

2023 Inperson Conference Where Technology and Talent Meet Tomorrow...

Modernize mainframes operations with Red Hat Ansible Automation

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Session MF





- The GSE UK Region team hope that you find this presentation and others that follow useful and help to expand your knowledge of z Systems.
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TOC

- Why automation?
- Why Ansible?
- Ansible Automation Platform
- Event-Driven Ansible
- Ansible Lightspeed with IBM Watsonx Code Assistant
- Conclusions



About me

- Working in IT since 2004, mostly in consulting roles
- Ansible user since 2013
- Author of 5 books, 4 of which on Ansible
- EMEA Associate Principal Specialist Solution Architect
- RHCA V



Why automation?



Automation happens when one person meets a problem they never want to solve again

Anyone can automate... but an enterprise needs to coordinate and scale

Many organizations share the same challenge

Too many unintegrated, domain-specific tools





Many organizations have a problem

Too many unintegrated, domain-specific tools



Break down silos

Different teams a single platform





Idempotence

Definition

Idempotence is the property of certain operations in mathematics and computer science, that can be applied multiple times without changing the result beyond the initial application.

Idempotent examples:

- X = 100 (always 100)
- $X = X^0$ (always 1)
- echo "TEST" > /root/example

Non-idempotent examples:

- X = X * 2
- echo "TEST" » /root/example



```
Idempotence - tricky/edge cases
```

- yum update
- yum install ...
- wget ...
- echo "\$x" > /root/test



Why Ansible?



Ansible

- Open Source
- Mainly push mode (agent-less)
- Infrastructure as Data (in YAML format)
- Very gentle learning curve
- Very readable code
- Collections to support code-reusability
- Ecosystem



Ansible key concepts

- Host: target of the execution
- Group: group of hosts
- Inventory: collection of Hosts, groups of Hosts, and variables
- **Module**: code to control system resources, like services, packages, or files (anything really), or handle executing system commands
- Task: instance of a Module
- **Role**: way to abstract a collection of tasks that has a specific role and is idempotent
- **Playbook**: multiple Tasks and Roles that could be idempotent (or not) in a single file
- Collection: multiple Modules and Roles distributed as a single bundle
- Execution Environment: a container containing the ansible executable, the collections, and needed libraries

Inventories

- static: human compiled (and maintained) lists
- dynamic: populated at runtime by a script
 - Amazon web Services
 - Azure
 - Digital Ocean
 - Google Cloud Engine
 - OpenStack
 - Many more
 - Bring your own!



Ansible Playbook

___ - hosts: all become: True tasks: - name: Ensure httpd is installed ansible.builtin.package: name: httpd state: latest - name: Ensure httpd is started ansible.builtin.service: name: httpd state: started



Collections

Collections are a data structure containing automation content:

- Modules
- Playbooks
- Roles
- Plugins
- Documentation
- Tests





Ansible in numbers

- 2M downloads per month (Red Hat versions only)
- 2K customers (Red Hat versions only)
- 4M+ systems managed (Red Hat versions only)
- 4K modules
- 140+ certified collections
- 3550+ contributors
- 55K+ GitHub stars



Ansible Automation Platform



The Ansible Automation Platform



Business Tools and Analytics





Ansible Automation deployment options





Ansible Automation Platform architectures options



intel.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.6+ Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.0+ Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.6+ Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.0+ Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.6+ Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.0+

 Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.6+
 Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.0+ ppc64le

IBM Power IBM Z

* Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.6+ * Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.0+ s390x





Holistic automation for your enterprise

- Create
- Operate
- Consume







Many technologies, different life cycles

How to keep runtime environment, collections, and dependencies aligned?



Collections



Dependencies



Runtime



Automation Execution Environments

Components needed for automation, packaged in a cloud-native way





Build, create, publish

Development cycle of an automation execution environment







How to develop, test and run containerized Ansible content









Components of Automation





Anatomy of Automation Operation









Full architecture



📥 Red Hat

Event-Driven Ansible



Event-Driven Ansible



WORK ACROSS MULTI-VENDOR IT OPERATIONS

Work flexibly and well with multi-vendor monitoring and other solutions across the event driven architecture with appropriate approvals, controls and awareness



Ansible Lightspeed with IBM Watsonx Code Assistant



Why is not everything automated?

- Too much time required to automate processes
- Not enough people are able to create automation
- Difficult to find and reuse code



Generative AI has the potential to transform enterprise automation

- Enhance productivity: With AI-generated code recommendations that are more accurate, more reliable, and integrated into your automation developers' existing Ansible workflows.
- **Expand who can create**: By reducing barriers to entry for automation code creation, and empowering automation SMEs with basic coding knowledge to translate their expertise into clean, compliant YAML code for Ansible Playbooks.
- **Extend trust and compliance**: With an automation code base that adheres to accepted Ansible best practices, options to customize data models, and significant data safeguards in place.



Generative AI raises a number of questions

- Where is generated code coming from?
- Can companies trust that their **private data** is protected?
- What exactly are data models being trained on and by whom?



Ansible Lightspeed with IBM Watsonx Code Assistant

- Generative Al solution
- Engineered to help individuals, teams, and organizations automate faster
- Integrating developer tooling
- Access to Ansible-focused foundation models
- Red Hat + IBM automation expertise
- Ansible Lightspeed streamlines and enhances the Ansible content creation experience



Red Hat Ansible Lightspeed capabilities

 Generate playbook content from a natural language request 	<pre>> Find me a playbook or role similar to what I'm writing</pre>	<pre>> Review my playbook and help make it better</pre>	<pre>> Tell me what this playbook is doing - and it's impact</pre>
Content Generation	Content Discovery	Content Optimization	Content Explanation
	Features on roadmap for 2024		



Conclusions



Wrapping up

- Automation is key to simplify and optimize IT operations
- A single automation platform will provide more value, by being shared
- An automation platform requires way more than just an automation tool
- Ansible has a full ecosystem that allows it to be a full automation platform



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