**Nagios Interview Questions**

Nagios is common and widely applied devices for Constant Monitoring. As [companies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DevOps) are presently delivering software enhanced frequently than eternally hence there is a desperate demand for a device that can monitor the functioning of the software and present partners by the appropriate feedback. This is one of the [purposes](https://devops.com/) that led to Continuous Monitoring into the picture. This executes Nagios an extremely powerful device to perform DevOps. Hence following is the list of Nagios Interview Questions. We have accumulated these questions later ingesting a lot of analysis and after reviewing with some of the experts who are straightly associated with the hiring method.

**Nagios Interview Questions**

Everyone discussing DevOps and the collaborative transformation it can start in the software improvement methodology. It is of no wonder that numerous organizations are presently distributing their tremendous interest in choosing the [Chef DevOps Training](https://svrtechnologies.com/devops-training/chef-devops-training) DevOps culture by the end of 2017 Git Training. The educational shift does not just need the best mechanisms for implementation, however best developers to effectively collaborate with the IT. This possesses created an enormous demand for experienced professionals, who can serve as a perfect bridge linking the improvement and operations crew ([Splunk Enterprise Security Training](https://svrtechnologies.com/splunk-training/splunk-enterprise-security-training" \t "_blank)). If you’re aiming to do DevOps as your ultimate career when you should probably share a professional training given by enterprise experts.

If you are hunting for interview questions on Nagios, then your exploration expires here. In this blog post Coding compiler presenting a list of 20 Nagios Devops interview questions. We wish that those Nagios questions will assist you to answer your next DevOps job interview. This Nagios Interview Questions blog is a part of the blog DevOps Interview Questions. It includes all the DevOps Stages.

**1. What is Nagios?**  
**Answer:** Nagios is one of the monitoring tools. It is used for Continuous monitoring of systems, applications, services, and business processes, etc. in a DevOps culture. In the event of a failure, Nagios can alert technical staff of the problem, allowing them to begin remediation processes before outages affect business processes, end-users, or customers. With Nagios, you don’t have to explain why an unseen infrastructure outage affects your organization’s bottom line.

**2. How does Nagios work?**  
**Answer**: Nagios runs on a server, usually as a daemon or service. Nagios periodically runs plugins residing on the same server, they contact hosts or servers on your network or on the internet. One can view the status information using the web interface. You can also receive email or SMS notifications if something happens.  
The Nagios daemon behaves like a scheduler that runs certain scripts at certain moments. It stores the results of those scripts and will run other scripts if these results change.

**3. What are Plugins in Nagios?**  
**Answer:** Plugins are scripts (Perl scripts, Shell scripts, etc.) that can run from a command line to check the status of a host or service. Nagios uses the results from the plugins to determine the current status of hosts and services on your network.  
Once you have defined Plugins I will suggest you explain why we need plugins.  
Nagios will execute a plugin whenever there is a need to check the status of a host or service. The plugin will perform the check and then simply returns the result to Nagios. Nagios will process the results that it receives from the Plugin and take the necessary actions.

**4. What is NRPE (Nagios Remote Plugin Executor) in Nagios?**  
**Answer:** The NRPE addon is designed to allow you to execute Nagios plugins on remote Linux/Unix machines. The main reason for doing this is to allow Nagios to monitor “local” resources (like CPU load, memory usage, etc.) on remote machines. Since these public resources are not usually exposed to external machines, an agent like NRPE must be installed on the remote Linux/Unix machines.  
Now I will advise you to explain the NRPE architecture on the basis of the diagram shown below.  
The NRPE addon consists of two pieces:  
The check\_nrpe plugin, which resides on the local monitoring machine.  
The NRPE daemon, which runs on the remote Linux/Unix machine.

**5. What is meant by Nagios backend? (unable to find a relevant explanation)?**  
**Answer**: Both Configuration and Logs can be stored in a backend. Configurations are stored in backend using NagiosQL. Historical data are stored using no utils. In addition, you also have nagdb and old.

**6. What Do You Mean By Passive Check-In Nagios?**  
**Answer**: Passive checks are initiated and performed by external applications/processes and the Passive check results are submitted to Nagios for processing.

**7. Explain The Need For Passive Check?**  
**Answer**: Passive checks are useful for monitoring services that are Asynchronous in nature and cannot be monitored effectively by polling their status on a regularly scheduled basis. It can also be used for monitoring services that are Located behind a firewall and cannot be checked actively from the monitoring host.

**8. When Does Nagios Check for external commands?**  
**Answer**: Nagios check for external commands under ***the following conditions:***  
At regular intervals specified by the command\_check\_interval option in the main configuration file or,  
Immediately after event handlers are executed.

This is in addition to the regular cycle of external command checks and is done to provide immediate action if an event handler submits commands to Nagios.

**9. What is the difference between Active and Passive check in Nagios?**  
**Answer:** The major difference between Active and Passive checks is that Active checks are initiated and performed by Nagios, while passive checks are performed by external applications.  
If your interviewer is looking unconvinced with the above explanation then I will suggest you to also mention some key features of both Active and Passive checks:  
*Passive checks are useful for monitoring services that are*:  
Asynchronous in nature and cannot be monitored effectively by polling their status on a regularly scheduled basis.  
Located behind a firewall and cannot be checked actively from the monitoring host.  
The main features of Actives checks are as follows:  
Active checks are initiated by the Nagios process.  
Active checks are run on a regularly scheduled basis.

**10. How does Nagios help with Distributed Monitoring?**  
**Answer:** With Nagios, you can monitor your whole enterprise by using a distributed monitoring scheme in which local slave instances of Nagios perform monitoring tasks and report the results back to a single master. You manage all configuration, notification, and reporting from the master, while the slaves do all the work. This design takes advantage of Nagios’s ability to utilize passive checks i.e. external applications or processes that send results back to Nagios. In a distributed configuration, these external applications are other instances of Nagios.  
**11. Explain the Main Configuration file of Nagios and its location?**  
**Answer:** The main configuration file contains a number of directives that affect how the Nagios daemon operates. This config file is read by both the Nagios daemon and the CGIs (It specifies the location of your main configuration file).  
Now you can tell where it is present and how it is created.  
A sample main configuration file is created in the base directory of the Nagios distribution when you run the configure script. The default name of the main configuration file is nagios.cfg, it is usually placed in the, etc/ subdirectory of you Nagios installation.

**12. Explain how Flap Detection works in Nagios?**  
**Answer**: Flapping occurs when a service or host changes state too frequently, this causes a lot of problem and recovery notifications.  
Once you have defined Flapping explain how Nagios detects Flapping.  
Whenever Nagios checks the status of a host or service, it will check to see if it has started or stopped flapping. Nagios follow the below procedure to do that:  
Storing the results of the last 21 checks of the host or service analyzing the historical check results and determine where state changes/transitions occur.  
Using the state transitions to determine a percent state change value (a measure of change) for the host or service.  
Comparing the percent state change value against low and high flapping thresholds  
A host or service is determined to have started flapping when its percent state change first exceeds a high flapping threshold.  
A host or service is determined to have stopped flapping when its percent state goes below a low flapping threshold.

**13. What is meant by saying Nagios is Object-Oriented?**  
**Answer:** One of the features of Nagios is object configuration format in that you can create object definitions that inherit properties from other object definitions and hence the name. This simplifies and clarifies relationships between various components.

**14. What is State Stalking in Nagios?**  
**Answer:** State Stalking is used for logging purposes. When Stalking is enabled for a particular host or service, Nagios will watch that host or service very carefully and log any changes it sees in the output of check results.  
Depending on the discussion between you and interviewer you can also add:  
It can be very helpful in the later analysis of the log files. Under normal circumstances, the result of a host or service check is only logged if the host or service has changed state since it was last checked.

**15. Nagios says my machine is unreachable, not down. What is the difference and how it is achieved?**  
**Answer**: When Nagios says a node is unreachable, a node is unreachable if Nagios is not able to find a path to the node.  
Now you can mention the difference.  
The node itself may be up but because Nagios is unable to connect to it, it has to mark this as unreachable. To achieve this, Nagios use the parent-child relationship between components.  
Finally, for better understanding explain it with an example.  
A router may be defined as a parent for a server.  
Now, Nagios checks for server and marks it as down.  
It then checks the parent (in our example, the router)  
If the parent is also down, then the server is marked as unreachable.  
If Parent is up, the server is marked as really down.

**16. Explain What Is Soft And Hard States?**  
**Answer**: When a service or host check results are in a non-OK or non-UP state and the service check has not yet been rechecked the number of times specified by the max\_check\_attempts directives in the service or host definition. This is called Soft Error. When a service or a host recovers from Soft Error that is considered as Soft Recovery.  
When a service or host check results are in a non-OK or non-UP state and the service check has been rechecked the number of times specified by the max\_check\_attempts directives in the service or host definition. This is called Hard Error. When a service or a host recovers from Hard Error that is considered as Hard Recovery.

**17. What Are Ports Numbers Nagios Will Use To Monitor Clients?**  
**Answer:** Port numbers are 5666, 5667 and 5668

**18. Explain Main Configuration File And Its Location?**  
**Answer:** Resource File: It is used to store sensitive information like username, passwords without making ***them available to the CGIs. Default path:*** /usr/local/Nagios/etc/resource.cfg  
Object Definition Files: It is the location where you define all you want to monitor and how you want to monitor. It is used to define hosts, services, hostgroups, contacts, contact groups, commands, etc.. Default P*ath:/usr/local/Nagios/etc/objects/*  
**CGI Configuration File:** The CGI configuration file contains a number of directives that affect the operation of the CGIs. It also contains a reference the main configuration file, so the CGIs know how you’ve configured Nagios and where your object definitions are stored.

**19. How To Generate Performance Graphs?**  
**Answer:** In Nagios Core, there is no inbuilt option to generate the performance graphs, We have to install pnp4nagios and add hosts and services URL’s in definition files.

**20. How To Verify Nagios Configuration?**  
**Answer**: In order to verify your configuration, run Nagios with the -v command-line option like so:  
If you’ve forgotten to enter some critical data or misconfigured things, Nagios will spit out a warning or error message that should point you to the location of the problem. Error messages generally print out the line in the configuration file that seems to be the source of the problem. On errors, Nagios will often exit the pre-flight check and return to the command prompt after printing only the first error that it has encountered.

# Nagios Interview Questions and Answers

[**GANGBOARD ADMIN**](https://www.gangboard.com/blog/author/admin/)**AUGUST 24, 2019**[**LEAVE A COMMENT**](https://www.gangboard.com/blog/nagios-interview-questions-and-answers/#respond)

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In case you’re searching for Nagios Interview Questions and answers for Experienced or Freshers, you are at the correct place. There is a parcel of chances from many presumed organizations on the planet. The Nagios advertise is relied upon to develop to more than $5 billion by 2020, from just $180 million, as per Nagios industry gauges. In this way, despite everything you have the chance to push forward in your vocation in Nagios Development. GangBoard offers Advanced Nagios Interview Questions and answers that assist you in splitting your Nagios interview and procure dream vocation as Nagios Developer.

### Best Nagios Interview Questions and Answers

Do you believe that you have the right stuff to be a section in the advancement of future Nagios, the GangBoard is here to control you to sustain your vocation. Various fortune 1000 organizations around the world are utilizing the innovation of Nagios to meet the necessities of their customers. Nagios is being utilized as a part of numerous businesses. To have a great development in Nagios work, our page furnishes you with nitty-gritty data as Nagios prospective employee meeting questions and answers. **Nagios Interview Questions and answers are prepared by 10+ years experienced industry experts.** Nagios Interview Questions and answers are very useful to the Fresher or Experienced person who is looking for the new challenging job from the reputed company. Our Nagios Questions and answers are very simple and have more examples for your better understanding.

#### Q1) What is Nagios?

Nagios commonly known as the Nagios core is the open-source software that is designed to monitor networks, systems, applications, and infrastructures. The software directly sends the track down all the changes in the subject and send alerts if necessary.

#### Q2) How Nagios help DevOps professionals?

Nagios was designed in the first place to monitor applications, networks, and infrastructures. The software automatically keeps an eagle eye and immediately report in case of failure. The quick response helps the DevOps professional to track down and resolve the problem in the early stages before it can cause any serious damage to the organization.

#### Q3) What makes Nagios an ideal tool for continuous monitoring?

The below features of the Nagios is what makes it an ideal tool for continuous monitoring:

* Automatic problem fixing
* Infrastructure upgrades
* Business process and infrastructure monitoring
* Quick respond to the system issues

#### Q4) Write down some of the names of the Nagios monitoring tool for Linux mentoring?

When you are using the Nagios to monitor the Linux environment then you need to understand that you are using one of the best tools on the planet. The complete package of Nagios includes service state, file system usage, system metrics, process state, and more.

#### Q5) How Icinga is related to the Nagios?

Icinga is also open-source software that is used to monitor the networks and application. The core objective of designing Icinga in the first place to lift up the Nagios back in 2009. But it works as a separate monitor software.

#### Q6) Describe the active and passive check in Nagios

In the Nagios, an active check is leveraged to “poll” a service or device for the status information every once in a while. Nagios basically supports the way to host down the devices and services passively. The key feature of the passive check is it can only be performed by the external applications.

#### Q7) Explain OID Nagios?

Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)- a network protocol which is also designed for the monitoring purpose uses the Object Identifiers to define the Management Information Base.

#### Q8) Can you use Nagios to monitor the window machine?

Yes, you can use Nagios to monitor the window machine. However, if you are doing it for the first time then you have to follow the given steps:

* Set the Nagios to monitor the window system
* Add a separate host and server for the window monitoring

#### Q9) Describe the Nagios XI?

On the current basis, Nagios XI is one of the most powerful monitoring software in the market. when it comes to monitoring critical infrastructures such as network protocols, applications, services, systems metrics, and network protocols experts only relies upon the Nagios XI.

#### Q10) Highlights the benefits of using Nagios for monitoring?

There are various benefits of using Nagios software for critical monitoring. The list of benefits includes:

* Infrastructure updates before the outdated system cause any sort of failure
* Automatic tracking and troubleshooting of problem
* Coordinate responses
* Continuously Monitor infrastructure without any break
* Response to issues on an immediate basis

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#### Q11) Explain what active check means?

Active check is the globally recognized way to monitor the hosts and services. Both Nagios XI and Nagios core use it on the pre-determined schedule.

#### Q12) Describe the Nagios Network Analyzer?

A network analyzer is a crucial aspect of the Nagios software that allows it to deeply scan the entire system in a search of any potential threat. The quick and reliable scan allow system admin to gather necessary data regarding the health of the system and granular data through network analysis.

#### Q13) Highlight the primary benefits of monitoring the websites with Nagios?

The key benefits of monitoring websites with Nagios are given below:

* It enhances the website availability
* Increase website performance
* Quick detection of online threats such as bugs and hijacking

#### Q14) Name down some databases that support Nagios monitoring?

There are a number of databases that support Nagios and some of them are mentioned below:

* Oracle
* MySQL
* Microsoft SQL software
* Postgres

#### Q15) Write down the protocols that support Nagios

Nagios supports the number of protocols monitoring including; SMTP Monitoring, IPMI Monitoring, FTP Monitoring, LDAP Monitoring, POP Monitoring, and DNS monitoring.

#### Q16) what do you understand by the fact that Nagios is object-oriented?

As already mentioned above, Nagios is open-source object-oriented monitoring software. Here the term “object-oriented” means that users can create the object definitions in the Nagios that inheritance from other objects. This essential feature of the Nagios further simplifies the complex relationship between components.

#### Q17)Can I use Nagios for both cloud computing and cloud monitoring?

Yes, the Nagios has a reputation as one of the best monitoring software in the market and you can use it for various monitoring purposes including both virtual and physical.

#### Q18) state the name of any four virtualization platforms that supports Nagios?

VMware, Amazon EC2, Xen and Microsoft Virtual PC are some of the most common examples of the virtualization platforms that support the Nagios monitoring.

#### Q19) Do you know the port numbers Nagios use to monitor its clients?

Yes, the Nagios uses port number; 5666, 5667 and 5668 to monitor its clients.

#### Q20) Describe the process to verify the Nagios configuration?

If you want to configure the Nagios, then you have to run it with the -v command line with option like: nagios/bin/nagios -v /usr/local/nagios/etc/nagios.cfg.

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#### Q21) Define the objects in Nagios?

In the Nagios, objects refer to all the elements that are involved in the entire monitoring and alerting logic.

#### Q22) What are the types of objects you can witness in Nagios?

The types of objects you can witness in the Nagios includes; Services, Hosts, commands, host groups, contact, time periods, and notification escalations.

#### Q23) How can you use plugin X in Nagios?

Just like any other plugin, you have to download plugin X from the official website of Nagios which is https://exchange.nagios.org/. Once downloaded, you can run it manually to see if it is working correctly.

#### Q24) When it comes to monetary terms what is the main difference between Nagios Core and Nagios XI?

Well, when it comes to monetary terms, Nagios Core is the free open source version while Nagios XI is the paid version limited to the individual who held the license.

#### Q25) What is the current Nagios state type?

On the current basis, the monitoring host and services are determined by the two major components

First: Status of the host and service

Second: Types of the state the host or service is in

#### Q26) What are the two main state types in Nagios?

The Nagios have two key state types; soft states and hard states.

#### Q27) Define NRPRE in Nagios?

The term NRPE stands for the Nagios Remote Plugin Executor addon which is specifically designed by the experts to execute Nagios plugins on the Linux machines.

#### Q28) What database format Nagios support to store status data?

RRD is the database format Nagios support and uses to store the status data.

#### Q29) Write down the components of NDO Utilities?

The NDO utilities are the right mixture of the:

* NDOMOD Event Broker Module
* FILE2SOCK Utility
* LOG2NDO Utility
* NDO2DB Daemon

#### Q30) Can we monitor the operating system through Nagios?

Yes, you can monitor any operation system through Nagios as long as it supports the software.

## ****Nagios Interview Questions****

Nagios is one of the most widely used tools for Continuous Monitoring. Since organizations are now releasing softwares more frequently than ever so there is a dire need for a tool that can monitor the functioning of the softwares and provide teams with the relevant feedback. This is one of the reasons that brought Continuous Monitoring into the picture. This makes Nagios a very important tool to implement DevOps. So below is the list of **Nagios Interview Questions**. I have collected these questions after doing a lot of research and after discussing with some of the experts who are directly involved in the hiring process.

This Nagios Interview Questions blog is a part of parent blog ***[DevOps Interview Questions](https://www.edureka.co/blog/interview-questions/top-devops-interview-questions-2016/" \t "_blank)***. It includes all the DevOps Stages.

First question in this Nagios Interview Questions blog has to be:

### ****Q1. What is Nagios?****

You can answer this question by first mentioning that:

Nagios is one of the monitoring tools that is used for Continuous monitoring of systems, applications, services, and business processes etc. in a DevOps culture. In the event of a failure, Nagios can alert technical staff of the problem, allowing them to begin remediation processes before outages affects business processes, end-users, or customers. With Nagios you don’t have to explain why an unseen infrastructure outage affect your organization’s bottom line.

Few of its important features are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ****Nagios Features**** | |
| **Feature** | **Description** |
| **Monitoring** | Its powerful script APIs allow easy monitoring of in-house and custom applications, services, and systems |
| **Visibility & Awareness** | It provides a centralized view of the entire monitored IT infrastructure with detailed status information |
| **Problem Remediation** | Alert acknowledgments in Nagios, provide communication on known issues and problem response |
| **Proactive Planning** | Trending and capacity planning add-ons are there in Nagios to aware you about  the aging infrastructure |
| **Reporting** | Availability reports ensure SLAs are being met & provide a record of alerts, notifications, and alert response |
| **CustomizableCode** | Since it is an open source software you get the full access to its source code |
| **Large Community** | Nagios is backed up by a community of more than 1 million+ users worldwide which provides free support |

Now, once you have defined what is Nagios, you can mention the various things that you can achieve using Nagios.

By using Nagios you can:

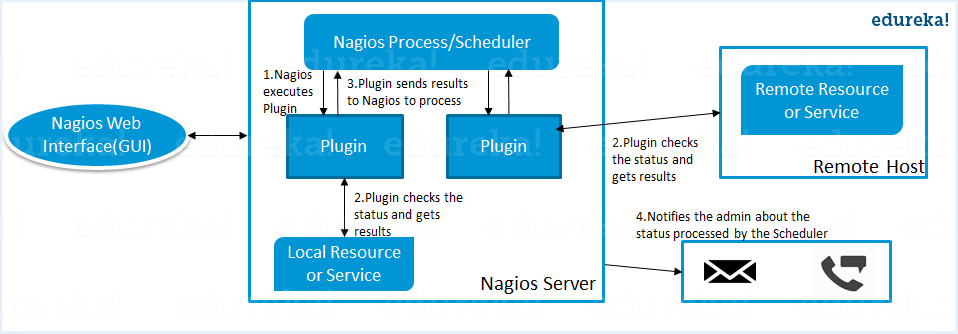
* Plan for infrastructure upgrades before outdated systems cause failures.
* Respond to issues at the first sign of a problem.
* Automatically fix problems when they are detected.
* Coordinate technical team responses.
* Ensure your organization’s SLAs are being met.
* Ensure IT infrastructure outages have a minimal effect on your organization’s bottom line.
* Monitor your entire infrastructure and business processes.

This overall completes the answer to this question. The further details like advantages etc. can be added as per the direction where the discussion is heading.

### ****Q2. How does Nagios work?****

I will advise you to follow the below explanation for this answer:

* Nagios runs on a server, usually as a daemon or service.
* Nagios periodically runs plugins residing on the same server, they contact hosts or servers on your network or on the internet.
* One can view the status information using the web interface.
* You can also receive email or SMS notifications if something happens.
* The Nagios daemon behaves like a scheduler that runs certain scripts at certain moments.
* It stores the results of those scripts and will run other scripts if these results change. Refer the diagram below:



Now, the next set of Nagios interview questions will focus on Nagios components like Plugins, NRPE, etc.

### ****Q3. What are Plugins in Nagios?****

Begin this answer by defining Plugins.

Plugins are scripts (Perl scripts, Shell scripts, etc.) that can run from a command line to check the status of a host or service. Nagios uses the results from the plugins to determine the current status of hosts and services on your network.

Once you have defined Plugins I will suggest you to explain why we need plugins.

Nagios will execute a Plugin whenever there is a need to check the status of a host or service. The plugin will perform the check and then simply returns the result to Nagios. Nagios will process the results that it receives from the Plugin and take the necessary actions.

### ****Q4. What is NRPE (Nagios Remote Plugin Executor) in Nagios?****

For this answer first give a small definition of NRPE.

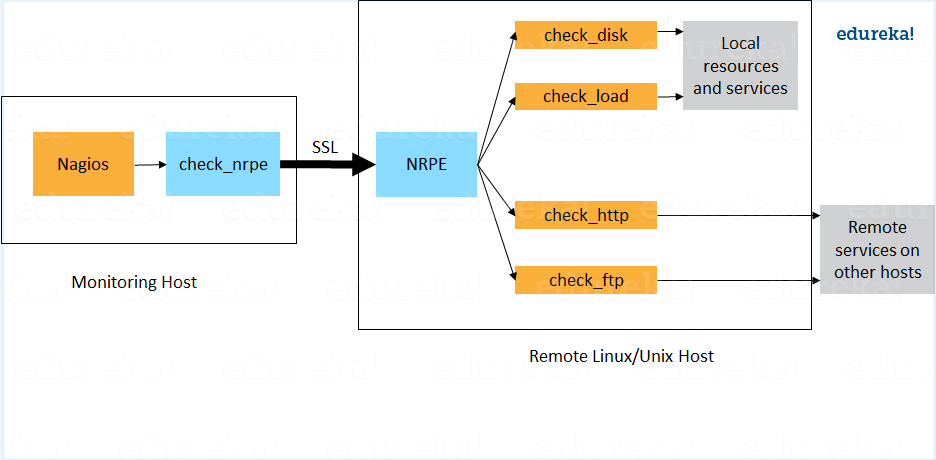
The NRPE addon is designed to allow you to execute Nagios plugins on remote Linux/Unix machines. The main reason for doing this is to allow Nagios to monitor “local” resources (like CPU load, memory usage, etc.) on remote machines. Since these public resources are not usually exposed to external machines, an agent like NRPE must be installed on the remote Linux/Unix machines.

Now I will advise you to explain the NRPE architecture on the basis of diagram shown below.

The NRPE addon consists of two pieces:

* The check\_nrpe plugin, which resides on the local monitoring machine.
* The NRPE daemon, which runs on the remote Linux/Unix machine.

There is a SSL (Secure Socket Layer) connection between monitoring host and the remote host as shown in the diagram.



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### ****Q5.**** ****What is meant by Nagios backend?(unable to find a relevant explanation)****

My advise will be to follow the below mention flow for this answer:

Both Configuration and Logs can be stored in a backend. Configurations are stored in backend using NagiosQL. Historical data are stored using ndoutils. In addition, you also have nagdb and opdb.

Now, the next set of Nagios interview questions will dig in deep so be prepared.

### ****Q6. What do you mean by passive check in Nagios?****

According to me the answer should start by explaining what is Passive check.

Passive checks are initiated and performed by external applications/processes and the Passive check results are submitted to Nagios for processing.

Now I will advise you to explain the need for Passive check.

Passive checks are useful for monitoring services that are Asynchronous in nature and cannot be monitored effectively by polling their status on a regularly scheduled basis. It can also be used for monitoring services that are Located behind a firewall and cannot be checked actively from the monitoring host.

Interviewer will now dig deep, so the next set of Nagios interview questions will test your experience with Nagios.

### ****Q7.**** ****When Does Nagios Check for external commands?****

Make sure that you stick to the question during your explanation so I will advise you to follow the below mentioned flow:

Nagios check for external commands under the following conditions:

* At regular intervals specified by the command\_check\_interval option in the main configuration file or,
* Immediately after event handlers are executed. This is in addition to the regular cycle of external command checks and is done to provide immediate action if an event handler submits commands to Nagios.

### ****Q8. What is the difference between Active and Passive check in Nagios?****

For this answer first point out the basic difference Active and Passive check.

The major difference between Active and Passive checks is that Active checks are initiated and performed by Nagios, while passive checks are performed by external applications.

If your interviewer is looking unconvinced with the above explanation then I will suggest you to also mention some key features of both Active and Passive checks:

Passive checks are useful for monitoring services that are:

* Asynchronous in nature and cannot be monitored effectively by polling their status on a regularly scheduled basis.
* Located behind a firewall and cannot be checked actively from the monitoring host.

The main features of Actives checks are as follows:

* Active checks are initiated by the Nagios process.
* Active checks are run on a regularly scheduled basis.

### ****Q9. How does Nagios help with Distributed Monitoring?****

Interviewer is expecting an answer related to the distributed architecture of Nagios so I will suggest you to answer it in the below mentioned format:

With Nagios you can monitor your whole enterprise by using a distributed monitoring scheme in which local slave instances of Nagios perform monitoring tasks and report the results back to a single master. You manage all configuration, notification, and reporting from the master, while the slaves do all the work. This design takes advantage of Nagios’s ability to utilize passive checks i.e. external applications or processes that send results back to Nagios. In a distributed configuration, these external applications are other instances of Nagios.

### ****Q10. Explain Main Configuration file of Nagios and its location?****

I will suggest you to first mention what this main configuration file contains and its function.

The main configuration file contains a number of directives that affect how the Nagios daemon operates. This config file is read by both the Nagios daemon and the CGIs (It specifies the location of your main configuration file).

Now you can tell where it is present and how it is created.

A sample main configuration file is created in the base directory of the Nagios distribution when you run the configure script. The default name of the main configuration file is nagios.cfg, it is usually placed in the etc/ subdirectory of you Nagios installation (i.e. /usr/local/nagios/etc/).

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Next

I hope you have enjoyed the above set of Nagios interview questions, the next set of questions will be more challenging, so be prepared.

### ****Q11. Explain how Flap Detection works in Nagios?****

I will advise you to first explain Flapping first.

Flapping occurs when a service or host changes state too frequently, this causes lot of problem and recovery notifications.

Once you have defined Flapping explain how Nagios detects Flapping.

Whenever Nagios checks the status of a host or service, it will check to see if it has started or stopped flapping. Nagios follow the below procedure to do that:

* Storing the results of the last 21 checks of the host or service analyzing the historical check results and determine where state changes/transitions occur.
* Using the state transitions to determine a percent state change value (a measure of change) for the host or service.
* Comparing the percent state change value against low and high flapping thresholds
* A host or service is determined to have started flapping when its percent state change first exceeds a high flapping threshold.
* A host or service is determined to have stopped flapping when its percent state goes below a low flapping threshold.

### ****Q12. What are the three main variables that affect recursion and inheritance in Nagios?****

According to me the proper format for this answer should be:

First name the variables and then a small explanation of each of these variables:

* Name
* Use
* Register

Now I will give a small explanation for each of these variables.

Name is a placeholder that is used by other objects. Use defines the “parent” object whose properties should be used. Register can have a value of 0 (indicating its only a template) and 1 (an actual object). The register value is never inherited.

### ****Q13. What is meant by saying Nagios is Object Oriented?****

Answer to this question is pretty direct I will answer this by saying:

One of the features of Nagios is object configuration format in that you can create object definitions that inherit properties from other object definitions and hence the name. This simplifies and clarifies relationships between various components.

### ****Q14. What is State Stalking in Nagios?****

I will advise you to first give a small introduction on State Stalking.

State Stalking is used for logging purposes. When Stalking is enabled for a particular host or service, Nagios will watch that host or service very carefully and log any changes it sees in the output of check results.  
Depending on the discussion between you and interviewer you can also add:

It can be very helpful in later analysis of the log files. Under normal circumstances, the result of a host or service check is only logged if the host or service has changed state since it was last checked.

### ****Q15. Nagios says my machine is unreachable, not down. What is the difference and how it is achieved?****

First I will suggest you to explain:

When Nagios says a node is unreachable, a node is unreachable if Nagios is not able to find a path to the node.

Now you can mention the difference.

The node itself may be up but because Nagios is unable to connect to it, it has to mark this as unreachable. To achieve this, Nagios use parent-child relationship between components.

Finally for better understanding explain it with an example.

A router may be defined as a parent for a server.

* Now Nagios checks for server and marks it as down.
* It then checks the parent (in our example, the router)
* If parent is also down, then server is marked as unreachable.
* If Parent is up, the server is marked as really down.

### ****Q16. Explain Nagios state types?****

According to me the best way to put this answer is by saying:

The current state of monitored services and hosts is determined by two components:

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* The status of service or host i.e. OK, WARNING, UP, DOWN etc..
* The type of state the service or host is in.

There are two types of states SOFT states and HARD states.

Now explain what is Soft and Hard states:

* When a service or host check results are in a non-OK or non-UP state and the service check has not yet been rechecked the number of times specified by the max\_check\_attempts directives in the service or host definition. This is called Soft Error. When a service or a host recovers from Soft Error that is considered as Soft Recovery.
* When a service or host check results are in a non-OK or non-UP state and the service check has been rechecked the number of times specified by the max\_check\_attempts directives in the service or host definition. This is called Hard Error. When a service or a host recovers from Hard Error that is considered as Hard Recovery.

This is the end of my blog on Nagios interview questions and if you want in-depth knowledge about the whole DevOps life-cycle click on the button below:

These Nagios interview questions are more than enough to help you get your dream job.

I have included the frequently asked Nagios interview questions. If you have more questions in your mind just type it in the comment box below and we will reply you ASAP.

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