

Use Backups When Deploying with Ansible

```
- name: sudoers for techstack user
  template:
    src: templates/sudoers-techstack.j2
    dest: /etc/sudoers.d/techstack
    mode: 0640
    backup: yes
  tags:
    - sudo
```

Backup flag in the template module

I'm back on the task of completely converting my home office and online servers to full **Ansible** coverage – creating server groups, developing roles and translating any existing setup elements into **Ansible** playbooks. One important thing to do when deploying configuration files with **Ansible** is to always keep backups, that's what I'm going to document today.

Backups of Files in Ansible

To be on the same page, let me explain what I'm referring to: the scope of **Ansible** backups is any file copied or created from a template in **Ansible** playbook. So we're not talking

about magical backups of **Ansible** playbooks or Ansible config files, just the files deployed by **Ansible** in a certain way.

What happens is **Ansible** checks for existing file in the destination location, and if found, it gets copied into a timestamped version.

How to activate backups in Ansible playbooks

It's very simple, actually. Just add this to a file or template section in your **Ansible** code:

```
backup: yes
```

Backup in Ansible template module

Here's how I use this with template module:

```
- name: sudoers for techstack user
  template:
    src: templates/sudoers-techstack.j2
    dest: /etc/sudoers.d/techstack
    mode: 0640
    backup: yes
  tags: sudo
```

What this does is it puts existing `/etc/sudoers.d/techstack`

```
file          into          a          copy          like
/etc/sudoers.d/techstack.10600.2020-01-12@13:21:39~
```

Not every file/template operation needs this, but most do – because if you accidentally broke a config file or removed important lines from a text file, there’s a fairly straightforward way to recover from the datestamped copy.

That’s all for today. Have fun with [Ansible](#)!

See Also

- [Install software with Homebrew and Ansible](#)
- [Run Ansible tasks specific to OS distribution](#)
- [Skip Facts Gathering in Ansible](#)
- [Specify User per Task in Ansible](#)
- [How To Create a User Group with Ansible](#)
- [Ansible](#)