Ansible Automation for Windows

FEATURES AND BENEFITS OF RED HAT ANSIBLE AUTOMATION:

- Automates cloud provisioning, configuration management, application deployment, intra-service orchestration, and many other IT needs
- Models IT infrastructure by describing how all of the systems interrelate, rather than just managing one system at a time
- Uses no agents and no additional custom security infrastructure, so it is easy to deploy
- Uses a simple language (YAML, in the form of Ansible Playbooks) that allows you to describe your automation jobs in a way that approaches plain English.

GETTING STARTED

For more information on Ansible for Windows, refer to Integration: Ansible and Windows.[1]

For more technical details on Ansible for Windows, refer to Ansible documentation: Windows guides.[2]

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CHALLENGE AND SOLUTION

Windows environments are key components to the infrastructure of just about any organization, and the ability to automate these environments is critical to the success of these organizations. Many automation options exist, yet most have downsides. Some are proprietary tools that work well for Windows but are not flexible enough to use for the rest of the infrastructure. Others have the ability to automate against other devices, but they attempt to force one method to automate all, which does not always yield the best results.

What if you could have the best of both worlds: a tool that can automate all of your infrastructure, including Windows, yet is built specifically to work well with Windows devices? Red Hat® Ansible® Automation is that tool. It is a proven leader in automating different aspects of an organization's environment, including network, Linux®, storage, security, and more.

Red Hat Ansible Automation is customized to work with specific types of devices—no fitting a square peg into a round hole. Windows requires that same customization. Windows should be automated for Windows with technology built for Windows. Red Hat Ansible Automation uses PowerShell and Windows Remote Management (WinRM) to maximize the capabilities of Windows and Ansible alike.

IMPLEMENTATION BENEFITS

Red Hat Ansible Automation allows your Windows teams to:

- Use the same simple, powerful, and agentless automation framework that IT operations and development staff are already using.
- Benefit from a wide variety of community and vendor-generated modules (more than 100) and roles to help accelerate your Windows automation projects.
- Use PowerShell and WinRM with the ease and simplicity of the human-readable Ansible Playbooks and roles.

With Red Hat Ansible Automation, your Windows teams can perform the following tasks:

- Install and uninstall Microsoft Installer files.
- Gather facts on Windows hosts.
- Enable and disable Windows features.
- Start, stop, and manage Windows Services.
- Create and manage local users and groups.
- Manage Windows packages via Chocolatey package manager.

1 *https://www.ansible.com/integrations/infrastructure/windows.*
2 *https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/user_guide/windows.html.*

- Install and manage Windows updates.
- Fetch files from remote sites.
- Push and execute PowerShell scripts.

BACKED BY THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Open source and collaboration are at the heart of the Ansible community, extending the capabilities of the technology. In 2018, Ansible was in the top 10 open source projects on GitHub.[3] Contributions for modules, roles, and features come in from the community at large and from vendors, partners, and Red Hat. With a combination of meetups, Slack and IRC channels, mailing lists, and Ansible Galaxy, you will always be supported and in great company:

- Ansible community information: https://www.ansible.com/community
- Windows-specific support: https://freenode.net/, IRC Channel #ansible-windows

EXTEND WINDOWS AUTOMATION WITH ANSIBLE

When you need to roll out Windows automation capabilities across your team, Red Hat Ansible Automation works with Ansible's Windows support without any custom configuration. It helps you scale IT automation, manage complex deployments, and speed productivity. You can centralize and control your IT infrastructure with a visual dashboard, role-based access control, job scheduling, integrated notifications, and graphical inventory management. Red Hat Ansible Automation's RESTful application programming interface (API) and command-line interface (CLI) allow it to be easily embedded in existing tools and processes.

3 Priyadarshini, Manisha. "Top 10 open source projects of 2018, according to GitHub." Fossbytes, 18 Dec. 2018. https://fossbytes.com/top-open-source-projects-github/.

About Red Hat

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to deliver reliable and high-performing Linux, hybrid cloud, container, and Kubernetes technologies. Red Hat helps customers integrate new and existing IT applications, develop cloud-native applications, standardize on our industry-leading operating system, and automate, secure, and manage complex environments. Award-winning support, training, and consulting services make Red Hat a trusted adviser to the Fortune 500. As a strategic partner to cloud providers, system integrators, application vendors, customers, and open source communities, Red Hat can help organizations prepare for the digital future.

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