Ansible Support in SUDO

I’m building new servers for Unix Tutorial VPS pool and for some functions within my Tech Stack Solutions consultancy, and one show stopper for Ansible onboarding is this: default sudoers settings do not support remote sessions generated by Ansible. Here’s how to address this.

The issue with Ansible and sudoers

Many modern distros have the following default variable in main SUDO config file, /etc/sudoers:

```
Defaults requiretty
```

In very basic terms, this setting means only interactive users of your system (local terminal sessions or Terminal app started from graphics desktop or even SSH sessions). But for
non-interactive use like scripts and Ansible automation this doesn’t work.

When trying Ansible playbook against such a system, you’ll get an error about “sudo: sorry, you must have a tty to run sudo“:

**Disable requirietty Option Per User**

While it’s possible to just disable this default option altogether:

```
Defaults !requiretty
```

I strongly recommend you not do this – it’s a security setting that one day will serve you well.

That’s why I suggest the next best thing: let’s disable this setting for just the users for Ansible automation. In my case, this is the default user created on each newly installed/deployed server – that’s usually my user greys.

So we add the following line to `/etc/sudoers`:

```
Defaults:greys !requiretty
```

What this does is perfect: it disables requiretty just for the user I need it for, without compromising overall sudoers setup
more than required.

See Also

- Ansible
- Docker module in Ansible
- Create backup files when deploying with Ansible
- visudo tutorial
- sudo command

Docker module in Ansible

I have finally managed to install Docker CE on a freshly CentOS 8.1 installed dedicated server. Now is the time to learn Docker module in Ansible.
Why Use a Docker Module in Ansible?

Instead of using Ansible’s shell or command functionality to form/start/stop Docker containers, it’s much better to use a Docker module.

How To Install the Docker Module in Ansible

For CentOS 8.x images, here’s the Ansible playbook fragment that gets the Docker module installed on a server:

```
- name: Install pip3
  yum:
    name: python3-pip
    state: latest
  tags: docker
- name: Install Docker module for Python (used by Ansible)
  pip:
    name:
      - docker
```

How To Use a Docker Module in Ansible

Here’s the example from Ansible documentation:

```
- name: Create a simple Docker container
```
docker_container:
  name: unixtutorial-server
  image: ubuntu
  volumes:
    - /storage/ubuntu-docker

tags:
  - docker
  - containers

In this example you can see how easy it is to specify a Docker container’s name, base image (busybox in this case) and even map volumes from physical host (that /storage thing).

**WARNING:** this is not a complete example yet. I think more parameters need to be specified before this becomes a usable container named unixtutorial-server.

### Next Steps with Docker in Ansible

I have a number of Docker images that I plan on storing using self-hosted Docker registry. They’ll be pulled and formed into clusters using Ansible.

I’m not 100% sure, but it may well be that whole Dockerfiles (read: Docker stacks) can be created and orchestrated using Ansible – we’ll see.

### See Also
- Ansible
- Docker for Mac
- Tagging Docker Images