

NRPE - CHECK_NRPE: Error - Could Not Complete SSL Handshake

Article Number: 615 | Rating: 3.7/5 from 10 votes | Last Updated: Sun, Dec 10, 2017 at 4:18 PM

Problem Description

This KB article addresses the following NRPE error:

```
CHECK_NRPE: Error - Could Not Complete SSL Handshake
```

The NRPE client may also log messages similar to the following in SYSLOG:

```
Dec 11 09:08:14 centos19 xinetd[2567]: FAIL: nrpe address from=2001:44b8:3132:25:be5f:f4ff:fe7d:7d97
Dec 11 09:08:53 centos19 xinetd[2578]: FAIL: nrpe address from=10.25.254.5
```

Assumed Knowledge

The following KB article contains an explanation of how NRPE works and may need to be referenced to completely understand the problem and solution that is provided here:

[NRPE - Agent and Plugin Explained](#)

Troubleshooting The Error

This is probably the most common of all error messages and one of the first you will experience when new to NRPE. There are a few different causes of this, though the most likely one is that the Nagios XI server's IP address is not defined as being allowed to communicate with NRPE. This can be defined in one of two locations, depending if you are using xinetd as the daemon to run NRPE or if NRPE has its own dedicated daemon. To identify which one is being used, execute the following command on the remote host:

```
ls -la /etc/xinetd.d/nrpe
```

If you get output like this, xinetd is being used and you should follow the [XINETD](#) steps below:

```
-rw-r--r--. 1 root root 483 Feb 22 12:23 /etc/xinetd.d/nrpe
```

If you get output like this, NRPE has its own Daemon and you should follow the [nrpe.cfg](#) steps below:

```
ls: cannot access /etc/xinetd.d/nrpe: No such file or directory
```

XINETD

If you use xinetd for controlling the NRPE daemon (most people do), then you need to add the Nagios server's IP address to the xinetd NRPE configuration file `/etc/xinetd.d/nrpe`. Edit the file by executing the following command:

```
vi /etc/xinetd.d/nrpe
```

In this file you will find the line:

```
only_from = 127.0.0.1
```

This list is a space-delimited list. Change it to:

```
only_from = 127.0.0.1 <Nagios XI server ip>
```

With the increasing popularity of IPv6 you may also want to add the local IPv6 `::1` address to the list of `only_from` addresses, for example:

```
only_from = 127.0.0.1 ::1 <Nagios XI server ip>
```

You can also define the `only_from` directive over multiple lines by using `+=` for each consecutive line, for example:

```
only_from = 127.0.0.1
only_from += ::1
only_from += <Nagios XI server ip>
```

Remember to change `<Nagios XI server ip>` to your actual Nagios XI server IP address. One thing to note is that `127.0.0.1` should remain as it allows you to troubleshoot NRPE issues locally (and so does `::1`). After you have made the following changes, restart the `xinetd` service on the remote host (this example may be different to your operating system distribution):

```
service xinetd restart
```

NRPE.CFG

If you use a dedicated daemon for NRPE, then you need to add the Nagios server's IP address to the `nrpe.cfg` configuration file `/usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg`. Edit the file by executing the following command:

```
vi /usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg
```

In this file you will find the line:

```
allowed_hosts=127.0.0.1
```

This list is a comma-delimited list. Change it to:

```
allowed_hosts=127.0.0.1,<Nagios XI server ip>
```

Remember to change `<Nagios XI server ip>` to your actual Nagios XI server IP address. One thing to note is that `127.0.0.1` should remain as it allows you to troubleshoot NRPE issues locally. After you have made the following changes, restart the `xinetd` service on the remote host (this example may be different to your operating system distribution):

```
service nrpe restart
```

SSL Not Compiled In:

Another cause of SSL issues is that NRPE was not compiled with `ssl` enabled. To recompile NRPE with `ssl` support, browse to your NRPE source directory (usually in `/tmp/nrpe-2.15` if you followed the compiling NRPE from source document) and re-compile using the `--enable-ssl` flag:

```
cd /tmp/nrpe-2.14
./configure --enable-ssl
make all
make install
```

Understand that if you installed from a corporate build or from a package repo, you may have either uninstall the current NRPE package and install from source. You may need to pursue support on the specific distribution's forums or through Nagios support. The following link has detailed instructions on compiling NRPE from source:

<https://support.nagios.com/kb/article.php?id=515>

Xinetd Per Source Limit:

This cause is rare, but worth mentioning. If you use your remote host's NRPE server as a NRPE node proxy (sending all checks for the network segment to a single NRPE enabled server behind a firewall), or if you are doing a large number of NRPE checks in relatively short time period on one remote host, you may hit the maximum connection limit of NRPE. This is technically an xinetd setting and can be uncapped by editing the file `/etc/xinetd.d/nrpe` on your remote host:

```
nano /etc/xinetd.d/nrpe
```

Add the following line to the file inside the closing "}":

```
per_source = UNLIMITED
instances = UNLIMITED
```

And then restart XINETD with the following command (this example may be different to your operating system distribution):

```
service xinetd restart
```

Final Thoughts

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

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

Posted by: **tlea** - Fri, Jul 14, 2017 at 3:57 AM. This article has been viewed 79831 times.

Online URL: https://support.nagios.com/kb/article/nrpe-check_nrpe-error-could-not-complete-ssl-handshake-615.html