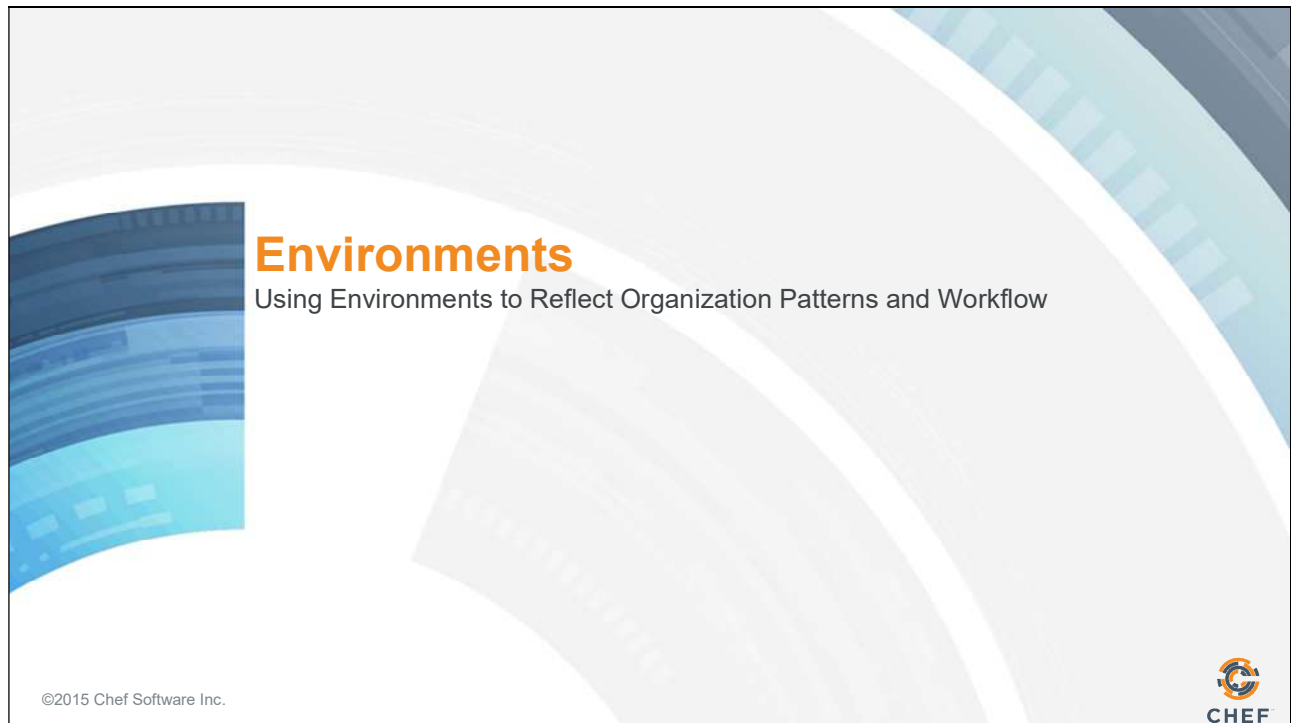


14: Environments



Slide 2

Objectives

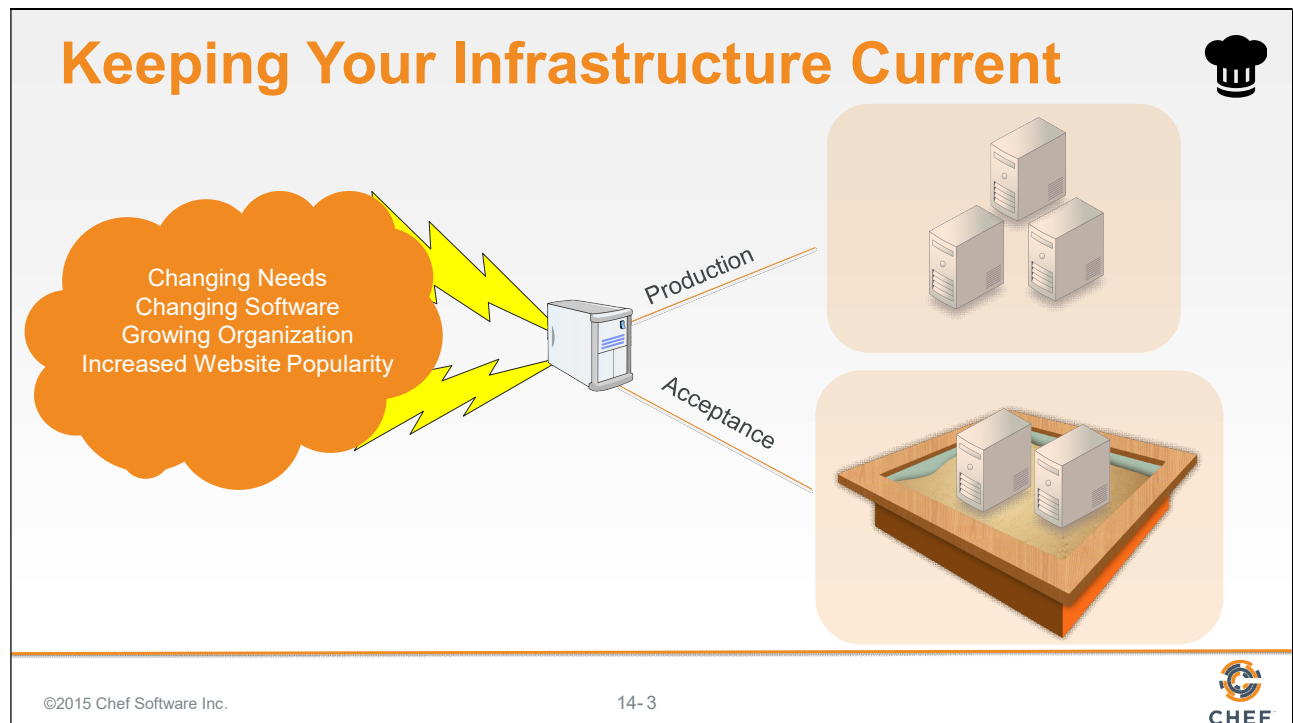


After completing this module, you should be able to

- Create an environment
- Deploy a node to an environment
- Update a search query to be more exact

In this section, you will learn how to create an environment, deploy a node to an environment, and update a search query to be more exact.

Slide 3



So, we have updated our load balancer's `myiis-lb` cookbook to dynamically search for and update nodes. Everything is as it should be.

But our system is like a living, breathing thing that must grow and be updated to fit our changing needs. We need to find a way to update and test new tools, features and settings without impacting our current production system.


Of course, we have local testing tools like Test Kitchen to help us verify that our individual cookbooks work before we upload them to the Chef Server. But, that is not always enough. We may want to build, test, and release new features to our cookbooks but we do not immediately want all of our nodes to immediately use them.

For example, what if we had a requirement to update our `iis-demo` cookbook with a new front page for our application? The release date of our new service with the sign up page does not go live for a week. So, we want to build, test, and upload that cookbook to the Chef Server without actually applying the cookbook until the release date. How would we accomplish that?

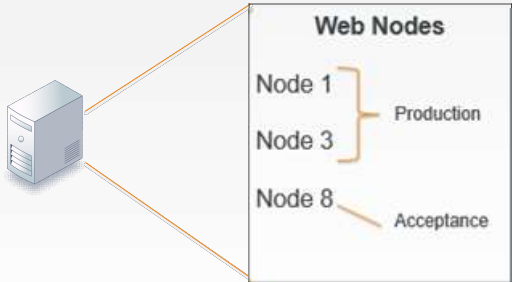
This is where environments are useful.

Slide 4

Environments



Environments can define different functions of nodes that live on the same system.



Web Nodes

- Node 1 } Production
- Node 3 } Production
- Node 8 } Acceptance

©2015 Chef Software Inc. 14-4 CHEF

You likely are familiar with the concept of environments. An environment can best be defined as a logical separation of nodes that most often describe the life-cycle of an application.

Each environment signifies different behaviors and policies to which a node adheres for a given application or platform. For example, environments can be separated into 'acceptance' and 'production'.


“Acceptance” would be where we may make allowances for constant change and updates and for applications to be deployed with each release.

“Production” might be where we lock down our infrastructure and policies. Production would be what the outside world sees, and would remain unaffected by changes and upgrades until you specifically release them.

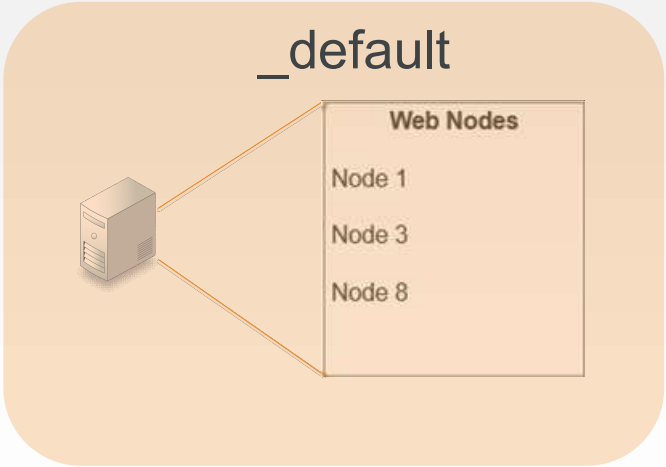
Chef also has a concept of an environment. A Chef environment allows us to define a list of policies that we will allow by defining a cookbook.

Slide 5

Environments




Every organization or infrastructure starts with the `_default` environment.



The diagram illustrates the `_default` environment. It features a server icon on the left connected by two lines to a box on the right. The box is titled `_default` and contains a section labeled **Web Nodes** with a list of nodes: `Node 1`, `Node 3`, and `Node 8`.

©2015 Chef Software Inc. 14-5




Chef also has a concept of an environment. Chef uses environments to map an organization's real-life workflow to what can be configured and managed using the Chef server.

Every organization begins with a single environment called the `_default` (underscore default) environment, which cannot be modified or deleted.

Therefore, you must create custom environments to define your organization's workflow.

Slide 6




GE: Production

Let's create a reliable environment for our nodes.

Objective:

- ☐ Deploy Our Site to Production

©2015 Chef Software Inc. 14- 6 

First, we need to create a Production environment. This is where we lock down our infrastructure and policies to a specific version of the myiis-lb cookbook.

Slide 7

GE: Using 'knife environment --help'



```
$ cd ~\chef-repo
$ knife environment --help
```

```
** ENVIRONMENT COMMANDS **
knife environment compare [ENVIRONMENT..] (options)
knife environment create ENVIRONMENT (options)
knife environment delete ENVIRONMENT (options)
knife environment edit ENVIRONMENT (options)
knife environment from file FILE [FILE..] (options)
knife environment list (options)
knife environment show ENVIRONMENT (options)
```

Because we still are communicating with the Chef server, let's ask Chef for help regarding available environment commands.

So change into chef-repo and then run 'knife environment --help'.

Slide 8

GE: View List of Defined Environments



```
$ knife environment list
```

```
_default
```

Remember, we use 'list' to view existing environments.

As previously stated, we see the `_default` environment has already been created.

Slide 9

GE: Viewing the _default Environment



```
$ knife environment show _default
```

```
chef_type:          environment
cookbook_versions:
default_attributes:
description:        The default Chef environment
json_class:         Chef::Environment
name:               _default
override_attributes:
```

Let's see how this environment looks.

GE: Searching All of Our Nodes



```
$ knife search node *:*
```

```
3 items found
```

```
Node Name:   node1
```

```
Environment: _default
```

```
FQDN:        ip-172-31-8-68.ec2.internal
```

```
IP:          54.175.46.24
```

```
Run List:    role[web]
```

```
Roles:       web
```

```
Recipes:     iis-demo, iis-demo::default, iis-demo::server
```

```
Platform:    centos 6.7
```

```
Tags:
```

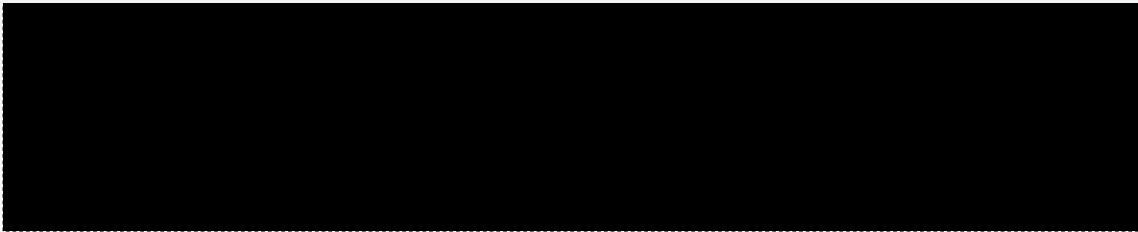
If we search our nodes, we see that all three nodes have been set to the `_default` environment. How do we change this?

Slide 11

GE: Create an environments Directory



```
$ mkdir environments
```



First, we need to make a new environments directory. (Be sure you are still in the chef-repo before you do this.)

GE: Create the production.rb

```
~\chef-repo\environments\production.rb

name 'production'
description 'Where we run production code'

cookbook 'iis-demo', '= 0.2.1'
cookbook 'myiis-lb', '= 1.0.0'
```

Then we need to create a production.rb file. Like in the roles.rb files, we must provide a name and description.

Additionally, we need to define cookbook restrictions to lock down specific versions of both the iis-demo and myiis-lb cookbooks. By adding this information to production.rb, we are telling our nodes to use these specific versions of these specific cookbooks.

Obviously, what this means is that as we work on newer versions of these cookbooks, we won't break anything in the production environment.

Okay, so now that we have captured our 'good' environment in this file, let's save it and upload it.

Slide 13

GE: Upload the production.rb File



```
$ knife environment from file production.rb
```

```
Updated Environment production
```

Using the knife environment command, let's upload the production.rb file. This should be familiar because it is just like the command we used to upload roles.

Slide 14

GE: View the List of Environments



```
$ knife environment list
```

```
_default  
production
```

Okay, let's use our list command to make sure the file uploaded correctly.

GE: View the Production Environment



```
$ knife environment show production
```

```
chef_type:          environment
cookbook_versions:
  iis-demo:         = 0.2.1
  myiis-lb:         = 1.0.0
default_attributes:
description:        Where we run production code
json_class:         Chef::Environment
name:               production
override_attributes:
```

If we use the knife environment show command, we can see how the production.rb file looks.

Note the cookbook versions that we set are shown here.

GE: Viewing 'knife node --help'



```
$ knife node --help
```

```
** NODE COMMANDS **  
knife node bulk delete REGEX (options)  
knife node create NODE (options)  
knife node delete NODE (options)  
knife node edit NODE (options)  
knife node environment set NODE ENVIRONMENT  
knife node from file FILE (options)  
knife node list (options)  
knife node run_list add [NODE] [ENTRY[,ENTRY]] (options)  
knife node run_list remove [NODE] [ENTRY[,ENTRY]] (options)  
knife node run_list set NODE ENTRIES (options)  
knife node show NODE (options)
```

Now, we need to set the environments for our nodes. Let's ask Chef for help on that as well.

Let's use the knife node environment set command.

Slide 17

GE: Viewing 'knife node set --help'



```
$ knife node environment set --help
```

```
knife node environment set NODE ENVIRONMENT
```

```
-s, --server-url URL           Chef Server URL
--chef-zero-host HOST          Host to start chef-zero on
--chef-zero-port PORT          Port (or port range) to start chef-zero on.
Port ranges like 1000,1010 or 8889-9999 will try all given ports until one works.
-k, --key KEY                  API Client Key
--[no-]color                   Use colored output, defaults to false on
Windows, true otherwise
-c, --config CONFIG            The configuration file to use
--defaults                     Accept default values for all questions
-d, --disable-editing          Do not open EDITOR, just accept the data as is
-e, --editor EDITOR            Set the editor to use for interactive commands
```

But how does that command work, exactly?

It looks like we just add the environment name at the end of the command to set that environment on a node.

Slide 18

GE: Using 'knife environment node set'



```
$ knife node environment set node1 production
```

```
node1:  
  chef_environment:
```

So, let's do that for node1.

The results don't really tell us much, so let's take a look at node1.

GE: Viewing node1's Attributes



```
$ knife node show node1
```

```
Node Name:    node1
Environment:  production
FQDN:         ip-172-31-8-68.ec2.internal
IP:           54.175.46.24
Run List:     role[web]
Roles:        web
Recipes:      iis-demo, iis-demo::default, iis-demo::server
Platform:     centos 6.7
Tags:
```

Using knife node show, we can see node1's attributes. Note that it has indeed been set to the production environment.



Lab: Set More Nodes to Production

- ☐ Set node2's environment to production

Let's do the same thing for node2.

Slide 21

Lab: Set node2's Environment to Production



```
$ knife node environment set node2 production
```

```
node2:  
  chef_environment:
```

Slide 22

Lab: Verify node2 is Set to Production



```
$ knife node show node2
```

```
Node Name:    node2
Environment:  production
FQDN:         ip-172-31-0-128.ec2.internal
IP:           54.210.192.12
Run List:     role[load_balancer]
Roles:        load_balancer
Recipes:      myiis-lb, myiis-lb::default, iis-lb::default, iis-
lb::install_package
Platform:     centos 6.6
Tags:
```

And, it looks like node2 was successfully set to the production environment.

Slide 23



Production

Let's create a reliable environment for our nodes.

Objective:

- ✓ Deploy our site to Production

Slide 24



Lab: Acceptance Environment

- ☐ Create an environment named "acceptance" that has no cookbook restrictions.
- ☐ Move node3 into the acceptance environment
- ☐ Run chef-client on all the nodes

Now, let's create the environment we can use to change and update the cookbooks without affecting our production environment. A sandbox, if you will.

Let's call this our "Acceptance environment".

Lab: Create a New Environment File

```
~\chef-repo\environments\acceptance.rb  
  
name 'acceptance'  
description 'Where code and applications are  
tested'  
# No Cookbook Restrictions
```

First, let's create a new rb file in our chef-repo/environments directory. Let's name it acceptance.

In the Acceptance environment, we don't want to lock-down the cookbook versions, so we are not going to place restrictions on the cookbooks.

Lab: Upload the .rb File



```
$ knife environment from file acceptance.rb
```

```
Updated Environment acceptance
```

Let's upload that environment file to the Chef server.

Slide 27

Lab: Verify that the Environment was Set



```
$ knife environment list
```

```
_default  
production  
acceptance
```

And let's make sure that this environment file was added properly.

Lab: Verify the Contents of the Environment



```
$ knife environment show acceptance
```

```
chef_type:          environment
cookbook_versions:
default_attributes:
description:        Where code and applications are tested
json_class:         Chef::Environment
name:               acceptance
override_attributes:
```

And last, but not least, let's ask the Chef Server to show us the acceptance environment.

Lab: Set node 3 to the Acceptance Environment



```
$ knife node environment set node3 acceptance
```

```
node3:  
  chef_environment: acceptance
```

Okay, let's set node3 to the acceptance environment.

Lab: Verify that the Environment Was Set



```
$ knife node show node3
```

```
Node Name:    node3
Environment:  acceptance
FQDN:         ip-172-31-0-127.ec2.internal
IP:           54.210.86.164
Run List:     role[web]
Roles:        web
Recipes:      iis-demo, iis-demo::default, iis-demo::server
Platform:     centos 6.6
Tags:
```

And confirm that it has been set properly.

Slide 31

Lab: Converge All the Nodes




```
$ knife winrm *:~ -x USER -P PWD -a ipaddress "chef-client"
```

```
ec2-54-175-46-24.compute-1.amazonaws.com Starting Chef Client, version 12.3.0
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com Starting Chef Client, version 12.3.0
ec2-54-210-192-12.compute-1.amazonaws.com Starting Chef Client, version 12.3.0
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com resolving cookbooks for run list: ["iis-
demo"]
ec2-54-210-192-12.compute-1.amazonaws.com resolving cookbooks for run list: ["myiis-
lb"]
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com Synchronizing Cookbooks:
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com   - iis-demo
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com Compiling Cookbooks...
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com Converging 3 resources
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com Recipe: iis-demo::server
ec2-54-210-192-12.compute-1.amazonaws.com Synchronizing Cookbooks:
ec2-54-210-192-12.compute-1.amazonaws.com   - build-essential
```

Using the knife winrm let's run chef client on all the nodes.


Slide 32



Separating Environments

Objective:

- ❑ Use Search to separate out the environments
- ❑ Update myis-lb cookbook's version number and upload it to Chef Server

©2015 Chef Software Inc. 14-32 

Now that we have created our two environments and set each node to a specific environment, we need to separate the environments to ensure that the load balancer only communicates with the production nodes.

Slide 33

DISCUSSION



Expected Situation

What do we expect to happen when we set a web node to a specific environment?

©2015 Chef Software Inc.

14-33


CHEF


So we set our web nodes to specific environments. As we manage our nodes, making changes to our cookbooks and recipes, what do you think is going to happen to Node1?

What about Node 3?

Setting the nodes is not enough. Chef does not automatically know to separate the environments. So, we have to tell it how to do that.

Slide 34

DISCUSSION




Balancing Nodes

Which cookbook handles balancing the requests between web nodes?

Which recipe within that cookbook sets up the request balancing between the two nodes?

©2015 Chef Software Inc.

14-34



How do we do that?

First, let's answer a couple of questions. As you think about the infrastructure we have created, which cookbook handles balance requests between nodes?

So if we want to make changes to that cookbook, which recipe would we change?

Answer 1: myiis-lb Answer 2: default.rb

DISCUSSION




Search Criteria

How are we currently searching for web nodes?

How can we further refine our search results?

©2015 Chef Software Inc.

14-35


CHEF

In our last module, we talked about searching our nodes using Chef. Do you recall what we used to search for web nodes?

Answer: `all_web_nodes = search("node","role:web")`

So, considering our search syntax, how can we further refine that syntax to search for a specific web node by environment?

Let's take a look.

Slide 36

GE: Examine the Existing Search Criteria

```
~\chef-repo\cookbooks\myiis-lb\recipes\default.rb
```

```
#
# Cookbook Name:: myiis-lb
# Recipe:: default
#
# Copyright (c) 2015 The Authors, All Rights Reserved.

all_web_nodes = search('node','role:web')

members = []

#...
```

Looking at the default.rb file in the load balancer's myiis-lb cookbook, we can review the original search syntax. If we want to search by environments, what would we need to add here?

Slide 37

GE: Modify the myiis-lb Default Recipe


```
~\chef-repo\cookbooks\myiis-lb\recipes\default.rb
```

```
#  
# Cookbook Name:: myiis-lb  
# Recipe:: default  
#  
# Copyright (c) 2015 The Authors, All Rights Reserved.  
  
all_web_nodes = search('node',"role:web AND chef_environment:#{node.chef_environment}")  
  
members = []  
  
#...
```

Search the Chef Server for all node objects that have the role equal to 'web' and also share the same environment as the current node applying this recipe. The nodes currently applying this recipe are the nodes with the role set to load_balancer.

Now that we've made our changes, let's save this file.


Slide 38



Separating Environments

Objective:

- ✓ Use Search to separate out the environments
- Update myiis-lb cookbook's version number and upload it to Chef Server

©2015 Chef Software Inc. 14-38 

Now that we have created our two environments and set each node to a specific environment, we need to separate the environments to ensure that the load balancer only communicates with the production nodes.

Now it's time to update the version number of the cookbook and upload it to the Chef Server.

Slide 39

GE: Version the myiis-lb metadata.rb

```
~/chef-repo/cookbooks/myiis-lb/metadata.rb

name 'myiis-lb'
maintainer 'The Authors'
maintainer_email 'you@example.com'
license 'all_rights'
description 'Installs/Configures myiis-lb'
long_description 'Installs/Configures myiis-lb'
version '1.0.1'

depends 'iis-lb'
```

Before we upload the new myiis-lb cookbook to the server, we probably want to update the version number. What type of change have we made here?

Answer: Patch

Because we are performing a patch, let's set the version number to 1.0.1.

Slide 40

GE: Run 'berks install'



```
$ cd ~\cookbooks\myiis-lb  
$ berks install
```

```
Resolving cookbook dependencies...  
Fetching 'myiis-lb' from source at .  
Fetching cookbook index from https://supermarket.chef.io...  
Using build-essential (2.2.3)  
Installing iis-lb (1.6.6)  
Using cpu (0.2.0)  
Using myiis-lb (1.0.1) from source at .
```

We are going to need to use Berks to upload this cookbook because it has dependencies. So first we need to cd into the cookbook.

Then run 'berks install'.

Slide 41

GE: Run 'berks upload'




```
$ berks upload
```

```
Skipping build-essential (2.2.3) (frozen)
Skipping cpu (0.2.0) (frozen)
Skipping iis-lb (1.6.6) (frozen)
Uploaded myiis-lb (1.0.1) to:
'https://api.opscode.com:443/organizations/vogue'
```

And finally berks upload.


Slide 42



Separating Environments

Objective:


- ✓ Use Search to separate out the environments
- ✓ Update myis-lb cookbook's version number and upload it to Chef Server

©2015 Chef Software Inc. 14-42 

Now the load balancer will only find nodes that are web servers in the same environment as the load balancer. This is useful if we want to deploy a load balancer to the acceptance environment as it will only address requests to the nodes in that environment.

Slide 43

DISCUSSION



A Brief Recap

We restricted the production environment to specific cookbook version.

We created an acceptance environment with no cookbook restrictions.


We set specific nodes to each of these environments.

We updated the myiis-lb's default recipe to include environment search criteria.

And we changed the version number in the myiis-lb metadata.rb file.

©2015 Chef Software Inc.

14-43

 CHEF

Before we run 'chef-client' to bring everything up to date, let's think about what we've done.

First, in the production environment, we restricted our cookbooks to a specific version.

Second, we created an acceptance environment with no cookbook restrictions.

Third, we set specific nodes to each of these environments.

Fourth, we updated the myiis-lb default.rb to include environment search criteria.

And lastly, we changed the version number in the myiis-lb metadata.rb file.

What problems do you think we may encounter, given all that we've done here?

Slide 44



Lab: Update Production

- ☐ Update the environment named production's cookbook constraint:

```
'myiis-lb' cookbook version equal to '1.0.1'
```

- ☐ Upload the Role to the Chef Server
- ☐ Converge all the nodes

Since we changed the version of the myiis-lbcookbook, we need to revise the production.rb file to incorporate the new version.

Lab: Update production.rb

```
~/chef-repo/environments/production.rb

name 'production'
description 'Where we run production code'

cookbook 'iis-demo', '= 0.2.1'
cookbook 'myiis-lb', '= 1.0.1'
```

So let's go back into our production.rb and update it to include the new version number.

Lab: cd and Run 'knife environment...'



```
$ cd ~\chef-repo  
$ knife environment from file production.rb
```

```
Updated Environment production
```

Change directory to your chef-repo and then run 'knife environment from file production.rb'.

Slide 47

Lab: Verify the Version Number



```
$ knife environment show production
```

```
chef_type:          environment
cookbook_versions:
  iis-demo:         = 0.2.1
  myiis-lb:         = 1.0.1
default_attributes:
description:        Where we run production code
json_class:         Chef::Environment
name:               production
override_attributes:
```

And let's make sure that the production.rb on Chef server has the correct version of myiis-lb designated.

Lab: Converge All Nodes



```
$ knife winrm *:~ -x USER -P PWD -a ipaddress "chef-client"
```

```
ec2-54-175-46-24.compute-1.amazonaws.com Starting Chef Client, version 12.3.0
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com Starting Chef Client, version 12.3.0
ec2-54-210-192-12.compute-1.amazonaws.com Starting Chef Client, version 12.3.0
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com resolving cookbooks for run list: ["iis-
demo"]
ec2-54-210-192-12.compute-1.amazonaws.com resolving cookbooks for run list: ["myiis-
lb"]
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com Synchronizing Cookbooks:
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com   - iis-demo
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com Compiling Cookbooks...
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com Converging 3 resources
ec2-54-210-86-164.compute-1.amazonaws.com Recipe: iis-demo::server
ec2-54-210-192-12.compute-1.amazonaws.com Synchronizing Cookbooks:
ec2-54-210-192-12.compute-1.amazonaws.com   - build-essential
```

And use 'chef-client' to converge all nodes.



Lab: Update Production


- ✓ Update the environment named production's cookbook constraint:

```
'myiis-lb' cookbook version equal to '1.0.1'
```

- ✓ Upload the Role to the Chef Server
- ✓ Converge all the nodes

Now the production load balancers in the production environment will use the latest version of the myiis-lb cookbook.

DISCUSSION



Discussion


What is the benefit of constraining cookbooks to a particular environment?

When defining search criteria what happens when you **AND** in a query?

What happens when you use an **OR** in a query?

©2015 Chef Software Inc.

14-50



CHEF

Answer these questions.

With your answers, turn to another person and alternate asking each other asking these questions and sharing your answers.

Slide 51

DISCUSSION



Q&A

What questions can we help you answer?

Slide 52



CHEF™