

# Using Bulk Host Cloning & Import Wizard In Nagios XI

## Purpose

This document describes how to use the Bulk Host Cloning and Import wizard allows you to easily create new hosts and services into Nagios XI using CSV formatted data.

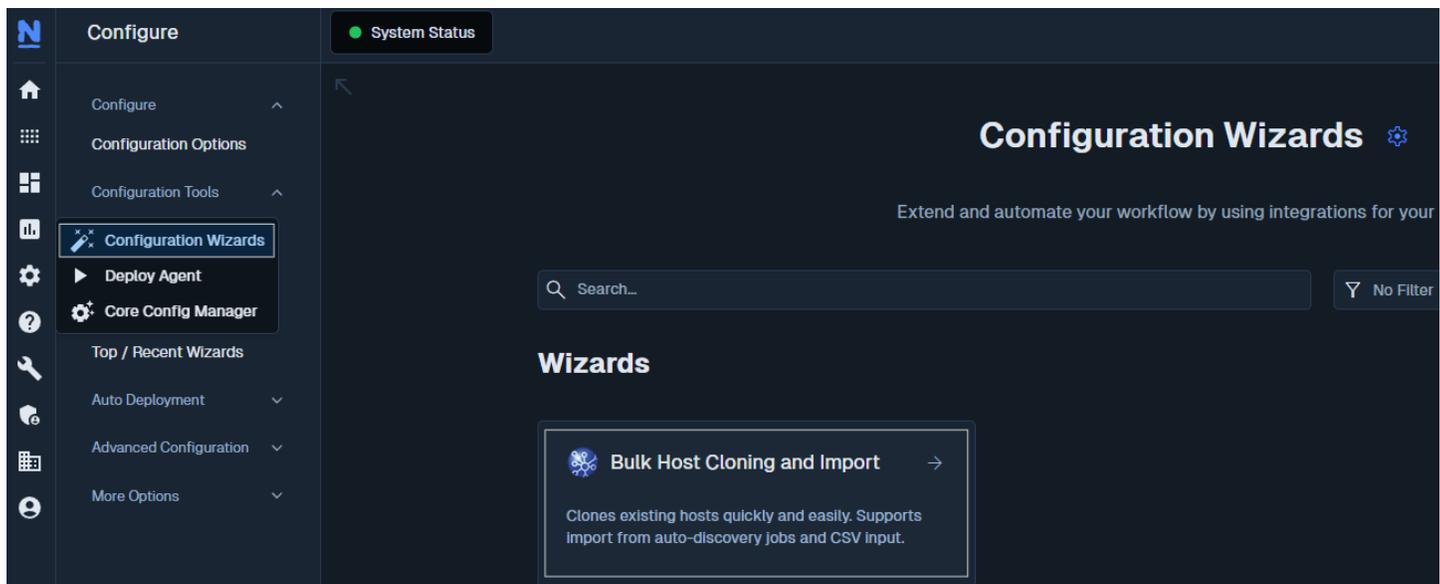
The new hosts will have services that are replicated to match an already existing host the user selects as a template. This import tool is extremely useful for large environments that want to quickly provision several hosts to be monitored in the same manner.

## Target Audience

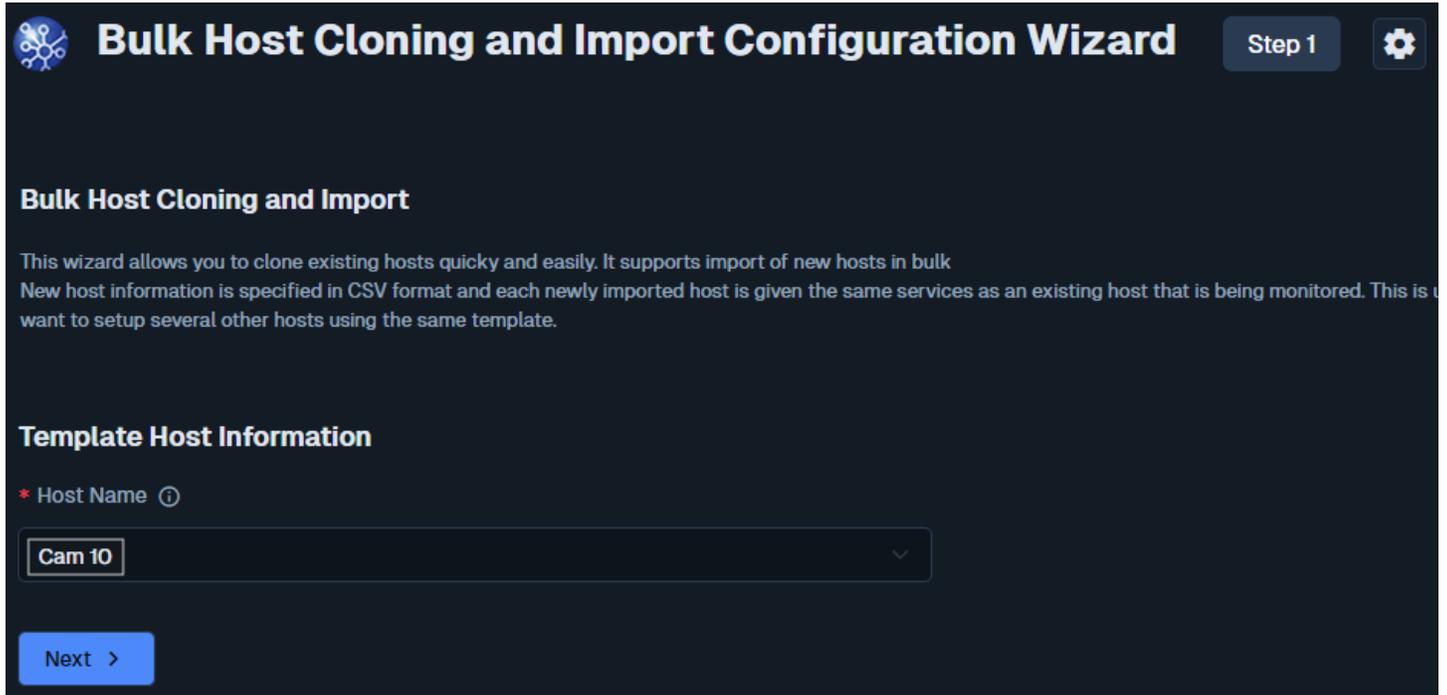
This document is intended for use by Nagios Administrators.

## Running The Configuration Wizard

1. To begin using the Bulk Host Cloning and Import wizard navigate via the top menu bar to **Configure > Configuration Wizards** and select the Bulk Host Cloning and Import wizard. In the following screenshot you can see how the search field allows you to quickly find a wizard.



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The screenshot shows the 'Bulk Host Cloning and Import Configuration Wizard' interface. At the top, there is a title bar with a gear icon, the text 'Bulk Host Cloning and Import Configuration Wizard', 'Step 1', and another gear icon. Below the title bar, the section is titled 'Bulk Host Cloning and Import'. A descriptive paragraph states: 'This wizard allows you to clone existing hosts quickly and easily. It supports import of new hosts in bulk. New host information is specified in CSV format and each newly imported host is given the same services as an existing host that is being monitored. This is useful if you want to setup several other hosts using the same template.' The 'Template Host Information' section features a label '\* Host Name' with an information icon, a dropdown menu showing 'Cam 10', and a blue 'Next >' button.

2. On Step 1 you are required to select the host that you wish to use as the template that you will clone. On the following screenshot you can see the host “Cam 10” has been selected. Click Next to continue.
3. In Step 2, the host you selected to use as the template is shown at the top.
4. All of the available services from the template host are listed under the Select Template Services section. In order to select a service, just check the box next to the service name.
5. Under the Import / Cloning Data section, the drop-down lists are the Nagios XI host object directives. These need to be mapped to each field of the CSV data that is provided in the Data text area.

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**Bulk Host Cloning and Import Configuration Wizard** Step 2

**Host Template**  
Cam 10

**Select Service Templates**  
Specify the services from the template host that should be cloned.  
 Uncheck All  
 Ping (Details)

**Import / Cloning Data**  
Setup the csv format, by choosing which fields to use, "field 1" is required.  
Enter addresses of new hosts that should be created by cloning the template host and services specified above.

Field 1: Address  
Field 2: Name  
Field 3: IGNORE  
Field 4: IGNORE  
Field 5: IGNORE  
Field 6: IGNORE

Data  
10.10.20.11, Cam 11  
10.10.20.12, Cam 12  
10.10.20.13, Cam 13

Optional  
 Replace Parent Host and/or Hostgroup, with the selected

< Back Next > Cancel

6. The Data text area is where you need to paste the CSV list of host you are creating. Looking at the screenshot you can see that Field 1 = Address and Field 2 = Name.

## Important Notes about the Import/Cloning Data section:

- You only need the one field, the Address field, to successfully clone your template host to the list of hosts you provide. However, you can add additional information in other fields if you have that information. Ensure that the data is separated by commas (ex. 192.999.999.99, Test Host, Test Group).

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- All cloned Hosts must be of the same type as the template Host. (i.e. Linux server to Linux servers, Windows server to Windows servers).
  - All cloned Hosts must have the necessary monitoring agent (if applicable). Ex. If the template host is using NCPA as a monitoring agent, then the clone hosts must have NCPA as well.
7. Check the Replace Parent Host / Hostgroup option if you want the Parent Host and / or Hostgroup data you input in the Data field to override the Parent Host and Hostgroup of the Host template.
  8. Click Next to continue.
  9. The remaining wizard steps have no settings, any options that are normally available in for these steps in Configuration Wizards will be inherited from the template host and services you selected. You can click Finish on any of the steps or click Next on each step and click Apply on the final step.



## Bulk Host Cloning and Import Configuration Wizard

Step 3

### Monitoring Settings

Monitoring options will be inherited from the template host and services you selected. Click Next to continue.

[< Back](#) [Next >](#) [Finish with Defaults](#)



## Bulk Host Cloning and Import Configuration Wizard

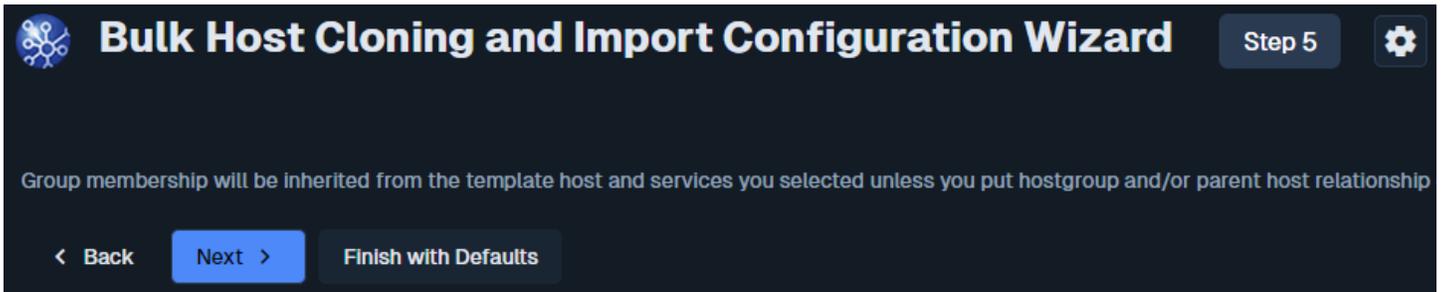
Step 4

### Notification Settings

Notification options will be inherited from the template host and services you selected. Click Next to continue.

[< Back](#) [Next >](#) [Finish with Defaults](#)

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**Bulk Host Cloning and Import Configuration Wizard** Step 5

Group membership will be inherited from the template host and services you selected unless you put hostgroup and/or parent host relationship

< Back Next > Finish with Defaults



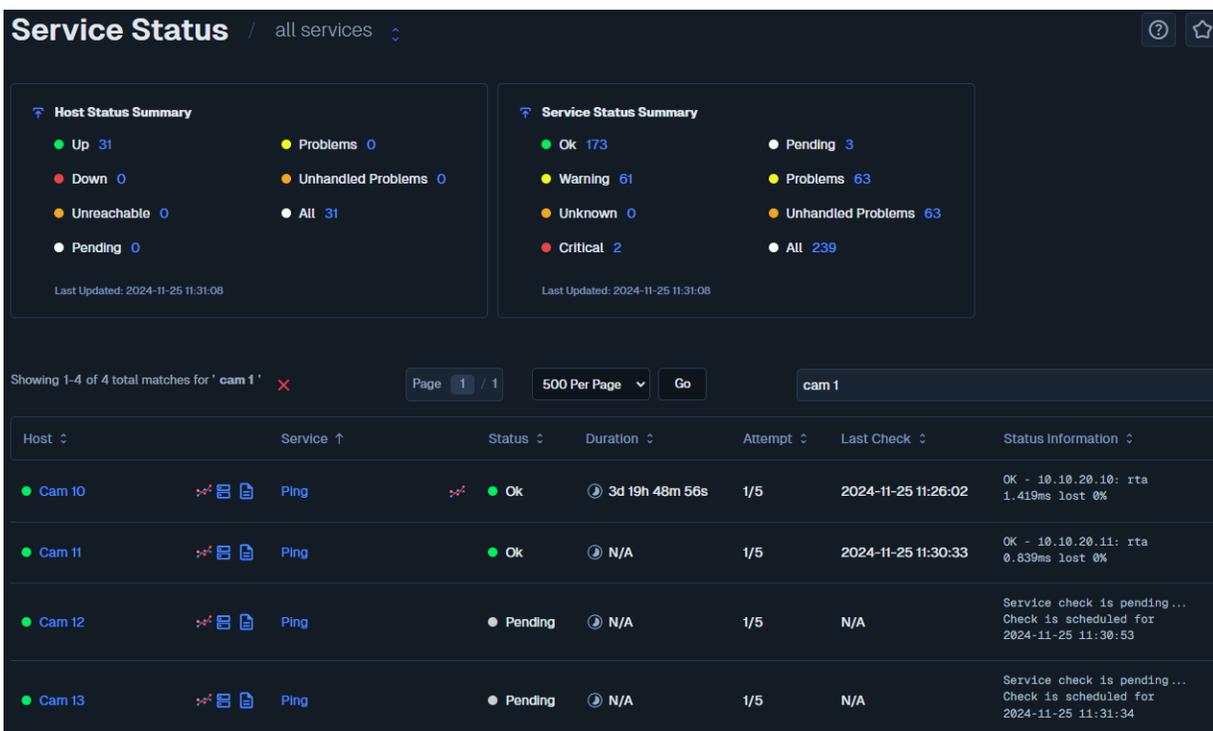
**Bulk Host Cloning and Import Configuration Wizard** Final Step

### Final Settings

Click **Finish & Apply** to add your new configuration.

< Back Finish & Apply Save as Template

10. Once the configuration wizard has completed you will now be monitoring the objects you provided in your CSV data. The following screenshot shows the newly monitored host and services based on the data provided on step 2 (as well as the original host.)



**Service Status** / all services

**Host Status Summary**

- Up 31
- Down 0
- Unreachable 0
- Pending 0
- Problems 0
- Unhandled Problems 0
- All 31

Last Updated: 2024-11-25 11:31:08

**Service Status Summary**

- Ok 173
- Warning 61
- Unknown 0
- Critical 2
- Pending 3
- Problems 63
- Unhandled Problems 63
- All 239

Last Updated: 2024-11-25 11:31:08

Showing 1-4 of 4 total matches for 'cam 1'

Page 1 / 1 500 Per Page Go cam 1

Host	Service	Status	Duration	Attempt	Last Check	Status Information
Cam 10	Ping	Ok	3d 19h 48m 56s	1/5	2024-11-25 11:26:02	OK - 10.10.20.10: rta 1.419ms lost 0%
Cam 11	Ping	Ok	N/A	1/5	2024-11-25 11:30:33	OK - 10.10.20.11: rta 0.839ms lost 0%
Cam 12	Ping	Pending	N/A	1/5	N/A	Service check is pending ... Check is scheduled for 2024-11-25 11:30:53
Cam 13	Ping	Pending	N/A	1/5	N/A	Service check is pending ... Check is scheduled for 2024-11-25 11:31:34

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## Host Group Membership

The host group membership(s) will only be inherited when they are defined on the host object. In the screenshot below, you can see how the Cam 10 host is a member of the Security Cams host group when editing the host object. This membership will be inherited by the configuration wizard.

The screenshot displays the Nagios XI Host Management interface. The main panel shows the configuration for a host named "Cam 10". The "Host Name" field is filled with "Cam 10", and the "Address" field is filled with "10.10.20.10". The "Active" checkbox is checked. Below the main configuration, there are three buttons: "Manage Parents" (0), "Manage Templates" (1), and "Manage Host Groups" (1), which is highlighted with a red box. To the right, the "Check command" dropdown is set to "No command selected", and a list of arguments (\$ARG1\$ through \$ARG6\$) is visible.

The "Manage Host Groups" modal window is open, showing a list of host groups on the left and an "Assigned" list on the right. The "Assigned" list contains "Security Cams", which is highlighted with a red box. The modal also includes a "Filter..." field, a "Close" button, and a legend for "Relationship defined elsewhere" and "Inactive object".

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In the screenshot below, you can see how the Cam 10 host is a member of the Security Cams host group when editing the host group. This membership will not be inherited by the configuration wizard.

The screenshot displays the 'Host Group Management' interface in Nagios XI. The main form is for editing the 'Security Cams' host group. It includes fields for 'Host Group Name' (Security Cams), 'Alias' (IPCAM), 'Notes', 'Notes URL', and 'Action URL'. There are also 'Assign Memberships' buttons: 'Manage Hosts 1' and 'Manage Host Groups 0'. The 'Active' checkbox is checked. Below the main form, a 'Manage Hosts' modal window is open, showing a list of hosts on the left and an 'Assigned' list on the right. The 'Assigned' list contains 'Cam 10'. The 'Add Selected' button is visible at the bottom of the modal.

## Limitations

The Bulk Host Import Wizard cannot clone properly some types of service checks, that rely on other applications. For example, you cannot clone a host, created by running the Network Switch/Router Wizard or Web Transaction Wizard, because they rely on MRTG and WebInject.

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## Possible Issues

**Issue:** “No template services selected” error in Step 2 of the wizard.

**Solution:** Selecting at least one service is required, in order to continue.

**Issue:** Apply Configuration fails with: “Error: Service description, host name, or check command is NULL. Error: Could not register service...”.

**Solution:** Make sure that your “template” (the host you are trying to clone) has the same config name for host and services. If you renamed host/services they may be different. In this case the wizard will fail with above listed error message.

**Issue:** Alias is not inherited, so under Host Status Detail you see: “Alias: alias”.

**Solution:** Alias is not inherited by default – you need to define an alias (description) in the Step 2 of the wizard.

**Issue:** Hostgroup relationship is not inherited.

**Solution:** Define hostgroup members under the “Host Management”, NOT under the “Host Group Management” in the Configuration Manager. Please refer to the [Host Group Membership](#) section for detailed information on this.

## Tips

First, before you even start the Bulk Host Import Wizard, double check the host that you are about to clone. Make sure it is set up properly and run the Write Config Tool to make sure that you don't have any config errors (**CCM > Tools > Config File Management**).

Next, run the wizard but clone your host only a few times, just to make sure you are not going to run into some unexpected issues.

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Even if cloning of your host is successful, it is very difficult to undo what you've done and start "clean", in case you forgot something (add a service, change alias, etc.), especially if you created 500+ new hosts! If you have the Nagios XI Enterprise license then you could use the Bulk Modifications Tool (Configuration Manager > Tools) to make mass changes, otherwise you may have to delete all the objects and start again.

If you are going to create a huge number of hosts, using the Bulk Host Import Wizard, you may run into some time-out issues. To avoid that, you can adjust some limits in the `/etc/php.ini` file. Open the file in a text editor:

```
vi /etc/php.ini
```

Increase the values under the "Resource Limits" section according to your needs and system specifications. You may have to modify these lines:

```
max_execution_time =  
max_input_time =  
memory_limit =
```

Also, you can add the following line on the bottom of the file:

```
max_input_vars = 100000
```

Save and close the file. Restart apache, so that the changes can take effect:

```
service httpd restart
```

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## Finishing Up

This completes how to use the Bulk Cloning wizard in Nagios XI.

For more information on wizards: [Configuration Wizards](#)

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>