

How To Check For Windows Updates With Nagios XI

Purpose

This document describes how to use Nagios XI to monitor for high priority updates from Microsoft on a remote Windows host. This includes critical and security updates, service packs, and update rollups. Monitoring for updates from Microsoft with Nagios XI allows for automated checks to alert you when new Windows updates are released so you can apply them in a timely manner and ensure a safe and secure network environment.

Target Audience

This document is intended for use by Nagios XI Administrators who are interested in monitoring Windows machines to determine if they require updates to ensure their network infrastructure is safe, secure, and up-to-date.

Prerequisites

NSClient++ and NRPE

You must have NSClient++ installed on the Windows machine you intend to monitor. NSClient++ itself does not know how to check the Windows updates status however it will be configured to execute a PowerShell script (a plugin) that will be able to check the Windows update status.

NSClient++ must be configured to allow NRPE checks from the Nagios XI server. These specific documents will show you how to install NSClient++ and configure it to accept NRPE requests:

- [Installing The XI Windows Agent](#)
- [Configuring The XI Windows Agent](#)
- [Enabling the NRPE Listener in NSClient](#)
- [Enabling the NRPE Listener in NSClient 0.4.x](#)

This guide is specifically aimed at NSClient++ v 0.4.x or newer, the previous 0.3.x version of NSClient++ is no longer supported by the developer of the application.

PowerShell

The Windows machine also needs to have PowerShell installed for the `.ps1` script to run to report the Windows Update status.

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Downloading The Required Plugin

The plugin that will be used to check for updates is found at:

<https://exchange.nagios.org/directory/Plugins/Operating-Systems/Windows/NRPE/Check-Windows-Updates-Powershell/details>

Download the plugin to your windows machine that has NSClient++ installed. Once downloaded, unzip the Check-Updates.zip file and put the Check-Updates.ps1 script inside your NSClient++/scripts directory where it can be used for the check, usually the file path is as follows:

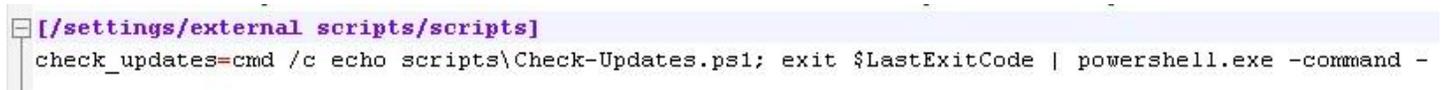
```
C:\Program Files\NSClient++\scripts\
```

Configure nsclient.ini On The Windows Host

In order for you to properly use the plugin you must edit the nsclient.ini file in the NSClient++ directory. Open the file in your favorite text editor and locate the [settings/external scripts/scripts] section. If you are already using NRPE checks there should be commands listed here, if not simply add the section heading as well as the following command:

```
check_updates=cmd /c echo scripts\Check-Updates.ps1; exit $LastExitCode | powershell.exe -command -
```

It should look like this:



```
[/settings/external scripts/scripts]
check_updates=cmd /c echo scripts\Check-Updates.ps1; exit $LastExitCode | powershell.exe -command -
```

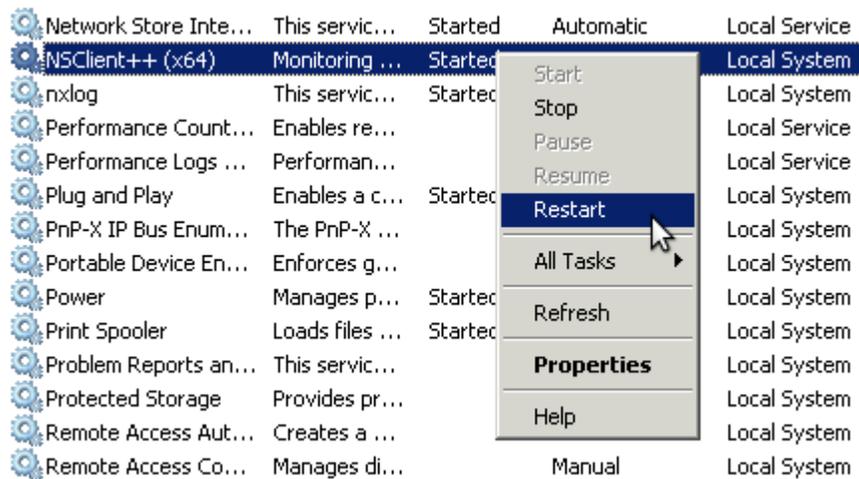
NSClient must now be restarted. In Windows open the **Services** console under **Administrative Tools**. If you cannot locate this, use **services.msc** to open the Services console.

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Locate the NSClient++ service.

Right click the **NSClient++** service and select **Restart**.

You can close the Services console as it's no longer required.



Set Execution Policy In PowerShell

In order for PowerShell to properly execute the Check-Updates.ps1 script it must have permission to do so. You can change these permissions by first running PowerShell. Type into the **Start Menu** search field PowerShell, when it appears **right** click on **Windows PowerShell** and select **Run as administrator**. This will open the PowerShell command line interface.

Type the following command in PowerShell:

```
Set-ExecutionPolicy Unrestricted
```

You will be prompted to confirm the change to the execution policy, answer **Y** and press **Enter**.

This will allow all PowerShell scripts to be run by Windows. More information on the Execution Policy commands can be found at:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ee176961.aspx>

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Another policy option is Bypass and is configured a similar way:

```
Set-ExecutionPolicy ByPass
```

The next step will continue to use PowerShell so leave it open.

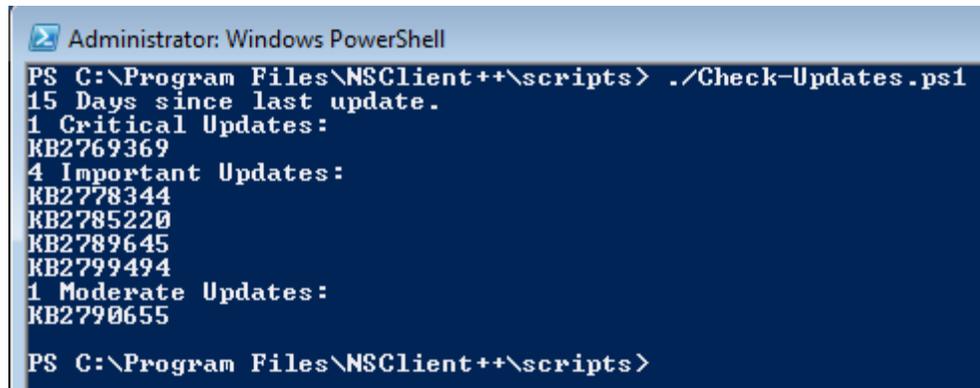
Testing The Plugin From The Windows Command Line

You are now ready to test the PowerShell script. First the directory must be changed to the **NSClient++/scripts** directory, execute the following command:

```
cd "C:\Program Files\NSClient++\scripts"
```

Next, we will run the command to check for Windows Updates (the plugin you downloaded above). This may take a bit of time to run depending on how many pending updates exist. Run the following command:

```
./Check-Updates.ps1
```



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Program Files\NSClient++\scripts> ./Check-Updates.ps1
15 Days since last update.
1 Critical Updates:
KB2769369
4 Important Updates:
KB2778344
KB2785220
KB2789645
KB2799494
1 Moderate Updates:
KB2790655
PS C:\Program Files\NSClient++\scripts>
```

If everything was configured correctly the return output will be similar to this.

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Testing The Check From The Nagios XI Server

Now that we know the plugin works on our windows machine, we will test the command from the Nagios XI server. Login to your Nagios XI server as the root user and change the directory to the location of the check_nrpe plugin:

```
cd /usr/local/nagios/libexec
```

Next enter the command that will be used to run the NRPE check. You will need to replace **<Remote Windows IP address>** with the IP address of your remote windows machine:

```
./check_nrpe -H -t 120 -p 5666 -c check_updates
```

If everything was configured correctly the return will be similar to this.

```
15 Days since last update.  
1 Critical Updates:  
KB2769369  
4 Important Updates:  
KB2778344  
KB2785220  
KB2789645  
KB2799494  
1 Moderate Updates:  
KB2790655
```

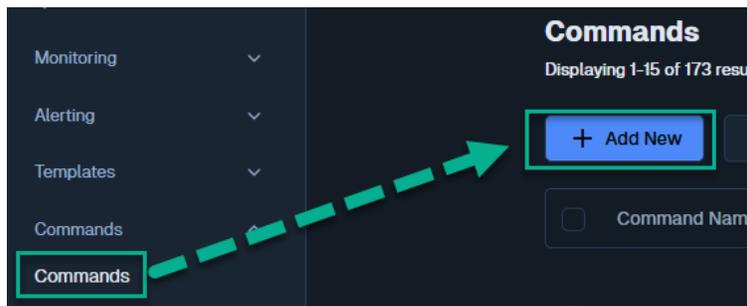
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Creating The Check In Nagios XI

Now the check must be configured in the Nagios XI Web Interface using **Configuration Manager**. The first step will be to create a custom command specifically for this check.

Create Check Command

1. Navigate to **Configure > Core Config Manager**
2. In the left pane expand Commands and then click Commands
3. Click the **+ Add New** button



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The **Command Management** page will open, populate the fields with the following values:

Command Name:

check_updates

Command Line:

`$USER1$/check_nrpe -H $HOSTADDRESS$ -t 120 -c check_updates $ARG1$ $ARG2$`

Command Type:

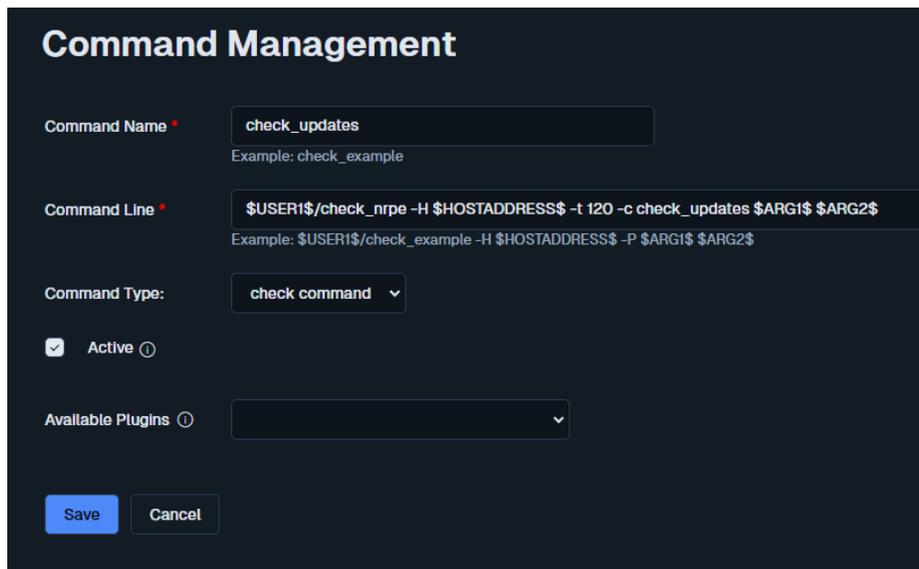
check command

Active:

checked

Click the **Save** button to create this new command.

Here is a screenshot that shows the command definition.



The screenshot shows the 'Command Management' interface in Nagios XI. The form is filled with the following information:

- Command Name:** check_updates (with an example: check_example)
- Command Line:** \$USER1\$/check_nrpe -H \$HOSTADDRESS\$ -t 120 -c check_updates \$ARG1\$ \$ARG2\$ (with an example: \$USER1\$/check_example -H \$HOSTADDRESS\$ -P \$ARG1\$ \$ARG2\$)
- Command Type:** check command (selected from a dropdown menu)
- Active:** Checked (checkbox is selected)
- Available Plugins:** (empty dropdown menu)

At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'Save' and 'Cancel'.

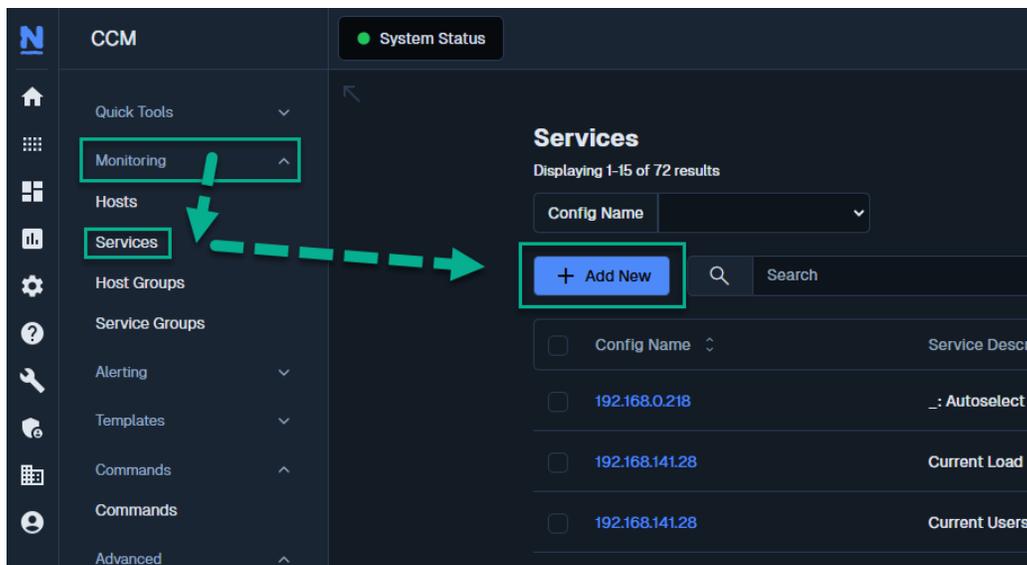
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Create Service

The final step is to create a new service definition that is associated with the remote windows host. It is assumed that you are already monitoring the Windows host and there is a HOST object already created. If there isn't, go and run the Windows Server Configuration Wizard and then return to this step. This guide is going to use the host 10.25.14.52 as an example.

In the left pane expand **Monitoring** and then click **Services**.

Click the **Add New** button.



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Common Settings tab

Config Name:

10.25.14.52

Description:

Windows Update Status

Click the **Manage Hosts** button

Select 10.25.14.52 in the left pane and click the **Add Selected** button

Click the **Close** button

For this service we will use the generic-service template as it has a lot of the required directives already configured

Click the **Manage Templates** button

Select **generic-service** in the left pane and click the **Add Selected** button

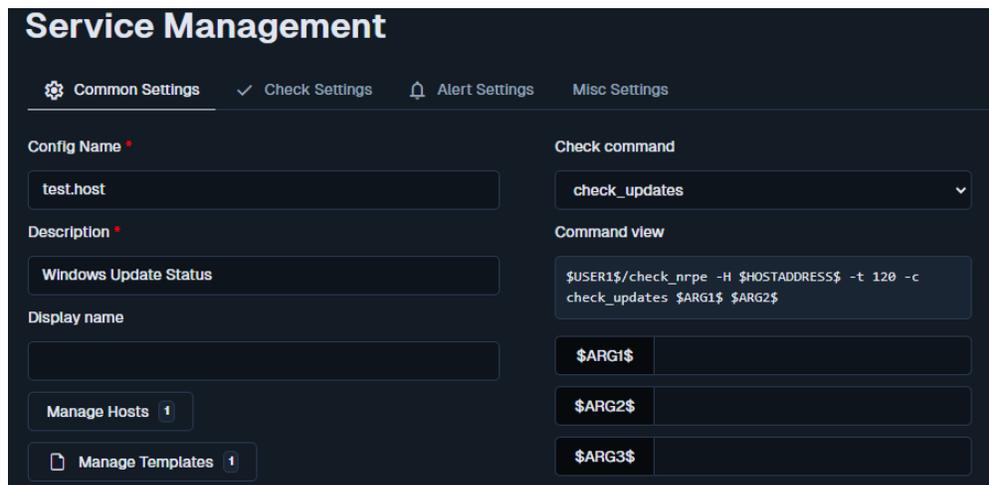
Click the **Close** button

Check command (drop down list)

check_updates

Active:

Checked



The screenshot shows the Nagios XI Service Management interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Common Settings (selected), Check Settings, Alert Settings, and Misc Settings. The main configuration area is divided into two columns. The left column contains fields for Config Name (test.host), Description (Windows Update Status), and Display name. Below these fields are two buttons: 'Manage Hosts' with a '1' icon and 'Manage Templates' with a '1' icon. The right column contains a 'Check command' dropdown menu set to 'check_updates', a 'Command view' section showing the command: '\$USER1\$/check_nrpe -H \$HOSTADDRESS\$ -t 120 -c check_updates \$ARG1\$ \$ARG2\$', and three argument input fields labeled '\$ARG1\$', '\$ARG2\$', and '\$ARG3\$'.

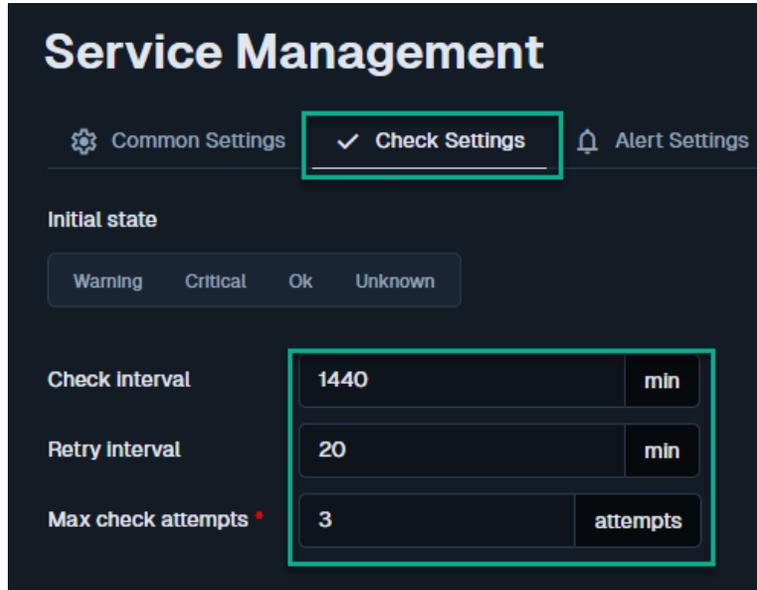
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Check Settings tab

Check interval: 1440

Retry interval: 20

Max check attempts: 3



Service Management

Common Settings **✓ Check Settings** Alert Settings

Initial state

Warning Critical Ok Unknown

Check interval: 1440 min

Retry interval: 20 min

Max check attempts: 3 attempts

Click the **Save** button

Click the **Apply Configuration** button at the bottom of the screen.

You may have noticed that the check interval is set to 1440. There are 1440 minutes in a day, hence this setting causes the check to only run once a day, running any more frequently isn't really required. You could also take this a step further and create a custom **Time Period** which would restrict the check from only being run in the early hours of the morning.

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End Result

Now that the service has been created, navigate to **Home > Service Detail** and search for the service. If the check has been configured correctly, you should see a result like the one below.

Host ↓	Service ↕	Status ↕	Duration ↕	Attempt ↕	Last Check ↕
● TEST.HOST	 Windows Update Status	● Critical	🕒 12s	1/3	2024-11-21 11:32:35

From the Critical status it looks like there has never been any Windows updates installed on this computer! This is a good example of how you would be notified that there are pending Windows updates that need to be installed.

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on checking for Windows updates with 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](#)