

How To Use the Nagios XI Helper

Purpose

This document explains how to set up and use the Nagios XI Helper (Beta). The XI Helper is an experimental natural-language interface which you can use to easily start monitoring of websites, NCPA hosts, and SNMP hosts, and to remove all host types from your monitoring configs.

As the leading provider of on-premises, self-hosted IT infrastructure monitoring solutions, Nagios is acutely aware that organizations have concerns about AI running in their environments. The XI Helper is an initial development that allows greater speed and efficiency in monitoring administration, which also respects important boundaries within customer environments.

To address these concerns, we would like to communicate three points:

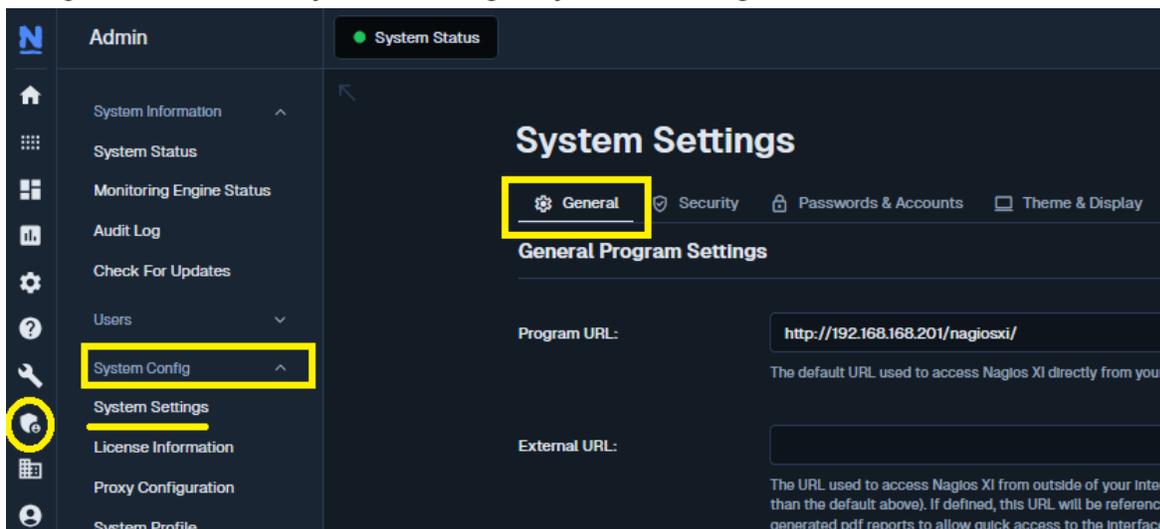
1. We do not ship the classifier as a default option: administrators must actively select in the Nagios XI interface to download and install the classifier.
2. The classifier is not an LLM (Large Language Model). It can only understand and take two types of actions: start monitoring a host, and stop monitoring a host.
3. The classifier can only take action within the context of Nagios XI.

Comprehensive details about the technology involved in the classifier, along with an architectural diagram, can be found in the [Technical Deep Dive](#) section.

We welcome your feedback on this experimental feature!

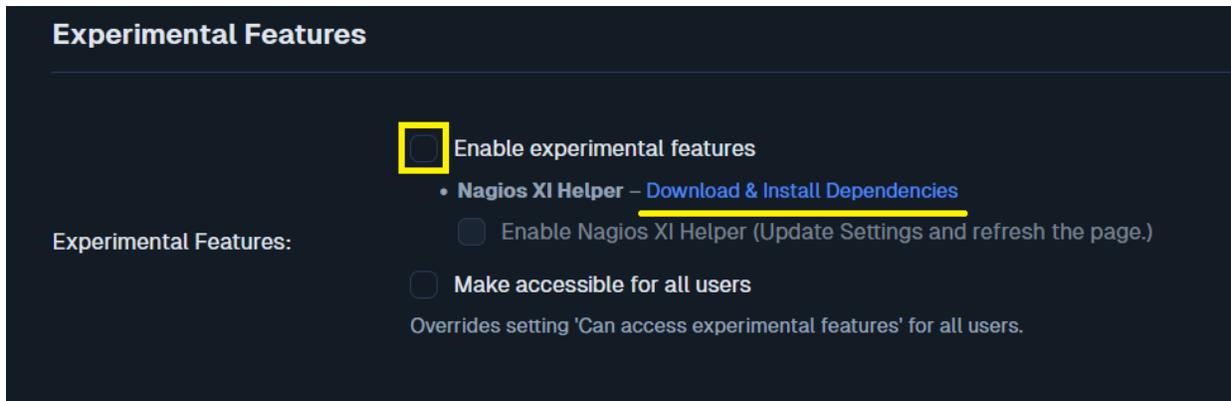
Enabling the Helper

1. Navigate to **Admin > System Config > System Settings > General tab**:

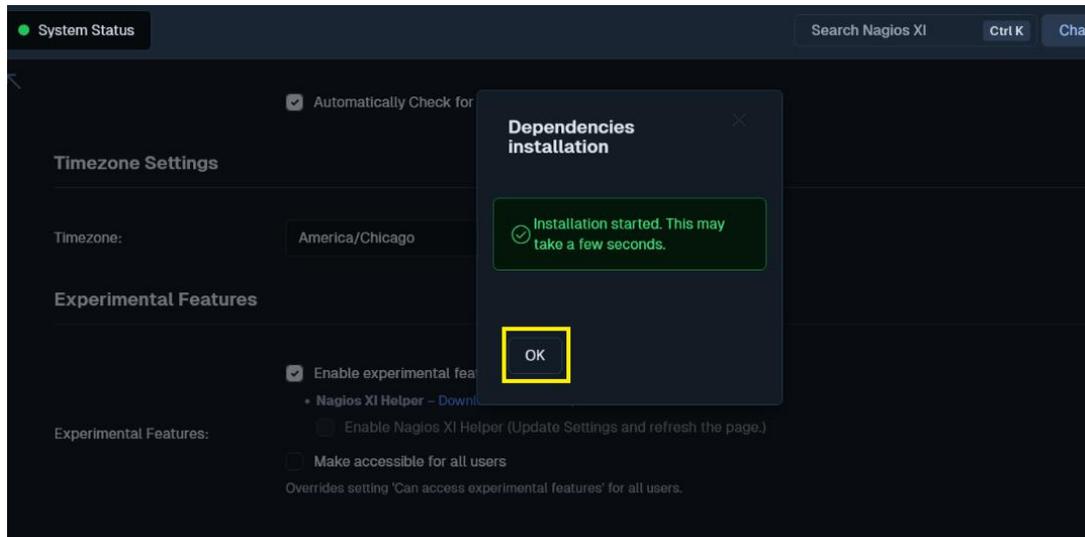


How To Use the Nagios XI Helper

2. Check the **Enable experimental features** checkbox.
3. Click the **Download and Install Dependencies** link to load the necessary XI Helper dependencies onto your XI server. Once the necessary dependencies are loaded, internet access is not required for the Helper to function, but internet access *is* required for this step.



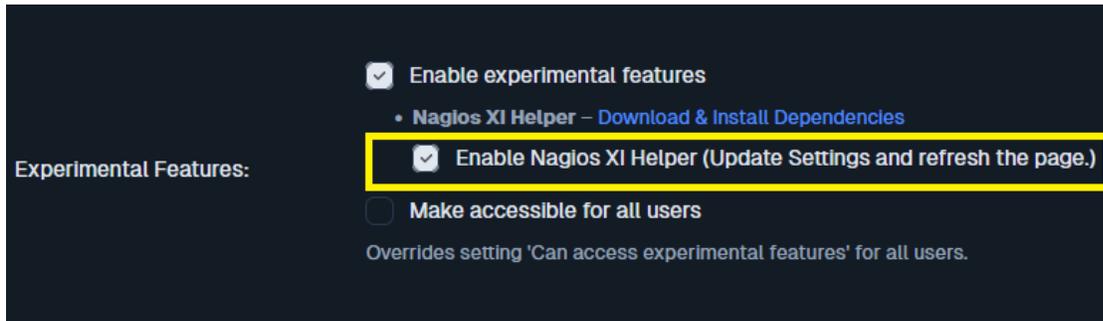
4. Click **OK** to close the Dependencies installation popup:



5. Click **Update Settings** at the bottom of the General tab menu.

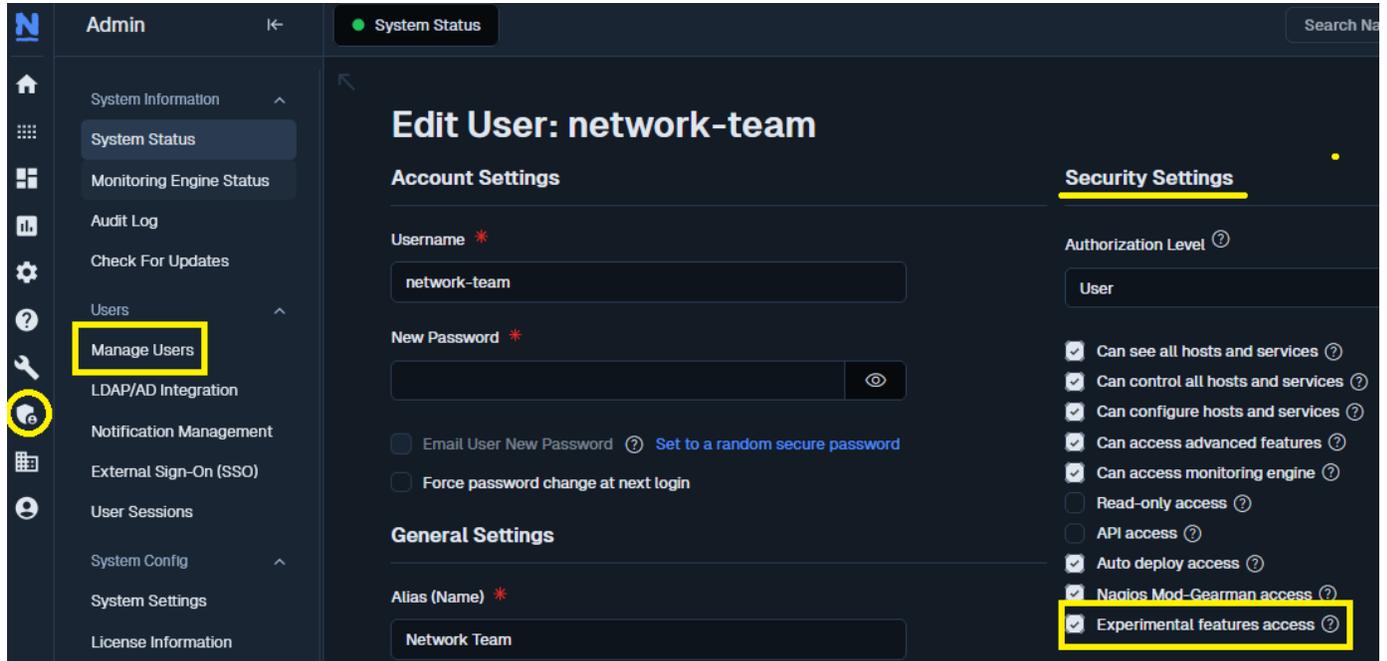
How To Use the Nagios XI Helper

6. Once the dependency installation completes, you'll be able to check the **Enable Nagios XI Helper** checkbox. Once you've checked it, click **Update Settings** at the bottom of the menu.



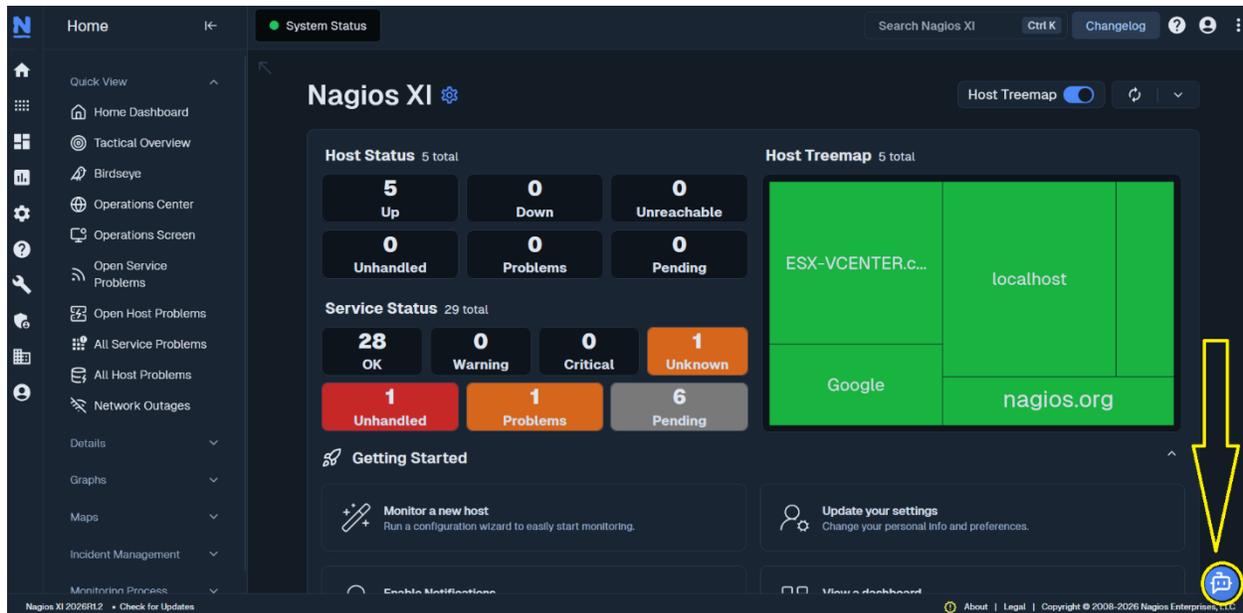
Also note that you can use the **Make accessible for all users** checkbox to enable the Helper globally for all users.

Otherwise access will be determined on a per-user basis in each user's settings at **Admin > Manage Users > Edit User > Security Settings**:



How To Use the Nagios XI Helper

7. Refresh your browser, and the Helper will appear on the bottom right of the interface.



Using the Helper

To use the XI Helper, simply click the Helper icon, then type in what you'd like it to do for you.

Example prompts:

- `start monitoring nagios.com`
- `stop monitoring youtube.com`
- `stop 192.168.145.60`
- `start monitoring 10.10.10.5 with token "NCPA_TOKEN"`
- `start monitoring 192.168.165.135 with community 'SNMP_COMMUNITY'`

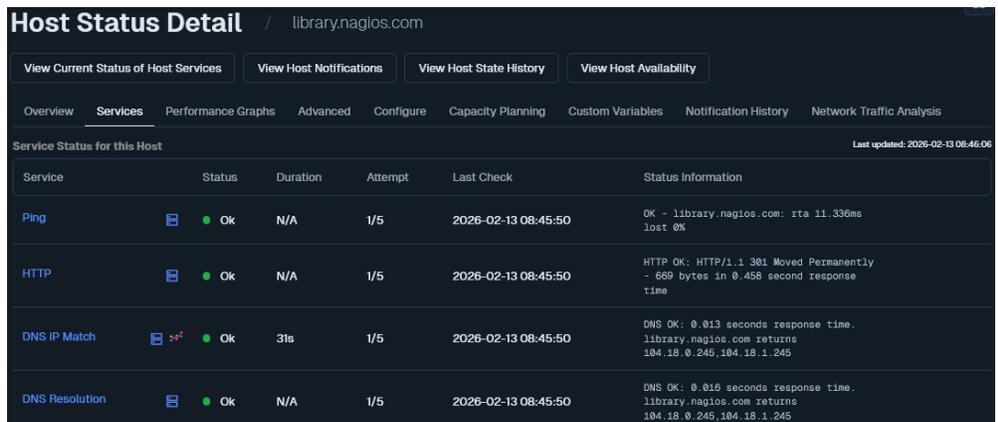
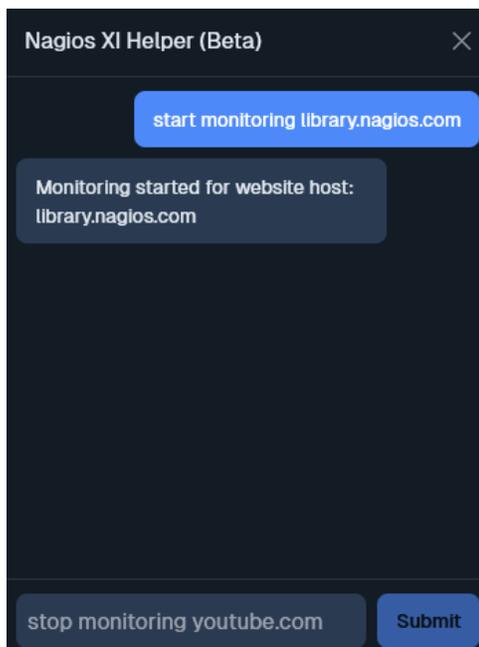
Note that NCPA tokens and SNMP community strings must be inside quotes in your prompts.

How To Use the Nagios XI Helper

For example, to monitor library.nagios.com, we'd simply tell the Helper:

```
start monitoring library.nagios.com
```

..then click **Submit**, and Nagios would begin monitoring the site and common services right away:



| Service | Status | Duration | Attempt | Last Check | Status Information |
|----------------|--------|----------|---------|---------------------|---|
| Ping | Ok | N/A | 1/5 | 2026-02-13 08:45:50 | OK - library.nagios.com: rta 11.336ms lost 0% |
| HTTP | Ok | N/A | 1/5 | 2026-02-13 08:45:50 | HTTP OK: HTTP/1.1 301 Moved Permanently - 669 bytes in 0.458 second response time |
| DNS IP Match | Ok | 31s | 1/5 | 2026-02-13 08:45:50 | DNS OK: 0.013 seconds response time. library.nagios.com returns 104.18.0.245,104.18.1.245 |
| DNS Resolution | Ok | N/A | 1/5 | 2026-02-13 08:45:50 | DNS OK: 0.016 seconds response time. library.nagios.com returns 104.18.0.245,104.18.1.245 |

Technical Deep Dive

Why do we call the XI Helper a classifier, and what is it exactly?

In plain English, the XI Helper is an implementation of the AI sub-category of intent classification. Intent classification is where an AI model attempts to understand what the user wants.

In this initial development of the XI helper, there are only three conclusions the model can come to:

1. The user wants to start monitoring something.
2. The user wants to stop monitoring something.
3. The user's wants are not discernable by this model from the user's inputs.

How To Use the Nagios XI Helper

In precise technical language, the classification layer consists of a semantic text encoder followed by a supervised logistic regression classifier. It is a deterministic, non-generative pipeline designed strictly for intent and host-type prediction.

The first component is the text encoder, based on the sentence-transformers/all-MiniLM-L6-v2 model. This is a lightweight transformer architecture that converts natural language prompts into fixed-size 384-dimensional embedding vectors. The model is pretrained and used only for inference in production. It does not generate text, perform reasoning, or modify its behavior. Its role is limited to transforming input text into a numerical representation that captures semantic meaning.

The second component is a logistic regression classifier implemented using scikit-learn 1.5.2. The classifier takes the embedding vector as input and outputs a predicted label along with a confidence score. Labels correspond to either user intent (such as `add_host` or `delete_host`) or host type (such as `WEBSITE`, `SNMP` or `NCPA`). The decision boundaries are fully deterministic once trained, and there is no dynamic or adaptive behavior at runtime.

The training process is supervised. Logistic regression heads were trained on labeled pairs of (prompt_text, label). Labels represent either an intent class or a host-type class. The text encoder generates embeddings for each prompt, and those embeddings are used as feature vectors for the classifier. Training is performed offline. There is no online learning, reinforcement learning, or self-updating behavior in production.

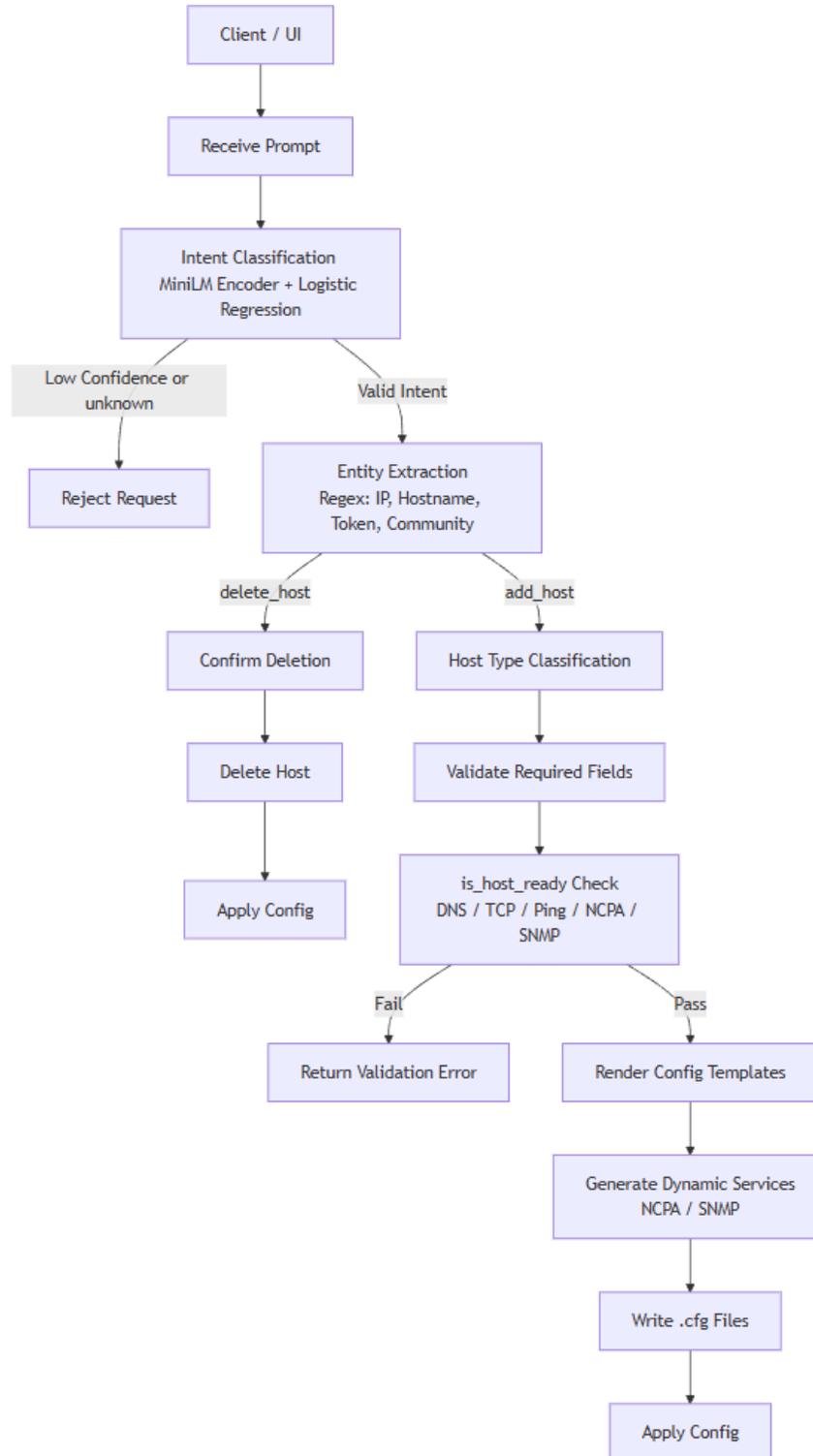
The software stack used in this pipeline includes:

- **scikit-learn 1.5.2** for logistic regression training and inference
- **transformers 4.44.2** for model loading support
- **joblib 1.4.2** for model serialization and loading
- **onnxruntime 1.19.2** for optimized inference when exporting models to ONNX

In production, the system performs only embedding generation and deterministic classification. It does not execute arbitrary commands, generate code, or access external services autonomously.

On the following page is a diagram of the Helper architecture:

How To Use the Nagios XI Helper



How To Use the Nagios XI Helper

Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on Using the XI Helper in Nagios XI 2026. If you have additional questions or other support-related questions, please visit the Nagios Support Forum, Nagios Documentation Hub, or Nagios Library:

[Visit Nagios Support Forum](#)

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