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Course/Section: CPE232 - CPE31S23	Date Submitted: September 14, 2022
Instructor: Engr. Taylar	Semester and SY: 1st sem/2022-2023

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

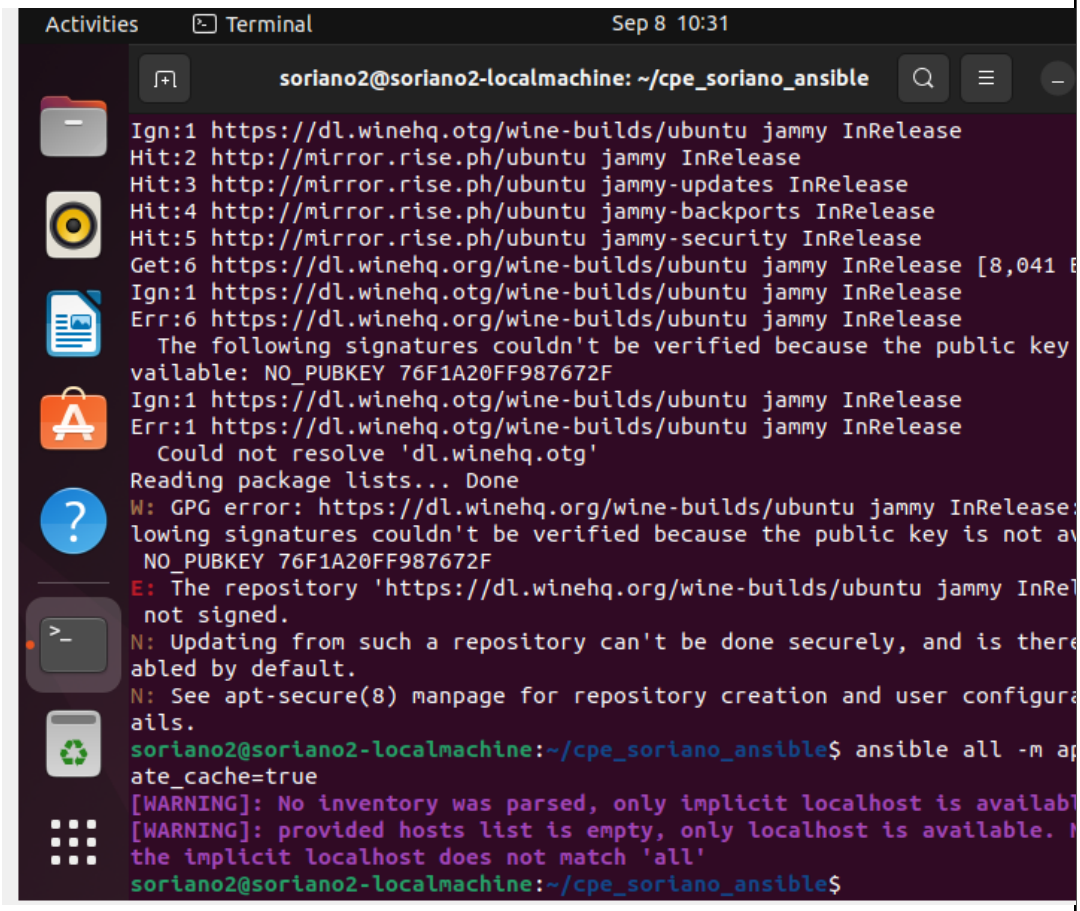
1. Locally, we use the command *sudo apt update* when we want to download package information from all configured resources. The sources often defined in /etc/apt/sources.list file and other files located in /etc/apt/sources.list.d/ directory. So, when you run update command, it downloads the package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

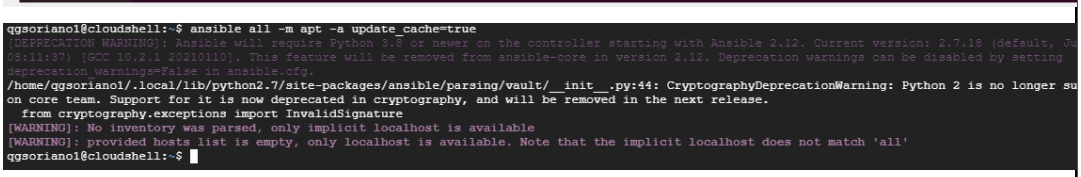
an apt update command in a remote machine. Issue the following command:

ansible all -m apt -a update_cache=true

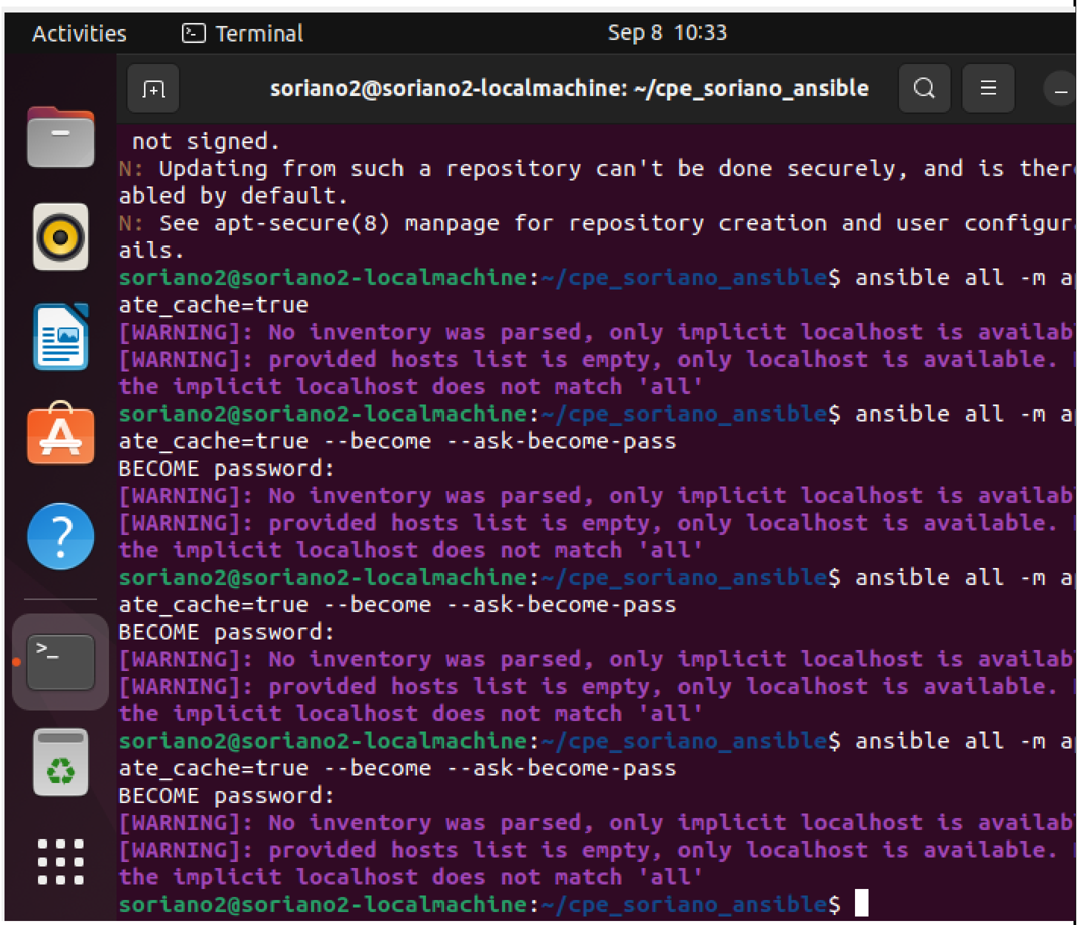
What is the result of the command? Is it successful?

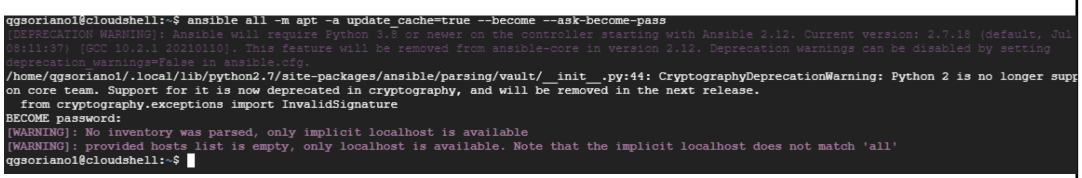
No, because something is still not one yet.





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.



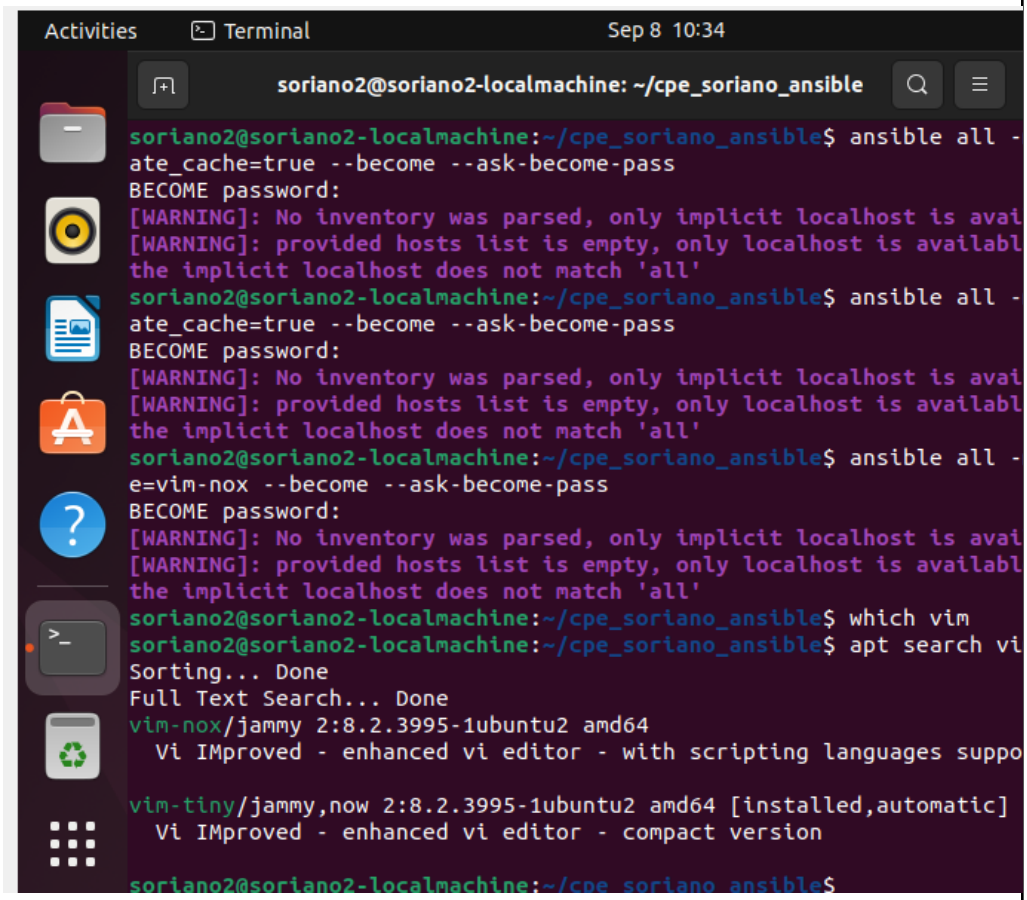


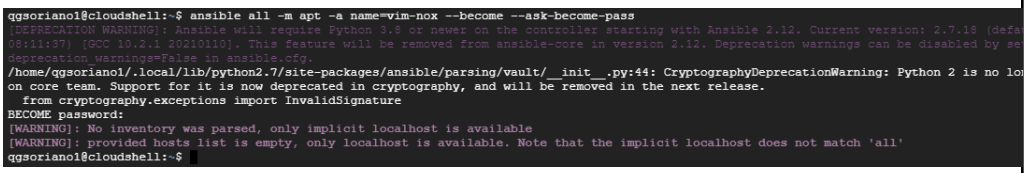
You may notice after the second command was executed, the status is CHANGED compared to the first command, which is FAILED.

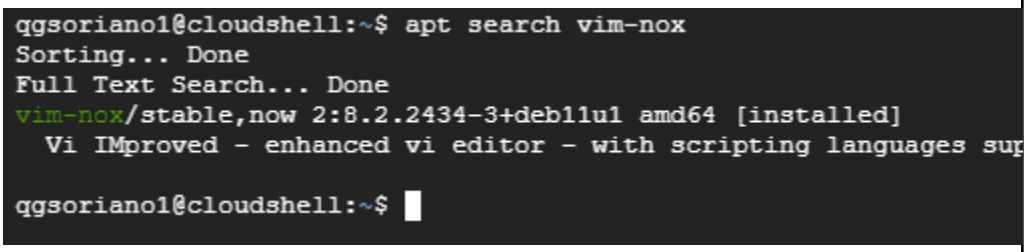
2. Let's try to install VIM, which is an almost compatible version of the UNIX editor Vi. To do this, we will just changed the module part in 1.1 instruction. Here is the command: *ansible all -m apt -a name=vim-nox --become --ask-become-pass.* The command would take some time after typing the password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

I think yes, because the results shows that the sorting and searching is done.

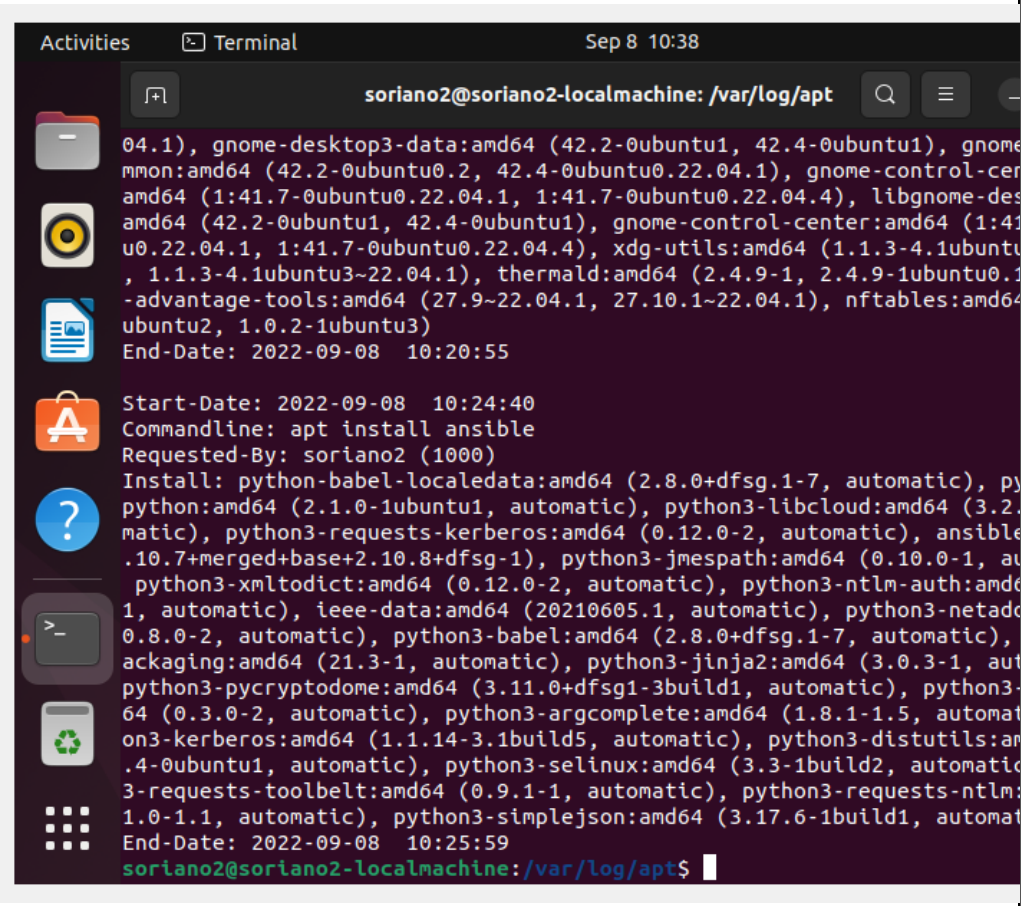






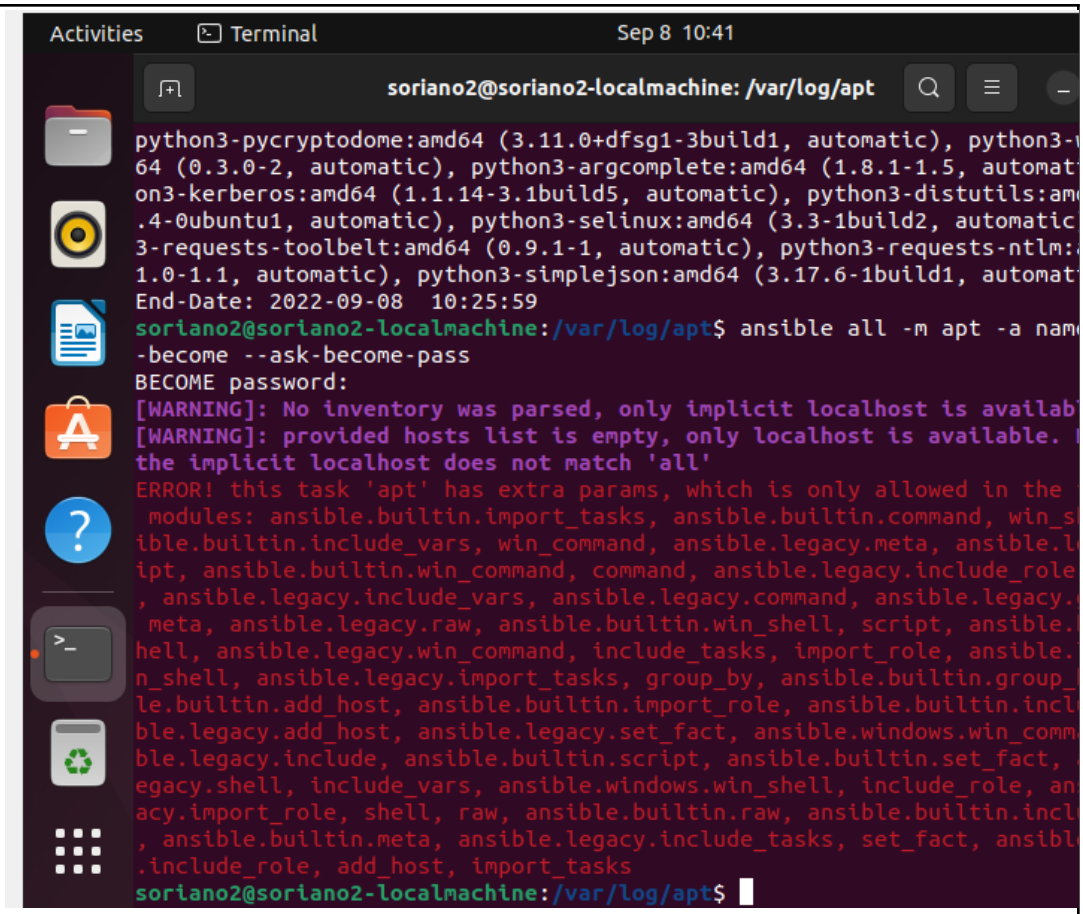
2.2 Check the logs in the servers using the following commands: *cd /var/log*. After this, issue the command *ls,* go to the folder *apt* and open history.log. Describe what you see in the history.log.

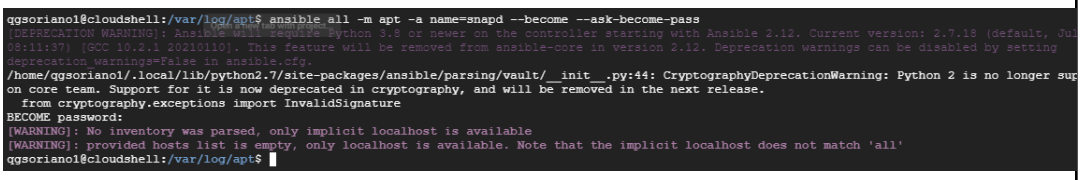
After executing the command open the history.log, there are logs that are recorded like the command line, the start date, and also the user that is requesting that specific command.



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.

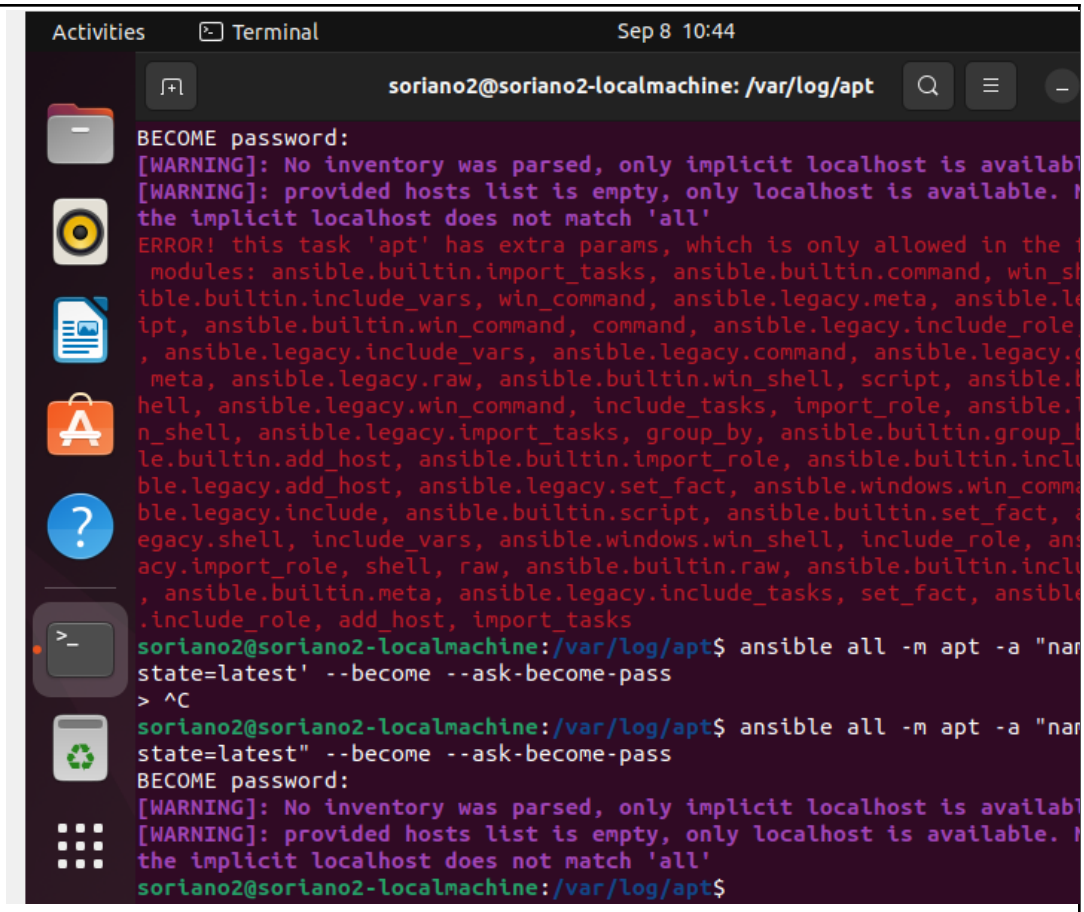
   3.1 Issue the command: *ansible all -m apt -a name=snapd --become --ask-become-pass*
   Can you describe the result of this command? Is it a success? Did it change anything in the remote servers?
   It is not successful. This error shows that the task 'apt' has extra parameters, which is only allowed in the specific list of modules.

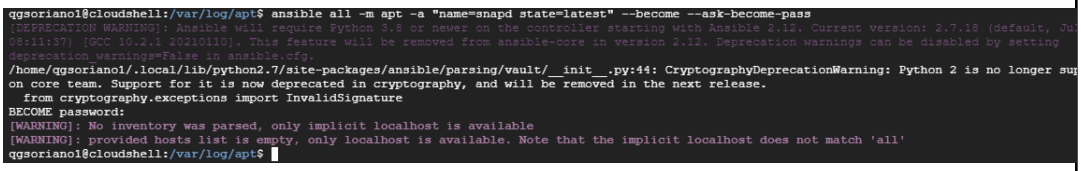




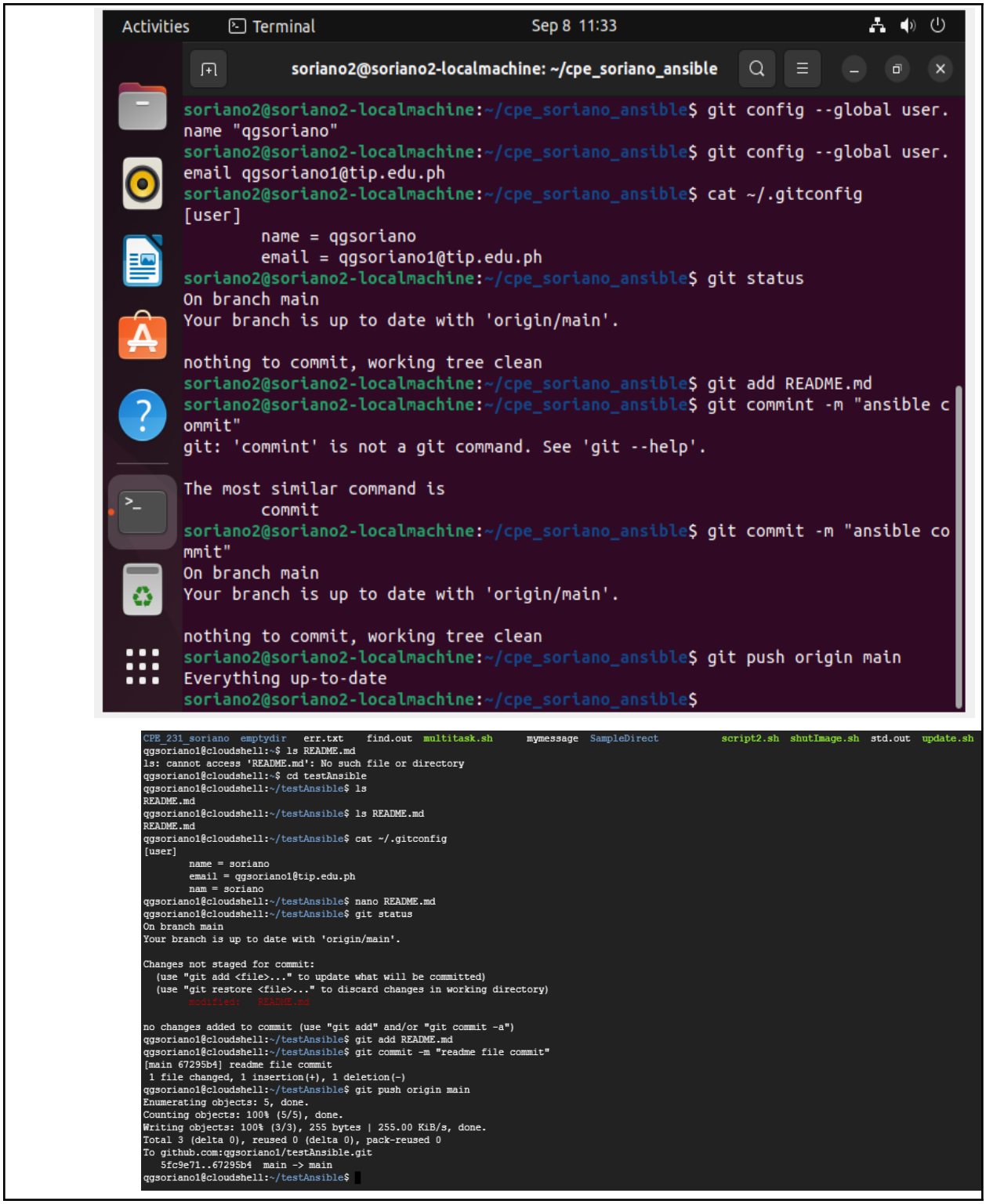
3.2 Now, try to issue this command: *ansible all -m apt -a "name=snapd state=latest" --become --ask-become-pass*

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

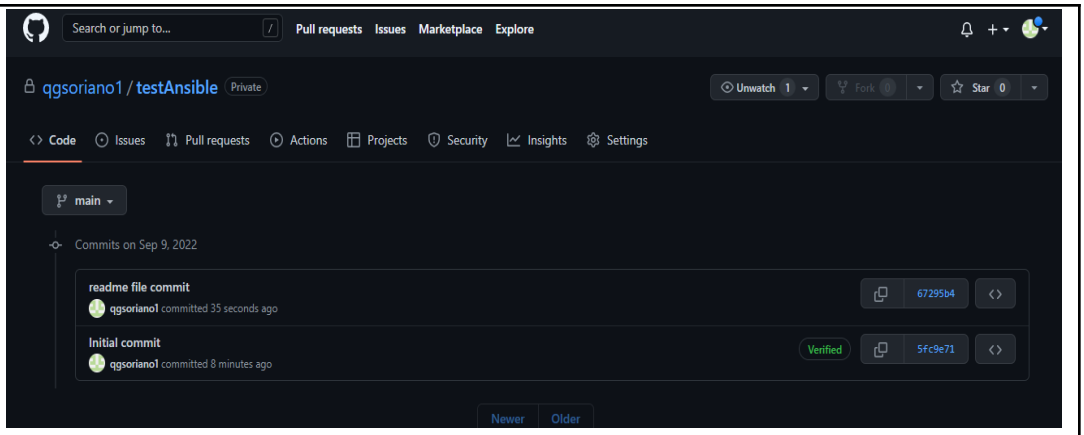




4. At this point, make sure to commit all changes to GitHub.




```
CPE_231_soriano  emptydir  err.txt  find.out  multitask.sh  mymessage  SampleDirect  script2.sh  shutImage.sh  std.out  update.sh
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~$ ls README.md
ls: cannot access 'README.md': No such file or directory
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~$ cd testAnsible
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$ ls
README.md
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$ ls README.md
README.md
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$ cat ~/.gitconfig
[user]
        name = soriano
        email = qgsoriano1@tip.edu.ph
        nam = soriano
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$ nano README.md
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$ 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")
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$ git add README.md
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$ git commit -m "readme file commit"
[main 67295b4] readme file commit
 1 file changed, 1 insertion(+), 1 deletion(-)
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$ git push origin main
Enumerating objects: 5, done.
Counting objects: 100% (5/5), done.
Writing objects: 100% (3/3), 255 bytes | 255.00 KiB/s, done.
Total 3 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0
To github.com:qgsoriano1/testAnsible.git
   5fc9e71..67295b4  main -> main
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$
```



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:

```
 GNU nano 4.8                 install_apache.yml
---
- hosts: all
  become: true
  tasks:

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

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

   SCREENSHOTS:

```
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$ nano install_apache.yml
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$
```

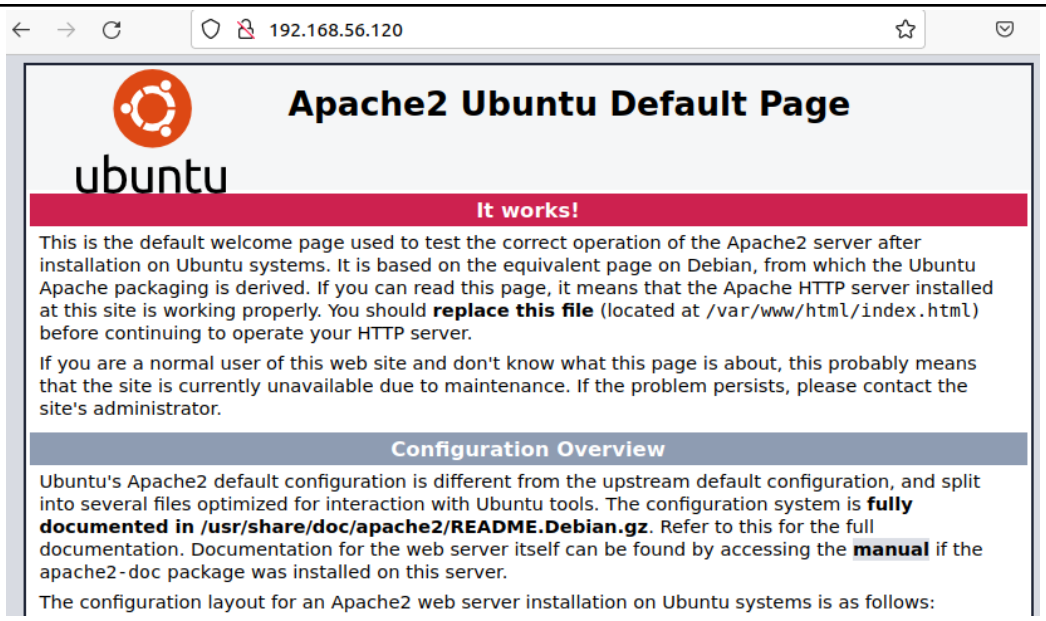
```
  GNU nano 5.4
---
- hosts: all
become: true
tasks:

- name: install apache2 package
apt:
name: apache 2
```

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

```
qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass install_apache.yml
[DEPRECATION WARNING]: Ansible will require Python 3.8 or newer on the controller starting with Ansible 2.12. Current version: 2.7.18 (default, Jul 14 2021,
08:11:37) [GCC 10.2.1 20210110]. This feature will be removed from ansible-core in version 2.12. Deprecation warnings can be disabled by setting
deprecation_warnings=False in ansible.cfg.
/home/qgsoriano1/.local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/ansible/parsing/vault/__init__.py:44: CryptographyDeprecationWarning: Python 2 is no longer supported by the Pyth
on core team. Support for it is now deprecated in cryptography, and will be removed in the next release.
  from cryptography.exceptions import InvalidSignature
BECOME password:
[WARNING]: No inventory was parsed, only implicit localhost is available
[WARNING]: provided hosts list is empty, only localhost is available. Note that the implicit localhost does not match 'all'

PLAY [all] *********************************************************************************************************************************************************
skipping: no hosts matched

PLAY RECAP *********************************************************************************************************************************************************

qgsoriano1@cloudshell:~/testAnsible$
```

I think that the results show a successful execution of the code. I'm not that sure that it's really a success, but it looks like it.

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.



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?
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
```

Save the changes to this file and exit.

SCREENSHOT:

```
  GNU nano 5.4
---
- hosts: all
  become: true
  tasks:

  - name: update repository index
    apt:
      update_cache: yes

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

6. Run the playbook and describe the output. Did the new command change anything on the remote servers?

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
```

Save the changes to this file and exit.

SCREENSHOT:

```
  GNU nano 5.4
---
- 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
```

8. Run the playbook and describe the output. Did the new command change anything on the remote servers?
9. Finally, make sure that we are in sync with GitHub. Provide the link of your GitHub repository.

Reflections:

Answer the following:

1. What is the importance of using a playbook?

   - **The playbook assists the team in visualizing goals, comprehending the continuous improvement paradigm, and understanding what is required to succeed. The primary steps of the workflow are described and the individual actions in those sections are outlined.**

2. Summarize what we have done on this activity.

   - **In this activity, we have done a lot of code execution. We have done a lot of installation, upgrading, and updating methods just to install the pip command and also the ansible. Most of all, we have done a lot of troubleshooting. We tried to install the command pip in the VM's Linux Ubuntu OS terminal, but it wasn't that successful because all of us have encountered a lot of problems. First was on how to install the pip in other ways, second is on how to install the ansible in many other ways. But most of these methods are not successful, just because of the**

restrictions of this “jammy” source. I tried to perform this activity on a different terminal, and I think it’s good and working, what’s not working is the remote servers, because those remote servers were inside the laboratory’s Virtual machine, and I’m not able to connect to them because I’m on a different environment and on a different PC.