* 1 minute

The following workflow and component diagram outlines how playbooks can run in different circumstances, one after another. In the workflow, Ansible playbooks:

![The Ansible workflow has three general areas. On the left is a box containing a user and three Ansible playbooks. In order, they provision resources, configure application, and future configuration to scale. Each playbook has an arrow that points to a box in the middle of the graphic containing Ansible Automation components, which are Roles, Modules, APIs, Plugins, and Inventory. These two boxes are within a control machine box. From the components box, three arrows point to Azure resources, an application, and three images representing the scaling of the application.](data:image/png;base64;base64,)

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1. Provision resources. Playbooks can provision resources. In the following diagram, playbooks create load-balancer virtual networks, network security groups, and virtual machine scale sets on Azure.
2. Configure the application. Playbooks can deploy applications to run services, such as installing Apache Tomcat on a Linux machine to allow you to run a web application.
3. Manage future configurations to scale. Playbooks can alter configurations by applying playbooks to existing resources and applications—in this instance, to scale the VMs.

In all cases, Ansible makes use of core components such as roles, modules, APIs, plugins, inventory, and other components.

Note

By default, Ansible manages machines using the *ssh* protocol.

Note

You don’t need to maintain and run commands from any central server. Instead, there’s a control machine with Ansible installed, and from which playbooks are run.

## Next unit: Examine Ansible components

[Continue](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/learn/modules/implement-ansible/4-examine-ansible-components/)

Need help? See our [troubleshooting guide](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/learn/support/troubleshooting?uid=learn.wwl.implement-ansible.explore-ansible-workflow&documentId=ec75393a-6e30-565e-dae1-e5926dc0a878&versionIndependentDocumentId=44b4989b-9764-d6d6-9153-1bee66145a09&contentPath=%2FMicrosoftDocs%2Flearn-pr%2Fblob%2Flive%2Flearn-pr%2Fwwl-azure%2Fimplement-ansible%2F3-explore-ansible-workflow.yml&url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.microsoft.com%2Fen-us%2Flearn%2Fmodules%2Fimplement-ansible%2F3-explore-ansible-workflow&author=lumac) or provide specific feedback by [reporting an issue](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/learn/support/troubleshooting?uid=learn.wwl.implement-ansible.explore-ansible-workflow&documentId=ec75393a-6e30-565e-dae1-e5926dc0a878&versionIndependentDocumentId=44b4989b-9764-d6d6-9153-1bee66145a09&contentPath=%2FMicrosoftDocs%2Flearn-pr%2Fblob%2Flive%2Flearn-pr%2Fwwl-azure%2Fimplement-ansible%2F3-explore-ansible-workflow.yml&url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.microsoft.com%2Fen-us%2Flearn%2Fmodules%2Fimplement-ansible%2F3-explore-ansible-workflow&author=lumac#report-feedback).