Inventory for variables and roles Playbook= actions, plays in sequences Play= task

Plays map host to tasks, can have multiple tasks; playbook has multiple plays.

Inventory maps hosts
Config sets Ansible parameters Module define actions
Playbooks coordinate multiple tasks
Python to deliver execution
SSH to deliver
JSON to report back

Ansible config global, but can be specific (separate one) for a playbook/ host(s)

Per play Ansible Control Server sends python package to host(s) JSON results are sent back

Variables

- /defaults/main.yaml, defaults overriden by other files, in inventory, then vars, then CLI (-e "varname = X")
- facts about host(s)
- Dynamic variable for temp info (such as host state)

Vagrant

```
config.vm.define "db" do Idbl
db.vm.box = "nrel/CentOS-6.5-x86_64"
db.vm.hostname = "db"
db.vm.network "private_network", ip: "192.168.33.30"
end
```

end

Vagrant up
Vboxmanage list runningvms
Vagrant ssh acs
apt-get install ansible -y
Vagrant ssh web
yum install epel-release -y
yum install ansible -y

yum install gcc yum install python-setuptools easy_install pip yum install python-devL pip install ansible

- new folder, new file 'inventory', 2 lines 192.168.33.20 and .30
- ssh vagrant@192.168.33.20
- ansible 192.168.33.20 -i inventory -u vagrant -m ping -k
- -- -k to prompt for password
- -- adding a -vvv to the above lets you debug if ansible looks like it is screwing up

ansible all -i inventory -u vagrant -m command -a "/usr/sbin/yum update -y - '-m command' can be excluded. command module is default Shell module vs command module- command module passes commands through python, shell gives access to ENVVARs and such.

Inventory features:

- behavioral params, groups, groups of groups, variable assignment, scale to multiple files
- static or dynamic (like parsed output of a script)

Start inventory with: db1.company.com db2.company.com

```
# specific params for host- username on one, specific py interpreter for the other
# db is group
[db]
db1.company.com ansible_ssh_user=dave ansible_ssh_pass=abc123
db2.company.com ansible_python_interpreter=/usr/bin/python
# children denotes DC-west is parent
[datacenter-west:children]
db
# vars for all in group
[datacenter-west:vars]
ansible_ssh_user=ansib_user
ansible_ssh_pass=%&%TYDFRYH
ntp-server=5.6.7.8
_____
# use PKI or Ansible Vault for passwords!
web1.company.com ansible_ssh_host=192.168.33.20 ansible_ssh_user=vagrant
ansible_ssh_pass=vagrant
 web2.company.com ansible ssh host=192.168.33.30 ansible ssh user=vagrant
ansible_ssh_pass=vagrant
# Here and above web1 if not a full domain name will slap the local domain name on
# (still best practice to specify)
[webservers]
web1
web2
# "ansible webservers -i inventory -u vagrant -m ping -k" works
# Aside: systems can be in multiple groups
[dbservers]
db1
db2
[datacenter:children]
webservers
dbservers
# move the items from above into veriables
[datacenter:vars]
ansible_ssh_user=vagrant
ansible_ssh_pass=vagrant
_____
Inventory in yaml (this has been ini)
```

```
all:
 hosts:
  mail.mycorp.local:
  smtp.mycorp.local:
  auth.mycorp.local:
 children:
  itlappsrv:
   children:
    Indappsrv:
     hosts:
       app01.ldn.mycorp.local:
       app02.ldn.mycorp.local:
    txappsrv:
     hosts:
       app03.tx.mycorp.local:
       app04.tx.mycorp.local:
  dc:
   children:
    dc01.mycorp.local:
    dc02.mycorp.local:
______
Scaling out to multiple files when files get too big
I----- group_vars
   I----- all
     I----- db
I----- host vars
    I----- web1
I----- inventory_prod
I----- inventory_test
# Here inventory_prod and test, group, host can share variables (same directory layer)
# Better way:
  /production
I----- group_vars
    I----- all
    I----- db
I----- host vars
    I----- web1
I----- inventory_prod
  /test
I----- group_vars
```

1	I all					
l	I db					
I	host_vars					
I	l I web1					
	inventory test					

Precedence

- 1 group_vars all
- 2 group_vars grp name overrides above defined stuff
- 3 host_vars hostname overrides above defined stuff

name={{username}} -- insert variable

====== Ansible config

Precedence (in this order- finds the config it can use and stops there and looks no further)

- 1 \$ANSIBLE CONIG
- 2 ./ansible.cfg (in current folder)
- 3 ~/.ansible.cfg
- 4 /etc/ansible/ansible.cfg (global config)

ENV VAR setting precedes all of these. \$ANSIBLE_<configsetting> - export ANSIBLE_FORKS=10

For on-the-fly changes

Common items

Forks - default is 5, production recommendation +/-20 based on performance host_key_checking- production true, dev environment false log_path = default is null, set path, add users for wrrite permissions

Current Ansible version is 4.6 - Prior to Ans 2.5, Ansible required Py2.x, not 3.x... install pkg mgr over existing 3.x, then do whereis to point anasible to 2.x version Add in inventory for that host something like:

192.168.33.50 ansible_python_interpreter=/usr/bin/python2.7

Modules: Core, extras (included 3rd party), and deprecated. ansible-doc -t become -1

-I for list, -s <name> for playbook examples/snippet

Frequent modules: Copy (push), Fetch (get), apt, yum, etc, service (like systemd, sysinit)

Setup module - gather facts.

ansible web1 -i inventory -m setup

Lists facts that can be used as variables

ansible web1 -i inventory -m setup -a "filter=ansible_eth*" -- list all eth interfaces on

```
host
# ansible web1 -i inventory -m setup -a "filter=ansible_mounts" -- list all drives on host
# ansible all -i inventory -m setup ---tree ./setup -- dump all info one file per host in setup
dir
2 plays in a playbook:
-hosts: webservers
 remote user:root
 tasks:
 - name: Install Apache
   yum: name=httpd state=present
 - name: Start Apache
   service: name=httpd state=started
-hosts: dbservers
 remote user:root
 tasks:
 - name: Install MySQL
   yum: name=mysql-server state=present
 - name: Start MySQL
   service: name=mysqld state=started
-hosts: webservers
 remote_user:root
 tasks:
## a block like this is sort of a global play declaration
-hosts: webservers
 vars:
    git_repo: https:// github.com/......
    http_port: 8080
    db name: wordpress
## declare user to run task
 sudo: yes
 sudo user: wordpress user
  gather_facts: no
## gathering facts take a lot of resource - forget it unless needed
```

ansible-playbook playbook.yml

If a host fails it won't keep going- it is removed from the "pool" to fix, use retry file and execute ansible-playbook with --limit @home/ping.retry (it gives the real path)

ansible-playbook playbook.yml --limit @home/web_db.yaml.retry

This in the local ansible config will make it unnecessary to -i to specify inventory file [defaults]

hostfile = inventory

Include Files to Extend Playbook

- Breaks up long playbooks
- Use to add external variable files Reuse other playbooks

tasks:

- include: wordpress.yml

vars:

sitename: My Awesome Site
- include: loadbalancer.yml
- include vars: variables.yml

Grab output of task for another task

- Useful to use tasks to feed data into other tasks
- Useful to create custom error trapping

tasks:

- shell: /usr/bin/whoami register: username
- file: path=/home/myfile.txt owner={{ username }}

Add debug to tasks

- Useful to send output to screen during execution
- Helps find problems

tasks:

- debug: msg="This host is {{ inventory_hostname }} during execution"
- shell: /usr/bin/whoami register: username
- debug: var=username

.....

Prompt user during execution

- Creates Dynamic Playbooks
- hosts: web1

vars_prompt:

- name: "sitename"

prompt: "What is new site name?"

tasks:

- debug: msg="The name is {{ sitename }}"

Playbook Handlers

- Tasks with asynchronous execution
- Only runs tasks when notified
- Tasks only notify when state=changed
- Does not run until all playbook tasks have executed
- Most common for restarting services to load changes (if changes are made)

Notify handlers from your tasks

tasks:

- copy: src=files/httpd.conf dest=/etc/httpd/conf/ notify:
 - Apache Restart

handlers:

- name: Apache Restart

service: name=httpd state=restarted

Use the clause "when" to choose if task should run.

Conditional Clause - Choose when to execute tasks

Uses YUM if OS is RedHat Uses APT if OS is Debian

tasks:

- yum: name=httpd state=present

when: ansible_os_family == "RedHat"

- apt: name=apache2 state=present

when: ansible_os_family == "Debian"

Conditional Clause Based on Output

Track whether previous task ran Searches JSON result for status

Status Options: success, failed, skipped

tasks:

 command: Is /path/doesnt/exist register: result ignore_errors: yes
 debug: msg="Failure!" when: result|failed

Templates

- Use Jinja2 Engine
- Insert variables into static files
- Creates and copies dynamic files
- Deploy custom configurations

Template Module - Modify Template and Copy Takes a file with pre-defined variable names Inserts variable values in file Copies file to destination

tasks:

- template:

src=templates/httpd.j2 dest=/etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf owner=httpd

--- > httpd.j2 <VirtualHost *:80> ServerAdmin {{ server_admin }} DocumentRoot {{ site_root }} ServerName {{ inventory_hostname }} </VirtualHost>

ROLE: Builder

- tasks:

name: install gccname: install jdkname: setup git

ROLE: Server-Common

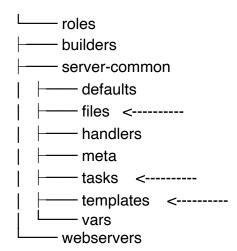
- tasks:

name: configure SNMPname: configure SYSLOGname: configure NTP

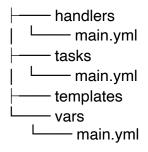
ROLE: Repo - tasks:

- name: git

name: configurename: pull latest



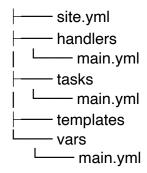
main.yml - Primary file that Ansible looks for



tasks/main.yml -- Includes to break-up long files

include: webservers.ymlinclude: dbservers.yml

--- site.yml - Primary file to include entire infrastructure



site.yml - Use tags to define categories within your playbooks

- include: webservers.yml tags=web
- include: dbservers.yml tags=db

tasks:

debug: msg="This will only run on tag 'debug'"

tags:
- debug

debug: msg="You can also use multiple tags" tags:

- debug
- tag2

Adding Roles to Playbook

hosts: code-dev gather_facts: no

tasks:

Build your extra tasks here like

creating users, or deploying a specific config

roles:

- server-common
- builders

Pre-tasks and Post-tasks

pre_tasks: Executes plays BEFORE roles Use-Cases:

- Setup of maintenance windows
- Removing servers from Load- balancers
- Silencing alarms

post_tasks: Executes plays AFTER roles Use-Cases:

- Clearing of maintenance windows
- Adding servers to Load- balancers

- Enabling Alarms

- hosts: webservers

pre tasks:

- # Remove from load-balancer

roles:

- server-common
- jboss

post tasks:

- # Add to load-balancer

gather_facts: no

Tagged execution of roles, limited by another tag \$ ansible-playbook site.yml —tags "web" —limit atlanta

Getting Roles

- •Create your own roles Perfect for proprietary applications or workflows
- Find roles to download Look for others that had the same requirement and shared their work
- \$ ansible-galaxy install username.role
- \$ sudo ansible-galaxy install geerlingguy.git

Step 1: Enter/create a roles folder in existing project, then execute this: \$ ansible-galaxy init apache ------ spits out an apache role

Step 2: make new playbook.yaml in roles next to apache directory

Step 3: tasks/ and handlers/main.yaml in Apache will be edited with our info in old playbook

- Handlers gets block "Reload Apache"
- Tasks/main.yaml gets this from pre-role playbook previously written:

- name: Update All Packages

yum: name: '*' state: latest

- name: Install Apache

yum:

name: httpd state: installed

- name: Create The HTML File

shell: echo "Hello From The Ansible Challenge" > /var/www/html/index.html

```
args:
  executable: /bin/bash
 notify:
  - Reload Apache
- name: Public IP
 shell:
  cmd: curl http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/public-ipv4
 register: curl
- debug: var=curl.stdout_lines
Step 4: in new Playbook.yaml, (in Role next to Apache directory) paste this, add Roles
directive.
- hosts: web
 remote_user: root
 become: yes
 roles:
   - apache
              # if playbook not in roles folder specify path
ansible-playbook -i aws.ini roles/playbook.yaml
    ------ ROLE IMPORT via URL
In roles>requirements.yaml
roles:
 - name: geerlingguy.docker # from Galaxy
 - src: (github link)
   name: apache-ch
collections:
   - name: geerlingguy.k8s
ansible-galaxy install --roles-path . -r requirements.yaml ("." means install "here")
dumps the directories into roles directory for us
ansible-galaxy collection install -p . -r requirements.yaml
```

------VARIABLES

Variables 3 basic ways: Each more portable

```
- hosts: database
 vars:
      conf_name: myconf.sql
 tasks:
 - name: ensure SQL is at the latest version
  yum:
   name: mysql-server
   state: latest
 - name: write the apache config file
  copy:
   src: {{conf_name}}
   dest: /etc/{{conf_name}}
 -----AND-----
 tasks:
 - name: Install packages
  yum:
   name: {{item}}
   state: present
   with_items:
      - python
      - python-pip
      - vim
{{item}} works with the reserved keyword "with_items"; the variable in {{}} declared first-
the reverse of previous example.
 -----AND finally-----
- hosts: database
 vars:
    packages:
      - python
      - python-pip
      - vim
 tasks:
 - name: install packages
  yum:
   name={{item}}
   state: present
   with_items: packages
-----
- hosts: database
```

```
vars:
     packages:
      - python
      - python-pip
      - vim
 tasks:
 - name: Display Value
      debug:
      msg: "{{ courses[0] }}". <--- python
Ultimately the better way of doing variables, etc:
This puts things "in scope" more efficiently and they won't be cluttering the main
playbook but isolated into their own units:
 vars.yaml:
http_port: 80
server_name: prod_dc01
 var_file_demo.yaml
- hosts: localhost
 vars_files: ## add this var_files block to
  - vars.yaml ## make it declaratively accessible
 tasks:
 - name: Display 1st Value
  debug:
   msg: "{{ http_port }}"
 - name: Display 2nd Value
  debug:
   msg: "{{ server_name }}"
ansible-playbook -e "@vars.yaml" var_file_demo.yaml
(manually passing a var file rather than declarative)
LOOP THROUGH
---- multi.yaml
- hosts: web
 remote_user: root
 become: yes
```

vars:

```
packages:
    - httpd
   - nano
    - mysql
 tasks:
 - name: Install Software
  yum:
   name: "{{ item }}"
   state: installed
  loop: "{{ packages }}"
 - name: Remove Software
  yum:
   name:
     - httpd
     - nano

    mysql

    state: removed
ansible-playbook -i aws.ini variables/multi.yaml
aws.ini:
web ansible_host=ec2-18-130-249-7.eu-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com
ansible_port=22 ansible_user=ec2-user ansible_ssh_private_key_file=/Users/Keys/
ansible_Ind_key.pem
Override a var at the CLI for testing
cli.yaml:
- hosts: localhost
 tasks:
 - name: Display Value
  debug:
   msg: "{{ basic_var }}"
ansible-playbook -e "basic_var=CLI" cli.yaml
Role dependencies
- Inside roles, meta directory playbook would specify other roles to incorporate into this
(these run first)
```

dependencies:

- common
- uwsgi
- nginx

------ Installing 2 roles from scratch

- 1. New folder, in it a new playbook.yaml
- 2. Add
- hosts: web

remote_user: root become: yes

- roles
 - web
 - db
- 3. Create roles folders:

ansible-galaxy init web
ansible-galaxy init db

- 4a. In /web/tasks/main.yml
- name: Install Apache

yum:

name: httpd state: installed notify: Start Web

- 4b. In /web/handlers/main.yml
- name: Start Web

service:

name: httpd state: started

- 5a. In /db/tasks/main.yml
- name: Install DB

yum:

name: "{{ db_server }}"

state: installed notify: Start DB

- name: Display DB installed

debug:

msg: "{{ db_server }}"

5b. In /db/defaults/main.yml

db_server: mariadb ## default

5c. In /db/vars/main.yml

```
5d. In /db/handlers/main.yml
- name: Start DB
   service:
      name: "{{ db_server }}"
      state: started
6. DB server needs to be started before web server
      Use order in playbook, or...
In /web/meta/main.yml
   dependencies:
      -db
ansible-playbook -i aws.ini webdb/playbook.yaml
Where aws.ini inventory is:
web ansible_host=ec2-18-130-249-7.eu-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com
ansible_port=22 ansible_user=ec2-user ansible_ssh_private_key_file=/Users/Keys/
ansible_Ind_key.pem
----- Dynamic Inventory
Run ./ec2.py - basic polling info on running EC2 instances w/ ip addresses
Demo goes into AWS Dashboard and spins up 9 instances
Created ec2.yaml using playbook contents as base, inserting info from aws.yaml as
vars
- hosts: ec2
 remote_user: root
 #become: yes
 strategy: free
 serial:
  - "50%"
            # stagger concurrent processes. See below.
 vars:
  ansible port: 22
  ansible_user: ec2-user
  ansible_ssh_private_key_file: /Users/Keys/ansible_Ind_key.pem
## task from old playbook
 tasks:
 - name: Install Apache
  yum:
   name: httpd
   state: installed
 - name: Remove Apache
  yum:
```

override the default

db_server: mysql

name: httpd

state: removed

Testing, set ENVVAR----> # ANSIBLE_HOST_KEY_CHECKING=False ansible-playbook -i ec2.py ec2.yaml ## Note use of python output as an inventory file

About serial, and timing

serial: 2 is running on two instances simultaneously at a time

serial:

- 1
- 2
- 4

First one at a time, if successful, then two, then three % as used in example is 50% of instances in inventory Similarly you can do this:

serial:

- "25%"
- "50%"

. . . .

------ Working with Windows EC2 Instances

Security Group needs RDP, WinRM-HTTPS, All ICMP-IPv4 w/ source "My IP" When it spins up, copy public DNS name from AWS dashboard

----- wins_server.yaml:

all:

hosts:

windows:

ansible host: ec2-18-132-47-61.eu-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com

ansible user: administrator

ansible_password: PASSWORD #see below

ansible port: 5986 ## WinRM

ansible_connection: winrm ansible_winrm_scheme: https

ansible_winrm_server_cert_validation: ignore # we aren't doing cert validation

Password: in AWS Instance list, select instance, go to Actions> Get Windows Password It will ask for where the key pair is locally stored (Key Pair Path)
Click Decrypt Password and remote login including pass is given.

Use Ansible Vault!!

Mac: MS Remote Desktop app

Ansible docs: Setting up a Windows host has PS to run in the Win Instance running environment

(See WinRM Setup) copy and paste (notepad eg.) name winrm.ps1, right click and "run with PS"

```
ansible windows -i win server.yaml -m win whoami
----- Ansible Vault
ansible-vault encrypt file_with_passwd.yaml
Asks for new pass and confirmation, opening file now shows encryption
ansible-vault view file_with_passwd.yaml
ansible-playbook -i file with passwd.yaml --ask-vault-pass playbook.yaml
ansible-vault rekey file_with_passwd.yaml #### change password
ansible-vault decrypt file_with_passwd.yaml ### remove encryption
This vault password is for the vault, not just the one file. Need better solution:
Hashicorp Vault
------ HashiCorp Vault
Mac need to install Ansible using pip, not brew (paths are different)
pip install hvac ## needed py library
Link to install Vault: https://learn.hashicorp.com/tutorials/vault/getting-started-install
Link to the documentation for the vault module:
https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/plugins/lookup/hashi_vault.html
If you run into: in progress in another thread when fork() was called
Run: export OBJC DISABLE INITIALIZE FORK SAFETY=YES
Then re-run the command
{sidenote: Chocolatey is like Homebrew for Windows}
----vault demo.yaml
- hosts: localhost
 vars:
  vault_token: 'TOKEN'
  vault url: 'http://127.0.0.1:8200'
  db_password: "{{ lookup('hashi_vault', 'secret=secret/passwords/db:data
token={{ vault token }} url={{ vault url }}') }}"
  system_password: "{{ lookup('hashi_vault', 'secret=secret/passwords/system:data
token={{ vault_token }} url={{ vault_url }}') }}"
 tasks:
 - name: Value For db password
  debug:
   msg: "db_password: {{ db_password }}"
 - name: Value For system_password
  debug:
   msg: "db_password: {{ system_password }}"
vault server -dev # startt Vault server- dev, NOT production environment!
You are given a Unseal Key and a Root Token
```

hosts: all tasks:

 name: Update apt cache only at particular interval apt: update_cache=yes cache_valid_time=36000

- hosts: webservers

tasks:

- name: ensure apache is at the latest version

yum:

name: httpd state: latest

- name: write the apache config file

template:

src: /srv/httpd.j2 dest: /etc/httpd.conf

Template module uses Jinja2 templating by default (var substitutions option)

More template examples:

- template:

src: /mytemplates/foo.j2

dest: /etc/file.conf

owner: bin group: wheel mode: 0644

The same example, but using symbolic modes equivalent to 0644

- template:

src: /mytemplates/foo.j2

dest: /etc/file.conf

owner: bin

```
group: wheel
  mode: "u=rw,g=r,o=r"
# Create a DOS-style text file from a template
- template:
  src: config.ini.j2
  dest: /share/windows/config.ini
  newline_sequence: '\r\n'
# Copy a new "sudoers" file into place, after passing validation with visudo
- template:
  src: /mine/sudoers
  dest: /etc/sudoers
  validate: '/usr/sbin/visudo -cf %s'
# Update sshd configuration safely, avoid locking yourself out
- template:
  src: etc/ssh/sshd_config.j2
  dest: /etc/ssh/sshd_config
  owner: root
  group: root
  mode: '0600'
  validate: /usr/sbin/sshd -t -f %s
  backup: yes
A directory structure of:
inventory
deploy.yml
group_vars/
       all
       database
```

```
host_vars/
server1.blahcom.com
```

- running "ansible-playbook -i inventory deploy.yml"
- group_vars and host_vars are standard names Ansible looks for
- inventory can also be an executable script to go find eligible devices and output proper input
- there are standard scripts in the public repo for this

```
Another way:
/
deploy.yml

staging/
    hosts
    group_vars/
    host_vars/

live/
    hosts
    group_vars/
    hosts
    group_vars/
    host_vars/
```

- running "ansible-playbook -i staging deploy.yml"

Set up roles in site.yml to modularize

uwsgi/ nginx/

```
site.yml
```

- running "ansible-playbook -i inventory site.yml" roles/ common/ defaults/ <----for default var values main.yml tasks/ <----for this role's tasks main.yml files/ myscript.py <---- copy for this role templates/ config.py.j2 <---- copy for this role meta/ <---- copy for this role main.yml

- Default var values in roles can be overridden by inventory
- Ansible hub/ Galaxy has roles to download

This allows our main playbook to only require --hosts: webservers roles: - webserver

Rather than a huge list of roles

```
site.yml
roles/
common/
files/
templates/
tasks/
handlers/
vars/
defaults/
meta/
apache/
files/
templates/
tasks/
```

```
handlers/vars/defaults/meta/

# site.yml
---
- hosts: web roles:
    - common - apache
```

https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/user_guide/playbooks_intro.html https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BhAJ4mEfZ8

https://www.infoq.com/articles/rest-anti-patterns

https://pythontips.com/2013/07/30/20-python-libraries-you-cant-live-without/

```
site.yml
roles/
common/
files/
templates/
tasks/
handlers/
vars/
defaults/
meta/
apache/
files/
templates/
tasks/
...etc...
```

The uWSGI project https://uwsgi-docs.readthedocs.io/en/latest/