Automation with Ansible
Why Automation?
Managing servers via SSH is soooo 1996

A respected colleague
Automation saves time
Enables Confirmability

“You did something to fix that server last week. What was that again?”
Enables Reproduceability

“I need exactly the same setup, again”
Why Ansible?
No Agent, uses SSH
No DSL, just plain YAML
Large Repository of existing playbooks
Who uses Ansible?

- RedHat
- Twitter
- Cisco
- Juniper
- 1&1 Dev M&M
My SSH setup

- Dedicated ansible user per target
- Dedicated SSH key(s)
- Sudo password
- Shell script to bootstrap
The inventory
Introducing Playbooks
Using Playbooks
ansible-playbook

--ask-become-pass  (sudo password)
--inventory  <file>  (inventory file)
--extra-vars="foo=bar"  (extra vars)
--limit  <host>  (use only this host)
--tags  (use tags)
--step  (confirm every step)
--check  (dry run)
--forks=N  (number of parallel steps)
Working with Variables
Configuration with Templates
Templates use Jinja2
{
    ansible_managed
}

{
    ansible_nodename
}

{% for item in ntp_servers %}
    {{ item }}
{% endfor %}

{% if ssh_allow_groups %}
    AllowGroups {{ ssh_allow_groups }}
{% endif %}

#{ ... #}
Working with Facts
Use Roles
Encrypt Data with Vaults
Q & A