Minion

A real-time system reporting and execution agent for the cloud.

Current DevOps systems are big, enterprise-oriented, and require learning a significant amount of DSL and setup before they can be installed and effectively used. Minion is an attempt to change that. With a simple execution agent running on the *nix (Linux is our first target) server in question that also gathers logs and system statistics then ships them to a configured dashboard provider, a DevOps engineer could operate an entire cluster of virtual machines from a simple dashboard from which they can also obtain logging information and execute system commands, then see their results in real time.

A SIMPLE EXECUTION AGENT

Imagine an open source program (likely in Go) that's run and monitored by `systemd`, and upon receiving commands from a central command and control server (or polling for those commands), will simply execute them with a shell-out from the process, calling the shell command as if it were typed in to `bash` or `zsh` (for example), and return `STDOUT` and `STDERR` to that same command and control server *in real time*.

...THAT ALSO SHIPS LOGS AND SYSTEM RESOURCE DATA

Now, what if that same process (in another series of threads) also monitors and ships, in real time, system logs and resource utilization information? How useful would it be to have all that information, from all your virtual machines, in **one** single dashboard, under **one** login, that tracks ***all*** those servers across ***all*** clouds in real time?

...AND GETS AGGREGATED IN A SINGLE DASHBOARD.

Finally, imagine being able to access all that information from **one** dashboard with **one** login. Search through logs, view system resource utilization graphs (e.g. memory, swap, cpu, etc.), and save execution commands to trigger deploys, perform database failovers and other common tasks with the click of a button. Imagine organizing all your servers by project and type (e.g. http, database, other, etc.), and even having the dashboard automatically give them unique names, then set those systems' hostnames to match, all the with the click of a button.

THAT'S MINION.

In short, a simple and direct DevOps tool that avoids the complexity of proprietary DSLs like Chef and Ansible, and avoids the complexities of tools like Salt Stack. A stripped down, bare-knuckle "run this command" (which could still be Chef, Ansible, etc.) and archives all your system data in *one place* with a beautiful interface, multiple easy-to-use tools, and various graphs and reports for your DevOps team to use.

MINION: A real-time system reporting and execution agent for cloud virtual servers.