

Writing Prometheus Exporters

Moshe Zadka – <https://cobordism.com>

2020

Acknowledgement of Country

San Francisco Bay Area Peninsula
Ancestral home of the Ramaytush Ohlone

Prometheus

- ▶ Metrics collection and aggregation
- ▶ Pull-based
- ▶ Time-series-based

Exporter

- ▶ Facade
- ▶ Not magic

Configuration

```
scrape_configs:  
  - job_name: 'my-thing'  
    static_configs:  
      - targets: ['hostname.internal.example.com:90
```

Gauge

Measured instanenous value

Gauge

Measured instanenous value
memory usage

Histogram

Samples

Histogram

Samples
request latency

Counter

Ticks up until reset

Counter

Ticks up until reset
total requests

Pyramid Service: Configuration

```
with Configurator() as config:
    configure_metrics(config.registry)
    config.add_route("metrics", "/metrics")
    config.add_view(
        metrics_web, route_name="metrics"
    )
    application = config.make_wsgi_app()
```

Pyramid Service: Metrics Configuration

```
def configure_metrics(mapping):  
    registry = CollectorRegistry()  
    mapping["prometheus_registry"] = registry  
    mapping["level"] = Gauge(  
        "level",  
        "The level",  
        registry=registry,  
    )  
    mapping["hits"] = Counter(  
        "hits",  
        "Hits to endpoint",  
        registry=registry,  
    )
```

Pyramid Service: View

```
def metrics_web(request):  
    update(request)  
    registry = request.registry[  
        "prometheus_registry"  
    ]  
    return Response(  
        generate_latest(registry),  
        content_type=CONTENT_TYPE_LATEST,  
    )
```

Pyramid Service: Metrics Update

```
def update(request):  
    num = random.uniform(0, 1)  
    request.registry["hits"].inc()  
    request.registry["level"].set(num)
```

Output

```
# HELP level The level
# TYPE level gauge
level 0.06199425960241822
# HELP hits_total Hits to endpoint
# TYPE hits_total counter
hits_total 1.0
# HELP hits_created Hits to endpoint
# TYPE hits_created gauge
hits_created 1.6041066280902677e+09
```


Daytime Service

RFC 867

Daytime Service

RFC 867

```
$ nc localhost 1113
```

```
Sat Oct 31 18:15:12 2020
```

Synthetic Query

Exporter Judo

Synthetic Query

Exporter Judo

```
def synthetic(service):  
    before = time.perf_counter()  
    sock = socket.socket()  
    sock.settimeout(1)  
    sock.connect(service)  
    sock.recv(4096)  
    sock.close()  
    return time.perf_counter() - before
```

Output

```
# HELP synthetic Synthetic query latency
# TYPE synthetic gauge
synthetic 0.0003916006535291672
# HELP hits_total Hits to endpoint
# TYPE hits_total counter
hits_total 2.0
# HELP hits_created Hits to endpoint
# TYPE hits_created gauge
hits_created 1.6042536905489218e+09
```

What is a Counter

- ▶ Increase-only
- ▶ Creation time

Side-car Counter

```
class SidecarCounter(metrics.MetricWrapperBase):
    _type = "counter"
    def _metric_init(self):
        self._value = values.ValueClass(
            self._type,
            self._name,
            self._name + "_total",
            self._labelnames,
            self._labelvalues,
        )
        self._created = values.ValueClass(
            self._type,
            self._name,
            self._name + "_created",
            self._labelnames,
            self._labelvalues,
        )
```

Set/Get Counter

```
def set(self, what, *, when):
    self._value.set(what)
    self._created.set(when)
def _child_samples(self):
    return (
        ("_total", {}, self._value.get()),
        ("_created", {}, self._created.get()),
    )
```


Counters in Response

```
$ nc localhost 1111 | \  
> python -m json.tool  
{  
    "launched": "2020-11-04T17:57:42.448578",  
    "requests": 2  
}
```

Exporting Counters

```
def hits(service):  
    with socket.create_connection(service) as sock:  
        sock.settimeout(1)  
        data = sock.recv(4096)  
        result = json.loads(data)  
        result["launched"] = isoparse(result["launched"])  
    return result
```

How It Looks

scrape_duration_seconds

Execute

scrape_duration_second ↕

Graph

Console

◀

Moment

▶

Element

scrape_duration_seconds(instance="localhost:8080",job="my_service")

Add Graph

Metrics Design

- ▶ Histogram vs. Gauge

Metrics Design

- ▶ Histogram vs. Gauge
- ▶ Exporter latency

Metrics Design

- ▶ Histogram vs. Gauge
- ▶ Exporter latency
- ▶ Enum

Prometheus Exporters

► Easy

Prometheus Exporters

- ▶ Easy
- ▶ Why: Internal

Prometheus Exporters

- ▶ Easy
- ▶ Why: Internal
- ▶ Why: Better