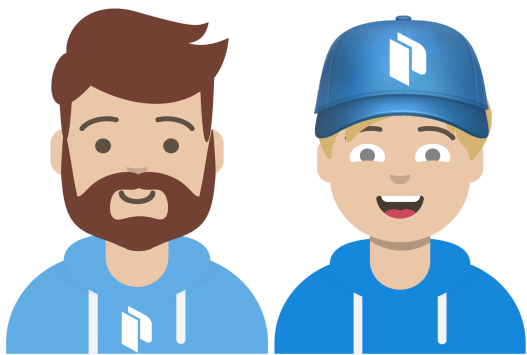


Building Automated Machine Images using HashiCorp Packer



Section 2: Writing Packer Templates

Configuration Syntax

HCL2

suggested format for templates moving forward in Packer 1.7+

HCL is designed to strike a balance between human-readable and machine-parsable

Terraform User? This looks familiar!!!

Configuration format is VCS friendly (multi-line lists, trailing commas, and auto-formatting)

file naming

.pkr.hcl

Any files with a different extension are ignored

syntax constructs

blocks

arguments

JSON

old way of writing templates

HCL2 vs. JSON

HCL Syntax

block organization

Commenting

/ xxx /

#

//

syntax highlighting

Plugins for Terraform/HCL exist for most major editors,

interpolation syntax

Declarative

references to other resources do not depend on the order they are defined

Configuration can be in a single file or split across multiple files.

Plugins

allow new functionality to be added to Packer without modifying the core source code.

Working with Packer's Core Components in HCL

Source Blocks

Builders

Variables

Post-Processors

Provisioners