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Course/Section: Managing Enterprise Servers / CPE31S5	Date Submitted: 10/27/2023
Instructor: Engr. Roman Richard	Semester and SY: 1 st semester, SY 2023-2024
Activity 10: Install, Configure, and Manage Log Monitoring tools	
1. Objectives	
Create and design a workflow that installs, configure and manage enterprise log monitoring tools using Ansible as an Infrastructure as Code (IaC) tool.	
2. Discussion	
<p>Log monitoring software scans and monitors log files generated by servers, applications, and networks. By detecting and alerting users to patterns in these log files, log monitoring software helps solve performance and security issues. System administrators use log monitoring software to detect common important events indicated by log files.</p> <p>Log monitoring software helps maintain IT infrastructure performance and pinpoints issues to prevent downtime and mitigate risks. These tools will often integrate with IT alerting software, log analysis software, and other IT issue resolution products to more aptly flesh out the IT infrastructure maintenance ecosystem.</p> <p>To qualify for inclusion in the Log Monitoring category, a product must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the log files generated by servers, applications, or networks • Alert users when important events are detected • Provide reporting capabilities for log files <p>Elastic Stack</p> <p>ELK suite stands for Elasticsearch, Kibana, Beats, and Logstash (also known as the ELK Stack). Source: https://www.elastic.co/elastic-stack</p> <p>The Elastic Stack is a group of open source products from Elastic designed to help users take data from any type of source and in any format, and search, analyze and visualize that data in real time. The product group was formerly known as the ELK Stack for the core products in the group -- Elasticsearch, Logstash and Kibana -- but has been rebranded as the Elastic Stack. A fourth product, Beats, was subsequently added to the stack. The Elastic Stack can be deployed on premises or made available as software as a service (SaaS). Elasticsearch supports Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud Platform and Microsoft Azure.</p>	

GrayLog

Graylog is a powerful platform that allows for easy log management of both structured and unstructured data along with debugging applications.

It is based on Elasticsearch, MongoDB, and Scala. Graylog has a main server, which receives data from its clients installed on different servers, and a web interface, which visualizes the data and allows to work with logs aggregated by the main server.

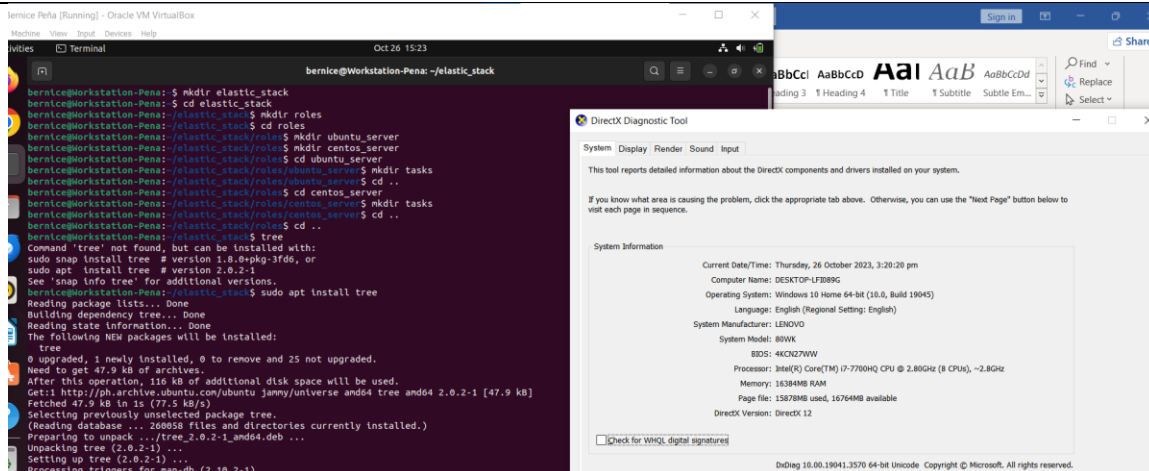
We use Graylog primarily as the stash for the logs of the web applications we build. However, it is also effective when working with raw strings (i.e. syslog): the tool parses it into the structured data we need. It also allows advanced custom search in the logs using structured queries. In other words, when integrated properly with a web app, Graylog helps engineers to analyze the system behavior on almost per code line basis.

Source: <https://www.graylog.org/products/open-source>

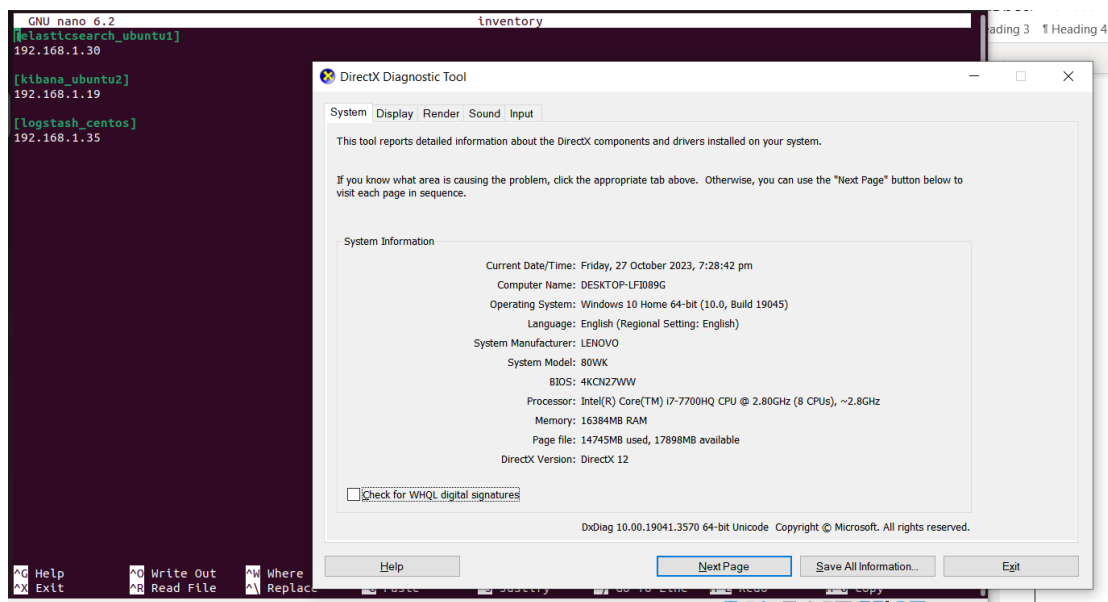
3. Tasks

1. Create a playbook that:
 - a. Install and configure Elastic Stack in separate hosts (Elastic Search, Kibana, Logstash)
2. Apply the concept of creating roles.
3. Describe how you did step 1. (Provide screenshots and explanations in your report. Make your report detailed such that it will look like a manual.)
4. Show an output of the installed Elastic Stack for both Ubuntu and CentOS.
5. Make sure to create a new repository in GitHub for this activity.

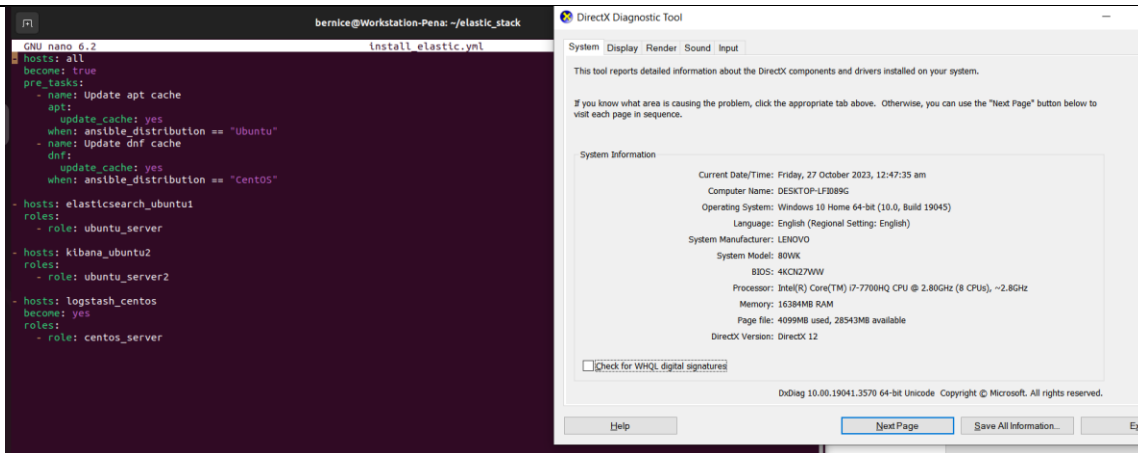
4. Output (screenshots and explanations)



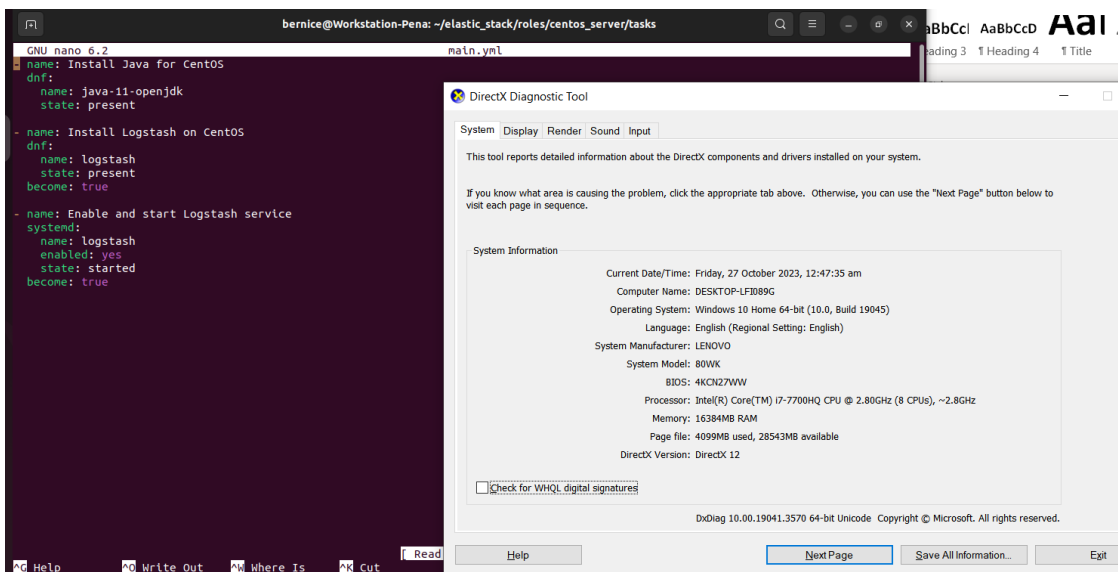
I created directories wherein I can store my yml files for specific server, I made a directory for ubuntu server and for CentOS server. Those directories will be used for yml files for the installation of Elastic Stack.



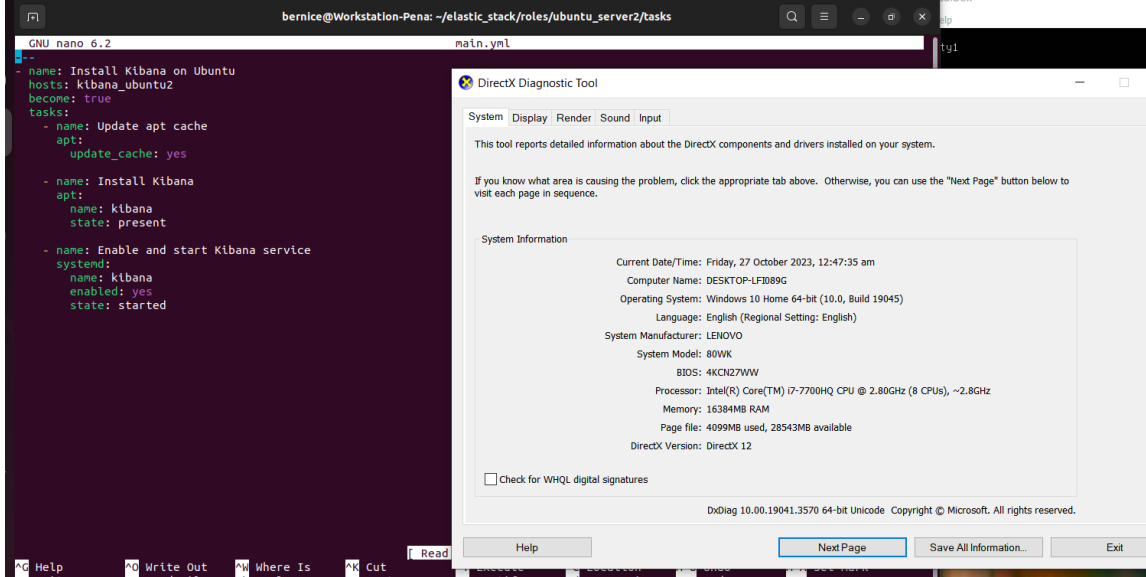
Inside my elastic_stack directory, I created an inventory to list the ip addresses that I will be using for installing elastic stack. I used 2 servers for ubuntu, and one server using my CentOS.



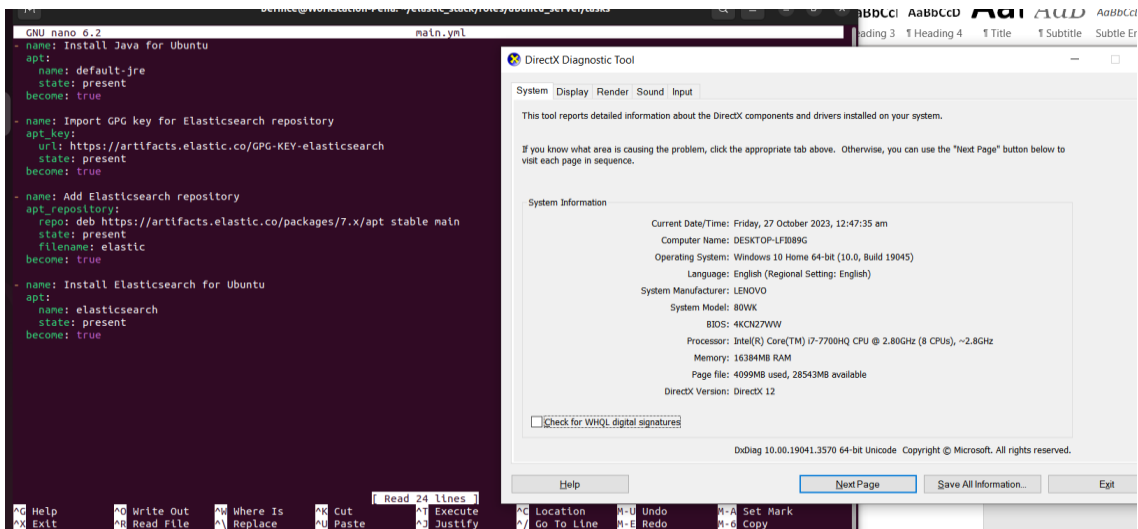
I created a yml file named `install_elastic.yml` inside my `elastic_stack` directory. This yml file's purpose to apply the concept of roles to call the tasks in my servers' yml file.



Inside my `roles/centos_server/tasks` directory, I created a `main.yml` file that consists of the tasks to be executed in installing Logstash.



Inside my roles/ubuntu_server2/tasks directory, I created a main.yml file that consists of the tasks to be executed in installing Kibana on my ubuntu server 2.



In my roles/ubuntu_server/tasks directory, I created a main.yml file that consists of the tasks to be executed for installing Elasticsearch on my ubuntu server 1.

```
bernice@Workstation-Pena: ~/elastic_stack
bernice@Workstation-Pena:~/elastic_stack$ ansible-playbook -i inventory install_elastic.yml --ask-become-pass
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *****
TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.1.30]
ok: [192.168.1.19]
ok: [192.168.1.35]

TASK [Update apt cache] *****
skipping: [192.168.1.35]
changed: [192.168.1.19]
changed: [192.168.1.30]

TASK [Update dnf cache] *****
skipping: [192.168.1.30]
skipping: [192.168.1.19]
ok: [192.168.1.35]

PLAY [elasticsearch_ubuntu1] *****
TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.1.30]

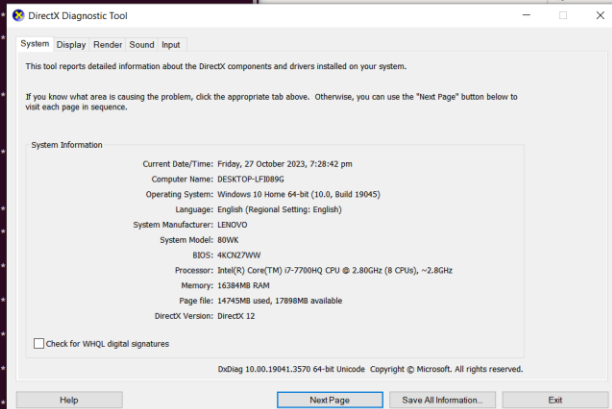
TASK [ubuntu_server : Install Java for Ubuntu] *****
changed: [192.168.1.30]

TASK [ubuntu_server : Import GPG key for Elasticsearch repository] *****
ok: [192.168.1.30]

TASK [ubuntu_server : Add Elasticsearch repository] *****
ok: [192.168.1.30]

TASK [ubuntu_server : Install Elasticsearch for Ubuntu] *****
ok: [192.168.1.30]

PLAY [kibana_ubuntu2] *****
TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.1.30]
```



```
bernice@Workstation-Pena: ~/elastic_stack

TASK [ubuntu_server : Import GPG key for Elasticsearch repository] *****
ok: [192.168.1.30]

TASK [ubuntu_server : Add Elasticsearch repository] *****
ok: [192.168.1.30]

TASK [ubuntu_server : Install Elasticsearch for Ubuntu] *****
ok: [192.168.1.30]

PLAY [kibana_ubuntu2] *****
TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.1.19]

TASK [ubuntu_server2 : Install Kibana on Ubuntu] *****
ok: [192.168.1.19]

TASK [ubuntu_server2 : Enable and start Kibana service] *****
ok: [192.168.1.35]

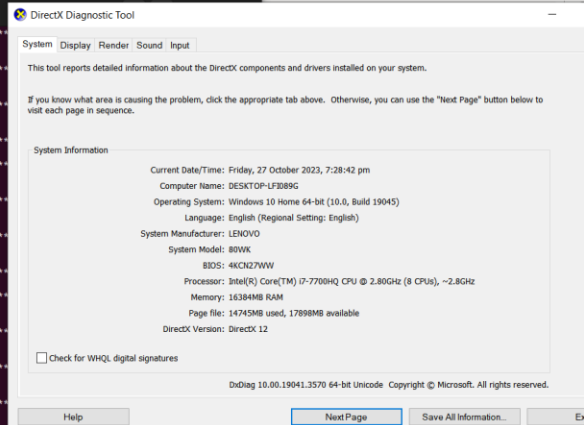
PLAY [logstash_centos] *****
TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [192.168.1.35]

TASK [centos_server : Install Java for CentOS] *****
ok: [192.168.1.35]

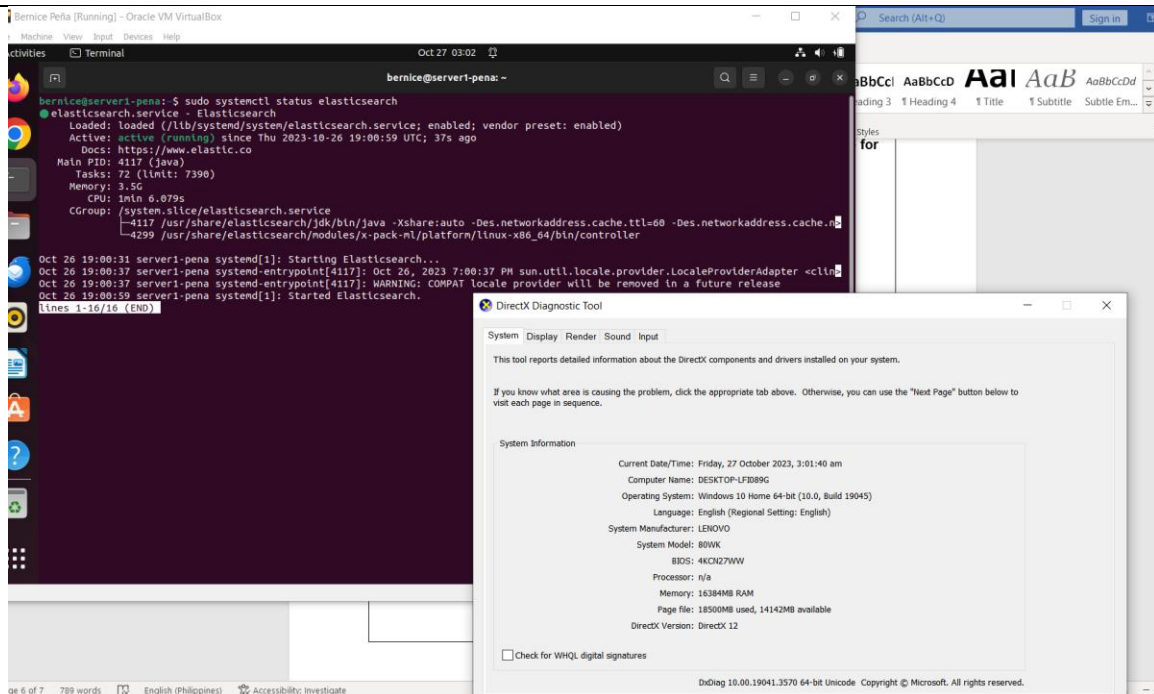
TASK [centos_server : Install Logstash on CentOS] *****
ok: [192.168.1.35]

TASK [centos_server : Enable and start Logstash service] *****
ok: [192.168.1.35]

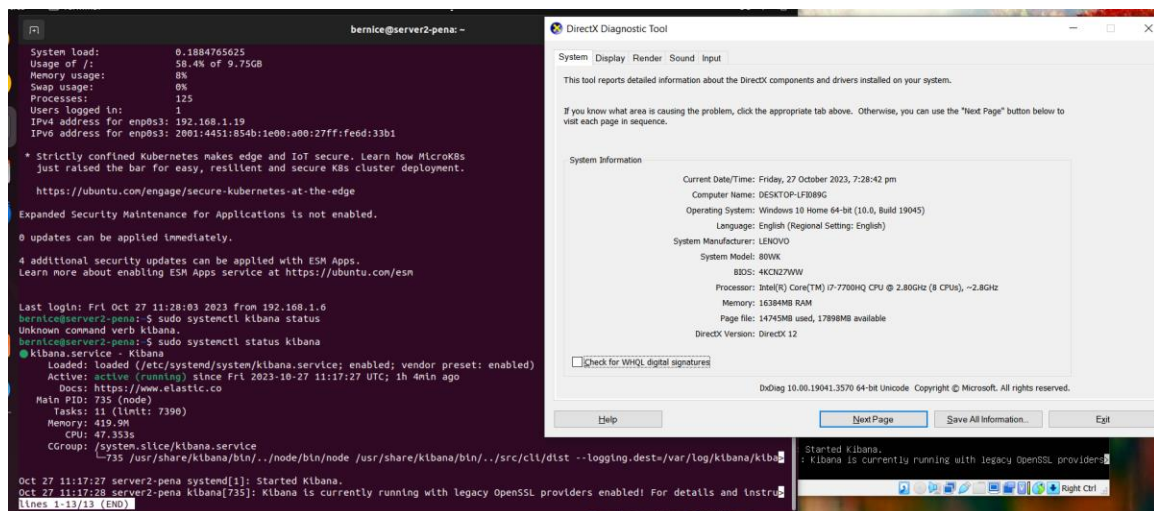
PLAY RECAP *****
192.168.1.19 : ok=5 changed=1 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=1 rescued=0 ignored=0
192.168.1.30 : ok=7 changed=2 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=1 rescued=0 ignored=0
192.168.1.35 : ok=6 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=1 rescued=0 ignored=0
bernice@Workstation-Pena:~/elastic_stack$
```



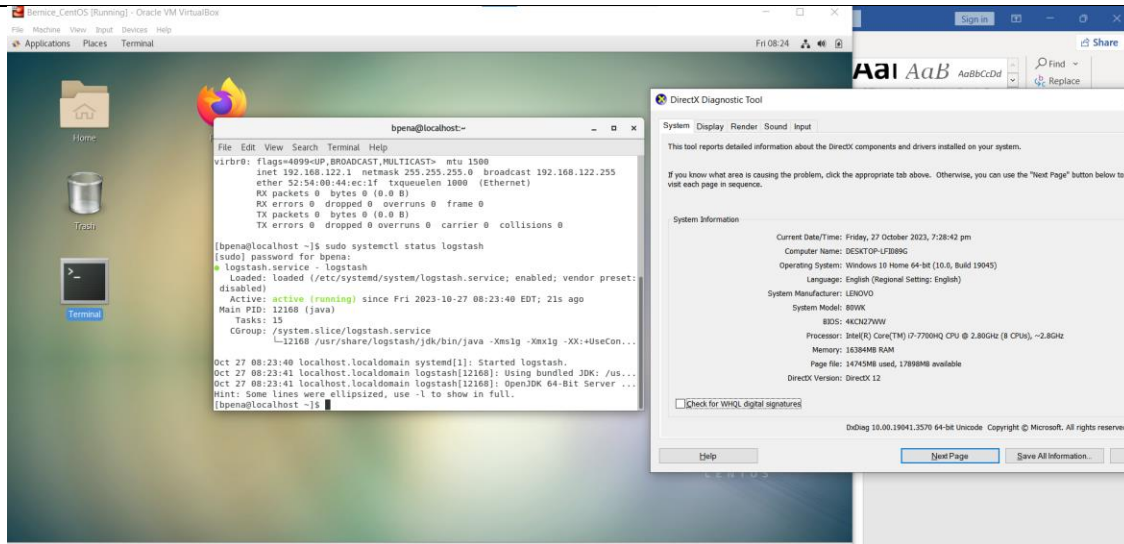
After executing my playbook `install_elastic.yml`, the installation process for Elastic Stack that includes Elasticsearch, Kibana, and Logstash was successfully installed. As it is stated in the results, the status for the installation of Elastic Stack for a specific server indicates a status of “ok” and “changed”, this is because of the installation process that I’ve made for the servers.



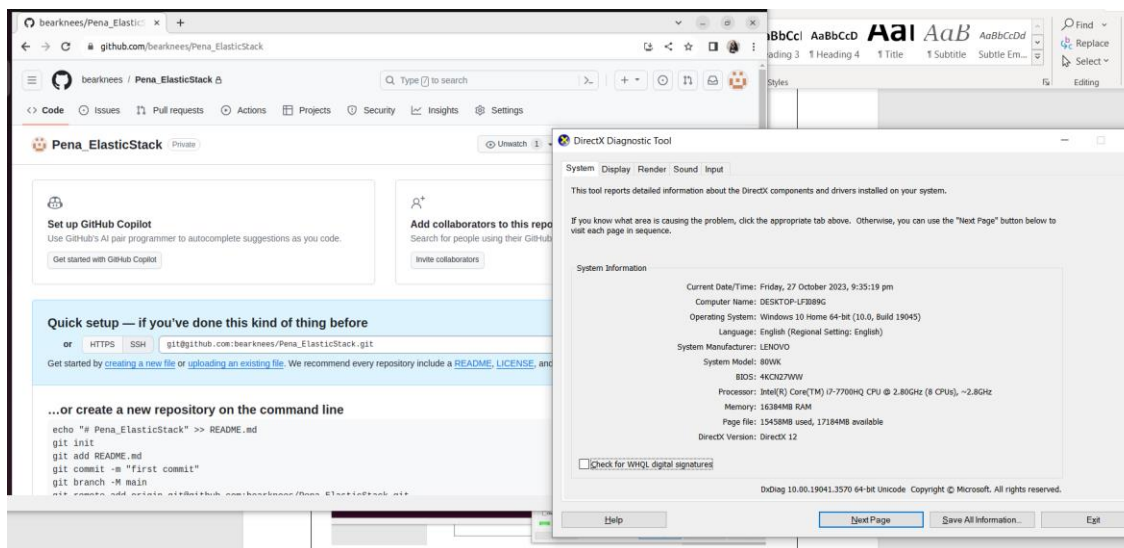
I check the status of elasticsearch on my ubuntu server to verify if it is installed. As you can see here, it indicates that the status of it is active(running), this means that the elasticsearch was successfully installed and started.



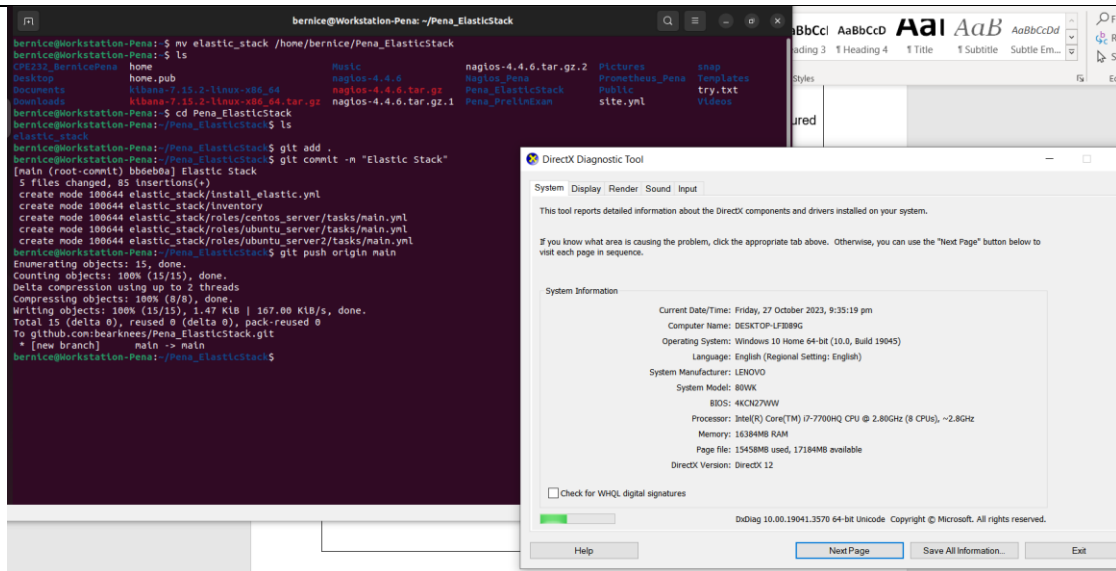
This is to verify that the status of Kibana is running and already started.



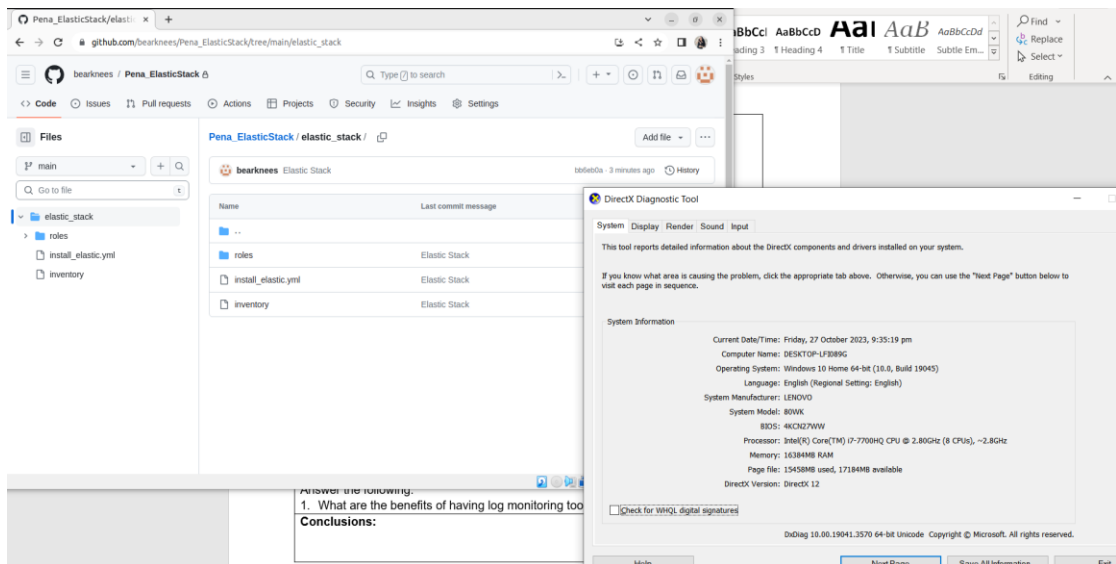
I also checked the status of logstash to verify that it is running and already started.



I create a repository on my GitHub named Pena_ElasticStack, this is where I will commit and push my elastic_stack directory



Then I cloned the repository and moved my elastic_stack directory to my Pena_ElasticStack. After this, I used the commit command to add my files in my GitHub repository.



After committing and pushing all the files, this is the content of my GitHub repository (Pena_ElasticStack) now.

GitHub repository link: https://github.com/berneckees/Pena_ElasticStack

Reflections:

Answer the following:

1. What are the benefits of having log monitoring tool?

Having log monitoring tools provide benefits such as the increased security through the detection of breaches as well as suspicious activities, it improves performance analysis in order to identify potential issues, this will simplify the troubleshooting for quick issue resolution through detailed logs, predictive maintenance, and capabilities for problem-solving. With this being said, log monitoring tools will increase operational efficiency through centralized log management resulting in reduced downtime.

Conclusions:

In this activity, I was able to understand more about the importance of having log monitoring tools, I looked at how to set up the Elastic Stack which is a great tool for log monitoring and analysis. I began by installing Elasticsearch, Kibana, and logstash, I also delved into stack configuration and troubleshooting making me understand more about the concept of roles and tasks. This activity taught me about the importance of improving security, performance analysis, and troubleshooting among other things. I also learned about the complexities of installing and administering Elasticsearch and Kibana since there are different roles of configuration that needs to be done for this. This activity gave a hands-on understanding of the complications and solutions involved in configuring the Elastic Stack as well as its vital role in ensuring stable and secure operations.