

NMIS8 Escalations

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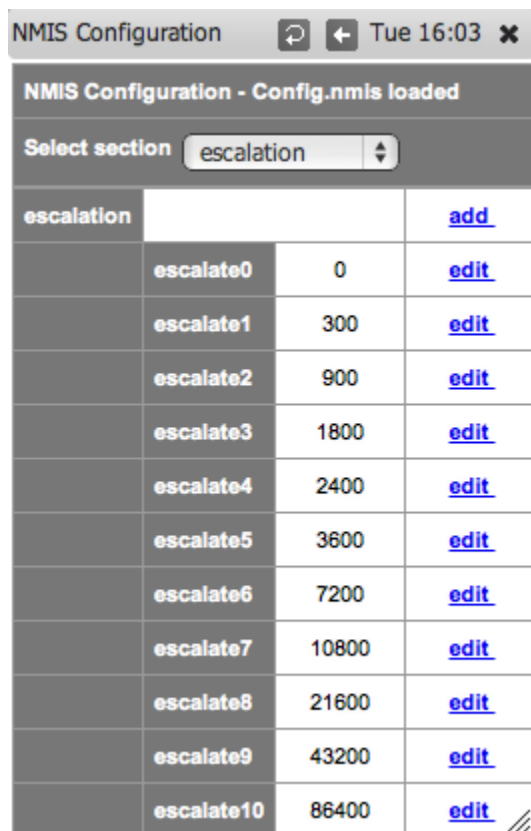
Escalations

Configuring escalations in NMIS8 happens in two locations. The first location is in System -> System Configuration -> NMIS Configuration area (escalation in the drop down) which stores its settings in Config.nmis. This is where the escalation levels are located. An escalation level links an elapsed amount of time to a name. For example, by default escalate0 happens immediately (0 seconds) escalate1 happens after 300 seconds, and so on. The names and times are configurable.

Escalation actions are configured in System -> System Configuration -> Escalations. This is where NMIS goes to see what should happen when an event is triggered and how it is treated over time.

Escalation Levels

The different levels are described above but they are really a very straight forward mapping of elapsed time to a string key. Here is what they look like by default:



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "NMIS Configuration" with a timestamp of "Tue 16:03". The page header indicates "NMIS Configuration - Config.nmis loaded". A dropdown menu labeled "Select section" is set to "escalation". Below this is a table with columns for the escalation name, the time in seconds, and an "edit" link. The table lists 11 escalation levels from escalate0 to escalate10.

escalation			add
	escalate0	0	edit
	escalate1	300	edit
	escalate2	900	edit
	escalate3	1800	edit
	escalate4	2400	edit
	escalate5	3600	edit
	escalate6	7200	edit
	escalate7	10800	edit
	escalate8	21600	edit
	escalate9	43200	edit
	escalate10	86400	edit

Escalations / Table of Escalations

To view the Table of Escalations navigate to Setup -> Emails, Notifications and Escalations as shown below:



Metrics Thu 9:32

8Hr Summary

▼ Metric 80%
80%

▲ Reachability 79%
79%

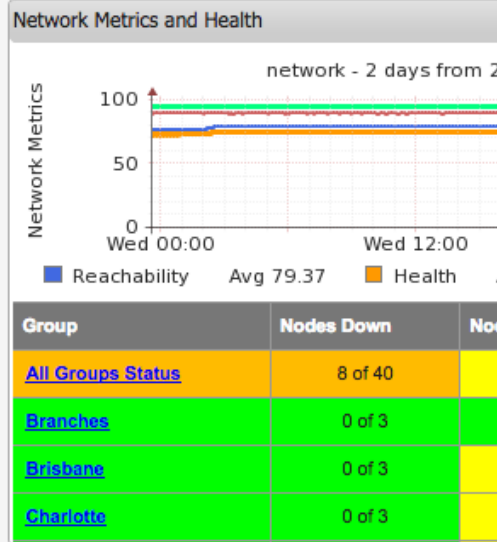
▲ InterfaceAvail 95%
95%

▼ Health 74%
74%

▲ ResponseTime 15ms
15ms

Quick Search

Select Device by Context



Basic Setup

--- Advanced Setup ---

Add/Edit Groups

Add/Edit Node Types

Add/Edit Node Roles

Add/Edit Network Types

Add/Edit Nodes and Devices

Node Customisation

Contact Setup

Emails, Notifications and Escalations

Event Configuration

Thresholding Alert Tuning

Model Policy

This is where things get more interesting. First I will show you the default escalation table that ships with NMIS8, then we will look at it more closely to understand what it is doing.

Escalations Tue 15:58

Table Escalations

Group	Role	Type	Event	Event Node	Event Element	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	UpNotify	Action > add
default	default	default	default			email:Contact1		email:Contact1		true	view edit delete
GROUP1	core	router	Node Down	.	.	pager:default			email:Contact1	false	view edit delete
GROUP2	core	router	Node Down	.	.		email:Contact1		email:Contact1	false	view edit delete
GROUP2	distribution	router	Node Down	.	.				email:Contact1	false	view edit delete
GROUP3	core	router	Node Down	.	.		email:Contact3			false	view edit delete
GROUP3	distribution	router	Node Down	.	.		email:Contact3			false	view edit delete
GROUP4	core	router	Node Down	.	.		email:Contact4:Contact4Mobile			false	view edit delete
GROUP4	distribution	router	Node Down	.	.		email:Contact4:Contact4Mobile			false	view edit delete
GROUP5	core	router	Node Down	.	.		email:Contact5			false	view edit delete
GROUP5	distribution	router	Node Down	.	.		email:Contact5			false	view edit delete
GROUP6	core	router	Node Down	.	.		email:Contact6			false	view edit delete
GROUP6	distribution	router	Node Down	.	.		email:Contact6			false	view edit delete

The entries in this table define notification details for an event: who to notify, how to notify them and when that notification should happen. Any matching line will cause the escalations in that line to be applied. When a column is set as default, any value for that column is considered matching. Let's take a look at the first line which matches all events:

Group	Role	Type	Event	Event Node	Event Element	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	UpNotify	Action > add
default	default	default	default			email:Contact1		email:Contact1		true	view edit delete

Each of the values for Group, Role, Type and Event are set to default. This means any event that happens in any group in any role of any type will trigger this event. This is a catch-all event, if your network is small and there is a low number of events this could be all you need, if your network is large and creates a lot of events this may end up being useless.



- The Role field is configured when a node is added to NMIS. It may be found in the Nodes.nmis file, look for the roleType attribute.
- The Type field is assigned to a node by the NMIS model that it matches. This value may be found in the /usr/local/nmis8/var/<node-name>-node.json file, look for the nodeType attribute.

Under level0 you can see email:Contact1, above we can see that the elapsed time for escalate0 is 0 so this tells us that Contact1 will be emailed when any event happens.

Under level2 email:Contact1 is again listed, so after 900 seconds of the same event still occurring Contact1 will be emailed again.

Rules can be narrow or wide depending on what groups, roles, device type and event values are given. You can also set a node (or device) name so the rule applies to a specific node, or an Event Element which is an interface. NOTE: the element string in the escalation table will match on any part of the event's element string.

Notification syntax

There are 6 types of notifications that can be added: `syslog`, `json`, `email`, `ccopy`, `pager` and `netsend`.

`syslog` sends a syslog message to the given syslog server (using the default syslog port 514 and protocol UDP). `json` saves a dump of the event in JSON format in a new file in `/usr/local/nmis8/logs/json`.

`email` and `ccopy` (Carbon Copy) are almost identical: both send emails to the contact's address, but `ccopy` has a fixed mail priority of "Normal" and the mail message is slightly different.

Notification lists are comma separated. Each entry consists of an event type, followed by a colon-separated list of Contacts/Workstations/Destinations. Here is an example:

```
netsend:WKS1:WKS2,email:Contact1,syslog:otherbox.somewhere.com
```

In this example the notifications of type `netsend` will go to destinations `WKS1` and `WKS2`, while `email` notifications will be sent only to `Contact1`'s email address(es). Finally, a syslog message of the event would also be sent to `otherbox.somewhere.com`.

UpNotify

- When UpNotify is "true", for any "down" message which is sent an UP notification will be sent when the node or element comes up, then lets you know the event is "resolved".

- When set to "false", no notification will be sent when the node or element comes up.

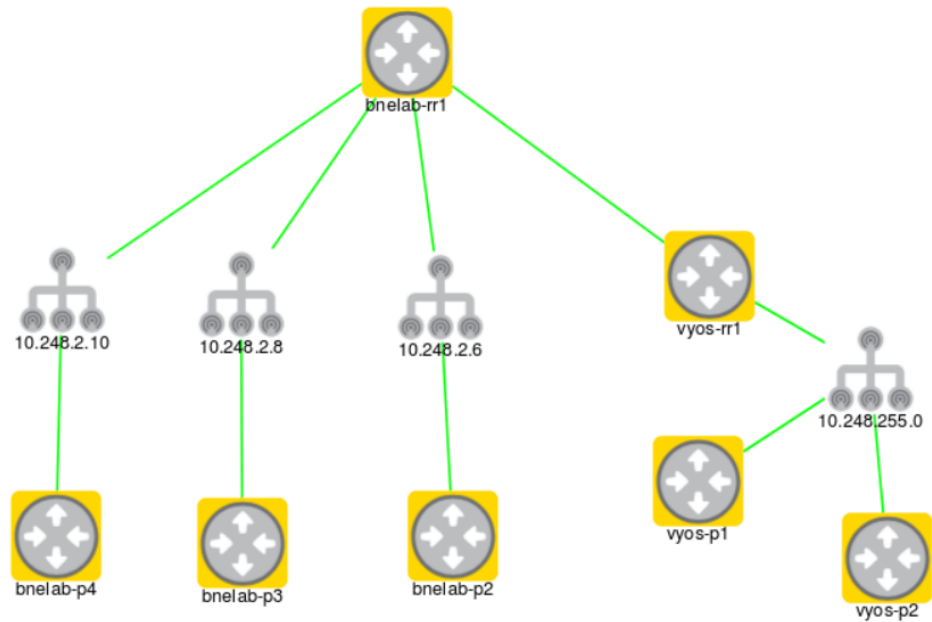
Emails, Notifications and Escalations
Thu 9:47

Table Escalations	
Group	GRUPO#12
Role	access
Type	router
Event	default
Event Node	
Event Element	
Level 0	email:algunosson@gmail.com
Level 1	email:algunoss22@hotmail.com
Level 2	
Level 3	email:Contact3:Contact4,email:Contact1
Level 4	
Level 5	
Level 6	
Level 7	
Level 8	
Level 9	
Level 10	
UpNotify	<div> <div> ✓ false true </div> </div>

mandatory fields.
Edit Cancel

Preventing Escalation/Notification Storms using the NMIS Node Depend Feature

Consider a situation where an edge router goes down, and from the perception of NMIS all the nodes behind it appear to be down. By default nmis would send escalation emails for all the nodes behind the edge router. In order to only have NMIS send the escalation email for the edge router and not the nodes behind it, the 'depend' attribute can be set on the nodes behind the edge router. Setting the depend value to the edge router for the nodes behind it will prevent excess escalation emails.



Consider the above topology. If bnelab-rr1 goes down, we don't want escalation emails from the other six nodes. For each of the other 6 nodes we would edit the depend attribute to contain the value of bnelab-rr1.

CBQoS	none
Modem Calls	false
Threshold	true
Web Server	false
Depend	bnelab-pe1 bnelab-pe2 bnelab-pe3 bnelab-pe4 bnelab-rr1 bnelab-rr2
Services	SNMP_Daemon SNMP_Service apache-users check_disk_write cpu_agent
Time Zone	0

SNMP Settings

Notice that via the GUI edit node context you can select multiple nodes for the depend value. This may be advantageous if the site has redundant edge routers.