



# **Red Hat**

## Ansible Automation Platform

### Ansible Automation Workshop

Introduction to Ansible Automation



**Red Hat**

# Agenda

1400-1430	30 mins	<b>Welcome &amp; Ansible Automation overview presentation</b>
1430-1440	10 mins	<b>Lab setup &amp; introducing the lab controls</b>
1440-1525	45 mins	<b>Hands-on 1+2</b> Overview of public cloud provisioning Converting shell commands into Ansible commands
1525-1610	45 mins	<b>Hands-on 3+4</b> Retrieving information from hosts Deploying applications at scale
1610-1655	45 mins	<b>Hands-on 5+6</b> Self-service IT via surveys Automation Workflows
1655-1700	5 mins	<b>Wrap-up: hands-on workshop review</b>

# What you will learn

- Overview of public cloud provisioning
- Converting shell commands into Ansible commands
- Retrieving information from hosts
- Deploying applications at scale
- Self-service IT via surveys
- Automation Workflows



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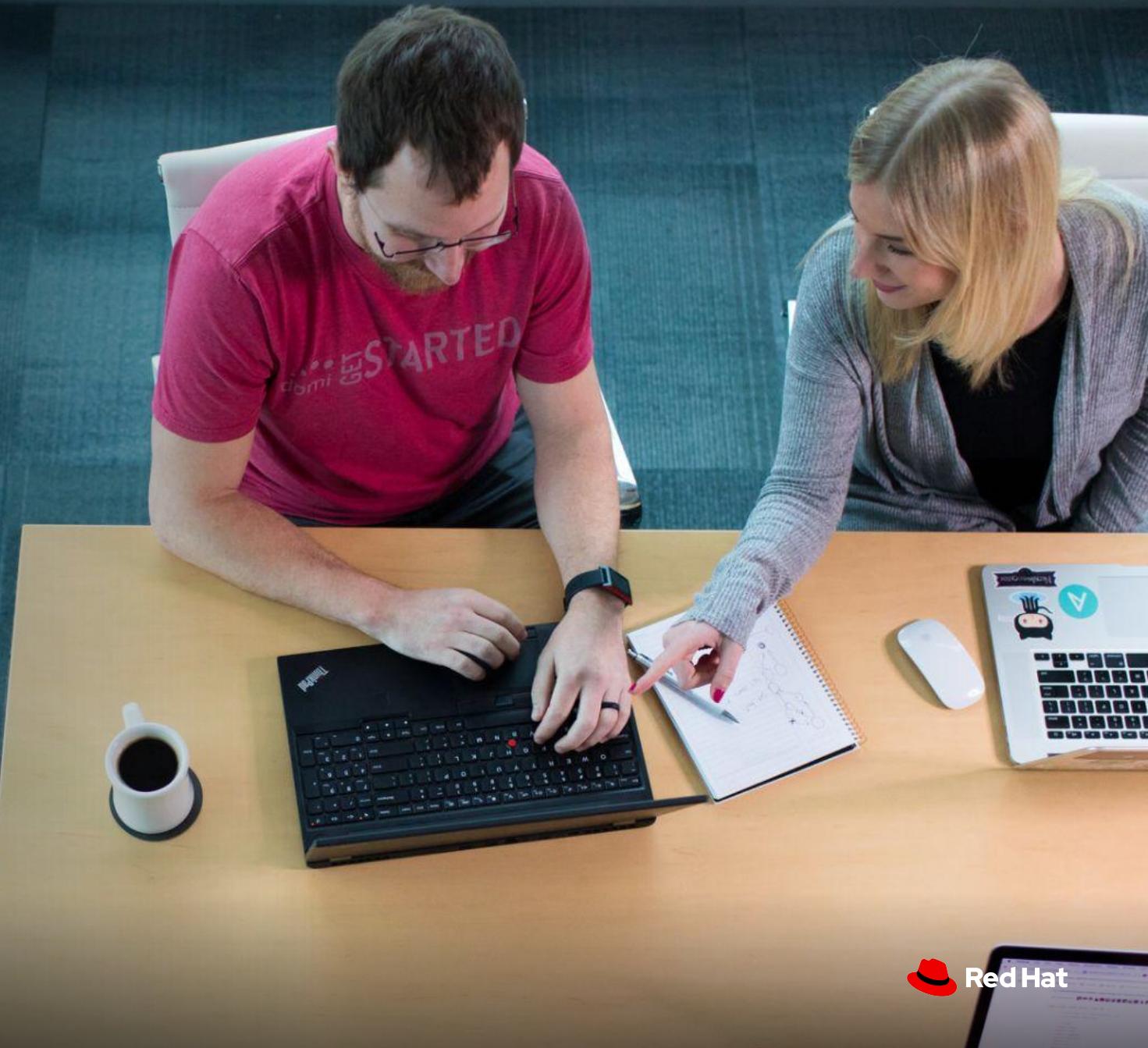
# Introduction

Topics Covered:

- What is the Ansible Automation Platform?
- What can it do?

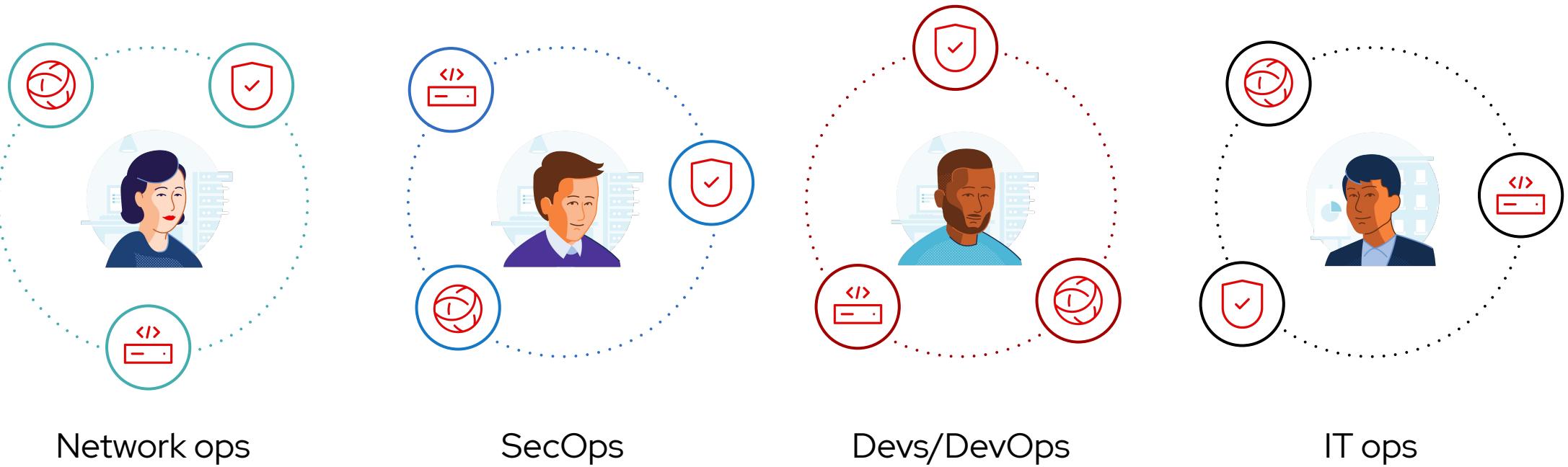


Anyone can automate...  
but an enterprise needs  
to coordinate and scale



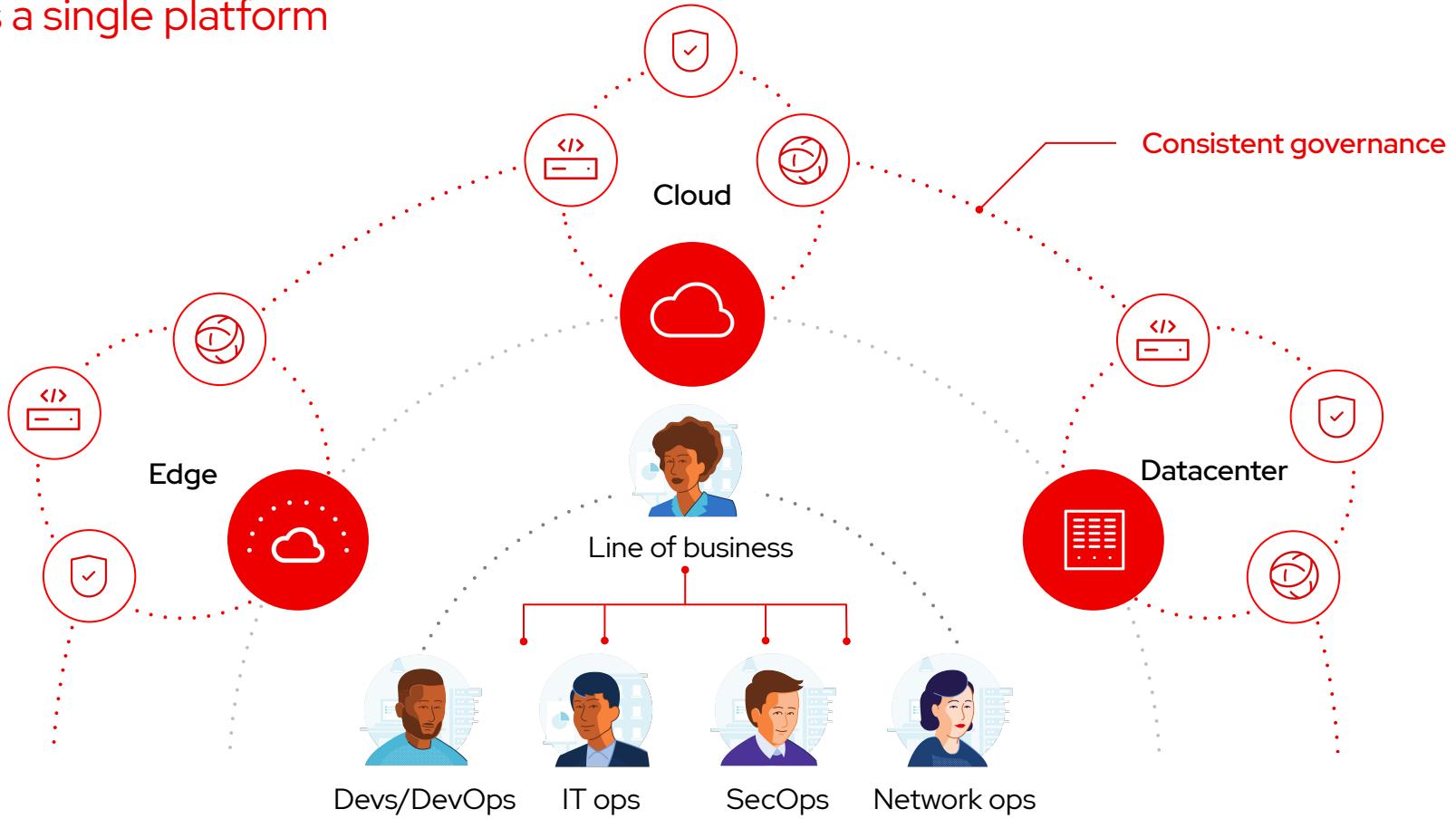
# Many organizations share the same challenge

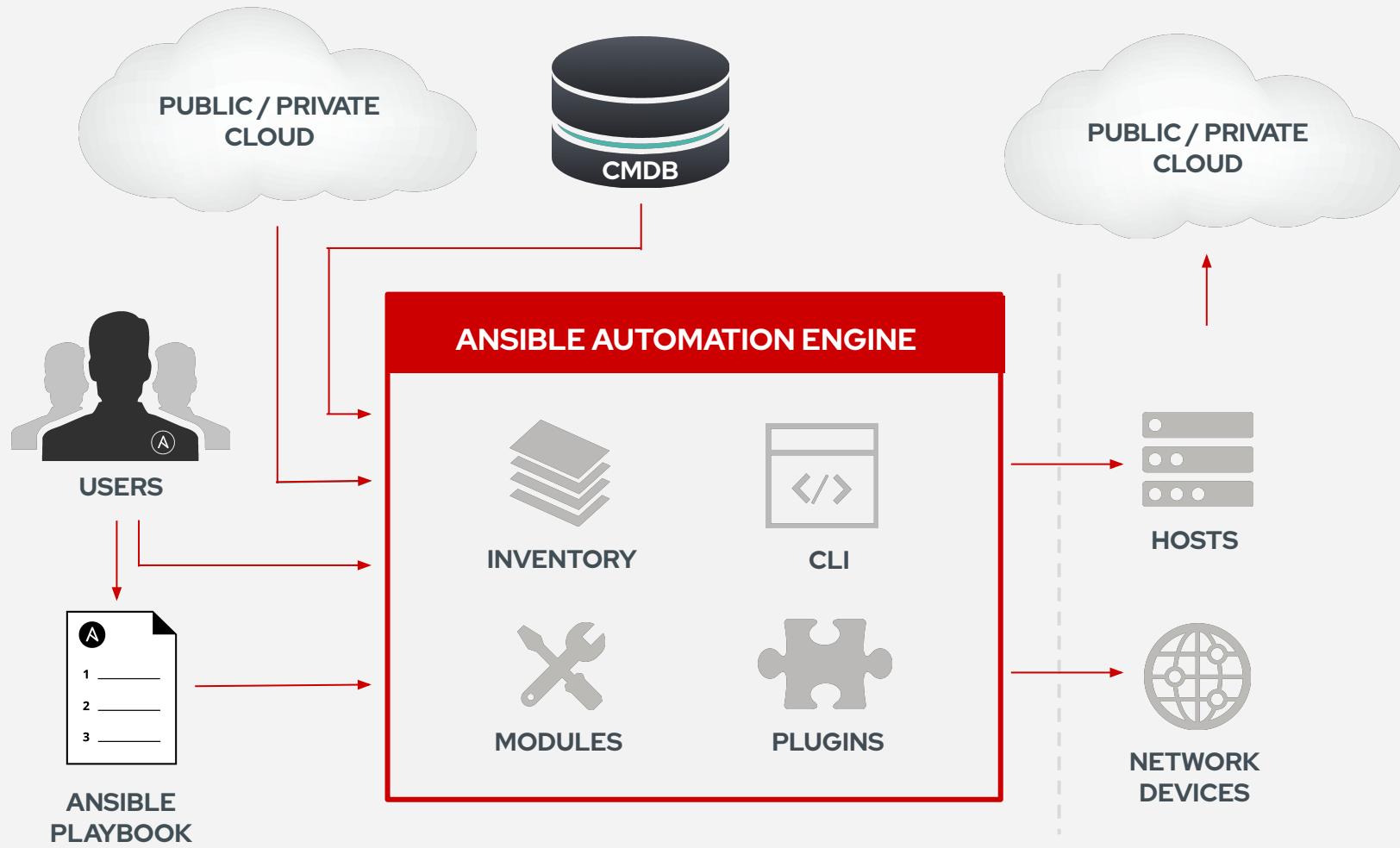
Too many unintegrated, domain-specific tools



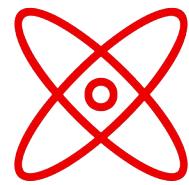
# Break down silos

Different teams a single platform



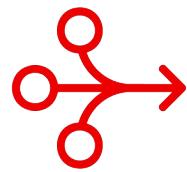


# Why the Ansible Automation Platform?



## Powerful

Orchestrate complex  
processes at enterprise scale.



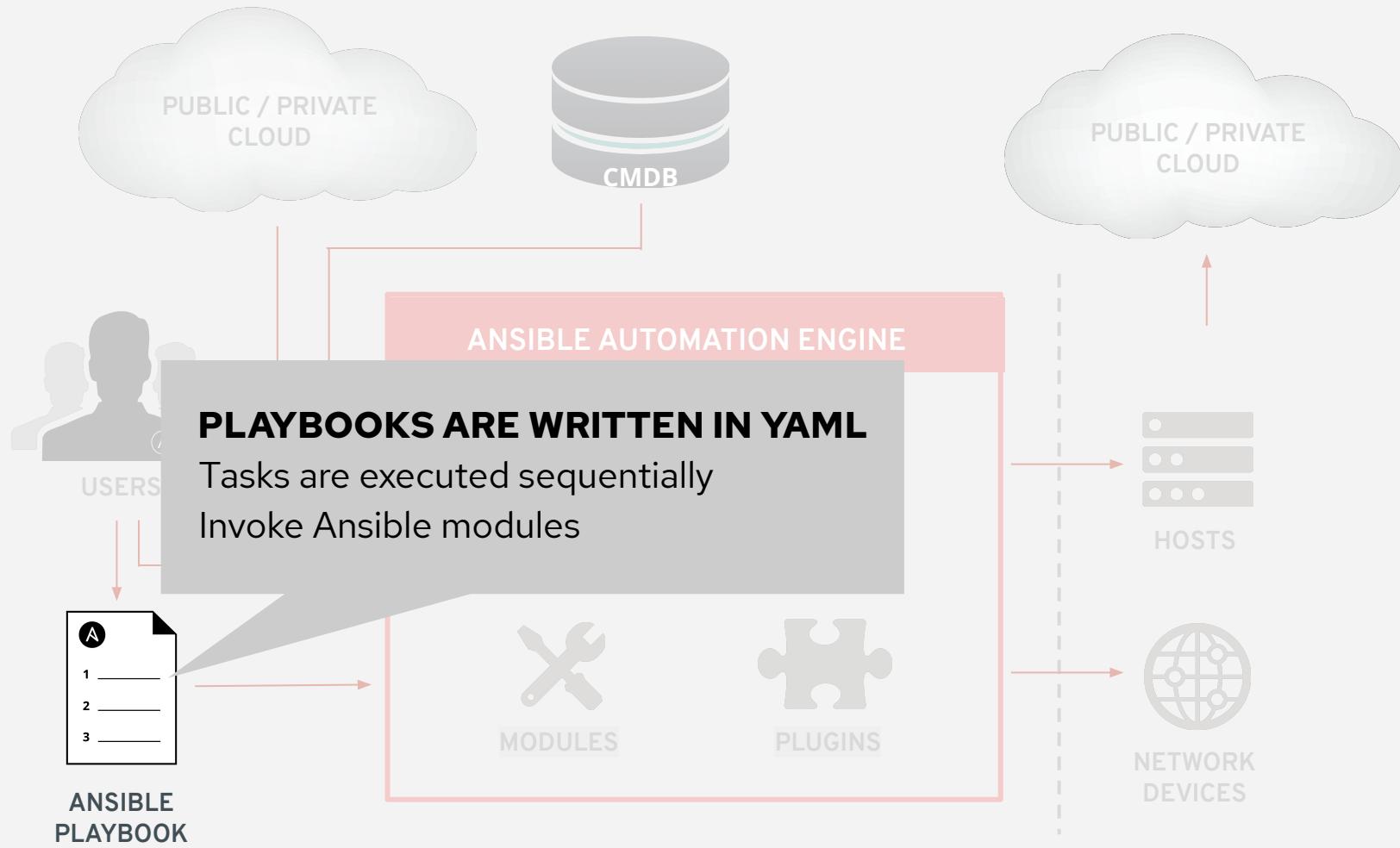
## Simple

Simplify automation creation  
and management across  
multiple domains.



## Agentless

Easily integrate with  
hybrid environments.

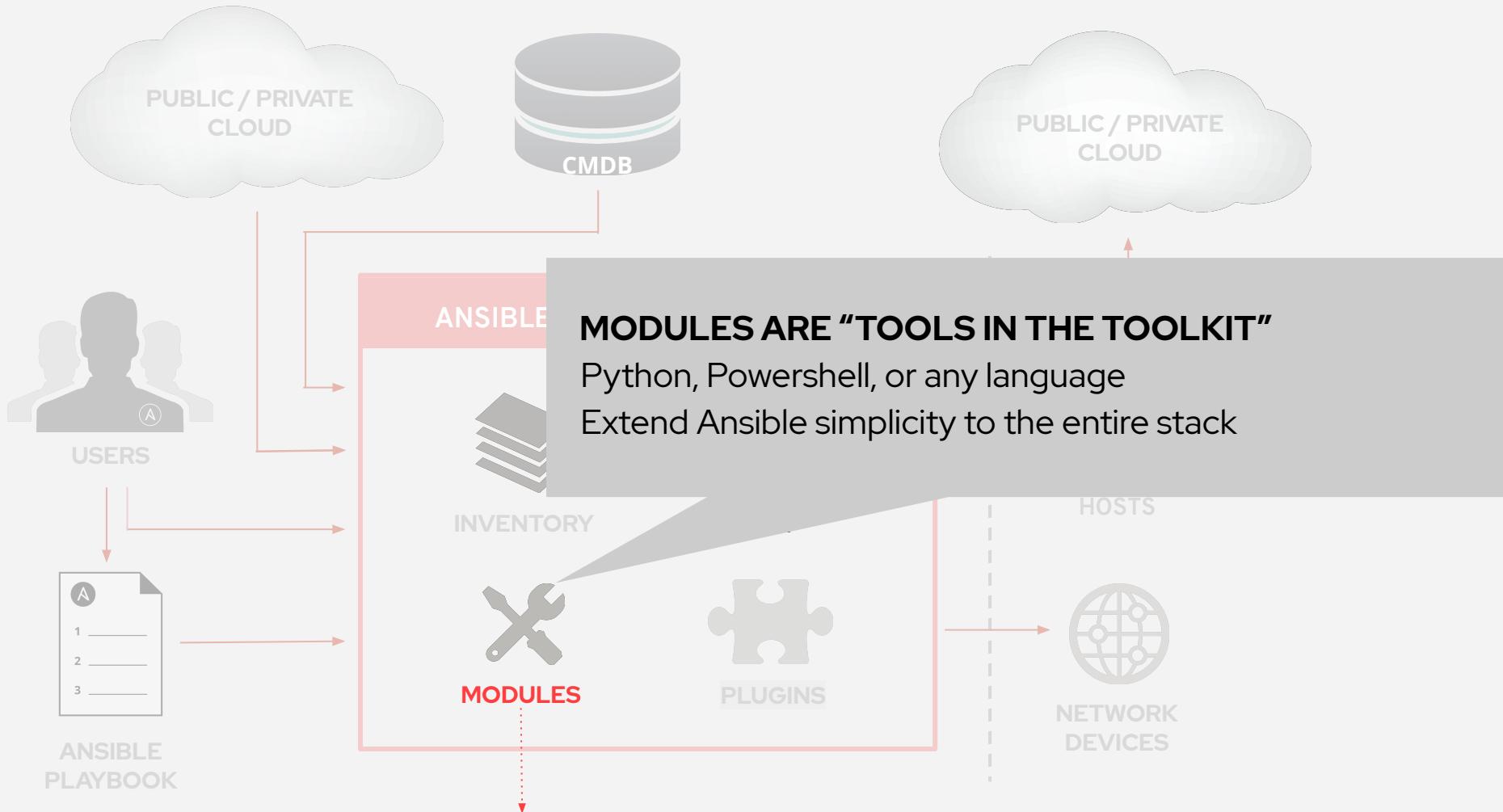


```
---
```

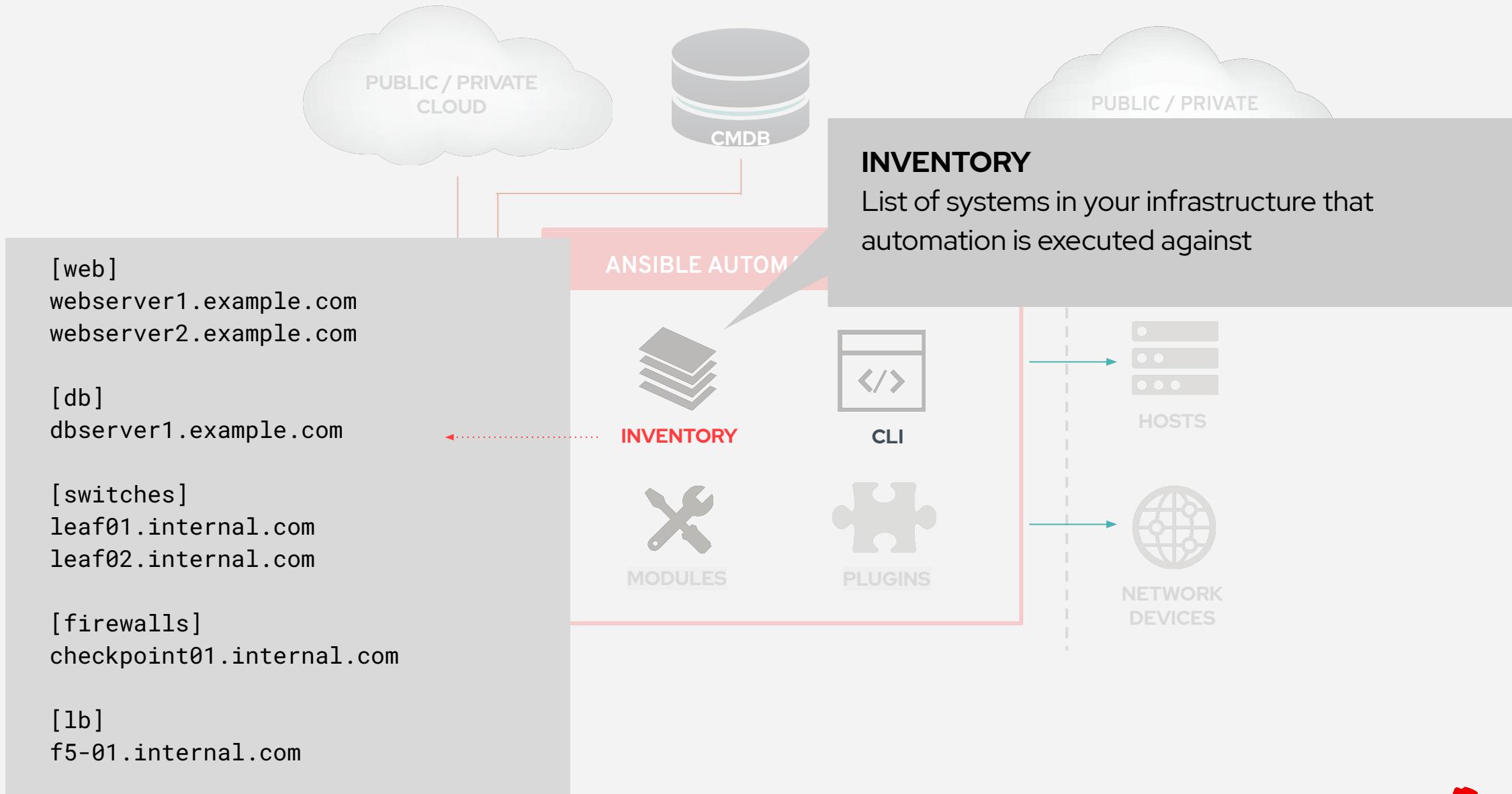
- **name: install and start apache**  
**hosts:** web  
**become:** yes

**tasks:**

- **name: httpd package is present**  
**yum:**  
    **name:** httpd  
    **state:** latest
- **name: latest index.html file is present**  
**file:**  
    **src:** files/index.html  
    **dest:** /var/www/html/
- **name: httpd is started**  
**service:**  
    **name:** httpd  
    **state:** started



```
- name: latest index.html file is present
  template:
    src: files/index.j2
    dest: /var/www/html/
```



# Ansible Automates Technologies You Use

Time to Automate is Measured in Minutes

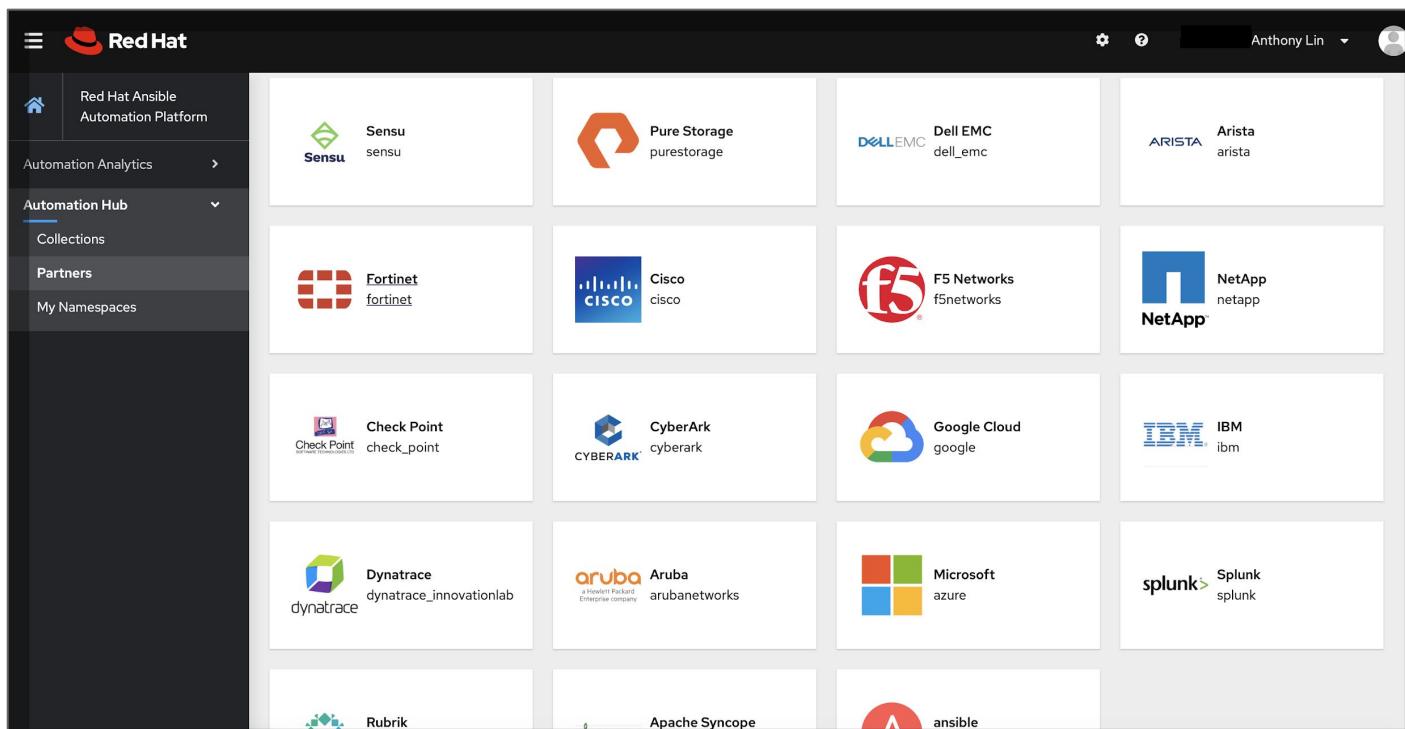
CLOUD	VIRT & CONTAINER	WINDOWS	NETWORK	DEVOPS	MONITORING
AWS	Docker	ACLs	Arista	Jira	Dynatrace
Azure	VMware	Files	Aruba	GitHub	Airbrake
Digital Ocean	RHV	Packages	A10	Vagrant	BigPanda
Google	OpenStack	IIS	Cumulus	Jenkins	Datadog
OpenStack	OpenShift	Regedit	Bigswitch	Bamboo	LogicMonitor
Rackspace	+more	Shares	Cisco	Atlassian	Nagios
+more		Services	Dell	Subversion	New Relic
OPERATING SYSTEMS	STORAGE				
RHEL and Linux	NetApp	Configs	Ericsson	Slack	PagerDuty
UNIX	Red Hat Storage	Users	F5	Hipchat	Sensu
Windows	Infinidat	Domains	Juniper	+more	StackDriver
+more	+more	+more	OpenSwitch		Zabbix
			Ruckus		+more
			VyOS		
			+more		



# Automation Hub

## Discover, publish, and manage Collections

- Quickly discover available Red Hat and certified content through Collections.
- Manage and test your organization's view of available content.\*
- Manage your locally available automation via on-premise.\*



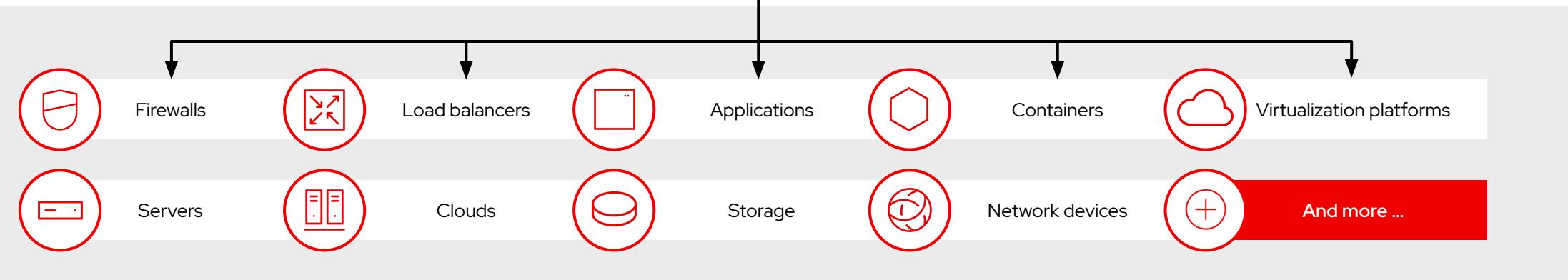
# Automate the deployment and management of automation

Your entire IT footprint

Do this...

Orchestrate      Manage configurations      Deploy applications      Provision / deprovision      Deliver continuously      Secure and comply

On these...





## ACCESS CONTROL

Role-based access control & LDAP integration

## AUDITING

See a full Ansible job history with drill-in details

## DELEGATION OF CREDENTIALS

Delegate credentials without giving away secrets

## INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

Graphically manage your internal & cloud resources

## PUSH-BUTTON LAUNCH

Launch automation jobs with a button

## API & CLI

Documented RESTful API and Tower CLI to integrate Tower into your tools

## SCHEDULING

Schedule automation jobs (great for periodic remediation)





## Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform



Content creators



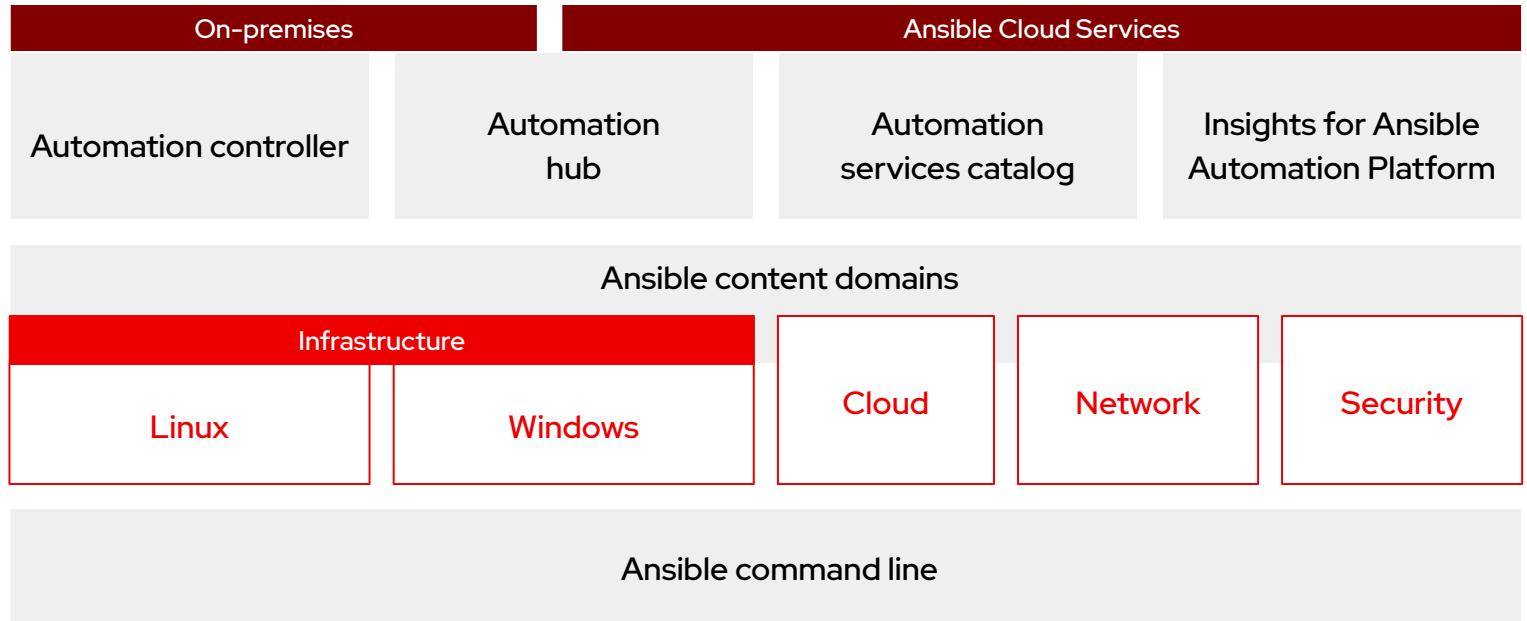
Operators



Domain experts

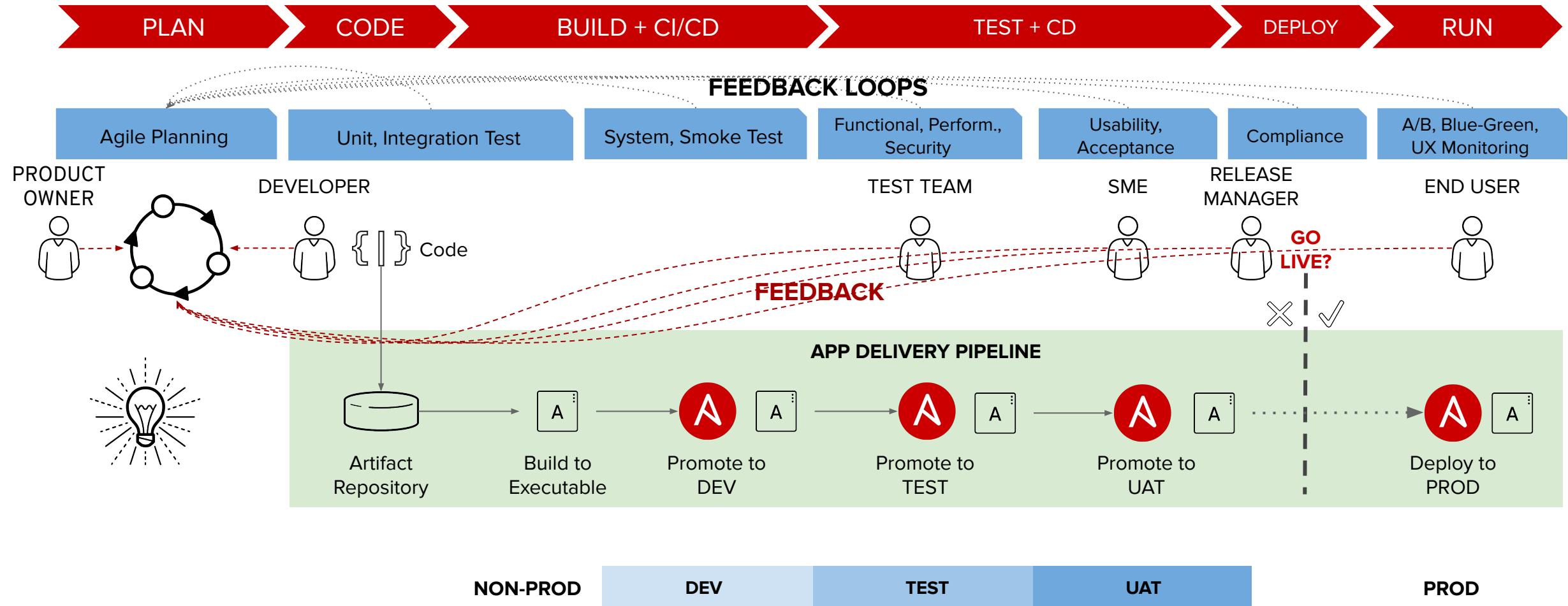


Users



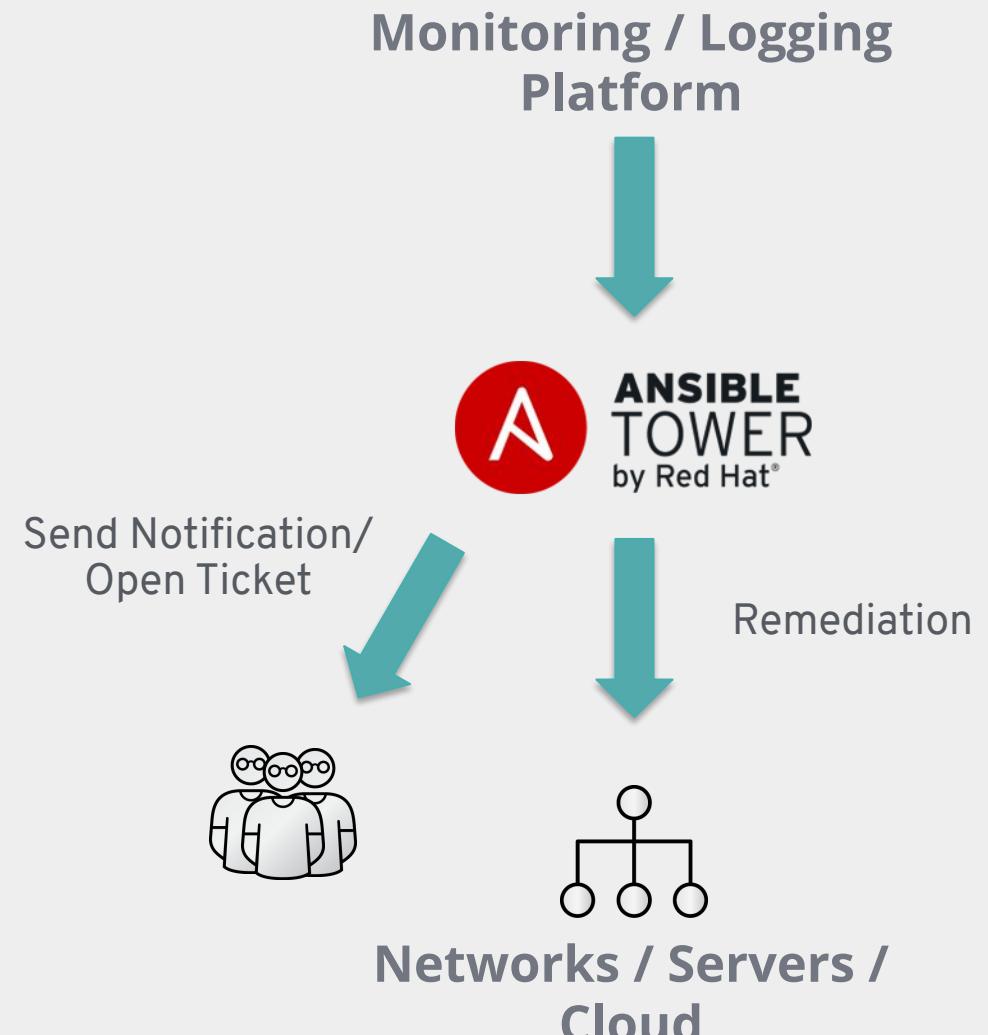
Fueled by an  
open source community

# DevOps Pipeline with Ansible

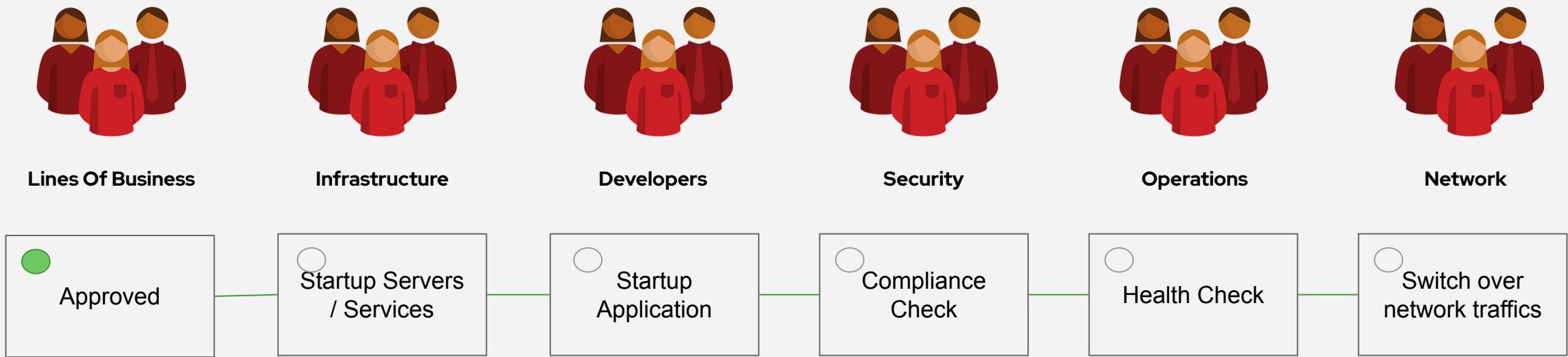


# Remediate Automation

1. Monitoring/Logging Platform detects security issues and calls the Ansible Tower API
2. Ansible Tower runs a playbook to automate remediation in servers / equipments
3. Ansible Tower runs a playbook to open a support ticket and/or notify security managers / system administrators

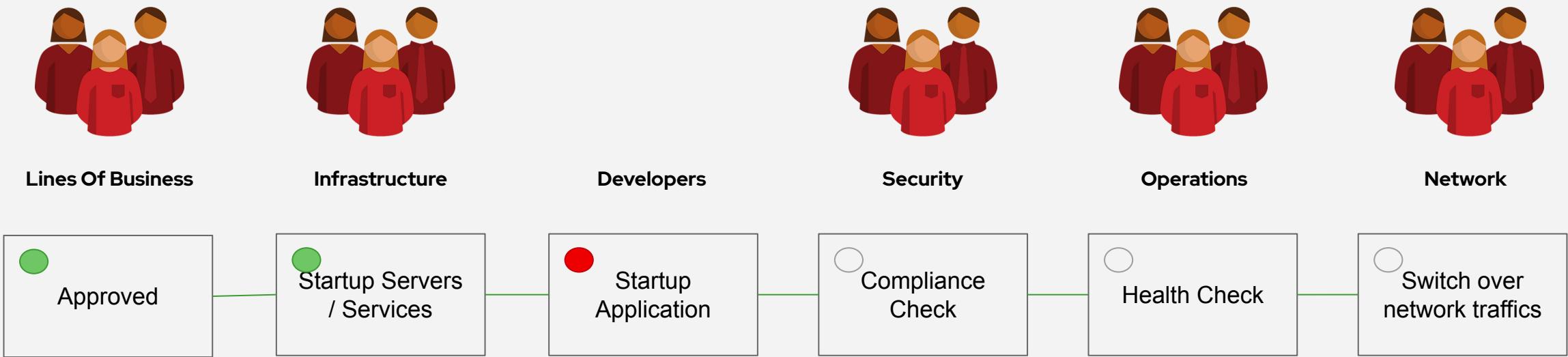


# Teams are implementing Disaster Recovery...



Some planning tasks (e.g. Disaster Recovery Drill) usually required different teams to work together.

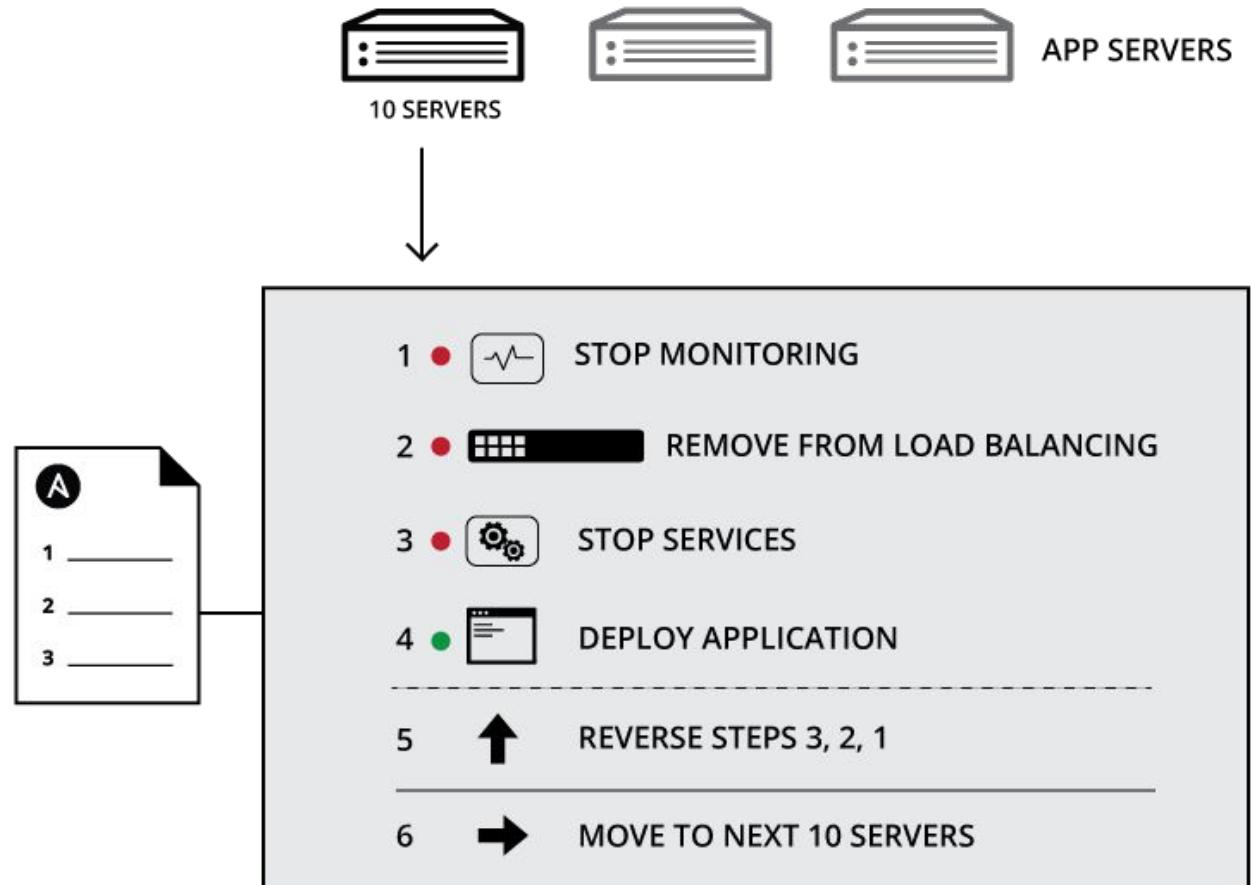
# Teams are implementing Disaster Recovery...



Some planning tasks (e.g. Disaster Recovery Drill) can't be performed as it usually required different teams to work together.

# Rolling Upgrade / Patching

Your applications and systems are more than just collections of configurations. They're a finely tuned and ordered list of tasks and processes that result in your working application.



# Security Compliance – C2S



Ansible remediation role for profile C2S

Profile Title: C2S for Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7

```
- hosts: all
  roles:
    - role: RedHatOfficial.rhel7_c2s
      when:
        - ansible_os_family == 'RedHat'
        - ansible_distribution_major_version | version_compare('7', '=')
```

- Huge manual works for checking / remediation of security compliance settings

After Ansible Automation:

- Shorten the time for manual works



[RHEL 7 C2S](#)

<https://rhelblog.redhat.com/2018/06/19/automating-security-compliance-with-ease/>



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# Exercise 1

Topics Covered:

- Understanding the Ansible Infrastructure
- Check the prerequisites

# The lab environment today

- **Drink our own champagne.**

Provisioned by, configured by, and managed by Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform.

<https://github.com/ansible/workshops>

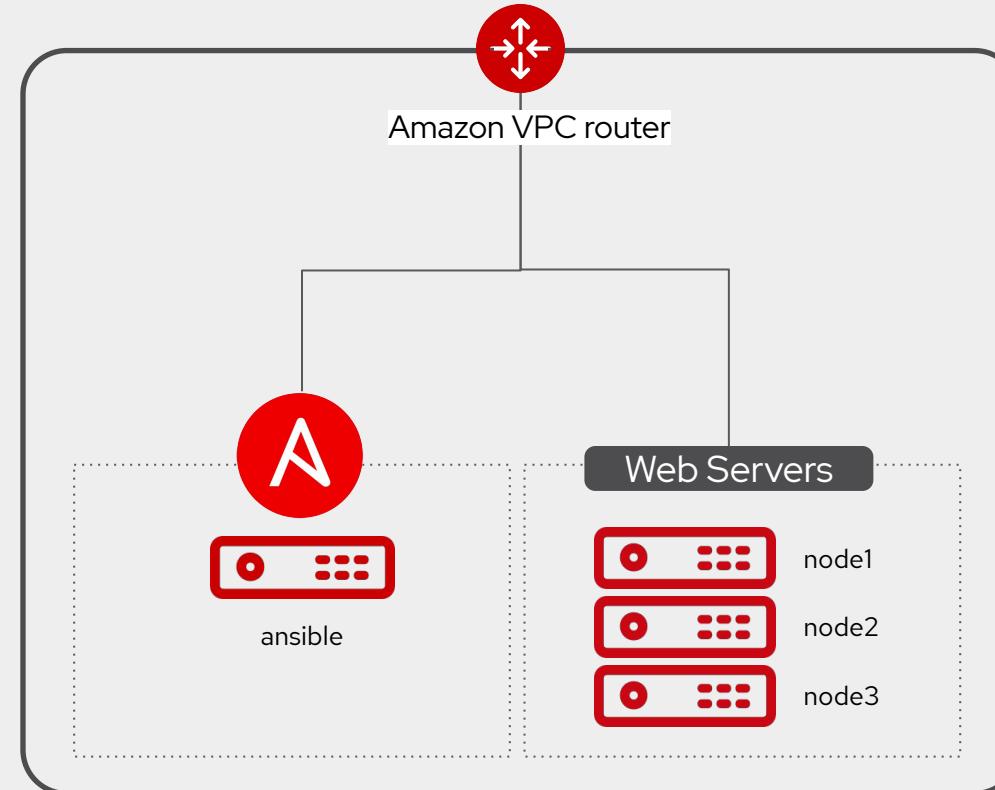
- **Learn with the real thing**

Every student will have their own fully licensed Red Hat Ansible Tower control node. No emulators or simulators here.

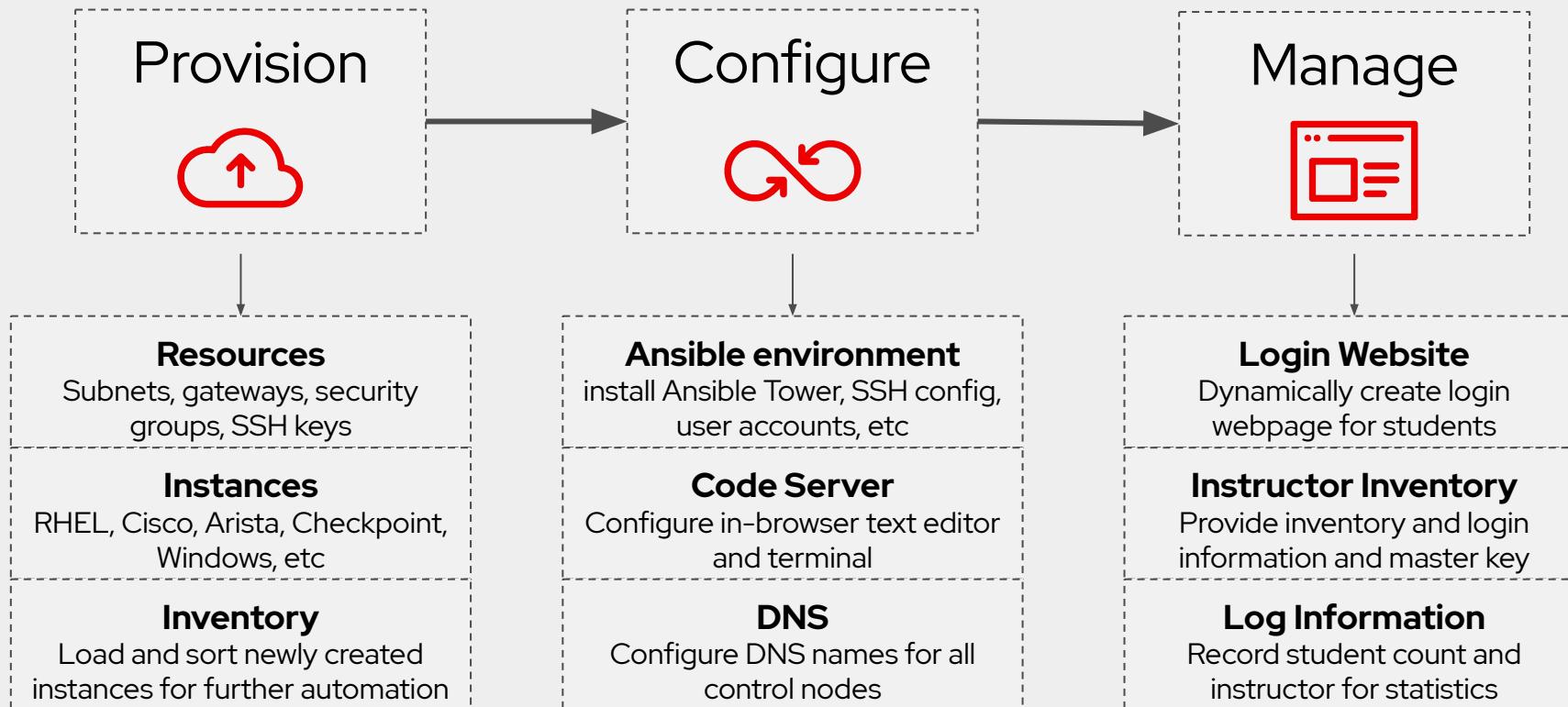
- **Red Hat Enterprise Linux**

All four nodes are enterprise Linux, showcasing real life use-cases to help spark ideas for what you can automate today.

Workbench Topology



# How does it work?





# Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

## Lab Time

Complete exercise **1-setup** now in your lab environment

<https://red.ht/ansibleworkshop>



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# Exercise 2

## Topics Covered:

- Ansible inventories
- Main Ansible config file
- Modules and ad-hoc commands
- Example: Bash vs. Ansible

# Inventory

- Ansible works against multiple systems in an **inventory**
- Inventory is usually file based
- Can have multiple groups
- Can have variables for each group or even host

# Understanding Inventory - Basic

```
node1  
node2  
node3  
ansible  
10.20.30.40
```

# Understanding Inventory - Basic

## [web]

```
node1 ansible_host=3.22.77.141
node2 ansible_host=3.15.193.71
node3 ansible_host=3.15.1.72
```

## [control]

```
ansible ansible_host=18.217.162.148
```

# Understanding Inventory - Variables

## [all:vars]

```
ansible user=student1  
ansible ssh pass=ansible1234  
ansible_port=22
```

## [web]

```
node1 ansible host=3.22.77.141  
node2 ansible host=3.15.193.71  
node3 ansible_host=3.15.1.72
```

## [control]

```
ansible ansible_host=18.217.162.148
```

# First Ad-Hoc Command: ping

- Single Ansible command to perform a task quickly directly on command line
- Most basic operation that can be performed
- Here: an example Ansible ping - not to be confused with ICMP

```
$ ansible all -m ping
```

# Ad-Hoc Commands    ping

```
# Check connections (submarine ping, not ICMP)
[user@ansible] $ ansible all -m ping
```

```
node1 | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python":
"/usr/bin/python"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
```

# Bash vs. Ansible

```
echo Running mssql-conf setup...
sudo
MSSQL_SA_PASSWORD=$MSSQL_SA_PASSWORD \
MSSQL_PID=$MSSQL_PID \
/opt/mssql/bin/mssql-conf -n setup accept-eula

echo 'export PATH="$PATH:/opt/mssql-tools/bin"' >>
~/.bash_profile
echo 'export PATH="$PATH:/opt/mssql-tools/bin"' >>
~/.bashrc
source ~/.bashrc
```

```
- name: Run mssql-conf setup
  command: /opt/mssql/bin/mssql-conf -n setup
  accept-eula
  environment:
    - MSSQL_SA_PASSWORD: "{{ MSSQL_SA_PASSWORD }}"
    - MSSQL_PID: "{{ MSSQL_PID }}"
  when: install is changed

- name: Add mssql-tools to $PATH
  lineinfile:
    path: "{{ item }}"
    line: export PATH="$PATH:/opt/mssql-tools/bin"
  loop:
    - ~/.bash_profile
    - ~/.bashrc
```



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## Lab Time

Complete exercise **2-adhoc** now in your lab environment

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# Exercise 3

Topics Covered:

- Playbooks basics
- Running a playbook

# An Ansible Playbook

A play

```
---
- name: install and start apache
  hosts: web
  become: yes

  tasks:
    - name: httpd package is present
      yum:
        name: httpd
        state: latest

    - name: latest index.html file is present
      template:
        src: files/index.html
        dest: /var/www/html/

    - name: httpd is started
      service:
        name: httpd
        state: started
```

# An Ansible Playbook

A task

```
---
- name: install and start apache
  hosts: web
  become: yes

  tasks:
    - name: httpd package is present
      yum:
        name: httpd
        state: latest

    - name: latest index.html file is present
      template:
        src: files/index.html
        dest: /var/www/html/

    - name: httpd is started
      service:
        name: httpd
        state: started
```

# An Ansible Playbook

module



```
---
- name: install and start apache
  hosts: web
  become: yes

  tasks:
    - name: httpd package is present
      yum:
        name: httpd
        state: latest

    - name: latest index.html file is present
      template:
        src: files/index.html
        dest: /var/www/html/

    - name: httpd is started
      service:
        name: httpd
        state: started
```

# Running an Ansible Playbook:

The most important colors of Ansible

A task executed as expected, no change was made.

A task executed as expected, making a change

A task failed to execute successfully

# Running an Ansible Playbook

```
[user@ansible] $ ansible-playbook apache.yml

PLAY [webservers] ****
TASK [Gathering Facts] ****
ok: [web2]
ok: [web1]
ok: [web3]

TASK [Ensure httpd package is present] ****
changed: [web2]
changed: [web1]
changed: [web3]

TASK [Ensure latest index.html file is present] ****
changed: [web2]
changed: [web1]
changed: [web3]

TASK [Restart httpd] ****
changed: [web2]
changed: [web1]
changed: [web3]

PLAY RECAP ****
web2          : ok=1    changed=3  unreachable=0   failed=0
web1          : ok=1    changed=3  unreachable=0   failed=0
web3          : ok=1    changed=3  unreachable=0   failed=0
```



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## Ansible Automation Platform

## Lab Time

Complete exercise **3-playbooks** now in your lab environment

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# Exercise 4

Topics Covered:

- Working with variables
- What are facts?

# An Ansible Playbook Variable Example

```
---
- name: variable playbook test
  hosts: localhost

  vars:
    var_one: awesome
    var_two: ansible is
    var_three: "{{ var_two }} {{ var_one }}"

  tasks:
    - name: print out var_three
      debug:
        msg: "{{var_three}}"
```

# An Ansible Playbook Variable Example

```
---
- name: variable playbook test
  hosts: localhost

  vars:
    var_one: awesome
    var_two: ansible is
    var_three: "{{ var_two }} {{ var_one }}"

  tasks:
    - name: print out var_three
      debug:
        msg: "{{var_three}}"
```

ansible is awesome



# Facts

- Structured data in the form of Ansible variables
- Information is capture from the host
- Ad-hoc command **setup** will show facts

```
"ansible_facts": {  
    "ansible_default_ipv4": {  
        "address": "10.41.17.37",  
        "macaddress": "00:69:08:3b:a9:16",  
        "interface": "eth0",  
    ...  
}
```

# Ansible Variables and Facts

```
---
```

- name: Output facts within a playbook  
hosts: all

tasks:

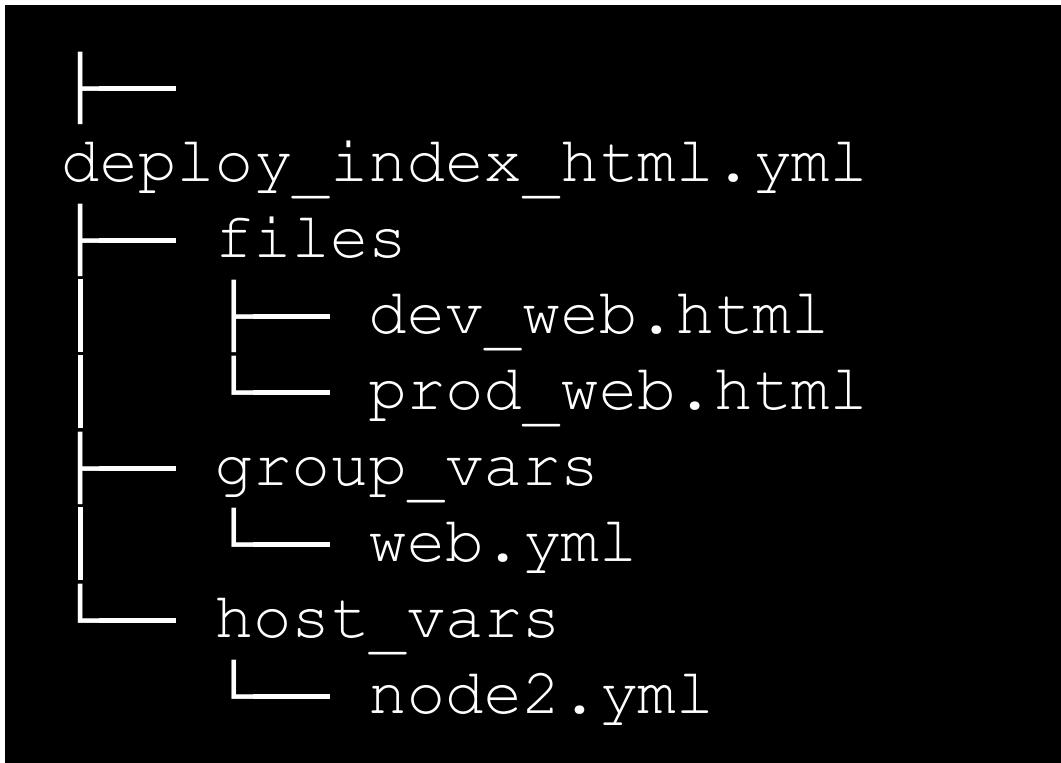
- name: Prints Ansible facts  
debug:  
msg: "The default IPv4 address of {{ ansible\_fqdn }}  
is {{ ansible\_default\_ipv4.address }}"

```
TASK [Prints Ansible facts] ****
ok: [node3] =>
    msg: The default IPv4 address of node3 is 172.16.63.104
ok: [node1] =>
    msg: The default IPv4 address of node1 is 172.16.178.80
ok: [node2] =>
    msg: The default IPv4 address of node2 is 172.16.166.120
ok: [ansible] =>
    msg: The default IPv4 address of student1.sean-may4.rhdemo.io is 172.16.86.242
```

# Ansible Inventory - Managing Variables In Files

```
$ tree ansible-files/  
└── deploy_index_html.yml  
├── files  
│   ├── dev_web.html  
│   └── prod_web.html  
├── group_vars  
│   └── web.yml  
└── host_vars  
    └── node2.yml
```

# Ansible Inventory - Managing Variables In Files



```
$ cat group_vars/web.yml
---
stage: dev
```

```
$ cat host_vars/node2.yml
---
stage: prod
```

```
- name: copy web.html
copy:
  src: "{{ stage }}_web.html"
  dest: /var/www/html/index.html
```



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## Ansible Automation Platform

### Lab Time

Complete exercise **4-variables** now in your lab environment

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# Exercise 5

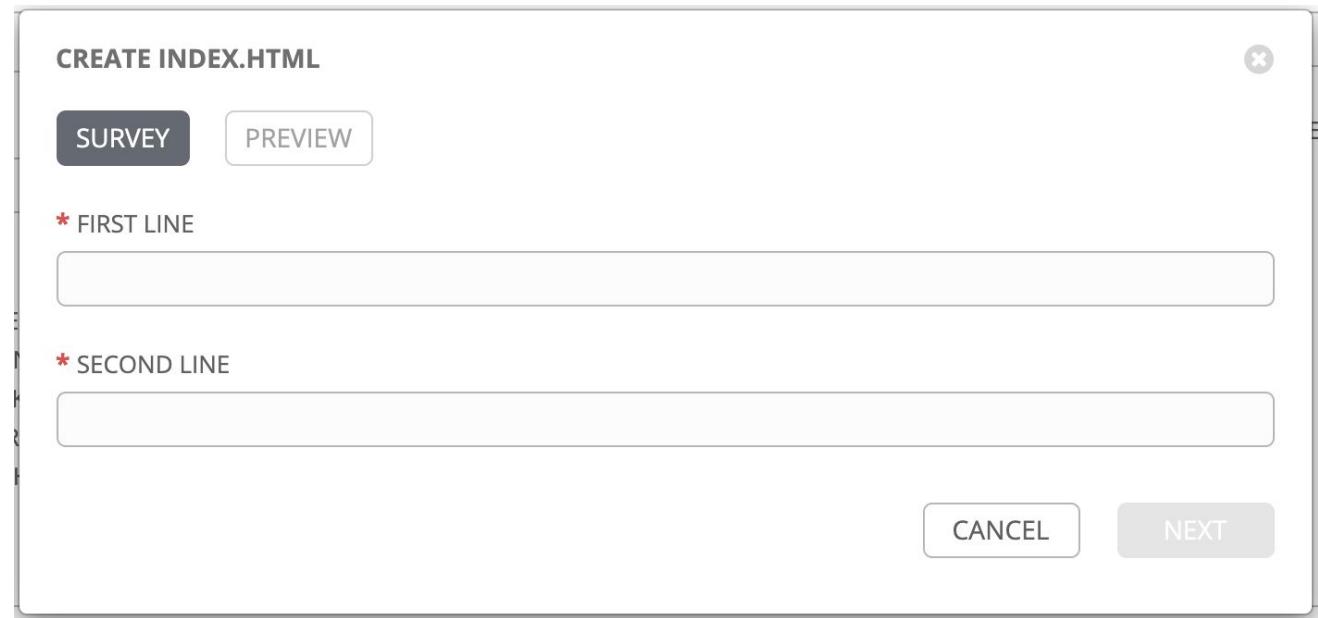
Topics Covered:

- Surveys

# Surveys

Tower surveys allow you to configure how a job runs via a series of questions, making it simple to customize your jobs in a user-friendly way.

An Ansible Tower survey is a simple question-and-answer form that allows users to customize their job runs. Combine that with Tower's role-based access control, and you can build simple, easy self-service for your users.

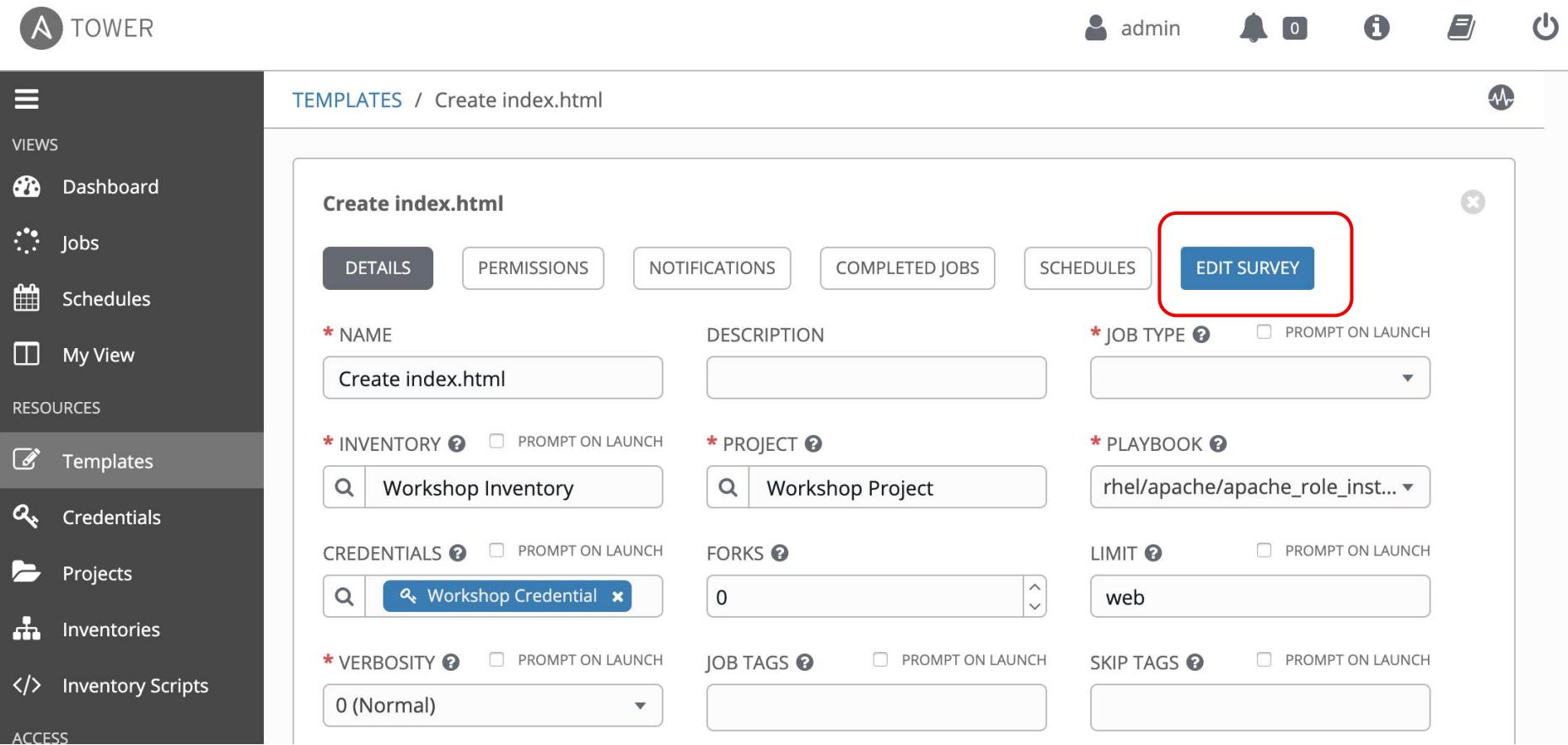


# Creating a Survey (1/2)

Once a Job Template is saved, the **Add Survey Button** will appear

ADD SURVEY

Click the button to open the Add Survey window.



The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower web interface. On the left is a sidebar with links to Views, Resources (Templates, Credentials, Projects, Inventories, Inventory Scripts), and ACCESS. The main area shows a 'TEMPLATES / Create index.html' page. At the top right are user info (admin), notifications (0), help, and power buttons. A modal window titled 'Create index.html' is open, containing tabs for DETAILS, PERMISSIONS, NOTIFICATIONS, COMPLETED JOBS, SCHEDULES, and EDIT SURVEY (which is highlighted with a red box). The form fields include NAME (Create index.html), DESCRIPTION, JOB TYPE (with a dropdown menu), INVENTORY (Workshop Inventory), PROJECT (Workshop Project), PLAYBOOK (rhel/apache/apache\_role\_inst...), CREDENTIALS (Workshop Credential), FORKS (0), LIMIT (web), VERBOSITY (0 (Normal)), JOB TAGS, and SKIP TAGS. Each field has a 'PROMPT ON LAUNCH' checkbox.

# Creating a Survey (2/2)

The Add Survey window allows the Job Template to prompt users for one or more questions. The answers provided become variables for use in the Ansible Playbook.

The screenshot shows the 'Create index.html | SURVEY' window in the Tower interface. On the left, the 'ADD SURVEY PROMPT' section contains fields for 'PROMPT', 'DESCRIPTION', 'ANSWER VARIABLE NAME', 'ANSWER TYPE', and a 'REQUIRED' checkbox. Below these are 'CLEAR' and '+ ADD' buttons. On the right, the 'PREVIEW' section shows two lines of survey input fields labeled 'FIRST LINE' and 'SECOND LINE', each with edit and delete icons. At the bottom are 'DELETE SURVEY', 'CANCEL', and 'SAVE' buttons. The top bar includes the Tower logo, user 'admin', notifications (0), and other navigation icons.

# Using a Survey

When launching a job, the user will now be prompted with the Survey. The user can be required to fill out the Survey before the Job Template will execute.

The screenshot shows a survey dialog box titled "CREATE INDEX.HTML". At the top, there are two buttons: "SURVEY" (which is highlighted in dark grey) and "PREVIEW" (which is white with a grey border). In the center, there are two input fields labeled with red asterisks: "\* FIRST LINE" and "\* SECOND LINE". Both fields have a large, empty rectangular input area. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: "CANCEL" (white with a grey border) and "NEXT" (light grey with a white border).



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## Ansible Automation Platform

### Lab Time

Complete exercise **5-surveys** now in your lab environment

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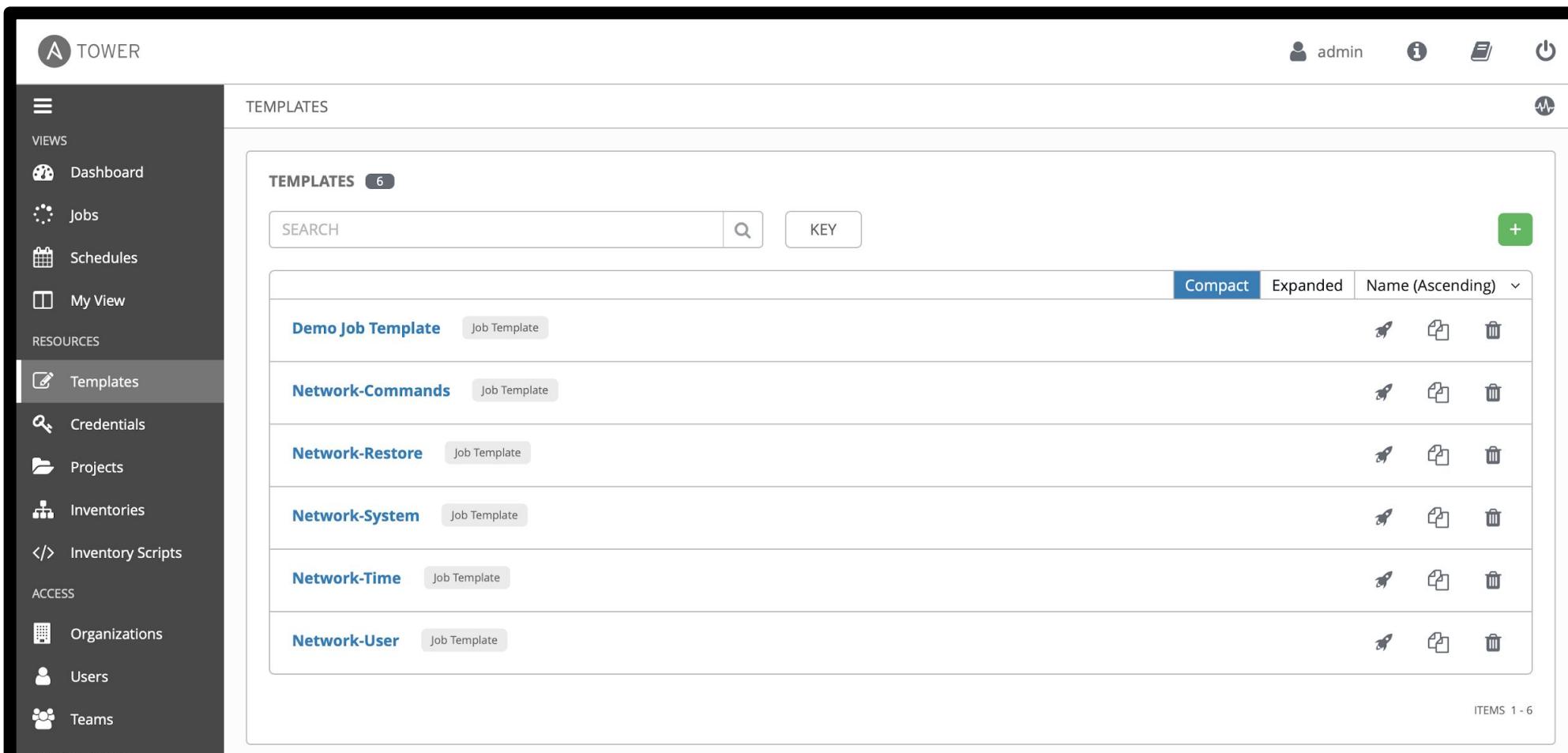
# Exercise 6

Topics Covered:

- Workflows

# Workflows

Workflows can be found alongside Job Templates by clicking the **Templates**  button under the *RESOURCES* section on the left menu.



The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower web interface. The top navigation bar includes the TOWER logo, user info (admin), and various icons. On the far left is a dark sidebar with a navigation menu:

- VIEWS: Dashboard, Jobs, Schedules, My View
- RESOURCES: **Templates** (selected), Credentials, Projects, Inventories, Inventory Scripts
- ACCESS: Organizations, Users, Teams
- ADMINISTRATION

The main content area is titled "TEMPLATES" and shows a list of six items:

NAME	TYPED AS	OPTIONS
Demo Job Template	Job Template	
Network-Commands	Job Template	
Network-Restore	Job Template	
Network-System	Job Template	
Network-Time	Job Template	
Network-User	Job Template	

At the bottom right of the main content area, it says "ITEMS 1 - 6".

# Adding a new Workflow Template

To add a new **Workflow** click on the green + button

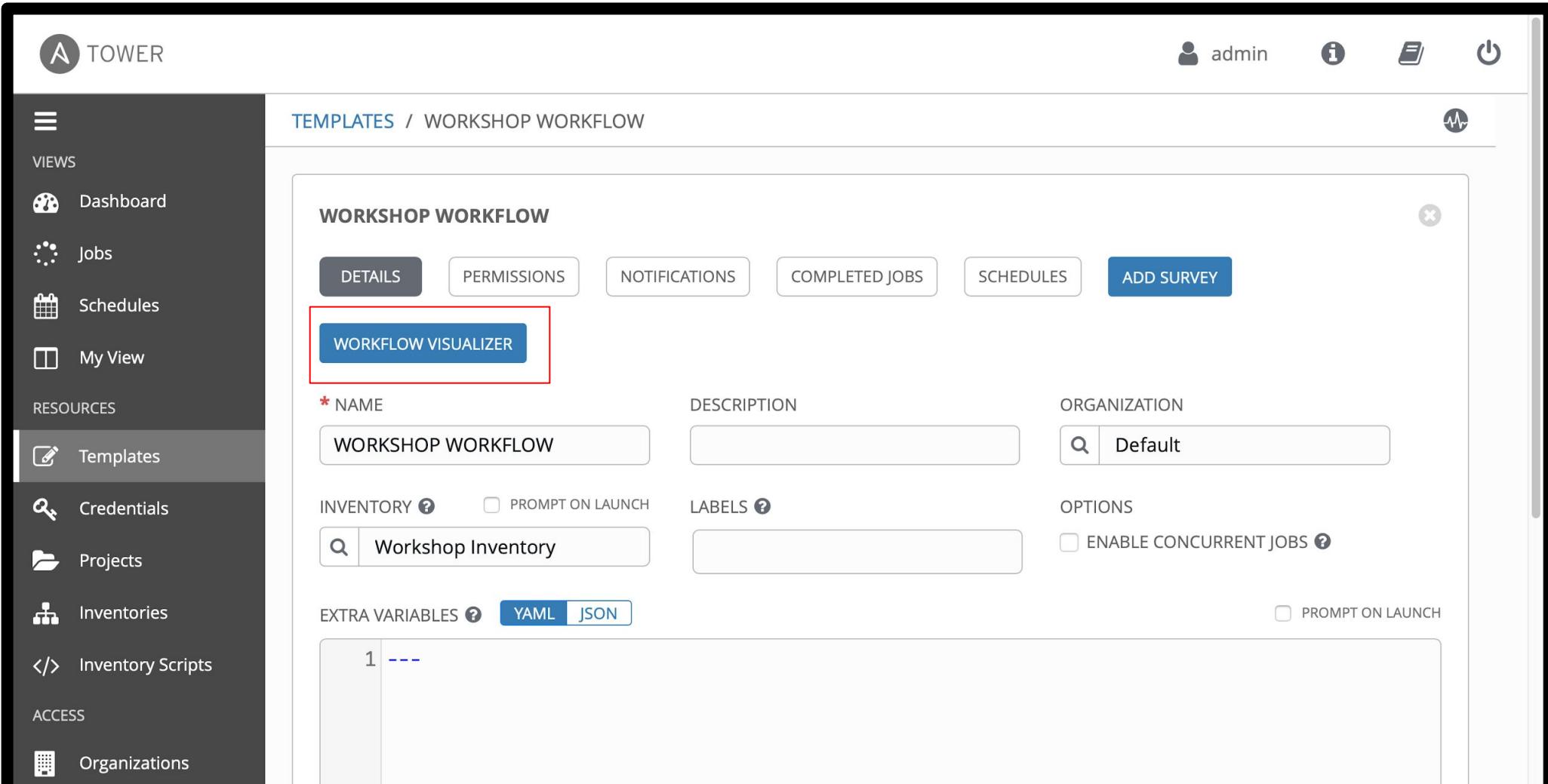


This time select the **Workflow Template**

A screenshot of the Ansible Tower web interface. The left sidebar shows navigation options like Dashboard, Jobs, Schedules, My View, Templates (which is selected), Credentials, Projects, Inventories, Inventory Scripts, Organizations, and Users. The main content area is titled 'TEMPLATES' and shows a list of templates. Each template entry includes a name, a 'Job Template' badge, a preview icon, and three action icons (rocket, copy, delete). A red box highlights the 'Workflow Template' option in the dropdown menu that appears when clicking the green '+' button. The dropdown also lists 'Job Template'. The interface has a dark mode theme with light-colored cards for each template.

# Creating the Workflow

Fill out the required parameters and click **SAVE**. As soon as the Workflow Template is saved the WORKFLOW VISUALIZER will open.



The screenshot shows the Tower interface for creating a new workflow template. The left sidebar has 'Templates' selected. The main area shows the 'WORKSHOP WORKFLOW' template details. The 'WORKFLOW VISUALIZER' button is highlighted with a red box.

**WORKSHOP WORKFLOW**

**DETAILS** **PERMISSIONS** **NOTIFICATIONS** **COMPLETED JOBS** **SCHEDULES** **ADD SURVEY**

**WORKFLOW VISUALIZER**

**\* NAME**: WORKSHOP WORKFLOW

**DESCRIPTION**: (empty)

**ORGANIZATION**: Default

**INVENTORY**: Workshop Inventory

**LABELS**: (empty)

**OPTIONS**:  ENABLE CONCURRENT JOBS

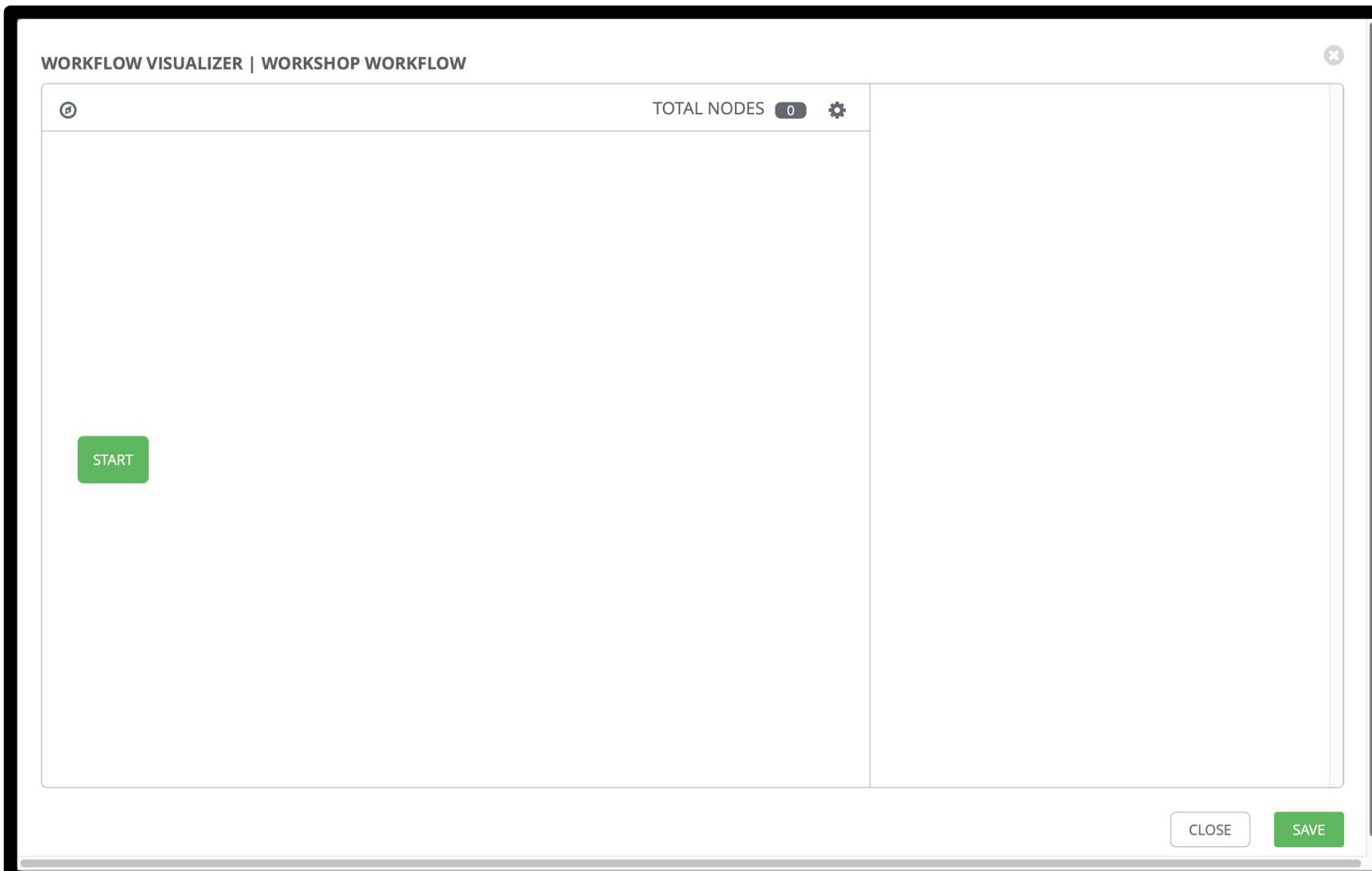
**EXTRA VARIABLES**: YAML JSON

PROMPT ON LAUNCH

1 ---

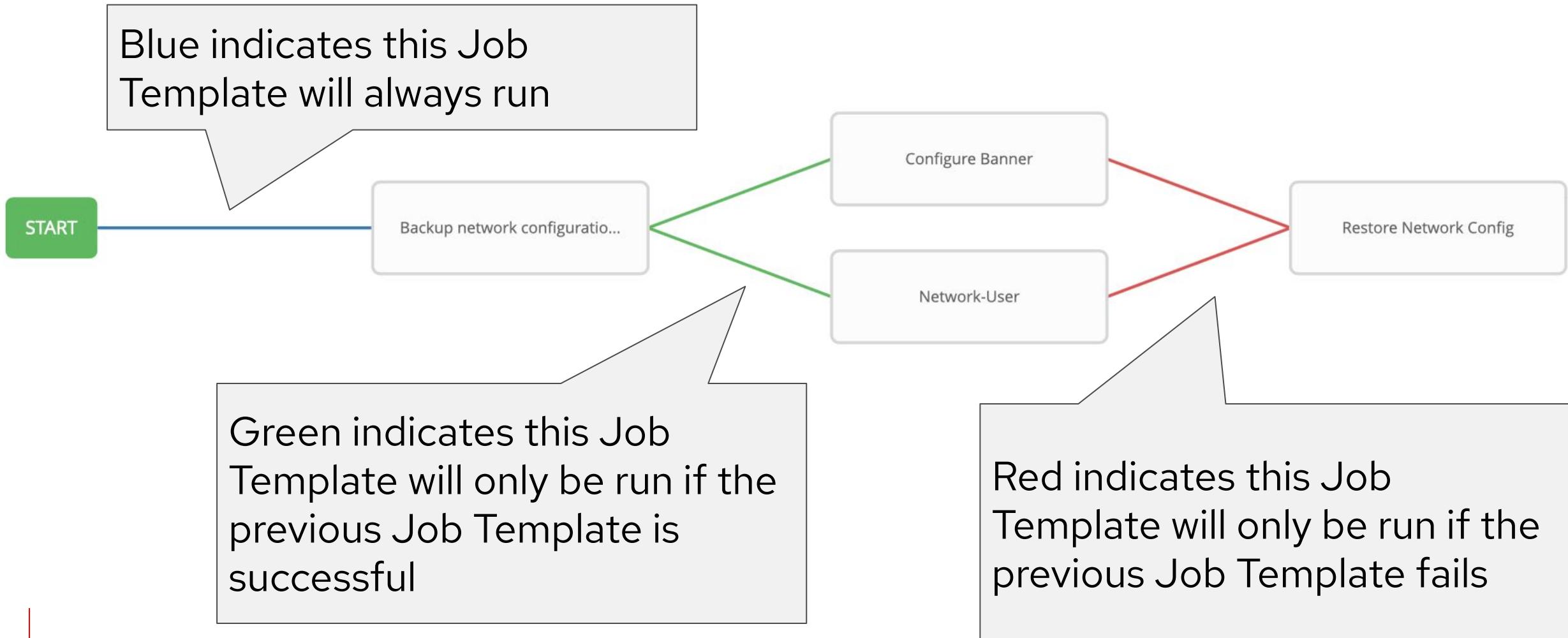
# Workflow Visualizer

The workflow visualizer will start as a blank canvas.



# Visualizing a Workflow

Workflows can branch out, or converge in.





# Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

## Lab Time

Complete exercise **6-workflow** now in your lab environment

<https://red.ht/ansibleworkshop>



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# Next Steps

## GET STARTED

[ansible.com/get-started](https://ansible.com/get-started)

[ansible.com/tower-trial](https://ansible.com/tower-trial)

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## WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

[ansible.com/workshops](https://ansible.com/workshops)

[Red Hat Training](#)

## JOIN THE COMMUNITY

[ansible.com/community](https://ansible.com/community)

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## SHARE YOUR STORY

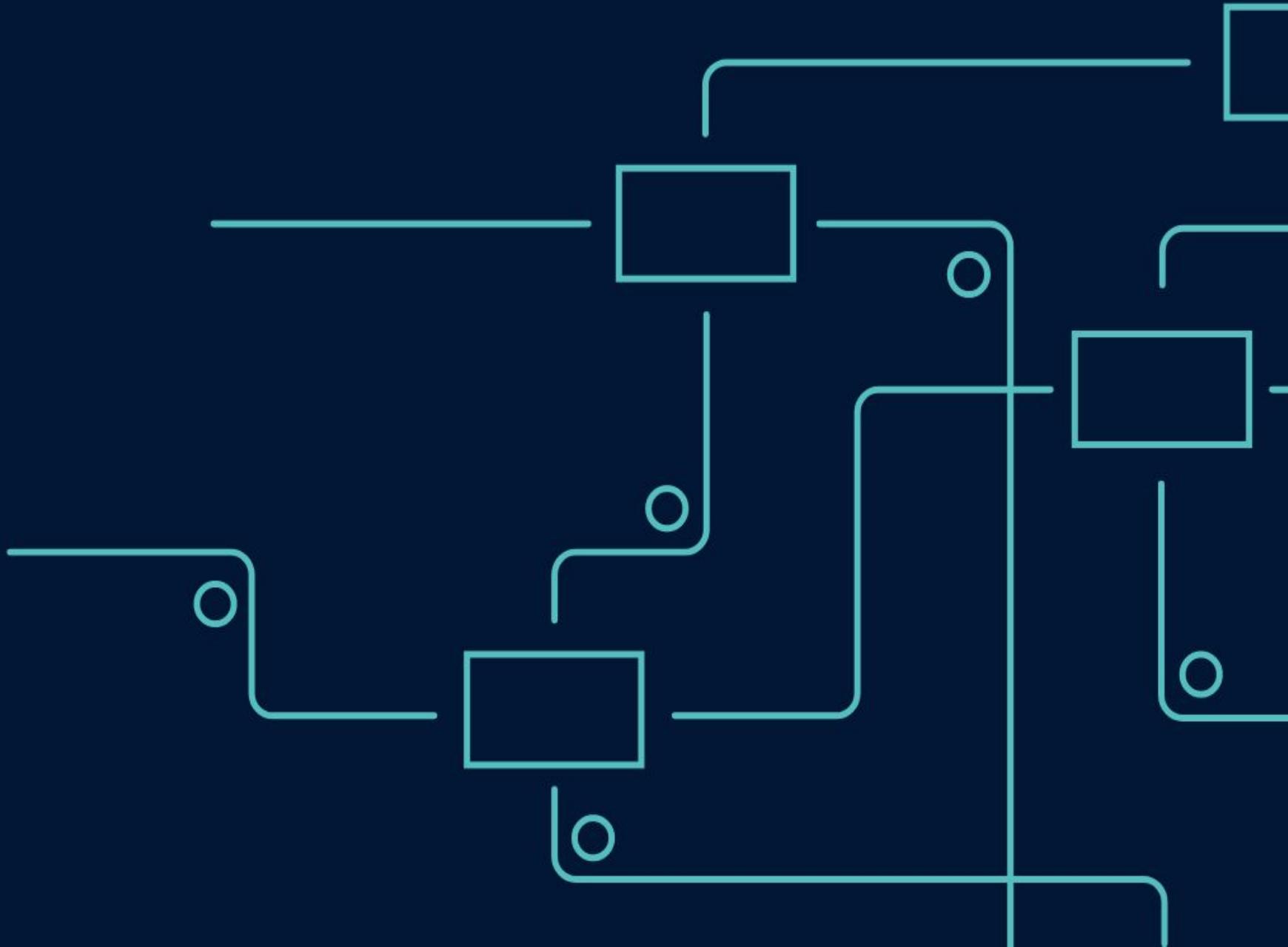
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# Thank you



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