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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.

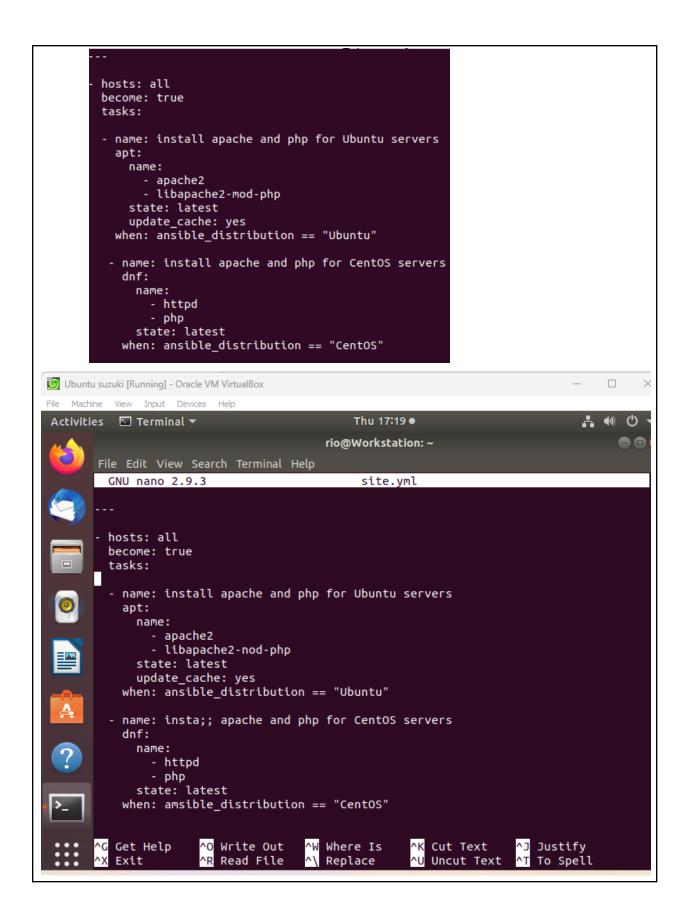
We also try to manage services that do not automatically run using the automations in playbook. For example, when we install web servers or httpd for CentOS, we notice that the service did not start automatically.

# 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.

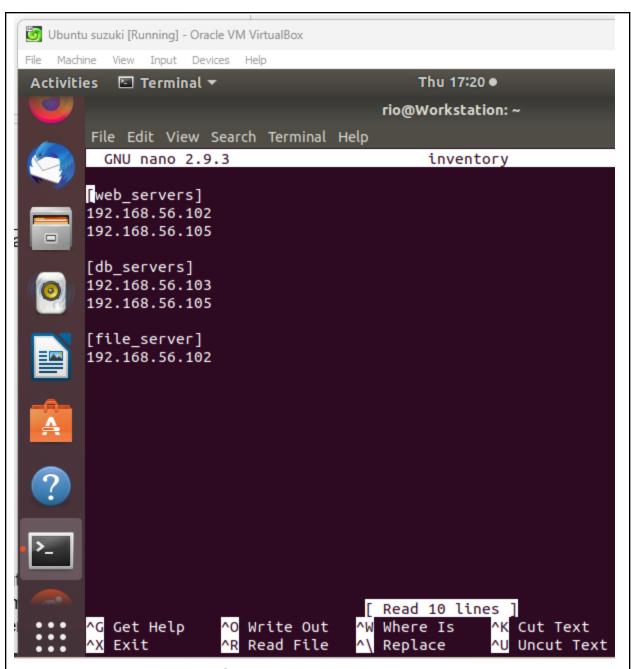
## **Task 1: Targeting Specific Nodes**

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.



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
```

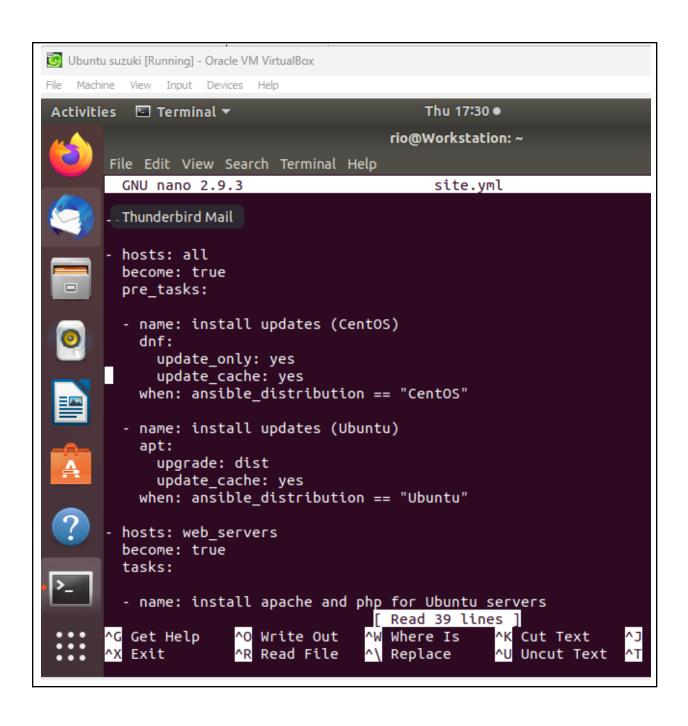


Make sure to save the file and exit.

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
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:
- name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
     name:
  - apache2
- libapache2-mod-php
state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
   dnf:
     name:
  name:
- httpd
- php
state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```



```
name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
 apt:
   name:
      - apache2
      - libapache2-nod-php
   state: latest
    update cache: yes
 when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

    name: install apache and php for CentOS servers

 dnf:
   name:
     - httpd
               Write Out
                               Where Is
                                               Cut Text
Get Help
                                                              Justify
                                               Uncut Text
Exit
               Read File
                               Replace
                                                              To Spell
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

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.

Run the *site.yml* file and describe the result.

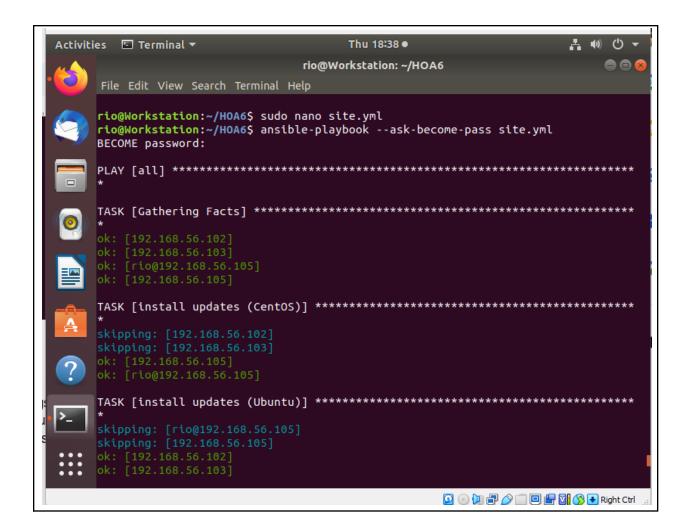
```
ok: [192.168.56.102]
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] ***********************
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ***********************
changed=0
                                unreachable=0
                                           failed=0
skipped=2 rescued=0
                 ignored=0
                        changed=0
                                unreachable=0
                                           failed=0
skipped=1 rescued=0
                 ignored=0
                        changed=0
                                unreachable=0
                                           failed=0
                 ignored=0
       rescued=0
                        changed=0
                                unreachable=0
                                            failed=0
                 ianored=0
        rescued=0
```

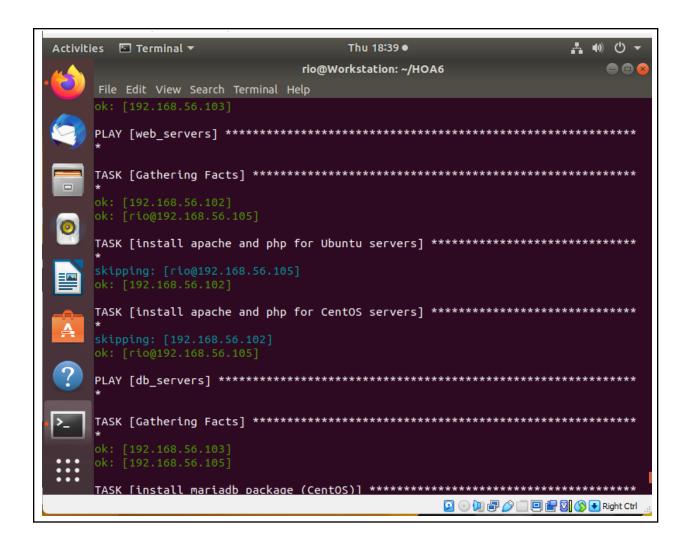
4. Let's try to edit again the *site.yml* file. This time, we are going to add plays targeting the other servers. This time we target the *db\_servers* by adding it on the current *site.yml*. Below is an example: (Note add this at the end of the playbooks from task 1.3.

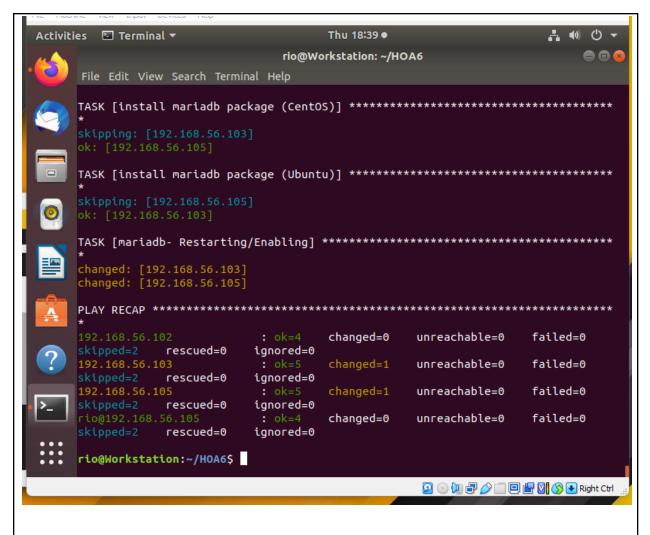
```
hosts: db_servers
become: true
tasks:
- name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
  yum:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
- name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
  service:
    name: mariadb
    state: restarted
    enabled: true
- name: install mariadb packege (Ubuntu)
  apt:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

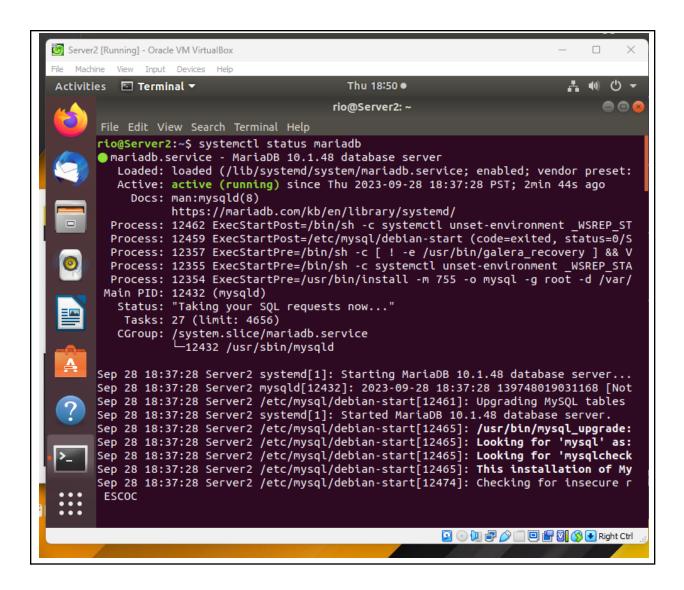
Run the *site.yml* file and describe the result.

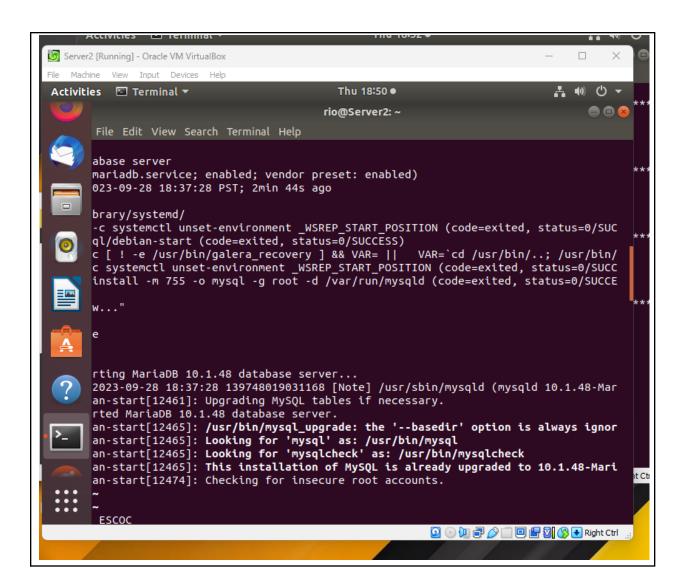


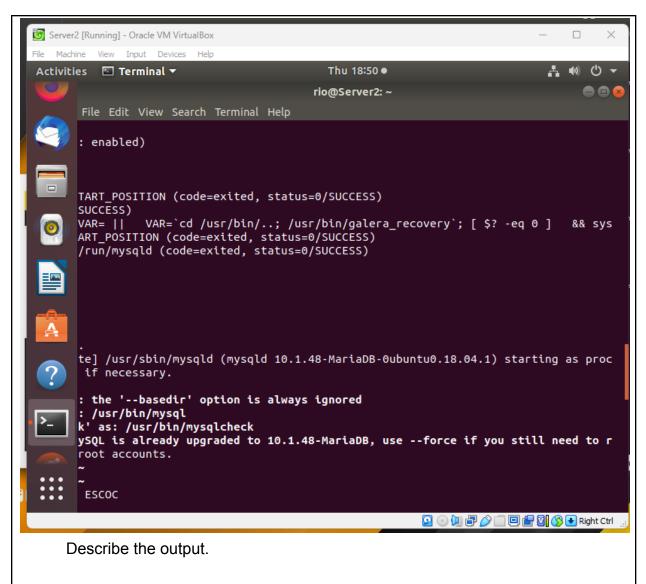




5. Go to the remote server (Ubuntu) terminal that belongs to the db\_servers group and check the status for mariadb installation using the command: systemctl status mariadb. Do this on the CentOS server also.







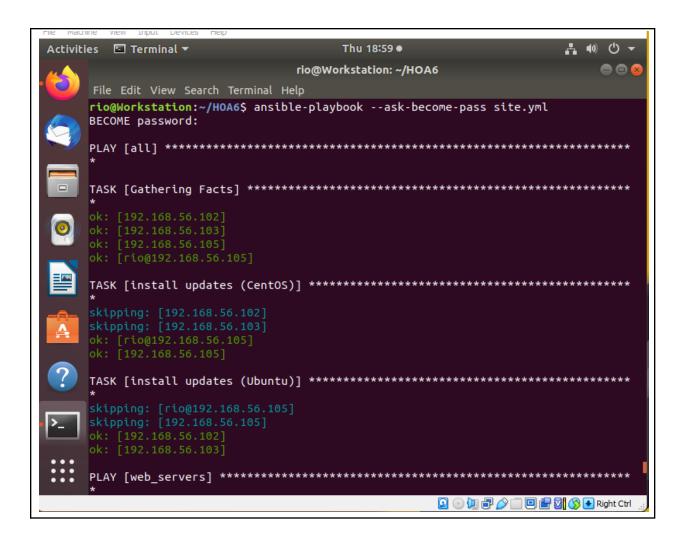
6. Edit the *site.yml* again. This time we will append the code to configure installation on the *file\_servers* group. We can add the following on our file.

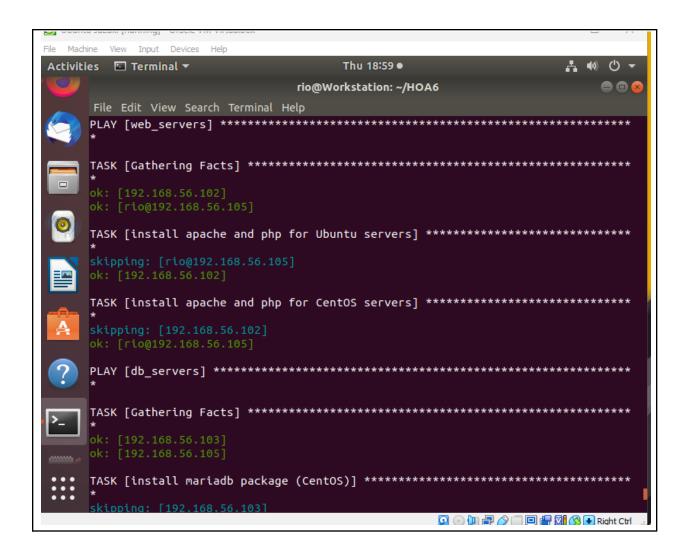
```
    hosts: file_servers
        become: true
        tasks:

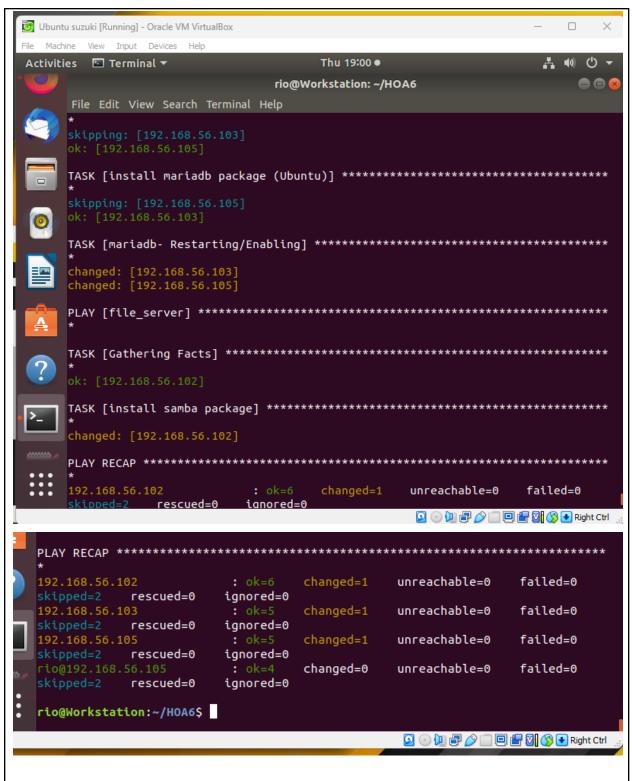
            name: install samba package
            package:
                name: samba
                state: latest
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

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"
```

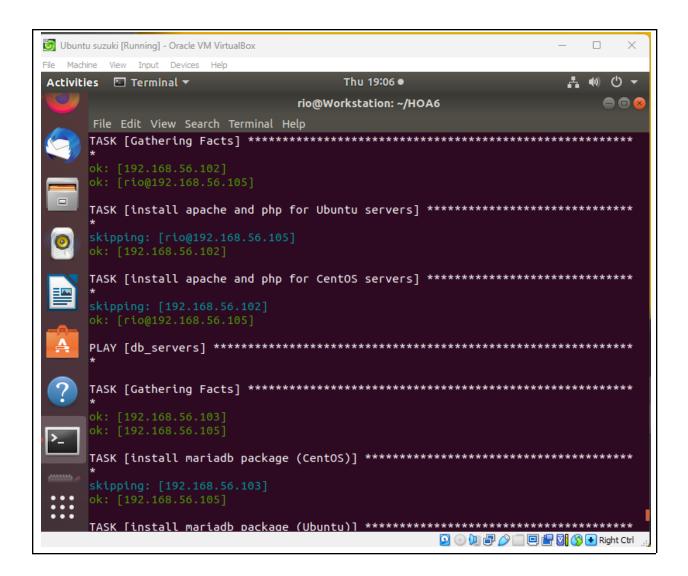
```
- hosts: web_servers
 become: true
 tasks:
 - name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
   tags: apache, apache2, ubuntu
   apt:
     name:
        - apache2
        - libapache2-mod-php
     state: latest
   when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
 - name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
   tags: apache,centos,httpd
   dnf:
     name:
       - httpd
       - php
      state: latest
   when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

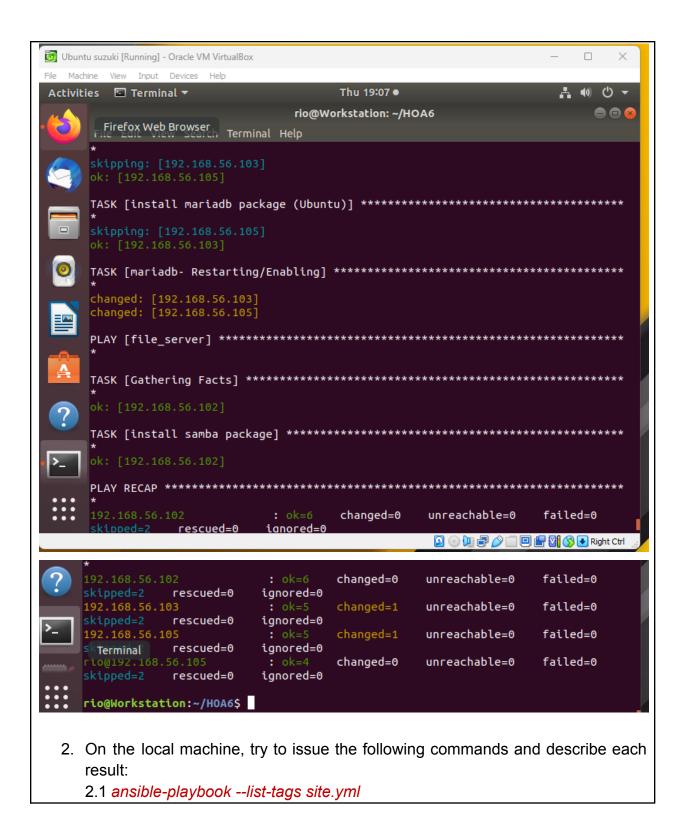
```
hosts: db_servers
 become: true
 tasks:

    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.





```
rio@Workstation:~/HOA6$ ansible-playbook --list-tags site.yml

playbook: site.yml

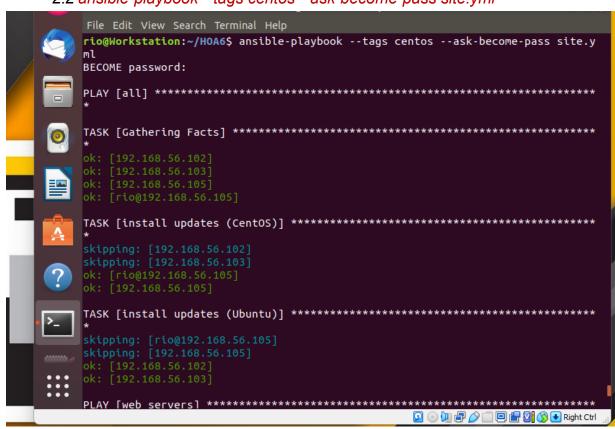
play #1 (all): all TAGS: []
   TASK TAGS: [always]

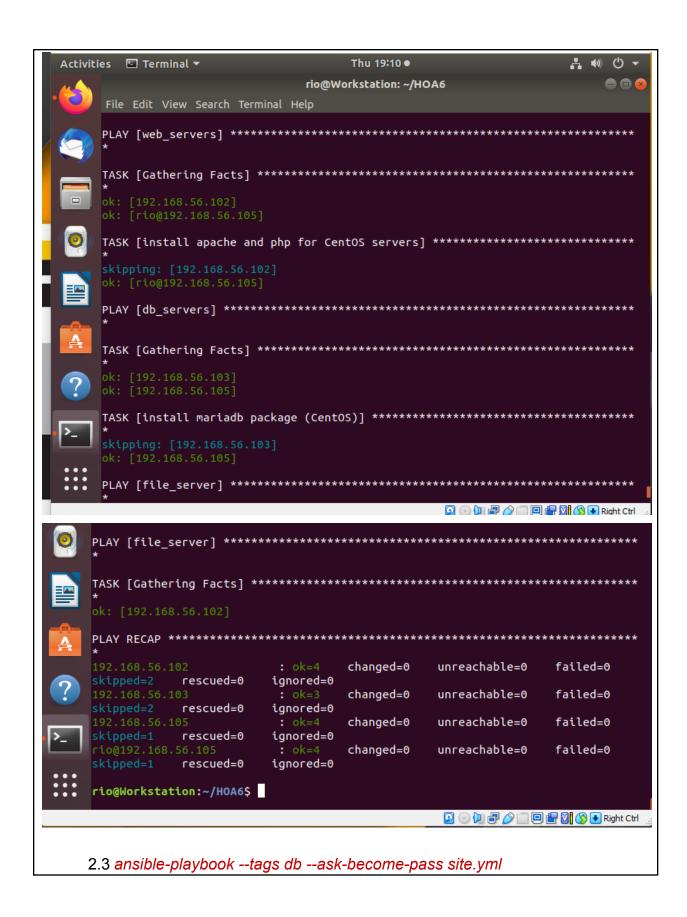
play #2 (web_servers): web_servers TAGS: []
   TASK TAGS: [apache, apache2, centos, httpd, ubuntu]

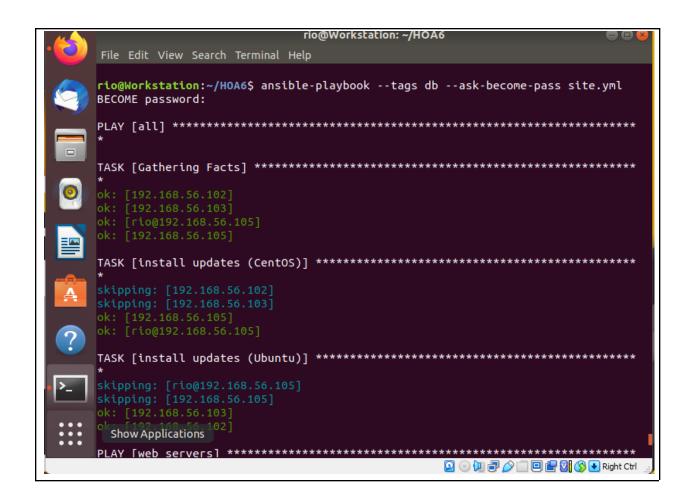
play #3 (db_servers): db_servers TAGS: []
   TASK TAGS: [centos, db, mariadb, ubuntu]

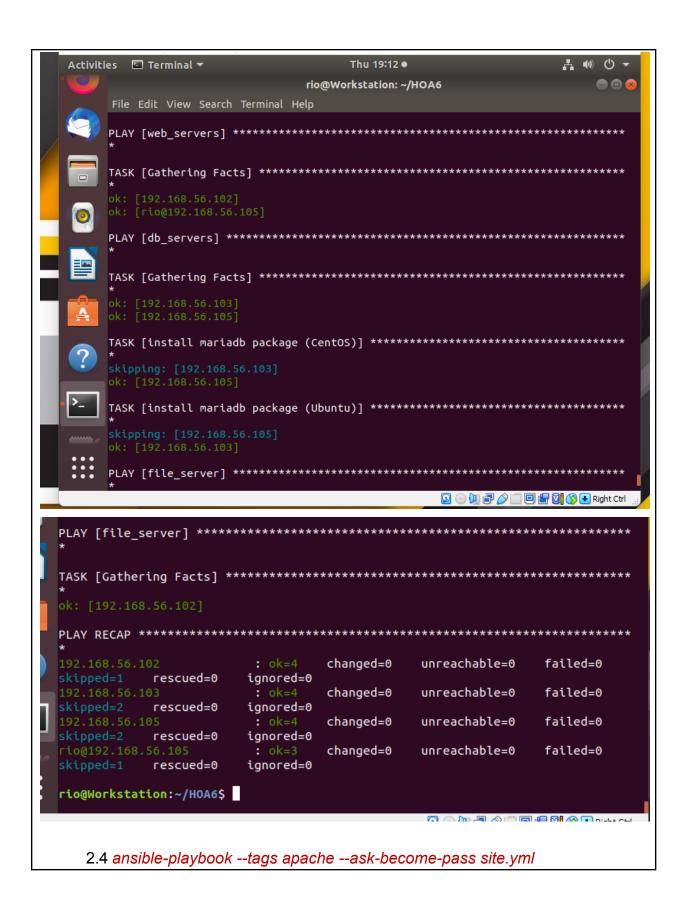
play #4 (file_server): file_server TAGS: []
   TASK TAGS: [samba]
   rio@Workstation:~/HOA6$
```

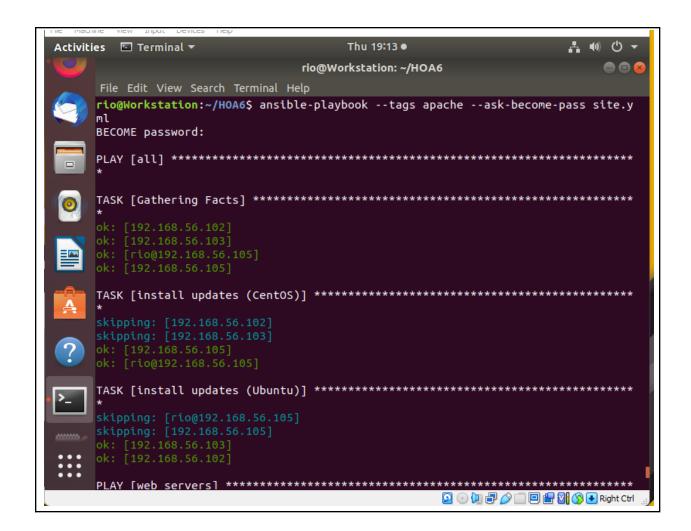
### 2.2 ansible-playbook --tags centos --ask-become-pass site.yml

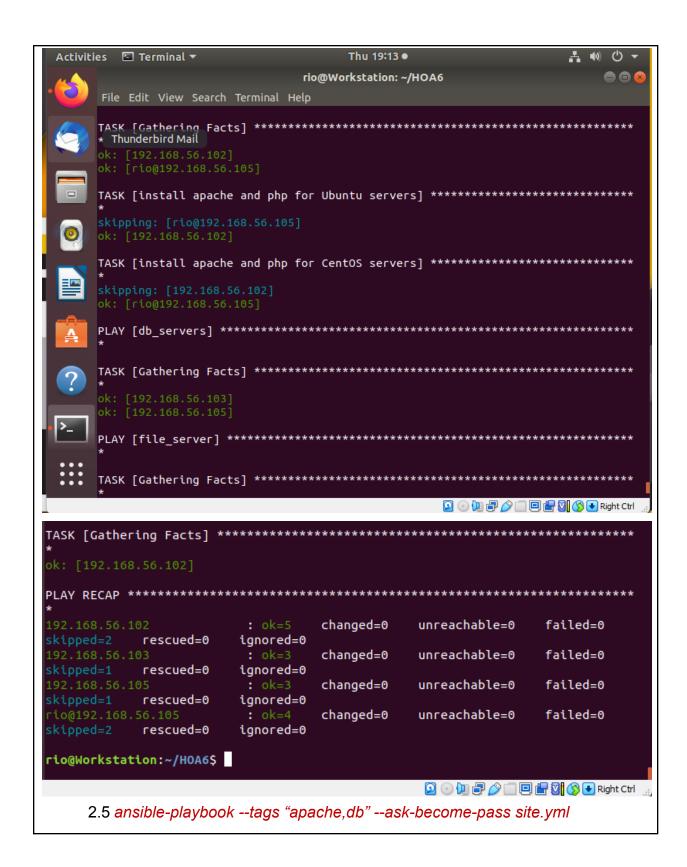


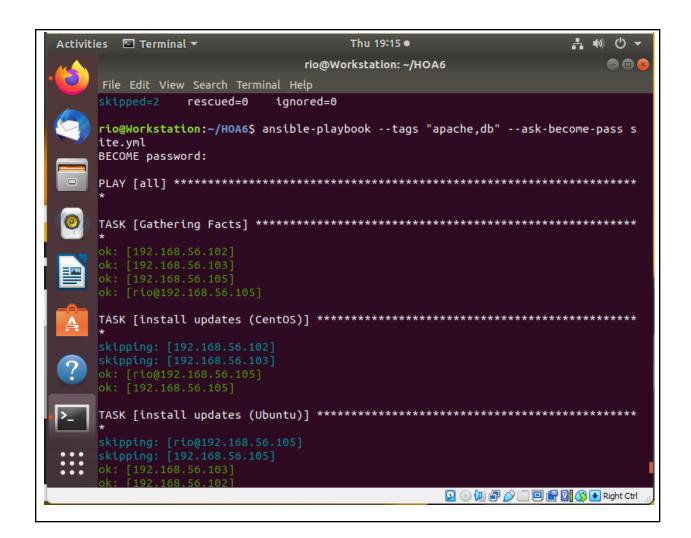


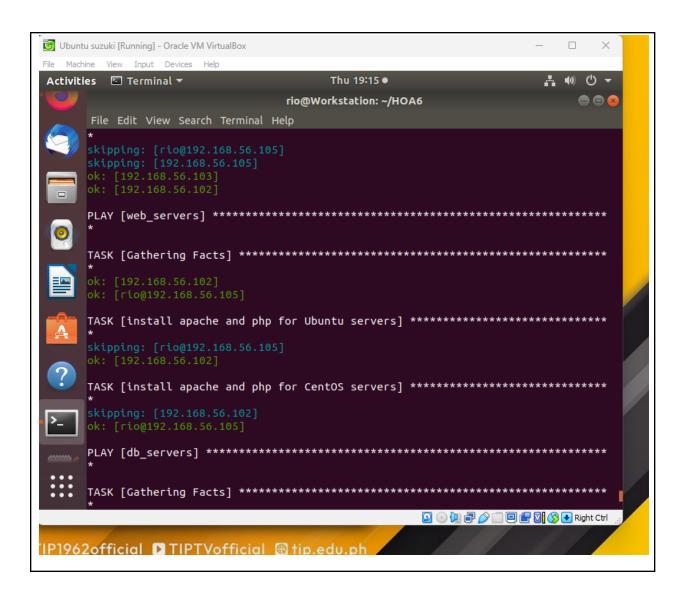


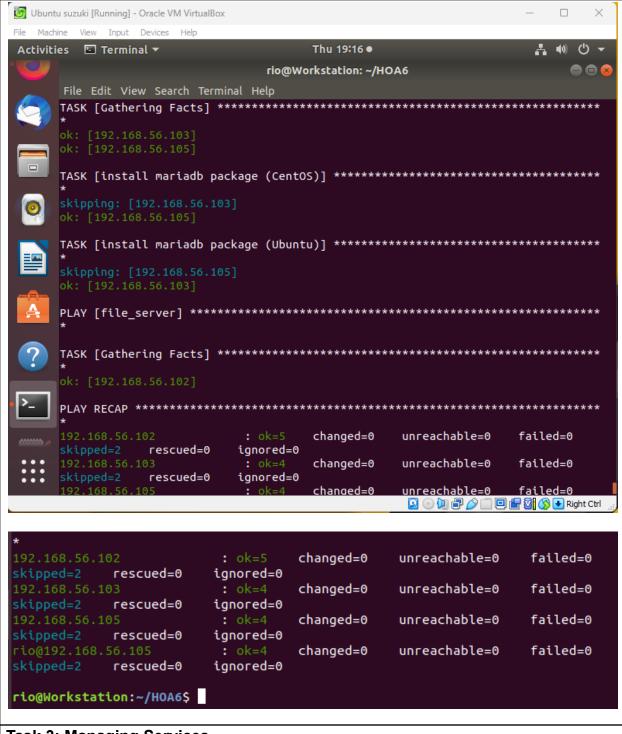












Task 3: Managing Services

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"
```

Figure 3.1.1 Make sure to save the file and exit.

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

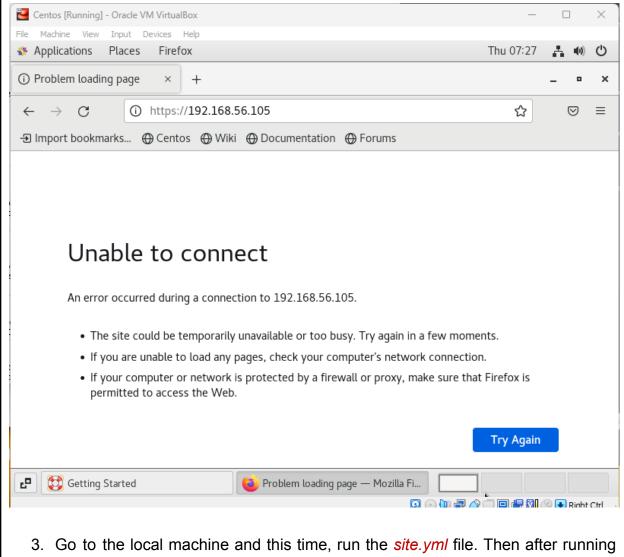
```
    hosts: db_servers
become: true
tasks:
    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
tags: centos, db,mariadb
dnf:
        name: mariadb-server
        state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
    name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
service:
        name: mariadb
        state: restarted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

Figure 3.1.2

This is because in CentOS, installed packages' services are not run automatically. Thus, we need to create the module to run it automatically.

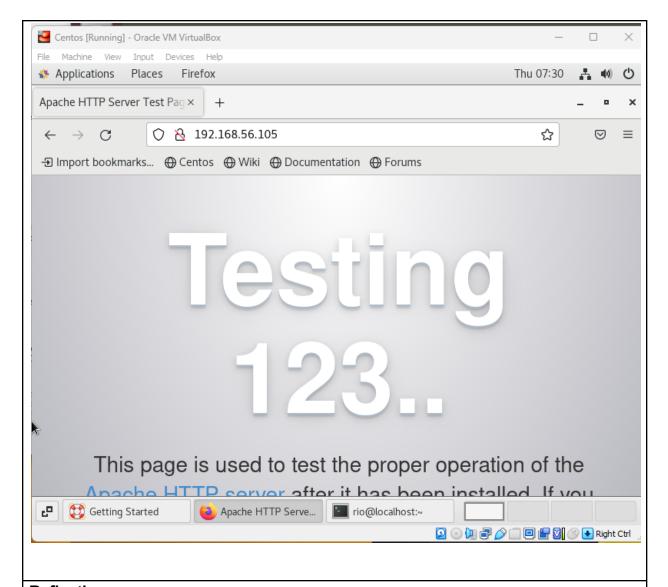
2. To test it, before you run the saved playbook, go to the CentOS server and stop the currently running httpd using the command *sudo systemctl stop httpd*.

When prompted, enter the sudo password. After that, open the browser and enter the CentOS server's IP address. You should not be getting a display because we stopped the httpd service already.



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.

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.



## Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 1. What is the importance of putting our remote servers into groups?
  - For efficient resource management, it is crucial to group remote servers.
     Simpler IT infrastructure management and increased reliability. By assembling computers with similar features or services into clusters, organizations may maximize resource allocation, carry out load balancing to guarantee fair work distribution, and promote high availability through redundancy.

2. What is the importance of tags in playbooks?

 Configuration management typically uses playbook tags. Ansible-like tools are essential for carrying out certain tasks or the responsibilities in a playbook.
 They enable the implementation of a plan to be fine-tuned. playbook, which is particularly helpful in complex settings with several setups or servers.

- 3. Why do think some services need to be managed automatically in playbooks?
  - Playbooks are crucial for numerous services to manage services automatically. reasons. First and foremost, it contributes to maintaining a reliable and accurate approach by ensuring uniform settings and procedures throughout the infrastructure of an organization. Automation also makes rapid decisions possible. Ability to adapt and respond to changing requirements, allowing services to be established, extended, or terminated as needed without the need for manual involvement. Time is saved, and human error is reduced as a result of mistakes.

#### Conclusion

To conclude this activity aims for the student to learn how to Individualize hosts, Apply tags in selecting plays to run, and Managing Services from remote servers using playbooks. Using a specific plans and tools to control computer systems helps organizations manage their technology smoothly. It lets them use resources well, fix problems easily, and grow when needed. These plans also make things safer and easier to watch from a distance. Overall, these strategies help organizations stay strong and flexible in the ever-changing tech world.

#### Criteria

Completeness This criterion specifies the analysis of the student of the tasks given.  Design This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  Design is robust and acceptable in the acceptable in the industry but can be  This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion specifies the analysis of the Sexcellent and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion specifies the Excellent and execution.  This criterion specifies the Excellent and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  This criterion specifies the Excellent and engineering the food of the tasks are present in the documentation and execution.  The Components of half of the tasks are present in documentation and execution.  The Components of half of the tasks are present in documentation and execution.  This criterion specifies the analysis of the tasks are present in the documentation and execution.  This criterion specifies the analysis of the tasks are present in the documentation and execution.  This criterion specifies the tasks are present in the documentation and execution.  This criterion specifies the tasks are present in the tasks are	
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This criterion measures the components and engineering of the Hands-on activity.  Execulent  Good  Ok  Design is acceptable in the industry.  Design is a satisfactory level in the industry.  Design is poorly architected and engineered needs improvement.  engineered needs improvement.	5 p
industry improved. rework.	5 p
Documentation  This criterion measures the context and completeness of artifacts of the activity.  The context of documentation is precise and understandable to readers.  4 pts  Good  Ok  Ok  The documentation is satisfactory, has the main components needed, and grammar is acceptable.  2 pts  Poor  The documentation needs grammar checks but the context of main components needed, and grammar is acceptable.	<b>5</b> p