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Subject: Advanced DevOps

Experiment No.: 9

Experiment 9.

Aim: To understand continuous monitoring and installation and configuration of Nagios Core, Nagios Plugins and NRPE (Nagios Remote Plugin Executor) on Linux machine.

Theory:

- What is Nagios?

Nagios is an open-source software for continuous monitoring of systems, networks and infrastructures. It runs plugins stored on a server that is connected with host or another server on your network or the Internet. In case of any failure, Nagios alerts about the issues so that the technical team can perform the recovery process immediately. Nagios is used for continuous monitoring of systems, applications, service and business processes in a DevOps culture.

- What is Nagios architecture?

Nagios is a client-server architecture. Usually, on a network, a Nagios server is running on a host and plugins are running on all the remote hosts which should be monitored. Components are:

- a. The Scheduler is a component of the server part of Nagios. It sends a signal to execute the plugins at remote host.
- b. The plugin gets the status from the remote host.

c. The plugin sends the data to the process scheduler.

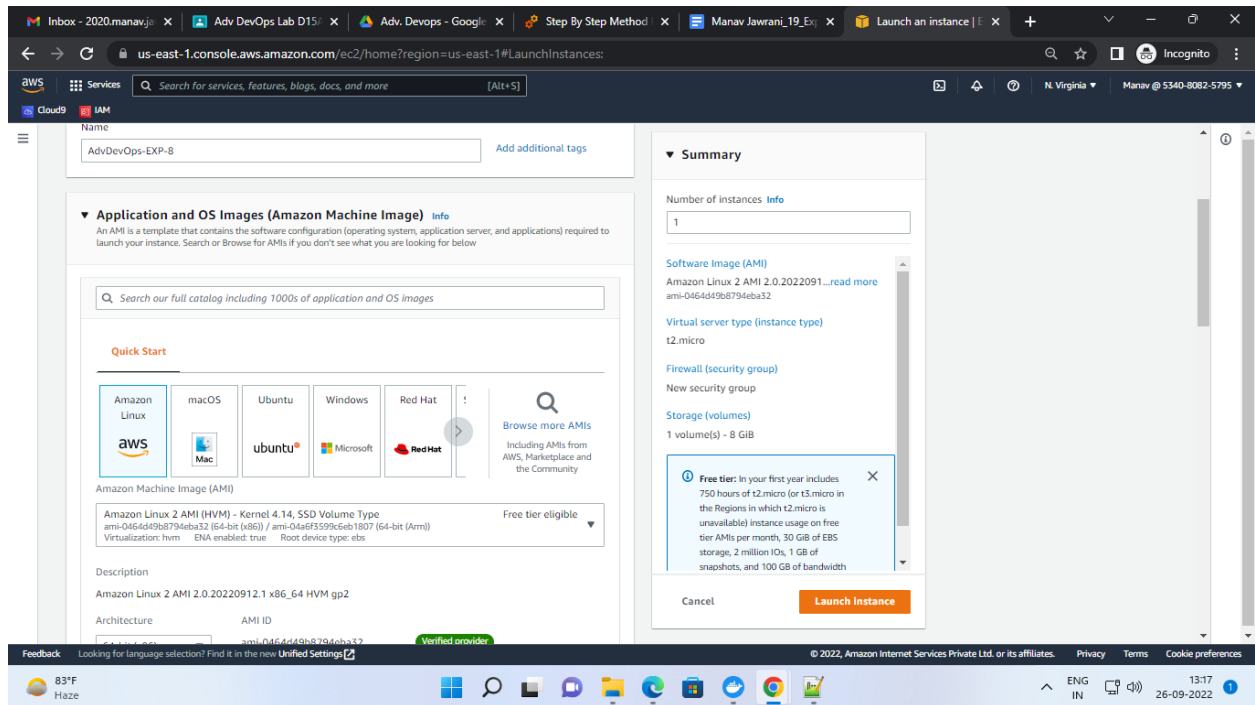
d. The process scheduler updates the GUI and notifications are sent to admins.

• main features of Nagios.

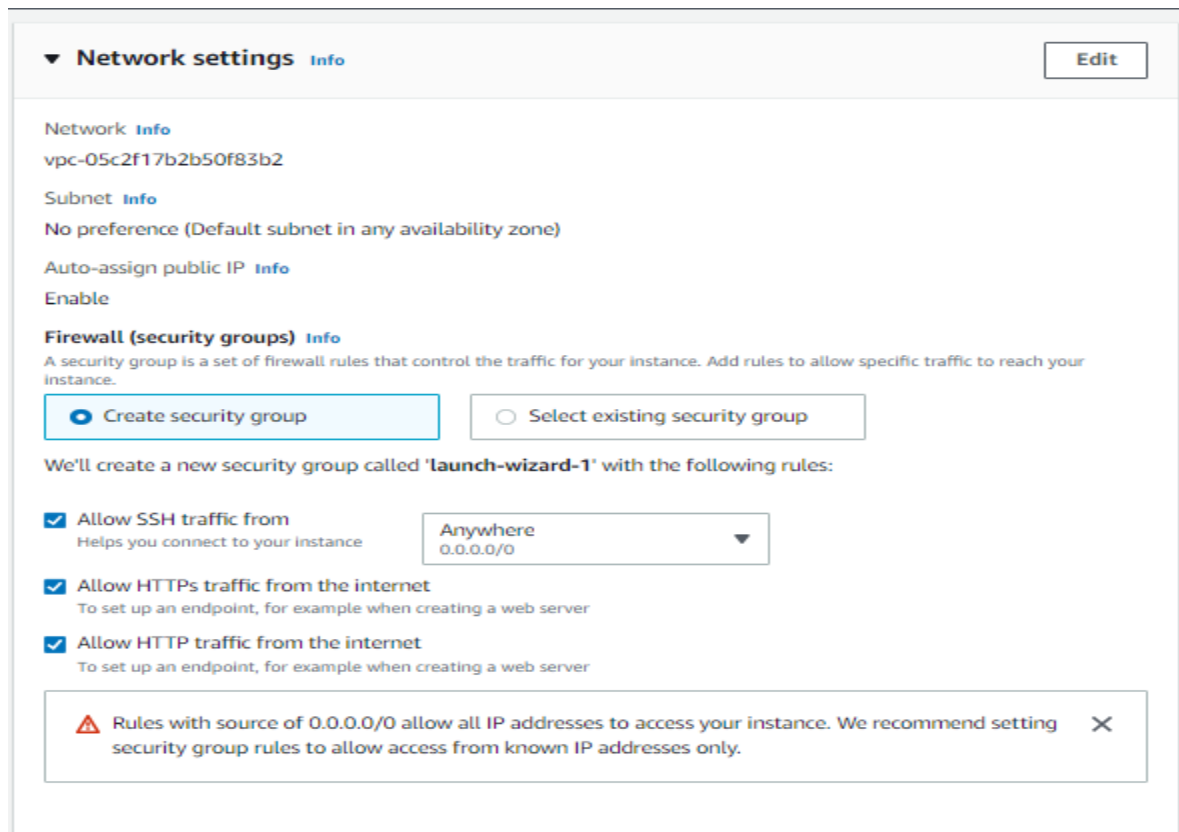
1. Increased server, services, process and application availability.
2. Fast detection of networks and server outages and protocol failures.
3. Fast detection of failed servers, services and processes.

Implementation:

Step 1: Create a Linux EC2 instance on AWS.



Create a new security group and Allow SSH , HTTP , HTTPS.



Step 2: Install Prerequisite Software

Nagios requires the following packages are installed on your server prior to installing Nagios:

- * Apache
- * PHP
- * GCC compiler
- * GD development libraries

You can use yum to install these packages by running the following commands (as ec2-user):

sudo yum install httpd php

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$ php -v
PHP 5.4.16 (cli) (built: Oct 31 2019 18:34:05)
Copyright (c) 1997-2013 The PHP Group
Zend Engine v2.4.0, Copyright (c) 1998-2013 Zend Technologies
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$
```

sudo yum install gcc glibc glibc-common

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$ gcc --version
gcc (GCC) 7.3.1 20180712 (Red Hat 7.3.1-15)
Copyright (C) 2017 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
This is free software; see the source for copying conditions.  There is NO
warranty; not even for MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$
```

sudo yum install gd gd-devel

Step 3: Create Account Information

You need to set up a Nagios user. Run the following commands:

sudo adduser -m nagios

sudo passwd nagios

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$ sudo adduser -m nagios
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$ sudo passwd nagios
Changing password for user nagios.
New password:
BAD PASSWORD: The password is shorter than 8 characters
Retype new password:
passwd: all authentication tokens updated successfully.
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$
```

Type the new password twice.

sudo groupadd nagcmd

sudo usermod -a -G nagcmd nagios

sudo usermod -a -G nagcmd www-data

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$ sudo groupadd nagcmd
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$ sudo usermod -a -G nagcmd nagios
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$ sudo usermod -a -G nagcmd apache
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$
```

Step 4: Download Nagios Core and the Plugins

Create a directory for storing the downloads.

mkdir ~/downloads

cd ~/downloads

```
Cloud9 IAM
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$ mkdir ~/downloads
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$ ls
downloads
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 ~]$ cd ~/downloads
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 downloads]$
```

Now install nagios:

Command:

wget

<http://prdownloads.sourceforge.net/sourceforge/nagios/nagios-4.0.8.tar.gz>

wget <http://nagios-plugins.org/download/nagios-plugins-2.0.3.tar.gz>

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 downloads]$ wget http://prdownloads.sourceforge.net/sourceforge/nagios/nagios-4.0.8.tar.gz
--2022-09-26 08:05:30-- http://prdownloads.sourceforge.net/sourceforge/nagios/nagios-4.0.8.tar.gz
Resolving prdownloads.sourceforge.net (prdownloads.sourceforge.net)... 204.68.111.105
Connecting to prdownloads.sourceforge.net (prdownloads.sourceforge.net)|204.68.111.105|:80... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 301 Moved Permanently
Location: http://downloads.sourceforge.net/project/nagios/nagios-4.x/nagios-4.0.8/nagios-4.0.8.tar.gz [following]
--2022-09-26 08:05:30-- http://downloads.sourceforge.net/project/nagios/nagios-4.x/nagios-4.0.8/nagios-4.0.8.tar.gz
Resolving downloads.sourceforge.net (downloads.sourceforge.net)... 204.68.111.105
Reusing existing connection to prdownloads.sourceforge.net:80.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 302 Found
Location: http://cfhcable.dl.sourceforge.net/project/nagios/nagios-4.x/nagios-4.0.8/nagios-4.0.8.tar.gz [following]
--2022-09-26 08:05:30-- http://cfhcable.dl.sourceforge.net/project/nagios/nagios-4.x/nagios-4.0.8/nagios-4.0.8.tar.gz
Resolving cfhcable.dl.sourceforge.net (cfhcable.dl.sourceforge.net)... 146.71.73.6
Connecting to cfhcable.dl.sourceforge.net (cfhcable.dl.sourceforge.net)|146.71.73.6|:80... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 1805059 (1.7M) [application/x-gzip]
Saving to: 'nagios-4.0.8.tar.gz'

0% [
100%[=====] 1,805,059 8.67MB/s in 0.2s

2022-09-26 08:05:30 (8.67 MB/s) - 'nagios-4.0.8.tar.gz' saved [1805059/1805059]

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 downloads]$
```

Step 5: Compile and Install Nagios

Use the following command:

tar zxvf nagios-4.0.8.tar.gz

```
Cloud9 IAM
nagios-4.0.8/tap/tests/todo/test.pl
nagios-4.0.8/tap/tests/todo/test.t
nagios-4.0.8/test/
nagios-4.0.8/test/test-downtime.pl
nagios-4.0.8/update-version
nagios-4.0.8/worker/
nagios-4.0.8/worker/Makefile.in
nagios-4.0.8/worker/ping/
nagios-4.0.8/worker/ping/.gitignore
nagios-4.0.8/worker/ping/Makefile.in
nagios-4.0.8/worker/ping/worker-ping.c
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/.gitignore
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/Makefile.in
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/xcddefault.c
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/xcddefault.h
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/xodtemplate.c
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/xodtemplate.h
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/xpddefault.c
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/xpddefault.h
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/xrddefault.c
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/xrddefault.h
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/xsddefault.c
nagios-4.0.8/xdata/xsddefault.h
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 downloads]$
```

cd nagios-plugins-2.3.3

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 downloads]$ cd nagios-4.0.8  
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-4.0.8]$
```

Run the configuration script with the name of the group which you have created in the above step.

./configure --with-command-group=nagcmd

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-4.0.8]$ ./configure --with-command-group=nagcmd  
checking for a BSD-compatible install... /usr/bin/install -c  
checking build system type... x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu  
checking host system type... x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu  
checking for gcc... gcc  
checking for C compiler default output file name... a.out  
checking whether the C compiler works... yes  
checking whether we are cross compiling... no  
checking for suffix of executables...  
checking for suffix of object files... o  
checking whether we are using the GNU C compiler... yes  
checking whether gcc accepts -g... yes  
checking for gcc option to accept ISO C89... none needed  
checking whether make sets $(MAKE)... yes  
checking for strip... /usr/bin/strip  
checking how to run the C preprocessor... gcc -E  
checking for grep that handles long lines and -e... /usr/bin/grep  
checking for egrep... /usr/bin/grep -E  
checking for ANSI C header files... yes  
checking whether time.h and sys/time.h may both be included... yes  
checking for sys/wait.h that is POSIX.1 compatible... yes  
checking for sys/types.h... yes  
checking for sys/stat.h... yes  
checking for stdlib.h... yes  
checking for string.h... yes
```

Compile the Nagios source code.

make all

*** Support Notes *****

If you have questions about configuring or running Nagios, please make sure that you:

- Look at the sample config files
- Read the documentation on the Nagios Library at:
<http://library.nagios.com>

before you post a question to one of the mailing lists. Also make sure to include pertinent information that could help others help you. This might include:

- What version of Nagios you are using
- What version of the plugins you are using
- Relevant snippets from your config files
- Relevant error messages from the Nagios log file

For more information on obtaining support for Nagios, visit:

<http://support.nagios.com>

Install binaries, init script, sample config files and set permissions on the external command directory.

sudo make install

sudo make install-init

sudo make install-config

sudo make install-commandmode

Step 6: Customize Configuration

Change EMail address from nagiosadmin to your email address.

```
sudo nano /usr/local/nagios/etc/objects/contacts.cfg
```

```
modified
#####
#
# CONTACTS
# ExitPrevious Write Out Where Is Cut Text Justify Cur Pos 54 lineM-U Undo M-A Mark Text M-I To Bracket
# Read File Replace Uncut Text To Spell M-G Go To Line M-E Redo M-G Copy Text M-W WhereIs Ne
#####
# This contact definition inherits a lot of default values from the 'generic-contact'
#
# template which is defined elsewhere.
#
define contact{
    contact_name nagiosadmin ; Short name of user
    use generic-contact ; Inherit default values from generic-contact template (defined above)
    alias Nagios Admin ; Full name of user
    email manavjawrani7@gmail.com ; <<***** CHANGE THIS TO YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS *****
}
#####
```

Step 7: Configure the Web Interface

sudo make install-webconf

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-4.0.8]$ sudo make install-webconf
/usr/bin/install -c -m 644 sample-config/httpd.conf /etc/httpd/conf.d/nagios.conf

*** Nagios/Apache conf file installed ***

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-4.0.8]$
```

Create a nagiosadmin account for logging into the Nagios web interface. Note the password you need while login to Nagios web console.

```
sudo htpasswd -c /usr/local/nagios/etc/htpasswd.users nagiosadmin
```

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-4.0.8]$ sudo htpasswd -c /usr/local/nagios/etc/htpasswd.users nagiosadmin
New password:
Re-type new password:
Adding password for user nagiosadmin
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-4.0.8]$
```

Now Restart the Apache

sudo service httpd restart

```
Cloud9 IAM
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-4.0.8]$ sudo service httpd restart
Redirecting to /bin/systemctl restart httpd.service
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-4.0.8]$
```

Step 8: Compile and Install the Nagios Plugins

Extract the Nagios plugins source code tarball.

cd ~/downloads

tar zxvf nagios-plugins-2.0.3.tar.gz

```
Cloud9 IAM
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 downloads]$ tar zxvf nagios-plugins-2.0.3.tar.gz
nagios-plugins-2.0.3/
nagios-plugins-2.0.3/perlmods/
nagios-plugins-2.0.3/perlmods/Config-Tiny-2.14.tar.gz
nagios-plugins-2.0.3/perlmods/parent-0.226.tar.gz
nagios-plugins-2.0.3/perlmods/Test-Simple-0.98.tar.gz
nagios-plugins-2.0.3/perlmods/Makefile.in
nagios-plugins-2.0.3/perlmods/version-0.9903.tar.gz
nagios-plugins-2.0.3/perlmods/Makefile.am
nagios-plugins-2.0.3/perlmods/Module-Runtime-0.013.tar.gz
nagios-plugins-2.0.3/perlmods/Module-Metadata-1.000014.tar.gz
nagios-plugins-2.0.3/perlmods/Params-Validate-1.08.tar.gz
```

cd nagios-plugins-2.0.3

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 downloads]$ ls
nagios-4.0.8  nagios-4.0.8.tar.gz  nagios-plugins-2.0.3  nagios-plugins-2.0.3.tar.gz
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 downloads]$ cd nagios-plugins-2.0.3
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$
```

Compile and install the plugins.

./configure --with-nagios-user=nagios --with-nagios-group=nagios

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$ ./configure --with-nagios-user=nagios --with-nagios-group=nagios
checking for a BSD-compatible install... /usr/bin/install -c
checking whether build environment is sane... yes
checking for a thread-safe mkdir -p... /usr/bin/mkdir -p
checking for gawk... gawk
checking whether make sets $(MAKE)... yes
checking whether to disable maintainer-specific portions of Makefiles... yes
checking build system type... x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu
checking host system type... x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu
checking for gcc... gcc
checking for C compiler default output file name... a.out
checking whether the C compiler works... yes
checking whether we are cross compiling... no
checking for suffix of executables...
checking for suffix of object files... o
checking whether we are using the GNU C compiler... yes
checking whether gcc accepts -g... yes
checking for gcc option to accept ISO C89... none needed
checking for style of include used by make... GNU
checking dependency style of gcc... gcc3
checking how to run the C preprocessor... gcc -E
checking for grep that handles long lines and -e... /usr/bin/grep
checking for egrep... /usr/bin/grep -E
checking for Minix Amsterdam compiler... no
checking for ar... ar
```

make

```
Making all in plugins-root
make[2]: Entering directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3/plugins-root'
gcc -DLOCALEDIR="/usr/local/nagios/share/locale/" -DHAVE_CONFIG_H -I. -I.. -I../lib -I../intl -I../plugins -I/usr/include -DNP_VERSION="2.0.3" -g -O2 -MT check_dhcp.o -MD -MP -MF .deps/check_dhcp.Tpo -c -o check_dhcp.o check_dhcp.c
mv -f .deps/check_dhcp.Tpo .deps/check_dhcp.Po
/bin/sh ../libtool --tag=CC --mode=link gcc -DNP_VERSION="2.0.3" -g -O2 -L. -o check_dhcp check_dhcp.o ../plugins/netutils.o ../plugins/utls.o ../lib/libnagiosplug.a ../gl/libgnu.a -lnsl -lresolv -lpthread -ldl
libtool: link: gcc -DNP_VERSION="2.0.3" -g -O2 -o check_dhcp check_dhcp.o ../plugins/netutils.o ../plugins/utls.o -L. ../lib/libnagiosplug.a ../gl/libgnu.a -lnsl -lresolv -lpthread -ldl
gcc -DLOCALEDIR="/usr/local/nagios/share/locale/" -DHAVE_CONFIG_H -I. -I.. -I../lib -I../gl -I../intl -I../plugins -I/usr/include -DNP_VERSION="2.0.3" -g -O2 -MT check_icmp.o -MD -MP -MF .deps/check_icmp.Tpo -c -o check_icmp.o check_icmp.c
mv -f .deps/check_icmp.Tpo .deps/check_icmp.Po
/bin/sh ../libtool --tag=CC --mode=link gcc -DNP_VERSION="2.0.3" -g -O2 -L. -o check_icmp check_icmp.o ../plugins/netutils.o ../plugins/utls.o ../lib/libnagiosplug.a ../gl/libgnu.a -lnsl -lresolv -lnsl -lresolv -lpthread -ldl
libtool: link: gcc -DNP_VERSION="2.0.3" -g -O2 -o check_icmp check_icmp.o ../plugins/netutils.o ../plugins/utls.o -L. ../lib/libnagiosplug.a ../gl/libgnu.a -lnsl -lresolv -lpthread -ldl
make[2]: Leaving directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3/plugins-root'
Making all in po
make[2]: Entering directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3/po'
make[2]: Nothing to be done for 'all'.
make[2]: Leaving directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3/po'
make[2]: Entering directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3'
make[2]: Leaving directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3'
make[1]: Leaving directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3'
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$
```


sudo make install

```
make[1]: Entering directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3/po'
/usr/bin/mkdir -p /usr/local/nagios/share
installing fr.gmo as /usr/local/nagios/share/locale/fr/LC_MESSAGES/nagios-plugins.mo
installing de.gmo as /usr/local/nagios/share/locale/de/LC_MESSAGES/nagios-plugins.mo
if test "nagios-plugins" = "gettext-tools"; then \
  /usr/bin/mkdir -p /usr/local/nagios/share/gettext/po; \
  for file in Makefile.in remove-potcdate.sin      Makevars.template; do \
    /usr/bin/install -c -o nagios -g nagios -m 644 ./ $file \
      /usr/local/nagios/share/gettext/po/$file; \
  done; \
  for file in Makevars; do \
    rm -f /usr/local/nagios/share/gettext/po/$file; \
  done; \
else \
  : ; \
fi
make[1]: Leaving directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3/po'
make[1]: Entering directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3'
make[2]: Entering directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3'
make[2]: Nothing to be done for `install-exec-am'.
make[2]: Nothing to be done for `install-data-am'.
make[2]: Leaving directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3'
make[1]: Leaving directory `/home/ec2-user/downloads/nagios-plugins-2.0.3'
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$
```

Step 9: Start Nagios

Add Nagios to the list of system services and have it automatically start when the system boots.

sudo chkconfig --add nagios

sudo chkconfig nagios on

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$ sudo chkconfig --add nagios
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$ sudo chkconfig nagios on
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$
```

Verify the sample Nagios configuration files.

sudo /usr/local/nagios/bin/nagios -v /usr/local/nagios/etc/nagios.cfg

```

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$ sudo /usr/local/nagios/bin/nagios -v /usr/local/nagios/etc/nagios.cfg

Nagios Core 4.0.8
Copyright (c) 2009-present Nagios Core Development Team and Community Contributors
Copyright (c) 1999-2009 Ethan Galstad
Last Modified: 08-12-2014
License: GPL

Website: http://www.nagios.org
Reading configuration data...
    Read main config file okay...
    Read object config files okay...

Running pre-flight check on configuration data...

Checking objects...
    Checked 8 services.
    Checked 1 hosts.
    Checked 1 host groups.
    Checked 0 service groups.
    Checked 1 contacts.
    Checked 1 contact groups.
    Checked 24 commands.
    Checked 5 time periods.
    Checked 0 host escalations.

```

If there are no errors, start Nagios.

sudo service nagios start

```

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$ sudo service nagios start
Starting nagios (via systemctl): [ OK ]
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$ █

```

Check the status of Nagios

sudo systemctl status nagios

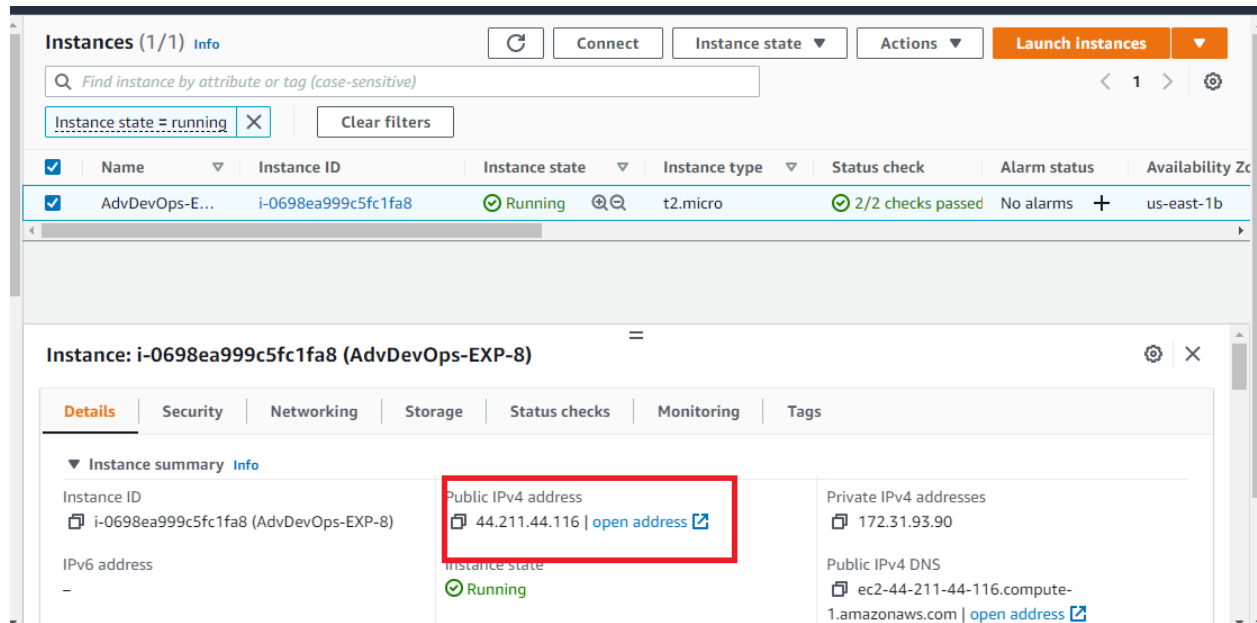
```

[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$ sudo systemctl status nagios
● nagios.service - LSB: Starts and stops the Nagios monitoring server
   Loaded: loaded (/etc/rc.d/init.d/nagios; bad; vendor preset: disabled)
   Active: active (running) since Mon 2022-09-26 09:01:52 UTC; 1min 9s ago
     Docs: man:systemd-sysv-generator(8)
  Process: 5326 ExecStart=/etc/rc.d/init.d/nagios start (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
    CGroup: /system.slice/nagios.service
            └─5347 /usr/local/nagios/bin/nagios -d /usr/local/nagios/etc/nagios.cfg
              └─5350 /usr/local/nagios/bin/nagios --worker /usr/local/nagios/var/rw/nagios.qh
                └─5351 /usr/local/nagios/bin/nagios --worker /usr/local/nagios/var/rw/nagios.qh
                  └─5352 /usr/local/nagios/bin/nagios --worker /usr/local/nagios/var/rw/nagios.qh
                    └─5353 /usr/local/nagios/bin/nagios --worker /usr/local/nagios/var/rw/nagios.qh
                      └─5354 /usr/local/nagios/bin/nagios -d /usr/local/nagios/etc/nagios.cfg

Sep 26 09:01:52 ip-172-31-93-90.ec2.internal nagios[5347]: nerd: Channel hostchecks registered successfully
Sep 26 09:01:52 ip-172-31-93-90.ec2.internal nagios[5347]: nerd: Channel servicechecks registered successfully
Sep 26 09:01:52 ip-172-31-93-90.ec2.internal nagios[5347]: nerd: Channel opathchecks registered successfully
Sep 26 09:01:52 ip-172-31-93-90.ec2.internal nagios[5347]: nerd: Fully initialized and ready to rock!
Sep 26 09:01:52 ip-172-31-93-90.ec2.internal nagios[5347]: wproc: Successfully registered manager as @wproc with query handle
Sep 26 09:01:52 ip-172-31-93-90.ec2.internal nagios[5347]: wproc: Registry request: name=Core Worker 5353;pid=5353
Sep 26 09:01:52 ip-172-31-93-90.ec2.internal nagios[5347]: wproc: Registry request: name=Core Worker 5352;pid=5352
Sep 26 09:01:52 ip-172-31-93-90.ec2.internal nagios[5347]: wproc: Registry request: name=Core Worker 5351;pid=5351
Sep 26 09:01:52 ip-172-31-93-90.ec2.internal nagios[5347]: wproc: Registry request: name=Core Worker 5350;pid=5350
Sep 26 09:01:52 ip-172-31-93-90.ec2.internal nagios[5347]: Successfully launched command file worker with pid 5354
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-93-90 nagios-plugins-2.0.3]$ █

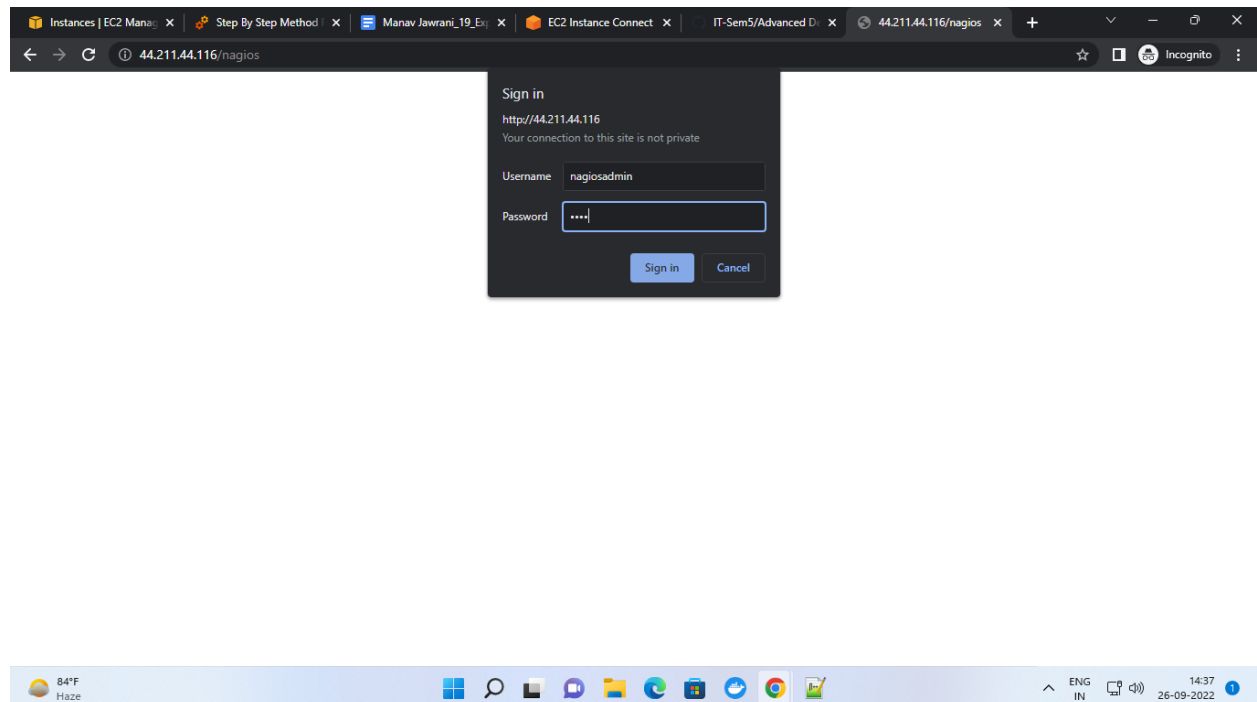
```

Step 10: Go back to the EC2 console and copy the Public IP address of your instance.



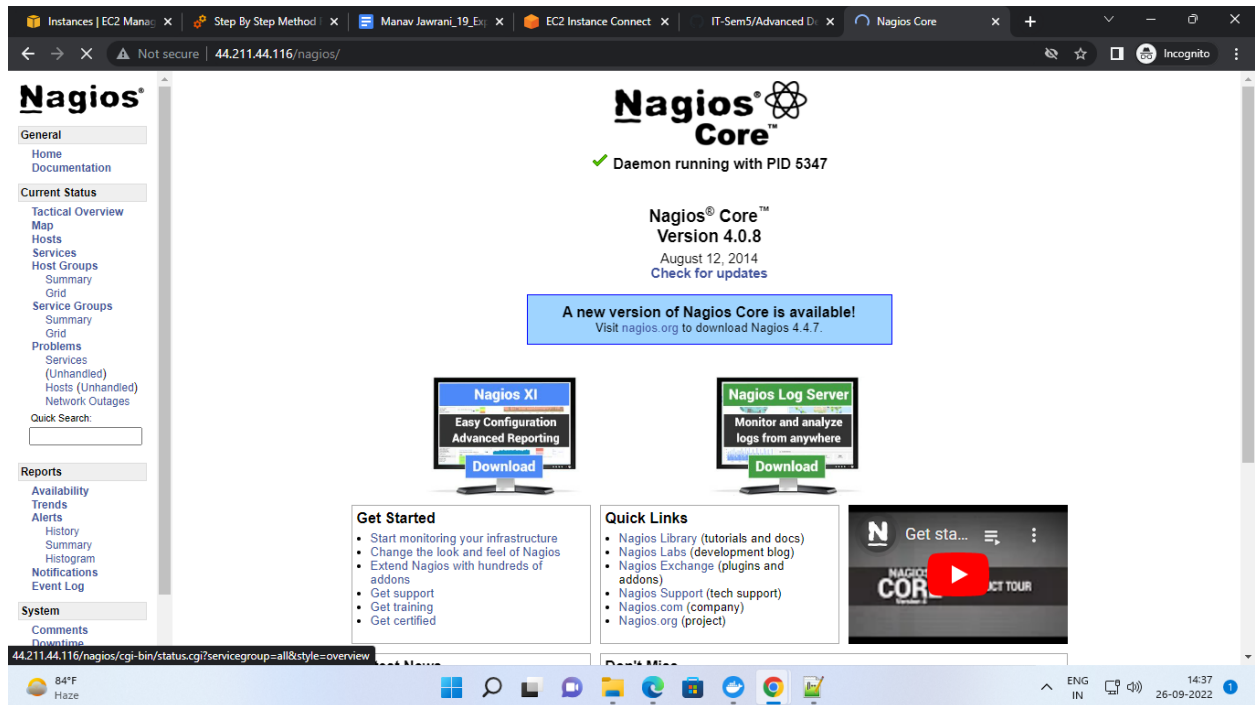
Step 11: Open your browser and look for `http://*your public ip address*/nagios`

`http://44.211.44.116/nagios/`



Enter username as “**nagiosadmin**” and password which you set in **Step 7**.

If all the things are perfect including the credentials , plugin installation then you will be able to see this page.



Conclusion:

In this experiment, we got exposure to tool of network monitoring, Nagios, it also helps in monitoring of different systems and infrastructure. Here we set-up the Nagios software on a AWS Linux machine. We can monitor different services of HTTP, SSH, PING etc. We can send alerts regarding a specific service. Nagios also shows which system is up or down so that necessary actions can be taken. It can monitor 'n' numbers of clients connected to a single host.