

The Industry Standard in IT Infrastructure Monitoring

Purpose

This document is intended to describe how to add or delete monitoring plugins in a Nagios XI installation. Monitoring plugins are smart programs which understand how to monitor specific services, applications, and devices. New plugins sometimes need to be installed in the XI installation when a user wants to monitor a new type of service or host.

Target Audience

This document is intended for use by Nagios Administrators.

Obtaining New Plugins

Hundreds of community-developed plugins are available to allow you to monitor various metrics, services, applications, and devices. You can find an extensive listing of these community-developed plugins at the Nagios Exchange website:

<http://exchange.nagios.org>

Manually Installing Plugins

In certain cases it will be necessary to manually install new plugins. This may be necessary when:

- You have custom plugins that you would like to migrate from an existing Nagios Core installation
- A plugin is required to be installed setuid root (meaning it runs with special root permissions)
- A plugin is comprised of multiple files, instead of a single script or binary file

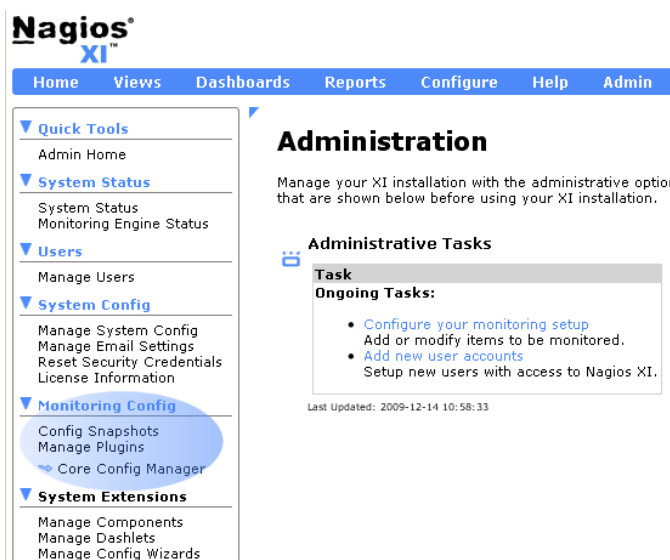
In order to manually install new plugins, you'll need to transfer the plugins via SSH or some other method to the Nagios XI machine. Monitoring plugins should be placed in the following directory of a Nagios XI installation:

```
/usr/local/nagios/libexec
```

Uploading Plugins Through the Web Interface

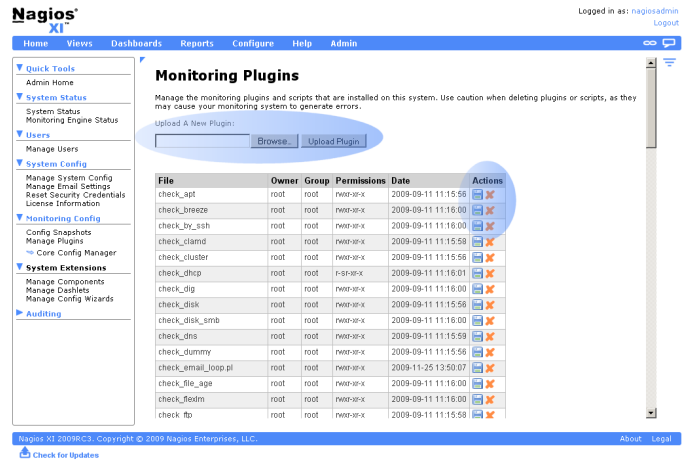
The easiest method to upload new plugins for use with Nagios XI is to use the web interface. You can access the plugins management interface from the administration menu:

Admin → **Manage Plugins**



The plugins management screen allows you to download and delete existing plugins, as well as upload new plugins from your web browser.

When you upload a new plugin using the web interface, Nagios XI will automatically set the proper permissions on the plugin to allow it to be used by the monitoring system.

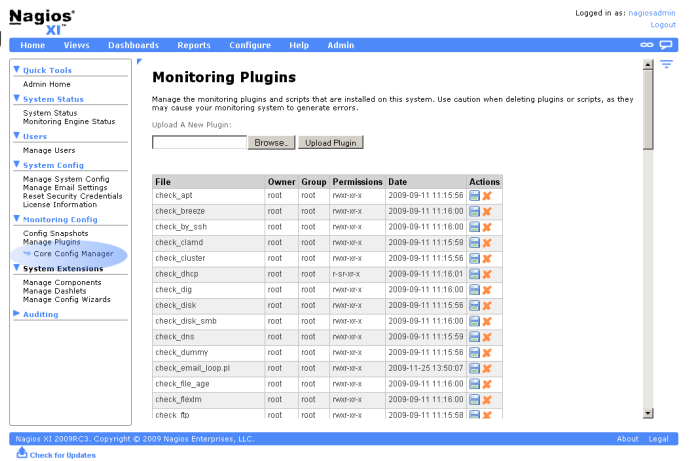


Defining Monitoring Commands

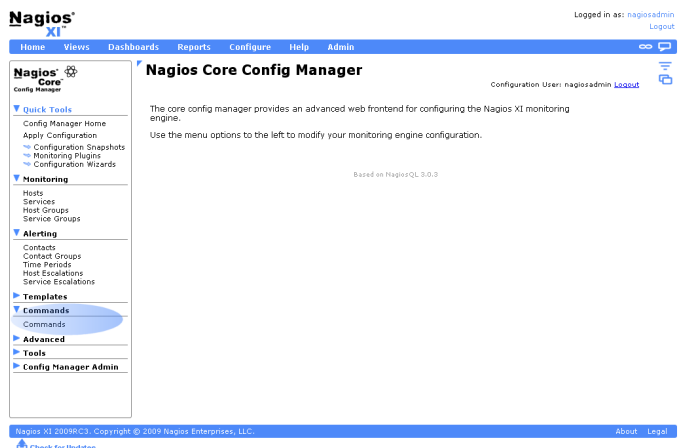
Once you upload new plugins to XI, you will need to defined monitoring commands in order to use the plugins for host and service checks.

You can do this using the Nagios Core Config Manager.

Note: You may skip this step if you are following the *Migrating From Nagios Core To Nagios XI* guide, as the necessary command definitions are imported in a separate step of that process.



Once you've logged in to the Nagios Core Config Manager, select the **Commands** menu.



Click the **Add New** button to add a new command definition for the plugin you just uploaded.

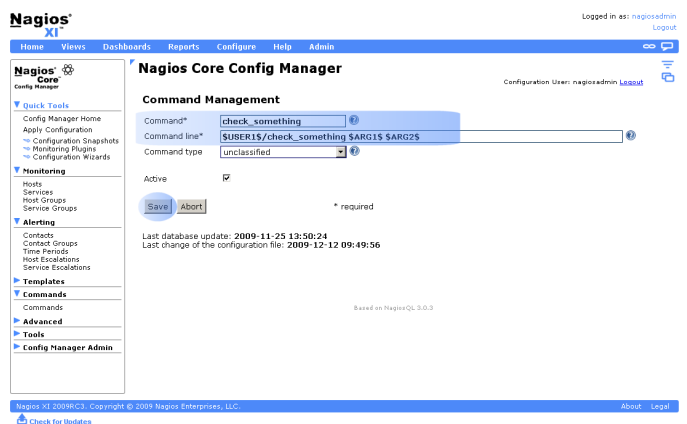


Give the new command a meaningful name for the *Command* field. If unsure, use a name that's similar to the name of the plugin you just uploaded. For example, if you uploaded a plugin name **check_something**, you could use that same name for the command name.

The *Command line* field is used to specify the command line that should be executed to run the plugin. The command line should include the full path to the plugin. You can use the special **\$USER1\$** macro as a substitute for the `/usr/local/nagios/libexec` path.

Select **check command** in the *Command type* dropdown.

Click the **Save** button when you're done defining the command.



Finally, click the **Apply Configuration** button on the main command management screen to apply the new command definition to the monitoring engine.



Using The Plugins

Once you've uploaded a plugin and created a corresponding command definition, you can use that command definition as a check command when you define hosts and services.

Debugging Plugin Problems

If you have problems when using a new plugin you upload, be sure to check the following:

- Make sure the permissions have been correctly set on the plugin (execute permissions should have been set)
- Make sure the command definition references the proper physical location (full) to the plugin
- Make sure you are specifying the correct arguments for the plugin, both in the command definition, and in any host or service definitions that reference the command

If problems persist, make sure to read the documentation that was supplied with the plugin. Contact the respective plugin author(s) if you are unable to use the plugin or understand its usage syntax.