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<b>Activity 4: Running Elevated Ad hoc Commands</b>	
<b>1. Objectives:</b> 1.1 Use commands that makes changes to remote machines 1.2 Use playbook in automating ansible commands	
<b>2. Discussion:</b>  <b>Elevated Ad hoc commands</b> So far, we have not performed ansible commands that makes changes to the remote servers. We manage to gather facts and connect to the remote machines, but we still did not make changes on those machines. In this activity, we will learn to use commands that would install, update, and upgrade packages in the remote machines. We will also create a playbook that will be used for automations.  <b>Playbooks</b> record and execute <b>Ansible's</b> configuration, deployment, and orchestration functions. They can describe a policy you want your remote systems to enforce, or a set of steps in a general IT process. If Ansible modules are the tools in your workshop, playbooks are your instruction manuals, and your inventory of hosts are your raw material. At a basic level, playbooks can be used to manage configurations of and deployments to remote machines. At a more advanced level, they can sequence multi-tier rollouts involving rolling updates, and can delegate actions to other hosts, interacting with monitoring servers and load balancers along the way. You can check this documentation if you want to learn more about playbooks. <a href="#">Working with playbooks — Ansible Documentation</a>	
<b>Task 1: Run elevated ad hoc commands</b>  1. Locally, we use the command <b>sudo apt update</b> when we want to download package information from all configured resources. The sources often defined in <b>/etc/apt/sources.list</b> file and other files located in <b>/etc/apt/sources.list.d/</b> directory. So, when you run update command, it downloads the package information from the Internet. It is useful to get info on an updated version of packages or their dependencies. We can only run an apt update command in a remote machine. Issue the following command:	

*ansible all -m apt -a update\_cache=true*

What is the result of the command? Is it successful? **No**

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ ansible all -m apt -a update_cache=true
192.168.56.103 | FAILED! => {
  "changed": false,
  "msg": "Failed to lock apt for exclusive operation: Failed to lock directory /var/lib/apt/lists/: E:Could not open lock file /var/lib/apt/lists/lock - open (13: Permission denied)"
}
192.168.56.102 | FAILED! => {
  "changed": false,
  "msg": "Failed to lock apt for exclusive operation: Failed to lock directory /var/lib/apt/lists/: E:Could not open lock file /var/lib/apt/lists/lock - open (13: Permission denied)"
}
```

Try editing the command and add something that would elevate the privilege. Issue the command *ansible all -m apt -a update\_cache=true --become --ask-become-pass*. Enter the sudo password when prompted.

You will notice now that the output of this command is a success. The *update\_cache=true* is the same thing as running *sudo apt update*. The *--become* command elevate the privileges and the *--ask-become-pass* asks for the password. For now, even if we only have changed the packaged index, we were able to change something on the remote server.

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ ansible all -m apt -a update_cache=true --become --ask-become-pass
BECOME password:
192.168.56.103 | CHANGED => {
  "cache_update_time": 1694429089,
  "cache_updated": true,
  "changed": true
}
192.168.56.102 | CHANGED => {
  "cache_update_time": 1694429089,
  "cache_updated": true,
  "changed": true
}
```

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

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

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ ansible all -m apt -a name=vim-nox --become --ask-become-pass
BECOME password:
192.168.56.103 | CHANGED => {
  "cache_update_time": 1694429089,
  "cache_updated": false,
  "changed": true,
  "stderr": "",
  "stderr_lines": [],
  "stdout": "Reading package lists...\nBuilding dependency tree...\nReading state information...\nThe following package was automatically installed and is no longer required:\n  libllvm7\nUse 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove it.\nThe following additional packages will be installed:\n  fonts-lato javascript-common libjs-jquery liblua5.2-0 libruby2.5 libtcl8.6\n  rake ruby ruby-did-you-mean ruby-minitest ruby-net-telnet ruby-power-assert\n  ruby-test-unit ruby2.5 rubygems-integration vim-runtime\nSuggested packages:\n  apache2 | lighttpd | httpd tcl8.6 ri ruby-dev bundler cscope vim-doc\nThe following NEW packages will be installed:\n  fonts-lato javascript-common libjs-jquery liblua5.2-0 libruby2.5 libtcl8.6\n  rake ruby ruby-did-you-mean ruby-minitest ruby-net-telnet ruby-power-assert\n  ruby-test-unit ruby2.5 rubygems-integration vim-nox vim-runtime\n0 upgraded, 17 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.\nNeed to get 13.8 MB of archives.\nAfter this operation, 64.5 MB of additional disk space will be used.\nGet:1 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/main amd64 fonts-lato all 2.0-2 [2698 kB]\nGet:2 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/main amd64 javascript-common all 11 [6066 B]\nGet:3 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/main amd64 libjs-jquery all 3.2.1-1 [152 kB]\nGet:4 http://ph.archive.ubu
```

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

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ which vim
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ apt search vim-nox
Sorting... Done
Full Text Search... Done
vim-nox/bionic-updates,bionic-security 2:8.0.1453-1ubuntu1.13 amd64
  Vi IMproved - enhanced vi editor - with scripting languages support

vim-tiny/bionic-updates,bionic-security,now 2:8.0.1453-1ubuntu1.13 amd64 [installed]
  Vi IMproved - enhanced vi editor - compact version
```

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

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ cd /var/log
janssenvalencia@Workstation:/var/log$ ls
alternatives.log      cups                  kern.log              ubuntu-advantage.log
alternatives.log.1    dist-upgrade         kern.log.1            ubuntu-advantage.log.1
apt                   dpkg.log             kern.log.2.gz         ufw.log
auth.log              dpkg.log.1           kern.log.3.gz         ufw.log.1
auth.log.1            faillog              lastlog               ufw.log.2.gz
auth.log.2.gz         fontconfig.log       speech-dispatcher     ufw.log.3.gz
auth.log.3.gz         gdm3                 syslog                unattended-upgrades
boot.log              gpu-manager.log      syslog.1              wtmp
bootstrap.log         hp                   syslog.2.gz           wtmp.1
btmtp                 installer            syslog.3.gz
btmtp.1               journal              tallylog
janssenvalencia@Workstation:/var/log$ cd apt
janssenvalencia@Workstation:/var/log/apt$ ls
eipp.log.xz history.log history.log.1.gz term.log term.log.1.gz
janssenvalencia@Workstation:/var/log/apt$ nano history.log
janssenvalencia@Workstation:/var/log/apt$ cat history.log

Start-Date: 2023-09-11 17:03:41
Commandline: apt install python3-pip
Requested-By: janssenvalencia (1000)
Install: libgcc-7-dev:amd64 (7.5.0-3ubuntu1~18.04, automatic), libmpx2:amd64 (8
.4.0-1ubuntu1~18.04, automatic), python3-dev:amd64 (3.6.7-1~18.04, automatic),
python3-distutils:amd64 (3.6.9-1~18.04, automatic), linux-libc-dev:amd64 (4.15.
0-213.224, automatic), libfakeroot:amd64 (1.22-2ubuntu1, automatic), libc6-dev:
amd64 (2.27-3ubuntu1.6, automatic), libpython3.6-dev:amd64 (3.6.9-1~18.04ubuntu
```

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation: /var/log/apt
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
GNU nano 2.9.3 history.log

Start-Date: 2023-09-11 17:03:41
Commandline: apt install python3-pip
Requested-By: janssenvalencia (1000)
Install: libgcc-7-dev:amd64 (7.5.0-3ubuntu1~18.04, automatic), libmpx2:amd64 ($)
End-Date: 2023-09-11 17:03:58

Start-Date: 2023-09-11 17:09:06
Commandline: apt install ansible
Requested-By: janssenvalencia (1000)
Install: python-six:amd64 (1.11.0-2, automatic), python-xmltodict:amd64 (0.11.$
End-Date: 2023-09-11 17:09:19

Start-Date: 2023-09-11 17:19:00
Commandline: apt install git
Requested-By: janssenvalencia (1000)
Install: git-man:amd64 (1:2.17.1-1ubuntu0.18, automatic), git:amd64 (1:2.17.1-$
End-Date: 2023-09-11 17:19:03
```

3. This time, we will install a package called snapd. Snap is pre-installed in Ubuntu system. However, our goal is to create a command that checks for the latest installation package.

3.1 Issue the command: *ansible all -m apt -a name=snapd --become --ask-become-pass*

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ ansible all -m apt -a name=snapd --become --ask-become-pass
BECOME password:
192.168.56.103 | SUCCESS => {
  "cache_update_time": 1694429089,
  "cache_updated": false,
  "changed": false
}
192.168.56.102 | SUCCESS => {
  "cache_update_time": 1694429089,
  "cache_updated": false,
  "changed": false
}
```

Can you describe the result of this command? Is it a success? Did it change anything in the remote servers? **Yes, the cache has been updated on both servers**

3.2 Now, try to issue this command: *ansible all -m apt -a "name=snapd state=latest" --become --ask-become-pass*

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ ansible all -m apt -a "name=snapd state=latest" --become --ask-become-pass
BECOME password:
192.168.56.103 | SUCCESS => {
  "cache_update_time": 1694429089,
  "cache_updated": false,
  "changed": false
}
192.168.56.102 | SUCCESS => {
  "cache_update_time": 1694429089,
  "cache_updated": false,
  "changed": false
}
```

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

4. At this point, make sure to commit all changes to GitHub.

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ git status
On branch main
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'.
```

## Task 2: Writing our First Playbook

1. With ad hoc commands, we can simplify the administration of remote servers. For example, we can install updates, packages, and applications, etc. However, the real strength of ansible comes from its playbooks. When we write a playbook, we can define the state that we want our servers to be in and the place or commands that ansible will carry out to bring to that state. You can use an editor to create a playbook. Before we proceed, make sure that you are in the directory of the repository that we use in the previous activities (*CPE232\_yourname*). Issue the command *nano install\_apache.yml*. This will create a playbook file called *install\_apache.yml*. The .yml is the basic standard extension for playbook files.

When the editor appears, type the following:

```
GNU nano 4.8                                install_apache.yml
--
- hosts: all
  become: true
  tasks:

  - name: install apache2 package
    apt:
      name: apache2
```

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

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation: ~/CPE232_VALENCIA
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
GNU nano 2.9.3                                install_apache.yml
--
- hosts: all
  become: True
  tasks:

  - name: install apache2 package
    apt:
      name: apache2
```

2. Run the yml file using the command: *ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install\_apache.yml*. Describe the result of this command.

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

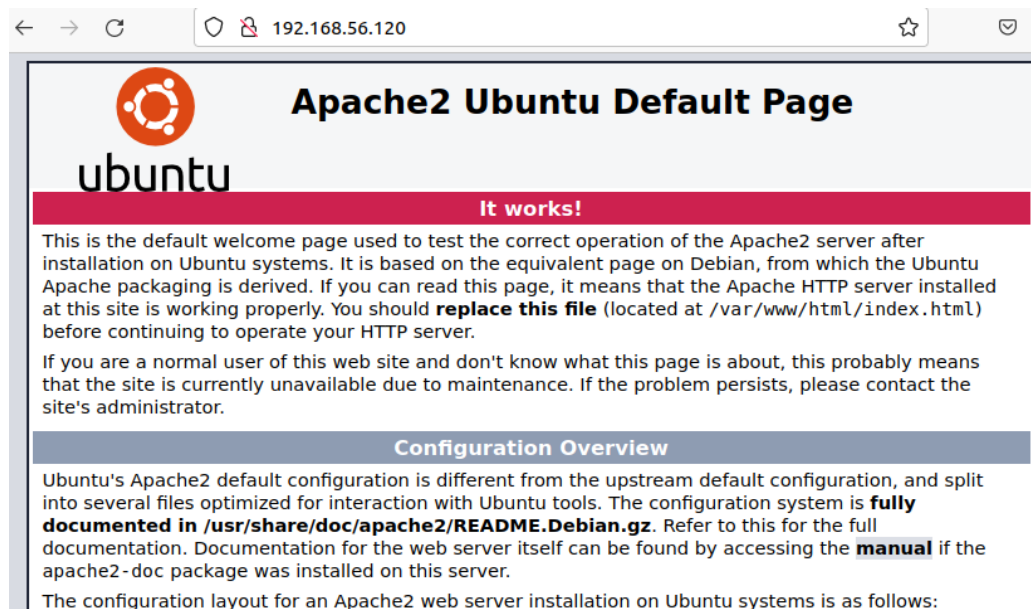
PLAY [all] *****
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
*
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.103]

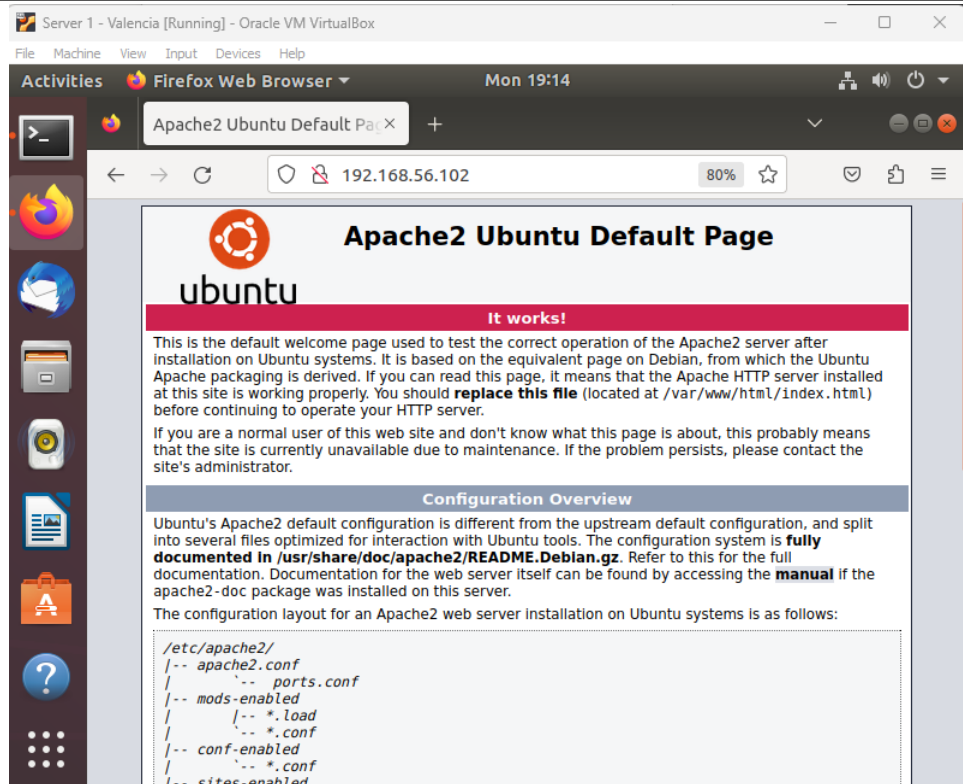
TASK [install apache2 package] *****
*
changed: [192.168.56.102]
changed: [192.168.56.103]

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

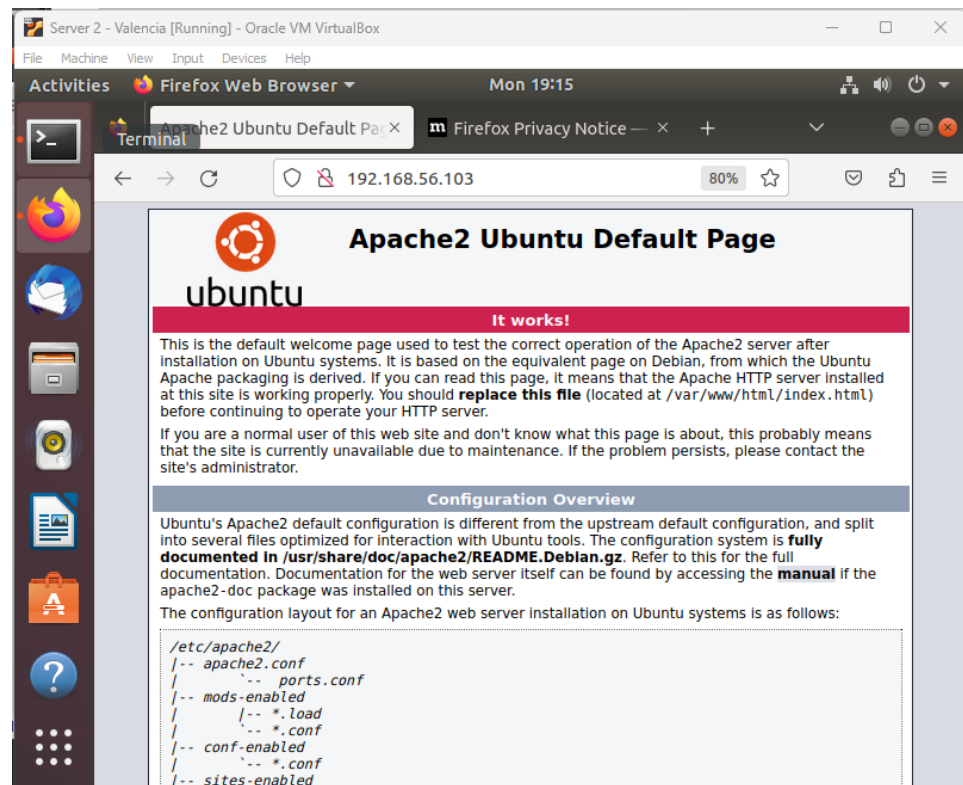
3. To verify that apache2 was installed automatically in the remote servers, go to the web browsers on each server and type its IP address. You should see something like this.







SERVER 1



SERVER 2



4. Try to edit the *install\_apache.yml* and change the name of the package to any name that will not be recognized. What is the output? **The same as the original command.**

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation: ~/CPE232_VALENCIA
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
GNU nano 2.9.3 install_apache.yml

---
- hosts: all
  become: True
  tasks:

    - name: install apache420 package
      apt:
        name: apache2
```

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *****
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
*
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.103]

TASK [install apache420 package] *****
*
ok: [192.168.56.103]
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
192.168.56.103      : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
```

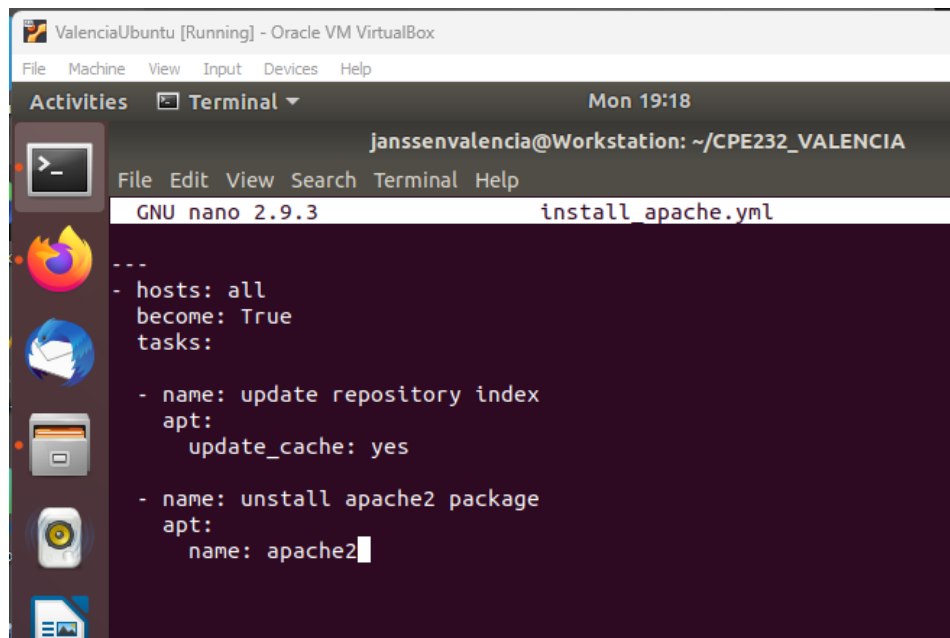
5. This time, we are going to put additional task to our playbook. Edit the *install\_apache.yml*. As you can see, we are now adding an additional command, which is the *update\_cache*. This command updates existing package-indexes on a supporting distro but not upgrading installed-packages (utilities)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

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

    - name: update repository index
      apt:
        update_cache: yes

    - name: install apache2 package
      apt:
        name: apache2
```

Save the changes to this file and exit.



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "ValenciaUbuntu [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox". The terminal is running the nano text editor, editing a file named "install\_apache.yml". The editor's status bar at the top indicates "GNU nano 2.9.3" and the file path is "~/CPE232\_VALENCIA". The content of the file is a YAML playbook with two tasks: "update repository index" and "install apache2 package". The second task has been modified to include "update\_cache: yes". The terminal window has a menu bar with "File", "Edit", "View", "Search", "Terminal", and "Help". The left sidebar of the terminal shows various application icons like Firefox, LibreOffice, and a file manager.

```
ValenciaUbuntu [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
Activities Terminal Mon 19:18
janssenvalencia@Workstation: ~/CPE232_VALENCIA
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
GNU nano 2.9.3 install_apache.yml
---
- hosts: all
  become: True
  tasks:

    - name: update repository index
      apt:
        update_cache: yes

    - name: unsta11 apache2 package
      apt:
        name: apache2
```

6. Run the playbook and describe the output. Did the new command change anything on the remote servers? Yes, Update repository index was changed, showing a total of 1 changes on each of the two servers.

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation: ~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *****
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
*
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [update repository index] *****
*
changed: [192.168.56.102]
changed: [192.168.56.103]

TASK [uninstall apache2 package] *****
*
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.103]

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

7. Edit again the *install\_apache.yml*. This time, we are going to add a PHP support for the apache package we installed earlier.

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

    - name: update repository index
      apt:
        update_cache: yes

    - name: install apache2 package
      apt:
        name: apache2

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

Save the changes to this file and exit.

janssenvalencia@Workstation: ~/CPE232\_VALENCIA

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

GNU nano 2.9.3

install\_apache.yml

```
---
- hosts: all
  become: True
  tasks:
    - name: update repository index
      apt:
        update_cache: yes
    - name: uninstall apache2 package
      apt:
        name: apache2
    - name: add PHP support for apache
      apt:
        name: libapache2-mod-php
```

8. Run the playbook and describe the output. Did the new command change anything on the remote servers? Yes, update repository index is changed along with the added PHP support for apache, showing a total of 2 changes on each of the two servers.

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:
```

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

```
TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
*
```

```
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
```

```
TASK [update repository index] *****
*
```

```
changed: [192.168.56.102]
changed: [192.168.56.103]
```

```
TASK [uninstall apache2 package] *****
*
```

```
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
```

```
TASK [add PHP support for apache] *****
*
```

```
changed: [192.168.56.103]
changed: [192.168.56.102]
```

```
PLAY RECAP *****
*
```

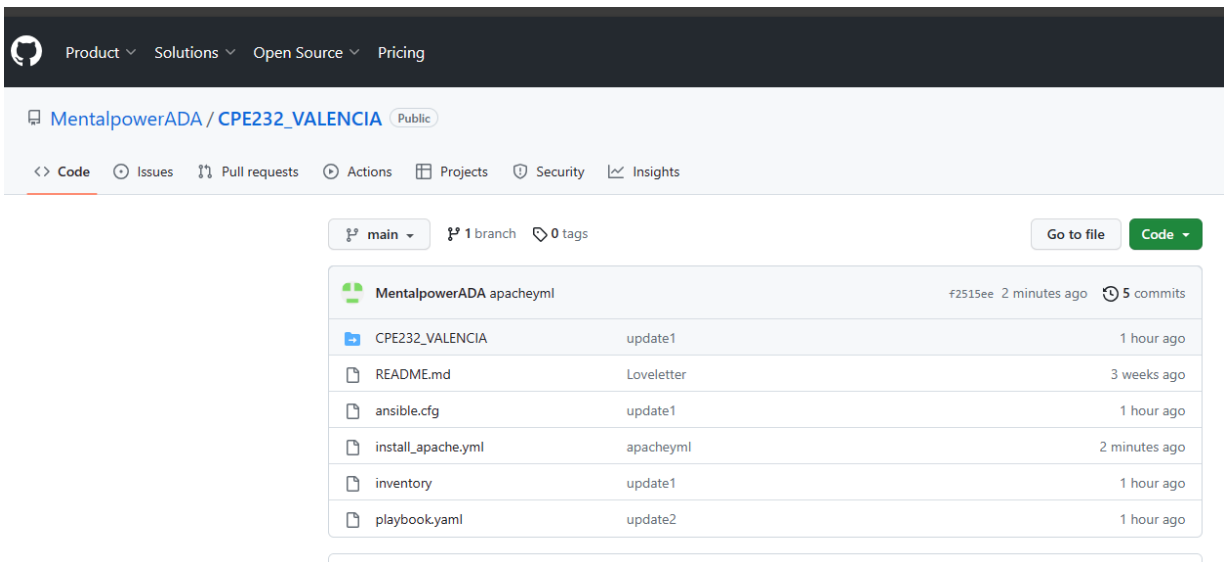
192.168.56.102	: ok=4	changed=2	unreachable=0	failed=0
skipped=0	rescued=0	ignored=0		
192.168.56.103	: ok=4	changed=2	unreachable=0	failed=0
skipped=0	rescued=0	ignored=0		

9. Finally, make sure that we are in sync with GitHub. Provide the link of your GitHub repository.

```
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ git commit -m "apache.yml"
[main f2515ee] apache.yml
1 file changed, 16 insertions(+)
create mode 100644 install_apache.yml
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ git add install_apache.yml
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ git push origin
Username for 'https://github.com': janssenvalencia
Password for 'https://janssenvalencia@github.com':
Counting objects: 3, done.
Delta compression using up to 2 threads.
Compressing objects: 100% (3/3), done.
Writing objects: 100% (3/3), 421 bytes | 421.00 KiB/s, done.
Total 3 (delta 1), reused 0 (delta 0)
remote: Resolving deltas: 100% (1/1), completed with 1 local object.
To https://github.com/MentalpowerADA/CPE232_VALENCIA.git
11b2570..f2515ee main -> main
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$ git status
On branch main
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'.

nothing to commit, working tree clean
janssenvalencia@Workstation:~/CPE232_VALENCIA$
```

[https://github.com/MentalpowerADA/CPE232\\_VALENCIA.git](https://github.com/MentalpowerADA/CPE232_VALENCIA.git)



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main 1 branch 0 tags

Go to file Code

MentalpowerADA apache.yml	f2515ee 2 minutes ago	5 commits
CPE232_VALENCIA	update1	1 hour ago
README.md	Loveletter	3 weeks ago
ansible.cfg	update1	1 hour ago
install_apache.yml	apache.yml	2 minutes ago
inventory	update1	1 hour ago
playbook.yaml	update2	1 hour ago

**Reflections:**

Answer the following:

**1. What is the importance of using a playbook?**

- During the last semester we were tasked to automate numerous task using scripts. The main difference between bash scripts to playbook is that playbooks improves consistency and reduces errors making it easier to troubleshoot different problems encountered thus also making it collaboration-friendly since it makes delegating task easier with the implementation of git.

**2. Summarize what we have done on this activity.**

- Prior to doing this hands-on activity during the lecture we were linking our GitHub repositories to our local virtual machines using SSH and token keys, were installing Python3 and Ansible to the workstation, Prior to this also we were tasked to establish an SSH connection in between machines. On starting the hands-on activity itself we ran ad hoc commands such as updating and upgrading the repositories on our local machines remotely using SSH and Ansible. We were also making changes and viewing the status of our remote machines using Ansible. On writing our first playbook we created and modified our very first playbook, conducting experiments such as making changes to the script and seeing the results it gives. we automated the installation of Apache2 on both of the remote servers mainly SERVER1 and SERVER2 using automated playbooks. all of the performed activities are synced and linked to the GitHub repository.

**Conclusion:**

- All in all this hands-on activity has taught me how to work with ansible and GitHub repositories. I was able to implement commands that make changes to remote servers mainly the two virtual machines Server1 and Server2. I was able to implement and create my very first playbook that automates Ansible commands to the remote servers. These new skills and knowledge that I have learned in this hands-on activity will surely be fundamental in the upcoming activities and will be used by me somewhere in the future as an aspiring system administrator.