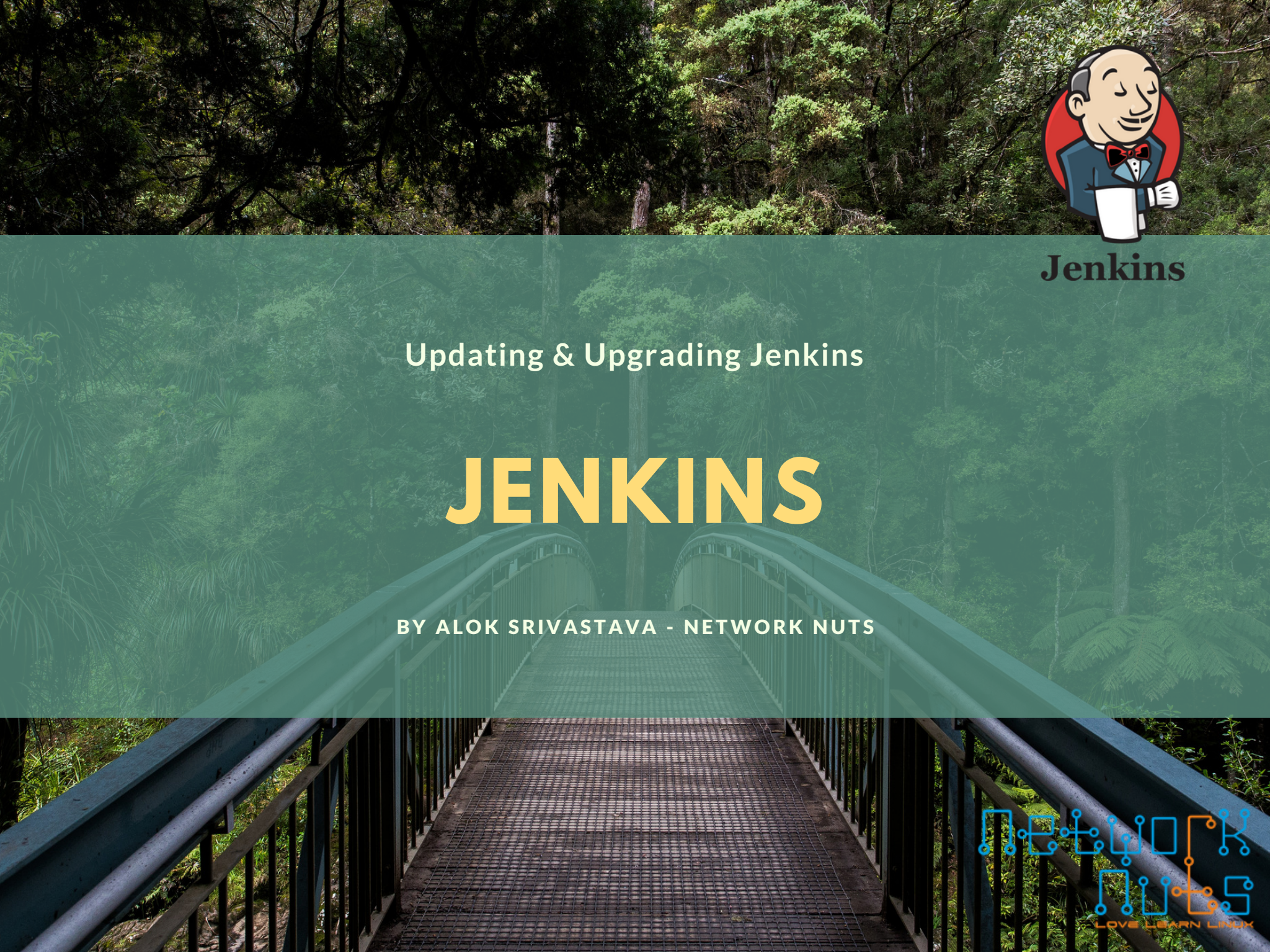


Updating & Upgrading Jenkins

JENKINS

BY ALOK SRIVASTAVA - NETWORK NUTS

UPDATING & UPGRADING

Jenkins has a very active community, and because of this, new versions of the server are constantly being released, with a lot of new features and bug fixes. It is highly advisable to always keep the server up to date.

In this chapter we will talk about the necessary practices and the positive and negative effects of a Jenkins server upgrade.

Maintenance Windows

A maintenance window is a period of time designated in advance by the technical staff, during which preventive maintenance that could cause disruption of the service may be performed.

To enforce high availability, which aims to avoid downtime, every administrator needs to schedule a window, which ranges from at least biweekly or for, critically engaged services, once every week. This is usually on a weekend. During this period, all stakeholders need to be notified, especially if the service under maintenance is an end-user product.

Maintenance Windows

This will span quite a number of items, depending on how much Jenkins is used in an organization. In our case, we only need to worry about the following:

The Jenkins host
Installed plugins

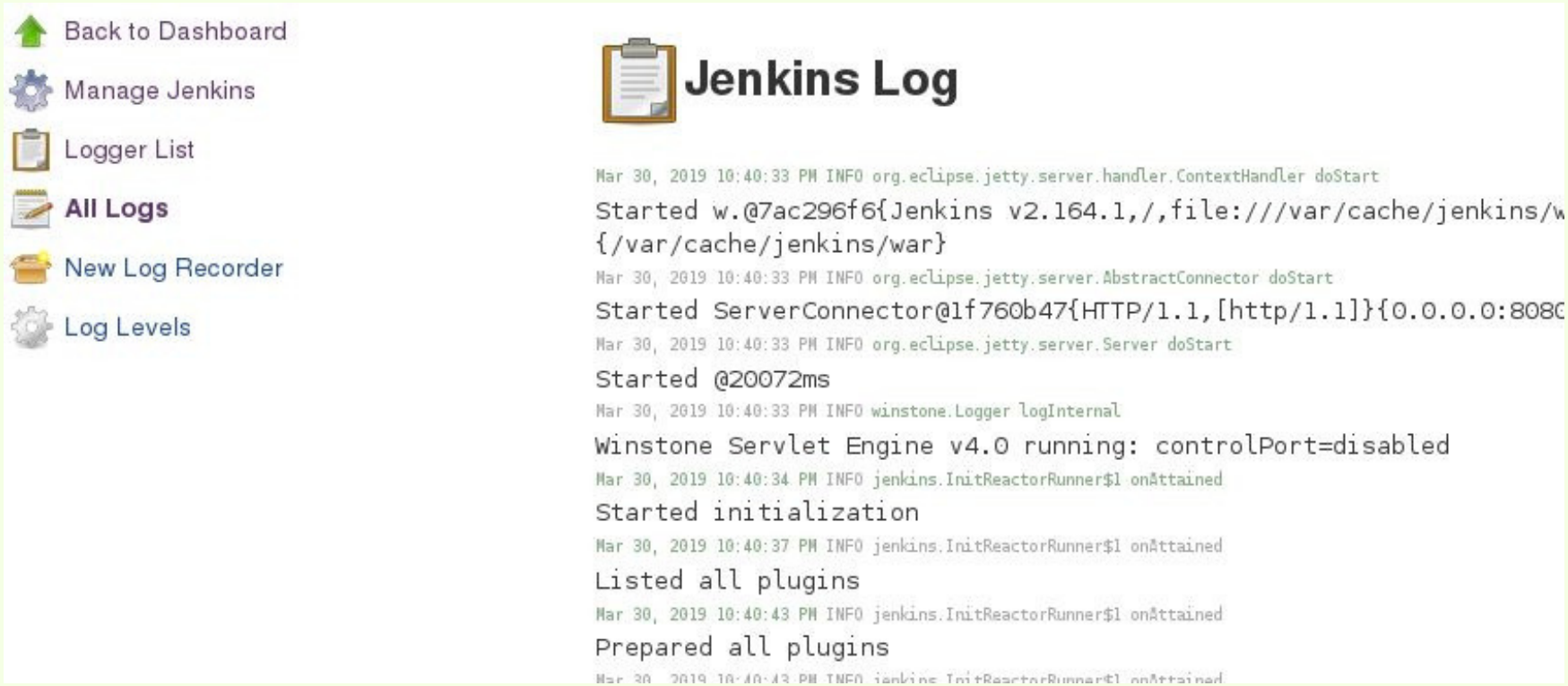
Ensure that you keep a tab on the plugins and, if necessary, upgrade them too.

Host Metrics

Host metrics are another good starting point when planning a maintenance period. Why is this?

The data collected helps identify problems with the host, and, before the problems become a recurring issue, the administrator can always schedule the host for maintenance.

You can retrieve Jenkins logs and metrics going inside -> Manage Jenkins -> System Logs



If there is ever anything erroring out, Jenkins will capture this and, better yet, there are various ways to capture this and also get notified. You can also use ELK (ElasticSearch, Logstash and Kibana).