1 Proxies

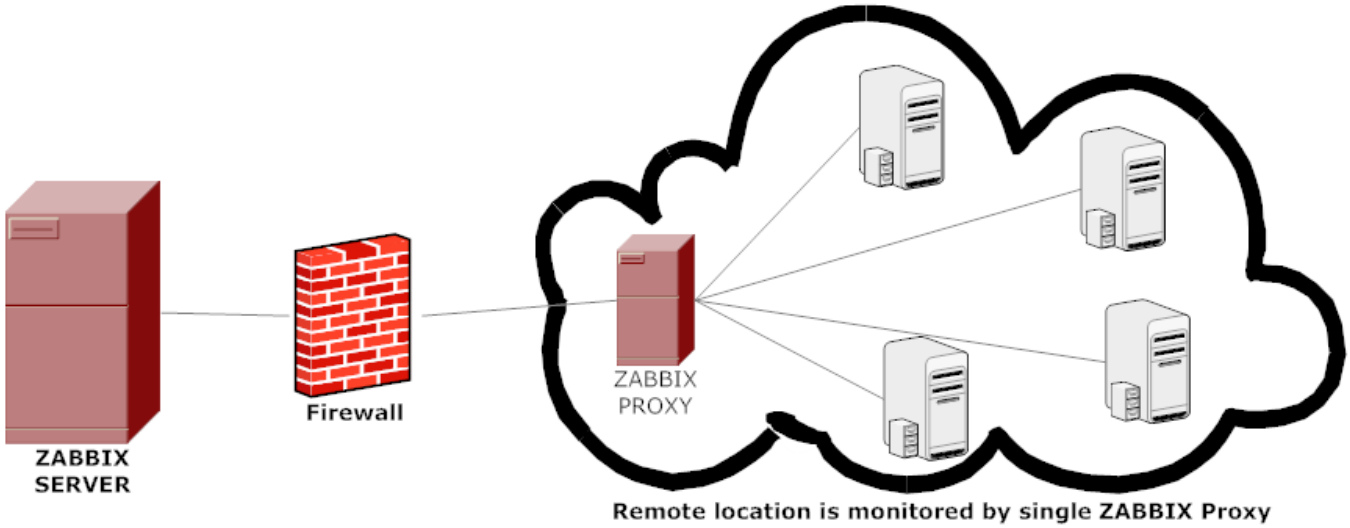
Overview

A Zabbix proxy can collect performance and availability data on behalf of the Zabbix server. This way, a proxy can take on itself some of the load of collecting data and offload the Zabbix server.

Also, using a proxy is the easiest way of implementing centralized and distributed monitoring, when all agents and proxies report to one Zabbix server and all data is collected centrally.

A Zabbix proxy can be used to:

- Monitor remote locations
- Monitor locations having unreliable communications
- Offload the Zabbix server when monitoring thousands of devices
- Simplify the maintenance of distributed monitoring



The proxy requires only one TCP connection to the Zabbix server. This way it is easier to get around a firewall as you only need to configure one firewall rule.

Zabbix proxy must use a separate database. Pointing it to the Zabbix server database will break the configuration.

All data collected by the proxy is stored locally before transmitting it over to the server. This way no data is lost due to any temporary communication problems with the server. The *ProxyLocalBuffer* and *ProxyOfflineBuffer* parameters in the proxy configuration file control for how long the data are kept locally.

It may happen that a proxy, which receives the latest configuration changes directly from Zabbix server database, has a more up-to-date configuration than Zabbix server whose configuration may not be updated as fast due to the value of CacheUpdateFrequency. As a result, proxy may start gathering data and send them to Zabbix server that ignores these data.

Zabbix proxy is a data collector. It does not calculate triggers, process events or send alerts. For an overview of what proxy functionality is, review the following table:

Function	Supported by proxy
Items	
Zabbix agent checks	**Yes**
Zabbix agent checks (active)	**Yes** [1]
Simple checks	**Yes**
Trapper items	**Yes**
SNMP checks	**Yes**
SNMP traps	**Yes**
IPMI checks	**Yes**
JMX checks	**Yes**
Log file monitoring	**Yes**
Internal checks	**Yes**
SSH checks	**Yes**
Telnet checks	**Yes**
External checks	**Yes**
Dependent items	**Yes** [2]
Built-in web monitoring	**Yes**
Network discovery	**Yes**
Low-level discovery	**Yes**
Remote commands	**Yes**
Calculating triggers	*No*
Processing events	*No*
Event correlation	*No*
Sending alerts	*No*
Item value preprocessing	*No*

[1] To make sure that an agent asks the proxy (and not the server) for active checks, the proxy must be listed in the **ServerActive** parameter in the agent configuration file.
[2] Item value preprocessing by Zabbix server is required to extract the required value from the master item data.

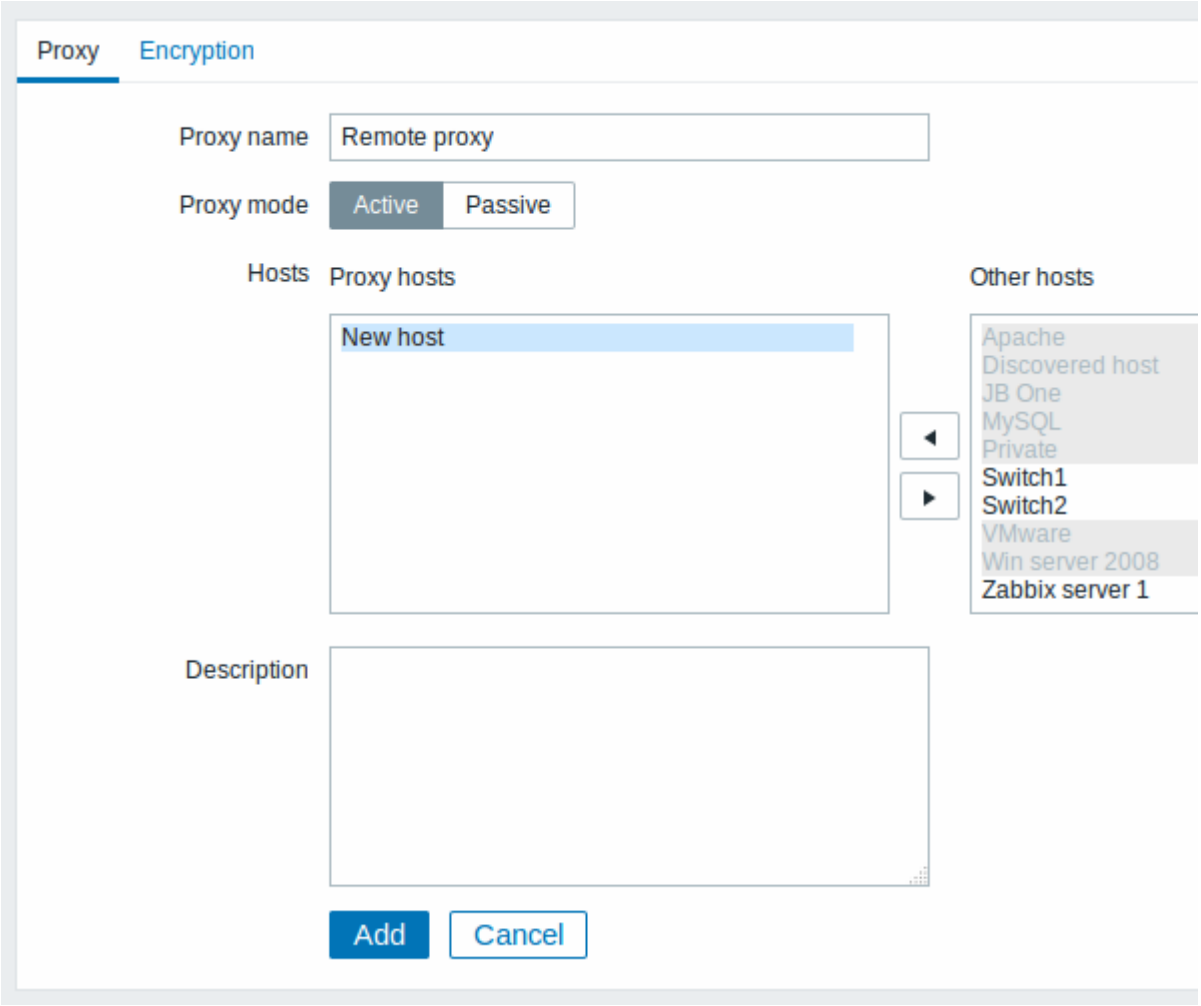
Configuration

Once you have installed and configured a proxy, it is time to configure it in the Zabbix frontend.

Adding proxies

To configure a proxy in Zabbix frontend:

- Go to: *Administration* → *Proxies*
- Click on *Create proxy*



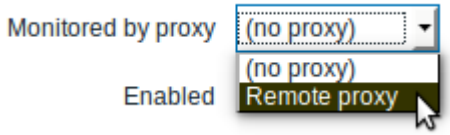
Parameter	Description
Proxy name	Enter the proxy name. It must be the same name as in the *Hostname* parameter in the proxy configuration file.
Proxy mode	Select the proxy mode. **Active** - the proxy will connect to the Zabbix server and request configuration data **Passive** - Zabbix server connects to the proxy *Note* that without encrypted communications (sensitive) proxy configuration data may become available to parties having access to the Zabbix server trapper port when using an active proxy. This is possible because anyone may pretend to be an active proxy and request configuration data if authentication does not take place.
Interface	Enter interface details for the passive proxy. This field is only available if a passive proxy is selected in the *Proxy mode* field.
IP address	IP address of the passive proxy (optional).
DNS name	DNS name of the passive proxy (optional).
Connect to	Clicking the respective button will tell Zabbix server what to use to retrieve data from proxy: **IP** - Connect to the proxy IP address (recommended) **DNS** - Connect to the proxy DNS name
Port	TCP/UDP port number of the passive proxy (10051 by default).
Hosts	Add hosts to be monitored by the proxy. Hosts already monitored by another proxy are greyed out in the *Other hosts* selection.
Description	Enter the proxy description.

The **Encryption** tab allows you to require encrypted connections with the proxy.

Parameter	Description
Connections to proxy	How the server connects to the passive proxy: no encryption (default), using PSK (pre-shared key) or certificate.
Connections from proxy	Select what type of connections are allowed from the active proxy. Several connection types can be selected at the same time (useful for testing and switching to other connection type). Default is “No encryption”.
Issuer	Allowed issuer of certificate. Certificate is first validated with CA (certificate authority). If it is valid, signed by the CA, then the *Issuer* field can be used to further restrict allowed CA. This field is optional, intended to use if your Zabbix installation uses certificates from multiple CAs.
Subject	Allowed subject of certificate. Certificate is first validated with CA. If it is valid, signed by the CA, then the *Subject* field can be used to allow only one value of *Subject* string. If this field is empty then any valid certificate signed by the configured CA is accepted.
PSK identity	Pre-shared key identity string.
PSK	Pre-shared key (hex-string). Maximum length: 512 hex-digits (256-byte PSK) if Zabbix uses GnuTLS or OpenSSL library, 64 hex-digits (32-byte PSK) if Zabbix uses mbed TLS (PolarSSL) library. Example: 1f87b595725ac58dd977beef14b97461a7c1045b9a1c963065002c5473194952

Host configuration

You can specify that an individual host should be monitored by a proxy in the host configuration form, using the *Monitored by proxy* field.



Host mass update is another way of specifying that hosts should be monitored by a proxy.

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