

Automation

or the lie that is DevOps

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Ansible inventory from a csv file.

General

Create an Ansible inventory in YAML format using the following steps.

Assuming that the CSV file has the following structure:

```
Hostname,IP Address,Variable1,Variable2,Variable3
host1,192.168.1.1,value1,value2,value3
host2,192.168.1.2,value4,value5,value6
```

Local Use

1. Convert the CSV file to a YAML file format
2. Use Ansible's `yaml_inventory_plugin` to parse the YAML file and create the inventory

Sample playbook

```
---
- hosts: localhost
  gather_facts: no

  vars:
    csv_file: /path/to/csv/file.csv
    yaml_file: /path/to/yaml/file.yaml

  tasks:
    - name: Convert CSV to YAML
      community.general.csv_to_yaml:
        path: "{{ csv_file }}"
```

```
output_file: "{{ yml_file }}"

- name: Create inventory from YAML
  ansible.builtin.add_host:
    name: "{{ item.Hostname }}"
    ansible_host: "{{ item['IP Address'] }}"
    variable1: "{{ item.Variable1 }}"
    variable2: "{{ item.Variable2 }}"
    variable3: "{{ item.Variable3 }}"
    loop: "{{ lookup('yaml', yml_file) }}"
```

In this example, the `csv_to_yaml` Ansible Galaxy module is used to convert the CSV file to YAML format. The `add_host` module is then used to create the inventory based on the YAML file contents.

You can run this playbook with the following command:

```
ansible-playbook -i localhost, inventory.yml
```

AWX/AAP/Tower

Assuming that the CSV file has the following structure:

```
group,host,IP Address,Variable1,Variable2,Variable3
group1,host1,192.168.1.1,value1,value2,value3
group2,host2,192.168.1.2,value4,value5,value6
group2,host3,192.168.1.3,value4,value5,value6
```

Here's an example Ansible playbook that reads a CSV file and creates an inventory in Ansible AWX, or Ansible Automation Platform.

You'll need to fill in the values for `tower_host`, `tower_username`, `tower_password`, `tower_org`, `tower_inventory_name`, and `csv_file`.

The playbook has four tasks:

1. Load CSV file: This task loads the CSV file and stores the content in the `csv_content` variable.
2. Create groups in Ansible Tower: This task creates groups in Ansible Tower based on the values in the `group` column of the CSV file. The `loop` parameter iterates over the unique values of the `group` column.

3. Create hosts in Ansible Tower: This task creates hosts in Ansible Tower based on the values in the host column of the CSV file. The loop parameter iterates over the unique values of the host column.
4. Add host variables to Ansible Tower hosts: This task adds variables to the hosts in Ansible Tower based on the values in the CSV file. The loop parameter iterates over each row in the CSV file.

- name: Create Ansible Tower Inventory from CSV

hosts: localhost

gather_facts: no

vars:

csv_file: /path/to/csv/file.csv

tower_host: <Ansible Tower Host>

tower_username: <Ansible Tower Username>

tower_password: <Ansible Tower Password>

tower_org: <Ansible Tower Organization>

tower_inventory_name: <Ansible Tower Inventory Name>

tasks:

- name: Load CSV file

read_csv:

path: "{{ csv_file }}"

delimiter: ","

register: csv_content

- name: Create groups in Ansible Tower

tower_group:

tower_host: "{{ tower_host }}"

tower_username: "{{ tower_username }}"

tower_password: "{{ tower_password }}"

tower_organization: "{{ tower_org }}"

name: "{{ item.group }}"

state: present

loop: "{{ csv_content.list | unique('group') }}"

- name: Create hosts in Ansible Tower

tower_host:

tower_host: "{{ tower_host }}"

tower_username: "{{ tower_username }}"

```
tower_password: "{{ tower_password }}"
tower_organization: "{{ tower_org }}"
inventory_name: "{{ tower_inventory_name }}"
name: "{{ item.host }}"
state: present
loop: "{{ csv_content.list | unique('host') }}"
```

- name: Add host variables to Ansible Tower hosts

```
tower_host:
  tower_host: "{{ tower_host }}"
  tower_username: "{{ tower_username }}"
  tower_password: "{{ tower_password }}"
  tower_organization: "{{ tower_org }}"
  inventory_name: "{{ tower_inventory_name }}"
  name: "{{ item.host }}"
  variables: "{{ item.vars }}"
  state: present
loop: "{{ csv_content.list }}"
```

A config file can be used in place of credentials being located in the playbook.

The `~/tower_cli.cfg` file is a configuration file used by the Ansible Tower CLI tool, `tower-cli`. It is located in the home directory of the user running `tower-cli`.

This file stores configuration settings for `tower-cli` such as the URL of the Ansible Tower server, the username and password used to authenticate to the server, and other options related to the tool's behavior.

```
[tower]
host = https://my-ansible-tower-server.com
username = my-username
password = my-password
verify_ssl = false
```

In this example, the `[tower]` section specifies the configuration settings for the Ansible Tower server. The `host` parameter specifies the URL of the server, while the `username` and `password` parameters specify the credentials used to authenticate to the server. The `verify_ssl` parameter can be set to `true` or `false` to indicate whether SSL certificates should be verified when making requests to the server.

By default, tower-cli looks for the `~/.tower_cli.cfg` file in the user's home directory. However, you can specify a different location for the configuration file by setting the `TOWERCLI_CONFIG` environment variable to the path of the file.

AWX on CentOS 8

Log in to your CentOS 8 server, open a terminal window, and issue the following commands:

```
sudo dnf install epel-release -y  
sudo dnf install git gcc gcc-c++ ansible nodejs gettext device-mapper-persistent-data lvm2 bzip2 python3-pip -y
```

How to install Docker and Docker Compose

(Podman coming soon.)

We now need to install both Docker and Docker Compose. The first thing to do is add the necessary repository with the command:

```
sudo dnf config-manager --add-repo=https://download.docker.com/linux/centos/docker-ce.repo
```

Once the repository is added, install the latest version of Docker with the command:

```
sudo dnf install docker-ce-3:18.09.1-3.el7 -y
```

Start and enable the Docker engine with the commands:

```
sudo systemctl start docker  
sudo systemctl enable docker
```

Add your user to the docker group with the command:

```
sudo usermod -aG docker $USER
```

Log out and log back in.

Install docker-compose via pip3 with the command:

```
sudo pip3 install docker-compose
```

Finally, set python to use Python 3 with the command:

```
alternatives --set python /usr/bin/python3
```

How to install AWX

Now we can finally install AWX. Clone the latest release with the command:

```
git clone https://github.com/ansible/awx.git
```

Next, generate a secret encryption key with the command:

```
openssl rand -base64 30
```

Copy the key that is generated to your clipboard.

Change into the newly downloaded AWX directory with the command:

```
cd awx/installer
```

Open the AWX inventory file with the command:

```
nano inventory
```

In that file, you'll need to (at a minimum), edit the following configuration options. First, locate the line:

```
secret_key=
```

In that line, paste the secret key you generated earlier.

Next, look for the line:

```
admin_password=password
```

Change the password to a strong, unique password.

Finally, look for the line that starts with:

```
#awx_alternate_dns_servers=
```


Change that line to:

```
awx_alternate_dns_servers="8.8.8.8,8.8.4.4"
```

You can then go through the rest of the inventory file and edit as needed. But, the above changes should result in a successful installation.

Create a directory for Postgres with the command:

```
sudo mkdir /var/lib/pgdocker
```

Install AWX with the command:

```
sudo ansible-playbook -i inventory install.yml
```

This should take about five to 10 minutes to complete.

SELinux and firewall

Before we can access the AWX site, we need to disable SELinux. Issue the command:

```
sudo nano /etc/sysconfig/selinux
```

Change the line:

```
SELINUX=enforcing
```

To:

```
SELINUX=disabled
```

Save and close the file. Restart your system so the changes will take effect.

The last step is to modify the firewall. This is done with the following commands:

```
sudo firewall-cmd --zone=public --add-masquerade --permanent  
sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --add-service=http  
sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --add-service=https  
sudo firewall-cmd --reload
```

Control Node Setup

A deployment controller could be a dedicated server or a workstation.

From command line

Clone the Private Data System repository

```
git clone https://github.com/clusterapps/PrivateSystem.git
```

Review required settings.

From Tower or AWX

A:) Clone and modify for your own environment

```
git clone https://git.clusterapps.com/ansible/tower-pds-base.git
```

B:) Create a new Project and assign to specific groups.

step-by-step coming soon

Additional Settings

Additional items for a Windows environment.

Download the Windows virtio drivers. These drivers are needed to Windows guests running on KVM.

On a web server or software distribution server:

```
wget https://fedorapeople.org/groups/virt/virtio-win/virtio-win.repo -O /etc/yum.repos.d/virtio-win.repo  
yum install -y virtio-win  
cp /usr/share/virtio-win/virtio-win.iso /var/www/html/iso/
```

Inventory from gathered facts.

Playbook example

```
---
- name: Generate YAML Inventory File from Gathered Facts
  hosts: all
  gather_facts: true
  tasks:
    - name: Gather facts from hosts
      setup:

    - name: Create YAML inventory file
      copy:
        content: |
          all:
            children:
              hosts:
                hosts:
                  {{ hostvars[item].inventory_hostname }}:
                    ansible_host: {{ hostvars[item].ansible_host }}
                    ansible_user: {{ hostvars[item].ansible_user }}
                    ansible_port: {{ hostvars[item].ansible_port }}
                    ansible_ssh_pass: {{ hostvars[item].ansible_ssh_pass | default('') }}
                    ansible_ssh_private_key_file: {{ hostvars[item].ansible_ssh_private_key_file | default('') }}
                    inventory_hostname: {{ hostvars[item].inventory_hostname }}
        dest: /path/to/your/output/inventory.yaml
        mode: 0644
      loop: "{{ ansible_play_batch }}"
      run_once: yes
```

We define a play named "Generate YAML Inventory File from Gathered Facts" that runs on all hosts (hosts: all) and enables fact gathering with gather_facts: true.

In the first task, we use the setup module to gather facts from the hosts.

In the second task, we use the copy module to create the YAML inventory file. We loop through each host in `ansible_play_batch` (which contains all the hosts that ran this play) and format the gathered facts into the inventory file.

`ansible_host`, `ansible_user`, `ansible_port`, `ansible_ssh_pass`, `ansible_ssh_private_key_file`, and `inventory_hostname` are some of the facts we include in the inventory file.

The inventory file is saved at the specified destination path (`/path/to/your/output/inventory.yaml`) with appropriate file permissions (mode `0644`).

Make sure to replace `/path/to/your/output/inventory.yaml` with the actual path where you want to save the generated YAML inventory file.

You can run this playbook with the `ansible-playbook` command:

oVirt - Windows Template

To create an Ansible playbook that deploys a Windows VM from a template on oVirt, customizes the OS with sysprep, sets unique hostname and static IP, and performs other specified configurations, follow the structure below. This example assumes you have a sysprep file ready for Windows customization and your oVirt environment is properly set up for Ansible integration.

First, ensure you have the `ovirt.ovirt` collection installed, which includes modules for interacting with oVirt. If not, you can install it using Ansible Galaxy:

```
ansible-galaxy collection install ovirt.ovirt
```

Here's an example playbook that meets your requirements. You'll need to adjust variables and possibly the paths to files (like the sysprep file) to match your environment.

```
---
- name: Deploy and customize a Windows VM on oVirt
  hosts: localhost
  gather_facts: no
  collections:
    - ovirt.ovirt

  vars:
    ovirt_engine_url: https://ovirt-engine.example.com/ovirt-engine/api
    ovirt_engine_username: admin@internal
    ovirt_engine_password: your_password
    ovirt_engine_cafile: /path/to/your/ovirt-engine.ca
    vm_domain: "example.com"
    vm_subnet: "255.255.255.0"
    vm_gateway: "10.10.10.1"
    vm_dns: "10.1.10.10"
    additional_disk_size: 20GB
    machines:
      - { name: dc01, memory: 4GiB, cluster: kvm_worker, template: Windows2022Core, datasize: 90, storage:
data-kvm2, tag: lab, ip: 10.10.10.12}
      - { name: dc02, memory: 4GiB, cluster: kvm_worker, template: Windows2022Core, datasize: 90, storage:
data-kvm2, tag: lab, ip: 10.10.10.11}
      - { name: wadm01, memory: 8GiB, cluster: kvm_worker, template: Windows2022, datasize: 90, storage:
```

data-kvm2, tag: lab, ip: 10.10.10.10}

tasks:

- name: Log into oVirt

ovirt.ovirt.ovirt_auth:

url: "{{ ovirt_engine_url }}"

username: "{{ ovirt_engine_username }}"

password: "{{ ovirt_engine_password }}"

ca_file: "{{ ovirt_engine_cafile }}"

state: present

- name: Deploy VMs

ovirt.ovirt.ovirt_vm:

auth: "{{ ovirt_auth }}"

name: "{{ item.name }}.{{ vm_domain }}"

template: "{{ item.template }}"

cluster: "{{ item.cluster }}"

cpu_cores: 2

cpu_sockets: 1

memory: "{{ item.memory }}"

sysprep:

hostname: "{{ item.name | upper }}"

ip: "{{ item.ip }}"

netmask: "{{ vm_subnet }}"

gateway: "{{ vm_gateway }}"

dns_servers: "{{ vm_dns }}"

domain: "{{ vm_domain }}"

root_password: "{{ vm_admin }}"

state: present

with_items:

- "{{ machines }}"

- name: Add Software Storage

ovirt.ovirt.ovirt_disk:

auth: "{{ ovirt_auth }}"

name: "{{ item.name }}-Disk2"

vm_name: "{{ item.name }}.{{ vm_domain }}"

size: "{{ item.datasize }}GiB"

format: cow

interface: virtio_scsi

```

    storage_domain: "{{ item.storage }}"
  with_items:
    - "{{ machines }}"

- name: Start VMs
  ovirt.ovirt.ovirt_vm:
    auth: "{{ ovirt_auth }}"
    name: "{{ item.name }}.{{ vm_domain }}"
    state: running
  with_items:
    - "{{ machines }}"

- name: Tag machines
  ovirt.ovirt.ovirt_tag:
    auth: "{{ ovirt_auth }}"
    name: "{{ item.tag }}"
    state: attached
  vms:
    - "{{ item.name }}.{{ vm_domain }}"
  with_items:
    - "{{ machines }}"

# Assuming the VM is to be powered on after setup
- name: VMs should be running
  ovirt.ovirt.ovirt_vm:
    auth: "{{ ovirt_auth }}"
    name: "{{ vm_hostname }}"
    state: running

- name: Logout from oVirt
  ovirt.ovirt.ovirt_auth:
    state: absent
    auth: "{{ ovirt_auth }}"

```

Remember to replace placeholders (like URLs, credentials, paths, domain names, and the storage domain) with your actual data. Also, ensure your sysprep file is correctly set up in your template or specified directly in the playbook if needed.

This playbook performs the following actions:

1. Logs into the oVirt engine.
2. Creates a VM from a specified template with a unique hostname and configures it with sysprep.
3. Adds an additional 100GB disk to the VM.
4. Configures the VM's network interface.
5. Powers on the VM after setup.
6. Logs out from the oVirt engine.

Test this playbook in a development environment before using it in production. Adjustments may be necessary based on your specific oVirt setup, Windows template, and network configuration.

vCenter - Linux Templates

To deploy multiple VMs with different hostnames and IP addresses while utilizing the customization capabilities provided by the `vmware_guest` module in Ansible, you can use VMware's customization specifications. This approach allows for more advanced customization options, such as setting the domain, hostname, and network settings directly within the playbook. Below is an example of how to modify the playbook to use VMware's customization feature for deploying 3 VMs with distinct configurations:

Inventory

To create a separate inventory file with all the variables used in the provided playbook, you'll need to organize these variables in a structured way. Ansible inventory files can be in INI or YAML format, but for complex configurations like this, YAML is more suitable due to its support for hierarchical data.

Below is an example of how to create an Ansible inventory file in YAML format (`inventory.yml`) that defines all the variables required by your playbook. This example demonstrates setting up variables for deploying three VMs, but you can adjust the quantities and details as needed:

```
all:
  vars:
    vcenter_hostname: vcenter.example.com
    vcenter_username: admin@vsphere.local
    vcenter_password: securepassword
    vcenter_datacenter: DC1
    vcenter_folder: /DC1/vm/ansible_managed_vms
    vcenter_cluster: Cluster1
    vm_template: CentOS_Template
    vm_network: VM_Network
    vm_netmask: 255.255.255.0
    vm_gateway: 192.168.1.1
    dns01: 8.8.8.8
    dns02: 8.8.4.4
  hosts:
    vm01:
      vm_name: vm01
```

vm_ip: 192.168.1.101
vm_ram: 2048
vm_cores: 2
vm_sockets: 1
vm_notes: "VM01 Notes"
vm_department: "department1"
vm_application: "Application1"
vm_role: "Role1"
vm_env: "Development"
vm_buildcode: "Build01"
vm_lifecycle: "Lifecycle1"
vm_contact: "Contact1"

vm02:

vm_name: vm02
vm_ip: 192.168.1.102
vm_ram: 4096
vm_cores: 4
vm_sockets: 2
vm_notes: "VM02 Notes"
vm_department: "department2"
vm_application: "Application2"
vm_role: "Role2"
vm_env: "Testing"
vm_buildcode: "Build02"
vm_lifecycle: "Lifecycle2"
vm_contact: "Contact2"

vm03:

vm_name: vm03
vm_ip: 192.168.1.103
vm_ram: 8192
vm_cores: 4
vm_sockets: 2
vm_notes: "VM03 Notes"
vm_department: "department3"
vm_application: "Application3"
vm_role: "Role3"
vm_env: "Production"

```
vm_buildcode: "Build03"
vm_lifecycle: "Lifecycle3"
vm_contact: "Contact3"
```

Adjusting the Inventory

- **Hosts and Variables:** The example above assumes you are deploying three VMs (`vm01`, `vm02`, and `vm03`). Each VM has its set of variables defined under `hosts`. You can add more VMs or adjust the existing definitions as needed.
- **Global Variables:** Variables that are common across all VMs are defined under `all: vars`. This includes vCenter connection details, network configuration, and Infoblox provider details. These can be overridden at the host level if necessary.
- **Customization:** Tailor the inventory to match your environment's specifics, including vCenter details, template names, network settings, and VM specifications.

This approach allows you to manage your infrastructure as code, making deployments repeatable and reducing the likelihood of human error.

Playbook: `deploy_vms.yml`

```
---
- name: Deploy Multiple VMs on vCenter
  hosts: all
  gather_facts: false

  tasks:
    - name: Setting Facts
      set_fact:
        vm_guest_name: "{{ vm_name | upper }}"
        vm_hostname: "{{ vm_name | lower }}"

    - name: Deploy or Clone Linux VM
      vmware_guest:
        hostname: "{{ vcenter_hostname }}"
        username: "{{ vcenter_username }}"
        password: "{{ vcenter_password }}"
        validate_certs: no
        datacenter: "{{ vcenter_datacenter }}"
        folder: "{{ vcenter_folder }}"
```

```
name: "{{ vm_guest_name }}"
cluster: "{{ vcenter_cluster }}"
state: poweredon
template: "{{ vm_template }}"
annotation: "{{ vm_notes }}"
hardware:
  memory_mb: "{{ vm_ram }}"
  num_cpus: "{{ vm_cores }}"
  num_cpu_cores_per_socket: "{{ vm_sockets }}"
networks:
  - name: "{{ vm_network }}"
    ip: "{{ vm_ip }}"
    netmask: "{{ vm_netmask }}"
    gateway: "{{ vm_gateway }}"
wait_for_ip_address: yes
wait_for_customization: yes
cdrom:
  type: none
customization:
  hostname: "{{ vm_hostname }}"
  domain: "example.com"
  timezone: "America/New_York"
  dns_servers:
    - "{{ dns01 }}"
    - "{{ dns02 }}"
delegate_to: localhost
register: vmcreate
```

- name: Add Custom Attributes to the VM

```
vmware_guest_custom_attributes:
  hostname: "{{ vcenter_hostname }}"
  username: "{{ vcenter_username }}"
  password: "{{ vcenter_password }}"
  validate_certs: no
  name: "{{ vm_guest_name }}"
  attributes:
    - name: Department
      value: "{{ vm_department | default('') }}"
```

```
- name: Application
  value: "{{ vm_application | default('') }}"

- name: Role
  value: "{{ vm_role | default('') }}"

- name: Environment
  value: "{{ vm_env | default('') }}"

- name: Automation
  value: "Baseline"

- name: buildcode
  value: "{{ vm_buildcode | default('') }}"

- name: lifecycle
  value: "{{ vm_lifecycle | default('') }}"

- name: Contact
  value: "{{ vm_contact | default('') }}"
```

Explanation of Each Task

1. **Setting Facts:** Converts the VM name to uppercase and lowercase versions for different uses, such as the display name in vCenter (`vm_guest_name`) and the internal hostname of the VM (`vm_hostname`).
2. **Deploy or Clone Linux VM:** Uses the `vmware_guest` module to either deploy a new VM or clone an existing one from a template specified in the inventory. This task includes configuring the VM's hardware specifications, network settings, and customization specifications like the hostname and DNS settings. It waits for the IP address to be assigned and customization to complete before proceeding.
3. **Add Custom Attributes to the VM:** Adds custom attributes to the newly created VM in vCenter. These attributes can include metadata such as the department, application, role, and environment the VM is associated with. This helps in organizing and managing VMs based on these metadata.

Running the Playbook

To run this playbook, use the following command, ensuring you specify the inventory file:

```
ansible-playbook -i inventory.yml deploy_vms.yml
```

This command tells Ansible to deploy VMs as configured in `inventory.yml`, applying the settings and customizations specified for each VM.

Notes:

- **Template Requirements:** The template you use must be prepared for customization. For Linux VMs, ensure VMware Tools is installed, and the Perl scripting language is available for the customization scripts to run.
- **Customization Script:** VMware's customization mechanism uses a script that runs on the first boot. If the customization does not apply, troubleshooting may involve checking that VMware Tools is correctly installed and that the template is properly prepared for cloning and customization.
- **Ansible and VMware Versions:** Ensure you are using recent versions of Ansible and the VMware modules, as improvements and bug fixes are regularly added.

This method leverages VMware's powerful customization engine, allowing for a wide range of customization options beyond what was demonstrated here.

Windows Build Server

A service for building custom WIM images for deployments.

The WIM images may contain additional drivers or post setup deployment scripts.

WIM images can be server or desktop OS and are useful in virtual and physical environment deployments.

Build

To build the server, start with a fresh install of Windows Server. This example will be based on Windows Server 2016. The example should work on Windows Server 2019 with little to no modification.

Only a few modifications were changed to the installation.

- Server name
- Network Settings
- Driver installation
- Disable IE lock down settings. (Needed to download drivers)
- Create new local user in the administrators group. (Security will be configured later)
- Remote Desktop enabled for easy of use.
- Ansible prep powershell script run. [Download Here](#).

Download the [Windows Builder role](#) or Private Data System playbook to deploy the build server.

Update the inventory file.

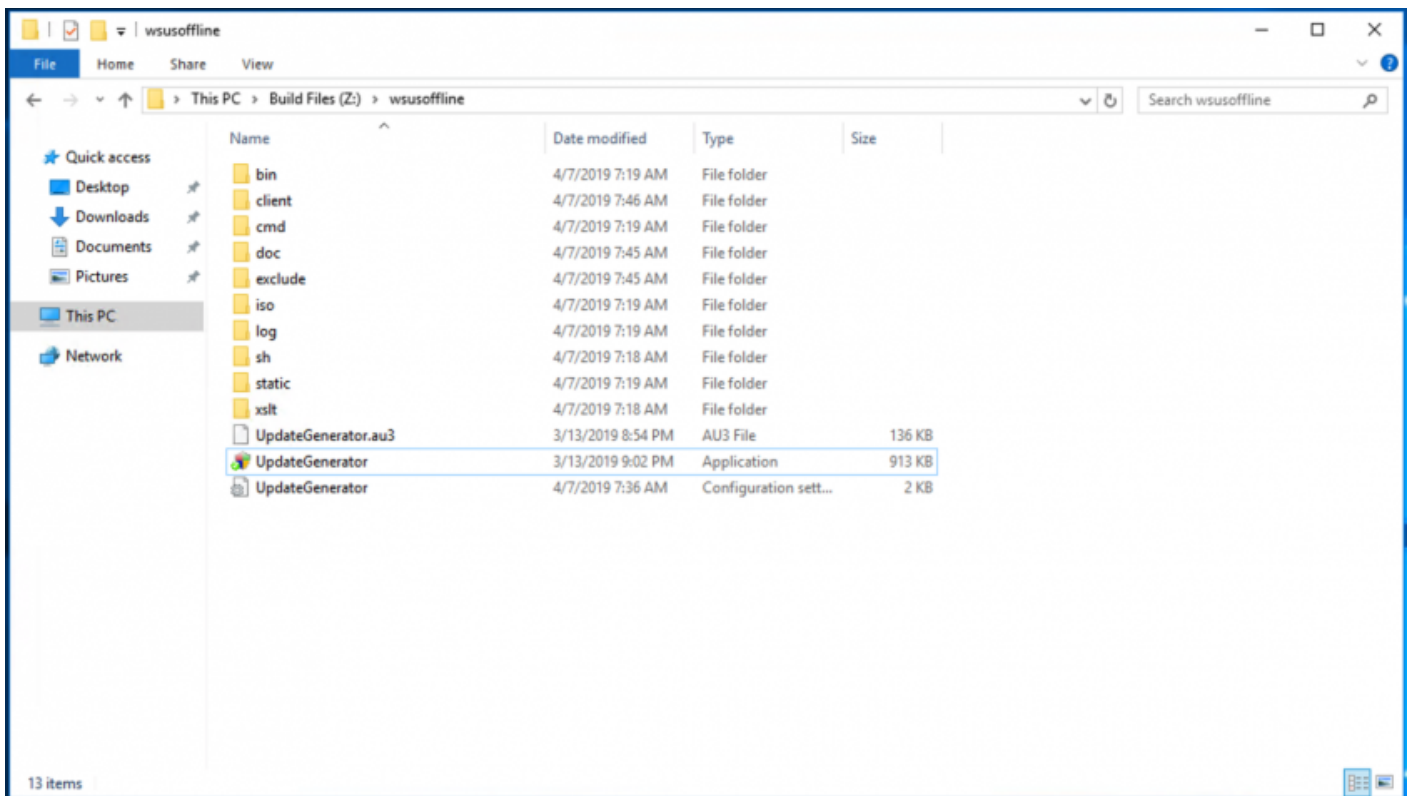
Run the deploy-winbuild playbook.

Configure

Updates.

The Windows update portion of the build can be very time consuming. To speed up the build time and the WIM updating process, the updates will be downloaded ahead of time. This is not necessary to run manually since the build scripts will run the updates tools too.

Sign in to the Windows Build Server and go to the <wsus-offline-updater> folder.



Run the UpdateGenerator.exe

Select the version(s) of Windows to download updates for.

WSUS Offline Update 11.6.1 - Generator

Download Microsoft updates for...

Repository info
Last download: 04/07/2019, catalog date: AM

Windows Office

Windows Server 2008 (w60 / w60-x64)
☐ x86 Global (multilingual updates) ☐ x64 Global (multilingual updates)

Windows 7 / Server 2008 R2 (w61 / w61-x64)
☐ x86 Global (multilingual updates) ☐ x64 Global (multilingual updates)

Windows Server 2012 (w62-x64)
☐ x64 Global (multilingual updates)

Windows 8.1 / Server 2012 R2 (w63 / w63-x64)
☐ x86 Global (multilingual updates) ☐ x64 Global (multilingual updates)

Windows 10 / Server 2016 (w100 / w100-x64)
☐ x86 Global (multilingual updates) ☒ x64 Global (multilingual updates)

Options
☒ Verify downloaded updates ☐ Include Service Packs
☒ Include C++ Runtime Libraries and .NET Frameworks ☐ Use 'security only updates' instead of 'quality rollups'
☐ Include Microsoft Security Essentials ☐ Include Windows Defender definitions

Create ISO image(s)..
☐ per selected product and language ☐ per selected language, 'x86-cross-product' (desktop only)

USB medium
☐ Copy updates for selected products into directory: ☐ Clean up target directory

Start ☐ Only prepare ISO / USB ☐ Only create collection script

This example will only download updates for Windows 10 and Windows Server 2016.

After a few moments the UpdateGenerator will begin to run.

```
Wget http://download.wsusoffline.net/mkisofs.exe
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 304 Not Modified
File '../static/StaticDownloadLinks-w100-x64-glb.txt' not modified on server. Omitting download.

--2019-04-07 07:45:22-- http://download.wsusoffline.net/StaticDownloadLinks-w100-x86-glb.txt
Reusing existing connection to download.wsusoffline.net:80.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 304 Not Modified
File '../static/StaticDownloadLinks-w100-x86-glb.txt' not modified on server. Omitting download.

No URLs found in ../exclude/ExcludeDownloadFiles-modified.txt.
--2019-04-07 07:45:22-- http://download.wsusoffline.net/StaticUpdateIds-wupre-w60.txt
Resolving download.wsusoffline.net (download.wsusoffline.net)... 185.160.0.158
Connecting to download.wsusoffline.net (download.wsusoffline.net)|185.160.0.158|:80... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 304 Not Modified
File '../client/static/StaticUpdateIds-wupre-w60.txt' not modified on server. Omitting download.

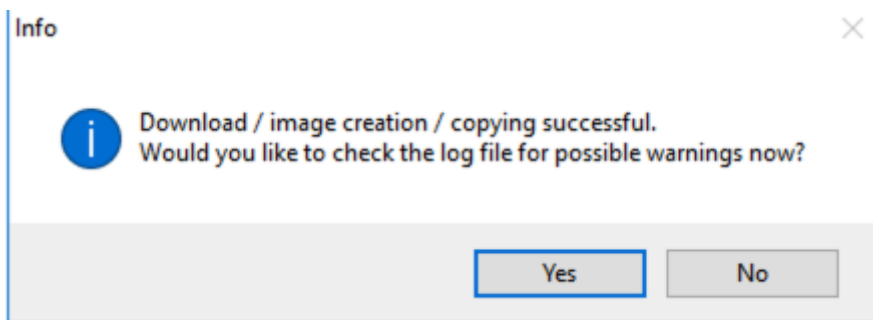
--2019-04-07 07:45:23-- http://download.wsusoffline.net/StaticUpdateIds-wupre-w100-17763.txt
Reusing existing connection to download.wsusoffline.net:80.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 304 Not Modified
File '../client/static/StaticUpdateIds-wupre-w100-17763.txt' not modified on server. Omitting download.

Restoring custom language and architecture additions and removals...
Downloading/validating mkisofs tool...
--2019-04-07 07:45:23-- http://download.wsusoffline.net/mkisofs.exe
Resolving download.wsusoffline.net (download.wsusoffline.net)... 185.160.0.158
Connecting to download.wsusoffline.net (download.wsusoffline.net)|185.160.0.158|:80... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 304 Not Modified
File '../bin/mkisofs.exe' not modified on server. Omitting download.

Verifying integrity of Windows Update catalog file...
```

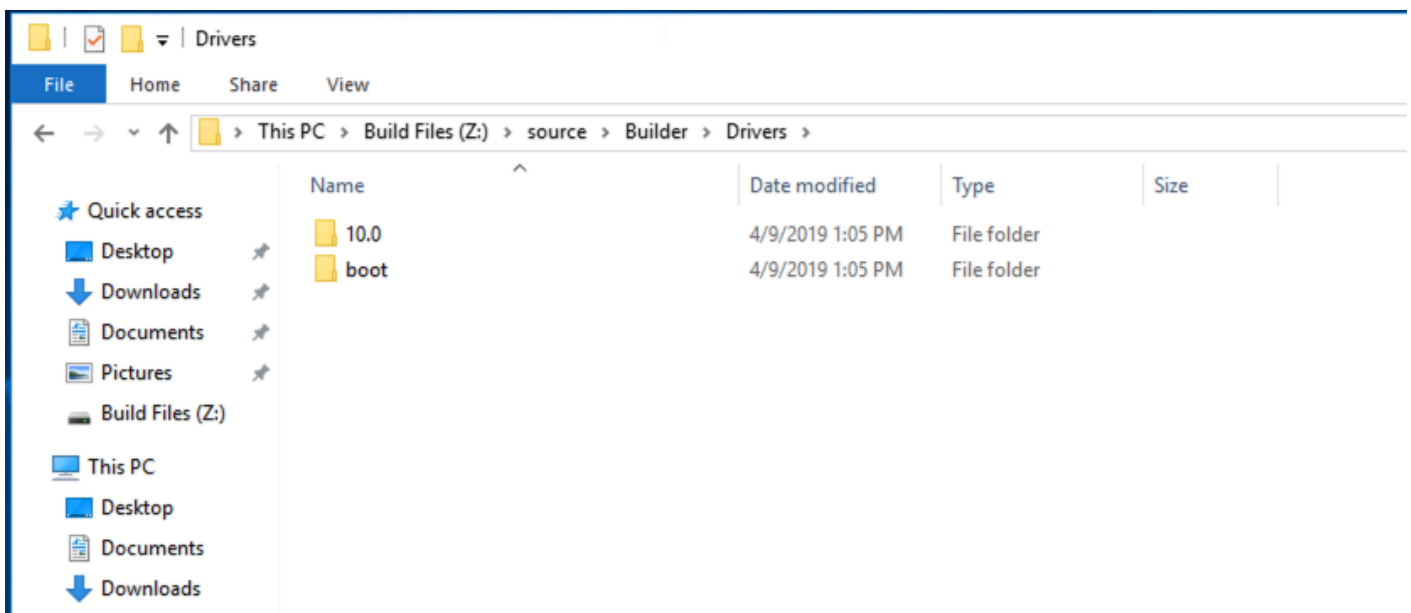
This process may take a very long time depending on the number of versions selected and if Office was included.

When the process is complete, a prompt will appear to review the logs.



Drivers

Sign in to the Windows Build Server and go to the source\Builder\Drivers folder.



There are folders for each Windows version that can be deployed. The boot directory is for WinPE and 10.0 is for Windows Server 2016. Note that Windows Server 2019 will also build in the 10.0 folder. (For now)

Copy the drivers that are needed to the folders. The folders are recursively scanned, so add as many as you need. To keep the WinPE size to a minimum, only place drivers required for install in the boot folder. At a minimum, this would be the storage and networking drivers. For this example, the hypervisor is KVM. The virtstor and netkvm drivers were added to the folders. For the actual OS image place all of the needed inf in the folder. Multiple drivers for multiple hardware platforms can be copied to the folders to allow for a simple image to be used on many platforms.

If drivers require a setup file to be run, we'll add those to the post install playbooks. More on that later.

Images

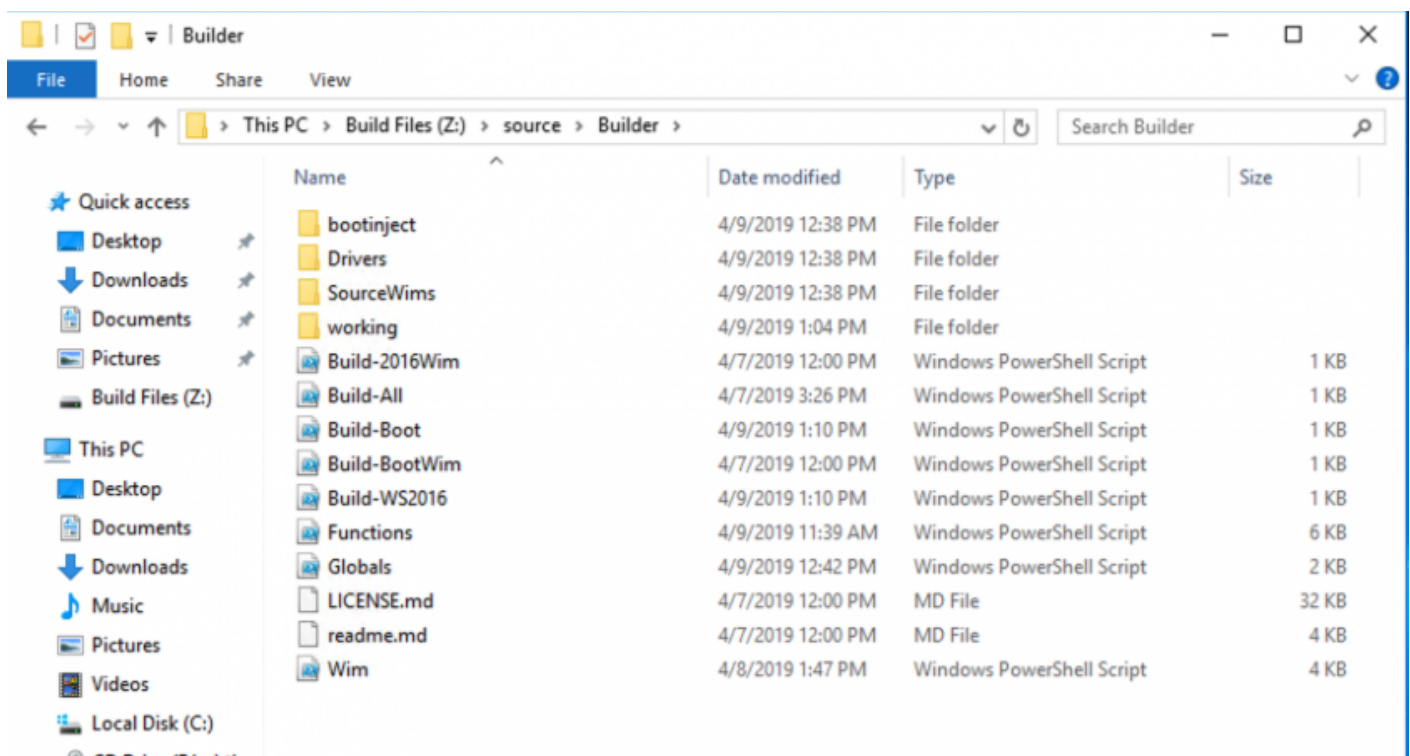
There are two base WIM files that will be needed to build the custom ones. You will need a copy of the Windows Server ISO along with the Windows Assessment and Deployment Kit, and the Windows Assessment and Deployment Kit Windows Preinstallation Environment Add-on. Both Windows ADK components are installed when using the deploy-winbuild playbook.

boot.wim: Copy the winpe.wim file from `C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\10\Assessment and Deployment Kit\Windows Preinstallation Environment\amd64\en-us` to `\source\Builder\SourceWims\boot` and rename the files *boot.wim*.

install.wim: You will need a licensed copy of the Windows Server installation media for this step. If you configured the playbook to download the ISO file it will be located in the `\source\ISO` directory on the build system. Copy the `DVD:\sources\install.wim` file to `\source\Builder\SourceWims\boot`. Do not change the file name.

Building Images

Once all of the base requirements are in place, it is time to run the build scripts. These script are modified versions of the [Foreman build](#) scripts. Open the `\source\Builder` folder and run the `Build-All.ps1` in an elevated PowerShell console.

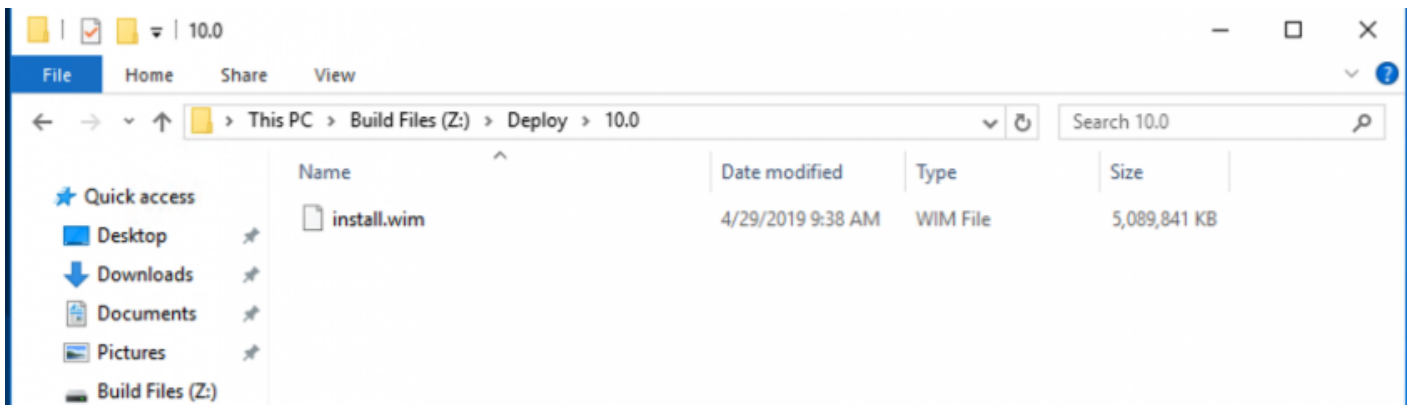


```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS Z:\source\Builder> .\Build-All.ps1
CopySourceWim: Cleaning old sources

Mount-WindowsImage
Running
[oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo]

Mode                LastWriteTime         Length Name
----                -
d-----          4/29/2019  10:11 AM             ag2tkv4e.1np
```

After the build scrips have created the new WIM files, they will be located in the \Deploy directory on the build server. Review the date modified and the file size to determine that the file has recently been updated. Unless the build scripts fail, most error messages can be ignored.



The deploy-winbuild playbook automatically shared this folder to the network. These files are now ready for deployment and can be used with your favorite deployment tools.

Windows Managed Node Setup

Setup a Windows host - local UI

Setting up a Windows Server to be managed by Ansible involves a few key steps. Ansible communicates with Windows servers over WinRM (Windows Remote Management), which is a Windows-native remote management protocol based on WS-Management (Web Services-Management). The setup process generally includes configuring WinRM on the Windows server and preparing the Ansible control machine to manage Windows hosts.

Here are the steps to prepare a Windows Server for management with Ansible:

1. Configure WinRM on the Windows Server

The easiest way to configure WinRM for Ansible is to use the `ConfigureRemotingForAnsible.ps1` script, which is provided in the Ansible documentation. This script sets up WinRM to use basic authentication and configures it to allow connections from Ansible.

1. **Download the Script:** On the Windows Server, open PowerShell as an Administrator and run the following command to download the script:

```
Invoke-WebRequest -Uri "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ansible/ansible-documentation/devel/examples/scripts/ConfigureRemotingForAnsible.ps1" -OutFile "ConfigureRemotingForAnsible.ps1"
```

2. **Run the Script:** Execute the script you just downloaded:

```
.\ConfigureRemotingForAnsible.ps1
```

This script will configure WinRM to use HTTP (port 5985), enable basic authentication, and create a firewall rule to allow WinRM traffic.

3. **Note:** For a production environment, it's recommended to use HTTPS (port 5986) with certificate-based authentication for increased security. This setup is more complex and requires installing a valid certificate on the Windows Server and additional WinRM

configuration.

2. Prepare the Ansible Control Machine

On the Ansible control machine, which is typically a Linux system, you need to install `pywinrm` to enable WinRM support. This can be done using pip:

```
pip install pywinrm
```

3. Configure Ansible Inventory

Edit your Ansible inventory file to include your Windows hosts. You can define them under a specific group `[windows]` and specify the necessary variables:

```
[windows]
windows-server.example.com

[windows:vars]
ansible_user=Administrator
ansible_password=YourPassword
ansible_connection=winrm
ansible_winrm_server_cert_validation=ignore
```

Security Note: Storing passwords in plaintext in the inventory file is not secure. Consider using Ansible Vault to encrypt sensitive data.

4. Test the Configuration

Now, test your setup by running a simple Ansible command to ping the Windows server:

```
ansible windows -m win_ping
```

If everything is configured correctly, the `win_ping` module should return a success message.

Additional Notes

- Ensure network connectivity between the Ansible control machine and the Windows Server, specifically that the required WinRM port (5985 for HTTP, 5986 for HTTPS) is open.

- The setup process might vary slightly depending on the specific version of Windows Server you are using.
- For production environments, it's highly recommended to use Kerberos or NTLM with WinRM over HTTPS for secure authentication and encryption.

By following these steps, you should have a Windows Server ready to be managed by Ansible.

Remote install / fleet deployments

To remotely set up a Windows Server to be managed by Ansible, you need to configure WinRM (Windows Remote Management) on the target server. This process can be challenging since it ideally requires remote execution of a configuration script on the Windows server. If you have physical access or remote desktop (RDP) access to the server, it's usually easier to set up WinRM directly. However, if you need to do this entirely remotely, here are some methods you can consider:

1. Using PowerShell Remoting

If PowerShell Remoting is already enabled on the target server, you can use it to configure WinRM for Ansible.

1. **Connect to the Windows Server via PowerShell Remoting:**

```
$credential = Get-Credential  
Enter-PSSession -ComputerName <Target-Server-IP-or-Hostname> -Credential $credential
```

2. **Run the Ansible WinRM Configuration Script:** Download and execute the `ConfigureRemotingForAnsible.ps1` script within the remote session.

```
Invoke-WebRequest -Uri "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ansible/ansible-  
documentation/devel/examples/scripts/ConfigureRemotingForAnsible.ps1" -OutFile  
"ConfigureRemotingForAnsible.ps1"  
.\ConfigureRemotingForAnsible.ps1
```

3. **Exit the Remote Session:**

```
Exit-PSSession
```

2. Using Group Policy (For Domain-Joined Servers)

If the server is part of an Active Directory domain, you can use Group Policy to configure WinRM on multiple servers at once.

1. **Create a new GPO** in your Group Policy Management Console.
2. **Edit the GPO** to include the WinRM service configuration. Typically, you need to set up the service to start automatically and configure the listener for HTTP and/or HTTPS.
3. **Link the GPO** to an OU that contains your servers.

3. Using a Configuration Management Tool

If you have a configuration management tool like SCCM (System Center Configuration Manager), you can use it to push out a script or configuration to enable and configure WinRM on Windows servers.

4. Using a Remote Execution Tool

If you have access to a remote execution tool like PSEXEC (part of Sysinternals), you can use it to run commands or scripts on the remote Windows server.

For example:

```
psexec \\target-server -u username -p password -h powershell.exe -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File  
ConfigureRemotingForAnsible.ps1
```

Security Considerations

- When setting up WinRM, especially over HTTP, be aware of security implications. HTTP traffic is not encrypted, which can expose sensitive data. For production environments, HTTPS with certificate-based authentication is recommended.
- Ensure that the WinRM service is properly secured and accessible only from trusted networks or hosts.

Testing the Setup

After setting up WinRM, test the connection from your Ansible control machine:

```
ansible windows -i inventory_file -m win_ping
```

Replace `inventory_file` with the path to your Ansible inventory file where your Windows host is defined.

Conclusion

The method you choose depends on your current infrastructure, the tools you have available, and your access level to the Windows Server. For security and simplicity, direct access (like RDP) to set up WinRM is generally preferred, but in environments where this is not feasible, remote methods are necessary.