Introduction to Nagios

Systems Administration

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Our Problem

- ▶ We need to know when things break.
- ▶ We want to know about problems before things break.

Proposed Solutions

- ▶ We perform various service checks on our systems regularly.
- ▶ We write some scripts to automate these steps.
- > ???
- ► Profit!
- ▶ We use a centralised monitoring tool.

Monitoring Tools

- Nagios
- Icinga
- Zabbix
- Spiceworks

Nagios is the best known and most widely used of these and is the one we will use in this paper.

Example Scenario

- ▶ We have a server, db.op-bit.nz, running the MySQL DBMS.
- ▶ We want to monitor server uptime and the MySQL service.
- One systems admin should be notified of any issues.
- ▶ We will use puppet to manage the Nagios config.

The Plan

We will define the following nagios resources in our Nagios Puppet module

- ▶ host: db.op-bit.nz
- hostgroup with our host as a member
- contact and contactgroup for the admin
- service: MySQL