

AN OFFICIAL GUIDE TO MAKING AND MANAGING GREAT TEMPLATES



Vitaly Zhuravlev

ZABBIX Zabbix Solution Architect

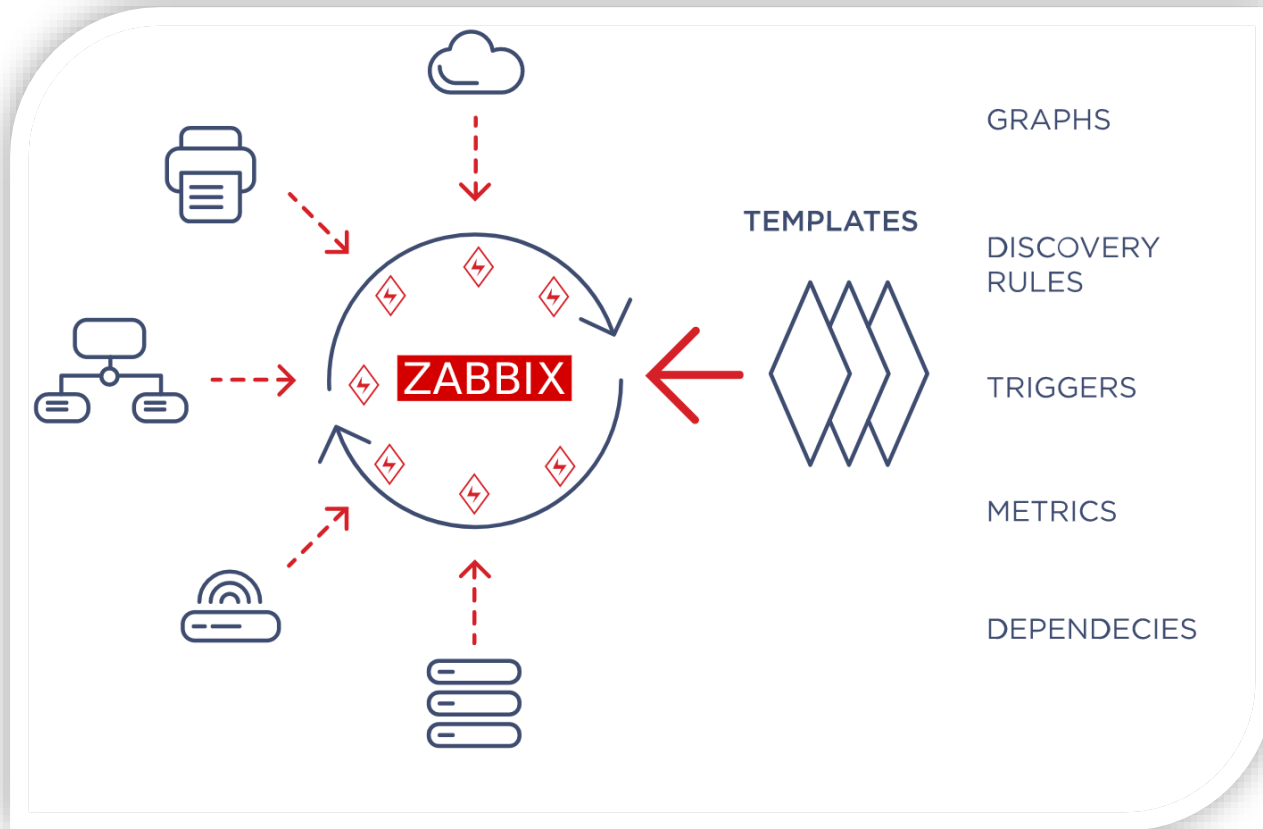
ZABBIX '19
SUMMIT



WHAT IS A TEMPLATE

AN OFFICIAL GUIDE TO MAKING AND MANAGING
GREAT TEMPLATES

What is a template



A template is the monitoring blueprint that can be used in order to centrally manage multiple hosts monitoring configuration.

Use templates out of the box



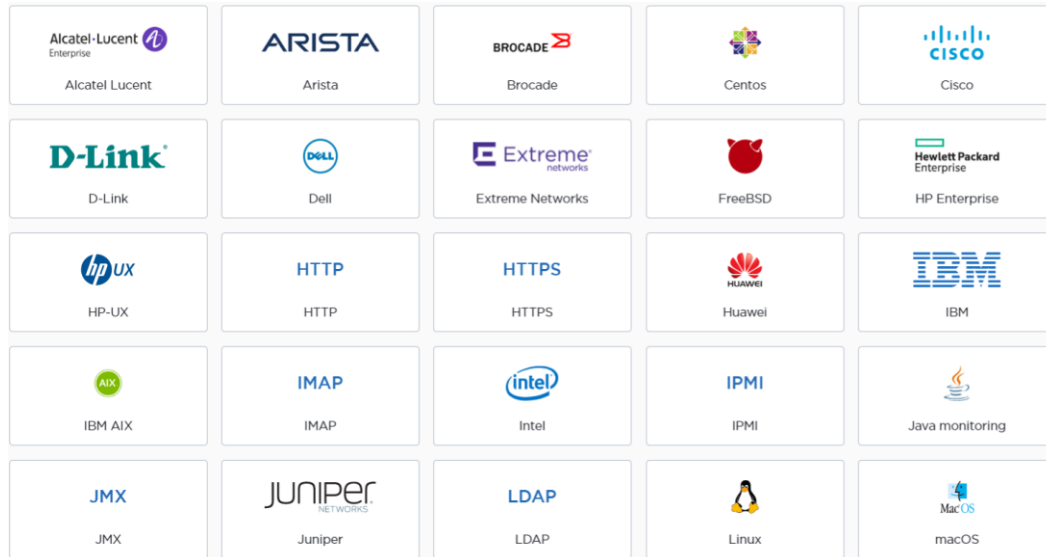
- Comes preinstalled in fresh Zabbix installations
- Available in git repo as XML files

git.zabbix.com/projects/ZBX/repos/zabbix/browse/templates

Use templates from the community



share.zabbix.com

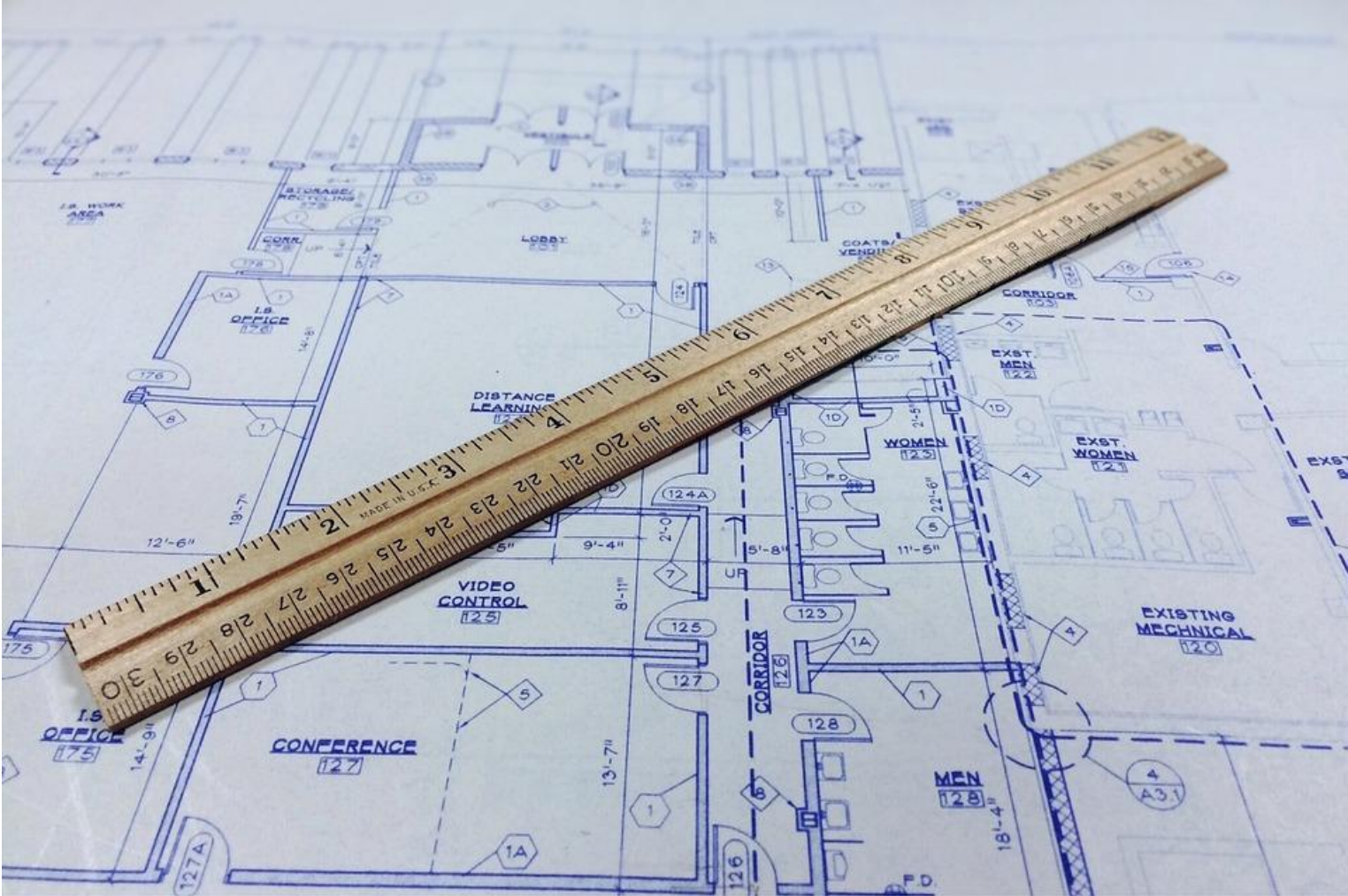


zabbix.com/integrations/



GitHub

Design your own templates



Current situation

What do we have now?



PRODUCT

SOLUTIONS

SERVICES & SUPPORT

TRAINING

PARTNERS

COMMUNITY

ABOUT US

DOWNLOAD

Monitoring and Integration Solutions β

Search by name

All Categories

Official Templates

Agents

API

Applications

AWS

Backups

Business KPI

Caching

Clouds

Containers

CRM

DevOps

Databases

ERP

HA & Clusters

Helpdesks

Infrastructure

IoT

Java

Logfiles

Mail

Message brokers

Mobile

Monitoring systems

Network

Notifications & Alerting

Orchestration

Operation Systems

Printers

Search Engines

Security

Services

Servers

Storage

Telephony

Virtual Machines

Visualization

Web

Current situation

Reinventing the wheel



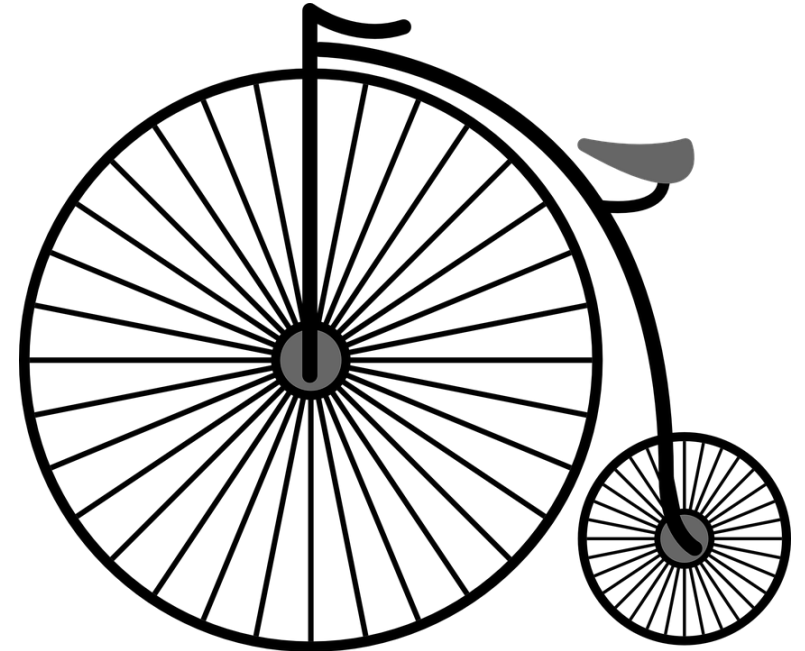
Percona MySQL Monitoring



Template DB MySQL



Template MySQL (800+ items)



Template Mysql/Mariadb monitoring

What else?

- No common style guidelines

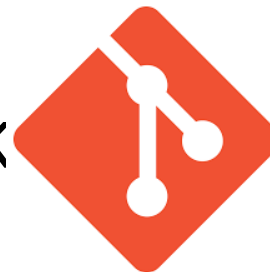


- Templates could have unpredicted dependencies on literally everything



ba&sh

- Hard to contribute to others work

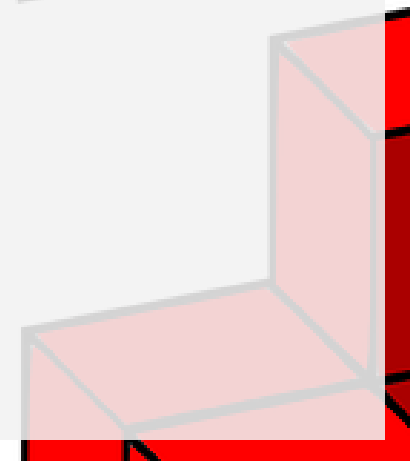
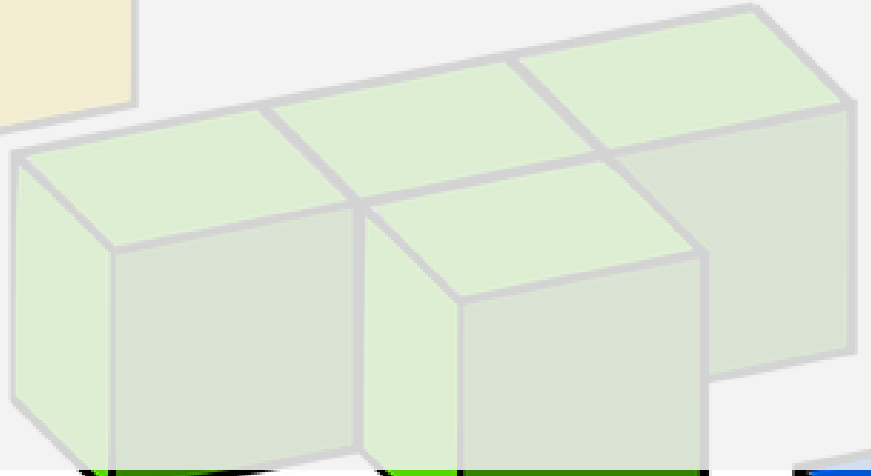
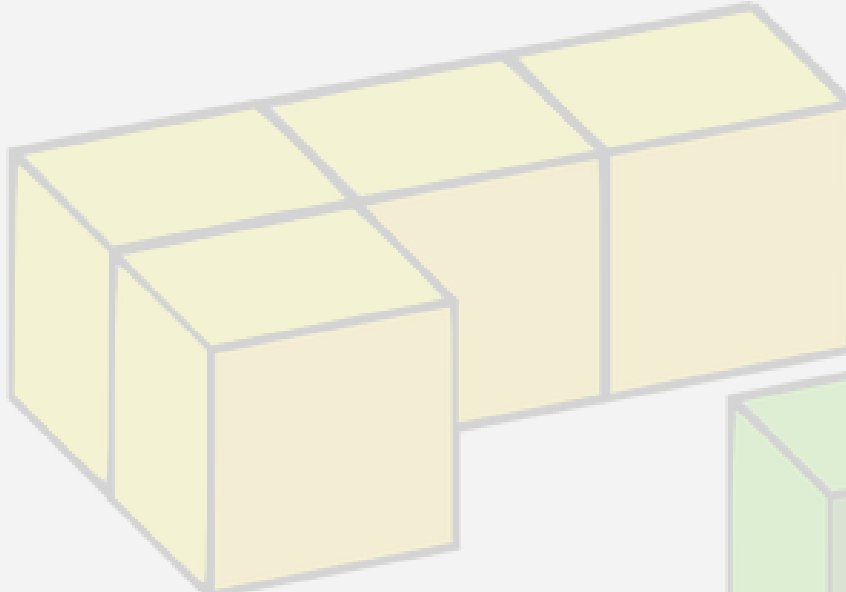
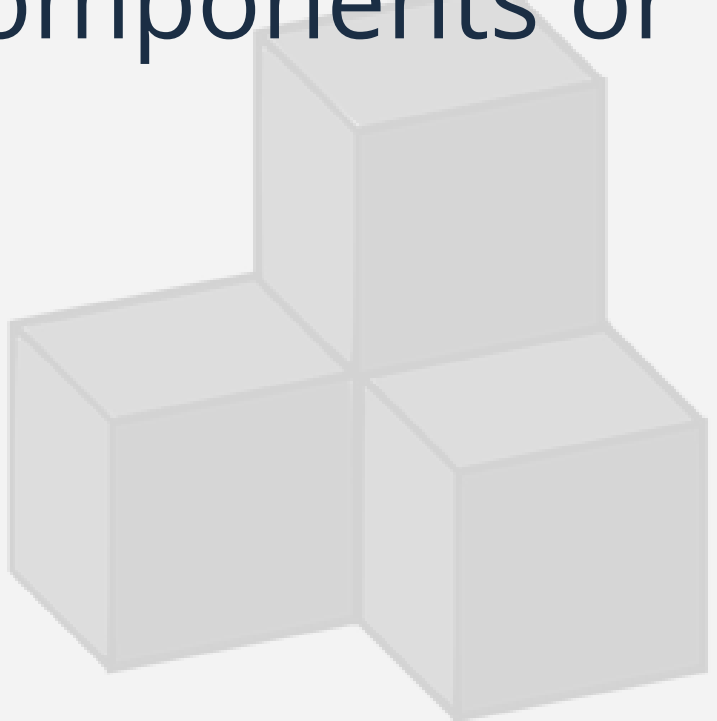


Let's make it organized

1. Make it possible to avoid external dependencies
 - JavaScript preprocessing
 - HTTP agent
 - Golang zabbix-agent2 with plugins
 - More to come!

Let's make it organized

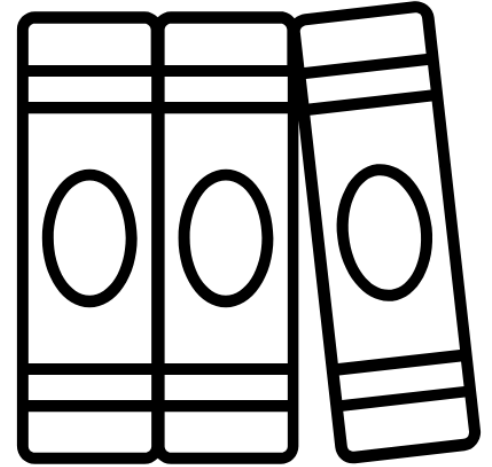
2. Create templates for all basic components or "resources"



Let's make it organized

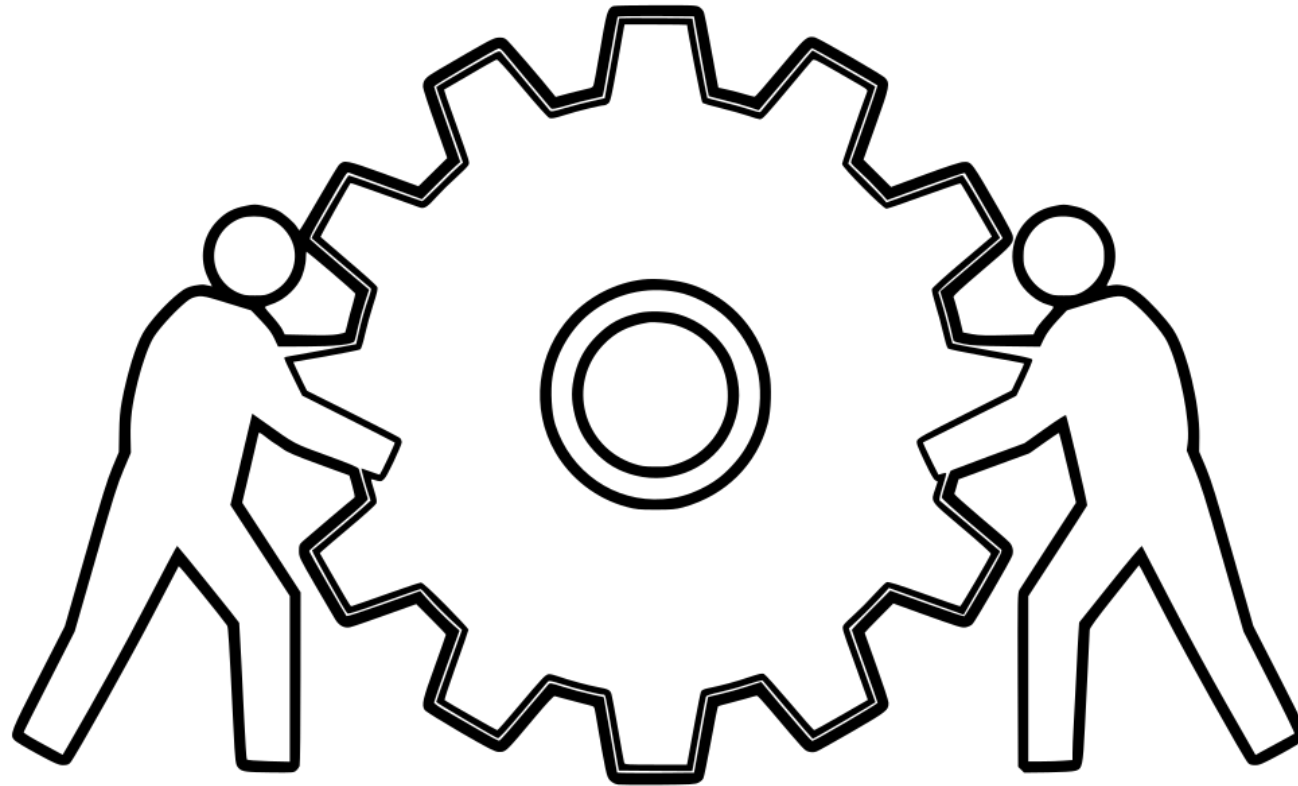
3. Template guidelines for everyone

- Naming conventions
- Best practices
- Snippets library



Let's make it organized

4. Working together on templates should be easy



What is the “resource template” anyway?





RESOURCES AND SERVICES

AN OFFICIAL GUIDE TO MAKING AND MANAGING
GREAT TEMPLATES

Resources and services

Everything can be seen as a **service** or as a **resource**

Resources and services

Our monitoring approach

– monitor services first!

Resources and services

Resources are typical components reused in completely different IT architectures

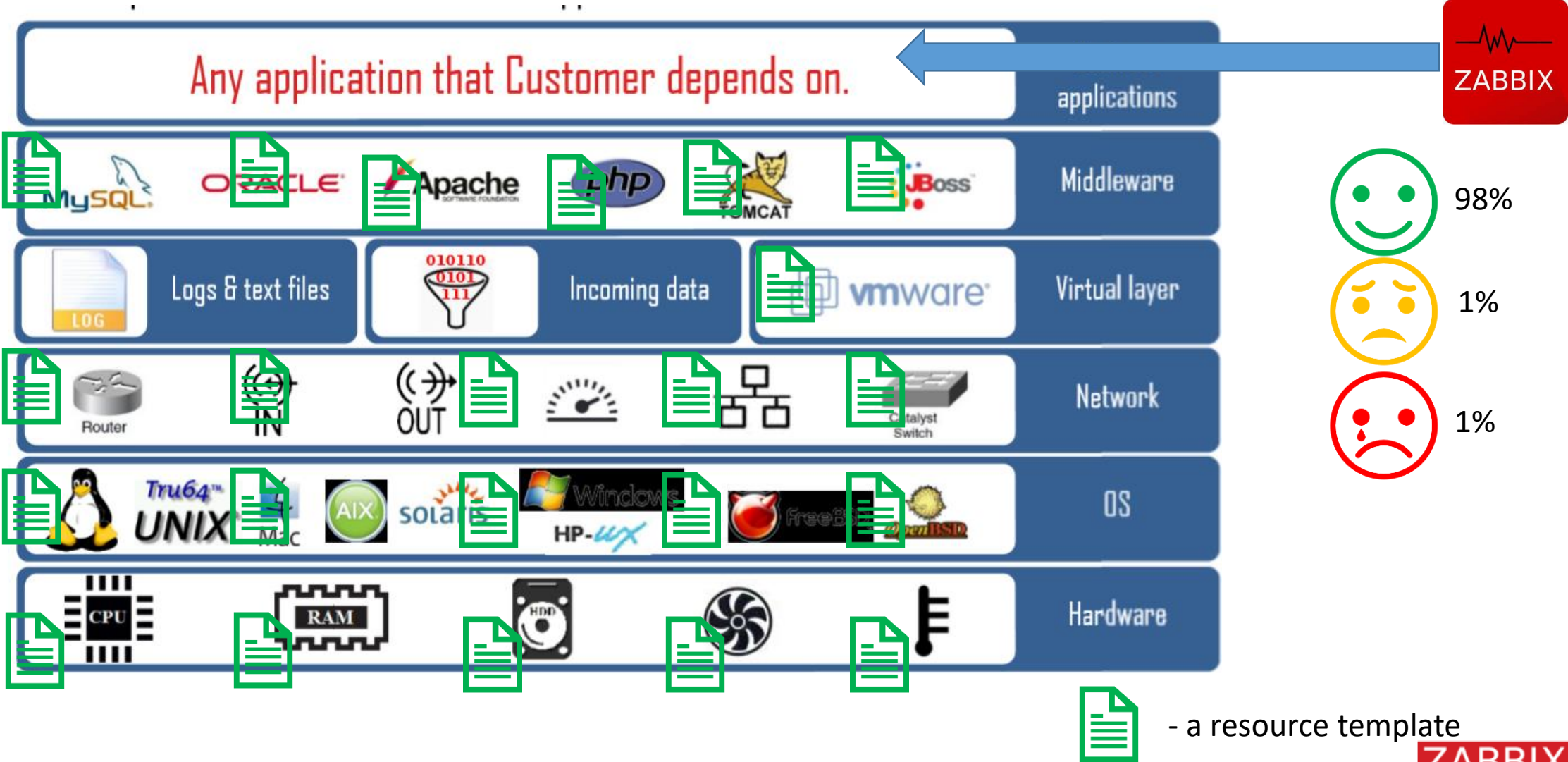
- databases: MySQL, PostgreSQL, MSSQL, Redis, Mongo.....
- middleware: RabbitMQ, Kafka, ActiveMQ
- servers: IBM, HP, Supermicro
- network devices: Cisco, Juniper, D-Link...
- OS: Linux, Windows, HP-UX, BSD, AIX
- cloud: AWS, Azure
- virtualization and containers: VMware, Hyper-V, Docker, Kubernetes, OpenShift, OpenStack

Resources and services

Once the service is monitored, move on to infrastructure or resource level, look for answers:

- WHY my service is not working at this moment?
- WHY my service is so slow?
- WHY my service didn't perform well in the past
- My service is about to blow out let's take some countermeasures!
- etc 😊

Resources and services



Resources and services

Let's stop reinventing the wheel and start using the same
set of resource templates

Then users can concentrate on monitoring of **business services** – things that are important in the first place



TEMPLATE GUIDELINES

AN OFFICIAL GUIDE TO MAKING AND MANAGING
GREAT TEMPLATES

Template guidelines

- Published in our documentation



The screenshot shows the Zabbix Documentation 4.4 website. The browser address bar displays 'zabbix.com/documentation/current/'. The page header includes the ZABBIX logo and the title 'Zabbix Documentation 4.4'. Below the title, there are links for different versions: '3.0 4.0 4.2 4.4 (current) | In development: 5.0 (devel) | Unsupported: 1.8 2.0 2.2 2.4 3.2 3.4 | Guidelines'. The 'Guidelines' link is highlighted with a red box, and a red arrow points to it from the right. On the left side, there is a sidebar with language selection icons and a list of documentation categories: 'Zabbix documentation', 'Zabbix Manual', 'Zabbix manpages', 'Documentação do Zabbix em portu', and 'Zabbix documentation in Russian'. The main content area has the heading 'Zabbix documentation' and the text: 'These pages contain official Zabbix documentation. Use the sidebar navigation to browse documentation pages. To be able to watch pages, log in with your Zabbix forums username and password.'

zabbix.com/documentation/guidelines/templates

- Applies to all templates but concentrates on resource templates

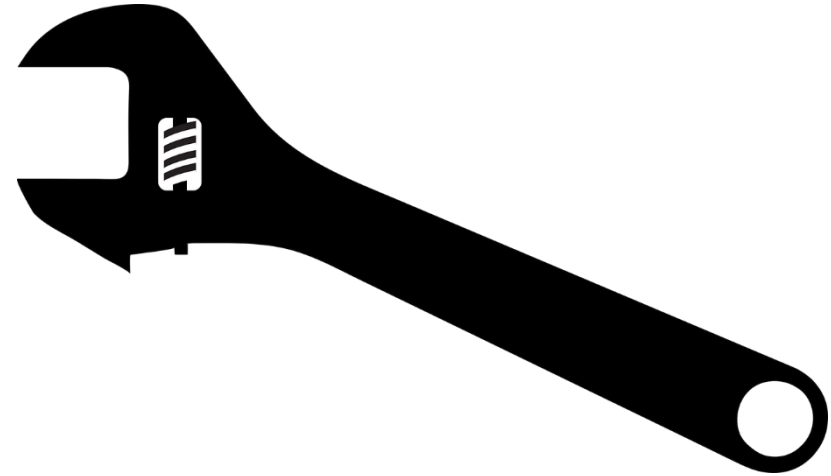
Template guidelines

Let's make it clear. Two important questions.

- What makes a good resource template?
- What should be in the resource template?

What makes a good resource template?

1. Universal,
one-size-fits-all



User macros

**LLD (low-level
discovery)**

~~Rare metrics~~

What makes a good resource template?

2. Expertise applied

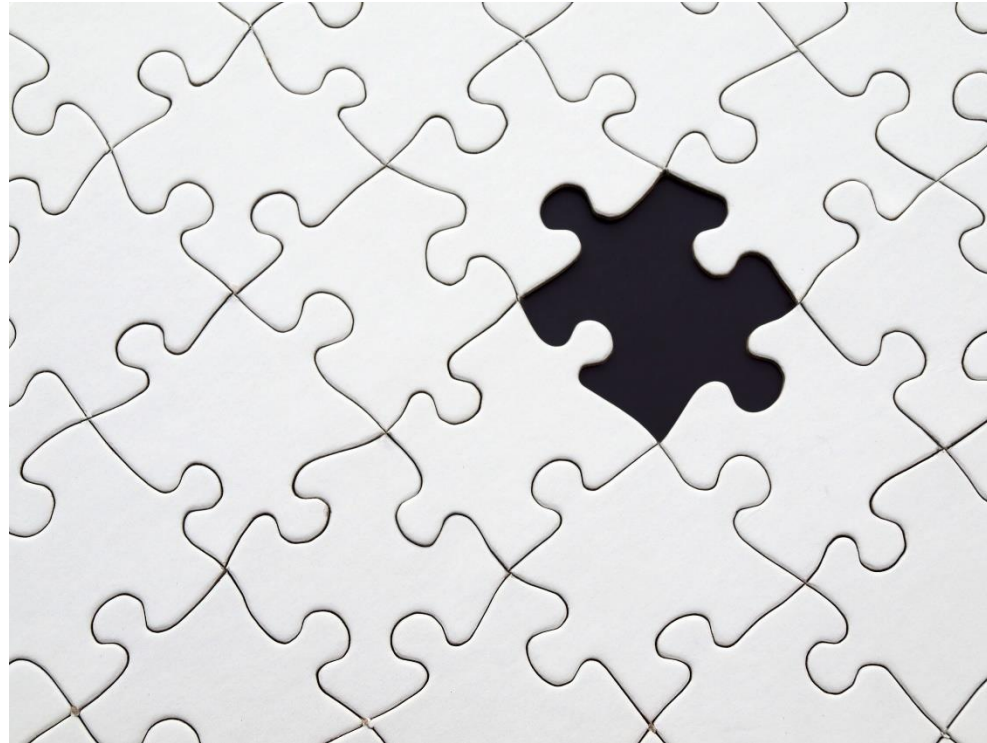
- Key metrics picked, non-relevant filtered out
- Triggers for the most critical problems
 - But no problems “noise”









What makes a good resource template?

3. Modularity

Template is kept within a single resource



What should be in the resource template?

1. Availability monitoring  and fault monitoring  
2. Performance monitoring 
3. State and inventory monitoring 
4. Security monitoring 

Template guidelines. Key tips

- Don't overengineer it, just a template
- Use defaults when in doubt
 - for delay
 - for history and trends
- Instead spend your time on what's more important, e.g. what metrics to collect first

Template guidelines. Key tips

- English first (share this one)
 - Then localized copy of the template if necessary
- Avoid global regex and global macros
- Avoid passwords in user macros
- Include visualization
 - Screens and graphs are the must

Template guidelines. Key tips

- KISS - keep it simple, stupid
 - KISS for the end template users
 - even if under the hood it is more complex 😊
- Documentation!
 - README.md near the XML file,
 - fill an item or a trigger description
- Avoid external dependencies as much as you can
Use preprocessing, JS..., build new zabbix-agent2 plugins 😊

Avoid external dependencies

Now (4.2) you can do discovery out of any JSON array

```
{
  "disks": [
    {
      "disk_name": "disk1",
      "disk_status": 1,
    },
    {
      "disk_name": "disk2",
      "disk_status": 0
    }
  ]
}
```

LLD preprocessing

Discovery rules

All templates / abc Applications Items Triggers Graphs Screens **Discovery rules** Web scenarios

Discovery rule **Preprocessing** LLD macros Filters

Preprocessing steps

Name

Parameters



1:

JSONPath



\$.disks

[Add](#)

Add

Cancel

LLD macros

Discovery rules

All templates / abc Applications Items Triggers Graphs Screens **Discovery rules** Web scenarios

Discovery rule Preprocessing **LLD macros** Filters

LLD macros

LLD macro	JSONPath	
<input data-bbox="687 863 1337 935" type="text" value="{#DISK_NAME}"/>	<input data-bbox="1388 863 2191 935" type="text" value="\$disk_name"/>	Remove

[Add](#)

Convert JSON object to JSON array

```
http://demo.nginx.com/api/3/http/server_zones
{
  "hg.nginx.org": {
    "processing": 0,
    "requests": 175276,
    "responses": {
      "1xx": 0, "2xx": 162948, "3xx": 10117, "4xx": 2125, "5xx": 8, "total": 175198
    },
    "discarded": 78,
    "received": 50484208,
    "sent": 7356417338
  },
  "trac.nginx.org": {
    "processing": 7,
    "requests": 448613,
    "responses": {
      "1xx": 0, "2xx": 305562, "3xx": 87065, "4xx": 23136, "5xx": 5127, "total": 420890
    },
    "discarded": 27716,
    "received": 137307886,
    "sent": 3989556941
  }
}
```

Discovery rules

All templates / Template App Nginx Plus HTTP Discovery list / **Nginx Plus server zones discovery**

Item prototypes 11 Trigger prototypes Graph prototypes Host prototypes

Discovery rule **Preprocessing** LLD macros Filters

* Name Nginx Plus server zones discovery

Type **Dependent item**

* Key nginx.plus.get_server_zones.discovery

* Master item **Template App Nginx Plus HTTP: Nginx: Get server zones**

* Keep lost resources period 30d

Description Discover Nginx HTTP virtual servers

Enabled

Discovery rules

All templates / Template App Nginx Plus HTTP / Discovery list / Nginx Plus server zones discovery

Item prototypes 11 / Trigger prototypes / Graph prototypes / Host prototypes

Discovery rule / Preprocessing / LLD macros / Filters

Preprocessing steps / Name / Parameters / Custom on fail / Actions

JavaScript

```
function (value) {
```

```
1 //parsing NGINX plus output like in footer:  
2 output = Object.keys(JSON.parse(value)).map(function(zone) {  
3     return {"#NGINX_ZONE": zone}  
4 })  
5 return JSON.stringify({"data": output})  
}
```

65354 symbols remaining

```
//parsing NGINX plus output:  
output = Object.keys(JSON.parse(value)).map(function(zone) {  
    return {"#NGINX_ZONE": zone}  
})  
return JSON.stringify({"data": output})
```

Item prototypes

[Create item prototype](#)

All templates / Template App Nginx Plus HTTP / Discovery list / Nginx Plus server zones discovery

Item prototypes 11 / Trigger prototypes / Graph prototypes / Host prototypes

<input type="checkbox"/>	Wizard	Name ▲	Key	Interval	History	Trends	Type	Applications	Create enabled
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Nginx: Get server zones: {#NGINX_ZONE}: Discarded	nginx.plus.discarded[{#NGINX_ZONE}]	90d	365d		Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Nginx: Get server zones: {#NGINX_ZONE}: Processing	nginx.plus.processing[{#NGINX_ZONE}]	90d	365d		Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Nginx: Get server zones: {#NGINX_ZONE}: Received	nginx.plus.received[{#NGINX_ZONE}]	90d	365d		Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Nginx: Get server zones: {#NGINX_ZONE}: Requests	nginx.plus.requests[{#NGINX_ZONE}]	90d	365d		Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Nginx: Get server zones: {#NGINX_ZONE}: Responses 1xx	nginx.plus.responses.1xx[{#NGINX_ZONE}]	90d	365d		Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Nginx: Get server zones: {#NGINX_ZONE}: Responses 2xx	nginx.plus.responses.2xx[{#NGINX_ZONE}]	90d	365d		Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Nginx: Get server zones: {#NGINX_ZONE}: Responses 3xx	nginx.plus.responses.3xx[{#NGINX_ZONE}]	90d	365d		Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Nginx: Get server zones: {#NGINX_ZONE}: Responses 4xx	nginx.plus.responses.4xx[{#NGINX_ZONE}]	90d	365d		Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Nginx: Get server zones: {#NGINX_ZONE}: Responses 5xx	nginx.plus.responses.5xx[{#NGINX_ZONE}]	90d	365d		Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Nginx: Get server zones: {#NGINX_ZONE}: Responses total	nginx.plus.responses.total[{#NGINX_ZONE}]	90d	365d		Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Nginx: Get server zones: {#NGINX_ZONE}: Sent	nginx.plus.sent[{#NGINX_ZONE}]	90d	365d		Dependent item		Yes

Displaying 11 of 11 found

Structured text can be used as well: vfs.file.contents[/proc/diskstats]

```
7      0 loop0 2 0 10 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
7      1 loop1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
7      2 loop2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
7      3 loop3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
7      4 loop4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
7      5 loop5 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
7      6 loop6 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
7      7 loop7 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
8      0 sda 192218 21315 11221888 13020540 28630719 8482221 801446972 388811708 0 265066852
401774948
8      1 sda1 252 59 11294 5424 6 0 12 464 0 4160 5888
8      2 sda2 4 0 8 72 0 0 0 0 0 72 72
8      5 sda5 191918 21256 11208378 13014352 22872982 8482221 801446960 215739516 0 99497600
228699704
252    0 dm-0 186763 0 10985130 22979168 31930494 0 799946248 396490524 0 265080476 419505356
252    1 dm-1 26897 0 220608 688352 187589 0 1500712 23501956 0 212608 24190464
```

JavaScript

```
function (value) {
```

```
1 var parsed = value.split("\n").reduce(function(acc, x, i) {
2   parts = x.trim().split(/ +/)
3   acc["values"][parts[2]] = parts
4   acc["lld"].push({"#DEVNAME":parts[2]})
5   return acc;
6 }, {"values":{}, "lld": []});
7
8 return JSON.stringify(p
```

65292 symbols remaining

```
var parsed = value.split("\n").reduce(function(acc, x, i) {
  parts = x.trim().split(/ +/)
  acc["values"][parts[2]] = parts
  acc["lld"].push({"#DEVNAME":parts[2]})
  return acc;
}, {"values":{}, "lld": []});

return JSON.stringify(parsed);
```



```
{"values":{"loop0":["7","0","loop0","2","0","10","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0"],"loop1":["7","1","loop1","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0"],"loop2":["7","2","loop2","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0"],"loop3":["7","3","loop3","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0"],"loop4":["7","4","loop4","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0"],"loop5":["7","5","loop5","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0"],"loop6":["7","6","loop6","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0"],"loop7":["7","7","loop7","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0","0"],"sda":["8","0","sda","192319","21316","11225512","13022788","28634853","8483355","801573324","388890252","0","265106688","401855724"],"sda1":["8","1","sda1","252","59","11294","5424","6","0","12","464","0","4160","5888"],"sda2":["8","2","sda2","4","0","8","72","0","0","0","0","0","72","72"],"sda5":["8","5","sda5","192019","21257","11212002","13016600","22876273","8483355","801573312","215792244","0","99514184","228754668"],"dm-0":["252","0","dm-0","186863","0","10988738","22981380","31935086","0","800072600","396577656","0","265120280","419594700"],"dm-1":["252","1","dm-1","26899","0","220624","688400","187589","0","1500712","23501956","0","212632","24190512"]},
```

```
"lld":[{"#DEVNAME":"loop0"},{"#DEVNAME":"loop1"},{"#DEVNAME":"loop2"},{"#DEVNAME":"loop3"},{"#DEVNAME":"loop4"},{"#DEVNAME":"loop5"},{"#DEVNAME":"loop6"},{"#DEVNAME":"loop7"},{"#DEVNAME":"sda"},{"#DEVNAME":"sda1"},{"#DEVNAME":"sda2"},{"#DEVNAME":"sda5"},{"#DEVNAME":"dm-0"},{"#DEVNAME":"dm-1"}]
```

Discovery rules

[All templates](#) / [Template OS Linux Zabbix agent](#) / [Discovery list](#) / [Block devices discovery](#)

[Item prototypes 8](#) / [Trigger prototypes 1](#) / [Graph prototypes 2](#) / [Host prototypes](#)

[Discovery rule](#) / [Preprocessing](#) / [LLD macros](#) / [Filters](#)

* Name

Type

* Key

* Master item

Select

* Keep lost resources period

Description

Enabled

Update

Clone

Delete

Cancel

Discovery rules

All templates / Template OS Linux Zabbix agent / Discovery list / **Block devices discovery**

Item prototypes 8 / Trigger prototypes 1 / Graph prototypes 2 / Host prototypes

Discovery rule / **Preprocessing** / LLD macros / Filters

Preprocessing steps	Name	Parameters	Custom on fail	Actions
1:	JSONPath	\$.lld	<input type="checkbox"/>	Test Remove
2:	Discard unchanged with heartbea	1h	<input type="checkbox"/>	Test Remove

[Add](#)

Update

Clone

Delete

Cancel

Item prototypes

Create item prototype

All templates / Template OS Linux Zabbix agent Discovery list / Block devices discovery

Item prototypes 8 Trigger prototypes 1 Graph prototypes 2 Host prototypes

<input type="checkbox"/>	Wizard	Name ▲	Key	Interval	History	Trends	Type	Applications	Create enabled
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Get /proc/diskstats: {#DEVNAME}: Disk average queue size (avgqu-sz)	vfs.dev.queue_size[{#DEVNAME}]		90d	365d	Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Get /proc/diskstats: {#DEVNAME}: Disk read rate	vfs.dev.read.rate[{#DEVNAME}]		90d	365d	Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	{#DEVNAME}: Disk read request avg waiting time (r_await)	vfs.dev.read.await[{#DEVNAME}]	1m	90d	365d	Calculated		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Get /proc/diskstats: {#DEVNAME}: Disk read time (rate)	vfs.dev.read.time.rate[{#DEVNAME}]		0	365d	Dependent item	Zabbix raw items	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Get /proc/diskstats: {#DEVNAME}: Disk utilization	vfs.dev.util[{#DEVNAME}]		90d	365d	Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Get /proc/diskstats: {#DEVNAME}: Disk write rate	vfs.dev.write.rate[{#DEVNAME}]		90d	365d	Dependent item		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	{#DEVNAME}: Disk write request avg waiting time (w_await)	vfs.dev.write.await[{#DEVNAME}]	1m	90d	365d	Calculated		Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Get /proc/diskstats: {#DEVNAME}: Disk write time (rate)	vfs.dev.write.time.rate[{#DEVNAME}]		0	365d	Dependent item	Zabbix raw items	Yes

Displaying 8 of 8 found

0 selected

Create enabled

Create disabled

Mass update

Delete

Disk sda (6 Items)				
sda: Disk average queue size (avgqu-sz)	2019-08-19 14:04:16	0.31	-0.3	Graph
sda: Disk read rate	2019-08-19 14:04:16	8.51 r/s	-1.42 r/s	Graph
sda: Disk read request avg waiting time (r_await)	2019-08-19 14:04:29	0.59 ms	+0.08 ms	Graph
sda: Disk utilization	2019-08-19 14:04:16	24.04 %	-5.22 %	Graph
sda: Disk write rate	2019-08-19 14:04:16	19.02 w/s	-6.61 w/s	Graph
sda: Disk write request avg waiting time (w_await)	2019-08-19 14:04:32	15.62 ms	+4.03 ms	Graph

And more guidelines

- All items and triggers should be enabled
- Avoid unsupported items
 - For that use LLD (low level discovery)

Singleton LLD

Apache HTTP as an example

127.0.0.1
ServerVersion: Apache/2.4.41 (Unix)

ServerMPM: event

Server Built: Aug 14 2019 00:35:10

ParentServerConfigGeneration: 1

ParentServerMPMGeneration: 0

ServerUptimeSeconds: 189613

.....

Processes: 4

Stopping: 0

BusyWorkers: 7

IdleWorkers: 93

ConnsTotal: 13

ConnsAsyncWriting: 0

ConnsAsyncKeepAlive: 5

ConnsAsyncClosing: 0

Scoreboard:

```
_____W_____W_____
LW___W___W_W_____.....
.....
.....
```


Discovery rules

[All templates](#) / [Template App Apache HTTP](#) / [Discovery list](#) / [Event MPM discovery](#)[Item prototypes 3](#) / [Trigger prototypes](#) / [Graph prototypes 1](#) / [Host prototypes](#)[Discovery rule](#) / [Preprocessing](#) / [LLD macros](#) / [Filters](#)* Name Type * Key * Master item * Keep lost resources period Description Enabled

Discovery rules

All templates / Template App Apache HTTP / Discovery list / Event MPM discovery

Item prototypes 3 / Trigger prototypes / Graph prototypes 1 / Host prototypes

Discovery rule / **Preprocessing** / LLD macros / Filters

Preprocessing steps	Name	Parameters	Custom on fail	Actions
1:	JSONPath	<code>\$.ServerMPM</code>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Test Remove
2:	JavaScript	<code>return JSON.stringify(value === 'event' ? [{}]{#SIN...</code>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Test Remove

[Add](#)

[Update](#)

[Clone](#)

[Delete](#)

[Cancel](#)

JavaScript

```
function (value) {  
  1  return JSON.stringify(value === 'event' ? [{ '#SINGLETON': '' }] : []);  
}
```

65464 symbols remaining

Apache HTTP server. Use Singleton LLD for items

Item prototypes Create item prototype

All templates / Template App Apache by HTTP / Discovery list / Event MPM discovery / **Item prototypes 6** / Trigger prototypes / Graph prototypes 2 / Host prototypes

<input type="checkbox"/>	Wizard	Name ▲	Key	Interval	History	Trends	Type	Applications	Create enabled
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Apache: Get status: Apache: Bytes per request	apache.bytes[per_request{#SINGLETON}]	7d	365d		Dependent item	Apache	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Apache: Get status: Apache: Connections async closing	apache.connections[async_closing{#SINGLETON}]	7d	365d		Dependent item	Apache	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Apache: Get status: Apache: Connections async keep alive	apache.connections[async_keep_alive{#SINGLETON}]	7d	365d		Dependent item	Apache	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Apache: Get status: Apache: Connections async writing	apache.connections[async_writing{#SINGLETON}]	7d	365d		Dependent item	Apache	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Apache: Get status: Apache: Connections total	apache.connections[total{#SINGLETON}]	7d	365d		Dependent item	Apache	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	...	Apache: Get status: Apache: Number of async processes	apache.process[num{#SINGLETON}]	7d	365d		Dependent item	Apache	Yes

Displaying 6 of 6 found

0 selected Create enabled Create disabled Mass update Delete

Apache HTTP server. Use Singleton LLD for items and graphs

Graph prototypes

Create graph prototype

All templates / Template App Apache by HTTP / Discovery list / Event MPM discovery / Item prototypes 6 / Trigger prototypes / Graph prototypes 2 / Host prototypes

<input type="checkbox"/> Name ▲	Width	Height	Graph type
<input type="checkbox"/> Apache: Current async connections{#SINGLETON}	900	200	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/> Apache: Current async processes{#SINGLETON}	900	200	Normal

Displaying 2 of 2 found

0 selected

Delete

Apache HTTP server. Use Singleton LLD for items and graphs

← → ↻ ⓘ 127.0.0.1/latest.php?ddreset=1 🔍 ☆

Apply Reset

<input type="checkbox"/> Host	Name ▲	Last check	Last value
▼ <u>Apache</u>	Apache (26 Items)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apache: Bytes per request	2019-08-19 12:55:29	1.18 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apache: Bytes per second	2019-08-19 12:55:29	17.05 Bps
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apache: Connections async closing	2019-08-19 12:55:29	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apache: Connections async keep alive	2019-08-19 12:55:29	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apache: Connections async writing	2019-08-19 12:55:29	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apache: Connections total	2019-08-19 12:55:29	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apache: CPU load	2019-08-19 12:55:29	0.0173
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apache: Requests per second	2019-08-19 12:55:29	0.0167 rps

Singleton LLD. Results

- Gives regular items, triggers, graphs
- They are created ONLY if JavaScript preprocessing filter would allow this. (in our case = **ServerMPM: event**)
- Universal template without any unsupported items

Moving on... More guidelines

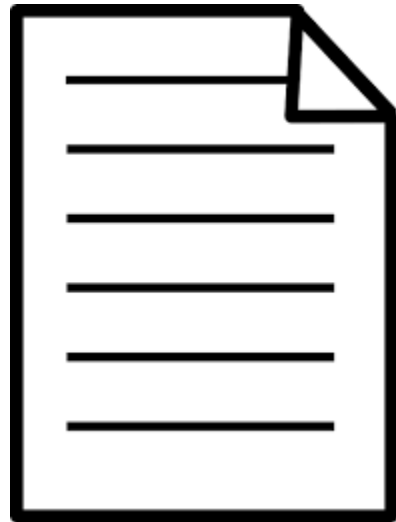
- User macros. Should be everywhere:
 - in trigger expressions
 - in item keys for flexible connections
 - LLD filters

Templates are truly universal with macros

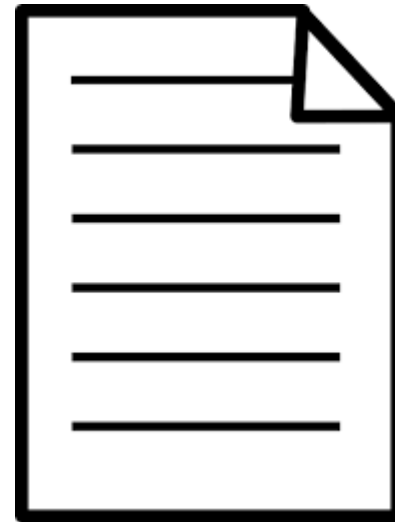
Quick example.

- I have a template to monitor network interfaces.
- Most of the time, for my **core network devices**, I want to discover and monitor all network interfaces
- However, for **access layer switches**, I am only interested in interfaces with description (IFDESCR) that says "UPLINK"

How we
used to do
it:



Template Module Interfaces



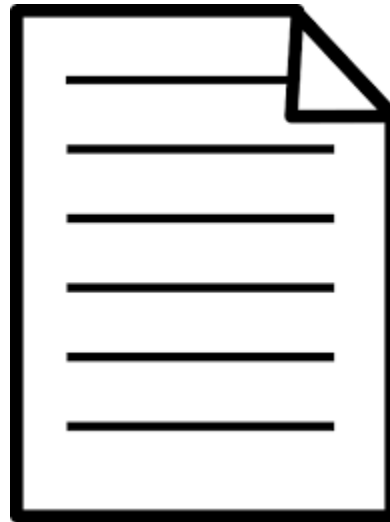
Template Module Interfaces for access layer

Templates are truly universal with macros

Quick example.

- I have a template to monitor network interfaces.
- Most of the time, for my **core network devices**, I want to discover and monitor all network interfaces
- However, for **access layer switches**, I am only interested in interfaces with description (IFDESCR) that says "UPLINK"

**Another way
to do it
using
macros:**



Template Module Interfaces



Template Module Interfaces for access layer

Filter of core template using macros

Discovery rules

All templates / Template Module Interfaces SNMPv2 / Discovery list / Network interfaces discovery / Item prototypes 9 / Trigger prototypes 4 / Graph prototypes 1 / Host prototypes

Discovery rule / Preprocessing / LLD macros / **Filters**

Type of calculation (E and F) and (G and H)

Filters	Label	Macro		Regular expression	Action
	E	<input type="text" value="#IFDESCR"/>	matches	<input type="text" value="{NET.IF.IFDESCR.MATCHES}"/>	Remove
	F	<input type="text" value="#IFDESCR"/>	does not match	<input type="text" value="{NET.IF.IFDESCR.NOT_MATCHES}"/>	Remove
	G	<input type="text" value="#IFNAME"/>	matches	<input type="text" value="{NET.IF.IFNAME.MATCHES}"/>	Remove
	H	<input type="text" value="#IFNAME"/>	does not match	<input type="text" value="{NET.IF.IFNAME.NOT_MATCHES}"/>	Remove
Add					

Default filter ANY DESCRIPTION, even empty:

⇒

Create new empty template

Templates

Template [Linked templates](#) [Tags](#) [Macros](#)

* Template name

Visible name

* Groups
type here to search

Description

Create new empty template with link

Templates

Template **Linked templates** Tags Macros

Linked templates	Name	Action
	Template Module Interfaces SNMPv2	Unlink

[Add](#)

Add Cancel

Create new empty template with link and new value for macro

Templates

Template Linked templates Tags **Macros**

Template macros Inherited and template macros

Macro

{\$NET.IF.IFDESCR.MATCHES}

Value

UPLINK

Description

matches only interfaces with description "UPLINK" instead of .*

[Remove](#)

[Add](#)

Add

Cancel

Triggers

- Do not use {ITEM.LASTVALUE} in trigger names
 - Fill this in **operational data** field (Zabbix 4.4)
- Use priority scale suggested (check guidelines doc)
- Explain the threshold
- Don't forget about macros context

Triggers. Explain the threshold

Good	Bad
<p>Temperature is too high (over 35 C for 5m)</p> <p>CPU load is too high (over 1.5)</p> <p>MySQL: Refused connections (max_connections limit reached)</p>	<p>Temperature is too high (now: 40)</p> <p>CPU load is too high</p> <p>MySQL: Refused connections</p>

Triggers. Use macros context

Good	Bad
<pre>{ \$IF.ERRORS.WARN:"{#IFNAME}" } { \$TEMP_WARN:"{#SENSORNAME}" }</pre>	<pre>{ \$IF.ERRORS.WARN } { \$TEMP_WARN }</pre>

Data collection

Use preprocessing and built-in agents (like HTTP agent):

- instead of Zabbix sender(trapper)
- instead of UserParameters/External scripts

Why avoid Zabbix sender and scripts in and use preprocessing instead?

- minimize the «observer effect»
- processing is described in the template itself no hidden magic
- platform independent
- better control of how data is collected (compared to sender)

When to resort to Zabbix sender?

- Zabbix sender protocol is implemented inside your code/app
- irregular data (events, i.e. backup completed)
- sync history data with shifted timestamp
- takes a lot of time to complete (> 3 seconds)
 - you also can use zabbix-agent2 plugins for such case now

Throttling (Discard with heartbeat). When to use?

- discrete states that rarely changes
 - i.e. disk health, interface status
- inventory items
- do not use for floats



TEMPLATES COLLABORATION

AN OFFICIAL GUIDE TO MAKING AND MANAGING
GREAT TEMPLATES

Item in 4.2 XML

```
<item>
  <name>ICMP loss</name>
  <type>3</type>
  <snmp_community/>
  <snmp_oid/>
  <key>icmppingloss</key>
  <delay>1m</delay>
  <history>1w</history>
  <trends>365d</trends>
  <status>0</status>
  <value_type>0</value_type>
  <allowed_hosts/>
  <units>%</units>
  <snmpv3_contextname/>
  <snmpv3_securityname/>
  <snmpv3_securitylevel>0</snmpv3_securitylevel>
  <snmpv3_authprotocol>0</snmpv3_authprotocol>
  <snmpv3_authpassphrase/>
  <snmpv3_privprotocol>0</snmpv3_privprotocol>
  <snmpv3_privpassphrase/>
  <params/>
  <ipmi_sensor/>
  <authtype>0</authtype>
  <username/>
  <password/>
  <publickey/>
  <privatekey/>
  <port/>
  <description/>
  <inventory_link>0</inventory_link>
  <applications>
    <application>
      <name>Status</name>
    </application>
  </applications>
  <valuemap/>
  <logtimefmt/>
  <preprocessing/>
  <jmx_endpoint/>
  <timeout>3s</timeout>
  <url/>
  <query_fields/>
  <posts/>
  <status_codes>200</status_codes>
  <follow_redirects>1</follow_redirects>
  <post_type>0</post_type>
  <http_proxy/.....
</item>
```

Trigger in 4.2 XML

```
<trigger>
  <expression>{Template Module ICMP Ping:icmppingloss.min(5m)}&gt;{${ICMP_LOSS_WARN}}
and {Template Module ICMP Ping:icmppingloss.min(5m)}&lt;100</expression>
  <recovery_mode>0</recovery_mode>
  <recovery_expression/>
  <name>High ICMP ping loss</name>
  <correlation_mode>0</correlation_mode>
  <correlation_tag/>
  <url/>
  <status>0</status>
  <priority>2</priority>
  <description>Loss: {ITEM.LASTVALUE1}</description>
  <type>0</type>
  <manual_close>0</manual_close>
  <dependencies>
    <dependency>
      <name>Unavailable by ICMP ping</name>
      <expression>{Template Module ICMP Ping:icmpping.max(#3)}=0</expression>
      <recovery_expression/>
    </dependency>
  </dependencies>
  <tags/>
</trigger>
```

ITEM + SIMPLE TRIGGER in 4.4 XML

```
<item>
  <name>ICMP loss</name>
  <type>SIMPLE</type>
  <key>icmppingloss</key>
  <history>1w</history>
  <value_type>FLOAT</value_type>
  <units>%</units>
  <applications>
    <application>
      <name>Status</name>
    </application>
  </applications>
  <triggers>
    <trigger>
      <expression>{min(5m)}>{$ICMP_LOSS_WARN} and {min(5m)}<100</expression>
      <name>High ICMP ping loss</name>
      <opdata>Loss: {ITEM.LASTVALUE1}</opdata>
      <priority>WARNING</priority>
      <dependencies>
        <dependency>
          <name>Unavailable by ICMP ping</name>
          <expression>{Template Module ICMP Ping:icmpping.max(#3)}=0</expression>
        </dependency>
      </dependencies>
    </trigger>
  </triggers>
</item>
```

- All defaults or non-relevant item parameters are **removed** from the file export
- All constants are now easy to understand STRINGS
- Simple triggers are defined inside the item node with expressions not mentioning template or host name or even metric

New XML format

- Easier to control changes in templates with Git
- Easier to write templates in text editor or with some script
- Next stop: YAML or JSON by default?

```
1  ---
2  items:
3  - name: Free disk space on /
4    type: ZABBIX_AGENT
5    key: vfs.fs.size[/,pfree]
6    triggers:
7    - name: No free disk space
8      expression: last()<10
9      priority: HIGH
10
11
```

How to help

- Templates officially supported
- Create new issues or feature requests
<https://support.zabbix.com>
- Leave feedback zabbix.com/forum/ - special topic for each new template is available

THANK YOU!



Vitaly Zhuravlev
ZABBIX Zabbix Solution Architect

ZABBIX '19 SUMMIT