



10 Key Performance Indicators Every Engineer Should Know

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Time to First Byte (TTFB)

TTFB measures the time taken from the moment a client sends a request to a server until the client receives the first byte of data from the server.

Example: A website's TTFB is 200 milliseconds, indicating a fast initial response from the server.

Throughput

Throughput measures the number of operations or requests processed by a system per unit of time.

Example: An API handling 500 requests per second.

Latency

Latency is the time taken for a request to travel from the sender to the receiver and for the response to travel back.

Example: The time taken for a user's request to reach a server and receive a response is 100 milliseconds.

Response Time

Response time is the total time taken for a system to process a request, including the time spent waiting in queues and the actual processing time.

Example: A database query takes 250 milliseconds to complete, including 50 milliseconds spent in the queue.

Error Rate

Error rate is the percentage of requests that result in errors, such as timeouts or failures, compared to the total number of requests.

Example: Out of 10,000 requests, 100 fail, resulting in an error rate of 1%.

Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF)

MTBF is the average time between system failures or disruptions.

Example: A server has an MTBF of 30,000 hours, which means it is expected to operate without failure for an average of 30,000 hours.

Mean Time to Repair (MTTR)

MTTR measures the average time taken to repair or recover from a system failure.

Example: A system has an MTTR of 2 hours, indicating that it takes an average of 2 hours to restore operations after a failure.

Network Bandwidth

Network bandwidth is the maximum rate of data transfer across a network connection.

Example: A network connection with a bandwidth of 100 Mbps can transfer 100 megabits of data per second.

Request Rate

Request rate is the number of requests received by a system per unit of time.

Example: A web server receives 300 requests per minute during peak hours.

Concurrent Connections

Concurrent connections represent the number of active connections to a system at a given moment.

Example: A database server can handle 5,000 concurrent connections without performance degradation.

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