

How to fix CHECK_NRPE: Error - Could not complete SSL handshake?

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Wednesday, 29 July 2009

Check_nrpe is a plugin that can monitor the server locally and send the monitoring data to nagios monitoring system. It is proved to save more resource than using SSH monitoring. However, 'CHECK_NRPE: Error - Could not complete SSL handshake' is the common error you can see when you use check_nrpe. This article is the fix for this problem

When you try to connect to the remote host from the nagios monitoring host using check_nrpe, you will see the following error.

```
[admin@monitoringhost ~]$ /usr/local/nagios/libexec/check_nrpe -H remotehostIP
CHECK_NRPE: Error - Could not complete SSL handshake.
```

In this case, you need to check on the /etc/xinetd.d/nrpe as following.

```
# default: on
# description: NRPE (Nagios Remote Plugin Executor)
service nrpe
{
    flags          = REUSE
    socket_type    = stream
    port          = 5666
    wait          = no
    user          = nagios
    group         = nagios
    server        = /usr/local/nagios/bin/nrpe
    server_args   = -c /usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg --inetd
    log_on_failure += USERID
    disable       = no
    only_from     = 10.1.2.2
}
```

You need to make sure the only_from ip is the IP for nagios monitoring server.

If the only_from IP is not correct, rectify it and then restart xinetd.d by using the following command.

```
[admin@remotehost ~]$ sudo /etc/init.d/xinetd restart
Stopping xinetd:          [ OK ]
Starting xinetd:         [ OK ]
```

If the nrpe setting is already correct, then you need to check in /var/log/messages in the remote host. You might see the following error.

```
Jul 29 13:36:56 remotehost xinetd[7336]: FAIL: nrpe address from=10.1.2.2
Jul 29 13:36:56 remotehost xinetd[6595]: START: nrpe pid=7336 from=10.1.2.2
Jul 29 13:36:56 remotehost xinetd[6595]: EXIT: nrpe status=0 pid=7336 duration=0(sec)
```

Try to restart xinetd daemon using the command above and then check on /var/log/messages again. If you see the following error, it might mean that xinetd had problem to start up nrpe because of its bug to release the address.

```
Jul 29 13:35:54 remotehost xinetd[6595]: bind failed (Address already in use (errno = 98)). service = nrpe
Jul 29 13:35:54 remotehost xinetd[6595]: Service nrpe failed to start and is deactivated.
Jul 29 13:35:54 remotehost xinetd[6595]: xinetd Version 2.3.14 started with libwrap loadavg labeled-networking options
compiled in.
```

In this case, you cannot start nrpe as embeded service in xinetd since this is a bug in xinetd. To fix this, you can start nrpe as standalone daemon. Before you started nrpe as standalone daemon, you need to verify the configuration in /usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg. The following are two parameters that you need to take care of. The value for allowed_hosts should be the ip of nagios monitoring host and the server_port is 5666.

```
allowed_hosts=10.1.8.2
```

server_port=5666

Besides, you need to make sure xinetd is not running or you need to remove /etc/xinetd.d/nrpe and restart xinetd daemon.

Then, you can issue the following command to start nrpe as standalone daemon.

```
[admin@remotehost]$ /usr/local/nagios/bin/nrpe -c /usr/local/nagios/etc/nrpe.cfg -d
```

You should see the following log in /var/log/messages.

```
Jul 29 14:18:31 remotehost nrpe[5947]: Starting up daemon
Jul 29 14:18:31 remotehost nrpe[5947]: Listening for connections on port 5666
Jul 29 14:18:31 remotehost nrpe[5947]: Allowing connections from: 10.1.2.2
```

In this case, you can now verify the nrpe connection by running check_nrpe from nagios monitoring host as following.

```
[admin@monitoringhost ~]$ /usr/local/nagios/libexec/check_nrpe -H 10.1.2.12
NRPE v2.12
```

No more error 'CHECK_NRPE: Error - Could not complete SSL handshake.' now.