



## Purpose

This document describes how to manage hosts, host groups and host templates using the Nagios XI Core Config Manager (CCM). While monitoring wizards make it easy to set up new hosts in Nagios XI, the CCM allows for more precise control over host monitoring, notifications, and configurations.

## Target Audience

This document is intended for use by Nagios XI Administrators and assumes the reader has administrator privileges for the CCM.

## Core Config Manager Overview

Hosts can most easily be setup using the Monitoring Wizard under the main Configure page. However, some administrators may need more customized options, or a greater degree of control over their monitoring setup. The Nagios XI CCM allows for precise control over host monitoring, notifications, and configurations.

You can access the CCM from the **Configure** option on the top menu, and then select the **Core Config Manager** option under the **Advanced Configuration** option, or when you hover your mouse on the **Configure** option on the top menu it will appear as an option.

This document will discuss how to do the following items within CCM:

- Adding hosts
- Modifying hosts
- Deleting hosts
- Copying hosts
- Displaying host information
- Managing host groups
- Using host templates

## Adding Hosts

To manually add a new host, select the **Hosts** link located under **Monitoring** on the left menu of CCM. This will bring up the **Host Management** page, which displays a list of the current hosts being monitored by Nagios XI.

The screenshot shows the Nagios XI interface. The top navigation bar includes Home, Views, Dashboards, Reports, **Configure**, Tools, Help, and Admin. The 'Configure' menu is open, showing 'Configuration Wizards' and 'Core Config Manager' (circled in yellow). The left sidebar shows 'Monitoring' > **Hosts** (circled in blue). The main content area is titled 'Hosts' and displays a table of 15 hosts. The 'Add New' button is highlighted in blue.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Name	Alias	Active	Status	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.10.10.10		Yes	Applied		22
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.20.30.40		Yes	Applied		37
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.13.10		Yes	Applied		39
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.13.15		Yes	Applied		65
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.14.2		Yes	Applied		60
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.254.5		No	-		85
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.254.50		No	-		87
<input type="checkbox"/>	asdas		No	-		15
<input type="checkbox"/>	centos01		Yes	Applied		18
<input type="checkbox"/>	centos01 fqdn	centos01 fqdn alias	Yes	Applied		20
<input type="checkbox"/>	centos10		Yes	Applied		76
<input type="checkbox"/>	core-001.box293.local		No	-		77
<input type="checkbox"/>	core-002.box293.local		No	-		78
<input type="checkbox"/>	core-003		Yes	Applied		38
<input type="checkbox"/>	core-010.box293.local		No	-		79

Click the **Add New** button to manually add a new host.

The **Host Management** page will open on the **Common Settings** tab.

This tab allows you to define the primary host parameters such as Host Name, Description, Address, and Display name.

All fields labeled with an asterisk are required fields.

Use the **Manage Parents** button to associate parent host(s) for the host.

Parents are used to specify network configuration connections.

Use the **Manage Templates** button to associate template(s) to the host.

Templates provide a method to push the same host setting to similar hosts.

## Host Management

Common Settings
Check Settings
Alert Settings
Misc Settings

**Host Name \***

**Description**

**Address \***

**Display name**

**Check command**

**Command view**

```
$USER1$/check_icmp -H $HOSTADDRESS$ -w 3000.0,80% -c 5000.0,100% -p 5
```

\$ARG1\$

\$ARG2\$

\$ARG3\$

\$ARG4\$

\$ARG5\$

\$ARG6\$

\$ARG7\$

\$ARG8\$

[Run Check Command](#)

[Manage Parents](#) 0

[Manage Templates](#) 1

[Manage Host Groups](#) 0

Active 1

[Save](#) [Cancel](#)

### Manage Parents

Filter...

- 10.10.10.10
- 10.20.30.40
- 10.25.13.10
- 10.25.13.15
- 10.25.14.2
- 10.25.254.5
- 10.25.254.50
- asdas
- centos01
- centos01 fqdn
- centos10
- core-001.box293.local

[Add Selected](#)

Relationship defined elsewhere

Inactive object

[Close](#)

**Assigned** [Remove All](#)

### Manage Templates

Filter...

- xiwizard\_dnsquery\_host
- xiwizard\_domain\_expiration\_host\_v2
- xiwizard\_exchange\_host
- xiwizard\_ftpsrvr\_host
- xiwizard\_generic\_host
- xiwizard\_idapserver\_host
- xiwizard\_linuxserver\_host
- xiwizard\_linuxsnmp\_host
- xiwizard\_mailserver\_host
- xiwizard\_mongodbdatabase\_host
- xiwizard\_mongodserver\_host

[Add Selected](#)

Relationship defined elsewhere

Inactive object

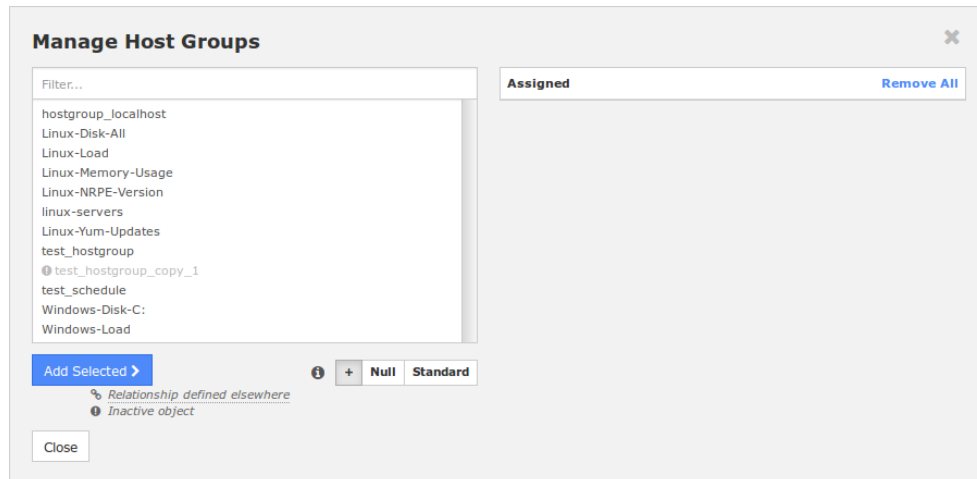
[Close](#)

**Assigned** [Remove All](#)

xiwizard\_genericnetdevice\_host [Remove](#)

Use the **Manage Host Groups** button to associate existing host group(s) to the host.

Host groups are a way to group similar hosts together.



On the previous screenshot of the Common Settings tab you'll notice that the **Active** checkbox is checked. If this box is un-checked the host configuration won't be put into production when Apply Configuration is performed. However the settings will remain in CCM until you activate the host object.

To define the check command for this host, you select the appropriate command from the **Check command** drop down list. On the previous screenshot of the Common Settings tab you'll see that `check-host-alive` is selected. Every command in the **Check command** drop down list is associated with a set of Nagios Core commands and arguments, which are shown in the **Command view** field. In this example there are no additional parameters required for the `$ARGx$` fields. For more detailed descriptions of Nagios commands see the following documentation:

<https://assets.nagios.com/downloads/nagioscore/docs/nagioscore/4/en/objectdefinitions.html#command>

The **Check Settings** tab allows you to specify the settings for frequency of checks and also the host state.

If a problem is detected with a connection, you can specify the details of how the problem is handled.

You will notice a lot of options have **Skip** chosen. This means that the setting is not being directly defined on the host object, this prevents any settings defined in templates from being overwritten. If you look at the previous **Manage Templates** screenshot you'll see the template `xiwizard_genericnetdevice_host` is being used, which has these settings applied (as well as that template using another template).

## Host Management

Common Settings
Check Settings
Alert Settings
Misc Settings

**Initial state**

Down Up **Unreachable**

---

**Check interval**

5 min

**Retry interval**

1 min

**Max check attempts**

5 attempts

**Active checks enabled**

On Off **Skip** Null

**Passive checks enabled**

On Off **Skip** Null

**Check period \***

xi\_timeperiod\_24x7

**Freshness threshold**

sec

**Check freshness**

On Off **Skip** Null

**Obsess over host**

On Off **Skip** Null

**Event handler**

**Event handler enabled**

On Off **Skip** Null

**Low flap threshold**

%

**High flap threshold**

%

**Flap detection enabled**

On Off **Skip** Null

**Flap detection options**

Down Up Unreachable

**Retain status information**

On Off **Skip** Null

**Retain non-status information**

On Off **Skip** Null

**Process perf data**

On Off **Skip** Null

Save
Cancel

The **Alert Settings** tab allows you to specify your notification settings.

Use the **Manage Contacts** and **Manage Contact Groups** buttons to associate your existing contacts and contact groups with this host.

## Host Management

Common Settings
Check Settings
Alert Settings
Misc Settings

Manage Contacts 0
Manage Contact Groups 0

**Notification period \***

xi\_timeperiod\_24x7

**Notification options**

Down Unreachable Recovery Flapping Scheduled Downtime

**Notification interval**

60 min

**First notification delay**

min

**Notification enabled**

On Off **Skip** Null

**Stalking options**

Down Up Unreachable

Save
Cancel

The **Misc Settings** tab is for defining additional host information and can be used for adding notes, icon images, and also for setting Free variable definitions.

There are a few important things that you should note about Free variables (custom object variables):

- Custom variable names must begin with an underscore ( `_` ) to prevent name collision with standard variables
- Custom variable names are case-insensitive
- Custom variables are inherited from object templates like normal variables
- Scripts can reference custom variable values with macros and environment variables

For additional information about using custom object variables see the following document:

### [Understanding Nagios XI Notification Variables](#)

Once you've finished entering information for your new host, click the **Save** button to return to the Host Management page.

Click the **Apply Configuration** button to restart Nagios XI and put the new settings into effect. Nagios XI will verify the settings and display a success message that the host was set up correctly.

## Host Management

Common Settings
✓ Check Settings
Alert Settings
Misc Settings

<p><b>Notes</b></p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<p><b>2D coords</b></p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 20px;" type="text" value="x,y"/>
<p><b>VRML image</b></p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<p><b>3D coords</b></p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 20px;" type="text" value="x,y,z"/>
<p><b>Notes URL</b></p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<div style="background-color: #00a0e3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; border-radius: 3px;"> <span>Manage Free Variables</span> </div>
<p><b>Status image</b></p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<p><b>Use this configuration as a template</b></p> <p>Generic name</p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
<p><b>Action URL</b></p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<p><b>Icon image</b></p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<p><b>Icon image 'alt' text</b></p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	

Save
Cancel

## Apply Configuration

✓ Configuration applied successfully.


Nagios Core was **restarted** with an updated configuration.

[View configuration snapshots](#)

[Show Written Configs](#)



## Modifying Hosts

Host can be modified by clicking the **Modify** icon  OR the host name itself from the **Host Management** page.

**Hosts**

*Displaying 1-15 of 45 results* 1 2 3 >

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Name	Alias	Active	Status	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.10.10.10		Yes	Applied	    	22
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.20.30.40		Yes	Applied	    	37
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.13.10		Yes	Applied	    	39
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.13.15		Yes	Applied	    	65


























This will bring up the same set of tabbed menus covered in the [Adding Hosts](#) section of this tutorial. Refer to that section for a detailed walk through of the tabs that control host settings.

## Deleting / Deactivating Hosts

Host can be deleted by selecting the **Delete** icon from the **Host Management** page.

**Hosts**

*Displaying 1-15 of 45 results* 1 2 3 >

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Name	Alias	Active	Status	Actions	ID
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10.10.10.10		Yes	Applied	    	22
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10.20.30.40		Yes	Applied	    	37
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10.25.13.10		Yes	Applied	    	39
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.13.15		Yes	Applied	    	65
<input type="checkbox"/>	core-003		Yes	Applied	    	38

15  1 1 2 3 >

Multiple hosts can be also be deleted by selecting the desired hosts in the **left checkbox column** and then selecting **Delete** from the **With checked** drop down list.

Hosts can be activated or deactivated by clicking on the **Yes** or **No** link under the **Active** column. Deactivating a host is the same as deleting it as far as the monitoring engine is concerned, but this does preserve the host's configuration within Nagios XI if you want to recover it later. You can also deactivate multiple hosts using the **With checked** drop down list.

**Hosts** Search

Displaying 1-15 of 45 results 1 2 3 >

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Name	Alias	Active	Status	Actions	ID
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10.10.10.10		Yes	Applied		22
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10.20.30.40		Yes	Applied		37
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10.25.13.10		Yes	Applied		39
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.13.15		Yes	Applied		65
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.14.2		Yes	Applied		60
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.254.5		No	-		85
<input type="checkbox"/>	core-003		Yes	Applied		38

With checked Deactivate  Results per page 15  1 2 3 >

**Important Note:** Hosts can only be deleted/deactivated once their dependent services are also deleted/deactivated.

To see if a host has dependencies click the **Information** icon (i) to check for dependencies.

This information will be displayed in a pop-up window. In the screenshot to the right you can see this host has multiple services that prevent it from being deleted or de-activated.

**WSE01.box293.local** ✕

Object relationships Dependent relationships denoted by %

Config Name	Service Description
WSE01.box293.local	ping
WSE01.box293.local	SSH
WSE01.box293.local	MySQL
WSE01.box293.local	CDP
WSE01.box293.local	Exchange Status
WSE01.box293.local	Exchange HTTP
WSE01.box293.local	Exchange Core Services
WSE01.box293.local	Exchange Web Services
WSE01.box293.local	Messages Pending Routing
WSE01.box293.local	Remote Queue Length



To delete a host with dependencies, make sure all of the services assigned to this host are deleted first.

To remove dependent services, click the **Services** link to bring up the **Service Management** page.

Use the **Config Name** drop down list to bring up all services being used by the selected host.



## Services

  
 Displaying 1-10 of 10 results  

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Service Name	Service Description	Active	Status	Actions	ID
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WSE01.box293.local	Blacklist Status	Yes	Applied		641
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WSE01.box293.local	Exchange Core Services	Yes	Applied		643
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WSE01.box293.local	Exchange Web Services	Yes	Applied		644
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WSE01.box293.local	IMAP	Yes	Applied		639
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WSE01.box293.local	Messages Pending Routing	Yes	Applied		645
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WSE01.box293.local	OWA HTTP	Yes	Applied		642
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WSE01.box293.local	Ping	Yes	Applied		637
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WSE01.box293.local	POP	Yes	Applied		640
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WSE01.box293.local	Remote Queue Length	Yes	Applied		646
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WSE01.box293.local	SMTP	Yes	Applied		638

Click the **top-left Checkbox**, this will select all the services in the list. From the **With Checked** drop down list select **Delete** and then click the **Go** button.

Once all dependent services have been deleted, return to the **Host Management** page and use the Delete icon to delete the host. If the host was deleted successfully, Nagios XI will display a success message at the top of the page.

Dataset successfully deleted. Affected rows: 1  
Host file: **WSE01.box293.local.cfg** was deleted

If there are unresolved dependencies, Nagios XI will display an error message in red at the top of the page.

```
Object ID: 44 of table tbl_host:
Relation to Services, entry: WSE01.box293.local-Ping - Dependent relationship
Relation to Services, entry: WSE01.box293.local-SMTP - Dependent relationship
Relation to Services, entry: WSE01.box293.local-IMAP - Dependent relationship
Relation to Services, entry: WSE01.box293.local-POP - Dependent relationship
Relation to Services, entry: WSE01.box293.local-Blacklist Status - Dependent relationship
Relation to Services, entry: WSE01.box293.local-OWA HTTP - Dependent relationship
Relation to Services, entry: WSE01.box293.local-Exchange Core Services - Dependent relationship
Relation to Services, entry: WSE01.box293.local-Exchange Web Services - Dependent relationship
Relation to Services, entry: WSE01.box293.local-Messages Pending Routing - Dependent relationship
Relation to Services, entry: WSE01.box293.local-Remote Queue Length - Dependent relationship
Object still has dependent relationships!Item was not deleted.
```

Once the host is deleted, be sure to click the **Apply Configuration** button for the monitoring of the host (and services) to stop.





















## Copying Hosts

Copying a host is a quick way to start monitoring a new host, especially if the new host will have similar (if not the same) monitoring settings.

To copy a host, click the **Copy** icon from the **Host Management** page for the host you want to copy.

**Hosts** Search

[+ Add New](#) Displaying 1-15 of 44 results 1 2 3 >

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Name	Alias	Active	Status	Actions	ID
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10.10.10.10		Yes	Applied	   	22
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10.20.30.40		Yes	Applied	   	37
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10.25.13.18		Yes	Applied	   	39
<input type="checkbox"/>	core-003		Yes	Applied	   	38
<input type="checkbox"/>	core-010.box293.local		No	-	   	79


[+ Add New](#) [Apply Configuration](#) With checked **Copy** Go Results per page 15 Jump to page 1 1 2 3 >

If you wanted to copy multiple hosts, select the desired hosts you want to copy in the left checkbox column and then select **Copy** from the **With checked** drop down list.

After a creating a copy, the duplicate host(s) will be assigned a default name that will need to be changed. Host copies are also inactive by default, and will need to be activated for monitoring use.

## Hosts

   
 *Displaying 1-2 of 2 results*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Name	Alias	Active	Status	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	core-003		Yes	Applied	    	38
<input type="checkbox"/>	core-003_copy_1		No	-	    	89

To rename and activate the copied host click the **Modify** icon.

Change the entry for **Host Name** to a valid name.

You will also need to change the address to the address of the new host that will be monitored.

To activate the host copy, click the **Active** checkbox.

Once changes are complete click the **Save** button.

Click **Apply Configuration** to start monitoring the new host.

## Host Management

**⚠** This object is currently set as **Inactive** and will not be written to the configuration files.

Host Name \*

Description

Address \*

Display name

 
 
 
 Active 
 

Check command

Command view

## Managing Host Groups

Host Groups allow you to group hosts in a logical manner, making it easier for users to get a quick view of their network infrastructure. They will not have an impact on the notifications or access control, but will make it easier for both your users to grasp what they are looking at and for you as the administrator to quickly pinpoint where problems are occurring.

You can define new host groups by selecting the **Host Groups** menu item (under Monitoring) from the Core Config menu and clicking the **+ Add New** button.

The screenshot shows the Nagios XI Core Config Manager interface. The top navigation bar includes Home, Views, Dashboards, Reports, Configure, Tools, Help, and Admin. The left sidebar shows the Core Config Manager menu with 'Host Groups' selected. The main content area displays the 'Host Groups' page with a '+ Add New' button and a table of existing groups.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Group Name	Alias	Active	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	hostgroup_localhost	hostgroup_localhost	Yes		11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Linux-Disk-All	Linux-Disk-All	Yes		15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Linux-Load	Linux-Load	Yes		16

You will need to give the new Host group a name and description.

### Host Group Management

Host Group Name \*

Description \*

Notes

Notes URL

Action URL

Active ⓘ

Assign Memberships

You can add **hosts** or **host groups** to the newly created host group using the **Manage Hosts** button and **Manage Host Groups** buttons.

When you are finished click the **Save** button.

**Manage Hosts**

Filter...

- 10.10.10.10
- 10.20.30.40
- 10.25.13.10
- 10.25.13.15
- 10.25.14.2
- 10.25.254.50

Add Selected >

Relationship defined elsewhere  
Inactive object

Close

**Assigned** Remove All

esxi002	! <input type="checkbox"/>	✖
centos10	! <input type="checkbox"/>	✖

Remember to **Apply Configuration** when you are done making configuration changes.

## Using Host Templates

Host templates can be created by selecting the **Host Templates** link from the Core Config menu **Templates**. This will bring up the **Host Template Management** page.

**Nagios XI** Home Views Dashboards Reports Configure Tools Help Admin

ccm Core Config Manager

**Host Templates** Search

+ Add New Displaying 1-15 of 54 results

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host Template Name	Alias	Active	Actions	ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common-Host-Linux		Yes	✖ 📄 ⓘ ✖	53
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common-Host-Windows		Yes	✖ 📄 ⓘ ✖	54
<input type="checkbox"/>	generic-host		Yes	✖ 📄 ⓘ ✖	39

1 2 3 4 >

Many administrators prefer to create their own host templates to specify default values for check commands, notification settings, and contact settings. Templates can also inherit values from other templates, which can be useful for creating universal settings for hosts and services.

From the **Host Template Management** page, you can add, modify, copy, or delete existing templates. Nagios XI comes with an existing selection of host templates that can be used or modified for your monitoring needs. The **Host Template Management** page uses the same layout and menu system as the **Host Management** page. See the above section on [Adding Hosts](#) for details on navigating the user interface.

**Important Note:** Templates can inherit values from other parent templates. If a template has a parent template assigned via the **Manage Templates** button, it will inherit that template's settings. Be careful when modifying the **"generic"** templates, as these are the main parent templates and this may affect many of the other templates that inherit values from it.

## Bulk Modifications Tool

When you need to update a configuration setting for multiple hosts you can use the **Bulk Modifications Tool**, which is located under the Tools menu. This allows you to make a change like adding a contact to a selection of hosts, instead of manually editing each host.

The Bulk Modifications Tool is available when you have the Nagios XI Enterprise License. If you are not licensed for the Enterprise Edition you can enable a 60 day trial which allows you to use all the features of the Bulk Modifications Tool.

The screenshot on the following page shows the location and options of the Bulk Modifications Tool.



The screenshot displays the Nagios XI Core Config Manager (CCM) interface. The top navigation bar includes the Nagios XI logo, a search icon, a user profile for 'nagiosadmin', and a 'Logout' button. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with categories: Quick Tools, Monitoring, Alerting, Templates, Commands, Advanced, Tools, and CCM Admin. The 'Tools' category is expanded, and the 'Bulk Modifications Tool' is highlighted with a red circle. The main content area is titled 'Bulk Modifications Tool' and contains a description: 'The bulk modification tool allows for modifications to be made to specific host and service configurations. This tool does not interact with settings or relationships defined in templates, and any settings applied by this tool will override any template settings.' Below the description is a section titled 'Step 1: Select Modification' with several blue buttons for actions: 'Change a Single Config Option', 'Change Command and Arguments', '+ Add Contact(s)', '- Remove Contact', '+ Add Contact Group(s)', '- Remove Contact Group', '+ Add Host Group(s)', '- Remove Host Group', '+ Add Parent Host(s)', '- Remove Parent Host', '+ Add Free Variables', '- Remove Free Variables', '+ Add Service(s)', 'Change Templates', and 'Change Config Names'.

## Finishing Up

This completes the documentation on using CCM for host management in Nagios XI.

If you have additional questions or other support related questions, please visit us at our Nagios Support Forums:

<https://support.nagios.com/forum>

The Nagios Support Knowledgebase is also a great support resource:

<https://support.nagios.com/kb>