



## **ANSIBLE AUTOMATES**

# How to leverage Ansible Security Automation if you are a Dev or a SecOp

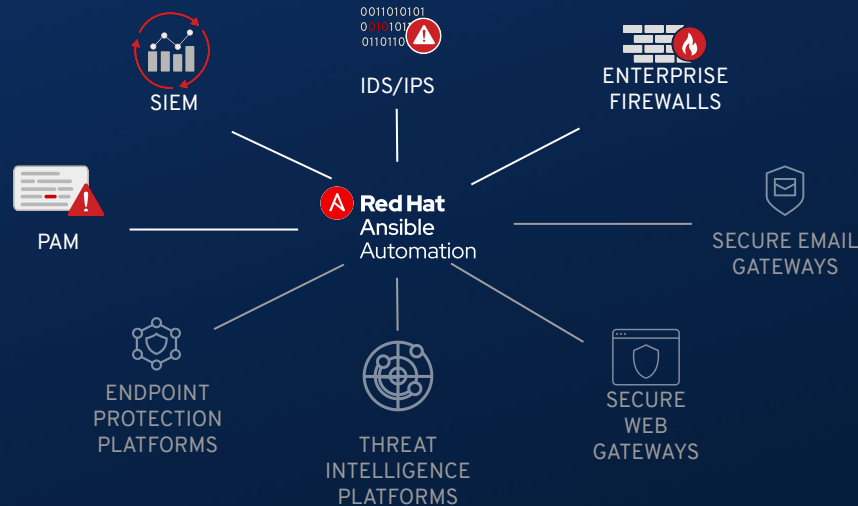
Chris Tjon  
Senior Solutions Architect



# ANSIBLE SECURITY AUTOMATION

# WHAT IS IT?

Ansible Security Automation is our expansion deeper into the security use case. The goal is to provide a more efficient, streamlined way for security teams to automate their various processes for the identification, search, and response to security events.



# WHY ANSIBLE SECURITY AUTOMATION?



“““

“For one, security teams are overwhelmed. **The average security team typically examines less than 5% of the alerts flowing into them every day (and in many cases, much less than that).**”

Venturebeat

57% of respondents said the  
**time to resolve an incident has increased**

65% reported the  
**severity of attacks has increased**

Ponemon Institute

63% of respondents say their leaders understand that **automation, machine learning, artificial intelligence and orchestration** strengthens cyber resilience.

Ponemon Institute

Source:

<https://venturebeat.com/2017/12/16/the-lesson-behind-2017s-biggest-enterprise-security-story/>  
The Third Annual Study on the Cyber Resilient Organization - Ponemon Institute (Sponsored by IBM)

# WHAT TYPES OF DEVICES? WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?



## Security Information & Events Management

splunk>

IBM

## Enterprise Firewalls



Check Point  
SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGIES LTD

CISCO



FORTINET

## Intrusion Detection & Prevention Systems



SNORT



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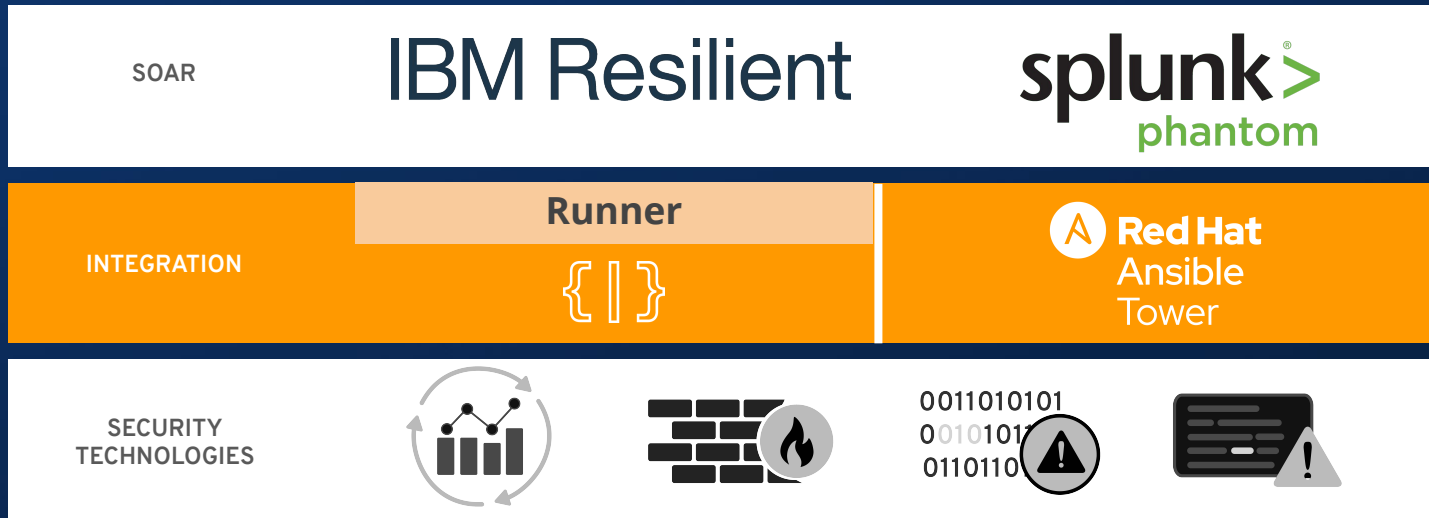
## Privileged Access Management



CYBERARK

syncope

# ANSIBLE INTEGRATION WITH SOAR

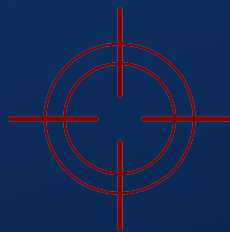


# WHICH **SOC** ACTIVITIES CAN BENEFIT THE MOST FROM AUTOMATION?



## Triage Of Suspicious Activities

Enabling programmatic access to log configurations such as destination, verbosity, etc.



## Threat Hunting

Automating alerts, correlation searches and signature manipulation



## Incident Response

Creating new security policies to whitelist, blacklist or quarantine a machine

# WHAT **DEVOPS** ACTIVITIES CAN BENEFIT THE MOST FROM AUTOMATION?



## Deployment

Ensure Code Deployment Commit  
Has Firewall Rules, IDS Signatures,  
Passes Validation



## Baselining

Update relevant security tools to  
understand the application  
behaviour



## Integration

Interact with the broader corporate  
infrastructure

# FIREWALL MANAGEMENT

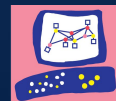
# BLACKLIST THE ATTACKER IP ON CHECK POINT NGFW



## INCIDENT RESPONSE

Creating new security policies to whitelist, blacklist or quarantine a machine

```
- hosts: checkpoint
  connection: httpapi
  tasks:
  - name: Create blacklist IP
    include_role:
      name: acl_manager
      tasks_from: blacklist_ip
  vars:
    source_ip: "{{ attacker_ip }}"
    destination_ip: "{{ target_ip }}"
    ansible_network_os: checkpoint
```



**Check Point**  
SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGIES LTD

# BLACKLIST THE ATTACKER URL ON CISCO FTD



## INCIDENT RESPONSE

Creating new security policies to whitelist, blacklist or quarantine a machine

```
- hosts: ftd
  connection: httpapi
  tasks:
    - name: Create blacklist URL
      include_role:
        name: acl_manager
        tasks_from: blacklist_url
      vars:
        blacklist_url_type: url
        blacklist_name: "attacker_url"
        blacklist_url_description: "Attacker url
description"
        blacklist_url: www.attacker.com
        ansible_network_os: cisco_ftd
```



# BRING IT INTO DEV WORKFLOWS WITH CI



## DEPLOYMENT

Ensure CI Security  
Environment Setup on  
Fresh Deployment Code  
Commit Has Firewall  
Rules, IDS Signatures,  
Passes Validation

```
- hosts: checkpoint
  connection: httpapi
  tasks:
  - name: Grant Access to App Floating IP
    include_role:
      name: acl_manager
      tasks_from: whitelist_ip
  vars:
    source_ip: *
    destination_ip: "{{ app_float_ip }}"
    ansible_network_os: checkpoint
```



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# BRING IT INTO DEV WORKFLOWS WITH CI

✓ Tower Workshops Compatibility Pipeline < 366

Pipeline

Changes

Tests

Artifacts

🔄

⚙️

📄

Logout

✕

Branch: —

🕒 33m 48s

No changes

Commit: —

🕒 12 hours ago

Started by timer with parameters: {TOWER\_VERSION=devrel, ANSIBLE\_VERSION=stable-2.8}

The diagram illustrates a CI pipeline for Tower Workshops. It begins with a 'Start' node, followed by 'Build Information', 'Retrieve ansible/worksho...', and 'Prep Environment', each marked with a green checkmark. The pipeline then branches into three 'Workshop Type' paths: 'F5', 'Netwo...', and 'RHEL'. Each path contains a 'deploy' step (F5-deploy, networking-deploy, RHEL-deploy) and a 'teardown' step (F5-teardown, networking-teardown, RHEL-teardown). All steps are marked with green checkmarks, except for 'RHEL-deploy' which is highlighted with a blue circle. The pipeline concludes with 'Cleaning up in case of failure' and an 'End' node.

RHEL-deploy - 22m 54s

🔄 Restart Workshop Type

📄

⬇️

✓

▼ Shell Script

22m 53s

```
1 + ansible-playbook provisioner/provision_lab.yml -e @provisioner/tests/vars.yml -e workshop_type=rhel -e ec2_name_prefix=tower-qe-
  rhel-tower-devrel-null-366-stable-2.8 -e tower_installer_url=http://nightlies.testing.ansible.com/ansible-
  tower_nightlies_m8u16fz56qr6q7/devrel/setup/ansible-tower-setup-latest.tar.gz -e gpgcheck=0 -e
  aw_repo_url=http://nightlies.testing.ansible.com/ansible-tower_nightlies_m8u16fz56qr6q7/devrel -e
  ansible_workshops_url=https://github.com/ansible/workshops.git -e ansible_workshops_version=devrel
2 + tee rhel.log
3
4 PLAY [Perform Checks to make sure this Playbook will complete successfully] ****
5
6 TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
7 ok: [localhost]
8
```

# INTRUSION DETECTION/PREVENTION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

# IMPLEMENTING A NEW SIGNATURE ON SNORT IDS



## THREAT HUNTING

Automating alerts,  
correlation searches  
and signature  
manipulation

```
vars:
  ids_provider: snort
  protocol: tcp
  source_port: any
  source_ip: any
  dest_port: any
  dest_ip: any

tasks:
  - name: Add snort password attack rule
    include_role:
      name: "ids_rule"
    vars:
      ids_rule: 'alert {{protocol}} {{source_ip}} {{source_port}}
-> {{dest_ip}} {{dest_port}} (msg:"Attempted DDoS Attack";
uricontent:"/ddos_simulation"; classtype:successful-dos;
sid:99000010; priority:1; rev:1;)'
      ids_rules_file: '/etc/snort/rules/local.rules'
      ids_rule_state: present
```



# IMPLEMENTING A NEW IPS SENSOR ON FORTINET FORTIOS



## BASELINING

Update relevant  
security tools to  
understand the  
application behaviour

```
- hosts: fortios
vars:
  vdom: "root"
tasks:
  - name: Configure IPS Sensor
    fortios_ips_custom:
      vdom: "{{ vdom }}"
      https: "False"
      ssl_verify: "False"
      state: "present"
      ips_sensor:
        name: default2
        comment: Prevent critical attacks.
        replacemsg_group: ''
        block_malicious_url: disable
        extended_log: disable
        entries:
          - id: 1
            rule: []
            location: all
            severity: 'medium high critical '
            protocol: all
            os: all
            application: all
            status: default
            log: enable
            log_packet: disable
            log_attack_context: disable
            action: default
            rate_count: 0
            rate_duration: 60
            rate_mode: continuous
            rate_track: none
            exempt_ip: []
            quarantine: none
            quarantine_expiry: 5m
            quarantine_log: enable
        filter: []
        override: []
```



# DEVSECOPS REAL WORLD SCENARIO – ZUUL CI

The screenshot displays the Zuul CI web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Zuul logo and links for API, Documentation, and Tenant ansible. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs for Status, Projects, Jobs, Labels, Nodes, Builds, and Buildsets. The main content area shows a list of playbooks, each with a status icon (a circle with an 'i') and the label 'Trusted'. The playbooks are:

- > Pre playbook (github.com/ansible/project-config/playbooks/base-minimal/pre.yaml)
- > Pre playbook (github.com/ansible/ansible-zuul-jobs/playbooks/base/pre.yaml)
- > Pre playbook (opendev.org/zuul-zuul-jobs/playbooks/unittests/pre.yaml)
- > Pre playbook (opendev.org/zuul-zuul-jobs/playbooks/tox/pre.yaml)
- ✓ Run playbook (opendev.org/zuul-zuul-jobs/playbooks/tox/run.yaml) - This playbook is expanded.

The expanded 'Run playbook' section shows a list of tasks with their status and the target node (fedora-29). The tasks are:

- Play: all
- revoke-sudo: Check if zuul is sudoer (CHANGED)
- revoke-sudo: Remove sudo access for zuul user. (CHANGED)
- > revoke-sudo: Prove that general sudo access is actually revoked. (CHANGED)
- tox: Require tox\_envlist variable (SKIPPED)
- tox: Check to see if the constraints file exists (SKIPPED)
- tox: Fail if constraints file is missing (SKIPPED)
- tox: Record file location (SKIPPED)
- > tox: Run tox without tests (CHANGED)
- > tox: Install any sibling python packages (OK)
- > tox: Emit tox command (OK)
- > tox: Run tox (CHANGED)

Below the expanded playbook, there are more playbooks in the list:

- > Post playbook (opendev.org/zuul-zuul-jobs/playbooks/tox/post.yaml)
- > Post playbook (opendev.org/zuul-zuul-jobs/playbooks/unittests/post.yaml)
- > Post playbook (github.com/ansible/project-config/playbooks/base-minimal/post-ssh.yaml) - This playbook has a status icon and the label 'Trusted'.

# SECURITY INFORMATION & EVENT MANAGEMENT (SIEM)

# ADD LOG SOURCE AND ENABLE SIEM RULE TO GENERATE OFFENSES



## TRIAGE OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

Enabling programmatic access to log configurations such as destination, verbosity, etc.

```
- name: Create a QRadar Log Source and Enable Offense Rule
hosts: qradar
collections:
  - ibm.qradar
tasks:
  - name: Create QRadar Log Source - CheckPoint
    qradar_log_source_management:
      name: "CheckPoint LogSource: {{ chkpnt_ip_addr }}"
      type_name: "Check Point FireWall-1"
      state: present
      description: "Automated Creation of CheckPoint LS"
      identifier: "{{ chkpnt_ip_addr }}"

  - name: Enable Remote Excessive Firewall Denies Rule
    qradar_rule:
      name: "Excessive Firewall Denies from Remote Host"
      state: enabled
```



# ADD LOG SOURCE AND ENABLE SIEM RULE TO GENERATE OFFENSES



## TRIAGE OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

Enabling programmatic access to log configurations such as destination, verbosity, etc.

```
- name: Get info about Qradar Offense - Excessive Offense
  qradar_offense_info:
    name: "Excessive Offense"
    register: offense_info

- name: Assign Actions to Offense
  qradar_offense_action:
    id: offense_info["offenses"][0]["id"]
    status: "hidden"
    assigned_to: "admin"
    protected: false

- name: Add Note to Offense
  qradar_offense_note:
    id: offense_info["offenses"][0]["id"]
    note_text: "Run investigate_offense.yml playbook"
```



# ADD LOG SOURCE AND ENABLE SIEM RULE TO GENERATE OFFENSES



## INTEGRATION

Interact with the  
broader corporate  
infrastructure

```
- name: Create a Splunk Enterprise Security Input
hosts: splunk
collections:
  - splunk.enterprise_security
tasks:
  - name: Create Splunk Log Source - Web AppX
    splunk_data_input_network:
      name: "Web AppX Log Source {{ appx_id }}"
      port: "8099"
      state: present
  - name: Create Splunk Correlation Search - Web AppX
    splunk_correlation_search:
      name: "Web AppX Correlation Search"
      description: "Web AppX Correlation Search Info"
      search: 'source="Web AppX Log Source {{ appx_id }}"'
      state: "present"
```



# SECOPS REAL WORLD SCENARIO



Generates an **offense** from an anomaly on the intranet perimeter or outbound traffic from an internal machine.



An **investigation is opened** and populated with all relevant data.



The IP address is **added to the blacklist** on Firepower through FTD.



The **offense** criteria are no longer met.



The investigation is **populated** with data from the actions taken.

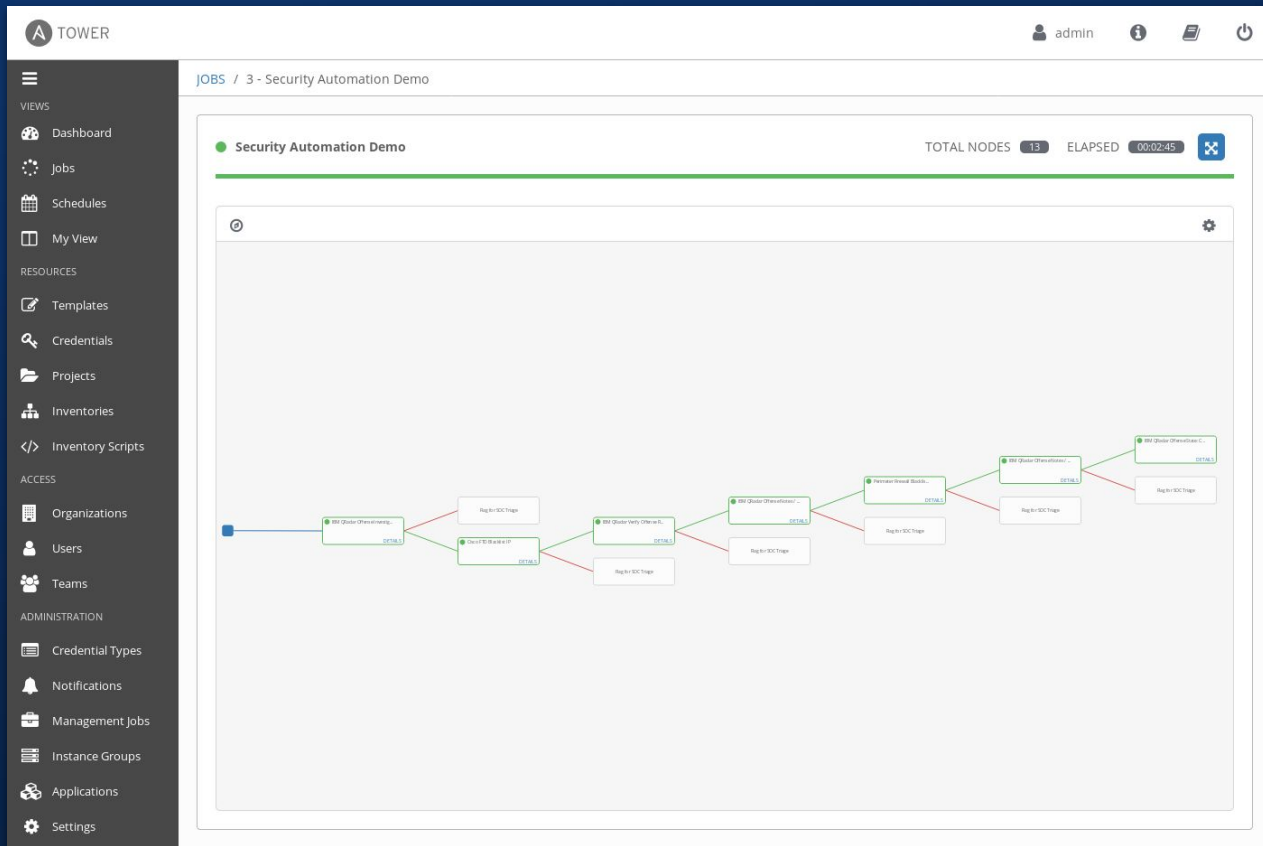


The IP address is **added to the blacklist** on the other firewalls in the perimeter.

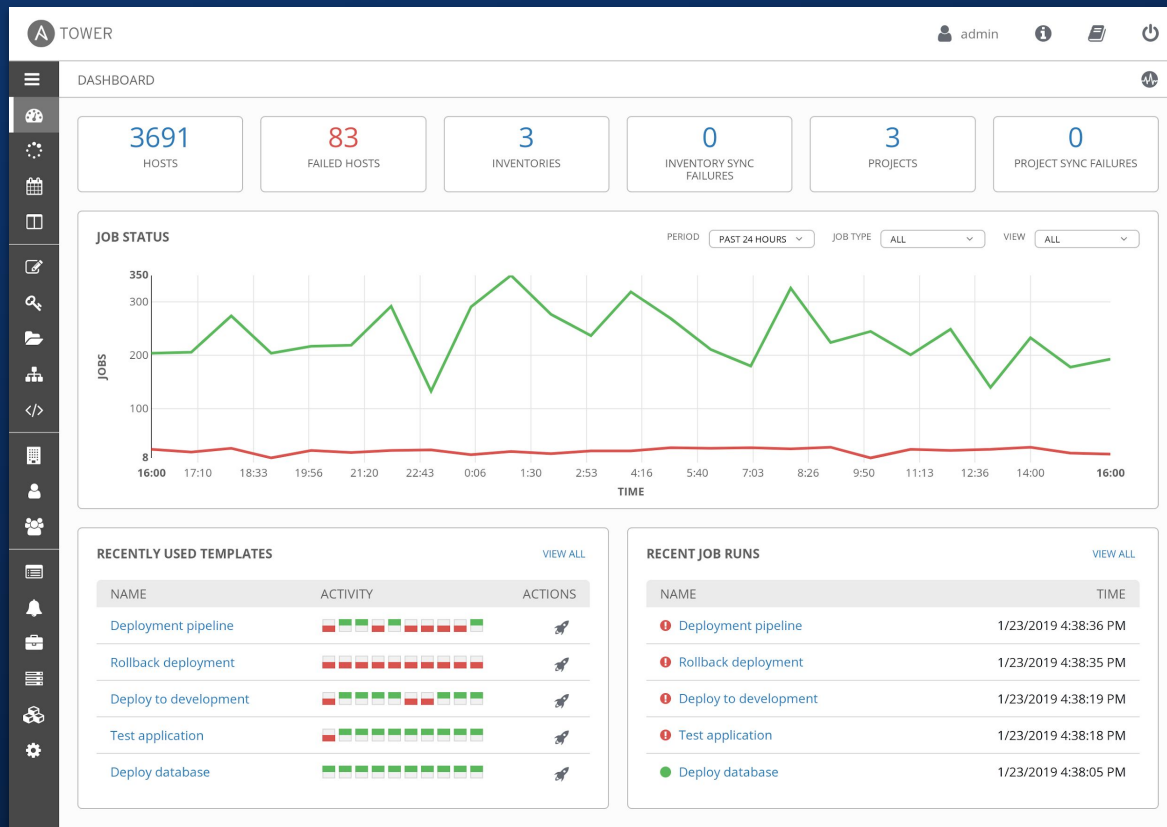


The investigation is **populated** with data from the actions taken and then **closed**. The **offense** on QRadar is **closed**.

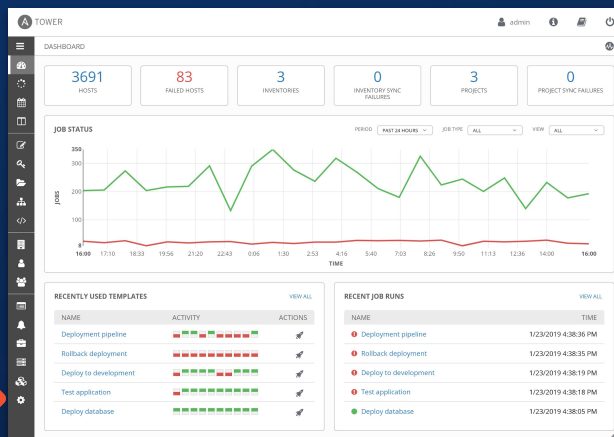
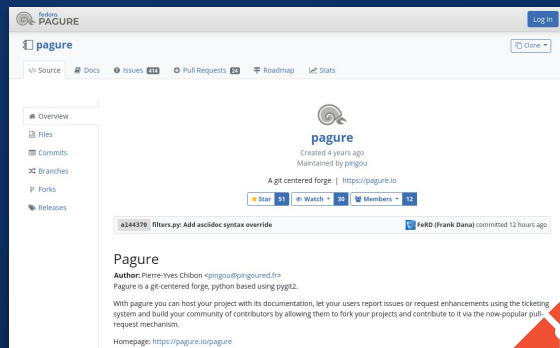
# SECOPS REAL WORLD SCENARIO



# DEV REAL WORLD SCENARIO DEPLOY WITH TOWER



# DEVSECOPS



The screenshot shows the 'LAUNCH JOB' form in Ansible Tower. The form has three tabs: 'INVENTORY', 'CREDENTIAL', and 'SURVEY'. The 'INVENTORY' tab is selected. The form contains several fields: 'ENTER NUMBER OF SERVICE INSTANCES' (set to 2), 'PLEASE SELECT THE SERVICE OWNER' (set to Alice), and 'ENTER PASSWORD FOR DEPLOYED CERTIFICATE' (set to \*\*\*\*\*). There are also buttons for 'CLOUD STAGING SERVERS', 'CREDENTIAL', 'CLOUD STAGING SSH KEY', 'CANCEL', and 'LAUNCH'.



# RELEVANT RESOURCES

Ansible.com: <https://www.ansible.com/use-cases/security-automation>

Access: <https://access.redhat.com/articles/4001711>

Galaxy: [https://galaxy.ansible.com/ansible\\_security](https://galaxy.ansible.com/ansible_security)  
<https://galaxy.ansible.com/ibm/qradar>  
[https://galaxy.ansible.com/splunk/enterprise\\_security](https://galaxy.ansible.com/splunk/enterprise_security)  
<https://galaxy.ansible.com/cyberark>

GitHub: <https://github.com/ansible-security>

IRC: #ansible-security on [irc.freenode.net](https://freenode.net)

THANK YOU!



# NARRATIVE

- Ansible security automation intro
  - Ansible security automation history
  - Ansible security automation available platforms/content
- How SecOps will consume ASA vs how Developers will consume the same content
  - SecOps using Ansible for Response and Remediation > Our use cases
  - Developers using Ansible for Deployment > Web App CI/CD
- Example 1: Firewall management
  - SecOps use these modules to blacklist/whitelist an IP/URL as a result of an investigation
  - Devs use these modules to open all the relevant ports on the corporate firewalls when deploying a new application
- Example 2: IDS management
  - SecOps use these modules for threat hunting proactively updating the signatures
  - Devs use these modules to update snort signatures and identify what is and is not valid traffic
- Example 3: SIEM management
  - SecOps use these modules to enable relevant search queries and update investigations
  - Devs use these module to send the relevant logs of the new workloads to the SIEM
- All of that comes together
  - For SecOps to fully automate end to end investigation and remediation processes
  - For Devs to integrate security tools in their CI/CD pipeline
- The future
  - DevSecOps > Ansible security automation will support code/dev oriented security tools and Ansible language can be used as the defacto standard for interactions between SecOps and Dev