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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.

```
daniela@workstation:~$ git clone https://github.com/danielarabang/CPE232_RABANG_HOA6.git
Cloning into 'CPE232_RABANG_HOA6'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 3, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (3/3), done.
remote: Total 3 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0
Unpacking objects: 100% (3/3), done.
```

- I created a repository named CPE232\_RABANG\_HOA6. I cloned it to my workstation.

## **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"
```

In this section I had created a play book which is named site.yml, and I ordered it to install apache and php for both Ubuntu and CentOS servers. Then I had issued a command that ran all the tasks that are in my playbook.

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
```

```
GNU nano 2.9.3 inventory

192.168.56.110 ansible_python_interpreter=/usr/bin/python3
#192.168.56.111 ansible_python_interpreter=/usr/bin/python3
#192.168.56.112 ansible_python_interpreter=/usr/bin/python

[web_servers]
192.168.56.110 ansible_python_interpreter=/usr/bin/python3
192.168.56.111 ansible_python_interpreter=/usr/bin/python

[db_servers]
192.168.56.112 ansible_python_interpreter=/usr/bin/python3

[file_servers]
192.168.56.111 ansible_python_interpreter=/usr/bin/python3
```

In my inventory file where all my virtual machines ip addresses are put in. So I had removed the variables that I had from the past activities and I had commented on them. Then I inserted the variables that determine the three which are the web\_servers, db\_servers, and the file\_servers.

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.

3. Edit the site.yml by following the image below:

```
hosts: all
become: true
- name: install updates (CentOS)
  dnf:
   update_only: yes
 update_cache: yes
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
- name: install updates (Ubuntu)
  apt:
    upgrade: dist
    update_cache: yes
  when: ansible distribution == "Ubuntu"
- 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"
```

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.

```
## CAU name 2.9.3

**There is all processors from precises to precise t
```

In this section I had put tasks in the playbook where it installed updates for both servers. Then I had modified the playbook where the hosts must be web\_servers to run the tasks that install apache and php.

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)

  yum:
    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"
```

Run the *site.yml* file and describe the result.

```
GNU nano 2.9.3
                                                                                                                                                                  site.vml
hosts: all
become: true
pre_tasks:
  name: """

name: """

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
tasks:
 - name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
   apt:
name:
   name:
- apache2
- libapache2-mod-php
state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
   name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
     name:
- httpd
   - php
state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
hosts: db_servers
become: true
tasks:
  name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
  yum:
name: mariadb-server
   state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
   name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
   service:
name: mariadb
name: mariadb
state: restarted
enabled: true
   name: install mariadb package (Ubuntu)
   apt:
name: mariadb-server
     state: latest
hen: ansible distributi
```

```
TACK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)]

skipping: [192:168.95.112]

to retry, use: --limit @/home/daniela/CPE232_RABANG_H0A6/site.retry

PLAY RECAP

192:168.56.110 : sk-4 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 [191:168.56.111]

192:168.56.112 : sk-3 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=1 [191:168.56.112]
```

The playbook is modified again to run special tasks for all the servers that are included in the db servers. The tasks install mariadb package for both Ubuntu and CentOS servers.

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.

For the output I had observed that the mariadb package is not installed in the server2 and in the CentOS it is installed. This is because in server 2 the mariadb request or package is not found.

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.

```
Amme: mariadb-server
state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
-name: "Mariadb-Restarting/Enabling"
service:
name: mariadb
state: restarted
enabled: true
-name: mariadb-server
state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
-name: mistall mariadb package (Ubuntu)
apt:
name: mariadb-server
state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
-hosts: file_servers
become: true
tasks:
-name: install samba package
package:
name: samba
state: latest
```

The playbook is modified again and I added the tasks for the file\_servers which is installing samba packages onto the servers that are in the category file\_server.

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: all
become: true
pre tasks:
- name: install updates (CentOS)
  tags: always
 yum:
   name: "*"
   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"
```

For this part, I had put codes on to the playbook where it installed updates but with the detection of tags.

```
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: all
become: true
pre tasks:
- name: install updates (CentOS)
tags: always
yum:
    name: "*"
  update_only: yes
update_cache: yes
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
  name: install updates (Ubuntu)
tags: always
  apť:
  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
   vum:
     name:
        - httpd
     - php
state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

```
niela@workstation:~/CPE232_RABANG_HOA6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
SUDO password:
failed=0
failed=0
     : ok=4 changed=0 unreachable=0
        changed=0
          unreachable=0
        changed=0
          unreachable=0
              failed=0
```

For this part, I had put codes on to the playbook where it installed updates but with the detection of tags. For the tags I put the appropriate tags for the right server.

```
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
```

```
hosts: db_servers
become: true
tasks:
- name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
  tags: db,centos,db,mariadb
  yum:
   name: mariadb-server
   state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

    name: install mariadb package (Ubuntu)

  tags: db,mariadb,ubuntu
 apt:
   name: mariadb-server
   state: latest
 when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
  service:
   name: mariadb
   state: restarted
    enabled: true
hosts: file_servers
become: true
tasks:
- name: install samba package
  tags: samba
  package:
   name: samba
    state: latest
```

Run the *site.yml* file and describe the result.

I modified the playbook and also a task where it installed the samba package on file\_servers and added a tag where it says samba.

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

It runs all the tasks that are listed as tags that are in the playbook.

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

It runs all the tasks that are tagged as centos that are in the playbook.

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

```
danielagworkstation:-/CPE232_RABANG_MOA6$ ansible-playbook --tags db --ask-become-pass site.yml
SUDO password:

PLAY [all]

TASK [Gathering Facts]

ok: [93.168.56.110]

ok: [93.168.56.111]

TASK [install updates (CentO5)]

Skipping: [192.168.56.112]

TASK [install updates (Ubuntu)]

Skipping: [192.168.56.112]

TASK [install updates (Ubuntu)]

Skipping: [192.168.56.112]

PLAY [web_servers]

TASK [Gathering Facts]

ok: [192.168.56.113]

ok: [192.168.56.113]

ok: [192.168.56.113]

ok: [192.168.56.113]

TASK [Gathering Facts]

ok: [192.168.56.113]

TASK [Gathering Facts]

ok: [192.168.56.113]

TASK [Gathering Facts]

ok: [192.168.56.113]

TASK [install mariadb package (CentO5)]

skipping: [102.168.56.111]

TASK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)]

skipping: [102.168.56.111]

TASK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)]

skipping: [192.168.56.111]

PLAY [file_servers]

TASK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)]

skipping: [192.168.56.111]

PLAY [gruent [192.168.56.11]

Description [192.168.56.11]

De
```

It runs all the tasks that are tagged as db that are in the playbook.

2.4 ansible-playbook --tags apache --ask-become-pass site.yml

```
danielagworkstation:-/CPE232_RABANG_MOASS ansible-playbook --tags apache --ask-become-pass site.yml
'SUMO password:

PLAY [alt]

TASK [Gathering Facts]

OR: [192,168.56.112]

OR: [192,168.56.113]

TASK [install updates (CentOS)]

Skipping: [192,168.56.113]

Skipping: [192,168.56.112]

TASK [install updates (Ubuntu)]

Skipping: [192,168.56.112]

OR: [192,168.56.113]

PLAY [web_servers]

TASK [Gathering Facts]

OR: [192,168.56.112]

OR: [192,168.56.112]

OR: [192,168.56.112]

OR: [192,168.56.113]

TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers]

Skipping: [192,168.56.112]

OR: [192,168.56.112]

OR: [192,168.56.111]

TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers]

Skipping: [192,168.56.112]

OR: [192,168.56.111]

TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers]

Skipping: [192,168.56.111]

TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers]

Skipping: [192,168.56.111]

TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers]

Skipping: [192,168.56.111]

TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers]

TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers]

Skipping: [192,168.56.111]

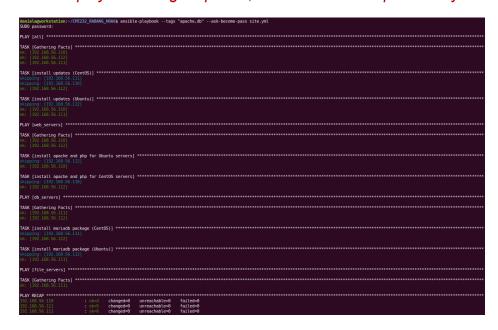
PLAY [file_servers]

TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers]

TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers]
```

It runs all the tasks that are tagged as apache that are in the playbook.

2.5 ansible-playbook --tags "apache,db" --ask-become-pass site.yml



It runs all the tasks that are tagged as apachedb that are in the playbook.

## **Task 3: Managing Services**

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

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

- name: start httpd (CentOS)
  tags: apache, centos,httpd
  service:
      name: httpd
      state: started
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

Figure 3.1.1 Make sure to save the file and exit.

```
hosts: all
          become: true
          pre_tasks:
          - name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
           tags: apache, sentos, httpd
           yum:
            name:
             - httpd
             - php
            state: latest
           when: ansible distribution == "CentOS"
          name: start httpd (CentOS)
           tags: apache,centos,httpd
           service:
            name: httpd
            state: started
           when: ansible distribution == "CentOS"
daniela@workstation:~/CPE232_RABANG_HOA6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
SUDO password:
: ok=1 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0
: ok=1 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0
                changed=0
                      unreachable=0
                              failed=0
```

In this part, I had modified the playbook and inserted the following tasks that start httpd on CentOS. It also includes tags and the state is also stated.

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

```
hosts: db servers
                    become: true
                    tasks:

    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)

                      tags: centos,db,mariadb
                        name: mariadb-server
                         state: latest
                      when: ansible distribution == "CentOS"
                     - name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
                      service:
                         name: mariadb
                         state: restarted
                         enabled: true
aniela@workstation:~/CPE232_RABANG_HOA6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
SUDO password:
```

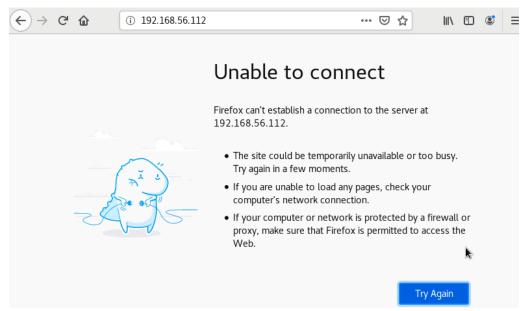
```
: ok=2 changed=1 unreachable=0 failed=0
: ok=3 changed=1 unreachable=0 failed=0
```

In this part, I created a task where it restarts and enables mariadb.

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.

[daniela@localhost ~]\$ sudo systemctl stop httpd



Since the httpd is stopped, the output shows that I cannot be able to connect since it had been stopped using the command sudo systemctl stop httpd.

3. Go to the local machine and this time, run the *site.yml* file. Then after running the file, go again to the CentOS server and enter its IP address on the browser. Describe the result.

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.

This is the results when the playbook is being played after stopping the httpd.

#### Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 1. What is the importance of putting our remote servers into groups?
  - The importance of putting remote servers into groups is to manage it more easily when it is more organized. Also it is much easier for giving tasks that need to be runned from different servers at the same time.
- 2. What is the importance of tags in playbooks?
  - The tags on playbook are important for a certain reason, tags are used to allow the user to pick a certain task to be runned or not to run.
- 3. Why do you think some services need to be managed automatically in playbooks?
  - For the user's convenience, other services need to be maintained automatically via playbooks. This boosts consistency and efficiency. Additionally, it improves security and compliance while lowering operational costs.

#### Conclusion:

In this hands-on activity which is all about targeting specific nodes and managing services, I have created a new repository that is named CPE232 RABANG HOA6. Then I had cloned it in my workstation so that I can manage the repository that I had created through the use of my workstation. So first I had created a playbook where it runs tasks that can install apache and php on both Ubuntu and CentOS. Then I edited the inventory file where I created three group variables that is named after web servers, db servers, and file servers. I also included thet ansible python interperter to make the playbook run without any error. Then I modified the playbook and added new features like adding pre\_tasks and adding the host: web servers where the following tasks that are below it can be runned on all the servers that are in the web\_servers category. Then I modified it again and assigns tasks that can be runned for the db servers which it installs mariadb package on both CentOS and Ubuntu. To verify that the mariadb package is installed for the db servers which is the server 2 and the CentOS server, I checked it using the command systemctl status mariadb for both server 2 and CentOS. Then I had modified the playbook again and added a tasks where it assigned on the file\_servers. This is to install samba package on the file\_servers. Then on the next task, I am tasked to run playbooks using tasks. Then i run the playbook using tags that are centos, db, apache, and apache, db. Then for the next task, which is the task number 3 I had manage the server to start tasks immediately. Therefore, I can say that after I had finished this hands-on activity, I learned a lot of thing from editing playbooks that satisfy certain tasks for a certain group of servers to be runned to the use of tags on playbooks.