

Unit 8 Lab - Configuration Drift and Remediation

Operational Activities

The screenshot shows the DISA STIG Viewer application. The main window displays a list of rules for the Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9 STIG SCAP Benchmark. The rules are listed in a table with columns for Status, Vul ID, Rule ID, and Rule Name. The rules are numbered 1 through 9. The rule for V-257923 is highlighted.

Status	Vul ID	Rule ID	Rule Name
NR	V-257882	SV-257882r...	SRG-OS-000...
NR	V-257883	SV-257883r...	SRG-OS-000...
NR	V-257884	SV-257884r...	SRG-OS-000...
NR	V-257918	SV-257918r...	SRG-OS-000...
NR	V-257919	SV-257919r...	SRG-OS-000...
NR	V-257920	SV-257920r...	SRG-OS-000...
NR	V-257921	SV-257921r...	SRG-OS-000...
NR	V-257922	SV-257922r...	SRG-OS-000...
NR	V-257923	SV-257923r...	SRG-OS-000...

The right-hand pane shows the details for rule V-257923. It includes the rule title, a discussion, a fix text, and references.

Rule Title: RHEL 9 library directories must be group-owned by root or a system account.

Discussion: If RHEL 9 allowed any user to make changes to software libraries, then those changes might be implemented without undergoing the appropriate testing and approvals that are part of a robust change management process.

Fix Text: Configure the systemwide shared library directories (/lib, /lib64, /usr/lib and /usr/lib64) to be protected from unauthorized access.

Run the following command, replacing "[DIRECTORY]" with any library directory not group-owned by "root".

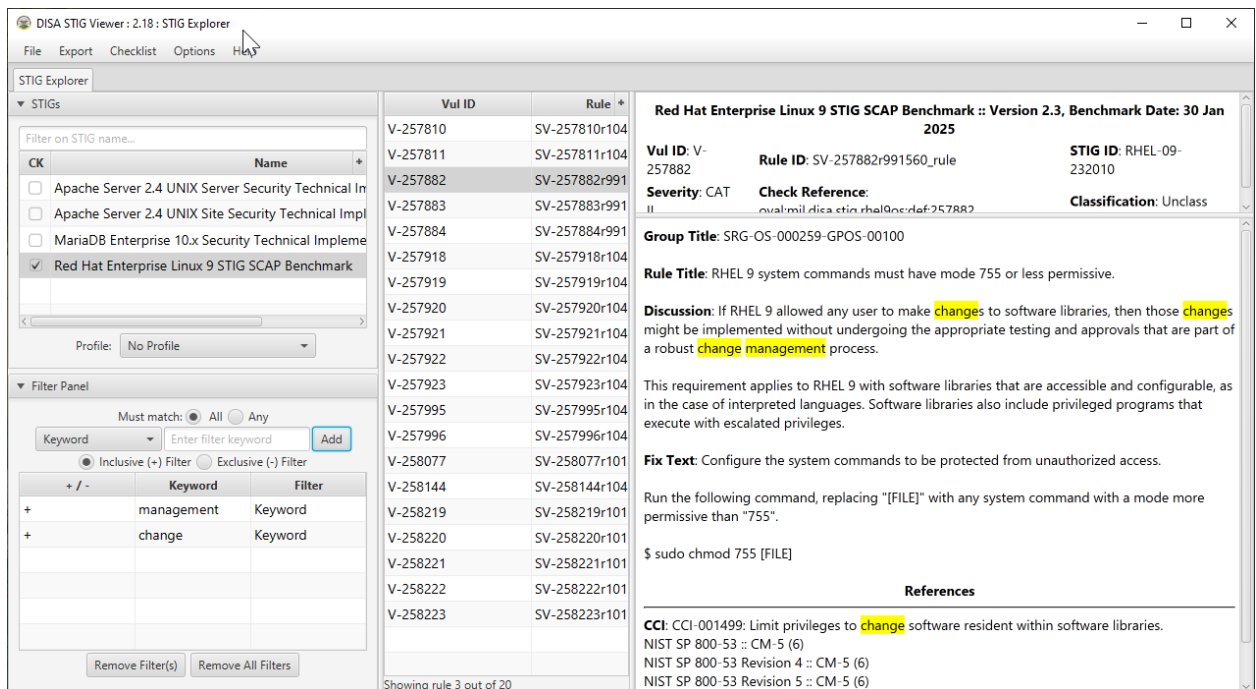
```
$ sudo chgrp root [DIRECTORY]
```

References

CCI: CCI-001499: The organization limits privileges to change software resident within software libraries.
NIST SP 800-53 :: CM-5 (6)
NIST SP 800-53A :: CM-5 (6).1
NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4 :: CM-5 (6)

Check your stig viewer and go to RHEL 9 stigs.

Set a filter for “change management”.



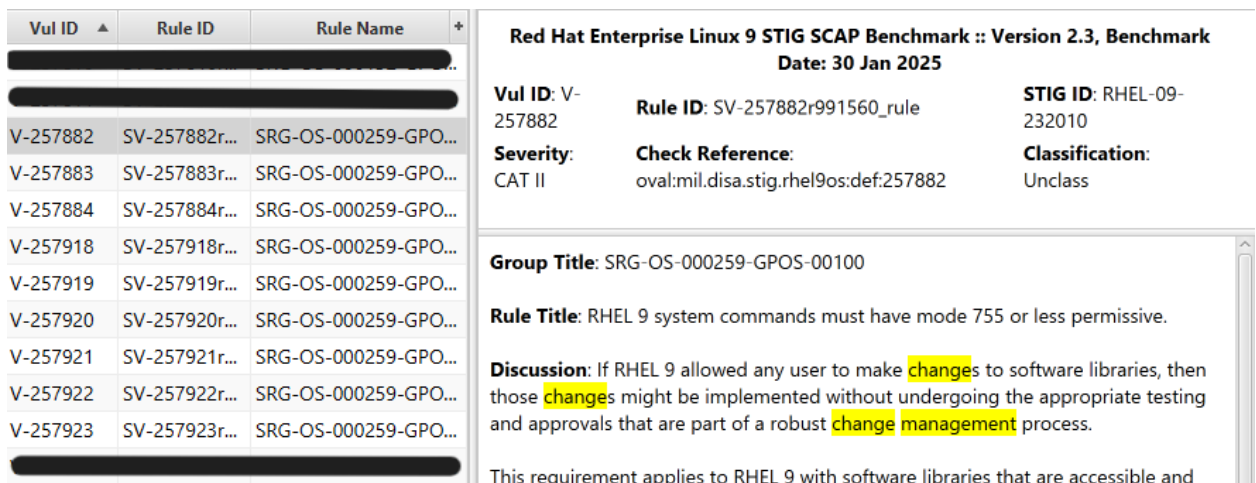
How many STIGs do you see?

The STIG VIEWER did not find anything using the two words together

-so I filtered for management , then for change

-this produced 20 STIGS

-nine (9) had the exact phrase “change management”



Review the wording, what is meant by a robust change management process?

To my understanding, using a tool such as ServiceNow ensures a robust process.

To explain it in my own words, was difficult at first glance, so I looked up the below online.

According to a blog

1. Create templates for every change type
2. Document all details of the change
3. Define and assign tasks to the right people
4. Establish pre-defined approval policies
5. Communicate proactively with stakeholders and employees
 - a. Set up a dedicated channel in your communication tool so that everyone is on the same page with the change implementation.
6. ... change calendar ...
 - a. Maintain a change management calendar to schedule and track all change requests in one place.
7. Implement changes gradually and establish freeze periods
8. Prepare a contingency plan to roll back changes
9. Conduct post-change reviews
 - a. In my experience – a client user / app support needs to perform checkouts after some changes

Do you think this can be applied in just one STIG? Why or why not?

No in large organizations – many of these 9 require architecture/ engineering review in a large organization

Yes in small shops- but to avoid config drift these need to be part of the build stage for every machine.

What type of control is being implemented with change management in these STIGS?

Technical Preventative

Is it different across the STIGs or all the same?

All the same - the either refer to file/group ownership or permissions

Monitoring configuration drift with Aide

Go into the sandbox lab: <https://killercoda.com/playgrounds/scenario/ubuntu>

Install aide and watch the installation happen.

```
K L L K C O D A PLUS
Editor Tab1 59 min
ubuntu:~$ apt -y install aide
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
The following package was automatically installed and is no longer required:
  squashfs-tools
Use 'apt autoremove' to remove it.
The following additional packages will be installed:
  aide-common bsd-mailx libblockfile-bin libblockfile1 libmhash2
  libsasl2 postfix ssl-cert
Suggested packages:
  figlet postfix-cdb postfix-doc postfix-ldap postfix-lmdb
  postfix-mta-sts-resolver postfix-mysql postfix-pcre
  postfix-pgsql postfix-sqlite procmail sasl2-bin
  dovecot-common
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  aide aide-common bsd-mailx libblockfile-bin libblockfile1
  libmhash2 libsasl2 postfix ssl-cert
0 upgraded, 9 newly installed, 0 to remove and 162 not upgraded.
Need to get 1692 kB of archives.
After this operation, 5570 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/main amd64 ssl-cert all 1.1.2ubuntu1 [17.8 kB]
Get:2 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/main amd64 libsasl2 amd64 1.3.0-3build3 [41.4 kB]
Get:3 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/main amd64 postfix amd64 3.8.6-1build2 [1254 kB]
Get:4 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/main amd64 libmhash2 amd64 0.9.9-9build3 [94.2 kB]
Get:5 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/main amd64 aide amd64 0.18.6-2build2 [117 kB]
Get:6 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/main amd64 libblockfile-bin amd64 1.17-1build3 [11.2 kB]
Get:7 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/main amd64 libblockfile1 amd64 1.17-1build3 [684 B]
Get:8 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/main amd64 aide-common all 0.18.6-2build2 [82.2 kB]
Get:9 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/main amd64 bsd-mailx amd64 8.1.2-0.20220412cvs-1build1 [67.2 kB]
Fetched 1692 kB in 1s (3232 kB/s)
Preconfiguring packages ...
```

apt -y install aide

What is being put in the path /etc/aide/aide.conf.d/?

How many files are in there?

212

```
ubuntu:~$ ^C
ubuntu:~$ ls /etc/aide/aide.conf.d/ |wc
    212      212    3680
ubuntu:~$
```

Check your version of aide

```

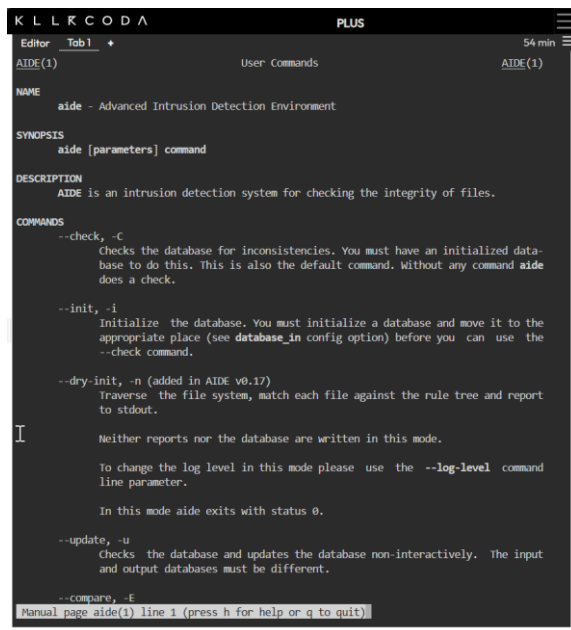
ubuntu:~$ aide -v | head
AIDE 0.18.6

Compile-time options:
use pcre2: mandatory
use pthread: yes
use zlib compression: yes
use POSIX ACLs: yes
use SELinux: yes
use xattr: yes
use POSIX 1003.1e capabilities: yes
ubuntu:~$

```

aide -v

Read the man page (first page).



```

K L L K C O D A PLUS
Editor Tab1 + 54 min
AIDE(1) User Commands AIDE(1)

NAME
    aide - Advanced Intrusion Detection Environment

SYNOPSIS
    aide [parameters] command

DESCRIPTION
    AIDE is an intrusion detection system for checking the integrity of files.

COMMANDS
    --check, -C
        Checks the database for inconsistencies. You must have an initialized data-
        base to do this. This is also the default command. Without any command aide
        does a check.

    --init, -i
        Initialize the database. You must initialize a database and move it to the
        appropriate place (see database_in config option) before you can use the
        --check command.

    --dry-init, -n (added in AIDE v0.17)
        Traverse the file system, match each file against the rule tree and report
        to stdout.

        Neither reports nor the database are written in this mode.

        To change the log level in this mode please use the --log-level command
        line parameter.

        In this mode aide exits with status 0.

    --update, -u
        Checks the database and updates the database non-interactively. The input
        and output databases must be different.

    --compare, -E
        Manual page aide(1) line 1 (press h for help or q to quit)

```

man aide

What does aide try to do, and how does it do it?

AIDE is an IDS – intrusion detection system. It monitors all files for changes.

What is the configuration of cron found in /etc/cron.daily/dailyaidecheck?

```

ubuntu:~$ ls -ltr /etc/cron.daily/dailyaidecheck
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 510 Oct  4 2023 /etc/cron.daily/dailyaidecheck
ubuntu:~$ cat !$
cat /etc/cron.daily/dailyaidecheck
#!/bin/sh

# Skip if systemd is running.
if [ -d /run/systemd/system ]; then
    exit 0
fi

SCRIPT="/usr/share/aide/bin/dailyaidecheck"
if [ -x "${SCRIPT}" ]; then
    if command -v capsh >/dev/null; then
        capsh --caps="cap_dac_read_search,cap_audit_write+eip cap_setpcap,cap_setuid,cap_setgid+ep" --keep=1 --user=_aide --addamb=cap_dac_read_search,cap_audit_write -- -c "${SCRIPT}" --crondaily"
    else
        # no capsh present, run with full capabilities
        "${SCRIPT}" --crondaily
    fi
fi

```

What does this attempt to do?

It runs the dailyaidecheck

What checks are there before execution?

If capsh exists then it dailyaidecheck is run using capsh as a wrapper

If system is running then it quits.

Read the man for capsh, what is it used for?

It is used for gathering extra information about a command by running it withing a sheel wrapper. It can also limit or expand the rights the command has while running.

Set up aide according to the default configuration style

How long did that take?

7.5 minutes

```
K L L K C O D A PLUS
Editor Tab 1 28 min
ubuntu:~$ time aide -c /etc/aide/aide.conf -i
Start timestamp: 2025-06-12 21:52:03 +0000 (AIDE 0.18.6)
AIDE successfully initialized database.
New AIDE database written to /var/lib/aide/aide.db.new
Ignored e2fs attributes: E1NW

Number of entries: 128203

-----
The attributes of the (uncompressed) database(s):
-----

/var/lib/aide/aide.db.new
POS : 855e07K7L2ZekVtMIZgPQ==
SHR1 : YeywQZFXzwmCDgRBAuChjG70=
SHR256 : JHQCkURwM0Z5XqN2EbJ5pLZ3c1PvTX
e99kpE12SpQ=
SHR512 : ffSwuVw4lwEMQZconVvYftxp+GB1j+pZ
TVdw1ELZSTffsvv9WbCawoKqVt6JwEn
YgDny/SS51uas8pKvGaRQ==
RMD160 : 5C++vwjI+Exnb8V7bEhohZaFzIk=
TIGER : CY0BwE6YpJNAjrs58WqafZ1X36iBc9XF
CRC32 : Q6nBFA==
CRC32B : Y1aYQg==
HAVAL : 51JpGvNpH48CG+yGrw7p8Urnw6LVcA
k0toEL64mzk=
WHIRLPOOL : 648Pk1qpcKc1DXtwy5ISa3+e/BO1V4c
m8P5K1b8kxQvXvpsXonUypPw5Lfx0l
2H4tbb6vvHjC1sPwfapmJg==
GOST : a/SX1FvQDw57MbAzpD28Uj06keqG1QQu
H2PwKGYAyXs=

End timestamp: 2025-06-12 21:59:29 +0000 (run time: 7m 26s)

real 7m25.802s
user 5m59.585s
sys 0m15.613s
ubuntu:~$
```

How much time was wall clock v. system/user time?

real 7m25.802s

user 5m59.585s

sys 0m15.613s

Why might you want to know this on your systems?

What do you notice about the output?

It found 128k files to track.

It generated checksums to verify the status of the new database.

What do you need to go read about?

A lot –

1st based on the output I should learn more about these

2nd

Set the database up properly

```
cp /var/lib/aide/aide.db.new /var/lib/aide/aide.db
```

Test aide by making files in a tracked directory

```
mkdir /root/prolug
```

```
touch /root/prolug/test1
```

```
touch /root/prolug/test2
```

```
time aide -c /etc/aide/aide.conf --check
```

Did you see your new files created?

YES

```
Summary:
Total number of entries: 128209
Added entries: 5
Removed entries: 0
Changed entries: 2

-----
Added entries:
-----
f+++++: /root/.viminfo
d+++++: /root/prolug
f+++++: /root/prolug/test1
f+++++: /root/prolug/test2
f+++++: /tmp/keys

-----
Changed entries:
-----
d =.... mc.n .. : /root
f >.... mc..H.. : /var/log/sysstat/sa12
```


sys 0m15.009s

```
-----
Changed entries:
-----
d =... mc..n .. : /root
f >... mc..H.. : /var/log/sysstat/sa12
-----
Detailed information about changes:
-----
Directory: /root
Mtime   : 2025-06-12 21:46:03 +0000      | 2025-06-12 22:07:57 +0000
Ctime   : 2025-06-12 21:46:03 +0000      | 2025-06-12 22:07:57 +0000
Linkcount : 4                          | 5
File: /var/log/sysstat/sa12
Size     : 13256                        | 16280
Mtime    : 2025-06-12 21:50:00 +0000      | 2025-06-12 22:10:00 +0000
Ctime    : 2025-06-12 21:50:00 +0000      | 2025-06-12 22:10:00 +0000
MD5      : z7XlEPsJ3WwPx1Bk8y46iQ==      | Yd6ST/A/heAe8MrxEIOUeQ==
```

How long did this take to run?

real 11m20.907s

user 9m50.078s

sys 0m15.009s

Using Ansible to fix drift 1 of

Complete the lab here: <https://killercoda.com/het-tanis/course/Ansible-Labs/16-Ansible-Web-Server-Env-Deploy>

```
loop:
- { env: 'dev', name: 'dev_index.html' }
- { env: 'test', name: 'test_index.html' }
- { env: 'qa', name: 'qa_index.html' }
notify:
- Restart apache

handlers:
- name: Restart apache
  system:
    state: restarted
    name: apache2

In each of those blocks above you set a notification if something is changed. Now you have to create the handler that gets used in the event a notification happens.

Run your completed playbook to deploy all environments

ansible-playbook -i /root/hosts /root/

Run it a second time to see all the
```

```
vi /root/web_environment.yaml
controlplane:~$ ansible-playbook -i /root/hosts /root/web_environment.yaml

PLAY [Web Environment] *****

TASK [Gathering Facts] *****
ok: [node01]

TASK [Install Apache2 Server] *****
changed: [node01]

TASK [Create directories for environments] *****
changed: [node01] => (item=dev)
changed: [node01] => (item=test)
changed: [node01] => (item=qa)

TASK [Add the Listener ports to /etc/apache2/ports.conf] *****
changed: [node01] => (item=Listen 8080)
changed: [node01] => (item=Listen 8081)
changed: [node01] => (item=Listen 8082)

TASK [Push the Virtual Directives files into the correct place] *****
changed: [node01] => (item=dev_virtual_host.conf)
changed: [node01] => (item=qa_virtual_host.conf)
changed: [node01] => (item=test_virtual_host.conf)

TASK [Push the html for each page over] *****
changed: [node01] => (item={'env': 'dev', 'name': 'dev_index.html'})
changed: [node01] => (item={'env': 'test', 'name': 'test_index.html'})
changed: [node01] => (item={'env': 'qa', 'name': 'qa_index.html'})

RUNNING HANDLER [Restart apache] *****
changed: [node01]

PLAY RECAP *****
node01 : ok=7 changed=6 unreachable=0 failed=0 skip=
d=0 rescued=0 ignored=0

controlplane:~$
```

```
Ansible Playbooks

Remove environment and push only based on tags

Lab Activities

You've been extremely successful. Now the teams want the ability to turn off or re-deploy only parts of the environments as needed. They want each piece to exist independently of each other.

Break out the playbook and turn off the listener for test on port 8081.

► Solution

BACK CHECK

Validation successful

ok: [node01]

TASK [Create directories for environments] *****
ok: [node01] => (item=dev)
ok: [node01] => (item=test)
ok: [node01] => (item=qa)

TASK [Add the Listener ports to /etc/apache2/ports.conf] *****
ok: [node01] => (item=Listen 8080)
ok: [node01] => (item=Listen 8081)
ok: [node01] => (item=Listen 8082)

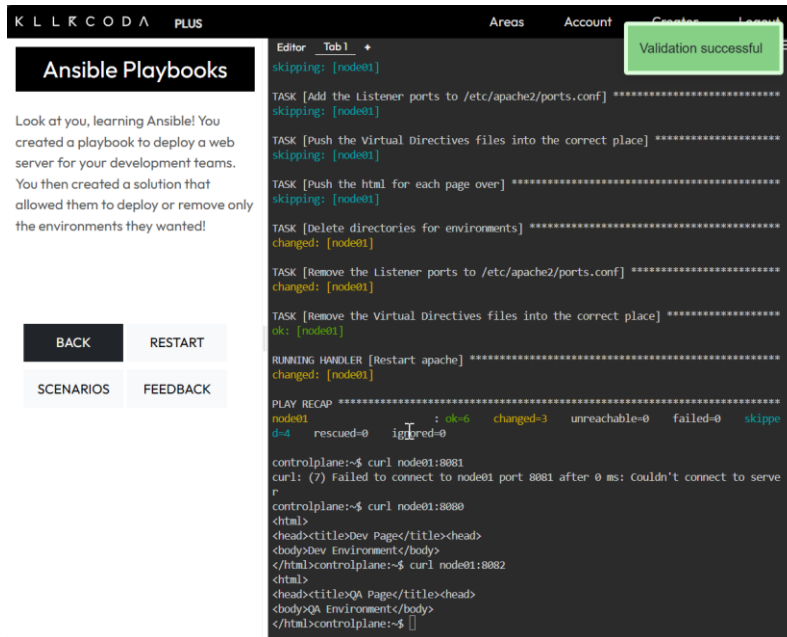
TASK [Push the Virtual Directives files into the correct place] *****
ok: [node01] => (item=dev_virtual_host.conf)
ok: [node01] => (item=qa_virtual_host.conf)
ok: [node01] => (item=test_virtual_host.conf)

TASK [Push the html for each page over] *****
ok: [node01] => (item={'env': 'dev', 'name': 'dev_index.html'})
ok: [node01] => (item={'env': 'test', 'name': 'test_index.html'})
ok: [node01] => (item={'env': 'qa', 'name': 'qa_index.html'})

PLAY RECAP *****
node01 : ok=6 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skip=
d=0 rescued=0 ignored=0

controlplane:~$ curl node01:8080
<html>
<head><title>Dev Page</title><head>
<body>Dev Environment</body>
</html>controlplane:~$ curl node01:8081
<html>
<head><title>Test Page</title><head>
<body>Test Environment</body>
</html>controlplane:~$ curl node01:8082
<html>
<head><title>QA Page</title><head>
<body>QA Environment</body>
</html>controlplane:~$
```

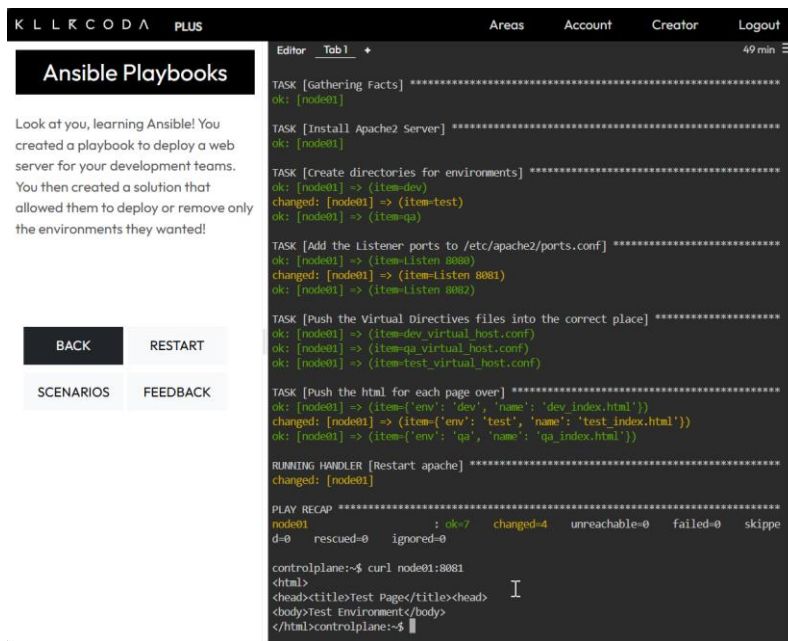
When you finish ensure that you see broken output for 8081, as required.



curl node01:8081

One of the dev teams figured out they could modify the test and qa environments because a previous engineer left them in the sudoers file. You can address that separately with the security team, but for now you need to get those environments back to working. Run your original deployment command to see if it sets the environment back properly.

ansible-playbook -i /root/hosts /root/web_environment.yaml



Did this force the system back into a working configuration?

YES

If it worked, would it always work, or would they (the systems) need to be manually intervened?

ALWAYS

What is your test? (hint: curl the ports 8080, 8081, and 8082 from previous commands)

```
controlplane:~$ for yy in 0 1 2 ; do echo CHECK $yy ; curl node01:808$yy ; echo =====
- ; done
CHECK 0
<html>
<head><title>Dev Page</title><head>
<body>Dev Environment</body>
</html>=====
CHECK 1
<html>
<head><title>Test Page</title><head>
<body>Test Environment</body>
</html>=====
CHECK 2
<html>
<head><title>QA Page</title><head>
<body>QA Environment</body>
</html>=====
controlplane:~$
```

Could this cause potential problems in the environment?

Accidentally running the incorrect playbook can wipe out manual configurations

If so, is that problem based on technology or operational practices? Why?

Operational practices- running a playbook needs to be under robust change management procedures