

How To Use and Understand Config Wizards In Nagios XI

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:

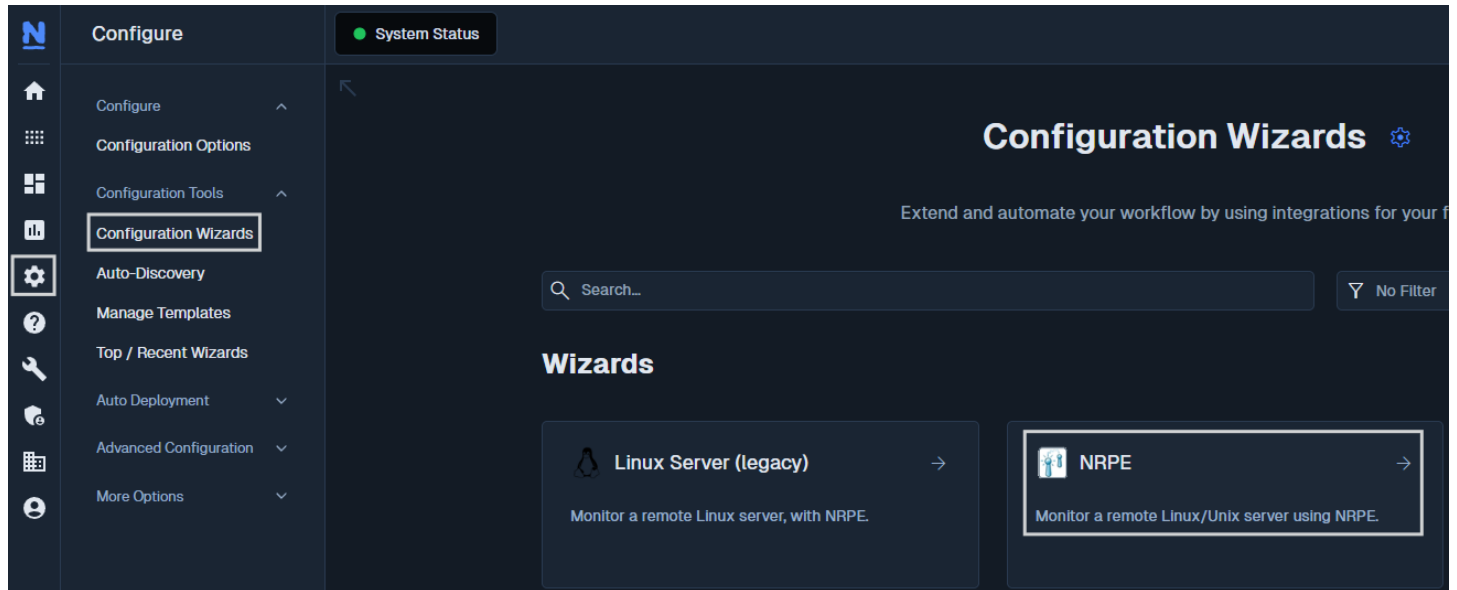
- Common Steps In Wizards
- How The Wizard Creates Objects
- Running A Wizard For An Already Monitored Server
- Wizard Templates

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

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Common Steps In Wizards

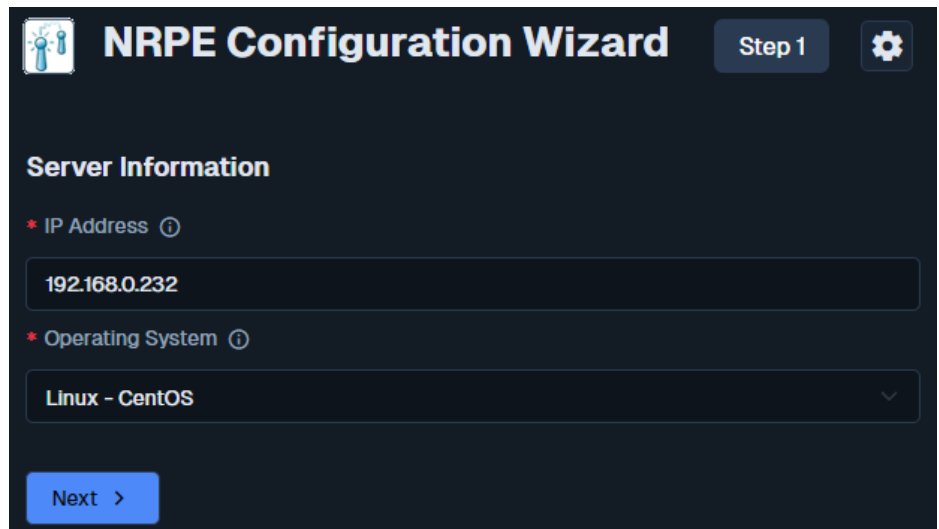
In the following screenshot you can see how the search field allows you to quickly find a wizard.



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.



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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.

To install the agent on the linux machine, you have a button to Download Agent, or using the Agent Installation Instructions

Take 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.

The screenshot shows the 'NRPE Configuration Wizard' at 'Step 2'. It is divided into several sections:

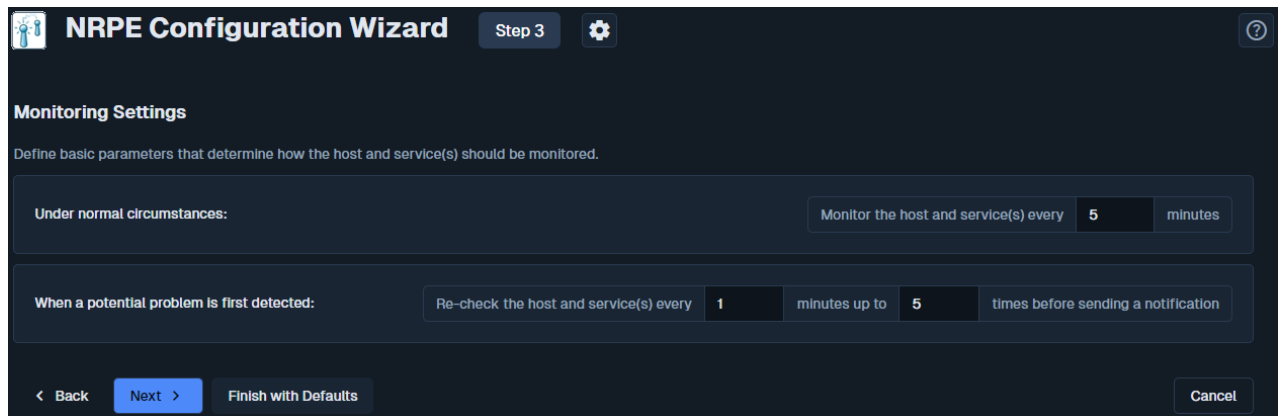
- Server Details:** IP Address (192.168.0.232) and Host Name (192.168.0.232).
- NRPE Agent:** Includes 'Download Agent' and 'Agent Installation Instructions' buttons. An 'SSL Encryption' dropdown is set to 'Enabled (Default)'.
- Server Metrics:** A 'Ping' checkbox is checked.
- NRPE Commands:** A table with columns for 'Display Name', 'Remote NRPE Command', and 'Command Args'. Three rows are checked: 'Current Users' (check_users, -w 5 -c 10), 'Current Load' (check_load, -w 5,10,15 -c 10,20,30), and 'Total Processes' (check_procs, -w 150 -c 250).

Navigation buttons for '< Back' and 'Next >' are at the bottom.

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

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

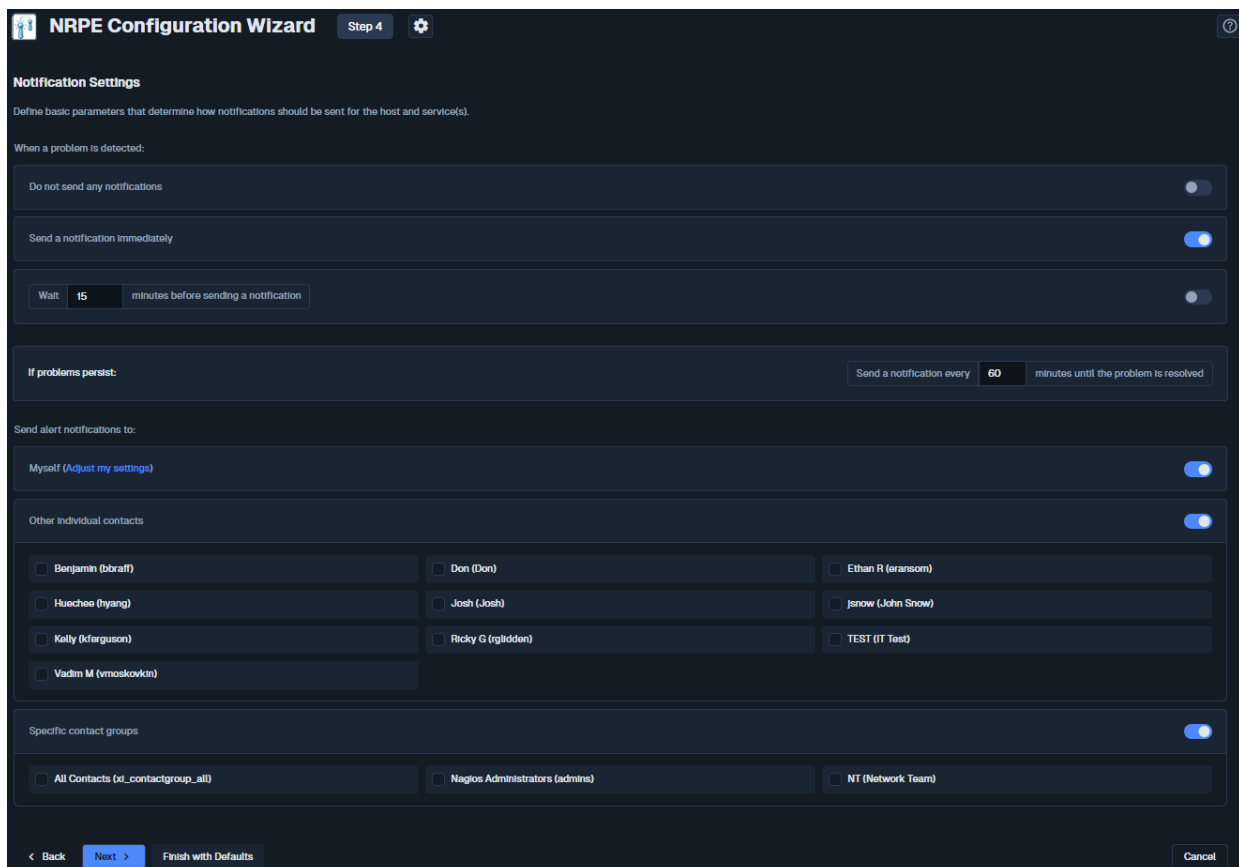
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The screenshot shows the 'NRPE Configuration Wizard' at 'Step 3: Monitoring Settings'. The interface is dark-themed. At the top, there's a title bar with a help icon, the wizard title, 'Step 3', a settings gear icon, and a question mark icon. Below the title bar, the section is titled 'Monitoring Settings' with a subtitle: 'Define basic parameters that determine how the host and service(s) should be monitored.' The main content area has two sections. The first is 'Under normal circumstances:' with a control 'Monitor the host and service(s) every' followed by a text input field containing '5' and the unit 'minutes'. The second is 'When a potential problem is first detected:' with a control 'Re-check the host and service(s) every' followed by a text input field containing '1', the unit 'minutes up to', a text input field containing '5', and the text 'times before sending a notification'. At the bottom, there are three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >' (highlighted in blue), and 'Finish with Defaults'. A 'Cancel' button is located in the bottom right corner.

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.



The screenshot shows the 'NRPE Configuration Wizard' at 'Step 4: Notification Settings'. The interface is dark-themed. At the top, there's a title bar with a help icon, the wizard title, 'Step 4', a settings gear icon, and a question mark icon. Below the title bar, the section is titled 'Notification Settings' with a subtitle: 'Define basic parameters that determine how notifications should be sent for the host and service(s).' The main content area has several sections. The first is 'When a problem is detected:' with three toggle options: 'Do not send any notifications' (disabled), 'Send a notification immediately' (enabled), and 'Wait 15 minutes before sending a notification' (disabled). The second is 'If problems persist:' with a control 'Send a notification every' followed by a text input field containing '60' and the text 'minutes until the problem is resolved'. The third is 'Send alert notifications to:' with two toggle options: 'Myself (Adjust my settings)' (enabled) and 'Other individual contacts' (enabled). Below this is a grid of checkboxes for individual contacts: Benjamin (bbratt), Don (Don), Ethan R (eransom), Huechoe (Hyang), Josh (Josh), jsnow (John Snow), Kelly (kferguson), Ricky G (rglidden), TEST (IT Test), and Vadim M (vmoskovkin). The fourth is 'Specific contact groups' (enabled) with three checkboxes: 'All Contacts (x!_contactgroup_all)', 'Nagios Administrators (admins)', and 'NT (Network Team)'. At the bottom, there are three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >' (highlighted in blue), and 'Finish with Defaults'. A 'Cancel' button is located in the bottom right corner.

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

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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 required selections click the Next button to proceed to Step 5.

Step 5 provides the group and parent options.

NRPE Configuration Wizard Step 5

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

- Host Deadpool (host-deadpool)
- IPCAM (Security Cams)
- Linux Servers (linux-servers)
- NG (Nagios Servers)
- Security cameras (Sec Cams)
- tg (Test group)
- TS (Temp Sensor)

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

- BW (Bandwidth)
- CT (Computer Track)
- S (Status)
- Service Deadpool (service-deadpool)
- TS (Test)
- VM (Website Track)

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.

- 10.10.20.10 (10.10.20.10)
- 10.10.20.11 (10.10.20.11)
- 10.10.20.12 (10.10.20.12)
- 10.10.20.13 (10.10.20.13)
- 10.10.20.14 (10.10.20.14)
- 10.10.20.15 (10.10.20.15)
- 10.10.20.16 (10.10.20.16)
- 10.10.20.17 (10.10.20.17)
- 10.10.20.18 (10.10.20.18)
- 10.10.20.19 (10.10.20.19)
- 10.10.20.20 (10.10.20.20)
- 10.10.20.8 (10.10.20.8)
- 10.10.20.9 (10.10.20.9)
- 192.168.107.27 (192.168.107.27)
- 192.168.14.5 (192.168.14.5)
- Back Entrance (10.10.20.8)
- Cam 10 (10.10.20.10)
- Cam 11 (10.10.20.11)
- Cam 12 (10.10.20.12)
- Cam 13 (10.10.20.13)
- Front (10.10.20.7)
- Switch-165 (192.168.105.161)
- Temp Sensor 1 (192.168.5.254)
- cam 39 (10.10.20.39)

< Back **Next >** Finish with Defaults Cancel

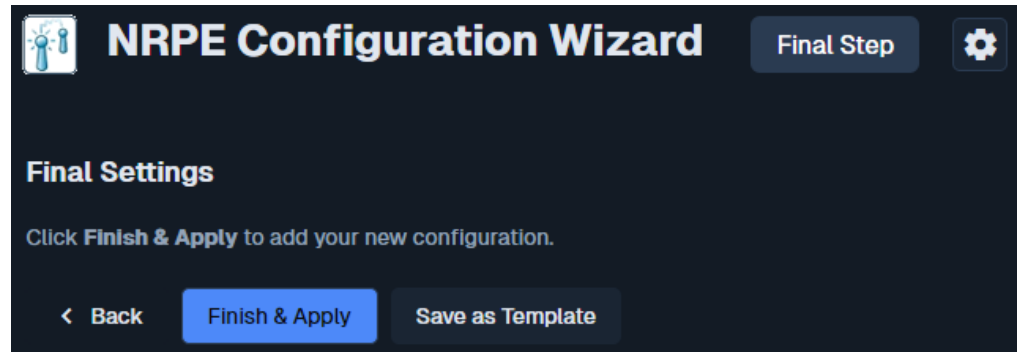
These options will be defined in the *hostgroups*, *hostgroup_name*, *servicegroups* and *parents* directives of the host and service objects that are created by the wizard.

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

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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.



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 to 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.

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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 reason 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 `192.168.0.232` in the Host Name field. This name can be changed to something like `CentOS9` for example.



The screenshot shows the 'NRPE Configuration Wizard' interface at 'Step 2'. Under the 'Server Details' section, there are two input fields. The first is labeled 'IP Address' and contains the value '192.168.0.232'. The second is labeled 'Host Name' with an information icon and contains the value '192.168.0.232'. The interface has a dark theme with blue accents.

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 `CentOS9` 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.

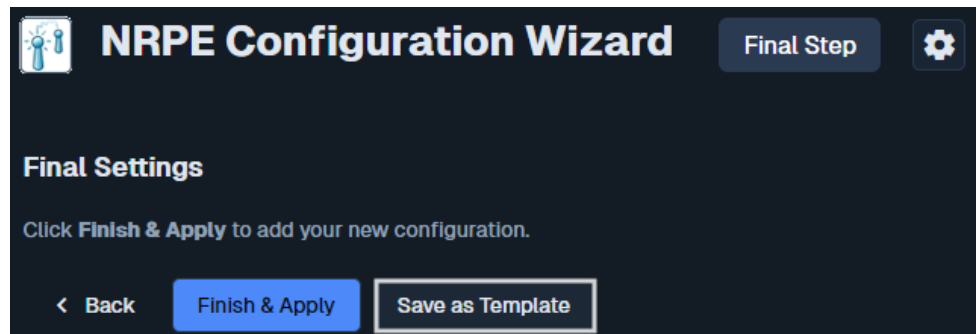
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Wizard Templates

Wizards Templates allow you to define the Step 3 - 5 options so you can use them whenever you run 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 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).

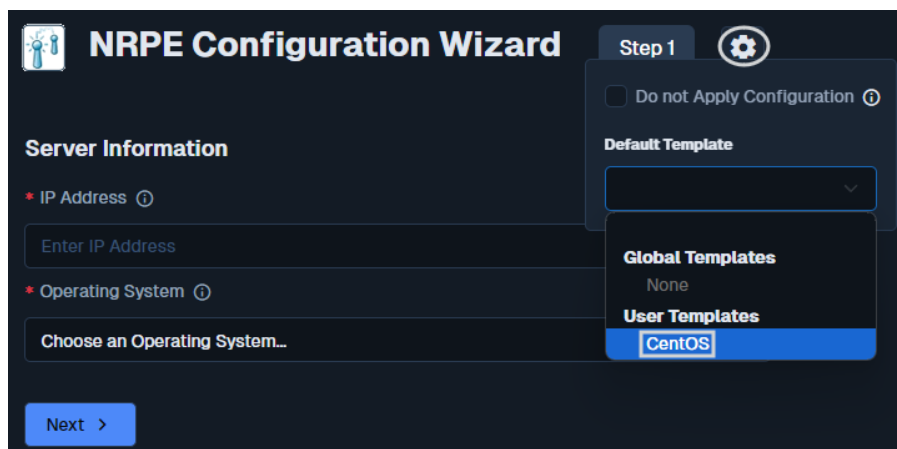
Click the **Save** button and once the template has been saved you will be returned to the final step of the wizard.

A screenshot of the 'Save as Template' pop-up window. The title is 'Save as Template'. Below the title, it says '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.' There are two input fields: 'Title' with the value 'CentOS' and 'Description' with the value 'Create CentOS Default'. Below these fields is a checkbox labeled 'Make global template' which is currently unchecked. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Save' and 'Cancel'.

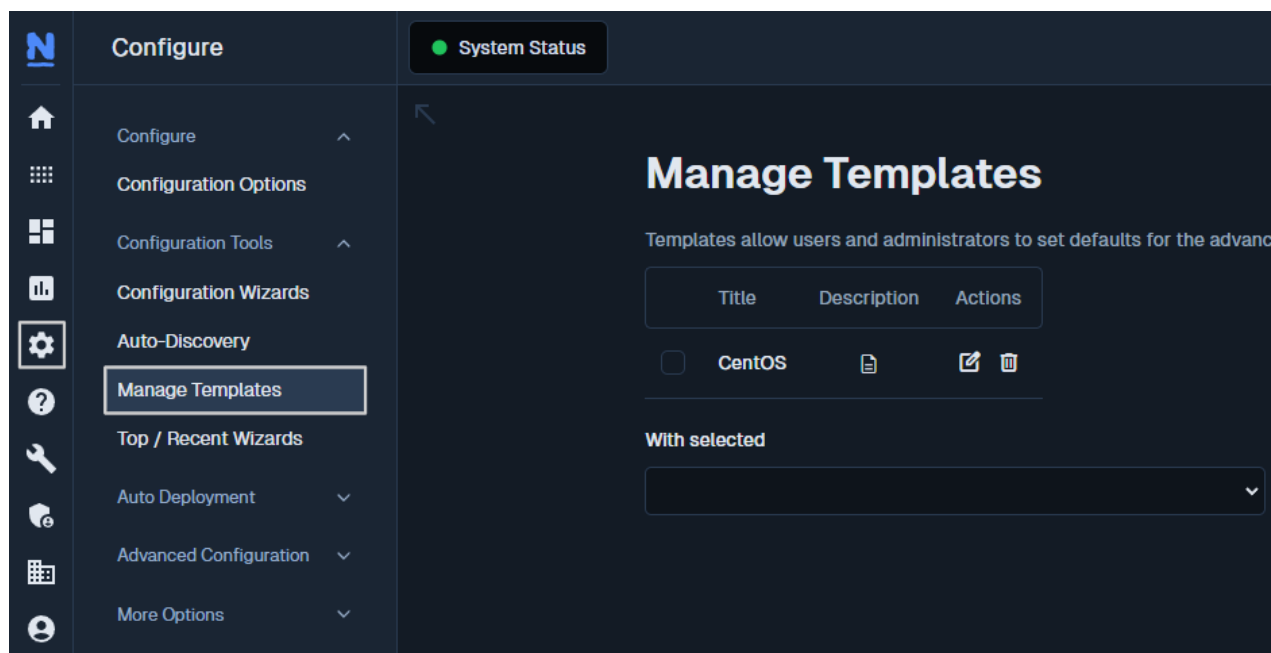
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To **use** a template, on any step during the wizard click the **gear** icon to the right of the wizard title. This will provide a drop-down list of wizard templates you can select to be used when running this instance of the wizard.

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



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



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.

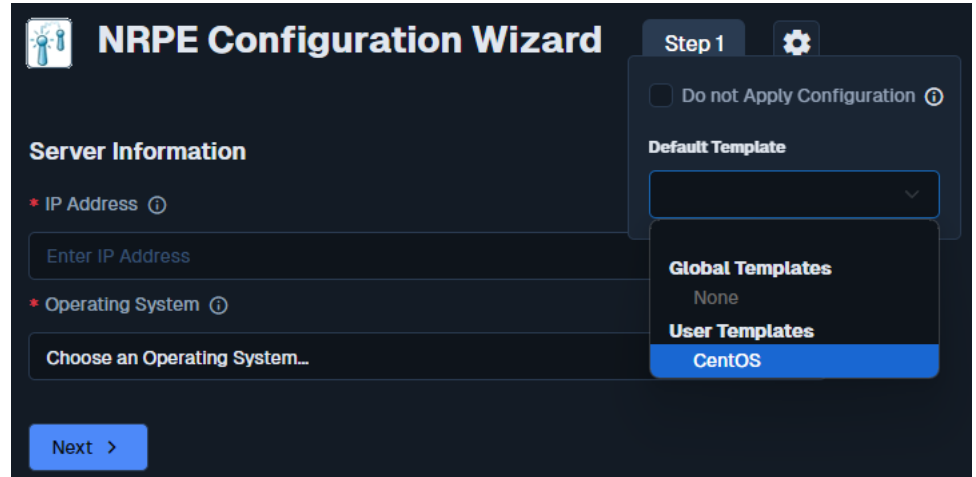
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Don't Apply Configuration

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.



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>

