

How To Authenticate & Import Users With AD Or LDAP In Nagios XI 2024

Purpose

This document describes how to integrate Nagios XI with Active Directory (AD) or Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) to allow user authentication and validation with an AD or LDAP infrastructure through the Nagios XI interface. This is helpful for system administrators by simplifying user management of large infrastructures and standardizing credentials needed for XI by allowing users to authenticate with their AD or LDAP credentials.

Prerequisites

You will need the following prerequisites in order to follow the documentation:

- Nagios 2024
- A separate Microsoft Windows-based AD infrastructure that is accessible to the Nagios XI machine or a separate LDAP infrastructure (like OpenLDAP) that is accessible to the Nagios XI machine

Nagios XI Server DNS Resolution

It is assumed that the DNS settings for your Nagios XI server use DNS servers that are: Domain Controllers (DC) in your AD domain or capable of resolving the DNS entries used to contact your LDAP server(s)

If you are having issues you can edit the `resolv.conf` file to use a DNS server within the AD infrastructure as the primary name server.

- Edit the `resolv.conf` file in a text editor:

```
vi /etc/resolv.conf
```

- Before all other lines starting with `nameserver`, enter the following:

```
nameserver [IP address of DNS server]
```

Caching options in PHP may prevent changes to the `resolv.conf` from taking effect and require restarting the Apache service. If you do edit the file, you will need to restart the Apache web server:

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RHEL/CentOS/Oracle:

```
systemctl restart httpd.service
```

Debian | Ubuntu:

```
systemctl restart apache2.service
```

Be aware that the `/etc/resolv.conf` file can be automatically overwritten by the networking stack in RHEL / CentOS. Please consult the RHEL / CentOS documentation for more information on correctly configuring the DNS servers for Linux.

Configuring The Authentication Servers

First you must define the **Authentication Server(s)** that Nagios XI will use.

Navigate to **Admin > Users** and click **LDAP/AD Integration**.

The screenshot shows the 'LDAP / Active Directory Integration Configuration' page in Nagios XI. It is divided into two main sections: 'LDAP/AD Authentication Servers' and 'Certificate Authority Management'.

LDAP/AD Authentication Servers

Authentication servers can be used to authenticate users over on login. Once a server has been added you can import users.

There is a blue button labeled 'Add Authentication Server'.

Server(s)	Type	Encryption	Associated Users	Actions
There are currently no LDAP or AD servers to authenticate against.				

Certificate Authority Management

For connecting over SSL/TLS, or STARTTLS using self-signed certificates you will need to add the certificate(s) of the domain controller(s) to the local certificate authority so they are trusted. If any certificate was signed by a host other than itself, that certificate authority/host certificate needs to be added.

There is a blue button labeled 'Add Certificate'.

Hostname	Issuer (CA)	Expires On	Actions
You have not added any CA certificates through the web interface			

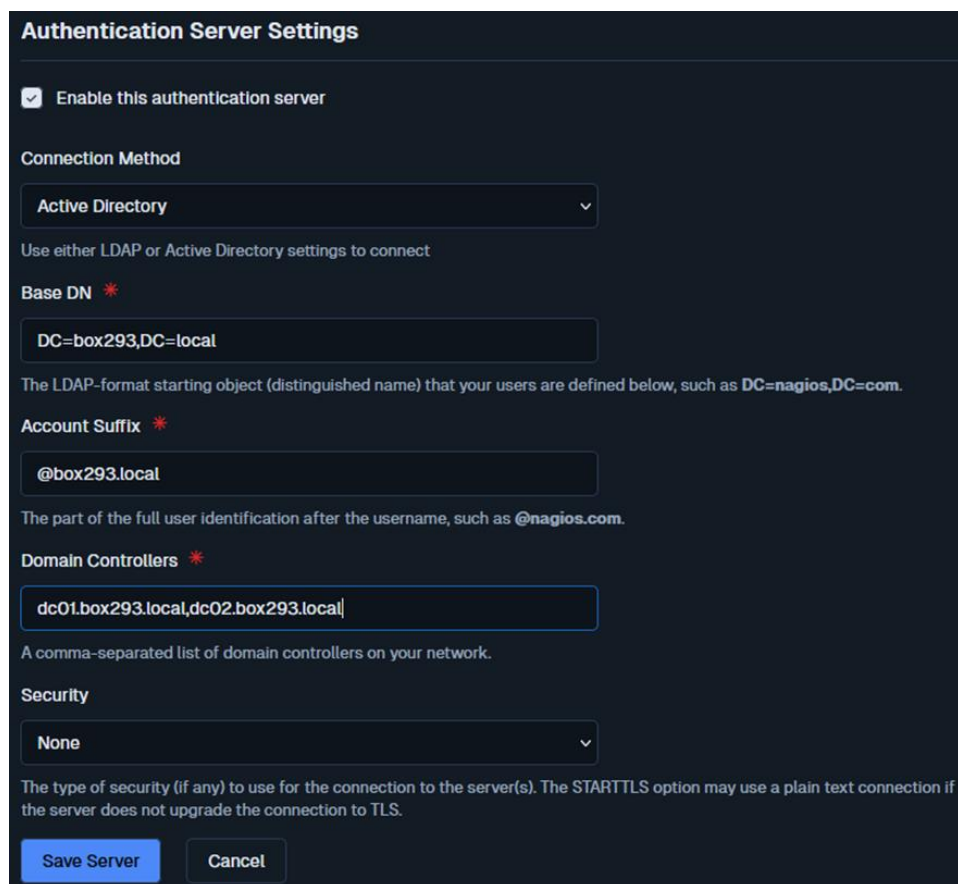
At the bottom left, there is a link labeled 'Advanced >'.

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To add an Authentication Server, click the **Add Authentication Server** button. There are different options for [Active Directory](#) and [LDAP](#).

Active Directory

You will need to provide the following details:



The screenshot shows the 'Authentication Server Settings' form in Nagios XI. It includes a checkbox to 'Enable this authentication server', a 'Connection Method' dropdown set to 'Active Directory', and instructions to use LDAP or Active Directory settings. The 'Base DN' field contains 'DC=box293,DC=local', with a note explaining it's the LDAP-format starting object. The 'Account Suffix' field contains '@box293.local', with a note explaining it's the part of the full user identification after the username. The 'Domain Controllers' field contains 'dc01.box293.local,dc02.box293.local', with a note explaining it's a comma-separated list. The 'Security' dropdown is set to 'None', with a note explaining it's the type of security to use for the connection. At the bottom are 'Save Server' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Authentication Server Settings

☒ Enable this authentication server

Connection Method

Active Directory

Use either LDAP or Active Directory settings to connect

Base DN *

DC=box293,DC=local

The LDAP-format starting object (distinguished name) that your users are defined below, such as DC=nagios,DC=com.

Account Suffix *

@box293.local

The part of the full user identification after the username, such as @nagios.com.

Domain Controllers *

dc01.box293.local,dc02.box293.local

A comma-separated list of domain controllers on your network.

Security

None

The type of security (if any) to use for the connection to the server(s). The STARTTLS option may use a plain text connection if the server does not upgrade the connection to TLS.

Save Server Cancel

Enable this authentication server: Checked

Connection Method: Active Directory

Base DN:

An LDAP formatted string where the users are located.

Example: DC=BOX293,DC=local

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Account Suffix:

An `@your-domain.suffix` (the part of the full user identification after the username).

Example: `@BOX293.local`

Domain Controllers:

A comma separated list of DC servers that Nagios XI can use to authenticate against. This can be a combination of IP addresses, short names, and fully qualified domain names.

Note: When using SSL or TLS for security, it is important that these entries match the Common Name (CN) in the SSL/TLS certificate that these DCs will present to the Nagios XI server.

Example: `dc01.box293.local, dc02.box293.local`

Security:

Select the security method (or not) to use. This guide will choose **None**. If you are in a domain forest that has been raised to a functional level of 2012, then TLS is needed along with additional steps in the following guide:

[Using SSL with XI Active Directory Component.](#)

If SSL or TLS is required, then please refer to the same guide.

Once completed click the **Save Server** button. You can now proceed to the Importing Users section.

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LDAP

You will need to provide the following details:

Enable this authentication server: Checked

Connection Method: LDAP

Base DN:

An LDAP formatted string where the users are located.

Example: `dc=box293,dc=local`

LDAP Host:

The LDAP server that Nagios XI can use to authenticate against. This can be an IP address, short name or fully qualified domain name.

Note: When using SSL or TLS for security, it is important that this entry matches the Common Name (CN) in the SSL/TLS certificate that this LDAP server will present to the Nagios XI server.

Example: `ldap01.box293.local`

LDAP Port:

The TCP network port used to communicate with the LDAP server.

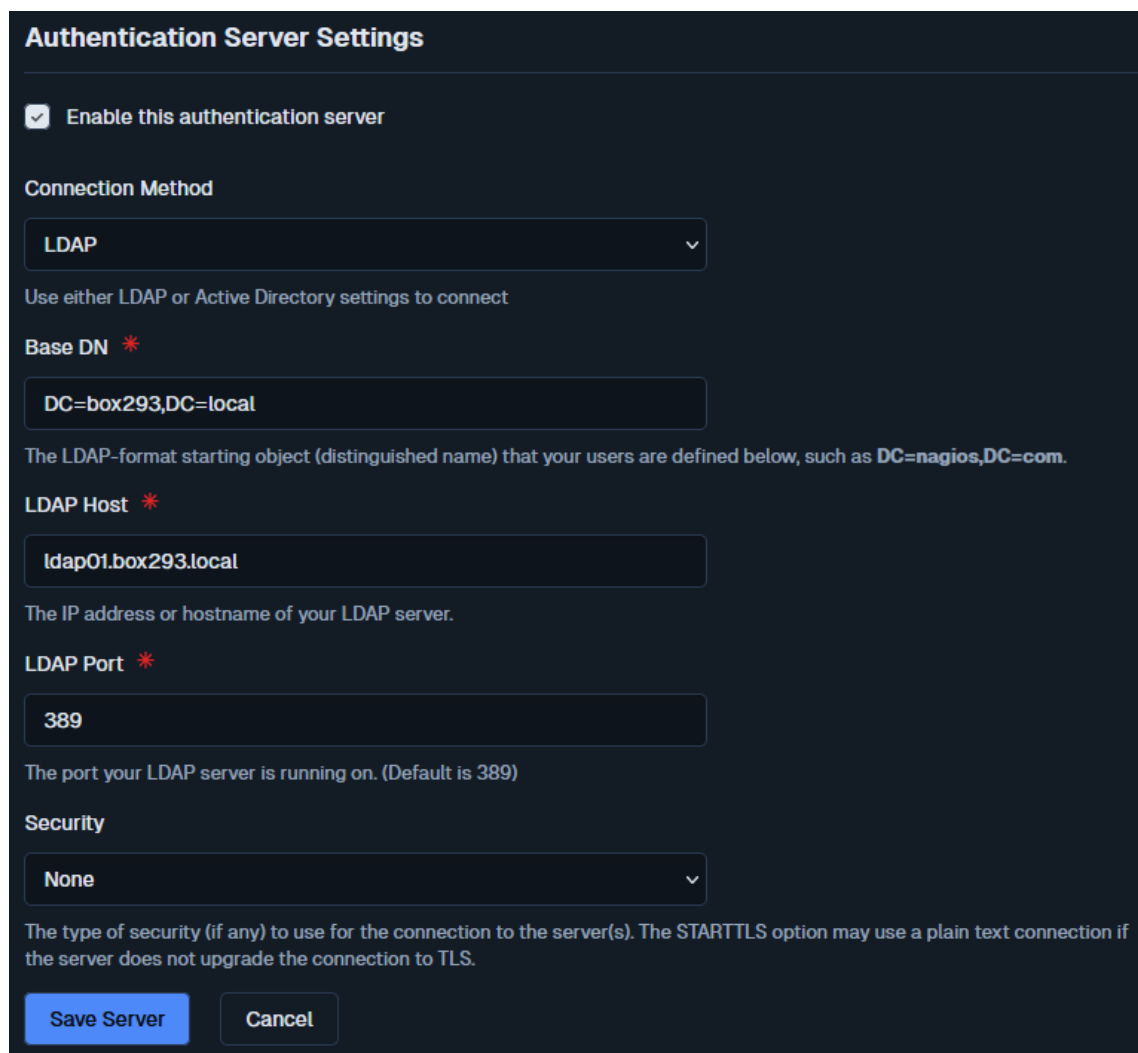
Example: 389

Security:

Select the security method (or not) to use. This guide will choose **None**.

If SSL or TLS is required, then please refer to the [Using SSL with XI Active Directory Component](#) documentation.

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The screenshot shows the 'Authentication Server Settings' form in Nagios XI. It includes a checkbox to 'Enable this authentication server', a 'Connection Method' dropdown set to 'LDAP', and a note to 'Use either LDAP or Active Directory settings to connect'. The 'Base DN' field contains 'DC=box293,DC=local' with a note explaining it as the LDAP-format starting object. The 'LDAP Host' field contains 'ldap01.box293.local' with a note for IP or hostname. The 'LDAP Port' field contains '389' with a note for the server port. The 'Security' dropdown is set to 'None' with a note about STARTTLS. At the bottom are 'Save Server' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Authentication Server Settings

☒ Enable this authentication server

Connection Method

LDAP

Use either LDAP or Active Directory settings to connect

Base DN *

DC=box293,DC=local

The LDAP-format starting object (distinguished name) that your users are defined below, such as **DC=nagios,DC=com**.

LDAP Host *

ldap01.box293.local

The IP address or hostname of your LDAP server.

LDAP Port *

389

The port your LDAP server is running on. (Default is 389)

Security

None

The type of security (if any) to use for the connection to the server(s). The STARTTLS option may use a plain text connection if the server does not upgrade the connection to TLS.

Save Server Cancel

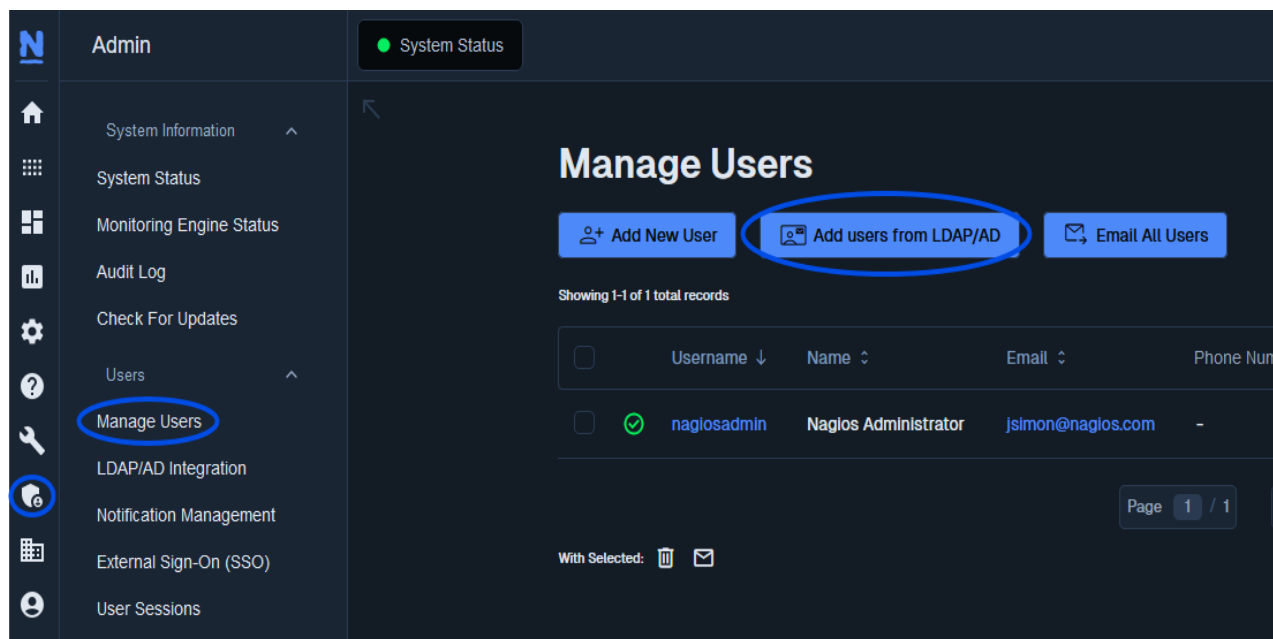
Once completed click the **Save Server** button. You can now proceed to the [Importing Users](#) section.

Importing Users

The next step is to import users from Active Directory or LDAP. Once the user has been imported, Nagios XI will query the DCs or LDAP server each time the user logs in to validate credentials. The following steps are the same for Active Directory or LDAP.

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1. Navigate to **Admin > Users > Manage Users** and click **Add Users** from LDAP/AD.



2. Select the **authentication server(s)** you previously defined and provide credentials to connect to the server(s).

LDAP / Active Directory Import Users

Log into your LDAP / Active Directory administrator or privileged account to be able to import users.

administrator

••••••••••••••••••••

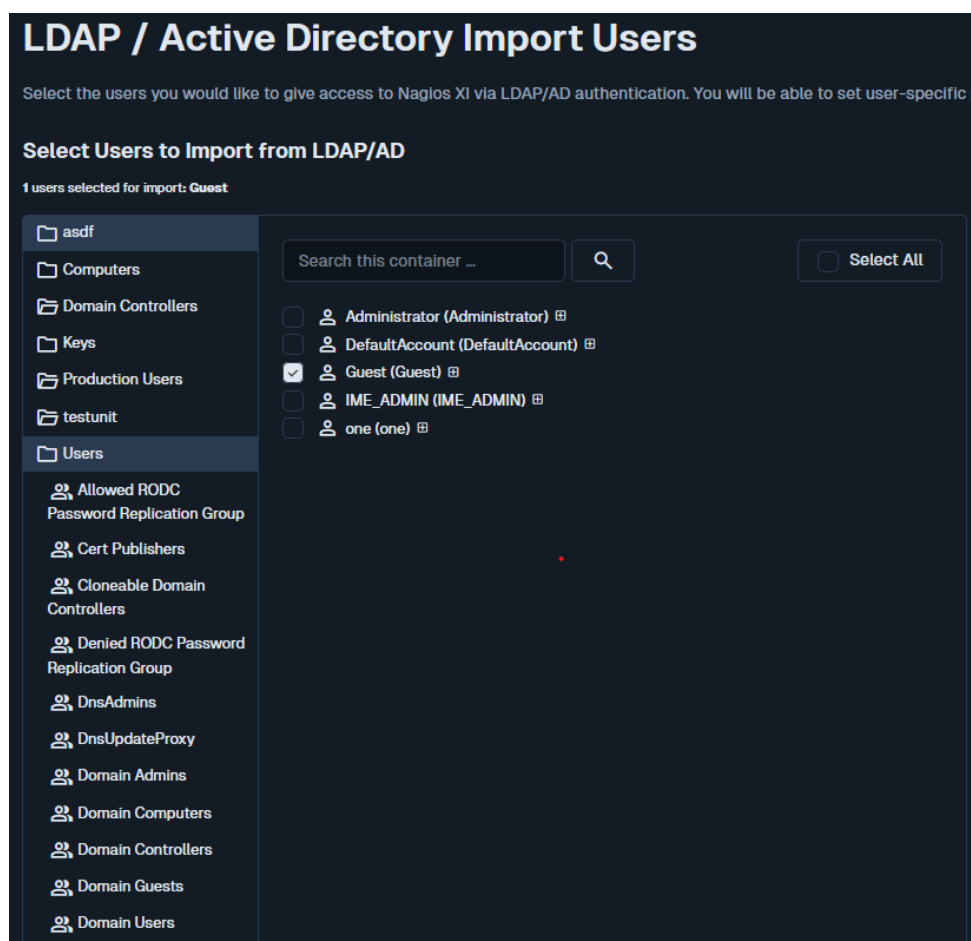
Active Directory - dc01.box293.local,dc02.box293.local

Next >

[Manage Authentication Servers](#)

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3. The account credentials you are providing here are only required to authenticate against AD / LDAP to retrieve the directory contents. They are not saved or used in the actual user authentication.
4. Click **Next**.
5. Once you've successfully authenticated, you'll be presented with the node of your directory tree (relative to the Base DN that was defined).

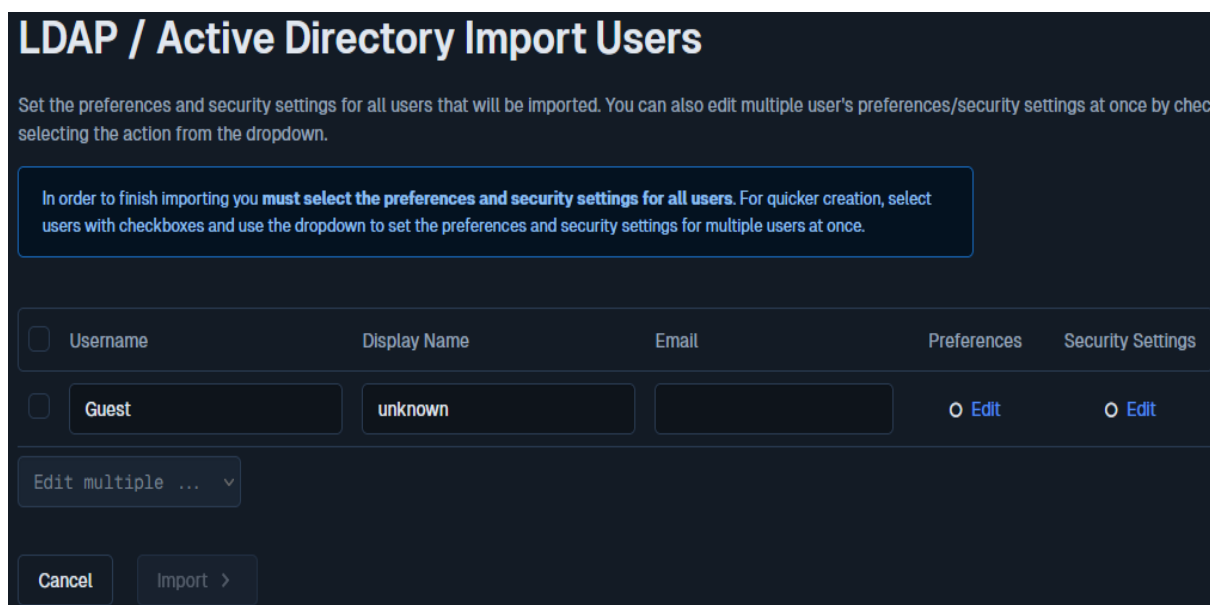


6. In the example above, you can see the Users node has been selected.

The user `Guest` has been selected to import and you can see it summarizes this at the top of the screen.

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- When you've chosen all the users to import, click the **Add Selected Users** button.
- On the next screen you are presented with a list of the users you are going to import and the summary of how they are going to be imported.



LDAP / Active Directory Import Users

Set the preferences and security settings for all users that will be imported. You can also edit multiple user's preferences/security settings at once by checking the checkbox and selecting the action from the dropdown.

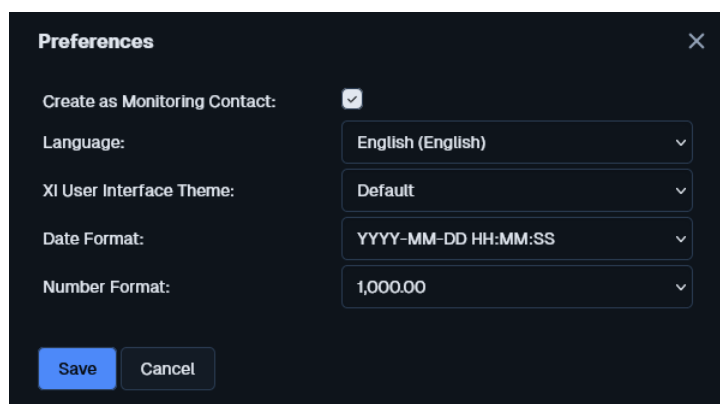
In order to finish importing you **must select the preferences and security settings for all users**. For quicker creation, select users with checkboxes and use the dropdown to set the preferences and security settings for multiple users at once.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Username	Display Name	Email	Preferences	Security Settings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guest	unknown		Edit	Edit

Edit multiple ... ▾

[Cancel](#) [Import >](#)

Every user can have the following Preferences and Security Settings defined:



Preferences

Create as Monitoring Contact: ☒

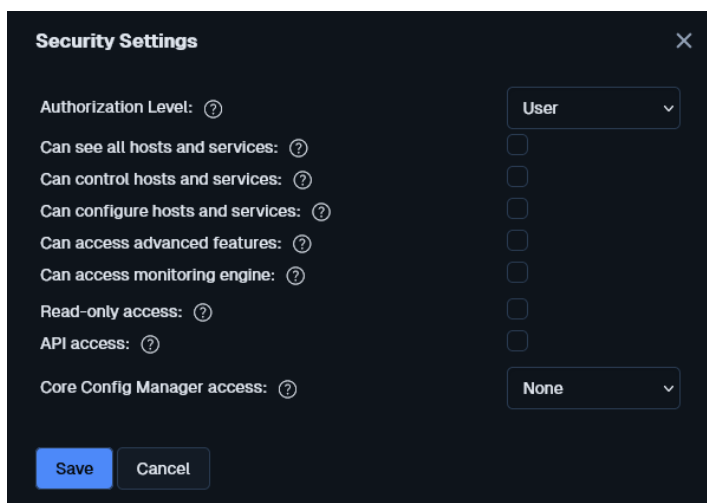
Language: English (English) ▾

XI User Interface Theme: Default ▾

Date Format: YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS ▾

Number Format: 1,000.00 ▾

[Save](#) [Cancel](#)



Security Settings

Authorization Level: ? [User](#) ▾

Can see all hosts and services: ? ☐

Can control hosts and services: ? ☐

Can configure hosts and services: ? ☐

Can access advanced features: ? ☐

Can access monitoring engine: ? ☐

Read-only access: ? ☐

API access: ? ☐

Core Config Manager access: ? [None](#) ▾

[Save](#) [Cancel](#)

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9. Every user will need their preferences and security settings defined. When importing multiple users, you can define the same settings for a selection of users following these steps:
10. In the left pane check the boxes for the users you want to define the same settings for at the bottom of the user list there is a drop down list called **Edit multiple** .
 - a. Click the list and select **Preferences** or **Security Settings**
 - b. You will be presented with the appropriate popup window
 - c. Define the required options and then click **Save** when done
11. In the Preferences screen there is the option Create as Monitoring Contact. It is strongly recommended that you check this box as the monitoring contact is required for users to receive notifications. For more information about contacts please refer to this documentation link [Nagios XI Users and Contacts](#)
12. ALL users being imported will require the **Preferences and Security Settings** to have a tick appear in the respective columns. Once all the required options have been defined the Import button will be able to be clicked.

The screenshot shows the 'LDAP / Active Directory Import Users' interface. At the top, there is a title bar and a subtitle: 'Set the preferences and security settings for all users that will be imported. You can also edit multiple user's preferences/security settings at once by checking the box and selecting the action from the dropdown.' Below this is a table with columns: Username, Display Name, Email, Preferences, and Security Settings. The first row shows a user named 'Guest' with email 'guest@sample.com'. The 'Preferences' and 'Security Settings' columns have checkboxes and 'Edit' links. Below the table is a dropdown menu labeled 'Edit multiple ...'. At the bottom are 'Cancel' and 'Import >' buttons.

Username	Display Name	Email	Preferences	Security Settings
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	Guest	guest@sample.com	<input type="checkbox"/> Edit	<input type="checkbox"/> Edit

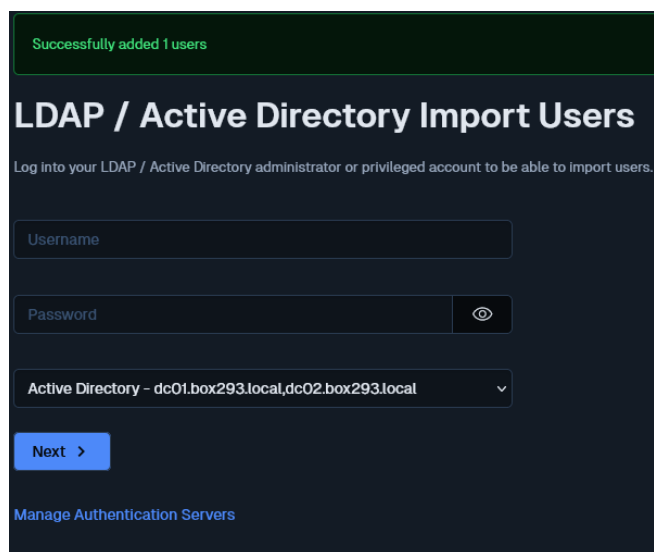
Edit multiple ... ▾

Cancel Import >

13. Click **Import** to continue.

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The user accounts will now be imported into Nagios XI. When finished you will be informed that it was successful.



This completes importing users into Nagios XI from Active Directory or LDAP.

Linking Existing Nagios XI Users to Active Directory Users

If you already have Nagios XI users that have been created, you can easily link these local accounts to Active Directory accounts.

Navigate to **Admin > Users > Manage Users**.

Click the **Edit** icon for the user you want to update, the settings are under the **Authentications Setting** section:

Auth Type: Active Directory

AD Server: Select the authentication server(s) you previously defined

AD Username:

Type the username for this user as it is configured in Active Directory

Example: jane.doe

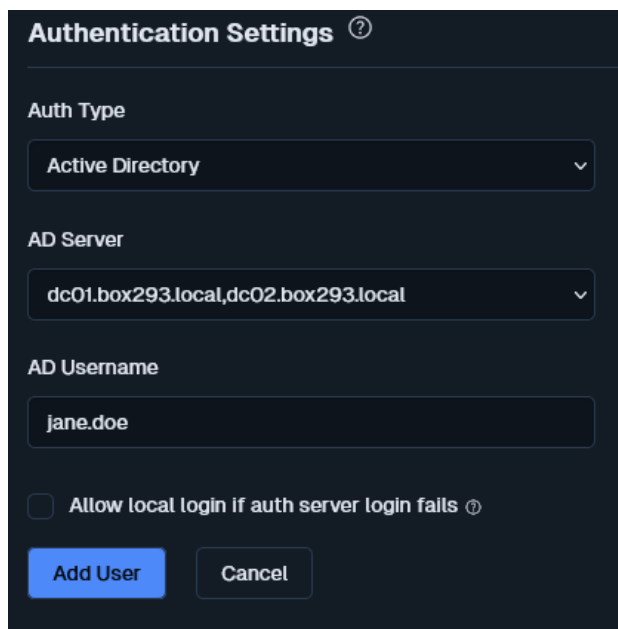
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Allow local login if auth server login fails:

By checking this box, you will allow the user to use the local password created for this user (if the password is not blank) when the authentication server cannot be connected to, times out, or the password provided is incorrect. This allows a secondary means of authentication in case the authentication server is unreachable.

Click the **Update User** button to save the changes.

Once these changes have been made, the existing Nagios XI users will be able to login using their **Active Directory** credentials.



The screenshot shows the 'Authentication Settings' dialog box in Nagios XI. It has a title bar with a question mark icon. The settings are as follows:

- Auth Type:** A dropdown menu currently showing 'Active Directory'.
- AD Server:** A dropdown menu showing 'dc01.box293.local,dc02.box293.local'.
- AD Username:** A text input field containing 'jane.doe'.
- Allow local login if auth server login fails:** An unchecked checkbox with a help icon.
- Buttons:** 'Add User' (blue) and 'Cancel' (grey).

Linking Existing Nagios XI Users to LDAP Users

If you already have Nagios XI users that have been created, you can easily link these local accounts to LDAP accounts.

Navigate to **Admin > Users > Manage Users**.

Click the **Edit** icon for the user you want to update, the settings are under the

Authentications Setting section:

Auth Type: LDAP

LDAP Server: Select the authentication server you previously defined

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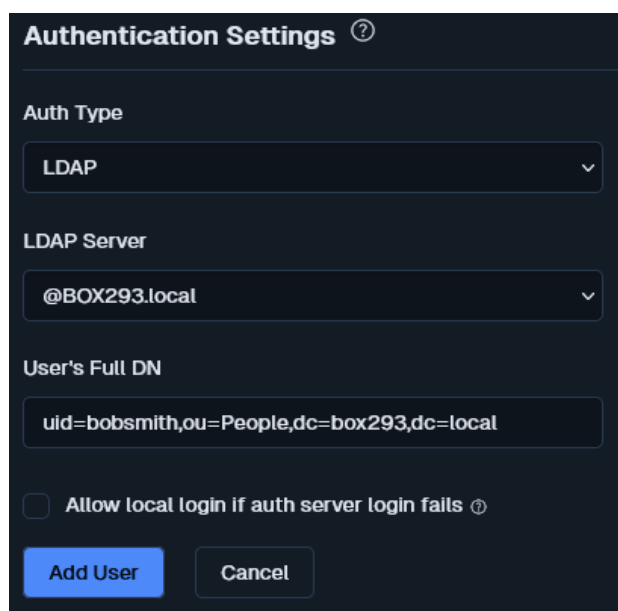
Users Full DN:

Type the full distinguished name (DN) for this user as it is defined in LDAP

Example: uid=bobsmith,ou=People,dc=box293,dc=local

Allow local login if auth server login fails:

By checking this box, you will allow the user to use the local password created for this user (if the password is not blank) when the authentication server cannot be connected to, times out, or the password provided is incorrect. This allows a secondary means of authentication in case the authentication server is unreachable.



The screenshot shows the 'Authentication Settings' dialog box in Nagios XI. It has a dark theme. At the top, it says 'Authentication Settings' with a help icon. Below that, there are three sections: 'Auth Type' with a dropdown menu set to 'LDAP'; 'LDAP Server' with a dropdown menu set to '@BOX293.local'; and 'User's Full DN' with a text input field containing 'uid=bobsmith,ou=People,dc=box293,dc=local'. Below these fields is a checkbox labeled 'Allow local login if auth server login fails' with a help icon. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Add User' (in blue) and 'Cancel'.

Click the **Update User** button to save the changes.

Once these changes have been made, the existing Nagios XI user will be able to login using their LDAP credentials.

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LDAP Account Requirements

The following details demonstrate the required object classes and attributes that need to exist for an LDAP user. If these attributes do not exist it is likely that they will not appear in the list of users when performing an import from your LDAP server.

```
dn: uid=bobsmith,ou=People,dc=box293,dc=local
givenName: Bob
sn: Smith
cn: Bob Smith
uidNumber: 10004
gidNumber: 10004
mail: bobsmith@box293.local
homeDirectory: /home/bobsmith
objectClass: top
objectClass: posixAccount
objectClass: inetOrgPerson
```

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on how to integrate Nagios XI with Active Directory or LDAP to allow user authentication and validation with the Nagios XI interface. 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](#)