



# Ansible Security Automation

Faz Sadeghi  
Specialist Solution Architect  
Red Hat Ansible Automation  
[faz@redhat.com](mailto:faz@redhat.com)

Information security

Why Ansible

Examples

Ansible Security Automation, ASA

Get involved



Application Security

Network Security

Forensics

Incident Response

Penetration Testing

Fraud Detection and Prevention

Governance, Risk, Compliance

## People



## Processes



## Economics



## Technology





WITH POWER COMES RESPONSIBILITY

ANSIBLE



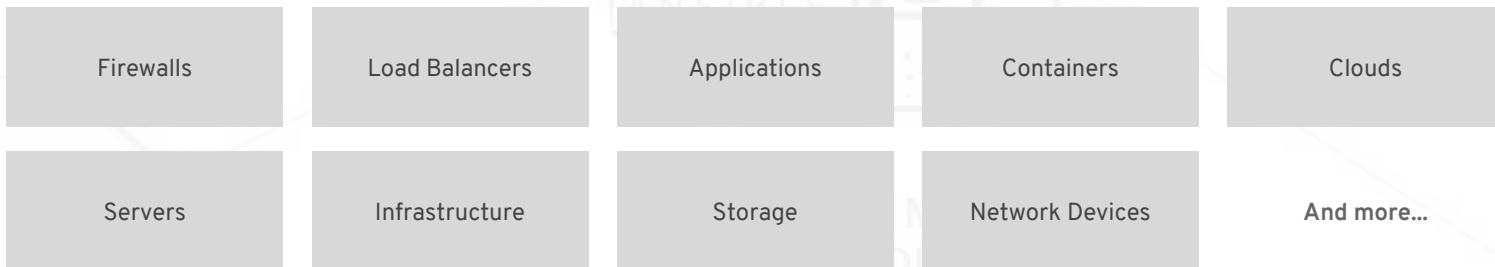


## Automate the deployment and management of your entire IT footprint.

Do this...



On these...





## Automate the deployment and management of your entire IT footprint.

Do this...

Orchestration

Configuration Management

Application Deployment

Provisioning

Continuous Delivery

Network Automation

Security Automation

On these...

Firewalls

Load Balancers

Applications

Containers

Clouds

Servers

Infrastructure

Storage

Network Devices

And more...

Agentless

SSH/WinRM

Desired State

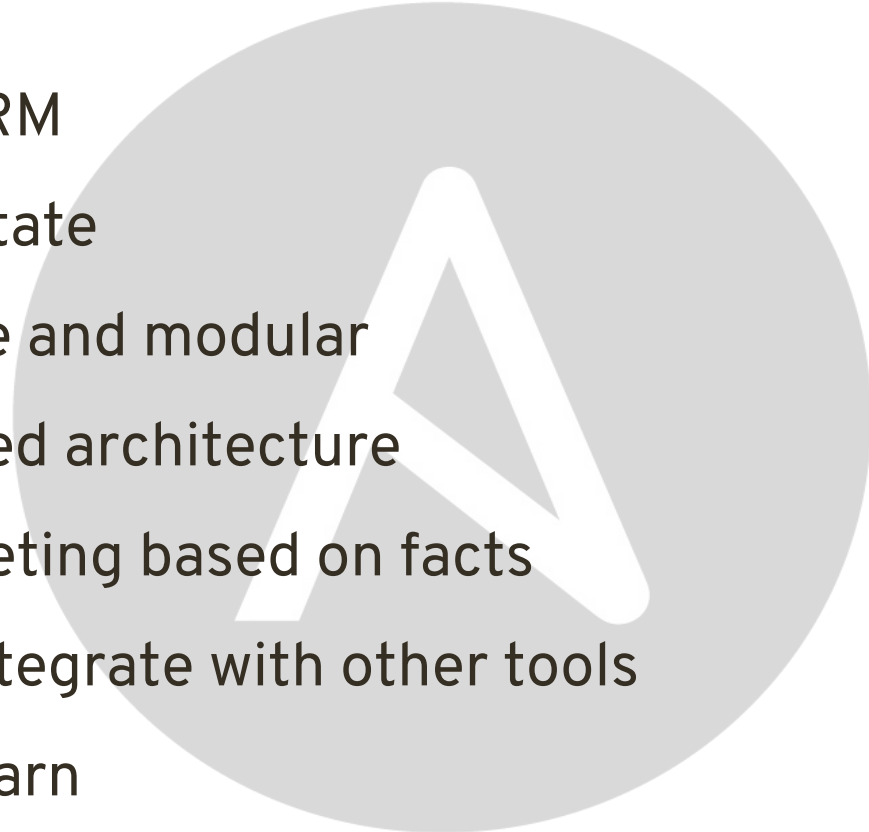
Extensible and modular

Push-based architecture

Easy targeting based on facts

Easy to integrate with other tools

Easy to learn



## WALLS OF SEPARATION

### SECurity



Wants to ensure  
Information Assurance

### OPerations

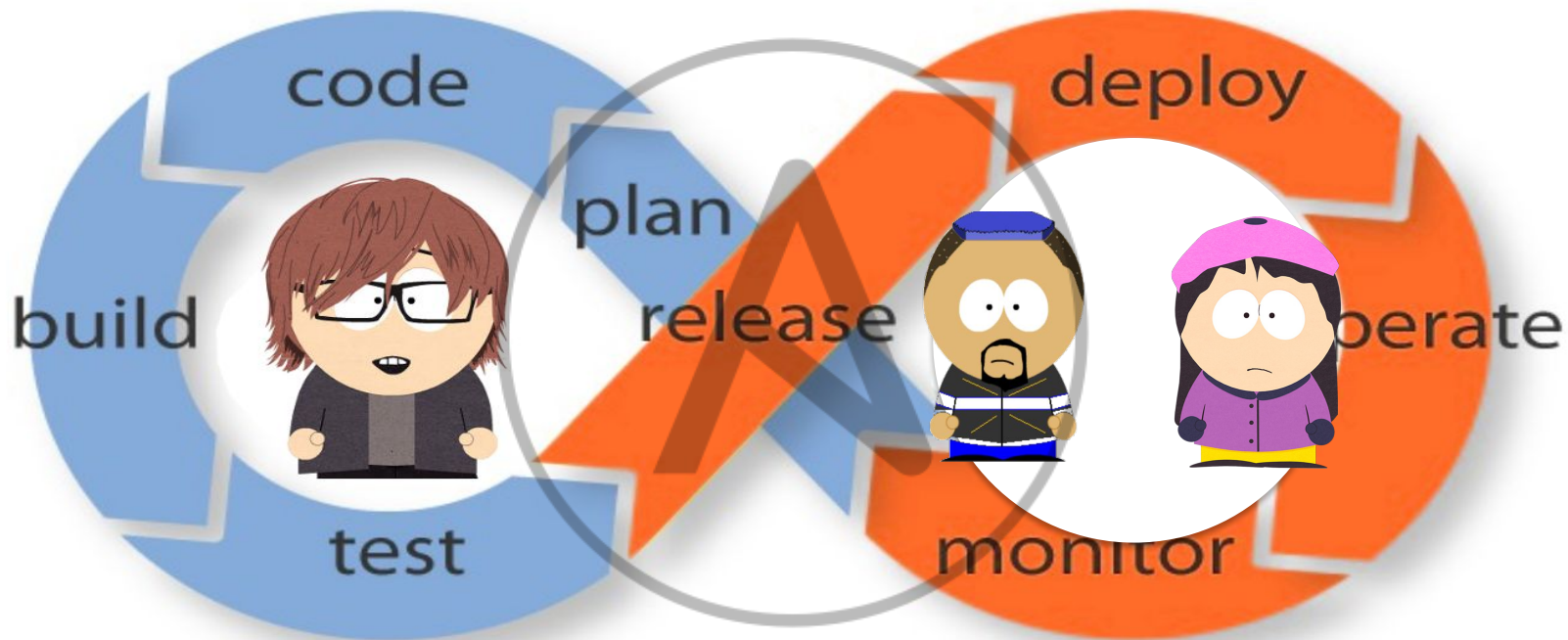


Wants to ensure  
System Availability

### DEVELOpers



Wants to deliver  
Applications Fast



- Ansible Tower is an **enterprise framework** for controlling, securing and managing automation – with a **UI and RESTful API**.
- **Role-based access control**
- **Deploy** entire applications with **push-button deployment** access
- All automations are **centrally logged**

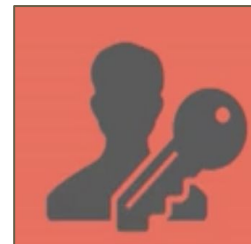


## Self Service

- Enable operational teams
- Run on demand

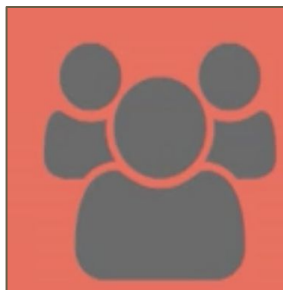
## Credentials

- Single repo
- Custom credentials
- AES 128



## Roles

- Purpose and function focused
- Easy to build and publish



## Version Control

- Single source of truth
- Security branch anyone

Linux, Windows and Networking, STIG Standard

Internal policy

PCI DSS requirement

Remediation

Incident Response

HOW TO CREATE  
ANSIBLE  
PLAYBOOKS  
TO AUTOMATE SYSTEM  
CONFIGURATION

**Rule Title:** The SSH daemon must not allow authentication using an empty password.

**Fix Text:** To explicitly disallow remote logon from accounts with empty passwords, add or correct the following line in

```
"/etc/ssh/sshd_config line /etc/ssh/sshd_config
```

```
PermitEmptyPasswords no
```

```
PermitEmptyPasswords  
no
```

- name: "HIGH | RHEL-07-010270 | PATCH | The SSH daemon must not allow authentication using an empty password."

**lineinfile:**

state: present

dest: /etc/ssh/sshd\_config

regexp: ^#?PermitEmptyPasswords

line: PermitEmptyPasswords no

validate: sshd -tf %s

notify: restart sshd

**Rule Title:** The network element must only allow management connections for administrative access from hosts residing in to the management network.

**Fix Text:** Configure an **ACL or filter** to restrict management access to the device from only the **management network**.

```
- hosts: ios
  connection: local
```

tasks:

```
- name: Create management ACL
```

```
  ios_config:
```

```
    parents: ip access-list mgmnt
```

```
    before: no ip access-list mgmnt
```

```
    lines:
```

```
      - 10 permit ip host 192.168.1.99 log
```

```
      - 20 permit ip host 192.168.1.121 log
```

```
- name: Harden VTY lines
```

```
  ios_config:
```

```
    parents: line vty 0 15
```

```
    lines:
```

```
      - exec-timeout 15
```

```
      - transport input ssh
```

```
      - access mgmnt in
```



**Rule Title:** Anonymous enumeration of shares must be restricted.

**Fix Text:** Configure the policy value for Computer Configuration -> Windows Settings -> Security Settings -> Local Policies -> Security Options -> "Network access: Do not allow anonymous enumeration of SAM accounts and shares" to "Enabled".

- hosts: windows

tasks:

- name: Restrict enumeration of shares

**win\_regedit:**

key: 'HKLM \System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa'

value: RestrictAnonymous

data: 1

datatype: dword

Ensure that all system components and software are protected from known vulnerabilities by installing applicable vendor- supplied security patches. Install critical security patches within one month of release.

- name: RHEL | Install updates

**yum:**

name: "\*"

state: latest

exclude: "mysql\* httpd\* nginx\*"

when: "ansible\_os\_family == 'RedHat'"

- name: DEBIAN | Install updates

**apt:**

update\_cache: yes

cache\_valid\_time: 7200

name: "\*"

state: latest

when: "ansible\_os\_family == 'Debian'"

## Change root password every 60 days

---

- name: Change root password

hosts: all

become: yes

vars:

root\_password: "{{ vault\_root\_password }}"

root\_password\_salt: "{{ vault\_root\_password\_salt }}"

tasks:

- name: Change root password

**user:**

name: root

password: "{{ root\_password | password\_hash(salt=root\_password\_salt) }}"

## Protect against the TCP "challenge ACK" side channel

---

- name: Protect against CVE-2016-5696

hosts: all

become: yes

become\_user: root

tasks:

- name: CVE-2016-5696 | Limit TCP challenge ACK limit

**sysctl:**

name: net.ipv4.tcp\_challenge\_ack\_limit

value: 999999999

sysctl\_set: yes

## Protect against MacOS High Sierra root bug

---

- name: Protect against MacOS High Sierra root bug

hosts: macs

become: yes

tasks:

- name: Change root password

**user:**

name: root

update\_password: always

password: “ { { root\_password | password\_hash( 'sha512' ) } } ”

- name: address CVE-2017-13872

**command:** “ softwareupdate -i ‘ Security Update 2017-001 ’ ”

- name: reboot after security update

**reboot:**

## - name: Patch Linux systems against Meltdown and Spectre

hosts: "{{ target\_hosts | default('all') }}"

become: yes

vars:

reboot\_after\_update: no

packages:

# <https://access.redhat.com/security/vulnerabilities/speculativeexecution>

RedHat7:

- kernel-3.10.0-693.11.6.el7

- microcode\_ctl-2.1-22.2.el7

- perf-3.10.0-693.11.6.el7

- python-perf-3.10.0-693.11.6.el7

RedHat6:

- kernel-2.6.32-696.18.7.el6

- kernel-firmware-2.6.32-696.18.7.el6

- perf-2.6.32-696.18.7.el6

- python-perf-2.6.32-696.18.7.el6

tasks:

- name: RHEL | Install kernel updates

yum:

name: "{{ packages[ansible\_os\_family ~ ansible\_distribution\_major\_version] }}"

state: present

when: ansible\_pkg\_mgr == 'yum'

notify: reboot system

- name: Gather logs files from remote systems

hosts: lab

become: yes

tasks:

- name: Find logs

**find:**

paths: /var/log/

patterns: '\*.log'

recurse: yes

register: \_logs

- name: Fetch logs

**fetch:**

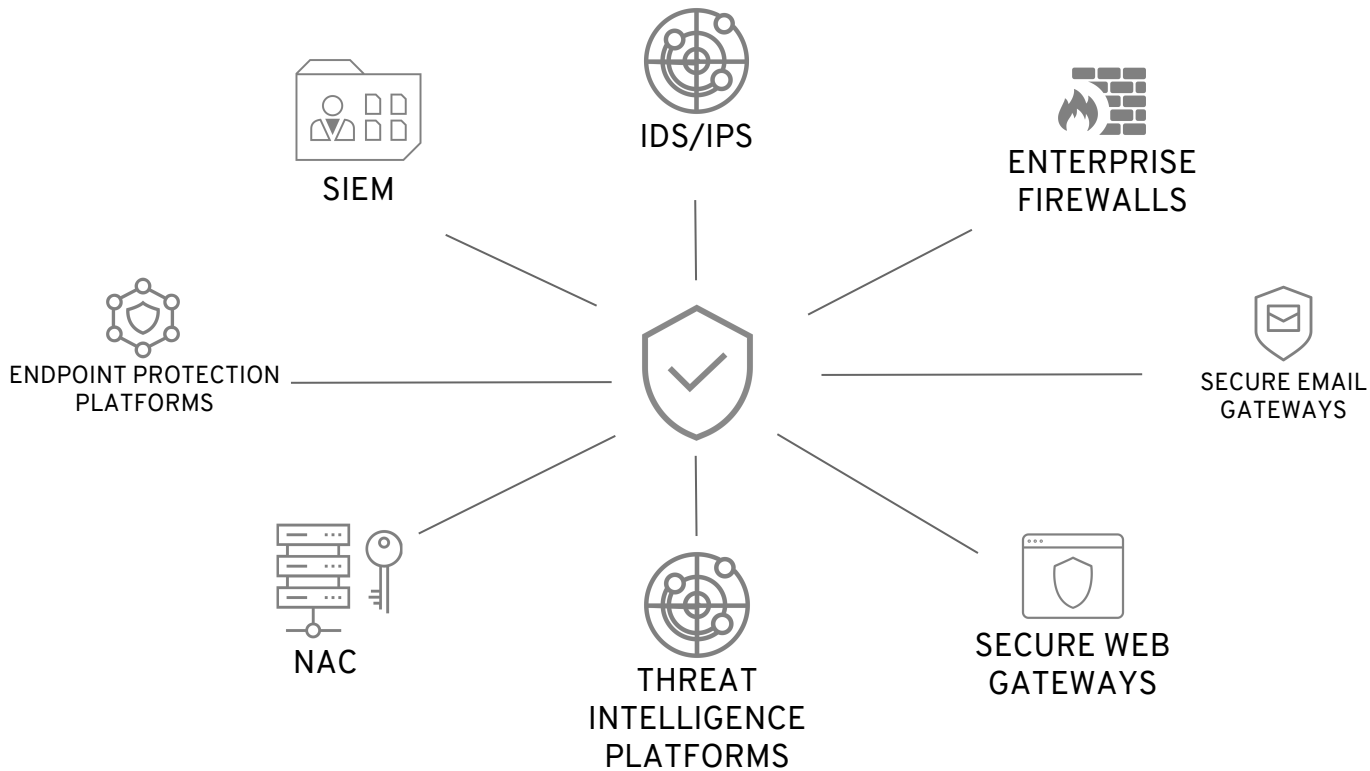
src: "{{ item.path }}"

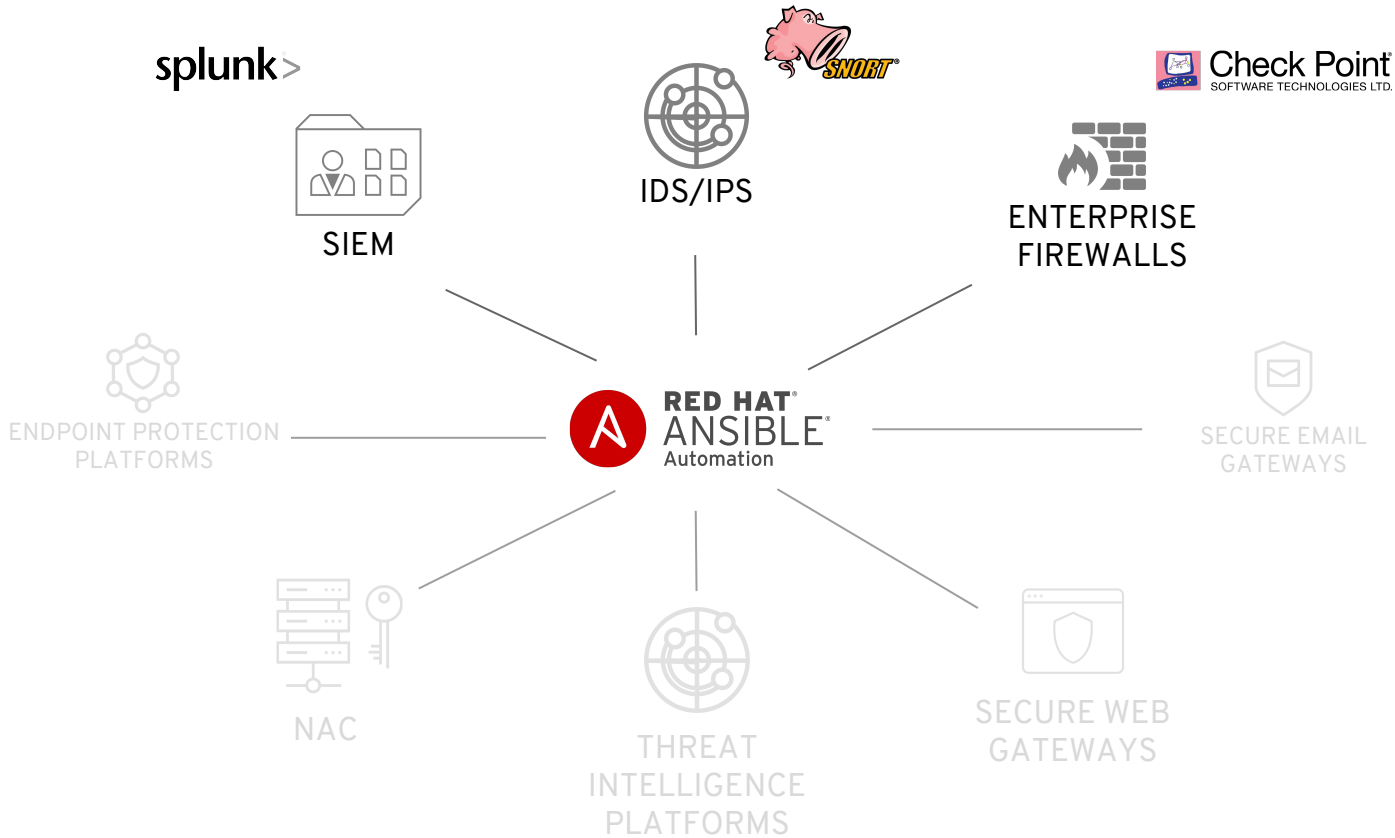
dest: logs

with\_items: "{{ \_logs.files }}"

**ANSIBLE SECURITY AUTOMATION, ASA**







Ansible Lockdown

Ansible Hardening

Mailing List

Ansible Galaxy

<https://github.com/samdoran/demo-playbooks>

P2 [www.projecttimes.com/articles/information-security-project-management.html](http://www.projecttimes.com/articles/information-security-project-management.html)

P4 [https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/spongebob/images/6/63/Wet\\_Painters\\_108.png/revision/latest?cb=20161022071552](https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/spongebob/images/6/63/Wet_Painters_108.png/revision/latest?cb=20161022071552)

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0206512/mediaviewer/rm3743357440>

[http://theadventuresofgarythesnail.wikia.com/wiki/File:Squilliam\\_Returns\\_013.jpg](http://theadventuresofgarythesnail.wikia.com/wiki/File:Squilliam_Returns_013.jpg)

<https://i.imgur.com/1hlgmj.jpg>

P7 <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/795940934114843310/?lp=true>

P9 <https://medium.com/formcept/configuration-management-and-continuous-deployment-cd0892dce998>

P12 <https://www.niceideas.ch/roller2/badtrash/entry/devops-explained>

P13 <https://www.niceideas.ch/roller2/badtrash/entry/devops-explained>

P15 <https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/how-to-create-ansible-playbooks-to-automate-system-configuration-on-ubuntu>