

# PYTHON

FOR NETWORK ENGINEERS

Onsite Training Session  
July 2020

# Day5 Schedule - Nornir

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- Nornir Overview
- Inventory
- Nornir Tasks
- Results
- Nornir and Networking Plugins
- Custom Tasks and Grouped Tasks
- Nornir + Jinja2
- Using Netmiko and NAPALM Directly in Tasks
- Failed Tasks
- Debugging





# P Y T H O N

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Why was Nornir created? What problem is it trying to solve?

1. Systematic approach to inventory and data.
2. Concurrency
3. Using all Python



Why use a framework?

- \* Systematic Inventory Management
- \* Modular integration to other libraries
- \* Integrated Concurrency
- \* Systematizes automation in your organization

## Ansible - Nornir Comparisons



### Ansible Pluses

- + Easy getting started path
- + Use of SSH as a primary transport (familiarity)
- + Large community of network engineers using Ansible
- + Large organization behind it (Red Hat)



### Nornir Pluses

- + All Python - Single, general purpose language
- + Easier debugging/troubleshooting
- + Use of Python Tool Chain (linters, debuggers, code testing)
- + Good performance
- + Tighter integrations to NAPALM and Netmiko

## Ansible - Nornir Comparisons



### Ansible Minuses

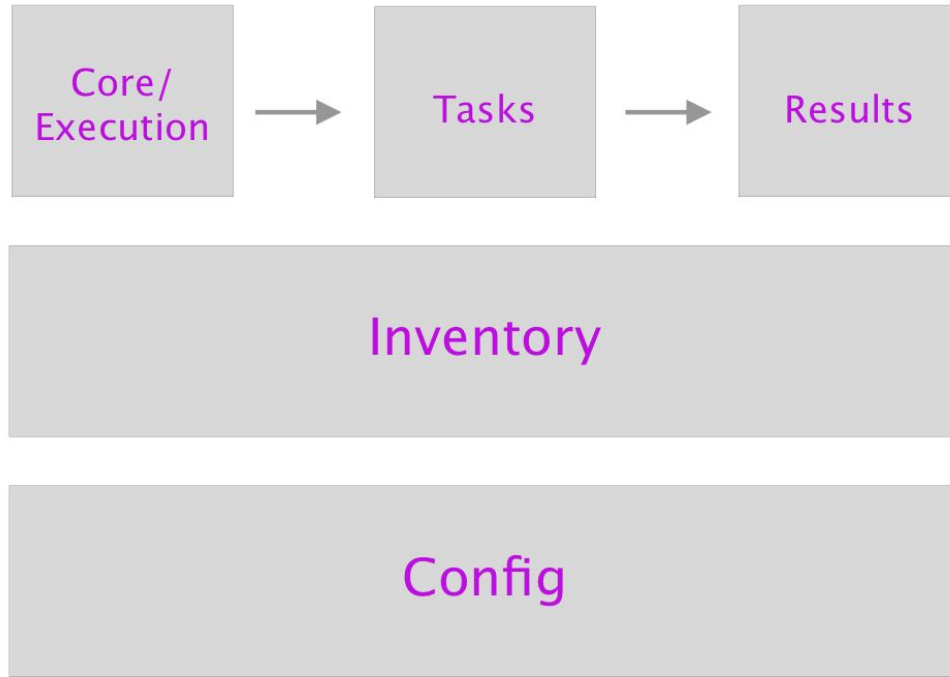
- Complex logic in Ansible is very painful
- Complex, nested data structures in Ansible are painful
- Troubleshooting can be unnecessarily difficult
- Easy things are easy, but somewhat difficult tasks get very hard quickly

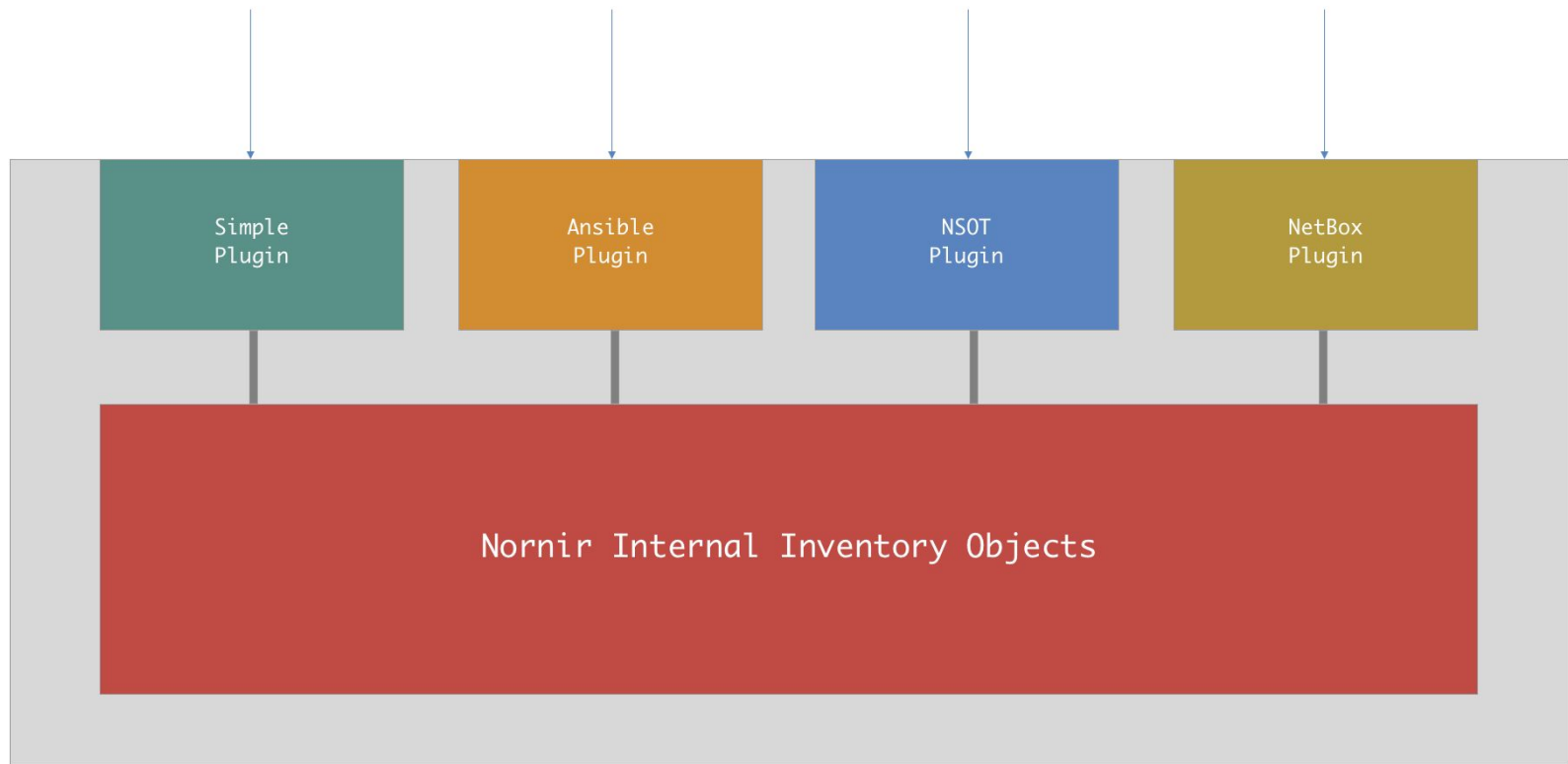


### Nornir Minuses

- You need to know Python
- Relatively new project/relatively small number of developers working on it
- Smaller community

## Nornir Components







# Nornir

## SimpleInventory

---

```
logging:
  enabled: True
inventory:
  plugin: nornir.plugins.inventory.simple.SimpleInventory
  options:
    host_file: "~/nornir_inventory/hosts.yaml"
    group_file: "~/nornir_inventory/groups.yaml"
    defaults_file: "~/nornir_inventory/defaults.yaml"
```

# Nornir

## SimpleInventory

---



```
sros1:
  hostname: sros.lasthop.io
  platform: nokia_sros
  connection_options:
    netmiko:
      extras:
        port: 2211
  groups:
    - sros
```



*Nornir*

## Inventory Attribute Traversal

Host -> Group1 -> Group2 -> GroupN -> Defaults

\* the "data" exception

# The \*data inventory exception

---

Recurses



```
ipdb> nr.inventory.hosts['sros2']['site']  
'Freemont DC'
```

```
ipdb> nr.inventory.hosts['sros2'].data  
{}
```

```
ipdb> █
```

Doesn't Recurse



# connection\_options

---

What is going on here?

```
junos:
  platform: junos
  connection_options:
    netmiko:
      platform: juniper_junos
      extras: {}
    napalm:
      extras:
        optional_args: {}
```

# Inventory filtering

---

```
nr = InitNornir(config_file="config.yaml")
tmp_nr = nr.filter(name="sros1")
tmp_nr = nr.filter(platform="nokia_sros")
tmp_nr = nr.filter(hostname="vmx1.lasthop.io")

sros = nr.filter(F(groups__contains="sros"))

all_devices = nr.filter(F(groups__contains="sros") | F(groups__contains="junos"))
```

Exercises:

[./day4/nornir\\_inventory/ex1.txt](#)

[./day4/nornir\\_inventory/ex2.txt](#)

[./day4/nornir\\_inventory/ex3.txt](#)

# Running our first task

```
from nornir import InitNornir
from nornir.plugins.functions.text import print_result

def my_task(task):
    msg = f"\nHello host: {task.host.name}\n"
    return msg

if __name__ == "__main__":
    nr = InitNornir(config_file="config.yaml")
    results = nr.run(task=my_task)
    print_result(results)
```

Our task

Our core  
Nornir object

Our config  
options

Running  
our task

# What can we specify in config.yaml?

---

```
core:
  num_workers: 20
logging:
  enabled: True
inventory:
  plugin: nornir.plugins.inventory.simple.SimpleInventory
  options:
    host_file: "~/nornir_inventory/hosts.yaml"
    group_file: "~/nornir_inventory/groups.yaml"
    defaults_file: "~/nornir_inventory/defaults.yaml"
```



# How can we specify configuration options?

## Config File

```
config.yaml:  
---  
core:  
  num_workers: 20
```

## Environment Variable

```
$ export NORNIR_CORE_NUM_WORKERS=20
```

## Python Code

```
very_excellent_script.py:  
nr = InitNornir(  
  core={"num_workers": "20"}  
)
```

## Setting Configurations

Python  
Code

>

Environment  
Variables

>

Configuration  
File

# First Task Exercise

---

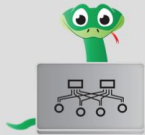
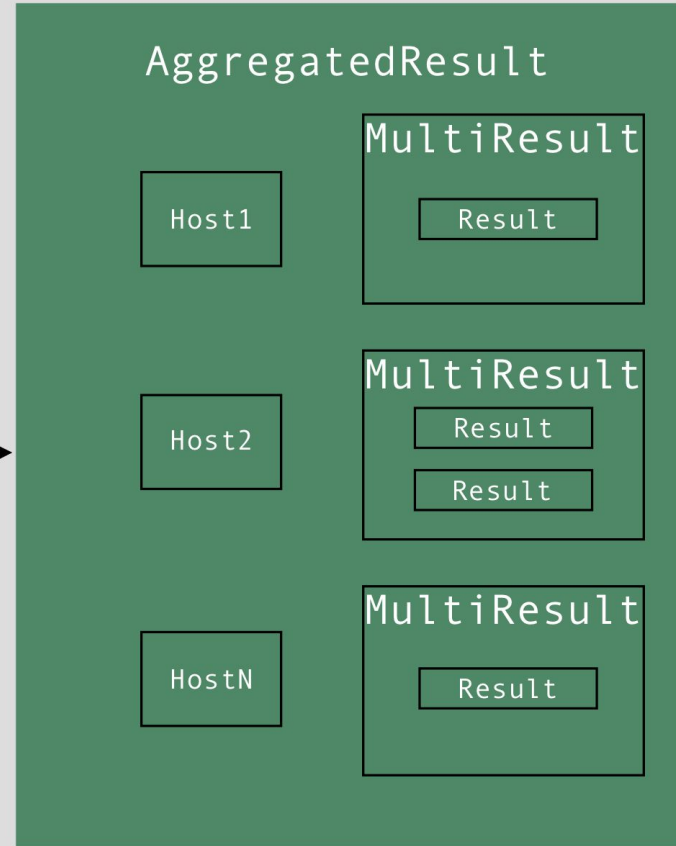
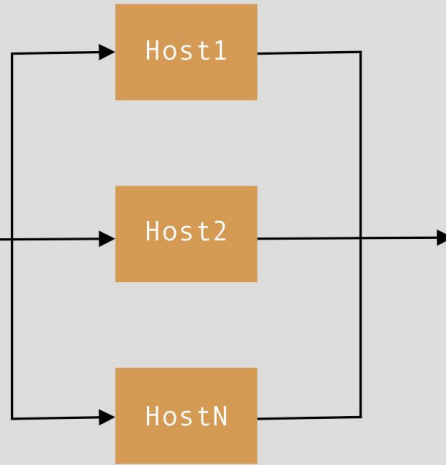
Exercises:

`./day5/nornir_simple_task/ex1.txt`



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`.run(task=my_task)`



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# Nornir Results - Aggregated Result Object

---

```
[ipdb> type(agg_result)
nornir.core.task.AggregatedResult
[ipdb> agg_result.keys()
dict_keys(['sros1', 'sros2', 'sros3', 'sros4'])
[ipdb> agg_result['sros1']
MultiResult: [Result: "netmiko_send_config"]
ipdb> ]
```

# Nornir Results - Multi-Result Object

---

```
[ipdb> multi_result = agg_result['sros1']
[ipdb> type(multi_result)
nornir.core.task.MultiResult
[ipdb> multi_result
MultiResult: [Result: "netmiko_send_config"]
[ipdb> len(multi_result)
1
[ipdb> multi_result[0]
Result: "netmiko_send_config"]
```

# Nornir Results - Result Object

---

```
[ipdb> result_obj = multi_result[0]
[ipdb> type(result_obj)
<class 'nornir.core.task.Result'>
[ipdb> result_obj
Result: "netmiko_send_config"
[ipdb> print(result_obj.result)
/configure system time ntp peer 130.126.24.24
*A:sros1# /configure system time ntp peer 152.2.21.1
*A:sros1# exit all
*A:sros1#
```

# Nornir Results Exercise

---

Exercises:

`./day5/nornir_results/ex1.txt`



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# Nornir and Networking Plugins



```
from nornir import InitNornir
from nornir.plugins.tasks.networking import netmiko_send_command
from nornir.plugins.functions.text import print_result

if __name__ == "__main__":

    nr = InitNornir(config_file="config.yaml")
    results = nr.run(task=netmiko_send_command, command_string="show version")
    print_result(results)
```

Netmiko task plugin - will automatically  
create Netmiko SSH connection

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# Netmiko Task Plugins

---

```
$ tree -C plugins/tasks/networking/  
plugins/tasks/networking/  
├── __init__.py  
├── napalm_cli.py  
├── napalm_configure.py  
├── napalm_get.py  
├── napalm_ping.py  
├── napalm_validate.py  
├── netconf_capabilities.py  
├── netconf_edit_config.py  
├── netconf_get_config.py  
├── netconf_get.py  
├── netmiko_commit.py  
├── netmiko_file_transfer.py  
├── netmiko_save_config.py  
├── netmiko_send_command.py  
├── netmiko_send_config.py  
└── tcp_ping.py
```

0 directories, 16 files



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# Netmiko Config Changes

---

```
config_commands = ['/configure system location "San Francisco"']

# Initialize Nornir
nr = InitNornir(config_file="config.yaml")
nr = nr.filter(F(groups__contains="sros"))

# Send configuration
result = nr.run(task=netmiko_send_config, config_commands=config_commands)
print_result(result)

# Save running config to startup
nr.run(task=netmiko_save_config)
```

# Nornir + Netmiko Task Exercises

---

Exercises:

`./day5/nornir_netmiko_task/ex1.txt`

`./day5/nornir_netmiko_task/ex2.txt`



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# Nornir and NAPALM



```
from nornir import InitNornir
from nornir.plugins.tasks.networking import napalm_get

if __name__ == "__main__":

    nr = InitNornir(config_file="config.yaml")
    nr = nr.filter(platform="junos")
    agg_result = nr.run(task=napalm_get, getters=["lldp_neighbors"])
    # agg_result = nr.run(task=napalm_get, getters=["facts"])
```

NAPALM task plugin - will automatically  
create underlying connection

# NAPALM Getters



## Getters support matrix

### ! Note

The following table is built automatically. Every time there is a release of a supported driver a built is triggered. The result of the tests are aggregated on the following table.

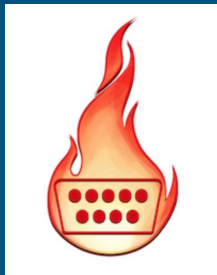
	EOS	IOS	IOSXR	JUNOS	NXOS	NXOS_SSH
get_arp_table	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
get_bgp_config	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
get_bgp_neighbors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
get_bgp_neighbors_detail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
get_config	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
get_environment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
get_facts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



# Nornir and NAPALM

```
$ tree -C plugins/tasks/networking/  
plugins/tasks/networking/  
├── __init__.py  
├── napalm_cli.py  
├── napalm_configure.py  
├── napalm_get.py  
├── napalm_ping.py  
├── napalm_validate.py  
├── netconf_capabilities.py  
├── netconf_edit_config.py  
├── netconf_get_config.py  
├── netconf_get.py  
├── netmiko_commit.py  
├── netmiko_file_transfer.py  
├── netmiko_save_config.py  
├── netmiko_send_command.py  
├── netmiko_send_config.py  
└── tcp_ping.py
```

0 directories, 16 files



# NAPALM Configure

---



```
from nornir.plugins.tasks.networking import napalm_configure

def main():

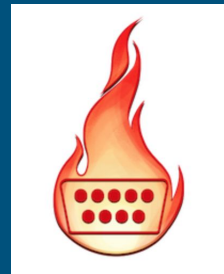
    nr = InitNornir(config_file="config.yaml")
    nr = nr.filter(F(groups__contains="junos"))

    config = """
set system ntp server 130.126.24.24
set system ntp server 152.2.21.1
"""

    agg_result = nr.run(task=napalm_configure, configuration=config, dry_run=True)
    print_result(agg_result)
```

# Nornir + NAPALM Exercises

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Exercises:

`./day5/nornir_napalm_task/ex1.txt`

`./day5/nornir_napalm_task/ex2.txt`

`./day5/nornir_napalm_task/ex3.txt`

`./day5/nornir_napalm_task/ex4.txt`



# Custom Tasks

---



```
def my_task(task):  
    print()  
    print('-' * 40)  
    print(f"Task: {task}")  
    print(f"Host: {task.host.name}")  
    print('-' * 40)  
    print()  
  
if __name__ == "__main__":  
  
    nr = InitNornir(config_file="config.yaml")  
    agg_result = nr.run(task=my_task)
```

# Grouped Tasks

---



```
def my_task(task):  
    config_commands = ['/configure system location "San Francisco"]  
  
    # Send configuration  
    task.run(task=netmiko_send_config, config_commands=config_commands)  
  
    # Save running config to startup  
    task.run(task=netmiko_save_config)  
  
    return "whatever"
```

# Grouped Tasks and effect on MultiResult

---

```
[ipdb> sros1 = aggr_result['sros1']
[ipdb> sros1
MultiResult: [Result: "my_task", Result: "netmiko_send_config", Result: "netmiko_save_config"]
[ipdb> len(sros1)
3
[ipdb> sros1[0].result
'whatever'
[ipdb> sros1[1].result
'/configure system location "San Francisco"\nA:sros1# exit all \nA:sros1# '
[ipdb> sros1[2].result
'Writing configuration to cf3:\\config.cfg\nSaving configuration ...    ... OK\nCompleted.'
```

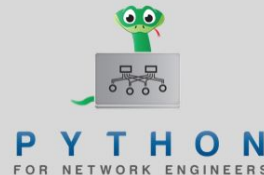
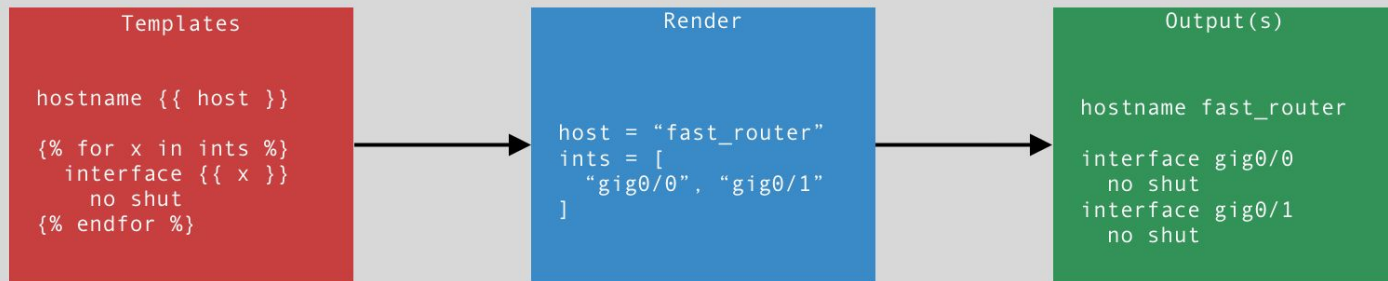
# The magic of MultiResult[0]

---



```
[ipdb> sros1 = aggr_result['sros1']  
[ipdb> sros1  
MultiResult: [Result: "my_task", Result: "netmiko_send_config", Result: "netmiko_save_config"]  
[ipdb> sros1.result  
'whatever'  
[ipdb> sros1[0].result  
'whatever']
```

# Nornir + Jinja2



# Nornir + Jinja2



```
TEMPLATE_STR = """
interface loopback{{ int_num }}
  description {{ descr | lower }}
  no shut

"""

nr = InitNornir(config_file="config.yaml", logging={"enabled": False})
nr = nr.filter(name="srx2")

my_vars = {
    "int_num": "99",
    "descr": "My Description",
}

agg_result = nr.run(task=template_string, template=TEMPLATE_STR, **my_vars)
```

# Nornir + Jinja2



```
from nornir.plugins.tasks.text import template_file

def my_task(task):
    result = task.run(
        task=template_file, template="interfaces.j2", path=".", **task.host
    )
    print()
    print("-" * 40)
    print(result[0].result)
    print("-" * 40)
    print()
```

# Nornir + Jinja2 Exercise

---



Exercises:

`./day5/nornir_jinja2/ex1.txt`





# load\_yaml / load\_json

---



```
from nornir.plugins.tasks.data import load_yaml # noqa
from nornir.plugins.tasks.data import load_json # noqa

def custom_task(task):
    import ipdb; ipdb.set_trace()
    # my_data = task.run(task=load_yaml, file=f"sros/{task.host.name}.yaml")
    my_data = task.run(task=load_json, file=f"sros/{task.host.name}.json")
    print(my_data.result)
```

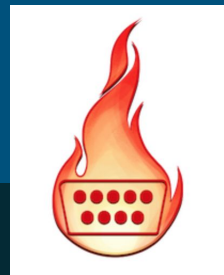
# Direct Netmiko Connections

---



```
def netmiko_direct(task):  
  
    # Manually create Netmiko connection  
    net_connect = task.host.get_connection("netmiko", task.nornir.config)  
  
    # Use the connection  
    print()  
    print("#" * 80)  
    print(net_connect.find_prompt())  
    output = net_connect.send_command("show system ntp")  
    print(output)  
    print("#" * 80)  
    print()
```

# Direct NAPALM Connections



```
def direct(task):  
  
    # Manually create NAPALM connection  
    napalm = task.host.get_connection("napalm", task.nornir.config)  
  
    # PyEZ connection  
    jnpr_conn = napalm.device  
  
    # PyEZ RPC  
    xml_output = jnpr_conn.rpc.get_software_information()  
    print()  
    print('-' * 40)  
    print(etree.tostring(xml_output, encoding="unicode", pretty_print=True))  
    print('-' * 40)  
    print()
```

# Direct Connection Exercises

---



Exercises:

`./day5/nornir_direct/ex1.txt`

`./day5/nornir_direct/ex2.txt`

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# Failed Tasks

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```
print(aggr_result.failed)
print(aggr_result.failed_hosts.keys())
```

```
vmx1 = aggr_result.failed_hosts["vmx1"]
print(vmx1.exception)
```

```
try:
    aggr_result.raise_on_error()
except NornirExecutionError:
    print("We can cause this exception to be raised")
```

# Run task on failed hosts

---



```
# Run a task on the failed hosts
aggr_result = nr.run(
    task=failed_task,
    on_failed=True,
    on_good=False
)
```

# Recover failed hosts

---



```
# Recover specific host
print(f"Failed Hosts: {nr.data.failed_hosts}")
nr.data.recover_host("vmx2")

# Reset failed hosts
print(f"Failed Hosts: {nr.data.failed_hosts}")
print("Reset failed hosts")
nr.data.reset_failed_hosts()
print(f"Failed Hosts: {nr.data.failed_hosts}")
```

# Failed Task Exercises

---



Exercises:

`./day5/nornir_failure/ex1.txt`

`./day5/nornir_failure/ex2.txt`

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# Debugging and Troubleshooting

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1. Pdb is your friend.
2. Simplify the problem by setting `num_workers=1`
3. Look at your log file.
4. Netmiko debugging enable your `session_log` (or standard logging).
5. Try to isolate the problem to the part of the system that is causing the issue.

# Nornir Version3 is Coming

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## Some Key Changes

- Moving to plugins hosted on external repositories (independent maintainers). Also affects your import references.
- “Runner” is now specified in config.yaml to indicate “threaded” or “serial” versus just controlling with num\_workers.
- Change config.yaml references specifically for inventory plugins.
- num\_workers eliminated as used inside of nr.run()
- Group behavior is slightly changed with respect to Group “refs” and group filtering.

# Nornir Version3 is Coming

---

## Some Changes

- Transform function requires an entry point.
- “log\_file” replaces “file” reference in config.yaml.



# Nornir Resources

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Nornir Discourse Group:

<https://nornir.discourse.group/>

Nornir Tutorial:

<https://nornir.readthedocs.io/en/latest/tutorials/intro/>

Nornir Repository on GitHub:

<https://github.com/nornir-automation/nornir>

The end...

Questions?



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