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# **elasticcluster Documentation**

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**Grid Computing Competence Centre, University of Zurich**

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# Introduction

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*elasticcluster* aims to provide a user-friendly command line tool to create, manage and setup computational clusters hosted on cloud infrastructures (like [Amazon's Elastic Compute Cloud EC2](#)) or a private [OpenStack](#) cloud). Its main goal is to get your own private cluster up and running with just a few commands; a [YouTube video](#) demoes the basic features of *elasticcluster*.

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## Features

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*elasticcluster* is in active development, but the following features at the current state:

- Simple configuration file to define cluster templates
- Can start and manage multiple independent clusters at the same time
- **Automated cluster setup:**
  - use [Debian GNU/Linux](#), [Ubuntu](#), or [CentOS](#) as a base operating system
  - supports multiple batch systems, including [SLURM](#), [Grid Engine](#) or [Torque/PBS](#)
  - supports [Hadoop](#) clusters
  - add useful tools like [Ganglia](#) for monitoring...
  - ...or anything that you can install with an [Ansible](#) playbook!
- Grow a running cluster

*elasticcluster* is currently in active development: please use the GitHub issue tracker to [file enhancement requests](#) and [ideas](#)





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## Architecture

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The architecture of elasticcluster is quite simple: the configuration file in `~/elasticcluster/config` defines a set of *cluster configurations* and information on how to access a specific cloud webservice (including access id and secret keys).

Using the command line (or, very soon, a simple API), you can start a cluster and override some of the default values, like the number of nodes you want to fire up. Elasticcluster will use the [boto library](#) to connect to the desired cloud, start the virtual machines and wait until they are accessible via ssh.

After all the virtual machines are up and running, elasticcluster will use [ansible](#) to configure them.

If you do a *resize* of the cluster (currently only growing a cluster is fully supported) new virtual machines will be created and again [ansible](#) will run for *all* of the virtual machines, in order to properly add the new hosts to the cluster.



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### 4.1 Installation

*elasticsearch* is a [Python](#) program; Python version 2.6 is required to run it.

The easiest way to install *elasticsearch* is using [pip](#), this will install the latest **stable** release from the [PyPI](#) website. The following section: *Installing from PyPI* will explain you how to do it.

If you instead want to test the *development* version, go to the *Installing from github* section.

#### 4.1.1 Installing from PyPI

It's quite easy to install *elasticsearch* using [pip](#); the command below is all you need to install *elasticsearch* on your system:

```
pip install elasticsearch
```

If you want to run *elasticsearch* from source you have to **install Ansible first**:

```
pip install ansible
python setup.py install
```

#### 4.1.2 Installing from github

The source code of *elasticsearch* is [github](#), if you want to test the latest development version you can clone the [github elasticsearch repository](#).

You need the `git` command in order to be able to clone it, and we suggest you to use [python virtualenv](#) in order to create a controlled environment in which you can install *elasticsearch* as normal user.

Assuming you already have `virtualenv` installed on your machine, you first need to create a `virtualenv` and install *ansible*, which is needed by *elasticsearch*:

```
virtualenv elasticsearch
. elasticsearch/bin/activate
pip install ansible
```

Then you have to download the software. We suggest you to download it *within* the created `virtualenv`:

```
cd elasticcluster
git clone git://github.com/gc3-uzh-ch/elasticcluster.git src
cd src
git submodule init
git submodule update
python setup.py install
```

Now the `elasticcluster` should be available in your current environment.

## 4.2 Configuration

All the information about how to access a cloud provider and how to setup a cluster is stored in a configuration file. The default configuration file is stored in your home directory: `~/.elasticcluster/config` but you can specify a different location from the command line with the `-c` option.

When *elasticcluster* is run for the first time, if no configuration file is found it will copy a [template configuration file](#) in `~/.elasticcluster/config`. Such template is fully commented and self documented.

### 4.2.1 Basic syntax of the configuration file

The file is parsed by `ConfigParser` module and has a syntax similar to Microsoft Windows INI files.

It consists of *sections* led by a `[sectiontype/name]` header and followed by lines in the form:

```
key=value
```

Section names are in the form `[type/name]` wher *type* must be one of:

**cloud** define a cloud provider

**login** define a way to access a virtual machine

**setup** define a way to setup the cluster

**cluster** define the composition of a cluster. It contains references to the other sections.

**cluster/<clustername>** override configuration for specific group of nodes within a cluster

You must define at least one for each section types in order to have a valid configuration file.

### 4.2.2 Cloud Section

A `cloud` section named `<name>` starts with:

```
[cloud/<name>]
```

The cloud section defines all properties needed to connect to a specific cloud provider.

You can define as many cloud sections you want, assuming you have access to different cloud providers and want to deploy different clusters in different clouds. The mapping between cluster and cloud provider is done in the *cluster* section (see later).

## Valid configuration keys

`provider`

the driver to use to connect to the cloud provider. So far, the only accepted value is *boto*.

`ec2_url`

the url of the EC2 endpoint. For Amazon is probably something like:

```
https://ec2.us-east-1.amazonaws.com
```

replace `us-east-1` with the zone you want to use while for OpenStack you can get it from the web interface

`ec2_access_key`

the access key (also known as access id) your cloud provider gave you to access its cloud resources.

`ec2_secret_key`

the secret key (also known as secret id) your cloud provider gave you to access its cloud resources.

`ec2_region`

the availability zone you want to use.

## Examples

For instance, to connect to the [Hobbes private cloud](#) of the [University of Zurich](#) you can use the following:

```
[cloud/hobbes]
provider=ec2_boto
ec2_url=http://hobbes.gc3.uzh.ch:8773/services/Cloud
ec2_access_key=****REPLACE WITH YOUR ACCESS ID****
ec2_secret_key=****REPLACE WITH YOUR SECRET KEY****
ec2_region=nova
```

For Amazon instead (region `us-east-1`) you can use:

```
[cloud/amazon-us-east-1]
provider=ec2_boto
ec2_url=https://ec2.us-east-1.amazonaws.com
ec2_access_key=****REPLACE WITH YOUR ACCESS ID****
ec2_secret_key=****REPLACE WITH YOUR SECRET KEY****
ec2_region=us-east-1
```

## OpenStack users

From the horizon web interface you can download a file containing your EC2 credentials by logging in in your provider web interface and clicking on:

“*settings*”

=> “*EC2 Credentials*” => “*Download EC2 Credentials*”

The `ec2rc.sh` file will contain some values. Update the configuration file:

`ec2_url` using the value of the variable `EC2_URL` `ec2_access_key` using the value of the variable `EC2_ACCESS_KEY`  
`ec2_secret_key` using the value of the variable `EC2_SECRET_KEY`

### 4.2.3 Login Section

A login section named `<name>` starts with:

```
[login/<name>]
```

This section contains information on how to access the instances started on the cloud, including the user and the SSH keys to use.

Some of the values depend on the image you specified in the *cluster* section. Values defined here also can affect the *setup* section and the way the system is setup.

#### Mandatory configuration keys

`image_user`

the remote user you must use to connect to the virtual machine

`image_sudo`

Can be *True* or *False*. *True* means that on the remote machine you can execute commands as root by running the *sudo* program.

`image_user_sudo`

the login name of the administrator. Use *root* unless you know what you are doing...

`user_key_name`

name of the *keypair* to use on the cloud provider. If the keypair does not exist it will be created by elasticcluster.

`user_key_private`

file containing a valid RSA or DSA private key to be used to connect to the remote machine. Please note that this must match the `user_key_public` file (RSA and DSA keys go in pairs). Also note that Amazon does not accept DSA keys but only RSA ones.

`user_key_public`

file containing the RSA/DSA public key corresponding to the `user_key_private` private key. See `user_key_private` for more details.

#### Examples

For a typical Ubuntu machine, both on Amazon and most OpenStack providers, these values should be fine:

```
[login/ubuntu]
image_user=ubuntu
image_user_sudo=root
image_sudo=True
user_key_name=elasticcluster
user_key_private=~/.ssh/id_rsa
user_key_public=~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```

while for Hobbes appliances you will need to use the *gc3-user* instead:

```
[login/gc3-user]
image_user=gc3-user
image_user_sudo=root
image_sudo=True
```

```
user_key_name=elasticcluster
user_key_private=~/.ssh/id_rsa
user_key_public=~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```

## 4.2.4 Setup Section

A setup section named <name> starts with:

```
[setup/<name>]
```

This section contain information on *how to setup* a cluster. After the cluster is started, elasticcluster will run a setup provider in order to configure it.

### Mandatory configuration keys

`provider`

the type of setup provider. So far, only *ansible* is supported.

### Ansible-specific mandatory configuration keys

The following configuration keys are only valid if *provider* is *ansible*.

`<class>_groups`

Comma separated list of ansible groups the specific <class> will belong to. For each <class>\_nodes in a [cluster/] section there should be a <class>\_groups option to configure that specific class of nodes with the ansible groups specified.

If you are setting up a standard HPC cluster you probably want to have only two main groups: *frontend\_groups* and *compute\_groups*.

To configure a slurm cluster, for instance, you have the following available groups:

**slurm\_master** configure this machine as slurm masternode

**slurm\_clients** compute nodes of a slurm cluster

**ganglia\_master** configure as ganglia web frontend. On the master, you probably want to define *ganglia\_monitor* as well

**ganglia\_monitor** configure as ganglia monitor.

You can combine more groups together, but of course not all combinations make sense. A common setup is, for instance:

```
frontend_groups=slurm_master,ganglia_master,ganglia_monitor
compute_groups=slurm_clients,ganglia_monitor
```

This will configure the frontend node as slurm master and ganglia frontend, and the compute nodes as clients for both slurm and ganglia frontend.

A full list of the available groups is available at the [Playbooks distributed with elasticcluster](#) page.

`<class>_var_<varname>`

an entry of this type will define a variable called <varname> for the specific <class> and add it to the ansible inventory file.

playbook\_path

Path to the playbook to use when configuring the system. The default value printed here points to the playbook distributed with elasticcluster. The default value points to the playbooks distributed with elasticcluster.

## Examples

Some (working) examples:

```
[setup/ansible-slurm]
provider=ansible
frontend_groups=slurm_master
compute_groups=slurm_clients

[setup/ansible-gridengine]
provider=ansible
frontend_groups=gridengine_master
compute_groups=gridengine_clients

[setup/ansible-pbs]
provider=ansible
frontend_groups=pbs_master,maui_master
compute_groups=pbs_clients

[setup/ansible_matlab]
# Please note that this setup assumes you already have matlab
# installed on the image that is being used.
provider=ansible
frontend_groups=mdce_master,mdce_worker,ganglia_monitor,ganglia_master
worker_groups=mdce_worker,ganglia_monitor
```

## 4.2.5 Cluster Section

A cluster section named <name> starts with:

```
[cluster/<name>]
```

The cluster section defines a *template* for a cluster. This section has references to each one of the other sections and define the image to use, the default number of compute nodes and the security group.

### Mandatory configuration keys

cloud

the name of a valid *cloud* section. For instance *hobbes* or *amazon-us-east-1*

login

the name of a valid *login* section. For instance *ubuntu* or *gc3-user*

setup\_provider

the name of a valid *setup* section. For instance, *ansible-slurm* or *ansible-pbs*

image\_id



image id in *ami* format. If you are using OpenStack, you need to run *euca-describe-images* to get a valid *ami-\** id.

flavor

the image type to use. Different cloud providers call it differently, could be *instance type*, *instance size* or *flavor*.

security\_group

Security group to use when starting the instance.

<class>\_nodes

the number of nodes of type <class>. These configuration options will define the composition of your cluster. A very common configuration will include only two group of nodes:

**frontend\_nodes** the queue manager and frontend of the cluster. You probably want only one.

**compute\_nodes** the worker nodes of the cluster.

Each <class>\_nodes group is configured using the corresponding <class>\_groups configuration option in the [setup/...] section.

ssh\_to

*ssh* and *sftp* nodes will connect to only one node. This is the first of the group specified in this configuration option, or the first node of the first group in alphabetical order. For instance, if you don't set any value for *ssh\_to* and you defined two groups: *frontend\_nodes* and *compute\_nodes*, the *ssh* and *sftp* command will connect to *compute001* which is the first *compute\_nodes* node. If you specify *frontend*, instead, it will connect to *frontend001* (or the first node of the *frontend* group).

## Optional configuration keys

image\_userdata

shell script to be executed (as root) when the machine starts. This is usually not needed because the *ansible* provider works on *vanilla* images, but if you are using other setup providers you may need to execute some command to bootstrap it.

## Examples

Some (working) examples:

```
[cluster/slurm]
cloud=hobbes
login=gc3-user
setup_provider=ansible-slurm
security_group=default
# Ubuntu image
image_id=ami-00000048
flavor=m1.small
frontend_nodes=1
compute_nodes=2
frontend_class=frontend

[cluster/torque]
cloud=hobbes
frontend_nodes=1
compute_nodes=2
```

```
frontend_class=frontend
security_group=default
# CentOS image
image_id=ami-0000004f
flavor=m1.small
login=gc3-user
setup_provider=ansible-pbs

[cluster/aws-slurm]
cloud=amazon-us-east-1
login=ubuntu
setup_provider=ansible-slurm
security_group=default
# ubuntu image
image_id=ami-90a21cf9
flavor=m1.small
frontend=1
compute=2

[cluster/matlab]
cloud=hobbes
setup_provider=ansible_matlab
security_group=default
image_id=ami-00000099
flavor=m1.medium
frontend_nodes=1
worker_nodes=10
image_userdata=
ssh_to=frontend
```

### 4.2.6 Cluster node section

A *cluster node* for the node type <nodetype> of the cluster <name> starts with:

```
[cluster/<name>/<nodetype>]
```

This section allows you to override some configuration values for specific group of nodes. Assume you have a standard slurm cluster with a frontend which is used as manager node and nfs server for the home directories, and a set of compute nodes.

You may want to use different flavors for the frontend and the compute nodes, since for the first you need more space and you don't need many cores or much memory, while the compute nodes may requires more memory and more cores but are not eager about disk space.

This is achieved defining, for instance, a *bigdisk* flavor (the name is just fictional) for the frontend and *8cpu32g* for the compute nodes. Your configuration will thus look like:

```
[cluster/slurm]
...
flavor=8cpu32g
frontend_nodes=1
compute_nodes=10

[cluster/slurm/frontend]
flavor=bigdisk
```

## 4.3 Usage

The syntax of the elasticcluster command is:

```
elasticcluster [-v] [-s PATH] [-c PATH] [subcommand] [subcommand args and opts]
```

The following options are general and are accepted by any subcommand:

**-h, --help** Show an help message and exits.

**-v, --verbose** Adding one or more -v will increase the verbosity accordingly.

**-s PATH, --storage PATH**

Path to the storage folder. This directory is used to store information about the cluster which are running.  
By default this is “~/.elasticcluster/storage”

**WARNING:** If you delete this directory elasticcluster will not be able to access the cluster anymore!

**-c PATH, --config PATH**

Path to the configuration file. By default this is ~/.elasticcluster/config

elasticcluster provides multiple *subcommands* to start, stop, resize, inspect your clusters. The available subcommands are:

**start** Create a cluster using one of the configured cluster tmlate.

**stop** Stop a cluster and all associated VM instances.

**list** List all clusters that are currently running.

**list-nodes** Show information about the nodes in a specific started cluster.

**list-templates** Show the available cluster configurations, as defined in the configuration file.

**setup** Run ansible to configure the cluster.

**resize** Resize a cluster by adding or removing nodes.

**ssh** Connect to the frontend of the cluster using the *ssh* command.

**sftp** Open an SFTP session to the cluster frontend host.

An help message explaining the available options and subcommand of *elasticcluster* is available by running:

```
elasticcluster -h
```

Options and arguments accepted by a specific subcommand *<cmd>* is available by running:

```
elasticcluster <cmd> -h
```

### 4.3.1 The start command

This command will start a new cluster using a specific cluster configuration, defined in the configuration file. You can start as many clusters you want using the same cluster configuration, by providing different *--name* options.

Basic usage of the command is:

```
usage: elasticcluster start [-h] [-v] [-n CLUSTER_NAME]
                             [--nodes N1:GROUP[,N2:GROUP2,...]] [--no-setup]
                             cluster
```

`cluster` is the name of a *cluster* section in the configuration file. For instance, to start the cluster defined by the section `[cluster/slurm]` you must run the command:

```
elasticcluster start slurm
```

The following options are available:

**-h, --help** Show an help message and exits.

**-v, --verbose** Adding one or more `-v` will increase the verbosity accordingly.

**-n CLUSTER\_NAME, --name CLUSTER\_NAME** Name of the cluster. By default this is the same as the cluster configuration name.

**--nodes N1:GROUP [,N2:GROUP2, ...]**

This option allow you to override the values stored in the configuration file, by starting a different number of hosts fore each group.

Assuming you defined, for instance, a cluster with the following type of nodes in the configuration file:

```
hadoop-data_nodes=4
hadoop-task_nodes=4
```

and you want to run instead 10 data nodes and 10 task nodes, you can run `elasticcluster` with option:

```
elasticcluster ... --nodes 10:hadoop-data,10:hadoop-task
```

**--no-setup** By default `elasticcluster` will automatically run the **setup** command after all the virtual machines are up and running. This option prevent the *setup* step to be run and will leave the cluster unconfigured.

When you start a new cluster, `elasticcluster` will:

- create the requested/configured number of virtual machines.
- wait until *all* the virtual machines are started.
- wait until *elasticcluster* is able to connect to *all* the virtual machines using *ssh*.
- run *ansible* on all the virtual machines (unless `--no-setup` option is given).

This process can take several minutes, depending on the load of the cloud, the configuration of the cluster and your connection speed. *Elasticcluster* usually print very few information on what's happening, if you run it with `-v` it will display a more verbose output (including output of *ansible* command) to help you understanding what is actually happening.

After the setup process is done a summary of the created cluster is printed, similar to the following:

```
Cluster name:      slurm
Cluster template:  slurm
Frontend node: frontend001
- compute nodes:  2
- frontend nodes: 1
```

To login on the frontend node, run the command:

```
elasticcluster ssh slurm
```

To upload or download files to the cluster, use the command:

```
elasticcluster sftp slurm
```

The first line tells you the name of the cluster, which is the one you are supposed to use with the **stop**, **list-nodes**, **resize**, **ssh** and **sftp** commands.

The second line specifies the cluster configuration section used to configure the cluster (in this case, for instance, the section `[cluster/slurm]` has been used)

The `Frontend node` line shows which node is used for the `ssh` and `sftp` commands, when connecting to the cluster.

Then a list of how many nodes of each type have been started

The remaining lines describe how to connect to the cluster either by opening an interactive shell to run commands on it, or an sftp session to upload and download files.

### 4.3.2 The `stop` command

The **`stop`** command will terminate all the instances running and delete all information related to the cluster saved on the local disk.

**WARNING:** elasticcluster doesn't do any kind of test to check if the cluster is *used*!

Basic usage of the command is:

```
usage: elasticcluster stop [-h] [-v] [--force] [--yes] cluster
```

Like the **`start`** command, `cluster` is the name of a *cluster* section in the configuration file.

The following options are available:

**`-h, --help`** Show an help message and exits.

**`-v, --verbose`** Adding one or more `-v` will increase the verbosity accordingly.

**`--force`**

If some of the virtual machines fail to terminate (for instance because they have been terminated already not by elasticcluster), this command will ignore these errors and will force termination of all the other instances.

**`--yes`**

Since stopping a cluster is a possibly disruptive action, elasticcluster will always ask for confirmation before doing any modification, unless this option is given.

### 4.3.3 The `list` command

The **`list`** command print a list of all the cluster that have been started. For each cluster, it will print a few information including the cloud used and the number of nodes started for each node type:

```
$ elasticcluster list

The following clusters have been started.
Please note that there's no guarantee that they are fully configured:

centossg
-----
  name:          centossg
  template:      centossg
  cloud:         hobbes
  - frontend nodes: 1
  - compute nodes: 2

slurm
-----
```

```

name:          slurm
template:      slurm
cloud:         hobbes
- frontend nodes: 1
- compute nodes: 2

slurm13.04
-----
name:          slurm13.04
template:      slurm13.04
cloud:         hobbes
- frontend nodes: 1
- compute nodes: 2

```

### 4.3.4 The `list-nodes` command

The **list-nodes** command print information on the nodes belonging to a specific cluster.

Basic usage of the command is:

```
usage: elasticcluster list-nodes [-h] [-v] [-u] cluster
```

`cluster` is the name of a cluster that has been *started* previously.

The following options are available:

**-h, --help** Show an help message and exits.

**-v, --verbose** Adding one or more `-v` will increase the verbosity accordingly.

**-u, --update**

By default `elasticcluster list-nodes` will not contact the EC2 provider to get up-to-date information, unless `-u` option is given.

Example:

```

$ elasticcluster list-nodes centossge

Cluster name:      centossge
Cluster template:  centossge
Frontend node:     frontend001
- frontend nodes:  1
- compute nodes:   2

To login on the frontend node, run the command:

    elasticcluster ssh centossge

To upload or download files to the cluster, use the command:

    elasticcluster sftp centossge

frontend nodes:

- frontend001
  public IP:  130.60.24.61
  private IP: 10.10.10.36
  instance id: i-0000299f
  instance flavor: m1.small

```

```
compute nodes:

- compute001
  public IP: 130.60.24.44
  private IP: 10.10.10.17
  instance id: i-0000299d
  instance flavor: m1.small

- compute002
  public IP: 130.60.24.48
  private IP: 10.10.10.29
  instance id: i-0000299e
  instance flavor: m1.small
```

### 4.3.5 The `list-templates` command

The **list-templates** command print a list of all the available templates defined in the configuration file with a few information for each one of them.

Basic usage of the command is:

```
usage: elasticcluster list-templates [-h] [-v] [clusters [clusters ...]]
```

*clusters* is used to limit the clusters to be listed and uses a globbing-like pattern matching. For instance, to show all the cluster templates that contains the word `slurm` in their name you can run the following:

```
$ elasticcluster list-templates *slurm*
11 cluster templates found.

name:      aws-slurm
cloud:      aws
compute nodes: 2
frontend nodes: 1

name:      slurm
cloud:      hobbes
compute nodes: 2
frontend nodes: 1

name:      slurm_xl
cloud:      hobbes
compute nodes: 2
frontend nodes: 1

name:      slurm13.04
cloud:      hobbes
compute nodes: 2
frontend nodes: 1
```

### 4.3.6 The `setup` command

The **setup** command will run *ansible* on the desired cluster once again. It is usually needed only when you customize and update your playbooks, in order to re-configure the cluster, since the **start** command already run *ansible* when all the machines are started.

Basic usage of the command is:

```
usage: elasticsearch setup [-h] [-v] cluster
```

`cluster` is the name of a cluster that has been *started* previously.

The following options are available:

**-h, --help** Show an help message and exits.

**-v, --verbose** Adding one or more `-v` will increase the verbosity accordingly.

### 4.3.7 The `resize` command

The **resize** command allow you to add or remove nodes from a started cluster. Please, be warned that **this feature is still experimental**, and while adding nodes is usually safe, removing nodes can be desruptive and can leave the cluster in an unknownw state.

Moreover, there is currently no way to decide *which nodes* can be removed from a cluster, therefore if you shrink a cluster **you must ensure** that any node of that type can be removed safely and no job is running on it.

When adding nodes, you have to specify the *type* of the node and the number of node you want to add. Then, elasticsearch will basically re-run the *start* and *setup* steps:

- create the requested/configured number of virtual machines.
- wait until *all* the virtual machines are started.
- wait until *elasticsearch* is able to connect to *all* the virtual machines using *ssh*.
- run ansible on all the virtual machines, including the virtual machines already configured (unless `--no-setup` option is given).

Growing a cluster (adding nodes to the cluster) should be supported by all the playbooks included in the elasticsearch package.

Basic usage of the command is:

```
usage: elasticsearch resize [-h] [-a N1:GROUP1[,N2:GROUP2]]
                             [-r N1:GROUP1[,N2:GROUP2]] [-v] [--no-setup]
                             [--yes]
                             cluster
```

`cluster` is the name of a cluster that has been *started* previously.

The following options are available:

**-h, --help** Show an help message and exits.

**-v, --verbose** Adding one or more `-v` will increase the verbosity accordingly.

**-a N1:GROUP1[,N2:GROUP2], --add N1:GROUP1[,N2:GROUP2]**

This option allow you to specify how many nodes for a specific group you want to add. You can specify multiple nodes separated by a comma.

Assuming you started, for instance, a cluster named *hadoop* using the default values stored in the configuration file:

```
hadoop-data_nodes=4
hadoop-task_nodes=4
```

and assuming you want to *add 5* more data nodes and *10* more task nodes, you can run:



```
elasticsearch resize -a 5:hadoop-data,10:hadoop-task
```

```
-r N1:GROUP1[,N2:GROUP2], --remove N1:GROUP1[,N2:GROUP2]
```

This option allow you to specify how many nodes you want to remove from a specific group. It follows the same syntax as the `--add` option.

**WARNING:** elasticsearch pick the nodes to remove at random, so **you have to be sure that any of the nodes can be removed**. Moreover, not all the playbooks support shrinking!

```
--no-setup
```

By default elasticsearch will automatically run the **setup** command after starting and/or stopping the virtual machines. This option prevent the *setup* step to be run. **WARNING:** use this option wisely: depending on the cluster configuration it is impossible to know in advance what the status of the cluster will be after resizing it and NOT running the *setup* step.

```
--yes
```

Since resizing a cluster, especially shrinking, is a possibly disruptive action and is not supported by all the distributed playbooks, elasticsearch will always ask for confirmation before doing any modification, unless this option is given.

### 4.3.8 The `ssh` command

After a cluster is started, the easiest way to login on it is by using the **ssh** command. This command will run the *ssh* command with the correct options to connect to the cluster using the configured values for user and ssh key to use.

If no `ssh_to` option is specified in the configuration file, the **ssh** command will connect to the first host belonging to the type which comes first in alphabetic order, otherwise it will connect to the first host of the group specified by the `ssh_to` option of the `cluster` section. However, running the command `elasticsearch list-nodes <cluster>` will show which host will be used as frontend node.

The usage of the *ssh* command is as follow:

```
elasticsearch ssh <clustername> [ -- ssh arguments]
```

All the options and arguments following the `--` characters will be passed directly to the *ssh* command.

For instance, if you just want to run the `hostname -f` command on the frontend of the cluster you can run:

```
elasticsearch ssh <clustername> -- hostname -f
```

Note that since the IP address of the virtual machines are likely to be reused by different virtual machines, in order to avoid annoying warning messages from ssh elasticsearch will add the following options to the *ssh* command line:

- o **UserKnownHostsFile=/dev/null** Use an empty virtual file to check the host key of the remote machine.
- o **StrictHostKeyChecking=no** Disable check of the host key of the remote machine, without prompting to ask if the key can be accepted or not.

### 4.3.9 The `sftp` command

After a cluster is started, the easiest way to upload or download files to and from the cluster is by using the **sftp** command. This command will run the *sftp* command with the correct options to connect to the cluster using the configured values for user and ssh key to use.

If no `ssh_to` option is specified in the configuration file, the **sftp** command will connect to the first host belonging to the type which comes first in alphabetic order, otherwise it will connect to the first host of the group specified by

the `ssh_to` option of the `cluster` section. However, running the command `elasticcluster list-nodes <cluster>` will show which host will be used as frontend node.

The usage of the `sftp` command is as follow:

```
elasticcluster sftp <clustername> [ -- sftp arguments]
```

All the options and arguments following the `--` characters will be passed directly to the `sftp` command.

Note that since the IP address of the virtual machines are likely to be reused by different virtual machines, in order to avoid annoying warning messages from `ssh` `elasticcluster` will add the following options to the `sftp` command line:

- o **UserKnownHostsFile=/dev/null** Use an empty virtual file to check the host key of the remote machine.
- o **StrictHostKeyChecking=no** Disable check of the host key of the remove machine, without prompting to ask if the key can be accepted or not.

## 4.4 Playbooks distributed with elasticcluster

After the requested number of Virtual Machines have been started, `elasticcluster` uses [Ansible](#) to configure them based on the configuration options defined in the configuration file.

We distribute a few playbooks together with `elasticcluster` to configure some of the most wanted clusters. The playbooks are available at the `share/elasticcluster/providers/ansible-playbooks/` directory inside your virtualenv if you installed using `pip`, or in the `elasticcluster/providers/ansible-playbooks` directory of the github source code. You can copy, customize and redistribute them freely under the terms of the GPLv3 license.

A list of the most used playbooks distributed with `elasticcluster` and some explanation on how to use them follows.

### 4.4.1 Slurm

Tested on:

- Ubuntu 12.04
- Ubuntu 13.04

ansible groups	role
<code>slurm_master</code>	Act as scheduler and submission host
<code>slurm_clients</code>	Act as compute node

This playbook will install the [SLURM](#) queue manager using the packages distributed with Ubuntu and will create a basic, working configuration.

You are supposed to only define one `slurm_master` and multiple `slurm_clients`. The first will act as login node and will run the scheduler, while the others will only execute the jobs.

The `/home` filesystem is exported *from* the slurm server to the compute nodes.

A *snippet* of a typical configuration for a slurm cluster is:

```
[cluster/slurm]
frontend_nodes=1
compute_nodes=5
ssh_to=frontend
setup_provider=ansible_slurm
...

[setup/ansible_slurm]
```

```
frontend_groups=slurm_master
compute_groups=slurm_clients
...
```

You can combine the slurm playbooks with ganglia. In this case the `setup` stanza will look like:

```
[setup/ansible_slurm]
frontend_groups=slurm_master,ganglia_master
compute_groups=slurm_clients,ganglia_monitor
...
```

## 4.4.2 Gridengine

Tested on:

- Ubuntu 12.04
- CentOS 6.3

ansible groups	role
gridengine_master	Act as scheduler and submission host
gridengine_clients	Act as compute node

This playbook will install [Grid Engine](#) using the packages distributed with Ubuntu or CentOS and will create a basic, working configuration.

You are supposed to only define one `gridengine_master` and multiple `gridengine_clients`. The first will act as login node and will run the scheduler, while the others will only execute the jobs.

The `/home` filesystem is exported *from* the gridengine server to the compute nodes. If you are running on a CentOS, also the `/usr/share/gridengine/default/common` directory is shared from the gridengine server to the compute nodes.

A *snippet* of a typical configuration for a gridengine cluster is:

```
[cluster/gridengine]
frontend_nodes=1
compute_nodes=5
ssh_to=frontend
setup_provider=ansible_gridengine
...

[setup/ansible_gridengine]
frontend_groups=gridengine_master
compute_groups=gridengine_clients
...
```

You can combine the gridengine playbooks with ganglia. In this case the `setup` stanza will look like:

```
[setup/ansible_gridengine]
frontend_groups=gridengine_master,ganglia_master
compute_groups=gridengine_clients,ganglia_monitor
...
```

## 4.4.3 Ganglia

Tested on:

- Ubuntu 12.04

- CentOS 6.3

ansible groups	role
ganglia_master	Run gmetad and web interface. It also run the monitor daemon.
ganglia_monitor	Run ganglia monitor daemon.

This playbook will install [Ganglia](#) monitoring tool using the packages distributed with Ubuntu or CentOS and will configure frontend and monitors.

You should run only one `ganglia_master`. This will install the `gmetad` daemon to collect all the metrics from the monitored nodes and will also run `apache`.

If the machine in which you installed `ganglia_master` has IP `10.2.3.4`, the ganglia web interface will be available at the address <http://10.2.3.4/ganglia/>

This playbook is supposed to be compatible with all the other available playbooks.

#### 4.4.4 Hadoop

Tested on:

- Ubuntu 12.04
- CentOS 6.3

ansible groups	role
hadoop_namenode	Run the Hadoop NameNode service
hadoop_jobtracker	Run the Hadoop JobTracker service
hadoop_datanode	Act as datanode for HDFS
hadoop_tasktracker	Act as tasktracker node accepting jobs from the JobTracker

Hadoop playbook will install a basic hadoop cluster using the packages available on the Hadoop website. The only supported version so far is **1.1.2 x86\_64** and it works both on CentOS and Ubuntu.

You must define only one `hadoop_namenode` and one `hadoop_jobtracker`. Configuration in which both roles belong to the same machines are not tested. You can mix `hadoop_datanode` and `hadoop_tasktracker` without problems though.

A *snippet* of a typical configuration for an Hadoop cluster is:

```
[cluster/hadoop]
hadoop-name_nodes=1
hadoop-jobtracker_nodes=1
hadoop-task-data_nodes=10
setup_provider=ansible_hadoop
ssh_to=hadoop-name
...

[setup/ansible_hadoop]
hadoop-name_groups=hadoop_namenode
hadoop-jobtracker_groups=hadoop_jobtracker
hadoop-task-data_groups=hadoop_tasktracker,hadoop_datanode
...
```

#### 4.4.5 OrangeFS/PVFS2

Tested on:

- Ubuntu 12.04

ansible groups	role
pvfs2_meta	Run the pvfs2 metadata service
pvfs2_data	Run the pvfs2 data node
pvfs2_client	configure as pvfs2 client and mount the filesystem

The OrangeFS/PVFS2 playbook will configure a pvfs2 cluster. It downloads the software from the [OrangeFS](#) website, compile and install it on all the machine, and run the various server and client daemons.

In addition, it will mount the filesystem in `/pvfs2` on all the clients.

You can combine, for instance, a SLURM cluster with a PVFS2 cluster:

```
[cluster/slurm+pvfs2]
frontend_nodes=1
compute_nodes=10
pvfs2-nodes=10
ssh_to=frontend
setup_provider=ansible_slurm+pvfs2
...

[setup/ansible_slurm+pvfs2]
frontend_groups=slurm_master,pvfs2_client
compute_groups=slurm_clients,pvfs2_client
pvfs-nodes_groups=pvfs2_meta,pvfs2_data
...
```

This configuration will create a SLURM cluster with 10 compute nodes, 10 data nodes and a frontend, and will mount the `/pvfs2` directory from the data nodes to both the compute nodes and the frontend.



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## Indices and tables

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- `modindex`
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