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# **Miniscript**

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MiniScript is an embedded scripting language with the syntax heavily inspired by Ansible, but targeted at data processing rather than remote execution. MiniScript aims to keep the familiar look-and-feel while being trivial to embed and to extend.

Compared to real Ansible, MiniScript does NOT have:

- Roles, playbooks or any other form of reusability.
- “Batteries included” set of actions and filters.
- Any local or remote execution facility.
- Notifications, parallel execution or other advanced features.

MiniScript does offer:

- Loops, variables, conditions and blocks.
- [Jinja2](#) templating integration.
- Lean and easily extensible feature set.
- A few filters most useful for data processing.
- An ability to return a value from a script.
- Ansible-compatible backslash handling.
- 100% unit test coverage.
- A permissive license (BSD).

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**Note:** MiniScript does not use Ansible directly, nor does it import any Ansible code. We are also not aiming for perfect compatibility and do diverge in some aspects.

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- Documentation: <https://miniscript.readthedocs.io>
- Source: <https://github.com/dtantsur/miniscript>
- Author: Dmitry Tantsur
- License: BSD (3-clause)

## Contents

- *Scripting Language with Ansible-like Syntax*
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  - *Built-in tasks*
  - *Built-in filters*
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## RUNNING SCRIPTS

```
class miniscript.Engine(tasks: Optional[Dict[str, Type[Task]]] = None, logger: Optional[Logger] = None,  
                        additional_filters: bool = True)
```

Engine that runs scripts.

### Parameters

- **tasks** – Tasks to use for this engine, see [Engine.tasks](#).  
Changed in version 1.1: Tasks are now optional, only built-in tasks are used by default.
- **logger** – Logger to use for all logging. If *None*, a default one is created.
- **additional\_filters** – If *True*, additional Ansible-compatible filters from [miniscript.filters](#) are enabled.  
New in version 1.1.

### Raises

ValueError on tasks conflicting with built-in parameters, see [Task](#).

The development flow is:

1. define your tasks by subclassing [Task](#);
2. create an [Engine](#) with the task definitions;
3. (optionally) create a custom [Context](#);
4. run [Engine.execute\(\)](#).

Preparing an engine:

```
import miniscript

class AddTask(miniscript.Task):  
    """A task implementing addition."""  
  
    required_params = {'values': list}  
    """One required parameter - a list of values."""  
    singleton_param = 'values'  
    """Can be supplied without an explicit "values"."""  
  
    def validate(self, params, context):  
        """Validate the parameters."""  
        super().validate(params, context)  
        for item in params['values']:  
            int(item)
```

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```
def execute(self, params, context):
    "Execute the action, return a 'sum' value."
    return {"sum": sum(params['values'])}

engine = miniscript.Engine({'add': AddTask})
```

Some tasks are built into the engine:

- block - `tasks.Block`
- fail - `tasks.Fail`
- log - `tasks.Log`
- return - `tasks.Return`
- vars - `tasks.Vars`

An example script:

```
---
- name: only accept positive integers
  fail: "{{ item }} must be positive"
  when: item <= 0
  loop: "{{ values }}"

- name: add the provided values
  add: "{{ values }}"
  register: result

- name: log the result
  log:
    info: "The sum is {{ result.sum }}"

- name: return the result
  return: "{{ result.sum }}"
```

Executing a script (obviously, it does not have to come from YAML):

```
import yaml

with open("script.yaml") as fp:
    code = yaml.safe_load(fp)

# The context holds all variables.
context = miniscript.Context(engine, values=[23423, 43874, 22834])

# Unlike Ansible, MiniScript can return a result!
result = engine.execute(code, context) # result == 90131
```

`execute(source: Union[List[Dict[str, Any]], Dict[str, Any]], context: Optional[Context] = None) → Any`

Execute a script.

### Parameters

- **source** – Script source code in JSON format. An implicit *Script* object is created from it.
- **context** – A *Context* object to hold execution context.

**Returns**

The outcome of the script or *None*.

---

**Note:** *ExecutionFailed* is raised if a script returns an undefined value.

---

**Raises**

*ExecutionFailed* on a runtime error.

**Raises**

*InvalidScript* if the script is invalid.

**Raises**

*InvalidTask* if a task is invalid.

**environment:** *Environment*

An *Environment* object used for templating.

**logger:** *Logger*

Python logger used for logging.

**tasks:** *Dict[str, Type[Task]]*

Mapping of task names to their implementation classes.

The name will be used in a script. The implementation must be a *Task* subclass (not an instance).

Includes built-in tasks.



## CREATING TASKS

```
class miniscript.Task(name: str, definition: Dict[str, Any], engine: _engine.Engine)
```

An abstract base class for a task.

An implementation must override `Task.execute()` and may also override `Task.validate()`, although it is usually not necessary.

### Parameters

- **name** – Name of this task as used in the script.
- **definition** – The task definition from the script.
- **engine** – An `Engine` the task is executed on.

```
__call__(context: Context) → None
```

Check conditions and execute the task in the context.

It is not recommended to override this method, see `Task.execute()` instead.

### Parameters

**context** – A `Context` object to hold execution context.

```
abstract execute(params: Namespace, context: Context) → Optional[Mapping[str, Any]]
```

Execute the task.

Override this method to provide the task logic.

### Parameters

- **params** – Validated parameters as a mapping that automatically evaluates templates.
- **context** – A `Context` object to hold execution context. It is a mutable mapping that holds variables.

### Returns

Values stored in a `Result` if `Task.register`` is set (otherwise discarded). A mapping from names to values.

```
validate(params: Namespace, context: Context) → None
```

Validate the passed parameters.

The call may modify the parameters in-place, e.g. to apply type conversion. The default implementation relies on class-level `Task.required_params`, `Task.optional_params`, `Task.singleton_param`, `Task.free_form` and `Task.allow_empty` for parameter validation.

### Parameters

- **params** – The current parameters as a mapping that automatically evaluates templates on access.

- **context** – A [Context](#) object to hold execution context.

**allow\_empty:** bool = True

If no parameters are required, whether to allow empty input.

Makes no sense if [Task.required\\_params](#) is not empty.

**engine:** [\\_engine.Engine](#)

The [Engine](#) this task uses.

**free\_form:** bool = False

Whether this task accepts any arguments.

Validation for known arguments is still run, and required parameters are still required.

**ignore\_errors:** bool = False

Whether to ignore errors and continue execution.

Often used together with [Task.register](#) as

```
- name: run a task that can fail
  task_that_can_fail:
    ignore_errors: True
    register: fallible_result

- name: log if the task failed
  log:
    warning: "Task failed: {{ fallible_result.failure }}"
  when: fallible_result.failed
```

**loop:** Optional[Union[str, list]] = None

Value to loop over.

For each item in the resulting list, execute the task passing the item as the `item` value in the context.

```
- name: do excessive logging
  log:
    info: "I like number {{ item }}"
  loop: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
```

Conditions are evaluated separately for each item:

```
- name: do excessive logging
  log:
    info: "I like even numbers like {{ item }}"
  loop: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
  when: item % 2 == 0
```

The loop value itself may be a template yielding a list.

**name:** str

The description of this task in the script.

If a human-readable description is not provided, uses the task name.

**optional\_params:** Dict[str, Optional[Type]] = {}

A mapping with optional parameters.

See [Task.required\\_params](#) for a list of supported types.

**params: Mapping[str, Any]**

Task parameter after passing preliminary validation.

Evaluating templated variables is not possible until execution, so this field may contain raw templates.

**register: Optional[str] = None**

Variable to store the result of this task as a *Result*.

**required\_params: Dict[str, Optional[Type]] = {}**

A mapping with required parameters.

A value is either *None* or one of the supported types: *str, int, float, list*.

**singleton\_param: Optional[str] = None**

A name for the parameter to store if the input is not an object.

For example (see [tasks.Fail](#)),

```
- fail: I have failed
```

is converted to

```
- fail:  
  msg: I have failed
```

**when: Optional[Callable[[Context], bool]] = None**

A condition of this task.

Specified via the *when* statement and supports templating, e.g.:

```
- fail: Address must be defined  
when: address is undefined
```

**class miniscript.Context(engine, \*args, \*\*kwargs)**

A context of an execution.

**copy() → Context**

Make a shallow copy of the context.



## BUILT-IN TASKS

Built-in task definitions.

```
class miniscript.tasks.Assert(name: str, definition: Dict[str, Any], engine: _engine.Engine)
```

An assertion.

Fails if at least one of the provided statements is false:

```
- vars:  
  some_value: 42  
  
- assert:  
  - some_value is defined  
  - some_value == 42
```

New in version 1.1.

**engine: \_engine.Engine**

The Engine this task uses.

**name: str**

The description of this task in the script.

If a human-readable description is not provided, uses the task name.

**optional\_params: Dict[str, Optional[Type]] = {'fail\_msg': None}**

Can accept an optional failure message.

**params: Mapping[str, Any]**

Task parameter after passing preliminary validation.

Evaluating templated variables is not possible until execution, so this field may contain raw templates.

**required\_params: Dict[str, Optional[Type]] = {'that': None}**

Requires one or more statements as a list or a string.

**singleton\_param: Optional[str] = 'that'**

The statement list can be provided directly to `assert`.

```
class miniscript.tasks.Block(name: str, definition: Dict[str, Any], engine: _engine.Engine)
```

Grouping of tasks.

Blocks can be used to share top-level parameters, e.g. a condition:

```
- block:
  - task1:
  - task2:
  - task3:
when: enable_all_three_tasks
```

**engine**: `_engine.Engine`

The Engine this task uses.

**name**: `str`

The description of this task in the script.

If a human-readable description is not provided, uses the task name.

**params**: `Mapping[str, Any]`

Task parameter after passing preliminary validation.

Evaluating templated variables is not possible until execution, so this field may contain raw templates.

**required\_params**: `Dict[str, Optional[Type]] = {'tasks': <class 'list'>}`

Requires a task list.

**singleton\_param**: `Optional[str] = 'tasks'`

The task list can be provided directly to `block`.

**class** `miniscript.tasks.Fail`(*name*: str, *definition*: Dict[str, Any], *engine*: `_engine.Engine`)

Fail the execution.

Often used in combination with some condition.

```
- name: fail if the path is not defined
  fail: path must be defined
  when: path is undefined
```

**engine**: `_engine.Engine`

The Engine this task uses.

**name**: `str`

The description of this task in the script.

If a human-readable description is not provided, uses the task name.

**params**: `Mapping[str, Any]`

Task parameter after passing preliminary validation.

Evaluating templated variables is not possible until execution, so this field may contain raw templates.

**required\_params**: `Dict[str, Optional[Type]] = {'msg': <class 'str'>}`

Requires a string message.

**singleton\_param**: `Optional[str] = 'msg'`

The message can be provided directly to `fail`.

**class** `miniscript.tasks.Log`(*name*: str, *definition*: Dict[str, Any], *engine*: `_engine.Engine`)

Log something.

Uses standard Python logging and understands 4 levels: `debug`, `info`, `warning` and `error`.

```
- log:
  info: "checking of something bad has happened..."
- log:
  error: "oh no, something bad has happened!"
when: something_bad is happened
```

**allow\_empty: bool = False**

If no parameters are required, whether to allow empty input.

Makes no sense if Task.required\_params is not empty.

**engine: \_engine.Engine**

The Engine this task uses.

**name: str**

The description of this task in the script.

If a human-readable description is not provided, uses the task name.

```
optional_params: Dict[str, Optional[Type]] = {'debug': <class 'str'>, 'error': <class 'str'>, 'info': <class 'str'>, 'warning': <class 'str'>}
```

Requires at least one of the levels and its message.

**params: Mapping[str, Any]**

Task parameter after passing preliminary validation.

Evaluating templated variables is not possible until execution, so this field may contain raw templates.

**class miniscript.tasks.Return(name: str, definition: Dict[str, Any], engine: \_engine.Engine)**

Return a value to the caller.

This is a unique feature of MiniScript not present in Ansible. The value will be returned from Engine.execute().

```
- name: return the answer
  return: 42
```

**engine: \_engine.Engine**

The Engine this task uses.

**name: str**

The description of this task in the script.

If a human-readable description is not provided, uses the task name.

```
optional_params: Dict[str, Optional[Type]] = {'result': None}
```

Optionally accepts a result (otherwise the result is None).

**params: Mapping[str, Any]**

Task parameter after passing preliminary validation.

Evaluating templated variables is not possible until execution, so this field may contain raw templates.

**singleton\_param: Optional[str] = 'result'**

The result can be provided directly to return.

```
class miniscript.tasks.Vars(name: str, definition: Dict[str, Any], engine: _engine.Engine)
```

Set variables.

Similar to `set_fact` in Ansible, but we don't have facts. The variables are stored in the context.

```
- vars:  
    num1: 2  
    num2: 2  
- log:  
    info: "Look ma, I can multiply: {{ num1 * num2 }}"
```

**engine: \_engine.Engine**

The Engine this task uses.

**free\_form: bool = True**

Accepts any parameters.

**name: str**

The description of this task in the script.

If a human-readable description is not provided, uses the task name.

**params: Mapping[str, Any]**

Task parameter after passing preliminary validation.

Evaluating templated variables is not possible until execution, so this field may contain raw templates.

## BUILT-IN FILTERS

Reimplementations of common Ansible filters.

New in version 1.1.

---

**Note:** Alternatively, can also use the [jinja2-ansible-filters](#) project but it will likely require licensing your code under GPL (the license Ansible uses).

---

`miniscript.filters.bool_(value: Any) → bool`

Convert a value to a boolean according to Ansible rules.

The corresponding filter is called `bool` (without an underscore). True values are `True`, strings “Yes”, “True” and “1”, number 1; everything else is `False`.

```
- vars:  
  is_true: "{{ 'YES' | bool }}"
```

New in version 1.1.

`miniscript.filters.combine(value: Union[Sequence[Mapping], Mapping], *other: Mapping, recursive: bool = False, list_merge: str = 'replace') → Dict`

Combine several dictionaries into one.

A typical pattern of adding a value to a dictionary:

```
- vars:  
  new_dict: "{{ old_dict | combine({'new key': 'new value'}) }}"
```

When a list is provided as input, all items from it are combined.

New in version 1.1.

### Parameters

- **recursive** – Whether to merge dictionaries recursively.
- **list\_merge** – How to merge lists, one of `replace`, `keep`, `append`, `prepend`, `append_rp`, `prepend_rp`. The `_rp` variants remove items that are present in both lists from the left-hand list.

`miniscript.filters.dict2items(value: Mapping, key_name: str = 'key', value_name: str = 'value') → List[Dict[str, Any]]`

Convert a mapping to a list of its items.

For example, converts

```
milk: 1
eggs: 10
bread: 2
```

into

```
- key: milk
  value: 1
- key: eggs
  value: 10
- key: bread
  value: 2
```

New in version 1.1.

### Parameters

- **value** – Any mapping.
- **key\_name** – Key name for input keys.
- **value\_name** – Key name for input values.

### Returns

A list of dicts.

`miniscript.filters.difference(value: list, other: list) → list`

Difference of two lists.

```
- vars:
  new_list: "{{ [2, 4, 6, 8, 12] | difference([3, 6, 9, 12, 15]) }}"
  # -> [2, 4, 8]
```

New in version 1.1.

`miniscript.filters.flatten(value: list, levels: Optional[int] = None) → list`

Flatten a list.

```
- vars:
  new_list: "{{ [1, 2, [3, [4, 5, [6]], 7]] | flatten }}"
  # -> [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]
```

To flatten only the top level, use the `levels` argument:

```
- vars:
  new_list: "{{ [1, 2, [3, [4, 5, [6]], 7]] | flatten(levels=1) }}"
  # -> [1, 2, 3, [4, 5, [6]], 7]
```

New in version 1.1.

### Parameters

**levels** – Number of levels to flatten. If `None` - flatten everything.

`miniscript.filters.intersect(value: list, other: list) → list`

Intersection of two lists.

```
- vars:
  new_list: "{{ [2, 4, 6, 8, 12] | intersect([3, 6, 9, 12, 15]) }}"
  # -> [6, 12]
```

New in version 1.1.

`miniscript.filters.ipaddr`(*value*: Union[str, int], *query*: Optional[str] = None) → str

Filter IP addresses and networks.

New in version 1.1.

Implements Ansible `ipaddr` filter.

`miniscript.filters.ipv4`(*value*: Union[str, int], *query*: Optional[str] = None) → str

Filter IPv4 addresses and networks.

New in version 1.1.

Implements Ansible `ipv4` filter.

`miniscript.filters.ipv6`(*value*: Union[str, int], *query*: Optional[str] = None) → str

Filter IPv6 addresses and networks.

New in version 1.1.

Implements Ansible `ipv6` filter.

`miniscript.filters.items2dict`(*value*: List[Mapping[str, Any]], *key\_name*: str = 'key', *value\_name*: str = 'value') → Dict

A reverse of `dict2items()`.

For example, converts

```
- key: milk
  value: 1
- key: eggs
  value: 10
- key: bread
  value: 2
```

into

```
milk: 1
eggs: 10
bread: 2
```

New in version 1.1.

### Parameters

- **value** – A list of mappings.
- **key\_name** – Key name for output keys.
- **value\_name** – Key name for output values.

### Returns

A dictionary.

`miniscript.filters.json_query(value: Any, query: str) → Any`

Run a JSON query against the data.

Requires the [jmespath](#) library. See [jmespath examples](#).

New in version 1.1.

`miniscript.filters.regex_escape(value: str) → str`

Escape special regular expression characters in a string.

New in version 1.1.

`miniscript.filters.regex.findall(value: str, pattern: str, *, multiline: bool = False, ignorecase: bool = False) → List[str]`

Find all occurrences of a pattern in a string.

For example:

```
- vars:  
  url: "http://www.python.org"  
  
- return: "{{ url | regex.findall('(?=<\\W)\\w{3}(?=\\W|$)' ) }}"  
# returns ['www', 'org']
```

New in version 1.1.

### Parameters

- **pattern** – Python regular expression.
- **multiline** – Whether `^` matches a beginning of each line, not just beginning of the string.
- **ignorecase** – Whether to ignore case when matching.

`miniscript.filters.regex_replace(value: str, pattern: str, replacement: str = "", *, multiline: bool = False, ignorecase: bool = False, count: int = 0) → str`

Replace all occurrences of a pattern in a string.

MiniScript implements Ansible-compatible slashes handling to avoid duplication of slashes inside Jinja expressions.

```
- vars:  
  url: "http://www.python.org"  
  
- return: "{{ url | regex_replace('(?=<\\W)\\w{3}(?=\\W|$)',  
                                '\\"\\1\\"' ) }}"  
# returns 'http://www.python.org'
```

New in version 1.1.

### Parameters

- **pattern** – Python regular expression.
- **replacement** – String to replace with, an empty string by default.
- **multiline** – Whether `^` matches a beginning of each line, not just beginning of the string.
- **ignorecase** – Whether to ignore case when matching.
- **count** – How many occurrences to replace. Zero (the default) means replace all.

---

```
miniscript.filters.regex_search(value: str, pattern: str, *, multiline: bool = False, ignorecase: bool = False) → str
```

Find an occurrence of a pattern in a string.

New in version 1.1.

#### Parameters

- **pattern** – Python regular expression.
- **multiline** – Whether `^` matches a beginning of each line, not just beginning of the string.
- **ignorecase** – Whether to ignore case when matching.

```
miniscript.filters.symmetric_difference(value: list, other: list) → list
```

Symmetric difference (exclusive OR) of two lists.

```
- vars:
  new_list: "{{ [2, 4, 6, 8, 12]
    | symmetric_difference([3, 6, 9, 12, 15]) }}"
# -> [2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 15]
```

New in version 1.1.

```
miniscript.filters.to_datetime(value: str, format: str = '%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S') → datetime
```

Parse a date/time according to the format.

The default format is `%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S`.

New in version 1.1.

```
miniscript.filters.union(value: list, other: list) → list
```

Union of two lists.

```
- vars:
  new_list: "[[2, 4, 6, 8, 12] | union([3, 6, 9, 12, 15]) ]"
# -> [2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15]
```

New in version 1.1.

```
miniscript.filters.urlsplit(value: str, query: Optional[str] = None) → Union[Dict, str]
```

Split a URL into components.

Known components are fragment, hostname, netloc, password, path, port, query, scheme, username.

New in version 1.1.

#### Parameters

**query** – Requested component. If `None`, all components are returned in a dictionary.

```
miniscript.filters.zip_(first: Sequence, *other: Sequence) → Iterator
```

Zip two sequences together.

The corresponding filter is called `zip` (without an underscore).

New in version 1.1.

```
miniscript.filters.zip_longest(first: Sequence, *other: Sequence, fillvalue: Optional[Any] = None) → Iterator
```

Zip sequences together, always exhausting all of them.

New in version 1.1.

**Parameters**

**fillvalue** – Value to fill shorter sequences with.

**ERRORS**

**class miniscript.Error**

Base class for all errors.

**class miniscript.InvalidScript**

The script definition is invalid.

**class miniscript.InvalidTask**

The task definition is invalid.

**class miniscript.UnknownTask**

An task is not known.

**class miniscript.ExecutionFailed**

Execution of a task failed.



---

CHAPTER  
SIX

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## ADVANCED

**class miniscript.Environment**

A templating environment.

**class miniscript.Namespace(environment: Environment, context: Context, \*args, \*\*kwargs)**

A namespace with value rendering.

Works like a dictionary, but evaluates values on access using the provided templating environment.

New in version 1.1.

### Parameters

- **environment** – Templating environment to use.
- **context** – A `Context` object to hold execution context.
- **args** – Passed to `dict` unchanged.
- **kwargs** – Passed to `dict` unchanged.

**copy() → Namespace**

Make a shallow copy of the namespace.

**get\_raw(key, default=None) → Any**

Get a value without evaluating it.

**materialize() → dict**

Recursively evaluate values, returning a normal dict.

**class miniscript.Result(results: Mapping[str, Any], failure: Optional[str] = None, skipped: bool = False)**

A result of a task.

Any resulting values are stored directly on the object.

**failed: bool**

Whether the task failed (the opposite of `Result.succeeded`).

**failure: Optional[str] = None**

Failure message if the task failed.

**skipped: bool = False**

Whether the task was skipped via a `when` statement.

**succeeded: bool**

Whether the task succeeded (the opposite of `Result.failed`).

```
class miniscript.Script(engine: Engine, source: Union[List[Dict[str, Any]], Dict[str, Any]])
```

A script.

### Parameters

- **engine** – An [Engine](#).
- **source** – A source definition or a list of tasks to execute.

```
__call__(context: Optional[Context] = None) → Any
```

Execute the script.

### Parameters

**context** – A [Context](#) object to hold execution context.

### Returns

The outcome of the script or *None*

### Raises

[ExecutionFailed](#) on a runtime error.

### Raises

[InvalidScript](#) if the script is invalid.

### Raises

[InvalidTask](#) if a task is invalid.

### engine: [Engine](#)

The [Engine](#) of this script.

### tasks: List[[Task](#)]

A list of Tasks in the order of execution.

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CHAPTER  
**SEVEN**

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## **INDICES AND TABLES**

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