

# What is Ansible Like?

❖ Opinionated

❖ Platform

❖ Ecosystem

❖ Managed Nodes

❖ Control Node

❖ Inventory

❖ Module

❖ Task

❖ Role

❖ Playbook

❖ Collection

## Directory Layout

The top level of the directory would contain files and directories like so:

```
production          # inventory file for production servers
staging             # inventory file for staging environment

group_vars/
  group1.yml         # here we assign variables to particular groups
  group2.yml
host_vars/
  hostname1.yml      # here we assign variables to particular systems
  hostname2.yml

library/             # if any custom modules, put them here (optional)
module_utils/        # if any custom module_utils to support modules, put them here (optional)
filter_plugins/      # if any custom filter plugins, put them here (optional)

site.yml            # master playbook
webservers.yml       # playbook for webserver tier
dbservers.yml        # playbook for dbserver tier

roles/
  common/            # this hierarchy represents a "role"
    tasks/           #
      main.yml        # <-- tasks file can include smaller files if warranted
    handlers/        #
      main.yml        # <-- handlers file
    templates/        # <-- files for use with the template resource
      ntp.conf.j2     # <----- templates end in .j2
    files/            #
      bar.txt          # <-- files for use with the copy resource
      foo.sh           # <-- script files for use with the script resource
    vars/             #
      main.yml         # <-- variables associated with this role
    defaults/         #
      main.yml         # <-- default lower priority variables for this role
    meta/             #
      main.yml         # <-- role dependencies
    library/          # roles can also include custom modules
    module_utils/      # roles can also include custom module_utils
    lookup_plugins/    # or other types of plugins, like lookup in this case

webtier/             # same kind of structure as "common" was above, done for the webtier role
monitoring/          # ""
fooapp/              # ""
```

# What is Like Ansible?

Tool	Approach	Language Support	Community Support	User Experience	UI/GUI	Modularity	Agent
Ansible	Declarative	YAML	Strong	Simple, intuitive	None	Highly modular	Agentless
Puppet	Declarative	Puppet DSL	Established	Robust, scalable	Puppet Enterprise	Modular	Agent-based
Chef	Procedural	Ruby	Active	Flexible, powerful	Chef Enterprise	Modular	Agent-based
SaltStack	Procedural	YAML, Python	Active	Precise execution	SaltStack Enterprise	Highly modular	Agent-based
Terraform	Declarative (IaC)	HashiCorp Configuration Language (HCL)	Active	Infrastructure provisioning	Terraform UI	Modular	Agentless