

Case Study. Configuring CISCO router using Ansible	
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Course/Section: CPE 234 - CPE32S3	Instructor: Engr. Taylar
Procedure:	
<p>Intended Learning Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Cisco Router VM on VirtualBox • Automate the configuration of the router using Ansible <p>Scenario</p> <p>Configuring a Cisco router virtual machine using Ansible involves several steps.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install Ansible: The first step is to install Ansible on your system. You can follow the instructions provided on the official Ansible website to install it. 2. Create an Ansible playbook: The next step is to create an Ansible playbook that will be used to configure the Cisco router virtual machine. The playbook will contain a set of tasks that will be executed on the virtual machine to configure it. 3. Define the inventory: The inventory is a list of hosts that Ansible can manage. You will need to define the IP address or hostname of the virtual machine that you want to configure. 4. Configure the Cisco router: You can use the Ansible IOS module to configure the Cisco router. This module provides a set of tasks that can be used to configure various aspects of the router, such as interfaces, VLANs, routing protocols, and security features. 5. Execute the playbook: Once you have defined the playbook and the inventory, you can execute the playbook using the ansible-playbook command. Ansible will connect to the virtual machine and execute the tasks defined in the playbook. <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Download the GNS3 VM here. Software GNS3 • Links to an external site. • Install the GNS3 VM in Virtualbox • Create a basic configuration for the Cisco router using the Ansible IOS module (check the reference for Cisco Router basic configuration) • Show evidence of the playbook running successfully • Verify the configuration done on the Cisco router (this should be seen in the managed node) • Verify the configuration done on the Cisco router(manually check the configuration on the Cisco router VM) 	
Output:	
<p>1. Download GNS3 VM and GNS3 GUI.</p> <pre> \$ sudo apt-get install qemu-kvm libvirt dnsmasq bridge-utils virtinst \$ sudo systemctl enable libvirtd \$ sudo systemctl start libvirtd \$ curl -O https://nexus.gns3.com/repository/generic-repo/com/gns3/gns3-server/1.21.0/gns3-server-1.21.0.tar.gz \$ tar -xzf gns3-server-1.21.0.tar.gz \$ cd gns3-server \$./install.sh </pre> <p><i>Figure 1. Installing GNS3 and its dependencies.</i></p>	

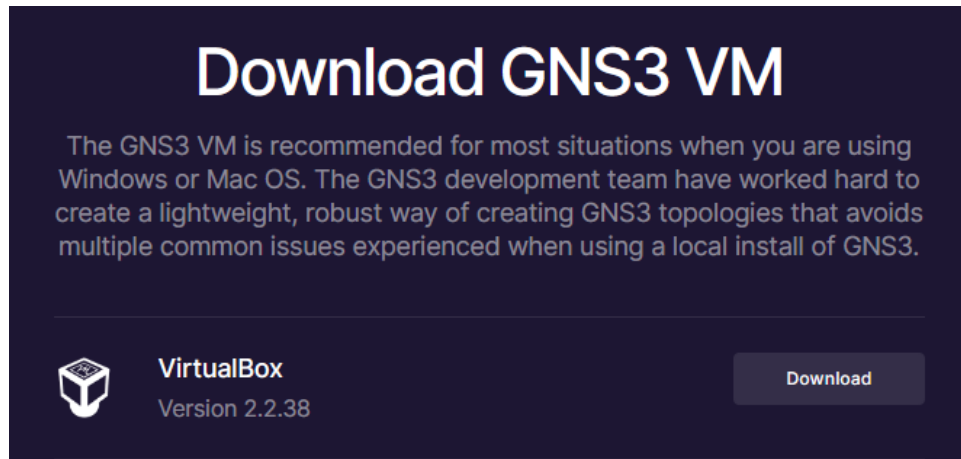


Figure 2. Downloading GNS3 VM for Virtualbox ova file.

Note. Unarchive the zipped file to reveal the .ova file.

2. Install the GNS3 VM in Virtualbox by using “Import Appliances...” under the “File” menu.



Figure 3. Importing the earlier downloaded .ova file.

Note. Make sure that you have allotted a good amount of RAM and CPU for the virtual machine. (Current Setup. 4GB RAM, 2 Cores CPU)

3. Add a network interface card.

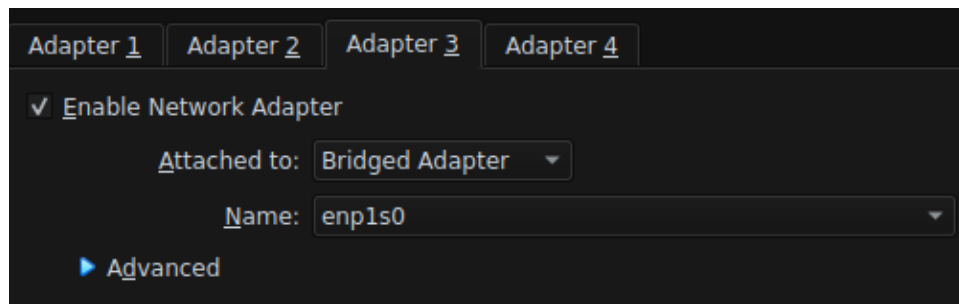


Figure 4. Adding another adapter called Bridged Adapter.

Note. The bridge adapter is used to make sure that your VM is directly connected to your own LAN. It will be easier to connect the GNS3 network to my local machine using my own local network.

4. Open GNS3. Create a Project.

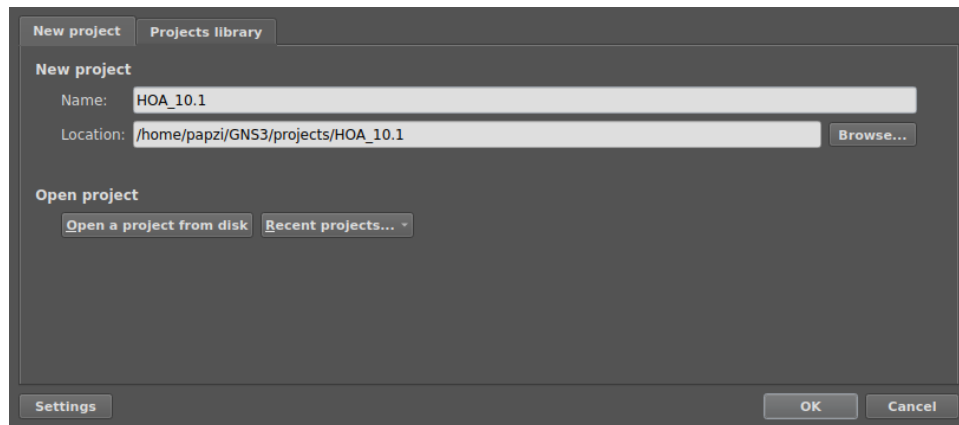


Figure 5. Creating a project.

5. Go to Setup wizard. Help -> Setup Wizard.

Server
Please choose how would like to run your GNS3 network simulations. The GNS3 VM option is strongly recommended on Windows and Mac OS X.

☒ **Run appliances in a virtual machine**
Requires to download and install the GNS3 VM (available for free)

☐ **Run appliances on my local computer**
Dependencies like Dynamips and Qemu must be manually installed

☐ **Run appliances on a remote server (advanced usage)**
The server will be on a remote computer and can be shared with multiple users

☐ Don't show this again

Next > **Cancel**

Figure 6. Selecting "Run appliances in virtual machine".

Local server configuration
Please configure the following GNS3 local server settings

Server path: **Browse...**

Host binding:

Port:

Connecting to server 127.0.0.1 on port 3080...

Cancel

< Back **Next >** **Cancel**

Figure 7. Setting the local server configuration to default.

GNS3 VM
In order to run the GNS3 VM you must first have VMware or VirtualBox installed and the GNS3 VM.ova imported with one of these software.

Virtualization software:

☐ VMware (recommended)

☒ VirtualBox

If you don't have the GNS3 Virtual Machine you can [download it here](#).
And import the VM in the virtualization software and hit refresh.

VM name:

GNS3 VM

vCPU cores:

2

RAM size:

4096 MB

Figure 8. Selecting the VM that is named GNS3 VM which the recently installed step 2. Configuring the RAM of 4096 and setting it at 2 Cores allotted for the VM.

Summary
The server type has been configured, please see the summary of the settings below

Server type:	GNS3 Virtual Machine
VM engine:	Virtualbox
VM name:	GNS3 VM
VM vCPUs:	2
VM RAM:	4096 MB

Figure 9. Confirming the inputted configurations.

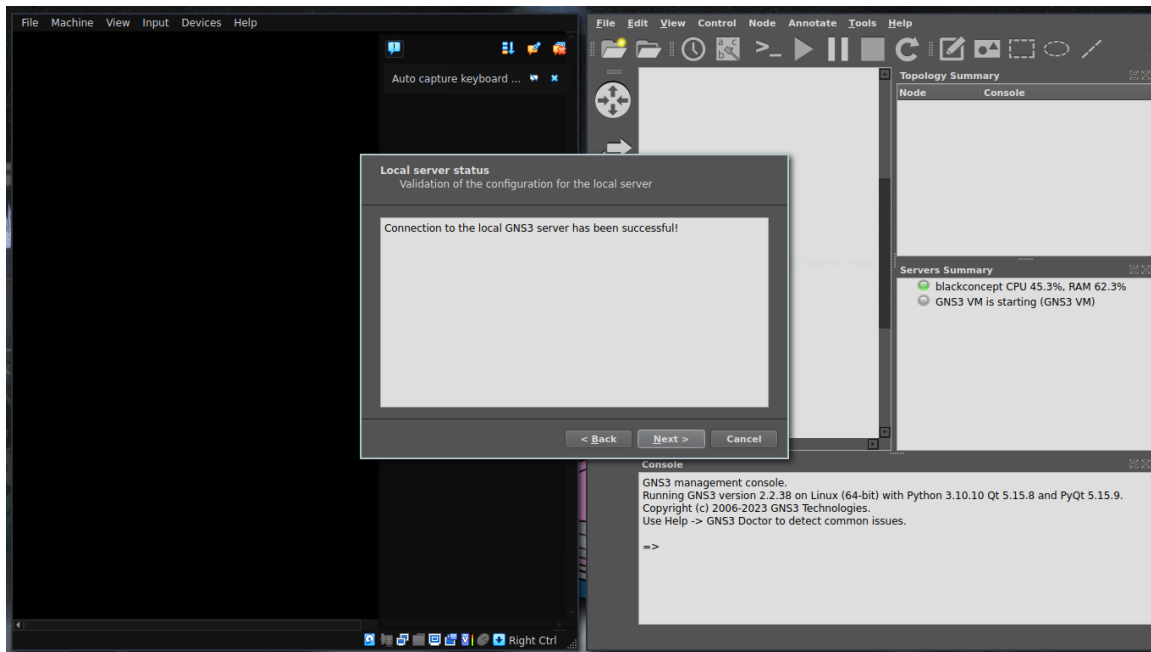


Figure 10. If successful the virtual machine will automatically launch as seen in the image above.

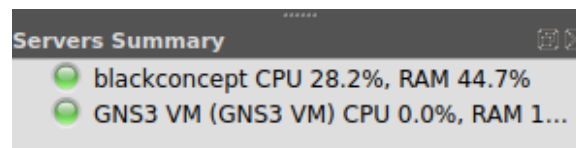


Figure 11. Make sure the GNS3 VM is in green.

6. Go to Edit -> Preferences -> GNS3 VM.

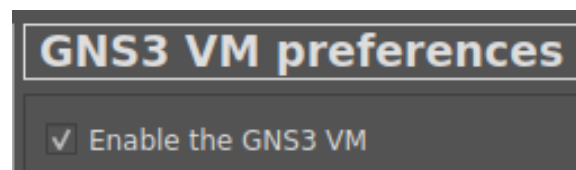


Figure 12. Enabling GNS3 VM.

7. Download the [c7200-a3jk9s-mz.124-25g.bin](#).
8. To add an IOS router, go to Edit -> Preferences -> Dynamips -> IOS routers then click New.

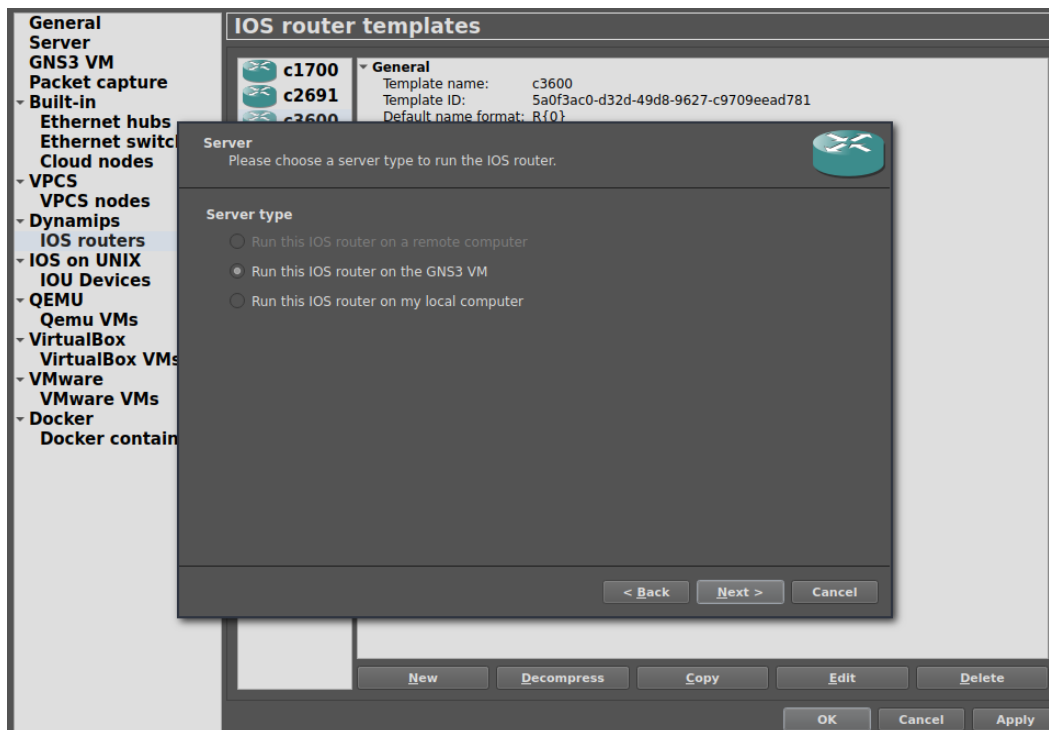


Figure 13. Selecting the first available option because we are running the IOS under the VM.

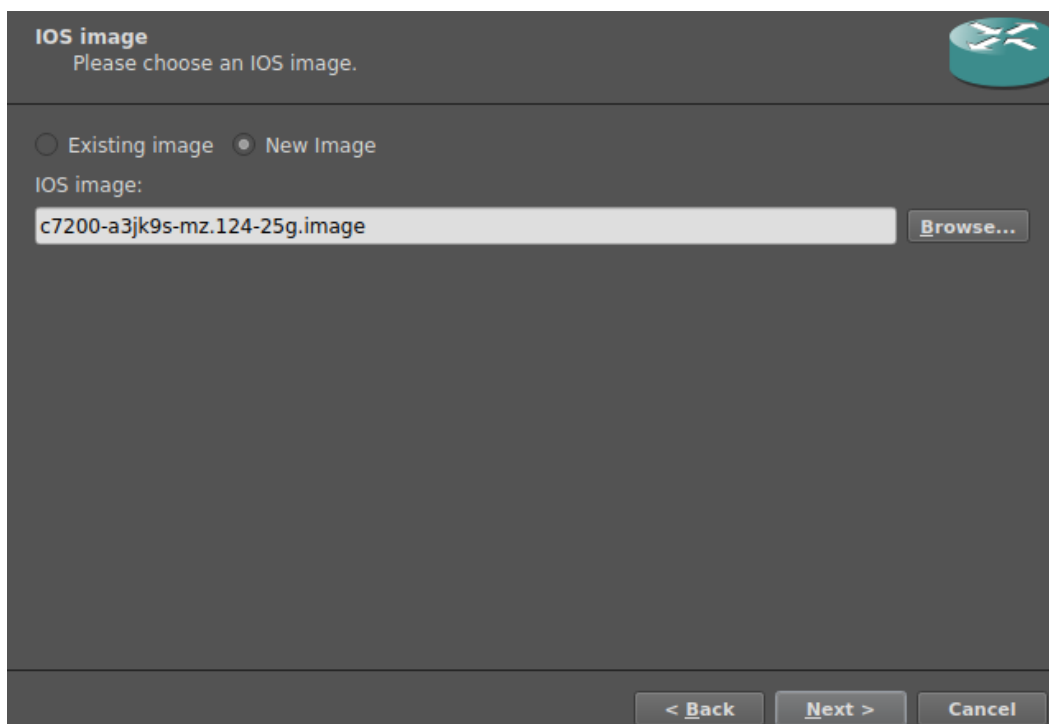


Figure 14. Browsing the downloaded image and hitting next.

Name and platform
Please choose a descriptive name for this new IOS router and verify the platform and chassis.

Name:

Platform:

Chassis:

< Back Next > Cancel

Figure 15. Inputting the name of the router.

Memory
Please check the amount of memory (RAM) that you allocate to IOS. Too much or not enough RAM could prevent IOS from starting.

Default RAM:

[Check for minimum and maximum RAM requirement](#)

< Back Next > Cancel

Figure 16. Setting the RAM as default.

Network adapters
Please choose the default network adapters that should be inserted into every new instance of this router.

slot 0: C7200-IO-FE

slot 1: PA-A1

slot 2: PA-FE-TX

slot 3: PA-2FE-TX

slot 4: PA-GE

slot 5: PA-4T+

slot 6: PA-8T

< Back Next > Cancel

Figure 17. Adding some network adapters.

Idle-PC
An idle-pc value is necessary to prevent IOS to use 100% of your processor or one of its cores.

Idle-PC: 0x608927c0 Idle-PC finder

< Back Finish Cancel

Figure 18. Clicking the Idle-PC finder.

9. **Creating cloud notes.** Go to Edit -> Preference -> Built-in -> Cloud nodes and select New. Click Apply then Ok if you are done configuring the cloud.



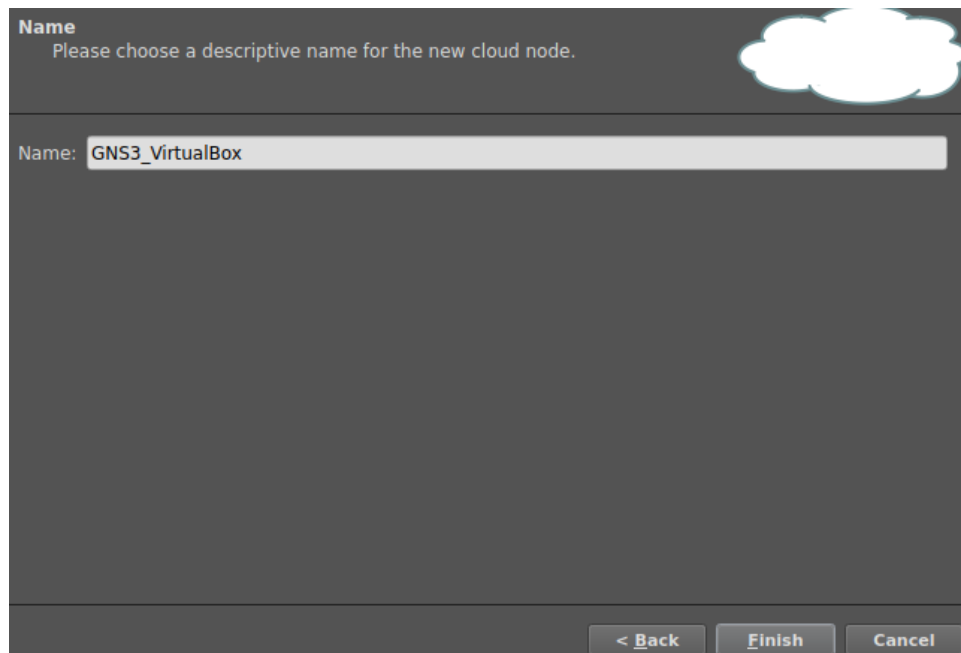
Server
Please choose a server type to run the cloud node.

Server type

- ☐ Run the cloud node on a remote computers
- ☒ Run the cloud node on the GNS3 VM
- ☐ Run the cloud node on your local computer

< Back Next > Cancel

Figure 19. Selecting the first available option because we are running the IOS under the VM.



Name
Please choose a descriptive name for the new cloud node.

Name: GNS3_VirtualBox

< Back Finish Cancel

Figure 20. Configuring the name of the cloud.

10. Creating the topology. Put the c7200 router to the canvas and the GNS3_VirtualBox cloud. Connect them using ethernet cable. Click the Play button to start the router.

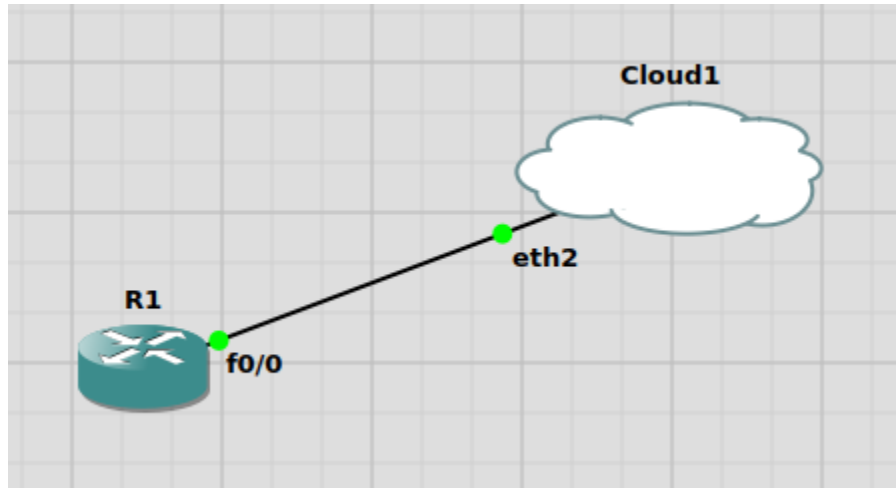


Figure 21. Connecting the cloud and the router.

Note. Make sure to connect the cable into the bridge adapter of the cloud. In my case my bridge adapter is eth2.

11. Adding basic configuration to the router to make sure that we can use ssh between router and the workstation. Right click the router and select console then configure the router using the configuration below.

```
enable
configure terminal
int f 0/0
ip address 192.168.254.20 255.255.255.0
no shut
ip domain-name www.tip.edu.ph
username cisco secret cisco
username cisco privilege 15
line vty 0 4
transport input all
login local
crypto key generate rsa
ip ssh version 2
```

```

R1(config)#int f 0/0
R1(config-if)#ip add 192.168.254.20 255.255.255.0
R1(config-if)#no shut
R1(config-if)#exit
R1(config)#
R1(config)#
R1(config)#
R1(config)#in
R1(config)#int f 0/0
R1(config-if)#ip add 192.168.254.20 255.255.255.0
R1(config-if)#no shut
R1(config-if)#exit
R1(config)#ip domain-name www.tip.edu.ph
R1(config)#username cisco secret cisco
R1(config)#username cisco priv 15
R1(config)#line vty 0 4
R1(config-line)#transport input all
R1(config-line)#login local
R1(config-line)#crypto key generate rsa
% You already have RSA keys defined named R1.www.tip.edu.ph.
% Do you really want to replace them? [yes/no]: yes
Choose the size of the key modulus in the range of 360 to 2048 for your
  General Purpose Keys. Choosing a key modulus greater than 512 may take
    a few minutes.

How many bits in the modulus [512]: 1024
*Apr 19 13:49:55.091: %SSH-5-DISABLED: SSH 1.99 has been disabled
1024
% Generating 1024 bit RSA keys, keys will be non-exportable...[OK]

R1(config)#
*Apr 19 13:50:02.315: %SSH-5-ENABLED: SSH 1.99 has been enabled
R1(config)#ip ssh version 2
R1(config)#

```

Figure 22. Pre configuring the router to support ssh.

```

^A ~ > ping 192.168.254.20 -c 5
PING 192.168.254.20 (192.168.254.20) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 192.168.254.20: icmp_seq=1 ttl=255 time=4.56 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.254.20: icmp_seq=2 ttl=255 time=11.3 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.254.20: icmp_seq=3 ttl=255 time=11.5 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.254.20: icmp_seq=4 ttl=255 time=9.17 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.254.20: icmp_seq=5 ttl=255 time=6.80 ms

--- 192.168.254.20 ping statistics ---
5 packets transmitted, 5 received, 0% packet loss, time 4007ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 4.559/8.660/11.504/2.660 ms
^A ~ >

```

Figure 23. Pinging the router using the workstation.

```

12 Host 192.168.254.20
13   HostKeyAlgorithms=+ssh-rsa
14   KexAlgorithms +diffie-hellman-group1-sha1
15   Ciphers +aes256-cbc

```

Figure 24. Add this lines under ~/.ssh/config

```

^[[~] ssh cisco@192.168.254.20 21:56:55
The authenticity of host '192.168.254.20 (192.168.254.20)' can't be established.
RSA key fingerprint is SHA256:l/YGrVQBww5zY5i6AUHxcGveZM6T85b0YrVa2GDcE8w.
This key is not known by any other names.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '192.168.254.20' (RSA) to the list of known hosts.
(cisco@192.168.254.20) Password:

R1#

```

Figure 25. Testing ssh to the router.

12. Create a basic configuration for the Cisco router using the Ansible IOS module (check the reference for Cisco Router basic configuration)

```

^[[~] ansible-galaxy collection install cisco.ios 23:11:22
Starting galaxy collection install process
Process install dependency map
Starting collection install process
Downloading https://galaxy.ansible.com/download/cisco-ios-4.5.0.tar.gz to /home/papzi/.ansible/tmp/ansible-local-620431q9ovde9z/tmp5cjye1m1/cisco-ios-4.5.0-eyax55i6
Installing 'cisco.ios:4.5.0' to '/home/papzi/.ansible/collections/ansible_collections/cisco/ios'
Downloading https://galaxy.ansible.com/download/ansible-netcommon-5.1.0.tar.gz to /home/papzi/.ansible/tmp/ansible-local-620431q9ovde9z/tmp5cjye1m1/ansible-netcommon-5.1.0-4wrbrhvb
cisco.ios:4.5.0 was installed successfully
Installing 'ansible.netcommon:5.1.0' to '/home/papzi/.ansible/collections/ansible_collections/ansible/netcommon'
Downloading https://galaxy.ansible.com/download/ansible-utils-2.9.0.tar.gz to /home/papzi/.ansible/tmp/ansible-local-620431q9ovde9z/tmp5cjye1m1/ansible-utils-2.9.0-m8dtpd8l
ansible.netcommon:5.1.0 was installed successfully
Installing 'ansible.utils:2.9.0' to '/home/papzi/.ansible/collections/ansible_collections/ansible/utils'
ansible.utils:2.9.0 was installed successfully
^[[~] ansible-galaxy collection list | grep cisco.ios 1m 26s 23:13:17
cisco.ios 4.5.0
cisco.ios 4.4.0
cisco.iosxr 4.1.0
^[[~] 23:13:22

```

Figure 26. Downloading Cisco IOS module.

ansible-galaxy collection install cisco.ios

```

^[[~/De/CPE-243_H0A_10.1 git P main P5] pip3 install ansible-pylibssh 22:56:47
Defaulting to user installation because normal site-packages is not writeable
Requirement already satisfied: ansible-pylibssh in /home/papzi/.local/lib/python3.10/site-packages (1.1.0)

[notice] A new release of pip is available: 23.0.1 -> 23.1
[notice] To update, run: python -m pip install --upgrade pip

```

Figure 27. Installing "ansible-pylibssh".

CODES	
Filename	Screenshot

ansible.cfg	<pre> ^ ~/De/CPE-243_H0A_10.1 git P main ?4 > cat ansible.cfg [defaults] inventory = hosts # dont worry about rsa fingerprints host_key_checking = False # disable gather facts gather = explicit # stating python interpreter_python interpreter_python = /usr/bin/python3 deprecation_warnings = False # retry file = gather the node that are failed the excution and save in this file (good for large environment) # retry_files_enabled = False # ansible_connection = local </pre>
hosts/inventory	<pre> ^ ~/De/CPE-243_H0A_10.1 git P main ?4 > cat hosts [routers] 192.168.254.20 [routers:vars] ansible_user=cisco ansible_password=cisco ansible_connection=network_cli ansible_network_os=ios #ansible_become=yes #ansible_become_method=enable </pre>
basig_config.yml	<pre> ^ ~/De/CPE-243_H0A_10.1 git P main ?4 > cat basic_config.yml - hosts: routers become: true gather_facts: no tasks: - name: Apply the provided configuration cisco.ios.ios_hostname: config: hostname: Router1 state: merged - name: configuring login banner cisco.ios.ios_banner: banner: motd text: Unauthorized Personels are Prohibited! state: present - name: configuring domain name cisco.ios.ios_system: domain_name: netacad.com state: present - name: configuring line con 0 cisco.ios.ios_config: lines: - password cisco - login - logging synchronous parents: line console 0 - name: configuring privilege exec mode password cisco.ios.ios_config: lines: enable secret class </pre>

	<pre> - name: saving running config to startup config cisco.ios.ios_config: save_when: modified - block: - name: checking hostname cisco.ios.ios_command: commands: show run register: output_run - debug: msg="{{ output_run }}" # configuring ip address - hosts: routers[0] become: true gather_facts: no roles: - role: c7200 </pre>
<p>/roles/c7200/tasks/main.yml</p>	<pre> ~/De/CPE-243_H0A_10.1 git P main ?4 > cat roles/c7200/tasks/main.yml 00:59:06 - name: configuring ip address in serial5/0 cisco.ios.ios_config: lines: - description R1 to R2 - ip address 10.0.1.1 255.255.255.252 - no shutdown - clock rate 64000 parents: interface Serial5/0 - name: configuring ip address in serial5/1 cisco.ios.ios_config: lines: - description R1 to R3 - ip address 10.0.2.1 255.255.255.252 - no shutdown - clock rate 64000 parents: interface Serial5/1 - block: - name: checking hostname cisco.ios.ios_command: commands: show ip interface brief register: output_int - debug: msg="{{ output_int }}" </pre>
<p>13. Show evidence of the playbook running successfully and verify the configuration done on the Cisco router (this should be seen in the managed node).</p>	


```
" no ip address",
" shutdown",
" serial restart-delay 0",
"!",
"interface Serial6/1",
" no ip address",
" shutdown",
" serial restart-delay 0",
"!",
"interface Serial6/2",
" no ip address",
" shutdown",
" serial restart-delay 0",
"!",
"interface Serial6/3",
" no ip address",
" shutdown",
" serial restart-delay 0",
"!",
"interface Serial6/4",
" no ip address",
" shutdown",
" serial restart-delay 0",
"!",
"interface Serial6/5",
" no ip address",
" shutdown",
" serial restart-delay 0",
"!",
"interface Serial6/6",
" no ip address",
" shutdown",
" serial restart-delay 0",
"!",
"interface Serial6/7",
" no ip address",
" shutdown",
" serial restart-delay 0",
"!",
"!",
"ip forward-protocol nd",
"!",
"no ip http server",
"no ip http secure-server",
"!",
"!",
"no cdp log mismatch duplex",
"!",
"!",
"!",
"control-plane",
"!",
"!",
"!",
"!",
"!",
"!",
"gatekeeper",
" shutdown",
"!",
"banner motd ^C",
"Unauthorized Personels are Prohibited!",
"^C",
"!",
"line con 0",
" exec-timeout 0 0",
" privilege level 15",
" password cisco",
" logging synchronous",
" login",
" stopbits 1",
"line aux 0",
" exec-timeout 0 0",
" privilege level 15",
" logging synchronous",
" stopbits 1",
"line vty 0 4",
" login local",
```


router VM).

```
Router1#show run
Building configuration...

Current configuration : 2328 bytes
!
version 12.4
service timestamps debug datetime msec
service timestamps log datetime msec
no service password-encryption
!
hostname Router1
!
boot-start-marker
boot-end-marker
!
enable secret 5 $1$u7m9$cwQ4cqycyXfScQxu0uuf/
no aaa new-model
no ip icmp rate-limit unreachable
!
!
ip cef
no ip domain lookup
ip domain name netacad.com
!
!
!
!
!
!
!
!
!
!
!
username cisco privilege 15 secret 5 $1$5MF1$qkASMTIVLJg35mZQmQcP5/
!
!
ip tcp synwait-time 5
ip ssh version 2
!
!
!
!
!
interface FastEthernet0/0
 ip address 192.168.254.20 255.255.255.0
 duplex half
!
interface ATM1/0
 no ip address
 shutdown
 no atm ilmi-keepalive
!
interface FastEthernet2/0
 no ip address
 shutdown
 duplex half
!
interface FastEthernet3/0
 no ip address
 shutdown
 duplex auto
 speed auto
!
interface FastEthernet3/1
 no ip address
 duplex auto
 speed auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet4/0
 no ip address
 negotiation auto
!
interface Serial5/0
 description R1 to R2
```

```

ip address 10.0.1.1 255.255.255.252
serial restart-delay 0
clock rate 64000
!
interface Serial5/1
description R1 to R3
ip address 10.0.2.1 255.255.255.252
serial restart-delay 0
clock rate 64000
!
interface Serial5/2
no ip address
shutdown
serial restart-delay 0
!
interface Serial5/3
no ip address
shutdown
serial restart-delay 0
!
interface Serial6/0
no ip address
shutdown
serial restart-delay 0
!
interface Serial6/1
no ip address
shutdown
serial restart-delay 0
!
interface Serial6/2
no ip address
shutdown
serial restart-delay 0
!
interface Serial6/3
no ip address
shutdown
serial restart-delay 0
!
interface Serial6/4
no ip address
shutdown
serial restart-delay 0
!
interface Serial6/5
no ip address
shutdown
serial restart-delay 0
!
interface Serial6/6
no ip address
shutdown
serial restart-delay 0
!
interface Serial6/7
no ip address
shutdown
serial restart-delay 0
!
!
ip forward-protocol nd
!
no ip http server
no ip http secure-server
!
!
no cdp log mismatch duplex
!
!
!
control-plane
!
!
!
!
!
gatekeeper
shutdown

```

```

!
banner motd ^C
Unauthorized Personels are Prohibited!
^C
!
line con 0
exec-timeout 0 0
privilege level 15
password cisco
logging synchronous
login
stopbits 1
line aux 0
exec-timeout 0 0
privilege level 15
logging synchronous
stopbits 1
line vty 0 4
login local
transport input all
!
!
end

```

Figure 29. The screenshot above shows the verification of configuration inside of the router device using the “show running-config” command.

```

Router1#show ip int brief

```

Interface	IP-Address	OK?	Method	Status	Protocol
FastEthernet0/0	192.168.254.20	YES	manual	up	up
ATM1/0	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
FastEthernet2/0	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
FastEthernet3/0	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
FastEthernet3/1	unassigned	YES	unset	up	up
GigabitEthernet4/0	unassigned	YES	unset	up	up
Serial5/0	10.0.1.1	YES	manual	up	down
Serial5/1	10.0.2.1	YES	manual	up	down
Serial5/2	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
Serial5/3	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
Serial6/0	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
Serial6/1	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
Serial6/2	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
Serial6/3	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
Serial6/4	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
Serial6/5	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
Serial6/6	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down
Serial6/7	unassigned	YES	unset	administratively down	down

Figure 30. The screenshot above shows the verification of configuration inside of the router device using “show ip int brief” command.

Github Link:

https://github.com/piolotorrecampo/CPE-243_HOA_10.1.git

Conclusion:

In conclusion, creating a Cisco Router virtual machine on VirtualBox and automating its configuration using Ansible is a useful skill for network administrators and system administrators. This approach allows for easier management of network infrastructure and improves efficiency by automating repetitive tasks. VirtualBox provides a platform for creating virtual machines, and Ansible can be used to automate the configuration process. With the help of Ansible, administrators can quickly configure multiple routers with minimal effort, and this can save a significant amount of time and resources. Overall, this approach can be an effective way to improve network management

and streamline operations.