

# 15. Distributed monitoring

## Overview

Zabbix provides effective and reliable ways of monitoring distributed IT infrastructure. The two main solutions for large environments provided by Zabbix are:

- use of [proxies](#)
- use of [nodes](#)

Proxies can be used to collect data locally on behalf of a centralized Zabbix server and then report the data to the server. Nodes are full Zabbix servers that can be set up in a hierarchy of distributed monitoring.

### Proxy vs. node

When making a choice between using a proxy or a node, several considerations must be taken into account.

	Proxy	Node
<i>Lightweight</i>	<b>Yes</b>	No
<i>GUI</i>	No	<b>Yes</b>
<i>Works independently</i>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<i>Easy maintenance</i>	<b>Yes</b>	No
<i>Automatic DB creation<sup>1</sup></i>	<b>Yes</b>	No
<i>Local administration</i>	No	<b>Yes</b>
<i>Ready for embedded hardware</i>	<b>Yes</b>	No
<i>One way TCP connections</i>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<i>Centralised configuration</i>	<b>Yes</b>	No
<i>Generates notifications</i>	No	<b>Yes</b>

[1] Automatic DB creation feature only works with SQLite. Other databases require a [manual setup](#).

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Permanent link: [https://www.zabbix.com/documentation/2.2/manual/distributed\\_monitoring](https://www.zabbix.com/documentation/2.2/manual/distributed_monitoring)

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