

Subject: Nagios Conference
From: Ethan Galstad <nagios@nagios.org>
Date: Tue, 24 Jan 2006 01:24:44 -0600
To: jhein@netways.de

Hi Julian -

I noticed in your recent email that the German Nagios conference site is hosted at the following domains:

<http://www.nagiosconference.com>
<http://www.nagiosconference.org>
<http://www.nagiosconference.de>

This is problematic in regards to the Nagios trademark. In order to maintain the validity of the Nagios trademark, I need to make sure that it is not used in any manner that may be potentially confusing to users.

I would suggest the following changes to avert any potential problems:

1. Make sure the conference is called something like "German Conference for Nagios Users", "German Conference on Nagios" in any promotional material instead of "Nagios Conference" or "Nagios Conference for German Users". This ensures that users don't get the impression that it is "the official" Nagios conference, as that would be problematic with regards to the Nagios trademark. The difference in the title of the conference appears subtle, but is important in regards to trademark law.
2. Host the conference information on the Netways website under a URL like the following:

<http://www.netways.de/nagiosconference>

Doing this makes it apparent to users that the conference is associated with Netways, rather than being an "official" Nagios conference that I am sponsoring or organizing.

3. Stop using the nagiosconference.{org|com|de} domains to promote the conference, as this would be problematic with regards to the Nagios trademark. These domain names make it appear as though the conference is an "official" one that is promoted or sponsored by me. Since you've already used the domains mentioned in marketing material, I would be okay with having those domains automatically redirecting to a URL at the Netways website (as mentioned above) for a few months. After that period, the domain names should be abandoned to prevent future problems. As an alternative I could host the nagiosconference.* domains and promote the German conference for Nagios users on it. I would be happy to do this, and this would avoid trademark issues as they relate to the domains.

I apologize if these issues cause you any grief. I most certainly am looking forward to the conference and appreciate all that you and the folks at Netways are doing, but I need to make sure the Nagios trademark remains strong and protected.

FYI, I'll be traveling starting tomorrow afternoon and won't be back until Friday evening. I will most likely be unable to access email while traveling, but I will respond to any emails as soon as I get back.

Until later, take care and best of luck.

