1. The command center or the control machine is a Linux machine. Ansible doesn't run on Cygwin. If you're a Windows shop, please make sure you have at least one Linux machine to control your environment.
2. On the command center, once you've installed Ansible, it's important that you install winrm, which is compatible with Ansible, via pip, shown as follows:

**pip install https://github.com/diyan/pywinrm/archive/df049454a9309280866e0156805ccda12d71c93a.zip**

1. On each of the remote Windows machines, you need to install PowerShell Version 3.0. Ansible provides a couple of helpful scripts as follows to get you to set it up:

* Winrm Setup (<https://github.com/ansible/ansible/blob/devel/examples/scripts/ConfigureRemotingForAnsible.ps1>)
* An upgrade to PowerShell Version 3.0 (<https://github.com/cchurch/ansible/blob/devel/examples/scripts/upgrade_to_ps3.ps1>)

1. Allow port 5986 via the firewall as this is the default WinRM connection port, and make sure this is accessible from the command center. To make sure you can access the service remotely, run a curl call: curl -vk -d "" -u "$USER:$PASSWORD" "https://<IP>:5986/wsman". If Basic Auth works, you're set to start running commands.
2. Once the setup is done, you're now ready to start running Ansible! Let's run the equivalent of the Windows version of the "Hello, world!" program in Ansible by running win\_ping. In order to do this, let's set up our credentials file. This can be done using Ansible Vault as follows:

**$ ansible-vault create group\_vars/windows.yml**

**Vault password:**

**Confirm Vault password:**

**<Add content for the following Ansible variables>**

**ansible\_ssh\_user: Administrator**

**ansible\_ssh\_pass: <password>**

**ansible\_ssh\_port: 5986**

**ansible\_connection: winrm**

1. Let's set up our inventory file as follows:

**$ cat inventory**

**[windows]**

**174.129.181.242**

1. Followed by this, let's run win\_ping:
2. **$ ansible windows -i inventory -m win\_ping --ask-vault-pass**
3. **Vault password:**
4. **174.129.181.242 | success >> {**
5. **"changed": false,**
6. **"ping": "pong"**
7. **}**