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Activity 8: Install, Configure, and Manage Availability Monitoring tools

1. Objectives

Create and design a workflow that installs, configure and manage enterprise monitoring tools using Ansible as an Infrastructure as Code (IaC) tool.

2. Discussion

Availability monitoring is a type of monitoring tool that we use if the certain workload is up or reachable on our end. Site downtime can lead to loss of revenue, reputational damage and severe distress. Availability monitoring prevents adverse situations by checking the uptime of infrastructure components such as servers and apps and notifying the webmaster of problems before they impact on business.

3. Tasks

- 1. Create a playbook that installs Nagios in both Ubuntu and CentOS. Apply the concept of creating roles.
- 2. 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.)
- 3. Show an output of the installed Nagios for both Ubuntu and CentOS.
- 4. Make sure to create a new repository in GitHub for this activity.

4. Output (screenshots and explanations)

Task No.2

I. Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions on installing and configuring **Nagios** on Linux, an event monitoring system that offers monitoring and alerting services for servers, switches, applications and services.

II. System Requirements

Before proceeding with the activity, ensure that the following system requirements are met:

Operating System/s: Ubuntu Desktop and CentOS 7

Memory: Minimum 2 GB RAM

Storage: Minimum 1 GB of free space

III. Procedure

- Make sure that you already have Ubuntu Desktop and CentOS installed in your Oracle VirtualBox
- 2. Create a directory where you will store the files that will be created for this activity.

File content of ansible.cfg



3. Creation of file named **ansible.cfg** for the configuration file of ansible-playbook that will be used later on.

File content of inventory



4. Creation of file named **inventory** that contains the **group names** and the **ip addresses** of the remote servers that will be used for the hands-on activity.

File content of your playbook for initiation of every role's task

5. Creation of main ansible playbook file named install_nagios.yml that contains the tasks for repository index update of both CentOS and Ubuntu remote servers, and also the initiation of the roles for Ubuntu and CentOS groups in the inventory file.

File content of CentOS's task

```
roles/CentOS/tasks$ cat main.yml
cchavez@workstation:
name: Install EPEL repository
yum:
  name: epel-release
  state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
name: Installing required packages for Nagios
  name: nagios
  state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
name: Enable Nagios service
service:
  name: nagios
  state: restarted
  enabled: true
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
name: Install Nagios Dependencies
yum:
  name:
    - gd-devel
    - libpng-devel
    - freetype-devel
    - gcc
    - glibc
  state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
                                         1/roles/CentOS/tasks$
```

6. Creation of ansible playbook task file named main.yml for CentOS that contains the tasks for installation of EPEL repository (which is required for nagios installation), installation of nagios itself and its dependencies, and the task for starting the nagios service.

File content of Ubuntu's task

```
tasks$ cat main.vml
- name: Install required packages
 apt:
   name: nagios4-core
   state: latest
 when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: Enable Nagios service
 service:
   name: nagios4
   state: restarted
    enabled: true
 when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: Install Nagios Dependencies
 apt:
   name:
      - libgd-dev
     - libpng-dev
      - libfreetype6-dev
      - libc6-dev
   state: latest
 when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
```

7. Creation of ansible playbook task file named main.yml for Ubuntu that contains the tasks for installation of nagios4-core and its dependencies, and the starting of nagios service.

File contents of your repository

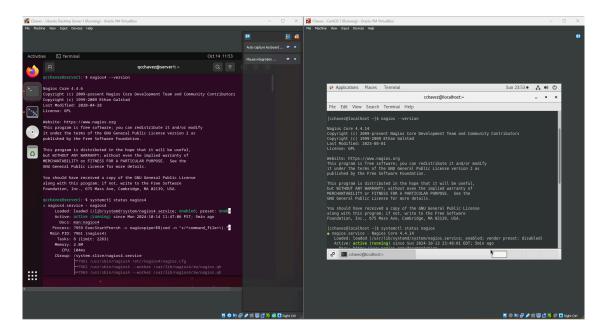
```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE212_Chavez_HOA8.1$ tree

_____ ansible.cfg
_____ install_nagios.yml
_____ inventory
____ roles
_____ CentOS
_____ tasks
_____ main.yml
_____ Ubuntu
____ tasks
_____ main.yml
6 directories, 5 files
```

8. This is the overall file contents of the whole repository for this task.

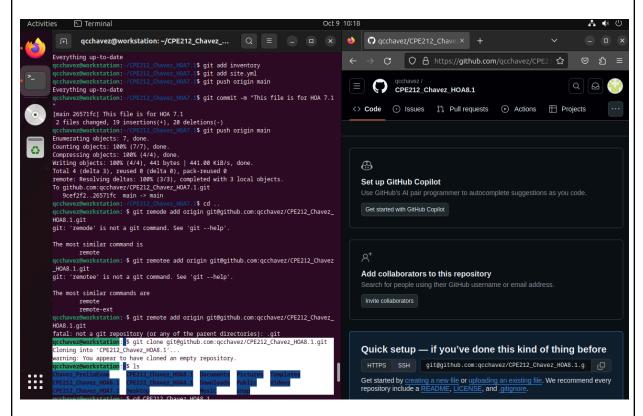
Task No. 3

9. After doing all the necessary tasks that were shown from the previous screenshots, I ran the main ansible-playbook which is the **install_nagios.yml**. It shows that the playbook worked properly.



 In this screenshot, it shows that Nagios monitoring tool is indeed installed on both remote servers (CentOS and Ubuntu Desktop) and is working properly.

Task No. 4



11. Committing the CPE212_Chavez_HOA8.1 repository to GitHub.

Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 1. What are the benefits of having an availability monitoring tool?
 - The benefits of having an availability monitoring tool is that it detects issues early to reduce downtime, alerts the system administrators for quicker issue fixes, produces optimal performance and availability for users, being able to identify potential problems before they can cause major failures, and also minimizes costs from downtime and emergency fixes.

Conclusions:

• In this activity, I've learned that implementing an availability monitoring tool is very important in terms of maintaining the reliability of your system, as it improves overall operational efficiency, and also ensuring the optimal user experience. This is a key component especially to business continuity since it provides real-time alerts, pro-active maintenance and produces valuable performance data that will make the system administrators be able to quickly solve these possible issues.