

How To Use and Understand Config Wizards in Nagios XI

Purpose

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

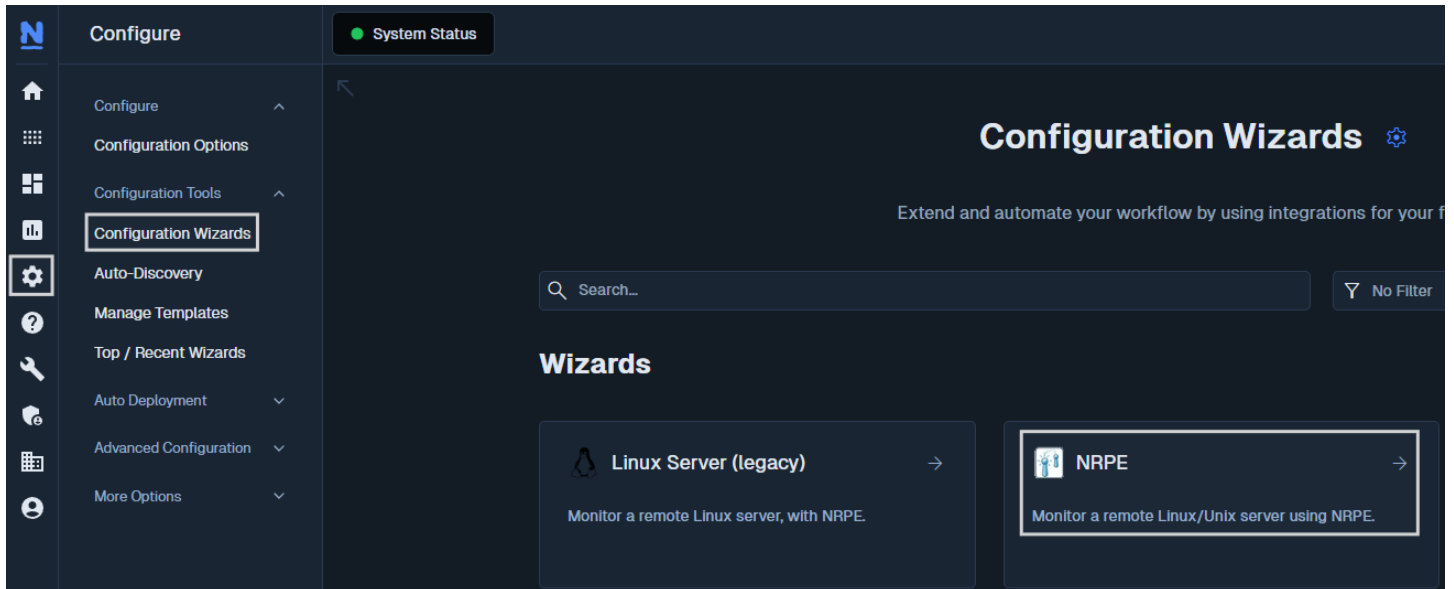
- Common Steps In Wizards
- How The Wizard Creates Objects
- Running A Wizard For An Already Monitored Server
- Wizard Templates

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

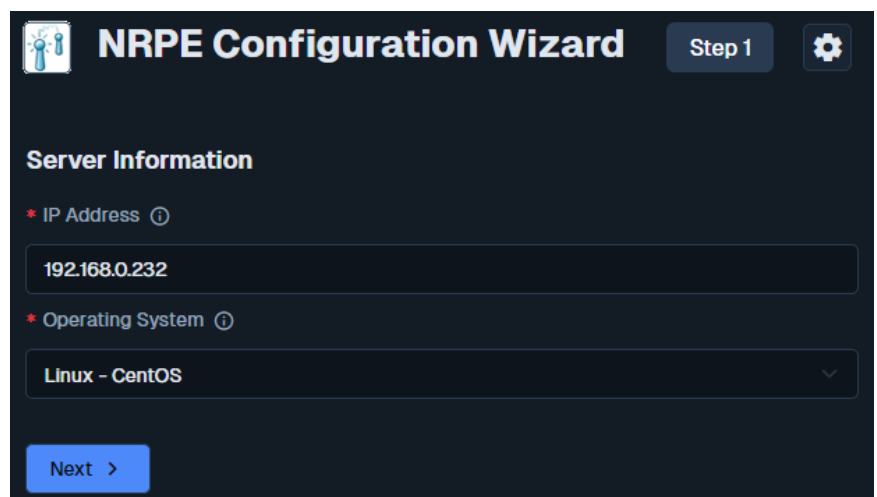
In the following screenshot you can see how the search field allows you to quickly find a wizard.



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.

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

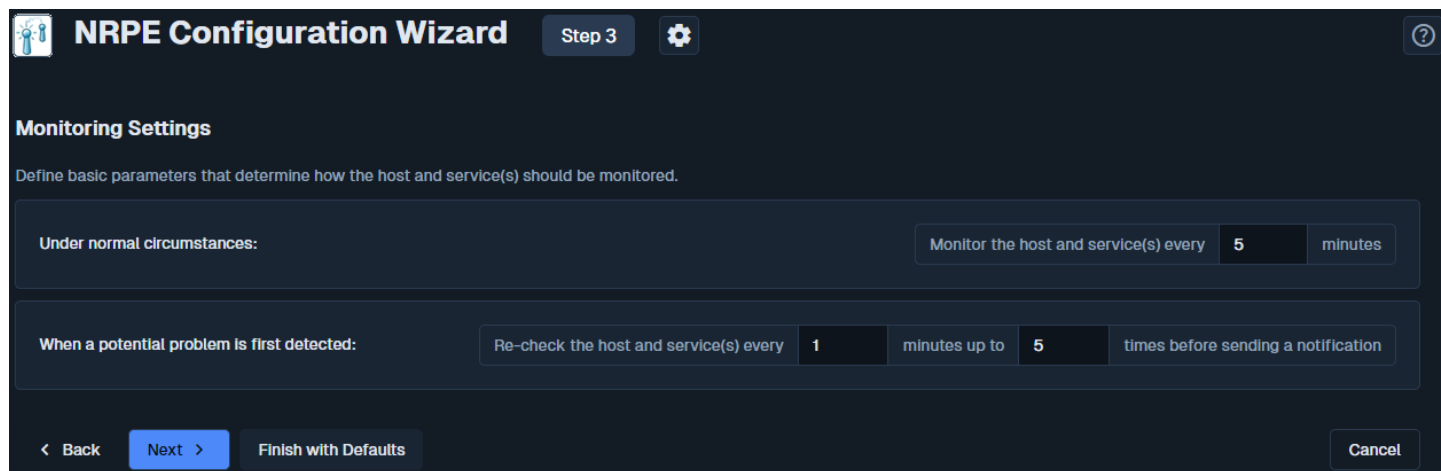
The screenshot shows the 'NRPE Configuration Wizard' at 'Step 2'. The interface is dark-themed with white text. It contains several sections: 'Server Details' with input fields for 'IP Address' (192.168.0.232) and 'Host Name' (192.168.0.232); 'NRPE Agent' with links for 'Download Agent' and 'Agent Installation Instructions', and a dropdown for 'SSL Encryption' set to 'Enabled (Default)'; 'Server Metrics' with a checked checkbox for 'Ping'; and 'NRPE Commands' which is a table with columns 'Display Name', 'Remote NRPE Command', and 'Command Args'. The table has three rows: 'Current Users' (checked), 'Current Load' (checked), and 'Total Processes' (checked). Below the table are 'Add Row' and 'Delete Row' buttons. At the bottom are '< Back' and 'Next >' buttons.

Display Name	Remote NRPE Command	Command Args
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Users	check_users	-w 5 -c 10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Load	check_load	-w 5,10,15 -c 10,20,30
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total Processes	check_procs	-w 150 -c 250
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		

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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.



The screenshot shows the 'NRPE Configuration Wizard' interface at 'Step 3'. The title bar includes a help icon, the wizard name, 'Step 3', a settings icon, and a question mark icon. The main section is titled 'Monitoring Settings' with a subtitle 'Define basic parameters that determine how the host and service(s) should be monitored.' There are two configuration sections: 'Under normal circumstances:' with a dropdown set to 'Monitor the host and service(s) every' and a value of '5' minutes; and 'When a potential problem is first detected:' with a dropdown set to 'Re-check the host and service(s) every' and values of '1' minutes up to '5' times before sending a notification. At the bottom are navigation buttons: '< Back', 'Next >' (highlighted in blue), 'Finish with Defaults', and 'Cancel'.

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

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

The screenshot shows the 'NRPE Configuration Wizard' at 'Step 4'. The title is 'Notification Settings'. Below the title, it says 'Define basic parameters that determine how notifications should be sent for the host and service(s)'. The main section is 'When a problem is detected:'. It has three options: 'Do not send any notifications' (disabled), 'Send a notification Immediately' (enabled), and 'Wait 15 minutes before sending a notification' (disabled). Below this is 'If problems persist:' with a setting 'Send a notification every 60 minutes until the problem is resolved'. The next section is 'Send alert notifications to:'. It has 'Myself (Adjust my settings)' (enabled) and 'Other individual contacts' (enabled). Under 'Other individual contacts', there are checkboxes for Benjamin (bbraff), Don (Don), Ethan R (eransom), Huechee (hyang), Josh (Josh), Jsnow (John Snow), Kelly (kferguson), Ricky G (rglidden), and TEST (IT Test). Below this is 'Specific contact groups' (enabled) with checkboxes for 'All Contacts (x1_contactgroup_all)', 'Nagios Administrators (admins)', and 'NT (Network Team)'. At the bottom, there are buttons for '< Back', 'Next >', 'Finish with Defaults', and 'Cancel'.

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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 required selections click the **Next** button to proceed to the **Final Step**.

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

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.

NRPE Configuration Wizard Final Step

Final Settings
Click **Finish & Apply** to add your new configuration.

< Back Finish & Apply Save as Template

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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.

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 later to add more services to be monitored. Keep in mind that if you choose 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.

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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 the top right, it says 'Step 2' next to a gear icon. The main section is titled 'Server Details'. It contains two input fields: 'IP Address' with the value '192.168.0.232' and 'Host Name' with the value '192.168.0.232'. There is an information icon next to the Host Name label.

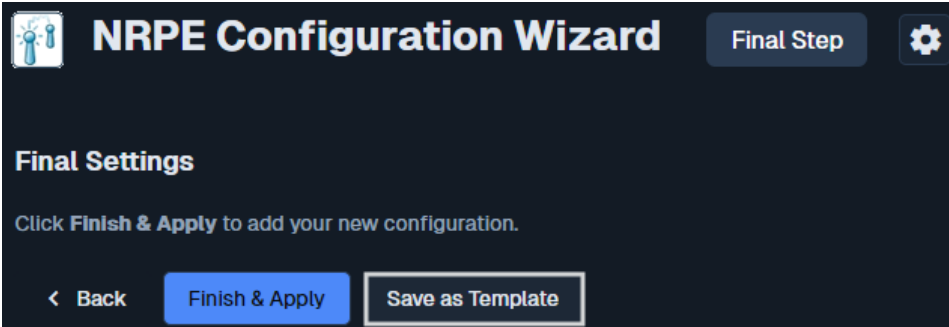
When you are running a wizard to add services to an existing host, the **Host Name** field MUST match the name of the existing host object, and it is case sensitive. If you had originally called the host CentOS9 then you would need to re-type this the same. If you don't, then a new host object will be created and your new services will not be linked to your existing host objects.

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.

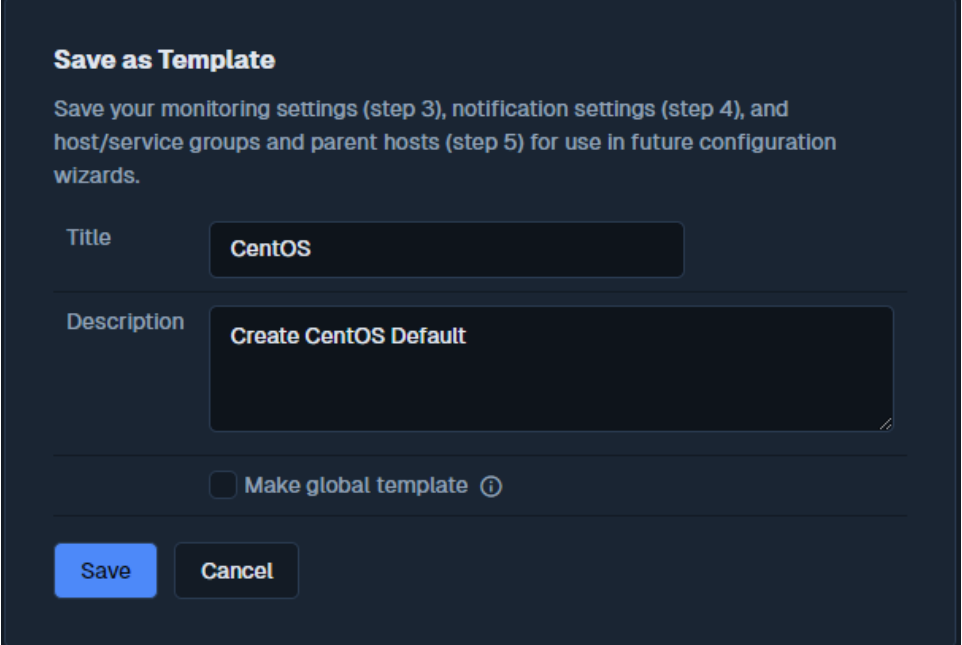


The screenshot shows the 'NRPE Configuration Wizard' interface at the 'Final Step'. It has a 'Final Step' label and a gear icon at the top right. The main section is titled 'Final Settings'. Below the title, it says 'Click **Finish & Apply** to add your new configuration.' At the bottom, there are three buttons: '< Back', 'Finish & Apply', and 'Save as Template'.

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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.



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

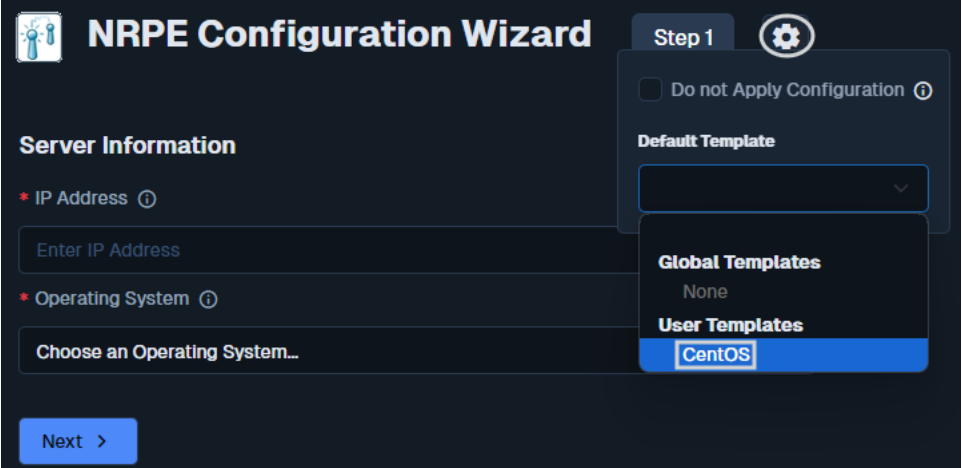
Description

☐ Make global template ⓘ

Save **Cancel**

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.



NRPE Configuration Wizard Step 1 ⚙️

☐ Do not Apply Configuration ⓘ

Default Template

Global Templates

None

User Templates

CentOS

Server Information

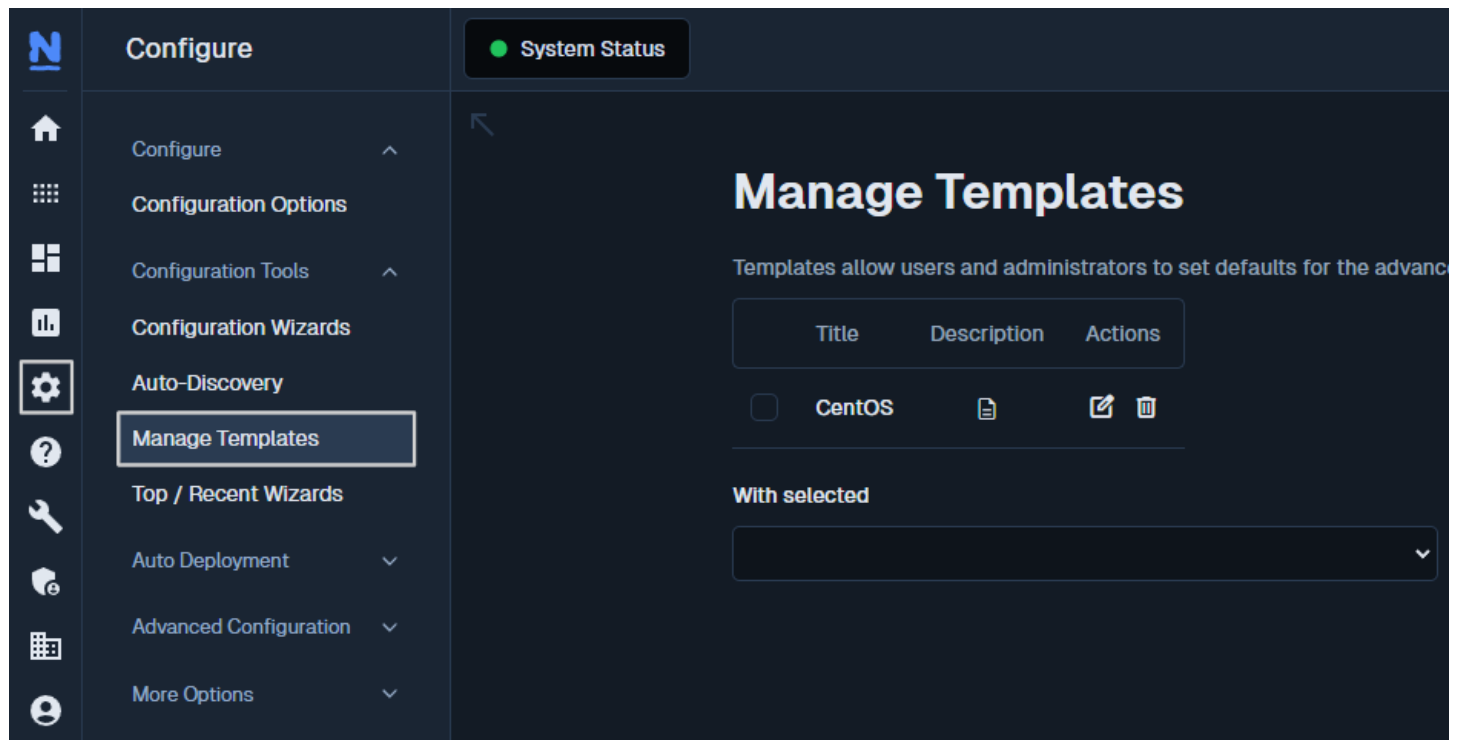
* IP Address ⓘ

* Operating System ⓘ

Next >

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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**.

Don't Apply Configuration

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

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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.

NRPE Configuration Wizard

Step 1

☐ Do not Apply Configuration ⓘ

Default Template

Global Templates

None

User Templates

CentOS

Server Information

* IP Address ⓘ

Enter IP Address

* Operating System ⓘ

Choose an Operating System...

Next >

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 how to use and understand config wizards 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](#)