

How To Install The Linux NRPE Agent In Nagios XI 2024 And 2026

Purpose

This document describes how to install the Linux NRPE monitoring agent on target RHEL, CentOS, Fedora, Oracle Linux, CloudLinux, SLES, OpenSUSE, Ubuntu, and Debian Linux servers.

Important Note: we highly recommend using NCPA (Nagios Cross-Platform Agent) rather than NRPE. Although NRPE can be useful for legacy operating systems, or in cases where you already have NRPE installed on many machines, NCPA is the best option. It provides enhanced capabilities such as a check API, a web GUI, cross-platform support, active and passive capabilities, and smart wizards which scan target hosts for drives, services, and processes during configuration. NCPA is regularly updated and improved by the Nagios development team. You can find the NCPA installation instructions at <https://assets.nagios.com/downloads/ncpa/docs/Installing-NCPA.pdf>.

Supported Distributions

The Linux agent installation is currently supported on

- RHEL/CentOS/Oracle Linux/CloudLinux 5+
- Fedora 14+
- SLES 11+
- OpenSUSE 11+
- Ubuntu 12+
- Debian 6+.

Installing The Agent

1. Download the Linux NRPE agent to the home directory on the Linux server you wish to monitor.

```
cd ~  
wget https://assets.nagios.com/downloads/nagiosxi/agents/linux-nrpe-agent.tar.gz
```

2. Extract the downloaded archive and change into the extracted directory:

```
tar xzf linux-nrpe-agent.tar.gz  
cd linux-nrpe-agent
```

3. Run the wrapper script as **root** (add `sudo` to the front of the command on Ubuntu if necessary):

```
./fullinstall
```

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Install Notes:

- You can specify an installation mode using the `-m` flag:
 - **xinetd** mode: Installs NRPE under the xinetd init system
 - **daemon** mode: Installs NRPE under systemd.
- Newer distributions (e.g., CentOS Stream 9) may not include an xinetd package. In such cases, installation will default to daemon mode.
- When upgrading the XI Linux Agent on previously-monitored systems, you may need to remove the existing xinetd or systemd configuration if you changed modes across upgrades.

What the Installation Script Does:

The `fullinstall` script automates several key steps, including:

- Modifying the distro's package manager repositories
- Installing prerequisite packages
- Creating required users and groups
- Defining services for xinetd
- Compiling and installing the agent and plugins
- Configuring the firewall
- Configuring the agent

During installation, you will be prompted to enter the IP address(es) of your Nagios monitoring server(s). You can specify:

- a single address
- a list of addresses separated only by spaces
- a subnet using CIDR notation like `10.25.0.0/16`.

These addresses will be added to the xinetd configuration, allowing only authorized Nagios servers communicate with the NRPE agent.

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on how to install Linux NRPE agent. If you have additional questions or other support-related questions, please visit the Nagios Support Forum, Nagios Documentation Hub, or Nagios Library:

[Visit Nagios Support Forum](#)

[Visit Documentation Hub](#)

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