
Ansible Tower Quick Setup Guide

Release Ansible Tower 3.1.0

Red Hat, Inc.

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Thank you for your interest in Ansible Tower by Red Hat. Ansible Tower is a commercial offering that helps teams manage complex multi-tier deployments by adding control, knowledge, and delegation to Ansible-powered environments.

The *Ansible Tower Quick Setup Guide* covers basic steps for using Ansible Tower and running your first playbook. This document has been updated to include information for the latest release of Ansible Tower 3.1.0.

Ansible Tower Version 3.1.0; Feb 28, 2017; <https://access.redhat.com/>

QUICK START

Welcome to the Ansible Tower Quick Start Guide. At the end of the Quick Start, you will have a functioning Tower application that you can use to launch more sophisticated playbooks. You can expect the Quick Start process to take less than thirty minutes.

To begin, you must install Tower and you must choose a target system where an initial playbook can be deployed (provided by (Ansible Tower)). This first playbook executes simple Ansible tasks, while teaching you how to use Tower, as well as ensuring its proper setup. This can be any sort of system manageable by Ansible, as described at: http://docs.ansible.com/intro_installation.html.

Note: Ansible Tower is available in several license types: Self-Support, Enterprise: Standard, and Enterprise: Premium. These licenses vary in price, support-levels, and features. Enterprise: Standard and Enterprise: Premium license users will have access to some extended Tower features that Self-Support users will not have available. For more information about licenses and features, refer to [Licensing, Updates, and Support](#) in the Tower Installation and Reference Guide.

This Quick Start Guide covers setting up with a Self-Support level license in mind. Features only available to Enterprise: Standard or Enterprise: Premium license users are noted as you go along.


LOGIN AS A SUPERUSER

Using the login information provided after your installation completed, open a web browser and log in to Tower by browsing to the Tower server URL at: `https://<Tower server name>/`

Refer to [The Setup Playbook](#) in the *Tower Installation and Reference Guide* for more information.

Note: Tower installs a self-signed certificate for HTTPS communication which may require acceptance in your browser. Refer to the [General Installation Notes](#) in the *Tower Installation and Reference Guide* for help with replacing this certificate if needed.

Log in using the username and password set during the installation process. By default, this is username: *admin* and password: *password*.

These defaults can be changed later by clicking on the Settings () Menu button and selecting the Users navigational link.



Welcome to Ansible Tower! Please sign in.

USERNAME

admin

PASSWORD

.....

SIGN IN

IMPORT A LICENSE

Tower requires a valid license to run. If you did not receive a license from Ansible directly or via email, or have issues with the license you received, refer to <http://www.ansible.com/license> for free and paid license options (including free trial licenses) or contact Ansible via the Red Hat Customer portal at <https://access.redhat.com/>.


Note: To successfully add your license, you must be logged on as the Superuser. Otherwise, the operation will fail.

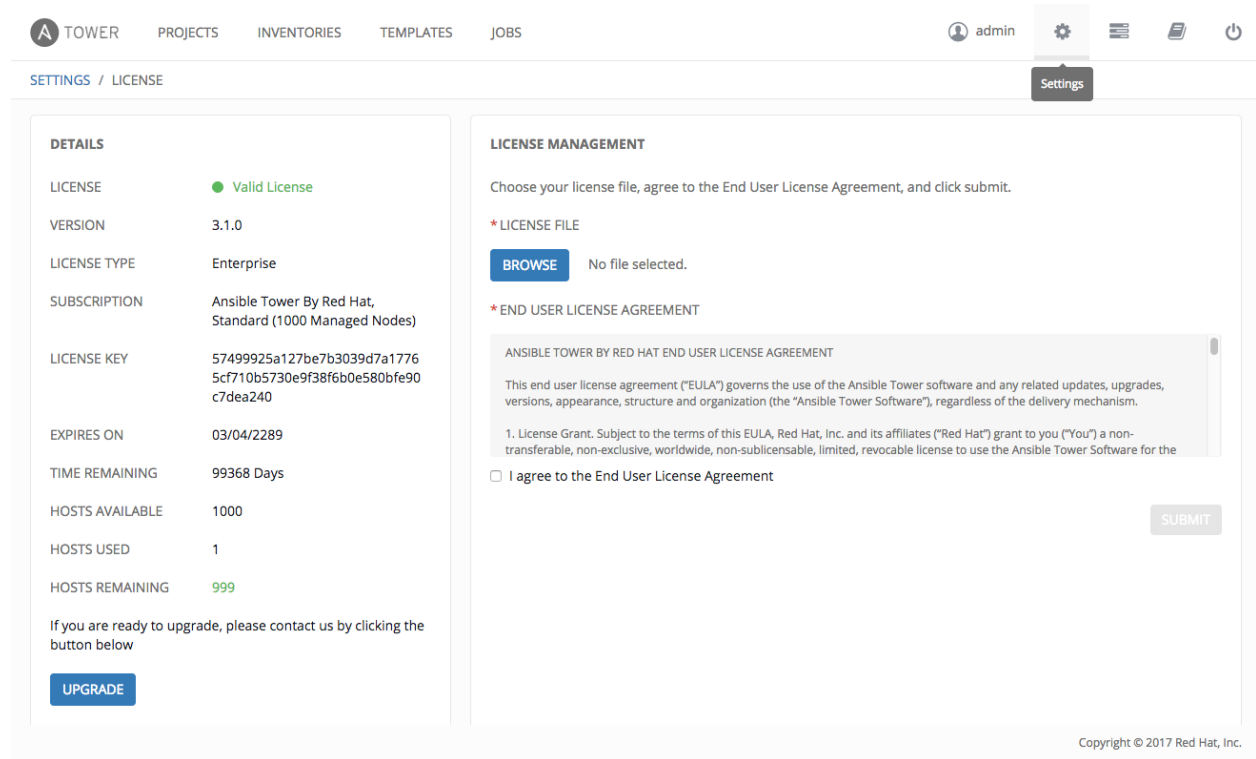
The screenshot shows the 'TOWER LICENSE' page in the Ansible Tower web interface. At the top left is the 'A TOWER' logo, and at the top right is a power icon. The main content area is a white box with a light gray border. It has a title 'TOWER LICENSE' and a welcome message: 'Welcome to Ansible Tower! Please complete the steps below to acquire a license.' There are two numbered steps: 1. 'Please click the button below to visit Ansible's website to get a Tower license key.' with a blue 'REQUEST LICENSE' button. 2. 'Choose your license file, agree to the End User License Agreement, and click submit.' This step includes a '* LICENSE FILE' section with a blue 'BROWSE' button and the text 'No file selected.' Below that is a '* END USER LICENSE AGREEMENT' section with a scrollable text area containing the agreement text and a 'SUBMIT' button. At the bottom right of the page is the copyright notice 'Copyright © 2017 Red Hat, Inc.'

To add your license:

1. Save your license (or save the license contents to a text file locally, if needed).
2. Click the **Browse** button and navigate to the location where the license file is saved to upload it. The uploaded license may be a plain text file or a JSON file, and must include properly formatted JSON code.
3. Once uploaded, check to agree to the End User License Agreement and click **Submit**.

Once your license has been accepted, Tower navigates you to the main Ansible interface for the Dashboard (which you can access by clicking on the Ansible Tower logo at the top left of the screen as well).

For later reference, you can view this license from the Settings () Menu's 'VIEW YOUR LICENSE' link.



The screenshot shows the 'Settings / LICENSE' page in Ansible Tower. The top navigation bar includes 'TOWER', 'PROJECTS', 'INVENTORIES', 'TEMPLATES', and 'JOBS'. The user is logged in as 'admin'. The 'Settings' menu is open, showing the 'LICENSE' page.

DETAILS

LICENSE	Valid License
VERSION	3.1.0
LICENSE TYPE	Enterprise
SUBSCRIPTION	Ansible Tower By Red Hat, Standard (1000 Managed Nodes)
LICENSE KEY	57499925a127be7b3039d7a17765cf710b5730e9f38fb0e580bfe90c7dea240
EXPIRES ON	03/04/2289
TIME REMAINING	99368 Days
HOSTS AVAILABLE	1000
HOSTS USED	1
HOSTS REMAINING	999

If you are ready to upgrade, please contact us by clicking the button below

UPGRADE

LICENSE MANAGEMENT

Choose your license file, agree to the End User License Agreement, and click submit.

* LICENSE FILE

BROWSE No file selected.

* END USER LICENSE AGREEMENT

ANSIBLE TOWER BY RED HAT END USER LICENSE AGREEMENT

This end user license agreement ("EULA") governs the use of the Ansible Tower software and any related updates, upgrades, versions, appearance, structure and organization (the "Ansible Tower Software"), regardless of the delivery mechanism.


1. License Grant. Subject to the terms of this EULA, Red Hat, Inc. and its affiliates ("Red Hat") grant to you ("You") a non-transferable, non-exclusive, worldwide, non-sublicensable, limited, revocable license to use the Ansible Tower Software for the

I agree to the End User License Agreement

SUBMIT

Copyright © 2017 Red Hat, Inc.

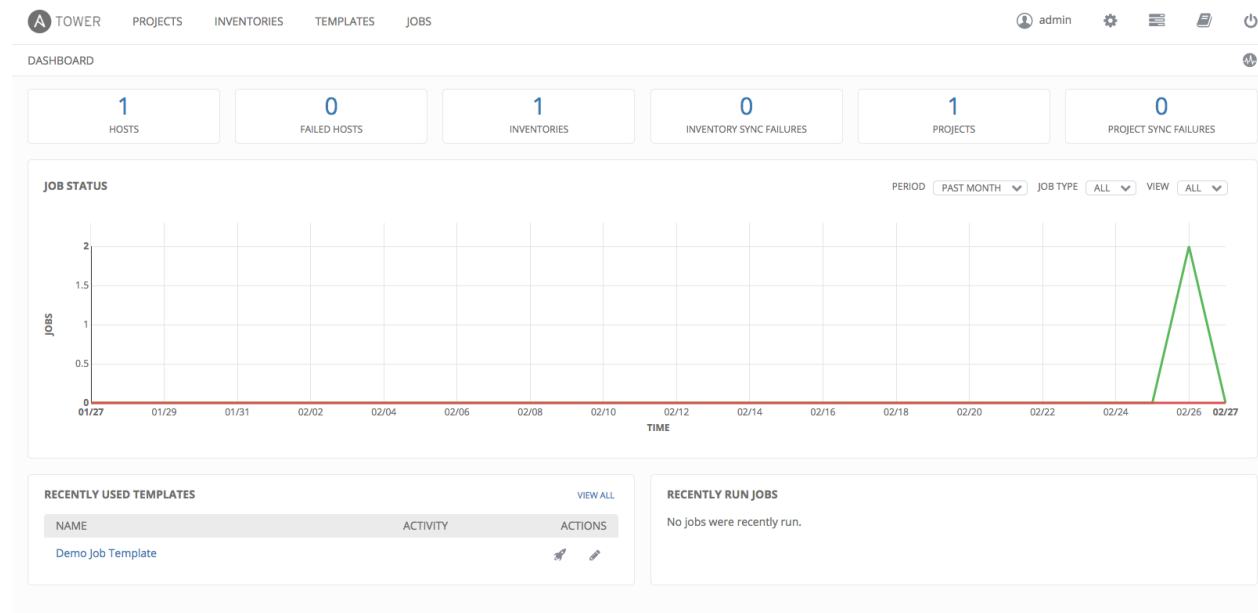
EXAMINE THE TOWER DASHBOARD

Note: Ansible Tower 3.0 provides a streamlined interface, with the Settings () button offering access to administrative configuration needs. Users of older versions of Ansible Tower (2.4.5 or older) can access most of these through the top-level navigational menu or from their “Setup” menu button.

The Tower Dashboard offers a friendly graphical framework for your IT orchestration needs. Across the top-left side of the Tower Dashboard, administrators can quickly navigate to their **Projects**, **Inventories**, **Job Templates**, and **Jobs**.

Across the top-right side of this interface, administrators can access the tools they need to configure organizations, users, groups, and permissions.


On the main Tower Dashboard screen, a summary appears listing your current **Job Status**. Also available for review are summaries of **Recently Used Job Templates** and **Recently Run Jobs**.

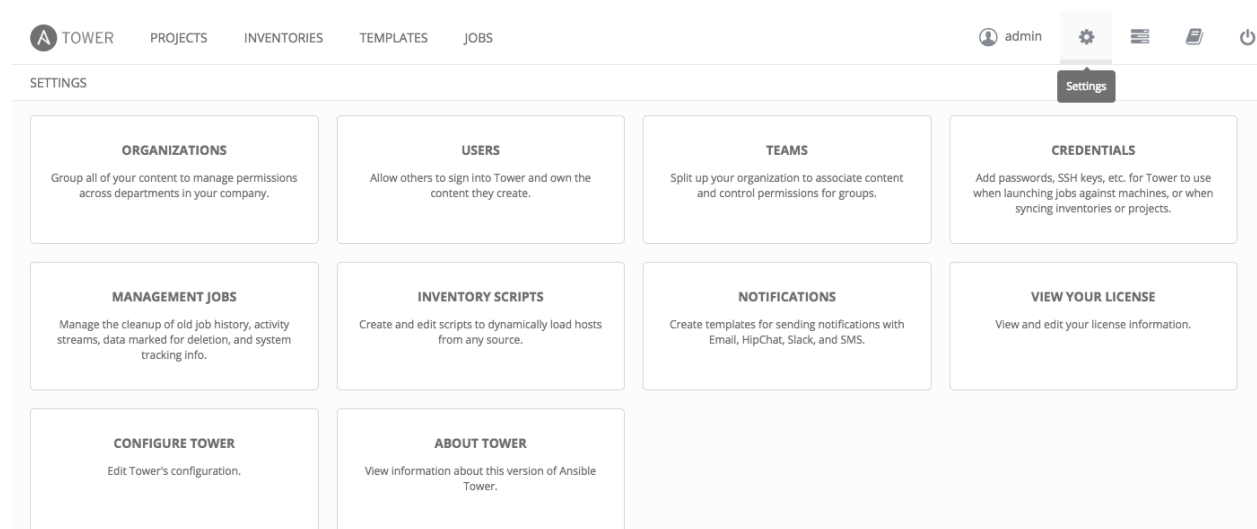


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Note: Keep in mind that the goal of this Quick Start is to launch a simple playbook. To do this, a number of configuration options must be setup. Completing the quick start configuration tasks now ensures that Tower is configured properly and allows for easier executions of more involved playbooks later on.

THE SETTINGS MENU

To enter the Settings Menu screen for Ansible Tower, click the  button. This screen allows you to create your organizations, add credentials, add users and teams, schedule management jobs, modify your Tower's configuration, and more. You can also view your license from the Settings Menu's 'View Your License' link.




The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for TOWER, PROJECTS, INVENTORIES, TEMPLATES, and JOBS. On the right side of the navigation bar, there is a user profile for 'admin' and a settings gear icon. Below the navigation bar, the 'SETTINGS' page is displayed. The settings are organized into a grid of cards, each with a title and a brief description:

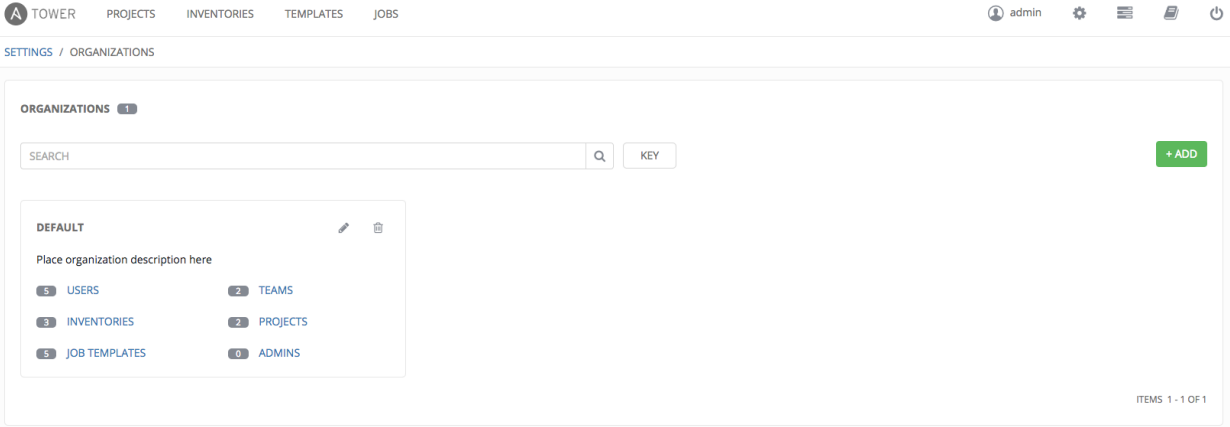
- ORGANIZATIONS**: Group all of your content to manage permissions across departments in your company.
- USERS**: Allow others to sign into Tower and own the content they create.
- TEAMS**: Split up your organization to associate content and control permissions for groups.
- CREDENTIALS**: Add passwords, SSH keys, etc. for Tower to use when launching jobs against machines, or when syncing inventories or projects.
- MANAGEMENT JOBS**: Manage the cleanup of old job history, activity streams, data marked for deletion, and system tracking info.
- INVENTORY SCRIPTS**: Create and edit scripts to dynamically load hosts from any source.
- NOTIFICATIONS**: Create templates for sending notifications with Email, HipChat, Slack, and SMS.
- VIEW YOUR LICENSE**: View and edit your license information.
- CONFIGURE TOWER**: Edit Tower's configuration.
- ABOUT TOWER**: View information about this version of Ansible Tower.

REVIEW THE ORGANIZATION

An organization is a logical collection of users, teams, projects, and inventories. It is the highest level object in the Tower object hierarchy.

From the Settings () Menu screen, click on **Organizations**.

Note: Ansible Tower creates a default organization automatically. Users of Tower with a Self-support level license only have the default organization available and should **not** delete it. Users of older versions of Tower (prior to 2.2) will not see this default organization.

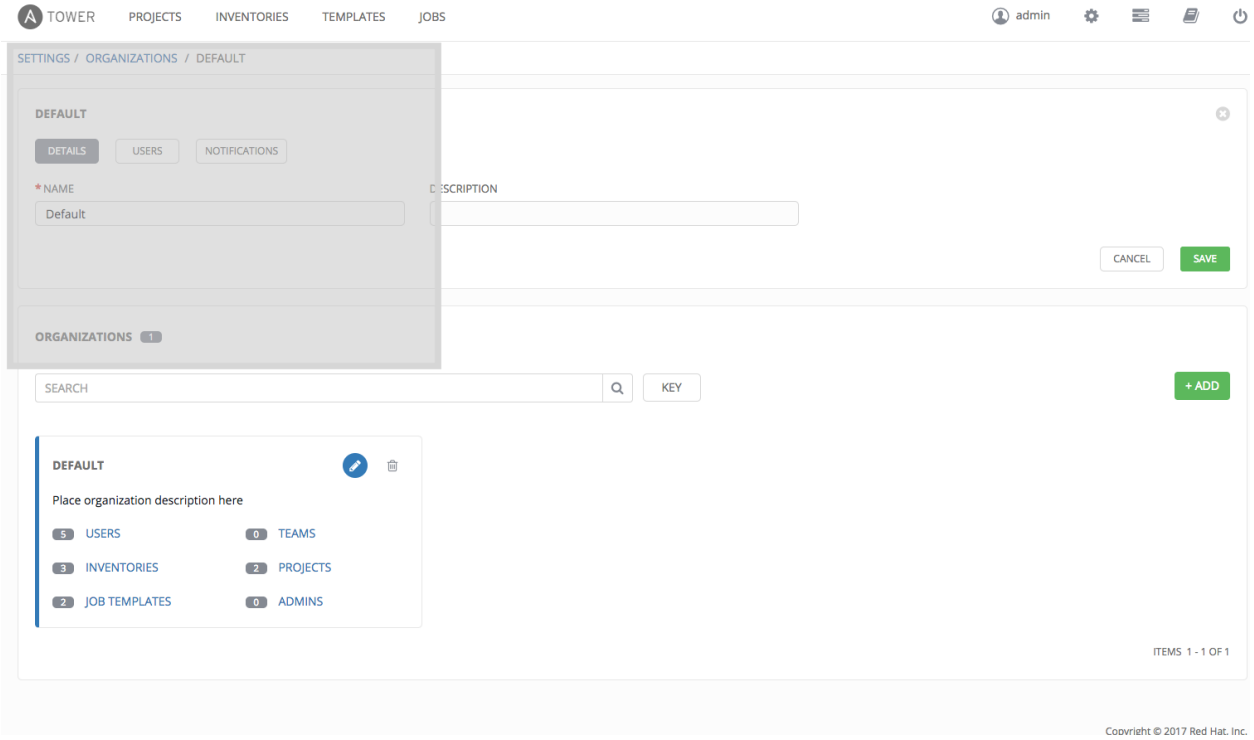


The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'TOWER', 'PROJECTS', 'INVENTORIES', 'TEMPLATES', and 'JOBS'. On the right, there are icons for 'admin', settings, a menu, a document, and a power button. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb 'SETTINGS / ORGANIZATIONS' is visible. The main content area is titled 'ORGANIZATIONS' with a count of 1. It features a search bar with a 'KEY' button and a green '+ADD' button. The main content area displays a 'DEFAULT' organization with a description field and a list of associated resources: 5 USERS, 2 TEAMS, 3 INVENTORIES, 2 PROJECTS, 6 JOB TEMPLATES, and 0 ADMINS. The page footer includes 'ITEMS 1 - 1 OF 1' and 'Copyright © 2017 Red Hat, Inc.'

A default organization has been automatically created and is available to all users of Ansible Tower. It can be used as is or edited later as needed.


For the purpose of this Quick Start Guide, leave the default organization as is and click **Save**.

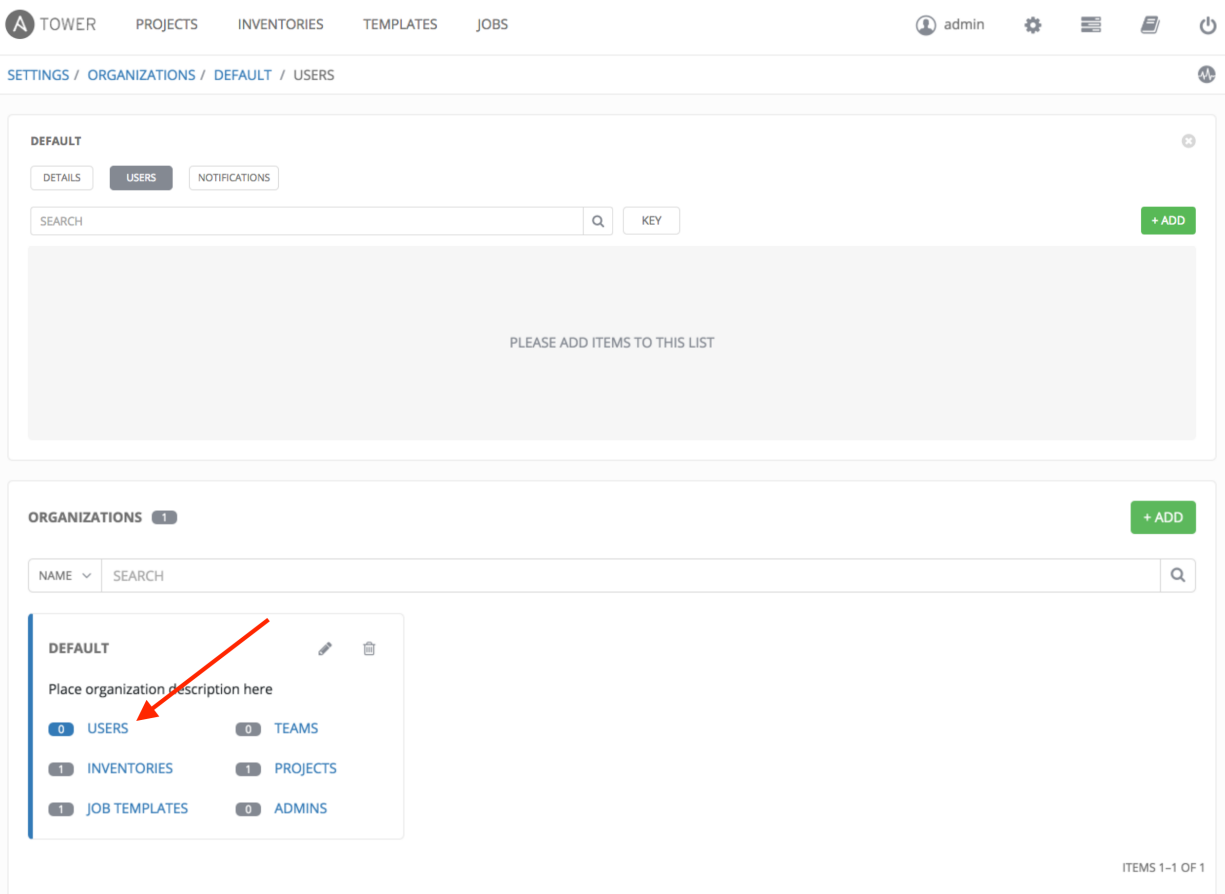
Note: If you are using Ansible Tower with a Basic license, you must use the default organization. Only Enterprise or Premium Tower licenses have the ability to add new organizations beyond the default.



To edit the default organization later, expand its 'Properties' and enter the appropriate details, then save your changes. Enterprise and Premium Tower license users who want to add a new organization should refer to the [Organizations](#) section in the Tower User Guide.


ADD A USER TO THE ORGANIZATION

Expand the **Users** section at the bottom of the default organization you just saved (not from the Setting [] menu's User menu item).

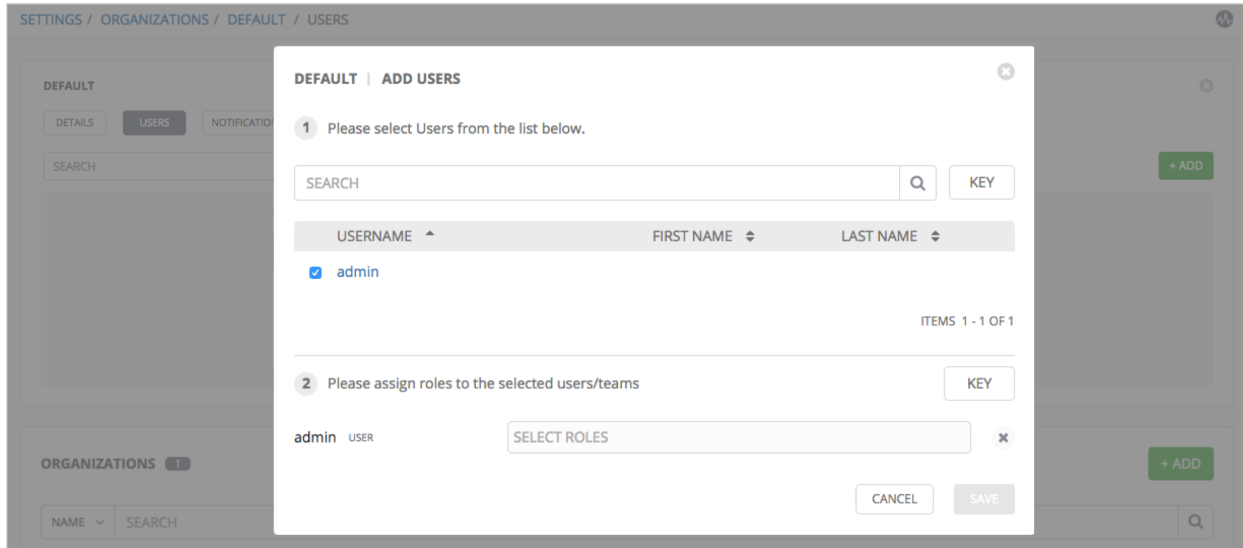


The screenshot shows the Tower web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'TOWER' and several menu items: 'PROJECTS', 'INVENTORIES', 'TEMPLATES', and 'JOBS'. On the right, there is a user profile 'admin', a gear icon, and other utility icons. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads 'SETTINGS / ORGANIZATIONS / DEFAULT / USERS'. The main content area is divided into two sections. The top section is titled 'DEFAULT' and has three tabs: 'DETAILS', 'USERS', and 'NOTIFICATIONS'. The 'USERS' tab is selected. Below the tabs is a search bar with a 'KEY' input field and a '+ ADD' button. The main area of this section is empty with the text 'PLEASE ADD ITEMS TO THIS LIST'. The bottom section is titled 'ORGANIZATIONS' and has a '+ ADD' button in the top right. It features a search bar with a 'NAME' dropdown and a 'SEARCH' input field. Below the search bar is a list of organization sections. The 'DEFAULT' section is expanded, showing a description field and a list of sections: 'USERS' (0), 'TEAMS' (0), 'INVENTORIES' (1), 'PROJECTS' (1), 'JOB TEMPLATES' (1), and 'ADMINS' (0). A red arrow points to the 'USERS' button. The text 'ITEMS 1-1 OF 1' is visible at the bottom right of the 'ORGANIZATIONS' section.

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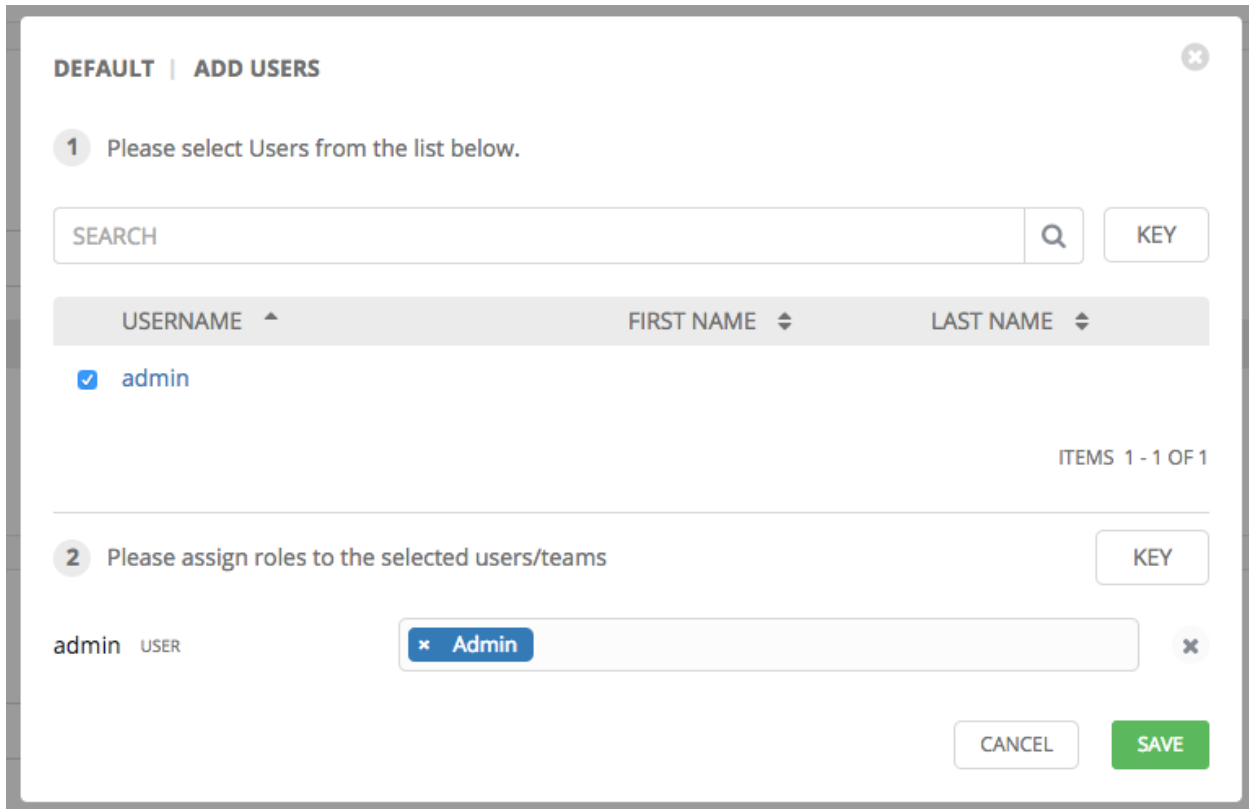
1. To add a user, click the  button.
2. Since other users have not yet been created, the “admin” user is the only user listed. Select the checkbox beside the “admin” user to select it for this organization. Doing so expands the lower part of the Wizard to assign roles

to the selected user.



3. Click from the drop-down menu to select one or more roles for that user.

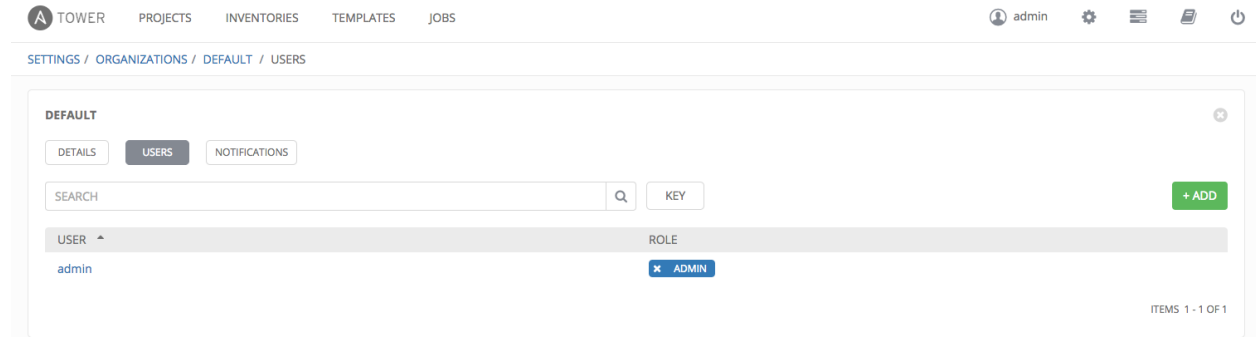
Note: For help on what the roles mean, click the **Key** button. For more information, refer to the [Roles](#) section of this guide.



In this example, the admin user has been selected and assigned the admin role within this organization.

4. When done, click **Save**.

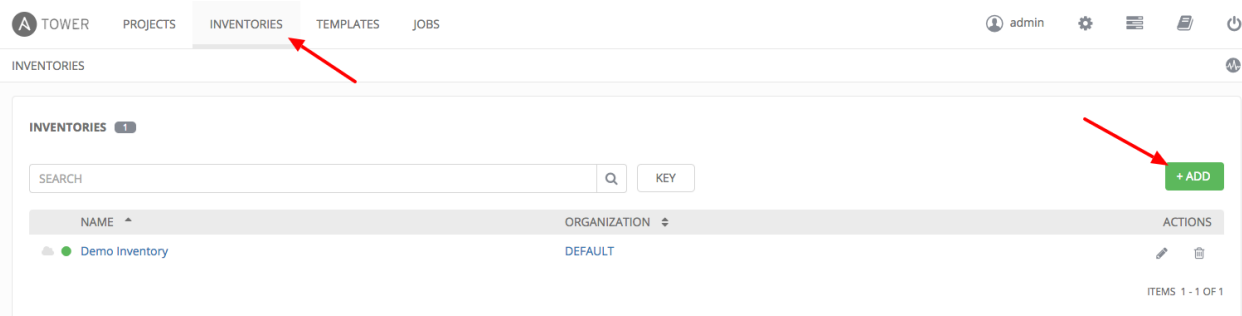
After saving, the organization's user information becomes available for viewing and the new user you created appears on the list.



CREATE A NEW INVENTORY AND ADD IT TO THE ORGANIZATION

An inventory is a collection of hosts managed by Tower. Inventories are assigned to organizations, while permissions to launch playbooks against inventories are controlled at the user and/or team level. For more information, refer to [Inventories, Users - Permissions, and Teams - Permissions](#) in the “Tower User Guide”.

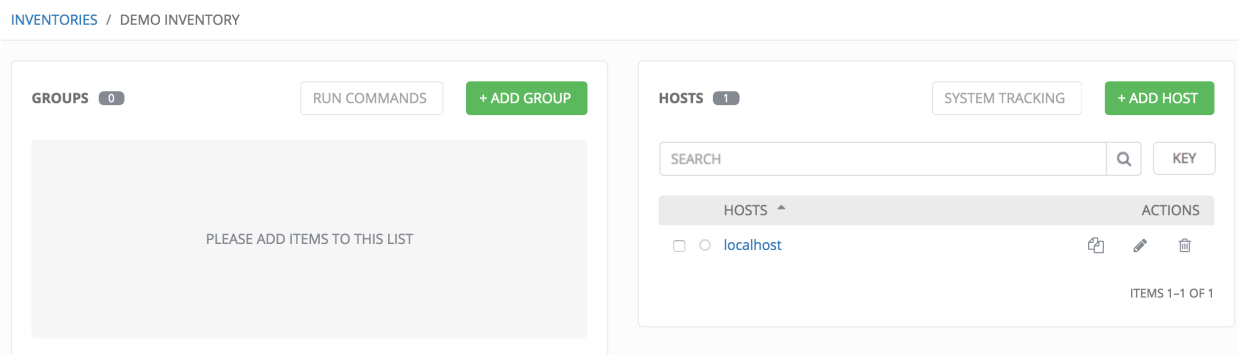
To review existing inventories, navigate to the **Inventories** main link. To create a new inventory, click the  button.



Ansible Tower provides a demo inventory for you to use as you learn how Tower works. Click on the “Demo Inventory” link for the stock inventory provided by Ansible Tower.

Note that inventories are divided into groups and hosts. A group might represent a particular environment (e.g. “Datacenter 1” or “Stage Testing”), a server type (e.g. “Application Servers” or “DB Servers”), or any other representation of your environment.

The left side of the screen displays the groups that belong to the Demo inventory. The right side displays hosts.



Note: Prior to Ansible Tower 2.2, hosts could not be added to the Web Servers inventory before adding a group. If you are using an older version of Tower, click the “Plus” button above the ‘Groups’ section to add a group before

adding a host.

For this example, suppose that the organization you created earlier has a group of web server hosts supporting the corporate CMS application. To add these hosts to the Web Servers inventory, create a “CMS Web” group. Click the **Save** button to create the group.

For the purposes of this Quick Start and to test that Tower is setup properly, a local host has been added for your use.

[INVENTORIES](#) / [DEMO INVENTORY](#) / LOCALHOST

LOCALHOST ON

*HOST NAME DESCRIPTION


VARIABLES YAML JSON

```
1 ansible_connection: local
```


Click **Cancel** (if no changes were made) or use the breadcrumb navigational links at the top of the Ansible Tower browser to return to the Inventories overview screen. Clicking **Save** does not exit the edit dialog.

CREATE A CREDENTIAL

Credentials authenticate the Tower user to launch Ansible playbooks, which can include passwords and SSH keys, against inventory hosts. You can also require the Tower user to enter a password or key phrase when a playbook launches using the credentials feature of Tower.



Create a new credential by browsing to and clicking on the **Credentials** link from the Settings () button.

Note: When setting up additional credentials, keep in mind that the user you assign must have root access or be able to use SSH to connect to the host machine.

SETTINGS / CREDENTIALS 


CREDENTIALS 1

SEARCH

NAME ^	DESCRIPTION ⇅	TYPE	OWNERS	ACTIONS
Demo Credential		Machine	admin	 

ITEMS 1-1 OF 1

For the purpose of this Quick Start, a demo credential has been provided for your use.

Click on the “Demo Credential” link name or the Edit () button to review or edit this credential.



DEMO CREDENTIAL ✕

DETAILS | PERMISSIONS

***NAME** ? **DESCRIPTION** **ORGANIZATION** ?

***TYPE** ?

TYPE DETAILS

USERNAME **PASSWORD** Ask at runtime? **PRIVATE KEY PASSPHRASE** Ask at runtime?

PRIVILEGE ESCALATION ? **VAULT PASSWORD** Ask at runtime?

PRIVATE KEY ?

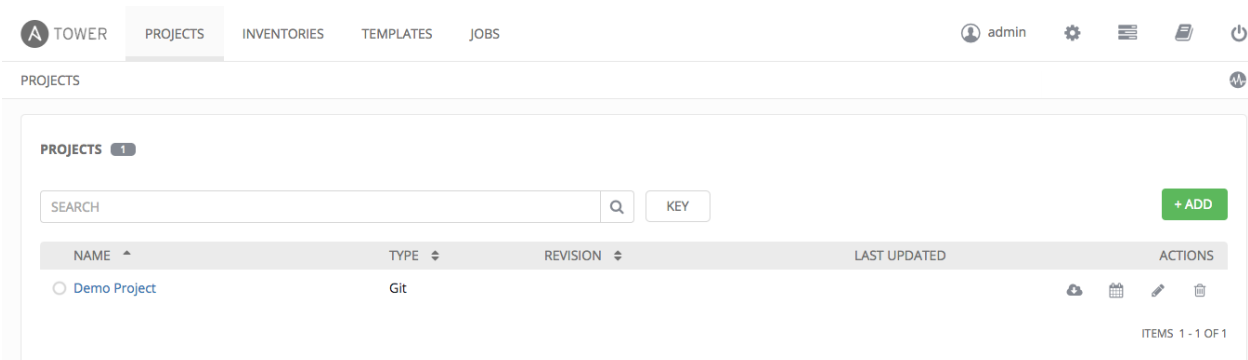
SETTING UP A PROJECT

A Project is a logical collection of Ansible playbooks, represented in Tower.


You can manage playbooks and playbook directories by either placing them manually under the Project Base Path on your Tower server, or by placing your playbooks into a source code management (SCM) system supported by Tower, including Git, Subversion, and Mercurial.

Note: It is recommended that, whenever possible, you use source control to manage your playbooks. This type of best practice provides the ability to treat your infrastructure as code and is in line with DevOps ideals. While this Quick Start Guide uses lightweight examples to get you up and running, we suggest using source control to manage playbook for production purposes.

To review existing projects or to create a new one, navigate to the **Projects** main link.



Ansible Tower simplifies the getting started process by providing you with a Demo Project to work with initially.

Click on the “Demo Project” name link or click on the Edit () button to review the stock project provided by Ansible Tower.

PROJECTS / DEMO PROJECT

DEMO PROJECT

DETAILS | PERMISSIONS | NOTIFICATIONS

*NAME: Demo Project | DESCRIPTION: | *ORGANIZATION: Default

*SCM TYPE: Git

SOURCE DETAILS

*SCM URL: https://github.com/ansible/ansible-tower-samples | SCM BRANCH: | SCM CREDENTIAL:


SCM UPDATE OPTIONS

Clean | Delete on Update | Update on Launch

CACHE TIMEOUT (SECONDS): 0

CANCEL | SAVE

Click **Cancel** (if no changes were made) or use the breadcrumb navigational links at the top of the Ansible Tower browser to return to the Inventories overview screen. Clicking **Save** does not exit the edit dialog.

Before this project can be used in a job template, you must manually start an inventory sync for this project. Update the SCM-based demo project by clicking the  button under the project's available Actions.





Note: Please note that immediately after adding new projects setup to use source control, a “sync” automatically starts that fetches the project details from the configured source control. Because the “Demo” project is pre-stocked, however, you must manually start the inventory sync in order for this project to be used in a job template.

Notice that the status dot beside the name of the project updates once the sync has run.

PROJECTS

PROJECTS 1

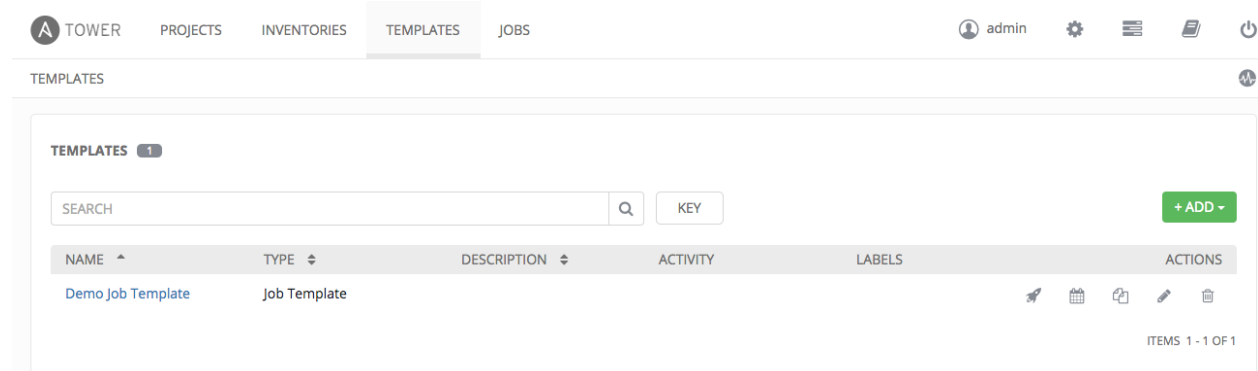
SEARCH [] [] KEY [] + ADD

NAME	TYPE	REVISION	LAST UPDATED	ACTIONS
● Demo Project	Git	347e44f6a036c94d5f60e544de006453ee5c71ad	3/1/2017 12:16:52 PM	   


ITEMS 1 - 1 OF 1





CREATE A NEW JOB TEMPLATE


A job template combines an Ansible playbook from a project and the settings required to launch it. Review existing jobs or create a new job template by browsing to **Job Templates**.




For the purpose of this Quick Start, a Demo Job Template has been created for your initial use.

Click on the “Demo Job Template” name link or click on the Edit () button to review the stock job template provided by Ansible Tower.

TOWER PROJECTS INVENTORIES TEMPLATES JOBS
admin    


TEMPLATES / DEMO JOB TEMPLATE 

DEMO JOB TEMPLATE 

DETAILS
COMPLETED JOBS
PERMISSIONS
NOTIFICATIONS
ADD SURVEY


*** NAME**

DESCRIPTION


*** JOB TYPE** 


Run

 Prompt on launch


*** INVENTORY** 

 Prompt on launch


*** PROJECT** 


*** PLAYBOOK** 


Choose a playbook

*** MACHINE CREDENTIAL** 


 Prompt on launch

CLOUD CREDENTIAL 


NETWORK CREDENTIAL 

FORKS 


0

LIMIT 


 Prompt on launch

*** VERBOSITY** 

0 (Normal)




JOB TAGS 


 Prompt on launch


SKIP TAGS 

 Prompt on launch

OPTIONS

 Enable Privilege Escalation 
 Allow Provisioning Callbacks 
 Enable Concurrent Jobs 

LABELS 


EXTRA VARIABLES  YAML JSON





1 ---

 Prompt on launch

CANCEL SAVE

TEMPLATES 1


KEY
+ ADD


NAME	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITY	LABELS	ACTIONS
Demo Job Template	Job Template				   

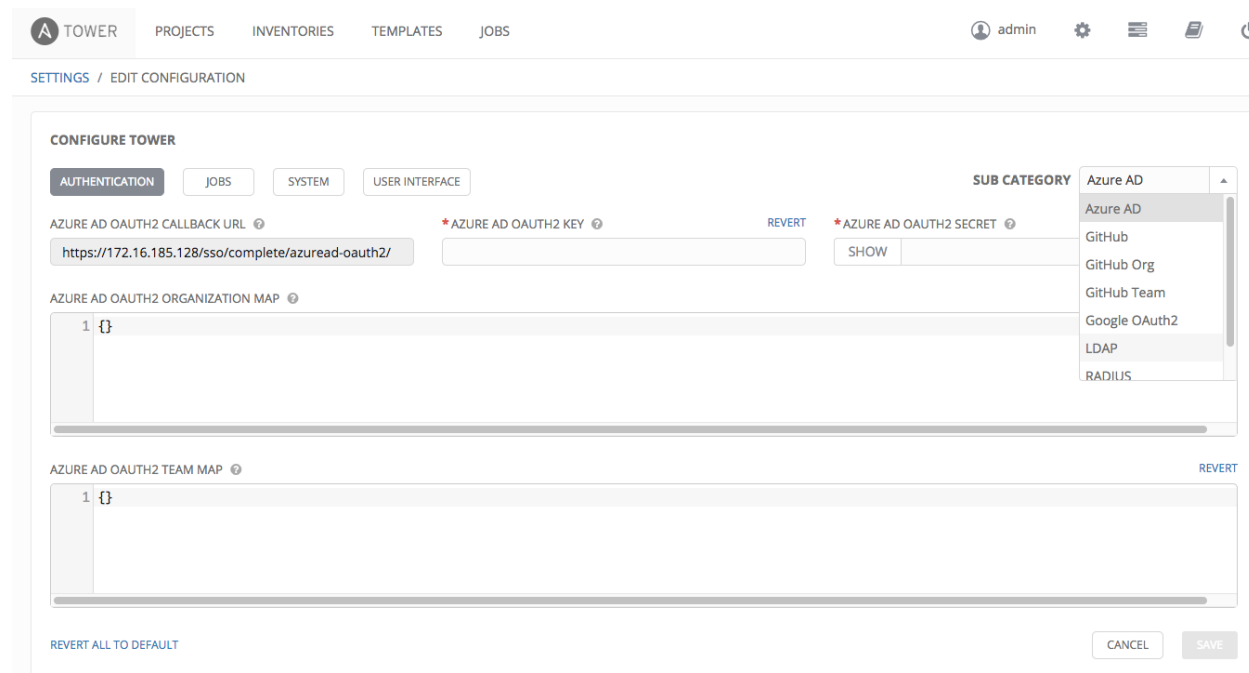
ITEMS 1 - 1 OF 1

Click **Cancel** (if no changes were made) or use the breadcrumb navigational links at the top of the Ansible Tower browser to return to the Inventories overview screen. Clicking **Save** does not exit the edit dialog.

CONFIGURE AUTHENTICATION

Through the Tower user interface, you can set up a simplified login through various authentication types: GitHub, Google, LDAP, RADIUS, and SAML. After you create and register your developer application with the appropriate service, you can set up authorizations for them. Since configuration files are now saved to the postgres DB now in Ansible Tower 3.1 instead of flat files, setting up authorizations in the Ansible Tower User Interface is the recommended method.

1. From the Settings () Menu screen, click on **Configure Tower**.
2. The Authentication tab displays initially by default. Select the appropriate authentication type from the drop-down list.



The screenshot shows the 'CONFIGURE TOWER' settings page in Ansible Tower. The 'AUTHENTICATION' tab is active. The 'SUB CATEGORY' dropdown menu is open, showing a list of authentication types: Azure AD, Azure AD, GitHub, GitHub Org, GitHub Team, Google OAuth2, LDAP, and RADIUS. The 'AZURE AD OAUTH2 CALLBACK URL' field is populated with 'https://172.16.185.128/sso/complete/azuread-oauth2/'. There are also fields for 'AZURE AD OAUTH2 KEY' and 'AZURE AD OAUTH2 SECRET'. At the bottom, there are 'REVERT ALL TO DEFAULT', 'CANCEL', and 'SAVE' buttons.

Different authentication types require you to enter different information. Be sure to include all the information as required.


Note: For more detail about each authentication type, refer to the [Setting Up Authentication](#) of the Administration Guide.

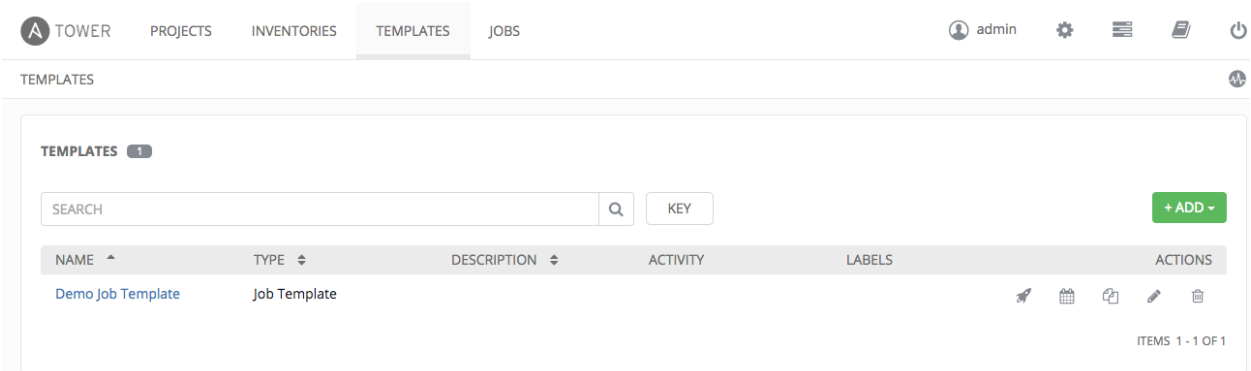
3. Click **Save** to apply the settings or **Cancel** to abandon the changes.

For details on configuring other components of Tower, if needed, refer to the [Configure Tower in Tower](#) section of the Administration Guide.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

LAUNCH IT!






From the Job Templates overview screen, click the Launch () button (under Actions) to run this Job Template.



TEMPLATES

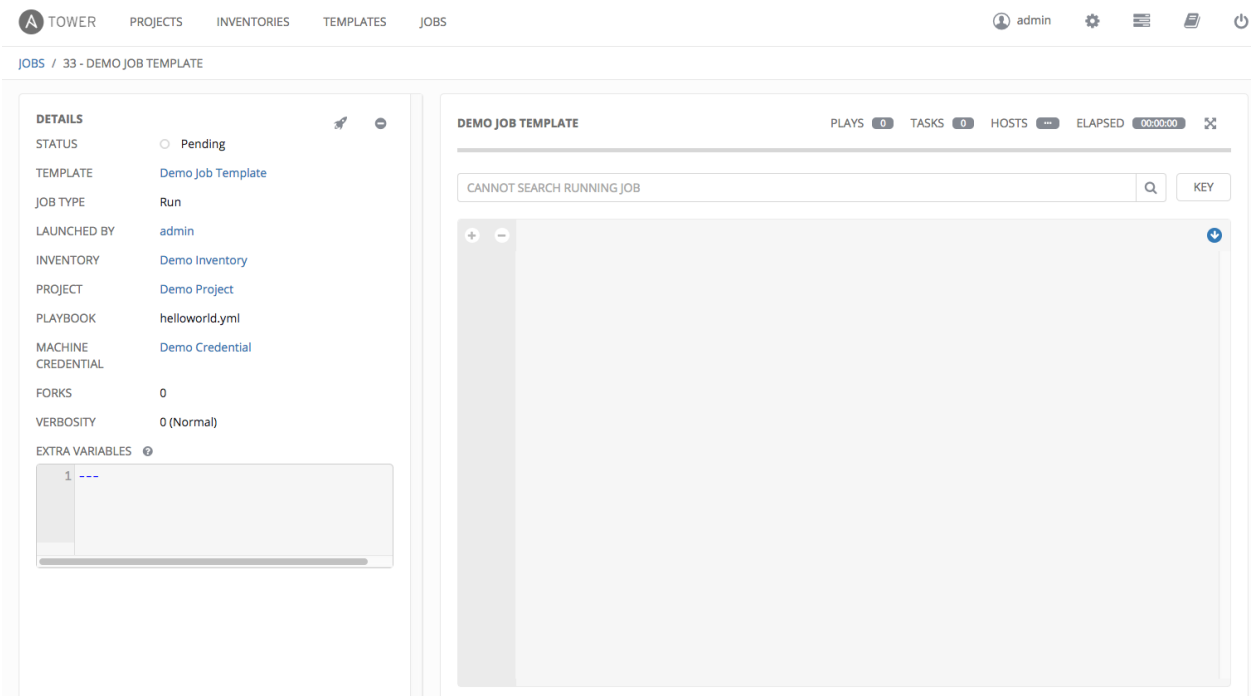
TEMPLATES 1

SEARCH [] [KEY] [+ ADD]

NAME	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITY	LABELS	ACTIONS
Demo Job Template	Job Template				    

ITEMS 1 - 1 OF 1

The initial job launch returns a status page which updates automatically using Tower's Live Event feature until the job is complete.



JOBS / 33 - DEMO JOB TEMPLATE

DETAILS

STATUS Pending

TEMPLATE Demo Job Template

JOB TYPE Run

LAUNCHED BY admin

INVENTORY Demo Inventory

PROJECT Demo Project

PLAYBOOK helloworld.yml

MACHINE CREDENTIAL Demo Credential

FORKS 0

VERBOSITY 0 (Normal)

EXTRA VARIABLES

1 ---

DEMO JOB TEMPLATE

PLAYS 0 TASKS 0 HOSTS ELAPSED 00:00:00

CANNOT SEARCH RUNNING JOB [] [KEY]

Once complete, the job results look like the following:

The screenshot displays the Ansible Tower web interface. On the left, a 'DETAILS' sidebar shows job information: STATUS is 'Successful', STARTED is '3/1/2017 6:15:22 AM', FINISHED is '3/1/2017 6:15:32 AM', TEMPLATE is 'Demo Job Template', JOB TYPE is 'Run', LAUNCHED BY is 'admin', INVENTORY is 'Demo Inventory', PROJECT is 'Demo Project', REVISION is '42c93829ab9f566db2a05e2444279f697549a5', PLAYBOOK is 'helloworld.yml', MACHINE CREDENTIAL is 'Demo Credential', FORKS is '0', and VERBOSITY is '0 (Normal)'. The 'EXTRA VARIABLES' section is empty. The main area shows the 'DEMO JOB TEMPLATE' results. A search bar is at the top. The job progress is shown as 'PLAYS 1', 'TASKS 2', 'HOSTS 1', and 'ELAPSED 00:00:02'. The results list shows: 1. PLAY [Hello World!], 2. TASK [setup] (ok: [localhost]), 3. TASK [Hello World!], 4. PLAY RECAP (localhost: ok=2, changed=1, unreachable=0, failed=0).

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For more details on the job results, refer to [Jobs](#).

Congratulations! Your Tower installation is officially setup and running properly. To learn more about these Tower features or to learn about administration tasks, the Tower API, etc., refer to the following documentation sets:

- [Ansible Tower User Guide](#)
- [Ansible Tower Installation and Reference Guide](#)
- [Ansible Tower Administration Guide](#)
- [Ansible Tower API Guide](#)
- [Ansible Tower Release Notes](#)
- [Ansible Documentation](#).

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