DEPLOY A WEBSITE ON AN APACHE WEB SERVER ON MULTIPLE EC2 INSTANCES USING ANSIBLE PLAYBOOK:

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Why Ansible?

No matter your role, or what your automation goals are, Ansible can help you demonstrate value, connect teams, and deliver efficiencies for your organization. Ansible delivers simple IT automation that ends repetitive tasks and frees up DevOps teams for more strategic work.

Agenda

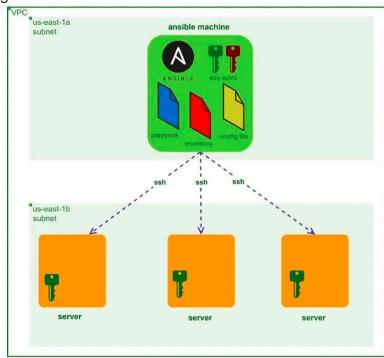
In this blog, we will learn how to deploy a website on multiple AWS EC2 Instances using Ansible Playbooks without the need to install the service on each server separately through the power of Automation which is the ultimate need for **DevOps** practice and 'Automate everything' is the key principle of **DevOps**.

Pre-requisites:

- 1. AWS account
- 2. Basic Knowledge of Ansible & Ansible playbooks
- 3. Basic Linux Knowledge

Project Architecture:

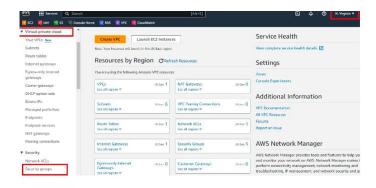
The below image shows the reference architecture of our project which we would follow in this blog.



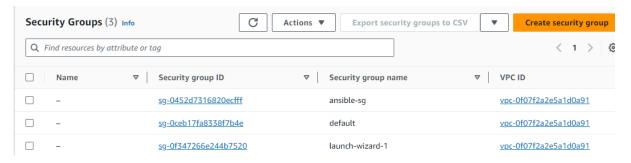
Steps Involved:

Step 1.

Create a couple of **Security Groups** under AWS VPC, first for our Ansible Control Master Server and then another for Ansible nodes.Log into the **AWS console**, choose your preferred region, head back to VPC, and select security groups on the left navigation bar as shown below:



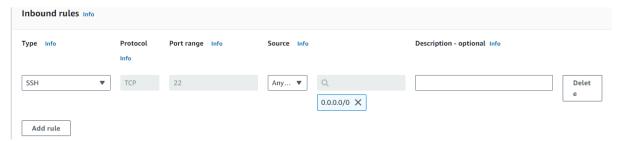
Click on Create security group:



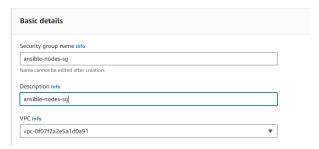
Provide the basic details of your security group such as name, and description, and



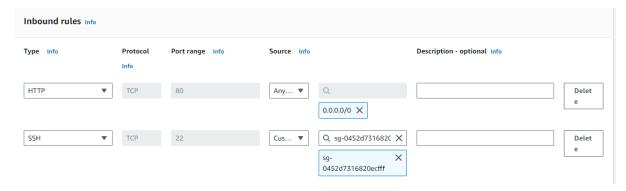
Under Inbound rules allow ssh from anywhere for this demonstration and click on **Create security group**.



Now let's create another security group that would be common for all three Ansible nodes on which we would deploy the web server.



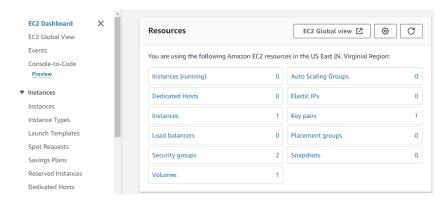
Under Inbound Rules allow HTTP from anywhere and allow SSH from the master server's security group only and click on **Create security group** as depicted below:



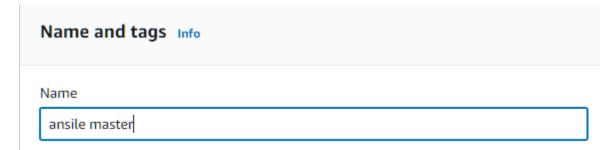
Step 2.

Now that we have created both our security groups it's time to **create the Ansible** master **EC2 Instance**.

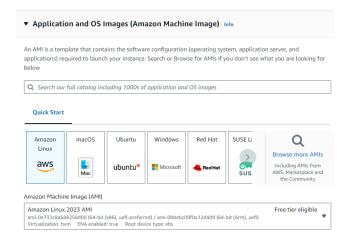
Go to the EC2 dashboard, and click on launch instance:



Provide the name for your EC2 Instance:



Under **AMI**, select Amazon Linux 2023 AMI which is free-tier eligible:



Under **Instance type**, choose t2.micro which provides 1 vCPU, 1 GiB Memory, and is also free-tier eligible.



Under **key pair**, allowing us to ssh into the EC2 instance, we can use an existing or create a new pair. For this demo, we will create a new key pair.

▼ Key pair (login) Info	
You can use a key pair to securely connect to your instance. Ensure the before you launch the instance.	at you have access to the selected key pair
Key pair name - required	
ansiblekp	▼ C Create new key pair

Now edit your **Network Settings**. Select the default VPC, select the subnet of your choice, or leave with no preference. Auto-assign public IP should be enabled and under security, groups choose the existing security group for the ansible-master server we created in step-1.

Network settings

VPC - required Info		
vpc-0f07f2a2e5a1d0a91 (default) 772.310.0/16 (default)	C	
Subnet Info		
No preference ▼	C	Create new subnet
Auto-assign public IP Info		
Enable ▼		
Firewall (security groups) Info A security group is a set of firewall rules that control the traffic for your instance. Add rules to allow sinstance.	pecific	traffic to reach your
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A security group is a set of firewall rules that control the traffic for your instance. Add rules to allow sintance. Create security group Select existing security group	pecific	traffic to reach your

Rest of the settings we can keep them at default and click on the **Launch instance**.

Now on the Connect to instance windows, copy the following commands and paste them into your terminal in order to ssh into the server:

Step 3.

Creating a key pair on the Ansible master server that would be used to establish a connection between the Ansible master and Ansible nodes with the command:

ssh-keygen -t rsa -b 2048

Step 4.

Now after creating the SSH key pairs we need to import the public key into the EC2 console which would allow the Ansible nodes to use that key in order to establish communication with the Ansible master server.

cd.ssh

Is

cat id_rsa.pub

Copy the public key by following the below steps as shown in the output:

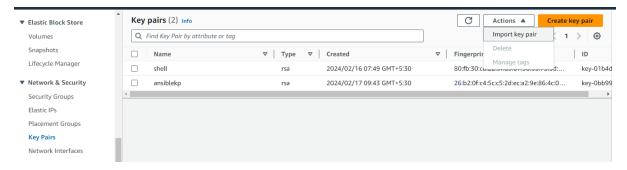
```
[ec2-user8]p-172-31-40-98 -]$ cd .ash
[ec2-user8]p-172-31-40-98 .]$ cd .ash
[ec2-user8]p-172-31-40-98 .ssh]$ ls
authorized, Rys id_rss_ld_rss_ld_rss_pub

sathorized_Rys_id_rss_ld_rss_pub
[ec2-user8]p-172-31-40-98 .ssh]$ cat id_rss_pub

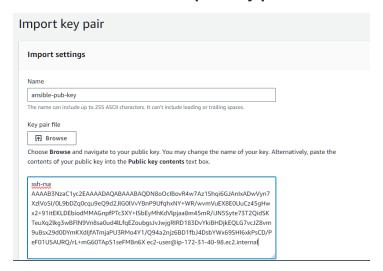
sathorized_Rys_ld_rss_pub-172-31-40-98 .ssh]$ cat id_rss_pub

sathorized_Rys_pub-172-31-40-98 .ssh]$ cat id_rss_pub-172-31-40-98 .ssh]$ cat id_rss_pub
```

After copying the public key, go to the EC2 management console, and on the left navigation bar under **Network & Security**, select Key Pairs. Then under **Actions** click on **Import key pair**.



Provide the name of the new key being imported and paste the public key from the terminal. Then click on **Import key pair**.



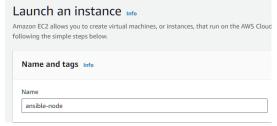
Step 5.

Launch Ansible Node Servers:

Now we will launch three EC2 Instances for this demo.

Go to the EC2 dashboard and click on Launch instances.

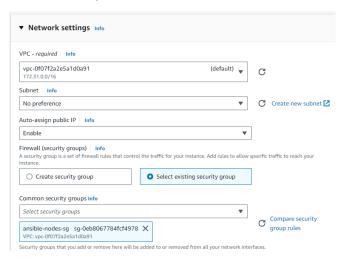
Provide the name and under the **Number of instances** type 3.



Select **Amazon Linux 2023 AMI** and Instance type as **t2.micro**. Here we have to make sure that under the key pair, we to need select **ansible-public-key** which we created earlier in our demo.

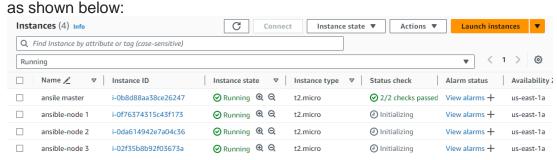


Under **Network settings** select the default VPC, Auto-assign public IP as enabled. Make sure to select the existing security group **ansible-nodes-sg** which we created in earlier steps.



Keep the rest of the settings at default and launch the instances.

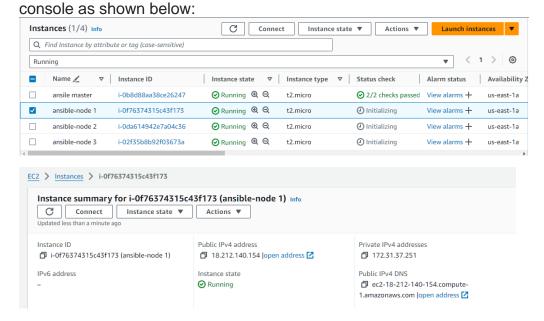
After successfully launching, we can view the instances and tag them appropriately



Step 6.

Test the connectivity between Ansible master and node servers:

To test the ssh connection between the master and worker/slave nodes, we would log into the master Ansible server, and take the private IP of the first node server from the



Copy the Private IPV4 address

Go to the terminal of the Ansible master server and type the following command as shown in the below screenshot.

In the above output, check the private IP which should be the same one that we copied earlier from the AWS console.

In the same way, test the connectivity between the other two servers and the master server.

Note: Since we are able to connect between the Ansible Master Server and all other nodes, it is to be noted that this connection is made possible by the SSH itself and not Ansible as so far we haven't installed the Ansible in the master server.

Step 7.

Install Ansible on the Master Server:

First, we will update our Ansible master server with the below command:

sudo yum update -y

Since we are using Amazon Linux 2023 AMI, the installation steps would be different than that for Amazon Linux2 AMI.

Copy and paste the below commands to install Ansible:

```
curl <a href="https://bootstrap.pypa.io/get-pip.py">https://bootstrap.pypa.io/get-pip.py</a> -o get-pip.py python3 get-pip.py --user python3 -m pip install --user ansible Output:
```

To check if Ansible was successfully installed check the version with the below command:

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-40-98 ~]$ ansible --version
ansible [core 2.15.9]
  config file = None
  configured module search path = ['/home/ec2-user/.ansible/plugins/modules', '/usr/share/ansible/plugins/modules']
  ansible python module location = /home/ec2-user/.local/lib/python3.9/site-packages/ansible
  ansible collection location = /home/ec2-user/.ansible/collections:/usr/share/ansible/collections
  executable location = /home/ec2-user/.local/bin/ansible
  python version = 3.9.16 (main, Sep 8 2023, 00:00:00) [GCC 11.4.1 20230605 (Red Hat 11.4.1-2)] (/usr/bin/python3)
  jinja version = 3.1.3
  libyaml = True
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-40-98 ~]$
```

Step 8.

Create an Ansible Inventory file:

Ansible automates tasks on managed nodes or "hosts" in your infrastructure, using a list or group of lists known as inventory. You can pass host names at the command line, but most Ansible users create inventory files. Your inventory defines the managed nodes you automate, with groups so you can run automation tasks on multiple hosts at the same time.

Within the inventory file, you can organize your servers into different groups and subgroups.

Let's create an Inventory file on the Ansible Master Server with the below command: sudo vim inventory

Create a group name **webservers** and under it type the IP addresses of all the node servers as shown below:

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-40-98 ~]$ cat inventory [webservers] 172.31.37.251 172.31.40.53 172.31.44.193
```

Step 9.

Create an Ansible Playbook:

An Ansible Playbook is a blueprint of <u>automation</u> tasks — which are complex IT actions executed with limited or no human involvement. Ansible Playbooks are executed on a set, group, or classification of hosts, which together make up an Ansible inventory.

Let's create the Playbook on the Ansible Master Serve in the home directory where we have our inventory file as well:

sudo vim website.yml

Once the file gets opened paste the code into the playbook file. You can find the link to the GitHub repo at the end of this blog.

Before running the playbook to install our website on the Apache server let's first test the connectivity between the master and all the nodes using the Ansible command:

ansible all --key-file ~/.ssh/id_rsa -i inventory -m ping -u ec2-user

The successful output of the above command should look like this:

The above output in green shows that we are able to connect with the nodes using Ansible.

One more thing to do before running our Ansible Playbook is to create an **Ansible configuration file** in which we will list the path to our key pair, inventory file, and the default username of ec2-user so that we don't have to mention every time we run our playbook.

To create the Ansible config file type sudo vim ansible.cfg

Once the file is open enter the below details as follows:

```
[defaults]
remote_user = ec2-user
inventory = inventory
private_key_file = ~/.ssh/id_rsa
Save the file and exit.
```

Step 10.

Run the Playbook to Install Webserver on the Servers:

To run the playbook type the below command on the Ansible Master Server: ansible-playbook website.yml

The successful output of the above command should look like this:

```
TASK [Gathering Facts]

[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.40.53 is using the discovered Python interpreter at /usr/bin/python3.9, but future installation of another Python interpreter could change the meaning of that path. See https://docs.ansible.com/ansible-core/2.15/reference appendices/interpreter discovery.html for more information.

ck: [172.31.40.53]

[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.37.251 is using the discovered Python interpreter at /usr/bin/python3.9, but future installation of another Python interpreter could change the meaning of that path. See https://docs.ansible.com/ansible-core/2.15/reference appendices/interpreter_discovery.html for more information.

ck: [172.31.37.251]

[WARNING]: Platform linux on host 172.31.44.193 is using the discovered Python interpreter at /usr/bin/python3.9, but future installation of another Python interpreter could change the meaning of that path. See https://docs.ansible.com/ansible-com/ansible-core/2.15/reference appendices/interpreter_discovery.html for more information.

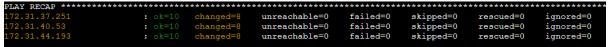
ck: [172.31.44.193]

ck: [172.31.44.193]

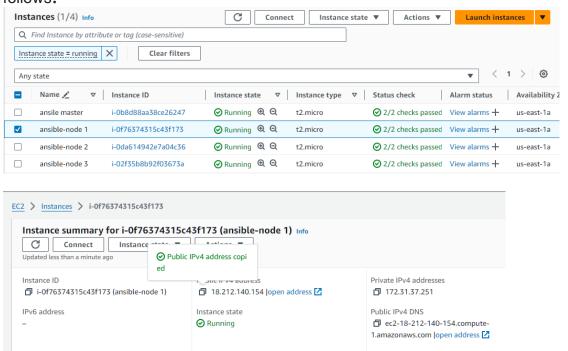
ck: [172.31.44.193]

ck: [172.31.44.193]
```

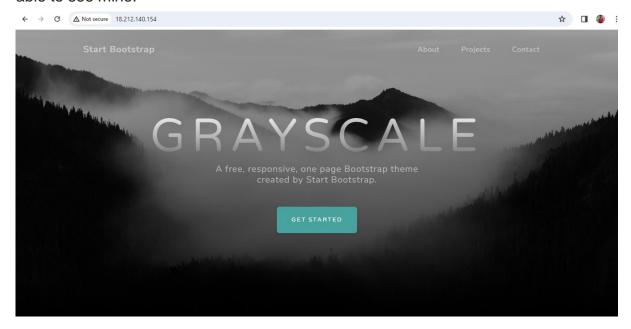
At the end of the output, you can see all the tasks executed successfully without any failure:



We can also confirm by accessing any one of the Node Server public IP from our browser. Go to the EC2 console and copy the Public IP of Ansible-node-1 server as follows:



Then paste the Pubic IP on your browser and you should see your website as I am able to see mine:



In the same way, you can confirm the successful deployment of our website on other node servers as well.

Conclusion:

In this blog, we learned how to write a playbook using Ansible on an EC2 instance and deploy a website on an Apache web server on multiple EC2 instances. Make sure you clean up the resources on the AWS cloud.