There's a role for that!

How to evaluate community roles for your playbooks

Jeff Geerling (geerlingguy)
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• Author of *Ansible for DevOps*
• Maintainer of 99 Galaxy roles and collections
• "An inflammatory enigma"
Managing Risk in
Managing Risk in Dependency Hell
MY PYTHON ENVIRONMENT HAS BECOME SO DEGRADED THAT MY LAPTOP HAS BEEN DECLARED A SUPERFUND SITE.

Source: https://xkcd.com/1987/
The following packages have unmet dependencies:
postgresql-9.3 : Depends: postgresql-client-9.3 but it is not going to be installed
Depends: postgresql-common (>= 142~) but it is not going to be installed
E: Unable to correct problems, you have held broken packages.
Trust is a tricky thing.

It means ignoring all doubt

and placing yourself in the hands of another.

Trust means making yourself vulnerable.
IKEA EFFECT

The exaggeratedly high value and attachment placed on products that you build yourself, regardless of the end result quality.

Source: https://everydayconcepts.io/ikea-effect/
Ansible Galaxy
Ansible Galaxy is your hub for finding, reusing, and sharing the best Ansible content.

Welcome to our BETA release!

Ansible Galaxy jump-starts your automation projects with great content from the Ansible community.

Ansible calls these pre-packaged units of automation roles. Once downloaded, roles can be dropped into Ansible PlayBooks and immediately applied to your infrastructure.

Help other Ansible users by sharing great Ansible roles that you have created.

Top content authors will be featured, achieving worldwide fame. Or at least, fame on the internet among developers and sysadmins just like yourself!

Help others find great automation content by reviewing roles that you have used.

Reviews are rated too, so reviewers with the most karma rise to the top. You’ll find great new things just by surfing the reviews of top reviewers!
Ansible Galaxy - Choosing a Role

1. What do I need?
2. How do I find it?
3. How do I narrow down search results?
4. How do I select the one I am going to use?
Real-world example:

Zabbix
11:52:55 ~ $ docker run -d --privileged --name zabbix -p 8080:80 geerlingguy/docker-centos7-ansible /usr/lib/systemd/systemd
5489623c35a7d319db0a413233b9871475eaa39410884db3932f8db279518125
11:52:57 ~ $ docker exec -it zabbix /bin/bash
[root@5489623c35a7 ~]#
11:52:55 ~ $ docker run -d --privileged --name zabbix -p 8080:80 geerlingguy/docker-centos7-ansible /usr/lib/systemd/systemd
5489623c35a7d319db0a413233b9871475eaa39410884db3932f8db279518125
11:52:57 ~ $ docker exec -it zabbix /bin/bash
[root@5489623c35a7 ] #
ansible-galaxy find-best-role zabbix
ansible-galaxy  find-best-role  zabbix

(that's not an actual command, sorry)
Roles 162

**zabbix-agent**

Build: passing

4.7 / 5 Score 583045 Downloads
Last Imported: 5 days ago

**zabbix-server**
Installing and maintaining zabbix-server for RedHat/Debian/Ubuntu.

Build: passing

5 / 5 Score 9241 Downloads
Last Imported: 7 days ago

**zabbix-web**
Installing and maintaining zabbix-web for RedHat/Debian/Ubuntu.

Build: passing

4.8 / 5 Score 5683 Downloads
Last Imported: 24 days ago

**zabbix-proxy**
Installing and maintaining zabbix-proxy for RedHat/Debian/Ubuntu.

Build: passing

5 / 5 Score 12121 Downloads
Last Imported: 9 days ago

Popular Tags

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- development: 2,971
- web: 2,507
- monitoring: 1,342
- networking: 1,093
- database: 1,030
- cloud: 977
- packaging: 815
- ubuntu: 812
- docker: 795

Popular Platforms

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- EL: 17,075
Roles 162

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Build: passing
Score: 5 / 5
Downloads: 12121
Last Imported: 9 days ago
zabbix-server

Installing and maintaining zabbix-server for RedHat/Debian/Ubuntu.

$ ansible-galaxy install dj-wasabi.zabbix-server

Minimum Ansible Version: 2.4

Last Commit: 9 days ago
Last Import: 9 days ago
Tags: monitoring, zabbix

Quality Score: 5 / 5
Community Score: 5 / 5

Last scored 9 days ago. Show Details
Based on 1 survey. Show Details
zabbix-server
Installing and maintaining zabbix-server for RedHat/Debian/Ubuntu.

Minimum Ansible Version: 2.4
Installation: $ ansible-galaxy install dj-wasabi.zabbix-server
Last Commit: 9 days ago
Last Import: 9 days ago
Tags: monitoring, zabbix

Content Score
Quality Score: 5/5
Community Score: 5/5
Last scored 9 days ago. Show Details
**Content Score**

**Quality Score**
- 5 / 5
- Last scored 9 days ago.
- Show Details

**Community Score**
- 5 / 5
- Based on 1 survey.
- Show Details

**Tell us about this role**
- Quality of docs?
  - 4 out of 5 stars
- Ease of use?
  - 2 out of 5 stars
- Does it promise?
  - Yes
- Works without change?
  - Yes
- Ready for production?
  - Yes

**OS Platforms**
- Debian squeeze
- Debian wheezy
- EL 6
- EL 7
- Ubuntu lucid
- Ubuntu precise
- Ubuntu trusty

**Versions**
- 1.5.0 5 months ago
- 1.4.0 10 months ago
- 1.3.0 a year ago
- 1.2.0 a year ago
- 1.1.0 a year ago
- 1.0.0 2 years ago
- 0.8.0 2 years ago
- 0.7.0 3 years ago
Final Step: Code Review and Test

• Make sure role does what I expect
• Make sure role is logical and maintainable
  • Is it how I would write it? Does it make sense?
• Test playbook in local VM or container
Avoiding Bad Judgement
bad_judgement

DO NOT USE THIS ROLE! It is for demonstration purposes.

geerlingguy

Popular Tags

- system
- development
- web
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OS Platforms</th>
<th>Versions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debian</td>
<td>1.2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debian</td>
<td>1.1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EL</td>
<td>1.1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ubuntu</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2 hours ago</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2 hours ago</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>3 hours ago</td>
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<td>bionic</td>
<td>2 hours ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>xenial</td>
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</table>
---
# Stress is almost never a useful helper. Also, this task only works on Red Hat
# and its derivatives; it will break if you try running it on Debian or Ubuntu,
# both of which are listed as supported OSes in meta/main.yml.
- name: Install useful helper utilities.
yum:
  name: stress
  state: present
  # This parameter requires Ansible 2.8, but this role specifies a
  # min_ansible_version of 2.4, so it errors out on Ansible < 2.8. SMH.
  lock_timeout: 5

# This is just mean.
- name: Make sure the system has something to do.
  command: stress --cpu 1 --timeout 120
  changed_when: false
  async: 45
  poll: 0

# This task won't ever be run on any of the supported OSes; it's just wasting
# space and adds to the burden of maintaining this role. The task also uses the
# shell module inappropriately (the command module would be better), but mutes
# the lint warning inline to cover its sin.
command: stress --cpu 1 --timeout 120
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# space and adds to the burden of maintaining this role. The task also uses the
# shell module inappropriately (the command module would be better), but mutes
# the lint warning inline to cover its sin.
- name: Get a list of the files in the preserved files directory.
  shell: ls {{ preserve_files_dir }}
  register: preserve_files_listing
  when: ansible_os_family == 'AIX'
tags: ['skip_ansible_lint']

# This task actually does the opposite of what the documentation says
# preserve_files should do! It also removes the /tmp dir by default, which could
# be dangerous.
- name: Clean up preserve_files_dir if configured.
  file:
    path: "{{ preserve_files_dir }}"
    state: absent
    when: preserve_files
  notify: preserve_file_handler
# "This is getting out of hand. Now there are TWO of them!"

- name: preserve_file_handler
  command: stress --cpu 1 --timeout 120
  changed_when: false
  async: 45
  poll: 0
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Ansible Galaxy Collections
Ansible Collections

- Opportunities and challenges
  - **Discoverability**: Plugins and modules don't affect quality score
  - **Maintenance**: Who maintains community content?
  - **Trust**: Source repository/reproducible build?
In conclusion...
THANK YOU