Understanding And Using Configuration Wizards In Nagios XI 2024 And 2026

Purpose

This document provides and overview of how Configuration Wizards work in Nagios XI 2024 and 2026, and how to use them.

Overview

Wizards are a feature of Nagios XI that make it easy for you to configure monitoring of new devices, services, and applications right from the web interface. Wizards provide a user-friendly approach to what otherwise might be a complex task. They have great value both for new users who are unfamiliar with Nagios object configuration, and for advanced admins who want a quick way to set up monitoring of common host types and services individually and in bulk.

The topics covered in this documentation are:

- Common Steps in Wizards (1 2 3 4 5)
- How The Wizard Creates Objects
- Running A Wizard on An Already Monitored Server - Using the Additive Capability
- Wizard Templates
- Do Not Apply Configuration
- Advanced Configuration with the Core Config Manager

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

Many of the Nagios XI configuration wizards require the installation of NCPA. Before you can use these wizards, you must first install NCPA on the target Linux / Windows / Mac OSX machine you wish to monitor. Instructions for installing NCPA can be found in the NCPA v3 Installation Instructions.

Common Steps In Wizards

Finding a Wizard

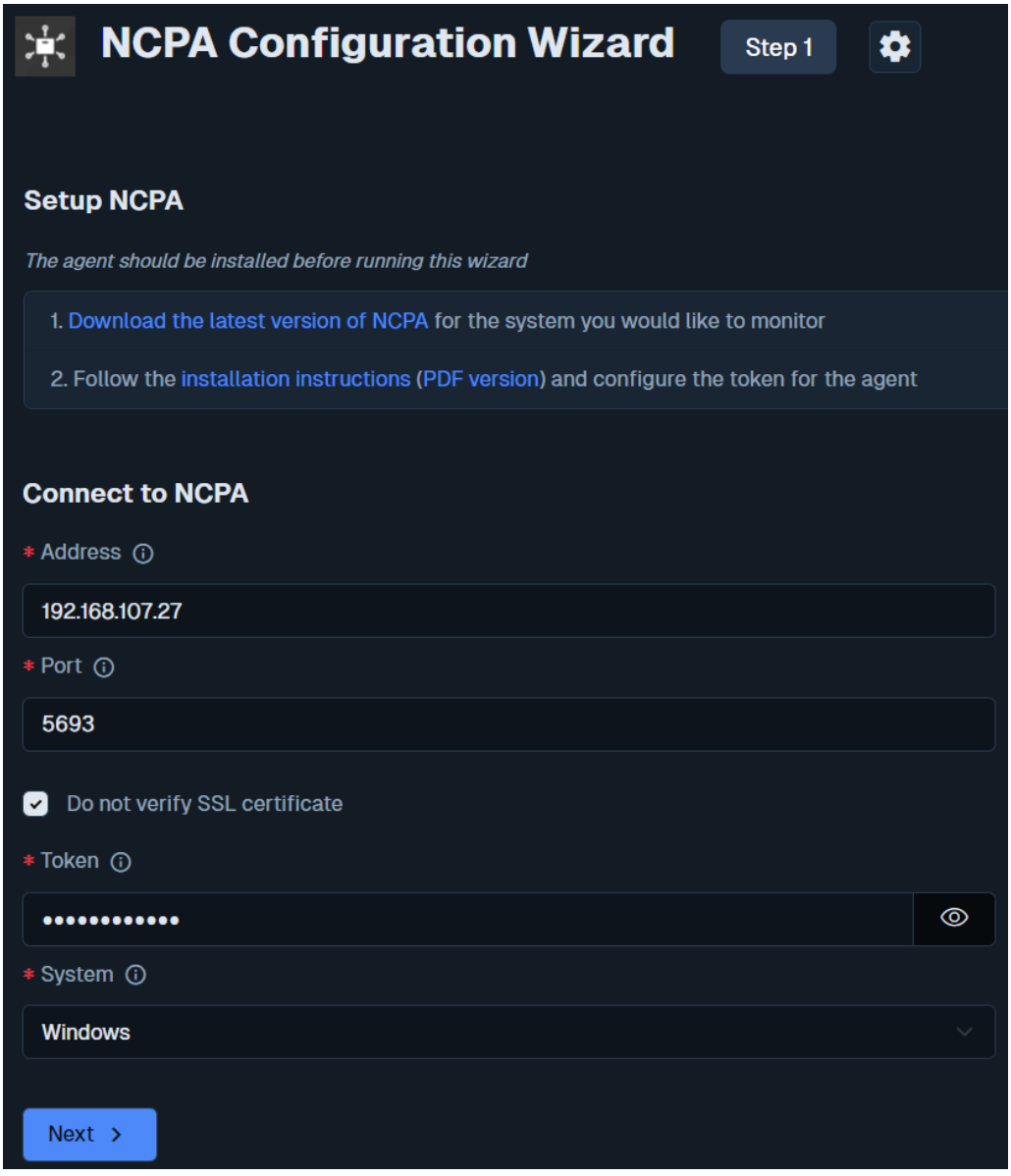
In the following screenshot you can see how the search field allows you to quickly find a wizard.

To follow along with this guide, search for 'ncpa' and select the **NCPA** wizard.

Wizard Step 1

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** (IP or FQDN) of the machine running the NCPA client, **Port**, **Token**, and **System** (operating system):

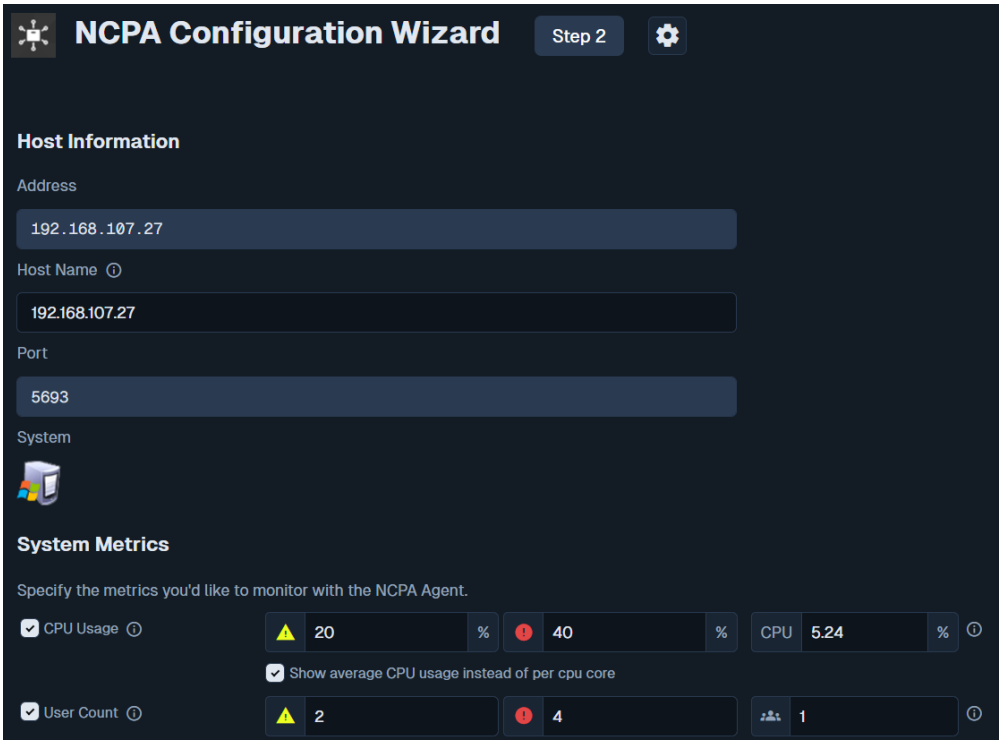


Click **Next** to progress to **Step 2**.

Wizard Step 2

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. In this case, you will select system metrics, system services, and processes you wish to monitor, and define their Warning and Critical thresholds.

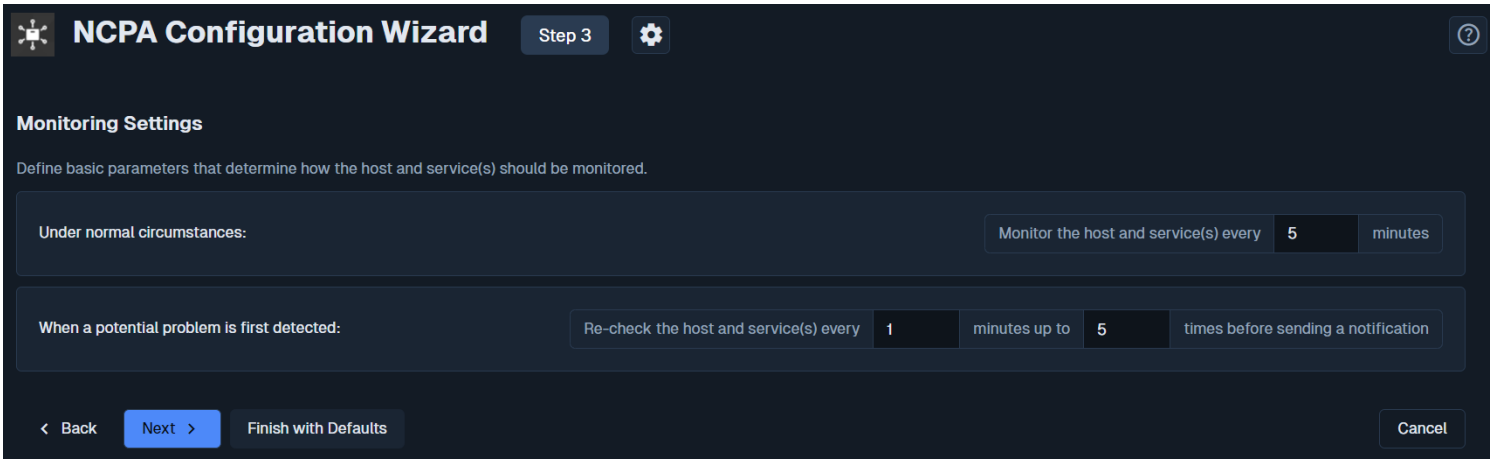


Also note that the wizards have an additive capability which you can employ if you wish to carry out changes and updates to existing configurations, such as adding new services and changing thresholds for existing services. To use this capability, simply use the **Host Name** of an existing host object in **Step 2** of a wizard. Full details can be found here in the Using the Additive Capability section.

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

Wizard Step 3

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



- **Under normal circumstances** determines the `check_interval` directive, which is how often Nagios XI will check the host and services when they are in an OK state.

- **When a problem is first detected** defines the `retry_interval` and `max_check_attempts` directives, which specify how the check interval will change if a problem is found. The default settings of 1 minute/5 times mean that once a problem is found, Nagios will begin checking the problem object once every minute, and do this 5 times before a notification is sent.

  This option is helpful in reducing alert fatigue, since a notification won't be sent until the problem is verified to persist over your defined number of checks and period of time, helping avoid notifications for momentary issues.

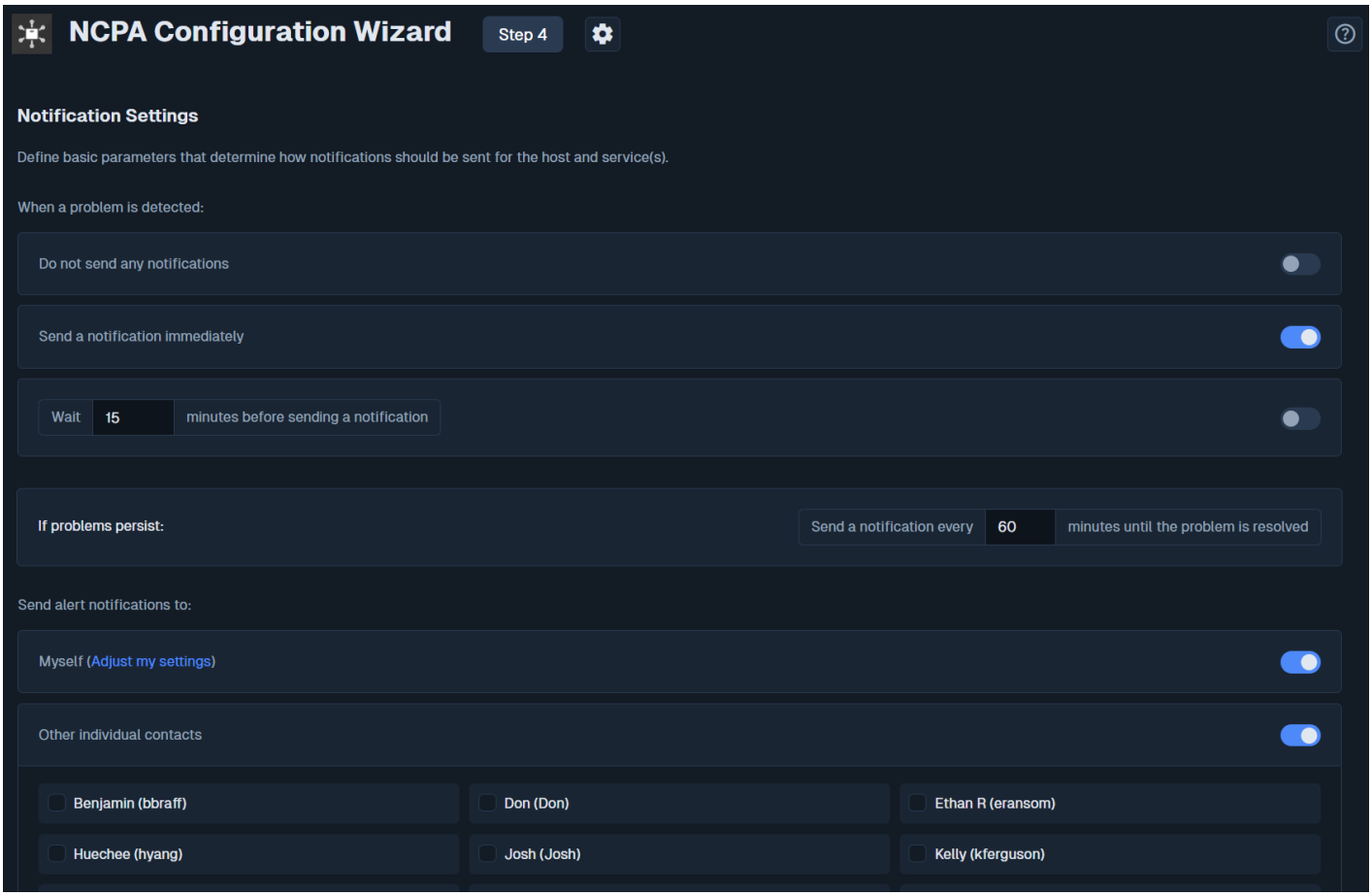
  For key hosts and services where you want to be notified immediately of any issues, simply set both to `1`.

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

Wizard Step 4

Step 4 provides the notification options for when a problem is detected and verified by any retry interval logic you've defined in **Step 3.**

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.



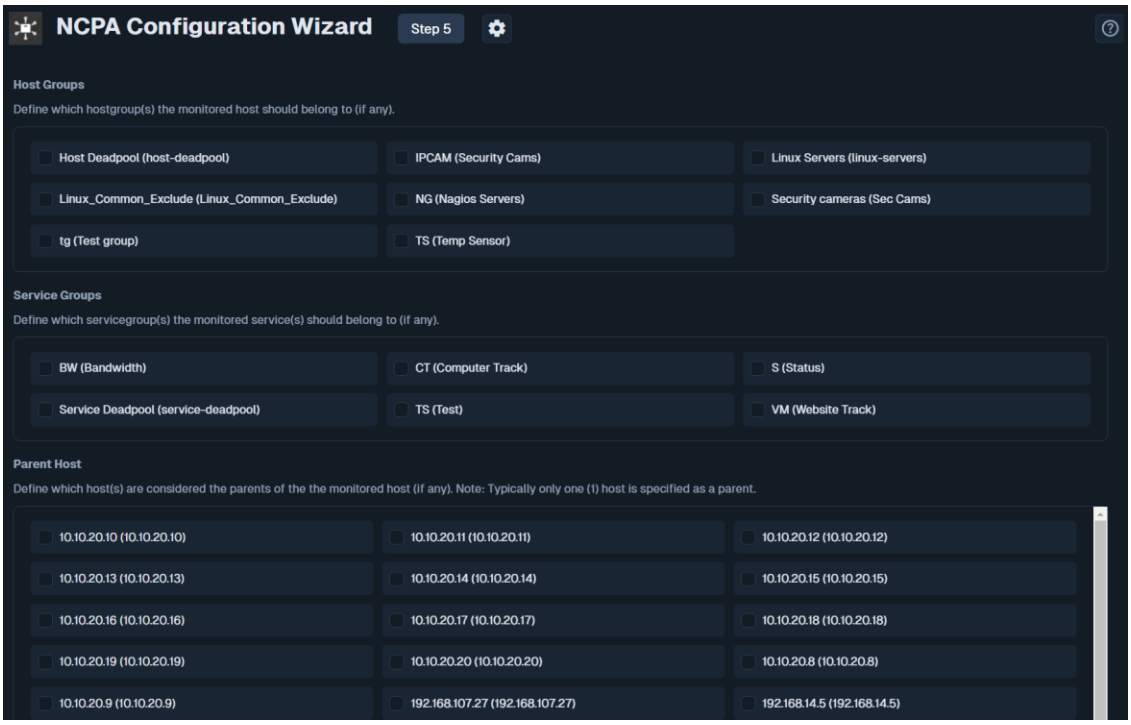
After making all required selections click the **Next** button to proceed to **Step 5**.

Wizard Step 5

Step 5 provides the group and parent options.

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

The **Parent Host** selection defines which existing host is the parent of the one you're creating, from a network topology perspective. For example, if there is a switch between your XI server and the host, the switch would be the host's parent. By default, when a parent goes critical, children are set to Unreachable, and Unreachable alerts can be negated to avoid being flooded by alerts for children if parent hosts break. The setting is also used to generate diagrams like the Hypermap.



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

- On the **Final Step** you can click **Apply** to finish the wizard, this will create the monitoring objects.
- The **Save as Template** button is 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 NCPA wizard that was run in the last section, when applied it will create:

- A Host object called `<Host Name>`
- Service objects that have been selected

If you navigate to the Core Config Manager you will find these objects and be able to update granular 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.

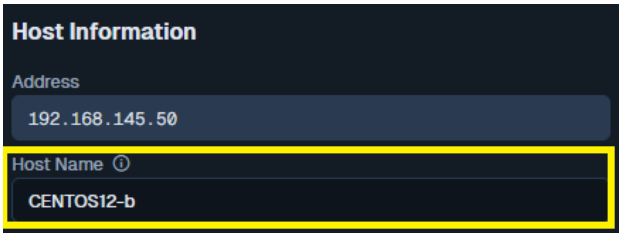
While on the topic of contacts, it is a recommended best practice to put your users in contact groups and use those groups for notification preferences. The reason behind this is that it is far easier to change the group membership as opposed to having to update every object when adding or removing a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

Using the Additive Capability of Wizards

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. 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. The wizard will auto populate a name in the **Host Name** field.

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-b` then you would need to enter this exactly. 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.

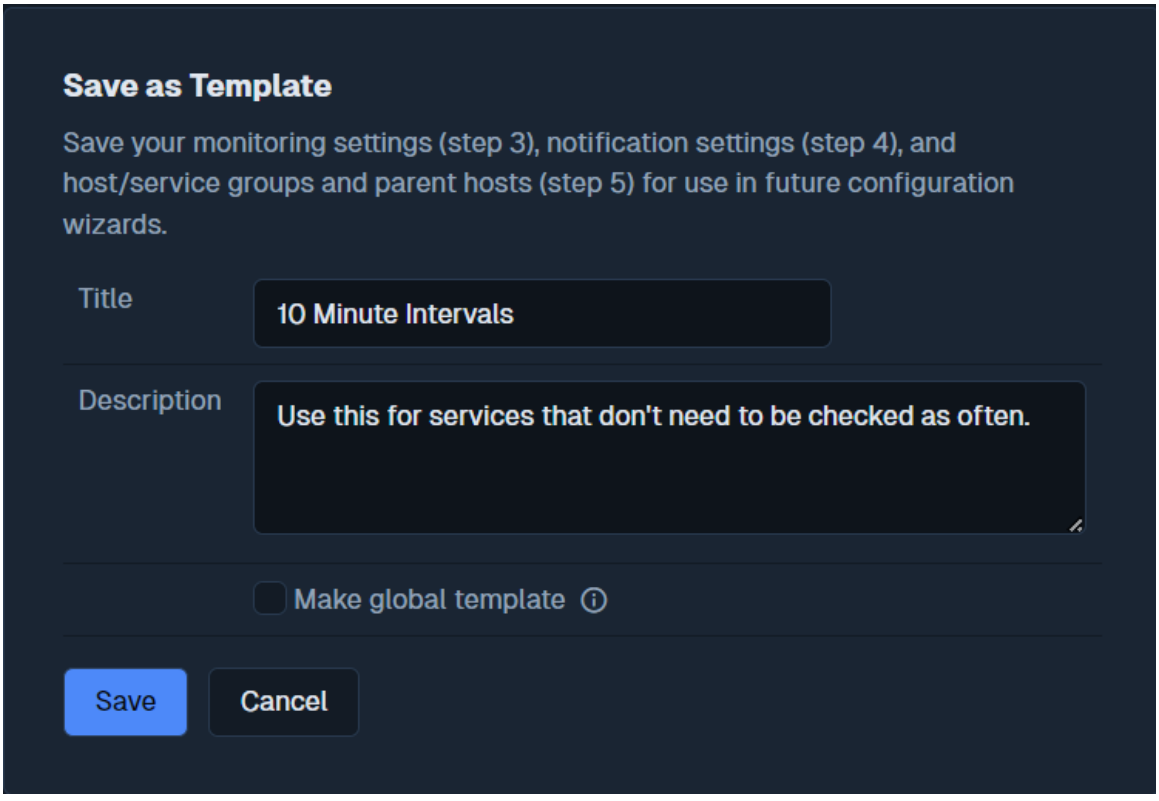


Wizard Templates

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

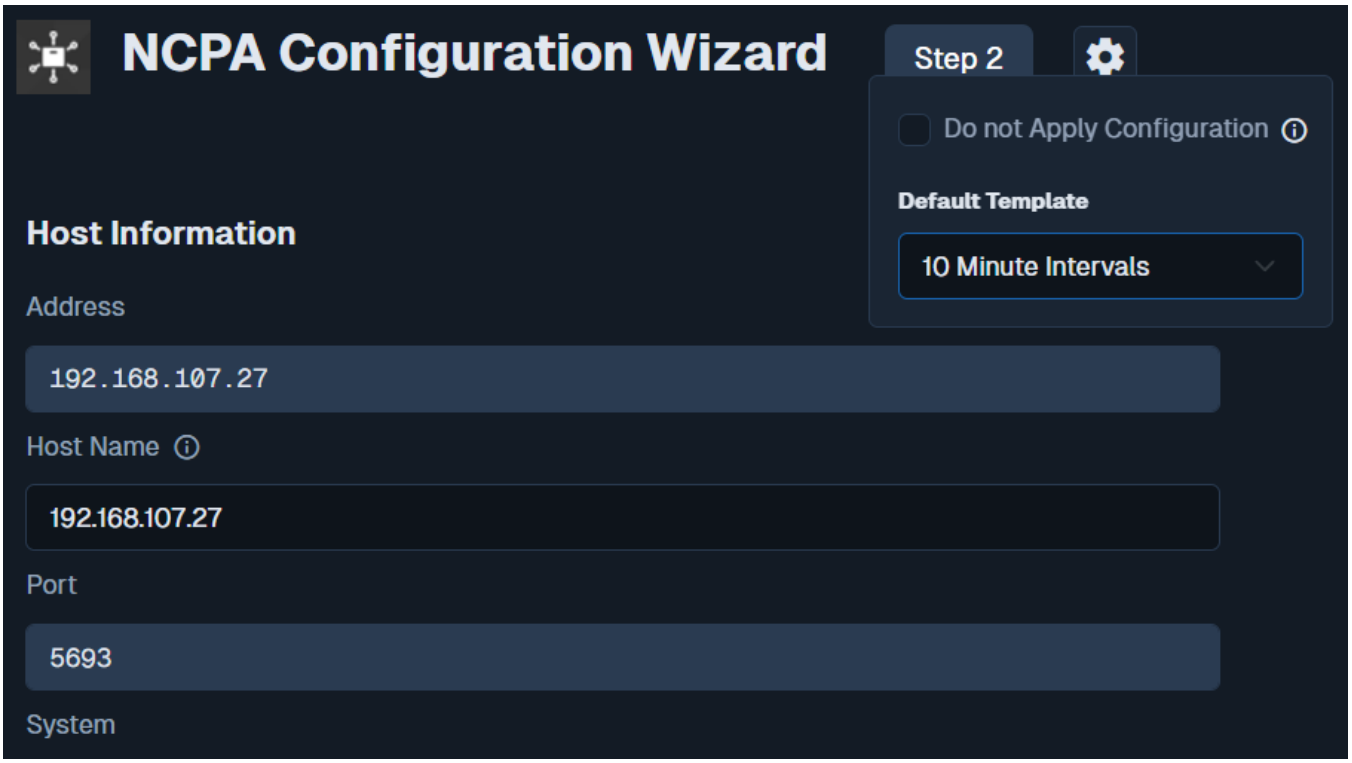
To Create a Wizard Template

1. After you have stepped through a configuration wizard, on the final step click the **Save** as Template button.
2. 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).
3. Click the **Save** button and once the template has been saved you will be returned to the final step of the wizard.



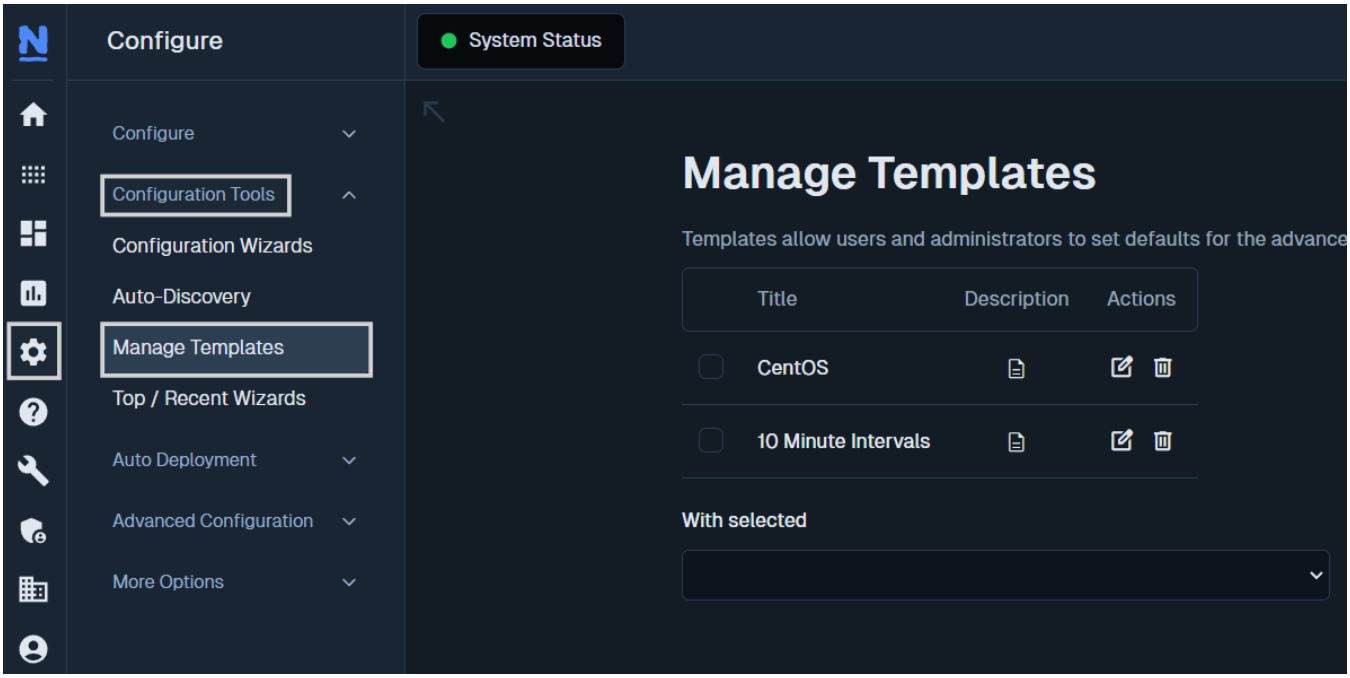
To Use a Template

1. 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.
2. Click the **gear icon** again to hide the drop-down list.



To manage wizard templates

1. Navigate to **Configure > Configuration Tools > Manage Templates.**

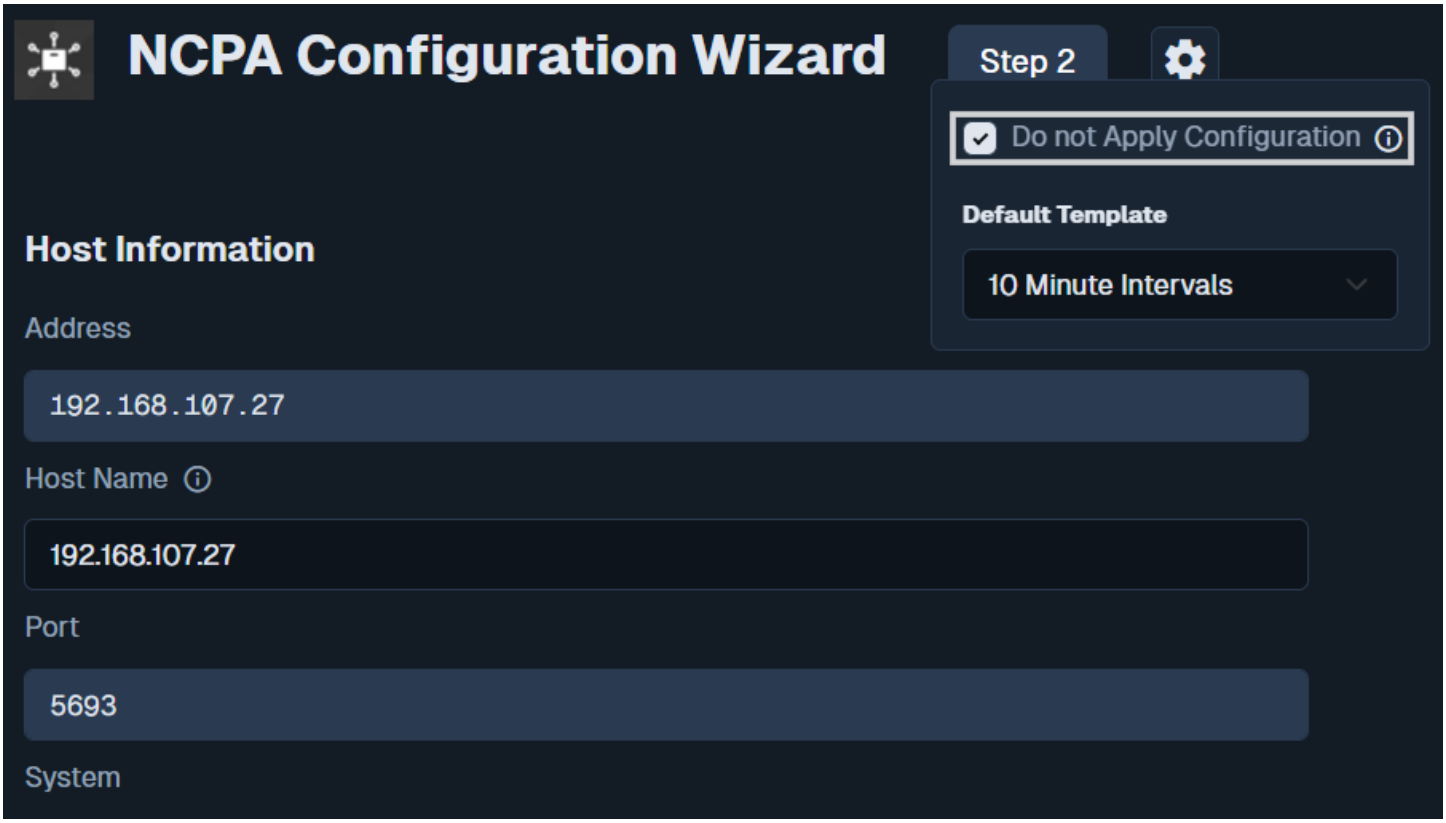


2. You can use the icons in the action column to edit or delete individual templates. If you wish to delete multiple templates, you can select multiple check boxes in the left column and use the **With Selected** drop-down list underneath to perform the bulk action.
3. Editing a template allows you to update any of the options in **Steps 3 - 5**.

Do Not Apply Configuration

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

The check box **Do Not Apply Configuration** provides the ability to create new monitoring configurations without the **Apply Configuration** step being performed in the back end.

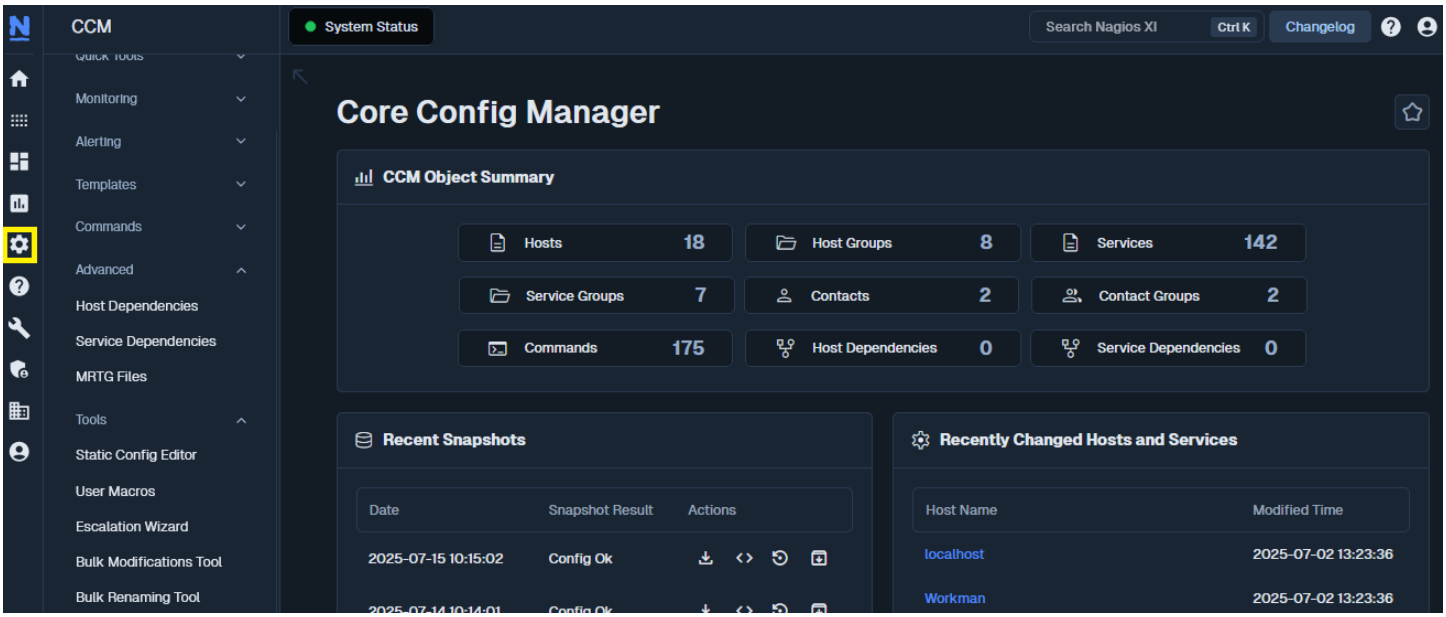


This allows you to run the wizard multiple times and at a later time you can go into the **Core Config Manager** and perform an **Apply Configuration**. This can be useful if you have specific time windows in which you only want new configurations to be applied.

Advanced Configuration with the Core Config Manager (CCM)

For full control of your host, service, contact, group, and other settings, you'll use the Core Config Manager advanced configuration GUI, located at **Configure > Core Config Manager**.

The CCM provides granular control of individual objects and settings, as well as ways to quickly modify a single granular setting on large sets of hosts and services or groups with tools like the Bulk Modifications Tool (one of Nagios XI's Enterprise Edition features).



These guides on host and service management in the CCM are a great starting point:

Using the CCM for Host Management

Using the CCM for Service Management

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on Understanding and Using Configuration Wizards in Nagios XI 2024 and 2026. 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