

Scheduled Outages or Maintenance Windows

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If you have a maintenance window or a scheduled outage for a device then you will likely want to suspend alerting for that device during that period. NMIS has supported this for a long time; NMIS 8.6.2 adds a number of new capabilities, in terms of scheduling such maintenance windows in advance or even recurringly.

Please note that the scope of a scheduled outage is the whole device, ie. no alerting whatsoever takes place for any aspect of the device for the duration of the outage.

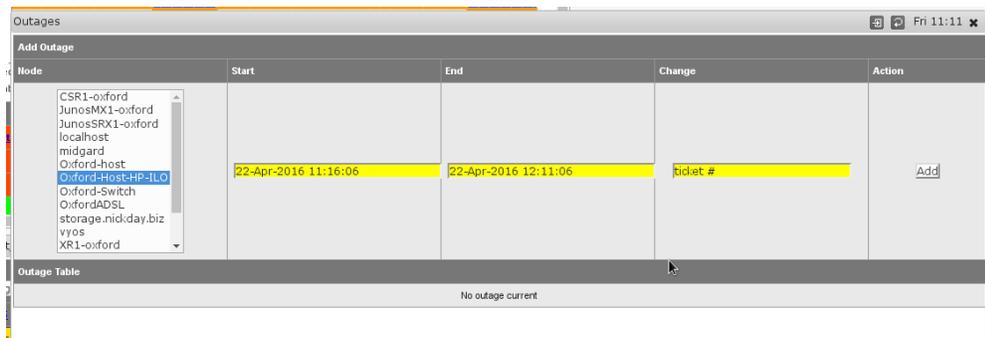
Outages do not affect the polling of a device; NMIS does keep track of the device's status and any collected information even during an outage, it just won't produce alerts.

Managing Outage Windows using the GUI

- In the NMIS GUI Select "Service Desk" -> "Alerts" -> "Outages"



- Select the device or devices involved.
- Set the start and end time of the outage window.
- Insert any reference number if required in the ticket number field



You can also delete outages using the GUI. You can, at this time, not update outages in the GUI.

How it works

- NMIS checks for current outages whenever alerts or escalations are processed; If an outage is current, then alerting is suppressed.
- NMIS does, however, *not* suspend polling during an outage.
- While an outage is current and a node does not respond to ICMP or SNMP, then the KPI's for that poll are set to U (unknown, which prevents them from contributing to averages), this is so the overall reachability and availability results are not reduced for that node which has a planned outage. The KPI's included in this exclusion are:
 - reachability
 - availability
 - intfTotal
 - responsetime
 - health
 - loss
- Furthermore, the state of nodes with current outages does not contribute to the overall health metrics and KPIs, which helps with reporting statistics so your teams performance will look better!
- In version 8.6.2 and newer, the per-node status view displays current and scheduled/future outages prominently.

- In version 8.6.2 and newer, the events `Planned Outage Open` and `Planned Outage Closed` are raised for each polled device that enters or leaves an outage window.
- In version 8.6.2 and newer NMIS tracks the state of outages per node and shows a translucent overlay on the node health graph for each outage.

Recurring Outages and Flexible Selectors (8.6.2 and newer)

In version 8.6.2 it is possible to schedule outages with much more flexibility, but that requires the use of the command line tool `outage_admin.pl` (see next section).

Recurring Outages

NMIS supports four frequency types: `once`, `daily`, `weekly` and `monthly`.

Each has its own start and end types, which follow the conventions for [opReports' period and frequency format](#):

Frequency	Format for Start and End	Explanation	Example
once	<i>various</i>	Any of our Supported Time Formats should work, but using the ISO8601 format is the most robust choice	14:00 last monday 2015-03-30T16:31:53
weekly	Wday HH:MM:SS Wday HH:MM	Wday is one of "Mon", "Tue" ... "Sun" (Case-insensitive). Monday is considered first, Sunday last. Start: Sun 14:00, End Wed 17:00 will cover sun, mon, tue, wed; Start: Fri 17:00, End Mon 09:00 will cover fri, sat, sun, mon.	Fri 14:45
monthly	D HH:MM:SS -D HH:MM:SS D HH:MM -D HH:MM	D is the day of the month, 1..31. -D counts from the end of the month; -1 is the last day of the month, -2 the second to last etc.	4 17:00 -1 00:00
daily	HH:MM:SS HH:MM	24:00 means the end of the day, and makes sense only as period end. 00:00 means the beginning of the day. Leading zeros can be omitted.	14:15 23:45

Flexible Selectors

NMIS Versions before 8.6.2 support only selection of one or more nodes by name; in 8.6.2 you can use any node configuration property to determine which devices should be subject to your outage window.

Please note that the NMIS GUI does not expose any of these advanced selectors; you have to use `outage_admin.pl` to make use of them.

The selectors are given in the format of `outage.node.<propertyname>`, and one of three comparison operations are supported:

1. Explicit Single Value
e.g. `outage.node.group=MyGroupName` would select nodes that belong to group `MyGroupName`
2. List of Explicit Values, as individual array elements
e.g. `outage.node.nodeModel.0=net-snmp outage.node.nodeModel.1=RedBack` would select nodes whose model is either `net-snmp` or `Redback`
3. Regular Expression
e.g. `outage.node.roleType=/^devel/` would select nodes whose configured `roleType` starts with "devel".

Managing Outages from the Command Line (8.6.2 and newer)

NMIS version 8.6.2 introduces the tool `admin/outage_admin.pl`, which lets you perform all outage-related operations. Simply start it without arguments and you'll be given an overview of the supported operations, like this:

```
/usr/local/nmis8/admin/outage_admin.pl
Usage: outage_admin.pl act=[action to take] [extras...]
  outage_admin.pl act=list [filter=X...]
  outage_admin.pl act=create [outage.A=B... outage.X.Y=Z...]
  outage_admin.pl act=update id=<outid> [outage.A=B... outage.X.Y=Z...]
  outage_admin.pl act={delete|show} id=<outid>
  outage_admin.pl act=check [node=X] [time=T]
list: shows overview of defined outage schedules
show: displays the details for an outage
create: creates new outage schedule
  for detailed help, run ./admin/outage_admin.pl act=create
update: updates existing outage schedule
  only the given outage.A, outage.X.Y properties are changed.
check: reports which outages would apply at the
  given time (or now) and for one node (if given) or all nodes
```

To see the required/possible/expected arguments for outage creation, run it with `act=create` but no creation arguments, like this:

```
/usr/local/nmis8/admin/outage_admin.pl act=create
Supported Arguments for Outage Creation:
outage.description: free-form textual description.
outage.change_id: change management ticket identifier, used for event tagging
outage.frequency: one of 'once', 'daily', 'weekly' or 'monthly'
outage.start, outage.end: date and time of outage start and end,
format depends on frequency
daily: "HH:MM" or "HH:MM:SS". 24:00 is allowed for end.
weekly: "MDAY HH:MM" or "MDAY HH:MM:SS", MDAY one of 'Mon', 'Tue' etc.
monthly: "D HH:MM:SS", "-D HH:MM:SS", "D HH:MM", "-D HH:MM"
D is the numeric day of the month, 1..31. -D counts from the end of the month,
-1 is the last day of the month, -2 the second to last etc.
once: ISO8601 date time recommended,
e.g. 2017-10-31T03:04:26+0000
outage.options: optional key=values to adjust NMIS' behaviour during an outage
outage.selector: any number of criteria for selecting devices for this outage
selector keys: node.X or config.Y, node config or global config properties
selector values: single string, /regex string/ or array or single strings.
arrays must be given as separate indexed entries.
all selectors must match for a node to be subject to the outage.
example: ./admin/outage_admin.pl act=create \
outage.description='certain nodes are busy each month start' \
outage.change_id='ticket #42' \
outage.frequency=monthly outage.start="1 12:00" outage.end="1 13:30" \
outage.selector.node.group.0="busybodies" \
outage.selector.node.group.1="alsobad"
```