

Terraform Loops & Conditionals

Loops and Conditionals take your Terraform code one step further, making it DRY and helping you offer full flexibility and genericity to it.

Count

- Used to create multiple resources of the same type
- Exposes an object called `count.index` that can be used as you would normally use an iterator
- Can be used on lists (based on their length) to create multiple resources of the same type but with different arguments → This generates an issue when you are removing an element from the list if it's not the last one, because all the elements from that position onward will be recreated
- Instances of the resource are accessed with `resource_type.resource_name[index]`

```
# Simple count example
resource "azurerm_resource_group" "this" {
  count     = 3
  name     = format("resource_group%d", count.index)
  location = "westeurope"
}

# Terraform Plan Output
# azurerm_resource_group.this[0] will be created
+ resource "azurerm_resource_group" "this" {
+   id       = (known after apply)
+   location = "westeurope"
+   name     = "resource_group0"
}

# azurerm_resource_group.this[1] will be created
+ resource "azurerm_resource_group" "this" {
+   id       = (known after apply)
+   location = "westeurope"
+   name     = "resource_group1"
}

# azurerm_resource_group.this[2] will be created
+ resource "azurerm_resource_group" "this" {
+   id       = (known after apply)
+   location = "westeurope"
+   name     = "resource_group2"
}
```

For_each

- As count, it's used to create multiple resources of the same type
- Exposes an object called `each` and this object has a key and a value
- Keys are accessed with `each.key`
- You can define multiple fields inside of the the values and you can access them with `each.value.field`
- Can be used on maps and sets, but as a best practice, you should use maps. Doesn't have the same limitation as `count`, due to the fact that you are not using lists.
- Instances of the resource are accessed with `resource_type.resource_name[key]`

```
locals {
  # defining a variable that contains the details related to the resource groups
  rg_details = {
    rg1 = {
      location = "westeurope"
    }
    rg2 = {
      location = "eastus"
    }
    rg3 = {
      location = "westus"
    }
  }

  # One at a time, the keys in this example are: rg1, rg2 and rg3
  # One at a time, the values in this example are the maps used after rg1|2|3
}

# defining a variable that contains the details related to the nsgs
nsg_details = {
  nsg1 = {
    rg_name = "rg1"
  }
  nsg2 = {
    rg_name = "rg3"
  }
}

resource "azurerm_resource_group" "this" {
  for_each = local.rg_details
  name     = each.key
  location = each.value.location
}

resource "azurerm_network_security_group" "this" {
  for_each = local.nsg_details
  name     = each.key
  location = azurerm_resource_group.this[each.value.rg_name].location # Giving the flexibility for each nsg to choose its resource group
  group    = azurerm_resource_group.this[each.value.rg_name].name # Giving the flexibility for each nsg to choose its resource group
}

# Terraform Plan Output
# azurerm_resource_group.this["rg1"] will be created
+ resource "azurerm_resource_group" "this" {
+   id       = (known after apply)
+   location = "westeurope"
+   name     = "rg1"
}

# azurerm_resource_group.this["rg2"] will be created
+ resource "azurerm_resource_group" "this" {
+   id       = (known after apply)
+   location = "eastus"
+   name     = "rg2"
}

# azurerm_resource_group.this["rg3"] will be created
+ resource "azurerm_resource_group" "this" {
+   id       = (known after apply)
+   location = "westus"
+   name     = "rg3"
}
```

Ternary Operator

- Used to verify a condition
- Syntax: `condition ? val1 : val2` → If the condition is true, the value assigned will be `val1` otherwise it will be `val2`
- Nested conditions can be used and you can go as deep as you want
- Can be used with `for_each` or `count` to create | avoid creating resources

```
resource "azurerm_resource_group" "this" {
  count = var.create_this_rg ? 1 : 0
  name  = "this_rg"
  location = "eastus"
}

variable "create_this_rg" {
  type    = bool
  default = true
}

locals {
  elem1 = 4
  elem2 = length("elem2")
  simple_condition = local.elem1 > local.elem2 ? local.elem2 : local.elem1
  nested_condition = local.elem1 > local.elem2 ? local.elem2 : local.elem1 == local.elem2 ? local.elem1 : 0
}

output "simple_condition" {
  value = local.simple_condition
}

output "nested_condition" {
  value = local.nested_condition
}

# Terraform Apply Output
simple_condition = 4
nested_condition = 0
```

For loop

- Used to verify a condition
- Syntax: `condition ? val1 : val2` → If the condition is true, the value assigned will be `val1` otherwise it will be `val2`
- Nested conditions can be used and you can go as deep as you want
- Can be used with `for_each` or `count` to create | avoid creating resources

```
locals {
  a_list = ["Alice", "Bob", "Charlie"]
  a_map = {
    student1 = {
      name           = "Alice"
      age            = 20
      favourite_subjects = ["Math", "Physics"]
    }
    student2 = {
      name           = "Bob"
      age            = 19
      favourite_subjects = ["English", "Spanish"]
    }
    student3 = {
      name           = "Charlie"
      age            = 22
      favourite_subjects = ["Computer Science", "Marketing"]
    }
  }

  list_from_list = [for name in local.a_list : format("Hello %s!", name)]
  map_from_map = [for student_id, student_details in local.a_map : student_details.name]
  list_from_list = [for name in local.a_list : name => format("Hello %s!", name)]
  map_from_map = [for student_id, student_details in local.a_map : student_id => student_details.name]
  nested_loop = flatten([for student_id, student_details in local.a_map : [for student_details.favourite_subjects : format("%s_%s", student_id, subject)]]])
}

output "list_from_list" {
  value = local.list_from_list
}

output "list_from_map" {
  value = local.list_from_map
}

output "map_from_list" {
  value = local.map_from_list
}

output "map_from_map" {
  value = local.map_from_map
}

output "nested_loop" {
  value = local.nested_loop
}

# Terraform Apply Output
list_from_list = ["Hello Alice!", "Hello Bob!", "Hello Charlie!"]
list_from_map = ["Alice", "Bob", "Charlie"]
map_from_list = {
  "Alice" = "Hello Alice!"
  "Bob" = "Hello Bob!"
  "Charlie" = "Hello Charlie!"
}
map_from_map = {
  "student1" = "Alice"
  "student2" = "Bob"
  "student3" = "Charlie"
}
nested_loop = ["student1_Math", "student1_Physics", "student2_English", "student2_Spanish", "student3_Computer Science", "student3_Marketing"]
```

If Block

- The `if` block exists only in a `for` loop, for everything else you need to use a ternary operator
- Behaves as an `if` block in any other programming language
- You can use `and (&&)` / `or (||)` logical operators

```
locals {
  list_of_numbers = [10, 11, 87, 39, 22, 4]
  an_even_number_list = [for i in local.list_of_numbers : i if i % 2 == 0]
  an_even_number_list_greater_than_9 = [for i in local.list_of_numbers : i if i % 2 == 0 && i > 9]
  an_odd_number_list_plus_numbers_greater_than_10 = [for i in local.list_of_numbers : i if i % 2 != 0 || i > 10]
}

output "an_even_number_list" {
  value = local.an_even_number_list
}

output "an_even_number_list_greater_than_9" {
  value = local.an_even_number_list_greater_than_9
}

output "an_odd_number_list_plus_numbers_greater_than_10" {
  value = local.an_odd_number_list_plus_numbers_greater_than_10
}

# Terraform Apply Output
an_even_number_list = [10, 22, 4]
an_even_number_list_greater_than_9 = [10, 22]
an_odd_number_list_plus_numbers_greater_than_10 = [11, 87, 39, 22]
```