

# Checks

## What is a check ?

Checks are configuration elements that answer to such questions :

- How to monitor my Host ?
- How to monitor my application or service ?
- When to monitor ?
- What to do when states change ?
- Who will be notified and how ?

Checks use [Commands](#) to execute [Plugins](#).

**Plugins** are command line tools performing tests, and returning **results** to Shinken Enterprise.  
Plugins can be any form of executable program the operating system that will execute it can understand (Binaries, Python, Perl, PHP, Bash, VB etc.).

**Commands** are configuration elements making link between **plugins** and Shinken Enterprise.  
It is used to describe how plugins work, what arguments are necessary, and how to pass Shinken values (Data) to it.

Lots of plugins and commands are provided with Shinken Enterprise, responding to many cases of use :

- network checks like TCP, ICMP
- Systems plugins like Memory, CPU, Disks
- Service plugins like HTTP, Active Directory, DHCP
- High level plugins like Oracle, PostgreSQL, Tomcat

## Accessing Checks Configuration

Checks Configuration can be accessed by the Main Menu "Elements".

When pointing cursor over Checks in the Main Menu, a sub menu appears, showing 2 categories :

- Checks
- Check Template

Select one of the sub categories to get into Configuration.

*Selecting Checks in the Main Menu, is the same as selecting Checks in the Sub Menu.*

