

# Hands-On with zabbix\_utils

https://github.com/knaglis/workshop-benelux

Kristaps Naglis
Integration Engineer



#### **Environment preparation**

Installing zabbix\_utils (from package manager)
Additional dependency installation (from PyPI)
Getting code base from git

#### Working with zabbix\_utils

Configure Zabbix instance for API access

Test if API works

Writing requests utilizing AsyncZabbixAPI

Testing Zabbix user access scope from API

Parsing the received data

How to handle CPU intensive code vs I/O intensive code

### ZABBIX





#### **Connect to your VM**

Open terminal and log into your VM using SSH. For this, use the previously shared details about your VM

#### ssh root@student-XX-ws3.zabbix.training

The authenticity of host student-XX-ws3.zabbix.training (A.B.C.D)' can't be established.

ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:h8lirvWk5Z/amgFXHSiPyNiH6Wwr6j/bT1B4WkSnaag. This key is not known by any other names.

Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes Warning: Permanently added 'student-XX-ws3.zabbix.training' (ED25519) to the list of known hosts.

root@student-XX-ws3.zabbix.training's password:

Web console: https://student-XX:9090/ or https://A.B.C.D:9090/

Last failed login: Wed Feb 19 17:02:21 UTC 2025 from 101.89.134.212 on ssh:notty There was 1 failed login attempt since the last successful login.

Last login: Wed Feb 19 17:01:21 2025 from A.B.C.D

[root@student-01 ~]#

### Getting the required tools

#### Setup Zabbix package repository

#### Install git and Zabbix\_utils from package manager

#### \$ dnf install git python3-zabbix-utils

```
Dependencies resolved.
Package
                     Architecture
                                    Version
                                                  Repository
Installing:
                                  2.47.1-1.el9 appstream
                     x86_64
                                                                  49 k
python3-zabbix-utils noarch
                               2.0.2-1 zabbix-tools
Installing dependencies:
Total download size: 8.0 M
Installed size: 40 M
Is this ok [y/N]: y
Downloading Packages:
Zabbix Official Repository (tools) - x86 64
3.0 MB/s | 3.1 kB
                  00:00
Importing GPG key 0x227618D8:
Userid : "Zabbix Tools <packager@zabbix.com>"
Fingerprint: 8416 2C39 F000 750D DAEB 8163 05A7 FAEC 2276 18D8
From : /etc/pki/rpm-qpq/RPM-GPG-KEY-ZABBIX-TOOLS
Is this ok [y/N]: y
```

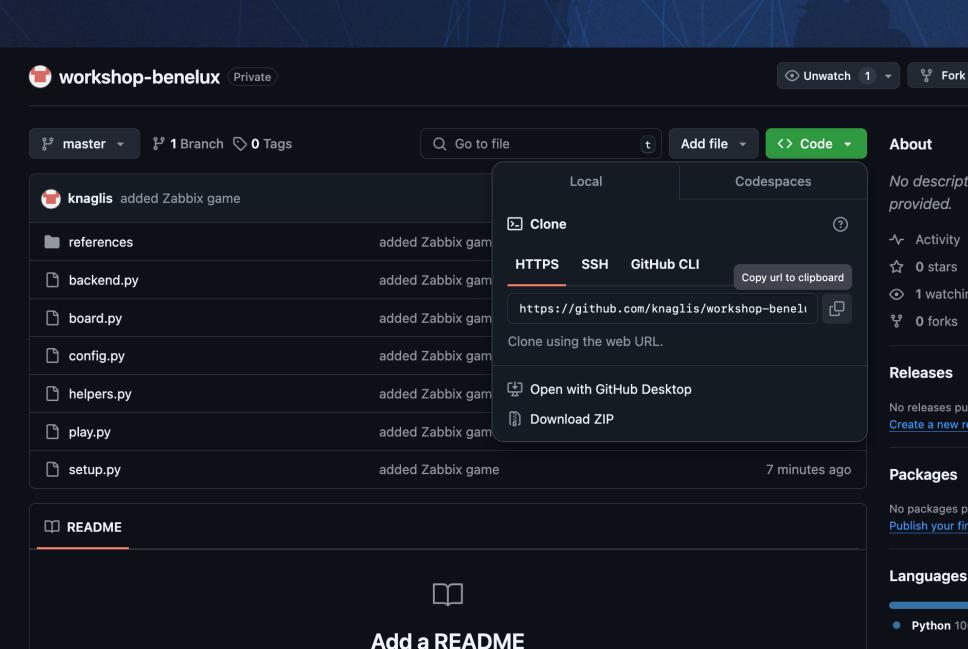
Install aiohttp Python library from PyPl

pip3 install aiohttp



### Clone the codebase from git

- **\$** cd ~
- \$ git clone https://github.com/knaglis/workshop-benelux
- \$ cd workshop-benelux



#### **Project structure**

backend.py

Manages Zabbix server-side updates of items

board.py

Support script to build game map/board

config.py

Holds configuration variables

helpers.py

Code that is required for proper functioning of game

play.py

Actual script to play the game

setup.py

Creates all required resources on Zabbix (users, groups, hosts, items, player tokens, connector, etc.)

playerTokens

Holds tokens of all players (generated only after executing setup.py)

references/

Directory that includes fully completed files we will be working on in this workshop. If needed, use these files for reference and/or hints.

play.py

Completed version of play.py



### **Configure Zabbix for API access**

- Log into your Zabbix instance

http://student-XX-ws3.zabbix.training/zabbix

username: Admin password: zabbix

- Change the password of Zabbix Admin account
   Navigate Users -> Users -> Admin and change the password
- Generate API access token for Admin account
   Navigate Users -> API tokens and Create API token
- Make sure to save the generated token and click close

### **Code editing**

In general, there are 3 options:

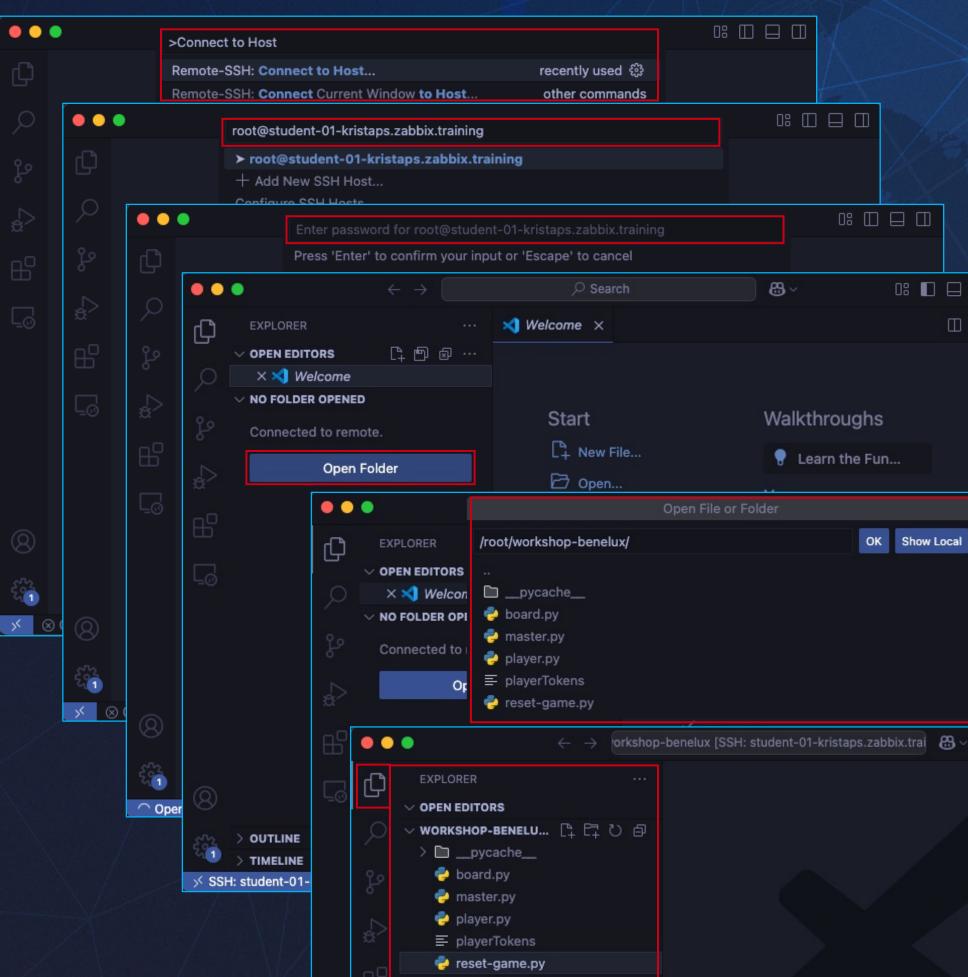
- Use any CLI text editor on the VM itself, such as Vim / Vi or Nano
- Use VSCode or forks of it with SSH remote connection to VM (recommended option)
- Use any code editor on local PC and copy-paste code to VM. In this case, using Vim on VM will be useful, as Vim keyboard shortcut ggdG will delete all file contents and you can paste the edited file easily into VM.

All files use indentation of 2 SPACES



### **VSCode setup**

CTRL + Shift + P (Windows/Linux) or CMD + Shift + P (Mac)



# config.py

### **Updating admin token**

The previously generated token for admin account needs to be entered in the **zabbixAdminToken** variable. By default, it will be an empty string.

```
6 zabbixServerIP = '127.0.0.1'
7 zabbixServerPort = 10051
8 zabbixAPIPath = f'{zabbixServerIP}/zabbix'
9 zabbixAdminToken = ''
10 zabbixPlayerToken = ''
```



```
6 zabbixServerIP = '127.0.0.1'
7 zabbixServerPort = 10051
8 zabbixAPIPath = f'{zabbixServerIP}/zabbix'
```

9 zabbixAdminToken = 'your\_admin\_token'

10 zabbixPlayerToken = ''

# setup.py Get the player token

Execute setup.py

After successful execution, there should appear a file named "playerTokens". This file has all the access tokens for players that were generated during script execution.

```
$ cat playerTokens
{"Player 1":
"f74f4aa00f7623ef4c28bdd6692d0b4f81bc23d86ca294dd7b0cebc6eb3c1075"}
```

This token will be needs to be added in **config.py** variable **zabbixPlayerToken**. If multiple players were defined, send the respective token to each player.

# config.py

#### **Updating player token**

The previously generated token for player account needs to be entered in the **zabbixPlayerToken** variable. By default, it will be an empty string.

```
6 zabbixServerIP = '127.0.0.1'
7 zabbixServerPort = 10051
8 zabbixAPIPath = f'{zabbixServerIP}/zabbix'
9 zabbixAdminToken = 'your_admin_token'
10 zabbixPlayerToken = ''
```



```
6 zabbixServerIP = '127.0.0.1'
```

<sup>7</sup> zabbixServerPort = 10051

<sup>8</sup> zabbixAPIPath = f'{zabbixServerIP}/zabbix'

<sup>9</sup> zabbixAdminToken = 'your\_admin\_token'

<sup>10</sup> zabbixPlayerToken = 'your\_player\_token'



#### **Enable connectors**

This script uses Zabbix streaming protocol to receive map data from Zabbix, therefore connectors need to be enabled on server.

\$ vim /etc/zabbix/zabbix\_server.conf

```
### Option: StartConnectors

# Number of pre-forked instances of connector workers.

# The connector manager process is automatically started when connector worker is started.

# Mandatory: no
# Range: 0-1000
# Default:
StartConnectors=3
...
```

\$ systemctl restart zabbix-server



### **AsynclO library**

The play.py file uses asyncio python library to make asynchronous requests to Zabbix, therefore at the top of the file,

AsyncZabbixAPI from zabbix\_utils needs to be imported

3 from zabbix\_utils import AsyncZabbixAPI

#### Missing code

In general, play.py has 2 main components – UI and Zabbix API. Both components are split into separate classes – UI() and Zabbix(), respectively. Both are managed by Game() class. There is missing code in both Zabbix(), Game() classes and the main function, marked with comments starting with - ! IMPLEMENT

```
class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
      async def __ainit__(self):
55
57
60
62
82
     async def move(self, direction):
89
107
198 class Game(AsyncMixin):
247
      async def run(self):
273
274 asvnc def runGame():
      game = await Game()
275
276
      await game.run()
277
278 if __name__ == "__main__":
279
      try:
280
281
```

### Where to start

https://www.zabbix.com/documentation/current/manual/api/reference





#### Running asyncio coroutine

Asyncio coroutine should be started with asyncio.run()

```
274 async def runGame():
      game = await Game()
275
      await game.run()
276
278 if __name__ == "__main__":
      try:
280
281
282
        asyncio.run(runGame())
      except Exception as e:
283
        print(f'[ EXCEPTION ]: {e}')
284
285
        exit(1)
```

#### Fixing Zabbix() class

Create asynchronous Zabbix API object

```
44 class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
.. ...
55  async def __ainit__(self):
56  # Initialize asynchronous defaults
57  #! IMPLEMENT - asynchronous Zabbix API object
58  self.api = AsyncZabbixAPI(url=config.zabbixAPIPath, validate_certs=False)
59  await self.apiLogin()
```

#### Create api login function

```
44 class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
.. ...
63 # ! IMPLEMENT - API login method
64 async def apiLogin(self):
65 await self.api.login(token=config.zabbixPlayerToken)
```

#### Let's test if API works with player token

```
44 class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
.....
63 # ! IMPLEMENT - API login method
64 async def apiLogin(self):
65 await self.api.login(token=config.zabbixPlayerToken)
66 print(f'Zabbix hosts: {await self.api.host.get(output=['host'])}')
67 await self.api.logout()
68 exit(0)
```

```
$ ./play.py
Zabbix hosts: [{'hostid': '10990', 'host': 'Player 1'}, {'hostid': '10991',
'host': 'Main Game'}]
```

#### Fixing Zabbix() class

Remove the last 3 added lines of code from the last step (print(), logout() and exit()), so the apiLogin() function looks like this:

```
44 class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
......
63 # ! IMPLEMENT - API login method
64 async def apiLogin(self):
65 await self.api.login(token=config.zabbixPlayerToken)
```

However, we still need to implement some functions for the code to run. This function will get ID of the player host

```
44 class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
     def __init__(self):
       self.playerHostId = None
48
       self.playerHostName = None
49
85
     async def setPlayerHost(self):
86
       hosts = await self.api.host.get(
87
         search={'host': 'Player'},
output=['host', 'hostid']
88
89
90
       self.playerHostId = hosts[0]['hostid']
91
       self.playerHostName = hosts[0]['host']
92
93
```

#### Fixing Zabbix() class

Test the API output

```
async def setPlayerHost(self):
86
      hosts = await self.api.host.get(
        output=['host', 'hostid']
88
89
90
      print(hosts)
      self.api.logout()
91
92
      exit(0)
93
      for host in hosts:
        if str(host['host']).startswith('Player'):
94
95
          self.playerHostId = host['hostid']
96
           self.playerHostName = host['host']
      ./play.py
   [{'hostid': '10990', 'host': 'Player 1'}, {'hostid': '10991', 'host': 'Main
   Game'}]
```

Change API object authentication to admin token

```
44 class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
...
63 # ! IMPLEMENT - API login method
64 async def apiLogin(self):
65 await self.api.login(token=config.zabbixAdminToken)

$ ./play.py
Hosts: [{'hostid': '10084', 'host': 'Zabbix server'}, {'hostid': '10990 ', 'host': 'Player 1'}, {'hostid': '10991 ', 'host': 'Main Game'}]
```

API respects the user permission scope. Change token back to player token and remove print(), logout() and exit() code lines.

Now the **Zabbix()** class can initialize correctly, however, nothing happens. This is because we need to run some functions that collect data.

Inside **Game()** class **run()** method, we can run function that would request the current player position.

```
184 class Game(AsyncMixin):
... ...
258 async def run(self):
259 try:
... #! IMPLEMENT - launch multiple functions with asyncio
await self.zabbix.setCurrentPosition()
```

Running this code will fail with exception, because this function does not yet exist in **Zabbix()** class, therefore, we need to add it.

This method runs continuously and gets the latest value of position item for player host

```
70 class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
71
72
73
    async def setCurrentPosition(self) -> list:
      while True:
        currentPosition = await self.api.item.get(
          hostids=self.playerHostId,
76
          search={'key_': config.playerPositionKey},
          output=['lastvalue']
        print(f'currentPosition: {currentPosition}')
80
81
        currentPosition = currentPosition[0]['lastvalue']
        currentPosition = str(currentPosition).split(' ')
82
83
        currentPosition[0] = int(currentPosition[0])
        currentPosition[1] = int(currentPosition[1])
84
        self.playerPosition = currentPosition
85
        await asyncio.sleep(0)
```

```
$ ./play.py
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '48368', 'lastvalue': '16 11'}]
```

We now can successfully call async functions from **Zabbix()** class inside **Zabbix()** class.

This is the **move()** method currently. When called it should print text to console.

```
class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
      async def move(self, direction):
115
        # Get position
116
        position = self.zabbix.getCurrentPosition()
117
118
        x = position[0]
        y = position[1]
119
120
121
        # Set coordinates for next position
122
        if direction == 119:
          y = position[1] - 1
123
        elif direction == 97:
124
          x = position[0] - 1
125
126
        elif direction == 115:
          y = position[1] + 1
127
        elif direction == 100:
128
          x = position[0] + 1
129
        else:
130
131
          return
132
133
        # Check if new position is not out of map and does not collide with a wall
134
        if 0 <= x < config.boardSize and 0 <= y < config.boardSize:
135
          print(f'move to direction: {chr(direction).upper()}')
136
          # cellValue = self.gameMap[y][x*2]
137
138
```

The **move()** method gets called from **Game()** class method named **movePlayer()**, which monitors for keyboard input from user and then calls **move()**.

```
172 class Game(AsyncMixin):
... ...
205   async def movePlayer(self):
206   while True:
207    if self.ui.controlKey != '':
208        await self.move(ord(self.ui.controlKey))
209        self.ui.controlKey = ''
210   await asyncio.sleep(0)
```

However, for debug purposes, in **Game()** there is also a function **movePlayerNoUI()**. We will be using this function until the UI object gets initialized.

Let's try calling the movePlayer() method from run()

```
224 class Game(AsyncMixin):
... ...
273 async def run(self):
274 try:
... 293 # ! IMPLEMENT - launch multiple functions with asyncion
294 await self.zabbix.setCurrentPosition()
295 await self.movePlayer()
```

```
$ ./play.py
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '48368', 'lastvalue': '16 11'}]
```

Nothing happens differently because **getCurrentPosition()** has not completed its job as it is in an infinite loop. Therefore, **movePlayer()** will never execute.

This can be fixed with **asyncio.gather()** which will execute both functions concurrently.

```
224 class Game(AsyncMixin):
... ...
273 async def run(self):
274 try:
... ...
293 #! IMPLEMENT - launch multiple functions with asyncio
await asyncio.gather(self.zabbix.setCurrentPosition(),
self.movePlayerNoUI())
```

movePlayer() relies on UI() class for getting non-blocking user inputs, which we have not yet enabled for debugging purposes, therefore, for now we will use movePlayerNoUI()

```
% ./play.py
move to direction: W
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '9 7'}]
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '9 7'}]
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '9 7'}]
move to direction: A
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '9 7'}]
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '9 7'}]
move to direction: S
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '9 7'}]
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '9 7'}]
move to direction: D
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '9 7'}]
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '9 7'}]
```

To change the player location, we must send new location with Zabbix Sender

First, import AsyncSender from zabbix\_utils

```
3 from zabbix_utils import AsyncZabbixAPI, AsyncSender
```

Then, we need to create Zabbix sender object in Zabbix class

Now, we can access and use sender from **Game** class **move()** method

Implement async sender under first IF statement temporarily. Later we will move it a bit.

```
44 class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
     async def move(self, direction):
115
116
        # Get position
       position = self.zabbix.getCurrentPosition()
117
        x = position[0]
118
       y = position[1]
119
120
121
        # Set coordinates for next position
122
        if direction == 119:
          v = position[1] - 1
123
        elif direction == 97:
124
          x = position[0] - 1
125
        elif direction == 115:
126
127
          y = position[1] + 1
128
        elif direction == 100:
129
          x = position[0] + 1
130
        else:
131
          return
132
133
        # Check if new position is not out of map and does not collide with a wall
134
       if 0 <= x < config.boardSize and 0 <= y < config.boardSize:
135
          await self.sender.send_value(self.playerHostName,
136
                                        config.playerPositionKey,
                                        f'{x} {v}')
          print(f'move to direction: {chr(direction).upper()}')
137
          # cellValue = self.gameMap[y][x*2]
138
139
```

Now the location changes when pressing keys.

```
$ ./play.py
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '2 0'}]
move to direction: S
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '1 0'}]
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '1 0'}]
move to direction: S
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '1 1'}]
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '1 1'}]
move to direction: S
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '2 1'}]
move to direction: S
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '2 2'}]
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '2 2'}]
move to direction: D
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '2 3'}]
```

### backend.py

#### Starting the backend

For Zabbix connectors to be able to send data to our script, we must launch backend.py script which will update game map continuously

Start the script in a new separate terminal window

\$ ./backend.py
Backend script running

From Zabbix latest data page, Map item on Main Game host is generated and being updated constantly, and Player score item also gets updated

Host	Name ▲	Last check	Last value	Change	Tags
Main Game	Мар	0	-		game: map
Player 1	Position	2h 12m 11s	16 11		
Player 1	Score	0			



Additionaly, the script also needs to request player's score from Zabbix.

In Zabbix class, create a function to request the score.

```
44 class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
111
     async def setScore(self):
112
       while True:
         self.score = (await self.api.item.get(
114
           search={'key_': 'player.score'},
115
           output=['lastvalue']
116
         ))[0]['lastvalue']
117
118
         print(self.score)
         await asyncio.sleep(0)
119
```

Then, add setScore() to also be executed by asyncio.gather()

```
$ ./play.py
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '3 4'}]
Move to direction: S
currentPosition: [{'itemid': '51772', 'lastvalue': '1 0'}]
score:
```

Score currently is empty, but it works and will become occupied when **backend.py** script will be launched

To enable UI, we need to get game map data. That will be done using Zabbix streaming protocol connectors. This script uses simple HTTP server, to receive data.

Uncomment web server initialization Game class run()

```
208 class Game(AsyncMixin):
... 283  async def run(self):
284    try:
285    """"""
286    threadHTTP = threading.Thread(target=self.startHttpServer)
287    threadHTTP.start()
288
289    time.sleep(2)
```

This also allows to complete the **move()** function. Uncomment cellValue and last IF statement and move sender under it

```
class Zabbix(AsyncMixin):
     async def move(self, direction):
115
133
        # Check if new position is not out of map and does not collide with a wall
134
       if 0 <= x < config.boardSize and 0 <= y < config.boardSize:
135
          print(f'move to direction: {chr(direction).upper()}')
136
          cellValue = self.gameMap[y][x*2]
137
         if cellValue not in config.symbolsWalls:
138
            await self.zabbix.sender.send_value(self.zabbix.playerHostName,
139
                                                 config.playerPositionKey,
141
                                                 f'{x} {v}')
```

And the script is mostly ready.

Uncomment UI class initialization

Uncomment everything in Game class run() method

Change movePlayerNoUI() to movePlayer().

Remove print statements we added in functions:

- zabbix.setCurrentPosition()
- zabbix.setScore()
- zabbix.move()

```
208 class Game(AsyncMixin):
     async def ainit (self):
212
        self.zabbix = await Zabbix()
213
        self.ui = UI() # <--- uncomment this line</pre>
214
     async def run(self):
283
284
        trv:
285
        threadHTTP = threading.Thread(target=self.startHttpServer)
286
287
        threadHTTP.start()
288
        time.sleep(2)
289
290
        threadSetMap = threading.Thread(target=self.zabbix.setMap)
291
        threadSetMap.start()
292
293
        threadUiUpdate = threading.Thread(target=self.updateScreen)
294
        threadUiUpdate.start()
295
296
        threadSync = threading.Thread(target=self.synchronizeData)
297
298
        threadSync.start()
299
        threadInput = threading.Thread(target=self.askInput)
230
231
        threadInput.start()
232
        # ! IMPLEMENT - launch multiple functions with asyncio
233
        await asyncio.gather(self.zabbix.setCurrentPositon(), self.movePlayer(),
234
                             self.zabbix.setScore())
```

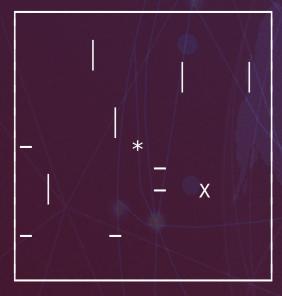


### Fixing Game() class move() method

And now you should see that also score is being printed to the terminal

\$ ./play.py

#### ZABBIX





Thank you!

Kristaps Naglis
Integration Engineer