**Basic Chef Knife Commands**

While using any tool, 80% of all work is accomplished by very small percentage of commands available. Following are some of the commonly used Chef Knife commands.

* To create a new cookbook

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife cookbook create cookbook\_name |

Note: use underscore instead of “-” (hyphen) in cookbook names. Hypen seem to prevent identification of LWRPs included in the cookbook.

* To upload a new or modified cookbook

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife cookbook upload cookbook\_name |

* To list all the nodes currently defined in Chef

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife node list |

* To show details about a node

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife node show node\_name -l |

Note: -l option generates a detailed list of properties about the node. Leaving it out will generate a summary about the node. Use -a option to query about a particular node attribute

* To edit a new node or modifying an existing node

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife node edit node\_name |

This will let you edit the node details using the default editor set

* To add a node defined in a file to Chef

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife node from file file\_name |

* To list all the roles defined in Chef

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife role list |

* To show details about a role

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife role show role\_name |

Use -a option to query about a particular role attribute value

* To add a role from a file

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife role from file file\_name |

* To edit a new or existing role

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife role edit role\_name |

* To add a role or recipe to a node

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife node run\_list add node\_name "recipe[cookbook::recipe]"  knife node run\_list add node\_name "role[role\_name]"  knife node run\_list add node\_name "role[role\_name],recipe[cookbook::recipe]" |

* To remove role or recipe from a node use “remove” instead of “add”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife node run\_list remove node\_name "role[role\_name]" |

* To bootstrap a new node with Chef

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | knife bootstrap new-host-ip -x root -P password -N node\_name |