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Assignment 4: Create a Freestyle Jenkins job: Configure a job to print "Hello, Jenkins!" in the console output and view logs.	

Aim: To create a basic Freestyle job in Jenkins, execute a shell command on the Master node, and Analyze the console output .

Objectives:

1. To understand the Jenkins Freestyle project workspace.
2. To learn the process of manual build triggering.
3. To study how Jenkins captures and displays logs on the Controller (Master) node.

Prerequisites:

- Jenkins Master node installed and running on AWS EC2.
- Admin access to the Jenkins Dashboard.

Theory:

1. Freestyle Project on Master

In a standard Jenkins setup, the Master node can act as its own execution agent. This is useful for simple administrative tasks or initial testing. A Freestyle job provides a menu-driven interface to define these tasks without needing complex Groovy scripts.

2. Workspace Management

When a job runs on the Master, Jenkins creates a specific directory called a **Workspace** (usually located at /var/lib/jenkins/workspace/). This is where Jenkins performs the work and stores any temporary files generated during the build.

3. Console Output

The Console Output is the "heart" of Jenkins debugging. It provides a transparent view of:

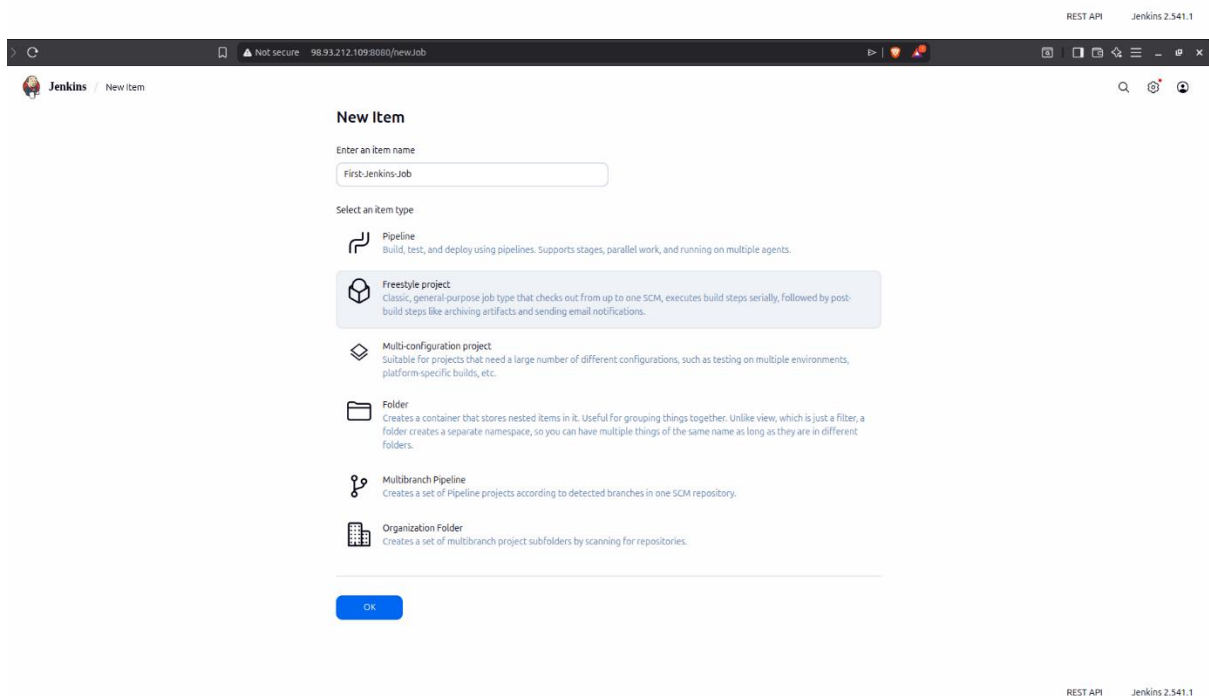
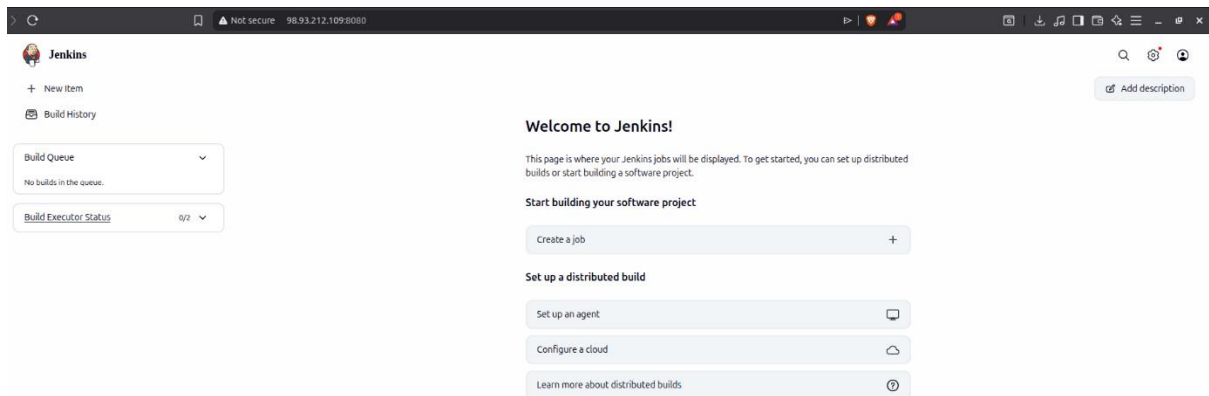
- **Who** triggered the build.
- **Where** the build is running (Master vs. Worker).

- **What** commands were executed.
- **The Result** (Success/Failure status).

Practical Procedure / Steps:

Step 1: Create the Job

1. Open the Jenkins Dashboard and click **New Item**.
2. Name the project: <First-Jenkins-Job>.
3. Select **Freestyle project** and click **OK**.



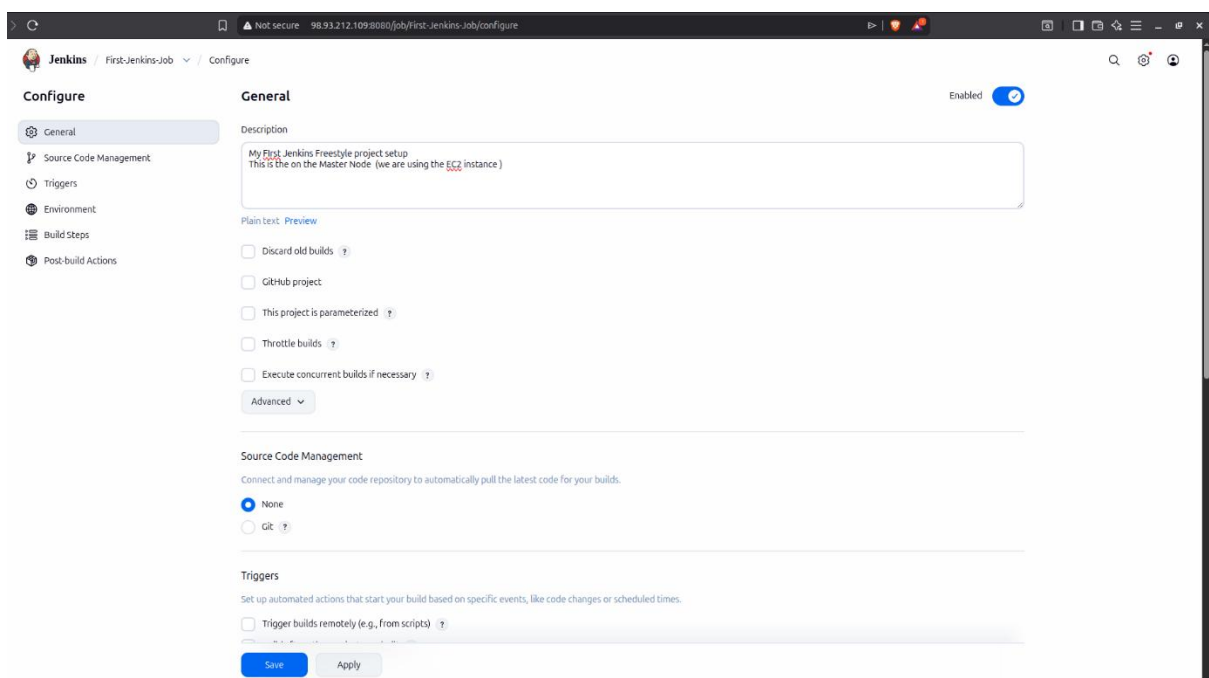
Step 2: Restricting to Master (Internal Logic)

Since we are not using the worker node for this task, we ensure it runs on the Master.

1. Under the **General** tab, ensure the option "Restrict where this project can be run" is **unchecked**, or specifically label it as built-in (the default label for the Master node).

Step 3: Add Build Step

1. Scroll down to the **Build Steps** section.
2. Click **Add build step** -> **Execute shell**.
3. Enter the command:



Execute shell ?

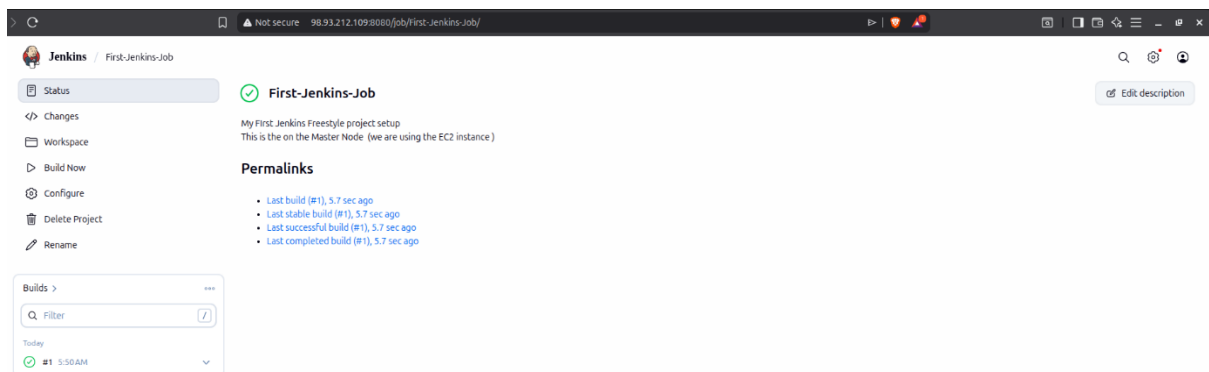
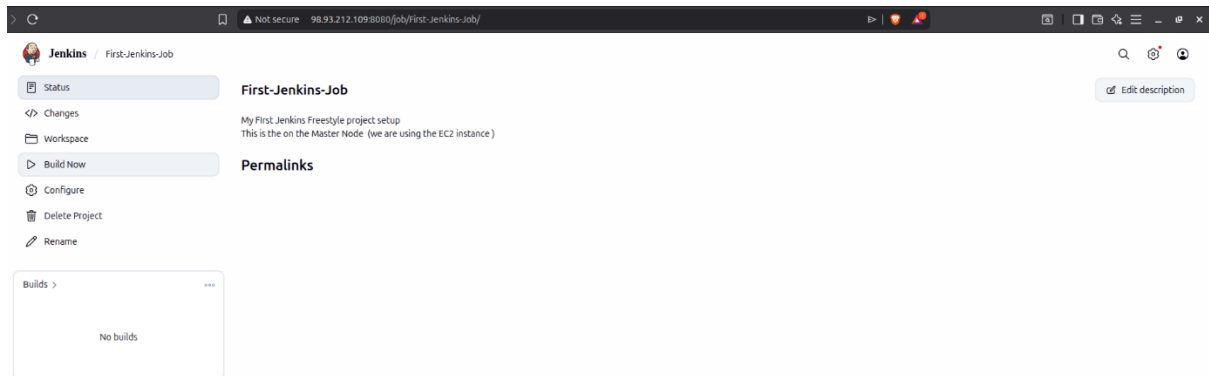
Command

See [the list of available environment variables](#)

```
echo "Hello, Jenkins! This is my first job at PCCOE."  
echo "The current date and time is: $(date)"  
echo "The user running this job is: $(whoami)"
```

Step 4: Execute and Verify

1. Click **Save** and then click **Build Now**.
2. Once the build appears in the **Build History** (Green circle), click on the build number.
3. Click **Console Output**.
4. Check in the EC2 Machine (Terminal) `/var/lib/jenkins/workspace/` the project folder is created.



The top screenshot shows the Jenkins web interface for a job named 'First-Jenkins-Job'. The 'Console' tab is selected, displaying the following output:

```
Started by user Amar Chavan
Running as SYSTEM
Building in workspace /var/lib/jenkins/workspace/First-Jenkins-Job
[First-Jenkins-Job] $ /bin/sh -xe /tmp/jenkins16951296434027631035.sh
+ echo Hello, Jenkins! This is my first job at PCCOE.
Hello, Jenkins! This is my first job at PCCOE.
+ date
+ echo The current date and time is: Fri Jan 23 05:50:56 UTC 2026
The current date and time is: Fri Jan 23 05:50:56 UTC 2026
+ whoami
+ echo The user running this job is: jenkins
The user running this job is: jenkins
Finished: SUCCESS
```

The bottom screenshot shows a terminal window on an Ubuntu machine at IP 172.31.0.106. The user navigates to the Jenkins workspace and lists the contents of the 'First-Jenkins-Job' directory:

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-0-106:/var/lib/jenkins$ ls
config.xml
hudson.model.UpdateCenter.xml
hudson.plugins.git.GitTool.xml
identity.key.enc
jenkins.install.InstallUtil.lastExecVersion
jenkins.install.UpgradeWizard.state
jenkins.model.JenkinsLocationConfiguration.xml
jenkins.telemetry.Correlator.xml
logs
logs
nodeMonitors.xml
plugins
queue.xml
secret.key
secret.key.not-so-secret
secrets
updates
userContent
users
workspace

ubuntu@ip-172-31-0-106:/var/lib/jenkins$ cd workspace/
ubuntu@ip-172-31-0-106:/var/lib/jenkins/workspace$ ls
First-Jenkins-Job
ubuntu@ip-172-31-0-106:/var/lib/jenkins/workspace$ cd First-Jenkins-Job/
ubuntu@ip-172-31-0-106:/var/lib/jenkins/workspace/First-Jenkins-Job$ ls
_
```

Conclusion:

The successful execution of this assignment demonstrates the fundamental capability of Jenkins to automate simple command-line tasks through a Freestyle Project. By running the job directly on the Master (Controller) node, we observed how Jenkins manages its internal Workspace environment, automatically creating dedicated directories for each project to ensure organized file handling. The analysis of the Console Output highlighted the transparency of the Jenkins build process, providing a detailed audit trail of the user who triggered the event, the exact commands executed, and the final status of the operation. This process serves as the essential first step in understanding CI/CD automation, proving that the Jenkins environment is correctly configured to handle script execution. Furthermore, verifying the physical folder creation within the EC2 terminal (`/var/lib/jenkins/workspace/`) bridged the gap between the web-based UI and the underlying Linux filesystem. Ultimately, this assignment establishes a solid foundation for more complex automation tasks, such as source code integration and distributed building across multiple worker nodes.