

# Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform on Microsoft Windows for the public sector

## Introduction

Regulations, security concerns, and citizen demands across the public sector mean that systems and processes are increasing in complexity in an environment of constant change. Adopting new technologies can be challenging.

Red Hat<sup>®</sup> Automation Platform helps organizations by providing better control of existing and new IT environments through automation. Automating routine IT tasks streamlines processes, saves time, and increases stability while reducing IT environment complexity. In addition, automation helps promote cultural changes needed to implement DevOps. These same benefits previously available to Linux<sup>®</sup> environments extend to Microsoft Windows.

## Automate to simplify and collaborate

Whether you are deploying Windows in the cloud or managing on-premise instances, Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform can help automate the deployment and management of Windows servers, desktops, and applications. If a server needs to be patched or dies, it can be recreated from the stored configuration. By storing the configuration of the environments as code, servers can be recreated whenever needed.

Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform can automate the entire application life cycle and continuous delivery pipeline, allowing your ministry or department to work collaboratively from development to production. It offers ease of application deployment, configuration management, workflow orchestration, and network automation to provide faster service delivery and cross-functional success.

Ultimately, Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform helps simplify cross-platform management by improving collaboration with centralized control and governance for automation tasks. Groups can share playbooks, workflows, and institutional knowledge about application deployment and infrastructure management throughout the organization. Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform also creates the necessary separation and isolation of users and resources so that teams work only on the systems and in the environments to which they have authorized access.

## Stay in a familiar environment

Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform on Windows natively uses Windows PowerShell remoting so Windows administrators feel at home with their management console from the beginning, providing a faster path to learning and implementation. Different teams can take advantage of the automation capabilities because Ansible is coded in common, human-readable language.



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#### **About Red Hat**

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to deliver reliable and high performing Linux, hybrid cloud, container, and Kubernetes technologies. Red Hat helps customers integrate new and existing IT applications, develop cloud-native applications, standardize on our industry leading operating system, and automate, secure, and manage complex environments. Award winning support, training, and consulting services make Red Hat a trusted adviser to the Fortune 500. As a strategic partner to cloud providers, system integrators, application vendors, customers, and open source communities, Red Hat can help organizations prepare for the digital future.

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- Gather facts on Windows hosts.
- Install and uninstall MSI files (Microsoft installer).
- Enable and disable Windows Features.
- Start, stop, and manage Windows services.
- Create and manage local users and groups.
- Manage Windows packages via the Chocolatey package manager.
  - Manage and install Windows updates.
  - Fetch files from remote sites.
- Push and execute PowerShell scripts.

You can connect to and automate Windows using local or domain users, and planned improvements include Windows 'runas' support to execute actions as the administrator.

Without the need for specialized coding skills, teams can use their existing knowledge of Ansible to help them be productive more quickly and move their focus to new business requirements rather than taking time to set up systems to do the work. Communications become easier across teams with this shared understanding. A single source describes all parts of the system for developers and operations staff, and can evolve and grow as needs change.

## Benefit from better control and security

When a configuration is stored in Ansible, you can track why a configuration changed and trace who made the change from a centralized control point. In essence, you can treat your infrastructure as code. With Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, changes can be applied and reverted, and they are tracked to a single user who made the change. Moreover, when you store complete system configurations as code, you can recreate them with the click of a button. This functionality includes automatically defining communication switches, bare-metal servers, operating systems, build configurations, application properties and deployment configurations, and more.

You can recreate environments in moments, whether you need deployments in other departments or even other countries. The sources are tested and validated, providing you the confidence that the new environments will behave as expected.

The public sector is constantly under scrutiny to make certain they are maintaining security standards and safeguarding sensitive citizen and critical government data. By unifying the security response to cyberattacks, Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform helps teams detect and triage suspicious activities, hunt for threats, and respond to incidents–activities that are key to growing and maintaining citizen trust and confidence.

# Get started

- Ansible for Windows (ansible.com)
- Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform: Automation for everyone (datasheet)



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