**Blocks**

In 2.0 we added a block feature to allow for logical grouping of tasks and even in play error handling. Most of what you can apply to a single task can be applied at the block level, which also makes it much easier to set data or directives common to the tasks. This does not mean the directive affects the block itself, but is inherited by the tasks enclosed by a block. i.e. a *when* will be applied to the tasks, not the block itself.

Block example[¶](http://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/playbooks_blocks.html#id1)

tasks:

- name: Install Apache

block:

- yum: name={{ item }} state=installed

with\_items:

- httpd

- memcached

- template: src=templates/src.j2 dest=/etc/foo.conf

- service: name=bar state=started enabled=True

when: ansible\_distribution == 'CentOS'

become: true

become\_user: root

In the example above, each of the 3 tasks will be executed after appending the *when* condition from the block and evaluating it in the task’s context. Also they inherit the privilege escalation directives enabling “become to root” for all the enclosed tasks.

New in version 2.3: The name: keyword for blocks: was added in Ansible 2.3.

**Error Handling**

Blocks also introduce the ability to handle errors in a way similar to exceptions in most programming languages.

Block error handling example[¶](http://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/playbooks_blocks.html#id2)

tasks:

- name: Attempt and gracefull roll back demo

block: try

- debug: msg='I execute normally'

- command: /bin/false

- debug: msg='I never execute, due to the above task failing'

rescue: catch

- debug: msg='I caught an error'

- command: /bin/false

- debug: msg='I also never execute :-('

always:

- debug: msg="this always executes"

The tasks in the block would execute normally, if there is any error the rescue section would get executed with whatever you need to do to recover from the previous error. The always section runs no matter what previous error did or did not occur in the block and rescue sections.

Another example is how to run handlers after an error occurred :

Block run handlers in error handling[¶](http://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/playbooks_blocks.html#id3)

tasks:

- name: Attempt and gracefull roll back demo

block:

- debug: msg='I execute normally'

notify: run me even after an error

- command: /bin/false

rescue:

- name: make sure all handlers run

meta: flush\_handlers

handlers:

- name: run me even after an error

debug: msg='this handler runs even on error'