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# **Ansible Tower Quick Setup Guide**

*Release Ansible Tower 3.6.7*

**Red Hat, Inc.**

**Nov 12, 2021**

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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 3.6.7.

### **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 3.6.7; March 09, 2021; <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 Standard and Premium license types. These licenses vary in price and support-levels. For more information about licenses and features, refer to [Licensing, Updates, and Support](#) in the Tower Installation and Reference Guide.

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## 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.

---

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 is the text 'Welcome to Ansible Tower! Please sign in.' There are two input fields: one for 'USERNAME' containing the text 'admin', and one for 'PASSWORD' containing a series of dots. A green 'SIGN IN' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

 **ANSIBLE TOWER**  
by Red Hat

Welcome to Ansible Tower! Please sign in.

USERNAME

admin

PASSWORD

.....

**SIGN IN**

## IMPORT A LICENSE

Tower requires a valid subscription to run. If you do not already have one, request one from the initial screen when you launch Tower. If you have issues with your subscription, contact Red Hat 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.

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**TOWER LICENSE**

Welcome to Ansible Tower! Please complete the steps below to acquire a license.

- 1 Please click the button below to visit Ansible's website to get a Tower license key.  
**REQUEST LICENSE**
- 2 Choose your license file, agree to the End User License Agreement, and click submit.  
**BROWSE** No file selected.

\* LICENSE

Upload a license file

OR

USERNAME

PASSWORD

**GET LICENSES**

\* 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.

I agree to the End User License Agreement

TRACKING AND ANALYTICS

By default, Tower collects and transmits analytics data on Tower usage to Red Hat. There are two categories of data collected by Tower. For more information, see [this Tower documentation page](#). Uncheck the following boxes to disable this feature.

- User analytics:** This data is used to enhance future releases of the Tower Software and help streamline customer experience and success.
- Automation analytics:** This data is used to enhance future releases of the Tower Software and to provide Automation Analytics to Tower subscribers.

**SUBMIT**

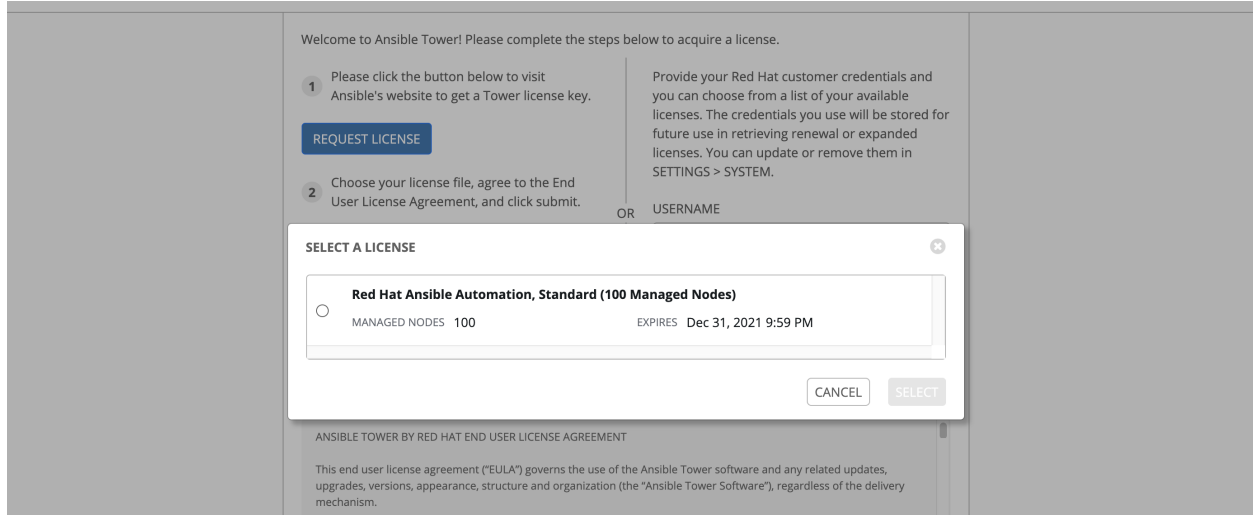
When Tower launches for the first time, the license screen automatically displays. Use your Red Hat credentials to retrieve and import your subscription, or import the license key you received from Red Hat:

1. Enter your Red Hat customer credentials on the right side of the screen. Alternatively, if you have a license file, 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.

**Note:** The license import will work for Tower nodes with RHEL only. For non-RHEL (e.g. CentOS based Tower nodes), activate the license using the license file instead. When using Red Hat customer credentials, you must use your Red Hat username and password, not your Red Hat account email address and password.

2. If you entered your credential information, click **Get Licenses**.

Once your credential information (or license) is recognized, and you are on RHEL 7 and later, you will see a prompt with your Red Hat subscription(s). Choose the subscription you want to run (the example below has only one subscription). You can log in over time and retrieve new subscriptions if you have renewed.



Other non-RHEL subscribers, after uploading the license file, proceed by checking the **End User License Agreement**.

3. The bottom half of the license screen involves analytics data collection. This helps Red Hat improve the product by delivering you a much better user experience. For more information about data collection, refer to [Usability Analytics and Data Collection](#). This option is checked by default, but you may opt out of any of the following:

- **User analytics** collects data from the Tower User Interface.
- **Automation analytics** provides a high level analysis of your automation with Ansible Tower, which is used to help you identify trends and anomalous use of Tower. For opt-in of Automation Analytics to have any effect, your instance of Ansible Tower **must** be running on Red Hat Enterprise Linux. See instructions described in the [Automation Analytics](#) section.

**Note:** At this time, Automation Insights is not supported when Ansible Tower is running in the OpenShift Container Platform. You may change your analytics data collection preferences at any time, as described in the [Usability Analytics and Data Collection](#) section.

4. After you have specified your tracking and analytics preferences, click **Submit**.

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

### LICENSE

#### DETAILS

LICENSE	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Valid License
VERSION	3.6.0
LICENSE TYPE	Enterprise
SUBSCRIPTION	Red Hat Ansible Automation, Standard (100 Managed Nodes)
LICENSE KEY	74bc2742aac1800a076c46d18ad3df69edcfda2dcc608a9c3affca55e9f7419
EXPIRES ON	12/31/2021
TIME REMAINING	829 Days
HOSTS AVAILABLE	100
HOSTS USED	1
HOSTS REMAINING	99

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**

Upload a license file

[BROWSE](#) No file selected.

OR

Provide your Red Hat customer credentials and you can choose from a list of your available licenses. The credentials you use will be stored for future use in retrieving renewal or expanded licenses. You can update or remove them in **SETTINGS > SYSTEM**.

USERNAME

PASSWORD

[GET LICENSES](#)

**\* 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 term of the associated Red Hat Software Subscription and in a quantity equal to the number of Red Hat

I agree to the End User License Agreement

[SUBMIT](#)





For later reference, you can return to the license screen by clicking the Settings (  ) icon from the left navigation bar and select the **License** tab from the Settings screen.

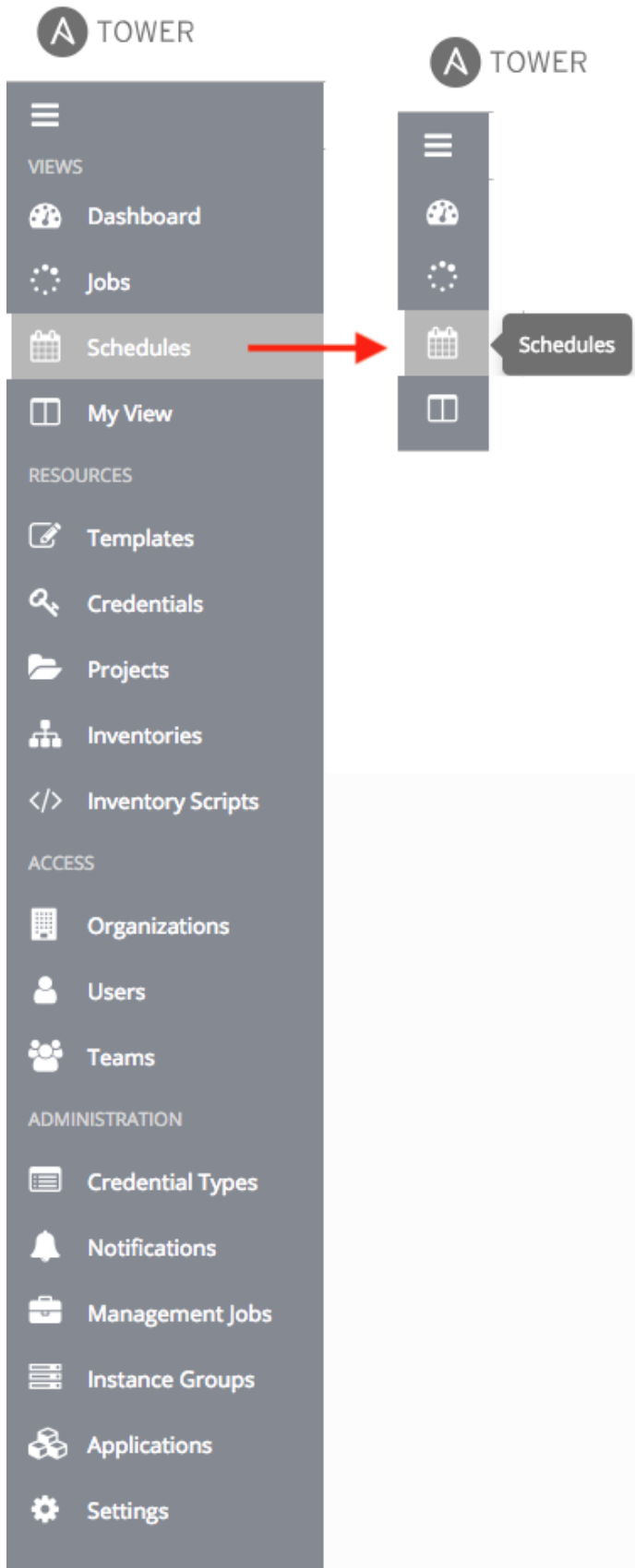


## EXAMINE THE TOWER DASHBOARD

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.

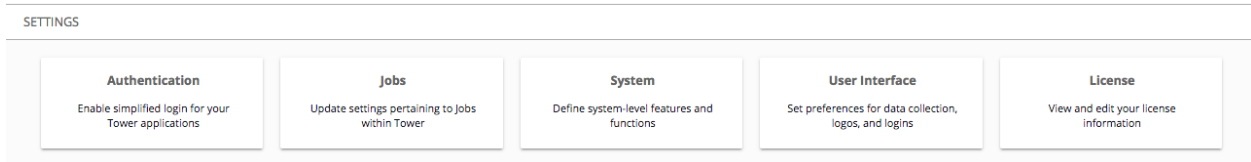




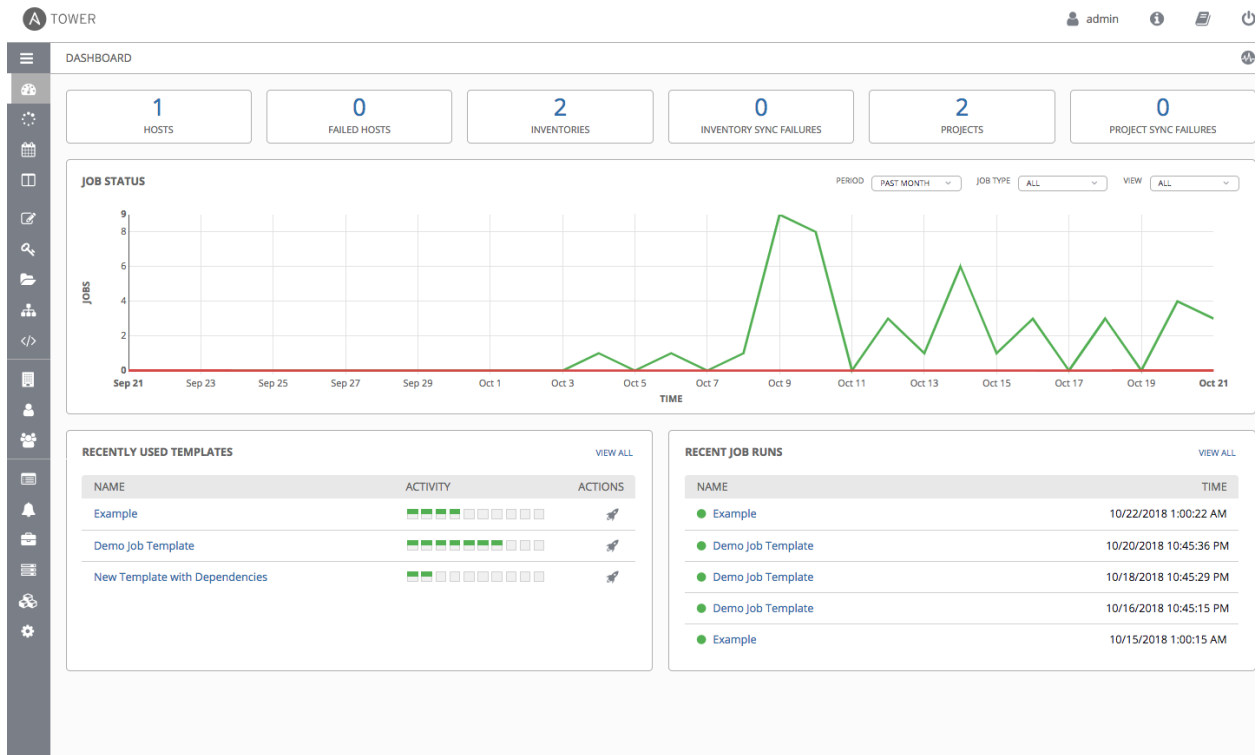
The very last item in the navigation bar is the Settings (  ) icon, which provides access to the Tower configuration Settings.




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.

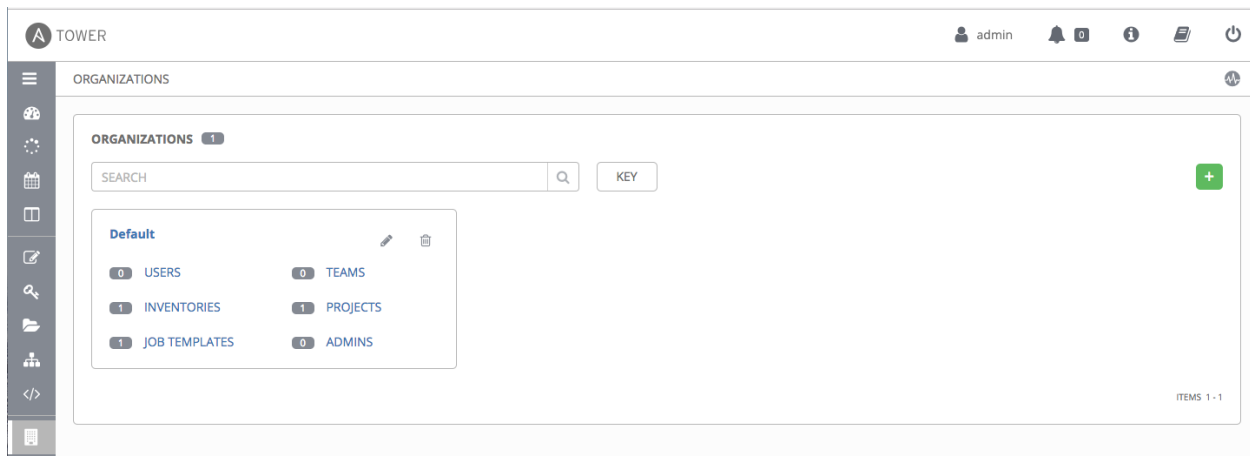


From the left navigation bar, click the Organizations (  ) icon.

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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.

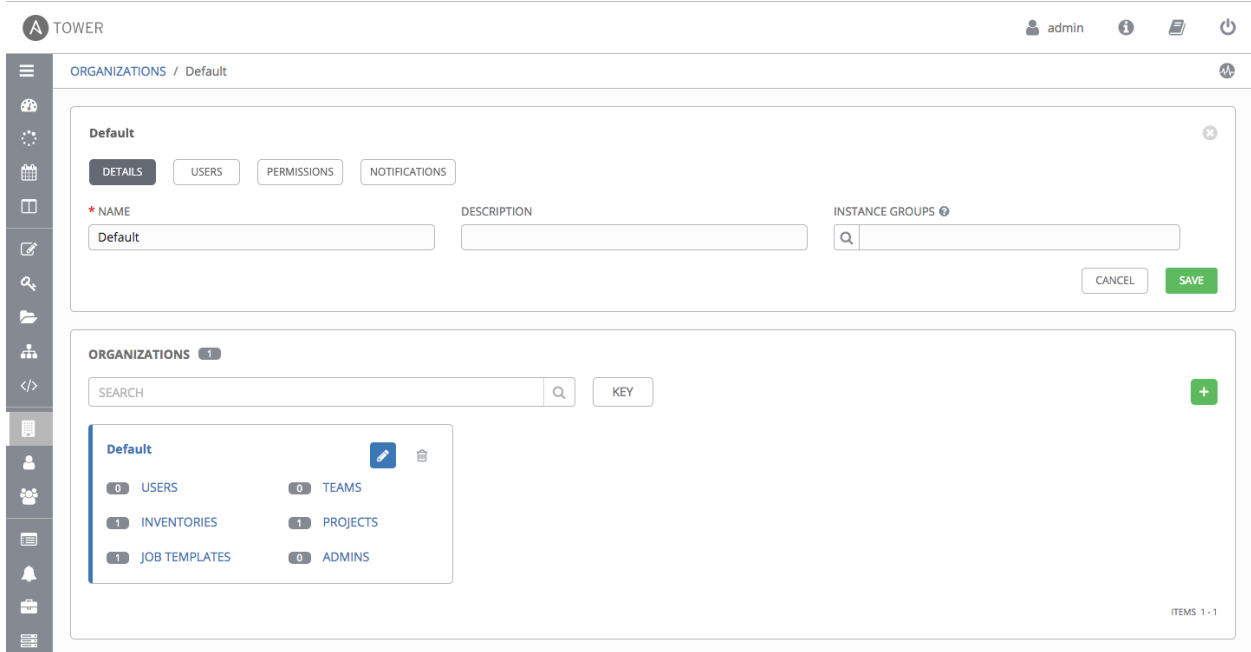
For the purpose of this Quick Start Guide, leave the default organization as is and click **Save**.

---

**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' 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

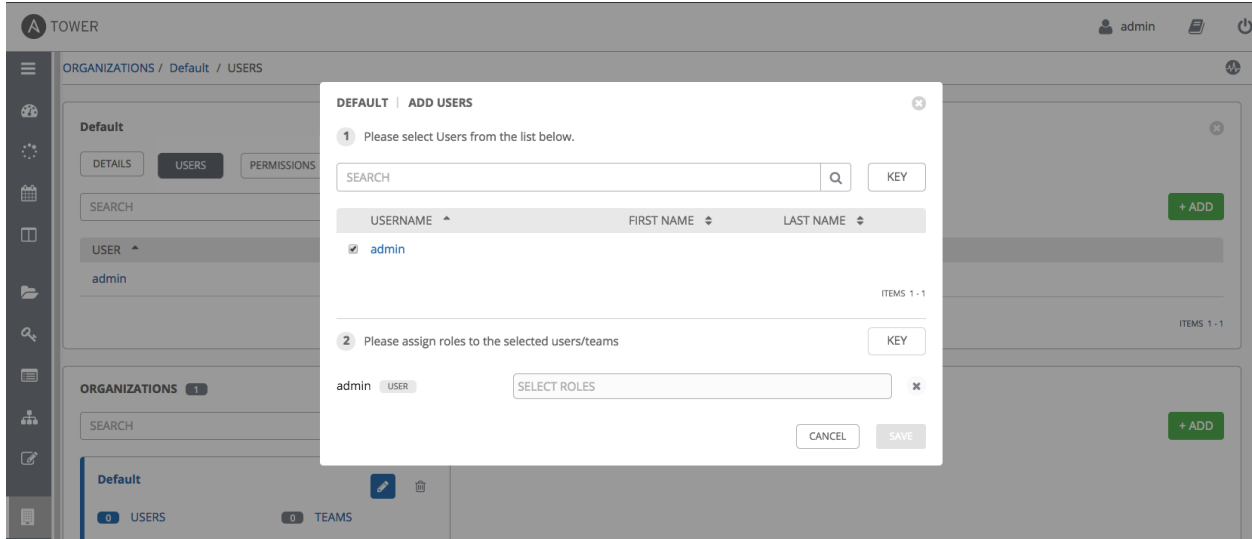
Expand the Users details by clicking on the **Users** tab of the default organization you just saved (not from the left navigation bar).

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 for the 'Default' organization, with tabs for 'DETAILS', 'USERS', 'PERMISSIONS', and 'NOTIFICATIONS'. The 'USERS' tab is active, showing a search bar and a table with one user: 'admin' with the role 'SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR'. A green '+ ADD USER' button is in the top right of this section. The bottom section is titled 'ORGANIZATIONS 1' and shows a search bar and a summary of organization statistics: 'Default' with '0' users, '0' teams, '1' inventory, '1' project, '1' job template, and '0' admins. A green '+ ADD USER' button is also present in the top right of this section.



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.



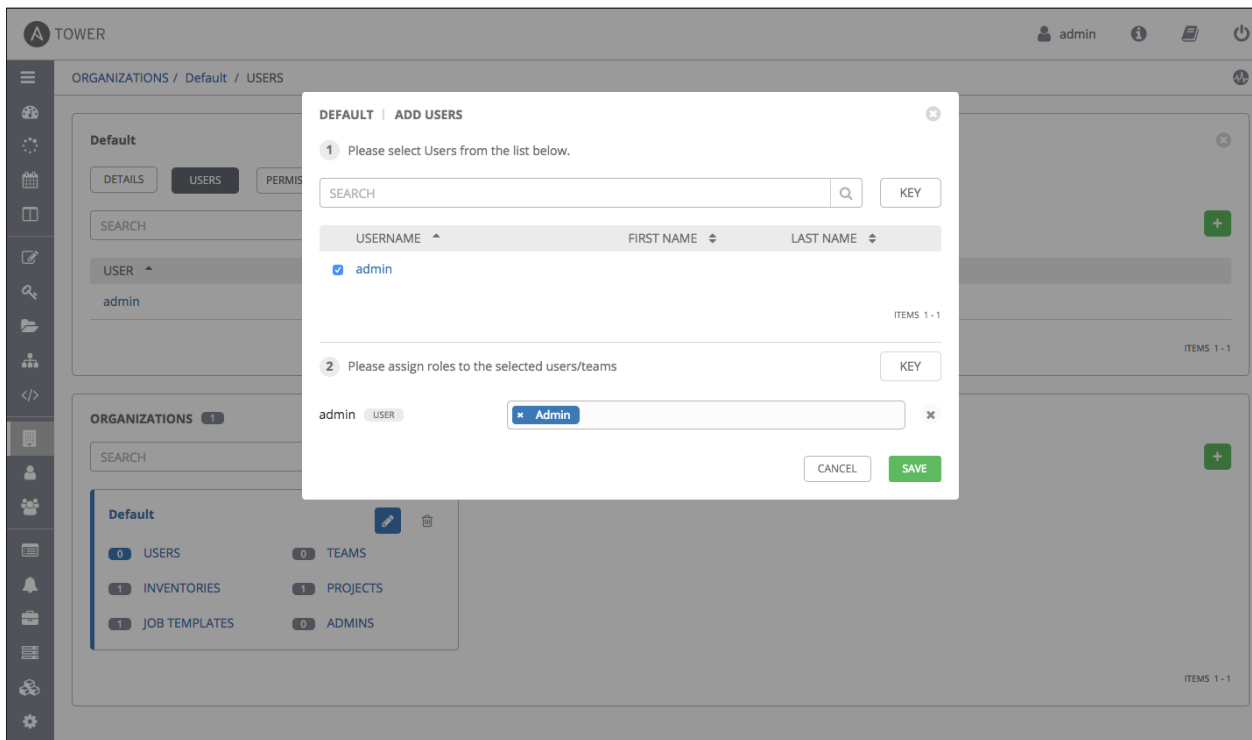


3. Click from the drop-down menu to select one or more roles for that user.

---

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

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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.



The screenshot shows the Ansible Tower web interface. At the top, the logo 'TOWER' is on the left, and the user 'admin' is on the right. The breadcrumb navigation is 'ORGANIZATIONS / Default / USERS'. The main content area is titled 'Default' and contains tabs for 'DETAILS', 'USERS', 'PERMISSIONS', and 'NOTIFICATIONS'. Below the tabs is a search bar with a 'KEY' button and a green '+' button. A table lists users with columns for 'USER' and 'ROLE'. One user, 'admin', is listed with roles 'ADMIN' and 'SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR'. The bottom right of the table area shows 'ITEMS 1 - 1'.

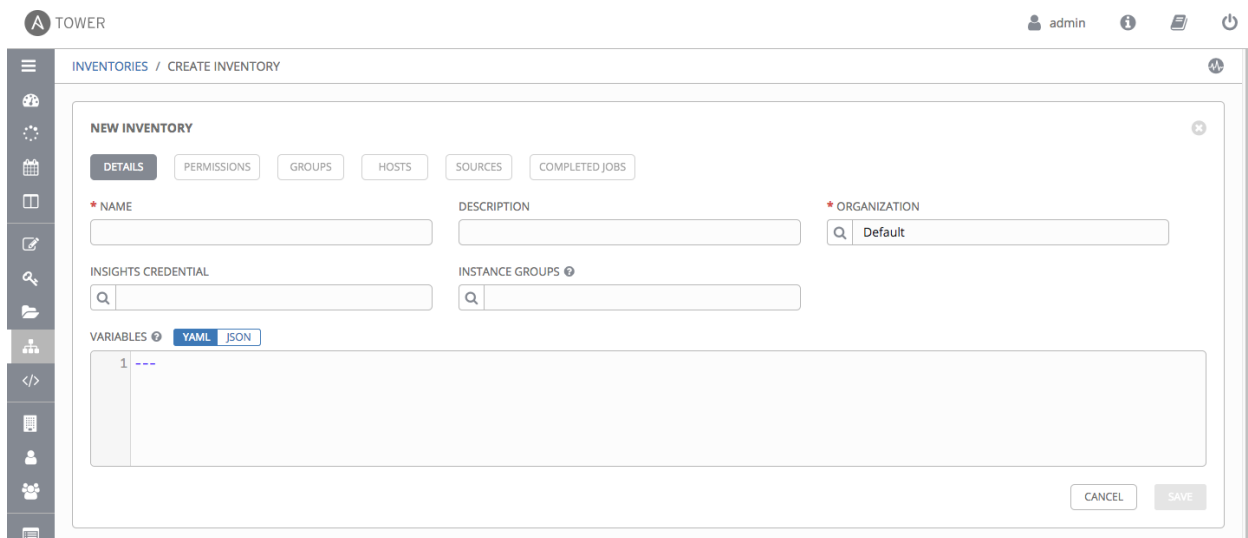
USER	ROLE
admin	ADMIN SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

## 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 is titled 'NEW INVENTORY' and has several tabs: 'DETAILS', 'PERMISSIONS', 'GROUPS', 'HOSTS', 'SOURCES', and 'COMPLETED JOBS'. The 'DETAILS' tab is active. The form contains the following fields:

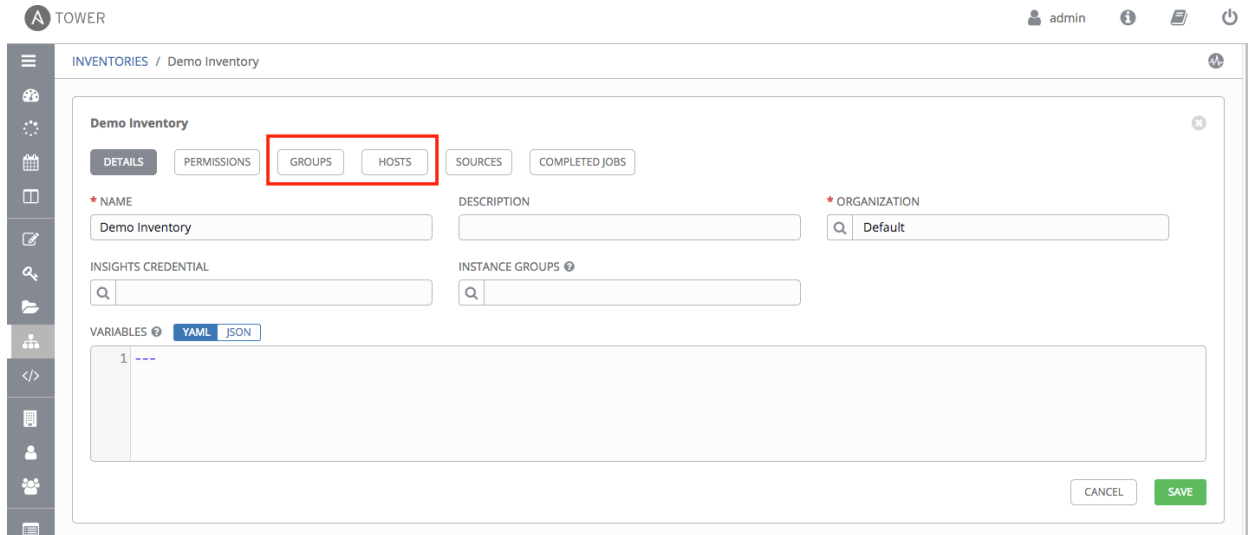
- \* NAME**: A text input field.
- DESCRIPTION**: A text input field.
- \* ORGANIZATION**: A dropdown menu with 'Default' selected.
- INSIGHTS CREDENTIAL**: A text input field with a search icon.
- INSTANCE GROUPS**: A text input field with a search icon.
- VARIABLES**: A section with tabs for 'YAML' and 'JSON'. The 'YAML' tab is selected, and a code editor area is visible with a cursor at the start of a line.

At the bottom right of the form, there are 'CANCEL' and 'SAVE' buttons.

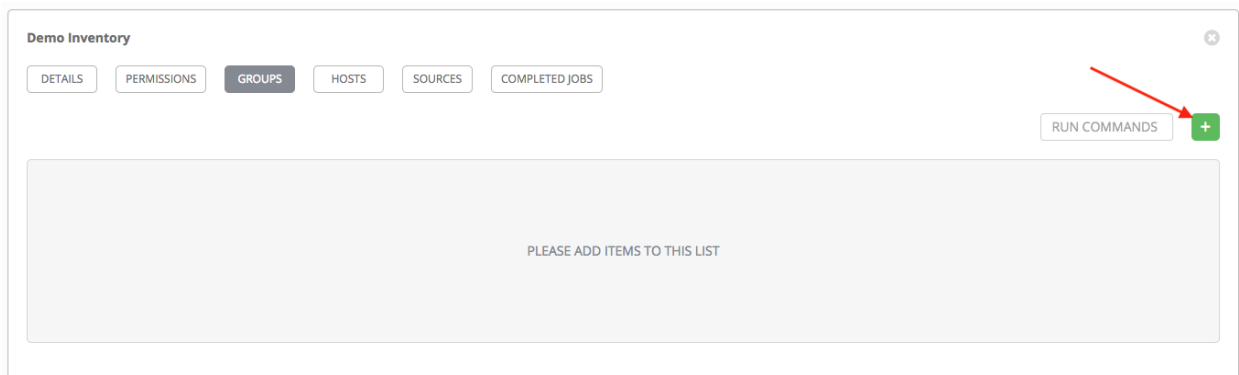
Ansible Tower provides a demo inventory for you to use as you learn how Tower works. Click on the “Demo Inventory” link for the stock inventory provided by Ansible Tower.

## 8.1 Groups and Hosts

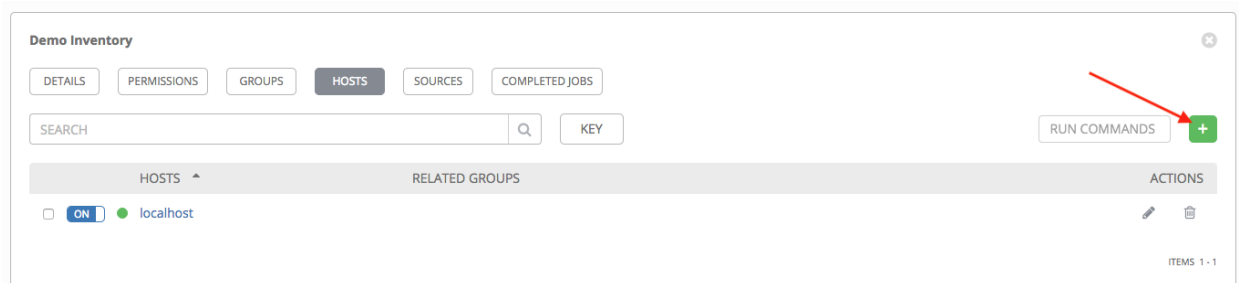
Note that inventories are divided into groups and hosts. A group might represent a particular environment (e.g. “Datacenter 1” or “Stage Testing”), a server type (e.g. “Application Servers” or “DB Servers”), or any other representation of your environment. The groups and hosts that belong to the Demo 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 web 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. Under the "VARIABLES" section, the "YAML" tab is selected, and a single variable is listed: "1 ansible\_connection: local". At the bottom right of the form 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.

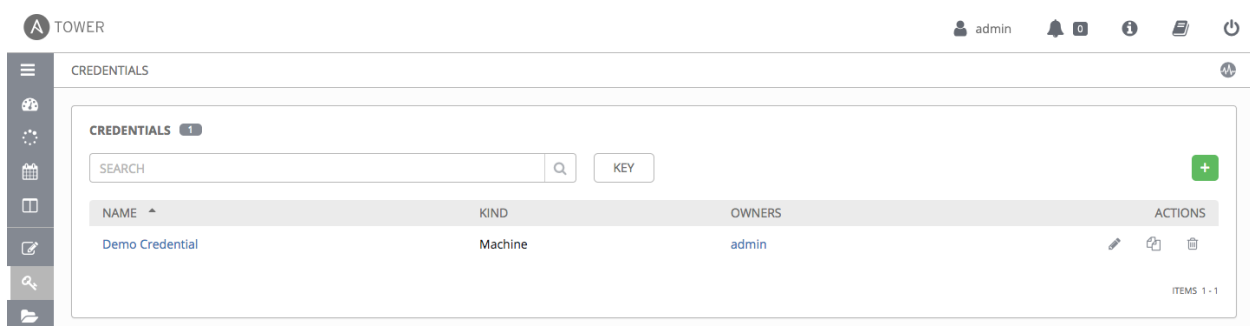


Create a new credential by clicking the Credentials (  ) icon from the left navigation bar.

---

**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

\* CREDENTIAL TYPE ?

**TYPE DETAILS**

USERNAME  PASSWORD   Prompt on launch

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

SIGNED SSH CERTIFICATE HINT: Drag and drop private file on the field below.

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

PRIVILEGE ESCALATION PASSWORD   Prompt on launch

## SETTING UP A PROJECT


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

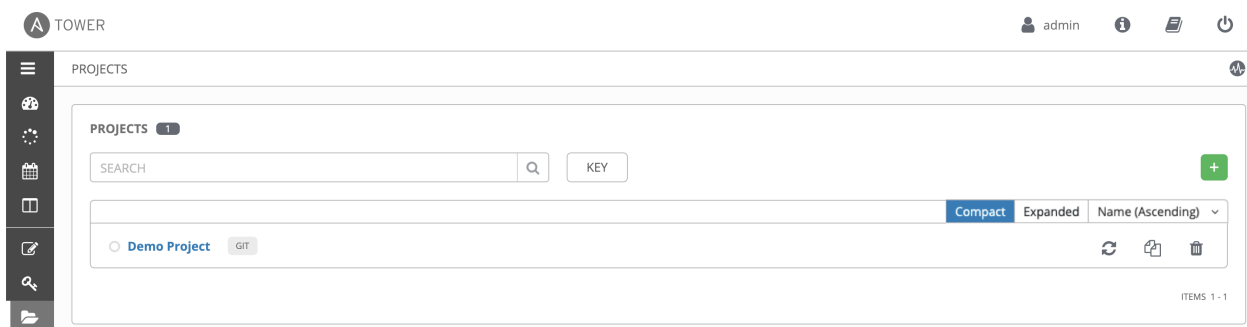
You can manage playbooks and playbook directories by either placing them manually under the Project Base Path on your Tower server, or by placing your playbooks into a source code management (SCM) system supported by Tower, including Git, Subversion, and Mercurial.

---


**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, 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.

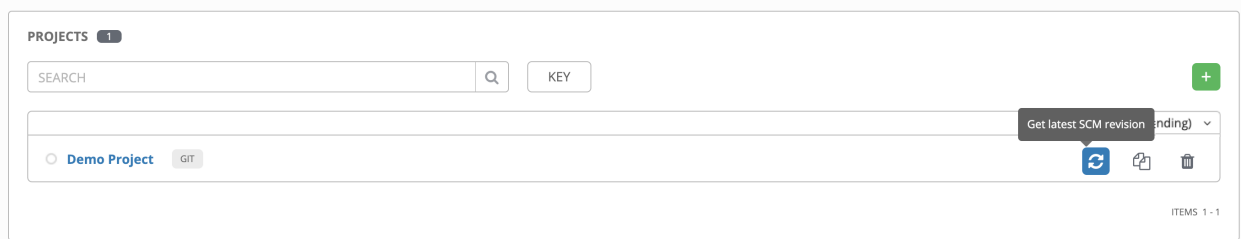
Click on the “Demo Project” name link or click on the Edit () button to review the stock project provided by Ansible Tower.



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.

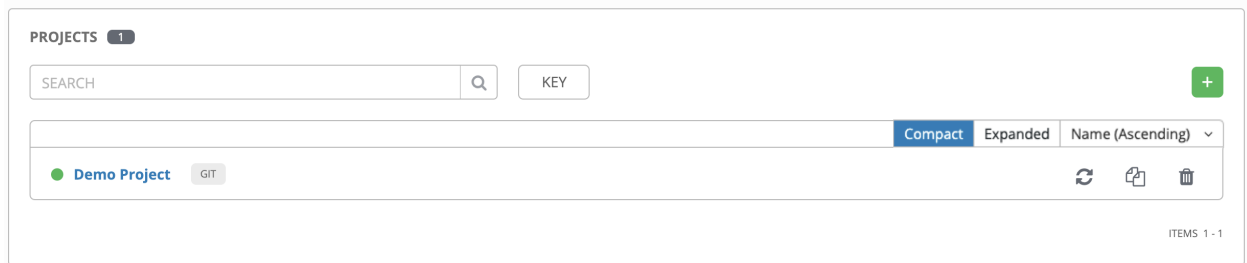
Before this project can be used in a job template, you must manually start an SCM sync for this project. Update the

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




**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.

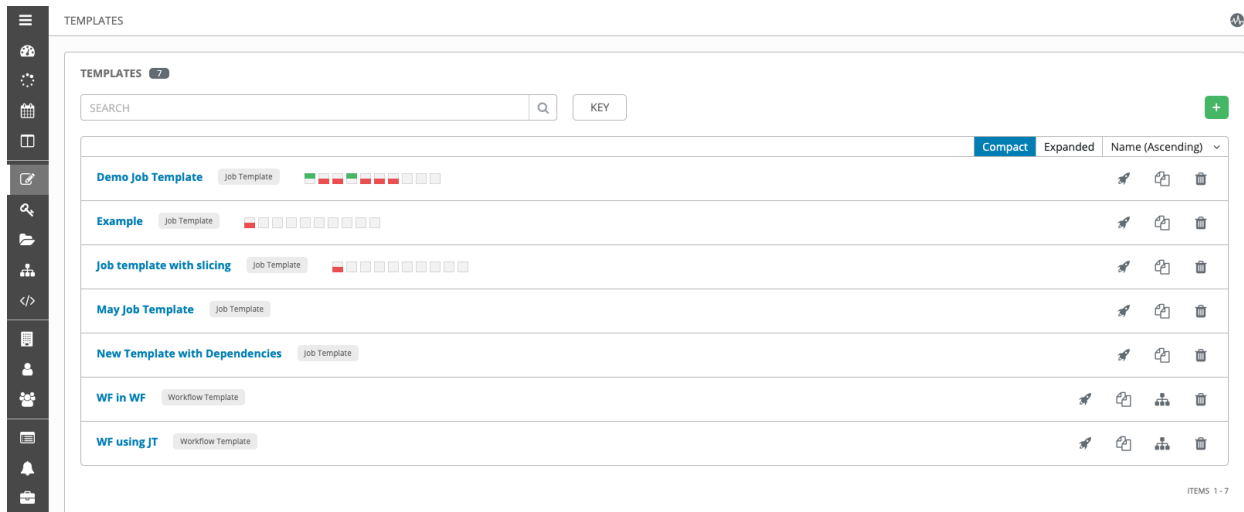
Notice that the status dot beside the name of the project, the revision, and the last run information updates once the sync has completed.




## 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.

### Demo Job Template

DETAILS | PERMISSIONS | NOTIFICATIONS | COMPLETED JOBS | SCHEDULES | ADD SURVEY

\* NAME: Demo Job Template

DESCRIPTION: [Empty]

\* JOB TYPE: Run  PROMPT ON LAUNCH

\* INVENTORY: Demo Inventory  PROMPT ON LAUNCH

\* PROJECT: Demo Project

\* PLAYBOOK: hello\_world.yml

CREDENTIAL: Demo Credential  PROMPT ON LAUNCH

FORKS: 0

LIMIT: [Empty]  PROMPT ON LAUNCH

\* VERBOSITY: 0 (Normal)  PROMPT ON LAUNCH

JOB TAGS: [Empty]  PROMPT ON LAUNCH

SKIP TAGS: [Empty]  PROMPT ON LAUNCH

LABELS: [Empty]

INSTANCE GROUPS: [Empty]

JOB SLICING: 1

TIMEOUT: 0

SHOW CHANGES: OFF  PROMPT ON LAUNCH

OPTIONS:  
 ENABLE PRIVILEGE ESCALATION  
 ALLOW PROVISIONING CALLBACKS  
 ENABLE CONCURRENT JOBS  
 USE FACT CACHE


EXTRA VARIABLES: [YAML | JSON]  PROMPT ON LAUNCH

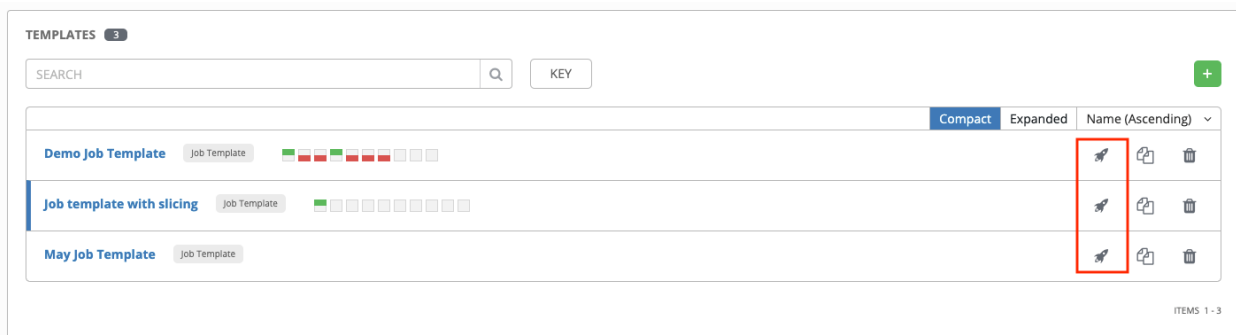
```
1 ---
```

LAUNCH | CANCEL | SAVE

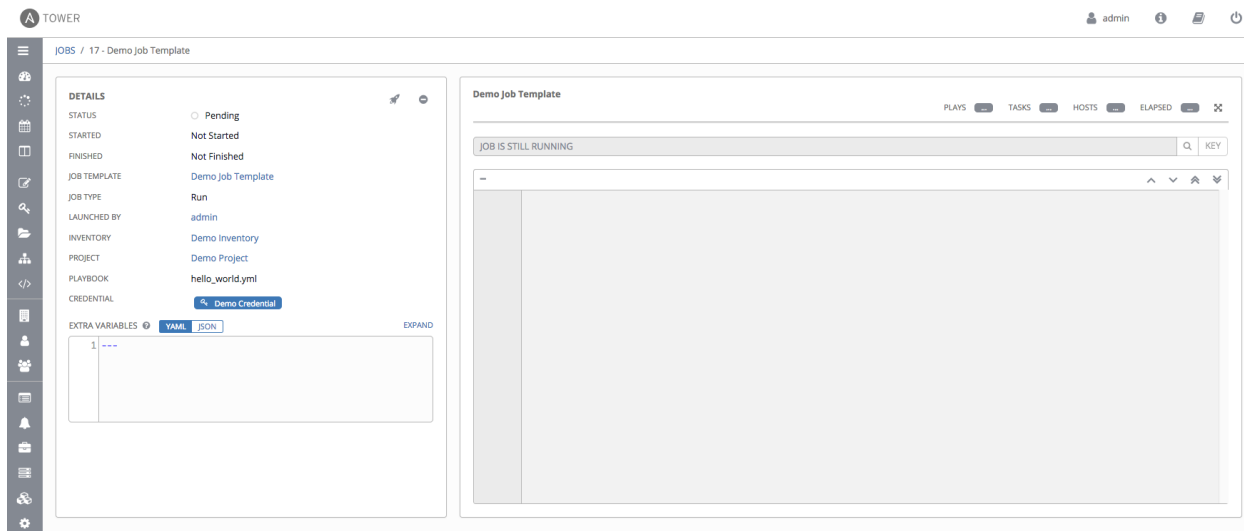
Click **Cancel** (if no changes were made) or use the breadcrumb navigational links at the top of the Ansible Tower browser to return to the Templates overview screen. Clicking **Save** does not exit the edit dialog.

## LAUNCH IT!

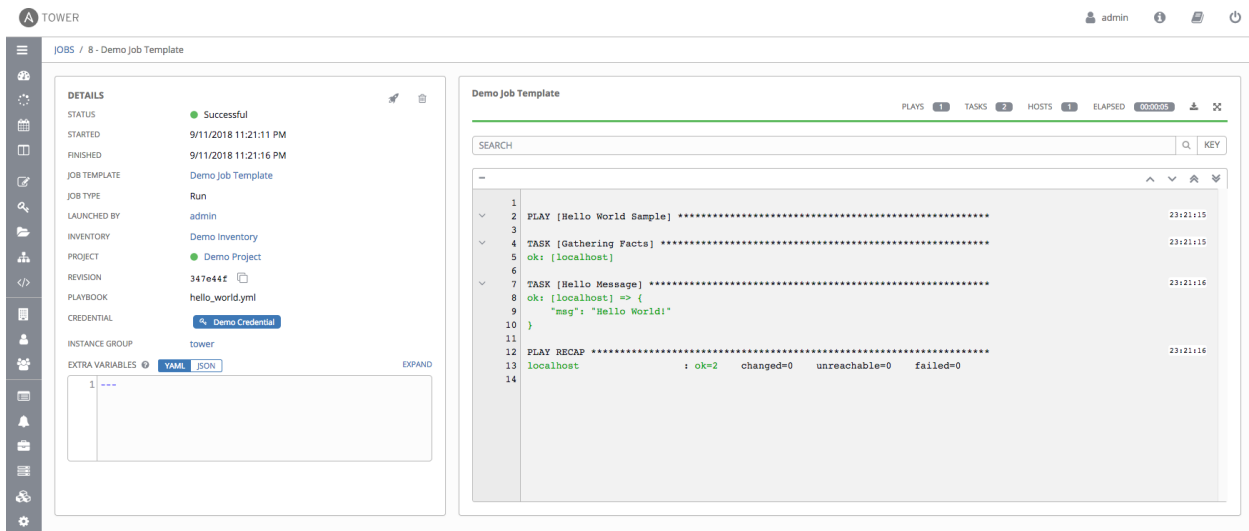
From the Job Templates overview screen, click the Launch (  ) button to run this Job Template.



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](#).

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