Nagios Checks with NRPE

Systems Administration

School of Information Technology
Otago Polytechnic
Dunedin, New Zealand

Three kinds of Nagios Checks

1. Local services
2. Network exposed services
3. Remote services

Remote Services

- Sometimes we want to monitor remote services that are not exposed on a network
- There are a few ways to handle this, each with its pros and cons
- We'll consider one way, using *NRPE*

NRPE

The approach

- ▶ We install the NRPE daemon on the remote host we want to monitor
- ▶ We also install the desired monitoring plugins on the remote host
- ▶ On the Nagios server, we use the NRPE plugin to send the check request to the remote host
- ▶ On the remote host, the NRPE daemon runs the check and reports the results back to the Nagios server

Install the NRPE daemon

On the remote server you want to monitor

- Install `nagios-nrpe-server`
- Edit `/etc/nagios/nrpe.cfg`
- Add `mgmt` to the `allowed_hosts` values (Try the fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) if you have problems.)
- Add the following command to the commands section
  `command[check_disk]=/usr/lib/nagios/plugins/check_disk -w 20% -c 10%`
- Restart the NRPE server

On the Nagios server

- Install `nagios-nrpe-plugin`
- Define a service that checks remote disks over NRPE.
- Define a new hostgroup.
- Put the remote servers on which we want to monitor disk space in the host group.

Monitoring Windows Hosts

This done with a tool that is similar to NRPE

- On the Windows host, we install NSClient++
- On the Nagios server, we use the check_nt plugin to communicate with the Windows host