



# Building content journeys for the Ansible community

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ANSIBLE



Thank you!!

- PorterShed
- Emily and the Atlantec festival organizers
- Carol Chen from the Ansible community team at Red Hat





This talk is going to explore ongoing work to build pathways that efficiently connect Ansible community users and contributors with documentation.

We're going to talk about:

- The important role that community documentation plays for Ansible.
- Identifying personas and mapping their automation journeys.
- Removing barriers to entry and supporting users.
- Contributor opportunities!



## Docsite

A set of statically generated HTML pages hosted at `docs.ansible.com`.

Overlay navigation for several content sets: Ansible package docs, Ansible core docs, Ansible Automation Platform.

Main entry point for most new Ansible users.



Ansible is an ecosystem of communities that spans numerous projects and areas of technology.

Ansible automation runs everywhere.



## Ansible Documentation

An enterprise automation platform for the entire IT organization, no matter where you are in your automation journey



### Ansible Community Documentation

The Full Ansible package documentation with collections. Access the latest Ansible innovations and the most recent community collections in a single package



### Ansible Automation Platform Documentation

Access the best of Ansible innovation with hardening and support from Red Hat. Learn how the elements of the Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform work together to centralize



### Ansible Core Documentation

Learn how the language and runtime of Ansible work. Ansible Core is the basis of all automation with Ansible. Add Ansible Collections to build your custom automation ecosystem

# Barriers to entry for new users



Internet Archive Wayback Machine | https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/index.html | 190 captures | 20 Jul 2017 - 15 Mar 2023

5 | latest ▾ | Search docs

**INSTALLATION, UPGRADE & CONFIGURATION**  
Installation Guide  
Ansible Porting Guides

**USING ANSIBLE**  
User Guide

**CONTRIBUTING TO ANSIBLE**  
Ansible Community Guide

**EXTENDING ANSIBLE**  
Developer Guide

**COMMON ANSIBLE SCENARIOS**  
Legacy Public Cloud Guides  
Network Technology Guides  
Virtualization and Containerization Guides

» Ansible Documentation

You are reading an older version of the Ansible documentation. Use the version selection to the left if you want the latest stable release

## Ansible Documentation

### About Ansible

Ansible is an IT automation tool. It can configure systems, deploy software, and orchestrate more advanced IT tasks such as continuous d

Ansible's main goals are simplicity and ease-of-use. It also has a strong focus on security and reliability, featuring a minimum of moving p: alternatives), and a language that is designed around auditability by humans—even those not familiar with the program.

**A Documentation** | ANSIBLEFEST | PRODUCTS | COMMUNITY | WEBINARS & T

» User Guide » Ansible Quickstart Guide

You are reading an older version of the Ansible documentation. Use the version selection to the left if you want the latest stable released version.

## Ansible Quickstart Guide

We've recorded a short video that introduces Ansible.

The [quickstart video](#) is about 13 minutes long and gives you a high level introduction to Ansible – what it does and how to use it. We'll also tell you about other products in the Ansible ecosystem.

Enjoy, and be sure to visit the rest of the documentation to learn more.

# Lack of cohesion across project docs



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository for `ansible/awx`. The file `bulk_api.md` is open, displaying the "Bulk API Overview" section. The text describes bulk operations and lists two endpoints: `/api/v2/bulk/job_launch` and `/api/v2/bulk/host_create`. A sidebar on the left contains a navigation menu with links like "Home", "Configuration", "User Guides", "Integration", "Contributing", "Tags", and "Community". A "Warning" box states: "This documentation is a Work In Progress some pages are incomplete."

## ansible-builder

### Navigation

Contents:

- Introduction
- Installation
- Execution Environment
- Definition
- CLI Usage
- Collection-level
- Metadata
- Glossary

### Quick search

## Introduction

Using Ansible content that depends on non-default dependencies can be tricky. Packages must be installed on each node, play nicely with other software installed on the host system, and be kept in sync.

To help simplify this process, we have introduced the concept of Execution Environments, which you can create with Ansible Builder.

## Execution Environments

Execution Environments are container images that serve as Ansible control nodes. Starting in version 2.0, [ansible-runner](#) can make use of these images.

An Execution Environment is expected to contain:

- Ansible
- Ansible Runner
- Ansible Collections
- Python and/or system dependencies of:
  - modules/plugins in collections
  - content in [ansible-base](#)
  - custom user needs

## Getting Started

To get started with Ansible Builder, start by creating an [Execution Environment definition](#). This file allows you to specify which content you would like to include in your execution environment, such as collections, Python requirements, and system-level packages.

Once you have created a definition, read through the [CLI Usage](#).



## Galaxy NG

Galaxy NG

Source Code: [https://github.com/ansible/galaxy\\_ng](https://github.com/ansible/galaxy_ng)

A Pulp plugin to support hosting your very own Ansible Galaxy server.





A community-first approach to any project:

- Reduces technical debt through active contributions.
- Becomes a force multiplier that accelerates project growth.

Community documentation enables success.

Success increases adoption.

Adoption expands the project.

# Understanding community needs



- Needs
- Attitude
- Knowledge



<https://github.com/ansible/docsite/blob/main/data/journeys/docsite-personas.md>

## Ansible docsite personas

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Personas represent various humans who are all on different automation journeys with Ansible. These docsite personas help put users in context to identify their technical content needs at each stage of their respective journeys.

We use personas to ensure Ansible community users can find help when and where they need it. If the right support is there, users are much more likely to succeed with their goals. This leads to higher levels of adoption and a more vibrant, stronger community.

The practical goal of defining these personas is to improve the navigation and layout of the `docs.ansible.com` page.

### Novice

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I'm a general technologist who has an idea about automation. I might already have a project or solution in mind and want to see if Ansible is the right tool for the job.

- **Needs:** A low barrier of entry to gain the fundamentals of Ansible automation.
- **Attitude:** Wants to understand basic concepts quickly and can find small obstacles frustrating.
- **Knowledge:** Undetermined. It is possible that I use Microsoft Windows as my primary operating system. I might even be completely new to open-source technology. I can be a Linux enthusiast doing home automation, a member of an IT team for a small business, or a solution architect for large enterprise.

### User

---



I write automation content like playbooks and roles. When writing playbooks and roles I like to evaluate multiple options to find simple solutions to complex problems.



**AWARE**

**EVAL**

**ADOPT**

**SCALE**



## Novice

The novice journey is the basis for the "Get started with Ansible" section on the docsite index page.

```
Milestone: Need to learn the basics
  Understand the challenges of modern infrastructure management [content gap]
  Understand the fundamentals of Ansible automation

Milestone: Set up an automation project
  Install the Ansible package
  Run your first ad hoc command in a few easy steps
```

## Users

```
Milestone: Create automation
  Start writing Ansible playbooks
  Learn about Ansible modules

Milestone: Learn inventories
  Build inventory files to manage multiple hosts
  Use dynamic inventories

Milestone: Organize automation projects
  Use roles to structure the automation project

Milestone: Use Ansible tooling
  Use Ansible Lint to validate playbooks
  Install Molecule to develop and test Ansible roles
  Create and test playbooks with Ansible Navigator
  Use Ansible with Visual Studio Code and OpenVSX compatible editors

Milestone: Find Automation content
  Start exploring Ansible Galaxy
  Install and use roles
  Install and use collections
```



<https://github.com/ansible/docsite/blob/main/data/journeys/docsite-journeys.md>

# Make things available to the community



ansible / **jinja-docsite** Public

Edit Pins Watch 8 Fork 8 Star 5

<> Code Issues Pull requests Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights Settings

main 2 branches 0 tags Go to file Add file <> Code

**oraNod** move sign docs to RTD (#100) ✓ ae541ec 4 days ago ⌚ 82 commits

.github/workflows	action on push to main	last week
data	move sign docs to RTD (#100)	4 days ago
oldsite	updated navigator docs url (#91)	3 weeks ago
sass	Add quicklinks (#95)	last week
static	Toggle button for A/B testing (#21)	last month

**About**

A docsite for the Ansible community

[ansible.github.io/jinja-docsite/](https://ansible.github.io/jinja-docsite/)

Readme

5 stars

8 watching

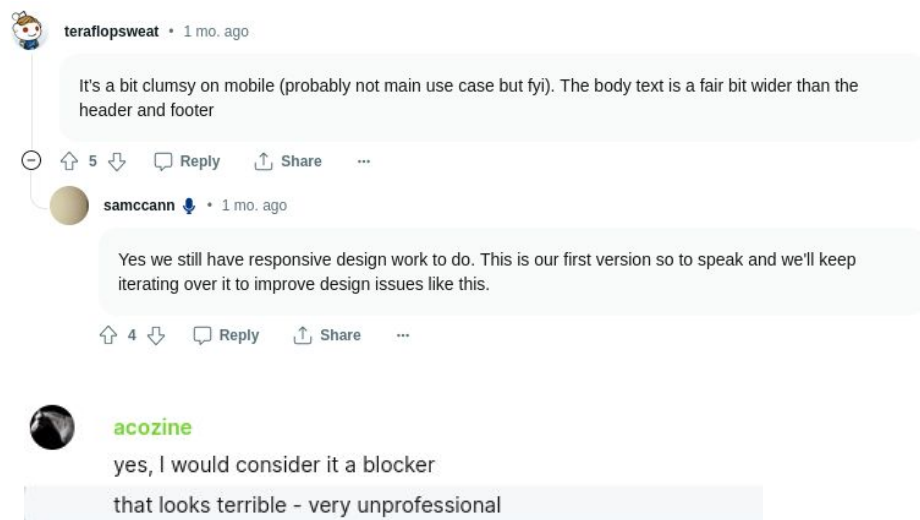
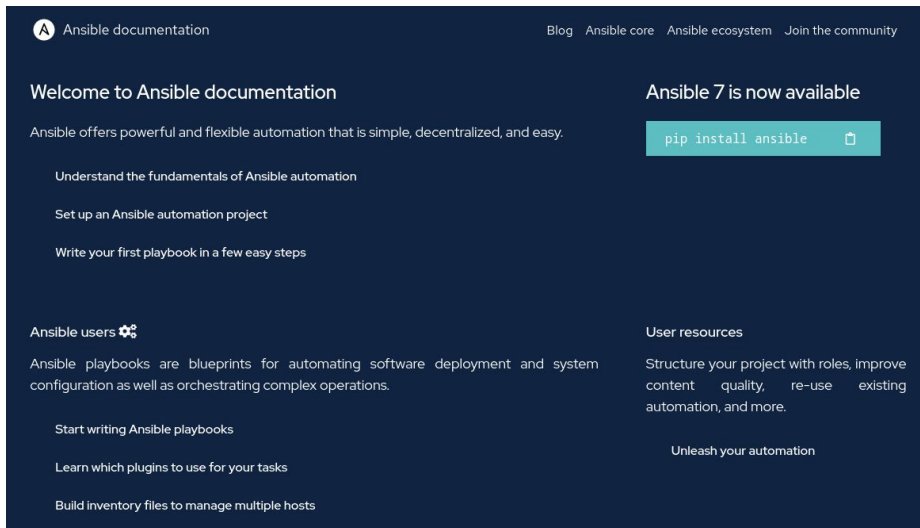
8 forks

Report repository



<https://github.com/ansible/jinja-docsite>

The best way to get the right answer on the internet is not to ask a question;  
it's to post the wrong answer.







## HELP WANTED 🙏

[andersson007\\_](#) contributed

The [new collection inclusion requests](#) are waiting for your [reviews](#). Please help the community extend the package!

[Don Naro](#) shared

Come join us and help build a new docsite! The community team has been working to update the Ansible documentation landing page based on a set of [user journeys](#). Right now we're working on a [prototype docsite](#) to improve the navigation and user experience.



[gotmax23](#)

I'm a bit unsure about the new docsite. I still can't figure out how to click through to access the community section/collections [index](#)



[usethisforreddit](#) • 1 mo. ago

Add easy access to the index of all modules please. This is where I go to look things up.



6



Reply



Share





# Feedback started to trend more positively



**BenJTT** • 1 mo. ago

Thanks! This is great! I've been wanting to get into ansible but felt overwhelmed about where to start. This is clearer for a new person like me

↑ 3 ↓ Reply Share ...



**alive1** • 1 mo. ago

As someone who's used Ansible for many years, and is now trying to onboard a whole org onto Ansible... THANK YOU!

The old design doesn't really do a good job of giving me a starting point to browse the docs. None of the boxes feel like clicking on "Take me to THE OFFICIAL DOCS" - instead, the user is supposed to somehow know beforehand that "Ansible Community" is the documentation, and not a non-official resource for meeting like-minded people.

It feels like it's trying to take me away from the docs. Its doing anything but trying to get me into the right section of the docs. It feels like it's denying that docs exist at all.

The new design actually feels like a landing page for the docs I'm looking for. "USING ansible" "GETTING started" "LEARN which plugins" "BUILD inventory". All the links are taking me to places that help me DO stuff. Finally. Thank you for doing this work.

↑ 24 ↓ Reply Share ...

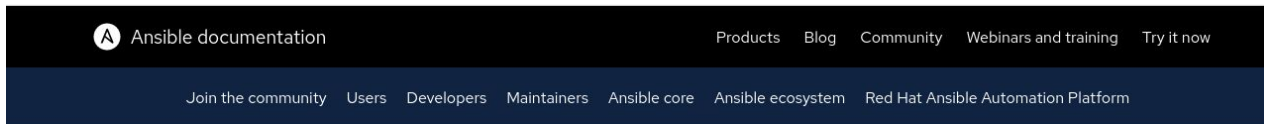


**bcoca** 8:04 PM

like it a lot more than the 'boxes'



# Released a journey-based docsite






## Ansible community documentation

Ansible offers open-source automation that is simple, flexible, and powerful.

🗨️ Got thoughts or feedback on the new documentation landing pages? We want to hear from you!

Join us in the [docs channel](#) on [Matrix](#) or open a [GitHub issue](#) in the docsite repository.

### Quicklinks

-  [Ansible package docs home](#)
-  [Collection index](#)
-  [Index of modules and plugins](#)

RESTORE THE OLD LAYOUT ☐

### Get started with Ansible 🛠️

[Understand the fundamentals of Ansible automation](#)

[Install the Ansible package](#)

[Run your first ad hoc command in a few easy steps](#)

### Users ⚙️

[Start writing Ansible playbooks](#)

[Learn about Ansible modules](#)

[Build inventory files to manage multiple hosts](#)

» [Continue the Ansible user journey](#)

### Developers </>

[Set up your development environment](#)

[Learn how Ansible works](#)

[Write custom modules or plugins](#)

### Maintainers 🧩




[Review community maintainer responsibilities](#)

[Understand Ansible contributor paths](#)

[Explore ways to grow community](#)



## Quicklinks

-  [Ansible package docs home](#)
-  [Collection index](#)
-  [Index of modules and plugins](#)

RESTORE THE OLD LAYOUT



## Ansible Documentation

Welcome to the Ansible documentation. Find help that starts from the basic fundamentals of IT automation through to more advanced, enterprise-level use cases.

### Try the new docsite

The Ansible community team is busy improving our documentation and want to hear from you! Join us in the [docs channel on Matrix](#) or open a [GitHub issue](#) and give us your feedback. Use the slider to visit the new Ansible community docsite.





## Ansible Ecosystem

Projects in the Ansible ecosystem let you expand automation to a virtually unlimited set of use cases.

🗣️ Got thoughts or feedback on the new documentation landing pages? We want to hear from you! Join us in the [docs channel](#) on [Matrix](#) or open a [GitHub issue](#) in the docsite repository.

RESTORE  
THE OLD  
LAYOUT  
☐

### Ansible collections

Ansible collections offer distributions of playbooks, roles, modules, and plugins.

[Find out how to use collections](#)

[Learn how to contribute to collections](#)

### AWX Operator

Ansible AWX Operator offers built-in intelligence and operational best practices for deploying on Kubernetes environments.

[AWX Operator documentation](#)

### Ansible AWX

AWX provides a web-based user interface, REST API, and task engine built on top of Ansible.

[Ansible AWX documentation](#)

### Ansible Builder

Ansible Builder lets you create Execution Environments, which are container images that act as Ansible control nodes.

[Ansible Builder documentation](#)



<https://diataxis.fr/>



# Getting started with Ansible



## Getting started with Ansible

Ansible automates the management of remote systems and controls their desired state. A basic Ansible environment has three main components:

### Control node

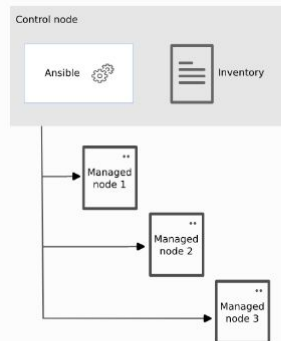
A system on which Ansible is installed. You run Ansible commands such as `ansible` or `ansible-inventory` on a control node.

### Managed node

A remote system, or host, that Ansible controls.

### Inventory

A list of managed nodes that are logically organized. You create an inventory on the control node to describe host deployments to Ansible.



Ready to start using Ansible? Complete the following steps to get up and running:

1. Install Ansible. Visit the [installation guide](#) for complete details.

```
python3 -m pip install --user ansible
```

2. Create an inventory by adding the IP address or fully qualified domain name (FQDN) of one or more remote systems to `/etc/ansible/hosts`. The following example adds the IP addresses of three virtual machines in KVM:

```
[myvirtualmachines]
192.0.2.50
192.0.2.51
192.0.2.52
```

3. Verify the hosts in your inventory.

```
ansible all --list-hosts
```

```
hosts [1]:
192.0.2.50
192.0.2.51
192.0.2.52
```

## INSTALLATION, UPGRADE & CONFIGURATION

Installation Guide

Ansible Porting Guides

## USING ANSIBLE

User Guide

## CONTRIBUTING TO ANSIBLE

Ansible Community Guide

## USING ANSIBLE

Building Ansible inventories

### ▣ Using Ansible command line tools

Introduction to ad hoc commands

Working with command line tools

Ansible CLI cheatsheet

Using Ansible playbooks

Protecting sensitive data with Ansible vault

Using Ansible modules and plugins

Using Ansible collections

Using Ansible on Windows and BSD

Ansible tips and tricks





# Building a community website



Ansible Community

[Blog](#) [Events](#) [Fosstodon](#) [Discourse](#) [GitHub](#)

## Automation powered by people

Ansible is an open source, command-line IT automation software application written in Python. It can configure most operating systems, deploy software, and orchestrate advanced workflows to support application deployment, system updates, and more.

## Ansible 7 is now available

```
pip install ansible
```



Agentless automation that is simple, secure, and works everywhere.



Extensible framework with collections available for virtually every use case.



Powered by a large, vibrant open-source community.

## Subscribe to the Bullhorn

The Bullhorn is a weekly newsletter that delivers the latest news and updates from the Ansible Community right to your inbox. You can easily opt-out of a subscription at any time.

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Platform

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[Learn more about Ansible Automation Platform](#)



<https://github.com/ansible-community/community-website>

**[matrix]** #docs:ansible.com

DaWGs working group weekly meeting:  
Tuesday at 16:00 UTC





**Thanks!**

**GitHub** @oranod

[**matrix**] #social:ansible.com

ANSIBLE