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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.

```
hosts: all
become: true
tasks:
- name: install apache and php for Ubuntu servers
  apt:
    name:
      - apache2
      - libapache2-mod-php
    state: latest
    update_cache: yes
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
 - name: install apache and php for CentOS servers
   dnf:
     name:

    httpd

       - php
     state: latest
   when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
               workstation@workstation: ~/sysAds6
```



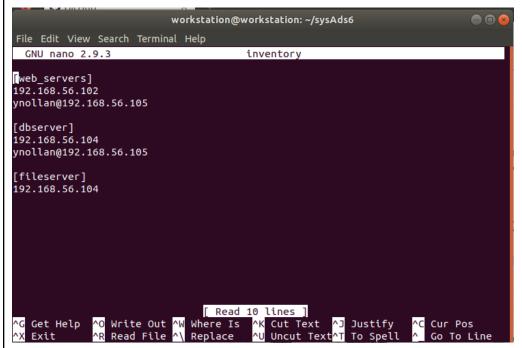
2. Edit the inventory file. Remove the variables we put in our last activity and group according to the image shown below:

```
[web_servers]
192.168.56.120
192.168.56.121

[db_servers]
192.168.56.122

[file_servers]
192.168.56.123
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.



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)
    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.

```
workstation@workstation: ~/sysAds6
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
 GNU nano 2.9.3
                                   site.yml
                                                                Modified
 Filests: all
 become: true
 pre_tasks:
 - 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
           ^O Write Out ^W Where Is
                                   ^K Cut Text ^J Justify
                                                           ^C Cur Pos
  Get Help
                                   ^U Uncut Text<mark>^T</mark> To Spell
           ^R Read File ^\ Replace
                                                           ^ Go To Line
  become: true
  tasks:

    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"
```

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.

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)

  apt:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
  when: ansible distribution == "Ubuntu"
```

Make sure to save the file and exit.

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

```
PLAY [web_servers]

TASK [Gathering Facts]

TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers]

***Skipping: [ynollangi92.168.56.105]

TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers]

***Skipping: [192.168.56.102]

Ok: [192.168.56.102]

TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers]

***Skipping: [192.168.56.102]

Ok: [ynollangi92.168.56.105]

PLAY [db_servers]

TASK [cathering Facts]

Ok: [ynollangi92.168.56.104]

Ok: [ynollangi92.168.56.104]

Ok: [ynollangi92.168.56.104]

Ok: [ynollangi92.168.56.104]

Ok: [ynollangi92.168.56.105]

TASK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)]

***Skipping: [ynollangi92.168.56.105]

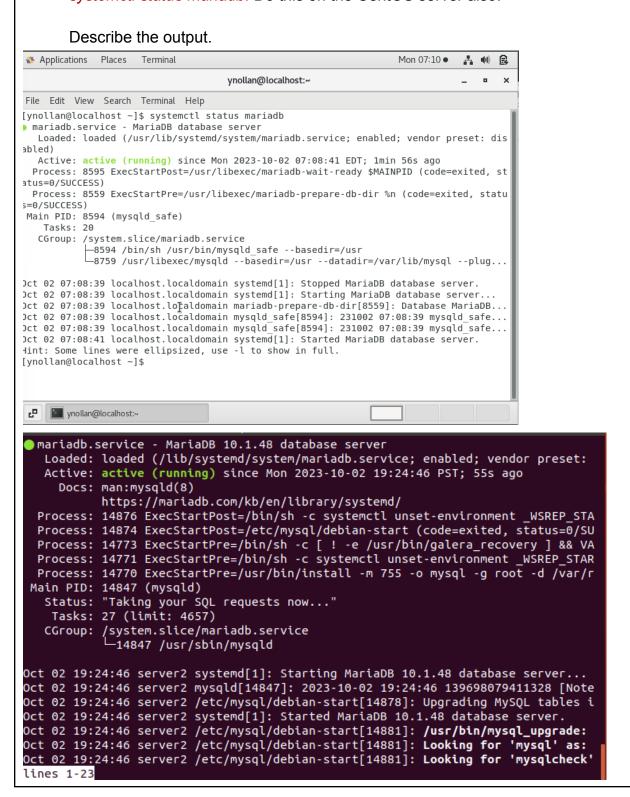
TASK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)]

***TASK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)]

TASK [install mariadb package (Ubuntu)]

***TASK [install mariadb
```

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.



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.

```
| TASK [Install apache and php for CentOS servers] | Skipping: [192.108.56.102] | Skipping: [192.108.56.102] | Skipping: [192.108.56.102] | Skipping: [192.108.56.105] | Skipping: [192.108.56
```

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.

```
vorkstation@workstation:~/sysAds6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
ok: [ynollan@192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [ynollan@192.168.56.105]
ok: [192.168.56.104]
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] *******************************
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] *******************************
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] *******************************
rescued=0
orkstation@workstation:~/sysAds6$
```

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

## 2.2 ansible-playbook --tags centos --ask-become-pass site.yml

```
      workstation@workstation:~/sysAds6$ ansible-playbook --tags centos --ask-becone-pass site.ynl

      BECOME password:

      PLAY [all]

      TASK [Gathering Facts]

      ok: [192.168.56.102]

      ok: [192.168.56.104]

      ok: [192.168.56.105]

      TASK [install updates (CentOS)]

      skipping: [192.168.56.104]

      ok: [192.168.56.105]

      TASK [install updates (Ubuntu)]

      skipping: [190.168.56.105]

      ok: [192.168.56.104]

      PLAY [web_servers]

      TASK [Cathering Facts]

      ok: [192.168.56.102]

      ok: [192.168.56.102]

      ok: [192.168.56.105]

      PLAY [db_servers]

      TASK [Cathering Facts]

      ok: [192.168.56.104]

      ok: [192.168.56.104]

      ok: [192.168.56.105]

      TASK [Cathering Facts]

      ok: [192.168.56.104]

      ok: [192.168.56.105]

      TASK [Cathering Facts]

      ok: [192.168.56.104]

      ok: [192.168.56.104]

      ASK [Install markadb package (CentOS)]
```

```
changed=0 unreachable=0
changed=0 unreachable=0
changed=0 unreachable=0
               failed=0 skipped=2 rescued=0
failed=0 skipped=2 rescued=0
failed=0 skipped=1 rescued=0
orkstation@workstation:~/sysAds6$
  2.3 ansible-playbook --tags db --ask-become-pass site.yml
workstation@workstation:~/sysAds6$ ansible-playbook --tags db --ask-become-pass site.yml BECOME password:
2.168.56.102 : ok=4 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=1 rescued=0 ignored=0
2.168.56.104 : ok=4 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=2 rescued=0 ignored=0
ollan@192.168.56.105 : ok=5 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=2 rescued=0 ignored=0
orkstation@workstation:~/sysAds6$
```

2.4 ansible-playbook --tags apache --ask-become-pass site.yml

```
### DECOME_passenord:

#### PLAY [all]

TASK [Gathering facts]

#### (install updates (CentOS)]

##
```

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

# **Task 3: Managing Services**

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

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

- name: start httpd (CentOS)
  tags: apache, centos,httpd
  service:
     name: httpd
     state: started
  when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
```

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.

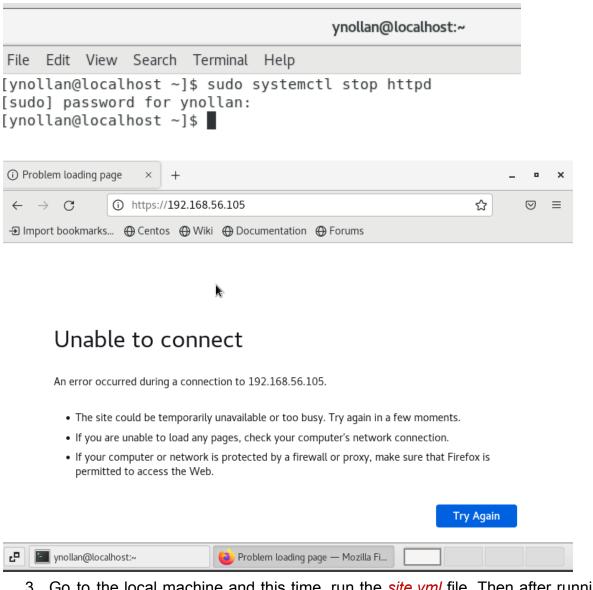
```
    hosts: db_servers
become: true
tasks:
    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)
tags: centos, db,mariadb
dnf:
        name: mariadb-server
        state: latest
when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
    name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
service:
        name: mariadb
        state: restarted
enabled: true
```

Figure 3.1.2

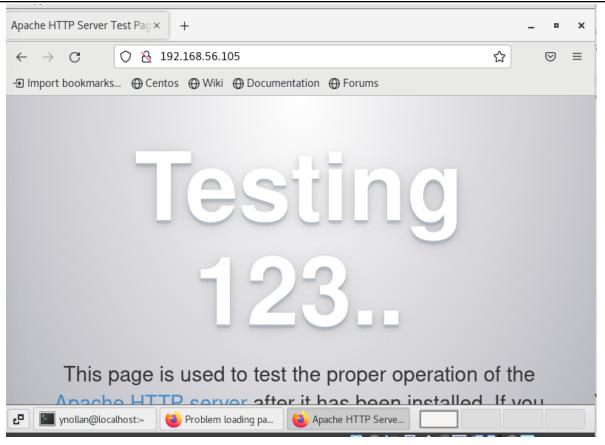
This is because in CentOS, installed packages' services are not run automatically. Thus, we need to create the module to run it automatically.

2. To test it, before you run the saved playbook, go to the CentOS server and stop the currently running httpd using the command *sudo systemctl stop httpd*.

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.



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.

```
    name: start httpd (CentOS)
        tags: apache, centos,httpd
        service:
            name: httpd
            state: started
            enabled: true
        when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"
- hosts: db_servers
        become: true
        tasks:
```

### Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 1. What is the importance of putting our remote servers into groups?
  - For a number of reasons, it is crucial to group remote servers. First of all, it enables system administrators to remotely administer and watch over the business network, making it simpler to work on several servers at once.

Second, it facilitates quicker troubleshooting since personnel are better equipped to recognize and address potential issues. Thirdly, by applying security policies to groups of servers and guaranteeing that every server in the group has the same level of security, grouping servers together can enhance security. Last but not least, remote server access can boost productivity by enabling system administrators to resolve problems more rapidly, providing consumers with services that are quicker and more responsive.

- 2. What is the importance of tags in playbooks?
  - In an Ansible playbook, tasks can have tags attached to them as metadata, enabling runtime targeting of certain activities. Tag inheritance is the process through which tags are added to a play or tasks and roles that have been statically imported. By defining tags at the level of a block, play, role, or import, tags can be added to a single task, an include, or to several tasks. It is possible to run individual tasks within a playbook on demand by using tags to choose or skip jobs while running a playbook. Because tags can be complex when utilizing includes or imports, it is crucial to understand how they are transferred inside the hierarchy of imports.
- 3. Why do think some services need to be managed automatically in playbooks?
  - Because automated playbooks can identify new threats more quickly, require less manual intervention, and give users self-service options, managing services automatically in playbooks can have a number of advantages. These advantages include increased efficiency, quicker response times, improved customer satisfaction, operational excellence, and scalability.

### Conclusion:

In summary, individualizing hosts, using tags to determine which plays to run, and managing services from remote servers through playbooks are crucial goals that can be attained through the use of automation, which can offer advantages like increased efficiency, quicker response times, improved customer satisfaction, operational excellence, and scalability.