

Automating Networks with Ansible the Right Way

REORIENTING ANSIBLE FOR NETWORK APPLICATIONS



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Agenda



What changes in automating networks?

MPLS VPN overview

Ansible refresher

Creating a simple playbook



Automating Systems vs. Networks

Systems/Servers

Often have Python

Modules run on devices

Few access methods

Network Devices

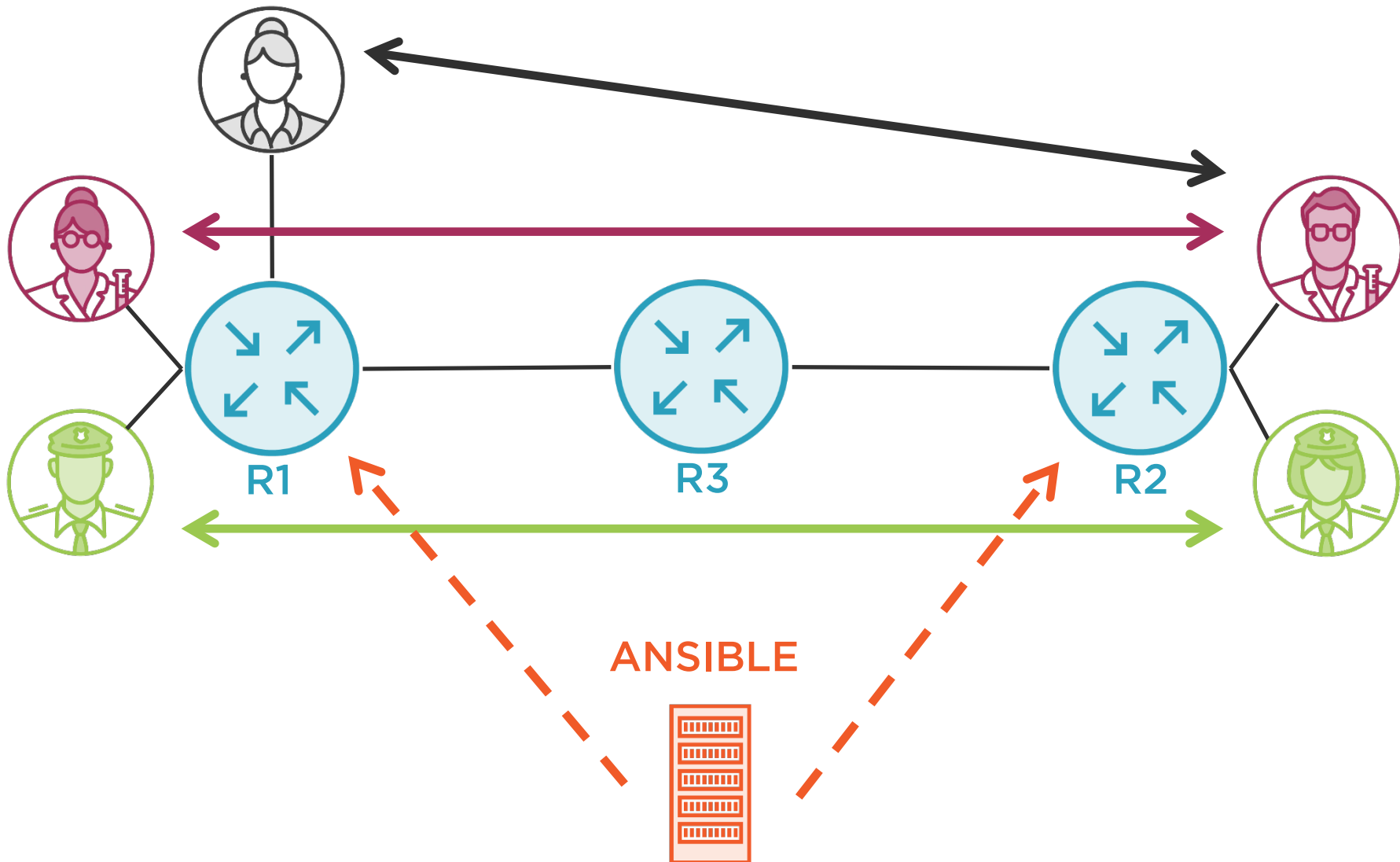
Often lack Python

Modules run on control machine

Many access methods



MPLS VPN Overview



Ansible Basic Components

Configuration file

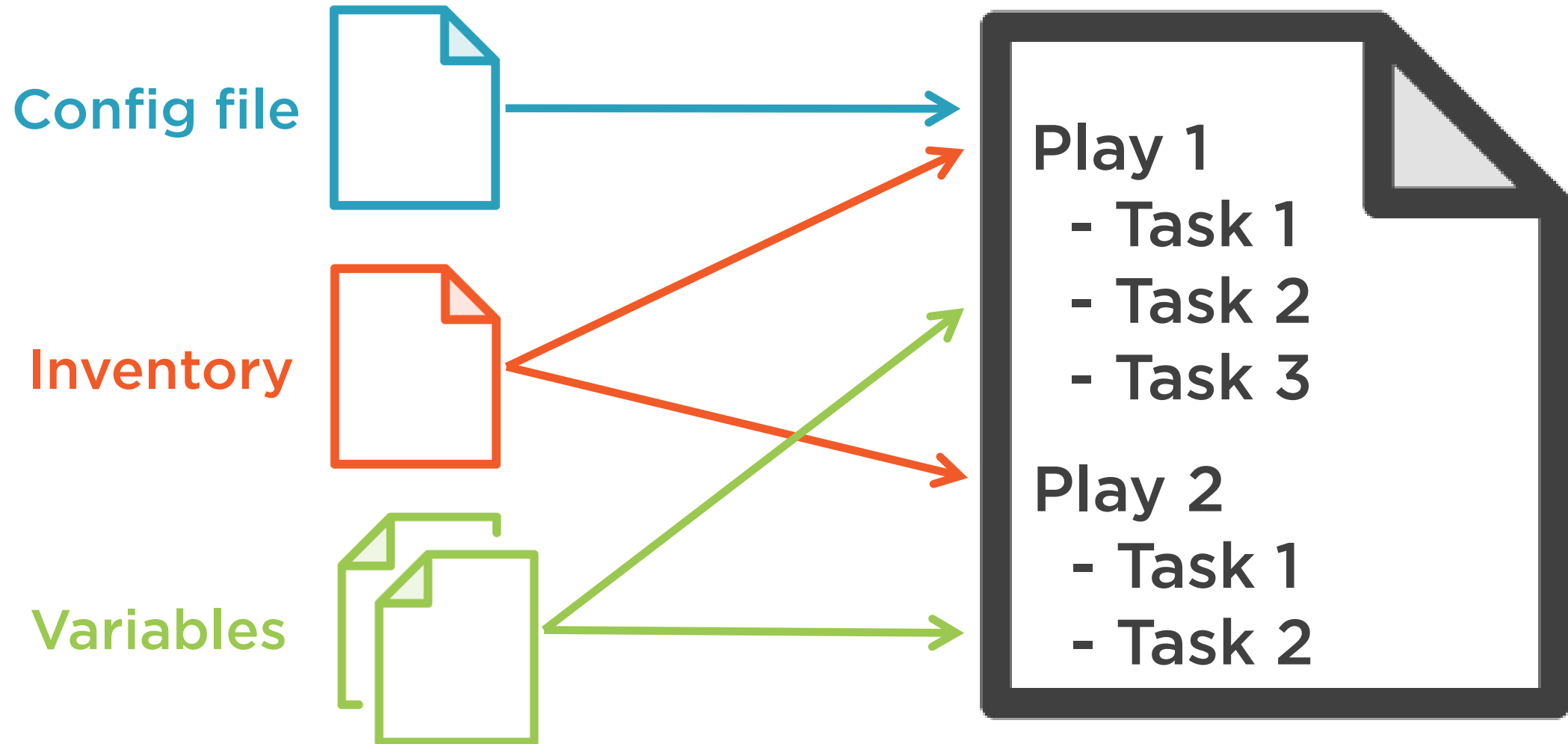
Inventory

Variables

Playbooks



Ansible Playbooks



```
# Used by "network_cli"
```

```
ansible_network_os: ios
```

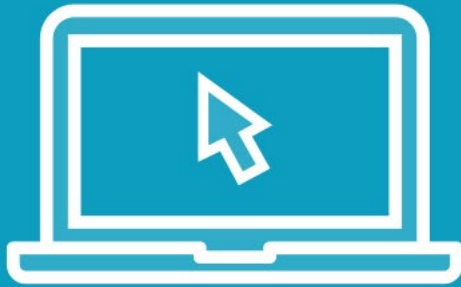
```
ansible_user: ansible
```

```
ansible_password: ansible
```

- ◀ Specifies Cisco IOS platforms
- ◀ Username for login
- ◀ Password for login



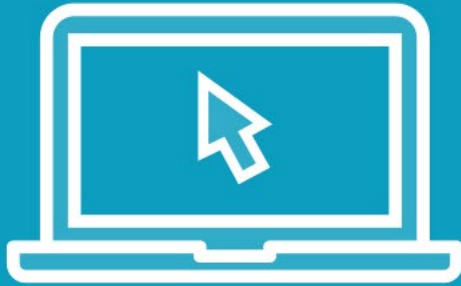
Demo



Preparing Ansible



Demo



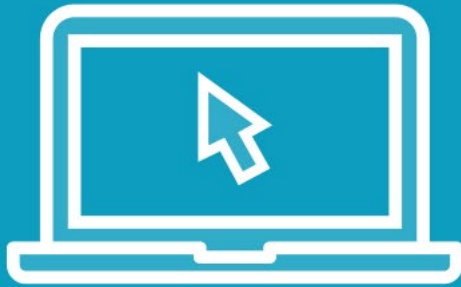
Creating a simple VPN config "getter"



Challenge: Make It Pretty



Demo



Deciphering Ansible JSON feedback



Reviewing the Basics

**Playbook has a list
of plays**

**Play has a list of
tasks**

**Auxiliary files feed
data to playbook**

