

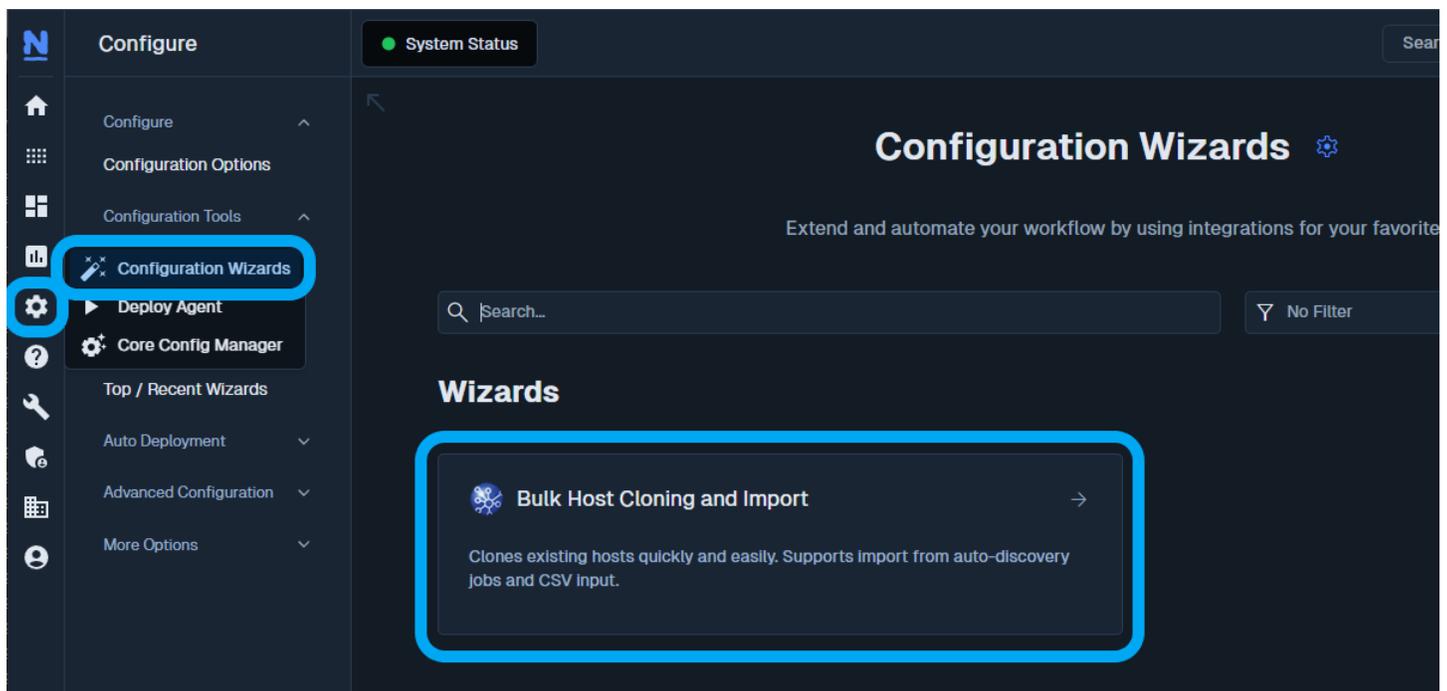
Using The Bulk Host Cloning Wizard in Nagios XI 2024

Overview

The Bulk Host Cloning and Import wizard allows you to easily create new hosts and services into Nagios XI using CSV formatted data. The new hosts will have services that are replicated to match an already existing host the user selects as a template. This import tool is extremely useful for large environments that want to quickly provision several hosts to be monitored in the same manner.

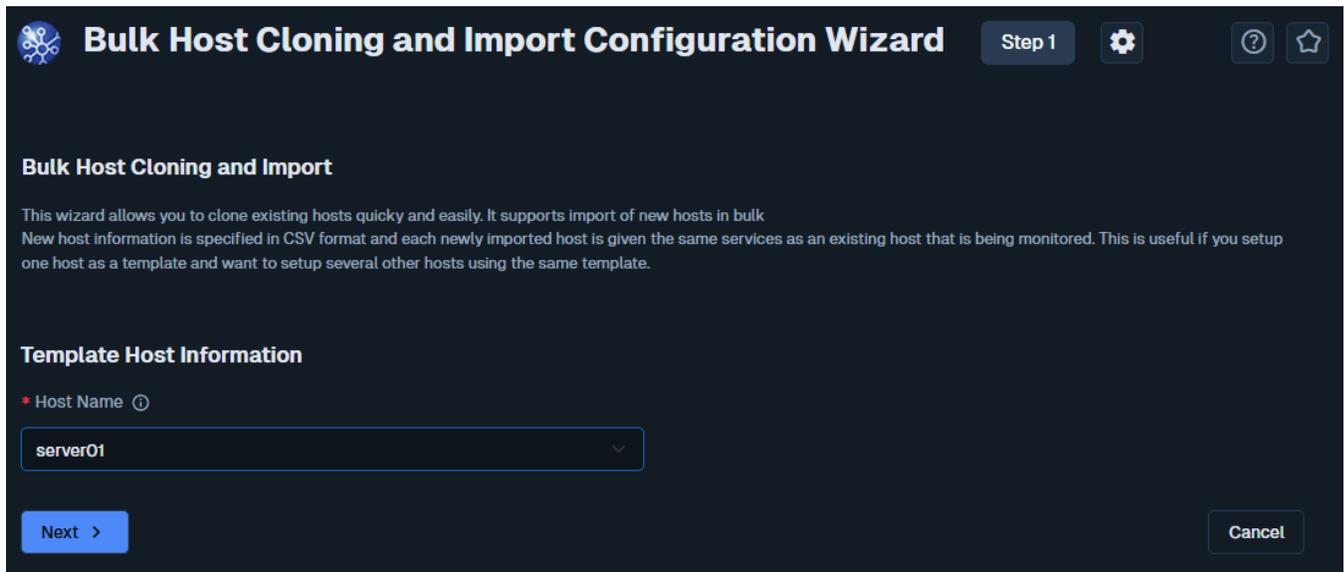
Running The Configuration Wizard

To begin using the **Bulk Host Cloning and Import wizard** navigate via the top menu bar to **Configure > Configuration Wizards** and select the **Bulk Host Cloning and Import wizard**. In the following screenshot you can see how the search field allows you to quickly find a wizard.



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1. On **Step 1** you are required to select the host that you wish to use as the template that you will clone. On the following screenshot you can see the host server01 has been selected. Click **Next** to continue.



Bulk Host Cloning and Import Configuration Wizard Step 1

Bulk Host Cloning and Import

This wizard allows you to clone existing hosts quickly and easily. It supports import of new hosts in bulk. New host information is specified in CSV format and each newly imported host is given the same services as an existing host that is being monitored. This is useful if you setup one host as a template and want to setup several other hosts using the same template.

Template Host Information

* Host Name ⓘ

server01

Next > Cancel

2. In **Step 2**, the host you selected to use as the template is shown at the top.
 - a. All the available services from the template host are listed under the **Select Template Services** section. To select a service, just check the box next to the service name.
 - b. Under the **Import / Cloning Data** section, the drop-down lists are the Nagios XI host object directives. These need to be mapped to each field of the CSV data that is provided in the **Data** text area.
 - c. The **Data** text area is where you need to paste the CSV list of host you are creating. Looking at the screenshot you can see that **Field 1 = Address** and **Field 2 = Name**.

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Swap Usage ([Details](#))

User Count ([Details](#))

ens33 Bandwidth - Inbound ([Details](#))

ens33 Bandwidth - Outbound ([Details](#))

Import / Cloning Data

Setup the csv format, by choosing which fields to use, "field 1" is required.
Enter addresses of new hosts that should be created by cloning the template host and services specified above.

Field 1 *	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5
<input type="text" value="Address"/>	<input type="text" value="Name"/>	<input type="text" value="IGNORE"/>	<input type="text" value="IGNORE"/>	<input type="text" value="IGNORE"/>

Data ⓘ

```
192.168.1.113,server02  
192.168.1.56,server03
```

Optional

Replace Parent Host and/or Hostgroup, with the selected ⓘ

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Notes about the Import/Cloning Data section:

- You only need the one field, the **Address** field, to successfully clone your template host to the list of hosts you provide. However, you can add additional information in other fields if you have that information. Ensure that the data is separated by commas, for example:

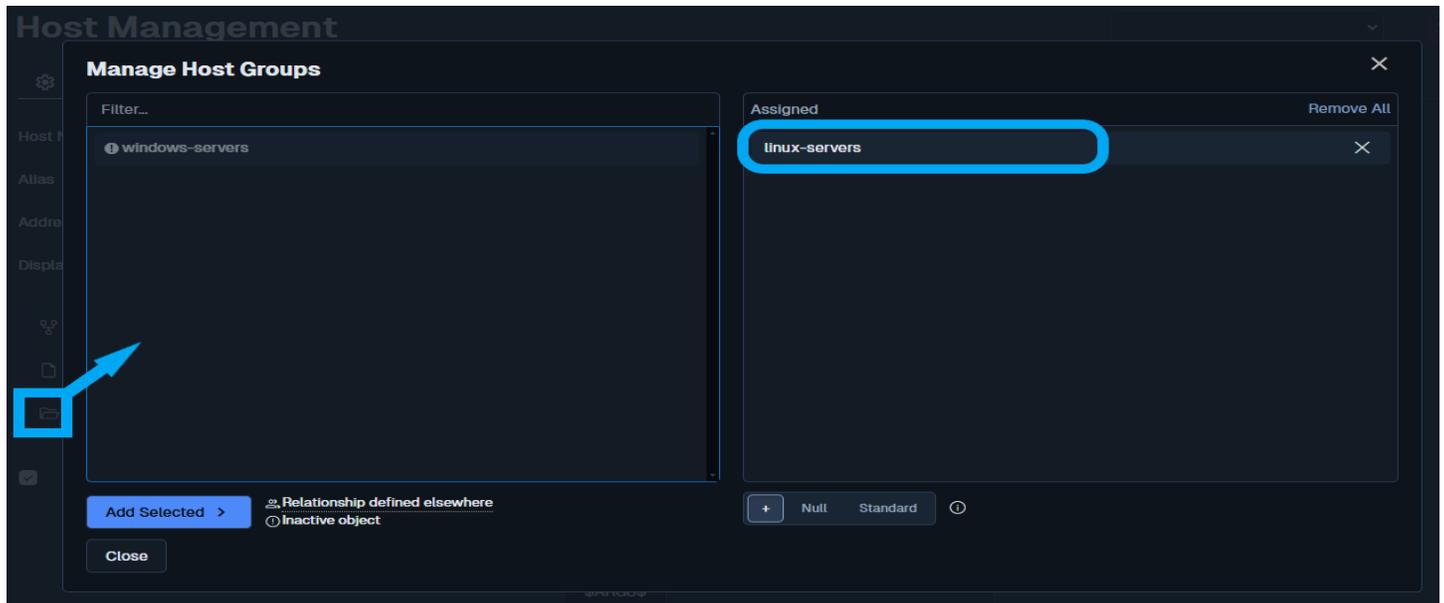
192.999.999.99, Test Host, Test Group

- All cloned Hosts must be of the same type as the template Host. (i.e. Linux server to Linux Servers, Windows server to Windows Servers).
 - All cloned Hosts must have the necessary monitoring agent (if applicable). Ex. If the template host is using [NCPA](#) as a monitoring agent, then the clone hosts must have NCPA as well.
 - d. Check the **Replace Parent Host / Hostgroup** option if you want the **Parent Host and / or Hostgroup** data you input in the **Data** field to override the **Parent Host and Hostgroup** of the **Host** template.
 - e. Click **Next** to continue.
3. The remaining wizard steps have no settings, any options that are normally available in for these steps in Configuration Wizards will be inherited from the template host and services you selected. You can click **Finish** on any of the steps or click **Next** on each step and click **Apply** on the final step.
 4. Once the configuration wizard has completed, you will now be monitoring the objects you provided in your CSV data.

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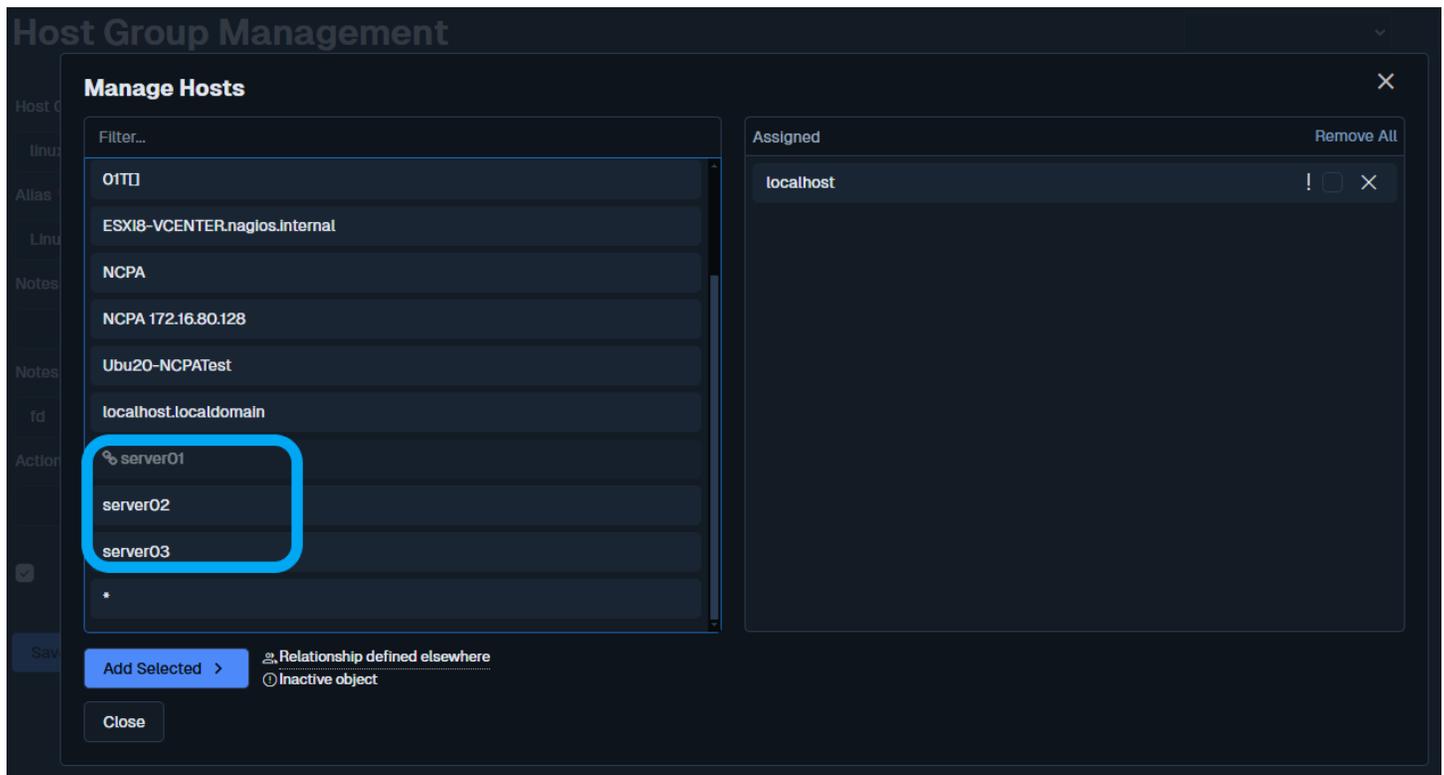
Host Group Membership

The host group membership(s) will only be inherited when they are defined on the host object. In the screenshot below, you can see how the **server01** host is a member of the **linux-servers** host group when editing the host object. This membership will be inherited by the configuration wizard.



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In the screenshot below, you can see how the **server01** has a separate relationship to the hostgroup from its clones. Once a clone is created, it is independent from its originator and so any properties wished to be copied over must be done either prior to cloning or through bulk modification.



The **Bulk Host Import Wizard** cannot clone properly some types of service checks, that rely on other applications. For example, you cannot clone a host, created by running the **Network Switch/Router Wizard** or **Web Transaction Wizard**, because they rely on MRTG and WebInject.

The next sections will outline a few [possible issues](#) and [tips](#).

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Possible Issues

1. **Issue:** “No template services selected” error in **Step 2** of the wizard.
Solution: Selecting at least one service is required to continue.
2. **Issue:** **Apply Configuration** fails with: “Error: Service description, host name, or check command is NULL. Error: Could not register service...”.
3. **Solution:** Make sure that your “template” (the host you are trying to clone) has the same config name for host and services. If you renamed host/services they may be different. In this case the wizard will fail with above listed error message.
4. **Issue:** Alias is not inherited, so under **Host Status Detail** you see: “Alias: alias”.
5. **Solution:** Alias is not inherited by default – you need to define an alias (description) in the **Step 2** of the wizard.
6. **Issue:** Hostgroup relationship is not inherited.
7. **Solution:** Define hostgroup members under the “Host Management”, NOT under the “Host Group Management” in the Configuration Manager. Please refer to the [Host Group Membership](#) section for detailed information on this.

Tips

First, before you even start the **Bulk Host Import Wizard**, double check the host that you are about to clone. Make sure it is set up properly and run the **Write Config Tool** to make sure that you don't have any config errors (**CCM > Tools > Config File Management**).

Next, run the wizard but clone your host only a few times, just to make sure you are not going to run into some unexpected issues.

Note: Even if cloning of your host is successful, it is very difficult to undo what you've done and start “clean”, in case you forgot something (add a service, change alias, etc.), especially if you created 500+ new hosts! If you have the Nagios XI Enterprise license then you could use the Bulk Modifications Tool (**Configuration Manager > Tools**) to make mass changes, otherwise you may have to delete all the objects and start again.

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If you are going to create a huge number of hosts, using the Bulk Host Import Wizard, you may run into some time-out issues. To avoid that, you can adjust some limits in the `/etc/php.ini` file. Open the file in a text editor:

```
vi / etc/php.ini
```

Increase the values under the `Resource Limits` section according to your needs and system specifications. You may have to modify these lines:

```
max_execution_time =  
max_input_time =  
memory_limit =
```

Also, you can add the following line on the bottom of the file:

```
max_input_vars = 100000
```

Save and close the file. Restart apache, so that the changes can take effect:

```
service httpd restart
```

For more information, view the following document: [Using Configuration Wizards](#)

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on the Bulk Host Cloning and Import wizard. 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](#)