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How to Use This Guide

This guide is largely a pointer to smaller, more focused guides, although it includes unique information when no appropriate smaller guide exists.

Introduction to Puppet

Puppet is a declarative *language* for expressing system configuration, a *client and server* for distributing it, and a *library* for realizing the configuration.

The Puppet [Introduction](#) covers the basic architecture and design goals, including whether and why you should be using Puppet on your network.

Installation

There is an [Installation Guide](#) meant for installation of Puppet across a network.

There are also complete examples that can be used as a starting point. [Project WWW](#) is a complete example of a single-node manifest that builds a web service, and [Project SOHO](#) is a complete example of a networked web service creator.

There is also a guide for [using Puppet from source](#).

The Big Picture

It is still somewhat incomplete, there is a [Big Picture](#) document describing Puppet's general philosophy without focusing on the specific. This is a great place to start if you're wondering why Puppet exists and what separates it from other [Configuration Management](#) tools.

Command Line Executables

This section will eventually have links to full man-pages for each executable, but for now the man pages can be found by running the respective executable with the '--help' flag.

puppet Stand alone Puppet Site Manifest Script evaluator. Parses, evaluates, and implements a Site Manifest locally.

puppetmasterd Puppet Site Manifest Server Daemon. Runs on each host serving/providing configurations to Puppet client hosts.

puppetd Puppet Client Host Configuration Daemon. Runs on each host whose configuration is managed by Puppet. Requests a Host Specific Manifest from a Puppet Manifest Server and implements it locally.

puppetca SSL Certificate Authority Server used for receiving certification requests from puppet clients. Puppet Client Hosts are required to have their SSL certs signed by their Puppet Manifest Server's Authority before they can be authenticated and authorized to receive configurations.

puppetdoc Command line tool for printing Puppet Default and Local Type Library reference documentation.

Type and Language Reference

The Puppet reference is split into two pieces:

- [Type Reference](#)

A reference of all available Puppet Types. The types defined in this reference represent the total ability of Puppet to manage your system -- if an object is not in this reference, then Puppet cannot currently manage it.

- [Language Reference](#)

A reference to all available language structures within Puppet. This reference presents the limits of and options for expressibility within Puppet.

Configuration

Most Puppet configuration is currently done directly through the executables through the use of command-line flags, although this should largely migrate to configuration files before 1.0. As such, the man pages for the respective executables is the appropriate place to look for documentation on configuration (e.g., **puppetmasterd** for serving and **puppetd** for the client).

There are some guides already, though:

- [File Serving Configuration](#)
- [Puppet Certificates and Security](#)

Additional Documentation

While the above links represent the standard, recommended documentation, there is additional information available for those who are interested:

- [Example Manifests](#)
- [Puppet Internals](#)
- [How Cfengine compares to Puppet](#)