



Software by Design

Nextcloud apps

Log monitoring and instance health

HealthCheck

User manual

Log watching, health dashboard and notifications.

For app administrators and Nextcloud system administrators.

App version

1.3.24

Language

English

Date

10 September 2026

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Introduction

HealthCheck (app ID `logcheck`) watches the Nextcloud log file and notifies entitled administrators of new errors. The **Health** page summarises the state in seven check cards: log alerts, background jobs, PHP, database, data disk, HTTPS and updates. The app replaces neither Nextcloud administration nor a SIEM — it makes errors visible before they disappear.

Requirements: file-based logs (`log_type = file`); on several servers the same shared log file, otherwise **Can't watch**; running Nextcloud cron for digests and **Check again**. The web app is free (AGPL).

What you will find here

- Roles, **Not authorized** and app admins under **People** (chapters 1, 7).
- Minimum setup: test a channel, **Watch log file** (chapter 2).
- Day-to-day: **Health**, **Logs**, **Notifications**, **Rules**.
- Error patterns, FAQ, glossary and accessibility.

Audience

- **App admin** — Health, Logs, Notifications and Rules after listing under **People**.
- **Nextcloud admin** — additionally people management, download, **Danger zone**, log excerpts and private webhooks.

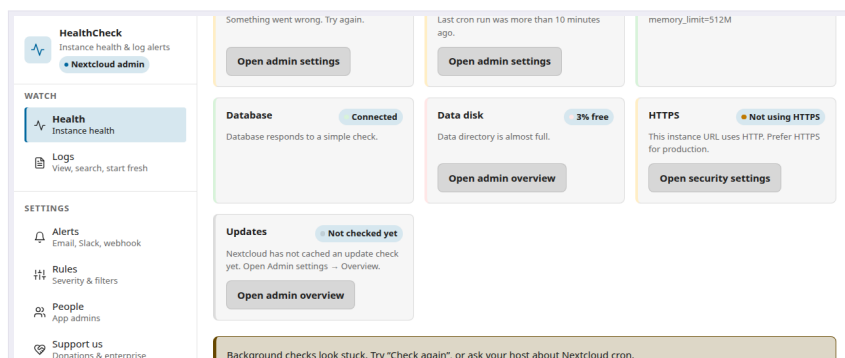
Everyone else sees only **Not authorized** with **Back to Nextcloud**.

App version and screenshots

HealthCheck **1.3.24** (10 September 2026). Figures from `http://localhost:8081`: **HTTPS** may show **Not using HTTPS**, **Updates Not checked yet** — lab instance, not a print error. Chapter 7 shows **People** editable and read-only.

Health overview

The **Health** home page summarises alerts and check cards — the entry point for app admins after minimum setup:



Overview **Health**: summary and watching status (lab instance).

1 Roles and permissions

HealthCheck never offers open access for every user. Who may open the app is limited to two roles — enforced on the server, not merely hidden in the UI.

Nextcloud admin Member of the Nextcloud `admin` group. The sidebar badge shows **Nextcloud admin**. This role may also manage app admins, download the full log file, use the **Danger zone**, and unlock log excerpts or private webhooks.

App admin A user a Nextcloud administrator listed under **People**. Badge: **App admin**. App admins use Health, Logs, Notifications and Rules like administrators — without the admin-only actions above.

1.1 Navigation after opening

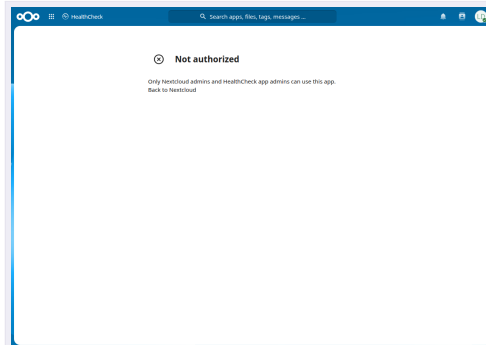
After start, entitled people see two groups in the sidebar:

- **Watch: Health, Logs**
- **Settings: Notifications, Rules, People, Support us**

At the bottom of the bar, **Help** opens feedback paths (**Report a problem**, **Suggest an improvement**). The role badge next to the app name shows immediately whether you work as Nextcloud admin or App admin.

1.2 Access denied

Everyone else gets the **Not authorized** page: a note that only Nextcloud admins and HealthCheck app admins can use the app, plus the button **Back to Nextcloud**. There is no guest mode and no read-only share for ordinary users.



Not authorized page for users without entitlement.

1.3 Permission matrix

Capability	App	NC
Open the app (Health, Logs, Settings)	yes	yes
Watch the log file; save alerts and rules	yes	yes
View, filter, search and copy logs	yes	yes
Add or remove app admins	no	yes
Absolute log path; download full file	no	yes
Danger zone (start fresh / delete / remove copy)	no	yes
Log excerpts and private webhook addresses	no	yes

App = **App admin**; NC = **Nextcloud admin**.

1.4 Hard limits

- Open access (`open/all/public`) is forbidden server-side — even if someone calls the API directly.
- The app-admin list is capped at 100 entries.
- Unauthorised API responses return `LCK_FORBIDDEN` (see chapter 9).

Under **People**, list only people who truly manage instance logs and alert channels. Remove app admins when the task ends. The read-only App admin view is shown in chapter 7.

1.5 Check your own role

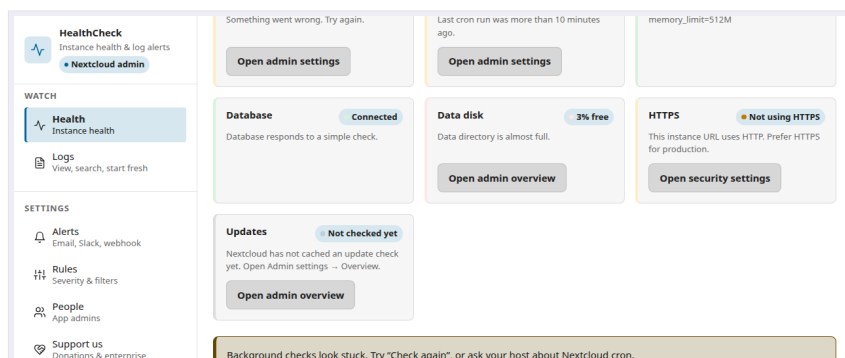
1. Open HealthCheck and read the badge beside the app name (**Nextcloud admin** or **App admin**).
2. Under **People**: search field and **Save** only as Nextcloud admin; as App admin the read-only hint appears.
3. Under **Logs**: **Danger zone** and **Download full file** are missing for App admins.
4. Under **Notifications** → **More options**: log excerpts and private webhooks only for Nextcloud admins.

If the badge is missing and **Not authorized** appears, entitlement is missing — not the network connection. API calls without rights return `LCK_FORBIDDEN`.

2 Getting started

In a few steps you see instance health, test at least one notification channel, and turn on watching the log file.

1. Open **HealthCheck** from the Nextcloud app bar.
2. On **Health**, review the summary and the seven check cards (chapter 3).
3. Under **Notifications**, set up at least one channel — typically **Email** — and click **Send test & turn on** (chapter 5).
4. On the Health page, turn on **Watch log file**.
5. When the checklist appears (**Set up at least one alert channel, Watch log file is on**), use **Set up alerts** if no channel is active yet.



Health with navigation **Watch** / **Settings** and the **Watch log file** switch.

2.1 What to do next

- Under **Rules**, set severity and digest timing (chapter 6).
- Under **Logs**, review current entries and filters (chapter 4).
- As Nextcloud admin, add further **App admins** under **People** (chapter 7).

While watching is off or no channel is active, alerts stay silent — even if the check cards under **Health** otherwise look fine.

3 Health

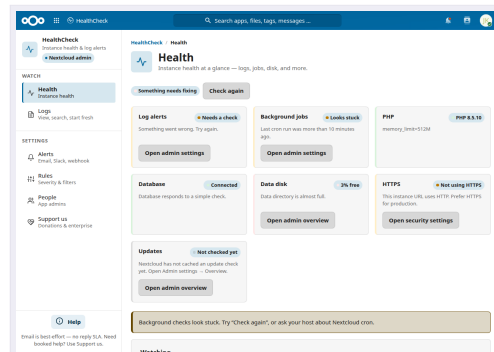
The **Health** page (nav group **Watch**) shows instance health at a glance: log alerts, background jobs, PHP, database, data disk, HTTPS and updates.

3.1 Summary and Check again

A status badge appears at the top. Possible states (with text, not colour alone):

- **Everything looks fine**
- **Needs attention**
- **Critical**
- **Unknown**

With **Check again** you start a background run immediately and refresh cards plus watching status. The control appears only when file-based logs and a valid topology are present.



Summary and check cards on **Health**.

3.2 Check cards

Log alerts Whether log watching is running and alerts are ready.

Background jobs State of Nextcloud cron / background jobs.

PHP Detected PHP version and important limits (e.g. memory).

Database Whether the database responds.

Data disk Free space in the data directory.

HTTPS Whether the instance URL uses HTTPS.

Updates Whether Nextcloud has already cached an update check.

Cards may show action buttons (for example open admin or security settings). Those lead into Nextcloud administration outside HealthCheck.

3.3 Warnings on the page

Can't watch HealthCheck supports only file-based logs (`log_type = file`). The detected log type is shown.

Topology Also **Can't watch** when HealthCheck notices a different server. Several servers need one shared log file — or you turn watching off.

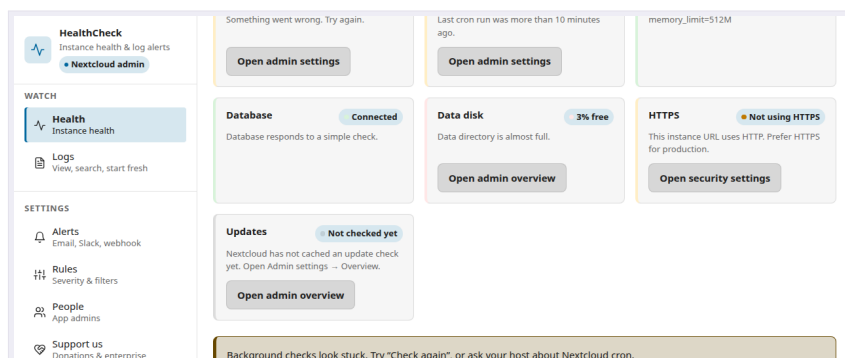
Stuck checks Hint that background checks look stuck: try **Check again**, or ask the host about Nextcloud cron. The badge may show **Needs a check**.

Channel secrets If stored secrets cannot be read, a warning with link **Manage alerts** appears. Re-enter webhook URLs.

3.4 Watch section

The **Watch** block controls whether HealthCheck looks for new errors in the background. Watching the log file alone does not send notifications — you need at least one active channel under **Notifications**. After enabling: activate a channel with **Send test & turn on** and tick the checklist on this page.

- Switch **Watch log file**.
- Status badge: **Off**, **Watching**, **Can't watch**, **Needs a check** or **Needs attention**.
- When watching is on but alerts are not ready: checklist with **Set up at least one alert channel**, **Watch log file is on** and button **Set up alerts**; below that only the **Logs** link (not also **Manage alerts** — one destination, one button).
- When watching is on and alerts are ready: **Manage alerts** and **Logs**.
- When watching hits an error state: **Try again** and optionally **Manage alerts**.
- After successful runs: **Last check** with timestamp.



Watch section with switch **Watch log file**.

4 Logs

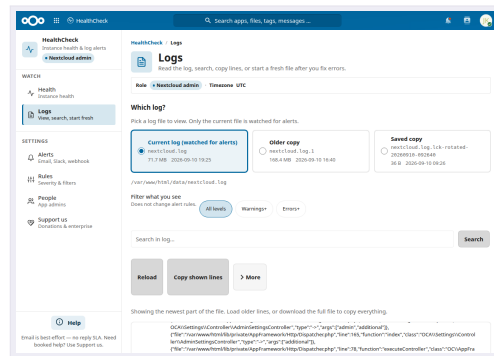
Under **Logs** you read and search the Nextcloud log file. Only the current file is watched for alerts.

4.1 Which log?

The **Which log?** selector lists available files:

- **Current log (watched for alerts)** — the live file,
- **Saved copy** — e.g. after **Start fresh log**,
- **Older copy** — further rotated files.

No file yet: *No log file yet. Nextcloud creates it when something is logged.* As Nextcloud admin, the absolute **Path** appears under the list.



Logs: file picker, filters and viewer.

4.2 Viewing an older copy

For an older or saved copy, a note explains that alerts only watch the current log. Nextcloud admins can **Remove this copy** — confirmation word `DELETE_COPY`.

4.3 Filter and search

- Group **Filter what you see** with hint *Does not change alert rules*.
- Chips: **All levels**, **Warnings+**, **Errors+**.
- Search: field **Search in log...**, button **Search** (literal search in the recent part of the file).
- **Reload** refreshes the current excerpt; **Copy shown lines** copies to the clipboard.

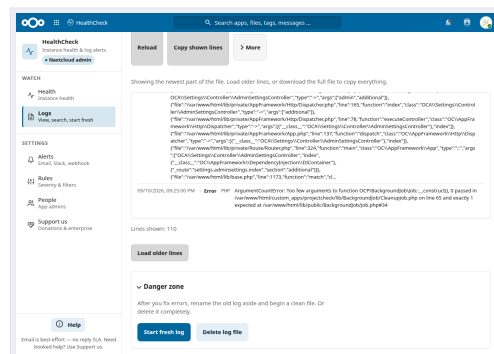
The newest part of the file is shown. Search also covers only that recent part. Under **More: Show raw lines**; Nextcloud admin only: **Download full file**. When older content is available, **Load older lines** appears; with an empty filter result, **Show all levels** helps.

4.4 Danger zone (Nextcloud admin only)

In the **Danger zone**:

- **Start fresh log** — set the old file aside and start an empty live file (confirm `START_FRESH`),
- **Delete log file** — delete completely (confirm `DELETE`).

In the confirmation dialog: field **Confirmation**, buttons **Cancel** and **Confirm**. If the file is not writable from here, a hint asks the host for file permissions.



Danger zone with **Start fresh log** and **Delete log file**.

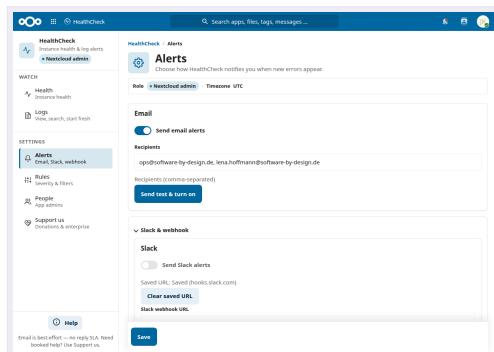
If the backend is not file-based, **Can't open logs** appears. On read errors, check file permissions — the same cause can block download and the danger zone; switch back to **Current log (watched for alerts)** if needed. For day-to-day use, **Errors+** plus a short search usually suffice; raw lines and full download are diagnostic aids — alerts still depend only on the watch switch, active channels and the rules.

5 Notifications

Under **Notifications** you choose how HealthCheck reports new errors. Save changes with **Save**. Per channel, activate delivery with **Send test & turn on** — only then is the channel considered ready.

5.1 Email

In the **Email** section, turn on **Send email alerts**, enter recipients comma-separated in **Recipients**, and confirm with **Send test & turn on**. Without a successful test the channel stays inactive even if recipients are already listed.



Email section under **Notifications**.

5.2 Slack and webhook

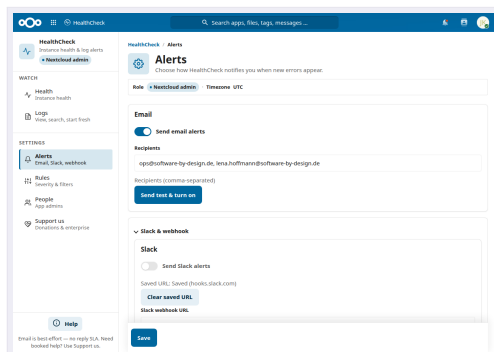
In the **Slack & webhook** disclosure you also configure Slack and a generic webhook.

5.2.1 Slack

Turn on **Send Slack alerts** and enter the **Slack webhook URL**. An empty URL field keeps the address already stored. With a saved URL you see **Saved URL** (masked) and the **Clear saved URL** button (not a switch): after you press it, the hint **Saved URL will be removed when you save**, appears — only **Save** actually clears the address. Then **Send test & turn on**.

5.2.2 Webhook

The same sequence applies to **Send webhook alerts** and **Webhook URL**, including **Saved URL**, the **Clear saved URL** button with save hint, and the test button.



Slack & webhook and **More options**.

5.3 More options

Under **More options** you enable **In-app notifications** for entitled users — also with **Send test & turn on**.

Only Nextcloud admins additionally see:

- **Include short log excerpts** — warning about passwords, tokens and personal data; to enable, type CONFIRM in **Type CONFIRM to enable excerpts**,
- **Allow private network webhook addresses** — off by default; only when you knowingly need it.

5.4 Channel disabled and secrets

After repeated failures a channel may disable itself: hint *Channel disabled after repeated failures*. and button **Re-enable & test**. Until a new test succeeds, messages on that channel stay off. If stored channel secrets cannot be read, the same warning as on the Health page appears — re-enter webhook URLs and save; the link **Manage alerts** leads here.

The UI works channel by channel with **Send test & turn on**. A separate **Turn on alerts** button is not visible in the current web UI even though the API endpoint exists.

6 Rules

Under **Rules** you control when and how often alerts fire. **Save** applies the settings. Display filters under **Logs** do not change these rules — they affect the viewer only.

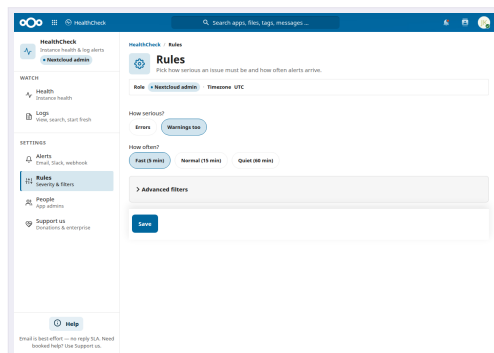
6.1 How serious? / How often?

Group **How serious?**: **Errors** (level 3) or **Warnings too** (level 2). Group **How often?** sets the digest window: **Fast (5 min)**, **Normal (15 min)** or **Quiet (60 min)**.

6.2 Advanced filters

Under **Advanced filters**: **Which apps to watch** (**All apps**, **Only these apps**, **All except these apps**), **App names for the filter above (comma-separated)**, **Ignore messages that match (one pattern per line)** and **Always mute these apps (comma-separated)**. HealthCheck (logcheck) stays muted by default.

Recommended order: severity → digest timing → optional filters → **Save** → verify on **Health** or with a channel test. Overly narrow app filters or aggressive regex muting are common causes of missing alerts — check the filters before blaming channels or cron.



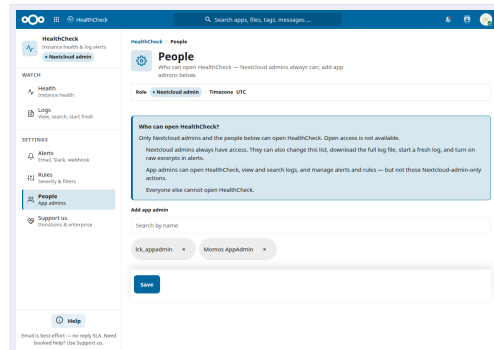
Rules: severity, timing and **Advanced filters** on one page.

7 People

Under **People** you see who may open HealthCheck. Nextcloud admins edit the list; App admins see it read-only.

7.1 Who can open HealthCheck?

The explanation block **Who can open HealthCheck?** makes clear: only Nextcloud admins and listed people; open access is not available. Nextcloud admins may change the list, download, start a fresh log and raw excerpts. App admins use Health, logs, alerts and rules without admin-only actions. Everyone else sees **Not authorized**.



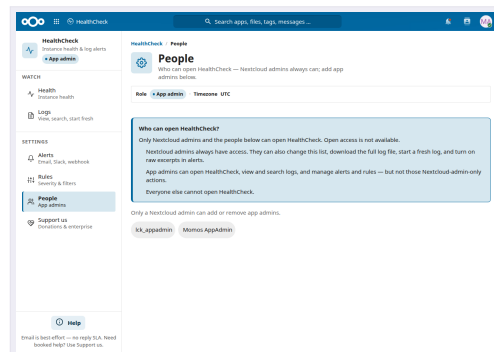
People as Nextcloud admin with explanation and app-admin list.

7.2 Manage app admins (Nextcloud admin)

Field **Add app admin / Search by name** (at least two characters), chip in **App admins**, remove and **Save**. At most 100 entries; unknown identifiers are rejected. Newly listed people can open HealthCheck immediately.

7.3 View as App admin

App admins open **Settings** → **People** and see explanation plus list — without search field, chip removal and **Save**. Instead: *Only a Nextcloud admin can add or remove app admins*. Granting access requires a Nextcloud admin; the API otherwise rejects mutations with `LCK_FORBIDDEN`.

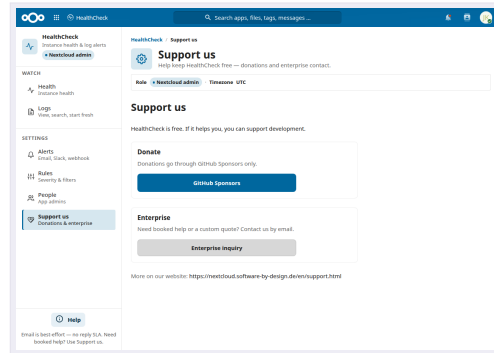


People as App admin: list visible, editing locked (no **Save**).

8 Support us

The **Support us** page (nav under **Settings**) explains that HealthCheck is free and how you can support development.

Section **Donate**: donations go through GitHub Sponsors only — button **GitHub Sponsors** opens the sponsors page in a new window. Section **Enterprise**: for booked help or a custom quote use **Enterprise inquiry** (email). Where shown, **More on our website** links to the product page.



Support us with donations and enterprise.

This page is separate from the sidebar footer **Help** (report a problem / suggest improvements).

9 Errors, FAQ and glossary

9.1 Common UI messages

Can't watch Log backend is not `file`, or several servers without a shared log file. The Health page shows the detected log type; watching and alerts stay off.

Can't open logs The same backend limit on the Logs page — viewer and search are missing until file-based logs are active.

Stuck background checks Hint text about cron; badge may show **Needs a check** or **Looks stuck**. First try **Check again**, otherwise contact the host about Nextcloud cron.

Unreadable channel secrets Stored webhook URLs cannot be decrypted — under **Notifications** re-enter URLs and save.

Channel disabled After repeated delivery failures — **Re-enable & test**. Until then, messages on that channel stay off.

Not authorized Neither Nextcloud admin nor App admin; only **Back to Nextcloud** (chapter 1).

Log not readable / not writable Check file permissions on the server; danger zone and download need write access to the live file.

9.2 FAQ

Why no alerts? **Watch log file** must be on, at least one channel active and not disabled, rules not too strict, and Nextcloud cron must run. Use **Send test & turn on** per channel.

Why no download? **Download full file** and the **Danger zone** are reserved for Nextcloud admins. App admins do not see those entries.

Does the log filter change alerts? No. **Filter what you see** affects only the view under **Logs**. Alert logic lives under **Rules**.

What does the Health checklist mean? When watching is on but no channel is ready: items **Set up at least one alert channel** and **Watch log file is on** plus link **Set up alerts**.

Why does a channel stay off? After failures it may auto-disable — message *Channel disabled after repeated failures*. with **Re-enable & test**. Check recipients, webhook URL and host firewall.

Several servers — what now? Without a shared log file HealthCheck shows **Can't watch**. Either one shared file for all nodes or leave watching off.

Can ordinary users read along? No. Without the admin group and without an entry under **People** they only see **Not authorized**.

Save is rejected — why? Concurrent edits can trigger a version check. Reload the page and **Save** again. Too frequent API calls return `LCK_RATE_LIMIT`.

9.3 API error codes (for administrators)

`LCK_FORBIDDEN` Not entitled, or the action is Nextcloud-admin only.

`LCK_VALIDATION` Invalid input (e.g. access mode, unknown user, too many app admins).

`LCK_RATE_LIMIT` Too many API calls — wait briefly and retry.

These codes appear in API responses and logs; the web UI usually shows human-readable hints. On repeated `LCK_FORBIDDEN`, check role and badge, not the network.

9.4 Glossary

Digest Bundled message in the interval chosen under **How often?**.

Cursor Internal byte position in the log file for incremental reading.

App admin Person listed under HealthCheck **People** (not necessarily a Nextcloud admin).

Channel Delivery path: email, Slack, webhook or in-app notification.

Live log The current file watched for alerts — not older copies.

Danger zone Admin-only area under **Logs** for **Start fresh log** and **Delete log file** (confirmation words required).

Entitlement Server-side grant: Nextcloud admin group or entry under **People**.

Check card One of the seven status cards on **Health** (e.g. HTTPS, Database).

10 Accessibility

HealthCheck builds on Nextcloud chrome and adds its own structure for keyboard use and screen readers. Goal: keep status and actions understandable without colour alone.

10.1 Structure and focus

- Skip link **Skip to navigation**; on the access-denied page **Skip to main content**.
- Semantic headings (`h1/h2/h3`), landmarks (`nav, main`) and visible focus rings on switches, chips and buttons.
- The sidebar groups **Watch** and **Settings** with descriptive hints per entry.
- Forms under **Notifications**, **Rules** and **People** associate labels with inputs; switches use `role="switch"`.

10.2 Status without colour alone

Status badges always carry a text label — not colour only:

- Summary: **Everything looks fine**, **Needs attention**, **Critical**, **Unknown**
- Watching: **Off**, **Watching**, **Can't watch**, **Needs a check**
- Check cards mirror the same state text in the card header

Warnings (**Can't watch**, stuck cron runs, unreadable secrets) appear as callouts with role `status` or `alert`. Live regions announce loading and saving for screen readers.

10.3 Help and feedback

In the sidebar, **Help** opens a menu:

- **Report a problem**,

- **Suggest an improvement**,
- optionally **Open GitHub Issues** (new window).

The note under the menu explains that email has no reply SLA; for booked help the UI points to the commercial support path (**Support us** / enterprise contact). The **Not authorized** page (chapter 1) follows the minimal-shell pattern: clear heading, one warning and exactly one primary action **Back to Nextcloud** — without hidden navigation into protected areas.

About Software by Design

Software by Design builds Nextcloud apps for organisations that want to host their own data — from time tracking and projects to inventory, fleet management and customer relations. Every app runs entirely on your Nextcloud instance; the web interfaces are free (AGPL).

Company

- **Website:** <https://nextcloud.software-by-design.de/>
- **Partner & quotes:** <mailto:info@software-by-design.de>
- **Report a bug / suggest an improvement:** <mailto:dev@software-by-design.de>

Support & how to contribute

HealthCheck remains free on your Nextcloud (AGPL). Bug reports and sensible ideas via GitHub or email are part of open-source maintenance — without a guaranteed response time.

In the app

Under **Settings** → **Help & support** (navigation chip may still read **Support us**) you find the same options as on our website: partner quote, onboarding, commissioned feature and voluntary support.

Check Partner (invoiceable)

If your organisation needs predictable help with an invoice — setup, hour packages, prioritised email — choose **Check Partner**. That is a professional service with quote and invoice, not a donation.

- Packages and terms on the support page: <https://nextcloud.software-by-design.de/en/support/>
- Request a partner quote: <mailto:info@software-by-design.de?subject=Partner%20inquiry>

Other invoiceable options

- **Onboarding & training** — remote setup or workshop for your team.
- **Commissioned feature** — scoped change with acceptance criteria and delivery date.
- **Official mobile & terminal licences** — where offered for HealthCheck; named seats with invoice.

GitHub Sponsors (voluntary)

Voluntary support without an invoice SLA — appreciated, but optional:

<https://github.com/sponsors/aSoftwareByDesignRepository>

Legal note

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