

# Choosing the Right Sink to Enable Analysis

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# Overview



**Review goals of logging**

**Exploration of available sinks**

- Multiple categories

**Considerations for choosing a sink**

**Demo: SQL Server**

**Demo: Elasticsearch (ELK stack)**

**NOTE: No ASP.NET Core entries in the demos**



# Goals of Logging

## Improve “Fixability”

Full details in the logs

Easily accessible

Minimize “Can’t reproduce”

## Understand Applications

Most-used features

Speed of key activities

Time(s) for max concurrency

Frequency of errors

Key customer usage

## Prioritize Work

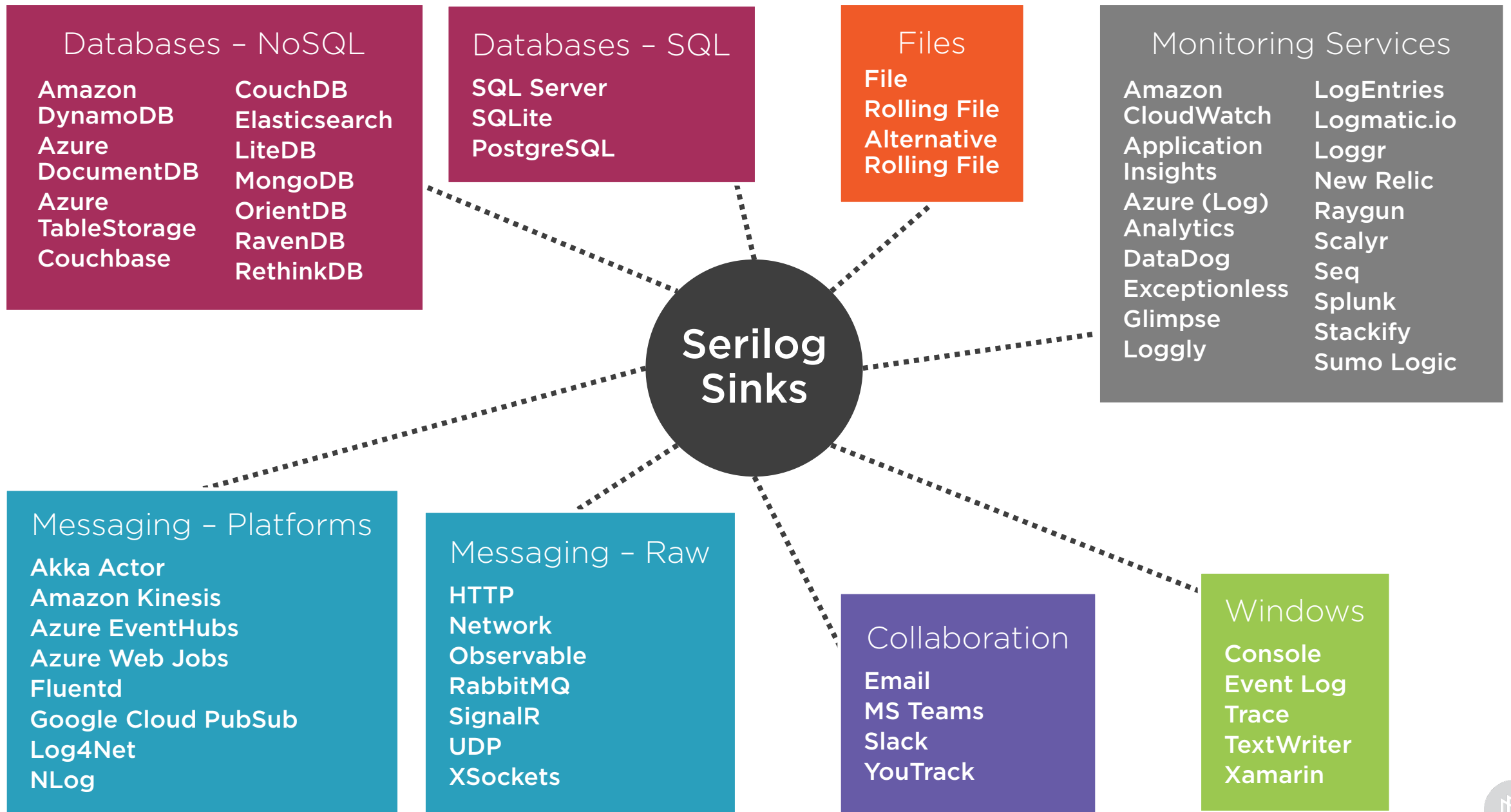
What to fix first

What to speed up

Deflect squeaky wheels

Base decisions on usage and/or customer





# Sink Considerations

## Database

Pricing based on licensing for database and storage requirements

Identify a review and analysis tool

May need to build your own tool(s)

Likely need to define purge or archival process

User accessibility is simpler

## Monitoring Service

Pricing based on number of log entries and number of users (often monthly)

Review and analysis is part of solution

May need to configure some views

User accessibility needs to be managed by someone



# Demo



## SQL Server sink

- Write log entries to the sink
- Confirm entries with queries
- Review entries with a custom web app
- Review entries with an SSRS report



# Demo



## Elasticsearch sink

- Use a Docker image to host the ELK stack
- Write log entries to the sink
- Confirm entries with Sense
- Configure Kibana with an index pattern
- Explore Discovery within Kibana
- Explore Visualization and Dashboards within Kibana



# Summary



**Discussed overall goals of logging**

**Built a logging platform using Serilog**

**Established guiding principles**

- Types of things to log
- Information to include

**Applied it to many application types**

- Included logging via API

**Reviewed available sinks**

**More detailed look at SQL Server and  
ELK stack**

