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DevOps course, final project assignment.

Contents

Instructions for the teaching assistant

Implemented optional features

List of optional features implemented:

Individual service testing: Added tests related to service1 endpoints.

Analysis stage in the pipe.

Instructions for examiner to test the system.

Pay attention to optional features.

I have implemented one individual service testing for service1 and it have small two tests to tests the port that the service is running on and test the authentication and if it is accessible or not.

Added Analysis stage to the pipe line, used ESlint for java script language.

Data about the platform you used in development (hardware, CPU architecture, operating system, version of docker and docker-compose)

# System Details Report			
## Hardware Information:		## Software Information:	
Hardware Model:	Microsoft Corporation Virtual Machine	Firmware Version	090008
Memory	8.7 GiB	OS Name	Ubuntu 24.04.1 LTS
Processor	Intel® Core™ i7-1065G7 × 4	OS Type:	64-bit
Graphics	Software Rendering	GNOME Version:	46
Disk Capacity:	136.4 GB	Windowing System	X11
		Kernel Version	Linux 6.8.0-51-generic
~/ $ docker --version		Docker version 27.5.0, build a187fa5	
~/ $ docker-compose --version		Docker Compose version v2.20.3	

Description of the CI/CD pipeline

Briefly document all steps:

- Version management; use of branches etc
  - GIT, GitHub
  - main and project
- Building tools
  - npm, NodeJS, ESLint, Docker, Docker Compose, GitLab CI/CD, Linux, Windows
- Testing; tools and test cases
  - Jest for nodeJs projects

        - ESLint for analysing the code
        - Test cases
            - **State Transitions**: Test transitions between states (INIT, RUNNING, PAUSED, SHUTTING DOWN) including edge cases. 5 cases in total. Including edge cases, logging in, INIT state and SHUTTING down state and transition from RUNNING/PAUSE to other states
            - **Endpoint Responses**: Test API endpoints (PUT state, GET state, GET container details, GET run-log) to ensure they return expected results.
            - **Port Accessibility**: Test endpoints through the accessible port, so, these tests included nginx configurations by default.
        - Individual service testing
            - Tested Service1 responses and accessing, tests accessing to the port and checking if the container running and did some requests to it. This also include testing nginx configurations against out requirements.
- Packing
    - I have three stages: Build -> Test -> Analysis -> Deploy
    - **Environment Variables**: Set variables to specify the environment, allowing tests to work with dynamic URLs.
    - **Docker-in-Docker:** As I was facing issues in deploying my pipeline, so, I have used docker-in-docker to isolate the solution and create a similar environment on both local and on GitLab aiding in debugging.
- Deployment
    - **Tools**: Docker, Docker Compose, GitLab CI/CD, nginx
    - **Process**: Automate deployment using GitLab CI/CD. Ensure the pipeline deploys the application to the target environment on each push to ''main'' or ''project'' branches.
- Operating; monitoring
    - No monitoring added.
- Static analysis
    - Added static analysing stage in the pipeline, to analyse the codebase using ESLint

Example runs of the pipeline

Include some kind of log of both failing test and passing.

I had a lot of failing pipelines especially in the beginning, down can be seen the last attempts with fail and pass pipes when implementing tests and afterward the business logic. At the beginning, the errors were about the pipelines, runner and GitLab configurations themselves, after wards the issues were about the code itself and some URLs not accessible due of environment change (local vs GitLab).

Ridvan Alhourani / repo / **Pipelines**

Passed
00:03:25
12 hours ago
Adding Get /state endpoint busine...
#2666 project 67ae1178

Failed
00:03:19
13 hours ago
Added tests for GET /state endpoint
#2656 project 66b730ad

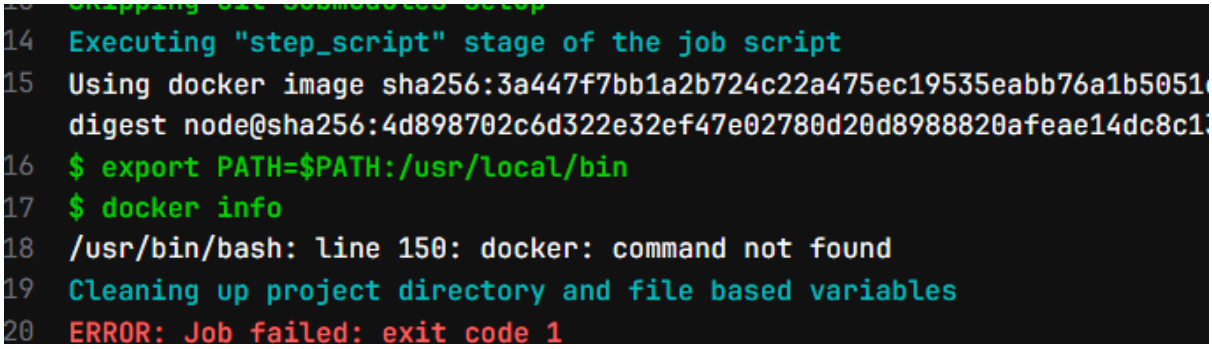
Passed
00:03:01
23 hours ago
Adding logic of first feature, syste...
#2643 project f97da5ac

Failed
00:03:09
23 hours ago
Modify url to service1:8199 in test ...
#2641 project b14cd3b5

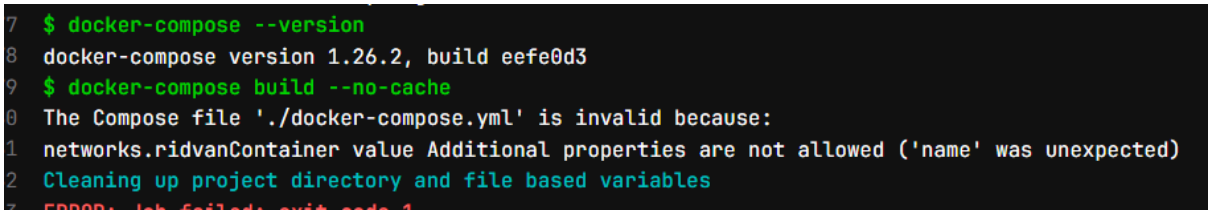
‹ Previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 Next ›

Status	Pipeline	Created by	Stages
Failed 00:00:03 1 week ago	revert #2062 main 9e7229da		
Failed 00:00:22 1 week ago	delete unneded commands #2061 main e0ecd21d		
Failed 00:00:32 1 week ago	try to use docker in docker to solve the docker ... #2060 main 6972a770		
Failed 00:00:04 1 week ago	delete before script #2059 main e30c3fdf		
Failed 00:00:25 1 week ago	add installing docker in the ci jobs #2058 main 8c62b60d		
Failed 00:00:04 1 week ago	add docker path #2057 main 88082382		
Failed 00:00:03 1 week ago	save tags #2020 main f4bc4a43		
Failed 2 weeks ago	Assignemnt document #1943 main 30556454 Auto DevOps		

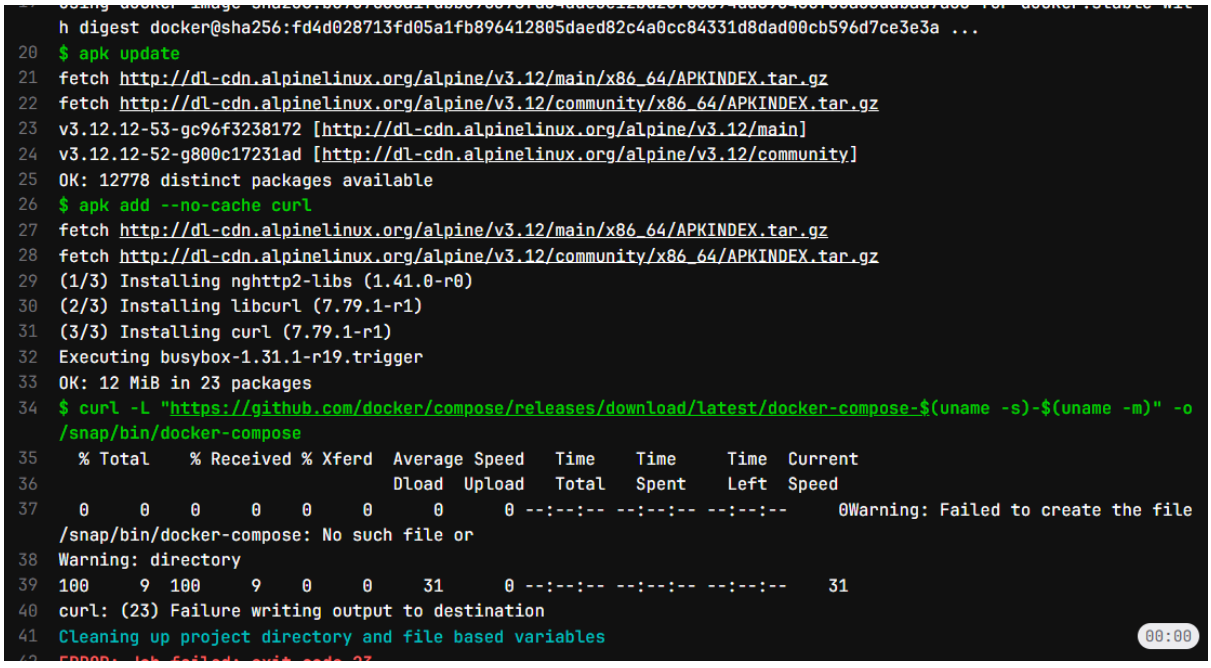
‹ Previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 Next ›



One of the first issues, Docker command was not found, after it, docker-compose command was not found, I have tried to add a PATH explicitly but it was in vain. I have added Docker-in-Docker after many attempts and searches, it worked in that way only.



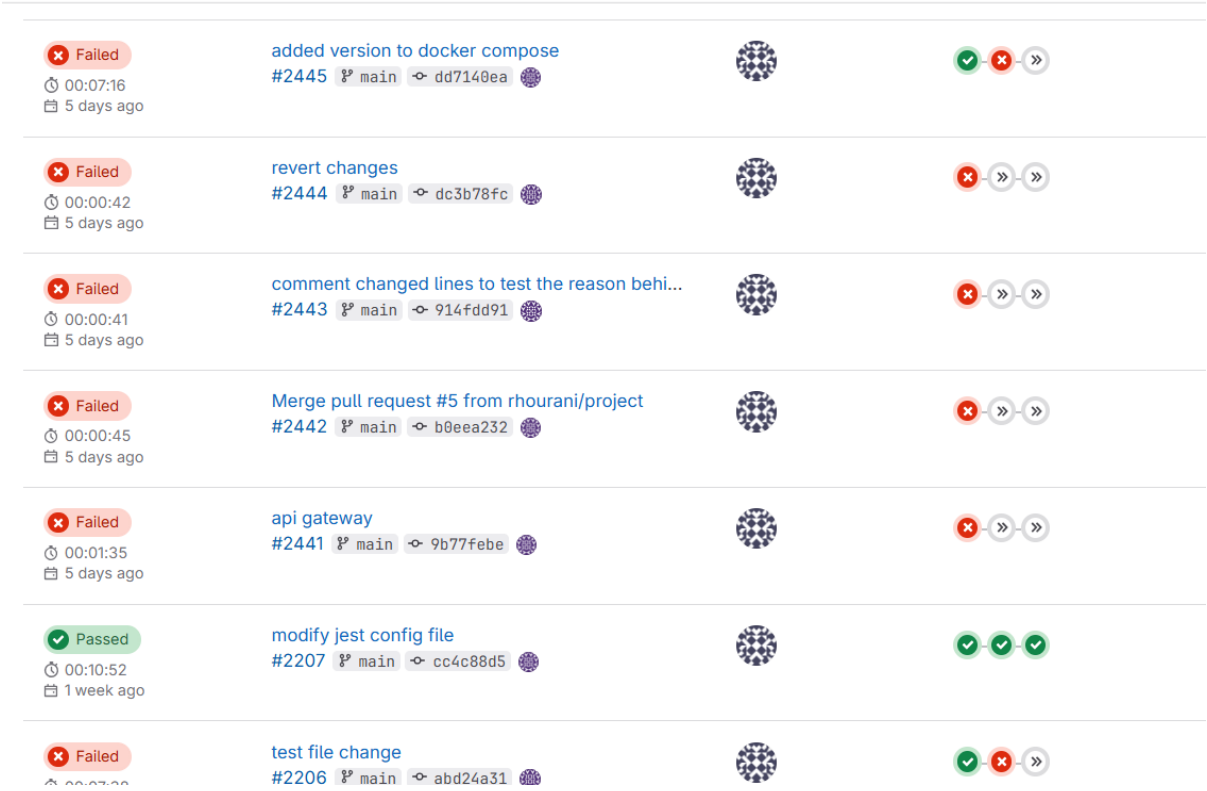
Some issues related to network and docker-compose file configurations and version.



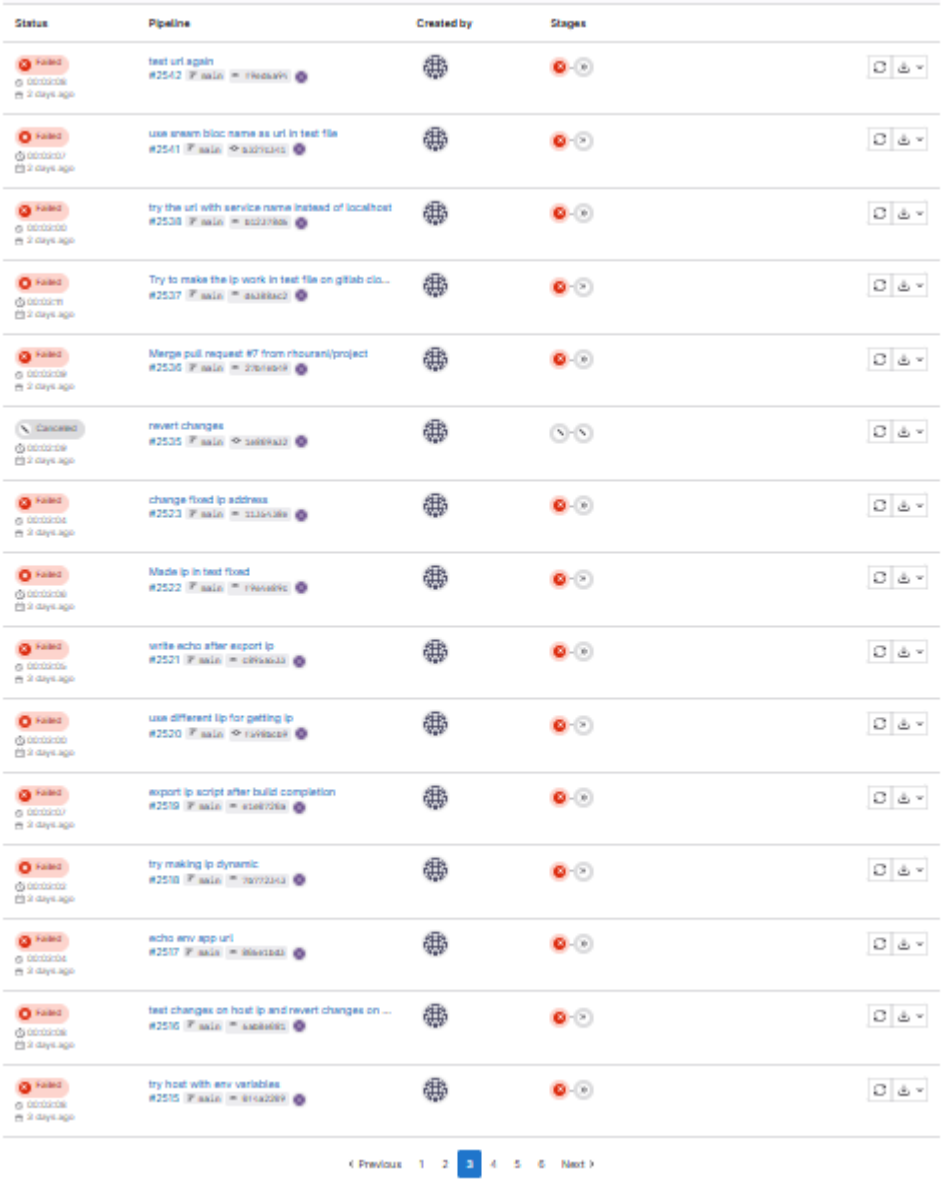
Some issues related to GitLab file's specified tasks, tests was not runnable due of obsolete commands.

After fixing the commands, got the test stage runnable:

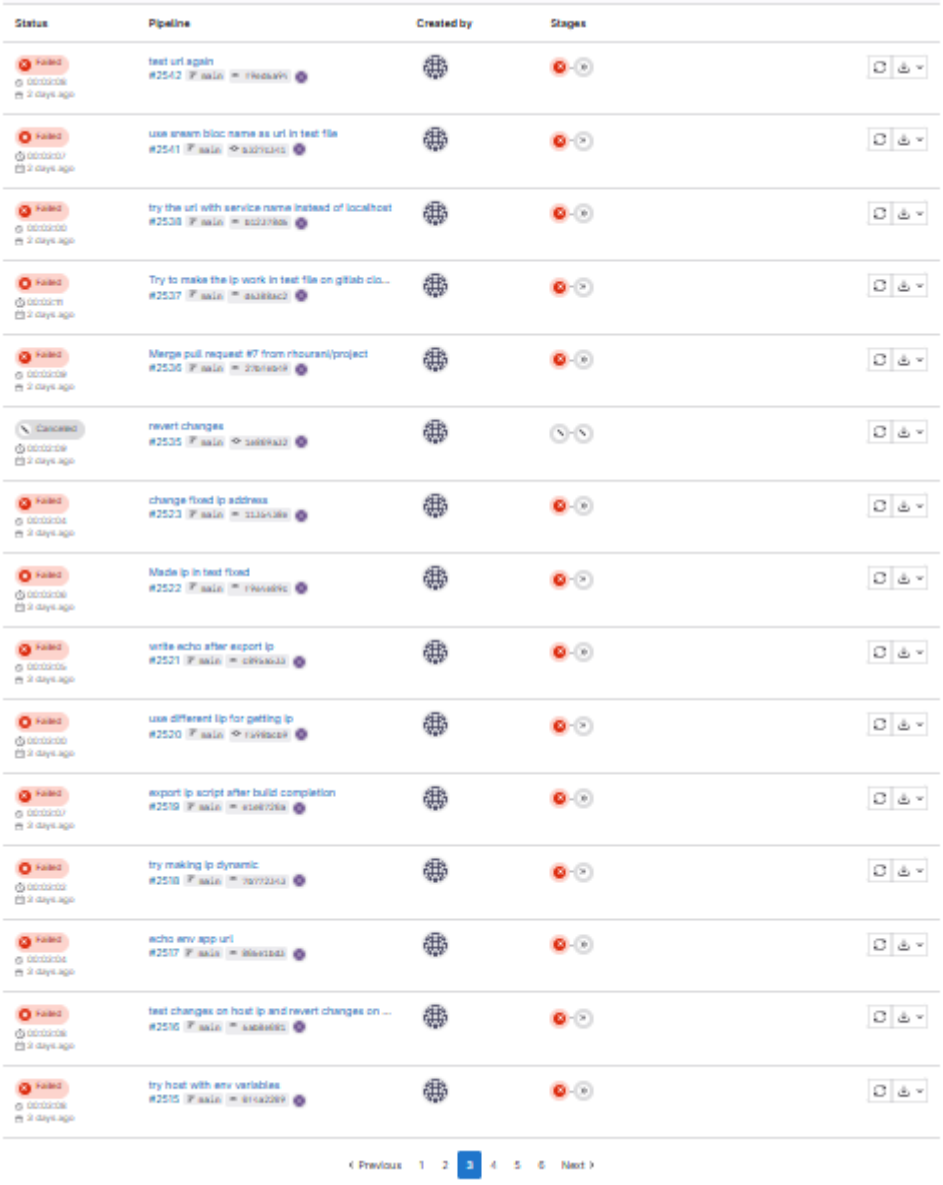
After making sure the pipe can run with all stages of build, test and deploy, I went forward to change configurations API gateway, the next image shows the pipe green with three stages then red again due of adding some new configurations to nginx



From this stage, things were stuck for a while for several days



After managing to run the pipe with the new API gateway configuration after several days, I started implementing the features as first image above shows.



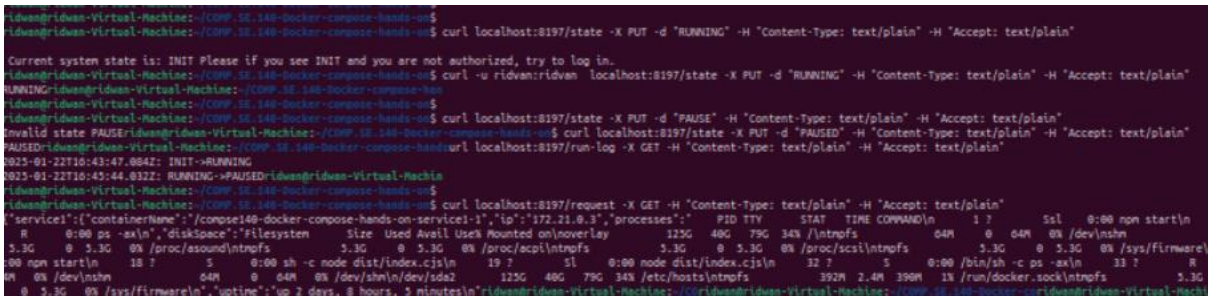
I have decided to add analysis stage and here is the failures and success, also statics shows that I have initiated the pipeline run 94 times:

All 94 | Finished | Branches | Tags

Filter pipelines

Status	Pipeline	Created by	Stages
Passed 00:10:20 just now	Final step in cleaning the pipeline and completi... #2838 project 46b23eeb latest		
Passed 00:04:11 11 minutes ago	Upgrade the used node js image to version 18 t... #2836 project da40fd9a		
Failed 00:00:59 17 minutes ago	Comment docker compose command to test a... #2835 project f9a83e4e		
Failed 00:01:38 19 minutes ago	Add node image to my gitlab container #2834 project cfb32936		
Failed 00:06:02 4 hours ago	Try to fix analysis pipeline #2786 project 32d3dbd2		
Failed 00:05:39 4 hours ago	added docker compose up for analysis step #2776 project 4eaf377e		
Failed 00:07:03 4 hours ago	url for testing on gitlab converted to fixed Servi... #2770 project 12185b1f		
Failed 00:06:34 4 hours ago	Fixed the analysis and reduced replicas to 1 be... #2762 project bfeab312		
Failed	fix issue with module type causes container cr...		

A screen shot of application requests:



Reflections

Main learnings and worst difficulties

> Especially, if you think that something should have been done differently, describe it here.
>
> I gained good experience in configuring nginx with proxy and as an API gateway, had learnt docker and docker compose in practice, I am confident in my ability to debug the containers, saw with my eyes how difficult it is to debug them, and how important to make sure everything is logged in from errors to entering some services and code blocks sometimes. I am now able to define docker compose file and docker files for at least JavaScript and typescript languages, I can also say from previous try, I maybe can configure it for C# and other languages with a bit of search as I am aware of the components of these files. This course went well with cloud technologies course that I took; I have good understanding for cloud technologies and seeing a CI/CD from scratch went very well for me to combine different concepts about this whole stuff.
>
> I think there are more than what I have mentioned here, but it is long enough. About difficulties, it was enjoyable journey for me, it needs you to know how to search and use your resources in hand well. There were some frustrating moments when nginx, GitLab configs were not working, but thankfully, going back and forth helped in simplifying the process and reaching one point that I can start again from.
>
> State management with Replicas: Faced a big know issue. As I am using 3 replicas and load balancing, when changing the state, it is changed in one replica but not the others.
>
> I have used Redis, to save the state globally, but unfortunately the set up was complicated and it took me good time. I was in the last steps of cleaning the code and the pipe; therefore, I gave up on it and used an alternative, reduced the replicas to 1. Nevertheless, I have learned about Redis.

Better Implementation Ideas

Even the solution looks good -considering it my first time-, but I have some questions and would like to do it differently if had the chance to, I will list them as bullet points:

- Redis. I should had thought about state management. To think about the system and analyse/understand it thoroughly first before starting its development.
- The API gateway and service1 were at same file. It looks like a spaghetti code. I have used reuseable methods but still, the purpose of the file should be singular and focused on one business logic if possible. One reason for this is that we added one feature at a time and lack of understanding of the system and being new to it. And need more effort = hours.
- Nginx configuration and load balancing, in my observations they were fine, would need to think about it more and how to improve it, like separate files.
- Docker containers and debugging were the hardest part, would be nice to think how to debug them in a better and easier way.

- Tests had an annoying problem regarding URL. I have tried to set variables, but it was in vain, it is just not worked. I would like to spend some time figuring out a way to set them dynamically based on which system they are running.

Amount effort (hours) used

Give your estimate:

60 hours (less or more)