

How To Use The Nagios XI 2024 Deadpool

Purpose

This document describes how to use Deadpool settings to filter non-working hosts or services in Nagios XI 2024.

How To Enable and Configure Deadpool Settings

1. Using the top menu bar, navigate to **Admin > Monitoring Config > Deadpool Settings** (this opens the **General Settings** tab).

The screenshot displays the Nagios XI 2024R1.4.1 Admin interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Views, Dashboards, Reports, Configure, Tools, Admin (highlighted with a yellow box), and Enterprise. The left sidebar shows the Monitoring Config menu, with Deadpool Settings (highlighted with a yellow box) selected. The main content area is titled 'Deadpool Settings' and contains the following information:

- Deadpool Settings**
- The deadpool processor automatically deletes hosts and services that are in problem states longer than the monitoring system of hosts and services that no longer exist or are invalid.
- For additional information on the Deadpool Settings and exclusion filters, please see [this document](#).
- Three tabs are available: General Settings (selected), Host Settings, and Service Settings.
- Two checkboxes are present:
 - ☐ Enable the deadpool processor
 - ☐ Remove performance data files (RRDs) upon host/service deletion
- An 'Email Recipients:' field with a text input box. Below it, a note states: 'Comma-separated list of email addresses that should be notified of deadpool activity.'
- Two buttons at the bottom: 'Update Settings' (highlighted with a blue box) and 'Cancel'.

The footer of the interface shows 'Nagios XI 2024R1.4.1 • Check for Updates'.

How To Use The Nagios XI 2024 Deadpool

2. To enable the deadpool processor, click the **Enable** the deadpool processor checkbox.
3. Optionally, you can choose to remove performance data when a host or service is deleted and send email notifications of deadpool activity.
4. Enter a valid email address in the **Email Recipients** field. **Email notifications** will be sent when the host or service has been added to the deadpool or when they have been deactivated/deleted from the Nagios XI config.

Host and Service Settings

There are two tabs, **Host Settings** and **Service Settings**. The settings for both tabs are almost identical, in the following information the term object refers to either a **host object** or **service object**.

The screenshot shows the 'Host Settings' tab selected in the Nagios XI interface. The tab is highlighted with a yellow border. Below the tabs, there is a description: 'The settings below determine when hosts are moved to the deadpool and eventually deleted.' The settings are organized into four sections: 'Stage 1 Time' with input fields for 2 days, 0 hours, and 0 minutes; 'Stage 2 Time' with input fields for 5 days, 0 hours, and 0 minutes; 'Stage 2 Action' with a dropdown menu set to 'Delete'; and 'Exclusion Filters' with a large text area for entering host names or regular expressions. Each section has a descriptive text block below it explaining the setting's purpose.

General Settings **Host Settings** Service Settings

The settings below determine when hosts are moved to the deadpool and eventually deleted.

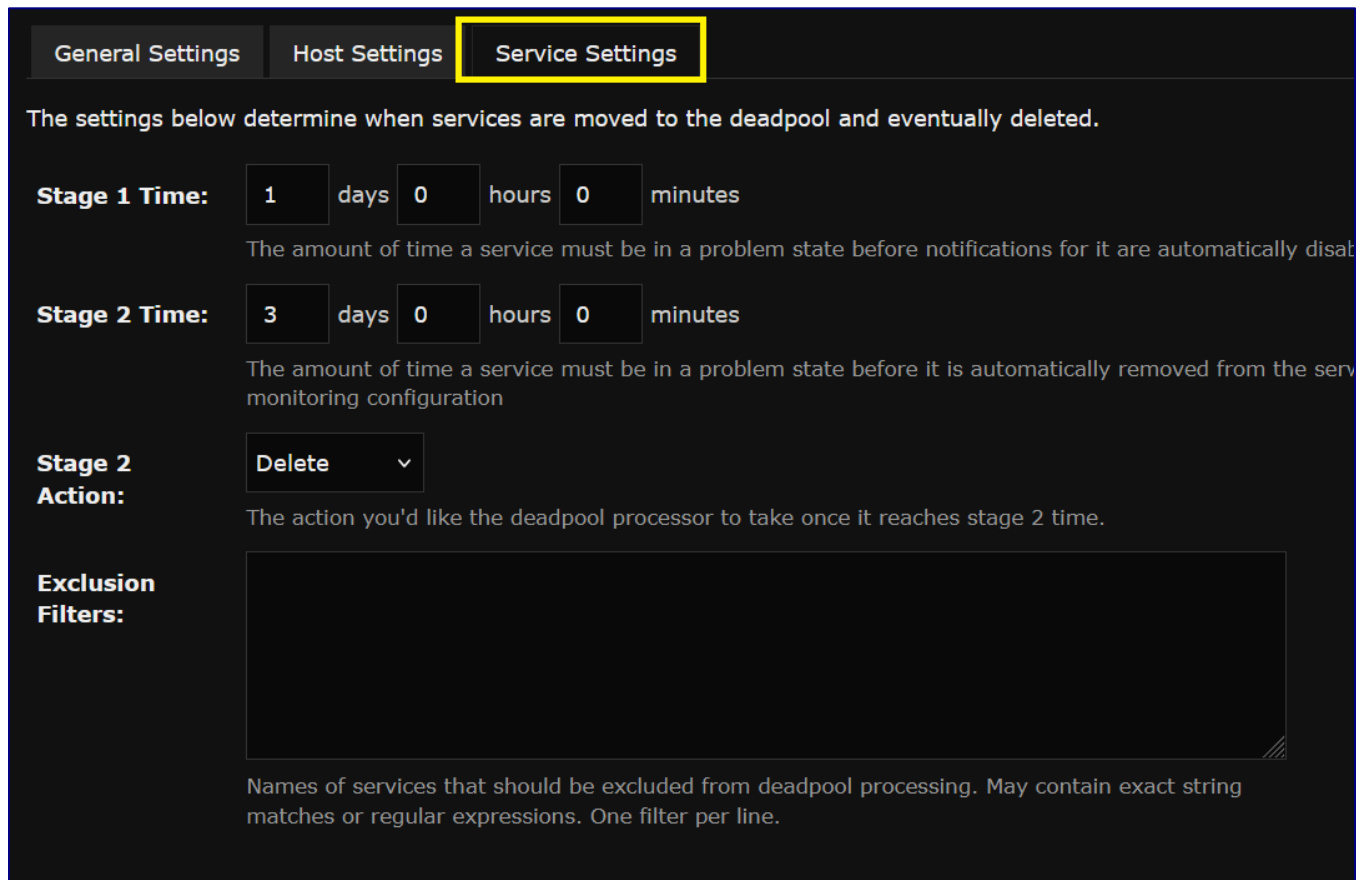
Stage 1 Time: 2 days 0 hours 0 minutes
The amount of time a host must be in a problem state before notifications for it are automatically disabled.

Stage 2 Time: 5 days 0 hours 0 minutes
The amount of time a host must be in a problem state before it is automatically removed from the host monitoring configuration.

Stage 2 Action: Delete ▾
The action you'd like the deadpool processor to take once it reaches stage 2 time.

Exclusion Filters:
Names of hosts that should be excluded from deadpool processing. May contain exact string matches or regular expressions. One filter per line.

How To Use The Nagios XI 2024 Deadpool



The screenshot shows the Nagios XI interface with the 'Service Settings' tab selected. The page title is 'The settings below determine when services are moved to the deadpool and eventually deleted.' The settings are organized into four sections: 'Stage 1 Time' (1 days, 0 hours, 0 minutes), 'Stage 2 Time' (3 days, 0 hours, 0 minutes), 'Stage 2 Action' (Delete), and 'Exclusion Filters' (a text area). Each section has a descriptive text block below it. The 'Stage 1 Time' section explains that this is the time a service must be in a problem state before notifications are disabled. The 'Stage 2 Time' section explains that this is the time a service must be in a problem state before it is automatically removed from the monitoring configuration. The 'Stage 2 Action' section explains that this is the action the deadpool processor will take once it reaches stage 2. The 'Exclusion Filters' section explains that these are names of services to be excluded from deadpool processing, using exact string matches or regular expressions.

General Settings Host Settings **Service Settings**

The settings below determine when services are moved to the deadpool and eventually deleted.

Stage 1 Time: 1 days 0 hours 0 minutes
The amount of time a service must be in a problem state before notifications for it are automatically disabled.

Stage 2 Time: 3 days 0 hours 0 minutes
The amount of time a service must be in a problem state before it is automatically removed from the service monitoring configuration.

Stage 2 Action: Delete
The action you'd like the deadpool processor to take once it reaches stage 2 time.

Exclusion Filters:
Names of services that should be excluded from deadpool processing. May contain exact string matches or regular expressions. One filter per line.

Stage 1 determines how long an object must be in a problem state before notifications are disabled, and the object is added to the deadpool.

Stage 2 determines how long an object must be in a problem state before it is automatically removed from the deadpool and deleted/deactivated from the monitoring configuration.

Stage 2 Action allows you to define if you want an object to be deleted or deactivated when it reaches **Stage 2**.

Exclusion Filters are used to exclude objects from the settings above. Exact string matches or [PRCE Regular Expressions](#) can be used.

How To Use The Nagios XI 2024 Deadpool

Behavior and Exclusion

Problem states are “DOWN” for hosts and “CRITICAL” or “UNKNOWN” for services.

A host or service must meet the first stage 1 criteria before the second criteria (deletion time) is evaluated and the deletion time must be at least 5 minutes greater than stage 1 time.

The deletion time setting evaluates the total amount of time a host or service has been in a problem state. In the example above, a service would be moved to the service deadpool after 1 day of being unreachable and removed from the Nagios monitoring configuration after 3 days.

Deadpool does not work retroactively. For example, if a service has already been down for 4 days and then deadpool is activated with its default setting to delete after 3 days, the service will not be deleted.

Regex expressions like `\w`, `\d`, `\s`, can be used but the backslash character must be escaped first. To do this, simply add another backslash to the beginning of the expression.

For example:

```
/\w*/
```

Would become:

```
/\\w*/
```

How To Use The Nagios XI 2024 Deadpool

Here is an example of a Host Exclusion Filter where the hosts 192.168.1.1 to 192.168.1.30 are being excluded. The regex expression will only be matched against the name of the host object, not the address.

Exclusion Filters:

```
localhost  
/^192\.168\.1\.([1-9][1-2][0-9]|30)$/
```

Here is an example of a Service Exclusion Filter where any service with HTTP is being excluded. The second line is a regex example that excludes SSH and FTP, these could be separate lines but it's here to demonstrate regex.

Exclusion Filters:

```
HTTP  
/SSH|FTP/
```

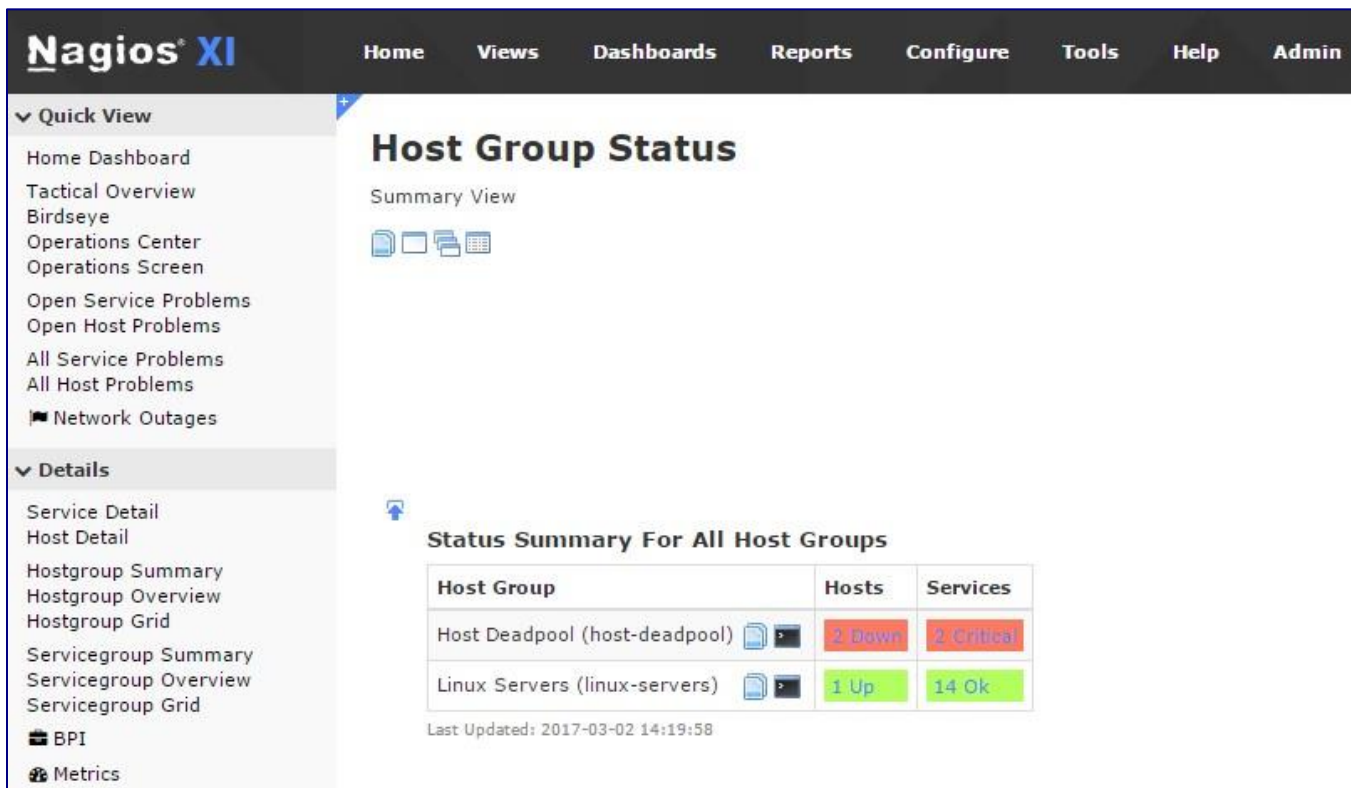
Regex should be used with some caution as expressions can be written in ways that require a long time to evaluate or may never finish evaluating. If you're not familiar with PCRE regex, a good resource is <http://php.net/manual/en/book.pcre.php>. Many online regex testers are also available. A good one is at <https://regex101.com/>.

How To Use The Nagios XI 2024 Deadpool

How to Check which Hosts and Services are in the Deadpool

As soon as a host or service meets the **Stage 1**, time criteria, Nagios XI will create a new **hostgroup** or **servicegroup** called **host-deadpool** or **service-deadpool**. All hosts and services that meet the **Stage 1**, time criteria will be moved to the respective group.

The status of the host deadpool can be seen by navigating to **Home > Details > Hostgroup Summary**.



Nagios XI Home Views Dashboards Reports Configure Tools Help Admin

Quick View

- Home Dashboard
- Tactical Overview
- Birdseye
- Operations Center
- Operations Screen
- Open Service Problems
- Open Host Problems
- All Service Problems
- All Host Problems
- Network Outages

Details

- Service Detail
- Host Detail
- Hostgroup Summary
- Hostgroup Overview
- Hostgroup Grid
- Servicegroup Summary
- Servicegroup Overview
- Servicegroup Grid
- BPI
- Metrics

Host Group Status

Summary View

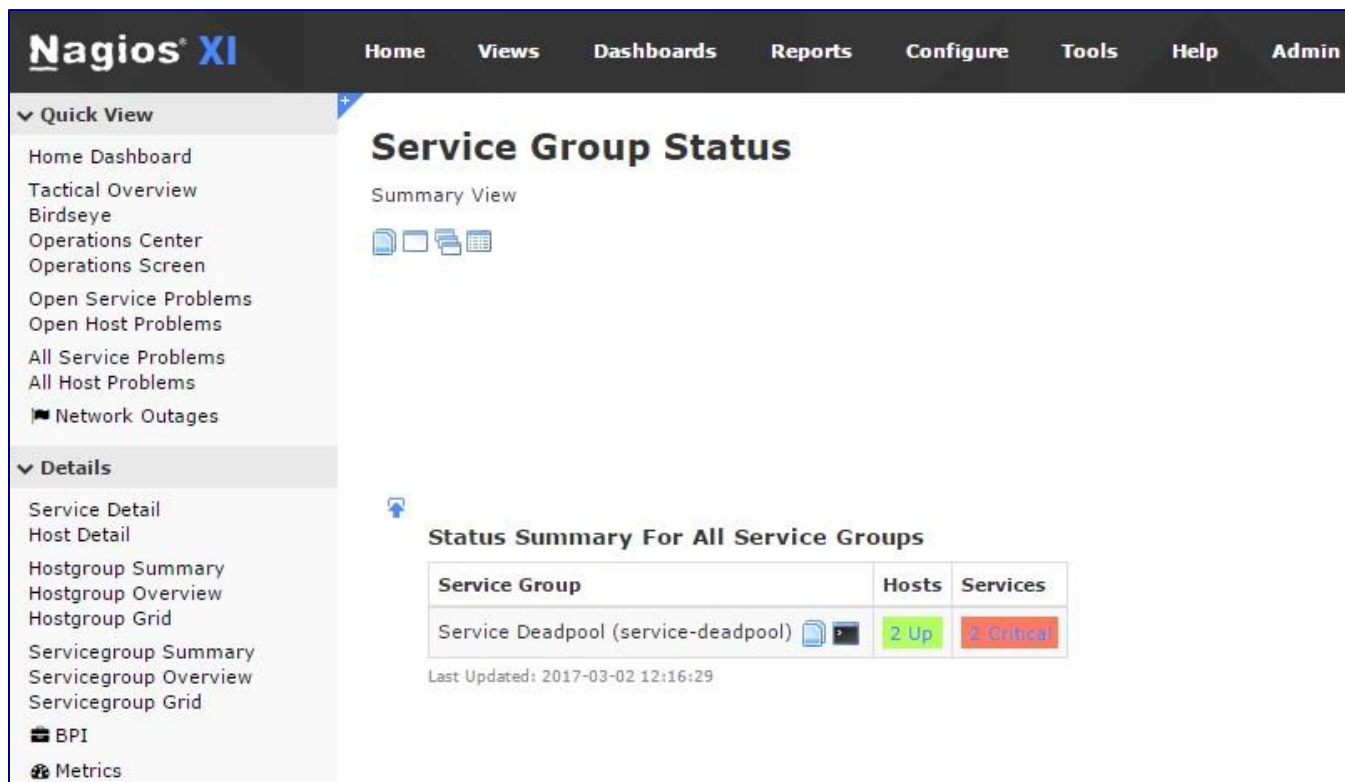
Status Summary For All Host Groups

Host Group	Hosts	Services
Host Deadpool (host-deadpool)	2 Down	2 Critical
Linux Servers (linux-servers)	1 Up	14 Ok

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How To Use The Nagios XI 2024 Deadpool

The status of the service deadpool can be seen by navigating to **Home > Details > Servicegroup Summary**.



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- Servicegroup Overview
- Servicegroup Grid
- BPI
- Metrics

Service Group Status

Summary View

Status Summary For All Service Groups

Service Group	Hosts	Services
Service Deadpool (service-deadpool)	2 Up	2 Critical

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Details regarding the hosts and services that have been moved into deadpools can be gathered by clicking the links found in the **Status Summary** tables.

Troubleshooting

Host and service check failures are logged in `/var/log/messages` and `/usr/local/nagios/var/nagios.log`.

Deadpool status information is logged to `/usr/local/nagiosxi/var/deadpool.log`. This file is rewritten each time `deadpool.php` is run, which is currently every minute. It will contain the status of the deadpool including **Stage 1** and **Stage 2** (deletion) settings, what hosts or services are currently in the dead pool, and when notification and deletions occur. You can watch the log file by executing the following command in a terminal session on your Nagios XI server:

```
tail -f /usr/local/nagiosxi/var/deadpool.log
```

How To Use The Nagios XI 2024 Deadpool

Hosts and services can be removed from their respective deadpool groups manually through the Configuration Manager. To access this, navigate to **Configure > Core Config Manager** and then select either **Host Groups** or **Service Groups** under the **Monitoring** menu.

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on using deadpool 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](#)