

Puppet: System Configuration Management quick overview

François Deppierraz
francois@ctrlaltdel.ch

Barcamp Lausanne 2007

29th September 2007

Why System Configuration Management ?

- ▶ Could a computer infrastructure ever converge ?
 - ▶ Certainly not !
 - ▶ So you have to find a way to slow down divergence
- ▶ Different types of configurations
 - ▶ Different purposes
 - ▶ Different hardware
 - ▶ Different networks
- ▶ Multiple System Administrators working in team
- ▶ "Oh sh*t, I can't remember which hack I made to get this service running !"

What is Puppet ?

- ▶ Puppet is system administration - Automated
 - ▶ Administer One Server or 1,000
 - ▶ Configuration is OS/distribution independent
 - ▶ Repeatabe configurations
- ▶ Developed mainly by Luke Kanies
- ▶ GPL
- ▶ Written in Ruby
- ▶ Portable
 - ▶ Linux
 - ▶ *BSD
 - ▶ Solaris
 - ▶ MacOS X

Why is Puppet so cool?

- ▶ cfengine done (a bit more) right
- ▶ New server up and running in less than 10 minutes
- ▶ Type based abstraction layer
 - ▶ file
 - ▶ user
 - ▶ package
 - ▶ service
 - ▶ cron
- ▶ Extensible
 - ▶ new types
 - ▶ node classification
- ▶ Active project and community

Puppet types

- ▶ Each type can have multiple providers
- ▶ package
 - ▶ dpkg
 - ▶ rpm
 - ▶ yum
 - ▶ apt-get
 - ▶ portage
 - ▶ and so on...
- ▶ user
 - ▶ netinfo
 - ▶ pw
 - ▶ useradd

Factor

- ▶ "A cross-platform Ruby library for retrieving facts from operating systems"
- ▶ Extensible, easy to add new facts
- ▶ Allows puppet definition modification based on client facts

How does it work ?

- ▶ 2 operation modes
 - ▶ Interpreter mode
 - ▶ Client-Server mode
- ▶ Client-Server mode
 - ▶ Client send a definition request with facts
 - ▶ Definition is compiled on server
 - ▶ Sent to client
 - ▶ Abstract types – > Real configuration (providers)
 - ▶ Current state saved on client

Node and Classes

- ▶ A node is any client identified by its hostname
- ▶ A class can include classes
- ▶ A node can include classes
 - ▶ Called node classification
 - ▶ Using LDAP
 - ▶ Using custom scripts
- ▶ Classes support inheritance
- ▶ Example : apache
 - ▶ class apache
 - ▶ class apache : :ssl inherits apache
 - ▶ class apache : :snvserver inherits apache

Example : User configuration

```
file {"/etc/passwd":
  ensure => present,
  owner  => root,
  group  => root,
  mode   => 644
}

user {"francois":
  ensure   => present,
  password => "...",
  uid      => 1000,
  groups   => [adm]
}

user {"badguy":
  ensure => absent
}
```

Example : Apache configuration

```
package {"apache":  
  ensure => installed  
}
```

```
service {"apache":  
  ensure => running  
}
```

```
vhost {"www.foobar.com":  
  docroot => "/var/www/www.foobar.com/htdocs",  
  aliases => ["foobar.com", "barfoo.com"],  
}
```

```
vhost {"www.test.com":  
  docroot => "/var/www/www.test.com/htdocs",  
  aliases => ["test.com"],  
}
```

Real World Example : Request Tracker

```
node 'rt.dmz.lsn.camptocamp.com' {  
  include c2c-base  
  include apache  
  include postgresql  
  include rt  
}
```

Any Questions ?

<http://reductivelabs.com/projects/puppet/>