

How To Change Host Alive Check In Nagios XI

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.

If you are changing host alive check in Nagios XI 2024, see [How To Change Host Alive Check In Nagios XI 2024](#).

Host	Service	Status	Duration	Attempt	Last Check	Status Information
10.25.5.70	CPU Stats	Ok	5m 54s	1/5	2016-10-28 11:10:51	CPU STATISTICS OK: user=0.20% system=0.00% iowait=
	HTTP	Ok	2m 38s	1/5	2016-10-28 11:09:10	HTTP OK: HTTP/1.1 302 Found - 224 bytes in 0.001 seco
	Load	Ok	5m 54s	1/5	2016-10-28 11:10:56	OK - load average: 0.00, 0.00, 0.00
	Memory Usage	Ok	5m 54s	1/5	2016-10-28 11:11:01	OK - 645 / 995 MB (64%) Free Memory, Used: 700 MB, Sh
	Ping	Critical	3m 12s	4/5	2016-10-28 11:11:44	CRITICAL - 10.25.5.70: rta nan, lost 100%
	Yum Updates	Ok	5m 54s	1/5	2016-10-28 11:11:08	YUM OK: O/S is up to date.

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 above 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**.

Nagios XI						
Views Dashboards Reports Configure Tools Admin Enterprise						
Core Config Manager						
Hosts						
+ Add New Displaying 1-11 of 11 results						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Name	Alias	Active	Status	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.200.68		Yes	Applied		17
<input type="checkbox"/>	192.168.107.60		Yes	Applied		5
<input type="checkbox"/>	192.168.157.129		Yes	Applied		10
<input type="checkbox"/>	192.168.157.131		Yes	Applied		3
<input type="checkbox"/>	192.168.157.133		Yes	Applied		4
<input type="checkbox"/>	192.168.157.133		Yes	Applied		4
<input type="checkbox"/>	192.168.157.133		Yes	Applied		18

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

The screenshot shows the 'Host Management' interface in Nagios XI. The 'Check Settings' tab is selected. The 'Host Name' field contains '192.168.157.133'. The 'Check command' dropdown is empty. The 'Command view' section shows 'No command selected'. Below this, there are eight argument fields labeled '\$ARG1\$' through '\$ARG8\$'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Add Arguments' and 'Delete Arguments', and a 'Save' button.

Host Management

Common Settings | **Check Settings** | Alert Settings | Misc Settings

Host Name *
192.168.157.133

Alias
192.168.157.133

Address *
192.168.157.133

Display name

Check command
No command selected

\$ARG1\$
\$ARG2\$
\$ARG3\$
\$ARG4\$
\$ARG5\$
\$ARG6\$
\$ARG7\$
\$ARG8\$

Add Arguments | Delete Arguments

Active

Save Cancel

4. You will be presented with the Host Management screen as per the screenshot to the right.

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.

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-http as per the following screenshot.

The screenshot displays the 'Host Management' configuration page in Nagios XI. The 'Check Settings' tab is active. The 'Host Name' field is set to '192.168.157.133'. The 'Check command' dropdown menu is open, showing 'check_http' selected. A blue box highlights the 'Check command' dropdown, and a blue arrow points from the '\$HOSTADDRESS\$' macro in the 'Command view' to the 'Address' field, which also contains '192.168.157.133'. The 'Command view' shows the command '\$USER1\$/check_http -i \$HOSTADDRESS\$ -s \$ARG1\$'. Below this, there are eight argument fields labeled '\$ARG1\$' through '\$ARG8\$'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Add Arguments', 'Delete Arguments', 'Run Check Command', 'Save', and 'Cancel'. The footer of the page includes 'or Updates', 'About', 'Legal', and 'Copyright © 2008-2024 Nagios'.

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.

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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 CCM and delete the ping service.

Host	Status	Duration	Attempt	Last Check	Status Information
192.168.157.133	Up	1m 36s	1/5	2024-12-06 22:48:58	HTTP OK: HTTP/1.1 302 Found - 237 bytes in 0.003 second response time

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Editing Templates

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 CCM.

The screenshot shows the Nagios XI Core Config Manager interface. On the left is a navigation sidebar with categories like Quick Tools, Monitoring, Alerting, Templates, Commands, Advanced, Tools, and CCM Admin. The 'Templates' category is expanded, and 'Host Templates' is selected. The main area is titled 'Host Templates' and shows a table of existing templates. The table has columns for Host Template Name, Alias, Active status, Actions, and ID. Five templates are listed: generic-host, generic-printer, generic-switch, linux-server, and windows-server, all of which are active.

Host Template Name	Alias	Active	Actions	ID
generic-host		Yes		51
generic-printer		Yes		53
generic-switch		Yes		54
linux-server		Yes		50
windows-server		Yes		52

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 the 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:

[Visit Nagios Support Forum](#)

[Visit Nagios Knowledge Base](#)

[Visit Nagios Library](#)