**Ansible Inventory [/etc/ansible/hosts]**

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**Types**

* Static Inventory : Defined by a text file [INI format]
* Dynamic Inventory : Generated by script

**Static Inventory**

A static inventory file is a text file that specifies the managed hosts that Ansible targets. You can write this file using a number of dif formats including INI-style or YAML.

**INI-style Inventory file** [ Informal standard for configuration files]

Host name or ip address on each line

Example 1:

192.0.2.42

web1.example.com

web2example.com

db1.example.com

db2.example.com

You can **GROUP** multiple servers using square bracket **[]**

Example 2:

192.0.2.42 Ungrouped IP/DNS shld be at the top of inventory

[webservers]

web1.example.com

web2example.com

[dbservers]

db1.example.com

db2.example.com

192.0.2.42

[devserver]

192.0.2.42

**Nested Groups**

Ansible host inventories can include groups of host groups. This is accomplished by creating a host group name with the : children suffix.

[webservers]

web1.example.com

[dbservers]

db1.example.com

[qaserver:children]

webservers

dbservers

**Simplification**

You can specify ranges in the host names or ip address to simplify Ansible host inventories. You can specify either numericor alphabetic ranges.

Syntax ==> [START:END]

192.168.[4:7].[0:255] ==> 192.168.4/5/6/7 to 192.168.7.255

[a:c].dns.example.com ==> a.dns.example.com, b.dns.example.com, c.dns.example.com

2001:db8::[a:f] matches all ipv6 address from 20001:db8::a to 2001:dv8::f

**Building An Ansible Inventory**

**Default Inventory location : /etc/ansible/hosts**

**Default inventory file can be overrided by ad-hoc command by passing**

**–i pathname in adhoc command.**

**ansible all --list-hosts -i inventory [it uses pwd inventory file & executes list of managed hosts]**

**1] ansible all --list-hosts [List all managed hosts in the default inventory file]**

**2] ansible webserver --list-hosts [list only hosts belongs to webserver group]**

**3] ansible ungrouped –list-hosts [list only hosts that do not belongs to webserver grp]**

Your Ansible command must include **–i inventory** option, this makes ansible use your inventory file in the current directory instead of default inventory located in /etc/Ansible/hosts