

Working in a Team



Working in a Team

- Not always easy or transparent
 - Whatever the group is doing is opaque to every other group
 - Result in unstable or inconsistent environment
- Fear of adopting automation tools
 - Especially tools that apply changes to existing systems
 - Not sure what might break
- Making changes easily and safely (IaC context)
 - Conventional wisdom is to sacrifice one for other





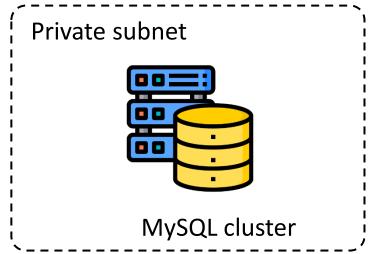
Terraform Modules

- Reusable infrastructure/architectural pieces
 - Any Terraform project is a module
- Module has
 - A set of parameters eg the number of server instance to provision
 - A set of outputs eg IP address of all the servers
 - Internal states local variables, defined and used by the module
- Modules can be shared by publishing to public repository
- Terraform files inside a sub-directory becomes a module
- Modules require their own providers
 - Even if the root module is using the same provider



Example - Module

```
resources.tf
resource digitalocean vpc vpc {
 name = "${var.name} vpc"
 region = var.region
resource digitalocean database cluster db {
 name = "${var.name} db
 region = var.region
 size = var.db size
 engine = "mysql"
 version = "8"
 node count = var.node count
 private network uuid = resource.digitalocean vpc.vpc.ip
```



Module will also need a provider configuration. Not shown



Example - Module

```
inputs.tf
```

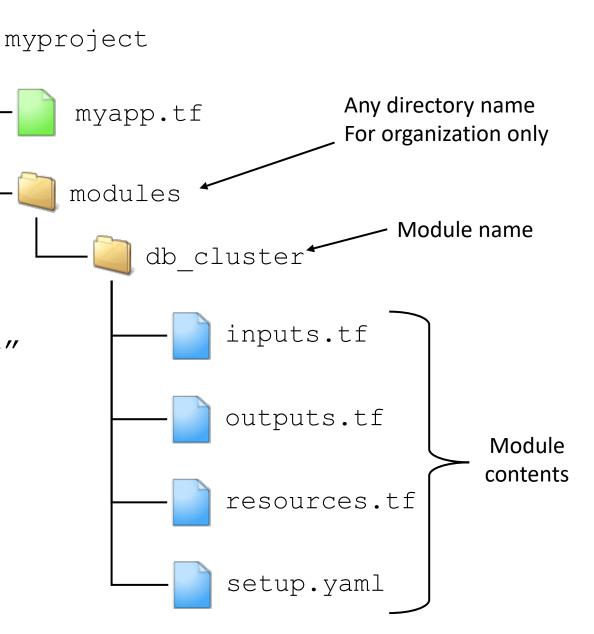
```
variable region {
 type = string
 description = "Region to ..."
variable name {
 type = string
 description = "VPC name"
variable db size {
 type = string
 description = "Database instance"
 default = "db-s-1vpc-2qb"
```

outputs.tf

```
output vpc id {
 value = digitalocean vpc.vpc.id
 description = "VPC id"
output db connection {
 value = digitalocean database_cluster.db.uri
 description = "MySQL connection string"
output db user {
 value = digitalocean database_cluster.db.user
 description = "MySQL user"
output db user {
 value = digitalocean database cluster.db.password
 description = "MySQL password"
 sensitive = true
```



Example - Module Module instance name Location of the myapp.tf module directory module myapp source = "./modules/db cluster" name = "myapp" Module region = "sgp1" configurations input variables node count = 2





Example - Module

```
resource digitalocean_droplet mydroplet {
    ...
    vpc_uuid = module.myapp.vpc_id
}

output db_connection {
    value = module.myapp.db_connection
}
```



Local Variables

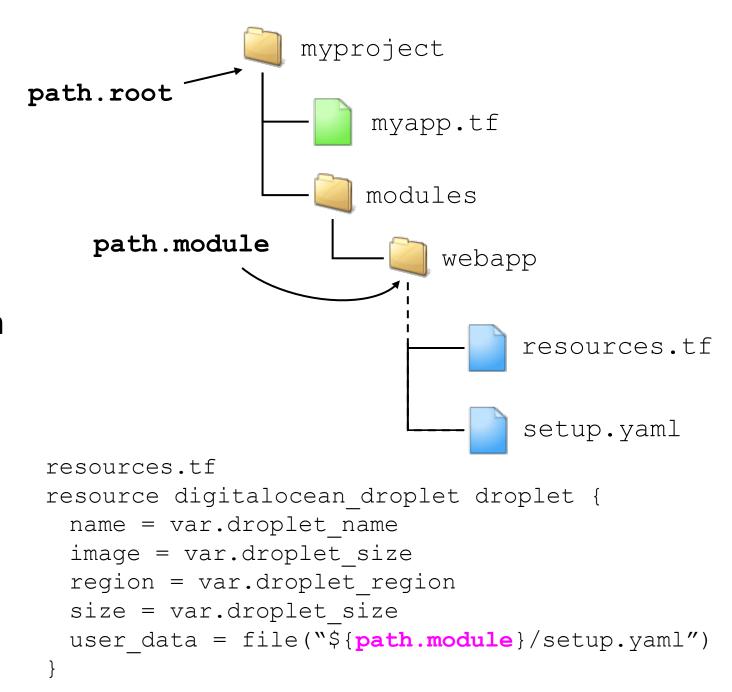
- Local variables are used within the module
 - Not accessible by any resources outside of the module
- Local variables are access internally within the module with the local prefix

```
locals.tf
locals {
 db username = "fred"
resources.tf
resource digitalocean database user dbuser {
 cluster id = digitalocean database cluster.db.id
 name = local.db username
```



File Path

- Modules provides the following method to transparently reference files relative to its location
 - path.module the path to the module root
 - path.root the path of the root module viz. the module that is using





State File

- State file records the resources provisioned by Terraform
 - Created when you run terraform apply
- Maps the Terraform resource with the actual resource
 - Consult the state file whenever you run terraform plan
 - Reconcile what is defined in the .tf files vs the real world
 - Only provisioned those missing resources when apply is executed



State File

- Shared location of the state file
 - State files are created locally, so not accessible to another member in the group
 - Other team members can provision duplicate resource without access to a common shared state file
 - Simple solution is to save state file in a shared network accessible storage
- Corrupting state file with multiple simultaneous updates
 - Race condition, may cause data loss or corruption of the state file
- Single state files for multiple different environment
 - A state file only store the state of one environment eg. testing
 - Members in the same team cannot update the resources, may accidentally cause outage or failure in the test



Backends

- Pluggable state file storage
 - Can be configured to create, read and update state file from different backend storages
- Default backend is local
 - State file is created in the current directory, viz. path.root
- Other backends include S3, Postgres, Kubernetes, HTTP (WebDAV), EtcdV3,
 - Some backend supports locking
 - See https://www.terraform.io/docs/language/settings/backends/index.html
- Can only configure 1 backend per project



Example - local

```
terraform {
 required version = ">= 0.15.0"
 required providers = {
   digitalocean = { ... }
                                 Specify the backend to use.
                                 local is the default
 backend local
   path = "path/to/file/terraform.tfstate"
                                     The file can be stored in local hard disk or a
   Change the default
                                     shared directory like NFS or Gdrive
   location of the state file
                                     local does not provide file locking
```



S3 Backend

- Backend supports all AWS backend features including versioning
 - Best practice to enable versioning for S3, for recovering old state files in the event of an accident
- S3 bucket needs to have actions
 - s3:ListBucket, s3:GetObject, s3:PutObject
 - Either for a specific principal for the backend or all
- Supports locking by configuring a DynomoDB table name
- Table needs to have the following actions
 - dynomodb: GetItem, dynomodb. PutItem, dynomodb. DeleteItem



Example - S3 Compatible Storage

```
terraform {
                   Skip all validation for S3
                   compatible storage
 backend s3 {
   skip_credentials_validation = true
   skip_metadata_api_check = true
   skip region validation = true
   skip requesting account id = true
   skip s3 checksum = true
   endpoints {
     s3 =
"https://sqp1.digitaloceanspaces.com"
   region = "sqp1"
   bucket = "mybucket"
   key = "states/terraform.tfstate"
```

- Standard S3 parameters
- Access key and secret access key for S3 bucket
 - Can be configured as arguments in the backend (not recommended)
 - As environment variable

 AWS_ACCESS_KEY_ID and

 AWS_SECRET_ACCESS_KEY
 - Read from~/.aws/credentials
- Need to disable validation if using S3 compatible storage
 - Eg. DigitalOcean, Cloudflare



Reconfigure Backend

Need to reconfigure the backend if it changes

terraform init -reconfigure

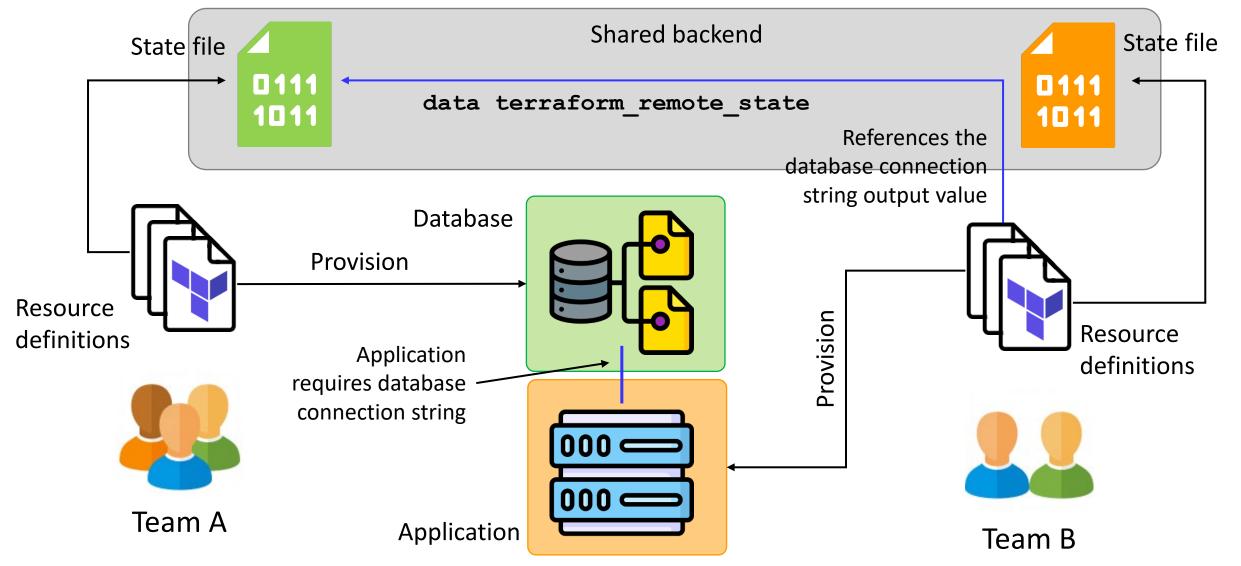


Sharing State File

- Remotely accessible state files' output can be read by other Terraform scripts
 - Need to configure access for others to use
 - Can only access root output values
- Accessed with the terraform_remote_state data source
 - See https://www.terraform.io/docs/language/state/remote-state-data.html
- Scripts using the data source will not be notified if the data source is deleted



Sharing and Accessing State File





Example - Sharing State File

```
Type of backend
data terraform_remote state db {
 backend = "s3"
 config =
                      Configure the remote data source.
                      Configuration should be the same as the
                      backend
resource digitalocean app web {
                                                  Can only access root project outputs viz. not
  spec {
                                                  module outputs used within the project
   name = "web"
                                                  db connection must be an output
   region = var.region
   env
     key = "DB URL"
     value = data.terraform_remote_state.db.outputs.db_connection
     scope = "RUN TIME"
     type = "GENERAL"
                                 The provisioned databased is
   service { ... }
                                 used by another project
```



No Variables in Backend Block

- Backend blocks cannot reference variables
 - See
 https://www.terraform.io/docs/language/settings/backends/configuration.ht
 ml#using-a-backend-block
- Alternative
 - Use environment variables
 - Eg S3 AWS_REGION, but not for all arguments
 - Use a variable file to pass to Terraform
 - Partial configuration



Example - Partial Configuration

```
providers.tf
terraform {
  required_version = ">= 0.15.0"
  required_providers = {
    digitalocean = { ... }
  }
}
backend s3 {
  key = "terraform.tfstate"
  }
}
```

```
s3_backend.hcl
bucket = "mybucket"
region = "sgp1"
access_key = "...."
secret_key = "...."
All arguments required
by specific backend
```

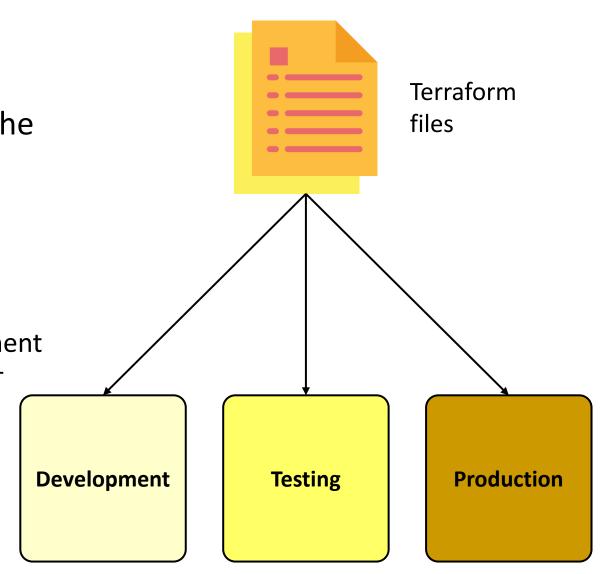
terraform init -backend-config=s3_backend.hcl

Initialize Terraform (with backend) by providing .hcl file



Isolating Environment

- Sharing state file allows every one in the team to use the same environment
 - Share provisioned resources
- Separate environment so one environment does not interfere with another
 - Eg. testing a new OS version in development causes the production instances to be reprovisioned with the new version
- Two ways to isolate environment
 - Workspace
 - Directory structure





Isolating Environment with Workspaces

- Workspaces allow you to create different state files in different workspaces
 - Terraform will report that it will have to provision all resources in a newly created workspace
- Terraform CLI will read all the .tf,
 .tfvars files from the current directory
 - Unless you edit the files before running apply, you will get the same set of resources
 - Not way to pass to the CLI a subset of the files from your current directory
- Error prone because if you forget to switch workspace before performing apply, can destroy the existing provisioned resource from the current workspace
- Workspace name as variable terraform.workspace

List workspace

terraform workspace list

Create a new workspace and switch to it

terraform workspace new myspace

Change to an existing workspace

terraform workspace select otherspace

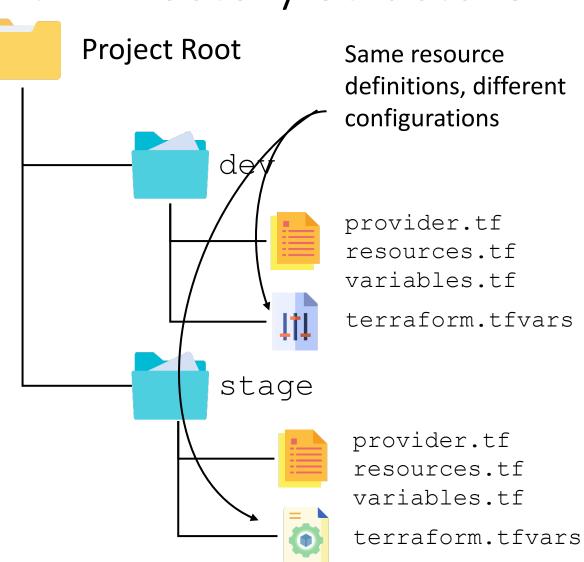
Delete a workspace

terraform workspace destroy otherspace



Isolating Environment with Directory Structure

- Create a directory for each environment eg. dev, test, prod
- Each directory will contain
 - Provider and resource definition files
 - Variable files specific to each environment
- Provider and resource definition are typically common across all the environment
- Better approach than workspaces but lots of duplication
- Reduce duplication by modularizing common and complex components





Shared Elements - Resource Definitions

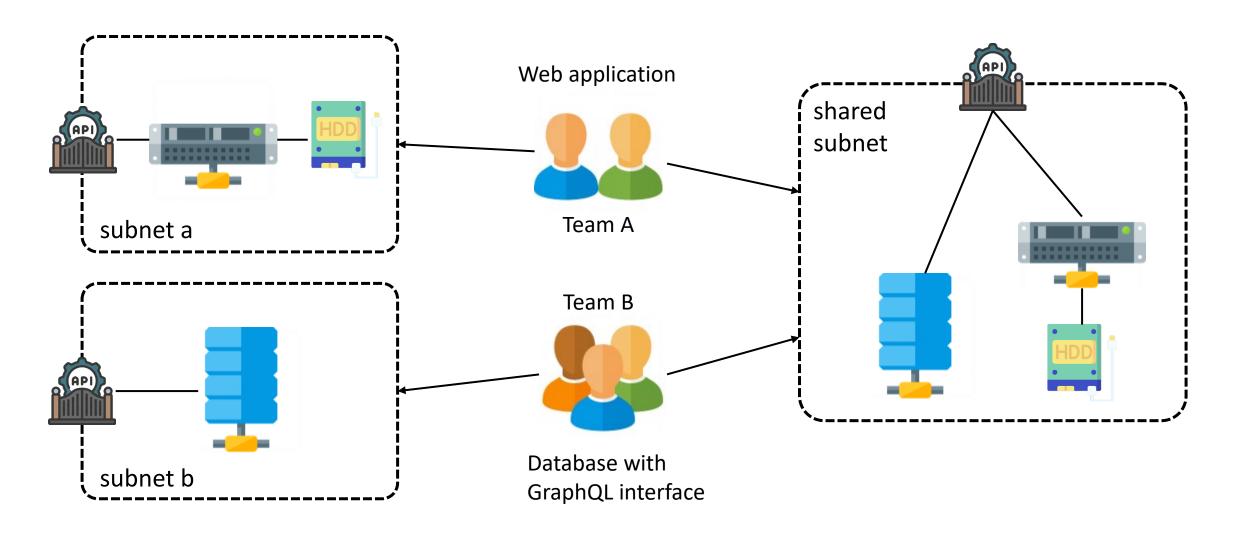
- Configuration, resources and infrastructure definition
 - Eg database connection configs, VM details, layout of the infrastructure/stacks
 - Slightly different in each team
- Handle by duplicating the files or parameterizing the shared elements
- Duplicating avoids tight coupling
 - WET Write Everything Twice
 - Resource definitions are simpler do not need to handle multiple scenerios
 - May diverge from prescribed company policy for using and consuming cloud resources
 - Eg. only use company's encrypted images
- Parameterizing avoids duplication
 - DRY Don't Repeat Yourself
 - Treat resource definitions like APIs
 - Best practices can be shared across the teams







Shared Elements - Environment





Shared Elements - Environments

- Teams may have different environments for development/testing/deployment
 - No sharing, clean, do not interfere with other teams
 - Can be expensive, duplicate resources
- Provisioning into the same environment
 - Leverage share resources like internet gateways, bastion host, etc.
 - Consistent eg. security setting, routing rules, etc
- Sharing stateful resources
 - Servers provisioning a new server or use an existing instance
 - Eg for deploying application Docker or Kubernetes cluster



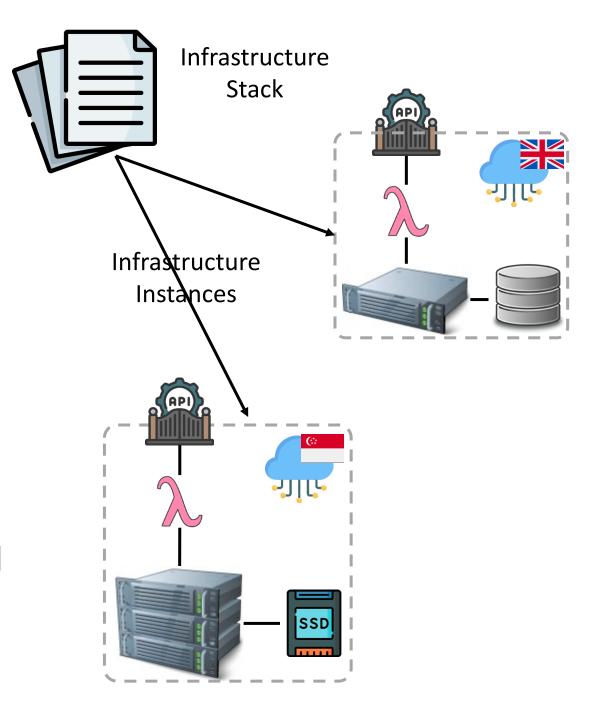
Shared Elements - Environments

- Sharing stateful resources
 - Within a network, partition into subnets
 - Eg. Network 10.10.10.0/24
 - Eg. Subnet 10.10.10.0/26 4 subtnets, 62 host per subnet



Infrastructure Stack

- Infrastructure stack includes
 - Images created from Packer
 - Provisioning with Terraform
 - Configured using Ansible
 - Templates for Terraform and Ansible
- Independent and parameterized to create the same infrastructure with different configuration
- Produces artefacts that can be used
 - Directly by the 'root' stack
 - As input to other stacks



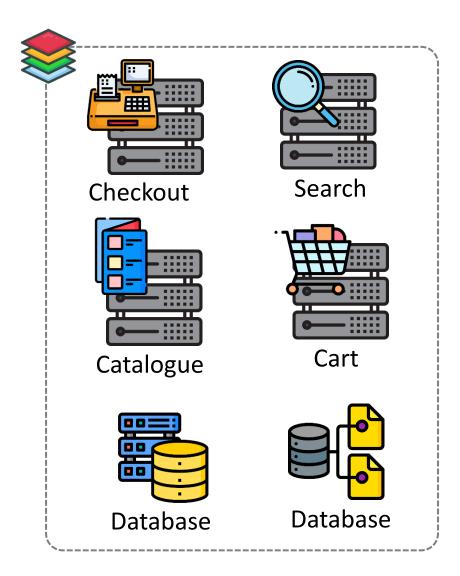


Architectural Patterns

- Architectural patterns is common design used for infrastructure
 - Includes software installed and configurations
 - Similar in idea to design patterns for software design
- Infrastructure architectural patterns
 - Monolithic
 - Application group
 - Service
 - Micro



Monolithic Stack

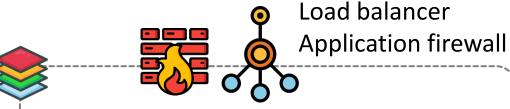


- All in one, easy to start
 - Easy to start, when grow organically will contain too many infrastructure elements
- When the stack grows
 - Difficult to separate the relationship within the
 - May take longer time to validate and provision
 - Can cause widespread changes with terraform apply when a change is made to an element
- Key indicator that a stack is monolithic is the manual coordination between members in the team

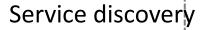


Application Group Stack

- Create a stack for infrastructure shared by a group of application
 - Resources like VPC, load balancer, application firewall, etc. are common and shared
- Applications are provisioned into the shared infrastructure
 - Eg. catalogue service, search service, checkout service, etc.
- Works well if the team that owns the shared infrastructure also owns the application



Share infrastructure (subnet) with a single entry point, firewall, service discovery, monitoring and alerting





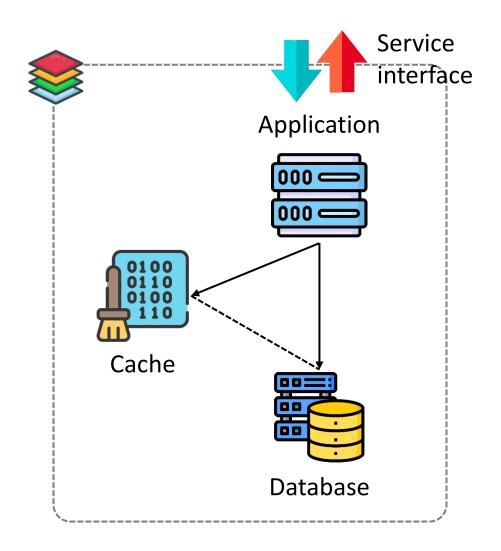


Monitoring





Service Stack

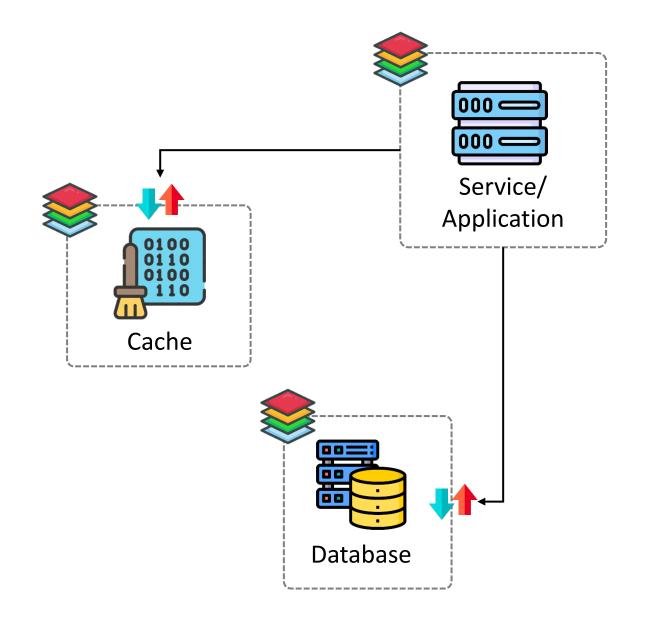


- Create a stack for each service
- Service stack may include
 - Compute (eg VM) for running the service/application
 - Service can be installed with Ansible or 'burnt' directly onto the image
 - Database to be used exclusively by the service
- Well define interface to access the service
- Works well with application group stack



Micro Stack

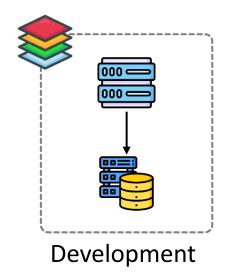
- Divides a single service across multiple stacks
- More moving parts, more complex
- Better availability when service is important or complex
 - Each stack can be configured and managed separately by expertise in each of the domain
 - Allow for different lifecycles for each of the service's components

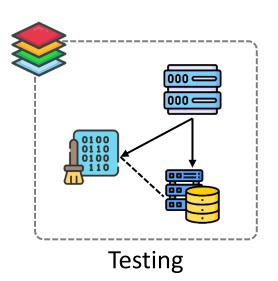


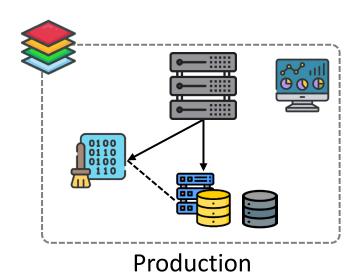


Environments

- Environments are resources and software used for a particular purpose
 - Eg. testing, development, staging, production
- Stack elements remains the same but the configuration of these elements may be slightly different
 - Eg. server size, clustered vs single instance databases, etc.
 - Eg. additional elements that may not be required eg. backups









Appendix



Reuse Common Task

- Keep common tasks in their separate file
 - Eg. upgrade all packages to the latest version
- Task file can be included in plays with include tasks
- No explicit mechanism to pass parameters into the task
 - Task files can access all the variables defined in a play
- import_tasks is similar to include_tasks but
 - import_tasks is static the tasks in the give YAML file is read and parsed when the playbook is parsed
 - include_tasks is dynamic the tasks in the given YAML file is read and parsed when the playbook is executed
 - Allow different tasks to be include dynamically



Example - import tasks

```
tasks:
                                                       apt:
- name: Update and install new packages
  import_tasks: tasks/apt update_install.yaml
  var:
    package list:
                                                       apt:
    - mysql-server
    - wordpress
                                    List of task to
     - php
                                                       apt:
                                    be added to a
    - libapache2-mod-php
                                    playbook
    - php-mysql
```

Variable from playbook can be

accessed by the task file

```
tasks/apt update install.yaml
- name: Update cache
   update cache: yes
- name: Upgrade installed packages
   upgrade: yes
- name: Install new packages
    name: '{{ item }}'
    state: latest
  when: package list is defined
  loop: '{{ package_list }}'
```



Example - include tasks

- php-mysql

The expression is dynamically evaluated when the playbook is executed

Determine either to use apt.yaml or yum.yaml file to install the package depending on the package manager of the target host



Roles

- Playbook is used to configure a host for a particular purpose
 - Eg. database server, bastion host, CMS/WordPress, etc.
 - Eg. Need to configure MySQL server multiple times in different projects
- A role is a set of task applied to a host to configure the host for a specific purpose
 - Provide an intuitive role name to identify the purpose of the tasks
 - Hide complex configuration by providing a way to reuse playbooks
 - Share know-how by reusing tasks
- It is independent and can be incorporated into any playbooks



Using a Role

- Search from Ansible Galaxy, filter by roles
 - https://galaxy.ansible.com/
- Community, can publish the roles you have created
 - Require a GitHub account
- Documentation on how to use the role in your playbook
 - Version and OS platform
- Roles are executed before tasks
- Instructions to download and install a role
 - ansible-galaxy

ansible-galaxy install geerlingguy.docker

Install Docker role from Ansible Galaxy



Example - Using the Docker

```
site.yaml
- name: Install Docker
                                                                 systemd:
                                       Like task but
  host: docker host
                                       executed before
  pre tasks:
  - name: Create user
                                       roles or tasks
    user:
      name: '{{ docker user }}'
      password: '{{ docker user password }}'
  roles:
  - role: roles/docker
                                         Role is downloaded
    vars:
                                         to roles directory
      docker users:
      - '{{ docker user }}'
                                          Role variable(s) to
  tasks:
                                          configure Docker
  - name: Enable remote access
    lineinfile:
      path: /lib/systemd/system/docker.service
      regexp: '^ExecStart='
      line: ExecStart=/usr/bin/dockerd -H fd:// --containerd=/run/containerd/containerd.sock-
H=tcp://0.0.0.0:2375
  - name: Restart Docker daemon
```

- name: Restart Docker daemon name: docker daemon reload: true state: restarted

> Note: an alternative way to provision Docker host is to use docker-machine https://docker.com/machine

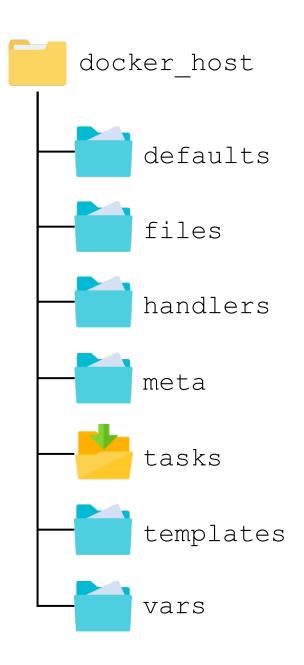


Creating Role

 A set of pre defined directory that can be generated with ansible-galaxy

ansible-galaxy init docker host

- Directory uses
 - defaults default variables
 - files files, eg configuration, to be copied over to the target
 - handlers for handlers
 - tasks contains all the task to be performed by the role. When a role is applied, Ansible will perform the list of task listed here
 - templates dynamically generated files
 - vars other variables, override defaults
 - meta metadata for the role





Example - Docker Host Role

```
default/main.yaml
---
package_list:
- apt-transport
- ca-certificates
- software-properties-common
- curl
- openssh-server
docker_gpg_key: https://download.docker.com/linux/ubuntu/gpg
docker_repo: "deb [arch=amd64] https://download.docker.com/linux/ubuntu
focal stable"
```



Example - Docker Host Role

```
User defined variables
tasks/main.yaml
                                     - name: Install Docker
                                       apt:
                                         update cache: yes
- name: Install packages
                                         name: docker-ce
  apt:
                                         state: latest
    update cache: yes
    name: '{{ item }}'
                                     - name: Create non-root Docker user
    state: latest
                                       user:
                                         name: '{{ docker user }}
  loop: '{{ package list}}'
- name: Add Docker GPG key
                                         groups: [ 'docker' ]
                                       when: docker user is defined
  apt-key:
                                     - name: Check if SSH key is present
    url: '{{ docker gpg key }}'
    state: present
                                       stat:
                                         path: '{{ docker ssh key }}
- name: Add Docker repository
  apt repository:
                                       register: docker ssh key is defined
    repo: '{{ docker repo }}'
                                     - name: Add SSH key to user
                                       authorized key:
    state: present
                                         user: '{{ docker user }}'
                                         key: '{{ lookup('file', docker ssh key }}'
                                       when: ssh key.stat.exists
```

From https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/how-to-installand-use-docker-on-ubuntu-20-04



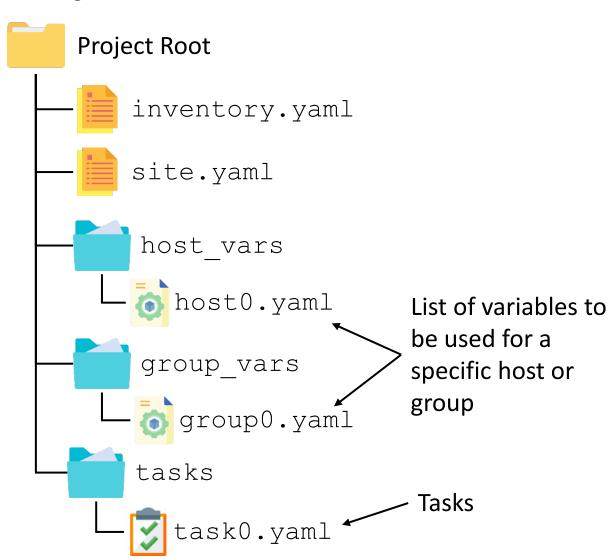
Example - Using Docker Host Role

```
site.yaml
- name: Install Docker
hosts: a_docker_host
roles:
- role: roles/docker_host
   vars:
        docker_user: fred
        docker_ssh_key: /path/to/public/key
```



Structuring an Ansible Project

- Single playbook cannot scale
- Use separate specially named directories for hosts and groups
- Put commonly used task in a separate file so that playbooks can reuse them





host vars and group vars Directories

- Special directories to define host and group variables
- Keep the number of variable declarations in inventory file to a minimum
- File name is the name of the host or group
 - Eg. hosts_vars/localhost.yaml,group_vars/all.yaml for variables to be applied to localhost and the all group
- When a playbook is executed, the variables from these files will be merged with those from the inventory file (if any)



Example - host vars and group vars

```
all:
 hosts:
   server-0:
     ansible host: 192.168.0.100
     ansible connection: ssh
     ansible user: fred
     ansible password: fred
   server-1:
     ansible_host: 192.168.0.101
     ansible connection: ssh
     ansible user: fred
     ansible password: fred
   server-2:
     ansible host: 192.168.0.102
     ansible connection: ssh
     ansible user: fred
     ansible password: fred
     db user: barney
     db password: barney
     db name: inventory
```



Example - host vars and group vars

```
all:
 hosts:
   server-0: {}
   server-1: {}
   server-2: {}
group vars/all.html
ansible connection: ssh
ansible user: fred
ansible password: fred
```

inventory.yaml

```
host vars/server-0.yaml
ansible host: 192.168.0.100
hosts vars/server-1.yaml
ansible host: 129.168.0.101
hosts_vars/server-2.yaml
ansible host: 129.168.0.102
db user: barney
db password: barney
db name: inventory
```



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                                       roles or tasks
    user:
      name: '{{ docker user }}'
      password: '{{ docker user password }}'
  roles:
  - role: roles/docker
                                         Role is downloaded
    vars:
                                         to roles directory
      docker users:
      - '{{ docker user }}'
                                          Role variable(s) to
  tasks:
                                          configure Docker
  - name: Enable remote access
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- name: Restart Docker daemon systemd: name: docker daemon reload: true state: restarted

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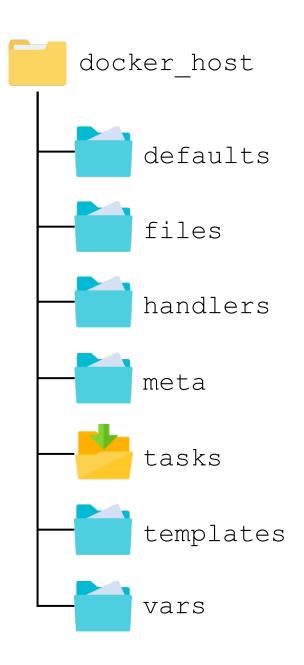


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docker_repo: "deb [arch=amd64] https://download.docker.com/linux/ubuntu
focal stable"
```



Example - Docker Host Role

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User defined variables
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                                         update cache: yes
- name: Install packages
                                         name: docker-ce
  apt:
                                         state: latest
    update cache: yes
    name: '{{ item }}'
                                     - name: Create non-root Docker user
    state: latest
                                       user:
                                         name: '{{ docker user }}
  loop: '{{ package list}}'
- name: Add Docker GPG key
                                         groups: [ 'docker' ]
                                       when: docker user is defined
  apt-key:
                                     - name: Check if SSH key is present
    url: '{{ docker gpg key }}'
    state: present
                                       stat:
                                         path: '{{ docker ssh key }}
- name: Add Docker repository
  apt repository:
                                       register: docker ssh key is defined
    repo: '{{ docker repo }}'
                                     - name: Add SSH key to user
                                       authorized key:
    state: present
                                         user: '{{ docker user }}'
                                         key: '{{ lookup('file', docker ssh key }}'
                                       when: ssh key.stat.exists
```

From https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/how-to-installand-use-docker-on-ubuntu-20-04



Example - Using Docker Host Role

```
site.yaml
- name: Install Docker
hosts: a_docker_host
roles:
- role: roles/docker_host
   vars:
        docker_user: fred
        docker_ssh_key: /path/to/public/key
```



Example - HTTP/WebDAV

HTTP Basic authentication

```
The endpoint for creating, retrieving
terraform
                                           and updating the state file
 required version = ">= 0.15.0"
 required providers = {
                                                               Associate an identifier to
   digitalocean = { ... }
                                                               endpoint if the server is
                                                               used by many projects
 backend http {
   address = "http://myserver.com/myproj"
   lock address = "http://myserver.com/myproj"
   unlock address = "http://myserver.com/myproj"
   username = "fred"
   password = "fred"
                                                       Locking is optional.
                                                       Configure locking if
     Specify username and
      password if endpoint is uses-
                                                       server supports WebDAV
```



Example - HTTP/WebDAV



Other members

LOCK /myproject
Authorization: Basic btoa("username:password")
<lock details in the body>

POST /myproject?lockid=...
Authorization: Basic btoa("username:password")
<update state file>



UNLOCK /myproject?lockid=...
Authorization: Basic btoa("username:password")

