

2 Zabbix agent on Microsoft Windows

Configuring the agent

Zabbix agent runs as a Windows service.

You can run a single instance of Zabbix agent or multiple instances of the agent on a Microsoft Windows host. A single instance can use the default configuration file `C:\zabbix_agentd.conf` or a configuration file specified in the command line. In case of multiple instances each agent instance must have its own configuration file (one of instances can use the default configuration file).

An example configuration file is available in Zabbix source archive as `conf/zabbix_agentd.win.conf`.

Step 2

Install agent as a Windows service.

```
zabbix_agentd.exe --install
```

On a 64-bit system, a 64-bit Zabbix agent version is required for all checks related to running 64-bit processes to work correctly.

If you wish to use a configuration file other than `c:\zabbix_agentd.conf`, you should use the following command for service installation:

```
zabbix_agentd.exe --config <your_configuration_file> --install
```

A full path to the configuration file should be specified.

Step 3

Run agent.

Now you can use Control Panel to start the agent service or run:

```
zabbix_agentd.exe --start
```

Configuration

Hostname parameter

To perform [active checks](#) on a host Zabbix agent needs to have the hostname defined. Moreover, the hostname value set on the agent side should exactly match the “[Host name](#)” configured for the host in the frontend.

The hostname value on the agent side can be defined by either the *Hostname* or *Hostnameltem* parameter in the agent [configuration file](#) - or the default values are used if any of these parameters are not specified.

The default value for *Hostnameltem* parameter is the value returned by the “system.hostname” agent key and for Windows platform it returns the NetBIOS host name.

The default value for *Hostname* is the value returned by the *Hostnameltem* parameter. So, in effect, if both these parameters are unspecified the actual hostname will be the host NetBIOS name.

The **system.hostname** key always returns the NetBIOS host name which is limited to 15 symbols and in UPPERCASE only - regardless of the length and lowercase/uppercase characters in the real host name.

So if both parameters are unspecified then the Zabbix agent will use NetBIOS host name to retrieve the list of active checks from the Zabbix server and to send results to it.

Starting from Zabbix agent 1.8.6 version for Windows the “system.hostname” key supports an optional parameter - *type* of the name. The default value of this parameter is “netbios” (for backward compatibility) and the other possible value is “host”.

The **system.hostname[host]** key always returns the full, real (case sensitive) Windows host name.

So, to simplify the configuration of `zabbix_agentd.conf` file and make it unified, two different approaches could be used.

1. leave *Hostname* or *Hostnameltem* parameters undefined and Zabbix agent will use NetBIOS host name as the hostname;
2. leave *Hostname* parameter undefined and define *Hostnameltem* like this:
Hostnameltem=system.hostname[host]
and the Zabbix agent will use the full, real (case sensitive) Windows host name as the hostname.

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