Red Hat
Ansible Automation
Platform

5 ways IT professionals can measure their automation success

Gain data-driven insight into your IT automation with Red Hat Insights for Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform.

Automation is a top business initiative for 60% of organizations.[1] Even so, it can be difficult for automation architects — the engineers responsible for their company's automation development — to manage efforts and operations to ensure their organization meets their automation goals. Data-driven insight is critical for effective management and optimization.

Red Hat® Ansible® Automation Platform includes online tools that provide visibility into many aspects of your automation infrastructure, allowing you to manage your efforts more easily. Red Hat Insights for Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform delivers turnkey automation analytics in a user-friendly visual interface that aggregates automation data across your entire enterprise. Customizable charts and filters give you insight into cluster and job status, automation use, errors and warnings, and organizational statistics. Here are five ways you can use Insights for Ansible Automation Platform to simplify automation management efforts.

1 Understand playbook use

Visibility into how your Ansible Automation Platform playbooks are used can help you track automation adoption across your company. You can also identify which approaches are most effective, which tasks are most often automated, and which groups are automating the most.

Insights for Ansible Automation Platform tracks data about every automation job that is run across your enterprise. The clusters panel shows you top workflows, templates, and modules by cluster, organization, and time period. Click on a job to display additional information, including number of runs, total and average run time, success rate, and where and when each run took place. More easily determine:

- Which playbooks are run most frequently.
- Which playbooks fail most often.
- Which organizations run which playbooks.
- Where each playbook is run most often.

Use these insights to adapt your efforts and ensure you meet your automation goals.

2 Monitor cluster health

Cluster errors and failures can result in large automation outages. Responding to warnings and errors faster can help you keep your automation up and running.

Insights for Ansible Automation Platform tracks errors, warnings, and notices about the health of your clusters in a centralized location to help you stay ahead of issues. The notifications panel displays alerts for:

- Failed cluster nodes.
- Too many pending jobs on a cluster.
- Jobs in error states.
- Lost data connections with Ansible Automation Platform controller instances.
- Clusters approaching license capacity.
- Clusters approaching license expiry.

Quickly identify and respond to the most critical notifications with user-friendly color-coded listings.

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1 *A commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting on behalf of Red Hat. "Enterprise Open Source Automation Drives Innovation," July 2020.*

Key automation concepts

This checklist refers to several key automation concepts:

- A **task** is a unit of automation run against a host.

- A **host** is an IT asset like a server, router, or storage device.

- A **template** or **playbook** is a collection of tasks that run together to form an automation workflow.

- A **job** is an instance of a template that is actually run against a set of hosts.

- A **cluster** is an installation of Ansible Automation Platform.

3 Balance cluster job loads

Tracking the number of jobs your clusters run over time can help you establish a baseline and identify when a cluster may be unhealthy, as large job backlogs can indicate a failure.

Insights for Ansible Automation Platform allows you to monitor how many jobs each of your clusters has run over time. Using the clusters panel, you can view:

- How many jobs have passed and failed by cluster.

- Top workflows, templates, and modules by cluster.

- Which job types run on each cluster most often.

Filter this data by cluster, job type, organization, and time period to access the information you need.

4 Track automation job failures

Automation jobs can fail for many reasons. Quickly understanding why a failure occurred can help you fix the issue and adapt your automation to avoid potential issues in the future.

Insights for Ansible Automation Platform helps you rapidly find and troubleshoot automation failures. Using the job explorer panel, you can see:

- Which jobs failed.

- When each job failed.

- Which cluster each job ran on.

- Who ran each failed job.

Directly access the Ansible Automation Platform controller interface from the job explorer panel to view job log files and determine why each job failed.

5 Plan for cluster upgrades

Maintaining up-to-date software is important for ensuring your automation environment is as secure as possible and for accessing new features and enhancements.

Insights for Ansible Automation Platform provides notifications for clusters that are nearing the support end of life for their software version. The notifications panel displays these alerts and clears them after you upgrade your clusters.

Learn more

Learn more about Insights for Ansible Automation Platform: ansible.com/products/insights-for-ansible

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