

Ansible

What is Ansible?

[Ansible](#) is an open source IT configuration management, deployment, and orchestration tool. It empowers DevOps teams to define their infrastructure as a code in a simple and declarative manner.

A lot of people compare Ansible to similar tools like [Chef](#) or [Puppet](#). They all help automate and provision infrastructure, but there are a few features that make me prefer Ansible over the others.

History of Ansible

Here, are important land marks from the history of ansible:

- In February 2012 the Ansible project began. It was first developed by Michael DeHaan, the creator of Cobbler and Func, Fedora Unified Network Controller.
- Initially called AnsibleWorks Inc, the company funding the ansible tool was acquired in 2015 by RedHat and later on, along with RedHat, moved under the umbrella of IBM.
- In the present, Ansible comes included in distributions like Fedora Linux, RHEL, Centos and Oracle Linux.

Important terms used in Ansible

Here, are important terms used in Ansible:

Ansible server:

The machine where Ansible is installed and from which all tasks and playbooks will be ran

Module:

Basically, a module is a command or set of similar commands meant to be executed on the client-side

Task:

A task is a section that consists of a single procedure to be completed

Role:

A way of organizing tasks and related files to be later called in a playbook

Fact:

Information fetched from the client system from the global variables with the gather-facts operation

Inventory:

File containing data about the ansible client servers. Defined in later examples as hosts file

Play:

Execution of a playbook

Handler:

Task which is called only if a notifier is present

Notifier:

Section attributed to a task which calls a handler if the output is changed

Tag:

Name set to a task which can be used later on to issue just that specific task or group of tasks.