

21.4 Proxy

Overview

Zabbix proxy is a process that may collect monitoring data from one or more monitored devices and send the information to the Zabbix server, essentially working on behalf of the server. All collected data is buffered locally and then transferred to the Zabbix server the proxy belongs to.

Deploying a proxy is optional, but may be very beneficial to distribute the load of a single Zabbix server. If only proxies collect data, processing on the server becomes less CPU and disk I/O hungry.

A Zabbix proxy is the ideal solution for centralized monitoring of remote locations, branches and networks with no local administrators.

Zabbix proxy requires a separate database.

Note that databases supported with Zabbix proxy are SQLite, MySQL and PostgreSQL. Using Oracle or IBM DB2 is at your own risk and may contain some limitations as, for example, in [return values](#) of low-level discovery rules.

See also: [Using proxies in a distributed environment](#)

Proxy process

If installed as package

Zabbix proxy runs as a daemon process. The proxy can be started by executing:

```
shell> service zabbix-proxy start
```

This will work on most of GNU/Linux systems. On other systems you may need to run:

```
shell> /etc/init.d/zabbix-proxy start
```

Similarly, for stopping/restarting/viewing status of Zabbix proxy, use the following commands:

```
shell> service zabbix-proxy stop
shell> service zabbix-proxy restart
shell> service zabbix-proxy status
```

Start up manually

If the above does not work you have to start it manually. Find the path to the `zabbix_proxy` binary and execute:

```
shell> zabbix_proxy
```

You can use the following command line parameters with Zabbix proxy:

```
-c --config <file>          absolute path to the configuration file
-R --runtime-control <option> perform administrative functions
-h --help                    give this help
-V --version                  display version number
```

Examples of running Zabbix proxy with command line parameters:

```
shell> zabbix_proxy -c /usr/local/etc/zabbix_proxy.conf
shell> zabbix_proxy --help
shell> zabbix_proxy -V
```

Runtime control

Runtime control options:

Option	Description
config_cache_reload	Reload configuration cache. Ignored if cache is being currently loaded. Active Zabbix proxy will connect to the Zabbix server and request configuration data.

Example of using runtime control to reload the proxy configuration cache:

```
shell> zabbix_proxy -c /usr/local/etc/zabbix_proxy.conf -R
config_cache_reload
```

Runtime control is not supported on OpenBSD and NetBSD.

Process user

Zabbix proxy is designed to run as a non-root user. It will run as whatever non-root user it is started as. So you can run proxy as any non-root user without any issues.

If you will try to run it as 'root', it will switch to a hardcoded 'zabbix' user, which must be present on your system. You can only run proxy as 'root' if you modify the 'AllowRoot' parameter in the proxy configuration file accordingly.

Configuration file

See the [configuration file](#) options for details on configuring zabbix_proxy.

Supported platforms

Zabbix proxy runs on the same list of [supported platforms](#) as Zabbix server.

Locale

Note that the proxy requires a UTF-8 locale so that some textual items can be interpreted correctly. Most modern Unix-like systems have a UTF-8 locale as default, however, there are some systems where that may need to be set specifically.

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