



Playbook: Single Block with Loops

- name: Update all servers

hosts: all

become: yes

tasks:

- name: Manage web server (install, start, enable)

block:

- name: Ensure web server package is installed

package:

name: "{{ item.package }}"

state: present

- name: Ensure web server service is started

service:

name: "{{ item.service }}"

state: started

- name: Ensure web server service is enabled

service:

name: "{{ item.service }}"

enabled: true

loop:

- { package: "apache2", service: "apache2", distribution: "Ubuntu" }

- { package: "httpd", service: "httpd", distribution: "CentOS" }

when: ansible_distribution == item.distribution



Explanation

1 Block

- The `block`: groups multiple tasks together.
 - This is useful because we want to:
 - Install the web server
 - Start the service
 - Enable the service
 - All tasks share the **same loop and condition**.
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2 Loop

loop:

- { package: "apache2", service: "apache2", distribution: "Ubuntu" }
- { package: "httpd", service: "httpd", distribution: "CentOS" }

- The loop iterates **once per OS**.
 - `item.package` → package name to install
 - `item.service` → service to manage
 - `item.distribution` → OS to check with `when`
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3 When Condition

when: ansible_distribution == item.distribution

- Ensures the block runs **only on the correct OS**.
- Ubuntu hosts → run apache2 block
- CentOS hosts → run httpd block

- Skips the block if the host doesn't match the OS in the loop item.
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4 Advantages of Using a Block

- Fewer lines of code → everything in one place
 - Easier to maintain → add more OS types by adding another dictionary to the loop
 - Cleaner output → tasks grouped together in Ansible logs
 - Prevents repetition of **when** conditions for multiple tasks
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5 Example: Adding Fedora

If you want to support Fedora, you just add another dictionary:

```
- { package: "httpd", service: "httpd", distribution: "Fedora" }
```

No need to add separate install/start/enable tasks for Fedora.