Comparisons of Configuration Management Tools

A list of comparisons between configuration management tools such as Puppet, Chef and Salt - feature comparisons, suitability for use cases, practical experience with different tools.

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Below we have compiled publicly available sources from around the world that present views on Comparisons of Configuration Management Tools.

Head to Head Comparisons of Configuration Management Tools

Gartner Magic Quadrant: Application Release Automation

Gartner. Download the full report

- **Comparison between Configuration Management and Application Release Automation Tools**

  DevOps practices increase collaboration to give teams shared visibility and control of critical software pipelines. While there are no tools that can magically help you “achieve DevOps,” having the right tools facilitates organizational agility. This e-book examines the benefits of combining Application Release Automation and Configuration Management tools to help streamline the continuous delivery of software.

  Read the article on electric-cloud.com »

- **Choosing a Deployment Tool - Ansible vs Puppet vs Chef vs Salt**

  Puppet and Chef are both languages that allow you to write scripts to quickly provision servers (including instances of Vagrant and/or Docker). You don't need to use Puppet or Chef to setup these services, but sometimes they can be a quick way to do so.

  Read the article on gist.github.com »

- **Community Metrics - Comparing Ansible, Chef, Puppet and Salt**

  There has been no clear winner in the Chef/Puppet battle, so we added Ansible and Chef to our community metrics analysis - here is how Ansible, Chef, Puppet and Salt compare with one another within various developer related communities, open job postings and more.

  Read the article on redmonk.com »

- **Deployment Management Tools - Chef vs. Puppet vs. Ansible vs. SaltStack vs. Fabric**

  What are the pros and cons of Chef, Puppet, Ansible, SaltStack and Fabric? Working in production today often means continuous deployments and an environment distributed all over the world. When your infrastructure is decentralized and cloud-based and you're dealing with frequent deployments of largely identical services across largely identical servers, having a way to automate the configuration and maintenance of everything is a large boon.

  Read the article on blog.takipi.com »

- **Chef vs Puppet vs Ansible - Comparing Orchestration Systems**

  2016
Detailed Analysis of Configuration Management Tools, Specific Use Cases

- **Configuration management buyer's guide with four brief case studies**

  Every organization relies on some form of IT environment—that is, a system of interconnected hardware, software, and components. The bigger the organization, the more complex the system, and the greater the need for managing that system.

  Read the article on technologyadvice.com »

- **Which configuration management tool would you choose for an EC2 fleet?**

  2013
Detailed commentary on using open source tools for configuration management, including CVS, Subversion, GNU Arch, Monotone

Academic paper comparing architecture, scalability and features for CFEngine 3, Opscode Chef, Puppet, BCFG2, LCFG, BMC Bladelogic Server Automation, CA NSM, IBM Tivoli, Microsoft Server Center Configuration Manager, HP Server Automation, NetomataConfig Generator

Thomas Delaet, Wouter Joosen, Bart Vanbrabant, Dept. of Computer Science, K.U. Leuven, Belgium

Comparing six open source CMDB

Further Reading

- Automation-Based Configuration Management Tools — A comprehensive list of configuration management tools that can automatically configure software in an "infrastructure as code" paradigm, including open source tools.
- ITIL/ITSM/CMDB Configuration Management Tools — Comprehensive list of CMDB and similar tools that help organizations manage and track software configurations.
- Comparisons of Configuration Management Tools — A list of comparisons between configuration management tools such as Puppet, Chef and Salt - feature comparisons, suitability for use cases, practical experience with different tools.
- Configuration Management Best Practices — Resources about best practices for performing configuration management tasks in an organization and for using configuration management tools.
- Configuration Management Case Studies and Tools for Specific Environments — Case studies of configuration management at organizations like Akamai and Facebook, and configuration management tools for specific environments like Oracle databases, Drupal, or heavily regulated systems.

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Suggest a Resource!

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