

How to Manage And Restore Config Snapshots in Nagios XI 2026

Purpose

Each time you make monitoring configuration changes by running a monitoring wizard or editing configs in the Core Config Manager (CCM), and Apply Configuration, a Configuration Snapshot is taken automatically. Snapshots can be reviewed to investigate changes, archived at will, and rolled back to in case there are issues with new settings and you wish to restore a previous good config.

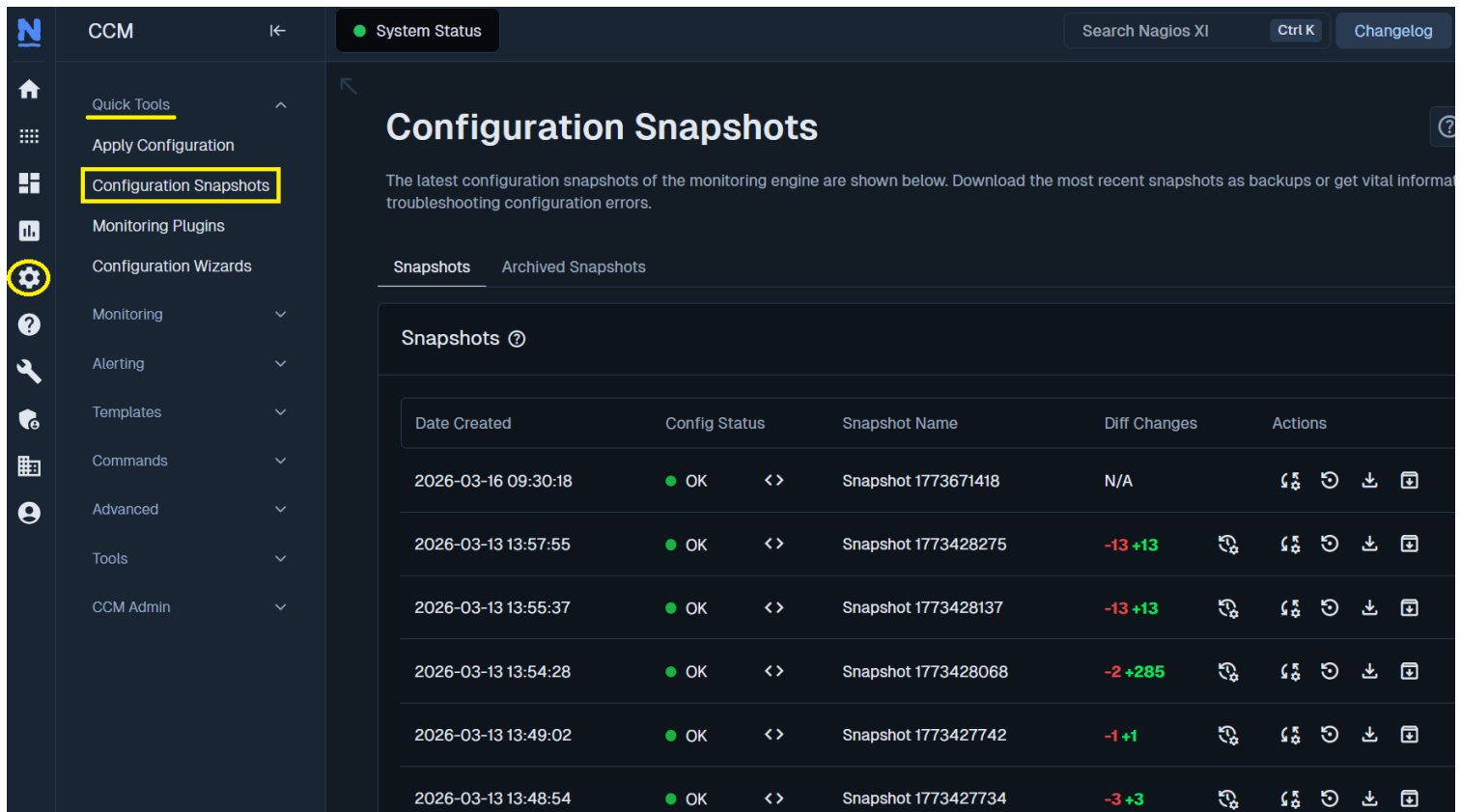
This document describes how to manage Configuration Snapshots in Nagios XI, including details on how to restore, download, archive, and view the differences between them.

If you're seeking a method for backing up and restoring the entire XI application, rather than simply your monitoring configs, please refer to this guide:

[Backing Up and Restoring Nagios XI](#)

Finding Configuration Snapshots

To begin, navigate to **Configure > Core Config Manager > Quick Tools > Configuration Snapshots**:



The screenshot shows the Nagios XI interface for Configuration Snapshots. The left sidebar has 'Configuration Snapshots' highlighted. The main content area shows a table of snapshots with columns for Date Created, Config Status, Snapshot Name, Diff Changes, and Actions.

Date Created	Config Status	Snapshot Name	Diff Changes	Actions
2026-03-16 09:30:18	OK	Snapshot 1773671418	N/A	[Icons]
2026-03-13 13:57:55	OK	Snapshot 1773428275	-13 +13	[Icons]
2026-03-13 13:55:37	OK	Snapshot 1773428137	-13 +13	[Icons]
2026-03-13 13:54:28	OK	Snapshot 1773428068	-2 +285	[Icons]
2026-03-13 13:49:02	OK	Snapshot 1773427742	-1 +1	[Icons]
2026-03-13 13:48:54	OK	Snapshot 1773427734	-3 +3	[Icons]

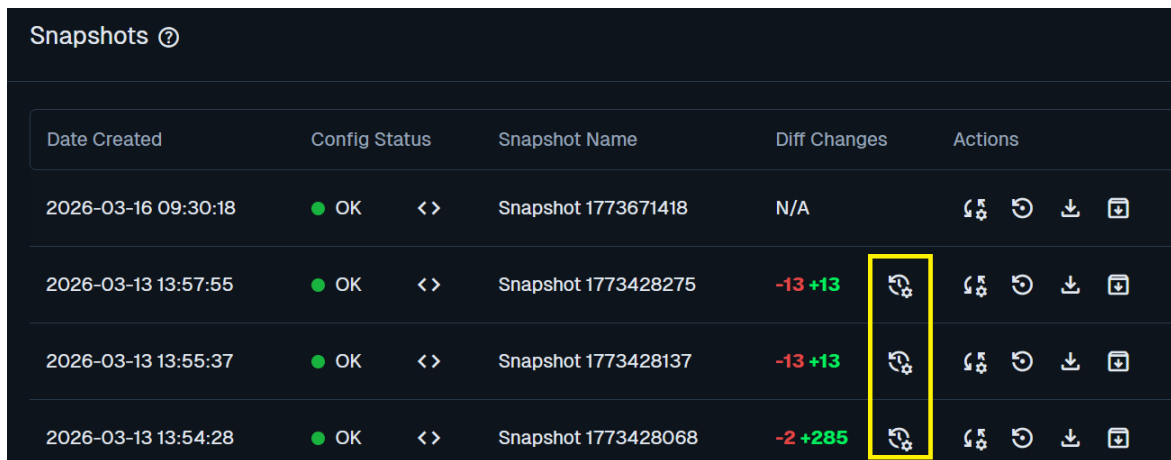
How to Manage And Restore Config Snapshots in Nagios XI 2026

Managing Snapshots

In the **Configuration Snapshots** menu, you can view a directory of recent Snapshots (a rolling list of the last 10 successful and 10 error snapshots is automatically kept), and carry out various actions.

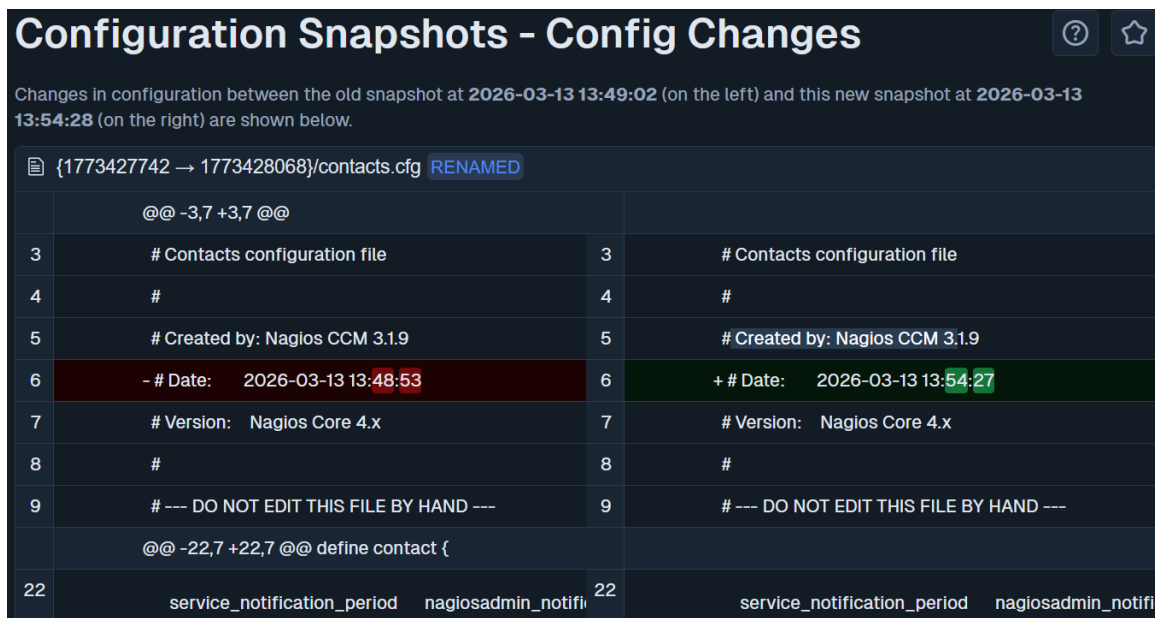
Viewing Changes Between Target Config and Previous

To view a diff of config changes between a snapshot and the one before it, click the **View Diff** icon:



Date Created	Config Status	Snapshot Name	Diff Changes	Actions
2026-03-16 09:30:18	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773671418	N/A	
2026-03-13 13:57:55	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773428275	-13 +13	
2026-03-13 13:55:37	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773428137	-13 +13	
2026-03-13 13:54:28	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773428068	-2 +285	

This will open a page showing changes between the previous snapshot and the selected snapshot:



Configuration Snapshots - Config Changes

Changes in configuration between the old snapshot at 2026-03-13 13:49:02 (on the left) and this new snapshot at 2026-03-13 13:54:28 (on the right) are shown below.

{1773427742 → 1773428068}/contacts.cfg **RENAMED**




















@@ -3,7 +3,7 @@			
3	# Contacts configuration file	3	# Contacts configuration file
4	#	4	#
5	# Created by: Nagios CCM 3.1.9	5	# Created by: Nagios CCM 3.1.9
6	- # Date: 2026-03-13 13:48:53	6	+ # Date: 2026-03-13 13:54:27
7	# Version: Nagios Core 4.x	7	# Version: Nagios Core 4.x
8	#	8	#
9	# --- DO NOT EDIT THIS FILE BY HAND ---	9	# --- DO NOT EDIT THIS FILE BY HAND ---
@@ -22,7 +22,7 @@ define contact {			
22	service_notification_period nagiosadmin_notifi	22	service_notification_period nagiosadmin_notifi

How to Manage And Restore Config Snapshots in Nagios XI 2026

Viewing Changes Between a Target Snapshot and Current Snapshot

To view a diff of config changes between a snapshot and the *currently running* config, click the **View Changes** icon:

Snapshots ⓘ















Date Created	Config Status	Snapshot Name	Diff Changes	Actions
2026-03-16 09:30:18	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773671418	N/A	   
2026-03-13 13:57:55	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773428275	-13 +13 	   
2026-03-13 13:55:37	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773428137	-13 +13 	   
2026-03-13 13:54:28	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773428068	-2 +285 	   

Restoring Snapshots

Warning: This is a destructive process and will remove any changes that were implemented in CCM since the configuration snapshot was taken.

To restore a previous snapshot, first click the **Restore** icon:

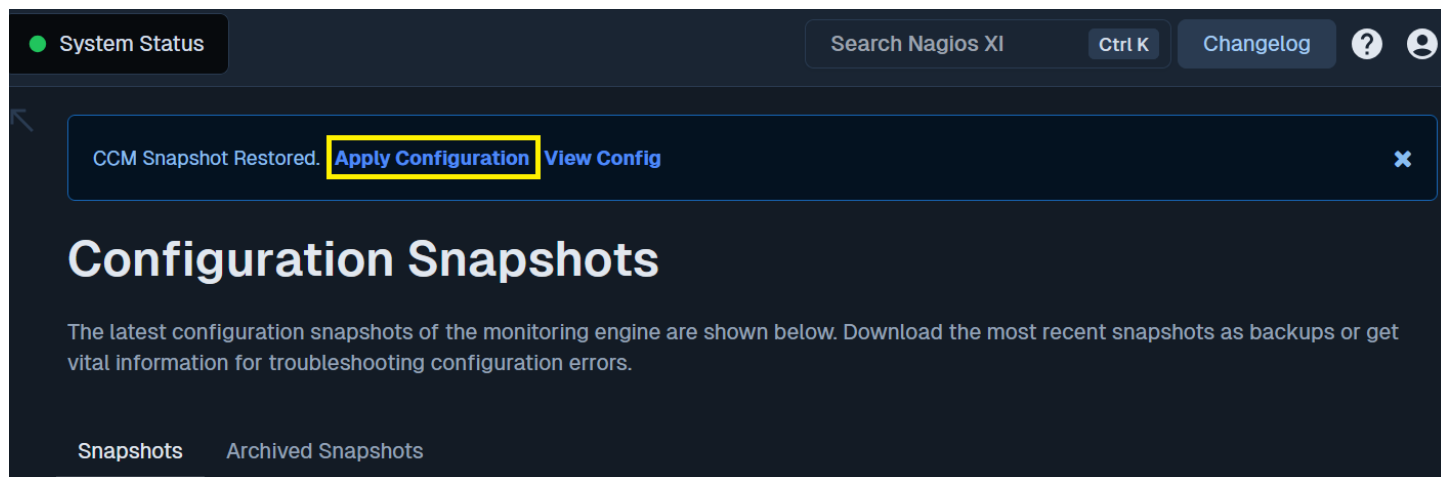
Snapshots ⓘ

Date Created	Config Status	Snapshot Name	Diff Changes	Actions
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2026-03-13 13:57:55	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773428275	-13 +13 	   
2026-03-13 13:55:37	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773428137	-13 +13 	   

How to Manage And Restore Config Snapshots in Nagios XI 2026

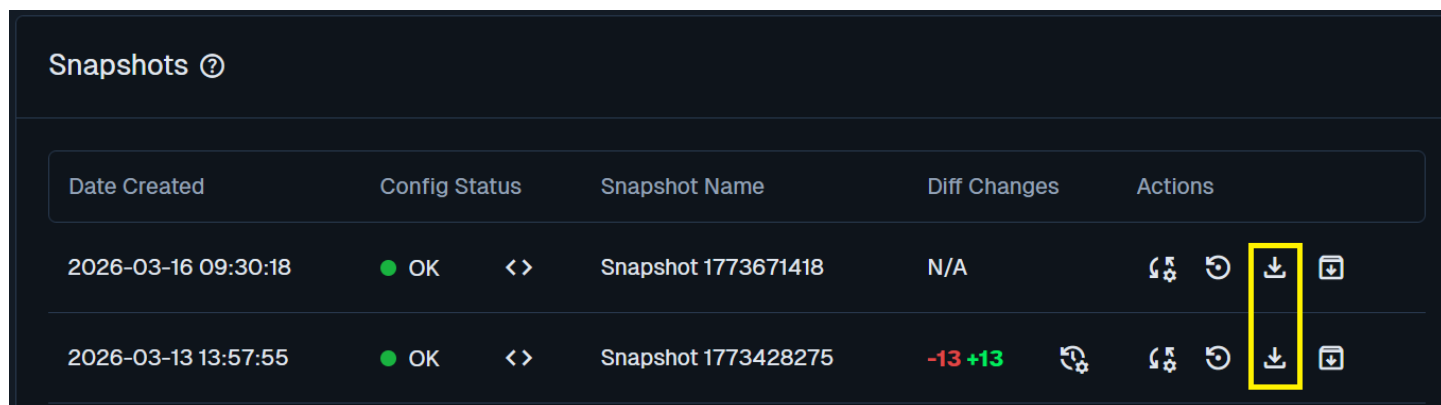
After a short delay, you'll see a banner above the menu indicating Snapshot Restored.

At this point you can make other changes in the CCM if you'd like, or apply the restored snapshot to the active monitoring configuration and begin monitoring using the restored settings immediately by clicking **Apply Configuration**:



Downloading Snapshots

To download a .tar of a snapshot's Core config files, click the **Download** button:



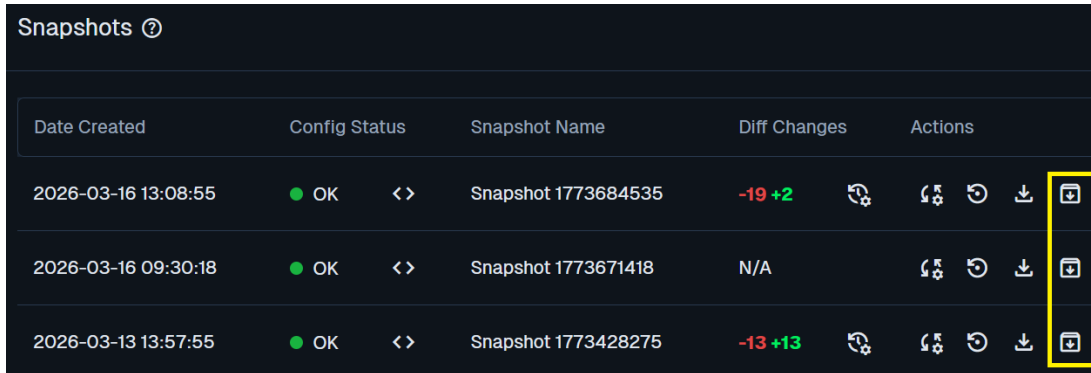
The .tar will contain the /usr/local/nagios/etc files for the selected snapshot. To restore the downloaded snapshot, import of the Core config files following the steps in this guide:














[How to Import Nagios Core Config Files Into Nagios XI](#)

How to Manage And Restore Config Snapshots in Nagios XI 2026

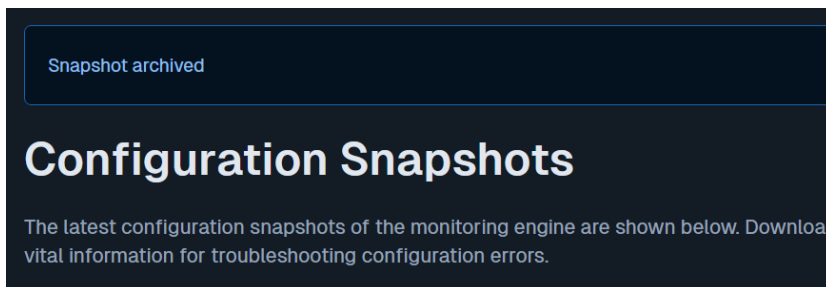
Archiving Snapshots

To archive a snapshot for longterm retention, click the **Archive** button:



Date Created	Config Status	Snapshot Name	Diff Changes	Actions
2026-03-16 13:08:55	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773684535	-19 +2	    
2026-03-16 09:30:18	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773671418	N/A	  
2026-03-13 13:57:55	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773428275	-13 +13	    

You'll see a confirmation once the snapshot is archived:

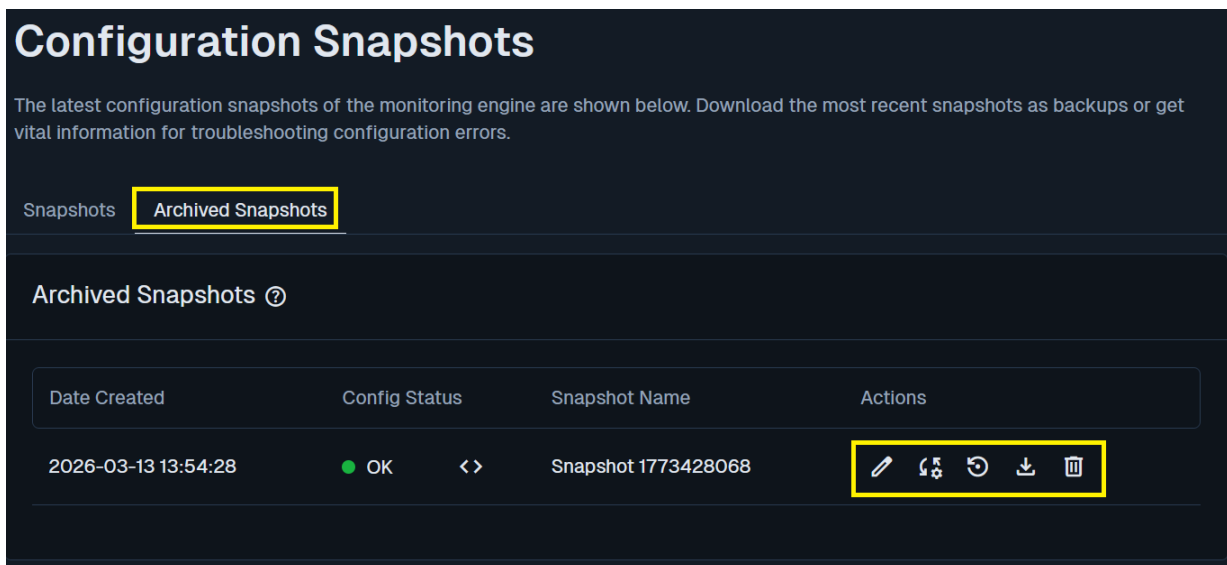


Snapshot archived

Configuration Snapshots

The latest configuration snapshots of the monitoring engine are shown below. Download the most recent snapshots as backups or get vital information for troubleshooting configuration errors.

In the **Archived Snapshots** tab, you can manage your archives:








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The latest configuration snapshots of the monitoring engine are shown below. Download the most recent snapshots as backups or get vital information for troubleshooting configuration errors.

Snapshots **Archived Snapshots**

Archived Snapshots

Date Created	Config Status	Snapshot Name	Actions
2026-03-13 13:54:28	● OK <>	Snapshot 1773428068	    

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Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on Managing Configuration Snapshots in Nagios XI. 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](#)

[Visit Nagios Library](#)