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Activity 7: Managing Files and Creating Roles in Ansible

1. Objectives:

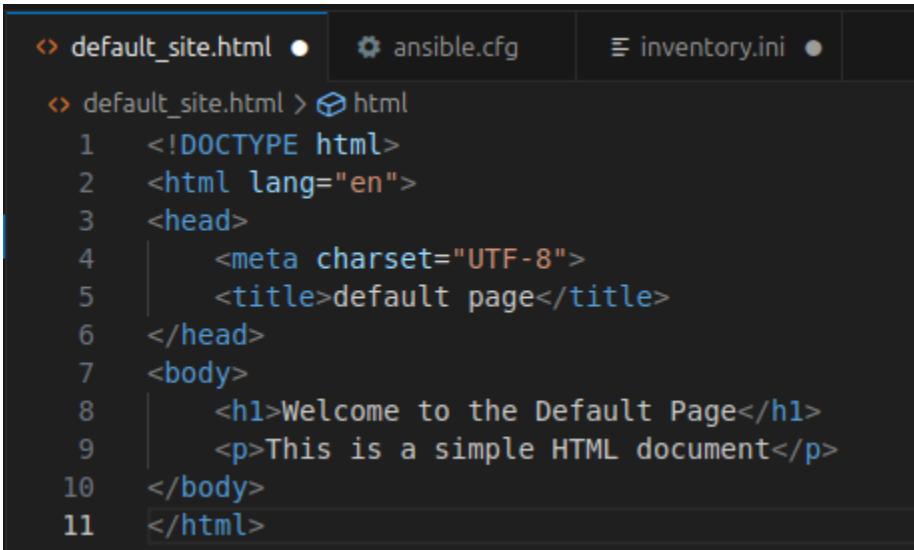
- 1.1 Manage files in remote servers
- 1.2 Implement roles in ansible

2. Discussion:

In this activity, we look at the concept of copying a file to a server. We are going to create a file into our git repository and use Ansible to grab that file and put it into a particular place so that we could do things like customize a default website, or maybe install a default configuration file. We will also implement roles to consolidate plays.

Task 1: Create a file and copy it to remote servers

1. Using the previous directory we created, create a directory, and named it “**files**.” Create a file inside that directory and name it “**default_site.html**.” Edit the file and put basic HTML syntax. Any content will do, as long as it will display text later. Save the file and exit.



```

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <title>default page</title>
</head>
<body>
    <h1>Welcome to the Default Page</h1>
    <p>This is a simple HTML document</p>
</body>
</html>

```

2. Edit the **site.yml** file and just below the **web_servers** play, create a new file to copy the default html file for site:
 - name: copy default html file for site
 - tags: apache, apache2, httpd
 - copy:

```

src: default_site.html
dest: /var/www/html/index.html
owner: root
group: root
mode: 0644

- hosts: web_servers
  become: true
  tasks:

    - name: copy default html file for site
      tags: apache,apache2,httpd
      copy:
        src: default_site.html
        dest: /var/www/html/index.html
        owner: root
        group: root
        mode: 0644

```

3. Run the playbook *site.yml*. Describe the changes.

- It copies my default html to index.html

```

chloe@Workstation:~/HOA7_Santos$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
TASK [copy default html file for site] ****
changed: [192.168.56.102]
changed: [192.168.56.103]

TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] ****
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.103]

TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [192.168.56.103]

TASK [start httpd service on CentOS] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [192.168.56.103]

PLAY [db_servers] ****
TASK [Gathering Facts] ****
ok: [192.168.56.101]

TASK [install mariadb package (CentOS)] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.101]

TASK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)] ****
ok: [192.168.56.101]

TASK [start MariaDB service on CentOS] ****
skipping: [192.168.56.101]

TASK [start MariaDB service on Ubuntu] ****
changed: [192.168.56.101]

```

```

chloe@Workstation:~/HOA7_Santos$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml

TASK [start MariaDB service on CentOS] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.101]

TASK [start MariaDB service on Ubuntu] *****
changed: [192.168.56.101]

PLAY [file_servers] *****
TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.56.105]

TASK [install samba package] *****
ok: [192.168.56.105]

PLAY RECAP *****
192.168.56.101 : ok=8    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=3    rescued=0
ignored=0
192.168.56.102 : ok=5    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=3    rescued=0
ignored=0
192.168.56.103 : ok=5    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=3    rescued=0
ignored=0
192.168.56.105 : ok=4    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=1    rescued=0
ignored=0

```

4. Go to the remote servers (*web_servers*) listed in your inventory. Use cat command to check if the index.html is the same as the local repository file (*default_site.html*). Do both for Ubuntu and CentOS servers. On the CentOS server, go to the browser and type its IP address. Describe the output.

```

chloe@Workstation:~/HOA7_Santos$ ssh chloe@192.168.56.102

0 updates can be applied immediately.

Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status

Last login: Wed Oct 15 06:08:26 2025 from 192.168.56.101
chloe@Server1:~$ cat /var/www/html/index.html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <title>default page</title>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Welcome to the Default Page</h1>
  <p>This is a simple HTML document</p>
</body>
</html>

```

```
chloe@Workstation:~/HOA7_Santos$ ssh chloe@192.168.56.103
0 updates can be applied immediately.

Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status

Last login: Wed Oct 15 06:08:26 2025 from 192.168.56.101
chloe@Server2:~$ cat /var/www/html/index.html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <title>default page</title>
</head>
<body>
    <h1>Welcome to the Default Page</h1>
    <p>This is a simple HTML document</p>
</body>
</html>
```

```
chloe@Workstation:~/HOA7_Santos$ ssh chloemargarette@192.168.56.105
Activate the web console with: systemctl enable --now cockpit.socket

Last login: Wed Oct 15 15:49:09 2025 from 192.168.56.101
chloemargarette@localhost:~$ cat /var/www/html/index.html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <title>default page</title>
</head>
<body>
    <h1>Welcome to the Default Page</h1>
    <p>This is a simple HTML document</p>
</body>
</html>
chloemargarette@localhost:~$ S
```

5. Sync your local repository with GitHub and describe the changes.

```
chloe@Workstation:~/HOA7_Santos$ git push --force origin main
Enumerating objects: 9, done.
Counting objects: 100% (9/9), done.
Delta compression using up to 3 threads
Compressing objects: 100% (6/6), done.
Writing objects: 100% (9/9), 1.44 KiB | 1.44 MiB/s, done.
Total 9 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0
To github.com:ChloeMargarettePronebo/HOA7_Santos.git
 + e7faa91...588b7cf main -> main (forced update)
```

Task 2: Download a file and extract it to a remote server

1. Edit the site.yml. Just before the web_servers play, create a new play:

```
- hosts: workstations
  become: true
  tasks:

    - name: install unzip
      package:
        name: unzip

    - name: install terraform
      unarchive:
        src: https://releases.hashicorp.com/terraform/0.12.28/terraform\_0.12.28\_linux\_amd64.zip
        dest: /usr/local/bin
        remote_src: yes
        mode: 0755
        owner: root
        group: root

- hosts: workstations
  become: true
  tasks:

    - name: install unzip
      package:
        name: unzip

    - name: install terraform
      unarchive:
        src: https://releases.hashicorp.com/terraform/0.12.28/terraform_0.12.28>
        dest: /usr/local/bin
        remote_src: yes
        mode: 0755
        owner: root
        group: root
```

2. Edit the inventory file and add workstations group. Add any Ubuntu remote server. Make sure to remember the IP address.

```
GNU nano 7.2                               inventory.ini
[web_servers]
192.168.56.102 ansible_user=chloe
192.168.56.103 ansible_user=chloe
192.168.56.105 ansible_user=chloemargarette

[workstations]
192.168.56.101 ansible_user=chloe

[db_servers]
192.168.56.101 ansible_user=chloe

[file_servers]
192.168.56.105 ansible_user=chloemargarette

[ Read 14 lines ]
^G Help      ^O Write Out  ^W Where Is  ^K Cut        ^T Execute  ^C Location
^X Exit      ^R Read File  ^\ Replace   ^U Paste     ^J Justify  ^/ Go To Line
```

- Run the playbook. Describe the output.

```
TASK [start MariaDB service on CentOS] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.101]

TASK [start MariaDB service on Ubuntu] *****
changed: [192.168.56.101]

PLAY [file_servers] *****

TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.56.105]

TASK [install samba package] *****
ok: [192.168.56.105]

PLAY RECAP *****
192.168.56.101      : ok=8    changed=2    unreachable=0    failed=0    s
skipped=3  rescued=0  ignored=0
192.168.56.102      : ok=5    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    s
skipped=3  rescued=0  ignored=0
192.168.56.103      : ok=5    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    s
skipped=3  rescued=0  ignored=0
192.168.56.105      : ok=8    changed=2    unreachable=0    failed=0    s
skipped=2  rescued=0  ignored=0
```

- On the Ubuntu remote workstation, type terraform to verify installation of terraform. Describe the output.

```
chloe@Workstation:~/HOA7_Santos$ terraform
\Usage: terraform [-version] [-help] <command> [args]

The available commands for execution are listed below.
The most common, useful commands are shown first, followed by
less common or more advanced commands. If you're just getting
started with Terraform, stick with the common commands. For the
other commands, please read the help and docs before usage.

Common commands:
  apply           Builds or changes infrastructure
  console         Interactive console for Terraform interpolations
  destroy         Destroy Terraform-managed infrastructure
  env             Workspace management
  fmt              Rewrites config files to canonical format
  get              Download and install modules for the configuration
  graph            Create a visual graph of Terraform resources
  import           Import existing infrastructure into Terraform
  init             Initialize a Terraform working directory
  login            Obtain and save credentials for a remote host
  logout           Remove locally-stored credentials for a remote host
  output           Read an output from a state file
  plan             Generate and show an execution plan
  providers        Prints a tree of the providers used in the configuration
```

Task 3: Create roles

1. Edit the site.yml. Configure roles as follows: (make sure to create a copy of the old site.yml file because you will be copying the specific plays for all groups)

```
---
- hosts: all
  become: true
  pre_tasks:

    - name: update repository index (Centos)
      tags: always
      dnf:
        update_cache: yes
        changed_when: false
        when: ansible_distribution == "Centos"
    - name: install updates (Ubuntu)
      tags: always
      apt:
        update_cache: yes
        changed_when: false
        when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

- hosts: all
  become: true
  roles:
    - base

- hosts: workstations
  become: true
  roles:
    - workstations

- hosts: web_servers
  become: true
  roles:
    - web_servers

- hosts: db_servers
  become: true
  roles:
    - db_servers

- hosts: file_servers
  become: true
  roles:
    - file_servers
```

Save the file and exit.

```

④ new_site.yml
1  ---
2  < hosts: all
3  | become: true
4  < pre_tasks:
5
6  <   - name: update repository index(CentOS)
7  |     tags: always
8  |     dnf:
9  |       update_only: yes
10 |       update_cache: false
11 |       when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
12
13 <   - name: install updates (Ubuntu)
14 |     tags: always
15 <     apt:
16 |       update_cache: yes
17 |       changed_when: false
18 |       when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
19
20 <   - hosts: all
21 |     become: true
22 <     roles:
23 |       - base
24
25 <   - hosts: workstations
26 |     become: true
27 <     roles:
28 |       - workstations
29
30 <   - hosts: web_servers
31 |     become: true
32 <     roles:
33 |       - web_servers
34

```

```

29
30   - hosts: web_servers
31     become: true
32     roles:
33       - web_servers
34
35   - hosts: db_servers
36     become: true
37     roles:
38       - db_servers
39
40   - hosts: file_servers
41     become: true
42     roles:
43       - file_servers
44

```

2. Under the same directory, create a new directory and name it roles. Enter the roles directory and create new directories: base, web_servers, file_servers,

db_servers and workstations. For each directory, create a directory and name it tasks.

```
chloe@Workstation:~$ cd HOA7_Santos
chloe@Workstation:~/HOA7_Santos$ mkdir -p roles{base,web_servers,file_servers,db_servers,workstation}/tasks
chloe@Workstation:~/HOA7_Santos$ touch mkdir roles{base,web_servers,file_servers,db_servers,db_servers,workstation}/tasks/main.yml
chloe@Workstation:~/HOA7_Santos$
```

3. Go to tasks for all directory and create a file. Name it main.yml. In each of the tasks for all directories, copy and paste the code from the old site.yml file. Show all contents of main.yml files for all tasks.

The screenshot shows a terminal window with two panes. The left pane displays a file tree for the directory 'HOA7_SANTOS'. It includes sub-directories like '.vscode', 'rolesbase/tasks' (which contains 'main.yml'), 'rolesdb_servers/tasks' (containing 'main.yml'), 'rolesfile_servers/tasks' (containing 'main.yml'), 'rolesworkstation/tasks' (containing 'main.yml'), 'ansible.cfg', 'base', and 'default_site.html'. The right pane shows the contents of the 'main.yml' file under 'rolesbase/tasks'. The file is an Ansible tasks file (ansible.json) with the following content:

```
rolesbase > tasks > ! main.yml > ...
Ansible Tasks Schema - Ansible tasks file (ansible.json)
1   - name: install updates (CentOS)
2     tags: always
3     dnf:
4       update_only: yes
5       update_cache: yes
6     when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
7
8   - name: install updates (Ubuntu)
9     tags: always
10    apt:
11      upgrade: dist
12      update_cache: yes
13    when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
```

4. Run the site.yml playbook and describe the output.

```
chloe@Workstation: ~/HOA7_Santos
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.105]

PLAY [db_servers] ****
TASK [Gathering Facts] ****
ok: [192.168.56.101]

PLAY [file_servers] ****
TASK [Gathering Facts] ****
ok: [192.168.56.105]

PLAY RECAP ****
192.168.56.101      : ok=5    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    s
kipped=1  rescued=0  ignored=0
192.168.56.102      : ok=4    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    s
kipped=1  rescued=0  ignored=0
192.168.56.103      : ok=4    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    s
kipped=1  rescued=0  ignored=0
192.168.56.105      : ok=5    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    s
kipped=1  rescued=0  ignored=0

5. chloe@Workstation:~/HOA7_Santos$ git add
```

Reflections:

Answer the following:

1. What is the importance of creating roles?

Ansible roles help organize playbooks by dividing them into functional sections. This makes tasks easier to manage, reuse, and update. A clear structure also simplifies troubleshooting and helps maintain an organized codebase.

2. What is the importance of managing files?

Using Ansible to manage files helps keep your systems neat and organized. It ensures all your configurations are consistent, lets you track changes to files over time, and helps prevent mistakes when you're automating tasks or applying updates.

