



Solution Brief

Improve IT Automation with NetApp E-Series & Ansible

A simpler way to manage storage

Key Benefits

- Ansible and NetApp® have proven to be stable, reliable, and committed to providing quality support.
- Joint Ansible and NetApp orchestration solution provides a flexible, scalable, and highly reliable storage management solution for E-Series storage systems.
- Ansible integrates well with existing NetApp SANtricity® Web Services Proxy, requiring no additional tools.

The Challenge

As enterprise environments make the digital transformation to advanced, next-generation data center technologies, IT administrators increasingly rely on IT automation to achieve faster time to market.

One of the most common issues organizations cite concerning IT automation is the lack of skilled staff to create and maintain the automation. Configuring complex actions in an IT ecosystem can be error-prone when it is not a day-to-day focus of the staff. With an Ansible solution, IT staff can confidently use a set of modules created by E-Series experts to help increase overall productivity through the power of state-driven automation. For everything from provisioning, configuration management and deployment, Ansible can improve the efficiency of IT professionals. Now NetApp customers can easily automate storage policies and actions without having to have specific programming skill sets.

The Solution

With Ansible and the E-Series modules, IT staff can easily create and deploy playbooks to define policies for how their infrastructure should be configured. Playbooks are defined using YAML to ensure they are human readable regardless of previous programming experience.

Placing this simple and powerful automation tool in the hands of IT professionals increases not only your overall productivity but your bottom line. Now, NetApp customers can leverage this power for E-Series storage system management.

NetApp E-Series has created a set of Ansible modules to easily manage, administer, and deploy E-Series storage. You can use these directly in your own playbooks or use our Ansible role, which preconfigures policies for your E-Series storage system.

Ansible Overview

Ansible is an open-source orchestration tool for infrastructure automation with a focus on the desired state. It can make complex and difficult tasks repeatable and less susceptible to errors. Ansible also can manage your entire infrastructure with modules and roles for servers, storage, networking, Docker containers, cloud, and much more.

Managed by RedHat, Ansible has gained widespread adoption in the IT industry and has a large support community.

NetApp E-Series Overview

NetApp E-Series products are known for industry-leading price/performance and reliability. Now NetApp E-Series has produced modules that integrate with your existing infrastructure, interfacing with the SANtricity® Web Services REST API that is native on current E-Series storage systems. From basic volume configuration to managing Snapshot™ images, NetApp has an integrated Ansible solution for any environment.

You can find the NetApp E-Series Ansible modules on Ansible's website with the prefix "netapp_e".

Conclusion

Ansible is a simple, powerful, agentless tool that can help maintain complete infrastructures. By automating IT tasks, you can significantly reduce complexity, overhead and downtime. With the integration of Ansible and NetApp's SANtricity Web Services API you can step up your automation game simply, with no additional tools or hardware.

To learn more about E-Series with Ansible, visit: <https://www.netapp.com/us/media/tr-4574.pdf>.

About NetApp

NetApp is the data authority for hybrid cloud. We provide a full range of hybrid cloud data services that simplify management of applications and data across cloud and on-premises environments to accelerate digital transformation. Together with our partners, we empower global organizations to unleash the full potential of their data to expand customer touchpoints, foster greater innovation and optimize their operations. For more information, visit www.netapp.com. #DataDriven