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| Name: Aldwin Joseph B. Revilla | Date Performed: 10/26/2023 |
| Course/Section: CPE31S5 | Date Submitted: 10/28/2023 |
| Instructor: Roman Richard | Semester and SY: 1st Sem 2023-2024 |
| Activity 10: Install, Configure, and Manage Log Monitoring tools | |
| 1. Objectives | |
| Create and design a workflow that installs, configure and manage enterprise log monitoring tools using Ansible as an Infrastructure as Code (IaC) tool. | |
| 2. Discussion | |
| <p>Log monitoring software scans and monitors log files generated by servers, applications, and networks. By detecting and alerting users to patterns in these log files, log monitoring software helps solve performance and security issues. System administrators use log monitoring software to detect common important events indicated by log files.</p> <p>Log monitoring software helps maintain IT infrastructure performance and pinpoints issues to prevent downtime and mitigate risks. These tools will often integrate with IT alerting software, log analysis software, and other IT issue resolution products to more aptly flesh out the IT infrastructure maintenance ecosystem.</p> <p>To qualify for inclusion in the Log Monitoring category, a product must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the log files generated by servers, applications, or networks • Alert users when important events are detected • Provide reporting capabilities for log files <p>Elastic Stack</p> <p>ELK suite stands for Elasticsearch, Kibana, Beats, and Logstash (also known as the ELK Stack). Source: https://www.elastic.co/elastic-stack</p> <p>The Elastic Stack is a group of open source products from Elastic designed to help users take data from any type of source and in any format, and search, analyze and visualize that data in real time. The product group was formerly known as the ELK Stack for the core products in the group -- Elasticsearch, Logstash and Kibana -- but has been rebranded as the Elastic Stack. A fourth product, Beats, was subsequently added to the stack. The Elastic Stack can be deployed on premises or made available as software as a service (SaaS). Elasticsearch supports Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud Platform and Microsoft Azure.</p> <p>GrayLog</p> | |

Graylog is a powerful platform that allows for easy log management of both structured and unstructured data along with debugging applications.

It is based on Elasticsearch, MongoDB, and Scala. Graylog has a main server, which receives data from its clients installed on different servers, and a web interface, which visualizes the data and allows to work with logs aggregated by the main server.

We use Graylog primarily as the stash for the logs of the web applications we build. However, it is also effective when working with raw strings (i.e. syslog): the tool parses it into the structured data we need. It also allows advanced custom search in the logs using structured queries. In other words, when integrated properly with a web app, Graylog helps engineers to analyze the system behavior on almost per code line basis.

Source: <https://www.graylog.org/products/open-source>

3. Tasks

1. Create a playbook that:
 - a. Install and configure Elastic Stack in separate hosts (Elastic Search, Kibana, Logstash)
2. Apply the concept of creating roles.
3. 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.)
4. Show an output of the installed Elastic Stack for both Ubuntu and CentOS.
5. Make sure to create a new repository in GitHub for this activity.

4. Output (screenshots and explanations)

The set up:

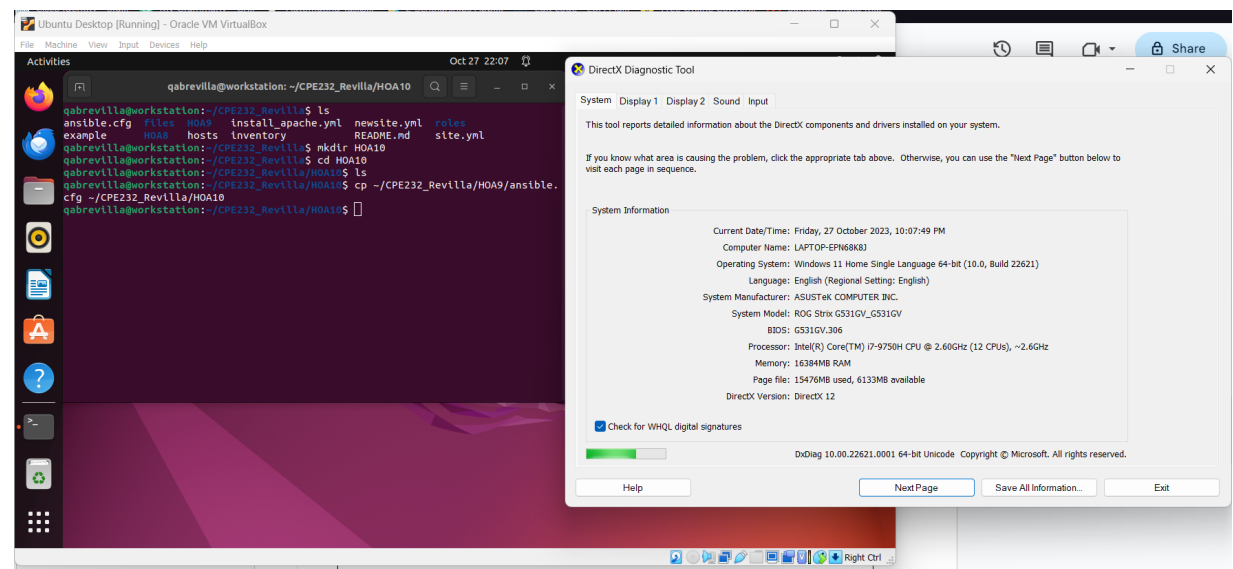


Figure 0.1 Creating new directory

I've created a new directory for the Hands-on Activity 10. The command I used is `mkdir [name of directory]`.

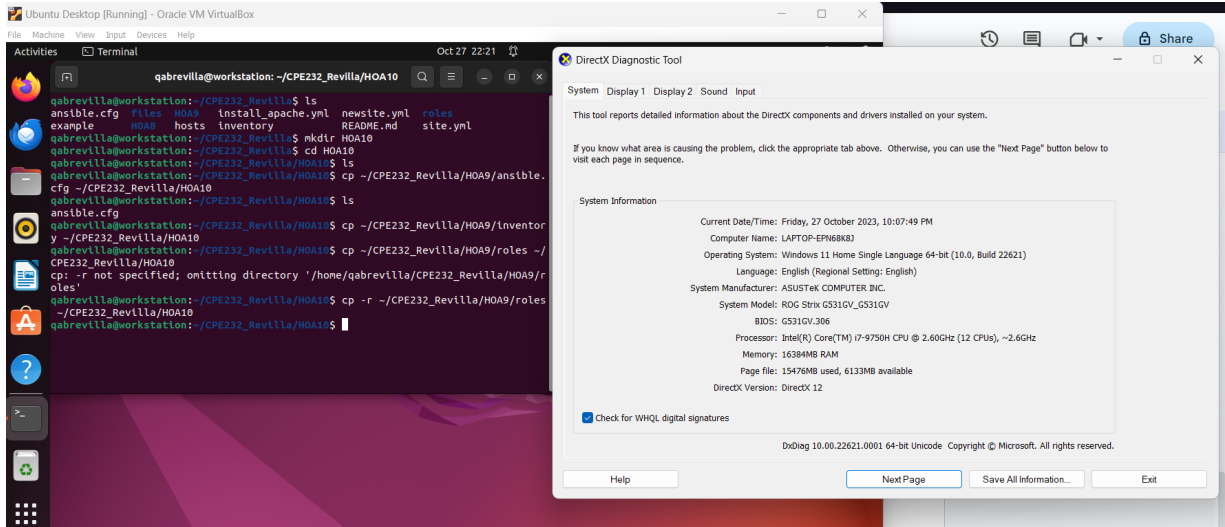
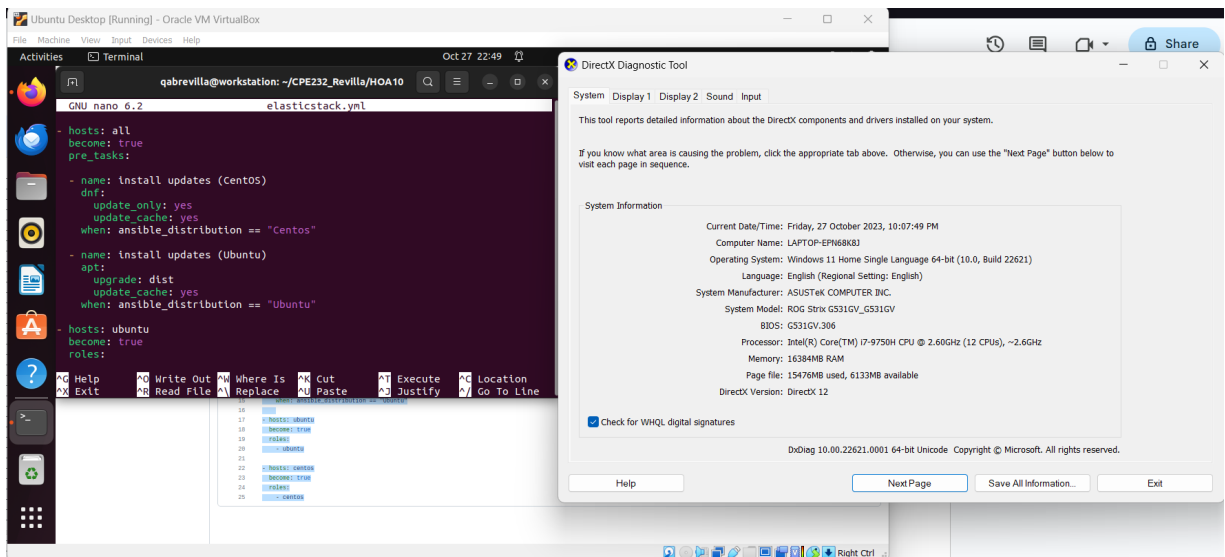


Figure 0.2

From the past activity, I copied the `ansible.cfg`, `inventory`, and `roles` directory from Hands-on-Activity 9. In this way I can save time by utilizing copy commands.

1. Create a playbook that:

4.1 Install and configure Elastic Stack in separate hosts (Elastic Search, Kibana, Logstash)



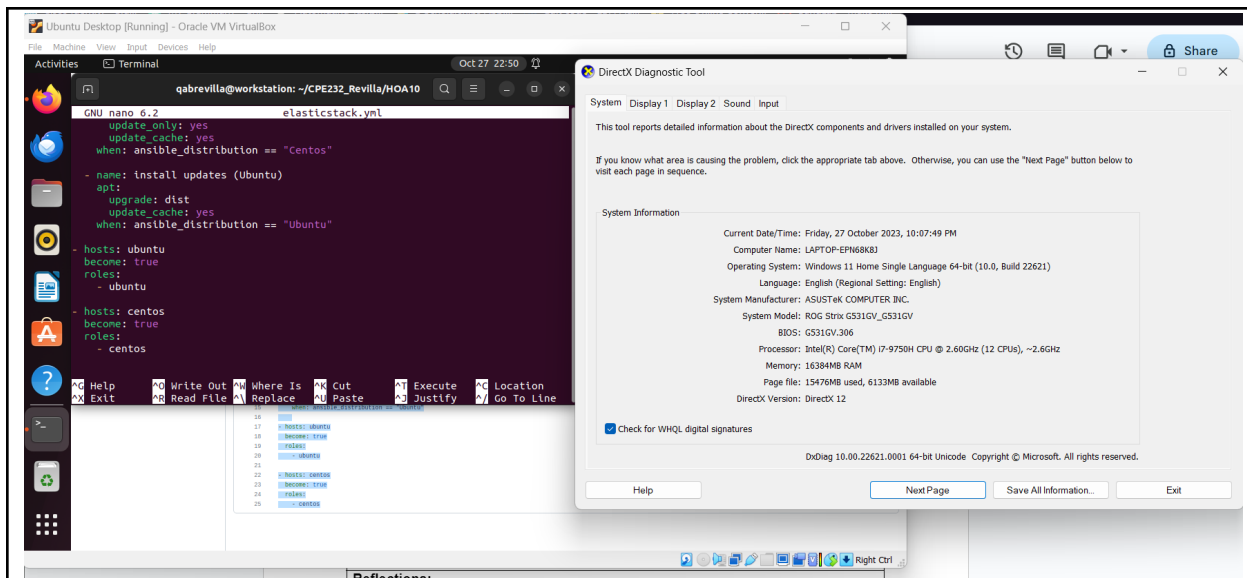


Figure 1.1 Elastic Stack

In the main directory of Hands-on-Activity 10, I've created a playbook called `elasticstack.yml`. This playbook first checks for updates for Ubuntu and CentOS, then calls the roles (playbook) for installing elasticsearch and its prerequisites.

2. Apply the concept of creating roles.

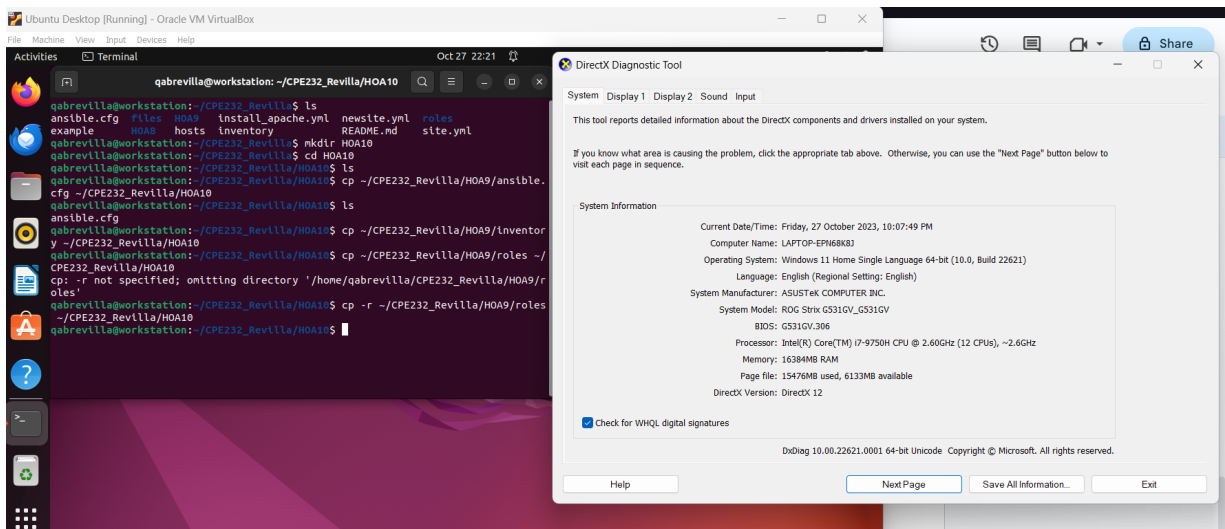


Figure 2.1

From the past activity, I copied the `ansible.cfg`, `inventory`, and `roles` directory from Hands-on-Activity 9. In this way I can save time by utilizing copy commands.

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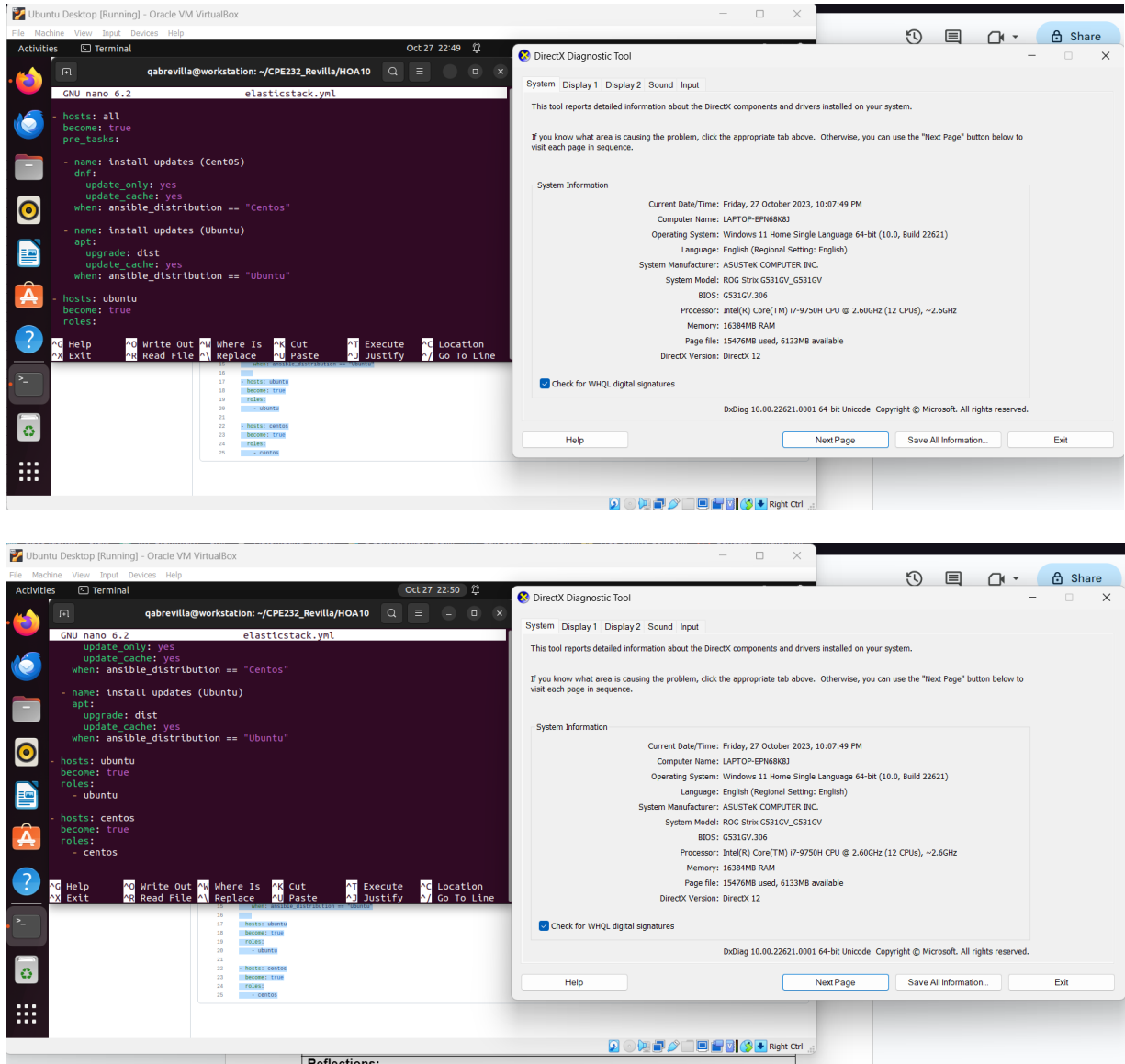
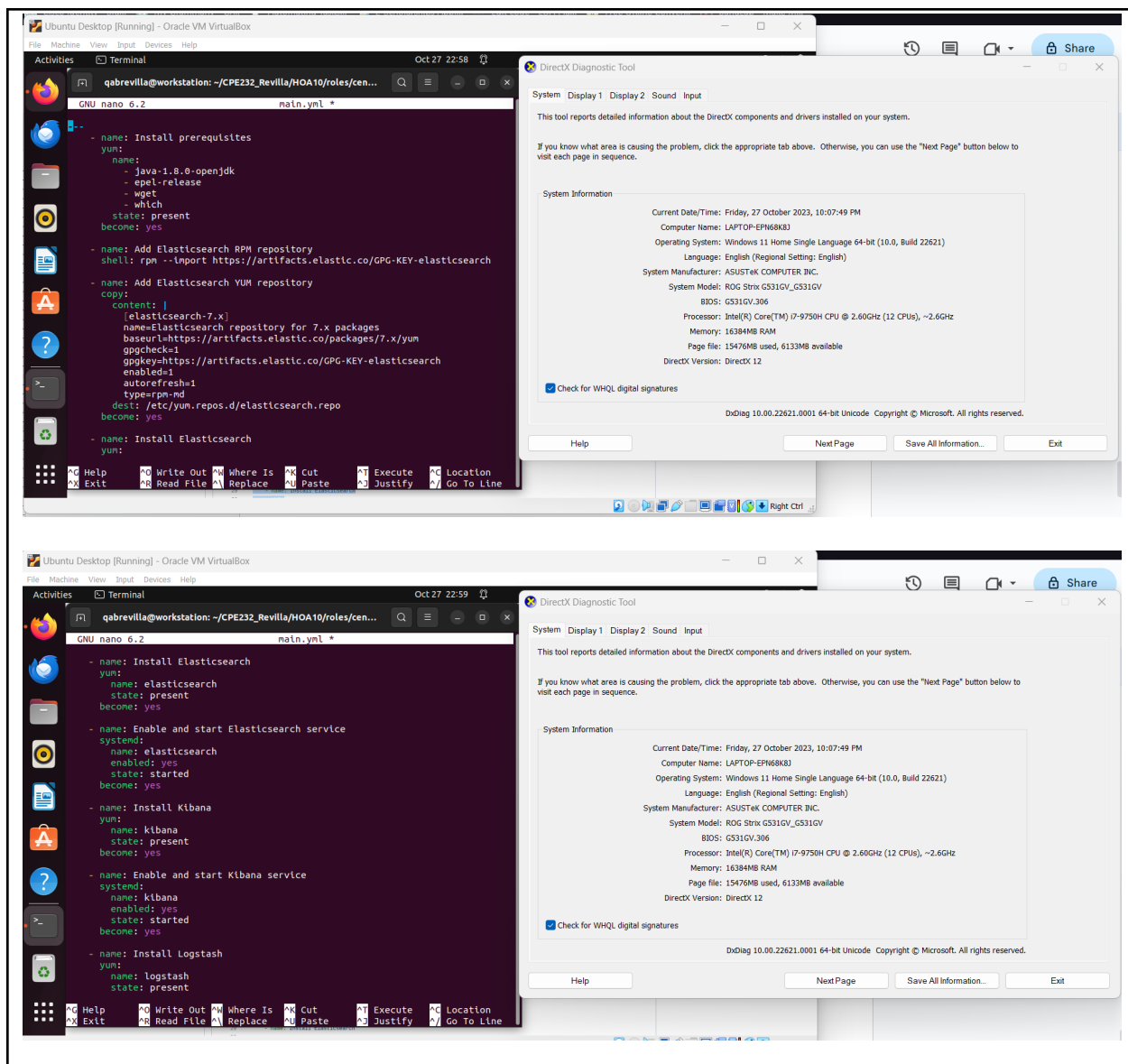


Figure 3.1 Elastic Stack

In the main directory of Hands-on-Activity 10, I've created a playbook called `elasticstack.yml`. This playbook first checks for updates for Ubuntu and Centos, then calls the roles (playbook) for installing elasticsearch and its prerequisites.



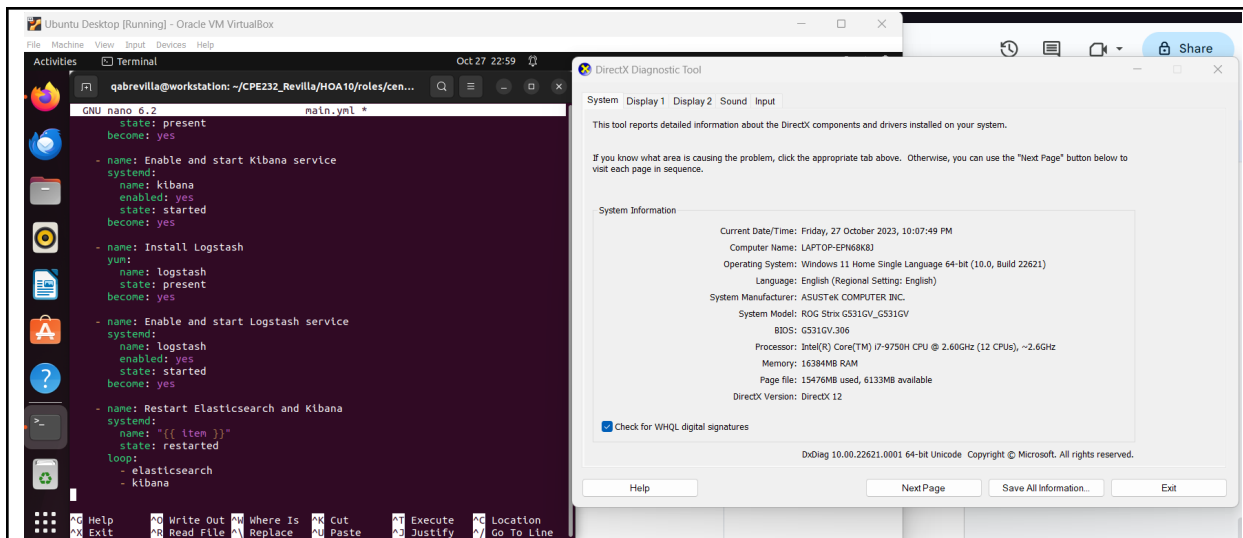
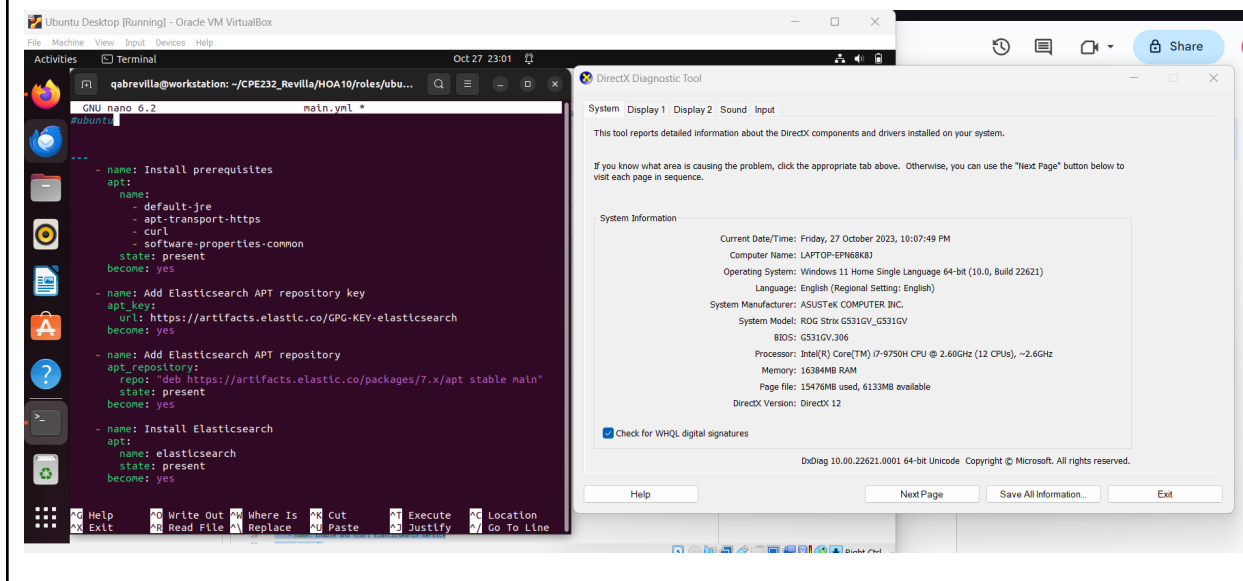


Figure 3.2 ElasticStack for CentOS

First I need to understand how ElasticStack installation works. We need to add the requirements in order for it to install. I've added many software prerequisites in the playbook with the installation of the elasticsearch.



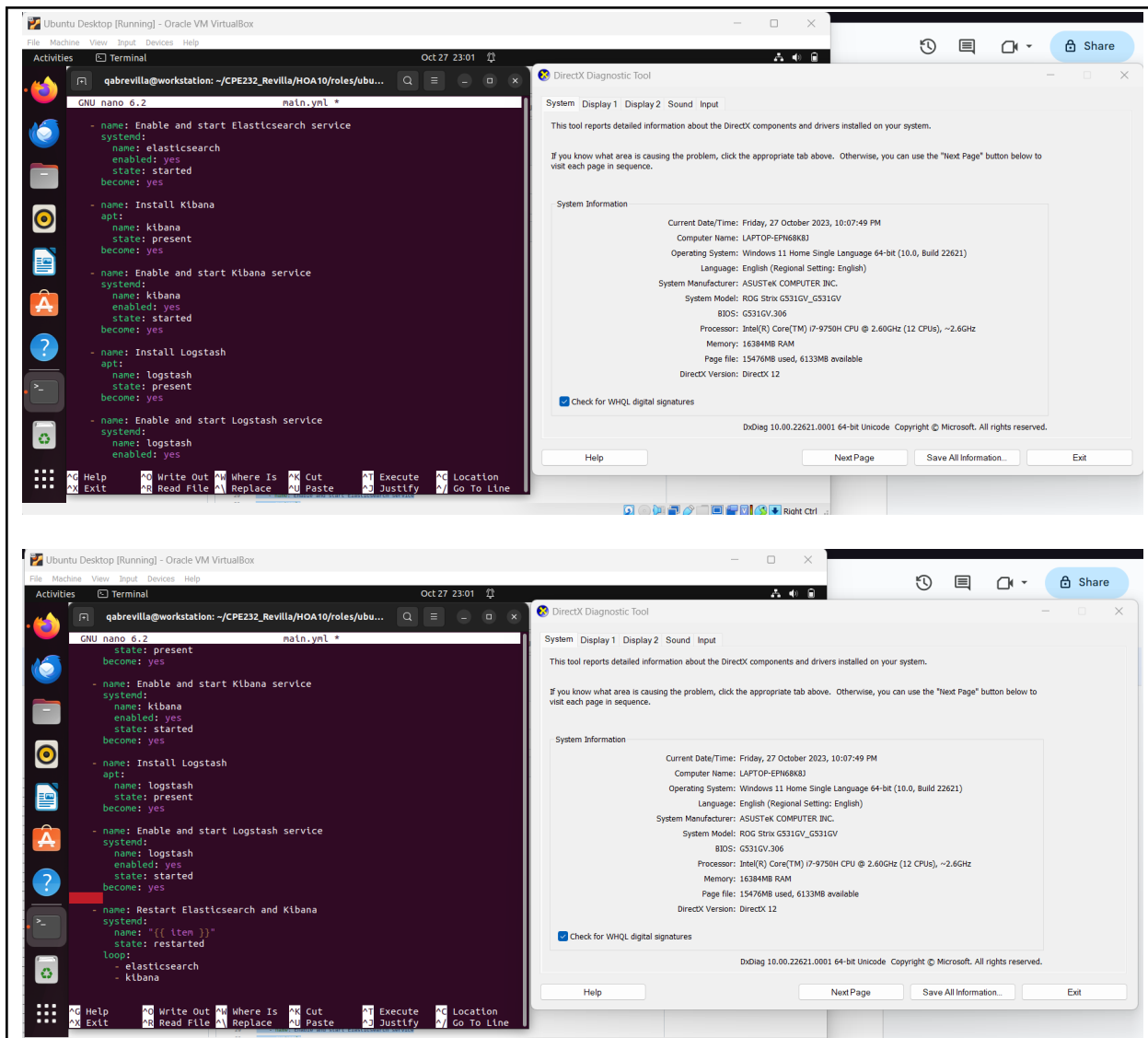
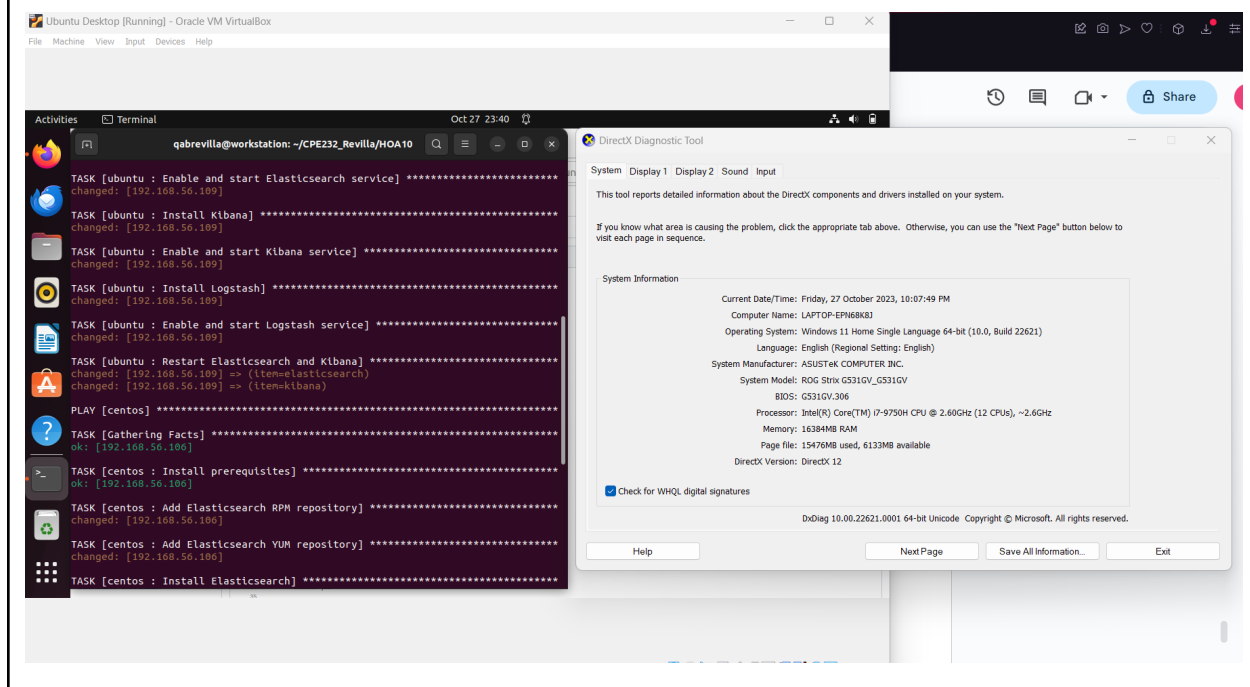
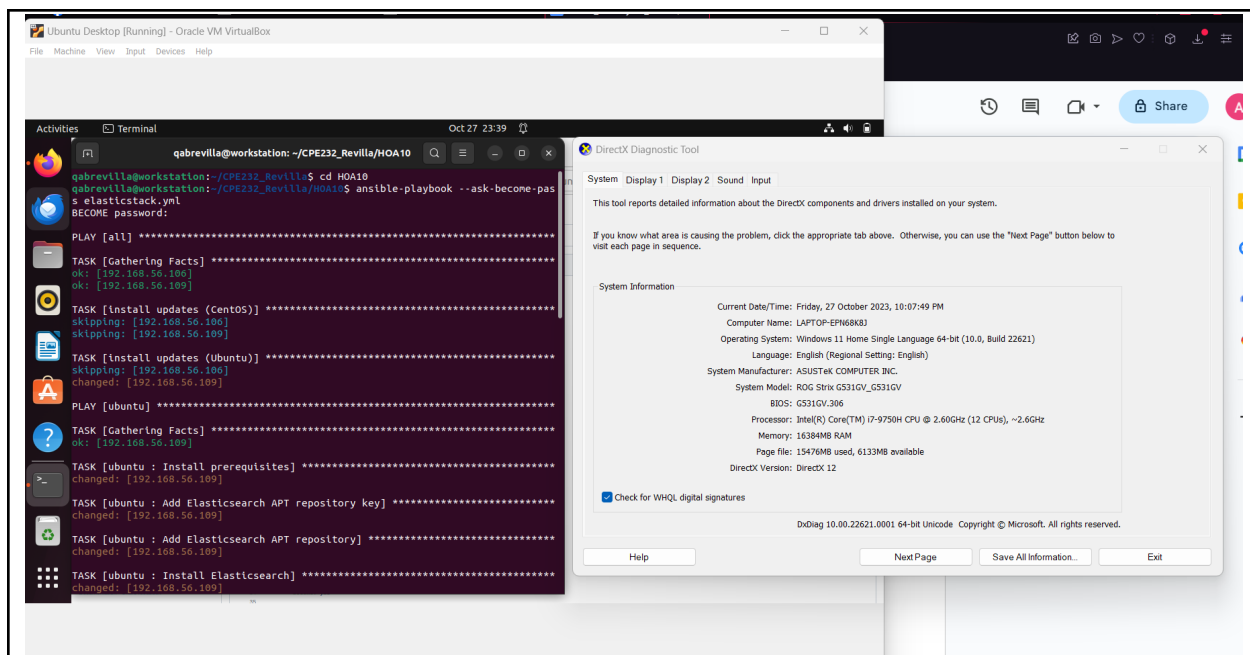
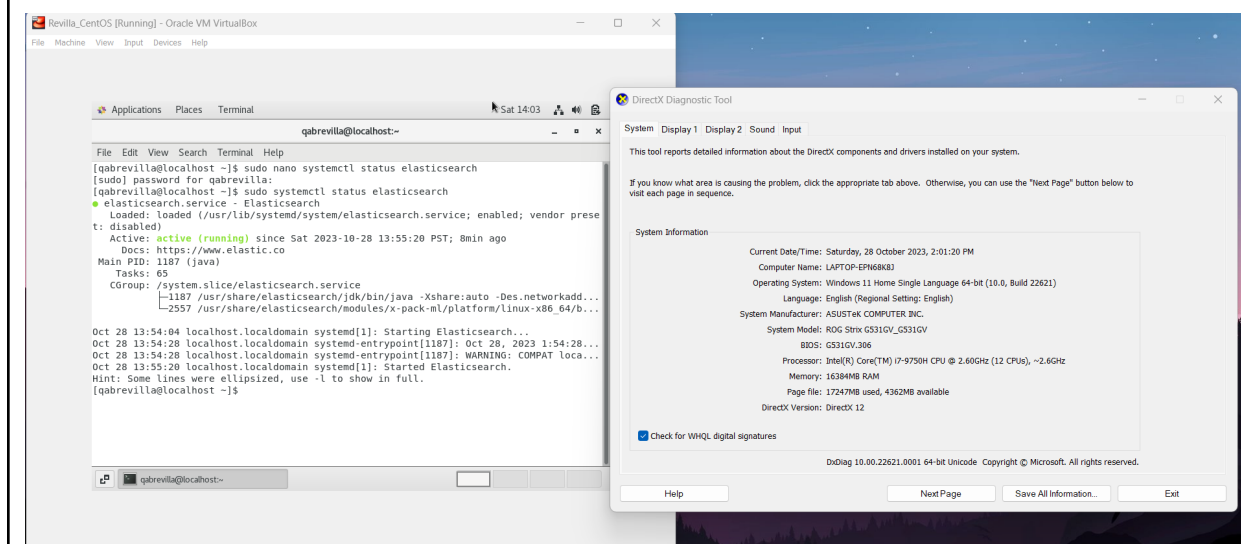
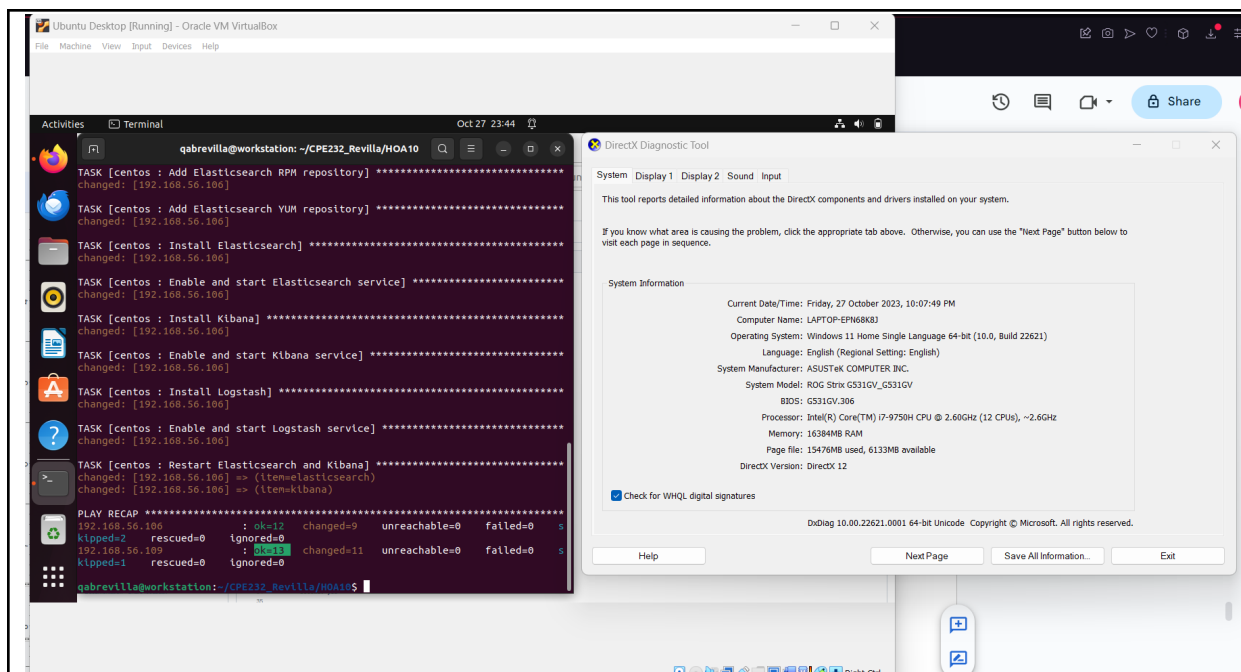


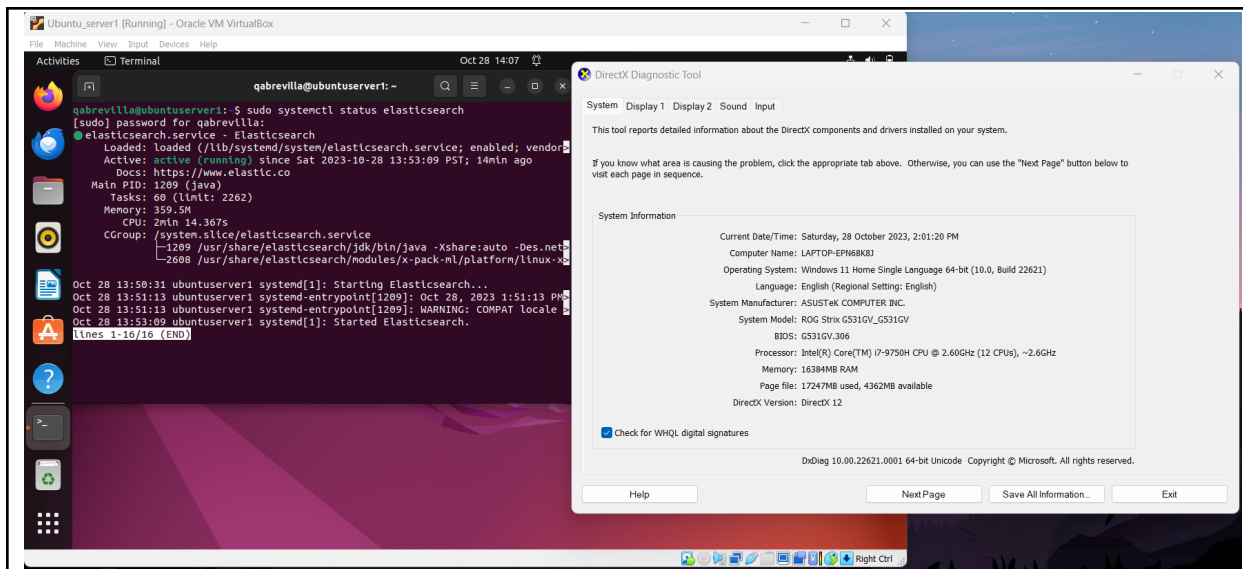
Figure 3.3 ElasticStack for Ubuntu

It is the same as for the centos. The difference is that some installations required a different structure of command in order to install in ubuntu.

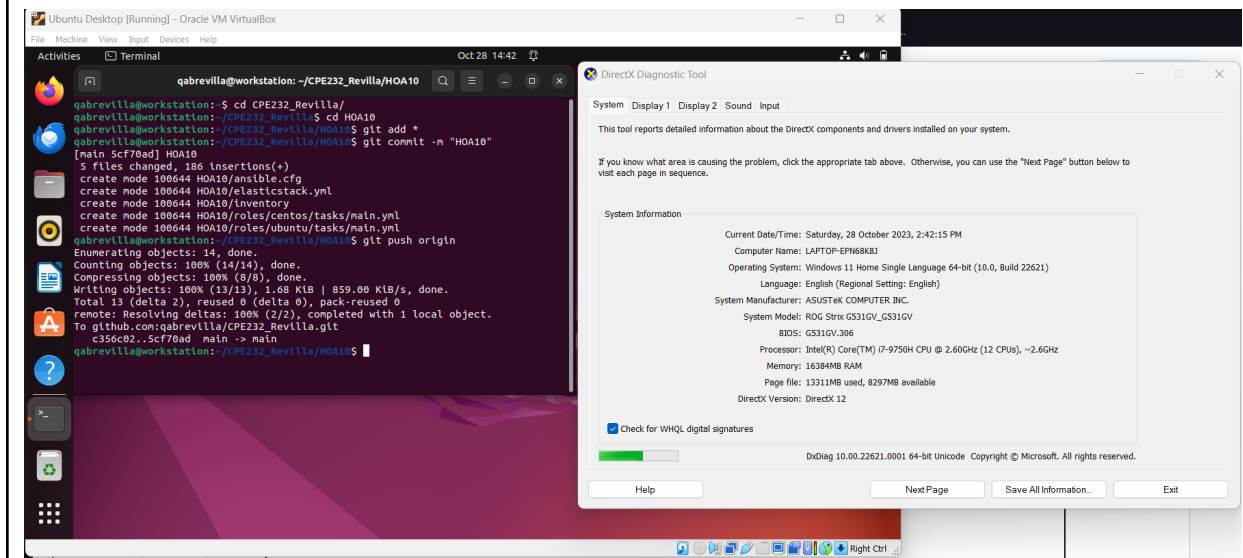
4. Show an output of the installed Elastic Stack for both Ubuntu and CentOS.







5. Make sure to create a new repository in GitHub for this activity.



Reflections:

Answer the following:

1. What are the benefits of having a log monitoring tool?

Log monitoring tool helps users to visually see what is happening on the entire system. This helps users to address issues more efficiently and provide more detail about the cause of the problem. System Administrators or IT can use this tools for decision making and to avoid risk in making a mistake on troubleshooting.

Conclusions:

In this activity, we are able to install softwares that scans and monitors log files such as elastic stack and grayLog. This software detects and alerts users to pattern the log files, monitor the system, and detects software or security issues We focused on installing Elastic Stack in Ubuntu and CentOS. We used Playbooks and roles to install the softwares. Using roles for this activity is crucial because it helps us organize the file and shorten the content of tha main playbook. I really appreciate the experience given for this activity. I had many challenges but it helps me to improve my critical thinking skills and troubleshooting skills. I hope these skills will help me be better in the future and use this knowledge as my references.