Link: https://subscription.packtpub.com/book/networking-and-servers/9781849515566/1/ch01lvl1sec15/creating-a-new-contactgroup

Creating a new contactgroup

In this recipe, we'll create a new contactgroup into which we can add our contacts. Like hostgroups and servicegroups, contactgroups mostly amount to convenient shortcuts. In this case, it allows us to define a contactgroup as the recipient of notifications for a host or service definition. This means that we could define a group ops, for example, and then even if people joined or left the group, we wouldn't need to change any definitions for the hosts or services.

Getting ready

You should have a working Nagios Core 3.0 or better server running.

You should also have at least two contacts that form a meaningful group. In this case, we have two staff members, John Smith and Jane Doe, who are both a part of our network operations team. We want both of them to be notified for all the appropriate hosts and services, so we'll add them to a group called ops. Here are the definitions with which we're working:

define contact {

use generic-contact

contact\_name john

alias John Smith

email john@naginet

}

define contact {

use generic-contact

contact\_name jane

alias Jane Doe

email jane@naginet

}Copy

How to do it...

We can create our new ops contactgroup as follows:

1. Change to our Nagios Core object configuration directory, and edit the contacts.cfg file:
2. **# cd /usr/local/nagios/etc**
3. **# vi contacts.cfg**

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1. Add the following definition to the file, substituting your own values in bold as appropriate:
2. define contactgroup {
3. **contactgroup\_name ops**
4. **alias Network operators**

}Copy

1. For each of the contacts that we want to add to the group, find their definitions and add the contactgroups directive to them. The definitions will end up looking similar to the following code snippet:
2. define contact {
3. use generic-contact
4. contact\_name john
5. alias John Smith
6. email john@naginet
7. **contactgroups ops**
8. }
9. define contact {
10. use generic-contact
11. contact\_name jane
12. alias Jane Doe
13. email jane@naginet
14. **contactgroups ops**

}Copy

1. Restart the Nagios Core server:
2. **# /etc/init.d/nagios restart**

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How it works...

With this group set up, we are now able to use it in the contactgroups directive for hosts and services, to define the contacts to which notifications should be sent. Notifications are sent to all the addresses in the group. This can replace the contacts directive where we individually name the contacts.

There's more...

This means, for example, that instead of having a service definition similar to the following:

define service {

use generic-service

host\_name sparta.naginet

service\_description HTTP

check\_command check\_http

**contacts john,jane**

}Copy

We could use the following code snippet:

define service {

use generic-service

host\_name sparta.naginet

service\_description HTTP

check\_command check\_http

**contact\_groups ops**

}Copy

If John Smith were to leave the operations team, then we could simply remove his contact definition, and nothing else would require changing; from then on, only Jane Doe would receive the service notifications. This method provides a layer of abstraction between contacts and the hosts and services for which they receive notifications.

See also