Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform Migration Initiative Town Hall
EVENT DATE: THURSDAY, 04 MAY, 2023 - 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Posted Questions

Question: Is there a way to export/import a single template in Tower 3.85 and/or AAP 2.3?
- Answer (1): You can utilize the automation-controller-cli utility to import/export resources. Documentation is available here
- Answer (2): You can also use the controller collection for similar functionality in a playbook here

Question: Is there any documentation on how to migrate from ansible tower 3.7.5 to AAP 2.3?
- Answer (1): The reference architecture linked in this deck will help, slides will be sent to all attendees
- Answer (2): We also have a ton of migration resources available at our AAP Learning Community

Question: Is this a change in 2.3 where setup.sh will generate the AAP2 inventory file? because at 2.2 it would just try to run a setup with your 1.2 inventory
- Answer (1): This has been available from 2.1, this feature is just for reference though and you will need to review your new inventory file
- Answer (2): If you need additional help with your inventory file, we have a lab application available to help generate a file for you here

Question: Is there any migration wizard for playbooks that suggests code changes needed?
- Answer (1): Unfortunately, we do not have a tool that can port playbooks themselves between ansible-core versions, but we have porting guides available here
- Answer (2): ansible-lint will help, it won't suggest code changes but it will tell you where you are not using collections

Question: We already have a Private Automation Hub in our AAP v1.2.6. Will that also be migrated during the upgrade ?
- Answer: Yes, the automation hub is included in the platform and will be upgraded alongside the automation controller.

Question: We use an external DB with our AAP v1.2.6. Is it still the same upgrade process or are there special considerations required ?
- Answer: Since you have an external DB (and it's not managed by AAP), you will need to

upgrade this DB to PostgresSQL 13 before upgrading to AAP2.3. However, this is why it's important to do a side-by-side where EnvA stays the same and you setup a new EnvB which will eventually be your new AAP2.3

Question: During the initial backup and restore, how should we handle the large number of active schedules ?
- Answer (1): You'll want to make sure no jobs are actively running or scheduled to run during the process in order to avoid disrupting your automation.
- Answer (2): There is automation you can build to pull the schedules and stop them together using the ansible.controller collection. For a large number I would recommend going the automation route

Question: What kind of strategy do we use for migration?
- Answer: Side-by-side methodology where this consists of two envs (env A and env B), where env A is the original env, and env B is going to transition into your new/latest AAP env

Question: Can the execution nodes and mesh nodes be a mix of Redhat 8 and Redhat 9 or do they all need to match RHEL versions?
- Answer: You can mix RHEL versions between node types as long as they meet the minimum RHEL version, but you may see some issues with dependencies like openssl. It's recommended to use the same RHEL version across a deployment to avoid those issues.

Question: Currently we have ansible tower 3.7.5 on RHEL7 What will be the best path to migrate to AAP 2.3?
- Answer: You'd first need to upgrade that 3.7.5 to 3.8.5 then you can go to AAP2.3

Question: Will AAP 2.3 work on RHEL7 or we should be on RHEL8?
- Answer: AAP 2.3 requires RHEL 8.4 or later. You can find the requirements for 2.3 here.

Question: New to ansible and first project is to migrate from existing standalone tower to aap in openshift. How relevant is this info for aap on openshift?
- Answer (1): We have a documentation set available on how to migrate from an on-prem Tower/AAP installation to the new OCP-based operator here.
- Answer (2): Roger's presentation was specific to a side-by-side VM based installation migrating from AAP 1.2 (Tower 3.8) to AAP 2.

- Answer (3): To add the general migration considerations will be most relevant in your case as the pieces I went through were more for a baremetal/VM AAP1.2-->baremetal/VM AAP 2.3
- Answer (4): Will we need an external db or is that handled in openshift as well? Will re-read the docs, but i have a lot of catching up to do - don't really know ansible and don't really know openshift.
- Answer (5): You can opt to use an external database with the operator but it is not required. The guide linked above includes steps to create a configuration secret to link to the custom resource.

Question: Please provide an example of the "Paths to expose to isolated jobs" where it's read/write not just read.
- Answer (1): Can you elaborate on this? Exposing a path to isolated jobs should allow both read/write as long as the system user running the job (usually the awx system user) has access to write on those directories.
- Answer (2): You can expose the paths with the permissions, those permissions can be read/write or read/write, so the same idea applies. This blog will help

Question: How do we request licenses for AAP?
- Answer: You can request information on licensing by reaching out to your Red Hat account representative.

Question: Are there any documentation for doing an in-place migration?
- Answer: An in place migration is not recommended due to issues with upgrading the underlying RHEL version beneath AAP. However, if you're running AAP 1.2 on RHEL 8.4+, you can follow the standard documentation for upgrading.

Question: Are there any documents available for the migration from AWX to AAP2?
- Answer: The documentation is available here
- Answer: There's a useful Upgrade Assistant app here, too: https://access.redhat.com/labs/aapua/

Question: What is the recommended frequency to update the EEs?
- Answer: One thing that helped us when migrating, was creating a custom EE that has all our modules and collections we need, aka one EE to rule them all. while the EE is a bit larger we see no performance issues.

Question: What is the recommended frequency to update the EEs?
- Answer: biweekly is what we recommend, but again it depends on what your usage is.