

The Industry Standard in IT Infrastructure Monitoring

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to show how you can schedule downtime for a service, host, hostgroup, or servicegroup within Nagios XI. Scheduling downtime is an effective way to prevent unnecessary or unwanted notifications from being received during a period of expected service interruption.

Target Audience

This document is designed for Nagios administrators interested in preventing unnecessary notifications during periods of expected service interruption.

The Scheduled Downtime Menu

From the **Home** menu of Nagios XI, expand **Incident Management** and select the **Scheduled Downtime** option. This will navigate you to the main control panel for **Scheduled Downtime**.

The screenshot shows the Nagios XI interface for the 'Scheduled Downtime' page. The 'Home' menu item is circled in blue. In the left sidebar, 'Incident Management' is expanded, and 'Scheduled Downtime' is circled in blue. The main content area shows a table with one entry:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host	Service	Entry Time	Author	Comment	Start Time	End Time	Type	Duration	Downtime ID	Trigger ID	In Effect	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	localhost	-	2016-11-01 14:25:59	Nagios Administrator	Installing updates	2016-11-01 14:25:37	2016-11-01 16:25:37	Fixed	2h 0m 0s	1	None	Yes	

From this screenshot you can see any scheduled downtime that is currently in-effect or scheduled for a future time. In this example there is an entry for the **localhost** object.

To begin the process of scheduling downtime, click the **Schedule Downtime** button and select **For Host(s)** or **For Service(s)**.

This close-up shows the 'Schedule Downtime' dropdown menu with 'For Host(s)' and 'For Service(s)' options. Below the dropdown, a table shows the entry for localhost:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host	Service	Entry Time	Author
<input type="checkbox"/>	localhost	-	2016-11-01 14:25:59	Nagios Administrator

The selections available for **hosts** are as follows:

Add Host Downtime

Schedule downtime for a particular host or multiple hosts. [More information about downtimes.](#)

Host Name(s) *

Filter...	Selected Hosts 2 Remove All
localhost	10.25.14.52 <input type="checkbox"/>
	10.25.5.70 <input type="checkbox"/>

Author *

Comment *

Triggered By

Type

Start Time *

End Time *

Child Hosts

Services

There are options that apply to both hosts and services that will be explained after the “Add Service Downtime” section below. The options that are specific to hosts are as follows:

In the top part of the screen you need to select host(s) and click the **Add Selected** button to add them to the list of hosts that this downtime will be created for. When selecting hosts you can use SHIFT or CTRL on the keyboard to help select multiple hosts. In the Filter field start typing to narrow down the available hosts to select from.

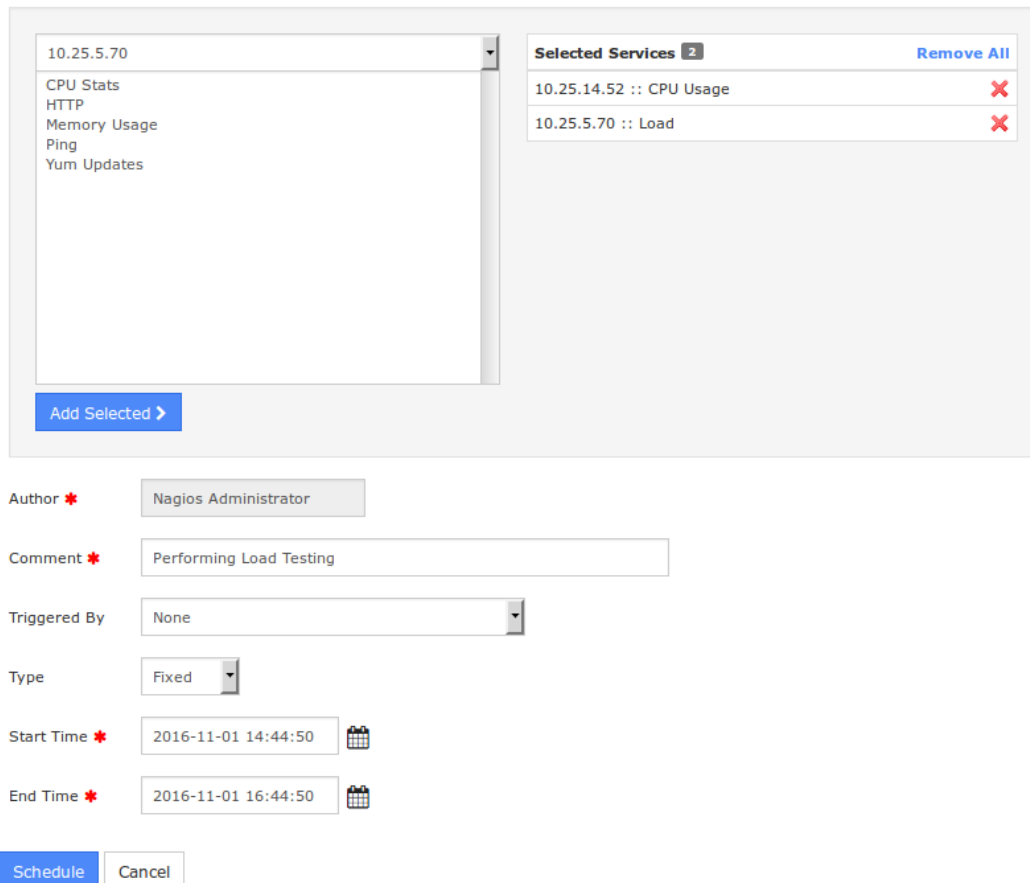
You have the option to change the **Child Hosts** behavior when this downtime goes into affect. This is useful when a host's service interruption will affect it's children.

You can also select if you want to schedule downtime for the **services** of these host(s).

The selections available for **services** are as follows:

Add Service Downtime

Schedule downtime for a particular service or multiple services. [More information about downtimes.](#)



Host	Selected Services
10.25.5.70	10.25.14.52 :: CPU Usage
	10.25.5.70 :: Load

In the top part of the screen you need to select a host from the drop down list which will present you with a list of all the services on that host. Select the desired services and click the **Add Selected** button to add them to the list of services that this downtime will be created for. When selecting services you can use SHIFT or CTRL on the keyboard to help select multiple services. You can select different hosts to schedule downtime for services from multiple hosts.

Common Options

You are required to enter a comment indicating what the purpose of the downtime is. You can also configure a downtime to be **Triggered By** another scheduled downtime event.

By default, the type of downtime in the pre-populated fields is a **fixed** downtime that is scheduled immediately for the next 2 hours.

The **Type** of downtime can be *fixed* or *flexible*:

Fixed downtime

Starts and stops at the exact start and end times that you specify when you schedule it.

Flexible downtime

Intended for times when you know that a host or service is going to be down for X minutes (or hours), but you don't know exactly when that event will start.

When you schedule flexible downtime, Nagios XI will start the scheduled downtime sometime between the start and end times you specified.

The downtime will last for as long as the duration you specified when you scheduled the downtime.

This assumes that the host or service for which you scheduled flexible downtime either goes down (or becomes unreachable) or goes into a non-OK state sometime between the start and end times you specified.

The time at which a host or service transitions to a problem state determines the time at which Nagios XI actually starts the downtime.

The downtime will then last for the duration you specified, even if the host or service recovers before the downtime expires.

When you click the Schedule button you will be returned to the list with the items you just scheduled. Please note that it may take up to a minute before they show up in the list.

Successfully added all downtime. It may take up to a minute to show up on the list. ✕

Scheduled Downtime 🔄 ⚙️

Filter by Select filters ▼

Search...

🔍

🕒 Schedule Downtime ▼
Showing 1-5 of 5 total records

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Host	Service	Entry Time	Author	Comment	Start Time	End Time	Type	Duration	Downtime ID	Trigger ID	In Effect	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	localhost	-	2016-11-01 14:25:59	Nagios Administrator	Installing updates	2016-11-01 14:25:37	2016-11-01 16:25:37	Fixed	2h 0m 0s	1	None	Yes	✖
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.14.52	-	2016-11-01 14:44:44	Nagios Administrator	Rebooting Hosts	2016-11-01 14:43:03	2016-11-01 16:43:03	Fixed	2h 0m 0s	2	None	Yes	✖
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.5.70	-	2016-11-01 14:44:44	Nagios Administrator	Rebooting Hosts	2016-11-01 14:43:03	2016-11-01 16:43:03	Fixed	2h 0m 0s	3	None	Yes	✖
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.14.52	CPU Usage	2016-11-01 15:08:42	Nagios Administrator	Performing Load Testing	2016-11-01 15:06:13	2016-11-01 17:06:13	Fixed	2h 0m 0s	4	None	Yes	✖
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.25.5.70	Load	2016-11-01 15:08:42	Nagios Administrator	Performing Load Testing	2016-11-01 15:06:13	2016-11-01 17:06:13	Fixed	2h 0m 0s	5	None	Yes	✖

With selected

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Recurring Scheduled Downtime

If you have regular periods of downtime and do not wish to schedule those periods individually, you can configure recurring periods of downtime instead.

From the **Home** menu of Nagios XI, expand **Incident Management** and select the **Recurring Downtime** option. This will navigate you to the main control panel for **Recurring Scheduled Downtime**.

The screenshot shows the Nagios XI interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Views', 'Dashboards', 'Reports', 'Configure', 'Tools', 'Help', and 'Admin'. The 'Home' menu is expanded, and 'Recurring Downtime' is selected. The main content area is titled 'Recurring Scheduled Downtime' and contains a sub-menu with 'Hosts', 'Services', 'Hostgroups', and 'Servicegroups'. Below this is a table for 'Host Schedules' with columns: Host, Services, Comment, Start Time, Duration, Months, Weekdays, Days in Month, and Actions. A message states: 'There are currently no host recurring downtime events defined.'

There are 4 tabs at the top of this control panel that allow you to configure regular periods of downtime for a given **Host, Service, Hostgroup, or Servicegroup**.

To begin the process of scheduling recurring downtime, click the **Add Schedule** button under the respective tab. You will be presented with the Schedule Settings, the screenshot to the right is of a Host (they are all similar).

Add Recurring Downtime Schedule

Note: A new downtime schedule will be added to the monitoring engine one hour before it is set to activate, according to the parameters specified below.

Schedule Settings

Host:
The host associated with this schedule.

Services: Include all services on this host

Comment:
An optional comment associated with this schedule.

Start Time:
Time of day the downtime should start in 24-hr format (e.g. 13:30).

Duration:
Duration of the scheduled downtime in minutes.

Valid Months:
 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun
 Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
Months this schedule is valid. Defaults to every month if none selected.

Valid Weekdays:
 Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun
Days of the week this schedule is valid. Defaults to every weekday if none selected.

Valid Days of Month:
Comma-separated list of days of month this schedule is valid. Defaults to every day if empty. If you specify weekdays and days of the month, then both must match for the downtime to be scheduled.

In the screenshot the on the previous page, the first field is the **Host** field. When you start typing in this field, the list of hosts will start to appear that match what is being typed. You can use the arrow keys and press Enter on the keyboard to select the host you want or simply click it with the mouse. This behavior is the same when scheduling **Service**, **Hostgroup** or **Servicegroup** recurring downtime.

For a **Host** or **Hostgroup** you can choose to include it's associated services in the period of scheduled downtime.

A comment is not required but does make it easy to understand why you created it.

The **Start Time** is when you what the recurring downtime to begin and the **Duration** is how long you want it to apply for.

Define the time of day you want the recurring downtime to start and then choose from the options of **Valid Months**, **Valid Weekdays** and **Valid Days of Month**. Choices from the sections will allow you to define exactly what you want like Jan + Mon + Tue will only create recurring downtime for Mondays and Tuesdays in January @ the time you specify.

Click the **Submit Schedule** button to create the recurring downtime schedule.

Scheduling Downtime From The Host Or Service Status Page

When you are on the **Host Status Detail** page (or *Service Status Detail page*) you can schedule downtime from the **Advanced** tab under **Commands**. All of the options are the same as have been described earlier.

Host Status Detail

CentOS-NCPA
 Alias: CentOS-NCPA
 Hostgroups: linux-servers, allhosts

Advanced

Advanced Status Details		Host Attributes			Commands
Host State:	● Up	Attribute	State	Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add comment Schedule downtime Schedule downtime for all services on this host Forced immediate check for host and all services
Duration:	1d 3h 35m 11s	Active Checks	●	✕	
State Type:	Hard	Passive Checks	●	✕	
Current Check:	1 of 1	Notifications	●	✕	
Last Check:	08/23/2016 15:33:49	Flap Detection	●	✕	

Scheduling Downtime From The Host/Service Group Status Page

You can schedule downtime for all hosts or services in a host group via **Home > Details > Hostgroup Summary** (under Details).

Click on the **View Hostgroup Commands** button for a specific hostgroup under **Status Summary For All Host Groups**.

Click on the **Schedule downtime for all hosts in this hostgroup** or **Schedule downtime for all services in this hostgroup**.

Status Summary For All Host Groups

Host Group	Hosts	Services
allhosts (allhosts)	33 Up	338 Ok 7 Warning 9 Unknown 104 Critical
DBs (DBs)	3 Up	27 Ok 2 Warning 1 Critical

Hostgroup Commands

- Schedule downtime for all hosts in this hostgroup
- Schedule downtime for all services in this hostgroup
- Enable notifications for all hosts in this hostgroup
- Disable notifications for all hosts in this hostgroup
- Enable notifications for all services in this hostgroup
- Disable notifications for all services in this hostgroup
- Enable active checks of all services in this hostgroup
- Disable active checks of all services in this hostgroup

How To Schedule Downtime via Mass Acknowledge Component

It is very easy to schedule downtime for hosts and services that are already in "non-OK" state under the **Mass Acknowledge and Downtime Scheduling** component.

From the Nagios XI Home screen go to **Incident Management** and click on the **Mass Acknowledge** link.

Select all of the hosts and services that you would like to place in scheduled downtime. Then select **Schedule Downtime** from the **Command Type** drop-down menu, enter a comment if you don't wish to use the "default" one and then click **Submit Commands**.

Mass Acknowledgments and Downtime Scheduling ?

Use this tool to schedule downtime or to acknowledge large groups of unhandled problems. For scheduled downtime, specify the length of downtime in minutes to schedule 'flexible' downtime. Commands may take a few moments to take effect on status details.
Please note that you may only submit characters that are from your locale. In other words, if your locale is set to en_US, you may not submit Japanese characters for submission, you must first change your locale to ja_JP and then submit your message.

Command Type	Schedule Downtime	Time	120	mn	Comment	Problem is acknowledged	Submit Commands
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Wrapping Up

Scheduling downtime is a useful tool for Nagios administrators who wish to block notifications during a period of expected service interruption.

For any support related questions please visit the [Nagios Support Forums](#) at:

<http://support.nagios.com/forum/>