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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

 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"
```

```
jgpaz@workstation:~/AnotherS6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] *********************
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
changed=0 unreachable=0
                                failed=0
                 changed=0
                       unreachable=0
                                failed=0
                 changed=0
                       unreachable=0
                                failed=0
```

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
```

```
[web_server]
192.168.56.102
jpaz@192.168.56.104

[db_server]
192.168.56.103
jpaz@192.168.56.104

[file_server]
192.168.56.102
```

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)

    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"
```

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)
  yum:
    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"
```

```
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"
hosts: db_servers
become: true
tasks:

    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)

 dnf:
   name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
 when: ansible_distribution == "CentOS"

    name: install mariadb package (Ubuntu)

  apt:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
 when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
 name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
    name: mariadb
    state: restarted
    enabled: true
```

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

```
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] *******************************
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] *******************************
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
skipping: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
changed: [192.168.56.103]
changed: [192.168.56.103]
changed: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
```

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.

```
jgpaz@server2:~$ systemctl status mariadb
 mariadb.service - MariaDB 10.1.48 database server
    Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/mariadb.service; enabled; vendor preset:
    Active: active (running) since Thu 2023-09-28 18:45:03 PST; 2min 6s ago
      Docs: man:mysqld(8)
             https://mariadb.com/kb/en/library/systemd/
   Process: 14704 ExecStartPost=/bin/sh -c systemctl unset-environment WSREP ST
   Process: 14701 ExecStartPost=/etc/mysql/debian-start (code=exited, status=0/S
  Process: 14600 ExecStartPre=/bin/sh -c [ ! -e /usr/bin/galera_recovery ] && V
  Process: 14598 ExecStartPre=/bin/sh -c systemctl unset-environment _WSREP_STA
   Process: 14597 ExecStartPre=/usr/bin/install -m 755 -o mysql -g root -d /var/
 Main PID: 14674 (mysqld)
   Files "Taking your SQL requests now..."
       asks: 27 (limit: 4656)
    CGroup: /system.slice/mariadb.service
              -14674 /usr/sbin/mysqld
Sep 28 18:45:03 server2 systemd[1]: Starting MariaDB 10.1.48 database server..
 Sep 28 18:45:03 server2 mysqld[14674]: 2023-09-28 18:45:03 139702007106688 [Not
 Sep 28 18:45:03 server2 systemd[1]: Started MariaDB 10.1.48 database server.
Sep 28 18:45:03 server2 /etc/mysql/debian-start[14707]: /usr/bin/mysql_upgrade: Sep 28 18:45:03 server2 /etc/mysql/debian-start[14707]: Looking for 'mysql' as:
 Sep 28 18:45:03 server2 /etc/mysql/debian-start[14707]: Looking for 'mysqlcheck
Sep 28 18:45:03 server2 /etc/mysql/debian-start[14707]: This installation of My
Sep 28 18:45:03 server2 /etc/mysql/debian-start[14716]: Checking for insecure r
 <u>Sep 28 18:45:03 ser</u>ver2 /etc/mysql/debian-start[14721]: Triggering myisam-recov
 lines 1-25/25 (END)
 🚰 Centos - PAZ [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
   Machine
         View
             Input Devices Help
                                                                           (1)
 Applications Places Terminal
                                                                  Thu 06:48
                                    jpaz@localhost:~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Package dnf-4.0.9.2-2.el7 9.noarch already installed and latest version
Nothing to do
[jpaz@localhost ~]$ systemctl status mariadb

    mariadb.service - MariaDB database server

  Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/mariadb.service; enabled; vendor preset: d
   Active: active (running) since Thu 2023-09-28 06:45:04 EDT; 2min 58s ago
  Process: 6487 ExecStartPost=/usr/libexec/mariadb-wait-ready $MAINPID (code=exited,
atus=0/SUCCESS)
  Process: 6451 ExecStartPre=/usr/libexec/mariadb-prepare-db-dir %n (code=exited, sta
s=0/SUCCESS)
 Main PID: 6486 (mysqld safe)
   Tasks: 20
   CGroup: /system.slice/mariadb.service
            -6486 /bin/sh /usr/bin/mysqld safe --basedir=/usr
          └─6651 /usr/libexec/mysqld --basedir=/usr --datadir=/var/lib/mysql --plug.
Sep 28 06:45:02 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Starting MariaDB database server...
Sep 28 06:45:02 localhost.localdomain mariadb-prepare-db-dir[6451]: Database MariaDB.
Sep 28 06:45:02 localhost.localdomain mariadb-prepare-db-dir[6451]: If this is not t.
Sep~28~06:45:02~localhost.localdomain~mysqld\_safe[6486]:~230928~06:45:02~mysqld\_safe.
Sep 28 06:45:02 localhost.localdomain mysqld safe[6486]: 230928 06:45:02 mysqld safe.
Sep 28 06:45:04 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Started MariaDB database server.
Hint: Some lines were ellipsized, use -l to show in full.
```

Describe the output - It installed in both Server 2 and CentOS

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
```

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

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.

```
jgpaz@workstation:~/AnotherS6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
ok: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] *******************************
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ******************************
changed: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
: ok=6 changed=0 unreachable=0
               failed=0
        changed=1
changed=1
           unreachable=0
               failed=0
           unreachable=0
                failed=0
```

- 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
 jgpaz@workstation:~/AnotherS6$ ansible-playbook --tags centos --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
 skipping: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
 TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] *******************************
 : ok=4 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=2
: ok=3 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=2
         : ok=6 changed=0 unreachable=0
                      failed=0
```

```
2.3 ansible-playbook --tags db --ask-become-pass site.yml
 jgpaz@workstation:~/AnotherS6$ ansible-playbook --tags db --ask-become-pass site.yml
 BECOME password:
 ok: [192.168.56.102]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
 skipping: [192.168.56.102]
 skipping: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
 ok: [192.168.56.102]
 skipping: [192.168.56.103]
 skipping: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
 changed=0
                unreachable=0
                     failed=0
                unreachable=0
            changed=0
                     failed=0
                     failed=0
            changed=0
                unreachable=0
```

```
2.4 ansible-playbook --tags apache --ask-become-pass site.yml
 jgpaz@workstation:~/AnotherS6$ ansible-playbook --tags apache --ask-become-pass site.yml
 BECOME password:
 skipping: [192.168.56.102]
skipping: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
 TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] *************
 changed=0 unreachable=0 changed=0 unreachable=0
                    failed=0
            changed=0
                unreachable=0
                     failed=0
            changed=0
                unreachable=0
                     failed=0
```

```
2.5 ansible-playbook --tags "apache,db" --ask-become-pass site.yml
  jgpaz@workstation:~/AnotherS6$ ansible-playbook --tags "apache,db" --ask-become-pass site.yml
  BECOME password:
  skipping: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.103]
  TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] *******************************
  TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] ********************************
  skipping: [192.168.56.103]
ok: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]

      192.168.56.102
      : ok=5
      changed=0
      unreachable=0
      failed=0
      skipped=2

      192.168.56.103
      : ok=4
      changed=0
      unreachable=0
      failed=0
      skipped=2

            : ok=6 changed=0
                         unreachable=0
                                 failed=0
```

Task 3: Managing Services

 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

```
hosts: db_servers
become: true
tasks:

    name: install mariadb package (CentOS)

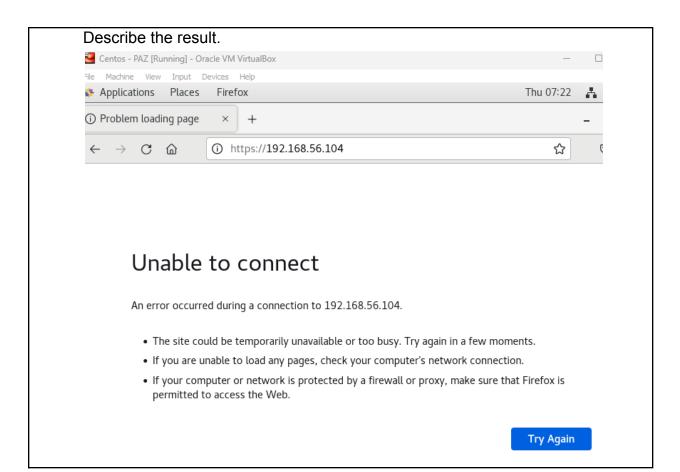
  tags: centos, db, mariadb
  dnf:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
  when: ansible distribution == "CentOS"
- name: install mariadb package (Ubuntu)
  tags: db, mariadb,ubuntu
  apt:
    name: mariadb-server
    state: latest
  when: ansible_distribution == "Ubuntu"
- name: "Mariadb- Restarting/Enabling"
  service:
    name: mariadb
    state: restarted
    enabled: true
hosts: file servers
become: true
tasks:
- name: install samba package
  tags: samba
  package:
    name: samba
    state: latest
```

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.

```
[jpaz@localhost ~]$ sudo systemctl stop httpd
[sudo] password for jpaz:
Sorry, try again.
[sudo] password for jpaz:
[jpaz@localhost ~]$ ■
```

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.



```
jgpaz@workstation:~/AnotherS6$ ansible-playbook --ask-become-pass site.yml
BECOME password:
skipping: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
skipping: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
ok: [192.168.56.102]
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] *******************************
```

```
TASK [install apache and php for Ubuntu servers] *******************************
TASK [install apache and php for CentOS servers] *******************************
changed: [192.168.56.103
changed: [jpaz@192.168.56.104]
: ok=6 changed=0 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=3
192.168.56.103 : ok=5 changed=1 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=2 jpaz@192.168.56.104 : ok=8 changed=1 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=3
```

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"
```



Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 1. What is the importance of putting our remote servers into groups?
 - Grouping remote servers can increase security, streamline management of distant servers, and make troubleshooting easier.
- 2. What is the importance of tags in playbooks?
 - Ansible playbooks benefit from tags because they provide flexible execution, increased readability, and targeted execution.
- 3. Why do think some services need to be managed automatically in playbooks?
 - Organizations can increase their efficiency, consistency, scalability, and security by automating services via playbooks.

Conclusions:

- In this activity, Ansible automation includes targeting particular nodes with unique hosts, utilizing tags to choose which plays to perform, and using playbooks to manage services from distant servers. These methods enable flexible execution, enhanced readability, and selected and optimized execution. They also offer advantages like effectiveness, reliability, scalability, and security. As a computer engineering student, we can acquire useful abilities in work automation, mistake reduction, and service delivery

quality by learning these strategies. An essential aspect of Ansible and the foundation of any Ansible configuration are playbooks. Overall, doing this activity gives us a lot of knowledge in creating specific nodes. I got a little problem with the credentials in the playbook because I was rushing in typing and I didn't see the mistakes that I input but I managed to finished the activity within the day though it is slightly difficult.