

Name: Clarence B. Chavez	Date Performed: October 28, 2024
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Instructor: Engr. Robin Valenzuela	Semester and SY: 1st Sem, 2024-2025
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> <p>GrayLog</p> <p>Graylog is a powerful platform that allows for easy log management of both structured and unstructured data along with debugging applications.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Source: https://www.graylog.org/products/open-source</p>	

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)

Task 3.1 - Task 3.3

Tree of Files of the Repository for the HOA 10.1

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_HOA10.1$ tree
.
├── ansible.cfg
├── install_elk.yml
├── inventory
├── README.md
├── roles
│   ├── CentOS
│   │   ├── tasks
│   │   │   └── main.yml
│   │   └── templates
│   │       └── elasticsearch.yml.j2
│   ├── Ubuntu1
│   │   ├── tasks
│   │   │   └── main.yml
│   │   └── templates
│   │       └── kibana.yml.j2
│   └── Ubuntu2
│       ├── tasks
│       │   └── main.yml
│       └── templates
│           └── logstash.conf.j2
└── 10 directories, 10 files
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_HOA10.1$
```

- 1. The content of the repository for this activity should look like this. The ELK components should be installed separately, and also use 1 CentOS 7, and 2 Ubuntu as your remote servers.

Inventory file

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_HOA10.1$ cat inventory
[Ubuntu1]
#Server 1
192.168.56.102

[Ubuntu2]
#Server2
192.168.56.113

[CentOS]
#CentOS 7 with GUI
192.168.56.111 ansible_user=cchavez
```

- 2. Make sure that the content of your inventory file for this activity is correct, double check whether the assigned IP addresses are correct by prompting `ansible all -m ping`.

Ansible Configuration File

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_H0A10.1$ cat ansible.cfg
[defaults]
inventory = inventory
remote_user = qcchavez
host_key_checking = True
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_H0A10.1$
```

3. Ensure that the ansible configuration file is also correct because this is one of the important files when running the ansible playbook.

Main Playbook of the Whole Activity

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_H0A10.1$ cat install_elk.yml
---
- hosts: all
  become: true
  pre_tasks:
    - name: update repository index / install Updates (CentOS)
      tags: always
      dnf:
        update_cache: yes
        changed when: false
        when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
    - name: update repository index / install Updates (Ubuntu)
      tags: always
      apt:
        update_cache: yes
        changed when: false
        when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
  - hosts: CentOS
    become: true
    roles:
      - CentOS
  - hosts: Ubuntu1
    become: true
    roles:
      - Ubuntu1
  - hosts: Ubuntu2
    become: true
    roles:
      - Ubuntu2
```

4. The `install_elk.yml` file is the main playbook file for running all of the tasks, this is where the necessary tasks for each remote server happens. Firstly, it updates the repository index for CentOS 7 and Ubuntu. And after that, the tasks for the remote servers (installing, configuring, etc.) will be done.

Playbook Tasks of ElasticSearch (CentOS 7)

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_H0A10.1/roles$ cd CentOS/tasks
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_H0A10.1/roles/CentOS/tasks$ cat main.yml
---
- name: Install Java
  yum:
    name: java-11-openjdk
    state: present
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

- name: Install EPEL repository
  yum:
    name: epel-release
    state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

- name: Install Elastic Search YUM repository
  yum_repository:
    name: elasticsearch
    description: Elasticsearch Repository
    baseurl: https://artifacts.elastic.co/packages/7.x/yum
    gpgcheck: yes
    gpgkey: https://artifacts.elastic.co/GPG-KEY-elasticsearch
    enabled: yes
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

- name: Install Elastic Search
  dnf:
    name: elasticsearch
    state: present
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

- name: Configure Elastic Search
  template:
    src: elasticsearch.yml.j2
    dest: /etc/elasticsearch/elasticsearch.yml
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

- name: Start Elastic Search
  service:
    name: elasticsearch
```

```
- name: Start Elastic Search
  service:
    name: elasticsearch
    state: restarted
    enabled: yes
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

- name: Allow port 9200 through the firewall
  command: firewall-cmd --zone=public --add-port=9200/tcp --permanent
  register: firewall_result
  ignore_errors: true

- name: Reload firewall
  command: firewall-cmd --reload
  when: firewall_result.changed

qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_H0A10.1/roles/CentOS/tasks$
```

5. This is the **main.yml** tasks for **CentOS 7**, first, it will install **Java** since **ElasticSearch** is dependent on it, after that, it will install the **EPEL repository** or the **Extra Packages for Enterprise Linux**. After that, the playbook will search for the yum repository of **ElasticSearch** and will install right after. In order to make **ElasticSearch** run properly, it creates an configuration file right after installing it and after doing all of these, it will start the **ElasticSearch** itself and also will make sure that the **port 9200** in the firewall will work since it is one of the ports that will let the **ELK stacks** connect to each other.

Configuration File of ElasticSearch (CentOS 7)

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_H0A10.1/roles/CentOS/templates$ cat elasticsearch.yml.j2
# Elasticsearch Configuration

cluster.name: my-cluster
node.name: dev-node-1
network.host: 0.0.0.0
http.port: 9200
discovery.type: single-node
path.data: /var/lib/elasticsearch
path.logs: /var/log/elasticsearch
bootstrap.memory_lock: true
```

6. Since a configuration file is required for every ELK stack component, this is the configuration file needed for ElasticSearch. It also includes the one that I've mentioned earlier which is the **http.port**.

Playbook Tasks of Kibana (Ubuntu Desktop 1)

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_H0A10.1/roles/Ubuntu1/tasks$ cat main.yml
---
- name: Add GPG key for Elastic APT repository
  apt_key:
    url: https://artifacts.elastic.co/GPG-KEY-elasticsearch
    state: present
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Add Kibana APT repository
  apt_repository:
    repo: "deb https://artifacts.elastic.co/packages/7.x/apt stable main"
    state: present
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Install specific version of Kibana
  apt:
    name: "kibana=7.17.25"
    state: present
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Create directory for Kibana systemd override
  file:
    path: /etc/systemd/system/kibana.service.d
    state: directory
    mode: '0755'
    owner: root
    group: root
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Check if the directory was created
  stat:
    path: /etc/systemd/system/kibana.service.d
    register: kibana_override_dir

- debug:
    msg: "Directory exists: {{ kibana_override_dir.stat.exists }}"
```

```

- debug:
  msg: "Directory exists: {{ kibana_override_dir.stat.exists }}"

- name: Create Kibana service override configuration
  file:
    path: /etc/systemd/system/kibana.service.d/override.conf
    state: touch # Ensures the file exists
    owner: root
    group: root
    mode: '0644'
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Configure Kibana (Setting OpenSSL Legacy Provider)
  blockinfile:
    path: /etc/systemd/system/kibana.service.d/override.conf
    block: |
      [Service]
      Environment=NODE_OPTIONS=--openssl-legacy-provider
    owner: root
    group: root
    mode: '0644'
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Configure Kibana
  template:
    src: kibana.yml.j2
    dest: /etc/kibana/kibana.yml
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Reload systemd
  command: systemctl daemon-reload
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Enable Kibana service
  service:
    name: kibana
    state: restarted
    become: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_H0A10.1/roles/Ubuntu1/tasks$ █

```

7. This is the **main.yml** tasks for **Ubuntu1**, first, it will add a GPG key for **Elastic APT repository**, and then it will also add the **Kibana APT repository** in order for the system to find the required **Kibana** file. After installing the required **APT repositories**, it will install the **Kibana** component, make sure also to indicate the exact version because running with different versions of **ElasticSearch** and **Kibana** will lead you to version incompatibilities. Now, it will create a directory for the **.service** file of **Kibana**, and create an override configuration. While doing this activity, I mostly encountered SSL issues and made sure that it will not produce errors again by altering the **environment attribute in the service group** of the override configuration file. After that, it will configure the **Kibana**, reload the system daemon and enable the **Kibana** component.

Configuration File of Kibana (Ubuntu Desktop 1)

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_H0A10.1/roles/Ubuntu1/templates$ cat kibana.yml.j2
# Kibana Configuration

# Set the port that the Kibana server will listen on
server.port: 5601

# Specify the host address that the Kibana server will bind to
server.host: "192.168.56.102"

# Set the public base URL for Kibana
server.publicBaseUrl: "http://192.168.56.102:5601"

# Elasticsearch server URL
elasticsearch.hosts: ["http://192.168.56.111:9200"]
```

8. Just like the ElasticSearch, Kibana also requires a configuration file, this is the content of the kibana configuration file, make sure to double check the assigned IP addresses here as well as the other configuration files that will be or was mentioned. Confirm that the IP address in **server.host** and **server.publicBaseUrl** is the same as the **IP address:server.port** of your target **Ubuntu** server (the one that will be installed with **Kibana**), and the IP address in **elasticsearch.hosts** is same as the **IP address:http.port** of your target **CentOS** server (the one that is installed with **ElasticSearch**)

Playbook Tasks of LogStash(Ubuntu Desktop 2)

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_H0A10.1/roles/Ubuntu2/tasks$ cat main.yml
---
- name: Install required package
  apt:
    name: logstash
    state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Ensure /usr/share/logstash/data directory is writable
  file:
    path: /usr/share/logstash/data
    state: directory
    mode: '0755'
    owner: logstash
    group: logstash
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Configure Logstash
  template:
    src: logstash.conf.j2
    dest: /etc/logstash/conf.d/logstash.conf
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Allow port 9200 through UFW
  ufw:
    rule: allow
    port: "9200"
    proto: tcp
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- name: Enable Logstash service
  service:
    name: logstash
    state: started
    enabled: yes # Ensures service starts on boot
    become: yes
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
```

9. This is the **main.yml** tasks for **Ubuntu2**, first, it will installed the required package which is the **logstash**, it will make sure that the directory data of **logstash** is writable by changing its permissions. After that, a configuration file will be made, and also will configure the firewall by allowing the **port 9200 (http.port)** to be accessible. After doing all these tasks, it will now enable the **logstash** service.

Config File of LogStash (Ubuntu Desktop 2)

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_HOA10.1/roles/Ubuntu2/templates$ cat logstash.conf.j2
input {
  beats {
    port => 5044
  }
}

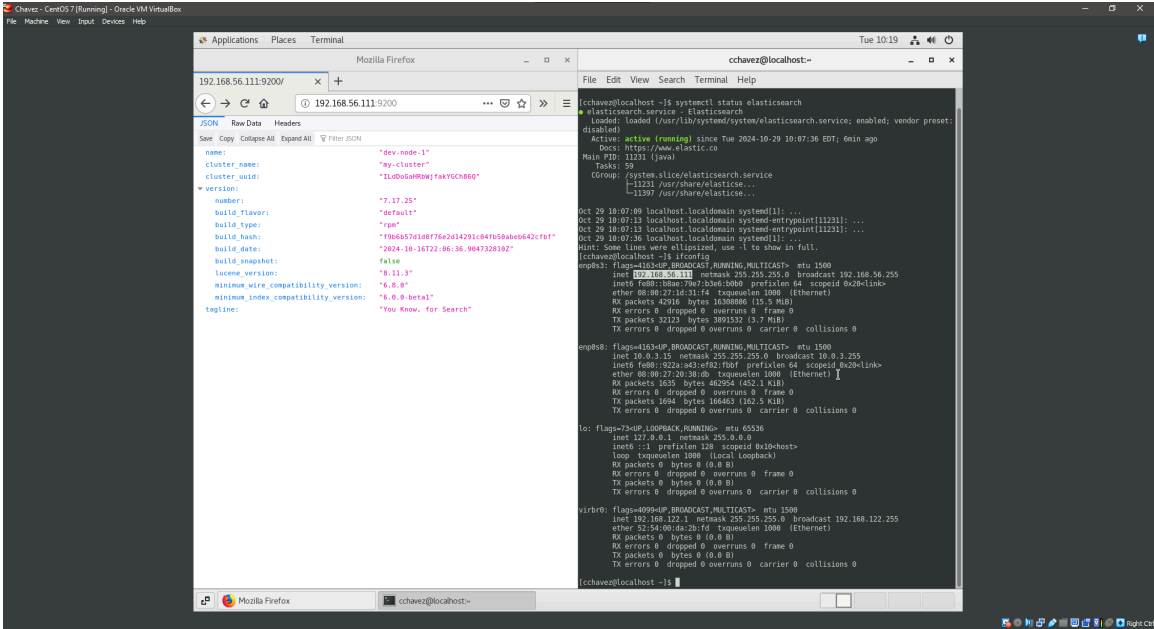
filter {
  # Add any filters here
}

output {
  elasticsearch {
    hosts => ["http://192.168.56.111:9200"]
    index => "logstash-%{+YYYY.MM.dd}"
  }
}
```

10. Just like the **ElasticSearch** and **Kibana**, **LogStash** also requires a configuration file. The file's content should include the server.port which is **5044** and the **ElasticSearch** details, most importantly the IP address of the host (ElasticSearch remote server IP: server.port)

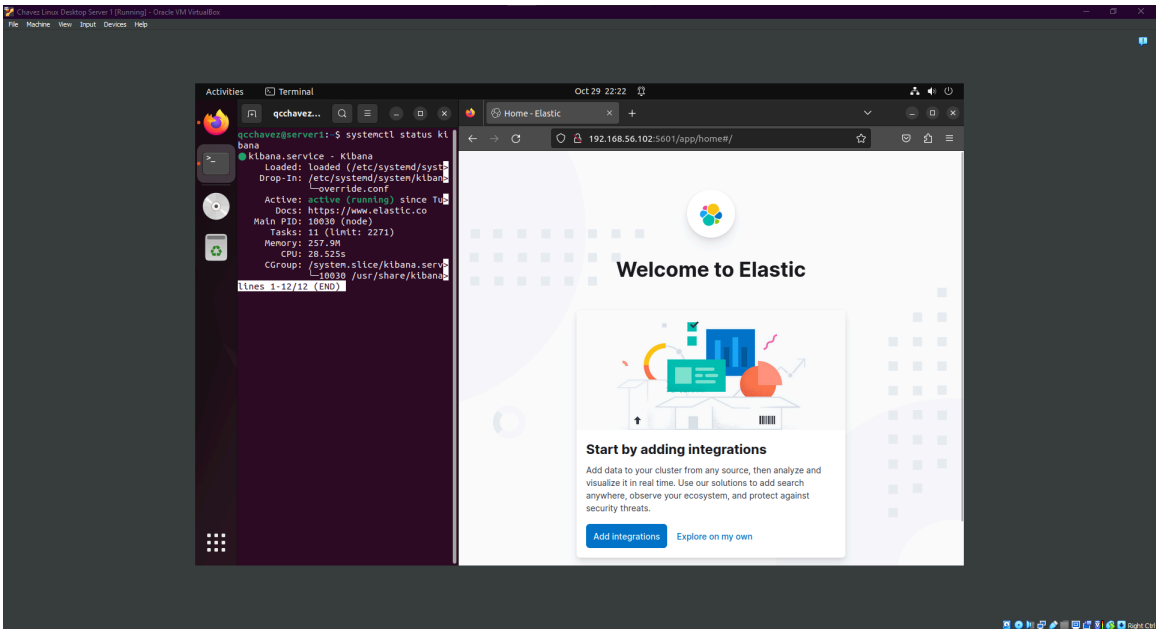
Task 3.4

ElasticSearch in CentOS 7



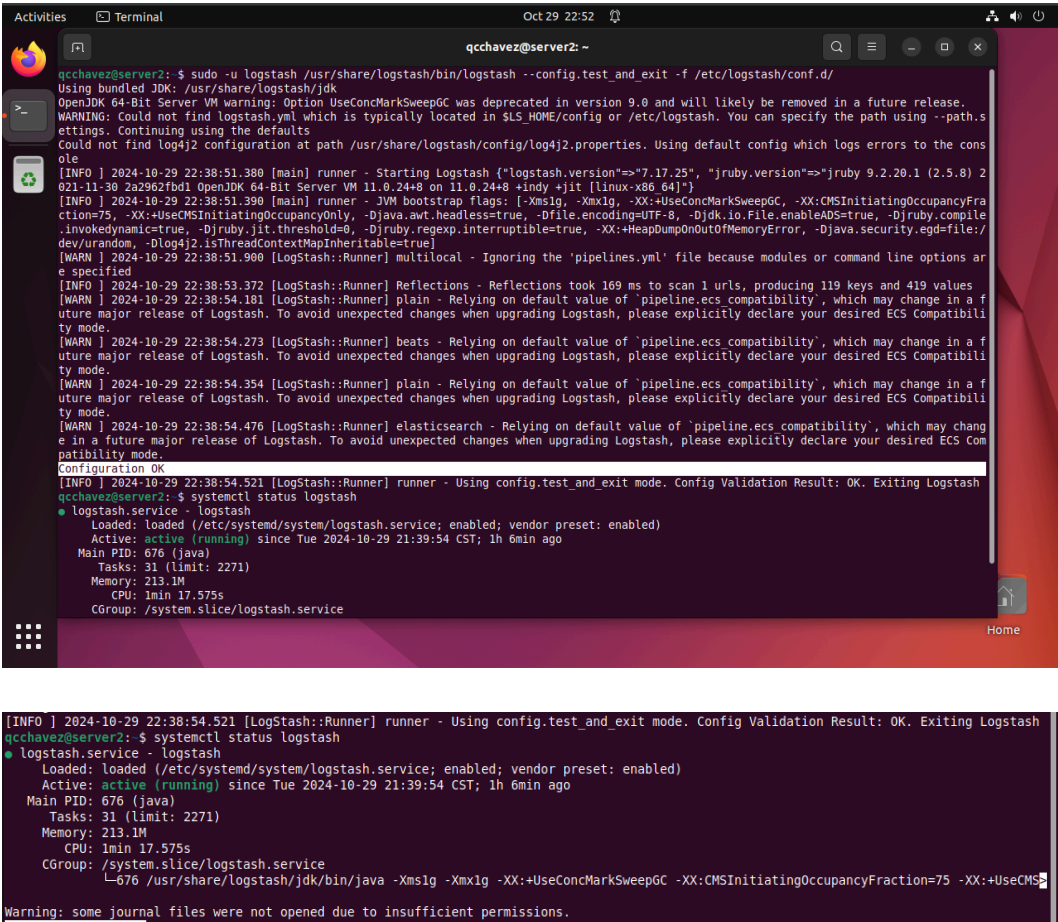
- To make sure that all of the ELK stack components (ElasticSearch, LogStash, Kibana) are working properly, you can do it by prompting **systemctl status ElasticSearch**, and also, you can enter the **IP-Address-of-ElasticSearch-Remote-Server:server.port (192.168.56.111:9200)** to check if **ElasticSearch** is properly working.

Kibana in Linux Ubuntu Desktop (Server 1)



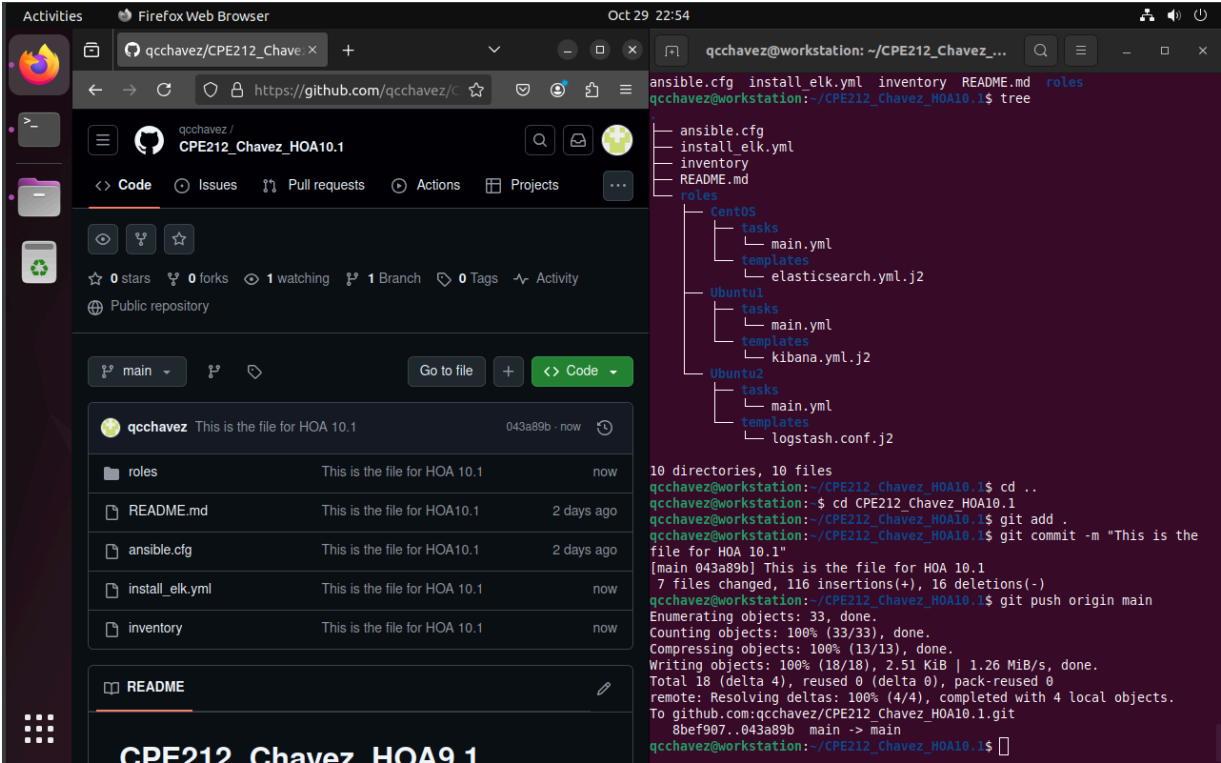
- In Kibana, you can do it by prompting **systemctl status Kibana** , and also, you can enter the **IP-Address-of-Kibana-Remote-Server:server.port (192.168.56.102:5601 in my case)** to check if Kibana is properly working.

LogStash in Linux Ubuntu Desktop (Server 2)



- In LogStash, you can do it by prompting **sudo -u logstash (location of logstash) --config.test_and_exit -f (location of logstash configuration)**, to check the configuration files for errors and at the same time, even without starting it. and also, you can just prompt **systemctl status logstash** to confirm if it is running.

Task 3.5



11. Make sure that all of the **ELK** stack components (**ElasticSearch**, **LogStash**, **Kibana**) are working properly. And if they do, commit changes to the **GitHub** repository.

Reflections:

Answer the following:

- What are the benefits of having a log monitoring tool?
 - The benefits of a log monitoring tool is that you'll be able to see the real-time insights to the performance of the system, being able to troubleshoot more accurately by looking at the logs, increase of security since log monitoring can detect and prohibit unauthorized access.

Conclusions:

- In this activity, I have faced a lot of trials and errors to make the three essential tools to work together. I've struggled a lot on **Kibana** since it is the one that is used for visualizing and interacting with the data stored in **Elasticsearch**. Throughout the process, I encountered several challenges, such as **compatibility issues between versions**, **configuration errors**, and **permission problems**. Each obstacle required careful troubleshooting and adjustments, particularly in **Kibana**, where misconfigurations often led to errors that made my access to the main interface of **Kibana** not accessible since it shows a message "Kibana server is not ready yet".