

Nagios Installation and Configuration

July 24, 2014

Introduction

Goals

- Install and configure Nagios

Notes

- Commands preceded with “\$” imply that you should execute the command as a general user - not as root.
- Commands preceded with “#” imply that you should be working as root.
- Commands with more specific command lines (e.g. “rtrX>” or “mysql>”) imply that you are executing commands on remote equipment, or within another program.

Exercises

PART I

1. Log in to your virtual machine as the sysadm user.

2. Install Nagios Version 3

```
$ sudo apt-get install nagios3 nagios3-doc
```

During installation you will be prompted for the “Nagios web administration password:” - This will be for the Nagios user “nagiosadmin”. When prompted enter in the password you are using your sysadm account.

Note: if you have not already done so, you may be asked to configure the Postfix Mail Transport Agent during the Nagios installation process. Just accept the default “Internet Site”.

3. See Initial Nagios Configuration

Open a browser, and go to your machine like this:

`http://pcN.ws.nsrc.org/nagios3/`

At the login prompt, login as:

```
User Name: nagiosadmin
Password: <CLASS PASSWORD>
```

Click on the “Hosts” link on the left of the initial Nagios page to see what has already been configured.

4. Add Routers, PCs and Switches

We will create three files, `routers.cfg`, `switches.cfg` and `pcs.cfg` and make entries for the hardware in our classroom.

4a. Creating the `switches.cfg` file

```
$ cd /etc/nagios3/conf.d                (just to be sure)
$ sudo editor switches.cfg
```

In this file add the following entry (COPY and PASTE!):

```
define host {
    use          generic-host
    host_name    sw
    alias        Backbone Switch
    address      10.10.0.253
}
```

Save the file and exit.

4b. Creating the “routers.cfg” file

We have up to 10 total routers. These are rtr1-rtr9 and gw. And, we have 1 or 2 wireless Access Points (ap1, ap2). We will define entries for some of these. If any of these devices do not exist in your workshop, then do not include them. Remember, COPY and PASTE!

```
$ sudo editor routers.cfg
```

```
define host {
    use          generic-host
    host_name    gw
    alias        Classroom Gateway Router
    address      10.10.0.254
}
```

```
define host {
    use          generic-host
    host_name    rtr1
    alias        Group 1 Gateway Router
    address      10.10.1.254
}
```

```
define host {
    use          generic-host
    host_name    rtr2
    alias        Group 2 Gateway Router
    address      10.10.2.254
}
```

*** Note: you do not need to add definitions for all routers now = you can always come back and add the rest later! ***

```
define host {
    use          generic-host
    host_name    ap1
    alias        Wireless Access Point 1
    address      10.10.0.251
}
```

```
define host {
    use          generic-host
    host_name    ap2
    alias        Wireless Access Point 2
    address      10.10.0.252
}
```

Now save the file and exit the editor.

4c. Creating the pcs.cfg File

Now we will create entries for some of the Virtual Machines in our classroom. Below we give you the first few entries. You should complete the file with as many PCs as you wish to add. We recommend that, at least, you add the 4 PCs that are members of your group as well as an entry for the classroom NOC, and at least one PC from another group (remember to COPY and PASTE!):

```
$ sudo editor pcs.cfg

define host {
    use          generic-host
    host_name    noc
    alias        Workshop NOC machine
    address      10.10.0.250
}

#
# Group 1
#

define host {
    use          generic-host
    host_name    pc1
    alias        pc1
    address      10.10.1.1
}

define host {
    use          generic-host
    host_name    pc2
    alias        pc2
    address      10.10.1.2
}

#
# Another PC (example only!)
#

define host {
    use          generic-host
    host_name    pc20
    alias        pc20
```

```
        address      10.10.5.20
    }
```

You can save and exit from the file now. You can add more PC entries later.

STEPS 5a - 5c SHOULD BE REPEATED WHENEVER YOU UPDATE THE CONFIGURATION!

5a. Verify that your configuration files are OK

```
$ sudo nagios3 -v /etc/nagios3/nagios.cfg
```

You will get some warnings like the ones below. You can ignore them for now.

```
Checking services...
    Checked 7 services.
Checking hosts...
Warning: Host 'gw' has no services associated with it!
Warning: Host 'rtr1' has no services associated with it!
Warning: Host 'rtr2' has no services associated with it!

etc....
...
Total Warnings: N
Total Errors:    0
```

Things look okay - No serious problems were detected during the check. Nagios is saying that it's unusual to monitor a device just for its existence on the network, without also monitoring some service.

5b. Reload/Restart Nagios

```
$ sudo service nagios3 restart
```

HINT: You will be doing this a lot. If you do it all on one line, like this, then you can use arrow-up and call back the command:

```
$ sudo nagios3 -v /etc/nagios3/nagios.cfg && sudo service nagios3 restart
```

The '&&' ensures that the restart only happens if the config is valid.

5c. Verify via the Web Interface

Go to the web interface (<http://pcN.ws.nsrc.org/nagios3>) and check that the hosts you just added are now visible in the interface. Click on the “Hosts” item on the left of the Nagios screen to see this. You may see it in “PENDING” status until the check is carried out.

6. View Status Map

Go to <http://pcN.ws.nsrc.org/nagios3>

Click on the “Map” item on the left. You should see all your hosts with the Nagios process in the middle. The “?” are because we have not told Nagios what type of host each item is (router, switch, AP, PC running Linux, etc...)

PART II - Configure Service check for the classroom NOC

0. Configuring

Now that we have our hardware configured we can start telling Nagios what services to monitor on the configured hardware, how to group the hardware in interesting ways, how to group services, etc.

1. Associate a service check for our classroom NOC

```
$ sudo editor hostgroups_nagios2.cfg
```

- Find the hostgroup named “ssh-servers”. In the members section of the definition change the line:

```
members          localhost
```

```
to
```

```
members          localhost,noc
```

Exit and save the file.

Verify that your changes are OK:

```
$ sudo nagios3 -v /etc/nagios3/nagios.cfg
```

Restart Nagios to see the new service association with your host:

```
$ sudo service nagios3 restart
```

In the Nagios web interface, find the “Services” link (left menu), and click on it. You should be able to find your recent change:

```
noc  SSH          PENDING ...
```

PART III - Defining Services for all PCs

Note: The default `normal_check_interval` is 5 (minutes) for checking services. This is defined in “`generic-service_nagios2.cfg`”. You may wish to change this to 1 (1 minute) to speed up how quickly service issues are detected, at least during this workshop.

1. Determine what services to define for what devices

This is a central concept in using Nagios and network monitoring tools in general. So far we are simply using ping to verify that physical hosts are up on our network and we have started monitoring a single service on a single host (your PC). The next step is to decide what services (web server, SSH, etc.) you wish to monitor for each host in the classroom.

In this particular class we have:

- routers: running ssh and snmp
- switches: running telnet and possibly ssh as well as snmp
- pcs: All PCs are running ssh and http and should be running snmp The NOC is currently running an snmp daemon

So, let’s configure Nagios to check for these services on these devices.

2. Verify that SSH is running on the routers and workshop PCs images

In the file “`services_nagios2.cfg`” there is already an entry for the SSH service check, so you do not need to create this step. Instead, you simply need to re-define the “ssh-servers” entry in the file `/etc/nagios3/conf.d/hostgroups_nagios2.cfg`. The initial entry in the file looked like:

```
# A list of your ssh-accessible servers
define hostgroup {
    hostgroup_name  ssh-servers
        alias      SSH servers
        members     localhost
    }
}
```

What do you think you should change? Correct, the “members” line. You should add in entries for all the classroom pcs, routers and the switches that run ssh. With this information and the network diagram you should be able complete this entry.

The entry will look something like this:

```
define hostgroup {
    hostgroup_name  ssh-servers
        alias      SSH servers
        members     localhost,pc1,pc2,...,ap1,noc,rtr1,rtr2,...,gw
    }
}
```

Note: do not remove “localhost” - This is your PC and represents Nagios’ network point of view. So, for instance, if you are on “pc3” you would NOT list “pc3” in the list of all the classroom pcs as it is represented by the “localhost” entry.

The “members” entry will be a long line and will likely wrap on the screen. If you want to start additional entries on newline then use “\n” to indicate a newline like this:

Remember to include all the PCs and routers that you have defined in the files “pcs.cfg”, “switches.cfg” and “routers.cfg”. Only add entries from these files (i.e.: don’t add “pc8” in your hostgroup list if “pc8” isn’t defined in “pcs.cfg” as well).

Once you are done, run the pre-flight check and restart Nagios:

```
$ sudo nagios3 -v /etc/nagios3/nagios.cfg && sudo service nagios3 restart
```

... and view your changes in the Nagios web interface.

To continue with hostgroups you can add additional groups for later use, such as all our virtual routers. Go ahead and edit the file `hostgroups_nagios2.cfg` again:

```
$ sudo editor hostgroups_nagios2.cfg
```

and add the following to the end of the file (COPY and PASTE this):

```
# A list of our virtual routers

define hostgroup {
    hostgroup_name routers
        alias          Cisco 7200 Routers
        members        rtr1,rtr2,...
    }
```

Only list the routers you have defined in the “routers.cfg”.
Save and exit from the file. Verify that everything is OK:

```
$ sudo nagios3 -v /etc/nagios3/nagios.cfg
```

If everything looks good, then restart Nagios

```
$ sudo service nagios3 restart
```

3. Check that http is running on all the classroom PCs.

This is almost identical to the previous exercise. Just make the change to the HTTP service adding in each PC (no routers or switches). Remember, you don’t need to add your machine as it is already defined as “localhost”. Look for this hostgroup in the file `hostgroups_nagios2.cfg` and update the “members” line appropriately.

If you have questions or are confused please ask an instructor for help.