Ansible Modules for NetApp

It’s safe to say that our expectations for technology change—all the time. Whether you are in a developer or operations role, your challenge is always to keep up. To deliver business value and accelerate development, businesses must deliver consistent environments at the right place and time in the way that users want to consume them. Delivering automation simply and consistently is one of the most effective ways that operations teams can help accelerate developer workflows and speed time to market. But delivering automation isn’t always easy.

Configuration management tools like Ansible lead the way in simplifying and automating the allocation of resources, enabling users to easily define and present how infrastructure is provisioned for development, test, and production. The era of submitting IT tickets and waiting days (dare we suggest longer) to get the appropriate resources are over. With Ansible, developers request resources, which can be immediately deployed without waiting for IT, while providing insight to operations about what is being consumed. Automating these traditionally manual tasks minimizes error-prone and time-consuming processes. Also, because changes are more transparent to operations and development teams alike, it’s easier to review and roll back changes.

The Power of Automation: NetApp and Ansible

Red Hat’s Ansible delivers an open source IT framework, which connects automation across DevOps services and tooling. With Ansible, users can automate routine infrastructure activities, cloud deployments, and the creation of development environments, all without sacrificing control, manageability, and security.

To simplify the automation process, NetApp has developed more than 60 Ansible modules for NetApp® Element and ONTAP® software, further integrating with the Ansible automation framework. Ansible modules for NetApp deliver a set of instructions for how to define the desired state and relay it to the target NetApp environment. Modules are built to support tasks like setting up licensing, creating aggregates and storage virtual machines, creating volumes, and restoring snapshots to name a few of the possible tasks.

Using the library of available modules, users can easily develop Ansible playbooks and customize them to their own applications and business needs to automate mundane tasks. Once a playbook is written, just run it to execute the specified task and watch the time savings and productivity levels skyrocket! NetApp has created and shared sample playbooks that can be used or customized for your needs; find them on thePub.
Driving DevOps Efficiency
A DevOps culture requires adopting toolsets and skills across the software development lifecycle. To support these capabilities, tools like Ansible deliver a consistent, reliable foundation for configuration management that does not require application teams to understand storage details.

Delivering consistency to developer environments in testing, development, and production requires businesses to allocate their resources efficiently and for developers to optimize code to take advantage of automation. The result: improved security, faster access, more efficient use of resources, and higher-quality code. Delivering these environments with NetApp and Ansible results in:

- Consistency. Reliable, predictable, automated infrastructure—no matter the workload
- Collaboration. Readily available environments requested directly through Ansible
- Transparency. Visibility to data both on premises and in the cloud

Get Started
Ansible modules for NetApp are available from the NetApp GitHub site. Find information about best practices for deployment as well as sample playbooks for Ansible from our developer and open-source community, thePub, or interact with NetApp’s brewmasters on Slack.