Introduction to Prometheus

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WAY TO REINVENT YOURSELF

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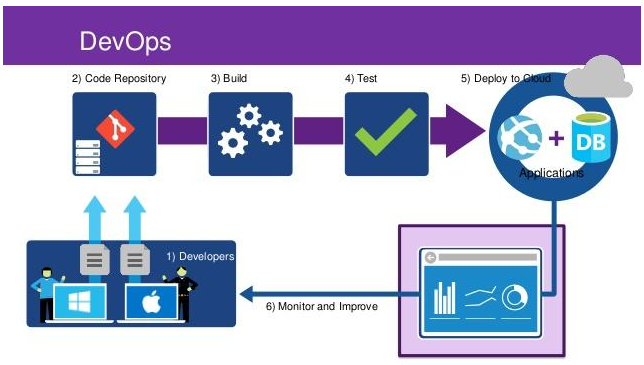
1 Monitoring: What it is & why to

Monitoring: What it is & why to

- Agility is essential to keeping pace
- Software teams expected to move faster, test earlier, and release more frequently, all while improving quality and reducing costs



Monitoring: What it is & why to

Want to ensure that a system or service is:

- Available
- Fast
- Correct
- Efficient
- etc.

Monitoring: What it is & why to

Potential Problems:

- Disk full → no new data stored
- High temperature → hardware failure
- Network outage → services cannot communicate
- Low memory utilization → money wasted

Monitoring: What it is & why to

Need to observe your systems to get insight into:

- Request/event rates
- Latency
- Errors
- Resource usage
- Temperature, humidity, ...

...and then react when something looks bad.

Monitoring: What it is & why to

What is required for monitoring?

- Gather operational metrics
- Raise alert
  - To human (via ticket/SMS/Email/...)
  - To automated handler/agent
- Support issue resolution (data for root cause analysis)
- Analyze trends & effects/impact of change

2 What is Prometheus?

What is Prometheus?

Metrics-based monitoring & alerting stack

- Instrumentation
- Metrics collection and storage
- Querying, alerting, dashboarding
- For all levels of the stack!

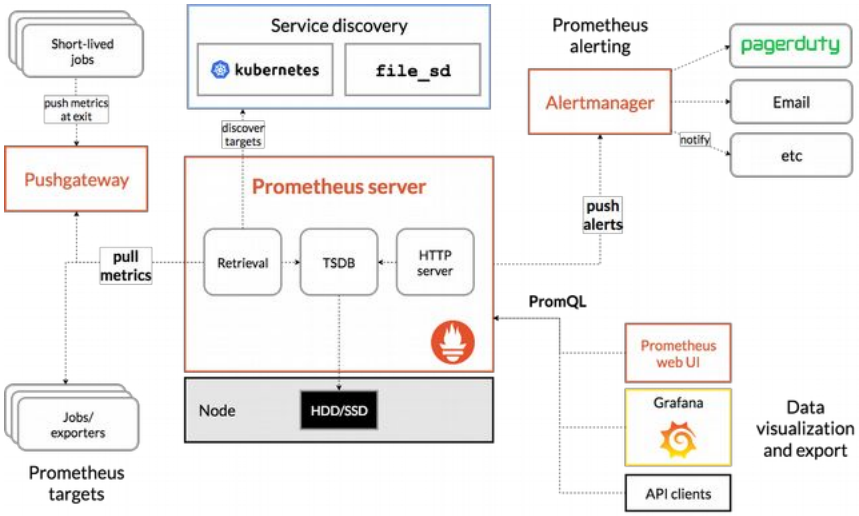
Made for dynamic cloud environments.

What is Prometheus?

A quick overview of what Prometheus is about:

- **Gather metrics** into database
  - Scheduled pull/harvest/scrape actions – **HTTP/TCP** requests
  - Provide exporters (adapters) that expose metrics
- Make metrics available to consuming systems and humans
  - Such as **Grafana** (for dashboarding), **REST APIs**, through Prometheus UI – **Graphs**, **Console**, **PromQL**
- Analyze metrics according to **alert rules** and determine if alerts are "**firing**"
- Act on firing alerts and send **notifications**

What is Prometheus?



Terminology

- **Prometheus Server**: The main server that scrapes and stores the scraped metrics in a time series database
- **Time-series Database:** Designed to store data that changes with time
- **Scrape:** Prometheus server uses a pulling method to retrieve metrics
- **Target:** The Prometheus server's clients that it retrieves info from (Linux/Windows Server, single app, db, Apache server, etc.)

Terminology

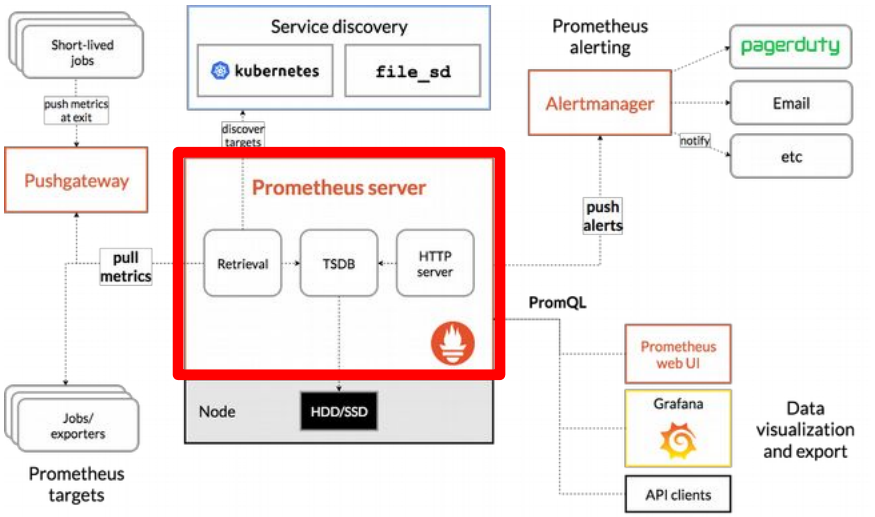
- **Alert Manager:** Component responsible for handling alerts
- **Exporter**: Target libraries that convert and export existing metrics into Prometheus format
- **Instance:** The endpoint that is scraped
- **Job:** A collection of instances with the same purpose

Terminology

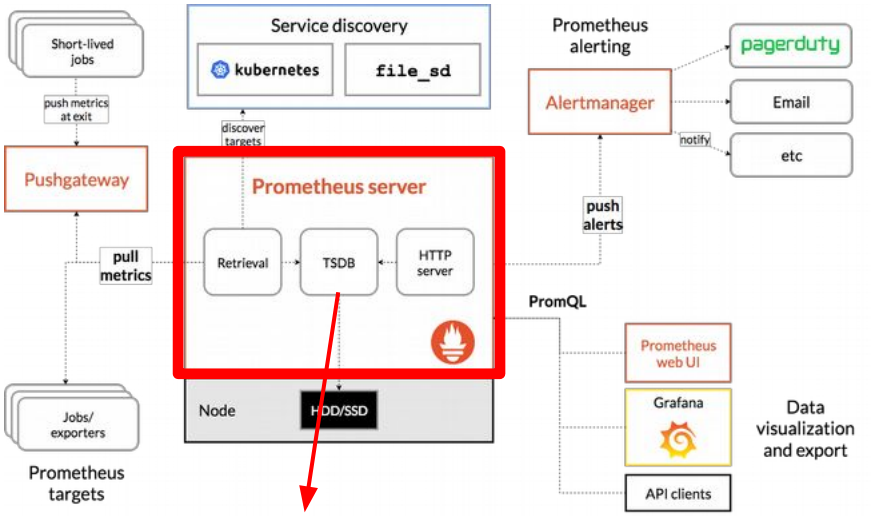
- Prometheus pulls (**scrape**) metrics from a client (**target**) over **http** and places the data into its **time series database** that you can query using its own query language: **promQL**
- Prometheus uses "**exporters**" that are installed/configured on the clients in order to convert and expose their metrics in a Prometheus format
- The **AlertManager** receives metrics from the Prometheus server, makes sense of the metrics and then forwards an alert to the chosen notification system

3 How Prometheus works

How Prometheus works

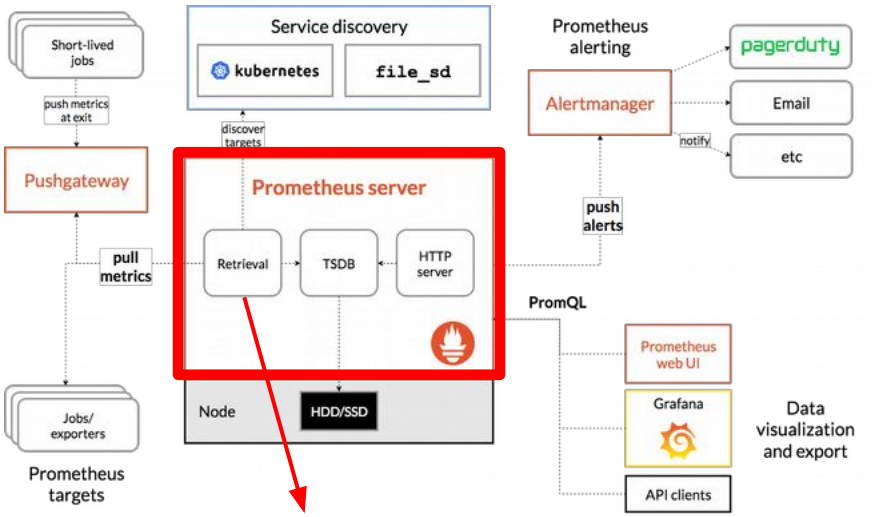


How Prometheus works



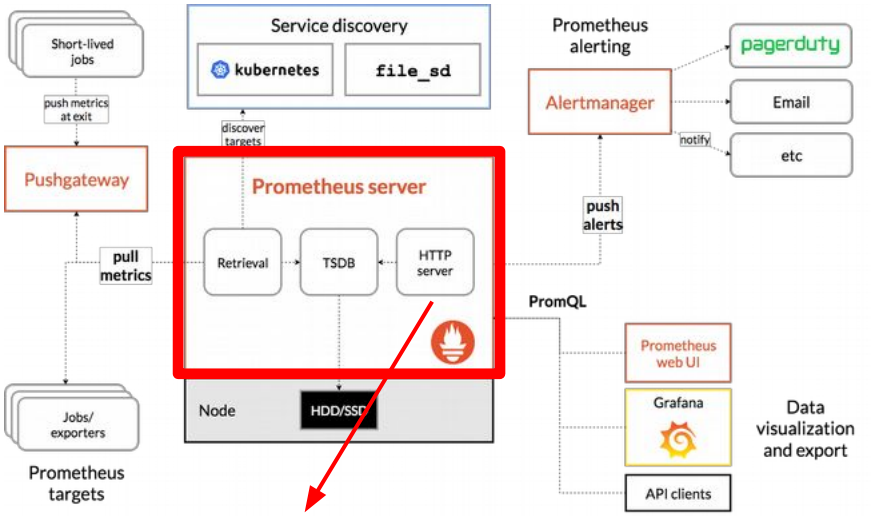
Time Series Database: Stores the metrics

How Prometheus works



Data Retrieval Worker: Pulls metrics data

How Prometheus works



HTTP Server: Accepts promQL queries

How Prometheus works

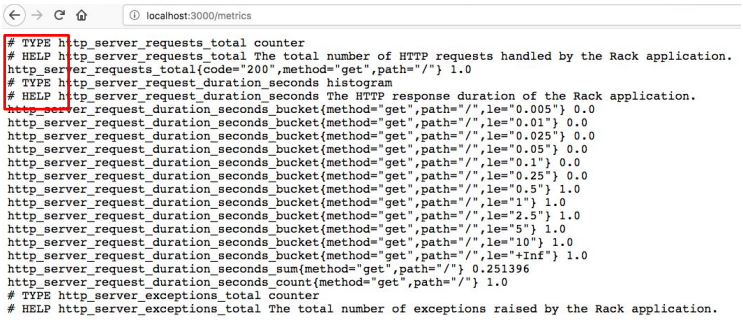
- Prometheus server monitors **targets** and each target has **metrics** that are monitored.

Targets
- Linux/Windows Server
- Single application
- Services like db
- Web servers
- etc.

Metrics
- CPU/RAM/Disk usage
- Exceptions count
- Requests count
- Requests duration
- etc.

How Prometheus works

Prometheus stores metrics as human-readable text-based format



HELP: description of what metrics is
TYPE: metric type

Metric Types

- Prometheus offer four core metric types:
  - **Counter:** used for any value that **increases**, such as a request count or error count
  - **Gauge:** used for values that **go down as well as up**, such as current memory usage or the number of items in a queue or the number of requests in progress
  - **Histogram/Summary:** measure the frequency of value observations

Metric names and labels

- Every **time series** is uniquely identified by its **metric name** and optional **key-value pairs** called **labels**
- Notation:

```
<metric name>{<label name>=<label value>, ...}
```

- For example:

```
api_http_requests_total{method="POST", handler="/messages"}
```

Collecting Metrics

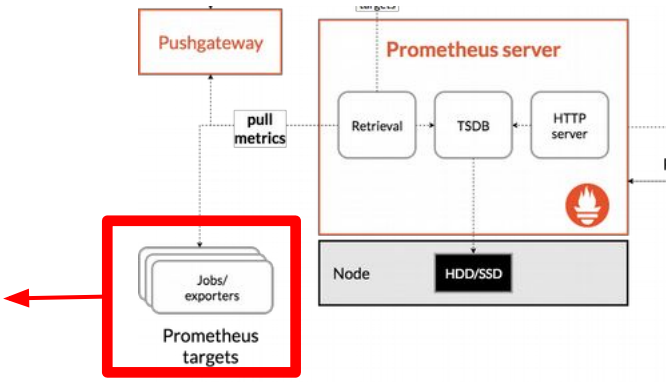
- Prometheus pulls metrics from the targets over HTTP:

  http://hostaddress: [port]/metrics

- Some services expose their metrics natively
- But many services requires an extra component that is called an **exporter**

Collecting Metrics

Exporter is a script or service that fetches metrics from the target, converts to correct format, and exposes **/metrics** so that Prometheus server can pull



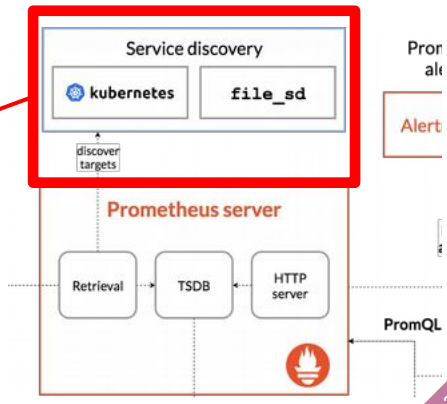
4 Configuring Prometheus

Configuring Prometheus

Prometheus is configured with **prometheus.yml** file that has the information of:

- which targets to scrape?
- at which interval?

Prometheus uses **service discovery** to find the targets mentioned in the YAML file



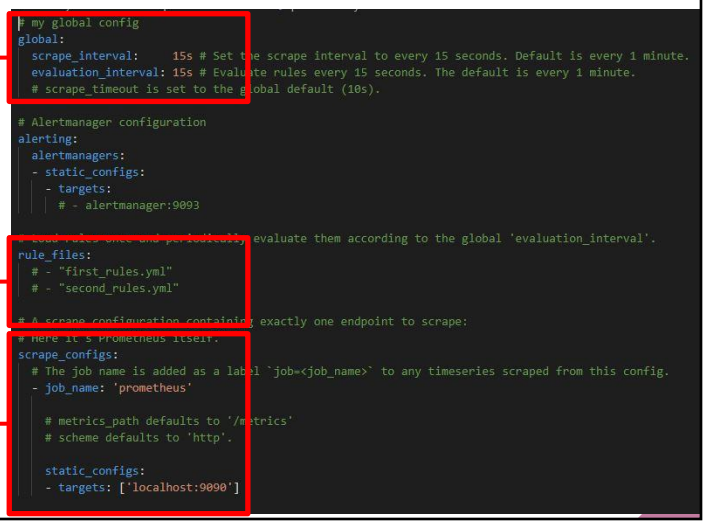
Configuring Prometheus

Prometheus comes with a sample configuration file

at which interval targets will be scraped

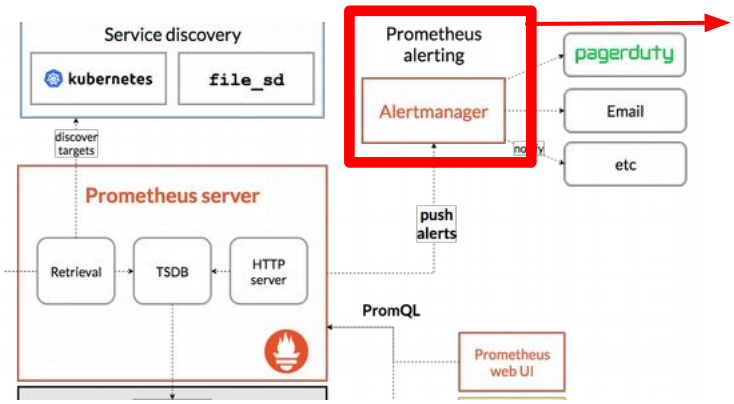
rules for gathering metric values or creating alerts

Resources that Prometheus monitors



5 Alert Manager

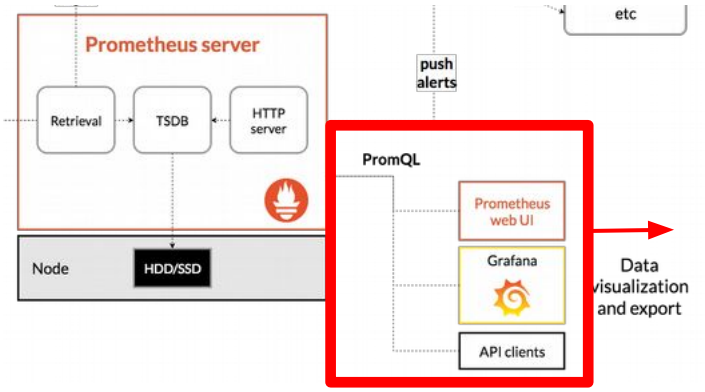
Alert Manager



Alertmanager fires alerts that are defined by rules in configuration file

6 Querying

Querying



promQL is used to visualize the data collected by Prometheus server

Querying

- Example queries:

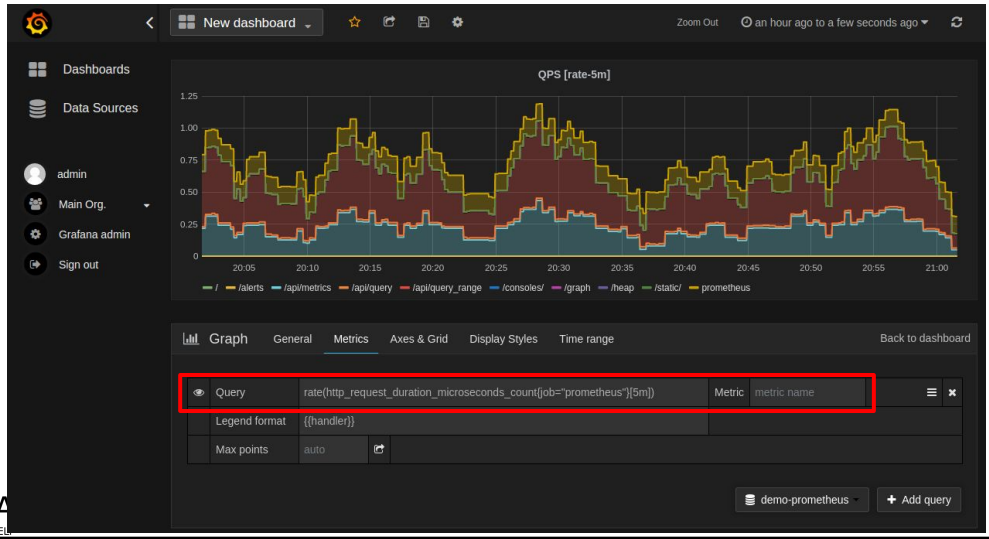
```
# Request counter for the User Directory service
http_requests_total{service="users-directory"}

# Request counter for the Billing History Service
http_requests_total{service="billing-history"}

# Overall request counter regardless of service
sum(http_requests_total)
```

Querying

- Example query with Grafana:



THANKS!

Any questions?

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