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### 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?

```
Magboo@LocalMachine:~/CPE232$ git pull
Already up to date.
```

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."

```
Magboo@LocalMachine:~/CPE232$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] ****
TASK [Gathering Facts] ****
fatal: [192.168.56.102]: UNREACHABLE! => {"changed": false, "msg": "Failed to connect to the host via ssh: no such identity: /home/Magboo/.ssh/ansible: No such file or directory\r\nMagboo@192.168.56.102: Permission denied (publickey,password).", "unreachable": true}
fatal: [192.168.56.105]: UNREACHABLE! => {"changed": false, "msg": "Failed to connect to the host via ssh: no such identity: /home/Magboo/.ssh/ansible: No such file or directory\r\nMagboo@192.168.56.105: Permission denied (publickey,gssapi-keyex,gssapi-with-mic,password).", "unreachable": true}
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

TASK [update repository index] ****
changed: [192.168.56.104]
changed: [192.168.56.103]

TASK [install apache2 package] ****
ok: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.103]

TASK [add PHP support for apache] ****
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

PLAY RECAP ****
192.168.56.102 : ok=0    changed=0    unreachable=1    failed=0    s
```

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"
```

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Magboo@LocalMachine: ~/CPE232

GNU nano 7.2 install\_apache.yml

```
- 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.

```

file or directory\r\nMagboo@192.168.56.111: Permission denied (publickey,password).", "unreachable": true}
ok: [192.168.56.110]
ok: [192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.109]

TASK [update repository index] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.105]
changed: [192.168.56.110]
changed: [192.168.56.109]

TASK [install apache2 package] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.109]
ok: [192.168.56.110]

TASK [add PHP support for apache] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.109]
changed: [192.168.56.110]

PLAY RECAP ****
192.168.56.105      : ok=1    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    s
skipped=3  rescued=0  ignored=0
192.168.56.109      : ok=4    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    s
skipped=0  rescued=0  ignored=0
192.168.56.110      : ok=4    changed=2    unreachable=0    failed=0    s
skipped=0  rescued=0  ignored=0
192.168.56.111      : ok=0    changed=0    unreachable=1    failed=0    s
skipped=0  rescued=0  ignored=0

Magboo@LocalMachine:~/CPE212_Magboo$
```

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
        state: 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"
```



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GNU nano 7.2

i

```
- 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"

- 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.

```
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[skipping: [192.168.56.105]
[changed: [192.168.56.104]
[changed: [192.168.56.103]

[ASK [install apache2 package]] ****
[skipping: [192.168.56.105]
[ok: [192.168.56.103]
[ok: [192.168.56.104]

[ASK [add PHP support for apache]] ****
[skipping: [192.168.56.105]
[ok: [192.168.56.104]
[ok: [192.168.56.103]

[ASK [update repository index]] ****
[skipping: [192.168.56.103]
[skipping: [192.168.56.104]
[ok: [192.168.56.105]

[ASK [install apache2 package]] ****
[skipping: [192.168.56.103]
[skipping: [192.168.56.104]
[changed: [192.168.56.105]

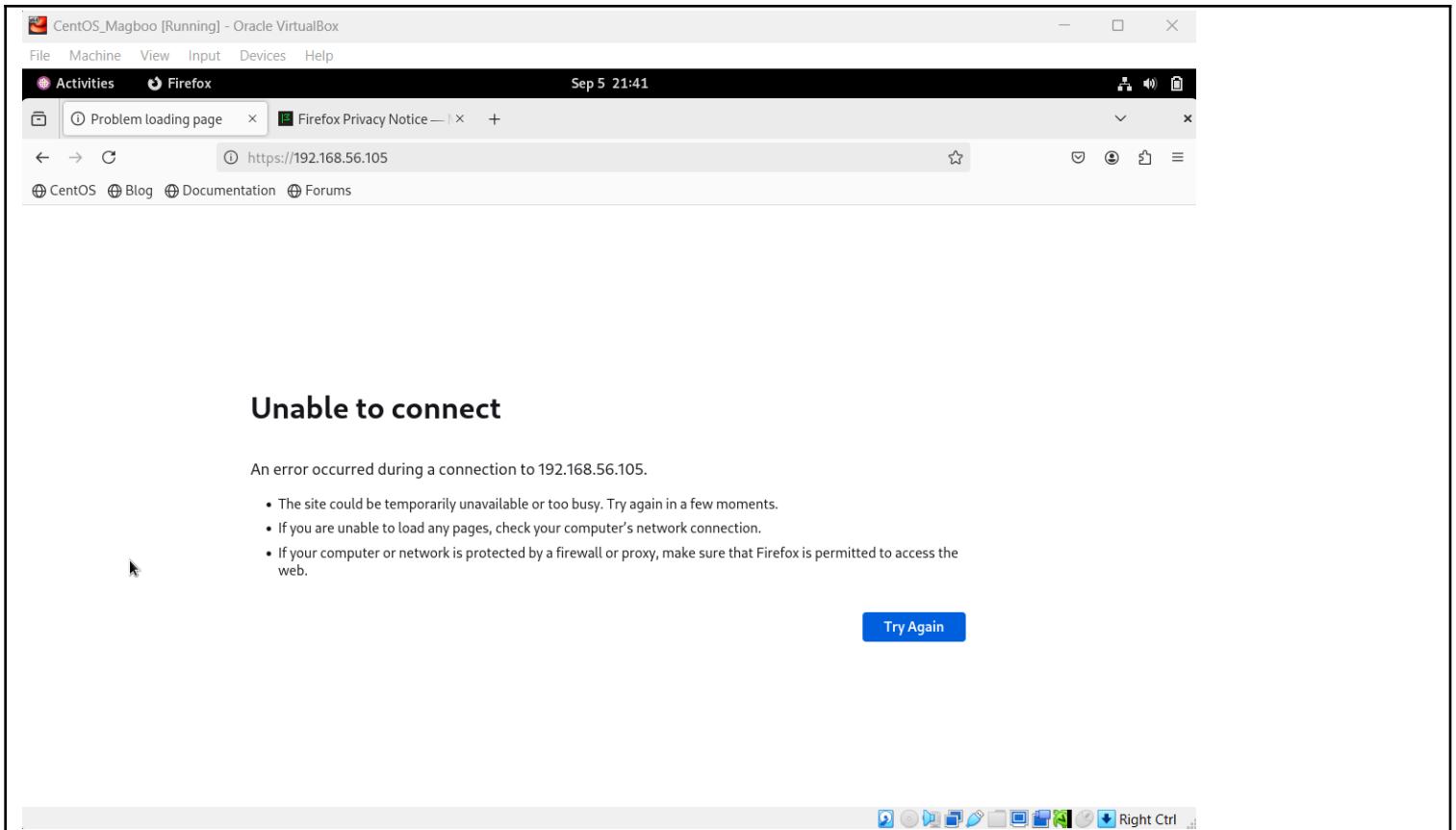
[ASK [add PHP support for apache]] ****
[skipping: [192.168.56.103]
[skipping: [192.168.56.104]
[changed: [192.168.56.105]

PLAY RECAP ****
92.168.56.102 : ok=0    changed=0    unreachable=1    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
92.168.56.103 : ok=4    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=3    rescued=0    ignored=0
92.168.56.104 : ok=4    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=3    rescued=0    ignored=0
92.168.56.105 : ok=4    changed=2    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=3    rescued=0    ignored=0

magboo@LocalMachine:~/CPE232$
```

it skipped the unspecified distribution only the specified passed through the process

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.

```
[magboo@vbox ~]$ systemctl status httpd
● httpd.service - The Apache HTTP Server
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/httpd.service; disabled; preset: disabled)
   Active: inactive (dead)
     Docs: man:httpd.service(8)
lines 1-6/6 (END)
```

5.2 Issue the following command to start the service:

***sudo systemctl start httpd***

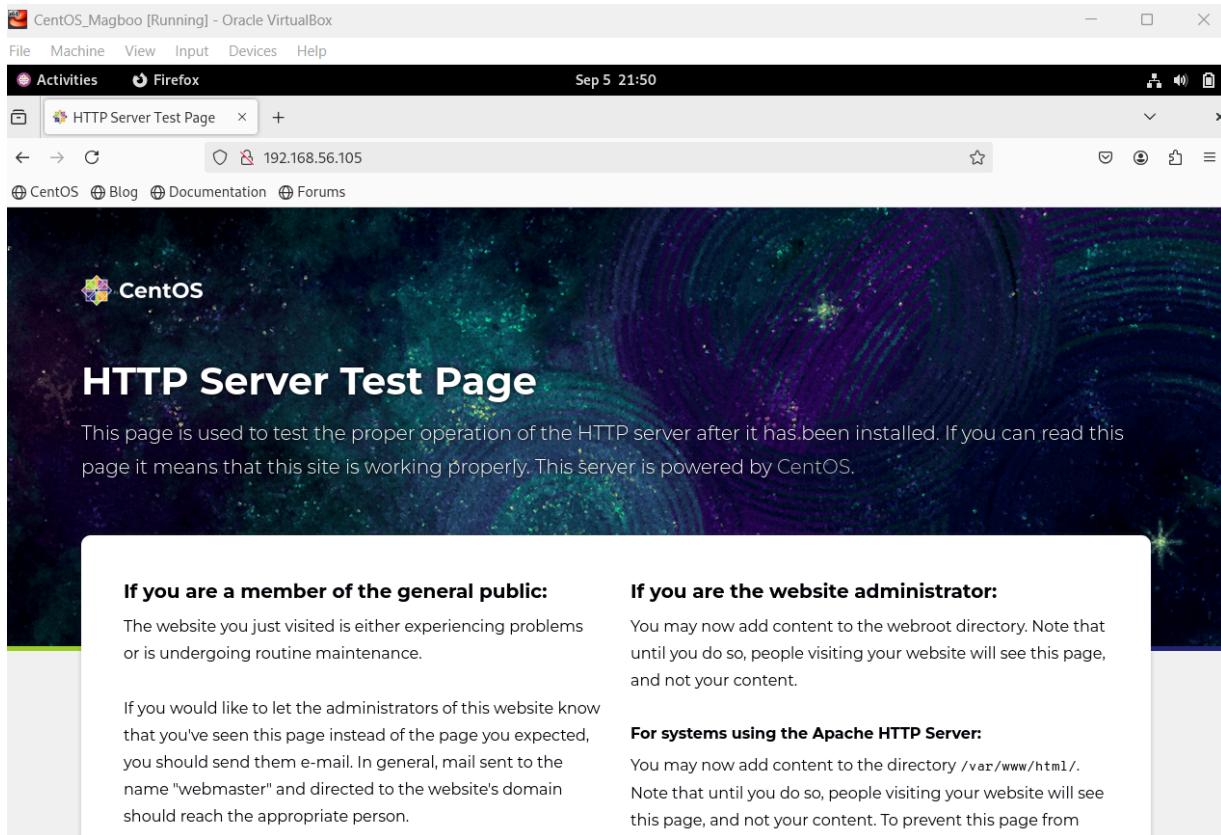
(When prompted, enter the sudo password)

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

(The result should be a success)

```
[magboo@vbox ~]$ sudo systemctl start httpd
[sudo] password for magboo:
[magboo@vbox ~]$ sudo firewall-cmd --add-port=80/tcp
success
[magboo@vbox ~]$
```

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.

GNU nano 7.2

install\_apache.yml

```
--  
hosts: all  
become: true  
tasks:  
  
- name: update repository index CentOS  
  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 apache2 and php packages for CentOS  
  dnf:  
    name:  
      - httpd  
      - php  
    state: latest  
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

Run *ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install\_apache.yml* and describe the result.

```
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TASK [Gathering Facts] ****
fatal: [192.168.56.102]: UNREACHABLE! => {"changed": false, "msg": "Failed to connect to the host via ssh: no such identity: /home/Magboo/.ssh/ansible: No such file or directory\r\nMagboo@192.168.56.102: Permission denied (publickey,password).", "unreachable": true}
ok: [192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.103]

TASK [update repository index CentOS] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.105]
changed: [192.168.56.104]
changed: [192.168.56.103]

TASK [install apache2 and php packages for Ubuntu] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

TASK [update repository index for CentOS] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.105]

TASK [install apache2 and php packages for CentOS] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.105]

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

it works the same but the playbook became shorter because it joined 2 actions

2. Edit the playbook `install_apache.yml` again. In task 2.1, we consolidated the plays into one play. This time we can actually consolidate 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"
```



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GNU nano 7.2

install\_apache.y

--

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

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

    - name: install apache2 and php packages for CentOS
      dnf:
        name: [REDACTED]
        - 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.

```

Magboo@LocalMachine:~/CPE232$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] ****
TASK [Gathering Facts] ****
fatal: [192.168.56.102]: UNREACHABLE! => {"changed": false, "msg": "Failed to connect to the host via ssh: no such identity: /home/Magboo/.ssh/ansible: No such file or directory\r\nMagboo@192.168.56.102: Permission denied (publickey,password).", "unreachable": true}
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.105]

TASK [install apache2 and php packages for Ubuntu] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.105]

TASK [install apache2 and php packages for CentOS] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
skipping: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.105]

PLAY RECAP ****
192.168.56.102 : ok=0    changed=0    unreachable=1    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.103 : 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
192.168.56.105 : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=1    rescued=0    ignored=0

```

the commands are compressed but it still proceed

- 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

```

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```
GNU nano 7.2
---
- 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.

```

Magboo@LocalMachine:~/CPE232$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] ****
TASK [Gathering Facts] ****
fatal: [192.168.56.102]: UNREACHABLE! => {"changed": false, "msg": "Failed to connect to the host via ssh: no such identity: /home/Magboo/.ssh/ansible: No such file or directory|r\nMagboo@192.168.56.102: Permission denied (publickey,password).", "unreachable": true}
ok: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.103]

TASK [install apache and php] ****
fatal: [192.168.56.103]: FAILED! => {"msg": "The task includes an option with an undefined variable. The error was: 'apache_package' is undefined. 'apache_package' is undefined\n\nThe error appears to be in '/home/Magboo/CPE232/install_apache.yml': line 6, column 5, but may\nbe elsewhere in the file depending on the exact syntax problem.\n\nThe offending line appears to be:\n\n - name: install apache and php\n      ^ here\n"}
fatal: [192.168.56.104]: FAILED! => {"msg": "The task includes an option with an undefined variable. The error was: 'apache_package' is undefined. 'apache_package' is undefined\n\nThe error appears to be in '/home/Magboo/CPE232/install_apache.yml': line 6, column 5, but may\nbe elsewhere in the file depending on the exact syntax problem.\n\nThe offending line appears to be:\n\n - name: install apache and php\n      ^ here\n"}
fatal: [192.168.56.105]: FAILED! => {"msg": "The task includes an option with an undefined variable. The error was: 'apache_package' is undefined. 'apache_package' is undefined\n\nThe error appears to be in '/home/Magboo/CPE232/install_apache.yml': line 6, column 5, but may\nbe elsewhere in the file depending on the exact syntax problem.\n\nThe offending line appears to be:\n\n - name: install apache and php\n      ^ here\n"}

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

```

## it failed on all the play

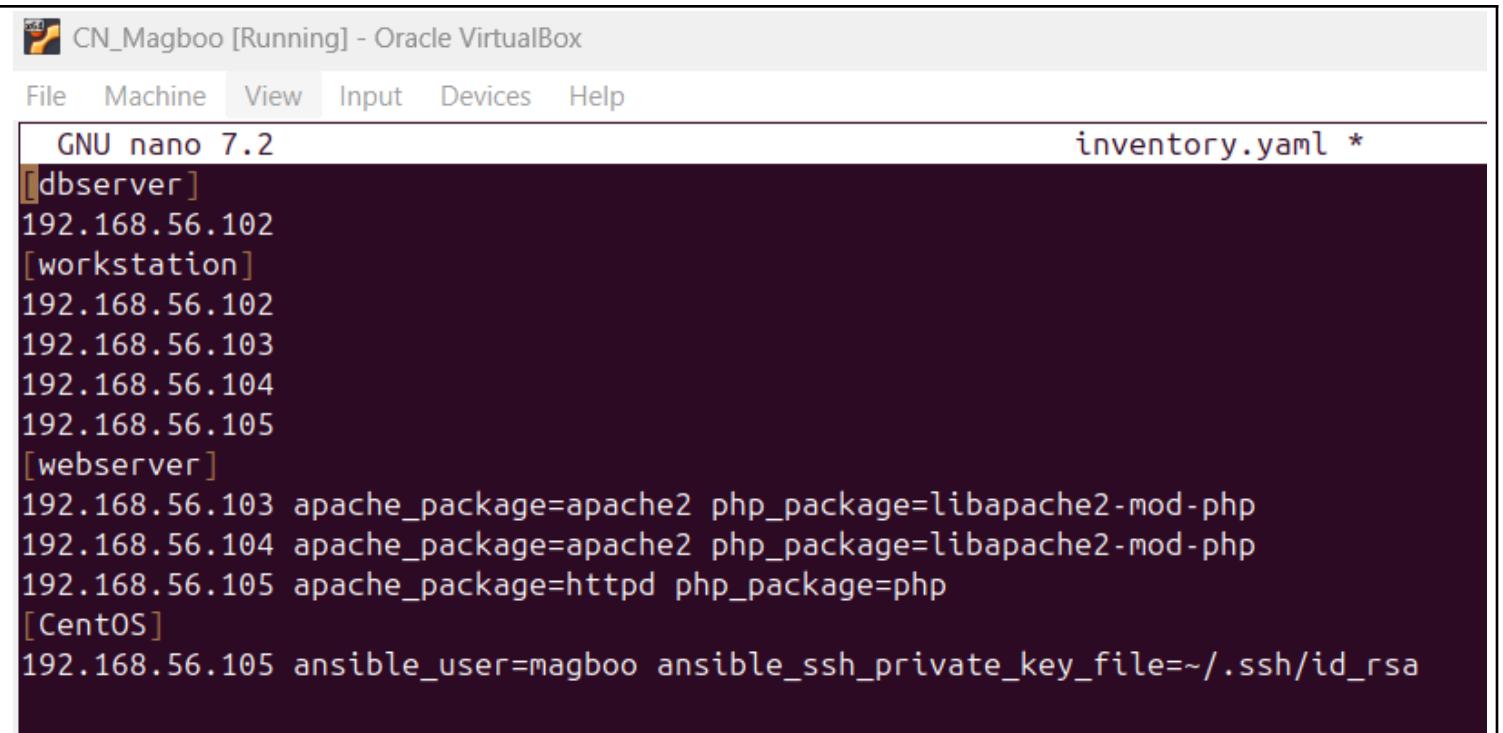
- Unfortunately, task 2.3 was not successful. It's because we need to change something in the inventory file so that the variables we declared will be in place. Edit the *inventory* file and follow the below configuration:

```

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.



```
GNU nano 7.2                                         inventory.yaml *
[dbserver]
192.168.56.102
[workstation]
192.168.56.102
192.168.56.103
192.168.56.104
192.168.56.105
[webserver]
192.168.56.103 apache_package=apache2 php_package=libapache2-mod-php
192.168.56.104 apache_package=apache2 php_package=libapache2-mod-php
192.168.56.105 apache_package=httpd php_package/php
[CentOS]
192.168.56.105 ansible_user=magboo ansible_ssh_private_key_file=~/ssh/id_rsa
```

**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](#)

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GNU nano 7.2

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

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

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

```
Magboo@LocalMachine:~/CPE232$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] ****
TASK [Gathering Facts] ****
fatal: [192.168.56.102]: UNREACHABLE! => {"changed": false, "msg": "Failed to connect to the host via ssh: no such identity: /home/Magboo/.ssh/ansible: No such file or directory\r\nMagboo@192.168.56.102: Permission denied (publickey,password).", "unreachable": true}
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

TASK [install apache and php] ****
ok: [192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]

PLAY RECAP ****
192.168.56.102      : ok=0    changed=0    unreachable=1    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.103      : 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
192.168.56.105      : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
```

**in one play it accommodated 2 installation and update from 2 different packages or 2 different distributions**

**Supplementary Activity:**

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

```
Magboo@LocalMachine:~/CPE232$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass activity5sup.yaml
BECOME password:

PLAY [Install Apache and PHP on CentOS] ****
TASK [Gathering Facts] ****
ok: [192.168.56.105]

TASK [Install Apache and PHP packages] ****
ok: [192.168.56.105]

TASK [Start and enable Apache] ****
ok: [192.168.56.105]

TASK [Open HTTP port in firewall] ****
ok: [192.168.56.105]

PLAY RECAP ****
192.168.56.105 : ok=4    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
```

CN\_Magboo [Running] - Oracle VirtualBox

File Machine View Input Devices Help

GNU nano 7.2 activity5sup.yaml

```
---
```

```
- name: Install Apache and PHP on CentOS
hosts: CentOS
become: yes
tasks:
  - name: Install Apache and PHP packages
    package:
      name:
        - httpd
        - php
      state: latest

  - name: Start and enable Apache
    service:
      name: "{{ apache_package }}"
      state: started
      enabled: true

  - name: Open HTTP port in firewall
    firewalld:
      port: 80/tcp
      permanent: yes
      state: enabled
      immediate: yes
```

**Reflections:**

Answer the following:

1. Why do you think refactoring of playbook codes is important?

**it makes the code short and clean and doubles as it makes the playbook faster**

2. When do we use the “when” command in playbook?

**it is used to run task only if the task is true**