

aws marketplace

Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

# Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



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# Product Recap



Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

# Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

## Recap

Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform streamlines IT operations with features like a simplified GUI and extensive module support. Its agentless architecture and YAML ease make it an adaptable choice for managing diverse infrastructures efficiently.

Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform offers a robust automation framework that supports multiple environments and integrates well with various applications. Its agentless Python-based architecture facilitates efficient server management and rapid update deployment. Users benefit from centralized management through Ansible Tower, role-based access control, and dynamic inventory. However, improvement areas include documentation, API integration, network support, and UI scaling. Enhanced community contributions could address module availability and compatibility gaps.

### What are the most important features of Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform?

- **Agentless Architecture:** Leverages Python for seamless management without needing local agents.
- **Extensive Module Support:** Provides modules for managing multiple environments effectively.
- **Ansible Tower GUI:** Offers a centralized interface for easy automation management.
- **Role-Based Access Control:** Ensures user-specific permissions for improved security.
- **Integration Capabilities:** Connects with a variety of applications to enhance functionality.
- **Dynamic Inventory:** Automatically updates inventory, simplifying large infrastructure management.

### What benefits and ROI should one consider?

- **Automation Efficiency:** Significantly reduces manual intervention, saving time and resources.
- **Adaptability:** Easily integrates with cloud platforms such as AWS, GCP, and Azure.
- **Security Compliance:** Automates compliance checks, ensuring up-to-date security protocols.
- **Cost Management:** Lower operational costs through streamlined processes.
- **Scalability:** Supports infrastructure growth without requiring major adjustments.

In industries like finance, healthcare, and technology, Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform is used for network management, security compliance, and configuration tasks. Organizations utilize its capabilities for cloud and on-premises deployment, infrastructure provisioning, and workflow orchestration. Many integrate it with tools such as Puppet or Terraform to enhance

CI/CD processes, benefiting from its agentless design in adapting to cloud environments.

# Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:



“The work that previously took two months now takes 10 to 15 minutes.”



**Manas Kashyap**

DevOps Engineer at Elevenxcapital



“Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform is very helpful due to passwordless integration and the ability to interact with multiple servers at once, which is especially advantageous when dealing with thousands of servers.”



**Sudhir Kumar Tiwari**

DevOps Engineer at a consultancy with 201-500 employees



“Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform is easy to integrate; the platform is simple to use.”



**Verified user**

Cognitive Business Operation at a consultancy with 10,001+ employees

- ✓ “The development tools are decent and being able to consistently manage those servers is really the key, which is why we went with Ansible in the first place.”



**Verified user**

Systems Analyst VII - Infrastructure at a government with 10,001+ employees

- ✓ “The most valuable feature is that it is easy to build playbooks. The learning curve is not that steep.”



**Shaul Mihlar**

IT Specialist at Los Angeles County Internal Services Department

- ✓ “The easy-to-read syntax for YAML files and the interoperability between modules are valuable.”



**Verified user**

System Administrator at a university with 10,001+ employees

- ✓ “When you have an enterprise-level number of network devices, the ability to quickly push out security updates to thousands of devices is the biggest thing”



**Verified user**

Network Automator at a aerospace/defense firm with 10,001+ employees

## What users had to say about valuable features:

Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform is valuable due to the simplicity of the YAML language. It makes it simple to develop Ansible playbooks and roles, which aids in simplifying my daily administrative tasks.

**Hachem Bouhlel**

IT Engineer at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“The capacity to install products on the operating system is very valuable. Ansible is better at handling the final configuration of servers. We prefer Terraform for creating multiple resources in a project, but Ansible is better for final configurations..”

**Carlos Oramas**

Software Architect at RedesCDM

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“I can do anything with Ansible. It allows control over thousands of servers, whether virtual or physical. The flexibility to manage deployments, configuration changes, and reporting is highly valuable. Ansible is containerized, making it easy to pull updated containers for automation..”

**Muralitharan KS**

Software Architect at OSELabs

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“I have used some of the Ansible libraries for some of the deployments. The way conditions are handled in Ansible, such as skip conditions or failure conditions, can be complex with multiple conditions, but there is support for using them.

Additionally, the automation capabilities streamline deployment processes, providing reliability and reducing manual intervention and errors..”

**Nasharat Maner**

Associate Software Test Solution Architect at AFour Technologies

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“Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform is very helpful due to passwordless integration and the ability to interact with multiple servers at once, which is especially advantageous when dealing with thousands of servers.

“The integration aspect of Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform has optimized my IT ecosystem significantly by consolidating multiple tools, such as a CI/CD pipeline with Jenkins, where we validate everything, including testing and SonarQube code quality.

“The agentless architecture of Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, using the SSH key, makes it passwordless and allows us to push configurations with one click, creating a major advantage.

“Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform's main benefit is that it allows us to push configurations to multiple servers without manually visiting each one, maintaining efficiency..”

**Sudhir Kumar Tiwari**

DevOps Engineer at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“The best features that Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform offers is that it does not require any additional resources inside the servers. Python is the only requirement, and since Python is already present inside the servers, we can run it from our location and it automatically deploys things and does the work for us.

“The minimal requirements and easy deployment have definitely impacted my daily work and my team's efficiency. Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform is one of the best features that we depend on. We have evaluated other options, but Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform was the best choice because it has saved us a tremendous amount of time. We do not need to manually intervene in the servers or install third-party software to maintain these things.

“It is very easy to write playbooks for Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform. Ansible Galaxy contains many playbooks that are readily available and ready to be used. It is highly configurable with Jinja templating, making it easy to maintain.

“Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform has positively impacted my organization. Previously, we needed to go into the servers and maintain them manually, which used to take a lot of time. For 200 to 300 servers, the maintenance took about one to two months. New patches would arrive and we would have to repeat the process. Now, it is a one-night work or a 10 to 15 minutes task. We write a playbook, maintain an inventory, and roll out the updates and it starts working for us. Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform uses conditional clauses and has rollback options, functioning like a standard coding language that is simple to use.

“There is definitely a reduction in errors with Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform because we have playbooks written with all the necessary clauses and rollback options. Manual work automatically creates more errors, whereas in automation, we have written sets that we do not forget every time we run it. We have protected written sets that we execute consistently..”

**Manas Kashyap**

DevOps Engineer at Elevenxcapital

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# Other Solutions Considered

“Both Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform and Chef have similar capabilities but differ in architecture; one is agentless while the other is agent-full..”

**Sudhir Kumar Tiwari**

DevOps Engineer at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“Before Ansible, we used BladeLogic from BMC. We switched to Ansible as it was easier to use, had more functionality, and there were more people in the market who knew Ansible compared to BladeLogic. Overall, Ansible is a much better product..”

**Carlos Oramas**

Software Architect at RedesCDM

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“I have worked with Chef as a configuration management tool for one project, and I have used Chef and Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform together in the same project..”

**Sudhir Kumar Tiwari**

DevOps Engineer at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“We started going down the Chef path, and it was harder to use and harder to understand than Ansible. We started with Chef and then we thought of giving Ansible a try, so we started in parallel, and then we threw Chef away in about two months. I said, "I want this set of tasks done on this server. Do it in Chef and do it in Ansible."

We did not evaluate anything else. The other choice we were given was Microsoft Windows's version and I did not want to go there because I have machines other than Windows. I do not have a lot, but I do have machines other than Windows..”

**Verified user**

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“In AWS, customers are increasingly using Terraform rather than Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform. This is particularly true for cloud-based operations on AWS.

“The choice between solutions depends on the situation. Developers tend to be more inclined towards Terraform, while infrastructure teams prefer Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform..”

**Verified user**

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“We started out with Chef and threw it away.

In terms of a competitive platform, I was forced to use SAS. I hate it. My team only uses Ansible. We do not need to use SAS anymore. There is no comparison between the two. Ansible is so much easier to use, especially once you get the grasp. At first, you are going to say, "This does not really make sense." After you have written your first playbook and you can see those benefits, it makes a big difference.

Ansible Automation Platform has reduced our costs by more than the competitive platform. It allows my team to focus on more important things than day-to-day routine. Ansible takes care of that in the playbooks. We can focus on new enhancements, new features, and new products. It frees up our time. There is a good 30% to 40% time saving because we were doing a lot of things by hand. We now do not need to do that.

We use other Red Hat products. We use Red Hat JBoss EAP, SSO, and Fuse. We still have Fuse in production. We have not migrated from it yet. We are using Red Hat AMQ as well.

We chose these Red Hat products because even though our platform is Windows, we are a Java shop. Almost all of our custom apps are written in Java. When we were looking at the platform to run those applications, EAP was really beneficial cost-wise. Especially because I came from a WebSphere background, migrating over to EAP was cost-saving. The applications required very little rework the way we architected it. We did not use WebSphere-specific classes. We tried to stay Java agnostic, so it was really a cost-saving for EAP, and then with the support we got from Red Hat, EAP was the front runner. Fuse came into play when we needed a service bus, and then from there, we got SSO. We needed to connect our applications to Okta, so SSL came into play for that, and then from there, OpenShift came into play. One thing led to another.

We switched to OpenShift because we were a big Fuse user. With the Fuse going end of life, we decided on our natural path. We had a bunch of our routes and other things written in Camel. Our natural path was to migrate to Camel in spring and

run it in OpenShift. That is what brought OpenShift into play. I wanted to bring it in for a long time, but that gave me a good bargaining chip to get it in-house.

The benefit that we have seen from using these Red Hat products is that we have had very little downtime that was not scheduled. We have availability, uptime, and support. Once they are set up and configured using Ansible, they just run. We rarely had a problem where we had to open a support ticket. Every once in a while something quirky goes on but not that often..”

**Verified user**

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# ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“By using the enterprise version of Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, we receive support that aids in overcoming challenges, a measurable benefit in terms of ROI..”

**Sudhir Kumar Tiwari**

DevOps Engineer at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“The benefits include the maintainability of the existing environment, especially a hybrid infrastructure. Ansible makes scripting and learning processes better and easier..”

**Nasharat Maner**

Associate Software Test Solution Architect at AFour Technologies

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“The ROI is in resource hours and allowing those people to do other things. It reduces the time to debug problems because you know things are going to be done in a certain way on the playbook. We have made it a strict policy that people do not make manual changes. If you have to make a change, you are going to go back to the playbook and make that change..”

**Verified user**

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“I have seen a return on investment with Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform. We need fewer employees and have saved significant time. The work that previously took two months now takes 10 to 15 minutes. Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform is automated, so we do not need as many employees to perform manual work. We have fewer employees, which also results in cost savings..”

**Manas Kashyap**

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DevOps Engineer at Elevenxcapital

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“In terms of the reduction in costs, we started using it only two years ago. I have to recoup my infrastructure cost for setting up Ansible Tower. We are charging our customers. Previously, we had bash scripts. There was not a cost, but now, I have to recoup the cost of Ansible Tower licensing. Its licensing is expensive. Currently, when it comes to a customer using Ansible Tower, there is a slight additional cost, but as more customers come to use my infrastructure for Ansible Tower for automation, it will become cheaper and cheaper..”

**Shaul Mihlar**

IT Specialist at Los Angeles County Internal Services Department

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“It is hard to quantify the cost savings because everyone was so secretive about what they did, and the time that it took them to get the work done was not really being counted for. People were doing things at night, and people were doing things on the weekends just to keep up, so it was never accounted for. It is hard to quantify what the cost savings are, but at the end of the day, we have not had people leaving because they are burned out and they are overworked. I feel that there are cost savings in some way, shape, or form. I could not put a dollar amount on it. There is something about working with the same set of people or seeing a bunch of people leave which just starts a trend of other people leaving.

My goal is to make it so that my job no longer exists. That is not a very smart goal, but I have to make sure that I have enough stuff in place where I am not needed. Somebody can walk in behind me and say, "I see what is happening here. I can continue this." I feel like I am getting there. In my heart of hearts and my dream of dreams, I would like to be Mary Poppins. I swoop in with my umbrella, do my Ansible stuff, get everybody to see how it could go, and get them doing it themselves, and then I will be off again down somewhere else. Ansible has allowed me to get other people to see how it can be done and be less reliant on anyone to do this..”

**Verified user**

Lead System Administrator at a university with 5,001-10,000 employees

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# Use Case

“We are primarily using it to update OpenShift as well as managing more than 800 Windows servers and about 50 Linux or Red Hat Enterprise Linux servers..”

**Verified user**

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“They are using Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform for infrastructure automation and cloud automation. The platform is used for CI/CD automation, deployment, and automation. The main use is infrastructure automation..”

**Verified user**

Cognitive Business Operation at a consultancy with 10,001+ employees

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“We use Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform for the automation of our servers and applications. We also use both Terraform and Ansible to automate our infrastructure..”

**Carlos Oramas**

Software Architect at RedesCDM


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“We are primarily using Ansible for automation purposes as it is a configuration management tool. It is utilized for various activities such as DNS activity, changes to web servers, virtual host settings, and other day-to-day tasks, all of which are templated in Ansible..”

**Muralitharan KS**

Software Architect at OSELabs

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“My main use case for Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform is managing servers through automated deployment, automated management, security patching, and everything in between.

“For automating deployments or security patching with Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, we use it for Docker Swarm clusters. We install Docker and automate Docker deployment inside the Docker Swarm, checking which are the master nodes and which are the server nodes and connecting them to each other. All of these things are maintained by Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform.

“I have around 100-200 servers that we need to maintain through security patching. We need to perform sudo apt update or install packages inside them and maintain those servers. For that, we use Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform. We maintain an inventory file and execute everything from there..”

**Manas Kashyap**

DevOps Engineer at Elevenxcapital

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“I have created resources for the monitoring tech stack with Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, especially for setting up one master data center and another data center for different applications routed to the monitoring setup, where I have created Splunk servers and installed all Splunk agents and prerequisites with the help of Ansible, including an Ansible playbook.

“I have used the agentless architecture in Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, as SSH is agentless.

“I use a centralized automation controller in Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, called the master setup, where we execute our commands with installed prerequisites, inventory information, and the Ansible playbook, managing other node servers with a passwordless setup.

“When creating any server with Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, it is a significant advantage because if we set up a Splunk agent in one case, it is necessary for each server. By writing the playbook, the agent is installed immediately during server provisioning, providing us with an edge..”

**Sudhir Kumar Tiwari**

DevOps Engineer at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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# Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

“Setting up Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform on the AWS cloud is very straightforward; I take one server, install Ansible, set up the inventory, and use it..”

**Sudhir Kumar Tiwari**

DevOps Engineer at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“The setup of Ansible is easy. It's faster to start working with Terraform. However. Ansible's setup is also straightforward. The basic installation process is quick and effortless..”

**Carlos Oramas**

Software Architect at RedesCDM

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“Setting up Ansible is relatively straightforward. Installing the core product takes about thirty minutes to an hour. However, fully setting up Ansible with additional servers might take around two to three hours..”

**Muralitharan KS**

Software Architect at OSELabs

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“My experience with pricing, setup cost, and licensing for Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform was very simple. There is no pricing and no licensing required, as Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform is always free to use. If you do not use Ansible Tower, then it is definitely free and easy to maintain. Writing playbooks is just like writing a simple Bash script or writing code with clauses and everything..”

**Manas Kashyap**

DevOps Engineer at Elevenxcapital

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“We are deploying to OpenShift. It is on-prem OpenShift.

The barebone deployment was pretty simple. We started to configure it to talk with our Active Directory server and then our certificate server. We use Thycotic secret servers for our secret store. We had to integrate with the Thycotic secret server, but once we figured all that out, it was straightforward. It took us a couple of months to get there. We had to export our host inventory. We use SolarWinds to manage the host inventory. We wrote a script that exported that host inventory from SolarWinds and created the Ansible inventory from it. We are still using that. We run that every hour or so. It runs automatically and updates the inventory. Overall, the deployment was simple. The configuration was a little more difficult because of our environment.

We create all of our Ansible configurations as code, and we apply it all through GitHub. We do not configure Ansible manually..”

**Verified user**

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“We do not use Red Hat solutions in the public cloud. Our business is not mature to a point where we can leverage a public cloud effectively or efficiently. A part of that comes from just vendor issues where the vendor is like, "This is how you do it. This is very monolithic." If we did that in the cloud, it would cost us a lot more money. It is not very efficient, so we do not use a lot of public cloud stuff, but we are trying to be more modern. We understand that there are some things we cannot put in the public cloud but there are things that we can. We are not able to do it right now, but we are trying to get those things in place, so education is a bit slow to follow everybody else.

We use on-prem traditional VMs. We do not use OpenShift.

I did not like its initial deployment experience. I still do not like it. Once you do everything that needs to be done, it is straightforward, but there is a lot of tinkering around. Do not get me wrong. They tell you exactly what you need to do, but Ansible does not like some of the things you may have to set up when you are building systems that are CIS-compliant. For example, for things like file system mount properties, you have to have execution enabled. It is fine. I can change that, but you build a bunch of systems, and you do the installation, but it does not work. Why did it not work? The install instructions did not take into account that we may have these restrictions that are on a partition that they are using. It is not their fault and not our fault. We got to meet in the middle somewhere. I wish the deployment was a little easier. I wish there was a single license that they could give you for OpenShift or something like that so that you could spin up a small OpenShift cluster. Even if it is a one-machine type of thing that is not going to help you with your load balancing, high availability, or anything like that, just being able to spin up one instance, put the Ansible controller in there, and let it operate would have been great. That would have been ideal..”

**Verified user**

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Lead System Administrator at a university with 5,001-10,000 employees

# Customer Service and Support

“I rate Red Hat's customer support for Ansible at nine points out of ten. Customer support for Ansible is excellent, and any issues we have encountered have been resolved promptly..”

**Muralitharan KS**

Software Architect at OSELabs

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“We are not using Ansible Tower for customer support, so we do not receive official support. However, Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform has a large community with many written blogs and resources available, making it easy to maintain..”

**Manas Kashyap**

DevOps Engineer at Elevenxcapital

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“We are using the free version of Ansible, and so far, the support has been very high, considering that it is a free version. We are in discussions with Red Hat and IBM about possibly purchasing the commercial version when we start using Ansible for patching servers..”

**Carlos Oramas**

Software Architect at RedesCDM

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“Ansible is a Red Hat product, so they provide all necessary support.

“I have not escalated any questions to the Red Hat support team regarding Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, as their modules are professional and complete..”

**Sudhir Kumar Tiwari**

DevOps Engineer at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“I was fortunate enough to bump into Sean Sullivan. He wrote the book Demystifying Ansible Automation Platform. If I have trouble with something, I find him and send him a message directly. He has got all the answers. Early on, I submitted some trouble tickets for things like the installation did not work, and they were able to eventually help me, but now, I don't even think to use them. I go directly to Sean..”

**Verified user**

Lead System Administrator at a university with 5,001-10,000 employees

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“Their customer service is good. Their technical support experience varies. If you open your ticket with the correct information, and you can direct it to the right person, you get excellent technical support. If you do not know how to open your ticket, you might end up in a different group or with a different person who does not really know, and then you have to bounce around a little bit. You have to be very careful how you open your ticket.

I would rate their support about a nine out of ten. We run JBoss queues, and we run it on Windows. If we have a problem, we get people who do not know anything about Windows. They often give us solutions for Red Hat Enterprise Linux, but we know that it is not going to work, so there is a little bit of that. I cannot blame the support person for that. I just have to ask him to give me somebody who knows Windows..”

**Verified user**

Systems Anlyst VII - Infrastrusture at a government with 10,001+ employees

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# Other Advice

“I would recommend Ansible. That said, it depends on the infrastructure and whether an off-premises or on-premises cloud is used.

I would rate Ansible between eight and nine..”

**Nasharat Maner**

Associate Software Test Solution Architect at AFour Technologies

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“The advice I would give to others looking into using Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform is that it is one of the best Ansible management tools available for servers. You should start using it. Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform offers Jinja templating where you can write your own templates and [NGINX](#) configurations. It is very simple to use and you do not need any extra server or additional infrastructure. I give this product a rating of 9 out of 10..”

**Manas Kashyap**

DevOps Engineer at Elevenxcapital

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“We are still actively working with Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform. Customers typically purchase directly from Red Hat for on-premise deployments, while those on public cloud buy from the marketplace.

“We are recommending the solution to users as a Red Hat partner.

“This review rates Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform a 10 out of 10..”

**Verified user**

Cognitive Business Operation at a consultancy with 10,001+ employees

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“Ansible Automation Platform has not helped us connect teams, such as developers, operations, or security so that they can automate together. In our organization, getting security involved is like pulling teeth. They say, "You got to meet these standards. Go figure it out." They set the standards, and we have to implement them. I cannot get them involved in anything other than them telling us what we have to implement.

There are not a lot of Windows users like us. We have made it work very well. We had to do extra to get there, but it was not that much.

I would rate Ansible Automation Platform a nine out of ten. I do not give tens. If we push one button and it is set up and works with everything, I would give it a ten, so that is never going to happen..”

**Verified user**

Systems Anslyst VII - Infrastruture at a government with 10,001+ employees

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“I have worked on the [AWS](#) cloud with Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform.

“Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform was hosted on AWS.

“I prefer Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform because it is easy to implement, and the extensive supporting documentation is very helpful.

“I suggest everyone consider Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform because it is agentless, easy to implement, and has sufficient supporting documentation available.

“On a scale of one to ten, I rate Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform a ten out of ten..”

**Sudhir Kumar Tiwari**

DevOps Engineer at a consultancy with 201-500 employees

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“There are a lot of people, especially in the higher education space, who have been there for a very long time. The motivation and ability to draft in something as simple as Ansible is just not there for them. It is an opportunity for people who embrace automation, Ansible, and things like that to talk to the more senior people or the people who do not understand the Ansible aspect of it. They can start that dialogue and convert what is in their head and their older methods to getting things done into Ansible. Once we start doing that, we are able to daisy chain some of those different processes and tasks, and we can find different areas to improve and standardize. That has been a key to our organization. There are some people who we just would not be able to force to do automation, but it is easy for somebody who knows automation and Ansible to talk to them and say, "I do not know exactly what you are doing, but if you tell me, I can convert it into Ansible code for you?”

In a perfect world, Ansible Automation Platform would help connect teams, such as developers, operations, or security, so that they can automate together, but we are not there yet.

I would rate Ansible Automation Platform a nine out of ten. The small areas of improvement that I would like to see probably are not there for technical reasons. There are a few things that I would like to see, but everything else is there..”

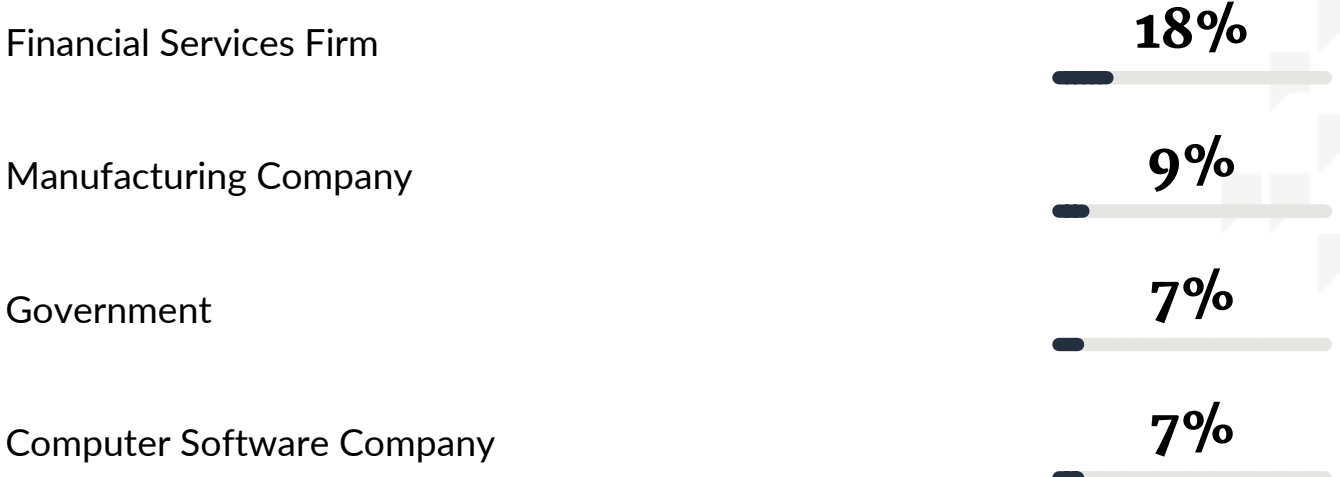
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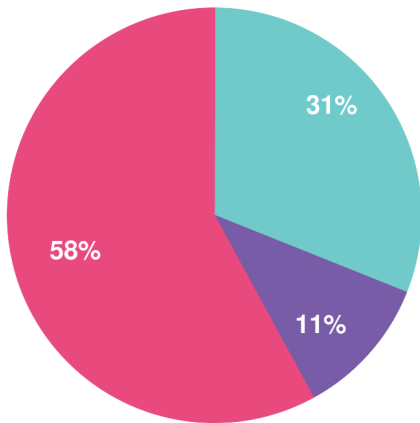
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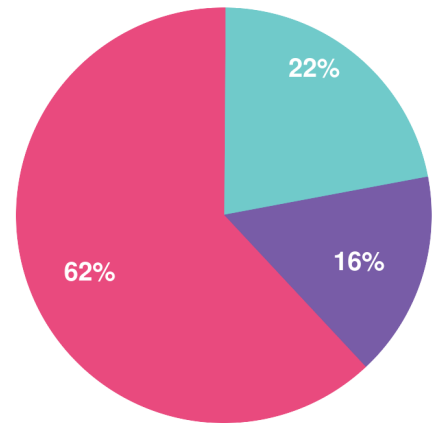


# Company Size

by reviewers



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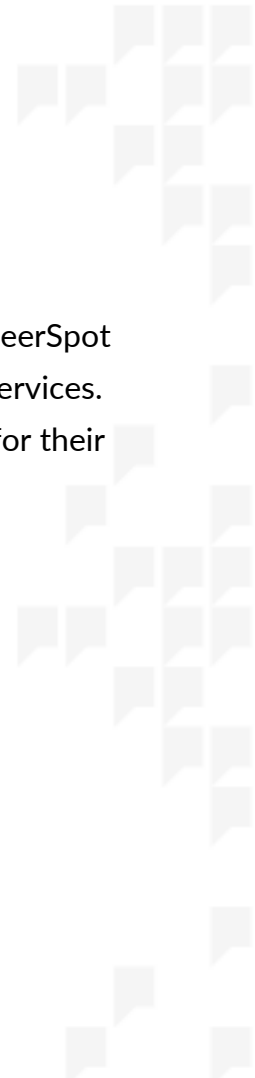
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PeerSpot helps tech professionals by providing:

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## PeerSpot

244 5th Avenue, Suite R-230 • New York, NY 10001

[reports@peerspot.com](mailto:reports@peerspot.com)

+1 646.328.1944