

Ansible: Up and Running: Automating Configuration Management and Deployment the Easy Way

By Lorin Hochstein

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Among the many configuration management tools available, Ansible has some distinct advantages—it's minimal in nature, you don't need to install anything on your nodes, and it has an easy learning curve. This practical guide shows you how to be productive with this tool quickly, whether you're a developer deploying code to production or a system administrator looking for a better automation solution.

Author Lorin Hochstein shows you how to write playbooks (Ansible's configuration management scripts), manage remote servers, and explore the tool's real power: built-in declarative modules. You'll discover that Ansible has the functionality you need and the simplicity you desire.

- Understand how Ansible differs from other configuration management systems
- Use the YAML file format to write your own playbooks
- Learn Ansible's support for variables and *facts*
- Work with a complete example to deploy a non-trivial application
- Use *roles* to simplify and reuse playbooks
- Make playbooks run faster with ssh multiplexing, pipelining, and parallelism
- Deploy applications to Amazon EC2 and other cloud platforms
- Use Ansible to create Docker images and deploy Docker containers

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Ansible: Up and Running: Automating Configuration Management and Deployment the Easy Way By Lorin Hochstein Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #42362 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2015-05-15
- Released on: 2015-05-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.19" h x .76" w x 7.00" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 334 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Lorin Hochstein is a Lead Software Engineer at SendGrid Labs where he works on developing and deploying new products designed to make developers lives easier.

Before joining SendGrid, Lorin was the Lead Architect for Cloud Services at Nimbis Services, a Computer Scientist at the University of California's Information Sciences Institute, and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Once upon a time, he conducted human subject experiments with programmers, but he hardly ever does that anymore, and his books are almost certainly not part of some elaborate software engineering experiment, why would you even think such a thing?

Lorin has a B.Eng. in Computer Engineering from McGill University, an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Boston University, and a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Maryland.

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