10: Community Cookbooks



Slide 2

Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to

- > Find cookbooks on the Chef Super Market
- > Create a wrapper cookbook
- > Replace the existing default values
- Upload a cookbook to Chef Server
- Bootstrap a new node that runs the cookbook

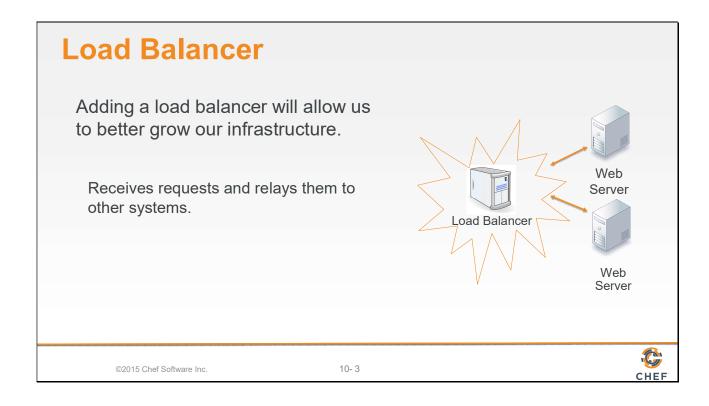
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In this module you will learn how to find cookbooks on the Chef Super Market, create a wrapper cookbook, replace the existing default values, upload a cookbook to Chef Server, and bootstrap a new node that runs the cookbook

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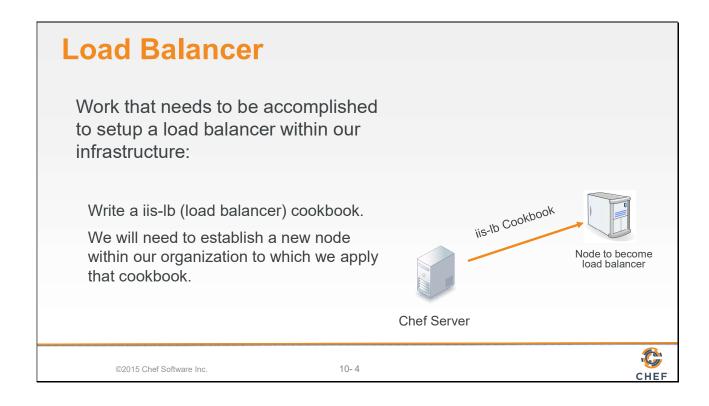


With a single web server running with our organization, it's now time to talk about the next goal to tackle. We need to setup a load balancer.

A load balancer is able to receive requests and relay them to other systems. In our case, we specifically want to use the load balancer to balance the entire traffic load between one or more systems.

This means we will need to establish a new node within our organization, install the necessary software to make the node a load balancer, and configure it so that it will relay requests to our existing node running iis-demo and to future nodes.

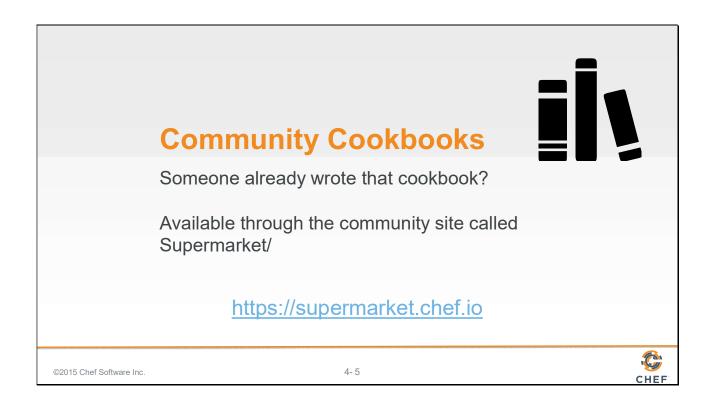
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Similar to how we installed and configured iis-demo on our first node, we could do the same thing here with a load balancer. We could read documentation or find tutorials on how to implement IIS as a load balancer. They would likely have us install necessary applications, set the configuration for the applications, write out files, and start the service.

The powershell_script resource, template resource, registry_key resource, and service resource are the core of configuration management on Windows. Most every recipe you write will often use these fundamental resources. We could spend some time focused on composing the cookbook recipe and testing it on our platform with our custom configuration.

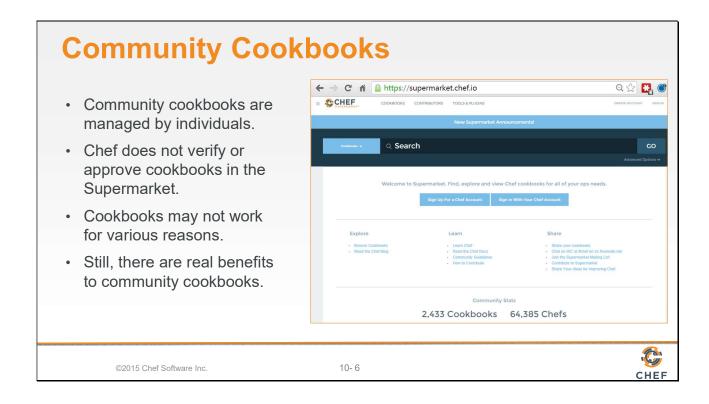
Slide 5



But what if we told you someone already wrote that cookbook?

Someone already has and that cookbook is available through the community site called Supermarket. Supermarket is a public repository of all the cookbooks shared by other developers, teams, and companies who want to share their knowledge and hard work with you to save you time.

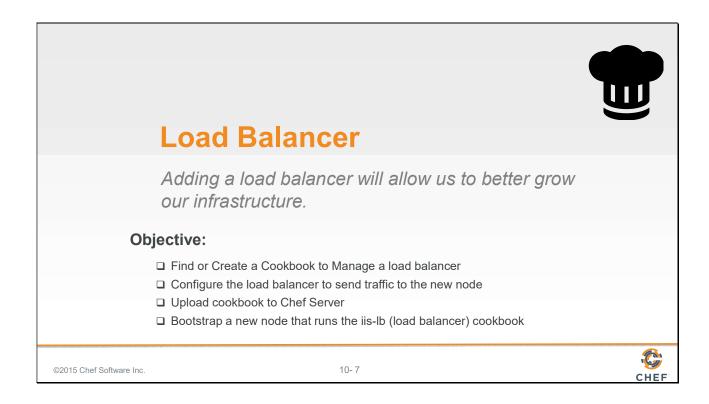
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An important thing to remember is that on the community site are cookbooks managed by individuals. Chef does not verify or approve the cookbooks found in the Supermarket. These cookbooks solved problems for the original authors and then they decided to share them. This means that the cookbooks you find in the Supermarket may not be built or designed for your platform. It may not take into special consideration your needs and requirements. It may no longer be actively maintained.

Even if the cookbook does not work as a whole, there is still value in reading and understand the source code and extracting the pieces you need when creating your own. With all that said, there is a real benefit to the community site. When you find a cookbook that helps you deliver value quickly, it can be a tremendous boon to your productivity. This is what we are going to take advantage of with the iis-lb cookbook.

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Let's find the iis-lb (load balancer) cookbook within the community site to learn more about it.

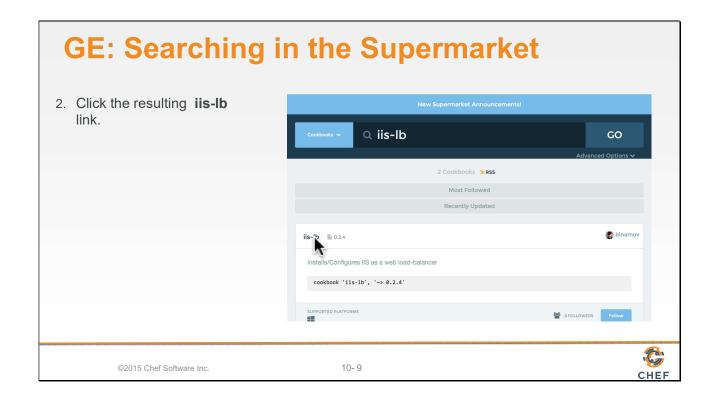
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From the Supermarket main page type the search term "iis-lb" and the click the **GO** button.

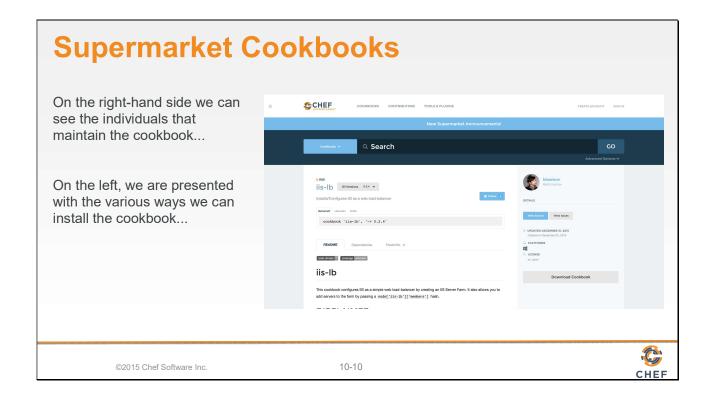
Below the search term will show us all the matching cookbooks. The iis-lb cookbook is in that result set.

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Cookbooks usually map one-to-one to a piece of software and usually are named after the piece of software that they manage. Select the cookbook named iis-lb from the search results.

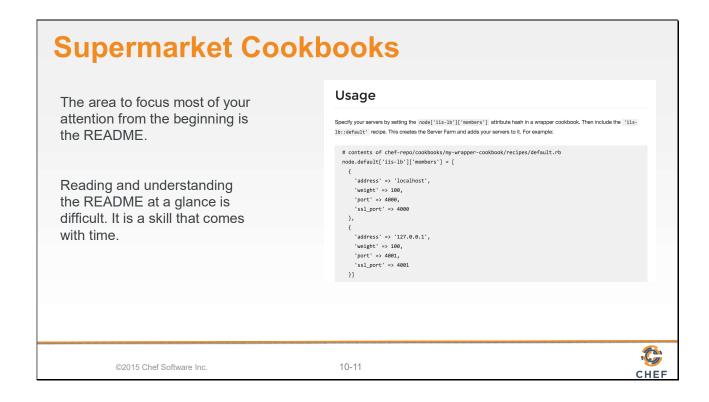
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At this point you are presented with information that describes the cookbook. Starting on the right-hand side we see the individuals that maintain the cookbook, a link to view the source details, last updated date, supported platforms, licensing, and a link to download the cookbook.

On the left, we are presented with the various ways we can install the cookbook, the README that describes information about the cookbook, any cookbooks that this cookbook may depend on, a history of the changes, and its food critic rating--which is a code evaluator for best practices

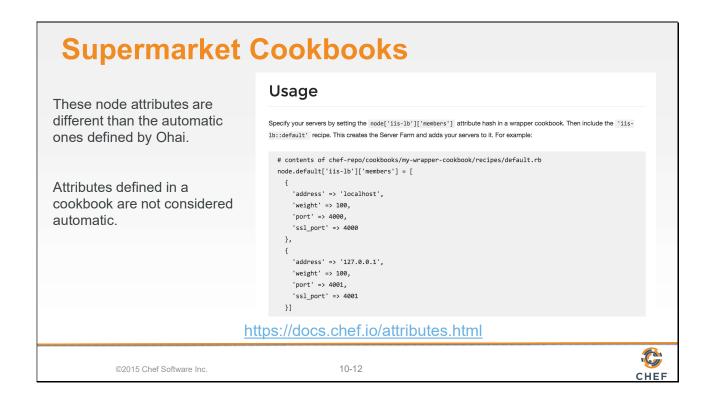
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The area to focus most of your attention from the beginning is the README. The README describes the various attributes that are defined within the cookbook and the purpose of the recipe. This is the same README file found in the cookbooks we currently have within our organization. This one, however, has had far more details added to give new users like us the ability to understand more quickly what the cookbook does and how it does it.

Reading and understanding the README at a glance is difficult. It is a skill that comes with time. For the iis-lb cookbook, there is an defined attribute that establishes the members that receive the proxy requests from the load balancer. This is available in a node attribute available through `node['iis-lb']['members']`.

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Prior to this point we have seen how node attributes are defined by Ohai but cookbooks also have this ability to define node attributes. These node attributes are different than the ones defined by Ohai as well. Ohai attributes are considered automatic attributes and generally inalienable characteristics about the node.

Attributes defined in a cookbook are not considered automatic. They are simply default values that we may change. There are many ways that we provide new default values for these. One way that we will learn is defining a wrapper cookbook.

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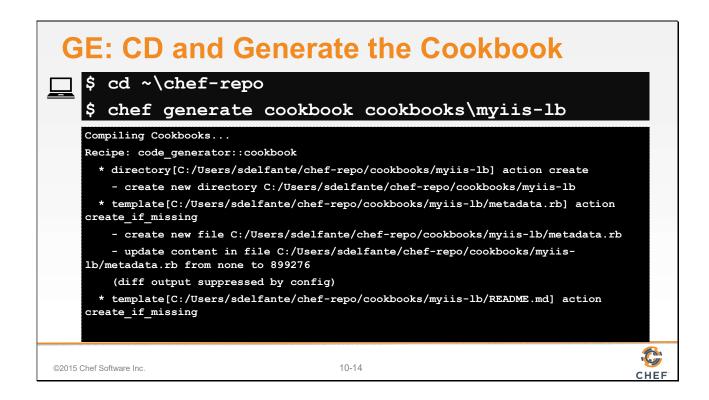


A wrapper cookbook is a new cookbook that encapsulates the functionality of the original cookbook but allows us to define new default values for the recipes.

This is a common method for overriding cookbooks because it allows us to leave the original cookbook untouched. We simply provide new default values that we want and then include the recipes that we want to run.

Let's generate our wrapper cookbook named myiis-lb. Traditionally we would name the cookbook with a prefix of the name of our company and then follow it by the cookbook name 'company-cookbook'.

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Change to your chef-repo directory and then generate your new cookbook.

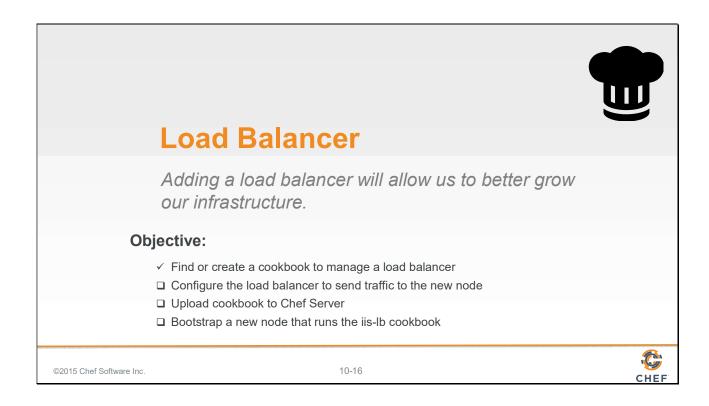
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```
GE: Create a Dependency in the Cookbook
~\chef-repo\cookbooks\myiis-lb\metadata.rb
   name
                     'myiis-lb'
  maintainer
                     'The Authors'
   maintainer email 'you@example.com'
   license
                     'all rights'
                     'Installs/Configures myiis-lb'
   description
   long description 'Installs/Configures myiis-lb'
                     '0.1.0'
   version
   depends 'iis-lb'
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```

Set up a dependency within your iis-lb cookbook. Establishing this dependency informs the Chef Server that whenever you deliver this cookbook to a node, you should also deliver with it the mentioned dependent cookbooks.

This is important because your cookbook is simply going to set up new default values and then execute the recipes defined in the original cookbook.

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Now that you have the dependency on the iis-lb cookbook in your wrapper cookbook, you need to learn what new default values you need to add to the recipe.

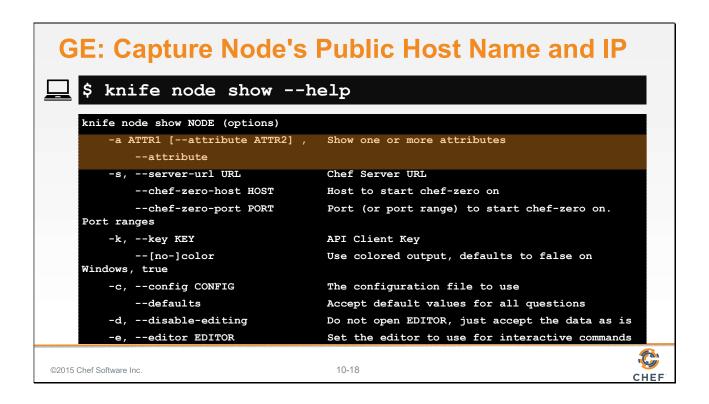
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Currently the iis-lb cookbook assumes that there are two different services running on the localhost at port 4000 and port 4001. The iis-lb process will relay messages to itself to those two ports.

That is not our configuration. First, we currently only have one system that we want to route traffic. Second, we want to have the traffic routed not to localhost but instead to our webserver, node1, which will have a completely different hostname and IP address.

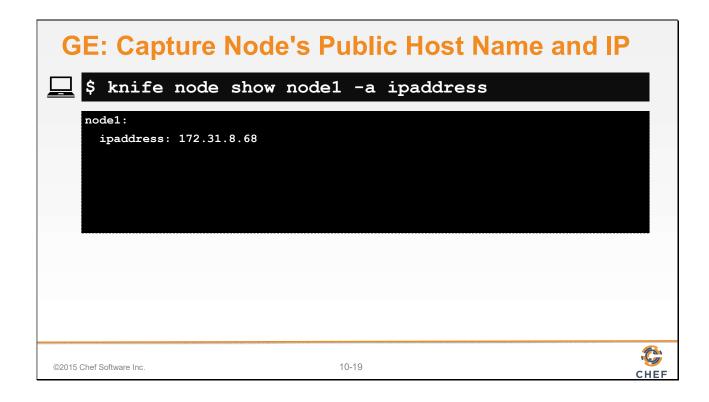
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This new default value for the iis-lb members needs to define the information about the webserver node, node1. So you need to capture the node's public host name and public IP address.

The 'knife node show' command will display information about the node. You can ask to see a specific attribute on a node with the –a flag or the --attribute flag.

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You can display the IP address of node1 with the '-a' flag and specifying the attribute 'ipaddress'.

With cloud providers that generate machines for you often assign internal IP addresses, those values may not work properly.

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AWS VM Instances

The IP address and host name are unfortunately not how we can address these nodes within our recipes.

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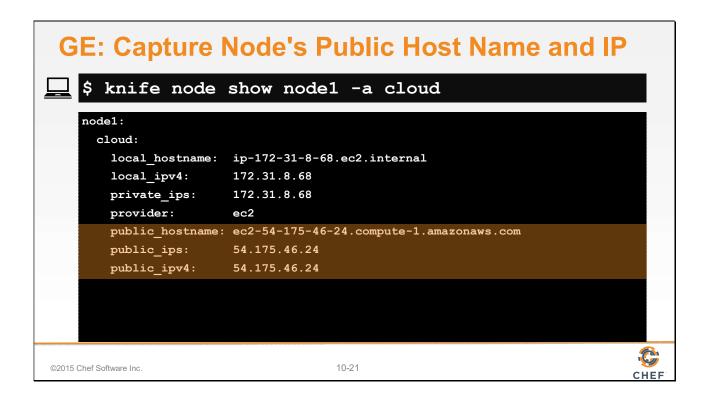
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The reason you may need to ask the node for a different set of attributes is that we are using Amazon as a cloud provider for our instances. These instances are displaying the internal IP address when we ask for the ipaddress attribute.

Ohai collects attributes from the current cloud provider and makes them available in an attribute named 'cloud'. We can look at the cloud attribute on our first node and see that it returns for us information about the node.

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If you use 'knife node show' to display the 'cloud' attribute for node1, you will see the local, private, and public connection information.

Capture and write down the public hostname and the public ipv4 address of node1. You will need this in the recipe you are going to write.

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First, within the myiis-lb cookbook you will use the include_recipe method to specify the fully-qualified name of the cookbook and recipe that you want to execute. In this case, when you run your wrapped cookbooks recipe, you'll want it to run the original cookbook's default recipe.

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```
GE: Edit the myiis-lb Default Recipe
 ~\chef-repo\cookbooks\myiis-lb\recipes\default.rb
    node.default['iis-lb']['members'] = [
     {
       'address' => 'localhost',
       'weight' => 100,
       'port' => 4000,
       'ssl_port' => 4000
       'address' => 'localhost',
      'weight' => 100,
       'port' => 4001,
       'ssl_port' => 4001
    include_recipe 'iis-lb::default'
                                       10-23
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                                                                                CHEF
```

Find the following example code within the README that the author has provided. This example code shows how to override the default values within a recipe. Copy and paste the example code into the default recipe above the include_recipe line.

More modifications are still necessary to override the original recipe and replace it with the values of the systems within our infrastructure.

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Remove one of the entries within the members array (shown in red).

Then update the information for the remaining member to include the public ipaddress and hostname for node1 (shown in green).

NOTE: Your details will be different than the values that appear here. Use the `knife node show -a ec2` command to find the public hostname and address.

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```
GE: Edit the myiis-lb Default Recipe

"\chef-repo\cookbooks\myiis-lb\recipes\default.rb

node.default['iis-lb']['members'] = [

{
    'address' => 'ec2-52-8-71-11.us-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com',
    'weight' => 100,
    'port' => 80,
    'ssl_port' => 80

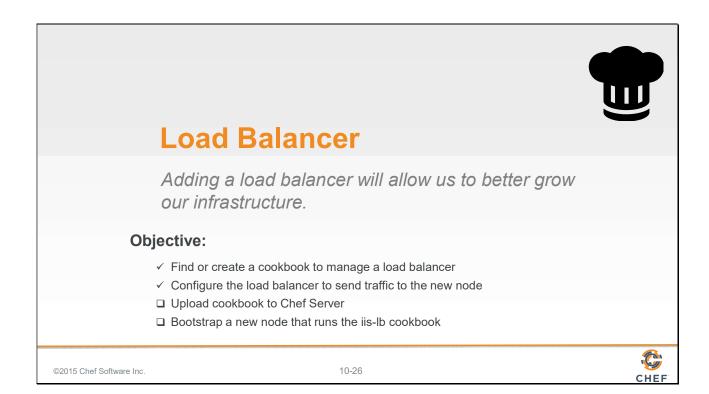
}

]

include_recipe 'iis-lb::default'
```

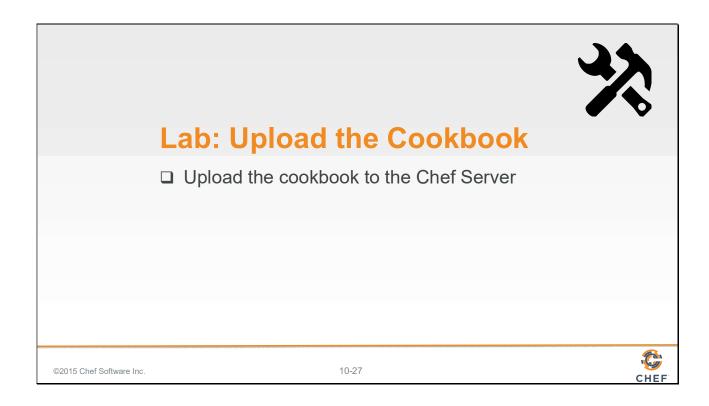
The final recipe should appear like the following (with your custom values). Here we have a default recipe that first replaces the default values with only one default value which is your system.

Slide 26



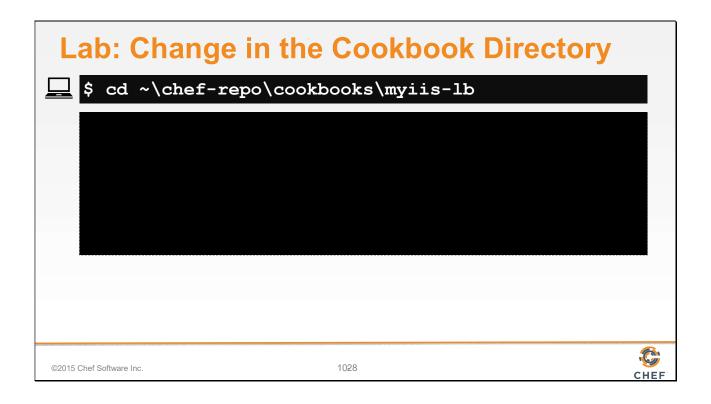
You have completed creating the wrapper cookbook. It is time to upload to the Chef Server.

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As a lab exercise, upload the cookbook to the Chef Server

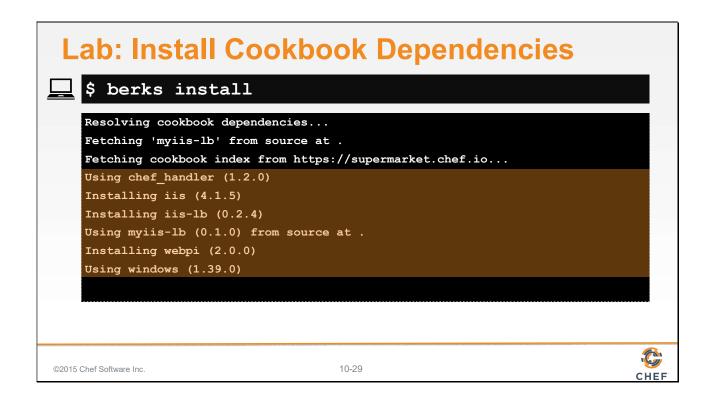
Slide 28



Let's review that lab.

You change into the directory for the 'myiis-lb' cookbook.

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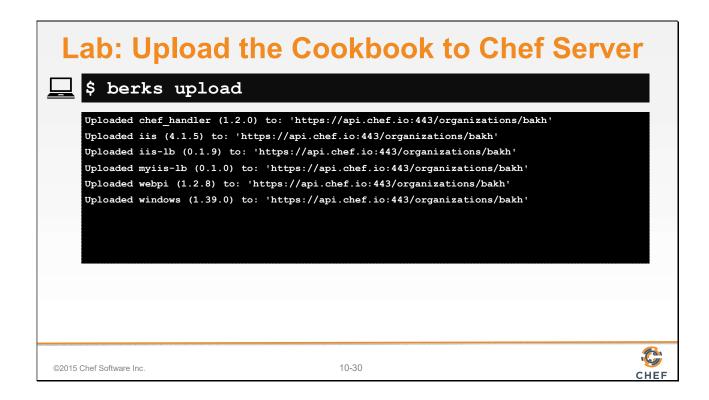


We use the Berkshelf to upload our cookbooks. This is where Berkshelf really shines as a tool.

Run the command "berks install".

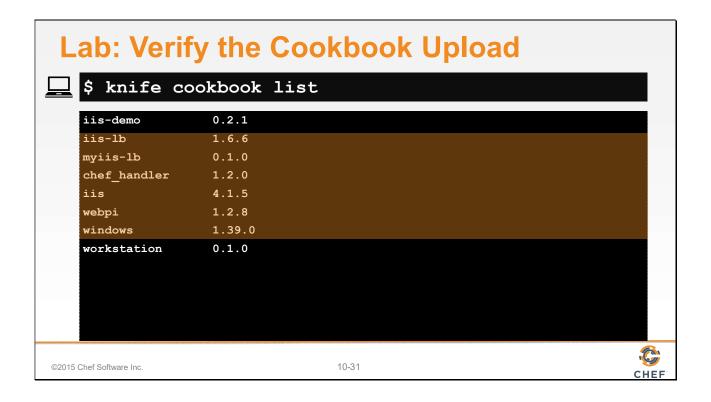
When you run this command for a cookbook that has a dependency, you'll see that Berkshelf will download the iis-lb cookbook and its dependencies as well. The iis-lb cookbook is dependent on the build-essential cookbook and the cpu cookbook. If any of those cookbooks had dependencies, berkshelf would find those and download them as well.

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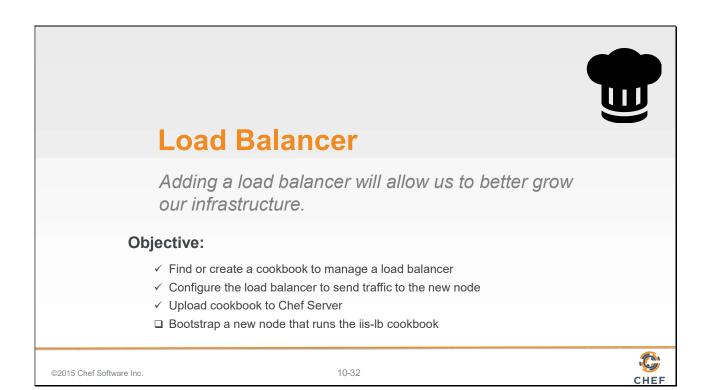
After installing all the necessary dependent cookbooks, we used 'berks upload' to send the cookbook and all its dependencies to the Chef Server. This is again an easier method to manage dependencies instead of manually identifying the dependencies and then uploading each single cookbook at a time.

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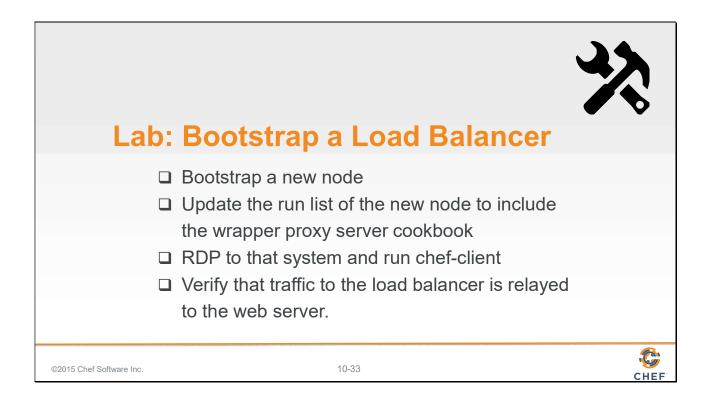
When that is complete you can verify that you've uploaded your cookbook and all of its dependencies.

Slide 32



The myiis-lb cookbook's default recipe is ready to be assigned to a run list of a node. So we'll need another node. The new load balancer node.

Slide 33



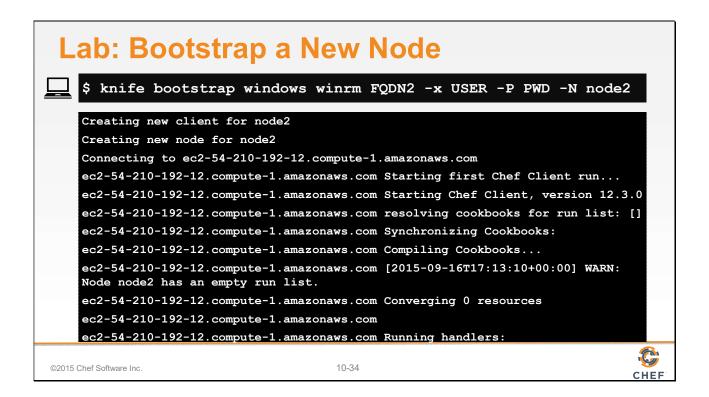
Bootstrap this node the same as you did before but this time define the run list to converge the myiis-lb's default recipe.

After setting that value, RDP into that node with the provided user name and password.

Then run 'sudo chef-client' to apply the recipes defined in this node's run list.

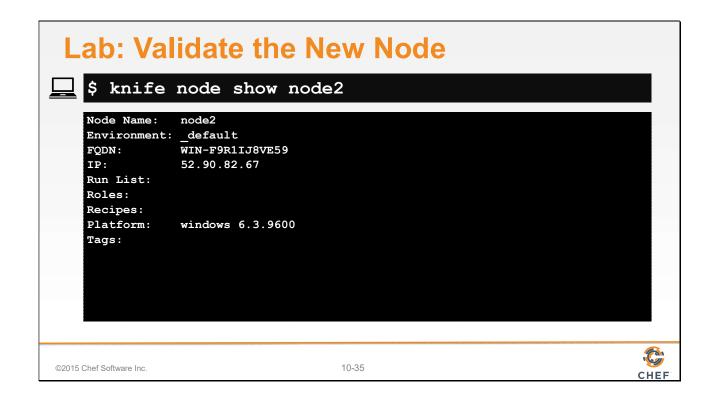
Then verify that your new node's default website is properly redirecting traffic to the original web node you previously set up.

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First you bootstrap a new node named node2.

Slide 35



After the node is bootstrapped, validate that it was added correctly to the organization.

Slide 36

```
Lab: Define the Run List

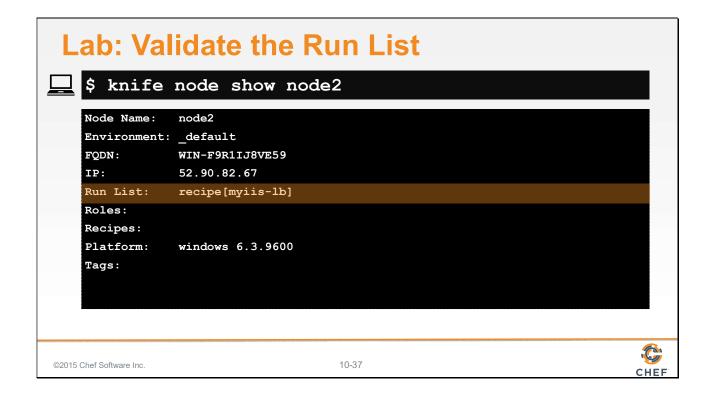
$ knife node run_list add node2 'recipe[myiis-lb]'

node2:
    run_list: recipe[myiis-lb]

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```

Define an initial run list for that node to converge the default recipe of the myiis-lb cookbook.

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Ensure the run list has been set correctly for node2.

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RDP Woes

Logging into both systems is a pain. We can use another knife tool to allow us to send commands to all of our nodes.

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We asked you to login to that remote node and run 'sudo chef-client' to apply the new run list defined for that node. This does in fact work but considering that we may need to execute this command for this node and many future nodes, it seems like a lot of windows and commands that we would need to execute.

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To make our lives easier, the 'knife' command provides a subcommand named winrm' that allows us to execute a command across multiple nodes that match a specified search query.

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```
GE: Define the Run List
    $ knife winrm *:* -x USERNAME -P PASSWORD -a ipaddress "chef-client"
    ec2-54-175-46-24.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
    ec2-54-175-46-24.compute-1.amazonaws.com resolving cookbooks for run list: ["iis-
    ec2-54-210-192-12.compute-1.amazonaws.com resolving cookbooks for run list: ["myiis-
    lb"]
    ec2-54-175-46-24.compute-1.amazonaws.com Synchronizing Cookbooks:
    ec2-54-175-46-24.compute-1.amazonaws.com - iis-demo
    ec2-54-175-46-24.compute-1.amazonaws.com Compiling Cookbooks...
    ec2-54-175-46-24.compute-1.amazonaws.com Converging 3 resources
    ec2-54-175-46-24.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
    ec2-54-210-192-12.compute-1.amazonaws.com - cpu
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```

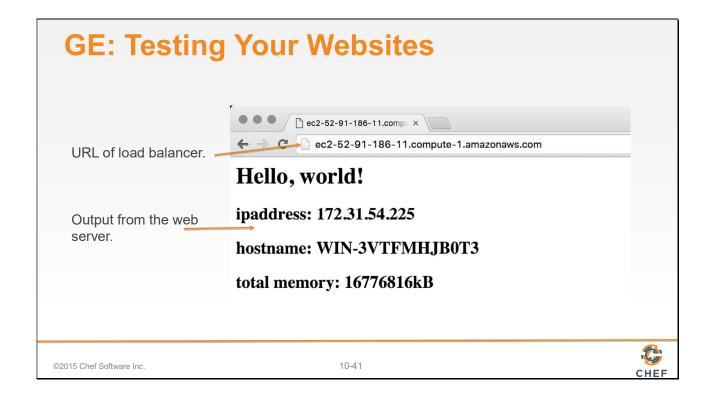
There are a lot of options for defining the search criteria that we will continue to explore. The most important criteria in this instance is star-colon-star. This means that we want to issue a command to all nodes

So if you want to execute a "sudo chef-client" run for all of your nodes, you should write out this command.

You would need to provide the user name to log into the system, the password for that system, and then finally the command to execute.

In this way, you could easily ask your nodes to update from your current workstation as long as they all have the same login credentials. For more security, you should likely use keys and forego specifying a username and password

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Point a web browser to the URL or public IP address of your load balancer. It should display the web page of the web server node that the load balancer is configured to serve.

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Load Balancer

Adding a load balancer will allow us to better grow our infrastructure.

Objective:

- √ Find or create a cookbook to manage a load balancer
- ✓ Configure the load balancer to send traffic to the new node
- ✓ Upload cookbook to Chef Server
- ✓ Bootstrap a new node that runs the iis-lb cookbook

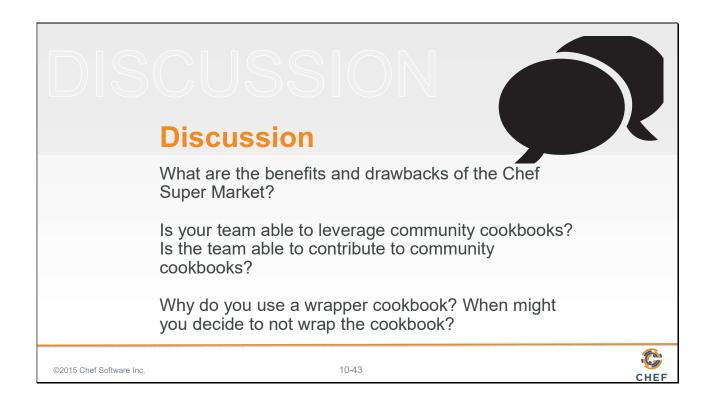
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With your node running the myiis-lb's cookbook's default recipe--relaying traffic to your first node running the iis-demo cookbook's default recipe--you have moved closer to creating the original topology we set out to define today.

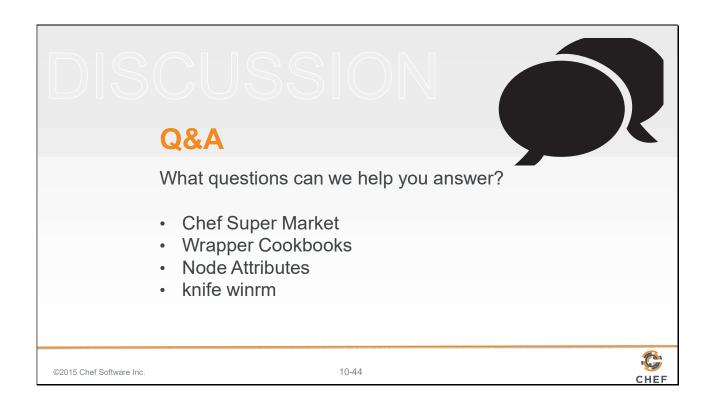
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Answer these questions.

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

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What questions can we help you answer?

In general or about specifically about Chef Super Market, wrapper cookbooks, node attributes, the 'knife winrm' command.

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