Offloading MySQL to Remote Server

Purpose
This document is meant to show a step-by-step guide for offloading the MySQL services from the central Nagios XI server to an external, remote server.

Target Audience
This document is intended for use by Nagios XI Administrators who are desiring to reduce CPU load on their central Nagios XI server.

Important Information
Historically MySQL has been the database used by Nagios XI, however in more recent operating systems (OS) MariaDB is used instead of MySQL. MariaDB is simply a fork of the MySQL database however some of the command differ slightly. This document will highlight the different commands for each scenario.

Separate to this, Nagios XI versions before 5.x used a PostgreSQL database for storing the Nagios XI preferences. In Nagios XI 5.x this was moved over to the MySQL database. The following applies:

- Fresh installations of Nagios XI will no longer use PostgreSQL
- Upgrading a previous version of Nagios XI will continue to use the PostgreSQL database

This is highlighted where necessary in the steps below. If you are unsure, execute the following command on your Nagios XI server:

```
awk '/"nagiosxi" => array\{(getline;print)\}' /usr/local/nagiosxi/html/config.inc.php
```

Which should output one of the following:

- "dbtype" => 'pgsql',
  - or
- "dbtype" => 'mysql',
The following guide creates three separate use accounts in MySQL / MariaDB. It is very important that you do not try and use one account as this will break Nagios XI. You MUST follow the instructions to create separate accounts.

It's also worth considering implementing jumbo frames for the network traffic between the Nagios XI server and the offloaded database server. Please refer to the [Jumbo Frames](#) section in this documentation for more information.

**Summary**

This document walks you through setting up a remote MySQL server for Nagios XI. Here is a list of the steps that will be performed:

- Create Remote DB Server
  - Setup/Install MySQL server
  - Create Databases
  - Adjust firewall rules to allow the MySQL traffic
  - Test Databases
  - Rollover Databases *(Requires Downtime)*

- Adjust settings on Nagios Server
  - Edit `ndo2db.cfg` to make NDOUtils use an external database
  - Edit `config.inc.php` to make Nagios XI use an external database
  - Edit `settings.php` for NagiosQL to use an external database
  - Start Nagios XI Services
  - Modify the backup script
  - Stop and disable MySQL / MariaDB
  - Remove OLD MySQL / MariaDB database files
Editing Files

In many steps of this documentation you will be required to edit files. This documentation will use the vi text editor. When using the vi editor:

- To make changes press \texttt{i} on the keyboard first to enter insert mode
- Press \texttt{Esc} to exit insert mode
- When you have finished, save the changes in vi by typing \texttt{:wq} and press Enter

Create Remote DB Server

Setup/Install MySQL Server

The following steps will define the MySQL root user account the password \texttt{mYr00tP@ssw0rd}. This is a poor password and you should not use it, this guide is using it to keep it simple.

**RHEL 6.x | CentOS 6.x | Oracle Linux 6.x**

Follow these steps if your offloaded server is running RHEL | CentOS | Oracle Linux 6.x. On your remote server install MySQL with these steps:

```
yum -y install mysql mysql-server mysql-devel
```

Initiate and check the install of MySQL and install root password:

```
service mysqld start
/usr/bin/mysqldadmin -u root password 'mYr00tP@ssw0rd'
chkconfig --add mysqld
chkconfig mysqld on
service mysqld status
```

This should show mysqld running, please proceed to the Edit Config File section of this document.
Follow these steps if your offloaded server is running RHEL | CentOS | Oracle Linux 7.x. On your remote server install MariaDB with these steps:

RHEL 7.x | CentOS 7.x:

    yum -y install mariadb mariadb-server mariadb-devel

Oracle Linux 7.x:

    yum remove mysql-community-libs mysql-community-common
    yum -y install mariadb mariadb-server mariadb-devel

Initiate and check the install of MariaDB and install root password:

    systemctl start mariadb.service
    /usr/bin/mysqladmin -u root password 'mYr00tP@ssw0rd'
    systemctl enable mariadb.service
    systemctl status mariadb.service

This should show MariaDB running, please proceed to the Edit Config File section of this document.

Debian 8.x | Ubuntu

Follow these steps if your offloaded server is running Debian 8.x | Ubuntu. On your remote server install MySQL with these steps:

    apt-get update
    apt-get install -y mysql-server libmysqlclient-dev libdbd-mysql-perl

During the install you will be prompted for the password of the root user (except Ubuntu 18.x).
Debian 9.x
Follow these steps if your offloaded server is running Debian 9. On your remote server install MySQL with these steps:

```
apt-get update
apt-get install -y mysql-server default-libmysqlclient-dev
```

Debian 9.x | Ubuntu 18.x
You are required to set the root password at the command line:

```
/usr/bin/mysqladmin -u root password 'mYr00tP@sW0rd'
```

Check to make sure MySQL is running:

Ubuntu 14.x

```
service mysql status
```

Debian 8.x | Ubuntu 16.x/18.x

```
systemctl status mysql.service
```

Debian 9.x

```
systemctl status mariadb.service
```

This should show MySQL running, please proceed to the Edit Config File section of this document.
Edit Config File

Once you've confirmed MySQL / MariaDB is installed and running you need to edit the config file by executing the following command:

**RHEL | CentOS | Oracle Linux**

    vi /etc/my.cnf

**Debian 8.x | Ubuntu 14.x**

    vi /etc/mysql/my.cnf

**Ubuntu 16.x/18.x**

    vi /etc/mysql/mysql.conf.d/mysqld.cnf

**Debian 9.x**

    vi /etc/mysql/mariadb.conf.d/50-server.cnf

Add the following two lines under the [mysqld] section, or edit them if they already exist (if the [mysqld] section header does not exist you need to add it):

```
[mysqld]
bind-address=<IP address of this computer, the computer with MySQL or MariaDB>
port=3306
```

The following parameters are OPTIONAL however they are implemented as part of a default Nagios XI installation and hence it would be beneficial to also implement on the offloaded DB server.
query_cache_size=16M
query_cache_limit=4M
tmp_table_size=64M
max_heap_table_size=64M
key_buffer_size=32M
table_open_cache=32
innodb_file_per_table=1

Save the file and restart the service to apply the changes:

RHEL 6.x | CentOS 6.x | Oracle Linux 6.x

    service mysqld restart

Please proceed to the Create Databases section of this document.

RHEL 7.x | CentOS 7.x | Oracle Linux 7.x | Debian 9.x

    systemctl restart mariadb.service

Please proceed to the Create Databases section of this document.

Ubuntu 14.x

    service mysql restart

Please proceed to the Create Databases section of this document.
Debian 8.x | Ubuntu 16.x/18.x

```bash
systemctl restart mysql.service
```

Please proceed to the [Create Databases](#) section of this document.

**Create Databases**

You will now create the `nagios`, `nagiosql` and `nagiosxi` databases along with the respective user accounts. You should use your own username and passwords, this entire documented example will be using:

- **nagios database**:
  - `username` = nagios
  - `password` = nagiosP@ssw0rd

- **nagiosql database**:
  - `username` = nagiosql
  - `password` = nagiosqlP@ssw0rd

- **nagiosxi database**:
  - `username` = nagiosxi
  - `password` = nagiosxiP@ssw0rd

It is very important that you **do not try and use one account** as this will **break** Nagios XI. You **MUST** follow the instructions to create **separate** accounts.

In the following commands you need to replace `<IP_OF_NAGIOS_XI_SERVER>` with the IP Address of your Nagios XI server, for example `nagios@'10.26.5.12'`. It is very important that the address is enclosed within 'single quotes'.
Execute the following command to enter the mysql command interface (replace mYr00tP@sswo0rd with your password):

```
mysql -u root -p'mYr00tP@sswo0rd'
```

You are now logged into the mysql command interface, this is indicated by the `mysql> OR MariaDB [(none0)>` prompt.

Execute these commands to create the `nagios` and `nagiosql` databases.

```
create database nagios;
GRANT ALL ON nagios.* TO nagios@'<IP_OF_NAGIOS_XI_SERVER>' IDENTIFIED BY 'nagiosP@sswo0rd';

create database nagiosql;
GRANT ALL ON nagiosql.* TO nagiosql@'<IP_OF_NAGIOS_XI_SERVER>' IDENTIFIED BY 'nagiosqlP@sswo0rd';
```

The next commands only apply if this instance of Nagios XI was deployed from 5.x onwards (refer to the Important Information section at the beginning of this document).

```
create database nagiosxi;
GRANT ALL ON nagiosxi.* TO nagiosxi@'<IP_OF_NAGIOS_XI_SERVER>' IDENTIFIED BY 'nagiosxiP@sswo0rd';
```

The last command grants the root user full access to all the databases (used by the `/root/scripts/automysqlbackup` on the Nagios XI server) [replace mYr00tP@sswo0rd with your password]:

```
GRANT ALL ON *.* TO root@'<IP_OF_NAGIOS_XI_SERVER>' IDENTIFIED BY 'mYr00tP@sswo0rd';
```
You can now quit the mysql command interface.

```
quit;
```

The databases have been created and you are ready to proceed to the Firewall Rules step.

### Adjust firewall rules to allow the MySQL / MariaDB traffic

Firewall rules need to be added to allow the MySQL / MariaDB traffic. These steps are performed on your remote MySQL / MariaDB server. In the following commands you need to replace `<IP_OF_NAGIOS_XI_SERVER>` with the IP Address of your Nagios XI server, for example 10.26.5.12.

**RHEL 6.x | CentOS 6.x | Oracle Linux 6.x**

```
iptables -I INPUT -s <IP_OF_NAGIOS_XI_SERVER> -p tcp --dport 3306 -j ACCEPT
service iptables save
```

Please proceed to the Test Databases section of this document.

**RHEL 7.x | CentOS 7.x | Oracle Linux 7.x**

These first three lines are to be typed as one long command.

```
firewall-cmd --zone=public --add-rich-rule="rule family="ipv4" source address="<IP_OF_NAGIOS_XI_SERVER>" port protocol="tcp" port="3306" accept" --permanent
```

```
firewall-cmd --reload
```

Please proceed to the Test Databases section of this document.
Ubuntu

ufw allow proto tcp from <IP_OF_NAGIOS_XI_SERVER> to any port 3306
ufw reload

Please proceed to the Test Databases section of this document.

Debian

iptables -I INPUT -s <IP_OF_NAGIOS_XI_SERVER> -p tcp --dport 3306 -j ACCEPT

Please proceed to the Test Databases section of this document.

Test Databases

Now you need to test that your Nagios XI server can actually access these databases. In the following commands you need to replace <IP_ADDRESS_OF_MYSQL_OR_MARIADB_SERVER> with the IP Address of your offloaded MySQL / MariaDB server, for example -h 10.26.7.11. Make sure you are using your usernames/passwords in these commands.

Execute the following commands from your Nagios XI server to perform the tests:

mysql -u nagios -p'nagiosP@ssw0rd' -h <IP_ADDRESS_OF_MYSQL_OR_MARIADB_SERVER> -e STATUS;
mysql -u nagiosql -p'nagiosqlP@ssw0rd' -h <IP_ADDRESS_OF_MYSQL_OR_MARIADB_SERVER> -e STATUS;

The next command only applies if this instance of Nagios XI was deployed from 5.x onwards (refer to the Important Information section at the beginning of this document).

mysql -u nagiosxi -p'nagiosxiP@ssw0rd' -h <IP_ADDRESS_OF_MYSQL_OR_MARIADB_SERVER> -e STATUS;

If these commands do not output some status text then you need to go back over the previous steps to
ensure you have correctly followed them. An example error message would appear like:

```
ERROR 2003 (HY000): Can't connect to MySQL server on '10.26.7.11' (113)
```

If the commands produce valid database status output you can proceed to the Rollover Databases step.

**Rollover Databases**

Now it is time to move the data in the local Nagios XI MySQL/MariaBD databases to the remote MySQL/MariaDB databases. This task will require downtime as you need to stop the `nagios` and `ndo2db` services using the following commands on your Nagios XI server:

**RHEL 6.x | CentOS 6.x | Oracle Linux 6.x | Ubuntu 14.x**

```bash
service nagios stop
service ndo2db stop
```

**RHEL 7.x | CentOS 7.x | Oracle Linux 7.x | Debian | Ubuntu 16.x/18.x**

```bash
systemctl stop nagios.service
systemctl stop ndo2db.service
```

The following commands to copy the databases need to be executed on the Nagios XI server with the following considerations:

- The `-u` and `-p` for the `mysqldump` command (left side of the pipe `|` symbol) are for the databases on the Nagios XI server. The commands are using the MySQL/MariaDB root user account with the default password `nagiosxi`.
- The `-u` and `-p` for the `mysql` command (right side of the pipe `|` symbol) are associated with the remote MySQL/MariaDB server. Make sure you are using your usernames/passwords in these commands.
- You must be logged onto the Nagios XI server as a Linux root user.
These commands can take a while to run if the Nagios XI server has been in production for some time as the databases will have grown in size.

For simplicity, the following commands will use `ip_mysql` as the IP address of the MySQL/MariaDB server, please change this to the correct IP address.

```
mysqldump -u root -p'nagiosxi' nagios | mysql -u nagios -p'nagiosP@ssw0rd' -h ip_mysql nagios
mysqldump -u root -p'nagiosxi' nagiosql | mysql -u nagiosql -p'nagiosqlP@ssw0rd' -h ip_mysql nagiosql
```

The next command only applies if this instance of Nagios XI was deployed from 5.x onwards (refer to the Important Information section at the beginning of this document).

```
mysqldump -u root -p'nagiosxi' nagiosxi | mysql -u nagiosxi -p'nagiosxiP@ssw0rd' -h ip_mysql nagiosxi
```

It's worth noting that if you have a corrupt database, you will experience errors when running these commands. Refer to the Common Problems section at the end of this documentation if you experience such issues.

If the commands completed successfully you can move onto the next step.

**Adjust Settings on Nagios XI Server**

Now the databases have been copied over, you need to configure Nagios XI to use the databases on the remote server. Several configuration files are required to be updated.

**Edit ndo2db.cfg**

The `/usr/local/nagios/etc/ndo2db.cfg` file needs to be updated, for safety reasons its a good idea to make a backup first:

```
    cp /usr/local/nagios/etc/ndo2db.cfg /usr/local/nagios/etc/ndo2db.bak
```
Execute the following command to edit the file:

```
vi /usr/local/nagios/etc/ndo2db.cfg
```

Find the following:

```
db_host=localhost
```

Change this to the IP address of your remote MySQL/MariaDB server, for example:

```
db_host=10.26.7.11
```

Find the following:

```
db_user=ndoutils
db_pass=n@gweb
```

Change this to the username and password of the nagios database on your remote MySQL/MariaDB server, for example:

```
db_user=nagios
db_pass=nagiosP@ssw0rd
```

Save the file once making the changes.
Edit config.inc.php

The /usr/local/nagiosxi/html/config.inc.php file needs to be updated, for safety reasons its a good idea to make a backup first:

```bash
cd /usr/local/nagiosxi/html/
cp config.inc.php config.inc.php.bak
```

Execute the following command to edit the file:

```bash
vi config.inc.php
```

This file contains credentials for the databases that Nagios XI uses. Find the line:

```
"ndoutils" => array(
```

This entry is for the **nagios** database. Under this entry, update the **dbserver**, **user** and **pwd** values:

```
"dbserver" => '<IP_OF_MYSQL_OR_MARIADB_SERVER>',
"user" => 'nagios',
"pwd" => 'nagiosP@ssw0rd',
```

Find the line:

```
"nagiosql" => array(
```

This entry is for the **nagiosql** database. Under this entry, update the **dbserver**, **user** and **pwd** values:

```
"dbserver" => '<IP_OF_MYSQL_OR_MARIADB_SERVER>',
"user" => 'nagiosql',
```
"pwd" => 'nagiosqlP@ssw0rd',

The next section only applies if this instance of Nagios XI was deployed from 5.x onwards (refer to the Important Information section at the beginning of this document).

Find the line:

"nagiosxi" => array(

This entry is for the nagiosxi database. Under this entry, update the dbserver, user and pwd values:

"dbserver" => '<IP_OF_MYSQL_OR_MARIADB_SERVER>',
"user" => 'nagiosxi',
"pwd" => 'nagiosxiP@ssw0rd',

Save the file once making the changes.

Edit settings.php

This section only applies to versions of Nagios XI before 5.5.0. If you are running 5.5.0 or newer please proceed to the Start Nagios XI Services section.

The /var/www/html/nagiosql/config/settings.php file needs to be updated, for safety reasons its a good idea to make a backup first:

    cd /var/www/html/nagiosql/config/
    cp settings.php settings.php.bak

Execute the following command to edit the file:

    vi settings.php
This file contains credentials for the database that the Core Config Manager uses. Find the lines that say:

```plaintext
server       = localhost
port         = 3306
database     = nagiosql
username     = nagiosql
password     = n@gweb
```

Change them to:

```plaintext
server       = <IP_OF_MYSQL_OR_MARIADB_SERVER>
port         = 3306
database     = nagiosql
username     = nagiosql
password     = nagiosql
```

Save the file once making the changes.

### Start Nagios XI Services

After making all of those changes your Nagios XI server is ready to go back online. Execute the following commands:

**RHEL 6.x | CentOS 6.x | Oracle Linux 6.x | Ubuntu 14.x**

```bash
service ndo2db start
service nagios start
```
systemctl start ndo2db.service
systemctl start nagios.service

At this point you should go into the Nagios XI web interface and check that it is all working as expected. The main items to check are:

- You can login
- Core Configuration Manager works (objects appear)
- Force an immediate check on a host/service and make sure the Last Check/Next Check fields update

If you've made it this far then you have successfully migrated your databases to an offline server and Nagios XI is now back online.

The following steps need to be completed to ensure additional functionality (like backups) continue to work.

Modify the backup script

The `/root/scripts/automysqlbackup` script on your Nagios XI server needs updating. Edit the file by executing this command:

```
vi /root/scripts/automysqlbackup
```

Change line #34 from this:

```
DBHOST=localhost
```

To the IP address of the offloaded MySQL / MariaDB server:

```
DBHOST=<IP_OF_MYSQL_OR_MARIADB_SERVER>
```

Nagios XI
The Industry Standard In Infrastructure Monitoring

Offloading MySQL to Remote Server

RHEL 7.x | CentOS 7.x | Oracle Linux 7.x | Debian | Ubuntu 16.x/18.x

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Change line #31 from this:

    PASSWORD=nagiosxi

To the IP address of the offloaded MySQL / MariaDB server:

    PASSWORD=mYr00tP@ssw0rd

Save the file once making the changes.

**Stop and disable MySQL / MariaDB**

Now it's time to verify the migration went smoothly and to prove it's actually using the remote database. If you have other applications on the Nagios XI server that depend on MySQL / MariaDB then you should not perform the next step.

**RHEL 6.x | CentOS 6.x | Oracle Linux 6.x**

    service mysqld stop

**RHEL 7.x | CentOS 7.x | Oracle Linux 7.x | Debian 9.x**

    systemctl stop mariadb.service

**Ubuntu 14.x**

    service mysql stop

**Debian 8.x | Ubuntu 16.x/18.x**

    systemctl stop mysql.service
Now refresh the Nagios XI interface, if the screen goes blank, go back and review the previous steps. If the web interface is working and it's receiving fresh data, the offload was successful! If everything is working OK after stopping MySQL / MariaDB then you can disable it from starting on boot as it is no longer required.

RHEL 6.x | CentOS 6.x | Oracle Linux 6.x

    chkconfig --del mysqld

RHEL 7.x | CentOS 7.x | Oracle Linux 7.x | Debian 9.x

    systemctl disable mariadb.service

Ubuntu 14.x

    update-rc.d -f mysql remove

Debian 8.x | Ubuntu 16.x/18.x

    systemctl disable mysql.service

Remove OLD MySQL / MariaDB database files

The following step is completely optional. The old database files that are no longer used on your Nagios XI server can be deleted to recover disk space. This might be something you will do after a couple of days "just in case".

    cd /var/lib/mysql/
    rm -rf nagios nagiosql nagiosxi

This completes the steps required to offload MySQL to a remote server. The remaining documentation talks about jumbo frames and some troubleshooting tips.
Jumbo Frames

Offloading MySQL to an external server means that all of the database traffic must pass through the network. It's important to make sure that the network connectivity is optimally configured between the Nagios XI server and the MySQL server. This is where jumbo frames can make a difference.

Jumbo Frames allow each network packet to be 9,000 bytes in size, compared to the default of 1,500 bytes in size. However using jumbo frames require all devices that the network traffic passes through need to support it. This can add complexities which are outside the scope of this document, needless to say the benefits of jumbo frames are worth mentioning in this document.

In an ideal scenario, you would add an extra network card (NIC) in both the Nagios XI server and MySQL server with jumbo frames enabled. Those NICs should be connected to a separate network that supports jumbo frames. The switches those NICs are connected to need to support jumbo frames.

In a virtual environment, if both the Nagios XI server and the MySQL server are on the same hypervisor (e.g. ESXi) then you need to create an additional virtual switch (with jumbo frames enabled) to connect the two VM's. If the VM's are running on separate hypervisors then you will need to make sure each hypervisor has a virtual switch (with jumbo frames enabled) and the physical switches that connect the virtual switches support jumbo frames.

The best way to confirm that jumbo frames is correctly configured is to perform a ping test that forces jumbo sized packets to be sent. The command to use is:

```
ping -M do -s 8972 xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx
```

Where `xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx` is the address of the other server you are testing against. If it is NOT correctly configured then you will see messages like the following:

```
ping: local error: Message too long, mtu=1500
```
When implementing jumbo frames with dedicated NICs, in all of the steps in this document you will need to make sure that you use the IP addresses of these NICs. For example:

```plaintext
bind-address=<IP address of this computer, the computer with MySQL or MariaDB>
```

That would need to be the IP address of the NIC with jumbo frames enabled.

```plaintext
GRANT ALL ON nagios.* TO nagios@'<IP_OF_NAGIOS_XI_SERVER>' IDENTIFIED BY 'nagios';
```

That would need to be the IP address of the NIC on the Nagios XI server with jumbo frames enabled.

**Common Problems**

**Issue** - Now everything is blank, none of my tables show up.

This means that Nagios XI cannot access the `nagiosql` database. Make sure the:

- Credentials given in the `config.inc.php` under the "nagiosql" => array ( are correct.
- Firewall on the MySQL / MariaDB server is allowing traffic through
- `nagiosql` database has been created on the remote MySQL / MariaDB server
- Check the file `/usr/local/nagiosxi/etc/components/ccm_config.inc.php` to ensure the `nagiosql` settings are correctly defined, these should automatically be updated.

**Issue** - The tables show up but they don't hold any information

Blank tables mean that Nagios XI can access the `nagiosql` database but cannot access the `nagios` database.

- Make sure that the credentials in `config.inc.php` under "ndoutils" => array ( are correct.
Issue - No new information is being displayed and my /usr/local/nagios/var/nagios.log has "Unable to connect to data sink..." in the latest log.

This is a problem with ndomod.cfg and/or ndo2db.cfg. The log is written if Nagios cannot connect to the nagios database on the remote server. Make sure the:

- Socket information matches for ndomod.cfg and ndo2db.cfg
- Make sure the ndo2db daemon is running by executing:
  ◦ ps aux | grep ndo2db
- Revisit the ndomod.cfg and ndo2db.cfg edit sections in this document to check all the credential information is correct
- If the problem persists, try to access the MySQL / MariaDB server from the Nagios XI server by following the Test Database steps again

Issue - When I migrate databases I get this:

```
mysqldump: Got error: 144: Table './DATABASENAME/TABLE' is marked as crashed and last (automatic?) repair failed when using LOCK TABLES
```

This is due to a MySQL table being corrupt and you must fix it. The following documentation explains how to repair the MySQL / MariaDB databases:

[https://support.nagios.com_kb/article.php?id=24](https://support.nagios.com_kb/article.php?id=24)
**Issue** - How to use a port other than the default 3306?

In all of the steps you follow it should be clear when you need to change the port from the default. The only section where it is not clear is in the `config.inc.php` file, you need to define it as:

```
"dbserver" => '<IP_OF_MYSQL_OR_MARIADB_SERVER>:<PORT>',
```

Example: "dbserver" => '192.168.5.88:55555',

**Finishing Up**

This completes the documentation on how to offload the Nagios XI databases to an external MySQL / MariaDB server.

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