
Lab Exercise 1: Getting Started

Lab Objectives

- Install Ruby and Chef
- Create an initial Chef Repository
- Set up connectivity to Chef Server

Acceptance Criteria

- Executables ruby, gem, chef-client, knife, ohai and shuf are in the user PATH
- An initial Chef Repository is created (optionally under version control).
- Successful connection to the Chef Server can be made with `knife`.
- Experiment with the commands to answer the questions.

Install Ruby and Chef

If Ruby and Chef are not already installed on the chef workstation, do so now. Use the Opscode Full Stack Installer:

- <http://www.opscode.com/chef/install>

Add the directory where the Ruby binary lives to your local user login shell PATH environment variable.

- `/opt/opscode/embedded/bin` - Unix/Linux
- `C:\Opscode\embedded\bin` - Windows

Create Chef Repository

Create a directory named `chef-repo` in your home directory on the local workstation. It should have two sub-directories `.chef`, and `cookbooks`.

Note (Windows): Explorer cannot create a file starting with `.`, use `cmd.exe` or `powershell.exe`.

Optional:

Make the Chef Repository version controlled. You may use Git, Subversion or any other version control system you wish.

Create Opscode Hosted Chef Account

Create a user account for Opscode Hosted Chef, then sign in and create an organization. Remember that the organization short name must be ASCII alpha-numeric, no spaces (dashes and underscores **are** allowed).

- <http://www.opscode.com/hosted-chef/> -> "Free Trial"

Access Chef Server

Create the knife configuration file in the Chef Repository to connect to the Chef Server. Copy your user private key file and Chef Server validation key file to the same directory.

Verify connectivity to the Chef Server for your user with knife on the local workstation.

Questions

1. Where are Chef and Ruby binaries installed on the system?
2. What version of Chef is installed? What command can be used to determine this?
3. What version of Ruby is installed? What command can be used to determine this?
4. What version of RubyGems is installed? What command can be used to determine this?
5. What does `ohai` detect for the current system's `platform` and `platform_version`?
6. What kinds of sub-commands are available to `knife`?
7. Where are the Chef command manual pages available on the local system, and what formats are available?