How to Use Tags in Ansible

Tags in Ansible are a powerful feature that allows you to run specific parts of your playbooks without executing the entire playbook. This can be particularly useful when you want to rerun only a subset of tasks or roles.

# Adding Tags to Tasks

You can add tags to individual tasks in your playbook by using the `tags` keyword.

- name: Install Apache  
 apt:  
 name: apache2  
 state: present  
 tags:  
 - webserver  
  
- name: Start Apache service  
 service:  
 name: apache2  
 state: started  
 tags:  
 - webserver  
 - services  
  
- name: Create a user  
 user:  
 name: example\_user  
 state: present  
 tags:  
 - users  
```

# Running Playbook with Specific Tags

To run a playbook with only specific tags, you can use the `--tags` option followed by the tag names.

ansible-playbook playbook.yml --tags "webserver"

# Skipping Tasks with Tags

If you want to skip certain tasks by their tags, you can use the `--skip-tags` option.

ansible-playbook playbook.yml --skip-tags "users"

# Tagging Entire Plays

You can also tag entire plays:

- hosts: webservers  
 tags:   
 - web  
  
 tasks:  
 - name: Install Apache  
 apt:  
 name: apache2  
 state: present  
  
- hosts: database  
 tags:  
 - db  
  
 tasks:  
 - name: Install MySQL  
 apt:  
 name: mysql-server  
 state: present  
```

# Using Multiple Tags

You can specify multiple tags at once, separated by commas:

ansible-playbook playbook.yml --tags "webserver,services"

# Viewing Tags

If you're unsure which tags are available in your playbook, you can use the `--list-tags` option to list them:

ansible-playbook playbook.yml --list-tags

# Conclusion

Tags in Ansible provide a flexible way to manage the execution of tasks within your playbooks. By using tags, you can optimize your workflow, run specific portions of a playbook, and save time by not repeating unnecessary tasks.