**Ansible Terms:**

* **Controller Machine**: The machine where Ansible is installed, responsible for running the provisioning on the servers you are managing.
* **Inventory**: An initialization file that contains information about the servers you are managing.
* **Playbook**: The entry point for Ansible provisioning, where the automation is defined through tasks using YAML format.
* **Task**: A block that defines a single procedure to be executed, e.g. Install a package.
* **Module**: A module typically abstracts a system task, like dealing with packages or creating and changing files. Ansible has a multitude of built-in modules, but you can also create custom ones.
* **Role**: A pre-defined way for organizing playbooks and other files in order to facilitate sharing and reusing portions of a provisioning.
* **Play**: A provisioning executed from start to finish is called a play*.*In simple words, execution of a playbook is called a play.
* **Facts**: Global variables containing information about the system, like network interfaces or operating system.
* **Handlers**: Used to trigger service status changes, like restarting or stopping a service.

Ansible is a helpful tool that allows you to create groups of machines, describe how these machines should be configured or what actions should be taken on them. Ansible issues all commands from a central location to perform these tasks.

No other client software is installed on the node machines. It uses SSH to connect to the nodes. Ansible only needs to be installed on the control machine (the machine from which you will be running commands) which can even be your laptop. It is a simple solution to a complicated problem.