# Zabbix meets television Clever use of Zabbix features



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## ZDF – Zweites Deutsche Fernsehen

# ZDF - "Second german televison" Some history





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# **ZDF** - History

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- In 1961, the federal states established a central **non-profit** television broadcaster ٠ "Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen".
- **In 1963** on April 1, ZDF officially went on air and had reached 61 percent of television viewers. ٠
- On the Internet, a selection of programs is offered via live stream or video-on-demand through the "ZDFmediathek", which has been in existence since **2001**.
- Since February 2013, ZDF has been broadcasting its programs around the clock as an Internet livestream.
- As of today ZDF is one of the largest public broadcasters in Europe with permanent bureaus worldwide, and is also present on various platforms like youtube, facebook etc.





1961



# Let's get technical Some clever uses of Zabbix features



A special thanks goes to Mr. Uwe Grunert for the good joint work!





Get states from infrastructure monitoring with dynamic severities using LLD

#### Goal

- Monitor and alert data coming from an external monitoring system that controls infrastructure components such as power generators, transmission stations and the like.
- The external system should automatically define the services to be monitored in Zabbix.
- The external system should automatically define the trigger severity levels to be used in Zabbix for each service.

#### Challenges

• How can the external system automatically define the severity levels to be used by Zabbix triggers?







Get states from infrastructure monitoring with dynamic severities using LLD

#### Approach

- Use Zabbix build in HTTP check to get LLD discovery data.
- Use Zabbix build in HTTP check as a collector get metrics.
- Define item prototypes as dependant items to extract data from collector item.
- Create "smart" trigger prototypes to respect severity information from LLD discovery data.





Note: HTTP item allows to use zabbix-sender, which is great for testing.





"{#DISPLAYNAME}": "Secondary power generator", "{#DESCRIPTION}": "Secondary emergency power generator", "{#CATEGORY}": "Powersupply", "{#PRIORITY.INFORMATION}": -1, "{#PRIORITY.WARNING}": -1, "{#PRIORITY.AVERAGE}": -1, "{#PRIORITY.HIGH}": 1, "{#PRIORITY.DISASTER}": 2

LLD returned by /discovery

Each component defines its assignment from the "status" value to a specific severity level.

A value of -1 means: not used.

Metrics returned by /metrics

In this example, "status" = 1 refers to a priority of {#PRIORITY.HIGH}.

```
status = 0 means, no issues.
```

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```
"generator-primary": {
    "status": 0,
    "message": "Generator is healthy."
},
"generator-secondary": {
    "status": 1,
    "message": "Generator is not working properly."
},
```



Get states from infrastructure monitoring with dynamic severities using LLD

## Item prototypes

P	lanit	Enabled	ZBX	Discovery list / Planit Discovery	Item prototypes 2	Trigger prototypes 5	Graph	prototypes	Host prototypes			
ď	Nan	ne 🔺			Key	Interval	History	Trends	Туре	Create enabled	Discover	Tags
	TPL	Planit: Pla	nit Colle	ctor: {#DISPLAYNAME} [message]	message[{	#NAME}]	90d		Dependent item	Yes	Yes	Application: {#CATEG
	TPL	Planit: Pla	nit Colle	ctor: {#DISPLAYNAME} [status]	status[{#N	AME}]	90d	365d	Dependent item	Yes	Yes	Application: {#CATEG

Prepr	ocessi	ing 1		
steps		Name		Parameters
	1:	JSONPath	~	\$["{#NAME}"]['message']
	Add			

All templates / TPL Planit Disco	very list / Planit Discovery Item prototypes 2 Trigger prototypes 5 Graph prot	otypes H
Item prototype Tags 1 Prepro	ocessing 1	
* Name	{#DISPLAYNAME} [message]	
Туре	Dependent item V	
* Key	message[{#NAME}]	Select
* Master item	TPL Planit: Planit Collector	Select
Type of information	Character ~	
* History storage period	Do not keep history Storage period 90d	
Value mapping	type here to search	Select
Description	{#DESCRIPTION}	



Get states from infrastructure monitoring with dynamic severities using LLD

## **Trigger prototypes**

All te	emplates / TP	L Planit Discovery list / Planit Discovery Item prototypes 2	Trigger prototypes 5	Graph prototypes Host prototypes		
	Severity	Name 🔺	Operational data	Expression	Create enabled	Discover
	Average	planit Service: {#DISPLAYNAME} has Status AVERAGE		last(/TPL Planit/status[{#NAME}]) = {#PRIORITY.AVERAGE}	Yes	Yes
	Disaster	planit Service: {#DISPLAYNAME} has Status DISASTER		last(/TPL Planit/status[{#NAME}]) = {#PRIORITY.DISASTER}	Yes	Yes
	High	planit Service: {#DISPLAYNAME} has Status HIGH		last(/TPL Planit/status[{#NAME}]) = {#PRIORITY.HIGH}	Yes	Yes
	Information	planit Service: {#DISPLAYNAME} has Status INFORMATION		<pre>last(/TPL Planit/status[{#NAME}]) = {#PRIORITY.INFORMATION}</pre>	Yes	Yes
	Warning	planit Service: {#DISPLAYNAME} has Status WARNING		<pre>last(/TPL Planit/status[{#NAME}]) = {#PRIORITY.WARNING}</pre>	Yes	Yes

The prototype definitions will automatically create specific triggers, depending on the value of the LLD macro for a given service.





## Get states from infrastructure monitoring with dynamic severities using LLD

## The result

Planit	Planit Infrastructure Service [message]	2021-09-24 18:28:21	System is healthy	Application: Plan.it
Planit	Planit Infrastructure Service [status] 尾	Overall Infrastructure Management 28:21	0	Application: Plan.it
Planit	Primary power generator [message]	2021-09-24 18:28:21	Generator is healthy.	Application: Powersup
Planit	Primary power generator [status] 🔎	2021-09-24 18:28:21	0	Application: Powersup

Time 🔻	Severity	Recovery time	Status	Info	Host	Problem	Duration	Ack	Actions	Tags
18:48:21	Information		PROBLEM		Planit	planit Service: Elasticsearch Service has Status INFORMATION	1m 6s	No		Application: Plan.it
18:48:21	Average		PROBLEM		Planit	planit Service: Transmitting station #3 has Status AVERAGE	1m 6s	Yes	1 <u>1</u>	Application: Radio
18:48:21	Average		PROBLEM		Planit	planit Service: Secondary power generator has Status AVERAGE	1m 6s	No		Application: Powersup







Get states from infrastructure monitoring with dynamic severities using LLD

# Well it works, but we can do better





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Get states from infrastructure monitoring with dynamic severities using LLD

## Current solution creates unnecessary triggers for individual components ...

Severity	Value	Name 🔺	Operational data	Expression
Average	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Primary power generator has Status AVERAGE		last(/Planit/status[generator-primary]) = -1
Disaster	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Primary power generator has Status DISASTER		last(/Planit/status[generator-primary]) = 2
High	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Primary power generator has Status HIGH		last(/Planit/status[generator-primary]) = 1
Information	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Primary power generator has Status INFORMATION		last(/Planit/status[generator-primary]) = -1
Warning	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Primary power generator has Status WARNING		last(/Planit/status[generator-primary]) = -1

Severity	Value	Name 🔺	Operational data	Expression
Average	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Planit Infrastructure Service has Status AVERAGE		last(/Planit/status[planit]) = -1
Disaster	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Planit Infrastructure Service has Status DISASTER		last(/Planit/status[planit]) = -1
High	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Planit Infrastructure Service has Status HIGH		last(/Planit/status[planit]) = 2
Information	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Planit Infrastructure Service has Status INFORMATION		last(/Planit/status[planit]) = -1
Warning	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Planit Infrastructure Service has Status WARNING		last(/Planit/status[planit]) = 1





Get states from infrastructure monitoring with dynamic severities using LLD

## LLD-Overrides for the rescue

Discovery rule	Preprocessing	LLD macros Filters Overrides 5		
	Overrides	Name	Stop processing	Action
		1: PRIORITY.INFORMATION	No	Remove
		2: PRIORITY.WARNING	No	Remove
		3: PRIORITY.AVERAGE	No	Remove
		4: PRIORITY.HIGH	No	Remove
		5: PRIORITY.DISASTER	No	Remove
		Add		



LLD Overrides were introduced in Zabbix Version 5.0.

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Get states from infrastructure monitoring with dynamic severities using LLD

## LLD-Override configuration – Disable discovery depending on LLD data





Get states from infrastructure monitoring with dynamic severities using LLD

## Final result with LLD-Overrides

Severity	Value	Name 🔺	Operational data	Expression
Disaster	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Primary power generator has Status DISASTER		last(/Planit LLD/status[generator-primary]) = 2
High	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Primary power generator has Status HIGH		last(/Planit LLD/status[generator-primary]) = 1

	Severity	Value	Name 🔺	Operational data	Expression
	High	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Planit Infrastructure Service has Status HIGH		last(/Planit LLD/status[planit]) = 2
	Warning	ок	Planit Discovery: planit Service: Planit Infrastructure Service has Status WARNING		last(/Planit LLD/status[planit]) = 1







"Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

#### Goal

- Use Zabbix for evaluating error messages from the "Sphinx" application in Graylog (log management) and alert them. Graylog is used for log management only, not for alerting.
- Monitoring the number of errors in user-defined time intervals for different components and alert when a threshold is exceeded.
- Analyse incoming error messages and prepare them for a user friendly output sorted by error types.

#### Challenges

- How to get the information from Graylog about the Sphinx components (App, Web and WCF Gateway)?
- How to handle certificate problems (DH\_KEY\_TOO\_SMALL / Diffie–Hellman key) due to an outdated version of the installed Graylog server?
- How to sort the error messages coming in "free form" without explicit error types?







"Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

#### Approach

- Use Zabbix "external check" item type to solve the certificate problem.
- Configure three master items to make the HTTP API Get request and retrieve the raw data for each component. All additional information is retrieved via dependent item with preprocessing to save further API requests and to be resource friendly.
- Use Zabbix dependent item whith Java-Script preprocessing to parse incoming error messages and sort them by error type. Use dependent item for LLD to create the items for the stats data and also the data for the visualization for each error type.
- Create an user friendly dashboard.





"Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

### Item design and dependency using "Sphinx App" component as an example







## "Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

Three master items to make the HTTP Get request and retrieve the data for each application level with defined intervals

graylog2zabbix.sh[{\$GRAYLOG\_USERNAME},{\$GRAYLOG\_PASSWORD},{HOST.CONN},{\$GRAYLOG\_PORT},search/universal/relative? query=name%3Asphinx-app%20AND%20stage%3Aproduction%20AND%20level%3A(ERROR%20OR %20FATAL)&range=1800&limit=50&filter=streams%3A60000a8c1c09f9862279966e&fields=name%2Clevel %2Cmessage&decorate=true]



## "Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

Simplified JSON output from the unsorted error messages of "Sphinx Web" via REST API







"Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

#### Zabbix dependent item to analyse the error messages

All tem	plates / ZDF Template Graylog [Sphinx]	Applications 9 Items 12 Triggers 6 Graphs 1 Screens 1 Discovery rules 3 Web scenario
Item	Preprocessing	
	* Name	Graylog stream Sphinx [sphinx-web] [error / fatal / 60m] [Filtered]
	Туре	Dependent item
	* Key	sphinxWebMessagesFiltered Select
	* Master item	ZDF Template Graylog [Sphinx]: Graylog stream Sphinx [sphinx-web] [error / ×
	Type of information	Text ~
	* History storage period	Do not keep history Storage period 90d
	New application	
	Applications	-None- app

Pre-Processing Steps:

- Analyse the error messages.
- Define the error type.
- Sort the raw data.







"Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

#### Preprocessing steps

All templates / ZDF Template Graylog [Sphinx] Applications 9 Items 12 Triggers 6 Graphs 1 Screens 1 Discovery rules 3 Web scenarios												
Item	Preprocessing											
		Preprocessing steps		Name			Parameters				Custom on fail	Actions
			1:	JSONPath		~	\$.messages[*].mes	sage.messag	e		✓	Test Remove
				Custom on fail Dis	scard value	Set value to	Set error to {}					
			2	JavaScript		~	var errorList	= JSON.par	se(value);			Test Remove
			Add									Test all steps
	Update Clone Test Delete Cancel											





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"Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

#### Java script to define the error message type and sort the messages





## "Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

### Error messages after preprocessing sorted by type

# Viewer Text Viewer Text JSON Session ist invalid im Handler Agenturen Agenturen Fehler Alert Locking Dem 'DateRangeExpression' Operator an Position 1 fehlt der linke Wert Image: Content of the second o



## Error types with errors





## "Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

## Dependent LLD item to define the error message type and sort the raw data

Host	Name 🛦		Items	Triggers	Graphs	Hosts	Key	Interval	Туре	Status	Info
ZDF Template Graylog [Sphinx]	Graylog stream Sphinx [sphinx-app]	[error / fatal / 30m] [Filtered]: Sphinx app backend error parser LLD	Item prototypes 2	Trigger prototypes 1	Graph prototypes	Host prototypes	sphinx.app.error.lld		Dependent item	Enabled	
ZDF Template Graylog [Sphinx]	Graylog stream Sphinx [sphinx-wcf]	[error / fatal / 120m] [Filtered]: Sphinx wcf gateway error parser LLD	Item prototypes 2	Trigger prototypes 1	Graph prototypes	Host prototypes	sphinx.wcf.error.lld		Dependent item	Enabled	
ZDF Template Graylog [Sphinx]	Graylog stream Sphinx [sphinx-web]	[error / fatal / 60m] [Filtered]: Sphinx web frontend error parser LLD	Item prototypes 2	Trigger prototypes 1	Graph prototypes	Host prototypes	sphinx.web.error.lld		Dependent item	Enabled	
									Displ	laying 3 of 3	found
Di	iscovery rules		All templates / ZDF Template Gra	ylog (Sphinx) Discovery list / Sph	inx web frontend error parser L	Item prototypes 2 Trigg	ger prototypes 1 Graph prototypes	Host proto			
All	I templates / ZDF Template Graylog [Sphinx]	Discovery list / Sphinx web frontend error parser L Item prototypes 2	Discovery rule Preprocessing	LLD macros Filters Override	1	Baramatara					
D	Discovery rule Preprocessing LLD macros	Filters Overrides	Topo	1: JSONPath	~	\$.[*]~					
	* Name	Sphinx web frontend error parser LLD		2: JavaScript	~	var errorTypes = JSC	N.parse(value);	2			
	Туре	Dependent item		Update Clone	Test Delete Ca	ancel					
	* Key	sphinx.web.error.lld									
	* Master item	ZDF Template Graylog [Sphinx]: Graylog stream Sphinx [sphinx-web] [error /	ada B				Test all stops				
	* Keep lost resources period	30d	JavaScript					Â			
_	Description	Create an item for each error type from sphinx frontend (web) log	<pre>function (value) ( 1 Set_scriftynes = 252 2 yar result = (); 3 5 result paint (); 6 result paint (); 7 ); 9 10 return JSON.stringif</pre>	NN.parse(value); prTypes) ( PS)": errorTypes(key) fy(result);							
		Opdate Cione rest Delete Cancel	} 65351 symbols remaining				Apply	Cancel			





## "Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

#### Everyone loves dashboard









## "Sphinx" application monitoring using Graylog REST API

#### Everyone loves dashboard







# Monitor something different















TV broadcast truck ("Übertragungs-Wagen")





Monitoring a TV boadcast truck ("Übertragungs-Wagen")

#### Goal

- Monitor several metrics from different technologies used in the TV broadcast truck.
- Monitor communication availablity and quality between the broadcast truck and the transmitting station.
- Only monitor the broadcast truck when in use.

#### Challenges

• How can false positive alarms be avoided if a broadcast truck can be put into operation spontaneously (without notifying the monitoring team)?





Monitoring a TV boadcast truck ("Übertragungs-Wagen")

#### Approach

- Treat a broadcast truck and its components as a host that can be put into maintenance.
- Create a control host (as entity in Zabbix) to monitor the connection states of all broadcasting trucks.
- Create a middleware that implements a smart logic to start/stop monitoring a given broadcasting truck by switching maintenance using the Zabbix API.
- A specific application in the broadcasting truck then tells Zabbix how long to monitor and when to enable maintenance again.







Monitoring a TV boadcast truck ("Übertragungs-Wagen")







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ს	) Sign out	Uewagen-025 Keine Vebindung zur Sendeanstalt	Uewagen-026 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-027 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-028 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-029 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-030 In maintenance OK		
•	User settings	0-0-	0-0-	0-0-	0-0-	0-0-	0-0-		
?	Help								
Z	Share								
9	Support	In maintenance OK	In maintenance OK	ок	In maintenance OK	In maintenance OK	In maintenance OK		
		Uewagen-019	Uewagen-020	Uewagen-021	Uewagen-022	Uewagen-023	Uewagen-024		
8	Administration ~	Uewagen-013 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-014 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-015 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-016 OK	Uewagen-017 Keine Vebindung zur Sendeanstalt	Uewagen-018 In maintenance OK		
ع	Configuration ~	<b></b> _	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	0-0-			
	Reports ~								
:=	E Inventory ~								
	Services	Uewagen-007 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-008 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-009 OK	Uewagen-010 OK	Uewagen-011 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-012 In maintenance OK		
	Discovery								
	Screens								
	Latest data								
	Overview	Uewagen-001 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-002 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-003 OK	Uewagen-004 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-005 In maintenance OK	Uewagen-006 In maintenance OK		
	Hosts	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	0-0-	<u> </u>			
	Dashboard								
0	Monitoring ^								

IT-Services

# Zabbix meets television Clever use of Zabbix features



Thank You!



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