

The Industry Standard in IT Infrastructure Monitoring

Purpose

This document describes how to implement and use user macros in a working environment. This is useful for users who want to obfuscate sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, etc. User macros are helpful in specifying paths to plugins and event handlers. In addition, user macros allow strings with illegal characters (Such as ! and \$) to be used in the Core Configuration Manager.

Target Audience

This document is intended for use by Nagios XI Administrators that wish to obfuscate arguments that may contain sensitive information. As of Nagios XI 5.3.0 a User Macros Component was added which allows you to make changes to the macros and also use them from Configuration Wizards and within Core Configuration Manager. Please refer to the following documentation for more detailed information:

<https://assets.nagios.com/downloads/nagiosxi/docs/Understanding-The-User-Macros-Component.pdf>

Defining a User Macro

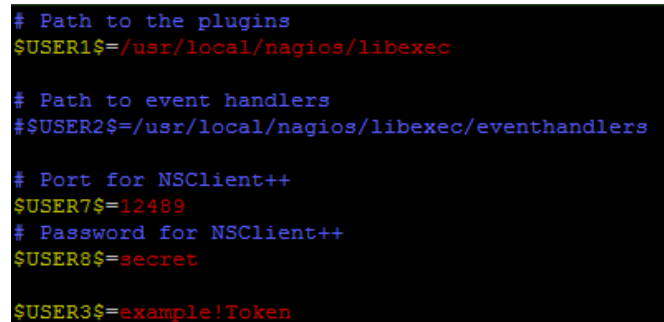
User macros can be defined in `resource.cfg`, a configuration file that can be found at `/usr/local/nagios/etc/`. By default, your `resource.cfg` should contain:

```
# Path to the plugins
$USER1$=/usr/local/nagios/libexec

# Path to event handlers
#$USER2$=/usr/local/nagios/libexec/eventhandlers

# Port for NSClient++
$USER7$=12489

# Password for NSClient++
$USER8$=secret
```



```
# Path to the plugins
$USER1$=/usr/local/nagios/libexec

# Path to event handlers
#$USER2$=/usr/local/nagios/libexec/eventhandlers

# Port for NSClient++
$USER7$=12489

# Password for NSClient++
$USER8$=secret

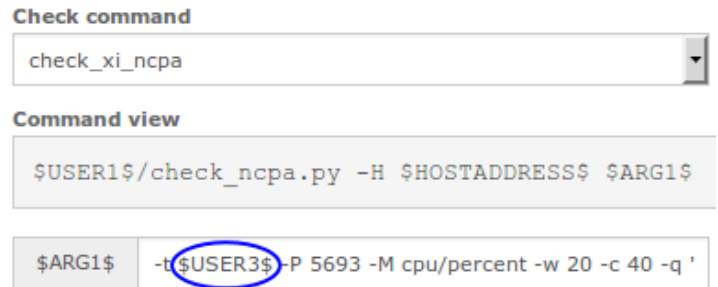
$USER3$=example!Token
```

To define a user macro, simply add:

```
$USERn$= <Sensitive-Information>
```

to the bottom of the file, where **n** is a number that has not been used to define a user macro yet and `<Sensitive-Information>` is any information you plan to store in the user macro. On the previous screenshot you can see that `$USER3$` has been added.

In the example to the right you can see how a user macro is used for the NCPA token defined in a service. This can help prevent other admins from seeing the token defined in the service. It also has the benefit of defining it in a central location, which makes changing it later an easy process.



The screenshot shows the Nagios XI interface for a service. Under the heading "Check command", a dropdown menu displays "check_xi_ncpa". Below this, the "Command view" section shows the expanded command: `$USER1$/check_ncpa.py -H $HOSTADDRESS$ $ARG1$`. A second line shows the arguments: `$ARG1$ -t$USER3$ -P 5693 -M cpu/percent -w 20 -c 40 -q '`. The `$USER3$` token is circled in blue.

Final Thoughts

For detailed documentation on macros, visit the Nagios Core documentation, found here:

<https://assets.nagios.com/downloads/nagioscore/docs/nagioscore/4/en/macros.html>

If you have any questions about using user macros in Nagios XI, you can contact our support team via our online forum at:

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