

## 3 New item

### Overview

In this section you will learn how to set up an item.

Items are the basis of gathering data in Zabbix. Without items, there is no data - because only an item defines a single metric or what data to get off of a host.

### Adding item

All items are grouped around hosts. That is why to configure a sample item we go to *Configuration* → *Hosts* and find the 'New host' we have created.

The *Items* link in the row of 'New host' should display a count of '0'. Click on the link, and then click on *Create item*. This will present us with an item definition form.

The screenshot shows the 'Item Preprocessing' configuration page in Zabbix. The form contains the following fields and sections:

- Name:** CPU Load (marked with a red asterisk)
- Type:** Zabbix agent
- Key:** system.cpu.load (marked with a red asterisk)
- Host interface:** 127.0.0.1 : 10050 (marked with a red asterisk)
- Type of information:** Numeric (float)
- Units:** (empty)
- Update interval:** 30s (marked with a red asterisk)
- Custom intervals:** A table with columns: Type, Interval, Period, Action. One row is visible: Flexible Scheduling, 50s, 1-7,00:00-24:00, Remove.
- History storage period:** 90d (marked with a red asterisk)
- Trend storage period:** 365d (marked with a red asterisk)
- Show value:** As is (marked with a red asterisk)
- New application:** (empty text box)
- Applications:** A list box containing '-None-'
- Populates host inventory field:** -None- (marked with a red asterisk)
- Description:** (empty text area)
- Enabled:**
- Buttons:** Add, Cancel

All mandatory input fields are marked with a red asterisk.

For our sample item, the essential information to enter is:

### Name

- Enter *CPU Load* as the value. This will be the item name displayed in lists and elsewhere.

### Key

- Manually enter *system.cpu.load* as the value. This is a technical name of an item that identifies the type of information that will be gathered. The particular key is just one of [pre-defined keys](#) that come with Zabbix agent.

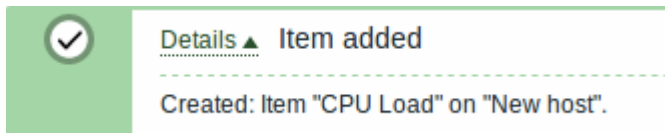
### Type of information

- Select *Numeric (float)* here. This attribute defines the format of expected data.

You may also want to reduce the amount of days [item history](#) will be kept, to 7 or 14. This is good practice to relieve the database from keeping lots of historical values.

[Other options](#) will suit us with their defaults for now.

When done, click *Add*. The new item should appear in the itemlist. Click on *Details* above the list to view what exactly was done.



### Seeing data

With an item defined, you might be curious if it is actually gathering data. For that, go to *Monitoring* → *Latest data*, select 'New host' in the filter and click on *Apply*.

Then click on the + before **- other -** and expect your item to be there and displaying data.

HOST	NAME ▲	LAST CHECK	LAST VALUE	CHANGE
New host	- other - (1 item)			
	CPU Load	2015-08-08 16:00:49	2.24	-0.26 <a href="#">Graph</a>

With that said, first data may take up to 60 seconds to arrive. That, by default, is how often the server reads configuration changes and picks up new items to execute.

If you see no value in the 'Change' column, maybe only one value has been received so far. Wait 30 seconds for another value to arrive.

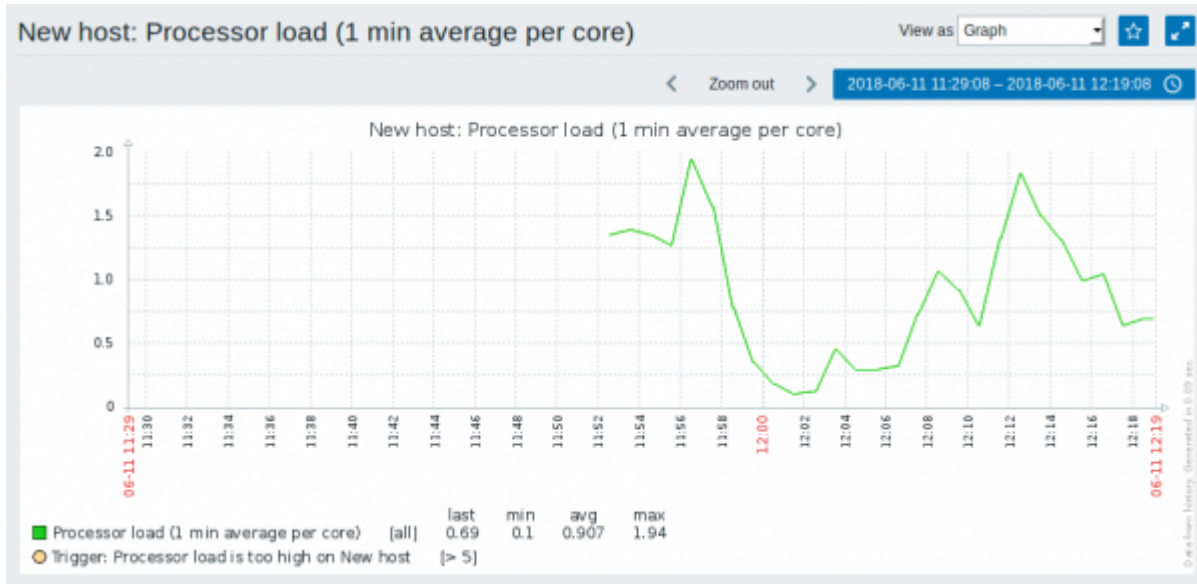
If you do not see information about the item as in the screenshot, make sure that:

- you entered item 'Key' and 'Type of information' fields exactly as in the screenshot
- both agent and server are running
- host status is 'Monitored' and its availability icon is green
- host is selected in the host dropdown, item is active

### Graphs

With the item working for a while, it might be time to see something visual. [Simple graphs](#) are available for any monitored numeric item without any additional configuration. These graphs are generated on runtime.

To view the graph, go to *Monitoring* → *Latest data* and click on the 'Graph' link next to the item.



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