ZABBIX 200 YEARS

Improving Your Resource Low-Level Discovery Workflows with Bulk Data Collection

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Course Content Creator

Low-level discovery



Low-level discovery

Low-level discovery is a core Zabbix feature used to automate creation and management of resources

- Automatically discover resources such as file systems, services, network interfaces, containers and more
- Automatically react to resources being added or removed
- Use filters to discover only the required resources
- Instantly apply changes to all of the discovered resources

Cisco c3750	Cisco IOS by SNMP: Cisco IOS: SNMP walk system CPUs: CPU Discovery				CPU			Trigger prototypes 1		Graph prototypes 1
Cisco c3750		co IOS by SNMP: Cisco IOS: SNI ty Serial Numbers Discovery	VP walk entity seria	al nur	nbers:			Trigger prototypes	1	Graph prototypes
Cisco c3750		co IOS by SNMP: Cisco IOS: SNI faces: EtherLike-MIB Discovery	MP walk EtherLike-	MIB		Item Trigger prototypes 1 prototyp		Trigger prototypes	1	Graph prototypes
Cisco c3750	Cisco IOS by SNMP: Cisco IOS: SNMP walk fans: FAN Discovery				overy	Item prote	otypes 1	Trigger prototypes	2	Graph prototypes
Host		Name 🛦		Iter	ns		Triggers		Graph	IS
Linux ser	ver	Block devices discovery		Iter	n prototype	es 9	Trigger pr	ototypes 1	Graph	prototypes 3
Linux ser	ver	Get filesystems: Mounted files	ystem discovery	Iter	n prototype	es 7	Trigger pr	ototypes 5	Graph	prototypes 2
Linux ser	ver	Network interface discovery		Iter	n prototype	es 9	Trigger pr	ototypes 4	Graph	prototypes 1
Template		Name 🔺	Items		Triggers		Gra	phs	F	losts
AWS by HTT	Ρ	EC2 instances discovery	Item prototype	s	Trigger pro	ototype	is Gra	ph prototypes	H	lost prototypes 1
AWS by HTT	Ρ	ECS clusters discovery	Item prototype	s	Trigger pro	ototype	s Gra	ph prototypes	H	lost prototypes 1
AWS by HTT	Р	ELB load balancers discovery	Item prototype	s	Trigger pro	ototype	is Gra	ph prototypes	H	lost prototypes 1

AWS by HTT

AWS by HTT

Host prototypes



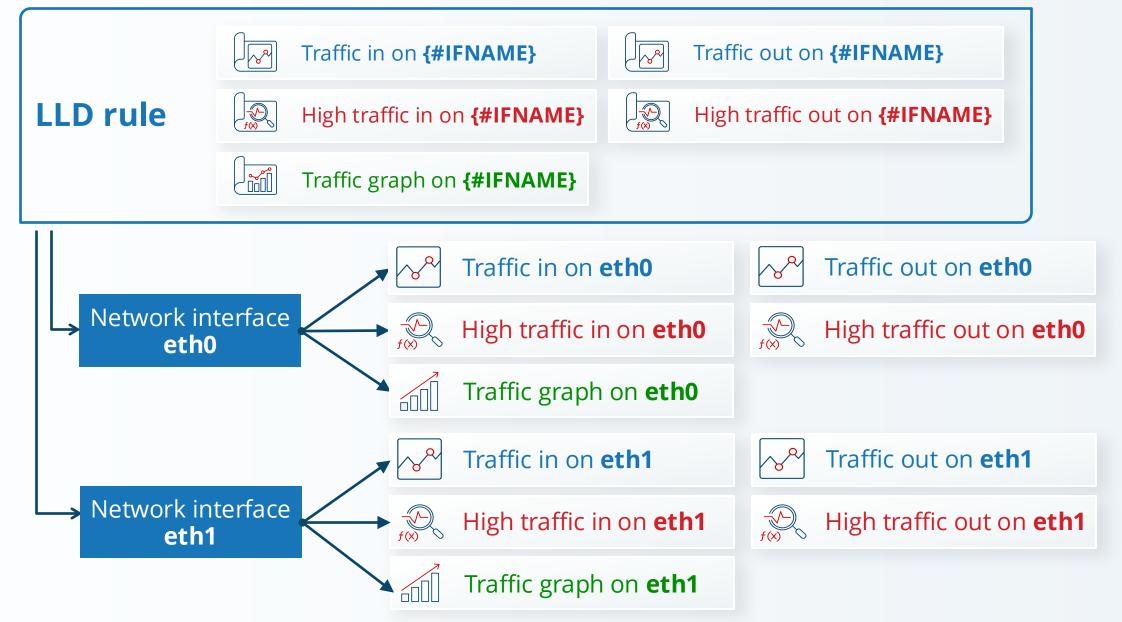
Low-level discovery prototypes

Low-level discovery rules create items, triggers, graphs and hosts from prototypes

- Prototypes behave like blueprints for discovered entities
- Low-level discovery macros {#MACRO}, are used in resource prototypes and are populated with the attributes of the discovered resources

		Name 🔺	Кеу		Interval	History	Trends	Туре
	•••	Interface {#IFNAME}: Bits received	net.if.in["{#IFNAME}"]		3m	7d	365d	Zabbix agent
	•••	Interface {#IFNAME}: Bits sent	net.if.out["{#IFNAME}"]		3m	7d	365d	Zabbix agent
		Name 🔺		Triggers	Key			Interval
	•••	Network interface discovery: Interface	e eth0: Bits received	Triggers 1	net.if	.in["eth	0"]	3m
	•••	Network interface discovery: Interface	e eth0: Bits sent	Triggers 1	net.if	out["et.	h0"]	3m
	•••	Network interface discovery: Interface	e lo: Bits received	Triggers 1	net.if	.in["lo"]		3m
	•••	Network interface discovery: Interface	e lo: Bits sent	Triggers 1	net.if	out["lo	"]	3m







Low-level discovery data

Under the hood low-level discovery uses JSON data with "macro":"value" pairs

- Any item type can be used for low-level discovery
- For some item types, Zabbix automatically formats the collected data in LLD format
- For other item types, the data must be transformed manually – either before Zabbix receives it or once the data is received by using preprocessing and LLD macro assignments via JSONPath

- 1	
{	"{#FSNAME}":"/", "{#FSTYPE}":"rootfs" },
{	"{#FSNAME}":"/sys", "{#FSTYPE}":"sysfs" },
	<pre>"{#FSNAME}":"/proc", "{#FSTYPE}":"proc" },</pre>
{	<pre>"{#FSNAME}":"/dev", "{#FSTYPE}":"devtmpfs" },</pre>
{	<pre>"{#FSNAME}":"/dev/pts", "{#FSTYPE}":"devpts" },</pre>
{	<pre>"{#FSNAME}":"/lib/init/rw", "{#FSTYPE}":"tmpfs" },</pre>
{	<pre>"{#FSNAME}":"/dev/shm", "{#FSTYPE}":"tmpfs" },</pre>
{	"{#FSNAME}":"/home", "{#FSTYPE}":"ext3" },
{	"{#FSNAME}":"/tmp", "{#FSTYPE}":"ext3" },
{	"{#FSNAME}":"/usr", "{#FSTYPE}":"ext3" },
{	"{#FSNAME}":"/var", "{#FSTYPE}":"ext3" },
{	<pre>"{#FSNAME}":"/sys/fs/fuse/connections", "{#FSTYPE}":"fusectl" }</pre>
1	



Dependent items utilize another item – master item as the source of data

- Dependent item values are extract from the master item via preprocessing
- An unlimited number of dependent items can be create d
- Dependent items don't have an update interval they are updated together with the master item

	Name 🔺	Triggers	Кеу	Interval	History	Trends	Туре	Status	Tags
•••	MySQL: Get status variables		mysql.get_status_variables["{\$MYSQL.DSN}","{\$MYSQL.USER}","{\$MYSQL.PASSWORD}"]	1m	0		Zabbix agent	Enabled	component: raw
•••	MySQL: Get status variables: MySQL: Threads cached		mysql.threads_cached		7d	365d	Dependent item	Enabled	component: threads
•••	MySQL: Get status variables: MySQL: Threads connected		mysql.threads_connected		7d	365d	Dependent item	Enabled	component: threads
•••	MySQL: Get status variables: MySQL: Threads created per second		mysql.threads_created.rate		7d	365d	Dependent item	Enabled	component: threads
•••	MySQL: Get status variables: MySQL: Threads running		mysql.threads_running		7d	365d	Dependent item	Enabled	component: threads
								D	isplaving 5 of 5 found



Dependent items utilize preprocessing to extract values from the master item

- At least one preprocessing step is required
- If no preprocessing step is defined, the dependant item will copy the values collected by the master item

		Item			
Item Tags 1 Preprocessin	ng 2	Item Tags 1 Prepro	ocessing 2		
Parent items	MongoDB node by Zabbix agent 2	Preprocessing steps ?	Name		Parameters
* Name	Bytes in, rate		1: JSONPath	~	\$.network.bytesIn
Туре	Dependent item 🗸		2: Change per se	cond 🗸	
* Key	mongodb.network.bytes_in.rate		Add		
Type of information	Numeric (float) 🗸	Type of information	Numeric (float)	~	
* Master item	MongoDB: Get server status ×	Sele			
Units	Bps				



Master item	Item Tags 1 Preprocessing 2
	Preprocessing steps (?) Name
່ "asserts": {	1: JSONPath
"msg": 0,	2: Change per second
"regular": 0, "rollovers": 0,	Add
"tripwire": 0,	
"user": 773,	
"warning": 0	
<pre>}, "batchedDeletes": { "batches": 1.</pre>	
"batches": 1,	
"docs": 1,	Item Tags 1 Preprocessing 2
"refetchesDueToYield": 0,	Preprocessing steps (?) Name
"stagedSizeBytes": 275, "timeInBatchMillis": 0	1: JSONPath
<pre>},</pre>	
''changeStreamPreImages": {	2: Change per second
"purgingJob": {	Add
"bytesDeleted": 0,	
"docsDeleted": 0, "maxStartWallTimeMillis": 0,	
"scannedCollections": 0,	
"scannedInternalCollections": 0,	
"timeElapsedMillis": 0, "totalPass": 0	Item Tags 1 Preprocessing 2
}	Preprocessing steps ? Name
····	1: JSONPath
∫, "uri": "statistics:"	
}	2: Change per second
}	Add

Preprocessing steps	Name	Parameters	
	1: JSONPath	 ✓ \$.asserts.regular 	
	2: Change per second	~	
	Add		
Item Tags 1 Prepro	ocessing 2		
Preprocessing steps 👔	Name	Parameters	
	1: JSONPath	 ✓ \$.asserts.user 	
	2: Change per second	~	
	Add		
Item Tags 1 Preproc	essing 2		
Preprocessing steps 🕐	Name	Parameters	
	1: JSONPath	✓ \$.asserts.warning	
	2: Change per second	~	

Dependent items:

Name 🔺	Last check	Last value
Asserts: message, rate	9s	0
Asserts: regular, rate 2	9s	0
Asserts: rollovers, rate 2	9s	0
Asserts: user, rate	9s	0.01667
Asserts: warning, rate	9s	0



Dependent items - notes

- Using dependent items can reduce data collection performance overhead
- The data is collected via a single request and processed by Zabbix
- Any type of preprocessing can be used to transform data
- Most commonly JSONPath/Xpath/Regex preprocessing is used
- Low-level discovery rules can also be of dependent item type



A discovery rule can also be of dependent item type

- Master item collects all of the discovery related data
- Low-level discovery rule is executed every time the master item collects values

Discovery rules	
All templates / AWS EC2 by HTTF	Discovery list / Instance Volumes discovery Item prototypes 18 Trigger prototypes 2 Graph prototypes 3 Host prototypes
Discovery rule Preprocessing 2	LLD macros Filters 2 Overrides
* Name	Instance Volumes discovery
Туре	Dependent item ~
* Key	aws.ec2.volumes.discovery
* Master item	AWS EC2 by HTTP: Get volumes data × Select
* Delete lost resources ?	Never Immediately After 7d
* Disable lost resources ?	Never Immediately After
Description	Discovery attached EBS volumes.
Enabled	



The retrieved JSON contains the low-level discovery information and values used by the items.

LLD macros can be assigned in the discovery rule

JavaScript preprocessing can also be used to retrieve and populate LLD macro values

<pre>{ fsname": "/", "fstype": "overlay",</pre>	Discovery rules					
"bytes": { "total": 85829070848, "free": 49161748480, "used": 36667322368, "pfree": 57.27866793182881,	All hosts / PostgreSQL database Enabled ZBX Discovery list / Mounted filesystem discovery Item prototypes 7 Trigger prototypes 5 Graph prototypes 2 Host prototypes					
"pused": 42.72133206817119 }, "inodes": {	Discovery rule Preprocessing 2	LLD macros 2 Filters 4 Overrides 1				
"total": 41941440, "free": 41664647, "used": 276793,	LLD macros	LLD macro	JSONPath			
"pfree": 99.34004888721036, "pused": 0.6599511127896419		{#FSNAME}	\$.fsname	Remove		
},		{#FSTYPE}	\$.fstype	Remove		
"fsname": "/sys", "fstype": "sysfs",	: "syśrfs", Add					
"bytes": { "total": 0, "free": 0, "used": 0, "pfree": 0, "pfree": 0, "pused": 0		Update Clone Execute now	Test Delete Cancel			



The item prototypes for dependent LLD also utilize dependent item type and use the same master item as the dependent LLD

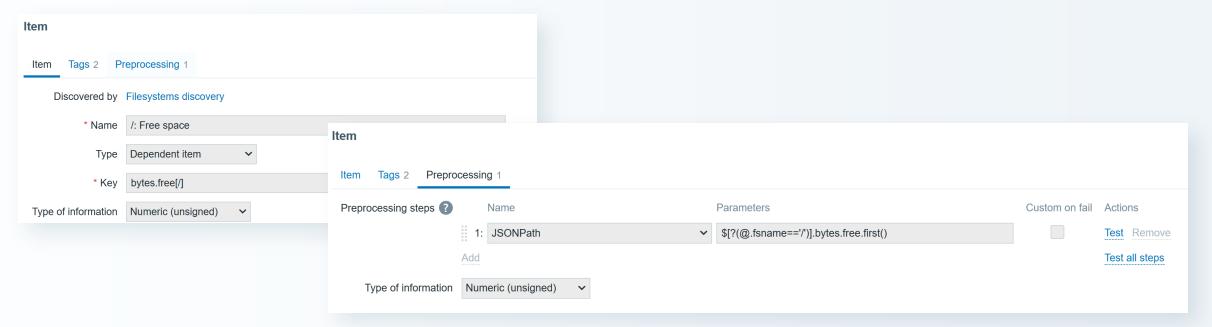
- JSONPath preprocessing is used to extract values from the master item
- The low-level discovery macro used in JSONPath will be resolved as the element name for each discovered resource

Item prototype								
Item prototype Tag	gs 2 Preprocessing 1							
* Name	{#FSNAME}: Free space]				
Туре	Dependent item 🗸	Item prototype						
* Key	bytes.free[{#FSNAME}]	 Item prototype Tags 2 	Preprocessing 1					
Type of information	Numeric (unsigned)	Preprocessing steps ?	Name	-	Parameters	(Custom on fail	Actions
			1: JSONPath	~	\$[?(@.fsname=='{#FSNAME}')].bytes.free	e.first()		Test Remove
			Add					Test all steps
		Type of information	Numeric (unsigned)) ~				



The item prototypes for dependent LLD also utilize dependent item type and use the same master item as the dependent LLD

- JSONPath preprocessing is used to extract values from the master item
- The low-level discovery macro used in JSONPath will be resolved as the element name for each discovered resource





Dependent LLD is also the recommended way of performing discovery of SNMP resources

- Create a walk[oid1,oid2,oid3, ...] master item
- Create an LLD rule with SNMP walk to JSON preprocessing step
- Assign LLD macros in the preprocessing
- Create dependent item prototypes with SNMP walk value preprocessing step
- Apply Discard uchnanged with heartbeat preprocessing to reduce the frequency of LLD execution (Unique behavior for SNMP discovery)



The item will perform SNMP walk across all of the specified OIDs and return their values

		.1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.19.10125 = Counter32: 0 .1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.19.10126 = Counter32: 0 .1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.19.10127 = Counter32: 0
Item		.1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.19.10128 = Counter32: 0 .1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.19.14501 = Counter32: 0 .1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2.1 = STRING: "Vlan1"
Item Tags 1 Preprocessi Parent items	ng Cisco IOS by SNMP	.1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2.10 = STRING: "Vlan10" .1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2.5179 = STRING: "StackPort1" .1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2.5180 = STRING: "StackSub-St1-1"
* Name	Cisco IOS: SNMP walk network interfaces	.1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2.5181 = STRING: "StackSub-St1-2"
Туре	SNMP agent V	.1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2.10101 = STRING: "GigabitEthernet1/0/1" .1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2.10102 = STRING: "GigabitEthernet1/0/2"
* Key	net.if.walk	.1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2.10103 = STRING: "GigabitEthernet1/0/3" .1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2.10104 = STRING: "GigabitEthernet1/0/4"
Type of information	Text 🗸	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2.10105 = STRING: "GigabitEthernet1/0/5"
* Host interface	cisco.example.com:10161	
* SNMP OID ?	walk[1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.8,1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.7,1.3.6.1.2.1.31.1.1.1.18,1.3.6.1.2.1.31.1.1	
* Update interval	1m	



Create a dependent LLD rule with SNMP walk to JSON preprocessing

Assign LLD macro values to OIDs

		Preprocessing steps	Name		Parameters			
covery rule Preprocessing 2	LLD macros Filters 12 Overrides		1: SNMP walk to JSON	~	Field name	OID prefix	Format	
overy rule Preprocessing 2	LED matrices 12 Overnues				{#IFOPERSTATUS	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.8	Unchanged	
Parent discovery rules	Cisco IOS by SNMP				{#IFADMINSTATU	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.7	Unchanged	
* Name	Network interfaces discovery				{#IFALIAS}	1.3.6.1.2.1.31.1.1.	Unchanged	
Туре	Dependent item 🗸				{#IFNAME}	1.3.6.1.2.1.31.1.1.	Unchanged	
* Key	net.if.discovery				{#IFDESCR}	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2	Unchanged	
* Master item	Cisco c3750: Cisco IOS: SNMP walk network interfaces ×				{#IFTYPE}	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.3	Unchanged	
* Delete lost resources (?)	Never Immediately After 7d				Add			
* Disable lost resources 🕐	Never Immediately After							
Description	Discovering interfaces from IF-MIB.							
		6						

Create dependent item prototypes with SNMP walk value preprocessing

- Specify the OID from which to extract the item value
- Use the {#SNMPINDEX} LLD macro in preprocessing
- The data is collected from the master item utilized by the LLD rule

Item prototype								
Item prototype Ta	gs 3 Preprocessing 3							
Parent items	Cisco IOS by SNMP							
* Name	Interface {#IFNAME}({#IFALIAS}): B	Item prototype						? ×
Туре	Dependent item 🗸	Item prototype Tags 3	Preprocessing 3					
* Key	net.if.in[ifHCInOctets.{#SNMPINDE>	Preprocessing steps ?	Name	Parameters			Custom	on fail Actions
Type of information	Numeric (unsigned)		1: SNMP walk value	1.3.6.1.2.1.31.1.1.1.6.{#SNMPINDEX}	Unchanged	~		Test Remove
* Master item	Cisco c3750: Cisco IOS: SNMP wal		2: Change per second v					Test Remove
			3: Custom multiplier 🗸	8				Test Remove
			Add					Test all steps
		Type of information	Numeric (unsigned)					





Apply *Discard unchaged* preprocessing to prevent the LLD rule from running every time the master item receives new values

- Even though the master item receives new values (metrics), the LLD data remains unchanged and will be dicarded
- This is unique throttling behavior which works only with SNMP walk to JSON preprocessing

Preprocessing steps	Name	Р	Parameters					
	1: SNMP walk to JSON	~	Field name	OID prefix	Format			
		[{#IFOPERSTATUS	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.8	Unchanged	~	Remove	
		[{#IFADMINSTATU	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.7	Unchanged	~	Remove	
			{#IFALIAS}	1.3.6.1.2.1.31.1.1.	Unchanged	~	Remove	
			{#IFNAME}	1.3.6.1.2.1.31.1.1.	Unchanged	~	Remove	
		[{#IFDESCR}	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2	Unchanged	~	Remove	
			{#IFTYPE}	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.3	Unchanged	~	Remove	
		1	Add					
	2: Discard unchanged with heartbeat	~	1h					
	dd							

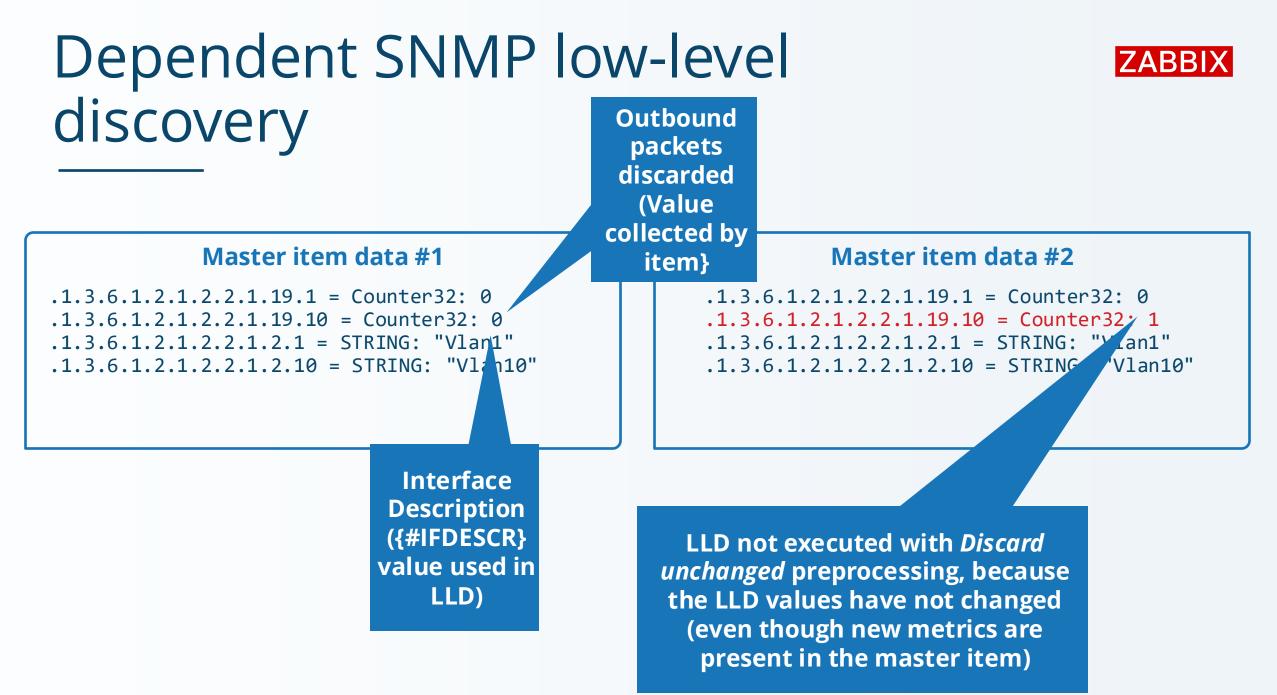
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Preprocessing steps	Name	Р	Parameters					
	1: SNMP walk to JSON	~	Field name	OID prefix	Format			
		[{#IFOPERSTATUS	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.8	Unchanged	~	Remove	
		[{#IFADMINSTATU	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.7	Unchanged	~	Remove	
			{#IFALIAS}	1.3.6.1.2.1.31.1.1.	Unchanged	~	Remove	
			{#IFNAME}	1.3.6.1.2.1.31.1.1.	Unchanged	~	Remove	
		[{#IFDESCR}	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.2	Unchanged	~	Remove	
			{#IFTYPE}	1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1.3	Unchanged	~	Remove	
		1	Add					
	2: Discard unchanged with heartbeat	~	1h					
	dd							

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Final notes

- Using dependent low-level discovery rules allow collecting item values and discover resources from the same source – the master item
- Using a single master item to collect data in bulk reduces the performance impact on the monitored endpoint
- Zabbix proxies can be used to further move the preprocessing performance overhead from Zabbix server to Zabbix proxies
- Collected data can be transformed into LLD format by JavaScript preprocessing
- LLD macro values can be extracted from JSON data by using the LLD macros section of the LLD rule



Thank you!