Coming up to speed on Chef

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Who am I?

• Sysadmin of 10 years
• Linux Sysadmin - Started out as Wintel support
• Like to know how things work
• Never used Chef prior to base2Services
• Believe in the best tool for the job
• NOT! A ruby dev!
• Too many hobbies to count
Who are base2Services

- Challenge Accepted!
- Cloud Engineers
- Ongoing Cloud Support
- 24x7 Technical Support Team
- Help Build/Migrate Applications to/in the Cloud
- Maintain a cost-effective infrastructure implementation
What this talk is/isn't

- Is - My personal experience
- Isn’t - Deep technical dive
- Is - High level overview
- Isn’t - Chef vs Puppet “religious” debate
Previously - Puppet

• Big Puppet Community in Melbourne
• Environment based
• Manifests that do “stuff”
• Facter for “facts” (variables)
• Asynchronous processing
• Lots of custom conditions
Now - Chef

- Cookbooks/Recipies/Data Bags/Attributes/Files/Templates
- Roles & Environments
- OHai!
- Ruby
Differences/similarities

Similarities

• Both build automation tools
• Both have concepts of environments
• Both Ruby Based
• Dependency based

Differences

• Puppet is Async, Chef is Sync
• Chef is more ruby-centric
• Puppet has a single entry point
• Chef has multiple entry points
• Chef DSL based
• Puppet Markup-Language
What does this mean

- Cookbooks are a Collection of Recipes
- Recipes Procedural instructions to do “stuff”
- Data Bags contain global environment based variables
- Attributes contain constant variables*
- Files/Templates - Static files or .erb templates
- Roles & Environments
- OHai - Under the hood - transparent (Similar to Facter)
- Ruby
Puppet Gripes

- Puppet Dependency Hell!
- Run order can change - Async
- Build-Your-Own manifest/puppetmaster management
- Community Modules don’t always do what you want them to
- Documentation isn’t always complete
- Easy to get lost
Chef Gripes

• Very strict structure
• Verbose debugging is very, very verbose
• Chef Server UI not so great
What do I prefer and why?

• **Chef**
• More concise documentation
• Easy to use tools (berkshelf, knife, etc)
• Better community support/cookbooks
• Synchronous
• Confident with the product after just 6 weeks
Things I found cool about Chef

- berkshelf
- knife
- data bags
- Chef uses Chef to install Chef!
- Synchronous
- Concepts of both environments and roles
In Summary

- I’ll use whatever is required to get the job done
- Both very good, flexible tools with large community backing
- base2Services want you!
- base2Services want to help you!
Comments

- Yell, scream, harass, heckle - do your thing!