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Course/Section: CPE232 – CPE31S24	**Date Submitted: 09 / 14 / 2022**
Instructor: Engr. Jonathan V. Taylar	**Semester and SY: 1st Sem SY '22-'23**

Activity 4: Running Elevated Ad hoc Commands

1. **Objectives:**

1.1 Use commands that makes changes to remote machines

1.2 Use playbook in automating ansible commands

2. **Discussion:**

Provide screenshots for each task.

Elevated Ad hoc commands

So far, we have not performed ansible commands that makes changes to the remote servers. We manage to gather facts and connect to the remote machines, but we still did not make changes on those machines. In this activity, we will learn to use commands that would install, update, and upgrade packages in the remote machines. We will also create a playbook that will be used for automations.

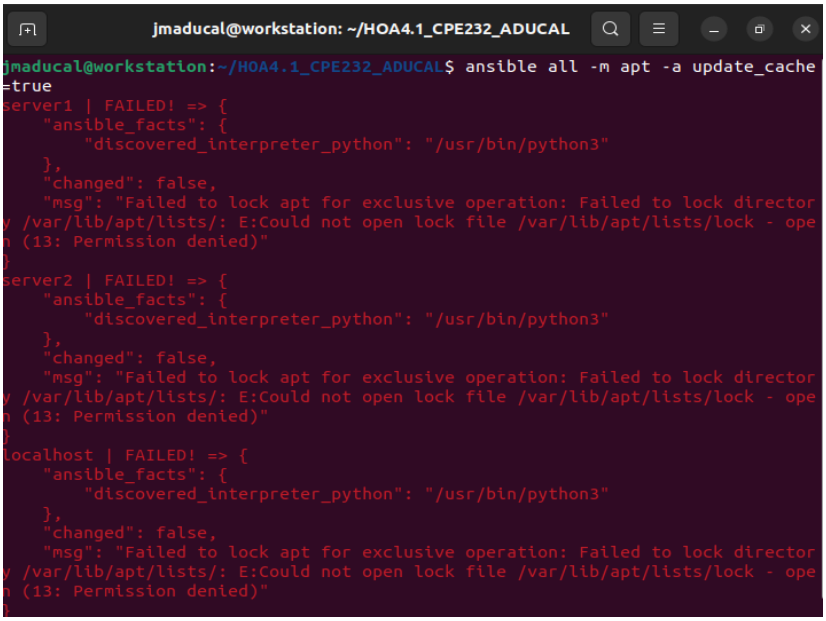
Playbooks record and execute **Ansible**'s configuration, deployment, and orchestration functions. They can describe a policy you want your remote systems to enforce, or a set of steps in a general IT process. If Ansible modules are the tools in your workshop, playbooks are your instruction manuals, and your inventory of hosts are your raw material. At a basic level, playbooks can be used to manage configurations of and deployments to remote machines. At a more advanced level, they can sequence multi-tier rollouts involving rolling updates, and can delegate actions to other hosts, interacting with monitoring servers and load balancers along the way. You can check this documentation if you want to learn more about playbooks. Working with playbooks — Ansible Documentation

Task 1: Run elevated ad hoc commands

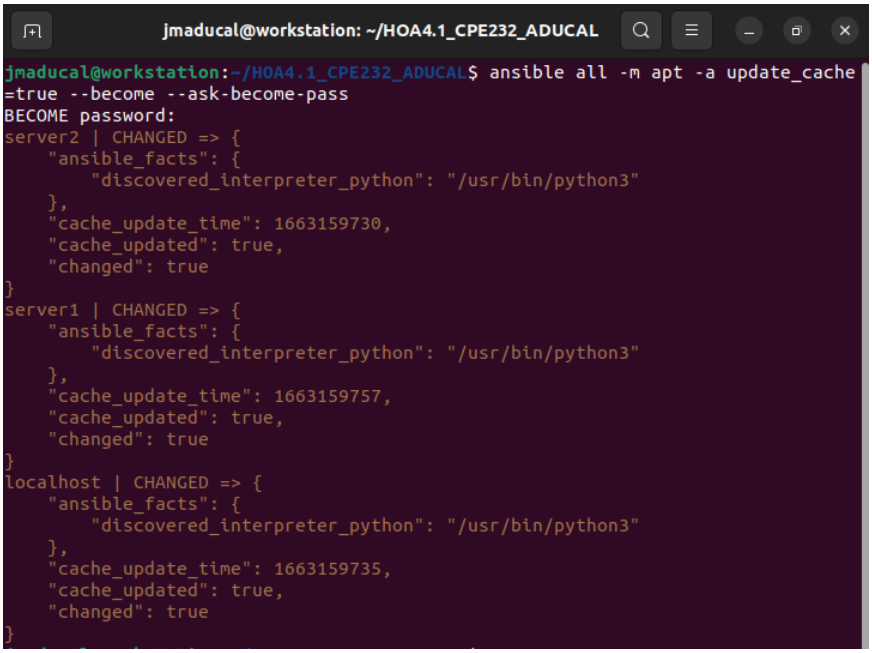
1. Locally, we use the command *sudo apt update* when we want to download package information from all configured resources. The sources often defined in /etc/apt/sources.list file and other files located in /etc/apt/sources.list.d/ directory. So, when you run update command, it downloads the package information from the Internet. It is useful to get info on an updated version of packages or their dependencies. We can only run an apt update command in a remote machine. Issue the following command:

   ansible all -m apt -a update_cache=true

What is the result of the command? Is it successful? No, the result of the command displayed an error and permission denied.

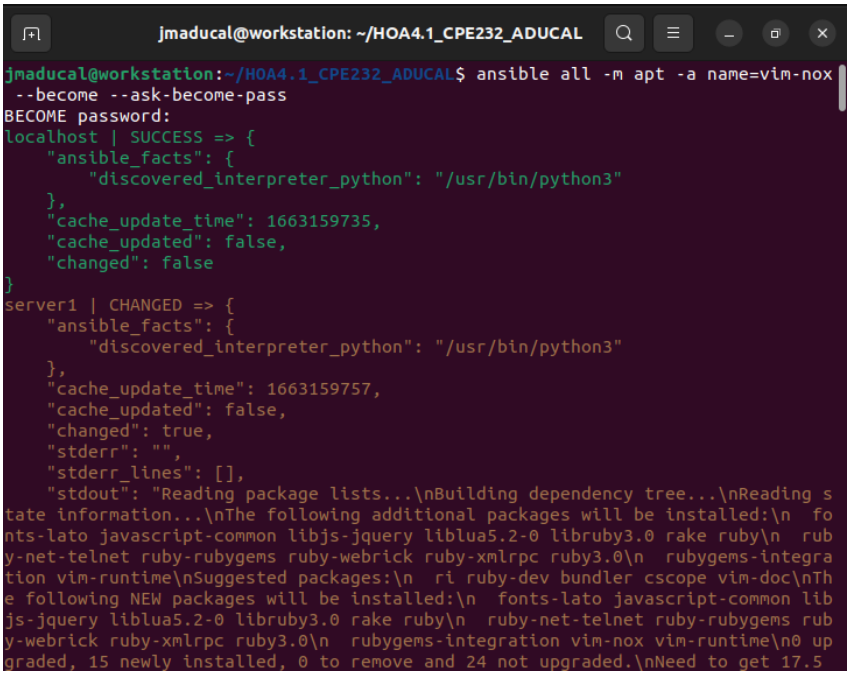


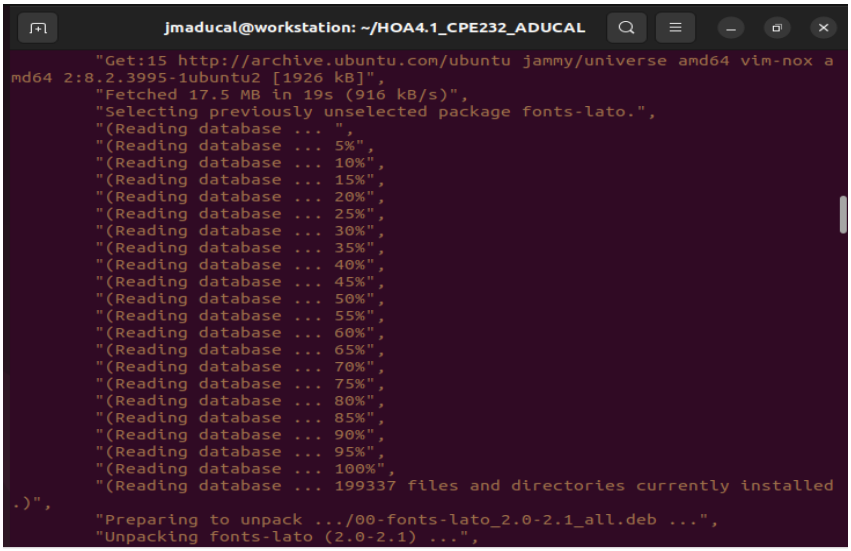
Try editing the command and add something that would elevate the privilege. Issue the command *ansible all -m apt -a update_cache=true --become --ask-become-pass.* Enter the sudo password when prompted. You will notice now that the output of this command is a success. The *update_cache=true* is the same thing as running *sudo apt update*. The --become command elevate the privileges and the *--ask-become-pass* asks for the password. For now, even if we only have changed the packaged index, we were able to change something on the remote server.

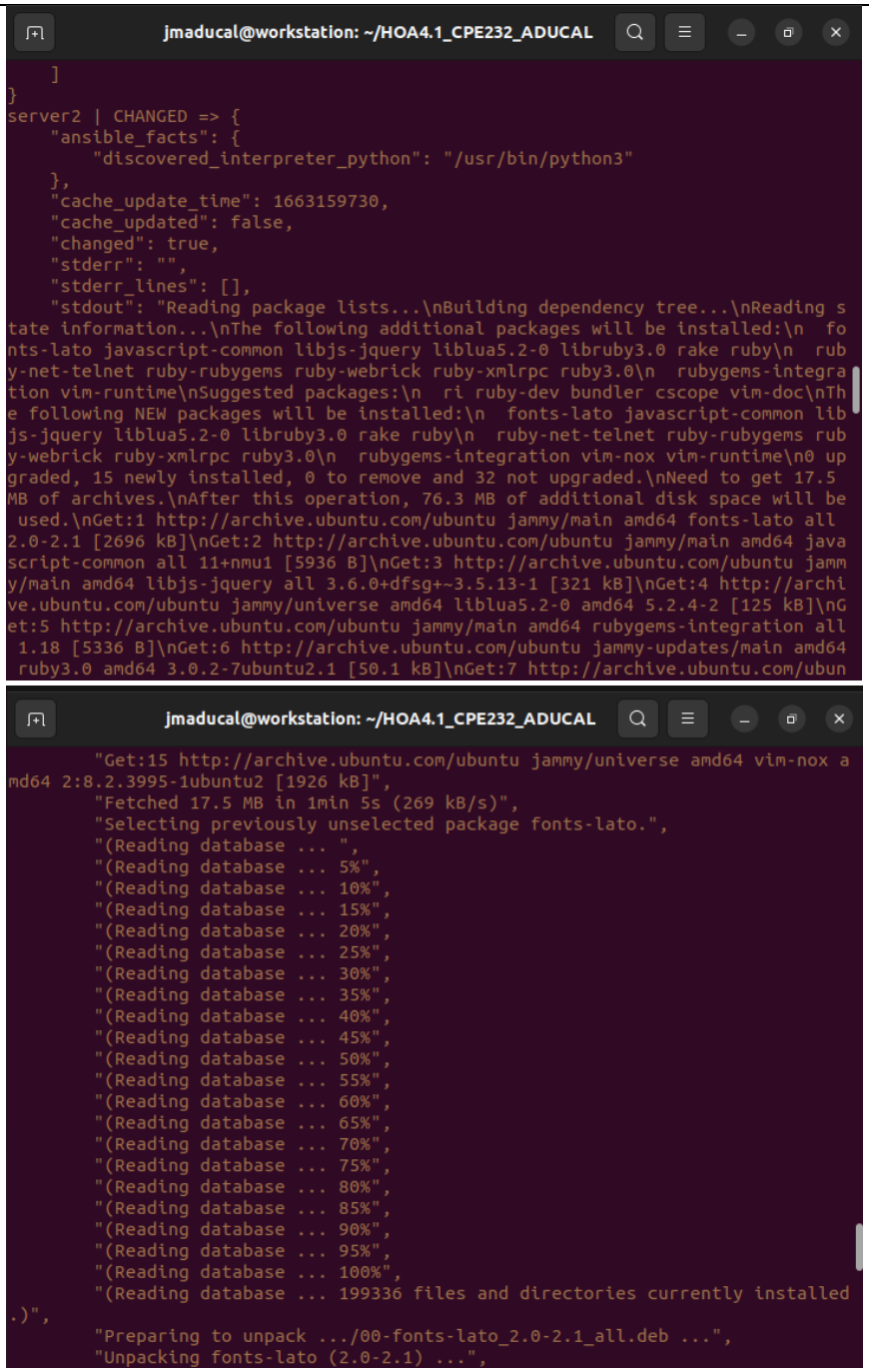


You may notice after the second command was executed, the status is CHANGED compared to the first command, which is FAILED.

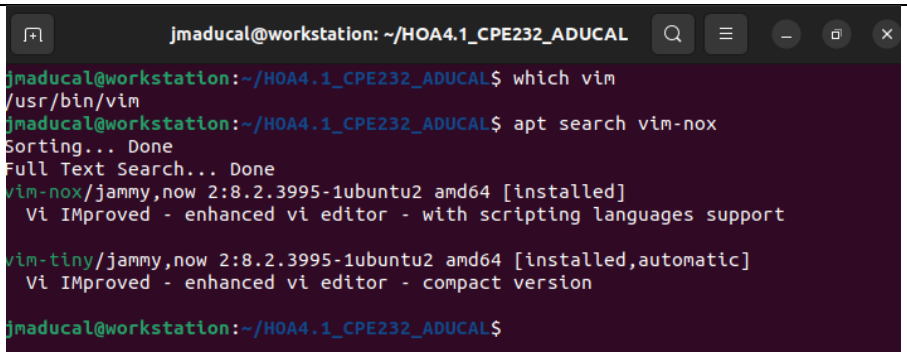
2. Let's try to install VIM, which is an almost compatible version of the UNIX editor Vi. To do this, we will just changed the module part in 1.1 instruction. Here is the command: *ansible all -m apt -a name=vim-nox --become --ask-become-pass.* The command would take some time after typing the password because the local machine instructed the remote servers to actually install the package.





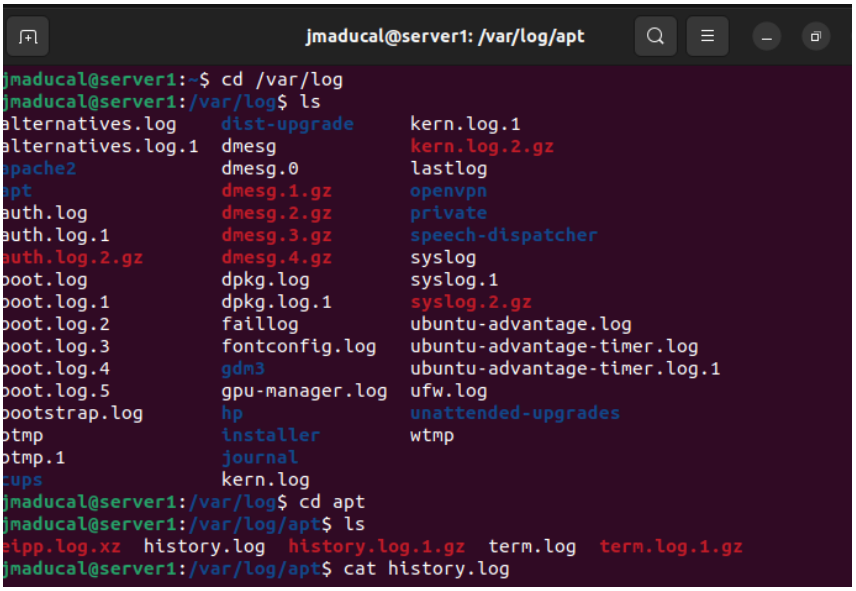


2.1 Verify that you have installed the package in the remote servers. Issue the command *which vim* and the command *apt search vim-nox* respectively. Was the command successful? YES



2.2 Check the logs in the servers using the following commands: *cd /var/log*. After this, issue the command *ls,* go to the folder *apt* and open history.log. Describe what you see in the history.log.

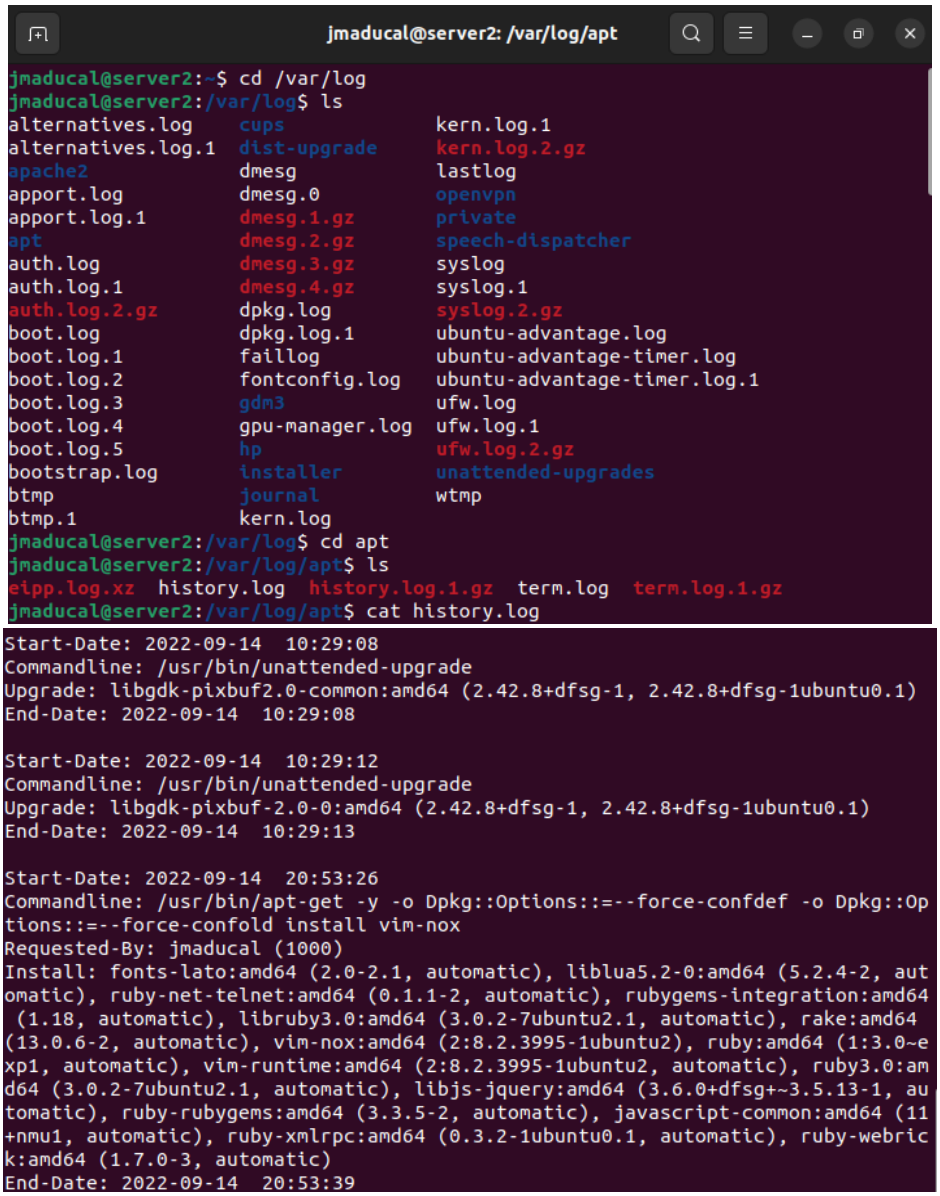
Server 1




```
Start-Date: 2022-09-14  10:15:19
Commandline: /usr/bin/unattended-upgrade
Remove: linux-headers-5.15.0-25-generic:amd64 (5.15.0-25.25)
End-Date: 2022-09-14  10:15:19

Start-Date: 2022-09-14  10:15:23
Commandline: /usr/bin/unattended-upgrade
Remove: linux-headers-5.15.0-25:amd64 (5.15.0-25.25)
End-Date: 2022-09-14  10:15:25

Start-Date: 2022-09-14  20:52:40
Commandline: /usr/bin/apt-get -y -o Dpkg::Options::=--force-confdef -o Dpkg::Op
tions::=--force-confold install vim-nox
Requested-By: jmaducal (1000)
Install: fonts-lato:amd64 (2.0-2.1, automatic), liblua5.2-0:amd64 (5.2.4-2, aut
omatic), ruby-net-telnet:amd64 (0.1.1-2, automatic), rubygems-integration:amd64
 (1.18, automatic), libruby3.0:amd64 (3.0.2-7ubuntu2.1, automatic), rake:amd64
(13.0.6-2, automatic), vim-nox:amd64 (2:8.2.3995-1ubuntu2), ruby:amd64 (1:3.0~e
xp1, automatic), vim-runtime:amd64 (2:8.2.3995-1ubuntu2, automatic), ruby3.0:am
d64 (3.0.2-7ubuntu2.1, automatic), libjs-jquery:amd64 (3.6.0+dfsg+~3.5.13-1, au
tomatic), ruby-rubygems:amd64 (3.3.5-2, automatic), javascript-common:amd64 (11
+nmu1, automatic), ruby-xmlrpc:amd64 (0.3.2-1ubuntu0.1, automatic), ruby-webric
k:amd64 (1.7.0-3, automatic)
End-Date: 2022-09-14  20:52:53
```

In history.log, It shows the updates and upgrades of the packages to the new version of ubuntu system for Server 1.

Server 2

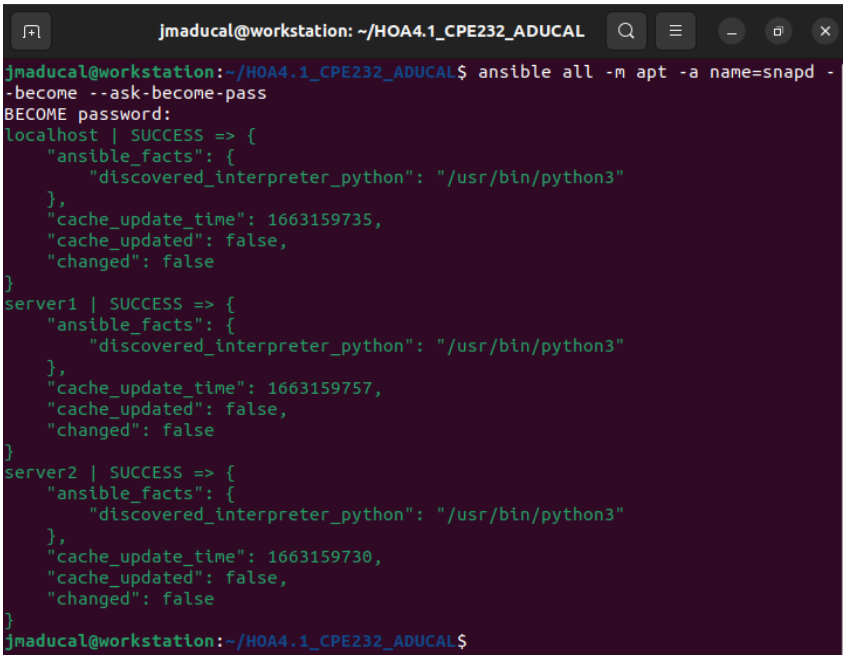


In history.log, It shows the updates and upgrades of the packages to the new version of ubuntu system for Server 2.

3. This time, we will install a package called snapd. Snap is pre-installed in Ubuntu system. However, our goal is to create a command that checks for the latest installation package.

   3.1 Issue the command: *ansible all -m apt -a name=snapd --become --ask-become-pass*

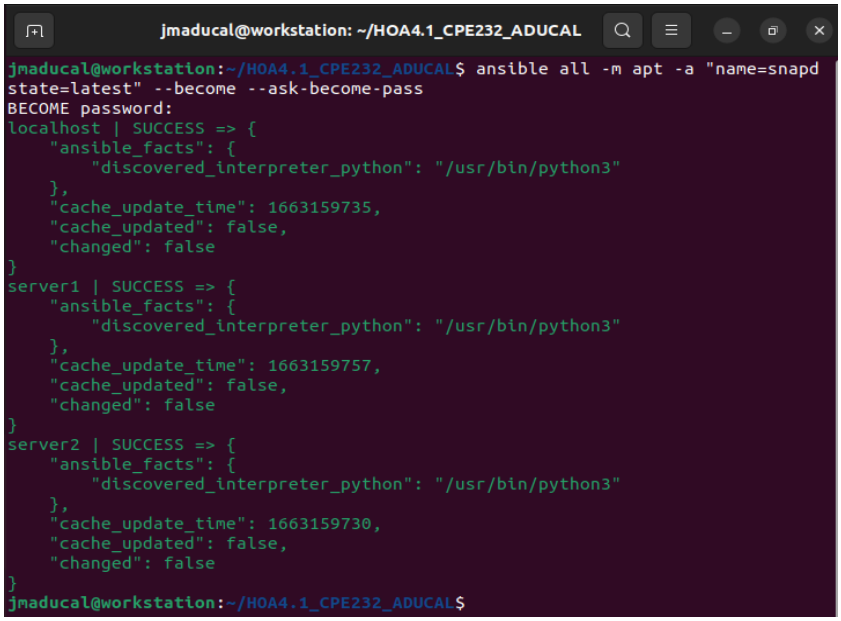
Can you describe the result of this command? Is it a success? Did it change anything in the remote servers? It shows success, the command does not change anything in servers. I understand that the goal of the command is only to check for the installation package.



3.2 Now, try to issue this command: *ansible all -m apt -a "name=snapd state=latest" --become --ask-become-pass*

Describe the output of this command. Notice how we added the command *state=latest* and placed them in double quotations.

By adding the command state=latest it will check for the latest installation package.



4. At this point, make sure to commit all changes to GitHub.

```
jmaducal@workstation: ~/HOA4.1_CPE232_ADUCAL
jmaducal@workstation:~/HOA4.1_CPE232_ADUCAL$ sudo nano README.md
jmaducal@workstation:~/HOA4.1_CPE232_ADUCAL$ git status
On branch main
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'.

Changes not staged for commit:
  (use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
  (use "git restore <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)
        modified:   README.md

no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
jmaducal@workstation:~/HOA4.1_CPE232_ADUCAL$ git add README.md
jmaducal@workstation:~/HOA4.1_CPE232_ADUCAL$ git commit -m "HOA 4.1 Task 1"
[main 0d6ccdf] HOA 4.1 Task 1
 1 file changed, 28 insertions(+), 1 deletion(-)
 rewrite README.md (100%)
jmaducal@workstation:~/HOA4.1_CPE232_ADUCAL$ git push origin main
Enumerating objects: 5, done.
Counting objects: 100% (5/5), done.
Compressing objects: 100% (2/2), done.
Writing objects: 100% (3/3), 613 bytes | 613.00 KiB/s, done.
Total 3 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0
To github.com:jmaducal12/HOA4.1_CPE232_ADUCAL.git
   ceafc13..0d6ccdf  main -> main
jmaducal@workstation:~/HOA4.1_CPE232_ADUCAL$
```

HOA 4.1 Task 1

main

John Mark Aducal committed 1 minute ago

If this commit is yours, make sure **qjmsaducal@tip.ed.ph** is associated with your account.

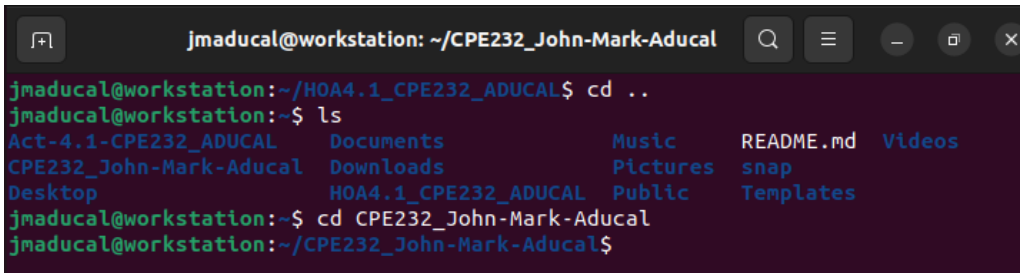
Showing **1 changed file** with **28 additions** and **1 deletion**.

29 README.md

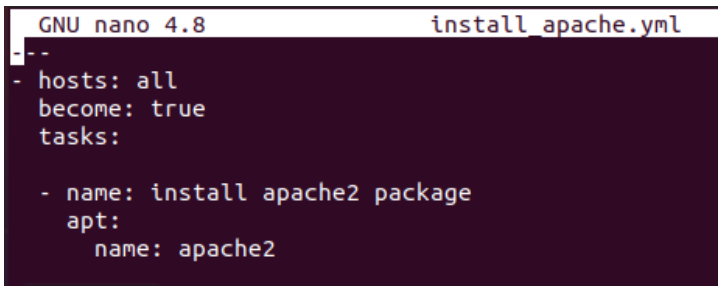
```
@@ -1 +1,28 @@
- # HOA4.1_CPE232_ADUCAL
+ # HOA4.1_CPE232_ADUCAL
+ Codes use for HOA 4.1 Ansible basics
+ for installing ansible:
+ sudo apt install ansible -y
+ To update cache in remote servers:
+ ansible all -m apt -a update_cache=true
+ ansible all -m apt -a update_cache=true --become --ask-become-pass
+
+ for local machine to instruct servers to install packages:
+ ansible all -m a name=vim-nox --become --ask-become-pass
+ which vim
+ apt seach vim-nox
+
+ for checking servers history log/installation logs:
+ cd /var/log
+ ls
+ cd apt
+ cat history.log
+
+ to check for latest installation package:
+ ansible all -m apt -a name=snapd --become --ask-become-pass
+ ansible all -m apt -a "name=snapd state=latest" --become --ask-become-pass
+
+ to commit all changes to GitHub:
+ git status
+ git add README.md
+ git commit -m "HOA 4.1 Task 1"
+ git push origin main
```

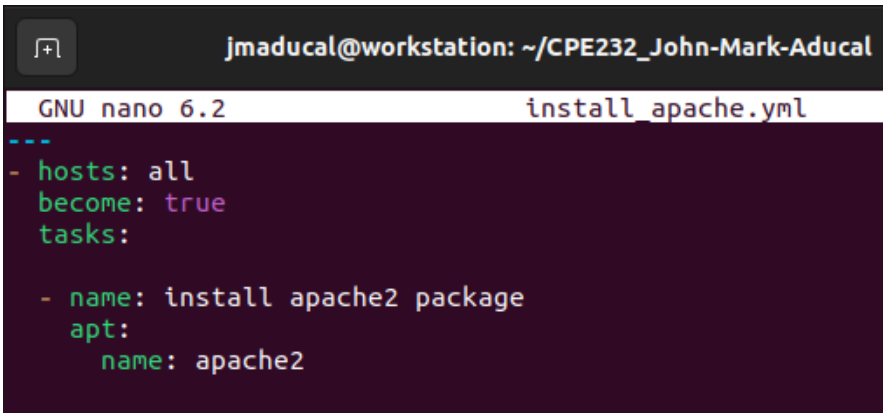
Task 2: Writing our First Playbook

1. With ad hoc commands, we can simplify the administration of remote servers. For example, we can install updates, packages, and applications, etc. However, the real strength of ansible comes from its playbooks. When we write a playbook, we can define the state that we want our servers to be in and the place or commands that ansible will carry out to bring to that state. You can use an editor to create a playbook. Before we proceed, make sure that you are in the directory of the repository that we use in the previous activities (*CPE232_yourname*). Issue the command *nano install_apache.yml*. This will create a playbook file called *install_apache.yml*. The .yml is the basic standard extension for playbook files.



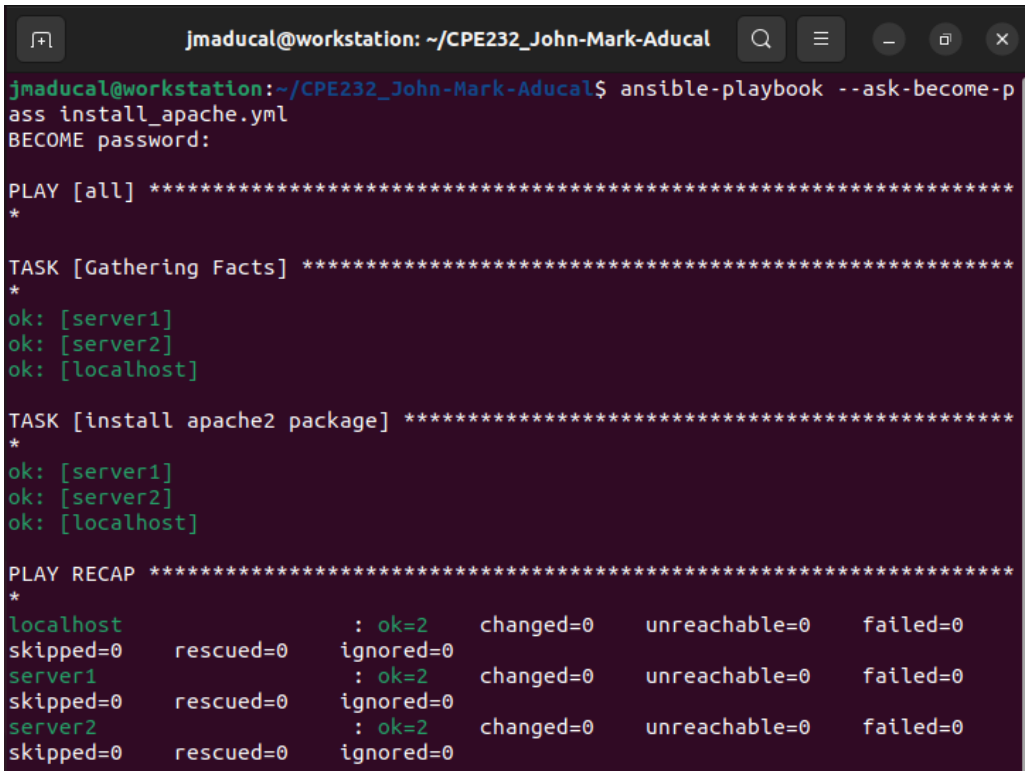
When the editor appears, type the following:





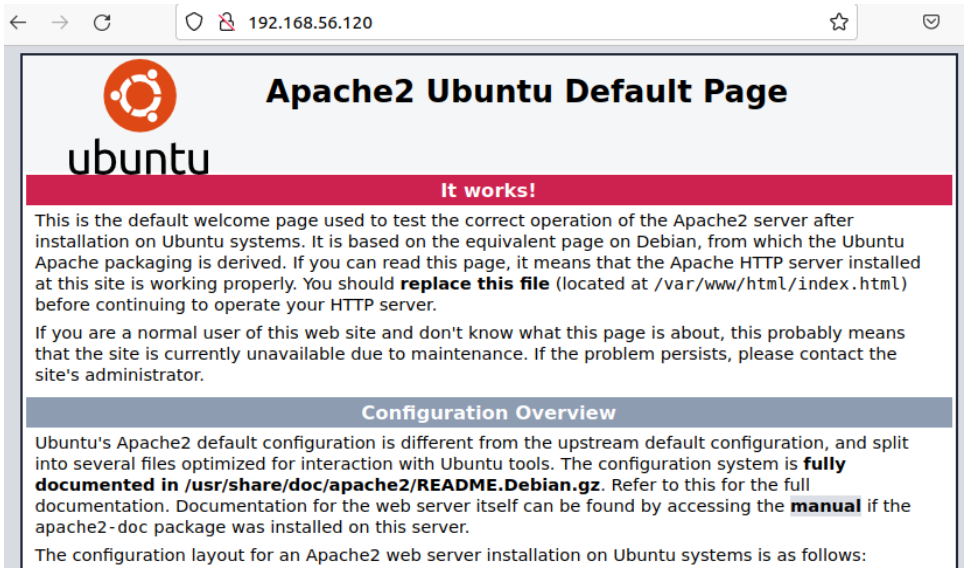
Make sure to save the file. Take note also of the alignments of the texts.

2. Run the yml file using the command: *ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml.* Describe the result of this command.

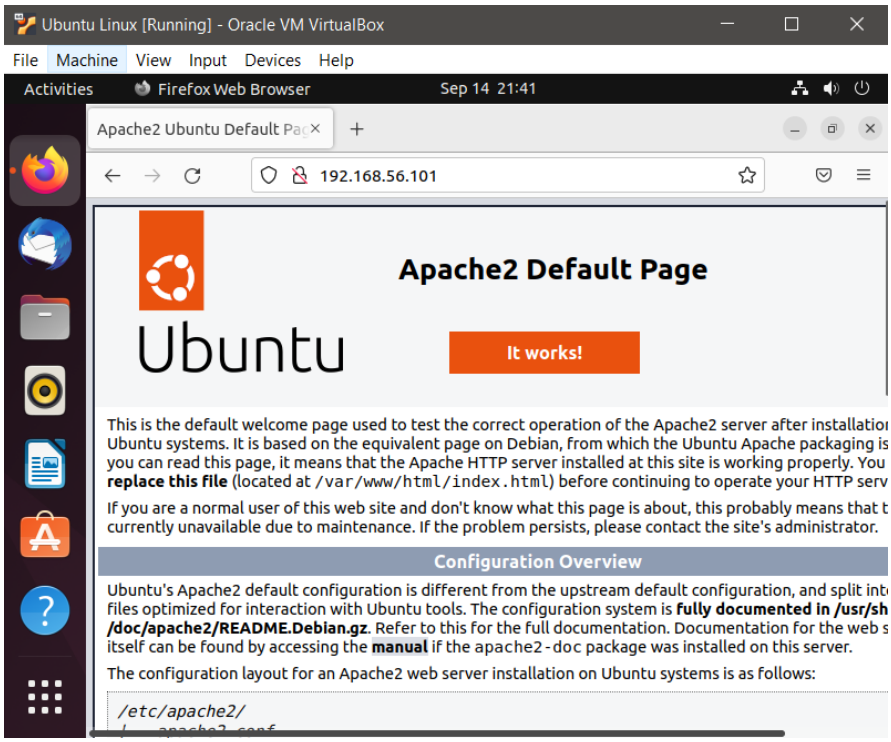


I think the command is used to install apache2 package to local host and remote servers using the ansible playbook.

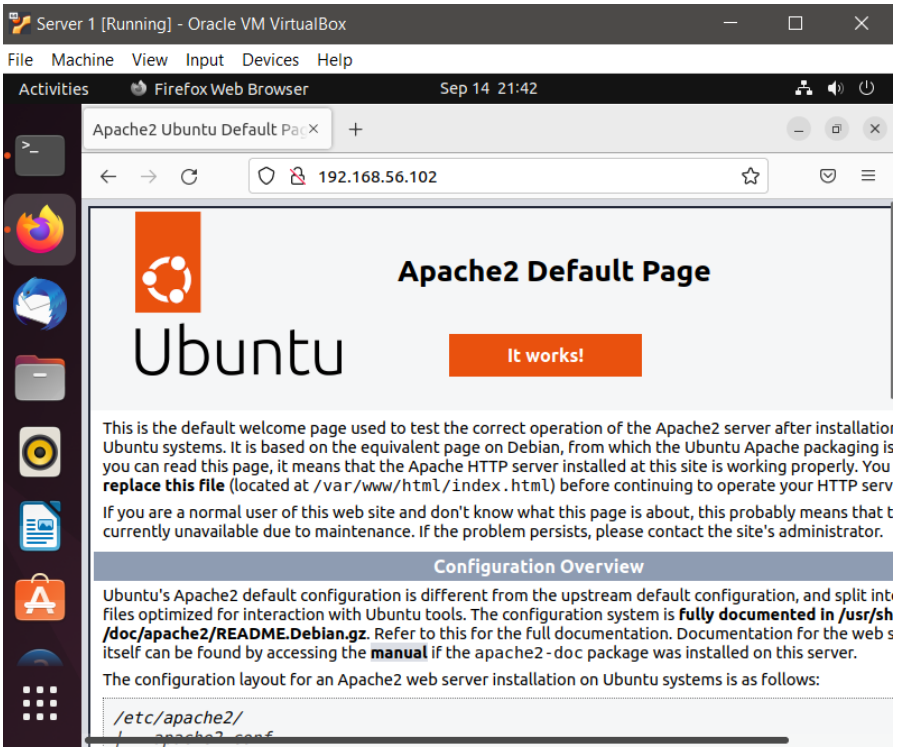
3. To verify that apache2 was installed automatically in the remote servers, go to the web browsers on each server and type its IP address. You should see something like this.



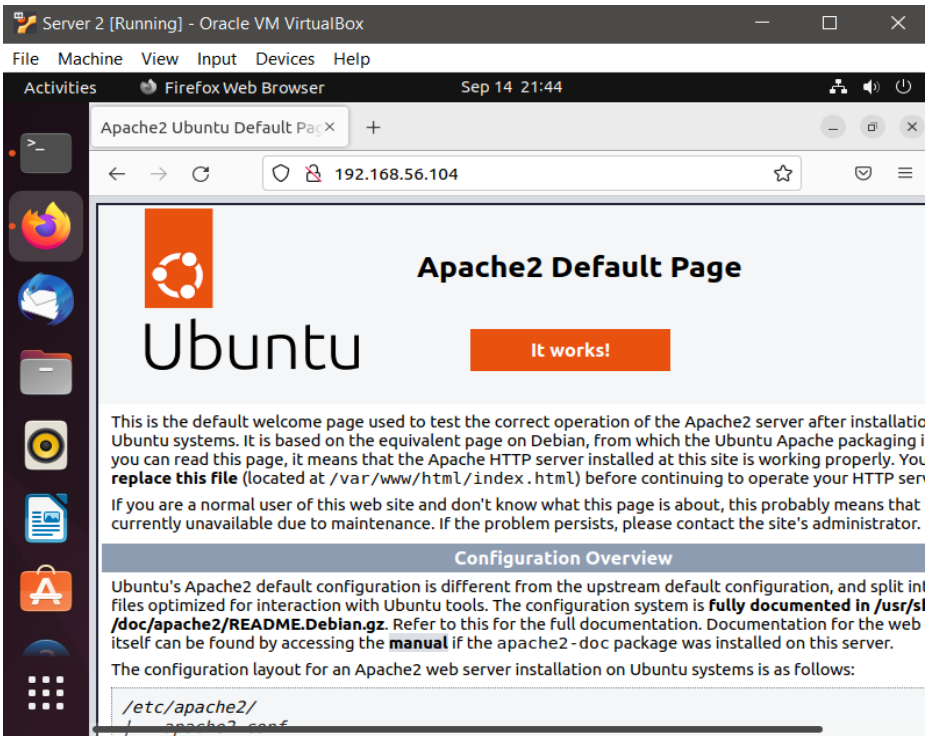
Localhost / Workstation



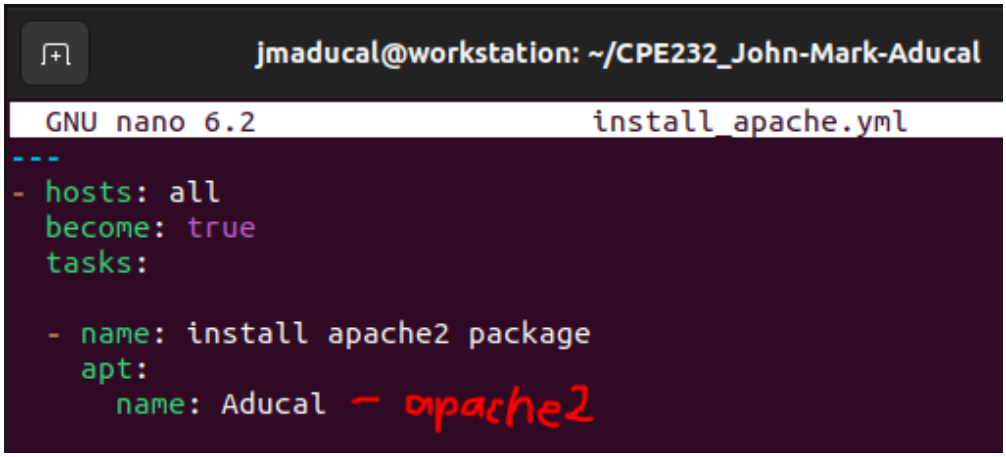
Server 1



Server 2



4. Try to edit the *install_apache.yml* and change the name of the package to any name that will not be recognized. What is the output?
   It shows an error no package matching Aducal is available. that's why it's FAILED.



```
jmaducal@workstation: ~/CPE232_John-Mark-Aducal
jmaducal@workstation:~/CPE232_John-Mark-Aducal$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-p
ass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *********************************************************************
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *********************************************************
*
ok: [localhost]
ok: [server1]
ok: [server2]

TASK [install apache2 package] *************************************************
*
fatal: [localhost]: FAILED! => {"changed": false, "msg": "No package matching '
Aducal' is available"}
fatal: [server1]: FAILED! => {"changed": false, "msg": "No package matching 'Ad
ucal' is available"}
fatal: [server2]: FAILED! => {"changed": false, "msg": "No package matching 'Ad
ucal' is available"}

PLAY RECAP *********************************************************************
*
localhost                  : ok=1    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=1
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
server1                    : ok=1    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=1
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
server2                    : ok=1    changed=0    unreachable=0    failed=1
```

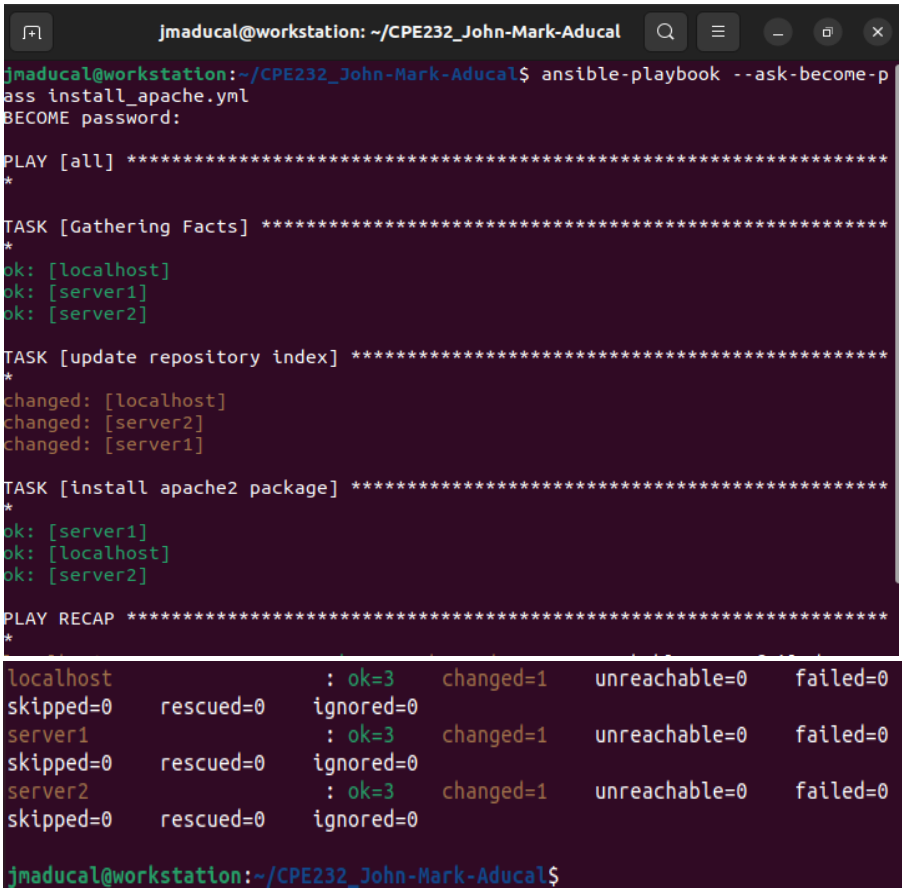
5. This time, we are going to put additional task to our playbook. Edit the *install_apache.yml*. As you can see, we are now adding an additional command, which is the *update_cache*. This command updates existing package-indexes on a supporting distro but not upgrading installed-packages (utilities) that were being installed.

```
---
- hosts: all
  become: true
  tasks:

  - name: update repository index
    apt:
      update_cache: yes

  - name: install apache2 package
    apt:
      name: apache2
```

```
jmaducal@workstation: ~/CPE232_John-Mark-Aducal
  GNU nano 6.2                    install_apache.yml
---
- hosts: all
  become: true
  tasks:

  - name: update repository index
    apt:
      update_cache: yes

  - name: install apache2 package
    apt:
      name: apache2
```

Save the changes to this file and exit.

6. Run the playbook and describe the output. Did the new command change anything on the remote servers? Yes, the new command will update the repository index.



7. Edit again the *install_apache.yml*. This time, we are going to add a PHP support for the apache package we installed earlier.

```
---
- hosts: all
  become: true
  tasks:

  - name: update repository index
    apt:
      update_cache: yes

  - name: install apache2 package
    apt:
      name: apache2

  - name: add PHP support for apache
    apt:
      name: libapache2-mod-php
```

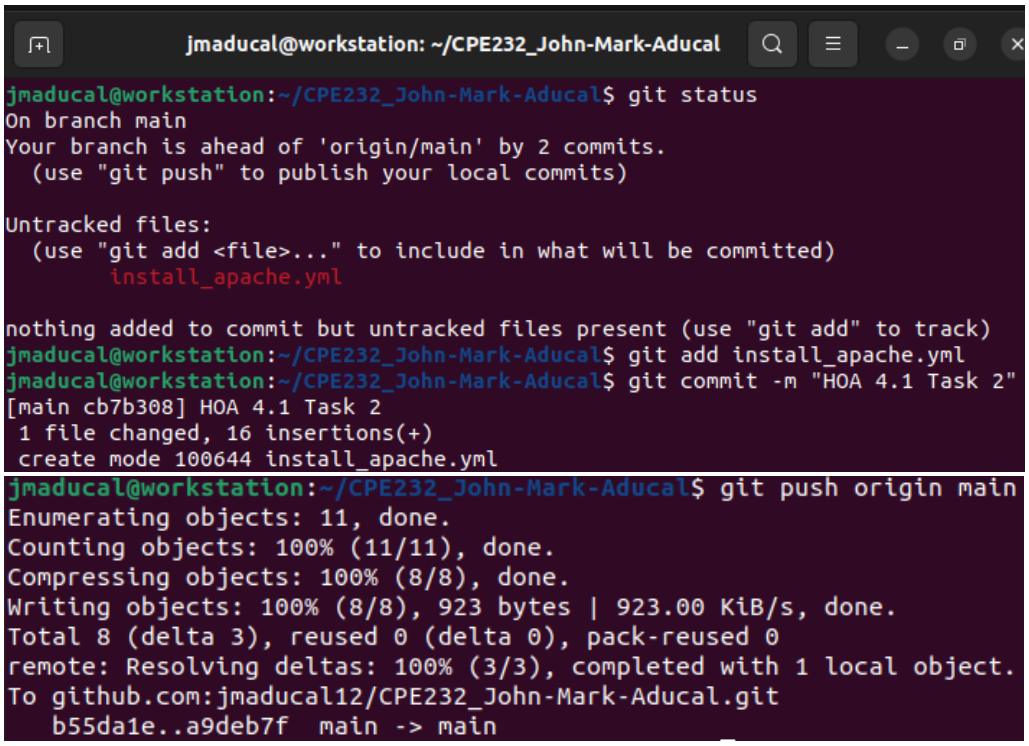
```
jmaducal@workstation: ~/CPE232_John-Mark-Aducal
  GNU nano 6.2                          install_apache.yml
---
- hosts: all
  become: true
  tasks:

  - name: update repository index
    apt:
      update_cache: yes

  - name: install apache2 package
    apt:
      name: apache2

  - name: add PHP support for apache
    apt:
      name: libapache2-mod-php
```

Save the changes to this file and exit.

8. Run the playbook and describe the output. Did the new command change anything on the remote servers? Yes, the new command will add PHP support for apache.

```
jmaducal@workstation: ~/CPE232_John-Mark-Aducal
jmaducal@workstation:~/CPE232_John-Mark-Aducal$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-p
ass install_apache.yml
BECOME password:

PLAY [all] *********************************************************************
*

TASK [Gathering Facts] *********************************************************
*
ok: [localhost]
ok: [server1]
ok: [server2]

TASK [update repository index] *************************************************
*
changed: [server2]
changed: [localhost]
changed: [server1]

TASK [install apache2 package] *************************************************
*
ok: [server1]
ok: [localhost]
ok: [server2]

TASK [add PHP support for apache] **********************************************
*
ok: [server2]
ok: [server1]
changed: [localhost]

PLAY RECAP *********************************************************************
*
localhost                  : ok=4    changed=2    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
server1                    : ok=4    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0
server2                    : ok=4    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0
skipped=0    rescued=0    ignored=0

jmaducal@workstation:~/CPE232_John-Mark-Aducal$
```

9. Finally, make sure that we are in sync with GitHub. Provide the link of your GitHub repository.



GitHub repository Link:
https://github.com/jmaducal12/CPE232_John-Mark-Aducal.git

Reflections:

Answer the following:

1. **What is the importance of using a playbook?** Ansible Playbooks provides powerful automation and yet It have a simple configuration management for deployments, installations and updates for remote servers and workstations. It is useful for student system administrator just like me, IT Professionals and DevSecOps.

2. **Summarize what we have done on this activity.**
   In Task 1, I have learned how to execute ansible commands that would make update of cache in a remote servers and local host. To be able to execute the ansible command successfuly. It needs a privilege and –ask-become-pass ask for become password. Using the ansible command I can able to change something on the remote server and local host. Like for example installing packages and updating cache on remote servers using the local machine. Verifying the installed packages in remote servers and using the command to check for the latest installation packages. In Task 2, I have learned how to use ansible playbook first by creating a playbook (.yml) for playbook extension file. Writing some commands inside the playbook file for installing apache2 package in remote servers and localhost. And verifying if the apache2 package was successfully installed in remote servers by typing the IP Address of remote machines itself and It should display Apache2 Default page. To add another task in playbook by editing the playbook file. After executing the file with ansible command it will execute the new command and to update the remote servers. And lastly to commit all the changes and sync to GitHub.

Honor Pledge:

I affirm that I will not give or receive any unauthorized help on this activity and that all work will be my own.

John Mark S. Aducal