Red Hat

Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Value

Enable an enterprise automation strategy with a trusted and supported platform as well as certified content.

Use management capabilities that let you scale, control and manage automation across multiple clusters in production environments.

Deliver business benefits from automation including speed, faster innovation, lower risk, better resilience and cost reduction.

Automation is mission critical

In recent years automation has become an imperative for companies in all industries. The need to improve speed and agility, as well as optimize costs and respond to rapid business changes have highlighted the benefits of strong automation capabilities. As a result, organizations of all sizes are building automation practices to look holistically at opportunities to extend automation beyond the task-based silos that often exist today. As the automation environment expands and becomes mission-critical, the right platform is needed to run, control and manage it. Trusted content and a supported automation platform are essential.

Why Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform?

Red Hat® Ansible® Automation Platform is flexible and can be used across IT teams — by system and network administrators, developers, security professionals, and managers. It is a fully supported platform that provides enterprise-ready capabilities to automate and manage the entire application and IT environment lifecycle — from server, cloud and container-based infrastructure, to network administration, security and development processes.

As teams implement automation strategies, scalability, tested and certified content and robust management are all required to help gain efficiency, optimize costs, and reduce risk in production environments. When the business depends on automation, a hardened platform that integrates with the tools and technologies you use today is essential. Ansible Automation Platform frees teams from managing multiple components and curating a large amount of content across each component's lifecycle. Instead, they can deliver automation projects that provide business advantages.

Ansible Automation Platform for enterprise automation

Red Hat Ansible Automation platform is a commercial offering that helps teams run complex, multi-domain automation projects at scale. It is a powerful, agentless and simple to use solution. Through a visual dashboard, this platform enables you to manage, delegate and scale IT automation, as well as manage access privileges. To make this platform enterprise-ready, Red Hat provides extensive hardening, testing and more to meet production environment needs. Red Hat provides technical support for this solution and Open Source Assurance as part of your subscription. Training and professional

services options are also available at additional cost for Ansible Automation Platform subscribers.

Ansible Automation Platform is backed by a rich ecosystem of technology partners that make it easier to integrate it into your IT environment, reducing the need to develop custom integrations. A growing set of Red Hat Ansible certified Content Collections is provided for an end-to-end streamlined and supported experience, from the execution components to the integrations to the automation content, all delivered across the lifecycle of each component. This helps boost productivity, reduce time-to-completion for new projects and meet enterprise mandates requiring the use of supported content.

> "Due to complex and time-intensive processes, the community version did not work to our satisfaction. Automation is a critical component of our business operations, and enterprise support was a key reason we decided to use Red Hat's solution."
>
> Felix Kuehner, Compute & Runtime Services — Linux, Schwarz IT (Source)

Management capabilities in Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

Available only through an Ansible Automation Platform subscription, several capabilities help improve overall efficiency and effectiveness:

Automation hub

Automation hub is the hosted service that provides a library of certified Content Collections from hardware and software partners, as well as Red Hat product teams. Enterprises trust automation hub to simplify content identification and to quickly bootstrap automation projects. Private automation hub works with automation hub to provide a central location for automation communities within an organization to synchronize and manage Ansible content throughout the lifecycle according to corporate and compliance policies. Private automation hub can be hosted on-premises or in any cloud of your choice. Only available with a subscription, synchronization capabilities bring desired certified content from automation hub into private automation hub so that IT teams can reuse and share a curated library of content to implement new automation projects quickly and predictably.

Automation services catalog

Automation services catalog organizes all implemented automation content from across the enterprise and across roles. You can execute jobs from a central point regardless of location and level of complexity. By extending existing automation to developers, business users and the helpdesk, you can foster an environment of self-service while meeting compliance and governance directives. This helps make businesses more agile and plays a crucial role in digital transformation and innovation initiatives.

Red Hat Insights for Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

The Red Hat Insights for Ansible hosted service, formerly Automation Analytics, allows you to measure success and plan for improvements in your automation projects. It

provides a central dashboard for viewing the status of automation across all Ansible Automation Platform infrastructure. With views available to understand the top content, currently running jobs, and status and usage information, you can identify and prioritize improvements to automation jobs. Red Hat Insights for Ansible helps explore, filter and focus on the correct platform cluster for easy top-down troubleshooting and isolating automation anomalies. You can compare internal organizations and measure automation adoption for specific groups and jobs. It will also help you understand the impact of automation through a customizable automation cost savings calculator.

Turnkey experience

Delivered as a turnkey experience, you can easily install, manage, upgrade, backup and restore all of the on-premises components of the Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform. In addition, several management components are delivered as hosted services where Red Hat provides enhancements without additional administration on your part.

Ansible Automation Platform makes it faster to implement new automation and extend the current automation value in complex environments. As you transform automation into a comprehensive end-to-end way to run your business, these management capabilities are crucial to helping you to see, reuse, execute, control and understand automation across the enterprise.

"We began our automation journey with the community edition of Ansible, but due to the size of our estate, we quickly upgraded to Ansible Automation Platform for its management capabilities. We progressed from simply automating our infrastructure deployments to incorporating network, OpenStack™ and Kubernetes processes as well. Next, we're looking to make our new automation projects even faster, with Ansible Content Collections serving as an ideal solution to help us achieve just that. Ansible Automation Platform has clearly been a game-changer for us."

Michael McCarthy, Delivery Architect, Production Engineering Group, Gamesys *(Source)*

Upstream Ansible projects

Ansible open source projects are rapidly updated and community-maintained technology projects that are fast-moving and have frequent releases. They are ideal for fostering innovation and idea sharing. Red Hat does not offer paid support, training or professional services options for these upstream projects. There are no signed images, and there are no open source intellectual property assurances. Using these open source projects to run automation in production requires that you manage and maintain multiple work streams without the benefit of support when dealing with bugs or issues. There is no integrated installation or administration experience.

This dilutes your ability to focus on building and running automation projects on top of this platform, which are key to delivering compelling business value. The hosted services and capabilities are not available when using upstream versions and this makes it more challenging to curate and manage content, as well as deliver and manage new automation.

Content lifecycle management

With the recent move to Ansible Content Collections, developers now gain increased flexibility in packaging and distributing content at their own pace. Anyone can develop and publish content, often without best practices or integration testing, and to a variety of untrusted sources. While Collections bring unprecedented access to Ansible content, relying on upstream content shifts the burden of finding and vetting content onto your organization, then managing the support lifecycle of this content yourself. Ansible Automation Platform tools are not available, and support can become challenging when you require critical bug fixes or new features in your projects.

With the Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, certified content is curated, supported and tested by Red Hat and our ecosystem partners. Ansible Automation Platform makes it faster and easier to launch new automation projects and maintain and use existing ones. When freed from managing the platform and curating content, teams can focus on extending automation to achieve key benefits. To meet compliance requirements, Ansible Automaton Platform provides supported, documented and certified content. Automation is becoming the way businesses operate and manage their mission critical workloads, and Red Hat's proven support model can help you succeed.

Ansible Automation Platform: enterprise and production-ready

Criteria	Features
Stability	• Up-to-date enterprise version is used for production environments. • Less time and effort is required to implement new versions. • Frees teams to focus on expanding automation rather than maintaining upstream code from multiple projects.
Security and Compliance	• Security testing is done by Red Hat with signed security-hardened images. • Red Hat Security advisories, Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) notifications and patches, and bug fixes are provided across the lifecycle. • Apply your own organizational risk management policies through governance controls offered by automation services catalog, certified content, and private content management.
Support, Service, and Training	• Enterprise-grade support with defined SLAs is backed by Red Hat engineers. • Variety of training can be used by different skill sets and levels. • Expertise of Red Hat Professional Services is available. • Access documentation and support services for the entire stack.
Integrations and Partners	• Comprehensive Red Hat partner ecosystem supports your needs. • Extensive partner integrations are available, with technical partners providing co-support for certified Content Collections. • Fully supported APIs for platform integrations are provided.
Scalability and Upgrades	• Easily extensible platform is provided with fully managed clustering for both management and execution components. • Multisite and zones management is available with isolated instance groups. • Provides a supported and fully maintained upgrade path. • Long term product lifecycle is included.
Distribution Methods	• Easy installer is available on-premises or in the cloud. • Provides full support on Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Red Hat OpenShift® and Centos 7.7 and higher.

About Red Hat

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to deliver reliable and high-performing Linux, hybrid cloud, container, and Kubernetes technologies. Red Hat helps customers integrate new and existing IT applications, develop cloud-native applications, standardize on our industry-leading operating system, and automate, secure, and manage complex environments. Award-winning support, training, and consulting services make Red Hat a trusted adviser to the Fortune 500. As a strategic partner to cloud providers, system integrators, application vendors, customers, and open source communities, Red Hat can help organizations prepare for the digital future.

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