Understanding Sources And Source Groups In Network Analyzer

The Industry Standard in IT Infrastructure Monitoring

Purpose
This document describes what and how sources and source groups work.

Target Audience
This document is intended for use by network administrators who want to setup and/or use Nagios Network Analyzer.

Understanding Sources
A source in Nagios Network Analyzer is the data collector. Whether it be sFlow or NetFlow, the source is the same. Sources require a unique name, IP address, and port to bind to. They create their own directory to store data and have what is called a data lifetime that determines the length of granular data stored. The longer the data lifetime the larger the source data is going to be.

What is a Data Lifetime?
Data lifetime was created to reduce the amount of disk space used by sources. Granular flow data is stored for each source you create in a directory and database files. These files can grow extremely large and fast. In order to combat the effects of requiring 10TB of disk space every month for a single source in extreme conditions we created data lifetime. What data lifetime does is, once data reaches the cutoff point (standard is set to 24 hours) the data is compressed and only minimal aggregated information (such as bandwidth) is saved for viewing in graphs and other areas of the web interface. If you want longer granular data – you can set the data lifetime to longer, just be aware of the disk size requirements which vary depending on the amount of flows.

Understanding Source Group
A source group is a group of one or more sources. Grouping sources can really help create a way to see issues on a larger scale. No extra disk space is used when you create a source group. These groups do not collect any data but share the data collected by each individual source. Because of how source groups work, a source group's data lifetime is only as long as the lowest data lifetime on a source in the group.

Setting Up a Source
1. Configure a NetFlow or sFlow sender (i.e. router, switch, linux box, windows box, vmware) using the document corresponding to the type of box you want to collect data from
2. Go to the “Sources” tab
3. Click on “Create Source” on the top left of the table
4. Fill out the entire form
   • Netflow Source Name: Must be unique. Is not editable after creation
   • IP Address: Must be unique and valid. This is the IP address of the NetFlow sender
   • Listening Port: Must be unique and over port 1024. The port that the NetFlow sender is sending data on.
   • Incoming Flow Type: The type of flow (sFlow or NetFlow including anything that is formatted as NetFlow)
   • Raw Data Lifetime: Explained above. This is the data lifetime for granular data.
5. Once created it will show up on your source list and will start up and collect the data from the sender
Stop/Start a Source

Stopping a source will stop the source from collecting data that is being sent to it from the sender. The sender will still be sending unless you stop it. Starting and stopping a source can be done on the main source page within the table or in the actual source view page in the top right-hand corner when you click on a source from the source tab.

Setting Up a Source Group

1. Create at least 2 sources that you are going to put into a source group
2. Go to the “Source Groups” tab
3. Click on “Create Source Group”
4. Select the sources you’d like to place into the group using the forms on the page. You will be able to add as many sources as you want to a single source group
5. Once you’re done the new source group will show up on your source groups list
6. The source group does not “start” or “run” like a source, but any data collected in the sources selected will show in the source group. There’s a list of sources in each source group on the source groups table

Troubleshooting

If you have any issues with sources or source groups in Nagios Network Analyzer, please, post your questions on the [http://support.nagios.com/forum/](http://support.nagios.com/forum/).

Thank you!