## ZABBIX TIPS & TRICKS

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# 1. {\$USER\_MACROS}

Zabbix Tips and Tricks

### What are {\$USER\_MACROS} ?



They are **variable names** to store different information

- trigger thresholds
- different filters
- credentials
- etc.....

They have multiple levels, each new one overriding the previous





#### **Fixed thresholds in templates**



Different servers may have different **threshold values** for

items like CPU load, free memory size, number of processes

etc.

{Template OS: system.cpu.load[percpu,avg1].avg(5m)}>5 {Template OS: vm.memory.size[available].last(0)}<20M {Template OS: proc.num[].avg(5m)}>300





#### **Dynamic thresholds in templates**



# Use **{\$USER\_MACROS}** as **threshold values** for items like CPU load, free memory size, number of processes etc.

{Template OS: system.cpu.load[percpu,avg1].avg(5m)}>**{\$CPU\_LOAD}** {Template OS: vm.memory.size[available].last(0)}<**{\$MEMORY\_FREE}** {Template OS: proc.num[].avg(5m)}>**{\$PROC\_NUM}** 



#### **Fixed port numbers in templates**



Different servers have different **port numbers** for tcp/udp ports like ssh, http, https etc.

{Template OS: net.tcp.service[ssh,22]
{Template OS: net.tcp.service[http,80]
{Template OS: net.tcp.service[https,443]







# Use **{\$USER\_MACROS}** as **port numbers** for tcp/udp ports like ssh, http, https etc.

{Template OS: net.tcp.service[ssh,{\$SSH\_PORT}]
{Template OS: net.tcp.service[http,{\$HTTP\_PORT}]
{Template OS: net.tcp.service[https,{\$HTTPS\_PORT}]



### Fixed thresholds for LLD (Low Level Discovery) items



Different mount points will have different **size**, hence different

low space warning **thresholds** 

• /boot	small size	<b>100M</b>
• /	medium size	<b>10G</b>
• /data	large size	1TB







Different mount points will have different **size**, so use **context** 

**based macros** to tune your triggers

/boot small size
/ medium size
/data large size

{\$LOW\_SPACE:"/boot"}
{\$LOW\_SPACE:"/"}
{\$LOW\_SPACE:"/data"}

Can be used for **Windows drive names** also





Different servers have different services, which need to be monitored

- Server 1 DHCP client, Windows defender
- Server 2 DHCP client, Windows defender, MS Exchange
- Server 3 DHCP client, RDP Service, RPC

Just @Global regular expressions can not be used because there are too many combinations





#### Services filter example



HOST MACRO		GLOBA	L REGULAR EX	PRESSION
Host macros       Inherited and host macros         Macro       Value         {\$SERVICES}       ⇒ (Tomcat WSUS)         Add         Update       Clone         Full clone       Delete         Cancel	Ve Name	Services Expression type Result is TRUE Add Cancel	Expression <ul> <li>(DNSIDHCP)\$             </li> </ul>	Delimiter Case sensitive Action
Discovery rule Filters Type of calculation Or	<ul> <li>A or B</li> </ul>			
Filters Label Macro A {#SERVICE B {#SERVICE Add	E.NAME}	matches	Regular expression {\$SERVICES} @SERVICES	Action Remove Remove



Use a combination of **{\$USER\_MACROS}** and **@global regular expressions** 



#### **Define** {\$USER\_MACRO} on Host level Use {\$USER\_MACRO} as **filter expression** Global regular expressions and filters can be **combined**



### Different customers use different credentials



- Different customers may have **different credentials** 
  - for SNMPv2 communities
  - For SNMPv3 usernames/passwords
  - For SSH passwords
  - For WEB login passwords

Templates may be cloned for each customer, potentially leaving you with **too many templates** to manage.





#### **Credentials storage example**



#### Use {\$USER\_MACRO} as **password storage Define** as many {\$USER\_MACRO} as needed Macros still can be **overridden** on host level

Template	Linked templates	Macros					
			Template macros	Inherited and	l ter	nplate macros	
			Macro			Value	
			{\$SNMP_AUTH_PASS	SPHRASE}	⇒	value	Remove
			{\$SNMP_COMMUNIT	Υ}	⇒	value	Remove
			{\$SNMP_PRIV_PASS	PHRASE}	⇒	value	Remove
			{\$SNMP_SECURITY_	NAME}	⇒	value	Remove
			Add				
			Update Clone	Full clone	е	Delete Delete and clear Cancel	

# 2. Preprocessing

Zabbix Tips and Tricks







#### Need to divide or multiply values



- Convert Bytes to Bits
- Convert Bits to Bytes
- Convert milliseconds to seconds
- etc....

Item units may be used for visualisation, but we want to **change** the stored data.



#### **Use Custom multiplier preprocessing**



#### Convert bits to bytes using **multiplier 8**

#### Convert bytes to bits using **multiplier 0.125**

Item Preprocessing			
Preprocessing steps	Name	Parameters	Action
	Custom multiplier	▼ 8	Remove
	Add		
	Add Cancel		

Recent Zabbix versions uses new **Preprocessing tab** for this purpose



# Need to extract numerical data from text



- Linux Memory
- Linux Free Space report
- Any other report which contains numerical data

[root@zabbix40 ~]# free -m									
-	total	used	free	shared	buff/cache	available			
Mem:	991	357	383	7	250	477			
Swap:	819_	Θ	819						



#### Use regular expression preprocessing



[root Mem: Şwap:	@zabbix34	~]# free -n total 991 819	used 300 0	free 447 819	shared 7	buff/cache 243	available 533
Item	Preprocessing						
		Preprocessing steps	Name Regular expression Custom multiplier Add Add Cancel	Parame Swap 104857	ters :.*(\b[0-9]+\b).*(\b[ 76	0-9] \3	Action Remove Remove

Extract data using **PCRE REGEX patterns** Extracted data can be processed on next steps



## Need to convert Boolean text data to decimal



- systemctl reports services as enabled or disabled
- we want to store them as 1 or 0 for trigger functions or graphical representation

[root@zabbix40 ~]# systemctl list-unit-files | grep zabbix zabbix-agent.service enabled zabbix-java-gateway.service disabled zabbix-server.service enabled





#### **Boolean to decimal configuration**



ltem	Preprocessing		
	Preprocessing steps	Name     Parameters       Regular expression     Izabbix-agent.service+\s+(\w)	Action Remove
		Boolean to decimal	Remove
		Add	
		Update Clone Check now Clear history and trends Delete Cance	d

Wizard	Name 🔺	Triggers	Кеу	Interval	History	Trends	Туре	Applications	Status
•••	Enabled Zabbix services		ssh.run[zabbix_enabled,{HOST.CONN}]	10s	0		SSH agent	Zabbix	Enabled
•••	Enabled Zabbix services: Zabbix Agent state		Zabbix_Agent_enabled		90d	365d	Dependent item	Zabbix	Enabled
•••	Enabled Zabbix services: Zabbix java gateway state		Java_gateway_enabled		90d	365d	Dependent item	Zabbix	Enabled
•••	Enabled Zabbix services: Zabbix Server state		Zabbix_Service_enabled		90d	365d	Dependent item	Zabbix	Enabled



#### **Boolean to decimal latest data**



▼  Host	Name 🔺	Last check	Last value	Change	
<ul> <li>Zabbix HOST</li> </ul>	Zabbix (4 Items)				
	Enabled Zabbix services				
	Zabbix Agent state	2018-10-04 14:45:43	1	G	Graph
	Zabbix java gateway state	2018-10-04 14:45:43	0	G	Graph
	Zabbix Server state	2018-10-04 14:45:43	1	G	Graph

- Historical information is not stored for master item
- Gathered data can be used in graphs and triggers

# 3. Dependent items

Zabbix Tips and Tricks



### Need to extract all numerical data from text



- Linux memory, free space report or any other report which contains numerical data
- With standard items we will need to make **9(!)** checks to gather all data
- This results in additional network traffic and CPU usage on the host

[root@zabbix40 ~]# free -m								
-	total	used	free	shared	buff/cache	available		
Mem:	991	357	383	7	250	477		
Swap:	819_	Θ	819					



Use **Boolean to decimal** preprocessing step

\_\_\_\_\_





#### Use dependent items



#### Gather all data with regular text item:

Timestamp	Value						
2018-09-04 09:40:46	Mem:	total 67359399936	used 28717457408	free 6309957632	shared 7909801984	buff/cache 32331984896	available 29861924864
	Swap:	25769799680	0	25769799680			

### Create dependent items for each entry with regex preprocessing:

Item	Preprocessing					
		Preprocessing steps	Name	Parameters		Action
			Regular expression •	^Swap:.*(\b[0-9]+\b).*(\b[0-9]	13	Remove
			Custom multiplier •	1048576		Remove
			Add			
			Add Cancel			



#### **Dependent items configuration**



•••	Memory Report	ssh.run[check.memory] 1m	0	
•••	Memory Report: Memory Shared Size	ssh.ram.shared	90d	720d
•••	Memory Report: Memory Total Size	ssh.ram.total	90d	720d
•••	Memory Report: Memory Used Size	ssh.ram.used	90d	720d
•••	Memory Report: Swap Free Size	ssh.swap.free	90d	720d
•••	Memory Report: Swap Total Size	ssh.swap.total	90d	720d
•••	Memory Report: Swap Used Size	ssh.swap.used	90d	720d



#### **Dependent items latest data**



•	Memory (10 Items)							
	Memory Available Size ssh.ram.available		90d	720d	Depend	2018-09-04 08:4	28.57 GB	+28.58 MB
	Memory Buff/cache Size ssh.ram.buff		90d	720d	Depend	2018-09-04 08:4	32.4 GB	+34.14 MB
	Memory Free Size ssh.ram.free		90d	720d	Depend	2018-09-04 08:4	4.42 GB	-5.81 MB
	Memory Report ssh.run[check.memory]	1m	0		SSH ag			
	Memory Shared Size ssh.ram.shared		90d	720d	Depend	2018-09-04 08:4	7.43 GB	-32 KB
	Memory Total Size ssh.ram.total		90d	720d	Depend	2018-09-04 08:4	62.73 GB	
	Memory Used Size ssh.ram.used		90d	720d	Depend	2018-09-04 08:4	25.91 GB	-28.33 MB



## Need to monitor MySQL replication status



MariaDB [(none)] > show slave status GSlave IO State: Waiting for master to send event Master Port: 3306 Connect Retry: 60 Master\_Log\_File: master2-bin.000001 Read Master Log Pos: 926945751 Relay Log File: master1-relay-bin.000002 Relay Log Pos: 207526 Relay Master Log File: master2-bin.000001 Slave IO Running: Yes Slave SQL Running: Yes Seconds\_Behind\_Master: 0

Using regular items ODBC report must be gathered **multiple times**, resulting in **unnecessary** traffic, CPU usage and DB connections.



#### Use SQL queries and dependent items

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#### **Dependent items configuration**



Wizard	Name 🔺	Triggers	Кеу	Interval	History	Trends
•••	MysqL DB replication status		mysql.slavestatus	30s	0	
•••	MysqL DB replication status: Read_Master_Log_Pos		Read_Master_Log_Pos		90d	365d
•••	MysqL DB replication status: Relay_Log_File		Relay_Log_File		90d	
•••	MysqL DB replication status: Relay_Log_Pos		Relay_Log_Pos		90d	365d
•••	MysqL DB replication status: Seconds_Behind_Master	Triggers 1	Seconds_Behind_Master		90d	365d
•••	MysqL DB replication status: Slave_IO_Running	Triggers 1	Slave_IO_Running		90d	365d
•••	MysqL DB replication status: Slave_IO_State		Slave_IO_State		90d	
•••	MysqL DB replication status: Slave_SQL_Running	Triggers 1	Slave_SQL_Running		90d	365d



#### **Dependent items latest data report**



H	Oost groups Hosts	type here to search Zabbix_DB_01 × type here to search MySQL Replication	Select       Select       Select	Nam Show items without dat Show detai	le ta ✔ Is	
			Apply	Reset		
▼ Name ▲				L	ast check	Last value
<ul> <li>MySQL Replication (8 Items)</li> </ul>						
MysqL DB replication status						
Read_Master_Log_Pos				2	2018-10-04 11:30:30	926945751
Relay_Log_File				2	2018-10-04 11:30:30	master1-relay-bin.000002
Relay_Log_Pos				2	2018-10-04 11:30:30	207526
Seconds_Behind_Master				2	2018-10-04 11:30:30	0
Slave_IO_Running				2	2018-10-04 11:30:30	1
Slave_IO_State				2	2018-10-04 11:30:30	Waiting for master to send event
Slave_SQL_Running				2	2018-10-04 11:30:30	1



### Need to gather weather data for your location



	Weather in your city									
		Riga		Search						
-		Riga, LV a overcast clouds 10°C temperature from 10 to 10 °C, wind 5.1 Geo coords [56.9494, 24.1052]	m/s. clouds 90 %, 1008 hpa							

- Want to get temperature, humidity, wind speed data
- Custom curl scripts can be used, but they are **complicated**



## Use OpenWeatherMap API and JSON preprocessing







#### Use HTTP agent with {\$USER\_MACROS}



Parent items	Template Weather					
* Name	Get weather					
Туре	HTTP agent					
* Key	get_weather.http					
* URL	http://api.openweathermap.org/data/2.5/weather					
Query fields	Name	Value				
	units	⇒	metric			
	lat	⇒	{SLAT}			
	Ion	⇒	{\$LON}			
	APPID	⇒	{\$WEATHER_APIKEY}			



#### **JSON data returned as response**



#### \$.body.wind.speed





### Use preprocessing to process JSON



Iten	n Preproces	sing						
	Preproce	ssing steps Name JSON Pati	h		v	Paramete \$.body.n	ers nain.humidity	Action Remove
•	Host	Name 🔺	Inter	History	Trends	Туре	Last check	Last value
•	weather	Weather (8 Items)						
		Get weather get_weather.http	10m	1d		HTTP agent	2018-05-17 01:23:45	{"body":{"coord":{"lon
		Get weather HTTP response code get_weather.http_code		7d	0	Depende	2018-05-17 01:23:45	OK (200)
		Humidity humidity		90d	365d	Depende	2018-05-17 01:23:45	66 %
		Temperature temp		90d	365d	Depende	2018-05-17 01:23:45	15.14 C
		Weather weather		90d		Depende	2018-05-17 01:23:45	Clouds
		Weather condition id weather.condition.id		7d	0	Depende	2018-05-17 01:23:45	801
		Weather description weather description		90d		Depende	2018-05-17 01:23:45	few clouds
		Wind speed wind.speed		90d	365d	Depende	2018-05-17 01:23:45	1.86 m/s

### 4. Low Level Discovery

Zabbix Tips and Tricks



### Need to discover custom SNMP metrics



- Different printer models are used
- Want to discover all printer metrics
  - Supplies level
  - Paper trays
  - Number of printed pages



#### **Use SNMP discovery LLD rules**





All SNMP trees used in this example use **the same indexing** *!!!* 



#### **LLD rule and item prototypes**



Connection			
Discovery rule	Filters		
	* Nan Typ * Ke * SNMP OI	ne       Supplies         oe       SNMPv2 agent         ey       prtMarkerSuppliesDescription         ID       discovery[{#SNMPVALUE},.1.3.6.1.2.1.43.11.1.6]	
	* SNMP communi	ity {\$SNMP_COMMUNITY}	
Item prototype P	Preprocessing		
	* Name Type	Level of supplies \$1 SNMPv2 agent •	
	* Key	prtMarkerSuppliesLevel[{#SNMPVALUE}] Select	
	* SNMP OID	.1.3.6.1.2.1.43.11.1.1.9.{#SNMPINDEX}	
	* SNMP community	{\$SNMP_COMMUNITY}	

### accessibility on other hosts





PROBLEM

- net.tcp.port key is used
- there are numerous servers

and ports

 each agent has different server list to check



#### **Use custom LLD script**



- Simple **bash script** works out of box on most platforms
- Uses {\$USER\_MACRO} as input, returns JSON object



#### Create discovery rule



Name	Remote TCP connection	discovery								
Туре	External check •									
Key	check_ports_remote_lld.s	:heck_ports_remote_lld.sh[{\$LLD_REMOTE_CHECK}]								
Update interval	15m									
Custom intervals	Туре	Interval	Period	Action						
	Flexible Scheduling	50s	1-7,00:00-24:00	Remove						
	Add									



#### Item prototypes are created automatically





Remote TCP connection discovery: Remote TCP service to 10.74.181.79:8080]	Triggers 3 net.tcp.service.perf[tcp,10.74.181.79,8080]
Remote TCP connection discovery: Remote TCP service to 10.74.181.80:8080]	Triggers 3 net.tcp.service.perf[tcp,10.74.181.80,8080]
Remote TCP connection discovery: Remote TCP service to 10.74.181.81:8080]	Triggers 3 net.tcp.service.perf[tcp,10.74.181.81,8080]
Remote TCP connection discovery: Remote TCP service to 10.74.181.93:8080]	Triggers 3 net.tcp.service.perf[tcp,10.74.181.93,8080]





- WLAN controller returns full SNMP info about every Access Point
- Access Points are used by different customers
- We want to ping the physical Access Points also



#### Create discovery rule and host prototype to gather Access Point data



Name	WLC AP data
Туре	SNMPv2 agent
Key	bsnAPName
SNMP OID	discovery[{#AP_NAME},1.3.6.1.4.1.14179.2.2.1.1.3,{#AP_IP_ADDRESS},1.3.6.1.4.
SNMP community	{\$SNMP_COMMUNITY}
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Host Groups Templates	Host inventory Encryption
	Host name {#AP_IP_ADDRESS}
	Visible name {#AP_NAME}
	Create enabled 🔽
	Update Clone Delete Cancel



#### Link the same template to all hosts



Host	Groups	Templates	IPMI	Macros	Host	inventory	Encryption		
		Linked	template	s Name Templa	ate SN	MP Cisco \	Vireless Acce	ess Point	
				Upda	te	Clone	Delete	Cancel	

<b>Data is still gath</b>	ered from WLC
Discovery rule Filters	
* Name	WLC AP data
Туре	SNMPv2 agent
* Key	bsnAPName
* SNMP OID	discovery[{#AP_NAME},1.3.6.1.4.1.14179.2.2.1.1.3,{#AP_IP_ADDRESS},1.3.6.1.4.
* SNMP community	{\$SNMP_COMMUNITY}



#### Actual AP data is filtered out



Discovery rule	Filters						
		Filters	Label	Macro		Regular expression	Action
			А	{#AP_NAME}	matches	▼ ^{HOST.NAME}\$	Remove
			Add				
			Upda	ate Clone Delete	Cancel		

#### Use **LLD filters** to filter out only data for particular access point



Last value

3 users

0 users

172.16.0.49

1

36



#### **Result – hosts generated for each Access Point automatically**

	Applications	Items	Triggers	Graphs	Discovery	Web	Interface	
WLC AP data: APc47d.4f3a.8181	Applications 2	Items 8	Triggers 1	Graphs 1	Discovery 1	Web	172.16.0.4: 161	
WLC AP data: APc84c.75ee.212d	Applications 2	Items 8	Triggers 1	Graphs 1	Discovery 1	Web	172.16.0.4: 161	
WLC AP data: APc84c.757a.11a7	Applications 2	Items 8	Triggers 1	Graphs 1	Discovery 1	Web	172.16.0.4: 161	
WLC AP data: APd0d0.fd2e.17ce	Applications 2	Items 8	Triggers 1	Graphs 1	Discovery 1	Web	172.16.0.4: 161	
WLC AP data: PMO	Applications 2	Items 8	Triggers 1	Graphs 1	Discovery 1	Web	172.16.0.4: 161	
Name 🔺								Last check
AP Data (6 Items)								
APc47d.4f3a.8181 Ap If No Of	f Users 2.4 GH	z						2018-09-28 01:12:12
APc47d.4f3a.8181 Ap If No Of	f Users 5 GHz							2018-09-28 01:12:12
APc47d.4f3a.8181 AP If Phy C	Channel Numb	er 2.4 G	Hz					2018-09-28 01:10:12
APc47d.4f3a.8181 AP If Phy C	Channel Numb	er 5 GH	z					2018-09-28 01:10:12
APc47d.4f3a.8181 AP lp Addr	ess							2018-09-28 00:35:12



#### Benefits of using host prototypes



- Managed by Zabbix LLD internal mechanism
  - Added as needed
  - Removed or changed automatically
- Templates and host groups are assigned **automatically**
- Host group names can be generated **dynamically** from LLD macros
- Can assign permissions to restrict access only to part of the data using host groups and user groups

## 5. Event Correlation

Zabbix Tips and Tricks



Suppress device alarms when switch goes down



- All end devices are connected to **different switches**
- Dependencies can be used, but there are too many devices connected to each switch
- Devices can be moved between switches, dependencies must be relinked in this case



{\$SWITCH.IP} macro is generated by API script with device IP to MAC resolution via ARP tables, which are gathered by Zabbix



#### **Create global event correlation rule**



* Name	Switch and Device correlation	
Type of calculation	And/Or   A and B and C	
* Conditions	Label Name	Action
	A Old event tag SWITCH_IP equals new event tag SWITCH_IP	Remove
	B Old event tag DEVICE_TYPE equals SWITCH	Remove
	C New event tag DEVICE_TYPE equals END_DEVICE	Remove

Operations	Details	Action
	Close new event	Remove

## 6. Action management

Zabbix Tips and Tricks



#### **Postpone alerts for 30 minutes**



- When problem happens, actions are executed immediately by default
- "Fake" operation steps can be created, but this does not look nice



#### Use Zabbix built in scheduler



OPERATION STEPS	OPERATIONS	START IN	DURATION	Default step duration	30 min
Operation step 1	Do nothing	Immediately	default		
Operation step 2	Send message to operator	After 30 minutes	default		
Operation step 3	Send message to	After 1 hour	1 hour		
	manager				
Operation step 4	Execute remote command	After 2 hours	default		



#### Zabbix built-in scheduler in details



Action	Operations	Recovery operations	Update operations				
	* Default op	eration step duration	30m				
		Default subject	Problem: {EVENT.NAME}				
	Default message Problem started at {EVENT.TIME} on {EVENT.DATE} Problem name: {EVENT.NAME} Host: {HOST.NAME} Severity: {EVENT.SEVERITY} Original problem ID: {EVENT.ID} {TRIGGER.URL}						
Pause o	operations for s	uppressed problems					
		Operations	Steps Details	Start in [	Duration	Action	
			2 Send message to user groups: Operators via all media	00:30:00 [	Default	Edit Remove	
			3 Send message to user groups: Managers via all media	01:00:00 1	lh	Edit Remove	
			4 Run remote commands on current host New	02:00:00 [	Default	Edit Remove	
* At least one operation, recovery operation or update operation must exist.							
			Update Clone Delete Cancel				

### THANK YOU !

