

Nagios Core - ERROR: Could not create or update nagios.configtest

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Problem Description

This KB article applies to the following error message when starting Nagios Core:

```
ERROR: Could not create or update '/usr/local/nagios/var/nagios.configtest'
```

Explanation

This problem occurs when the `nagios` user account does not have a user shell, typically when `nologin` is used in the `passwd` file:

```
nagios:x:1001:1001::/home/nagios:/usr/sbin/nologin
```

Resolution

The resolution to this problem is to remove the `/usr/sbin/nologin` directive from the `passwd` file, or to define it as a valid shell. The following examples should resolve the problem (depending on your operating system):

No shell defined:

```
nagios:x:1001:1001::/home/nagios:
```

Bash shell defined:

```
nagios:x:500:500::/home/nagios:/bin/bash
```

Once you have updated the `passwd` file you will be able to successfully start the `nagios` service.

Final Thoughts

For any support related questions please visit the [Nagios Support Forums](http://support.nagios.com/forum/) at:

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

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