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| Course/Section: CPE31S2 | Date Submitted: 09/27/2024 |
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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: <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | |
| Task 1: Use when command for different distributions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 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."

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.

- When I run this command it skips the host of my CentOS, this is due to the command `when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"`, this command restricts the tasks to hosts which uses Ubuntu only/

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"
```

Make sure to save and exit.

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

```

BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *****

TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.56.13]
ok: [192.168.56.12]
ok: [192.168.56.10]

TASK [update repository index] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.13]
changed: [192.168.56.12]
changed: [192.168.56.10]

TASK [install apache2 package] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.13]
ok: [192.168.56.12]
ok: [192.168.56.10]

TASK [add PHP support for apache] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.13]
ok: [192.168.56.10]
ok: [192.168.56.12]

TASK [update repository index] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.12]
skipping: [192.168.56.10]
ok: [192.168.56.13]

TASK [install apache2 package] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.12]
skipping: [192.168.56.10]
changed: [192.168.56.13]

TASK [add PHP support for apache] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.12]
skipping: [192.168.56.10]
changed: [192.168.56.13]

PLAY RECAP *****
192.168.56.10      : ok=4    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=3    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.12      : ok=4    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=3    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.13      : ok=4    changed=2    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=3    rescued=0    ignored=0

```

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.

```

[Jose@localhost ~]$ systemctl status httpd
○ httpd.service - The Apache HTTP Server
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/httpd.service; disabled; preset: d>
   Drop-In: /usr/lib/systemd/system/httpd.service.d
           └─php-fpm.conf
   Active: inactive (dead)
   Docs: man:httpd.service(8)

lines 1-6/6 (END)
[Jose@localhost ~]$

```

5.2 Issue the following command to start the service:

sudo systemctl start httpd

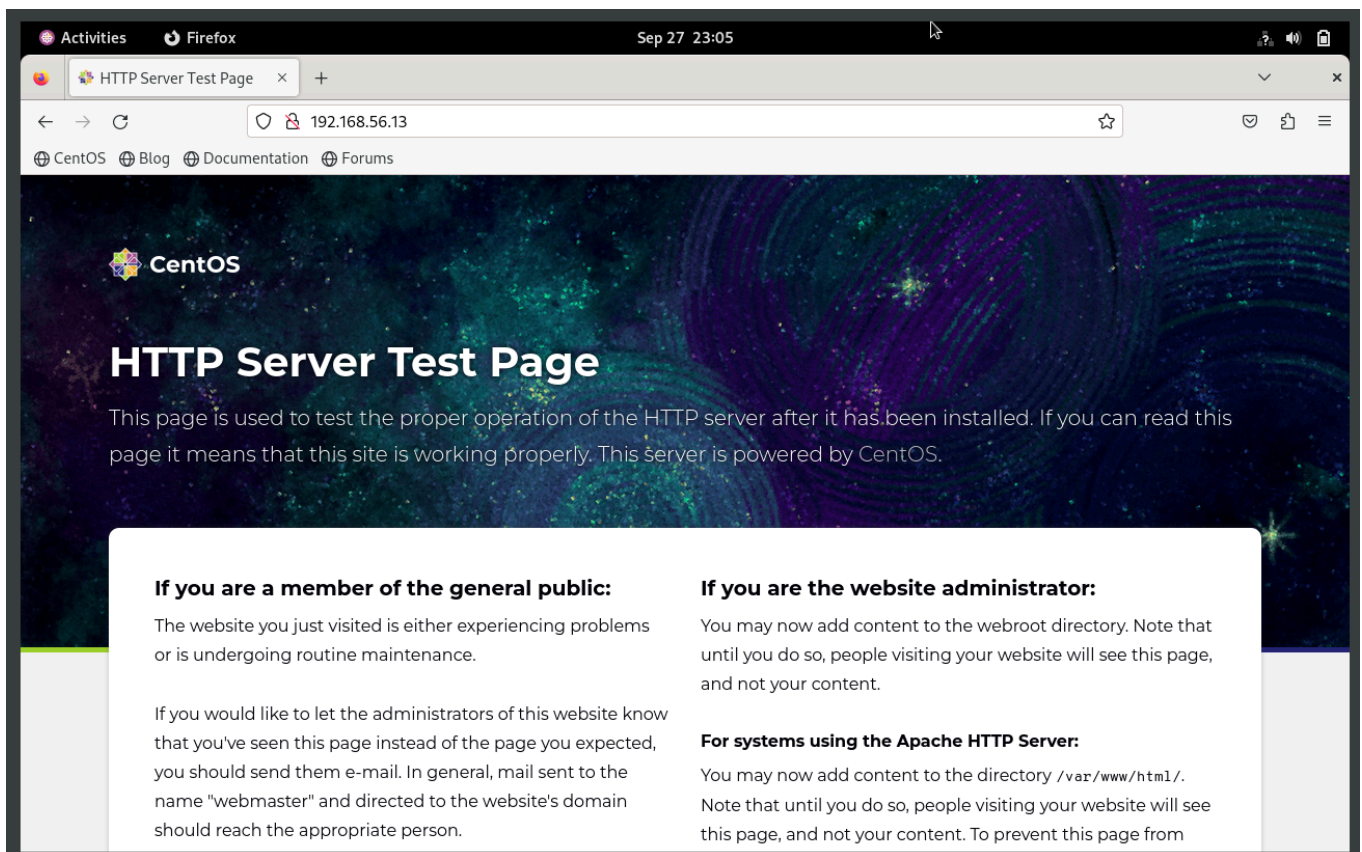
(When prompted, enter the sudo password)

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

(The result should be a success)

```
[Jose@localhost ~]$ sudo systemctl start httpd
[sudo] password for Jose:
[Jose@localhost ~]$ sudo firewall-cmd --add-port=80/tcp
success
[Jose@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) - **Yes, it was successful**



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 make 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.

```

become password:
PLAY [all] *****

TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.56.12]
ok: [192.168.56.10]
ok: [192.168.56.13]

TASK [update repository index] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.13]
changed: [192.168.56.12]
changed: [192.168.56.10]

TASK [install apache2 and php packages for Ubuntu] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.13]
ok: [192.168.56.12]
ok: [192.168.56.10]

TASK [update repository index for CentOS] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.12]
skipping: [192.168.56.10]
ok: [192.168.56.13]

TASK [install apache2 and php packages for CentOS] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.12]
skipping: [192.168.56.10]
ok: [192.168.56.13]

PLAY RECAP *****
192.168.56.10      : ok=3    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=2    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.12      : ok=3    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=2    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.13      : ok=3    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=2    rescued=0    ignored=0

```

- The results were the same. It's just that the process is reduced since the tasks are compressed into one.

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.

```

josemari@workstation:~/CPE212-Act5.1$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *****

TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.56.13]
ok: [192.168.56.12]
ok: [192.168.56.10]

TASK [install apache2 and php packages for Ubuntu] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.13]
ok: [192.168.56.12]
ok: [192.168.56.10]

TASK [install apache2 and php packages for CentOS] *****
skipping: [192.168.56.12]
skipping: [192.168.56.10]
ok: [192.168.56.13]

PLAY RECAP *****
192.168.56.10      : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=1    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.12      : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=1    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.13      : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=1    rescued=0    ignored=0

```

- As we can see, The `update_cache` is no longer considered as another task since it is already added to our tasks for Ubuntu and CentOS

- 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.

```
josemari@workstation:~/CPE212-Act5.1$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *****

TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.56.13]
ok: [192.168.56.12]
ok: [192.168.56.10]

TASK [install apache and php] *****
fatal: [192.168.56.10]: FAILED! => {"msg": "The task includes an option with an undefined variable. The error was: 'apache2' is undefined. 'apache2' is undefined\n\nThe error appears to be in '/home/josemari/CPE212-Act5.1/install_apache.yml': line 7, column 6, 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: [192.168.56.12]: FAILED! => {"msg": "The task includes an option with an undefined variable. The error was: 'apache2' is undefined. 'apache2' is undefined\n\nThe error appears to be in '/home/josemari/CPE212-Act5.1/install_apache.yml': line 7, column 6, 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: [192.168.56.13]: FAILED! => {"msg": "The task includes an option with an undefined variable. The error was: 'apache2' is undefined. 'apache2' is undefined\n\nThe error appears to be in '/home/josemari/CPE212-Act5.1/install_apache.yml': line 7, column 6, 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 *****
192.168.56.10      : ok=1    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=1    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.12      : ok=1    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=1    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.13      : ok=1    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=1    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
```

- It failed miserably, this is because it does not know what the specific task is supposed to be ran or what package should it execute.

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.

```
josemari@workstation:~/CPE212-Act5.1$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *****

TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.56.12]
ok: [192.168.56.13]
ok: [192.168.56.10]

TASK [install apache and php] *****
ok: [192.168.56.10]
ok: [192.168.56.12]
ok: [192.168.56.13]

PLAY RECAP *****
192.168.56.10      : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.12      : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
192.168.56.13      : ok=2    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=0    skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
```

- Now that I configured the inventory files and set a package variable for apache and php for ubuntu and CentOS the yml file had no trouble calling the function of the variable I have used. Instead of writing the functions in the playbooks, it is way better to use variables for efficiency and to be easily understood by anyone.

Reflections:

Answer the following:

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

- Playbook refactoring is the best way of maintaining clean, direct, and readable code. As you start to work on more tasks and implement more features into your playbook, it can get messy or redundant. This way, you not only organize and improve the code but also help to maintain it, which can reduce the risk of errors. It also assists other team

members to understand the code more quickly and faster management of it in the future updates.

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

- In a playbook we'll use the "when" command to allow us to specify when we want a task to run, if at all. This is like a conditional rule, or: "only do this if something else is true." If you only want a task to run based on the OS or then a “when” command is used to know when that thing should be done. So in short, your playbook now is using automation for the sake of efficiency and effectiveness.