Purpose

This document describes how to enable and configure the NRPE Listener in NSClient++ 0.4.x (and newer) for Nagios XI on a remote windows machine. The NRPE listener allows the Nagios XI server to perform more advanced and customized monitoring methods using `check_nrpe` (compared to requests using `check_nt`).

Some reasons you may want to use **`check_nrpe`** instead of `check_nt` are:

- The built in CPU / memory / disk checks are more flexible and customizable
- The `CheckExternalScripts` module can execute various user written script (VB / BAT / EXE / Perl / Python / PowerShell)
- Uses SSL

Target Audience

This document is intended for use by Nagios XI Administrators that want to enable NRPE in NSClient++.

Requirements

- A running Nagios XI server
- NSClient++ 0.4.x (or newer) installed on the Windows Client as per this documentation:
  - Installing The Windows Agent NSClient++ for Nagios XI

Note: This document is for version **0.4.x** of NSClient++. For version **0.3.x** of NSClient++ see:
Enabling The NRPE Listener In NSClient 0.3.x

The following documentation explains how the configuration file works in NSClient++ and may also be helpful:
Configuring The Windows Agent NSClient++ for Nagios XI

Update NSClient++ Configuration

The configuration file in NSClient++ 0.4.x is called `nsclient.ini` and is located here:

> `C:\Program Files\NSClient++\`**`nsclient.ini`**

The configuration file can be manually edited OR you can execute commands in a command prompt to make the required changes in the configuration file. This document instructs you to execute the commands to make the changes. Following this is a summary showing you the updated settings in the configuration file.

Log onto your remote windows machine as an administrator.

Open a command prompt with administrative rights and run the following commands:

```
cd "C:\Program Files\NSClient++"
nscp settings --activate-module NRPEServer --add-defaults
nscp settings --path /settings/NRPE/server --key "allow arguments" --set true
nscp settings --path /settings/NRPE/server --key "allow nasty characters" --set true
nscp settings --path /settings/NRPE/server --key insecure --set true
nscp settings --path /settings/NRPE/server --key "verify mode" --set none
nscp settings --activate-module CheckExternalScripts --add-defaults
nscp settings --path "/settings/external scripts" --key "allow arguments" --set true
nscp settings --path "/settings/external scripts" --key "allow nasty characters" --set true
```

This should not produce any output, however don't be alarmed if you see some `Failed to register plugin` errors.

Open the configuration file **`nsclient.ini`** in a text editor for editing (like Notepad) to see the updated configurations.

Under the **[/modules]** section you will see the following lines:

```
NRPEServer = enabled
CheckExternalScripts = enabled
```

Under the `[/settings/NRPE/server]` section you will see the following lines:

```
allow arguments = true
allow nasty characters = true
insecure = true
verify mode = none
```

Under the `[/settings/external scripts]` section you will see the following lines:

```
allow arguments = true
allow nasty characters = true
```

What does `allow arguments`, `allow nasty characters` and `insecure` do?

- `allow arguments`
  - This allows you send options in the `check_nrpe` command, it allows for flexible monitoring configurations
- `allow nasty characters`
  - This allows the `` `&><'"\[]{} `` characters to be used in the arguments
- `insecure`
  - Version 2.15 and earlier of `check_nrpe` on the Nagios XI server use an older SSL method that has been superseded by newer technology. `check_nrpe` **v3** and newer provide more secure methods however to allow backward compatibility the insecure setting needs to be enabled in `nsclient.ini`.

**Nagios XI** | Enabling the NRPE Listener In NSClient++ 0.4.x

Restarting The NSClient++ Service

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.

Locate the NSClient++ service.

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

You can close the Services console as it's no longer required.
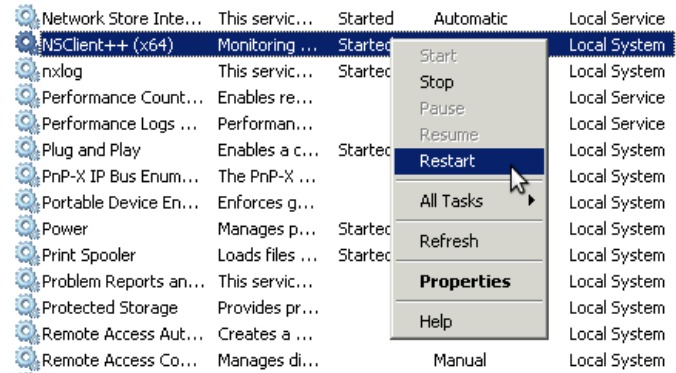
Testing On The Nagios XI Server

Log in as root to the Nagios XI Server and enter the following:

```
cd /usr/local/nagios/libexec/
./check_nrpe -H [IP of the windows system]
```

You now should see the `I seem to be doing fine...` output, verifying the test is successful.

```
[root@xi-c6x-x64 libexec]# ./check_nrpe -H 10.25.14.5
I (0.4.4.23 2016-04-05) seem to be doing fine...
```

Additional Resources

The following documents demonstrate the different ways that NRPE can be utilized.

- Integrating AutoIt With Nagios XI

- Checking For Windows Updates With Nagios XI

- Monitoring Performance Counters in Nagios Using NSClient++

- Windows Memory Usage – Physical

- How to Restart A Windows Service With NRPE

- Using Scripts / Plugins With NSClient++

- Knowledgebase Check Library

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation enabling the NRPE listener in NSClient++ 0.4.x.

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

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