10: Community Cookbooks



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Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to

- > Find cookbooks on the Chef Super Market
- > Create a wrapper cookbook
- > Replace the existing default values
- Upload a cookbook to Chef Server
- > Bootstrap a new node that runs the cookbook

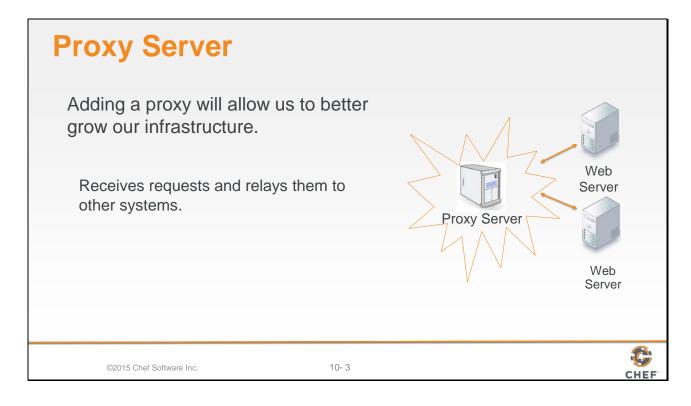
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In this module you will learn how to find cookbooks on the Chef Super Market, create a wrapper cookbook, replace the existing default values, upload a cookbook to Chef Server, and bootstrap a new node that runs the cookbook.

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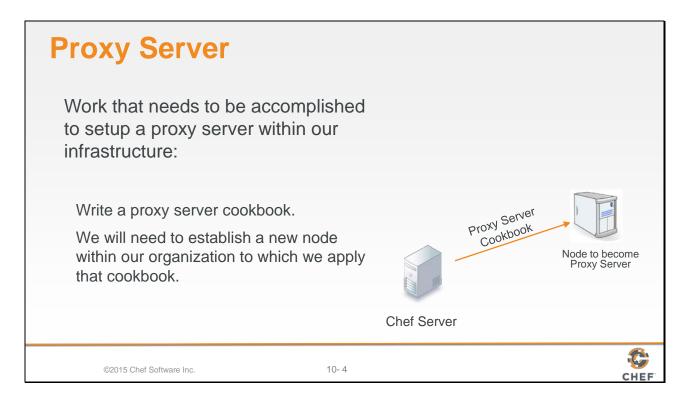


With a single web server running with our organization, it's now time to talk about the next goal to tackle. We need to setup a proxy server.

A proxy server is able to receive requests and relay them to other systems. In our case, we specifically want to use the proxy server to balance the entire traffic load between one or more systems.

This means we will need to establish a new node within our organization, install the necessary software to make the node a proxy server, and configure it so that it will relay requests to our existing node running apache and to future nodes.

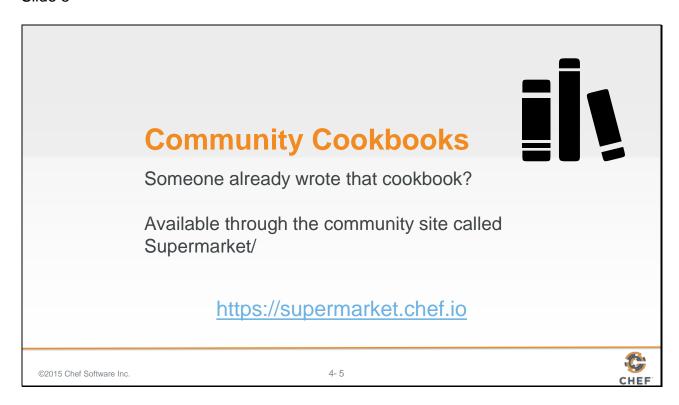
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Similar to how we installed and configured apache on our first node, we could do the same thing here with a proxy server. We could learn the package name for the application 'haproxy', learn which file manages the configuration, learn how to compose the configuration with custom values, and then manage the service.

Package, Template and Service are the core of configuration management. Nearly all the recipes you write for an application will center on using these three resources. We could spend some time focused on composing the cookbook recipe and testing it on our platform with our custom configuration.

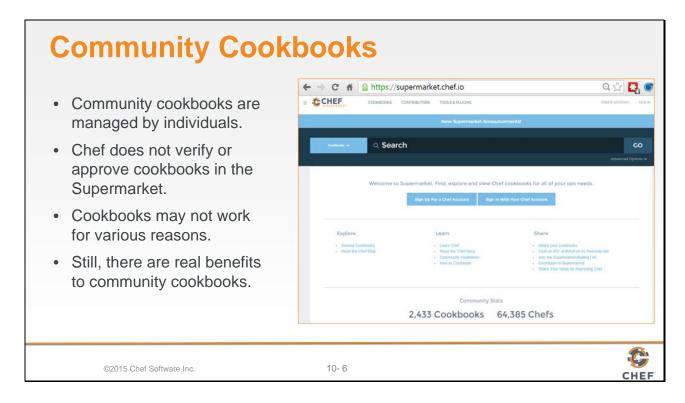
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But what if we told you someone already wrote that cookbook?

Someone already has and that cookbook is available through the community site called Supermarket. Supermarket is a public repository of all the cookbooks shared by other developers, teams, and companies who want to share their knowledge and hard work with you to save you time.

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An important thing to remember is that on the community site are cookbooks managed by individuals. Chef does not verify or approve the cookbooks found in the Supermarket. These cookbooks solved problems for the original authors and then they decided to share them. This means that the cookbooks you find in the Supermarket may not be built or designed for your platform. It may not take into special consideration your needs and requirements. It may no longer be actively maintained.

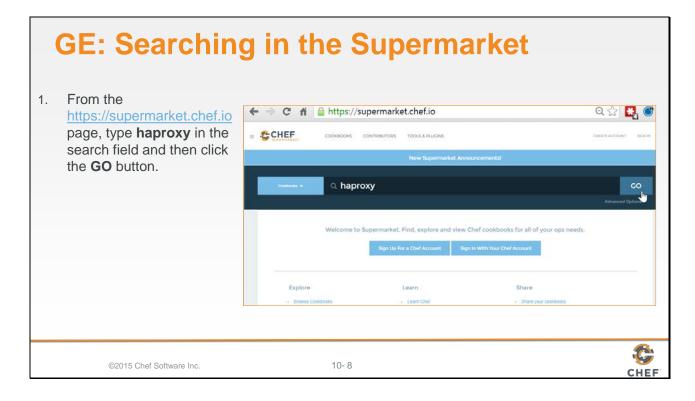
Even if the cookbook does not work as a whole, there is still value in reading and understand the source code and extracting the pieces you need when creating your own. With all that said, there is a real benefit to the community site. When you find a cookbook that helps you deliver value quickly, it can be a tremendous boon to your productivity. This is what we are going to take advantage of with the haproxy cookbook.

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Lets find the haproxy cookbook within the community site to learn more about it.

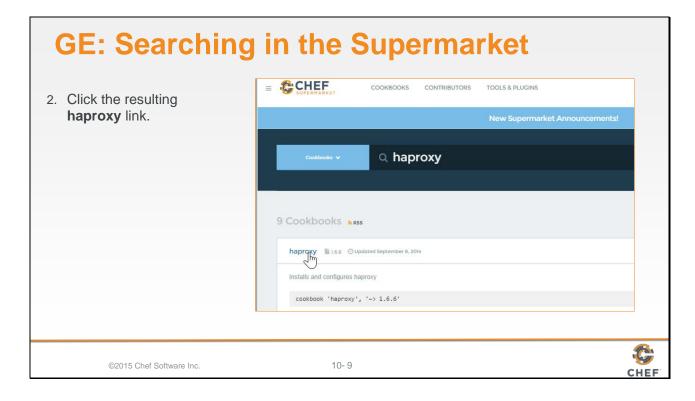
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From the Supermarket main page type the search term "haproxy" and the click the **GO** button.

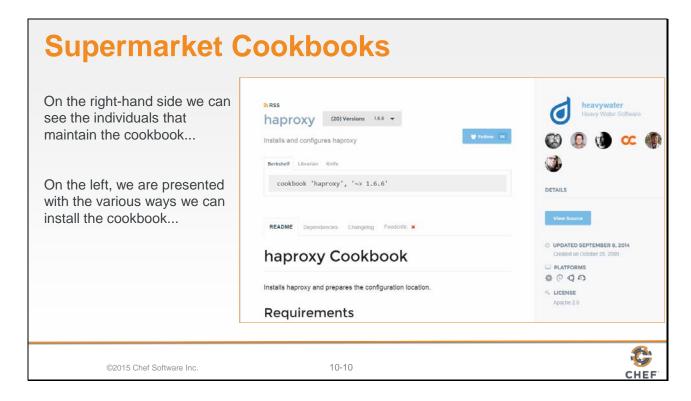
Below the search term will show us all the matching cookbooks. The haproxy cookbook is in that result set.

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Cookbooks usually map one-to-one to a piece of software and usually are named after the piece of software that they manage. Select the cookbook named haproxy from the search results.

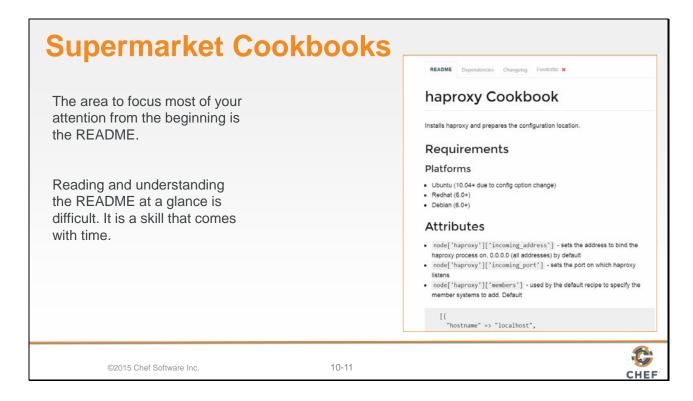
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At this point you are presented with information that describes the cookbook. Starting on the right-hand side we see the individuals that maintain the cookbook, a link to view the source details, last updated date, supported platforms, licensing, and a link to download the cookbook.

On the left, we are presented with the various ways we can install the cookbook, the README that describes information about the cookbook, any cookbooks that this cookbook may depend on, a history of the changes, and its food critic rating--which is a code evaluator for best practices.

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The area to focus most of your attention from the beginning is the README. The README describes the various attributes that are defined within the cookbook and the purpose of the recipe. This is the same README file found in the cookbooks we currently have within our organization. This one, however, has had far more details added to give new users like us the ability to understand more quickly what the cookbook does and how it does it.

Reading and understanding the README at a glance is difficult. It is a skill that comes with time. For the haproxy cookbook there is an defined attribute that establishes the members that receive the proxy requests from the proxy server. This is available in a node attribute available through `node['haproxy']['members']`.

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Supermarket Cookbooks

These node attributes are different than the automatic ones defined by Ohai.

Attributes defined in a cookbook are not considered automatic.

Attributes

- node['haproxy']['incoming_address'] sets the address to bind the haproxy process on, 0.0.0.0 (all addresses) by default
- node['haproxy']['incoming_port'] sets the port on which haproxy listens
- node['haproxy']['members'] used by the default recipe to specify the member systems to add. Default

```
[{
    "hostname" => "localhost",
    "ipaddress" => "127.0.0.1",
    "port" => 4000
},{
    "hostname" => "localhost",
    "ipaddress" => "127.0.0.1",
    "port" => 4001,
    "ssl_port" => 4001
}]
```

• node['haproxy']['member_port'] - the port that member systems will be listening on if not otherwise

https://docs.chef.io/attributes.html

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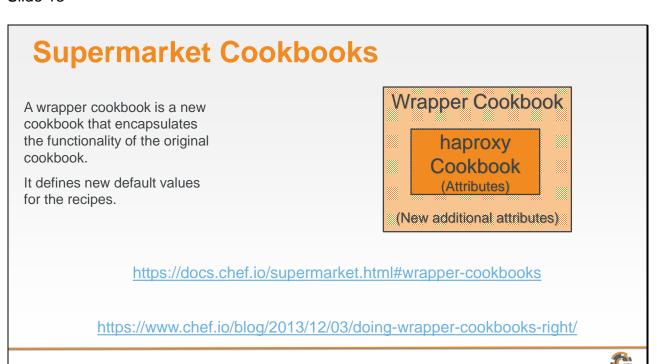


Prior to this point we have seen how node attributes are defined by Ohai but cookbooks also have this ability to define node attributes. These node attributes are different than the ones defined by Ohai as well. Ohai attributes are considered automatic attributes and generally inalienable characteristics about the node.

Attributes defined in a cookbook are not considered automatic. They are simply default values that we may change. There are many ways that we provide new default values for these. One way that we will learn is defining a wrapper cookbook.

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A wrapper cookbook is a new cookbook that encapsulates the functionality of the original cookbook but allows us to define new default values for the recipes.

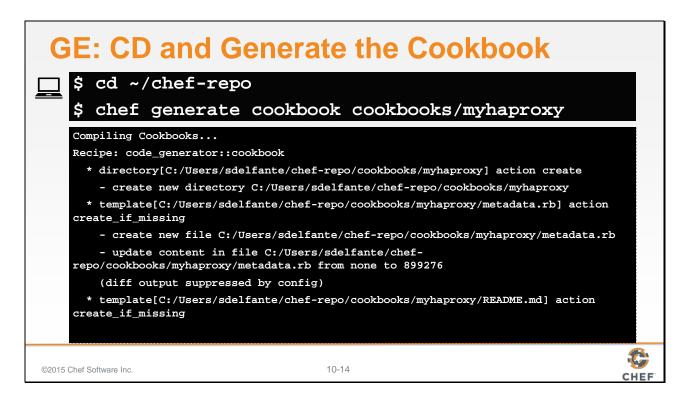
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CHEF

This is a common method for overriding cookbooks because it allows us to leave the original cookbook untouched. We simply provide new default values that we want and then include the recipes that we want to run.

Lets generate our wrapper cookbook named myhaproxy. Traditionally we would name the cookbook with a prefix of the name of our company and then follow it by the cookbook name 'company-cookbook'.

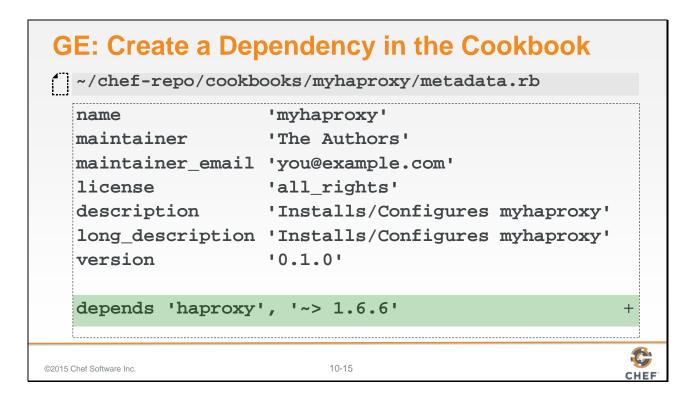
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Change to your chef-repo directory and then generate your new cookbook.

Instructor Note: The generate cookbook command needs the path in the name of the cookbook here to ensure that it generates the cookbook in the cookbooks directory. Without it the cookbook will be generated within the root of the chef repository. If that happens simply have the learner move the newly generated cookbook into the cookbooks directory.

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Set up a dependency within your haproxy cookbook. Establishing this dependency informs the Chef Server that whenever you deliver this cookbook to a node, you should also deliver with it the mentioned dependent cookbooks.

This is important because your cookbook is simply going to set up new default values and then execute the recipes defined in the original cookbook.

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Now that you have the dependency on the haproxy cookbook in your wrapper cookbook, you need to learn what new default values you need to add to the recipe.

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Supermarket Cookbooks Attributes Currently, the haproxy node['haproxy']['incoming_address'] - sets the address to bind the haproxy process on, 0.0.0.0 (all cookbook assumes that there addresses) by default are two different services node['haproxy']['incoming_port'] - sets the port on which haproxy listens • node['haproxy']['members'] - used by the default recipe to specify the member systems to add. Default running on the localhost at port 4000 and port 4001. "hostname" => "localhost"; "ipaddress" => "127.0.0.1", "port" => 4000, "ssl_port" => 4000 In a moment, you'll need to change that. "hostname" => "localhost", "ipaddress" => "127.0.0.1", "ssl_port" => 4001 • node['haproxy']['member_port'] - the port that member systems will be listening on if not otherwise https://docs.chef.io/supermarket.html#wrapper-cookbooks G

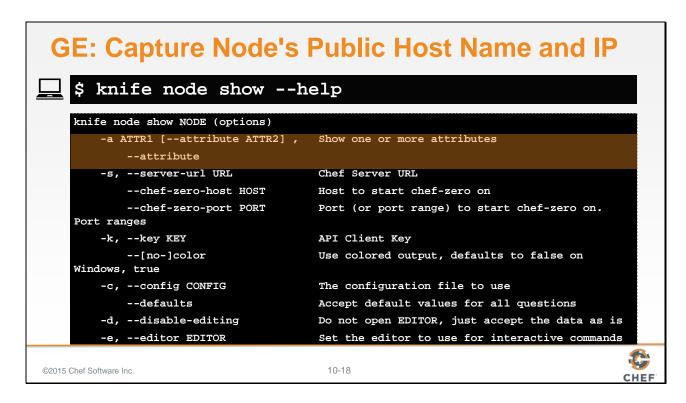
Currently the haproxy cookbook assumes that there are two different services running on the localhost at port 4000 and port 4001. The haproxy process will relay messages to itself to those two ports.

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CHEF

That is not our configuration. First, we currently only have one system that we want to route traffic. Second, we want to have the traffic routed not to localhost but instead to our webserver, node1, which will have a completely different hostname and IP address.

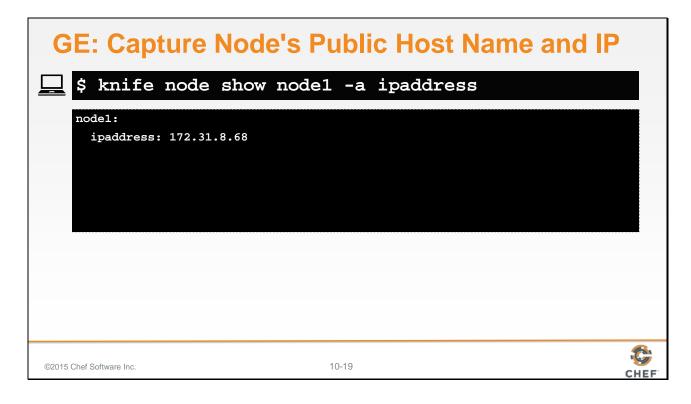
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This new default value for the haproxy members needs to define the information about the webserver node, node1. So you need to capture the node's public host name and public IP address.

The 'knife node show' command will display information about the node. You can ask to see a specific attribute on a node with the –a flag or the --attribute flag.

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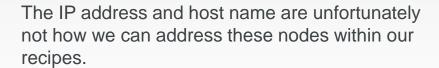
You can display the IP address of node1 with the '-a' flag and specifying the attribute 'ipaddress'.

With cloud providers that generate machines for you often assign internal IP addresses, those values may not work properly.

Instructor Note: The IP addresses of the nodes that were used during the creation of this training were based on Amazon Web Services (AWS). The address reported by Ohai is often the private, internal address.

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Amazon EC2 Instances



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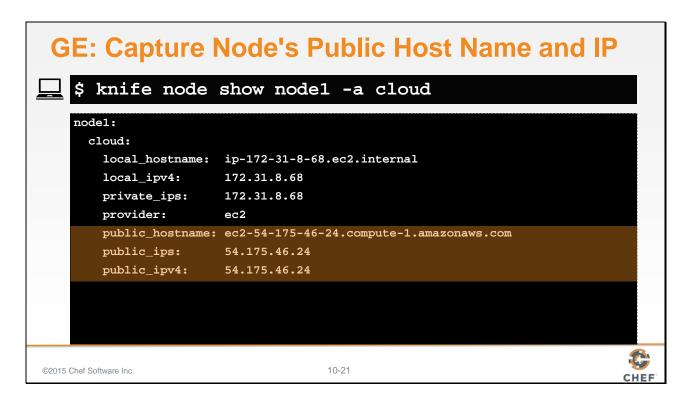
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The reason you may need to ask the node for a different set of attributes is that we are using Amazon as a cloud provider for our instances. These instances are displaying the internal IP address when we ask for the ipaddress attribute.

Ohai collects attributes from the current cloud provider and makes them available in an attribute named 'cloud'. We can look at the cloud attribute on our first node and see that it returns for us information about the node.

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If you use 'knife node show' to display the 'cloud' attribute for node1, you will see the local, private, and public connection information.

Capture and write down the public hostname and the public ipv4 address of node1. You will need this in the recipe you are going to write.

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First, within the myhaproxy cookbook you will use the include_recipe method to specify the fully-qualified name of the cookbook and recipe that you want to execute. In this case, when you run your wrapped cookbooks recipe, you'll want it to run the original cookbook's default recipe.

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Without changing anything any further, using this cookbook will simply execute the original cookbooks' recipe with all the same default values. Before you execute that recipe, you'll need to override the default values with your own.

Copy and paste the original default values into your recipe, as shown here.

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Remove one of the entries within the members array (shown in red).

Then update the information for the remaining member to include the public ipaddress and hostname for node1 (shown in green).

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To replace a default attribute in a recipe you have to use 'node.default['haproxy']['members']...'

So you need to change:

'node['haproxy']['members']' to 'node.**default**['haproxy']['members']'

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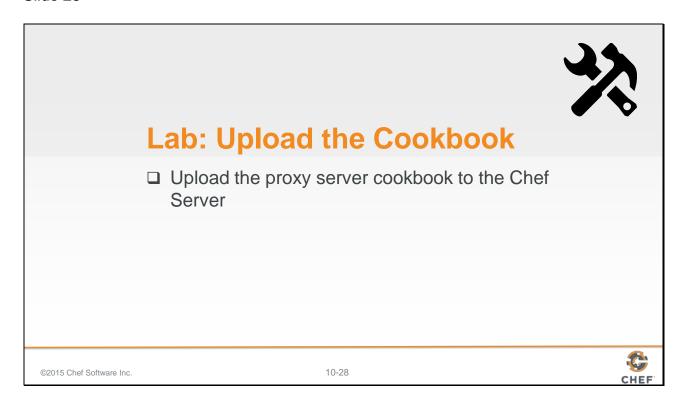
The final default recipe for the wrapper cookbook 'myhaproxy' looks like the above. Save your recipe file.

Slide 27



You have completed creating the wrapper cookbook. It is time to upload to the Chef Server.

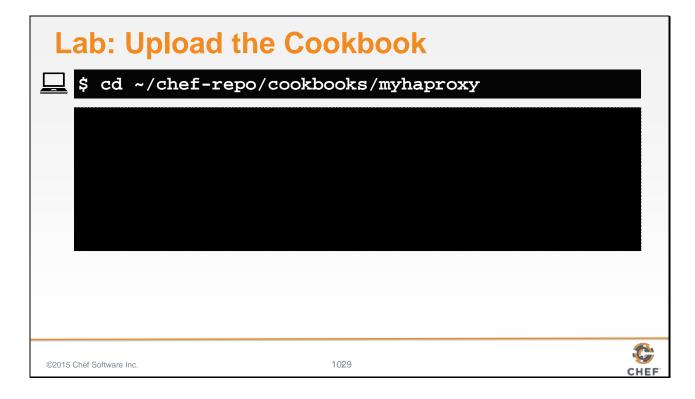
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As a lab exercise, upload the cookbook to the Chef Server

Instructor Note: Allow 5 minutes to complete this exercise.

Slide 29



Lets review that lab.

You change into the directory for the 'myhaproxy' cookbook.

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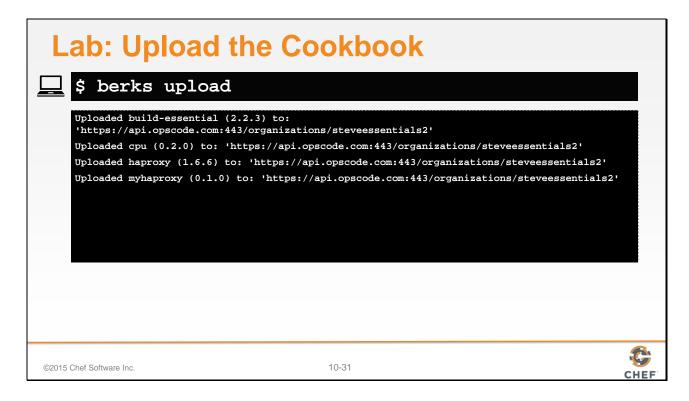
We use the Berkshelf to upload our cookbooks. This is where Berkshelf really shines as a tool.

Run the command "berks install".

When you run this command for a cookbook that has a dependency, you'll see that Berkshelf will download the haproxy cookbook and its dependencies as well. The haproxy cookbook is dependent on the build-essential cookbook and the cpu cookbook. If any of those cookbooks had dependencies, berkshelf would find those and download them as well.

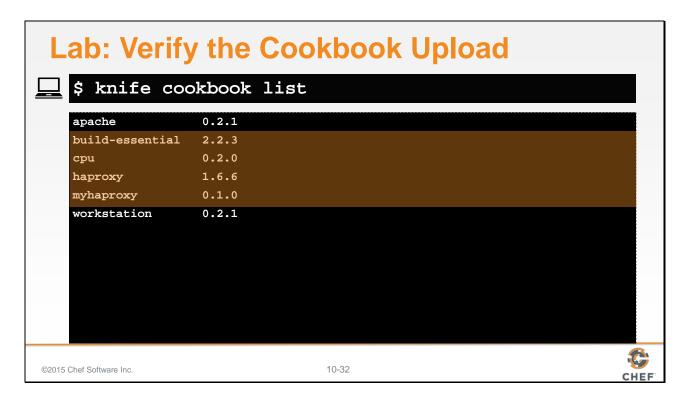
Instructor Note: Berkshelf downloads these cookbooks into a common directory within your home path. They are not added alongside your other cookbooks.

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After installing all the necessary dependent cookbooks, we used 'berks upload' to send the cookbook and all its dependencies to the Chef Server. This is again an easier method to manage dependencies instead of manually identifying the dependencies and then uploading each single cookbook at a time.

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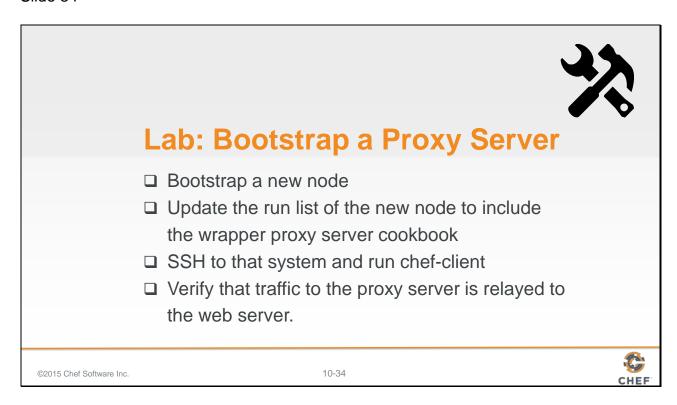
When that is complete you can verify that you've uploaded your cookbook and all of its dependencies.

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The myhaproxy cookbook's default recipe is ready to be assigned to a run list of a node. So we'll need another node. The new proxy node.

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Bootstrap this node the same as you did before but this time define the run list to converge the myhaproxy's default recipe.

After setting that value, SSH into that node with the provided user name and password.

Then run 'sudo chef-client' to apply the recipes defined in this node's run list.

Then verify that your new node's default website is properly redirecting traffic to the original web node you previously set up.

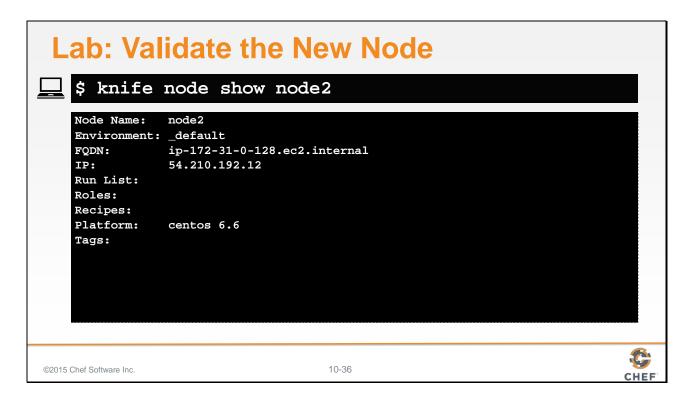
Instructor Note: Allow 12 minutes to complete this exercise.

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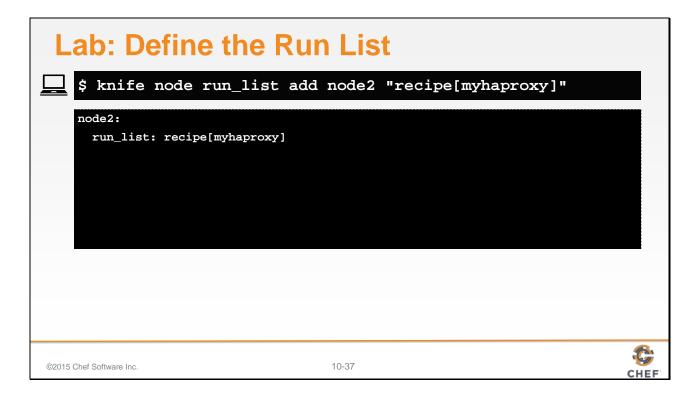
First you bootstrap a new node named node2.

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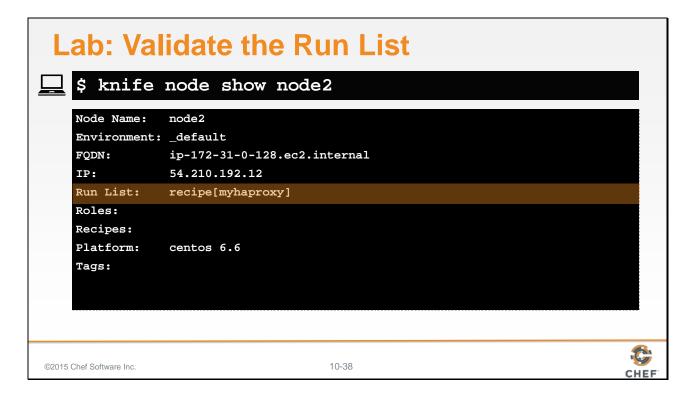
After the node is bootstrapped, validate that it was added correctly to the organization.

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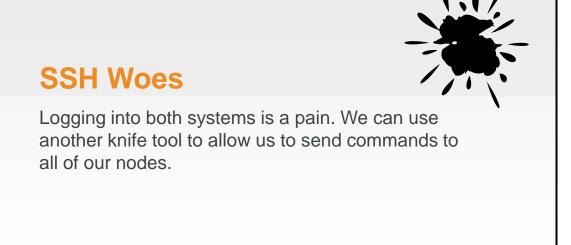
Define an initial run list for that node to converge the default recipe of the myhaproxy cookbook.

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Ensure the run list has been set correctly for node2.

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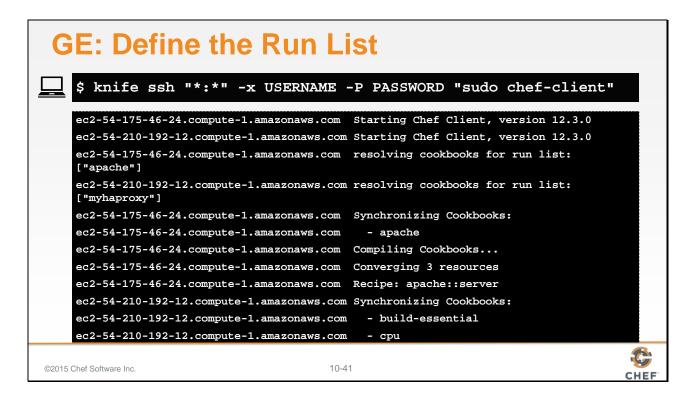
We asked you to login to that remote node and run 'sudo chef-client' to apply the new run list defined for that node. This does in fact work but considering that we may need to execute this command for this node and many future nodes, it seems like a lot of windows and commands that we would need to execute.

Slide 40



To make our lives easier, the 'knife' command provides a subcommand named 'ssh' that allows us to execute a command across multiple nodes that match a specified search query.

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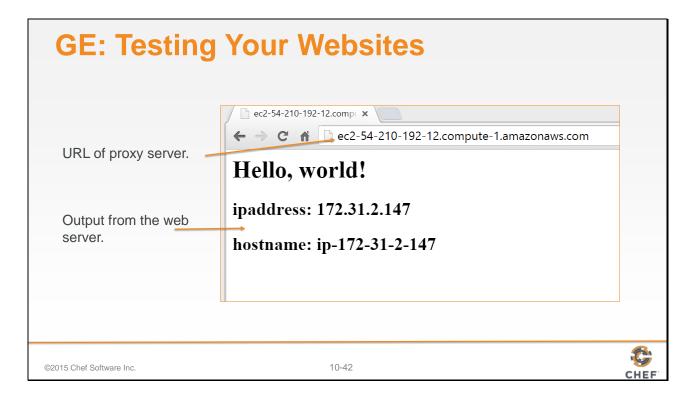
There are a lot of options for defining the search criteria that we will continue to explore. The most important criteria in this instance is star-colon-star. This means that we want to issue a command to all nodes.

So if you want to execute a "sudo chef-client" run for all of your nodes, you should write out this command.

You would need to provide the user name to log into the system, the password for that system, and then finally the command to execute.

In this way, you could easily ask your nodes to update from your current workstation as long as they all have the same login credentials. For more security, you should likely use SSH keys and forego specifying a username and password.

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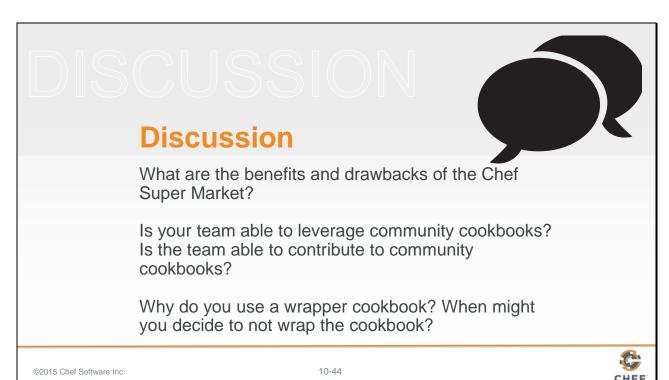
Point a web browser to the URL or public IP address of your proxy server. It should display the web page of the web server node that the proxy server is configured to serve.

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With your node running the myhaproxy's cookbook's default recipe--relaying traffic to your first node running the apache cookbook's default recipe--you have moved closer to creating the original topology we set out to define today.

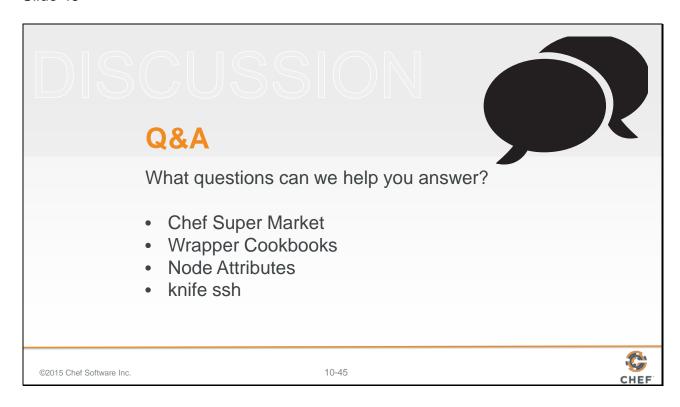
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Answer these questions.

With your answers, turn to another person and alternate asking each other asking these questions and sharing your answers.

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What questions can we help you answer?

In general or about specifically about Chef Super Market, wrapper cookbooks, node attributes, the 'knife ssh' command.

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