How to Monitor Windows Using NSClient++ in Nagios XI 2024R2
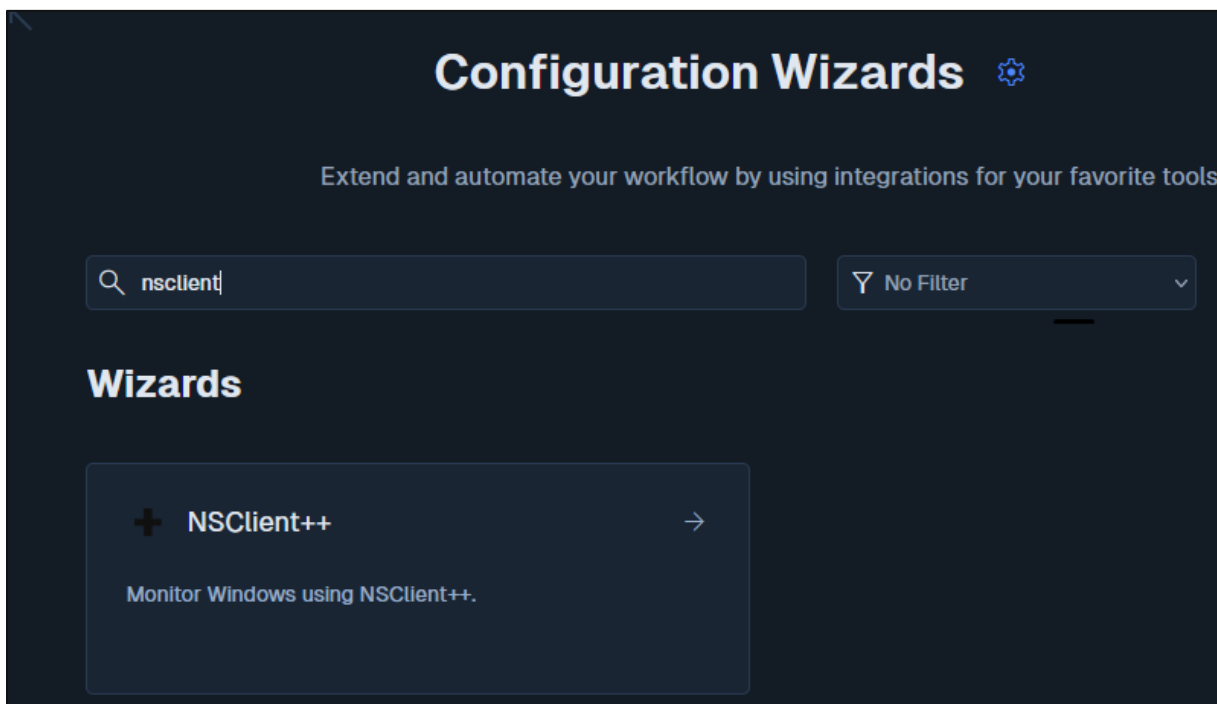
Purpose

This document describes how to monitor Microsoft Windows using the NSClient++ monitoring agent in Nagios XI 2024R2.

Installing NSClient++

NSClient++ must be installed on the target Windows machine before Nagios XI can monitor system metrics, services, processes, or performance data on the target machine. If you haven't installed the NSClient++ agent on the remote machine, please, refer to our documentation on installing the Windows Agent NSClient++ for Nagios XI.

The NSClient++ Configuration Wizard

To begin using the wizard, navigate to **Configure > Configuration Wizards** and search for 'nsclient'. This documentation will focus on the **NSClient++** wizard. In the following screenshot you can see how the search field allows you to quickly find a wizard.

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On **Step 1** you will be asked to supply the **IP Address** of the Windows machine running NSClient++, and whether the **Check Method** should be `check_nrpe` or `check_nt`. Both methods are supported by the Wizard, but there are key differences:

- check_nrpe
    - Can execute custom scripts / plugins.
    - Enables you to customize the output of data returned from checks like disk usage, performance counters, etc...
    - Supports more advanced versions of the CPU, Memory and Disk checks.
- check_nt
    - Provides solid basic functionality, but greatly limited customization.
    - Is **deprecated** in NSClient 0.6+.

Using check_nrpe

Before you click **Next** to proceed to **Step 2**, take note of the Warning. If you are still using the default NSClient++ DH key, you'll need to update your NSClient++ DH ky and configuration as outlined in this doc:

Enabling the NRPE Listener in NSClient 0.4+

In **Step 2**, you will:

- Enter a **Host Name**
- Choose an **SSL Encryption** option
- Choose whether to monitor **Ping**
- Define the **NRPE Commands** you wish to run to check services on your Windows host.

You'll notice that CPU Usage, Memory Usage, and Disk Usage checks are pre-populated. You will need to enable arguments in NSClient++ in order to define **Command Args** such as warning and critical thresholds.

Once you have finished selecting all the items you wish to monitor click **Next** and then complete the wizard by choosing the required options in **Step 3 - Step 5**.

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Using check_nt

In **Step 2**, you'll begin by entering a **Host Name**, and (assuming you've enabled a password in NSCLient++, which is recommended for security purposes) enter your **Agent Password**. If you do not use a password, you can leave this field blank.

Next, you'll select all of the **server metrics** you wish to monitor and adjust the thresholds as required.

Though ultimately not nearly as flexible as `check_nrpe`, the `check_nt` method does come pre-loaded with checks for CPU, Memory, Uptime, Disk Usage, Services, Processes, and Performance Counters.

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Once you have finished selecting all the items you wish to monitor click **Next** and then complete the wizard by choosing the required options in **Step 3 - Step 5**.

To finish, click on **Finish** in the last step of the wizard. This will create new hosts and services and begin monitoring. Once the wizard applies the configuration, click **status details** for ***<your host>*** link to see the new host and services that were created.

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Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on How to Monitor Microsoft Windows using the NSClient++ 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