



Purpose

This document describes how to monitor Windows machines with Nagios® XI™ using Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI). WMI allows for agentless monitoring of Windows machines which without having to install or configure agents.

STOP

The WMI Wizard has been deprecated. Do not use this document.

Please read:

The migration path that Nagios suggests is to use NCPA. While not a drop-in replacement for remote WMI access it should provide you with the ability to gather the information you require from a Windows machine. This option may work well in your environment--especially regarding security, deployment flexibility, and increased insights. Many of our customers benefit from the flexibility and power of our lightweight Nagios Cross Platform Agent (NCPA) that can also be configured to allow passive checks to be submitted to Nagios XI from various versions of Windows, Linux, and more.

With NCPA you can monitor Windows counters, running and stopped processes as well as services! The agent even has a very robust API and optional ability to run remote plugins to gather server-side performance data.

More info about NCPA can be found at:

<https://www.nagios.org/ncpa/>

Watch this video for [NCPA Windows Monitoring \(Nagios Cross Platform Agent\)](#)

You can distribute the NCPA client using Nagios XI Deploy Agent or your organization's desired software distribution tools.

Or, if an agent is just not an option, SNMP would also be an agentless monitoring option. However, do be aware that Microsoft may also be deprecating SNMP as well. Here is a video that addresses SNMP:

<https://nagios.force.com/support/s/article/Monitoring-Windows-With-SNMP-ebda6f97>

Another agentless option is using OpenSSH. Microsoft has embraced OpenSSH, but it is a bit more granular, as it is secure by default. Our SSH Proxy Wizard will allow you to retrieve metrics. However, there needs to be some prep work and testing, within your organization, and will most likely require plug ins from the community. This mean we will only be able to assist with the SSH Proxy wizard:

https://assets.nagios.com/downloads/nagiosxi/docs/Monitoring_Hosts_Using_SSH.pdf

Once you have set up a working monitoring node, with SNMP or OpenSSH, you can then use the Bulk Host Cloning and Import Wizard, to add more hosts:

<https://assets.nagios.com/downloads/nagiosxi/docs/How-To-Use-The-Nagios-XI-Bulk-Host-Cloning-And-Import-Wizard.pdf>

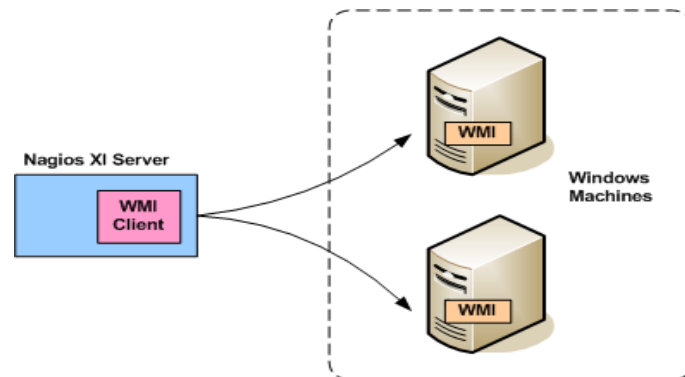
Target Audience

This document is intended for use by Nagios XI Administrators who want to monitor Windows servers and workstations without having to install an agent.

Windows Machine Requirements

You will need to ensure you have the following requirements setup before you can use WMI to monitor and windows server or workstation:

- WMI service is running
- WMI user account set up
- Firewall rules set up



This document will walk you through each of these requirements for the window machine you wish to monitor. You will need to log in as a user with administrator privileges.

Windows Server Core (No Desktop)

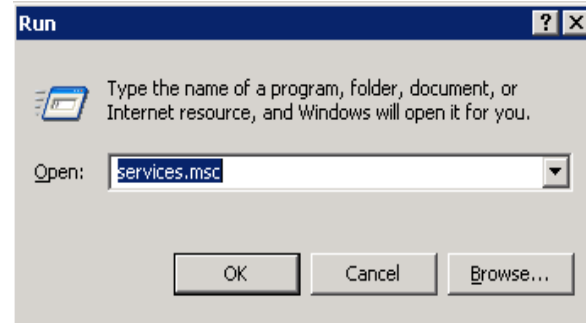
This guide does not provide instructions for configuring Windows Server Core, some of the required GUI utilities are not available in server core. It is technically possible to configure the permissions remotely by using the information in this document, you will need to research on how to actually perform the actions (beyond the scope of this document).

WMI Service

Before you can monitor Windows machines using WMI, you must ensure that the Windows Management Instrumentation service is running.

In Windows XP / Vista / 7 / 8 / 10 / Server 2003 / Server 2008

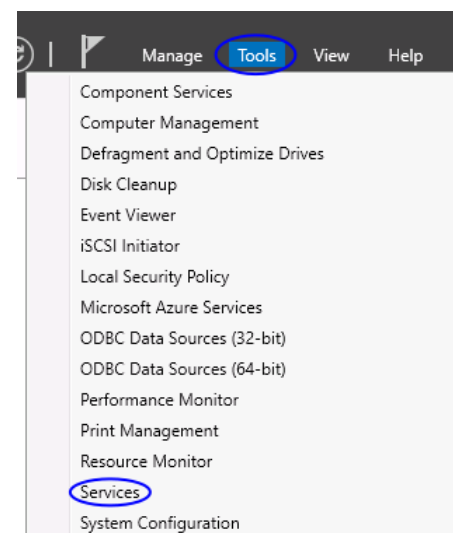
- Click Start and choose Run.
- The window to the right will appear and type `services.msc` in the Open field and then click OK.



You can also type `services.msc` in the **Search** field of the **Start** menu. This applies to all the instructions going forward in this document.

In Windows Server 2012 / Server 2016

- Open the **Server Manager**
- In the **Tools** menu select **Services**



Verify the service **Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI)** is in a status of **Started** and has the Startup Type of **Automatic**.

The screenshot shows the Windows Services console for 'Services (Local)'. The 'Windows Management Instrumentation' service is highlighted. Its status is 'Started' and its startup type is 'Automatic'. The description states: 'Provides a common interface and object model to access management information about operating system, devices, applications and services. If this service is stopped, most Windows-based software will not function properly. If this service is disabled, any services that explicitly depend on it will fail to start.'

Name	Description	Status	Startup Type	Log On As
Secondary Logon	Enables st...	Started	Automatic	Local System
Security Accounts Manager	The startu...	Started	Automatic	Local System
Server	Supports fil...	Started	Automatic	Local System
Shell Hardware Detection	Provides n...	Started	Automatic	Local System
Smart Card	Manages a...		Manual	Local Service
Special Administration Console Helper	Allows adm...		Manual	Local System
System Event Notification	Monitors s...	Started	Automatic	Local System
Task Scheduler	Enables a...	Started	Automatic	Local System
TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper	Provides s...	Started	Automatic	Local Service
Telephony	Provides T...	Started	Manual	Local System
Telnet	Enables a r...		Disabled	Local Service
Terminal Services	Allows user...	Started	Manual	Local System
Terminal Services Session Directory	Enables a...		Disabled	Local System
Themes	Provides u...		Disabled	Local System
Uninterruptible Power Supply	Manages a...		Manual	Local Service
Virtual Disk Service	Provides s...		Manual	Local System
Volume Shadow Copy	Manages a...		Manual	Local System
WebClient	Enables Wi...		Disabled	Local Service
Windows Audio	Manages a...	Started	Automatic	Local System
Windows Firewall/Internet Connection Sharing (ICS)	Provides n...	Started	Automatic	Local System
Windows Image Acquisition (WIA)	Provides im...		Disabled	Local Service
Windows Installer	Adds, modi...		Manual	Local System
Windows Management Instrumentation	Provides a ...	Started	Automatic	Local System
Windows Management Instrumentation Driver Extensions	Monitors all...		Manual	Local System
Windows Time	Maintains d...	Started	Automatic	Local Service
Windows User Mode Driver Framework	Enables Wi...		Manual	Local Service
WinHTTP Web Proxy Auto-Discovery Service	Implemen...		Manual	Local Service

Configure A WMI User Account On The Windows Machine

Next, configure a WMI user account on the local machine. This account will be used to monitor the Windows machine from Nagios XI. This document will create a new user account called `wmiagent` with a password `wmiagent` as an example.

```
C:\Users\Administrator>net user wmiagent wmiagent /add
The command completed successfully.
C:\Users\Administrator>
```

From an administrative command prompt execute the following command:

```
net user wmiagent wmiagent /add
```

You should get a response of *"The command completed successfully"*.

You should use a stronger password than `wmiagent` as it will most likely fail the password policy requirements.

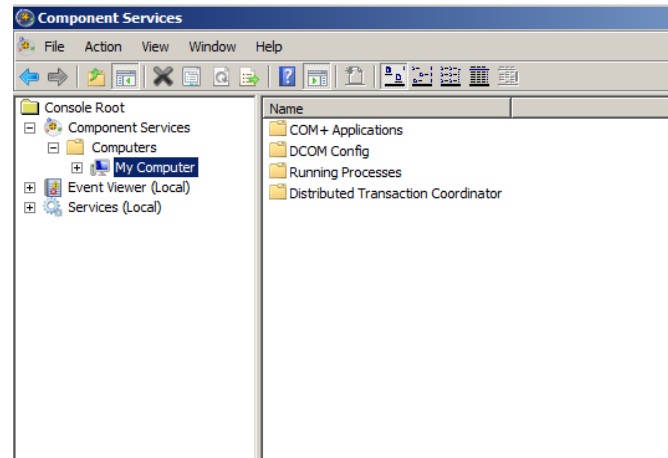
Setting WMI Permissions

WMI requires a valid username and password on the target system. The following steps outline how to add only the permissions needed to the Windows user account. Some of these permissions do not need to be set if your user account is a member of the local administrators group **HOWEVER** from a security perspective it's best to use an account with only the minimal required permissions.

Note: If you wish to monitor multiple computers across the domain, instead add the user to be a member of the “Distributed Com Users”, “Event Log Readers”, “Performance Log Users”, and “Performance Monitor Users” groups.

Adding Remote Activation Privilege to Windows DCOM

You need to give your newly created user access to DCOM on the localhost. In order to do this, open **Component Services**.



Click **Start**, choose **Run**. Type `DCOMCnfg.exe` and click **OK**.

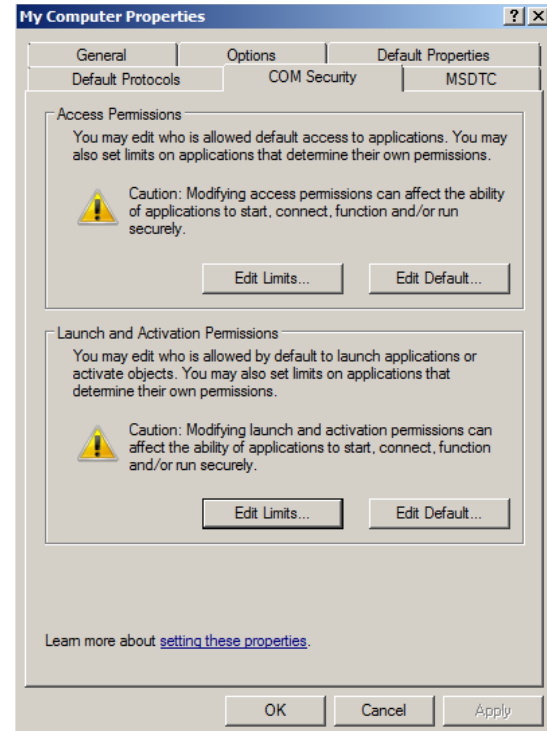
In Server 2012 / 2016 this is located at **Server Manager > Tools > Component Services**.

Expand **Component Services > Computers** and click on **My Computer**.

Right click on **My Computer** and select **Properties**.

Click the **COM Security** tab.

Under **Launch and Activation Permissions** section click the **Edit Limits...** button.



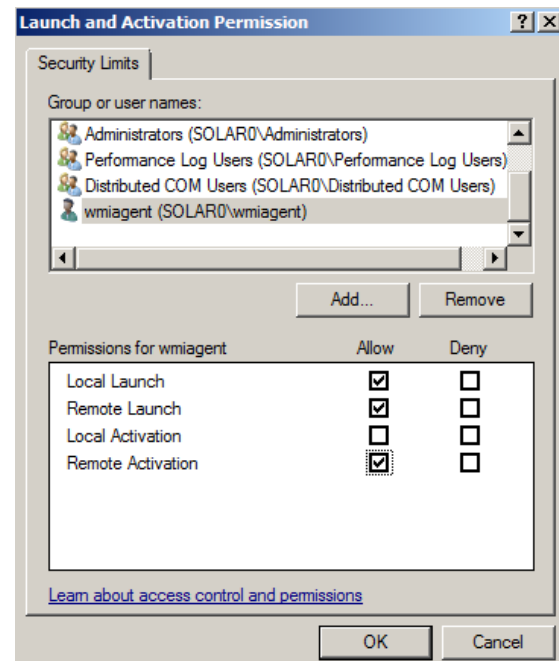
Click the **Add...** button

Type `wmiagent` in the **Enter the object names to select** field and click **OK**.

*You may need to use the **Locations** button to set the search scope to be the **local computer object** (instead of the domain).*

You will now see `wmiagent` as a user and it will be selected.

Check the **Remote Launch** and **Remote Activation** check boxes under the **Allow** column.



Click **OK** twice. You can now close the Component Services management console.

Adding Remote WMI Access

In order for the `wmiagent` user to return data remotely from WMI, access to the WMI namespace `CIMV2` must be granted.

Click **Start**, choose **Run**. Type `WmiMgmt.msc` and click **OK**.

Right click on **WMI Control (local)** and select **Properties**.

Click the **Security** tab of the WMI Control Properties window.

Expand **Root** and select **CIMV2**.

Click the **Security** button.

Click the **Add...** button

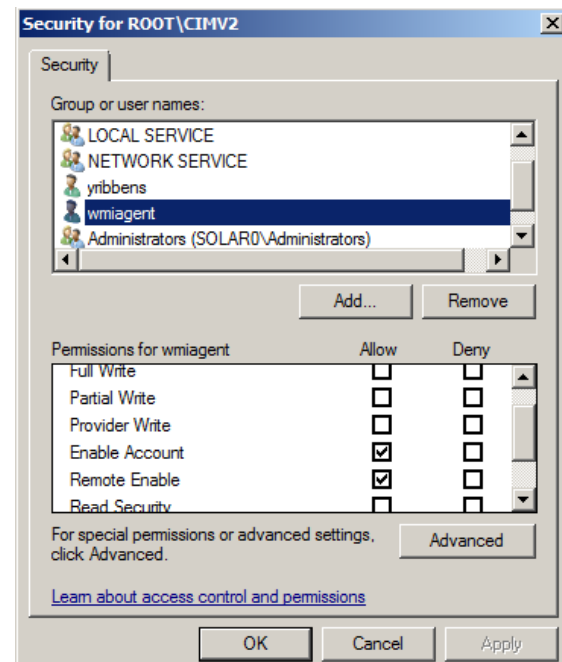
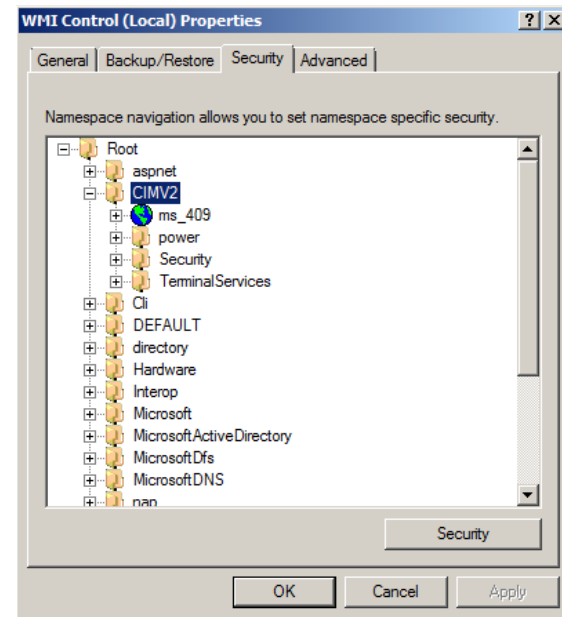
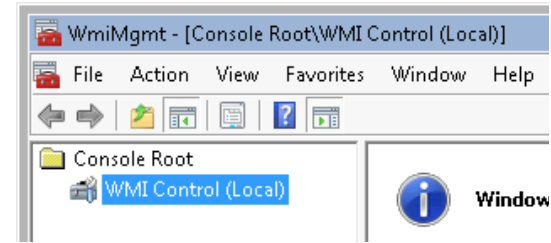
Type `wmiagent` in the **Enter the object names to select** field and click **OK**.

*You may need to use the **Locations** button to set the search scope to be the **local computer object** (instead of the domain).*

You will now see `wmiagent` as a user and it will be selected.

Check the **Enable Account** and **Remote Enable** check boxes under the **Allow** column.

Click **OK** twice. You can now close WmiMgmt management console.



Windows Firewall Settings

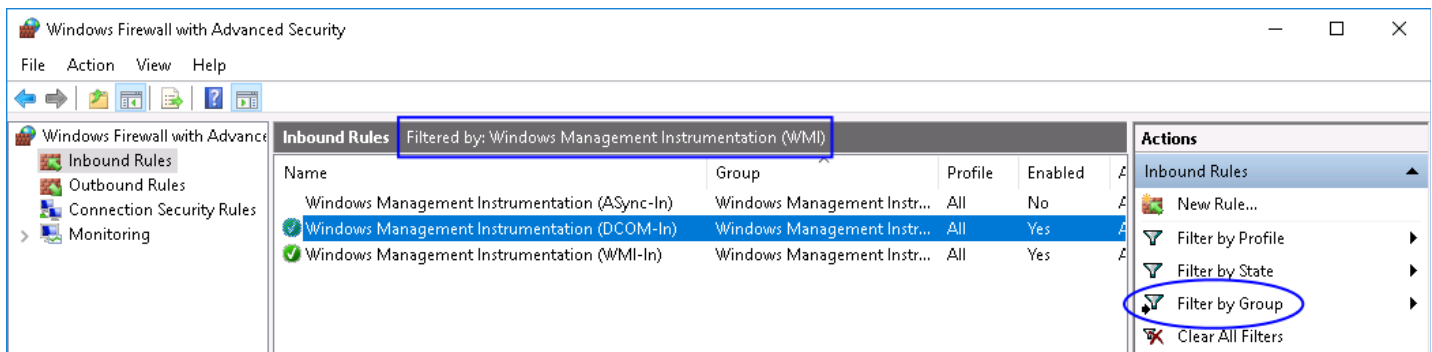
Next, configure the firewall rules specific to the version of windows being monitored.

Windows Server 2008 / 2012 / 2016 Firewall Rules

To check firewall settings, select **Start** and type `firewall` in the search dialog box and open **Windows Firewall with Advanced Security**.

In Server 2012 / 2016 this is located at **Server Manager > Tools > Windows Firewall with Advanced Security**.

In the left hand pane click **Inbound Rules**. In the right hand pane click **Filter by Group** and then select **Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI)**. You will then be shown the available firewall rules for WMI.



You need to make sure that the **DCOM-In** and **WMI-In** rules are enabled.

If the WMI rule group does not exist as pictured above, the recommended settings are listed here as outlined by Microsoft. From the command prompt enter (each command is one long command to type):

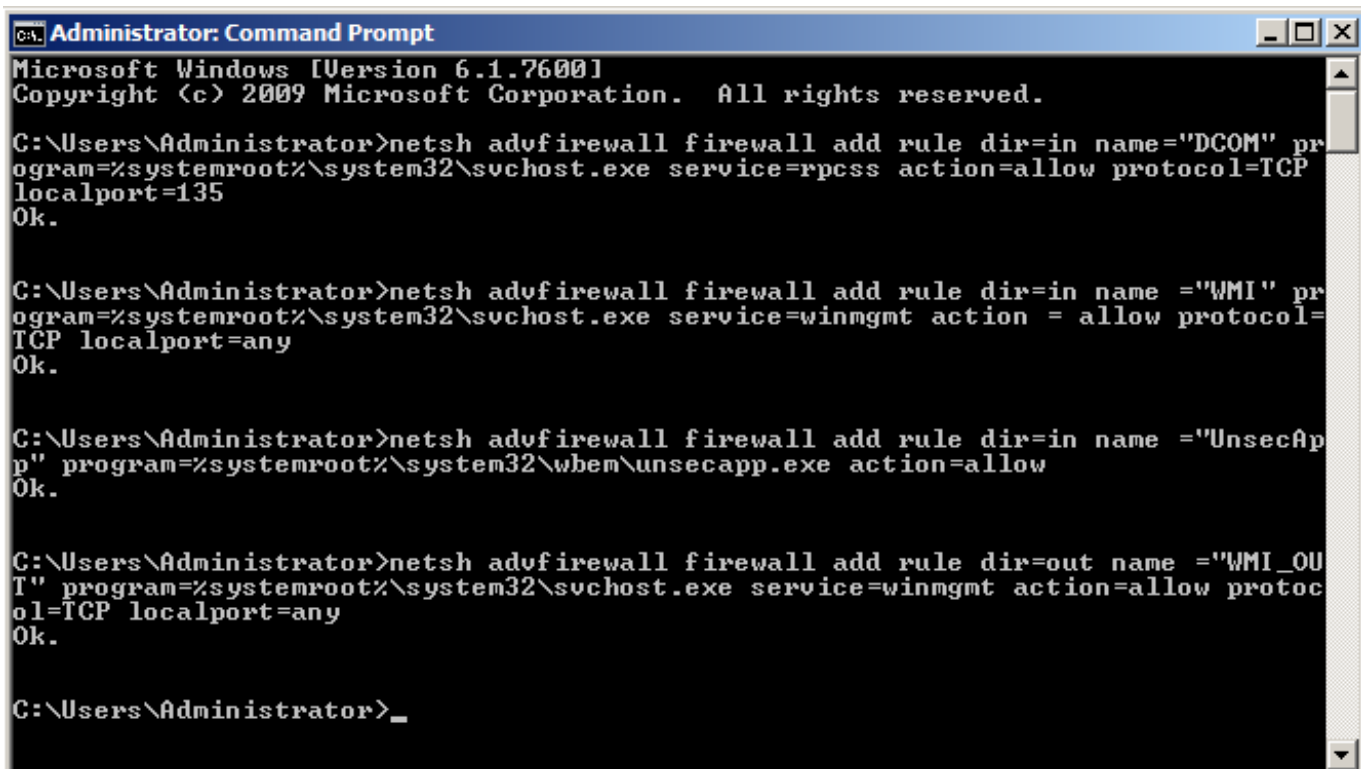
```
netsh advfirewall firewall add rule dir=in name="DCOM" program=%systemroot
  %\system32\svchost.exe service=rpcss action=allow protocol=TCP localport=135
```



```
netsh advfirewall firewall add rule dir=in name ="WMI" program=%systemroot
%\system32\svchost.exe service=winmgmt action = allow protocol=TCP localport=any
```

```
netsh advfirewall firewall add rule dir=in name ="UnsecApp" program=%systemroot
%\system32\wbem\unsecapp.exe action=allow
```

```
netsh advfirewall firewall add rule dir=out name ="WMI_OUT" program=%systemroot
%\system32\svchost.exe service=winmgmt action=allow protocol=TCP localport=any
```



```
C:\> Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7600]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Administrator>netsh advfirewall firewall add rule dir=in name="DCOM" pr
ogram=%systemroot%\system32\svchost.exe service=rpcss action=allow protocol=TCP
localport=135
Ok.

C:\Users\Administrator>netsh advfirewall firewall add rule dir=in name ="WMI" pr
ogram=%systemroot%\system32\svchost.exe service=winmgmt action = allow protocol=
TCP localport=any
Ok.

C:\Users\Administrator>netsh advfirewall firewall add rule dir=in name ="UnsecAp
p" program=%systemroot%\system32\wbem\unsecapp.exe action=allow
Ok.

C:\Users\Administrator>netsh advfirewall firewall add rule dir=out name ="WMI_OU
T" program=%systemroot%\system32\svchost.exe service=winmgmt action=allow protoc
ol=TCP localport=any
Ok.

C:\Users\Administrator>_
```

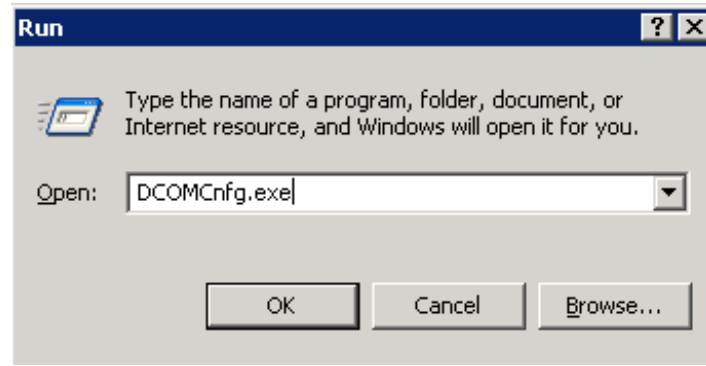
More details about [2008 firewall settings](#) can be found at:

[http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa822854\(v=vs.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa822854(v=vs.85).aspx)

Windows Server 2003 Firewall Rules

The following section describes firewall and DCOM port configuration for a 2003 Windows Server. By default DCOM communicates with the client on a random port, so in order to write firewall rules, specifying a port range is also described.

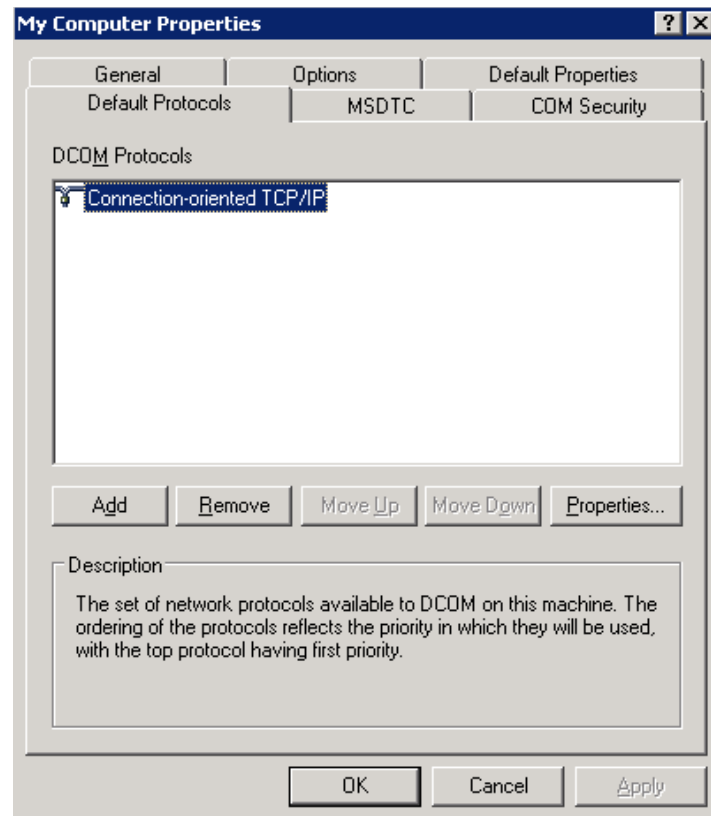
Click **Start**, choose **Run**, type `DCOMcnfg.exe` and click **OK**.



Expand **Component Services**, expand **Computers**, right-click **My Computer**, and select **Properties**.

Click the **Default Protocols** tab

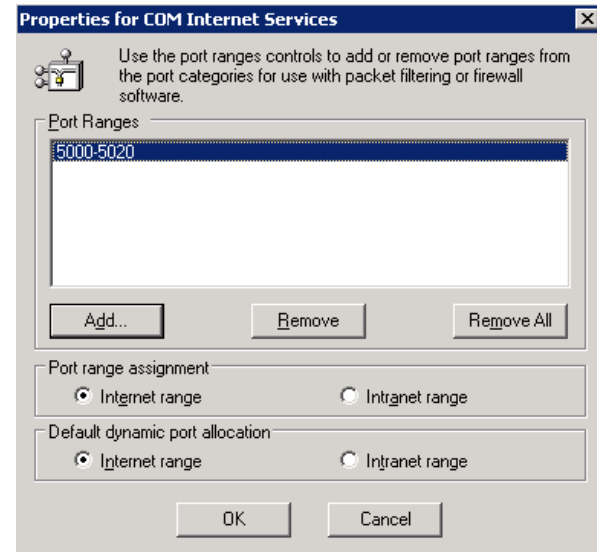
Click **Properties** button.



Click the **Add** button.

Add a port range for COM services. In this example the range is from 5000–5020. Depending on your environment, you may want to choose a different range.

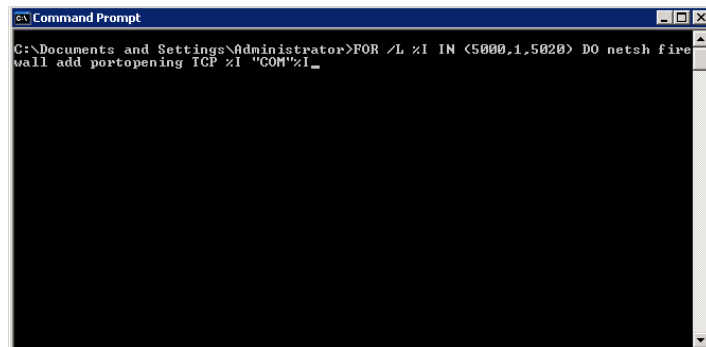
Click **OK** when done.



Allow the port range through the windows firewall.

This command will open ports from 5000–5020 to match the COM Internet Services Range.

From the command prompt enter:

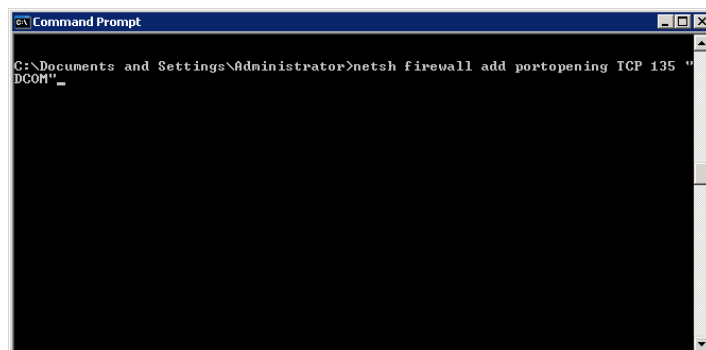


```
FOR /L %I IN (5000,1,5020) DO netsh firewall add portopening TCP %I "COM"%I
```

Lastly, open DCOM port 135.

From the command prompt type:

```
netsh firewall add portopening TCP 135 "DCOM"
```

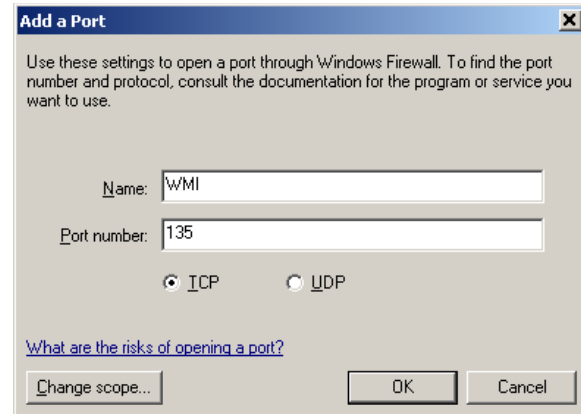


Windows XP Firewall Rules

If you are running a firewall on the Windows machine, you must ensure that the Nagios server can contact the WMI service.

To do this, you must open TCP Port 135 on the Windows firewall.

Navigate to **Start > All Programs > Accessories > System Tools > Security Center**.



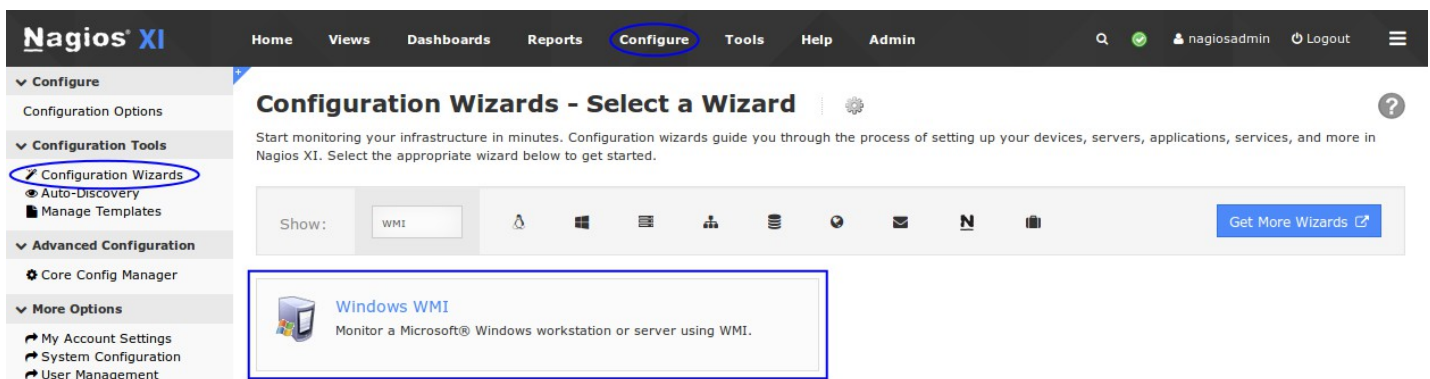
From the **Windows Security Center** click on the link to Manage Setting for: **Windows Firewalls**.

Switch to the **Exception** tab and click the **Add Port** button.

Enter WMI for the **Name** and Port number 135, then click **OK**.

Running The Windows WMI Wizard

Now that WMI has been configured on your windows machine you can now run the Windows WMI wizard from your Nagios XI server. To begin using the Windows WMI wizard navigate via the top menu bar to **Configure > Run a configuring wizard** and select the **Windows WMI** wizard. In the following screenshot you can see how the search field allows you to quickly find a wizard.



On **Step 1** the wizard will prompt you for the **IP Address** of the Windows machine, along with the **Domain** (if applicable), **Username** and **Password** to access the machine.

Alternatively you can use an **Auth File** that includes the username and password. Please refer to the [Authentication File](#) section in this document for more information.

Click **Next** to proceed to Step 2.

When you proceed to **Step 2**, the wizard will perform a WMI query against the Windows machine to get a list of the available disks, services and processes.

If Nagios XI is not able to communicate via WMI, an error will be displayed (see the [Troubleshooting](#) section on resolving these errors).

Make sure the Host Name field is correctly populated.

Select the server metrics you wish to monitor and



Configuration Wizard: Windows WMI - Step 1

Windows Machine Information

IP Address:

The IP address of the Windows machine you'd like to monitor.

Please see the requirements for the Windows machine setup in [this document](#)

Auth Info

Domain:

The domain the windows machine is associated with.

Leave blank if the machine to be monitored is not associated with a domain.

Username:

The username used to connect to the Windows machine.

Password:

The password used to authenticate to the Windows machine.

Or

Auth File:

File to use with username and password for authentication.

Plugin Details

The check_wmi_plus.pl plugin truncates plugin output to a maximum of 8192 bytes. Use this field to increase the plugin output length in bytes. Leave Blank to use the default.

Truncate Output Length: bytes

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[Next](#)



Configuration Wizard: Windows WMI - Step 2

Windows Machine Details

IP Address:

10.25.14.3

Host Name:

10.25.14.3

The name you'd like to have associated with this Windows machine.

Server Metrics

Specify which services you'd like to monitor for the Windows machine.



Ping

Monitors the machine with an ICMP "ping". Useful for watching network latency and general uptime.



CPU

Monitors the CPU (processor usage) on the machine.

% %



Memory Usage

Monitors the memory usage on the machine.

% %



Page File Usage

Monitors the page file usage on the machine.

% %

adjust the thresholds as required.

For Disk Usage, the automatically detected disk drives will be populated in the **Scanned Disk List** and they will already be selected in the drop down lists.

Disk Usage
Monitors disk usage on the machine.

WMI plugin detected disks on win7-02.box293.local

Drive	Warning	Critical
Drive: C:	80 %	95 %
Drive: E:	80 %	95 %
Drive:	80 %	95 %
Drive:	80 %	95 %
Drive:	80 %	95 %

Scanned Disk List (Status - Drive: Statistics)

```
OK - C: Total=39.90GB, Used=12.89GB (32.3%), Free=27.01GB (67.7%)
OK - E: Total=40.00GB, Used=0.09GB (0.2%), Free=39.91GB (99.8%)
```

[Add Row](#) | [Delete Row](#)

For Services, the automatically detected services will be populated in the **Scanned Service List**.

You can add a service to be monitored by double clicking it in the **Scanned Service List**.

Services

Specify any services that should be monitored to ensure they're in a running state.

WMI plugin detected 36 services on win7-02.box293.local

Windows Service	Display Name	Scanned Service List (Service Name (Display Name) Status)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spooler	Print Spooler	Application Management (AppMgmt) is Stopped BitLocker Drive Encryption Service (BDESVC) is Stopped DCOM Server Process Launcher (DcomLaunch) is Running DHCP Client (Dhcp) is Running DNS Client (Dnscache) is Running EFS (EFS) is Stopped Windows Event Log (eventlog) is Running Fax (Fax) is Stopped
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		

[Add Selected](#) | [Select All](#)

[Add Row](#) | [Delete Row](#)

For Event Logs you can select the specific log on the windows machine and define warning and critical thresholds based on the amount of Warning or Error logs found in the past x hours.

Event Logs

Specify what type(s) of event log data you'd like to monitor.

Event Log	Display Name	Severity	Hours	Warning Count	Critical Count
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> System	System Log Critical Errors	Errors	1	5	10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application	Application Log Warnings	Warnings	1	3	6
<input type="checkbox"/>		Warnings			
<input type="checkbox"/>		Warnings			
<input type="checkbox"/>		Warnings			

[Add Row](#) | [Delete Row](#)

[Back](#) | [Next](#)

Once you've 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 up, click on **Finish** in the final step of the wizard. This will create the new hosts and services and begin monitoring.

Once the wizard applies the configuration, click the **View status details for xxxxx** link to see the new host and services that were created.

Host	Service	Status	Duration	Attempt	Last Check	Status Information
10.25.14.3	Application Log Warnings	Ok	1m 1s	1/5	2016-12-12 14:37:17	OK - 0 event(s) of Severity Level: "Error,Warning", were recorded in the last 1 hours from the Application Event Log.
	CPU Usage	Ok	1m 1s	1/5	2016-12-12 14:37:17	OK (Sample Period 18 sec) - Average CPU Utilisation Need at least 2 WMI samples%
	Drive C: Disk Usage	Ok	1m 1s	1/5	2016-12-12 14:37:17	OK - C: Total=39.90GB, Used=12.89GB (32.3%), Free=27.01GB (67.7%)
	Drive E: Disk Usage	Ok	1m 1s	1/5	2016-12-12 14:37:17	OK - E: Total=40.00GB, Used=0.09GB (0.2%), Free=39.91GB (99.8%)
	Memory Usage	Ok	1m 1s	1/5	2016-12-12 14:37:17	OK - Physical Memory: Total: 1,023.492MB - Used: 578.648MB (57%) - Free: 444.844MB (43%)
	Page File Usage	Ok	1m 1s	1/5	2016-12-12 14:37:17	Overall Status - OK. Individual Page Files Detail: OK - C:\pagefile.sys Total: 1GB - Used: 113MB (11%) - Free: 911MB (89%), Peak Used: 143MB (14%) - Peak Free: 881MB (86%)
	Ping	Ok	1m 1s	1/5	2016-12-12 14:37:17	OK - 10.25.14.3: rta 3.952ms, lost 0%
	Print Spooler	Ok	1m 1s	1/5	2016-12-12 14:37:17	OK - Found 1 Services(s), 1 OK and 0 with problems (0 excluded). 'Print Spooler' (Spooler) is Running.
	snmp.exe	Critical	1m 1s	2/5	2016-12-12 14:37:17	CRITICAL - [Triggered by _ItemCount<1] - Found 0 Instance(s) of "snmp.exe" running (0 excluded).
	System Log Critical Errors	Ok	1m 1s	1/5	2016-12-12 14:37:17	OK - 0 event(s) of Severity Level: "Error", were recorded in the last 1 hours from the System Event Log.

This completes configuring Nagios XI to monitor a Windows machine using WMI.

Authentication File

On Step 1 of the configuration wizard you can provide the location of a file that contains the authentication username and password. This provides the following advantages:

- Credentials are stored in one location, if you need to update the credentials you only need to update the file and all services that use the file are immediately affected
- Admins using Core Configuration Manager won't see these credentials, they will only see the reference

to the file

To create a file you will need to establish a terminal session to your Nagios XI server. This example will create a file called `wmi_auth.txt` that will be stored in `/usr/local/nagios/etc/`. Create the file by opening vi using this command:

```
vi /usr/local/nagios/etc/wmi_auth.txt
```

When using the vi editor, to make changes press `i` on the keyboard first to enter insert mode. Press `Esc` to exit insert mode.

Add two lines that contain your username and password, for example:

```
username=wmiagent  
password=wmiagent
```

When you have finished, save the changes in vi by typing:

```
:wq
```

and press Enter.

You can now close your terminal session and proceed to the following page to see how to use the authentication file in the configuration wizard.

Here you can see on Step 1 of the configuration wizard how the Auth File has been defined.

It is important that the Username and Password fields above are empty to ensure the wizard correctly works.

Click Next and complete the wizard as explained in this documentation.



Configuration Wizard: Windows WMI - Step 1



Windows Machine Information

IP Address:

The IP address of the Windows machine you'd like to monitor.

Auth Info

Username:

The username used to connect to the Windows machine.

Password:

The password used to authenticate to the Windows machine.

Or

Auth File:

File to use with username and password for authentication.

Plugin Details

The check_wmi_plus.pl plugin truncates plugin output to a maximum of 8192 bytes. Use this field to increase the plugin output length in bytes. Leave Blank to use the default.

Truncate Output Length: bytes

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Troubleshooting

Please refer to the following KB article for troubleshooting problems with WMI:

<https://support.nagios.com/kb/article.php?id=579>

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on how to monitor Windows using WMI in Nagios XI.

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>