Serverspec in cloud provision



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Successful operation automation usually needs, along with core tool technical skills some curiosity and knowledge about the system under test - not strictly but is recommended. For example, (no)SQL, Angular/MQ experience would be a great help in web testing, HTML / Javascript no longer sufficient.

Often more critical than provision engine (Puppet, Chef, Ansible, DSC learning curve.

In a similar case, an QA engineer fluent in Selenium Appium or Katalon often is or eager to grow Web developer skills but unlikely ever interested in the code base of those tools.



Terminology: what is *spec

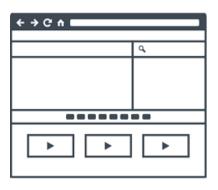
RSpec - popular framework for Behavior Driven Development (BDD), from Rails time frame. BDD is a way of writing unit tests in a original DSL that reads like plain English phrases describing the expectations the software product is to satisfy taken from some stakeholders meeting minutes but at the same being a valid Ruby code can be automated and if/when fail, produce reasnably intelligent error messages. The application under test is not modified - it is RSpec job is to have it called the desired way.

Puppet/Chef uses a similar frameworks to let module or profile developer compose assertions about their provision scenarios (a.k.a. catalogs) to e.g. have specific resources being declared in desired ways. Later, Puppet infrastructure guarantees the results of the real provision will match the spec.

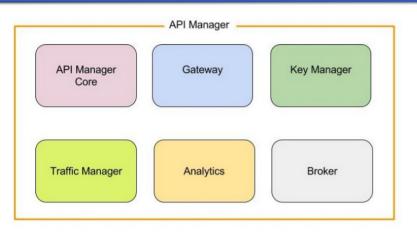
When Puppet-RSpec gem and process step that constitutes certain lint checks to ensure the Puppet code follows the Puppet style guide. In Chef, comes under the name of foodcritic gem / app. Both features some look and feel of Rspec: matchers and chains

```
expect(some_subject) to do_verb.with_noun
expect { should verb_noun('identifier') }.to raise_error(_,
    /no way/)
```

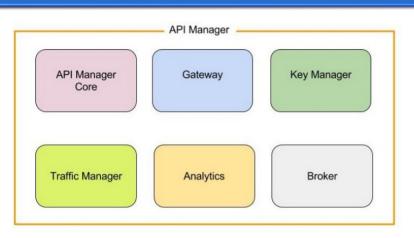
Other then using distinct trademark RSpec semantics Serverspec is just a soundalike tool which translates acceptance criteria simply into core OS and software feature probes.

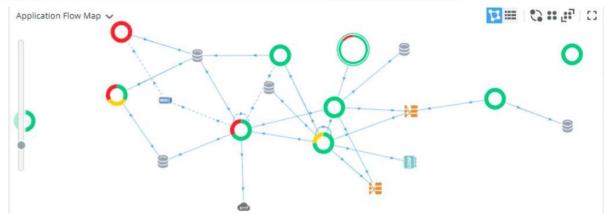






Cloud architect envisions building a platform for some integrated enterprise modern application stack using WSO/2 API Manager facilities to create, publish, manage, version, control access, throttle and monetize the APIs.

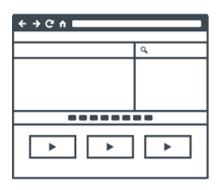




Cloud cluster will be provisioned by Puppet



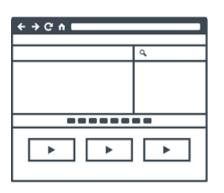


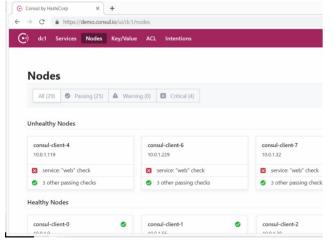




Platform will offer to mobile and web customers the existing and future API



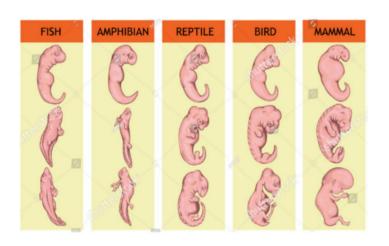


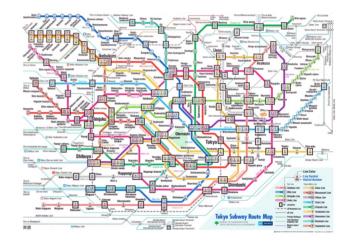




org.springframework.cloud.client.discovery
public interface DiscoveryClient

DiscoveryClient represents read operations
commonly available to
Discovery service such as
Netflix Eureka or consul.io





Puppet strengths

- Control repository and r10k effectively manage environments through git braches Hiera separate parameters from the manifests with easy parameter override Puppet operates system information and module specific facts to
- compile and apply the catalog

Coarse resource inventory

Fragment of the puppet log reporting creation of a file resource

```
==> targetnode: Notice:
/Stage[main]/Main/Node[default]/File[/var/www/html/index.html]/ensure:
defined content as '{md5}1ee4fb5c27dc46bb5cfa56065039bef5'
==> targetnode: Notice: <!DOCTYPE html>
```

Fragment of the puppet command reporting status of the same file resource

```
puppet resource file
Error: Could not run: Listing all file instances is not supported.
Please specify a file or directory

puppet resource file '/var/www/html/index.html'
file { '/var/www/html/index.html':
    ensure => 'file',
    content => '{md5}1ee4fb5c27dc46bb5cfa56065039bef5',
```

Granular Configuration Management Example

```
Fragment of the real systemd service unit file
 /etc/systemd/system/gateway.service
[Unit]
Description=service
Requires=some prereq.service
After=another.service
[Service]
User=appuser
Environment=JAVA_HOME=/opt/jvm/java
Environment='JAVA_OPTS=-Dcom.mycompany.package.App.app=/home/appuser/.app
javaagent:/opt/appdynamics/appserveragent/javaagent.jar,EXTRA JARS
=/opt/appdynamics/additional.jar'
ExecStart=...
ExecStartPre=...
[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

Granular Configuration Management Example

Fragment of the real apache configuration fragment hieradata/template configuration example of templates/vhost/_security.erb

```
<% if @_modsec_disable_ids.is_a?(Hash) -%>
<% @_modsec_disable_ids.each do |location,rules| -%>
        <LocationMatch <%= location %>>
<% Array(rules).each do |rule| -%>
            SecRuleRemoveById <%= rule %>
        < end -%>
        </LocationMatch>
<% end -%>
</ end -%>
```

https://github.com/puppetlabs/puppetlabs-apache/blob/master/ templates/vhost/_security.erb

Granular Configuration Management Example (2)

Fragment of the real apache module manifest dealing with security configuration manifests/vhost.pp

https://github.com/puppetlabs/puppetlabs-apache/blob/master/
manifests/vhost.pp

Serverspec comes to rescue

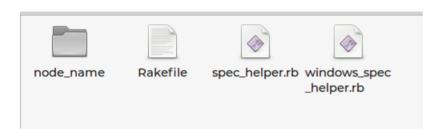
The home page https://serverspec.org/ describes core resource types:
bond | bridge | cgroup | command | cron | default_gateway | docker_container | docker_image | file | group | host |
iis_app_pool | iis_website | interface | ip6tables | ipfilter | ipnat | iptables | kernel_module | linux_audit_system |
linux_kernel_parameter | lxc | mail_alias | mysql_config | package | php_config | port | ppa | process | routing_table |
selinux | selinux_module | service | user | x509_certificate | x509_private_key | windows_feature |
windows_registry_key | yumrepo | zfs

Code hosted on github in mizzy/serverspec, mizzy/specinfra ,vvchik/vagrant-serverspec, covers 20+ operating systems

A very similar inspec/inspec framework exists for Chef.

A handful of active projects present extended types created for popular app stack spec like npm, ELK etc.

Intro to Serverspec



- Directory with spec file(s) named as target node for multi node provisioning
- Helper file spec_helper.rb with OS-specific configuration ssh, sudo, tempfile and sets the :backend to either :cmd, :exec, :ssh or :winrm. Usually helper files for Windows and unix are stored separately
- Rakefile where path to every spec file passed to constructor of RSpec::Core::RakeTask
- An rspec <filename> command is also possible (with the same effect) and often used with Docker

Intro to Serverspec

The most basic spec are just a copy of the http://serverspec.org with only change in the subject name

```
context 'Basic' do
  name = 'jenkins'
  describe service(name) do
    it { should be_enabled }
    it { should be_running }
  end
end

service 'jenkins' do
  action [:enable, :start]
end
```

```
service {'jenkins':
   ensure => running,
   enable => true,
end
```



Where are practical expectations

The stock example would fit to validate the Jenkins module from Puppet Forge, but in practical scenario one's expectations are more specific

```
context 'Jenkins Security' do
   xmlfile = '/var/lib/jenkins/config.xml'
   describe file(xmlfile) do
      it { should exist }
      its(:content) { should match '<useSecurity>false</useSecurity>'}
   end
end
```

Exploring Serverspec

```
Having noticed that the 'file' method is backend run of a cat 'run_command', and intending to processes XML in Ruby one would compose the test which does just that. Gets complex quickly
```

```
require 'rexml/document'
  describe file(xmlfile) do
    begin
      content = Specinfra.backend.run command("cat '#{xmlfile}'").stdout
      begin
        doc = Document.new(content); // ready for some DOM processing
        result = true
      rescue ParseException => e
        result = false
      end
    rescue => e
      result = false
    end
    it { result.should be truthy }
  end
  https://github.com/mizzy/serverspec/blob/master/lib/serverspec/type/hadoop_config.rb
```

Exploring Serverspec

Running vendor command is the ultimate way to query app configuration, especially when provision is broken and focus on verifying too close to what Puppet is modifying could yield a false positive

```
context 'Mysql Datadir' do
  custom_datadir = '/opt/mysql/var/lib/mysql/'
  describe command(<<-EOF
    mysql -sBEe 'select @@datadir;'
  EOF
  ) do
    its(:exit_status) {should eq 0 }
    # implicitly confirm the mysql is running
    its(:stdout) { should match custom_datadir }
  end
end</pre>
```

Raise of custom Serverspec

One is basically interested in

- application configuration files (JSON, XML)
- systemd service details, varioùs responsé headers to web requests,
- open TCP ports, Unix socket and windows pipes
- download artifact hashes
- Jenkins fine level details of Jenkins job and pipeline configs
- GAC and assemblies
- Scheduled Tasks (Windows) and cron jobs (unix)
- Puppet last run reports

As a result one has quickly growing collection. E.g. repo https://github.com/sergueik/serverspec_custom_types contains 100+100 snippets for each Linux and Windows.



Serverspec implementation





Extreme serverspec

The engine responsible for the serverspec execution resembles that of Puppet or Chef: source is sent from developer to the target node to be eventually converted into target OS specific low level commands to execute - result is sent back to the developer. Unlike provision the serverspec is executed for its direct, not side effects. Both serverspec and Puppet has significant amount of code wrapping the actual command in some custom DSL, however a plain Exec/Command class is still available.

In the extreme case in the body of a Ruby spec Command, one could find a full source code of a java class that would be compiled and run in the target node to load and examine some cryptic JDBC, or ELK configuration changes applied in the course of node provision:









There isn't any 'spy' facilities for server spec or unit test developments, neither are any in pure Ruby, Java or .Net, nor there is any 'recording' environment. To help new developers learn and quickly adopt to server spec follow clear *Rspec/Cucumber* semantics:

```
describe service('tomcat') do
  it {should be running }
end
describe port(8443) do
  it { should be listening.with('tcp') }
end
{'linux-kstat' => '0.1.3' }.each do |package_name, package_version|
   describe package(package_name) do
     it { should be_installed.by('gem')
                   .with version(package version) }
    end
  end
```

Soon with the growing number of detail the only two qualifying resources are the file and the command

```
context 'Virtual Host settings' do
  describe file('/etc/httpd/conf.d/vhost.conf') do
  [ 'ProxyRequests Off',
      # multiple settings
  ].each do |line|
      its(:content) { should match "^\s*" + Regexp.escape(line) }
  end
  end
end
```

Eventually the *command* is where the tricky part is:

```
Context 'Security headers' do
   describe command('curl -k -I http://localhost') do
     its(:stdout) { should match /Server: Apache\/\d\.\d+\.\d+ (:?Unix|CentOS)/i }
   end
end
context 'Tomcat shutdown port' do
  server xml = "#{catalina home}/conf/server.xml"
  describe command(<<-E0F</pre>
   xmllint --xpath "/Server[@shutdown='SHUTDOWN']/@port" #{server xml}
  E0F
  ) do
    its(:exit status) { should eq 0 }
    its(:stdout) { should match 'port="-1"' }
  end
end
https://tomcat.apache.org/tomcat-8.5-doc/appdev/web.xml.txt
```

Gradually the *command* itself could become tricky but reusable (Ruby or libxml2 used to focus on specific XML node):

```
describe 'redirect port 8080' do
    doc = Document.new(content)
    result = REXML::XPath.first(doc, "/Server/Service/Connector[@port = \"8080\"]
/@redirectPort").value
    it { result.should match '8443' }
end

context 'Tomcat servlet configuration' do
    class_name = 'com.mycompany.mypackage.ControllerServlet'
    describe command(<<-EOF
        xmllint --xpath "//*[local-name()='servlet']/*[local-name()='servlet-class']/text(
#{web xml}</pre>
```

https://tomcat.apache.org/tomcat-8.5-doc/appdev/web.xml.txt

its(:stdout) { should match Regexp.new(class name) }

EOF) do

end

Eventually the *command* is where the tricky part is (jq used to focus into the specific node of the JSON configuration):

On Windows, Powershell and C# is used to retrieve obscure information about .Net

```
context 'specific assembly in GAC' do
  assembly name = 'WindowsFormsIntegration'
  token = '31bf3856ad364e35'
  describe command(<--EOF</pre>
  result = @()
    [Object].Assembly.GetType('Microsoft.Win32.Fusion').GetMethod('ReadCache')
    .Invoke($null, @([Collections.ArrayList]$result, '#{assembly name}', [UInt32]2 ))
  $result
  E0F
  do
    its(:stdout) { should contain
     "#{assembly_name}, Version=3.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=#{token}"
  end
end
```

Serverspec usage for Puppet and Consul

A concise passing serverspec expectation may easily become a Puppet fact or an mco,knife/consul probe command

```
Facter.add('version') do
   confine :kernel => 'windows'
        script = "([xml](get-content -path 'version.xml')).Info.Product.version"
        command = "powershell.exe -executionpolicy remotesigned -command \" &
        { #{script} }\""
        result = Facter::Util::Resolution.exec(command)
end
```

```
consul exec https://$LEADER:$PORT rpm -q $PACKAGE \&\&
hostname -f | grep -A 1 $VERSION | grep -v $PACKAGE
```

A proper *Serverspec expectation* could replace native Ruby Puppet module *fact* which can be quite cryptic:

```
Facter.add('version') do
  extend FFI::Library
  ffi lib 'version.dll'
  attach function :resource size,:GetFileVersionInfoSizeA [:ptr, :ptr ], :int
  attach function :version, :GetFileVersionInfoA, [:ptr,:int,:int,:buf out], :int
  version information = '\VarFileInfo\Translation'.encode('UTF-16LE')
  result = ' ' * (resource size(filepath, nil))
  status = version(filename, 0, size_in_bytes, result)
  tmp = result.unpack('v*').map{ |s| s.chr if s < 256 } * ''
  version_match = /FileVersion\s+\b([0-9.]+)\b/.match(tmp.gsub!(/\0001/))
  version match[1].to s
end
```

```
Serverspec expectation could be used for consul "script-kind" service check similar to
/etc/consul.d/mongodb.json:

{
    "service": {
        "name": "mongo-db",
        "tags": ["mongo"],
        "address": "192.168.31.02",
        "port": 27017,
```

"script": "/usr/bin/check_mongo.py --host 192.168.31.02 --port 27017",

https://www.consul.io/docs/agent/checks.html

"interval": "5s"

"name": "Checking MongoDB"

"checks": [

Making Java Application consul-ready

The *http-kind service check* heartbeat-response is provided by Spring after annotation is provided and dependency added to pom.xml:

```
@SpringBootApplication
@EnableDiscoveryClient
public class DiscoverableApplication {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    SpringApplication.run(DiscoverableApplication.class, args);
<dependency>
  <groupId>org.springframework.boot</groupId>
  <artifactId>spring-boot-starter-actuator</artifactId>
</dependency>
```

Serverspec Integration challenges





Vagrant Serverspec provisoner

serverspec vagrant provisioner is part of the Vagrant flow, a little bit of disadvantage so its rake spec is from a deep stack of Ruby calls

elementary tasks like \$DEBUG = ENV.fetch('DEBUG', false) become a bit problematic serverspec is scheduled afterprovision and rerun is time consuming - not really when module is idempotent with default settings error stack is super extra verbose

spec file (node_spec.rb) is not visible to therefore can not be produced by Puppet module - solvable through relative reference placing under files/serverspec/rhel/module_spec.rb and making the legacy one simply require_relative '../../files/serverspec/rhel/module_spec.rb', with the actual path determined by workspace directory layout

assumes the availability of ssh between developer machine and target instance which may change during secure environment provision

Serverspec through own Puppet module

serverspec being just a handful of text files plus a Ruby runtime – calls to be provisioned (rvm-hosted) through Puppet from archive and templates and an exec for rake spec on the instance then updates Puppet and Vagrant logs with the result. This remediates limitations

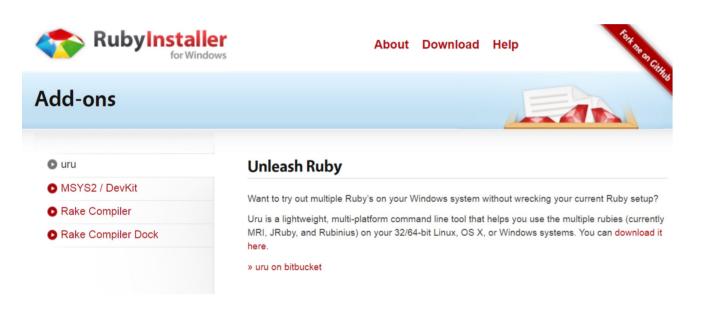
rake spec is directly in console and can be run explicitly after provision and the spec file edited in the instance. Debugging is easy.

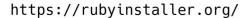
Spec file is generated by Puppet from template, hieradata etc. for version-sensitive portion (one can also keep serverspec require relative for Vagrant runs)

Runs on DMZ machine after lockdown, the results pushed to the developer, CICD etc.

A little cumbersome to modify file locally and push to the vm to validate

Serverspec through own Puppet module





Serverspec through own Puppet module

```
path: "node/%{::trusted.certname}.yaml"
  - name: 'Per-role data'
    path: "role/%{trusted.extensions.pp role}.yaml"
  - name: 'Shared data'
    path: common.vaml
context 'Packages' do
    consul => nil,
    tomcat \Rightarrow '7.0.54-2',
    idk => '1.8.0.192'
  }. each do |name,version|
    describe package(name) do
      it { should be_installed.with_version(version)}
    end
 end
end
```

hierarchy:

- name: 'Per-node data'

Puppet-RSpec

- Stubs target OS, environment facts, module parameters and hiera data
- Compiles and examines the 'Catalog'
- Asserts the specified actions are taken
- All that without requiring one to spawn the real instance
- Real provision will behave according to those specs

http://rspec-puppet.com

htps://github.com/chefspec/chefspec/tree/master/examples

Puppet Rspec is useful with module and profile development and refactoring intelligent upgrade / downgrade logic is critical (present|latest|absent) with complex module logic or generation of complex configurations



Chef Spec

- Performs the Puppet manifest / Chef cookbook compile check, allexceptions will be also seen in real provision
- Dumps catalog through one of few available methods:

```
describe 'module' do
   it { should compile.with_all_deps}
   at_exit { RSPec::Puppet::Coverage.report! }
   it { p catalogue.resource}
end
```

no example for Chef

Chef Spec

- Stubs target platform, ohai, cookbook attributes
- Performs 'Converge' and examines the catalog, asserts specified actions are taken

```
require 'chefspec'
require 'ison'
describe 'selenium hub::default' do
  let(:chef_run) { ChefSpec::SoloRunner.converge(described recipe) }
  it 'creates selenium directory' do
    expect(chef run).to create directory('/opt/selenium')
  end
  it 'starts selenium hub service' do
    expect(chef_run).to start_service('selenium_hub')
  end
continued on the following slide
```

Chef Spec

Popular practice during module / cookbook development to run rspec to examine and fine tune resources produced from template, saving on a real Puppet / Chef run

```
describe 'selenium hub::default' do
  let(:chef run) { ChefSpec::SoloRunner.converge(described recipe) }
  it 'generates init script configuration' do
   expect(chef run).to render file('/etc/init.d/selenium hub')
 end
  it 'generates a valid json configuration' do
   expect(chef_run).to render_file('/opt/selenium/node.json')
    .with_content( satisfy do |content|
      JSON.parse(content) rescue nil
   end
 end
end
```

Puppet "defines" Spec

```
The Ruby DSL syntax is quite divergent
require 'spec helper'
describe 'logrotate::cron' do
  # NOTE: verbatim Puppet code
  let(:pre_condition) { 'class { "::logrotate": }' }
  context 'with default params' do
    let(:title) { 'test' }
    let(:params) { { ensure: 'present' } }
      it {
        is expected.to
          contain file('/etc/cron.test/logrotate').with ensure('present'
           .with content(
           %r|'/usr/sbin/logrotate /etc/logrotate.conf 2>&1'|)
  end
      https://github.com/voxpupuli/puppet-logrotate
end
```

Chef Resource Relationship Spec

```
The Ruby DSL offers advanced 'relationship' expectation API, which unfortunately
are not to be fully relied upon
it do
  should contain_file('c:/temp/log')
          .with(ensure => 'directory'
          .that requires('c:/temp')
          .that comes before('Acl[c:/temp/log]')
end
it 'notifies service' do
    resource = chef run.file(@setenv file)
    expect(resource).to not
      notify("service['#{@application_server}']").to(:restart).delayed
end
```

Chef Resource Relationship Spec

Overall with very few exceptions Rspec is valuable to module developer only. These specific scenarios include:

Module so flexible it is impractical to test all combination every supported configuration. E.g. logrotate that is a good example

https://github.com/rodjek/puppet-logrotate/blob/master/spec/defines/rule_spe
c.rb

-1100 + lines very granular.

Puppet module like puppetlabs-apache which managing something that is probably more complex, in many ways, than Puppet itself. Thus module also has 2000+ lines in some rspec

https://github.com/puppetlabs/puppetlabs-apache/blob/master/spec/defines/
vhost_spec.rb

and also has equailly big acceptance tests focusing on security, ssl, cgi, vhosts etc.

https://github.com/puppetlabs/puppetlabs-apache/tree/master/spec/acceptance with 1700 lines of

https://github.com/puppetlabs/puppetlabs-apache/blob/master/spec/acceptance/
vhost_spec.rb

In this case, some configurations are not meaningful or valid from apache standpoint and to request means force the provision fail.

Puppet Beaker Integration testing tool

Recently, used Beaker wraps Vagrant(Docker) and Serverspec to provision the instance(s), iterating over supported target platforms, often performing multiple consecutive puppet agent runs, and inspects the catalog compilation status and examines catalogs, focusing on reboots, idempotency (by ensring no resources are modified in the second run).

```
Taking somewhat Rails-like metaprogramming style in defining boilerplate reusable but vague expectations
require 'spec_helper_acceptance'

it 'should run with no errors applying all changes in the first run' do
    apply_manifest(<<-EOF
        include stdlib
    EOF

, :modulepath => '/etc/puppetlabs/code/modules',
    :debug => true,
    :catch_failures => true).exit_code).to eq 2 # be_zero
end
```

https://www.rubydoc.info/gems/beaker/2.4.1/Beaker/DSL/Helpers

Questions?



Thank You



Wells Fargo Developer Gateway developer.wellsfargo.com

