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Course/Section: CPE31S5	Date Submitted: 14/10/2023
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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.

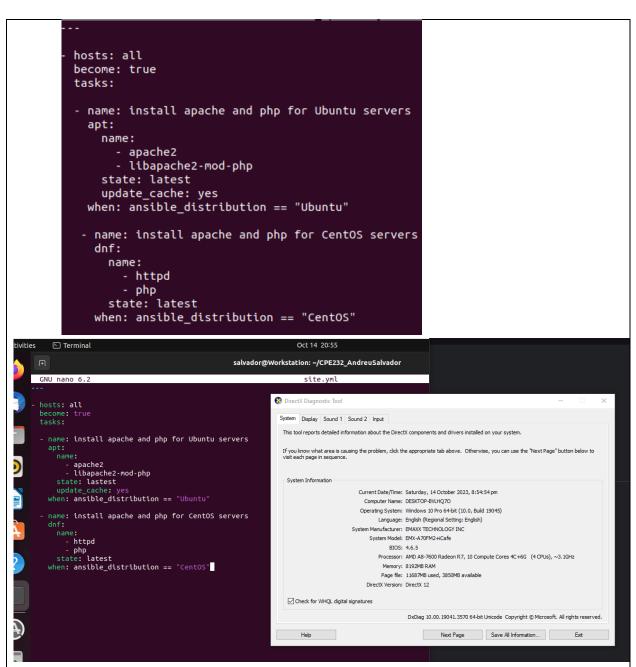
We also try to manage services that do not automatically run using the automations in playbook. For example, when we install web servers or httpd for CentOS, we notice that the service did not start automatically.

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

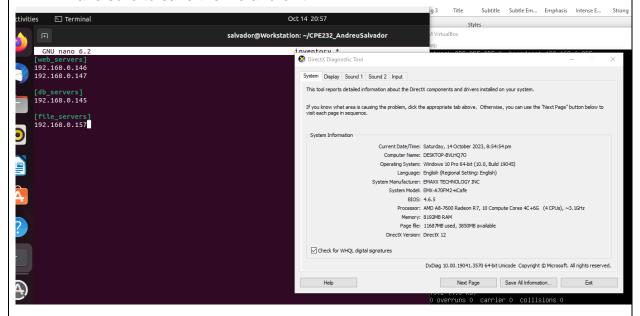
1. Create a new playbook and named it site.yml. Follow the commands as shown in the image below. Make sure to save the file and exit.



2. Edit the inventory file. Remove the variables we put in our last activity and group according to the image shown below:



Make sure to save the file and exit.



Note:

[web_servers]

192.168.0.146 server1

192.168.0.147 server2

[db_servers]

192.168.0.145 CentOS server

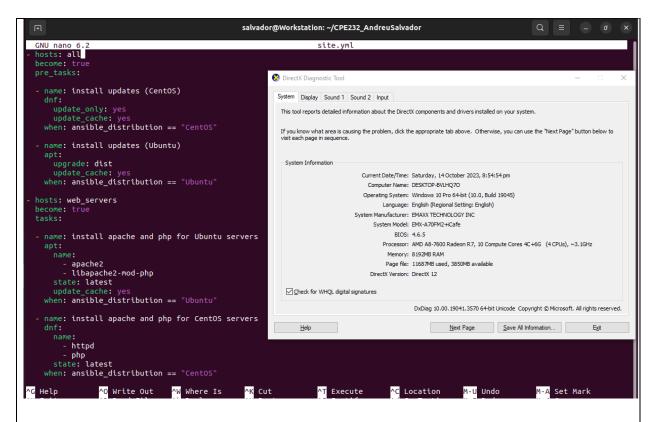
[file_servers]

192.168.0.157 server3

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:

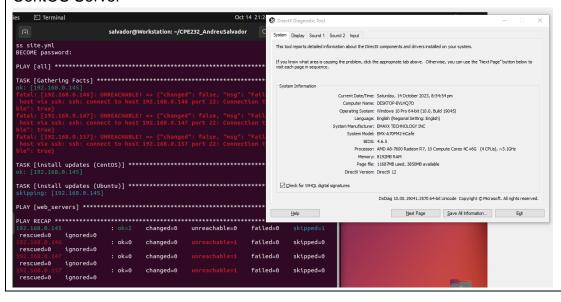
```
hosts: all
 become: true
  - name: install updates (CentOS)
   dnf:
     update_only: yes
      update_cache: yes
   when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
  - name: install updates (Ubuntu)
   apt:
     upgrade: dist
     update_cache: yes
   when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
 hosts: web_servers
 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"
Make sure to save the file and exit.
```

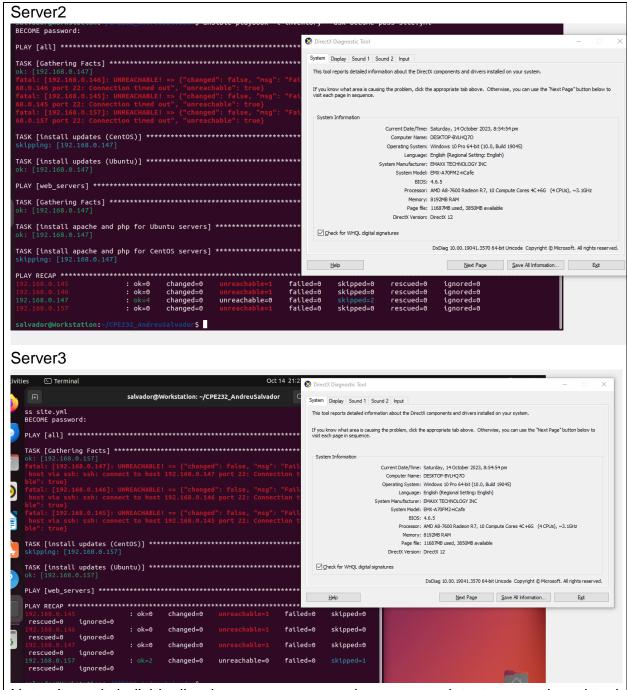


The *pre-tasks* command tells the ansible to run it before any other thing. In the *pre-tasks*, CentOS will install updates while Ubuntu will upgrade its distribution package. This will run before running the second play, which is targeted at *web_servers*. In the second play, apache and php will be installed on both Ubuntu servers and CentOS servers.

Run the site.yml file and describe the result.

CentOS Server





Note: I run it individually since my pc can only accommodate two running virtual machines

Seems like the changes wasnt new to the servers that's why it shows ok. I couldn't captured the changes in the server 1 earlier since I ran into a problem and was nervous of the red letters so I rushed in fixing it.

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"

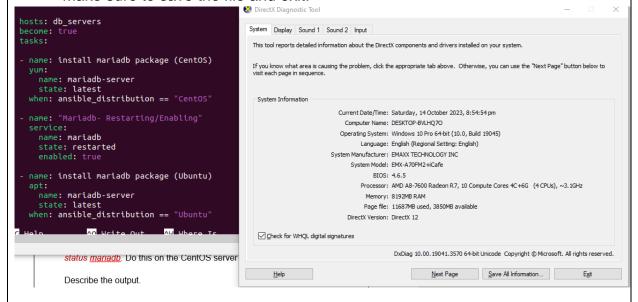
  service:
    name: mariadb
    state: restarted
    enabled: true

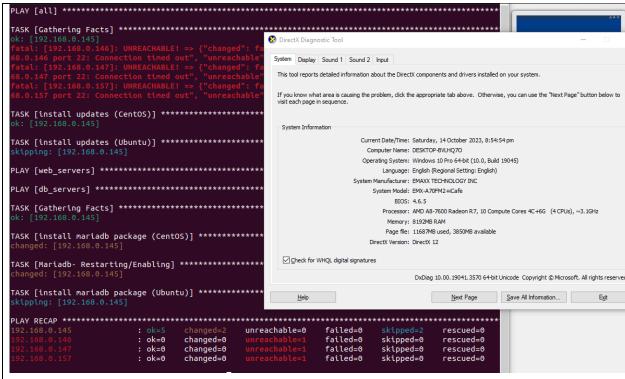
    name: install mariadb packege (Ubuntu)

    name: mariadb-server
     state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

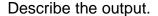
Run the *site.yml* file and de2scribe the result.

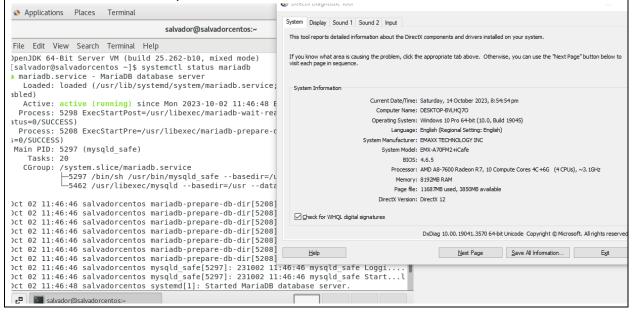




Changed occurred in the server 192.168.0.145 since there are two tasks inside the playbook that wasn't installed yet in that server. The ok was the previous tasks that was already installed in the server. 2 skips indicating it isn't the right type.

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.





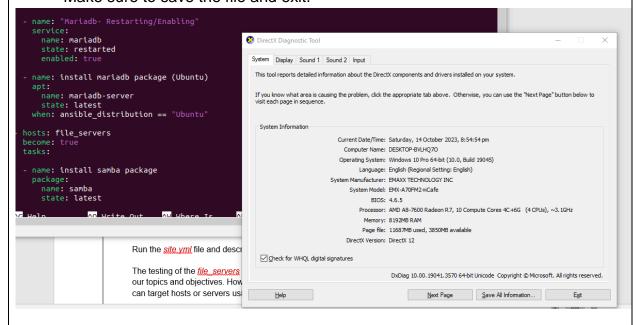
It shows that the mariadb database server is active and running in that server where i indicate that location of that machine.

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.

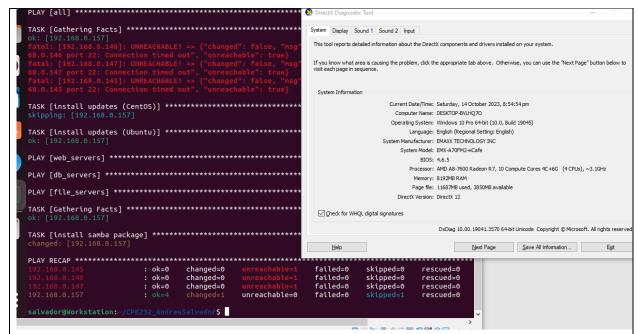
```
    hosts: file_servers
        become: true
        tasks:

            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.



It shows a changed happened in the server, installing the samba package in the server remotely was successful. The ok indicates that the previous tasks was already installed in the 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: 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"

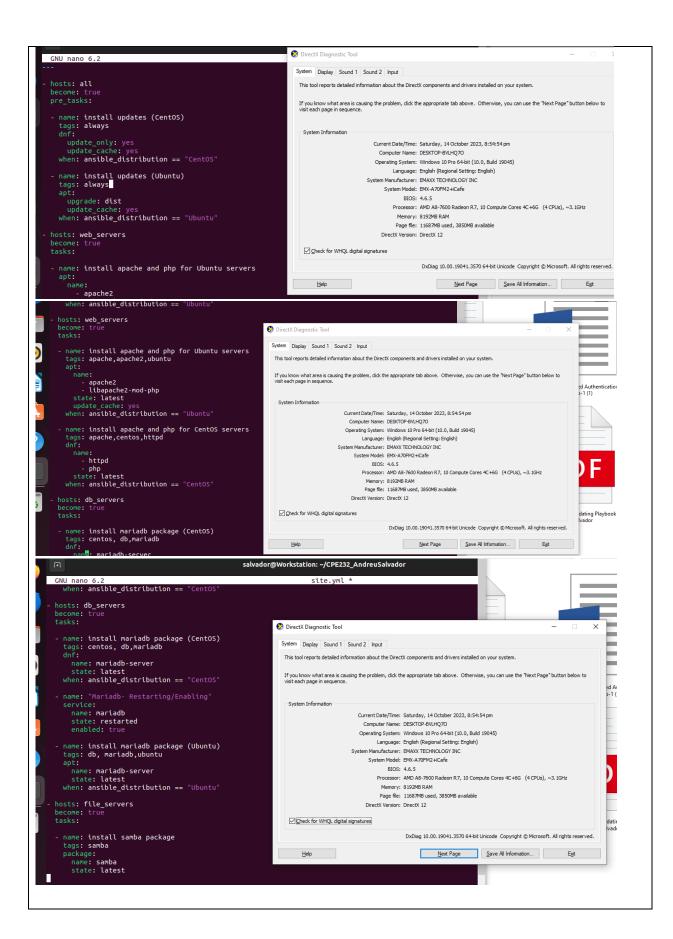
    name: install apache and php for CentOS servers

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

```
hosts: db_servers
 become: true
  tasks:

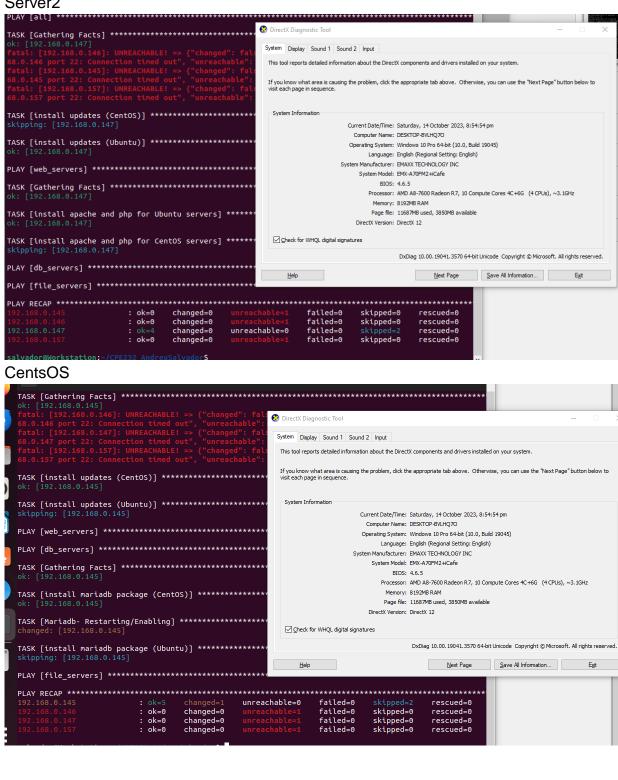
    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)

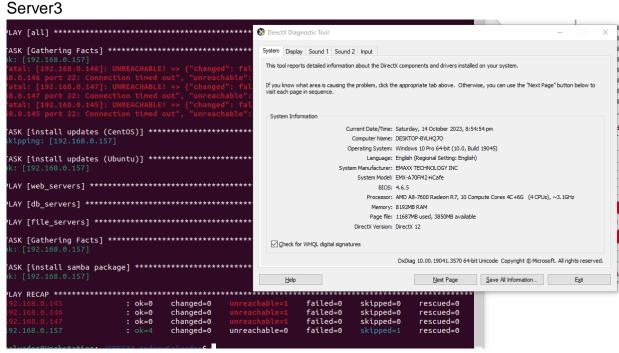
    tags: centos, db,mariadb
   dnf:
     name: mariadb-server
      state: latest
   when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
  - name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
   service:
     name: mariadb
      state: restarted
     enabled: true
  - name: install mariadb packege (Ubuntu)
   tags: db, mariadb,ubuntu
   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
```



Make sure to save the file and exit. Run the site.yml file and describe the result.

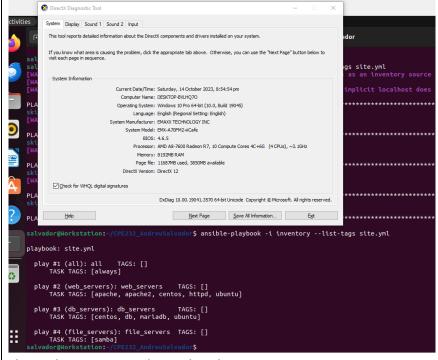
Server2



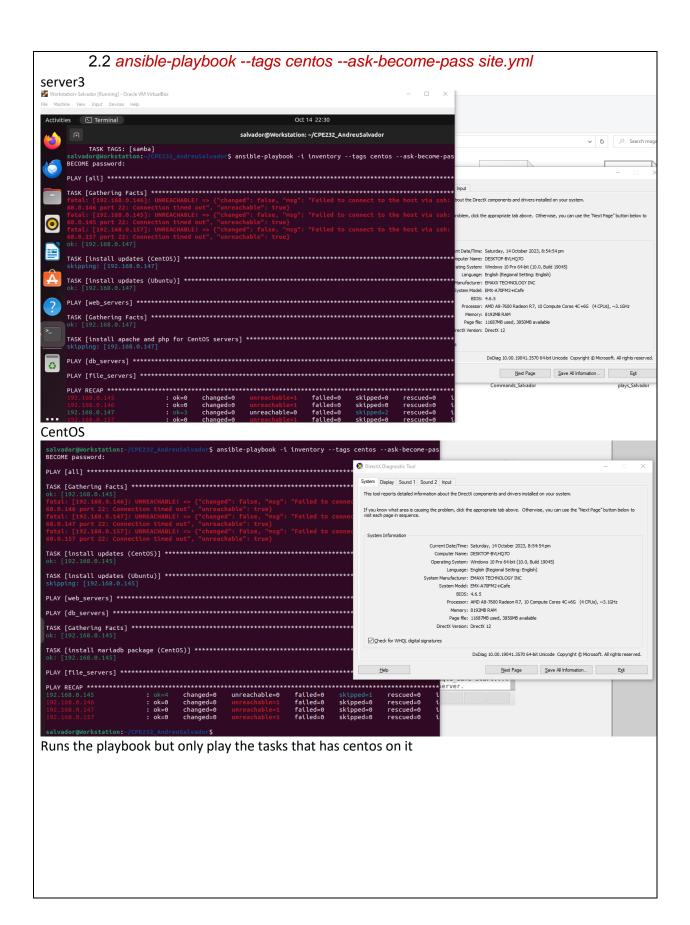


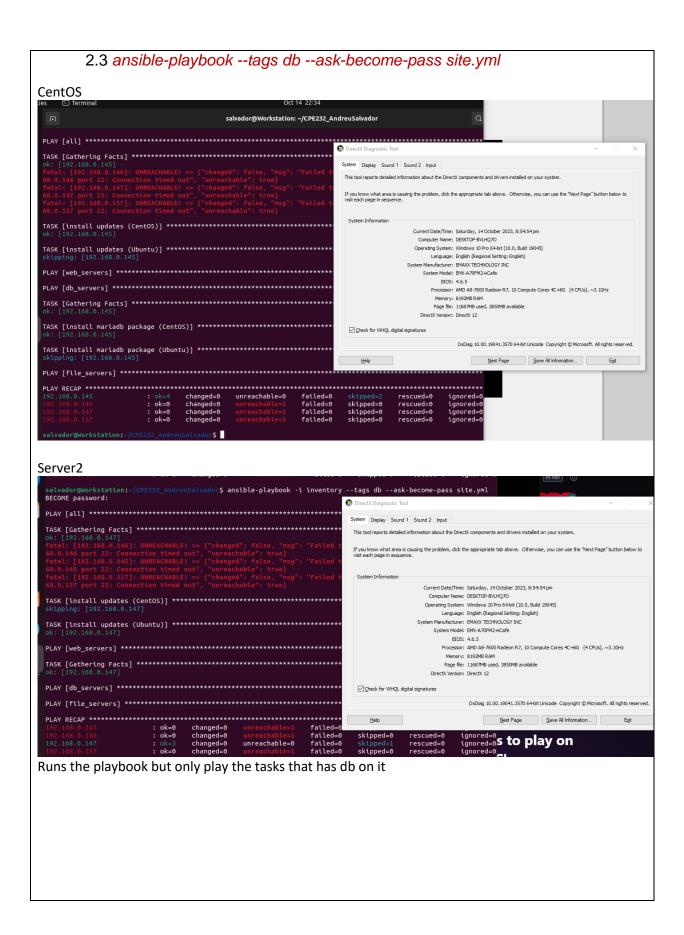
Indicates that everything was ok, changes occurred in the CentOS machine. Skips are for those that isn't applicable with the type of OS it has.

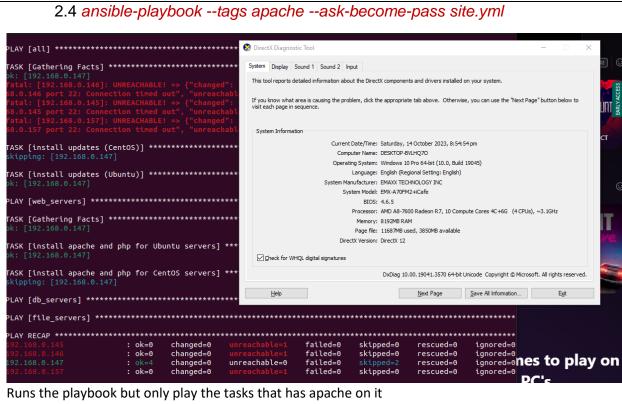
- 2. On the local machine, try to issue the following commands and describe each result:
 - 2.1 ansible-playbook --list-tags site.yml



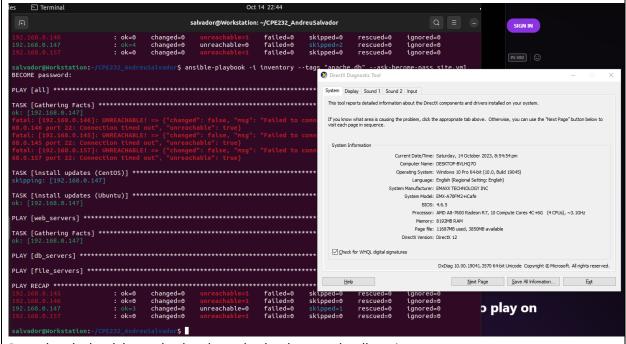
Shows the tags inserted in each tasks







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

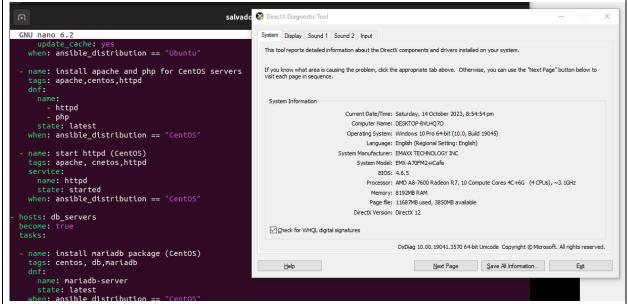


Runs the playbook but only play the tasks that has apache.db on it

Task 3: Managing Services

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

Figure 3.1.1 Make sure to save the file and exit.



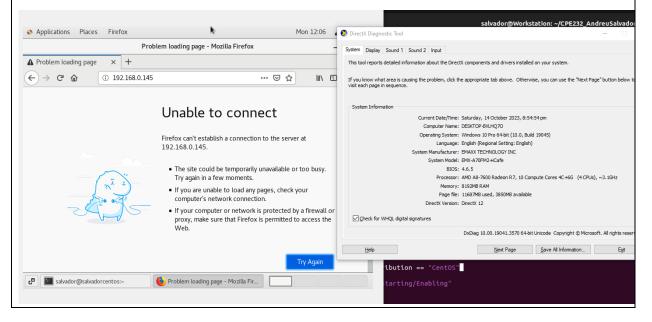
You would also notice from our previous activity that we already created a module that runs a service.

```
    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
```

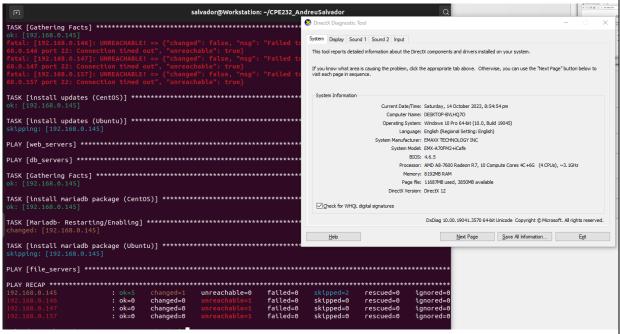
Figure 3.1.2

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 <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.



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.



This indication of changed is possibly the starting of the httpd that we earlier stopped in the centos server.

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:

- 1. What is the importance of putting our remote servers into groups?
 - To separate those servers for their specified functions such as this server is for web_server, etc. Groups also lets you specify where you want certain tasks to only work or run on for instance is in the procedure above wherein the db_servers are indicated on the following tasks wherein the tasks that was written inside the playbook will only affect the servers inside the group that was indicated in the playbook.
- 2. What is the importance of tags in playbooks?
 - Tags are similar to the premise of what we use groups for. Tags lets you put "marks" on tasks written inside the playbook afterwards you can indicate the tag that you place on those tasks when playing the playbook to only run that specific tasks with the appropriate tag indicated.

- 3. Why do think some services need to be managed automatically in playbooks?
 - To fix errors that occurs when services aren't managed consistently. Using automation, it will help services that need maintenance consistently, thus playbooks that runs the serives automatically will be a huge help in such problem of various kinds of service.