"Network Monitoring and Management 2.0"

SANOG 36

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www.ws.nsrc.org

A few “Walls of Text”

I promise pictures after these initial slides…

NMM 2.0

Why?

The Why of NMM 2.0

- Finer-grained metrics (“real time network telemetry”)
  - Network telemetry streams vs. occasional data pulls
- Scaling (hyper scale)
  - Ability to measure monitor hyper-scale projects
  - Polling 10,000 devices/containers… that’s hard
  - Can have operational impact
- Portability:
  - Gather data once, use with multiple tools

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How?

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Traditional vs. Present Day Practices

Push vs. Pull or…

Network telemetry / push / passive vs. polling / pull

After this we would start talking about…

Monitoring vs. *Observing* (o11y)

A wonderful discussion at
https://twitter.com/isotopp/status/1328653624470331392

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Traditional vs. Present Day Practices*

Push vs. Pull or…

Network telemetry / push / passive vs. polling / pull

- Traditional: standards-based like snmp or agents (Nagios, Check MK)
- Present: some push protocols:
  - Cisco compact Google Protocol Buffers
  - Google Protocol Buffers
  - Json
- Newer agents used with present day network monitoring stacks
  - Telegraf, beats, node exporter, Promtail, logstash, etc…

**Sort of… Depends on your needs, resources, goals, etc.*

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Traditional vs. Present Day Practices

How we store our network metrics (NoSQL vs. Relational)

- Traditional: relational data stores for network metrics
  - MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite, Oracle, DB2, SQL Server, MariaDB, etc.
- Present: a few time series data stores or NoSQL databases:
  - Cassandra
  - CouchDB
  - ElastiSearch
  - InfluxDB
  - MongoDB
  - Prometheus
  - RRDTool (Old school time series data store! Heavily used.)
  - TimescaleDB

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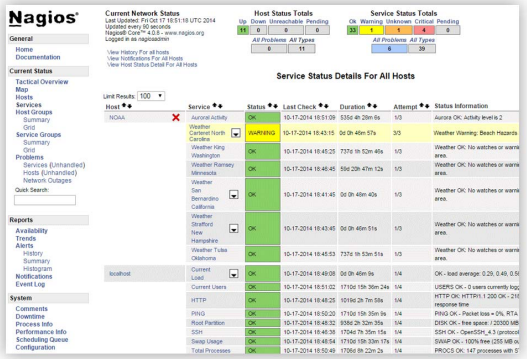
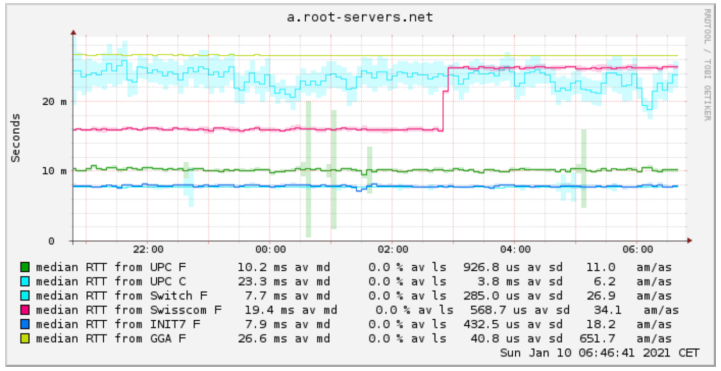
Traditional vs. Present Day Practices*

Dashboards vs. Monolithic interfaces to network metrics

– Traditional: Constrained interfaces with less extensibility

- Nagios
- Cacti
- LibreNMS
- SmokePing

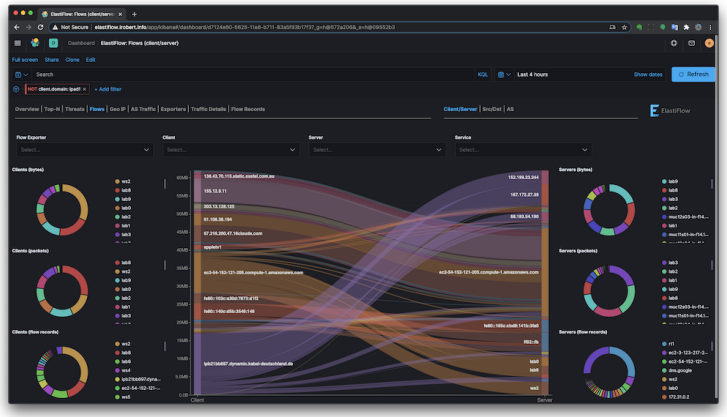




– Present: Dashboards massively configurable, harder to get started (for some)

- Chronograf, Grafana, Kibana*
  - *Elastiflow: a flow collection tool that use Kibana and Elastisearch with preconfigured dashboards

➔



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Traditional vs. Present Day Practices

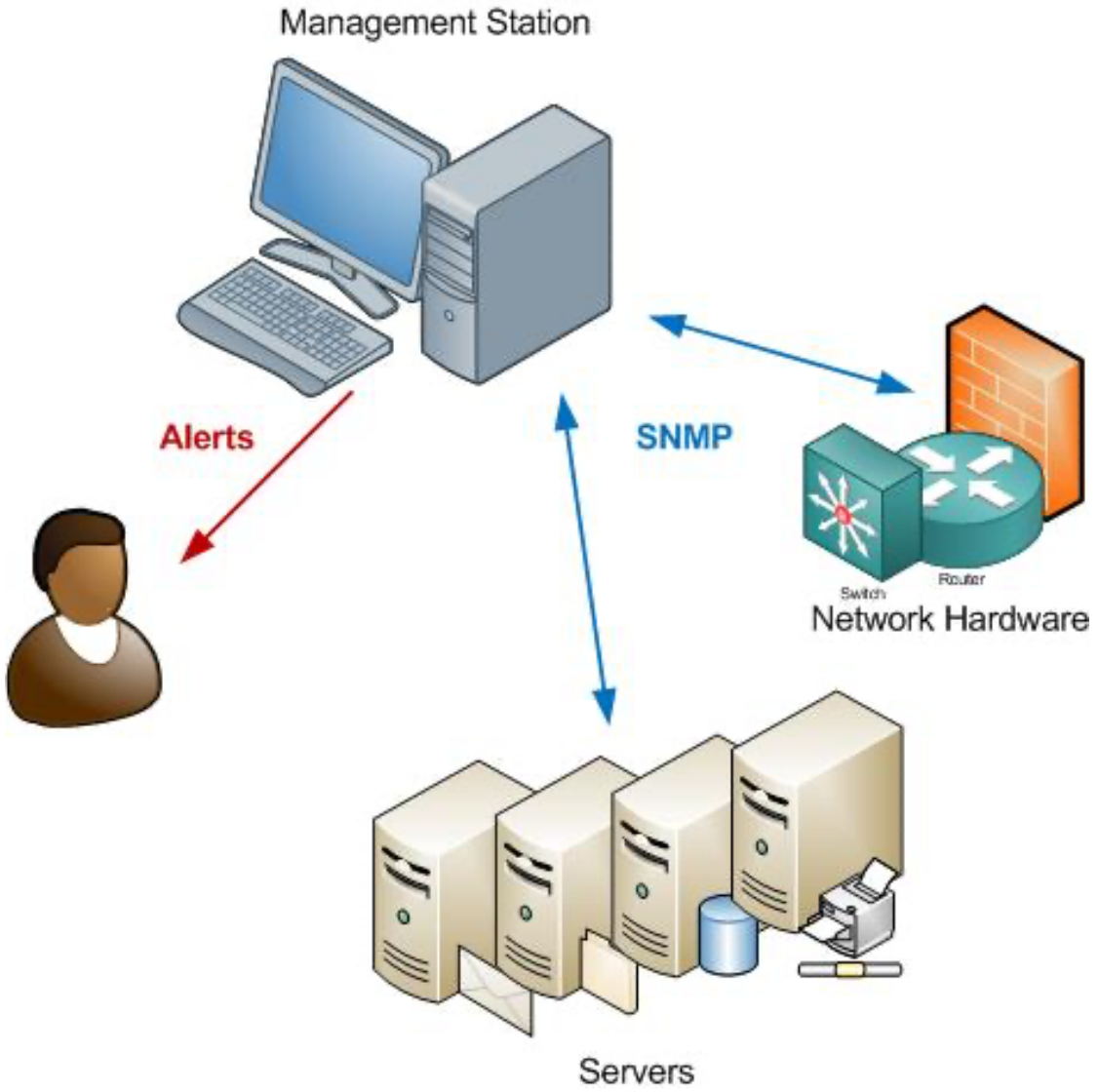
Alerting

– Traditional: If available, built-in to the tool. Often minimal.
  - *SmokePing*: alerts.cfg with custom regex language
  - *Nagios*: template based. Very well implemented.
  - *Cacti*: plugins required. Variable.
  - *LibreNMS*: built-in. Not intuitive. Improving over time.

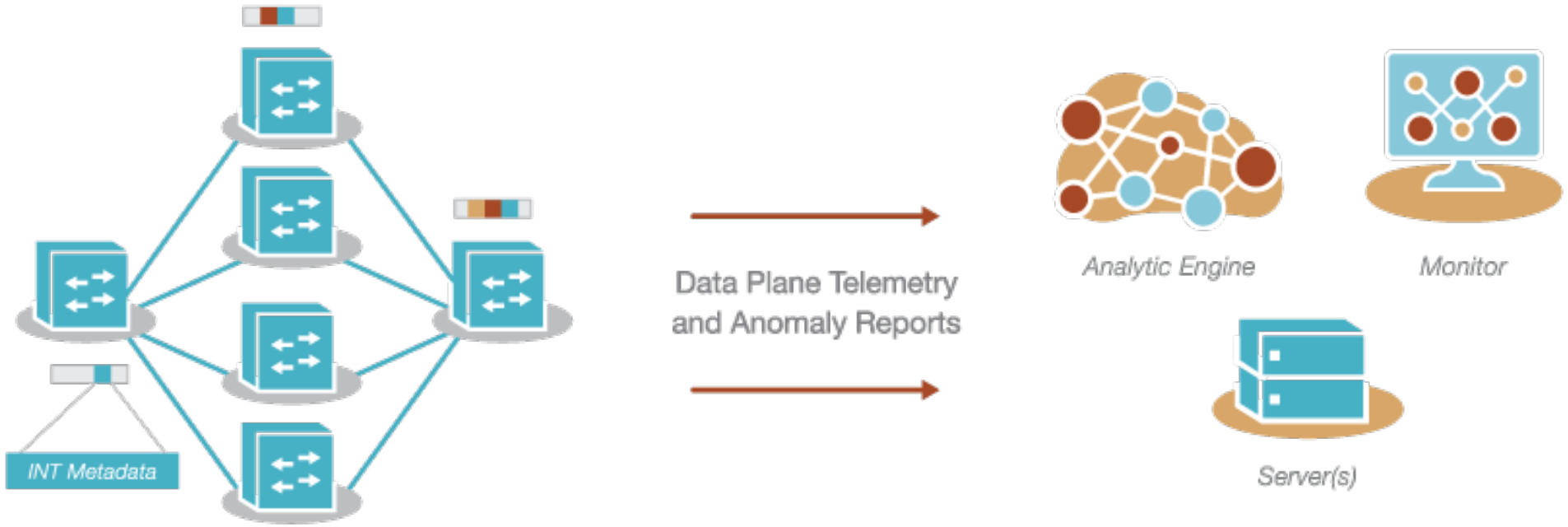
– Present: Often a separate tool or built-in to dashboard tool
  - *AlertManager* (Prometheus solution)
  - *Grafana* (visualizer/analyzer)
  - *Kapacitor* (TICK Stack)
  - *Kibana* (ELK Stack)

Stacks: ELK, TICK, Prometheus. We'll get to these! ☺

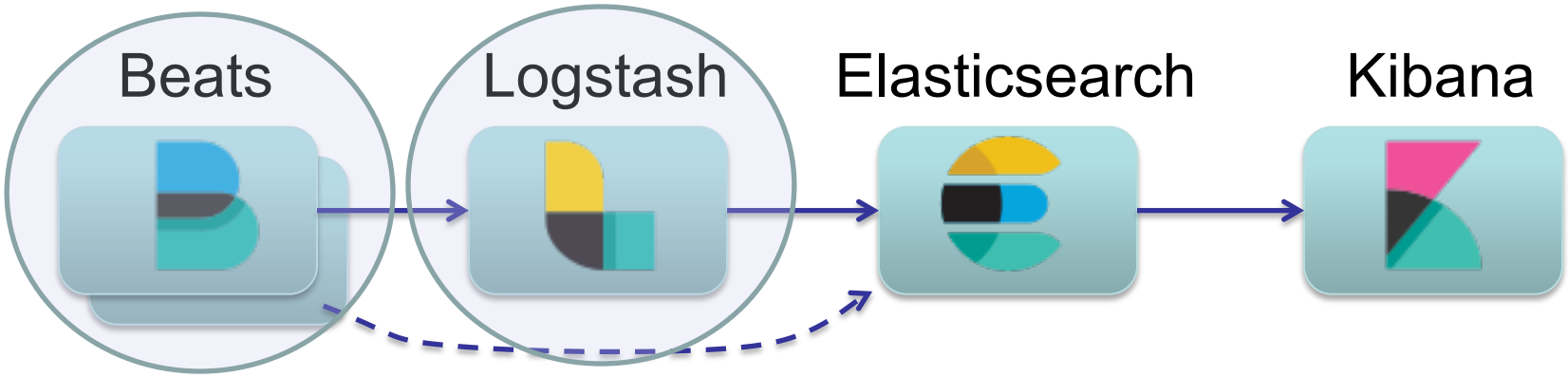
Classical Polling Model



“Network Telemetry” or “Push Model”



The Elastic Stack (ELK)

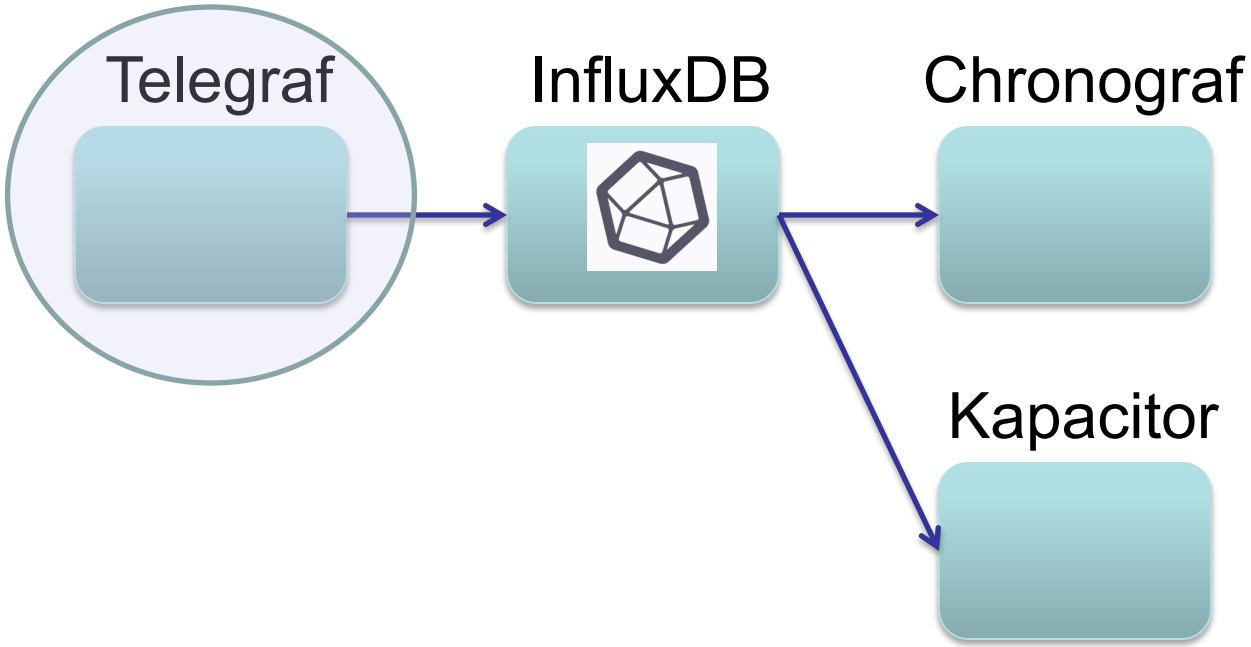


Present day network measurement "Stacks" are a group of software components that work together to form a monitoring and management solution.

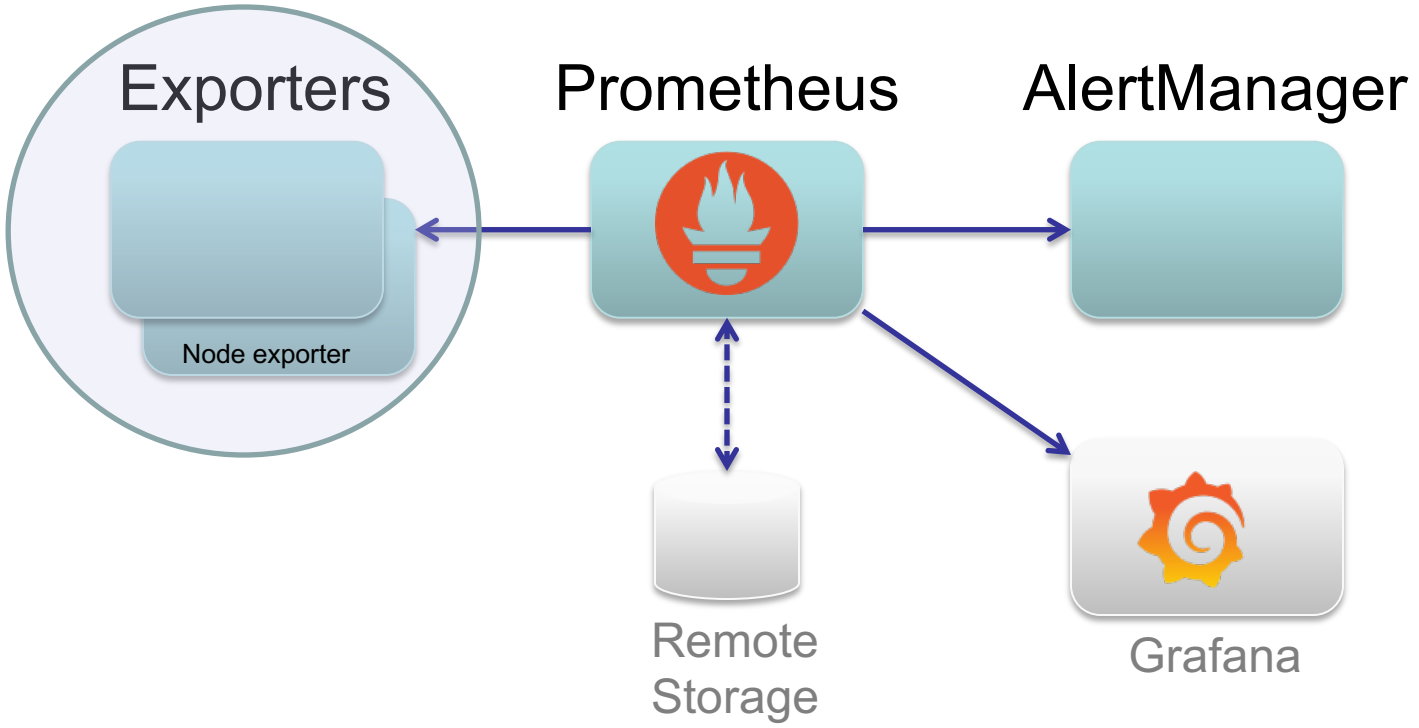
Typical stacks include (more or less):

- Mechanism(s) to push data to a data store (agents, protocols, both)
- A time series or NoSQL data store
- An engine to query the data store and present results in a graphical format in a dashboard format.
- A built-in or separate alerting component that works with the data store
- Note that many components are interchangeable between stacks

The TICK Stack



Prometheus


Exporters
Node exporter
Prometheus
AlertManager
Remote
Storage
Grafana

Typical Relational Store (MySQL)

```
  CREATE TABLE `device_metrics` (
  `id` int(11) NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
  `timestamp` int(11) NOT NULL,
  `metric1` smallint(6) NOT NULL,
  `metric2` int NOT NULL,
  `metric3` float NOT NULL DEFAULT '0',
  PRIMARY KEY (`id`),
  UNIQUE KEY `idposition_UNIQUE` (`id`)
) ENGINE=InnoDB DEFAULT CHARSET=utf8
```

What this looks like

```
+-----------+-------------+------+-----+---------+----------------+
| Field     | Type        | Null | Key | Default | Extra          |
+-----------+-------------+------+-----+---------+----------------+
| id        | int(11)     | NO   | PRI | NULL    | auto_increment |
| timestamp | int(11)     | NO   |     | NULL    |                |
| metric1   | smallint(6) | NO   |     | NULL    |                |
| metric2   | int(11)     | NO   |     | NULL    |                |
| metric3   | float       | NO   |     | 0       |                |
+-----------+-------------+------+-----+---------+----------------+
```

This is moderately efficent vs. putting every metric in to a different table. But, you still only get one data set per row.

What this looks like with inserted data

```
SELECT * FROM device_metrics;
```

```
+----+------------+---------+------------+---------+
| id | timestamp  | metric1 | metric2    | metric3 |
+----+------------+---------+------------+---------+
|  1 | 1610232093 |   29001 | 1800789199 |   79.86 |
|  2 | 1610232094 |   29002 | 1800789200 |   79.98 |
|  3 | 1610232095 |   29003 | 1800789201 |   77.67 |
|  4 | 1610232065 |   29004 | 1800789223 |   78.32 |
|  5 | 1610232097 |   29077 | 1800789456 |   80.01 |
|  6 | 1610232098 |   29232 | 1800723455 |   79.11 |
+----+------------+---------+------------+---------+
```

Table Growth

id	timestamp	metric1	metric2	metric3
1	1610232093	29001	1800789199	79.86
2	1610232094	29002	1800789200	79.98
3	1610232095	29003	1800789201	77.67
4	1610232065	29004	1800789223	78.32
5	1610232097	29077	1800789456	80.01
6	1610232098	29232	1800723455	79.11

How to get to this? ➔
(Grafana)

⬅ A new data point every second!

- With “push” model and agents much more telemetry data.
- Querying and displaying large numbers of metrics become inefficent in a relational model.

Inefficiencies of relations…

Inserting, Updating and Selecting, or…

- Adding data
- Changing data
- Getting data

Each row increases

- Index size
- Compute

NoSQL / Time Series data stores allow for very large sets of metrics in sequence and ability to query these metrics at large scale

Time series data stores / NoSQL

A few ways to store time series data (there are many):

- `timestamp, metric, timestamp, metric`

  or
- `timestamp, metric, metric, …, timestamp, metric, metric, …`

  or
- `metric, metric, metric, metric, metric, … timestamp`

Per row. Each row can have *many* columns.

- For example, Cassandra DB can support up to 2 billion columns per row!
- Nice discussion on what is time series data: https://www.influxdata.com/what-is-time-series-data/

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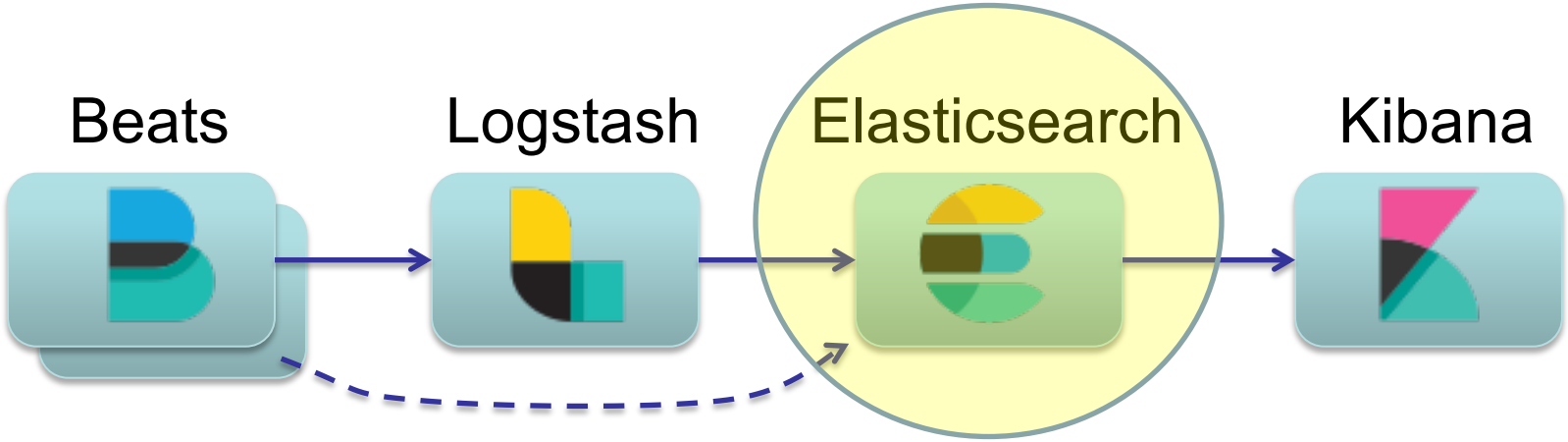
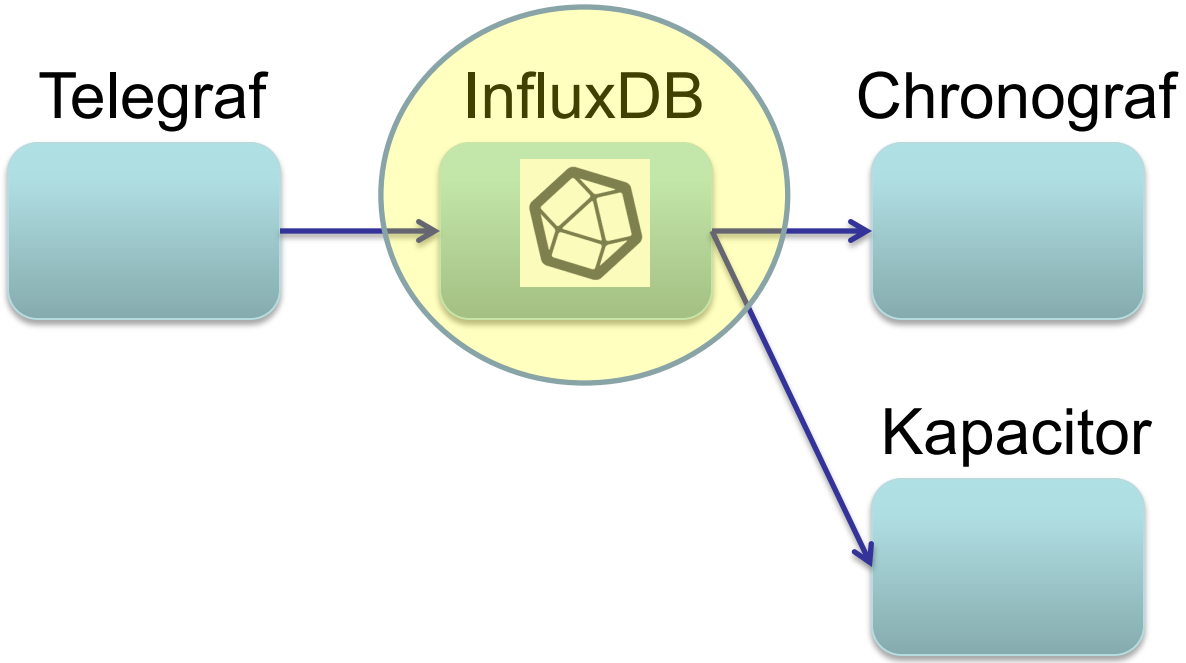
The Datastores

The Elastic Stack (ELK)

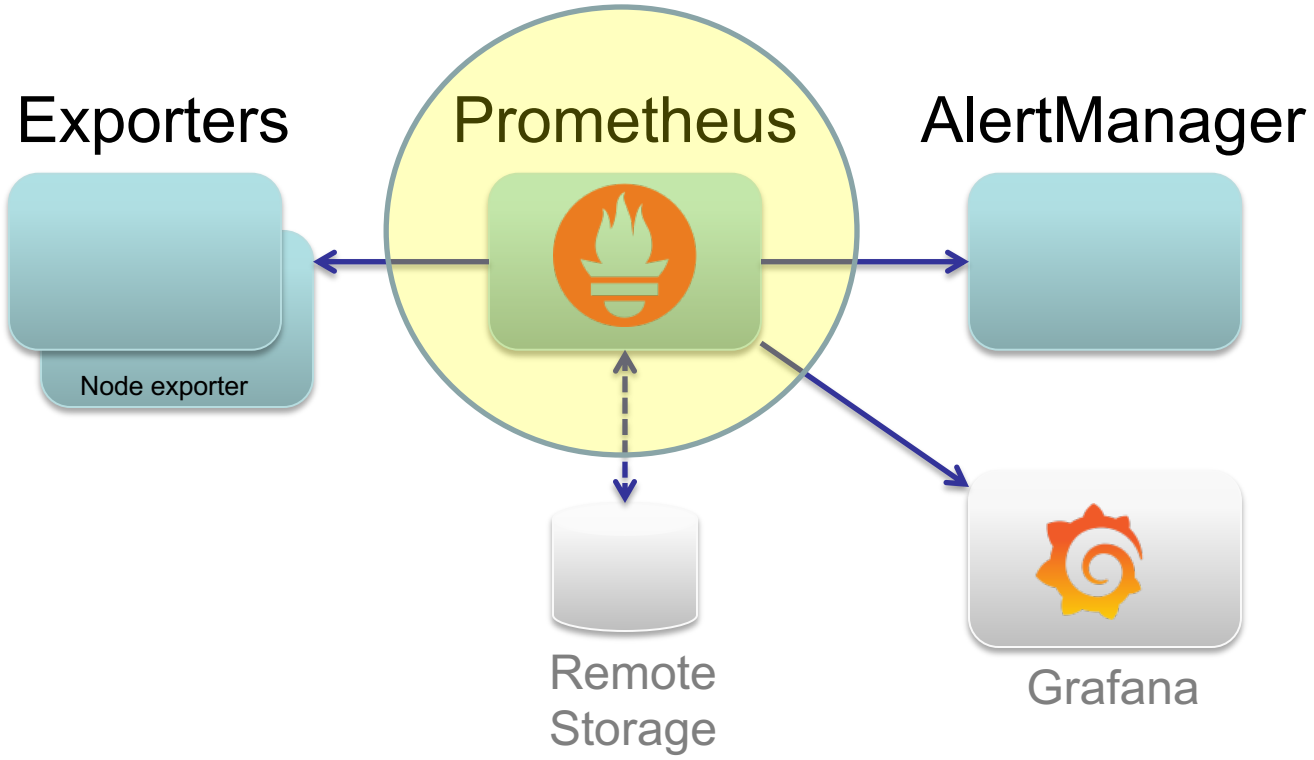


("The BLEK Stack" doesn't sound as good)

The TICK Stack



Prometheus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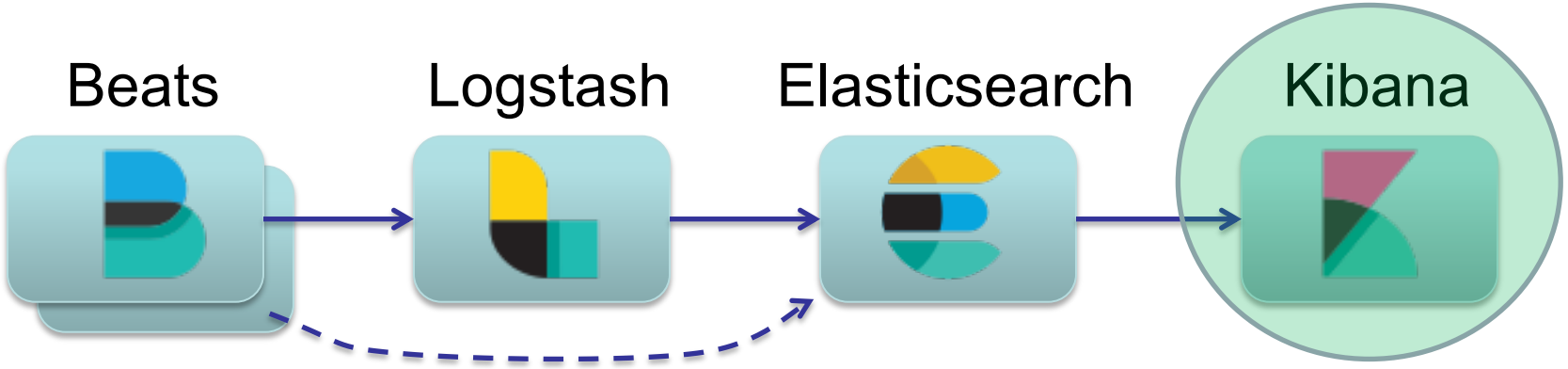
The Dashboards

The Elastic Stack (ELK)



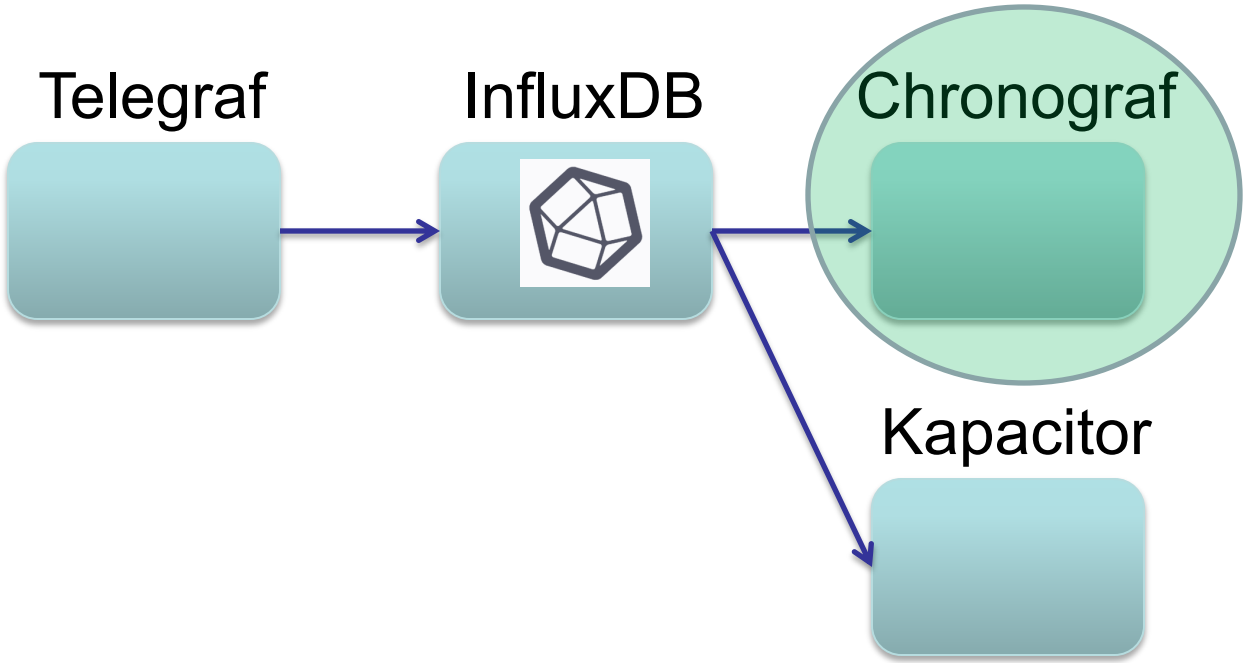
Not sure whether to use Logstash or Beats?

Beats are lightweight data shippers that you install as agents on your servers to send specific types of operational data to Elasticsearch. Beats have a small footprint and use fewer system resources than Logstash.

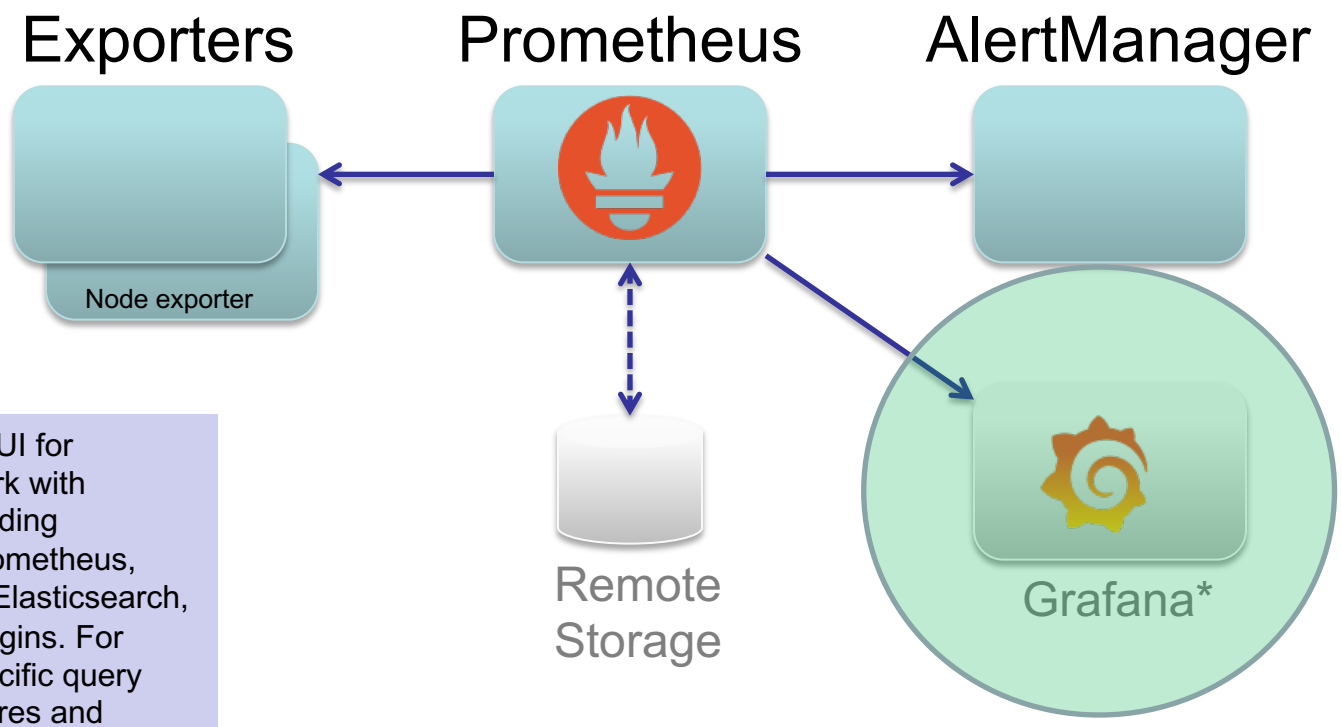
Logstash has a larger footprint, but provides a broad array of input, filter, and output plugins for collecting, enriching, and transforming data from a variety of sources.

https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/beats/filebeat/current/diff-logstash-beats.html

The TICK Stack



Prometheus



*Grafana was designed to work as a UI for analyzing metrics. As such, it can work with multiple time-series data stores, including built-in integrations with Graphite, Prometheus, InfluxDB, MySQL, PostgreSQL, and Elasticsearch, and additional data sources using plugins. For each data source, Grafana has a specific query editor that is customized for the features and capabilities that are included in that data source (https://logz.io/blog/grafana-vs-kibana/).

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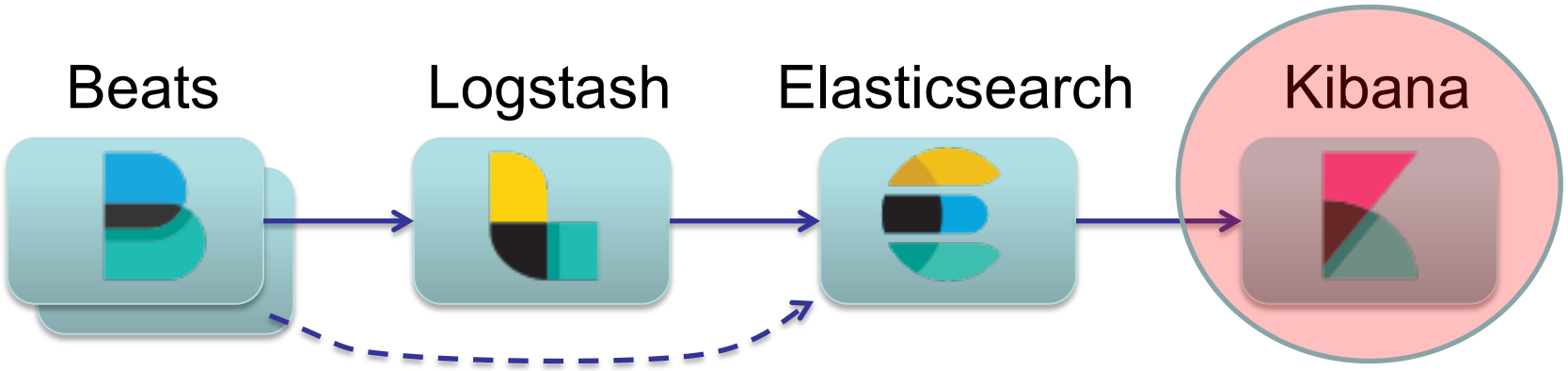
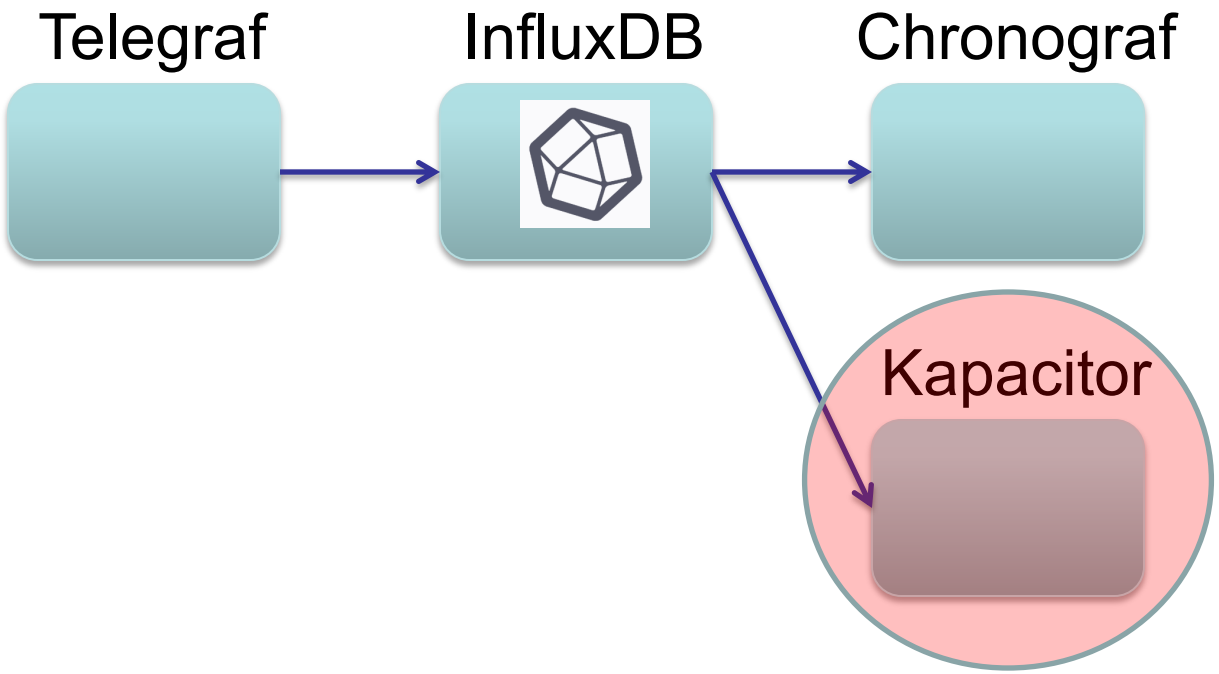
Alerting

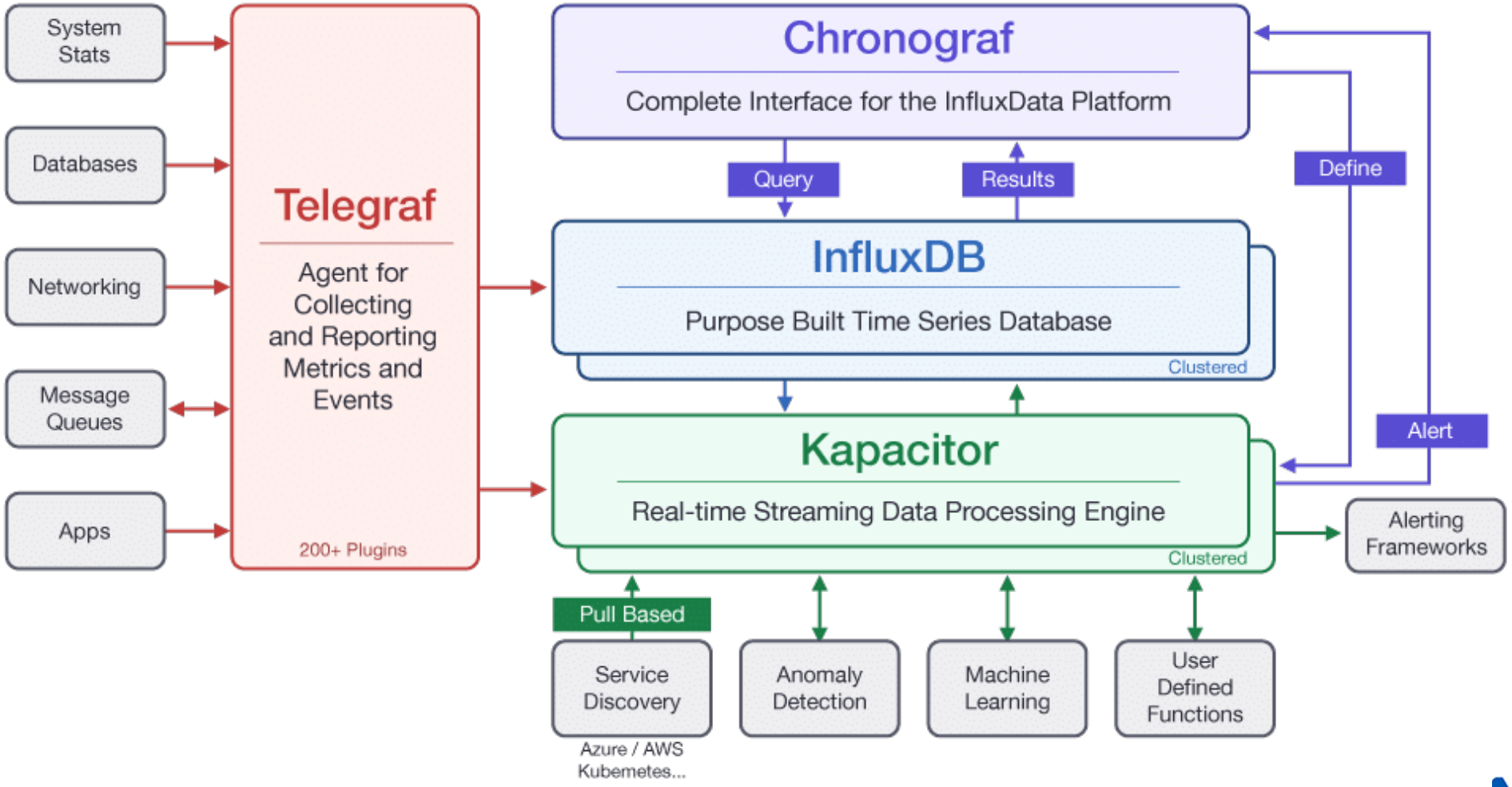
The Elastic Stack (ELK)



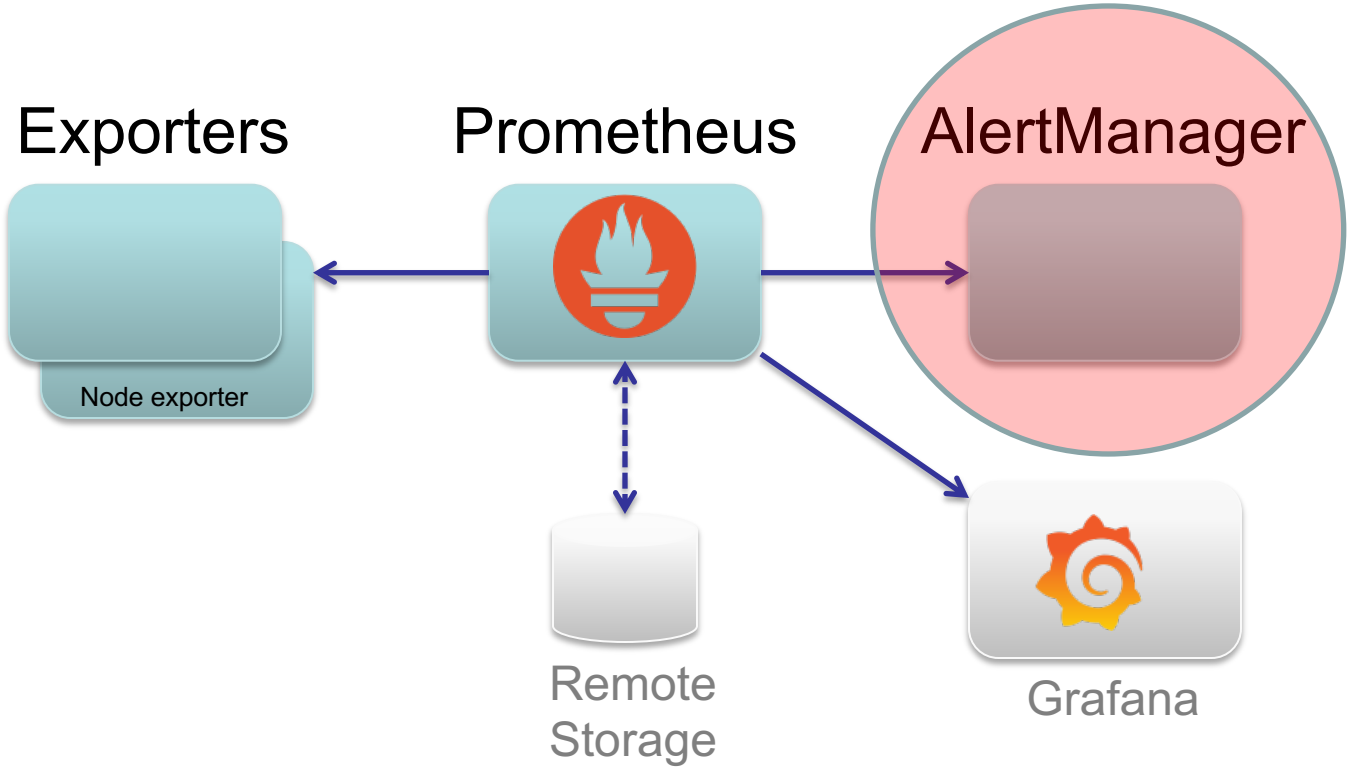
The TICK Stack



TICK stack detail

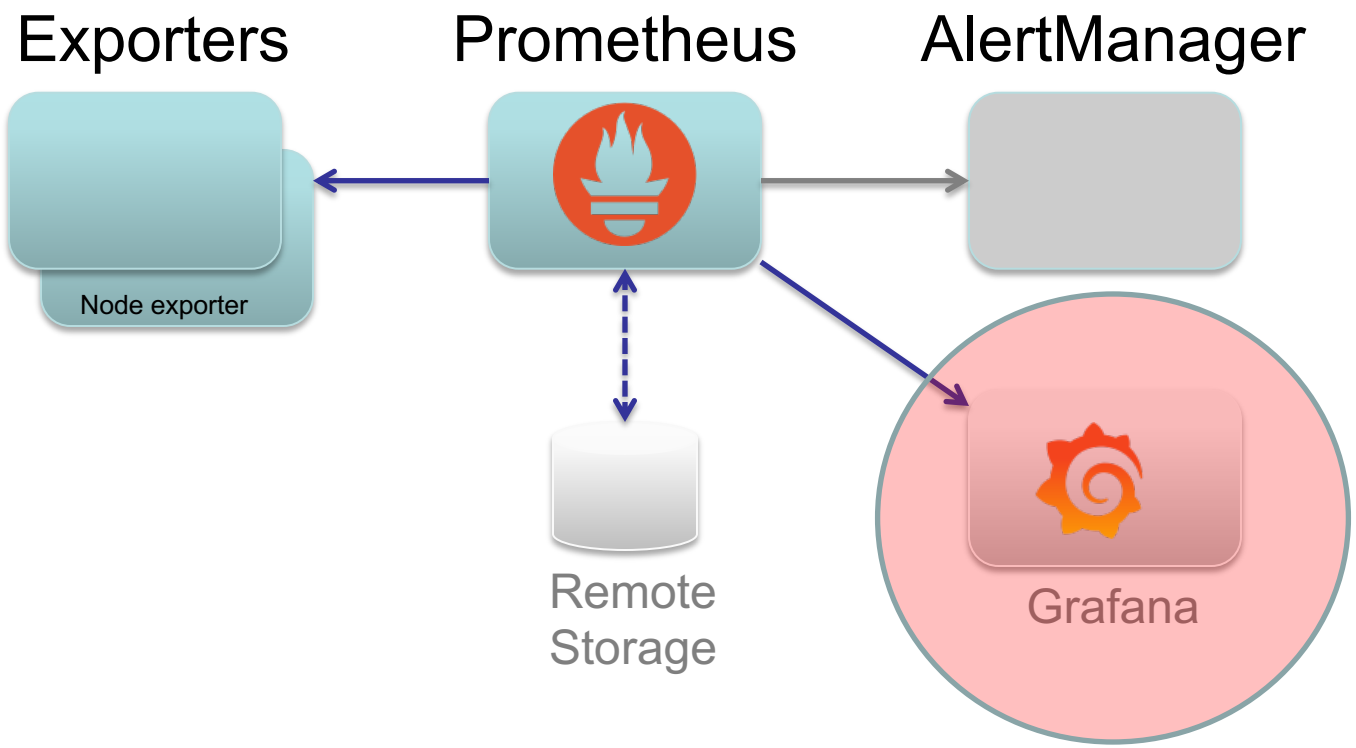


Prometheus



Or…➔

Prometheus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Traditional vs. Present Day Practices

Putting it all together

- Presentation of data often requires more resources
  - Disk and CPU
  - Fine-grained telemetry (seconds or less vs. minutes) == more data on disk
  - Large data stores and complex dashboards can == more CPU
- Regex knowledge
  - You figure out what you want to know (some preconfigured dashboards as well)
  - Stack Based. Multiple software projects working together

logstash

elasticsearch

kibana

node_exporter

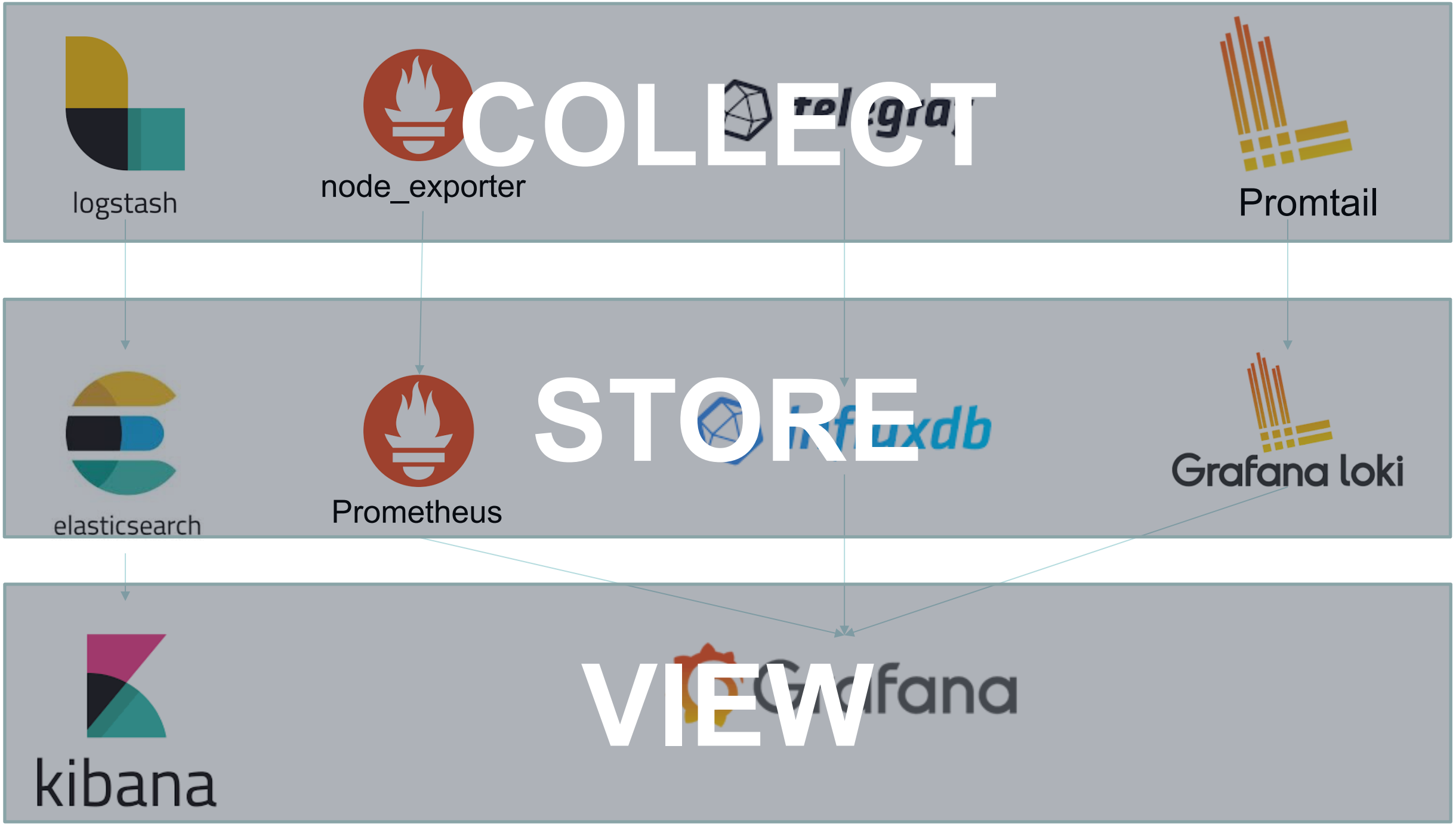
Prometheus

Promtail

Grafana loki

Thank you Dean Pemberton for the next 7 slides


FLOWS
logstash
elasticsearch
kibana
SYSTEM METRICS & ALERTS
node_exporter
Prometheus
NETWORK AND APP METRICS
telegraf
influxdb
Grafana
LOGS
Promtail
Grafana Loki


COLLECT
logstash
node_exporter
telegraf
Promtail
STORE
elasticsearch
Prometheus
influxdb
Grafana loki
VIEW
kibana
Grafana

logstash

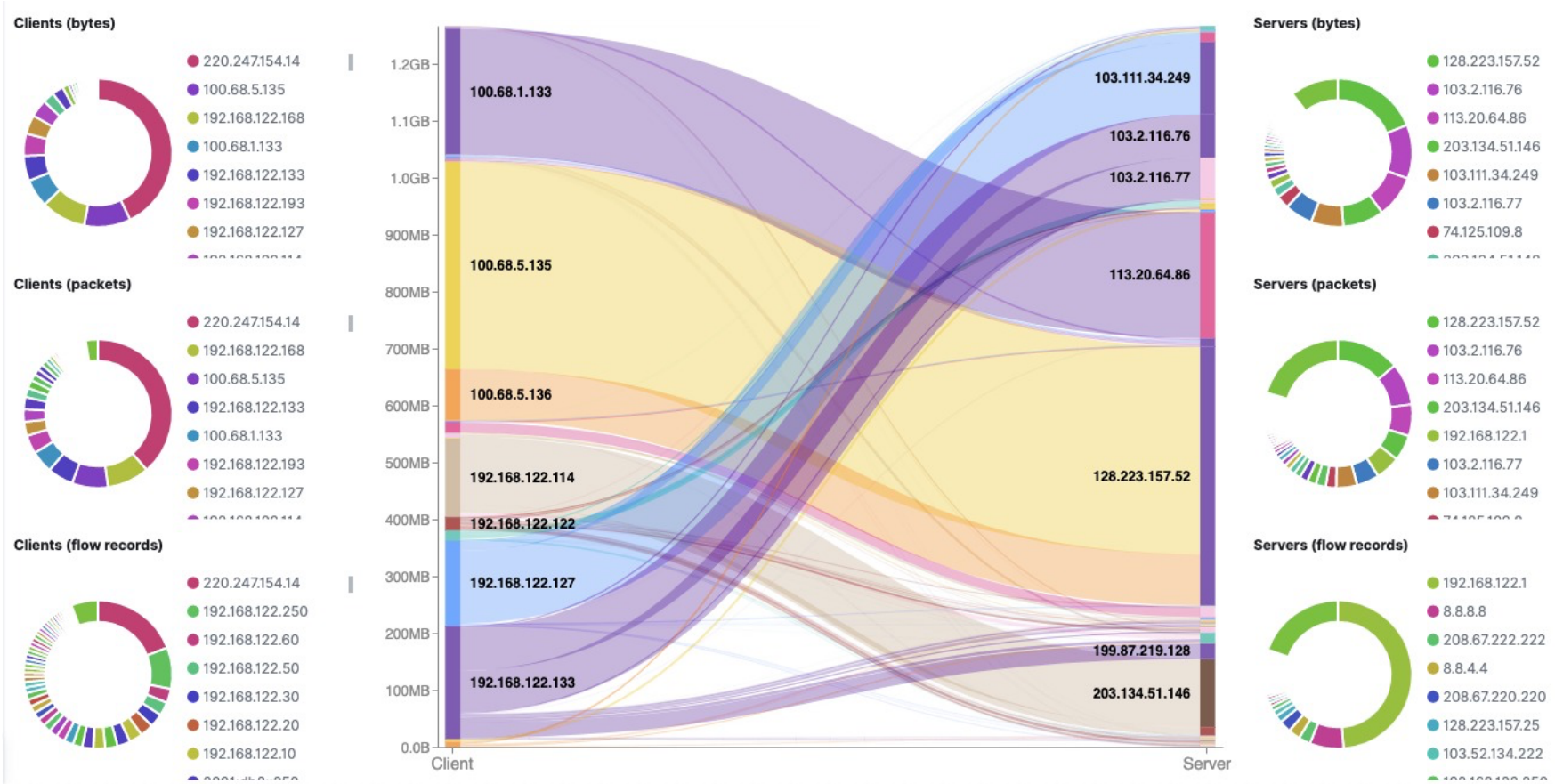
elasticsearch

kibana

ElastiFlow

Takes the following flow protocols

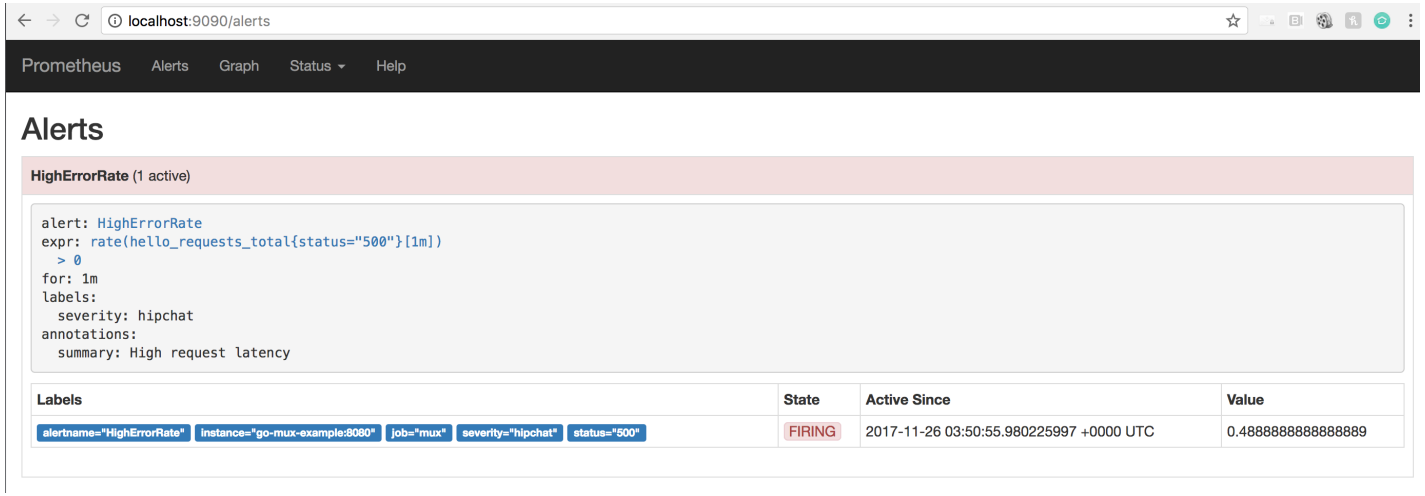
- ✓ Netflow
- ✓ IPFix
- ✓ SFlow

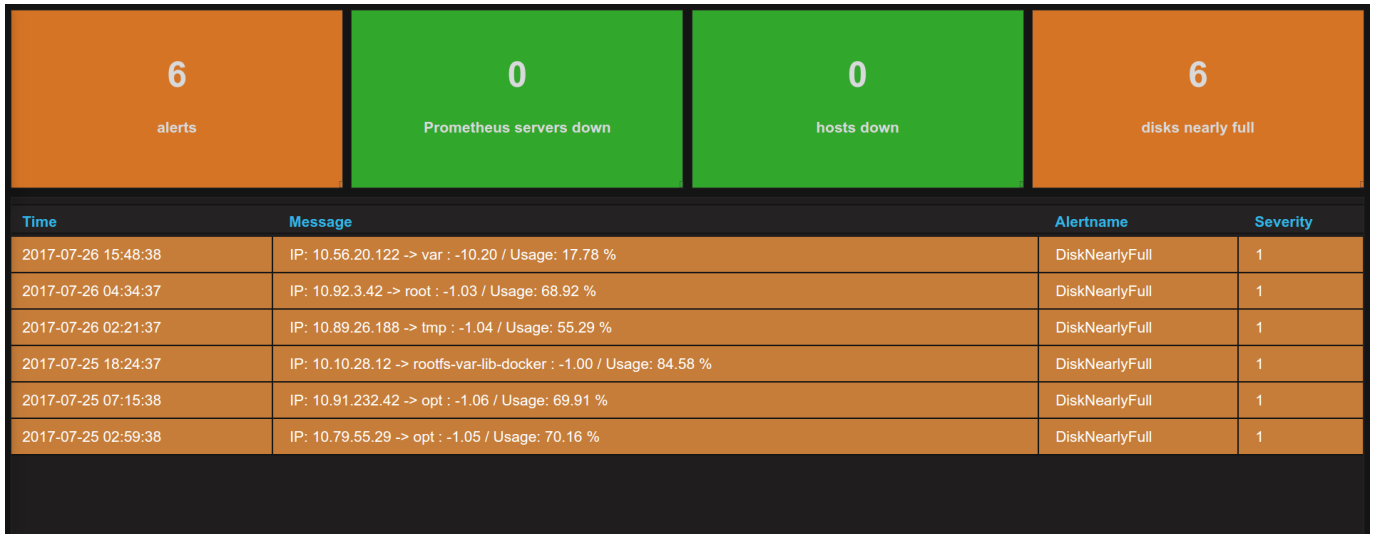


node_exporter

Prometheus

Generate alerts for reachability and metrics



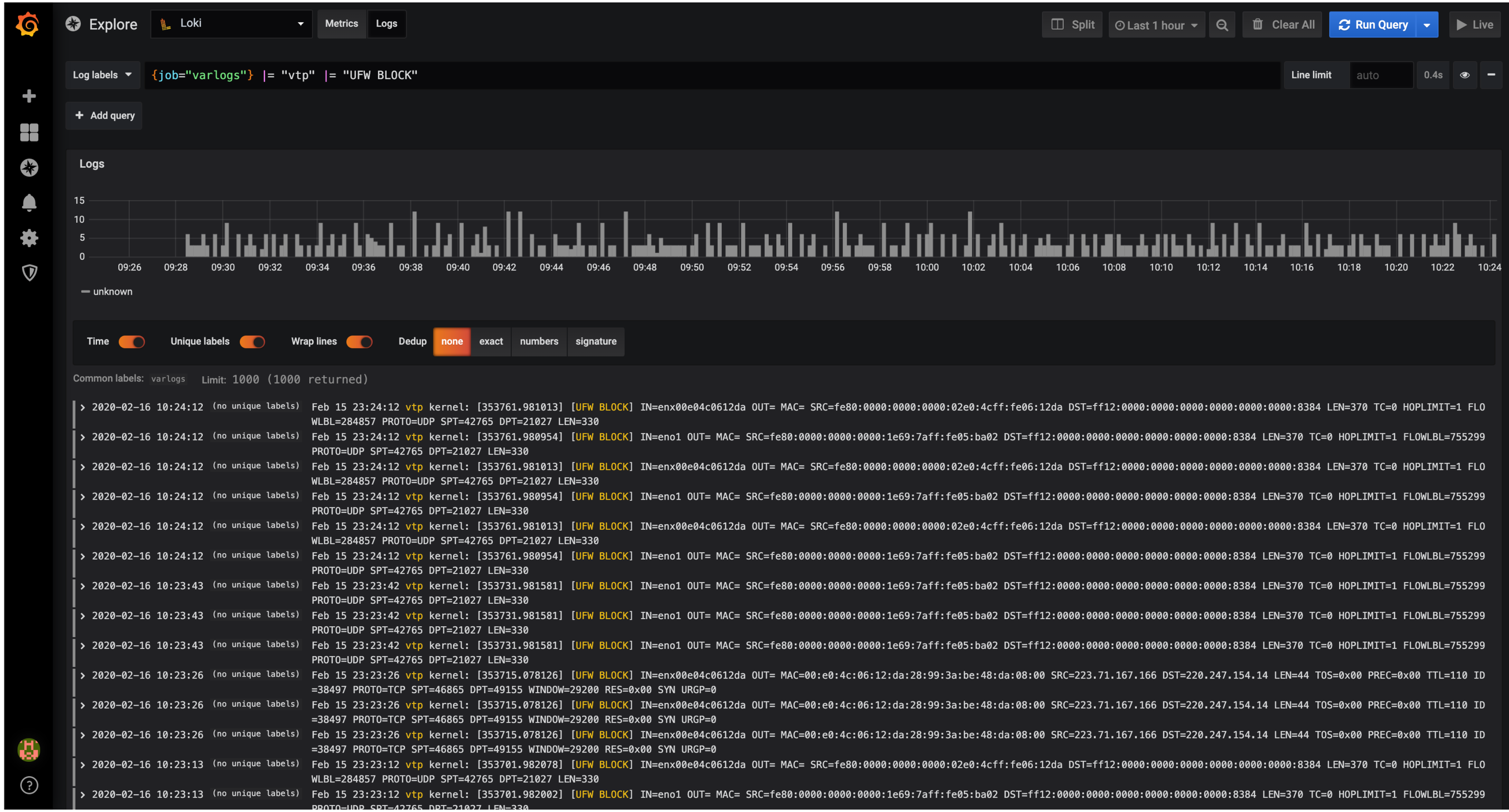


Promtail

Grafana loki

Grafana

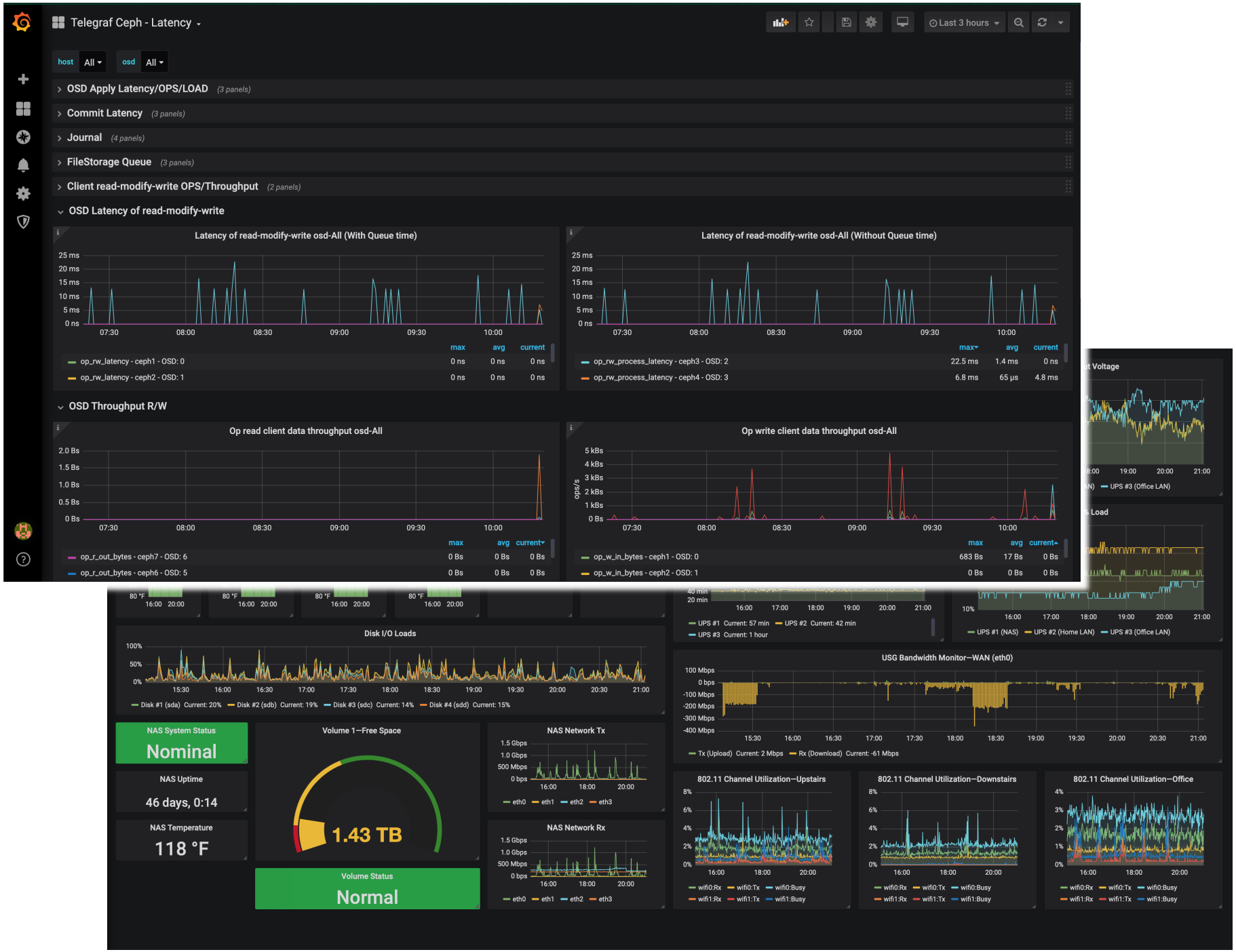
- Streaming logs from files
- Works with Prometheus
- Kubernetes build available



telegraf

influxdb

Grafana



Thanks!

Questions?

References

- Cisco Telemetry with Google Protocol Buffers
  https://blogs.cisco.com/sp/streaming-telemetry-with-google-protocol-buffers
- Cisco Model Driven Telemetry
  https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/solutions/service-provider/cloud-scale-networking-solutions/model-driven-telemetry.html
- Graphite
  https://graphiteapp.org/
- InfluxDB
  https://www.influxdata.com/
- Kafka
  https://docs.confluent.io/current/streams-ksql.html

References

- Logz.io (Information on *Elastic Stack*, others)
  https://logz.io/
- Monitoring vs. Observing
  https://twitter.com/isotopp/status/1328653624470331392
- Prometheus
  https://prometheus.io/
- Splunk
  https://www.splunk.com/
- Tick Stack on CentOS
  https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/how-to-monitor-system-metrics-with-the-tick-stack-on-centos-7
- TimescaleDB
  https://www.timescale.com/

References from Dean ☺

- to docker-compose stacks
  - https://github.com/robcowart/elastiflow
  - https://github.com/grafana/loki
  - https://github.com/nicolargo/docker-influxdb-grafana
  - https://github.com/vegasbrianc/prometheus
- Other
  - https://peter.run/blog/2019-07-28-visualising-latency-variance-in-grafana-in-2019/
  - https://hveem.no/visualizing-latency-variance-with-grafana