Puppet Action Pack

The Challenge

Puppet is an open source systems management tool for centralizing and automating configuration management, the detailed recording and updating of information that describes an enterprise's hardware and software.

Puppet has two layers: a configuration language to describe how the hosts and services should look, and an abstraction layer that allows the administrator to implement the configuration on a variety of platforms, including Unix, Linux, Windows and OS X. Administrators can encode the configuration of a service as a policy, which Puppet then monitors and enforces. Puppet is written in Ruby and uses its own domain specific language (DSL) for creating and managing modules.

Open Source Puppet, the basic version of Puppet configuration management, is available directly from Puppet's website and is licensed under the Apache 2.0 system. It is sufficient for individuals managing a small set of servers, but for more complex architecture used by a variety of teams, Puppet Enterprise is required.

Puppet Limitations

Puppet Enterprise has a range of capabilities to automate the delivery and operation of infrastructure at scale, but has an issue that will be familiar with Puppet users: how can I execute arbitrary commands on all or some of my Puppet nodes? How can I ensure the order of execution of commands in my Puppet manifests when I need to, and can I manage versions of my manifest as parts of a CD pipeline with other artifacts and in sync with enterprise approval processes?

While Puppet does a great job for configuration management, it must also be used as an integral piece amongst many specialized tools in an integrated DevOps tool chain; a Continuous Delivery pipeline. Only then can IT provide the agility required by the business for digital transformation. Puppet's automation capabilities should be orchestrated as part of a wider, overarching release automation policy that stretches across the entire app lifecycle, giving a reusable template in which Puppet is merely one moving part.

Often even developers make the mistake of confusing Puppet with release automation. When deploying applications at the enterprise level, release automation provides the orchestration, security, audit and scale required by the IT staff managing the production environment where Puppet isn't always present and thus extending the use of Puppet in lower environments.

About the New Action Pack

Automic's Puppet action pack adds an out of the box integration point to Puppet, enabling users to orchestrate it as part of an automated Continuous Delivery pipeline that extends into production. A new section of built-in actions supports the creation of sophisticated workflows that orchestrate Puppet interactions with the surrounding ecosystem within the CD pipeline. Once modeled, these workflows are an integral part of a continuous deployment process and increase the agility of your entire development, test and release process.

Adding this action pack to your release automation environment will also ensure that any Puppet activity as part of a deployment or even standalone is always available for monitoring and all outputs are kept in context for debugging and compliance needs.

Actions Available

- Add new node

- Add classes to node group

- Add/edit variable

- Add class parameter to node group

- Remove class parameter from node group

- List node group classes

- Read value from node group variable

- Replace node group classes

- List class parameter for node group/class pair

- List node groups

- List nodes

- Remove node from node group

- Replace node groups of a node

- Puppet run agent

- Puppet run using MCollective agent

- List node groups for a node

- List nodes for a node group

- Install agent for Unix

- Install agent for Windows

About Automic Release Automation

Automic has the most flexible yet scalable release automation product on the market and is environment agnostic, making Automic uniquely positioned for help to transform any enterprise for the digital age.

About Automic

Automic is the world's largest pure-play automation company, with specific expertise in Continuous Delivery and DevOps. We're proud to have over 2700 customers worldwide and to achieve recognition by top industry analyst firms Gartner and Forrester. Over 30 years of automation heritage makes Automic the ideal partner for initiatives such as DevOps or digital transformation.

For more information or product demonstration please visit www.automic.com