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Modernize mainframes operations with Red Hat AAP

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Red Hat

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Session 9N



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 @ Red Hat



The problem

- ▶ The complexity was increasing constantly
- ▶ A couple of operations people left
- ▶ Issues started to become obvious

Project Diamond



- ▶ Reduce complexity
- ▶ Make every process explicit
- ▶ Avoid dependence of a process to certain people

Project Diamond Coal



- ▶ Complexity increased
- ▶ Every process was kind of explicit
- ▶ Avoided dependence of a process to certain people
- ▶ Changing a process depended on certain people

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

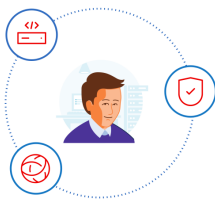


Many organizations share the same challenge

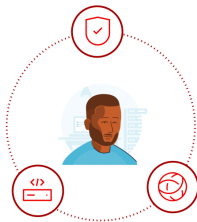
Too many unintegrated, domain-specific tools



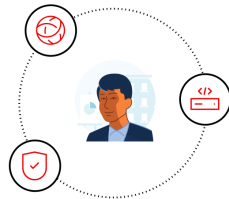
Network ops



SecOps



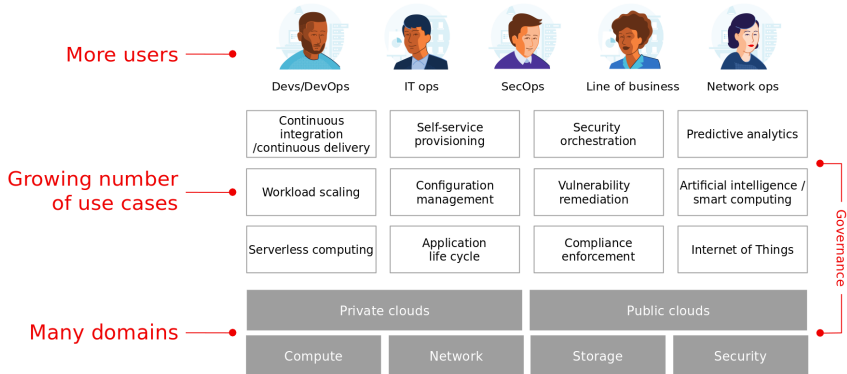
Devs/DevOps



IT ops

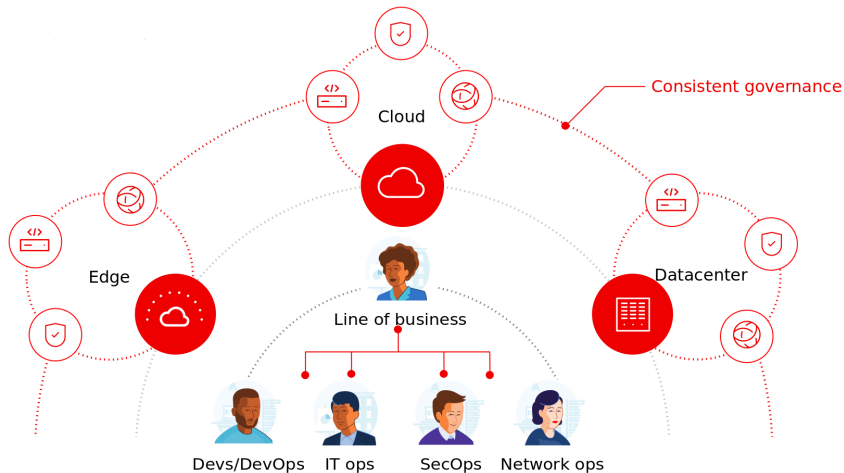
Many organizations have a problem

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.

Ansible

Architectures

- ▶ Ansible can be used to automate all architectures (ARM, Power, s390x, x86, ...)
- ▶ Ansible can be used to automate all operating systems (GNU/Linux, Microsoft Windows, Apple macOS, AIX, IBM I, z/OS, Cisco IOS, ...)
- ▶ Ansible Automation Platform runs on: ARM, Power, s390x, x86
- ▶ Ansible Automation Platform runs on: RHEL, OCP
- ▶ On s390x, Ansible Automation Platform can be run on:
 - ▶ Red Hat Enterprise Linux on IBM Z & LinuxONE
 - ▶ Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Z & LinuxONE
 - ▶ IBM zCX Foundation for Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Z
 - ▶ IBM z/OS Container Extensions (zCX) on IBM Z

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 and groups of Hosts
- ▶ **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
      yum:
        name: httpd
        state: latest
    - name: Ensure httpd is started
      service:
        name: httpd
        state: started
```

Collections

Collections are a data structure containing automation content:

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

Home

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Search

ibm_zos_*

Filters

(13 results)

Collections13

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ibm

ibm_zos_core

The IBM z/OS core collection includes connection plugins, action plugins, modules, filters and ansible-doc to automate tasks on z/OS.

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1,181

ubuntu

1,042

security

1,006

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55,207

Fedora

47,706

ArchLinux

1,113

opensuse

9,347

GenericLinux

1,014

Alpine

834

Ansible in numbers

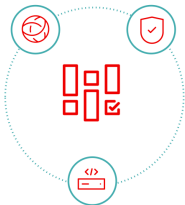
- ▶ **2M downloads** per month (Red Hat versions only)
- ▶ **2K customers** (Red Hat versions only)
- ▶ **4M+ systems** managed (Red Hat versions only)
- ▶ **4K modules**
- ▶ **7th** of 96M projects **on GitHub** by contributors

Holistic automation for your enterprise

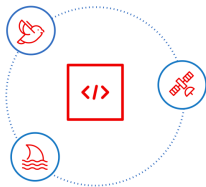
- ▶ Create
- ▶ Operate
- ▶ Consume

Many technologies, different life cycles

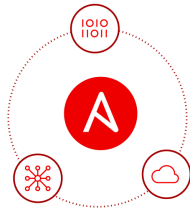
How to keep runtime environment, collections, and dependencies aligned?



Collections



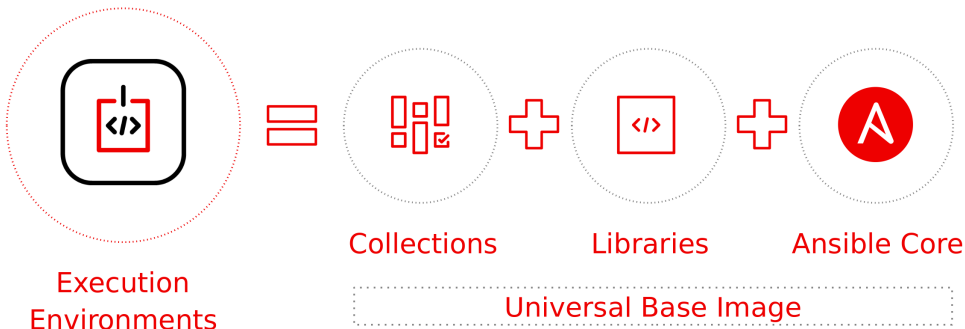
Dependencies



Runtime

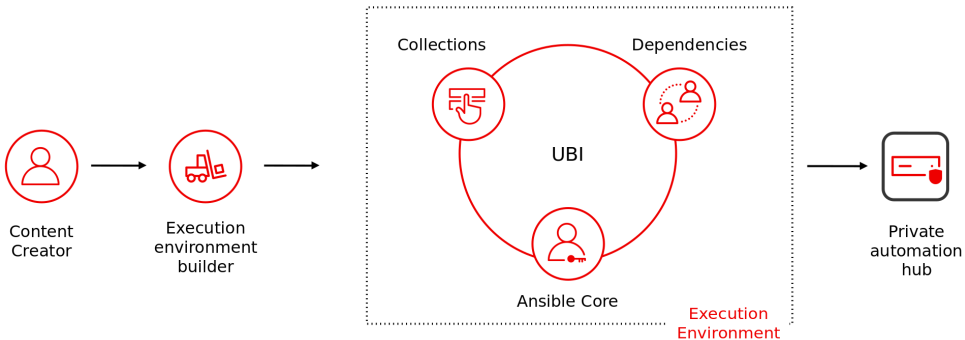
Automation Execution Environments

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



Build, create, publish

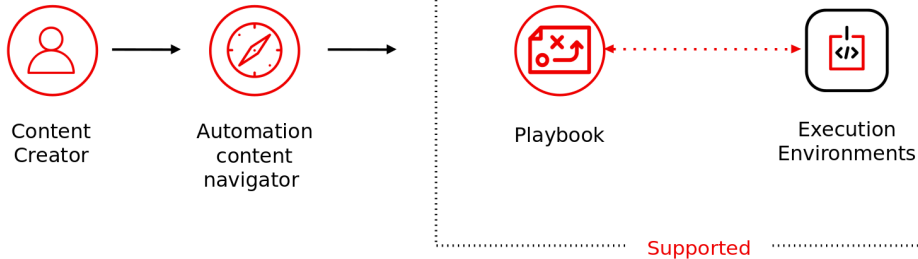
Development cycle of an automation execution environment



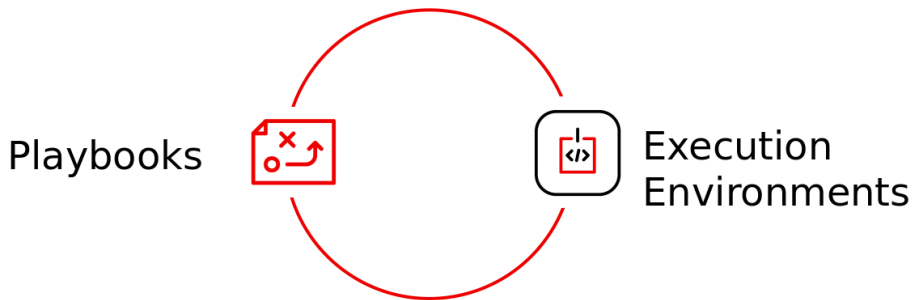
Develop, test, run

How to develop, test and run containerized Ansible content

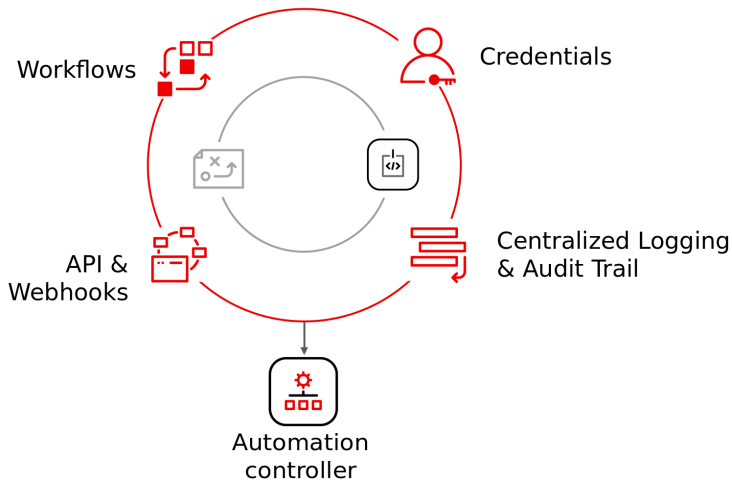
Scalable



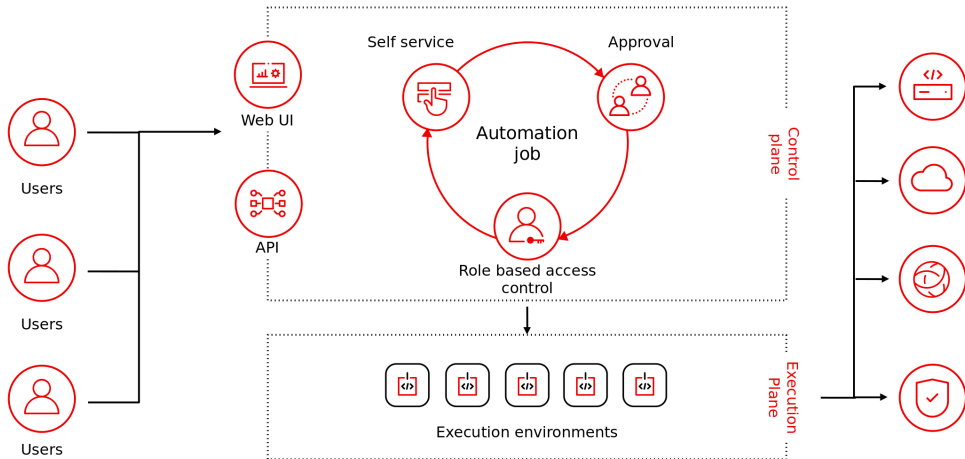
Components of Automation



Anatomy of Automation Operation

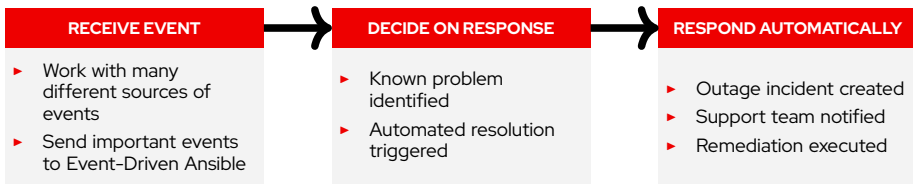


Full architecture



Event-Driven Ansible

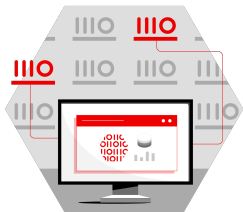
Automate event workflow



WORK ACROSS MULTI-DOMAIN AND MULTI-VENDOR IT OPERATIONS

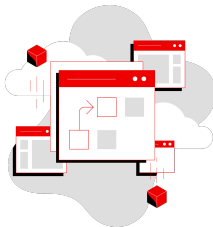
Work flexibly and well with multi-domain and multi-vendor monitoring and other solutions across the event driven architecture with appropriate approvals, controls and awareness

Key building blocks in EDA



Sources

All the sources of event data you want to use



Rules

What you will create using Event-Driven Ansible



Actions

When a condition or event is met, the Ansible Rulebook executes

Wrapping up

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

Session feedback

- ▶ Submit your feedback at <https://conferences.gse.org.uk/2024V/feedback/9N>
- ▶ Make sure you are signed into MyGSE
- ▶ This session is 9N



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