AWX Server Setup

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# 1. Prerequisites:

* Fresh Ubuntu 18.04 Server install
* RAM: 3+ GB
* Disk Space: 40+ GB
* Bridged network adapter (if using a VM)

The following tutorial will guide you through setting up Ubuntu Server 18.04:

<https://www.fosslinux.com/6406/how-to-install-ubuntu-server-18-04-lts.htm>

# 2. AWX Installation Procedures

## 2.1 Obtain Local IP Address

Run the following command to obtain your IP address:

|  |
| --- |
| **ip addr** |

Make a note of the server IP address you see from the output. For example:

|  |
| --- |
| awxuser@awxserver:~$ ip addr  1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER\_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group default qlen 1000  link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00  inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo  valid\_lft forever preferred\_lft forever  inet6 ::1/128 scope host  valid\_lft forever preferred\_lft forever  2: ens33: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER\_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq\_codel state UP group default qlen 1000  link/ether 00:0c:29:67:b2:b7 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff  inet 192.168.41.66/23 brd 192.168.41.255 scope global dynamic ens33  valid\_lft 85833sec preferred\_lft 85833sec  inet6 fe80::20c:29ff:fe67:b2b7/64 scope link  valid\_lft forever preferred\_lft forever  awxuser@awxserver:~$ |

## 2.2 Install AWX Dependencies

SSH into the server using PuTTY.

When you are logged into the server using PuTTY, copy and paste the following commands into the PuTTY window:

|  |
| --- |
| sudo apt update -y &&  sudo add-apt-repository ppa:ansible/ansible -y &&  sudo apt install ansible -y &&  sudo apt install docker.io -y &&  sudo apt install python-pip -y &&  sudo pip install docker-compose==1.9.0 &&  sudo pip install docker-py &&  sudo apt install nodejs npm -y &&  sudo npm install npm --global |

This will install the initial dependencies for the AWX server.

## 2.3 Verify Docker & Ansible Installation

Check Ansible and Docker by using the following commands:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo ansible --version**  **sudo docker version** |

You should see the following results:

|  |
| --- |
| awxuser@awxserver:~$ sudo ansible --version  ansible 2.9.4  config file = /etc/ansible/ansible.cfg  configured module search path = [u'/home/awxuser/.ansible/plugins/modules', u'/usr/share/ansible/plugins/modules']  ansible python module location = /usr/lib/python2.7/dist-packages/ansible  executable location = /usr/bin/ansible  python version = 2.7.17 (default, Nov 7 2019, 10:07:09) [GCC 7.4.0]  awxuser@awxserver:~$ sudo docker version  Client:  Version: 18.09.7  API version: 1.39  Go version: go1.10.1  Git commit: 2d0083d  Built: Fri Aug 16 14:20:06 2019  OS/Arch: linux/amd64  Experimental: false  Server:  Engine:  Version: 18.09.7  API version: 1.39 (minimum version 1.12)  Go version: go1.10.1  Git commit: 2d0083d  Built: Wed Aug 14 19:41:23 2019  OS/Arch: linux/amd64  Experimental: false  awxuser@awxserver:~$ |

## 2.4 Download AWX Source

Download the AWX v9.1.0 server source code and go to the installation directory with the following commands:

|  |
| --- |
| **git clone https://github.com/ansible/awx -b 9.1.0**  **cd awx/installer** |

## 2.5 AWX Pre-Install Configuration

Generate a new secret key for AWX using the following command:

|  |
| --- |
| **openssl rand -hex 32** |

Copy the generated secret key to the clipboard.

Edit the 'inventory' configuration file.

|  |
| --- |
| **vim inventory** |

Change the value of 'secret\_key' from to the output of the 'openssl' command above.

Change the 'postgres\_data\_dir' to the *"/var/lib/pgdocker"* directory:

|  |
| --- |
| postgres\_data\_dir="/var/lib/pgdocker" |

Change the 'host\_port' to *8080*:

|  |
| --- |
| host\_port=8080 |

Change the 'docker\_compose\_dir' to "*/var/lib/awx*"

|  |
| --- |
| docker\_compose\_dir="/var/lib/awx" |

Uncomment the 'project\_data\_dir' and leave the default value:

|  |
| --- |
| project\_data\_dir=/var/lib/awx/projects |

Change the credentials for the 'pg\_password', 'rabbitmq\_password', 'rabbitmq\_erlang\_cookie', 'admin\_user' and 'admin\_password' with your own password credentials. Do not include special characters in the password as this can break the install.

To see the active config entries, issue the following command:

|  |
| --- |
| **grep -v "^#" inventory | grep -v "^$"** |

You should see the similar results to the following:

|  |
| --- |
| awxuser@awxserver:~/awx/installer$ grep -v "^#" inventory | grep -v "^$"  localhost ansible\_connection=local ansible\_python\_interpreter="/usr/bin/env python"  [all:vars]  dockerhub\_base=ansible  awx\_task\_hostname=awx  awx\_web\_hostname=awxweb  postgres\_data\_dir="/var/lib/pgdocker"  host\_port=8080  host\_port\_ssl=443  docker\_compose\_dir="/var/lib/awx"  pg\_username=awx  pg\_password=CallM3Snak3  pg\_database=awx  pg\_port=5432  rabbitmq\_password=TheNamesPl1ssk3n  rabbitmq\_erlang\_cookie=ANumberOne  admin\_user=awxuser  admin\_password=awxpassword  create\_preload\_data=True  secret\_key=aa27d3da1b2bb4192265939e082f8e7ae1e30cd8dce1cfe943f564ca7ca3fbe8  project\_data\_dir=/var/lib/awx/projects  awxuser@awxserver:~/awx/installer$ |

## 2.6 Install AWX

Install the AWX server with the following command:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo ansible-playbook -i inventory install.yml** |

This is a snippet of what the result should look like if the install completed successfully:

|  |
| --- |
| TASK [local\_docker : Copy task image to docker execution] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  skipping: [localhost]  TASK [local\_docker : Load web image] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  skipping: [localhost]  TASK [local\_docker : Load task image] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  skipping: [localhost]  TASK [local\_docker : Set full image path for local install] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  skipping: [localhost]  TASK [local\_docker : Set DockerHub Image Paths] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  ok: [localhost]  TASK [local\_docker : Create /var/lib/awx directory] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  changed: [localhost]  TASK [local\_docker : Create Docker Compose Configuration] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  changed: [localhost] => (item=environment.sh)  changed: [localhost] => (item=credentials.py)  changed: [localhost] => (item=docker-compose.yml)  changed: [localhost] => (item=nginx.conf)  TASK [local\_docker : Render SECRET\_KEY file] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  changed: [localhost]  TASK [local\_docker : Start the containers] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  changed: [localhost]  TASK [local\_docker : Update CA trust in awx\_web container] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  changed: [localhost]  TASK [local\_docker : Update CA trust in awx\_task container] \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  changed: [localhost]  PLAY RECAP \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  localhost : ok=14 changed=6 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=100 r escued=0 ignored=0  awxuser@awxserver:~/awx/installer$ |

## 2.7 Verify AWX Installation

With the AWX server installed, this is a good time to check for problems before proceeding. Issue the following command to display the AWX log:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo docker logs -f awx\_task** |

The logs will continuously display until you press Ctrl-c. Normally, you would see something like the following:

|  |
| --- |
| 2020-02-11 14:00:41,345 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch publish awx.main.tasks.awx\_periodic\_scheduler(46570e74-f9c5-4181-a6cd-45cbf317ca78, queue=awx\_private\_queue)  [2020-02-11 14:00:41,345: DEBUG/Process-1] publish awx.main.tasks.awx\_periodic\_scheduler(46570e74-f9c5-4181-a6cd-45cbf317ca78, queue=awx\_private\_queue)  2020-02-11 14:00:41,379 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch delivered 46570e74-f9c5-4181-a6cd-45cbf317ca78 to worker[190] qsize 0  2020-02-11 14:00:41,384 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch task 46570e74-f9c5-4181-a6cd-45cbf317ca78 starting awx.main.tasks.awx\_periodic\_scheduler(\*[])  2020-02-11 14:00:41,399 DEBUG awx.main.tasks Starting periodic scheduler  2020-02-11 14:00:41,402 DEBUG awx.main.tasks Last scheduler run was: 2020-02-11 14:00:11.530984+00:00  2020-02-11 14:00:41,419 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch task 46570e74-f9c5-4181-a6cd-45cbf317ca78 is finished  2020-02-11 14:00:51,640 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch publish awx.main.scheduler.tasks.run\_task\_manager(5544bef6-bdfe-4d59-b084-cbea735c4104, queue=awx\_private\_queue)  [2020-02-11 14:00:51,640: DEBUG/Process-1] publish awx.main.scheduler.tasks.run\_task\_manager(5544bef6-bdfe-4d59-b084-cbea735c4104, queue=awx\_private\_queue)  2020-02-11 14:00:51,677 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch delivered 5544bef6-bdfe-4d59-b084-cbea735c4104 to worker[193] qsize 0  2020-02-11 14:00:51,680 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch task 5544bef6-bdfe-4d59-b084-cbea735c4104 starting awx.main.scheduler.tasks.run\_task\_manager(\*[])  2020-02-11 14:00:51,684 DEBUG awx.main.scheduler Running Tower task manager.  2020-02-11 14:00:51,698 DEBUG awx.main.scheduler Starting Scheduler  2020-02-11 14:00:51,725 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch task 5544bef6-bdfe-4d59-b084-cbea735c4104 is finished  RESULT 2  OKREADY  2020-02-11 14:01:10,907 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch publish awx.main.tasks.cluster\_node\_heartbeat(bae84654-267c-47d5-840c-8cb42fc1f48e, queue=awx)  [2020-02-11 14:01:10,907: DEBUG/Process-1] publish awx.main.tasks.cluster\_node\_heartbeat(bae84654-267c-47d5-840c-8cb42fc1f48e, queue=awx)  2020-02-11 14:01:10,951 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch delivered bae84654-267c-47d5-840c-8cb42fc1f48e to worker[191] qsize 0  2020-02-11 14:01:10,957 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch task bae84654-267c-47d5-840c-8cb42fc1f48e starting awx.main.tasks.cluster\_node\_heartbeat(\*[])  2020-02-11 14:01:10,961 DEBUG awx.main.tasks Cluster node heartbeat task.  2020-02-11 14:01:10,981 DEBUG awx.main.dispatch task bae84654-267c-47d5-840c-8cb42fc1f48e is finished |

An indication of a bad install would be a large amount of repeating ERROR logs and stack traces.

## 2.8 Configure and Install Web Server

Install nginx and navigate to the nginx config directory with the following commands:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo apt install nginx -y**  **cd /etc/nginx/sites-available/** |

Create a new virtual host configuration called "*awx*" using vim:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo vim awx** |

Substitute the highlighted IP addresses before pasting the following configuration:

|  |
| --- |
| server {    listen 80;    server\_name 192.168.41.66;    add\_header Strict-Transport-Security max-age=2592000;    rewrite ^ https://$server\_name$request\_uri? permanent; }  server {     listen 443 ssl http2;     server\_name 192.168.41.66;      access\_log /var/log/nginx/awx.access.log;     error\_log /var/log/nginx/awx.error.log;      ssl on;     ssl\_certificate /etc/nginx/ssl/fullchain.pem;     ssl\_certificate\_key /etc/nginx/ssl/privkey.pem;     ssl\_session\_timeout 5m;     ssl\_ciphers EECDH+CHACHA20:EECDH+AES128:RSA+AES128:EECDH+AES256:RSA+AES256:EECDH+3DES:RSA+3DES:!MD5;     ssl\_protocols TLSv1.2;     ssl\_prefer\_server\_ciphers on;  location / {     proxy\_http\_version 1.1;     proxy\_set\_header Host $host;     proxy\_set\_header X-Real-IP $remote\_addr;     proxy\_set\_header X-Forwarded-For $proxy\_add\_x\_forwarded\_for;     proxy\_set\_header X-Forwarded-Proto $scheme;     proxy\_set\_header Upgrade $http\_upgrade;     proxy\_set\_header Connection "upgrade";     proxy\_pass http://192.168.41.66:8080/;     } } |

Activate the "*awx*" virtual host with the following command:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo ln -s /etc/nginx/sites-available/awx /etc/nginx/sites-enabled/** |

Create the */etc/nginx/ssl* directory and generate the self-signed SSL certificate and key with the following commands:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo mkdir /etc/nginx/ssl**  **sudo openssl req -x509 -nodes -days 365 -newkey rsa:2048 \**  **-keyout /etc/nginx/ssl/privkey.pem \**  **-out /etc/nginx/ssl/fullchain.pem** |

A series of questions will be asked during the creation of the certificate and key:

|  |
| --- |
| awxuser@awxserver:/etc/nginx/sites-available$ sudo mkdir /etc/nginx/ssl  awxuser@awxserver:/etc/nginx/sites-available$ sudo openssl req -x509 -nodes -days 365 -newkey rsa:2048 \  > -keyout /etc/nginx/ssl/privkey.pem \  > -out /etc/nginx/ssl/fullchain.pem  Can't load /home/awxuser/.rnd into RNG  140217327120832:error:2406F079:random number generator:RAND\_load\_file:Cannot open file:../crypto/rand/randfile.c:88:Filename=/home/awxuser/.rnd  Generating a RSA private key  ...................................+++++  .............................................................................................+++++  writing new private key to '/etc/nginx/ssl/privkey.pem'  -----  You are about to be asked to enter information that will be incorporated  into your certificate request.  What you are about to enter is what is called a Distinguished Name or a DN.  There are quite a few fields but you can leave some blank  For some fields there will be a default value,  If you enter '.', the field will be left blank.  -----  Country Name (2 letter code) [AU]:US  State or Province Name (full name) [Some-State]:VA  Locality Name (eg, city) []:Norfolk  Organization Name (eg, company) [Internet Widgits Pty Ltd]:  Organizational Unit Name (eg, section) []:  Common Name (e.g. server FQDN or YOUR name) []:192.168.41.66  Email Address []:  awxuser@awxserver:/etc/nginx/sites-available$ |

The nginx setup can be tested with the following command:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo nginx -t** |

If the test was successful, the results will look like this:

|  |
| --- |
| awxuser@awxserver:/etc/nginx/sites-available$ sudo nginx -t  nginx: the configuration file /etc/nginx/nginx.conf syntax is ok  nginx: configuration file /etc/nginx/nginx.conf test is successful  awxuser@awxserver:/etc/nginx/sites-available$ |

If there are no errors, restart the nginx service:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo systemctl restart nginx** |

## 2.9 Additional Configurations

When running playbooks from the CLI against a host, you will want to disable the interactive prompt that will cause the process to fail when the SSH client connects to a new host. First create a new Ansible config file:

|  |
| --- |
| **vim ~/.ansible.cfg** |

Then paste the following into the file:

|  |
| --- |
| [defaults]  host\_key\_checking = False |

To ensure Ansible is using this config, issue the following command:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo ansible --version** |

You should get the following results:

|  |
| --- |
| awxuser@awxserver:~$ sudo ansible --version  ansible 2.9.4  config file = /home/awxuser/ansible.cfg  configured module search path = [u'/home/awxuser/.ansible/plugins/modules', u'/usr/share/ansible/plugins/modules']  ansible python module location = /usr/lib/python2.7/dist-packages/ansible  executable location = /usr/bin/ansible  python version = 2.7.17 (default, Nov 7 2019, 10:07:09) [GCC 7.4.0]  awxuser@awxserver:~$ |

In order to run playbooks in AWX, you will need to create a new project folder:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo mkdir /var/lib/awx/projects/ruckus** |

This creates the 'ruckus' folder in the projects directory and this is where the YAML playbooks will go when you want to run them from the AWX web GUI.

An issue with the AWX install playbook is that it creates the ~/.ansible directory with a root owner. This can cause errors when certain playbooks connect to the AWX server host IP to run tasks. This can be fixed by running the following command:

|  |
| --- |
| sudo chown -R <username>:<username> ~/.ansible |

For example:

|  |
| --- |
| awxuser@awxserver:~$ sudo chown -R awxuser:awxuser ~/.ansible |

## 2.10 Install ICX Ansible Modules

If everything is working, you can install the Ansible ICX modules. They can be downloaded from this site (login required):

<https://support.ruckuswireless.com/software/2146-ansible-modules-for-icx>

Once the ICX module tar file is downloaded, you will need to get it onto the AWX server. You can push it with **pscp** from your host device by using the following command:

|  |
| --- |
| pscp <path-to-icx-module> <server\_username>@<server\_ip>:<target-path> |

For example:

|  |
| --- |
| C:\Users\Brian.Stepp>pscp C:\TFTP\icx\_ansible\_modules\_v1.0.tar.gz awxuser@192.168.41.66:  awxuser@192.168.41.66's password:  icx\_ansible\_modules\_v1.0. | 17102 kB | 17102.5 kB/s | ETA: 00:00:00 | 100% |

The home directory of the user on the server will be the root target path when pushing files with SCP. As nothing was specified after the ':' in the above example, the tar file was pushed to the '/home/awxuser/' folder on the server. You can verify the file exists on the server with the **ls** command in the target folder:

|  |
| --- |
| awxuser@awxserver:/etc/nginx/sites-available$ cd ~  awxuser@awxserver:~$ ls  awx icx\_ansible\_modules\_v1.0.tar.gz  awxuser@awxserver:~$ |

You will need to install the ICX modules into the Docker container name "*awx\_task*" as that is the container the AWX web GUI will be running the playbooks from.

Extract the ICX modules into the AWX projects folder with the following command:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo mkdir /var/lib/awx/projects/icx**  **sudo tar -xvf icx\_ansible\_modules\_v1.0.tar.gz -C /var/lib/awx/projects/icx** |

Now the modules can be installed from within the '*awx\_task*' docker container.

In order to run playbooks from the server CLI, you will need to install the modules on the server.

Go to the '*icx*' folder in the AWX projects directory and execute the '*easy\_install*' script:

|  |
| --- |
| **cd /var/lib/awx/projects/icx/**  **sudo ./easy\_install** |

Next console into the '*awx\_task*' container with the following command:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo docker exec -it awx\_task /bin/bash** |

When you are in the '*awx\_task*' docker container, navigate to the '*icx*' module folder and execute the '*easy\_install*' script:

|  |
| --- |
| **cd /var/lib/awx/projects/icx/**  **. easy\_install** |

ICX modules should now be installed and usable for playbooks run from the web GUI and the server CLI.

Clean up the install folder and exit the docker container with the following commands:

|  |
| --- |
| **cd /var/lib/awx/**  **rm -rf /var/lib/awx/projects/icx**  **exit** |

# 3. Ansible CLI Tutorial

## 3.1 Test Switch Connectivity

To test your credentials and connectivity to the switch, use the **ssh** command with this syntax:

|  |
| --- |
| ssh <user>@<hostip> -o KexAlgorithms=+diffie-hellman-group1-sha1 |

You should see the following output:

|  |
| --- |
| awxuser@awxserver:~$ ssh awxuser@192.168.20.72 -o KexAlgorithms=+diffie-hellman-group1-sha1  The authenticity of host '192.168.20.72 (192.168.20.72)' can't be established.  RSA key fingerprint is SHA256:4Vytdyb7L3DiRc+3CpcvqUGbeq1vCSoyFkg91n7htNM.  Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes  Warning: Permanently added '192.168.20.72' (RSA) to the list of known hosts.  Password:  SSH@NLAB-U01-AS-01>enable  Password:  SSH@NLAB-U01-AS-01# |

While in the switch display the config, then exit with the following commands:

|  |
| --- |
| skip  show running-config  exit  exit |

## 3.2 Run Tasks with *ansible* Command

A single **ansible** command can be run from the command line as an alternative to gathering information from switches manually:

|  |
| --- |
| sudo ansible all \  -i 192.168.20.72, \  -c network\_cli \  -k -K -b \  --become-method enable \  -e ansible\_network\_os=icx \  -m icx\_facts -a gather\_subset=all \  -u awxuser |

Command breakdown:

* Host group we are connecting to (all)
* -i specifies an inventory followed by either target device with a trailing comma.
* -k ask you for the ssh password
* -K ask you for the become (privileged user) password
* -b run operations with become
* --become-method priviledge escalation method
* -e sets an extra variable used by ansible, in this case setting the ansible\_network\_os to 'icx'
* -m name of the python module to execute
* -a sets an argument to pass to the python module
* -u login username for the switch

## 3.3 Run Sample Playbooks with *ansible-playbook* Command

Tasks run with the **ansible** command can be written into a YAML playbook that can be run with the **ansible-playbook** command and the AWX GUI.

First create a new playbook:

|  |
| --- |
| **vim ~/pbfacts.yml** |

Then copy and paste the following:

|  |
| --- |
| ---  - hosts: all  connection: network\_cli  gather\_facts: no  vars:  ansible\_network\_os: icx  ansible\_become: true  ansible\_become\_method: enable  tasks:  - name: Gather Switch Info  icx\_facts:  gather\_subset: all  register: output  - name: Show Info  debug:  msg: "{{ output }}" |

In this playbook you can see the command 'register' defines a variable named 'output' as the output of the task above it. Variables can be dereferenced using '{{ }}'.

To run this playbook, enter the following:

|  |
| --- |
| sudo ansible-playbook -i 192.168.20.72, -k -K -u awxuser pbfacts.yml |

Let's say VLAN 999 is to be configured on a switch. To create the VLAN manually, the following commands might be entered directly on the switch:

|  |
| --- |
| vlan 999 name U\_USER\_999 by port  tagged ethe 1/2/1 to 1/2/2  spanning-tree  !  write memory |

As an alternative to manually running the previous commands on a switch, a playbook can be created that can accomplish the same task.

First create the playbook file:

|  |
| --- |
| **vim ~/pbvlan.yml** |

Then copy and pasted the following:

|  |
| --- |
| ---  - hosts: all  connection: network\_cli  gather\_facts: no  vars:  ansible\_network\_os: icx  ansible\_become: true  ansible\_become\_method: enable  tasks:  - name: create vlan  icx\_config:  lines: |  vlan {{ vlan\_number }} name {{ vlan\_name }}  tagged {{ trunk\_ports }}  spanning-tree  write memory |

This playbook dereferences three variables that are not defined in the playbook. These variables can be defined with '-e' on the command line when running a playbook:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo ansible-playbook -i 192.168.20.72, -k -K \**  **-u awxuser \**  **-e trunk\_ports="'e1/2/1 e1/2/2'" \**  **-e vlan\_name=U\_USER\_999 \**  **-e vlan\_number=999 \**  **pbvlan.yml** |

In order to run the playbooks from the AWX GUI, they will need to be in a projects folder. First create a new project directory:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo mkdir /var/lib/awx/projects/ruckus** |

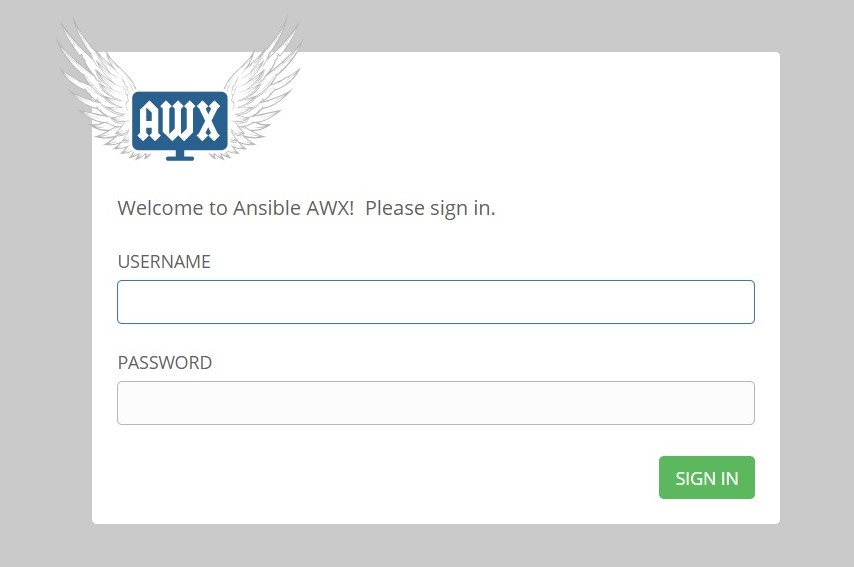
Then copy the playbooks into the project directory:

|  |
| --- |
| **sudo cp ~/pbfacts.yml ~/pbvlan.yml /var/lib/awx/projects/ruckus** |

# 4. AWX Basic Setup

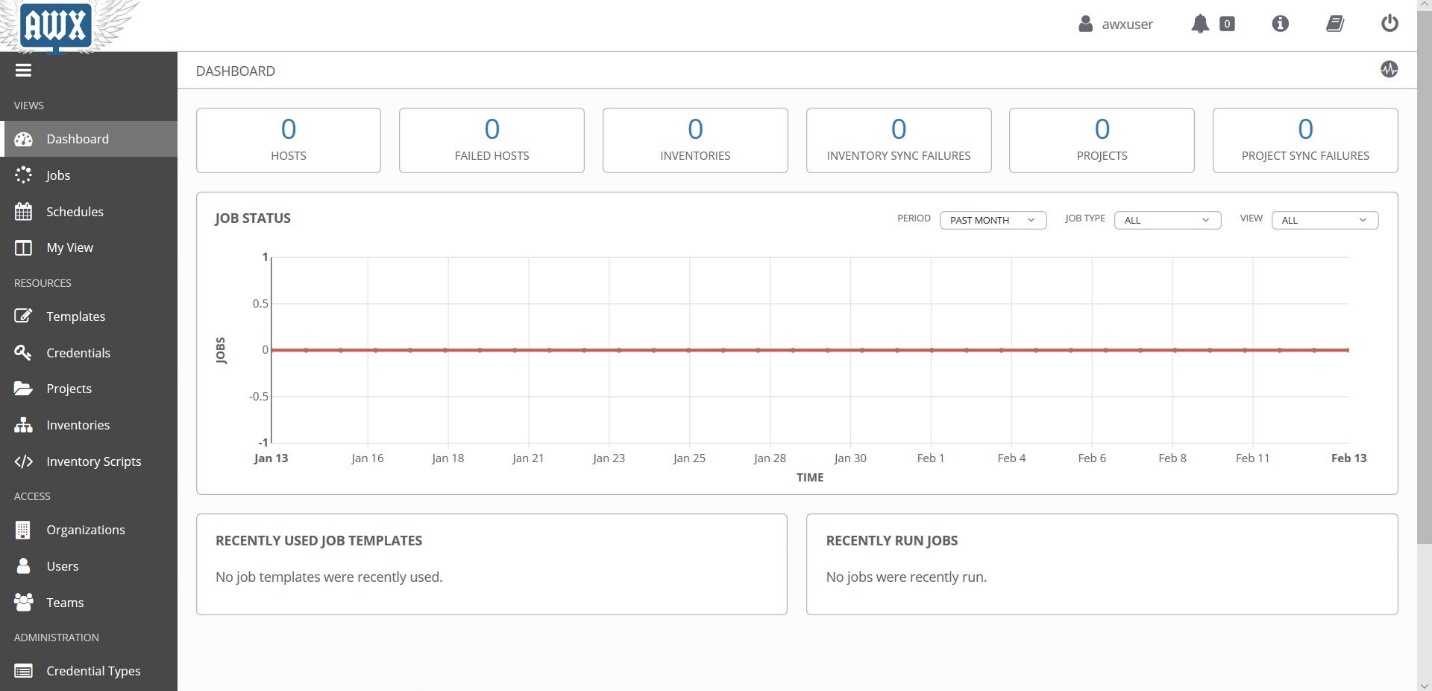
## 4.1 Initial GUI Login

At this point the AWX server setup should be finished and the AWX web GUI can be accessed from a browser by entering the AWX IP into the address bar. The AWX login page should display:



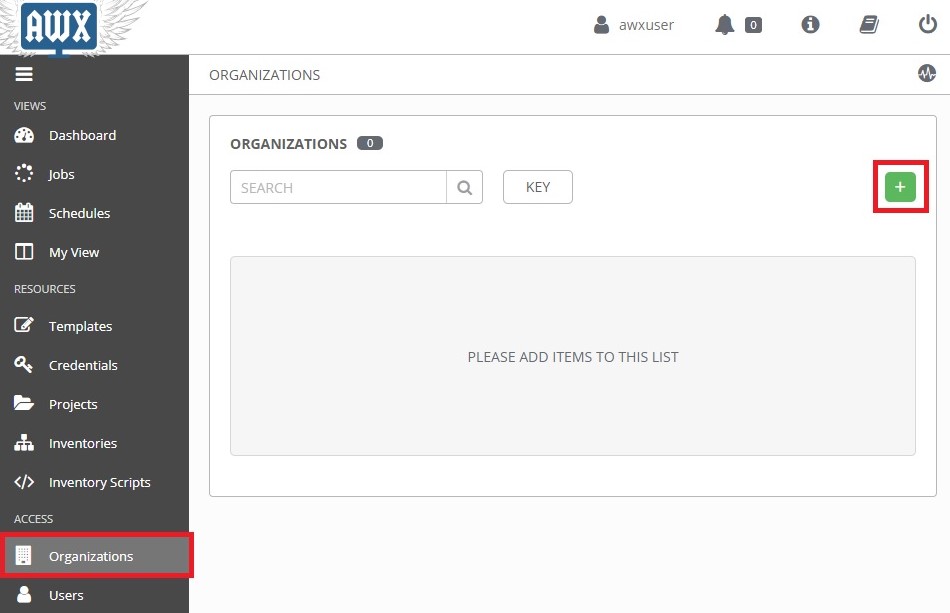
Login with the username and password that was set in the Inventory file (admin\_user & admin\_password).

Upon login, the dashboard will display with the navigation bar on the left:



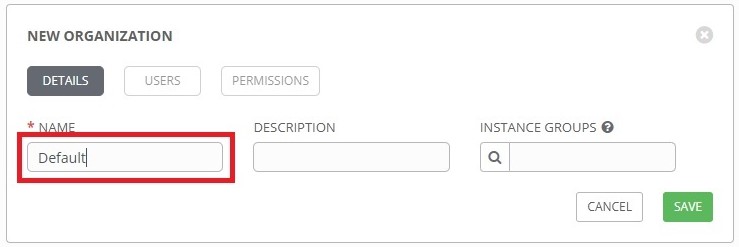
## 4.2 Create Organizations

Click the **Organizations** button from the left navigation bar, then click the **+** button:



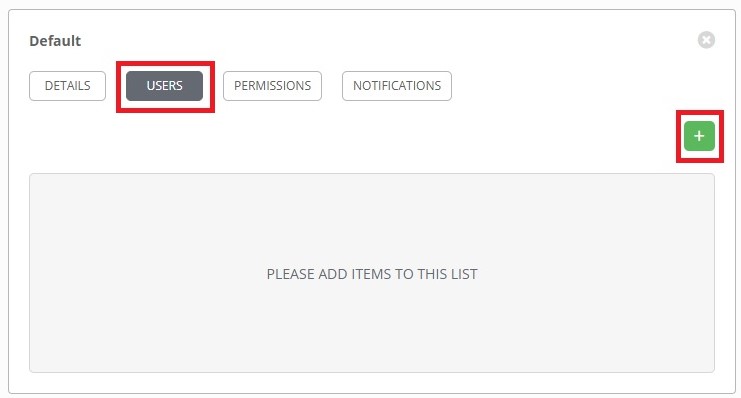
The **New Organization** page will display.

Type in the name of the new organization:

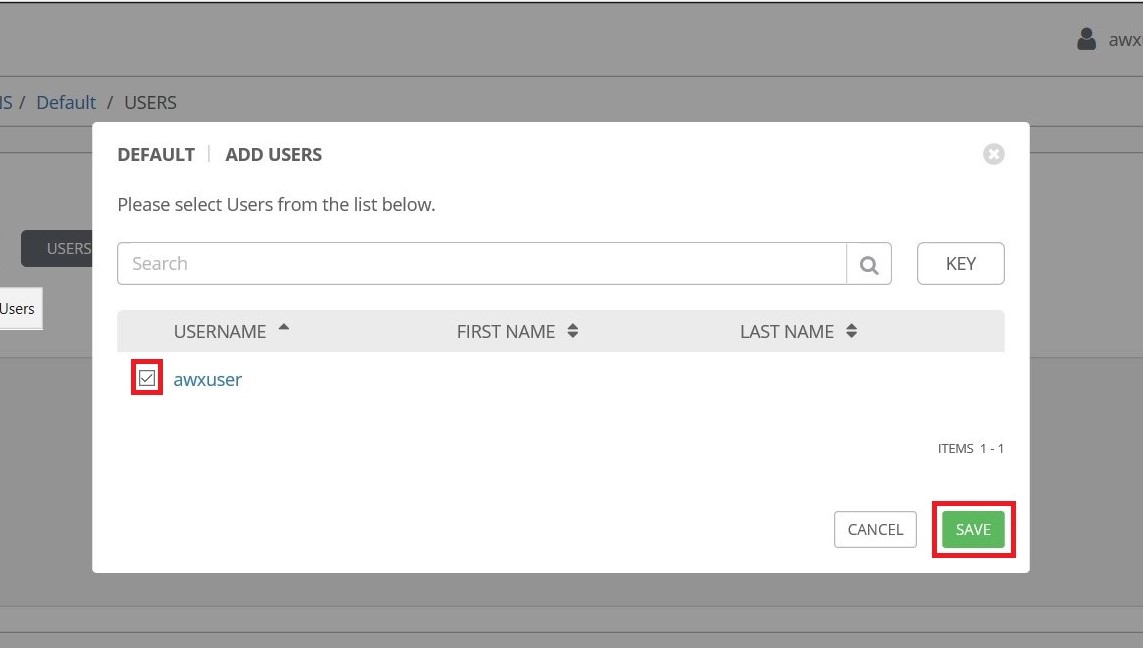


Click the **Save** button when finished.

Click the **Users** tab, then click the **+** button:



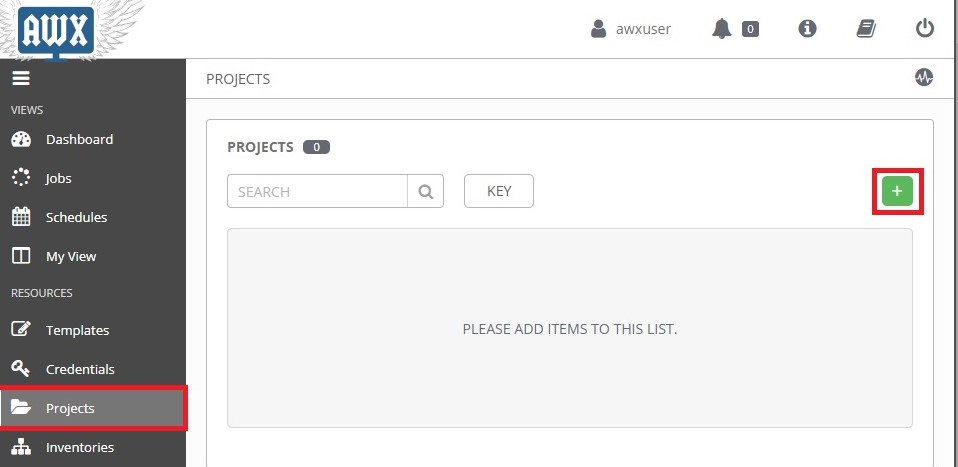
The **Add Users** box should display. You should see the default user created during the installation of the AWX server. Select the checkbox next to the user name, then click **Save**:



## 4.3 Create Projects

A project is a logical collection of playbooks. The following will guide you through the creation of a project whose playbooks have been manually placed in the project base path of the AWX server.

First click the **Projects** button from the left navigation menu. Then click the **+** button on the right:

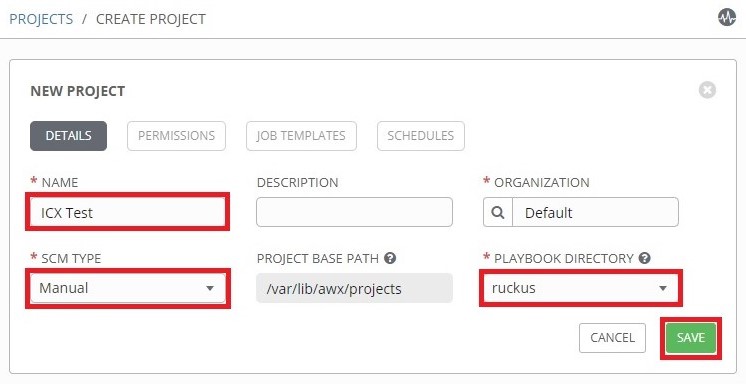


The **New Project** page will display. Complete the following fields:

**NAME:** Create a name for the project. Here it is named "*ICX Test*".

**SCM TYPE:** Select **Manual**.

**PLAYBOOK DIRECTORY:** Select the name of the folder you copied the playbooks into.

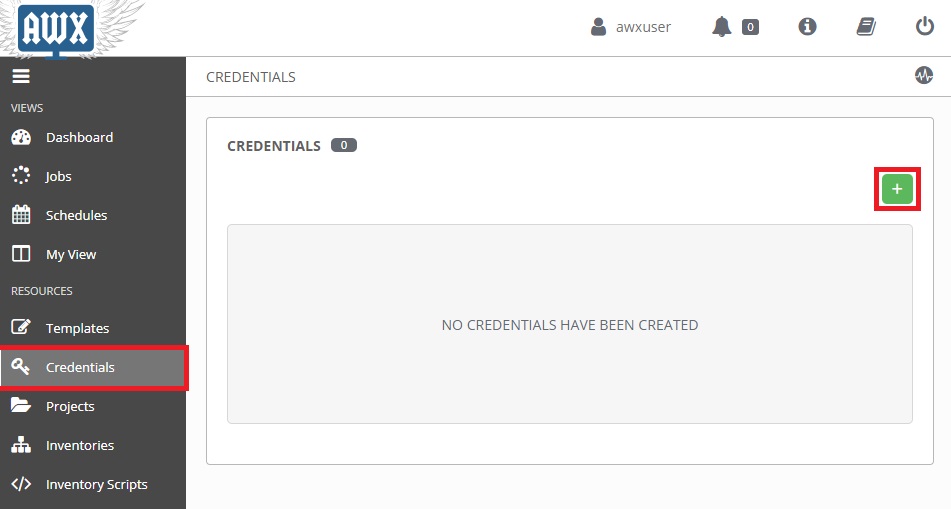


When finished, click the **Save** button.

## 4.4 Add Credentials

In order for AWX to log into a device, you will need to create a set of credentials that can be used in a playbook.

First click the **Credentials** button from the left navigation menu, then click the **+** button:

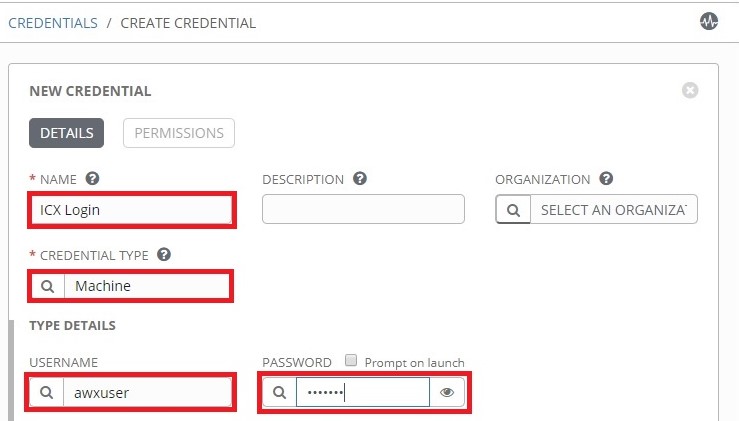


The **New Credential** page will display. Complete the following fields:

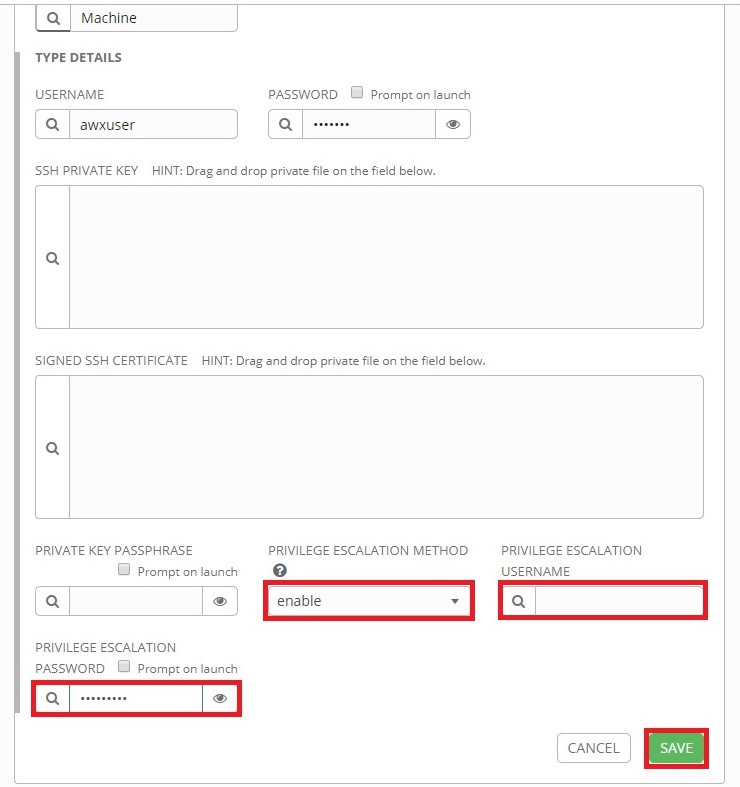
**NAME**: Create a name for the credential set. Here it is named "*ICX Login*"

**CREDENTIAL TYPE:** Select **Machine**.

**USERNAME** & **PASSWORD:** Enter the username and password used to login to the switch.



Scroll to the bottom of the **New Credential** page. Here you can set the enable username and/or password:

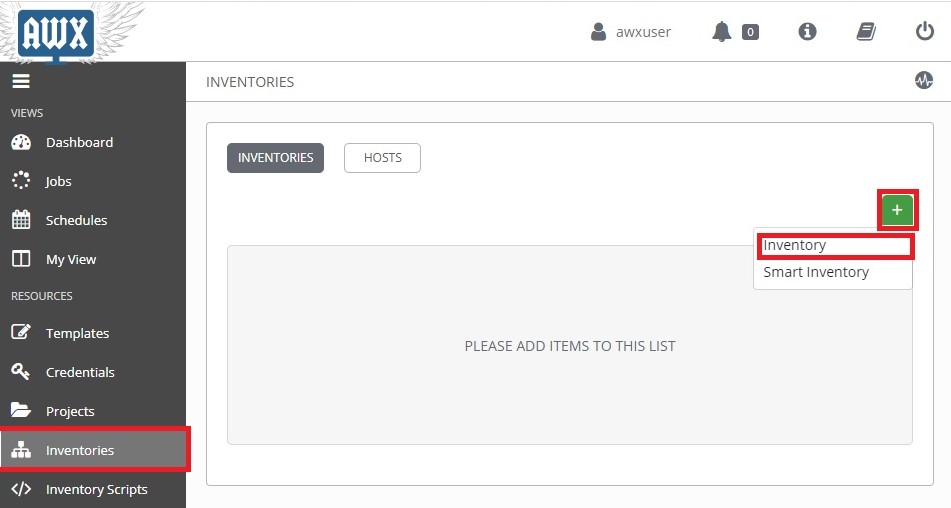


When finished, click **Save**.

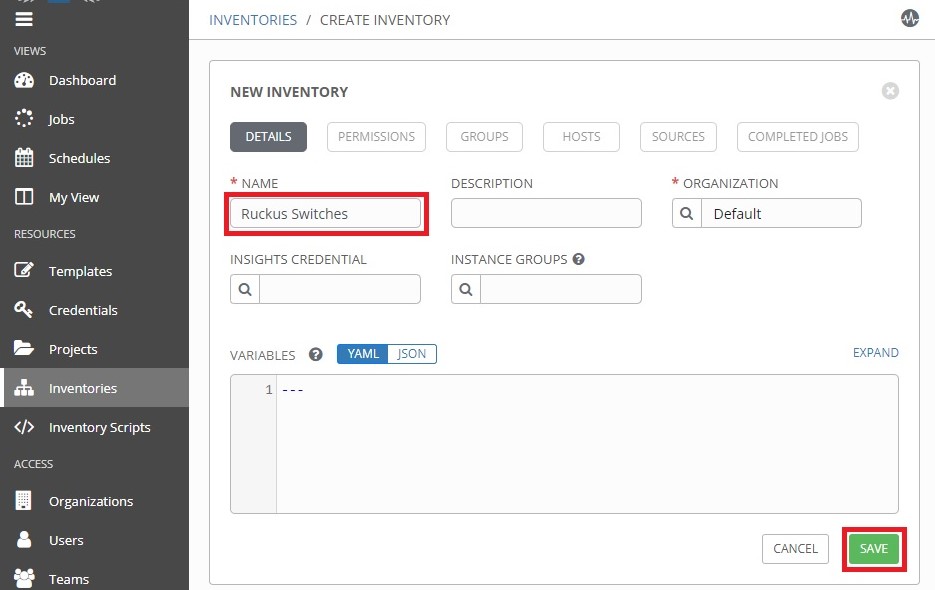
## 4.5 Create Inventories

In order to add a switch for AWX to manage, you will first need to create an inventory.

Click the **Inventories** button from the left navigation menu. Click the **+** button, then click **Inventory**:

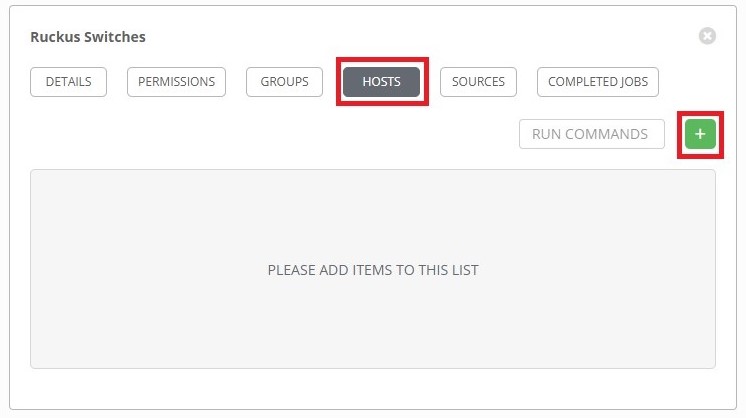


The **New Inventory** page will display. Create a name for your inventory, then click **Save**:



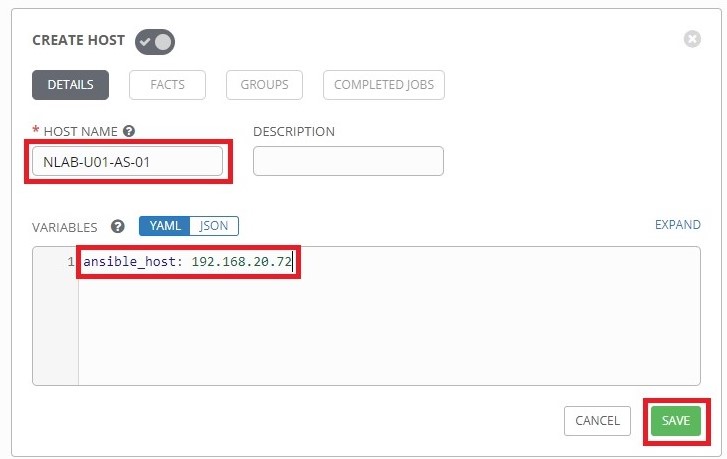
You can now add switches to the newly created inventory.

Click on the **Hosts** tab, then click the **+** button:



The **Create Host** page will display. Complete the following fields:

**HOST NAME:** Enter the hostname of the switch.

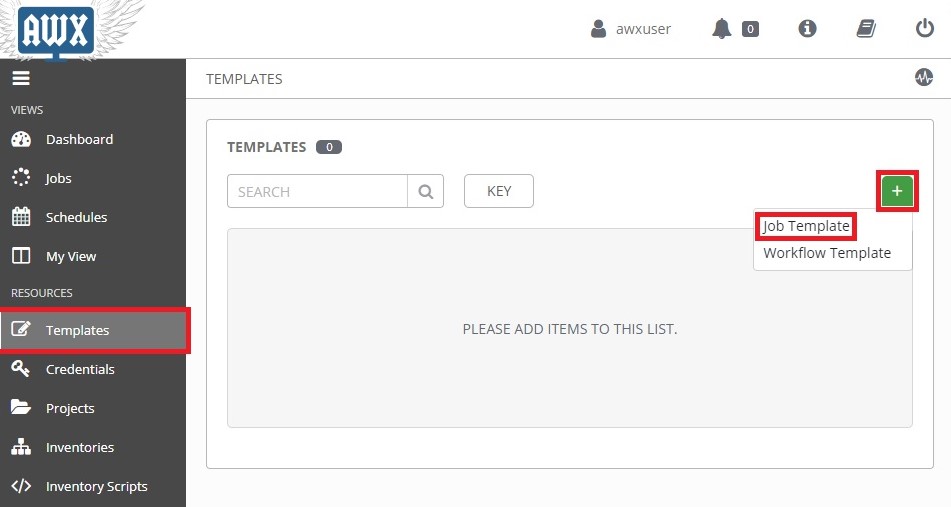
**VARIABLES:** Type "**ansible\_host:** " followed by the IP address of the switch.

When finished, click **Save.**

## 4.6 Creating Job Templates

Now that the other pieces are in place, job templates can be created to run against host devices. The following will guide you through the creation of a template that uses the '*pbfacts.yml*' playbook that was created earlier.

Click the **Templates** button from the left navigation bar. Click the **+** button, then click **Job Template**:



The **New Job Template** page will display. Complete the following fields:

**NAME:** Create a name for your template. Here it is named "*ICX Facts*".

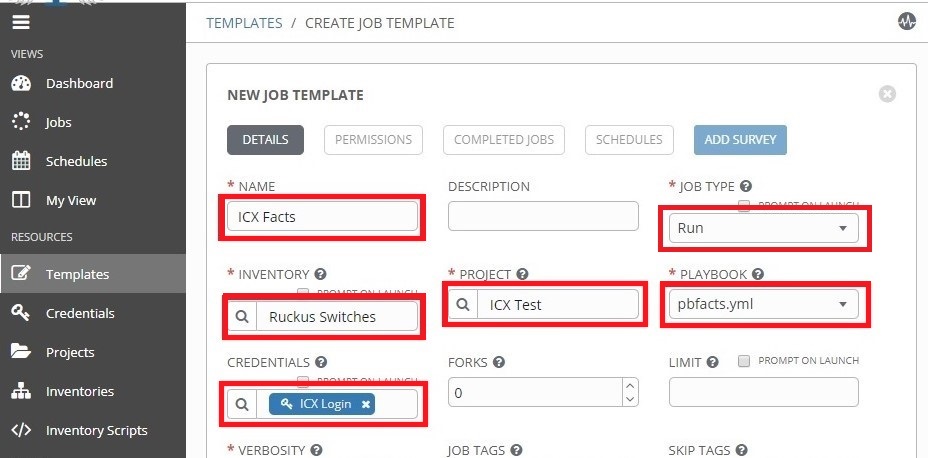
**JOB TYPE:** Select **Run**.

**INVENTORY:** Select the inventory you created for the switch.

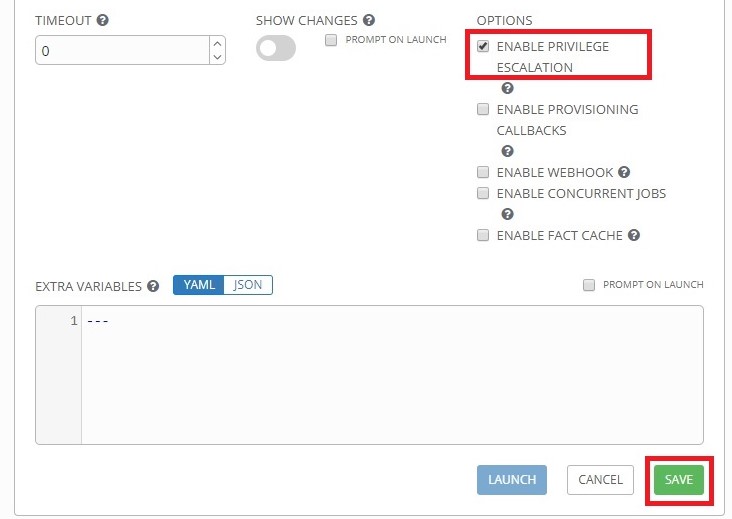
**PROJECT:** Select the project that contains the '*pbfacts.yml*' playbook.

**PLAYBOOK:** Select **pbfacts.yml**.

**CREDENTIALS:** Select the credential set that holds the switch login credentials.

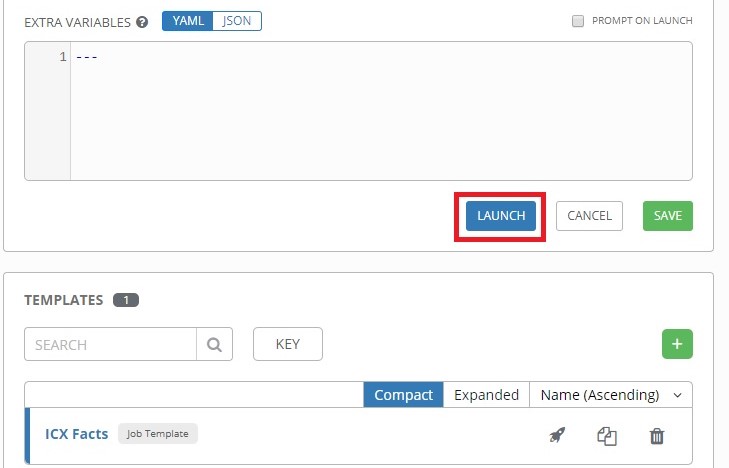


Scroll to the bottom of the page. Select **Enable Privilege Escalation** to make AWX run the template from enable mode. When you are finished, click **Save**:

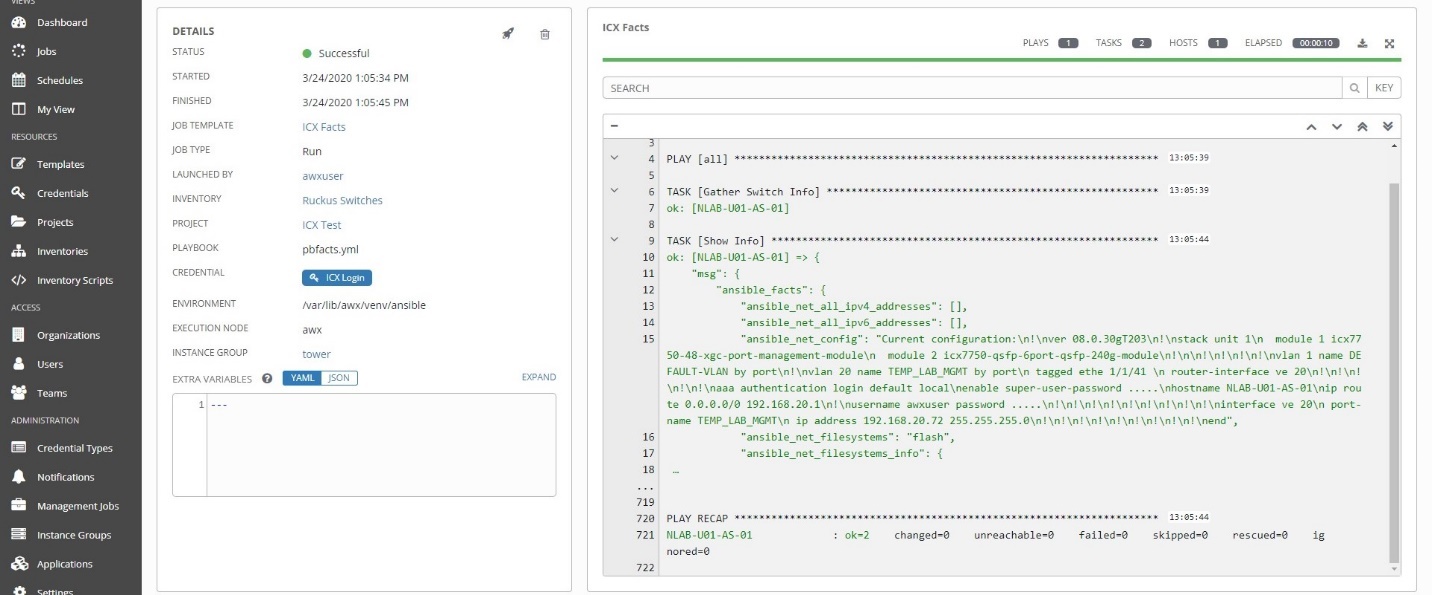


Once the template is saved, the **Launch** button will no longer be grayed out.

Click the **Launch** button to execute the template:

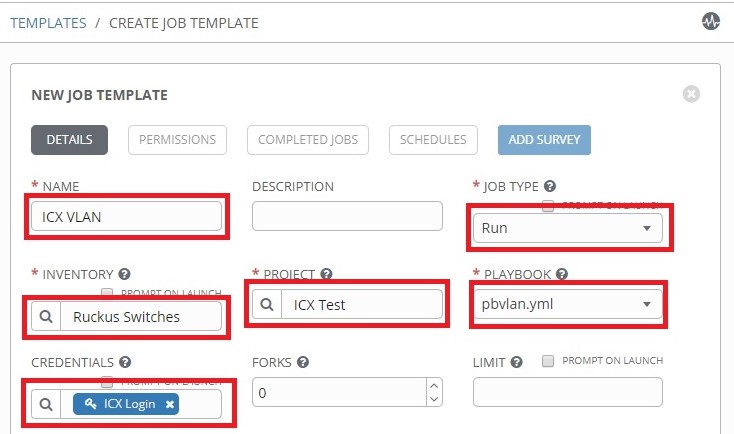


This will bring up the **Details** page with a status window:

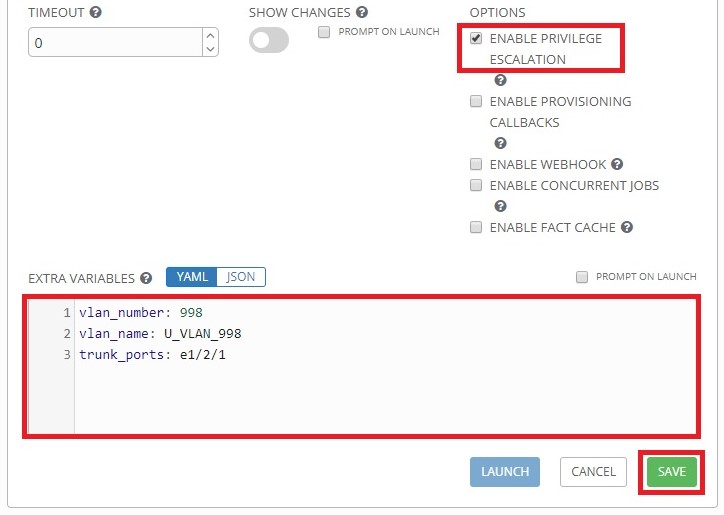


The status window will display an abbreviated output when the template has finished executing. You can click on the output to show it in full. Also note the color of the status text. Green means the template executed successfully whereas red would indicate a failure.

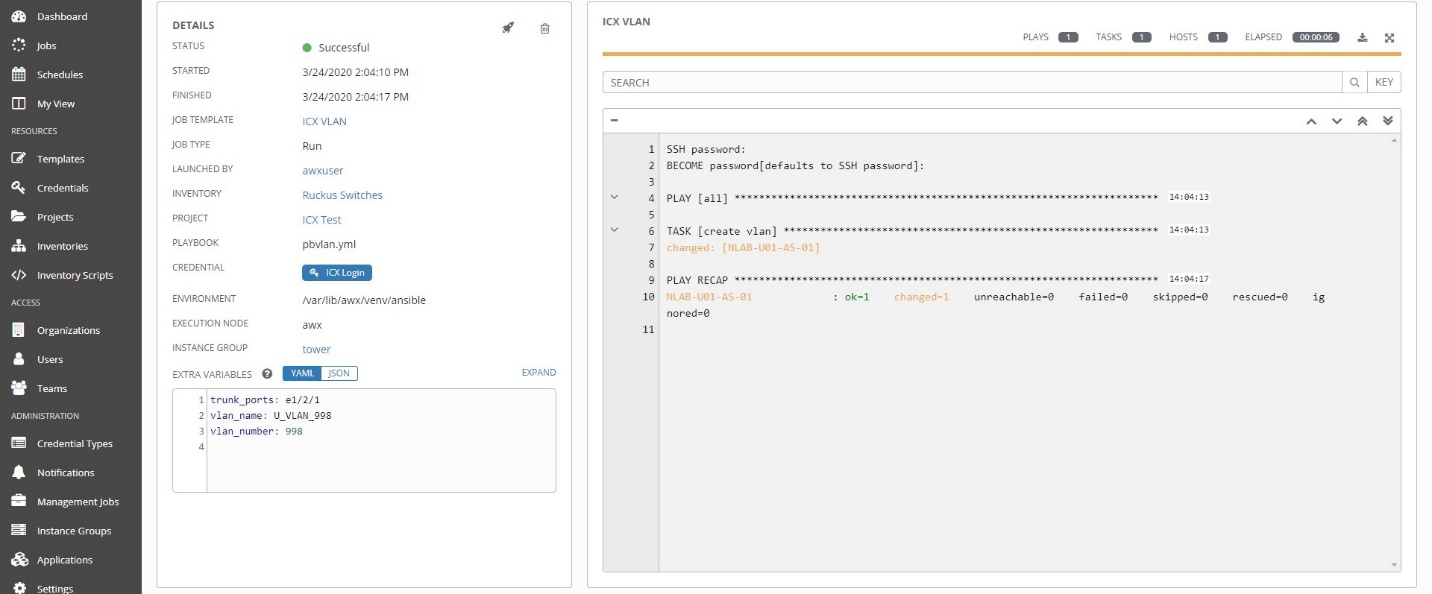
The next guide will walk through the creation of a template that uses variables. Go back to the **Templates** page and add a new job template. Configure the new template to use the '*pbvlan.yml*' playbook:



Scroll to the bottom. Select **Enable Privilege Escalation**. Fill out the variable section as seen in the picture below. When you are finished, click **Save**:

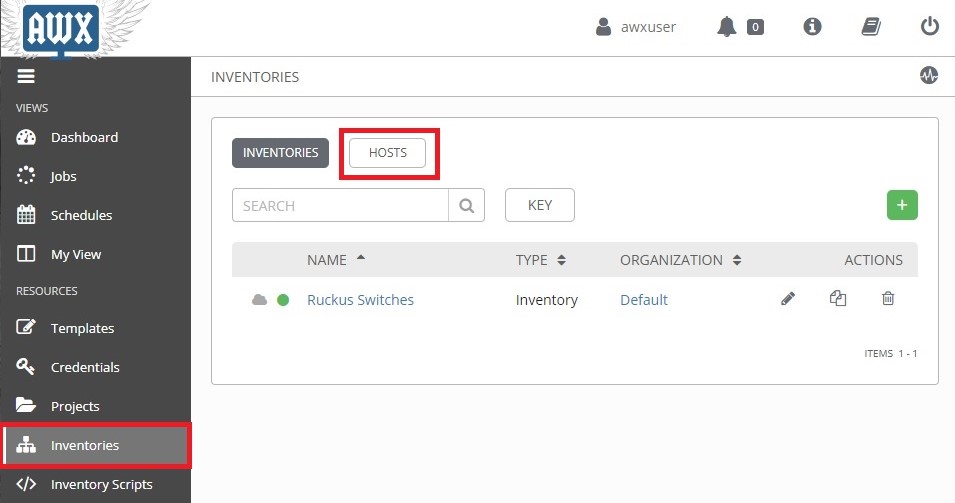


When the template has saved, click **Launch**. When the template has finished executing, you should see yellow status text if the job was successful. This indicates a change has occurred:

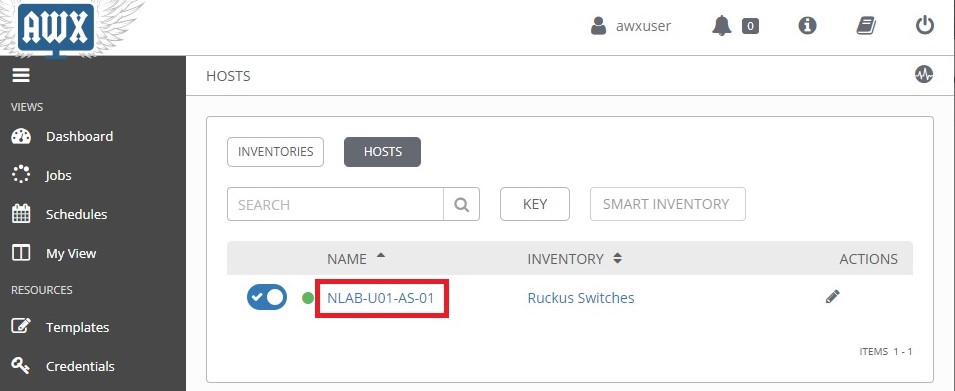


For the '*ICX VLAN*' template that was created, the '*trunk\_ports*' variable was defined within the template itself. Suppose there was a group of switches that had a different trunk than the one that was defined in the template. For those switches the template would be tagging the wrong port for the VLAN you are creating. One solution to this would be to define the trunk ports on the **Hosts** page for the switch.

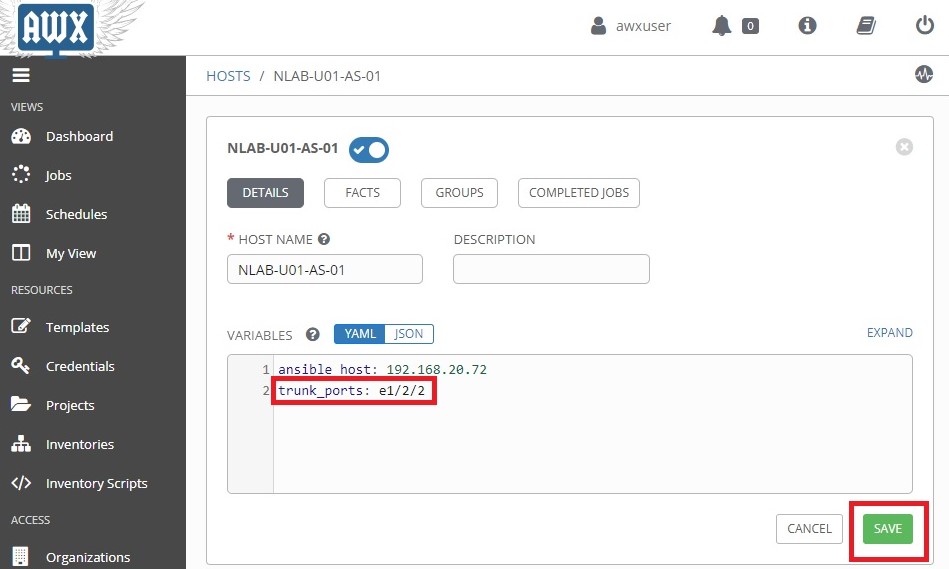
Click the **Inventories** button from the left navigation menu, then click on the **Hosts** tab:



You will see a list of defined hosts. Select the switch that was defined:

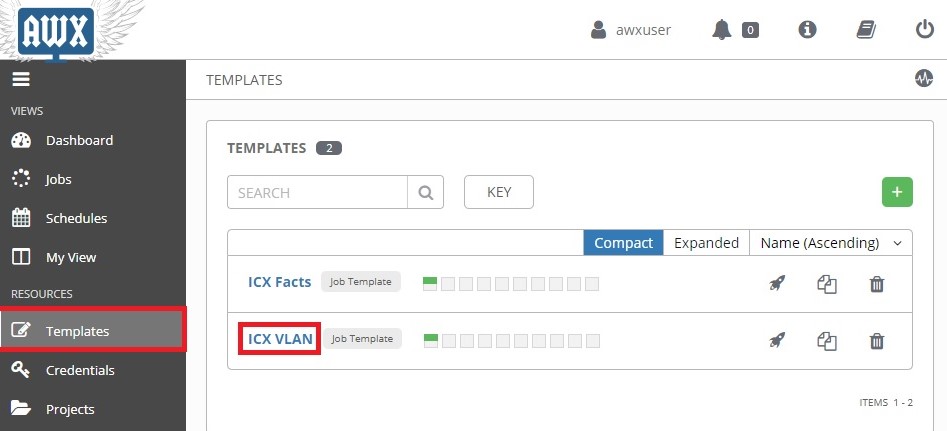


Add the '*trunk\_ports*' variable as seen below, then click **Save**:

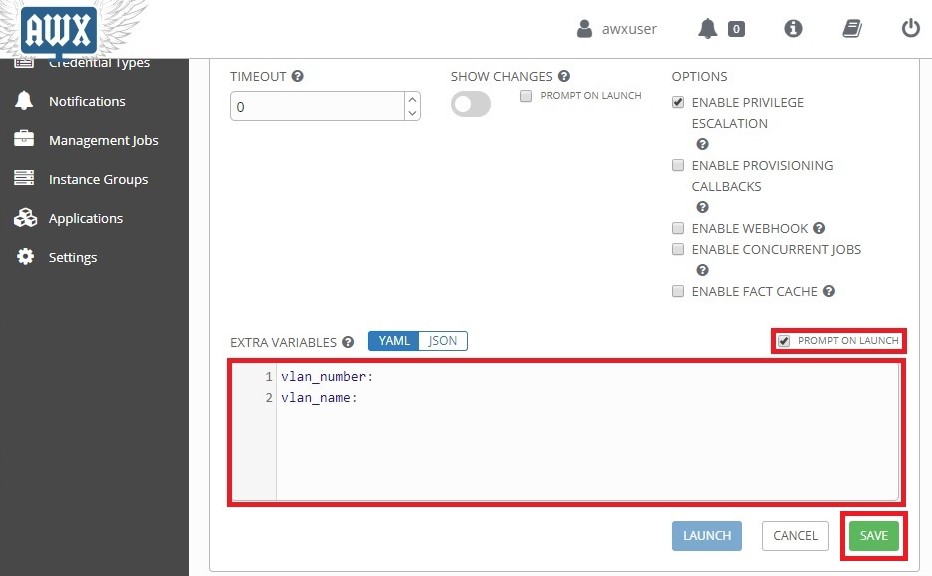


Some templates might be run multiple times with different variables defined for each run. In this case you might not want to have the variable definitions saved in the template. Templates can be configured to prompt for variables on launch.

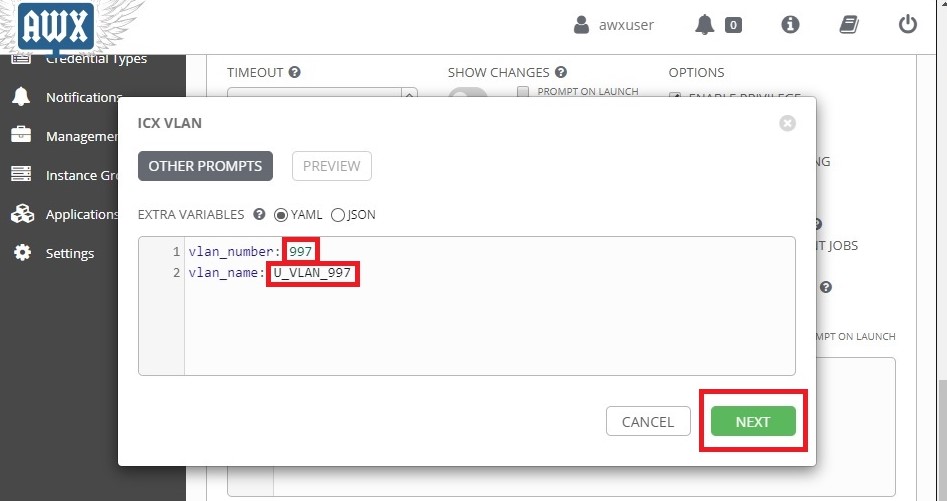
Click the **Templates** button from the left navigation menu, then click on the **ICX VLAN** template:



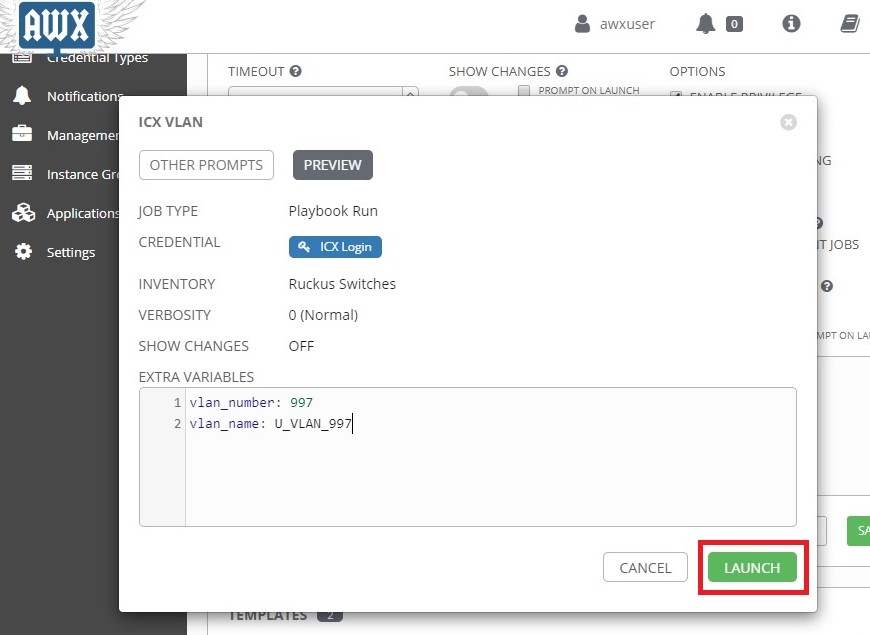
Scroll down to **Extra Variables**. Click the checkbox next to **Prompt on Launch**. Remove the variable for '*trunk\_ports*' and make the '*vlan\_number*' and '*vlan\_name*' variables undefined like the picture below, then click **Save**:



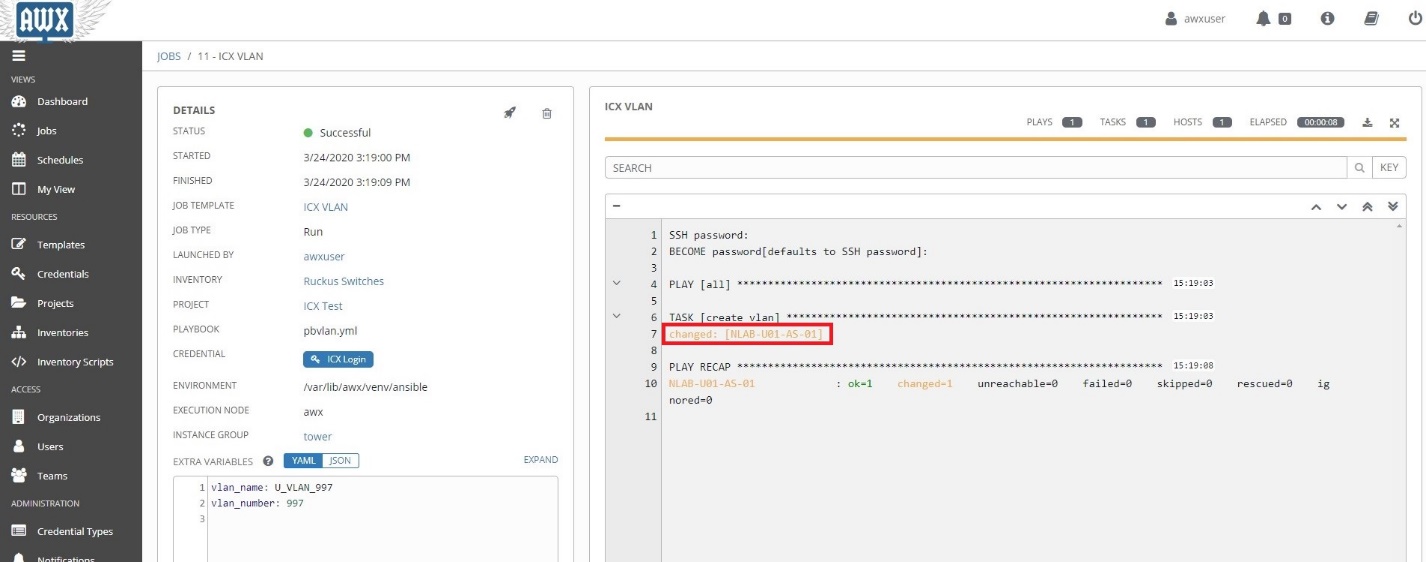
When the template is saved, click the **Launch** button. Define the variables as seen below, then click next:



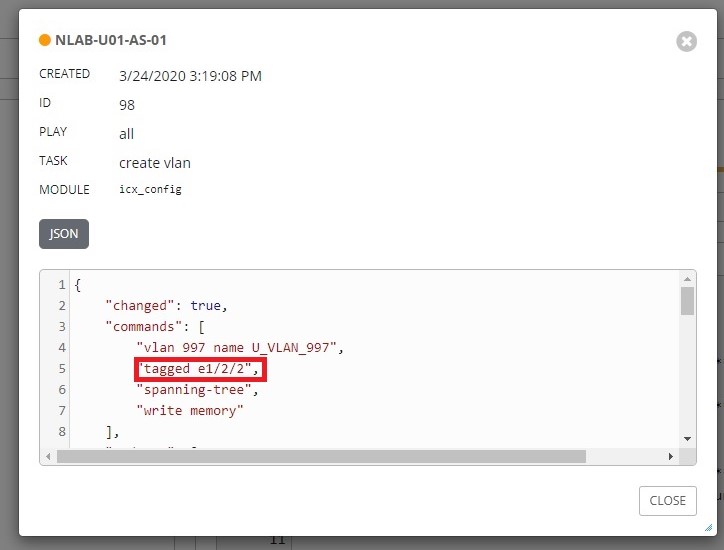
You will see the **Preview** window. Click the **Launch** button:



The status text will be yellow if the job execution was successful. Click on the task output:



Here you can see the template was executed with the '*trunk\_port*' variable defined under the host:



# 5. Vim Basics

The following can be entered from global mode:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| :w | Save |
| :q | Quit |
| :q! | Force Quit |
| a | Enter Insert (edit) Mode |
| v | Enter Visual Mode |

Insert mode allows you to edit a document.

Visual mode allows you to select text.

Hitting the Escape key returns to global mode.

# 6. References

AWX server install instructions are derived from this site:

<https://www.howtoforge.com/how-to-install-ansible-awx-with-nginx-reverse-proxy-on-ubuntu-1804/>

SSL certificate and key creation tutorial:

<https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/how-to-create-a-self-signed-ssl-certificate-for-nginx-in-ubuntu-16-04>

Ansible Playbook Tutorial:

<https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/network/getting_started/first_playbook.html>

# 7. Additional Resources

AWX Documentation: <https://docs.ansible.com/ansible-tower/latest/html/userguide/index.html>

VIM Cheat Sheet: <https://vim.rtorr.com/>