



## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a guide on changing the default passwords for an existing Nagios XI installation to ensure a safe and secure monitoring environment. This includes changing the passwords for the Linux root user, and users the Nagios XI software uses to access the MySQL and Postgres databases.

**NOTICE: This article applies to Nagios XI 5.x only. If you are attempting to install Nagios XI 2024, see this [article](#).**

## Target Audience

This guide is directed towards Nagios XI administrators interested in changing the default passwords for the local root account, MySQL accounts, and Postgres accounts for a secure Nagios monitoring server.

## Prerequisites

You must have an existing Nagios XI installation using default passwords. This document assumes you have not already changed any of the passwords.

## Password Consideration

All of these password changes are completely optional, however it is typically a good idea to change default password settings for any software package. This will help secure your Nagios XI software from security threats and network compromises.

For every example throughout this document you are setting the password to **NewPassword** which represents the password you will be changing the defaults to. When updating files on the Linux server or running commands replace `NewPassword` with the password of your choice. For example, if you choose to use the password `welcome` for the root user your command would look as follows:

```
mysqladmin -u root -pnagiosxi password welcome
```

Additionally, you need to use single ' or double " quotes if the commands specify them.

## MySQL vs MariaDB

Historically MySQL has been the database used by Nagios XI, however in RHEL / CentOS 7.x onwards MariaDB is used instead of MySQL. MariaDB is simply a fork of the MySQL database, the commands issued in this documentation will work with either product. If there are any differences they will be clearly identified.

## Editing Files

In many steps of this documentation you will be required to edit files. This documentation will use the vi text editor. When using the vi editor:

- To make changes press **i** on the keyboard first to enter insert mode
- Press **Esc** to exit insert mode
- When you have finished, save the changes in vi by typing **:wq** and press Enter

## Changing the Linux Root System Account

Start by logging into the Linux server as the root user with the default password of **nagiosxi**. Run the `passwd` command from the Linux command line with no arguments.

```
passwd
```

```
Changing password for user root.
```

```
New UNIX password: NewPassword
```

```
Retype new UNIX password: NewPassword
```

**Note:** nothing will be shown when you type the new password as Linux hides it for security reasons.

## Changing MySQL Account Passwords

There are three or four important accounts for the MySQL database in a Nagios XI installation: `root`, `nagiossql`, `ndoutils` and `nagiosxi`. The `nagiosxi` MySQL database exists on fresh installs of XI 5.x onwards ... systems upgraded from versions before XI 5.x will not have the `nagiosxi` user/database, Postgres is used instead. If you are unsure, execute the following command on your Nagios XI server:

```
awk '/"nagiosxi" => array\(\{\{getline;print\}' /usr/local/nagiosxi/html/config.inc.php
```

Which should output one of the following:

- `"dbtype" => 'pgsql',`
  - or
- `"dbtype" => 'mysql',`

Each must be changed individually and in several places. This will be done from the Linux command line as the `root` user.

### ROOT

First you will change the password for the `root` user in the MySQL database. To do so you will use the `mysqladmin` command and enter a new password, replace your new password in the command for `NewPassword`. Note the old password is `nagiosxi`.

```
mysqladmin -u root -pnagiosxi password NewPassword
```

Next you will need to alter the files where the password for the root user is referenced. Locate the old password and replace it with your `NewPassword`.

```
vi /root/scripts/automysqlbackup
```

Replace `PASSWORD=nagiosxi` with `PASSWORD=NewPassword`

```
vi /usr/local/nagiosxi/scripts/restore_xi.sh
```

Replace `themysqlpass="nagiosxi"` with `themysqlpass="NewPassword"`

```
vi /usr/local/nagiosxi/var/xi-sys.cfg
```

Replace `mysqlpass='nagiosxi'` with `mysqlpass='NewPassword'`

## NDOUTILS

Altering users passwords with MySQL requires a few different commands and different files will need to be modified. The following commands will be used to alter the `ndoutils` user account for the MySQL database.

After executing this command you will be prompted for the MySQL root password.

```
mysql -u root -p
```

You are now logged into the `mysql` command interface, this is indicated by the `mysql>` OR `MariaDB [ (none)]>` prompt. Type each command as follows:

```
use mysql;
```

### If (MySQL version < 5.7)

```
set password for 'ndoutils'@localhost= password('NewPassword');
```

### If (MySQL version => 5.7)

```
set password for 'ndoutils'@localhost= 'NewPassword';
```

```
flush privileges;
```

```
quit;
```

Next you need to alter the files where the password for the `ndoutils` user is referenced.

**If (Nagios XI version < 5.7)**

```
vi /usr/local/nagios/etc/ndo2db.cfg
```

**If (Nagios XI version => 5.7)**

```
vi /usr/local/nagios/etc/ndo.cfg
```

Replace `db_pass=n@gweb` with `db_pass=NewPassword`

```
vi /usr/local/nagiosxi/html/config.inc.php
```

```
"ndoutils" => array(
    "dbtype" => 'mysql',
    "dbserver" => 'localhost',
    "user" => 'ndoutils',
    "pwd" => 'n@gweb',
```

Replace `"pwd" => 'n@gweb'` with `"pwd" => 'NewPassword'`

```
vi /usr/local/nagvis/etc/nagvis.ini.php
```

Replace `dbpass="n@gweb"` with `dbpass="NewPassword"`

Afterward, restart `ndo2db` or `nagios` with the following commands so the config file changes are picked up:

**If (Nagios XI version < 5.7)**

```
service ndo2db restart OR systemctl restart ndo2db.service
```

**If (Nagios XI version => 5.7)**

```
service nagios restart OR systemctl restart nagios.service
```

## NAGIOSQL

Altering the `nagiossql` user is done using similar commands as the `ndoutils` user, and can be changed with the following commands.

After executing this command you will be prompted for the MySQL root password.

```
mysql -u root -p
```

You are now logged into the mysql command interface, this is indicated by the `mysql>` OR `MariaDB [(none)]>` prompt. Type each command as follows:

```
use mysql;
```

#### If (MySQL version < 5.7)

```
set password for 'nagiosql'@localhost= password('NewPassword');
```

#### If (MySQL version => 5.7)

```
set password for 'nagiosql'@localhost= 'NewPassword';
```

```
flush privileges;
```

```
quit;
```

Next you will need to alter the files where the password for the `nagiosql` user is referenced.

```
vi /usr/local/nagiosxi/html/config.inc.php
```

```
"nagiosql" => array(
    "dbtype" => 'mysql',
    "dbserver" => 'localhost',
    "user" => 'nagiosql',
    "pwd" => 'n@gweb',
```

Replace `"pwd" => 'n@gweb',` with `"pwd" => 'NewPassword',`

**Note:** If `/var/www/html/nagiosql/config/settings.php` does not exist on your system, you can skip the editing instructions below.

```
vi /var/www/html/nagiosql/config/settings.php
```

Replace `password = n@gweb` with `password = NewPassword`

## NAGIOSXI

Altering the `nagiosxi` user is done using similar commands as the `ndoutils` user, and can be changed with the following commands.

**Note:** The `nagiosxi` user exists on fresh installs of XI 5.x onwards ... systems upgraded from versions before XI 5.x will not have the `nagiosxi` user/database, postgres is used instead (skip this section and move onto the postgres steps).

After executing this command you will be prompted for the MySQL root password.

```
mysql -u root -p
```

You are now logged into the `mysql` command interface, this is indicated by the `mysql>` OR `MariaDB [(none0)]>` prompt. Type each command as follows:

```
use mysql;
```

### If (MySQL version < 5.7)

```
set password for 'nagiosxi'@localhost= password('NewPassword');
```

### If (MySQL version => 5.7)

```
set password for 'nagiosxi'@localhost= 'NewPassword';
```

```
flush privileges;
```

```
quit;
```

Next you will need to alter the files where the password for the `nagiosxi` user is referenced.

```
vi /usr/local/nagiosxi/html/config.inc.php
```

```
"nagiosxi" => array(  
    "dbtype" => 'mysql',  
    "dbserver" => '',
```



```
"user" => 'nagiosxi',
```

```
"pwd" => 'n@gweb',
```

Replace "pwd" => 'n@gweb', with "pwd" => 'NewPassword',

## Postgres Database nagiosxi User

You now need to change the Postgres user account for Nagios XI. **Note:** Fresh installs of XI 5.x onwards DO NOT use Postgres, these steps can be skipped. Systems upgraded from versions before XI 5.x will need to follow these steps.

Again there are a few short commands to execute as root on your Nagios XI server.

```
psql -U nagiosxi
```

You are now logged into the postgres command interface, this is indicated by the `nagiosxi=>` prompt.

Type each command as follows:

```
ALTER USER nagiosxi WITH PASSWORD 'NewPassword';
```

```
\q
```

You will need to alter the files where the password for the Postgres database is referenced.

```
vi /usr/local/nagiosxi/scripts/restore_xi.sh
```

Replace: `psql -U nagiosxi nagiosxi < pgsql/nagiosxi.sql`

With: `psql -U nagiosxi NewPassword < pgsql/nagiosxi.sql`

```
vi /usr/local/nagiosxi/html/config.inc.php
```

```
"nagiosxi" => array(
```

```
    "dbtype" => 'pgsql',
```

```
    "dbserver" => '',
```

```
"user" => 'nagiosxi',
```

```
"pwd" => 'n@gweb',
```

Replace "pwd" => 'n@gweb', with "pwd" => 'NewPassword',

## Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on changing the default passwords in Nagios XI.

If you have additional questions or other support related questions, please visit us at our Nagios Support Forums:

<https://support.nagios.com/forum>

The Nagios Support Knowledgebase is also a great support resource:

<https://support.nagios.com/kb>