Lesson End Project

Monitoring Apache Server Metrics Using Prometheus

Project agenda: To set up Prometheus to monitor an Apache web server, collect metrics using Apache Exporter, and analyze performance using PromQL queries

Description: As a DevOps engineer at a company running a high-traffic e-commerce website with Apache web servers, your team has identified performance issues during peak hours. Your task is to implement a monitoring solution to identify potential bottlenecks and ensure optimal performance. This involves configuring Prometheus to monitor the Apache web servers and collect relevant metrics. You are responsible for setting up Apache Exporter and Prometheus and using PromQL queries to track metrics. This setup will help proactively identify and address performance issues.

Tools required: Linux operating system, Prometheus, and Apache web server

Prerequisites: Refer to Demo 02 of Lesson 01 for installing a Prometheus server

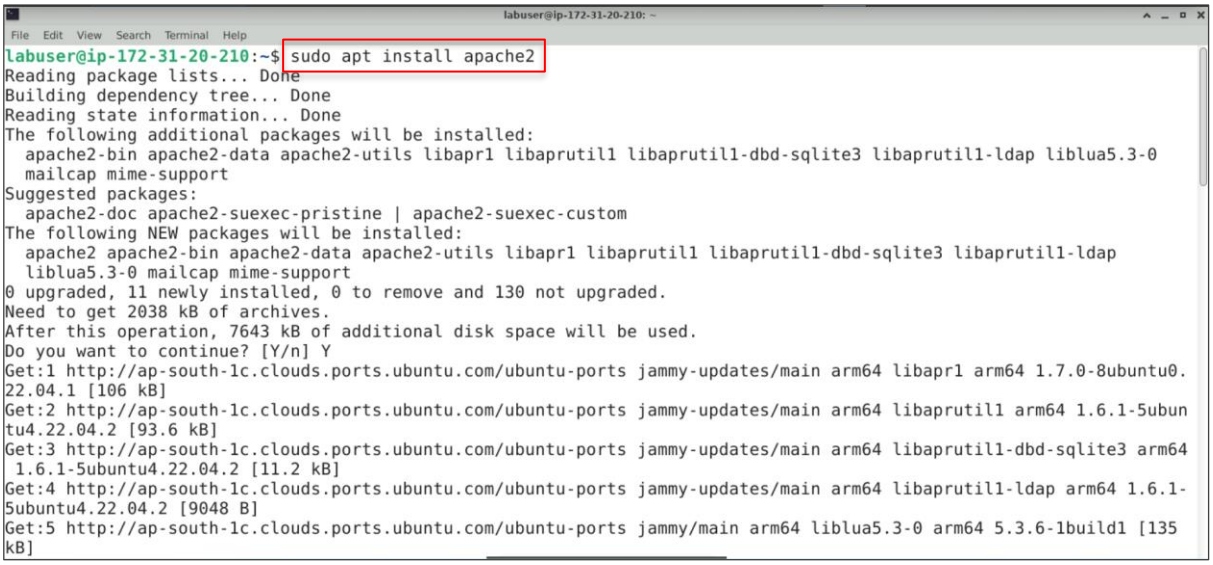
Expected deliverables: A fully configured Prometheus and Apache Exporter setup to collect and visualize Apache web server metrics, accessible through a web interface for real-time monitoring and performance analysis using custom PromQL queries

Steps to be followed:

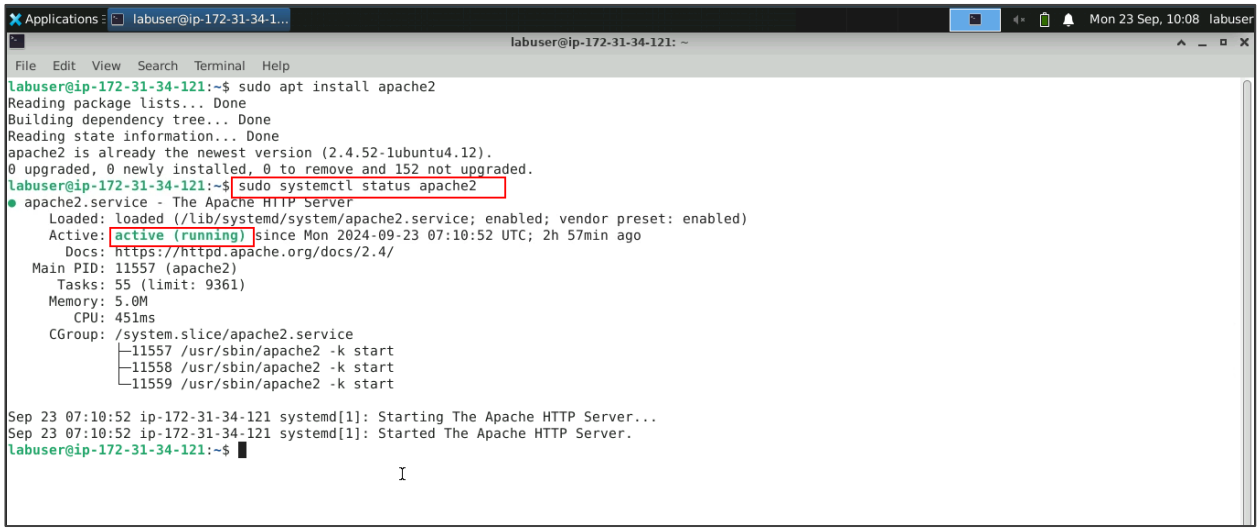
1. Install and configure the Apache web server
2. Install and configure the Apache Exporter for Prometheus
3. Configure Prometheus to scrape metrics from the Apache Exporter
4. Run PromQL queries in the Prometheus UI to analyze Apache web server metrics

Step 1: Install and configure the Apache web server

1.1 Run the following command in the terminal to install the Apache2 server:
sudo apt install apache2

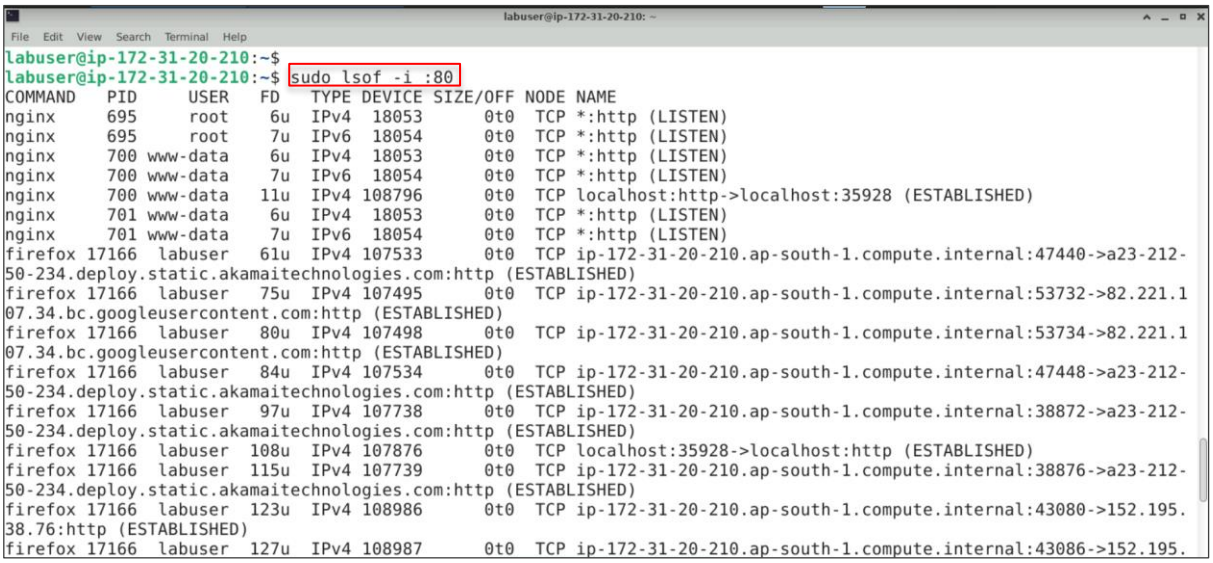


1.2 Run the following command to check the status of the Apache2 service:
sudo systemctl status apache2



1.3 Run the following command to check the services that are occupying port 80 if the Apache2 server is not running:

sudo lsof -i :80

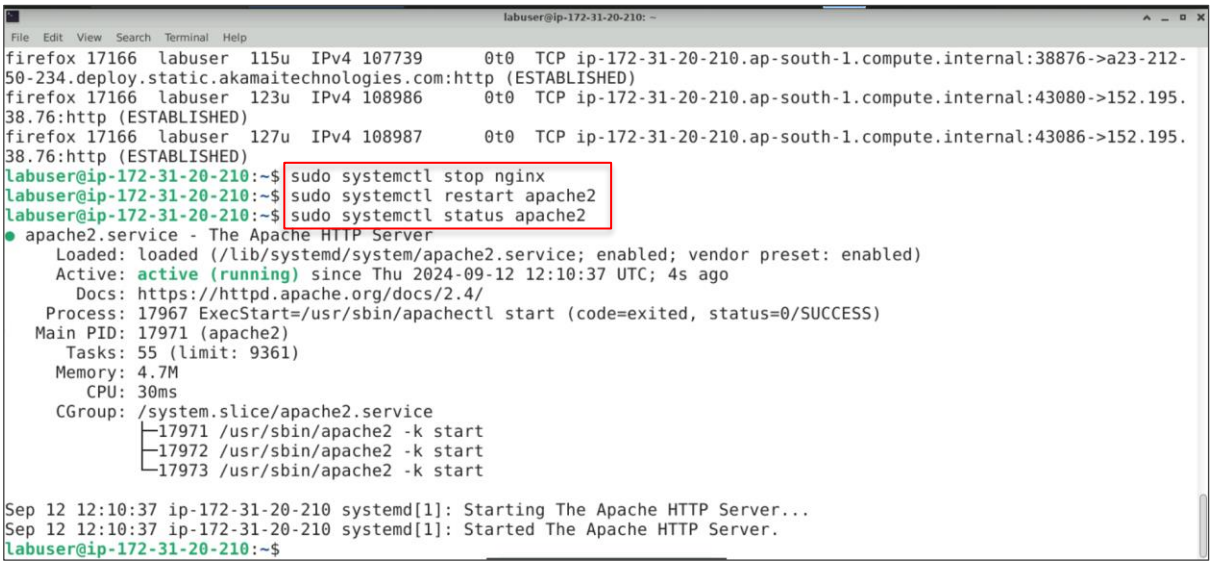


1.4 Run the following commands to stop the Nginx service, restart the Apache2 server, and check the status of the Apache2 service:

sudo systemctl stop nginx

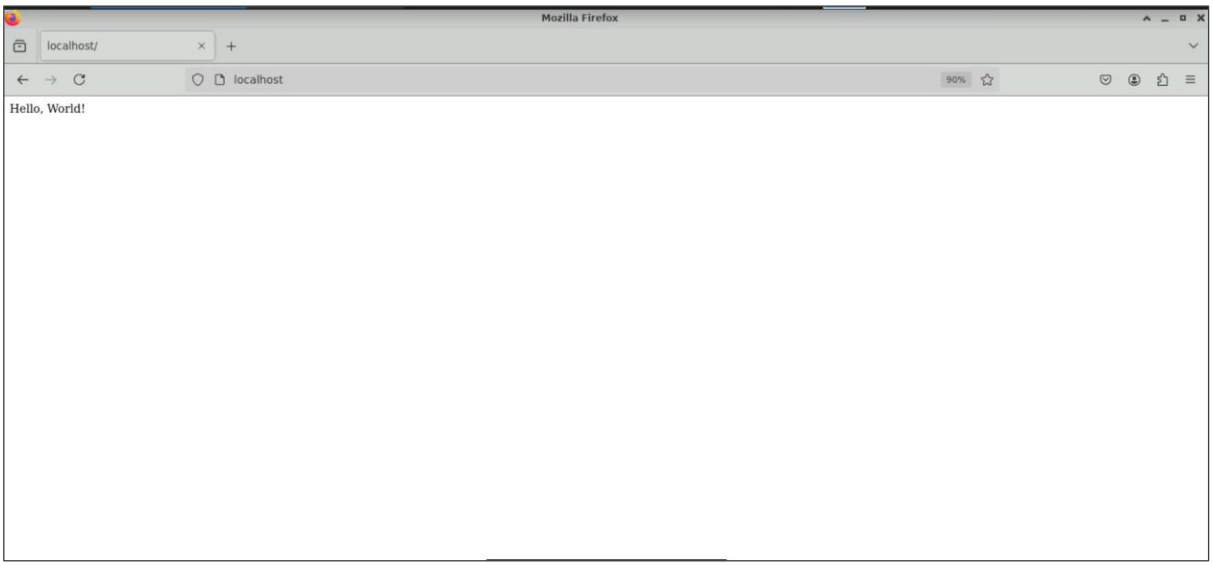
sudo systemctl restart apache2

sudo systemctl status apache2



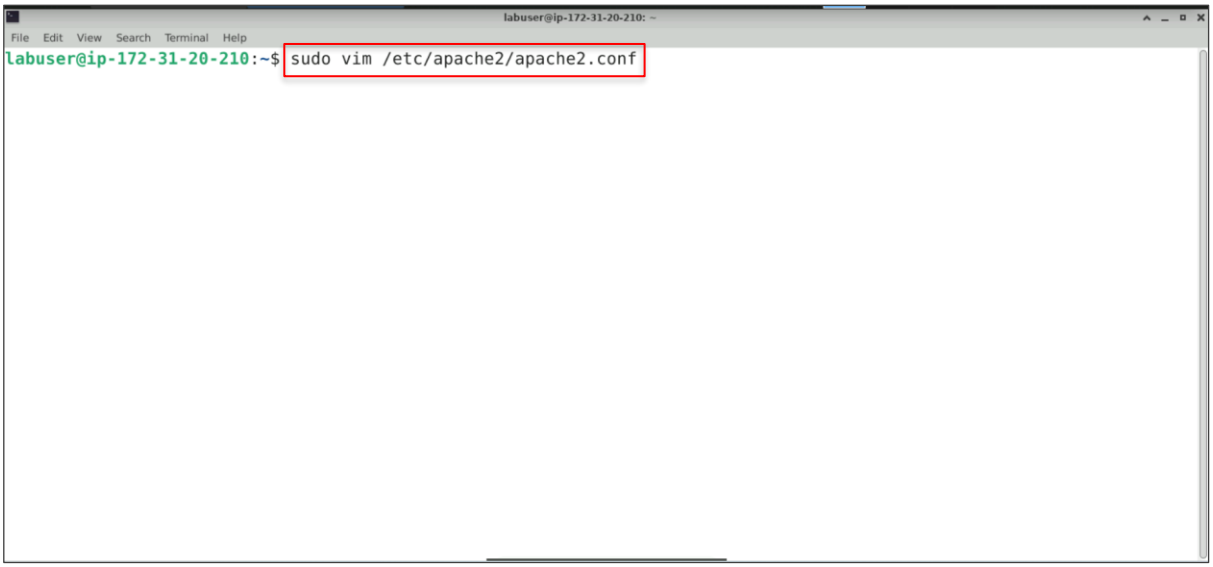
Note: Check ports **80** for HTTP and **443** for HTTPS. In this case, it is **Nginx**, but it could be any process. Stop the process occupying these ports to start Apache2

1.5 Navigate to the preferred browser and enter the URL **http://localhost**

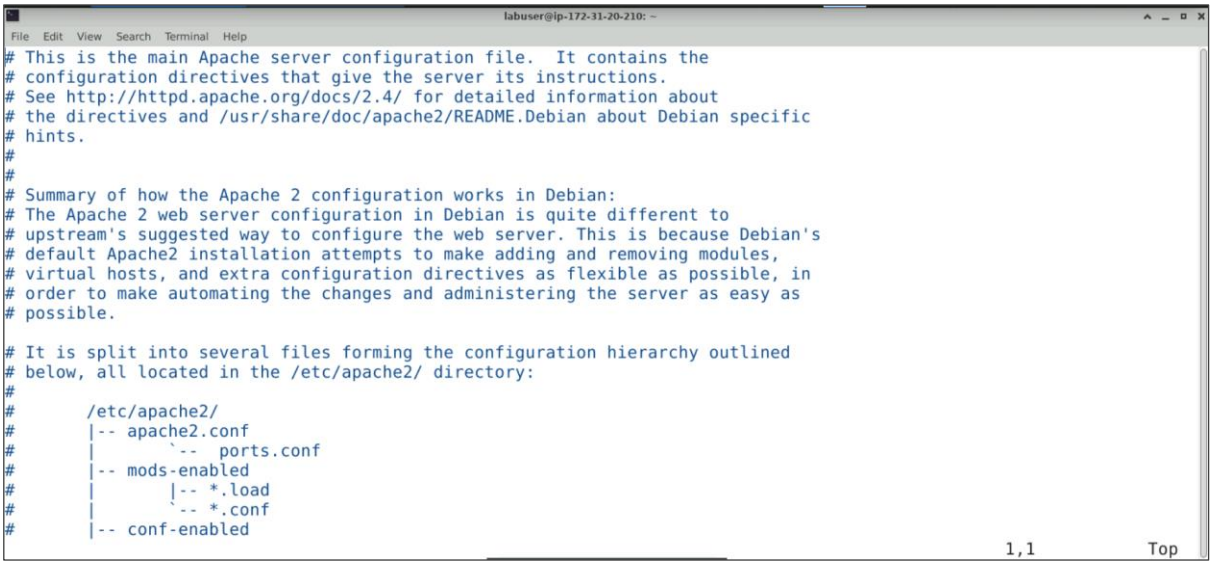


Note: If **http://localhost** shows only **Hello World!**, it indicates that Apache is serving the default index page. You can modify the index.html file in the document root (/var/www/html) to display the desired content.

1.6 Run the following command to open the configuration file **apache2.conf** in the vim editor:
sudo vim /etc/apache2/apache2.conf



The configuration file should look like this:



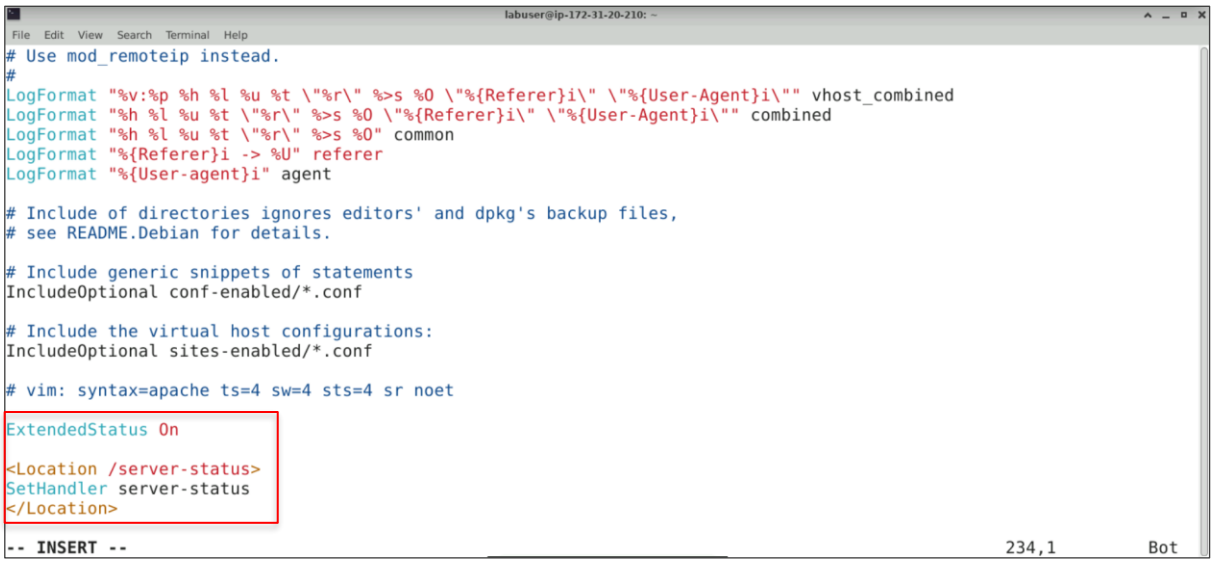
1.7 Scroll down to the end, press **I** to switch to **INSERT** mode, then copy and paste the following configuration at the end

ExtendedStatus On

<Location /server-status>

SetHandler server-status

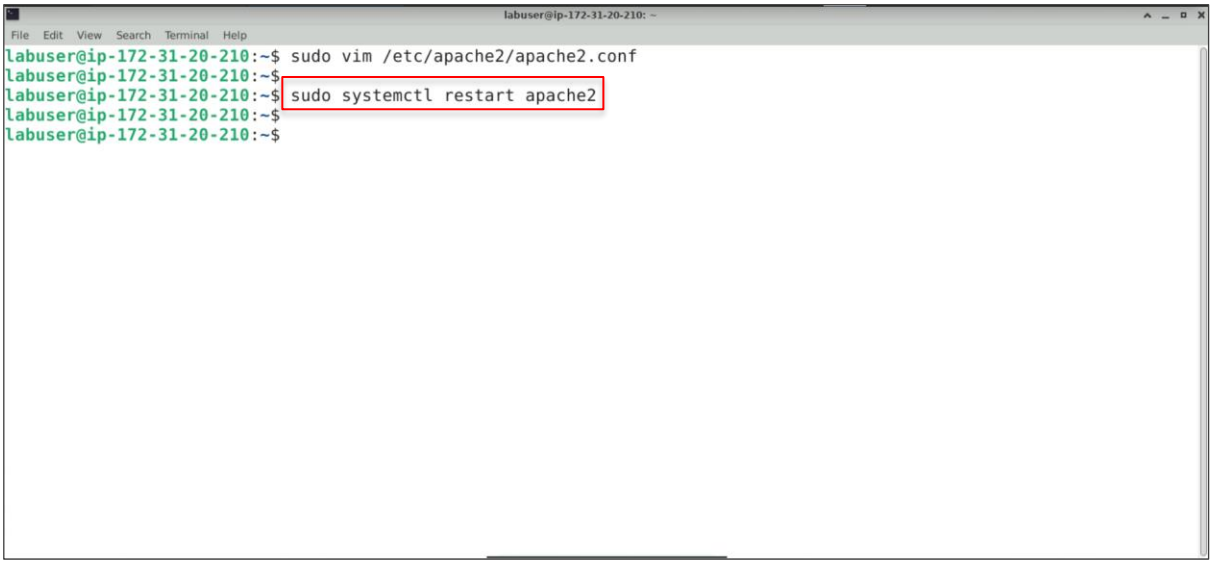
</Location>



Press **Esc** and type **:wq** to save and exit the file.

1.8 Execute the following command to restart Apache2:

sudo systemctl restart apache2



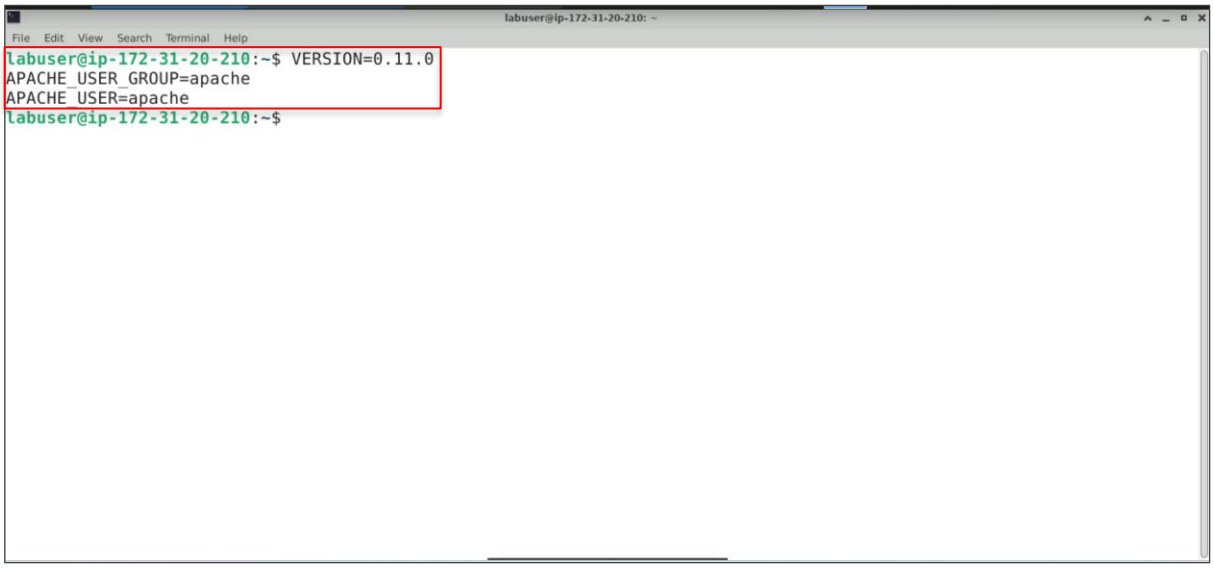
Step 2: Install and configure the Apache Exporter for Prometheus

2.1 Provide the following variables in the terminal to download the Apache Exporter:

VERSION=0.11.0

APACHE_USER_GROUP=apache

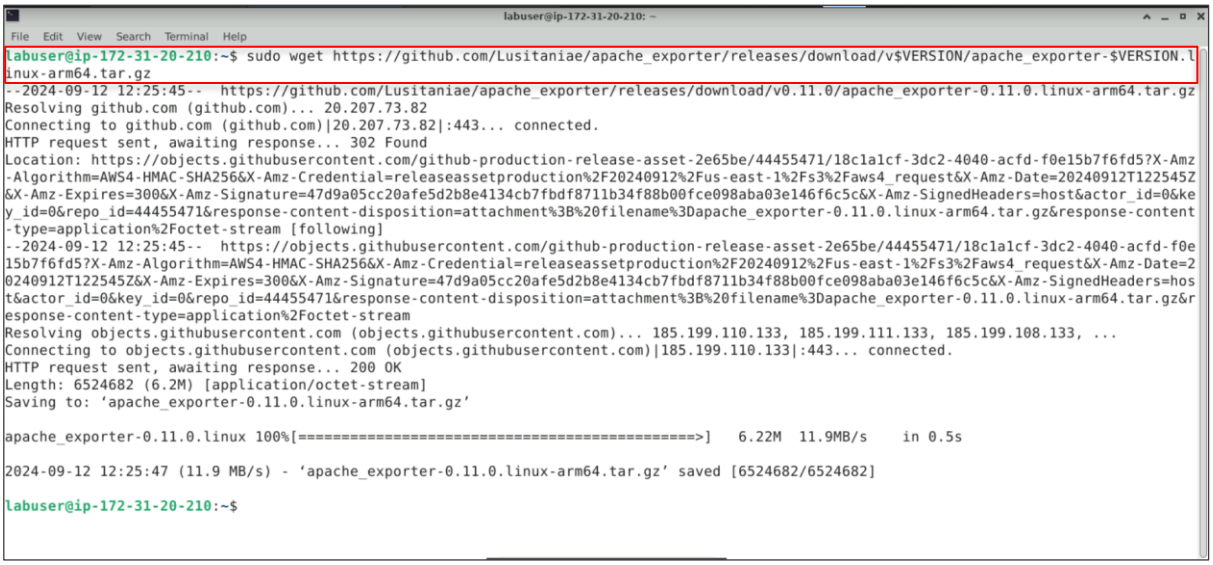
APACHE_USER=apache



2.2 Run the following command to download the Apache Exporter file from the given URL:

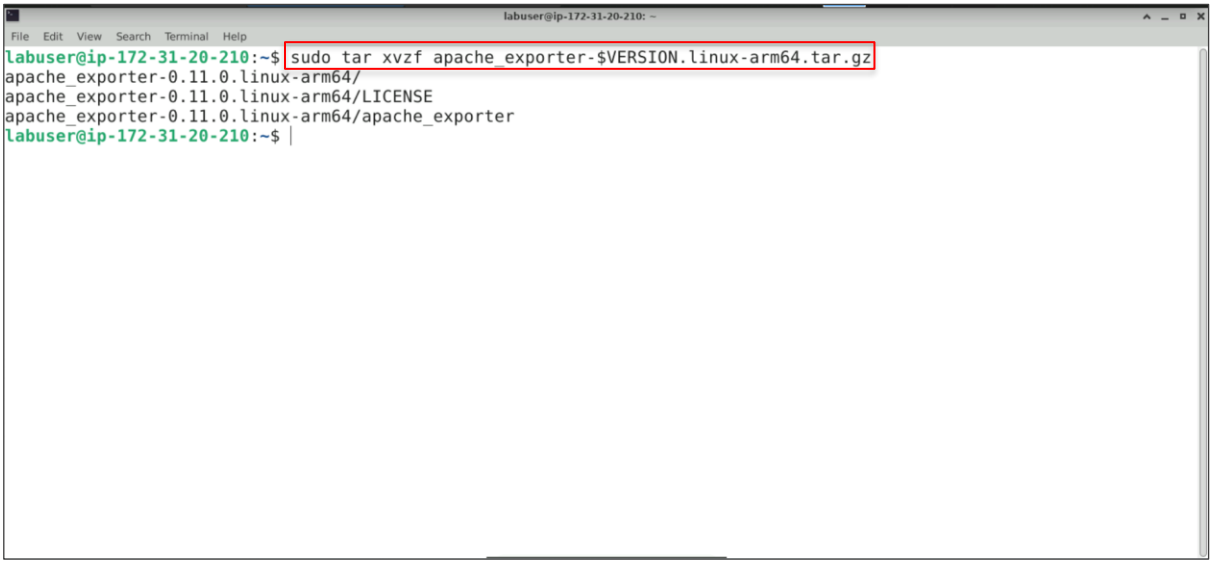
sudo wget

https://github.com/Lusitaniae/apache_exporter/releases/download/v$VERSION/apache_exporter-$VERSION.linux-arm64.tar.gz



2.3 Run the command given below to extract the downloaded Apache Exporter:

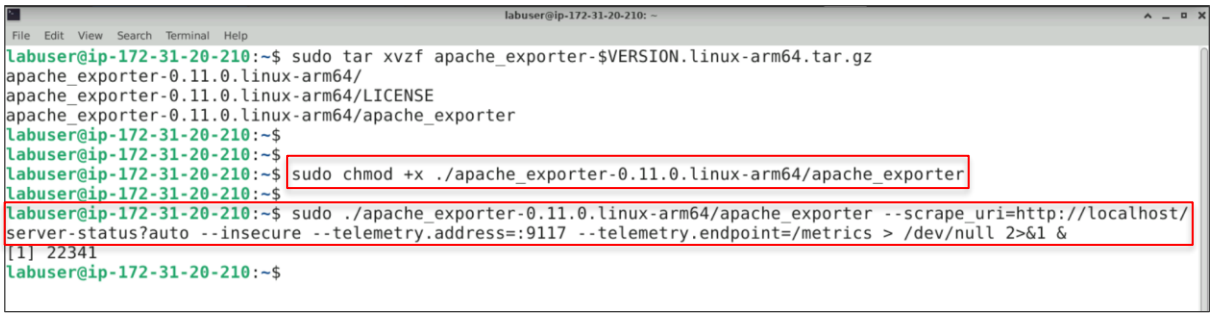
sudo tar xvzf apache_exporter-$VERSION.linux-arm64.tar.gz



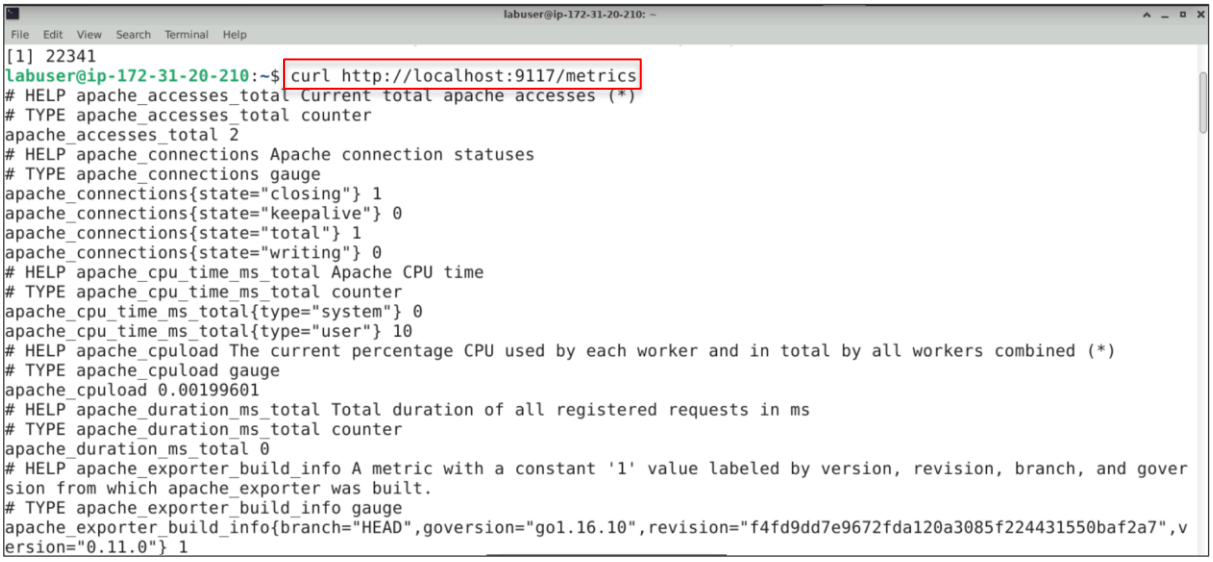
2.4 Run the following commands to change the file permissions of Apache Exporter and make it executable, then start it in the background:

sudo chmod +x ./apache_exporter-0.11.0.linux-arm64/apache_exporter

sudo ./apache_exporter-0.11.0.linux-arm64/apache_exporter --scrape_uri=http://localhost/server-status?auto --insecure --telemetry.address=:9117 --telemetry.endpoint=/metrics > /dev/null 2>&1 &



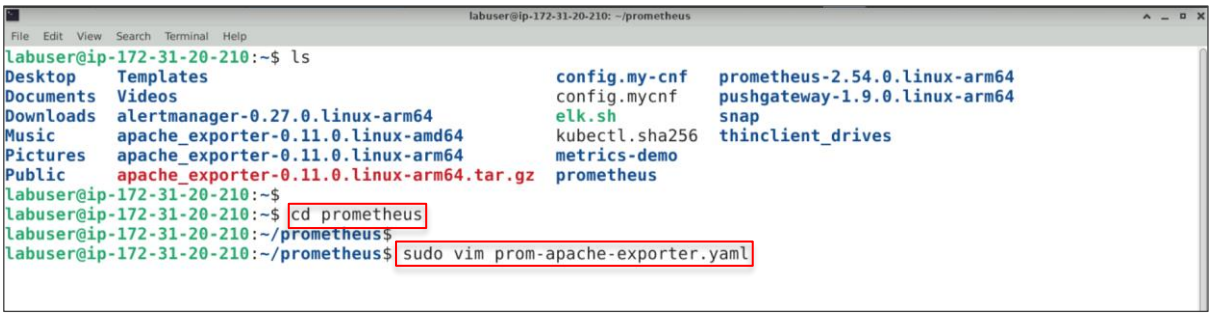
2.5 Run the following command to verify whether metrics are being fetched from the Apache Exporter running on the local machine:
curl http://localhost:9117/metrics



Note: You can also access these metrics in the browser using the same URL without the command **curl**.

Step 3: Configure Prometheus to scrape metrics from the Apache Exporter

3.1 Run the following command to change the directory to **prometheus**, then create and open the file **prom-apache-exporter.yaml** using the **Vim** editor:
cd prometheus
sudo vim prom-apache-exporter.yaml



Note: Ensure that Prometheus is already installed

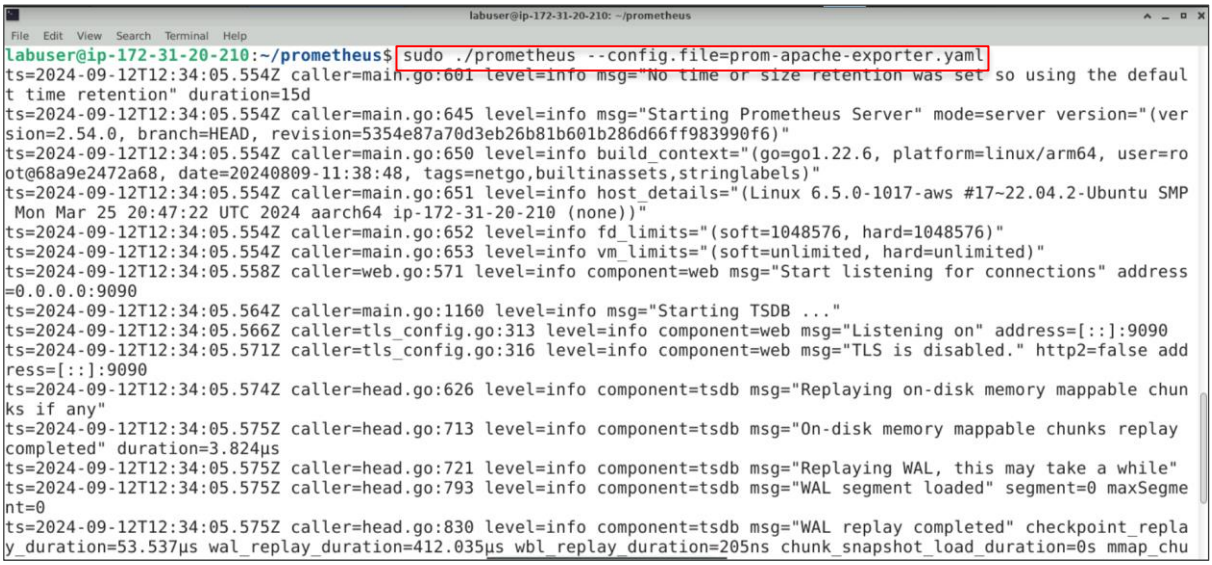
3.2 Switch to **INSERT** mode, copy and paste the following configuration, then save and exit the file:

```
global:
  scrape_interval: 15s

scrape_configs:
  - job_name: 'apache-exporter'
    static_configs:
      - targets: ['localhost:9117']
```

3.3 Run the following command to explore the Prometheus UI:

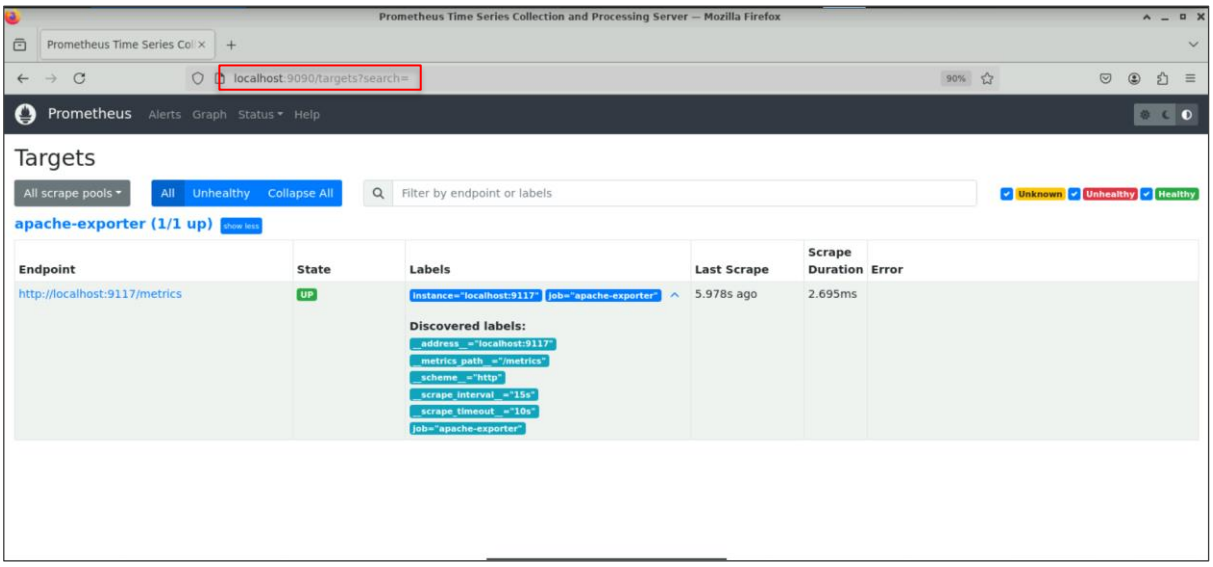
sudo ./prometheus --config.file=prom-apache-exporter.yaml



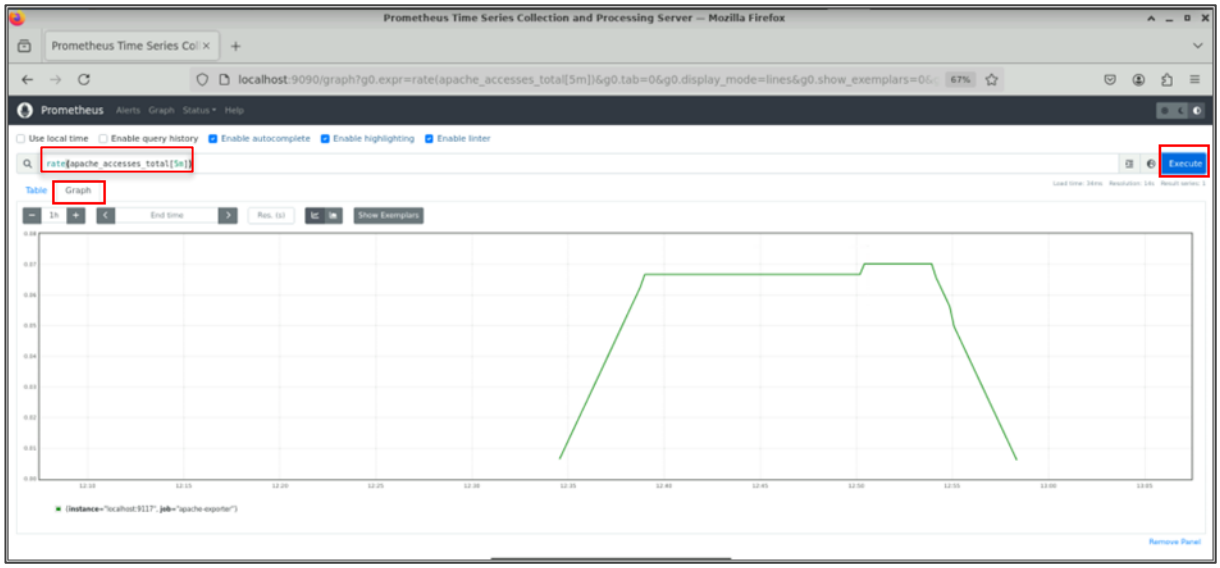
Note: You can also run Prometheus in the background using the command **sudo ./prometheus --config.file=prom-apache-exporter.yaml > /dev/null 2>&1 &**
However, this command will not detect port conflict issues.

Step 4: Run PromQL queries in the Prometheus UI to analyze Apache web server metrics

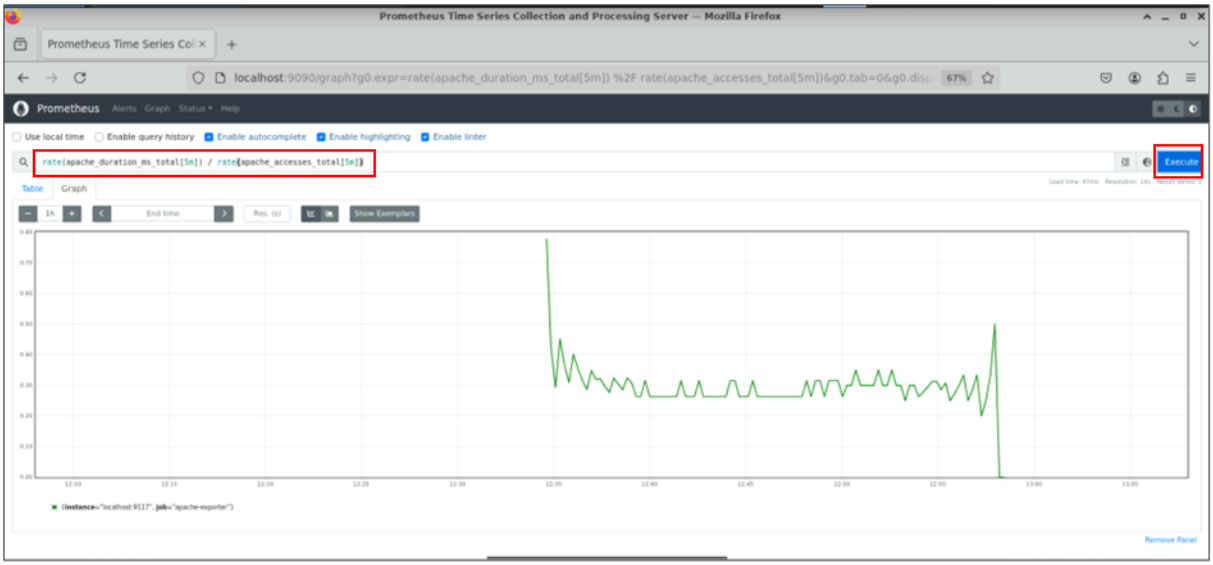
4.1 Open the preferred browser and navigate to the URL **http://localhost:9090/targets** to explore the Apache Exporter on the Prometheus UI



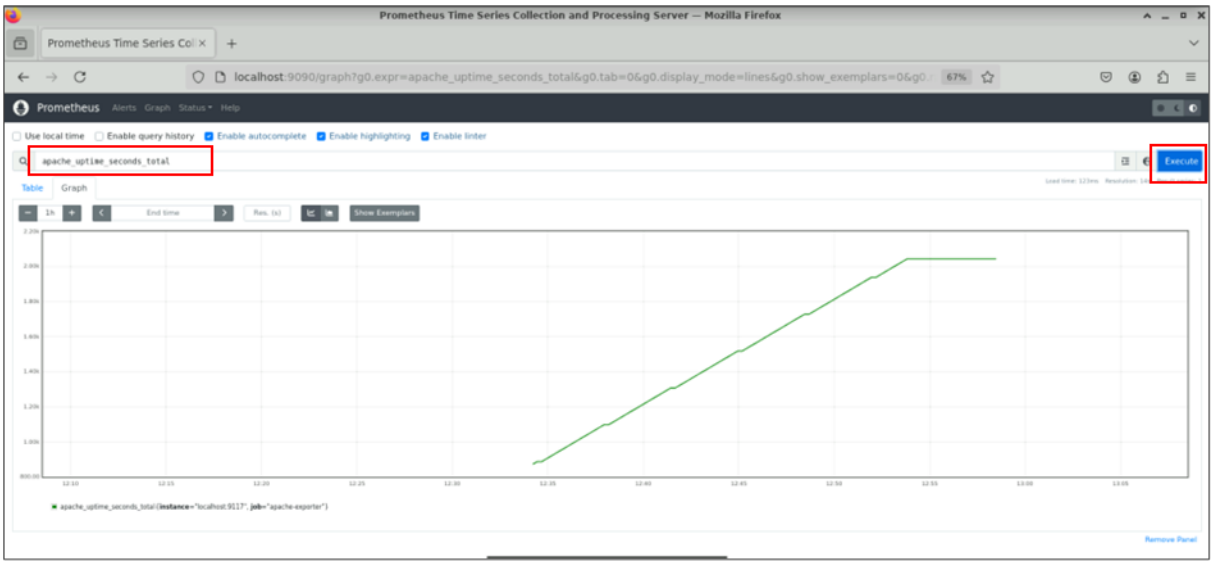
4.2 Navigate to the **Graph** section in Prometheus, enter the following query in the expression bar, and click the **Execute** button to calculate the rate of Apache requests per second over the last 5 minutes:
rate(apache_accesses_total[5m])



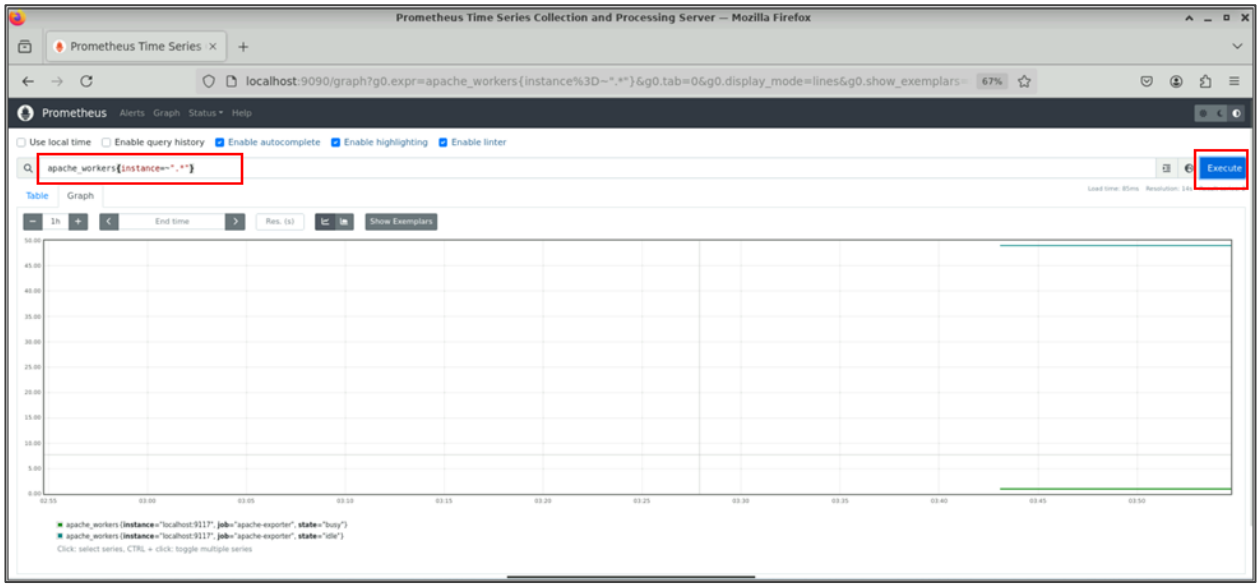
4.3 Enter the following query in the expression bar and click on the **Execute** button to measure the average response time of Apache requests in milliseconds over the last 5 minutes:
rate(apache_duration_ms_total[5m]) / rate(apache_accesses_total[5m])



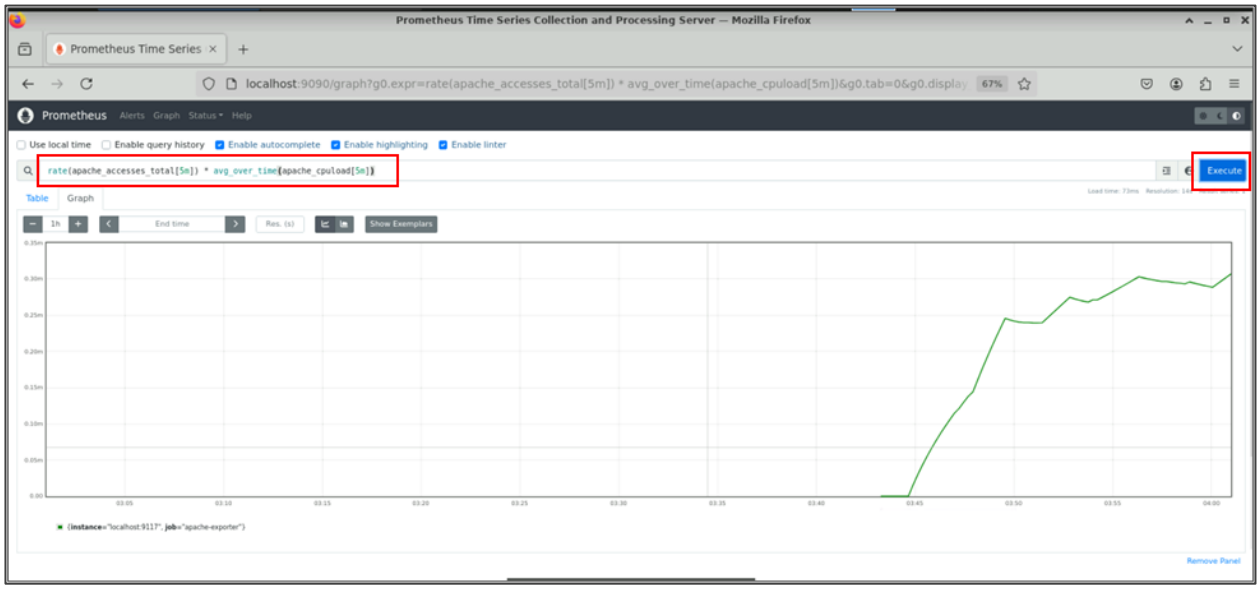
4.4 Enter the following query in the expression bar and click the **Execute** button to display the total uptime of the Apache server in seconds:
apache_uptime_seconds_total



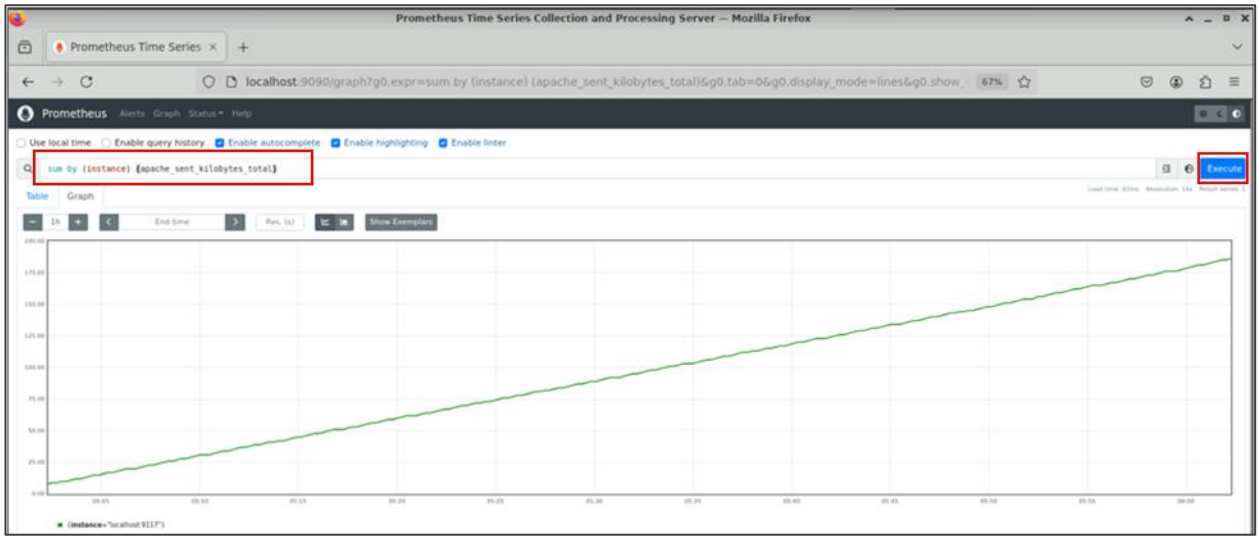
4.5 Enter the following query in the expression bar and click the **Execute** button to display the count of Apache workers for each instance:
apache_workers{instance=~".*"}



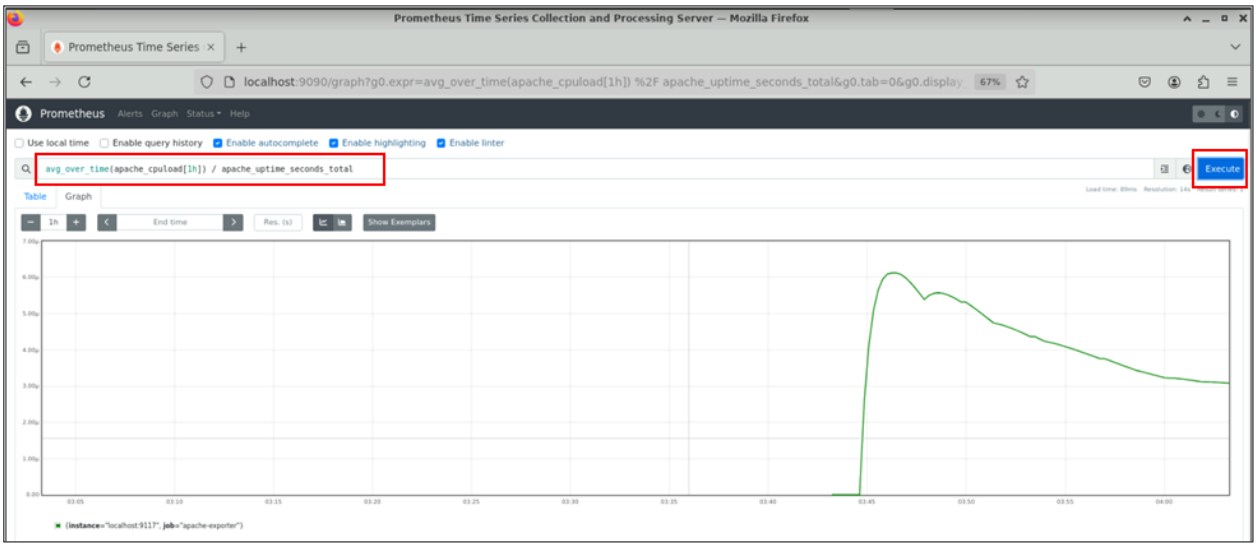
4.6 Enter the following query in the expression bar and click the **Execute** button to monitor Apache's request rate and CPU load over the same time interval:
rate(apache_accesses_total[5m]) * avg_over_time(apache_cpuload[5m])



4.7 Enter the following query in the expression bar and click the **Execute** button to display the total amount of data sent (in kilobytes) by the Apache server for each instance: **sum by (instance) (apache_sent_kilobytes_total)**



4.8 Enter the following query in the expression bar and click the **Execute** button to monitor the average CPU load of Apache over the last hour relative to its total uptime: **avg_over_time(apache_cpuload[1h]) / apache_uptime_seconds_total**



By following these steps, you have successfully set up and configured an Apache web server along with the Prometheus monitoring system, including the Apache Exporter setup to collect and visualize Apache web server metrics. These metrics are accessible through a web interface for real-time monitoring and performance analysis using custom PromQL queries.