Disk Performance Checks

Disk Performance checks allow you to monitor the input / output (IO) performance of the physical disks in your system. A physical disk is the block level device, depending on the age of your physical device the more true the results will be, however being able to monitor separate partitions on the same disk will help identify which partition has the most IO.

The sections below provide examples of how to perform these checks using different methods.

Nagios Plugins

Nagios Plugins does not include a disk performance plugin.

NCPA

NCPA includes a disk module that allows you to check the performance of the physical disks in your system. The term “physical” can vary depending on the operating system, this will be explained first.

Windows

NCPA on Windows provides metrics for the physical disks in your system. For example in Disk Management “ Disk 0” is reference in NCPA as “disk/physical/PhysicalDrive0”. This is a direct relationship, it does not provide metrics for the partitions you create on the disk.

Linux

NCPA on Linux is a little more complicated, it provides metrics for the partitions on your physical disks. This can be hard to understand when you are partitioning your disk using the Logical Volume Manager.

```
lssblk --output NAME,KNAME,TYPE,SIZE,MOUNTPOINT
```

Output:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>KNAME</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>MOUNTPOINT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sda</td>
<td>sda</td>
<td>disk</td>
<td>16G</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sda1</td>
<td>sda1</td>
<td>part</td>
<td>500M</td>
<td>/boot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sda2</td>
<td>sda2</td>
<td>part</td>
<td>15.5G</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>centos-root</td>
<td>dm-0</td>
<td>lvm</td>
<td>13.9G</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>centos-swap</td>
<td>dm-1</td>
<td>lvm</td>
<td>1.6G</td>
<td>[SWAP]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sr0</td>
<td>sr0</td>
<td>rom</td>
<td>1024M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The value in the KNAME column is how you reference it in NCPA.

"sda1" is the boot partition, this is referenced as "disk/physical/sda1".

"sda2" is a partition that is a LVM physical disk, this is referenced as "disk/physical/sda2".

The LVM has two volumes in it, these can also be referenced.

Volume "centos-root" is referenced as "disk/physical/dm-0".

Volume "centos-swap" is referenced as "disk/physical/dm-1".

You’ll notice in NCPA that you cannot get metrics for the actual physical disk sda, this is how it works on Linux.

Now that these differences have been explained, the examples below show the different metrics that can be monitored.

**Bytes Read / Bytes Write**

**Unit:** M

**Warning:** 50MB/s

**Critical:** 100MB/s

**Commands:**

```
./check_ncpa.py -H 10.25.14.91 -t Str0ngT0k3n -M 'disk/physical/PhysicalDrive0/read_bytes' -d -u M -w 50 -c 100
./check_ncpa.py -H 10.25.14.91 -t Str0ngT0k3n -M 'disk/physical/PhysicalDrive0/write_bytes' -d -u M -w 50 -c 100
```

**Output:**

OK: Read_bytes was 5.15 MB/s | 'read_bytes'=5.15;50;100;
OK: Write_bytes was 0.05 MB/s | 'write_bytes'=0.05;50;100;

**Read Time / Write Time**

**Unit:** ms

**Warning:** 50ms/s

**Critical:** 100ms/s

**Commands:**

```
./check_ncpa.py -H 10.25.14.91 -t Str0ngT0k3n -M 'disk/physical/PhysicalDrive0/read_time' -d -w 50 -c 100
./check_ncpa.py -H 10.25.14.91 -t Str0ngT0k3n -M 'disk/physical/PhysicalDrive0/write_time' -d -w 50 -c 100
```

**Output:**
The `read_count` and `write_count` nodes are also available.

**NSClient++ via check_nt**

NSClient++ does not include a disk performance module. An alternative method is to query a performance counter, for example:

```
\LogicalDisk(C:\)\% Disk Read Time
\PhysicalDisk(0 C:\)\Avg. Disk Bytes/Write
```

More information about performance counters can be found in the Performance Counter Checks KB article.

**NSClient++ via check_nrpe**

NSClient++ does not include a disk performance module. An alternative method is to query a performance counter, for example:

```
\LogicalDisk(C:\)\% Disk Read Time
\PhysicalDisk(0 C:\)\Avg. Disk Bytes/Write
```

More information about performance counters can be found in the Performance Counter Checks KB article.

**WMI**

Check WMI Plus includes a checkio module. These disks checks use WMI Raw counters to calculate values over a given timeperiod.

**Bytes Read / Bytes Write**

- Unit: M
- Warning: 50MB/s (50000000)
- Critical: 100MB/s (100000000)

**Commands:**

```
./check_wmi_plus.pl -H 10.25.14.3 -u wmiagent -p Str0ngP@ssw0rd -m checkio -s physical -a C:\ -w _DiskReadBytesPersec=50000000 -c _DiskReadBytesPersec=100000000 -w _DiskWriteBytesPersec=50000000 -c _DiskWriteBytesPersec=100000000
```

**Output:**

```
Overall Status - OK (Sample Period 74 sec) - Physical Drive Name="0 C:" (OK) - _PercentIdleTime=100%, _PercentBusyTime=0%, _PercentDiskReadTime=0%, _PercentDiskWriteTime=0%, _DiskReadBytesPersec=0B/sec, _DiskReadsPersec=0/sec, _DiskWriteBytesPersec=337B/sec, _DiskWritesPersec=0/sec, CurrentDiskQueueLength=0, _AvgDiskQueueLength=0.0, _AvgDiskReadQueueLength=0.0, _AvgDiskWriteQueueLength=0.0
```

A lot of metrics are available as you can see from the output above, all of these can have warning or critical thresholds.

**SNMP**

You will need to download a third party plugin that provides this functionality, please check out the Nagios Exchange.

**Final Thoughts**

For any support related questions please visit the Nagios Support Forums at:

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

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Online URL: https://support.nagios.com/kb/article/disk-performance-checks-785.html