3 ways IT leaders can measure their organization's automation efforts

Understand the business value of IT automation with Red Hat Insights for Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform.

Three out of five infrastructure automation decision makers say that automation is one of their organization's top initiatives.[1] Even so, it can be difficult to gain visibility into your company's progress along your IT automation adoption journey. Metrics are key to understanding your organization's level of success and value.

Red Hat® Ansible® Automation Platform includes online tools for measuring automation use and value over time, allowing you to monitor your organization's progress with IT automation. Red Hat Insights for Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform delivers turnkey automation analytics in a user-friendly visual interface that aggregates data across your entire enterprise. Customizable charts and filters allow you to clearly see how your teams use automation and determine the value of your efforts. Here are three key questions Insights for Ansible Automation Platform can answer to help you measure your automation success.

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1 How much automation does my organization use?

Tracking automation use over time can help you measure your organization's automation adoption and progress. By understanding how use has changed, you can identify what's working—and what isn't—within your enterprise. For example, certain automation templates may be more popular than others and some groups may automate more than others.

Insights for Ansible Automation Platform aggregates data from all automation clusters in your enterprise, giving you a holistic view of automation use. Filter and organize data by job, cluster, organization, template, and time period to see how your organization's use has changed.

Practical charts and dashboards help you identify:

- Which groups automate the most.

- Which templates and playbooks are most used and by whom.

- Which hosts are being automated and by whom.

- Automation job pass and fail rates.

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.

Use this information to identify automation successes, adapt your initiatives for better adoption, and to aid capacity and expansion planning.

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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.*

2 Who is automating and are they successful?

Tracking which teams or organizations within your enterprise are using automation—and how much—can help you understand where automation adoption is progressing fastest. With this knowledge, you can identify which groups are most successful and who has expertise that can help others move forward. Knowing how much automation each team uses can also simplify internal billing and chargeback operations.

Insights for Ansible Automation Platform provides organizational statistics to show how groups consume and use automation across your enterprise. Intuitive charts show you:

- The number of jobs run by organization over time.
- The number of hosts automated by organization over time.
- The percent of jobs run by organization.
- The percent of automation tasks run by organization.

Customize these charts by organization, job, cluster, template, and time period using simple pull-down menus. These charts help you understand how much each group automates, which jobs they run most frequently, and which IT resources they are automating, giving you visibility into each group's automation progress over time.

3 What is the current value of our automation efforts?

Adopting enterprise-wide automation requires both cultural and monetary investment, but it can be difficult to assign a realistic value to your initiatives. Measuring the amount of time and money your organization saves due to automation can help you validate current expenses and justify continued investment. By understanding the value of your automation, you can encourage wider adoption to realize more benefits.

Insights for Ansible Automation Platform provides a tool for determining the actual value of your automation compared to manual execution. This automation calculator employs your aggregated automation use data and information you provide about your organization's costs to measure your savings. Customize cost information by automation job for increased accuracy. Filter cost savings calculations by cluster, organization, template, and time period to identify:

- Your most valuable automation templates.
- Which clusters are generating the most automation value.
- Which groups are generating the most automation value.

Use this information to gain buy-in across your enterprise and to plan the next steps of your automation journey.

Learn more

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

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facebook.com/redhatinc
@redhat
linkedin.com/company/red-hat

North America
1 888 REDHAT1
www.redhat.com

Europe, Middle East, and Africa
00800 7334 2835
europe@redhat.com

Asia Pacific
+65 6490 4200
apac@redhat.com

Latin America
+54 11 4329 7300
info-latam@redhat.com

redhat.com
F28829_0521_KVM