



Purpose

This document describes how to use Configuration Wizards in Nagios XI.

Target Audience

This document is intended for use by Nagios Administrators that wish to get a thorough understanding of how Configuration Wizards work in Nagios XI.

Overview

Wizards are addons to Nagios XI that make it easy for end-users to monitor new devices, services, and applications with Nagios XI. Wizards provide a user-friendly interface to what otherwise might be a complex task. They are especially useful for users who are new to Nagios XI, they create all the related monitoring configurations without needing to understand how Nagios XI works in the back-end.

The topics covered in this documentation are:

- Common Steps In Wizards
- How The Wizard Creates Objects
- Running A Wizard For An Already Monitored Server
- Wizard Templates

Wizards can be accessed by going to **Configure > Configuration Wizards**. This guide will use the **NRPE** wizard to help explain how wizards work.

Common Steps In Wizards

In the following screenshot you can see how the search field allows you to quickly find a wizard.

The screenshot shows the Nagios XI interface. The top navigation bar includes Home, Views, Dashboards, Reports, **Configure** (circled in blue), Tools, Help, and Admin. A search bar on the right shows a green checkmark and the user 'nagiosadmin'. The left sidebar has a 'Configure' section with 'Configuration Wizards' circled in blue. Below it are 'Advanced Configuration' and 'More Options'. The main content area is titled 'Configuration Wizards - Select a Wizard'. It features a search bar with 'NRPE' entered and a 'Get More Wizards' button. A list of wizards is shown, with the 'NRPE' wizard highlighted by a blue box. The wizard description is 'Monitor a remote Linux/Unix server using NRPE.'

The options presented in Step 1 will be relative to the type of configuration wizard being run.

In this example you will be asked to supply the **address** of the machine running the NRPE client and you will also have to select the **Operating System**.

Click Next to progress to step 2.

The screenshot shows the 'Configuration Wizard: NRPE - Step 1' page. The title is 'Configuration Wizard: NRPE - Step 1'. Below the title is the 'Server Information' section. It contains two fields: 'IP Address' with the value '10.25.13.30' and 'Operating System' with the value 'Linux - CentOS'. Below each field is a descriptive text: 'The IP address or FQDNS name of the server you'd like to monitor.' and 'The operating system running on the server you'd like to monitor.' At the bottom, there are 'Back' and 'Next' buttons.

The options presented in Step 2 will be relative to the type of configuration wizard being run.

You will almost always be required to provide a Host Name. This name will be defined in the `host_name` directive of the host object that is created by the wizard.

Take a note that under NRPE Commands, the Current Users option is checked. This will be mentioned in more detail in the [Running A Wizard For An Already Monitored Server](#) section.

After making all of your required selections click the Next button to proceed to Step 3.




Configuration Wizard: NRPE - Step 2



Server Details


IP Address:


Operating System: 
CentOS

Host Name:
The name you'd like to have associated with this host.

NRPE Agent

Specify options that should be used to communicate with the remote NRPE agent.

Agent Download:  [Download Agent](#)

Agent Install Instructions:  [Agent Installation Instructions](#)

SSL Encryption:
Determines whether or not data between the Nagios XI server and NRPE agent is encrypted.
Note: Legacy NRPE installations may require that SSL support be disabled.

Server Metrics

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

Ping
Monitors the server with an ICMP Ping. Useful for watching network latency and general uptime.

NRPE Commands

Specify any remote NRPE commands that should be monitored on the server. Multiple command arguments should be separated with a space.

| | Display Name | Remote NRPE Command | Command Args |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Current Users | check_users | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Current Load | check_load | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Total Processes | check_total_procs | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |

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

Step 3 provides the options for how often the device will be monitored (normally and when a problem is detected).

These options will be defined in the `check_interval`, `retry_interval` and `max_check_attempts` directives of the host and service objects that are created by the wizard.

After making all of your required selections click the Next button to proceed to Step 4.

Step 4 provides the notification options for when a problem is detected.

These options will be defined in the `first_notification_delay`, `notification_interval`, `contacts` and `contact_groups` directives of the host and service objects that are created by the wizard.

After making all of your required selections click the Next button to proceed to Step 5.



Configuration Wizard: NRPE - Step 3



Monitoring Settings

Define basic parameters that determine how the host and service(s) should be monitored.

Under normal circumstances:

Monitor the host and service(s) every minutes.

When a potential problem is first detected:

Re-check the host and service(s) every minutes up to times before generating an alert.



Configuration Wizard: NRPE - Step 4



Notification Settings

Define basic parameters that determine how notifications should be sent for the host and service(s).

When a problem is detected:

- Don't send any notifications
 Send a notification immediately
 Wait minutes before sending a notification

If problems persist:

Send a notification every minutes until the problem is resolved.

Send alert notifications to:

- Myself ([Adjust my settings](#))
 Other individual contacts

Default Contact (xi_default_contact)

 Specific contact groups

All Contacts (xi_contactgroup_all)
 Nagios Administrators (admins)

Step 5 provides the group and parent options.

These options will be defined in the `hostgroups`, `hostgroup_name`, `servicegroups` and `parents` directives of the host and service objects that are created by the wizard.

After making all of your required selections click the Next button to proceed to the Final Step.



Configuration Wizard: NRPE - Step 5

Host Groups

Define which hostgroup(s) the monitored host should belong to (if any).

Linux Servers (linux-servers)

Service Groups

Define which servicegroup(s) the monitored service(s) should belong to (if any).

Parent Host

Define which host(s) are considered the parents of the the monitored host (if any).
Note: Typically only one (1) host is specified as a parent.

localhost (127.0.0.1)

[← Back](#)

[Next >](#)

[✓ Finish](#)

On the Final Step you can click Apply to finish the wizard, this will create the monitoring objects.

The Save as Template button will be explained in the [Wizard Templates](#) section of this document.



Configuration Wizard: NRPE - Final Step

Final Settings

Click **Apply** to add your new configuration.

[← Back](#)

[✓ Apply](#)

[Save as Template](#)

You will notice that from step 3 - 5 there is a **Finish** button. If you are happy with the default options of the wizard you can click **Finish** and the wizard will create the monitoring configurations, exactly as if you had clicked the **Apply** button on the final step.

How The Wizard Creates Objects

Based on the steps provided in the NRPE wizard that was run in the last section, when applied it will create:

- Host object called `centos12.box293.local`
- A service object called `Ping` that is linked to the host object
- A service object called `Current Users` that is linked to the host object

If you navigate to Core Configuration Manager (CCM) you will find these objects and be able to update options as required.

In steps 3-5 the options chosen will be applied to both the host and service objects. With options such as `contacts` and `contact_groups`, because they are applied on both the host and services, any object inheritance is ignored. Object inheritance is an advanced feature of Nagios Core that allows directives such as `contacts` and `contact_groups` to be inherited by the services which can help reduce configuration complexity. However as soon as a service object has the `contacts` or `contact_groups` directives defined, any inheritance from the host is ignored.

While on the topic of contacts, it is a recommended best practice to put your users in contact groups and use those groups for notification preferences. The reasoning behind this is that it is easier to change the group membership as opposed to having to update every object when adding or removing a contact.

Running A Wizard For An Already Monitored Server


If you have previously run the monitoring wizard against a server, you can run the monitoring wizard again at a later date to add more services to be monitored. Keep in mind that if you chose to monitor a service that already exists then it will not be overwritten. For example, in the NRPE wizard earlier the `Current Users` service was selected. When the wizard creates the objects, it will check to see if a service already exists and if it does then it will not attempt to create the service again.

More importantly is the name of the host object you provide on Step 2 of the wizard. Looking at the screenshot to the right you can see the wizard has auto populated `centos12.box293.local` in the Host Name field. This name can be changed to something like `CENTOS12` for example.



Configuration Wizard: NRPE - Step 2

Server Details

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| IP Address: | <input type="text" value="10.25.13.30"/> |
| Operating System: |  CentOS |
| Host Name: | <input type="text" value="centos12.box293.local"/> <small>The name you'd like to have associated with this host.</small> |

When you are running a wizard to add services to an existing host, the Host Name field **MUST** match the name of the existing host object and it is **CaSe sEnSiTiVe**. If you had originally called the host `CENTOS12` then you would need to re-type this the same. If you don't, then a new host object will be created and your new services will not be linked to your existing host objects.

Wizard Templates

Wizards Templates allow you to define the Step 3 - 5 options so you can use them whenever running a wizard. This ensures you always apply the same options every time you run a wizard.

Note: Do not confuse wizard templates with the templates that are available in CCM, these are completely separate.

To **create** a wizard template, after you have stepped through a configuration wizard, on the final step click the **Save as Template** button.

You will be presented with a pop-up window where you can give it a title and description. You can also make it a global template by checking the box. Global templates are templates that all users can use (normally templates are available for the user who created them).

Save as Template

Save your monitoring settings (step 3), notification settings (step 4), and host/service groups and parent hosts (step 5) for use in future configuration wizards.

Title 10 Minute Intervals

Description Use this for services that don't need to be checked as often

Make global template ?

Save Cancel

Click the **Save** button and once the template has been saved you will be returned to the final step of the wizard.

To **use** a template, on any step during the wizard click the **gear** icon to the right of the wizard title. This will provide a drop down list of wizard templates you can select to be used when running this instance of the wizard.

Configuration Wizard: NRPE - Step 1

Server Information

IP Address:

The IP address or FQDNS name of the server you'd like to monitor.

Operating System: AIX

The operating system running on the server you'd like to monitor.

Back Next

Don't Apply Configuration ?

Default Template

Global Templates

None

User Templates

10 Minute Intervals

Click the gear icon again to hide the drop down list.

To **manage** wizard templates navigate to **Configure > Configuration Tools > Manage Templates**.

The screenshot shows the Nagios XI interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Views', 'Dashboards', 'Reports', 'Configure' (circled in blue), 'Tools', 'Help', and 'Admin'. The left sidebar has 'Configure' expanded, showing 'Configuration Options', 'Configuration Tools' (with 'Configuration Wizards', 'Auto-Discovery', and 'Manage Templates' circled in blue), and 'Advanced Configuration' (with 'Core Config Manager'). The main content area is titled 'Manage Templates' and contains a table with the following data:

| | Title | Actions |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 Minute Intervals | |

Below the table is a 'With selected:' dropdown menu.

You can use the icons in the action column to edit or delete individual templates. If you wish to delete multiple templates you can select multiple check boxes in the left column and use the **With selected** drop down list underneath to perform the bulk action.

Editing a template allows you to update any of the options in steps 3 - 5.

Don't Apply Configuration

On any step during the wizard click the **gear** icon to the right of the wizard title.

The check box **Don't Apply Configuration** provides the ability to create new monitoring configurations without the **Apply Configuration** step being performed in the back-end.

The screenshot shows the 'Configuration Wizard: NRPE - Step 1' page. The title 'Configuration Wizard: NRPE - Step 1' has a gear icon circled in blue to its right. Below the title is a 'Server Information' section with fields for 'IP Address' and 'Operating System' (set to 'AIX'). At the bottom are 'Back' and 'Next' buttons. A dropdown menu is open on the right, showing a 'Default Template' dropdown and a 'Don't Apply Configuration' checkbox (checked). Below this is a list of templates under 'Global Templates' and 'User Templates', with '10 Minute Intervals' selected.

This allows you to run the wizard multiple times and at a later time you can go into CCM and perform an Apply Configuration. This can be useful if you have specific time windows in which you only want new configurations to be applied.

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on understanding and using configuration wizards 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>