```
node1 ansible_host=3.22.77.141
node2 ansible_host=3.15.193.71
node3 ansible_host=3.15.1.72
```

## [control]

```
ansible ansible_host=18.217.162.148
```

# Understanding Inventory - Variables

## [all:vars]

```
ansible user=student1  
ansible ssh pass=ansible1234  
ansible_port=22
```

## [web]

```
node1 ansible host=3.22.77.141  
node2 ansible host=3.15.193.71  
node3 ansible_host=3.15.1.72
```

## [control]

```
ansible ansible_host=18.217.162.148
```

# First Ad-Hoc Command: ping

- Single Ansible command to perform a task quickly directly on command line
- Most basic operation that can be performed
- Here: an example Ansible ping - not to be confused with ICMP

```
$ ansible all -m ping
```

# Ad-Hoc Commands    ping

```
# Check connections (submarine ping, not ICMP)
[user@ansible] $ ansible all -m ping
```

```
node1 | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python":
"/usr/bin/python"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
```

# Bash vs. Ansible

```
echo Running mssql-conf setup...
sudo
MSSQL_SA_PASSWORD=$MSSQL_SA_PASSWORD \
MSSQL_PID=$MSSQL_PID \
/opt/mssql/bin/mssql-conf -n setup accept-eula

echo 'export PATH="$PATH:/opt/mssql-tools/bin"' >>
~/.bash_profile
echo 'export PATH="$PATH:/opt/mssql-tools/bin"' >>
~/.bashrc
source ~/.bashrc
```

```
- name: Run mssql-conf setup
  command: /opt/mssql/bin/mssql-conf -n setup
  accept-eula
  environment:
    - MSSQL_SA_PASSWORD: "{{ MSSQL_SA_PASSWORD }}"
    - MSSQL_PID: "{{ MSSQL_PID }}"
  when: install is changed

- name: Add mssql-tools to $PATH
  lineinfile:
    path: "{{ item }}"
    line: export PATH="$PATH:/opt/mssql-tools/bin"
  loop:
    - ~/.bash_profile
    - ~/.bashrc
```



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### Lab Time

Complete exercise **2-adhoc** now in your lab environment



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# Exercise 3

Topics Covered:

- Playbooks basics
- Running a playbook

# An Ansible Playbook

A play

```
---
- name: install and start apache
  hosts: web
  become: yes

  tasks:
    - name: httpd package is present
      yum:
        name: httpd
        state: latest

    - name: latest index.html file is present
      template:
        src: files/index.html
        dest: /var/www/html/

    - name: httpd is started
      service:
        name: httpd
        state: started
```

# An Ansible Playbook

A task

```
---
- name: install and start apache
  hosts: web
  become: yes

  tasks:
    - name: httpd package is present
      yum:
        name: httpd
        state: latest

    - name: latest index.html file is present
      template:
        src: files/index.html
        dest: /var/www/html/

    - name: httpd is started
      service:
        name: httpd
        state: started
```

# An Ansible Playbook

module



```
---
- name: install and start apache
  hosts: web
  become: yes

  tasks:
    - name: httpd package is present
      yum:
        name: httpd
        state: latest

    - name: latest index.html file is present
      template:
        src: files/index.html
        dest: /var/www/html/

    - name: httpd is started
      service:
        name: httpd
        state: started
```

# Running an Ansible Playbook:

The most important colors of Ansible

A task executed as expected, no change was made.

A task executed as expected, making a change

A task failed to execute successfully

# Running an Ansible Playbook

```
[user@ansible] $ ansible-playbook apache.yml

PLAY [webservers] ****
TASK [Gathering Facts] ****
ok: [web2]
ok: [web1]
ok: [web3]

TASK [Ensure httpd package is present] ****
changed: [web2]
changed: [web1]
changed: [web3]

TASK [Ensure latest index.html file is present] ****
changed: [web2]
changed: [web1]
changed: [web3]

TASK [Restart httpd] ****
changed: [web2]
changed: [web1]
changed: [web3]

PLAY RECAP ****
web2          : ok=1    changed=3  unreachable=0   failed=0
web1          : ok=1    changed=3  unreachable=0   failed=0
web3          : ok=1    changed=3  unreachable=0   failed=0
```



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## Ansible Automation Platform

### Lab Time

Complete exercise **3-playbooks** now in your lab environment



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# Exercise 4

Topics Covered:

- Working with variables
- What are facts?

# An Ansible Playbook Variable Example

```
---
- name: variable playbook test
  hosts: localhost

  vars:
    var_one: awesome
    var_two: ansible is
    var_three: "{{ var_two }} {{ var_one }}"

  tasks:
    - name: print out var_three
      debug:
        msg: "{{var_three}}"
```

# An Ansible Playbook Variable Example

```
---
- name: variable playbook test
  hosts: localhost

  vars:
    var_one: awesome
    var_two: ansible is
    var_three: "{{ var_two }} {{ var_one }}"

  tasks:
    - name: print out var_three
      debug:
        msg: "{{var_three}}"
```

ansible is awesome



# Facts

- Structured data in the form of Ansible variables
- Information is capture from the host
- Ad-hoc command **setup** will show facts

```
"ansible_facts": {  
    "ansible_default_ipv4": {  
        "address": "10.41.17.37",  
        "macaddress": "00:69:08:3b:a9:16",  
        "interface": "eth0",  
    ...  
}
```

# Ansible Variables and Facts

```
---
```

- name: Output facts within a playbook  
hosts: all

tasks:

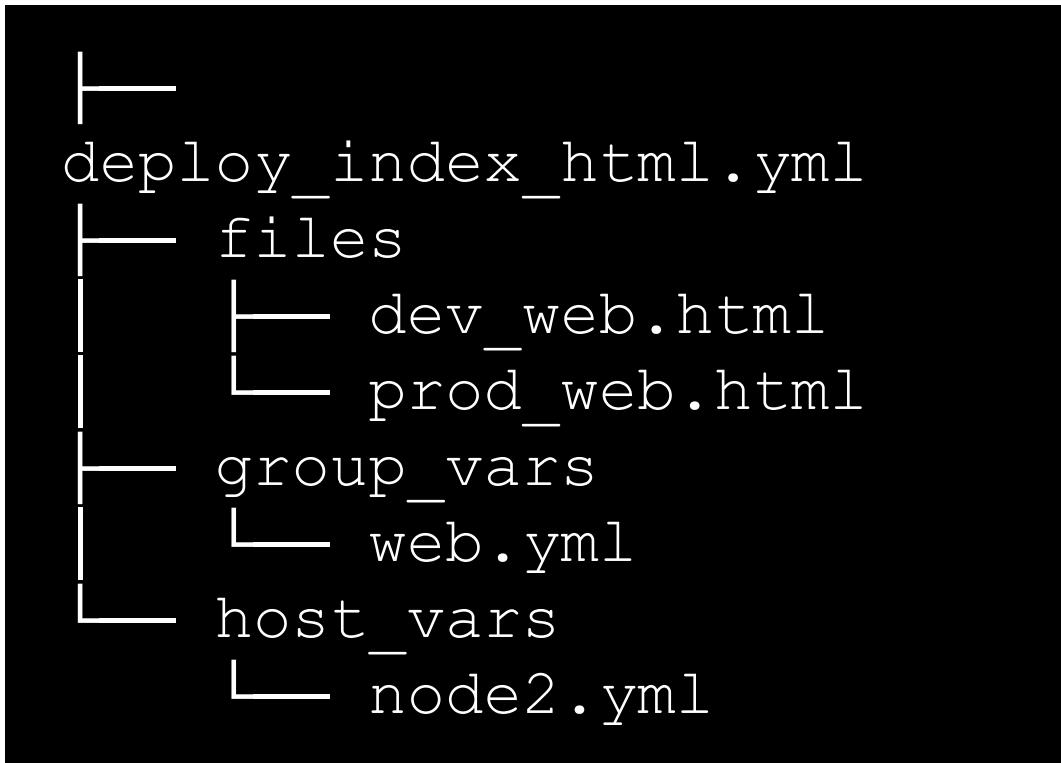
- name: Prints Ansible facts  
debug:  
msg: "The default IPv4 address of {{ ansible\_fqdn }}  
is {{ ansible\_default\_ipv4.address }}"

```
TASK [Prints Ansible facts] ****
ok: [node3] =>
    msg: The default IPv4 address of node3 is 172.16.63.104
ok: [node1] =>
    msg: The default IPv4 address of node1 is 172.16.178.80
ok: [node2] =>
    msg: The default IPv4 address of node2 is 172.16.166.120
ok: [ansible] =>
    msg: The default IPv4 address of student1.sean-may4.rhdemo.io is 172.16.86.242
```

# Ansible Inventory - Managing Variables In Files

```
$ tree ansible-files/
├── deploy_index_html.yml
├── files
│   ├── dev_web.html
│   └── prod_web.html
├── group_vars
│   └── web.yml
└── host_vars
    └── node2.yml
```

# Ansible Inventory - Managing Variables In Files



```
$ cat group_vars/web.yml
---
stage: dev
```

```
$ cat host_vars/node2.yml
---
stage: prod
```

```
- name: copy web.html
copy:
  src: "{{ stage }}_web.html"
  dest: /var/www/html/index.html
```



# Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

## Lab Time

Complete exercise **4-variables** now in your lab environment



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# Exercise 5

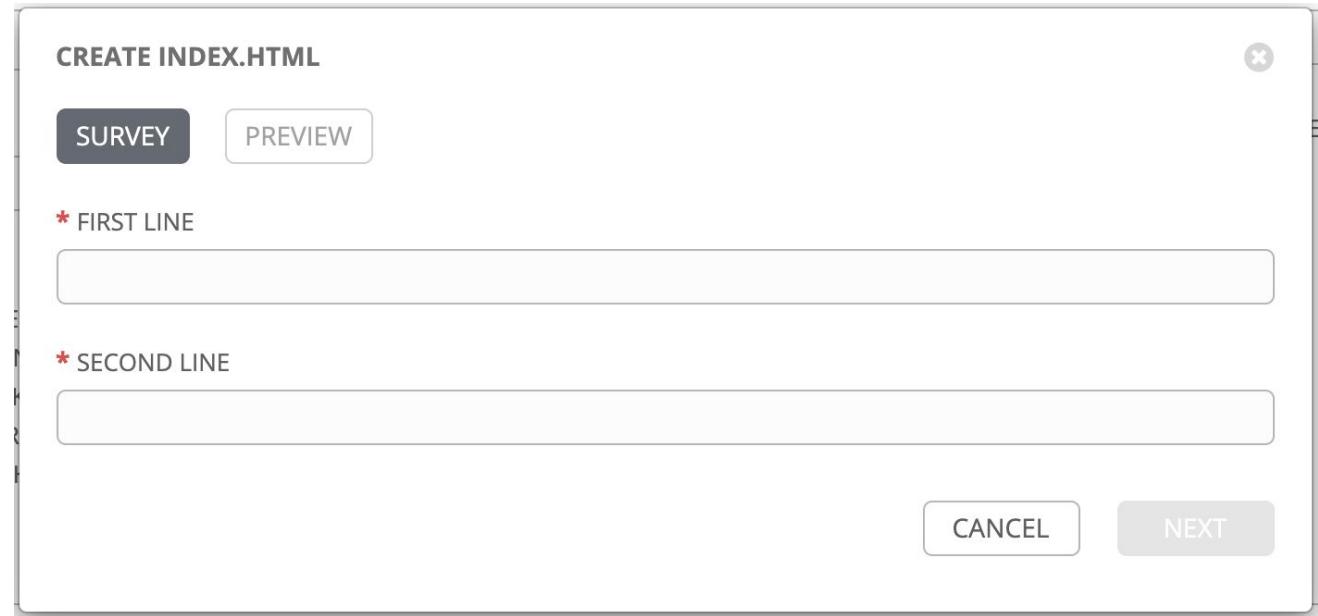
Topics Covered:

- Surveys

# Surveys

Tower surveys allow you to configure how a job runs via a series of questions, making it simple to customize your jobs in a user-friendly way.

An Ansible Tower survey is a simple question-and-answer form that allows users to customize their job runs. Combine that with Tower's role-based access control, and you can build simple, easy self-service for your users.



# Creating a Survey (1/2)

Once a Job Template is saved, the **Add Survey Button** will appear

ADD SURVEY

Click the button to open the Add Survey window.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower web interface. On the left is a sidebar with links to Views, Resources (Templates, Credentials, Projects, Inventories, Inventory Scripts), and ACCESS. The main area shows a 'TEMPLATES / Create index.html' page. At the top right are user info (admin), notifications (0), help, and power buttons. A modal window titled 'Create index.html' is open, containing tabs for DETAILS (selected), PERMISSIONS, NOTIFICATIONS, COMPLETED JOBS, SCHEDULES, and EDIT SURVEY (which has a red box around it). The form fields include NAME (Create index.html), DESCRIPTION, JOB TYPE (with a dropdown menu), INVENTORY (Workshop Inventory), PROJECT (Workshop Project), PLAYBOOK (rhel/apache/apache\_role\_inst...), CREDENTIALS (Workshop Credential), FORKS (0), LIMIT (web), VERBOSITY (0 (Normal)), JOB TAGS, and SKIP TAGS. Each field has a 'PROMPT ON LAUNCH' checkbox.

# Creating a Survey (2/2)

The Add Survey window allows the Job Template to prompt users for one or more questions. The answers provided become variables for use in the Ansible Playbook.

The screenshot shows the 'Create index.html | SURVEY' window in the Tower interface. On the left, the 'ADD SURVEY PROMPT' section contains fields for 'PROMPT', 'DESCRIPTION', 'ANSWER VARIABLE NAME', 'ANSWER TYPE', and a 'REQUIRED' checkbox. Below these are 'CLEAR' and '+ ADD' buttons. On the right, the 'PREVIEW' section shows two lines of survey input fields labeled 'FIRST LINE' and 'SECOND LINE', each with edit and delete icons. At the bottom are 'DELETE SURVEY', 'CANCEL', and 'SAVE' buttons. The top bar includes the Tower logo, user 'admin', notifications (0), and other navigation icons.

# Using a Survey

When launching a job, the user will now be prompted with the Survey. The user can be required to fill out the Survey before the Job Template will execute.

The screenshot shows a modal dialog box titled "CREATE INDEX.HTML". At the top left, there are four buttons: "SURVEY" (which is highlighted in dark grey), "PREVIEW" (in light grey), and two others that are partially visible. At the top right is a close button (an "X"). Below the buttons, there are two input fields. The first field is labeled "\* FIRST LINE" and the second is labeled "\* SECOND LINE", both preceded by red asterisks indicating they are required fields. Each field has a large, empty rectangular input area. At the bottom right of the dialog are two buttons: "CANCEL" and "NEXT".



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## Lab Time

Complete exercise **5-surveys** now in your lab environment



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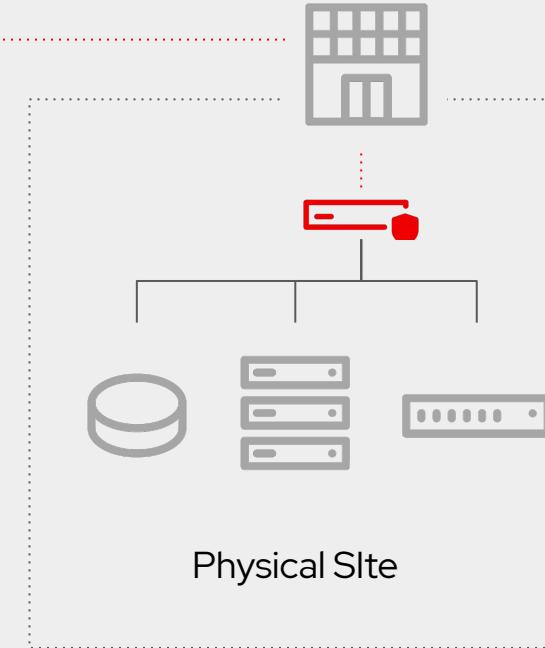
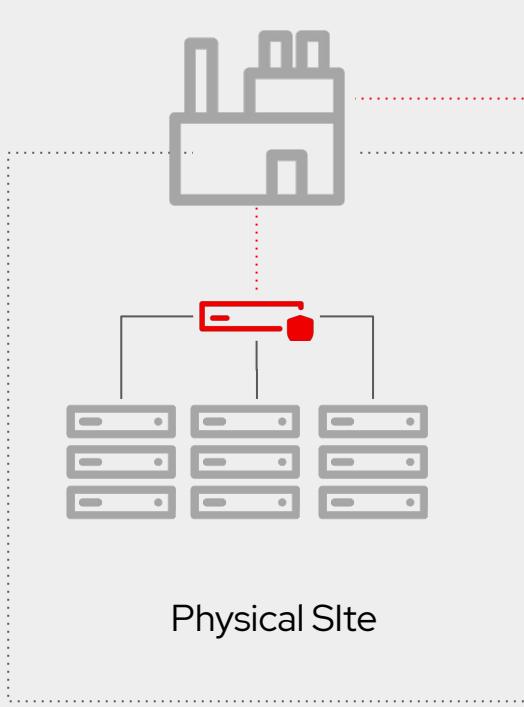
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# Exercise 6

Topics Covered:

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux System Roles

# Automation Hub and Ansible Galaxy



# Linux System Roles

- Consistent user interface to provide settings to a given subsystem that is abstract from any particular implementation

## Examples



Email



kdump



network



selinux



timesync



firewall

# An Ansible Playbook Variable Example

```
---
- name: example system roles playbook
  hosts: web

  tasks:

    - name: Configure Firewall
      include_role:
        name: linux-system-roles.firewall

    - name: Configure Timesync
      include_role:
        name: linux-system-roles.timesync
```



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## Ansible Automation Platform

### Lab Time

Complete exercise **6-system-roles** now in your lab environment



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# Exercise 7

Topics Covered:

- Red Hat Insights intro
- Insights integration

# Red Hat Insights

Included with your Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscription

## Assesses

customer's Red Hat environments

## Remediates

findings with prescriptive remediation steps or an Ansible playbook

## Insights

rule contributions directly from Red Hat subject matter experts

Identifying risks for Availability, performance, stability and security



Red Hat Insights

Remediations &gt; May2019\_Critical\_Fixes

Overview

Rules

Inventory

Remediations

Documentation

## May2019\_Critical\_Fixes

Download Playbook

Delete

## Systems reboot

6

No reboot

0

Reboot required



Auto reboot

## Playbook details

Created by: John Spinks

Created: a minute ago

Last modified by: John Spinks

## Insights plans with Ansible playbooks

Solve common issues through Ansible Automation

Pages &gt; &gt;&gt;

Actions ↑

Resolution

Reboot required

Systems

Type

Dnsmasq with listening processes vulnerable to remote code execution via crafted DNS requests (CVE-2017-14491)

Update dnsmasq package and restart related service(s)

6

Insights

Systems

ic3.example.com

ic4.example.com

ic6.example.com

ic7.example.com

# ANSIBLE & INSIGHTS

While Insights includes Ansible playbooks for risks, Insights alone can't perform remediation of the risks.

## Insights

- Insights provides Ansible Playbooks for resolving many common risks.
- Dynamically generates Ansible Playbooks for risk remediation
- Playbooks can be downloaded and run via `ansible-playbook` or Satellite

## Insights connected to Ansible Tower

- View identified risks in the Tower inventory
- Execute generated Ansible Playbook as a Tower job
- Use Tower for enterprise risk remediation

# Next Steps

## GET STARTED

[ansible.com/get-started](https://ansible.com/get-started)

[ansible.com/tower-trial](https://ansible.com/tower-trial)

---

## WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

[ansible.com/workshops](https://ansible.com/workshops)

[Red Hat Training](#)

## JOIN THE COMMUNITY

[ansible.com/community](https://ansible.com/community)

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[github.com/ansible](https://github.com/ansible)