5G Communication and Network Lab CS462 PROJECT REPORT

<u>Topic: 5G Network deployment - Ansible with Docker, Kubernetes and OVS</u>

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Part 1: 5G Core Network Deployment using Docker + Ansible

This project is about deploying a containerized 5G Core Network setup using Docker and orchestrated by Ansible. Here's what's happening:

Components:

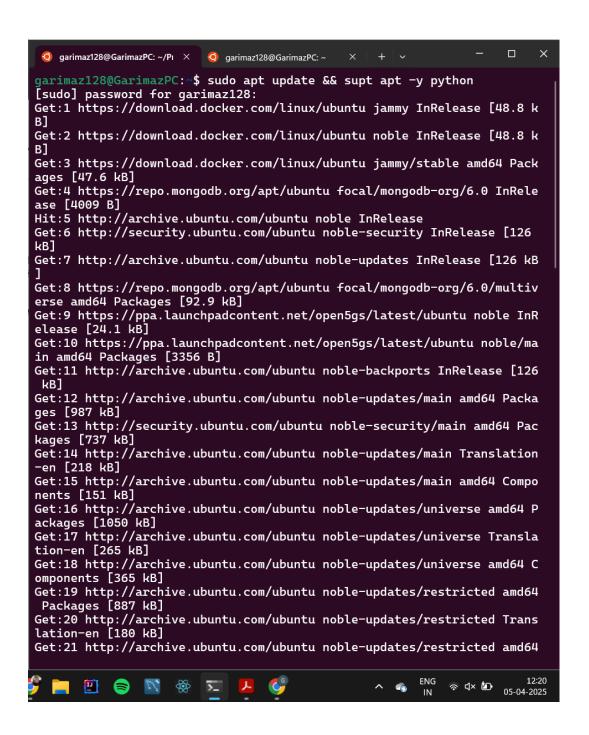
- Containers used:
 - o ue: User Equipment simulator
 - enb: eNodeB (radio access part of LTE)
 - o webui: Web-based interface for Free5GC
 - o perf: Policy Control and Charging Rules Function
 - o hss: Home Subscriber Server
 - o smf: Session Management Function
 - o upf: User Plane Function
 - o amf: Access and Mobility Function
 - o mongodb-s: MongoDB for Free5GC data storage

This structure mimics a Free5GC-based mobile core network where all functional blocks (5GC NFs) are containerized and managed using Docker. This setup enables:

- Simulation of a 5G/4G core network
- Testing service orchestration, routing, and user connectivity
- Easy deployment and teardown using Ansible automation

STEP BY STEP IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF 5G NETWORK USING DOCKER

1. INSTALLING AND UPDATING PYTHON AND OTHER RELATED LIBRARIES



2. Cloning the repository that contains all the yml files and directories (ansible playbook) to get them on the machine and getting into the repository

```
Project5G-ansible-deployment.git
fatal: destination path 'Project5G-ansible-deployment' already exists
and is not an empty directory.
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~$ cd Project5G-ansible-deployment
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ ls
'Docker deployment' google6905b9cd306365f9.html
'Kubernetes deployment' ovs-cni.yml
 README.md
                          ovs-net-crd.yaml
'Scenario setup'
                          unix-daemonset.yaml
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo apt -y insta
ll ansible
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
ansible is already the newest version (9.2.0+dfsg-Oubuntu5).
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer
required:
  bridge-utils dns-root-data dnsmasq-base ubuntu-fan
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 72 not upgraded.
```

3. Checking out the files inside the 'docker deployment' folder inside the repo, which contains the yml file to run the ansible playbook (through "ls" commands)

```
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ cd Docker deploym
ent
-bash: cd: too many arguments
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ cd "Docker deploy
ment"
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment/Docker deployment$
ls
5g-docker-deployment.yml README.md ansible_env images
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment/Docker deployment$
```

4. Checking the IP of the interface connected through the internet, which lies under eth0: using command "ip a"

```
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment/Docker deployment$
ip a
1: lo: <LOOPBACK, UP, LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN gr
oup default glen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet 10.255.255.254/32 brd 10.255.255.254 scope global lo
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: eth0: <BROADCAST, MULTICAST, UP, LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 gdisc mg state UP
group default glen 1000
    link/ether 00:15:5d:a8:17:67 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 172.31.71.95/20 brd 172.31.79.255 scope global eth0
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 fe80::215:5dff:fea8:1767/64 scope link
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
```

5. Deploying 5G core network components using docker compose based on Open5GS

```
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment/Docker deployment$
 head -n 5 5g-docker-deployment.yml
version: "3.8"
services:
 mongodb:
    image: mongo:latest
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment/Docker deployment$
docker-compose -f 5g-docker-deployment.yml up -d
WARN[0000] /home/garimaz128/Project5G-ansible-deployment/Docker deploy
ment/5g-docker-deployment.yml: the attribute 'version' is obsolete, it
will be ignored, please remove it to avoid potential confusion

✓Container mongodb-s Started

✓Container amf

                        Started

✓Container hss

                       Started

✓Container smf

                       Started

✓ Container upf

                       Started

✓Container webui

                       Started
```

Working of the project till this part: deployment is simulating a 5G core network using docker containers for testing purpose, each launched component is doing the following work:

- 1. AMF: managing UE connection
- 2. SMF: handling sessions and allocating IP address
- 3. UPF: manages data forwarding
- 4. HSS: stores user related data
- 5. WebUI: web dashboard to monitor the network performance
- 6. MongoDB: backend database

6. Checking the container status after getting started with all the containers

```
✓Network dockerdeployment_free5gc-net Created
 √Container webui

✓Container smf

✓Container amf

✓Container upf

✓Container hss

√Container mongodb-s

arimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment/Docker deployment$ docker ps
                                                   COMMAND
CONTAINER ID
                                                                                              STATUS
                                                                                                                        PORTS
              TMAGE
                                                                             CREATED
      NAMES
              mongo:latest
011be53fdce5
                                                    "docker-entrypoint.s..."
                                                                            33 seconds ago
                                                                                             Up 32 seconds
                                                                                                                        27017/tcp
      mongodb-s
              oaisoftwarealliance/oai-amf:latest "/openair-amf/bin/oa..."
                                                                                             Up 32 seconds (healthy)
                                                                                                                        80/tcp, 9090/tcp, 38412/
7fda817a7f65
                                                                            33 seconds ago
      amf
ddd5fcfb2df1
              oaisoftwarealliance/oai-smf:latest
                                                    "/openair-smf/bin/oa..."
                                                                            33 seconds ago
                                                                                             Up 32 seconds (healthy)
                                                                                                                        80/tcp, 8080/tcp, 8805/u
      smf
```

7. Checking the logs for a specific container service (just in case)

```
Trying to read _yaml configuration file
LTING Tracing disabled at build-time!

[2025-04-06 07;26:41,406] [after app] [start] Options parsed!

[2025-04-06 07;26:41,406] [after app] [start] Options parsed!

[2025-04-06 07;26:41,409] [system] [debug] Parsing the configuration file, file type YAML.

[2025-04-06 07;26:41,409] [system] [debug] Darsing the configuration file, file type YAML.

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,407] [config] [debug] Unknown NF under a configuration. Ignored

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,407] [config] [debug] Validating configuration. Ignored

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,407] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of log level

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,407] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of register_Inf

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,407] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of http.version

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,407] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of http.request_timeout

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,407] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of http.request_timeout

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,407] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of NBF

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,408] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of NBF

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,408] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of NBF

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,408] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of SBF

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,408] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of SBF

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,408] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of SBF

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,409] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of ABF

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,409] [config] [debug] Validating configuration of ABF

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,409] [config] [info] - log_level_ debug

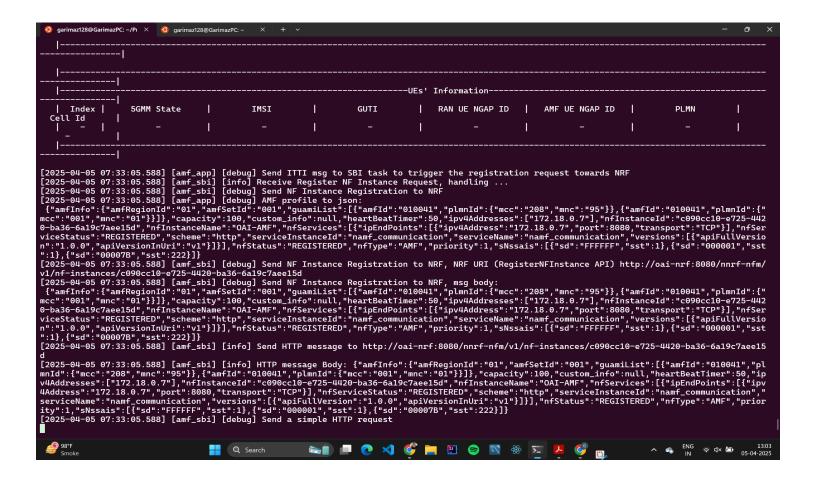
[2025-04-08 07;26:41,409] [config] [info] - log_level_ debug

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,409] [config] [info] - log_level_ debug

[2025-04-08 07;26:41,409] [config
```

AMF is successfully registering with the NRF, and the logs confirm that:

- The NF (Network Function) Registration to the NRF is working.
- The nfType: AMF and nfStatus: REGISTERED confirm it's alive and talking to the NRF.



Challenges we faced and working on them:

1. The WebUI is an optional tool for managing UE entries through a graphical interface. The main 5G functions are working fine, and WebUI not running does not impact the actual network behavior or testing.

Solution to this is by modifying the docker-deployment.yml file

- 2. Image pull failures from private container registries
- 3. Obsolete version: attribute warning in YAML just a deprecation warning, but not a blocker, this was again solved by modifying the yml file respectively.

PART 2: Our addition to the project Network slicing implementation using open vSwitch (OVS)

Network slicing allows a single physical 5g infrastructure to be split into multiple virtual networks, called slices.

Using OVS will provide:

- 1. Isolated network traffic between slices
- 2. Software defined networking
- 3. Route traffic differently based on slice-specific rules

Step by step implementation for Network slicing by OVS in existing network deployed by docker

1. Installing open vSwitch and other dependencies:

```
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo apt install
openvswitch-switch
[sudo] password for garimaz128:
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer
required:
  bridge-utils dns-root-data dnsmasg-base ubuntu-fan
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
The following additional packages will be installed:
  libevent-2.1-7t64 libunbound8 libxdp1 openvswitch-common
  python3-openvswitch python3-sortedcontainers
Suggested packages:
  openvswitch-doc python-sortedcontainers-doc
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  libevent-2.1-7t64 libunbound8 libxdp1 openvswitch-common
  openvswitch-switch python3-openvswitch python3-sortedcontainers
0 upgraded, 7 newly installed, 0 to remove and 50 not upgraded.
Need to get 4354 kB of archives.
After this operation, 13.7 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue? [Y/n] y
Get:1 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/main amd64 libevent-2.1-7
t64 amd64 2.1.12-stable-9ubuntu2 [145 kB]
Get:2 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-updates/main amd64 libunb
ound8 amd64 1.19.2-1ubuntu3.4 [442 kB]
Get:3 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-updates/main amd64 openvs
witch-common amd64 3.3.0-lubuntu3.2 [1040 kB]
```

2. Creating OVS bridge:

In a network slicing scenario, we need a way to separate and route traffic logically inside the same machine.

Verifying if the bridge is created or not by the command "sudo ovs-vsctl show"

3. Creating virtual interfaces for slices

Slice A: for regular users

Slice B: for IoT

Creating virtual ethernet pairs (veth), vethA on one side and vethA-peer on the other side, are like 2 ends of wire sending data.

Doing the same with vethB and vethB-peer

```
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo ip link add vethA type veth peer name vethA-peer garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo ip link add vethB type veth peer name vethB-peer
```

4. Bringing up all the interfaces with the bridges : commands don't give any output when they run successfully. They just quietly bring the interfaces up.

```
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo ovs-vsctl ad d-port br-free5gc vethA sudo ovs-vsctl add-port br-free5gc vethB sudo ip link set vethA up sudo ip link set vethA-peer up sudo ip link set vethB up sudo ip link set vethB-peer up
```

5. Verifying and checking the status of the bridges connected successfully or not

6. Testing the connectivity : assigning IP to test the pink between peers , this confirms packets are travelling over the virtual ethernet pair across OVS bridge

```
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo ip addr add
10.0.0.1/24 dev vethA-peer
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo ip addr add
10.0.0.2/24 dev vethB-peer
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ ping 10.0.0.2 -c
4
PING 10.0.0.2 (10.0.0.2) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.0.0.2: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.089 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.2: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.055 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.2: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=0.051 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.2: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=0.061 ms
--- 10.0.0.2 ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 4 received, 0% packet loss, time 3142ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.051/0.064/0.089/0.014 ms
```

NOW WE WILL SIMULATE REALISTIC 5G BEHAVIOUR LIKE NETWORK SLICING AND OOS WITH THE HELP OF VLANS OVER OVS

Docker-based 5G core is up and running, adding VLAN-based slicing via OVS allows you to simulate how real telecom networks separate different services

1. Creating new veth pairs for VLAN separation

```
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo ip link add
slice1-veth type veth peer name slice1-peer
[sudo] password for garimaz128:
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo ip link add
slice2-veth type veth peer name slice2-peer
```

2. Attaching OVS bridge to VLAN tags and assigning ip to all of them:

Lets supposes, slice-1 belongs to VLAN 10 AND slice-2 belongs to VLAN 20

```
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo ip link add
slice1-veth type veth peer name slice1-peer
[sudo] password for garimaz128:
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo ip link add
slice2-veth type veth peer name slice2-peer
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ sudo ovs-vsctl ad
d-port br-free5gc slice1-veth tag=10
sudo ovs-vsctl add-port br-free5gc slice2-veth tag=20
sudo ip link set slice1-veth up
sudo ip link set slice1-peer up
sudo ip link set slice2-veth up
sudo ip link set slice2-peer up
sudo ip addr add 192.168.10.1/24 dev slice1-peer
sudo ip addr add 192.168.20.1/24 dev slice2-peer
^C2025-04-06T09:20:47Z|00002|fatal_signal|WARN|terminating with signal
2 (Interrupt)
```

3. Ping test performance for slice 1 and slice 2 both:

```
garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ ping 192.168.10.1
  # From inside a container/namespace on VLAN 10
PING 192.168.10.1 (192.168.10.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
^C
--- 192.168.10.1 ping statistics ---
25 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 24889ms

garimaz128@GarimazPC:~/Project5G-ansible-deployment$ ping 192.168.20.1
PING 192.168.20.1 (192.168.20.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
^C
--- 192.168.20.1 ping statistics ---
14 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 13483ms
```

PART 3: Free5GC Monitoring Dashboard

As the third stage of our project, We implemented a real-time monitoring and visualization system for the Docker-based Free5GC deployment using Prometheus and Grafana. This enabled us to observe the health and resource usage of each 5G core network function, aiding both debugging and optimization.

- Deploying **Free5GC** with Docker (Only AMF, SMF and UPF)
- Installing and configuring Prometheus (for data scraping)
- Exposing Free5GC metrics via Prometheus exporters
- Visualizing metrics in Grafana (for visualisation) and cAdvisor (for exporting container metrics)

STEP 1: We updated the packages and installed basic tools

sudo apt install -y git curl docker.io docker-compose

And started docker daemon as the base environment.

STEP 2: We created a project folder and inside it, we made a docker-compose yaml file and a prometheus config file. When done, we launched it.

These are the website url:

Prometheus: http://localhost:9090

Grafana: http://localhost:3000

Node Exporter: http://localhost:9100

cAdvisor: http://localhost:8080

```
nimisha@nimisha:~$ mkdir ~/5g-monitoring
nimisha@nimisha:~$ cd ~/5g-monitoring
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ nano docker-compose.yml
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ nano prometheus.yml
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ docker compose up -d
WARN[0000] /home/nimisha/5g-monitoring/docker-compose.yml: the attribute `ve
rsion' is obsolete, it will be ignored, please remove it to avoid potential
confusion
 ✓prometheus Pulled

√9fa9226be034 Pull complete

   ✓1617e25568b2 Pull complete

√9b9d79238f8b Pull complete

   ✓106f68af2002 Pull complete

√92c2f87eeb17 Pull complete

√4f41336c2101 Pull complete

√5786756b1404 Pull complete

   ✓54cdc7571130 Pull complete
   ✓1c14205dd2d7 Pull complete

√6440af355f6b Pull complete

 ✓node-exporter Pulled

√c6e37428e3b3 Pull complete

✓ cadvisor Pulled

√619be1103602 Pull complete

√3b8469b194b8 Pull complete

√6361eeb1639c Pull complete

√4f4fb700ef54 Pull complete

√902eccca70f3 Pull complete

✓grafana Pulled

√f18232174bc9 Pull complete

√70ca445a67c2 Pull complete

√bbb8b5218cfb Pull complete

   ✓2a08a00fe446 Pull complete
✓5b32a5607528 Pull complete

√c0a27b1e2168 Pull complete

√ce185550173e Pull complete

√daf4bae1c5dd Pull complete

√b9d78c8c657a Pull complete

✓babadc1b811e Pull complete

 ✓Network 5g-monitoring_default
```

STEP 3: To Monitor Free5GC components, we deploy the containers with labels when running them. This way, Prometheus can collect the necessary metrics for each container.

In these examples, we are labeling each Free5GC component with the respective service label (e.g., free5gc-upf, free5gc-amf, free5gc-smf).

```
Container cadvisor
 Container prometheus

✓Container grafana

✓Container node-exporter

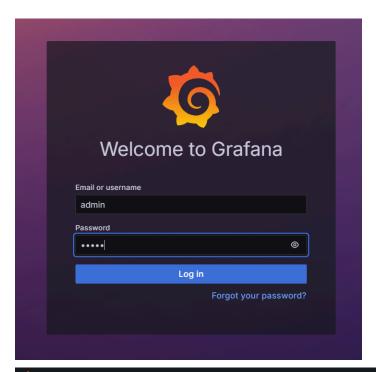
         @nimisha:<mark>~/5g-monitoring$ docker ps</mark>
CONTAINER ID IMAGE
                                                 COMMAND
                                                                             CREATED
        STATUS
                                                                  NAMES
248fcb8c7b4c
                                                 "/usr/bin/cadvisor -..."
                gcr.io/cadvisor/cadvisor
                                                                             4 minutes
       Up 4 minutes (healthy)
                                    0.0.0.0:8080->8080/tcp cadvisor
 ago
f1c5d8d02ce8 prom/node-exporter
                                                 "/bin/node_exporter"
                                                                             4 minutes
                                     0.0.0.0:9100->9100/tcp node-exporter
       Up 4 minutes
b1fc0c36f2d7 prom/prometheus
                                                "/bin/prometheus --c..."
                                                                             4 minutes
       Up 4 minutes
                                     0.0.0.0:9090->9090/tcp
                                                                 prometheus
 ago
bd562416bac7 grafana/grafana
                                                 "/run.sh"
                                                                             4 minutes
 ago Up 4 minutes
                                     0.0.0.0:3000->3000/tcp
                                                                 grafana
 imisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ docker run -d --name free5gc-upf -
ree5gc=upf" -p 5000:5000 nginx
7e014bbdc7d70a97c4f39f5c96e031573b03022ff48215790fbc79577232864a
 nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ docker run -d --name free5gc-amf --label "f
ree5gc=amf" -p 5001:5001 nginx
83198b4c9b9f7e990420902957d6102695c1301aa26ca1ab2546475d793f08bc
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ docker run -d --name free5gc-smf --label "free5gc=smf" -p 5002:5002 nginx
3cea80b7e0b5dfd54ac58d66c925f62a6ad5ada6fdf339e7bda836376b6043f9
 nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$
 imisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ docker run -d \
  --name=cadvisor \
  --volume=/var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock \
  --volume=/sys:/sys \
--volume=/var/lib/docker/:/var/lib/docker/ \
  -p 8080:8080 \
  google/cadvisor:latest
Unable to find image 'google/cadvisor:latest' locally latest: Pulling from google/cadvisor ff3a5c916c92: Pull complete 44a45bb65cdf: Pull complete
Obbela2fe2a6: Pull complete
Digest: sha256:815386ebbe9a3490f38785ab11bda34ec8dacf4634af77b8912832d4f85dc
```

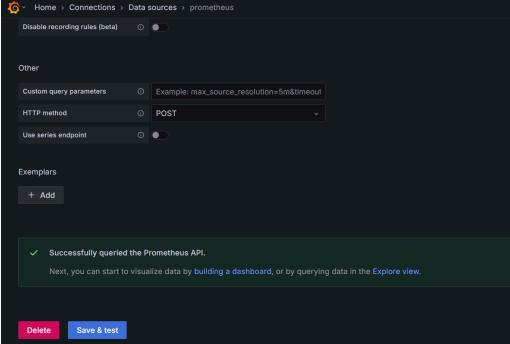
STEP 4: Now we run the cadvisor which provides insights to container resource usage. In your Prometheus configuration file (prometheus.yml), add a job for cAdvisor. This tells Prometheus to scrape metrics from cAdvisor (running on port 8080). And restart it.

```
docker: Error response from daemon: Conflict. The container name "/cadvisor"
is already in use by container "248fcb8c7b4c78a912faa251e04998fc5261ef18cb3
b96edf0d1f4c544d63603". You have to remove (or rename) that container to be
able to reuse that name.
See 'docker run --help'.
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ docker stop cadvisor
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ docker rm cadvisor
cadvisor
nimisha@nimisha:<mark>~/5g-monitoring$ docker run -d \</mark>
   --name=cadvisor \
   --volume=/var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock \
  --volume=/sys:/sys \
--volume=/var/lib/docker/:/var/lib/docker/ \
   -p 8080:8080 \
google/cadvisor:latest
1f3762196a34fa097fa583954d098f8d34f1e28e6826bebb805f597a40628d9d
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ nano prometheus.yml
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ ip addr show eth0
2: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1372 qdisc mq state UP group
default qlen 1000
     link/ether 00:15:5d:b4:c0:fb brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
     inet 172.24.175.73/20 brd 172.24.175.255 scope global eth0
     valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
inet6 fe80::215:5dff:feb4:c0fb/64 scope link
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ nano prometheus.yml
nimisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$ docker restart prometheus
 imisha@nimisha:~/5g-monitoring$
```

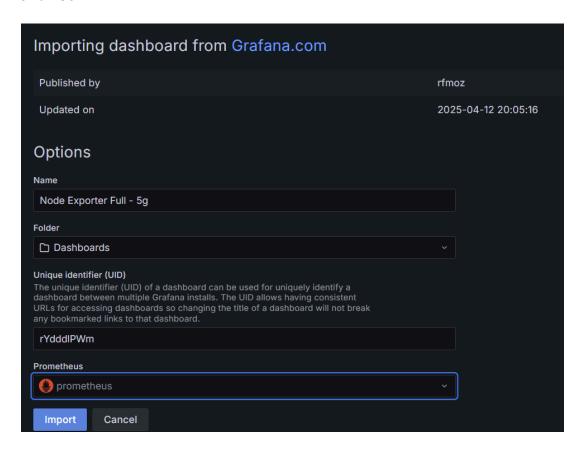
Since, prometheus was not working as a localhost, we changed it to my local host ip and restarted it.

STEP 5: Then, We logged into Grafana with our login credentials and added prometheus as a data source. And save and test if it was working.

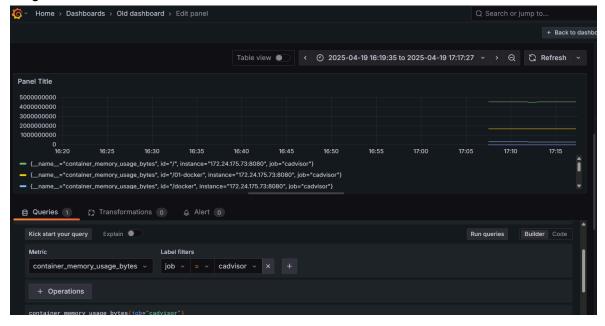




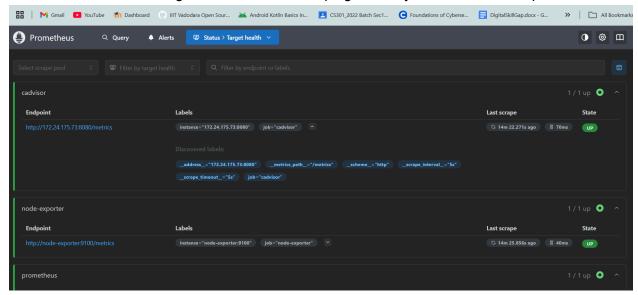
STEP 6: Importing a dashboard in Grafana with ID 1860 which is actually very good for cAdvisor.



STEP 7: Use grafana to add Prometheus as the data source and enter queries to check metrics for the containers that are up and running. In the below image, we can see the metric memory usage:



Note. – 1. We are checking if Prometheus is scraping correctly. And cAdvisor is up.



We can see the metrics here.

Note 2. This is the web UI of cAdvisor (up and running.)

