



Webinar

Extending ZABBIX

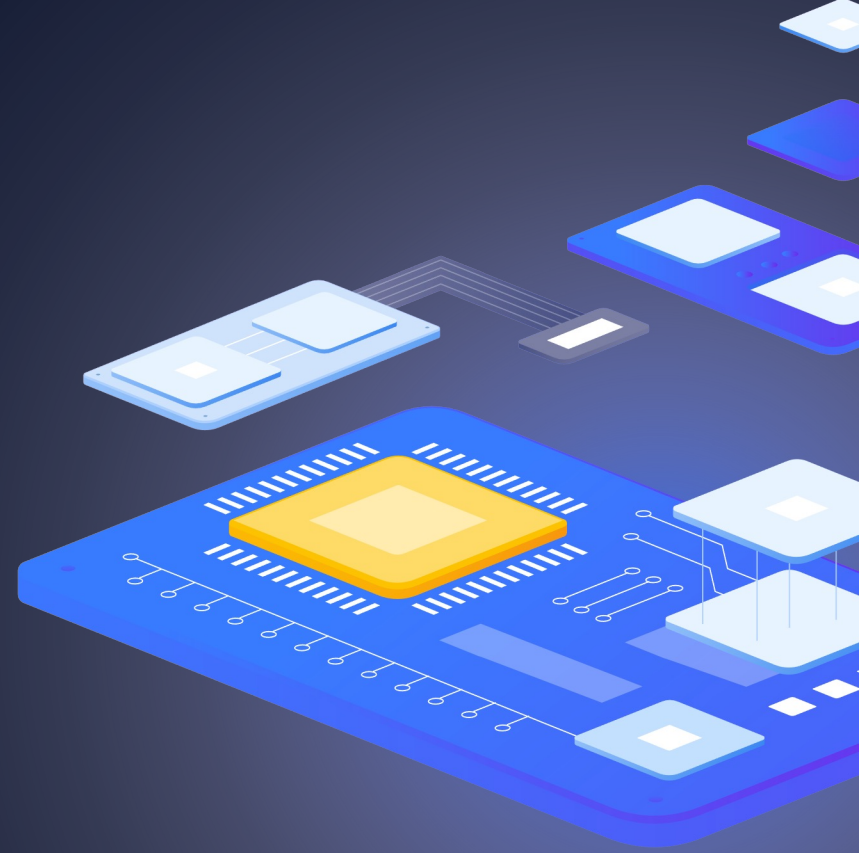
all our microphones are muted

ask your questions in Q&A, not in the Chat

use Chat for discussion, networking or applause

1

WHY and HOW



Extending ZABBIX

Why to extend?

- › Zabbix will evenly distribute checks
- › Customized environment
- › Specific approach requirement
- › Running custom scripts/commands
- › Monitoring something that is not available
- › out-of-the-box

Extending ZABBIX

How to extend?

Zabbix provides multiple different approaches to do that!

Using Zabbix agent checks:

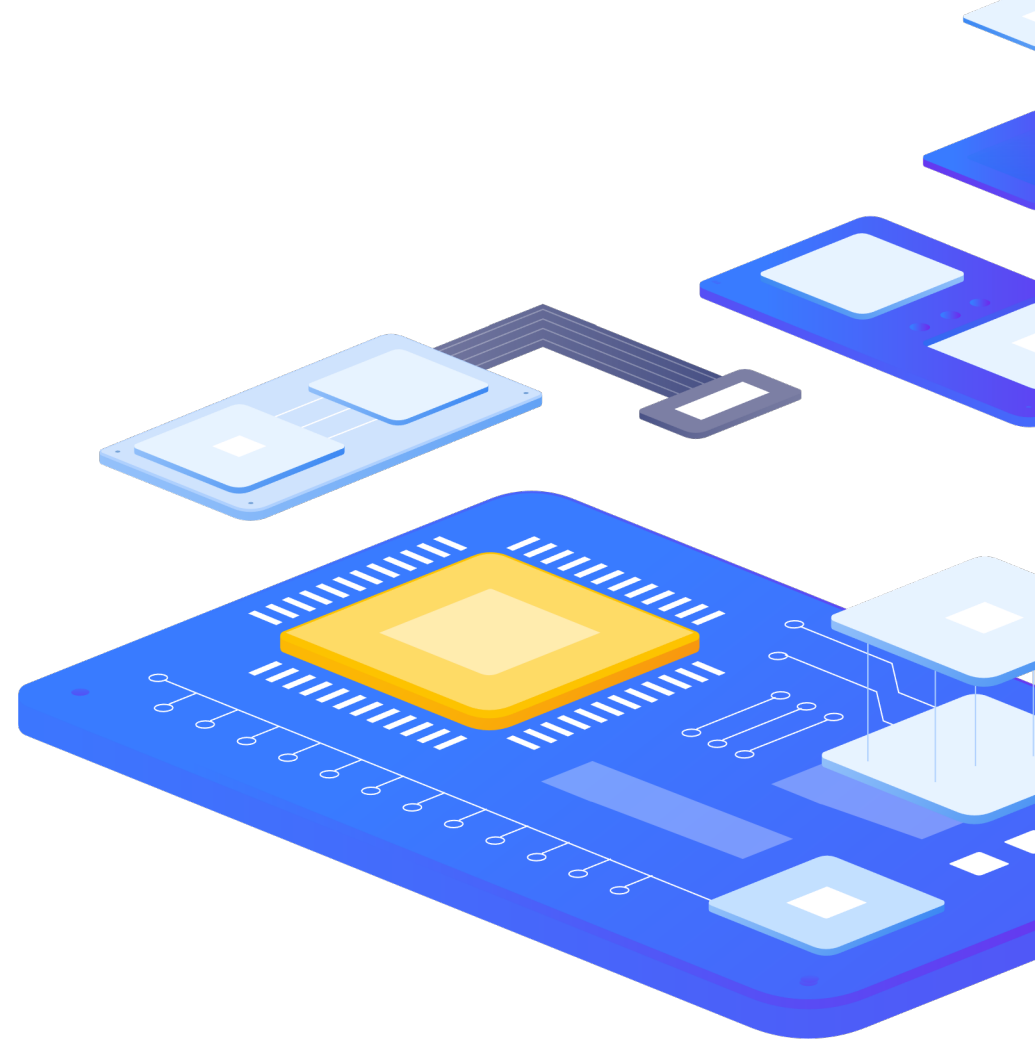
- › Using item key `system.run[*]`
- › User parameters

Agentless checks

- › External checks
- › Script items

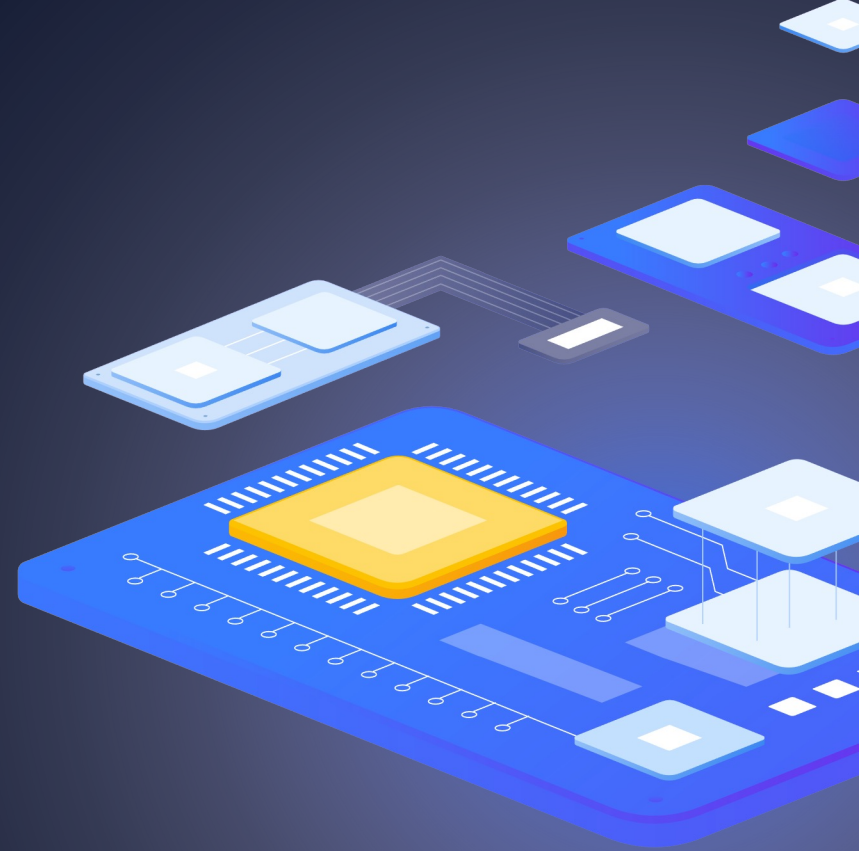
Code-based approach

- › Zabbix API
- › Loadable modules
- › Agent 2 plugins



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SYSTEM.RUN



Extending ZABBIX

SYSTEM.RUN

`system.run[command,<mode>]`

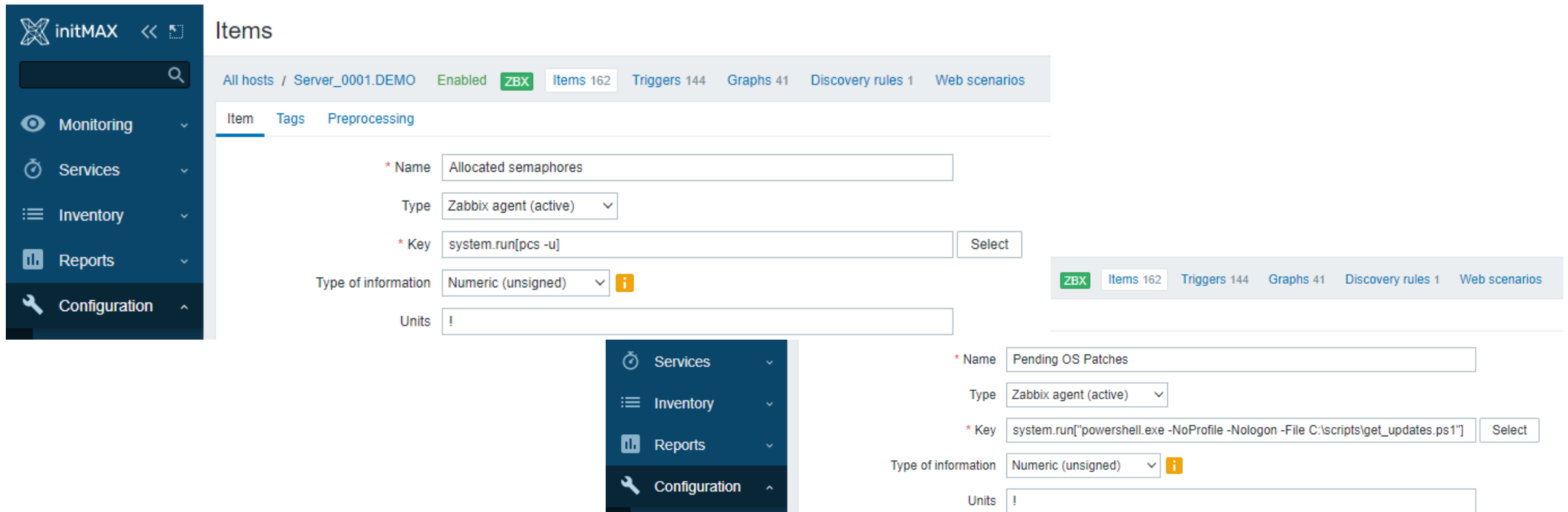
- › **command**: command that should be executed, i.e. bash or PowerShell
- › **mode**: wait/nowait
 - › **wait** - wait till end of execution (default), usually used for data gathering
 - › **nowait** - do not wait end of execution, can be used for scheduled command execution
- › Be careful with nowait option, Zabbix can create multiple processes if execution of the command takes a lot of time

Extending ZABBIX

SYSTEM.RUN examples

`system.run[ipcs -u]`

`system.run["powershell.exe -NoProfile -Nologo -File C:\scr\get_updates.ps1"]`



The screenshot displays the initMAX Zabbix web interface. On the left is a dark blue sidebar with navigation links: Monitoring, Services, Inventory, Reports, and Configuration. The main content area is titled 'Items' and shows a breadcrumb trail: All hosts / Server_0001.DEMO. Below this, there are tabs for Item, Tags, and Preprocessing. The 'Item' tab is active, showing a form for configuring a new item. The form includes fields for Name, Type, Key, Type of information, and Units. Two examples are shown:

Example 1:

- Name: Allocated semaphores
- Type: Zabbix agent (active)
- Key: system.run[pcs -u]
- Type of information: Numeric (unsigned)
- Units: !

Example 2:

- Name: Pending OS Patches
- Type: Zabbix agent (active)
- Key: system.run["powershell.exe -NoProfile -Nologon -File C:\scripts\get_updates.ps1"]
- Type of information: Numeric (unsigned)
- Units: !

At the bottom of the first example, a dropdown menu is open, showing the same navigation links as the sidebar: Services, Inventory, Reports, and Configuration.

Extending ZABBIX

SYSTEM.RUN examples

Allow remote command execution in the agent configuration:

```
# vi /etc/zabbix/zabbix_agentd.conf (or zabbix_agent2.conf)
```

```
### Option: AllowKey  
AllowKey=system.run[ipcs -u]
```

With Zabbix agents before 5.0, you need to add

```
### Option: EnableRemoteCommands - Deprecated  
EnableRemoteCommands=1
```

(This will allow any remote command execution)

Restart the agent:

```
# systemctl restart zabbix-agent (zabbix-agent2)
```


Configuring SYSTEM.RUN

Even though it is possible to allow any remote command execution with newer Zabbix agents by adding to agent configuration:

```
### Option: AllowKey  
AllowKey=system.run[*]
```

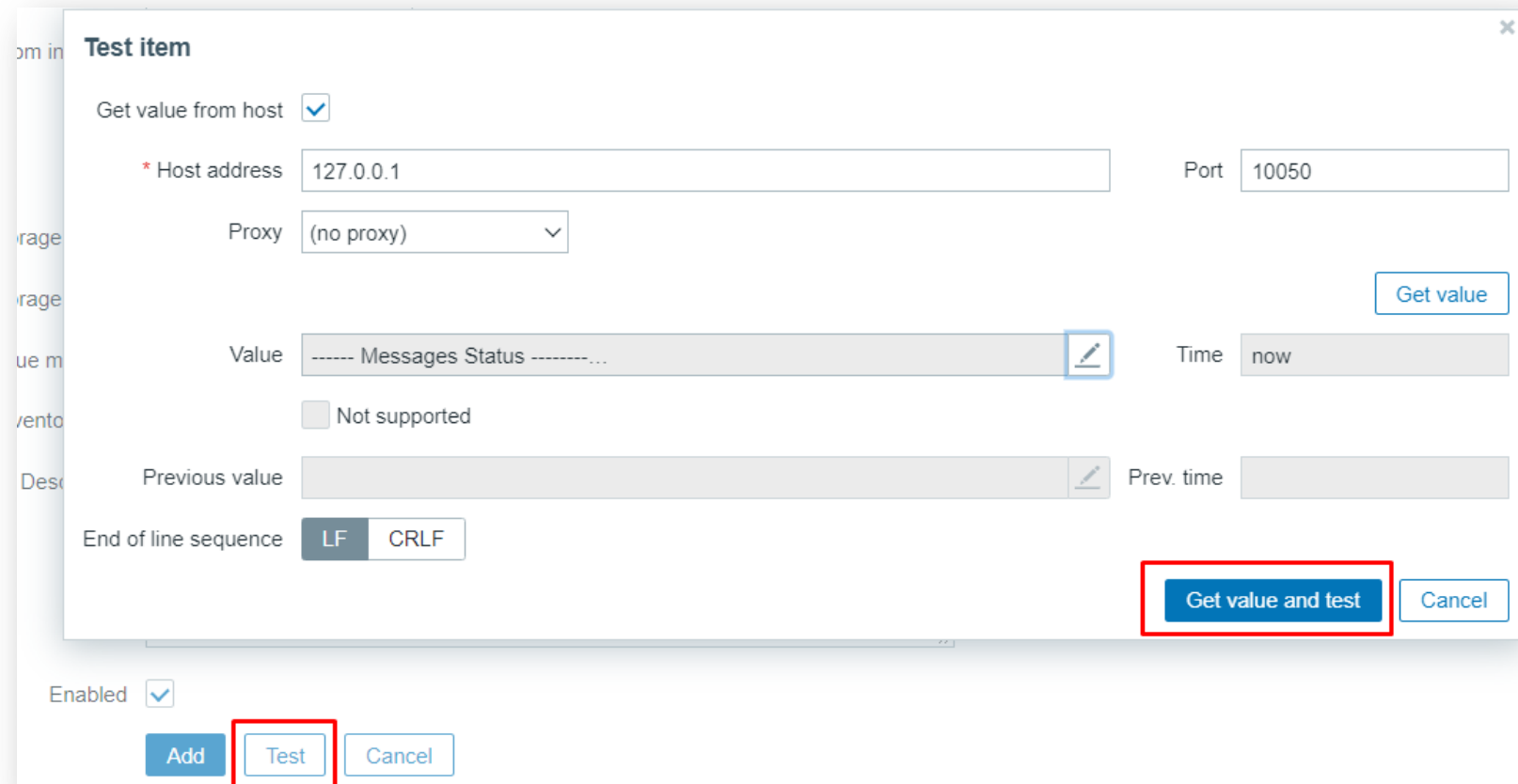
It can raise serious security concerns and a better approach is to allow only approved commands to be executed.

Is there a difference?

```
### Option: AllowKey  
AllowKey=system.run[*]  
AllowKey=system.run[*,*]
```

Test if your SYSTEM can RUN the command

Starting with 5.0 you can test your newly added system.run items right from the frontend using the test button:




Test item


Get value from host ☒

* Host address Port

Proxy

Value  Time

☐ Not supported

Previous value  Prev. time

End of line sequence

Enabled ☒

Extending ZABBIX

Test if your SYSTEM can RUN the command

Or you can use `zabbix_get` for the same purpose:

```
# zabbix_get -s <agent-IP> -k system.run['ipcs -u']
```

```
----- Messages Status -----  
allocated queues = 0  
used headers = 0  
used space = 0 bytes  
  
----- Shared Memory Status -----  
.....
```

Extending ZABBIX

Test if your SYSTEM can RUN the command

If during testing, you see errors like:



Incorrect value for field "key_": incorrect syntax near ""\$8'}"]".

Consider checking your key, if the command has quotes:

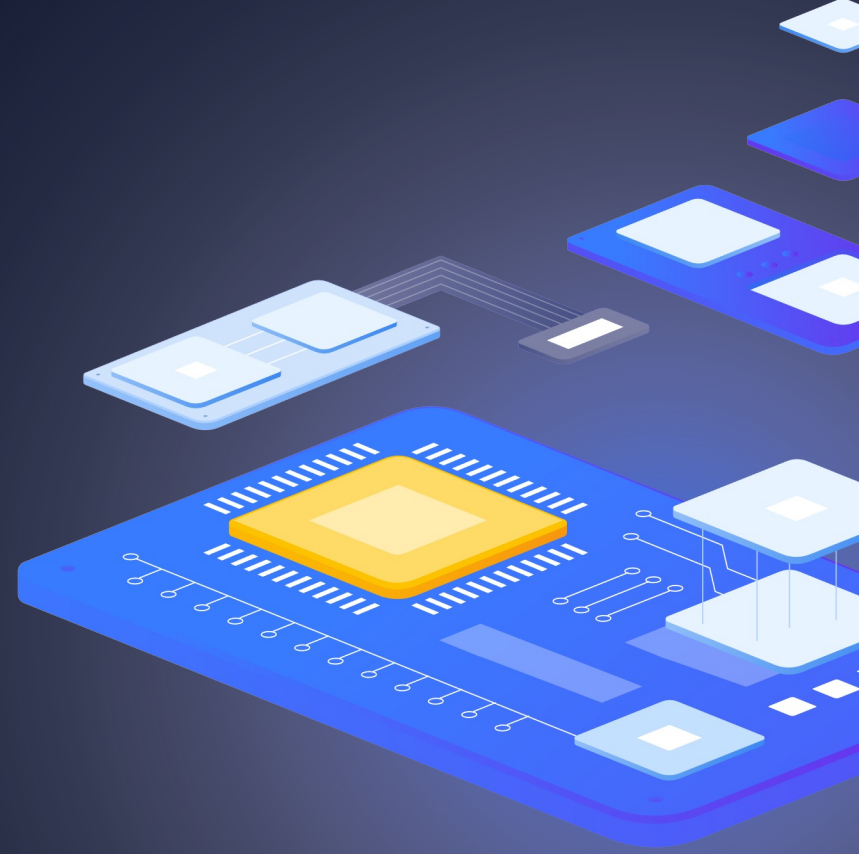
```
system.run["ps -ef | grep zabbix | awk {'print $2" "$8'}"]
```

Consider escaping them to execute the command successfully:

```
system.run["ps -ef | grep zabbix | awk {'print $2\" \"$8'}"]
```

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User Parameters



Extending ZABBIX

User Parameters

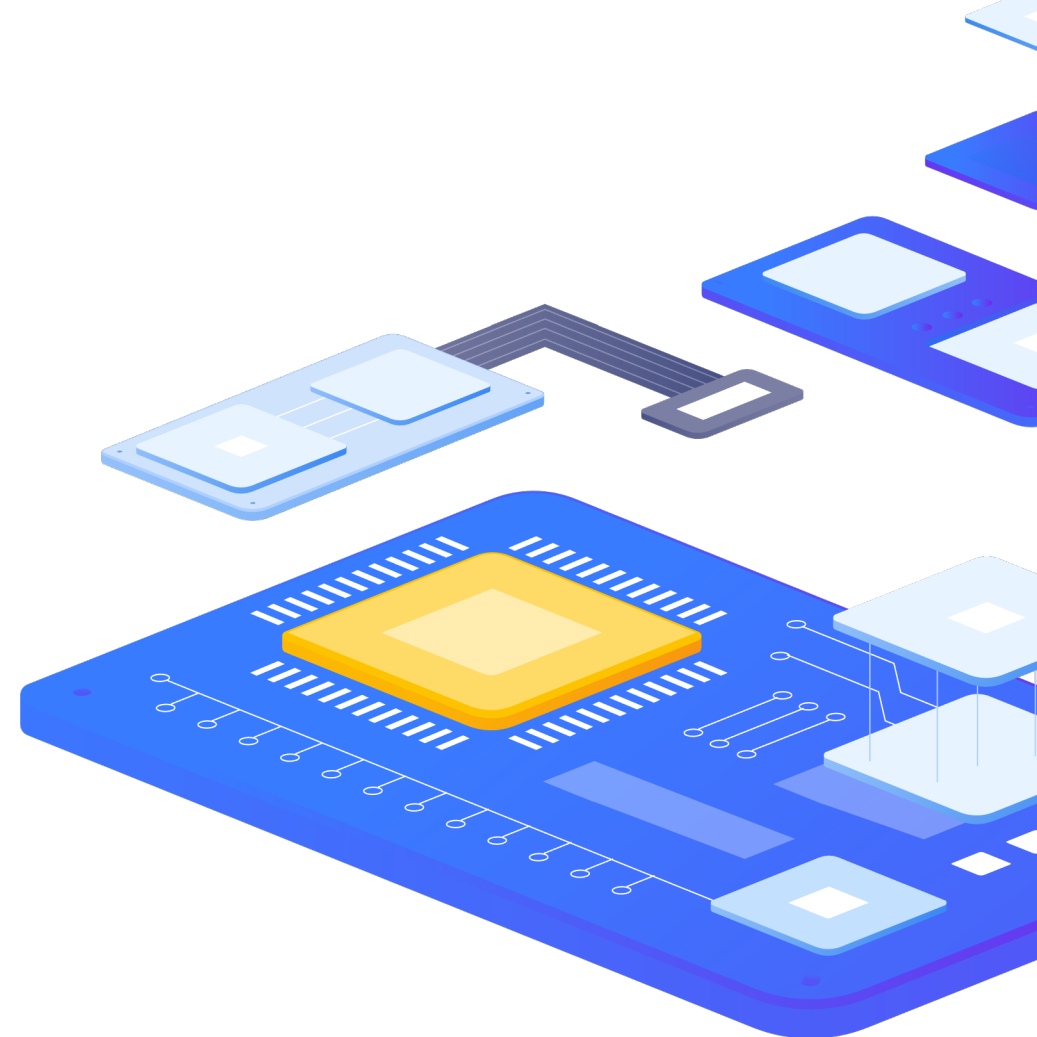
Another way of executing command, not predefined in Zabbix

- › Shell commands
- › Custom scripts

Syntax: `UserParameter=key,[<command>]`

- › **key** - The keys that will be used in the item, any unique key can be specified
- › **command** - Command that will be executed when the key is requested

All commands are executed under the same OS user under which Zabbix agent is running. Make sure this user will have enough permissions to execute the command specified



User Parameters

User parameters must be configured for every agent where they will be used:

- › Directly in zabbix_agentd.conf or zabbix_agent2.conf files
- › Included in a .conf file in the zabbix_agentd.d/zabbix_agent2.d directory (recommended)

```
### Option: UserParameter
#      User-defined parameter to monitor. There can be several user-defined parameters.
#
UserParameter=
```

UserParameter can be simple or flexible:

- › Simple: UserParameter=mysql.qps,mysqladmin status | cut -f9 -d":"
- › Flexible: UserParameter=mysql.ping[*, mysqladmin -u\$1 -p\$2 ping | grep -c alive

User Parameters

After defined in the configuration file, UserParameter can be added in the frontend:

Simple: `UserParameter=mysql.qps,mysqladmin status | cut -f9 -d":"`

* Name	<input type="text" value="MySQL queries per second"/>
Type	<input type="text" value="Zabbix agent"/>
* Key	<input type="text" value="mysql.qps"/> <input type="button" value="Select"/>

Flexible: `UserParameter=mysql.ping[*], mysqladmin -u$1 -p$2 ping | grep -c alive`

* Name	<input type="text" value="MySQL queries per second"/>
Type	<input type="text" value="Zabbix agent"/>
* Key	<input type="text" value="mysql.ping[zabbix,{ \$MYSQL.PASSWORD}]"/> <input type="button" value="Select"/>

User Parameters

Multiple user parameters can be defined in each agent:

- ▶ Multiple include files can be specified with different sets of parameters
- ▶ All keys per agent must be unique or Zabbix agent will exit with error:

```
ERROR: cannot add user parameter "mysql.status,mysqladmin status : key "mysql.status" already exists
```

Directory from which UserParameter will be executed can be specified:

```
### Option: UserParameterDir
#      When executing UserParameter commands the agent will change the working directory to the one
#      specified in the UserParameterDir option.
UserParameterDir=
```

The return value of the command is standard output together with standard error

- ▶ Environment may not be preserved on some Unix systems

Extending ZABBIX

User Parameters

Some symbols can not be passed as arguments by default:

- ▶ \ ' " ` * ? [] { } ~ \$! & ; () < > | # @
- ▶ newline characters are not allowed

```
### Option: UnsafeUserParameters
#       Allow all characters to be passed in arguments to user-defined parameters.
#       The following characters and newline characters are not allowed:
#       \ ' " ` * ? [ ] { } ~ $ ! & ; ( ) < > | # @
# Range: 0-1
UnsafeUserParameters=1
```

If not set:



Special characters "\", "'", "\"`, \"*, \"?, \"[\", \"], \"{\", \"}, \"~\", \"\$\", \"\$!\", \"\$&\", \"\$;\", \"\$(\", \"\$)\", \"\$<\", \"\$>\", \"\$|\", \"\$#\", \"\$@\", \"0x0a\" are not allowed in the parameters.



User Parameters

To reload list of user parameters:

- › Restart Zabbix agent to re-read entire configuration

```
systemctl restart zabbix-agent
```

Use a specific Zabbix agent runtime command

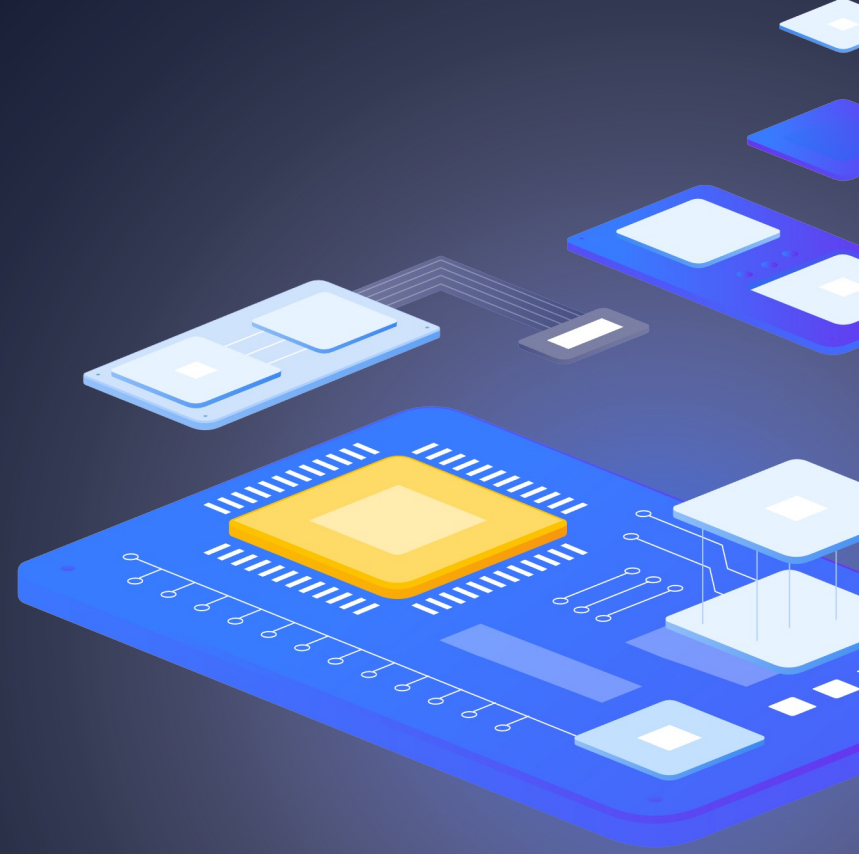
- › Works both for Zabbix agent and Zabbix agent 2
- › Only user parameters will be updated, other configuration changes ignored
- › Not supported for zabbix_agentd on OpenBSD, NetBSD and Windows

```
zabbix_agentd -R userparameter_reload
```

```
zabbix_agent2 -R userparameter_reload
```

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External checks

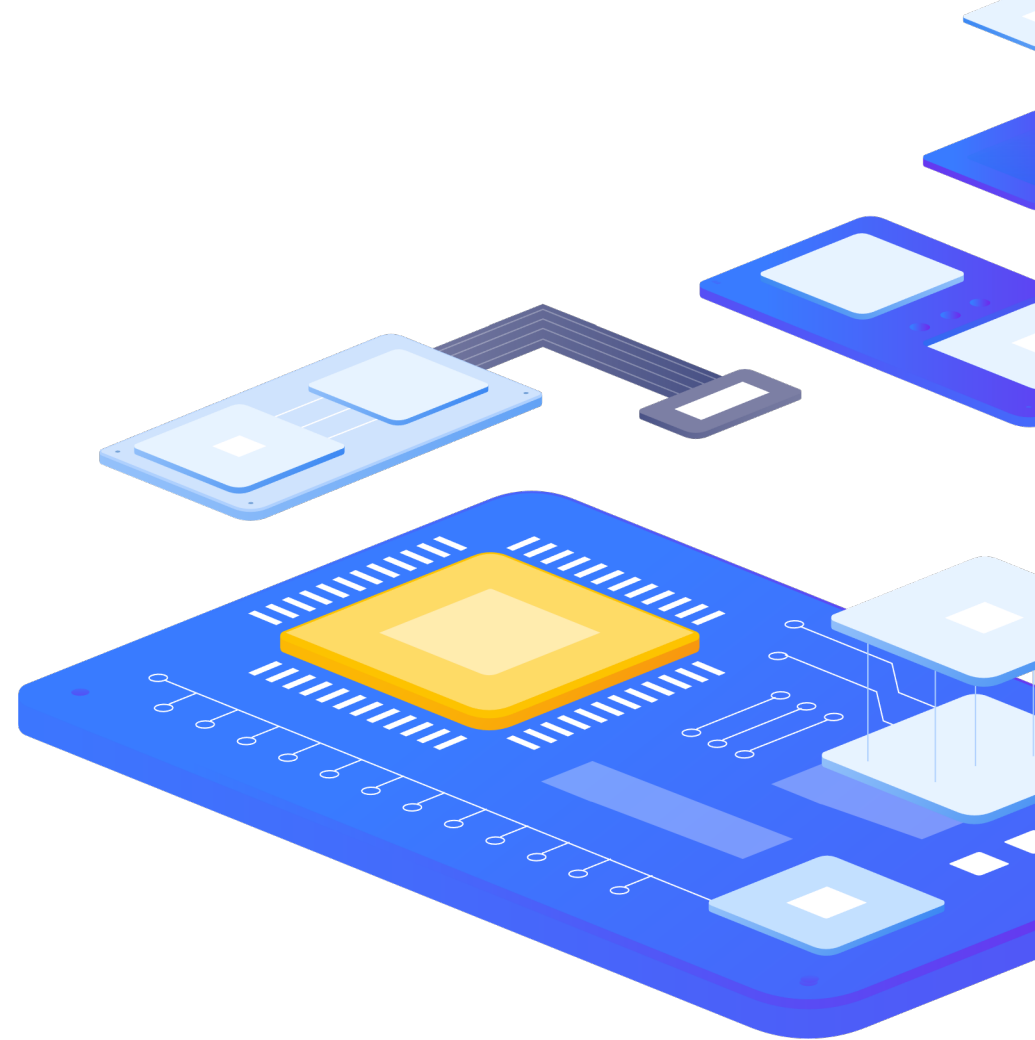


Extending ZABBIX

External checks

`script[<parameter1>,<parameter2>,...]`

- › **script**: name of a shell script or a binary.
- › **parameter(s)**: optional command line parameters.
- › Can be passed without parameters - use key `script[]` or `script`
- › Script must be in the directory defined as the location for external scripts in Zabbix server/proxy configuration file
- › Executed by Zabbix server/proxy under zabbix user
- › Do not overuse external checks! As each script requires starting a fork process by Zabbix server, running many scripts can decrease Zabbix performance.



External checks

Create and copy the script to folder defined in ExternalScripts parameter:

```
### Option: ExternalScripts  
#      Full path to location of external scripts.  
ExternalScripts=/usr/lib/zabbix/externalscripts
```

Make sure the script is executable:

```
# chmod +x check_oracle.sh
```

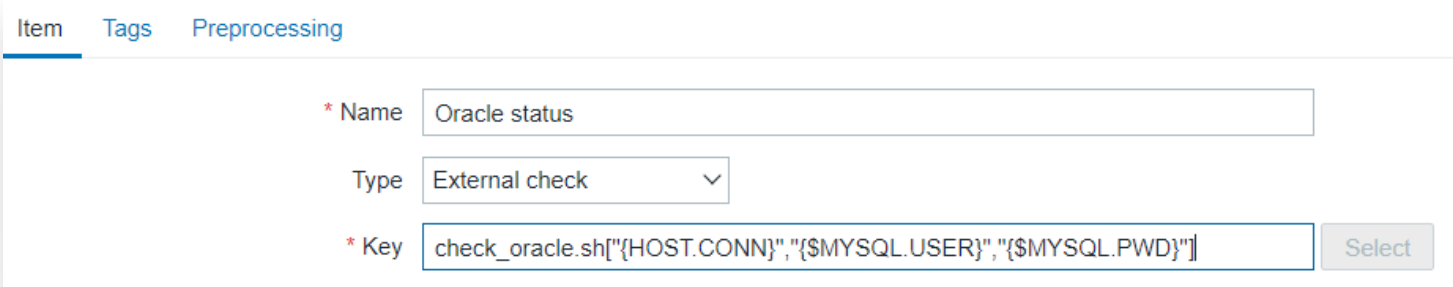
Test script from the frontend or from command line under zabbix user, i.e.:

```
# su -s /bin/bash -c ./check_oracle.sh zabbix
```

If necessary, add permissions on the command to allow that user to execute it. Only commands in the specified directory are available for execution.

External checks

Create the item in the frontend:



The screenshot shows the 'Create item' form in the Zabbix frontend. The 'Item' tab is selected. The form contains the following fields:

- Name:** Oracle status
- Type:** External check (selected from a dropdown menu)
- Key:** check_oracle.sh["{HOST.CONN}","{MYSQL.USER}","{MYSQL.PWD}"]

A 'Select' button is located to the right of the 'Key' field.

Zabbix server or proxy will execute:

```
# ./check_oracle.sh 192.0.0.1 DBuser DBpassword
```

- ▶ The return value of the check is standard output together with standard error (the full output with trimmed trailing whitespace is returned since Zabbix 2.0).

External checks – Unsupported status

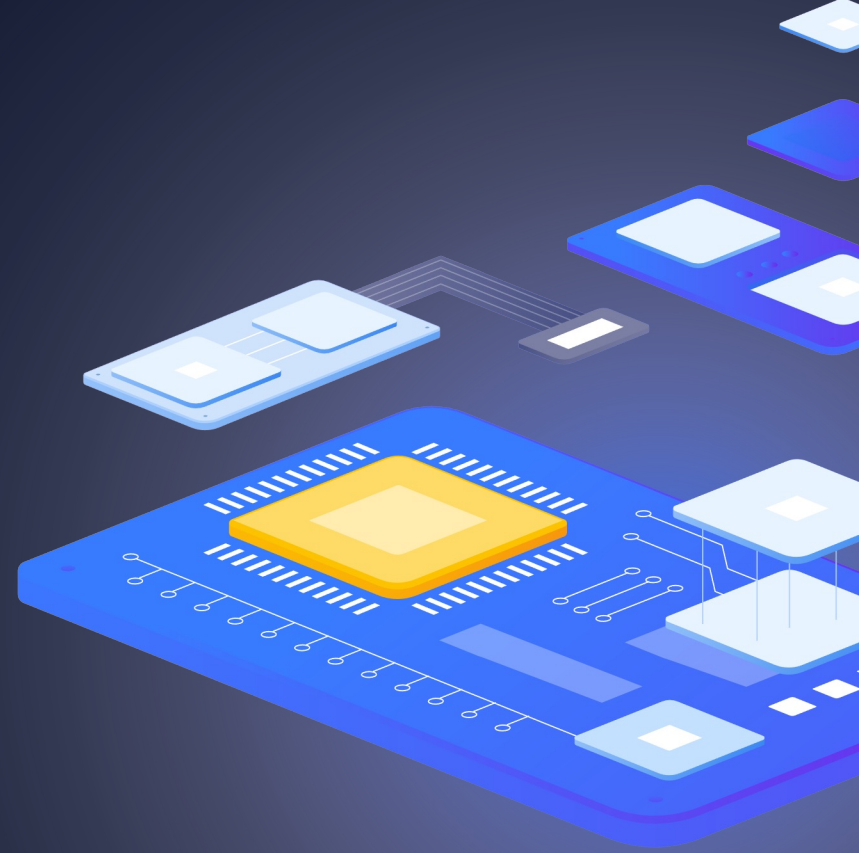
The item will change the status to unsupported if:

- › Zabbix server lacks the necessary permissions to execute the script
- › Script is not found
- › Timeout has been reached while executing the script
- › Exit code is not 0

A text (character, log or text type of information) item will not become unsupported in case of standard error output.

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Script items



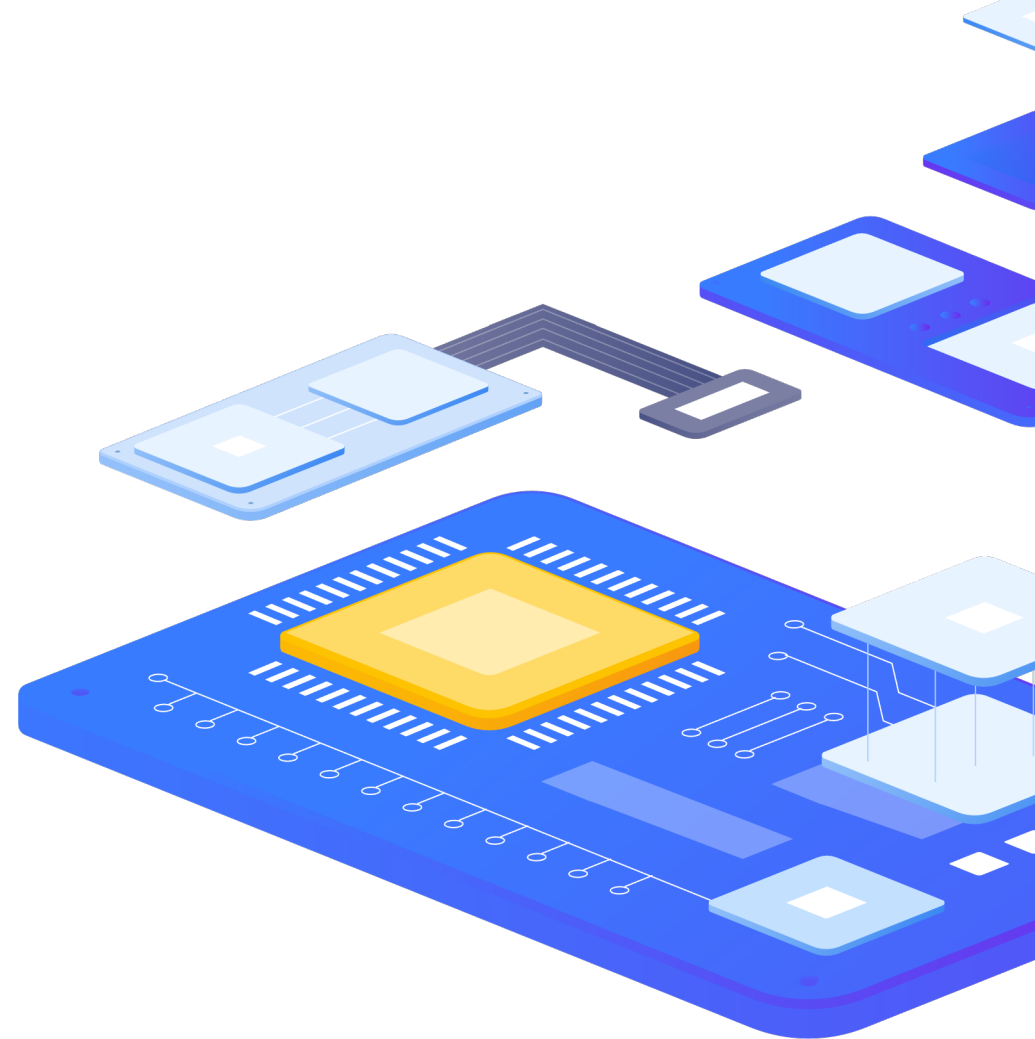
Extending ZABBIX

Script Items

Item key: any unique key that will be used to identify the item.

- › Can be used to collect data by executing a user-defined JavaScript code with the ability to retrieve data over HTTP/HTTPS
- › Optional list of parameters (pairs of name and value) and timeout can be specified.
- › Executed by Zabbix server or Zabbix proxy

Zabbix uses Duktape, an embedded Javascript engine based on ECMAScript E5/E5.1



Script Items

Fields you will need to configure:

- ▶ Key - enter a unique key that will be used to identify the item.
- ▶ Parameters - specify the variables to be passed to the script as the attribute and value pairs. Built-in macros and user macros are supported.
- ▶ Script - JavaScript code. This code must provide the logic for returning the metric value. May perform HTTP GET, POST, PUT and DELETE requests and has control over HTTP headers and request body.
- ▶ Timeout - JavaScript execution timeout (1-60s, default 3s).

Note: parameters are passed as JSON string, which you can parse to an object and use in the script

Extending ZABBIX

Script Items

Create a script type item:

Item

Tags

Preprocessing

* Name

Get Zabbix release notes

Type

Script

▼

* Key

get.release.notes

Select

Type of information

Text


▼

Parameters

Name	Value	Action
url	{ \$DOMAIN }	Remove
subpage	/release_notes	Remove
Add		

* Script

var json = value;...



Script Items

- ▶ With script like:

```
var obj = JSON.parse(value);  
var url = obj.url;  
var subpage = obj.subpage;  
var request = new HttpRequest();  
return request.get(url + subpage);
```

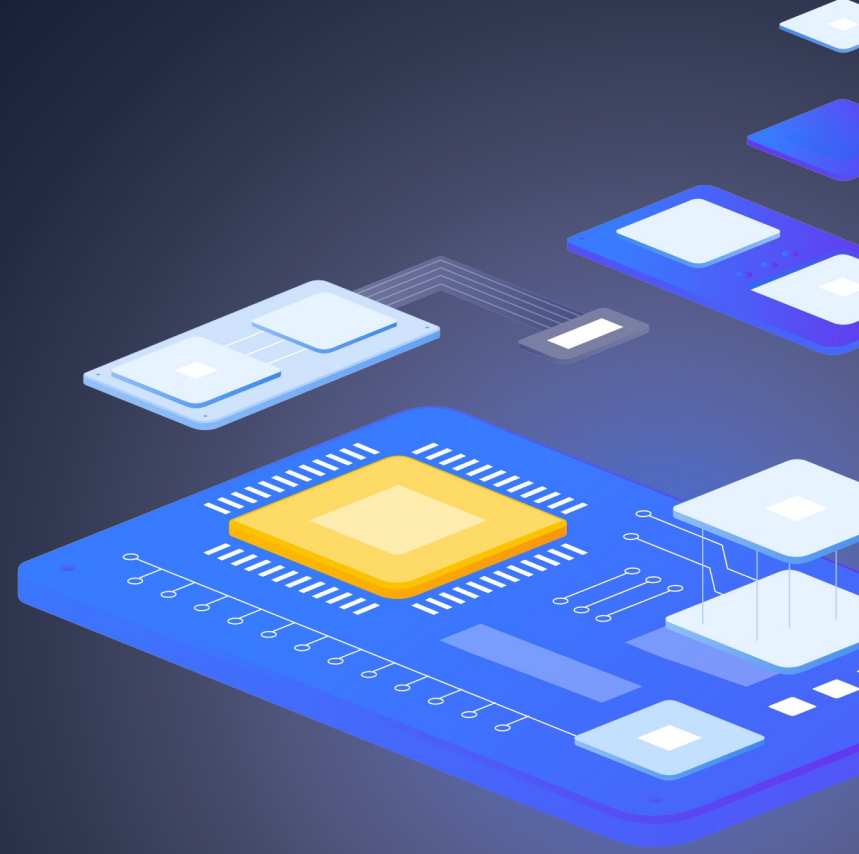
- ▶ To get the content of Zabbix release page and make use of parameters.

- ▶ Note: multiple HTTP requests can be made too:

```
var request = new HttpRequest();  
return request.get("https://www.zabbix.com") + request.get("https://www.zabbix.com/release_notes");
```

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Zabbix API

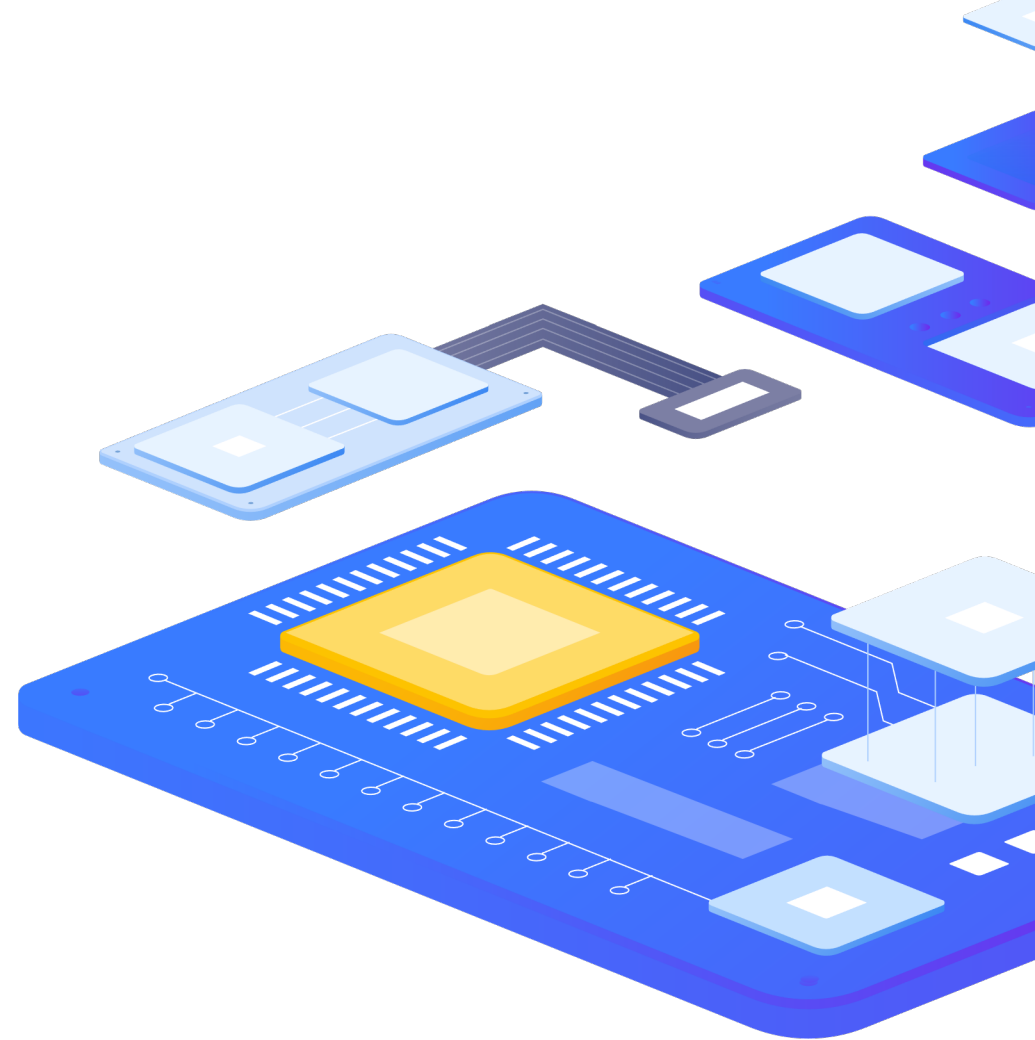


Extending ZABBIX

Zabbix API

Allows you to:

- › Programmatically retrieve and modify the configuration of Zabbix
- › Access historical data
- › Create new applications to work with Zabbix
- › Integrate Zabbix with third party software
- › Automate routine tasks
- › Control User Permissions from the frontend



Zabbix API

Zabbix API connects to the Zabbix frontend:

- › Address that will be used - http://zabbix.example.com/zabbix/api_jsonrpc.php.
- › Protocol used – JSON-RPC 2.0
- › Consists of multiple separate method, like `host.create`, `history.get`, etc.
- › Each method described in the documentation with examples
- › Communication is encoded using the JSON format.

Zabbix API – Login method

Before getting any data, you will need to login:

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "method": "user.login",
  "params": {
    "user": "zabbix_api",
    "password": "afHhYTTQhsBX"
  },
  "id": 1,
  "auth": null
}
```

And get the authentication token:

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "result": "0424bd59b80767b54e4191e7",
  "id": 1
}
```

Extending ZABBIX

Zabbix API – API Token

Or even simpler:

generate API token in the Zabbix frontend:

API tokens

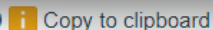


API token added

Name: API Token

User: Admin (Zabbix Administrator)

Auth token: 3b0adba9054ce303a7cce850fab9a7e4c326e002c787b2dc825260ae3172c219



Expires at: 2022-12-31 00:00:00

Description:

Enabled: ☒

Close

API tokens

* Name: API Token

* User: Admin (Zabbix Administrator)

Select

Description

Set expiration date and time ☒

* Expires at: 2022-12-31 00:00:00

Enabled ☒

Add

Cancel

Copy to clipboard

Make sure to copy the auth token as you won't be able to view it after the page is closed.

Zabbix API – Method Call

Now you can configure your Zabbix and get needed reports through API, like finding hosts where inventory field os contains Centos:

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "method": "host.get",
  "params": {
    "searchInventory": {
      "os": "Centos"
    },
    "selectInventory": ["os", "type"],
    "output": ["hostid", "name"]
  },
  "auth": "<PUT AUTHENTICATION TOKEN HERE>",
  "id": 1
}
```

Extending ZABBIX

Zabbix API

It is possible to use any utility to POST the JSON-RPC data to Zabbix API:

GUI based utilities:



The screenshot shows a web-based utility interface. At the top, there is a 'Service URL' field containing 'http://company.com/zabbix/api_jsonrpc.php'. Below this is a 'Request JSON String' text area containing a valid JSON-RPC request:

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "method": "user.login",
  "params": {
    "user": "zabbix_api",
    "password": "afHhYTTQhsBX"
  },
  "id": 1,
  "auth": null
}
```

. At the bottom, there is a blue 'Call Method' button and a small information icon with the text 'Uses the HTTP POST method when submitting data.'

Command line utilities:

```
curl -s -X POST -H 'Content-Type: application/json-rpc' -d '{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "method": "user.login",
  "params": {
    "user": "zabbix_api",
    "password": "afHhYTTQhsBX"
  },
  "id": 1,
  "auth": null
}' http://www.initmax.cz/zabbix/api_jsonrpc.php
```

Extending ZABBIX

Zabbix API

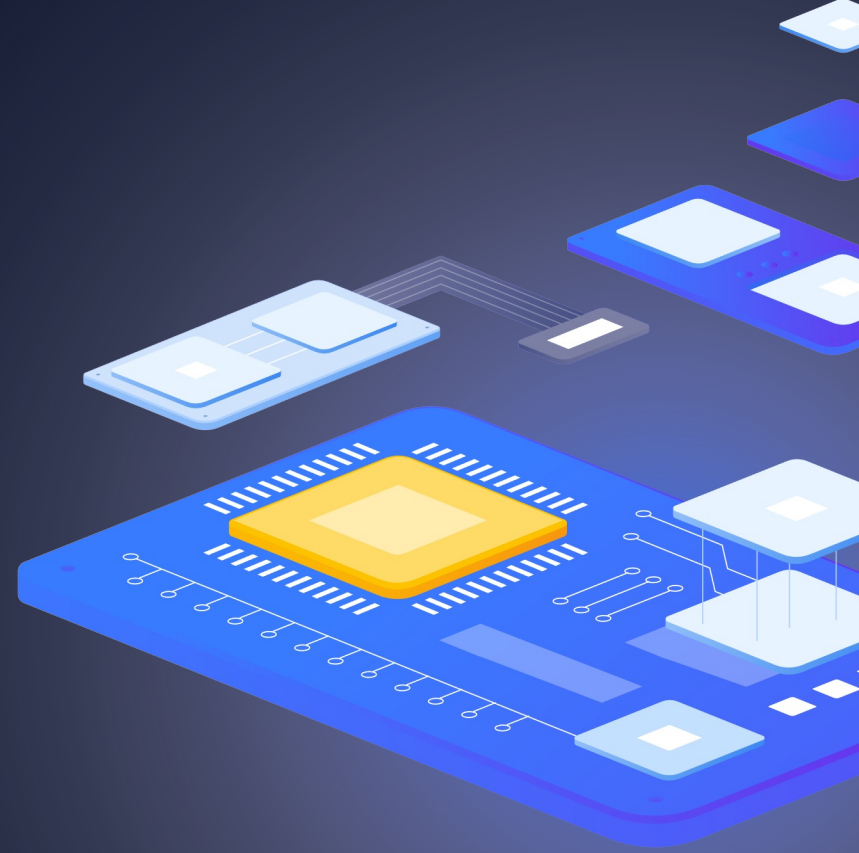
Or even by using various programming or scripting languages :

- › Use programming language you are familiar with
- › Control workflow using built-in operands
- › Some programming languages have Zabbix API plugins



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Loadable Modules



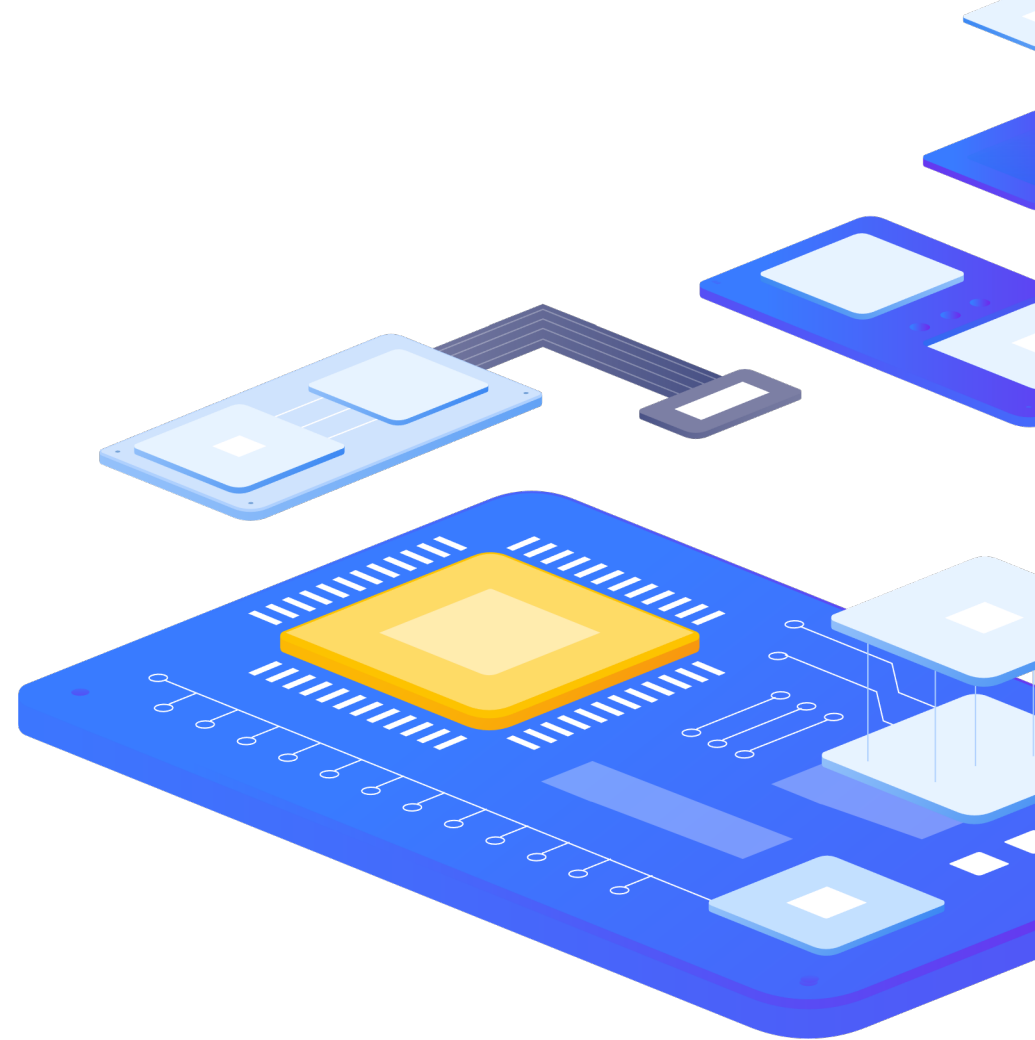
Extending ZABBIX

Loadable Modules

Ability to implement any logic in C language:

- › Is a shared library used by Zabbix daemon and loaded on startup
- › Typically, modules will have .so extension
- › Can be built into Zabbix server, agent or proxy
- › perform ~10 times faster than user parameters, commands or scripts

Can be used only within Unix platforms. Won't work for agents in a Windows environment



Loadable Modules

There are currently six functions in the Zabbix module API:

One is mandatory:

- › `zbx_module_api_version()` - returns the API version implemented by this module

Five other are optional:

- › `zbx_module_init()` - performs the initialization for the module
- › `zbx_module_item_list()` - returns a list of item keys supported by the module
- › `zbx_module_item_timeout()` - specifies the timeout for items implemented by the module
- › `zbx_module_history_write_cbs()` - returns functions to write history data of different types
- › `zbx_module_uninit()` - performs the necessary uninitialization such as freeing allocated resources, closing file descriptors, etc.

Extending ZABBIX

Loadable Modules

Zabbix agent, server and proxy support two parameters to deal with modules:

LoadModulePath – full path to the location of loadable modules

LoadModule – module names to load at startup, which contain:

- › Module name for modules included in the LoadModulePath
- › Module name with a full path starting with / (LoadModulePath is ignored)

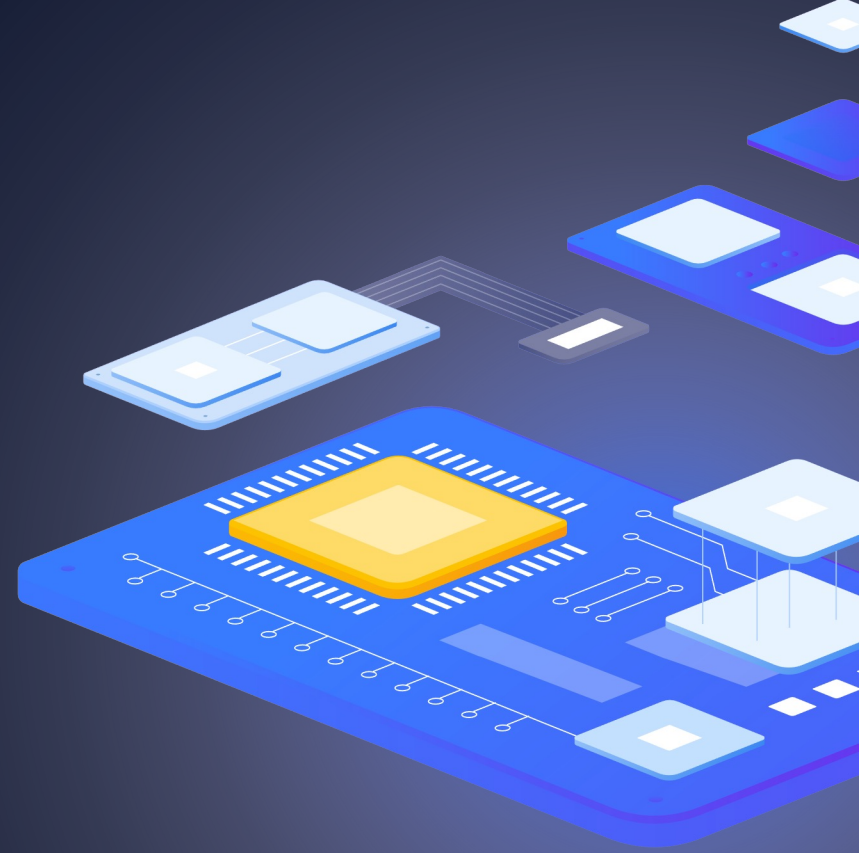
```
LoadModulePath=/usr/local/lib/zabbix/agent/  
LoadModule=mysql.so  
LoadModule=apache.so  
LoadModule=/home/myuser/mymodule.so
```

Zabbix component will fail to start if:

- › The module file is missing
- › In case of bad permissions (must be readable by Zabbix user)
- › If a shared library is not a Zabbix module

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GO Plugins



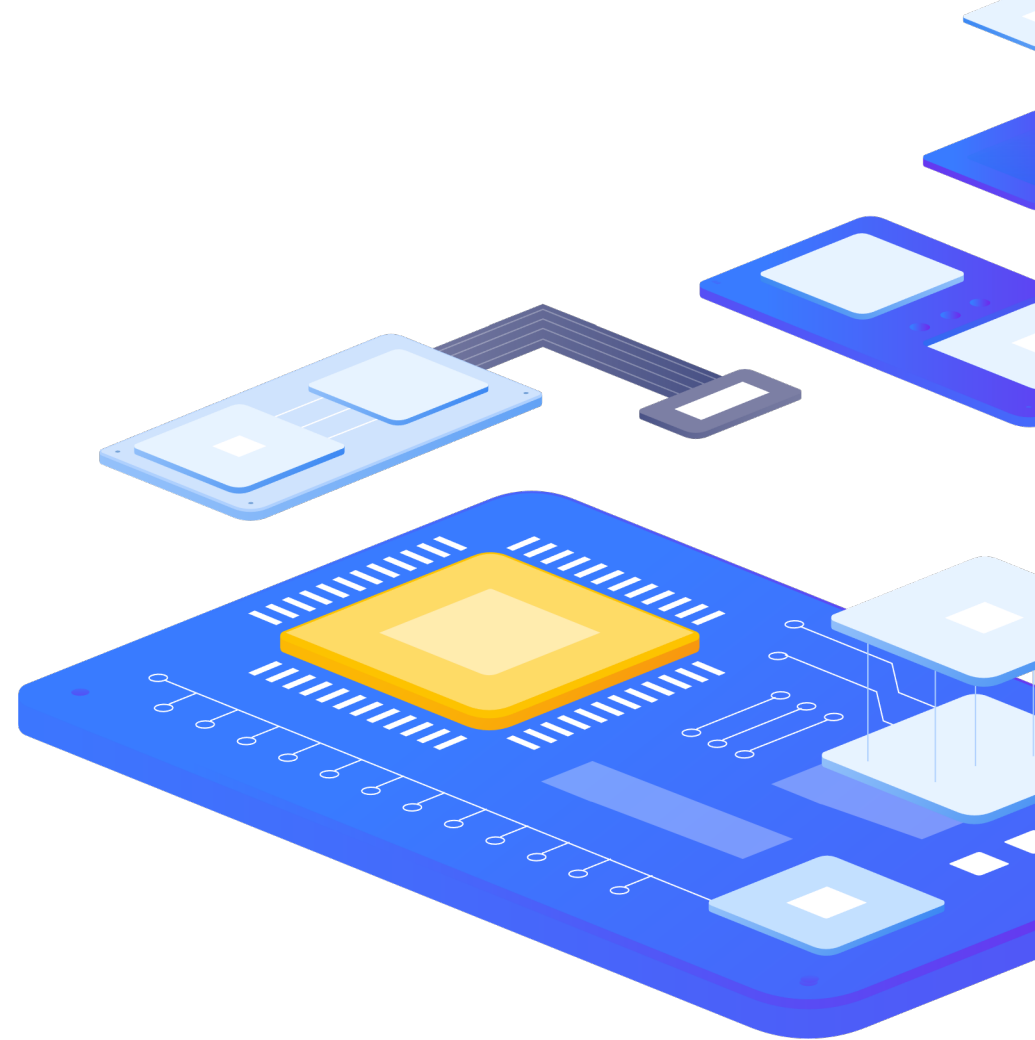
Extending ZABBIX

GO Plugins

Zabbix Agent 2 gives Zabbix more capabilities for data collection on the “GO”

- › Less complicated than C Loadable modules, so creating plugins is much more accessible.
- › Agent interacts with plugins through a two-tier task queue:
- › Each plugin has a task queue;
- › Scheduler has an active plugin queue.
- › Ensures better concurrency.

GO plugins are available exclusively for Zabbix Agent 2



GO Plugins

For Zabbix Agent 2 five interfaces are available:

- › **Exporter** - A very simple interface that polls metrics and returns a value, several values, an error, or nothing at all
- › **Watcher** - With Watcher you can implement a metric polling process without using Scheduler. This may be useful for plugins that use trapping
- › **Collector** - is used for plugins that need to collect data regularly. However, it can't return data, so you'll need Exporter for that.
- › **Runner** - provides a way to perform initialization when a plugin is activated (the Start() function) and deinitialization when it is stopped (the Stop() function).
- › **Configurator** - serves for configuring plugins.

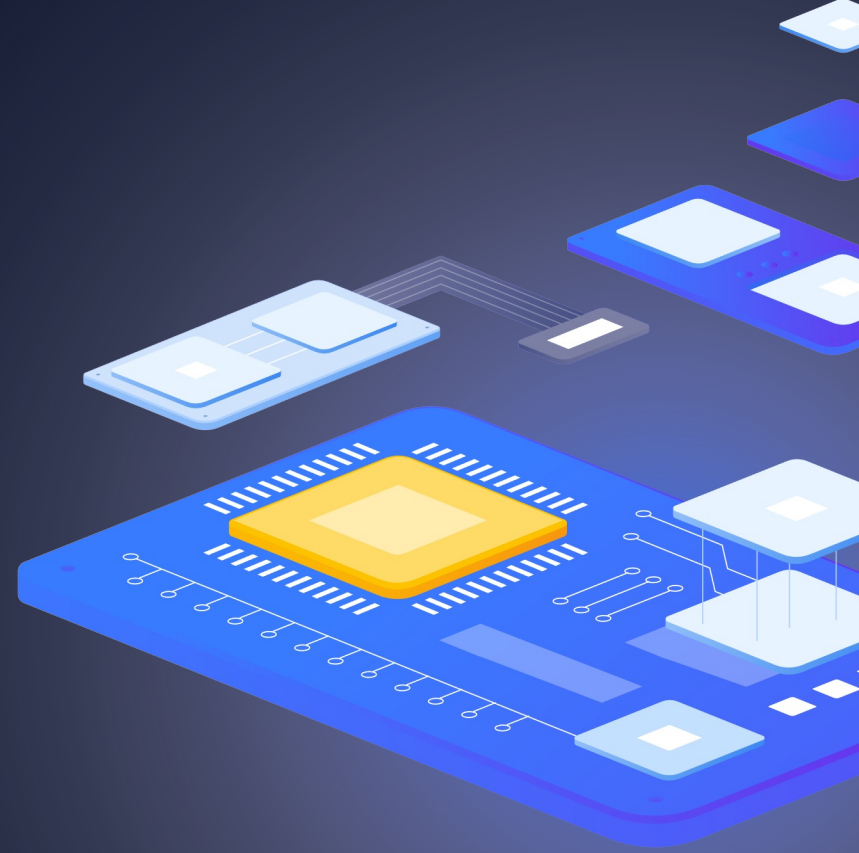
GO Plugins

A plugin is simply a Go package with one or several interfaces that define its logic:

```
package packageName
import "zabbix.com/pkg/plugin"
type Plugin struct {
    plugin.Base
}
var impl Plugin
func (p *Plugin) Export(key string, params []string, ctx plugin.ContextProvider) (res
interface{}, err error) {
    // Write your code here
    return
}
func init() {
    plugin.RegisterMetrics(&impl, "PluginName", "key", "Description.")
}
```



Questions?



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