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Activity 6: Targeting Specific Nodes and Managing Services

1. Objectives:

- 1.1 Individualize hosts
- 1.2 Apply tags in selecting plays to run
- 1.3 Managing Services from remote servers using playbooks

2. Discussion:

In this activity, we try to individualize hosts. For example, we don't want apache on all our servers, or maybe only one of our servers is a web server, or maybe we have different servers like database or file servers running different things on different categories of servers and that is what we are going to take a look at in this activity.

We also try to manage services that do not automatically run using the automations in playbook. For example, when we install web servers or httpd for CentOS, we notice that the service did not start automatically.

Requirement:

In this activity, you will need to create another Ubuntu VM and name it Server 3. Likewise, you need to activate the second adapter to a host-only adapter after the installations. Take note of the IP address of the Server 3. Make sure to use the command *ssh-copy-id* to copy the public key to Server 3. Verify if you can successfully SSH to Server 3.

Task 1: Targeting Specific Nodes

1. Create a new playbook and named it site.yml. Follow the commands as shown in the image below. Make sure to save the file and exit.

```
hosts: all
become: true
tasks:
- name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
 apt:
     - apache2
     - libapache2-mod-php
   state: latest
   update_cache: yes
 when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
 - name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
  dnf:
    name:
      - httpd
      - php
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
F
                         davonn@workstation: ~/CPE232_Davonn
                                                                  Q
GNU nano 6.2
                                          site.yml *
hosts: all
become: true
tasks:
- name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
  apt:
    name:
       - apache2

    libapache2-mod-php

     state: latest
     update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
  dnf:
    name:

    httpd

       php
     state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

2. Edit the inventory file. Remove the variables we put in our last activity and group according to the image shown below:

```
[web_servers]
192.168.56.120
192.168.56.121

[db_servers]
192.168.56.122

[file_servers]
192.168.56.123
```

```
GNU nano 6.2 inventory *

[web_servers]
192.168.56.102
192.168.56.104

[db_servers]
192.168.56.102

[file_servers]
192.168.56.104
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

Right now, we have created groups in our inventory file and put each server in its own group. In other cases, you can have a server be a member of multiple groups, for example you have a test server that is also a web server.

3. Edit the site.yml by following the image below:

```
hosts: all
become: true
- name: install updates (CentOS)
    update_only: yes
    update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
- name: install updates (Ubuntu)
  apt:
    upgrade: dist
    update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
hosts: web_servers
become: true
tasks:
- name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
  apt:
    name:
      - apache2

    libapache2-mod-php

    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
  dnf:
    name:
      - httpd
      - php
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

```
davonn@workstation: ~/CPE232_Davonn
                                                           Q
 J∓1
                                      site.yml *
 GNU nano 6.2
- hosts: all
 become: true
 tasks:
 pre_tasks:
 - name: install updates (CentOS)
   dnf:
     update_only: yes
      update_cache: yes
   when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
  name: install updates (Ubuntu)
    apt:
      upgrade: dist
      update_cache: yes
   when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- hosts: web_servers
 become: true
 tasks:
  - name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
    apt:
```

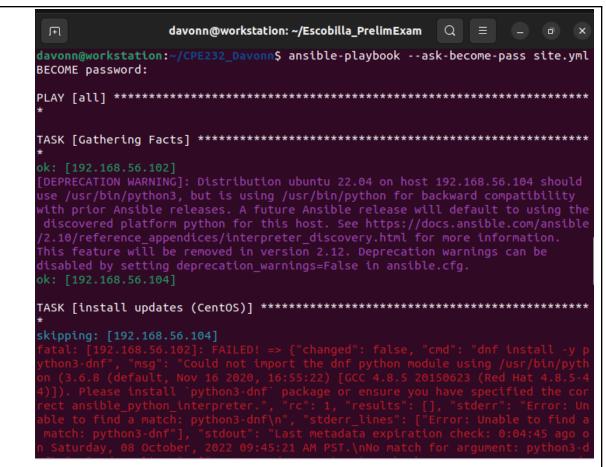
```
Ŧ
                      davonn@workstation: ~/CPE232_Davonn
GNU nano 6.2
                                     site.yml *
    upgrade: dist
    update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
hosts: web_servers
become: true
tasks:
- name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
  apt:
    name:
      - apache2
      libapache2-mod-php
Rhythmbox : latest
    update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
  dnf:
    name:

    httpd

      - php
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

The *pre-tasks* command tells the ansible to run it before any other thing. In the *pre-tasks*, CentOS will install updates while Ubuntu will upgrade its distribution package. This will run before running the second play, which is targeted at *web_servers*. In the second play, apache and php will be installed on both Ubuntu servers and CentOS servers.



Before I proceed to run the playbook, it seems that an error occurred in which I have to remove and reinstall python 3 again on CentOS as the IP address of Ubuntu Server 1 is skipped.

F	davonn@v	vorkstation: ~/CPE	E232_Davonn	Q ≡	_ 0
davonn@workstation BECOME password:	:~/CPE232_Dave	onn\$ ansible-p	laybooka	sk-become-	pass site
PLAY [all] ****** *	******	******	*****	*****	*****
TASK [Gathering Fa	cts] ******	******	*****	*****	*****
[DEPRECATION WARNI use /usr/bin/pythowith prior Ansible discovered platfor /2.10/reference_apthis feature will disabled by settinok: [192.168.56.16 [WARNING]: Distrib /usr/bin/python, bython interpreter eference_appendice ok: [192.168.56.16	nn3, but is using releases. A form python for opendices/interped in generation and the state of	ing /usr/bin/pg future Ansible this host. Sec preter_discove version 2.12. warnings=False 7.9.2009 on hose ent. See https	ython for be release will release will release will release will release will release with the release to ansible st 192.168.12.7, since the release will release the release will release the release will release the release to the release the release to the rel	ackward con ll default ocs.ansible r more info n warnings e.cfg. 56.102 sho the discove ible.com/a	mpatibili to using e.com/ans ormation. can be uld use ered plat nsible/2.
TASK [install upda	tes (CentOS)]	*****	*****	******	*****
skipping: [192.168 ok: [192.168.56.16					
	tes (Ubuntu)]				

```
davonn@workstation: ~/CPE232_Davonn
PLAY [web_servers] ********
ok: [192.168.56.102]
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] ******************
ok: [192.168.56.102]
PLAY RECAP **********************
                         changed=0
                                  unreachable=0
                                             failed=0
skipped=2 rescued=0
                 ignored=0
                         changed=0
                                 unreachable=0
                                             failed=0
skipped=2 rescued=0
                 ignored=0
davonn@workstation:~/CPE232_Davonn$
```

The solution to the problem is removing the python3 installed on the CentOS and then I proceeded to run the site.yml. The results are applied on the remote servers with the specified node of web servers.

Run the *site.yml* file and describe the result.

4. Let's try to edit again the *site.yml* file. This time, we are going to add plays targeting the other servers. This time we target the *db_servers* by adding it on the current *site.yml*. Below is an example: (Note add this at the end of the playbooks from task 1.3.

```
hosts: db_servers
become: true
tasks:
- name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
  yum:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
- name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
  service:
    name: mariadb
    state: restarted
    enabled: true
- name: install mariadb packege (Ubuntu)
  apt:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
```



```
GNU nano 6.2
                                     site.yml *
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
hosts: db servers
become: true
tasks:

    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)

 yum:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

    name: install mariadb package (Ubuntu)

  apt:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
  service:
    name: mariadb
    state: restarted
    enable: true
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

```
TASK [Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling] ************************

fatal: [192.168.56.104]: FAILED! => {"changed": false, "msg": "Could not find the requested service mariadb: host"}
```

I have encountered this problem because I need to switch the order of install mariadb package and the restarting/enabling.

I have solved this problem by changing the enable word in the last task to enabled.

After running the playbook, I have successfully applied the changes on remote servers inside db_servers.

Run the site.yml file and describe the result.

5. Go to the remote server (Ubuntu) terminal that belongs to the db_servers group and check the status for mariadb installation using the command: systemctl status mariadb. Do this on the CentOS server also.

```
davonn@server1: ~
mariadb.service - MariaDB 10.6.7 database server
     Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/mariadb.service; enabled; vendor pres>
     Active: active (running) since Sat 2022-10-08 10:45:47 PST; 3min 8s ago
       Docs: man:mariadbd(8)
              https://mariadb.com/kb/en/library/systemd/
    Process: 33696 ExecStartPre=/usr/bin/install -m 755 -o mysql -g root -d /v>
    Process: 33697 ExecStartPre=/bin/sh -c systemctl unset-environment _WSREP_
    Process: 33699 ExecStartPre=/bin/sh -c [ ! -e /usr/bin/galera_recovery ] & Process: 33739 ExecStartPost=/bin/sh -c systemctl unset-environment _WSREP
    Process: 33741 ExecStartPost=/etc/mysql/debian-start (code=exited, status=>
   Main PID: 33728 (mariadbd)
     Status: "Taking your SQL requests now..."
      Tasks: 8 (limit: 1640)
     Memory: 56.8M
        CPU: 494ms
     CGroup: /system.slice/mariadb.service
—33728 /usr/sbin/mariadbd
Oct 08 10:45:47 server1 mariadbd[33728]: Version: '10.6.7-MariaDB-2ubuntu1.1'
Oct 08 10:45:47 server1 systemd[1]: Started MariaDB 10.6.7 database server.
Oct 08 10:45:47 server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[33743]: Upgrading MySQL tables>
Oct 08 10:45:47 server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[33746]: Looking for 'mysql' as
Oct 08 10:45:47 server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[33746]: Looking for 'mysqlchec
Oct 08 10:45:47 server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[33746]: This installation of M
Oct 08 10:45:47 server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[33746]: There is no need to ru
Oct 08 10:45:47 server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[33746]: You can use --force if
Oct 08 10:45:47 server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[33754]: Checking for insecure
Oct 08 10:45:47 server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[33759]: Triggering myisam-reco>
lines 1-28
```

[davonn@localhost ~]\$ systemctl status mariadb
Unit mariadb.service could not be found.
[davonn@localhost ~]\$ ■

Describe the output.

Mariadb is installed on server 1 as the display says active (running), while on CentOS it says it could not be found.

6. Edit the *site.yml* again. This time we will append the code to configure installation on the *file_servers* group. We can add the following on our file.

```
    hosts: file_servers
        become: true
        tasks:

            name: install samba package
            package:
                name: samba
                state: latest
```

□ davonn@workstation: ~/CPE232_Davonn

```
GNU nano 6.2
                                     site.yml *
 yum:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
 when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

    name: install mariadb package (Ubuntu)

  apt:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
 when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
  service:
    name: mariadb
    state: restarted
    enabled: true
hosts: file_servers
become: true
tasks:
- name: install samba package
  package:
    name: samba
    state: latest
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

An error occurred while installing the samba package on CentOS, so my solution is that inside the inventory the IP addresses of Ubuntu and CentOS will be changed.

The output says it is already changed after I switched the IP's, meaning the task is successfully executed.

Run the *site.yml* file and describe the result.

The testing of the *file_servers* is beyond the scope of this activity, and as well as our topics and objectives. However, in this activity we were able to show that we can target hosts or servers using grouping in ansible playbooks.

Task 2: Using Tags in running playbooks

In this task, our goal is to add metadata to our plays so that we can only run the plays that we want to run, and not all the plays in our playbook.

1. Edit the *site.yml* file. Add tags to the playbook. After the name, we can place the tags: *name_of_tag*. This is an arbitrary command, which means you can use any name for a tag.

```
---
- hosts: all
become: true
pre_tasks:
- name: install updates (CentOS)
  tags: always
  dnf:
     update_only: yes
     update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

- name: install updates (Ubuntu)
  tags: always
  apt:
     upgrade: dist
     update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
```

```
hosts: web_servers
become: true
tasks:
- name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
  tags: apache, apache2, ubuntu
  apt:
    name:
      - apache2

    libapache2-mod-php

    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

    name: install apache and php for CentOS servers

  tags: apache,centos,httpd
  dnf:
    name:

    httpd

      - php
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

```
hosts: db_servers
  become: true
 tasks:

    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)

   tags: centos, db,mariadb
   dnf:
     name: mariadb-server
      state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
  name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
    service:
     name: mariadb
      state: restarted
     enabled: true

    name: install mariadb packege (Ubuntu)

   tags: db, mariadb,ubuntu
   apt:
     name: mariadb-server
      state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
hosts: file_servers
 become: true
 tasks:
  - name: install samba package
   tags: samba
    package:
     name: samba
      state: latest
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

```
davonn@workstation: ~/CPE232_Davonn Q = _
TASK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)] ***************************
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
unreachable=0
                           failed=0
skipped=3 rescued=0 ignored=0
               changed=0
                    unreachable=0
                           failed=0
skipped=2 rescued=0 ignored=0
davonn@workstation:~/CPE232 DavonnS
```

The output is pretty much the same as before.

Run the *site.yml* file and describe the result.

2. On the local machine, try to issue the following commands and describe each result:

The outputs are the tags present on the site.yml

2.1 ansible-playbook --list-tags site.yml

```
davonn@workstation: ~/CPE232_Davonn
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
PLAY [db_servers] ************************
TASK [install mariadb package (CentOS)] ****************************
failed=0
                  changed=0
                        unreachable=0
            ignored=0
skipped=1 rescued=0
                  changed=0
                        unreachable=0
                                 failed=0
     rescued=0
            ignored=0
```

The task stopped at db_servers since the tag presented on that task is centos.

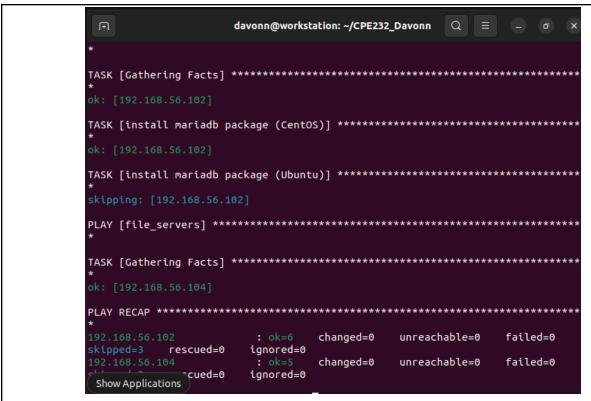
2.2 ansible-playbook --tags centos --ask-become-pass site.yml

```
davonn@workstation: ~/CPE232_Davonn
               Q =
changed=0
             unreachable=0
                 failed=0
skipped=2 rescued=0 ignored=0
         changed=0
             unreachable=0
                 failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0 ignored=0
```

As presented in the first task, the db_servers have a tag of db so when we executed the command it performed the task up until the db server task.

2.3 ansible-playbook --tags db --ask-become-pass site.yml davonn@workstation: ~/CPE232_Davonn Q = Terminal TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] ******************************** skipping: [192.168.56.104] ok: [192.168.56.102] davonn@workstation: ~/CPE232_Davonn failed=0 changed=0 unreachable=0 rescued=0 ignored=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 changed=0 ignored=0 rescued=0

It only execute the task on web_servers since it is the only one with tag of apache.



The tasks with a tag of apache and db are successfully executed.

2.5 ansible-playbook --tags "apache,db" --ask-become-pass site.yml

Task 3: Managing Services

1. Edit the file site.yml and add a play that will automatically start the httpd on CentOS server.

```
- name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
  tags: apache,centos,httpd
  dnf:
     name:
     - httpd
     - php
     state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

- name: start httpd (CentOS)
  tags: apache, centos,httpd
  service:
     name: httpd
     state: started
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

```
ſŦ
                      davonn@workstation: ~/CPE232_Davonn
GNU nano 6.2
                                     site.vml *
- name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
  tags: apache, apache2, ubuntu
  apt:
    name:
     - apache2
     - libapache2-mod-php
    state: latest
    update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
  tags: apache,centos,httpd
  dnf:
    name:

    httpd

      - php
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
- name: start httpd (CentOS)
  tags: apache, centos, httpd
  service:
    name: httpd
    state: started
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

Figure 3.1.1 Make sure to save the file and exit.

You would also notice from our previous activity that we already created a module that runs a service.

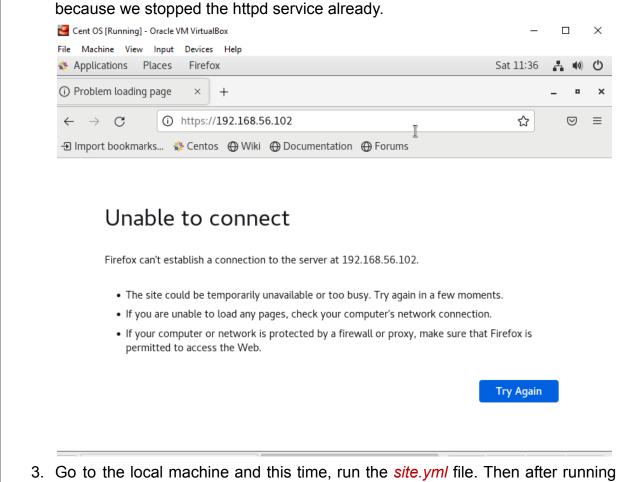
```
    hosts: db_servers
    become: true
    tasks:
    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
    tags: centos, db,mariadb
    dnf:
        name: mariadb-server
        state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

    name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
    service:
        name: mariadb
        state: restarted
        enabled: true
```

Figure 3.1.2

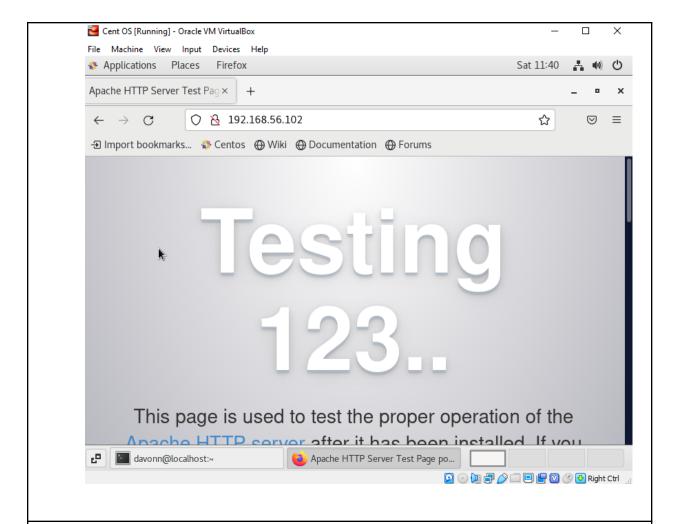
This is because in CentOS, installed packages' services are not run automatically. Thus, we need to create the module to run it automatically.

2. To test it, before you run the saved playbook, go to the CentOS server and stop the currently running httpd using the command <u>sudo</u> <u>systemctl</u> <u>stop</u> <u>httpd</u>. When prompted, enter the sudo password. After that, open the browser and enter the CentOS server's IP address. You should not be getting a display



 Go to the local machine and this time, run the <u>site.yml</u> file. Then after running the file, go again to the CentOS server and enter its IP address on the browser. Describe the result.

To automatically enable the service every time we run the playbook, use the command *enabled: true* similar to Figure 7.1.2 and save the playbook.



Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 1. What is the importance of putting our remote servers into groups?

 The importance of it is that we can more clearly organize the tasks that we want to implement on some specific servers, therefore when a problem occurs it can be easily resolved.
- 2. What is the importance of tags in playbooks?

 Tags can be used to specifically perform certain tasks and install packages of that group.
- 3. Why do think some services need to be managed automatically in playbooks? I think it is for convenience so we can easily automate all the packages that we need to install for specific needs, thus it can improve the efficiency of work and reduce time consumption.