

How To Exclude Hosts And Host Groups In Nagios 2024

Purpose

This document is intended for use by Nagios Administrators who would like an understanding of how to exclude hosts or host groups using Core Configuration Manager (CCM).

Overview

Excluding hosts or host groups in Configuration Manager allows for flexible monitoring configurations. A use case is when you have a common service assigned to multiple hosts. One of those hosts might not require that common service, this is where the exclude functionality is useful.

The exclude functionality applies to services, service templates, host groups, service escalations, and host escalations.

Note: The exclude capability was added in Nagios XI 5.3.0, previous versions do not include this functionality.

Common Service Example

To demonstrate how you can use the exclude functionality, here is an example of a common service that has been applied to a host group:

Host	Service	Status	Duration	Attempt	Last Check	Status Information
centos12	CPU Stats	Ok	1h 38m 11s	1/5	2017-05-01 13:04:25	CPU STATISTICS OK: user=0.00% system=0.00% iowait=0.00% idle=100.00%
centos16	CPU Stats	Critical	1m 22s	2/5	2017-05-01 13:06:04	(Return code of 255 is out of bounds)
centos19	CPU Stats	Ok	1h 32m 55s	1/5	2017-05-01 13:03:30	CPU STATISTICS OK: user=0.00% system=0.00% iowait=0.00% idle=100.00%
centos21	CPU Stats	Ok	1h 34m 28s	1/5	2017-05-01 13:01:58	CPU STATISTICS OK: user=0.00% system=0.00% iowait=0.20% idle=99.80%
centos22	CPU Stats	Ok	1h 34m 39s	1/5	2017-05-01 13:01:50	CPU STATISTICS OK: user=0.00% system=0.00% iowait=0.00% idle=100.00%

In the screenshot above you can see the service CPU Stats for the host centos16 has a critical status.

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Here is a screenshot of the service in **Configuration Manager (Monitoring > Services)**:

Service Management

The screenshot shows the 'Service Management' interface for a service named 'Common_Linux'. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Settings Tabs:** 'Common Settings' (active), 'Check Settings', 'Alert Settings', and 'Misc Settings'.
- Config Name:** 'Common_Linux'
- Description:** 'CPU Stats'
- Check command:** 'check_nrpe' (selected from a dropdown)
- Command view:** A code editor showing the command: `$USER1$/check_nrpe -H $HOSTADDRESS$ -t 30 -c $ARG1$ $ARG2$`
- Arguments:** Five input fields for arguments:
 - \$ARG1\$: 'check_cpu_stats'
 - \$ARG2\$: '-a '-w 85 -c 95''
 - \$ARG3\$: (empty)
 - \$ARG4\$: (empty)
 - \$ARG5\$: (empty)
- Management Buttons:** Four buttons are visible: 'Manage Hosts' (0), 'Manage Templates' (1), 'Manage Host Groups' (1), and 'Manage Servicegroups' (0). Blue arrows point to the 'Manage Hosts' and 'Manage Host Groups' buttons.

You can see that the **Manage Hosts** button has a number 0 which indicates that this service is not assigned to hosts directly. The **Manage Host Groups** button has a number 1 which indicates that it has been assigned to a host group. Clicking the **Manage Host Groups** button will display a popup window.

The 'Manage Host Groups' popup window shows a list of host groups on the left and an 'Assigned' list on the right.

- Filter:** 'Filter..'
- Host Groups List:** A scrollable list containing 'linux-servers', 'Linux_CPU_Stats_Exclude', 'windows-servers', and '*'. The 'windows-servers' entry has an information icon.
- Buttons:** 'Add Selected >', '+', 'Null', and 'Standard'.
- Legend:** 'Relationship defined elsewhere' (with a link icon) and 'Inactive object' (with an information icon).
- Assigned List:** A table with the following content:

Assigned	Remove All
Common_Linux	! <input type="checkbox"/> X
- Close:** A button at the bottom left.

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Here you can see that the host group **Common_Linux** is being used.

In those past four screenshots you can see how a common service was assigned to multiple hosts. A common service allows you to have one service definition applied to many hosts. If you want to adjust any of the service directives, making the change to the common service means that all the hosts will get the updated directive.

The goal of the following examples will show you how you can exclude the host **centos16** from the **CPU Stats** service.

You could simply remove the host centos16 from the **Common_Linux** group, however in this scenario the **Common_Linux** group is being used for other common services. If you were to remove the host **centos16** from the **Common_Linux** group, then all those other common services would not be assigned to the host **centos16**.

Being able to exclude a host from a service allows you to make exclusions on a case-by-case basis.

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Exclude Hosts

1. Using the CPU Stats service as an example, when editing the service in **Configuration Manager** click the **Manage Hosts** button.

The screenshot shows the 'Configuration Manager' interface for editing a service. The 'Config Name' field contains 'Common_Linux' and the 'Description' field contains 'CPU Stats'. Below these fields are four buttons: 'Manage Hosts' (circled in blue), 'Manage Templates', 'Manage Host Groups', and 'Manage Servicegroups'. Each button has a small icon and a number in a square next to it.

2. In the left pane select the **centos16** host and click the **Add Selected >** button.
3. In the right pane check the box to exclude this host from being assigned this service.
4. Click the **Close** button, **Save** the service and then **Apply Configuration**.
5. Once the apply configuration process is complete, you'll see that the CPU Stats service no longer exists for the centos16 host.

Host	Service	Status	Duration	Attempt	Last Check	Status Information
centos12	CPU Stats	Ok	2h 20m 41s	1/5	2017-05-01 13:44:25	CPU STATISTICS OK: user=0.00% system=0.00% iowait=0.00% idle=100.00%
centos19	CPU Stats	Ok	2h 15m 25s	1/5	2017-05-01 13:48:20	CPU STATISTICS OK: user=0.00% system=0.20% iowait=0.00% idle=99.80%
centos21	CPU Stats	Ok	2h 16m 58s	1/5	2017-05-01 13:46:48	CPU STATISTICS OK: user=0.00% system=0.00% iowait=0.00% idle=100.00%
centos22	CPU Stats	Ok	2h 17m 9s	1/5	2017-05-01 13:46:41	CPU STATISTICS OK: user=0.00% system=0.00% iowait=0.00% idle=100.00%

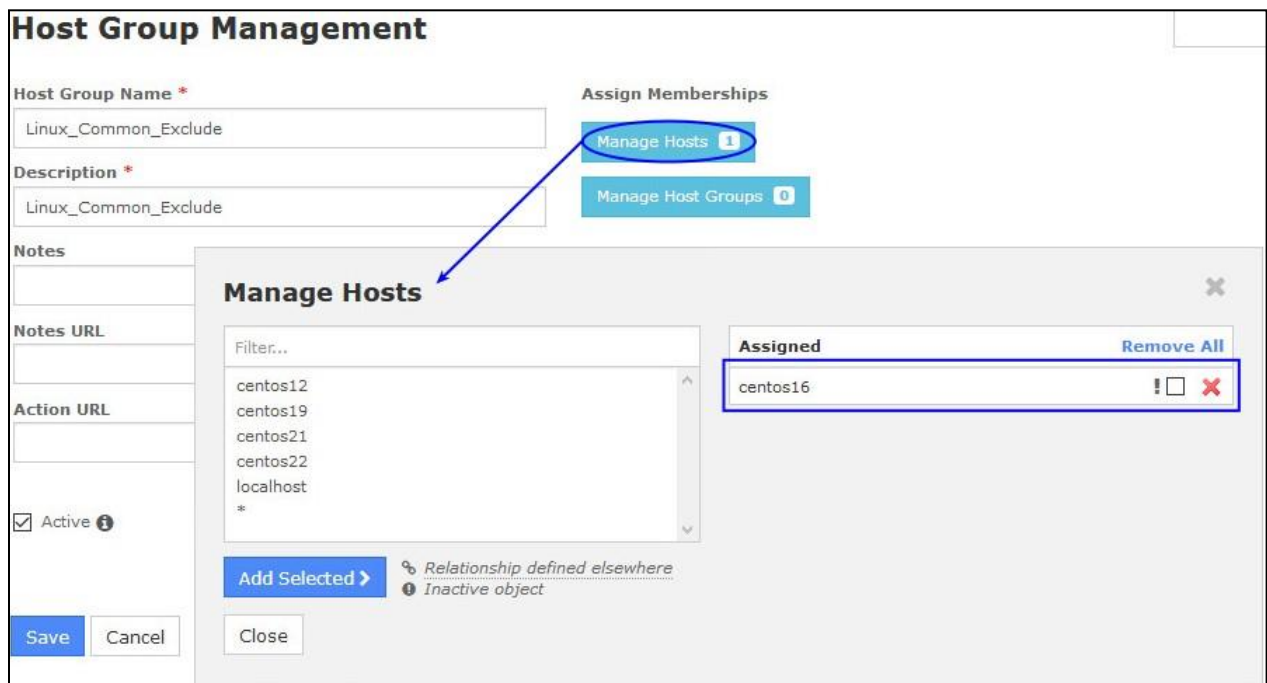
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Exclude Host Groups

The last step showed you how to exclude a specific host from a service. Another method is to put the host in a host group and exclude that host group from the service. It does the same thing however it allows for some more flexibility, any host you put in that group will be excluded and can save time, especially if that group is used for excluding other "common services".

First you need to create a host group.

1. In Configuration Manager navigate to **Monitoring > Host Groups**. The following screenshot shows the **Linux_Common_Exclude** host group that was created with the **centos16** host as a member.



2. Pay attention that the **exclude** check box has NOT been checked here, we are simply creating a group of hosts, and the exclusion will be done on the service.

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3. Edit the service and click the Manage Host Groups button.



4. In the left pane select the **Linux_Common_Exclude** host group and click the **Add Selected >** button.
5. In the right pane **check** the box to exclude this host group from being assigned to this service.
6. Click the **Close** button, **Save** the service and then **Apply Configuration**.
7. Once the apply configuration process is complete, you'll see that the **CPU Stats** service no longer exists for the **centos16** host.

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Service Templates

Hosts and host groups can also be excluded in Service Templates. The steps are identical to a service, however, take care as you will be creating dependencies. When you exclude a host in a service template, if you want to delete that host later on you will need to remove it from the service template first. It is advisable to use a host group in templates as it does not create a direct dependency.

Escalations

Hosts and service escalations can also exclude hosts and host groups. Escalations are a separate topic not covered in this documentation, please refer to the following for more information:

[Notification Escalations](#)

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on how to exclude hosts and services 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](#)