Nagios - Keeping an Eye On Your Systems

Systems Administration

School of Information Technology
Otago Polytechnic
Dunedin, New Zealand

You need to know what's happening on your systems

The problem:

- I'm always telling you that you need to know the states of your systems.
- So far, the only things that happen are things we do (and document carefully). That's going to change.
- Servers produce lots of logs and other information - too much to keep track of.
- You can't watch your servers all the time.
- Even if you could, producing reports and catching trends is tricky.

You need to know what's happening on your systems

The solution: Nagios

- Monitors hosts(servers, etc), services, network devices and just about anything else that can report information over the network
- Produces reports
- Sends alerts when specified events take place
- Can perform other scripted actions in response to events
- Extensible via plugins

Installation

```
sudo apt-get install nagios3
```
Configuration files are placed in

- /etc/nagios3

- /etc/nagios-plugins

Web interface is available at http://<hostname>/nagios3. Log in with the nagiosadmin user.

Configuration concepts

- hosts
- services
- contacts (contactgroups)
- timeperiods