



State of the Ansible Community 2025

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ANSIBLE



- The (expanded) Ansible Community team at Red Hat
- Community Wins
- Ansible Forum
- Ansible Survey
- Where do we go from here?
- CfgMgmtCamp 2025

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Hi folks

Thanks for making the time to join the review of the Ansible Community in 2024
The slides will be added to the Forum after, so you'll have access to all the links.

We will start by introducing the team,
then highlighting some wins the community has had, before digging into details of
some of the larger projects.

After that we will explore the Ansible Forum powered by Discourse, and see how
together we've built critical mass of people, which has allowed for the community to
have an even stronger voice

At the end of 2024 we ran a huge survey, so let's look through what feedback you
shared, and see how that helps shape up ideas for 2025 and beyond.

Finally I'll explain what I hope you'll get out of Wednesday's Contributor Summit, and
how this talk, and in fact, some of the other talks over the next 2 days hope to plant
seeds for future discussions, so together we can continue to drive Ansible forward.

```
$ whoami
```



```
- name: gundalow                host_vars/gundalow.yml
  alias: "John Barker"          org: Ansible Community Team, Red Hat
  roles:                        start_date: 2016-07-04
    - network-engineer          contact: {"Matrix": "@gundalow:ansible.im",
    - community-manager          "github": "@gundalow",
    - controller-manager         "email" : "gundalow@redhat.com"}
    - community-manager
```

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While I know I've had the pleasure of meeting some of you before in person, or online during my 11 years on Ansible, there's a lot I haven't yet met yet, so hi!

While my parents call me John, the vast majority of folks in Ansible know me as gundalow as that's my GitHub, IRC and Matrix handle.

I live in the UK with my husband and son.

I'm currently the engineering manager for the Ansible Community & Partner Engineering Team, so if you spot any errors in this playbook, you know it was right for me to move from being an engineer to being a Manager

I introduced into my previous company to replace the fairly horrible Bash that were used to setup blade centres and workstations. Along the way I found a few bugs and minor issues in docs, implementation and tests, and this my first PRs were created. And sometimes when I didn't mess up my branches, they got merged. Apparently didn't do a terrible job as I got an accidental job interview at AnsibleFest 2016

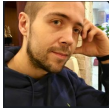
5 months later joined Ansible as the 3rd person in the newly formed Ansible Network automation team. My focus was mostly testing and helping network partners.

Red Hat recognises the importance of Community collaboration, so I progressed to manager and built the Ansible Community Engineering Team. Where the main focus for many years was the move from the ansible/ansible mono repo into collections.

For 2 years I was the Engineering manager for Automation Controller, which depending how long you've been around you may know as Ansible Tower, or the upstream AWX.

Last year, I moved back to the Community team, which brings us to today.

Ansible community team at Red Hat



Andrei Klychkov (Czech Republic)

GitHub: [Andersson007](#) / Matrix: [@andersson007_matrix.org](#)
Interests: the Community / collections / Steering Committee / contributors and maintainers / programming / infra / databases / languages



Anwesha Das (Sweden)

GitHub: [anweshdas](#) / Matrix: [@anwesha:ansible.im](#)
Interests: Legal, Software Lis, building sustainable communities



Einat Pacifici (Israel)

GitHub: [epacifici](#) / Matrix: [@epacifici:ansible.im](#)
Interests: community, software, AI, UX, anime



Don Naro (Ireland)

GitHub: [oraNod](#) / Matrix: [@orandon:ansible.im](#)
Interests: community / CI / Python



Sandra McCann (USA)

GitHub: [samccann](#) / Matrix: [@samccann:ansible.im](#)
Interests: community / collections FTW!



Tray Keller (USA)

GitHub: [traytorous](#) / Matrix: [@traytorous:ansible.im](#)
Interests: Working out / Infra / programming / reverse engineering / Linux Kernel Research / Comics

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There's a huge set of people whose focus is to work alongside the Ansible Community, I'm privileged to be in the same team as these folks.

Point to each person in the audience.

Andrei had a similar route into Ansible as me, as a user and then maintainer of the community MySQL and PostgreSQL collections and contributor to many other parts of the codebase before I was able to hire him.

Anwesha is heavily involved in PyLadies, where she brings her experience in events and previous legal skills to the team.

Don joined Ansible from the JBoss org in Red Hat and has been helping with different projects across the community, including setting up the ansible-documentation repo to improve maintainability of the docs as well as to increase access for community maintainers.

Sandra joined Ansible as a docs maintainer and has extended her involvement to help on multiple projects within the ecosystem.

Two new faces, Einat & Tray, more on that later



Leo Gallego (Argentina)

GitHub: [leogallego](#) / Matrix: [@leo:ansible.im](#)
Interests: asados / FOSS communities / hiking /
analogue and stenoepic photography / tech / gaming



Steve Fulmer (USA)

GitHub: [stevefulme1](#) / Matrix: [@sfulmer:matrix.org](#)
Interests: creating automation content for Hyperscalers,
virtualization and Windows.
Playing golf

Greg has moved to work on Linux infrastructure for Fedora



Community Wins



Opening up Ansible Release to the community

- Discussion and planning takes place in Matrix [#release-management:ansible.com](#)
- Community agrees on release schedule (via [Forum discussion](#))
- `ansible 9.3.0` released via GitHub actions
- `ansible 10` series via GitHub actions by the community
- Collection releases already open

Molecule Releases

- Extra maintainer

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Ansible Releases

While it's great that Collection development happens in the open, one of the objectives has always been to have the infrastructure open, and more importantly EXTEND TRUST TO THE COMMUNITY

The Release management Working Group has done amazing work here

If you follow the links in the slides:

Molecule

This demonstrates Red Hat's commitment to a healthy community that can operate autonomously. The community is empowered and has influence to set the direction of critical parts of the Ansible Ecosystem.

We are always looking for opportunities for new contributors & maintainers, which we've seen recently with Molecule.

References

- <https://forum.ansible.com/tags/c/project/7/release-management>
- <https://github.com/ansible-community/ansible-build-data/>
- <https://github.com/ansible-community/antsibull-build>

- [AWX Office Hours](#)
- [AWX Modernization](#)
- [AWX Operator Helm Chart](#) is now community maintained
- Join Helen on Tuesday at 14:25 for [Modernizing AWX: From monolith to pluggable services](#) in this room (B.1.017)



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AWX Office Hours

- Public monthly video call with some of the AWX developers
- Chance to understand development and talk about any features and bug
- Uploaded to YouTube

AWX Modernization

- Tidying up a 10 year old codebase

Helm

- Moved to ansible-community, has new active community maintainers
- The community has already made improvements to clearing up the repo and adding better dedicated CI testing. This has made it easier to make improvements to the Helm Chart. The solves the previous problems of a the mono-repo of ansible/awx containing AWX, AWXKit and Helm, by moving to standard Helm tooling

- [Project onboarding toolkit](#): provides guidelines on setting up GitHub repos for new projects
- [Project Template](#): a GitHub repo containing templates for a project including doc pages that you can fill out and build a website using Sphinx
- [Awesome Ansible List](#): Add your project!



Project onboarding Toolkit

- Step by step guides on how to setup your project
- Details on how to promote, nurture and grow your community
- Guide on how to add to Read The Docs, more on that in a moment

Project Template

- This is corresponding repo for the above
- Not to be confused with `collection_template`

This gives you the framework to get your project into the primary Ansible Read The Docs

Awesome Ansible

is a list for the community to share their knowledge. We recognise there are a lot more tools than those that the Community maintains, so it's important we've got a place to share tooling.

[Current Forum Discussion](#) on how to further improve it. Please raise a PR to add more tools, books and resources to the list

Consolidating on the Ansible namespace on Read The Docs

- All public infrastructure in GitHub
- PR previews, cross-project search, native version-switcher, ...
- Community maintainers actively involved in build infrastructure
- Ready to migrate the “docs.ansible.com” subdomain from Red Hat managed infrastructure to Read The Docs
- Interested? [Join the DaWGS, the Weekly Docs Meeting](#)



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This also includes community projects, such as the ansible-changelog tooling

Already had loads of Community Contribution

- Automatic responses with welcome and Meeting link on Docs PRs
- Lots of contribution to GHA
- Different ideas for testing, such as experimenting with rstcheck
- This builds on all the amazing community work, such as auto module doc rendering, Changelogs. See the [Antsibull repos](#)

As part of this, we migrated a lot of the ansible-core docs into a dedicated repo, where we could take advantage of CODEOWNERS, automated backports

There's only a tiny bit of Red Hat infrastructure, which will go away in the next few months.

Reducing Fragmentation in Communication channels

- Started after [data](#) showed increase in Forum traffic
... and turned into an idea on [Forum post](#)
- Grew into huge healthy discussion
- Votes and feedback from the wider community:
 - Agreed: reddit r/awx archived and merged into r/ansible
 - Agreed: Google Groups archived & imported into Forum
 - Agreed: Consolidated 40+ IRC channels into 5
 - All implemented

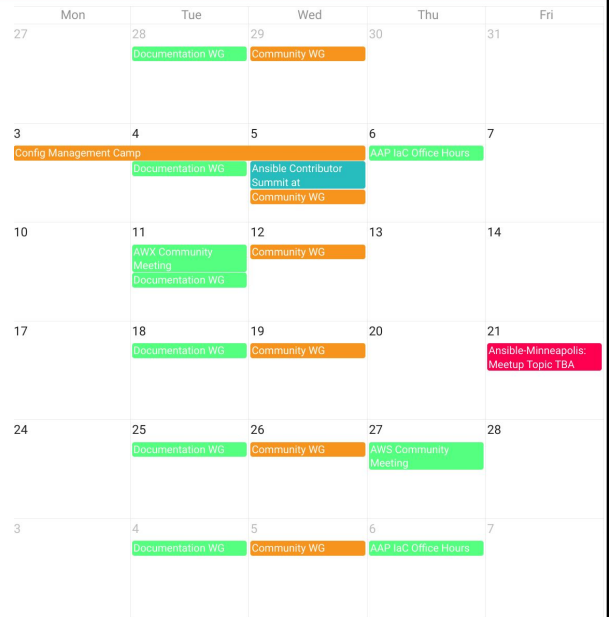
- We've always [tracked usage data for our communication platforms, IRC, Matrix, Forum & Google Groups](#)
- Clearly showed Forum has more engaged users per week than IRC/Matrix
- 2 months of async discussion and some fresh ideas/clarifications in the forum, which allowed us to create 4 polls,



2024 Events

- FOSDEM & CfgMgmtCamp
- DevConf.cz
- Red Hat Summit & Ansible Fest
- 39 dedicated Ansible Meetups in 13 cities
- Ansible London & DevOpsDays
- Anwasha's Keynote at PyLadiesCon

See the full list in the [Events category](#)



SHOW OF HANDS: Who's attended a MEETUP

If you are interested co-hosting a Meetup, please do reach out to me

Meetups for Europe

- Benelux
- Dresden
- Hamburg
- London
- Munich
- Zurich

I'm sure there are more Ansible events we don't know about. Let us know via the Forum



forum.ansible.com

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We use Discourse for the Ansible Forum

SHOW OF HANDS:

- Who already knew about the Forum
- Who already used the Forum

Forum: Polls
A

IRC references

remove all	37%
keep references to ansible or other active channels when appropriate	33%
I don't care	15%
keep all	8%

Steering Committee

Yes (i.e., merge the PR)	75%
Abstain	13%
No (i.e., do not merge the PR)	12%

▼ **COMMUNITY LINKS**

- [Ansible.com](#)
- [Documentation](#)
- [Open Forum Polls](#)

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Discourse

We've talked a fair bit about collaboration and reducing fragmentation in the Ansible Communities' discussion platforms.

With the forum taking off as the default place for Ansible discussion, has given the community a consistent and critical mass

Another way that having the Forum as central place for discussion has worked is for public voting, just another example of making planning & communication easier and more consistent. Thanks to discourse

Polls

- Had about 50 topics with polls on
- You can see the active polls from the left hand nav bar
- Before the forum it, we had to count Thumbs Up on GitHub, which was difficult to administer
- Votes and discussions were intermingled

Open Polls

On the side of the forum, there's a link to all Open Forum Polls

Forum: Categories

Get Help
Need help? This is the place! Get started with Ansible, debug your playbooks, set up your tooling ... whatever your question, ask it here!
■ Guides, FAQs & Howtos 3 unread

Project Discussions
Discuss any aspect of the Ansible Project here! This space is organized by tag, and tag generally correspond to a [Working Group](#) or [Ecosystem Project](#). There are also some high-level tags such as [mindshare](#), [community](#) and so on.
■ Collection Development

International Communities
■ Español (Spanish) ■ Português (Portuguese)
■ Norsk (Norwegian)

Get Help | Guides, FAQs & Howtos | tags | Latest | Top | Bookmarks

Topic

Getting Started with Ansible - Resources
howto getting-started
This is a small list of resources to get started using Ansible. Below you will find some links to documentation, free interactive labs (web based) and YouTube media content. Getting Started with a user journey. The @D... read more

About the Guides, FAQs & Howtos category
This category is for longer pieces of "how to" that haven't made it into the docs (yet) or are commonly asked questions in Get Help. This also has high search priority, so please do use that search for your questions! T... read more

How to submit your first contribution to Ansible step-by-step
collections howto module dev

How to use ansible_become for a root shell that needs an "enable" followed by a "su"?
howto

How to release an Ansible collection step by step
galaxy-ng collections howto module

How to set up a repository for an Ansible collection step by step
collections howto module

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Discourse

Thought it might be worth spending a moment talking about the various sections of the forum, and how we organise
Forum has CATEGORIES and TAGS.

On the left of the screen we see some of the main categories:

- Getting Help
- Project Discussions
- International Communities: There are social threads in each, so please do say "Hi!"

Getting help

- which you can see on the right
- Two pinned posts
- We're see reasonable use of the Solved function to mark posts as completed, but we can always do better. Please use it if someone help you! They get credit, and badges, and warm fuzzies that are good for everyone.

Project Discussions

- This is where you'd find all the discussions we've mentioned previously

International Communities

- We recognise that not everyone's native language is English. Having introduction guides in different languages can really help



Social Space

Stay awhile, and listen! Introduce yourself, socialise, and take a break from the rest of the grind. Say hi in the [Introductions thread!](#)

🔒 Ansible Job Postings

Events

Want to meet other Ansiblers? Give a conference talk about Ansible? Host a Meetup? Hop in here to see the community calendar, and add your event!

📅 Event CFPs 🗳️ Meetup Organisers

News & Announcements

All the latest activity in the Ansible Community.

📧 Newsletter 📰 Ecosystem Releases 📄 Blog

The Bullhorn #167 - Ansible Newsletter ✎

📌 News & Announcements 📧 Newsletter 📰 Ecosystem Releases 📄 Blog 📄 Collections 📄 Cfgmgmtcamp



samccann Sandra McCann Community Team

27d



This week in Ansible Community
Issue #167, 2024-12-20 (Past Issues)

Welcome to [The Bullhorn](#), our newsletter for the Ansible Community. If you have any questions or content you'd like to share, you're welcome to chat with us in the [Ansible Social room on Matrix](#), and mention [newsbot](#) to have your news item tagged for review for the next weekly issue!

General news updates

Documentation redirects

Oranod shared

The Ansible community team is planning to consolidate redirects for Ansible documentation from versions 2.3 to 2.10. This effort will result in a change to the user experience but we're doing it in the name of progress.

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Discourse

SHOW OF HANDS:

- Who had previously heard of the Bullhorn
- Who already subscribes to the Bullhorn

Bullhorn

- Weekly Ansible Community Newsletter
- steady flow of information from the Community for the Community
- Why it's weekly
 - easier to digest
 - more time relevant
 - Better for Polls and governance discussions
 - So please join Matrix and share your news

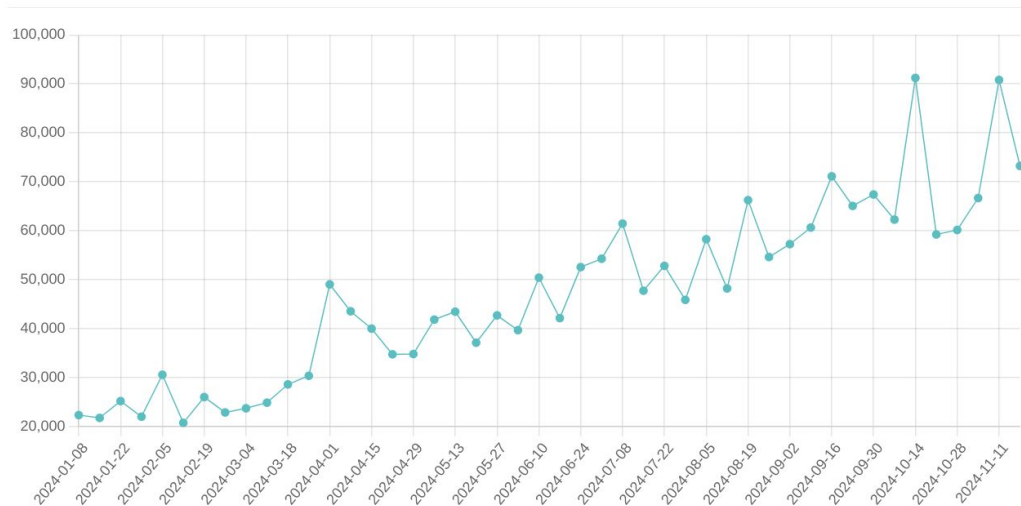
Events

- Single source of truth for in-person & online events

- Meetups are added automatically
- Includes the regular meetings for Community WG, Docs, AWS, Network, AWX

Pageviews

Number of new pageviews from all visitors.



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A typical up-and-to-the-right graph, good, right?

While it's great to see, this is basically a "vanity metric", similar to download stats of GitHub stars. You are glad it's increasing, though it's mostly meaningless

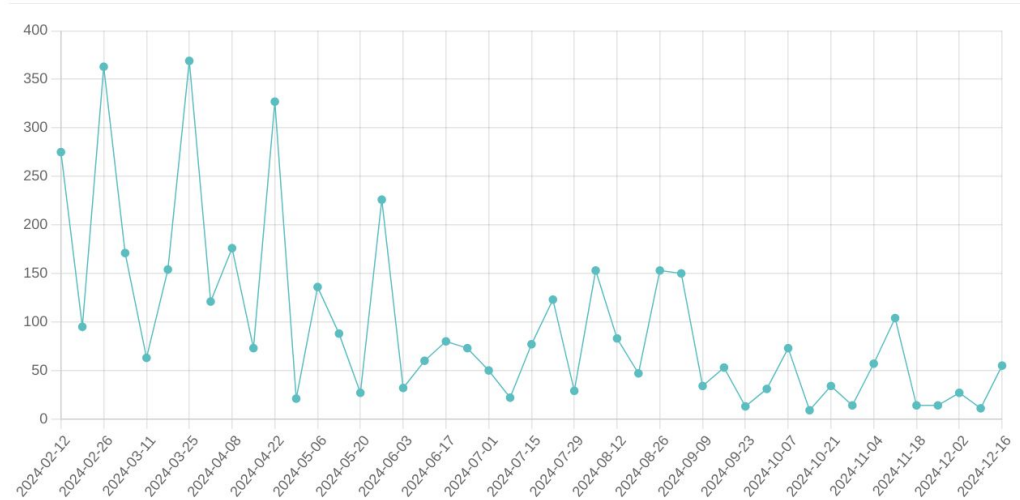
Time to first response

Shows that not only are people responding, though there is engagement. This is a great indicator of a healthy self-supporting community



Time to first response

Average time (in hours) of the first response to new topics.



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Down and to the right, much better

So I said the previous page views was mostly a "vanity metric", ie it doesn't give any indication of the health of the community.

This graph shows amount of time, in hours, between a new post and the first reply.

Year ago ~200hours

6 months ago ~100 hours

Currently within the day

Shows that not only are people responding, that there is engagement. This is a great indicator of a healthy self-supporting community.



Ansible Survey 2024

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One of the things I've always loved about the Ansible Community is the willingness to provide feedback

SHOW OF HANDS

- Who saw knew we did a survey last year
- Who completed the survey last year?

We haven't done a survey in a while, so I really appreciate the 1,117 of you that took the time out of your busy schedule to help

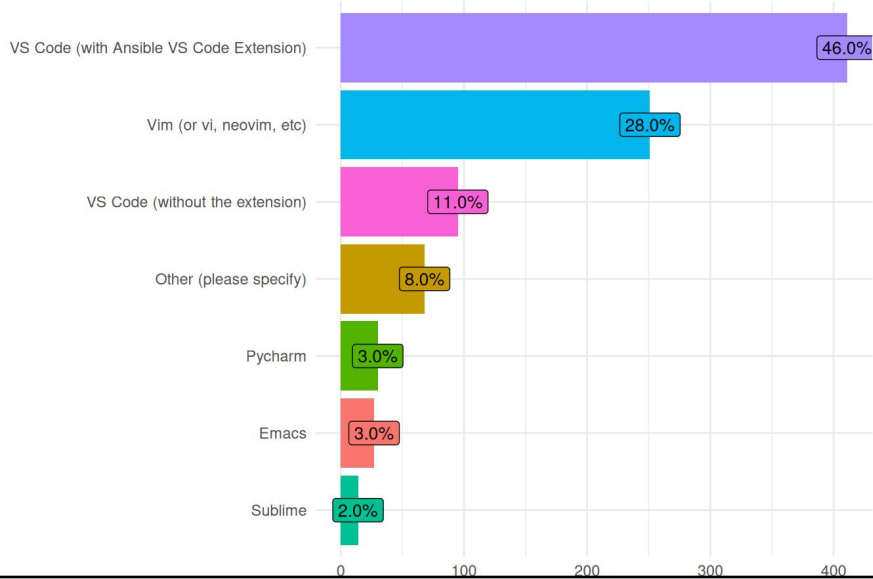
While, I could stand here and show off all the data that shows things are going well, I'd like instead to focus on the written feedback where we've got opportunities for improvement

The feedback you provided help us shape CfgMgmtCamp and the talks we selected. You'll see there's theme of talks about "How to write good quality content" and around the Developer Experience, ie how to create Ansible content.

Though more importantly the survey helps us understand where we should focus in 2025



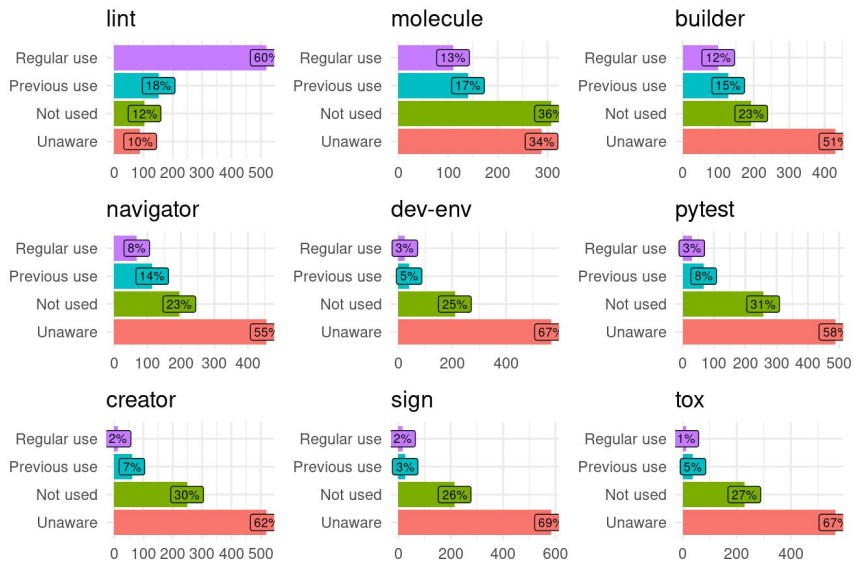
What do you use to write Ansible content?



- Great to see so many people using the Ansible VS code extension
- It's worth remembering that it's a wrapper around the standard command line tools, so you can have the same functionality from the command line or in your CI/CD pipelines
- In fact it's Language Server, which you can use in vim/neovim & Emacs as well

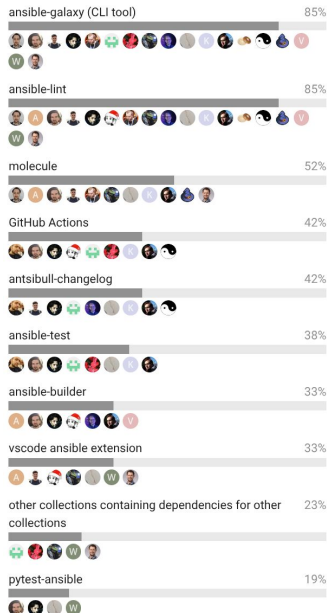


Which of these development tools do you know about / use?

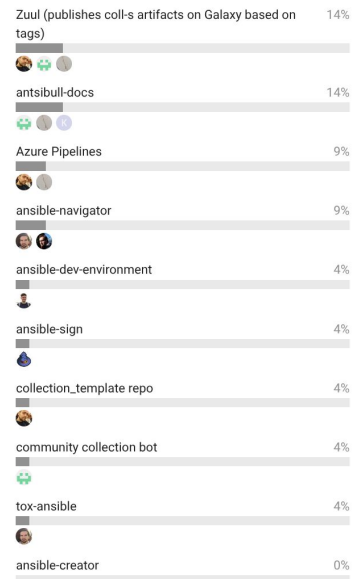


- Lots of tools, not though not that much awareness/usage
- Just to note that we've take the "ansible-" prefix off these graphs to make it fit on the slide

Survey Forum Results



Which tools do you use?



Following on from previous slide, this is one long list from the Forum

- Multiple Tools with no clear use case, **everything does sort of the same.**
- **Too many options** ... especially hard for newcomers.
- **how to structure a project [on disk]**
- molecule setup can be finicky sometimes not works as intended
- Chaos ensues very quickly **if no company standards are in place.**
Structuring the SCM to best enable teams to automate independently, without having to reinvent the wheel, is a big challenge
- I'm new too coding overall and the ansible lint extension for vscode marks up a lot of errors even though it works. It's enjoying and **I don't know how to interpret the feedback** I get from the linter.



Where do we go next?

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So, what did we learn in 2024:

- The Ansible community is great, though I guess we already knew that
- Reducing fragmentation, and building consistency in communication empowers our community.
- The survey really confirmed what we thought, that there isn't a clear story for:
 - Tooling for create, test, deploy especially for Collection
 - Which results in un-opinionated documentation, or worse conflicting documentation
 - Meaning confusion, inconsistency and lower quality content
- So, lets reduce fragmentation in tooling and build more consistency

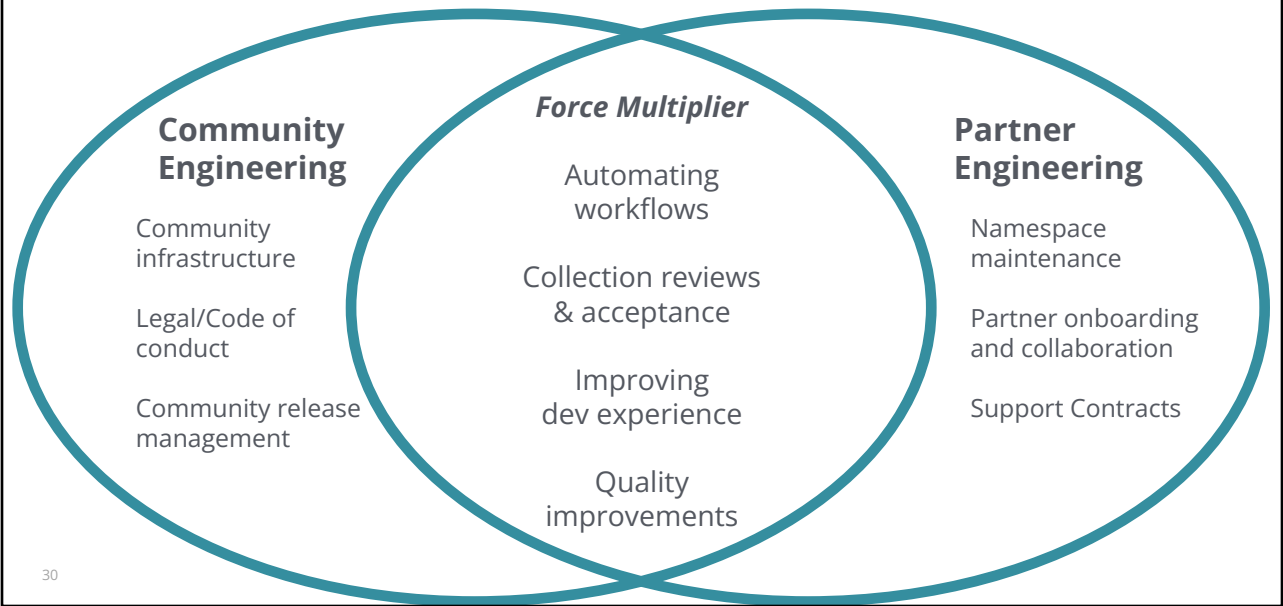
So, how do we improve this?

A lot of you, know the Ansible Community Team at Red Hat, our role is empowering the Ansible Community, and as you'd expect a lot of focus on Collection and helping other projects.

There's another Red Hat team that supports Red Hat ISV Partners getting their Collections into Automation Hub. ISV Partners need opinionated documentation, testing & workflows that "just work" and meet the Ansible Standard. This exactly

what our Community needs as well

So some of you might have worked out where I'm going, so when we create a Venn diagram of these two team



Let's remove the artificial split
All of these Red Hatters are here to improve Ansible

Left is Community Engineering, Right is Partner Engineering
Middle shows the massive overlap.
Having a unified team to help all collection maintainers raises the quality for everybody.

At the end of 2024, we merged these teams, so expect to see Einat & Tray around on the Forum, Matrix and our various communities more often

So, bring this back to actions, the central overlapping section is all the good stuff that helps moving things forward, in Red Hat we call this the "Force Multiplier"

So to bring this back to CfgMgmtCamp & Contributors Summit,
We hear you

You've given clear feedback that the the tools & scaffolding need to be improved, and this is part of how this team, and the Ansible Dev Tools team can work with you, the wider community to move forward.

We feel, though please do give us feedback, is that understanding the different tools and getting far more opinionated will

Survey -> Easier to create good quality content (what is good quality, tools&scaffolding) -> Mon/Tue -> Contributors Summit (Discussions, Labs, ideas) -> Follow in the Forum

Similar to reduce fragmentation in Communication, it's the same though for tooling & processes

opinionated paths

- FIXME: Look at Beyond Copy Paste
- FIXME: Andrei Survey on Tools

Making it easier for everybody to write good quality Ansible content by:

- LIST SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES



In B.1.017

red.ht/ansible-contributors-summit

- 10:00-12:30
 - Building the Ansible Pilot community
 - How to become an Ansible Contributor
 - Ansible Core: A detailed look at Ansible handlers
 - Contributing to Ansible collections
 - Recording Ansible benchmarking
- 13:30-16:00 **DevTools Workshop**
 - Connect your laptop to WiFi, runs in browser
 - Discussion on how we can further improve
 - Open discussion for any other topics

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Morning

Good mix of talks, loads of experts from the community, expect active discussion and lively Q&A

[red-DOT-ht](https://red-dot-ht.com) link in the top right will take you to the HackMD we are using to collaborate during Wednesday

SHOW OF HANDS:

- Who is planning on attending Contributors Summit on Wednesday?

DevTools Workshop

- You only need a web browser
- Although we are using VScode, that's just a wrapper around the CLI tooling
- The point here isn't just to force you to use the tools, it's the chance for you to get your hand son the tooling, so we can have an informed discussion on how we could use the tooling to improve the Developer Experience
- We need your feedback, and get some actionable feedback on how to improve the development experience, good bad and ugly
- So bring your ideas

Thank you!!

- Carol Chen, Greg Sutcliffe, Leo Gallego, and Don Naro
- All the organisers & sponsors Config Management Camp
- You folks

Recap

- We've had a great 2024
- Reducing fragmentation pays off
- Let's get opinionated (about tooling)

Actions

- Join the Forum, Scan the QR code on the booth
- Join the Contributor Summit on Wednesday in room B.1.017
- red.ht/ansible-contributors-summit
- Make your voice heard in the Forum



Thanks!

Feedback via red.ht/ansible-contributors-summit

Forum: <https://forum.ansible.com/u/gundalow/>

Matrix:

[#community:ansible.com](https://matrix.to/#/#community:ansible.com)

[#social:ansible.com](https://social.ansible.com)

Email: ansible-community@redhat.com

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