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wincheck_counter.exe (binary plugin)

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Author

tim



Joined: 04 May 2003
Posts: 126

Message

Posted: Wed Nov 26, 2003 4:50 pm Post subject: wincheck_counter.exe (binary plugin)



Here is a beta of porting a bit of the code in NSClient to a standalone plugin that can be called from nrpe_nt. It is not dependant on having WSH installed and should work on NT 4 (with the included pdh.dll) as well as directly on Win2k, XP and Win2003.

Plugin returns the value of a requested perfmon counter in the form:

```
wincheck_counter.exe -C "counter(instance)\parm" -w warn -c crit -f "format string" -h
```

eg:

```
wincheck_counter.exe -C "\\LogicalDisk(c:)\% Free Space" -c 10 -w 20 -f "Disk C: is %f%% free."
```

When it stabilizes, I'll post the source (in Delphi). If the idea of binary plugins proves popular, I'll port the other major checks within NSClient as nrpe_nt plugins.

Let me know what you think,

Tim Shouldice

counter.zip		
Description:	Includes wincheck_counter.exe and pdh.dll for NT 4.0, pdh.dll should not be required on other versions of Windows-based servers.	 Download
Filename:	counter.zip	
Filesize:	103.31 KB	
Downloaded:	28 Time(s)	

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timperkins

Joined: 17 Nov 2003
Posts: 15

Posted: Thu Nov 27, 2003 10:04 am Post subject: wincheck_counter.exe (binary plugin)



Awesome! I've been playing with it a bit this morning and it looks great!

One suggestion though: Can you modify it so that it doesn't require the -c and -w parameters? I tried calling:

```
wincheck_counter.exe -C "\System\System Up Time" -f "System Uptime is %f seconds"
```

But it crapped out on me... As long as I added the args it works, but I don't really want to throw warnings for System Uptime.

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tim



Joined: 04 May 2003
Posts: 126

Posted: Thu Nov 27, 2003 10:23 am Post subject:



I'll look into it, the Delphi versions of Getopt is a little strange.

Tim

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timperkinsJoined: 17 Nov 2003
Posts: 15

Posted: Thu Nov 27, 2003 10:37 am Post subject: Problem on NT



I got wincheck_counter to crash on NT... I called:

```
wincheck_counter.exe -C "\Memory\Available Bytes" -c 10 -w 20 -f "Available Memory is %f Bytes."
```

and it crashed. I've attached the Dr. Watson log. The sample call that you provided worked great, though.

Tim

[Back to top](#)**tim**Joined: 04 May 2003
Posts: 126

Posted: Thu Nov 27, 2003 11:10 am Post subject:



It worked on mine but when I misspelled the counter, I had the crash. Obvious the code needs to be able to handle invalid counters.

Tim

[Back to top](#)**tim**Joined: 04 May 2003
Posts: 126

Posted: Fri Nov 28, 2003 2:48 pm Post subject:



Here is an updated version, the counter is no longer passed in the form "\counter(instance)\parameter" as nrpe_nt rejects several of the characters if it is passed as an argument.

The new syntax is -C Counter [-I Instance] -P Parameter -w 5 -c 10 -f format

The -w and -c parms are now optional and it gives an error instead of a GPF if the counter doesn't exist.

Tim

wincheck_counter_1.1.zip	
Description:	
Filename:	wincheck_counter_1.1.zip
Filesize:	103.6 KB
Downloaded:	40 Time(s)

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[Back to top](#)**timperkins**
 Posted: Sun Nov 30, 2003 11:19 am Post subject:

 Joined: 17 Nov 2003
 Posts: 15

This is GREAT! I'm now using this to monitor about 17 perfmon counters on our Exchange server and it's working like a champ!

One problem I am having, though... Two of my checks are returning critical notifications to Nagions. I run:

```
command[check_proc_tpt]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "Processor" -I "_Total" -P "% Processor Time" -c 70 -w 85 -f
"Processor Time is %f%%"
```

```
command[check_proc_ppt]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "Processor" -I "_Total" -P "% Privileged Time" -c 20 -w 25 -f
"Processor Privileged Time is %f%%"
```

When I run these from the command line on the host, they both return values well under 10%... Nagios is sending me critical notifications, however, despite my -w 85 and -w 25 settings. Any idea what could be going wrong here?

[Back to top](#)**tim**
 Posted: Sun Nov 30, 2003 9:08 pm Post subject:

 Joined: 04 May 2003
 Posts: 126

When the critical value is less than the warning value (-c 70 -w 85) then the plugin assumes that the lower the number, the worse and it compare the value on a 'less than' basis (10 < 70 , true therefor critical).

When the critical value is greater than the warning value (-c 85 -w 70) then the plugin assumes that the higher the number, the worse and compares the value on a 'greater than' basis (10 > 70, false therefor OK).

This is to handle things like % free as opposed to % full.

If I'm looking at disk free % then I need to alarm as the number gets too small (-c 10 -w 20), this gives me a warning at 20% and a critical at 10%.

On the other hand if I'm looking at disk used %, then I need to alarm as the number gets too big (-w 80 -c 90).

Hope this helps,

Tim



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miwi

Joined: 24 May 2003
Posts: 80
Location: Germany

Posted: Mon Dec 01, 2003 12:14 pm Post subject:



Tim,

NICE! I really like the idea of the binary plugins!!!

Quote:

the counter is no longer passed in the form "\counter(instance)\parameter" as nrpe_nt rejects several of the characters if it is passed as an argument.

Thanks for working around this, this is the offending code:

Code:

```
#define NASTY_METACHARS    "|`&><'\"\\\[\]{}"
```

It's taken straight from Ethans nrpe sources, where it is absolutely valid.

For windows, it might be worth to allow at least "\", so you can pass a directory path as an argument. I didn't really made up my mind on this, so any comments are welcome.....

cheers

[Back to top](#)**timperkins**Joined: 17 Nov 2003
Posts: 15

MiWi



Posted: Wed Dec 03, 2003 12:35 am Post subject:



Suddenly my event log is filling up with IISInfoCtrs, Event Id 1003 errors. 😞 I googled it and found this article:

[http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?
scid=http://support.microsoft.com:80/support/kb/articles/Q201/6/38.ASP&NoWebContent=1](http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=http://support.microsoft.com:80/support/kb/articles/Q201/6/38.ASP&NoWebContent=1)

Weird because the host with the problem is a dedicated SQL Server on NT... The IIS Admin service isn't running (never was).

The errors are getting logged at a rate of 4 per minute with the Nagios plug-in service running. If I disable the service, the events stop.

Any ideas?

[Back to top](#)**tim**Joined: 04 May 2003
Posts: 126

Posted: Wed Dec 03, 2003 9:02 am Post subject:



Hi:

A couple of questions:

Which service are you stopping to get rid of the errors - the IIS admin service or the nrpe_nt service?

Have you tried stopping the nrpe_nt service, starting the IIS admin service and then restarting the nrpe_nt service?

Are you requesting counters using wincheck_counter that would result in these 4 events per minute (ie 1 check 4 times a minute, 4 checks once a minute, 8 checks every 2 minutes) that can directly attribute the errors to the wincheck_counter as opposed to some other plugin check that may be occurring?

Tim

[Back to top](#)**timperkins**

Joined: 17 Nov 2003
 Posts: 15

Posted: Wed Dec 03, 2003 10:02 am Post subject:



Sorry I wasn't more clear...

The IISAdmin service never get's started on this host... It's Startup value in the Services applet is "Manual". I'd delete and uninstall this service if I knew how to.

I've stopped the nrpe_nt service for now, until I get the problem resolved.

Yes, I'm making multiple calls to wincheck_counter, but none to the IIS Counter. I've listed them below.

Thanks - Tim Perkins

Service Checks

```
command[check_service_sqlsvr]=c:\winnt\system32\cscript.exe //NoLogo //T:10 c:\nrpe_nt\check_service.wsf MSSQLServer
command[check_service_sqlagt]=c:\winnt\system32\cscript.exe //NoLogo //T:10 c:\nrpe_nt\check_service.wsf SQLServerAgent
command[check_service_onyxlt]=c:\winnt\system32\cscript.exe //NoLogo //T:10 c:\nrpe_nt\check_service.wsf OnyxList
command[check_service_vnc]=c:\winnt\system32\cscript.exe //NoLogo //T:10 c:\nrpe_nt\check_service.wsf winvnc
```

General Health

```
command[check_gen_sut]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "System" -P "System Up Time" -f "System Up Time is %f Seconds"
command[check_gen_prq]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "System" -P "% Registry Quota in use" -w 75 -c 85 -f "Registry
Quota in use is %f%%%"
```

Processor Health

```
command[check_proc_tpt]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "Processor" -I "_Total" -P "% Processor Time" -w 70 -c 85 -f
"Processor Time is %f%%%"
command[check_proc_pql]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "System" -P "Processor Queue Length" -w 80 -c 90 -f "Processor
Queue Length is %f"
command[check_proc_ppt]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "Processor" -I "_Total" -P "% Privileged Time" -w 20 -c 25 -f
"Processor Privileged Time is %f%%%"
command[check_proc_dpt]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "Processor" -I "_Total" -P "% DPC Time" -w 40 -c 50 -f "Deferred
```

Procedure calls is %f%%"

Memory Health

command[check_mem_pps]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "Memory" -P "Pages/sec" -c 50 -w 25 -f "Pages per second is %f"

command[check_mem_fps]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "Memory" -P "Page Faults/sec" -w 50 -c 100 -f "Page Faults per second is %f"

command[check_mem_pfu]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "Paging File" -I "_Total" -P "% Usage" -w 65 -c 71 -f "Paging File Usage is %f%%"

Disk Health

command[check_disk_c]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "LogicalDisk" -I "C:" -P "% Free Space" -w 20 -c 10 -f "Disk C is %f% % free."

command[check_disk_d]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "LogicalDisk" -I "D:" -P "% Free Space" -w 20 -c 10 -f "Disk D is %f% % free."

command[check_disk_e]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "LogicalDisk" -I "E:" -P "% Free Space" -w 20 -c 10 -f "Disk E is %f% % free."

command[check_disk_pdt]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "PhysicalDisk" -I "_Total" -P "% Disk Time" -w 40 -c 50 -f "%% Disk Time is %f"

command[check_disk_rql]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "PhysicalDisk" -I "_Total" -P "Avg. Disk Read Queue Length" -w 1 -c 2 -f "Avg. Read Queue Length is %f"

command[check_disk_wql]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "PhysicalDisk" -I "_Total" -P "Avg. Disk Write Queue Length" -w 1 -c 2 -f "Avg. Write Queue Length is %f"

SQL Server Health

command[check_mss_tsm]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "SQLServer:Memory Manager" -P "Total Server Memory (KB)" -w 2516582 -c 2831155 -f "Total SQL Server Memory is %f KB"

command[check_mss_bcr]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "SQLServer:Buffer Manager" -P "Buffer Cache Hit Ratio" -w 85 -c 80 -f "SQL Server Buffer Cache Hit Ratio is %f"

command[check_mss_wsm]=c:\nrpe_nt\wincheck_counter -C "Process" -I "sqlservr" -P "Working Set" -w 2097152 -c 1048576 -f "SQL Server Process Working Set is %f"

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tim

Posted: Wed Dec 03, 2003 11:20 am Post subject:





Joined: 04 May 2003
Posts: 126

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miwi

Joined: 24 May 2003
Posts: 80
Location: Germany

Can you stop nrpe_nt (I think you have it stopped already), start the IIS Admin service and then restart nrpe_nt while the IIS Admin service is running and see if the errors resume.

Tim



Posted: Wed Dec 03, 2003 11:30 am Post subject:



timperkins,

here's what I make of it. I'm not 100% sure, but I remember seeing a similar effect once on a box:

It's not related to the nrpe_nt service or wincheck_counter.exe, but to the performance counters in general.

you have the perf counters for FTP etc. installed & registered, because you have IIS installed (which is the default on W2K...). (check: Usually, you should see the "famous" three evt-log messages once after a reboot, even if you disable the nrpe_nt service). the perf counters for IIS/FTP are registered, but can not be accessed, because the services are down. 😞

Do you see the entries to the eventlog if you run wincheck_counter from the commandline? Or whe starting Performance Monitor? I'd guess so. You will also get them for each invocation of wincheck_counter by nrpe_nt.

I think, the only way to solve this would be to

- a) start the services, so the counters can get accessed.
- b) remove the counter registration for the services in question using EXCTRLST.EXE from the ResourceKit. Free download here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/techinfo/reskit/tools/existing/exctrlst-o.asp>

Some more information on this can be found here:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;226512>

http://www.experts-exchange.com/Operating_Systems/Win2000/Q_20701763.html

hope this helps

cheers

MiWi



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timperkins

Posted: Sun Dec 28, 2003 11:00 am Post subject:



Joined: 17 Nov 2003
Posts: 15

MiWi - Thanks for the support and sorry for the very late reply...

The host that I am having problems with is running NT 4.0 and does not have IIS or FTP running on it - It's basically a dedicated SQL Server box. I've checked the logs and I do not see the 3 event log entries you mentioned in your last post.

I am seeing some real funky behavior on this host... After a fresh reboot and after NRPE_NT runs for awhile, Nagios begins to show plugin timeouts on all the services. When I VNC to the host, I'm unable to open the services or event log applets. I eventually have to restart the host in order to get it to a point that it can be managed.

After rebooting, I note multiple nrpe_nt "Bad return code" events and some PerfLib entries in the event log, reading:

"The open procedure for service "NM" in DLL "nmperf.dll" has taken longer than the established wait time to complete. The wait time in milliseconds is shown in the data. "

So it looks like it has something to do with PerfLib.

Is there anything else I can do to help trouble shoot?

Thanks,

Tim Perkins



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