

Red Hat Training and Certification

Ansible Automation Platform 2.x Webinar

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Introduction to Ansible Automation

1. Ansible & Ansible Automation Engine (Past)

1.1. Ansible Infrastructure

The Ansible infrastructure and Ansible Automation consists of multiple components. The initial main foundation of Ansible is the Ansible Automation Engine.

For the most part, Ansible is a declarative automation platform that is considered idempotent meaning that Ansible will only execute tasks and plays if the item needs to be changed/modified. Otherwise, Ansible will skip to the next task or play in a playbook.

Ansible Components

- **Control Node:** System with Ansible installed, contains Ansible inventory files, **ansible.cfg**, and playbooks. This system manages and controls other managed hosts/nodes.
- **Managed Host/Managed Node:** System or node being managed in the Ansible environment. The **Control Node** executes various Ansible modules against these devices.

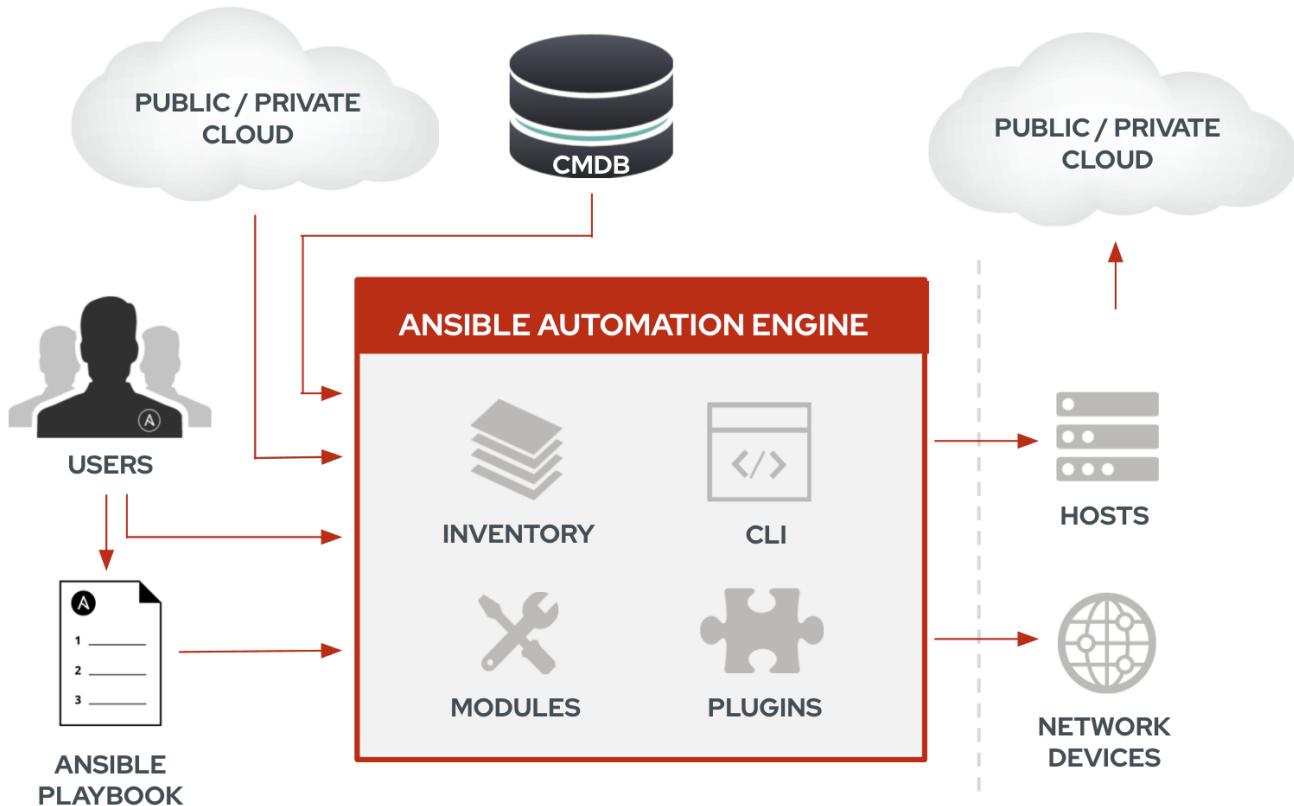


Figure 1. Ansible Automation

Ansible Automation Engine

- Inventory
- Command-Line Interface (CLI)
- Modules (Generally Python/Powershell)
- Plugins

Ansible Automation Engine utilizes the **ansible** command for Ad-Hoc Ansible Automation or the **ansible-playbook** command for running multiple tasks by leveraging and Ansible playbook containing one or more plays consisting of one or more tasks.

1.1.1. Inventory

List of systems in the infrastructure to be managed. Inventories can be static, dynamic, or a combination of both static and dynamic. Ansible also allows inventories to contain variables for the devices being managed. Devices must exist in inventory in order for Ansible to be capable of managing the devices.

1.1.2. Modules

Code utilized by the Ansible core engine which is used to perform a given tasks. Most modules are written in Python for Linux and Powershell for Windows. Modules can extend Ansible automation to multiple platforms simplifying and extending the automation to the entire stack.

Non-Idempotent Modules



There are some Ansible modules that aren't idempotent. Modules such as **command**, **shell**, and **raw** to name a few will execute regardless of the state. It is possible to use these modules with logic to make a playbook idempotent, but it is recommended to find an actual Ansible module to perform the task. These modules should be used as a last resort when no other module exists to perform a task.

1.1.3. Plugins

Code utilized by the Ansible core engine which is used to manipulate, transform, or otherwise modify either data in the playbook or items captured by the playbook and modules so that it is adaptable and usable on different platforms.

1.1.4. Playbooks

List of sequential tasks to allowing individual Ansible modules to be executed to perform a sequence of steps in an automation task. Playbooks are written in YAML and are simple easy-to-read steps on the end state of the system.

1.1.5. Ansible Tower

Ansible Tower delivers enterprise management and features to the Ansible family. Through Tower, Ansible can provide the following:

- Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)
- Restful API
- Push button deployment

- Workflows
- Credential and Secret Management
- Integration into SCM systems
- Integration into other management systems for dynamic inventory
- WebUI
- ... and more

Ansible Tower allows enterprises to manage their IT environment by providing a centralized web solution to end-users and administrators to perform automation and self-service tasks.

1.2. Ansible Inventory, Ansible Config File, and Ansible Ad-Hoc Commands

1.2.1. Ansible Inventory

Ansible inventories can be either static, dynamic, or a combination of both static and dynamic. The traditional form of the Ansible inventory file is either YAML or INI. Inventory items consist of either individual managed nodes or groups of managed nodes.

Listing 1. Ansible Inventory File INI Format

```
servera ①
serverb
serverc
serverd

[load_balancers] ②
servere
serverf
```

① Individual managed host/node

② Inventory Group

Converting INI to YAML Inventory

Ansible provides the **ansible-inventory** command that will easily allow the inventory to be transformed from one form to another.



```
ansible-inventory --list -y
```

Listing 2. Ansible Inventory File YAML Format

```

all:
  children:
    load_balancers: ①
      hosts:
        servere: {}
        serverf: {}
    ungrouped:
      hosts: ②
        servera: {}
        serverb: {}
        serverc: {}
        serverd: {}

```

① Inventory Hosts in a Group

② Individual managed host/node (ungrouped)

1.2.1.1. Inventory Variables

It is possible for Ansible playbooks and Ansible ad-hoc commands to utilize inventory variables. These variables can be defined directly within the static inventory files themselves or those variables can be defined within the directory structure of the project utilizing either project directories or inventory directories.

Keep Inventory Simple and Organized



It is extremely important not to define variables for inventory in multiple locations as variable precedence and variable merging comes into play. It is equally important to devise an inventory strategy on where/how variables will be defined so that the playbooks and automation goals are kept simple and easy to understand and follow.

Listing 3. Sample Inventory File with Variables

```

[app1srv]
appserver01 ansible_host=10.42.0.2 ①
appserver02 ansible_host=10.42.0.3

[web]
node-[1:30] ansible_host=10.42.0.[31:60]

[web:vars] ②
apache_listen_port=8080
apache_root_path=/var/www/mywebdocs/

[all:vars] ③
ansible_user=kev
ansible_ssh_private_key_file=/home/kev/.ssh/id_rsa

```

① Defined variable at a **host** level

② Defined variables at a **group** level

③ Defined variables for all inventory items

1.2.2. Ansible Config

The **ansible.cfg** file controls how the **ansible** and **ansible-playbook** commands are run and interpreted. The configuration file has two (2) main sections that are commonly used, but include other sections as well. For the purpose of understanding how Ansible works, we will examine both the **[defaults]** section and the **[privilege_escalation]** section.

Listing 4. ansible.cfg Defaults Section

```
[defaults]
inventory = inventory ①
remote_user = devops ②
```

① Specifies which inventory file Ansible will use

② Specifies the remote user to be used by **ansible** or **ansible-playbook** commands.



A perfectly acceptable **ansible.cfg** might only have a **[defaults]** section specifying the inventory to be used.

Listing 5. ansible.cfg Privilege Escalation Section

```
[privilege_escalation]
become = False ①
become_method = sudo ②
become_user = root ③
become_ask_pass = False ④
```

① Sets default behavior whether to elevate privileges

② Sets method for privilege escalation

③ Sets username of privileged user

④ Sets option on whether or not user is prompted for password when performing privilege escalation.

Ansible Config File Precedence

- **ANSIBLE_CONFIG** - Environment Variable (highest)
- **ansible.cfg** - Config file in current working directory (most common and recommended)
- **~/.ansible.cfg** - Ansible config file in the home directory
- **/etc/ansible/ansible.cfg** - Ansible's installed default location (lowest)

1.2.3. Ansible Ad-Hoc Commands

Ansible Ad-Hoc commands are most often used to quickly perform an automation task using a single Ansible module. These commands can be executed against one or more hosts in the Ansible inventory file.

Table 1. Ansible Ad-Hoc Command Arguments

Command Argument	Description
-m MODULE_NAME	Module name to execute for the ad-hoc command

Command Argument	Description
-a MODULE_ARGS	Module arguments needed for the ad-hoc command
-b	Runs ad-hoc command as a privileged user
-K	Runs ad-hoc command as a privileged user and requests the become password
-e EXTRA_VARS	Provides extra variables as KEY=VALUE to be used for the execution of the ad-hoc command

1.2.4. DEMO - Ansible Ad-Hoc Commands

Demonstration and hands-on workshop for Ad-Hoc commands. The demo will utilize the **ping** module to ensure that the **ansible.cfg** and the **inventory** file are correctly setup and working within the Ansible environment.

Example 1. DEMONSTRATION - Ansible Ping

1. Change to correct directory

```
[student@workstation ~]$ cd /home/student/Github/AAP_Webinar/Past/ad-hoc
```

2. Run the **ansible** ad-hoc command

```
[student@workstation ad-hoc]$ ansible -m ping all
servere | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/libexec/platform-python"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
servera | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/libexec/platform-python"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
serverc | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/libexec/platform-python"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
serverb | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/libexec/platform-python"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
serverd | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/libexec/platform-python"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
serverf | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/libexec/platform-python"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
```

Checking Sudoers Ability and Setup

*Listing 6. Checking **ansible.cfg** for Ability to BECOME without sudo Password*



```
[student@workstation ad-hoc]$ ansible -m ping all --become
```

*Listing 7. Checking **ansible.cfg** for Ability to BECOME with sudo and Prompting for Password*

```
[student@workstation ad-hoc]$ ansible -m ping all --become -K
BECOME password:
```

The next demonstration will use the **copy** module to create a user in the managed systems making an entry to the **sudoers** file.

Example 2. DEMONSTRATION - Ansible Ad-Hoc Command to Create User and Sudoers File

1. Change to correct directory

```
[student@workstation ~]$ cd /home/student/Github/AAP_Webinar/Past/ad-hoc
```

2. Run the **ansible** commands to create the user and update the **sudoers** file.

- a. Create the user on the remote system.

```
[student@workstation ad-hoc]$ ansible -m user -a 'name=travis uid=1040 comment="Travis Michette" group=wheel' servera -b
servera | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/libexec/platform-python"
    },
    "append": false,
    "changed": false,
    "comment": "Travis Michette",
    "group": 10,
    "home": "/home/travis",
    "move_home": false,
    "name": "travis",
    "shell": "/bin/bash",
    "state": "present",
    "uid": 1040
}
```

- b. Create the user in a **sudoers** file.

```
[student@workstation ad-hoc]$ ansible -m copy -a 'content="travis ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD:ALL" dest=/etc/sudoers.d/travis' servera
-b
```

3. Test new user and sudo rights

- a. SSH to **servera**

```
[student@workstation ad-hoc]$ ssh travis@servera
```

- b. **sudo** without a password

```
[travis@servera ~]$ sudo -i
[root@servera ~]#
```

1.3. Ansible Playbooks

Ansible playbooks contain one or more tasks to execute against specified inventory nodes. Playbooks consist of one or more plays and each play in a playbook consists of one or more tasks. Ansible playbooks and tasks are all about **key:value** pairs and **lists**. Understanding this basic format allows someone developing Ansible to form playbooks that are easier to create,

troubleshoot/debug, and for someone else to understand.

1.3.1. Playbook Basics

An Ansible playbook is written/formatted in YAML so horizontal whitespace is critical and often the most troublesome part of debugging new Ansible playbooks. Playbooks have a general structure for the plays with directives such as: **name**, **hosts**, **vars**, **tasks**, and more. These play-level directives help form a readable structure much like **task-level** directives.

Listing 8. Play Structure Components

```
---
- name: install and start apache ①
  hosts: web ②
  become: yes ③

  tasks: ④
```

① Name of play in playbook

② List of hosts from inventory to execute play against (**required**)

③ Directive to override **ansible.cfg** and elevate privileges

④ Beginning of **tasks** section.

There can be other directives here, but at the most basic playbook, you will generally always see a **hosts** and a **tasks** section.



Naming Plays

It is recommended and considered a best practice to name all plays within a playbook.

The first indentation level in a playbook denoted by - is the list of plays and this level will contain the **key:value** pairs that correspond to Ansible playbook directives. Understanding this and developing good habits and standards for indentations allows Ansible users to create playbook skeletons which help tremendously during the development/debugging cycle.

1.3.1.1. Task Structure

A task within a playbook is generally specified similar to a play having a **name** section so that it is easier to debug.

Listing 9. Task Structure and Components

```

tasks:
  - name: httpd package is present ①
    yum: ②
      name: httpd ③
      state: latest ④

  - name: latest index.html file is present ⑤
    template:
      src: files/index.html
      dest: /var/www/html/

  - name: httpd is started ⑥
    service:
      name: httpd
      state: started

```

① Name of first task in playbook

② Name of module to be used in first task in playbook

③ Argument/Option provided to module, in this instance **name** and is **required** for the package name in the case of the **yum** module.

④ Argument/Option provided to module, in this instance the **state** describes whether the module will install, update, or remove the package for the **yum** module.

⑤ Name of second task in playbook

⑥ Name of third task in playbook



Naming Tasks

It is recommended and considered a best practice to name all tasks within a playbook. Naming tasks especially helps with debugging issues in playbooks as the Ansible STDOUT will display and record task names.

The second indentation level in a playbook denoted by `-` is generally under the **tasks:** section and contains the list of tasks. This level will contain the **key:value** pairs that correspond to Ansible task directives always starting with the module being used at the same level before going to the third indentation level which are the **key:value** pair options that belong to the module being used in that task.

1.3.2. Running Playbooks

Playbooks can be run just like Ansible **ad-hoc** commands. In order to execute or run a playbook, it is necessary to use the **ansible-playbook** command and specify the playbook. The additional options available for the **ad-hoc** commands such as: **-e**, **-K**, **-b**, and others all still apply and perform the same functions when leveraged with the **ansible-playbook** command.

Example 3. DEMONSTRATION - Running Ansible Playbooks

In this demonstration, we will be creating a user on **serverb** using playbooks as opposed to leveraging **ad-hoc** commands.

1. Switch to correct directory

```
[student@workstation ~]$ cd ~/Github/AAP_Webinar/Past/Playbooks
```

2. Examine playbook

```
[student@workstation Playbooks]$ vim playbook.yml

---
- name: Playbook to Create User and Sudoers without Password
  hosts: serverb
  tasks:
    - name: Create User Named Travis
      user:
        name: travis
        uid: 1040
        comment: "Travis Michette"
        group: wheel

    - name: Create User in Sudoers File
      copy:
        content: "travis ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD:ALL\n"
        dest: /etc/sudoers.d/travis
        validate: /usr/sbin/visudo -csf %s
```

3. Execute and run the playbook

```
[student@workstation Playbooks]$ ansible-playbook playbook.yml -b

PLAY [Playbook to Create User and Sudoers without Password] ****
... OUTPUT OMITTED ...
```

4. Test and Verify User

a. SSH to remote system

```
[student@workstation Playbooks]$ ssh travis@serverb
```

b. Verify Sudo without Password

```
[travis@serverb ~]$ sudo -i
[root@serverb ~]#
```

Example 4. DEMONSTRATION - Failure of Old Playbook

It is important to constantly test playbooks with the most current and recent versions of Ansible to ensure all modules work as expected and items haven't been deprecated. The following playbook was developed for use with Ansible 2.8 and earlier. The playbook now fails as some of the modules being used have been migrated from Ansible **built-in** modules to Ansible collections. More on this migration and discussion of collections will come in future chapters and sections.

1. Examine Playbook for Website

```
---
- name: Playbook to Fully Setup and Configure a Webserver
  hosts: servers
  tasks:
    - name: Install Packages for Webserver
      yum:
        name:
          - httpd
          - firewalld
        state: latest

    - name: Create Content for Webserver
      copy:
        content: "I'm an awesome webserver"
        dest: /var/www/html/index.html

    - name: Create Content for Webserver
      copy:
        content: "I'm an awesome webserver"

    - name: Firewall is Enabled
      service:
        name: firewalld
        state: started
        enabled: true

    - name: HTTP Service is Open on Firewall
      firewalld:
        service: http
        state: enabled
        permanent: true
        immediate: yes

    - name: httpd is started
      systemd:
        name: httpd
        state: started
        enabled: true
```

2. Execute the playbook

```
[student@workstation Playbooks]$ ansible-playbook Website_Past.yml
ERROR! couldn't resolve module/action 'firewalld'. This often indicates a misspelling, missing collection, or incorrect module path. ①
```

The error appears to be in '/home/student/Github/AAP_Webinar/Past/Playbooks/Website_Past.yml': line 27, column 7, but may be elsewhere in the file depending on the exact syntax problem.

The offending line appears to be:

```
- name: HTTP Service is Open on Firewall
  ^ here
```

- ① The **firewalld** module is not available. This was moved in AAP 2.x to an Ansible collection and is no longer able to be referenced without the collection and module being installed.

Test Often



As Ansible has changed going into Ansible Automation Platform 2+, many changes have been made. There was a duplication and mapping of several of the modules allowing for existing playbooks to still run correctly, however, at some point modules become completely deprecated, and mappings get removed. It is extremely important to execute old playbooks and test with new versions of Ansible and to look for **deprecation warnings** so that playbooks can be fixed proactively instead of reactively.

1.4. Ansible Roles

Ansible Roles allow Ansible developers to create re-usable code snippets and tasks that can be shared in the form of Ansible Roles. These roles are commonly shared via Ansible Galaxy (<https://galaxy.ansible.com/>) via Github projects by the role developers. With the new Ansible Automation Platform (AAP) 2.x and beyond roles are also included as part of Ansible Collections which will be covered as part of a later topic.

1.4.1. Ansible Role Overview

Ansible roles are reusable Ansible components that allow common tasks to be repeated/repurposed without needing to re-write or create custom playbooks. Ansible roles work the same way as Ansible Playbooks and tasks except that roles are generally published/shared generically to be used by others to perform a task or set of tasks in automation playbooks.

Roles provide Ansible with a way to load tasks, handlers, and variables from external files. Static files and templates can also be associated and referenced by a role.

Role Benefits

- Roles group content which allows easy sharing of code with others
- Roles can be written that define the essential elements of system type: web server, database server, git repository, or other purpose
- Roles make larger projects more manageable
- Roles can be developed in parallel by different administrators

Table 2. Ansible role subdirectories

Subdirectory	Function
defaults	The main.yml file in this directory contains the default values of role variables that can be overwritten when the role is used.
files	This directory contains static files that are referenced by role tasks.
handlers	The main.yml file in this directory contains the role's handler definitions.
meta	The main.yml file in this directory defines information about the role, including author, license, platforms, and optional role dependencies.
tasks	The main.yml file in this directory contains the role's task definitions.

Subdirectory	Function
templates	This directory contains Jinja2 templates that are referenced by role tasks.
tests	This directory can contain an inventory and test.yml playbook that can be used to test the role.
vars	The main.yml file in this directory defines the role's variable values.

Defining Variables and Defaults

- **Role variables** are defined by creating **var/main.yml** with name/value pairs in the role directory heirarchy.
- **Default variables** are defined by creating a **defaults/main.yml** file with name/value pairs in the role directory heirarchy.



It is best to define a given variable in either **var/main.yml** or **defaults/main.yml** but not both.



Playbook Roles and Include Statements: http://docs.ansible.com/ansible/playbooks_roles.html

Reference for Roles



There is another workshop with some information on creating and publishing Ansible Roles.

https://github.com/tmichett/LUG/blob/main/Ansible_Roles/Workbook/Ansible.adoc

1.4.2. Using Roles

In order to use Ansible roles, they must first be installed and made available on the Ansible control node utilizing the role.

Listing 10. Installing an Ansible Role

```
$ ansible-galaxy install tmichett.deploy_packages
```

Example 5. DEMONSTRATION - Using a Role from Ansible Galaxy

1. Change to correct working directory

```
[student@workstation ~]$ cd Github/AAP_Webinar/Past/Roles/
```

2. Install Role from Ansible Galaxy

```
[student@workstation Roles]$ ansible-galaxy install -r roles/requirements.yml -p roles
Starting galaxy role install process
- downloading role 'ansiblize', owned by tmichett
- downloading role from https://github.com/tmichett/Ansiblize/archive/master.tar.gz
- extracting tmichett.ansiblize to /home/student/Github/AAP_Webinar/Past/Roles/roles/tmichett.ansiblize
- tmichett.ansiblize (master) was installed successfully
```

3. Install Collections

```
[student@workstation Roles]$ ansible-galaxy collection install -r collections/requirements.yml -p collections/
Starting galaxy collection install process
[WARNING]: The specified collections path
'/home/student/Github/AAP_Webinar/Past/Roles/collections' is not part of the
configured Ansible collections paths
'/home/student/.ansible/collections:/usr/share/ansible/collections'. The installed
collection won't be picked up in an Ansible run.
Process install dependency map
Starting collection install process
Downloading https://galaxy.ansible.com/download/ansible-posix-1.3.0.tar.gz to /home/student/.ansible/tmp/ansible-local-
37837_73lx2j8/tmpnadbl_rx/ansible-posix-1.3.0-xr73p6ye
Installing 'ansible.posix:1.3.0' to '/home/student/Github/AAP_Webinar/Past/Roles/collections/ansible_collections/ansible/posix'
ansible.posix:1.3.0 was installed successfully
```



Because we are using a newer Ansible version, the regular modules are no longer available so we must install the Ansible Posix collection to use some of the modules in the role.

4. Create/Modify Playbook with Correct Values and Providing Variables for the Role

```
create mode 100644 Workshop_Guide/redhat-theme.yml
[student@workstation Past]$ cd
[student@workstation ~]$ ls
---
- name: Playbook to Fully Setup and Configure a new User with a Role
hosts: serverc
vars: ①
  ansible_user_name: travis
  ansible_user_password: redhat
  ssh_key_answer: no
roles: ②
  - tmichett.ansiblize
```

① Providing required variables for the role

② Providing the role being used

5. Run the playbook with the **ansible-playbook** Command

```
[student@workstation Roles]$ ansible-playbook Roles_Playbook_Demo.yml
```

6. Test the results on **serverc**

a. SSH to ServerC

```
[student@workstation Roles]$ ssh travis@serverc
```

b. Attempt to become root without password

```
[travis@serverc ~]$ sudo -i
[root@serverc ~]#
```

2. Ansible Automation Platform 1.x (Present)

2.1. Ansible Automation Hub

Ansible Automation hub was released so that enterprises could host their own Ansible collections, Ansible execution environments in a disconnected fashion. Ansible Automation Hub provides self-hosted services from Ansible Galaxy as well as services provided by Red Hat's Ansible Automation Hub found at <https://console.redhat.com/ansible/ansible-dashboard>.

2.1.1. Ansible Automation Platform

Provides curated collections, modules, roles that are supported by Red Hat or Red Hat Partners. The collections, modules, roles, and playbooks downloaded from Red Hat Automation Hub are supported and required an Ansible Automation Platform subscription entitlement. This is different from the unsupported community modules/collections/roles found at Ansible Galaxy (<https://galaxy.ansible.com>). :pygments-style: tango :source-highlighter: pygments :icons: font :icons: font

2.2. Ansible Collections

Ansible 2.9 introduced the concept of collections and provided mapping for Ansible modules that were moved into a collection namespace. Ansible 2.9 provided a mapping of the new module locations in collections and this mapping automatically works for existing Ansible playbooks in the initial versions of Ansible Automation Platform.



Ansible Module and Collection Mapping

https://github.com/ansible/ansible/blob/devel/lib/ansible/config/ansible_builtin_runtime.yml

2.2.1. Using Ansible Automation Platform Collections

Collections allowed development of Ansible core components to be separated from module and plug-in development. Upstream Ansible unbundled modules from Ansible core code beginning with Ansible Base (core) 2.10/2.11. Never versions of Ansible require collections to be installed in order for modules to be available for Ansible. Playbooks should be developed using the FQCNs when referring to modules in tasks. Existing playbooks can be fixed easily to work with collections, but it is better to re-write the playbooks to use the fully-qualified collection name (FCQN).

Example 6. DEMONSTRATION - Using Ansible Collections

1. Change to the correct working directory

```
[student@workstation ~]$ cd /home/student/Github/AAP_Webinar/Present/Playbooks
```

2. View the Playbook

```
[student@workstation Playbooks]$ vim Website_Present.yml
---
- name: Playbook to Fully Setup and Configure a Webserver
  hosts: servera
  tasks:
    - name: Install Packages for Webserver
      yum:
        name:
          - httpd
          - firewalld
        state: latest

    - name: Create Content for Webserver
      copy:
        content: "I'm an awesome webserver\n"
        dest: /var/www/html/index.html

    - name: Firewall is Enabled
      systemd:
        name: firewalld
        state: started
        enabled: true

    - name: HTTP Service is Open on Firewall
      ansible.posix.firewalld:
        service: http
        state: enabled
        permanent: true
        immediate: yes

    - name: httpd is started
      systemd:
        name: httpd
        state: started
        enabled: true
```

3. Install the Ansible Collections

```
[student@workstation Playbooks]$ ansible-galaxy collection install -r collections/requirements.yml -p collections/
```

4. Execute the playbook with the **ansible-playbook** command

```
[student@workstation Playbooks]$ ansible-playbook Website_Present.yml -b
```

5. Test the Website

```
[student@workstation Playbooks]$ curl servera
I'm an awesome webserver
```

3. Ansible Automation Platform 2.x (Future)

3.1. Introduction to AAP 2.x Components

With Ansible 2.x, many new items have emerged. Ansible can now leverage execution environments which contain Ansible collections, different versions of Ansible, and the correct python versions and modules needed to execute a playbook. Ansible Execution Environments (EEs) allow developers and administrators more flexibility by leveraging a containerized Ansible environment. The use of Ansible EEs from a control node or developer workstation will work exactly the same with Ansible Controller (formerly known as Ansible Tower). Ansible Controller allows Ansible EEs to be assigned to projects, inventories, job templates, and more.

Ansible Private Automation Hub (Automation Hub) allows a self-hosted Ansible Galaxy. The local installation of Ansible Galaxy not only allows collections to be published privately within an organization, but it also provides a container registry for publishing custom Ansible EEs.

Ansible Content Navigator is a new tool that can be used to test and develop Ansible playbooks.

3.1.1. Ansible Content Navigator

The **ansible-navigator** tool replaces and extends the functionality of the **ansible-playbook**, **ansible-inventory**, **ansible-config** commands and more. Ansible Content Navigator allows the Ansible Control Node to be separated from the execution environment as playbooks are now run in a container. This makes it easier to move from development environments to production environments as the execution environment is now a portable container.

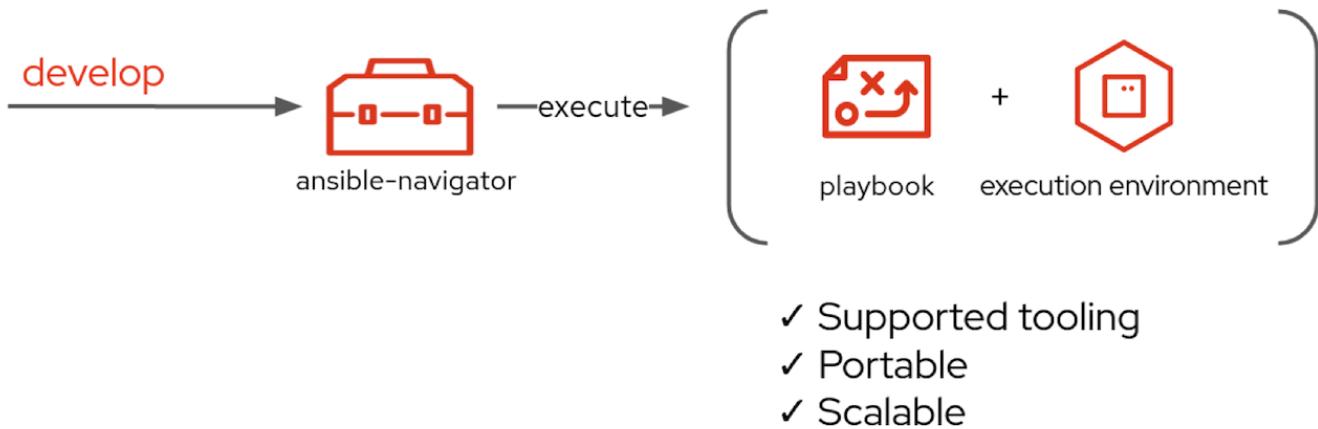


Figure 2. Ansible Content Navigator

Ansible Content Navigator works very similar to **ansible** and **ansible-playbook** commands as it relies on a configuration file. The **ansible-navigator.yml** file utilizes the **ansible.cfg** file and further provides customizations for configurations on developing, testing, and running playbooks in your Ansible project. Some of the most critical components of Ansible Navigator are the following:

- **ANSIBLE_CONFIG**: Specifies Ansible configuration file to use
- **image**: Specifies Ansible Execution Environment (EE) to be used

Listing 11. ansible-navigator.yml

```
---
ansible-navigator:
  execution-environment: ①
  enabled: true
  environment-variables:
    set:
      ANSIBLE_CONFIG: ansible.cfg ②
  image: hub.lab.example.com/ee-29-rhel8:latest ③
  logging:
    level: critical
  mode: stdout ④
```

- ① Configures Ansible Navigator to use an Execution Environment (EE)
- ② Specifies where Ansible Navigator and the Ansible EE will receive Ansible configuration settings
- ③ Specifies Ansible EE to use for Ansible Navigator
- ④ Specified Mode, in this case, we are using **STDOUT** so that the output will look like it does with the ***ansible-playbook*** command.

Most **ansible** commands have a corresponding **ansible-navigator** command. The table below provides a mapping for the most commonly used commands.

Table 3. ansible to ansible-navigator Command Comparisons

Ansible Command	Automation Content Navigator Subcommands
ansible-config	ansible-navigator config
ansible-doc	ansible-navigator doc

Ansible Command	Automation Content Navigator Subcommands
ansible-inventory	ansible-navigator inventory
ansible-playbook	ansible-navigator run

3.1.2. Ansible Execution Environments

Ansible Execution Environments (EEs) are containers which consist of:

- **Ansible Core**
- **Ansible Content Collections**
- **Python Libraries**
- **Executables**
- Other dependencies for running the playbook

Custom execution environments can be built and created with **ansible-builder**. The process of creating a new Ansible EE depends on if there is a valid Ansible Automation Entitlement associated with your account. If you are using the **free** version of Ansible, base container images **MUST** come from **Quay.IO** as the Red Hat Ansible Execution Environments (EEs) cannot be used or redistributed.

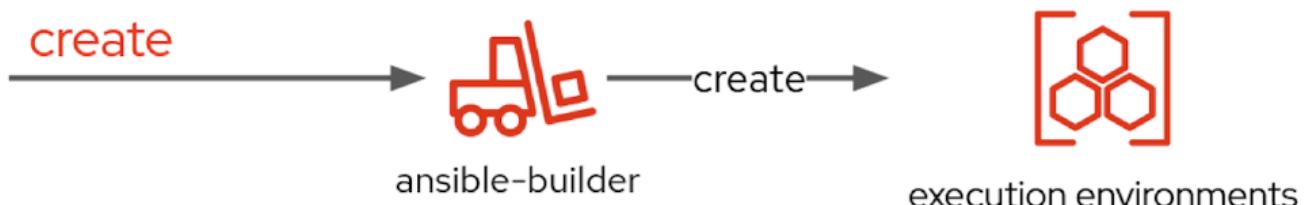


Figure 3. Ansible Builder



Default Versions of Ansible and Execution Environments

Ansible Automation Platform 2 provides Ansible Core 2.11 as well as several Red Hat Certified Content Collections providing a similar experience to Ansible 2.9. A benefit of execution environments is that they can be used to run older versions of Ansible. Some of the demos in this webinar will use an Ansible EE based on Ansible 2.9 so that collection mapping is done automatically and older playbooks don't need to be touched.

Example 7. DEMO - Using Ansible Content Navigator and the Ansible 2.9 Execution Environment

1. Change to correct directory

```
[student@workstation ~]$ cd /home/student/Github/AAP_Webinar/Future/Navigator
```

2. View configuration for Ansible Content Navigator

```
[student@workstation Navigator]$ cat ansible-navigator.yml
---
ansible-navigator:
  execution-environment:
    enabled: true
  environment-variables:
    set:
      ANSIBLE_CONFIG: ansible.cfg ①
    image: hub.lab.example.com/ee-29-rhel8:latest ②
  logging:
    level: critical
  mode: stdout ③
```

- ① Ensure it is pointing to the project **ansible.cfg**
- ② Ensure we are using the Ansible EE based on Ansible version 2.9.x for compatibility of existing playbooks (pre-collections).
- ③ Ensure mode is specified as **stdout** so that the output can easily be viewed from the command-line (CLI).

3. View the playbook

```
[student@workstation Navigator]$ cat Website_Ansible_Past.yml
---
- name: Playbook to Fully Setup and Configure a Webserver
  hosts: servere
  tasks:
    - name: Install Packages for Webserver
      yum:
        name:
          - httpd
          - firewalld
        state: latest

    - name: Create Content for Webserver
      copy:
        content: "I'm an awesome webserver for the NYPD and I know Castle!! \n"
        dest: /var/www/html/index.html

    - name: Firewall is Enabled
      service:
        name: firewalld
        state: started
        enabled: true

    - name: HTTP Service is Open on Firewall
      firewalld:
        service: http
        state: enabled
        permanent: true
        immediate: yes

    - name: httpd is started
      systemd:
        name: httpd
        state: started
        enabled: true
```

4. Setup and ensure SSH keys are shared for the Ansible EE

```
[student@workstation ~]$ eval $(ssh-agent) ①
[student@workstation ~]$ ssh-add ~/.ssh/lab_rsa ②
```

① Starts SSH Agent service

② Loads SSH key to the SSH Agent Service keyring

5. Run the playbook with **ansible-navigator run** Command

```
[student@workstation Navigator]$ ansible-navigator run Website_Ansible_Past.yml -b ①
-----
Execution environment image and pull policy overview
-----
Execution environment image name: hub.lab.example.com/ee-29-rhel8:latest
... OUTPUT OMITTED ...

TASK [httpd is started] ****
changed: [servere]

PLAY RECAP ****
servere : ok=6    changed=4    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
```

- ① Specify the **-b** to enable privilege escalation as the **ansible.cfg** and playbook doesn't have escalation already enabled.

6. Verify website is running

```
[student@workstation Navigator]$ curl servere
I'm an awesome webserver for the NYPD and I know Castle!!
```

Example 8. DEMO - Using Ansible Content Navigator - Interactively

1. Explore Ansible Navigator

```
[student@workstation Navigator]$ ansible-navigator -m interactive
0 | ## Welcome
1 |
2 |
3 | Some things you can try from here:
4 | - `:collections`                                Explore available collect
5 | - `:config`                                     Explore the current ansi
6 | - `:doc <plugin>`                             Review documentation for
7 | - `:help`                                       Show the main help page
8 | - `:images`                                    Explore execution enviro
... OUTPUT OMITTED ...
```

2. View information on Execution Environment (type **:images**)

NAME	TAG	EXECUTION ENVIRONMENT	CREATED	SIZE
0 ee-29-rhel8 (primary)	latest	True	2 months ago	785 MB
1 ee-supported-rhel8	2.0	True	2 months ago	1.07 GB
2 flamel	latest	False	5 weeks ago	1.56 GB

3. View the **ee-29-rhel8** EE (as this is the default defined in the configuration file) by typing **0**

EE-29-RHEL8:LATEST (PRIMARY)		DESCRIPTION
0	Image information	Information collected from image inspection
1	General information	OS and python version information
2	Ansible version and collections	Information about ansible and ansible collections
3	Python packages	Information about python and python packages
4	Operating system packages	Information about operating system packages
5	Everything	All image informatio

Interactively Viewing Execution Environment Details



Once you've loaded Ansible Content Navigator and the EE, it's possible to view the details of the Ansible versions and collections and any other information about the EE by pressing the corresponding number. To exit the **ansible-navigator** screens, just continue hitting the **ESC** key to exit to the various levels.

- Run **ansible-navigator** with the **-m interactive** to override the **STDOUT** setting and look at Navigator interactively

```
[student@workstation Navigator]$ ansible-navigator run Website_Ansible_Past.yml -b -m interactive
PLAY NAME OK CHANGED UNREACHABLFAILED SKIPPED IGNORED IN PROGRESTASK COUNT PROGRESS
0 | Playbook t 2      0      0      0      0      0      1      3
```

- Hit the **0** to view playbook output for **Play 0**

RESULT	HOST	NUMBER	CHANGED	TASK	TASK ACTION	DURATION
0 OK	servere	0	False	Gathering Facts	gather_facts	1s
1 OK	servere	1	False	Install Packages for Webserver	yum	1s
2 OK	servere	2	False	Create Content for Webserver	copy	0s
3 OK	servere	3	False	Firewall is Enabled	service	0s
4 OK	servere	4	False	HTTP Service is Open on Firewall	firewalld	0s
5 OK	servere	5	False	httpd is started	systemd	0s

- Hit **5** to examine **Task 5** from the playbook

```
PLAY [Playbook to Fully Setup and Configure a Webserver:5] ****
TASK [httpd is started] ****
OK: [servere]
  0 | ---
  1 | duration: 0.521409
  2 | end: '2022-01-24T19:24:05.870450'
  3 | event_loop: null
  4 | host: serverd
  5 | play: Playbook to Fully Setup and Configure a Webserver
  6 | play_pattern: serverd
  7 | playbook: /home/student/Github/AAP_Webinar/Future/Navigator/Website_Ansible_Past.y
  8 | remote_addr: serverd
  9 | res:
 10 |   _ansible_no_log: false

... output omitted ...
```

*Interactive Mode Details*

When using Ansible Navigator in interactive mode it is possible to get a lot more details regarding each task in the play as well as details on the modules being used and other system settings/configurations.

3.2. Introduction to AAP 2.x - Ansible Automation Hub

Section Info Here

3.2.1. Private Automation Hub

3.2.2. Custom Execution Environments

3.3. Introduction to AAP 2.x - Ansible Controller (formerly Ansible Tower)

Section Info Here

3.3.1. Organizations, Teams, and RBAC

Example 9. DEMONSTRATION - Creating an Organization with Users and Teams

Creating an Organization

1. Login to **Ansible Controller**

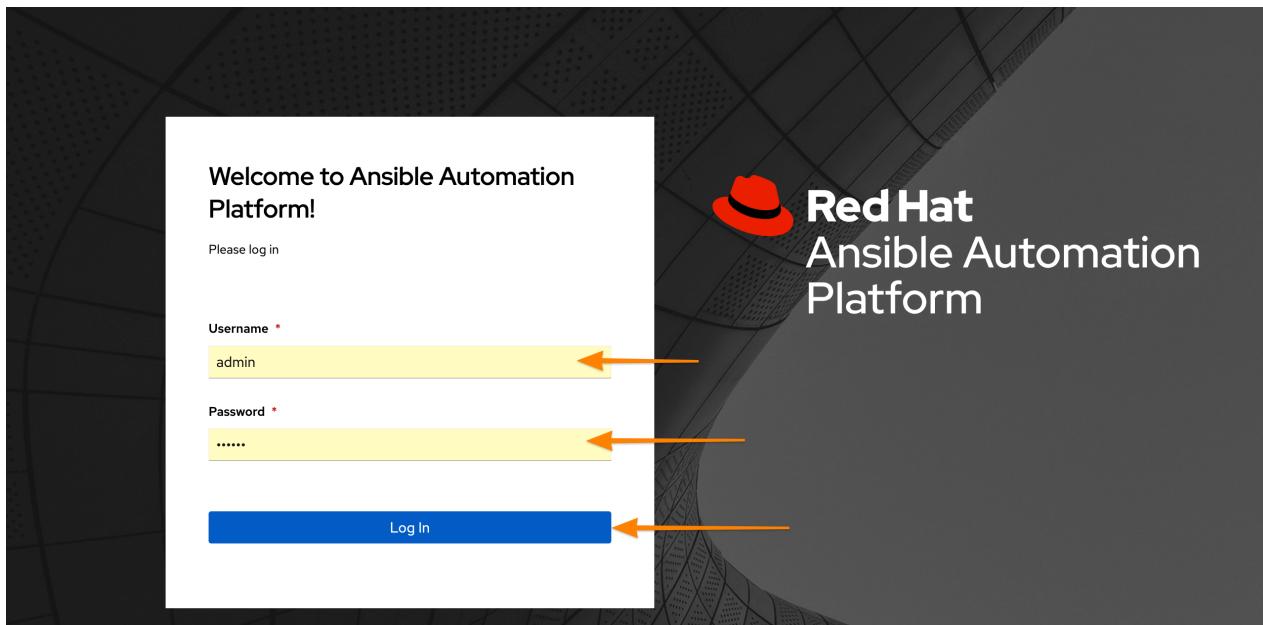


Figure 4. Ansible Controller Login

2. Click Organizations

The screenshot shows the Ansible Controller dashboard. On the left, there is a navigation sidebar with sections for Views (Dashboard, Jobs, Schedules, Activity Stream, Workflow Approvals), Resources (Templates, Credentials, Projects, Inventories, Hosts), and Access (Organizations, Users, Teams). The 'Organizations' option under 'Access' is highlighted with an orange arrow. The main dashboard area displays various metrics: 1 Hosts, 0 Failed hosts, 1 Inventories, 0 Inventory sync failures, 1 Projects, and 0 Project sync failures. Below these metrics is a chart titled 'Job Runs' showing a single data point at 1.

Figure 5. Ansible Controller - Organizations

3. Click Add

The screenshot shows the 'Organizations' page within the Ansible Controller. The left sidebar has the 'Organizations' option selected. The main area displays a table with one organization entry: 'Name' (1) and 'Default'. There are columns for 'Members' (1), 'Teams' (0), and 'Actions'. At the top right of the table is a blue 'Add' button, which is highlighted with an orange arrow. The status bar at the bottom indicates '1-1 of 1 items'.

Figure 6. Ansible Controller - Adding an Organization

4. Create the new organization with the appropriate details and then click Save

- Name:** Required for name of Organization
- Description:** Optional but helpful

- c. **Execution Environment:** Default execution environment for playbooks, projects, and workflows in the environment.

The screenshot shows the 'Create New Organization' interface. It has fields for 'Name' (containing 'NYPD'), 'Description' (containing 'New York Police Department IT'), 'Max Hosts' (set to 0), 'Instance Groups' (empty), 'Default Execution Environment' (set to 'Ansible Engine 2.9 execution environment'), and 'Galaxy Credentials' (set to 'Ansible Galaxy'). Buttons for 'Save' and 'Cancel' are at the bottom.

Figure 7. Ansible Controller - Configuring the Organization

Default Execution Environment

It is helpful to setup the default execution environment (EE) which will control the running of Ansible playbooks within your Organization. It is possible for individual projects and playbooks to be selectively run with another execution environment, but the default EE will be used if another EE isn't specified.



In the above example, the **Ansible Engine 2.9 execution environment** was selected as it has the best compatibility with older playbooks before the realigned modules and collections. Ansible Engine 2.9 can utilize collections, but also has the mapping for the Ansible modules allowing older playbooks to run without updating to using FQCN.

Creating a Team

1. Click on **Teams**

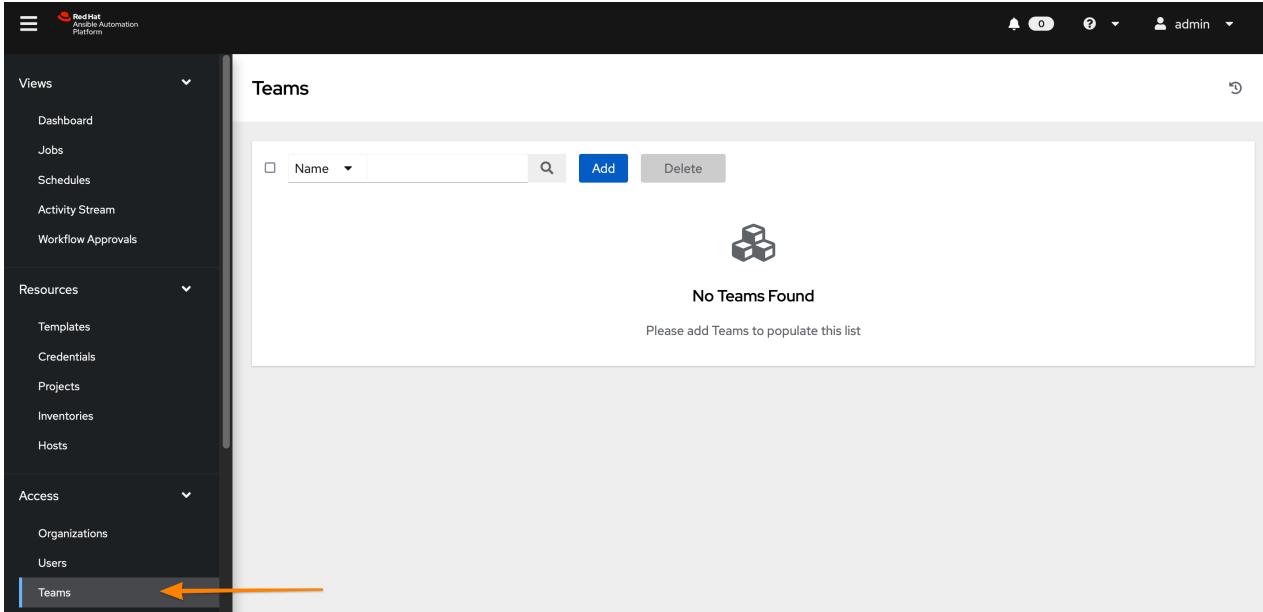


Figure 8. Ansible Controller - Creating a Team

2. Click **Add** and fill in appropriate values and then click **Save**
 - a. **Name:** Required for name of team
 - b. **Organization:** Required to select an existing organization from drop-down
 - i. Click magnifying glass and select Organization

A screenshot of the 'Create New Team' dialog. The title is 'Create New Team'. It has fields for 'Name *' (containing 'NYPD System Administrator'), 'Description' (empty), and 'Organization *' (with a magnifying glass icon). Orange arrows point from the 'Name' field and the 'Organization' field. At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Figure 9. Ansible Controller - Configuring a Team

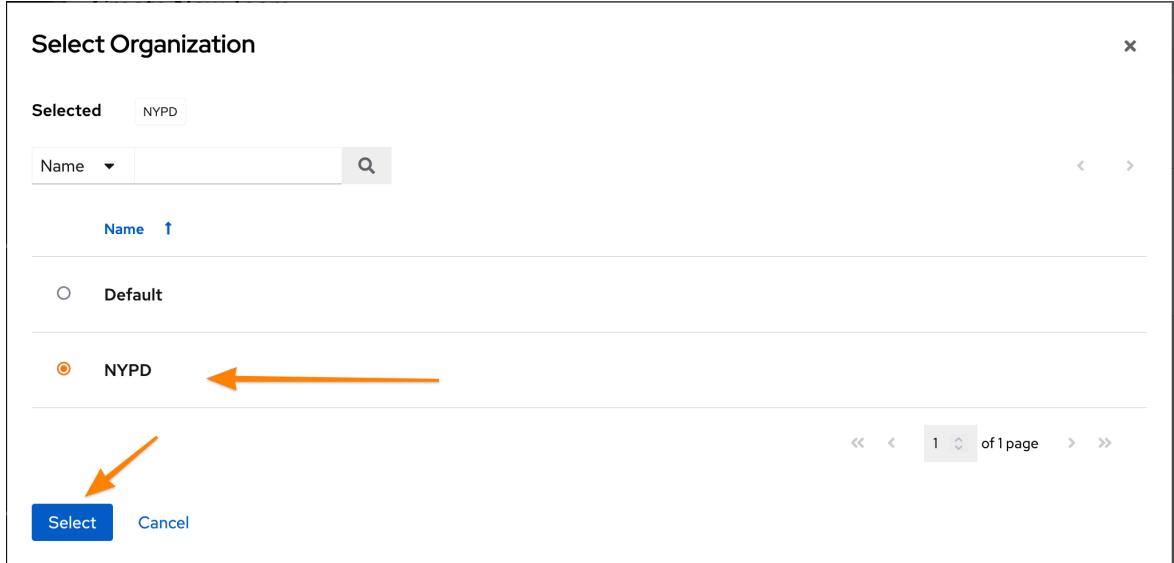


Figure 10. Ansible Controller - Selecting an Organization

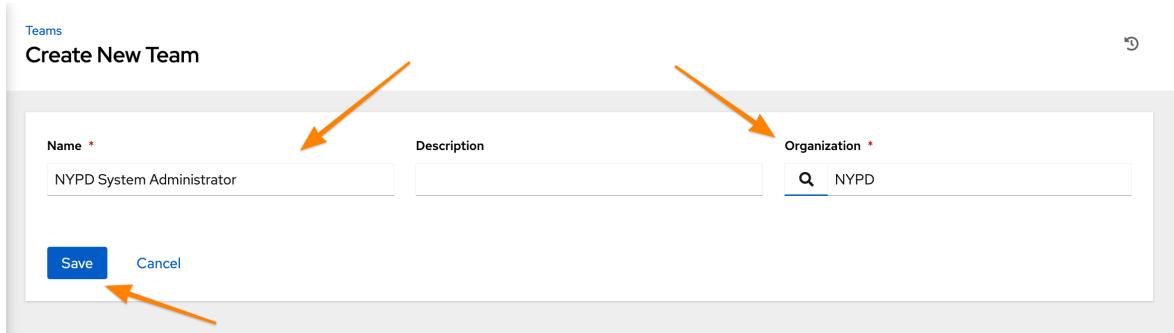


Figure 11. Ansible Controller - Completing Team Creation

Creating Users

1. Click **Users**

The screenshot shows the Ansible Controller web interface. On the left, a dark sidebar menu includes 'Views' (Dashboard, Jobs, Schedules, Activity Stream, Workflow Approvals), 'Resources' (Templates, Credentials, Projects, Inventories, Hosts), and 'Access' (Organizations, Users, Teams). The 'Users' link under 'Access' is highlighted with an orange arrow. The main content area is titled 'Users' and displays a table with two rows. The first row has a checkbox next to 'Username' (admin), 'First Name' (Travis), 'Last Name' (Michette), 'Role' (System Administrator), and an 'Actions' column with a pencil icon. The second row has a checkbox next to 'Username' (travis), 'First Name' (Travis), 'Last Name' (Michette), 'Role' (Normal User), and an 'Actions' column with a pencil icon. At the top of the table are search, add, and delete buttons. At the bottom are pagination controls.

Figure 12. Ansible Controller - Creating a User

2. Click **Add** and fill in appropriate information and click **Save**

The screenshot shows a modal dialog box titled 'Select Organization'. It has a 'Selected' dropdown set to 'NYPD'. Below it is a search bar with 'Name' and a magnifying glass icon. A list of organizations is shown, with 'Default' and 'NYPD' as options. 'NYPD' is selected, indicated by a radio button with a red circle. An orange arrow points from the 'Select' button at the bottom left to the 'NYPD' entry. Another orange arrow points from the 'Select' button to the 'Cancel' button at the bottom right. At the bottom right of the dialog are pagination controls.

Figure 13. Ansible Controller - Selecting an Organization

Users

Create New User

Username *	Email	Password *
kbeckett	kbeckett@nypd.ny.gov	<input type="password"/>
Confirm Password *	First Name	Last Name
<input type="password"/>	Kate	Beckett
Organization *	User Type *	
<input type="text"/> NYPD	Normal User	
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>		

Figure 14. Ansible Controller - Configuring a User

Adding a User to a Team

Adding users to a team can be done multiple ways, but in this example, we will be modifying a recently created user and use the **Teams** option on the User **Details** tab.

1. Click on **Teams**

Users > kbeckett

Teams

<input type="button" value="Back to Users"/>	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Organizations"/>	<input type="button" value="Teams"/>	<input type="button" value="Roles"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/> Name	<input type="button" value=""/>	<input type="button" value="Associate"/>	<input type="button" value="Disassociate"/>

No Teams Found
Please add Teams to populate this list

Figure 15. Ansible Controller - User Teams Menu

2. Click the **Associate** button to search for and select a team, then click **Save**

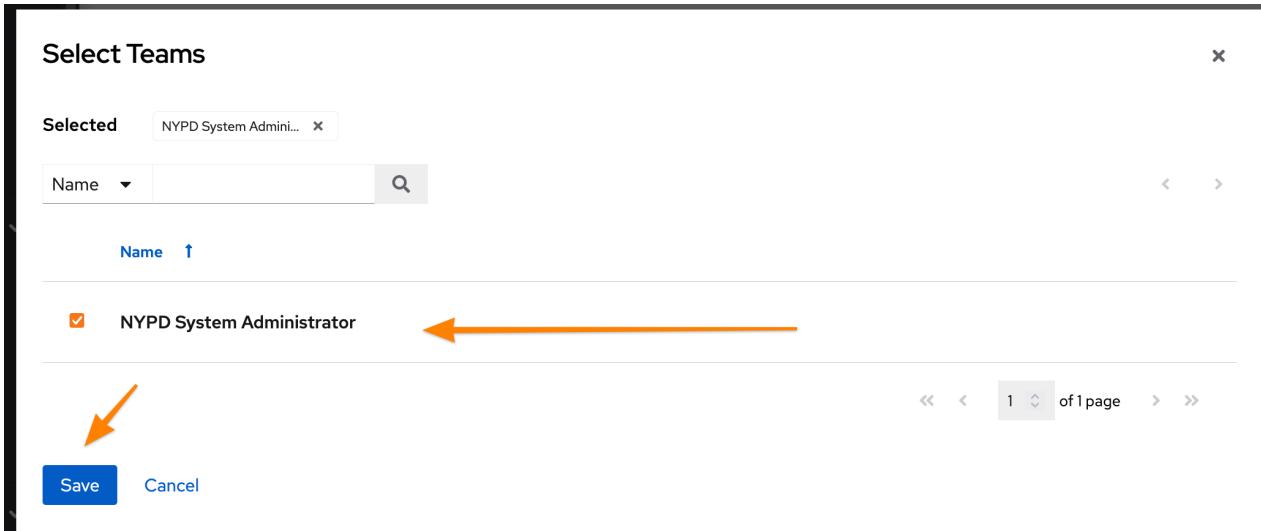


Figure 16. Ansible Controller - User Team(s) Selection

- Verify user was associated with the correct team(s).

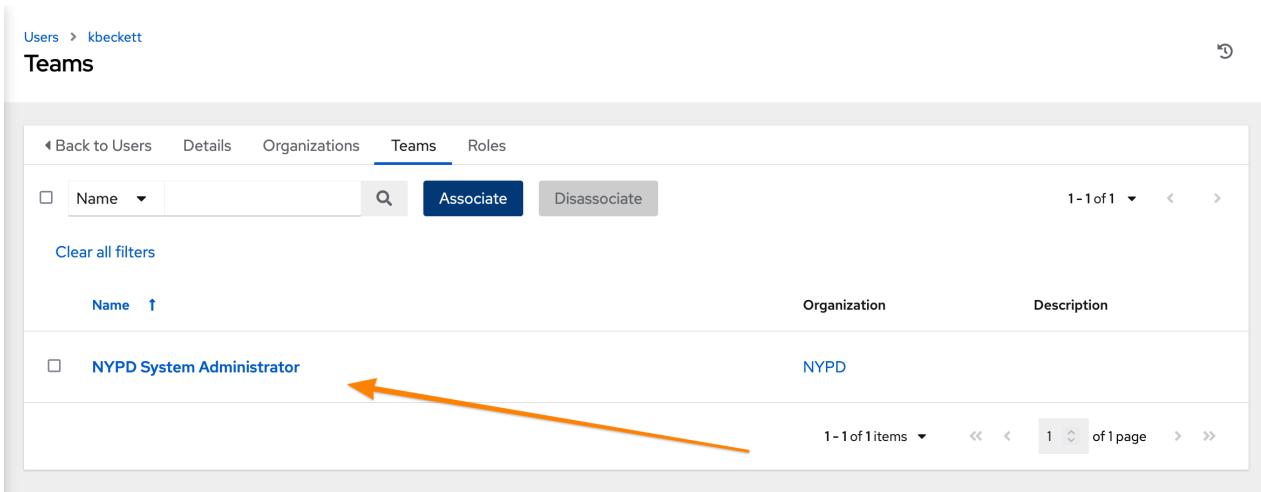


Figure 17. Ansible Controller - User Team(s) Verification



Teams are used to group users together so that RBAC controls can be more easily managed at a group level versus an individual user level. It is still possible to give individual users additional privileges, but teams is the preferred way of permission management.

3.3.2. Inventories and Credentials

Example 10. DEMONSTRATION - Creating an Inventories and Credentials

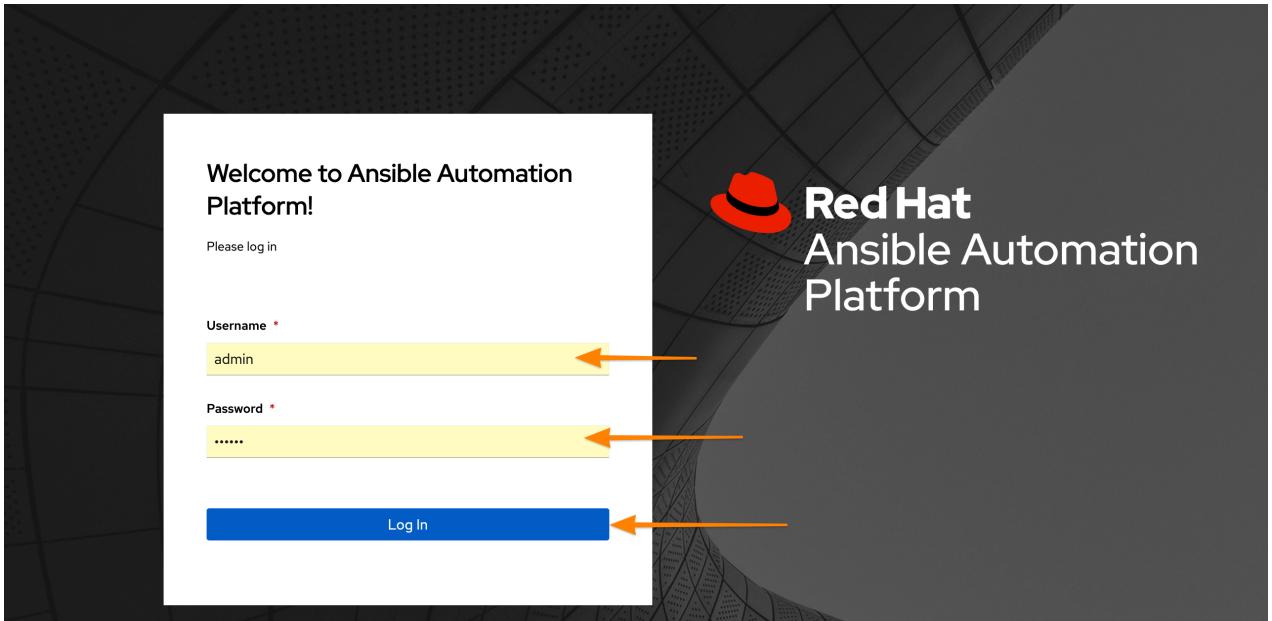
*Creating an Inventory*1. Login to **Ansible Controller**

Figure 18. Ansible Controller Login

2. Click **Inventories** and then click **Add** to Add an Inventory

Name	Status	Type	Organization	Actions
Demo Inventory	Disabled	Inventory	Default	

Figure 19. Ansible Controller - Inventory

3. Provide an inventory **Name** and **Organization** and then click **Save**

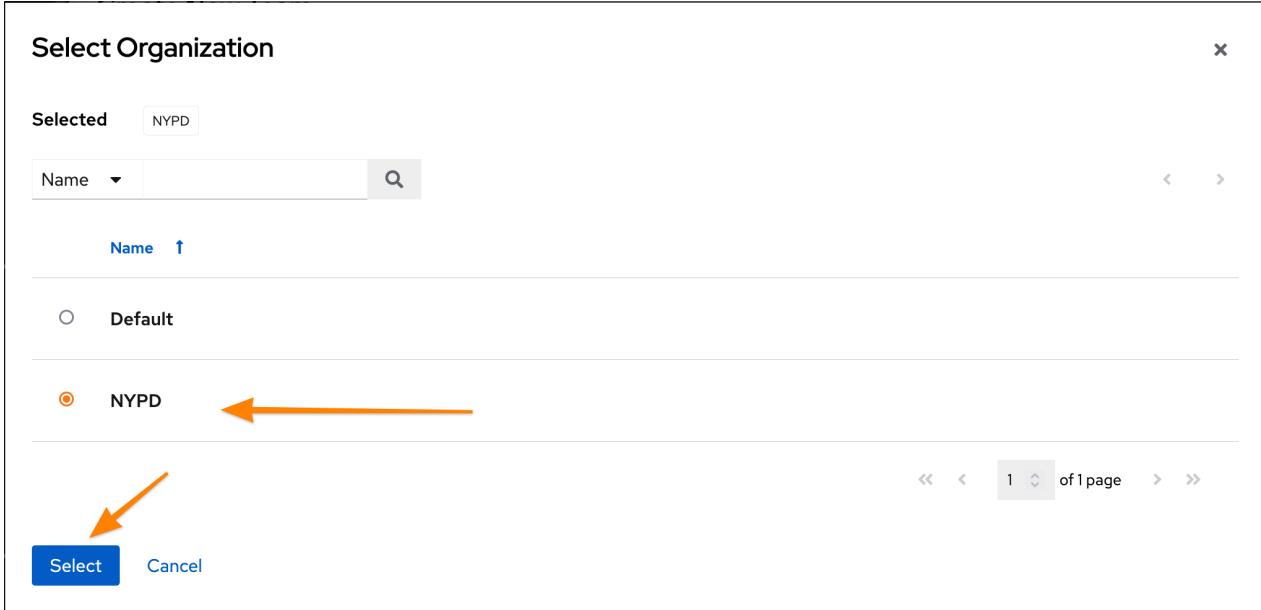


Figure 20. Ansible Controller - Selecting an Organization

The screenshot shows a modal dialog titled "Create new inventory". At the top left is a "Name" field with a red asterisk containing "NYPD Systems". To its right is a "Description" field. Below these is a "Organization" field with a red asterisk containing "NYPD", with a magnifying glass icon. Orange arrows point from both the "Name" and "Organization" fields to the "Save" button at the bottom left. The "Save" button is blue with white text, while "Cancel" is in blue text. The "Variables" section below contains a "YAML" tab selected and a "JSON" tab. A code editor area shows a single line: "1 ---".

Figure 21. Ansible Controller - New Inventory

4. Add hosts to the inventory by clicking **Hosts** and then click **Add**

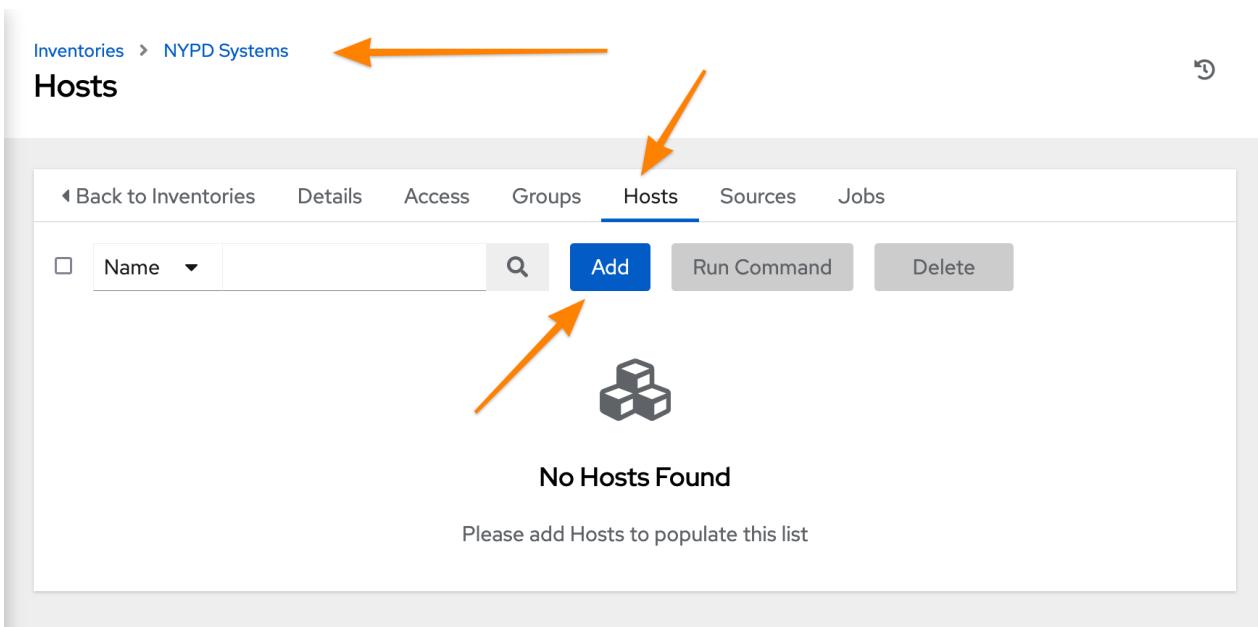


Figure 22. Ansible Controller - Managed Hosts in Inventory

5. Provide the inventory hostname of the host and any host-based variables if desired and click **Save**. Repeat for multiple hosts.

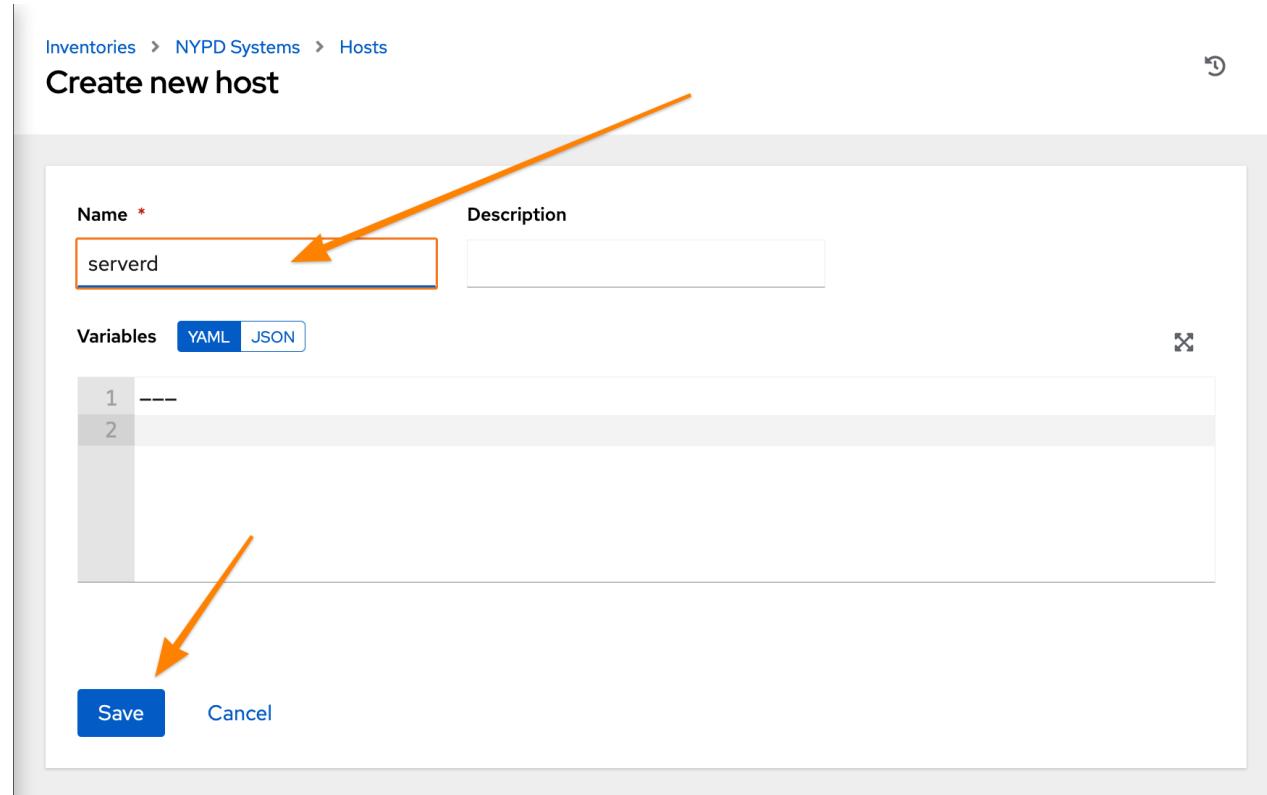


Figure 23. Ansible Controller - Adding a Host to Inventory

Creating Credentials

1. Click **Credentials** and then click **Add** to add a new credential

The screenshot shows the Ansible Controller web interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with 'Views' and 'Resources' sections. Under 'Resources', 'Templates' is expanded, and 'Credentials' is selected, indicated by a blue highlight. The main content area is titled 'Credentials' and lists three entries: 'Ansible Galaxy', 'Default Execution Environment Registry Credential', and 'Demo Credential'. Each entry has a checkbox, a name, a type, and an 'Actions' column with edit and delete icons. At the top right of this table is a blue 'Add' button. A large orange arrow points from the 'Resources' sidebar towards the 'Credentials' link. Another orange arrow points from the 'Add' button on the table.

Figure 24. Ansible Controller - Credentials

2. Create the credential specifying the name, type, and bind to organization if desired and click **Save**.

- NOTE - SSH credentials are **Machine Credentials**

The screenshot shows the 'Create New Credential' form. It has fields for 'Name *' (with 'NYPD Machine SSH Creds' entered), 'Description' (with 'NYPD SSH UN and PW Credential'), and 'Organization' (with 'NYPD' selected). Below this, a 'Credential Type *' dropdown is set to 'Machine'. The 'Type Details' section contains fields for 'Username' (with 'devops' entered) and 'Password' (with '.....' shown in the input field). A 'Prompt on launch' checkbox is also present. Orange arrows point to each of these fields: the 'Name' field, the 'Credential Type' dropdown, and the 'Password' field.

Figure 25. Ansible Controller - Machine Credentials

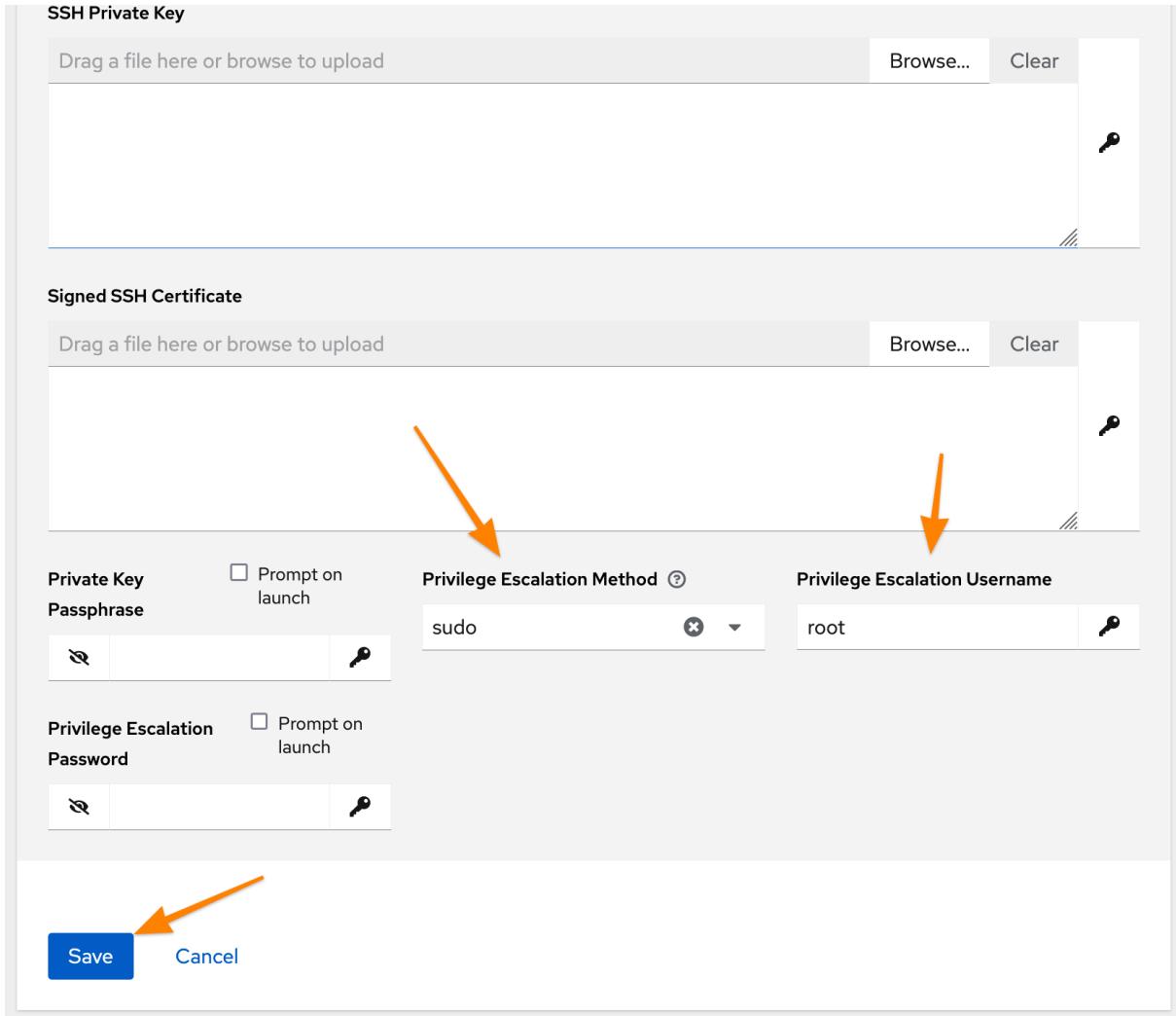


Figure 26. Ansible Controller - Credentials - Privileged User

**Privilege Escalation**

It is necessary to provide privilege escalation information as with Ansible Controller, this is where the information and configuration must come from for execution environments (EEs).

3.3.3. Projects and Job Templates

Example 11. DEMONSTRATION - Creating an Projects and Job Templates

Creating a Project

1. Login to **Ansible Controller**

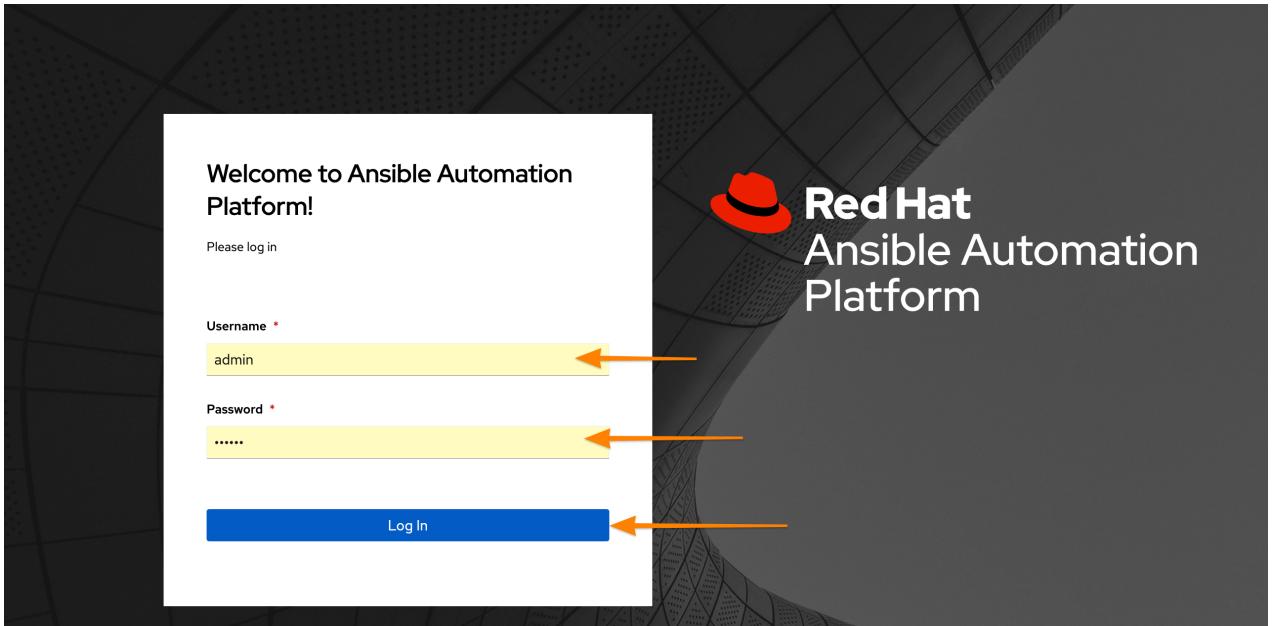


Figure 27. Ansible Controller Login

2. Click **Projects** and then click **Add** to Add a Project

Name	Status	Type	Revision	Actions
Demo Project		Git	Sync for revision	

Figure 28. Ansible Controller - Projects

3. Create a New Project with a Name, Organization and Source Control Credential

- URL: git@github.com:tmichett/AAP_Webinar.git

Projects > NYPD Webserver

Edit Details

Name * NYPD Webserver

Description

Organization * NYPD

Default Execution Environment Q

Source Control Credential Type * Git

Type Details

Source Control URL * git@github.com:tmichett/AAP_W ...

Source Control Branch/Tag/Commit

Source Control Refspec

Source Control Credential Q Travis Github

Options

Clean Delete Track submodules Update Revision on Launch

Allow Branch Override

Save Cancel

Figure 29. Ansible Controller - Creating Project from Github Source

Creating a Job Template

1. Click **Templates** and then click **Add** to Add (*Add job template) to create a job template.

The screenshot shows the Ansible Automation Platform (AAP) 2.x interface. On the left, there is a navigation sidebar with sections for Views (Dashboard, Jobs, Schedules, Activity Stream, Workflow Approvals), Resources (Templates, Credentials, Projects, Inventories, Hosts), and Ansible Automation Platform (Ansible Controller). The 'Templates' option under Resources is currently selected and highlighted with a blue bar. The main content area is titled 'Templates' and displays a table with one item: 'Demo Job Template' (Job Template). At the top of the table, there is a search bar, an 'Add' button with a dropdown arrow pointing to it, and a 'Delete' button. Below the table, there is a pagination section showing '1-1 of 1 items' and '1 of 1 page'. Two orange arrows are overlaid on the image: one points to the 'Add' button, and another points to the 'Templates' link in the sidebar.

Figure 30. Ansible Controller - Job Templates

2. Create the new job template and then click **Save**

- Provide a name
- Provide job type (**run**)
- Provide **Inventory**
- Provide **Project**
- Select **Playbook**
- Select **Credentials**
- Select **Privilege Escalation** option

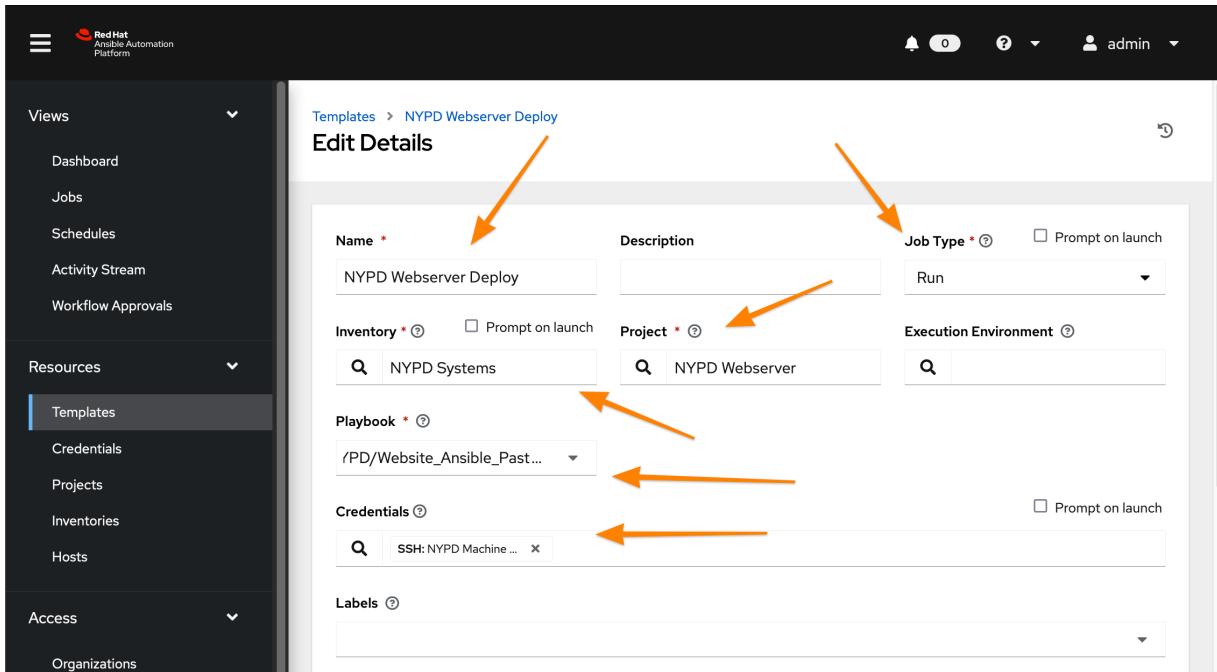


Figure 31. Ansible Controller - Job Template Details

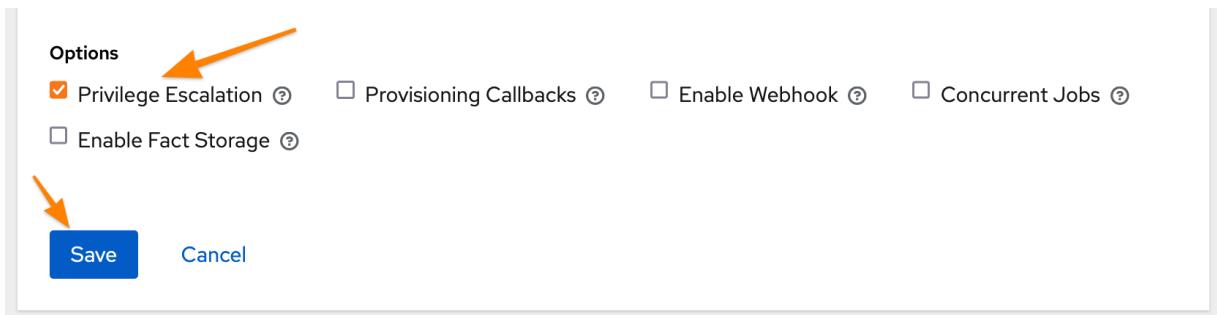


Figure 32. Ansible Controller - Job Template Details cont.

Privilege Escalation



It is important to know what the playbook does and whether it requires privilege escalation. A proper playbook might already have this defined, but it also allows you to assign it to the job from this menu.

3. Launch the job by clicking **Launch**

The screenshot shows the 'Details' tab of a job template named 'NYPD Webserver Deploy'. The template is set to run type 'run' and is associated with the 'NYPD' organization. It uses the 'NYPD Systems' inventory and the 'NYPD Webserver' project. The execution environment is 'Ansible Engine 2.9 execution environment'. The playbook is 'Future/NYPD/Website_Anisible_Past.yml'. The timeout is 0, and the verbosity is 0 (Normal). The template was created on 1/12/2022, 4:40:57 PM by admin, and last modified on 1/12/2022, 4:43:38 PM by admin. The credentials used are 'SSH: NYPD Machine ...'. The variables section shows a single entry: '1 ---'. At the bottom, there are 'Edit', 'Launch', and 'Delete' buttons. An orange arrow points from the top right towards the 'Edit' button.

Figure 33. Ansible Controller - Job Template Launch

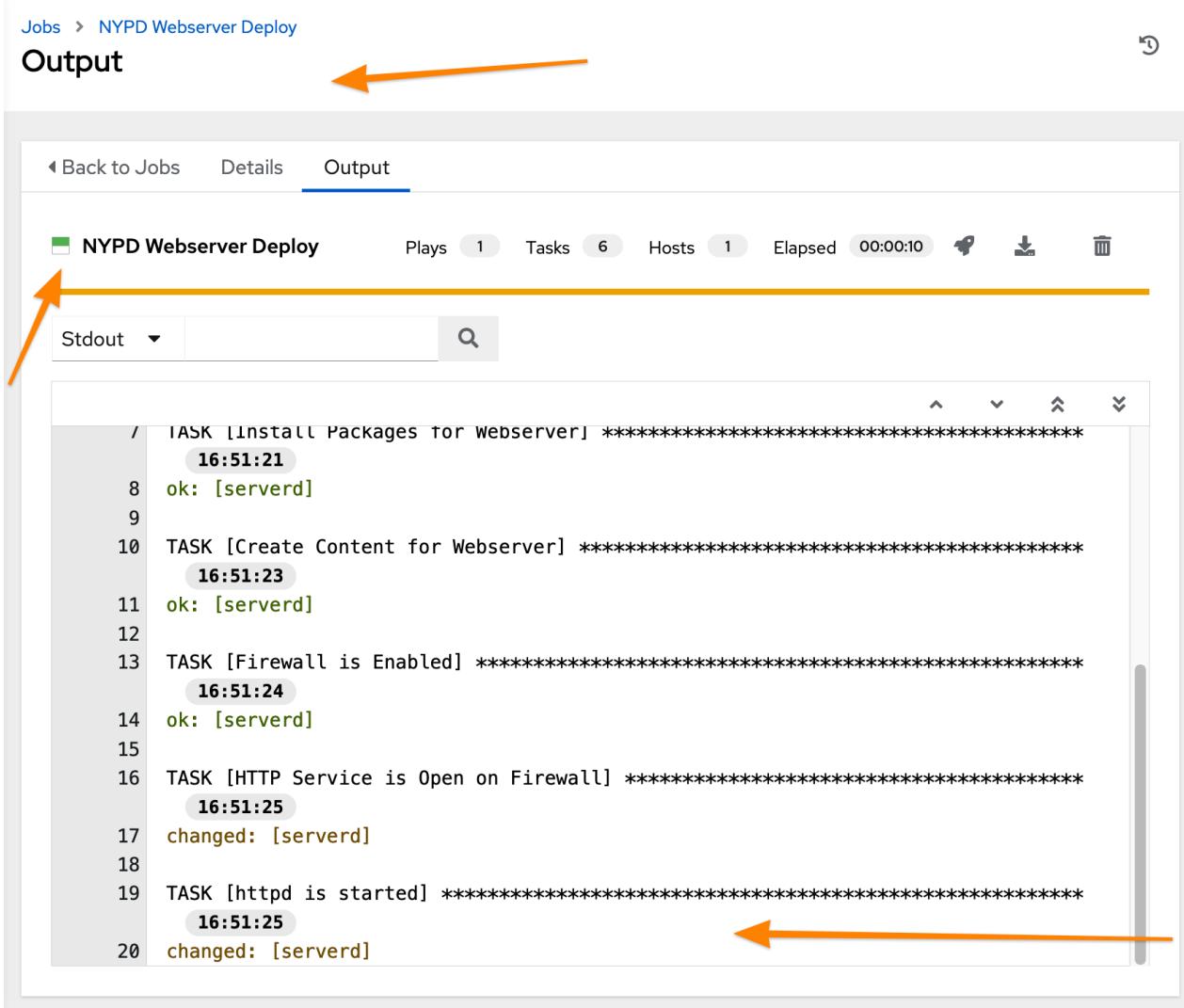


Figure 34. Ansible Controller - Job Results Output Verification

- Verify webserver is running and accessible.

```
[student@workstation ~]$ curl serverd
I'm an awesome webserver for the NYPD and I know Castle!!
```

3.3.4. Workflows

In order to create job workflows, projects and existing job templates must already be created before they can be put together as a job workflow template.

Example 12. DEMONSTRATION - Job Workflow Templates

For this demonstration, it will be necessary to create two new **Job Templates** that will be linked together in a **Job Workflow Template**. We will be leveraging the already created project **NYPD Webserver** for existing playbooks and inventories. We will also create a dynamic inventory based on imported inventory from the project.

Creating a Project-Based Inventory Source

1. Login to **Ansible Controller**

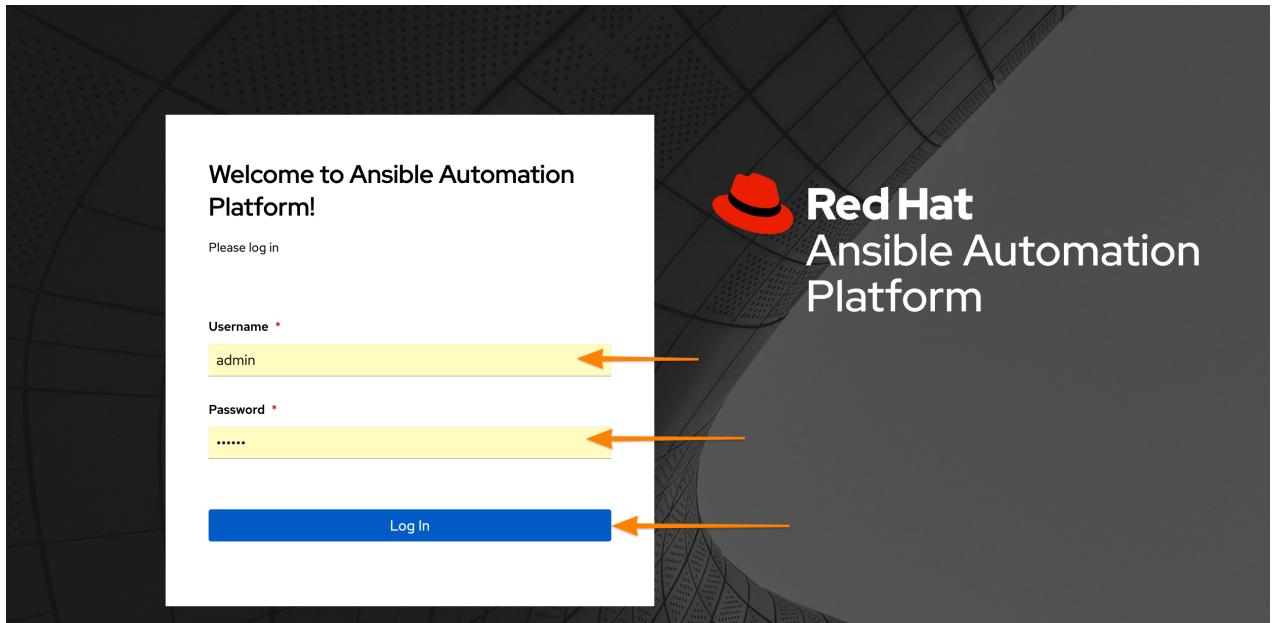


Figure 35. Ansible Controller Login

2. Click **Inventories** and then click **Add**

Name	Status	Type	Organization	Actions
Demo Inventory	Disabled	Inventory	Default	

Figure 36. Ansible Controller - Inventory

3. Assign a **Name** and **Organization** to the Inventory and then click **Save**

The screenshot shows the 'Create new inventory' dialog box. At the top left is the title 'Create new inventory'. On the left, there's a sidebar labeled 'Inventories' with a circular icon showing '1'. Below the title are fields for 'Name *' (containing 'NYPD Web Workflow'), 'Description' (empty), and 'Organization *' (containing 'NYPD'). Orange arrows point from the text descriptions to each of these three fields. Below these fields is a section titled 'Instance Groups' with a search bar containing a magnifying glass icon. Underneath is a 'Variables' section with tabs for 'YAML' (selected) and 'JSON', and a 'Cancel' button. At the bottom left is a large blue 'Save' button, which has an orange arrow pointing to it.

Figure 37. Ansible Controller - Inventory Creation

4. Click **Sources** to create an inventory source

Inventories > NYPD Web Workflow

Details

Name: NYPD Web Workflow Type: Inventory Organization: NYPD

Variables: [YAML](#) [JSON](#)

```
1 ---
```

Created: 1/13/2022, 12:32:32 PM Last Modified: 1/13/2022, 12:32:32 PM
by admin

[Edit](#) [Delete](#)

Figure 38. Ansible Controller - Inventory Sources

- Click **Add** to add an inventory source

Inventories > NYPD Web Workflow

Sources

Back to Inventories Details Access Groups Hosts Sources Jobs

Name [Add](#) [Delete](#)

No Inventory Sources Found

Please add Inventory Sources to populate this list

Figure 39. Ansible Controller - Adding Inventory Sources

- Provide a **Name** and choose **Sourced from a Project** as source and click **Save**

- a. Select the **Project** and **Inventory file**
- b. Check **Update on launch**

Inventories > NYPD Web Workflow > Sources

Create new source

Name * →

Description

Execution Environment ↑

Source * ←

Source details

Credential <input type="text"/> ↑	Project * <input type="text" value="NYPD Webserver"/> ↓	Inventory file * <input type="text" value="Future/NYPD/inventory"/> ↓
Verbosity <input type="text" value="1 (Info)"/> ↓	Host Filter <input type="text"/>	Enabled Variable <input type="text"/>
Enabled Value <input type="text"/>		

Update options ↓

Overwrite ③ Overwrite variables ③ Update on launch ③ Update on project update ③

Figure 40. Ansible Controller - Configuring Inventory Sources

7. Click **Sync** to perform a synchronization

The screenshot shows the 'Details' tab of the 'NYPD Project Inventory' source in the Ansible Controller. The URL in the browser is [Inventories > NYPD Web Workflow > Sources > NYPD Project Inventory](#). An orange arrow points from the top right towards the URL bar. The page has tabs: 'Back to Sources', 'Details' (which is active), 'Schedules', and 'Notifications'. The 'Source variables' section contains a YAML editor with the content: '1 ---'. Below the editor are buttons for 'Edit', 'Sync' (highlighted with an orange arrow), and 'Delete'. At the bottom, there are fields for 'Created' (1/13/2022, 12:38:21 PM by admin) and 'Last modified' (1/13/2022, 12:38:21 PM by admin). The 'Organization' is listed as 'NYPD'.

Figure 41. Ansible Controller - Synchronizing Inventory Sources

8. Click **Inventories** to verify the inventory and select **NYPD Web Workflow**

The screenshot shows the Ansible Controller's main interface. On the left, a dark sidebar lists various sections: Views (Dashboard, Jobs, Schedules, Activity Stream, Workflow Approvals), Resources (Templates, Credentials, Projects, Inventories, Hosts), and Access. The 'Inventories' item under 'Resources' is highlighted with a blue bar and has an orange arrow pointing to it. The main content area is titled 'Inventories' and displays a table of three inventory sources:

Name	Status	Type	Organization	Actions
Demo Inventory	Disabled	Inventory	Default	
NYPD Systems	Disabled	Inventory	NYPD	
NYPD Web Workflow	Success	Inventory	NYPD	

Pagination at the bottom indicates there are 3 items on 1 page.

Figure 42. Ansible Controller - Verifying Inventory Sources

9. Click **Hosts** to view hosts

Inventories > NYPD Web Workflow

Hosts

Back to Inventories Details Access Groups **Hosts** Sources Jobs

Name ▾ Add Delete 1 - 6 of 6

Name	Actions
servera	<input type="checkbox"/> On <input type="button" value=""/>
serverb	<input type="checkbox"/> On <input type="button" value=""/>
serverc	<input type="checkbox"/> On <input type="button" value=""/>
serverd	<input type="checkbox"/> On <input type="button" value=""/>
servere	<input type="checkbox"/> On <input type="button" value=""/>
serverf	<input type="checkbox"/> On <input type="button" value=""/>

Figure 43. Ansible Controller - Verifying Inventory Hosts from Project

10. Click **Groups** to view host groups
 - a. Click on a group name to see hosts in group and click **Hosts**

The screenshot shows the 'Groups' page in the Ansible Controller interface. The URL in the top left is 'Inventories > NYPD Web Workflow'. The top navigation bar includes 'Back to Inventories', 'Details', 'Access', 'Groups' (which is underlined), 'Hosts', 'Sources', and 'Jobs'. Below the navigation is a search bar with 'Name' dropdown, a search icon, and buttons for 'Add', 'Run Command', and 'Delete'. A status indicator '1 - 2 of 2' is shown. The main table lists two groups: 'dev' and 'test'. Each row has a checkbox, a name field ('dev' or 'test'), a search icon, and edit/pencil icons. The 'dev' row is highlighted with a blue arrow pointing to it from the left. At the bottom, there's a pagination area showing '1 - 2 of 2 items' and '1 of 1 page'.

Figure 44. Ansible Controller - Verifying Inventory Group from Project

The screenshot shows the 'Hosts' page in the Ansible Controller interface. The URL in the top left is 'Inventories > NYPD Web Workflow > Groups > test'. The top navigation bar includes 'Back to Groups', 'Details', 'Related Groups', and 'Hosts' (which is underlined). Below the navigation is a search bar with 'Name' dropdown, a search icon, and buttons for 'Add', 'Run Command', and 'Disassociate'. A status indicator '1 - 1 of 1' is shown. The main table lists one host: 'serverf'. Each row has a checkbox, a name field ('serverf'), an activity column (empty), and an actions column with a toggle switch set to 'On' and a pencil icon. A blue arrow points to the 'serverf' row from the left. At the bottom, there's a pagination area showing '1 - 1 of 1 items' and '1 of 1 page'.

Figure 45. Ansible Controller - Verifying Inventory Group (Hosts) from Project

Project Based Inventory

The above example shows how to create a dynamic inventory that is sourced from a project. This would can be done to ensure that you have the same inventory and host systems as the developers. It is not 100% necessary to have inventory in the projects, but some people prefer to keep host inventory in projects and this is a great method in keeping developer inventory in sync with what is stored in Ansible Controller.

Creating a Job Workflow Template

1. Login to **Ansible Controller**

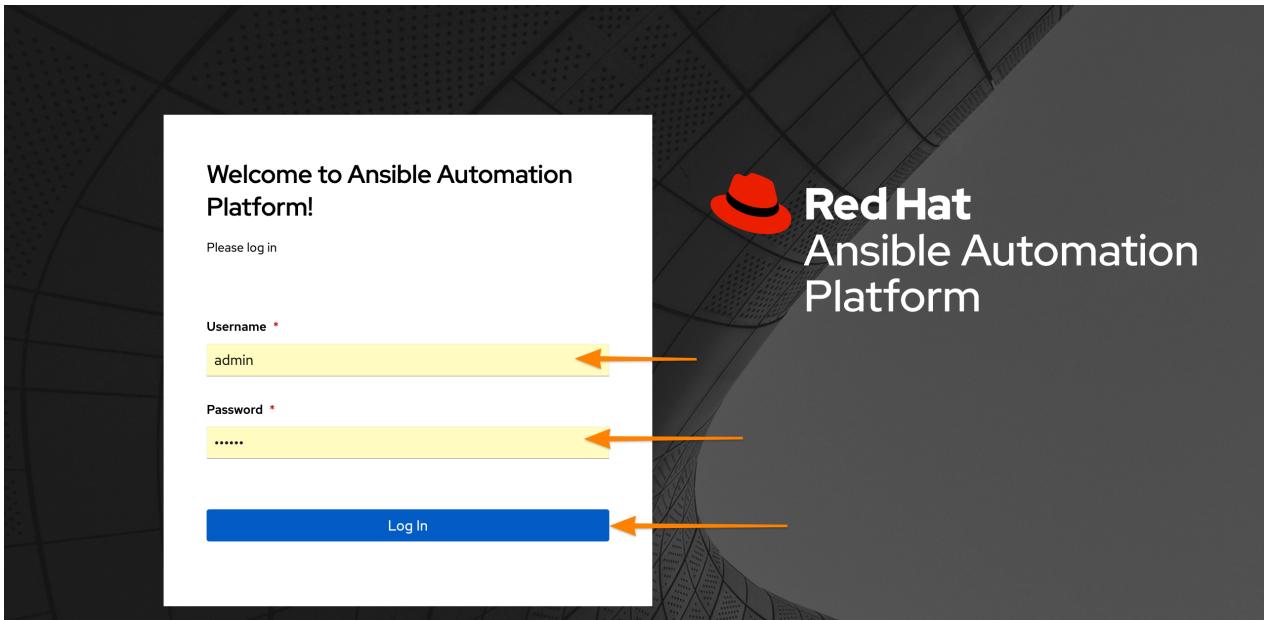


Figure 46. Ansible Controller Login

2. Click **Templates** and then click **Add** and **(Add job template)** to create a new Job Template

The screenshot shows the Ansible Controller web interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with a navigation menu. The 'Resources' section is expanded, and the 'Templates' option is selected, indicated by a blue highlight and an orange arrow pointing to it. In the main content area, the title 'Templates' is at the top. Below it is a search bar and an 'Add' button, also highlighted with an orange arrow. The main table lists two items:

Name	Type	Last Ran	Actions
Demo Job Template	Job Template		Edit, Delete
NYPD Webserver Deploy	Job Template	1/12/2022, 4:51:27 PM	Edit, Delete

Figure 47. Ansible Controller - Job Templates

3. Complete the form for the NYPD Dev Webserver and click **Save**

- a. **Name:** NYPD Dev Webserver
- b. **Job Type:** run
- c. **Inventory:** NYPD Web Workflow
- d. **Project:** NYPD Webserver
- e. **Playbook:** Future/NYPD/NYPD_Web_Workflow.yml
- f. **Credentials:** NYPD Machine SSH Creds
- g. **Variables:** inv_host_var: servere
- h. **Privilege Escalation:** Checked

Templates > NYPD Dev Webserver

Edit Details

Name * NYPD Dev Webserver

Description

Job Type * Run

Prompt on launch

Inventory * NYPD Web Workflow

Project * NYPD Webserver

Execution Environment

Playbook * Future/NYPD/NYPD_Web...

Credentials SSH: NYPD Machine ...

Prompt on launch

Labels

Variables

```

1 ---
2 inv_host_var: servers
  
```

Figure 48. Ansible Controller - Job Template Parameters

Options

Privilege Escalation ②

Provisioning Callbacks ②

Enable Webhook ②

Concurrent Jobs ②

Enable Fact Storage ②

Save Cancel

Figure 49. Ansible Controller - Job Template Parameters cont.

4. Create a new Job template using steps above with the following values.

- Name: NYPD Test Webserver
- Job Type: run

- c. **Inventory:** NYPD Web Workflow
- d. **Project:** NYPD Webserver
- e. **Playbook:** Future/NYPD/NYPD_Web_Workflow.yml
- f. **Credentials:** NYPD Machine SSH Creds
- g. **Variables:** *inv_host_var: serverf*
- h. **Privilege Escalation:** Checked

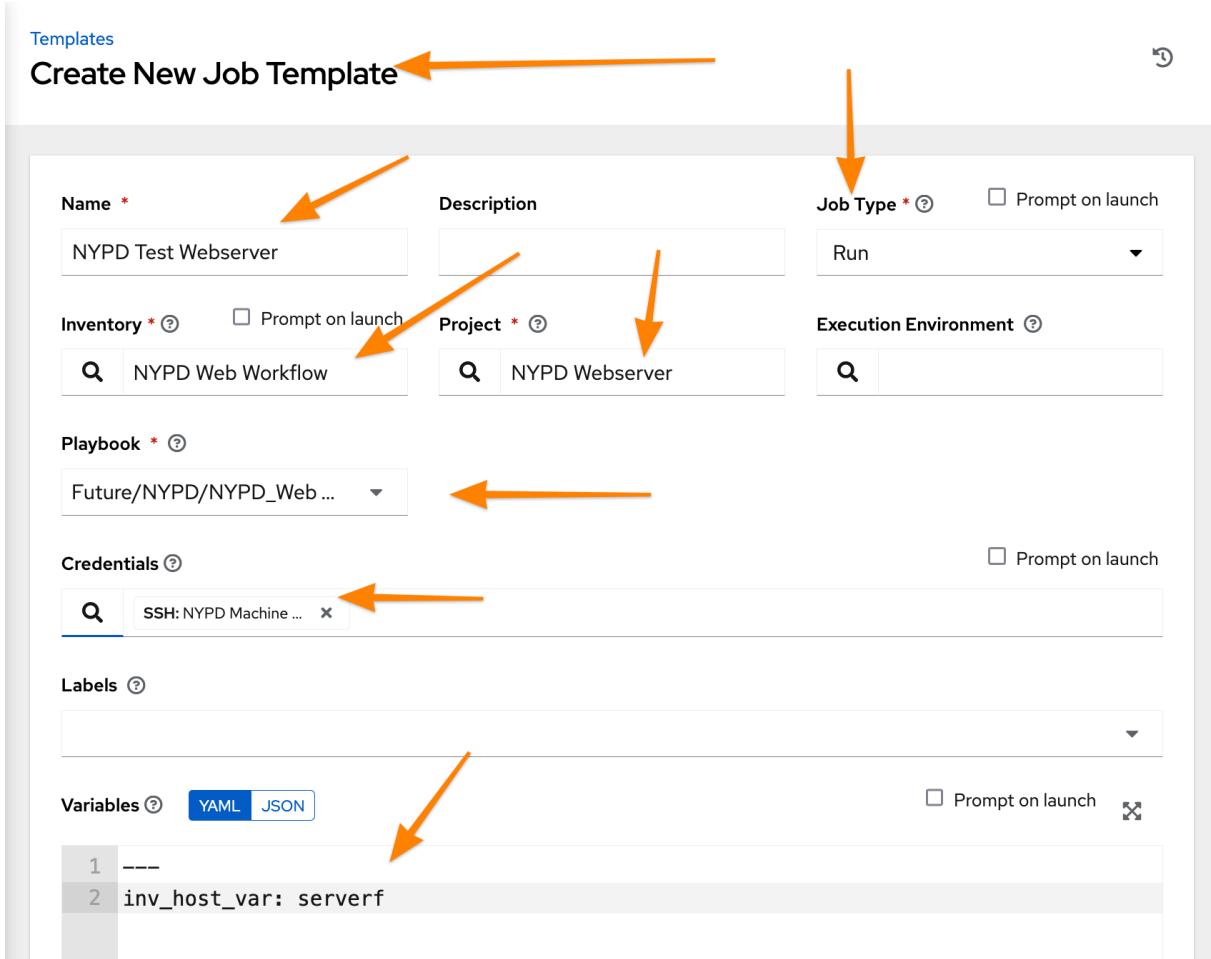


Figure 50. Ansible Controller - Job Template Parameters for NYPD Test Webserver

5. Click **Templates** then click **Add** and select **Add workflow template**

The screenshot shows the Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform interface. On the left, a dark sidebar lists various navigation options under 'Views', 'Resources', and 'Access'. The 'Templates' option is selected and highlighted with a blue bar. In the main content area, the title 'Templates' is at the top. Below it is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a dropdown menu labeled 'Add'. To the right of the search bar are buttons for 'Delete' and '1-4 of 4'. An orange arrow points from the 'Templates' link in the sidebar to the 'Add' button. Another orange arrow points from the 'Add' button to a tooltip that says 'Add job template' and 'Add workflow template'. The main table lists four items: 'Demo Job Template', 'NYPD Dev Webserver', 'NYPD Test Webserver', and 'NYPD Webserver Deploy'. Each item has a checkbox, a name, a type ('Job Template'), and a 'Last Ran' timestamp ('1/12/2022, 4:51:27 PM'). To the right of each item are three small icons: a gear, a pencil, and a clipboard.

Figure 51. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Template

6. Provide a **Name** and select the appropriate items
 - a. **Inventory:** Leave *Blank* (Will use inventory specified for Job Templates)
 - b. **Organization:** *NYPD*

Templates

Create New Workflow Template

Name * (arrow pointing to this field)

Description

Organization (arrow pointing to this field)

Inventory Prompt on launch

Limit Prompt on launch

Source control branch Prompt on launch
?

Labels

Variables YAML JSON Prompt on launch (arrow pointing to this field)

1 ---

Options

Enable Webhook (arrow pointing to this field) Enable Concurrent Jobs (arrow pointing to this field)

Figure 52. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Template Details

7. The **Workflow Visualizer** will open and click **Start** to define first task in workflow

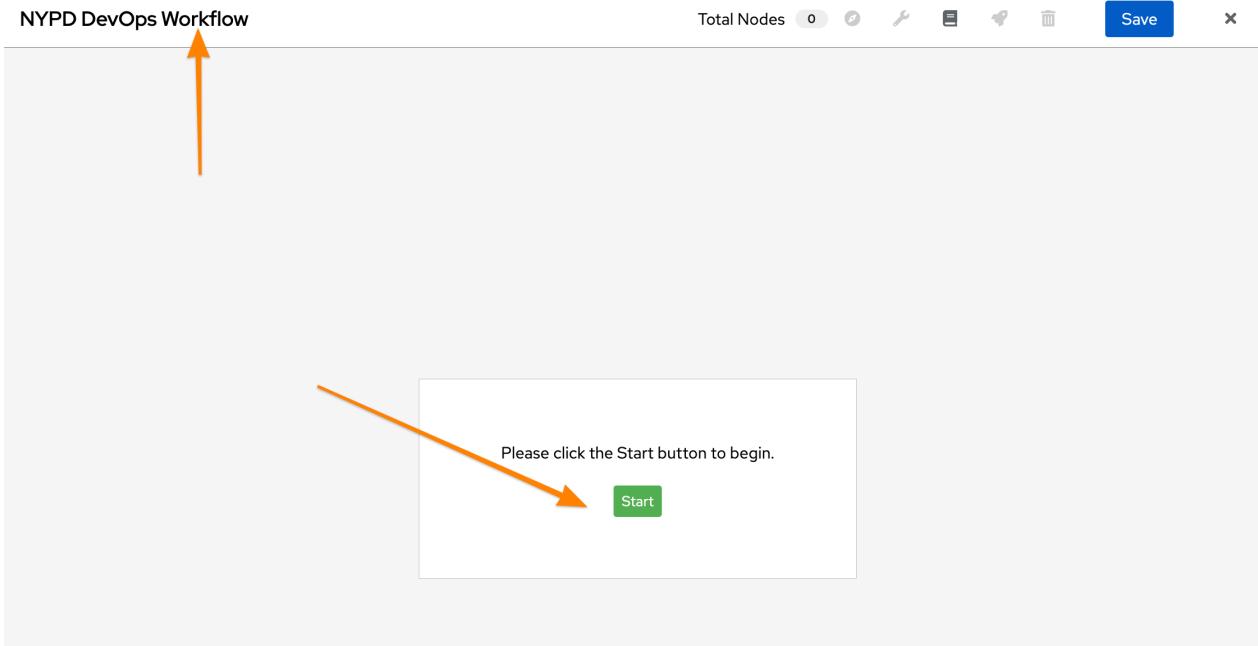


Figure 53. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Visualizer

8. Start by selecting **Node Type** of **Project Sync** and select the **NYPD Webserver** Project then click **Save**

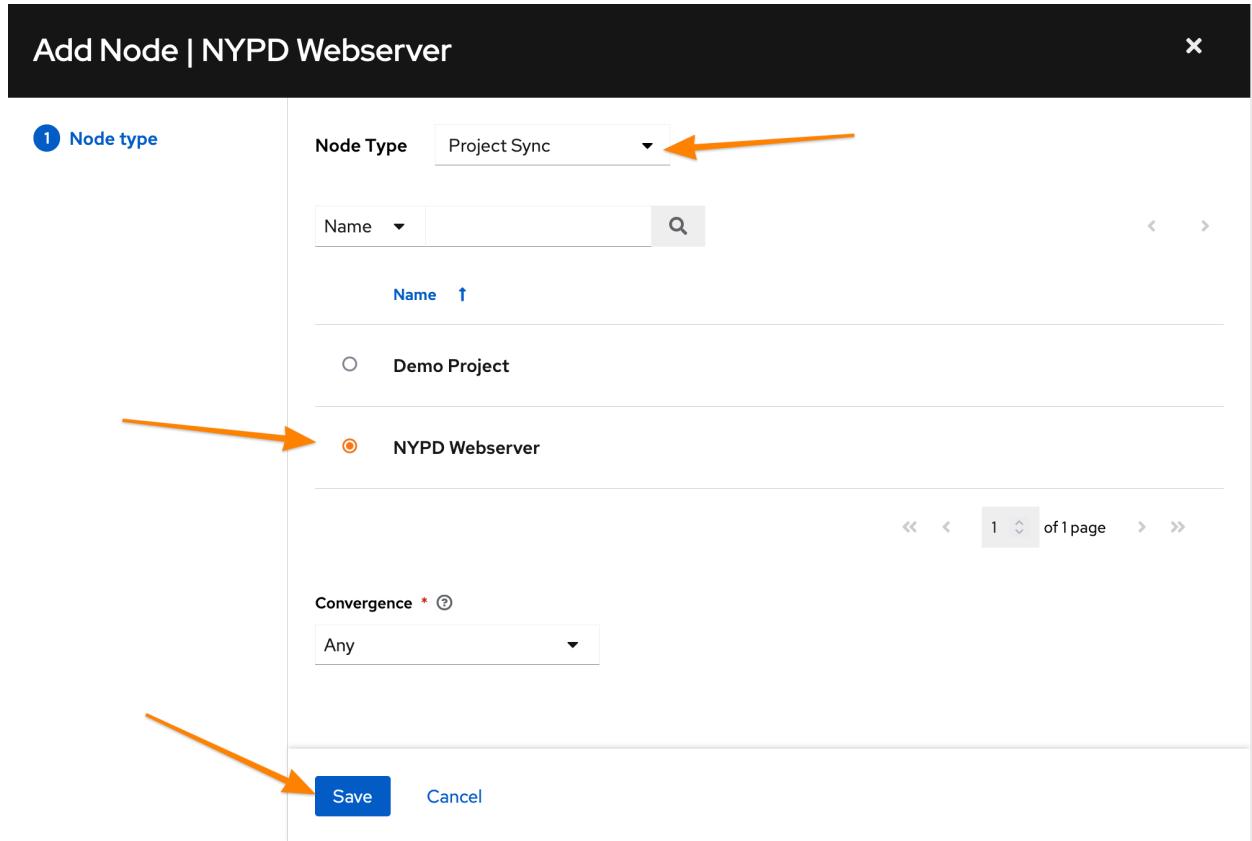


Figure 54. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Task #1 Synchronize Project Data

9. Add Step #2 to run on **Success** by selecting the NYPD Webserver Project and clicking the **+**.
 - a. Select **Run** and **On Success** then click **Next**
 - b. Select **Node Type** to be **Job Template** and select the **NYPD Dev Webserver** then click **Save**

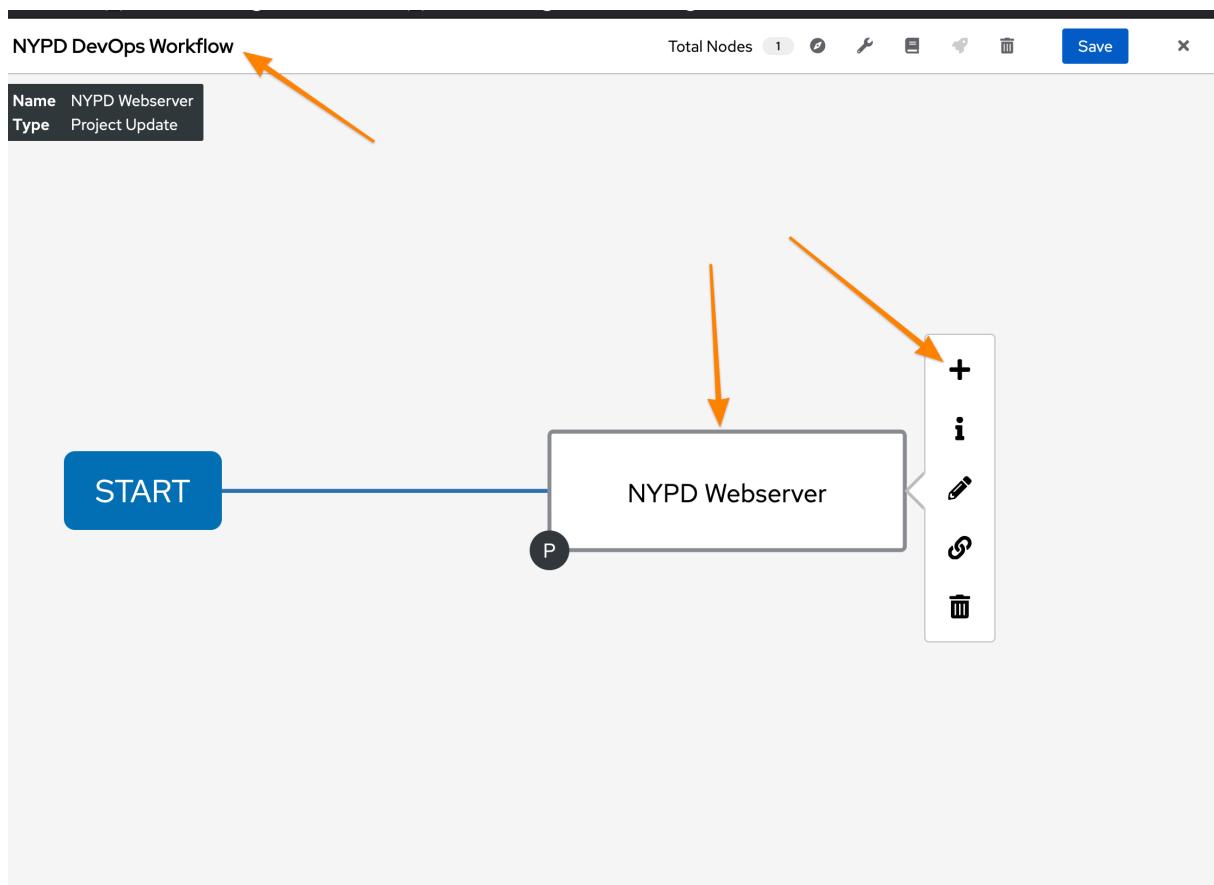


Figure 55. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Task #2 Launch Development Job

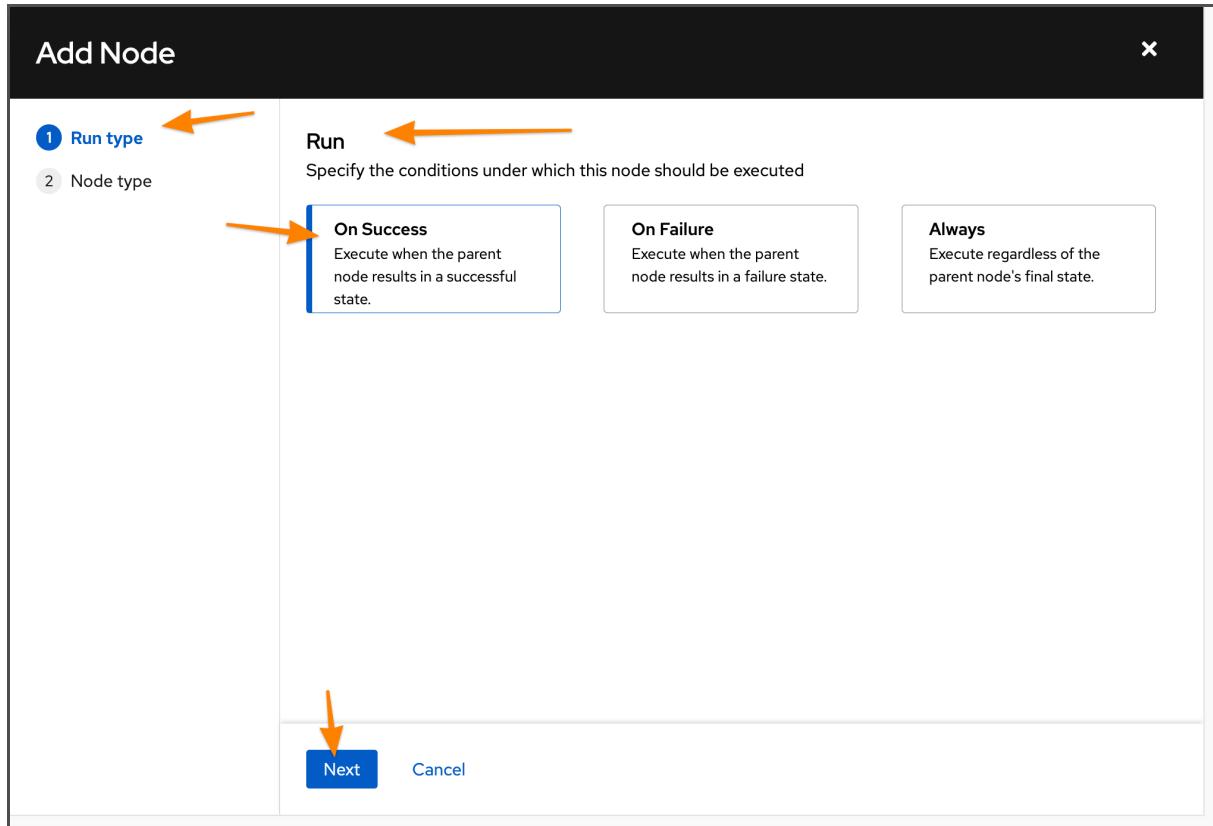


Figure 56. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Task #2 Selecting Job Run Parameters

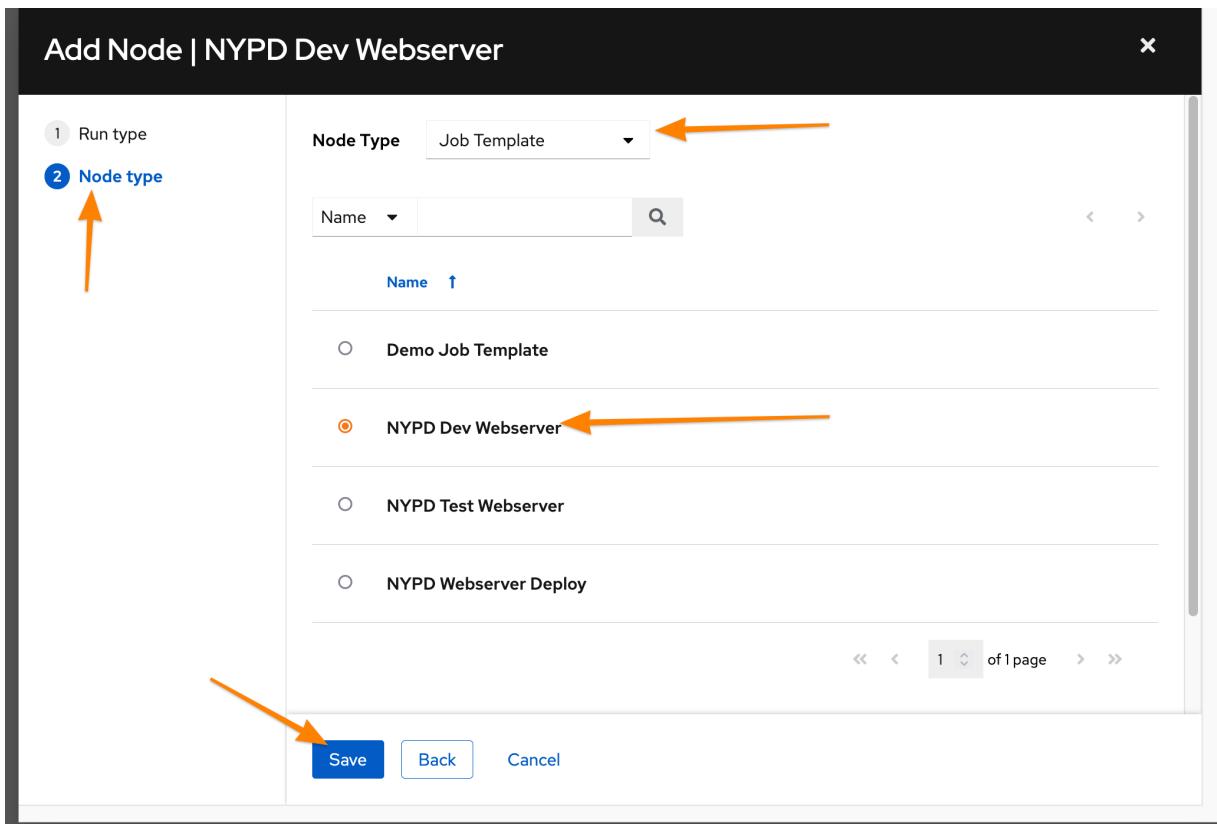


Figure 57. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Task #2 Selecting Job Template to Run

10. Add Step #3 to run on **Success** by selecting the NYPD Webserver Project and clicking the **+**.
 - a. Select **Run** and **On Success** then click **Next**
 - b. Select **Node Type** to be **Job Template** and select the **NYPD Test Webserver** then click **Save**

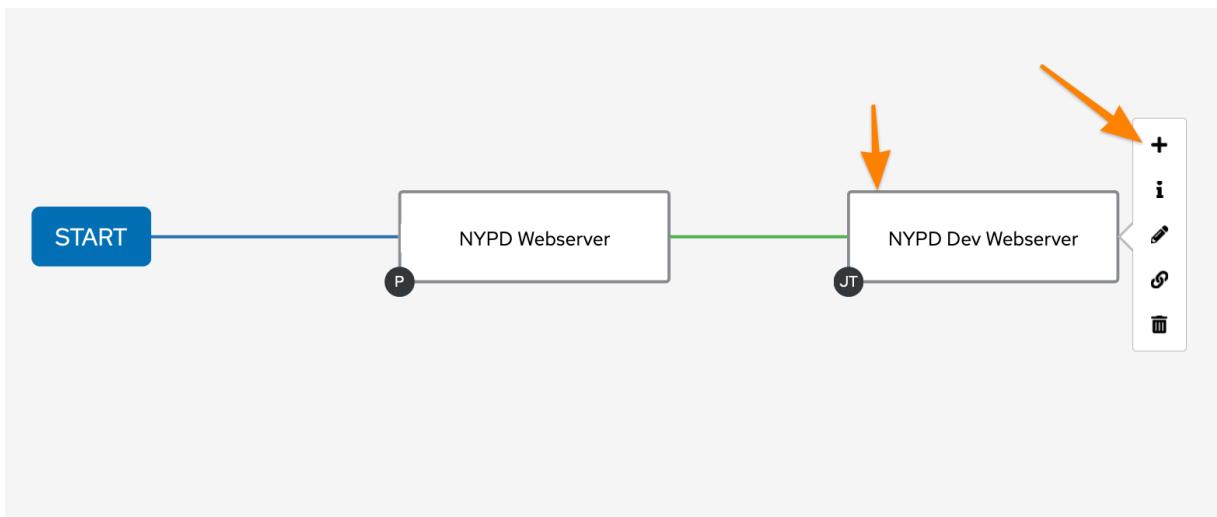


Figure 58. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Task #3 Launch Development Job

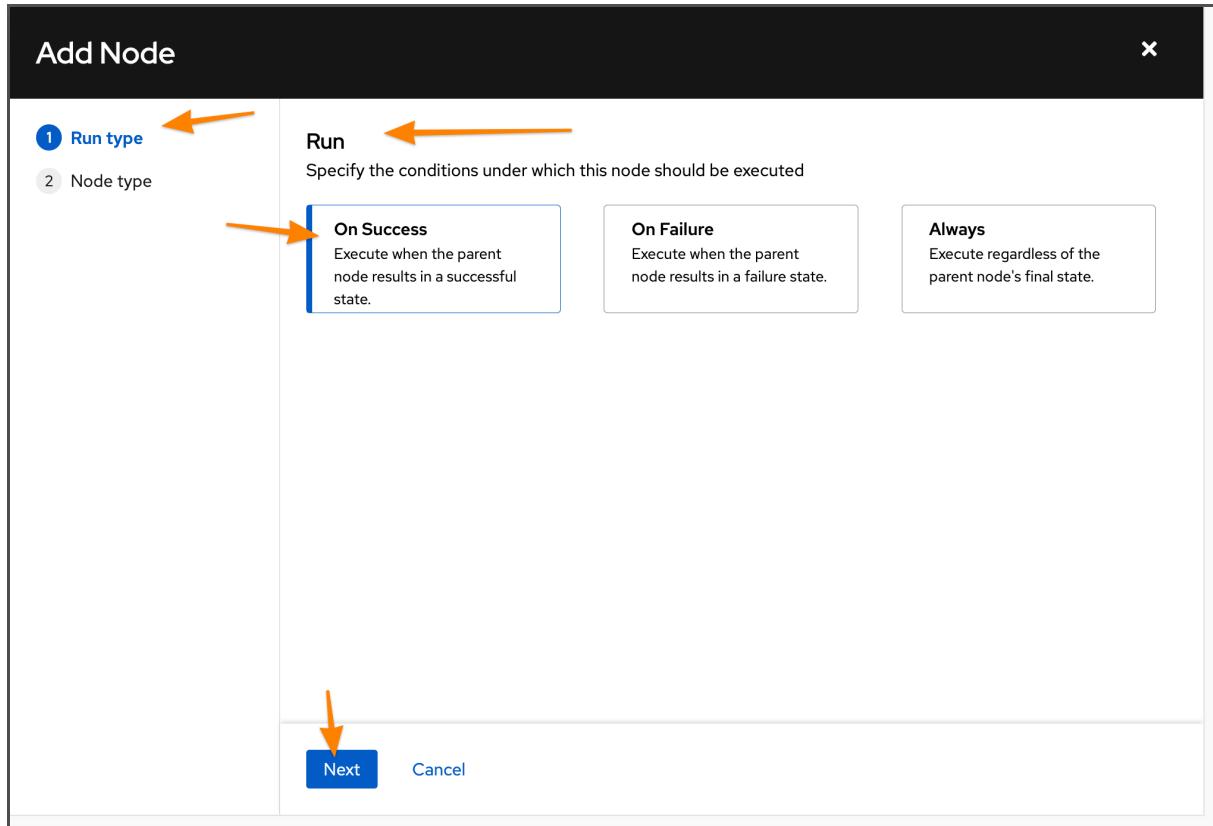


Figure 59. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Task #3 Selecting Job Run Parameters

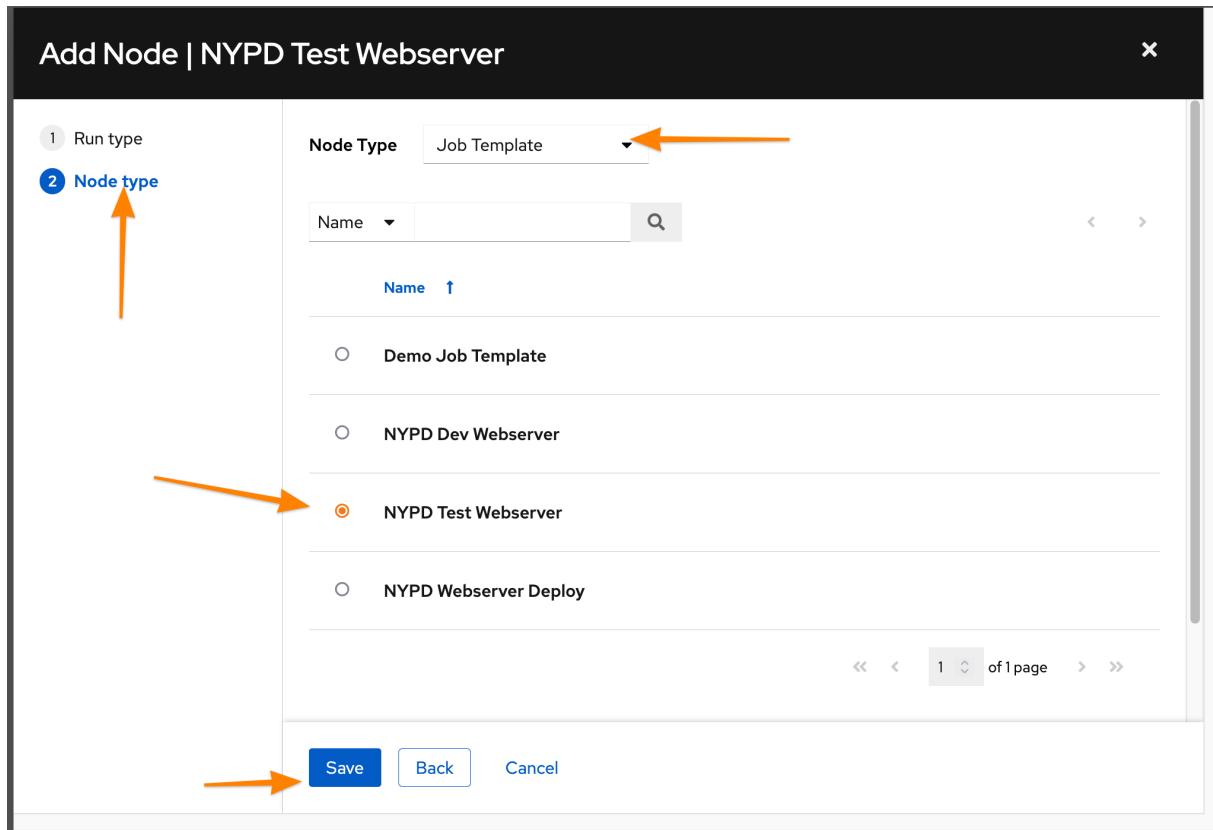


Figure 60. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Task #3 Selecting Job Template to Run

- View the complete Job Workflow and click **Save** when done adding steps

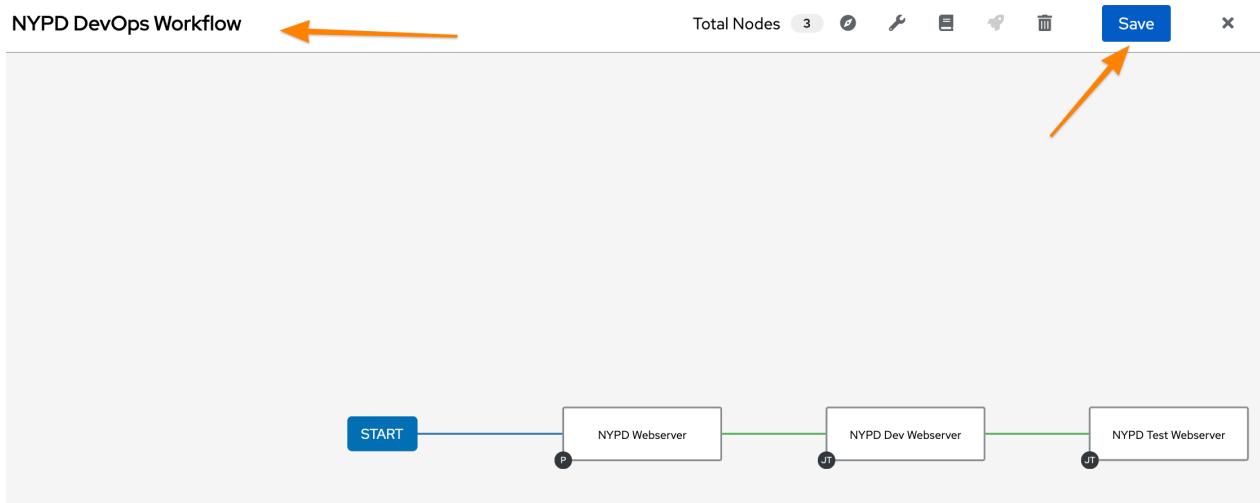


Figure 61. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Complete Overview

Job Workflows - Success, Failure, and Always

It is important to architect workflows properly. In this example, we defined the **SUCCESS** path. In general, you will most likely have failure paths to cleanup environments from failed workflows. This has been left out based on time.

12. Launch job workflow to test by clicking **Launch**

The screenshot shows the Ansible Controller's 'Details' page for a workflow named 'NYPD DevOps Workflow'. The page includes tabs for Back to Templates, Details, Access, Notifications, Schedules, Visualizer, Jobs, and Survey. The 'Details' tab is selected. The workflow details are as follows:

Name	NYPD DevOps Workflow	Description	Deploy systems to Dev and Test	Organization	NYPD
Job Type	Workflow Job Template	Created	1/13/2022, 1:10:17 PM by admin	Modified	1/13/2022, 1:10:17 PM by admin

Below the details, there is a 'Variables' section with YAML and JSON tabs. A large orange arrow points down to the 'Launch' button, which is highlighted with a blue border. Other buttons visible are 'Edit' and 'Delete'.

Figure 62. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Launching

13. View workflow output

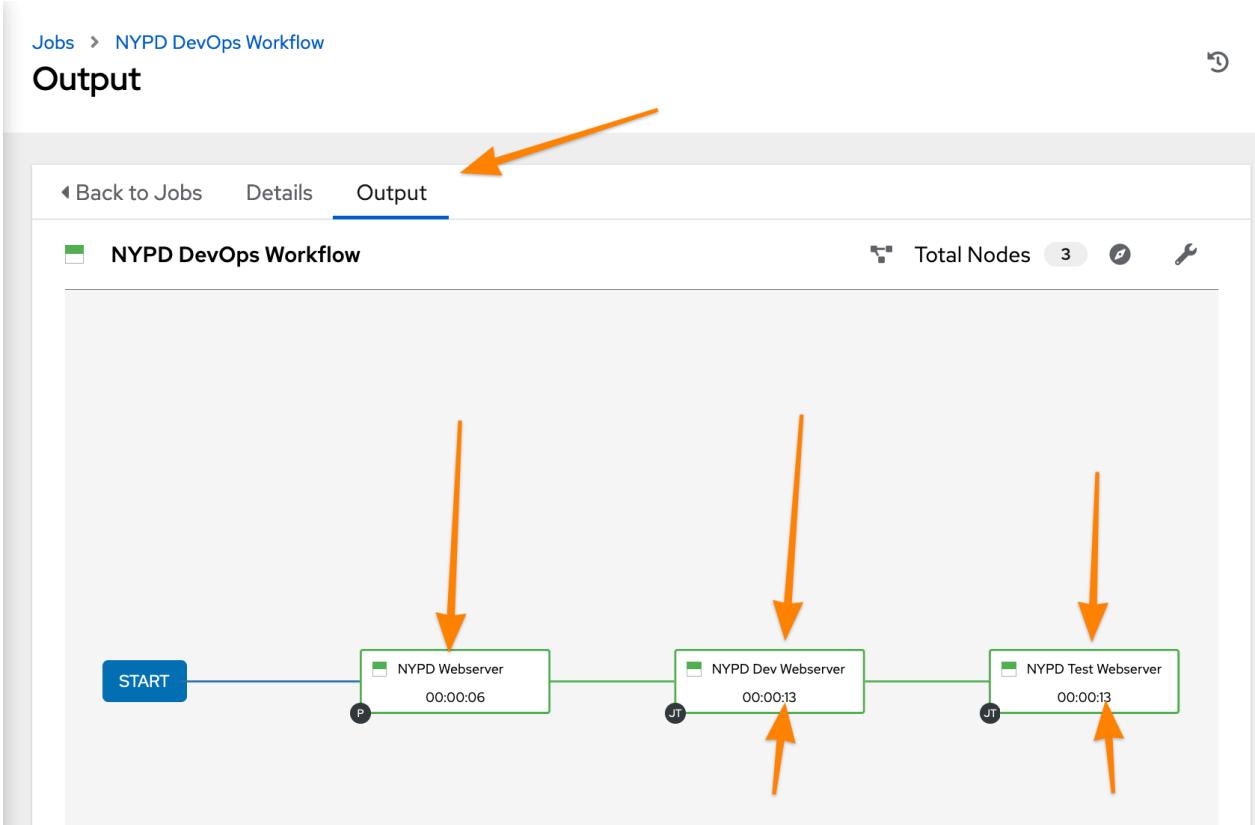


Figure 63. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Output

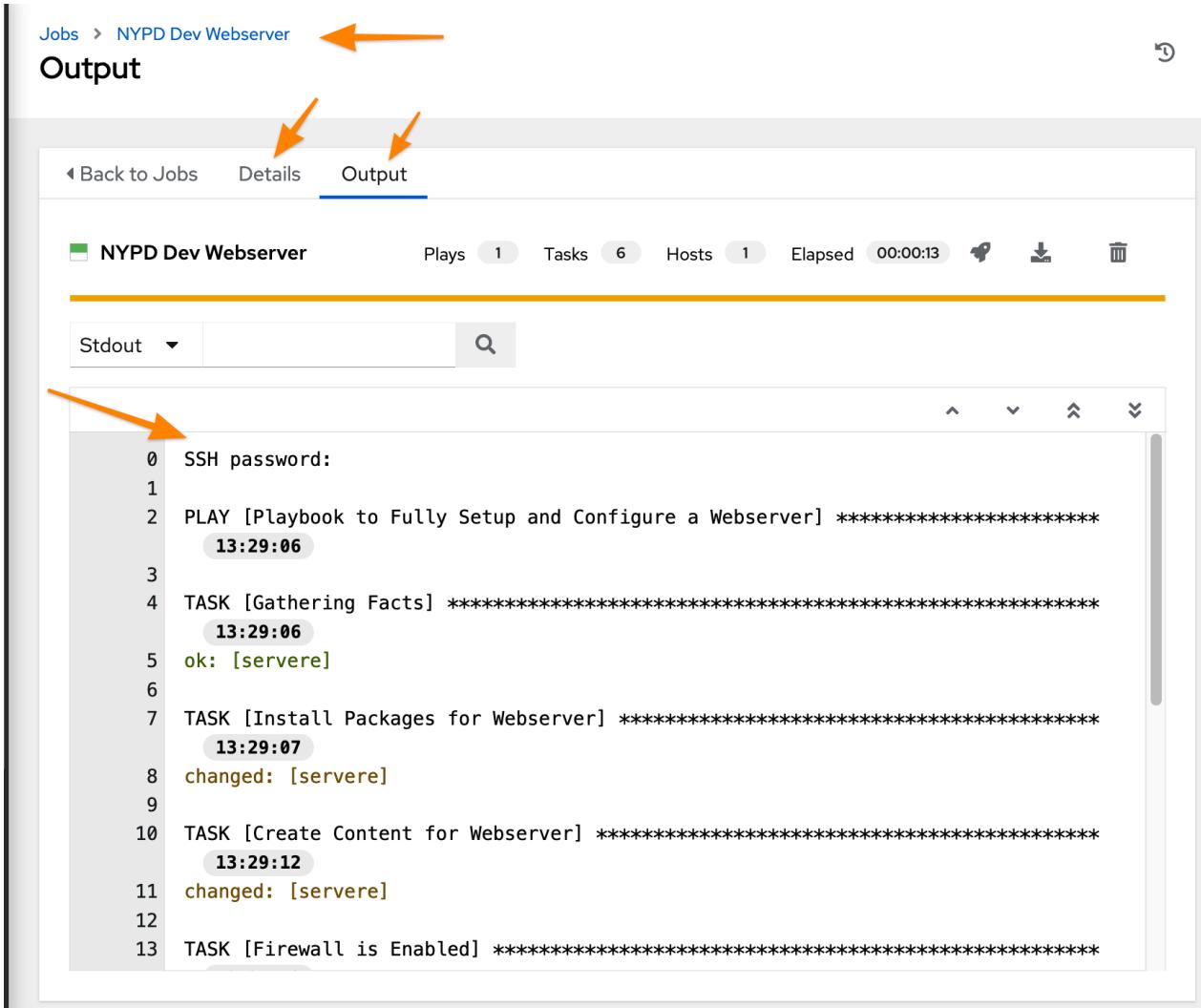


Figure 64. Ansible Controller - Job Workflow Output - Details for Job Template

14. Test from workstation

Listing 12. Dev Server test

```
[student@workstation ~]$ curl servere
I'm an awesome webserver for the NYPD and I know Castle!!
```

Listing 13. Test Server test

```
[student@workstation ~]$ curl serverf
I'm an awesome webserver for the NYPD and I know Castle!!
```