Name: Clarence B. Chavez	Date Performed: Sept. 11, 2024
Course/Section: CPE31S2	Date Submitted: Sept. 11, 2024
Instructor: Engr. Robin Valenzuela	Semester and SY: 1st Sem, 2024-2025
Aut to A. D. auto Elected Address Occasionals	

Activity 4: Running Elevated Ad hoc Commands

1. Objectives:

- 1.1 Use commands that makes changes to remote machines
- 1.2 Use playbook in automating ansible commands

2. Discussion:

Provide screenshots for each task.

Elevated Ad hoc commands

So far, we have not performed ansible commands that makes changes to the remote servers. We manage to gather facts and connect to the remote machines, but we still did not make changes on those machines. In this activity, we will learn to use commands that would install, update, and upgrade packages in the remote machines. We will also create a playbook that will be used for automations.

Playbooks record and execute Ansible's configuration, deployment, and orchestration functions. They can describe a policy you want your remote systems to enforce, or a set of steps in a general IT process. If Ansible modules are the tools in your workshop, playbooks are your instruction manuals, and your inventory of hosts are your raw material. At a basic level, playbooks can be used to manage configurations of and deployments to remote machines. At a more advanced level, they can sequence multi-tier rollouts involving rolling updates, and can delegate actions to other hosts, interacting with monitoring servers and load balancers along the way. You can check this documentation if you want to learn more about playbooks. Working with playbooks—Ansible Documentation

Task 1: Run elevated ad hoc commands

1. Locally, we use the command sudo apt update when we want to download package information from all configured resources. The sources often defined in /etc/apt/sources.list file and other files located in /etc/apt/sources.list.d/ directory. So, when you run update command, it downloads the package information from the Internet. It is useful to get info on an updated version of packages or their dependencies. We can only run an apt update command in a remote machine. Issue the following command:

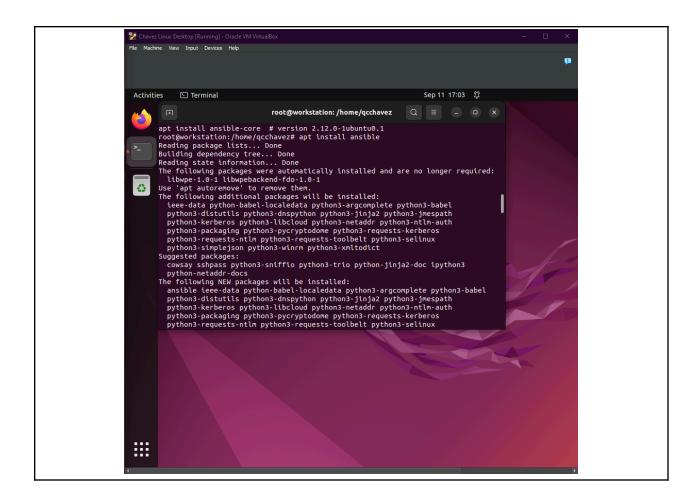
ansible all -m apt -a update_cache=true

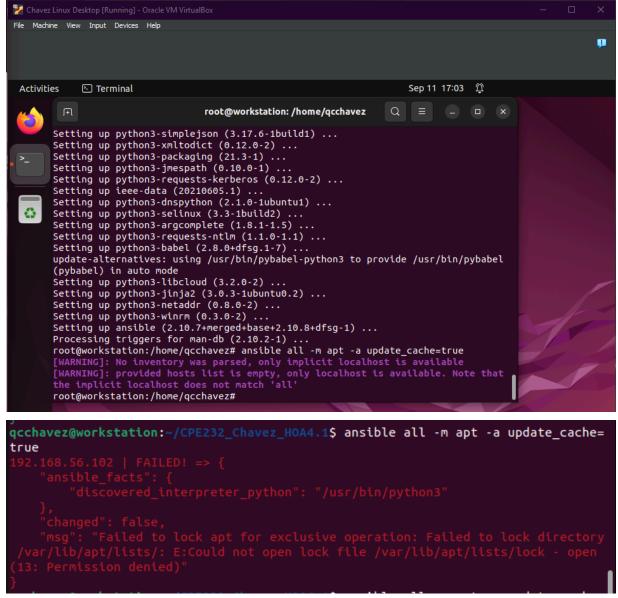
What is the result of the command? Is it successful?

qcchavez@ubuntu:~\$ ansible all -m apt -a update_cache=true
Command 'ansible' not found, but can be installed with:

sudo apt install ansible-core

qcchavez@ubuntu:~\$





Try editing the command and add something that would elevate the privilege. Issue the command ansible all -m apt -a update_cache=true --become --ask-become-pass. Enter the sudo password when prompted. You will notice now that the output of this command is a success. The update_cache=true is the same thing as running sudo apt update. The --become command elevate the privileges and the --ask-become-pass asks for the password. For now, even if we only have changed the packaged index, we were able to change something on the remote server.

You may notice after the second command was executed, the status is CHANGED compared to the first command, which is FAILED.

2. Let's try to install VIM, which is an almost compatible version of the UNIX editor Vi. To do this, we will just change the module part in 1.1 instruction. Here is the command: ansible all -m apt -a name=vim-nox --become --ask-become-pass. The command would take some time after typing the password because the local machine instructed the remote servers to actually install the package.

```
qcchavez@workstation:/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ ansible all -m apt -a name=vim-nox -
-become --ask-become-pass
BECOME password:
192.168.56.102 | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3"
    },
    "cache_update_time": 1726106868,
    "cache_updated": false,
    "changed": false
}
qcchavez@workstation:/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$
```

- 2.1 Verify that you have installed the package in the remote servers. Issue the command *which vim* and the command *apt search vim-nox* respectively. Was the command successful?
 - The command apt search vim-nox was successful.

```
qcchavez@workstation:/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ which vim
qcchavez@workstation:/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ apt search vim-nox
Sorting... Done
Full Text Search... Done
vim-nox/jammy-updates,jammy-security 2:8.2.3995-1ubuntu2.18 amd64
    Vi IMproved - enhanced vi editor - with scripting languages support

vim-tiny/jammy-updates,jammy-security,now 2:8.2.3995-1ubuntu2.18 amd64 [installe d,automatic]
    Vi IMproved - enhanced vi editor - compact version
qcchavez@workstation:/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$
```

2.2 Check the logs in the servers using the following commands: *cd /var/log*. After this, issue the command *ls*, go to the folder *apt* and open history.log. Describe what you see in the history.log.

```
gcchavez@workstation:/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ cd
qcchavez@workstation:~$ cd /var/log
qcchavez@workstation:/var/log$ ls
alternatives.log dist-upgrade
                                  gpu-manager.log syslog
                  dmesg
auth.log
                  dmesg.0
                                                   syslog.1
auth.log.1
                                                  ubuntu-advantage.log
boot.log
                                                  ufw.log
boot.log.1
                                  kern.log
                                                  ufw.log.1
boot.log.2
                                  kern.log.1
bootstrap.log
                  dpkg.log
                                                  vboxpostinstall.log
                                  lastlog
btmp
                  faillog
                                                  wtmp
                  fontconfig.log private
qcchavez@workstation:/var/log$ cd apt
qcchavez@workstation:/var/log/apt$ cat history.log
Start-Date: 2023-08-07 22:53:16
Commandline: apt-get --yes -oDebug::pkgDepCache::AutoInstall=yes --force-yes upg
rade
Upgrade: dpkg:amd64 (1.21.1ubuntu2, 1.21.1ubuntu2.2), libxtables12:amd64 (1.8.7
1ubuntu5, 1.8.7-1ubuntu5.1), networkd-dispatcher:amd64 (2.1-2, 2.1-2ubuntu0.22.6
4.2), libpam-runtime:amd64 (1.4.0-11ubuntu2, 1.4.0-11ubuntu2.3), python3.10:amd6
```

• In the history.log, I can see the starting dates of the commands, and what were the upgrades done to the linux system prompted by the user.

- 3. This time, we will install a package called **snapd**. Snap is pre-installed in Ubuntu system. However, our goal is to create a command that checks for the latest installation package.
 - 3.1 Issue the command: ansible all -m apt -a name=snapd --become --ask-become-pass

Can you describe the result of this command? Is it a success? Did it change anything in the remote servers?

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ ansible all -m apt -a name=snapd --become --ask-become-pass
BECOME password:
192.168.56.102 | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3"
    },
    "cache_update_time": 1726106868,
    "cache_updated": false,
    "changed": false
}
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$
```

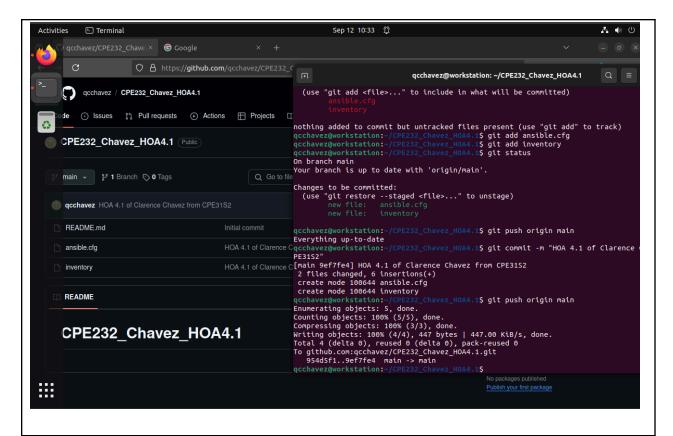
- By prompting the command, it was a successful process, and it has also installed snapd package in the remote server.
- 3.2 Now, try to issue this command: ansible all -m apt -a "name=snapd state=latest" --become --ask-become-pass

Describe the output of this command. Notice how we added the command *state=latest* and placed them in double quotations.

```
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ ansible all -m apt -a "name=snapd state=latest"
--become --ask-become-pass
BECOME password:
192.168.56.102 | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3"
    },
    "cache_update_time": 1726106868,
    "cache_updated": false,
    "changed": false
}
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$
```

- By issuing the command, it was a successful process and I've noticed that the command **state=latest** checks the snapd package if it has the latest version installed in the Linux Ubuntu OS.
- 4. At this point, make sure to commit all changes to GitHub.

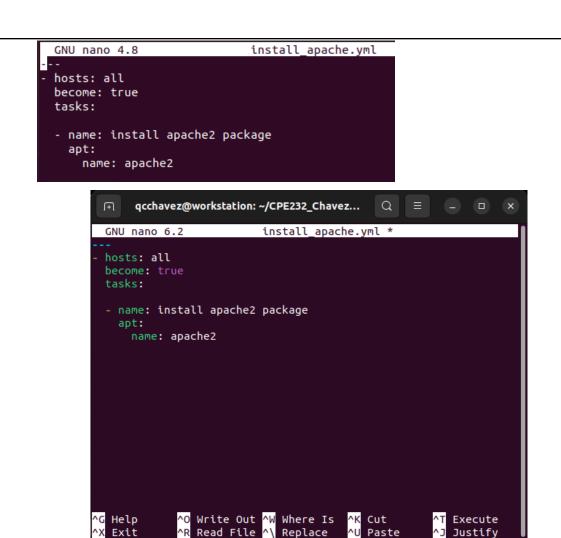
```
qcchavez@workstation: ~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1
                                                                                 Q = - -
E232 Chavez HOA4.1.git
error: remote origin already exists.
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ git commit -m "HOA 4.1 of Clarence Chavez from C
PE31S2"
On branch main
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'.
Untracked files:
  (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
nothing added to commit but untracked files present (use "git add" to track)
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ git add ansible.cfg
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ git add inventory
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ git status
On branch main
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'.
Changes to be committed:
  (use "git restore --staged <file>..." to unstage)
        new file: ansible.cfg
new file: inventory
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ git push origin main
Everything up-to-date
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1$ git commit -m "HOA 4.1 of Clarence Chavez from C
PE31S2"
[main 9ef7fe4] HOA 4.1 of Clarence Chavez from CPE31S2
 2 files changed, 6 insertions(+)
 create mode 100644 ansible.cfg
 create mode 100644 inventory
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232
```



Task 2: Writing our First Playbook

1. With ad hoc commands, we can simplify the administration of remote servers. For example, we can install updates, packages, and applications, etc. However, the real strength of ansible comes from its playbooks. When we write a playbook, we can define the state that we want our servers to be in and the place or commands that ansible will carry out to bring to that state. You can use an editor to create a playbook. Before we proceed, make sure that you are in the directory of the repository that we use in the previous activities (CPE232_yourname). Issue the command nano install_apache.yml. This will create a playbook file called install_apache.yml. The .yml is the basic standard extension for playbook files.

When the editor appears, type the following:

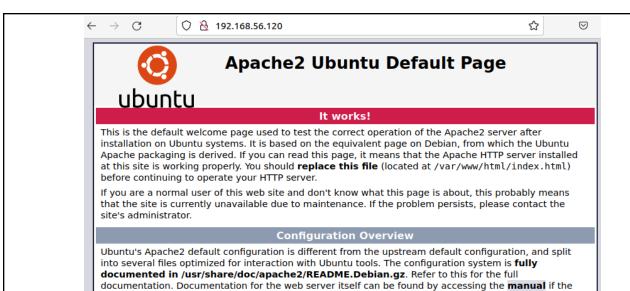


Make sure to save the file. Take note also of the alignments of the texts.

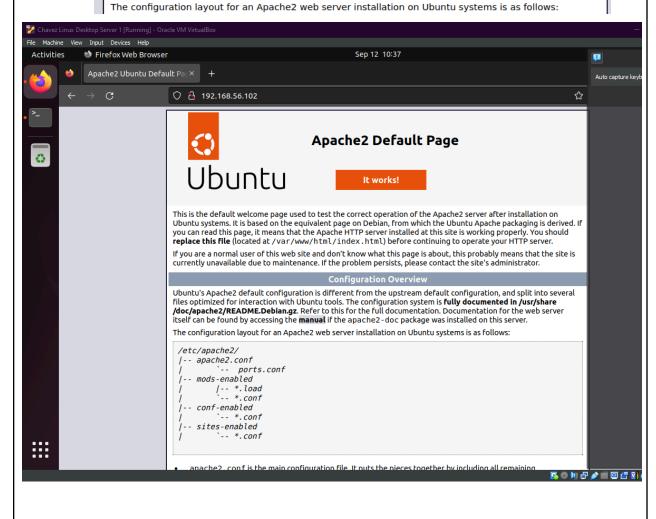
- 2. Run the yml file using the command: ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml. Describe the result of this command.
 - The result of the command means that the apache2 package has been altered or changed in some ways and also has applied these changes to the remote server.

```
qcchavez@workstation: ~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez
 ſŦ
YAML inventory has invalid structure, it should be a dictionary, got: <class
[WARNING]: * Failed to parse
/home/qcchavez/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez/install_apache.yml with ini plugin:
Invalid host pattern '---' supplied, '---' is normally a sign this is a YAML file.
/home/qcchavez/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez/install_apache.yml as an inventory
source
a[WARNING]: Unable to parse /home/qcchavez/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez as an
inventory source
PLAY [all] *************
PLAY RECAP *****************
                    : ok=2 changed=1 unreachable=0 failed=0
                                                             skipped=0
 rescued=0
          ignored=0
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez$
```

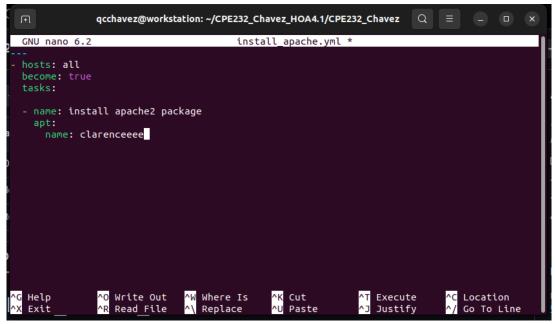
3. To verify that apache2 was installed automatically in the remote servers, go to the web browsers on each server and type its IP address. You should see something like this.



apache2-doc package was installed on this server.



4. Try to edit the *install_apache.yml* and change the name of the package to any name that will not be recognized. What is the output?

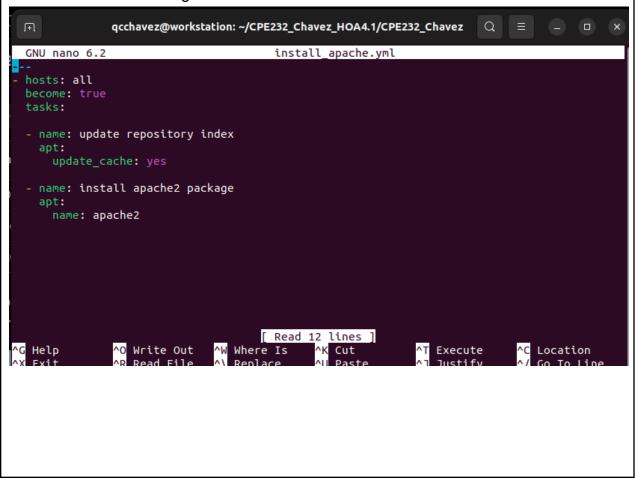


• The error states that the state changed from "true" to "false" since no "clarenceeee" package exists.

5. This time, we are going to put additional task to our playbook. Edit the install_apache.yml. As you can see, we are now adding an additional command, which is the update_cache. This command updates existing package-indexes on a supporting distro but not upgrading installed-packages (utilities) that were being installed.

```
hosts: all become: true tasks:
name: update repository index apt: update_cache: yes
name: install apache2 package apt: name: apache2
```

Save the changes to this file and exit.



6. Run the playbook and describe the output. Did the new command change anything on the remote servers?

```
qcchavez@workstation: ~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez
/home/qcchavez/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez/install_apache.yml with ini plugin:
Invalid host pattern '---' supplied, '---' is normally a sign this is a YAML file.
/home/qcchavez/CPE232_Chavez_H0A4.1/CPE232_Chavez/install_apache.yml as an inventory
source
[WARNING]: Unable to parse /home/qcchavez/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez as an
PLAY RECAP ****************
                                             failed=0
                  : ok=3 changed=1 unreachable=0
                                                      skipped=0
rescued=0
        ignored=0
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez$
```

- Based on the screenshot and on the output, the new command did change something to the remote servers. It updated the repository index, and it installed also the apache2 package.
 - 7. Edit again the *install_apache.yml*. This time, we are going to add a PHP support for the apache package we installed earlier.

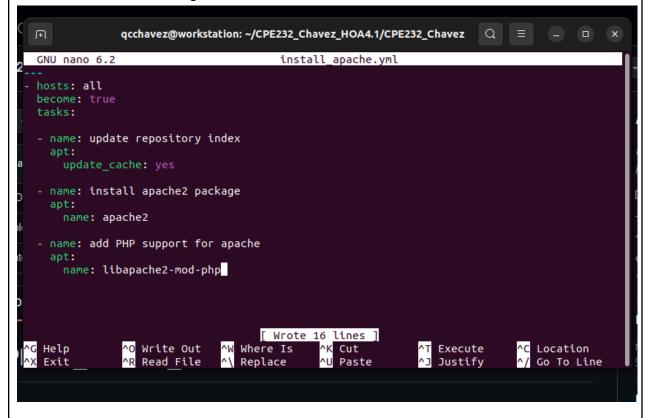
```
- hosts: all
become: true
tasks:

- name: update repository index
apt:
    update_cache: yes

- name: install apache2 package
apt:
    name: apache2

- name: add PHP support for apache
apt:
    name: libapache2-mod-php
```

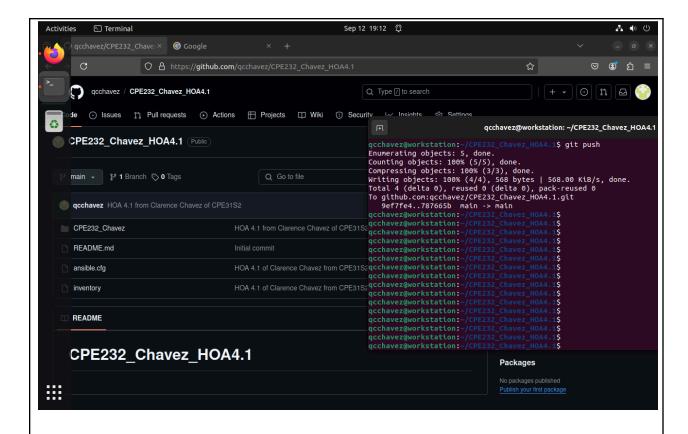
Save the changes to this file and exit.



8. Run the playbook and describe the output. Did the new command change anything on the remote servers?

```
qcchavez@workstation: ~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez
2/home/qcchavez/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez/install_apache.yml as an inventory
[WARNING]: Unable to parse /home/qcchavez/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez as an
PLAY [all] ********
18ok: [192.168.56.102]
changed: [192.168.56.102]
changed: [192.168.56.102]
PLAY RECAP ****************
                            unreachable=0 failed=0
                                             skipped=0
 rescued=0
       ignored=0
qcchavez@workstation:~/CPE232_Chavez_HOA4.1/CPE232_Chavez$
```

- After making changes in the .yaml file and running the command, the remote server's update repository was changed, the installation of apache2 package was done, and the addition of PHP support for apache was changed.
 - 9. Finally, make sure that we are in sync with GitHub. Provide the link of your GitHub repository.



Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 1. What is the importance of using a playbook?
 - The importance of using playbook is that it provides useful feature when managing systems especially remotely such as automation of codes, efficiency of remote usage, and provides seamless tasks.
- Summarize what we have done on this activity.
 - In this activity, we have use several Ansible commands and managed to learn how to use playbooks. We used the workstation and the remote server. Mostly, the workstation was used and the remote server is only used for making changes using the workstation. We have configured several files such as inventory and ansible.cfg.