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	2024

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.

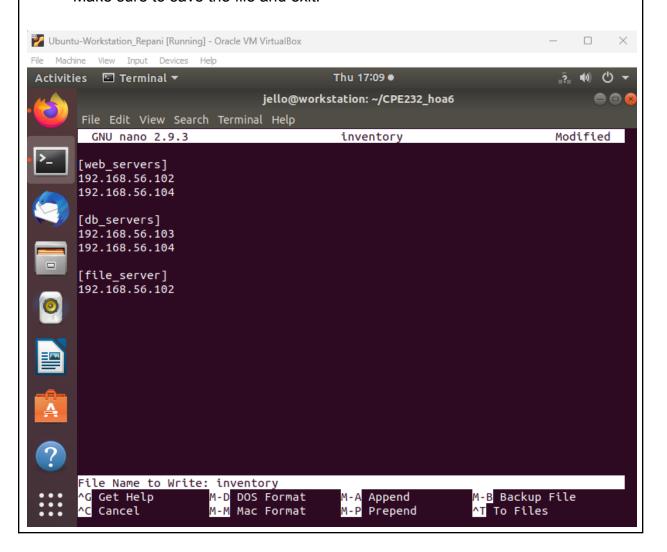
```
hosts: all
        become: true
        tasks:
         - name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
           apt:
             name:
               - apache2
               - libapache2-mod-php
             state: latest
             update_cache: yes
          when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
          - name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
              name:
                - httpd
                - php
              state: latest
            when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
Ubuntu-Workstation_Repani [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
                                              Thu 17:03 •
Activities 
☐ Terminal ▼
                                                                                 上 🕪 🗘 🖚
                                   jello@workstation: ~/CPE232_hoa6
                                                                                      File Edit View Search Terminal Help
        GNU nano 2.9.3
                                                                                Modified
                                               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"
        G Get Help
                       ^O Write Out
                                          Where Is
                                                       ^K Cut Text
                                                                       ^J Justify
                                                                       ^T To Spell
          Exit
                       ^R Read File
                                          Replace
                                                       ^U Uncut Text
                                                             🖸 💿 🕼 🗗 🔗 🦳 🗐 🚰 🌠 🚫 🗨 Right Ctrl
```

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
```



```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_hoa6$ ansible web servers -m ping
        "discovered interpreter python": "/usr/bin/python3"
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python"
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_hoa6$ ansible db servers -m ping
        "discovered interpreter python": "/usr/bin/python"
   "ping": "pong"
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_hoa6$ ansible file_server -m ping
    "ansible facts": {
```

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
- 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"
```

```
jello@workstation: ~/CPE232_hoa6
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
 GNU nano 2.9.3
                                                 site.yml
                                                                                          Modified
 hosts: all
 become: true
 pre_tasks:
 - 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"
```

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.

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

 The playbook updated both the ubuntu and centOS and also successfully installed apache and php for all

```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_hoa6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
changed: [192.168.56.102]
changed: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
: ok=4 changed=1 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=2 rescued=0
192.168.56.102
192.168.56.103 : ok=2 changed=1 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=1 rescued=0
 ignored=0
         : ok=4 changed=0 unreachable=0
                        failed=0 skipped=2 rescued=0
ignored=0
```

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"
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

```
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
                                                         ^J Justify
^T To Spell
                                                                        ^C Cur Pos
^ Go To Li
                                                                                       M-U Undo
Get Help
             ^O Write Out
                           ^W Where Is
                                          ^K Cut Text
                              Replace
                                             Uncut Text
                                                                           Go To Line
Exit
               Read File
                                                            To Spell
```

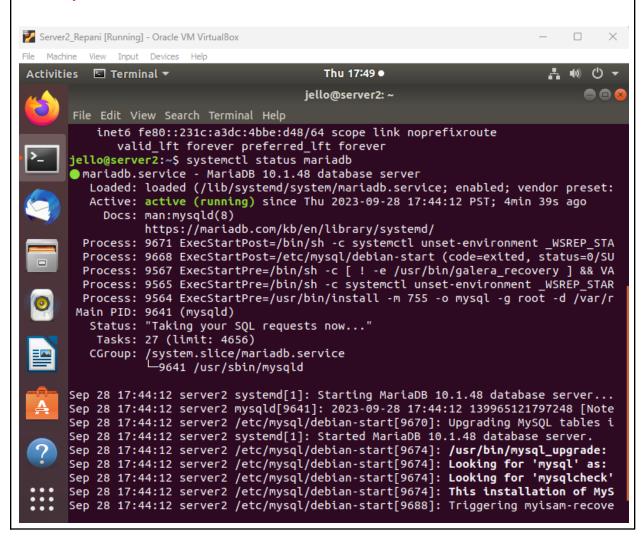
Run the *site.yml* file and describe the result.

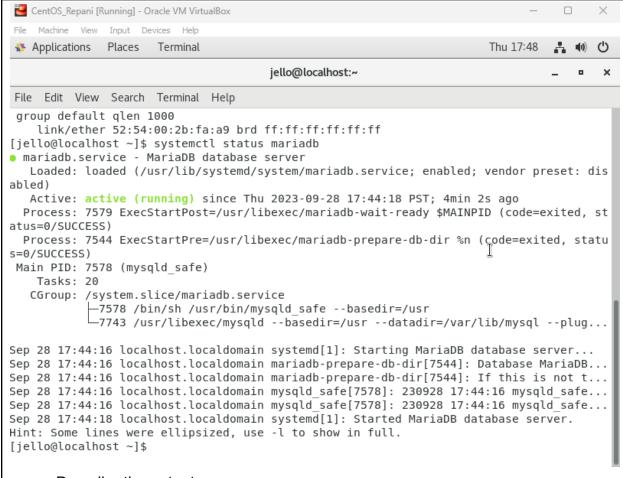
- The playbook successfully ran all the commands, as for the yml file the part in the ubuntu installation of mariadb and the running of services is

interchanged so that the playbook would work since the service was trying to run without having the mariadb installed first.

```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_hoa6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
changed: [192.168.56.103]
changed: [192.168.56.103]
changed: [192.168.56.104]
: ok=4 changed=0 unreachable=0
                   failed=0
                           rescued=0
ignored=0
          changed=2
              unreachable=0
                   failed=0
                           rescued=0
ignored=0
          changed=1
                   failed=0
              unreachable=0
                           rescued=0
ignored=0
```

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.





Describe the output.

- Both Ubuntu server 2 and the CentOS server are now installed with mariadb and is running after the service command.
- 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
```

```
- hosts: file_server
become: true
tasks:

- name: install samba package
package:
name: samba
state: latest

File Name to Write: site.yml

^G Get Help
M-D DOS Format
M-A Append
M-B Backup File

^C Cancel
M-M Mac Format
M-P Prepend

^T To Files
```

Run the site.yml file and describe the result.

 The playbook was successfully run and samba was installed in the file server

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
```

```
jello@workstation: ~/CPE232_hoa6
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
 GNU nano 2.9.3
                                                                                           Modified
                                                 site.yml
 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"
```

```
name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
  tags: centos, db, mariadb
  yum:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

    name: install mariadb package (Ubuntu)
tags: db, mariadb, ubuntu

  apt:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
  service:
    name: mariadb
    state: restarted
    enabled: true
hosts: file_server
become: true
tasks:
- name: install samba package
  tags: samba
  package:
    name: samba
    state: latest
     Run the site.yml file and describe the result.
              The playbook was successfully
```

```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_hoa6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
changed: [192.168.56.103]
changed: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
changed=0
         unreachable=0
            failed=0
                 rescued=0
ignored=0
       changed=1
         unreachable=0
            failed=0
                 rescued=0
ignored=0
192.168.56.104
       changed=1
         unreachable=0
            failed=0
                 rescued=0
ignored=0
```

- 2. On the local machine, try to issue the following commands and describe each result:
 - 2.1 ansible-playbook --list-tags site.yml

The command shows all the tags added for each part of the commands

```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_hoa6$ ansible-playbook --list-tags site.yml
play #1 (all): all          TAGS: []
                TASK TAGS: [always]

play #2 (web_servers): web_servers          TAGS: []
                TASK TAGS: [apache, apache2, centos, httpd, ubuntu]

play #3 (db_servers): db_servers          TAGS: []
                TASK TAGS: [centos, db, mariadb, ubuntu]

play #4 (file_server): file_server          TAGS: []
                TASK TAGS: [samba]
```

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

Only the parts with the tags centos are run, otherwise it is skipped

```
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
: ok=4 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0
                          skipped=2 rescued=0
ignored=0
        : ok=3 changed=0 unreachable=0
                      failed=0
                          skipped=2 rescued=0
ignored=0
                      failed=0
            changed=0
                unreachable=0
                          skipped=1 rescued=0
ignored=0
```

2.3 ansible-playbook --tags db --ask-become-pass site.yml

Only the parts with the db tag are performed which resulted in faster time in running the playbook

```
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
: ok=4 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0
                            skipped=1 rescued=0
 ignored=0
         : ok=4 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=2 rescued=0
ignored=0
         : ok=5 changed=0
                  unreachable=0 failed=0
                            skipped=2 rescued=0
ignored=0
```

2.4 ansible-playbook --tags apache --ask-become-pass site.yml

Only the parts with the apache tag are performed which resulted in faster time in running the playbook

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

Only the parts with the tags apache and db are run which made the overall run time of the playbook shorter than running the entire playbook

Task 3: Managing Services

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

Figure 3.1.1 Make sure to save the file and exit.

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

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"

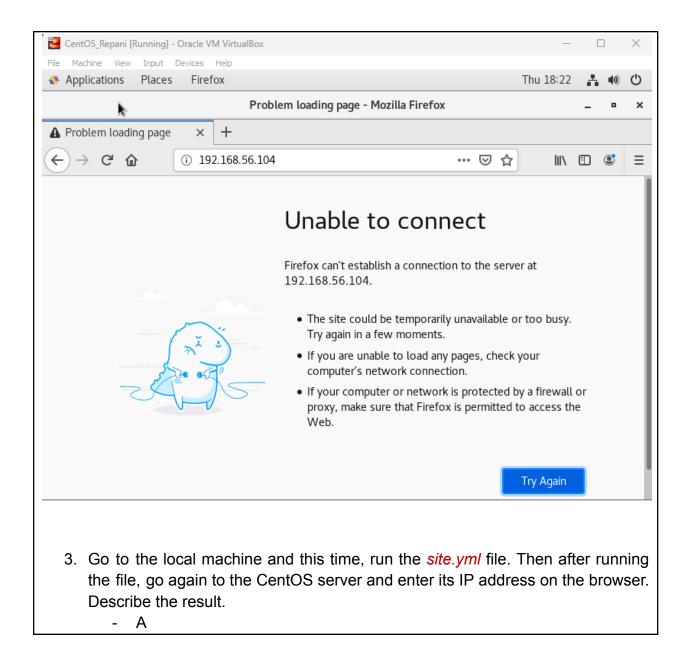
    name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
        service:
                 name: mariadb
                 state: restarted
                 enabled: true
```

Figure 3.1.2

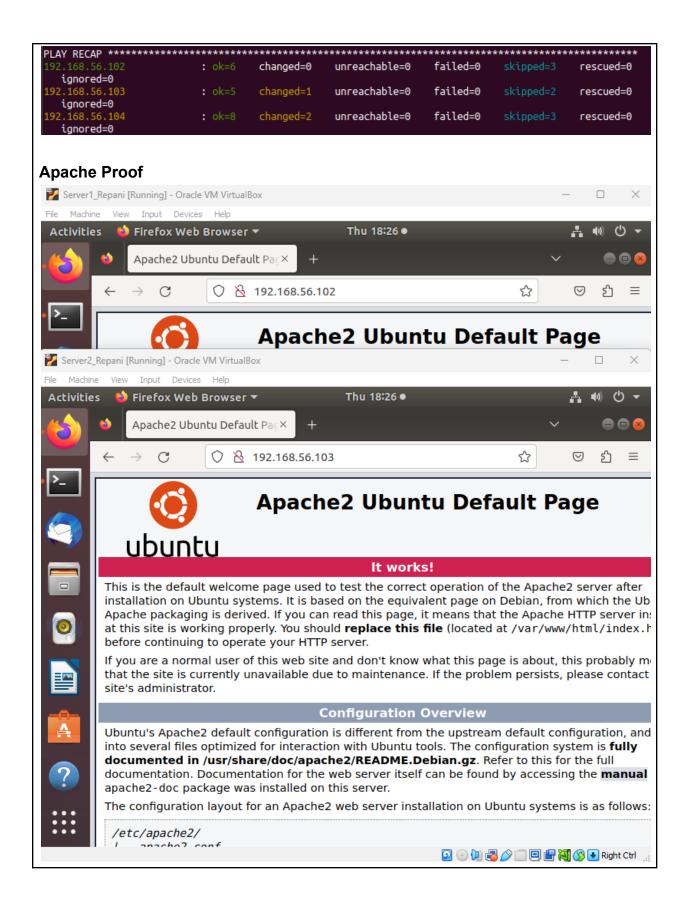
This is because in CentOS, installed packages' services are not run automatically. Thus, we need to create the module to run it automatically.

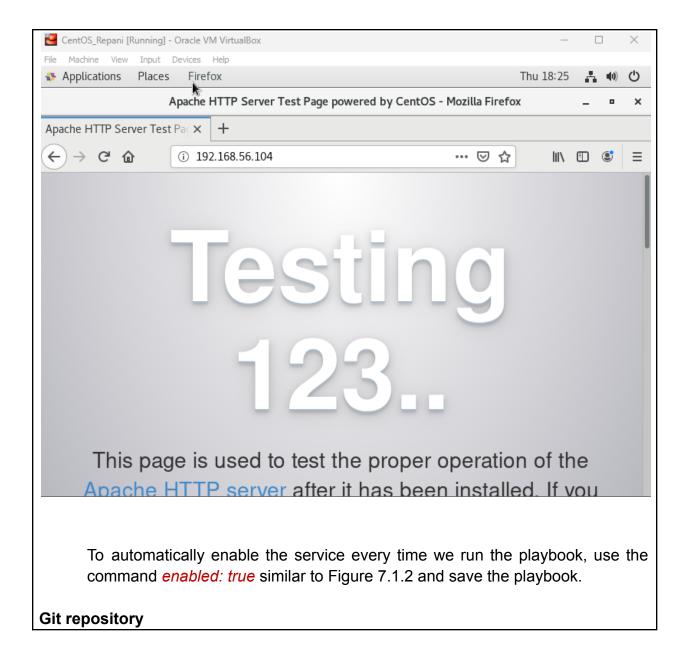
2. To test it, before you run the saved playbook, go to the CentOS server and stop the currently running httpd using the command <u>sudo systemctl stop httpd</u>. When prompted, enter the sudo password. After that, open the browser and enter the CentOS server's IP address. You should not be getting a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

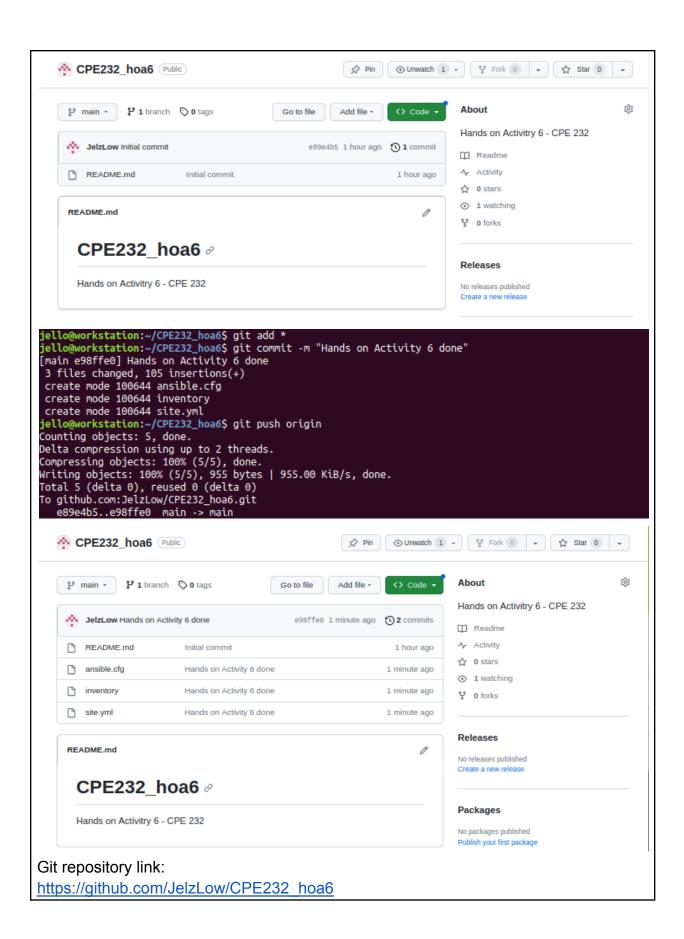
```
[jello@localhost ~]$ sudo systemctl stop httpd
[sudo] password for jello:
```



```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_hoa6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ********************************
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
changed: [192.168.56.104]
changed: [192.168.56.103]
changed: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
```







Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 1. What is the importance of putting our remote servers into groups?
 - It is important to put remote servers into groups in order to easily classify the purpose and function of each server. This is very helpful when managing many different servers so that we can easily manage the different servers without getting confused.
- 2. What is the importance of tags in playbooks?
 - Tags in playbooks help in finding the appropriate command, this is helpful when the playbook is long and consists of many commands, by searching the tags we can filter and narrow down the commands that we will actually need. This also servers as a quick way to identify the purpose and function of a command rather than reading the entire name.
- 3. Why do think some services need to be managed automatically in playbooks?
 - Some services needs to automatically be managed in playbooks because there are a lot of tasks and programs which have to be manually performed and started usually once a system starts up. By adding commands that can automatically manage services in playbooks, it can increase the efficiency of the system because we no longer have to perform each and every single step, saving time.

Conclusion

In this hands-on activity 6, the topic is all about the playbook and additional commands and syntaxes used in it. For this one I specifically learned about the different user groups in the inventory file which allows the remote servers to be categorized accordingly. Additionally, the commands in ansible playbook such as tags are also introduced. Adding tags allows us to search for specific parts of the playbook and only run those specific commands with the tags attached to it.

Honor Pledge

"I affirm that I have not given or received any unauthorized help on this assignment, and that this work is my own."