

## 14 Unreachable/unavailable host settings

### Overview

Several configuration [parameters](#) define how Zabbix server should behave when an agent check (Zabbix, SNMP, IPMI, JMX) fails and a host becomes unreachable.

### Unreachable host

A host is treated as unreachable after a failed check (network error, timeout) by Zabbix, SNMP, IPMI or JMX agents. Note that Zabbix agent active checks do not influence host availability in any way.

From that moment **UnreachableDelay** defines how often a host is rechecked using one of the items (including LLD rules) in this unreachability situation and such rechecks will be performed already by unreachable pollers (or IPMI pollers for IPMI checks). By default it is 15 seconds before the next check.

In the Zabbix server log unreachability is indicated by messages like these:

```
Zabbix agent item "system.cpu.load[percpu,avg1]" on host "New host" failed:
first network error, wait for 15 seconds
Zabbix agent item "system.cpu.load[percpu,avg15]" on host "New host" failed:
another network error, wait for 15 seconds
```

Note that the exact item that failed is indicated and the item type (Zabbix agent).

The *Timeout* parameter will also affect how early a host is rechecked during unreachability. If the *Timeout* is 20 seconds and *UnreachableDelay* 30 seconds, the next check will be in 50 seconds after the first attempt.

The **UnreachablePeriod** parameter defines how long the unreachability period is in total. By default *UnreachablePeriod* is 45 seconds. *UnreachablePeriod* should be several times bigger than *UnreachableDelay*, so that a host is rechecked more than once before a host becomes unavailable.

If the unreachable host reappears, the monitoring returns to normal automatically:

```
resuming Zabbix agent checks on host "New host": connection restored
```

### Unavailable host

After the *UnreachablePeriod* ends and the host has not reappeared, the host is treated as unavailable.

In the server log it is indicated by messages like these:

```
temporarily disabling Zabbix agent checks on host "New host": host
unavailable
```

and in the [frontend](#) the host availability icon for the respective interface goes from green (or gray) to

red (note that on mouseover a tooltip with the error description is displayed):



The **UnavailableDelay** parameter defines how often a host is checked during host unavailability.

By default it is 60 seconds (so in this case “temporarily disabling”, from the log message above, will mean disabling checks for one minute).

When the connection to the host is restored, the monitoring returns to normal automatically, too:

```
enabling Zabbix agent checks on host "New host": host became available
```

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