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Activity 9: Install, Configure, and Manage Performance Monitoring tools

1. Objectives

Create and design a workflow that installs, configure and manage enterprise performance tools using Ansible as an Infrastructure as Code (IaC) tool.

2. Discussion

Performance monitoring is a type of monitoring tool that identifies current resource consumption of the workload, in this page we will discuss multiple performance monitoring tool.

Prometheus

Prometheus fundamentally stores all data as timeseries: streams of timestamped values belonging to the same metric and the same set of labeled dimensions. Besides stored time series, Prometheus may generate temporary derived time series as the result of queries. Source: Prometheus - Monitoring system & time series database

Cacti

Cacti is a complete network graphing solution designed to harness the power of RRDTool's data storage and graphing functionality. Cacti provides a fast poller, advanced graph templating, multiple data acquisition methods, and user management features out of the box. All of this is wrapped in an intuitive, easy to use interface that makes sense for LAN-sized installations up to complex networks with thousands of devices. Source: Cacti® - The Complete RRDTool-based Graphing Solution

3. Tasks

- 1. Create a playbook that installs Prometheus in both Ubuntu and CentOS. Apply the concept of creating roles.
- 2. 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.)
- 3. Show an output of the installed Prometheus for both Ubuntu and CentOS.
- 4. Make sure to create a new repository in GitHub for this activity.
- 4. Output (screenshots and explanations)

main.yml file Playbook:



```
hideki@workstation: ~/HOA9.1-chilagan/roles/workstations/tasks
GNU nano 7.2
                                         main.yml
 name: Download Prometheus(CentOS)
  get_url:
    url: "https://github.com/prometheus/prometheus/releases/download/v3.0.0-beta.1/p>
    dest: /tmp/prometheus.tar.gz
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
- name: Extract Prometheus (CentOS)
  ansible.builtin.shell: tar -zxvf /tmp/prometheus.tar.gz -C /tmp/
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
name: Create Prometheus user (CentOS)
  ansible.builtin.user:
    name: prometheus
    state: present
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

    name: Create Prometheus directory (CentOS)

  ansible.builtin.file:
   path: /opt/prometheus
    state: directory
 when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

    name: Set ownership and permissions for Prometheus (CentOS)

  ansible.builtin.file:
    path: /opt/prometheus
   owner: prometheus
   group: prometheus
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
- name: Create Prometheus service file (CentOS)
  ansible.builtin.template:
    src: prometheus.service.j2
    dest: /etc/systemd/system/prometheus.service
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

```
name: Start Prometheus service (CentOS)
  ansible.builtin.service:
    name: prometheus
    enabled: ye
    state: started
 when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
- name: Open Firewall Port for Prometheus (CentOS)
  ansible.builtin.shell: firewall-cmd --add-port=9090/tcp --permanent
 when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
- name: Ensure Firewall Rule Reloaded (CentOS)
  ansible.builtin.shell: firewall-cmd --reload
 when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
- name: Enable Prometheus on system boot (CentOS)
   name: prometheus
    enabled: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

Provided screenshots above were the commands or queries that were used in order to install, extract, and obtain prometheus in both Ubuntu and CentOS. Note that this is only the queries for workstations, there are still yml files that are needed to run these commands.

prometheus.service.j2 file:

This part of the activity is a configuration that will allow Prometheus to start at boot and restart if it stops, running as a background service that will run in both Ubuntu and Centos since there are queries to copy the set of commands found in the main.yml.

prometheus.yml file:

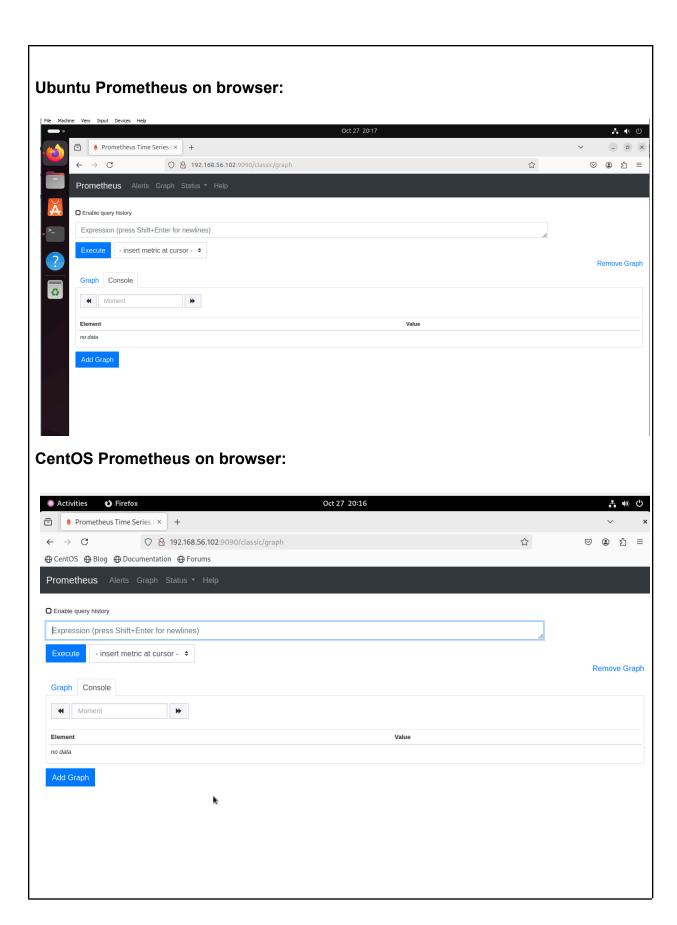
```
hideki@workstation:~/HOA9.1-chilagan$ cat prometheus.yml
 - hosts: all
   become: true
   pre_tasks:

    name: update repository index (CentOS)

     tags: always
     yum:
       update_cache: yes
       use_backend: dnf4
     changed_when: false
     when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
    - name: install updates (Ubuntu)
     tags: always
     apt:
       update_cache: yes
     changed when: false
     when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
 - hosts: all
   become: true
   roles:
     - base
 - hosts: workstations
   become: true
   roles:
     - workstations
```

In this part of the activity, this is now the executable file for the commands created above, first the pre_tasks to update both Ubuntu and Centos will run. Next, the main.yml file will run through the -hosts: workstations since this is where the yml file is found.

Ansible playbook run:



By typing the IP together with the created firewall port, the prometheus will run on both servers.

HOA9.1-chilagan all files:

Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 1. What are the benefits of having a performance monitoring tool?
 - The main obvious benefit of having a performance monitoring tool such as prometheus is to detect issues that will or can occur as early as possible. Monitoring tools can alert an administrator or even the user of the workstation the issues before it gets worse, this will allow them to address the said problem instantly. Another benefit is an enhanced security for workstations. Irregularities in performance metrics can indicate potential security incidents, such as DDoS attacks or unauthorized access. With this type of application or software, we can prevent these attacks and provide a safer environment for users.

Conclusions:

To conclude this activity, the use of the Ansible playbook to install Prometheus on both Ubuntu and CentOS simplifies the setup and ensures consistency of different workstations. While automation handles these configurations, administrators can spend less time on manual setup and more on fine-tuning performance and responding to critical alerts. This approach not only boosts reliability and consistency but also makes managing monitoring solutions more scalable and easier to maintain. Performing this activity provided me knowledge about the importance of monitoring tools. Although we already installed another tool from the previous activity, it is good to know that there are also other applications or software that are available and can be installed in linux operating systems and redhat operating systems.