How To Use Nagios XI 2024 Auto-Discovery

Purpose

This document describes how to use Auto-Discovery in Nagios XI to locate hosts and devices that are not already being monitored by Nagios XI.
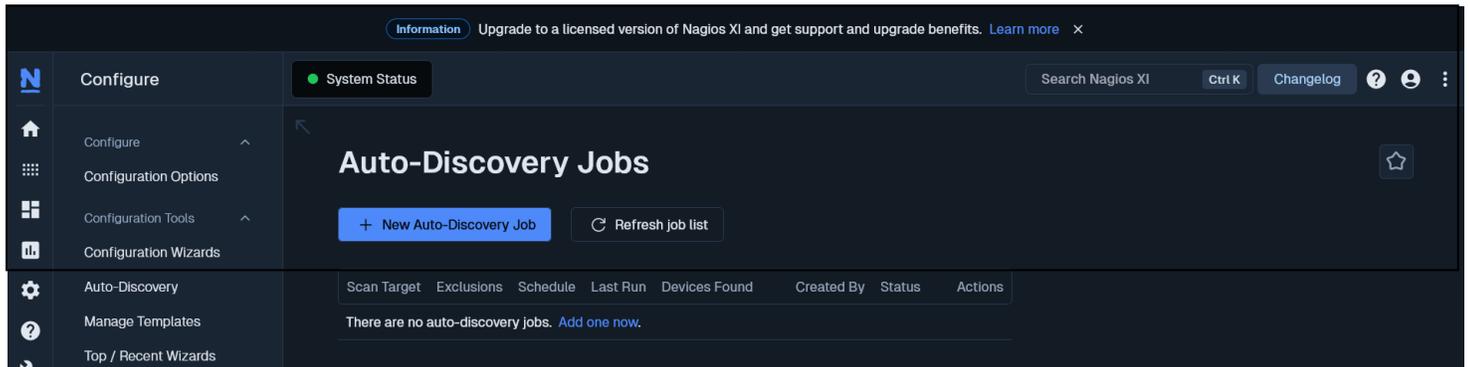
Overview

The Auto-Discovery feature in Nagios XI comprises of two components:

- Auto-Discovery Jobs
  - This performs the discovery of hosts and devices in your network environment.
  - A network scan is performed using ping and nmap.
- Auto-Discovery Configuration Wizard.
  - Using the results of an Auto-Discovery job you can start monitoring these hosts and devices.
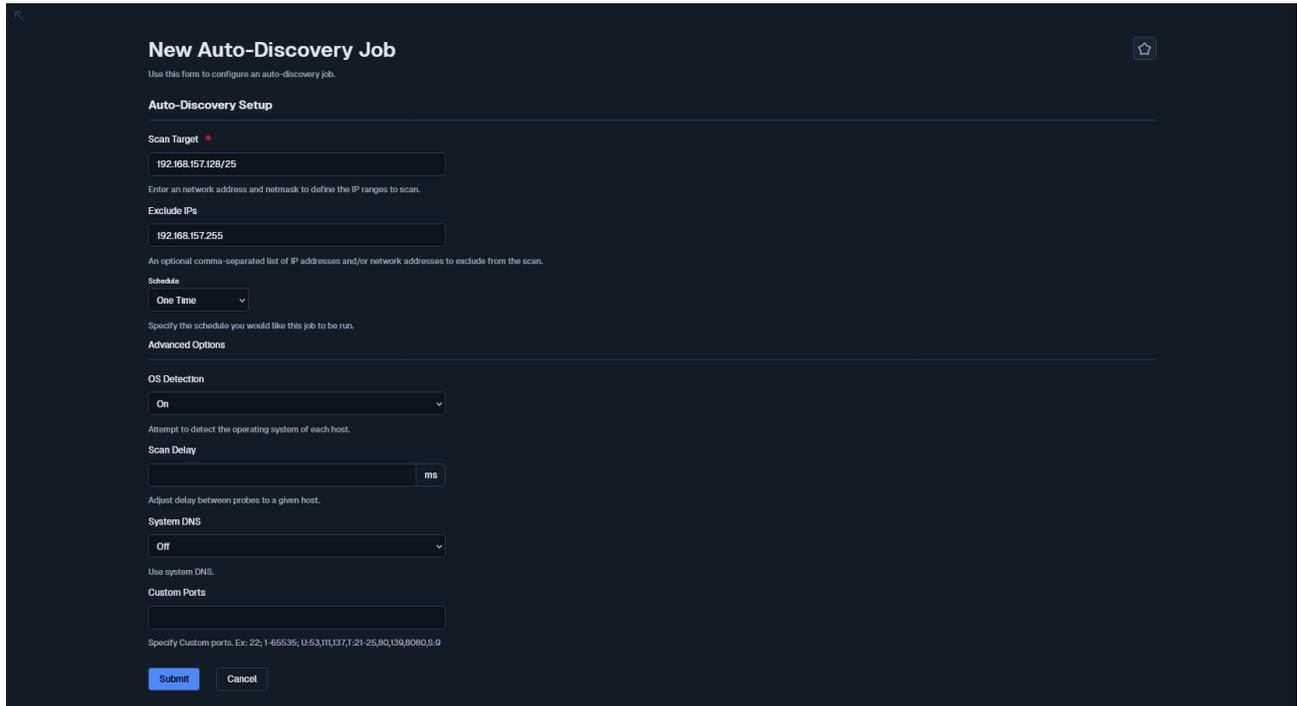
Auto-Discovery Jobs

The management of Auto-Discovery jobs is located by navigating **to Configure > Configuration Tools > Auto-Discovery**.

Nagios®

Create a New Job

1. To create a new job, click the **+ New Auto-Discovery Job** button.

2. The options required when creating a job are self-explanatory. The screenshot shows the additional options available after clicking the **Show Advanced Options +** link.

   This example shows the upper half of a class C subnet (a /25 in CIDR notation) being scanned with an excluded IP. It has been scheduled to run one time and the System DNS option has been selected to resolve the addresses to DNS records.

Nagios®

3. Click the **Submit** button to create the job.
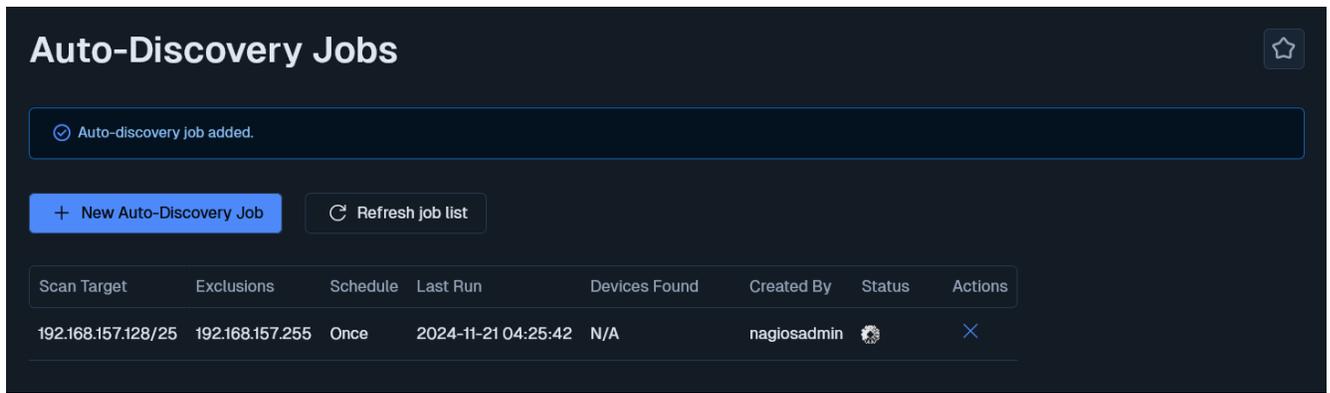
4. The new job will appear on the Auto-Discovery page when it reloads.

• When a job is running, or scheduled and has not run yet, the Status column will show an icon. In ☒ the Actions column you can click the icon to 🗑 delete the job.

• When the job has finished running it will show how many new devices were found.

5. In the screenshot above, if you click the **New Devices** link you will be taken to the Auto-Discovery configuration wizard which is explained in the [Configuration Wizard](#) section of this document.
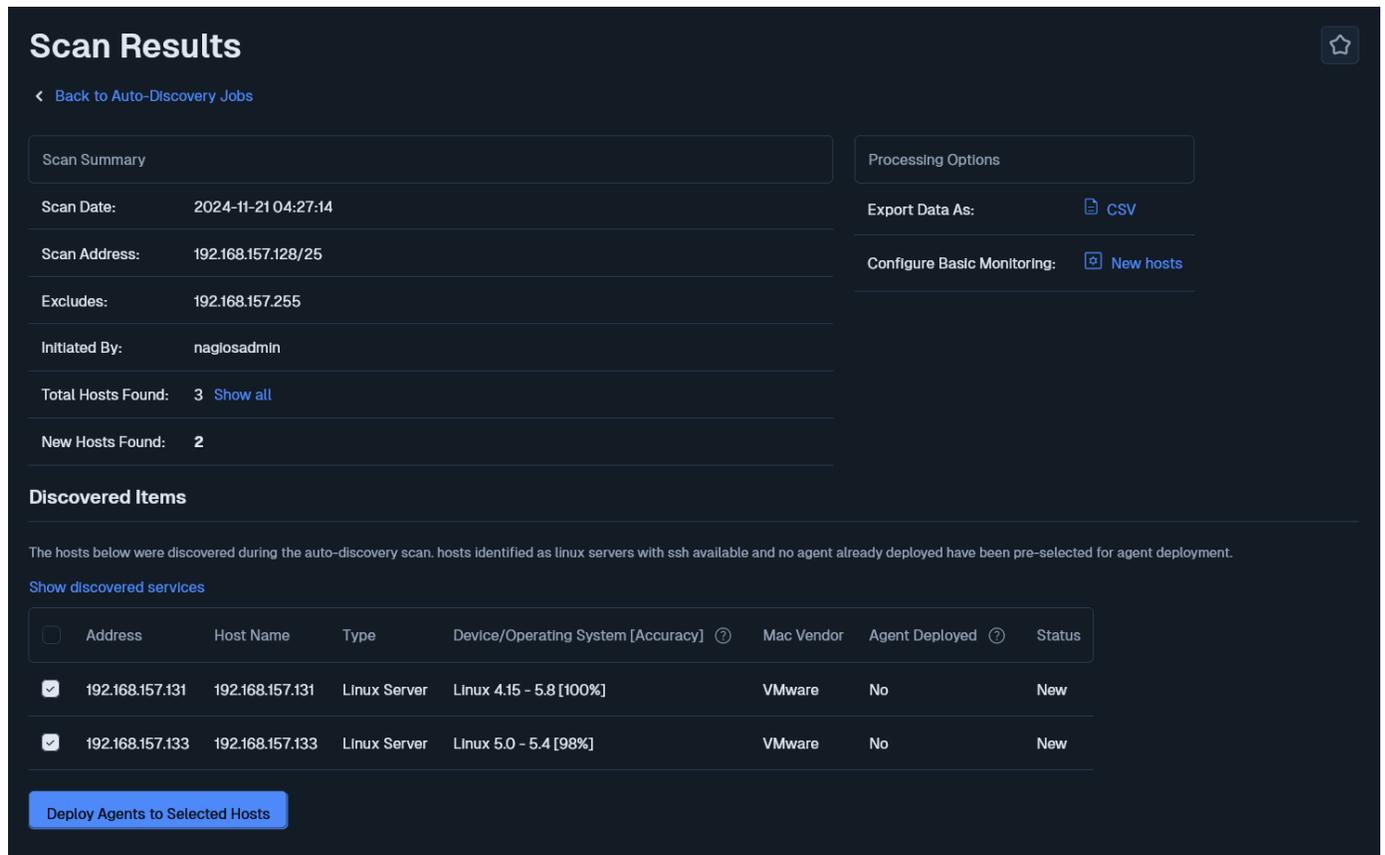
Job Actions

On the Auto-Discovery Jobs page, the job column provides the following functionality:

• **Edit Job** - Adjust the settings for the job

• **Re-Run Job** - Force the job to run now

• **View Job Results** - View detailed information about the scan results

- **Delete Job** - Discard the job and its history

View Job Results

The **View Job Results** icon allows you to view detailed information about the network scan that was performed.
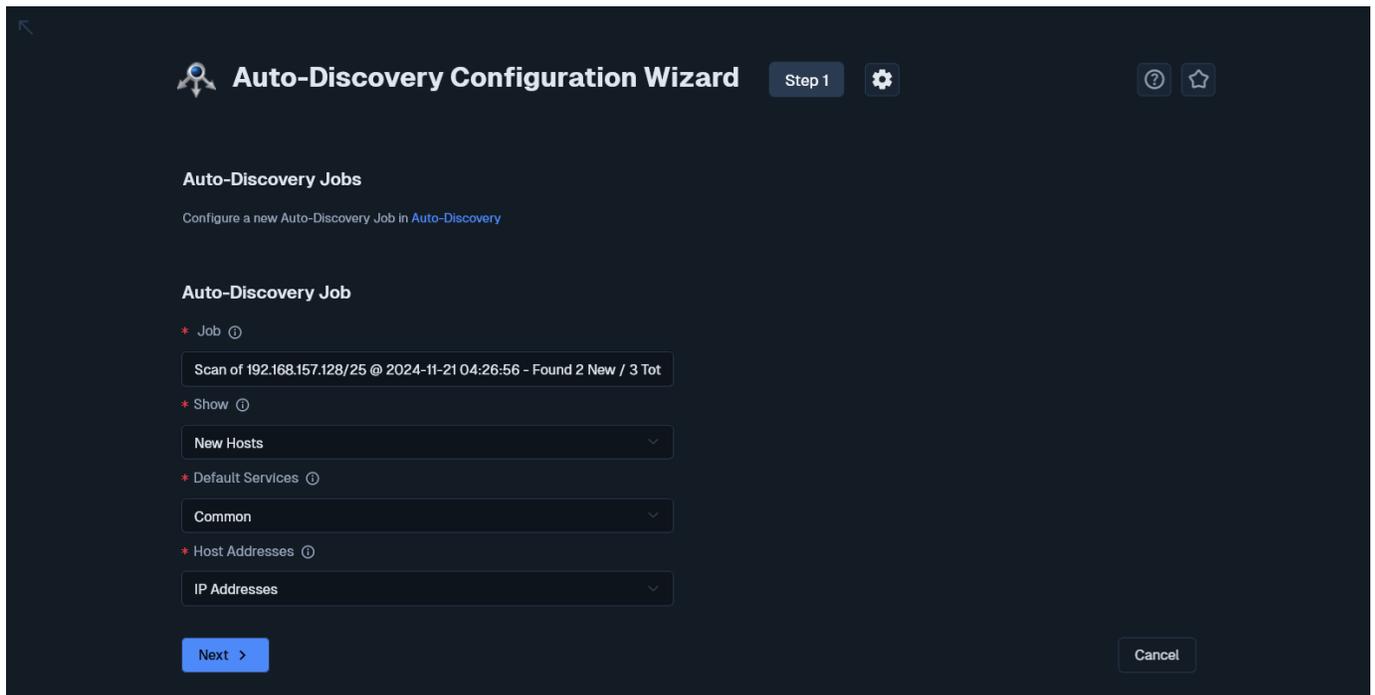
- You can view all the hosts, or just the new hosts discovered.
- You can show the services that were discovered.
- You can deploy agents to selected hosts. See Automatic Agent Deployment for more information.
- This job can be exported as a CSV.

Nagios®

Configuration Wizard

The **Auto-Discovery** configuration wizard is what turns the **Auto-Discovery** job results into monitored devices.

1. When on the **Auto-Discovery** page, click the **New** link in the **Devices Found** column to start the Wizard. You can also run the wizard by navigating to **Configure > Configuration Wizards > Auto-Discovery** wizard.


2. The job will be automatically selected. The available options are clearly explained in the screenshot above, this example will be showing New Hosts, and the Host Addresses option is set to DNS Names.

3. **Click Next** to proceed to Step 2.

Nagios®

Step 2 of the wizard allows you to select exactly what host and service objects will be created. The following screenshot is of the first host in the list.
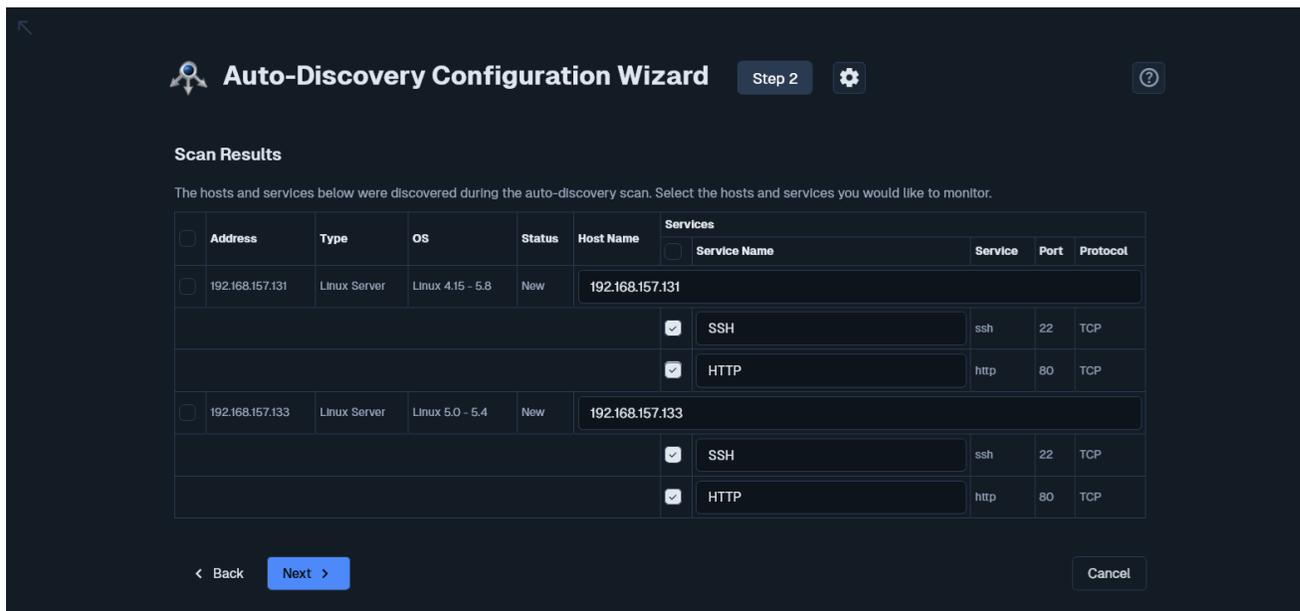
4. You can change the name of the host and the services. The services created are basic port monitoring services, more specific monitoring like **Load** and **Disk Space** will require you to run a configuration wizard that provides that functionality.

5. You can select or deselect a host by using the check box next to the host address in the left column. Deselecting a host means that none of the services selected to the right will be monitored.

   o The check box in the upper left corner will select ALL hosts in the wizard. The same applies to the Services check box.

6. After making your selections click **Next** and then complete the wizard by choosing the required options in Step 3 - Step 5.

Nagios®

7. To finish up, click on **Finish** in the final step of the wizard. This will create new hosts and services and begin monitoring.

Newly Discovered Hosts

In the future, re-running the Auto-Discovery job (manually or scheduled) will detect new hosts that are not already being monitored by Nagios XI. Here is that job again after two hosts were brought online:

You can see now there are 15 in total with 2 New devices being detected. Clicking the 2 New will allow you to start monitoring these new devices.

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on Auto Discovery 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](#)