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## SCENARIO 6: Prevent and detect issues in a distributed system

- Purpose: How to prevent cascading failures in a distributed environment, how to detect misbehaving services.  
How to avoid having to implement resiliency and monitoring in your business logic
- Difficulty: advanced

- Time: 60-90 minutes

## Intro

As we transition our applications towards a distributed architecture with microservices deployed across a distributed network, Many new challenges await us.

Technologies like containers and container orchestration platforms like OpenShift solve the deployment of our distributed applications quite well, but are still catching up to addressing the service communication necessary to fully take advantage of distributed applications, such as dealing with:

- Unpredictable failure modes
- Verifying end-to-end application correctness
- Unexpected system degradation
- Continuous topology changes
- The use of elastic/ephemeral/transient resources

Today, developers are responsible for taking into account these challenges, and do things like:

- Circuit breaking and Bulkheading (e.g. with Netflix Hystrix)
- Timeouts/retries
- Service discovery (e.g. with Eureka)
- Client-side load balancing (e.g. with Netflix Ribbon)

Another challenge is each runtime and language addresses these with different libraries and frameworks, and in some cases there may be no implementation of a particular library for your chosen language or runtime.

In this scenario we'll explore how to use a new project called *Istio* to solve many of these challenges and result in a much more robust, reliable, and resilient application in the face of the new world of dynamic distributed applications.

## What is Istio?



Figure 1: Logo

Istio is an open, platform-independent service mesh designed to manage communications between microservices and applications in a transparent way. It provides behavioral insights and operational control over the service mesh as a whole. It provides a number of key capabilities uniformly across a network of services:

- **Traffic Management** - Control the flow of traffic and API calls between services, make calls more reliable, and make the network more robust in the face of adverse conditions.
- **Observability** - Gain understanding of the dependencies between services and the nature and flow of traffic between them, providing the ability to quickly identify issues.
- **Policy Enforcement** - Apply organizational policy to the interaction between services, ensure access policies are enforced and resources are fairly distributed among consumers. Policy changes are made by configuring the mesh, not by changing application code.

- **Service Identity and Security** - Provide services in the mesh with a verifiable identity and provide the ability to protect service traffic as it flows over networks of varying degrees of trustability.

These capabilities greatly decrease the coupling between application code, the underlying platform, and policy. This decreased coupling not only makes services easier to implement, but also makes it simpler for operators to move application deployments between environments or to new policy schemes. Applications become inherently more portable as a result.

Sounds fun, right? Let's get started!

## Setup for Exercise

Run the following commands to set up your environment for this scenario and start in the right directory:

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
cd ${HOME}
```

## Install Istio

In this step, we'll install Istio into our OpenShift platform.

In order to install Istio, you must be logged in as admin. This is required as this user will need to run things in a privileged way, or even with containers as root.

Run the following to login as admin:

```
oc login [[HOST_SUBDOMAIN]]-8443-[[KATACODA_HOST]].environments.katacoda.com -u admin -p admin
--insecure-skip-tls-verify=true
```

CDK users can simply use `oc login -u admin -p admin`

**If you are unable to login as admin or get any failures, ask an instructor for help.**

Next, run the following command:

```
~/install-istio.sh
```

CDK USERS: If you running this outside the Katacoda environment, refer to the **Appendix** at the end of this document and run the above command using the commands in the Appendix.

This command:

- Shuts down pods from previous labs (cart, catalog, coolstore, etc)
- Creates the project `istio-system` as the location to deploy all the components
- Adds necessary permissions
- Deploys Istio components
- Deploys additional add-ons, namely Prometheus, Grafana, Service Graph and Jaeger Tracing
- Exposes routes for those add-ons and for Istio's Ingress component

We'll use the above components throughout this scenario, so don't worry if you don't know what they do!

Istio consists of a number of components, and you should wait for it to be completely initialized before continuing. Execute the following commands to wait for the deployment to complete and result deployment `xxxxxx` successfully rolled out for each deployment:

```
oc rollout status -w deployment/istio-pilot && \ oc rollout status -w deployment/istio-mixer && \
\ oc rollout status -w deployment/istio-ca && \ oc rollout status -w deployment/istio-ingress
&& \ oc rollout status -w deployment/prometheus && \ oc rollout status -w deployment/grafana && \
\ oc rollout status -w deployment/servicegraph && \ oc rollout status -w deployment/jaeger-deployment
```

While you wait for the command to report success you can read a bit more about the [Istio](#) architecture below:

## Istio Details

An Istio service mesh is logically split into a *data plane* and a *control plane*.

The *data plane* is composed of a set of intelligent proxies (*Envoy* proxies) deployed as *sidecars* to your application's pods in OpenShift that mediate and control all network communication between microservices.

The *control plane* is responsible for managing and configuring proxies to route traffic, as well as enforcing policies at runtime.

The following diagram shows the different components that make up each plane:

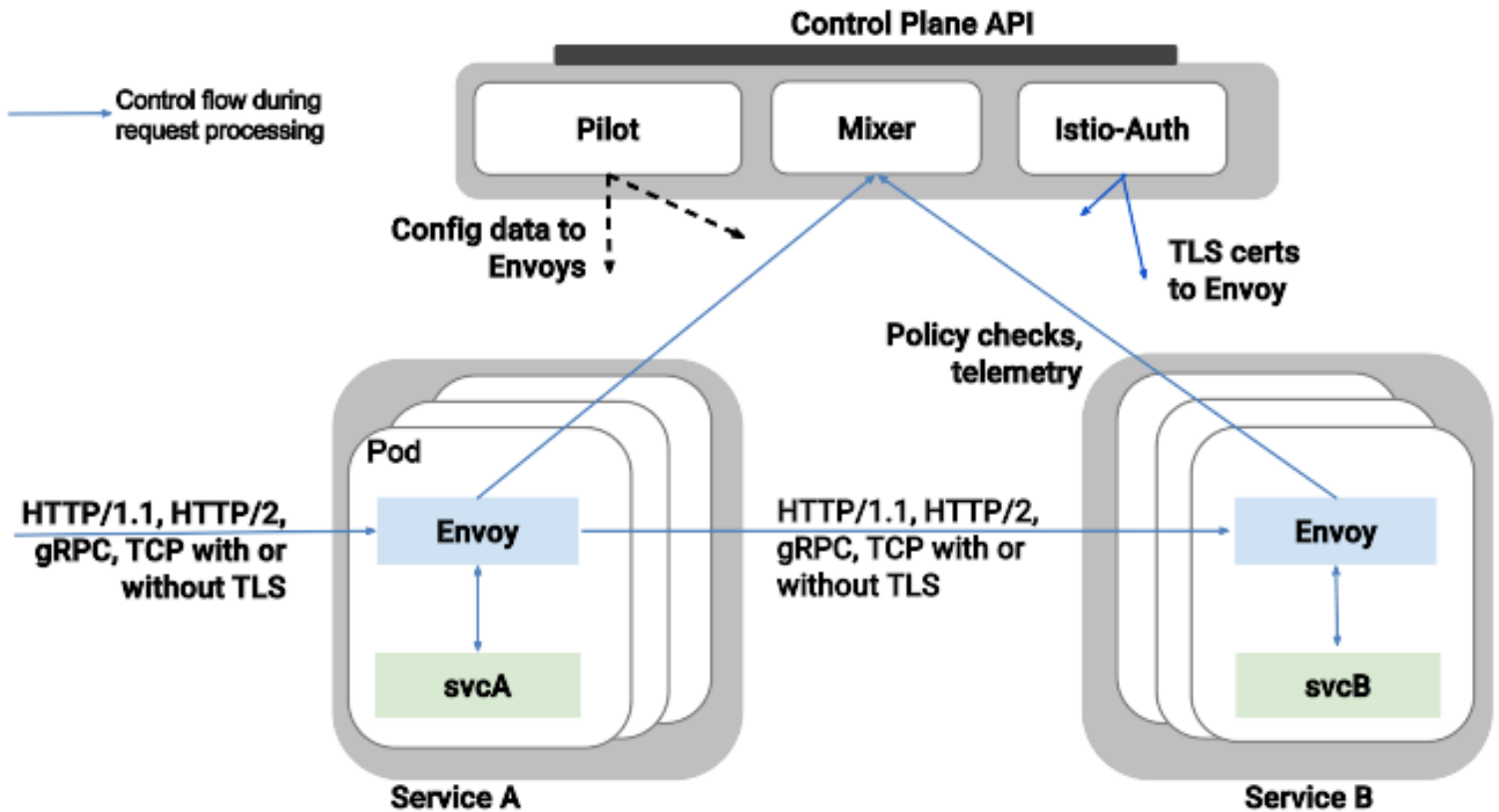


Figure 2: Istio Arch

## Istio Components

### Envoy

Envoy is a high-performance proxy developed in C++ which handles all inbound and outbound traffic for all services in the service mesh. Istio leverages Envoy's many built-in features such as dynamic service discovery, load balancing, TLS termination, HTTP/2 & gRPC proxying, circuit breakers, health checks, staged rollouts with %-based traffic split, fault injection, and rich metrics.

Envoy is deployed as a sidecar to application services in the same Kubernetes pod. This allows Istio to extract a wealth of signals about traffic behavior as attributes, which in turn it can use in Mixer to enforce policy decisions, and be sent to monitoring systems to provide information about the behavior of the entire mesh.

### Mixer

Mixer is a platform-independent component responsible for enforcing access control and usage policies across the service mesh and collecting telemetry data from the Envoy proxy and other services. The proxy extracts request level attributes, which are sent to Mixer for evaluation.

### Pilot

Pilot provides service discovery for the Envoy sidecars, traffic management capabilities for intelligent routing (e.g., A/B tests, canary deployments, etc.), and resiliency (timeouts, retries, circuit breakers, etc.). It converts a high level routing rules that control traffic behavior into Envoy-specific configurations, and propagates them to the sidecars at runtime. Pilot abstracts platform-specific service discovery mechanisms and synthesizes them into a standard format consumable by any sidecar that conforms to the Envoy data plane APIs.

## Istio-Auth

Istio-Auth provides strong service-to-service and end-user authentication using mutual TLS, with built-in identity and credential management. It can be used to upgrade unencrypted traffic in the service mesh, and provides operators the ability to enforce policy based on service identity rather than network controls.

## Add-ons

Several components are used to provide additional visualizations, metrics, and tracing functions:

- [Prometheus](#) - Systems monitoring and alerting toolkit
- [Grafana](#) - Allows you to query, visualize, alert on and understand your metrics
- [Jaeger Tracing](#) - Distributed tracing to gather timing data needed to troubleshoot latency problems in microservice architectures
- [Servicegraph](#) - generates and visualizes a graph of services within a mesh

We will use these in future steps in this scenario!

Check out the [Istio docs](#) for more details.

Is your Istio deployment complete? If so, then you're ready to move on!

## Install Sample Application

In this step, we'll install a sample application into the system. This application is included in Istio itself for demonstrating various aspects of it, but the application isn't tied exclusively to Istio - it's an ordinary microservice application that could be installed to any OpenShift instance with or without Istio.

The sample application is called *Bookinfo*, a simple application that displays information about a book, similar to a single catalog entry of an online book store. Displayed on the page is a description of the book, book details (ISBN, number of pages, and so on), and a few book reviews.

The BookInfo application is broken into four separate microservices:

- **productpage** - The productpage microservice calls the details and reviews microservices to populate the page.
- **details** - The details microservice contains book information.
- **reviews** - The reviews microservice contains book reviews. It also calls the ratings microservice.
- **ratings** - The ratings microservice contains book ranking information that accompanies a book review.

There are 3 versions of the reviews microservice:

- Version v1 does not call the ratings service.
- Version v2 calls the ratings service, and displays each rating as 1 to 5 black stars.
- Version v3 calls the ratings service, and displays each rating as 1 to 5 red stars.

The end-to-end architecture of the application is shown below.

## Install Bookinfo

Run the following command:

```
~/install-sample-app.sh
```

CDK USERS: If you running this outside the Katacoda environment, refer to the **Appendix** at the end of this document and run the above command using the commands in the Appendix.

The application consists of the usual objects like Deployments, Services, and Routes.

As part of the installation, we use Istio to "decorate" the application with additional components (the Envoy Sidecars you read about in the previous step).

Let's wait for our application to finish deploying. Execute the following commands to wait for the deployment to complete and result successfully rolled out:

```
oc rollout status -w deployment/productpage-v1 && \ oc rollout status -w deployment/reviews-v1
&& \ oc rollout status -w deployment/reviews-v2 && \ oc rollout status -w deployment/reviews-v3
&& \ oc rollout status -w deployment/details-v1 && \ oc rollout status -w deployment/ratings-v1
```

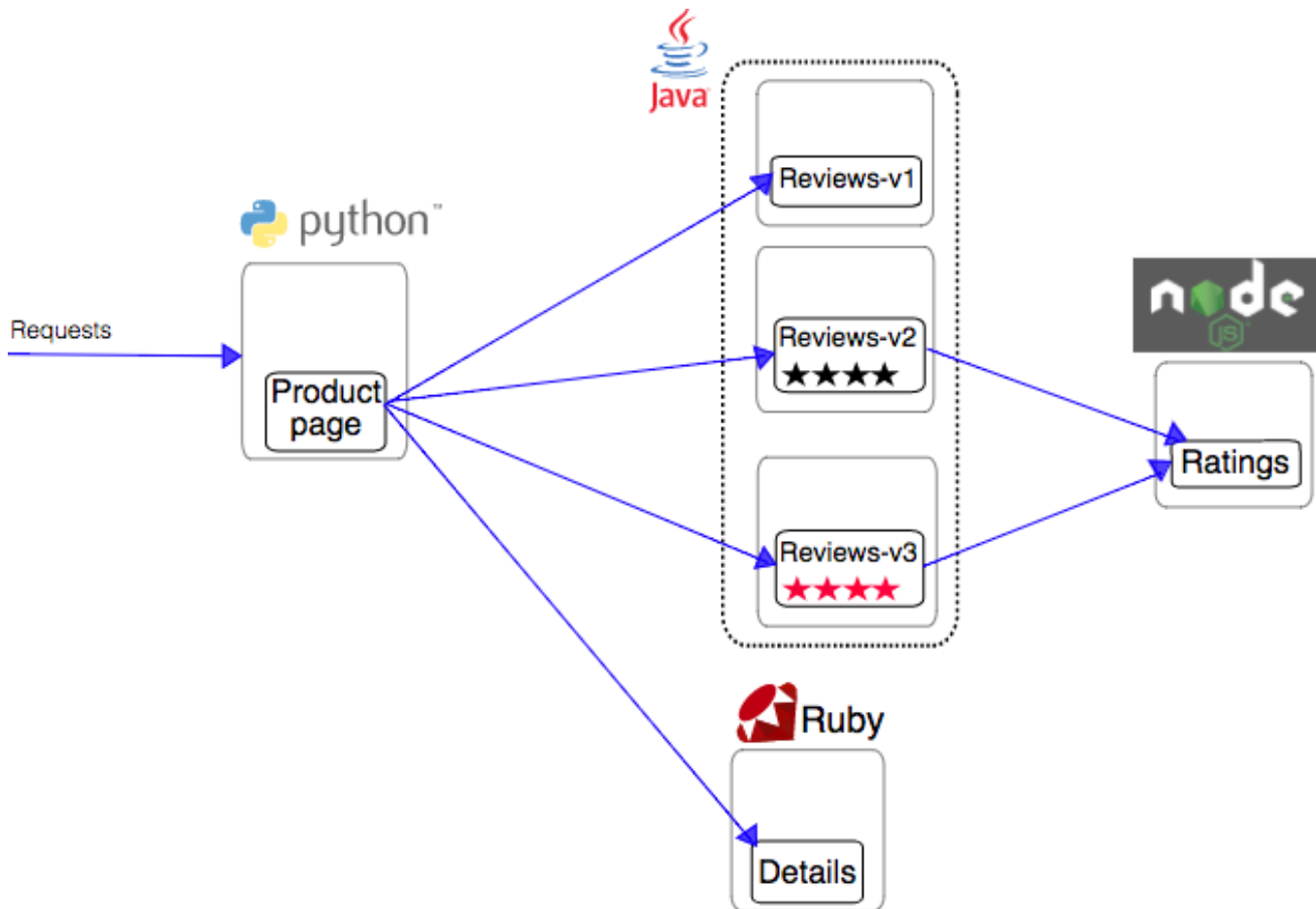


Figure 3: Bookinfo Architecture

## Access Bookinfo

Open the application in your browser to make sure it's working:

- Bookinfo Application running with Istio at

[http://istio-ingress-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/productpage](http://istio-ingress-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/productpage)

It should look something like:

Reload the page multiple times. The three different versions of the Reviews service show the star ratings differently - v1 shows no stars at all, v2 shows black stars, and v3 shows red stars:

**Absolutely fun and entertaining. The play lacks thematic depth when compared to other plays by Shakespeare.**

— Reviewer2

- v1:

## The Comedy of Errors

Summary: [Wikipedia Summary](#): The Comedy of Errors is one of **William Shakespeare's** early plays. It is his shortest and one of his most farcical comedies, with a major part of the humour coming from slapstick and mistaken identity, in addition to puns and word play.

### Book Details

**Type:**  
paperback  
**Pages:**  
200  
**Publisher:**  
PublisherA  
**Language:**  
English  
**ISBN-10:**  
1234567890  
**ISBN-13:**  
123-1234567890

### Book Reviews

An extremely entertaining play by Shakespeare. The slapstick humour is refreshing!

— Reviewer1

★★★★★

Absolutely fun and entertaining. The play lacks thematic depth when compared to other plays by Shakespeare.

— Reviewer2

★★★★☆

Figure 4: Bookinfo App

Absolutely fun and entertaining. The play lacks thematic depth when compared to other plays by Shakespeare.

— Reviewer2

★★★★☆

• v2:

Absolutely fun and entertaining. The play lacks thematic depth when compared to other plays by Shakespeare.

— Reviewer2

★★★★☆

• v3:

That's because there are 3 versions of reviews deployment for our reviews service. Istio's load-balancer is using a *round-robin* algorithm to iterate through the 3 instances of this service.

You should now have your OpenShift Pods running and have an Envoy sidecar in each of them alongside the microservice. The microservices are productpage, details, ratings, and reviews. Note that you'll have three versions of the reviews microservice:

```
oc get pods --selector app=reviews
```

reviews-v1-1796424978-4ddjj	2/2	Running	0	28m
reviews-v2-1209105036-xd5ch	2/2	Running	0	28m
reviews-v3-3187719182-7mj8c	2/2	Running	0	28m

Notice that each of the microservices shows 2/2 containers ready for each service (one for the service and one for its sidecar).

Now that we have our application deployed and linked into the Istio service mesh, let's take a look at the immediate value we can get out of it without touching the application code itself!

## Collecting Metrics

### Visualize the network

The Servicegraph service is an example service that provides endpoints for generating and visualizing a graph of services within a mesh. It exposes the following endpoints:

- /graph which provides a JSON serialization of the servicegraph
- /dotgraph which provides a dot serialization of the servicegraph
- /dotviz which provides a visual representation of the servicegraph

### Examine Service Graph

The Service Graph addon provides a visualization of the different services and how they are connected. Open the link:

- Bookinfo Service Graph (Dotviz) at

[http://servicegraph-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/dotviz](http://servicegraph-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/dotviz)

It should look like:

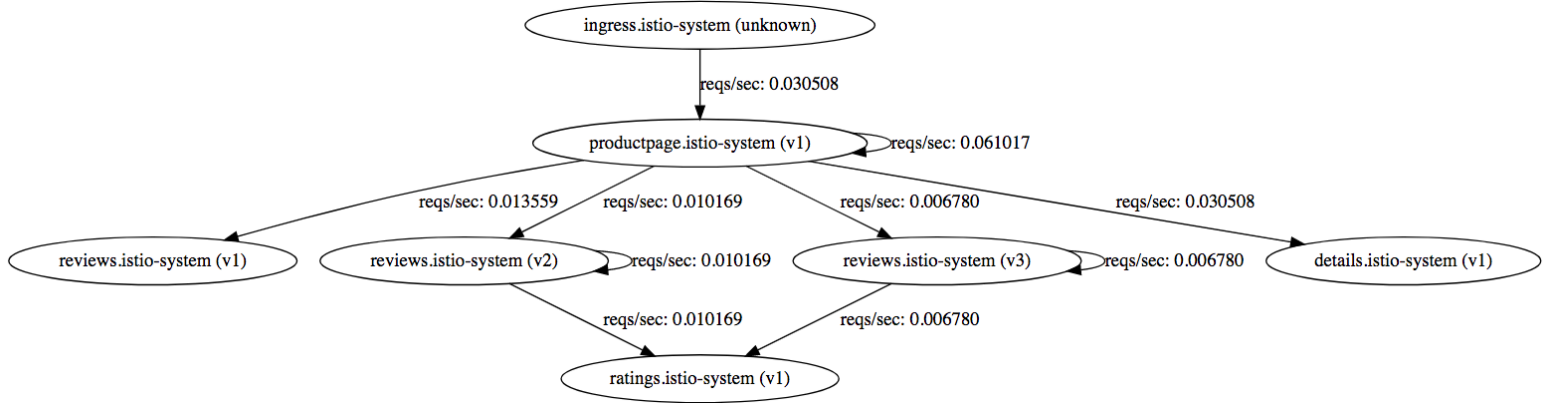


Figure 5: Dotviz graph

This shows you a graph of the services and how they are connected, with some basic access metrics like how many requests per second each service receives.

As you add and remove services over time in your projects, you can use this to verify the connections between services and provides a high-level telemetry showing the rate at which services are accessed.

## Generating application load

To get a better idea of the power of metrics, let's setup an endless loop that will continually access the application and generate load. We'll open up a separate terminal just for this purpose. Execute this command:

```
while true; do curl -o /dev/null -s -w "%{http_code}\n" \ http://istio-ingress-istio-system
sleep .2 done
```

This command will endlessly access the application and report the HTTP status result in a separate terminal window.

With this application load running, metrics will become much more interesting in the next few steps.



## Querying Metrics with Prometheus

[Prometheus](#) exposes an endpoint serving generated metric values. The Prometheus add-on is a Prometheus server that comes pre-configured to scrape Mixer endpoints to collect the exposed metrics. It provides a mechanism for persistent storage and querying of Istio metrics.

Open the Prometheus UI:

- Prometheus UI at

`http://prometheus-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX`

In the “Expression” input box at the top of the web page, enter the text: `istio_request_count`. Then, click the **Execute** button.

You should see a listing of each of the application’s services along with a count of how many times it was accessed.

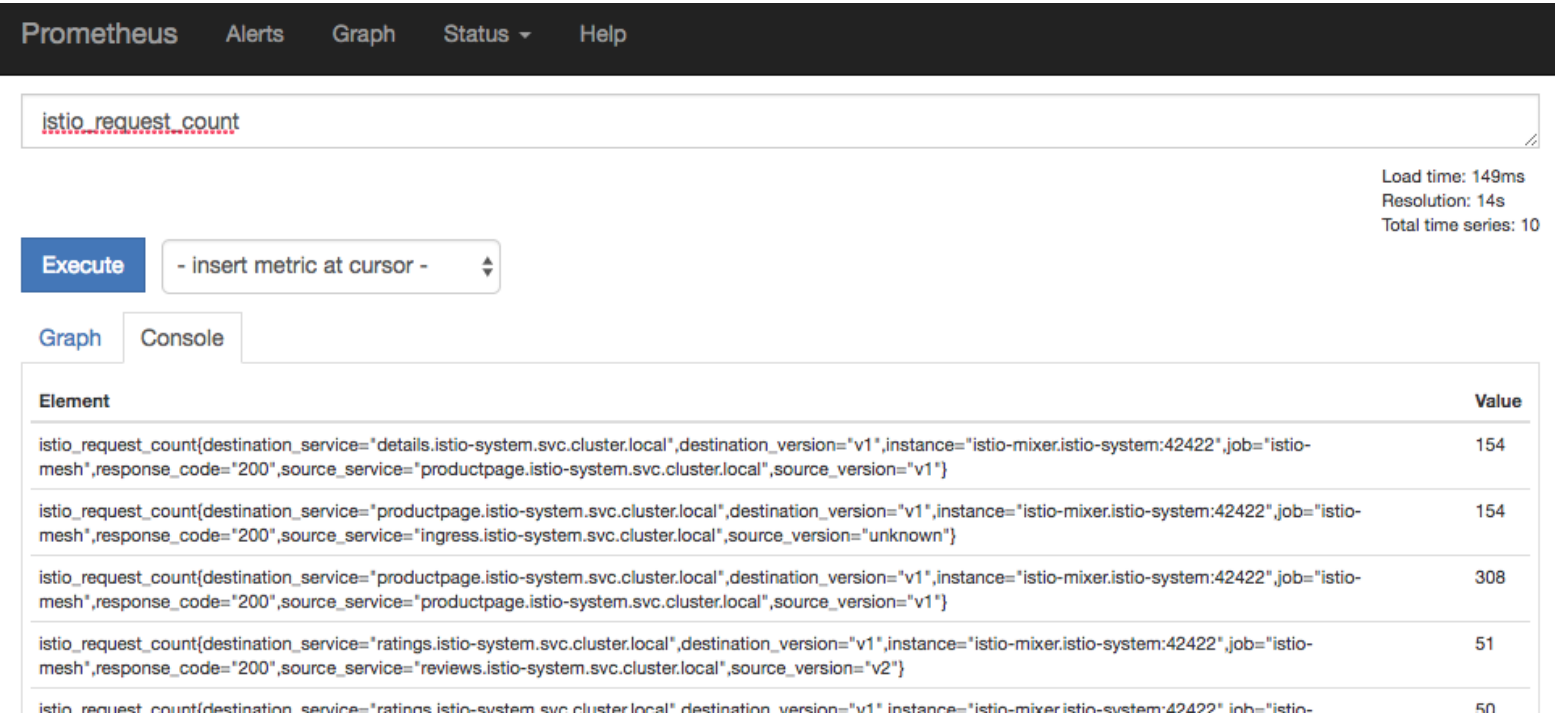


Figure 6: Prometheus console

You can also graph the results over time by clicking on the *Graph* tab (adjust the timeframe from 1h to 1minute for example):

Other expressions to try:

- Total count of all requests to productpage service: `istio_request_count{destination_service=~"productpage.*"}`
- Total count of all requests to v3 of the reviews service: `istio_request_count{destination_service=~"reviews.*",destination_version="v3"}`
- Rate of requests over the past 5 minutes to all productpage services: `rate(istio_request_count{destination_service="productpage.*",response_code="200"}[5m])`

There are many, many different queries you can perform to extract the data you need. Consult the [Prometheus documentation](#) for more detail.

## Visualizing Metrics with Grafana

As the number of services and interactions grows in your application, this style of metrics may be a bit overwhelming. [Grafana](#) provides a visual representation of many available Prometheus metrics extracted from the Istio data plane and can be used to quickly spot problems and take action.

Open the Grafana Dashboard:

- Grafana Dashboard at

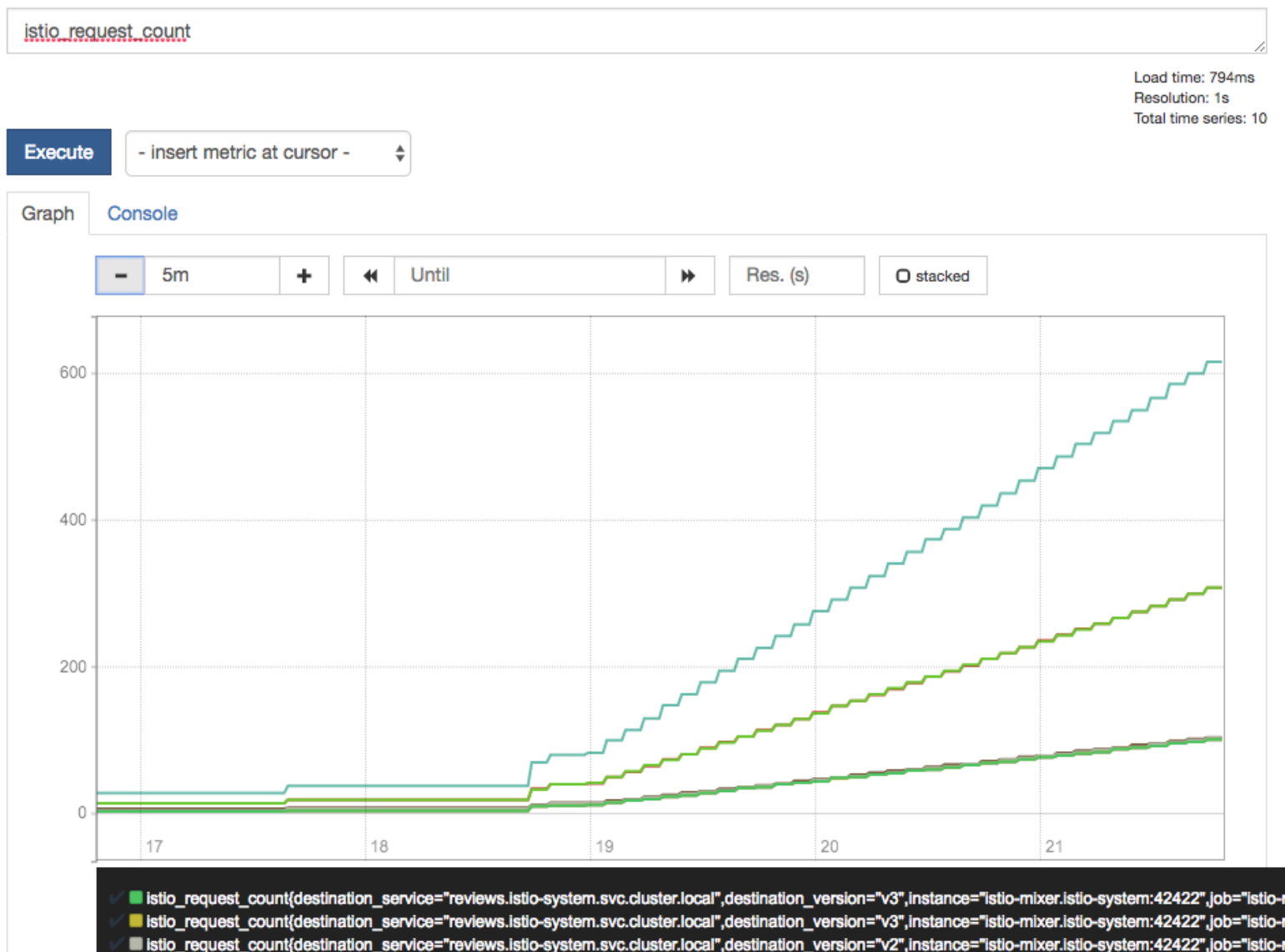


Figure 7: Prometheus graph

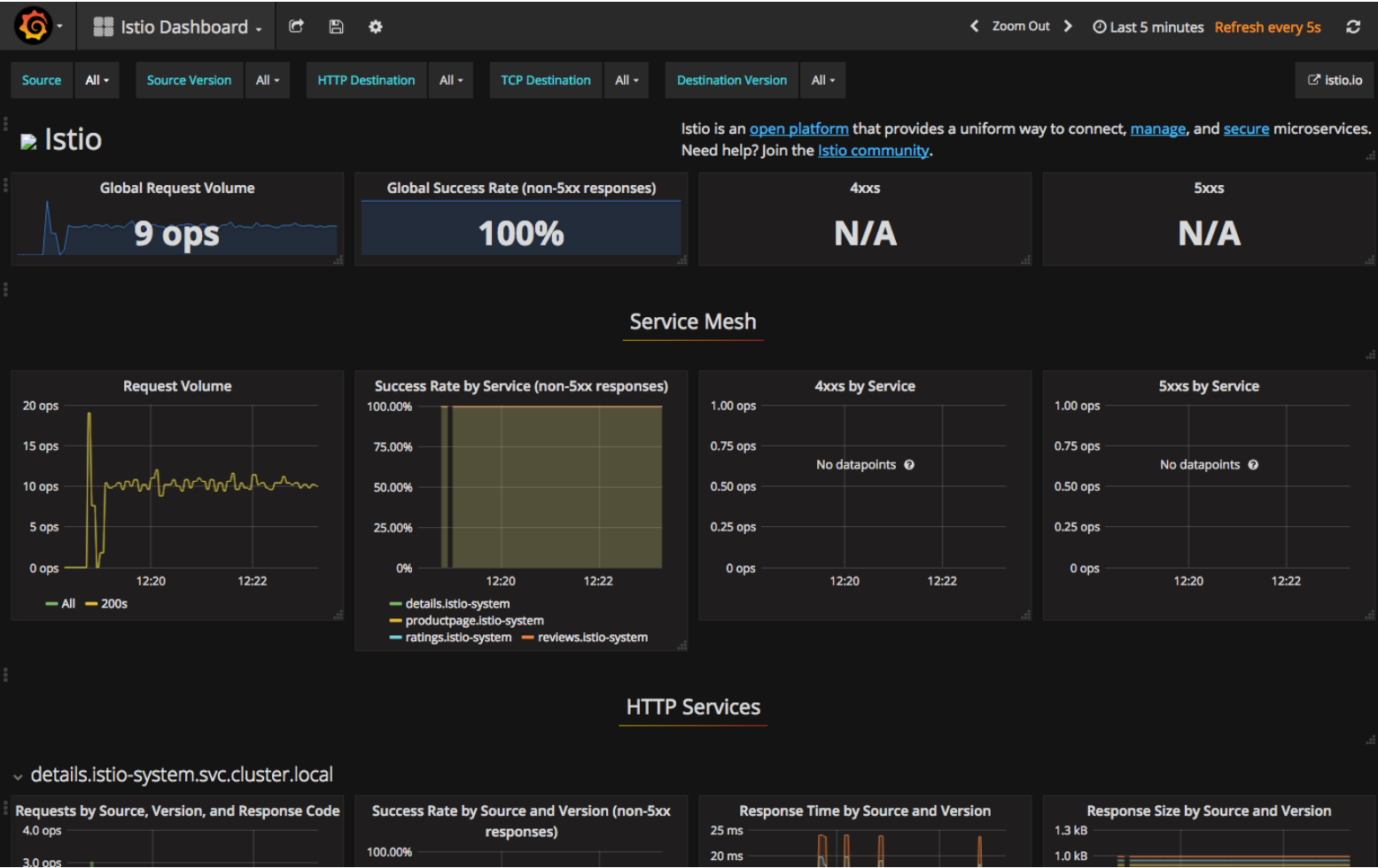


Figure 8: Grafana graph

http://grafana-istio-system.\$ROUTE\_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard

The Grafana Dashboard for Istio consists of three main sections:

1. **A Global Summary View.** This section provides high-level summary of HTTP requests flowing through the service mesh.
2. **A Mesh Summary View.** This section provides slightly more detail than the Global Summary View, allowing per-service filtering and selection.
3. **Individual Services View.** This section provides metrics about requests and responses for each individual service within the mesh (HTTP and TCP).

Scroll down to the ratings service graph:

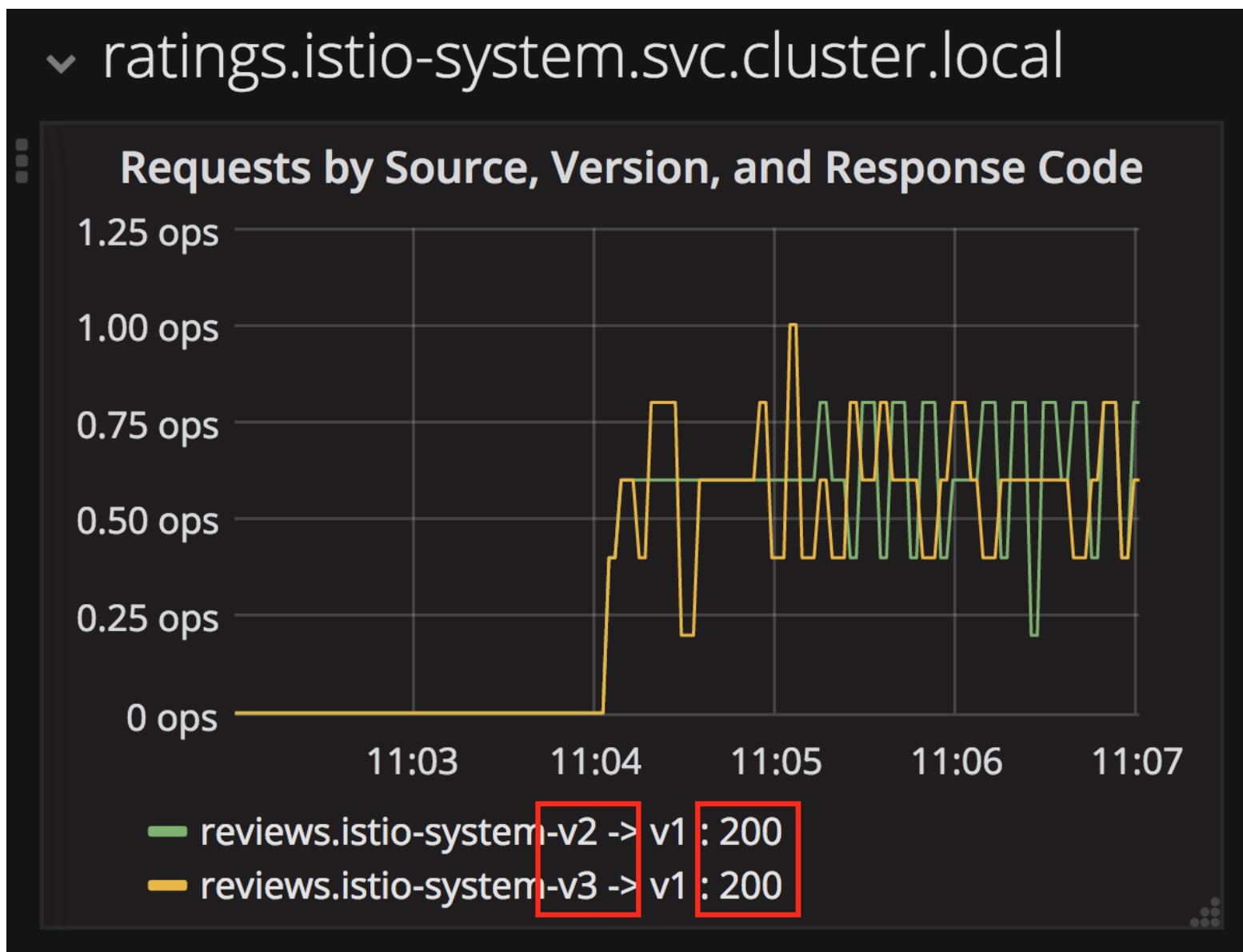


Figure 9: Grafana graph

This graph shows which other services are accessing the ratings service. You can see that reviews:v2 and reviews:v3 are calling the ratings service, and each call is resulting in HTTP 200 (OK). Since the default routing is *round-robin*, that means each reviews service is calling the ratings service equally. And reviews:v1 never calls it, as we expect.

For more on how to create, configure, and edit dashboards, please see the [Grafana documentation](#).

As a developer, you can get quite a bit of information from these metrics without doing anything to the application itself. Let's use our new tools in the next section to see the real power of Istio to diagnose and fix issues in applications and make them more resilient and robust.

## Request Routing

This task shows you how to configure dynamic request routing based on weights and HTTP headers.

*Route rules* control how requests are routed within an Istio service mesh. Route rules provide:

- **Timeouts**
- **Bounded retries** with timeout budgets and variable jitter between retries
- **Limits** on number of concurrent connections and requests to upstream services
- **Active (periodic) health checks** on each member of the load balancing pool
- **Fine-grained circuit breakers** (passive health checks) – applied per instance in the load balancing pool

Requests can be routed based on the source and destination, HTTP header fields, and weights associated with individual service versions. For example, a route rule could route requests to different versions of a service.

Together, these features enable the service mesh to tolerate failing nodes and prevent localized failures from cascading instability to other nodes. However, applications must still be designed to deal with failures by taking appropriate fallback actions. For example, when all instances in a load balancing pool have failed, Istio will return HTTP 503. It is the responsibility of the application to implement any fallback logic that is needed to handle the HTTP 503 error code from an upstream service.

If your application already provides some defensive measures (e.g. using [Netflix Hystrix](#)), then that's OK: Istio is completely transparent to the application. A failure response returned by Istio would not be distinguishable from a failure response returned by the upstream service to which the call was made.

## Service Versions

Istio introduces the concept of a service version, which is a finer-grained way to subdivide service instances by versions (v1, v2) or environment (staging, prod). These variants are not necessarily different API versions: they could be iterative changes to the same service, deployed in different environments (prod, staging, dev, etc.). Common scenarios where this is used include A/B testing or canary rollouts. Istio's [traffic routing rules](#) can refer to service versions to provide additional control over traffic between services.

As illustrated in the figure above, clients of a service have no knowledge of different versions of the service. They can continue to access the services using the hostname/IP address of the service. The Envoy sidecar/proxy intercepts and forwards all requests/responses between the client and the service.

## RouteRule objects

In addition to the usual OpenShift object types like BuildConfig, DeploymentConfig, Service and Route, you also have new object types installed as part of Istio like RouteRule. Adding these objects to the running OpenShift cluster is how you configure routing rules for Istio.

## Install a default route rule

Because the BookInfo sample deploys 3 versions of the reviews microservice, we need to set a default route. Otherwise if you access the application several times, you'll notice that sometimes the output contains star ratings. This is because without an explicit default version set, Istio will route requests to all available versions of a service in a random fashion, and anytime you hit v1 version you'll get no stars.

First, let's set an environment variable to point to Istio:

```
export ISTIO_VERSION=0.6.0; export ISTIO_HOME=${HOME}/istio-${ISTIO_VERSION}; export PATH=${PATH}:${ISTIO_HOME}
cd ${ISTIO_HOME}
```

Now let's install a default set of routing rules which will direct all traffic to the reviews:v1 service version:

```
oc create -f samples/bookinfo/kube/route-rule-all-v1.yaml
```

You can see this default set of rules with:

```
oc get routerules -o yaml
```

There are default routing rules for each service, such as the one that forces all traffic to the v1 version of the reviews service:

```
oc get routerules/reviews-default -o yaml
```

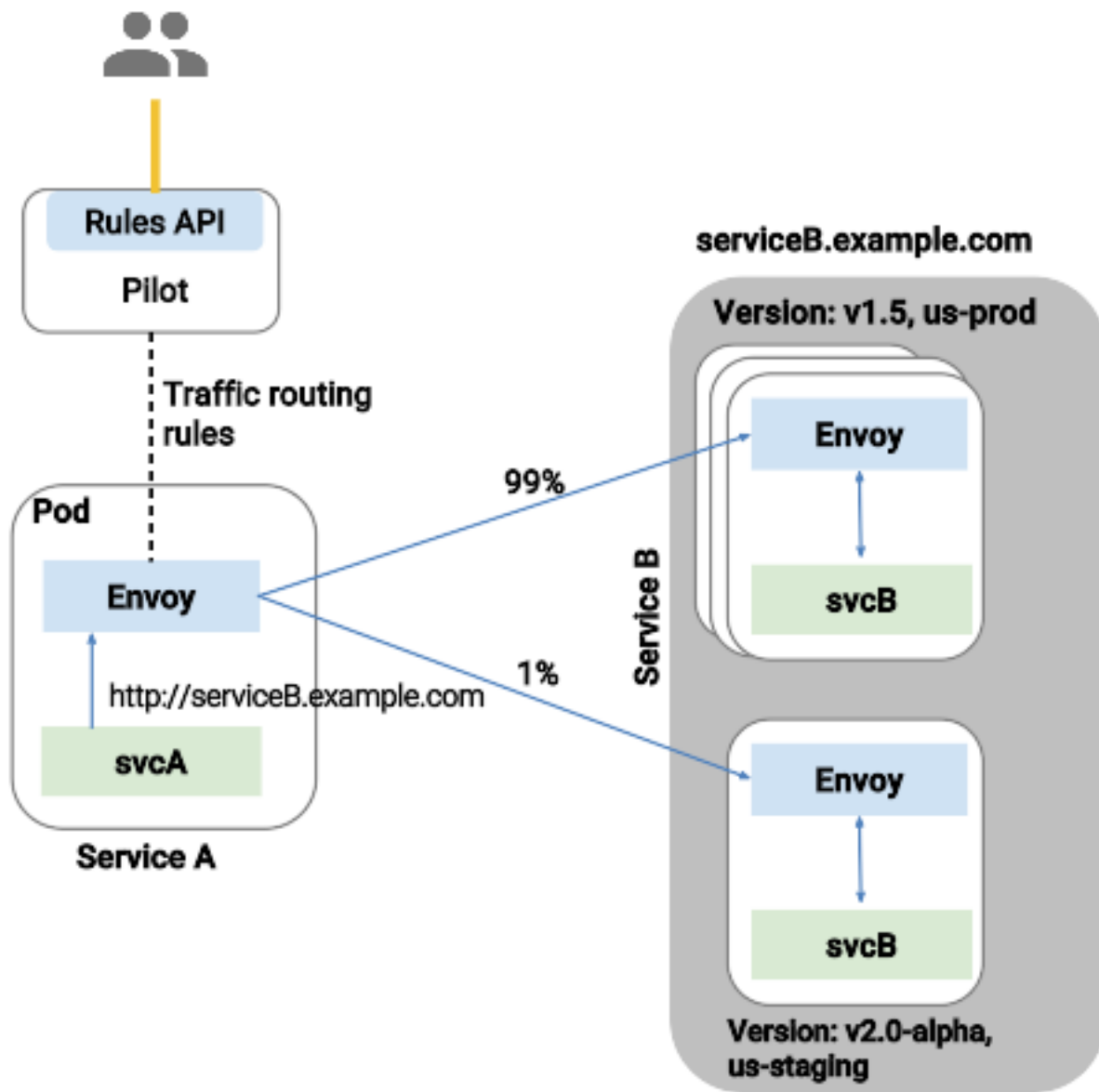


Figure 10: Versions

```

apiVersion: config.istio.io/v1alpha2
kind: RouteRule
metadata:
  name: reviews-default
  namespace: default
  ...
spec:
  destination:
    name: reviews
  precedence: 1
  route:
  - labels:
      version: v1

```

Now, access the application again in your browser using the below link and reload the page several times - you should not see any rating stars since reviews:v1 does not access the ratings service.

- Bookinfo Application with no rating stars at

[http://istio-ingress-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/productpage](http://istio-ingress-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/productpage)

To verify this, open the Grafana Dashboard:

- Grafana Dashboard at

[http://grafana-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard](http://grafana-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard)

Scroll down to the ratings service and notice that the requests coming from the reviews service have stopped:

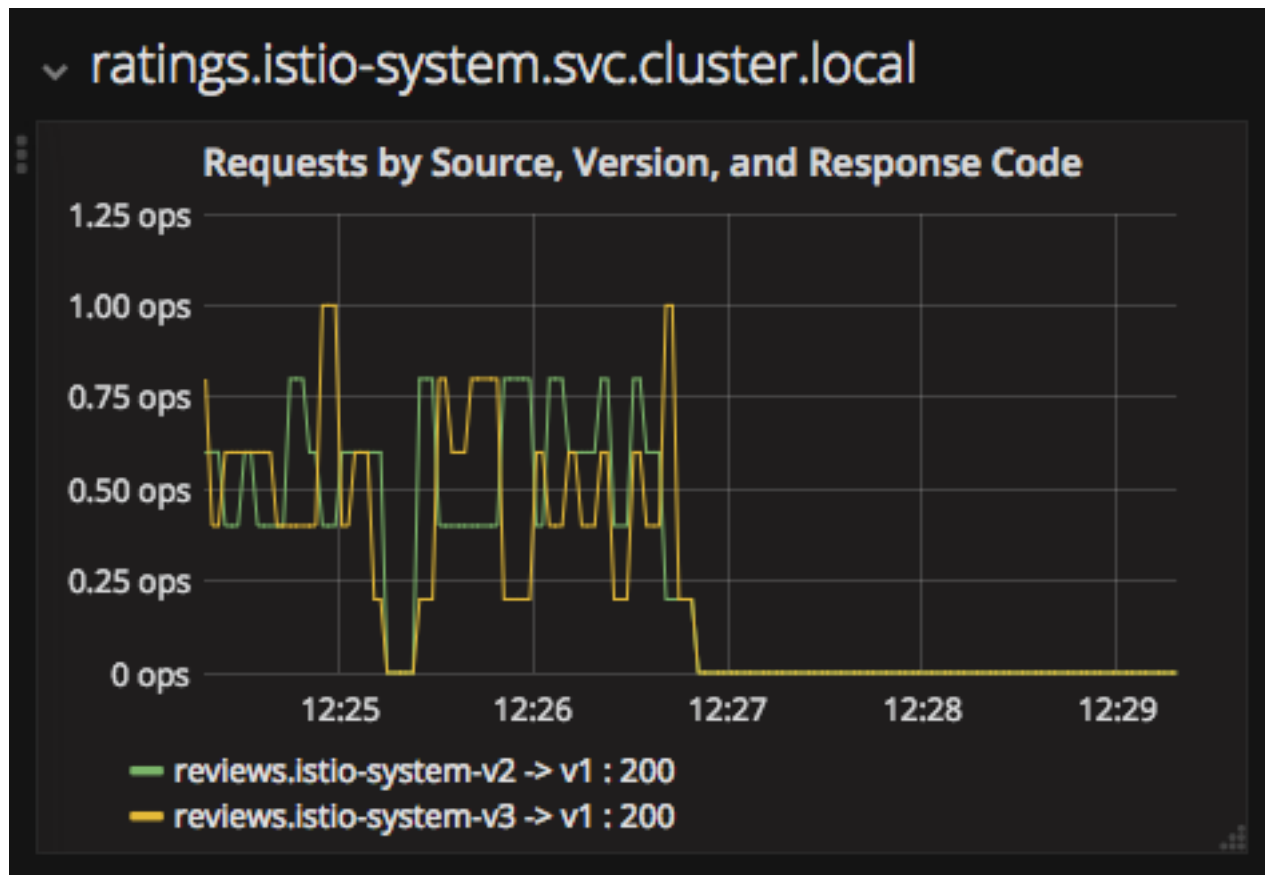


Figure 11: Versions

## A/B Testing with Istio

Lets enable the ratings service for a test user named "jason" by routing productpage traffic to reviews:v2, but only for our test user. Execute:

```
oc create -f samples/bookinfo/kube/route-rule-reviews-test-v2.yaml
```

Confirm the rule is created:

```
oc get routerule reviews-test-v2 -o yaml
```

Notice the match element:

```
match:
  request:
    headers:
      cookie:
        regex: ^(..*?;)?(user=jason)(;.*)?$
```

This says that for any incoming HTTP request that has a cookie set to the jason user to direct traffic to reviews:v2.

Now, access the application at

[http://istio-ingress-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/productpage](http://istio-ingress-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/productpage)) and click **\*\*Sign In\*\*** (at the upper right and sign in with:

- Username: jason
- Password: jason

If you get any certificate security exceptions, just accept them and continue. This is due to the use of self-signed certs.

Once you login, refresh a few times - you should always see the black ratings stars coming from ratings:v2. If you logout, you'll return to the reviews:v1 version which shows no stars. You may even see a small blip of access to ratings:v2 on the Grafana dashboard if you refresh quickly 5-10 times while logged in as the test user jason.

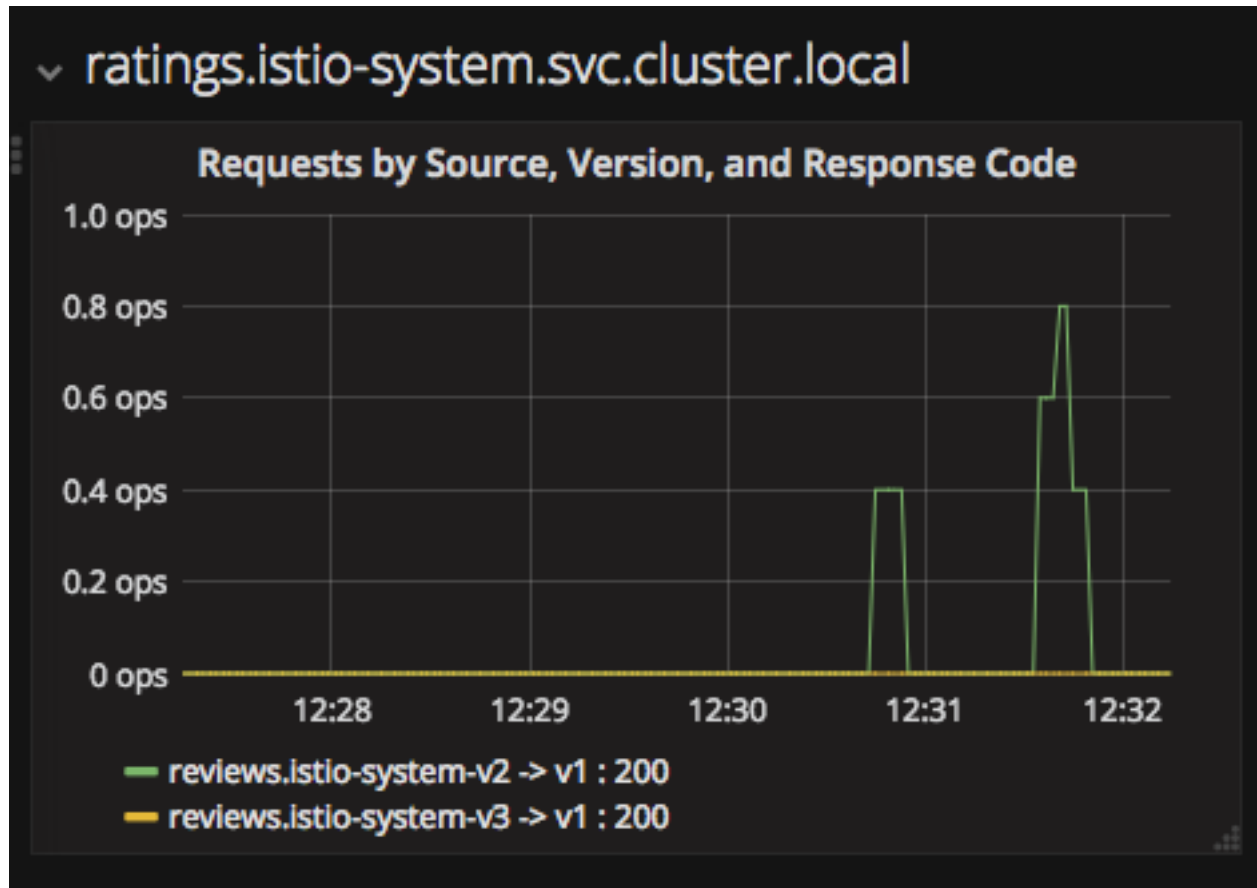


Figure 12: Ratings for Test User

## Congratulations!

In this step, you used Istio to send 100% of the traffic to the v1 version of each of the BookInfo services. You then set a rule to selectively send traffic to version v2 of the reviews service based on a header (i.e., a user cookie) in a request.

Once the v2 version has been tested to our satisfaction, we could use Istio to send traffic from all users to v2, optionally in a gradual fashion. We'll explore this in the next step.



## Fault Injection

This step shows how to inject faults and test the resiliency of your application.

Istio provides a set of failure recovery features that can be taken advantage of by the services in an application. Features include:

- Timeouts
- Bounded retries with timeout budgets and variable jitter between retries
- Limits on number of concurrent connections and requests to upstream services
- Active (periodic) health checks on each member of the load balancing pool
- Fine-grained circuit breakers (passive health checks) – applied per instance in the load balancing pool

These features can be dynamically configured at runtime through Istio's traffic management rules.

A combination of active and passive health checks minimizes the chances of accessing an unhealthy service. When combined with platform-level health checks (such as readiness/liveness probes in OpenShift), applications can ensure that unhealthy pods/containers/VMs can be quickly weeded out of the service mesh, minimizing the request failures and impact on latency.

Together, these features enable the service mesh to tolerate failing nodes and prevent localized failures from cascading instability to other nodes.

## Fault Injection

While Istio provides a host of failure recovery mechanisms outlined above, it is still imperative to test the end-to-end failure recovery capability of the application as a whole. Misconfigured failure recovery policies (e.g., incompatible/restrictive timeouts across service calls) could result in continued unavailability of critical services in the application, resulting in poor user experience.

Istio enables protocol-specific fault injection into the network (instead of killing pods) by delaying or corrupting packets at TCP layer.

Two types of faults can be injected: delays and aborts. Delays are timing failures, mimicking increased network latency, or an overloaded upstream service. Aborts are crash failures that mimic failures in upstream services. Aborts usually manifest in the form of HTTP error codes, or TCP connection failures.

## Inject a fault

To test our application microservices for resiliency, we will inject a 7 second delay between the reviews:v2 and ratings microservices, for user jason. This will be a simulated bug in the code which we will discover later.

Since the reviews:v2 service has a built-in 10 second timeout for its calls to the ratings service, we expect the end-to-end flow to continue without any errors. Execute:

```
oc create -f samples/bookinfo/kube/route-rule-ratings-test-delay.yaml
```

And confirm that the delay rule was created:

```
oc get routerule ratings-test-delay -o yaml
```

Notice the httpFault element:

```
httpFault:
  delay:
    fixedDelay: 7.000s
    percent: 100
```

Now, access the application at

`http://istio-ingress-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/productpage` and click **Login** and login with:

- Username: jason
- Password: jason

If the application's front page was set to correctly handle delays, we expect it to load within approximately 7 seconds. To see the web page response times, open the Developer Tools menu in IE, Chrome or Firefox (typically, key combination Ctrl+Shift+I or Alt+Cmd+I), tab Network, and reload the bookinfo web page.

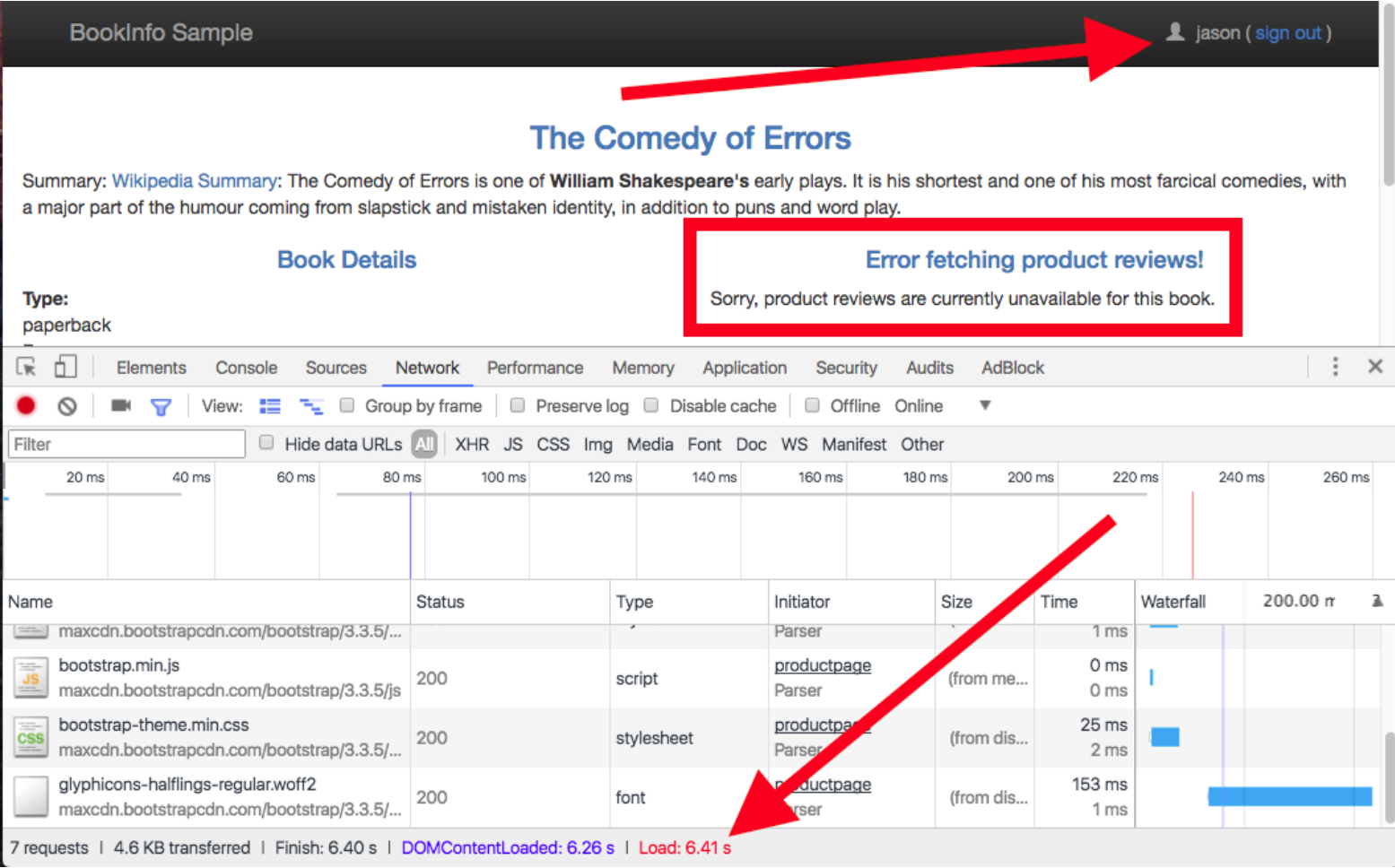


Figure 13: Delay

You will see and feel that the webpage loads in about 6 seconds:

The reviews section will show: **Sorry, product reviews are currently unavailable for this book:**

## Use tracing to identify the bug

The reason that the entire reviews service has failed is because our BookInfo application has a bug. The timeout between the productpage and reviews service is less (3s times 2 retries == 6s total) than the timeout between the reviews and ratings service (10s). These kinds of bugs can occur in typical enterprise applications where different teams develop different microservices independently.

Identifying this timeout mismatch is not so easy by observing the application, but is very easy when using Istio's built-in tracing capabilities. We will explore tracing in depth later on in this scenario and re-visit this issue.

## Fixing the bug

At this point we would normally fix the problem by either increasing the productpage timeout or decreasing the reviews -> ratings service timeout, terminate and restart the fixed microservice, and then confirm that the productpage returns its response without any errors.

However, we already have this fix running in v3 of the reviews service, so we can simply fix the problem by migrating all traffic to reviews:v3. We'll do this in the next step!

## Traffic Shifting

This step shows you how to gradually migrate traffic from an old to new version of a service. With Istio, we can migrate the traffic in a gradual fashion by using a sequence of rules with weights less than 100 to migrate traffic in steps, for example 10, 20, 30, ... 100%. For simplicity this task will migrate the traffic from reviews:v1 to reviews:v3 in just two steps: 50%, 100%.

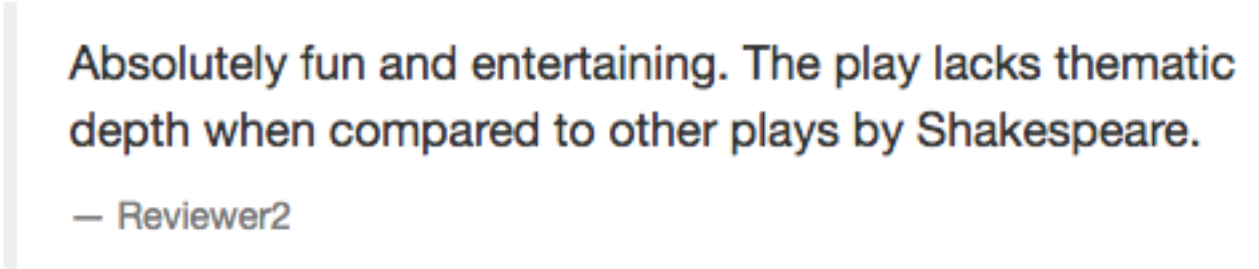
## Remove test routes

Now that we've identified and fixed the bug, let's undo our previous testing routes. Execute:

```
oc delete -f samples/bookinfo/kube/route-rule-reviews-test-v2.yaml \
```

At this point, we are back to sending all traffic to reviews:v1. Access the application at

[http://istio-ingress-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/productpage](http://istio-ingress-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/productpage) and verify that no matter how many times you reload your browser, you'll always get no ratings stars, since reviews:v1 doesn't ever access the ratings service:



Absolutely fun and entertaining. The play lacks thematic depth when compared to other plays by Shakespeare.

— Reviewer2

Figure 14: no stars

Open the Grafana dashboard and verify that the ratings service is receiving no traffic at all:

- Grafana Dashboard at

[http://grafana-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard](http://grafana-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard)

Scroll down to the reviews service and observe that all traffic from productpage to reviews:v2 and reviews:v3 have stopped, and that only reviews:v1 is receiving requests:

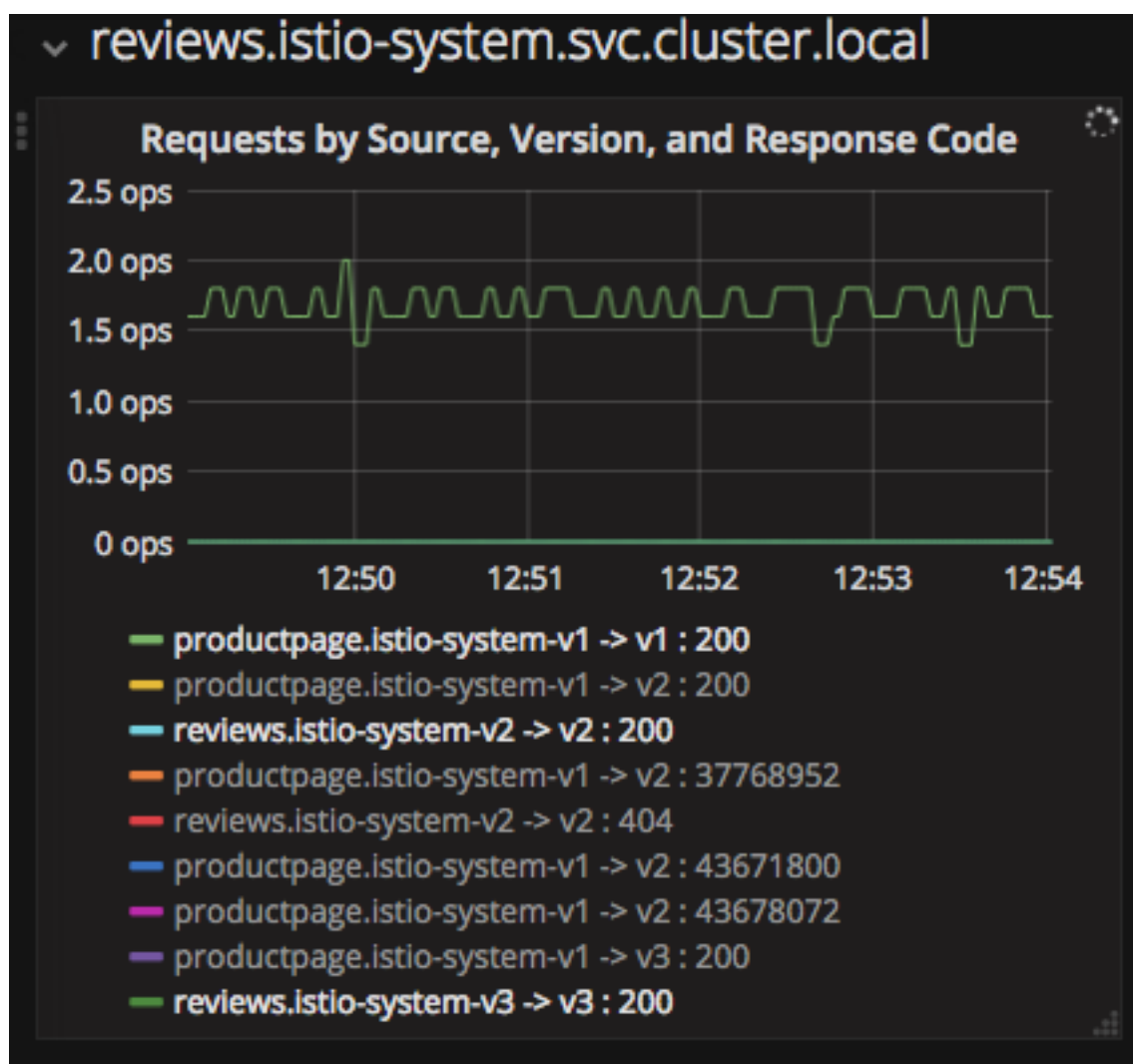


Figure 15: no traffic

In Grafana you can click on each service version below each graph to only show one graph at a time. Try it by clicking on `productpage.istio-system-v1 -> v1 : 200`. This shows a graph of all requests coming from `productpage` to `reviews` version `v1` that returned HTTP 200 (Success). You can then click on `productpage.istio-system-v1 -> v2 : 200` to verify no traffic is being sent to `reviews:v2`:

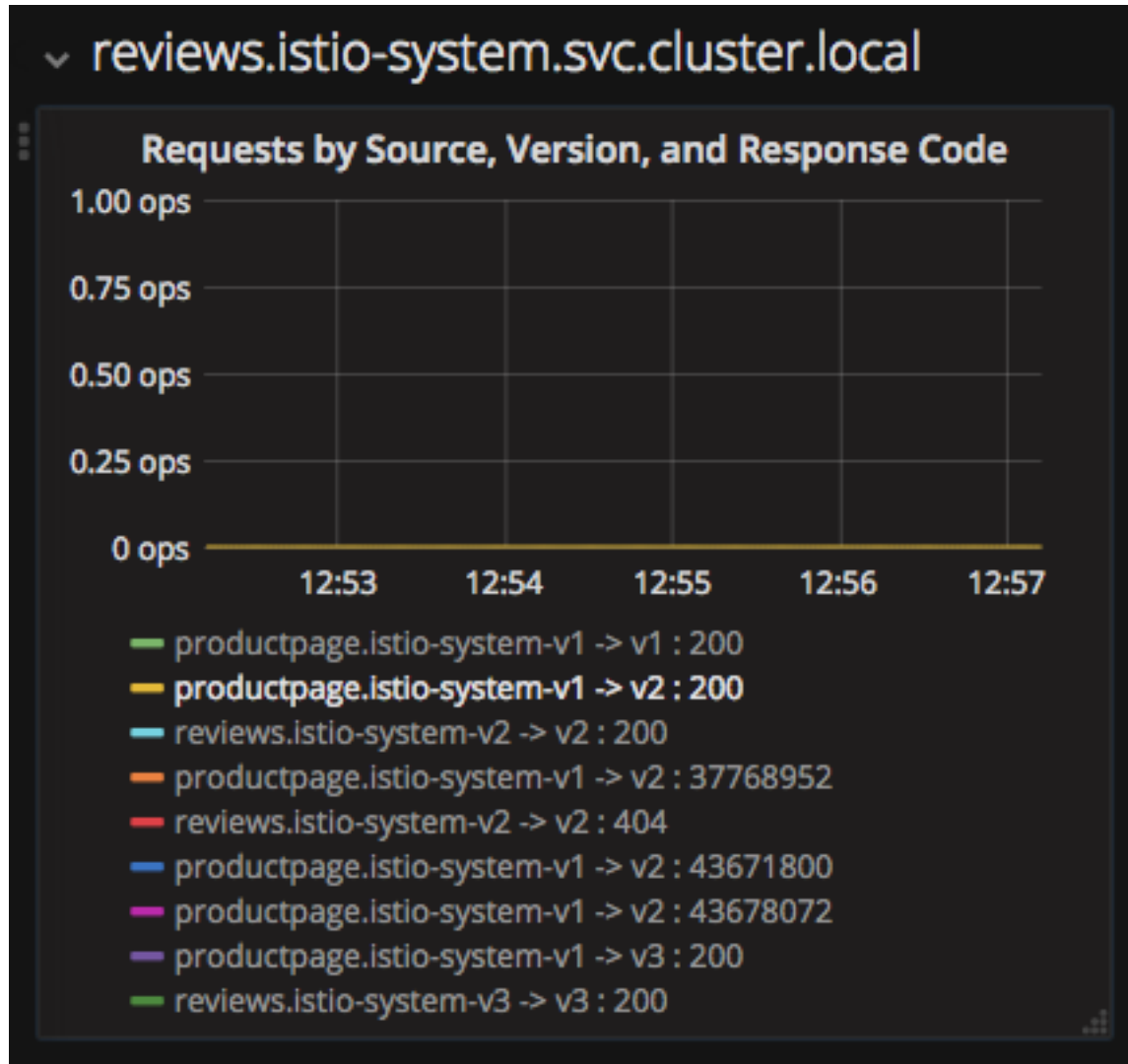


Figure 16: no traffic 2

## Migrate users to v3

To start the process, let's send half (50%) of the users to our new `v3` version with the fix, to do a canary test. Execute the following command which replaces the `reviews-default` rule with a new rule:

```
oc replace -f samples/bookinfo/kube/route-rule-reviews-50-v3.yaml
```

Inspect the new rule:

```
oc get routerule reviews-default -o yaml
```

Notice the new weight elements:

```
route:
- labels:
    version: v1
  weight: 50
- labels:
    version: v3
  weight: 50
```

Open the Grafana dashboard and verify this:

- Grafana Dashboard at

[http://grafana-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard](http://grafana-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard)

Scroll down to the reviews service and observe that half the traffic goes to each of v1 and v3 and none goes to v2:

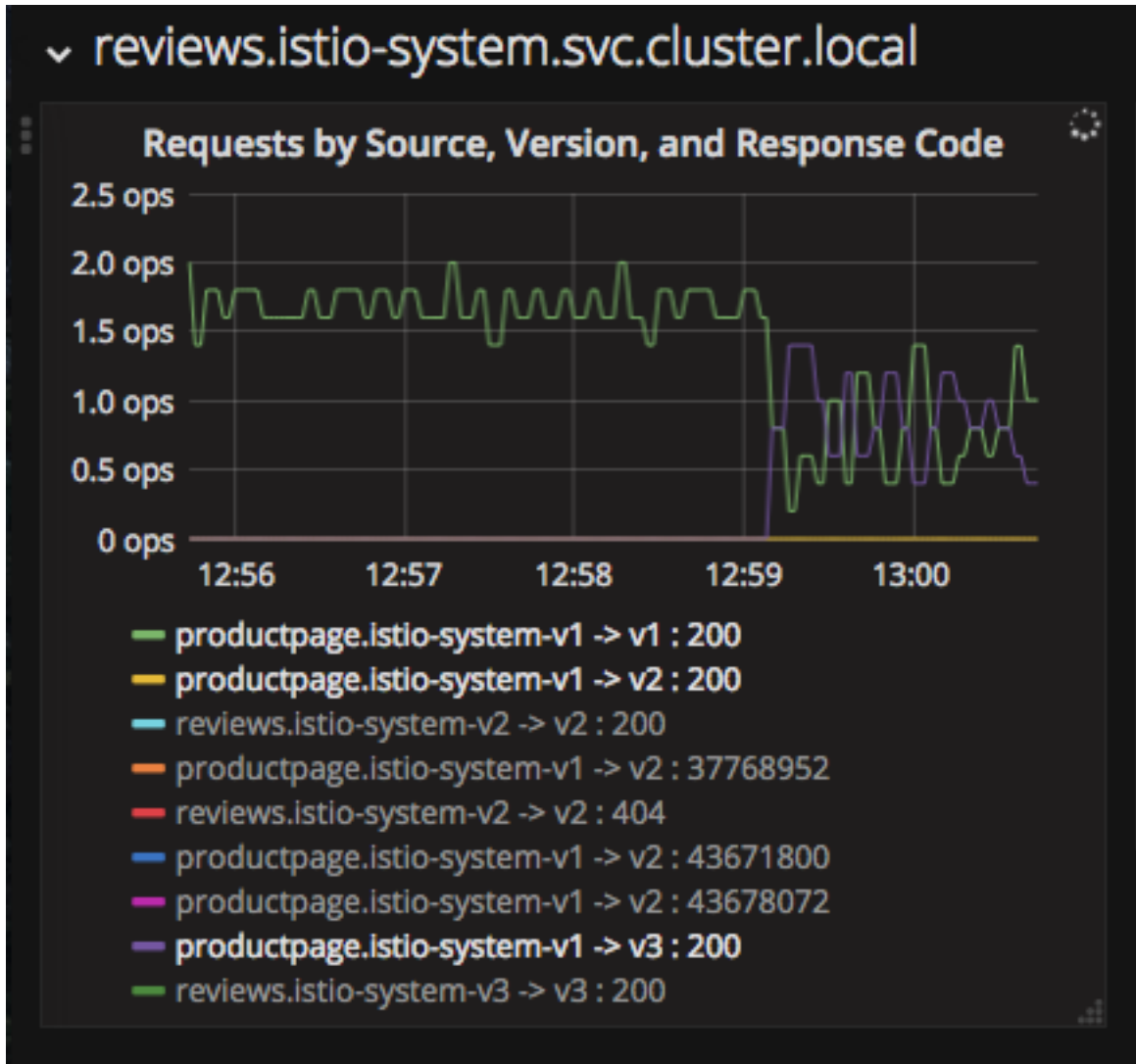


Figure 17: half traffic

At this point, we see some traffic going to v3 and are happy with the result. Access the application at

[http://istio-ingress-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/productpage](http://istio-ingress-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/productpage) and verify that you either get no ratings stars (v1) or *red* ratings stars (v3).

We are now happy with the new version v3 and want to migrate everyone to it. Execute:

```
oc replace -f samples/bookinfo/kube/route-rule-reviews-v3.yaml
```

Once again, open the Grafana dashboard and verify this:

- Grafana Dashboard at

[http://grafana-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard](http://grafana-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard)

Scroll down to the reviews service and observe that all traffic is now going to v3:

Also, Access the application at

[http://istio-ingress-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/productpage](http://istio-ingress-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/productpage) and verify that you always get *red* ratings stars (v3).

✓ reviews.istio-system.svc.cluster.local

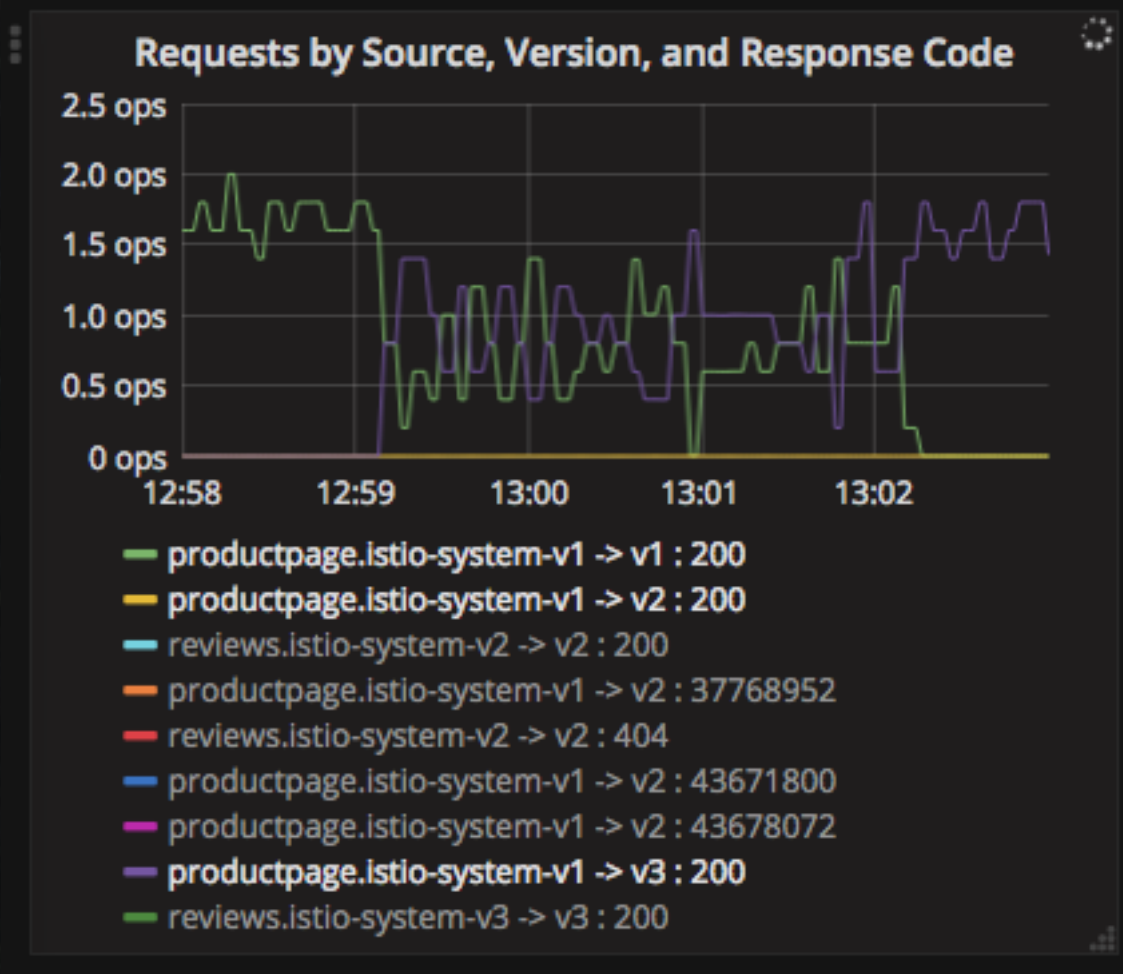


Figure 18: all v3 traffic



## Congratulations!

In this task we migrated traffic from an old to new version of the reviews service using Istio's weighted routing feature. Note that this is very different than version migration using deployment features of OpenShift, which use instance scaling to manage the traffic. With Istio, we can allow the two versions of the reviews service to scale up and down independently, without affecting the traffic distribution between them. For more about version routing with autoscaling, check out [Canary Deployments using Istio](#).

In the next step, we will explore circuit breaking, which is useful for avoiding cascading failures and overloaded microservices, giving the system a chance to recover and minimize downtime.

## Circuit Breaking

In this step you will configure an Istio Circuit Breaker to protect the calls from reviews to ratings service. If the ratings service gets overloaded due to call volume, Istio (in conjunction with Kubernetes) will limit future calls to the service instances to allow them to recover.

Circuit breaking is a critical component of distributed systems. It's nearly always better to fail quickly and apply back pressure downstream as soon as possible. Istio enforces circuit breaking limits at the network level as opposed to having to configure and code each application independently.

Istio supports various types of circuit breaking:

- **Cluster maximum connections:** The maximum number of connections that Istio will establish to all hosts in a cluster.
- **Cluster maximum pending requests:** The maximum number of requests that will be queued while waiting for a ready connection pool connection.
- **Cluster maximum requests:** The maximum number of requests that can be outstanding to all hosts in a cluster at any given time. In practice this is applicable to HTTP/2 clusters since HTTP/1.1 clusters are governed by the maximum connections circuit breaker.
- **Cluster maximum active retries:** The maximum number of retries that can be outstanding to all hosts in a cluster at any given time. In general Istio recommends aggressively circuit breaking retries so that retries for sporadic failures are allowed but the overall retry volume cannot explode and cause large scale cascading failure.

Note that HTTP 2 uses a single connection and never queues (always multiplexes), so max connections and max pending requests are not applicable.

Each circuit breaking limit is configurable and tracked on a per upstream cluster and per priority basis. This allows different components of the distributed system to be tuned independently and have different limits. See the [Istio Circuit Breaker Spec](#) for more details.

## Enable Circuit Breaker

Let's add a circuit breaker to the calls to the ratings service. Instead of using a *RouteRule* object, circuit breakers in istio are defined as *DestinationPolicy* objects. *DestinationPolicy* defines client/caller-side policies that determine how to handle traffic bound to a particular destination service. The policy specifies configuration for load balancing and circuit breakers.

Add a circuit breaker to protect calls destined for the ratings service:

```
oc create -f - <<EOF
apiVersion: config.istio.io/v1alpha2
kind: DestinationPolicy
metadata:
  name: ratings-cb
spec:
  destination:
    name: ratings
    labels:
      version: v1
  circuitBreaker:
    simpleCb:
      maxConnections: 1
      httpMaxPendingRequests: 1
      httpConsecutiveErrors: 1
<<EOF
```



```
sleepWindow: 15m
httpDetectionInterval: 10s
httpMaxEjectionPercent: 100
```

EOF

We set the ratings service's maximum connections to 1 and maximum pending requests to 1. Thus, if we send more than 2 requests within a short period of time to the reviews service, 1 will go through, 1 will be pending, and any additional requests will be denied until the pending request is processed. Furthermore, it will detect any hosts that return a server error (5XX) and eject the pod out of the load balancing pool for 15 minutes. You can visit [here](#) to check the [Istio spec](#) for more details on what each configuration parameter does.

## Overload the service

Let's use some simple curl commands to send multiple concurrent requests to our application, and witness the circuit breaker kicking in opening the circuit.

Execute this to simulate a number of users attempting to access the application simultaneously:

```
for i in {1..10} ; do
  curl 'http://istio-ingress-istio-system. [[HOST_SUBDOMAIN]] -80- [[KATACODA_HOST]].environments'
done
```

Due to the very conservative circuit breaker, many of these calls will fail with HTTP 503 (Server Unavailable). To see this, open the Grafana console:

- Grafana Dashboard at

`http://grafana-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard`

**NOTE:** It may take 10-20 seconds before the evidence of the circuit breaker is visible within the Grafana dashboard, due to the not-quite-realtime nature of Prometheus metrics and Grafana refresh periods and general network latency.

Notice at the top, the increase in the number of **5xxs Responses** at the top right of the dashboard:

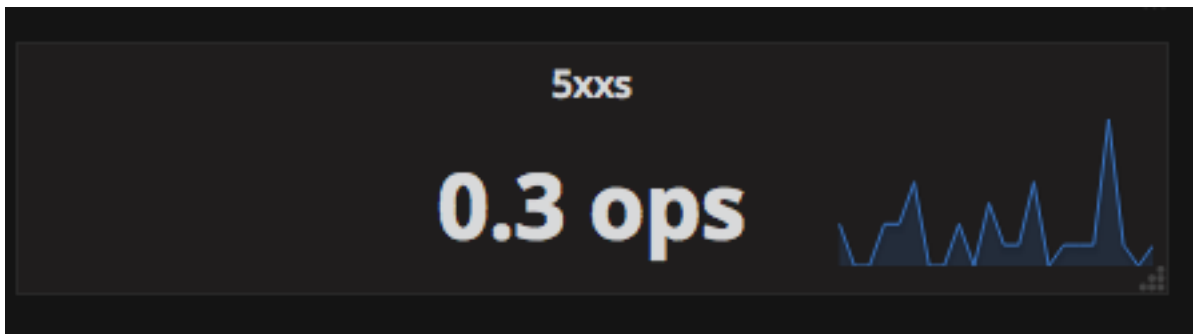


Figure 19: 5xxs

Below that, in the **Service Mesh** section of the dashboard observe that the services are returning 503 (Service Unavailable) quite a lot:

That's the circuit breaker in action, limiting the number of requests to the service. In practice your limits would be much higher

## Stop overloading

Before moving on, stop the traffic generator by clicking [here](#) to stop them:

```
for i in {1..10} ; do kill %${i} ; done
```

## Pod Ejection

In addition to limiting the traffic, Istio can also forcibly eject pods out of service if they are running slowly or not at all. To see this, let's deploy a pod that doesn't work (has a bug).

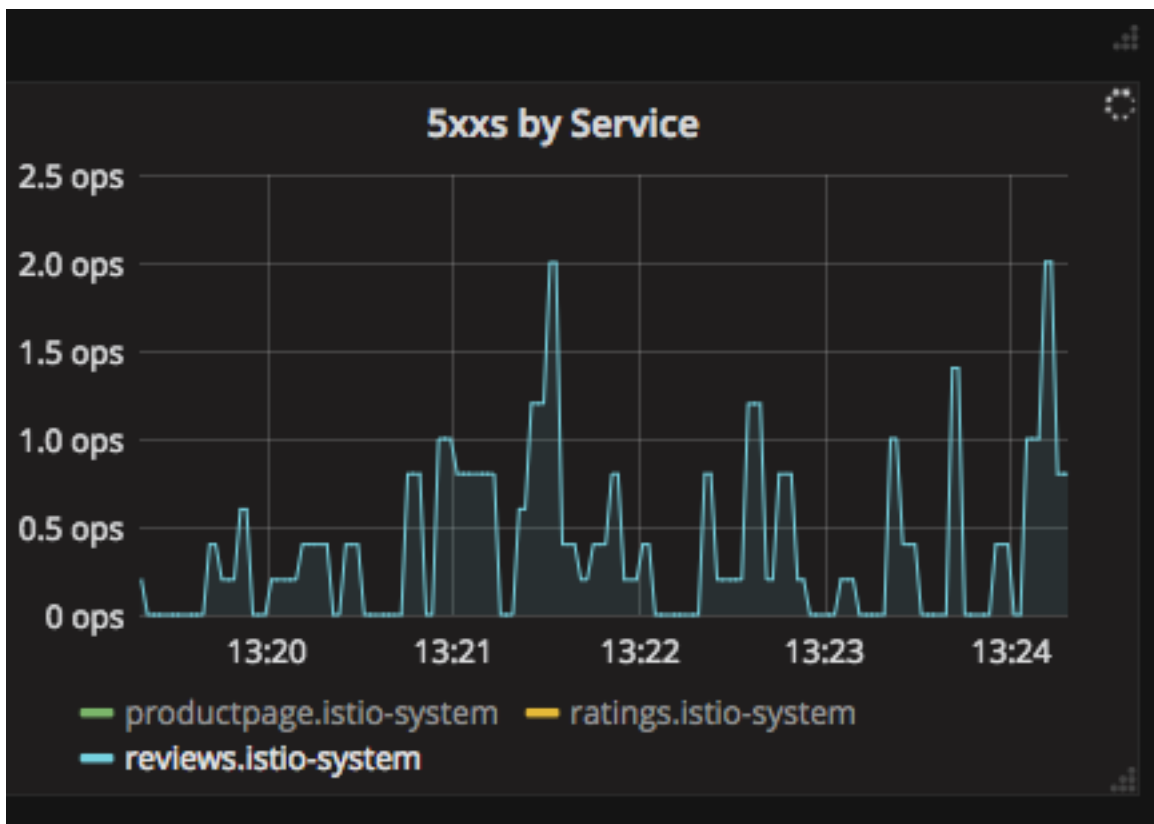


Figure 20: 5xxs

First, let's define a new circuit breaker, very similar to the previous one but without the arbitrary connection limits. To do this, execute:

```
oc replace -f - <<EOF
apiVersion: config.istio.io/v1alpha2
kind: DestinationPolicy
metadata:
  name: ratings-cb
spec:
  destination:
    name: ratings
    labels:
      version: v1
  circuitBreaker:
    simpleCb:
      httpConsecutiveErrors: 1
      sleepWindow: 15m
      httpDetectionInterval: 10s
      httpMaxEjectionPercent: 100
EOF
```

This policy says that if any instance of the ratings service fails more than once, it will be ejected for 15 minutes.

Next, deploy a new instance of the ratings service which has been misconfigured and will return a failure (HTTP 500) value for any request. Execute:

```
${ISTIO_HOME}/bin/istioctl kube-inject -f ~/projects/ratings/broken.yaml | oc create -f -
```

Verify that the broken pod has been added to the ratings load balancing service:

```
oc get pods -l app=ratings
```

You should see 2 pods, including the broken one:

NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
ratings-v1-3080059732-5ts95	2/2	Running	0	3h
ratings-v1-broken-1694306571-c6zlk	2/2	Running	0	7s

Save the name of this pod to an environment variable:

```
BROKEN_POD_NAME=$(oc get pods -l app=ratings,broken=true -o jsonpath='{.items[?(@.status.phase=="Run
```

Requests to the ratings service will be load-balanced across these two pods. The circuit breaker will detect the failures in the broken pod and eject it from the load balancing pool for a minimum of 15 minutes. In the real world this would give the failing pod a chance to recover or be killed and replaced. For mis-configured pods that will never recover, this means that the pod will very rarely be accessed (once every 15 minutes, and this would also be very noticeable in production environment monitoring like those we are using in this workshop).

To trigger this, simply access the application:

- Application Link at

`http://istio-ingress-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/productpage`

Reload the webpage 5-10 times (click the reload icon, or press CMD-R, or CTRL-R) and notice that you only see a failure (no stars) ONE time, due to the circuit breaker's policy for `httpConsecutiveErrors=1`. After the first error, the pod is ejected from the load balancing pool for 15 minutes and you should see red stars from now on.

Verify that the broken pod only received one request that failed:

```
oc logs -c ratings $BROKEN_POD_NAME
```

You should see:

```
Server listening on: http://0.0.0.0:9080
```

```
GET /ratings/0
```

You should see one and only one GET request, no matter how many times you reload the webpage. This indicates that the pod has been ejected from the load balancing pool and will not be accessed for 15 minutes. You can also see this in the Prometheus logs for the Istio Mixer. Open the Prometheus query console:

- Prometheus UI at

`http://prometheus-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX`

In the "Expression" input box at the top of the web page, enter the text: `envoy_cluster_out_ratings_istio_system_svc` and click **Execute**. This expression refers to the number of *active ejections* of pods from the `ratings:v1` destination that have failed more than the value of the `httpConsecutiveErrors` which we have set to 1 (one).

Then, click the Execute button.

You should see a result of 1:



Figure 21: 5xxs

In practice this means that the failing pod will not receive any traffic for the timeout period, giving it a chance to recover and not affect the user experience.

## Congratulations!

Circuit breaking is a critical component of distributed systems. When we apply a circuit breaker to an entity, and if failures reach a certain threshold, subsequent calls to that entity should automatically fail without applying additional pressure on the failed entity and paying for communication costs.

In this step you implemented the Circuit Breaker microservice pattern without changing any of the application code. This is one additional way to build resilient applications, ones designed to deal with failure rather than go to great lengths to avoid it.

In the next step, we will explore rate limiting, which can be useful to give different service levels to different customers based on policy and contractual requirements

### Before moving on

Before moving on, in case your simulated user loads are still running, kill them with:

```
for i in {1..10} ; do kill %${i}; done
```

### More references

- [Istio Documentation](#)
- [Christian Posta's Blog on Envoy and Circuit Breaking](#)

## Rate Limiting

In this step we will use Istio's Quota Management feature to apply a rate limit on the ratings service.

### Quotas in Istio

Quota Management enables services to allocate and free quota on a based on rules called *dimensions*. Quotas are used as a relatively simple resource management tool to provide some fairness between service consumers when contending for limited resources. Rate limits are examples of quotas, and are handled by the [Istio Mixer](#).

### Generate some traffic

As before, let's start up some processes to generate load on the app. Execute this command:

```
while true; do      curl -o /dev/null -s -w "%{http_code}\n" \      http://istio-ingress-istio-system/samples/bookinfo/reviews/v3/ratings\nsleep .2 done
```

This command will endlessly access the application and report the HTTP status result in a separate terminal window.

With this application load running, we can witness rate limits in action.

### Add a rate limit

Execute the following command:

```
oc create -f samples/bookinfo/kube/mixer-rule-ratings-ratelimit.yaml
```

This configuration specifies a default 1 qps (query per second) rate limit. Traffic reaching the ratings service is subject to a 1qps rate limit. Verify this with Grafana:

- Grafana Dashboard at

[http://grafana-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard](http://grafana-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard)

Scroll down to the ratings service and observe that you are seeing that some of the requests sent from reviews:v3 service to the ratings service are returning HTTP Code 429 (Too Many Requests).

In addition, at the top of the dashboard, the '4xxs' report shows an increase in 4xx HTTP codes. We are being rate-limited to 1 query per second:

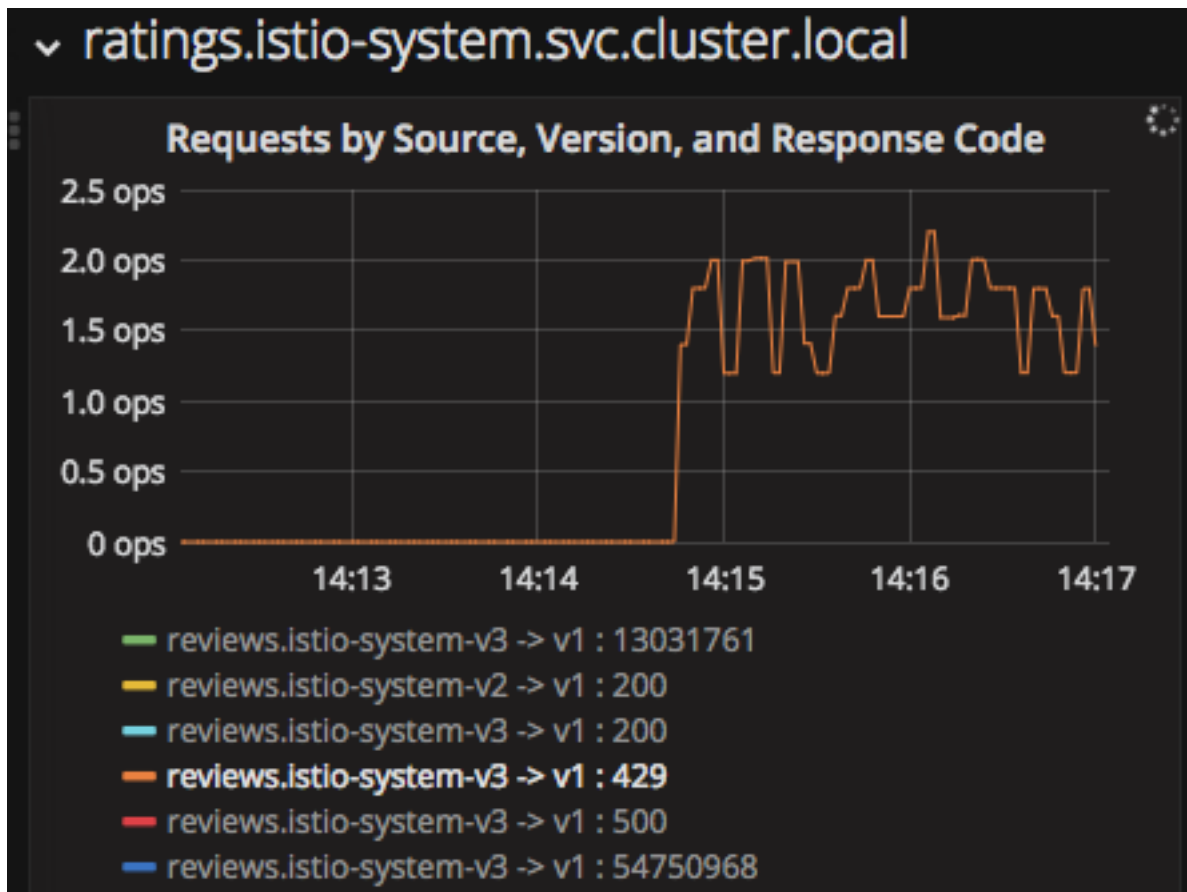


Figure 22: 5xxs

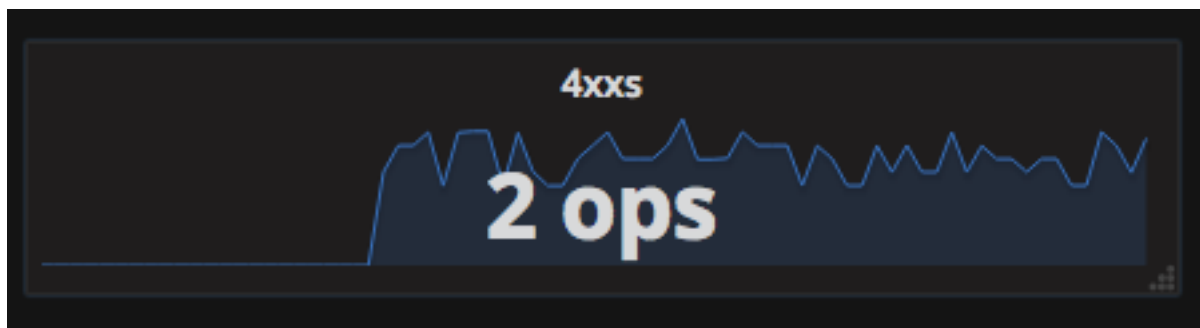


Figure 23: 5xxs

## Inspect the rule

Take a look at the new rule:

```
oc get memquota handler -o yaml
```

In particular, notice the *dimension* that causes the rate limit to be applied:

```
# The following override applies to 'ratings' when
# the source is 'reviews'.
- dimensions:
  destination: ratings
  source: reviews
  maxAmount: 1
  validDuration: 1s
```

You can also conditionally rate limit based on other dimensions, such as:

- Source and Destination project names (e.g. to limit developer projects from overloading the production services during testing)
- Login names (e.g. to limit certain customers or classes of customers)
- Source/Destination hostnames, IP addresses, DNS domains, HTTP Request header values, protocols
- API paths
- [Several other attributes](#)

## Remove the rate limit

Before moving on, execute the following to remove our rate limit:

```
oc delete -f samples/bookinfo/kube/mixer-rule-ratings-ratelimit.yaml
```

Verify that the rate limit is no longer in effect. Open the dashboard:

- Grafana Dashboard at

[http://grafana-istio-system.\\$ROUTE\\_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard](http://grafana-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX/dashboard/db/istio-dashboard)

Notice at the top that the 4xxs dropped back down to zero.

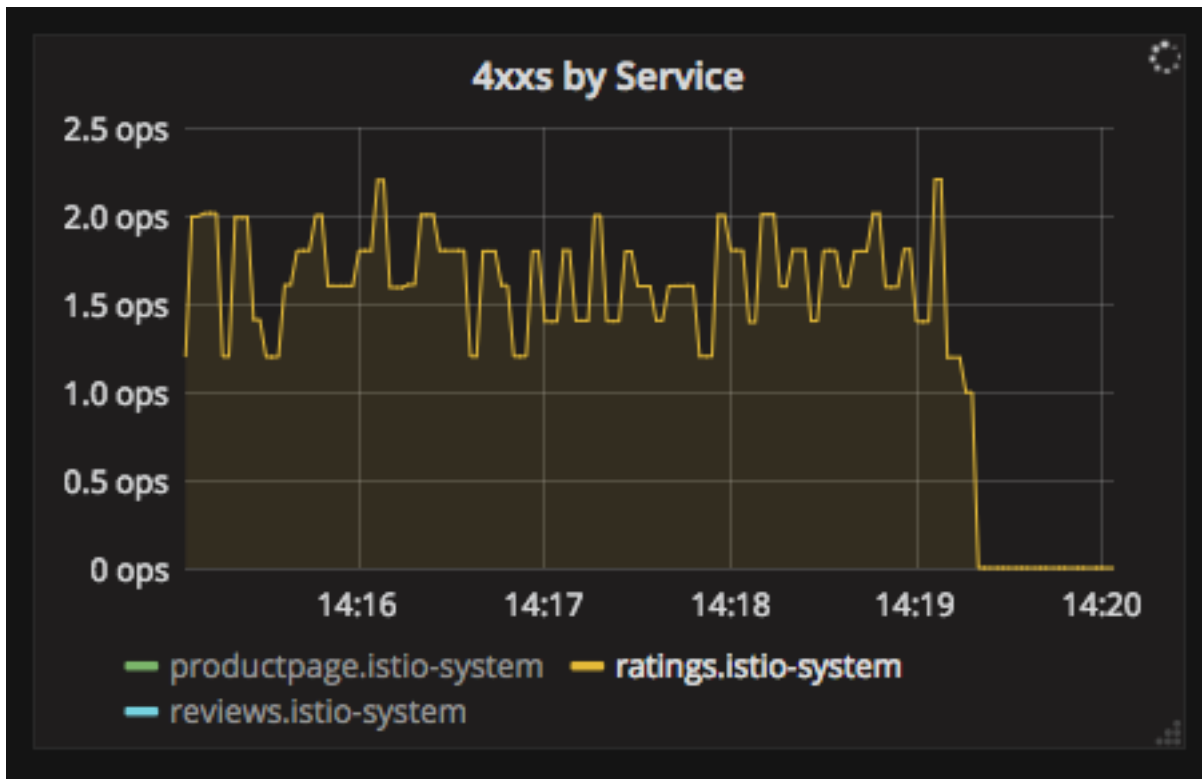


Figure 24: 5xxs

## Congratulations!

In the final step, we'll explore distributed tracing and how it can help diagnose and fix issues in complex microservices architectures. Let's go!

## Tracing

This step shows you how Istio-enabled applications automatically collect *trace spans* telemetry and can visualize it with tools like using Jaeger or Zipkin. After completing this task, you should understand all of the assumptions about your application and how to have it participate in tracing, regardless of what language/framework/platform you use to build your application.

## Tracing Goals

Developers and engineering organizations are trading in old, monolithic systems for modern microservice architectures, and they do so for numerous compelling reasons: system components scale independently, dev teams stay small and agile, deployments are continuous and decoupled, and so on.

Once a production system contends with real concurrency or splits into many services, crucial (and formerly easy) tasks become difficult: user-facing latency optimization, root-cause analysis of backend errors, communication about distinct pieces of a now-distributed system, etc.

### What is a trace?

At the highest level, a trace tells the story of a transaction or workflow as it propagates through a (potentially distributed) system. A trace is a directed acyclic graph (DAG) of *spans*: named, timed operations representing a contiguous segment of work in that trace.

Each component (microservice) in a distributed trace will contribute its own span or spans. For example:

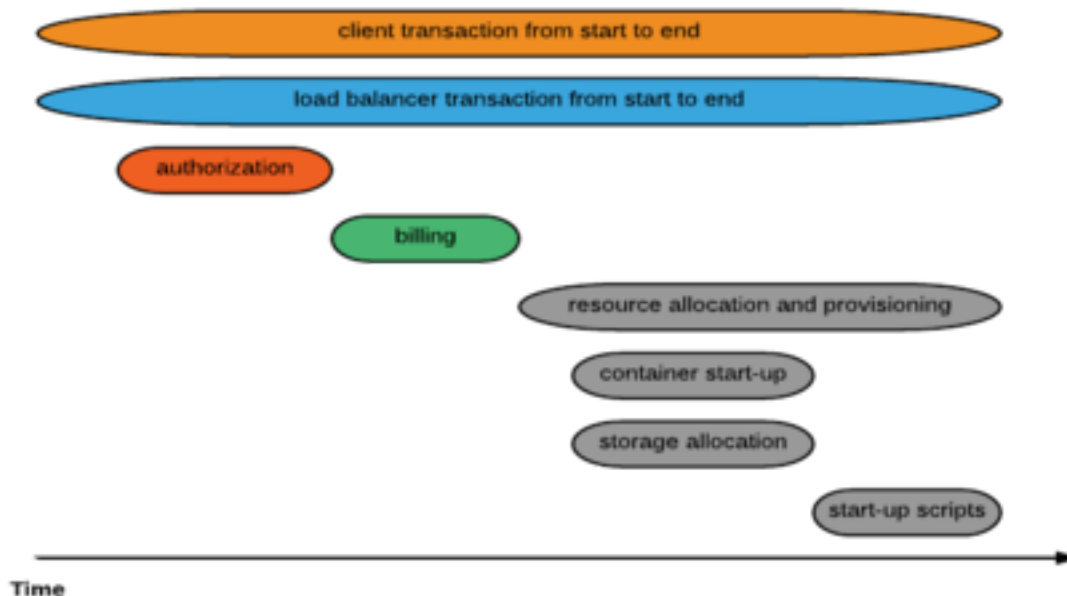


Figure 25: Spans

This type of visualization adds the context of time, the hierarchy of the services involved, and the serial or parallel nature of the process/task execution. This view helps to highlight the system's critical path. By focusing on the critical path, attention can focus on the area of code where the most valuable improvements can be made. For example, you might want to trace the resource allocation spans inside an API request down to the underlying blocking calls.

# Access Jaeger Console

With our application up and our script running to generate loads, visit the Jaeger Console:

- Jaeger Query Dashboard at `http://jaeger-query-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX`

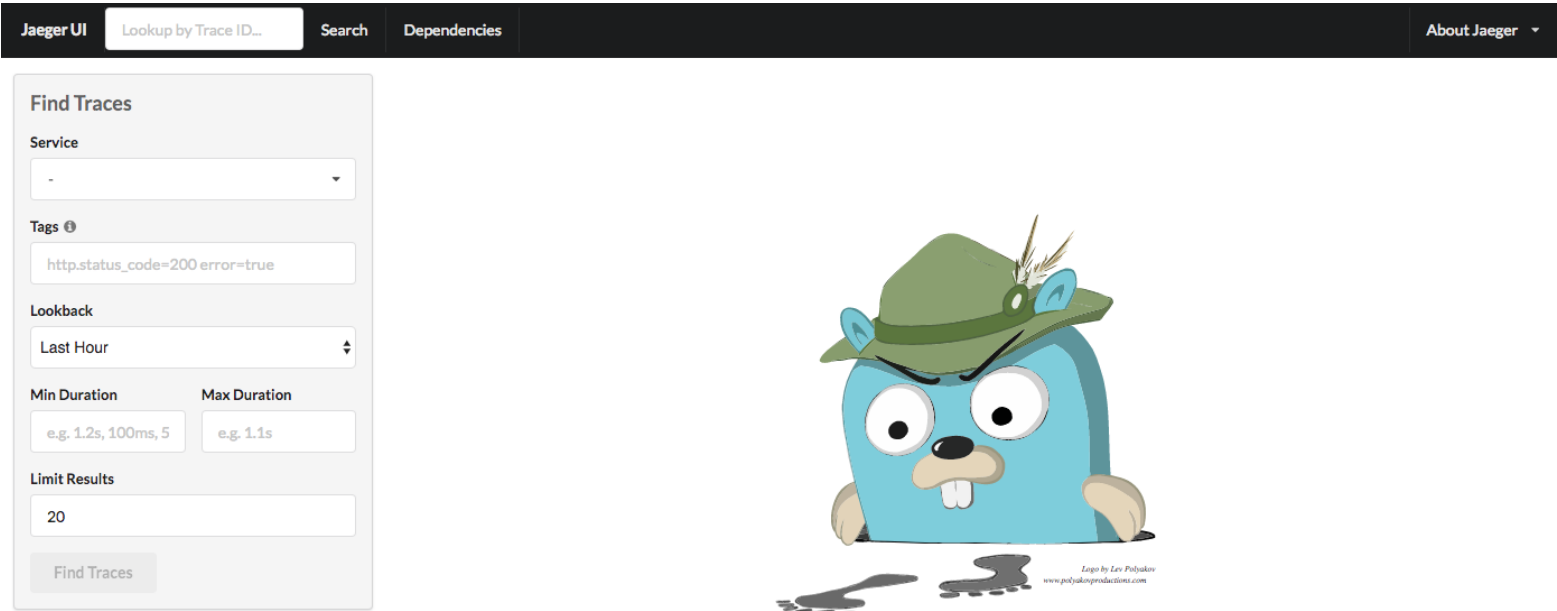


Figure 26: jager console

Select `istio-ingress` from the *Service* dropdown menu, change the value of **Limit Results** to 200 and click **Find Traces**:

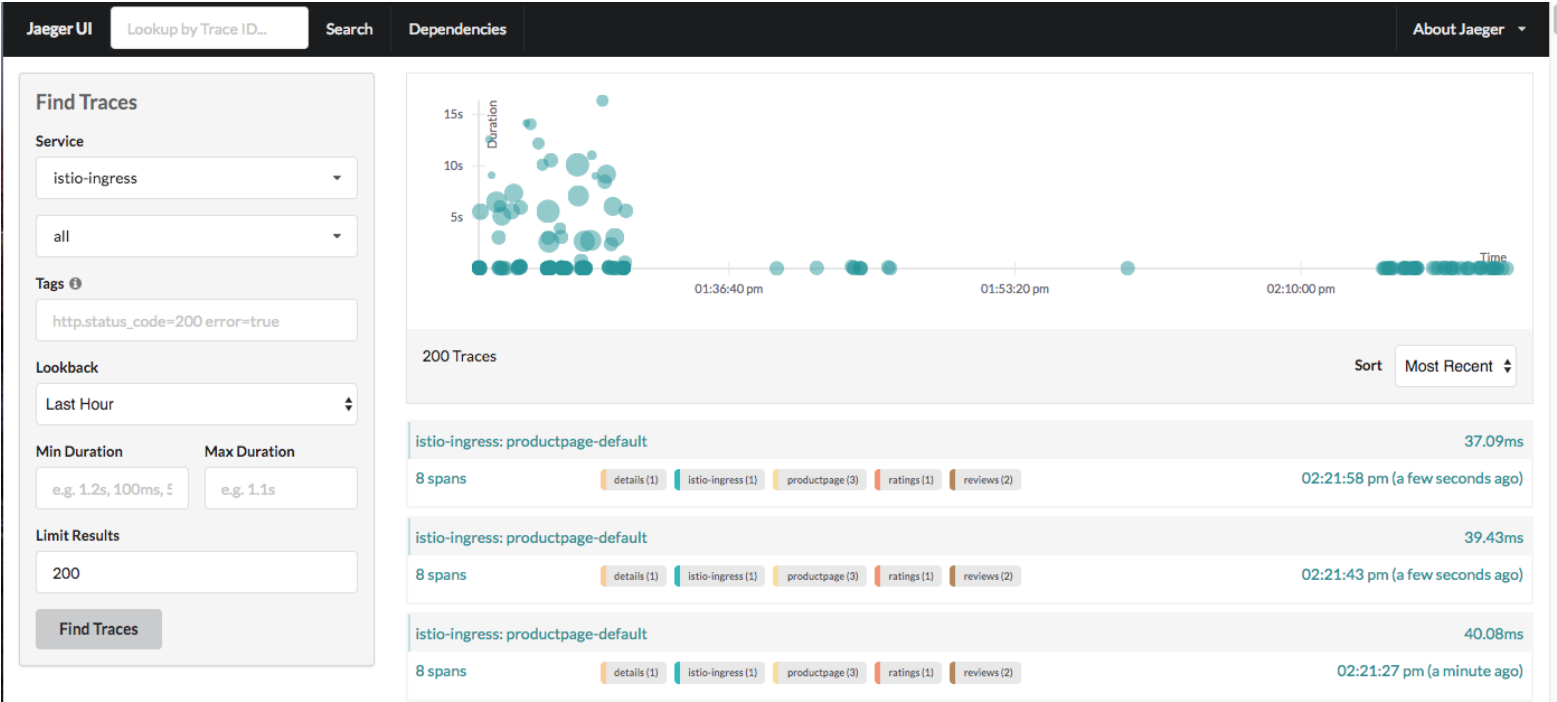


Figure 27: jager console

In the top right corner, a duration vs. time scatter plot gives a visual representation of the results, showing how and when each service was accessed, with drill-down capability. The bottom right includes a list of all spans that were traced over the last hour (limited to 200).

If you click on the first trace in the listing, you should see the details corresponding to a recent access to `/productpage`. The page should look something like this:



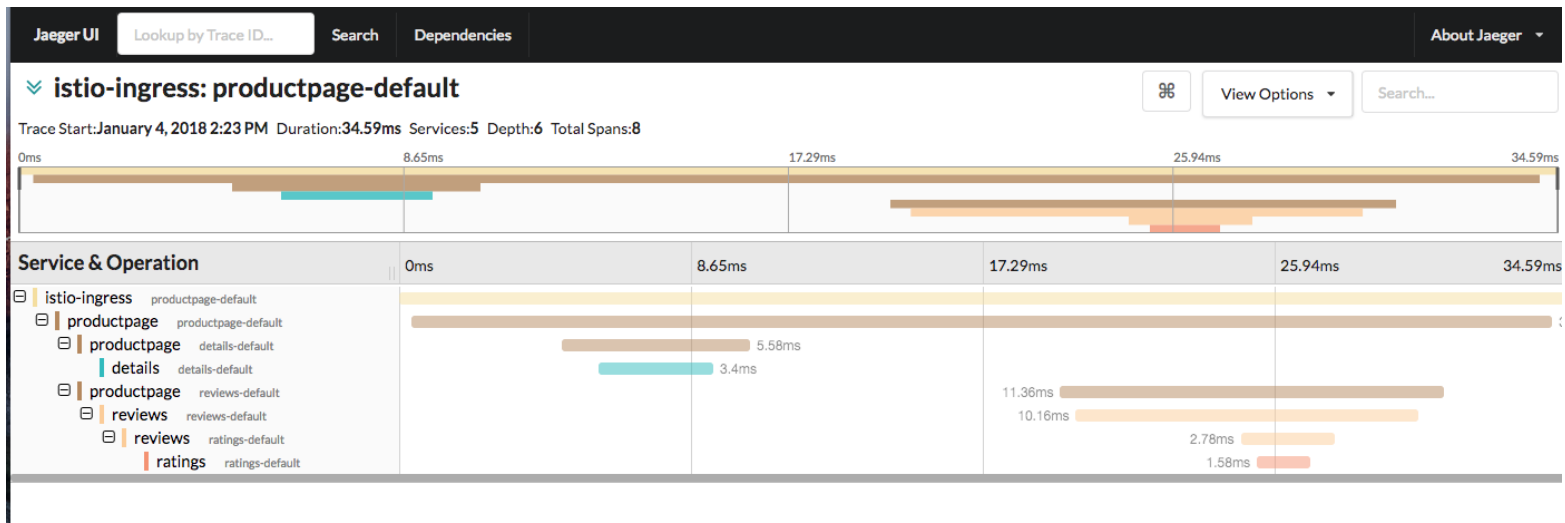


Figure 28: jaeger listing

As you can see, the trace is comprised of *spans*, where each span corresponds to a microservice invoked during the execution of a `/productpage` request.

The first line represents the external call to the entry point of our application controlled by `istio-ingress`. It in turn calls the `productpage` service. Each line below represents the internal calls to the other services to construct the result, including the time it took for each service to respond.

To demonstrate the value of tracing, let's re-visit our earlier timeout bug! If you recall, we had injected a 7 second delay in the `ratings` microservice for our user *jason*. So when we loaded the web page it should have taken 7 seconds before showing the star ratings.

In reality, the webpage loaded in 6 seconds and we saw no rating stars! Why did this happen? We know from earlier that it was because the timeout from `reviews->ratings` was much shorter than the `ratings` timeout itself, so it prematurely failed the access to `ratings` after 2 retries (of 3 seconds each), resulting in a failed webpage after 6 seconds. But can we see this in the tracing? Yes, we can!

To see this bug, open the Jaeger tracing console:

- Jaeger Query Dashboard at

`http://jaeger-query-istio-system.$ROUTE_SUFFIX`

Since users of our application were reporting lengthy waits of 5 seconds or more, let's look for traces that took at least 5 seconds. Select these options for the query:

- **Service:** `istio-ingress`
- **Min Duration:** 5s

Then click **Find Traces**. Change the sorting to **Longest First** to see the ones that took the longest. The result list should show several spans with errors:

Click on the top-most span that took ~10s and open details for it:

Here you can see the `reviews` service takes 2 attempts to access the `ratings` service, with each attempt timing out after 3 seconds. After the second attempt, it gives up and returns a failure back to the product page. Meanwhile, each of the attempts to get ratings finally succeeds after its fault-injected 7 second delay, but it's too late as the `reviews` service has already given up by that point.

The timeouts are incompatible, and need to be adjusted. This is left as an exercise to the reader.

Istio's fault injection rules and tracing capabilities help you identify such anomalies without impacting end users.

## Before moving on

Let's stop the load generator running against our app. Navigate to **Terminal 2** and type CTRL-C to stop the generator or click clear.



Figure 29: jager listing

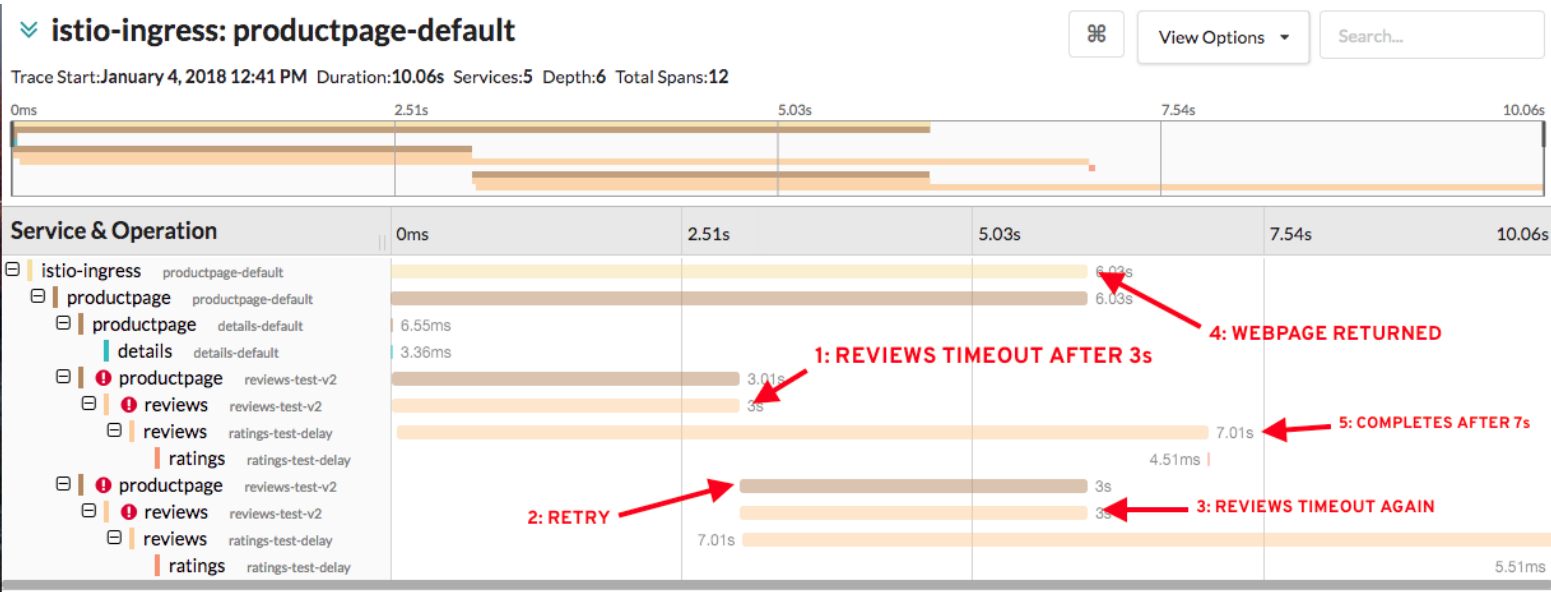


Figure 30: jager listing

# Congratulations!

Distributed tracing speeds up troubleshooting by allowing developers to quickly understand how different services contribute to the overall end-user perceived latency. In addition, it can be a valuable tool to diagnose and troubleshoot distributed applications.

## Summary

In this scenario you used Istio to implement many of the Istio provides an easy way to create a network of deployed services with load balancing, service-to-service authentication, monitoring, and more, without requiring any changes in service code. You add Istio support to services by deploying a special sidecar proxy throughout your environment that intercepts all network communication between microservices, configured and managed using Istio's control plane functionality.

Technologies like containers and container orchestration platforms like OpenShift solve the deployment of our distributed applications quite well, but are still catching up to addressing the service communication necessary to fully take advantage of distributed microservice applications. With Istio you can solve many of these issues outside of your business logic, freeing you as a developer from concerns that belong in the infrastructure. Congratulations!

Additional Resources:

- [Istio on OpenShift via Veer Muchandi](#)
- [Envoy resilience examples](#)
- Istio and Kubernetes workshop from KubeCon 2017 via Zach Butcher, et. al.
- [Istio and Kubernetes workshop](#)
- [Bookinfo from http://istio.io](#)

## Appendix

The contents of these files are used during this scenario exercise. Please refer to the scenario for how to use them!

**File: install-istio.sh**

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash

ISTIO_VERSION=0.6.0
ISTIO_HOME=${HOME}/istio-${ISTIO_VERSION}

# shut down previous labs if needed
oc get -n coolstore-dev dc/coolstore >& /dev/null && oc scale --replicas=0 dc/coolstore dc/coolstore
oc get -n coolstore-prod dc/coolstore-prod >& /dev/null && oc scale --replicas=0 dc/coolstore-prod dc/coolstore-prod
oc get -n inventory dc/inventory >& /dev/null && oc scale --replicas=0 dc/inventory dc/inventory-database
oc get -n catalog dc/catalog >& /dev/null && oc scale --replicas=0 dc/catalog dc/catalog-database
oc get -n cart dc/cart >& /dev/null && oc scale --replicas=0 dc/cart -n cart

# workaround for https://github.com/istio/istio/issues/34
setenforce 0

# install istio
curl -kL https://git.io/getLatestIstio | sed 's/curl/curl -k /g' | ISTIO_VERSION=${ISTIO_VERSION} sh
export PATH="${PATH}:${ISTIO_HOME}/bin"
cd ${ISTIO_HOME}

oc new-project istio-system
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user anyuid -z istio-ingress-service-account
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user privileged -z istio-ingress-service-account
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user anyuid -z istio-egress-service-account
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user privileged -z istio-egress-service-account
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user anyuid -z istio-pilot-service-account
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user privileged -z istio-pilot-service-account
```

```
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user anyuid -z istio-grafana-service-account -n istio-system
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user anyuid -z istio-prometheus-service-account -n istio-system
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user anyuid -z prometheus -n istio-system
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user privileged -z prometheus
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user anyuid -z grafana -n istio-system
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user privileged -z grafana
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user anyuid -z default
oc adm policy add-scc-to-user privileged -z default
oc adm policy add-cluster-role-to-user cluster-admin -z default

oc apply -f install/kubernetes/istio.yaml
oc create -f install/kubernetes/addons/prometheus.yaml
oc create -f install/kubernetes/addons/grafana.yaml
oc create -f install/kubernetes/addons/servicegraph.yaml
oc apply -f https://raw.githubusercontent.com/jaegertracing/jaeger-kubernetes/master/all-in-one/jaeger.yaml

oc expose svc grafana
oc expose svc servicegraph
oc expose svc jaeger-query
oc expose svc istio-ingress
oc expose svc prometheus
```

#### File: install-sample-app.sh

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash

ISTIO_VERSION=0.6.0
ISTIO_HOME=${HOME}/istio-${ISTIO_VERSION}
export PATH="$PATH:${ISTIO_HOME}/bin"

cd ${ISTIO_HOME}

oc project istio-system
istioctl kube-inject -f samples/bookinfo/kube/bookinfo.yaml | oc apply -f -
```