Knife:       It provides an interface between a local chef repo and chef server   
                Local chef repo can be downloaded (Starter Kit)   
                Knife lets you manage:   
                    -    Roles and nodes   
                    -    Cookbooks and recipes   
                    -    Stores of JSON data (data bags), including encrypted data   
                    -    Environments   
                    -    Cloud Resources including provisioning   
                    -    installation of chef on management workstations   
                    -    Searching of indexed data on the chef server   
                      
Knife configuration File (<http://docs.opscode.com/config_rb_knife.html)>   
            -    Default Location   
                    \*    ~/.chef/knife.rb   
            -    project specific configuration   
                    \*    .chef/knife.rb of the current directory [project dir]

Knife Commands:

$> knife –version        # Show the chef version installed

$> knife client list    # Read the chef\_server\_url from knife.rb   
                        # HTTP GET to #{chef\_server\_url}/clients and displays the result

$> knife bootstrap        # Bootstrap or initialize a node instance   
                        # Copies authentication data (validation.pem) and knife.rb to node instance from chef-repo and then   
                        # Runs: bash -c ‘install chef     configure client    run chef’   
                        # knife bootstrap uvo1tmqfn67ii0vhzy4.vm.cld.sr –sudo -x opscode -P opscode -N "target1"   
                        # knife bootstrap <servername> –sudo -x opscode -P opscode -N "target1" -r "recipe[apt],recipe[apache]"   
                        # By default chef uses FQDN as node name

$> knife cookbook create apache   
                        # Create a new cookbook for e.g. Apache

$> knife cookbook upload apache   
                        # Uploads apache cookbook to chef server   
                          
$> knife node list        # Lists all the nodes available in your organization 

$> knife node show <nodename>   
                        # Returns brief description of node nodename

$> sudo ohai |less        # Returns system (node) information in JSON format   
                          
$> knife node show <nodename> -l -Fj   
                        # Returns long description of node nodename   
                        # -Fj returns output in json format

$> knife node show <nodename> -a fqdn   
                        # Reutn only single attribute value for eg FQDN of the node

$> knife search node "\*:\*" -a fqdn   
                        # Returns FQDN for all node matchng the pattern (Solr query syntax)   
                        # eg. knife search node "platform:ubuntu" -a fqdn

$> knife cookbook site download <cookbookname>   
                        # Downloads cookbookname cookbook from opscode community site and stores in local chef repo