



Linux Academy

# Ansible and AWS

Vs. Other DevOps Tools



## What Other Tools?

Basically, Ansible 'plays in the sandbox' of a large number of deployment and configuration management tools such as:

- Jenkins
- Salt
- Puppet
- Chef
- Fabric

However, Ansible works at a high enough level that it can also be used in conjunction with one or more of these tools. Ansible is very often called an 'orchestration' tool since it can function independently as well as 'control' one or more of the tools listed above.



## Ansible Vs. The World

There are some key differences in these technologies, let's talk about a few:

- Server/Management Nodes
  - Puppet/Chef will usually contain a 'master' or 'controller' server in the setup. Ansible, operating only with SSH, does not. Any system with Ansible can function in that role at any time based on the task or deployment type.
- Workflow – Push vs. Pull
  - Since most configuration management tools have a 'master' server, they use the 'pull' method (i.e. the client 'checks in' on the server to pull it's configuration). Ansible uses the 'push' method, requiring no client installation or configuration (other than general Python).

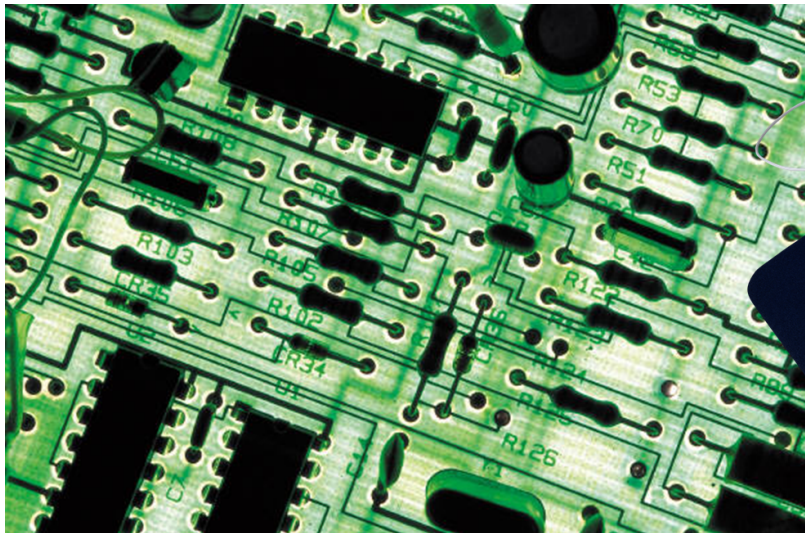


## Ansible Vs. The World (Continued)

- Resource Definitions and Execution Ordering
  - Puppet (for example) instructions are not applied in order (in other words, not 'top to bottom' in how they appear in the manifest). Ansible uses pure in order execution, which can be easy to read as well as convert from other languages or scripts.
- Language
  - Ansible is built upon Python and the huge standard of inclusive functionality that comes with it. Puppet (Ruby) and Chef or Salt are not quite so inclusive.
- Syntax
  - Puppet is based on custom DSL while Ansible is based on YAML standard.



## Summary



This is not really a competition. Depending on your environment, experience and goals, Ansible may or may not be the tool for you. Ansible does provide some advantages in terms of overall orchestration and standardization of tools and language, but that doesn't preclude some of its 'competition' from being useful in their own ways. It's up to you!