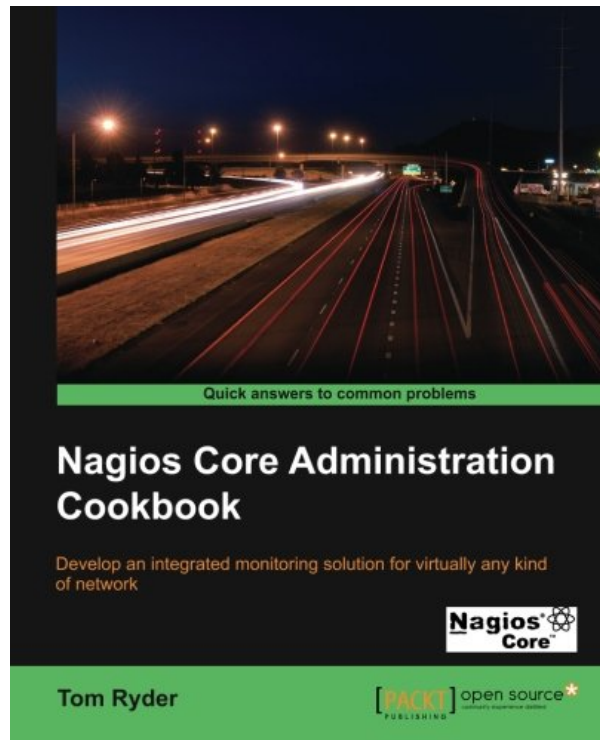
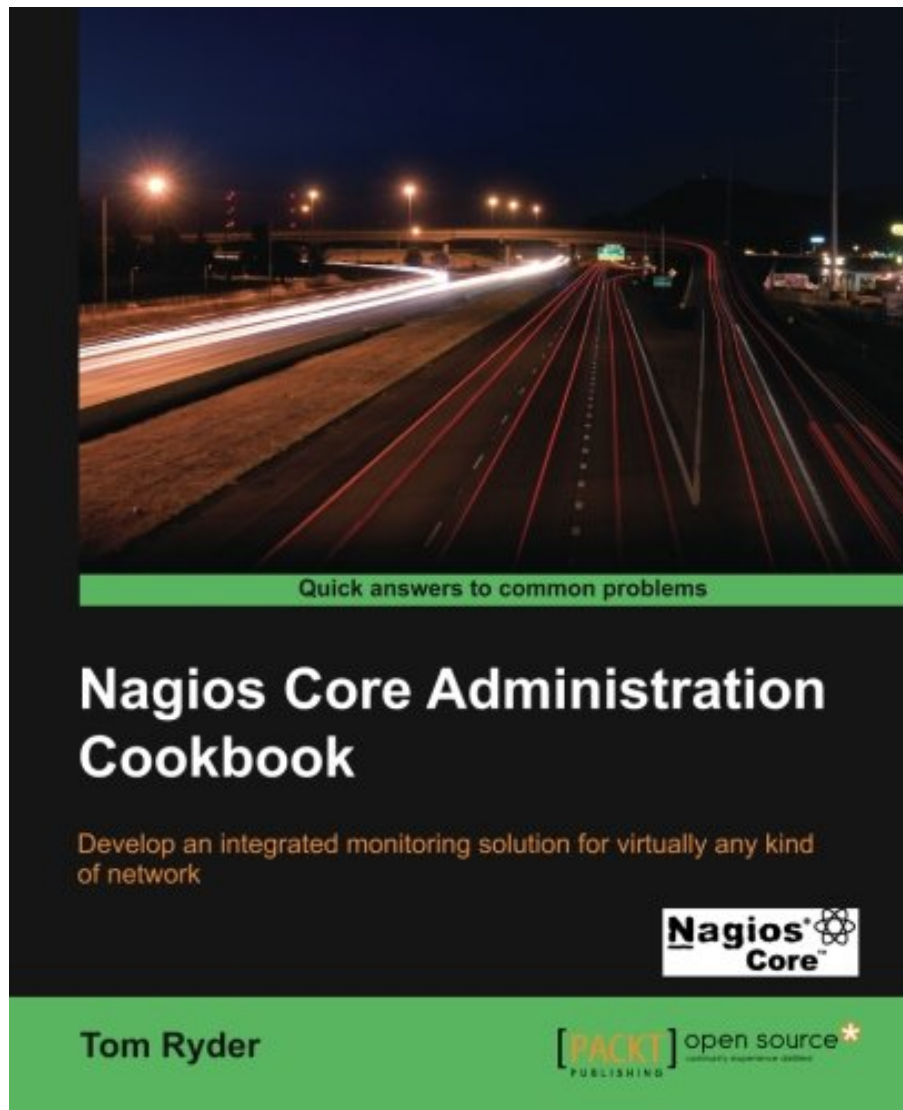


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Tom Ryder is a systems administrator and former web developer from New Zealand. He uses Nagios Core as part of his "day job" as a systems administrator, monitoring the network for a regional internet service provider. Tom works a great deal with UNIX-like systems, being a particular fan of GNU/Linux, and writes about usage of open source command line development tools on his blog Arabesque: <http://blog.sanctum.geek.nz>.

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The ideal book for System Administrators who want to move their network monitoring to an advanced level. This book covers the powerful features and flexibility of Nagios Core, and its recipes can be applied to virtually any network.

Overview

- Monitor almost anything in a network.
- Control notifications in your network by configuring Nagios Core.
- Get a handle on best practices and time-saving configuration methods for a leaner configuration.
- Use the web interface to control notification behaviour on the fly and for scheduled outages, without restarts
- Pull Nagios Core's data into a database to write clever custom reports of your own devising

In Detail

Network monitoring requires significantly more than just pinging hosts. This cookbook will help you to comprehensively test your networks' major functions on a regular basis.

"Nagios Core Administration Cookbook" will show you how to use Nagios Core as a monitoring framework that understands the layers and subtleties of the network for intelligent monitoring and notification behaviour.

Nagios Core Administration Guide introduces the reader to methods of extending Nagios Core into a network monitoring solution. The book begins by covering the basic structure of hosts, services, and contacts and then goes on to discuss advanced usage of checks and notifications, and configuring intelligent behaviour with network paths and dependencies. The cookbook emphasizes using Nagios Core as an extensible monitoring framework. By the end of the book, you will learn that Nagios Core is capable of doing much more than pinging a host or to check if websites respond.

What you will learn from this book

- Finding, installing, and writing your own plugins, and learning to reference them as Nagios Core commands for use as host and service checks, including workarounds for making checks through difficult network layouts such as those using Network Address Translation.
- Managing notifications to send the right kind of notifications to the right people at the right time, and defining contact methods besides simple email messages, including an example of automatic contact rotation.
- In-depth examples of using the standard set of Nagios Plugins for common network monitoring needs, with discussion of generic methods for monitoring the results of SNMP queries.
- Remote monitoring methods to handle the situations where Nagios Core cannot directly check a service's

status over the network, to check things such as database servers that only listen locally, or hardware devices with no SNMP OIDs exported.

- Defining network structure and dependencies in Nagios Core to enable it to perform its notification behavior more intelligently, and allow you to very quickly find the "root" of particular problems; also how to reflect this structure in the network map once defined, and even decorate it.
- Best practices for managing Nagios Core configuration to make it leaner, more robust, and better suited to programatically generating configuration as specified by other systems.
- Automating other interactions with Nagios Core, including using passive checks to track tasks being performed both locally and in other parts of the network, or running scripts automatically in response to checks; also includes discussion of developing your own reports or vizualisations using automatically exported data from the system.

Approach

This book is written in Cookbook style, beginning with recipes based on basic structure which gradually progresses towards using Nagios Core as a monitoring framework.

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Most helpful customer reviews

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Awesome resource and instruction

By Richard J Breiten

I have to say, most of my knowledge of Nagios comes solely from surfing the internet, trial and error, and Google. I wish I had this book over a year and a half ago when I first started learning about this software. The topics are extremely easy to follow and start from the very basics to advanced topics including redundant servers and monitoring Nagios own performance. The illustrations that accompany the text are very easy to follow and understand and help, rather than hinder, the information. I really like the way the book is laid in terms of chapters and sections - new information is presented, explained, and detailed, but then there's a section called "There's more..." which delves deeper into the specific topic. In all, for sys admins and others who wish they could monitor their networks in real-time and be more proactive, this book

is an invaluable source and constant companion. I can't recommend this book enough. More information about this book can be found here - [...]. Do yourself a favor - save yourself the headaches, the constant Googling, and headscratching and pick up this book. You'll thank yourself in the end.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Awesome

By A. Gage

This book is really well written and walks you through all aspects of Nagios from getting started to advanced topics such as configuring a redundant server. I have been using Nagios for many years and was surprised that I was able to expand my knowledge and develop a better understanding of topics I had previously struggled with. The author also does a great job explaining difficult concepts in a simple way that make it easy to understand. The format is a little odd, each of the topics are written as recipes of a cookbook of Nagios mastery. However, this actually seems to be a good way to dissect Nagios into small parts that are able to be easily understood. Each recipe also gives back and forward references to materials you might want to look at first as a prerequisite or afterwards to expand the concept. There are also lots of references to external content if you wish to learn more about specific topics that are covered briefly in the book. I recommend this book to anyone looking to get started with Nagios or to people who wish to expand their Nagios knowledge.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent Nagios cookbook

By Yeonki

I've involved in a cloud development project. I use Nagios core for monitoring servers and devices in this project. As we know, Nagios is one of famous open sourced monitoring tools. I needed references in dealing with Nagios. While I was reading this, it remind me of basic concept of Nagios again.

There are some sections in every chapter. "How to do it" , "How it works" and "There's more". it describes how we start a certain feature of Nagios according to the section in "How to do it" and then explains its mechanism with easy way in "How it works" and finally there is additional contents related to the chapter in "There's more"

There is impressive paragraph in the book that nagios is close to MONITORING FRAMWORK rather than monitoring tool. It is perfect that describes nagios characteristic because it has already provide ecosystem, for example, lots of plugins support . And it is important to know where to find if need specific plugin that doesn't meet requirements. Author instructed that how to find a plugin that the administrator needs and where.

People who are unfamiliar with Nagios, in my opinion, they may be confused that Nagios has SOFT and HARD state in response to server or host failing. In chapter 3, author tries to explain the difference between two by giving an understandable example.

At last, in chapter 11, he gives an explanation about add-on projects like NRPE, NSClient++, NDOUtils and SNMP trap. If you need to extend the feature of Nagios to provide better-fitting solution on you own production, this will very helpful to you.

See all 7 customer reviews...

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