

# NRPE - Upgrading To NRPE v3 From Source

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## Upgrading To NRPE v3 From Source

This document explains what is required to upgrade to NRPE v3.

The actual commands required to upgrade do not differ much from the installation steps, hence this KB article is a guide as to what steps need to be followed in the installation documentation. The installation documentation can be found here:

[Documentation - Installing NRPE v3 From Source](#)

## Prerequisites

Please follow the steps in the installation documentation, in an upgrade the steps are the same as an installation.

## Downloading the Source

Please follow the steps in the installation documentation, in an upgrade the steps are the same as an installation.

## Compile

NRPE will automatically compile for the user `nagios` and the group `nagios`. If you have previously configured NRPE to run with a different user/group then you will need to define these in the compile argument.

The configure arguments are:

```
--with-nrpe-user=<user>      sets user name to run NRPE
--with-nrpe-group=<group>    sets group name to run NRPE
--with-nagios-user=<user>    sets user name for file permissions
--with-nagios-group=<grp>    sets group name file permissions
```

For example, if you had the user `nrpe` and the group `nrpe` the command would be as follows:

```
./configure --enable-command-args --with-nrpe-user=nrpe --with-nrpe-group=nrpe --with-nagios-user=nrpe --with-nagios-group=nrpe
```

## Create User And Group

As explained in the previous step, NRPE will automatically compile for the user `nagios` and the group `nagios`. With this in mind, there is no need to run these steps as the user and group will already exist.

## Install Binaries

Please follow the steps in the installation documentation, in an upgrade the steps are the same as an installation.

Please make sure you read the notes at the top of the "Install Binaries" section as it has some additional information you may require.

## Install Configuration Files

### CAUTION

If you run the `make install-config` it will overwrite your existing `nrpe.cfg` file, and custom commands / settings you have defined will be overwritten.

There is no need to run the `make install-config` command, the existing `nrpe.cfg` script is a valid configuration file and will allow NRPE to function after the upgrade.

There are newer security features of NRPE that allow certificates to be used between the `check_nrpe` plugin and the NRPE daemon. There are additional configuration files/directives required in `nrpe.cfg` to enable these new features. There is a perl script called `update-cfg.pl` that will take a copy of your `nrpe.cfg` file and add the security directives to a new file called `nrpe.cfg.new`, for example:

```
/tmp/nrpe/update-cfg.pl /usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg
```

Review the new file `/usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg.new` to ensure the updated config file is correct (*confirm the script did not remove any configurations*). Then to implement the new script:

```
mv /usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg /usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg.original
mv /usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg.new /usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg
```

More information on the new security features of NRPE v3 can be found in this KB article:

[Documentation - NRPE - v3 Enhanced Security](#)

## Update Services File

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The `/etc/services` file should not need to be updated, the entry should already exist. You can confirm it does with the following command:

```
grep '5666/tcp' /etc/services
```

Which should output the following:

```
nrpe      5666/tcp
```

If you get no output from the command then you should run the commands in the **Update Services File** section.

## Install Service / Daemon

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Previous versions of NRPE commonly used `inetd` or `xinetd` to start and stop the NRPE daemon. A fresh installation of NRPE v3 will create it's own service and no longer uses `inetd/xinetd`.

When performing an upgrade to NRPE v3, you have two options:

- Stop using `inetd/xinetd`
  - Stop the `inetd/xinetd` service
  - Copy the `only_from =` entries from the `inetd/xinetd` configuration file and place them to the `/usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg` file in the `allowed_hosts=` directive
  - Remove the configuration file `/etc/xinetd.d/nrpe` to stop `inetd/xinetd` from trying to start the NRPE daemon
  - Start the `inetd/xinetd` service
  - Run the **Install Service/Daemon** steps
- Continue using `inetd/xinetd`
  - Do not run the **Install Service/Daemon** steps
  - `inetd/xinetd` will continue to function as it normally does

## Configure Firewall

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Port 5666 is used by NRPE, because you already have a functioning NPPE installation then it can be assumed that the firewall is correctly configured (or turned off).

## Update Configuration File

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Because you already have a functioning NPPE installation then it can be assumed that the `nrpe.cfg` is already configured to your needs and this step can be skipped.

## Start Service / Daemon

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If you chose to continue using `inetd/xinetd` then these steps will not apply to you.

**Test NRPE**

Follow these steps to ensure that NRPE has been successfully upgraded.

## Service / Daemon Commands

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If you chose to continue using inetd/xinetd then these steps will not apply to you.

## Installing The Nagios Plugins

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Because you already have a functioning NPPE installation then it can be assumed that you already have the plugins installed and this step can be skipped. You can however follow the steps to update your existing plugins to a newer version.

## Install check\_nrpe Plugin Only

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In some circumstances you may want to only install the `check_nrpe` plugin, usually required on your Nagios server. Follow the steps in this section, making sure to take into consideration the **Compile** information mentioned in this article.

## Final Thoughts

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

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

Posted by: **tlea** - Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 7:55 PM. This article has been viewed 10495 times.

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