

End-to-End Tracing: Adoption and Use Cases

Jonathan Mace, Brown University

jcmace@cs.brown.edu

March 2017

This document summarizes information about end-to-end tracing for 26 companies. The information was gathered from documents shared to the Distributed Tracing Workgroup [6] and through in-person conversations at tracing workshops [5]. To cite this document, use the following bibtex:

```
@techreport{mace2017survey,
  title={{End-to-End Tracing: Adoption and Use Cases}},
  author={Jonathan Mace},
  type={{Survey}},
  institution={Brown University},
  year={2017},
}
```

Company	Services	Engineers	Tools	Use Cases
Allegro	250+	500	Zipkin ^{†*}	debugging; understanding service dependencies; network traffic analysis; latency monitoring
BBN Technologies (?)	30+	60	Zipkin [†]	understand service dependencies; performance and latency monitoring
Coursera	15+	60	Zipkin ^{†*}	dependency visualization; failure correlation and analysis
Etsy	—	200+	CrossStitch [†] [2]	latency monitoring; aggregated analysis
Facebook	—	—	FBTrace	mobile analysis; regression analysis
FINN.no	200	120	Zipkin [†]	
Google	—	—	Dapper [12], Census [7]	performance and resource monitoring; security auditing; root-cause analysis
Groupon	400+	1700	Zipkin [†]	performance improvements; architectural understanding; monitoring; SLA enforcement; anomaly detection; ad-hoc exploratory analysis
Hailo	200+	30	In-House [†] [1]	debugging; metric aggregation; architectural understanding; network traffic analysis; performance optimizations
Line	24+	200+	Brave, Zipkin [†]	latency monitoring; metrics monitoring
Lookout	15+	100	Zipkin [†]	statistics and metrics monitoring; deployment tooling; client whitelisting;
Lyft	—	—	zend [†] [8]	dependency analysis; latency analysis; mobile device correlations
Medidata Solutions	100	—	Zipkin [†]	system monitoring
Naver	100	2000	Naver Pinpoint [†]	architectural understanding; realtime monitoring; stacktrace sampling; batch analysis
Netflix	100+	1000+	Salp [†] [3]	dependency analysis; ad-hoc offline querying; realtime analysis; critical path analysis
Pinterest	—	—	PinTrace [†] [9]	latency analysis; architectural understanding; debugging; cost attribution; root-cause analysis
Prezi	50	100	Zipkin [†]	latency analysis; service dependency analysis
SmartThings	24+	35	Zipkin [†]	real-time analysis
SoundCloud	50	140	Zipkin [†]	architectural understanding, performance optimizations; latency analysis; batch analysis
Sourcegraph	—	—	Appdash [†]	debugging; performance and latency monitoring
Tracelytics	—	—	TraceView [§]	latency analysis; performance monitoring; realtime monitoring; metric aggregation
TomTom Maps	10+	100+	Brave, Zipkin [†]	statistical analysis and aggregation
Uber	2000+	2000+	Jaeger	architectural understanding, execution clustering; historical analysis; anomaly detection; inspect service dependencies; latency correlations; real-time aggregations
Yelp	300+	—	Zipkin [†] [4]	debugging; service dependency analysis; latency analysis
Zalando	100+	1000+	Zalando Tracer [§]	realtime and batch analysis
Zhihu	150+	80+	Zipkin [†]	architectural understanding; metric aggregation; dependency analysis; stack trace analysis; latency analysis

*with extensions or modifications

[†]Dapper [12] derivative

[§]X-Trace [10] derivative

References

- [1] A Journey into Microservices: Dealing with Complexity. <https://goo.gl/6iUeA5>. [Online; published March 2015].
- [2] CrossStitch: What Etsy Learned Building a Distributed Tracing System. <https://goo.gl/YdJcMq>. [Online; accessed January 2017].
- [3] Distributed Tracing at Netflix. <https://goo.gl/yWMXzP>. [Online; accessed January 2017].
- [4] Distributed Tracing at Yelp. <https://goo.gl/0aC0oU>. [Online; published April 2016].
- [5] Distributed Tracing Workgroup. <https://goo.gl/NEM0en>. [Online; accessed January 2017].
- [6] Distributed Tracing Workshops: Shared Documents. <https://goo.gl/8znW4w>. [Online; accessed January 2017].
- [7] Google Census. <https://goo.gl/iEqIqH>. [Online; accessed January 2017].
- [8] Lyft's Envoy: From Monolith to Service Mesh. <https://goo.gl/2mccwJ>. [Online; accessed January 2017].
- [9] PinTrace: Distributed Tracing at Pinterest. <https://goo.gl/ZCr0v1>. [Online; published August 2016].
- [10] FONSECA, R., PORTER, G., KATZ, R. H., SHENKER, S., AND STOICA, I. X-Trace: A Pervasive Network Tracing Framework. In *4th USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI '07)*.
- [11] MACE, J. End-to-End Tracing: Adoption and Use Cases. Survey, Brown University, 2017.
- [12] SIGELMAN, B. H., BARROSO, L. A., BURROWS, M., STEPHENSON, P., PLAKAL, M., BEAVER, D., JASPMAN, S., AND SHANBHAG, C. Dapper, a Large-Scale Distributed Systems Tracing Infrastructure. Technical Report, Google, 2010.