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# **Ansible Tower User Guide**

***Release Ansible Tower 2.4.5***

**Red Hat, Inc.**

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Thank you for your interest in Ansible Tower by Red Hat. Ansible Tower is a commercial offering that helps teams manage complex multi-tier deployments by adding control, knowledge, and delegation to Ansible-powered environments.

The *Ansible Tower User Guide* discusses all of the functionality available in Ansible Tower and assumes moderate familiarity with Ansible, including concepts such as **Playbooks**, **Variables**, and **Tags**. For more information on these and other Ansible concepts, please see the Ansible documentation at <http://docs.ansible.com/>. This document has been updated to include information for the latest release of Ansible Tower 2.4.5.

Ansible Tower Version 2.4.5; June 2, 2016; <http://support.ansible.com/>

## OVERVIEW

Thank you for your interest in Ansible Tower. Tower is a graphically-enabled framework accessible via a web interface and a REST API endpoint for Ansible, the open source IT orchestration engine. Whether sharing operations tasks with your team or integrating with Ansible through the Tower REST API, Tower provides many powerful tools to make your automation life easier.

### 1.1 Real-time Playbook Output and Exploration

Watch playbooks run in real time, seeing each host as they check in. Easily go back and explore the results for specific tasks and hosts in great detail. Search for specific plays or hosts and see just those results, or quickly zero in on errors that need to be corrected.

### 1.2 “Push Button” Automation

Access your favorite projects and re-trigger execution from the web interface with a minimum of clicking. Tower will ask for input variables, prompt for your credentials, kick off and monitor the job, and display results and host history over time.

### 1.3 Role Based Access Control and Auditing

Ansible Tower allows delegating specific authority to different teams or explicit users. Keep some projects private. Allow some users to edit inventory and others to run playbooks against only certain systems—either in check (dry run) or live mode. Allow certain users to use credentials without exposing the credentials to them. Regardless of what you do, tower records the history of operations and who made them—including objects edited and jobs launched.

### 1.4 Cloud & Autoscaling Flexibility

Tower features a powerful provisioning callback feature that allows nodes to request configuration on demand. While optional, this is an ideal solution for a cloud auto-scaling scenario, integrating with provisioning servers like Cobbler, or when dealing with managed systems with unpredictable uptimes. Requiring no management software to be installed on remote nodes, the callback solution can be triggered via a simple call to ‘curl’ or ‘wget’, and is easily embeddable in init scripts, kickstarts, or preseeds. Access is controlled such that only machines in inventory can request configuration.

## 1.5 The Ideal RESTful API

The Tower REST API is the ideal RESTful API for a systems management application, with all resources fully discoverable, paginated, searchable, and well modeled. A styled API browser allows API exploration from the API root at `http://<Tower server name>/api/`, showing off every resource and relation. Everything that can be done in the user interface can be done in the API - and more.

## 1.6 Backup and Restore

The ability to backup and restore your system(s) has been integrated into the Tower setup playbook, making it easy for you to backup and replicate your Tower instance as needed.

## 1.7 Ansible Galaxy Integration

When it comes to describing your automation, everyone repeats the DRY mantra—“Don’t Repeat Yourself.” Using centralized copies of Ansible roles, such as in Ansible Galaxy, allows you to bring that philosophy to your playbooks. By including an Ansible Galaxy requirements.yml file in your project directory, Tower automatically fetches the roles your playbook needs from Galaxy, GitHub, or your local source control. Refer to [Ansible Galaxy Support](#) for more information.

## 1.8 Inventory Support for OpenStack

Ansible is committed to making OpenStack simple for everyone to use. As part of that, dynamic inventory support has been added for OpenStack. This allows you to easily target any of the virtual machines or images that you’re running in your OpenStack cloud.

## 1.9 Remote Command Execution

Often times, you just need to do a simple task on a few hosts, whether it’s add a single user, update a single security vulnerability, or restart a misbehaving service. Beginning with version 2.2.0, Tower includes remote command execution—any task that you can describe as a single Ansible play can be run on a host or group of hosts in your inventory, allowing you to get managing your systems quickly and easily. Plus, it is all backed by Tower’s RBAC engine and detailed audit logging, removing any questions regarding who has done what to what machines.

## 1.10 System Tracking

Introduced in version 2.2.0, Tower’s System Tracking brings a new level of visibility to your infrastructure—you can see exactly what is happening on your systems, comparing it to both the prior state of the system and to other systems in your cluster, which helps you to ensure compliance. The rich and extensible store of data available in System Tracking is accessible via Tower’s REST API, enabling you to feed it into other tools and systems.

## TOWER LICENSING, UPDATES, AND SUPPORT

Tower is a proprietary software product and is licensed on an annual subscription basis.

Ansible is an open source software project and is licensed under the GNU General Public License version 3, as detailed in the Ansible source code: <https://github.com/ansible/ansible/blob/devel/COPYING>

### 2.1 Support

Ansible offers support for paid Enterprise customers seeking help with the Tower product. If you or your company has paid for a license of Ansible Tower, you can contact Ansible's support team at <http://support.ansible.com/>. To better understand the levels of support which match your Tower license, refer to *License Types*.

If you are using Ansible core and are having issues, you should reach out to the “ansible-devel” mailing list or file an issue on the Github project page at <https://github.com/ansible/ansible/issues/>.

All of Ansible's community and OSS info can be found here: <https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/community.html>

### 2.2 Trial Licenses

While a license is required for Tower to run, there is no fee for managing up to 10 hosts. Additionally, trial licenses are available for exploring Tower with a larger number of hosts.

Trial licenses for Tower are available at: <http://ansible.com/license>

To acquire a license for additional servers, visit: <http://www.ansible.com/pricing/>

### 2.3 License Types

Tower is licensed at various levels as an annual subscription. Whether you have a small business or a mission-critical environment, Ansible is ready to simplify your IT work-flow.

- **Self-Support**

- Manage smaller environments (up to 250 nodes)
  - Maintenance and upgrades included

- **Enterprise: Standard**

- Manage any size environment
  - Enterprise 8x5 support and SLA (4 hour critical incident response)

- Phone and web support
  - Maintenance and upgrades included
- **Enterprise: Premium**
    - Manage any size environment, including mission-critical environments
    - Premium 24x7 support and SLA (4 hour critical incident response, 8 hour non-critical incident response)
    - Phone and web support
    - Maintenance and upgrades included

All subscriptions include regular updates and releases of both Ansible Tower and Ansible core.

For more information, contact Ansible at <http://support.ansible.com/> or at <http://www.ansible.com/pricing/>.

## 2.4 Node Counting in Licenses

The Tower license defines the number of nodes that can be managed by Tower. A typical license will say ‘Enterprise Tower Up To 250 Nodes’, which sets the maximum number of nodes that can be managed at 250.

Tower counts nodes by the number of hosts in inventory. If more nodes are in the Tower inventory than are supported by the license, you will be unable to start any Jobs in Tower. If a dynamic inventory sync will cause Tower to exceed the node count specified in the license, the dynamic inventory sync will fail.

If you have multiple hosts in inventory that have the same name, such as `webserver1`, they will be counted for licensing purposes as a single node. Note that this differs from the ‘Hosts’ count in Tower’s dashboard, which counts hosts in separate inventories separately.

## 2.5 License Features

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**Note:** Ansible Tower version 2.2 introduced a separation of features for Basic versus Enterprise or Premium licenses.

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The following list of features are available for all new Enterprise or Premium license users:

- Custom rebranding for login (*added in Ansible Tower 2.4.0*)
- SAML and RADIUS Authentication Support (*added in Ansible Tower 2.4.0*)
- Multi-Organization Support
- Activity Streams
- Surveys
- LDAP Support
- Active/Passive Redundancy
- System Tracking (*added in Ansible Tower 2.2.0*)

Users with an existing license (Basic, Enterprise, or Premium) can access all of the features included with the Ansible Tower release at the time of their purchase. For example, users with an existing Basic license issued before Ansible Tower 2.2 was released would have access to all the above features, except for System Tracking—which was introduced in Ansible Tower 2.2.

Enterprise license users with versions of Ansible Tower prior to 2.2 must import a new license file to enable System Tracking.

## 2.6 Tower Component Licenses

Ansible Tower includes some open source components. Ansible, Inc. supports Tower's use of and interactions with these components for both development and production purposes, subject to applicable terms and conditions. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing, the use of Ansible Tower is subject to the Ansible Software Subscription and Services Agreement located at <http://www.ansible.com/subscription-agreement>. Ansible Tower is a proprietary product offered by Ansible, Inc. and its use is not intended to prohibit the rights under any open source license.

To view the license information for the components included within Ansible Tower, refer to /usr/share/doc/ansible-tower-<version>/README where <version> refers to the version of Ansible Tower you have installed.

To view a specific license, refer to /usr/share/doc/ansible-tower-<version>/\*.txt , where \* is replaced by the license file name to which you are referring.

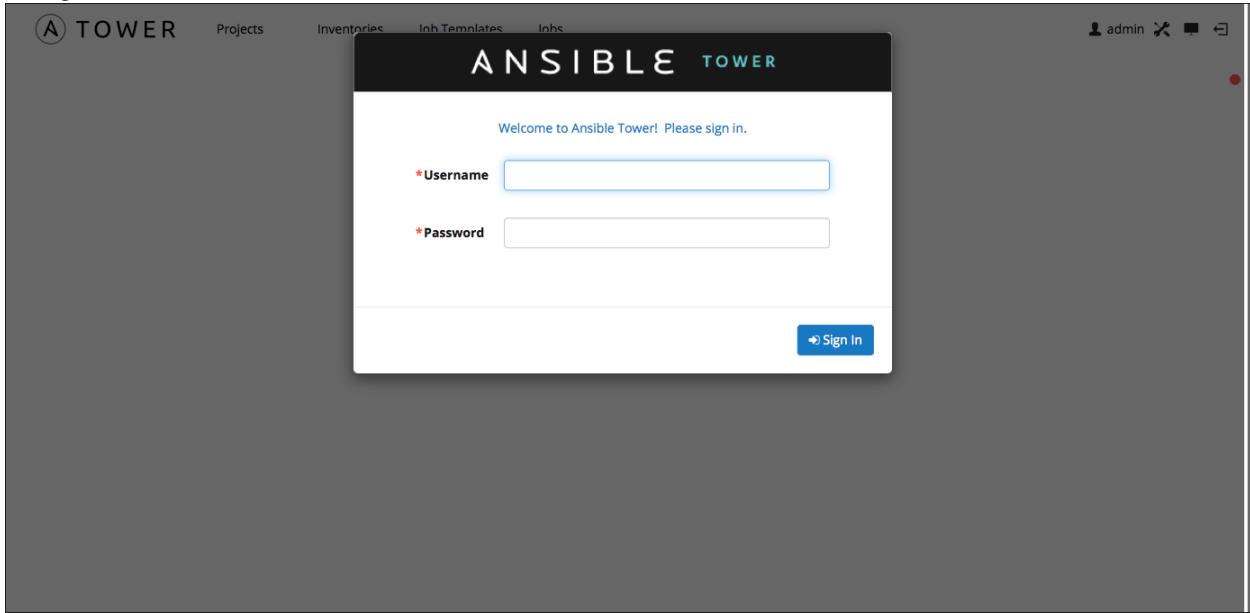
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## CHAPTER THREE

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### LOGGING IN

To log in to Tower, browse to the Tower interface at: `http://<Tower server name>/`



Log in using a valid Tower username and password.

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**Note:** The default username and password set during installation are *admin* and *password*, but the Tower administrator may have changed these settings during installation. If the default settings have not been changed, you can do so by

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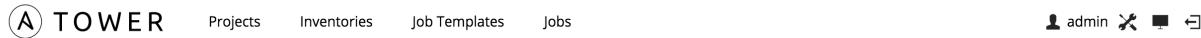
accessing the Users link from the Setup (  ) Menu.

## EXPLORING THE DASHBOARD AND TOWER INTERFACE

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**Note:** Ansible Tower 2.2 provides a streamlined interface, with the setup button offering access to administrative configuration needs. Users of older versions of Ansible Tower (pre-2.2) can access most of these through the top-level navigational menu.

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The Tower Dashboard offers a friendly graphical framework for your IT orchestration needs. Across the top-left side of the Tower Dashboard, administrators can quickly navigate to their **Projects**, **Inventories**, **Job Templates**, and **Jobs**.

Across the top-right side of this interface, administrators can access the tools they need to configure organizations, users, groups, permissions, and more.

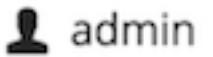
On the main Tower Dashboard screen, a summary appears listing your current *Hosts*, *Inventories*, and *Projects*. You can view charts and graphs for **Job Status** and **Host Status** by clicking on their tabs. Also available for review are summaries of **Recent Used Job Templates** and **Recent Run Jobs**.

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**Note:** Clicking on the Ansible Tower logo at any time returns you to the Dashboard.

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### 4.1 Tower User Menu



The Tower user menu is accessed by clicking

From here, you can:

- Edit the properties of the Tower user account and view the activity stream for that user
- Add credentials to the Tower user account
- Add and setup permission types for your inventories for your users (read/write/admin as well as the ability execute commands if not an admin)
- Review the Admin of Organizations
- Review the organizations which have been setup for the Tower user
- Review the teams to which the Tower user has been added

**A TOWER** Projects Inventories Job Templates Jobs

admin ✎ 🖌️ ↻

Setup > Users > admin

**Properties**

\* First Name  
Last Name  
Email  
admin@example.com  
Username  
admin  
Password  
Show  
Confirm Password  
Show  
 Superuser (User has full system administration privileges.)  
 Created by LDAP  
 Save

**Credentials**  
**Permissions**  
**Admin of Organizations**  
**Organizations**  
**Teams**

## 4.2 Setup Menu

To enter the Setup Menu screen for Ansible Tower, click the  button. This screen allows you to create your organization, add credentials, add users and teams, schedule management jobs, and more. You can also view your license from the Setup Menu's 'View License' link.

**A TOWER** Projects Inventories Job Templates Jobs

admin ✎ 🖌️ ↻

**Credentials**  
 Add passwords, SSH keys, etc. for Tower to use when launching jobs against machines, or when syncing inventories or projects.

**Users**  
 Allow others to sign into Tower and own the content they create.

**Teams**  
 Split up your organization to associate content and control permissions for groups.

**Organizations**  
Group all of your content to manage permissions across departments in your company.

**Management Jobs**  
Manage the cleanup of old job history, activity streams, data marked for deletion, and system tracking info.

**Inventory Scripts**  
Create and edit scripts to dynamically load hosts from any source.

**View Your License**

**About Tower**

## 4.3 Portal Mode

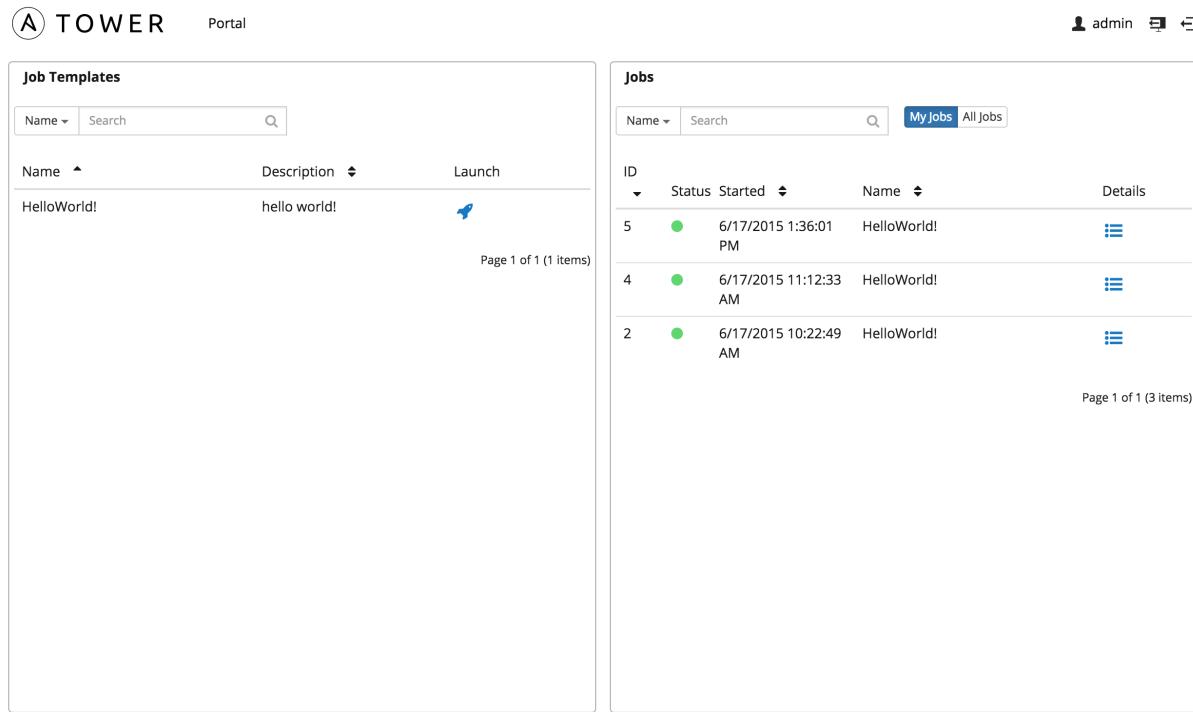
Portal mode, a single-page view of jobs and job templates, can be accessed by clicking the  button.

Portal mode is a simplified interface for users that need to run Ansible jobs, but that don't need an advanced knowledge of Ansible or Tower. Portal mode could be used by, for instance, development teams, or even departmental users in non-technical fields.

Portal mode offers Tower users a simplified, clean interface to the jobs that they are able to run, and the results of jobs that they have run in the past.

Pressing the  button beside a job in portal mode launches it, potentially asking some survey questions.

Other portions of the interface are hidden from view until portal mode is exited.



ID	Status	Started	Name	Details
5	●	6/17/2015 1:36:01 PM	HelloWorld!	
4	●	6/17/2015 11:12:33 AM	HelloWorld!	
2	●	6/17/2015 10:22:49 AM	HelloWorld!	

Portal mode can be accessed in two ways:

- via the  button at the top-right of the Tower interface
- by navigating to `https://<Tower server name>/portal`

In Portal mode, the top bar of Tower only has the Tower user button, an **Exit Portal** button to exit to the main interface, and the **Logout** button. Portal mode displays two main sections: *Job Templates* and *Jobs*.

### 4.3.1 Job Templates

This shows the job templates that are available for the user to run. This list can be searched by **Name** or **Description**, and can be sorted by those keys as well. To launch a job template, click the  button. This launches the job, which

can be viewed in **My Jobs**.

---

**Note:** Unlike Tower's main interface, you are not automatically redirected to the Job view for the launched job. This view is still accessible via the **View Details** button for this job run in the **My Jobs** panel. This is useful for instances when a job fails and a non-technical user needs an Ansible expert look at what might have gone wrong.

---

### 4.3.2 Jobs

This shows the list of jobs that have run in the past.

Sort for jobs specific to you by clicking on the **My Jobs** button or review all jobs you have access to view by clicking on the **All Jobs** button, next to the search bar.

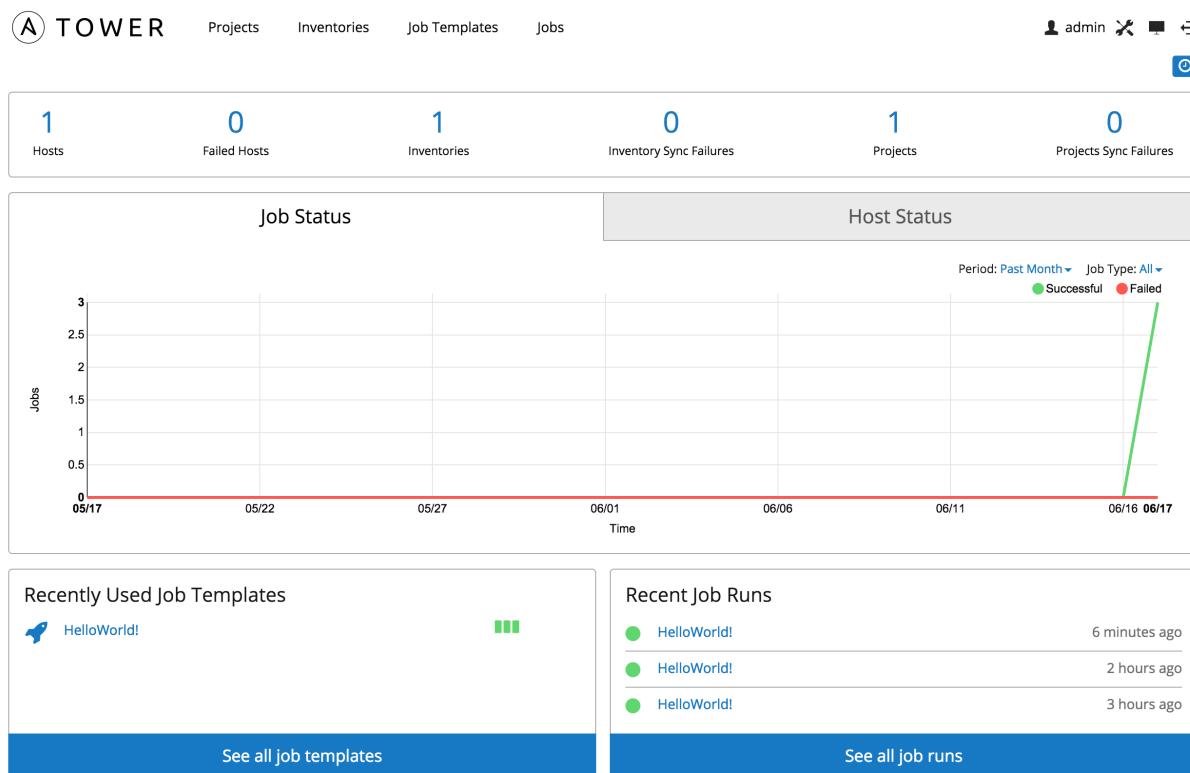
- **My Jobs:** View jobs that you (as the user) ran .
- **All Jobs:** View your team members' completed jobs, viewable based on your RBAC permissions.

For each job, you can view the **Job ID**, the **Status** of the job (*Running*, *Pending*, *Successful*, or *Failed*), its start time, and the job **Name**. The job list can be sorted by any of these fields. Clicking on the *Details* button opens a new window with the **Job Details** for that job (refer to [Jobs](#) for more information).

## 4.4 The Dashboard

The central interface to Tower is the Dashboard.

At the top of the Dashboard is a summary of your hosts, inventories, and projects. Each of these is linked to the corresponding object in Tower, for easy access.



At the top of the Dashboard is a summary of your hosts, inventories, and projects. Each of these is linked to the corresponding object in Tower, for easy access.

The Dashboard contains four graphs.

#### 4.4.1 Job Status

The Job Status graph displays the number of successful and failed jobs over a specified time period. You can choose to limit the job types that are viewed, and to change the time horizon of the graph.

#### 4.4.2 Host Status

The Host Status graph displays, as of the most recent job run, how many of the configured hosts in your inventory have been marked as ‘Successful’.

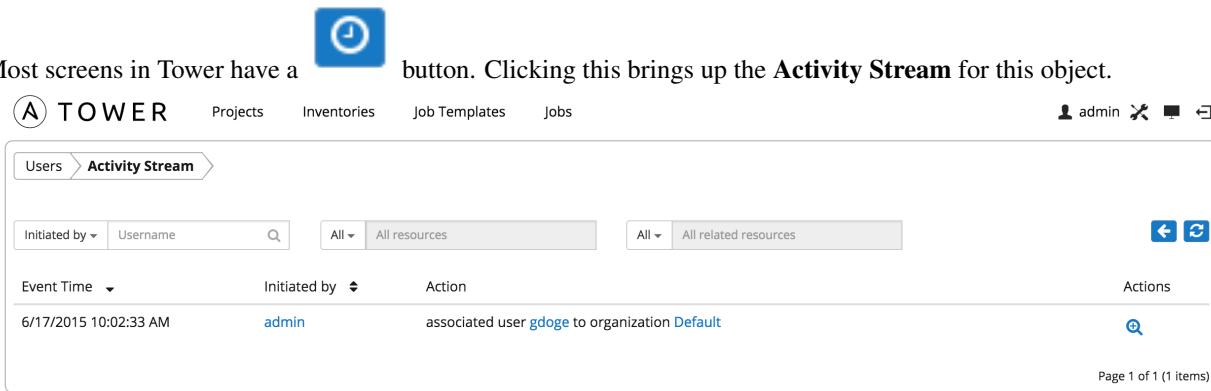
#### 4.4.3 Recently Used Job Templates

The Jobs section of this display shows a summary of the most recently used jobs. You can also access this summary by clicking on the **Jobs** entry in the main navigation menu.

#### 4.4.4 Recently Run Jobs

The Recently Run Jobs section displays which jobs were most recently run, their status, and notes when they were run as well.

### 4.5 Activity Streams



Most screens in Tower have a  button. Clicking this brings up the **Activity Stream** for this object.

The screenshot shows the Activity Stream for a user named 'admin'. The interface includes a header with the Tower logo and navigation links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, there are user profile icons for admin, a search bar, and other navigation controls. The main content area displays a table of activity logs. The columns are 'Event Time', 'Initiated by', 'Action', and 'Actions'. A single log entry is shown:

Event Time	Initiated by	Action	Actions
6/17/2015 10:02:33 AM	admin	associated user <a href="#">gdoge</a> to organization <a href="#">Default</a>	

At the bottom right, it says 'Page 1 of 1 (1 items)'.

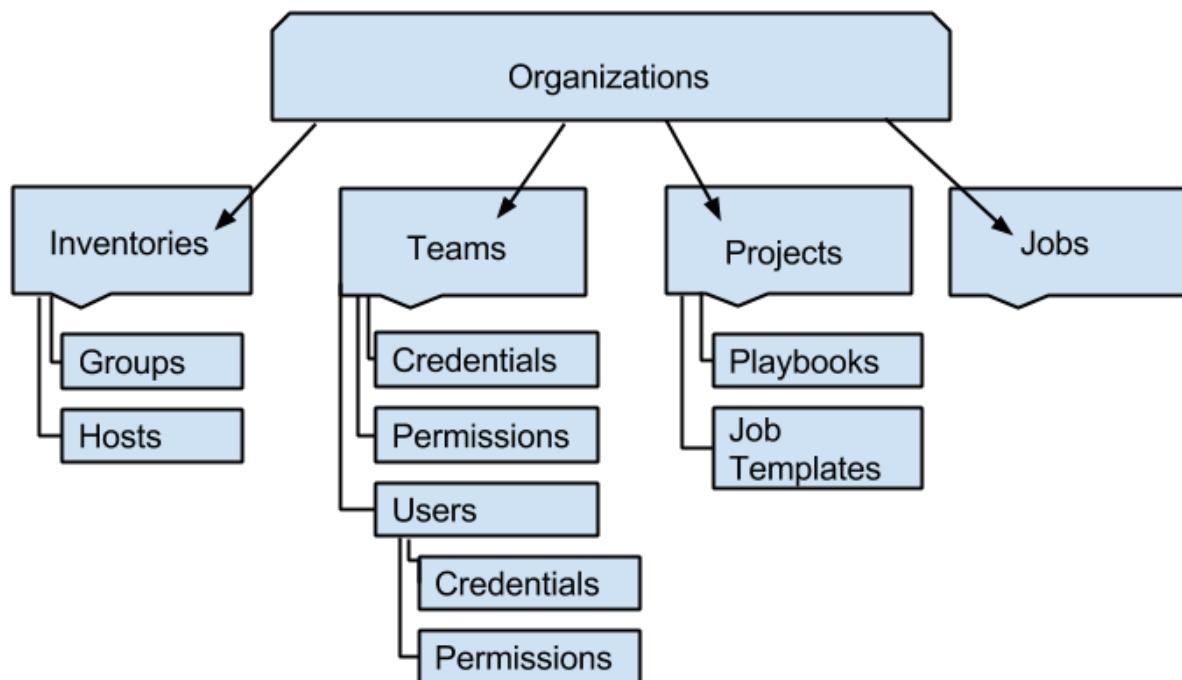
An Activity Stream shows all changes for a particular object. For each change, the Activity Stream shows the time of the event, the user that initiated the event, and the action. Clicking on the  button shows the event log for the change.

The Activity Stream can be filtered by the initiating user (or the system, if it was system initiated), and by any related Tower object, such as a particular credential, job template, or schedule.

The Activity Stream on the main Dashboard shows the Activity Stream for the entire Tower instance. Most pages in Tower allow viewing an activity stream filtered for that specific object.

## ORGANIZATIONS

An organization is a logical collection of **Users**, **Teams**, **Projects**, and **Inventories**, and is the highest level in the Tower object hierarchy.



The **Organizations** link from the Setup (  ) menu displays all of the existing organizations for your installation of Tower. Organizations can be searched by **Name** or **Description**. Modify and remove organizations using the **Edit** and **Delete** buttons.

---

**Note:** Starting with version 2.2.0, Tower creates a default organization automatically. Users of older versions of Tower will not see this default organization. Users of Tower with a Basic-level license only have the default organization available and should **not** delete it.

---

The screenshot shows the 'Organizations' tab in the Ansible Tower setup. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs'. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: 'Setup > Organizations'. A search bar and a filter dropdown are also present. The main area displays a table of organizations. The first organization listed is 'Default'. The 'Actions' column for 'Default' contains edit and delete icons. At the bottom right, it says 'Page 1 of 1 (1 items)'.

Buttons located in the upper right corner of the **Organizations** tab provide the following actions:

- Create a new organization
- View Activity Stream



Create a new organization by selecting the button.

**Note:** If you are using Ansible Tower with a Basic license, you must use the default organization. Do not delete it and try to add a new organization, or you will break your Tower setup. Only Enterprise or Premium Tower licenses have the ability to add new organizations beyond the default.

1. Enter the **Name** for your organization.
2. Optionally, enter a **Description** for the organization.

Click **Save** to finish creating the organization.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Organization' form. It has two main input fields: 'Name' and 'Description'. Below the fields are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons. The 'Name' field is required, indicated by a red asterisk.

Once created, Tower displays the organization details, including two accordion-style menus below the organization name and description details, that provide for managing users and administrators for the organization.

The screenshot shows the organization details for 'Honey Dog, Inc.'. It includes a 'Properties' section with fields for 'Name' (set to 'Honey Dog, Inc.') and 'Description' (set to 'A capable company making capable things'). Below the properties are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons. Underneath the properties are two collapsed accordion menus: 'Users' and 'Administrators'.

## 5.1 Organizations - Users

The **Users** menu of an Organization displays all the Users associated with this organization. A user is someone with access to Tower with associated permissions and credentials. Expand the users menu by selecting **Users**.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with the following details:

- Header:** Shows the 'TOWER' logo, navigation links for 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs', and a user account for 'admin'.
- Breadcrumbs:** 'Setup' > 'Organizations' > 'Honey Dog, Inc.'
- Section:** 'Properties' > 'Users'
- Table Headers:** 'Username' (sorted), 'First Name' (sorted), 'Last Name' (sorted), and 'Actions'.
- Table Data:** A message stating 'No records matched your search.'
- Page Information:** 'Page 1 of 1 (0 items)'.
- Buttons:** A blue '+' button for adding new users.

This menu allows you to manage the user membership for this organization. (User membership may also be managed

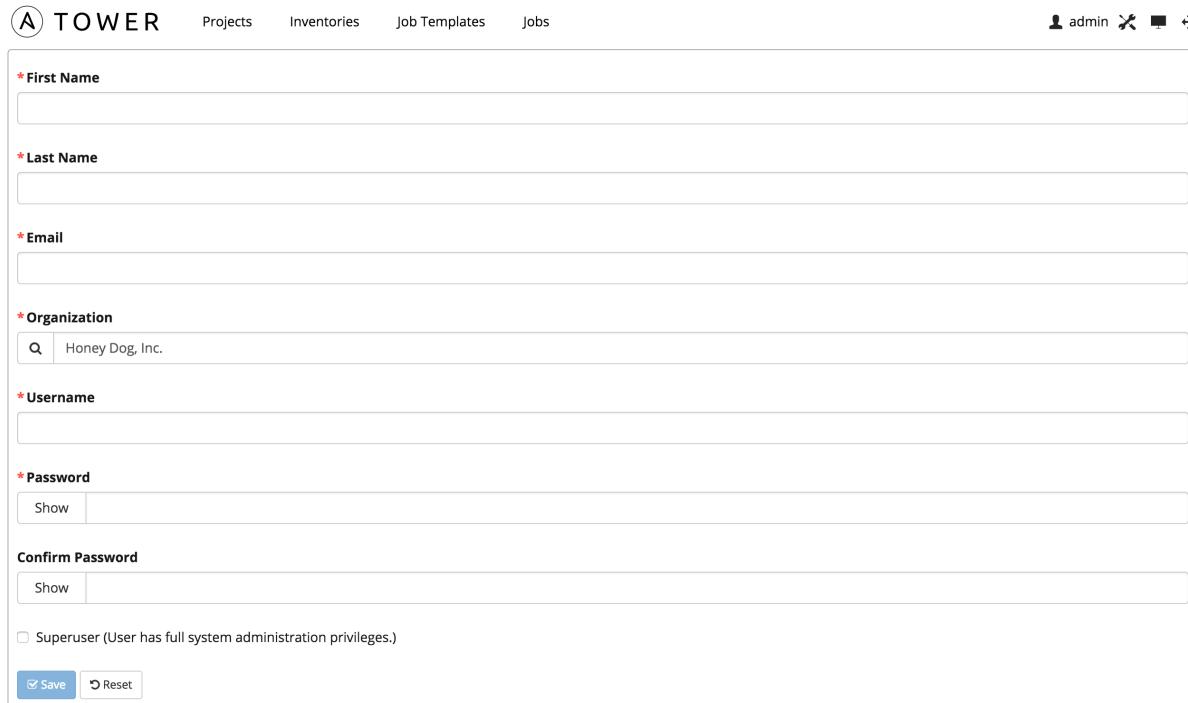
on a per-user basis via the **Users** link available from the Setup menu.) The user list may be sorted and searched by **Username**, **First Name**, or **Last Name**. Existing users may also be modified and removed using the **Edit** and **Delete** buttons. Clicking on a user brings up that user's details, which can then be edited. For more information, refer to [Users](#).

To add existing users to the organization, click the button. Then, select one or more users from the list of available users by clicking the **Select** checkbox or clicking anywhere on the user row. Click the **Select** button when done.

The screenshot shows the 'Add Users' screen with the following details:

- Header:** Shows the 'TOWER' logo, navigation links for 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs', and a user account for 'admin'.
- Breadcrumbs:** 'Organizations' > 'Organization' > 'Add Users'
- Table Headers:** 'Username' (sorted), 'First Name' (sorted), 'Last Name' (sorted), and 'Select'.
- Table Data:** Shows two users: 'admin' and 'gdoge'. The 'gdoge' row has a 'Select' checkbox checked.
- Buttons:** A blue '+' button for adding new users, and a blue 'Select' button at the bottom right.
- Page Information:** 'Page 1 of 1 (2 items)'.

To create a new user and add it to the organization, click the button from the **Add Users** screen, which takes you to the new user dialog.



The screenshot shows the 'Create New User' form in Ansible Tower. The form includes fields for First Name, Last Name, Email, Organization (prefilled with 'Honey Dog, Inc.'), Username, Password, and Confirm Password. There is also a 'Superuser' checkbox and buttons for Save and Reset.

\*First Name  
\*Last Name  
\*Email  
\*Organization  
Q Honey Dog, Inc.  
\*Username  
Show  
Confirm Password  
Show  
 Superuser (User has full system administration privileges.)  
 Save  Reset

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Email
- Organization (prefilled with the current organization—or the default organization if you are using a Basic license)
- Username
- Password
- Confirm Password
- Superuser (Gives this user full system administration privileges. Set with caution!)

**A TOWER** Projects Inventories Job Templates Jobs

**\*First Name**  
Josie

**\*Last Name**  
Doge

**\*Email**  
jdoge@honeydoginc.com

**\*Organization**  
Q Honey Dog, Inc.

**\*Username**  
jdoge

**\*Password**  
Show .....  
Show .....

Confirm Password  
Show .....

Superuser (User has full system administration privileges.)

Save  Reset

All of these fields are required. Select **Save** when finished and the user is added to the organization.

**A TOWER** Projects Inventories Job Templates Jobs

Setup > Organizations > **Honey Dog, Inc.**

Properties			
Users			
Username	First Name	Last Name	Actions
jdoge	Josie	Doge	

Page 1 of 1 (1 items)

**Administrators**

## 5.2 Organization - Administrators

An organization administrator is a type of user that has the rights to create, modify, or delete objects in the organization, including projects, teams, and users in that organization. Expand the **Administrators** menu by selecting **Administrators**.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with the title bar "A TOWER". The navigation bar includes "Projects", "Inventories", "Job Templates", and "Jobs". On the right, there is a user icon labeled "admin" and other navigation icons. The main content area shows a breadcrumb path: "Setup > Organizations > Honey Dog, Inc.". Below this, a sidebar has sections for "Properties", "Users", and "Administrators". The "Administrators" section is expanded, showing a search bar and a table with columns: "Username", "First Name", "Last Name", and "Actions". The table is empty, displaying the message "No records matched your search." At the bottom right of the page is the text "Page 1 of 1 (0 items)".

This menu displays a list of the users that are currently setup as an administrator of the organization. The administrator list may be sorted and searched by **Username**, **First Name**, or **Last Name**.

**Note:** Any user marked as a ‘Superuser’ is implicitly an administrator of all organizations, and is not displayed here.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with the title bar "A TOWER". The navigation bar includes "Projects", "Inventories", "Job Templates", and "Jobs". On the right, there is a user icon labeled "admin" and other navigation icons. The main content area shows a breadcrumb path: "Organizations > Organization > Add Administrators". Below this, a search bar and a table with columns: "Username", "First Name", "Last Name", and "Select". A row for "jdoge" is selected, indicated by a checked checkbox in the "Select" column. At the bottom right is a blue button labeled "✓ Select". At the very bottom right is the text "Page 1 of 1 (1 items)".

**Note:** A user must first be added to the organization before it can be added to the list of administrators for that organization.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with the title bar "A TOWER". The navigation bar includes "Projects", "Inventories", "Job Templates", and "Jobs". On the right, there is a user icon labeled "admin" and other navigation icons. The main content area shows a breadcrumb path: "Setup > Organizations > Honey Dog, Inc.". Below this, a sidebar has sections for "Properties", "Users", and "Administrators". The "Administrators" section is expanded, showing a search bar and a table with columns: "Username", "First Name", "Last Name", and "Actions". A single row for "jdoge" is listed, with edit and delete icons in the "Actions" column. At the bottom right is the text "Page 1 of 1 (1 items)".

---

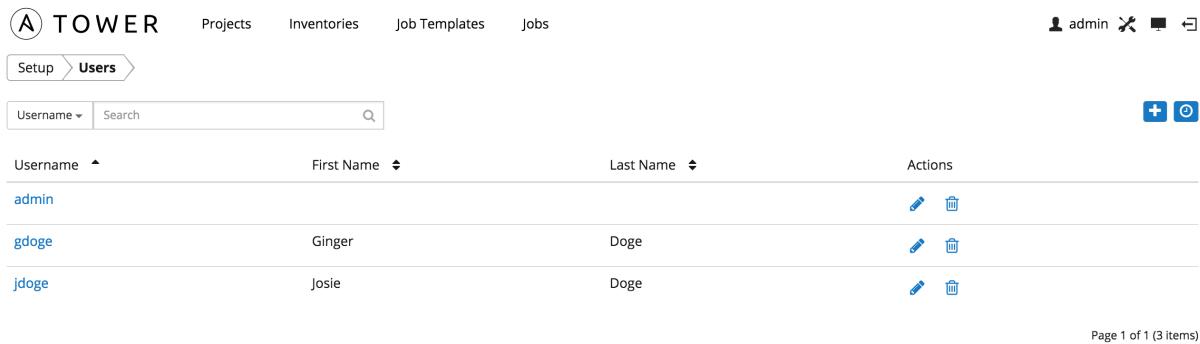
## CHAPTER SIX

---

# USERS

A user is someone who has access to Tower with associated permissions and credentials. The Users link (accessible

from the Setup [  ] menu) allows you to manage all Tower users. The user list may be sorted and searched by **Username, First Name, or Last Name**.



The screenshot shows the Tower application's user management interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right side of the top bar, there is a user profile icon labeled "admin" and other navigation icons. Below the top bar, the main content area has a breadcrumb navigation showing "Setup > Users". There is a search bar with a "Search" button and a dropdown menu for "Username". A table lists three users: "admin" (First Name: null, Last Name: null), "gdoge" (First Name: Ginger, Last Name: Doge), and "jdoge" (First Name: Josie, Last Name: Doge). Each user row has edit and delete icons in the "Actions" column. At the bottom of the table, it says "Page 1 of 1 (3 items)".

There are three types of Tower Users:

1. **Normal User:** read and write access is limited to the inventory and projects for which that user has been granted the appropriate rights.
2. **Organization Administrator:** the administrator of an organization has all of the rights of a normal user, as well as admin, read, and write permission over the entire organization and all of its inventories and projects, but does not have those levels of access on content belonging to other organizations. This level of user can create and manage users.
3. **Superuser:** a Tower Superuser has admin, read, and write permissions over the entire Tower installation. A Superuser is typically a systems administrator responsible for managing Tower and will delegate responsibilities for day-to-day work to various Organization Administrators.

---

**Note:** The initial user (usually “admin”) created by the Tower installation process is a Superuser. One Superuser must always exist. To delete the “admin” user account, first create another Superuser account.

---

To create a new user click the  button, which opens the new user dialog.

The screenshot shows the 'Create User' page in Ansible Tower. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, it shows the current user as 'admin' with icons for edit, delete, and refresh. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail indicates the path: Setup > Users > Create User. The main area contains several input fields: 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Email', 'Organization' (with a search icon), 'Username', 'Password' (with a 'Show' button), and 'Confirm Password' (with a 'Show' button). A checkbox labeled 'Superuser (User has full system administration privileges.)' is present. At the bottom, there are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons.

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Email
- Organization (Choose from an existing organization–this is the default organization if you are using a Basic license)
- Username
- Password
- Confirm Password
- Superuser (The superuser has full system administration privileges for Tower. Use with caution!)

Select **Save** when finished.

Once the user is successfully created, the **Edit User** dialog opens. This is the same menu that is opened if the **Edit**

button is clicked from the **Users** link from the button. Here, the user's **Properties**, **Credentials**, **Permissions**, and other user membership details may be reviewed and modified.

**Properties**

- \* First Name: Leo
- \* Last Name: Doge
- \* Email: ldoge@honeydoginc.com
- \* Username: ldoge
- >Password: Show
- Confirm Password: Show
- Superuser (User has full system administration privileges.)
- Created by LDAP

**Credentials**

**Permissions**

**Admin of Organizations**

**Organizations**

**Teams**

## 6.1 Users - Credentials

Credentials are utilized by Tower for authentication when launching jobs against machines, for synchronization with inventory sources, and when importing project content from version control systems. For more information, refer to [Credentials](#).

Name	Description	Actions
No records matched your search.		

Page 1 of 1 (0 items)

**Permissions**

**Admin of Organizations**

**Organizations**

**Teams**



To add a credential to user, expand the credentials menu and click the button.

Name	Description	Type	Select
Root User, Ask Password	root user, ask password	Machine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Select  
Page 1 of 1 (1 items)

Then, select one or more credentials from the list of available credentials by clicking the **Select** checkbox. Click the **Select** button when done.

Name	Description	Actions
Root User, Ask Password	root user, ask password	

Page 1 of 1 (1 items)



To create a new credential and add it to the user, click the button from the **Add Credentials** screen, which opens the **Create Credential** dialog.

\*Name

Description

Does this credential belong to a team or user?   
 User  Team

\*User that owns this credential  
 ldoge

\*Type   
 Choose a type

Save

Enter the appropriate details depending on the type of credential and select **Save**. For more information, refer to [Credentials](#).

## 6.2 Users - Permissions

The set of privileges assigned to users and teams (role-based access control) that provide the ability to read, modify, and administer projects, inventories, job templates, and other Tower elements are permissions.

There are two permission types available to be assigned to users and teams, each with its own set of permissions available to be assigned:

- Inventory: grants permission to act on inventories, groups, and hosts
  - Read: view groups and hosts within a specified inventory
  - Write: create, modify, and remove groups, and hosts within a specified inventory. Does not give permission to modify the inventory settings. This permission also grants the Read permission.
  - Admin: modify the settings for the specified inventory. This permission also grants Read and Write permissions.
  - Execute commands: Allow the user to execute commands on the inventory.
- Job Template: grants permission to launch jobs from the specified project against the specified inventory
  - Create: Allow the user or team to create job templates. This implies that they have the Run and Check permissions
  - Run: launch jobs of type Run. This permission also grants the Check permission.
  - Check: launch jobs of type Check.

This menu displays a list of the permissions that are currently available. The permissions list may be sorted and searched by **Name**, **Inventory**, **Project**, or **Permission** type.

Name	Inventory	Project	Permission	Actions
No records matched your search.				

To add new permissions to the user, click the button, which opens the **Add Permission** dialog.

The screenshot shows the 'Add Permission' dialog in Ansible Tower. At the top, there are tabs for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, there's a user icon for 'admin' and some navigation icons. The main form has the following fields:

- \*Permission Type:** A radio button group where 'Inventory' is selected, and 'Job Template' is unselected.
- \*Name:** An input field containing placeholder text.
- Description:** A text area for entering a description.
- \*Inventory:** A search bar showing 'Web Servers' as a result.
- \*Permission:** A radio button group where 'Read' is selected, and 'Write', 'Admin', and 'Execute commands' are unselected.
- Permission:** A detailed configuration section with four sections: **Read** (Only allow the user or team to view the inventory), **Write** (Allow the user or team to modify hosts and groups contained in the inventory, add new hosts and groups, and perform inventory sync operations), **Admin** (Allow the user or team full access to the inventory. This includes reading, writing, deletion of the inventory, inventory sync operations, and the ability to execute commands on the inventory), and **Execute commands** (Allow the user to execute commands on the inventory).
- Buttons:** 'Save' (with a checked checkbox) and 'Reset'.

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields:

- Permission Type
  - Inventory
  - Job Template
- Name
- Description

---

**Note:** Before you can select an Inventory, you must first create it and make it available. Refer to [Inventories](#) for more information.

---

Selecting a **Permission Type** of either **Inventory** or **Job Template** changes the appearance of the **Add Permission** dialog to present appropriate options for each type of permission.

For a permission of type **Inventory**, enter the following details:

- Inventory (Select from the available inventories)
- Permission
  - Read
  - Write
  - Admin
  - Execute commands

For a permission of type **Job Template**, enter the following details:

- Project (Select from the available projects)
- Inventory (Select from the available inventories)
- Permission
  - Create
  - Run
  - Check

Select **Save**.

## 6.3 Users - Admin of Organizations

This displays the list of organizations that this user is an administrator of. This list may be searched by **Organization Name** or **Description**. A user cannot be made an organization administrator from this interface panel.

The screenshot shows the 'Admin of Organizations' page in the Ansible Tower interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, there's a user profile for 'admin'. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Setup > Users > Admin of Organizations'. On the left, a sidebar has collapsed sections for Properties, Credentials, and Permissions, and an expanded section for Admin of Organizations. The main content area has a search bar with a dropdown for 'Name' and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a table with three columns: 'Name' (sorted by name), 'Description' (sorted by description), and 'Actions'. A message 'No records matched your search.' is displayed. At the bottom right of the table area, it says 'Page 1 of 1 (0 items)'. The 'Admin of Organizations' section in the sidebar is expanded, showing sub-sections for Organizations and Teams.

## 6.4 Users - Organizations

This displays the list of organizations that this user is a member of. This list may be searched by Organization Name or Description. Organization membership cannot be modified from this display panel.

Setup > Users > Idoge

- ▶ Properties
- ▶ Credentials
- ▶ Permissions
- ▶ Admin of Organizations
- ▼ Organizations

Name	Description	Actions
Honey Dog, Inc.	A capable company making capable things	

Page 1 of 1 (1 items)

- ▶ Teams

## 6.5 Users - Teams

This displays the list of teams that this user is a member of. This list may be searched by **Team Name** or **Description**. Team membership cannot be modified from this display panel. For more information, refer to [Teams](#).

Setup > Users > Idoge

- ▶ Properties
- ▶ Credentials
- ▶ Permissions
- ▶ Admin of Organizations
- ▼ Organizations
- ▼ Teams

Name	Description	Actions
------	-------------	---------

No records matched your search.

Page 1 of 1 (0 items)

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## CHAPTER SEVEN

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### TEAMS

A team is a subdivision of an organization with associated users, projects, credentials, and permissions. Teams provide a means to implement role-based access control schemes and delegate responsibilities across organizations. For instance, permissions may be granted to a whole team rather than each user on the team.

You can create as many teams of users as make sense for your organization. Each team can be assigned permissions, just as with Users.

Teams can also scalably assign ownership for Credentials, preventing multiple Tower interface click-throughs to assign the same credentials to the same user.



The Teams link, accessible by clicking on the button, allows you to manage the teams for Tower. The team list may be sorted and searched by **Name**, **Description**, or **Organization**.

Buttons located in the upper right corner of the **Team** tab provide the following actions:

- Create a new team
- View Activity Stream

A screenshot of the Tower software interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs'. On the far right, it shows a user profile ('admin') and several icons. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail says 'Setup &gt; Teams'. There's a search bar with dropdown menus for 'Name', 'Description', and 'Organization'. A blue '+' button is located at the top right of the main content area. The message 'No records matched your search.' is displayed below the search filters. At the bottom right, it says 'Page 1 of 1 (0 items)'.

To create a new team, click the button.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Team' page in Ansible Tower. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, there's a user icon labeled 'admin'. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Setup > Teams > Create Team'. The main area contains three input fields: 'Name' (Production Operations), 'Description' (prod ops team), and 'Organization' (Honey Dog, Inc.). There's also a search bar for organizations. At the bottom are two buttons: a blue 'Save' button with a checked checkbox and a 'Reset' button.

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields:

- Name
- Description
- Organization (Choose from an existing organization)

Select **Save**.

Once the team is successfully created, Tower opens the **Edit Team** dialog. This is the same menu that is opened if the **Edit** button is clicked from the **Teams** link. Here, **Team Settings**, **Credentials**, **Permissions**, **Projects**, and **Users** associated with this team may be reviewed and modified.

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Team' dialog for the 'Production Operations' team. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, there's a user icon labeled 'admin'. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Setup > Teams > Production Operations'. The main area has a sidebar with tabs: 'Properties' (selected), 'Credentials', 'Permissions', 'Projects', and 'Users'. The 'Properties' tab displays the team's name (Production Operations), description (prod ops team), and organization (Honey Dog, Inc.). There's also a small info icon next to the organization field. At the bottom of the 'Properties' section are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons.

## 7.1 Teams - Credentials

Credentials are utilized by Tower for authenticating when launching jobs against machines, to synchronize with inventory sources, and to import project content from a version control system. For details about how to use credentials, refer to [Credentials](#).

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface for a 'Production Operations' team. At the top, there are navigation links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, a user icon shows 'admin' is logged in. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: Setup > Teams > Production Operations. A sidebar on the left lists Properties, Credentials, Permissions, Projects, and Users. The main content area displays a table for credentials, with a search bar at the top. The table has columns for Name, Description, and Actions. A message below the table states 'No records matched your search.' At the bottom right, it says 'Page 1 of 1 (0 items)'.



To add credentials to the team, click the button. Then, select one or more credentials from the list of available credentials by clicking the **Select** checkbox. Click the **Select** button when done.

The screenshot shows the 'Add Credentials' screen. At the top, there are navigation links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, a user icon shows 'admin' is logged in. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: Add Credentials. A sidebar on the left lists Add Credentials. The main content area displays a table for credentials, with a search bar at the top. The table has columns for Name, Description, Type, and Select. One row is shown: 'Root User, Ask Password' with 'root user, ask password' in the Description field, 'Machine' in the Type field, and a checked checkbox in the Select column. At the bottom right, there is a blue 'Select' button with a checkmark and the text 'Page 1 of 1 (1 items)'.



To create new credentials and add them to the team, click the button from the **Add Credentials** screen.

The screenshot shows the 'Create New Credential' form. At the top, there are navigation links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, a user icon shows 'admin' is logged in. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: Create New Credential. A sidebar on the left lists Add Credentials. The main content area contains several input fields: a required 'Name' field, a 'Description' field, a question mark icon for help, a 'Does this credential belong to a team or user?' section with 'User' and 'Team' radio buttons ('Team' is selected), a 'Team that owns this credential' dropdown menu set to 'Production Operations', a 'Type' dropdown menu with 'Choose a type' placeholder, and two buttons at the bottom: 'Save' (with a checked checkbox) and 'Reset'.

Enter the appropriate details depending on the type of credential and select **Save**. (For details about credential types, refer to [Credentials](#).)

## 7.2 Teams - Permissions

The set of privileges assigned to users and teams that provide the ability to read, modify, and administer projects, inventories, and other Tower elements are permissions.

There are two permission types available to be assigned to users and teams, each with its own set of permissions available to be assigned:

- Inventory: grants permission to act on inventories, groups, and hosts
  - Read: View groups and hosts within a specified inventory.
  - Write: Create, modify, and remove groups, and hosts within a specified inventory. Does not give permission to modify the inventory settings. This permission also grants the Read permission.
  - Admin: Modify the settings for the specified inventory. This permission also grants Read and Write permissions.
  - Execute commands: Allow the user to execute commands on the inventory.
- Job Template: grants permission to launch jobs from the specified project against the specified inventory
  - Create: Allow the user or team to create job templates. This implies that they have the Run and Check permissions.
  - Run: Launch jobs of type Run. This permission also grants the Check permission.
  - Check: Launch jobs of type Check.

This menu displays a list of the permissions that are currently available. The permissions list may be sorted and searched by **Name**, **Inventory**, **Project** or **Permission** type.

Name	Inventory	Project	Permission	Actions
No records matched your search.				

To add new permissions to the team, click the button, which launches the **Add Permission** dialog.

The screenshot shows the 'Add Permission' dialog in Ansible Tower. At the top, there's a header with the Ansible Tower logo and navigation links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, there's a user icon for 'admin' and some global settings like a search bar and a refresh button.

**Permission Type:**  Job Template  Inventory

**Name:** (empty input field)

**Description:** (empty input field)

**Project:** (empty input field with a search icon)

**Inventory:** (empty input field with a search icon) Web Servers

**Permission:**

- Create:** Allow the user or team to create job templates. This implies that they have the Run and Check permissions.
- Run:** Allow the user or team to run a job template from the project against the inventory. In Run mode modules will be executed, and changes to the inventory will occur.
- Check:** Only allow the user or team to run the project against the inventory as a dry-run operation. In Check mode, module operations will only be simulated. No changes will occur.

At the bottom are two buttons:  Save and  Reset.

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields:

- Permission Type
  - Inventory
  - Job Template
- Name
- Description

---

**Note:** Before you can select an Inventory, you must first create it and make it available. Refer to [Inventories](#) for more information.

---

Selecting a **Permission Type** of either **Inventory** or **Job Template** changes the appearance of the **Add Permission** dialog to present appropriate options for each type of permission.

For a permission of type **Inventory**, enter the following details:

- Inventory (Select from the available inventories)
- Permission
  - Read
  - Write
  - Admin

For a permission of type **Job Template**, enter the following details:

- Project (Select from the available projects)

- Inventory (Select from the available inventories)
- Permission
  - Create
  - Run
  - Check

Select **Save**.

## 7.3 Teams - Projects

This displays the list of projects that this team has access to. This list may be searched by **Project Name** or **Description**. Before a project can be added, it must first be created. For more information about projects, refer to [Projects](#).

The screenshot shows the 'Teams - Projects' section of the Ansible Tower interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Setup', 'Teams', and 'Production Operations'. Below this is a sidebar with sections for 'Properties', 'Credentials', 'Permissions', and 'Projects'. The 'Projects' section is expanded, showing a table with columns for 'Name', 'Description', and 'Actions'. A search bar is at the top of the table, and a note below it says 'No records matched your search.' At the bottom right of the table area, it says 'Page 1 of 1 (0 items)'. There's also a 'Users' section at the bottom.



To add an existing project to the team, click the **+** button. Then select one or more available projects from the list by clicking the **Select** checkbox or by clicking anywhere on the user row. Select **Finished** when done.

The screenshot shows the 'Add Project' screen. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Teams', 'Team', and 'Add Project'. Below this is a table with columns for 'Status', 'Name', 'Last Updated', 'Type', and 'Select'. One row is visible, showing 'Hello World!' with a checked 'Select' checkbox. At the bottom right, there's a 'Select' button and a note 'Page 1 of 1 (1 items)'.



To create a new project and add it to the team, click the **+** button from the **Add Project** screen, which launches the **Create Project** dialog.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Project' page in Ansible Tower. At the top, there are navigation links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, there is a user icon labeled 'admin' and some system icons. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Teams > Team > Projects > Create Project'. The main area contains several input fields: a required 'Name' field, an optional 'Description' field, a required 'Organization' field with a search icon, and an 'SCM Type' field with a dropdown menu showing 'Choose a scm type'. At the bottom are two buttons: a blue 'Save' button with a checkmark icon and a grey 'Reset' button.

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields:

- Name
- Description
- Organization
- SCM Type (Select one of Manual, Git, Subversion, or Mercurial.)
  - If the SCM type is Manual, select the Project Base Path and Playbook Directory.
  - If the SCM type is Git, Subversion, or Mercurial, select the SCM URL.
    - \* You can also enter optional information for the SCM branch, SCM credential, and preferred SCM update options.
    - \* Revision # (Subversion only—optionally enter the Revision # for Subversion.)

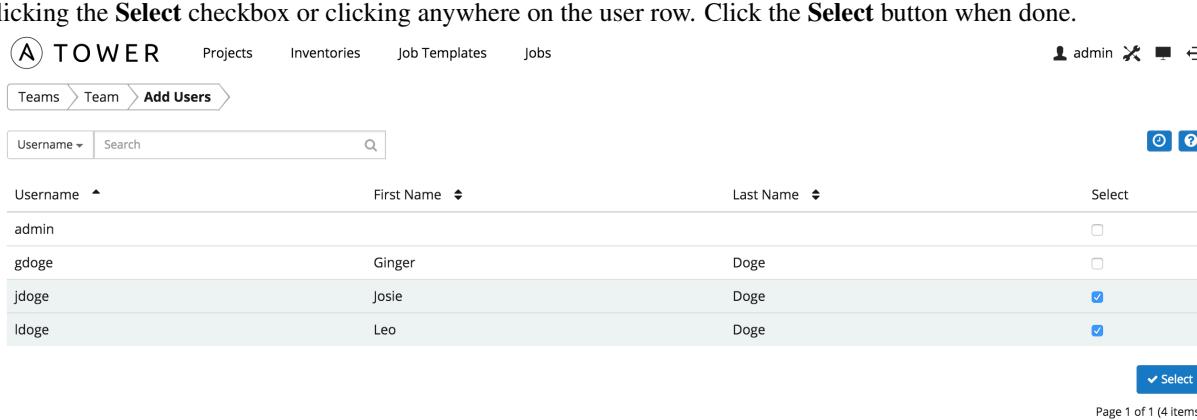
All fields are required. Select **Save**.

## 7.4 Teams - Users

This menu displays the list of users that are members of this team. This list may be searched by **Username**, **First Name**, or **Last Name**. For more information, refer to [Users](#).

The screenshot shows the 'Production Operations' team page in Ansible Tower. At the top, there are navigation links for Setup, Teams, and Production Operations. On the right, there is a user icon labeled 'admin' and some system icons. The main area has a sidebar with sections: Properties, Credentials, Permissions, Projects, and Users (which is expanded). Below the sidebar is a search bar with a dropdown for 'Username' and a magnifying glass icon. The main table has columns for 'Username', 'First Name', 'Last Name', and 'Actions'. A message at the bottom says 'No records matched your search.' At the very bottom, it says 'Page 1 of 1 (0 items)'.

To add users to the team, click the  button. Then, select one or more users from the list of available users by clicking the **Select** checkbox or clicking anywhere on the user row. Click the **Select** button when done.



The screenshot shows the 'Add Users' page in Ansible Tower. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, it shows the current user as 'admin'. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: Teams > Team > Add Users. A search bar is present. The main area is a table with columns: Username, First Name, Last Name, and Select. The 'Select' column contains checkboxes. The table data is as follows:

Username	First Name	Last Name	Select
admin			<input type="checkbox"/>
gdoge	Ginger	Doge	<input type="checkbox"/>
jdoge	Josie	Doge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ldoge	Leo	Doge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

At the bottom right of the table is a blue 'Select' button with a checkmark icon. Below the table, a small note says 'Page 1 of 1 (4 items)'.

## CREDENTIALS

Credentials are utilized by Tower for authentication when launching jobs against machines, synchronizing with inventory sources, and importing project content from a version control system.

Tower credentials are imported and stored encrypted in Tower, and are not retrievable in plain text on the command line by any user. Once a password or key has been entered into the Tower interface, it is encrypted and inserted into the Tower database, and cannot be retrieved from Tower. You can grant users and teams the ability to use these credentials, without actually exposing the credential to the user. If you have a user move to a different team or leave the organization, you don't have to re-key all of your systems just because that credential was available in Tower.

---

**Note:** Tower encrypts passwords and key information in the Tower database and never makes secret information visible via the API.

---

### 8.1 Understanding How Credentials Work

The encryption/decryption algorithm uses Electronic Code Book (ECB) as the mode of operation with AES-128 as the block cipher. The 128-bit AES key is derived from the `SECRET_KEY` (found in the `awx` settings). Specific, sensitive, Model fields in Tower are encrypted and include:

```
Credential: password, ssh_key_data, ssh_key_unlock, become_password, vault_password  
UnifiedJob: start_args
```

Data is encrypted before it is saved to the database and is decrypted as is needed in Tower. The encryption/decryption process derives the AES-128 bit encryption key from `<SECRET_KEY,field_name,primary_key>` where `field_name` is the name of the Model field and `primary_key` is the database primary key. Thus, if any attribute used in the key generation process changes, Tower fails to correctly decrypt the secret.

---

**Note:** The rules of encryption and decryption for Ansible Tower also apply to one field outside of credentials, the Unified Job `start_args` field, which is used through the `job`, `ad_hoc_command`, and `system_job` data types. Refer to [Unified Job List API Endpoint](#) in the *Ansible Tower API Guide* for more information.

---

### 8.2 Getting Started with Credentials

The **Credentials** link, accessible from the  button displays a list of all available credentials. It can be sorted and searched by **Name**, **Description**, or **Type**.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with the 'Credentials' tab selected under 'Setup'. A single credential entry is listed:

Name	Description	Type	Actions
Root User, Ask Password	root user, ask password	Machine	

Page 1 of 1 (1 items)

Credentials can also be managed from either the **Teams** link or the **Users** link from the Setup ( menu). To manage credentials for teams, browse to the **Teams** tab and edit the appropriate team. To manage credentials for a user, browse to the **Users** tab and edit the appropriate user.

Credentials added to a **Team** are made available to all members of the team, whereas credentials added to a user are only available to that specific user by default.

Buttons located in the upper right corner of the **Credentials** screen provide the following actions:

- Create a new credential
- View Activity Stream

## 8.3 Add a New Credential

Create a new credential by selecting the button.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Credential' form. It includes fields for Name, Description, and Type, along with dropdowns for User/Team selection and a search bar for users.

**\*Name**

**Description**

**Does this credential belong to a team or user?**   
 User  Team

**\*User that owns this credential**

**\*Type**

Save

Enter the appropriate details depending on the type of credential and select **Save**.

## 8.4 Credential Types

### 8.4.1 Machine

Machine credentials enable Tower to invoke Ansible on hosts under your management. Just like using Ansible on the command line, you can specify the SSH username, optionally provide a password, an SSH key, a key password, or even have Tower prompt the user for their password at deployment time. They define ssh and user-level privilege escalation access for playbooks, and are used when submitting jobs to run playbooks on a remote host.

Machine credentials have several attributes that may be configured:

- **Username:** The username to be used for SSH authentication.
- **Password:** The actual password to be used for SSH authentication. This password can be stored encrypted in the Tower database, if entered. Alternatively, you can configure Tower to ask the user for the password when necessary by selecting “**Ask at runtime?**”. In these cases, a dialog opens when the job is launched, prompting the user to enter the password and password confirmation.
- **Private Key:** The actual SSH Private Key to be used to authenticate the user via SSH. This key is stored encrypted in the Tower database.
- **Private Key Passphrase:** If the SSH Private Key used is protected by a password, you can configure a Key Password for the private key. This password may be stored encrypted in the Tower database, if entered. Alternatively, you can configure Tower to ask the user for the password as necessary by selecting “**Ask at runtime?**”. In these cases, a dialog opens when the job is launched, prompting the user to enter the password and password confirmation.
- **Privilege Escalation:** Specifies the type of escalation privilege to assign to specific users. This is equivalent to specifying the `--become-method=BECOME_METHOD` parameter, where `BECOME_METHOD` could be `sudo` | `su` | `pbrun` | `pfexec`.
  - **sudo:** Performs single commands with super user (root user) privileges
  - **su:** Switches to the super user (root user) account (or to other user accounts)
  - **pbrun:** Requests that an application or command be run in a controlled account and provides for advanced root privilege delegation and keylogging.
  - **pfexec:** Executes commands with predefined process attributes, such as specific user or group IDs.
- **Privilege Escalation Username:** The username to use with escalation privileges on the remote system.
- **Privilege Escalation Password:** The actual password to be used to authenticate the user via the selected privilege escalation type on the remote system. This password may be stored encrypted in the Tower database, if entered. Alternatively, you may configure Tower to ask the user for the password when necessary by selecting “**Ask at runtime?**”. In these cases, a dialog opens when the job is launched, prompting the user to enter the password and password confirmation.

---

**Note:** Sudo Password must be used in combination with SSH passwords or SSH Private Keys, since Tower must first establish an authenticated SSH connection with the host prior to invoking sudo to change to the sudo user.

---

- **Vault Password:** If your playbook uses Ansible Vault, add the Vault password to your credentials here. Alternatively, you may configure Tower to ask the user for the vault password when necessary by selecting “**Ask at runtime?**”. In these cases, a dialog opens when the job is launched, prompting the user to enter the password and password confirmation.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Credential' page in Ansible Tower. The top navigation bar includes links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. The user is identified as 'admin'. The breadcrumb navigation shows 'Setup > Credentials > Create Credential'. The main form fields are:

- Name**: A required field with a placeholder for a credential name.
- Description**: A text area for describing the credential.
- Does this credential belong to a team or user?**: A radio button group where 'User' is selected.
- User that owns this credential**: A search input field.
- Type**: A dropdown menu set to 'Machine'.
- Username**: An input field.
- Password**: An input field with 'Show' and 'Ask at runtime?' checkboxes.
- Private Key**: A large input area with a hint: 'Hint: drag and drop an SSH private key file on the field below'.
- Private Key Passphrase**: An input field with 'Show' and 'Ask at runtime?' checkboxes.
- Privilege Escalation**: A dropdown menu set to 'Sudo'.
- Privilege Escalation Username**: An input field.
- Privilege Escalation Password**: An input field with 'Show' and 'Ask at runtime?' checkboxes.
- Vault Password**: An input field with 'Show' and 'Ask at runtime?' checkboxes.

At the bottom of the form are two buttons: **Save** (checked) and **Reset**.

For more information about Ansible Vault, refer to: [http://docs.ansible.com/playbooks\\_vault.html](http://docs.ansible.com/playbooks_vault.html)

**Warning:** Credentials which are used in *Scheduled Jobs* must not be configured as “Ask at runtime?”.

## 8.4.2 Source Control

Used with Projects to clone and update local source code repositories from a remote revision control system such as Git, Subversion, or Mercurial.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Credential' page in Ansible Tower. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs'. The user is identified as 'admin'. The breadcrumb navigation shows 'Setup > Credentials > Create Credential'. The main form fields are as follows:

- Name:** A required field with a placeholder 'Name'.
- Description:** A field for optional descriptive text.
- Does this credential belong to a team or user?**: A radio button group where 'User' is selected.
- User that owns this credential:** A search input field.
- Type:** A dropdown menu set to 'Source Control'.
- Username:** An input field.
- Password:** An input field with a 'Show' link.
- SCM Private Key:** A note indicating to drag and drop an SSH private key file.
- Private Key Passphrase:** An input field with a 'Show' link.

At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons.

Source Control credentials have several attributes that may be configured:

- **Username:** The username to use in conjunction with the source control system.
- **Password:** The password to use in conjunction with the source control system.
- **SCM Private Key:** The actual SSH Private Key to be used to authenticate the user to the source control system via SSH.
- **Private Key Passphrase:** If the SSH Private Key used is protected by a passphrase, you may configure a Key Passphrase for the private key.

---

**Note:** Source Control credentials cannot be configured as “Ask at runtime?”.

---

### 8.4.3 Amazon Web Services

Enables synchronization of cloud inventory with Amazon Web Services.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Credential' page in Ansible Tower. At the top, there are navigation links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, there are user and system status indicators. The main form has the following fields:

- Name:** A required field with a placeholder 'Name' and a browse icon.
- Description:** A text area for optional descriptive text.
- Does this credential belong to a team or user?**: A radio button group where 'User' is selected.
- User that owns this credential:** A search input field.
- Type:** A dropdown menu set to 'Amazon Web Services'.
- Access Key:** An input field for the AWS Access Key.
- Secret Key:** An input field for the AWS Secret Key, with a 'Show' link and a copy icon.
- STS Token:** An input field for the AWS STS Token, with a 'Show' link and a copy icon.
- Buttons:** 'Save' (blue) and 'Reset'.

Traditional Amazon Web Services credentials consist of the **AWS Access Key** and **Secret Key**.

Ansible Tower version 2.4.0 introduced support for EC2 STS tokens (sometimes referred to as IAM STS credentials). Security Token Service (STS) is a web service that enables you to request temporary, limited-privilege credentials for AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) users. To learn more about the IAM/EC2 STS Token, refer to: [http://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/id\\_credentials\\_temp.html](http://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/id_credentials_temp.html)

AWS credentials consist of:

```
AWS_ACCESS_KEY
AWS_SECRET_KEY
AWS_SECURITY_TOKEN
```

---

**Note:** If the value of your tags in EC2 contain booleans (yes/no/true/false), you must remember to quote them.

---

**Warning:** To use implicit IAM role credentials, do not attach AWS cloud credentials in Tower when relying on IAM roles to access the AWS API. While it may seem to make sense to attach your AWS cloud credential to your job template, doing so will force the use of your AWS credentials and will not “fall through” to use your IAM role credentials (this is due to the use of the boto library.)

## 8.4.4 Rackspace

Enables synchronization of cloud inventory with Rackspace.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Credential' form for Rackspace. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs'. On the right, it shows 'admin' with icons for edit, delete, and refresh. Below the navigation, the breadcrumb path is 'Setup > Credentials > Create Credential'. The main form fields include:

- \* Name:** A text input field.
- Description:** A text input field.
- Does this credential belong to a team or user? :** A radio button group where 'User' is selected.
- \* User that owns this credential:** A search input field with a placeholder 'Q'.
- \* Type :** A dropdown menu showing 'Rackspace'.
- \* Username:** A text input field.
- \* API Key:** A text input field with a 'Show' link.

At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons.

Rackspace credentials consist of the Rackspace **Username** and **API Key**.

## 8.4.5 VMware

Enables synchronization of inventory with VMware vCenter.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Credential' page in Ansible Tower. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs'. On the right, there's a user icon for 'admin' and some global settings like 'X', 'M', and 'E'. Below the header, the breadcrumb navigation shows 'Setup > Credentials > Create Credential'. The main form area has the following fields:

- \*Name:** A text input field.
- Description:** A text input field.
- Does this credential belong to a team or user? (radio buttons):** Options are 'User' (selected) and 'Team'.
- \*User that owns this credential:** A search input field with a magnifying glass icon.
- \*Type (dropdown):** The selected option is 'VMware vCenter'.
- \*vCenter Host (text input):** An empty text input field.
- \*Username (text input):** An empty text input field.
- \*Password (text input):** An empty text input field with a 'Show' link next to it.
- Action buttons at the bottom:** 'Save' (blue button with checked checkbox) and 'Reset'.

VMware credentials have several attributes that may be configured:

- **vCenter Host:** The vCenter hostname or IP address to connect to.
- **Username:** The username to use to connect to vCenter.
- **Password:** The password to use to connect to vCenter.

---

**Note:** If the VMware guest tools are not running on the instance, VMware inventory sync may not return an IP address for that instance.

---

#### 8.4.6 Google Compute Engine

Enables synchronization of cloud inventory with Google Compute Engine.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Credential' page for Ansible Tower. At the top, there are navigation links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, there is a user icon labeled 'admin' and some system icons. The main form has the following fields:

- Name**: A required field with a placeholder for a name.
- Description**: An optional text area for a description.
- Does this credential belong to a team or user?**: A radio button group where 'User' is selected.
- User that owns this credential**: A search input field.
- Type**: A dropdown menu showing 'Google Compute Engine'.
- Service Account Email Address**: An input field for the service account email.
- RSA Private Key**: A large input area with a hint: 'Hint: drag and drop a private key file on the field below'.
- Project**: An input field for the project identifier.
- Save** and **Reset** buttons at the bottom left.

Google Compute Engine credentials have several attributes that may be configured:

- **Service Account Email Address**: The email address assigned to the Google Compute Engine **service account**.
- **RSA Private Key**: The PEM file associated with the service account email.
- **Project**: The GCE assigned identification. It is constructed as two words followed by a three digit number, such as: squeamish-ossifrage-123.

#### 8.4.7 Microsoft Azure

Enables synchronization of cloud inventory with Windows Azure.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Credential' page for Microsoft Azure. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs'. On the right, it shows the user is 'admin' with icons for edit, delete, and refresh. Below the navigation, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Setup > Credentials > Create Credential'. The main form has several fields:

- Name:** A text input field.
- Description:** A text input field.
- Does this credential belong to a team or user?** A radio button group with 'User' selected (radio button is blue) and 'Team' (radio button is white).
- User that owns this credential:** A search input field with a magnifying glass icon.
- Type:** A dropdown menu showing 'Microsoft Azure'.
- Subscription ID:** A text input field.
- Management Certificate:** A large text area with a hint: 'Hint: drag and drop a management certificate file on the field below'.

At the bottom left are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons.

Microsoft Azure credentials have several attributes that may be configured:

- **Subscription ID:** The Subscription UUID for the Microsoft Azure account.
- **Management Certificate:** The PEM file that corresponds to the certificate you uploaded in the Microsoft Azure console.

#### 8.4.8 OpenStack

Enables synchronization of cloud inventory with OpenStack.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Credential' page in Ansible Tower. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, it shows the user is 'admin' with icons for edit, delete, and refresh. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Setup > Credentials > Create Credential'. The main form area has several fields:

- Name:** A required field with a placeholder for a name.
- Description:** An optional text area for a description.
- Does this credential belong to a team or user?**: A radio button group where 'User' is selected.
- User that owns this credential:** A search input field.
- Type:** A dropdown menu set to 'OpenStack'.
- Host (Authentication URL):** An input field for the authentication URL.
- Username:** An input field for the OpenStack username.
- Password (API Key):** An input field with a 'Show' link.
- Project (Tenet Name/ID):** An input field for the project name or ID.

At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons.

OpenStack credentials have several attributes that may be configured:

- **Host (Authentication URL):** The host to be used for authentication.
- **Username:** The username to use to connect to OpenStack.
- **Password (API Key):** The password or API key to use to connect to OpenStack.
- **Project (Tenet Name/ID):** The tenant name or tenant id used for OpenStack. This value is usually the same as the username.

If you are interested in using OpenStack Cloud Credentials, refer to [Utilizing Cloud Credentials](#) for more information, including a sample playbook.

---

## CHAPTER NINE

---

# PROJECTS

A Project is a logical collection of Ansible playbooks, represented in Tower.

You can manage playbooks and playbook directories by either placing them manually under the Project Base Path on your Tower server, or by placing your playbooks into a source code management (SCM) system supported by Tower, including Git, Subversion, and Mercurial.

---

**Note:** By default, the Project Base Path is `/var/lib/awx/projects`, but this may have been modified by the Tower administrator. It is configured in `/etc/tower/settings.py`. Use caution when editing this file, as incorrect settings can disable your installation.

---

This menu displays a list of the projects that are currently available. The list of projects may be sorted and searched by **Name**, **Type**, or **Status**. For each project listed, you can edit project properties and delete the project, using the edit and delete icons.



The screenshot shows the Tower interface with the 'Projects' tab selected. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'TOWER' and links for 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs'. On the right side of the header, there is a user icon labeled 'admin' and several small icons for account, search, and other functions. Below the header is a search bar with 'Name' dropdown and a 'Search' button. The main content area displays a table of projects. The columns are 'Status', 'Name', 'Last Updated', 'Type', and 'Actions'. There is one row in the table, representing a project named 'Hello World'. The 'Status' column has a small circular icon. The 'Last Updated' column shows '6/18/2015 12:52:47 PM'. The 'Type' column shows 'Manual'. The 'Actions' column contains icons for update, view, edit, and delete. At the bottom right of the table area, it says 'Page 1 of 1 (1 items)'.

Buttons located in the upper right corner of the **Projects** tab provide the following actions:

- Create a new project
- View Activity Stream

**Status** indicates the state of the project and may be one of the following:

- Running: Source control update is currently in progress.
- Never updated: Project is configured for source control, but has never been updated.
- Failed: The last source control update for this project failed.
- Successful: The last source control update for this project succeeded.
- Missing: Projects are absent from the project base path of `/var/lib/awx/projects` (applicable for manual or source control managed projects).
- OK: The project is not configured for source control, and is correctly in place.

Under **Actions**, the following actions are available:

- Update: Invoke an immediate update from source control, if configured for this project

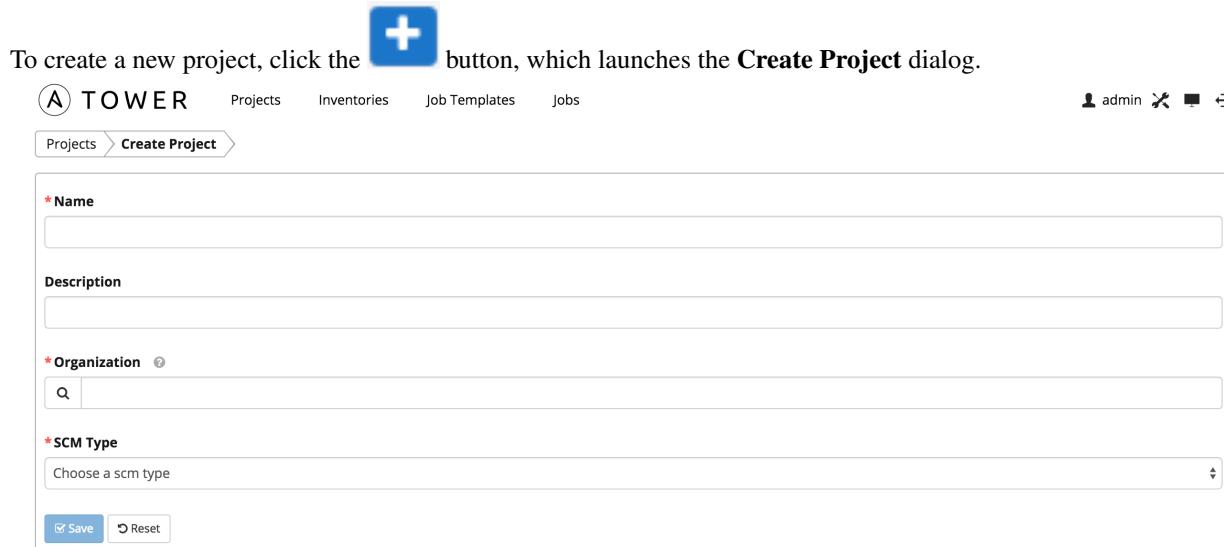
- Schedule: Schedule an update from source control, if configured for this project
- Edit: Edit the project
- Delete: Delete the project
- Cancel: Cancel a scheduled update from source control (only available when scheduling a source control update)

---

**Note:** Projects of credential type Manual cannot update or schedule SCM-based actions without being reconfigured as an SCM type credential.

---

## 9.1 Add a new project



To create a new project, click the  button, which launches the **Create Project** dialog.

The dialog contains the following fields:

- Name**: A required text input field.
- Description**: An optional text input field.
- Organization**: A dropdown menu with a search bar.
- SCM Type**: A dropdown menu with options including "Choose a scm type".
- Save** and **Reset** buttons at the bottom.

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields:

- Name
- Description
- Organization (A project must have at least one organization. Pick one organization now to create the project, and then after the project is created you can add additional organizations.)
- SCM Type (Select one of Manual, Git, Subversion, or Mercurial. Refer to [Manage playbooks manually](#) and [Manage playbooks using Source Control](#) for more detail.)

All fields are required.

---

**Note:** Each project path can only be assigned to one project. If you receive the following message, ensure that you have not already assigned the project path to an existing project:

“All of the project paths have been assigned to existing projects, or there are no directories found in the base path. You will need to add a project path before creating a new project.”

---

### 9.1.1 Manage playbooks manually

- Create one or more directories to store playbooks under the Project Base Path (for example, /var/lib/awx/projects/)
- Create or copy playbook files into the playbook directory.
- Ensure that the playbook directory and files are owned by the same UNIX user and group that the Tower service runs as.
- Ensure that the permissions are appropriate for the playbook directories and files.

If you have trouble adding a project path, check the permissions and SELinux context settings for the project directory and files.

**Warning:** If you have not added any Ansible playbook directories to the base project path, you will receive the following message from Tower:

The screenshot shows a portion of the 'Add a new project' form. At the top, there is a dropdown menu labeled 'SCM Type' with 'Manual' selected. Below it, a warning message is displayed in a blue-bordered box: 'WARNING: There are no available playbook directories in /var/lib/awx/projects. Either that directory is empty, or all of the contents are already assigned to other projects. Create a new directory there and make sure the playbook files can be read by the "awx" system user, or have Tower directly retrieve your playbooks from source control using the SCM Type option above.' At the bottom of the visible area, there is a field labeled 'Project Base Path' with the value '/var/lib/awx/projects'.

Correct this issue by creating the appropriate playbook directories and checking out playbooks from your SCM or otherwise copying playbooks into the appropriate playbook directories.

### 9.1.2 Manage playbooks using Source Control

Select the appropriate **SCM Type**. Then, enter the appropriate details into the following fields:

- SCM URL
- SCM Branch (Optionally enter the SCM branch for Git or Mercurial.)
- Revision # (Optionally enter the Revision # for Subversion.)
- SCM Credential (If authentication is required, select the appropriate SCM credential.)
- SCM Update Options
  - Clean (Remove any local modifications prior to performing an update.)
  - Delete on Update (Delete the local repository in its entirety prior to performing an update. Depending on the size of the repository this may significantly increase the amount of time required to complete an update.)
  - Update on Launch (Each time a job runs using this project, perform an update to the local repository prior to starting the job. To avoid job overflows if jobs are spawned faster than the project can sync, selecting this allows you to configure a Cache Timeout to cache prior project syncs for a certain number of seconds.)

**A TOWER** Projects Inventories Job Templates Jobs

[Create Project >](#)

**\*Name**  
Examples

**Description**  
Ansible example playbook

**\*Organization**   
 Honey Dog, Inc.

**\*SCM Type**  
Git

**\*SCM URL**  
 <https://github.com/ansible/ansible-examples.git>

**GIT URLs** 

**SCM Branch**

**SCM Credential**

**SCM Update Options**  
 Clean     Delete on Update     Update on Launch 

Click **Save** to save your project.

---

**Tip:** Using a Github link offers an easy way to use a playbook. To help get you started, use the `helloworld.yml` file available at: <https://github.com/ansible/tower-example.git>

This link offers a very similar playbook to the one created manually in the instructions found in the [Ansible Tower Quick Start Guide](#). Using it will not alter or harm your system in anyway.

---

## 9.2 Updating projects from source control

Update an existing SCM-based project by clicking the  button.

---

**Note:** Please note that immediately after adding a project setup to use source control, a “Sync” starts that fetches the project details from the configured source control.

---

Page 1 of 1 (2 items)

Click on the dot under **Status** (far left, beside the name of the Project) to get further details about the update process.

Page 1 of 1 (2 items)

To set a schedule for updating the project from SCM, click the button. This will navigate to the **Schedules** screen.

Page 1 of 1 (0 items)

This screen displays a list of the schedules that are currently available for the selected **Project**. The schedule list may be sorted and searched by **Name**.

The list of schedules includes:

- **Name:** Clicking the schedule name opens the **Edit Schedule** dialog
- **First Run:** The first scheduled run of this task
- **Next Run:** The next scheduled run of this task
- **Final Run:** If the task has an end date, this is the last scheduled run of the task.

Buttons located in the upper right corner of the **Schedules** screen provide the following actions:

- Create a new schedule
- Refresh this view
- View Activity Stream

## 9.3 Ansible Galaxy Support

At the end of a Project update, Tower searches for a file called roles/requirements.yml in the top level of the Project directory. If this file is found, the following command automatically runs:

```
ansible-galaxy install -r requirements.yml -p ./roles/ --force
```

This file allows you to reference Galaxy roles or roles within other repositories which can be checked out in conjunction with your own project. The addition of this Ansible Galaxy support eliminates the need to create git submodules for achieving this result.

For more information and examples on the syntax of the requirements.yml file, refer to [Advanced Control Over Role Requirements](#) in the Ansible documentation.

## 9.4 Add a new schedule

To create a new schedule click the button, which opens the **Add Schedule** dialog.

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields and select Save:

- Name (required)
- Start Date (required)

- Start Time (required)
- Local Time Zone (the entered Start Time should be in this timezone)
- UTC Start Time (calculated from Start Time + Local Time Zone)
- Repeat Frequency (appropriate scheduling options are displayed depending on the frequency you select)

The **Details** tab displays a description of the schedule and a list of the scheduled occurrences in the selected Local Time Zone.

**Caution:** Jobs are scheduled in UTC. Repeating jobs that run at a specific time of day may move relative to a local timezone when Daylight Savings Time shifts occur. Essentially, Tower resolves the local time zone based time to UTC when the schedule is saved. To ensure your schedules are correctly set, you should set your schedules in UTC time.

There are several actions available for schedules, under the **Actions** column:

- Stop an active schedule or activate a stopped schedule
- Edit Schedule
- Delete schedule

Name	First Run	Next Run	Final Run	Actions
Schedule name	6/19/2015 12:00:00 AM	6/20/2015 12:00:00 AM	6/20/2015 12:00:00 AM	

Page 1 of 1 (1 items)

---

## CHAPTER TEN

---

# INVENTORIES

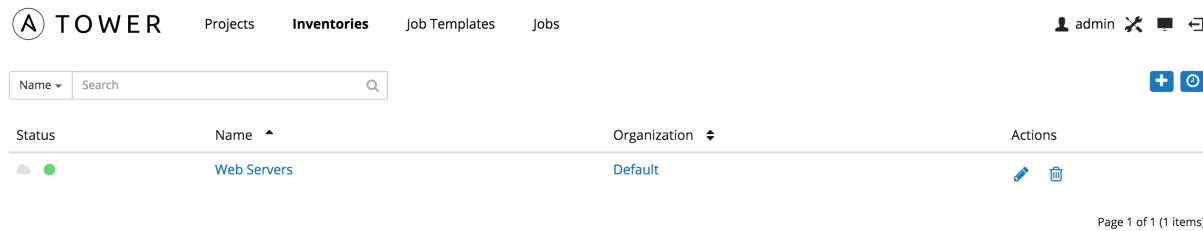
An inventory is a collection of hosts against which jobs may be launched, the same as an Ansible inventory file. Inventories are divided into groups and these groups contain the actual hosts. Groups may be sourced manually, by entering host names into Tower, or from one of Ansible Tower's supported cloud providers.

---

**Note:** If you have a custom dynamic inventory script, or a cloud provider that is not yet supported natively in Tower, you can also import that into Tower. Refer to the [Tower Administration Guide](#).

---

This tab displays a list of the inventories that are currently available. The inventory list may be sorted and searched by **Name** or **Organization**, and filtered by inventories with external sources, inventories with external sources that have failed to update, and inventories whose hosts have failed jobs.



The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with the 'Inventories' tab selected. The top navigation bar includes 'Projects', 'Inventories' (which is highlighted in blue), 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs'. On the right, there are user icons for 'admin' and other users, along with standard UI controls like a search bar, a refresh icon, and a help icon. Below the navigation is a table header with columns: 'Status', 'Name', 'Organization', and 'Actions'. A single row is visible in the table, representing the 'Web Servers' inventory. The 'Status' column shows a green circle indicating synchronization is successful. The 'Name' column contains the text 'Web Servers'. The 'Organization' column shows 'Default'. The 'Actions' column features edit and delete icons. At the bottom of the table, a small note says 'Page 1 of 1 (1 items)'.

The list of inventories includes:

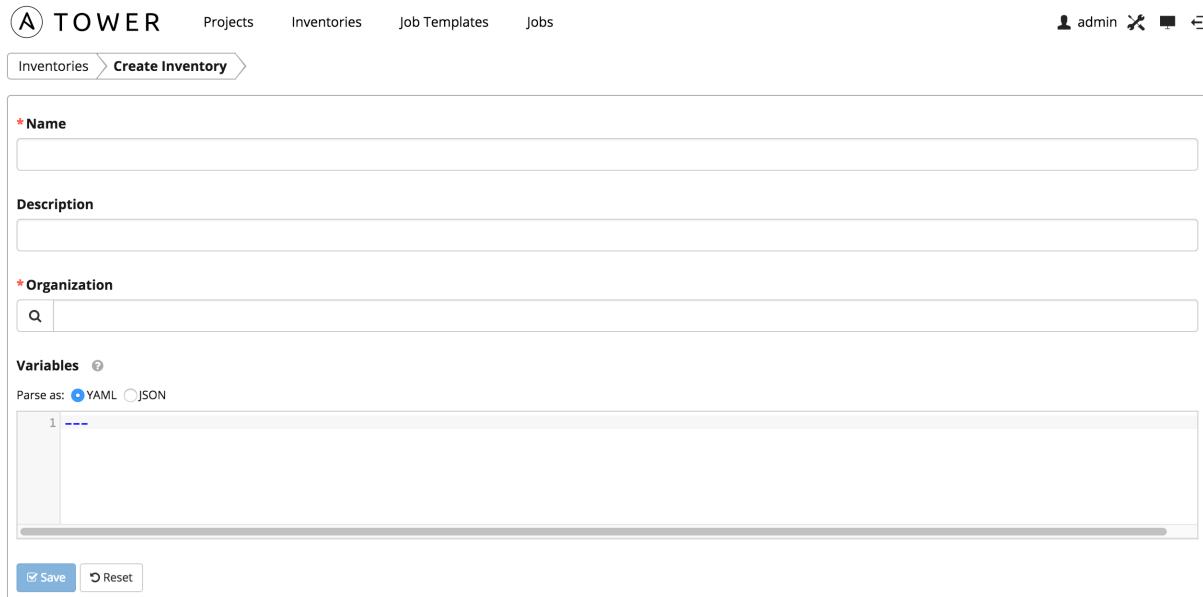
- **Status:** This includes the status of inventory synchronization for inventories configured with cloud sources, and the status of recent jobs for this inventory.
- **Name:** The inventory name. Clicking the Inventory name navigates to the properties screen for the selected inventory, which shows the inventory's groups and hosts. (This view is also accessible from the **Action** menu.)
- **Organization:** The organization to which the inventory belongs.
- **Actions:** The following actions are available for the selected inventory:
  - **Edit:** Edit the properties for the selected inventory
  - **Delete:** Delete the selected inventory. *This operation cannot be reversed!*

Buttons located in the upper right corner of the **Inventories** tab provide the following actions:

- Create a new inventory
- View Activity Stream

## 10.1 Add a new inventory

To create a new inventory click the  button, which opens the **Create Inventory** window.



The screenshot shows the 'Create Inventory' form in Ansible Tower. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'TOWER' and links for 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs'. On the right, it shows the user 'admin'. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail says 'Inventories > Create Inventory'. The main form has fields for: **Name** (with a red asterisk), **Description**, **Organization** (with a search icon), and **Variables** (with a red asterisk). Under 'Variables', there's a note 'Parse as:  YAML  JSON' and a code editor area containing '1 ---'. At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons.

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields and select **Save**:

- **Name:** Enter a name appropriate for this inventory.
- **Description:** Enter an arbitrary description as appropriate.
- **Organization:** Choose among the available organizations.
- **Variables:** Variable definitions and values to be applied to all hosts in this inventory. Enter variables using either JSON or YAML syntax. Use the radio button to toggle between the two.

The screenshot shows the 'Properties' section of the 'Database Servers' inventory. It includes fields for Name (Database Servers), Description (dbservers), Organization (Honey Dog, Inc.), and Variables (empty). A note says 'Parse as: YAML JSON'. Buttons for Save and Reset are at the bottom, along with a link to 'Scan Job Templates'.

After clicking save, an accordion-style menu appears for **Scan Job Templates**. Expand this menu to view current scan job templates.

## 10.2 Scan Job Templates

Scan jobs are special Job Templates that only collect information about the host on which the job is running.

The screenshot shows the 'Web Servers' inventory page. It displays two groups: 'Groups' (CMS Web Group) and 'Hosts' (127.0.0.1, 127.0.0.2). A blue arrow points to the edit icon (pencil) for the 'Groups' section. Below the groups, there's a note: 'Page 1 of 1 (1 items)'.

To access scan job templates directly, click on the button of a selected Inventory to edit the inventory's properties (above the display of groups and hosts). An accordion-style menu appears for **Scan Job Templates** under the inventory's **Properties** window. Expand this menu to view current scan job templates.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with the following navigation path: Inventories > Database Servers. The main section is titled 'Scan Job Templates'. It includes a search bar, a table header with columns for Status, Name, Description, and Actions, and a message stating 'No records matched your search.' A blue plus sign button is located in the top right corner of the table area.

To create a new job template click the button, which opens the **Create Job Templates** window.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Job Templates' configuration window. The fields include:

- Name:** (Required)
- Description:**
- Job Type:** Scan
- Inventory:** Database Servers
- Project:** Default
- Playbook:** Default
- Machine Credential:**
- Cloud Credential:**
- Forks:** 0
- Limit:**
- Verbosity:** 0 (Normal)

On the right side, there are sections for **Job Tags**, **Extra Variables** (set to YAML), and checkboxes for **Prompt for Extra Variables**, **Enable Privilege Escalation**, and **Allow Provisioning Callbacks**.

Enter values for the following fields and select **Save**.

- **Name:** Enter a name appropriate for this inventory. (Required.)
- **Description:** Enter an arbitrary description as appropriate.

- **Job Type:** Jobs can be of type Run, Check, or Scan. (Required.)
- **Inventory:** Select the inventory containing the hosts you want this job to manage. (Required.)
- **Project:** Select the project containing the playbook you want this job to execute. Use the default project included with Tower unless you have a specific project to scan. (Required.)
- **Playbook:** Select the playbook to be executed by this job. Use the default playbook included with Tower unless you have a specific playbook to scan. (Required.)
- **Machine Credential:** Select the credential you want the job to use when accessing the remote hosts. Choose the credential containing the username and SSH key or password that Ansible will need to log into the remote hosts.
- **Cloud Credential:** Selecting an optional cloud credential in the job template will pass along the access credentials to the running playbook, allowing provisioning into the cloud without manually passing parameters to the included modules.
- **Forks:** The number of parallel or simultaneous processes to use while executing the playbook.
- **Limit:** Provide a host pattern to further constrain the list of hosts that will be managed or affected by the playbook.
- **Verbosity:** Control the level of output ansible will produce as the playbook executes. (Required.)
- **Job Tags:** Provide a comma separated list of tags to run a specific part of a play or task.
- **Extra Variables:** Variable definitions and values to be applied to all hosts in this job template. Enter variables using either JSON or YAML syntax. Use the radio button to toggle between the two.

Extra variables can be passed as command line variables to the playbook. This is the “-e” or “–extra-vars” command line parameter for ansible-playbook that is documented in the Ansible documentation at [Passing Variables on the Command Line](#). Example commands might include:

```
scan_file_paths:
  - /root/
  - /root/
scan_use_checksum: true
scan_use_recursive: true
```

Extra variables can also be provided by key/value pairs using either YAML or JSON. These variables have a maximum value of precedence and overrides other variables specified elsewhere.

The screenshot shows the 'Properties' tab of a job template configuration. The 'Extra Variables' section is expanded, showing a code editor with the following YAML content:

```
1 scan_file_paths:
2   - /root/
3   - /root/
4 scan_use_checksum: true
5 scan_use_recursive: true
```

Below the code editor, there are three checkboxes: 'Parse as: YAML' (selected), 'JSON', 'Prompt for Extra Variables', 'Enable Privilege Escalation', and 'Allow Provisioning Callbacks'.

### 10.2.1 Launching a Scan Job Template

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with the 'Job Templates' tab selected. There are two entries in the list:

- Hello Scan**: Status is green, actions include Launch, Schedule, Edit, Delete, and Copy.
- Hello World**: Status is green, actions include Launch, Schedule, Edit, Delete, and Copy.

At the bottom right, it says "Page 1 of 1 (2 items)".

You can **Launch**, **Schedule**, **Edit**, **Delete**, or **Copy** the scan job template using the buttons to the right.

Click on the button. Enter any necessary credentials, passwords, passphrases, etc. that were setup for this job template.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with a modal dialog titled "Launch Configuration". The dialog contains the following text:

Launching this job requires the passwords listed below. Enter and confirm each password before continuing.

Below this is a password input field labeled "Password" with the placeholder ".....". At the bottom of the dialog are two buttons: "Cancel" and "Launch".

The background of the main interface shows the same list of job templates as the previous screenshot.

The Jobs page shows details of all the tasks and events for that playbook run.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface for a job named "7 - Hello Scan". The "Status" section indicates the job was successful. The "Timing" section shows it started at 06/30/15 14:50:55 and finished at 06/30/15 14:51:05, with an elapsed time of 00:00:09. The "Plays" section lists one play named "all" that started at 14:50:58 and took 00:00:07. The "Tasks" section details four tasks: "Gathering Facts" (status: green), "scan\_packages" (status: green), "scan\_services" (status: green), and "scan\_files" (status: green). The "Host Events" section shows two host events: "104.130.169.209" and "127.0.0.1", both with status: green. The "Events Summary" section shows a host named "104.130.169.209" with 3 completed tasks, all of which were successful (green). The "Host Summary" section features a large green circle with a white center containing the word "OK".

## 10.2.2 Scheduling a Scan Job Template

To access scheduling for your scan job, click the button (most easily accessible from the **Job Templates** navigational link).

The screenshot shows the "Schedules" page for a job template named "Scan Test 1". The page includes a search bar with "Name" and "Search" fields, and a set of blue action buttons (+, edit, delete). A table lists scheduling parameters: "Name" (sorted by name), "First Run" (sorted by first run), "Next Run" (sorted by next run), "Final Run" (sorted by final run), and "Actions". A note below the table states "No records matched your search." At the bottom right, it says "Page 1 of 1 (0 items)".

Click the button to add a schedule.

The screenshot shows the 'Add Schedule' dialog box in Ansible Tower. It includes fields for Name, Start Date, Start Time, Local Time Zone, UTC Start Time, Repeat frequency, and End. The 'Save' button is highlighted.

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields and select **Save**:

- Name (required)
- Start Date (required)
- Start Time (required)
- Local Time Zone (the entered Start Time should be in this timezone)
- UTC Start Time (calculated from Start Time + Local Time Zone)
- Repeat Frequency (the appropriate options displays as the update frequency is modified.)

The screenshot shows the 'Schedules' list page in Ansible Tower. It displays a table with columns for Name, First Run, Next Run, Final Run, and Actions. A single row for 'Daily' is listed with action buttons for Stop, Edit, and Delete.

There are several actions available for schedules, under the Actions column:

- Stop an active schedule or activate a stopped schedule
- Edit Schedule
- Delete schedule

### 10.2.3 Custom Scan Job Templates

Custom scan jobs are normal projects which use a custom scan playbook with customized fact modules. Ansible fact modules can be included easily via custom scan playbooks.

## Fact Scan Playbook

The `scan_facts.yml` playbook contains invocations of, potentially, multiple file fact scan modules. The default playbook bundled with Tower invokes four (4) fact scan modules—ansible, packages, services, and files. The `scan_facts.yml` playbook file looks like the following:

```
- hosts: all
  vars:
    scan_use_checksum: false
    scan_use_recursive: false
  tasks:
    - scan_packages:
    - scan_services:
    - scan_files:
        paths: '{{ scan_file_paths }}'
        get_checksum: '{{ scan_use_checksum }}'
        recursive: '{{ scan_use_recursive }}'
        when: scan_file_paths is defined
```

The `fact file` scan module is the only module that accepts parameters:

```
scan_file_paths: '/tmp/'
scan_use_checksum: true
scan_use_recursive: true
```

- The `scan_file_paths` parameter may have multiple settings (such as `/tmp/` or `/var/log`).
- The `scan_use_checksum` and `scan_use_recursive` parameters may also be set to false or omitted. An omission is the same as a false setting.

## Custom Fact Scans

The playbook for custom fact scans is similar to the example of the Fact Scan Playbook above. It differs in that it *only* invokes the custom fact scan module, `scan_foo`.

`scan_custom.yml`:

```
- hosts: all
  gather_facts: false
  tasks:
    - scan_foo:
```

`scan_foo.py`:

```
def main():
    module = AnsibleModule(
        argument_spec = dict())

    foo = [
        {
            "hello": "world"
        },
        {
            "foo": "bar"
        }
    ]
    results = dict(ansible_facts=dict(foo=foo))
    module.exit_json(**results)
```

```
main()
```

The custom fact scan module lives in the `/library/` subdirectory of the Ansible project. The fact scan module is very simple, returning a hard-coded set of facts:

```
[  
  {  
    "hello": "world"  
  },  
  {  
    "foo": "bar"  
  }  
]
```

## 10.3 Groups and Hosts

Inventories are divided into groups, which may contain hosts and other groups, and hosts. To add a group or host to an inventory or to manage an existing group or host, click on the inventory name.

This screen displays groups and hosts that belong to the selected Inventory.

The screenshot shows two side-by-side tables in the Ansible Tower web interface. The left table is titled 'Groups' and lists a single group named 'CMS Web Group'. The right table is titled 'Hosts' and lists a single host with the IP address '127.0.0.1'. Both tables have search bars at the top and include standard CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete) action buttons for each item.

There are several actions available for inventories.

- Create a new Group
- Create a new Host
- Run a command on the selected Inventory
- Edit Inventory properties
- View activity streams for Groups and Hosts
- Obtain help building your Inventory

### 10.3.1 Groups

Under Groups, you can view which groups belong to this inventory, easily filtered or searched by group name.

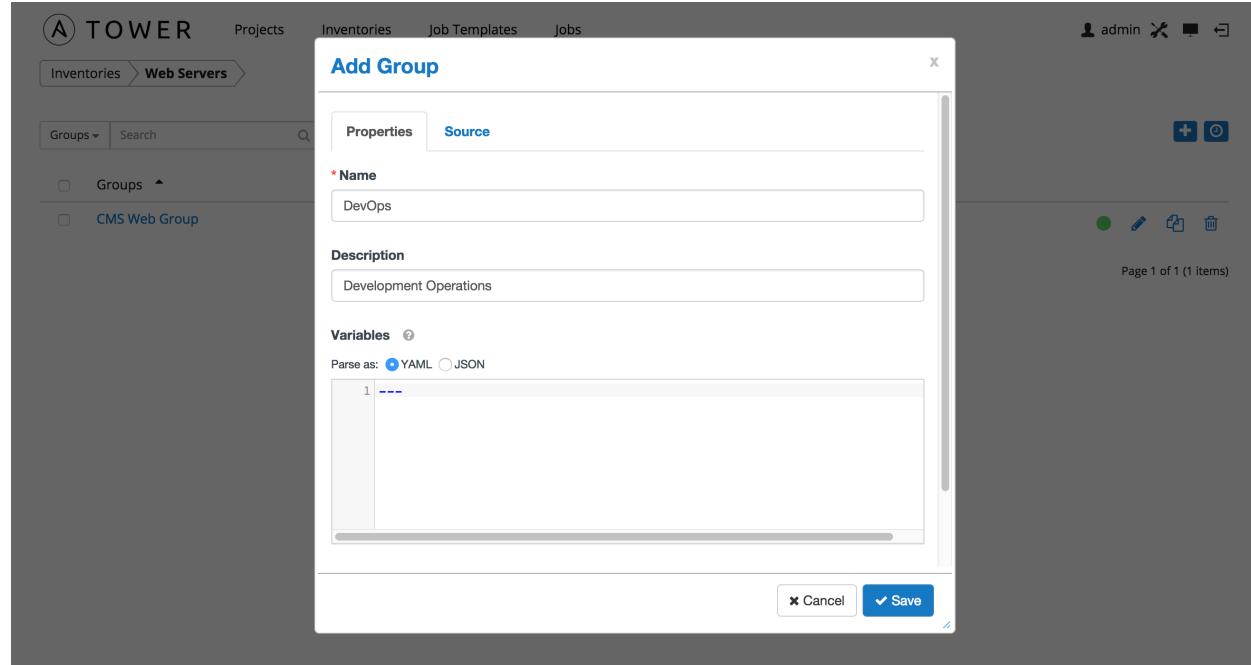
Additional actions may be performed on the group by selecting the buttons to the right of the group name:

- **Sync status:** Show the status of inventory synchronization for groups configured with cloud sources. If synchronization is configured, clicking this button shows the synchronization log for the selected group.
- **Host status:** Show the status of successful and failed jobs for the selected group. Clicking this button shows the list of hosts that are members of the selected group.

- **Start sync process:** Initiate a synchronization of the group with the configured cloud source. (A synchronization process that is in progress may be canceled by clicking the cancel button that appears here during synchronization.)
- **Edit Group:** Edit the properties for the selected group
- **Copy Group:** Groups can be nested. This allows you to copy or move the group to a different group.
- **Delete:** Delete the selected group. *This operation cannot be reversed!*

### Add a new group

Create a new group for an inventory by clicking the  button, which opens the **Create Group** window.



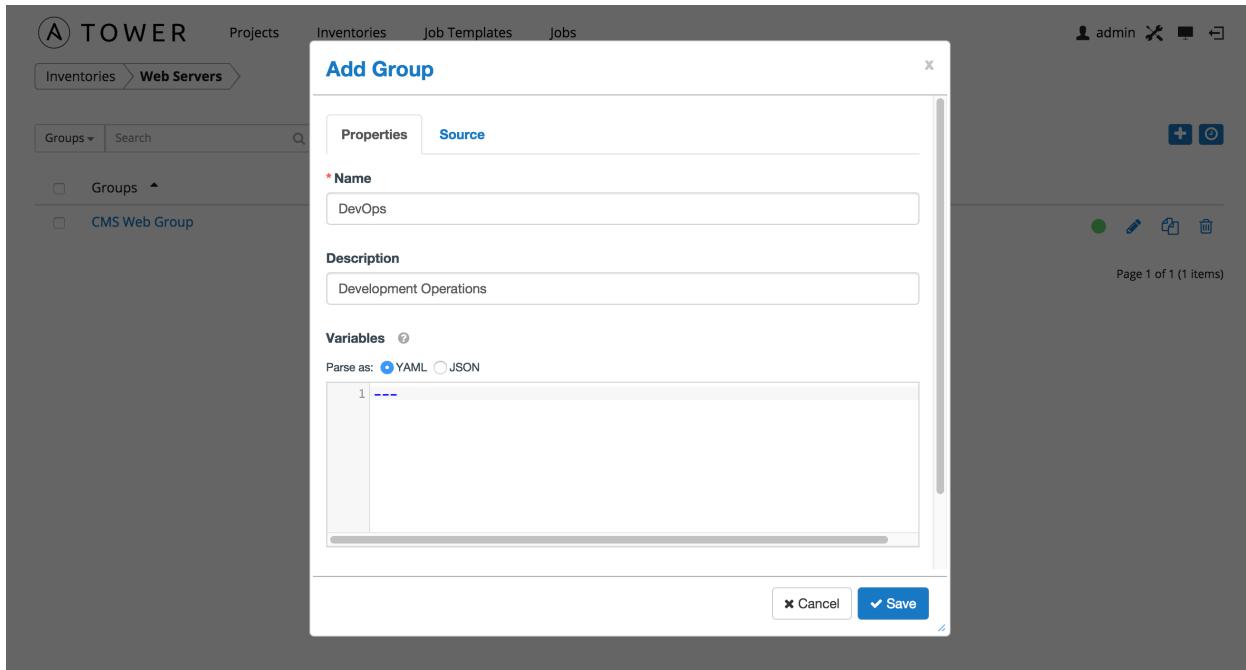
The screenshot shows the 'Add Group' dialog box over a dark background. The dialog has tabs for 'Properties' and 'Source'. The 'Source' tab is active, showing a field for 'Name' with 'DevOps' entered, a 'Description' field with 'Development Operations', and a 'Variables' section with a YAML input area containing '1 ---'. At the bottom are 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons. The background shows a navigation bar with 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs' tabs, and a sidebar with 'Groups' and 'CMS Web Group'.

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields and click **Save**.

- **Name:** Required
- **Description:** Enter an arbitrary description as appropriate
- **Variables:** Enter definitions and values to be applied to all hosts in this group. Enter variables using either JSON or YAML syntax. Use the radio button to toggle between the two.

By default, the group **Source** is manual, meaning that the hosts must be entered into Tower manually. (Refer to [Add a new host](#) for more information on managing hosts individually.)

To synchronize the inventory group from a cloud source, select the **Source** tab and choose the appropriate source from the **Source** menu. Tower 2.2 supports Amazon Web Services EC2, Rackspace Cloud Servers, Google Compute Engine, VMware vCenter, Microsoft Azure, OpenStack, and custom scripts added by the administrator.



All cloud inventory sources have the following update options:

- **Overwrite:** When checked all child groups and hosts not found on the remote source is deleted from the local inventory. When not checked any local child hosts and groups not found on the external source remains untouched by the inventory update process.
- **Overwrite Variables:** If checked, all variables for child groups and hosts will be removed and replaced by those found on the external source. When not checked a merge is performed, combining local variables with those found on the external source.
- **Update on Launch:** Each time a job runs using this inventory, refresh the inventory from the selected source before executing job tasks. To avoid job overflows if jobs are spawned faster than the inventory can sync, selecting this allows you to configure a Cache Timeout to cache prior inventory syncs for a certain number of seconds.

The “Update on Launch” setting refers to a dependency system for projects and inventory, and it will not specifically exclude two jobs from running at the same time. If a cache timeout is specified, then the dependencies for the second job is created and it uses the project and inventory update that the first job spawned. Both jobs then wait for that project and/or inventory update to finish before proceeding. If they are different job templates, they can then both start and run at the same time, if the system has the capacity to do so.

---

**Note:** If you intend to use Tower’s provisioning callback feature with a dynamic inventory source, “Update on Launch” should be set for the inventory group.

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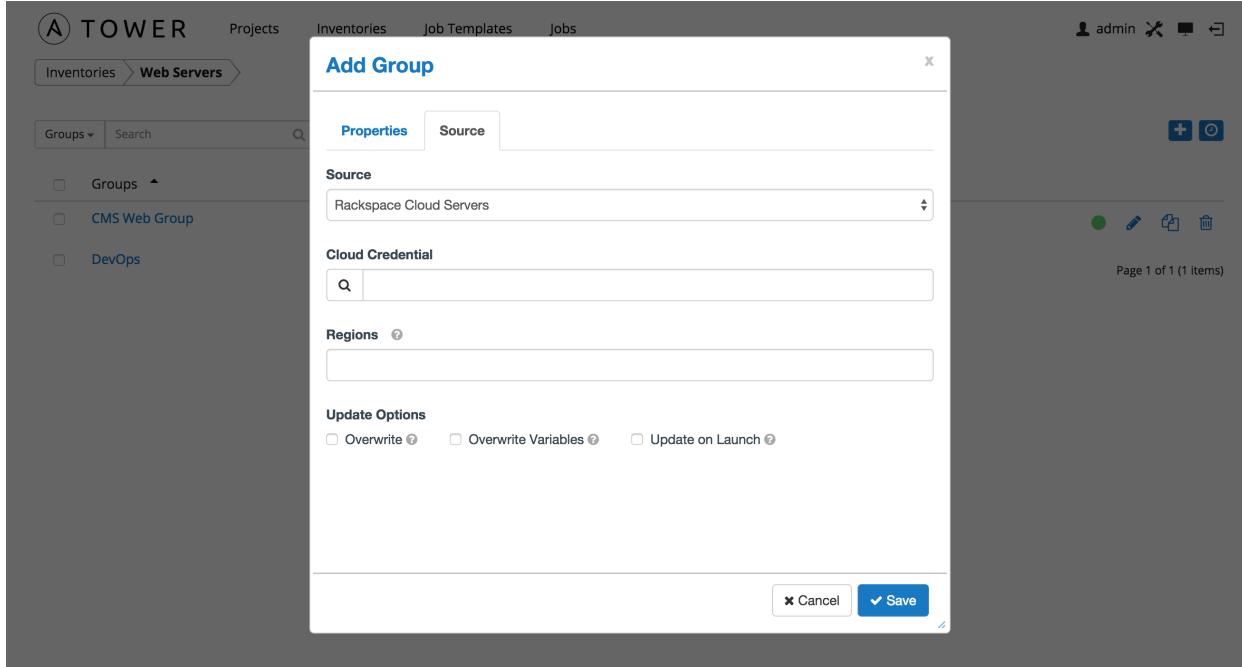
## Rackspace Cloud Servers

To configure a group for Rackspace, select **Rackspace Cloud Servers** and enter the following details:

- **Cloud Credential:** Choose from an existing Credential. For more information, refer to [Credentials](#).
- **Regions:** Click on the regions field to see a list of regions for your cloud provider. You can select multiple regions, or choose “All” to include all regions. Tower will only be updated with Hosts associated with the selected regions.

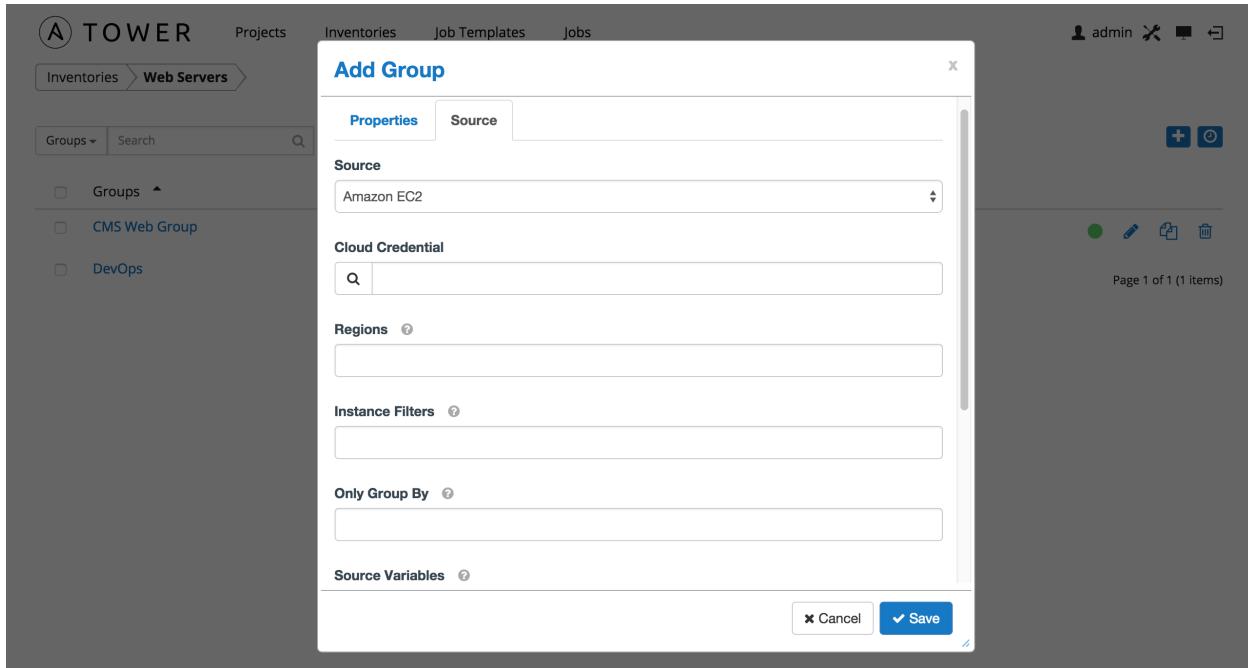
You can also configure **Update Options**.

- **Overwrite:** If checked, all child groups and hosts not found on the external source are deleted from the local inventory. When not checked, local child hosts and groups not found on the external source remain untouched by the inventory update process.
- **Overwrite Variables:** If checked, all variables for child groups and hosts are removed and replaced by those found on the external source. When not checked, a merge is performed, combining local variables with those found on the external source.
- **Update on Launch:** Each time a job runs using this inventory, refresh the inventory from the selected source before executing job tasks.



## Amazon Web Services EC2

To configure a group for AWS, select **Amazon EC2** and enter the following details:



- **Cloud Credential:** Choose from an existing credential (for more information, refer to [Credentials](#)). If Tower is running on an EC2 instance with an assigned IAM Role, the credential may be omitted, and the security credentials from the instance metadata will be used instead. For more information on using IAM Roles, refer to the [IAM\\_Roles\\_for\\_Amazon\\_EC2\\_documentation\\_at\\_Amazon](#).
- **Regions:** Click on the regions field to see a list of regions for your cloud provider. You can select multiple regions, or choose “All” to include all regions. Tower will only be updated with Hosts associated with the selected regions.
- **Instance Filters:** Rather than importing your entire Amazon EC2 inventory, filter the instances returned by the inventory script based on a variety of metadata. Hosts are imported if they match any of the filters entered here.

Examples:

- To limit to hosts having the tag TowerManaged : Enter tag-key=TowerManaged
- To limit to hosts using either the key-name staging or production : Enter key-name=staging, key-name=production
- To limit to hosts where the Name tag begins with test : Enter tag:Name=test\*

For more information on the filters that can be used here, refer to the [DescribeInstances](#) documentation at Amazon.

### Only Group By

By default, Tower creates groups based on the following Amazon EC2 parameters:

- Availability Zones
- Image ID
- Instance Type
- Key Name
- Region
- Security Group
- Tags (by name)

- VPC ID

If you do not want all these groups created, select from the dropdown the list of groups that you would like created by default. You can also select `Instance ID` to create groups based on the Instance ID of your instances.

### Source Variables

Override variables found in `ec2.ini` and used by the inventory update script. For a detailed description of these variables [view ec2.ini in the Ansible GitHub repo](#).

Enter variables using either JSON or YAML syntax. Use the radio button to toggle between the two.

You can also configure **Update Options**.

- **Overwrite:** If checked, all child groups and hosts not found on the external source are deleted from the local inventory. When not checked, local child hosts and groups not found on the external source remain untouched by the inventory update process.
- **Overwrite Variables:** If checked, all variables for child groups and hosts are removed and replaced by those found on the external source. When not checked, a merge is performed, combining local variables with those found on the external source.
- **Update on Launch:** Each time a job runs using this inventory, refresh the inventory from the selected source before executing job tasks.

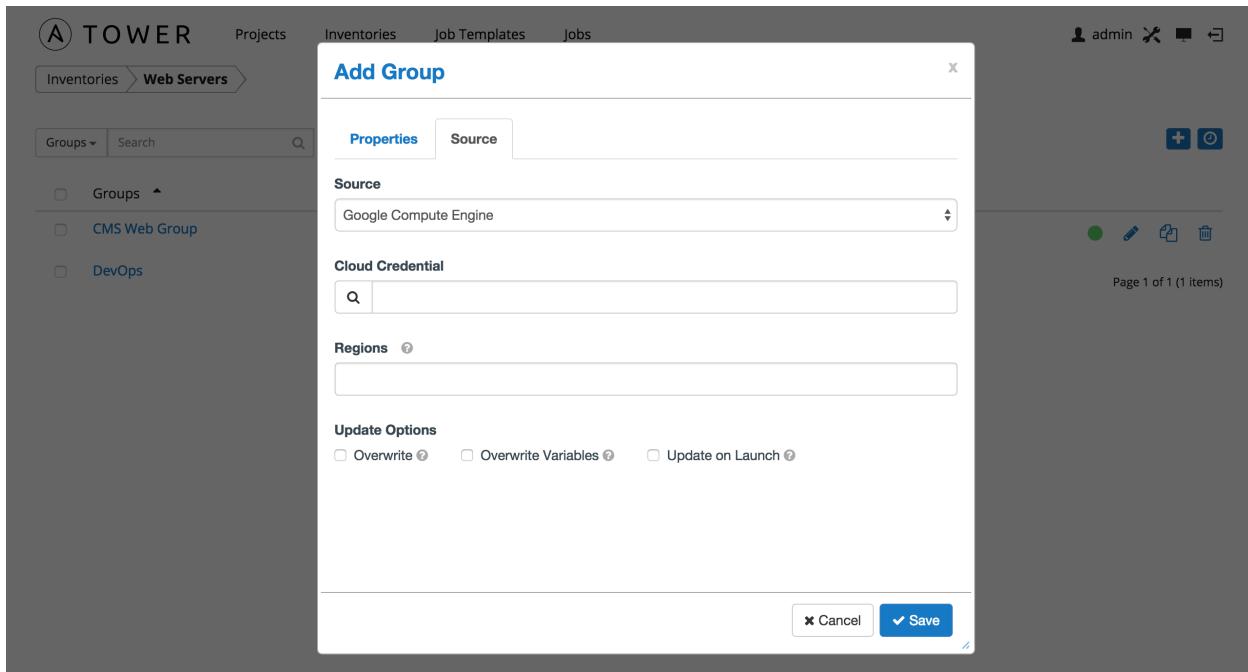
### Google Compute Engine

To configure a group for Google Compute Engine, select **Google Compute Engine** and enter the following details:

- **Cloud Credential:** Choose from an existing Credential. For more information, refer to [Credentials](#).
- **Regions:** Click on the regions field to see a list of regions for your cloud provider. You can select multiple regions, or choose “All” to include all regions. Tower will only be updated with Hosts associated with the selected regions.

You can also configure **Update Options**.

- **Overwrite:** If checked, all child groups and hosts not found on the external source are deleted from the local inventory. When not checked, local child hosts and groups not found on the external source remain untouched by the inventory update process.
- **Overwrite Variables:** If checked, all variables for child groups and hosts are removed and replaced by those found on the external source. When not checked, a merge is performed, combining local variables with those found on the external source.
- **Update on Launch:** Each time a job runs using this inventory, refresh the inventory from the selected source before executing job tasks.



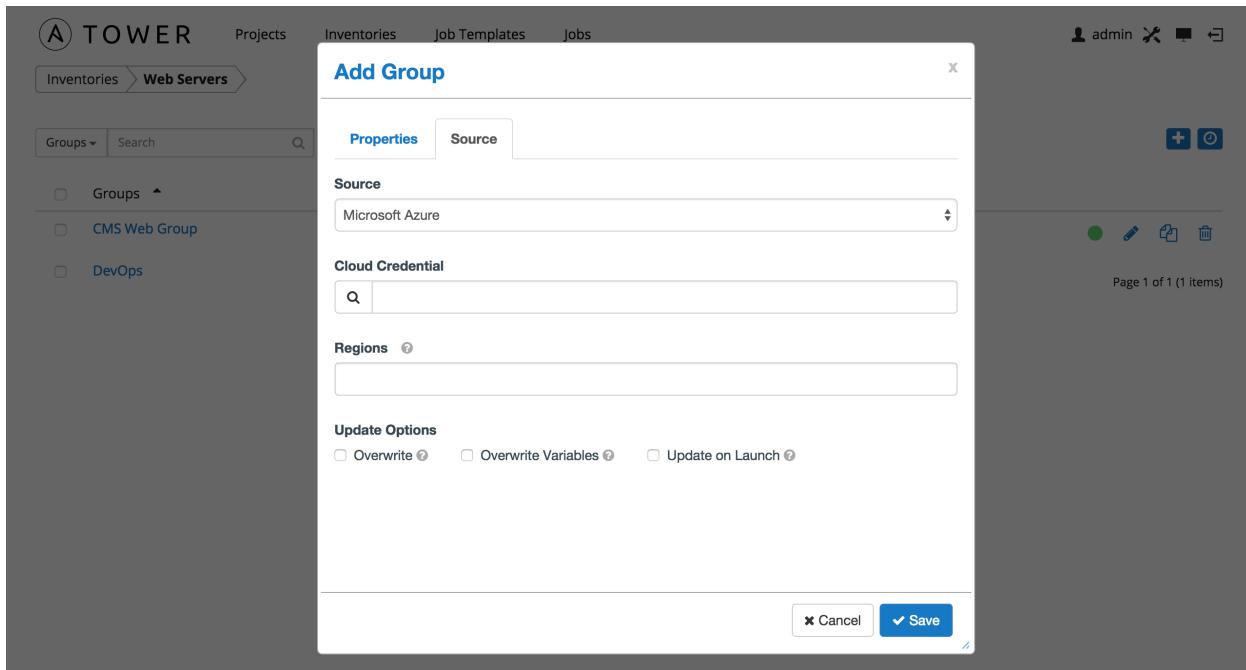
## Microsoft Azure

To configure a group for Microsoft Azure, select **Microsoft Azure** and enter the following details:

- **Cloud Credential:** Choose from an existing Credential. For more information, refer to [Credentials](#).
- **Regions:** Click on the regions field to see a list of regions for your cloud provider. You can select multiple regions, or choose “All” to include all regions. Tower will only be updated with Hosts associated with the selected regions.

You can also configure **Update Options**.

- **Overwrite:** If checked, all child groups and hosts not found on the external source are deleted from the local inventory. When not checked, local child hosts and groups not found on the external source remain untouched by the inventory update process.
- **Overwrite Variables:** If checked, all variables for child groups and hosts are removed and replaced by those found on the external source. When not checked, a merge is performed, combining local variables with those found on the external source.
- **Update on Launch:** Each time a job runs using this inventory, refresh the inventory from the selected source before executing job tasks.



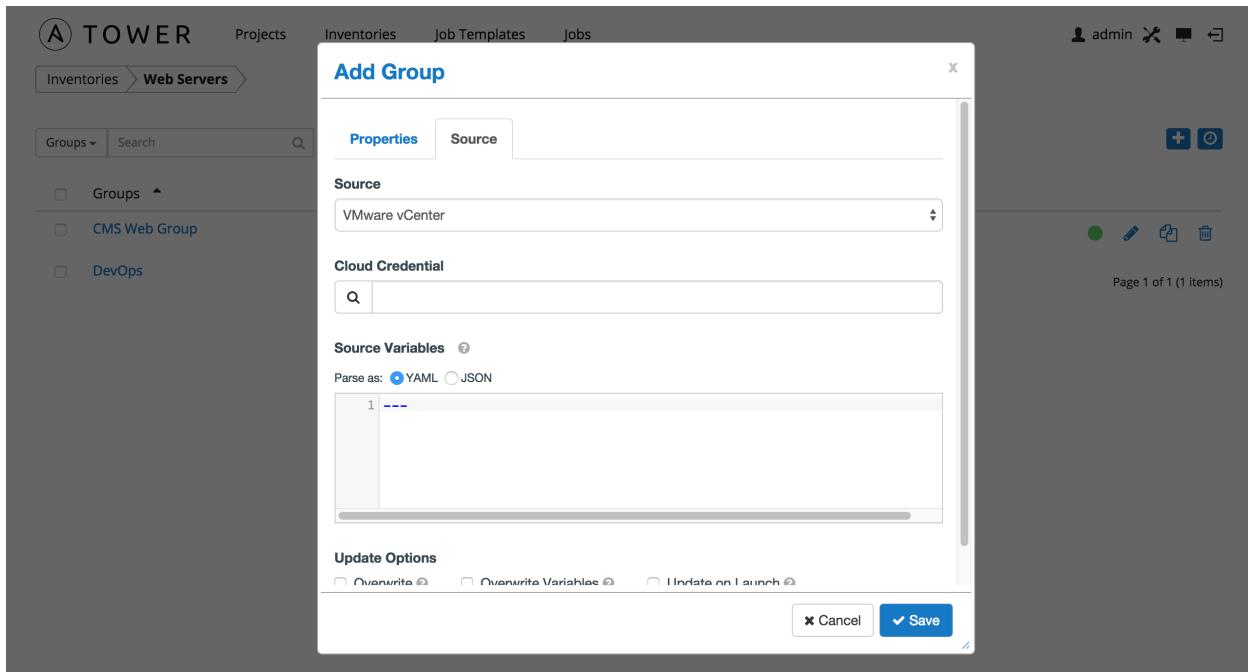
## VMware vCenter

To configure a group for VMware vCenter, select **VMware** and enter the following details:

- **Cloud Credential:** Choose from an existing Credential. For more information, refer to [Credentials](#).
- **Source Variables:** Override variables found in `vmware.ini` and used by the inventory update script. For a detailed description of these variables [view vmware.ini in the Ansible GitHub repo](#). Enter variables using either JSON or YAML syntax. Use the radio button to toggle between the two.

You can also configure **Update Options**.

- **Overwrite:** If checked, all child groups and hosts not found on the external source are deleted from the local inventory. When not checked, local child hosts and groups not found on the external source remain untouched by the inventory update process.
- **Overwrite Variables:** If checked, all variables for child groups and hosts are removed and replaced by those found on the external source. When not checked, a merge is performed, combining local variables with those found on the external source.
- **Update on Launch:** Each time a job runs using this inventory, refresh the inventory from the selected source before executing job tasks.



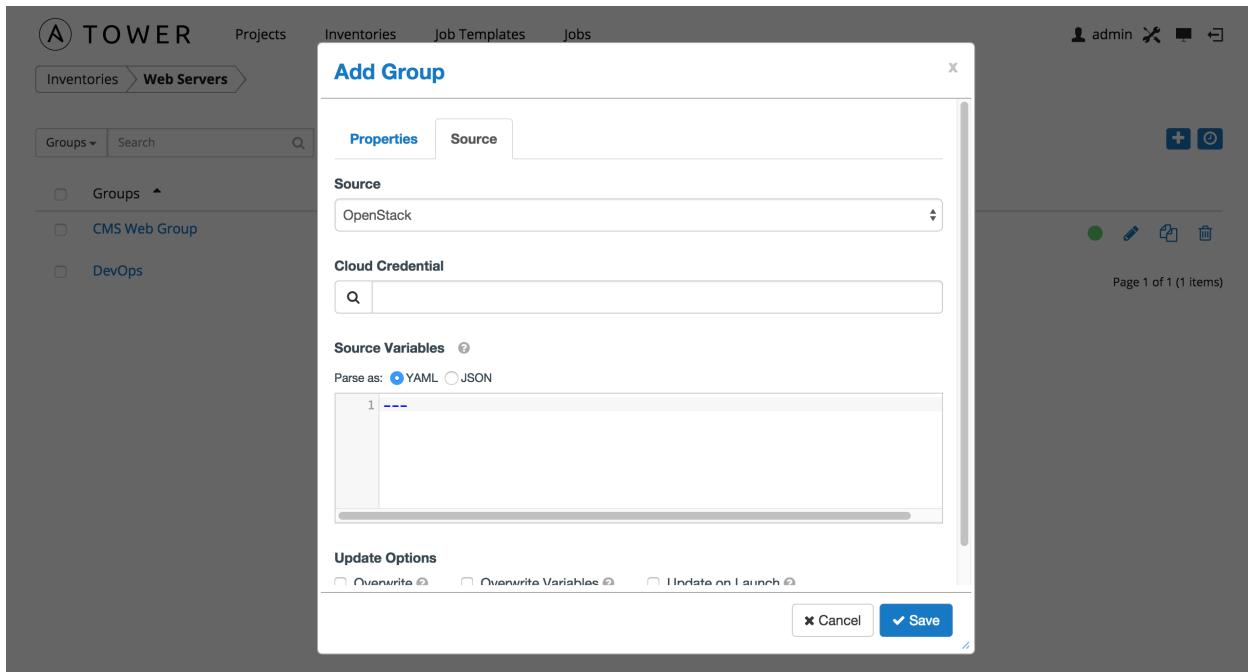
## OpenStack

To configure a group for OpenStack, select **OpenStack** and enter the following details:

- **Cloud Credential:** Choose from an existing Credential. For more information, refer to [Credentials](#).
- **Source Variables:** Override variables found in `openstack.yml` and used by the inventory update script. For a detailed description of these variables view `openstack.yml` in the [Ansible GitHub repo](#). Enter variables using either JSON or YAML syntax. Use the radio button to toggle between the two.

You can also configure **Update Options**.

- **Overwrite:** If checked, all child groups and hosts not found on the external source are deleted from the local inventory. When not checked, local child hosts and groups not found on the external source remain untouched by the inventory update process.
- **Overwrite Variables:** If checked, all variables for child groups and hosts are removed and replaced by those found on the external source. When not checked, a merge is performed, combining local variables with those found on the external source.
- **Update on Launch:** Each time a job runs using this inventory, refresh the inventory from the selected source before executing job tasks.



## Custom Script

Tower allows you to use a custom dynamic inventory script, if your administrator has added one.

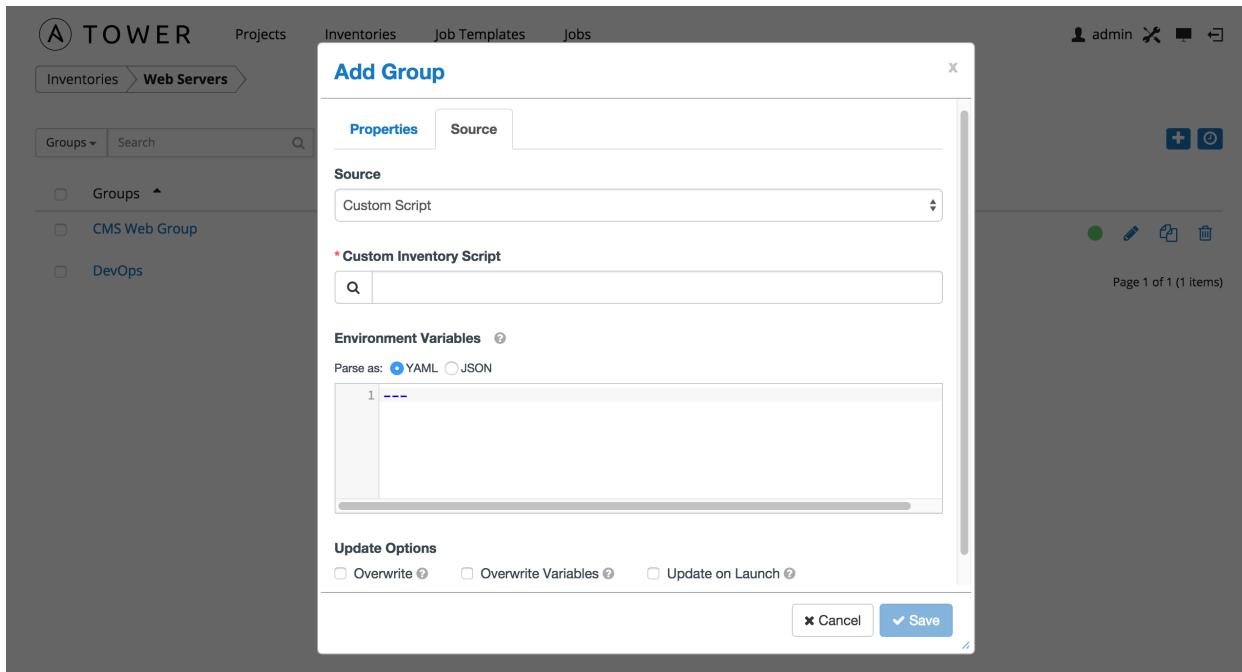
To configure a group to use a Custom Inventory Script, select **Custom Script** and enter the following details:

- **Custom Inventory Script:** Choose from an existing Inventory Script. For information on how to add custom inventory scripts to Tower, refer to [Custom Inventory Scripts](#).
- **Environment Variables:** Set variables in the environment to be used by the inventory update script. The variables would be specific to the script that you have written.

Enter variables using either JSON or YAML syntax. Use the radio button to toggle between the two.

You can also configure **Update Options**.

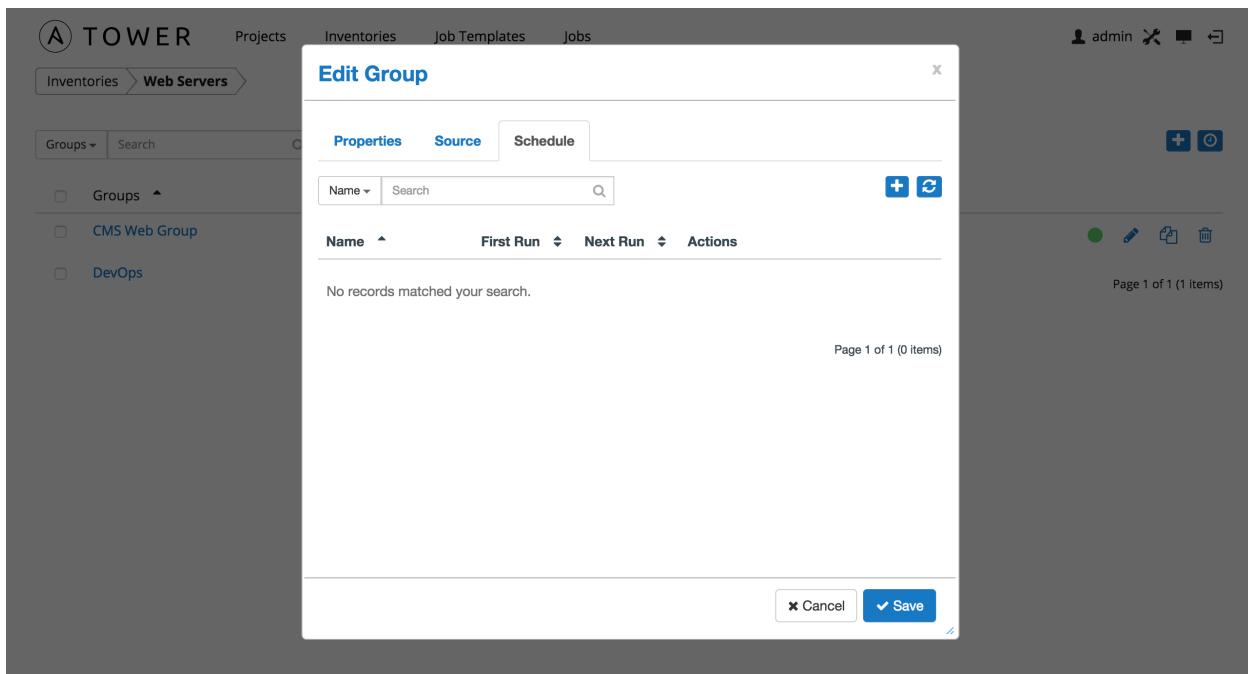
- **Overwrite:** If checked, all child groups and hosts not found on the external source are deleted from the local inventory. When not checked, local child hosts and groups not found on the external source remain untouched by the inventory update process.
- **Overwrite Variables:** If checked, all variables for child groups and hosts are removed and replaced by those found on the external source. When not checked, a merge is performed, combining local variables with those found on the external source.
- **Update on Launch:** Each time a job runs using this inventory, refresh the inventory from the selected source before executing job tasks.



## Scheduling

For groups sourced from a cloud service, the inventory update process may be scheduled via the **Schedule** tab. To access the **Schedule** tab, click the button beside the Inventory Group name to open the **Edit Group** dialog.

This screen displays a list of the schedules that are currently available for the selected **Group**. The schedule list may be sorted and searched by **Name**.



The list of schedules includes:

- Name (Clicking the schedule name opens the **Edit Schedule** dialog)
- First Run
- Next Run

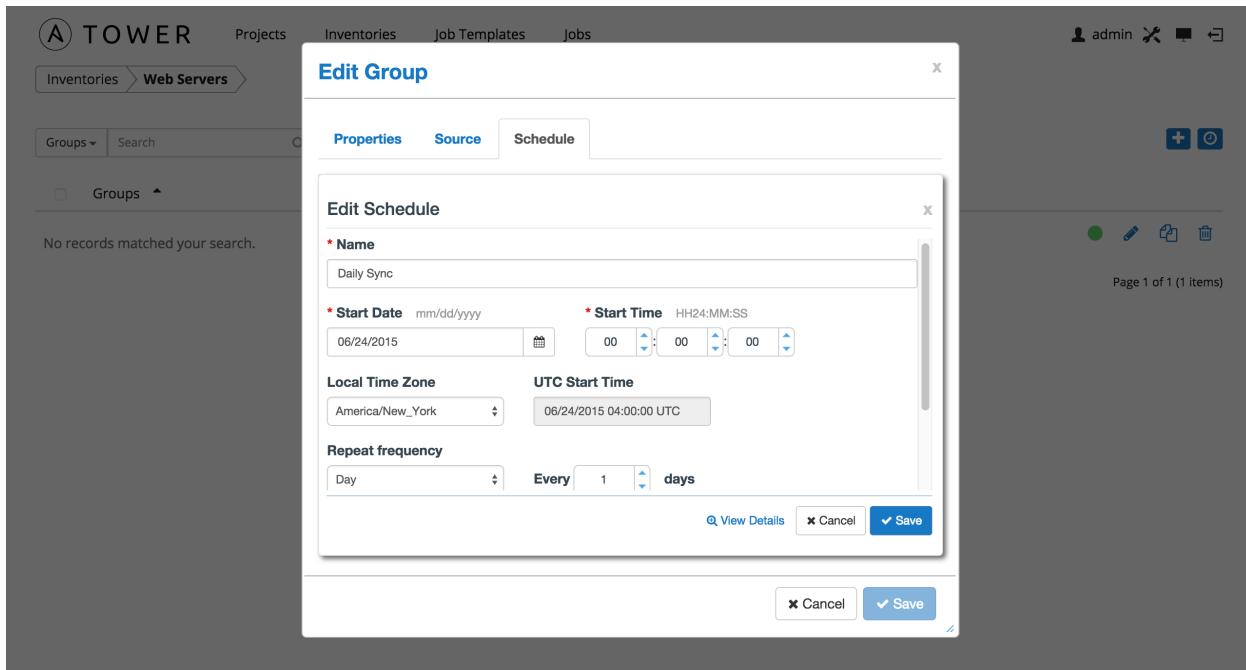
Buttons located in the upper right corner of the **Schedules** screen provide the following actions:

- Create a new schedule
- Refresh this view

### Add a new schedule



To create a new schedule click the button.



Enter the appropriate details into the following fields and select Save:

- **Name** (required)
- **Start Date** (required)
- **Start Time** (required)
- **Local Time Zone** (the entered Start Time should be in this timezone)
- **UTC Start Time** (calculated from Start Time + Local Time Zone)
- **Repeat Frequency** (the appropriate options are displayed as the update frequency is modified).

The **View Details** link at the bottom displays a description of the schedule and a list of the scheduled occurrences in the selected Local Time Zone.

---

**Note:** Jobs are scheduled in UTC. Repeating jobs that runs at a specific time of day may move relative to a local timezone when Daylight Saving Time shifts occur.

Once you have saved the schedule, it can be viewed on the **Schedule** tab.

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Group' dialog in Ansible Tower. At the top, there are tabs for 'Properties', 'Source', and 'Schedule'. The 'Schedule' tab is selected, showing a table with one row for 'Daily Sync'. The table columns are 'Name', 'First Run', 'Next Run', and 'Actions'. The 'Actions' column contains icons for Stop, Edit, and Delete. Below the table, it says 'Page 1 of 1 (1 items)'. At the bottom right are 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons.

There are server actions available for schedules:

- Stop an active schedule or activate a stopped schedule
- Edit schedule
- Delete schedule

### 10.3.2 Hosts

Hosts are listed on the right side of the Inventory display screen.

The screenshot shows the host list for the 'Web Servers' inventory. It has two main sections: 'Groups' on the left and 'Hosts' on the right. Under 'Groups', there is one item: 'CMS Web Group'. Under 'Hosts', there is one item: '127.0.0.1'. Both sections have search bars and action buttons (Add, Edit, Delete). Below each section, it says 'Page 1 of 1 (1 items)'. At the bottom right of the page, it also says 'Page 1 of 1 (1 items)'.

The host list may be sorted and searched by **Name** or **Groups**, and filtered by hosts that are disabled, by hosts with failed jobs, and by hosts synchronized with an external source.

This list displays information about each host and provides for several actions:

- **Name:** Opens the **Host Properties** dialog
- **Available:** A toggle indicating whether the host is enabled to receive jobs from Tower. Click to toggle this setting.
- **Jobs:** Shows the most recent Jobs run against this Host. Clicking this button displays a window showing the most recent jobs and their status.
- **Edit host:** Opens the **Host Properties** dialog

- **Copy host:** Copies or moves the host to a different group
- **Delete:** Removes the host from Tower. *This operation is not reversible!*

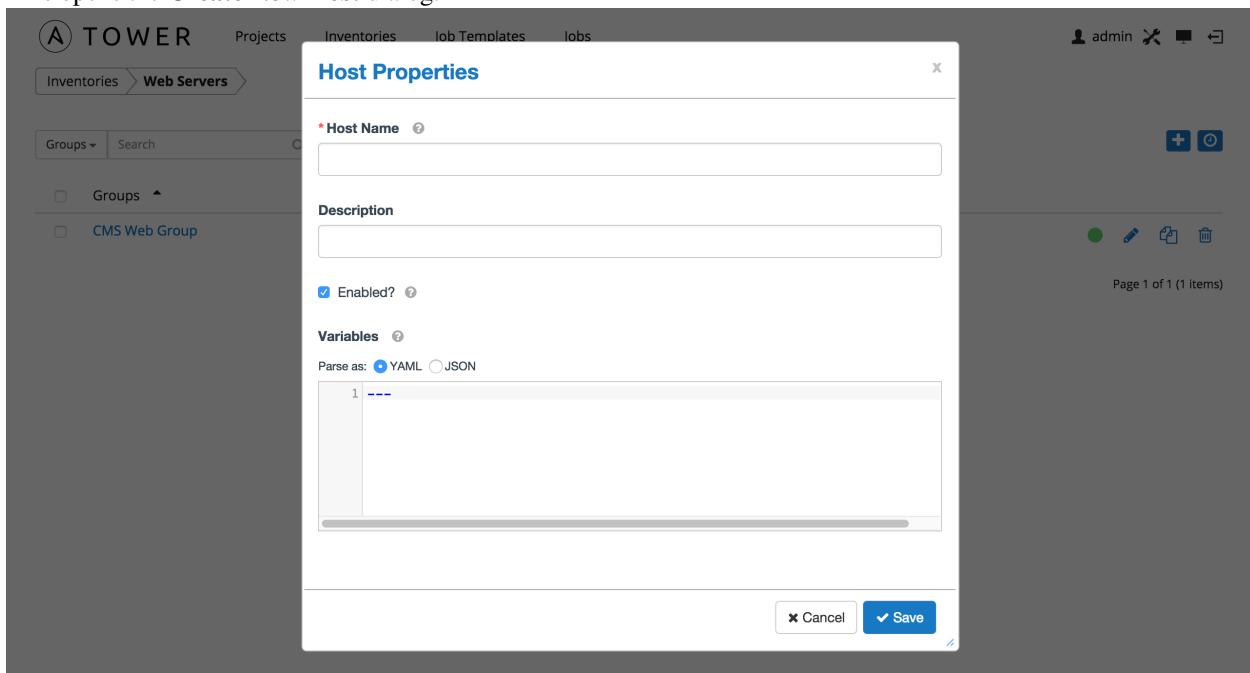
## Add a new host

Hosts can be added manually, by IP address, or hostname. Tower can also sync inventory directly from AWS EC2, Google Compute Engine, MS Azure, VMware, Rackspace Open Cloud, or OpenStack.



To create a new host and add it to an existing group, click the button.

This opens the **Create New Host** dialog.



Enter the appropriate details into the following fields and click **Save**:

- **Host Name:** The hostname or IP address of the host
- **Description:** Enter an arbitrary description as appropriate
- **Enabled?:** Indicates if a host is available and should be included in running jobs. For hosts that are part of an external inventory, this flag cannot be changed. It is set by the inventory sync process.
- **Variables:** Variable definitions and values to be applied to the selected host. Enter variables using either JSON or YAML syntax, using the radio button to toggle between JSON or YAML.

## 10.4 Running Ad Hoc Commands

To run an ad hoc command, select an inventory source and click the button. The inventory source can be a single group or host, a selection of multiple hosts, or a selection of multiple groups.

The screenshot displays two main sections of the Ansible Tower interface. The top section shows the 'Inventories > Web Servers' view, where you can manage groups and hosts. The 'Groups' table lists 'CMS Web Group' with actions like edit and delete. The 'Hosts' table lists '10.0.1.79' and '127.0.0.1' with similar actions. The bottom section shows the 'Run Command' configuration dialog, which includes fields for selecting a module (e.g., 'Choose a module'), providing arguments, specifying a host pattern ('CMS Web Group'), choosing a machine credential, enabling privilege escalation, setting verbosity, and defining the number of forks. Buttons for 'Launch' and 'Reset' are also present.

Enter the details for the following fields:

- **Module:** Select one of the modules that Tower supports running commands against.

command	apt_repository	mount	win_service
shell	apt_rpm	ping	win_updates
yum	service	selinux	win_group
apt	group	setup	win_user
apt_key	user	win_ping	

- **Arguments:** Provide arguments to be used with the module you selected.
- **Host Pattern:** Enter the pattern used to target hosts in the inventory. To target all hosts in the inventory enter `all` or `*`, or leave the field blank. This is automatically populated with whatever was selected in the previous view prior to clicking the launch button.
- **Machine Credential:** Select the credential to use when accessing the remote hosts to run the command. Choose the credential containing the username and SSH key or password that Ansible needs to log into the remote hosts.
- **Enable Privilege Escalation:** If enabled, the playbook is run with administrator privileges. This is the equivalent of passing the `--become` option to the `ansible` command.
- **Verbosity:** Select a verbosity level for the standard output.
- **Forks:** If needed, select the number of parallel or simultaneous processes to use while executing the command.

Click the **Launch** button to run this ad hoc command.

## 10.5 System Tracking

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**Note:** System Tracking, introduced as a new feature in Ansible Tower 2.2, is only available to those with Enterprise-level licenses.

---

System Tracking offers the ability to compare the results of two scan runs from different dates on one host or the same date on two hosts.

Data is grouped by fact modules:

- Packages
- Services
- Files
- Ansible
- Custom

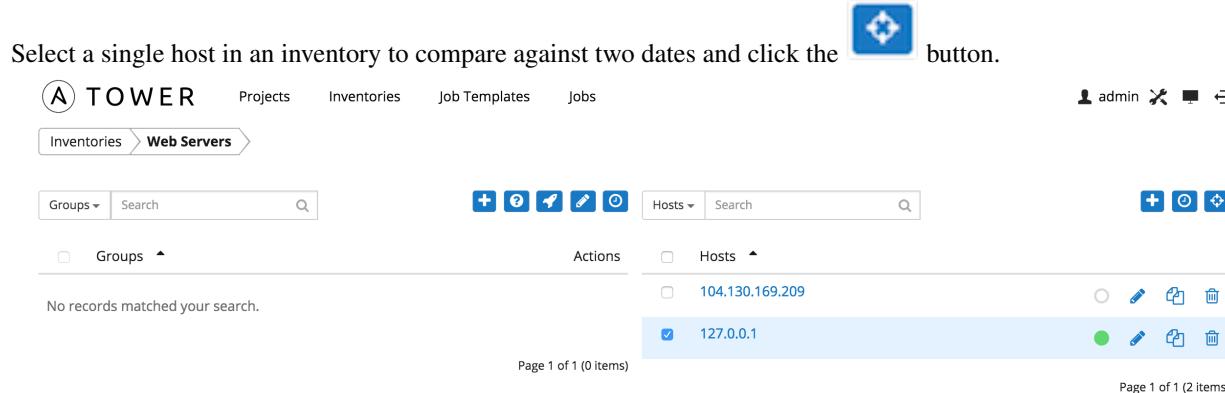
Tower is designed to make every attempt to find your data. If you select a date without any scan runs, Tower gathers the previous year's worth of scan runs to verify possible data to include. Successful comparisons display results from the available dates instead of the specified dates. Unsuccessful comparisons display a message indicating why they did not work.

---

**Note:** Service scan jobs should not run against an inventory with hosts that point to the same physical machine.

---

### 10.5.1 Single Host Workflow



Select a single host in an inventory to compare against two dates and click the  button.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with the following details:

- Header:** Shows the Ansible Tower logo, navigation links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs, and a user account for admin.
- Inventories:** A breadcrumb trail shows Inventories > Web Servers.
- Hosts Table:**
  - Groups:** Groups dropdown and search bar.
  - Actions:** Buttons for creating (+), deleting (x), cloning (clone), and viewing (info).
  - Hosts:** Hosts dropdown and search bar.
  - Host List:**
    - Host 1: 104.130.169.209 (unchecked)
    - Host 2: 127.0.0.1 (checked, highlighted with a blue selection bar)
  - Actions for Selected Host:** Buttons for editing (pencil), cloning (clone), and deleting (trash).
- Pagination:** Page 1 of 1 (0 items) and Page 1 of 1 (2 items).

Select two dates on which you have scan data for the host, with the earliest date to compare on the left and the latest date to compare on the right.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface for 'System Tracking'. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Projects', 'Inventories', 'Job Templates', and 'Jobs'. On the right, there's a user icon for 'admin' and some system icons. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Inventories > Web Servers > System Tracking'. A section titled 'Compare latest facts collected on or before' has a date selector set to '06/30/2015'. Another section titled 'To latest facts collected on or before' also has a date selector set to '06/30/2015'. Between these sections is a calendar for June 2015, with days from 31 to 11 highlighted. To the right of the calendar are two buttons: 'Services' and 'Ansible'. A message at the bottom states: 'The two fact scans were identical for this module.'

Select the module for which you want to compare differences. To change modules, click on the module button with the button navigation to filter by different types of facts. Note that differences among the “ansible” and “files” modules changes are highlighted, while only changes for “packages” and “services” are shown.

Compare latest facts collected on or before			To latest facts collected on or before		
Packages	Services	Ansible	Packages	Services	Ansible
<b>Comparing facts collected from:</b>	<b>127.0.0.1 scanned on 6/30/2015 2:35:49 PM</b>	<b>127.0.0.1 scanned on 6/30/2015 2:50:56 PM</b>			
ansible_product_serial	0	0			
ansible_form_factor	Other	Other			
ansible_product_version	1.2	1.2			
ansible_fips	false	false			
<b>ansible_user_id</b>	<b>root</b>	<b>root</b>			
ansible_user_dir	/root	/root			
ansible_memtotal_mb	1840	1840			
ansible_product_uuid	415F08E2-BF64-465C-872F-8285C706DDF5	415F08E2-BF64-465C-872F-8285C706DDF5			
ansible_architecture	x86_64	x86_64			
ansible_distribution_version	7.1.1503	7.1.1503			
ansible_domain	localdomain	localdomain			
ansible_user_shell	/bin/bash	/bin/bash			
ansible_virtualization_type	virtualbox	virtualbox			
<b>ansible_processor_cores</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>			
ansible_virtualization_role	guest	guest			
ansible_processor_vcpus	2	2			
ansible_bios_version	VirtualBox	VirtualBox			
ansible_userspace_bits	64	64			
ansible_ssh_host_key_ecdsa_public	AAAAAE2VjZHNhLXNoYTltbmlzdHAyNTYAAAAlbmlzdHAyN... AAAAAE2VjZHNhLXNoYTltbmlzdHAyNTYAAAAlbmlzdHAyN...	AAAAAE2VjZHNhLXNoYTltbmlzdHAyNTYAAAAlbmlzdHAyN...			
ansible_swapfree_mb	2047	2047			
ansible_distribution_release	Core	Core			
ansible_system_vendor	innotek GmbH	innotek GmbH			
ansible_os_family	RedHat	RedHat			
ansible_userspace_architecture	x86_64	x86_64			
ansible_swaptotal_mb	2047	2047			
<b>ansible_product_name</b>	<b>VirtualBox</b>	<b>VirtualBox</b>			
ansible_pkg_mgr	yum	yum			
ansible_memfree_mb	545	461			

You may also choose the same date in both date selectors if you want to compare multiple scan runs against a single date. If two (2) or more scan jobs runs are discovered on a particular day, Tower compares the most recent and the second-most recent. If there is only one (1) run for the selected date, Tower may display a message saying it could not find any scan job runs in one of the columns. (Also noted in [Known Issues](#) in the *Tower Installation and Reference*

Guide.)

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower System Tracking interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs. On the right, there are user authentication and system status icons. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: Inventories > Web Servers > System Tracking.

The main area is titled "Compare latest facts collected on or before" and "To latest facts collected on or before". Both sections have date pickers set to "06/30/2015".

Below these sections, there are three tabs: Packages, Services, and Ansible. The "Ansible" tab is selected, showing a table of system facts. The table has three columns: "Fact" (left), "From" (middle), and "To" (right). The "From" column shows the value from the first facts collection, and the "To" column shows the value from the second. The "Fact" column lists various system variables like ansible\_product\_serial, ansible\_form\_factor, etc.

Fact	From	To
ansible_product_serial	0	0
ansible_form_factor	Other	Other
ansible_product_version	1.2	1.2
ansible_fips	false	false
ansible_user_id	root	root
ansible_user_dir	/root	/root
ansible_memtotal_mb	1840	1840
ansible_product_uuid	415F08E2-BF64-465C-872F-8285C706DDF5	415F08E2-BF64-465C-872F-8285C706DDF5
ansible_architecture	x86_64	x86_64
ansible_distribution_version	7.1.1503	7.1.1503
ansible_domain	localdomain	localdomain
ansible_user_shell	/bin/bash	/bin/bash
ansible_virtualization_type	virtualbox	virtualbox
ansible_processor_cores	2	2
ansible_virtualization_role	guest	guest
ansible_processor_vcpus	2	2
ansible_bios_version	VirtualBox	VirtualBox
ansible_userspace_bits	64	64
ansible_ssh_host_key_ecdsa_public	AAAAE2VjZHNhLXNoYTltbmIzdHAYNTYAAAAlbmlzdHAYN...	AAAAE2VjZHNhLXNoYTltbmIzdHAYNTYAAAAlbmlzdHAYN...
ansible_swapfree_mb	2047	2047
ansible_distribution_release	Core	Core
ansible_system_vendor	innotek GmbH	innotek GmbH
ansible_os_family	RedHat	RedHat
ansible_userspace_architecture	x86_64	x86_64
ansible_swaptotal_mb	2047	2047
ansible_product_name	VirtualBox	VirtualBox
ansible_pkg_mgr	yum	yum
ansible_memfree_mb	545	461
ansible_user_uid	0	0

Please note that if the scans found for the selected date are identical, Tower displays a single result of all facts scanned. As an example, say that a user selects “7/7/2015” for both dates and selects the “packages” module. And say that

two runs occurred on this date, but there were no changes to packages on the selected host. The user sees a message indicating the scans were identical as well as a single column containing all package versions, instead of a two-column listing of differences.

## 10.5.2 Host to Host Workflow

To compare two hosts, select the hosts and click the  button.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with the following details:

- Top Navigation:** Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, Jobs. On the right, a user icon labeled "admin".
- Inventories Path:** Inventories > Web Servers
- Left Panel (Groups):** Groups dropdown, Search input, Actions buttons (+, ?, 🚧, 🖊, ⚙️).
- Middle Panel (Groups):** Groups dropdown, Search input, Actions buttons (+, ?, 🚧, 🖊, ⚙️).
- Right Panel (Hosts):** Hosts dropdown, Search input, Actions buttons (+, ?, 🚧, 🖊, ⚙️).
- Host Selection:** Two hosts are selected: 104.130.169.209 and 127.0.0.1. Each host has edit, copy, and delete icons.
- Pagination:** Page 1 of 1 (0 items) on the left, Page 1 of 1 (2 items) on the right.

You can currently only select from a single page of hosts. This is a known issue.

Select a single date on which to compare the two (2) hosts. Next, select the module for which you want to view differences.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower System Tracking interface with the following details:

- Top Navigation:** Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, Jobs. On the right, a user icon labeled "admin".
- Inventories Path:** Inventories > Web Servers > System Tracking
- Comparison Dates:**
  - From: 06/30/2015
  - To: 06/30/2015
- Comparison Options:** To latest facts collected on or before.

Although Tower only supports picking a single date for both hosts, you may notice different dates in the results. Remember that Tower is designed to make every attempt to find your data. If a date is selected without any scan runs, Tower gathers the previous year's worth of scan runs to verify possible data to include. Note that differences among the “ansible” and “files” modules changes are highlighted, while only changes for “packages” and “services” are shown.

**A TOWER** Projects Inventories Job Templates Jobs

Inventories > Web Servers > **System Tracking**

Compare latest facts collected across both hosts on or before

06/30/2015

Packages	Services	Ansible
<b>Comparing facts collected from:</b>		
104.130.169.209 scanned on 6/30/2015 2:50:56 PM	127.0.0.1 scanned on 6/30/2015 2:50:56 PM	
abrt	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-addon-ccpp	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-addon-kerneloops	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-addon-pstoreoops	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-addon-python	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-addon-vmcore	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-addon-xorg	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-cli	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-console-notification	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-libs	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-python	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-retrace-client	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
abrt-tui	2.1.11-22.el7.centos.0.1.x86_64	absent
ansible	absent	1.9.1-1.el7.noarch
ansible-tower	absent	2.2.0-0.git201506260554.el7.centos.noarch
apr	absent	1.4.8-3.el7.x86_64
apr-util	absent	1.5.2-6.el7.x86_64
at	3.1.13-17.el7_0.1.x86_64	absent
attr	2.4.46-12.el7.x86_64	absent
augeas-libs	1.1.0-17.el7.x86_64	absent
bash-completion	1:2.1-6.el7.noarch	absent

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## CHAPTER ELEVEN

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# JOB TEMPLATES

A job template is a definition and set of parameters for running an Ansible job. Job templates are useful to execute the same job many times. Job templates also encourage the reuse of Ansible playbook content and collaboration between teams. While the REST API allows for the execution of jobs directly, Tower requires that you first create a job template.

This menu opens a list of the job templates that are currently available. The job template list may be sorted and searched by **Name** or **Description**. The **Job Templates** tab also enables the user to launch, schedule, modify, and remove a job template.



The screenshot shows the Tower web interface with the 'Job Templates' tab selected. The page includes a search bar, sorting options for 'Name' and 'Description', and a table listing one job template: 'Hello World!' with a description of 'hello world!'. The table has columns for Name, Description, Status, and Actions. The Actions column contains icons for launching, scheduling, modifying, and deleting the template. A navigation bar at the top includes links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs, along with a user profile for 'admin'.

Name	Description	Status	Actions
Hello World!	hello world!	Green	

To create a new job template click the  button.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Job Templates' page in Ansible Tower. The form has the following fields:

- Name:** Required input field.
- Description:** Text input field.
- Job Type:** A dropdown menu showing 'Run' as the selected option.
- Inventory:** A search bar showing 'Web Servers'.
- Project:** A search bar showing an empty result.
- Playbook:** A dropdown menu showing 'Choose a playbook'.
- Machine Credential:** A search bar showing an empty result.
- Cloud Credential:** A search bar showing an empty result.
- Forks:** A dropdown menu set to '0'.
- Limit:** An empty text input field.
- Verbosity:** A dropdown menu set to '0 (Normal)'.
- Extra Variables:** A section with a 'Parse as' toggle between YAML and JSON, and a code editor area containing '1'.
- Checkboxes:** Options for 'Prompt for Extra Variables', 'Enable Survey', 'Enable Privilege Escalation', and 'Allow Provisioning Callbacks'.
- Buttons:** 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons at the bottom.

Enter the appropriate details into the following fields:

- **Name:** Required
- **Description:** Enter an arbitrary description as appropriate.
- **Job Type:**
  - Run: Execute the playbook when launched, running Ansible tasks on the selected hosts
  - Check: Setting the type to Check does not execute the playbook, but does check the syntax, test the environment setup, and report problems. Think of this as running the playbook in dry-run mode and having it report “changed” when an item would be changed, but not actually making changes.
  - Scan: Gather system tracking information. Only Superusers and Admins have permission to create scan jobs. A default playbook has been created for your use. Custom written scan playbooks can use scan modules.
  - More information on job types can be found in the [Playbooks: Special Topics](#) section of the Ansible documentation.
- **Inventory:** Choose the inventory to be used with this job template from the inventories available to the currently

logged in Tower user.

- **Project:** Choose the project to be used with this job template from the projects available to the currently logged in Tower user.
- **Playbook:** Choose the playbook to be launched with this job template from the available playbooks. This menu is automatically populated with the names of the playbooks found in the project base path for the selected project. For example, a playbook named “jboss.yml” in the project path appears in the menu as “jboss”.
- **Credential:** Choose the credential to be used with this job template from the credentials available to the currently logged in Tower user.
- **Cloud Credential:** Choose the credential to be used with this job template from the credentials available to the currently logged in Tower user.
- **Forks:** The number of parallel or simultaneous processes to use while executing the playbook. A value of zero uses the Ansible default setting, which is 5 parallel processes unless overridden in `/etc/ansible/ansible.cfg`.

- **Limit:**

- A host pattern to further constrain the list of hosts managed or affected by the playbook. Multiple patterns can be separated by colons (“:”). As with core Ansible, “a:b” means “in group a or b”, “a:b:&c” means “in a or b but must be in c”, and “a:!b” means “in a, and definitely not in b”.
  - For more information and examples refer to [Patterns](#) in the Ansible documentation.

- **Job Tags:**

- A comma-separated list of playbook tags to constrain what parts of the playbooks are executed.
  - For more information and examples refer to [Tags](#) in the Ansible documentation.

- **Verbosity:** Control the level of output Ansible produces as the playbook executes. Set the verbosity to any of Default, Verbose, or Debug. This only appears in the “details” report view. Verbose logging includes the output of all commands. Debug logging is exceedingly verbose and includes information on SSH operations that can be useful in certain support instances. Most users do not need to see debug mode output.

- **Extra Variables:**

- Pass extra command line variables to the playbook. This is the “-e” or “--extra-vars” command line parameter for `ansible-playbook` that is documented in the Ansible documentation at [Passing Variables on the Command Line](#).
  - Provide key/value pairs using either YAML or JSON. These variables have a maximum value of precedence and overrides other variables specified elsewhere. An example value might be:

```
git_branch: production
release_version: 1.5
```

- **Prompt for Extra Variables:** If this is checked, the user is prompted for Extra Variables at job execution. The set of extra variables defaults to any Extra Variables already configured for the job template.
- **Enable Survey:** Survey the user on job launch. Refer to [Surveys](#) for additional information.
- **Create Survey:** Creates a survey, if the survey is enabled.
- **Edit Survey:** Edits the existing survey for this job template.
- **Delete Survey:** Deletes the existing survey for this job template.
- **Allow Callbacks:** Enable a host to call back to Tower via the Tower API and invoke the launch of a job from this job template. Refer to [Provisioning Callbacks](#) for additional information.

When you have completed configuring the job template, select **Save**.

When editing an existing job template, by clicking the job template name or the **Edit** button, the bottom of the screen displays a list of all of the jobs that have been launched from this template. Refer to the section [Jobs](#) for more information about this interface.

## 11.1 Utilizing Cloud Credentials

Cloud Credentials can be used when syncing a respective cloud inventory. Cloud Credentials may also be associated with a Job Template and included in the runtime environment for use by a playbook. The use of Cloud Credentials was introduced in Ansible Tower version 2.4.0.

### 11.1.1 OpenStack

The sample playbook below invokes the `nova_compute` Ansible OpenStack cloud module and requires credentials to do anything meaningful, and specifically requires the following information: `auth_url`, `username`, `password`, and `project_name`. These fields are made available to the playbook via the environmental variable `OS_CLIENT_CONFIG_FILE`, which points to a YAML file. This sample playbook loads the YAML file into the Ansible variable space.

`OS_CLIENT_CONFIG_FILE` example:

```
clouds:
  devstack:
    auth:
      auth_url: http://devstack.yoursite.com:5000/v2.0/
      username: admin
      password: your_password_here
      project_name: demo
```

Playbook example:

```
- hosts: all
gather_facts: false
vars:
  config_file: "{{ lookup('env', 'OS_CLIENT_CONFIG_FILE') }}"
  nova_tenant_name: demo
  nova_image_name: "cirros-0.3.2-x86_64-uec"
  nova_instance_name: autobot
  nova_instance_state: 'present'
  nova_flavor_name: m1.nano

  nova_group:
    group_name: antarctica
    instance_name: deceptacon
    instance_count: 3
tasks:
  - debug: msg="{{ config_file }}"
  - stat: path="{{ config_file }}"
    register: st
  - include_vars: "{{ config_file }}"
    when: st.stat.exists and st.stat.isreg

  - name: "Print out clouds variable"
    debug: msg="{{ clouds|default('No clouds found') }}"
```

```
- name: "Setting nova instance state to: {{ nova_instance_state }}"
  local_action:
    module: nova_compute
    login_username: "{{ clouds.devstack.auth.username }}"
    login_password: "{{ clouds.devstack.auth.password }}"
```

## 11.1.2 Amazon Web Services

Amazon Web Services cloud credentials are exposed as the following environment variables during playbook execution:

- AWS\_ACCESS\_KEY
- AWS\_SECRET\_KEY

All of the AWS modules will implicitly use these credentials when run via Tower without having to set the aws\_access\_key or aws\_secret\_key module options.

## 11.1.3 Rackspace

Rackspace cloud credentials are exposed as the following environment variables during playbook execution:

- RAX\_USERNAME
- RAX\_API\_KEY

All of the Rackspace modules will implicitly use these credentials when run via Tower without having to set the username or api\_key module options.

## 11.1.4 Google

Google cloud credentials are exposed as the following environment variables during playbook execution:

- GCE\_EMAIL
- GCE\_PROJECT
- GCE\_PEM\_FILE\_PATH

All of the Google modules will implicitly use these credentials when run via Tower without having to set the service\_account\_email, project\_id, or pem\_file module options.

## 11.1.5 Azure

Azure cloud credentials are exposed as the following environment variables during playbook execution:

- AZURE\_SUBSCRIPTION\_ID
- AZURE\_CERT\_PATH

All of the Azure modules implicitly use these credentials when run via Tower without having to set the subscription\_id or management\_cert\_path module options.

## 11.1.6 VMware

VMware cloud credentials are exposed as the following environment variables during playbook execution:

- VMWARE\_USER
- VMWARE\_PASSWORD
- VMWARE\_HOST

The sample playbook below demonstrates usage of these credentials:

```
- vsphere_guest:
    vcenter_hostname: "{{ lookup('env', 'VMWARE_HOST') }}"
    username: "{{ lookup('env', 'VMWARE_USER') }}"
    password: "{{ lookup('env', 'VMWARE_PASSWORD') }}"
    guest: newvm001
    from_template: yes
    template_src: centosTemplate
    cluster: MainCluster
    resource_pool: "/Resources"
    vm_extra_config:
        folder: MyFolder
```

## 11.2 Surveys

Surveys set extra variables for the playbook similar to ‘Prompt for Extra Variables’ does, but in a user-friendly question and answer way. Surveys also allows for validation of user input. If **Enable Survey** is checked, you can see a button to **Create Survey**.

Use cases for surveys are numerous. An example might be if operations wanted to give developers a “push to stage” button they could run without advanced Ansible knowledge. When launched, this task could prompt for answers to questions such as, “What tag should we release?”

Many types of questions can be asked, including multiple-choice questions.

---

**Note:** Surveys are only available to those with Enterprise-level licenses.

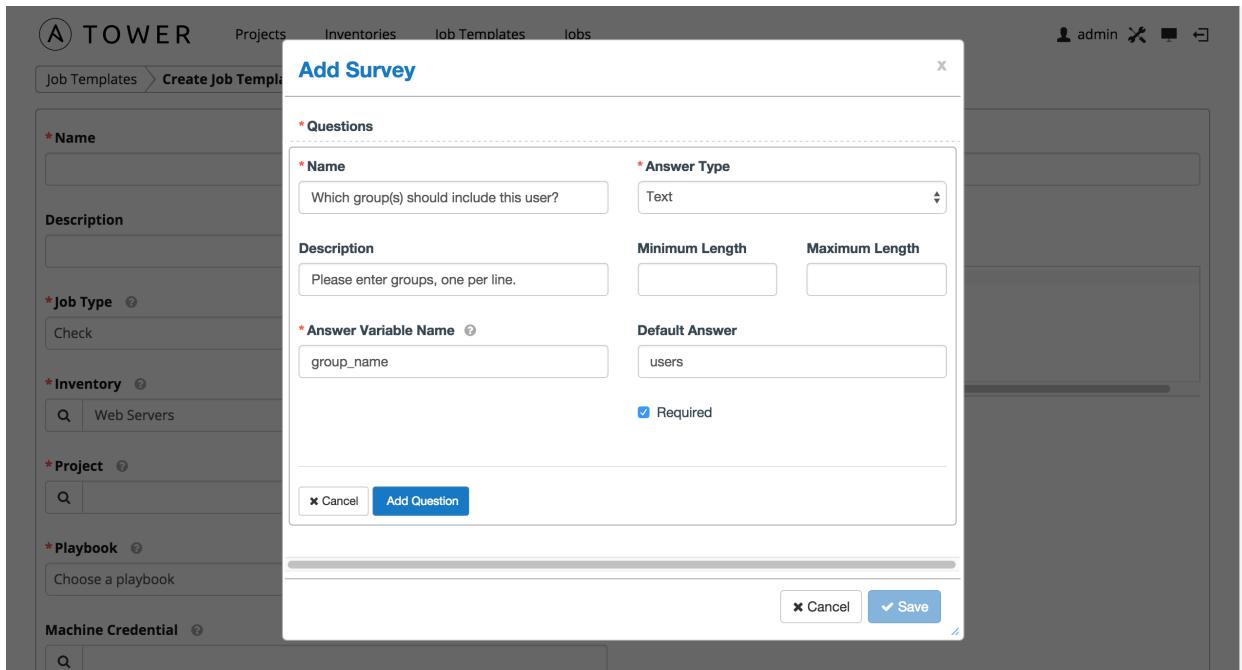
---

### 11.2.1 Creating a Survey

Clicking on **Create Survey** brings up the **Add Survey** window.

A survey can consist of any number of questions. For each question, enter the following information:

- **Name:** The question to ask the user
- **Description:** (optional) A description of what’s being asked of the user.
- **Answer Variable Name:** The Ansible variable name to store the user’s response in. This is the variable to be used by the playbook. Variable names cannot contain spaces.
- **Answer Type:** Choose from the following question types.
  - *Text:* A single line of text. You can set the minimum and maximum length (in characters) for this answer.
  - *Textarea:* A multi-line text field. You can set the minimum and maximum length (in characters) for this answer.

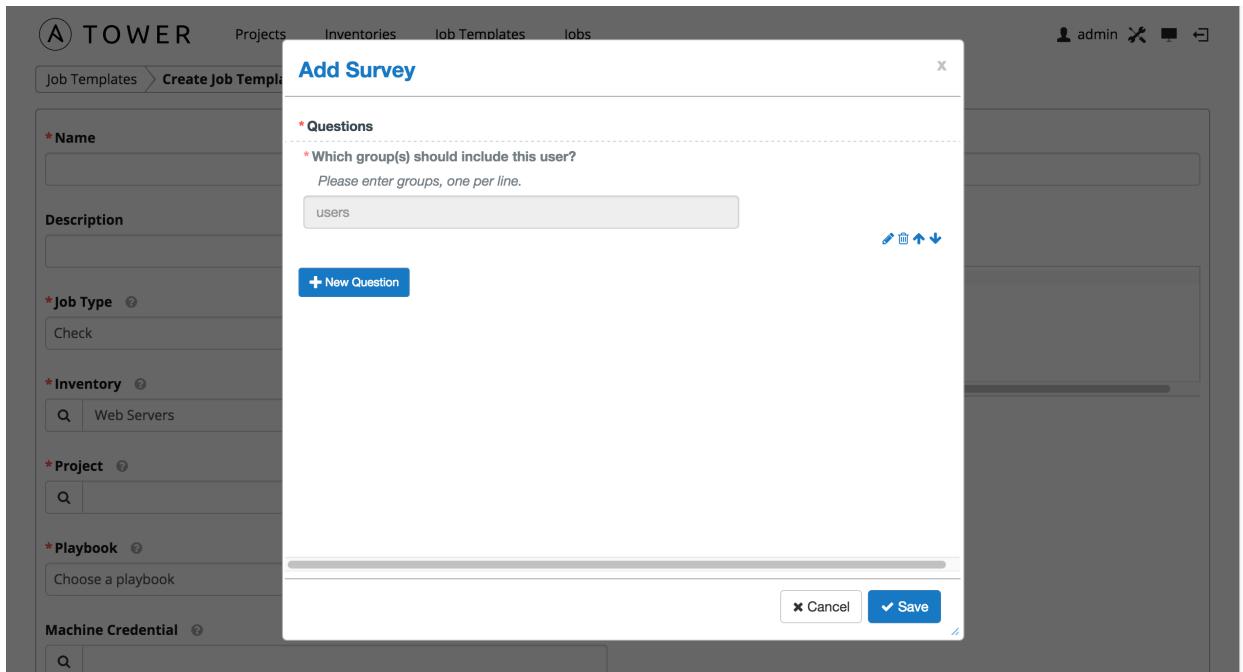


- **Password:** Responses are treated as sensitive information, much like an actual password is treated. You can set the minimum and maximum length (in characters) for this answer.
- **Multiple Choice (single select):** A list of options, of which only one can be selected at a time. Enter the options, one per line, in the **Multiple Choice Options** box.
- **Multiple Choice (multiple select):** A list of options, any number of which can be selected at a time. Enter the options, one per line, in the **Multiple Choice Options** box.
- **Integer:** An integer number. You can set the minimum and maximum length (in characters) for this answer.
- **Float:** A decimal number. You can set the minimum and maximum length (in characters) for this answer.
- **Default Answer:** The default answer to the question. This value is pre-filled in the interface and is used if the answer is not provided by the user.
- **Required:** Whether or not an answer to this question is required from the user.

Once you have entered the question information, click **Add Question** to add the question.

A stylized version of the survey is presented, along with a **New Question** button. Click this button to add additional questions.

For any question, you can click on the **Edit** button to edit the question, the **Delete** button to delete the question, and click on the Up and Down arrow buttons to rearrange the order of the questions. Click **Save** to save the survey.



Click **Save** to save the survey.

### 11.2.2 Optional Survey Questions

The **Required** setting on a survey question determines whether the answer is optional or not for the user interacting with it.

Behind the scenes, optional survey variables can be passed to the playbook in `extra_vars`, even when they aren't filled in.

- If a non-text variable (input type) is marked as optional, and is not filled in, no survey `extra_var` is passed to the playbook.
- If a text input or text area input is marked as optional, is not filled in, and has a minimum `length > 0`, no survey `extra_var` is passed to the playbook.
- If a text input or text area input is marked as optional, is not filled in, and has a minimum `length == 0`, that survey `extra_var` is passed to the playbook, with the value set to an empty string ("").

### 11.2.3 Extra Variables

When you pass survey variables, they are passed as extra variables (`extra_vars`) within Tower. This can be tricky, as passing extra variables to a job template (as you would do with a survey) can override other variables being passed from the inventory and project.

For example, say that you have a defined variable for an inventory for `debug = true`. It is entirely possible that this variable, `debug = true`, can be overridden in a job template survey.

To ensure that the variables you need to pass are not overridden, ensure they are included by redefining them in the survey. Keep in mind that extra variables can be defined at the inventory, group, and host levels.

---

**Note:** Beginning with Ansible Tower version 2.4, the behavior for Job Template extra variables and Survey variables has changed. Previously, variables set using a Survey overrode any extra variables specified in the Job Template. In

2.4 and later, the Job Template extra variables dictionary is merged with the Survey variables. This may result in a change of behavior upon upgrading to 2.4.

The following table notes the behavior (hierarchy) of variable precedence in Ansible Tower as it compares to variable precedence in Ansible.

#### Ansible Tower Variable Precedence Hierarchy (last listed wins)

Ansible	Tower
role defaults	
dynamic inventory variables	
inventory variables	Tower inventory variables
inventory group_vars	Tower group variables
inventory host_vars	Tower host variables
playbook group_vars	
playbook host_vars	
host facts	
registered variables	
set_facts	
play variables	
play vars_prompt	(not supported in Tower)
play vars_files	
role variables and include variables	
block variables	
task variables	
extra variables	Job Template extra variables Job Template Survey (defaults) Job Launch extra_vars

#### 11.2.4 Relaunching Job Templates

Another change for Ansible Tower version 2.4 introduced a `launch_type` setting for your jobs. Instead of manually relaunching a job, a relaunch is denoted by setting `launch_type` to `relaunch`. The relaunch behavior deviates from the launch behavior in that it **does not** inherit `extra_vars`.

Job relaunching does not go through the inherit logic. It uses the same `extra_vars` that were calculated for the job that is being relaunched.

For example, say that you launched a Job Template with no `extra_vars` which resulted in the creation of **j1**. Next, say that you changed the Job Template and all the `extra_vars` “{ “hello”: “world” }”. Relaunching **j1** results in the creation of **j2**, but **j2** will not have any `extra_vars`.

To continue upon this example, if you were to then launch the Job Template (with the `extra_vars` you added after the creation of **j1**), the relaunched job (**j3**) will include the `extra_vars` “{ “hello”: “world” }”. Relaunching **j3**, resulting in the creation of **j4**, would also include `extra_vars` “{ “hello”: “world” }”.

### 11.3 Provisioning Callbacks

Provisioning callbacks are a feature of Tower that allow a host to initiate a playbook run against itself, rather than waiting for a user to launch a job to manage the host from the tower console. Please note that provisioning callbacks are *only* used to run playbooks on the calling host. Provisioning callbacks are meant for cloud bursting, ie: new instances that phone home to be configured, not to run a job against another host. This provides for automatically

configuring a system after it has been provisioned by another system (such as AWS auto-scaling, or a OS provisioning system like kickstart or preseed) or for launching a job programmatically without invoking the Tower API directly. The Job Template launched only runs against the host requesting the provisioning.

Frequently this would be accessed via a firstboot type script, or from cron.

To enable callbacks, check the *Allow Callbacks* checkbox. This displays the **Provisioning Callback URL** for this job template.

---

**Note:** If you intend to use Tower's provisioning callback feature with a dynamic inventory, Update on Launch should be set for the inventory group used in the Job Template.

---

Callbacks also require a Host Config Key, to ensure that foreign hosts with the URL cannot request configuration.



Click the button to create a unique host key for this callback, or enter your own key. The host key may be reused across multiple hosts to apply this job template against multiple hosts. Should you wish to control what hosts are able to request configuration, the key may be changed at any time.

To callback manually via REST, look at the callback URL in the UI, which is of the form:

```
http://<Tower server name>/api/v1/job_templates/1/callback/
```

The '1' in this sample URL is the job template ID in Tower.

The request from the host must be a POST. Here is an example using curl (all on a single line):

```
root@localhost:~$ curl --data "host_config_key=5a8ec154832b780b9bdef1061764ae5a" \
    http://api/v1/job_templates/1/callback/
```

The requesting host must be defined in your inventory for the callback to succeed. If Tower fails to locate the host either by name or IP address in one of your defined inventories, the request is denied. When running a Job Template in this way, the host initiating the playbook run against itself must be in the inventory. If the host is missing from the inventory, the Job Template will fail with a "No Hosts Matched" type error message.

---

**Note:** If your host is not in inventory and *Update on Launch* is set for the inventory group, Tower attempts to update cloud based inventory source before running the callback.

---

Successful requests result in an entry on the Jobs tab, where the results and history can be viewed.

While the callback can be accessed via REST, the suggested method of using the callback is to use one of the example scripts that ships with Tower - `/usr/share/awx/request_tower_configuration.sh` (Linux/Unix) or `/usr/share/awx/request_tower_configuration.ps1` (Windows). Usage is described in the source code of the file. This script is intelligent in that it knows how to retry commands and is therefore a more robust way to use callbacks than a simple curl request. As written, the script retries once per minute for up to ten minutes, which is amply conservative.

Most likely you will use callbacks with dynamic inventory in Tower, such as pulling cloud inventory from one of the supported cloud providers. In these cases, along with setting *Update On Launch*, be sure to configure an inventory cache timeout for the inventory source, to avoid abusive hammering of your Cloud's API endpoints. Since the `request_tower_configuration.sh` script polls once per minute for up to ten minutes, a suggested cache invalidation time for inventory (configured on the inventory source itself) would be one or two minutes.

While we recommend against running the `request_tower_configuration.sh` script from a cron job, a suggested cron interval would be perhaps every 30 minutes. Repeated configuration can be easily handled by schedul-

ing in Tower, so the primary use of callbacks by most users is to enable a base image that is bootstrapped into the latest configuration upon coming online. To do so, running at first boot is a better practice. First boot scripts are just simple init scripts that typically self-delete, so you would set up an init script that called a copy of the `request\_tower\_configuration` script and make that into an autoscaling image.

### 11.3.1 Passing Extra Variables to Provisioning Callbacks

Just as you can pass `extra_vars` in a regular Job Template, you can also pass them to provisioning callbacks. To pass `extra_vars`, the data sent must be part of the body of the POST request as application/json (as the content type). Use the following JSON format as an example when adding your own `extra_vars` to be passed:

```
'{"extra_vars": {"variable1": "value1", "variable2": "value2", ...}}'
```

(Added in Ansible Tower version 2.2.0.)

## 11.4 Launching Jobs

A major benefit of Ansible Tower is the push-button deployment of Ansible playbooks. You can easily configure a template within Tower to store all parameters you would normally pass to the `ansible-playbook` on the command line—not just the playbooks, but the inventory, credentials, extra variables, and all options and settings you can specify on the command line.

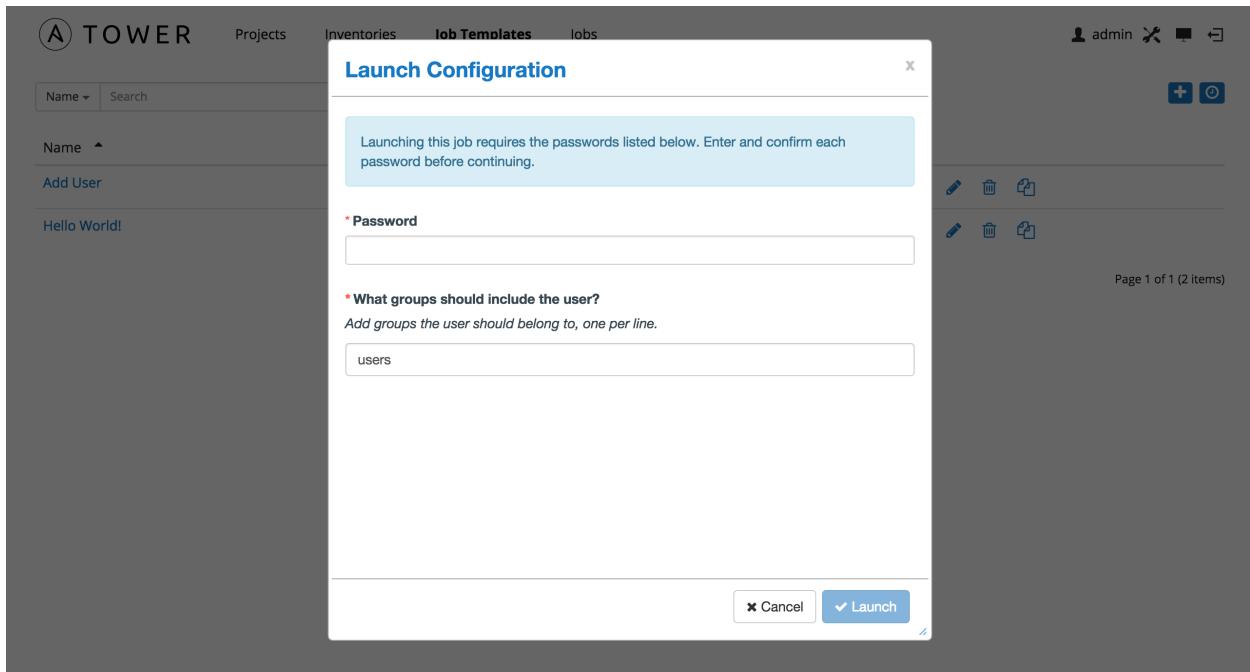
Easier deployments drive consistency, by running your playbooks the same way each time, and allow you to delegate responsibilities—even users who aren’t Ansible experts can run Tower playbooks written by others.

To launch a job template, click the  button.

A job may require additional information to run. The following data may be requested at launch:

- Credentials that were setup
- Passwords or passphrases that have been set to **Ask**
- A survey, if one has been configured for the job templates
- Extra variables, if requested by the job template

Here is an example job launch that prompts for a password, and runs the example survey created in [Surveys](#).



Along with any extra variables set in the job template and survey, Tower automatically adds the following variables to the job environment:

- `tower_job_id` : The Job ID for this job run
- `tower_job_launch_type` : One of *manual*, *callback*, or *scheduled* to indicate how the job was started
- `tower_job_template_id` : The Job Template ID that this job run uses
- `tower_job_template_name` : The Job Template name that this job uses
- `tower_user_id` : The user ID of the Tower user that started this job. This is not available for callback or scheduled jobs.
- `tower_user_name` : The user name of the Tower user that started this job. This is not available for callback or scheduled jobs.

Upon launch, Tower automatically redirects the web browser to the Job Status page for this job under the **Jobs** tab.

## 11.5 Scheduling

Launching job templates may also be scheduled via the button. Clicking this button opens the **Schedules** page.

Name	First Run	Next Run	Final Run	Actions
No records matched your search.				

This page displays a list of the schedules that are currently available for the selected **Job Template**. The schedule list may be sorted and searched by **Name**.

The list of schedules includes:

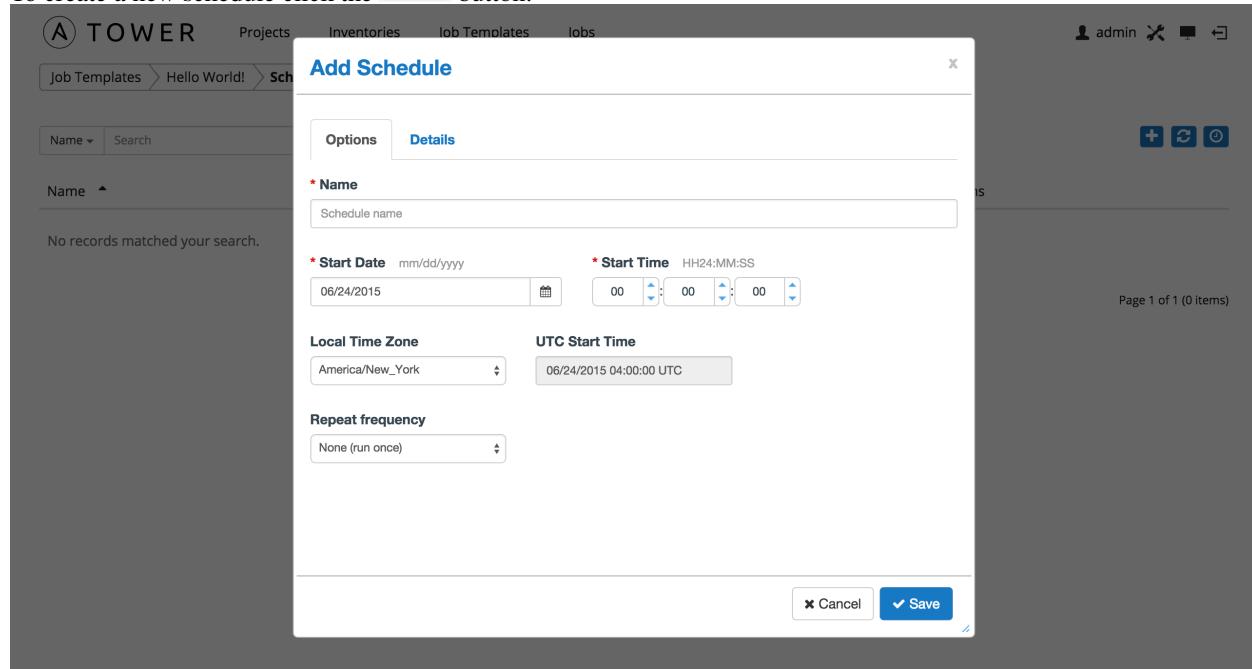
- **Name**: Clicking the schedule name opens the **Edit Schedule** dialog - **First Run**: The first scheduled run of this task
- **Next Run**: The next scheduled run of this task
- **Final Run**: If the task has an end date, this is the last run of the task

Buttons located in the upper right corner of the **Schedules** screen provide the following actions:

- Create a new schedule
- Refresh this view
- View Activity Stream

### 11.5.1 Add a new schedule

To create a new schedule click the  button.



Enter the appropriate details into the following fields and select Save:

- Name (required)
- Start Date (required)
- Start Time (required)
- Local Time Zone (the entered Start Time should be in this timezone)
- UTC Start Time (calculated from Start Time + Local Time Zone)
- Repeat Frequency (the appropriate options displays as the update frequency is modified.)

The **Details** tab displays a description of the schedule and a list of the scheduled occurrences in the selected Local Time Zone.

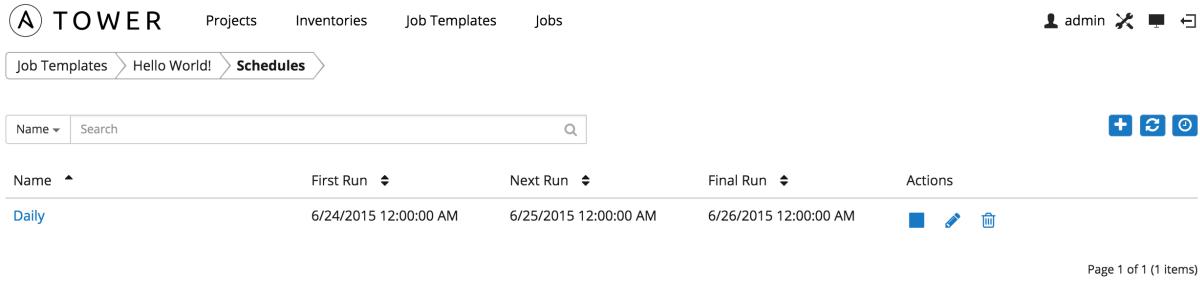
---

**Note:** Jobs are scheduled in UTC. Repeating jobs that run at a specific time of day may move relative to a local timezone when Daylight Saving Time shifts occur.

---

There are several actions available for schedules, under the **Actions** column:

- Stop an active schedule or activate a stopped schedule
- Edit Schedule
- Delete schedule



The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with the following details:

- Header:** Shows the Ansible Tower logo, user 'admin', and navigation links for Projects, Inventories, Job Templates, and Jobs.
- Breadcrumbs:** Job Templates > Hello World! > Schedules
- Search Bar:** Name (dropdown), Search input field, and a magnifying glass icon.
- Action Buttons:** A row of icons for creating (+), cloning (refresh), and deleting (trash bin).
- Table Headers:** Name (sorted), First Run, Next Run, Final Run, and Actions.
- Table Data:** One row for 'Daily' with the following values:
  - Name: Daily
  - First Run: 6/24/2015 12:00:00 AM
  - Next Run: 6/25/2015 12:00:00 AM
  - Final Run: 6/26/2015 12:00:00 AM
  - Actions: Edit (pencil) and Delete (trash bin)
- Page Footer:** Page 1 of 1 (1 items)

---

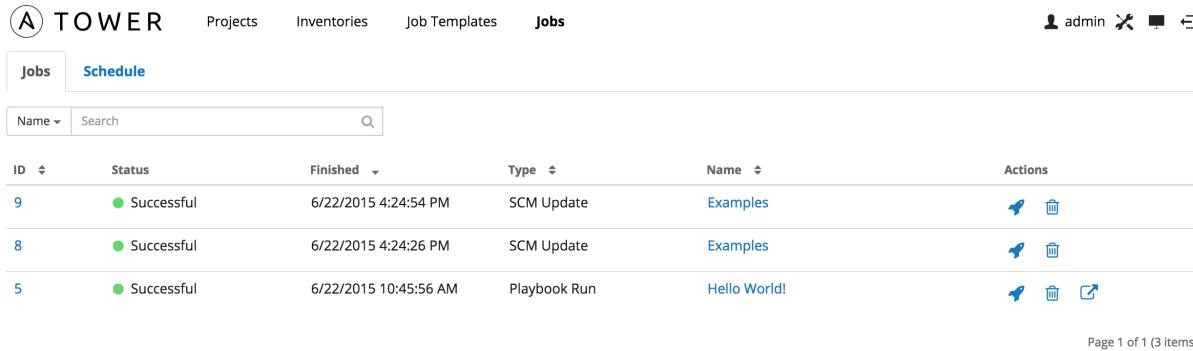
## CHAPTER TWELVE

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# JOBS

A job is an instance of Tower launching an Ansible playbook against an inventory of hosts.

The Jobs link displays a list of jobs and their status—shown as completed successfully or failed, or as an active (running) job.



ID	Status	Finished	Type	Name	Actions
9	Successful	6/22/2015 4:24:54 PM	SCM Update	Examples	
8	Successful	6/22/2015 4:24:26 PM	SCM Update	Examples	
5	Successful	6/22/2015 10:45:56 AM	Playbook Run	Hello World!	

Page 1 of 1 (3 items)

- Jobs can be searched by **Job Failed?**, job **ID**, **Name**, **Status**, or **Type**.
- Jobs can be filtered by job **ID**, **Finished**, **Type**, or **Name**.

From this screen, you can relaunch jobs, remove jobs, or view the standard output of a particular job.

Clicking on a **Name** for an **SCM Update** job opens the **Job Results** screen, while clicking on a manually created **Playbook Run** job takes you to the **Job Status** page for this job (also accessible after launching a job from the **Job Templates** link in the main Tower navigational menu).

## 12.1 Job Results

The **Job Results** window displays information about jobs of type **Inventory Sync** and **SCM Update**.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface with a modal dialog titled "Job Results". The dialog is centered over a list of jobs. The list shows three successful jobs with IDs 9, 8, and 5. The modal contains three tabs: "Status", "Standard Out", and "Options". The "Status" tab is selected, showing details for job ID 9: Name is "Examples", Status is "successful", Started at 6/22/2015 4:24:41 PM, Finished at 6/22/2015 4:24:54 PM, Elapsed 13.027 seconds, and Launch Type is "manual". The "Standard Out" tab shows the Ansible output, and the "Options" tab shows job-specific details like credential, group, source, regions, and overwrite values.

This display consists of three tabs. The **Status** tab includes details on the job execution:

- **Name:** The name of the job template from which this job was launched.
- **Status:** Can be any of *Pending*, *Running*, *Successful*, or *Failed*.
- **License Error:** Only shown for **Inventory Sync** jobs. If this is *True*, the hosts added by the inventory sync caused Tower to exceed the licensed number of managed hosts.
- **Started:** The timestamp of when the job was initiated by Tower.
- **Finished:** The timestamp of when the job was completed.
- **Elapsed:** The total time the job took.
- **Launch Type:** *Manual* or *Scheduled*.

The **Standard Out** tab shows the full results of running the SCM Update or Inventory Sync playbook. This shows the same information you would see if you ran the Ansible playbook using Ansible from the command line, and can be useful for debugging.

The **Options** tab describes the details of this job:

- For *SCM Update* jobs, this consists of the \*\*Project\*\* associated with the job.
- For *Inventory Sync* jobs, this consists of:
  - **Credential:** The cloud credential for the job
  - **Group:** The group being synced
  - **Source:** The type of cloud inventory
  - **Regions:** Any region filter, if set
  - **Overwrite:** The value of *Overwrite* for this Inventory Sync. Refer to *Inventories* for details.
  - **Overwrite Vars:** The value of *Overwrite Vars* for this Inventory Sync. Refer to *Inventories* for details.

## 12.2 Job Status

The **Jobs** page for **Playbook Run** jobs shows details of all the tasks and events for that playbook run.

The **Jobs** page consists of multiple areas: **Status**, **Plays**, **Tasks**, **Host Events**, **Events Summary**, and **Hosts Summary**.

The screenshot displays the Ansible Tower Jobs page for a specific job named "11 - Hello World!".

- Status:** Shows the job is "Successful".
- Timing:** Started at 06/24/15 13:40:17, Finished at 06/24/15 13:40:24, Elapsed 00:00:06.
- Plays:** One play named "Hello World!" was run, starting at 13:40:21 and taking 00:00:03.
- Tasks:** Two tasks were run: "Gathering Facts" (status green) and "Hello World!" (status orange).
- Host Events:** One event was recorded for host 127.0.0.1, indicating a "Changed" status.
- Events Summary:** Shows the host 127.0.0.1 with 2 OK and 1 Changed tasks.
- Host Summary:** A large orange circle indicates that the host has 1 changed task.

### 12.2.1 Status

The **Status** area shows the basic status of the job—*Running*, *Pending*, *Successful*, or *Failed*—and its start time. The buttons in the top right of the status page allow you to view the standard output of the job run, delete the job run, or relaunch the job.

Clicking on `more` gives the basic settings for this job:

- the job **Template** for this job
- the **Job Type** of *Run*, *Check*, or *Scan*
- the **Launched by** username associated with this job
- the **Inventory** associated with this job
- the **Project** associated with this job
- the **Playbook** that is being run
- the **Credential** in use
- the **Verbosity** setting for this job

- any **Extra Variables** that this job used

By clicking on these items, where appropriate, you can view the corresponding job templates, projects, and other Tower objects.

## 12.2.2 Plays

The **Plays** area shows the plays that were run as part of this playbook. The displayed plays can be filtered by **Name**, and can be limited to only failed plays.

For each play, Tower shows the start time for the play, the elapsed time of the play, the play **Name**, and whether the play succeeded or failed. Clicking on a specific play filters the **Tasks** and **Host Events** area to only display tasks and hosts relative to that play.

## 12.2.3 Tasks

The **Tasks** area shows the tasks run as part of plays in the playbook. The displayed tasks can be filtered by **Name**, and can be limited to only failed tasks.

For each task, Tower shows the start time for the task, the elapsed time of the task, the task **Name**, whether the task succeeded or failed, and a summary of the host status for that task. The host status displays a summary of the hosts status for all hosts touched by this task. Host status can be one of the following:

- **Success**: the playbook task returned “Ok”.
- **Changed**: the playbook task actually executed. Since Ansible tasks should be written to be idempotent, tasks may exit successfully without executing anything on the host. In these cases, the task would return Ok, but not Changed.
- **Failure**: the task failed. Further playbook execution was stopped for this host.
- **Unreachable**: the host was unreachable from the network or had another fatal error associated with it.
- **Skipped**: the playbook task was skipped because no change was necessary for the host to reach the target state.

Clicking on a specific task filters the **Host Events** area to only display hosts relative to that task.

## 12.2.4 Host Events

The **Host Events** area shows hosts affected by the selected play and task. For each host, Tower shows the host’s status, its name, and any **Item** or **Message** set by that task.

Click the  button to edit the host’s properties (hostname, description, enabled or not, and variables).

Clicking on the linked hostname brings up the **Host Event** dialog for that host and task.

The **Host Event** dialog shows the events for this host and the selected play and task:

- the **Host**
- the **Status**
- a unique **ID**
- a **Created On** time stamp
- the **Role** for this task
- the name of the **Play**

- the name of the **Task**
- if applicable, the Ansible **Module** for the task, and any *arguments* for that module

There is also a **JSON** tab which displays the result in JSON format.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower web interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with 'Timing' (Started 06/24/15 14:14), 'Plays' (one play started at 14:08:19), 'Tasks' (two tasks started at 14:08:19 and 14:08:21), and 'Host Events' (one event for host 127.0.0.1). The main area is titled 'Host Event' and contains tabs for 'Event' (selected) and 'JSON'. The 'Event' tab shows details for a host event: Host: 127.0.0.1, Status: ok, ID: 30, Created On: 6/24/2015 2:08:21 PM, Play: Hello World!, Task: Gathering Facts, and Module: setup. An 'OK' button is visible at the bottom right. To the right of the event details, there's a 'Completed Tasks' section with a 'Failed' status indicator (2 failed, 1 successful) and a 'Changed' status indicator.

## 12.2.5 Events Summary

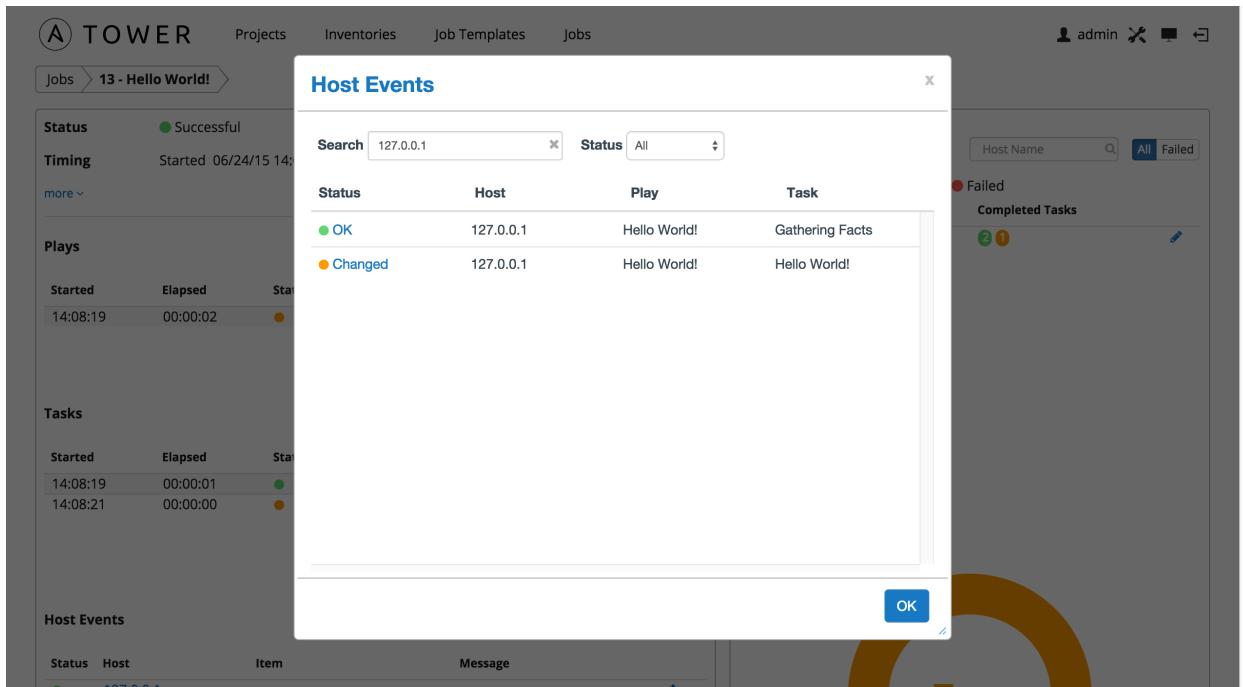
The **Events Summary** area shows a summary of events for all hosts affected by this playbook. Hosts can be filtered by their hostname, and can be limited to showing only changed, failed, OK, and unreachable hosts.

For each host, the **Events Summary** area shows the hostname and the number of completed tasks for that host, sorted by status.

Click the button to edit the host's properties (hostname, description, enabled or not, and variables).

Clicking on the hostname brings up a **Host Events** dialog, displaying all tasks that affected that host.

This dialog can be filtered by the result of the tasks, and also by the hostname. For each event, Tower displays the status, the affected host, the play name, and the task name. Clicking on the status brings up a the same **Host Event** dialog that would be shown for that host and event from the Host Events area.



## 12.2.6 Host Summary

The **Host Summary** area shows a graph summarizing the status of all hosts affected by this playbook run.

## 12.3 Job Concurrency

Tower limits the number of simultaneous jobs that can run based on the amount of physical memory and the complexity of the playbook.

If the “Update on Launch” setting is checked, job templates that rely on the inventory or project *also* trigger an update on them if it is within the cache timeout. If multiple jobs are launched within the cache timeout that depend on the same project or inventory, only one of those project or inventory updates is created (instead of one for each job that relies on it).

If you are having trouble, try setting the cache timeout on the project or inventory source to 60 seconds.

The restriction related to the amount of RAM on your Tower server and the size of your inventory equates to the total number of machines from which facts can be gathered and stored in memory. The algorithm used is:

```
50 + ((total memory in megabytes) / 1024) - 2) * 75
```

With 50 as the baseline.

Each job that runs is:

```
(number of forks on the job) * 10
```

Which defaults to 50 if the limit is set to 0 in Tower, the default value.

Forks determine the default number of parallel processes to spawn when communicating with remote hosts. The fork number is automatically limited to the number of possible hosts, so this is really a limit of how much network and CPU load you can handle. Many users set this to 50, while others set it to 500 or more. If you have a large number of

hosts, higher values will make actions across all of those hosts complete faster. You can edit the `ansible.cfg` file to change this value.

The Ansible fork number default is extremely conservative and is set to five (5). When you do not pass a forks value in Tower (leaving it as 0), Ansible uses 5 forks (the default). If you set your forks value to one (1) in Tower, Ansible uses the value entered and one (1) fork is created. Non-zero inputs are used as instructed.

As an example, if you have a job with 0 forks (the Tower default) on a system with 2 GB of memory, your algorithm would look like the following:

```
50 + ((2048 / 1024) - 2) * 75 = 50
```

If you have a job with 0 forks (the Tower default) on a system with 4 GB of memory then you can run four (4) tasks simultaneously which includes callbacks.

```
50 + ((4096 / 1024) - 2) * 75 = 200
```

This can be changed by setting a value in the Tower settings file (`/etc/tower/settings.py`) such as:

```
SYSTEM_TASK_CAPACITY = 300
```

If you want to override the setting, use caution, as you may run out of RAM if you set this value too high. You can determine what the calculated setting is by reviewing `/var/log/tower/task_system.log` and looking for a line similar to:

Running Nodes: []; Capacity: 50; Running Impact: 0; Remaining Capacity: 50

The Capacity: 50 is the current calculated setting.

As long as you have the capacity to do so, Tower attempts to reorder and run the most number of jobs possible. There are some blockers and exceptions worth noting, however.

- A Job Template will block the same instance of another Job Template.
- A project update will block for another project requiring the same update.
- Job Templates which launch via provisioning callbacks can run, just not as an instance on the same host. This allows running two (2) templates on the same inventory. However, if the inventory requires an update, they will not run. Callbacks are special types of job templates which receive “push requests” from the host to the inventory. They run on one host only and can run parallel with other jobs as long as they are different callbacks and different hosts.
- System Jobs can only run one at a time. They block all other jobs and must be run on their own to avoid conflict. System jobs will finish behind jobs scheduled ahead of them, but will finish ahead of those jobs scheduled behind it.
- Ad hoc jobs are blocked by any inventory updates running against the inventory for that ad hoc job as specified.

## BEST PRACTICES

### 13.1 Use Source Control

While Tower supports playbooks stored directly on the Tower server, best practice is to store your playbooks, roles, and any associated details in source control. This way you have an audit trail describing when and why you changed the rules that are automating your infrastructure. Plus, it allows for easy sharing of playbooks with other parts of your infrastructure or team.

### 13.2 Ansible file and directory structure

Please review the Ansible best practices from the Ansible documentation at [http://docs.ansible.com/playbooks\\_best\\_practices.html](http://docs.ansible.com/playbooks_best_practices.html). If creating a common set of roles to use across projects, these should be accessed via source control submodules, or a common location such as `/opt`. Projects should not expect to import roles or content from other projects.

---

**Note:** Playbooks should not use the `vars_prompt` feature, as Tower does not interactively allow for `vars_prompt` questions. If you must use `vars_prompt`, refer to and make use of the [Surveys](#) functionality of Tower.

---

Jobs run in Tower use the playbook directory as the current working directory, although jobs should be coded to use the `playbook_dir` variable rather than relying on this.

### 13.3 Use Dynamic Inventory Sources

If you have an external source of truth for your infrastructure, whether it is a cloud provider or a local CMDB, it is best to define an inventory sync process and use Tower's support for dynamic inventory (including cloud inventory sources and [custom inventory scripts](#)). This ensures your inventory is always up to date.

---

**Note:** With the release of Ansible Tower 2.4.0, edits and additions to Inventory host variables now persist beyond an inventory sync as long as `--overwrite_vars` is **not** set. To have inventory syncs behave as they did before, it is now required that both `--overwrite` and `--overwrite_vars` are set.

---

## 13.4 Variable Management for Inventory

Keeping variable data along with the objects in Tower (see the inventory editor) is encouraged, rather than using `group_vars/` and `host_vars/`. If you use dynamic inventory sources, Tower can sync such variables with the database as long as the **Overwrite Variables** option is not set.

## 13.5 Autoscaling

Using the “callback” feature to allow newly booting instances to request configuration is very useful for auto-scaling scenarios or provisioning integration.

## 13.6 Larger Host Counts

Consider setting “forks” on a job template to larger values to increase parallelism of execution runs. For more information on tuning Ansible, see [the Ansible blog](#).

## 13.7 Continuous integration / Continuous Deployment

For a Continuous Integration system, such as Jenkins, to spawn an Tower job, it should make a curl request to a job template, or use the [Tower CLI](#) tool. The credentials to the job template should not require prompting for any particular passwords. Using the API to spawn jobs is covered in the [Tower API](#) guide.

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CHAPTER  
FOURTEEN

---

## SECURITY

The multi-tenancy RBAC features of Tower are sufficient to control who can run certain projects on what systems. For instance, you could easily control that engineering could not push to production.

All playbooks are executed via the `awx` filesystem user. For running jobs, Ansible Tower defaults to offering job isolation via Linux namespaces and chroots. This projection ensures jobs can only access playbooks and roles from the Project directory for that job template and common locations such as `/opt`. Playbooks are not able to access roles, playbooks, or data from other Projects by default.

If you need to disable this projection (not recommended), you can edit `/etc/tower/settings.py` and set `AWX_ROOT_ENABLED` to `False`.

---

**Note:** In this scenario, playbooks have access to the filesystem and all that that implies; therefore, users who have access to edit playbooks **must** be trusted.

---

For credential security, users may choose to upload locked SSH keys and set the unlock password to “ask”. You can also choose to have the system prompt them for SSH credentials or sudo passwords rather than having the system store them in the database.

### 14.1 Playbook Access and Information Sharing

By default, Tower’s multi-tenant security prevents playbooks from reading files outside of their project directory. To share information between playbooks or to read files on the filesystem outside of their project directory, you must edit `/etc/tower/settings.py` and add the directories that are available to the `AWX_ROOT_SHOW_PATHS` setting.

The following paths, plus any user specified paths, are hidden by `AWX_ROOT_HIDE_PATHS`:

- `/etc/tower`
- `/var/lib/awx`
- `/var/log`
- `/tmp`
- `/var/lib/awx/projects`
- `/var/lib/awx/job_status`

The following paths, plus any user specified paths, are shown by `AWX_ROOT_SHOW_PATHS`:

- `/var/lib/awx/projects/<current_project>`
- `/tmp/ansible_tower_xxxxx`

The primary file you may want to add to AWX\_PROOT\_SHOW\_PATHS is /var/lib/awx/.ssh, if your playbooks need to use keys or settings defined there.

## 14.2 PRoot functionality and variables

The PRoot functionality in Ansible Tower limits which directories on the Tower file system are available for playbooks to see and use during playbook runs. You may find that you need to customize your PRoot settings in some cases. To fine tune your usage of PRoot, there are certain variables that can be set:

```
# Enable proot support for running jobs (playbook runs only).
AWX_PROOT_ENABLED = False

# Command/path to proot.
AWX_PROOT_CMD = 'proot'

# Additional paths to hide from jobs using proot.
AWX_PROOT_HIDE_PATHS = []

# Additional paths to show for jobs using proot.
AWX_PROOT_SHOW_PATHS = []
```

To customize your PRoot settings, navigate to the /etc/tower/settings.py file. Once your changes have been saved, restart services with the ansible-tower-service restart command.

## 14.3 Role-Based Access Controls

A role is essentially a collection of permissions and all users receive permissions only through the roles to which they are assigned or through roles they inherit through the role hierarchy. Within an organization, roles are relatively stable, while users and permissions are both numerous and may change rapidly.

Role-Based Access Controls (RBAC) are built into Tower and allow Tower administrators to delegate access to server inventories, organizations, and more. Administrators can also centralize the management of various credentials, allowing end users to leverage a needed secret without ever exposing that secret to the end user. RBAC controls allow Tower to help you increase security and streamline management.

RBAC controls also give you the capability to explicitly permit User and Teams of Users to run playbooks against certain sets of hosts. Users and teams are restricted to just the sets of playbooks and hosts that to which they are granted permission. And, with Tower, you can create or import as many Users and Teams as you require—create users and teams manually or import them from LDAP or Active Directory.

RBACs are easiest to think of in terms of who or what can see, change, or delete an “object” for which a specific permission is being set.

### 14.3.1 Users

#### Views

User records can be viewed by the user who owns the user record, by the Organization Admin (if the user is a part of the organization they are associated with), and by the Super User.

#### Changes

The user who owns the user record can make changes to that user record, as can the Organization Admin (if the user is a part of the organization they are associated with), and the Super User. Organization Admins can add users to their organizations. Super Users can add users to any organization.

#### **Deletions**

The Organization Admin can remove a user if the user is a part of their organization. Super Users can remove any user from any organization as needed.

### **14.3.2 Organizations**

#### **Views**

Users who can see an organization must be a member of that organization, must be the Organization Admin for that organization, or a Super User.

#### **Changes**

Only Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) and Super Users can make changes to an organization.

#### **Deletions**

Only Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) and Super Users can remove an organization.

### **14.3.3 Inventories**

#### **Views**

Super Users can view any inventory and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can view inventories for their organization. Users or Teams associated with the inventory who have Read, Write, or Administrator privileges can also view the inventory for which they have explicit permission granted.

#### **Changes**

Super Users can edit any inventory and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can edit inventories for their organization. Users or Teams associated with the inventory who have Write or Administrator privileges granted can also edit an inventory.

#### **Deletions**

Super Users can remove any inventory and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can remove inventories for their organization. Users or Teams associated with the inventory who have the Administrator privilege granted can also remove an inventory.

#### **Ad Hoc Commands**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can run ad hoc commands against inventories for their organization. Users or Teams associated with the inventory who have Read, Write, or Administrator privileges granted, with the “Run Ad Hoc Commands” checkmark selected can also remove an inventory.

### **14.3.4 Hosts**

#### **Views**

Anyone who can view an inventory can view hosts assigned to that inventory.

## **Changes**

Super Users can edit any inventory host and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can edit inventory hosts for their organization. Users or Teams associated with the inventory who have Write or Administrator privileges granted can also edit an inventory host.

## **Deletions**

Super Users can remove any inventory host and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can remove inventory hosts for their organization. Users or Teams associated with the inventory who have the Administrator privilege granted can also remove an inventory host.

### **14.3.5 Groups**

#### **Views**

Anyone who can view an inventory can view hosts assigned to that inventory.

#### **Changes**

Super Users can edit any inventory group and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can edit inventory groups for their organization. Users or Teams associated with the inventory who have Write or Administrator privileges granted can also edit an inventory group.

#### **Deletions**

Super Users can remove any inventory group and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can remove inventory groups for their organization. Users or Teams associated with the inventory who have the Administrator privilege granted can also remove an inventory group.

### **14.3.6 Inventory Updates**

#### **Views**

Super Users can view any inventory update and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can view inventory updates for their organization. Users or Teams associated with the inventory with Administrator privileges granted can also see inventory updates.

#### **Deletions**

Super Users can remove any inventory update and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can remove inventory updates for their organization. Users or Teams associated with the inventory with Administrator privileges granted can also remove inventory updates.

### **14.3.7 Credentials**

#### **Views**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can view credentials. The User or Team which owns the credential can also view it.

#### **Changes**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can edit credentials. The User or Team which owns the credential can also edit it.

#### **Deletions**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can remove credentials. The User or Team which owns the credential can also remove it.

### **14.3.8 Teams**

#### **Views**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can view Teams. The users associated with that Team can also view the Team.

#### **Changes**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can edit Teams.

#### **Deletions**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for the particular organization they are associated with) can remove Teams or individual team members.

### **14.3.9 Projects**

#### **Views**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for projects linked to the organization they are associated with) can view projects. Users or Teams associated with a project can also view that project. Users or Teams granted explicit permission for a project can also view that project, even if they are outside of the organization for which the project is associated.

#### **Changes**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for projects linked to the organization they are associated with) can edit projects.

#### **Deletions**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for projects linked to the organization they are associated with) can remove projects

### **14.3.10 Project Updates**

#### **Views**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for project updates linked to the organization they are associated with) can view projects. Users or Teams associated with a project can also view that project. Users or Teams granted explicit permission for a project can also view that project, even if they are outside of the organization for which the project is associated.

#### **Changes**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for project updates linked to the organization they are associated with) can edit projects.

#### **Deletions**

Super Users and Organization Admins (for project updates linked to the organization they are associated with) can remove projects

### 14.3.11 Job Templates

Job Templates have three associated actions—Check, Run, and Create.

- Check: Users or Team members with Check level permissions can run Check type jobs. Check is great for dry-runs and testing the Ansible playbook.
- Run: Users with Run level permissions can run Check and Run type jobs.
- Create: Users or Team members with Create level permissions can create new Job Templates. Super Users and Organization Admins (for job templates linked to the organization they are associated with) can create Job Templates.

#### Views

Super Users and Organization Admins (for job templates linked to the organization they are associated with) can view job templates. Users granted access to view the inventory, project, and credential can view an associated job template. Users with explicit team-based permissions granted during the job template setup can also view an associated job template. If you can see jobs run on the Job Template, you can view the job template.

- System Job Templates: Only Super Users can view.
- Ad hoc commands: Super Users and Organization Admins (for job templates linked to the organization they are associated with) can view ad hoc command job templates. Users and team members with explicit team-based Read permissions granted, along with the ad hoc command flag set, can also view ad hoc command job templates.

#### Launch

Super Users and Organization Admins (for job templates linked to the organization they are associated with) can launch job templates. Users granted team-based Run or Check level permissions or Users with team-based Create level permissions can launch job templates for which they are associated. If you can view it, you can start it.

- System Job Templates: Only Super Users can launch.
- Ad hoc commands: Super Users and Organization Admins (for job templates linked to the organization they are associated with) can launch ad hoc command job templates. Users and team members with explicit team-based Read permissions granted, along with the ad hoc command flag set, can also launch ad hoc command job templates.

#### Create

Super Users and Organization Admins (for job templates linked to the organization they are associated with) can create job templates. Users granted a team-based Create level permission can also create a job template.

- System Job Templates: Only Super Users can create.

#### Deletions

Super Users and Organization Admins (for job templates linked to the organization they are associated with) can remove job templates. Users granted team-based Create level permissions can also remove a job template. Anyone with permission to create a job template also has permission to remove it.

- System Job Templates: Only Super Users can remove.

### 14.3.12 Activity Stream

#### View

Activity Stream information is available as read-only. Users can only see activity on objects for which they have been granted permission to view. If a user cannot see the job template or the organization, they cannot view anything in the activity stream for those two events.

### **Cleanup Job**

Only Super Users can access this activity stream.

---

**Note:** Activity Streams are only available to those with Enterprise-level licenses.

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CHAPTER  
**SIXTEEN**

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