

Zabbix Documentation 3.0

1.8 2.0 2.2 2.4

3.0

3.2 3.4

1 Zabbix definitions

Overview

In this section you can learn the meaning of some terms commonly used in Zabbix.

Definitions

host

- a networked device that you want to monitor, with IP/DNS.

host group

- a logical grouping of hosts; it may contain hosts and templates. Hosts and templates within a host group are not in any way linked to each other. Host groups are used when assigning access rights to hosts for different user groups.

item

- a particular piece of data that you want to receive off of a host, a metric of data.

trigger

- a logical expression that defines a problem threshold and is used to “evaluate” data received in items

When received data are above the threshold, triggers go from 'Ok' into a 'Problem' state. When received data are below the threshold, triggers stay in/return to an 'Ok' state.

event

- a single occurrence of something that deserves attention such as a trigger changing state or a discovery/agent auto-registration taking place

action

- a predefined means of reacting to an event.

An action consists of operations (e.g. sending a notification) and conditions (*when* the operation is carried out)

escalation

- a custom scenario for executing operations within an action; a sequence of sending notifications/executing remote commands

media

- a means of delivering notifications; delivery channel

notification

- *a message about some event sent to a user via the chosen media channel*

remote command

- *a pre-defined command that is automatically executed on a monitored host upon some condition*

template

- *a set of entities (items, triggers, graphs, screens, applications, low-level discovery rules, web scenarios) ready to be applied to one or several hosts*

The job of templates is to speed up the deployment of monitoring tasks on a host; also to make it easier to apply mass changes to monitoring tasks. Templates are linked directly to individual hosts.

application

- *a grouping of items in a logical group*

web scenario

- *one or several HTTP requests to check the availability of a web site*

frontend

- *the web interface provided with Zabbix*

Zabbix API

- *Zabbix API allows you to use the JSON RPC protocol to create, update and fetch Zabbix objects (like hosts, items, graphs and others) or perform any other custom tasks*

Zabbix server

- *a central process of Zabbix software that performs monitoring, interacts with Zabbix proxies and agents, calculates triggers, sends notifications; a central repository of data*

Zabbix agent

- *a process deployed on monitoring targets to actively monitor local resources and applications*

Zabbix proxy

- *a process that may collect data on behalf of Zabbix server, taking some processing load off of the server*
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