

# Configuration Primer

by Feanil Patel

for Open edX Conference 2015

on October 13, 2015

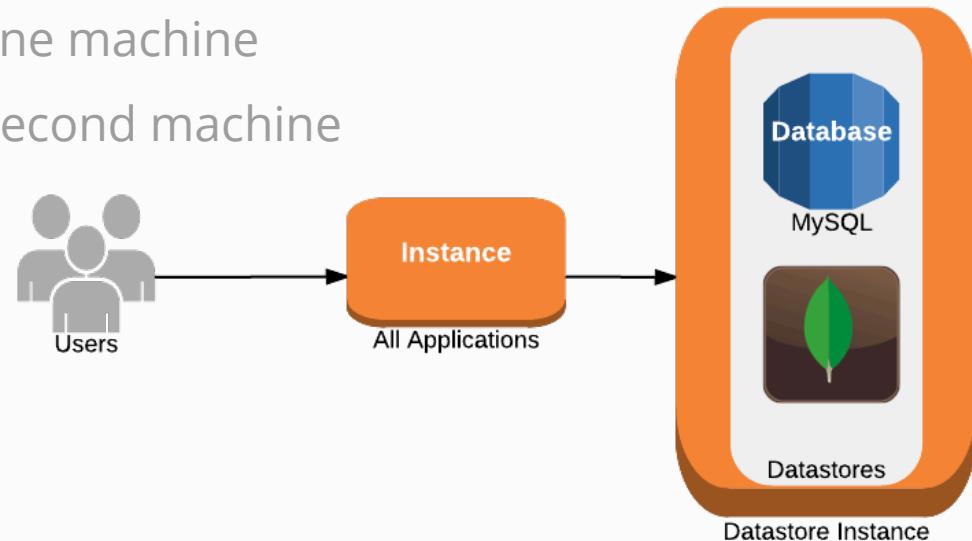


# What We'll Cover

- Deployments Review
- ansible-playbook
  - Inventory
  - Playbooks
  - Roles
- Variable Management

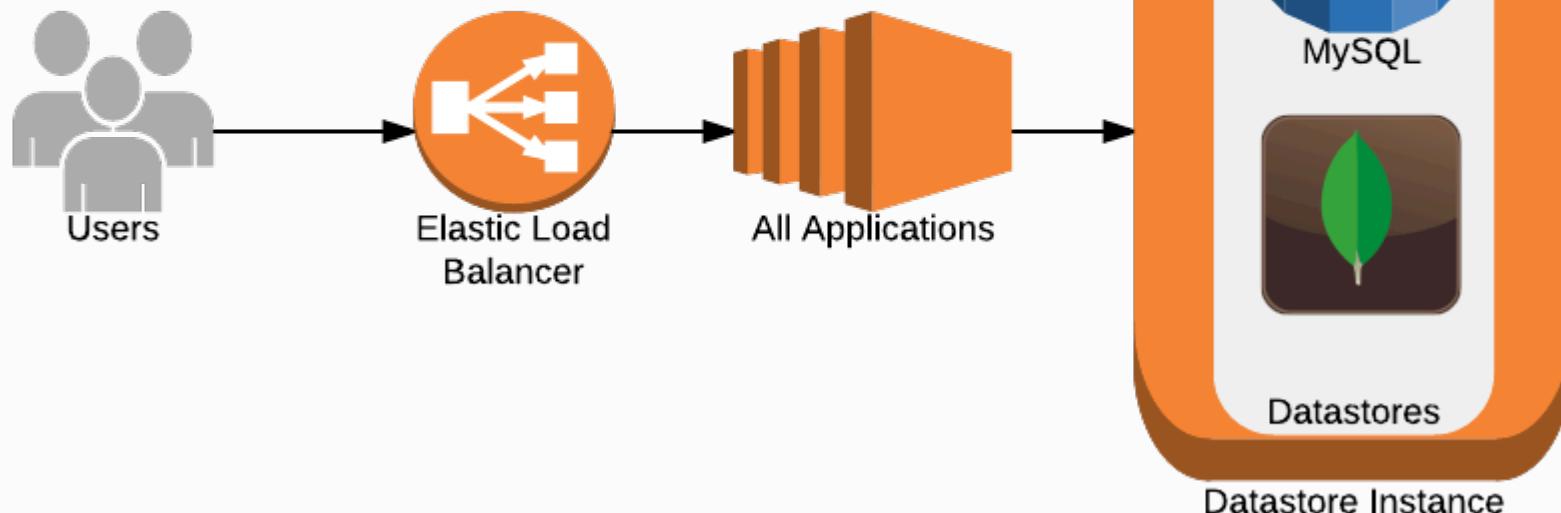
# Very Small Deployments

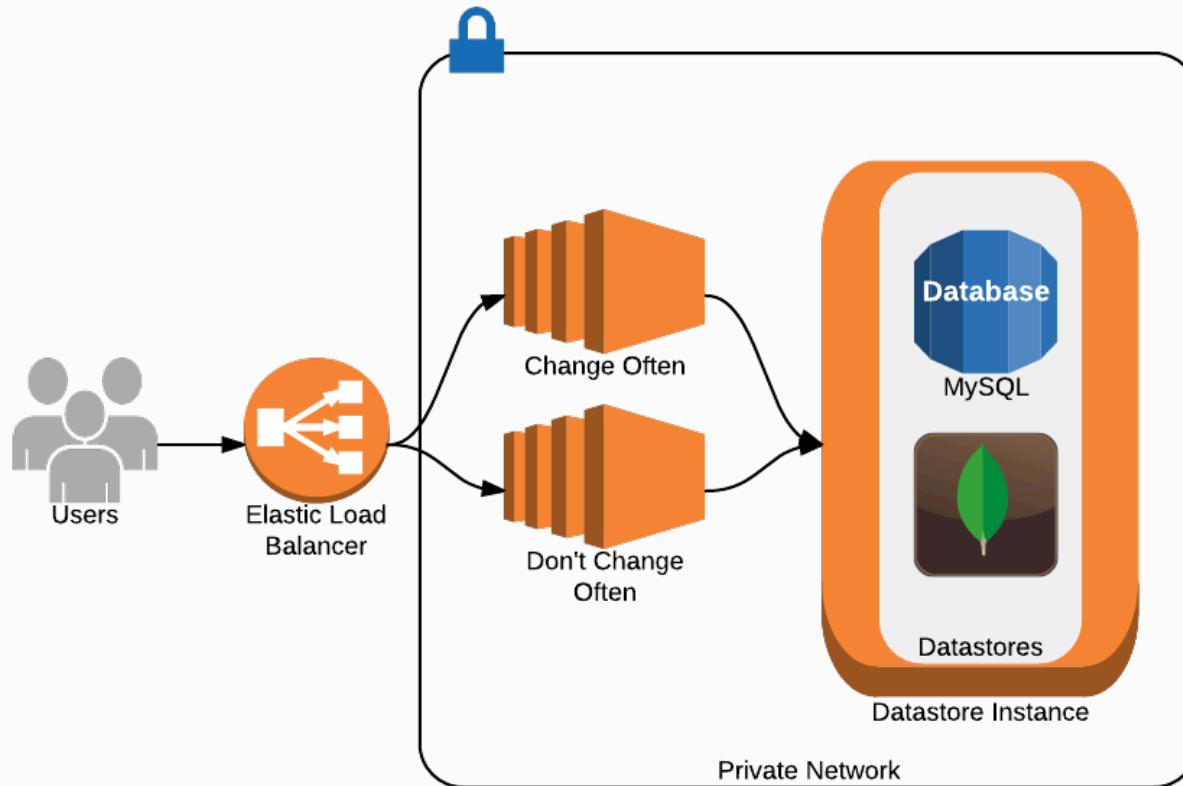
- Run from two machines
- All applications on one machine
- All datastores on a second machine

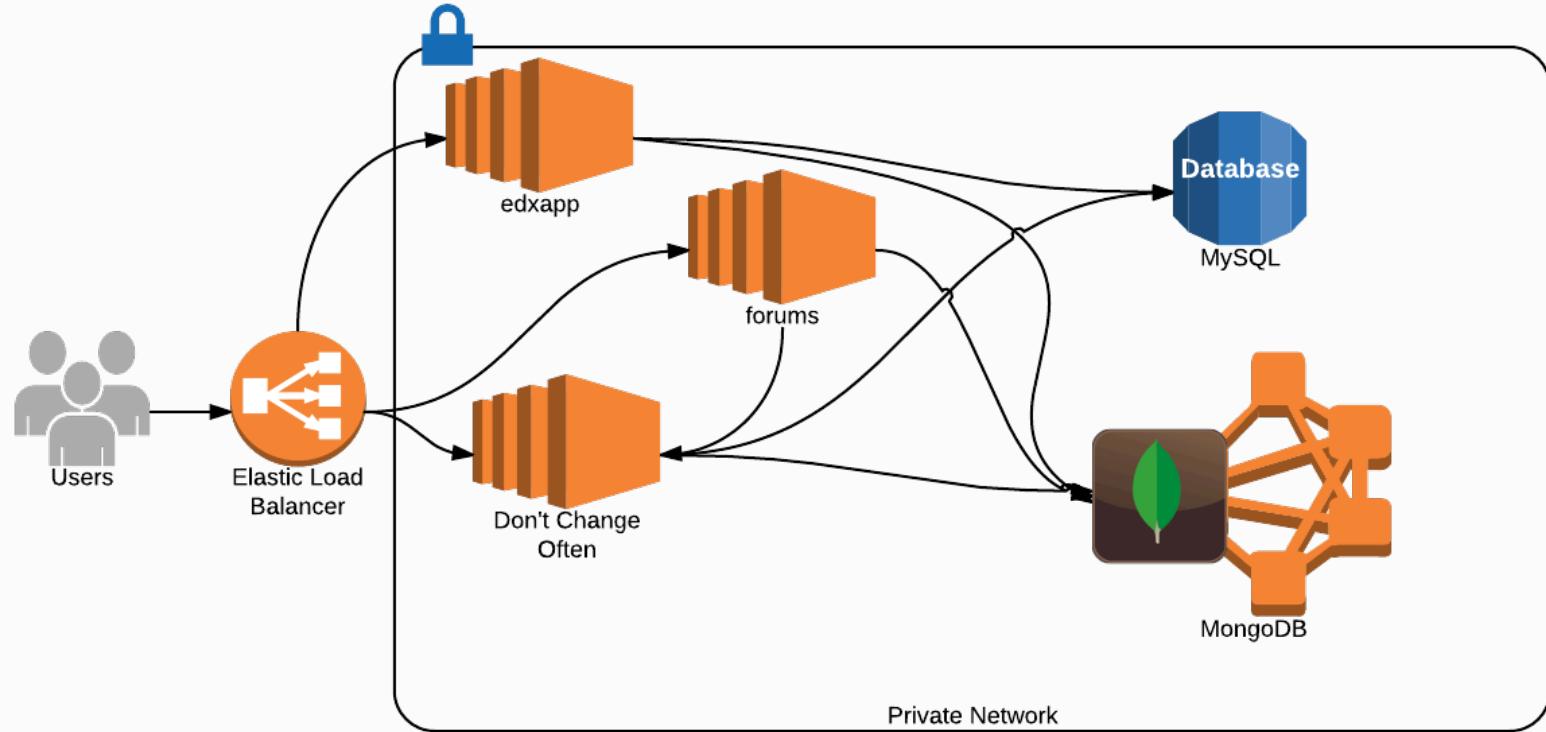


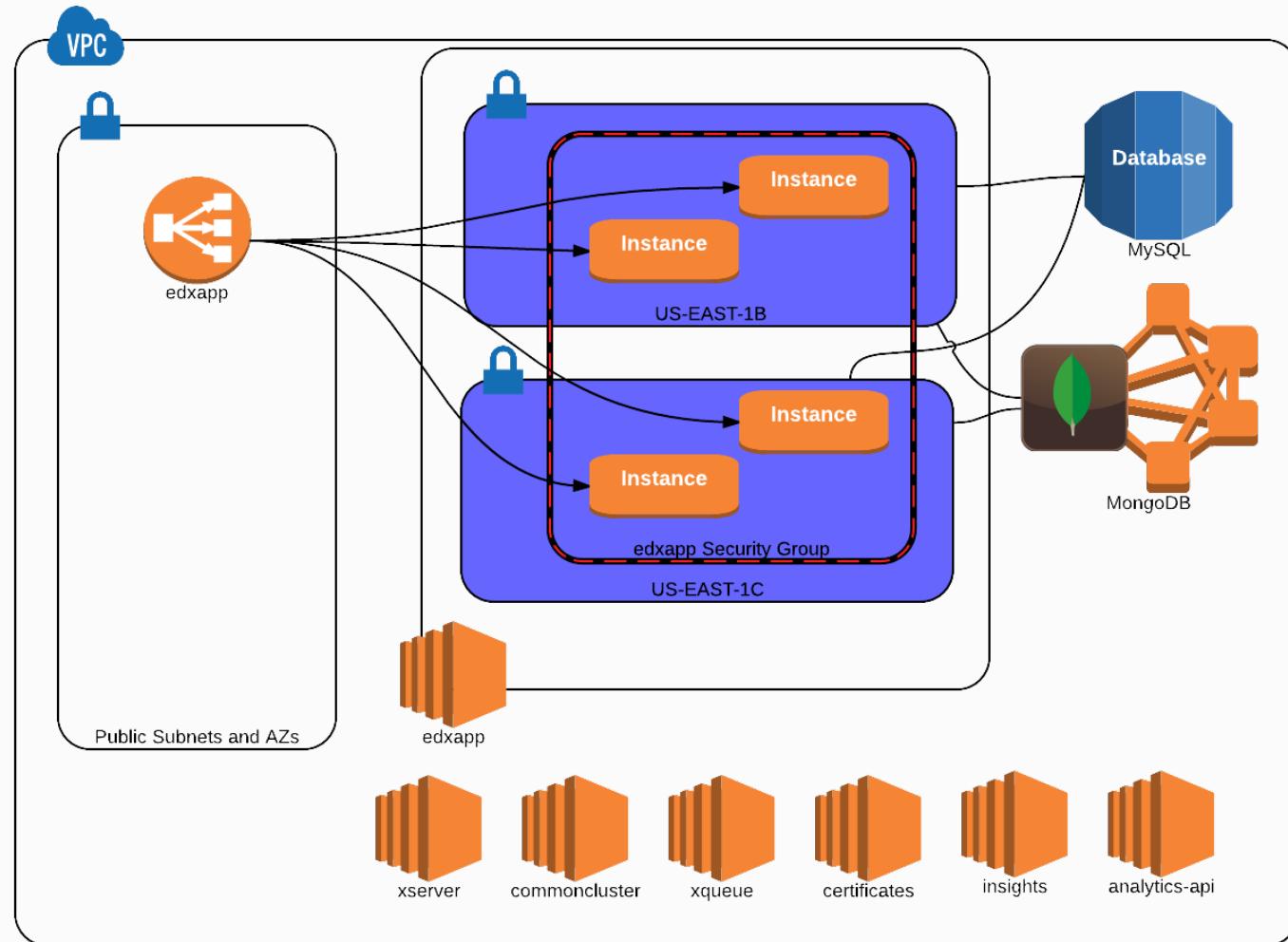
# As You Get Bigger

- Start scaling your applications









# Ansible

- Orchestration tool
- Imperative Tasks Execution
- Tasks use Modules
  - Basic OS modules
  - Cloud Modules
- [docs.ansible.com](https://docs.ansible.com)

## Documentation

# ANSIBLE

Google™ Custom Search

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### All Modules

[Cloud Modules](#)[Clustering Modules](#)[Commands Modules](#)[Database Modules](#)[Files Modules](#)[Inventory Modules](#)[Messaging Modules](#)[Monitoring Modules](#)[Network Modules](#)[Notification Modules](#)[Packaging Modules](#)[Source Control Modules](#)[System Modules](#)[Docs](#) » All Modules

## All Modules

- [a10\\_server \(E\)](#) - Manage A10 Networks AX/SoftAX/Thunder/vThunder devices
- [a10\\_service\\_group \(E\)](#) - Manage A10 Networks devices' service groups
- [a10\\_virtual\\_server \(E\)](#) - Manage A10 Networks devices' virtual servers
- [accelerate](#) - Enable accelerated mode on remote node
- [acl](#) - Sets and retrieves file ACL information.
- [add\\_host](#) - add a host (and alternatively a group) to the ansible-playbook in-memory inventory
- [airbrake\\_deployment \(E\)](#) - Notify airbrake about app deployments
- [alternatives \(E\)](#) - Manages alternative programs for common commands
- [apache2\\_module](#) - enables/disables a module of the Apache2 webserver
- [apk \(E\)](#) - Manages apk packages
- [apt](#) - Manages apt-packages
- [apt\\_key](#) - Add or remove an apt key
- [apt\\_repository](#) - Add and remove APT repositories
- [apt\\_rpm](#) - apt\_rpm package manager
- [assemble](#) - Assembles a configuration file from fragments
- [assert](#) - Fail with custom message
- [async\\_status](#) - Obtain status of asynchronous task
- [at \(E\)](#) - Schedule the execution of a command or script file via the at command.
- [authorized\\_key](#) - Adds or removes an SSH authorized key
- [azure](#) - create or terminate a virtual machine in azure
- [bigip\\_facts \(E\)](#) - Collect facts from F5 BIG-IP devices
- [bigip\\_monitor\\_http \(E\)](#) - Manages F5 BIG-IP LTM http monitors
- [bigip\\_monitor\\_tcp \(E\)](#) - Manages F5 BIG-IP LTM tcp monitors
- [bigip\\_node \(E\)](#) - Manages F5 BIG-IP LTM nodes

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- [boundary\\_meter \(E\)](#) - Manage boundary meters
- [bower \(E\)](#) - Manage bower packages with bower
- [bundler \(E\)](#) - Manage Ruby Gem dependencies with Bundler



## About Modules

### Module Index

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Clustering Modules

Commands Modules

Database Modules

Files Modules

Inventory Modules

Messaging Modules

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Notification Modules

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Source Control Modules

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Utilities Modules

Web Infrastructure Modules

Windows Modules

### Detailed Guides

Developer Information

Ansible Tower

Community Information & Contributing

Ansible Galaxy

Testing Strategies

Frequently Asked Questions

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- [campfire](#) (E) - Send a message to Campfire
- [capabilities](#) (E) - Manage Linux capabilities
- [circonus\\_annotation](#) (E) - create an annotation in circonus
- [clc\\_blueprint\\_package](#) (E) - deploys a blue print package on a set of servers in CenturyLink Cloud.
- [clc\\_firewall\\_policy](#) (E) - Create/delete/update firewall policies
- [clc\\_group](#) (E) - Create/delete Server Groups at Centurylink Cloud



Network Modules

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- [clc\\_publicip \(E\)](#) - Add and Delete public ips on servers in CenturyLink Cloud.
- [clc\\_server \(E\)](#) - Create, Delete, Start and Stop servers in CenturyLink Cloud.
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- [cloudtrail \(E\)](#) - manage CloudTrail creation and deletion
- [command](#) - Executes a command on a remote node
- [composer \(E\)](#) - Dependency Manager for PHP
- [consul \(E\)](#) - Add, modify & delete services within a consul cluster.
- [consul\\_acl \(E\)](#) - manipulate consul acl keys and rules
- [consul\\_kv \(E\)](#) - Manipulate entries in the key/value store of a consul cluster.
- [consul\\_session \(E\)](#) - manipulate consul sessions
- [copy](#) - Copies files to remote locations.



edX edX Encryption Splunk References OAuth2 Python Exam Asgard REST API Authentication — Re... Dropbox - alton.py FY2016 Swim Lanes Product Roadmap

» Other Bookmarks

Testing Strategies

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- [copy](#) - Copies files to remote locations.
- [cpanm \(E\)](#) - Manages Perl library dependencies.
- [cron](#) - Manage cron.d and crontab entries.
- [cronvar \(E\)](#) - Manage variables in crontabs
- [crypttab \(E\)](#) - Encrypted Linux block devices
- [cs\\_account \(E\)](#) - Manages accounts on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_affinitygroup \(E\)](#) - Manages affinity groups on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_domain \(E\)](#) - Manages domains on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_facts \(E\)](#) - Gather facts on instances of Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_firewall \(E\)](#) - Manages firewall rules on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_instance \(E\)](#) - Manages instances and virtual machines on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_instancegroup \(E\)](#) - Manages instance groups on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_ip\\_address \(E\)](#) - Manages public IP address associations on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_iso \(E\)](#) - Manages ISO images on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_network \(E\)](#) - Manages networks on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_portforward \(E\)](#) - Manages port forwarding rules on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_project \(E\)](#) - Manages projects on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
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- [cs\\_securitygroup\\_rule \(E\)](#) - Manages security group rules on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_sshkeypair \(E\)](#) - Manages SSH keys on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_staticnat \(E\)](#) - Manages static NATs on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_template \(E\)](#) - Manages templates on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_user \(E\)](#) - Manages users on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [cs\\_vmsnapshot \(E\)](#) - Manages VM snapshots on Apache CloudStack based clouds.
- [datadog\\_event \(E\)](#) - Posts events to DataDog service
- [datadog\\_monitor \(E\)](#) - Manages Datadog monitors
- [debconf \(E\)](#) - Configure a .deb package
- [debug](#) - Print statements during execution
- [digital\\_ocean](#) - Create/delete a droplet/SSH\_key in DigitalOcean
- [digital\\_ocean\\_domain](#) - Create/delete a DNS record in DigitalOcean
- [digital\\_ocean\\_sshkey](#) - Create/delete an SSH key in DigitalOcean
- [django\\_manage](#) - Manages a Django application.
- [dnf \(E\)](#) - Manages packages with the \*dnf\* package manager
- [dnsimple \(E\)](#) - Interface with dnsimple.com (a DNS hosting service).
- [dnsmadeeasy \(E\)](#) - Interface with dnsmadeeasy.com (a DNS hosting service).
- [docker](#) - manage docker containers
- [docker\\_image](#) - manage docker images
- [dpkg\\_selections \(E\)](#) - Dpkg package selection selections
- [dynamodb\\_table \(E\)](#) - Create, update or delete AWS Dynamo DB tables.
- [easy\\_install](#) - Installs Python libraries
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- [ec2](#) - create, terminate, start or stop an instance in ec2
- [ec2\\_ami](#) - create or destroy an image in ec2
- [ec2\\_ami\\_copy \(E\)](#) - copies AMI between AWS regions, return new image id
- [ec2\\_ami\\_find](#) - Searches for AMIs to obtain the AMI ID and other information
- [ec2\\_ami\\_search \(D\)](#) - Retrieve AWS AMI information for a given operating system.
- [ec2\\_asg](#) - Create or delete AWS Autoscaling Groups
- [ec2\\_eip](#) - associate an EC2 elastic IP with an instance.
- [ec2\\_elb](#) - De-registers or registers instances from EC2 ELBs
- [ec2\\_elb\\_facts \(E\)](#) - Gather facts about EC2 Elastic Load Balancers in AWS
- [ec2\\_elb\\_lb](#) - Creates or destroys Amazon ELB.
- [ec2\\_eni \(E\)](#) - Create and optionally attach an Elastic Network Interface (ENI) to an instance
- [ec2\\_eni\\_facts \(E\)](#) - Gather facts about ec2 ENI interfaces in AWS
- [ec2\\_facts](#) - Gathers facts about remote hosts within ec2 (aws)
- [ec2\\_group](#) - maintain an ec2 VPC security group.
- [ec2\\_key](#) - maintain an ec2 key pair.
- [ec2\\_lc](#) - Create or delete AWS Autoscaling Launch Configurations
- [ec2\\_metric\\_alarm](#) - Create/update or delete AWS Cloudwatch 'metric alarms'
- [ec2\\_remote\\_facts \(E\)](#) - ask EC2 for information about other instances.
- [ec2\\_scaling\\_policy](#) - Create or delete AWS scaling policies for Autoscaling groups
- [ec2\\_snapshot](#) - creates a snapshot from an existing volume
- [ec2\\_tag](#) - create and remove tag(s) to ec2 resources.

# ansible-playbook

ansible-playbook

```
-i ec2.py # Inventory  
playbook.yml # Playbook  
-e@/path/to/overrides.yml # Overrides
```

# ansible-playbook

ansible-playbook

**-i ec2.py # Inventory**

playbook.yml # Playbook

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# Inventory Files

- INI files
  - **`-i my_servers.ini # Inventory`**
- Python program
  - Output JSON
    - **`-i ec2.py # Inventory`**

# Example Inventory INI

*inventory.ini*

mail.example.com

[webservers]

foo.example.com

bar.example.com

[dbservers]

one.example.com

two.example.com

three.example.com

# Example Inventory JSON

```
{  
    "InService":  
        [  
            "10.0.0.1",  
            "10.0.0.2"  
        ],  
    "TerminatingWait":  
        [  
            "10.0.3.1",  
            "10.0.3.4"  
        ]  
}
```

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-i ec2.py # Inventory

**playbook.yml # Playbook**

-e@/path/to/overrides.yml # Overrides

# Anatomy of a Playbook

- hosts: <group from inventory>  
pre\_tasks: <list of tasks>  
roles: <list of roles>  
post\_tasks: <list of tasks>
- hosts: <another group>  
roles: <different roles>

# Deploy Everything

```
- hosts: edxapp
  roles:
    - edxapp
- hosts: workers
  roles:
    - role: edxapp
      celery_worker: True
- hosts: forums
  roles:
    - forums
    - elasticsearch
```

# Rolling Deploy

```
- hosts: edxapp
  serial: 1
  pre_tasks:
    - # task to pull server out of a load balancer
  roles:
    - edxapp
  post_tasks:
    - # task to put server back in the load balancer
```

# Image Based Deploy

```
- hosts: localhost
  roles:
    - new_deploy_group
      number_of_new_machines: {{ new_machines }}
      new_image: {{ image_id }}
    - add_group_to_lb
      group_name: {{ registered_new_deploy_group }}
    - delete_group
      group_name: {{ current_deploy_group }}
```

# Image Based Deploy

```
- hosts: localhost
  roles:
    - new_deploy_group
      number_of_new_machines: {{ new_machines }}
      new_image: {{ image_id }}
- hosts: registered_new_deploy_group
  roles:
    - smoke_test
- hosts: localhost
  roles:
    - add_group_to_lb
      group_name: {{ registered_new_deploy_group }}
      when: smoke_test_passed == True
    - delete_group
      group_name: {{ current_deploy_group }}
      when: smoke_test_passed == True
    - delete_group
      group_name: {{ registered_new_deploy_group }}
      when: smoke_test_passed == False
```

# edX Playbooks

- configuration/playbooks
  - Vagrant related playbooks
- configuration/playbooks/edx-east
  - edx.org related playbooks

# Examples from Configuration

- [edx continuous integration.yml](#)
- [edx provision.yml](#)
- [edxapp.yml](#)
- [insights.yml](#)

# Roles

- Usually role per app/git-repository
  - Most apps run from one git repository
- All vars for a role prefixed with the role name
- ALL CAPS vars are expected to be overridden
  - Just convention
- Lowercase vars are generally meant to be internal to the role

# All the edX Roles

playbooks/roles



# Role Layout

role/

defaults/main.yml

tasks/main.yml

meta/main.yml

templates/path/to/template.j2

# edx-service role

- Base role for edx-services
- Creates User/Directories
- Checks out code
- Creates config file
- DOES NOT
  - Create Supervisor Config
  - Create Virtualenvs
  - Do anything django specific

# edx-service role

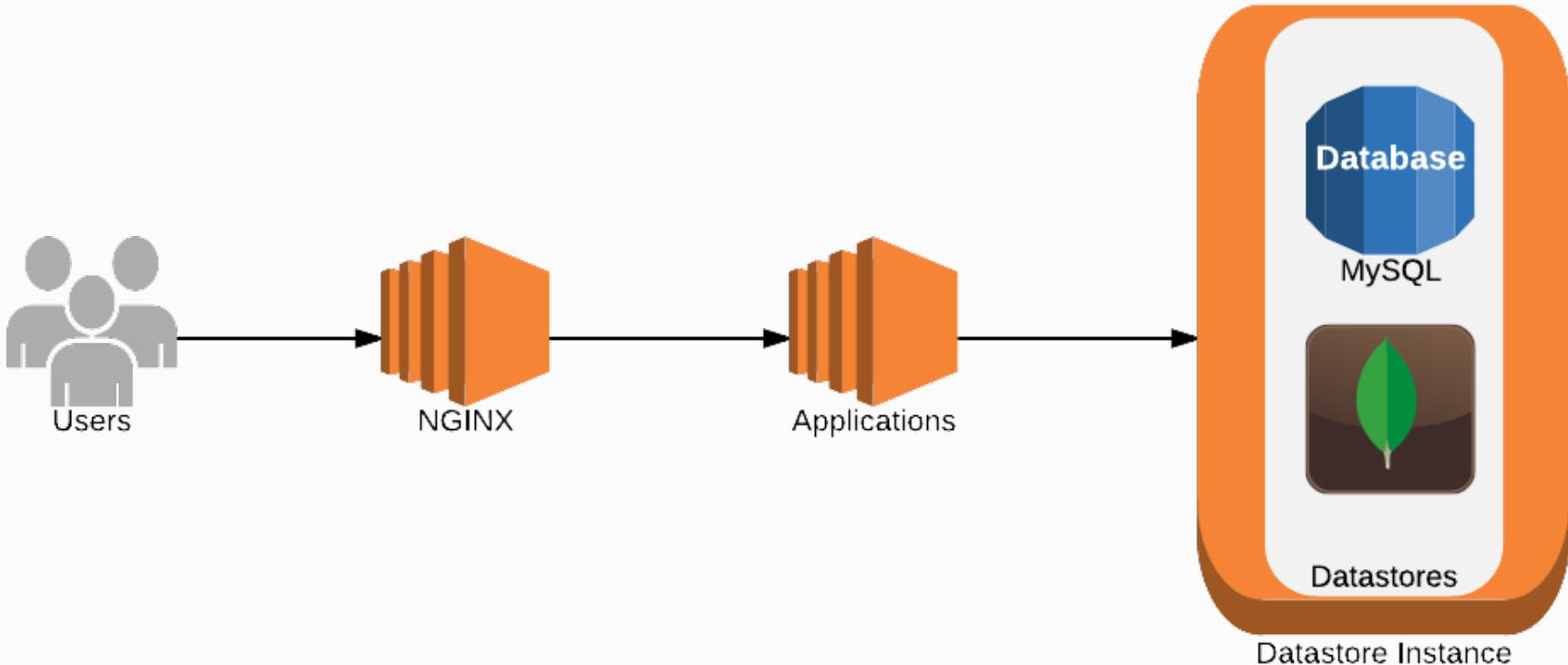
- Base role for most new IDAs
- Ecommerce
- Programs
- Insights

# edxapp role

- The base role for the edx-platform
- Not currently using the edx-service role
- It also deploys themes/microsites repos
- Runs in two variants
  - Web app(default)
  - Celery Worker
- Has multiple Virtualenvs
  - Application venv
  - Codejail venv

# nginx role

- Holds nginx templates for all apps
- Templates deployed based on the `nginx\_sites` variable
- Can deal with SSL
- Can run on the same machine as the app
- Can run as the LB on a separate cluster



```
- role: nginx
  nginx_sites:
    - cms
    - lms
    - xqueue
    - xserver
    - certs
    - analytics_api
    - ecommerce
  nginx_default_sites:
    - lms
```

# Variables

- /edx/bin/update
- General -e usage
- How edx.org does it

# /edx/bin/update

- Script created by the edx-ansible role
- Runs ansible locally on a machine
- Used mostly for sandboxes
- Relies on /edx/app/edx\_ansible/server-vars.yml
  - Not safe in production environments

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```

# -e is your friend

- -e @/path/to/vars.yml
- Use this to refer to your secret overrides

# How edx.org does it

- EDC
  - Environment
    - stage
    - prod
    - loadtest
  - Deployment
    - edge
    - edx
  - Cluster
    - edxapp
    - forum
    - insights

# How edx.org does it

- AMIs
  - Userdata builds an instance
  - -e @edx.yml -e @stage-edx.yml
    - Override for the deployment first
    - Override for the environment and deployment
  - edx.yml
    - Vars that are the same in all environments(stage, prod, loadtest)
  - stage-edx.yml
    - Sections for each relevant role

# Making it Work for You

- Run Ansible against your servers
  - [Rolling Deploys](#)
    - Pre/Post task for dealing with Load Balancers
- Build Images for your Infrastructure

# Takeaway

- Roles
  - Atoms of edx
- Vars
  - Your special snowflake
  - Keep them safe
- Playbooks
  - Build your own
  - Throw them away

# Make it Better!

- Bug Fixes!
- New Infrastructure Types!
  - Openstack
  - GCE
- New Operating Systems!
  - Redhat
  - NixOS
- PRs!

# Links

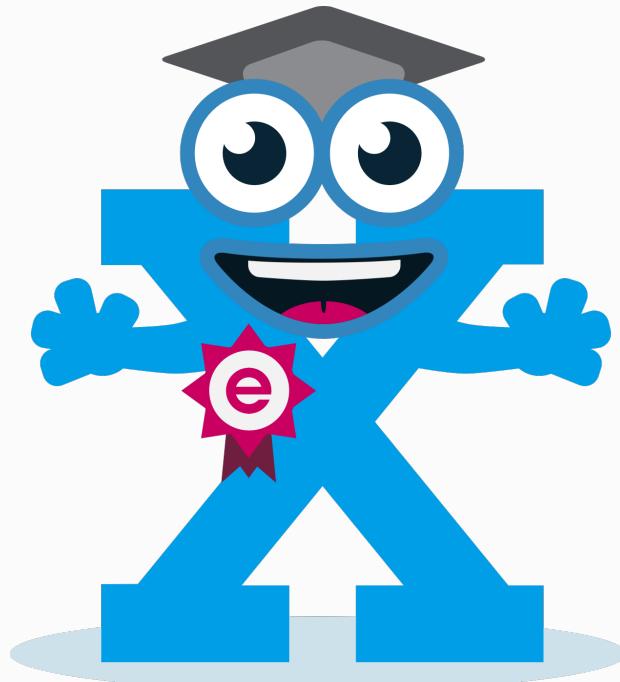
- <http://docs.ansible.com>
- <http://www.slideshare.net/fearil/configuration-primer>

# Thanks!

## Questions?

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# Vagrant

- vagrant/base
  - Used to build base boxes
- vagrant/release
  - Prebuilt base boxes that will startup faster