### Purpose

This document describes how to configure Nagios XI to support multi-tenancy to allow multiple users or clients to share access to a single Nagios XI instance. This ensures those specific users have access only to hosts and services they are authorized to view and maintain. This document is designed for use by Nagios administrators, hosted service providers, and companies that wish to expose different hosts and services to different departments, different clients, or similar situations where there needs to be segregated access to monitored entities.

Note: If you are using Nagios XI 2024, please refer to the updated document.

### **Additional Resources**

In addition to this document, Nagios administrators should be familiar with the following documentation:

#### Nagios XI Users and Contacts

This document provides supporting information to successfully implement multi-tenancy with Nagios XI.

### **Multi-Tenancy Overview**

Multi-tenancy allows administrators to configure Nagios XI in such a way that the following criteria can be met:

- A single Nagios XI instance can monitor hosts and services for multiple users (clients)
- Each user (client) can only see the hosts and services they are authorized to view and maintain

### **Permissions and Multi-Tenancy**

A key component of multi-tenancy is the ability to restrict a given user's permissions to allow them to see and control only hosts and services they are authorized to view and maintain. Nagios XI automatically determines what hosts and services a user is authorized to see based on their relationship to those hosts and services.

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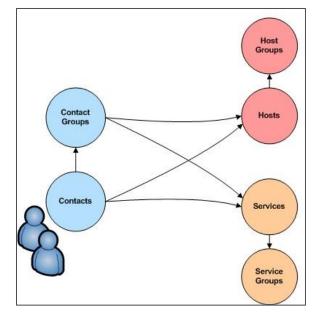
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By default, Nagios XI grants users permission to see and control hosts and services that are configured to:

- Send alerts to the user (contact)
- Send alerts to a contact group the user (contact) is a member of

A key to understanding the relationships between objects and the corresponding permissions that contacts have is to know how different types of objects relate to each other:

- Users (contacts) may belong to one or more contact groups
- Hosts and services may be configured to send alerts to multiple contacts or contact groups
- Hosts and services may be members or one or more host groups or service groups, respectively



### **Getting Started**

This guide will take you through the steps of configuring Nagios XI to support multi-tenancy, including:

- Creating users / contacts
- Defining contact groups
- Configuring hosts and services
- Defining host groups

### **Administrative Login**

If you haven't already done so, login to Nagios XI as the **nagiosadmin** user. You'll need to perform operations which require administrator access in the following steps.

### **Creating Users And Contacts**

The first step in creating a multi-tenant Nagios XI installation is the creation of multiple user accounts.

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Navigate to Admin > Users > Manage Users and click the Add New User button.

<u>N</u> agios' XI	Home V	liews [	Dashboards Rep	orts Configure	Tools	Help Admin		Q 🎯 🛓 na	giosadmin 🕁 Logout 🛛 🗮
A System Information	2								
✓ Users	Manag	je Use	ers						0
Manage Users HDAP/AD Integration Notification Management	Add No		Add users from L	.DAP/AD 😽 Email	All Users				Search Q
A System Config	onoming 1 1								
A Monitoring Config		Isername	🔱 Name	🄱 Email	Phone Num	ber Auth Level	Auth Type	Last Login	Actions
A Check Transfers	nag	iosadmin	Nagios Administrato	r root@localhost	-	Admin	Local	2016-12-20 05:40:0	5 🥜 💩 💿 🗸 🗙
A System Extensions				Pa	ge 1 of 1	5 Per Page 🔹	Go		
∧ System Backups	With Selecte	d: 🗙 🖂							

Populate the fields as required.

The most important option is the **Create as Monitoring Contact** checkbox, this is how the multi-tenancy security model works.

Add New User					
General Settings					
Username:	David				
Password:	•••••				
Repeat Password:	•••••				
Force Password Change at Next Login:					
Email User Account Information:					
Name:	David				
Email Address:	david@domain.local				
Create as Monitoring Contact:	Create as Monitoring Contact:				
Enable Notifications:	×				
Account Enabled:					

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It's also worth mentioning that the **Can see all objects option** will prevent the multi-tenancy from filtering the objects the user is allowed to see.

Preferences		Security Settings	
Language:	English	Authorization Level: 0	User 💌
Date Format:	YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS	Can see all objects:	
Number Format	: 1,000.00 -	Can (re)configure hosts and services: 0	
Humber Format	1,000.00	Can control all objects: 🕜	
Authentication	Settings 🖗	Can see/control monitoring engine:	
		Can access advanced features: 🚱	
Auth Type:	Local (Default)	Has read-only access:	
8		Has API access:	
Update User	Cancel		

Create all the users that will be accessing Nagios XI.

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### **Defining Contact Groups**

It is considered best practice to define one or more contact groups that can be used to categorize the contacts you create. Contact groups can be used to group contacts by company/client, department, team, or other logical grouping.

Navigate to **Configure > Core Config Manager**. Expand **Alerting** and click **Contact Groups**.

Core Config Manager	Contact Groups	ration Wizards	5	earch	Q 🕜
A Quick Tools	Corre C		4		
A Monitoring	+ Add New Displaying 1-2 of 2 results				
✓ Alerting					
Contacts	I Contact Group Name	1 Alias	[ Active	Actions	1 ID
O Time Periods	admins	Nagios Administrators	Yes	× 🗅 🔚 🛛 🗙	1
<ul> <li>Host Escalations</li> <li>Service Escalations</li> </ul>	xi_contactgroup_all	All Contacts	Yes	× D 🖻 🛛 ×	2
∧ Templates		-1			
∧ Commands	+ Add New & Apply Configuration With checked	Go		Results per page	15 -
Advanced					

Click the Add New button to add a new Contact Group.

You will define a name and description for the group.

Click the Manage Contacts button to add users to the contact group.

Contact Group Manager	nent
Contact Group Name *	Assign Memberships
Developers	Manage Contacts
Description *	
Developers	Manage Contact Groups 0
C Active	
Save Cancel	



Select the members that should belong to the group.

Click **Close** and then **Save** to finish creating the contact group.

Filter	Assigned	Remove Al
alice	chase	*
david	emma	*
ay gerard	lemont	×
hank	maggie	
rene	maggie	
jonah		
kelly		
nagiosadmin		
nick		
r.		
8 Octobio data	defined elsewhere	
Add Selected > 6 Relationship		

Adding an entire contact group is done using the **Manage Contactgroups** button and is similar to the **Manage Contacts** button.

ilter	Assigned	Remove All
Imins	Accountants	×
lelpers ittle Guy Personnel	Developers	×
)wners	Managers	×
<pre>ki_contactgroup_all</pre>		
Add Selected > % Relationship defined else	ewhere	

This allows you to add a subgroup and allows for multiple group relationships on different levels.

Remember to save your settings after you modify a contact group and **Apply Configuration** when done.

### **Configuring Hosts and Services**

To grant users permission to see specific hosts and services, you must configure that user to be a notification contact for those hosts and services.

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When configuring new hosts and services using the Monitoring Wizard, you can simply select the appropriate contact(s) and/or contact group(s) that should receive notifications for the host and services on the **Notification Settings** page (step 4).

The contacts and contact groups you select on this screen will have the ability to view the status of these hosts and services when they login to Nagios XI.

In this screenshot, when adding the Delta server we added the **Developers** contact group. This means that Chase, Emma, Lemont and Maggie will see this host and services when logged into Nagios XI.

lotification Settings	
efine basic parameters that determine how notifications should be sent for the	host and service(s
When a problem is detected:	
O Don't send any notifications	
Send a notification immediately	
Wait 15 minutes before sending a notification	
(f problems persist:	
Send a notification every 60 minutes until the problem is resolved.	
Send alert notifications to:	
Myself (Adjust my settings)	
Other individual contacts	
Alice (alice)	
Chase (chase)	
David (david)	
Default Contact (xi_default_contact)	
Emma (emma)	
🗌 Fay (fay)	
Gerard (gerard)	
Hank (hank)	
Irene (irene)	
Specific contact groups	
Accountants (Accountants)	
All Contacts (xi_contactgroup_all)	
Developers (Developers)	
Helpers (Helpers)	
Little Guy Personnel (Little Guy Personnel)	
Managers (Managers)	
Mega Corp Personnel (Mega Corp Personnel)	
Nagios Administrators (admins)	



If you create your users and/or contact groups after creating hosts and services, you can easily re-configure the hosts or services to use those new contacts and/or contact groups.

This can be accomplished by selecting the **Re-configure this host/service** option under the **Configure** tab when you are viewing detailed information on a specific host or service.

When the **Configure Host** page opens, select the **Notification** tab. This will allow you to change any of the contacts and contact groups associated with this host.

Click Update when done making changes.

#### Host Status Detail



Note: You may update basic settings for the host below or use the Nagios Core Config Manager to modify advanced settings for this host. Host attribute values which are inherited from advanced templates are not shown below.

Attributes	Monitoring	Notifications	Host Groups	Host Parents

Specify the parameters that determine how notifications should be sent for the host.

When a problem is detected:

- O Don't send any notifications
- Send a notification immediately
- Wait 15 minutes before sending a notification

#### If problems persist:

Send a notification every 60 minutes until the problem is resolved.

Send alert notifications to:

Alice (alice)	1
Bob (bob)	
Chase (chase)	
David (david)	
Default Contact (xi_default_contact)	6
Emma (emma)	
Fay (fay)	
Gerard (gerard)	
Hank (hank)	
Specific contact groups	
Accountants (Accountants)	ſ
All Contacts (xi_contactgroup_all)	
Developers (Developers)	
Helpers (Helpers)	
Little Guy Personnel (Little Guy Personnel)	
Managers (Managers)	
Mega Corp Personnel (Mega Corp Personnel)	
Nagios Administrators (admins)	
Owners (Owners)	-

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### **Defining Host Groups**

Host groups allow you to group hosts in a logical manner, making it easier for users to get a quick view of their network infrastructure. They will not have an impact on the notifications or access control but will make it easier for both your users to grasp what they are looking at and for you as the administrator to quickly pinpoint where problems are occurring.

#### Navigate to **Configure > Core Config Manager**. Expand **Monitoring** and click **Host Groups**.

<u>N</u> agios' XI	Home Views Dashboards Reports Cor	nfigure Tools Help Admin	۹ 😔	占 nagiosadmin 🛛 🖒	Logout 🔳
Core Config Manager	Host Groups	Configuration Wizards	5	earch	Q 🕜
A Quick Tools	Host Groups	Core Config Manager		taren .	4
✓ Monitoring	+ Add New Displaying 1-2 of 2 results				
Hosts     Services					
🔁 Host Groups	I Host Group Name	1 Alias	1 Active	Actions	[ ID
B Service Groups	linux-servers	Linux Servers	Yes	* D 🗎 🛛 🗙	1
∧ Alerting	windows-servers		No	* D 🗎 🔘 🗙	2
∧ Templates					
∧ Commands	+ Add New Apply Configuration With check	ed 🗸 Go		Results per pag	ge 15 🔻
Advanced				1	_
∧ Tools					
∧ CCM Admin					

Click the Add New button to add a new Host Group.

You will define a name and description for the group.

Click the **Manage Hosts** button to add hosts to the host group.

#### **Host Group Management**

Host Group Name *	Assign Memberships
Laptops	Manage Hosts 0
Description *	
Laptops	Manage Host Groups 0
Notes	
Notes URL	
Action URL	
🖾 Active 🚯	
Save Cancel	

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Filter	Assigned	Remove Al
Alpha	Bravo	! 🗆 🗙
Charlie Delta	Foxtrot	! 🗆 🗙
Echo	Romeo	! 🗆 🗙
Juliet	Tango	! 🗆 🗙
Kilo	Tango	• 🗆 🗖
ocalhost		
Qubec		
Sierra		
Uniform		
r.		
Add Selected > % Relation: Inactive	ship defined elsewhere object	

Select the members that should belong to the group.

Click **Close** and then **Save** to finish creating the host group.

Similar to contact groups, you can create host groups that have individual hosts and other host groups as their members. Host groups are added with the **Manage Host Groups** button.

Laptops	! 🗆 🗙
Servers	! 🗆 🗙
Workstations	! 🗆 🗙
	Servers

Remember to choose the **Apply Configuration** option when you are done making configuration changes.

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### **Service Groups**

Service groups work in a similar way to host groups, in that they allow you to group services together in a way that makes sense for users who need to view the status of your infrastructure. The process for creating service groups is like that of creating host groups.

Navigate to **Configure > Core Config Manager**. Expand **Monitoring** and click **Service Groups**.

<u>N</u> agios' XI	Home Views Dashboards Reports	Configure Tools Help Admi	in	Q 🎯 占 nagiosadmin	ර Logout 🔳
Core Config Manager	Service Groups	Configuration Wizards		Search	Q 🕐
A Quick Tools		Core Config Manager		bearen	~ •
✓ Monitoring	+ Add New Displaying 1-0 of 0 results				
☐ Hosts ☐ Services ▷ Host Groups	Service Group Name	‡ Alias	1 Active	Actions	1 ID
B Service Groups	No results returned from servicegroup table				
<ul> <li>∧ Alerting</li> <li>∧ Templates</li> </ul>	+ Add New & Apply Configuration With che	ccked Go		Results per p	oage 15 🚽
∧ Commands					
Advanced					
∧ Tools					
∧ CCM Admin					

Click the **Add New** button to add a new **Service Group**.

You will define a name and description for the group.

Click the **Manage Services** button to add services to the service group.

Adding members to the service group is the same as in **Contact** and **Host Groups**. When you may have a lot of services you can filter the results in the left pane by typing in the

Service Group Name *	Assign Memberships
CPU Usage	Manage Services 4
Description *	
CPU Usage	Manage Service Groups 0
Notes	
Notes URL	
Action URL	



CPU	X Assigned	Remove All
H:Alpha : CPU Usage	H:Bravo : CPU Usage	×
H:Charlie : CPU Usage H:Delta : CPU Stats	H:Foxtrot : CPU Usage	×
H:Echo : CPU Usage	H:Romeo : CPU Usage	×
H:Juliet : CPU Stats	H:Tango : CPU Usage	×
H:Kilo : CPU Stats		
H:Qubec : CPU Usage H:Sierra : CPU Usage		
H:Uniform : CPU Stats		
Add Selected > % Relationship defined elsewhere		

Filter field at the top of the left pane. In the screenshot below you can see that the results have been filtered by the word CPU.

Remember to save and choose the **Apply Configuration** option when you are done making configuration changes.

### An Example

We configured Nagios XI with a sample setup to test and document the multi-tenancy features available. The information below describes how we set up our Nagios XI instance, and the end-result of our configuration.

The configuration diagrams follow the pattern shown in the image below. Elements of the diagram show the relationships between hosts, host groups, contacts, and contact groups.

Contact		
Emma	CG: Contact Group	;t
Jonah	(re)	



We defined two client companies - "Little Guy" and "Mega Corp" - each of which had a single top-level contact group covering their entire company. Those top-level contact groups then had other sub-groups as their members, which were used to define roles or departments within the company. The sub-groups then had individual employees as their members. The image below represents the configuration we created.

We defined two client companies - "Little Guy" and "Mega Corp" - each of which had a single top-level contact group covering their entire company. Those top-level contact groups then had other sub-groups as their members, which were used to define roles or departments within the company. The sub-groups then had individual employees as their members. The image below represents the configuration we created.

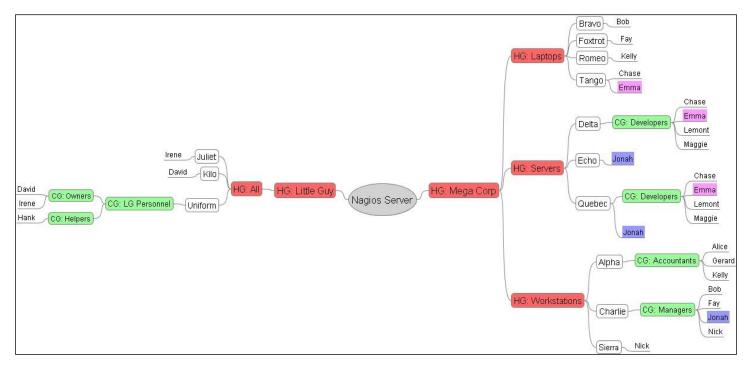
David	CG: Accountants	Alice Gerard Kelly Chase
Irene Hank CG: Helpers CG: Little Guy Personnel Nagios Server CG: Mega Corp Personnel	-CG: Developers	Emma Lemont Maggie
	CG: Managers	Fay Jonah Nick

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Top-level host groups were configured to contain each company's respective infrastructure elements. Sublevel host groups were defined to narrow the scope of included infrastructure elements for Mega Corp. The diagram below shows the hosts that are defined as members of various **hostgroups**, along with the the contact(s) and/or contact group(s) that were assigned to each host for notification purposes.



#### **Administrator View**

We configured Nagios XI using the **nagiosadmin** account. This account is an administrator, so it has permission to view all hosts, services, and groups that were defined. The following screenshot shows the hostgroups that were visible to the administrator under the **Hostgroup Overview** screen once we finished configuring everything.

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17								Up		Unreachal		-					Pending
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	a Corp (	(Mega C	48:09			ervers)		Ŧ	Work Host	stations	(Works Status	tations) 📄 🖬 Services		Last	Updated: 201	6-12-21 05:	
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Megi Host Alpha Brav Char Delta Echo Foxtr Qube Rom	a Corp ( t a ar a	Mega     C       Status        Up	48:09 Corp)   Torp 5 Ok 5 Ok 5 Ok 5 Ok 1 Warning 5 Ok 5 Ok 5 Ok		Servers (Se Host Delta x* ) Echo 7 ) Qubec 7 )	Status Up Up Up	Services 11 Ok 1 Warning 5 Ok 5 Ok	<b>~</b>	Host Alpha Charli Sierra	₩ - ₩ - ₩ -	Status Up Up Up	Services 5 Ok 5 Ok 4 Ok 1 Warning		Last	Updated: 201	6-12-21 05:	
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#### Non-Admin View #1: Jonah

We created a Jonah user that appeared in three different places (highlighted in blue) in the diagram on the previous page. Jonah was configured as a direct notification contact for the hosts Echo and Quebec, and indirectly as a notification contact for Charlie via his membership in the Managers contact group.

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These relationships are summarized in the diagram to the right:



We logged into Nagios XI as Jonah

and selected the **Hostgroup Overview** screen to see what hosts and host groups Jonah could see.

The following screenshot shows that Jonah's view was limited to include only the hosts Echo, Quebec, and Charlie.

	p Sta	tus 💡	Host	t Statu	s Summary		9	12754	Service Status Summary					
					Unreachable	Pendin	ng	Ok	Warning	Unknown	Critical	Pending		
			З	0	0	0		15	0	0	0	0		
			Unh	andled	Problems	All		Ur	nhandled	Probl	ems	AII		
				0	0	3			0	0		15		
7			Last Uj	Ŧ	16-12-21 05:53:			Last U	pdated: 2016					
Mega Corp	Mega C Status	orp) 📄 🖬 Services	Last Uj	<b>₽</b> Se	ervers (Ser		ervices		1	tions (We	orkstati	ons) 📄 🖻 Services		
Mega Corp	Status		Last Uj	Я Se	ervers (Ser	vers) tatus Se			Worksta	tions (We	orkstati atus s			
Mega Corp	Status Up	Services	Last Uj	Se H	ervers (Serv	vers) tatus Se p 5	ervices		Worksta Host Charlie	tions (Wo	orkstati atus	Services		

### Non-Admin View #2: Emma

Another user, Emma was directly defined as the notification contact for the host Tango and indirectly for *Delta* and *Quebec* through her membership in the Developers contact group.

Tango Emma CG: Developers Quebec

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As seen in the following screenshot, Emma could only see the Delta, Tango and Quebec servers.

	lost Group Status 💡				t <mark>Statu</mark>	s Summary		Ŧ	Service Status Summary					
				Up	Down	Unreachable	Pending		Ok	Warning	Unknown	Critical	Pending	
				3	0	0	0		21	1	0	0	0	
				Unh	andled	Problems	AII		Ur	nhandled	Proble	ems	All	
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Lа	1000 1000 XXX	Status		•	Mega Host		s Services		-		Status	Services		
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Another example is the service group that was created which included CPU Usage services from multiple servers. When Emma is logged in and navigates to the **Servicegroup Overview** page she only sees the services she has access to, as per this screenshot.

Service Grou	ib S	Status 🧃			_		*				en an	
Overview			Hos	t Statu	s Summary		S	erv	lice Stat	us Summ	ary	
			Up	Down	Unreachable	Pending		Ok	Warning	Unknown	Critical	Pending
			З	0	0	0		21	1	0	0	0
			Uni	nandled	Problems	All		Un	handled	Probl	ems	All
				0	0	3			1	1		22
CPU Usage (CP Host S	PU Us tatus	-20 R										
Tango 🔊 🗋 U	Jp	1 Ok										
Last Updated: 2016-12-												

### **Finishing Up**

This completes the documentation on how to configure Nagios XI to support multi-tenancy to allow multiple users or clients to share access to a single Nagios XI instance. 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

www.nagios.com



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