



Playbook: Single Block with Loops

```
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```

```
- 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.