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# **Ansible Tower Quick Setup Guide**

*Release Ansible Tower 3.4.2*

**Red Hat, Inc.**

**May 05, 2021**

# CONTENTS

<b>1 Quick Start</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2 Login as a Superuser</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 Import a License</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4 Examine the Tower Dashboard</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5 The Settings Page</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6 Review the Organization</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>7 Add a User to the Organization</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>8 Create a new Inventory and add it to the Organization</b>	<b>16</b>
8.1 Groups and Hosts . . . . .	17
<b>9 Create a Credential</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>10 Setting up a Project</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>11 Create a new Job Template</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>12 Launch it!</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>13 Index</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>14 Copyright © 2019 Red Hat, Inc.</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>29</b>

Thank you for your interest in Red Hat Ansible Tower. 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 3.4.2.

### **We Need Feedback!**

If you spot a typo in this documentation, or if you have thought of a way to make this manual better, we would love to hear from you! Please send an email to: [docs@ansible.com](mailto:docs@ansible.com)

If you have a suggestion, try to be as specific as possible when describing it. If you have found an error, please include the manual's title, chapter number/section number, and some of the surrounding text so we can find it easily. We may not be able to respond to every message sent to us, but you can be sure that we will be reading them all!

Ansible Tower Version 3.4.2; March 06, 2019; <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](http://docs.ansible.com/intro_installation.html).

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**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.

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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.


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**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.

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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 the Users (  ) icon from the left navigation bar.

A screenshot of the Ansible Tower login interface. At the top left is the Ansible Tower logo, which consists of a red circle with a white 'A' inside, followed by the text 'ANSIBLE TOWER by Red Hat'. Below the logo, the text 'Welcome to Ansible Tower! Please sign in.' is displayed. Underneath, there are two input fields: 'USERNAME' with the text 'admin' entered, and 'PASSWORD' with a series of dots representing a masked password. A green 'SIGN IN' button is located at the bottom right of the form area.

 **ANSIBLE TOWER**  
by Red Hat

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/>.

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

---

### 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


I agree to the End User License Agreement

**SUBMIT**

To add your license:

1. Save your license (or save the license contents to a text file locally, if needed).




2. Click the Settings (  ) icon from the left navigation bar and select the **License** tab from the Settings screen.
3. 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.
4. 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 **License** tab of the Settings screen, accessible through the



Settings (  ) icon from the left navigation bar.

**LICENSE**

DETAILS	
LICENSE	Valid License
VERSION	3.4.0
LICENSE TYPE	Enterprise
SUBSCRIPTION	Enterprise Tower Up To 30 Nodes
LICENSE KEY	367ce98cba3e62f4c5665c567f60 18ec74fdb35530247d6e0bcbe75 3cbb8fa88
EXPIRES ON	01/01/2025
TIME REMAINING	2262 Days
HOSTS AVAILABLE	30
HOSTS USED	1
HOSTS REMAINING	29

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**

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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 term of the associated Red Hat


I agree to the End User License Agreement

[SUBMIT](#)

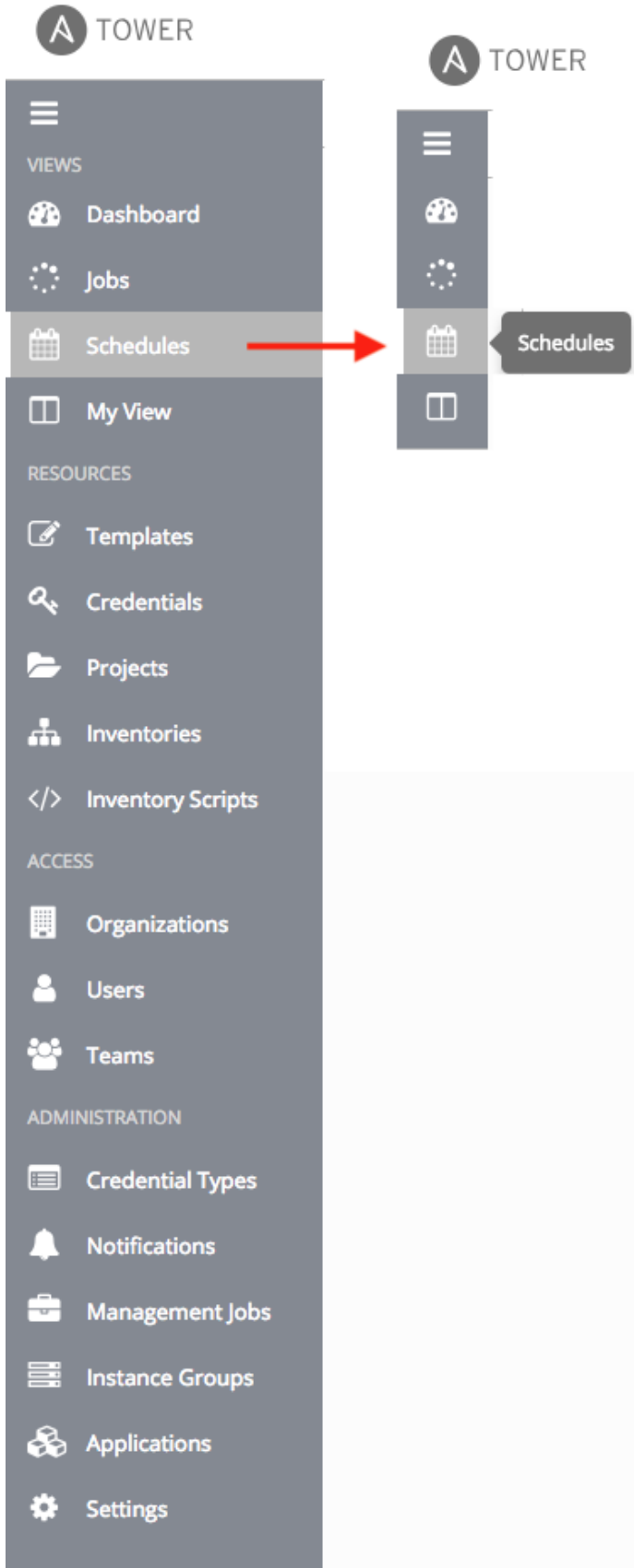
## EXAMINE THE TOWER DASHBOARD

The Tower Dashboard offers a friendly graphical framework for your IT orchestration needs. Along the left side of the Tower Dashboard is the navigation menu, where you can quickly navigate to your **Projects**, **Inventories**, **Job**

**Templates**, and **Jobs**. Access to these elements are no longer in the settings () menu.

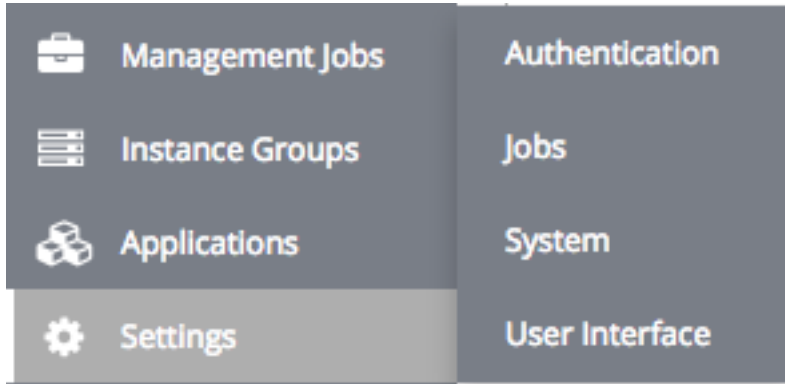
Click on the Menu  icon at the top of the left navigation and the navigation bar expands to show icons and labels; and collapses to show only the icons. View the labels without expanding the menu by hovering over the icons.



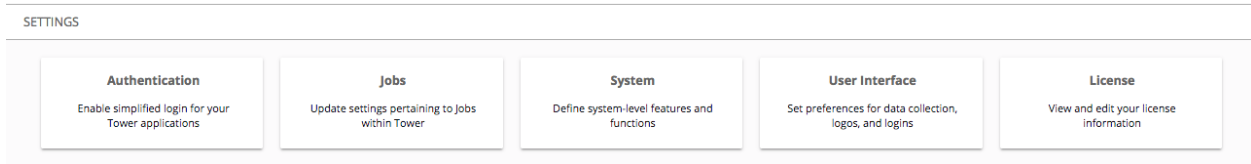




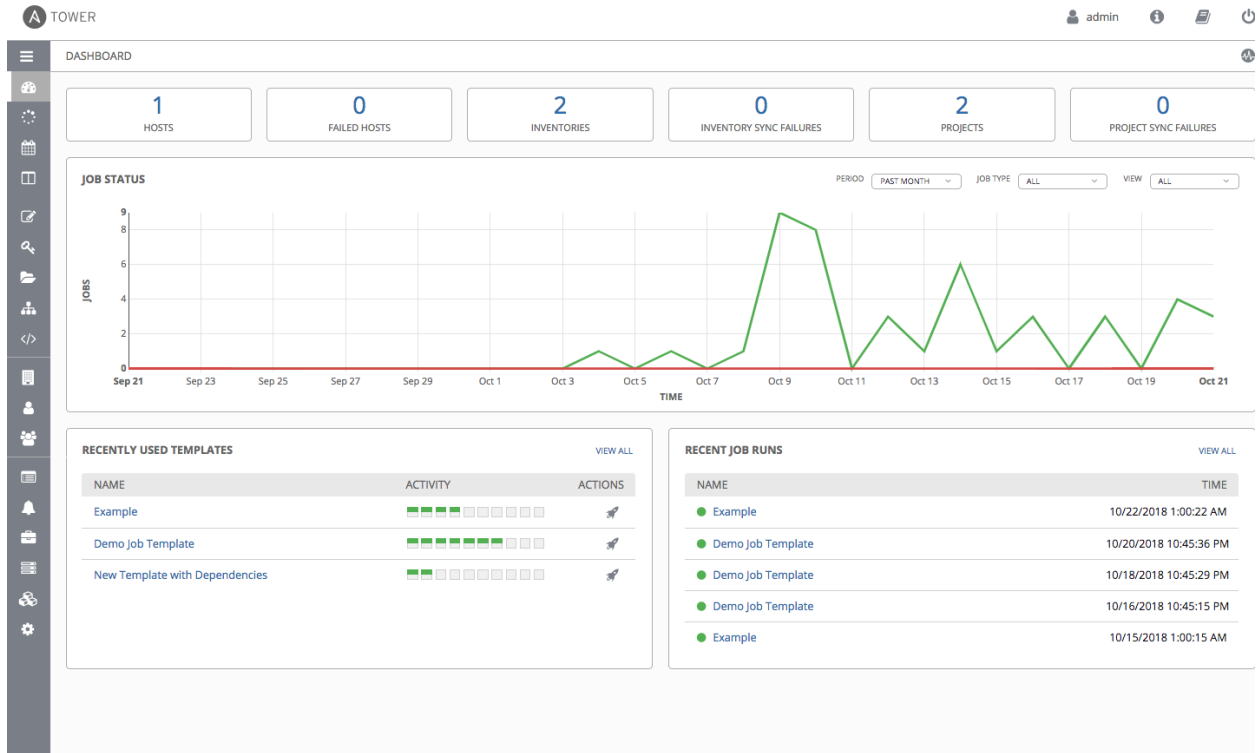
The very last item in the navigation bar is the Settings (  ) icon, which provides access to the Tower configuration Settings.




The Settings page allows administrators to configure authentication, jobs, system-level attributes and customize the user interface. Previous versions of Ansible Tower (3.2.x and older) provide the Settings menu at the top of the interface next to the user and logout buttons. Refer to [Tower Configuration](#) section for more detail. Additionally, you can now access the product license information from this page.



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



Regardless of the window or action you're performing, the very top of each page next to the your user icon is the About (  ) icon, which provides you the versions of Ansible Tower and Ansible you are currently running.

**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 PAGE



To enter the Settings window for Ansible Tower, click the Settings icon at the bottom of the left navigation bar. This page allows you to modify your Tower's configuration, such as settings associated with authentication, jobs, system, user interface, and view or import your license.

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SETTINGS


<b>Authentication</b> Enable simplified login for your Tower applications	<b>Jobs</b> Update settings pertaining to Jobs within Tower	<b>System</b> Define system-level features and functions	<b>User Interface</b> Set preferences for data collection, logos, and logins	<b>License</b> View and edit your license information
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For more information on configuring these settings, refer to [Tower Configuration](#) section of the *Ansible Tower Administration Guide*.

## 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.

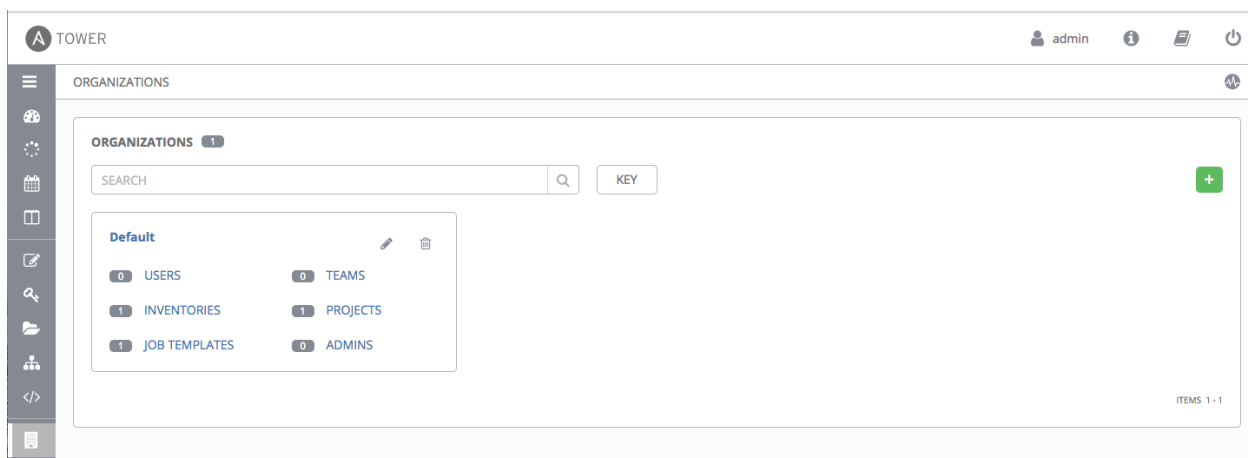


From the left navigation bar, click the Organizations (  ) icon.

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**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.

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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.

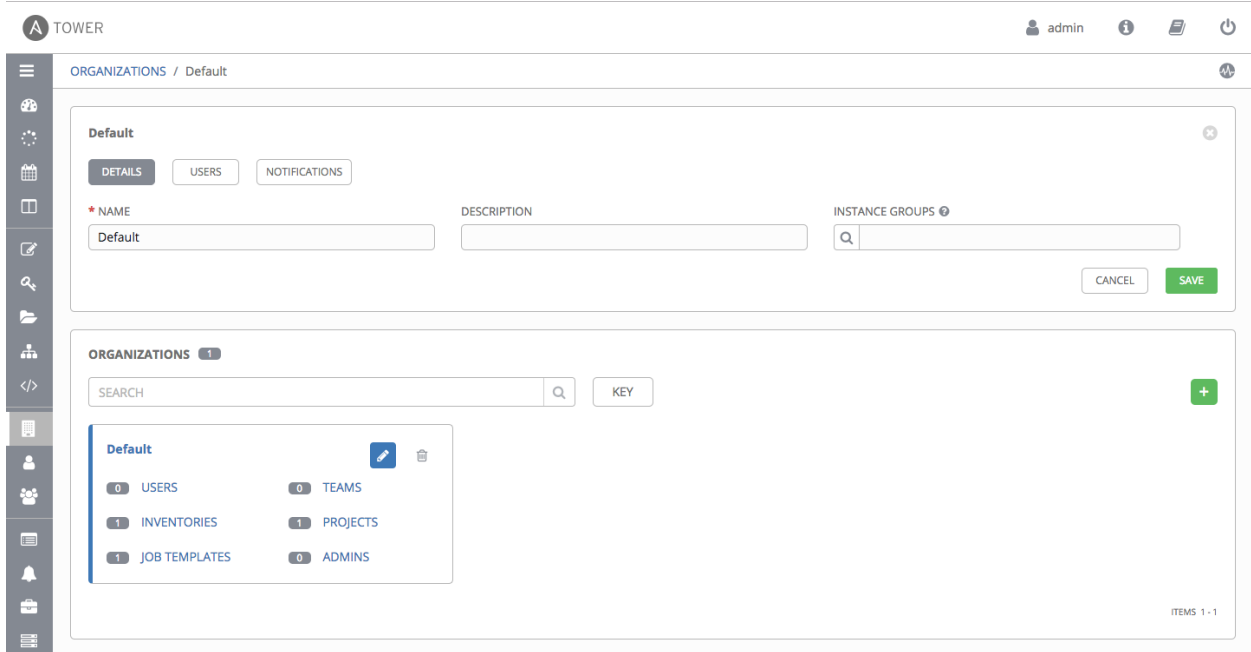
For the purpose of this Quick Start Guide, leave the default organization as is and click **Save**.

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**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.

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To edit the default organization later, expand its 'Properties' by clicking on the Edit (  ) button and entering 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.

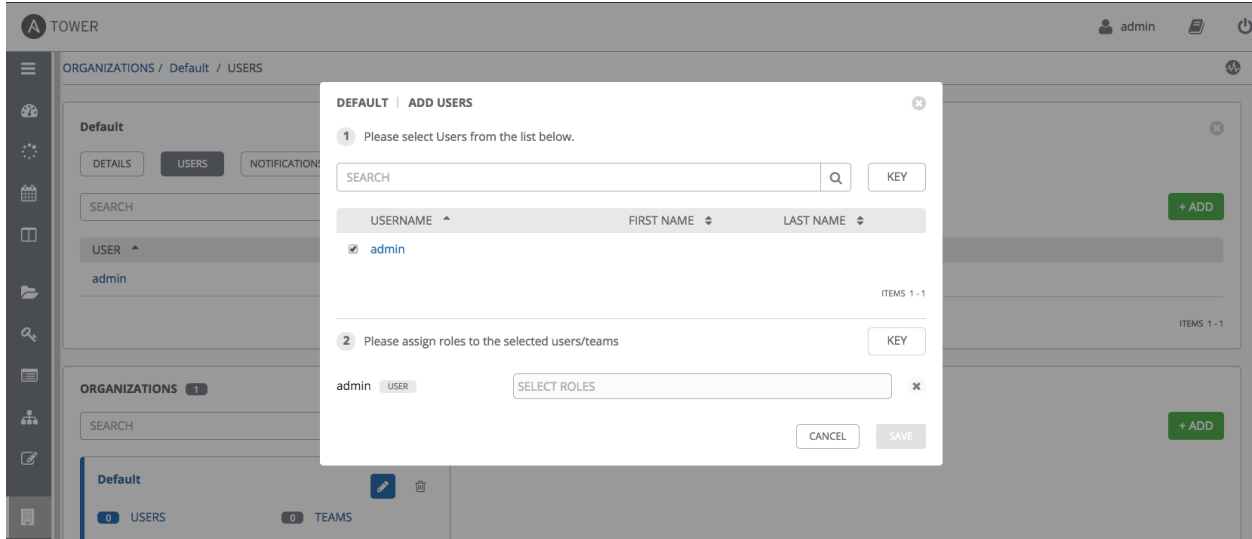
## ADD A USER TO THE ORGANIZATION

Expand the Users details by clicking on the **Users** tab of the default organization you just saved (not from the left navigation bar).

The screenshot shows the Tower web interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'TOWER' on the left and user 'admin' on the right. Below that, the breadcrumb 'ORGANIZATIONS / Default / USERS' is visible. 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 active. It contains a search bar with 'SEARCH' and 'KEY' buttons, and a table with one user: 'admin' with the role 'SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR'. A green '+ ADD' button is in the top right of this section. The bottom section is titled 'ORGANIZATIONS 1' and also has a search bar and '+ ADD' button. It displays a summary for the 'Default' organization with the following statistics: 0 USERS, 0 TEAMS, 1 INVENTORIES, 1 PROJECTS, 1 JOB TEMPLATES, and 0 ADMINS.



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.

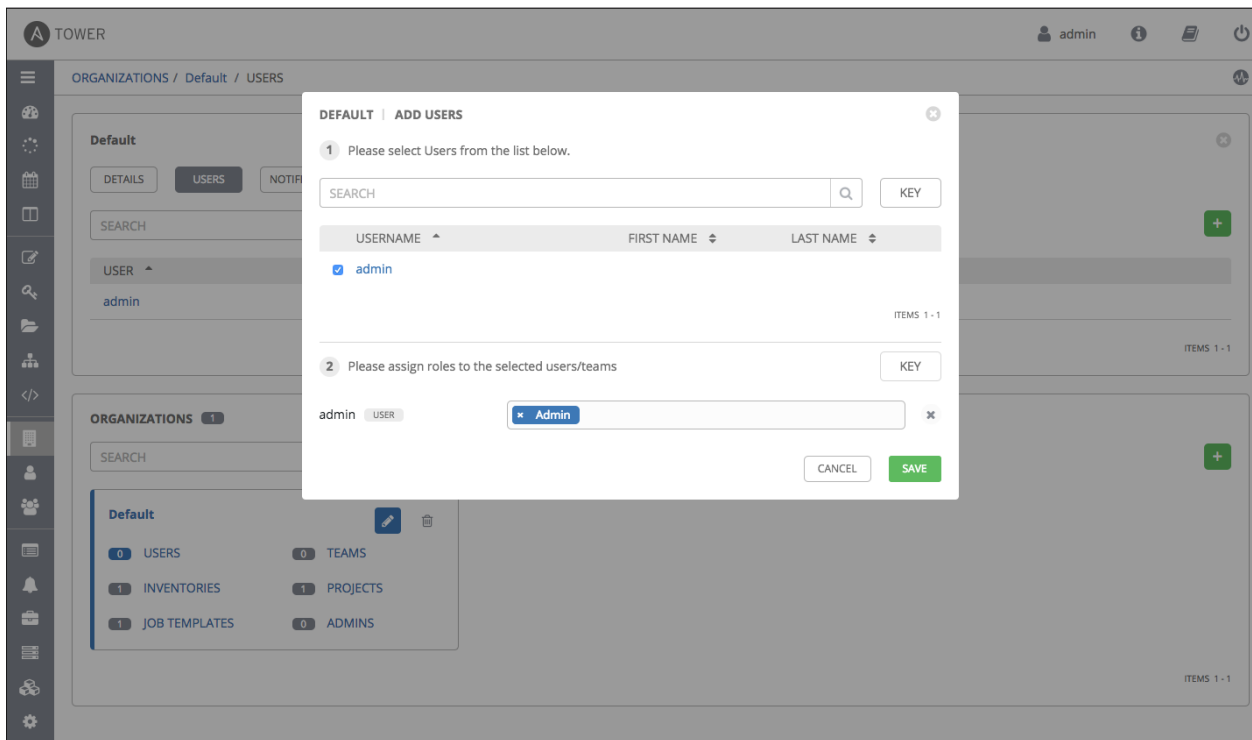


3. Click from the drop-down menu to select one or more roles for that user.

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

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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.



TOWER admin

ORGANIZATIONS / Default / USERS

Default

DETAILS USERS NOTIFICATIONS

SEARCH  KEY



USER	ROLE
admin	<span>ADMIN</span> <span>SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR</span>

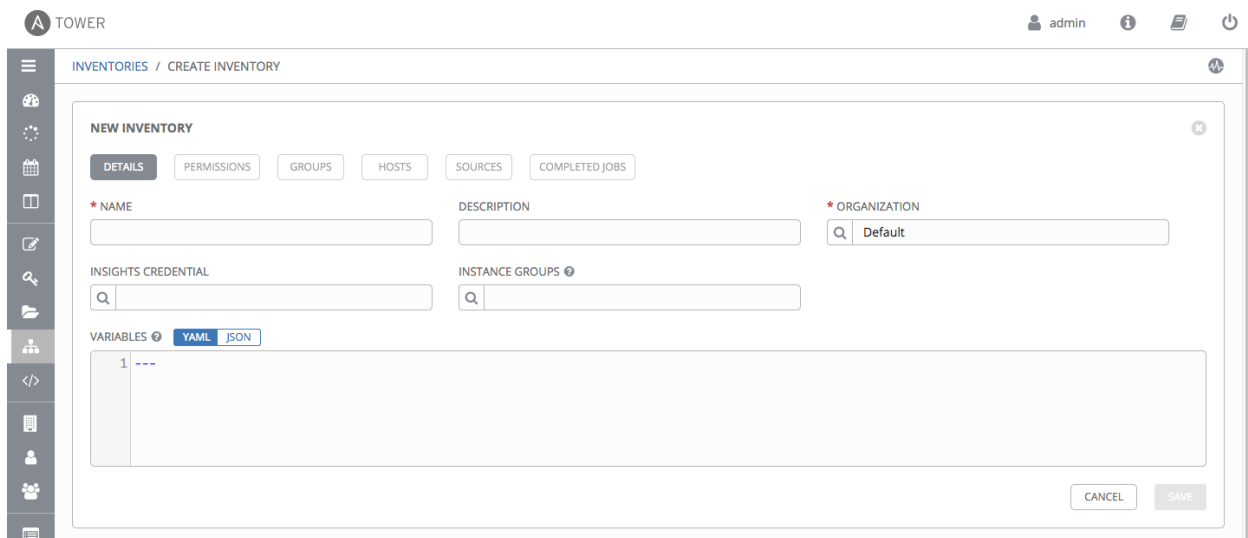
ITEMS 1 - 1

## 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 *Ansible Tower User Guide*.

To review existing inventories:

1. Click the Inventories (  ) icon from the left navigation bar.
2. Click the  button and select **Inventory** from the drop-down menu list. Smart Inventories are described in further detail in [Smart Inventories](#).

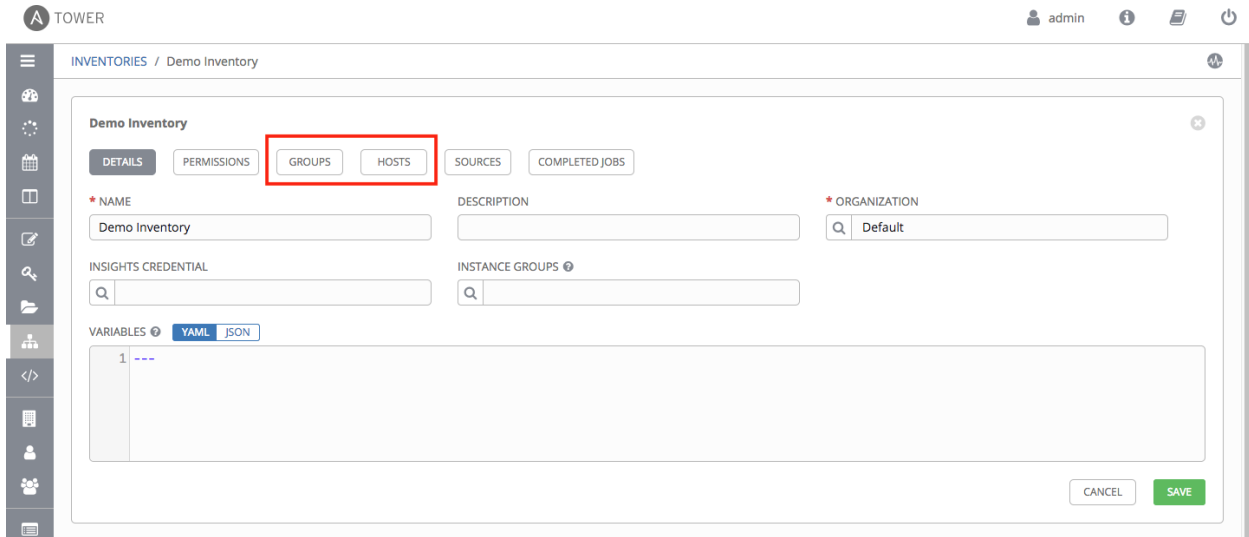


The screenshot shows the 'NEW INVENTORY' form in the Ansible Tower interface. The form has a left sidebar with navigation icons and a top header with 'TOWER' and user information. The main form area has tabs for 'DETAILS', 'PERMISSIONS', 'GROUPS', 'HOSTS', 'SOURCES', and 'COMPLETED JOBS'. The 'DETAILS' tab is active. Fields include: '\* NAME' (text input), 'DESCRIPTION' (text input), '\* ORGANIZATION' (dropdown menu showing 'Default'), 'INSIGHTS CREDENTIAL' (text input with search icon), and 'INSTANCE GROUPS' (text input with search icon). Below these is a 'VARIABLES' section with 'YAML' and 'JSON' tabs, and a large text area for editing variables. At the bottom right are 'CANCEL' and 'SAVE' buttons.

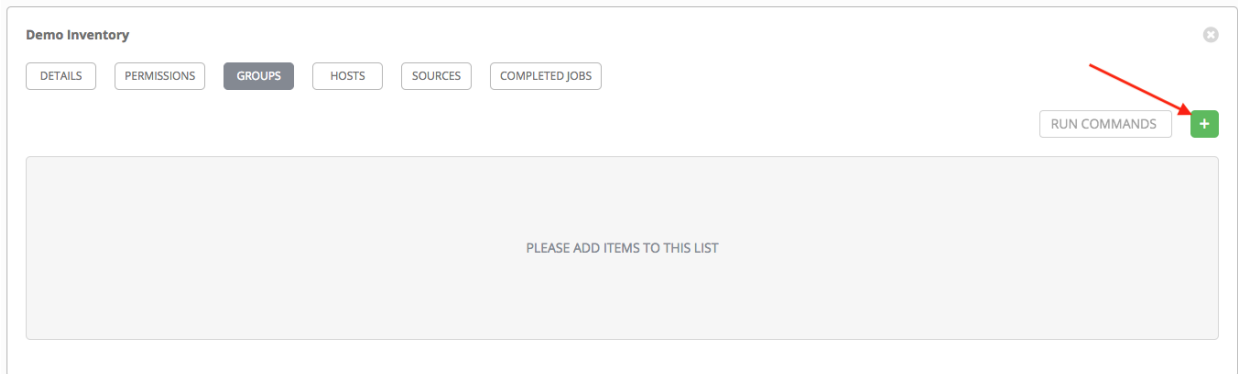
Ansible Tower provides a demo inventory for you to use as you learn how Tower works. Click on the “Demo Inventory” link for the stock inventory provided by Ansible Tower.

## 8.1 Groups and Hosts

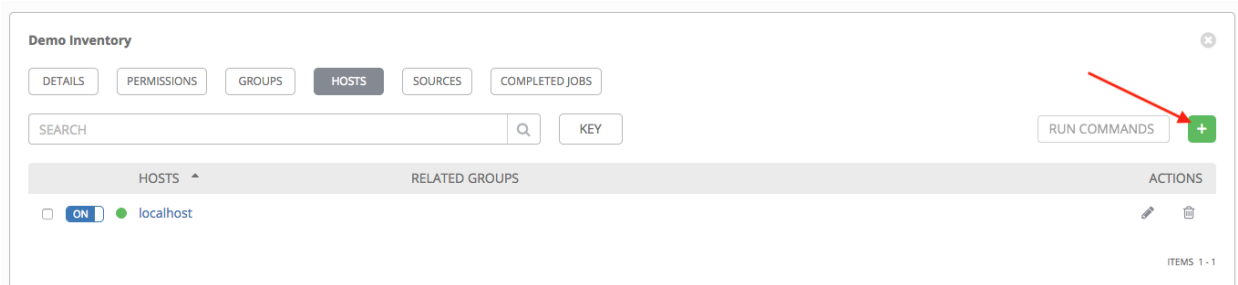
Note that inventories are divided into groups and hosts. A group might represent a particular environment (e.g. “Datacenter 1” or “Stage Testing”), a server type (e.g. “Application Servers” or “DB Servers”), or any other representation of your environment. The groups and hosts that belong to the Demo inventory are shown in the **Groups** and **Hosts** tabs, respectively.



1. In the **Groups** tab, click the  button to add groups to the inventory.



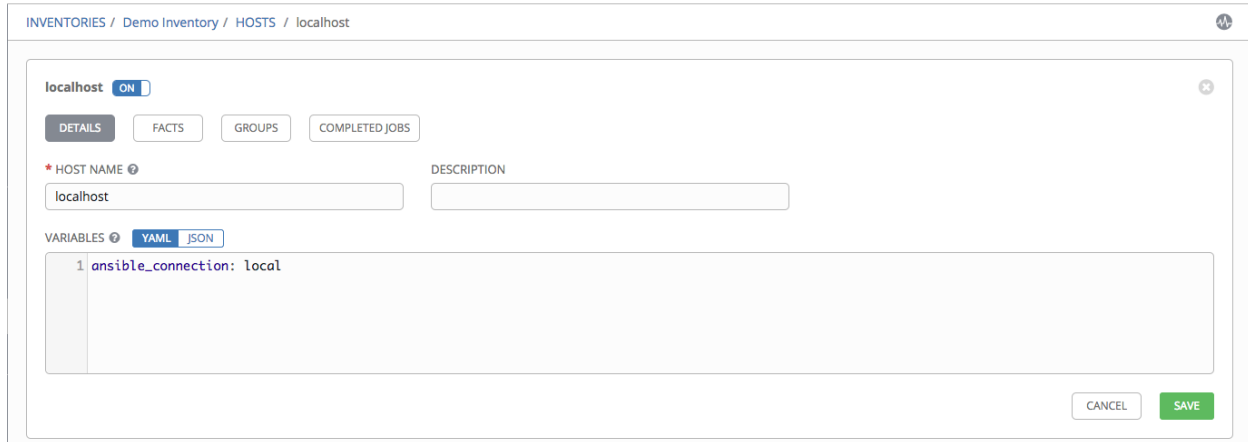
2. Similarly, in the **Hosts** tab, click the  button to add hosts to groups.



**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.




The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower interface for editing a host. The breadcrumb navigation at the top reads "INVENTORIES / Demo Inventory / HOSTS / localhost". The host name "localhost" is displayed with a status indicator "ON". Below this are four tabs: "DETAILS" (selected), "FACTS", "GROUPS", and "COMPLETED JOBS". The "HOST NAME" field contains "localhost" and the "DESCRIPTION" field is empty. The "VARIABLES" section is set to "YAML" and contains a single entry: "1 ansible\_connection: local". At the bottom right, there are "CANCEL" and "SAVE" buttons.

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.

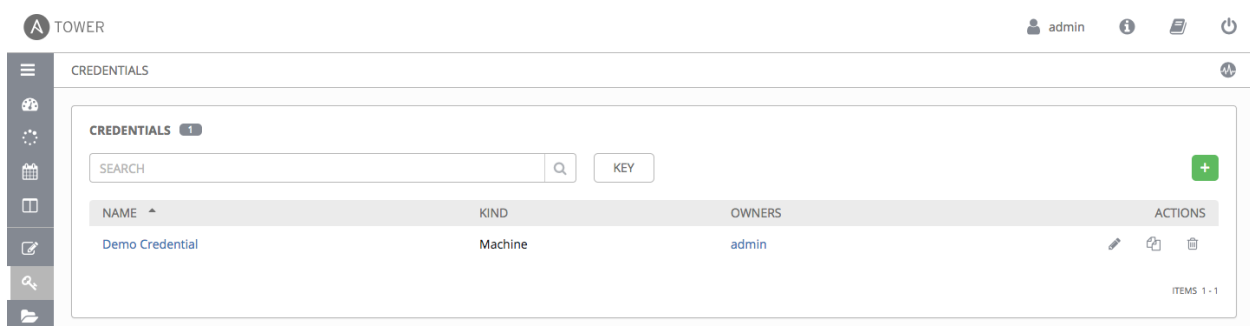


Create a new credential by clicking the Credentials (  ) icon from the left navigation bar.

---

**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.

---



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

Demo Credential [SELECT AN ORGANIZATION]

\* CREDENTIAL TYPE ⓘ

Machine

**TYPE DETAILS**

USERNAME PASSWORD  Prompt on launch

admin [SHOW] [PASSWORD]

SSH PRIVATE KEY HINT: Drag and drop an SSH private key file on the field below.

[DRAG AND DROP AREA]

PRIVATE KEY PASSPHRASE  Prompt on launch PRIVILEGE ESCALATION METHOD ⓘ PRIVILEGE ESCALATION USERNAME

[SHOW] [PASSPHRASE] [METHOD] [USERNAME]

PRIVILEGE ESCALATION PASSWORD  Prompt on launch

[SHOW] [PASSWORD]

CANCEL SAVE

## 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.

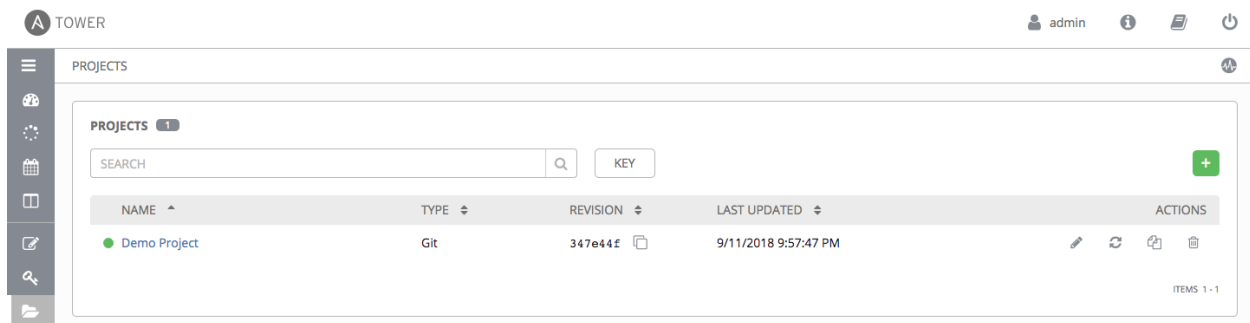
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**Note:** It is recommended that, whenever possible, you use source control to manage your playbooks. This type of best practice provides the ability to treat your infrastructure as code and is in line with DevOps ideals. While this Quick Start Guide 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, click the Projects (  ) icon from the left navigation bar.



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 | JOB TEMPLATES | SCHEDULES

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

\* SCM TYPE: Git

**SOURCE DETAILS**

\* SCM URL: https://github.com/ansible/ansible-tower-samples      SCM BRANCH/TAG/COMMIT:      SCM CREDENTIAL:

SCM UPDATE OPTIONS:  Clean,  Delete on Update,  Update Revision 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 SCM sync for this project. Update the

SCM-based demo project by clicking the  button under the project's available Actions:

PROJECTS 1

SEARCH    KEY    +

NAME	TYPE	REVISION	LAST UPDATED	ACTIONS
<input type="radio"/> Demo Project	Git			<span>Get latest SCM revision</span> <span>ONS</span> <span>✎</span> <span>🔄</span> <span>📄</span> <span>🗑️</span>

ITEMS 1 - 1

**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, the revision, and the last run information updates once the sync has completed.

PROJECTS 1

SEARCH    KEY    +

NAME	TYPE	REVISION	LAST UPDATED	ACTIONS
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Demo Project	Git	347e44f	9/11/2018 9:57:47 PM	<span>✎</span> <span>🔄</span> <span>📄</span> <span>🗑️</span>

ITEMS 1 - 1

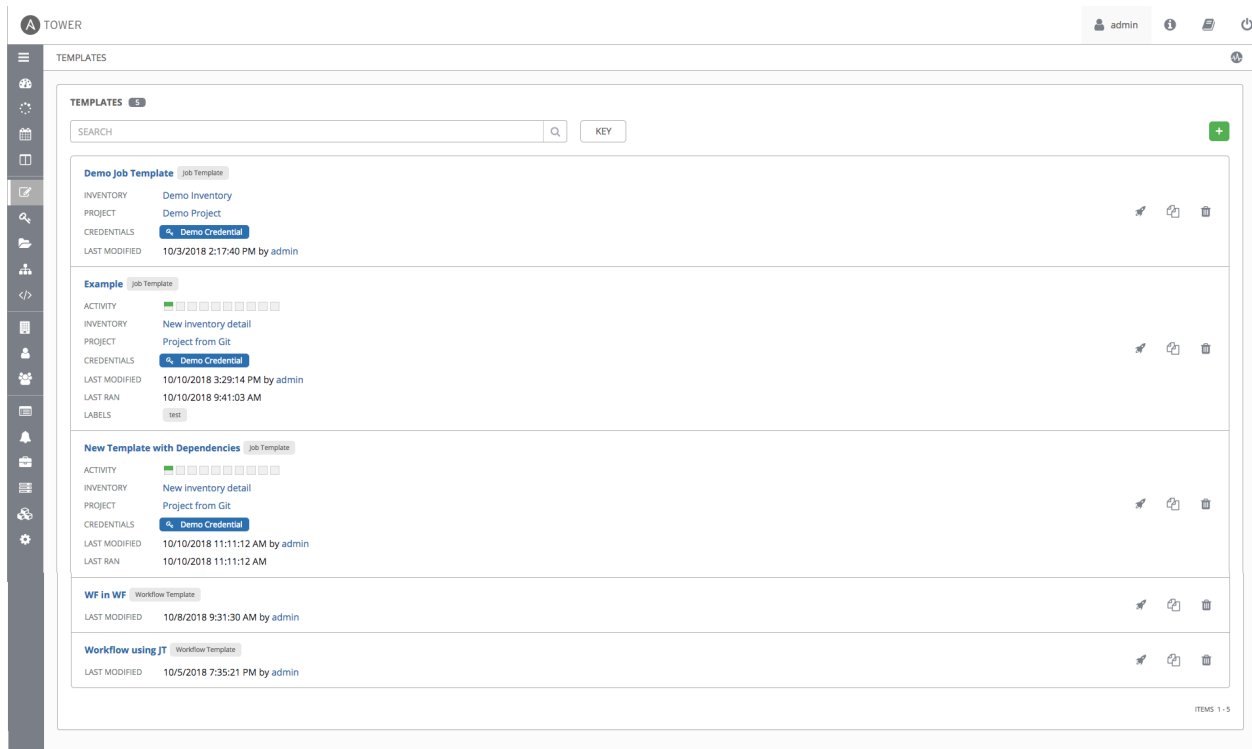


## CREATE A NEW JOB TEMPLATE

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 clicking the Templates ( ) icon from the left navigation bar.



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.

The screenshot displays the 'Demo Job Template' configuration interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'DETAILS', 'PERMISSIONS', 'NOTIFICATIONS', 'COMPLETED JOBS', 'SCHEDULES', and 'ADD SURVEY'. The main configuration area is divided into several sections:


- \* NAME:** A text input field containing 'Demo Job Template'.
- DESCRIPTION:** An empty text input field.
- \* JOB TYPE:** A dropdown menu set to 'Run'.
- \* INVENTORY:** A search input field containing 'Demo Inventory'.
- \* PROJECT:** A search input field containing 'Demo Project'.
- \* PLAYBOOK:** A dropdown menu set to 'hello\_world.yml'.
- CREDENTIAL:** A search input field containing 'Demo Credential'.
- FORKS:** A dropdown menu set to 'DEFAULT'.
- LIMIT:** An empty text input field.
- \* VERBOSITY:** A dropdown menu set to '0 (Normal)'.
- JOB TAGS:** An empty text input field.
- SKIP TAGS:** An empty text input field.
- LABELS:** An empty text input field.
- INSTANCE GROUPS:** A search input field.
- SHOW CHANGES:** A toggle switch set to 'OFF'.

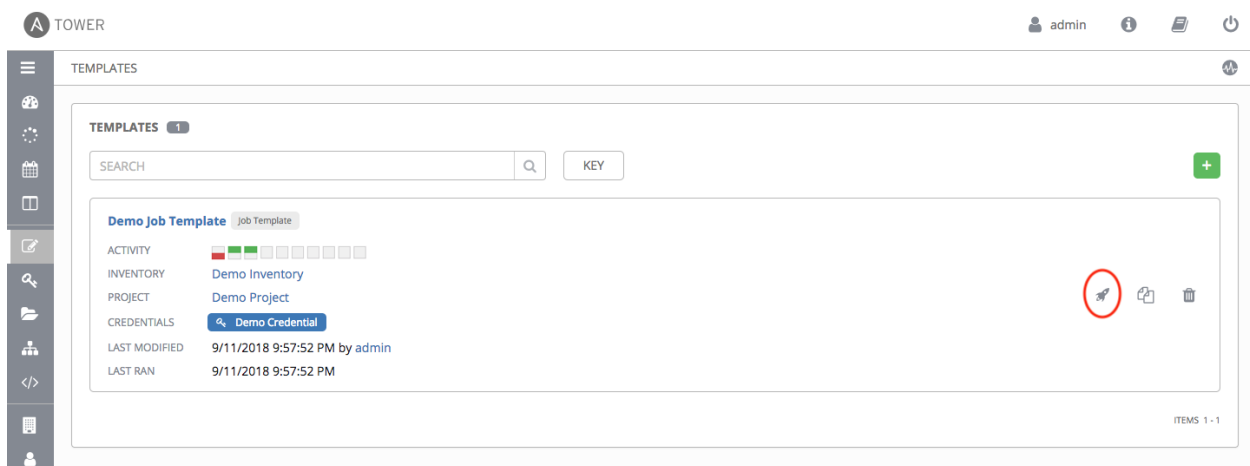
Below these fields, there are 'OPTIONS' with checkboxes for 'Enable Privilege Escalation', 'Allow Provisioning Callbacks', 'Enable Concurrent Jobs', and 'Use Fact Cache'. At the bottom, there is an 'EXTRA VARIABLES' section with a 'YAML' tab selected and a text area containing '1 ---'. 'CANCEL' and 'SAVE' buttons are located at the bottom right.

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 Templates overview screen. Clicking **Save** does not exit the edit dialog.

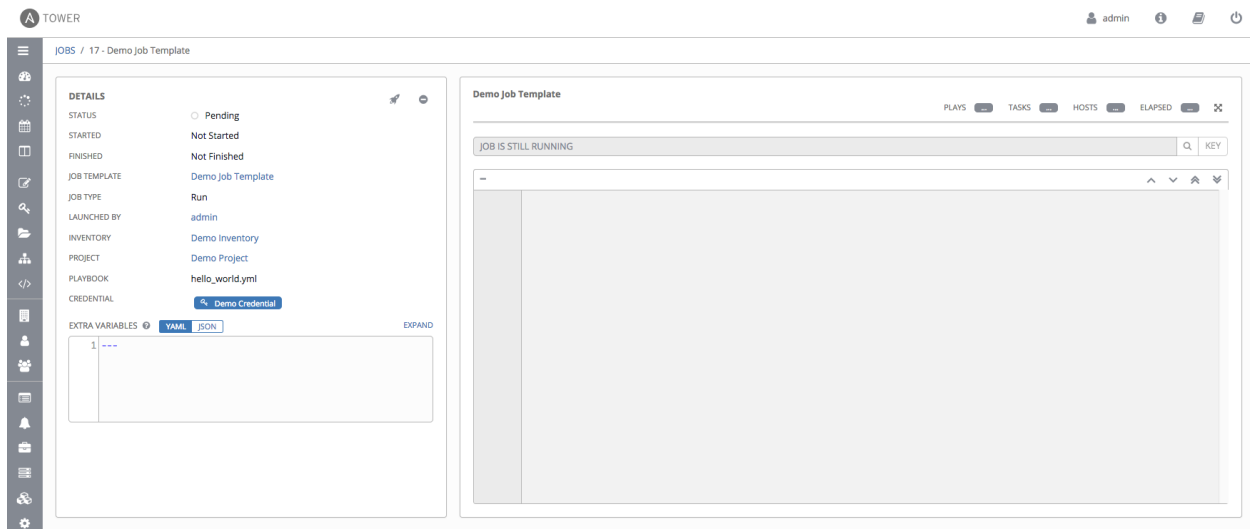
# CHAPTER TWELVE

## LAUNCH IT!

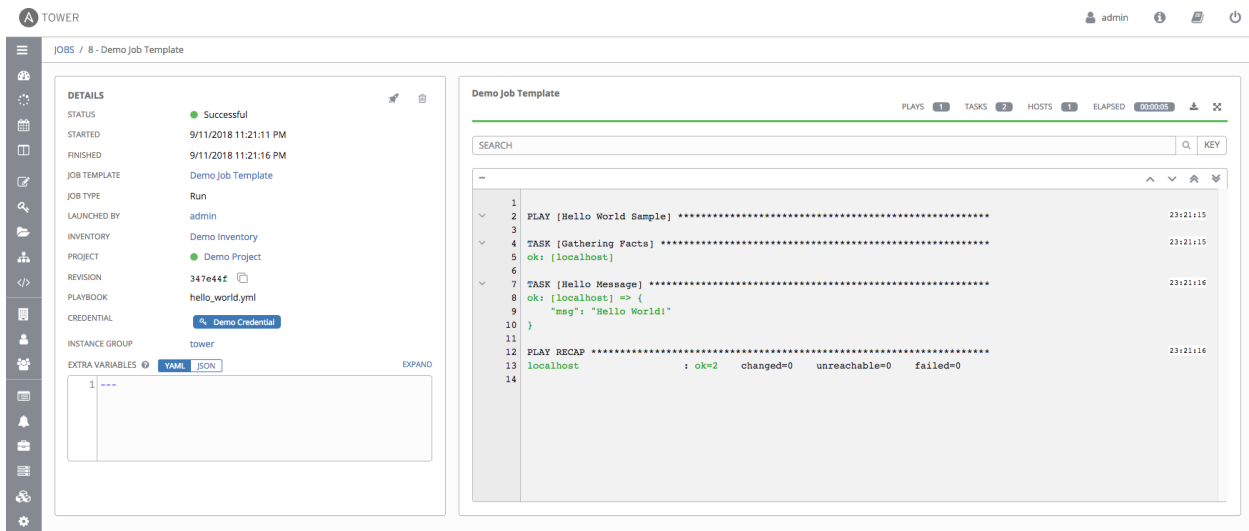
From the Job Templates overview screen, click the Launch (  ) button (under Actions) to run this Job Template.



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



Once complete, the job results look like the following:



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](#).

**INDEX**

- genindex

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## A

about Tower  
 settings menu, 6

## C

configure Tower  
 settings menu, 10  
 credential types  
 settings menu, 6  
 credentials  
 create, 19  
 settings menu, 6

## D

dashboard, Tower  
 examine, 6

## I

instance groups  
 settings menu, 6  
 inventory  
 add to organization, 16  
 create new, 16  
 inventory scripts  
 settings menu, 6

## J

job templates  
 creation, 23  
 launch, 25

## L

launch  
 job templates, 25  
 license  
 import, 4  
 license, viewing, 10  
 log in  
 Tower, 3

## M

management jobs

settings menu, 6

## N

notifications  
 settings menu, 6

## O

organization  
 default, 11  
 settings menu, 6  
 organizations, 11

## P

projects, 21

## Q

quick start, intro, 2

## S

settings menu  
 about Tower, 6  
 configure Tower, 10  
 credential types, 6  
 credentials, 6  
 instance groups, 6  
 inventory scripts, 6  
 management jobs, 6  
 notifications, 6  
 organization, 6  
 teams, 6  
 users, 6  
 view license, 10

## T

teams  
 settings menu, 6  
 Tower  
 log in, 3  
 Tower settings menu, 10

## U

users

- add new, 13
- add to organization, 13
- settings menu, 6

## V

- view license
  - settings menu, 10