

Network Management & Monitoring

Installing Cacti

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Notes:

- * Commands preceded with "\$" imply that you should execute the command as a general user - not as root.
- * Commands preceded with "#" imply that you should be working as root.
- * Commands with more specific command lines (e.g. "RTR-GW>" or "mysql>") imply that you are executing commands on remote equipment, or within another program.

Exercises

1. Installing Cacti from Source

Optional

2. Install the Settings and thold Plugins

3. Configure the Installed Plugins

1. Installing Cacti from Source

Connect to your PC using ssh

Be sure we have installed the support packages required for Cacti

Chances are most of these packages are already installed, but it's fine to specify them again as the apt package management system will only install new items.

```
$ sudo apt-get install apache2 php5 libapache2-mod-php5 mysql-server \  
  php5-mysql snmp php5-snmp rrdtool librrdp-perl librrds-perl php5-cli \  
  wget
```

If installing from scratch it is 110MB of additional disk space and about 61MB to download. Remember that "\n" simply means "newline" - Ask your instructor for help if you don't understand what this means.

Let's become root (you can use "sudo" instead if you wish).

```
# sudo bash  
# cd /var/www  
# wget http://www.cacti.net/downloads/cacti-0.8.8a.tar.gz
```

If not available remotely or connection is too slow, then:

```
# wget http://noc.ws.nsrc.org/downloads/cacti/cacti-0.8.8a.tar.gz
```

Next extract the file:

```
# tar xvzf cacti-0.8.8a.tar.gz
```

Make the directory name more friendly.

```
# mv cacti-0.8.8a cacti
```

Set the appropriate permissions on cacti's directories for graph/log generation.

```
# chown www-data:www-data cacti
# cd cacti
# chown -R www-data:www-data *
```

Create the MySQL database

```
# mysqladmin --user=root -p create cacti
Enter password: <class password>
```

Import the default cacti database

```
# mysql -uroot -p cacti < cacti.sql
Enter password: <class password>
```

Create a MySQL username and password for Cacti (avoid using mysql root user)

```
# mysql -uroot -p mysql
Enter password: <class password>
```

```
mysql> GRANT ALL ON cacti.* TO cactiuser@localhost IDENTIFIED BY '<class password>';
```

```
mysql> flush privileges;
mysql> quit
```

Edit include/config.php and specify the MySQL user, password and database for your Cacti configuration. Most likely you'll only need to change the line with "\$database_password" in the first section:

```
/* make sure these values reflect your actual database/host/user/password */
$database_type = "mysql";
$database_default = "cacti";
$database_hostname = "localhost";
$database_username = "cactiuser";
$database_password = "<class password>";
$database_port = "3306";
$database_ssl = false;
```

Now uncomment the line with \$url_path just under the line above and add the following:

```
/*
Edit this to point to the default URL of your Cacti install
ex: if your cacti install as at http://serverip/cacti/ this
would be set to /cacti/
*/
$url_path = "/cacti/";
```

Now exit and save the file.

Create a cron process for cacti:

```
# cd /etc/cron.d
# editor cacti

MAILTO=root
*/5 * * * * www-data php /var/www/cacti/poller.php >/dev/null 2>/var/log/cacti/poller-error.log
```

Now give the right permissions to the log files and create a blank log file:

```
# cd /var/log
# mkdir cacti
# chown www-data:www-data cacti
# cd cacti
# touch poller-error.log
# chown www-data:www-data poller-error.log
```

Congratulations! The Cacti base is now installed. To complete installation return to the class presentation and follow the steps for completing the Cacti installation by going to:

<http://pcN.ws.nsrc.org/cacti>

In a web browser.

Optional Exercises

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NOTE: The exercises should only be done if you have installed Cacti from source. If you install Cacti using "apt-get install cacti" these exercises will not work.

2. Install the Settings and thold Plugin

You can find a list of plugins here:

<http://docs.cacti.net/plugins>

The Settings plugin allows you to specify additional settings for sending email in Cacti. This is very important (actually critical) if you wish to set up Cacti so that it can send email and generate tickets in a ticketing system.

To install the Settings plugin we do:

```
# cd /var/www/cacti/plugins
# wget http://noc.ws.nsrc.org/downloads/cacti/plugins/settings.tar.gz
```

Next extract the file:

```
# tar xvzf settings.tar.gz
```

Remove the tar.gz file:

```
# rm settings.tar.gz
```

Next get the thold plugin:

```
# wget http://noc.ws.nsrc.org/downloads/cacti/plugins/thold.tar.gz
```

Next extract the file:

```
# tar xvzf thold.tar.gz
```

Remove the tar.gz file:

```
# rm thold.tar.gz
```

Now we are ready to configure these two plugins to work with Cacti. The thold plugin will allow us to set thresholds that can cause triggers, such as sending an email message to a ticketing system and automatically generate a ticket when certain conditions are detected (CPU is too hot

in the router, max bandwidth exceeded for 10 minutes, system load is to high on a server, etc...).

3. Configure the Settings and thold plugins

The steps to do this are done from with the Cacti web interface. As they are graphical please see the document:

[cacti-plugin-configuration.pdf](#)

This document is linked in to the Agenda on the wiki for your class. Ask your instructor if you have questions.