

7 Calculated items

7.1 Overview

With calculated items you can create calculations on the basis of other items.

Thus, calculated items are a way of creating virtual data sources. The values will be periodically calculated based on an arithmetical expression. All calculations are done by the Zabbix server - nothing related to calculated items is performed on Zabbix agents or proxies.

The resulting data will be stored in the Zabbix database as for any other item - this means storing both history and trend values for fast graph generation. Calculated items may be used in trigger expressions, referenced by macros or other entities same as any other item type.

To use calculated items, choose the item type **Calculated**.

7.2 Configurable fields

The **key** is a unique item identifier (per host). You can create any key name using supported symbols.

Calculation definition should be entered in the **Formula** field. There is virtually no connection between the formula and the key. The key parameters are not used in formula in any way.

The correct syntax of a simple formula is:

```
func (<key> | <hostname:key> , <parameter1> , <parameter2> , . . . )
```

Where:

ARGUMENT	DEFINITION
func	One of the functions supported in trigger expressions : last, min, max, avg, count, etc
key	The key of another item whose data you want to use. It may be defined as key or hostname:key . <i>Note:</i> Putting the whole key in double quotes (“...”) is strongly recommended to avoid incorrect parsing because of spaces or commas within the key. If there are also quoted parameters within the key, those double quotes must be escaped by using the backslash (\). See Example 5 below.
parameter(s)	Any additional parameters that may be required.

All items that are referenced from the calculated item formula must exist and be collecting data. Also, if you change the item key of a referenced item, you have to manually update any formulas using that key.

[User macros](#) in the formula will be expanded if used to reference a parameter or a constant. User macros will NOT be expanded if used to reference a function, host name, item key or operator.

A more complex formula may use a combination of functions, operators and brackets. You can use all functions and operators supported in trigger expressions. Note that the syntax is slightly different, however logic and operator precedence are exactly the same.

Supported characters for a function:

```
a..zA..Z0..9_
```

Supported characters for a hostname:

```
a..zA..Z0..9 ._-
```

Supported characters for a key:

```
a..zA..Z0..9.,_
```

Unlike trigger expressions, Zabbix processes calculated items according to the item update interval, not upon receiving a new value.

A calculated item may become unsupported in several cases:

1. referenced item(s) not found
2. no data to calculate a function
3. division by zero
4. incorrect syntax used

Support for calculated items was introduced in Zabbix 1.8.1

7.3 Usage examples

Example 1

Calculating percentage of free disk space on '/'.

Use of function **last**:

```
100*last("vfs.fs.size[/,free])/last("vfs.fs.size[/,total]")
```

Zabbix will take the latest values for free and total disk spaces and calculate percentage according to the given formula.

Example 2

Calculating a 10-minute average of the number of values processed by Zabbix.

Use of function **avg**:

```
avg("Zabbix Server:zabbix[wcache,values]",600)
```

Note that extensive use of calculated items with long time periods may affect performance of the Zabbix Server.

Example 3

Calculating total bandwidth on eth0.

Sum of two functions:

```
last("net.if.in[eth0,bytes]")+last("net.if.out[eth0,bytes]")
```

Example 4

Calculating percentage of incoming traffic.

More complex expression:

```
100*last("net.if.in[eth0,bytes]"/(last("net.if.in[eth0,bytes]")+last("net.if.out[eth0,bytes]")))
```

Example 5

Using aggregated items correctly within a calculated item.

Take note of how double quotes are escaped within the quoted key:

```
last("grpsum[\"video\", \"net.if.out[eth0,bytes]\", \"last\", \"0\"]") /  
last("grpsum[\"video\", \"nginx_stat.sh[active]\", \"last\", \"0\"]")
```

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