



Webinar

Extending ZABBIX

all our microphones are muted

ask your questions in Q&A, not in the Chat

use Chat for discussion, networking or applause

1

WHY and HOW



EXTENDING ZABBIX

Why to extend?

- › Zabbix will evenly distribute checks
- › Customized environment
- › Specific approach requirement
- › Running custom scripts/commands
- › Monitoring something that is not available
- › out-of-the-box

EXTENDING ZABBIX

How to extend?

Zabbix provides multiple different approaches to do that!

Using Zabbix agent checks:

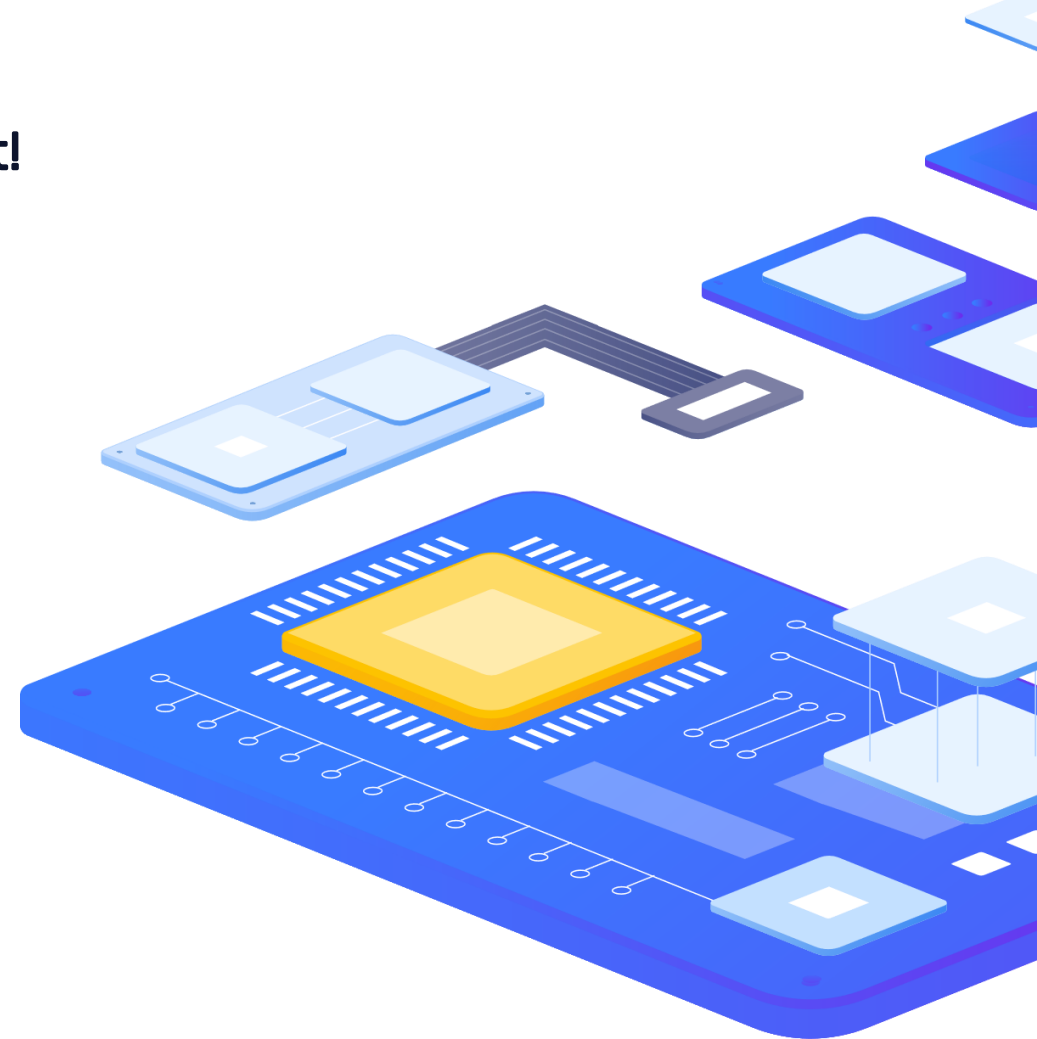
- › Using item key `system.run[*]`
- › User parameters

Agentless checks

- › External checks
- › Script items

Code-based approach

- › Zabbix API
- › Loadable modules
- › Agent 2 plugins



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SYSTEM.RUN



EXTENDING ZABBIX

SYSTEM.RUN

`system.run[command,<mode>]`

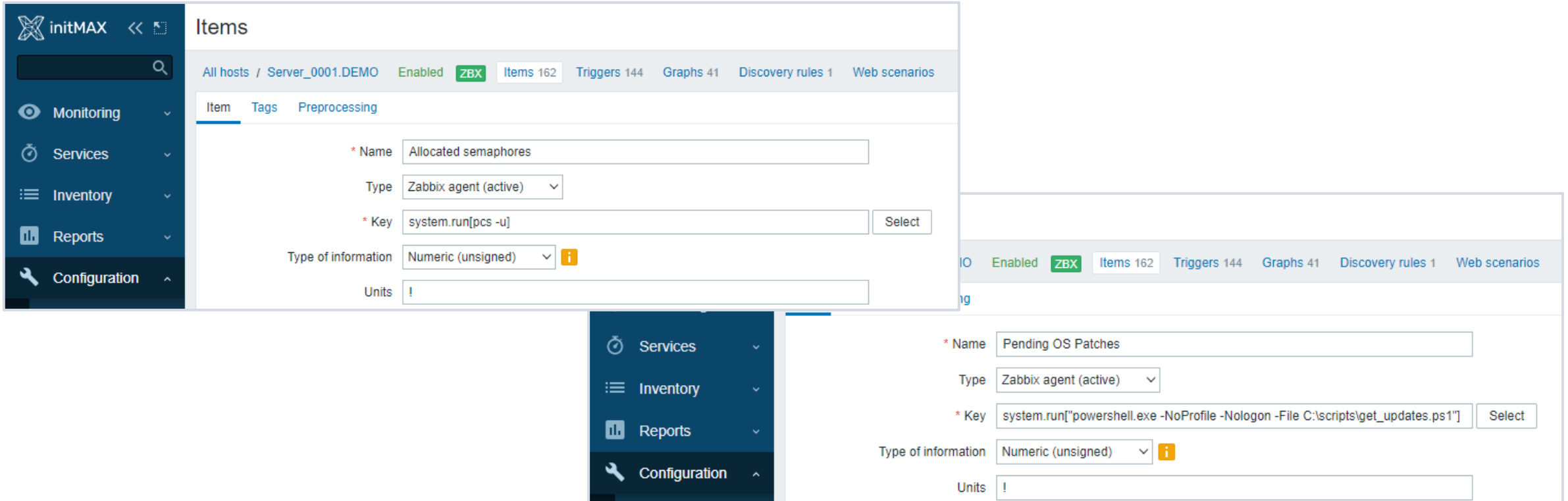
- › **command**: command that should be executed, i.e. bash or PowerShell
- › **mode**: wait/nowait
 - › **wait** - wait till end of execution (default), usually used for data gathering
 - › **nowait** - do not wait end of execution, can be used for scheduled command execution
- › Be careful with nowait option, Zabbix can create multiple processes if execution of the command takes a lot of time

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SYSTEM.RUN examples

```
system.run[ipc -u]
```

```
system.run["powershell.exe -NoProfile -Nologon -File C:\scripts\get_updates.ps1"]
```



The screenshot displays the Zabbix web interface for configuring items. The left sidebar shows navigation options: Monitoring, Services, Inventory, Reports, and Configuration. The main content area is titled 'Items' and shows a breadcrumb path: All hosts / Server_0001.DEMO. The interface includes a search bar and a status bar with 'Enabled', 'ZBX', 'Items 162', 'Triggers 144', 'Graphs 41', 'Discovery rules 1', and 'Web scenarios'. Below the breadcrumb, there are tabs for 'Item', 'Tags', and 'Preprocessing'. The 'Item' tab is active, showing the configuration for an item named 'Allocated semaphores'. The configuration fields are: Name (Allocated semaphores), Type (Zabbix agent (active)), Key (system.run[ipc -u]), Type of information (Numeric (unsigned)), and Units (!). A 'Select' button is next to the key field. A second screenshot shows the configuration for an item named 'Pending OS Patches'. The configuration fields are: Name (Pending OS Patches), Type (Zabbix agent (active)), Key (system.run["powershell.exe -NoProfile -Nologon -File C:\scripts\get_updates.ps1"]), Type of information (Numeric (unsigned)), and Units (!). A 'Select' button is next to the key field.

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SYSTEM.RUN examples

Allow remote command execution in the agent configuration:

```
# vi /etc/zabbix/zabbix_agentd.conf (or zabbix_agent2.conf)
```

```
### Option: AllowKey  
AllowKey=system.run[ipcs -u]
```

With Zabbix agents before 5.0, you need to add

```
### Option: EnableRemoteCommands - Deprecated  
EnableRemoteCommands=1
```

(This will allow any remote command execution)

Restart the agent:

```
# systemctl restart zabbix-agent (zabbix-agent2)
```


Configuring SYSTEM.RUN

Even though it is possible to allow any remote command execution with newer Zabbix agents by adding to agent configuration:

```
### Option: AllowKey  
AllowKey=system.run[*]
```

It can raise serious security concerns and a better approach is to allow only approved commands to be executed.

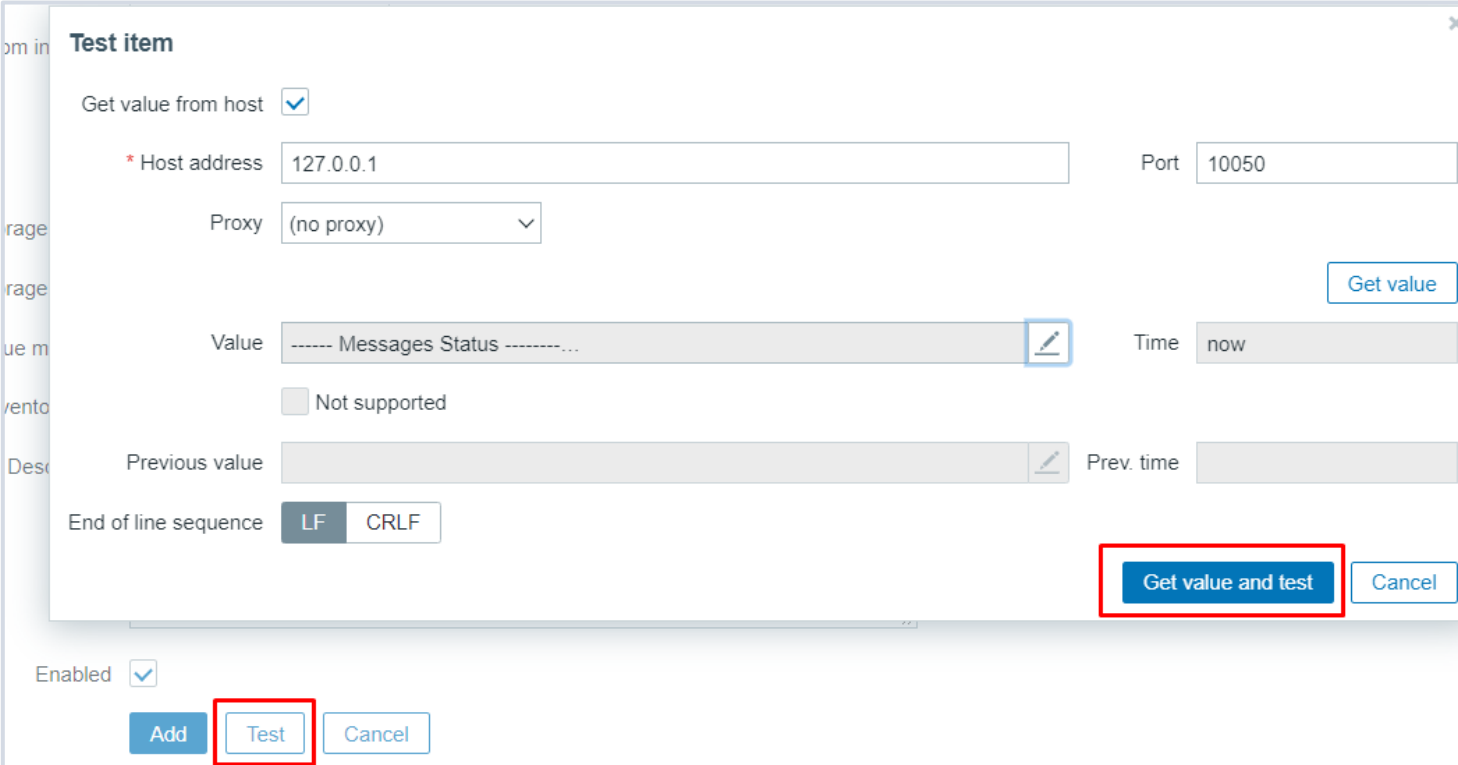
Is there a difference?

```
### Option: AllowKey  
AllowKey=system.run[*]  
AllowKey=system.run[*,*]
```

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Test if your SYSTEM can RUN the command

Starting with 5.0 you can test your newly added system.run items right from the frontend using the test button:



Test item

Get value from host

* Host address Port

Proxy

Value

Not supported

Time

Previous value

Prev. time

End of line sequence

Enabled

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Test if your SYSTEM can RUN the command

Or you can use `zabbix_get` for the same purpose:

```
# zabbix_get -s <agent-IP> -k system.run['ipcs -u']
```

```
----- Messages Status -----
```

```
allocated queues = 0
```

```
used headers = 0
```

```
used space = 0 bytes
```

```
----- Shared Memory Status -----
```

```
.....
```

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Test if your SYSTEM can RUN the command

If during testing, you see errors like:



Incorrect value for field "key_": incorrect syntax near ""\$8'"]".

Consider checking your key, if the command has quotes:

```
system.run["ps -ef | grep zabbix | awk {'print $2" "$8'}"]
```

Consider escaping them to execute the command successfully:

```
system.run["ps -ef | grep zabbix | awk {'print $2\" \"$8'}"]
```

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User Parameters



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User Parameters

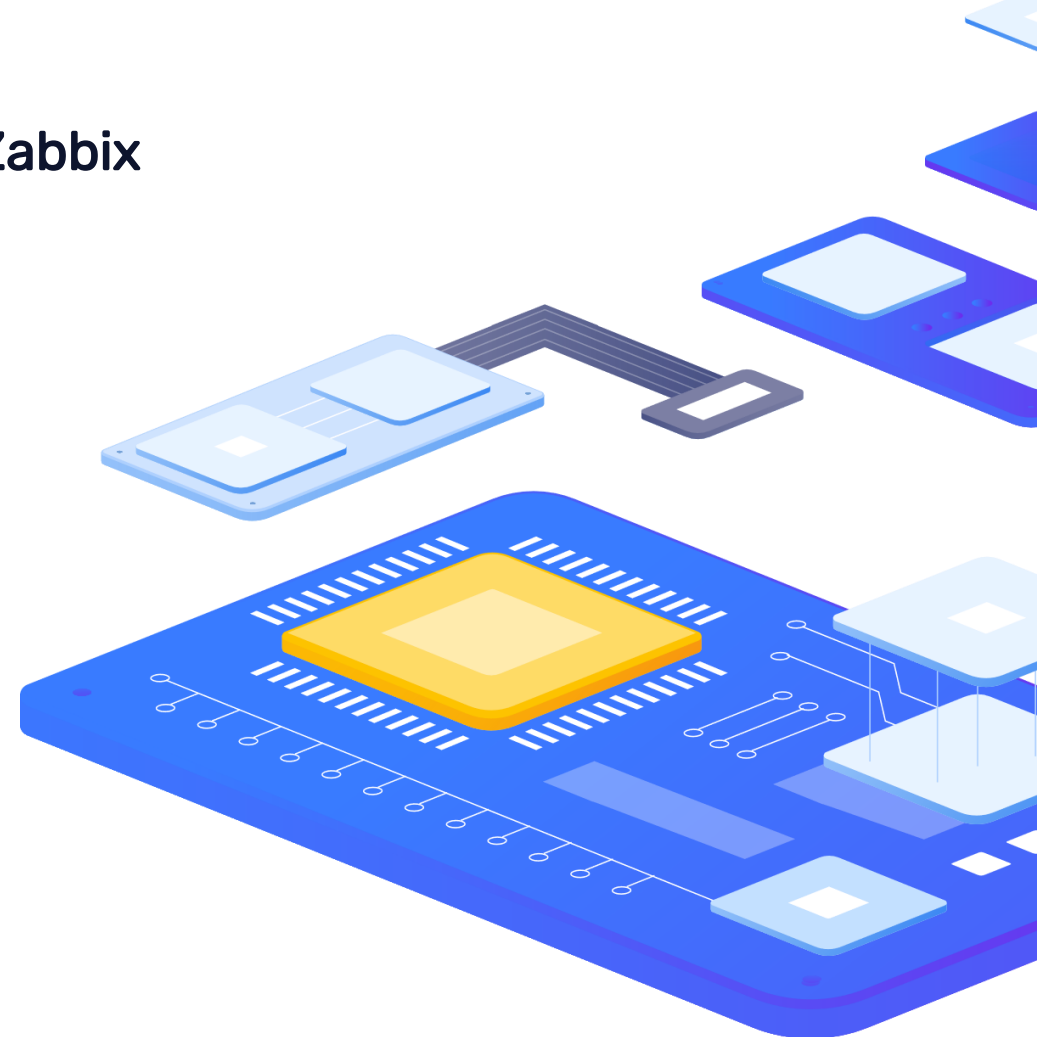
Another way of executing command, not predefined in Zabbix

- › Shell commands
- › Custom scripts

Syntax: UserParameter=key,[<command>]

- › **key** - The keys that will be used in the item, any unique key can be specified
- › **command** - Command that will be executed when the key is requested

All commands are executed under the same OS user under which Zabbix agent is running. Make sure this user will have enough permissions to execute the command specified



User Parameters

User parameters must be configured for every agent where they will be used:

- ▶ Directly in `zabbix_agentd.conf` or `zabbix_agent2.conf` files
- ▶ Included in a `.conf` file in the `zabbix_agentd.d/zabbix_agent2.d` directory (recommended)

```
### Option: UserParameter
#   User-defined parameter to monitor. There can be several user-defined parameters.
#
UserParameter=
```

UserParameter can be simple or flexible:

- ▶ Simple: `UserParameter=mysql.qps,mysqladmin status | cut -f9 -d":"`
- ▶ Flexible: `UserParameter=mysql.ping[*], mysqladmin -u$1 -p$2 ping | grep -c alive`

User Parameters

After defined in the configuration file, UserParameter can be added in the frontend:

Simple: `UserParameter=mysql.qps,mysqladmin status | cut -f9 -d":"`

* Name	<input type="text" value="MySQL queries per second"/>
Type	<input type="text" value="Zabbix agent"/>
* Key	<input type="text" value="mysql.qps"/> <input type="button" value="Select"/>

Flexible: `UserParameter=mysql.ping[*], mysqladmin -u$1 -p$2 ping | grep -c alive`

* Name	<input type="text" value="MySQL queries per second"/>
Type	<input type="text" value="Zabbix agent"/>
* Key	<input type="text" value="mysql.ping[zabbix,{\$MYSQL.PASSWORD}"/> <input type="button" value="Select"/>

User Parameters

Multiple user parameters can be defined in each agent:

- ▶ Multiple include files can be specified with different sets of parameters
- ▶ All keys per agent must be unique or Zabbix agent will exit with error:

```
ERROR: cannot add user parameter "mysql.status,mysqladmin status : key "mysql.status" already exists
```

Directory from which UserParameter will be executed can be specified:

```
### Option: UserParameterDir  
#   When executing UserParameter commands the agent will change the working directory to the one  
#   specified in the UserParameterDir option.  
UserParameterDir=
```

The return value of the command is standard output together with standard error

- ▶ Environment may not be preserved on some Unix systems

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User Parameters

Some symbols can not be passed as arguments by default:

- ▶ `\'\"`*?[]{}~$!&;()<>|#@`
- ▶ newline characters are not allowed

```
### Option: UnsafeUserParameters
# Allow all characters to be passed in arguments to user-defined parameters.
# The following characters and newline characters are not allowed:
# \'\"`*?[]{}~$!&;()<>|#@
# Range: 0-1
UnsafeUserParameters=1
```

If not set:



Special characters `"\, ', ", ` , * , ? , [,] , { , } , ~ , $, ! , & , ; , (,) , < , > , | , # , @ , 0x0a"` are not allowed in the parameters.



User Parameters

To reload list of user parameters:

- ▶ Restart Zabbix agent to re-read entire configuration

```
systemctl restart zabbix-agent
```

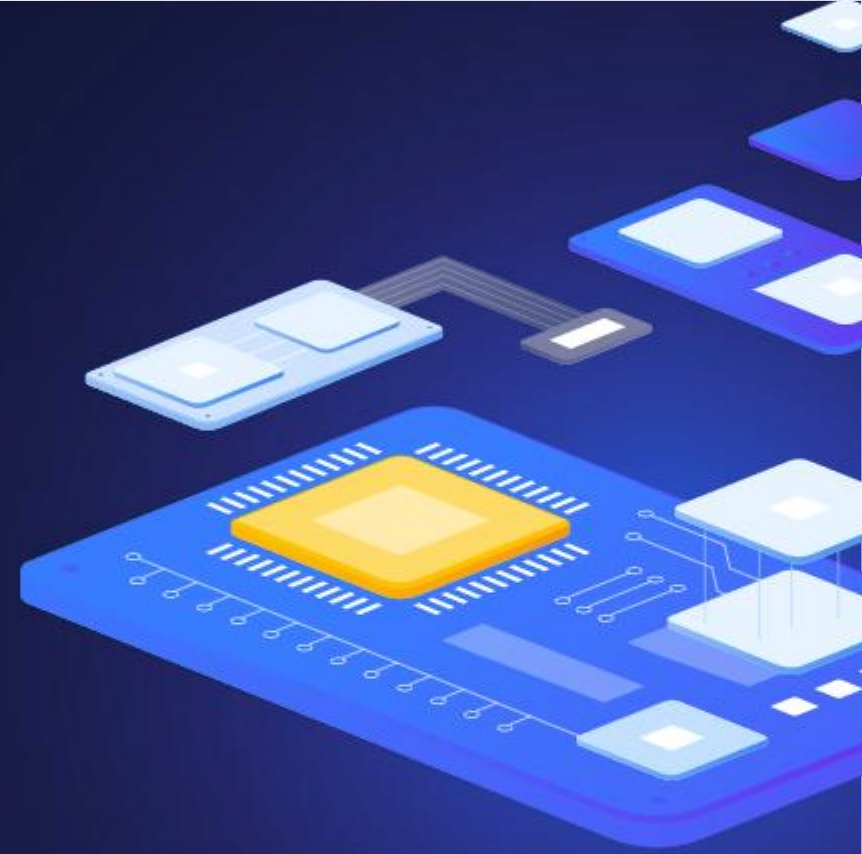
Use a specific Zabbix agent runtime command

- ▶ Works both for Zabbix agent and Zabbix agent 2
- ▶ Only user parameters will be updated, other configuration changes ignored
- ▶ Not supported for zabbix_agentd on OpenBSD, NetBSD and Windows

```
zabbix_agentd -R userparameter_reload  
zabbix_agent2 -R userparameter_reload
```

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External checks

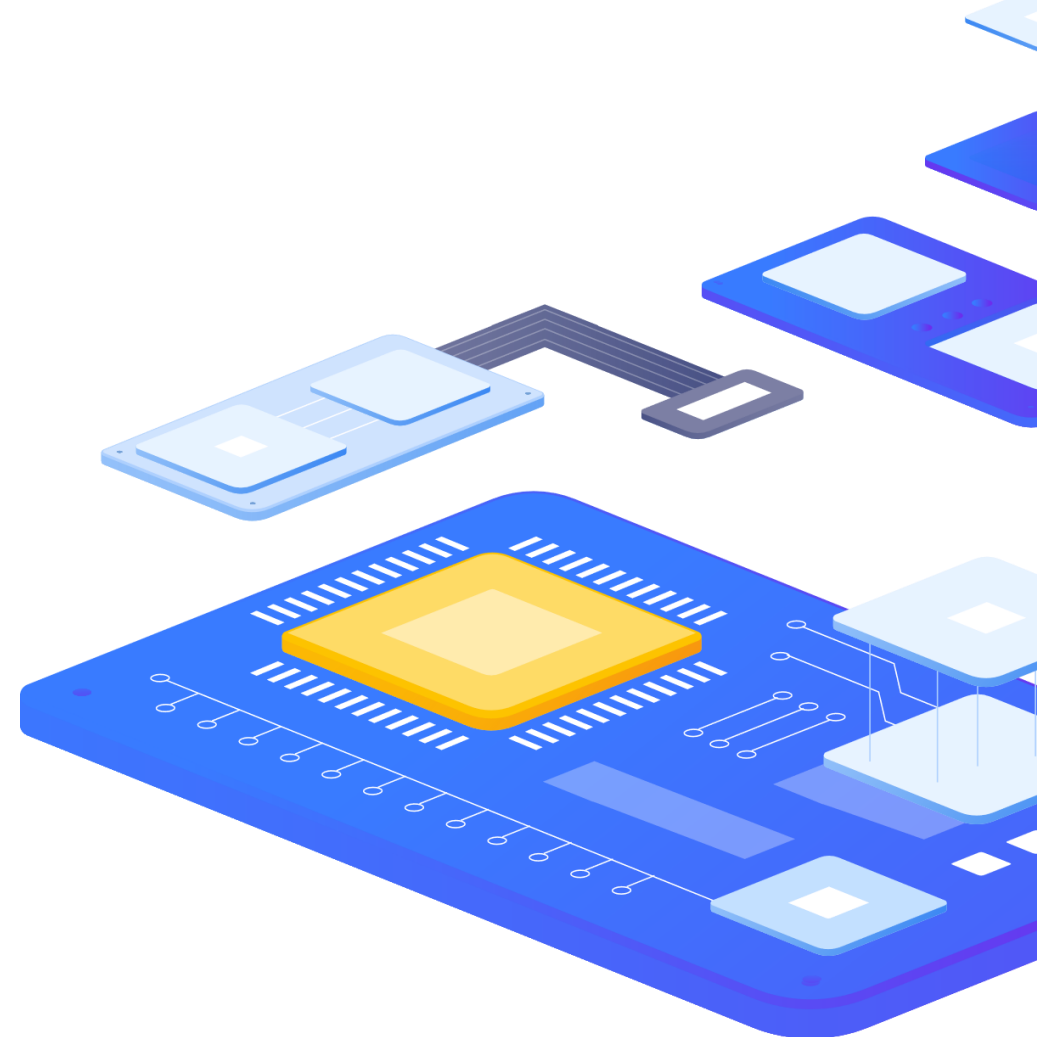


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External checks

`script[<parameter1>,<parameter2>,...]`

- › **script:** name of a shell script or a binary.
- › **parameter(s):** optional command line parameters.
- › Can be passed without parameters - use key `script[]` or `script`
- › Script must be in the directory defined as the location for external scripts in Zabbix server/proxy configuration file
- › Executed by Zabbix server/proxy under zabbix user
- › Do not overuse external checks! As each script requires starting a fork process by Zabbix server, running many scripts can decrease Zabbix performance.



External checks

Create and copy the script to folder defined in ExternalScripts parameter:

```
### Option: ExternalScripts  
# Full path to location of external scripts.  
ExternalScripts=/usr/lib/zabbix/externalscripts
```

Make sure the script is executable:

```
# chmod +x check_oracle.sh
```

Test script from the frontend or from command line under zabbix user, i.e.:

```
# su -s /bin/bash -c ./check_oracle.sh zabbix
```

If necessary, add permissions on the command to allow that user to execute it. Only commands in the specified directory are available for execution.

External checks

Create the item in the frontend:

Item	Tags	Preprocessing
* Name	<input type="text" value="Oracle status"/>	
Type	<input type="text" value="External check"/>	
* Key	<input type="text" value="check_oracle.sh[\" {host.conn}\",\"{mysql.user}\",\"{mysql.pwd}\"]"=""/>	<input type="button" value="Select"/>

Zabbix server or proxy will execute:

```
# ./check_oracle.sh 192.0.0.1 DBuser DBpassword
```

- ▶ The return value of the check is standard output together with standard error (the full output with trimmed trailing whitespace is returned since Zabbix 2.0).

External checks – Unsupported status

The item will change the status to unsupported if:

- ▶ Zabbix server lacks the necessary permissions to execute the script
- ▶ Script is not found
- ▶ Timeout has been reached while executing the script
- ▶ Exit code is not 0

A text (character, log or text type of information) item will not become unsupported in case of standard error output.

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Script items



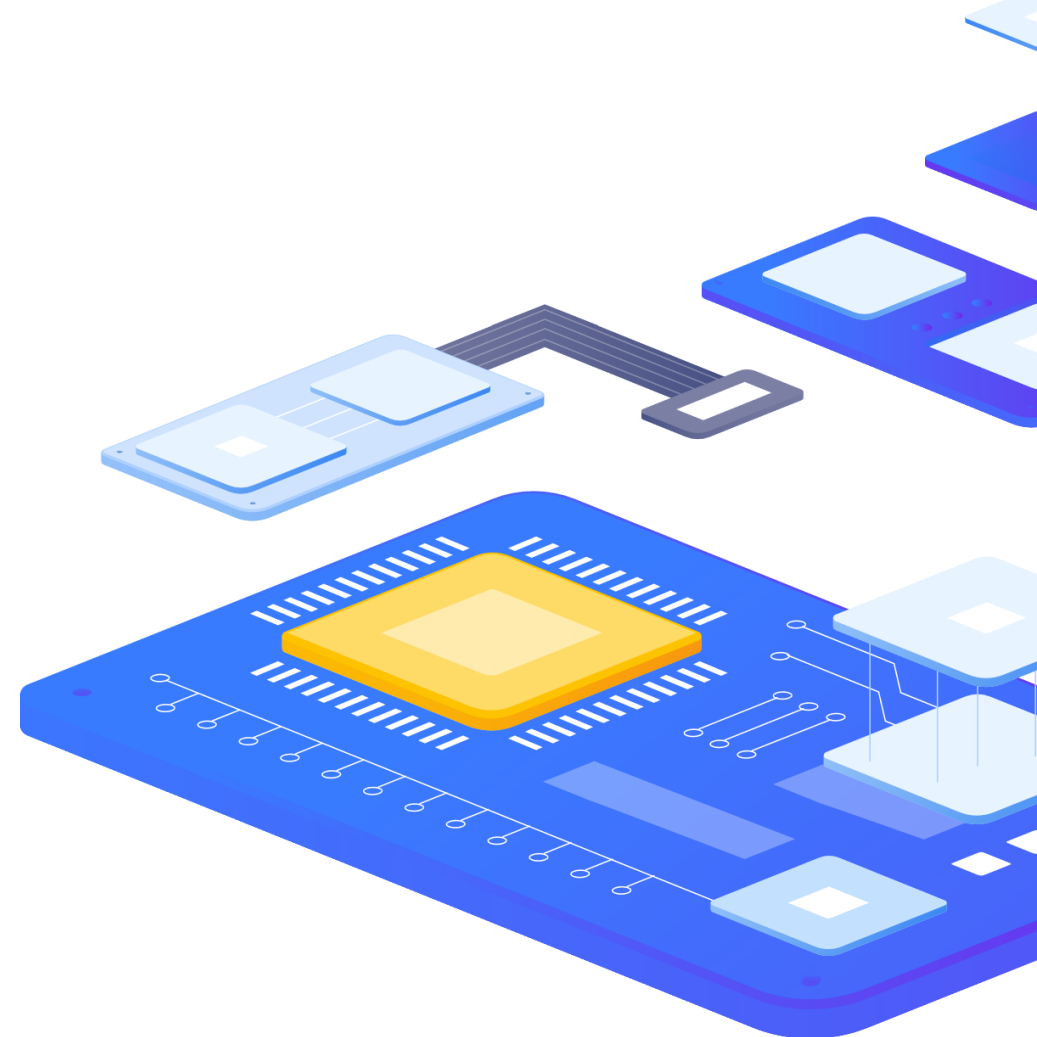
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Script Items

Item key: any unique key that will be used to identify the item.

- ▶ Can be used to collect data by executing a user-defined JavaScript code with the ability to retrieve data over HTTP/HTTPS
- ▶ Optional list of parameters (pairs of name and value) and timeout can be specified.
- ▶ Executed by Zabbix server or Zabbix proxy

Zabbix uses Duktape, an embedded Javascript engine based on ECMAScript E5/E5.1



Script Items

Fields you will need to configure:

- ▶ Key - enter a unique key that will be used to identify the item.
- ▶ Parameters - specify the variables to be passed to the script as the attribute and value pairs. Built-in macros and user macros are supported.
- ▶ Script - JavaScript code. This code must provide the logic for returning the metric value. May perform HTTP GET, POST, PUT and DELETE requests and has control over HTTP headers and request body.
- ▶ Timeout - JavaScript execution timeout (1-60s, default 3s).

Note: parameters are passed as JSON string, which you can parse to an object and use in the script

Script Items

Create a script type item:

Item [Tags](#) [Preprocessing](#)

* Name

Type


* Key

Type of information

Parameters

Name	Value	Action
<input type="text" value="url"/>	<input type="text" value="{ \$DOMAIN }"/>	Remove
<input type="text" value="subpage"/>	<input type="text" value="/release_notes"/>	Remove

[Add](#)

* Script 

Script Items

- ▶ With script like:

```
var obj = JSON.parse(value);  
var url = obj.url;  
var subpage = obj.subpage;  
var request = new HttpRequest();  
return request.get(url + subpage);
```

- ▶ To get the content of Zabbix release page and make use of parameters.

- ▶ Note: multiple HTTP requests can be made too:

```
var request = new HttpRequest();  
return request.get("https://www.zabbix.com") + request.get("https://www.zabbix.com/release_notes");
```

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Zabbix API

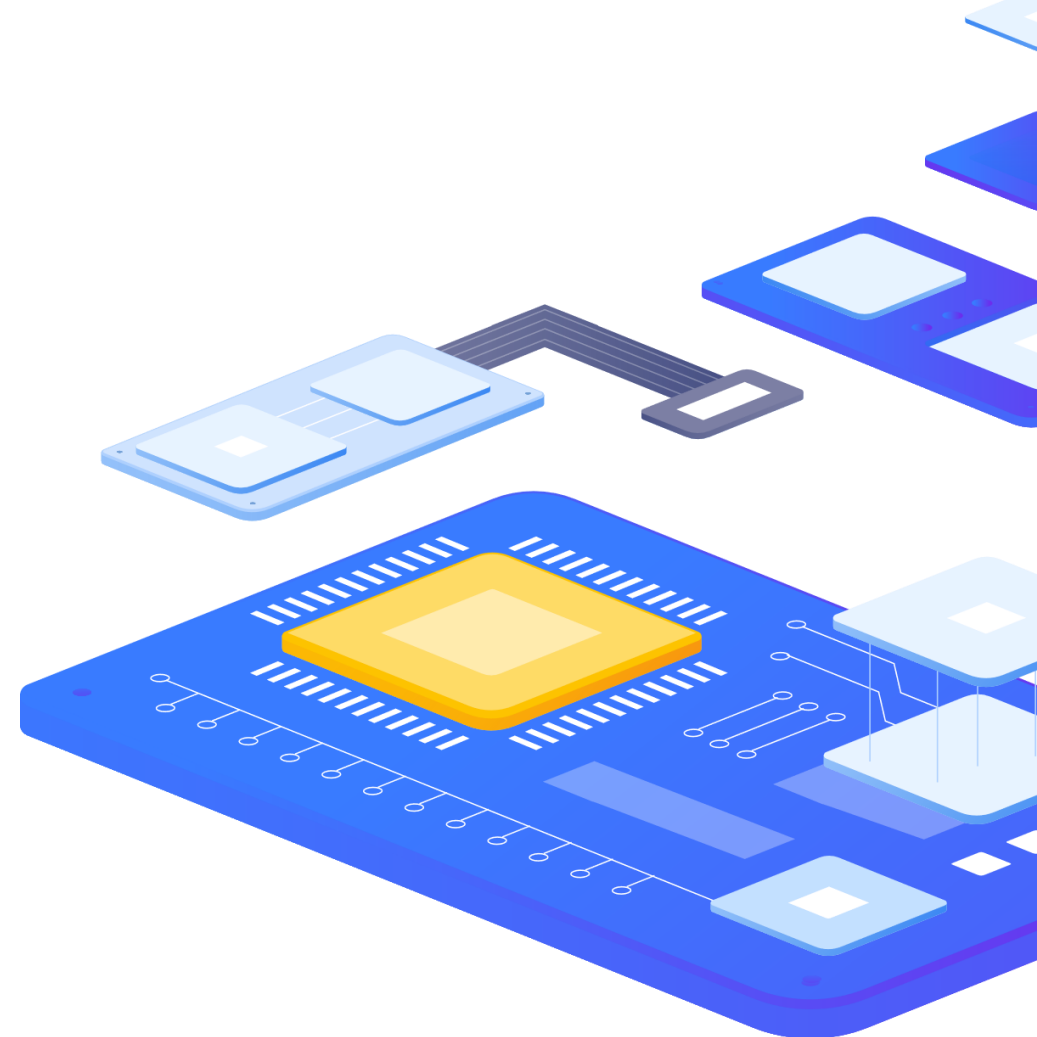


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Zabbix API

Allows you to:

- › Programmatically retrieve and modify the configuration of Zabbix
- › Access historical data
- › Create new applications to work with Zabbix
- › Integrate Zabbix with third party software
- › Automate routine tasks
- › Control User Permissions from the frontend



Zabbix API

Zabbix API connects to the Zabbix frontend:

- › Address that will be used - http://zabbix.example.com/zabbix/api_jsonrpc.php.
- › Protocol used - JSON-RPC 2.0
- › Consists of multiple separate method, like `host.create`, `history.get`, etc.
- › Each method described in the documentation with examples
- › Communication is encoded using the JSON format.

Zabbix API – Login method

Before getting any data, you will need to login:

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "method": "user.login",
  "params": {
    "user": "zabbix_api",
    "password": "afHhYTTQhsBX"
  },
  "id": 1,
  "auth": null
}
```

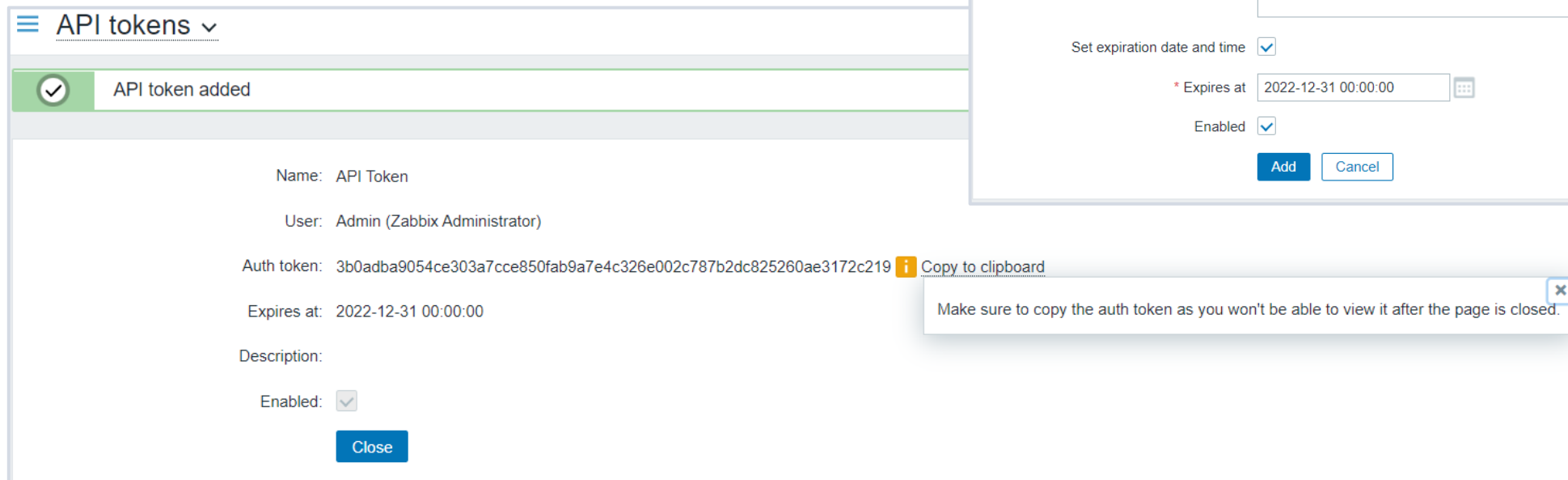
And get the authentication token:

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "result": "0424bd59b80767b54e4191e7",
  "id": 1
}
```

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Zabbix API – API Token

Or even simpler:
generate API token in the Zabbix frontend:



The image shows two overlapping screenshots from the Zabbix web interface. The background screenshot shows the 'API tokens' management page with a green notification bar at the top that says 'API token added'. Below the notification, the details of the newly created token are displayed: Name: API Token, User: Admin (Zabbix Administrator), Auth token: 3b0adba9054ce303a7cce850fab9a7e4c326e002c787b2dc825260ae3172c219 (with a 'Copy to clipboard' icon), Expires at: 2022-12-31 00:00:00, Description: (empty), and Enabled: . A 'Close' button is at the bottom. The foreground screenshot is a modal form for creating a new API token. It has a title 'API tokens' and a dropdown arrow. The form fields include: Name (API Token), User (Admin (Zabbix Administrator) with a 'Select' button), Description (empty text area), 'Set expiration date and time' (checked), Expires at (2022-12-31 00:00:00 with a calendar icon), and Enabled (checked). 'Add' and 'Cancel' buttons are at the bottom. A tooltip is visible over the 'Auth token' field in the background screenshot, stating: 'Make sure to copy the auth token as you won't be able to view it after the page is closed.'

Zabbix API – Method Call

Now you can configure your Zabbix and get needed reports trough API, like finding hosts where inventory field os contains Centos:

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "method": "host.get",
  "params": {
    "searchInventory": {
      "os": "Centos"
    },
    "selectInventory": ["os","type"],
    "output": ["hostid","name"]
  },
  "auth": "<PUT AUTHENTICATION TOKEN HERE>",
  "id": 1
}
```

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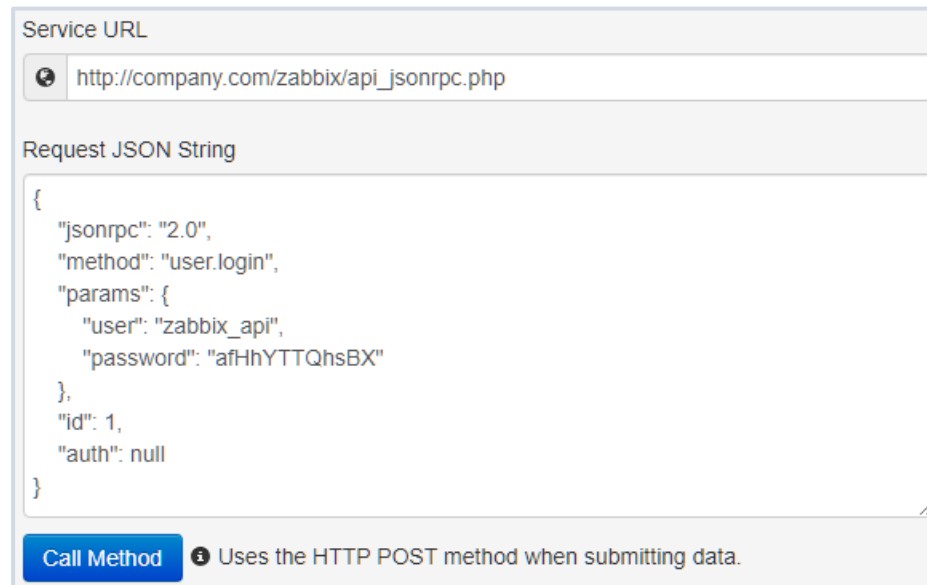
Zabbix API

It is possible to use any utility to POST the JSON-RPC data to Zabbix API:

GUI based utilities:

Command line utilities:

```
curl -s -X POST -H 'Content-Type: application/json-rpc' -d '{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "method": "user.login",
  "params": {
    "user": "zabbix_api",
    "password": "afHhYTTQhsBX"
  },
  "id": 1,
  "auth": null
}' http://www.initmax.cz/zabbix/api_jsonrpc.php
```



The screenshot shows a web-based interface for calling a Zabbix API method. It features a text input field for the Service URL, a text area for the Request JSON String, and a Call Method button. A tooltip indicates that the HTTP POST method is used for data submission.

Service URL

Request JSON String

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "method": "user.login",
  "params": {
    "user": "zabbix_api",
    "password": "afHhYTTQhsBX"
  },
  "id": 1,
  "auth": null
}
```

Call Method ⓘ Uses the HTTP POST method when submitting data.

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Zabbix API

Or even by using various programming or scripting languages :

- › Use programming language you are familiar with
- › Control workflow using built-in operands
- › Some programming languages have Zabbix API plugins



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Loadable Modules



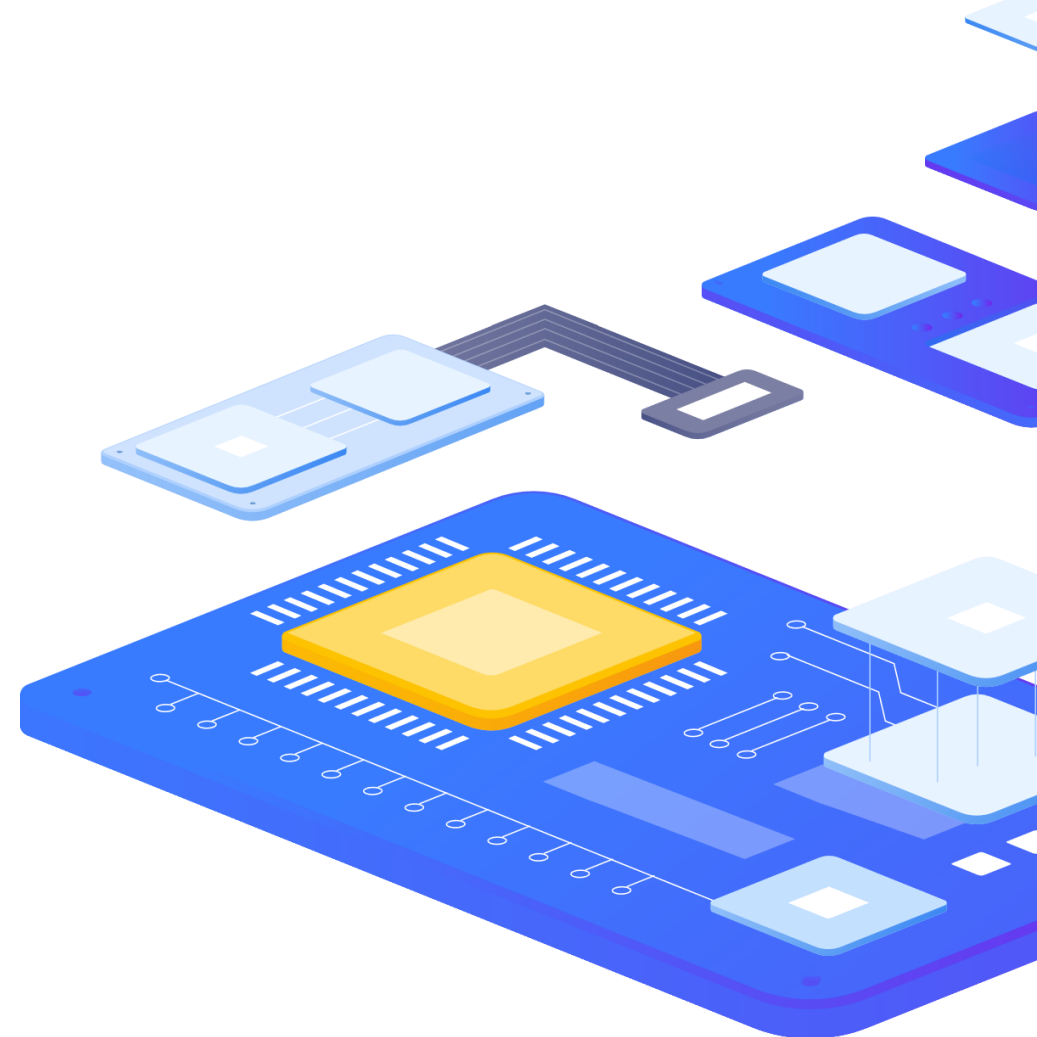
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Loadable Modules

Ability to implement any logic in C language:

- › Is a shared library used by Zabbix daemon and loaded on startup
- › Typically, modules will have .so extension
- › Can be built into Zabbix server, agent or proxy
- › perform ~10 times faster than user parameters, commands or scripts

Can be used only within Unix platforms. Won't work for agents in a Windows environment



Loadable Modules

There are currently six functions in the Zabbix module API:

One is mandatory:

- › `zbx_module_api_version()` - returns the API version implemented by this module

Five other are optional:

- › `zbx_module_init()` - performs the initialization for the module
- › `zbx_module_item_list()` - returns a list of item keys supported by the module
- › `zbx_module_item_timeout()` - specifies the timeout for items implemented by the module
- › `zbx_module_history_write_cbs()` - returns functions to write history data of different types
- › `zbx_module_uninit()` - performs the necessary uninitialization such as freeing allocated resources, closing file descriptors, etc.

Loadable Modules

Zabbix agent, server and proxy support two parameters to deal with modules:

LoadModulePath – full path to the location of loadable modules

LoadModule – module names to load at startup, which contain:

- › Module name for modules included in the LoadModulePath
- › Module name with a full path starting with / (LoadModulePath is ignored)

```
LoadModulePath=/usr/local/lib/zabbix/agent/  
LoadModule=mysql.so  
LoadModule=apache.so  
LoadModule=/home/myuser/mymodule.so
```

Zabbix component will fail to start if:

- › The module file is missing
- › In case of bad permissions (must be readable by Zabbix user)
- › If a shared library is not a Zabbix module

7

GO Plugins



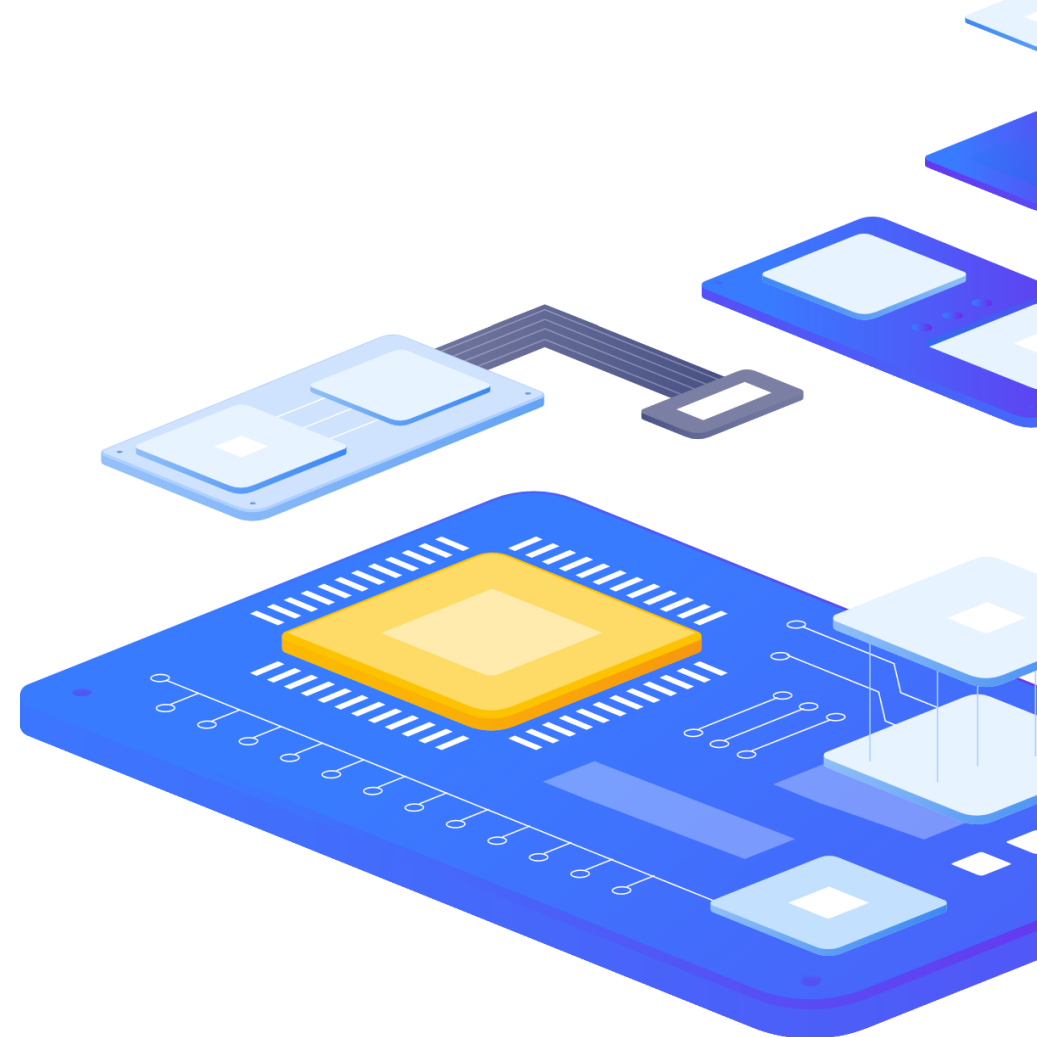
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GO Plugins

Zabbix Agent 2 gives Zabbix more capabilities for data collection on the “GO”

- › Less complicated than C Loadable modules, so creating plugins is much more accessible.
- › Agent interacts with plugins through a two-tier task queue:
- › Each plugin has a task queue;
- › Scheduler has an active plugin queue.
- › Ensures better concurrency.

GO plugins are available exclusively for Zabbix Agent 2



GO Plugins

For Zabbix Agent 2 five interfaces are available:

- › **Exporter** - A very simple interface that polls metrics and returns a value, several values, an error, or nothing at all
- › **Watcher** - With Watcher you can implement a metric polling process without using Scheduler. This may be useful for plugins that use trapping
- › **Collector** - is used for plugins that need to collect data regularly. However, it can't return data, so you'll need Exporter for that.
- › **Runner** - provides a way to perform initialization when a plugin is activated (the Start() function) and deinitialization when it is stopped (the Stop() function).
- › **Configurator** - serves for configuring plugins.

GO Plugins

A plugin is simply a Go package with one or several interfaces that define its logic:

```
package packageName
import "zabbix.com/pkg/plugin"
type Plugin struct {
    plugin.Base
}
var impl Plugin
func (p *Plugin) Export(key string, params []string, ctx plugin.ContextProvider) (res interface{}, err error) {
    // Write your code here
    return
}
func init() {
    plugin.RegisterMetrics(&impl, "PluginName", "key", "Description.")
}
```

8

Questions?



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