Get Started

Ansible Automation Platform 2.6

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Get started automating with playbooks

An Ansible Playbook is a blueprint for automation tasks, which are actions executed with limited manual effort across an inventory of solutions. Playbooks tell Ansible what to do on which devices.

A playbook automatically executes the same action across a specified inventory type, such as a set of routers, replacing manual repetitive work.

Playbooks are regularly used to automate IT infrastructure, such as operating systems, Kubernetes platforms, networks, security systems, and code repositories such as GitHub.

You can use playbooks to program applications, services, server nodes, and other devices, without the effort of creating everything from scratch. Playbooks, and the conditions, variables, and tasks within them, can be saved, shared, or reused indefinitely. This makes it easier for you to codify operational knowledge and ensure that the same actions are performed consistently.

How do Ansible Playbooks work

Ansible Playbooks are lists of tasks that run automatically for your specified inventory or groups of hosts. One or more Ansible tasks can be combined to make a play, that is, an ordered grouping of tasks mapped to specific hosts.

Tasks are executed in the order in which they are written.

A playbook can include one or more plays.

A playbook is composed of one or more `plays` in an ordered list.

The terms `playbook` and `play` are sports analogies.

Each play executes part of the overall goal of the playbook, running one or more tasks.

Each task calls an Ansible module.

Playbook

A list of plays that define the order in which Ansible performs operations, from top to bottom, to achieve an overall goal.

Play

An ordered list of tasks that maps to managed nodes in an inventory.

Task

A reference to a single module that defines the operations that Ansible performs.

Roles

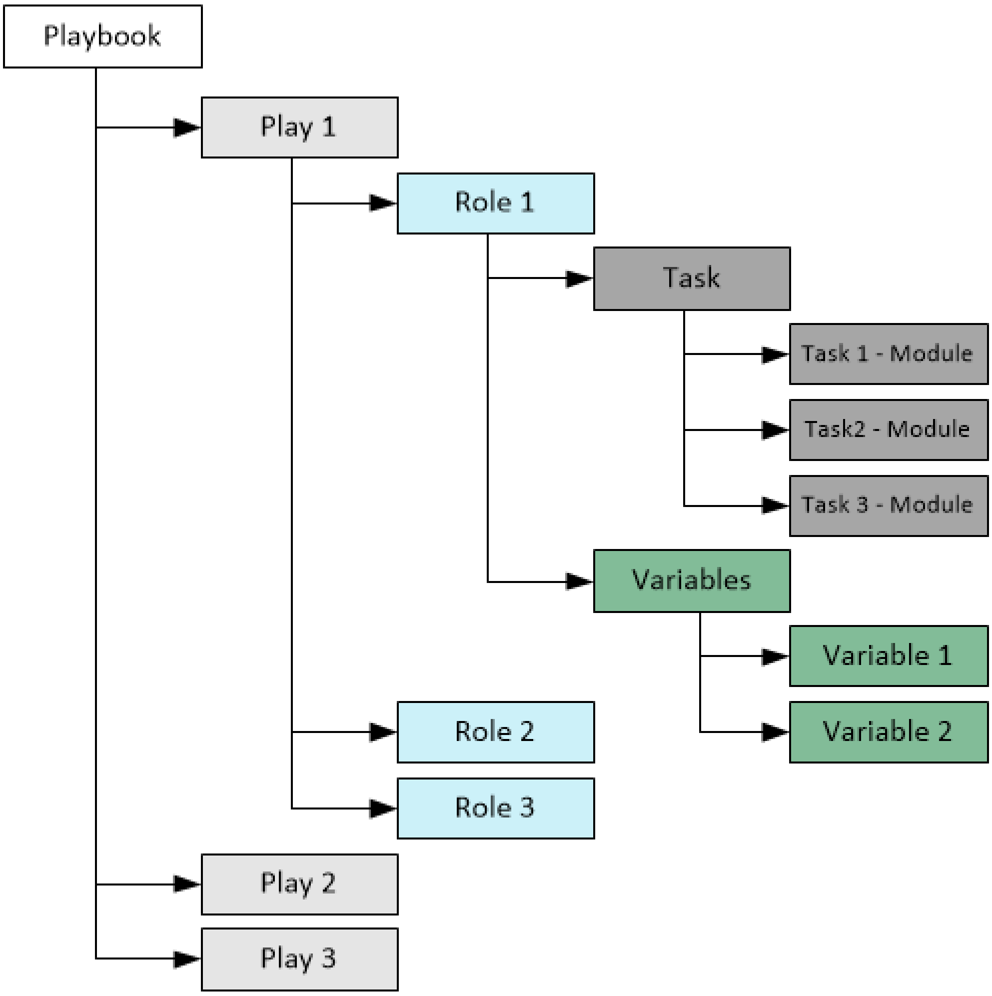
Roles are a way to make code in playbooks reusable by putting the functionality into "libraries" that can then be used in any playbook as needed.

Module

A unit of code or binary that Ansible runs on managed nodes.

Ansible modules are grouped in collections with a *Fully Qualified Collection Name* (FQCN) for each module. Tasks are executed by modules, each of which performs a specific task in a playbook. A module contains metadata that determines when and where a task is executed, and which user executes it. There are thousands of Ansible modules that perform all kinds of IT tasks, such as:

- Cloud management
- User management
- Networking
- Security
- Configuration management
- Communication



Get started as a platform administrator

As a platform administrator, Ansible Automation Platform helps you enable your users and teams to develop and run automation.

Learn the basic steps to get set up as an administrator for Ansible Automation Platform, including configuring and maintaining the platform for users.

To get started as an administrator, learn to:

- Log in for the first time.
- Configure authentication.
- Manage user access with role-based access control.

Log in for the first time

Log in to the Ansible Automation Platform as an administrator and enter your subscription information. You can then create user profiles and assign roles.

Procedure

1. With the login information provided after your installation completed, open a web browser and log in to Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform by navigating to the server URL at: `https://<AAP_SERVER_NAME>/`
2. Use the credentials specified during the installation process to login:
   - The default username is **admin**.
   - The password for **admin** is the value specified during installation.

Next steps

After your first login, you must add your subscription information to begin using the platform.

Add your subscription

To add your subscription information, you can either upload your subscription manifest, or use your service account credentials to find the subscription associated with your account.

Before you begin

To add your subscription by uploading a subscription manifest, you must first:

- Obtain your manifest file. See Obtaining a manifest file for more information.

To add your subscription using your service account credentials, you must first:

- Have created a service account and saved the client ID and client secret.
- Add your service account to the Subscription viewer user group to give it the ability to see your subscriptions. See the "Updates to subscription management" section in the Knowledgebase article Configure Ansible Automation Platform to authenticate through service account credentials for instructions on how to do so.

Procedure

1. To add your subscription by uploading a subscription manifest:
   a. Drag the file to the field beneath **Red Hat subscription manifest** or browse for the file on your local machine.
2. To add your subscription with your service account credentials:
   a. Click the **Service Account** tab.
   b. Enter the **client ID** you received when you created your service account in the field labeled Client ID.
   c. Enter the **client secret** you received when you created your service account in the field labeled Client secret.

   Your subscription appears in the **Subscription** list.
3. Select your subscription and click **Next**.
   a. Check the box indicating that you agree to the **End User License Agreement**.
   b. Review your information and click **Finish**.

If you enter your client ID and client secret but cannot locate your subscription, you might not have the correct permissions set on your service account. For more information and troubleshooting guidance for service accounts, see Configure Ansible Automation Platform to authenticate through service account credentials.

Related information
Attaching your Ansible Automation Platform subscription to your instance

Configure authentication

After your first login as an administrator, begin configuring authentication for your users. Depending on your organization’s needs and resources, you can either:

- Set up authentication by creating users, teams, and organizations, and then assigning them roles that govern access.
- Use an external source such as GitHub to configure authentication for your system.

The following sections serve as an introduction to authentication in Ansible Automation Platform.

Related information
Configure central authentication for Ansible Automation Platform
Managing access with role-based access control

Manage user access with role-based access control

Role-based access control (RBAC) restricts user access based on the user's role within the organization they are assigned to in Ansible Automation Platform. The roles in RBAC refer to the levels of access that users have to Ansible Automation Platform components and resources.

Use RBAC to control what users can do with the components of Ansible Automation Platform at a broad or granular level. You can choose whether the user is a system administrator or normal user, and align roles and access permissions with their positions within the organization.

You can define roles with multiple permissions that can then be assigned to resources, teams, and users. The permissions that make up a role govern what the assigned role allows. Permissions are allocated with only the access needed for a user to perform the tasks appropriate for their role.

The following procedures show how to get started with RBAC by creating a team, and a user to assign to the team.

> **IMPORTANT:**
> When managing users, teams, and organizations, use the Unified UI or the platform gateway API to ensure real-time synchronization across all platform components, including Event-Driven Ansible controller. If you use the legacy automation controller API, changes can take up to 15 minutes to propagate to Event-Driven Ansible controller, which can result in authentication errors for new users or teams.

Create an organization

Ansible Automation Platform automatically creates a default organization. If you have a self-support level license, you have only the default organization available and cannot delete it.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Access Management › Organizations**.
2. Click **Create organization**.
3. Enter the **Name** and give a **Description** for your organization.

> **NOTE:**
> If automation controller is enabled on the platform, continue with Step 4. Otherwise, proceed to Step 6.

4. Select the name of the **Execution environment** or search for one that members of this organization can use to run automation.
5. Enter the name of the **Instance Groups** on which to run this organization.
6. Optional: Enter the **Galaxy credentials** or search from a list of existing ones.
7. Select the **Max hosts** for this organization. The default is 0. When this value is 0, it signifies no limit. If you try to add a host to an organization that has reached or exceeded its cap on hosts, an error message displays:

```
You have already reached the maximum number of 1 hosts allowed for your
organization. Contact your System Administrator for assistance.
```

8. Click **Next**.
9. If you selected more than 1 instance group, you can manage the order by dragging and dropping the instance group up or down in the list and clicking **Confirm**.

> **NOTE:**
> The execution precedence is determined by the order in which the instance groups are listed.

10. Click **Next** and verify the organization settings.
11. Click **Finish**.

Create a team

Manage teams by creating them, assigning an organization, and adding users or administrators. Team members automatically inherit all assigned roles and permissions. Users must exist in the system before they can be added to a team.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Access Management › Teams**.
2. Click **Create team**.
3. Enter a **Name** and optionally give a **Description** for the team.
4. Select an **Organization** to be associated with this team.

> **NOTE:**
> Each team can only be assigned to one organization.

5. Click **Create team**. The **Details** page opens, where you can review and edit your team information and access.

Create a user

You can create three types of users in Ansible Automation Platform:

Normal user

Normal users have read and write access limited to the resources (such as inventory, projects, and job templates) for which that user has been granted the appropriate roles and privileges. Normal users are the default type of user when no other **User type** is specified.

Ansible Automation Platform Administrator

An administrator (also known as a Superuser) has full system administration privileges, with full read and write privileges over the entire installation. An administrator is typically responsible for managing all aspects of and delegating responsibilities for day-to-day work to various users.

Ansible Automation Platform Auditor

Auditors have read-only capability for all objects within the environment.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Access Management > Users**.
2. Click **Create user**.
3. Enter the details about your new user in the fields on the **Create user** page. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.
4. Normal users are the default when no **User type** is specified. To define a user as an administrator or auditor, select a **User type** from the drop-down menu.

> **NOTE:**
> If you are modifying your own password, log out and log back in for the change to take effect.

5. Select the **Organization** to be assigned for this user. For information about creating a new organization, see Creating an organization.
6. Click **Create user**.

   When the user is successfully created, the **User** details screen opens. From here, you can review and change the user's teams, roles, tokens and other membership details.

> **NOTE:**
> If the user is not newly-created, the details screen displays the user's last login activity.

Next steps

If you log in as yourself, and view the details of your user profile, you can manage tokens from your user profile by selecting the **Tokens** tab. For more information, see Adding a token.

Get started as an automation developer

As an automation developer, you can use Ansible Automation Platform to implement your organization's automation strategy.

Ansible Automation Platform can help you write, test, and share automation content, and download and use Red Hat certified collections. Learn the basic workflow to get set up as an automation developer on Ansible Automation Platform, including how to:

- Set up your development environment
- Create, publish, and use custom automation content
- Build and use automation execution environments and decision environments
- Create and run rulebook activations for Event-Driven Ansible
- Create and use job templates

Set up your development environment

Before you begin to create content, consult our guidance on developing automation content. There you can find information on Ansible development tools, which you can integrate into your environment, and learn how to scaffold a playbook project.

Related information
Create, test, and deploy automation content with ansible-dev-tools

Create automation content with playbooks

Ansible playbooks are blueprints that tell Ansible Automation Platform what tasks to perform with which devices. Use a playbook to define automation tasks for the platform to run.

Create a playbook

A playbook contains one or more plays. A basic play contains the following parameters:

- **Name**: a brief description of the overall function of the playbook, which assists in keeping it readable and organized for all users.
- **Hosts**: identifies the target or targets for Ansible to run against.
- **Become statements**: this optional statement can be set to `true` or `yes` to enable privilege escalation using a become plugin (such as `sudo`, `su`, `pfexec`, `doas`, `pbrun`, `dzdo`, `ksu`).
- **Tasks**: this is the list of actions that get executed against each host in the play.

Here is an example of a play in a playbook. You can see the name of the play, the host, and the list of tasks included in the play.

```
- name: Set Up a Project and Job Template
  hosts: host.name.ip
  become: true

  tasks:
    - name: Create a Project
      ansible.controller.project:
        name: Job Template Test Project
        state: present
        scm_type: git
        scm_url: https://github.com/ansible/ansible-tower-samples.git

    - name: Create a Job Template
      ansible.controller.job_template:
        name: my-job-1
        project: Job Template Test Project
        inventory: Demo Inventory
        playbook: hello_world.yml
        job_type: run
        state: present
```

For more detailed guidance on authoring playbooks, consult the following documentation:

- Developing automation content

- Creating playbooks and viewing playbook explanations in the Red Hat Ansible Lightspeed with IBM watsonx Code Assistant User Guide to learn how to generate a playbook with AI.
- Getting started with playbooks

Related information
Create, test, and deploy automation content with ansible-dev-tools
Create playbooks and view playbook explanations
Get started automating with playbooks

Write a playbook

Create a playbook that pings your hosts and prints a "Hello world" message.

Ansible uses the YAML syntax. YAML is a human-readable language that enables you to create playbooks without having to learn a complicated coding language.

Procedure

1. Create a file named `playbook.yaml` in your `ansible_quickstart` directory, with the following content:

```
- name: My first play
  hosts: myhosts
  tasks:
    - name: Ping my hosts
    ansible.builtin.ping:

    - name: Print message
    ansible.builtin.debug:
      msg: Hello world
```

2. Run your playbook:

```
$ ansible-playbook -i inventory.ini playbook.yaml
```

Result

Ansible returns the following output:

```
PLAY [My first play] ********************************************************

TASK [Gathering Facts] ******************************************************
ok: [192.0.2.50]
ok: [192.0.2.51]
ok: [192.0.2.52]

TASK [Ping my hosts] ********************************************************
ok: [192.0.2.50]
ok: [192.0.2.51]
ok: [192.0.2.52]

TASK [Print message] ********************************************************
ok: [192.0.2.50] => {
    "msg": "Hello world"
}
ok: [192.0.2.51] => {

    "msg": "Hello world"
}
ok: [192.0.2.52] => {
    "msg": "Hello world"
}

PLAY RECAP ******************************************************************
192.0.2.50: ok=3    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0
   ignored=0
192.0.2.51: ok=3    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0
   ignored=0
192.0.2.52: ok=3    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0
   ignored=0
```

Related information
[Getting started with playbooks]
[Red Hat Ansible Lightspeed with IBM watsonx Code Assistant]

Define events with rulebooks

An Ansible rulebook is a collection of rulesets that references one or more sources, rules, and conditions.

Rulebooks are to Event-Driven Ansible what playbooks are to Ansible Automation Platform as a whole. Like a playbook, a rulebook defines automation tasks for the platform, along with when they should be triggered.

Rulebook actions

Rulebooks use an "if-this-then-that" logic that tells Event-Driven Ansible what actions to activate when a rule is triggered. Event-Driven Ansible listens to the controller event stream and, when an event triggers a rule, activates an automation action in response.

Rulebooks can trigger the following activations:

- `run_job_template`
- `run_playbook` (only supported with ansible-rulebook CLI)
- `debug`
- `print_event`
- `set_fact`
- `post_event`
- `retract_fact`
- `shutdown`

Related information
[Actions]
[Automation decisions]

Package and reuse content with roles

An role is a portable, self-contained unit of automation that bundles tasks, variables, templates, and handlers. Roles allow you to organize and reuse automation content to fit specific system needs.

Instead of creating huge playbooks with hundreds of tasks, you can use roles to break the tasks apart into smaller, more discrete units of work.

Related information
What is an Ansible Role—and how is it used?

Create a role

Create an Ansible role by using the `ansible-galaxy` CLI tool to build reusable automation components.

The Ansible Automation Platform bundle includes the Ansible Galaxy CLI tool. Access role-specific commands from the `role` subcommand:

```
ansible-galaxy role init <role_name>
```

Standalone roles outside of Collections are supported. Create new roles inside a Collection to take advantage of the features Ansible Automation Platform has to offer.

Procedure

1. In a terminal, navigate to the `roles` directory inside a collection.
2. Create a role called `my_role` inside the collection:

```
$ ansible-galaxy role init my_role
```

The collection now includes a role named `my_role` inside the `roles` directory, as you can see in this example:

```
~/.ansible/collections/ansible_collections/<my_namespace>/<my_collection_name>
    ...
    └── roles/
        └── my_role/
            ├── .travis.yml
            ├── README.md
            ├── defaults/
            │   └── main.yml
            ├── files/
            ├── handlers/
            │   └── main.yml
            ├── meta/
            │   └── main.yml
            ├── tasks/
            │   └── main.yml
            ├── templates/
            ├── tests/
            │   ├── inventory
            │   └── test.yml
            └── vars/
                └── main.yml
```

3. A custom role skeleton directory can be supplied by using the `--role-skeleton` argument. This allows organizations to create standardized templates for new roles to suit their needs.

```
$ ansible-galaxy role init my_role --role-skeleton ~/role_skeleton
```

This creates a role named `my_role` by copying the contents of `~/role_skeleton` into `my_role`. The contents of `role_skeleton` can be any files or folders that are valid inside a role directory.

Package and distribute automation content with collections

Collections are a distribution format for Ansible content that can include playbooks, roles, modules, and plugins. Red Hat provides Ansible Content Collections on Ansible automation hub that contain both Red Hat Ansible Certified Content and Ansible validated content.

If you have installed private automation hub, you can create collections for your organization and push them to private automation hub so that you can use them in job templates in Ansible Automation Platform. You can use collections to package and distribute plug-ins. These plug-ins are written in Python.

You can also create collections to package and distribute Ansible roles, which are expressed in YAML. You can also include playbooks and custom plug-ins that are required for these roles in the collection. Typically, collections of roles are distributed for use within your organization.

Publish to a collection

You can configure your projects to be uploaded to Git, or to the source control manager of your choice.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution › Projects**.
2. Locate or create the project that you want to publish to your source control manager.
3. In the project **Details** tab, select **Edit project**.
4. Select **Git** from the **Source Control Type** drop-down menu.
5. Enter the appropriate details into the following fields:
    a. **Source Control URL** - see an example in the tooltip.
    b. Optional: **Source control branch/tag/commit**: Enter the SCM branch, tags, commit hashes, arbitrary refs, or revision number (if applicable) from the source control to checkout. Some commit hashes and references might not be available unless you also provide a custom refspec in the next field. If left blank, the default is `HEAD`, which is the last checked out branch, tag, or commit for this project.
    c. **Source Control Refspec** - This field is an option specific to Git source control and only advanced users familiar and comfortable with Git should specify which references to download from the remote repository. For more information, see Job branch overriding.
    d. **Source Control Credential** - If authentication is required, select the appropriate source control credential.

6. Optional: **Options** - select the launch behavior, if applicable:
    a. **Clean** - Removes any local modifications before performing an update.
    b. **Delete** - Deletes the local repository in its entirety before performing an update. Depending on the size of the repository this can significantly increase the amount of time required to complete an update.
    c. **Track submodules** - Tracks the latest commit. See the tooltip for more information.
    d. **Update Revision on Launch** - Updates the revision of the project to the current revision in the remote source control, and caches the roles directory from Collections support. Automation controller ensures that the local revision matches and that the roles and collections are up-to-date with the last update. In addition, to avoid job overflows if jobs are spawned faster than the project can synchronize, selecting this enables you to configure a cache timeout to cache previous project synchronizations for a given number of seconds.
    e. **Allow Branch Override** - Enables a job template or an inventory source that uses this project to start with a specified SCM branch or revision other than that of the project. For more information, see Job branch overriding.
7. Click **Save** to save your project.

Upload a collection to automation hub

If you want to share a collection that you have created with the rest of the Ansible community, you can upload it to automation hub.

Before you begin

- You have configured the `ansible-galaxy` client for automation hub.
- You have at least one namespace.
- You have run all content through `ansible-test sanity`

NOTE:
Sharing a collection with the Ansible community requires getting the collection certified or validated by our Partner Engineering team. This action is available only to partner clients. For more about becoming a partner, see our documentation on software certification.

You can upload your collection by using either the automation hub user interface or the `ansible-galaxy` client.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Content > Namespaces**.
2. Within the My namespaces tab, locate and click into the namespace to which you want to upload a collection.

3. Select the **Collections** tab, and then click **Upload collection**.
4. In the New collection modal, click **Select file**. Locate the file on your system.
5. Click **Upload**.
6. Optional: you can also upload from the command line. Using the `ansible-galaxy` client, enter the following command:

```
$ ansible-galaxy collection publish path/to/my_namespace-
my_collection-1.0.0.tar.gz --api-key=SECRET
```

Create automation runtimes with execution and decision environments

All automation in Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform runs on container images called automation execution environments.

Automation execution environments are consistent and shareable container images that serve as Ansible control nodes. Automation execution environments reduce the challenge of sharing Ansible content that has external dependencies.

If automation content is similar to a script that a developer has written, an automation execution environment is like a replica of that developer's environment, thereby enabling you to reproduce and scale that automation content. In this way, execution environments make it easier for you to implement automation in a range of environments.

Automation execution environments contain:

- Ansible Core
- Ansible Runner
- Ansible Collections
- Python libraries
- System dependencies
- Custom user needs

You can either use the default base execution environment included in your Ansible Automation Platform subscription, or you can define and create an automation execution environment using Ansible Builder.

Use the base automation execution environment

Ansible Automation Platform provides access to some base automation execution environments. You can use a base execution environment as a starting point for creating a customized execution environment.

Before you begin

- You have a valid Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform subscription.

Ansible Automation Platform includes the following execution environments:

- `Minimal` - Includes the latest Ansible-core 2.15 release along with Ansible Runner, but does not include collections or other content
- `EE Supported` - Minimal, plus all Red Hat-supported collections and dependencies

Base images included with Ansible Automation Platform are hosted on the Red Hat Ecosystem Catalog (`registry.redhat.io`).

Procedure

1. Log in to `registry.redhat.io`.

```
$ podman login registry.redhat.io
```

2. Pull the base images from the registry:

```
$ podman pull registry.redhat.io/aap/<image name>
```

Related information
Install Ansible Builder to create or edit execution environments

Add an execution environment to a job template

After you have built an execution environment, use it to run jobs. To do so, first associate the execution environment with a job template.

Before you begin

- An execution environment created using `ansible-builder` as described in Define, create, and build execution environments.
- Organization administrator privileges (if the execution environment is associated with an organization).
- A credential with a username, host, and password (if assigned to the execution environment).

Use the following procedure to add an execution environment to a job template.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution › Infrastructure › Execution Environments**.
2. Click **Create execution environment** to create an execution environment.
3. Enter the appropriate details into the following fields:
    a. **Name** (required): Enter a name for the execution environment.
    b. **Image** (required): Enter the image name. The image name requires its full location (repository), the registry, image name, and version tag, as in the following example: `quay.io/ansible/awx-ee:latestrepo/project/image-name:tag`
    c. Optional: **Pull**: Choose the type of pull when running jobs:
        i. **Always pull container before running**: Pulls the latest image file for the container.
        ii. **Only pull the image if not present before running**: Only pulls the latest image if none are specified.
        iii. **Never pull container before running**: Never pull the latest version of the container image.

        NOTE: If you do not set a type for pull, the value defaults to **Only pull the image if not present before running**.

    d. Optional: **Description**: Enter an optional description.
    e. Optional: **Organization**: Assign the organization to specifically use this execution environment. To make the execution environment available for use across multiple organizations, leave this field blank.
    f. **Registry credential**: If the image has a protected container registry, provide the credential to access it.
4. Click **Create execution environment**. Your newly added execution environment is ready to be used in a job template.
5. To add an execution environment to a job template, navigate to **Automation Execution › Templates** and select your template.

a. Click **Edit template** and specify your execution environment in the field labeled **execution environment**.

Result

After you add an execution environment to a job template, the template is listed in the **Templates** tab in your execution environment details.

About container registries

If you have many automation execution environments that you want to support, you can store them in a container registry linked to your private automation hub.

For more information, see Populating your private automation hub container registry.

Build and use a decision environment

Event-Driven Ansible includes an ansible.eda collection, which contains sample sources, event filters and rulebooks. All the collections, ansible rulebooks and their dependencies use a decision environment, which is an image that can be run on either Podman or Kubernetes.

In decision environments, sources, which are typically Python code, are distributed through ansible-collections. They inject external events into a rulebook for processing. The rulebook consists of the following:

- The python interpreter
- Java Runtime Environment for Drools rule engine
- ansible-rulebook python package
- ansible.eda collection

You can use the base decision environment and build your own customized Decision Environments with additional collections and collection dependencies. You can build a decision environment using a Dockerfile or optionally you can deploy your CA certificate into the image.

Set up a new decision environment

The following steps describe how to import a decision environment into the platform.

Before you begin

- You have set up any necessary credentials. For more information, see Setting up credentials.
- You have pushed a decision environment image to an image repository or you chose to use the image `de-supported` provided at registry.redhat.io.

Procedure

1. Navigate to **Automation Decisions › Decision Environments**.
2. Click **Create decision environment**.
3. Enter the following:

   Name

   Insert the name.

   Description

   This field is optional.

   Image

   This is the full image location, including the container registry, image name, and version tag.

   Credential

   This field is optional. This is the token needed to use the decision environment image.
4. Select **Create decision environment**.

Result

Your decision environment is now created and can be managed on the **Decision Environments** page.

After saving the new decision environment, the decision environment's details page is displayed. From there or the **Decision Environments** list view, you can edit or delete it.

Organize and define automation sources and targets

Projects and inventory files help you organize your automation sources and targets.

Create an automation execution project

A project is a logical collection of playbooks. Projects are useful as a way to group your automation content according to the organizing principle of your choice.

You can set up an automation execution project in the platform UI.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution > Projects**.
2. On the **Projects** page, click **Create project** to launch the **Create Project** window.
3. Enter the appropriate details into the following required fields:
    - **Name** (required)
    - Optional: **Description**
    - **Organization** (required): A project must have at least one organization. Select one organization now to create the project. When the project is created you can add additional organizations.
    - Optional: **Execution Environment**: Enter the name of the execution environment or search from a list of existing ones to run this project.
    - **Source Control Type** (required): Select an SCM type associated with this project from the menu. Options in the following sections become available depending on the type chosen. For more information, see Managing playbooks manually or Managing playbooks using source control.
    - Optional: **Content Signature Validation Credential**: Use this field to enable content verification. Specify the GPG key to use for validating content signature during project synchronization. If the content has been tampered with, the job will not run. For more information, see Project signing and verification.
4. Click **Create project**.

Create an automation decision project

Like automation execution projects, automation decision projects are logical collections of automation decision content. You can use the project function to organize your automation decision content in a way that makes sense to you.

Before you begin

- You have set up any neccessary credentials. For more information, see Setting up credentials.
- You have an existing repository containing rulebooks that are integrated with playbooks contained in a repository to be used by automation controller.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Decisions > Projects**.
2. Click **Create project**.

3. Enter the following information:

    - **Name**: Enter project name.
    - **Description**: This field is optional.
    - **Organization**: Select the organization associated with the project.
    - **Source control type**: Git is the only SCM type available for use.
    - **Proxy**: Proxy used to access HTTP or HTTPS servers.
    - **Source control branch/tag/commit**: Branch to checkout. Can also be tags, commit hashes, or arbitrary refs.
    - **Source control refspec**: A refspec to fetch. This parameter allows access to references through the branch field not otherwise available.
    - Optional: **Source control credential**: The token needed to use the source control URL.
    - **Content signature validation credential**: Enables content signing to verify that the content has remained secure during project syncing. If the content is tampered with, the job will not run.
    - **Options**: Checking the box next to **Verify SSL** verifies the SSL with HTTPS when the project is imported.

4. Click **Create project**.

Next steps

Your project is now created and can be managed in the **Projects** screen.

After saving the new project, the project's details page is displayed. From there or the **Projects** list view, you can edit or delete it.

About inventories

An inventory is a file listing the collection of hosts managed by Ansible Automation Platform.

Organizations are assigned to inventories, while permissions to launch playbooks against inventories are controlled at the user or team level.

You can find inventories in the UI by navigating to **Automation Execution > Infrastructure > Inventories**. The Inventories window displays a list of the inventories that are currently available. You can sort the inventory list by name and search by inventory type, organization, description, inventory creators or modifiers, or additional criteria. Use the following procedure to create a new inventory.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution › Infrastructure › Inventories**. The **Inventories** view displays a list of the inventories currently available.
2. Click **Create inventory**, and from the list menu select the type of inventory you want to create.
3. Enter the appropriate details into the following fields:
    - **Name**: Enter a name for the inventory.
    - Optional: **Description**: Enter a description.
    - **Organization**: Choose among the available organizations.
    - Only applicable to Smart Inventories: **Smart Host Filter**: Filters are similar to tags in that tags are used to filter certain hosts that contain those names. Therefore, to populate this field, specify a tag that contains the hosts you want, not the hosts themselves. Filters are case-sensitive. For more information, see Smart host filters.
    - **Instance groups**: Select the instance group or groups for this inventory to run on. If the list is extensive, use the search to narrow the options. You can select multiple instance groups and sort them in the order that you want them run.
    - Optional: **Labels**: Add labels that describe this inventory, so they can be used to group and filter inventories and jobs.
    - Only applicable to constructed inventories: **Input inventories**: Specify the source inventories to include in this constructed inventory. Empty groups from input inventories are copied into the constructed inventory.
    - Optional and only applicable to constructed inventories: **Cache timeout (seconds)**:Set the length of time you want the cache plugin data to timeout.
    - Only applicable to constructed inventories: **Verbosity**: Control the level of output that Ansible produces as the playbook executes related to inventory sources associated with constructed inventories. Select the verbosity from Normal to various Verbose or Debug settings. This only appears in the "details" report view.
        - Verbose logging includes the output of all commands.
        - Debug logging is exceedingly verbose and includes information on SSH operations that can be useful in certain support instances. Most users do not need to see debug mode output.
    - Only applicable to constructed inventories: **Limit**: Restricts the number of returned hosts for the inventory source associated with the constructed inventory. You can paste a group name into the limit field to only include hosts in that group. For more information, see the **Source variables** setting.
    - Only applicable to standard inventories: **Options**: Check the box next to **Prevent instance group fallback** to enable only the instance groups listed in the **Instance groups** field to execute the job. If unchecked, all available instances in the execution pool will be used based on the hierarchy described in Control where a job runs . Click the tooltip for more information.

> **NOTE:** Set the `prevent_instance_group_fallback` option for smart inventories through the API.

- **Variables** (**Source variables** for constructed inventories):
    - **Variables**: Variable definitions and values to apply to all hosts in this inventory. Enter variables using either JSON or YAML syntax. Use the radio button to toggle between the two.
    - **Source variables** for constructed inventories are used to configure the constructed inventory plugin. Source variables create groups under the `groups` data key. The variable accepts Jinja2 template syntax, renders it for every host, makes a `true` or `false` evaluation, and includes the host in the group (from the key of the entry) if the result is `true`.

4. Click **Create inventory**.

Next steps

After creating the new inventory, you can proceed with configuring permissions, groups, hosts, sources, and viewing completed jobs, if applicable to the type of inventory.

Reliably run playbooks with job templates

A job template is a definition and set of parameters for running an Ansible job.

A job template combines an Ansible playbook from a project and the settings required to launch it, including information about the target host against which the playbook will run, authentication information to access the host, and any other relevant variables . Job templates are useful to run the same job many times. Job templates also encourage the reuse of Ansible playbook content and collaboration between teams.

Related information
Standardize and streamline automation with automation job templates

Get started with job templates

Job templates are definitions and sets of parameters for running an Ansible job. A job template ties together all the necessary information to launch an Ansible job.

As part of the initial setup, a **Demo Job Template** is created for you.

Procedure

1. To review existing templates, select **Automation Execution > Templates** from the navigation panel.

2. Click **Demo Job Template** to view its details.

Set your domains of interest

With Domain filtering lets you customize content in Automation Execution's **Jobs** and **Templates** sections. Jobs and templates are linked to labels; selecting one filters out less-relevant items, providing easy access to resources tailored to your specific area of interest.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution › Jobs** or **Automation Execution › Templates**.
2. Beneath the page heading, next to **Domains**, is a list of topic-related labels. Select a label to filter jobs and job templates so that only content related to the labels is shown. You can choose more than one label.
3. To clear your selection, click the **X**.
4. To customize your domain options, select the icon. In the modal that appears, select **Add Domain** to add new domains to filter with.

Next steps

You can add labels to your individual job templates to make the templates appear as resources when you filter with the related domain label. Go to **Automation Execution › Templates**, select your job template, and click **Edit template**. On the editing screen, enter the label you want to use in the **Labels** field and click **Save job template**.

Create a job template

Use the following procedure to create a job template.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution › Templates**.
2. On the **Templates** page, select **Create job template** from the **Create template** list.
3. Enter the appropriate details in the following fields:

> **NOTE:**
> If a field has the **Prompt on launch** checkbox selected, launching the job prompts you for the value for that field when launching.
>
> Most prompted values override any values set in the job template.
>
> Exceptions are noted in the following table.

Field	Options	Prompt on Launch
Name	Enter a name for the job.	N/A
Description	Enter an arbitrary description as appropriate (optional).	N/A
Job Type	Choose a job type: • Run: Start the playbook when launched, running Ansible tasks on the selected hosts. • Check: Perform a "dry run" of the playbook and report changes that would be made without actually making them. Tasks that do not support check mode are missed and do not report potential changes.	Yes
Inventory	Choose the inventory to use with this job template from the inventories available to the logged in user. A System Administrator must grant you or your team permissions to be	Yes. Inventory prompts show up as its own step in a later prompt window.

Field	Options	Prompt on Launch
	able to use certain inventories in a job template.	
Project	Select the project to use with this job template from the projects available to the user that is logged in.	N/A
Source control branch	This field is only present if you chose a project that allows branch override. Specify the overriding branch to use in your job run. If left blank, the specified SCM branch (or commit hash or tag) from the project is used. For more information, see Job branch overriding.	Yes
Execution Environment	Select the container image to be used to run this job. You must select a project before you can select an execution environment.	Yes. Execution environment prompts show up as its own step in a later prompt window.
Playbook	Choose the playbook to be launched with this job template from the available playbooks. This field automatically populates with the names of the playbooks found in the project base path for the selected project. Alternatively, you can enter the name of the playbook if it is not listed, such as the name of a file (such as foo.yml) you want to use to run with that playbook. If you	N/A

Field	Options	Prompt on Launch
	enter a filename that is not valid, the template displays an error, or causes the job to fail.	
Credentials	Select the icon to open a separate window. Choose the credential from the available options to use with this job template. Use the drop-down menu list to filter by credential type if the list is extensive. Some credential types are not listed because they do not apply to certain job templates.	• If selected, when launching a job template that has a default credential and supplying another credential replaces the default credential if it is the same type. The following is an example of this message: `Job Template default credentials must be replaced with one of the same type. Please select a credential for the following types in order to proceed: Machine.` • You can add more credentials as you see fit. • Credential prompts show up as its own step in a later prompt window.
Labels	• Optionally supply labels that describe this job template, such as `dev` or `test`. • Use labels to group and filter job templates and	• If selected, even if a default value is supplied, you are prompted when launching to supply additional labels, if needed. • You cannot delete existing labels, selecting only

Field	Options	Prompt on Launch
	completed jobs in the display. • Labels are created when they are added to the job template. Labels are associated with a single Organization by using the Project that is provided in the job template. Members of the Organization can create labels on a job template if they have edit permissions (such as the admin role). • Once you save the job template, the labels appear in the **Job Templates** overview in the Expanded view. • Select ✖ beside a label to remove it. When a label is removed, it is no longer associated with that particular Job or Job Template, but it remains associated with any other jobs that reference it. • Jobs inherit labels from the Job Template at the time of launch. If you delete a label from a Job Template, it is also	removes the newly added labels, not existing default labels.

Field	Options	Prompt on Launch
	deleted from the Job.	
Forks	The number of parallel or simultaneous processes to use while executing the playbook. A value of zero uses the Ansible default setting, which is five parallel processes unless overridden in `/etc/ansible/ansible.cfg`.	Yes
Limit	A host pattern to further constrain the list of hosts managed or affected by the playbook. You can separate many patterns by colons (:). As with core Ansible: • a:b means "in group a or b" • a:b:&c means "in a or b but must be in c" • a:!b means "in a, and definitely not in b"	Yes If not selected, the job template executes against all nodes in the inventory or only the nodes predefined on the **Limit** field. When running as part of a workflow, the workflow job template limit is used instead.
Verbosity	Control the level of output Ansible produces as the playbook executes. Choose the verbosity from Normal to various Verbose or Debug settings. This only appears in the **details** report view. Verbose logging includes the output of all commands. Debug logging is exceedingly verbose and includes information	Yes

Field	Options	Prompt on Launch
	about SSH operations that can be useful in certain support instances. Verbosity `5` causes automation controller to block heavily when jobs are running, which could delay reporting that the job has finished (even though it has) and can cause the browser tab to lock up.	
Job Slicing	Specify the number of slices you want this job template to run. Each slice runs the same tasks against a part of the inventory. For more information about job slices, see Job Slicing.	Yes
Timeout	This enables you to specify the length of time (in seconds) that the job can run before it is canceled. Consider the following for setting the timeout value:	Yes

Field	Options	Prompt on Launch
	• There is a global timeout defined in the settings which defaults to 0, indicating no timeout. • A negative timeout (<0) on a job template is a true "no timeout" on the job. • A timeout of 0 on a job template defaults the job to the global timeout (which is no timeout by default). • A positive timeout sets the timeout for that job template.	
Show Changes	Enables you to see the changes made by Ansible tasks.	Yes
Instance Groups	Choose Instance and Container Groups to associate with this job template. If the list is extensive, use the icon to narrow the options. Job template instance groups contribute to the job scheduling criteria, see Job Runtime Behavior and Control where a job runs for rules. A System Administrator must grant you or your team permissions to be able to use an instance group in a job template. Use of a	• Yes. If selected, you are providing the jobs preferred instance groups in order of preference. If the first group is out of capacity, later groups in the list are considered until one with capacity is available, at which point that is selected to run the job. • If you prompt for an instance group, what you enter replaces the

Field	Options	Prompt on Launch
	container group requires admin rights.	normal instance group hierarchy and overrides all of the organizations' and inventories' instance groups. • The Instance Groups prompt shows up as its own step in a later prompt window.
Job Tags	Type and select the **Create** menu to specify which parts of the playbook should be executed.	Yes
Skip Tags	Type and select the **Create** menu to specify certain tasks or parts of the playbook to skip.	Yes
Extra Variables	• Pass extra command line variables to the playbook. This is the "-e" or "-extra-vars" command line parameter for ansible-playbook that is documented in the Ansible documentation at Defining variables at runtime. • Provide key or value pairs by using either YAML or JSON. These variables have a maximum value of precedence and overrides other	Yes. If you want to be able to specify `extra_vars` on a schedule, you must select **Prompt on launch** for Variables on the job template, or enable a survey on the job template. Those answered survey questions become `extra_vars`.

Field	Options	Prompt on Launch
	variables specified elsewhere. The following is an example value: `git_branch: production release_version: 1.5`	

4. You can set the following options for launching this template, if necessary:

    - **Privilege escalation**: If checked, you enable this playbook to run as an administrator. This is the equal of passing the `--become` option to the `ansible-playbook` command.
    - **Provisioning callback**: If checked, you enable a host to call back to automation controller through the REST API and start a job from this job template. For more information, see Provisioning Callbacks.
    - **Enable webhook**: If checked, you turn on the ability to interface with a predefined SCM system web service that is used to launch a job template. GitHub and GitLab are the supported SCM systems. If you enable webhooks, other fields display, prompting for additional information:
        - **Webhook service**: Select which service to listen for webhooks from.
        - **Webhook URL**: Automatically populated with the URL for the webhook service to POST requests to.
        - **Webhook key**: Generated shared secret to be used by the webhook service to sign payloads sent to automation controller. You must configure this in the settings on the webhook service in order for automation controller to accept webhooks from this service.
        - **Webhook credential**: Optionally, give a GitHub or GitLab personal access token (PAT) as a credential to use to send status updates back to the webhook service.
          Before you can select it, the credential must exist.

          See Credential Types to create one.
        - For additional information about setting up webhooks, see Working with Webhooks.
    - **Concurrent jobs**: If checked, you are allowing jobs in the queue to run simultaneously if not dependent on one another. Check this box if you want to run job slices simultaneously. For more information, see Automation controller capacity determination and job impact.

- **Enable fact storage**: If checked, automation controller stores gathered facts for all hosts in an inventory related to the job running.

- **Prevent instance group fallback**: Check this option to allow only the instance groups listed in the **Instance Groups** field to run the job. If clear, all available instances in the execution pool are used based on the hierarchy described in Control where a job runs.

5. Click **Create job template**, when you have completed configuring the details of the job template.

   Creating the template does not exit the job template page but advances to the Job Template **Details** tab. After saving the template, you can click **Launch template** to start the job. You can also click **Edit** to add or change the attributes of the template, such as permissions, notifications, view completed jobs, and add a survey (if the job type is not a scan). You must first save the template before launching, otherwise, **Launch template** remains disabled.

Result

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution › Templates**.

2. Verify that the newly created template appears on the **Templates** page.

Edit a job template

As part of the initial setup, you can leave the default **Demo Job Template** as it is, but you can edit it later.

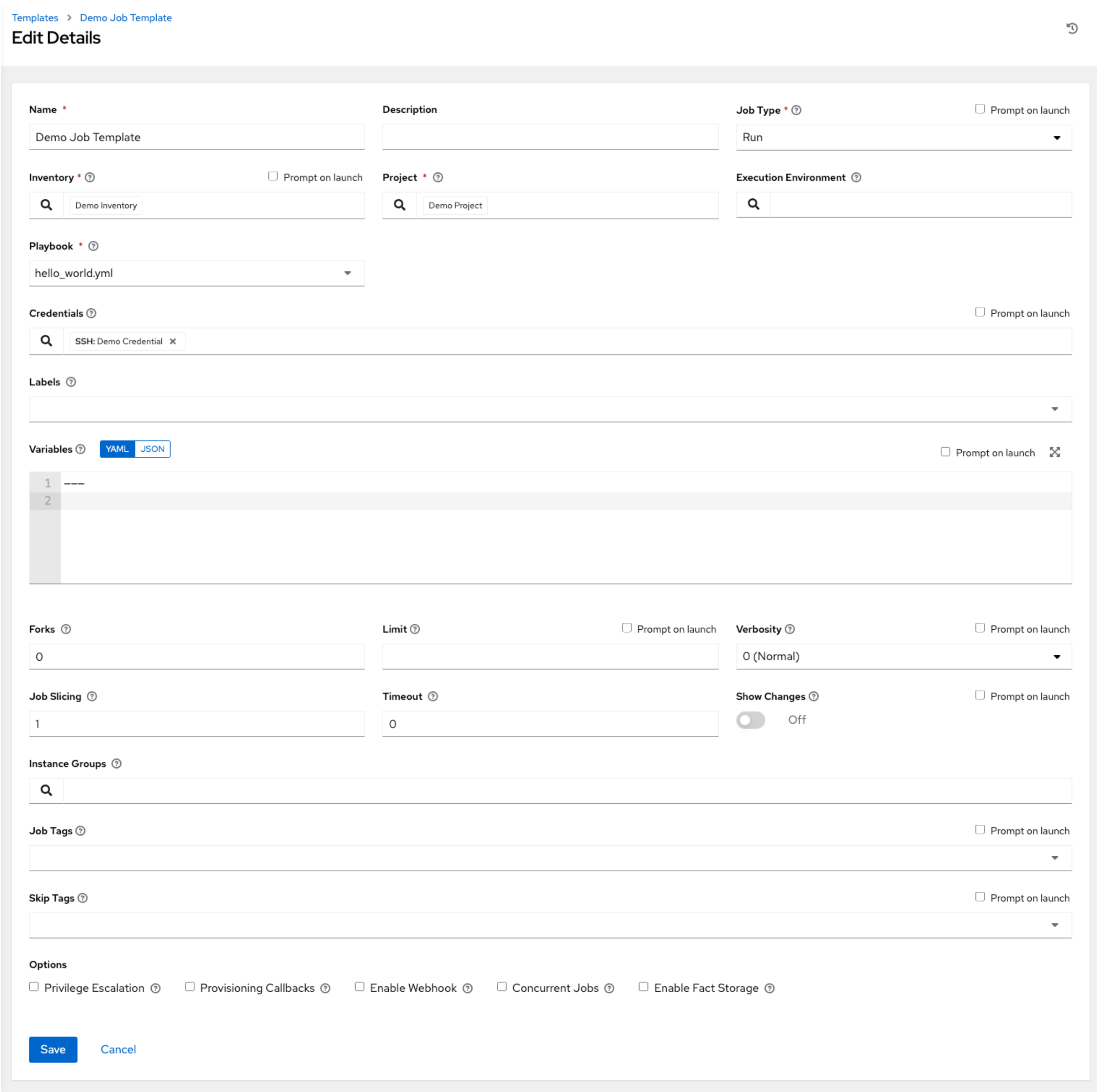
Procedure

1. Open the template to edit it by using one of these methods:

   - Click **Edit** in the job template Details page.

   - From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution › Templates**. Click **Edit** next to the template name and edit the appropriate details.

2. Save your changes.



3. To exit after saving and return to the **Templates** list view, use the breadcrumb navigation links or click **Cancel**. Clicking **Save** does not exit the **Details** dialog.

Configure rulebooks to take action in response to events or conditions

In Event-Driven Ansible, a rulebook activation is a process running in the background defined by a decision environment executing a specific rulebook.

Set up a rulebook activation

Follow the steps in this procedure to set up a rulebook activation.

Before you begin

- You have set up a project.
- You have set up a decision environment.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Decisions › Rulebook Activations**.
2. Click **Create rulebook activation**.
3. Enter the following information:
    - **Name**: Insert the name.
    - **Description**: This field is optional.
    - **Organization**: This field is optional.
    - **Project**: This field is optional.
    - **Rulebook**: Rulebooks are displayed according to the project you selected.
    - **Credential**: Select 0 or more credentials for this rulebook activation. This field is optional.

      NOTE: The credentials that display in this field are customized based on your rulebook activation and only include the following credential types: Vault, Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, or any custom credential types that you have created. For more information about credentials, see Credentials .

    - **Decision environment**: A decision environment is a container image to run Ansible rulebooks.

      NOTE: In Event-Driven Ansible controller, you cannot customize the pull policy of the decision environment. By default, it follows the behavior of the **always** policy. Every time an activation is started, the system tries to pull the most recent version of the image.

    - **Restart policy**: This is the policy that determines how an activation should restart after the container process running the source plugin ends. Select from the following options:
        - **Always**: This restarts the rulebook activation immediately, regardless of whether it ends successfully or not, and occurs no more than 5 times.

- **Never**: This never restarts a rulebook activation when the container process ends.
- **On failure**: This restarts the rulebook activation after 60 seconds by default, only when the container process fails, and occurs no more than 5 times.

- **Log level**: This field defines the severity and type of content in your logged events. Select from one of the following options:
  - **Error**: Logs that contain error messages that are displayed in the **History** tab of an activation.
  - **Info**: Logs that contain useful information about rulebook activations, such as a success or failure, triggered action names and their related action events, and errors.
  - **Debug**: Logs that contain information that is only useful during the debug phase and might be of little value during production. This log level includes both error and log level data.
- **Service name**: This defines a service name for Kubernetes to configure inbound connections if the activation exposes a port. This field is optional.
- **Rulebook activation enabled?**: Toggle to automatically enable the rulebook activation to run.
- **Variables**: The variables for the rulebook are in JSON or YAML format. The content would be equivalent to the file passed through the `--vars` flag of ansible-rulebook command.
- **Options**: Check the **Skip audit events** option if you do not want to see your events in the Rule Audit.

4. Click **Create rulebook activation**.

Result

Your rulebook activation is now created and can be managed on the **Rulebook Activations** page.

> **NOTE:** Occasionally, when a source plugin shuts down, it causes a rulebook to exit gracefully after a certain amount of time. When a rulebook activation shuts down, any tasks that are waiting to be performed will be canceled, and an info level message is sent to the activation log. For more information, see Rulebooks.

After saving the new rulebook activation, the rulebook activation’s details page is displayed, with either a **Pending**, **Running**, or **Failed** status. From there or the **Rulebook Activations** list view, you can restart or delete it.

Rulebook activation list view

Use the **Rulebook Activations** list view to quickly monitor the operational status, event fire count, and restart frequency of all your deployed automation services.

If the **Status** is **Running**, it means that the rulebook activation is running in the background and executing the required actions according to the rules declared in the rulebook.

You can view more details by selecting the activation from the **Rulebook Activations** list view.

For all activations that have run, you can view the **Details** and **History** tabs to get more information about what happened.

Enable and disable rulebook activations

Toggle the state of an activation to start or stop event processing instantly, allowing for temporary pauses, maintenance, or troubleshooting without deletion.

Procedure

1. Select the switch on the row level to enable or disable your chosen rulebook.
2. In the window, select **Yes, I confirm that I want to enable/disable these X rulebook activations**.
3. Select **Enable/Disable rulebook activation**.

Restart rulebook activations

Restart an activation to immediately apply configuration changes, update rulebook content, or quickly recover from unexpected failures.

NOTE:
You can only restart a rulebook activation if it is currently enabled and the restart policy was set to **Always** when it was created.

Procedure

1. Select the **More Actions** icon ⋮ next to **Rulebook Activation enabled/disabled** toggle.
2. Select **Restart rulebook activation**.

3. In the window, select **Yes, I confirm that I want to restart these X rulebook activations**.
4. Select **Restart rulebook activations**.

Delete rulebook activations

End and permanently remove a rulebook activation and its configuration when its automated event-driven workflow is no longer required.

Procedure

1. Select the **More Actions** icon ⋮ next to the **Rulebook Activation enabled/disabled** toggle.
2. Select **Delete rulebook activation**.
3. In the window, select **Yes, I confirm that I want to delete these X rulebook activations**.
4. Select **Delete rulebook activations**.

Activate webhook-based automation in Openshift

In Openshift environments, you can activate webhooks by creating a route to expose the activation's service, enabling external systems to send events and trigger automation.

Before you begin

- You have created a rulebook activation.

NOTE:
The following is an example of rulebook with a given webhook:

```
- name: Listen for storage-monitor events
  hosts: all
  sources:
    - ansible.eda.webhook:
        host: 0.0.0.0
        port: 5000
  rules:
    - name: Rule - Print event information
    condition: event.meta.headers is defined
    action:
      run_job_template:
        name: StorageRemediation
        organization: Default
        job_args:
          extra_vars:
             message: from eda
             sleep: 1
```

Procedure

1. Create a Route (on OpenShift Container Platform) to expose the service. The following is an example Route for an ansible-rulebook source that expects POST's on port 5000 on the decision environment pod:

```
kind: Route
apiVersion: route.openshift.io/v1
metadata:
  name: test-sync-bug
  namespace: dynatrace
  labels:
    app: eda
    job-name: activation-job-1-5000
spec:
  host: test-sync-bug-dynatrace.apps.aap-dt.ocp4.testing.ansible.com
  to:
    kind: Service
    name: activation-job-1-5000
    weight: 100
  port:
    targetPort: 5000
  tls:
    termination: edge
    insecureEdgeTerminationPolicy: Redirect
  wildcardPolicy: None
```

2. When you create the Route, test it with a **Post to the Route URL**:

NOTE:
You do not need the port as it is specified on the Route (targetPort).

```
curl -H "Content-Type: application/json" -X POST
test-sync-bug-dynatrace.apps.aap-dt.ocp4.testing.ansible.com -d
'{}'
```

Get started as an automation operator

As an automation operator, Ansible Automation Platform helps you monitor and execute automation projects with Red Hat certified collections or custom content for your organization.

View automation execution projects

A project is a logical collection of Ansible playbooks that you can manage in Ansible Automation Platform.

Platform administrators and automation developers have the permissions to create projects. As an automation operator you can view and sync projects. The following procedure desribes how to view available projects.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution > Projects**. The **Projects** page displays a list of projects that are currently available.
2. Click a project to view its details.

Next steps

For each project listed, you can sync the latest revision, edit the project, or copy the project's attributes using the icons next to each project.

Work with job templates

A job template is a definition and set of parameters for running an Ansible job.

A job template combines an Ansible Playbook from a project with the settings required to launch the job. Job templates are useful for running the same job many times. Job templates also encourage the reuse of Ansible Playbook content and collaboration between teams.

Platform administrators and automation developers have the permissions to create job templates. As an automation operator you can launch job templates and view their details.

Related information
Standardize and streamline automation with automation job templates

Launch a job template

Ansible Automation Platform provides push-button deployment with job templates. These templates store playbook parameters, inventories, and credentials normally passed through the command line.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution > Templates**.

2. Select a template to view its details. A default job template is created during your initial setup to help you get started, but you can also create your own.
3. From the **Templates** page, click the launch icon to run your job template.

Result

The **Templates** list view shows job templates that are currently available. The default view is collapsed (Compact), showing the template name, template type, and the timestamp of the last job that ran using that template. You can click the arrow icon next to each entry to expand and view more information. This list is sorted alphabetically by name, but you can sort by other criteria, or search by various template fields and attributes.

From this screen you can launch, edit, and copy a job template.

Related information
Job Templates
Workflow job templates

Surveys in job templates

Surveys provide a way to prompt users for input when launching a job from a job template. This input can then be used as variables in the playbook run.

Job types of **Run** or **Check** provide a way to set up surveys in the **Job Template** creation or editing screens. Surveys set extra variables for the playbook similar to **Prompt for Extra Variables** does, but in a user-friendly question and answer way. Surveys also permit for validation of user input. Select the **Survey** tab to create a survey.

Example

You can use surveys for several situations. For example, operations want to give developers a "push to stage" button that they can run without advance knowledge of Ansible. When launched, this task could prompt for answers to questions such as "What tag should we release?".

You can ask many types of questions, including multiple-choice questions.

Create a survey

You can create a survey for a job template to prompt users for input when they launch a job based on that template. Surveys can include many questions of various types, such as text input, multiple choice, and passwords.

The responses provided by users are stored in Ansible variables that can be used within the playbook associated with the job template.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution > Templates**.
2. Select the job template you want to create a survey for.
3. From the **Survey** tab, click **Create survey question**.
4. A survey can consist of any number of questions. For each question, enter the following information:
   - **Question**: The question to ask the user.
   - Optional: **Description**: A description of what is being asked of the user.
   - **Answer variable name**: The Ansible variable name to store the user's response in. This is the variable to be used by the playbook. Variable names cannot contain spaces.
   - **Answer type**: Choose from the following question types:
     - **Text**: A single line of text. You can set the minimum and maximum length (in characters) for this answer.
     - **Textarea**: A multi-line text field. You can set the minimum and maximum length (in characters) for this answer.
     - **Password**: Responses are treated as sensitive information, similar to the way an actual password is treated. You can set the minimum and maximum length (in characters) for this answer.
     - **Multiple Choice (single select)**: A list of options, of which only one can be selected at a time. Enter the options, one per line, in the **Multiple Choice Options** field.
     - **Multiple Choice (multiple select)**: A list of options, any number of which can be selected at a time. Enter the options, one per line, in the **Multiple Choice Options** field.
     - **Integer**: An integer number. You can set the minimum and maximum length (in characters) for this answer.
     - **Float**: A decimal number. You can set the minimum and maximum length (in characters) for this answer.
   - **Required**: Whether or not an answer to this question is required from the user.
   - **Minimum length** and **Maximum length**: Specify if a certain length in the answer is required.
   - **Default answer**: The default answer to the question. This value is pre-filled in the interface and is used if the answer is not provided by the user.
5. Once you have entered the question information, click **Create question** to add the question.

   The survey question displays in the **Survey** list. For any question, you can click ✎ to edit it.

   Check the box next to each question and click **Delete** to delete the question, or use the toggle option in the menu bar to enable or disable the survey prompts.

If you have more than one survey question, click **Edit Order** to rearrange the order of the questions by clicking and dragging on the grid icon.

6. To add more questions, click **Add**.

View hosts being automated in inventory files

An inventory is a file listing the collection of hosts managed by Ansible Automation Platform. Organizations are assigned to inventories, while permissions to launch playbooks against inventories are controlled at the user or team level.

Platform administrators and automation developers have the permissions to create inventories. As an automation operator you can view inventories and their details.

Execute an inventory

The following steps describe how to execute an inventory.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution › Infrastructure › Inventories**. The **Inventories** window displays a list of inventories that are currently available, along with the following information:
   - **Name**: The inventory name.
   - **Status**: The statuses are:
     - **Success**: The inventory sync completed successfully.
     - **Disabled**: No inventory source added to the inventory.
     - **Error**: The inventory source completed with error.
   - **Type**: Identifies whether the inventory is a standard inventory, a smart inventory, or a constructed inventory.
   - **Organization**: The organization to which the inventory belongs.
2. Select an inventory name to display the **Details** page for the inventory, including the inventory’s groups and hosts.

Related information
Inventories

View the status and output of automation jobs

A job is an instance of Ansible Automation Platform launching an Ansible Playbook against an inventory of hosts. You can view the status and output of automation jobs.

Review a job status

The **Jobs** list view displays a list of jobs and their statuses, shown as completed successfully, failed, or as an active (running) job.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution > Jobs**.

   The default view is collapsed (Compact) with the job name, status, job type, start, and finish times. You can click the arrow icon to expand and see more information. You can sort this list by various criteria, and perform a search to filter the jobs of interest.

2. From this screen, you can complete the following tasks:

   - View a job's details and standard output.
   - Relaunch jobs.
   - Remove selected jobs.
     The relaunch operation only applies to relaunches of playbook runs and does not apply to project or inventory updates, system jobs, or workflow jobs.

Review job output

When you relaunch a job, the jobs **Output** view is displayed.

Procedure

1. From the navigation panel, select **Automation Execution > Jobs**.
2. Select a job. This takes you to the **Output** view for that job, where you can filter job output by these criteria:

   - The **Search output** option allows you to search by keyword.

- The **Event** option enables you to filter by the events of interest, such as errors, host failures, host retries, and items skipped. You can include as many events in the filter as necessary.

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