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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:
           - 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"
                 jefferson@LocalMachine: ~/Langbid_PrelimExam
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                                                                  Q
GNU nano 6.2
                                          site.yml
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"
```

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 6.2
[remote_servers]
192.168.56.105
192.168.56.106

[web_server]
192.168.56.105
192.168.56.106

[db_server]
192.168.56.105

[file_server]
192.168.56.106
```

```
jefferson@LocalMachine:~/Langbid_PrelimExam$ ansible -m ping all
192.168.56.105 | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
192.168.56.106 | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
```

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)

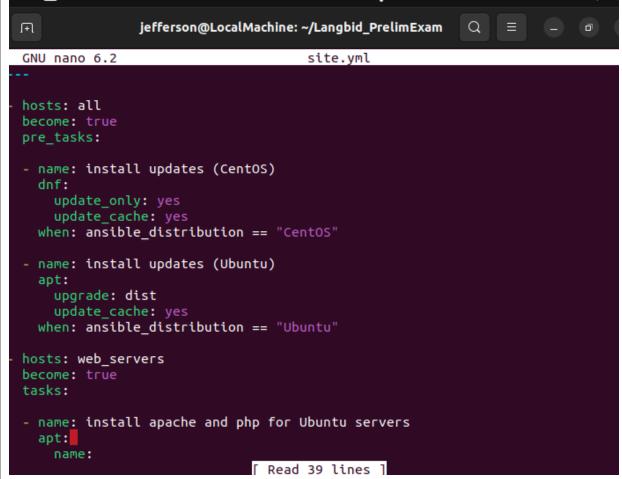
    upgrade: dist
    update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
hosts: web_servers
become: true

    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:

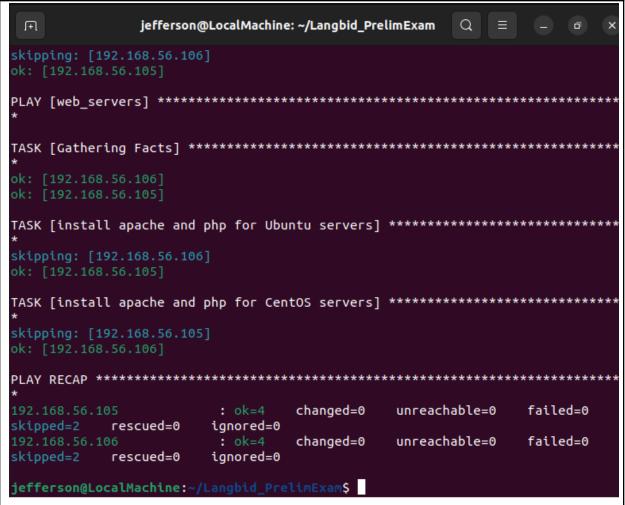
    httpd

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



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.



The site.yml run successfully and it updated the devices that are connected to ansible.

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:

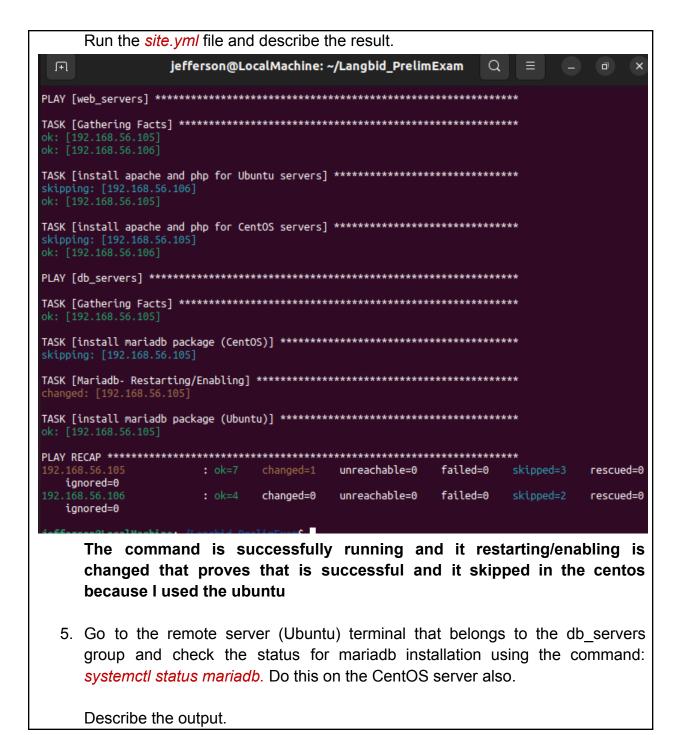
    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)

    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"
```

```
jefferson@LocalMachine: ~/Langbid_PrelimExam
                                                           Q
 GNU nano 6.2
                                      site.yml *
        - php
      state: latest
   when: ansible distribution == "CentOS"
- 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 package (Ubuntu)

   apt:
     name: mariadb-server
      state: latest
   when: ansible distribution == "Ubuntu"
```



```
jefferson@Server1: ~
 Setting up mariadb-server (1:10.6.7-2ubuntu1.1) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.10.2-1) ...
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.35-0ubuntu3.1) ...
jefferson@Server1:~$ systemctl status mariadb
 🌎 mariadb.service - MariaDB 10.6.7 database server
          Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/mariadb.service; enabled; vendor pres>
          Active: active (running) since Sat 2022-10-08 16:37:42 PST; 3min 44s ago
              Docs: man:mariadbd(8)
                         https://mariadb.com/kb/en/library/systemd/
        Process: 36808 ExecStartPre=/usr/bin/install -m 755 -o mysql -g root -d /v>
        Process: 36809 ExecStartPre=/bin/sh -c systemctl unset-environment _WSREP_
        Process: 36811 ExecStartPre=/bin/sh -c [ ! -e /usr/bin/galera_recovery ] &>
Process: 36850 ExecStartPost=/bin/sh -c systemctl unset-environment _WSREP>
Process: 36852 ExecStartPost=/etc/mysql/debian-start (code=exited, status=>
     Main PID: 36840 (mariadbd)
Status: "Taking your SQL requests now..."
Tasks: 8 (limit: 1080)
          Memory: 57.5M
                CPU: 448ms
          CGroup: /system.slice/mariadb.service

-36840 /usr/sbin/mariadbd
Oct 08 16:37:42 Server1 mariadbd[36840]: Version: '10.6.7-MariaDB-2ubuntu1.1' >
Oct 08 16:37:42 Server1 martadod[36840]: Version: '10.6.7-Martadb-2ubuntul.1' >
Oct 08 16:37:42 Server1 systemd[1]: Started Martadb 10.6.7 database server.
Oct 08 16:37:43 Server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[36854]: Upgrading MySQL tables>
Oct 08 16:37:43 Server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[36857]: Looking for 'mysql' as>
Oct 08 16:37:43 Server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[36857]: Looking for 'mysqlchec>
Oct 08 16:37:43 Server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[36857]: This installation of M>
Oct 08 16:37:43 Server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[36857]: You can use --force if>
Oct 08 16:37:43 Server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[36869]: Checking for insecure >
Oct 08 16:37:43 Server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[3687]: Triggering myism-reco>
Oct 08 16:37:43 Server1 /etc/mysql/debian-start[36873]: Triggering myisam-reco
 jefferson@Server1:~$
```

The mariadb-server is now active because it is just installed

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

● mariadb.service - MariaDB database server

Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/mariadb.service; disabled; vendor preset: disabled)

Active: inactive (dead)
```

The mariadb-server is inactive because it is not installed in the centos because of the ip address i used.

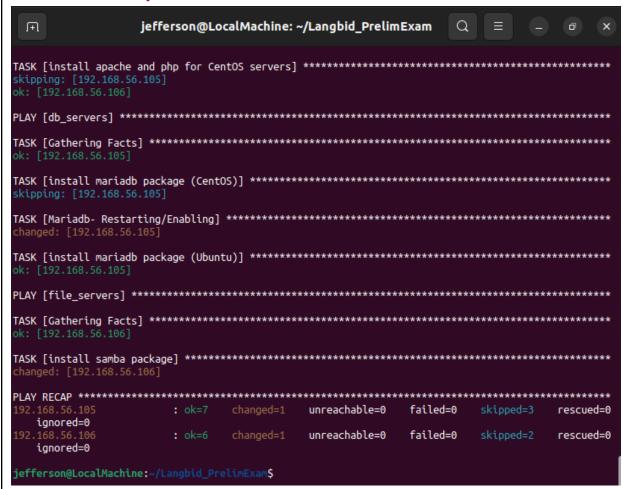
6. Edit the *site.yml* again. This time we will append the code to configure installation on the *file_servers* group. We can add the following on our file.

```
    hosts: file_servers
        become: true
        tasks:

            name: install samba package
            package:
                name: samba
                state: latest
```

```
    name: install samba package
package:
name: samba
state: latest
```

Run the site.yml file and describe the result.



The command is successful to download samba packages in both os.

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:

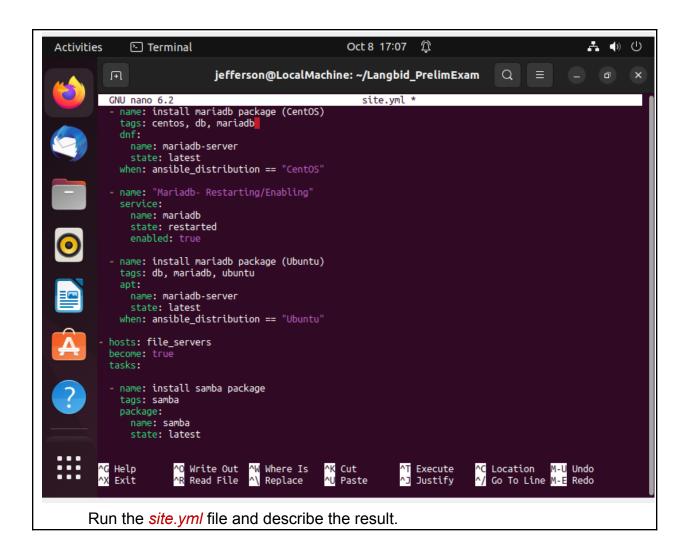
    httpd

       - 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
```



```
jefferson@LocalMachine: ~/Langbid_PrelimExam
               Q
skipping: [192.168.56.106]
ok: [192.168.56.105]
failed=0 skipped=3
failed=0 skipped=2
        unreachable=0
                rescued=θ
                   ignored=0
      changed=0
        unreachable=0
            failed=0
                rescued=0
                   ignored=0
jefferson@LocalMachine:~/Langbid_PrelimExam$
```

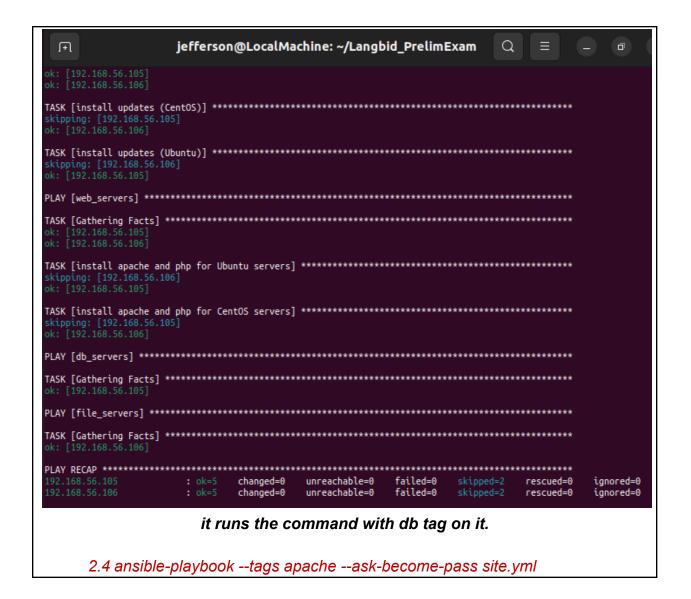
The command is successful and it puts tags.

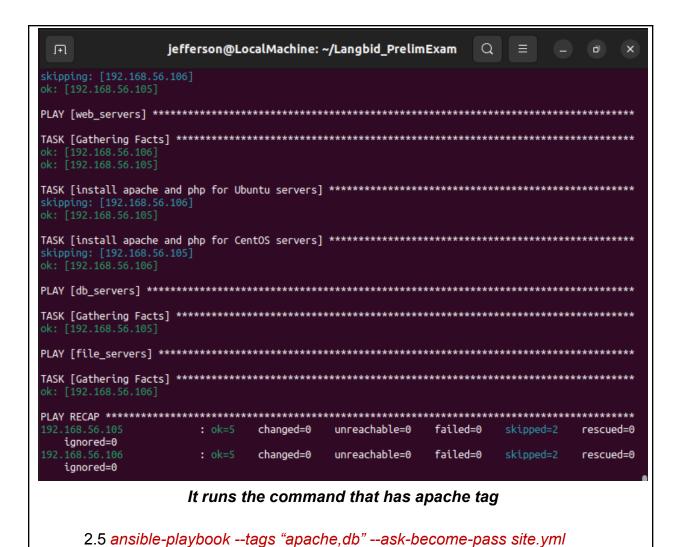
- 2. On the local machine, try to issue the following commands and describe each result:
 - 2.1 ansible-playbook --list-tags site.yml

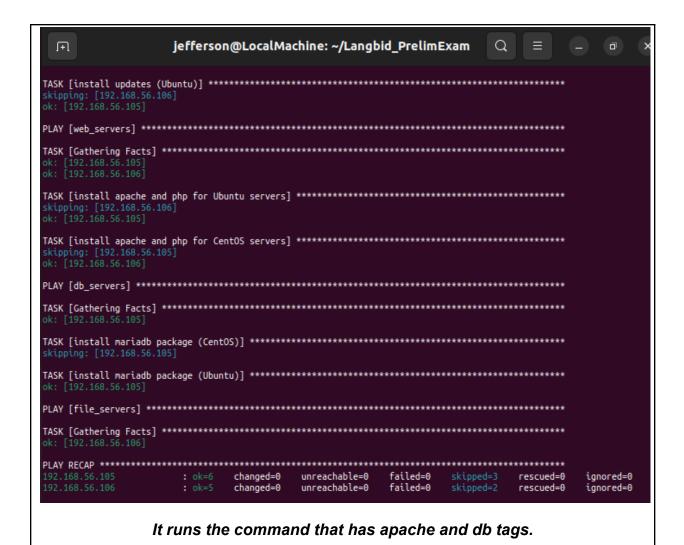
it display the list of tags 2.2 ansible-playbook --tags centos --ask-become-pass site.yml jefferson@LocalMachine: ~/Langbid_PrelimExam Ŧ skipping: [192.168.56.106] ok: [192.168.56.105] ok: [192.168.56.105] ok: [192.168.56.105] ok: [192.168.56.105] failed=0 192.168.56.105 changed=0 unreachable=0 rescued=0 ignored=0 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 rescued=0 ignored=0

it runs the tag with centos

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







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"

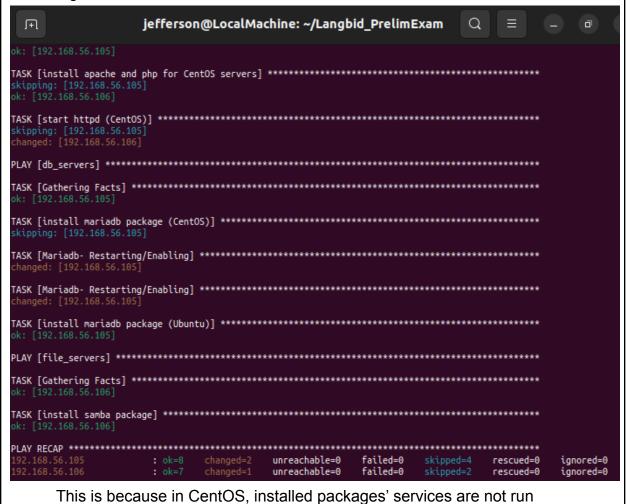
- name: start httpd (CentOS)
  tags: apache, centos,httpd
  service:
     name: httpd
     state: started
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

Figure 3.1.1 Make sure to save the file and exit.

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

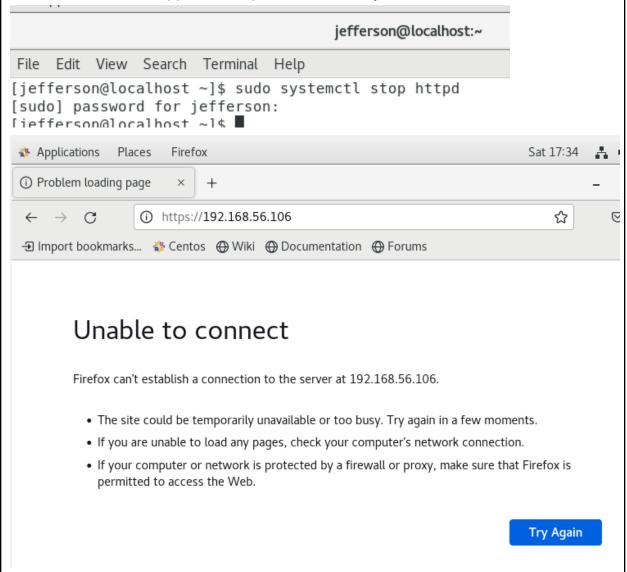
You would also notice from our previous activity that we already created a module that runs a service.

Figure 3.1.2



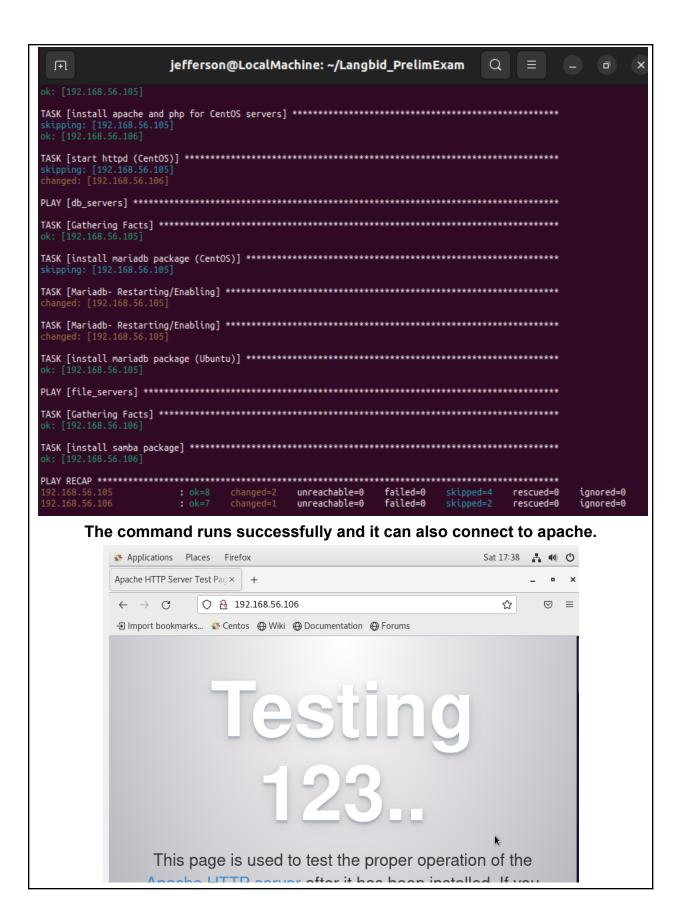
automatically. Thus, we need to create the module to run it automatically.

2. To test it, before you run the saved playbook, go to the CentOS server and stop the currently running httpd using the command <u>sudo systemctl stop httpd</u>. 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.



 Go to the local machine and this time, run the <u>site.yml</u> 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.



Reflections:

Answer the following:

- What is the importance of putting our remote servers into groups?
 Putting our remote servers into groups is important because they access a computer or remote network. Remote users can access the devices using ssh and do not need physical connection.
- 2. What is the importance of tags in playbooks? Tags in playbooks are important because it is attached to the data that runs the command. It also makes using the playbook easier because it can run the command that has its specific tags.
- 3. Why do think some services need to be managed automatically in playbooks?
 Some services are needed to be managed automatically in playbooks so that it can run automatically and helps to finish the job faster because it runs commands in the local machine to the specific ansible server.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, after conducting this activity I learned how to individualize hosts by putting the specific ip address with its role in the inventory file such as remote users, db servers, and file servers. Applying tags in selecting plays to run, putting tags in the commands between the name and the dnf or apt command in the site.yml and it runs specific tags. Also, managing services from remote servers by running a playbook command to install specific services.