



ansible-vault Cheat Sheet

Ansible Vault encrypts variables and files so you can protect sensitive content such as passwords or keys rather than leaving it visible as plaintext in playbooks or roles. To use Ansible Vault you need one or more passwords to encrypt and decrypt content. If you store your vault passwords in a third-party tool such as a secret manager, you need a script to access them.

Get help

```
# Get help
ansible-vault --help
```

```
# Get help for subcommand
ansible-vault SUBCOMMAND --help
```

Create

```
# Create a new vault file
$ ansible-vault create /path/to/vault.yml
```

```
# Encrypt an existing file
$ ansible-vault encrypt /path/to/vault.yml
```

```
# Encrypt a string (for copy-paste)
$ ansible-vault encrypt_string --ask-vault-pass STRING --name KEY
```

Vault-IDs

```
# Using ID=dev and prompt for password
$ ansible-vault view --vault-id dev@prompt /path/to/vault.yml
```

```
# Using ID=dev and a password file
$ ansible-vault view --vault-id dev@path/to/file /path/to/vault.yml
```

```
# Using ID=dev and a script that provides the password
$ ansible-vault view --vault-id dev@path/to/script /path/to/vault.yml
```

Use

```
# Using a vault password
$ ansible-playbook --ask-vault-pass playbook.yml
```

```
# Using a vault secret file
$ ansible-playbook --ask-password-file /path/to/file playbook.yml
```

Encrypt files or variables?

	Encrypted variables	Encrypted files
How much is encrypted?	Variables within a plaintext file	The entire file
When is it decrypted?	On demand, only when needed	Whenever loaded or referenced
What can be encrypted?	Only variables	Any structured data file

View & Edit

```
# View an encrypted file
$ ansible-vault view /path/to/vault.yml
```

```
# Edit an encrypted file
$ ansible-vault edit /path/to/vault.yml
```

```
# Change secret key/password
$ ansible-vault rekey /path/to/vault.yml
```

Decrypt

```
# Decrypting should be avoided, since it can lead to accidentally
# pushed secrets. Use "view" and "edit" or "rekey" if possible.
$ ansible-vault decrypt /path/to/vault.yml
```

Important Ansible configurations

```
# Configure if vault pass should be asked always
ask_vault_pass
```

```
# Default vault ID
vault_identity
```

```
# Default vault password file
vault_password_file
```

Links

```
# Official Ansible documentation
https://docs.ansible.com/
```

```
# Official Ansible Vault Guide
https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/vault_guide/index.html
```

