

How To Change Host Alive Check In Nagios XI 2024

Purpose

This document will describe how to change the host check command in Nagios XI. The host check command is what determines if a host is UP or DOWN.

An example of a host that is functional but is considered “Down” by Nagios XI can be seen in the following screenshot. The host 10.25.5.70 has a firewall rule that does not allow ICMP and hence you can see the host object itself is considered down but the services are working OK (except for the ping service of course).

Host	Service	Status	Duration	Attempt	Last Check	Status Information
CentOS9.Datasource	CPU Usage	Ok	6d 20h 59m 3s	1/5	2025-03-17 10:15:53	OK: Percent was 0.00 %
	Disk Usage on /	Ok	6d 20h 58m 0s	1/5	2025-03-17 10:17:08	OK: Used disk space was 2.20 % (Used: 2.75 GiB, Free: 122.19 GiB, Total: 124.93 GiB)
	Disk Usage on /boot	Ok	6d 20h 56m 55s	1/5	2025-03-17 10:18:20	OK: Used disk space was 21.60 % (Used: 0.20 GiB, Free: 0.73 GiB, Total: 0.94 GiB)
	Memory Usage	Ok	6d 20h 55m 58s	1/5	2025-03-17 10:19:06	OK: Memory usage was 24.90 % (Available: 1.29 GiB, Total: 1.72 GiB, Free: 1.05 GiB, Used: 0.28 GiB)
	NetworkManager	Ok	6d 20h 53m 25s	1/5	2025-03-17 10:21:33	OK: Process count for processes named networkmanager was 1
	Swap Usage	Ok	6d 20h 52m 21s	1/5	2025-03-17 10:23:21	OK: Swap usage was 0.00 % (Used: 0.00 GiB, Total: 2.00 GiB, Free: 2.00 GiB)
	User Count	Ok	6d 20h 53m 49s	1/5	2025-03-17 10:20:53	OK: Count was 0 users
	crond	Ok	6d 20h 53m 0s	1/5	2025-03-17 10:22:04	OK: crond is running
	eth0 Bandwidth - Inbound	Ok	6d 20h 52m 14s	1/5	2025-03-17 10:23:30	OK: Bytes_recv was 0.01 MB/s

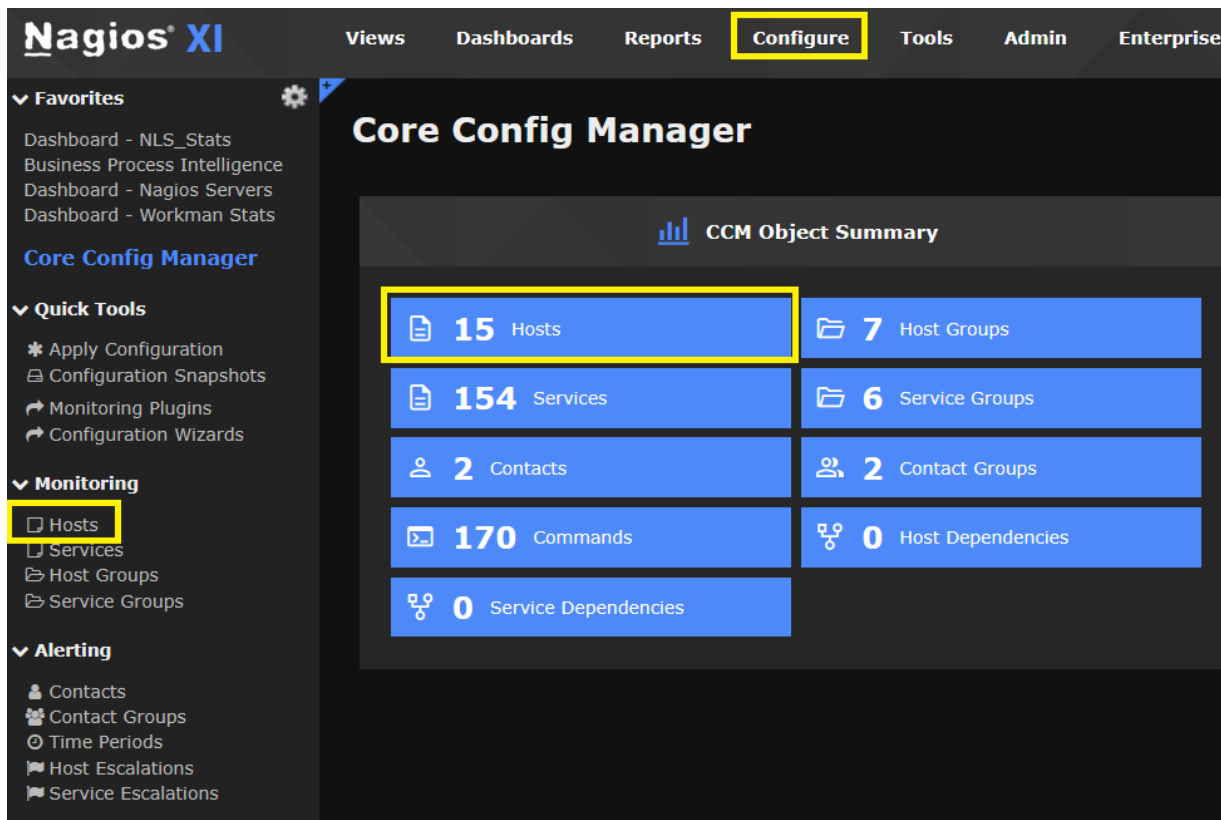
Contemplate Checks

If you are running a server that is not allowed to respond to ping, you will need to consider what method will be used to determine if a host is UP or DOWN. In the screenshot you can see that there is a working HTTP service, this would be a good replacement check for the host object.

Edit the Host

1. Navigate to Configure > Core Configuration Manager (CCM).
2. In the left pane under Monitoring click Hosts:

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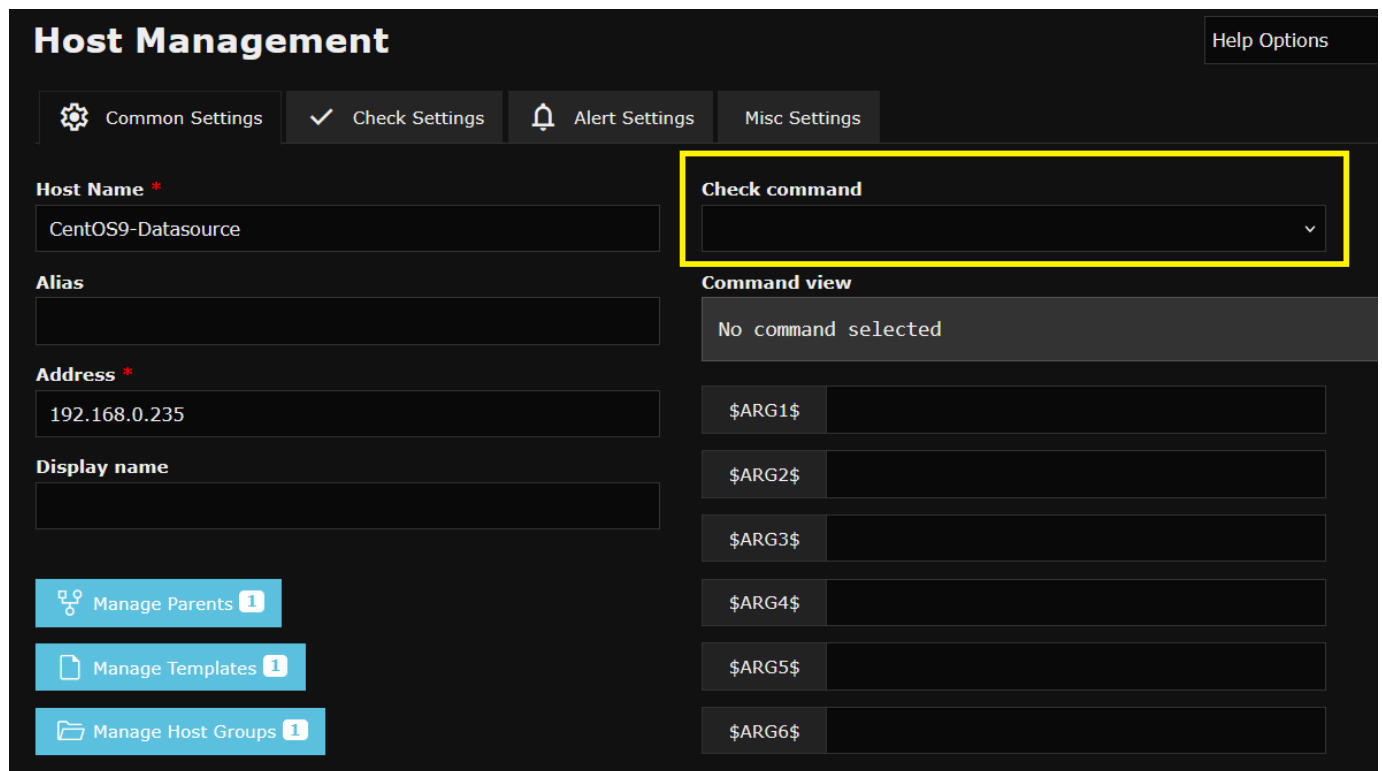
3. In the list of hosts click the host you want to change the host check for.

+ Add New		Displaying 1-15 of 15 results				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Name	Alias	Active	Status	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	192.168.14.5		Yes	Applied		4
<input type="checkbox"/>	CentOS9-Datasource		Yes	Applied		8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fusion-Prod		Yes	Applied		24
<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledgebase		Yes	Applied		2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Log Server Test Cluster		Yes	Applied		13

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1. You will be presented with the **Host Management** screen as per the screenshot.

We are going to be changing the **Check command** however you may notice that it's currently empty. You may be wondering then, "how is the ping check being performed"? The host is using a Host Template and is inheriting the ping check from the template. The changes we will be making will overwrite what has been defined in the template.



The screenshot displays the Nagios XI Host Management interface. The title is "Host Management" with a "Help Options" link in the top right. Below the title are four tabs: "Common Settings" (gear icon), "Check Settings" (checkmark icon), "Alert Settings" (bell icon), and "Misc Settings". The "Check Settings" tab is active. The form contains several fields: "Host Name *" with the value "CentOS9-Datasource", "Alias" (empty), "Address *" with the value "192.168.0.235", and "Display name" (empty). On the left side, there are three buttons: "Manage Parents" (network icon), "Manage Templates" (document icon), and "Manage Host Groups" (folder icon). On the right side, the "Check command" field is highlighted with a yellow border and is currently empty. Below it, the "Command view" section shows "No command selected" and six argument fields labeled "\$ARG1\$" through "\$ARG6\$".

Updating Templates will be explained later in this document.

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Define Check Command

1. Defining the host **UP / DOWN** check is a simple matter of selecting an option from the Check command drop down list. In this example we are using check-host-alive-http as per the following screenshot.

Host Management Help Options

Common Settings Check Settings Alert Settings Misc Settings

Host Name *
CentOS9-Datasource

Check command
check-host-alive

Alias

Command view
\$USER1\$/check_icmp -H \$HOSTADDRESS\$ -w 3000.0,80% -c 5000.0,100% -p 5

Address *
192.168.0.235

\$ARG1\$

2. The Command view shows you the actual name of the plugin that is being executed along with what arguments are required. You will notice that this plugin uses the \$HOSTADDRESS\$ macro, which means it will use the value stored in the Address field of the host object. The Command view shows that the plugin does not require any additional arguments so there are no further changes required.

3. Click the **Save** button after making these changes. Click **Apply Configuration** to make these changes apply into the running configuration.

Here's an updated screenshot of the host object with an OK state after the check command was changed. You will notice the ping service is still critical, seeing as pings aren't going to work you should go into Configuration Manager and delete the ping service.

Host	Service	Status	Duration	Attempt	Last Check	Status Information
10.25.5.70	CPU Stats	Ok	50m 6s	1/5	2016-10-28 11:55:51	CPU STATISTICS OK: user=0.40% system=0.40% iowait=
	HTTP	Ok	46m 50s	1/5	2016-10-28 11:54:05	HTTP OK: HTTP/1.1 302 Found - 224 bytes in 0.002 secur
	Load	Ok	50m 6s	1/5	2016-10-28 11:55:56	OK - load average: 0.00, 0.00, 0.00
	Memory Usage	Ok	50m 6s	1/5	2016-10-28 11:55:59	OK - 655 / 995 MB (65%) Free Memory, Used: 690 MB, Sh
	Ping	Critical	47m 24s	5/5	2016-10-28 11:52:43	CRITICAL - 10.25.5.70: rta nan, lost 100%
	Yum Updates	Ok	50m 6s	1/5	2016-10-28 11:51:08	YUM OK: O/S is up to date.

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Editing Templates

1. If you wish to change a template (for instance, if you are implementing public facing Linux servers that will not accept ICMP requests) you will need to navigate to **Templates > Host Templates** in **Configuration Manager**.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Template Name	Alias	Active	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	generic-host		Yes		51
<input type="checkbox"/>	generic-printer		Yes		53
<input type="checkbox"/>	generic-switch		Yes		54

2. Find the template in the list that you wish to edit and click it. The steps for changing the check command in a **Host Template** are identical to the steps provided for changing the host object above.

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on changing host alive check in Nagios XI. If you have additional questions or other support-related questions, please visit us at our Nagios Support Forum, Nagios Knowledge Base, or Nagios Library:

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