

Windows Configuration Management with Puppet

Why let the Linux admins have all the fun?



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Windows, Linux, Mac, & Solaris

Storage, Firewalls, Load Balancers, etc.

Agenda

Better together

Chocolatey

Patching

Modules

Packer

Better Together

(DSC, Hyper-V, SCCM, WMI) + Puppet

DSC in PowerShell vs DSC via Puppet

Write less code to do the same thing

```
simple_dsc_example.ps1
1 Configuration Example
2 {
3     Import-DscResource xPSDesiredStateConfiguration
4
5     xArchive SampleCompressArchive
6     {
7         Path           = "c:\foo\logs"
8         Destination    = "c:\foo\logbackup"
9         CompressionLevel = "Optimal"
10        DestinationType = "File"
11    }
12
13    File ExampleTextFile
14    {
15        Ensure         = 'Present'
16        Type           = 'File'
17        DestinationPath = 'c:\foo.txt'
18        Contents       = 'example text'
19    }
20 }
21
```

```
simple_puppet_example.pp
1 dsc_xarchive { 'SampleCompressArchive':
2     dsc_path           => 'c:/foo/logs',
3     dsc_destination    => 'c:/foo/logbackup',
4     dsc_compressionlevel => 'Optimal',
5     dsc_destinationtype => 'File',
6 }
7
8 dsc_file { 'ExampleTestFile':
9     dsc_ensure         => 'Present',
10    dsc_type           => 'File',
11    dsc_destinationpath => 'c:/foo.txt',
12    dsc_contents       => 'example text',
13 }
14
```

Migrate resources to Puppet

Get the same result fewer lines of code

```
package-dsc-vs-puppet.pp
1  dsc_package{ 'python':
2    · dsc_ensure      => 'Present',
3    · dsc_name       => 'Python 2.7.10',
4    · dsc_productid => 'E2B51919-207A-43EB-AE78-733F9C6797C2',
5    · dsc_path       => 'C:\\python.msi',
6  }
7
8  package { 'python':
9    · ensure => present,
10   · source => 'C:\\python.msi',
11 }
12
```

Puppet + DSC

DSC doesn't do everything Puppet does

- **No real reporting**
- **No rebooting as needed**
- **No package management**
- **Doesn't keep historical data on changes performed**

DSC does cover things Puppet doesn't

- **Hyper-V is one example**

Puppet, DSC, & Hyper-V

The xHyper-V module

- **xVHD: VHDs**
- **xVhdFile: files or directories in a VHD**
- **xVMDvdDrive: DVD drives attached to a VM**
- **xVMHost: Hyper-V host settings**
- **xVMNetworkAdapter: VMNetadapters on a VM or the management OS**
- **xVMProcessor: VM processor options**
- **xVMSwitch: virtual switches**

You'll likely run into a situation where either Puppet or DSC doesn't cover the entirety of the problem all by itself. Instead of trying to make one solution fit all, you can mix and match them.

Paraphrasing the "Managing Windows with Puppet Enterprise" white paper

Puppet, DSC, & Hyper-V

End-to-end network management

Typical network: VM → virtual switch → physical switch(s)

- VM: DSC's xVMNetworkAdapter
- virtual switch: DSC's xVMSwitch
- physical switch(s): Puppet modules for Arista, Cisco, Cumulus, Juniper

Layering Puppet Enterprise on top of DSC

Gain rich management capabilities including:

- **Node classification**
- **Status of nodes across your infrastructure**
- **Global access control**
 - Authentication can be via AD credentials
- **Tracking and reporting change**
 - This simplifies compliance auditing

Puppet Facts

- **Facts are pieces of info about each system puppet runs on such as**
 - IP address
 - MAC address
 - host name
 - OS
- **Facts can be used as variables in Puppet manifests**
- **Custom facts can integrate with external systems**

Puppet + WMI

- **Integrate with existing SCCM**
 - Query client configuration such as location
- **Starting out with Puppet custom facts**
 - <https://glennsarti.github.io/blog/puppet-ruby-facts/>
- **Module: thoward/sccm_application**
 - Installs or uninstalls packages advertised by SCCM

Chocolatey

aka apt-get / yum for Windows

Package management for Windows

- **What is Chocolatey?**
 - Builds on NuGet
 - Provider for PackageManagement (aka OneGet) in WMF 5
- **Public repo: chocolatey.org**
- **Private repo: Chocolatey Server**
 - Great for internal software packages
 - Module: chocolatey/chocolatey_server

Common use cases for Chocolatey

- **FOSS Puppet agent**
- **Monitoring & Backup agents**
- **Log shipping**
- **PowerShell / WMF, .Net, NodeJS**
- **Browsers & plugins**
 - Chrome & Firefox
 - Adobe, Flash, Java
- **Utilities such as Git, 7-Zip, & Notepad++**

Patching

WSUS + strict change windows + Puppet

Patching scenario

- Define a maintenance window
- Configure automated reboots
- Configure WSUS-related settings
- Install & manage Chocolatey
- Install / upgrade PowerShell
- Install NuGet package provider for PowerShell
- Install PSWindowsUpdate PowerShell module
- Pre-download updates
- Apply all non-interactive updates

Demo Time: Code Sample

A Puppet manifest for patching Windows



Code sample (video)

```
win_patching.pp
1 class { 'chocolatey':
2   · log_output => true,
3 }
4
5 chocolateyfeature { 'autouninstaller':
6   · ensure => enabled,
7 }
8
9 exec { 'Install NuGet package provider':
10  · command    => '$(Install-PackageProvider -Name NuGet -Force)',
11  · onlyif     => '$(if((Get-PackageProvider -Name NuGet
  · -ListAvailable -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue) -eq $null) { exit
  · 0 } else { exit 1 })',
12  · provider   => powershell,
13  · log_output => true
```

Modules

Common tasks made easier and repeatable

Puppet Modules



Modules are self-contained bundles of code and data. These reusable, shareable units of Puppet code are a basic building block for Puppet.

<https://forge.puppet.com>

Module: puppetlabs/windows

This module acts as a pack of the Puppet Forge's best Windows content.

Vox Pupuli, voxpupuli.org

- puppet/download_file
- puppet/windows_env
- puppet/windowsfeature

Puppet, puppet.com

- puppetlabs/acl
- puppetlabs/chocolatey
- puppetlabs/dsc

- puppetlabs/iis
- puppetlabs/powershell
- puppetlabs/reboot
- puppetlabs/registry
- puppetlabs/stdlib
- puppetlabs/wsus_client

Modules for common Windows tasks

A sample of what's on the Puppet Forge

Backups:

- thespain/veeamagent (WIP)

FOSS Puppet:

- theforeman/puppet

Logs:

- genebean/nxlog
- puppet/windows_eventlog

Monitoring:

- genebean/zabbixagent

- icinga/icinga2

- puppet/nsclient

- sensu/sensu

Others:

- puppet/sslcertificate
- puppet/windows_firewall
- puppetlabs/azure
- puppetlabs/aws

But there's not a module for X

Now what?

Puppet Development Kit

The shortest path to better modules

Puppet Development Kit

Why us the PDK?

- Takes care of environment setup
- Generates all files needed
- Reduces the learning curve
- Helps you get something useful faster

Where do I get the PDK?

- **Currently in preview**
- **<https://github.com/puppetlabs/pdk>**
- **1.0 coming soon**

Packer

Templated virtual machines

Packer resources

Packer: <https://www.packer.io>

Blogs:

- <http://www.hurryupandwait.io/blog/creating-windows-base-images-for-virtualbox-and-hyper-v-using-packer-boxstarter-and-vagrant>

Templates:

- <https://github.com/puppetlabs/puppetlabs-packer>
- <https://github.com/mwrock/packer-templates>

What we talked about

DSC, WMI, SCCM

Package management with Chocolatey

Patching and rebooting during change windows

Managing common tasks with Puppet modules

Building images with Packer

References and resources

- **Blog posts on Windows from Puppet:**
 - <https://puppet.com/blog-tags/powershell-dsc>
 - <https://puppet.com/blog-tags/windows>
- **Blog post on custom facts:** <https://glennsarti.github.io/blog/puppet-ruby-facts/>
- **Chocolatey:** <https://chocolatey.org>
- **PackageManagement (aka OneGet):** <https://github.com/OneGet/oneget>
- **PowerShell xHyper-V:** <https://github.com/PowerShell/xHyper-V>
- **Puppet Forge:** <https://forge.puppet.com>
- **White paper:**
 - <https://puppet.com/resources/whitepaper/managing-windows-with-puppet-enterprise>

Puppet Community

<https://puppet.com/community>

Hang out with other Puppet users and get help when you're stuck:

- Slack: <http://slack.puppet.com>
- Q&A: <http://ask.puppet.com>
- IRC: #puppet or #puppet-dev on Freenode
- Google group: <http://groups.google.com/group/puppet-users>
- Puppet User Groups (PUGs): <https://puppet.com/community/user-groups>

Go have some fun automating your Windows configurations

Let Puppet do the repetitive things while you play with new stuff

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