



# Ubuntu OS & Service Patch Management Using Ansible

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# About Me



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I am Ubuntu user & technology enthusiast.  
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# Topics

- ✓ Introduction Patch Management
- ✓ What is Patch Management?
- ✓ Why Should You Use Automation?
- ✓ Why Choose Ansible for Patch Management?
- ✓ How to Patch Ubuntu Manually?
- ✓ How to use Ansible for Ubuntu OS & Service Patch Management?

# Introduction

## Patch Management

To patch just one system, the administrator must identify that a patch is available, download it, and then deploy it to the system. In an enterprise environment, there could be hundreds of servers to manage, so the job of patch management becomes an all-day responsibility with the added risk of reboot fails after installation. Instead of manual updates, administrators can free up time and organize patches using automation tools.



# What is Patch Management?

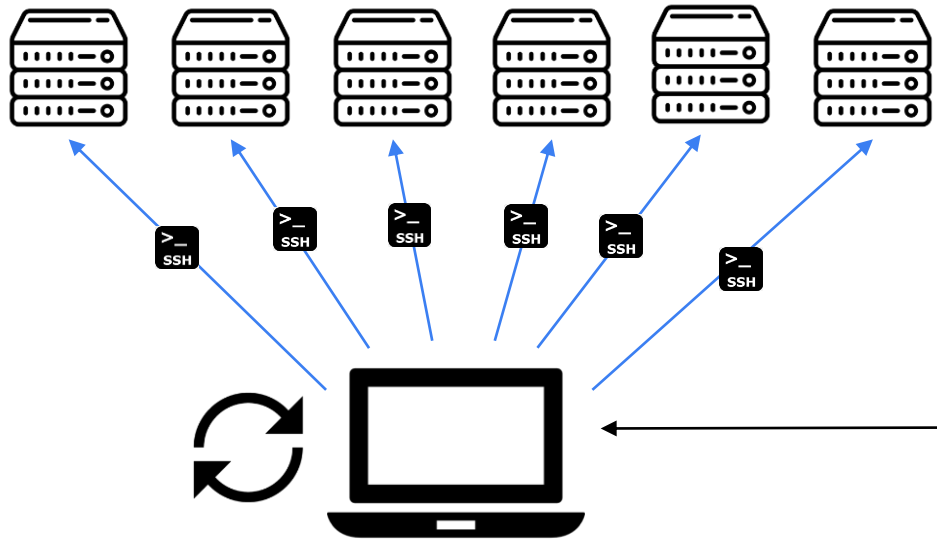
administrators should understand the importance of patching Linux regularly. Administrators could simply patch a Linux system manually, but this leads to human errors, and rollbacks due to issues after installation are tricky. Human errors could lead to severely long downtimes when mistakes are made. It's also time consuming to manually patch when several patches are necessary.

# Why is Patch Management Important?

Unpatched public-facing web servers are a critical issue for cybersecurity, but cybersecurity isn't the only reason to patch Linux. Patching also remediates bugs and adds functionality to software. Some patches fix issues with drivers and software running on the system. Large updates add functionality to the operating system.

The longer administrators wait to patch a system, the more patches will be needed to get the system up to date. This issue increases the time it takes to fully patch a Linux server.

# Why Should You Use Automation?



## Administrator Note

- Check service
- Check available update
- Apt update
- Check list upgradable
- Upgrade all / upgrade specific package
- Check reboot required
- Reboot
- Wait booting process
- SSH and verification

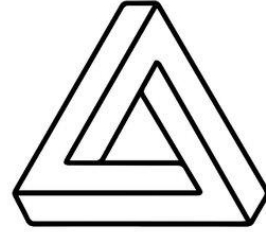


ANSIBLE

VS

ManageEngine  
Patch Manager Plus

VS



AUTOMOX



# Why choose ansible for patch management

Ansible is one of the automation tools that does not require an agent because Ansible performs node management with an SSH connection. Ansible only requires 1 server as a management node to push commands to all nodes in the inventory. Ansible is easier and more practical than other management tools such as puppet because it does not require an agent on each node, only uses an ssh connection.

# How to update Ubuntu?

## \$ apt-update ?

```
Hit:4 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic InRelease
Get:5 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates InRelease [88.7 kB]
Get:6 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/restricted Sources [20.8 kB]
Get:7 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports InRelease [74.6 kB]
Get:8 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/universe Sources [280 kB]
Get:9 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/universe Sources [9051 kB]
Get:10 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/main amd64 Packages [1845 kB]
Get:11 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/main Translation-en [338 kB]
Get:12 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/restricted amd64 Packages [419 kB]
Get:13 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/main Sources [829 kB]
Get:14 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/restricted Translation-en [56.1 kB]
Get:15 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/restricted Sources [5324 B]
Get:16 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/universe amd64 Packages [1136 kB]
Get:17 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/multiverse Sources [181 kB]
Get:18 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/universe amd64 Packages [8570 kB]
Get:19 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/universe Translation-en [258 kB]
Get:20 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/multiverse amd64 Packages [20.9 kB]
Get:21 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/multiverse Translation-en [4732 B]
Get:22 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/universe Translation-en [4941 kB]
Get:23 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/multiverse amd64 Packages [151 kB]
Get:24 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/multiverse Translation-en [108 kB]
Get:25 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/main Sources [516 kB]
Get:26 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/universe Sources [454 kB]
Get:27 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/multiverse Sources [15.8 kB]
Get:28 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/restricted Sources [23.7 kB]
Get:29 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/main amd64 Packages [2191 kB]
Get:30 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/main Translation-en [430 kB]
Get:31 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/restricted amd64 Packages [443 kB]
Get:32 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/restricted Translation-en [59.9 kB]
Get:33 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/universe amd64 Packages [1747 kB]
Get:34 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/universe Translation-en [374 kB]
Get:35 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/multiverse amd64 Packages [27.3 kB]
Get:36 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/multiverse Translation-en [6808 B]
Get:37 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports/universe Sources [5360 B]
Get:38 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports/main Sources [5440 B]
Get:39 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports/main amd64 Packages [10.0 kB]
Get:40 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports/main Translation-en [4764 B]
Get:41 http://az-01.clouds.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports/universe amd64 Packages [10.3 kB]
96% [22 Translation-en store 0 B] [Waiting for headers] 3884 kB/s 0s]
```

Updates the list of available packages and their versions, but it does not install or upgrade any packages.

# How to update Ubuntu?

## **\$ apt-upgrade ?**

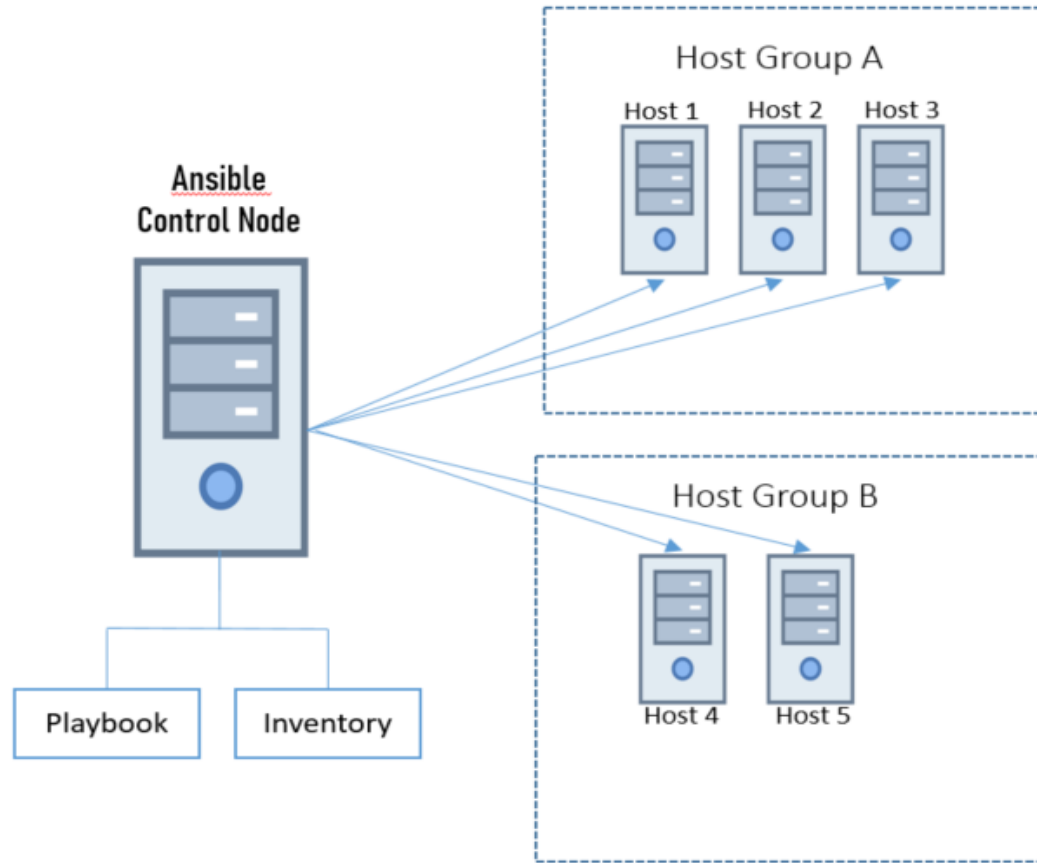
Used to install all the available upgrades of packages which are currently installed on the system.

Using apt-get upgrade, packages currently installed with new versions available are retrieved and upgraded, under no circumstances are currently installed packages removed, or packages not already installed retrieved and installed.

## \$ apt list --upgradable

## \$ apt upgrade

1232 kB/s 1m 54s



# How to use Ansible for Ubuntu OS & Service Patch Management?

## How to Install Ansible

```
$ sudo apt update
$ sudo apt install ansible

....
[all:vars]
ansible_connection=ssh
ansible_user=master
ansible_ssh_pass=vagrant
....
```

## Setting Inventory

```
[webserver]
web-1 ansible_host=192.168.1.74 ansible_port=3212
web-2 ansible_host=web-2
web-3 ansible_host=web-3
[dbserver]
db-1 ansible_host=db-1
db-2 ansible_host=db-2
[all:vars]
ansible_python_interpreter=/usr/bin/python3
```

```
ubuntu@controlnode:~$ sudo ssh-copy-id root@db-1
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: Source of key(s) to be installed: "/root/.ssh/id_rsa.pub"
The authenticity of host 'db-1 (192.168.1.23)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:FsqSsgjM07nk3obqb+LIKxeuFhLaNW3RHC0SL39kth8.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: attempting to log in with the new key(s), to filter out any that are already installed
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: 1 key(s) remain to be installed -- if you are prompted now it is to install the new keys
root@db-1's password: █
```

1

# Playbook for Patch Ubuntu OS

```
1 ---
2 ##### Ansible Playbook to perform Kernel Patching on Ubuntu Servers #####
3
4 - hosts: all
5   become: yes
6   become_user: root
7
8   tasks:
9
10    - name: Task 1 - verify web/database processes are not running
11      shell: if ps -eaf | egrep 'apache|http|nginx|mysql|postgresql|mariadb'|grep -v grep > /dev/null ;then echo 'process_running';else echo 'process_not_running'
12      ignore_errors: true
13      register: app_process_check
14
15    - name: Task 2 - decision point to start patching
16      fail: msg="{{ inventory_hostname }}" have running Application. Please stop the application processes first, then attempt patching."
17      when: app_process_check.stdout == "process_running"
18
19    - name: Task 3 - upgrade kernel package on Ubuntu server
20      apt:
21        update_cache: yes
22        force_apt_get: yes
23        cache_valid_time: 3600
24        name: linux-image-generic
25        state: latest
26      when: app_process_check.stdout == "process_not_running"
27      register: apt_update
28
29    - name: Update apt repo and package cache
30      apt:
31        update_cache: yes
32        force_apt_get: yes
33        cache_valid_time: 3600
```



# Playbook for Patch Ubuntu OS

```
34
35 - name: Upgrade all packages
36   apt:
37     upgrade: dist
38     force_apt_get: yes
39
40 - name: Task 4 - Check if a reboot is needed on all servers
41   register: reboot_required_file_existence
42   stat: path=/var/run/reboot-required get_md5=no
43
44 - name: Task 5 - Reboot servers if kernel is updated
45   reboot:
46     msg: "Rebooting the servers after applying Kernel Updates"
47     connect_timeout: 5
48     reboot_timeout: 300
49     pre_reboot_delay: 0
50     post_reboot_delay: 30
51     test_command: uptime
52   when: reboot_required_file_existence.stat.exists
53
54 - name: Task 6 - pause for 180 secs
55   pause:
56     minutes: 3
57
58 - name: Task 7 - check if all the systems responding to ssh
59   local_action:
60     module: wait_for
61     host={{ (ansible_ssh_host|default(ansible_host))|default(inventory_hostname) }}
62     port=22
63     search_regex=OpenSSH
64     delay=15
65     timeout=300
66     state=started
67
```

```

Process: 13669 ExecStartPre=/usr/sbin/nginx -q -g daemon on; master_process on; (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
Main PID: 13683 (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)

Aug 17 09:47:40 web-1 systemd[1]: Starting A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server...
Aug 17 09:47:40 web-1 systemd[1]: nginx.service: Failed to parse PID from file /run/nginx.pid: Invalid argument
Aug 17 09:47:40 web-1 systemd[1]: Started A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server.
Aug 17 10:30:20 web-1 systemd[1]: Stopping A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server...
Aug 17 10:30:20 web-1 systemd[1]: Stopped A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server.non-zero return code
web-2 | FAILED | rc=3 >>
● nginx.service - A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/nginx.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
   Active: inactive (dead) since Tue 2021-08-17 10:30:27 UTC; 25min ago
     Docs: man:nginx(8)
  Process: 13850 ExecStop=/sbin/start-stop-daemon --quiet --stop --retry QUIT/5 --pidfile /run/nginx.pid (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
  Process: 13468 ExecStart=/usr/sbin/nginx -g daemon on; master_process on; (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
  Process: 13456 ExecStartPre=/usr/sbin/nginx -t -q -g daemon on; master_process on; (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
 Main PID: 13471 (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)

```

```

Aug 17 09:47:43 web-2 systemd[1]: Starting A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server...
Aug 17 09:47:43 web-2 systemd[1]: nginx.service: Failed to parse PID from file /run/nginx.pid: Invalid argument
Aug 17 09:47:43 web-2 systemd[1]: Started A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server.
Aug 17 10:30:27 web-2 systemd[1]: Stopping A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server...
Aug 17 10:30:27 web-2 systemd[1]: Stopped A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server.non-zero return code
web-3 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
● nginx.service - A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/nginx.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Tue 2021-08-17 09:47:40 UTC; 1h 7min ago
     Docs: man:nginx(8)
  Process: 13398 ExecStart=/usr/sbin/nginx -g daemon on; master_process on; (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
  Process: 13388 ExecStartPre=/usr/sbin/nginx -t -q -g daemon on; master_process on; (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
 Main PID: 13401 (nginx)
    Tasks: 2 (limit: 2362)
   CGroup: /system.slice/nginx.service
           └─13401 nginx: master process /usr/sbin/nginx -g daemon on; master_process on;
             └─13404 nginx: worker process

```

```

Aug 17 09:47:40 web-3 systemd[1]: Starting A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server...
Aug 17 09:47:40 web-3 systemd[1]: nginx.service: Failed to parse PID from file /run/nginx.pid: Invalid argument
Aug 17 09:47:40 web-3 systemd[1]: Started A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server.
ubuntu@controlNode:~$ sudo ansible db2 -m shell -a "service mysql status"
[WARNING]: Could not match supplied host pattern, ignoring: db2
[WARNING]: No hosts matched, nothing to do
ubuntu@controlNode:~$ sudo ansible db-22 -m shell -a "service mysql status"
[WARNING]: Could not match supplied host pattern, ignoring: db-22
[WARNING]: No hosts matched, nothing to do
ubuntu@controlNode:~$ sudo ansible db-2 -m shell -a "service mysql status"

```

```
ubuntu@controlnode:~$ sudo vim /etc/ansible/hosts
ubuntu@controlnode:~$ sudo ansible app -m shell -a "nginx -V"
app-1 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
nginx version: nginx/1.17.10 (Ubuntu)
built with OpenSSL 1.1.1f 31 Mar 2020
TLS SNI support enabled
configure arguments: --with-cc-opt='-g -O2 -fdebug-prefix-map=/build/nginx-Pmk9_C/nginx-1.17.10=. -fstack-protector-strong -Wformat -Werror=format-security -fPIC -Wdate-time -D_FORTIFY
SOURCE=2' --with-ld-opt='-Wl,-Bsymbolic-functions -Wl,-z,relro -Wl,-z,now -fPIC' --prefix=/usr/share/nginx --conf-path=/etc/nginx/nginx.conf --http-log-path=/var/log/nginx/access.log --
error-log-path=/var/log/nginx/error.log --lock-path=/var/lock/nginx.lock --pid-path=/run/nginx.pid --modules-path=/usr/lib/nginx/modules --http-client-body-temp-path=/var/lib/nginx/body
--http-fastcgi-temp-path=/var/lib/nginx/fastcgi --http-proxy-temp-path=/var/lib/nginx/proxy --http-scgi-temp-path=/var/lib/nginx/scgi --http-uwsgi-temp-path=/var/lib/nginx/uwsgi --with
-debug --with-compat --with-pcre-jit --with-http_ssl_module --with-http_stub_status_module --with-http_realip_module --with-http_auth_request_module --with-http_v2_module --with-http_da
v_module --with-http_slice_module --with-threads --with-http_addition_module --with-http_gunzip_module --with-http_gzip_static_module --with-http_image_filter_module=dynamic --with-http
_sub_module --with-http_xslt_module=dynamic --with-stream=dynamic --with-stream_ssl_module --with-mail=dynamic --with-mail_ssl_module
ubuntu@controlnode:~$
```

Thank you !