Nagios XI 2024 – How To Import Config Files From Core

Purpose

This document describes how to how to migrate and import Nagios Core configuration files into Nagios XI. Importing configuration files is only required in instances where administrators wish to import configurations from existing Nagios Core installations. Importing configuration files automates setting up your existing **Hosts, Services**, **Hostgroups, Servicegroups** and **Host/Service Templates** in your Nagios XI installation.

Preparing To Import

Before importing existing Nagios Core configuration files into Nagios XI, it is recommended that you use the Nagios XI config import prep tool. Information on using this tool can be found in the following documentation: Using The XI Config Import Prep Tool

Example Import

In this example we are going to import a command, hostgroup, host and service … in that order. Here are the example configs that were saved in the `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/orig/` directory:

```
windows_example_command.cfg
    define command  {
    command_name         check_nrpeversion
    command_line         $USER1$/check_nrpe  -H  $HOSTADDRESS$
    }

windows_example_hostgroup.cfg
    define hostgroup  {
    hostgroup_name  Windows-Common
    alias           Windows-Common
    }
```


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```
windows_example_host.cfg
   define host  {
   use        windows-server
   host_name  server01
   address    10.25.14.52
   hostgroups      -Common
   }
windows_example_service.cfg
   define service  {
   use                  generic-service
   hostgroup_name       Windows-Common
   service_description       NSClient++ Version
   check_command        check_nrpeversion
   }
```

After running the `xiprepimport.php` tool, the files will be saved into the `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/` directory. All the files will have the same name however the `windows_example_service.cfg` will be empty and another file was created called `_multiple_hosts.cfg` with the content of the `windows_example_service.cfg`.

The purpose of the configs above is to demonstrate the need to import the configurations in a specific order. The host is a member of the hostgroup **Windows-Common** and the service is assigned to the hostgroup **Windows-Common**, hence the hostgroup **Windows-Common** will need to be imported before the host or service object.

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Navigating to the Core Config Manager (Configuration Manager)

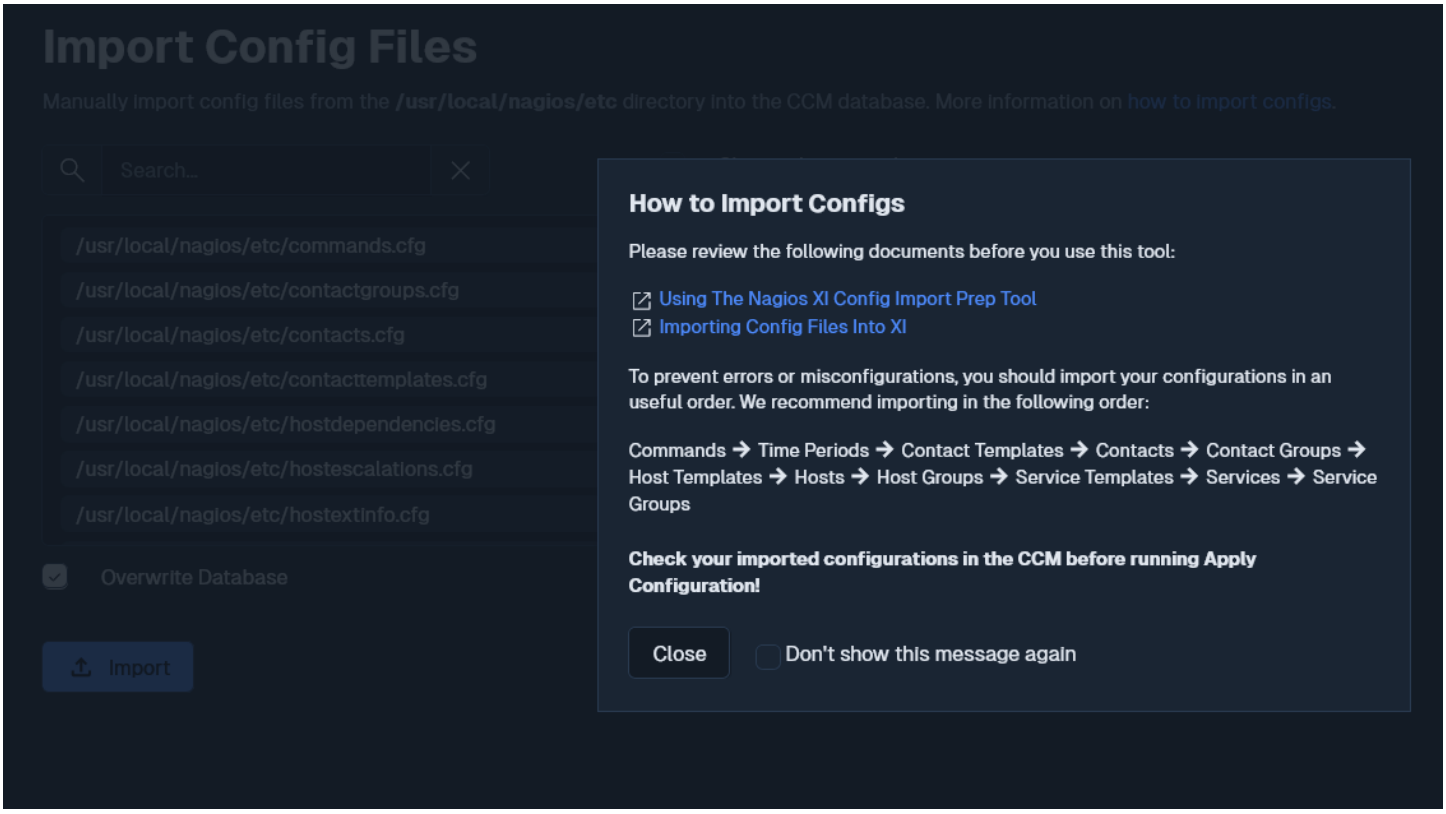
To access **Configuration Manager**:

- Hover over the **Configure** button in the left menu bar you can select **Core Config Manager**

Importing Configuration Files

Access the import interface by selecting the **Import Config Files** menu option under **Tools**.

When you first navigate here you are presented with the popup message that explains the order in which configuration files need to be imported. Our example will do **Command > Hostgroup > Host > Service** however we are doing host and hostgroup in the opposite order. What is important is that for the object you are importing, any other objects it uses in it's configuration need to exist. In our example the host is added to a hostgroup and hence the hostgroup needs to exist first.



Click **Close** when you've finished reading the message.

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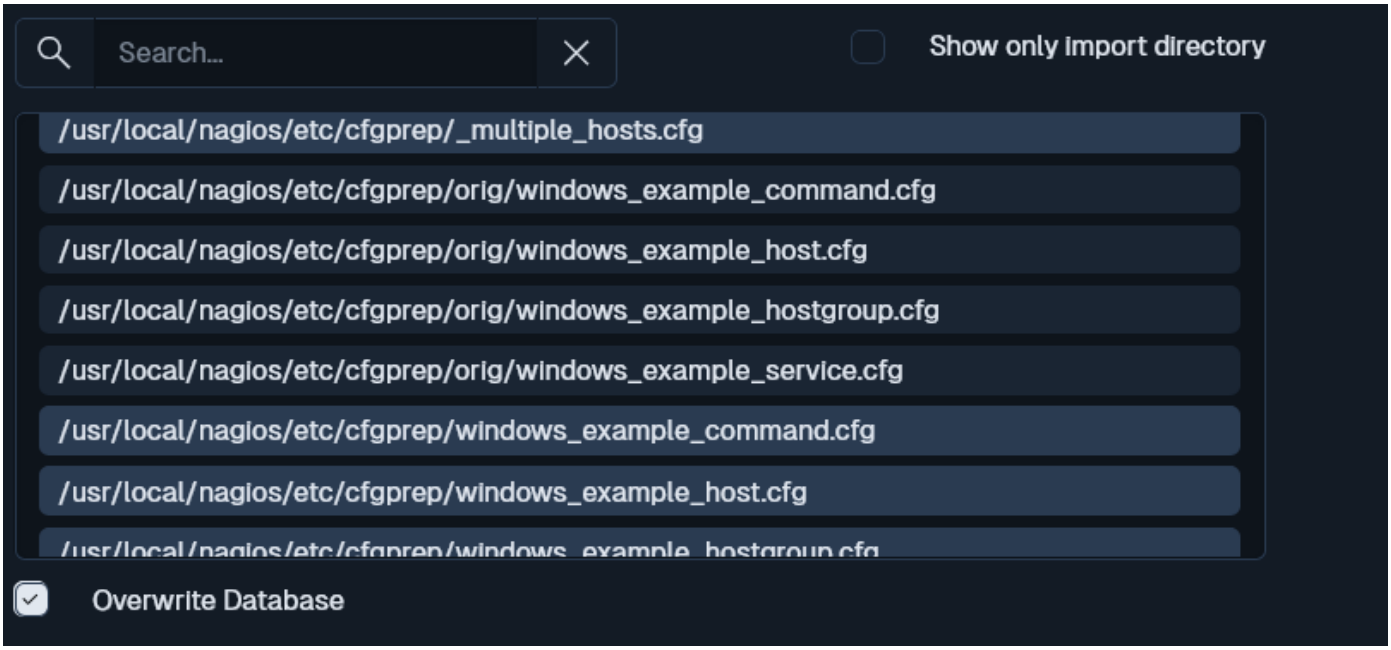
Here you can see a list of files available for import, you can see the ones highlighted are the ones being imported in this example.



The import interface will allow you to import one or more configuration files, you can use **CTRL** or **SHIFT** on the keyboard to assist selecting multiple files. In this example we will be importing the files one at a time.

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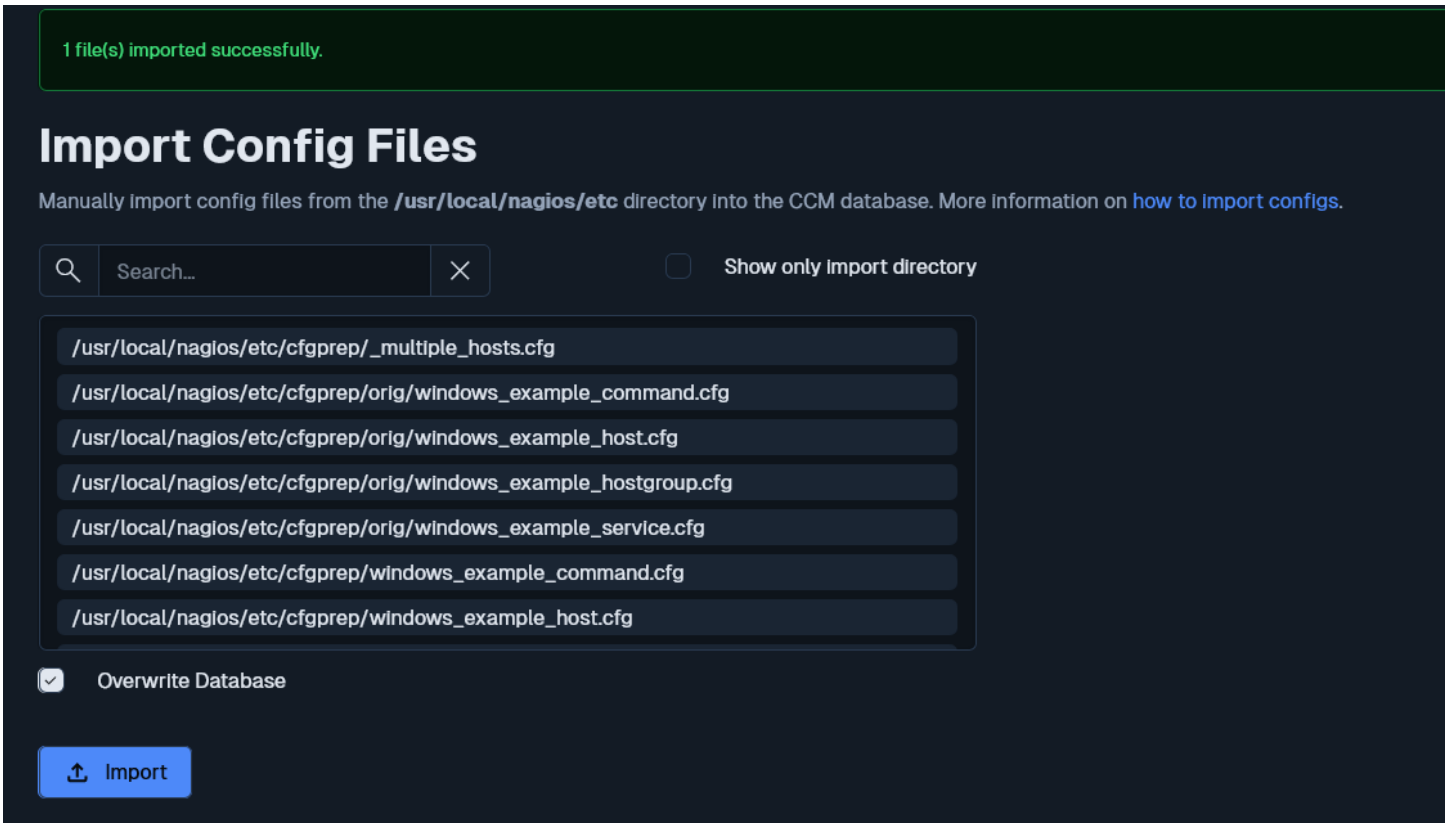
Note: Only import configuration files that have been created in a special sub-directory, specifically for the purpose of importing. Typically, the config files to be imported have been placed in the `/usr/local/nagios/etc/cfgprep/` directory after being processed by the Nagios XI config prep import tool (you can also see the original files listed in the `orig` directory.)



The first file to import will be: `cfgprep/windows_example_command.cfg`

1. Select the **file** and click the **Import** button.
2. Once the import is complete you will receive a success message.

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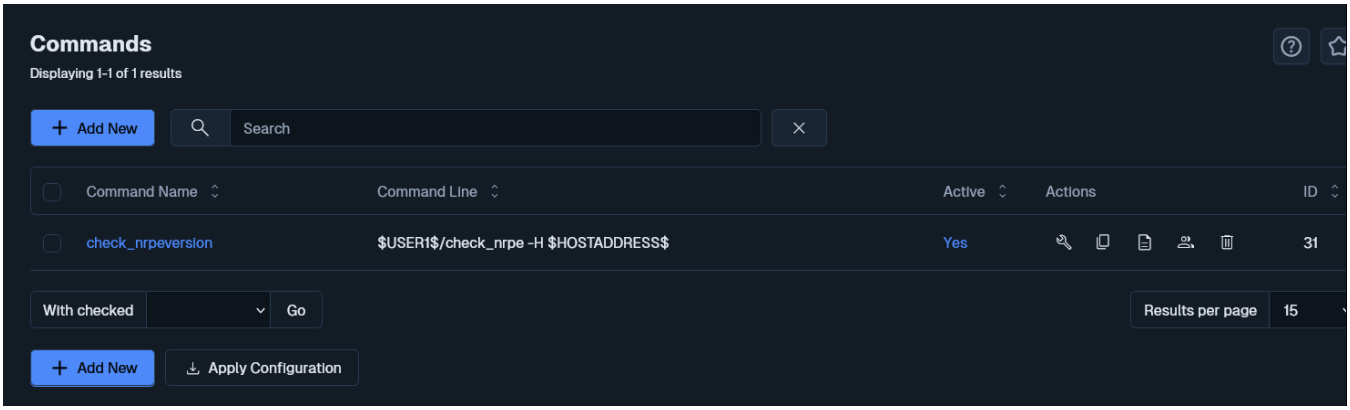
3. After importing an object it's always good to check to make sure it was imported as expected. In **Configuration Manager** navigate to **Commands** and search for `check_nrpeversion` and you should see the following:



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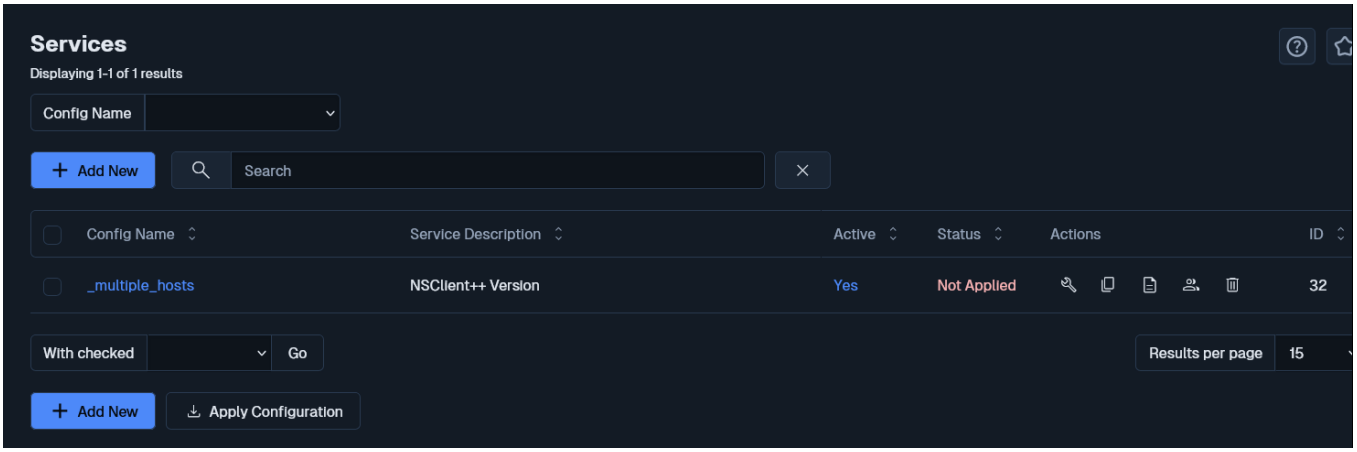
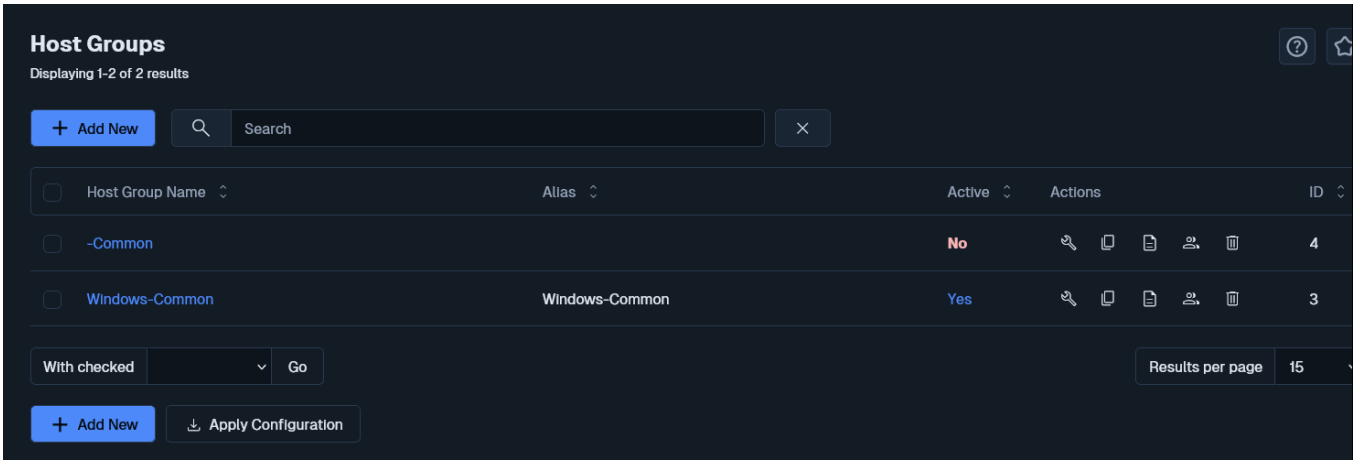
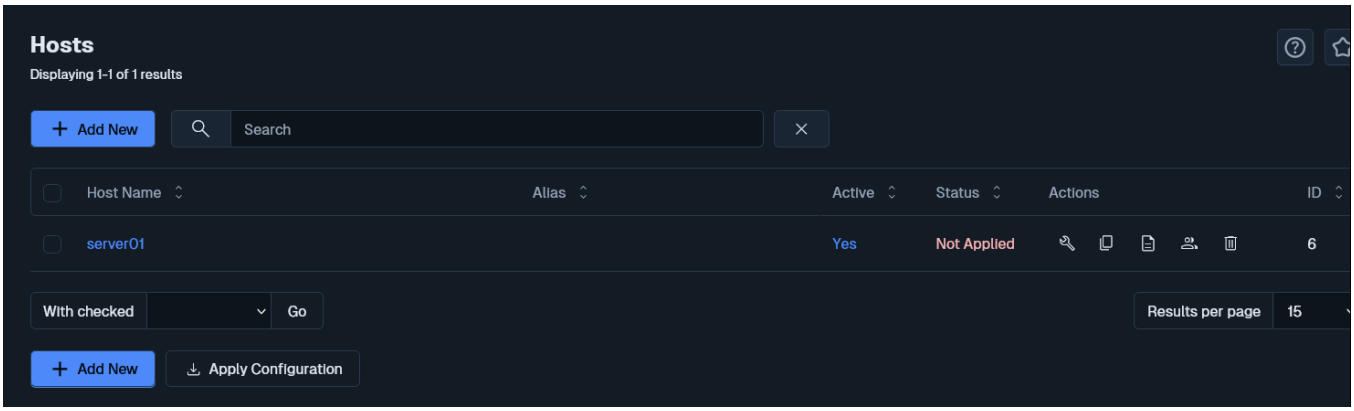
4. Repeat the above import steps for `cfgprep/windows_example_hostgroup.cfg`, `cfgprep/windows_example_host.cfg`, `cfgprep/_multiple_hosts.cfg` and you should see the new objects created.







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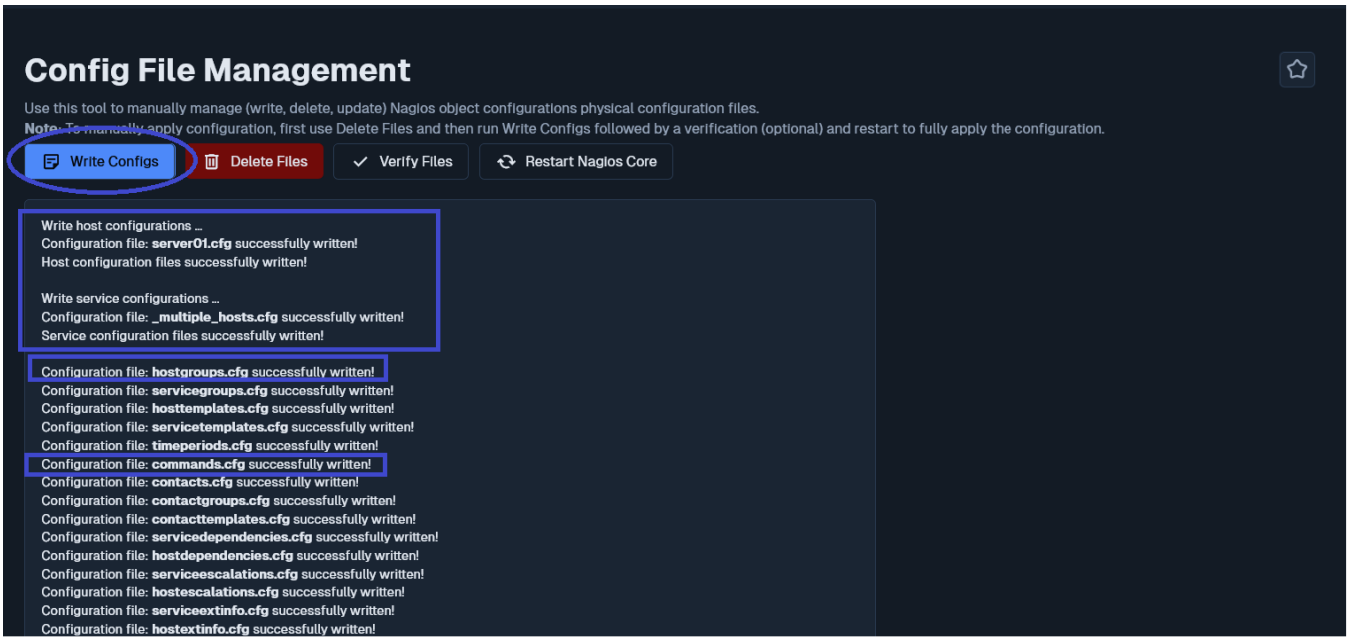
Post Import Actions

Once you've imported all the necessary Nagios Core configuration files, before **Applying Configuration** it's best to validate that the configuration files are valid.

1. In **Configuration Manager**, expand **Tools** and select **Config File Management**.

2. Click the **Write Configs** button to create / update the config files on the Nagios XI server. You can see in the screenshot that the host and service config files were created and the existing hostgroups and commands config files were updated.



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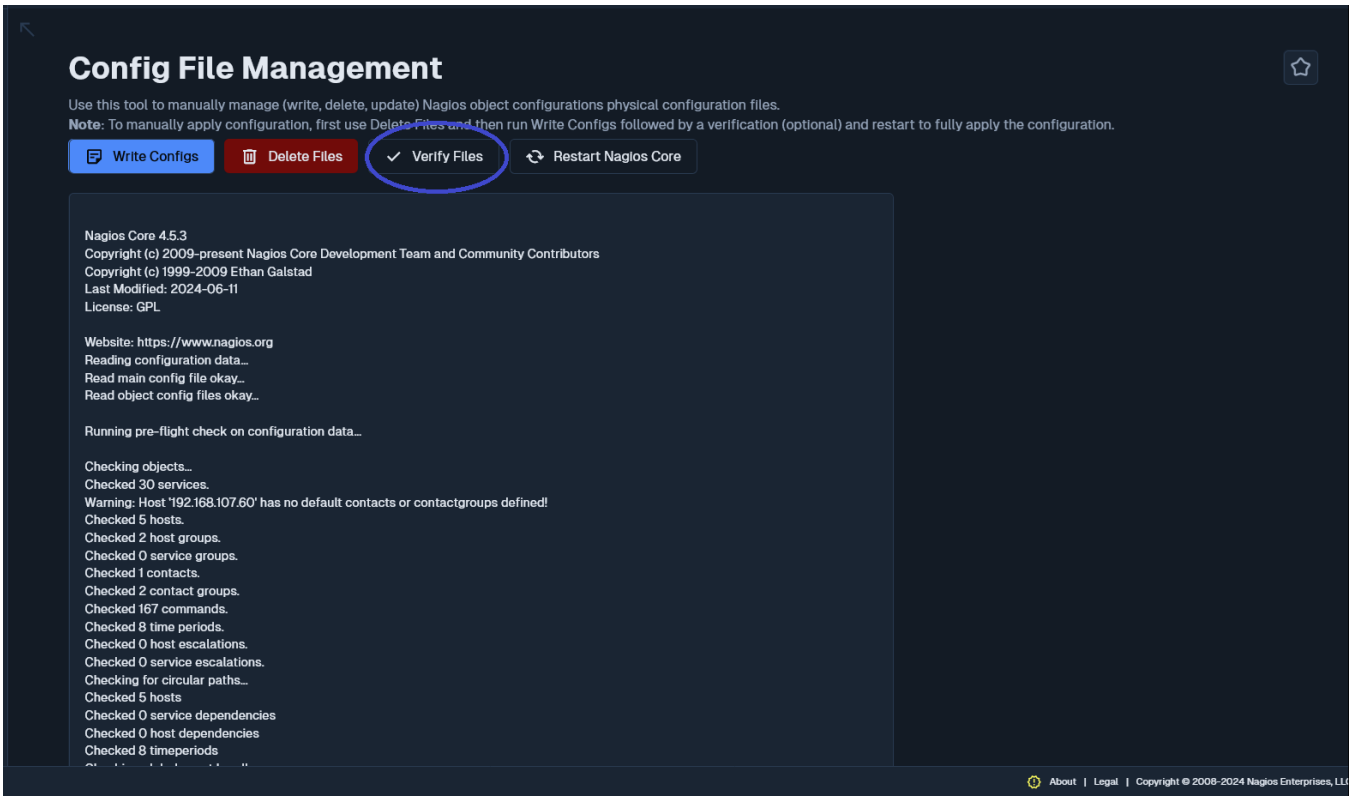

3. Now click the **Verify Files** button.
4. Check the output for an error messages. If there are any **CRITICAL** error messages the background color will be red. Error messages will indicate problems that are encountered in the config objects and will be clearly identified.
5. Resolve any config problems by going to the respective configuration area in **Configuration Manager** and fix the issues that are highlighted. Retry the write / verify process until the verify is successful.
6. On the screenshot you can see some **WARNING** messages however these are for some other objects that existed before we attempted an import. We can assume all is **OK** with the objects imported as they are not shown in the output.

The final line tells us that things look okay.

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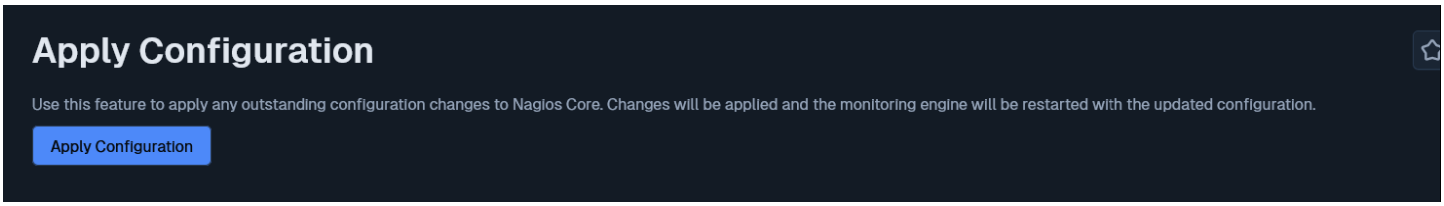
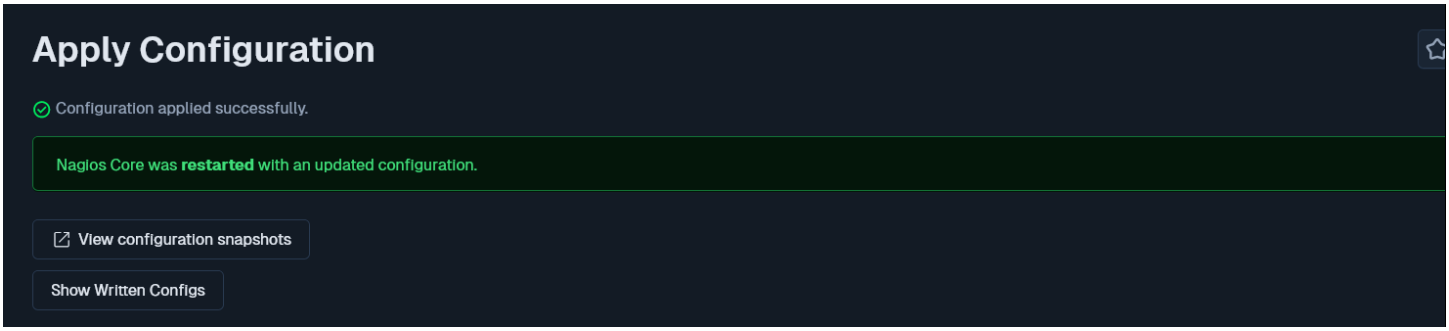
Apply Configuration

Once you have successfully verified the configuration, it is recommended that you use the **Apply Configuration** function to restart Nagios core with the new configuration. You can access this option by selecting the **Apply Configuration** menu item and clicking the **Apply Configuration** button.



After the configuration is successfully applied, you will see a confirmation message that the configuration was updated and Nagios Core successfully restarted.



The apply configuration features will perform the following steps:

- Export the database configuration to disk
- Verify the configuration files
- Restart Nagios Core
- Create a new configuration snapshot

NOTE: Another option is to use the **Restart Nagios Core** button on the **Config File Management** page. However, this option will not create a snapshot like the **Apply Configuration** button, which is why we recommend the **Apply Configuration** option.

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Other Steps

Additional steps may be required once you finish importing Nagios Core configuration files into Nagios XI. These steps may include:

- Uploading missing plugins or event handlers to Nagios XI
- Creating user accounts in Nagios XI

For more information on these topics, refer to the documentation Migrating from Nagios Core to Nagios XI: Migrating From Nagios Core To Nagios XI

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on importing Nagios Core Config Files. If you have additional questions or other support-related questions, please visit us at our Nagios Support Forum, Nagios Knowledge Base, or Nagios Library:

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