

The Industry Standard in IT Infrastructure Monitoring

Purpose

This document describes how to install the Linux monitoring agent on target Ubuntu and Debian servers (including Ubuntu variants such as Kubuntu and Edubuntu). These steps will likely also work with little to no modification on other related distributions, such as CrunchBang, easypeasy, gNewSense, Xandros, MEPIS, Mint, Knoppix, Baltix, Guadalinux, eBox, Untangle, and Vyatta.

Target Audience

This document is intended for use by Nagios Administrators who wish to monitor Ubuntu and/or Debian Linux servers with Nagios XI. Almost all content also applies equally to Nagios Core.

Installing the Agent (Preferred Method)

There are three ways to install the Agent. The preferred way is to add the repository, as this allows you to get updates to the package easily in the future and only requires core utilities. On Ubuntu systems, there is a helper script to do some steps for you, called *add-apt-repository*. Run it like this:

```
# add-apt-repository ppa:nagiosinc/ppa
```

For Debian systems, there are a couple more steps.

```
# echo "deb http://ppa.launchpad.net/nagiosinc/ppa/ubuntu lucid main" >
/etc/apt/sources.list.d/nagiosinc.list
# gpg --keyserver keyserver.ubuntu.com --recv-keys B18637BB5175BC68
# gpg --export --armor B18637BB5175BC68 | apt-key add -
```

Note: Normally it is not recommended to mix Ubuntu and Debian repositories and doing so will raise eyebrows in support channels, as the two distributions are not binary-compatible and packages will not necessarily work on both. However, since this particular package is architecture independent and relatively simple, it should work equally well across Debian-derived distributions. Please let us know if you find this to not be the case.

In either case, you can now refresh your package database and install the agent package:

```
# apt-get update
# apt-get install nagios-agent
```

During the installation process you will be prompted for the IP address of your Nagios server(s), which is a security directive specifying where to accept connections from. If you have multiple servers you would like to allow to run checks on this machine, simply enter a comma-separated list of all of their addresses. This can also be changed later using the following command:

```
# dpkg-reconfigure nagios-agent
```

Alternate Methods

The second way is to use the *gdebi* utility. This is intended for installing local packages (ie. without adding an apt repository), but still properly resolving and fetching the dependencies (although not getting future versions). However, *gdebi* is not a core package, so you may need to install it first:

```
# apt-get install gdebi
```

Once you have that, you can download the standalone .deb file either from our assets server or the Launchpad PPA with one of the two following commands:

- 1) # wget http://assets.nagios.com/downloads/nagiosxi/agents/nagios-agent_1.0-2ppa2_all.deb
- 2) # wget https://launchpad.net/~nagiosinc/+archive/ppa/+files/nagios-agent_1.0-2ppa2_all.deb

Then, simply call gdebi on the file like so:

```
# gdebi nagios-agent_1.0-2ppa2_all.deb
```

Finally, the third option available to you is to download the file directly like in option 2, and just run dpkg on it directly:

```
# dpkg -i nagios-agent_1.0-2ppa2_all.deb
```

The downside to this approach is that it will throw an error at first and you will need to manually install all of the dependencies and try again, and will not automatically get future versions of the package.

Note: The version numbers shown here of course reflect the status of the package at the time of writing, and may change in the future. You will be able to find the latest version on <https://launchpad.net/~nagiosinc/+archive/ppa/+packages>.

Adding the Host and Services

This is the only part that varies between Nagios XI and Nagios Core.

Nagios XI users can install the Linux server configuration wizard available from <http://exchange.nagios.org/directory/Addons/Configuration/Configuration-Wizards/Linux-Nagios-XI-Wizard/details>, which will walk you through everything. Simply select “Ubuntu” or “Debian” as appropriate when adding each host.

For Nagios Core users, define the services as you normally would for any check using NRPE. The general form looks something like this:

```
$USER1$/check_nrpe -H $HOSTADDRESS$ -t 30 -c $ARG1$ $ARG2$
```

Here, \$HOSTADDRESS\$ is of course the IP address (or DNS name) of the machine you just installed the agent on, \$ARG1\$ is the check command to run on the client side (e.g. check_disk), and \$ARG2\$ is any other arguments you would like to include. Normally the content of \$ARG2\$ is going to include arguments intended for the check command on the client (as opposed to just arguments for check_nrpe), which is denoted by the -a argument for check_nrpe and then quoting around what you want passed through. Here is an example of what you might have running in the end after evaluating variables:

```
/usr/local/nagios/libexec/check_nrpe -H 192.168.5.74 -t 30 -c check_disk -a '-w 20% -c 10% -p /'
```

To see some pre-made command definitions that you can use, take a look at /etc/nagios/nrpe.d/common.cfg – these are the definitions used by the Linux Server wizard in Nagios XI.

Your Nagios instance should now be happily checking your Ubuntu and Debian machines!