Push Notification with Nagios
Yen-Ting Lu and Megan Kearl

Problem Statement
Keeping up-to-date on critical server events and server system functions is increasingly important as more of our economy becomes dependent on internet commerce. Server outages can cause lost productivity and revenue by impairing consumers’ ability to purchase goods and services available at that web site. Even more destructive, server outages can cause consumers to flock to other more reliable sites and can ultimately undermine a web site’s ability to do business by driving away once-loyal customers. For this reason, the ability to know when a server goes offline and for what reason in real time is extremely beneficial.

How did we make the extension work?
1) understand how the Nagios e-mail script is generated, 2) create a push notification script similar to the Nagios e-mail script
3) a Growl server needs to be setup on the Mac server to receive all forwarded messages
4) the Prowl extension for Growl must be installed in order to push Growl messages to an iPhone
5) on the Nagios server, netgrowl.py and pygNotify.py must be installed to forward the Growl message to the Growl server
6) finally, Nagios must be enabled to call our push notification script when an event is triggered.

What is the impact of this project?
Our project provides an inexpensive yet efficient solution to constantly monitor server system health. With our solution, the system administrator no longer need to query the system status, and any critical event will be pushed to them at first moment. Thus, the response time to handle the break down will be minimized which also save company money due to shorter downtime.

What is...
- Nagios
  server monitoring software using a simple graphical user interface which aids in monitoring events on a server.
- Growl
  a notification system for Mac OS X which we used to relay messages from the Nagios server to the iPhone
- Prowl
  an extension for Growl that must be installed in order to push Growl messages to an iPhone

web sites:
- www.nagios.org
- growl.info
- prowl.weks.net