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Course/Section: CPE31S2	Date Submitted: October 8, 2022
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**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
  dnf:
    name:
      - httpd
       - php
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

```
GNU nano 6.2
                                      site.yml *
- hosts: all
 become: true
 - 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"
                               [ Read 22 lines ]
  Help
                 Write Out
                                 Where Is
                                                Cut
                                                                Execute
                 Read File
                                              ^U Paste
  Exit
                              ^\ Replace
                                                                Justify
```

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
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

```
GNU nano 6.2

[web_servers]

192.168.56.122 ansible_user=aud
192.168.56.128 ansible_user=auds

[db_server]

192.168.56.121 ansible_user=aud

[file_servers]

192.168.56.130 ansible_user=aud
```

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)
 dnf:
    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"
```

```
GNU nano 6.2
                                       site.yml *
- 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:
               ^O Write Out
                              ^W Where Is
                                              ^K Cut
                                                                Execute
  Help
                              ^\ Replace
                                                Paste
                 Read File
                                                                Justify
  Exit
 GNU nano 6.2
                                       site.yml *
 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"
                                              ^K Cut
  Help
               ^O Write Out
                               ^W Where Is
                                                              ^T Execute
                                              ^U Paste
  Exit
               ^R Read File
                               ^\ Replace
                                                                Justify
```

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.

```
aud@rey:~/ansible$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
ok: [192.168.56.121]
ok: [192.168.56.122]
skipping: [192.168.56.122]
skipping: [192.168.56.121]
ok: [192.168.56.122]
ok: [192.168.56.121]
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] *******************************
skipping: [192.168.56.128]
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] *******************************
changed=0
                          unreachable=0
                                   failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0
             ignored=0
                   changed=0
                          unreachable=0
                                   failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0
             ignored=0
                                   failed=0
                   changed=0
                          unreachable=0
skipped=2 rescued=0
             ignored=0
aud@rey:~/ansible$
```

Run the site.yml file and describe the result.

- After running the file, the PLAY segment appears right away when the code is encoded properly. However, the TASK segment takes awhile to appear especially if it involves updating and installing.

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"
```

```
GNU nano 6.2
                                    site.yml
hosts: all
become: true
pre_tasks:
name: install updates (CentOS)
  dnf:
    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
```

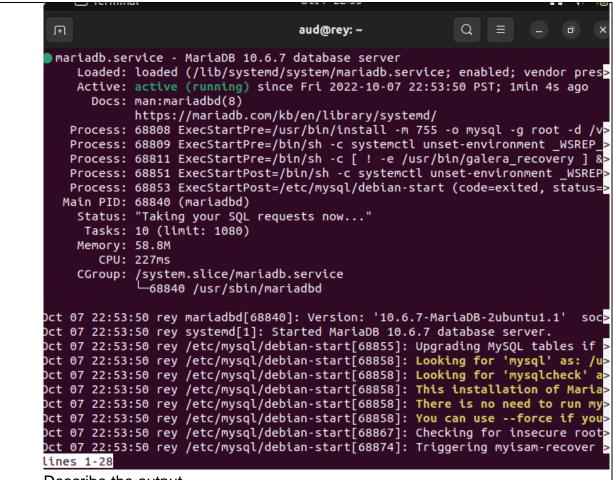
```
GNU nano 6.2
                                       site.yml
  - name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
    apt:
      name:
        - apache2
        - libapache2-mod-php
      state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
  - name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
    dnf:
      name:
        - httpd
        - php
      state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
  hosts: db_servers
  become: true
  tasks:

    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)

  GNU nano 6.2
                                      site.yml
  hosts: db servers
  become: true
 name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
   yum:
     name: maria-dbserver
     state: latest
   when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
  - name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
    service:
     name: mariadb
     state: restarted
     enabled: true
  - name: install mariadb package (Ubuntu)
    apt:
     name: mariadb-server
      state: latest
    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
Run the site.yml file and describe the result.
```

```
aud@rey:~/ansible$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
ok: [192.168.56.128]
ok: [192.168.56.122]
ok: [192.168.56.121]
Trash g: [192.168.56.122]
ok: [192.168.56.122]
ok: [192.168.56.122]
skipping: [192.168.56.122]
changed=0 unreachable=0
                        failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0 ignored=0
                 unreachable=0
                        failed=0
skipped=2 rescued=0 ignored=0
             changed=0
                  unreachable=0
                        failed=0
skipped=2 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.

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: 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
 - 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"
 hosts: db_servers
 become: true

    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
```

```
    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)

   yum:
     name: maria-dbserver
      state: latest
   when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
  - name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
   service:
     name: mariadb
     state: restarted
     enabled: true
  - name: install mariadb package (Ubuntu)
   apt:
     name: mariadb-server
      state: latest
   when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
 hosts: file_servers
  become: true
- hosts: file_servers
  become: true
  - name: install samba
    package:
      name: samba
      state: latest
Run the site.yml file and describe the result.
```

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
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.
Run the *site.yml* file and describe the result.

```
aud@rey:~/ansible$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
ok: [192.168.56.122]
ok: [192.168.56.121]
skipping: [192.168.56.122]
skipping: [192.168.56.121]
ok: [192.168.56.122]
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] *************************
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ************************
```

```
skipping: [192.168.56.122]
changed=0
              unreachable=0
                   failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0
       ignored=0
           changed=1 unreachable=0
                   failed=0
   rescued=0
       ignored=0
                    failed=0
           changed=0
               unreachable=0
skipped=2 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

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

```
aud@rey:~/ansible$ ansible-playbook --tags centos --ask-become-pass site.y
BECOME password:
ok: [192.168.56.122]
skipping: [192.168.56.121]
skipping: [192.168.56.128]
ok: [192.168.56.121]
skipping: [192.168.56.122]
ok: [192.168.56.121]
```

```
changed=0
                             unreachable=0
                                      failed=
  skipped=1 rescued=0
                ignored=0
                      changed=0
                             unreachable=0
                                      failed=
  skipped=2
        rescued=0
                ignored=0
                      changed=0
                             unreachable=0
                                      failed=
  skipped=1 rescued=0
                ignored=0
  aud@rey:~/ansible$
2.3 ansible-playbook --tags db --ask-become-pass site.yml
  aud@rey:~/ansible$ ansible-playbook --tags db --ask-become-pass site.yml
  BECOME password:
  ok: [192.168.56.121]
  skipping: [192.168.56.122]
  skippina: [192.168.56.121]
  TASK [install updates (CentOS)] *****************************
  skipping: [192.168.56.122]
  skipping: [192.168.56.121]
  TASK [install updates (Ubuntu)] *****************************
  ok: [192.168.56.121]
```

```
skipping: [192.168.56.122]
 unreachable=0
                      failed=0
            changed=0
 skipped=1 rescued=0
         ignored=0
            changed=0
                unreachable=0
                      failed=0
         ignored=0
 skipped=2
    rescued=0
 192.168.56.128
            changed=0
                unreachable=0
                      failed=0
 skipped=1 rescued=0
         ignored=0
 aud@rey:~/ansible$
2.4 ansible-playbook --tags apache --ask-become-pass site.yml
```

```
aud@rey:~/ansible$ ansible-playbook --tags apache --ask-become-pass site.yr
BECOME password:
skipping: [192.168.56.121]
ok: [192.168.56.128]
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] *******************************
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ********************************
[192.168.56.121]
```

```
unreachable=0
                    changed=0
                                    failed=0
  skipped=1 rescued=0
               ignored=0
                    changed=0
                           unreachable=0
                                    failed=0
  skipped=1 rescued=0
               ignored=0
                    changed=0
                           unreachable=0
                                    failed=0
  skipped=2
        rescued=0
               ignored=0
  aud@rey:~/ansible$
2.5 ansible-playbook --tags "apache,db" --ask-become-pass site.yml
  aud@rey:~/ansible$ ansible-playbook --tags "apache.db" --ask-become-pass si
  BECOME password:
  ok: [192.168.56.121]
  ok: [192.168.56.122]
  skipping: [192.168.56.121]
  skipping: [192.168.56.128]
```

```
ok: [192.168.56.128]
ok: [192.168.56.121]
changed=0
               unreachable=0
                    failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0 ignored=0
           changed=0
               unreachable=0
                    failed=0
   rescued=0 ignored=0
           changed=0
               unreachable=0
                    failed=0
   rescued=0 ianored=0
```

**Task 3: Managing Services** 

Figure 3.1.1

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

```
- name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
   tags: apache,centos,httpd
   dnf:
     name:

    httpd

       - php
     state: latest
   when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
 - name: start httpd (CentOS)
   tags: apache, centos,httpd
   service:
     name: httpd
     state: started
   when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
hosts: db servers
 become: true
 tasks:

    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
```

```
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] ************************
skipping: [192.168.56.128]
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ************************
TASK [start httpd (CentOS)] *********************************
skipping: [192.168.56.122]
TASK [Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling] *******************************
TASK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)] **********************************
ok: [192.168.56.121]
TASK [install samba package] ********************************
ok: [192.168.56.121]
changed=0 unreachable=0
                                   failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0 ignored=0
                   changed=1 unreachable=0
                                   failed=0
             ignored=0
skipped=2
      rescued=0
                         unreachable=0
                                   failed=0
```

You would also notice from our previous activity that we already created a module that runs a service.

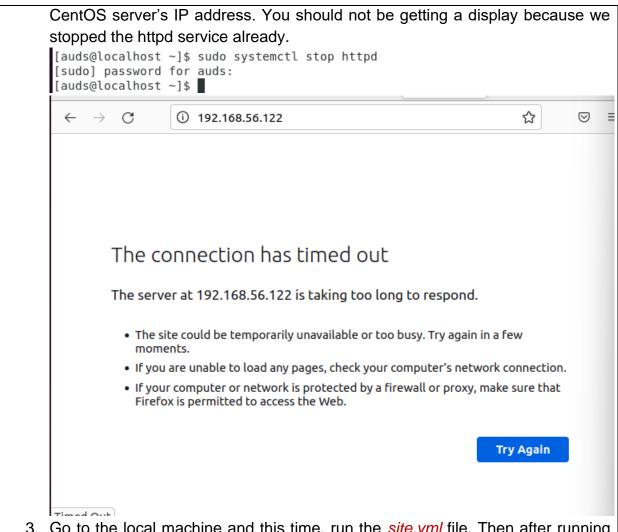
```
    hosts: db_servers
become: true
tasks:
    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
tags: centos, db,mariadb
dnf:
        name: mariadb-server
        state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
    name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
service:
        name: mariadb
        state: restarted
enabled: true
```

Figure 3.1.2

```
TASK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)] **************************
changed=0
                 unreachable=0
                       failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0 ignored=0
                 unreachable=0
                       failed=0
skipped=2 rescued=0 ignored=0
             changed=0
                 unreachable=0
                       failed=0
        ianored=0
```

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 *sudo systemctl stop httpd*. When prompted, enter the sudo password. After that, open the browser and enter the



3. Go to the local machine and this time, run the *site.yml* file. Then after running the file, go again to the CentOS server and enter its IP address on the browser. Describe the result.

```
aud@rey:~/ansible$ ansible-playbook --tags "httpd" --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
ok: [192.168.56.128]
skipping: [192.168.56.128]
ok: [192.168.56.122]
ok: [192.168.56.121]
ok: [192.168.56.128]
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ************************
ok: [192.168.56.122]
```

```
changed=0
                                                unreachable=0
                                                                failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0
                        ignored=0
                                   changed=0
                                                unreachable=0
                                                                failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0
                        ignored=0
                                   changed=0
                                               unreachable=0
                                                                failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0
                        ignored=0
aud@rey:~/ansible$
```

To automatically enable the service every time we run the playbook, use the command *enabled: true* similar to Figure 7.1.2 and save the playbook.

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

#### Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 1. What is the importance of putting our remote servers into groups? It arranges how the duties given to various servers are distributed. This approach allows us to control a task that each of the servers is capable of carrying out. In this task, I noticed that in the part there are three groups in the inventory file that each indicate a separate server function. It exists a server for a database, webpage, and file transfer. The hosts variable calls for the groups inside of the site.yml file. Only the specified server(s) in the group are used to execute the tasks that are issued at this point. This means that when we categorize the servers, we are doing it based on how they operate and how they compare to their neighbors' servers.
- 2. What is the importance of tags in playbooks? As long as the tags are specific to the target job, a playbook can specify and execute a particular task in a server whether it is in another group or not. We assigned many tags to each task in task 2. These tags are comparable to tags used in other tasks. All of the tasks with the tags supplied in the command will be executed when we run the "ansible-playbook -tags "tag name" site.yml" command. By separating multiple tags with a comma and placing them inside quote marks, Ansible supports executing multiple tags.
- 3. Why do think some services need to be managed automatically in playbooks? I do consider that some services require automatic administration. For that reason, some services must be started when the computer is updated or upgraded, or

because the computer did not already have that package. Additionally, this will guarantee that the service has been effectively launched. As seen in the activity's final section, we attempted to stop the service httpd and restart it using the Ansible playbook with a set job to start the CentOS httpd server. In order to have the service start automatically when the playbook is executed, we also include "enable: true" in the task.

## **HONOR PLEDGE:**

"I affirm that I will not give or receive unauthorized help on this activity and that all will be my own."