Using policy_name to Define a Role for Nodes

Using policy_name instead of role objects

CHEF

Objectives

After completing this brief module, you should be able to

- Explain how policy_name replaces the legacy Role object
- Use knife search to display nodes

policy_name

Chef users sometimes used ***role*** objects to describe a run list of recipes that are executed on the node and to use for node searches.

Nowadays we use the policy_name for those purposes.

For example, all nodes that possess the **company_web** policy name would be configured in a similar or identical manner.

https://docs.chef.io/roles.html

policy_name

When you assign a common policy_name to a group of nodes, each node will receive the same cookbooks.

When these nodes perform a Chef Client run, they utilize recipes specified in the Policyfile run list.

https://docs.chef.io/roles.html

EXERCISE

GL: Verify that All Web Nodes Use the Same policy_name

Give your nodes a policy_name to better describe them and so we can configure them in a similar manner.

Objective:

- ❑ Confirm our node1 has the same policy_name (company_web) as the node3
- ❑ use `knife search` to list all or specific nodes

GL: List Your Nodes

```
$ knife node list
```

```
node1
node2
node3
```

GL: Searching for Nodes With a Specific policy_name

```
$ knife search node policy_name:company_web
2 items found

Node Name:   node1
Policy Name:  company_web
Policy Group: prod
FQDN:        ip-172-31-18-33.us-east-2.compute.internal
IP:          3.16.131.207
Run List:    recipe[company_web::default]
Recipes:     company_web::default, apache::default, apache::server
Platform:    centos 7.8.2003
Tags:

Node Name:   node3
Policy Name:  company_web
Policy Group: prod
FQDN:        ip-172-31-24-5.us-east-2.compute.internal
IP:          52.15.221.52
Run List:    recipe[company_web::default]
Recipes:     company_web::default, apache::default, apache::server
Platform:    centos 7.8.2003
```

GL: Verify that All Web Nodes Use the Same policy_name

We will give our nodes a role to better describe them and so we can configure them in a similar manner.

Objective:

✓ Confirm our node1 has the same policy_name (company_web) as the node3 node
✓ Use `knife search` to list all or specific nodes

company_web Policy Name

In the next module you will learn more about using search and you will put the company_web policy name to work for you.

Why policy_name Aka Roles

- Group nodes of common function
- Define runlist (one or multiple) and assign a role, then execute a role in a node
- Search nodes easily
- Multiple platforms running different recipes can have same role. E.g. iis_server in windows, apache_server in linux has different recipes, but role can be same {company_web_server}
- Easy and logically manage multiple platforms at once

Roles still work but deprecated

```
$ knife search node role:*
```

```
Returns all 3 nodes
```


CHEF

Roles still work but deprecated

```
$ knife search node role:* -a roles
```

```
3 items found

node1:
  roles:


node3:
  roles:


node2:
  roles:
```


CHEF

Q&A

What questions can we help you answer?

CHEF

CHEF™