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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.

```
hosts: all
become: true
tasks:
- name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
  apt:
    name:
      - apache2
      - libapache2-mod-php
    state: latest
    update_cache: yes
 when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
 - name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
   dnf:
     name:

    httpd

       - php
     state: latest
   when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

```
GNU nano 2.9.3 site.yml

- libapache2-mod-php
state: latest
    update_cache: yes
when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"

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

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.

```
[web_servers]
192.168.56.102
192.168.56.104

[db_servers]
192.168.56.104

192.168.56.103

[file_servers]
192.168.56.104
```

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.

```
andayalyka@managenode:~/HOA6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass sites.yml
DEPRECATION WARNING]: Ansible will require Python 3.8 or newer on the controller starting with Ans
(default, Mar 10 2023, 16:46:00) [GCC 8.4.0]. This feature will be removed from ansible-core in ve
an be disabled by setting deprecation_warnings=False in ansible.cfg.
BECOME password:
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
changed=0 unreachable=0
                                           failed=0
                                                           rescued
                       changed=0
                                unreachable=0
                                           failed=0
                                                           rescued
               : ok=2 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0
                                                           rescued
  3. Edit the site.yml by following the image below:
```

```
hosts: all
become: true

    name: install updates (CentOS)

    update_only: yes
    update_cache: yes
 when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

    name: install updates (Ubuntu)

    upgrade: dist
    update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
hosts: web_servers
become: true

    name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers

  apt:
    name:
      - apache2

    libapache2-mod-php

    state: latest
 when: ansible distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
  dnf:
    name:

    httpd

      - php
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

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.

Description: This tool serves for managing configurations, deploying applications, and automating tasks. It compiles a set of actions that need to be performed prior to the main tasks outlined in the playbook. These actions occur just once, right at the outset of the playbook execution, preceding the application of any roles.

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)

    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.

```
andayalyka@managenode:~/HOA6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
TASK [install updates (CentOS)] *******************
skipping: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] ****
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] *******************
TASK [Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling] ********************
changed: [192.168.56.103]
changed: [192.168.56.104]
changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0
                                      rescued
               changed=1
changed=1
                    unreachable=0
                           failed=0
                                      rescued
192.168.56.104
                    unreachable=0
                            failed=0
                                      rescued
Description: <u>It installed a mariadb package in server2 of Ubuntu and it</u>
```

restarted/enabled the mariadb, also in CentOS it installed a mariadb package.

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.

Describe the output.

```
andayalyka@controlnode2:~$ systemctl status mariadb
mariadb.service - MariaDB 10.1.48 database server
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/mariadb.service; enabled; vendor preset:
  Active: active (running) since Mon 2023-10-02 12:24:56 PST; 2min 47s ago
     Docs: man:mysqld(8)
           https://mariadb.com/kb/en/library/systemd/
  Process: 7438 ExecStartPost=/bin/sh -c systemctl unset-environment WSREP_STAR
  Process: 7435 ExecStartPost=/etc/mysql/debian-start (code=exited, status=0/SUC
  Process: 7334 ExecStartPre=/bin/sh -c [ ! -e /usr/bin/galera_recovery ] && VAR
  Process: 7332 ExecStartPre=/bin/sh -c systemctl unset-environment _WSREP_START
  Process: 7331 ExecStartPre=/usr/bin/install -m 755 -o mysql -g root -d /var/ru
Main PID: 7408 (mysqld)
   Status: "Taking your SQL requests now..."
   Tasks: 27 (limit: 2374)
  CGroup: /system.slice/mariadb.service __7408 /usr/sbin/mysqld
Oct 02 12:24:56 controlnode2 systemd[1]: Starting MariaDB 10.1.48 database serve
Oct 02 12:24:56 controlnode2 mysqld[7408]: 2023-10-02 12:24:56 139732590103680 [
Oct 02 12:24:56 controlnode2 systemd[1]: Started MariaDB 10.1.48 database server
Oct 02 12:24:56 controlnode2 /etc/mysql/debian-start[7441]: /usr/bin/mysql_upgra
Oct 02 12:24:56 controlnode2 /etc/mysql/debian-start[7441]: Looking for 'mysql'
Oct 02 12:24:56 controlnode2 /etc/mysql/debian-start[7441]: Looking for 'mysqlch
Oct 02 12:24:56 controlnode2 /etc/mysql/debian-start[7441]: This installation of
lines 1-23...skipping...
🔵 mariadb.service - MariaDB 10.1.48 database server
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/mariadb.service; enabled; vendor preset:
  Active: active (running) since Mon 2023-10-02 12:24:56 PST; 2min 47s ago
     Docs: man:mysqld(8)
           https://mariadb.com/kb/en/library/systemd/
 Process: 7438 ExecStartPost=/bin/sh -c systemctl unset-environment _WSREP_STAR
 Process: 7435 ExecStartPost=/etc/mysql/debian-start (code=exited, status=0/SUC
 Process: 7334 ExecStartPre=/bin/sh -c [ ! -e /usr/bin/galera_recovery ] && VAR
 Process: 7332 ExecStartPre=/bin/sh -c systemctl unset-environment WSREP START
 Process: 7331 ExecStartPre=/usr/bin/install -m 755 -o mysql -g root -d /var/ru
```

Description: <u>It shows that the status of mariadb is active(running) in ubuntu</u>

```
[andayalyka@localhost ~]$ systemctl status mariadb

    mariadb.service - MariaDB database server

  Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/mariadb.service; enabled; vendor preset: dis
abled)
  Active: active (running) since Tue 2023-09-19 09:51:32 EDT; 4min 24s ago
  Process: 10750 ExecStartPost=/usr/libexec/mariadb-wait-ready $MAINPID (code=exited, s
tatus=0/SUCCESS)
  Process: 10713 ExecStartPre=/usr/libexec/mariadb-prepare-db-dir %n (code=exited, stat
us=0/SUCCESS)
Main PID: 10748 (mysqld safe)
   CGroup: /system.slice/mariadb.service
            -10748 /bin/sh /usr/bin/mysqld safe --basedir=/usr
           Sep 19 09:51:30 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Starting MariaDB database server...
Sep 19 09:51:30 localhost.localdomain mariadb-prepare-db-dir[10713]: Database MariaD...
Sep 19 09:51:30 localhost.localdomain mariadb-prepare-db-dir[10713]: If this is not ...
Sep 19 09:51:30 localhost.localdomain mysqld safe[10748]: 230919 09:51:30 mysqld saf...
Sep 19 09:51:30 localhost.localdomain mysqld safe[10748]: 230919 09:51:30 mysqld saf...
Sep 19 09:51:32 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Started MariaDB database server.
Hint: Some lines were ellipsized, use -l to show in full.
```

Description: It shows that the status of mariadb is active(running) in ubuntu

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.

```
andayalyka@managenode:~/HOA6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
changed: [192.168.56.103]
changed: [192.168.56.104]
changed: [192.168.56.102]
PLAY RECAP ***********************
      changed=1 unreachable=0 failed=0
               rescued
      changed=1
        unreachable=0
           failed=0
                rescued
      changed=1
        unreachable=0
           failed=0
                rescued
```

Description: <u>It shows that the IP address in file_servers installed a sambapackage</u>

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.

```
andayalyka@managenode:~/HOA6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] *******************************
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
changed: [192.168.56.103]
changed: [192.168.56.104]
192.168.56.102
192.168.56.103
        changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=2 rescued
        changed=1
changed=1
           unreachable=0
              failed=0
          unreachable=0
              failed=0
                    rescued
```

Description: <u>It shows that it allows you to assigns a labels to your tasks or roles within the playbook</u>

- 2. On the local machine, try to issue the following commands and describe each result:
 - 2.1 ansible-playbook --list-tags site.yml

Description: <u>It lists all the tags that are defined in the file site.yml along with the tasks that is associated in those tags.</u>

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

```
andayalyka@managenode:~/HOA6$ ansible-playbook --tags centos --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
TASK [Gathering Facts] *************
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
TASK [install updates (Ubuntu)] **************************
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
PLAY [web_servers] ****************************
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ************************
TASK [Gathering Facts] **************************
TASK [install mariadb package (CentOS)] *******************
changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0
                                                   rescued
                    changed=0
                                                   rescued
                           unreachable=0
                    changed=0
                                     failed=0
                                                   rescued
Description: It only display the specified task with the tag in CentOS that should be
executed and it only run a selective parts of the playbook
```

2.3 ansible-playbook --tags db --ask-become-pass site.yml

```
andayalyka@managenode:~/HOA6$ ansible-playbook --tags db --ask-become-pass site.yml
DEPRECATION WARNING]: Ansible will require Python 3.8 or newer on the controller starting with Ans
(default, Mar 10 2023, 16:46:00) [GCC 8.4.0]. This feature will be removed from ansible-core in ve
an be disabled by setting deprecation_warnings=False in ansible.cfg.
BECOME password:
unreachable=0 failed=0
          : ok=4 changed=0
                                   rescued
192.168.56.103
192.168.56.104
                   unreachable=0
              changed=0
                          failed=0
                                    rescued
                   unreachable=0
                          failed=0
              changed=0
                                    rescued
Description: <u>It only run the tasks that are tagged with "db"</u>
  2.4 ansible-playbook --tags apache --ask-become-pass site.yml
```

```
andayalyka@managenode:~/HOA6$ ansible-playbook --tags apache --ask-become-pass site.yml
DEPRECATION WARNING]: Ansible will require Python 3.8 or newer on the controller starting with Ans (default, Mar 10 2023, 16:46:00) [GCC 8.4.0]. This feature will be removed from ansible-core in ve
BECOME password:
ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ********************************
: ok=5 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=2
: ok=3 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=1
               changed=0
                                      rescued
                    unreachable=0 failed=0
               changed=0
                                      rescued
Description: <u>It only execute the tasks that are tagged with "apache"</u>
   2.5 ansible-playbook --tags "apache,db" --ask-become-pass site.yml
```

```
andayalyka@managenode:~/HOA6$ ansible-playbook --tags "apache,db" --ask-become-pass site.yml
[DEPRECATION WARNING]: Ansible will require Python 3.8 or newer on the controller starting with Ans (default, Mar 10 2023, 16:46:00) [GCC 8.4.0]. This feature will be removed from ansible-core in vectors of the disabled by setting deprecation_warnings=False in ansible.cfg.
BECOME password:
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] *******************
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ***********
unreachable=0 failed=0
          : ok=5 changed=0
              changed=0
                    unreachable=0
                          failed=0
                                     rescued
              changed=0
                    unreachable=0
                           failed=0
```

Description: It only run the tasks that are tagged with "apache" and "db"

Task 3: Managing Services

1. Edit the file site.yml and add a play that will automatically start the httpd on CentOS server.

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:

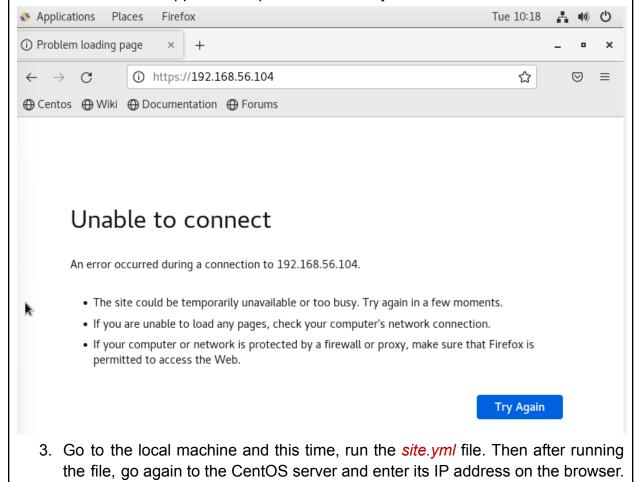
            name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
                tags: centos, db,mariadb
                dnf:
                      name: mariadb-server
                      state: latest
                 when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

    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.



Describe the result.

Testing 123...

This page is used to test the proper operation of the

Anache HTTP corver after it has been installed. If you

Description: After entering the IP address of the CentOS it has now displayed Tesing 123.....

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?
 - Grouping servers is a core tenet of infrastructure management. It fosters systematic organization and simplifies configuration management. Moreover, it allows for focused task execution, supports the implementation of role-based access controls, and significantly assists in troubleshooting within complex environments.
- 2. What is the importance of tags in playbooks?
 - Tags are a valuable instrument for precisely managing task execution in an Ansible playbook. Their flexibility, efficiency, and ability to organize tasks make them crucial for orchestrating complex infrastructure setups.
- 3. Why do think some services need to be managed automatically in playbooks?
 - Automating service management using playbooks not only ensures efficiency and consistency but also allows for smooth scalability, reducing the potential for errors. This approach is a fundamental element

in modern IT operations, particularly in environments marked by dynamic or extensive infrastructures.

CONCLUSION:

Customizing hosts in Ansible on Ubuntu entails tailoring configurations to suit the unique roles, characteristics, or requirements of each server. This skill is pivotal in overseeing a diverse and ever-changing infrastructure. It enables precision in configurations, thereby enhancing efficiency, bolstering security, and fortifying the reliability of your server management procedures. Using tags in Ansible plays enables the precise execution of particular tasks or roles within a playbook. This focused play selection method provides a flexible and highly effective way to control task execution. It's a crucial capability for managing complex infrastructures with meticulous attention to detail, ensuring the smooth orchestration of your operations.