

Nagios XI 5 – Importing Config Files From Core

Purpose

This document describes how to migrate and import Nagios Core configuration files into Nagios XI. Importing configuration files is only required in instances where administrators wish to import configurations from existing Nagios Core installations. Importing configuration files automates setting up your existing **Hosts**, **Services**, **Hostgroups**, **Servicegroups** and **Host/Service Templates** in your Nagios XI installation.

Note: If you are using Nagios XI 2024, please refer to the [updated document](#).

Preparing To Import

Before importing existing Nagios Core configuration files into Nagios XI, it is recommended that you use the Nagios XI config import prep tool. Information on using this tool can be found in the following documentation:

[Using The XI Config Import Prep Tool](#)

Example Import

In this example we are going to import a **command**, **hostgroup**, **host** and **service** ... in that order. Here are the example configs that were saved in the `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/` directory:

```
windows_example_command.cfg
define command {
    command_name        check_nrpeversion
    command_line        $USER1$/check_nrpe -H      $HOSTADDRESS$
}
windows_example_hostgroup.cfg
define hostgroup {
    hostgroup_name      Windows-Common
    aliasWindows-Common
}
windows_example_host.cfg
define host {
    use windows-server
    host_name           server01
    address             10.25.14.52
    hostgroups          Windows-Common
```

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```
windows_example_service.cfg
define service {
use          generic-service
hostgroup_name    Windows-Common
service_description    NSClient++ Version
check_command    check_nrpeversion
}
```

After running the `xiprepimport.php` tool, the files will be saved into the `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/` directory.

All the files will have the same name, however the `windows_example_service.cfg` will be empty and another file was created called `_multiple_hosts.cfg` with the content of the `windows_example_service.cfg`.

The purpose of the configs above is to demonstrate the need to import the configurations in a specific order. The host is a member of the hostgroup `Windows-Common` and the service is assigned to the hostgroup `Windows-Common`, hence the hostgroup `Windows-Common` will need to be imported before the host or service object.

Navigating to the Core Config Manager (CCM)

There are multiple ways to access CCM:

- Hovering over the **Configure** button in the top menu bar you can select **Core Config Manager**
- On the **Configure** tab you can select **Core Config Manager** from the left pane or from the main screen

Importing Configuration Files

Access the import interface by selecting the **Import Config Files** menu option under **Tools**.

When you first navigate here you are presented with the popup message that explains the order in which configuration files need to be imported. Our example will do **command > hostgroup > host > service** however we are doing **host** and **hostgroup** in the *opposite* order. What is important is that for the object you are importing, any other objects it uses in its configuration need to exist. In our example the host is added to a **hostgroup** and hence the **hostgroup** needs to exist first.

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Click **Close** when you've finished reading the message.

Import Config Files

Manually import config files from the `/usr/local/nagios/etc` directory into the CCM database. [More information on how to import configs.](#)

Search:

- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/_multiple_hosts.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_command.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_host.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_hostgroup.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_service.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_command.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_host.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_hostgroup.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_service.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/commands.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/contactgroups.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/contacts.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/contacttemplates.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/templatedependencies.cfg`
- `/usr/local/nagios/etc/testescalation.cfg`

Overview Database

How to Import Configs

Please review the following documents before you use this tool:

- [Using The Nagios XI Config Import Prep Tool](#)
- [Importing Config Files Into XI](#)

To prevent errors or misconfigurations, you should import your configurations in a useful order. We recommend importing in the following order:

[Commands](#) → [Time Periods](#) → [Contact Templates](#) → [Contacts](#) → [Contact Groups](#) → [Host Templates](#) → [Hosts](#) → [Host Groups](#) → [Service Templates](#) → [Services](#) → [Service Groups](#)

The CCM import tool does not currently support:

- object names that start with '#'
- group exclusions that start with '!

Check your imported configurations in the CCM before running Apply Configuration!

```
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/_multiple_hosts.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_command.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_host.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_hostgroup.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_service.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_command.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_host.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_hostgroup.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_service.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/commands.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/contactgroups.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/contacts.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/contacttemplates.cfg
```

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Here you can see a list of files available for import, you can see the ones highlighted are the ones being imported in this example:

The import interface will allow you to import one or more configuration files, you can use **CTRL** or **SHIFT** on the keyboard to assist selecting multiple files. In this example we will be importing the files one at a time.

Note: Only import configuration files that have been created in a special sub-directory, specifically for the purpose of importing. Typically the config files to be imported have been placed in the `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/` directory after being processed by the Nagios XI config prep import tool (you can also see the original files listed in the original directory).

The first file to import will be:

```
cfgprep/windows_example_command.cfg
```

1. Select the file and click the **Import** button.

1 file(s) imported successfully.

Import Config Files

Manually import config files from the `/usr/local/nagios/etc` directory into the CCM database. More information on [how to import configs](#).

Show only import directory

```
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/_multiple_hosts.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_command.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_host.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_hostgroup.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/windows_example_service.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_command.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_host.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_hostgroup.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/windows_example_service.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/commands.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/contactgroups.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/contacts.cfg
/usr/local/nagios/etc/contacttemplates.cfg
```

Overwrite Database

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2. Once the import is complete you will receive a success message.
3. After importing an object it's always good to check to make sure it was imported as expected. In CCM navigate to Commands and search for check_nrpeversion and you should see the following:

Commands

Displaying 1-1 of 1 results

<input type="checkbox"/>	Command Name	Command Line	Active	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	check_nrpeversion	\$USER1\$/check_nrpe -H \$HOSTADDRESS\$	Yes		31

15

1. Repeat the above import steps for `cfgprep/windows_example_hostgroup.cfg`, `cfgprep/windows_example_host.cfg`, `cfgprep/_multiple_hosts.cfg` and you should see the new objects created.

Host Groups

△ Changes detected! **Apply Configuration** for new changes to take effect.

Displaying 1-1 of 1 results

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Group Name	Alias	Active	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	Windows-Common	Windows-Common	Yes		7

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Hosts

server

△ Changes detected! **Apply Configuration** for new changes to take effect.

Displaying 1-1 of 1 results

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Name	Alias	Active	Status	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	server01		Yes	Not Applied	<input type="button" value="🔍"/> <input type="button" value="📄"/> <input type="button" value="📄"/> <input type="button" value="👤"/> <input type="button" value="🗑️"/>	8

With checked Results per page 15

Services

version

△ Changes detected! **Apply Configuration** for new changes to take effect.

Displaying 1-1 of 1 results Config Name

<input type="checkbox"/>	Config Name	Service Description	Active	Status	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	_multiple_hosts	NSClient++ Version	Yes	Not Applied	<input type="button" value="🔍"/> <input type="button" value="📄"/> <input type="button" value="📄"/> <input type="button" value="👤"/> <input type="button" value="🗑️"/>	34

With checked Results per page 15

Post Import Actions

Once you've imported all the necessary Nagios Core configuration files, before **Applying Configuration** it's best to validate that the configuration files are valid.

1. In **CCM** expand **Tools** and select **Config File Management**.

Config File Management



Use this tool to manually manage (write, delete, update) Nagios object configurations physical configuration files.

Note: To manually apply configuration, first use *Delete Files* and then run *Write Configs* followed by a verification (optional) and restart to fully apply the configuration.

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2. Click the **Write Configs** button to create / update the config files on the Nagios XI server.

You can see in the screenshot that the host and service config files were created and the existing hostgroups and commands config files were **updated**.

Config File Management ☆

Use this tool to manually manage (write, delete, update) Nagios object configurations physical configuration files.
Note: To manually apply configuration, first use *Delete Files* and then run *Write Configs* followed by a verification (optional) and restart to fully apply the configuration.

Write host configurations ...
Configuration file: **server01.cfg** successfully written!
Host configuration files successfully written!

Write service configurations ...
Configuration file: **_multiple_hosts.cfg** successfully written!
Service configuration files successfully written!

Configuration file: **hostgroups.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **servicegroups.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **hosttemplates.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **servicetemplates.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **timeperiods.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **commands.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **contacts.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **contactgroups.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **contacttemplates.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **servicedependencies.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **hostdependencies.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **serviceescalations.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **hostescalations.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **serviceextinfo.cfg** successfully written!
Configuration file: **hostextinfo.cfg** successfully written!

3. Now click the **Verify Files** button.

4. Check the output for an error messages, if there are any CRITICAL error messages the background color will be red. Error messages will indicate problems that are encountered in the config objects Check the output for an error messages, if there are any CRITICAL error messages the background color will be red. Error messages will indicate problems that are encountered in the config objects and will be clearly identified.

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5. Resolve any config problems by going to the respective configuration area in CCM and fix the issues that are highlighted. Retry the **write** / **verify** process until the verify is successful.

Config File Management

Use this tool to manually manage (write, delete, update) Nagios object configurations physical configuration files.

Note: To manually apply configuration, first use *Delete Files* and then run *Write Configs* followed by a verification (optional) and restart to fully apply the configuration.



```
Nagios Core 4.5.3
Copyright (c) 2009-present Nagios Core Development Team and Community Contributors
Copyright (c) 1999-2009 Ethan Galstad
Last Modified: 2024-06-11
License: GPL

Website: https://www.nagios.org
Reading configuration data...
Read main config file okay...
Read object config files okay...

Running pre-flight check on configuration data...

Checking objects...
Checked 30 services.
Warning: Host '192.168.107.60' has no default contacts or contactgroups defined!
Checked 5 hosts.
Checked 2 host groups.
Checked 0 service groups.
Checked 1 contacts.
Checked 2 contact groups.
Checked 167 commands.
Checked 8 time periods.
Checked 0 host escalations.
Checked 0 service escalations.
Checking for circular paths...
Checked 5 hosts
```

6. On the screenshot to the right, you can see some WARNING messages, however these are for some other objects that existed before we attempted an import. We can assume all is OK with the objects imported as they are not shown in the output.

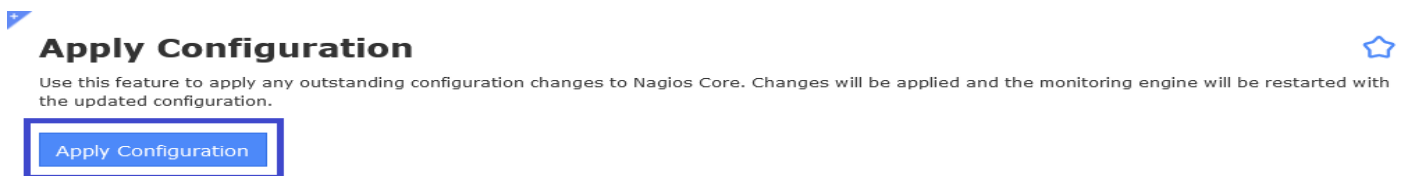
The final line tells us that things look okay.

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Apply Configuration

Once you have successfully verified the configuration, it is recommended that you use the Apply Configuration function to restart Nagios core with the new configuration.

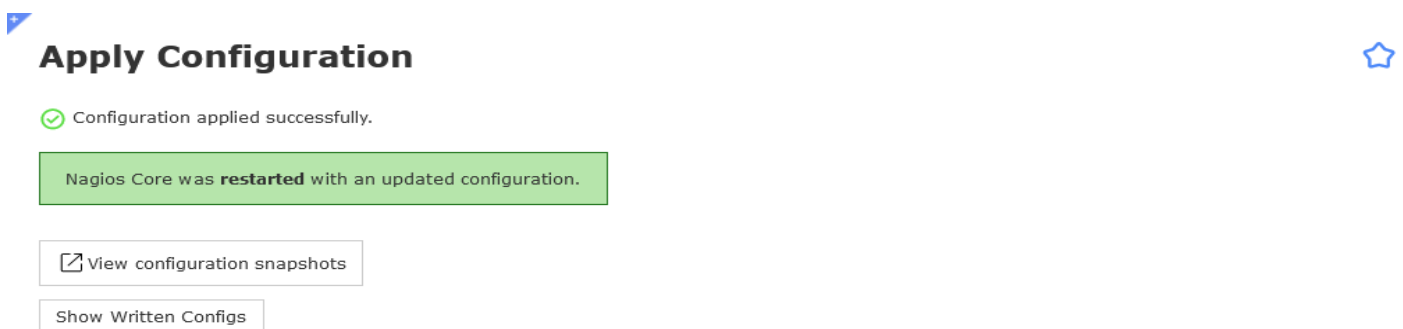
You can access this option by selecting the **Apply Configuration** menu item and clicking the **Apply Configuration** button.



The screenshot shows the 'Apply Configuration' button in the Nagios XI interface. The button is blue with white text and is highlighted with a blue border. Above the button, the text 'Apply Configuration' is displayed in bold. To the right of the text is a small blue star icon. Below the text, a smaller line of text reads: 'Use this feature to apply any outstanding configuration changes to Nagios Core. Changes will be applied and the monitoring engine will be restarted with the updated configuration.'

The apply configuration features will perform the following steps:

- Export the database configuration to disk
- Verify the configuration files
- Restart Nagios Core
- Create a new configuration snapshot



The screenshot shows the 'Apply Configuration' button in the Nagios XI interface after successful execution. The button is now green with white text and is highlighted with a green border. Above the button, the text 'Apply Configuration' is displayed in bold. To the right of the text is a small blue star icon. Below the text, a green message box contains the text: 'Nagios Core was restarted with an updated configuration.' Below the message box, there are two buttons: 'View configuration snapshots' and 'Show Written Configs'.

Note: Another option is to use the **Restart Nagios Core** button on the **Config File Management** page. However, this option will not create a snapshot like the **Apply Configuration** button, which is why we recommend the Apply Configuration option.

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Other Steps

Additional steps may be required once you finish importing Nagios Core configuration files into Nagios XI. These steps may include:

- Uploading missing plugins or event handlers to Nagios XI
- Creating user accounts in Nagios XI

For more information on these topics, refer to the documentation [Migrating from Nagios Core to Nagios XI](#):

[Migrating From Nagios Core to Nagios XI](#)

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on how to migrate and import Nagios Core configuration files into Nagios XI. If you have additional questions or other support-related questions, please visit us at our Nagios Support Forum, Nagios Knowledge Base, or Nagios Library:

[Visit Nagios Support Forum](#)

[Visit Nagios Knowledge Base](#)

[Visit Nagios Library](#)