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Instructor: Prof. Roman Richard	Semester and SY: 1st sem 2023-2024
Activity 10: Install, Configure, and Manage Log Monitoring tools	
1. Objectives	
Create and design a workflow that installs, configure and manage enterprise log monitoring tools using Ansible as an Infrastructure as Code (IaC) tool.	
2. Discussion	
<p>Log monitoring software scans and monitors log files generated by servers, applications, and networks. By detecting and alerting users to patterns in these log files, log monitoring software helps solve performance and security issues. System administrators use log monitoring software to detect common important events indicated by log files.</p> <p>Log monitoring software helps maintain IT infrastructure performance and pinpoints issues to prevent downtime and mitigate risks. These tools will often integrate with IT alerting software, log analysis software, and other IT issue resolution products to more aptly flesh out the IT infrastructure maintenance ecosystem.</p> <p>To qualify for inclusion in the Log Monitoring category, a product must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the log files generated by servers, applications, or networks • Alert users when important events are detected • Provide reporting capabilities for log files <p>Elastic Stack</p> <p>ELK suite stands for Elasticsearch, Kibana, Beats, and Logstash (also known as the ELK Stack). Source: https://www.elastic.co/elastic-stack</p> <p>The Elastic Stack is a group of open source products from Elastic designed to help users take data from any type of source and in any format, and search, analyze and visualize that data in real time. The product group was formerly known as the ELK Stack for the core products in the group -- Elasticsearch, Logstash and Kibana -- but has been rebranded as the Elastic Stack. A fourth product, Beats, was subsequently added to the stack. The Elastic Stack can be deployed on premises or made available as software as a service (SaaS). Elasticsearch supports Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud Platform and Microsoft Azure.</p>	

GrayLog

Graylog is a powerful platform that allows for easy log management of both structured and unstructured data along with debugging applications.

It is based on Elasticsearch, MongoDB, and Scala. Graylog has a main server, which receives data from its clients installed on different servers, and a web interface, which visualizes the data and allows to work with logs aggregated by the main server.

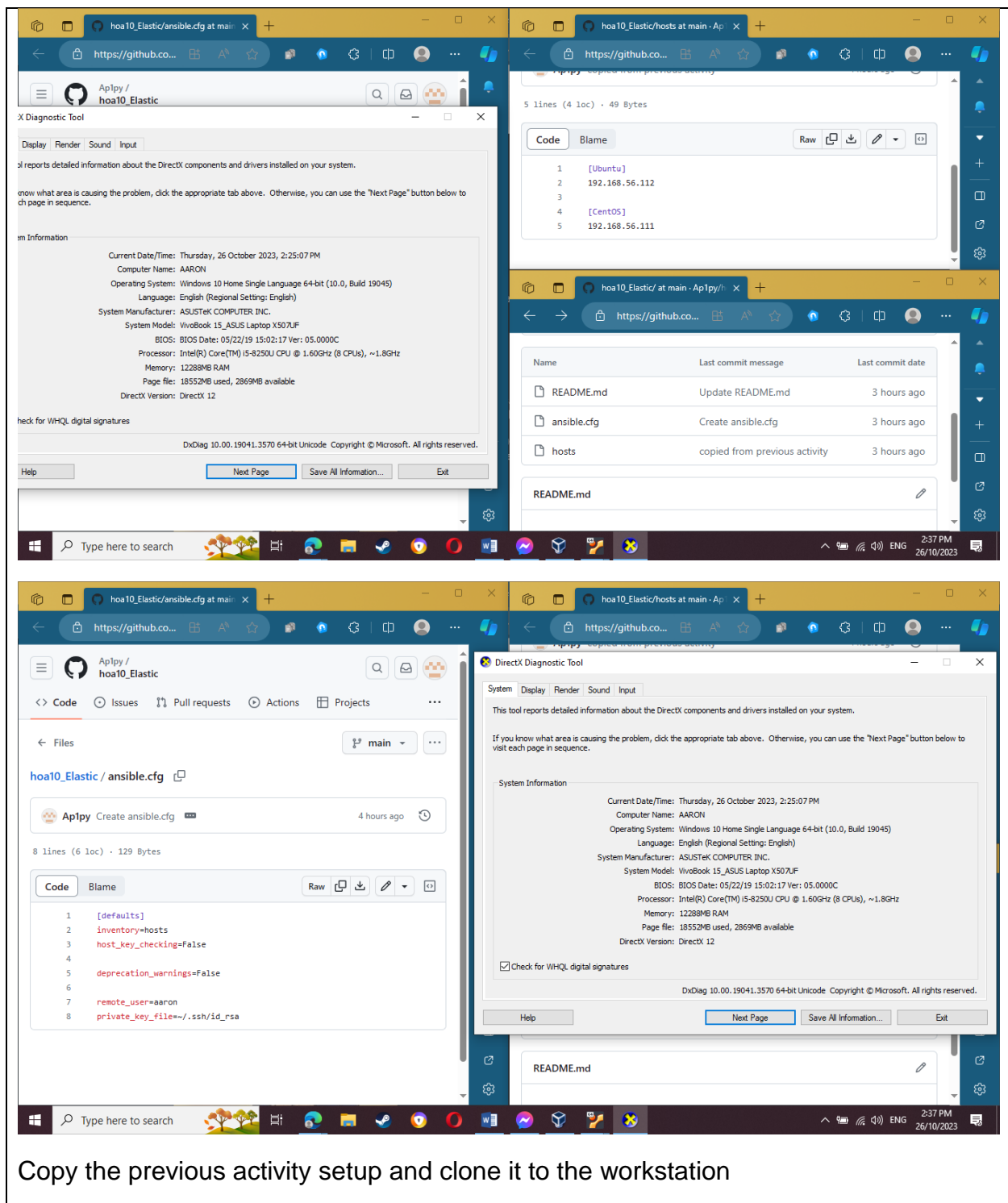
We use Graylog primarily as the stash for the logs of the web applications we build. However, it is also effective when working with raw strings (i.e. syslog): the tool parses it into the structured data we need. It also allows advanced custom search in the logs using structured queries. In other words, when integrated properly with a web app, Graylog helps engineers to analyze the system behavior on almost per code line basis.

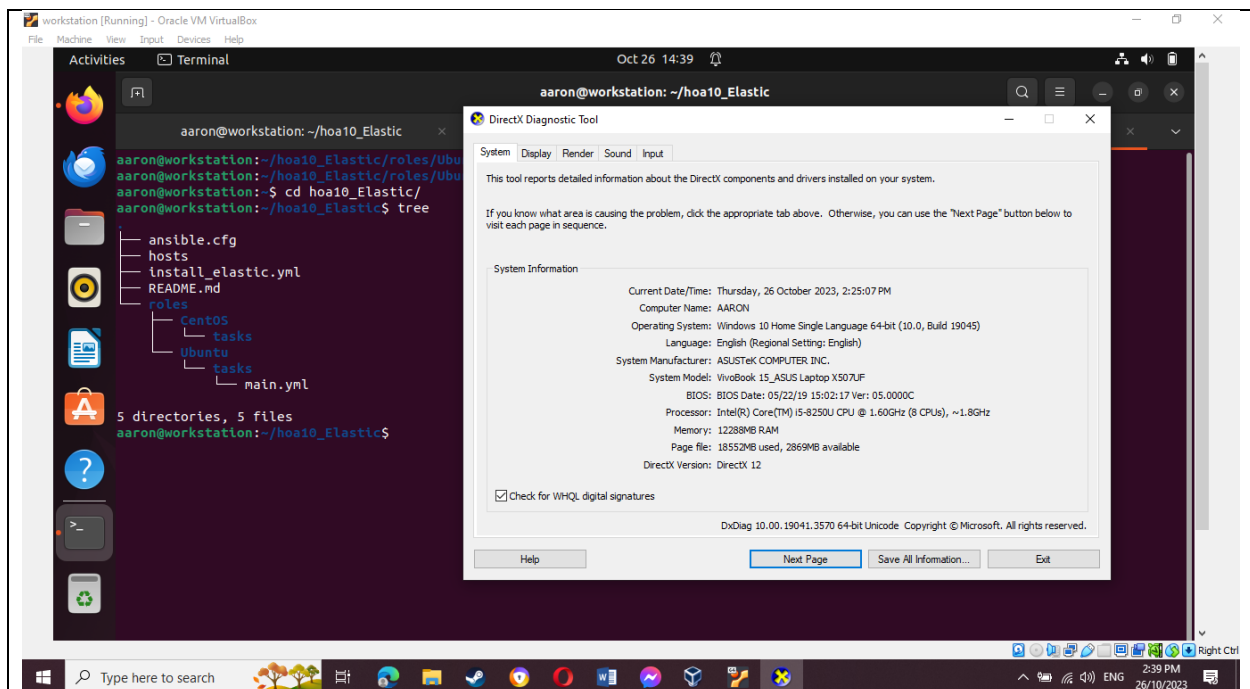
Source: <https://www.graylog.org/products/open-source>

3. Tasks

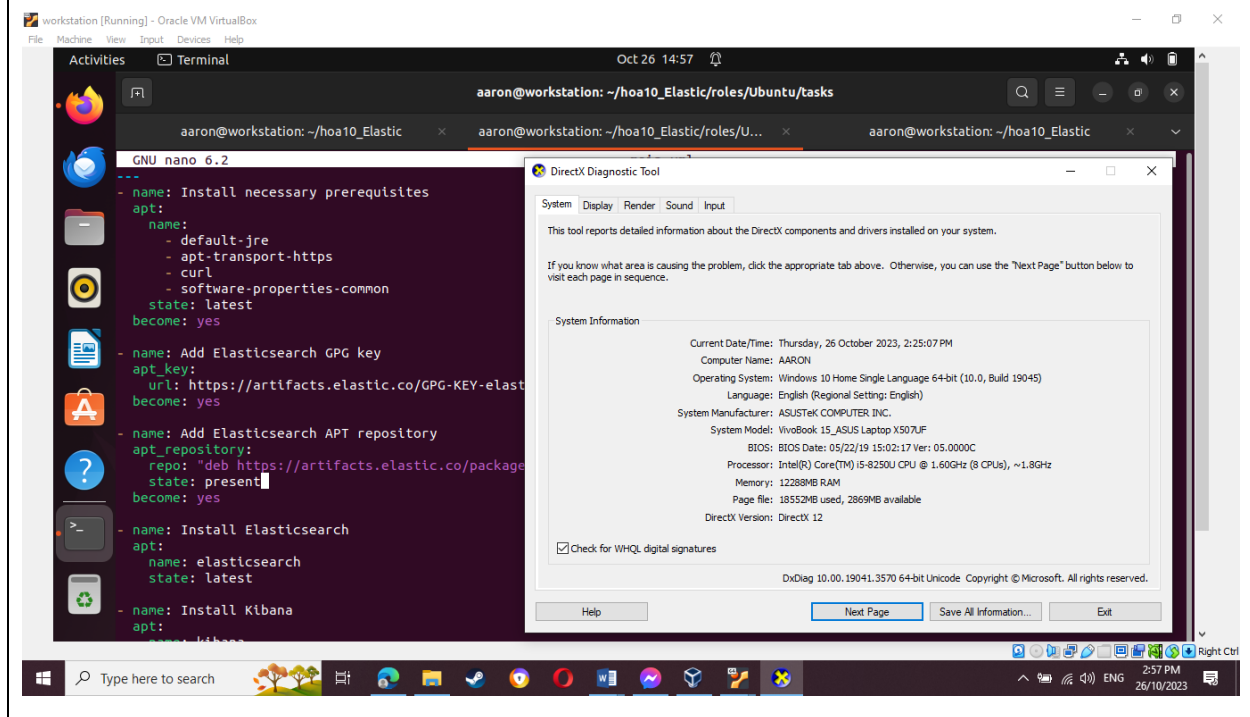
1. Create a playbook that:
 - a. Install and configure Elastic Stack in separate hosts (Elastic Search, Kibana, Logstash)
2. Apply the concept of creating roles.
3. Describe how you did step 1. (Provide screenshots and explanations in your report. Make your report detailed such that it will look like a manual.)
4. Show an output of the installed Elastic Stack for both Ubuntu and CentOS.
5. Make sure to create a new repository in GitHub for this activity.

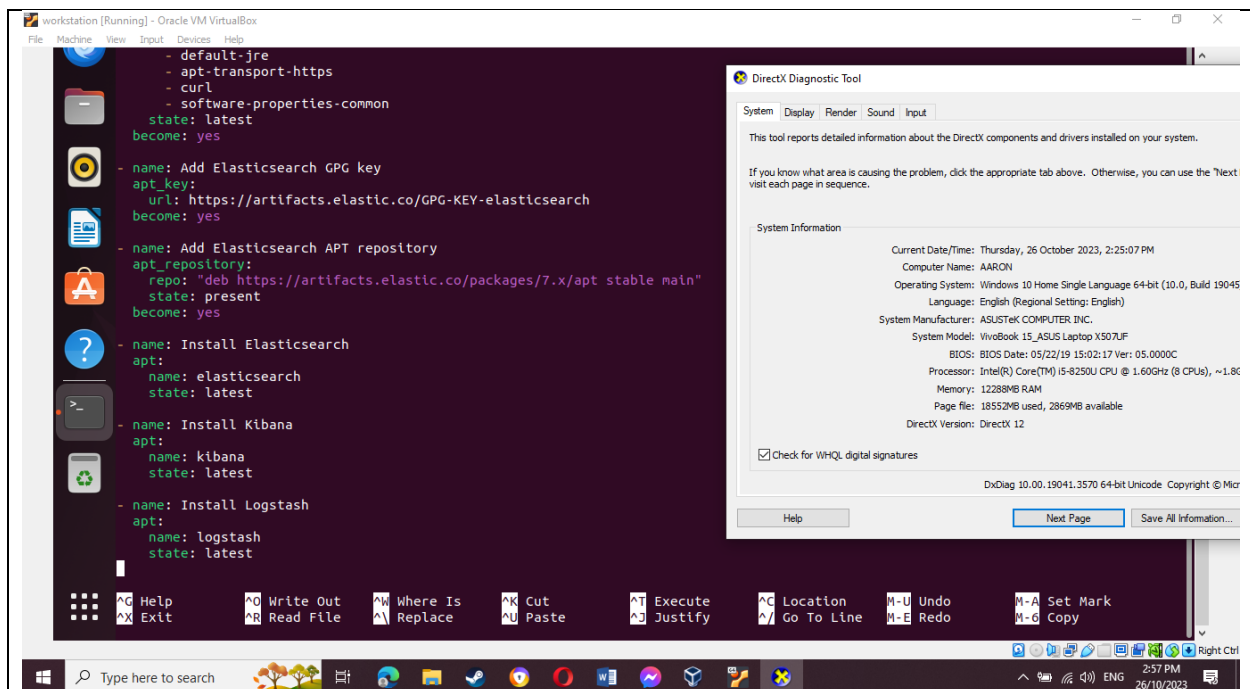
4. Output (screenshots and explanations)



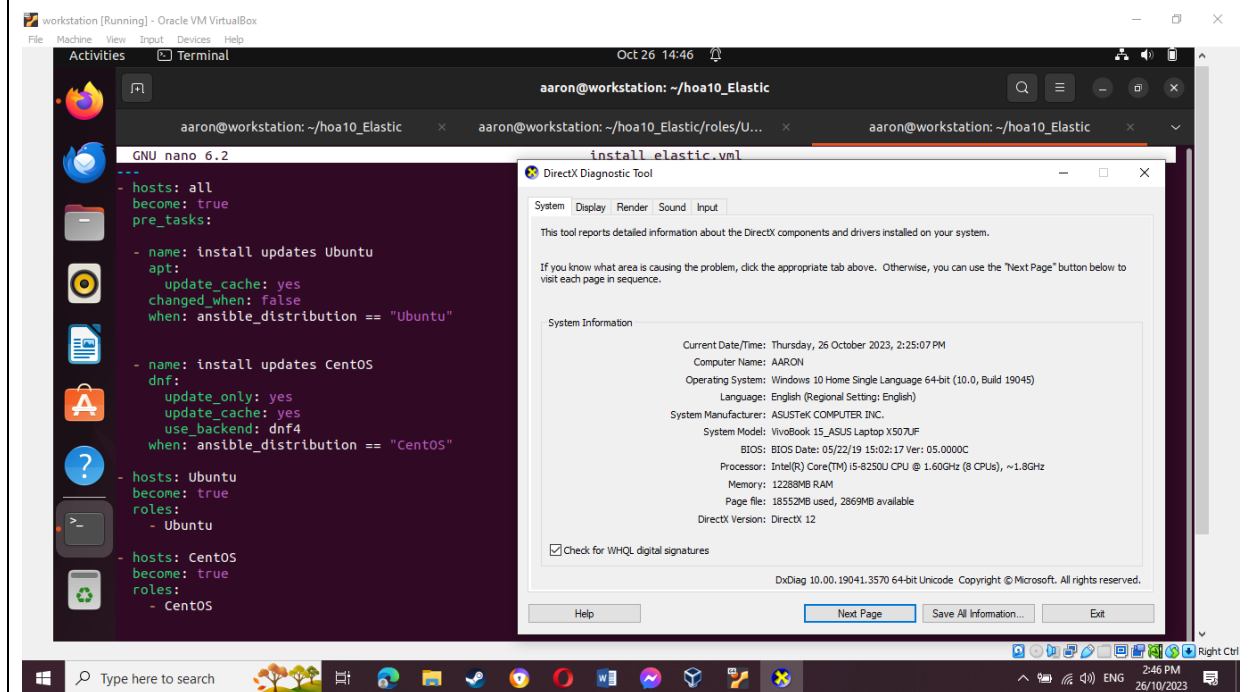


Create a structure like this within the repository using the mkdir command.

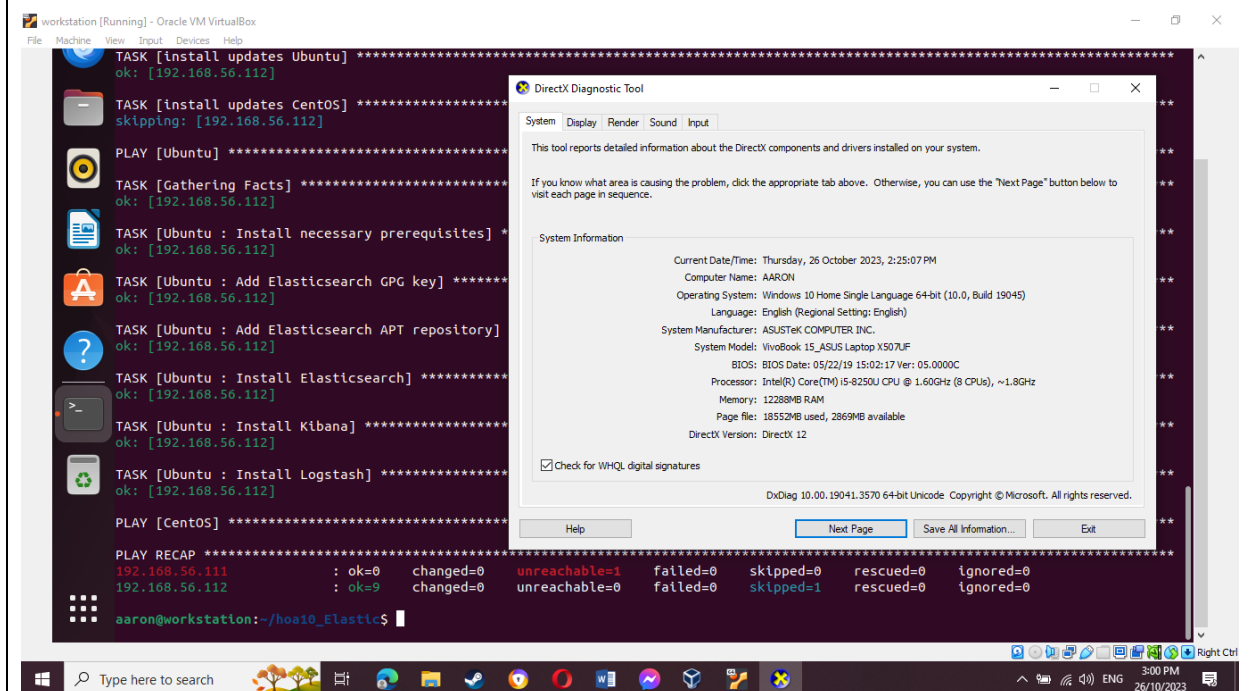
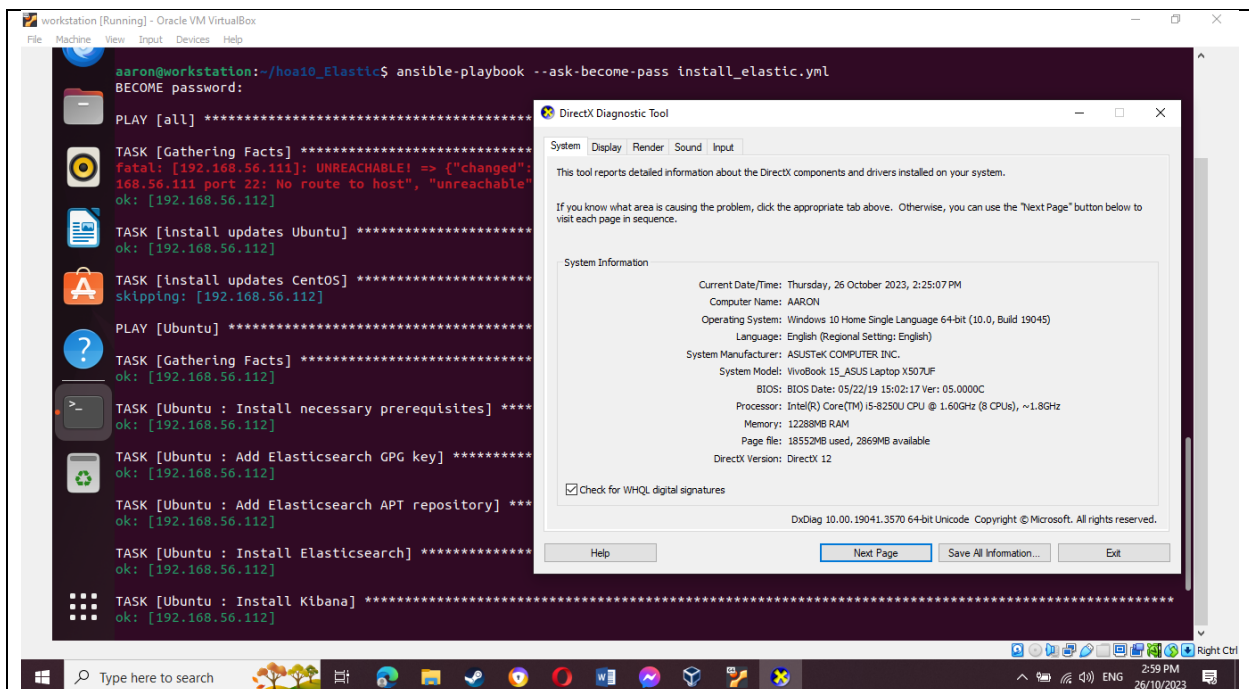




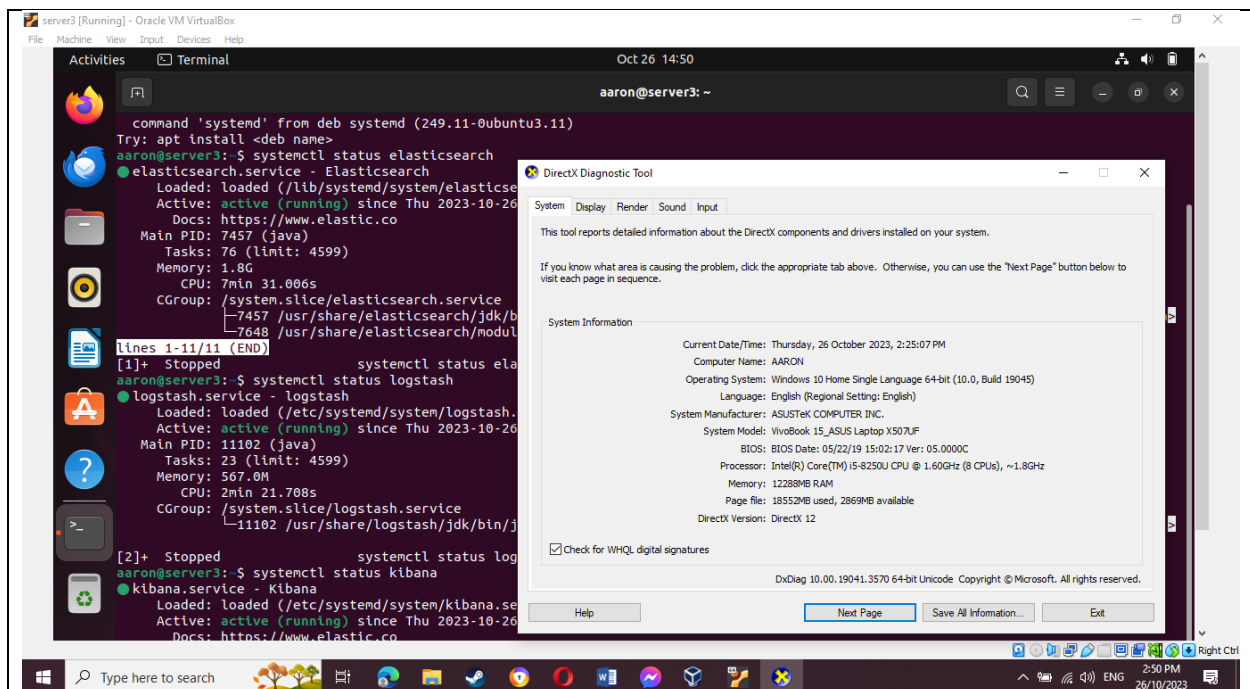
First we configure the playbook for the task in the Ubuntu



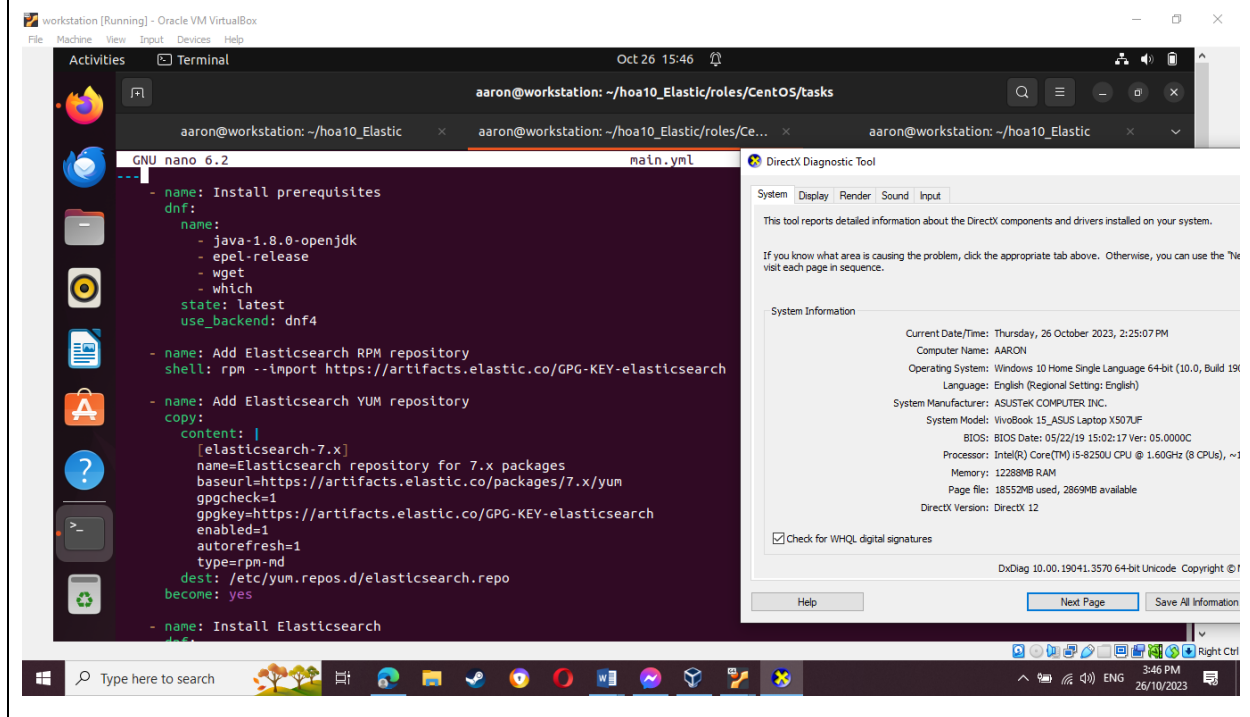
Create a play book that will callback the roles.

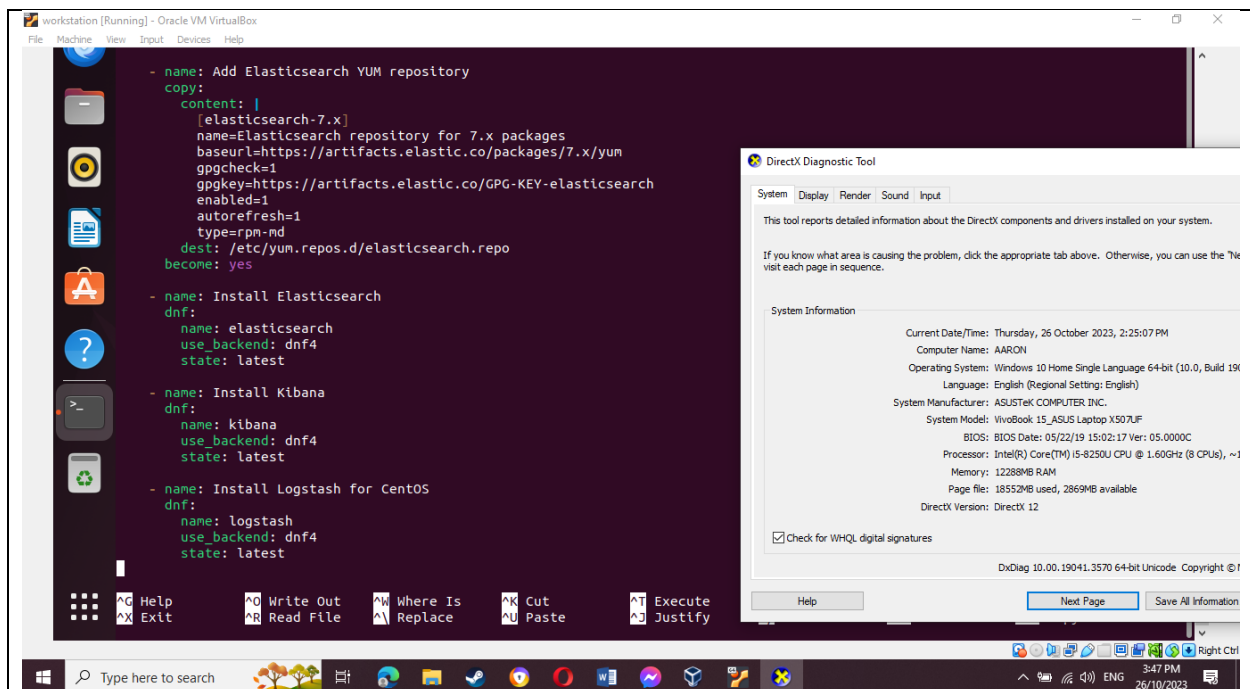


After running the playbook since we have not yet created a task for the CentOS you will see that it failed. If the workstation is slowing down I recommend to do things one play at a time since my end device is on the slow side.

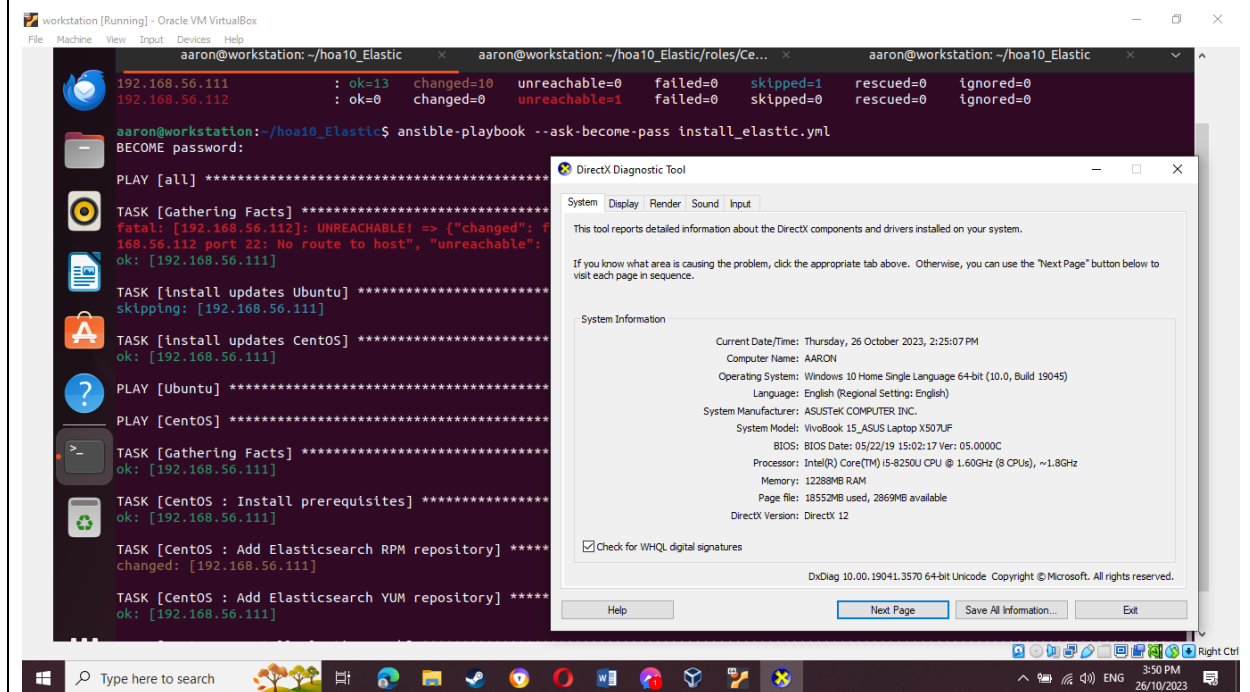


Use systemctl command enable and verify the status of the installed packages.

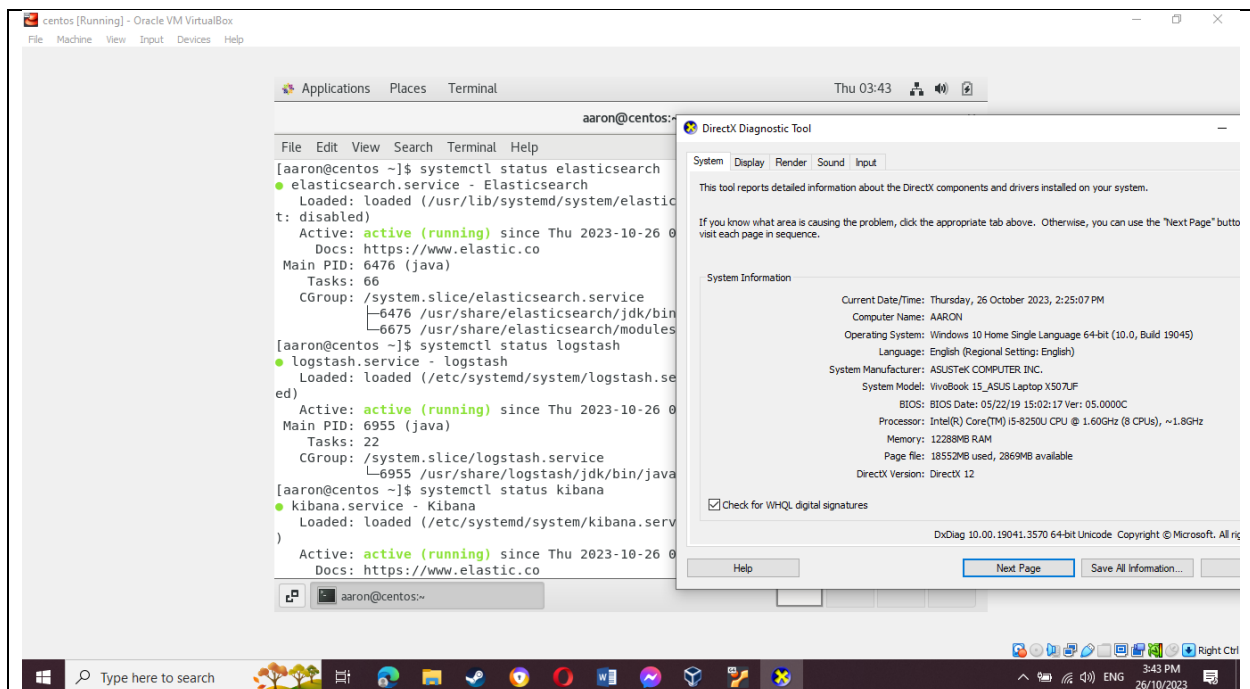




The set up for the Centos playbook



Running the playbook but the Ubuntu ip is turned off to prevent lag



Use systemctl command enable and verify the status of the installed packages.

Reflections:

Answer the following:

1. What are the benefits of having log monitoring tool?

A log monitoring tool gives a few advantages, including continuous perceivability into framework and application logs, empowering the fast identification and conclusion of issues or irregularities, in this manner diminishing margin time and further developing framework unwavering quality. It supports security by distinguishing expected dangers and dubious exercises, helping associations proactively safeguard their information and frameworks. Furthermore, log observing apparatuses aid execution improvement by following patterns and examples, working with information driven navigation, and guaranteeing consistence with administrative prerequisites through extensive log stockpiling and investigation abilities.

Conclusions:

In conclusion, a log monitoring tool is a significant resource for associations, offering ongoing knowledge into framework tasks, upgrading security, streamlining execution, and supporting consistence endeavors. By amassing, examining, and alarming on log information, it enables organizations to proactively address issues, decrease personal time, safeguard against dangers, and go with informed choices, eventually adding to worked on functional proficiency and the general soundness of their IT framework.