

## 14 JMX monitoring

### Overview

JMX monitoring can be used to monitor JMX counters of a Java application.

JMX monitoring has native support in Zabbix in the form of a Zabbix daemon called “Zabbix Java gateway”, introduced since Zabbix 2.0.

To retrieve the value of a particular JMX counter on a host, Zabbix server queries the Zabbix **Java gateway**, which in turn uses the [JMX management API](#) to query the application of interest remotely.

For more details and setup see the [Zabbix Java gateway](#) section.

Communication between Java gateway and the monitored JMX application should not be firewalled.

### Enabling remote JMX monitoring for Java application

A Java application does not need any additional software installed, but it needs to be started with the command-line options specified below to have support for remote JMX monitoring.

As a bare minimum, if you just wish to get started by monitoring a simple Java application on a local host with no security enforced, start it with these options:

```
java \  
-Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote \  
-Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.port=12345 \  
-Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.authenticate=false \  
-Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.ssl=false \  
-jar /usr/share/doc/openjdk-6-jre-headless/demo/jfc/Notepad/Notepad.jar
```

This makes Java listen for incoming JMX connections on port 12345, from local host only, and tells it not to require authentication or SSL.

If you want to allow connections on another interface, set the `-Djava.rmi.server.hostname` parameter to the IP of that interface.

If you wish to be more stringent about security, there are many other Java options available to you. For instance, the next example starts the application with a more versatile set of options and opens it to a wider network, not just local host.

```
java \  
-Djava.rmi.server.hostname=192.168.3.14 \  
-Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote \  
-Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.port=12345 \  
-Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.authenticate=true \  
-Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.password.file=/etc/java-6-  
openjdk/management/jmxremote.password \  
-Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.access.file=/etc/java-6-  
openjdk/management/jmxremote.access \  

```

```
-Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.ssl=true \  
-Djavax.net.ssl.keyStore=$YOUR_KEY_STORE \  
-Djavax.net.ssl.keyStorePassword=$YOUR_KEY_STORE_PASSWORD \  
-Djavax.net.ssl.trustStore=$YOUR_TRUST_STORE \  
-Djavax.net.ssl.trustStorePassword=$YOUR_TRUST_STORE_PASSWORD \  
-Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.ssl.need.client.auth=true \  
-jar /usr/share/doc/openjdk-6-jre-headless/demo/jfc/Notepad/Notepad.jar
```

Most (if not all) of these settings can be specified in /etc/java-6-openjdk/management/management.properties (or wherever that file is on your system).

Note that if you wish to use SSL, you have to modify startup.sh script by adding -Djavax.net.ssl.\* options to Java gateway, so that it knows where to find key and trust stores.

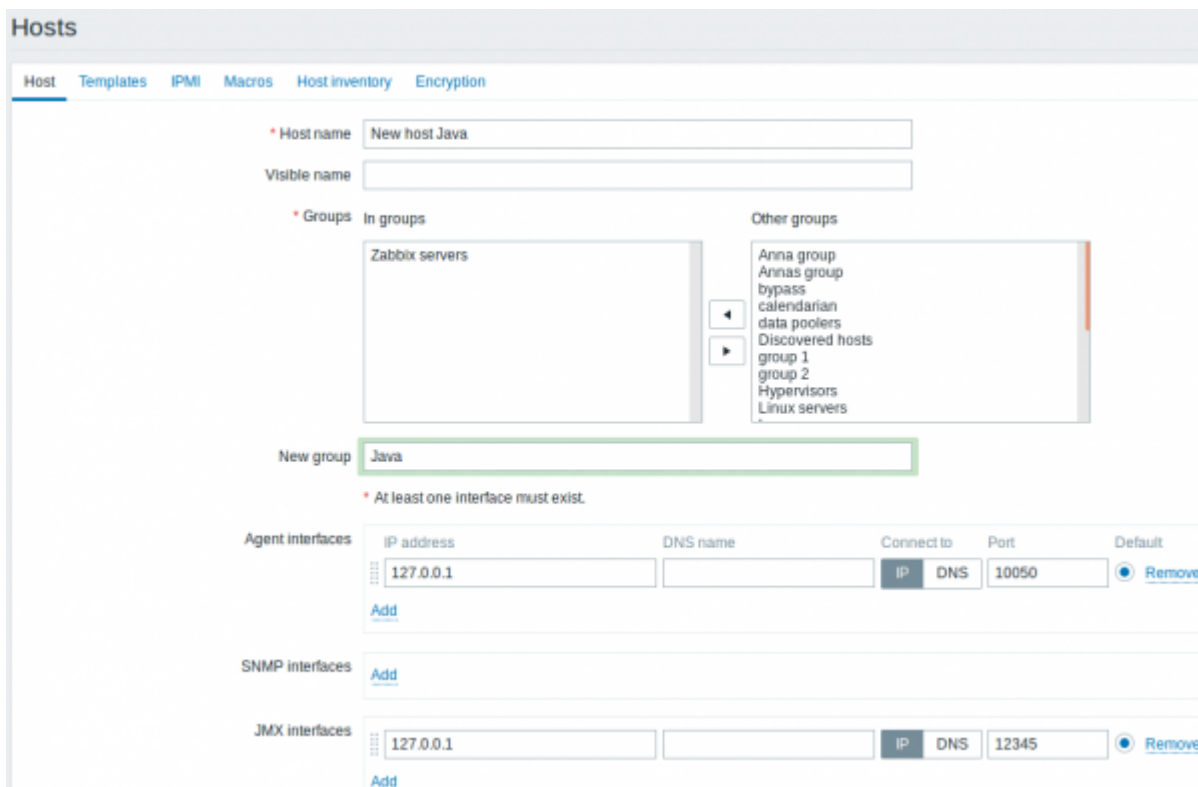
See [Monitoring and Management Using JMX](#) for a detailed description.

## Configuring JMX interfaces and items in Zabbix frontend

With Java gateway running, server knowing where to find it and a Java application started with support for remote JMX monitoring, it is time to configure the interfaces and items in Zabbix GUI.

### Configuring JMX interface

You begin by creating a JMX-type interface on the host of interest.



All mandatory input fields are marked with a red asterisk.

### Adding JMX agent item

For each JMX counter you are interested in you add **JMX agent** item attached to that interface.

The key in the screenshot below says

`jmx["java.lang:type=Memory", "HeapMemoryUsage.used"]`.

The screenshot shows the configuration form for a JMX agent item in Zabbix. The form is titled "Item Preprocessing". It contains several fields and sections:

- Name:** "Used heap memory" (mandatory, marked with a red asterisk).
- Type:** "JMX agent" (dropdown menu).
- Key:** `jmx["java.lang:type=Memory", "HeapMemoryUsage.used"]` (mandatory, marked with a red asterisk). A "Select" button is next to it.
- Host interface:** "127.0.0.1 : 12345" (dropdown menu).
- JMX endpoint:** `service:jmx:rmi:///jndi/rmi://{HOST.CONN}:{HOST.PORT}/jmxrmi` (text input).
- User name:** `{JMX_USERNAME}` (text input).
- Password:** `{JMX_USERNAME}` (text input).
- Type of information:** "Numeric (unsigned)" (dropdown menu).
- Units:** (empty text input).
- Update interval:** "30s" (text input).
- Custom intervals:** A table with columns: Type, Interval, Period, Action.
  - Row 1: Type: Flexible, Interval: 50s, Period: 1-7,00:00-24:00, Action: Remove.
  - Row 2: Type: Scheduling, Interval: (empty), Period: (empty), Action: (empty).An "Add" link is below the table.
- History storage period:** "90d" (text input).
- Trend storage period:** "365d" (text input).
- Show value:** "As is" (dropdown menu) with a "show value mappings" link.
- New application:** (empty text input, highlighted with a green border).
- Applications:** A list box containing "-None-".
- Populates host inventory field:** "-None-" (dropdown menu).
- Description:** (empty text area).
- Enabled:**  (checkbox).
- Buttons:** "Add" and "Cancel".

All mandatory input fields are marked with a red asterisk.

The fields that require specific information for JMX items are:

<i>Type</i>	Set <b>JMX agent</b> here.
<i>Key</i>	The <code>jmx[]</code> item key contains two parameters: <b>object name</b> - the object name of an MBean; <b>attribute name</b> - an MBean attribute name with optional composite data field names separated by dots. See below for more detail on JMX item keys. Since Zabbix 3.4, you may discover MBeans and MBean attributes using a <code>jmx.discovery[]</code> <a href="#">low-level discovery</a> item.
<i>JMX endpoint</i>	You may specify a custom JMX endpoint. Make sure that JMX endpoint connection parameters match the JMX interface. This can be achieved by using <code>{HOST.*}</code> macros as done in the default JMX endpoint. This field is supported since 3.4.0. <code>{HOST.*}</code> <a href="#">macros</a> and user macros are supported.
<i>User name</i>	Specify the user name, if you have configured authentication on your Java application. User macros are supported.
<i>Password</i>	Specify the password, if you have configured authentication on your Java application. User macros are supported.

If you wish to monitor a Boolean counter that is either “true” or “false”, then you specify type of information as “Numeric (unsigned)” and select “Boolean to decimal” preprocessing step in the Preprocessing tab. Server will store Boolean values as 1 or 0, respectively.

## JMX item keys in more detail

### Simple attributes

An MBean object name is nothing but a string which you define in your Java application. An attribute name, on the other hand, can be more complex. In case an attribute returns primitive data type (an integer, a string etc.) there is nothing to worry about, the key will look like this:

```
jmx[com.example:Type=Hello,weight]
```

In this example an object name is “com.example:Type=Hello”, attribute name is “weight” and probably the returned value type should be “Numeric (float)”.

### Attributes returning composite data

It becomes more complicated when your attribute returns composite data. For example: your attribute name is “apple” and it returns a hash representing its parameters, like “weight”, “color” etc. Your key may look like this:

```
jmx[com.example:Type=Hello,apple.weight]
```

This is how an attribute name and a hash key are separated, by using a dot symbol. Same way, if an attribute returns nested composite data the parts are separated by a dot:

```
jmx[com.example:Type=Hello,fruits.apple.weight]
```

### Problem with dots

So far so good. But what if an attribute name or a hash key contains dot symbol? Here is an example:

```
jmx[com.example:Type=Hello,all.fruits.apple.weight]
```

That's a problem. How to tell Zabbix that attribute name is "all.fruits", not just "all"? How to distinguish a dot that is part of the name from the dot that separates an attribute name and hash keys?

Before **2.0.4** Zabbix Java gateway was unable to handle such situations and users were left with UNSUPPORTED items. Since 2.0.4 this is possible, all you need to do is to escape the dots that are part of the name with a backslash:

```
jmx[com.example:Type=Hello,all\.fruits.apple.weight]
```

Same way, if your hash key contains a dot you escape it:

```
jmx[com.example:Type=Hello,all\.fruits.apple.total\.weight]
```

### Other issues

A backslash character in an attribute name should be escaped:

```
jmx[com.example:type=Hello,c:\\documents]
```

For handling any other special characters in JMX item key, please see [this section](#).

This is actually all there is to it. Happy JMX monitoring!

### Custom endpoint example with JBoss EAP 6.4

Custom endpoints allow working with different transport protocols other than the default RMI.

To illustrate this possibility, let's try to configure JBoss EAP 6.4 monitoring as an example. First, let's make some assumptions:

- You have already installed Zabbix Java gateway. If not, then you can do it in accordance with the [documentation](#).
- Zabbix server and Java gateway are installed with the prefix /usr/local/.
- JBoss is already installed in /opt/jboss-eap-6.4/ and is running in standalone mode.
- For simplicity of the experiment, we shall assume that all these components work on the same host.
- Firewall and SELinux are disabled (or configured accordingly, but this is beyond the scope of the article).

Let's make some simple settings in zabbix\_server.conf:

```
JavaGateway=127.0.0.1
StartJavaPollers=5
```

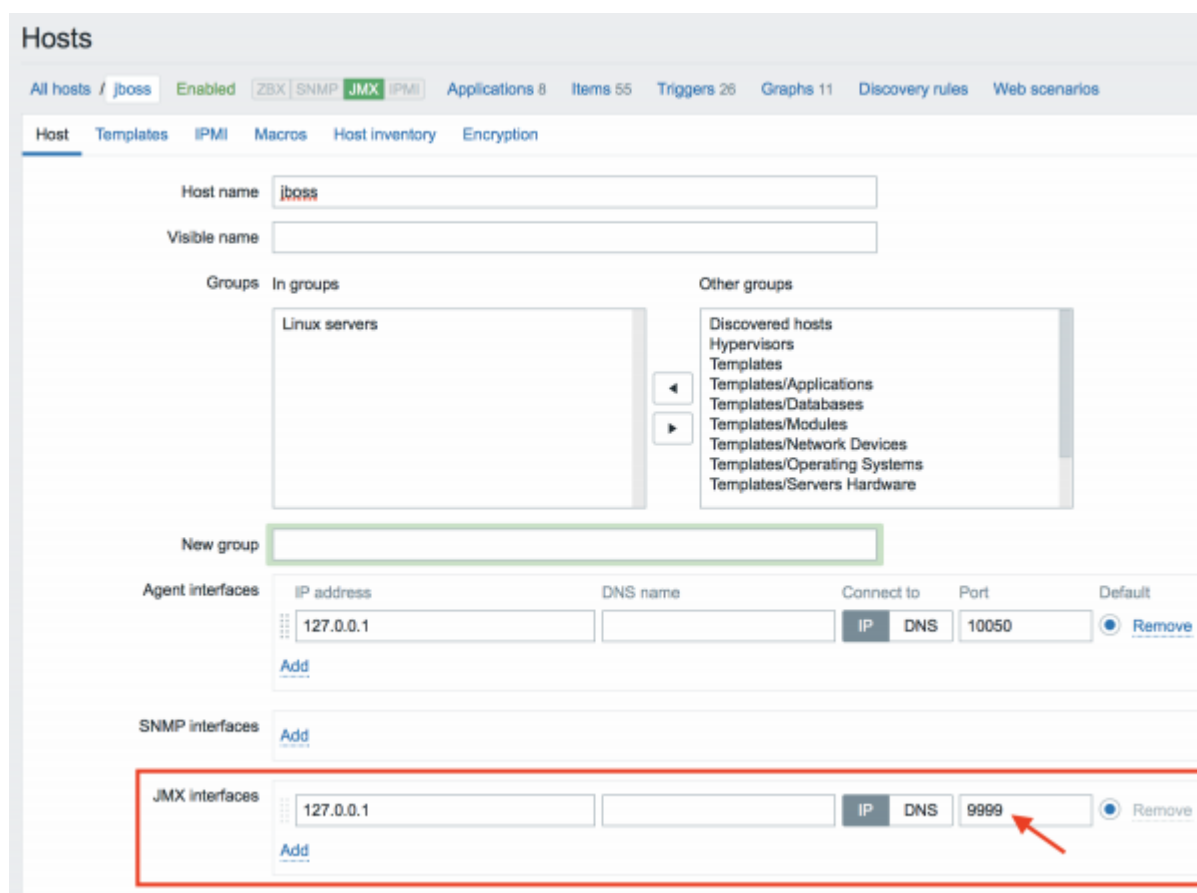
And in the configuration file zabbix\_java/settings.sh (or zabbix\_java\_gateway.conf):

```
START_POLLERS=5
```

Check that JBoss listens to its standard management port:

```
$ netstat -natp | grep 9999
tcp        0      0 127.0.0.1:9999          0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
10148/java
```

Now let's create a host with JMX interface 127.0.0.1:9999 in Zabbix.



As we know that this version of JBoss uses the the JBoss Remoting protocol instead of RMI, we may mass update the JMX endpoint parameter in our JMX template accordingly:

```
service:jmx:remoting-jmx://{HOST.CONN}:{HOST.PORT}
```

**Items**

All templates / Template App Generic Java JMX-remoting Applications 8 **Items 55** Triggers 26

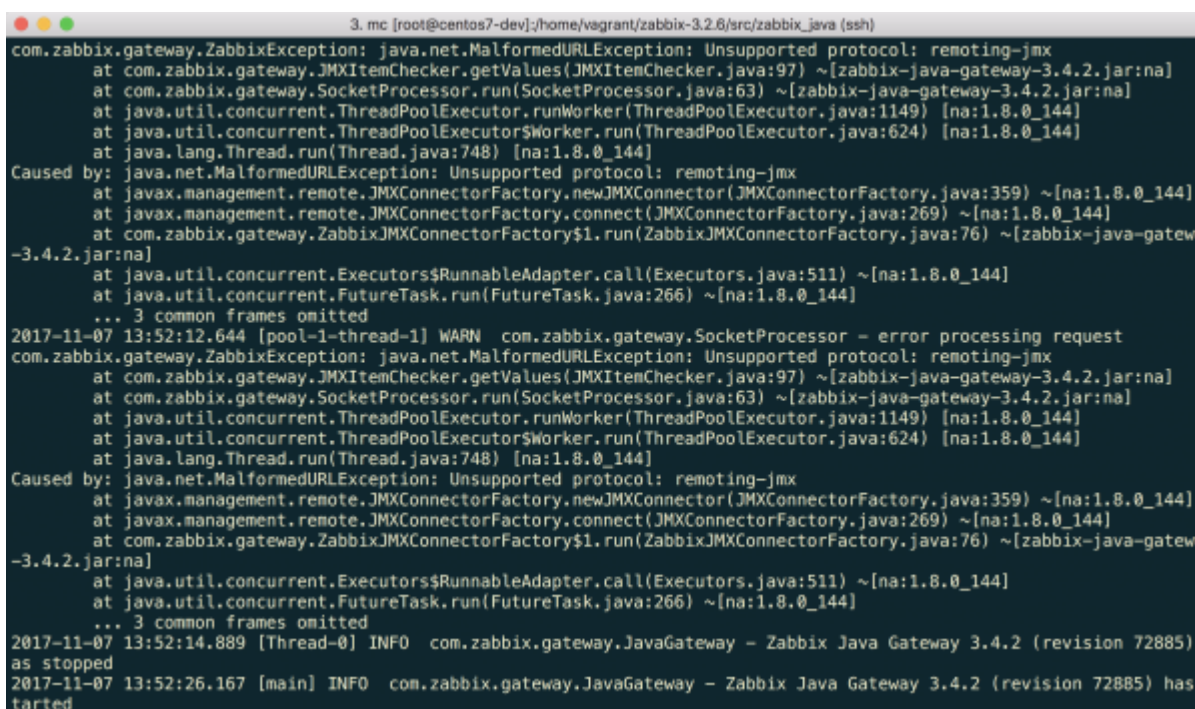
Type  Original

JMX endpoint  `service:jmx:remoting-jmx://{HOST.CONN}:{HOST.PORT}`

Let's update the configuration cache:

```
$ /usr/local/sbin/zabbix_server -R config_cache_reload
```

Note that you may encounter an error first.



“Unsupported protocol: remoting-jmx” means that Java gateway does not know how to work with the specified protocol. That can be fixed by creating a ~/needed\_modules.txt file with the following content:

```
jboss-as-remoting
jboss-logging
jboss-logmanager
jboss-marshalling
jboss-remoting
jboss-sasl
jcl-over-slf4j
jul-to-slf4j-stub
log4j-jboss-logmanager
remoting-jmx
slf4j-api
xnio-api
```

```
xnio-nio</pre>
```

and then executing the command:

```
$ for i in $(cat ~/needed_modules.txt); do find /opt/jboss-eap-6.4 -iname ${i}*.jar -exec cp {} /usr/local/sbin/zabbix_java/lib/ \; ; done
```

Thus, Java gateway will have all the necessary modules for working with jmx-remoting. What's left is to restart the Java gateway, wait a bit and if you did everything right, see that JMX monitoring data begin to arrive in Zabbix:

Latest data

Name	Last check	Last value	Change
<b>Classes (3 items)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Loaded Class Count	2017-11-07 14:00:13	7968	+2
<input type="checkbox"/> Total Loaded Class Count	2017-11-07 14:00:09	7968	+2
<input type="checkbox"/> Unloaded Class Count	2017-11-07 14:00:13	0	
<b>Compilation (2 items)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> comp Accumulated time spent in compilation	2017-11-07 14:00:13	46s 758ms	+1s 448ms
<input type="checkbox"/> comp Name of the current JIT compiler	2017-11-07 14:00:39	HotSpot 64-Bit Tiered Compilers	
<b>Garbage Collector (4 items)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> gc Copy accumulated time spent in collection	2017-11-07 14:00:09	0	
<input type="checkbox"/> gc Copy number of collections per second	2017-11-07 14:00:09	0	
<input type="checkbox"/> gc MarkSweepCompact accumulated time spent in collection	2017-11-07 14:00:13	372ms	
<input type="checkbox"/> gc MarkSweepCompact number of collections per second	2017-11-07 14:00:13	0	
<b>Memory (9 items)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> mem Heap Memory committed	2017-11-07 14:00:13	1.23 GB	
<input type="checkbox"/> mem Heap Memory max	2017-11-07 14:00:39	1.23 GB	
<input type="checkbox"/> mem Heap Memory used	2017-11-07 14:00:09	271.67 MB	+4.01 MB
<input type="checkbox"/> mem Non-Heap Memory committed	2017-11-07 14:00:13	66.38 MB	+384 KB
<input type="checkbox"/> mem Non-Heap Memory used	2017-11-07 14:00:13	89.5 MB	+128.1 KB
<input type="checkbox"/> mem Object Pending Finalization Count	2017-11-07 14:00:13	0	
<b>Memory Pool (8 items)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> mp Code Cache committed	2017-11-07 14:00:09	12.31 MB	+128 KB
<input type="checkbox"/> mp Code Cache max	2017-11-07 14:00:40	240 MB	
<input type="checkbox"/> mp Code Cache used	2017-11-07 14:00:09	12.23 MB	+145.64 KB
<input type="checkbox"/> mp Tenured Gen committed	2017-11-07 14:00:13	809.38 MB	
<input type="checkbox"/> mp Tenured Gen max	2017-11-07 14:00:40	809.38 MB	
<input type="checkbox"/> mp Tenured Gen used	2017-11-07 14:00:09	32.25 MB	

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