Name: Repani, Justin Jello J.	**Date Performed:** September 18, 2023
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Instructor: Dr. Jonathan V. Taylar	**Semester and SY:** 1st Sem: SY 2023-2024

Activity 5: Consolidating Playbook plays

1. **Objectives:**

1.1 Use **when** command in playbook for different OS distributions

1.2 Apply refactoring techniques in cleaning up the playbook codes

2. **Discussion**:

We are going to look at a way that we can differentiate a playbook by a host in terms of which distribution the host is running. It's very common in most Linux shops to run multiple distributions, for example, Ubuntu shop or Debian shop and you need a different distribution for a one off-case or perhaps you want to run plays only on certain distributions.

It is a best practice in ansible when you are working in a collaborative environment to use the command git pull. git pull is a Git command used to update the local version of a repository from a remote. By default, git pull does two things. Updates the current local working branch (currently checked out branch) and updates the remote-tracking branches for all other branches. git pull essentially pulls down any changes that may have happened since the last time you worked on the repository.

Requirement:

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

Task 1: Use when command for different distributions

1. In the local machine, make sure you are in the local repository directory (*CPE232_yourname*). Issue the command git pull. When prompted, enter the correct passphrase or password. Describe what happened when you issue this command. Did something happen? Why?

- There is a reply that stated “Already up to date”. This happened because the last work done is to use the git push command in order to update the repository. Since both the workstation and repository have the same files, the command git pull didn’t take any updated files.

```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_Repani$ git pull
Already up to date.
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_Repani$
```

2. Edit the inventory file and add the IP address of the Centos VM. Issue the command we used to execute the playbook (the one we used in the last activity): *ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml*. After executing this command, you may notice that it did not become successful in the Centos VM. You can see that the Centos VM has failed=1. Only the two remote servers have been changed. The reason is that Centos VM does not support "apt" as the package manager. The default package manager for Centos is "yum."
    - The CentOS failed because it does not support the command apt

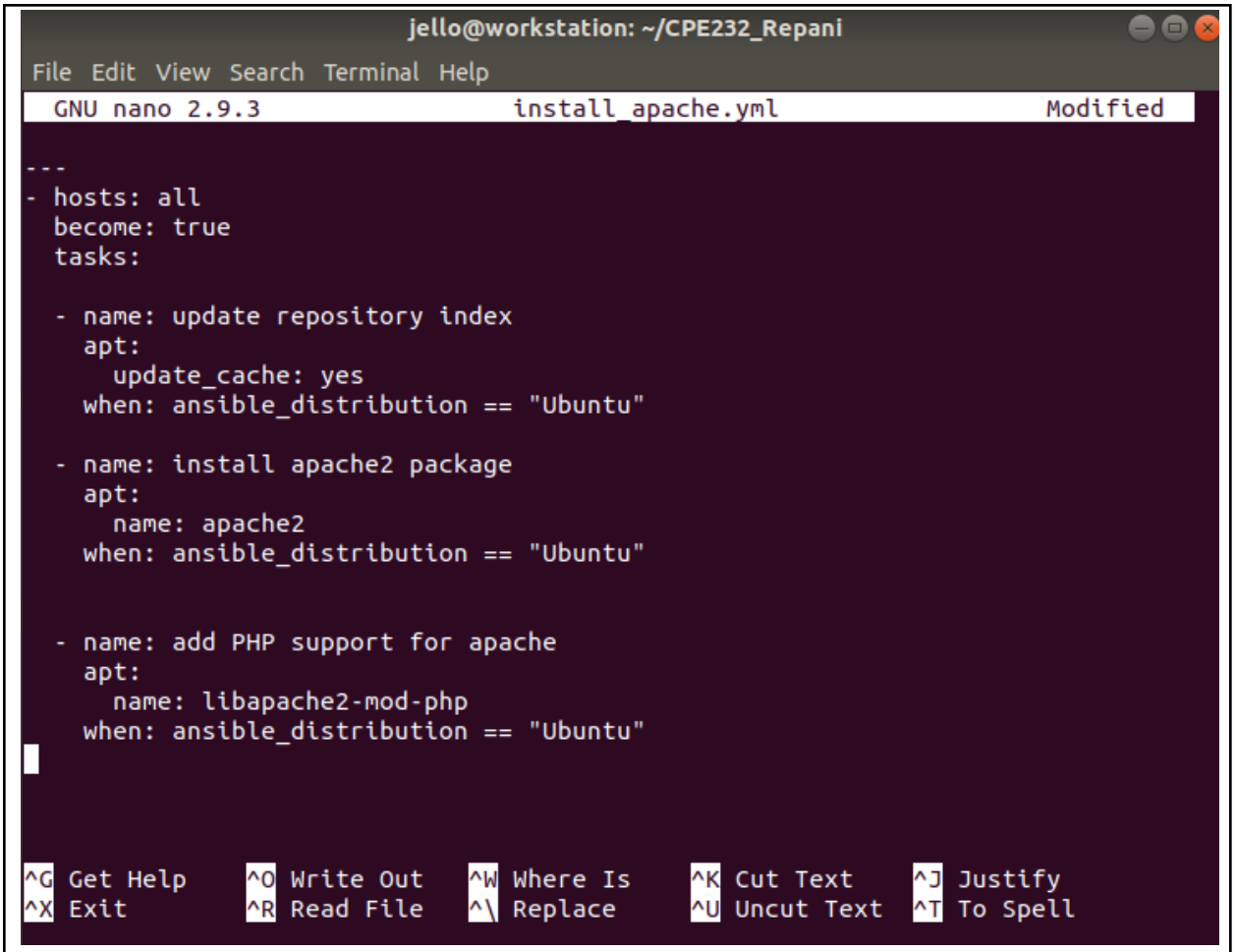
```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_Repani$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_a
pache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *********************************************************************
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *********************************************************
*
ok: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [update repository index] *************************************************
*
[WARNING]: Updating cache and auto-installing missing dependency: python3-apt
fatal: [192.168.56.104]: FAILED! => {"changed": false, "cmd": "apt-get update",
 "msg": "[Errno 2] No such file or directory: b'apt-get': b'apt-get'", "rc": 2,
 "stderr": "", "stderr_lines": [], "stdout": "", "stdout_lines": []}
changed: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [install apache2 package] *************************************************
*
ok: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [add PHP support for apache] **********************************************
*
ok: [192.168.56.102]
```

```
PLAY RECAP *********************************************************************
*
192.168.56.102             : ok=4    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.104             : ok=1    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=1
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
```

3. Edit the *install_apache.yml* file and insert the lines shown below.

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

  - name: update repository index
    apt:
      update_cache: yes
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

  - name: install apache2 package
    apt:
      name: apache2
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

  - name: add PHP support for apache
    apt:
      name: libapache2-mod-php
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.



Run *ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml* and describe the result.

- This time there are no errors, but all the commands for the CentOS server are in the skipped status. This is because the when condition is added where it will only perform the command if the detected OS is Ubuntu.

```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_Repani$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_a
pache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *********************************************************************
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *********************************************************
*
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

TASK [update repository index] *************************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
changed: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [install apache2 package] *************************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [add PHP support for apache] **********************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]

PLAY RECAP *********************************************************************
*
192.168.56.102             : ok=4    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.104             : ok=1    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=3    rescued=0    ignored=0
```

If you have a mix of Debian and Ubuntu servers, you can change the configuration of your playbook like this.

```
- name: update repository index
  apt:
    update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution in [“Debian”, “Ubuntu]
```

Note: This will work also if you try. Notice the changes are highlighted.

4. Edit the *install_apache.yml* file and insert the lines shown below.

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

  - name: update repository index
    apt:
      update_cache: yes
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

  - name: install apache2 package
    apt:
      name: apache2
      stae: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

  - name: add PHP support for apache
    apt:
      name: libapache2-mod-php
      state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

  - name: update repository index
    dnf:
      update_cache: yes
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

  - name: install apache2 package
    dnf:
      name: httpd
      state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

  - name: add PHP support for apache
    dnf:
      name: php
      state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

Make sure to save and exit.

Run *ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml* and describe the result.

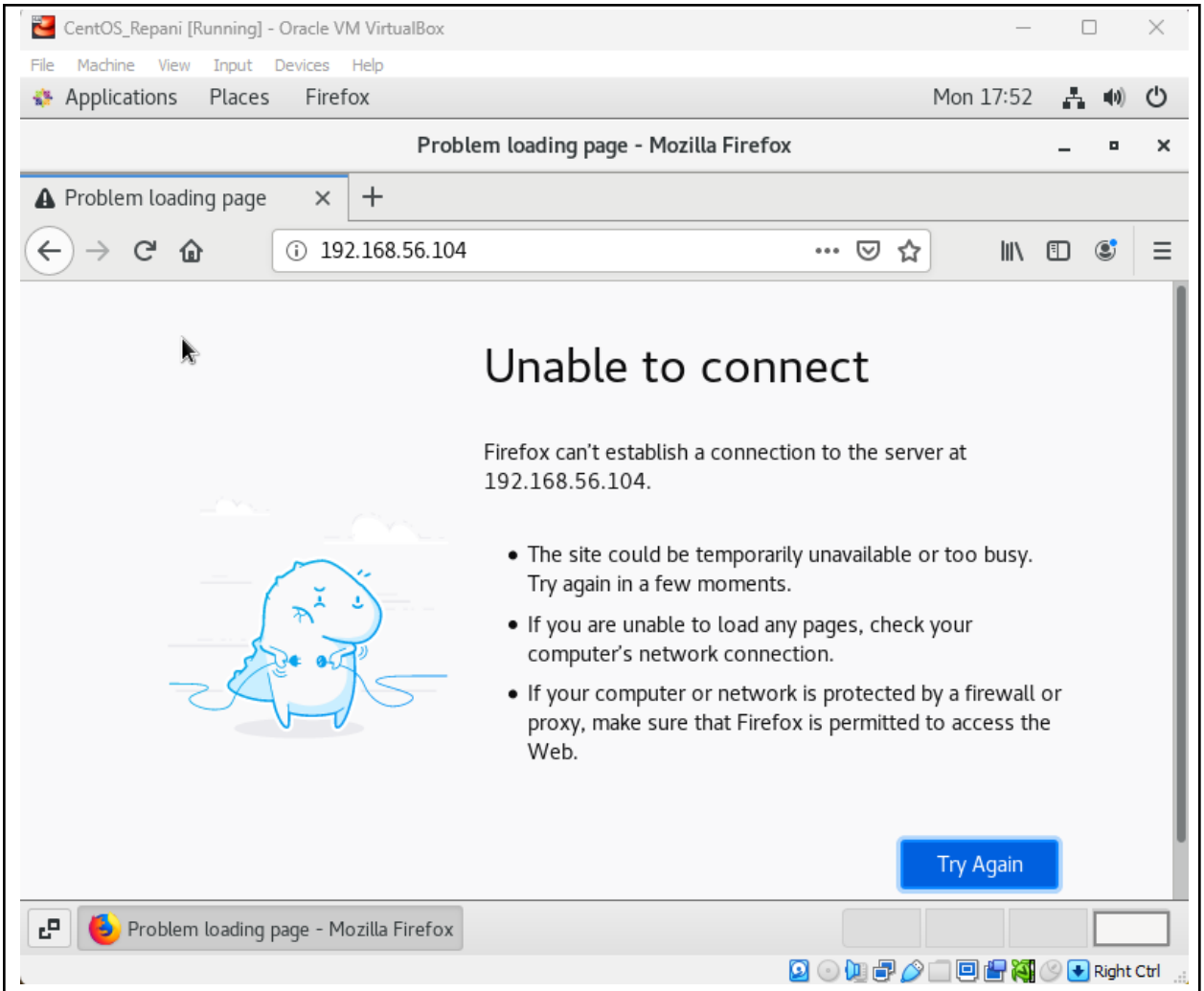
- For this part of the code, each of the steps has a success and skipped part because each command is added twice in the yml file, the difference is that one only performs it if the OS is Ubuntu, and the other if the OS is CentOS. This results in having on successful and one skipped status per command.

```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_Repani$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_a
pache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *********************************************************************
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *********************************************************
*
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

TASK [update repository index] *************************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
changed: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [install apache2 package] *************************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [add PHP support for apache] **********************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
```

```
TASK [update repository index] *************************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

TASK [install apache2 package] *************************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
changed: [192.168.56.104]

TASK [add PHP support for apache] **********************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
changed: [192.168.56.104]

PLAY RECAP *********************************************************************
*
192.168.56.102             : ok=4    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=3    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.104             : ok=4    changed=2    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=3    rescued=0    ignored=0

jello@workstation:~/CPE232_Repani$
```

5. To verify the installations, go to CentOS VM and type its IP address on the browser. Was it successful? The answer is no. It's because the httpd service or

the Apache HTTP server in the CentOS is not yet active. Thus, you need to activate it first.



5.1 To activate, go to the CentOS VM terminal and enter the following:
systemctl status httpd
The result of this command tells you that the service is inactive.

```
[jello@localhost ~]$ systemctl status httpd
● httpd.service - The Apache HTTP Server
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/httpd.service; disabled; vendor preset: disa
bled)
   Active: inactive (dead)
     Docs: man:httpd(8)
           man:apachectl(8)
[jello@localhost ~]$
```

5.2 Issue the following command to start the service:
sudo systemctl start httpd
(When prompted, enter the sudo password)

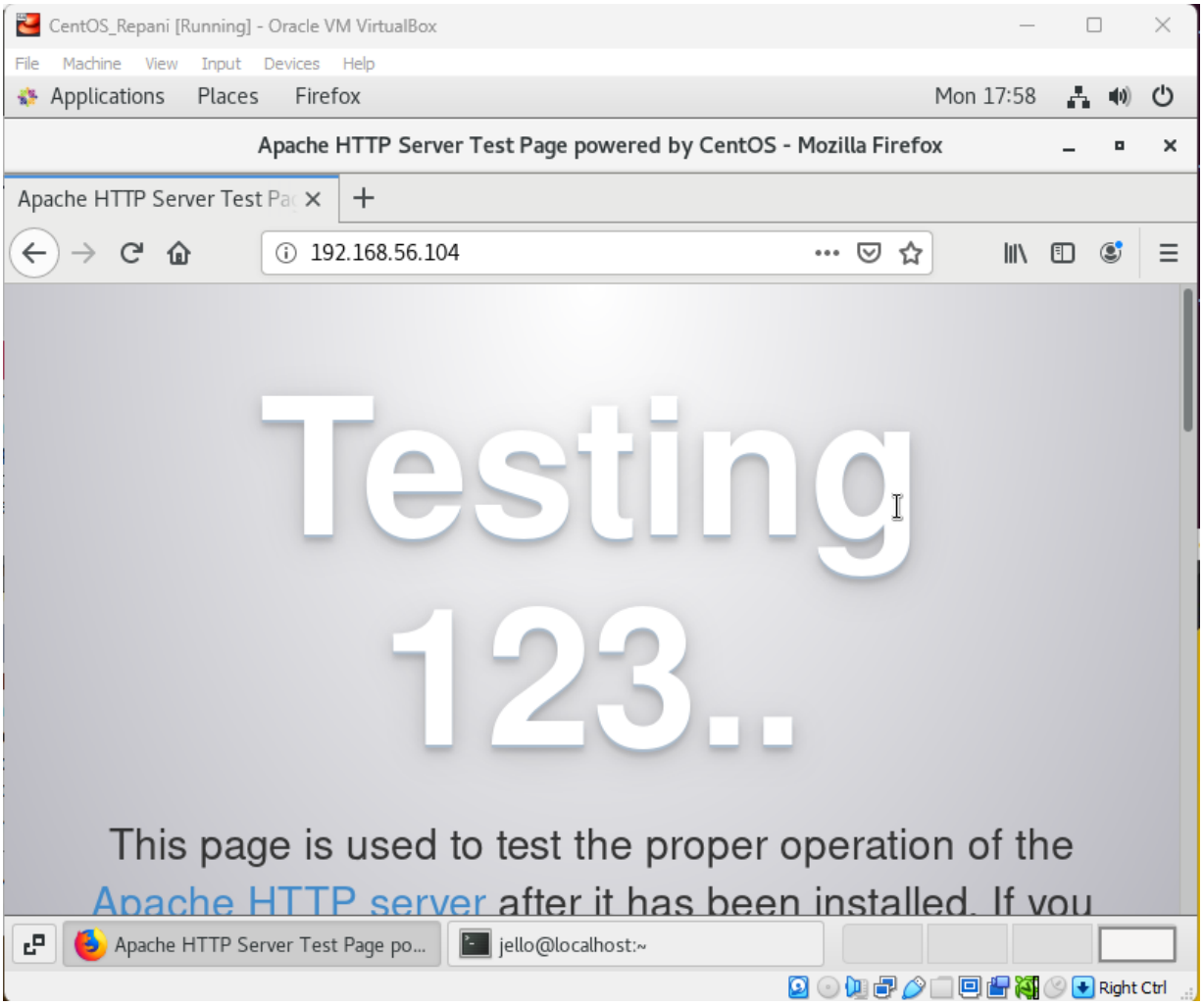
```
[jello@localhost ~]$ sudo systemctl start httpd
[sudo] password for jello:
[jello@localhost ~]$
```

sudo firewall-cmd --add-port=80/tcp

(The result should be a success)

```
[jello@localhost ~]$ sudo firewall-cmd --add-port=80/tcp
success
[jello@localhost ~]$
```

5.3 To verify the service is already running, go to CentOS VM and type its IP address on the browser. Was it successful? (Screenshot the browser)



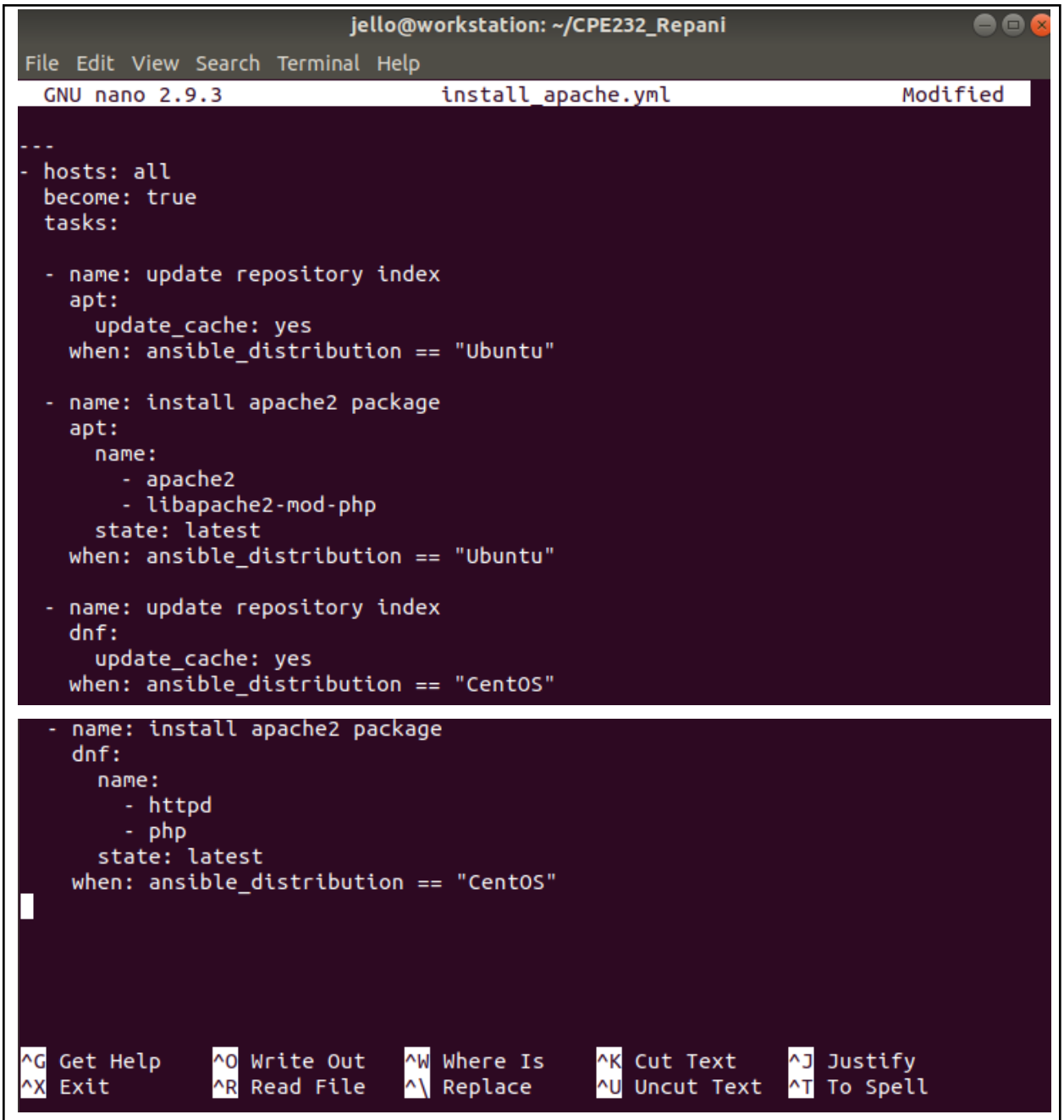
Task 2: Refactoring playbook

This time, we want to make sure that our playbook is efficient and that the codes are easier to read. This will also makes run ansible more quickly if it has to execute fewer tasks to do the same thing.

1. Edit the playbook *install_apache.yml*. Currently, we have three tasks targeting our Ubuntu machines and 3 tasks targeting our CentOS machine. Right now, we try to consolidate some tasks that are typically the same. For example, we can consolidate two plays that install packages. We can do that by creating a list of installation packages as shown below:

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

  - name: update repository index Ubuntu
    apt:
      update_cache: yes
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

  - name: install apache2 and php packages for Ubuntu
    apt:
      name:
        - apache2
        - libapache2-mod-php
      state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

  - name: update repository index for CentOS
    dnf:
      update_cache: yes
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

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

   Make sure to save the file and exit.



Run *ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml* and describe the result.

- Similar results appeared like the previous part code, the difference is that there are only two skips for each command performed. This is because by combining the function of two separate commands into one, we have reduced the amount of commands it runs separately.

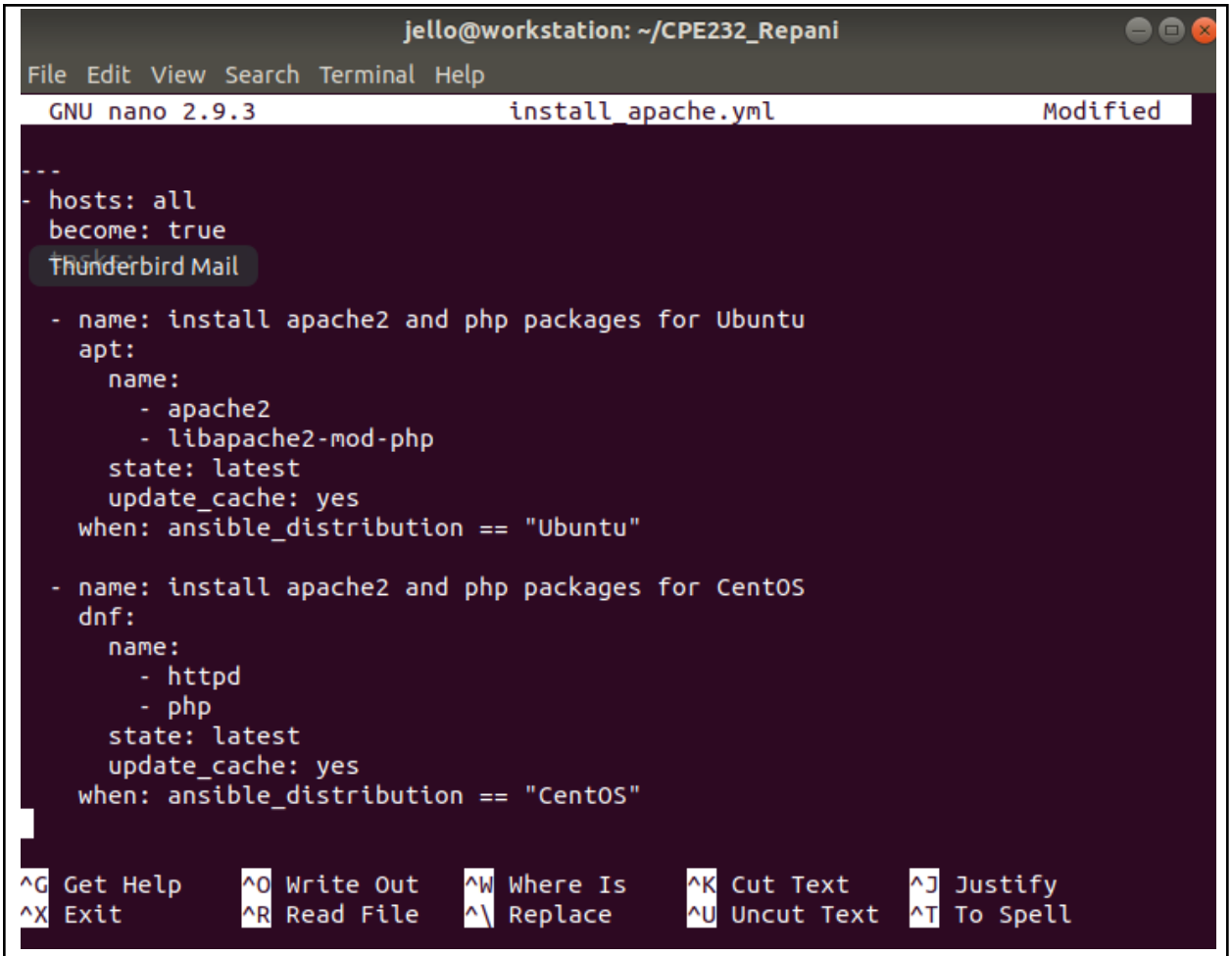
```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_Repani$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_a
pache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *********************************************************************
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *********************************************************
*
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

TASK [update repository index] *************************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
changed: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [install apache2 package] *************************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [update repository index] *************************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
```

```
TASK [install apache2 package] *************************************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

PLAY RECAP *********************************************************************
*
192.168.56.102             : ok=3    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=2    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.104             : ok=3    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=2    rescued=0    ignored=0

jello@workstation:~/CPE232_Repani$
```

2. Edit the playbook *install_apache.yml* again. In task 2.1, we consolidated the plays into one play. This time we can actually consolidated everything in just 2 plays. This can be done by removing the update repository play and putting the command *update_cache: yes* below the command *state: latest*. See below for reference:

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

   - name: install apache2 and php packages for Ubuntu
     apt:
      name:
        - apache2
        - libapache2-mod-php
      state: latest
      update_cache: yes
     when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

   - name: install apache and php packages for CentOS
     dnf:
       name:
         - httpd
         - php
       state: latest
       update_cache: yes
     when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.



Run *ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml* and describe the result.

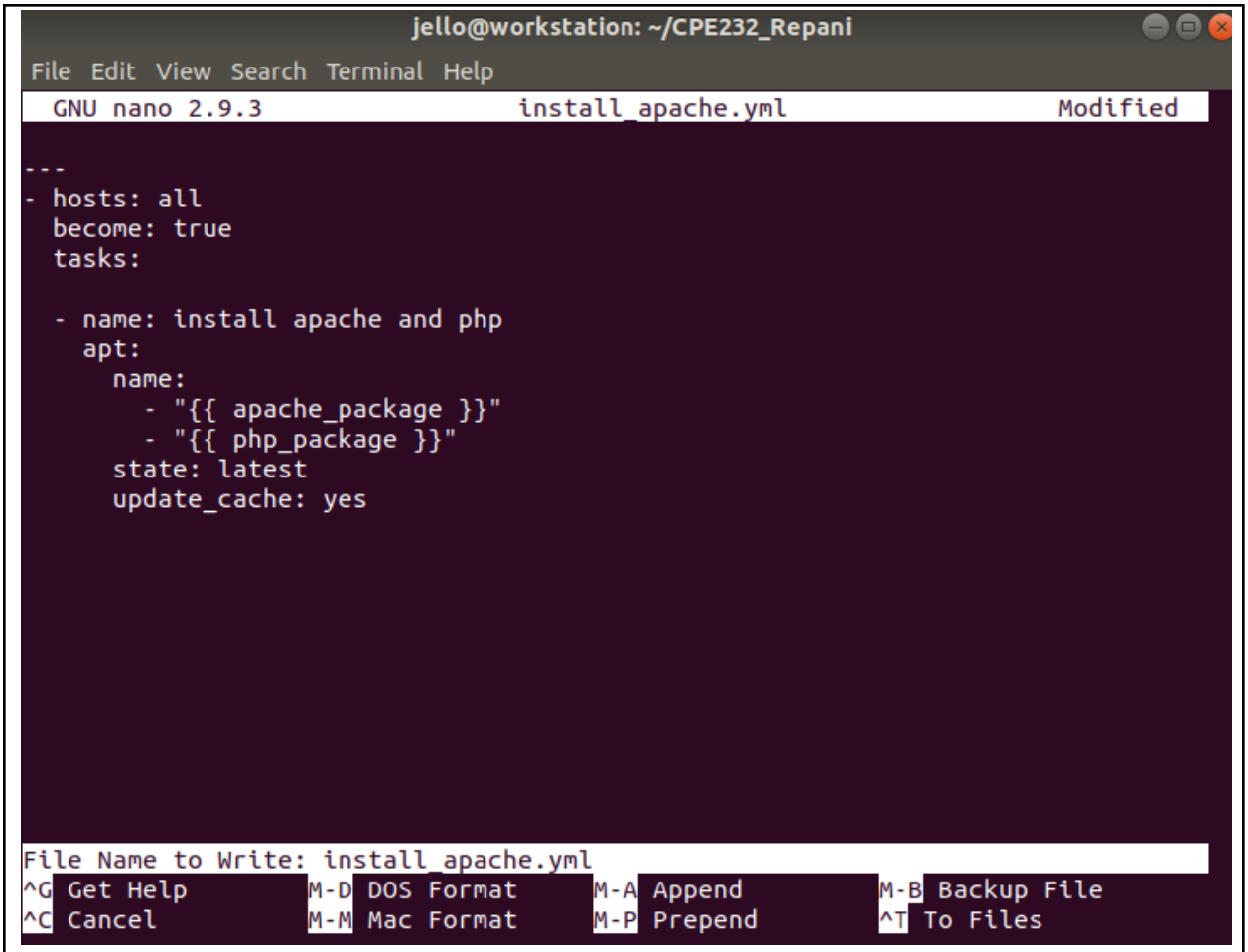
- The same thing happened, but the ok and changed commands are now only 2 and 1

```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_Repani$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_a
pache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *********************************************************************
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *********************************************************
*
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

TASK [install apache2 and php packages for Ubuntu] *****************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [install apache2 and php packages for CentOS] *****************************
*
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
```

```
PLAY RECAP *********************************************************************
*
192.168.56.102             : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=1    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.104             : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=1    rescued=0    ignored=0
```

3. Finally, we can consolidate these 2 plays in just 1 play. This can be done by declaring variables that will represent the packages that we want to install. Basically, the apache_package and php_package are variables. The names are arbitrary, which means we can choose different names. We also take out the line when: ansible_distribution. Edit the playbook *install_apache.yml* again and make sure to follow the below image. Make sure to save the file and exit.

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

  - name: install apache and php
    apt:
      name:
        - "{{ apache_package }}"
        - "{{ php_package }}"
      state: latest
      update_cache: yes
```



Run *ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml* and describe the result.

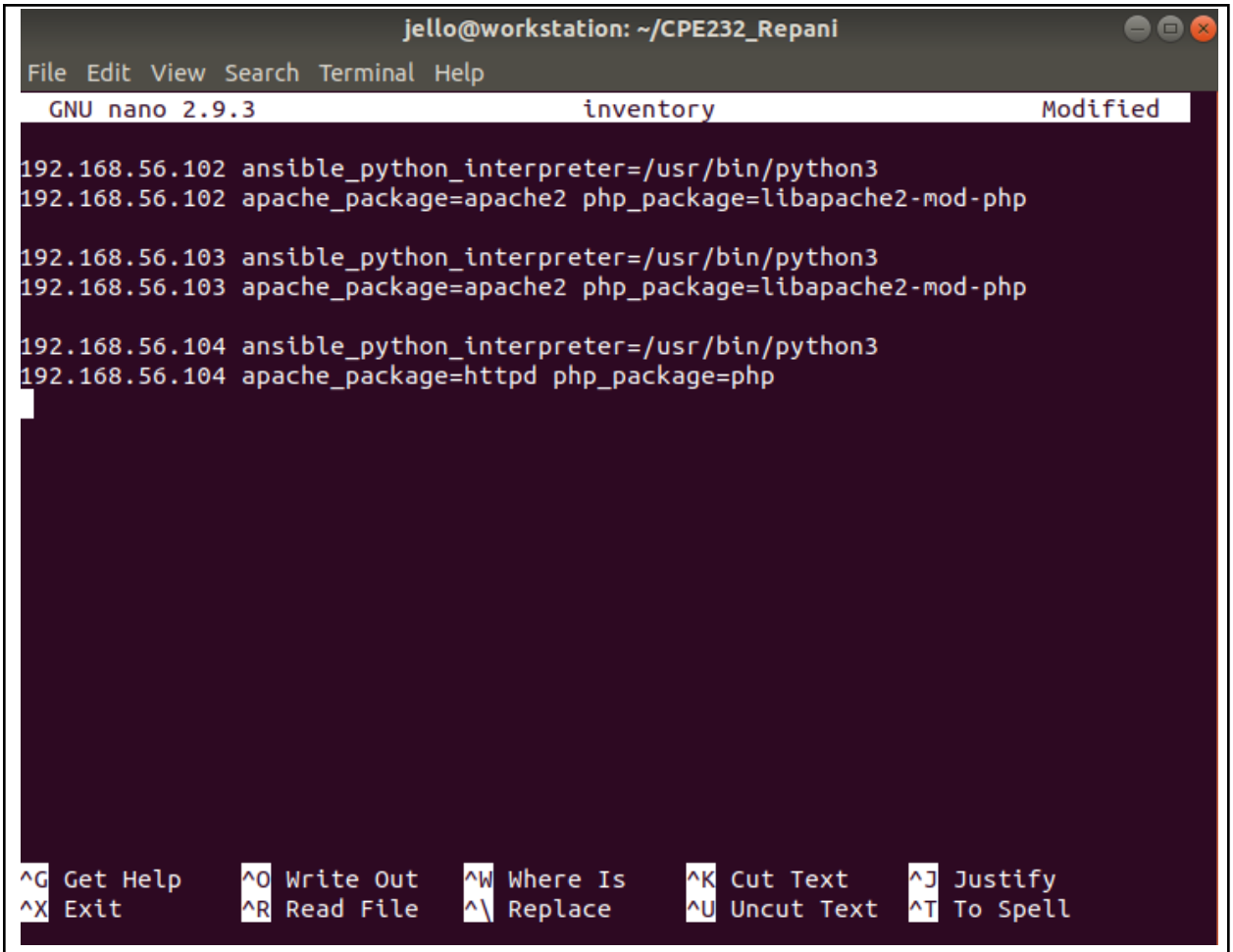
- The result page have become significantly shorter compared to the previous parts, but there is 1 error on the CentOS server because the apt command is not supported in CentOS.

```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_Repani$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_a
pache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *********************************************************************
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *********************************************************
*
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

TASK [install apache and php] **************************************************
*
[WARNING]: Updating cache and auto-installing missing dependency: python3-apt
fatal: [192.168.56.104]: FAILED! => {"changed": false, "cmd": "apt-get update",
 "msg": "[Errno 2] No such file or directory: b'apt-get': b'apt-get'", "rc": 2,
 "stderr": "", "stderr_lines": [], "stdout": "", "stdout_lines": []}
ok: [192.168.56.102]

PLAY RECAP *********************************************************************
*
192.168.56.102             : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.104             : ok=1    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=1
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
```

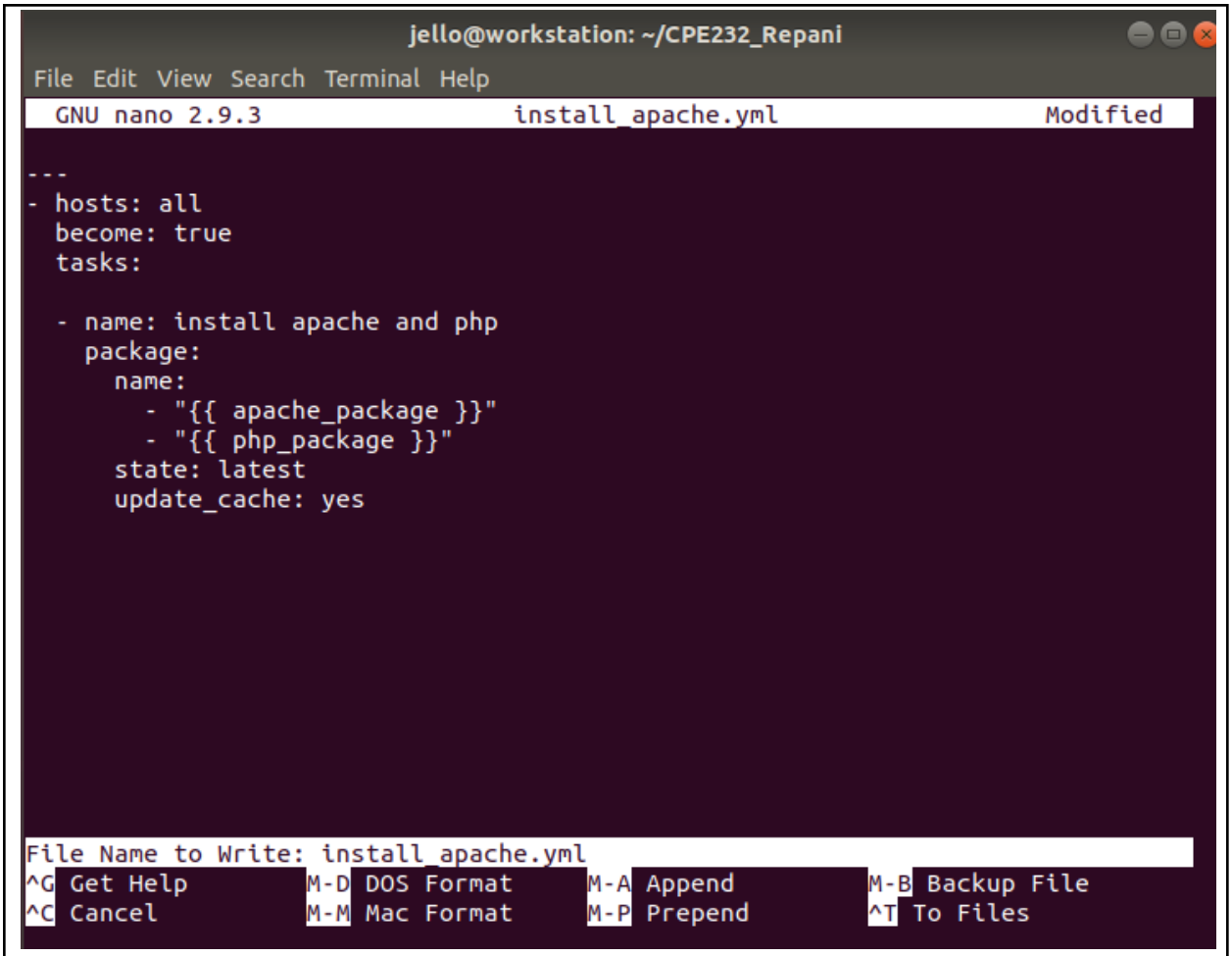
4. Unfortunately, task 2.3 was not successful. It's because we need to change something in the inventory file so that the variables we declared will be in place. Edit the *inventory* file and follow the below configuration:

```
192.168.56.120 apache_package=apache2 php_package=libapache2-mod-php
192.168.56.121 apache_package=apache2 php_package=libapache2-mod-php
192.168.56.122 apache_package=httpd php_package=php
```

   Make sure to save the *inventory* file and exit.



Finally, we still have one more thing to change in our *install_apache.yml* file. In task 2.3, you may notice that the package is assign as apt, which will not run in CentOS. Replace the *apt* with *package*. Package is a module in ansible that is generic, which is going to use whatever package manager the underlying host or the target server uses. For Ubuntu it will automatically use *apt*, and for CentOS it will automatically use *dnf*. Make sure to save the file and exit. For more details about the ansible package, you may refer to this documentation: ansible.builtin.package – Generic OS package manager — Ansible Documentation



Run *ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml* and describe the result.

- The same with the previously ran command, but this time there were no errors and all are a success with 2 ok status for each part.

```
jello@workstation:~/CPE232_Repani$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_a
pache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *********************************************************************
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *********************************************************
*
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

TASK [install apache and php] **************************************************
*
ok: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]

PLAY RECAP *********************************************************************
*
192.168.56.102             : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.104             : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
```

Supplementary Activity: **(Hindi na gagawin - Sabi ni Sir)**

1. Create a playbook that could do the previous tasks in Red Hat OS.

Reflections:

Answer the following:

1. Why do you think refactoring of playbook codes is important?
   - Using refactoring in playbooks is important because it makes the code less cluttered and easy to read, manage, and maintain. This also helps us run commands more efficiently because there are less lines overall whenever a command is ran.

2. When do we use the “when” command in playbook?
   - The when command is used if we would like to add specific conditions in which the command will only run if the condition is met. This allows us to avoid errors when working with multiple servers or even select only a specific group when running a command.

Conclusion

In this hands-on activity #5, the task is about creating and running a playbook when each of the servers connected have a different OS installed. Specifically, I have learned about the usage of the when case in the yml playbook file which allows the users to set a specific condition in order to run a command, additionally refraction is

also performed which is the process of making the commands more compact by adding the different functions and syntaxes together under a single command.
Honor Pledge
“I affirm that I have not given or received any unauthorized help on this assignment, and that this work is my own.”