What is automation?

Automation software is software that can be used to automate tasks - such as server configuration/deployment.

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Agent-based automation

Automation that requires an agent (software package specific to the automation system) that is responsible for performing automation tasks.

The typical process for using agent-based automation is to have Linux images saved with the agent pre-installed/configured.

- Typically not as versatile across Linux distros
- Tends to be more reliable in it's execution
- Verbose logging

puppet, chef

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Agentless automation

Automation that does not require an agent to be installed. Instead, native system functionality is used to complete automation tasks.

- Typically more complex to configure
- More versatile in its configuration options

Ansible, Puppet: Bolt

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