

Lenovo Network

Developer's Guide

for Lenovo Network Development Toolkit for Chef, Version 1.0

LenovoTM

Note: Before using this information and the product it supports, read the general information in the *Safety information and Environmental Notices and User Guide* documents on the *Lenovo Documentation CD* and the *Warranty Information* document that comes with the product.

First Edition (January 2018)

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Preface

The *Lenovo Network Development Toolkit for Chef Developer's Guide* describes how to install, configure, and use the Lenovo Network Development Toolkit for Chef.

Intended Audience for This Guide

This guide is intended for network installers and system administrators engaged in configuring and maintaining a network. The administrator is expected to be familiar with Ethernet concepts, IP addressing, and Spanning Tree Protocol. The user of this book is also expected to be familiar with the Ruby programming language.

Typographic Conventions

The following table describes the typographic styles used in this book.

Table 1. *Typographic Conventions*

Typeface or Symbol	Meaning	Example
ABC123	This type is used for names of commands, files, and directories used within the text. It also depicts on-screen computer output and prompts.	View the <code>readme.txt</code> file. Main#
ABC123	This bold type appears in command examples. It shows text that must be typed in exactly as shown.	Main# sys
<ABC123>	This italicized type appears in command examples as a parameter placeholder. Replace the indicated text with the appropriate real name or value when using the command. Do not type the brackets. This also shows book titles, special terms, or words to be emphasized.	To establish a Telnet session, enter: host# telnet <i><IP address></i> Read your <i>User's Guide</i> thoroughly.
[]	Command items shown inside brackets are optional and can be used or excluded as the situation demands. Do not type the brackets.	host# ls [-a]
	The vertical bar () is used in command examples to separate choices where multiple options exist. Select only one of the listed options. Do not type the vertical bar.	host# set left right
AaBbCc123	This block type depicts menus, buttons, and other controls that appear in Web browsers and other graphical interfaces.	Click the Save button.

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Chef Concepts

Chef is a Ruby-based configuration management tool designed to streamline the tasks of configuring and maintaining your servers. Chef can integrate with cloud-based platforms to automatically provision and configure new machines. Chef contains solutions for both small- and large-scale systems.

This chapter discusses the following topics:

- [“Chef Overview” on page 7](#)
- [“Chef Architecture” on page 8](#)
- [“Cookbooks” on page 12](#)
- [“Making Ruby Gems” on page 13](#)

Chef Overview

The Chef system configuration files are called *recipes*. Collections of recipes are stored in a *cookbook*. One cookbook relates to a single task but can have multiple server configurations involved. For example a web application with a database can have two recipes, one for each part, stored together in a cookbook.

Recipes and cookbooks are the heart of the configuration management. They are written using the Ruby programming language, however, the domain specific language used by Chef is designed to be able to be understood by everyone.

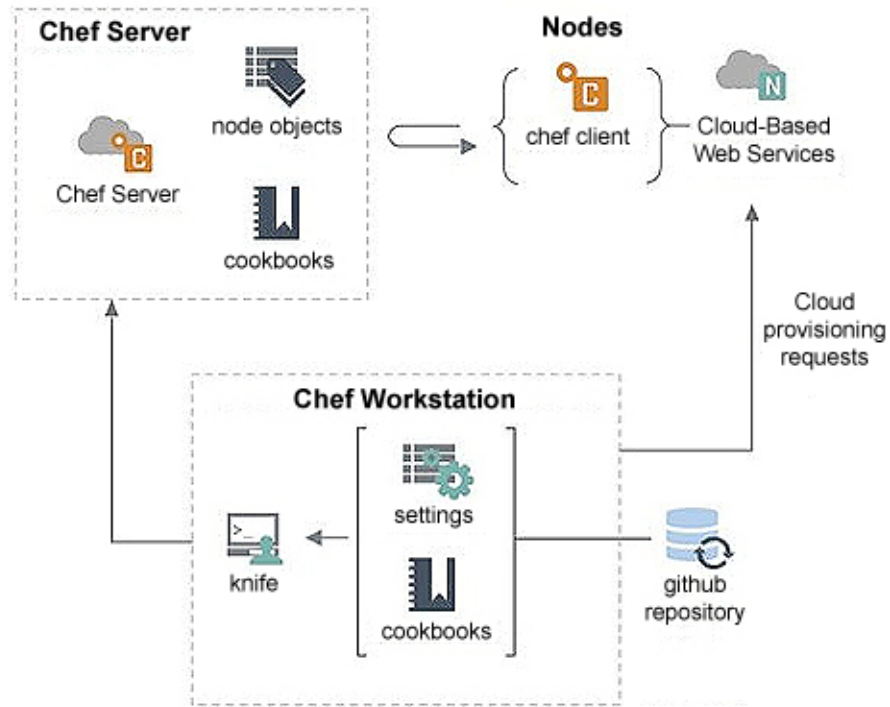
There is a Chef server that stores each of these cookbooks. When a new chef client node checks in with the server, recipes are sent to tell the node how to configure itself.

The client then checks the server occasionally to see if any changes have been made. If so, the client deals updates itself. By changing a recipe, you can roll out patches and updates over your entire infrastructure, rather than having to do so on each machine individually.

Chef Architecture

Figure 1 illustrates the Chef architecture.

Figure 1. Chef Architecture



Chef is comprised of the following components:

- [Chef Server](#)
- [Chef Workstation](#)
- [Nodes](#)

Chef Server

The Chef server is the primary mode of communication between the workstations where your infrastructure is coded and the nodes where it is deployed. All configuration files, cookbooks, metadata, and other information are stored on the server. The Chef server also keeps information regarding the state of all nodes at the time of the last Chef client run.

Any changes made must pass through the Chef server to be deployed. Prior to accepting or pushing changes, the Chef server verifies that the nodes and workstations are paired with the server through the use of authorization keys, and then allows communication between the workstations and nodes.

Chef Workstation

The Chef workstation is where you create, test, and maintain cookbooks and policies that will be pushed to nodes. Cookbooks created on workstations can be used privately by one organization or uploaded to the Chef Supermarket for others to use. You can also download cookbooks created by other Chef users from the Supermarket to the Chef workstation.

Workstations are set up to use the Chef Development Kit (ChefDK), and can be located on virtual servers or on physical computers. Workstations only interact with one Chef server, and most work is done in the Chef repository on the workstation.

Chef Repository

The Chef repository is where cookbooks are written and maintained. It is located in the directory:

```
~/chef-repo
```

Chef communicates with the server using the `knife` command, which is part of the ChefDK.

Knife

The `knife` command tool communicates between the Chef repository and the Chef server. This tool is automatically installed when you install the Chef workstation.

The `knife.rb` file contains `knife` configuration details:

```
log_level           :info
log_location        STDOUT
node_name           'username'
client_key          '~/chef-repo/.chef/username.pem'
validation_client_name 'shortname-validator'
validation_key      '~/chef-repo/.chef/shortname.pem'
chef_server_url     'https://123.45.67.89/organizations/shortname'
syntax_check_cache_path '~/chef-repo/.chef/syntax_check_cache'
cookbook_path [ '~/chef-repo/cookbooks' ]
```

The following properties are defined in the `knife.rb` file:

Property	Description
<code>log_level</code>	The amount of logging that will be stored in the log file. The default value, <code>:info</code> , notes that any informational messages will be logged. Other values include <code>:debug</code> , <code>:warn</code> , <code>:error</code> , and <code>:fatal</code> .
<code>log_location</code>	The location of the log file. The default value is standard output logging. If set to another value, standard output logging will still be performed.
<code>node_name</code>	The username of the person using the workstation. This user must have a valid authorization key located on the workstation.

Property	Description
<code>client_key</code>	The location of the workstation user's authorization key.
<code>validation_client_name</code>	The name of the server validation key that will determine whether a node is registered with the Chef server. These values must match during a Chef client run.
<code>validation_key</code>	The path to your organization's validation key.
<code>chef_server_url</code>	The URL of the Chef server, with <code>shortname</code> being the defined shortname of your organization. This can also be an IP address, but the directory path <code>/organizations/shortname</code> must be part of the URL.
<code>syntax_check_cache_path</code>	The location in which <code>knife</code> stores information about files that have been checked for appropriate Ruby syntax.
<code>cookbook_path</code>	The path to the cookbook directory.

For more information about `knife` and the `knife.rb` file, see the following links:

- Documentation: <https://docs.chef.io/knife.html>
- Quick Reference: https://github.com/chef/quick-reference/blob/master/qr_knife_web.png
- The `knife.rb` file: https://docs.chef.io/config_rb_knife.html

Nodes

A *node* is a system configured to run the Chef client. This can be any system, as long as it is being maintained by Chef.

Nodes are validated through the `validator.pem` and `client.pem` certificates that are created on the node when it is bootstrapped. All nodes must be bootstrapped over SSH as either the `root` user or another user with elevated privileges.

Nodes are kept up-to-date through the use of the Chef client. The cookbooks and roles the node will use depend on the run list and environment set for the node in question.

Chef Client

The Chef client checks the current configuration the node against the recipes and policies stored in the Chef server and updates the node to match. The `chef-client` checks the node's run list, loading the cookbooks required, then checks and synchronizes the cookbooks with the current configuration of the node.

The Chef client must be run with elevated privileges to properly configure the node, and must be run periodically to ensure that the server is always up to date. This is often achieved through a `CRON` job or by setting up the Chef client to run as a service.

Run Lists

Run lists define which cookbooks a node will use. The run list is an ordered list of all cookbooks and recipes that the Chef client needs to pull from the Chef server to run on a node. Run lists are also used to define roles, which are used to define patterns and attributes across nodes.

Ohai

Ohai is a tool that collects system configuration data, which is provided to the Chef client for use within cookbooks. Ohai is run by the Chef client at the beginning of every Chef run to determine the system state. Ohai includes many built-in plugins to detect common configuration details, as well as a plugin model for writing custom plugins.

The types of attributes Ohai collects include:

- operating system
- network
- memory
- disk
- CPU
- kernel
- host names
- fully qualified domain names
- virtualization
- cloud provider metadata

Attributes collected by Ohai are automatic level attributes; these attributes are used by the Chef client to ensure that these attributes remain unchanged after the Chef client is done configuring the node.

Chef Environments

Chef environments mimic real-life workflow, enabling you to organize nodes into different groups that define the role the node plays. This allows you to combine environments and for versioned cookbooks to have different attributes for different nodes. For example, if testing a shopping cart, you may not want to test any changes on a live website, but with a “development” set of nodes.

Environments are saved as Ruby files and are stored in:

```
~/chef-repo/environments/environame.rb
```

The environment file has the following format:

```
name "environmentname"
description "environment_description"
cookbook_versions "cookbook" => "cookbook_version"
default_attributes "node" => { "attribute" => [ "value", "value", "etc."
] }
override_attributes "node" => { "attribute" => [ "value", "value", "etc."
] }
```

Upon bootstrap, all nodes are automatically set to the default environment as defined *on the nodes* in the file:

```
/etc/chef/client.rb
```

Cookbooks

Cookbooks are the main component of configuring nodes on a Chef infrastructure. Cookbooks contain values and information about the desired state of a node. Chef determines how to get to that state through its extensive libraries.

Cookbooks are comprised of recipes, metadata, attributes, files libraries, resources, templates, and anything else that assists in creating a functioning system. Recipes and attributes are the two core parts of creating a cookbook. We recommend that components of a cookbook be modular, keeping recipes small and related.

Cookbooks can be version controlled; we recommend you do this. Versions can help when using environments and allow for easier tracking of changes that have been made to a cookbook.

Recipes

Recipes are written in Ruby and contain information regarding everything that needs to be run, changed, or created on a node. Recipes work as a collection of resources that determine the configuration or policy of a node, with resources being a configuration element of the recipe. For a node to run a recipe, it must be on that node's run list.

Attributes

Attributes define specific values about a node and its configuration. These values are used to override default settings and are loaded in the order cookbooks are listed in the run list. Attributes are often used in conjunction with templates and recipes to define settings.

Files

Static files can be uploaded to nodes. They can be configuration and setup files, scripts, or website files—anything that does not need to have different values on different nodes.

Libraries

Although Chef comes with built-in libraries, you can define additional libraries. If a recipe is the desired state of a node, added libraries contain the behind-the-scenes information Chef needs for the nodes to reach this state. Libraries are written in Ruby and can be used to expand on any of the functionalities Chef already has.

Resources and Providers

Resources and providers can also define new functionality for use in Chef recipes. A *resource* defines a set of actions and attributes; a *provider* tells the Chef client how to commit each action.

Templates

Templates are embedded Ruby files (`.erb`) that allow for content based on the node itself and other variables generated. When the Chef client is run, the template is used to create or update a file.

Making Ruby Gems

To create Ruby gems for use with the Lenovo Network Development Toolkit for Chef, follow the instructions at:

<http://guides.rubygems.org/make-your-own-gem/>

Installing the Lenovo Network Development Toolkit for Chef

The Lenovo Network Development Toolkit for Chef has the following requirements:

- Lenovo CNOS 10.4 or later
- Ruby 2.2.3 or later
- Chef 13 or later

The Lenovo Chef Library is a series of Ruby Gem wrappers around Lenovo REST calls. You can download it from:

<https://rubygems.org/gems/lenovo-rbapi>

Lenovo has also supplied some sample cookbooks that use the API. They are located at:

<https://supermarket.chef.io/cookbooks/chef-cnos>

To run recipes from the cookbook:

1. Install the Chef client on the node.
2. Either install the Lenovo CNOS Ruby Gem files on the same node or include them in the default recipe.
3. Create a `switch.yml` file on the workstation for each device to be configured using the workstation. The `switch.yml` file contains the following information:

```
transport : '<protocol>'
port      : '<port>'
ip        : '<IP>'
user      : '<user>'
password  : '<password>'
```

where:

Parameter	Description
<i>protocol</i>	Either <code>http</code> or <code>https</code> .
<i>port</i>	The port being used for the connection; either <code>8090</code> or <code>443</code> .
<i>IP</i>	The switch IP address (String).
<i>user</i>	The user name (String).
<i>password</i>	The password for the user (String).

4. Using `knife`, add the required recipe to the node run-list.
5. Run the Chef client on the node.

Product Support

This is a free and open source product from Lenovo. There are no support entitlements available for this plugin. Alternatively, you can file an issue or request via the GitHub repository at:

<https://github.com/lenovo/chef-cnops/issues>

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Contaminant	Limits
Particulate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The room air must be continuously filtered with 40% atmospheric dust spot efficiency (MERV 9) according to ASHRAE Standard 52.2¹.• Air that enters a data center must be filtered to 99.97% efficiency or greater, using high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters that meet MIL-STD-282.• The deliquescent relative humidity of the particulate contamination must be more than 60%².• The room must be free of conductive contamination such as zinc whiskers.

Contaminant	Limits
Gaseous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copper: Class G1 as per ANSI/ISA 71.04-1985³ Silver: Corrosion rate of less than 300 Å in 30 days
<p>¹ ASHRAE 52.2-2008 - <i>Method of Testing General Ventilation Air-Cleaning Devices for Removal Efficiency by Particle Size</i>. Atlanta: American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.</p> <p>² The deliquescent relative humidity of particulate contamination is the relative humidity at which the dust absorbs enough water to become wet and promote ionic conduction.</p> <p>³ ANSI/ISA-71.04-1985. <i>Environmental conditions for process measurement and control systems: Airborne contaminants</i>. Instrument Society of America, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, U.S.A.</p>	

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Korea Communications Commission (KCC) Statement

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This is electromagnetic wave compatibility equipment for business (Type A). Sellers and users need to pay attention to it. This is for any areas other than home.

Russia Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) Class A statement

ВНИМАНИЕ! Настоящее изделие относится к классу А.
В жилых помещениях оно может создавать радиопомехи, для
снижения которых необходимы дополнительные меры

People's Republic of China Class A electronic emission statement

中华人民共和国“A类”警告声明

声明

此为A级产品，在生活环境中，该产品可能会造成无线电干扰。在这种情况下，
可能需要用户对其干扰采取切实可行的措施。

Taiwan Class A compliance statement

警告使用者：
這是甲類的資訊產品，在
居住的環境中使用時，可
能會造成射頻干擾，在這
種情況下，使用者會被要
求採取某些適當的對策。

