Nagios Installation and Configuration

Notes:

- * Commands preceded with "\$" imply that you should execute the command as a general user not as root.
- * Commands preceded with "#" imply that you should be working as root.
- * Commands with more specific command lines (e.g. "RTR-GW>" or "mysql>") imply that you are executing commands on remote equipment, or within another program.

Exercises

PART I

- 0. Log in to your PC as the sysadm user.
- 1. Install Nagios

Install Nagios version 3:

\$ sudo apt-get install nagios3

Unless you already have an MTA installed, nagios3 will install postfix as a dependency. If you are prompted for this, select "Internet Site" option. (If you had wanted to use a different MTA like exim you'd install it before nagios3)

You will be prompted to choose a nagiosadmin password. Give it the normal

workshop password.

To get the documentation in /usr/share/doc/nagios3-doc/html/ (which can also be read via the nagios web interface), do:

- \$ sudo apt-get install nagios3-doc
- 3. You should already have a working Nagios!
 - Open a browser, and go to

http://pcX/nagios3/

Check with the instructor or your neighbor if you are in doubt.

- At the login prompt, login as:

user: nagiosadmin

pass: <workshop password>

Browse to the "Host Detail" page to see what's already configured.

4. Let's look at the configuration layout...

```
# cd /etc/nagios3
   # ls -1
   -rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1882 2008-12-18 13:42 apache2.conf
   -rw-r--r-- 1 root root 10524 2008-12-18 13:44 cgi.cfg
   -rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2429 2008-12-18 13:44 commands.cfg
   drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 2009-02-14 12:33 conf.d
                              26 2009-02-14 12:36 htpasswd.users
   -rw-r--r-- 1 root root
   -rw-r--r-- 1 root root 42539 2008-12-18 13:44 nagios.cfg
   -rw-r---- 1 root nagios 1293 2008-12-18 13:42 resource.cfg
   drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 2009-02-14 12:32 stylesheets
   # cd conf.d
   # ls -l
   -rw-r--r 1 root root 1695 2008-12-18 13:42 contacts_nagios2.cfg
   -rw-r--r-- 1 root root 418 2008-12-18 13:42 extinfo_nagios2.cfg
   -rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1152 2008-12-18 13:42 generic-host_nagios2.cfg
    -rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1803 2008-12-18 13:42 generic-
service_nagios2.cfg
   -rw-r--r-- 1 root root 210 2009-02-14 12:33 host-gateway_nagios3.cfg
   -rw-r--r-- 1 root root 976 2008-12-18 13:42 hostgroups_nagios2.cfg
   -rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2167 2008-12-18 13:42 localhost_nagios2.cfg
   -rw-r--r 1 root root 1005 2008-12-18 13:42 services_nagios2.cfg
   -rw-r--r 1 root root 1609 2008-12-18 13:42 timeperiods_nagios2.cfg
```

Notice that the package installs files with "nagios2" in their name. This is because they are the same files as were used for the Nagios version 2 Debian package. However there was a change made to the host-gateway configuration file, so this has a new name.

5. You have a config which is already monitoring your own system (localhost_nagios2.cfg) and your upstream default gateway (host-gateway_nagios3.cfg).

Have a look at the config file for the default gateway: it's very simple. (Note: tab completion is useful here. Type "cat host-g" then hit tab; the filename will be filled in for you)

```
# cat host-gateway_nagios3.cfg
```

It should look something like this:

It is monitoring the virtual Cisco router which is upstream of your VM.

```
PART II
```

Configuring Equipment

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0. Order of configuration

Conceptually we will build our configuration files from the "nearest" device

then the further away ones.

By going in this order you will have defined the devices that act as parents

for other devices.

Your upstream Cisco virtual router (your PC's gateway) is already defined.

1. The three PCs in your group are directly connected to you with nothing in

between. So there are no dependencies.

Create a new file, 'pcs.cfg', to list the three other PCs in your group. The

it for your neighbours.

```
alias
                pc1 in group 1
    address
                pc1.ws.nsrc.org
}
define host {
    use
                generic-host
    host_name
                pc2
    alias
                pc2 in group 1
    address
                pc2.ws.nsrc.org
}
define host {
                generic-host
    use
    host_name pc3
    alias
                pc3 in group 1
    address
               pc3.ws.nsrc.org
}
THE FOLLOWING STEPS 2a - 2c SHOULD BE REPEATED WHENEVER YOU UPDATE THE
CONFIGURATION!
2a. Verify that your configuration files are OK:
    # nagios3 -v /etc/nagios3/nagios.cfg
    ... You should get something like this:
Warning: Host 'pc2' has no services associated with it!
Warning: Host 'pc3' has no services associated with it!
```

Things look okay - No serious problems were detected during the check. Nagios is saying that it's unusual to monitor a device just for its existence on the network, without also monitoring some service.

Warning: Host 'pc4' has no services associated with it!

2b. Reload/Restart Nagios

Total Warnings: 3
Total Errors: 0

service nagios3 restart

HINT: You will be doing this a lot. If you do it all on one line, like this, then you can hit cursor-up and rerun all in one go:

nagios3 -v /etc/nagios3/nagios.cfg && service nagios3 restart

The '&&' ensures that the restart only happens if the config is valid.

2c. Go to the web interface (http://pcX/nagios3) and check that the hosts you just added are now visible in the interface. Click on the "Host Detail" item

on the left of the Nagios screen to see this. You may see it in "PENDING"

status until the check is carried out.

3. Let's configure Nagios to start monitoring the classroom switch and then the backbone router.

Add the switch in a new file:

And let's create a file for routers:

}

Notice the "parents" entry. This must point at a device or devices which are

also defined somewhere else in the configuration.

From a topology point of view, pcX cannot reach the switch 'bb-sw' if its gateway is down; so the parent of bb-sw is gateway. Similarly, you cannot reach bb-gw if bb-sw is down, so the parent of bb-gw is bb-sw.

We end up with this relationship from the point of view of Nagios:

```
[Nagios]
    |
    |
gateway ==> host-gateway_nagios3.cfg
    |
    |
bb-sw ==> switches.cfg (parent is gateway)
    |
    |
bb-gw ==> routers.cfg (parent is sw)
```

Once you have created these files, validate the config and restart nagios (by repeating steps 2a - 2c above) and check the web interface.

Try the "Status Map" option: it gives you a graphical view of the parent-child relationships you have just defined.

4. Create an entry for the classroom NOC

Open the existing pcs.cfg and add a new entry to the end:

```
# editor pcs.cfg
```

```
# Our classroom NOC
```

Question: why is the parent 'bb-sw?'

As usual, validate configuration and restart nagios.

PART III

Configure Service checks for the classroom NOC

0. Configuring

Now that we have our hardware configured we can start telling Nagios what services to monitor on the configured hardware.

The most basic way is to define individual service checks.

1. Edit pcs.cfg and add the following service check near the definition for the 'noc' host

2. Validate the config, restart, and via the nagios web interface check that

the http service is being monitored (go to "service detail" page)

However, when you are checking many identical services, this approach quickly becomes tedious. For example, you may have many hosts which are running an ssh server and you wish to monitor that service. So you create a single service definition, and link it to a group of hosts.

3. Look inside the file 'services_nagios2.cfg':

}

- 4. Open the hostgroups file
 - # editor hostgroups_nagios2.cfg
 - Find the hostgroup named "ssh-servers". In the members section of the definition change the line:

members localhost

to

members localhost,noc

Exit and save the file.

5. Verify that your changes are OK:

nagios3 -v /etc/nagios3/nagios.cfg

Restart Nagios to see the new service assocation with your host:

service nagios3 restart

Click on the "Service Detail" link in the Nagios web interface to see your new entry.

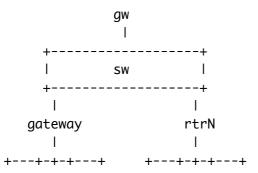
PART IV Defining more devices

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1. Create entries for some other routers and PCs in the classroom

Now that we have our routers and switches defined it is quite easy to create

entries for another group's router and PCs. Think about the parent relationships:



The parent of one of you neighbour's PCs is THEIR router. The parent of their router is the switch.

If you are in doubt: DRAW this on paper!

So: pick a group to monitor - this example assumes you decided to pick group 2. Edit routers.cfg to add their router:

```
define host {
                generic-host
    use
    host_name rtr2
    alias
                group 2 router
    address
                rtr2.ws.nsrc.org
    parents
                bb-sw
}
And edit pcs.cfg to add their PCs:
define host {
                generic-host
    use
    host_name
                pc5
                pc5 outside interface
    alias
    address
                pc5.ws.nsrc.org
    parents
                rtr2
define host {
                generic-host
    use
    host_name
                pc6
    alias
                pc6 outside interface
    address
                pc6.ws.nsrc.org
                rtr2
    parents
define host {
                generic-host
    use
    host_name
                pc7
                pc7 outside interface
    alias
    address
                pc7.ws.nsrc.org
    parents
                rtr2
}
define host {
                generic-host
    use
                pc8
    host_name
    alias
                pc8 outside interface
    address
                pc8.ws.nsrc.org
    parents
                rtr2
}
```

You can review the Network Diagram for the class linked off the classroom wiki main page.

As before, repeat steps 2a-2c to verify your configuration, correct any errors, and activate it.

PART V Defining more services

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0. For services, the default normal_check_interval is 5 (minutes) in generic-service_nagios2.cfg. You may wish to change this to 1 to speed up

how quickly service issues are detected, at least in the workshop.

- 1. Determine what services to define for what devices
 - In this particular class we have:

routers: running ssh and snmp

switches: running telnet and possibly ssh as well as snmp

pcs: All PCs are running ssh and http and should be running snmp

The NOC is currently running an snmp daemon

So, let's configure Nagios to check for these services for these devices.

- 2.) Verify that SSH is running on the routers and workshop PCs images
- In the file services_nagios2.cfg there is already an entry for the SSH service check, so you do not need to create this. Instead, you simply need to re-define the "ssh-servers" entry in the file /etc/nagios3/conf.d/hostgroups_nagios2.cfg. The initial entry in the file

looked like:

What do you think you should change? Correct, the "members" line. You should

add the other group's router and PCs that you defined above. You can also add "bb-sw" and "bb-gw" since they are also running SSH servers.

The entry will look something like this:

Note: leave in "localhost" - This is your PC and represents Nagios' network point of view.

The "members" entry will be a long line and might wrap on the screen.

- Once you are done, run the pre-flight check:

nagios3 -v /etc/nagios3/nagios.cfg

If everything looks good, then restart Nagios

service nagios3 restart

and view your changes in the Nagios web interface.

- 3.) Check that http is running on all the classroom PCs.
 - This is almost identical to the previous exercise. There is already a hostgroup called 'http-servers' in the hostgroups_nagios2.cfg file, so you just need to add the new router and PCs there as members of the http-servers group.

PART VI Create More Host Groups

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O. In the web view, look at the pages "Hostgroup Overview", "Hostgroup Summary", "Hostgroup Grid". This gives a convenient way to group together

hosts which are related (e.g. in the same site, serving the same purpose).

- Update /etc/nagios3/conf.d/hostgroups_nagios2.cfg
 - For the following exercises it will be very useful if we have created or update the following hostgroups:

```
debian-servers
routers
switches
```

If you edit the file /etc/nagios3/conf.d/hostgroups_nagios2.cfg you will see an entry for debian-servers that just contains localhost.

Update this entry to include all the classroom PCs you are monitoring,

including the NOC, but not including the routers.

editor /etc/nagios3/conf.d/hostgroups_nagios2.cfg

Update the entry that says:

So that the "members" parameter contains something like this. Use your

classroom network diagram to confirm the exact number of machines and names

in your workshop.

members localhost,noc,pc5,pc6,pc7,pc8

Be sure that the line wraps and is not on two separate lines. Otherwise

you will get an error when you go to restart Nagios. Remember that your own PC is "localhost".

- Once you have done this, add in two more host groups, one for routers and

one for switches. Call these entries "routers" and "switches". Include the routers and switches you are monitoring.

- When you are done be sure to verify your work and restart Nagios.
- 2. Go back to the web interface and look at your new hostgroups.

```
PART VII
Extended Host Information ("making your graphs pretty")
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Update extinfo_nagios2.cfg

- If you would like to use appropriate icons for your defined hosts in Nagios this is where you do this. We have the three types of devices:

Cisco routers Cisco switches Ubuntu servers

There is a fairly large repository of icon images available for you to

use located here:

/usr/share/nagios/htdocs/images/logos/

these were installed by default as dependent packages of the nagios3 package in Ubuntu. In some cases you can find model-specific icons for

your hardware, but to make things simpler we will use the following icons for our hardware:

/usr/share/nagios/htodcs/images/logos/base/debian.*
/usr/share/nagios/htdocs/images/logos/cook/router.*
/usr/share/nagios/htdocs/images/logos/cook/switch.*

 The next step is to edit the file /etc/nagios3/conf.d/ extinfo_nagios2.cfg

and tell nagios what image you would like to use to represent your devices.

editor /etc/nagios3/conf.d/extinfo_nagios2.cfg

Here is what an entry for your routers looks like (there is already an entry

for debian-servers that will work as is). Note that the router model (3600)

is not all that important. The image used represents a router in general.

```
define hostextinfo {
    hostgroup_name routers
    icon_image cook/router.png
    icon_image_alt Cisco Routers (3600)
    vrml_image router.png
    statusmap_image cook/router.gd2
}
```

Now add an entry for your switches. Once you are done check your work and restart Nagios. Take a look at the Status Map in the web

interface.

It should be much nicer, with real icons instead of question marks.

PART VIII Create Service Groups

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- 1. Create service groups for ssh for your group's PCs.
 - The idea is to create groups of services for display; one for the HTTP servers in your own group, and one for the HTTP servers in the other group you are monitoring. To do this create a new file:

editor /etc/nagios3/conf.d/servicegroups.cfg

```
# My group (example is for group 1)
define servicegroup {
        servicegroup_name group1-http
        alias
                               group 1 HTTP services
       members
                               localhost, HTTP, pc2, HTTP, pc3, HTTP, pc4, HTTP
        }
# Another group (example is for group 2)
define servicegroup {
        servicegroup_name group2-http
        alias
                               group 2 HTTP services
       members
                               pc5,HTTP,pc6,HTTP,pc7,HTTP,pc8,HTTP
        }
```

- Note that "SSH" needs to be uppercase as this is how the service_description is written in the file /etc/nagios3/conf.d/services_nagios2.cfg
- Save your changes, verify your work and restart Nagios. Now if you click on
- the Servicegroup menu items in the Nagios web interface you should see $\,$

this information grouped together.

- If you like you can also create service groups for SSH between the groups.

PART IX

Configure Guest Access to the Nagios Web Interface

1. Edit /etc/nagios3/cgi.cfg to give read-only guest user access to the Nagios

web interface.

- By default Nagios is configured to give full r/w access via the Nagios

web interface to the user nagiosadmin. You can change the name of this

user, add other users, change how you authenticate users, what users have access to what resources and more via the cgi.cfg file.

- First, lets create a "guest" user and password in the htpasswd.users file.
- # htpasswd /etc/nagios3/htpasswd.users guest

You can use any password you want (or none). A password of "guest" is not a bad choice.

- Next, edit the file /etc/nagios3/cgi.cfg and look for what type of access

has been given to the nagiosadmin user. By default you will see the following

directives (note, there are comments between each directive):

authorized_for_system_information=nagiosadmin authorized_for_configuration_information=nagiosadmin authorized_for_system_commands=nagiosadmin authorized_for_all_services=nagiosadmin authorized_for_all_hosts=nagiosadmin authorized_for_all_service_commands=nagiosadmin authorized_for_all_host_commands=nagiosadmin

Now let's tell Nagios to allow the "guest" user some access to information via the web interface. You can choose whatever you would like, but what is pretty typical is this:

authorized_for_system_information=nagiosadmin,guest authorized_for_configuration_information=nagiosadmin,guest authorized_for_system_commands=nagiosadmin authorized_for_all_services=nagiosadmin,guest authorized_for_all_hosts=nagiosadmin,guest authorized_for_all_service_commands=nagiosadmin authorized_for_all_host_commands=nagiosadmin

- Once you make the changes, save the file cgi.cfg, verify your work and restart Nagios.
- To see if you can log in as the "guest" user you may need to clear the cookies in your web browser. You will not notice any difference

in the web interface. The difference is that a number of items that are available via the web interface (forcing a service/host check, scheduling checks, comments, etc.) will not work for the guest user.

OPTIONAL

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You can now look at configuring different plugins for monitoring services.

* As opposed to just checking that a web server is running on the classroom PCs, you could also check that the nagios3 service is available, by requesting the /nagios3/ path. This means passing extra options to the check_http plugin.

For a description of the available options, type this:

```
# /usr/lib/nagios/plugins/check_http
# /usr/lib/nagios/plugins/check_http --help
```

and of course you can browse the online nagios documentation or google for information on check_http. You can even run the plugin by hand to perform a one-shot service check:

```
# /usr/lib/nagios/plugins/check_http -H localhost -u /nagios3/
```

So the goal is to configure nagios to call check_http in this way.

There is no suitable plugin definition available, so we need to create one.

```
# editor /etc/nagios-plugins/config/local.cfg
define command{
        command name
                        check_http_ara
        command_line /usr/lib/nagios/plugins/check_http -H '$HOSTADDRESS
$' $ARG1$
        }
# editor /etc/nagios3/conf.d/services_nagios2.cfg
define service {
        hostgroup_name
                                        nagios-servers
        service_description
                                        NAGIOS
        check_command
                                        check_http_arg!-u /nagios3/
                                        generic-service
        use
}
     and of course you'll need to create a hostgroup called nagios-servers
```

hostgroups_nagios2.cfg) to link to this service check.

Once you have done this, check that Nagios warns you about failing authentication (because it's trying to fetch the page without providing

the username/password). There's an extra parameter you can pass to check_http_arg to provide that info, see if you can find it.

WARNING: in the tradition of "Debian Knows Best", their definition of the

check_http command in /etc/nagios-plugins/config/http.cfg is *not* the same as that recommended in the nagios3 documentation. It is missing \$ARG1\$, so any parameters to pass to check_http are ignored. So you might think you are monitoring /nagios3/ but actually you are monitoring root!

This is why we had to make a new command definition "check_http_arg". You could make a more specific one like "check_nagios", or you could modify the Ubuntu check_http definition to fit the standard usage.

- * Check that SNMP is running on the classroom NOC
- First you will need to add in the appropriate service check for SNMP in the file

/etc/nagios3/conf.d/services_nagios2.cfg. This is where Nagios is impressive. There

are hundreds, if not thousands, of service checks available via the various Nagios

sites on the web. You can see what plugins are installed by Ubuntu in the nagios3

package that we've installed by looking in the following directory:

ls /usr/lib/nagios/plugins

As you'll see there is already a check_snmp plugin available to us. If you are

interested in the options the plugin takes you can execute the plugin from the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{P}}$

command line by typing:

- # /usr/lib/nagios/plugins/check_snmp
- # /usr/lib/nagios/plugins/check_snmp --help

to see what options are available, etc. You can use the check_snmp plugin and

Nagios to create very complex or specific system checks.

- Now to see all the various service/host checks that have been created using the

check_snmp plugin you can look in /etc/nagios-plugins/config/ snmp.cfg. You will see that there are a lot of preconfigured checks using snmp, including:

snmp_load snmp_cpustats snmp_procname snmp_disk snmp_mem snmp_swap snmp_procs snmp_users snmp_mem2 snmp_swap2 snmp_mem3 snmp_swap3 snmp_disk2 snmp_tcpopen snmp_tcpstats snmp_bapstate check_netapp_uptime check_netapp_cupuload check_netapp_numdisks check_compaq_thermalCondition

And, even better, you can create additional service checks quite easily.

For the case of verifying that snmpd (the SNMP service on Linux) is running we

need to ask SNMP a question. If we don't get an answer, then Nagios can assume

that the SNMP service is down on that host. When you use service checks such as $\frac{1}{2}$

check_http, check_ssh and check_telnet this is what they are doing as well.

- In our case, let's create a new service check and call it "check_system". This

service check will connect with the specified host, use the private community

string we have defined in class and ask a question of snmp on that ask - in this

case we'll ask about the System Description, or the OID "sysDescr.0"

- To do this start by editing the file /etc/nagios-plugins/config/snmp.cfg:

editor /etc/nagios-plugins/config/snmp.cfg

At the top (or the bottom, your choice) add the following entry to

```
the file:
# 'check_system' command definition
define command{
       command_name
                       check_system
       command_line
                       /usr/lib/nagios/plugins/check_snmp -H '$HOSTADDRESS
$' -C
'$ARG1$' -o sysDescr.0
        }
      You may wish to copy and paste this vs. trying to type this out.
          Note that "command_line" is a single line. If you copy and paste
in joe the line
          may not wrap properly and you may have to manually add the part:
                        '$ARG1$' -o sysDescr.0
          to the end of the line.
    - Now you need to edit the file /etc/nagios3/conf.d/
services_nagios2.cfg and add
      in this service check. We'll run this check against all our servers
in the
      classroom, or the hostgroup "debian-servers"
    - Edit the file /etc/nagios3/conf.d/services_nagios2.cfg
   # editor /etc/nagios3/conf.d/services_nagios2.cfg
      At the bottom of the file add the following definition:
# check that snmp is up on all servers
define service {
        hostgroup_name
                                        snmp-servers
        service_description
                                        SNMP
                                        check_system!xxxxxx
        check_command
        use
                                        generic-service
        notification_interval
                                        0; set > 0 if you want to be
renotified
}
```

The "xxxxxx" is the community string previously (or to be) defined in class.

Note that we have included our private community string here vs. hard-coding

it in the snmp.cfg file earlier. You must change the "xxxxx" to be

community string given in class or this check will not work.

- Now we must create the "snmp-servers" group in our hostgroups_nagios2.cfg file.

Edit the file /etc/nagios3/conf.d/hostgroups_nagios2.cfg and go to the end of the

file. Add in the following hostgroup definition:

A list of snmp-enabled devices on which we wish to run the snmp service check

define hostgroup {

hostgroup_name snmp-servers alias snmp servers members noc

}

- Note that for "members" you could, also, add in the switches and routers for

group 1 and 2. But, the particular item (MIB) we are checking for "sysDescr.0"

may not be available on the switches and/or routers, so the check would then fail.

- Now verify that your changes are correct and restart Nagios.
- If you click on the Service Detail menu choice in web interface you should see

the SNMP check appear for the noc host.

- After we do the SNMP presentation and exercises in class, then you could come

back to this exercise and add in all the classroom PCs to the members list in the $\,$

 $host groups_nagios 2.cfg \ file, \ snmp-servers \ host group \ definition.$ Remember to list

your PC as "localhost".