
Student Prerequisites

This guide describes requirements that students should meet in order to get the most out of Just Enough Chef.

General

Students should be familiar with basic to intermediate system administration topics including the following:

- Command-line familiarity with Unix/Linux shells or Windows Powershell
- System resource concepts like package, service and user management
- Key-based authentication (e.g., RSA/SSH)
- Version control systems (e.g., Git, Mercurial, Subversion)
- Knowledge of cloud computing or virtualization concepts such as API-driven compute

Students should have basic working knowledge with at least one third generation programming language such as Perl, Python, Php or Ruby.

- Basic data structures (string, numbers, array, hash or language equivalent)
 - Conditionals (if/unless, case)
 - Loops (for/foreach, while, or language equivalent)
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Workstation Requirements

Student Exercises will run from a management workstation system. Students should install non-Chef required software before the class starts.

- SSH/SCP (OpenSSH, puTTY/WinSCP or equivalent)
- Git (<http://git-scm.org>)

On Unix/Linux/OS X systems:

- C/C++ compiler, build environment (`build-essential`, Xcode, or platform equivalent).

Mac OS X Users

If you do not already have Xcode installed

Recently, Apple made Xcode 4.3's command-line tools available as a separate download from the full Xcode package. If you do not already have Xcode installed, you can use this installation instead, as it is a 165Mb download instead of several gigabytes. Log in with your Apple ID here:

- <https://developer.apple.com/downloads/index.action>

And select, "Command Line Tools for Xcode" to download the dmg.

Chef Server Requirements

Students may already have a Chef Server, whether it is Opscode Hosted Chef, Opscode Private Chef or an Open Source Chef Server. The exercises in the course will focus on using Opscode Hosted Chef.

Sign up for Opscode Hosted Chef

It is recommended that students do not use the same Chef Server that their production infrastructure might be using. It is relatively quick and easy to sign up for Opscode Hosted Chef, so this is done during the first exercises of the course. Students are welcome to sign up ahead of time. The signup process will also provide instructions how to set up an organization which you will use for your Chef Server. When creating the organization, select the Free trial, which you may continue to use for free for further studies and to manage up to 5 nodes when the class is over.

- <http://www.opscode.com/hosted-chef/>
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Need Help?

Contact your instructor for assistance.