

Placement Empowerment Program

Cloud Computing and DevOps Centre

Visualize Cloud Application Metrics with Grafana:
Connect Grafana to Prometheus and create dashboards
for monitoring CPU, memory, and HTTP requests.

Name: Saravana Krishnan J

Department: IT

Introduction

In cloud-based environments, monitoring system performance is essential to maintain application availability, optimize resource usage, and prevent failures. **Prometheus** is a powerful open-source monitoring and alerting toolkit that collects time-series data, while **Grafana** provides an interactive interface to visualize and analyze this data.

This PoC focuses on setting up **Prometheus and Grafana** on an **AWS EC2 instance** running **Ubuntu** to monitor system metrics such as **CPU usage, memory consumption, and network traffic**

Overview

This PoC demonstrates how to:

1. Install and configure **Prometheus** on an AWS EC2 instance.
2. Set up **Node Exporter** to collect system-level metrics (CPU, RAM, Disk, Network).
3. Install and configure **Grafana** for visualizing Prometheus metrics.
4. Add **Prometheus as a data source** in Grafana.
5. Run queries in Grafana to view real-time monitoring data.

By completing this PoC, you will have a working **monitoring setup** that collects, stores, and visualizes system performance data in **real-time**.

Objective

The primary goals of this PoC are:

1. Set up **Prometheus** to scrape system metrics.
2. Configure **Node Exporter** to collect CPU, memory, and network statistics.
3. Install **Grafana** and integrate it with Prometheus.
4. Learn how to write **PromQL queries** to analyze metrics.
5. Verify system monitoring by querying network traffic data.

At the end of this PoC, we will have a functional **monitoring stack** with **Prometheus for data collection** and **Grafana for visualization**.

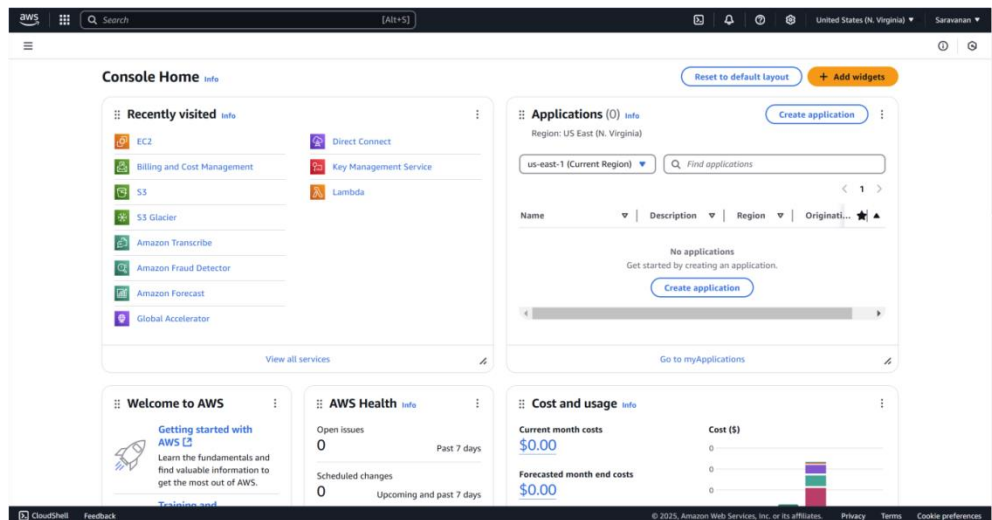
Importance

1. **Real-time Monitoring** – Track system health and performance metrics in real-time.
2. **Early Issue Detection** – Detect anomalies before they lead to failures.
3. **Historical Data Analysis** – Store and analyze performance trends over time.
4. **Scalability** – Easily integrates with cloud environments like AWS, Kubernetes, and Docker.
5. **Alerting & Notifications** – Set up alerts for system issues.
6. **Open-source & Cost-effective** – Eliminates the need for expensive monitoring tools.

Step-by-Step Overview

Step 1:

1. Go to [AWS Management Console](#).
2. Enter your username and password to log in.



Step 2:

1. Navigate to **EC2** → **Launch Instance**.
2. Choose an **Ubuntu** OS.
3. Configure the security group:

Allow inbound rules for:

- SSH (Port **22**) → Your IP
- Node Exporter (**9100**) → Anywhere
- Prometheus (Port **9090**) → Anywhere

Launch an instance

Amazon EC2 allows you to create virtual machines, or instances, that run on the AWS Cloud. Quickly get started by following the simple steps below.

Name and tags

Name

grafana-monitoring

Add additional tags

Application and OS Images (Amazon Machine Image)

An AMI is a template that contains the software configuration (operating system, application server, and applications) required to launch your instance. Search or Browse for AMIs if you don't see what you are looking for below

Search our full catalog including 1000s of application and OS images

Recents

Quick Start

Amazon Linux

macOS

Ubuntu

Windows

Red Hat

SUSE Linux

Debian

Browse more AMIs

Including AMIs from AWS, Marketplace and the Community

Amazon Machine Image (AMI)

Ubuntu Server 24.04 LTS (HVM), SSD Volume Type
ami-04b4f1ad9f54c11d0 (64-bit (x86)) / ami-0a7a6e7f89439934 (64-bit (Arm))
Virtualization: hvm ENA enabled: true Root device type: ebs

Free tier eligible

Summary

Number of instances1

Software Image (AMI)
Amazon Linux 2023 AMI 2023.6.2...read more
ami-05b19c0b2c47b927

Virtual server type (instance type)
t2.micro

Firewall (security group)
New security group

Storage (volumes)
1 volume(s) - 8 GiB

Free tier: In your first year of opening an AWS account, you get 750 hours per month of t2.micro instance usage (or t3.micro where t2.micro isn't available) when used with free tier AMIs, 750 hours per month of public IPv4 address usage, 30 GiB of EBS storage, 2 million I/Os, 1 GiB of snapshots, and 100 GiB of bandwidth to the internet.

Cancel

Launch instance

Preview code

Security group rule 1 (TCP: 22, 0.0.0.0/0)

Type

ssh

Protocol

TCP

Port range

22

Source type

Anywhere

Source

0.0.0.0/0

Description - optional

e.g. SSH for admin desktop

Security group rule 2 (TCP: 9090, 0.0.0.0/0)

Type

Custom TCP

Protocol

TCP

Port range

9090

Source type

Anywhere

Source

0.0.0.0/0

Description - optional

e.g. SSH for admin desktop

Security group rule 3 (TCP: 9100, 0.0.0.0/0)

Type

Custom TCP

Protocol

TCP

Port range

9100

Source type

Anywhere

Source

0.0.0.0/0

Description - optional

e.g. SSH for admin desktop

Summary

Number of instances1

Software Image (AMI)
Canonical, Ubuntu, 24.04, amd64...read more
ami-04b4f1ad9f54c11d0

Virtual server type (instance type)
t2.micro

Firewall (security group)
New security group

Storage (volumes)
1 volume(s) - 8 GiB

Free tier: In your first year of opening an AWS account, you get 750 hours per month of t2.micro instance usage (or t3.micro where t2.micro isn't available) when used with free tier AMIs, 750 hours per month of public IPv4 address usage, 30 GiB of EBS storage, 2 million I/Os, 1 GiB of snapshots, and 100 GiB of bandwidth to the internet.

Cancel

Launch instance

Preview code

Edit inbound rules

Inbound rules control the incoming traffic that's allowed to reach the instance.

Inbound rules

Security group rule ID

Type

Protocol

Port range

Source

Description - optional

sgr-0d126c1b36b7576ed

Custom TCP

TCP

9100

Custom

0.0.0.0/0

Delete

sgr-060411fbf4896ef

Custom TCP

TCP

3000

Custom

0.0.0.0/0

Delete

sgr-092539f020eebb9e9

Custom TCP

TCP

9090

Custom

0.0.0.0/0

Delete

sgr-0330c2f4d91b27443

SSH

TCP

22

Custom

0.0.0.0/0

Delete

Add rule

Rules with source of 0.0.0.0/0 or ::/0 allow all IP addresses to access your instance. We recommend setting security group rules to allow access from known IP addresses only.

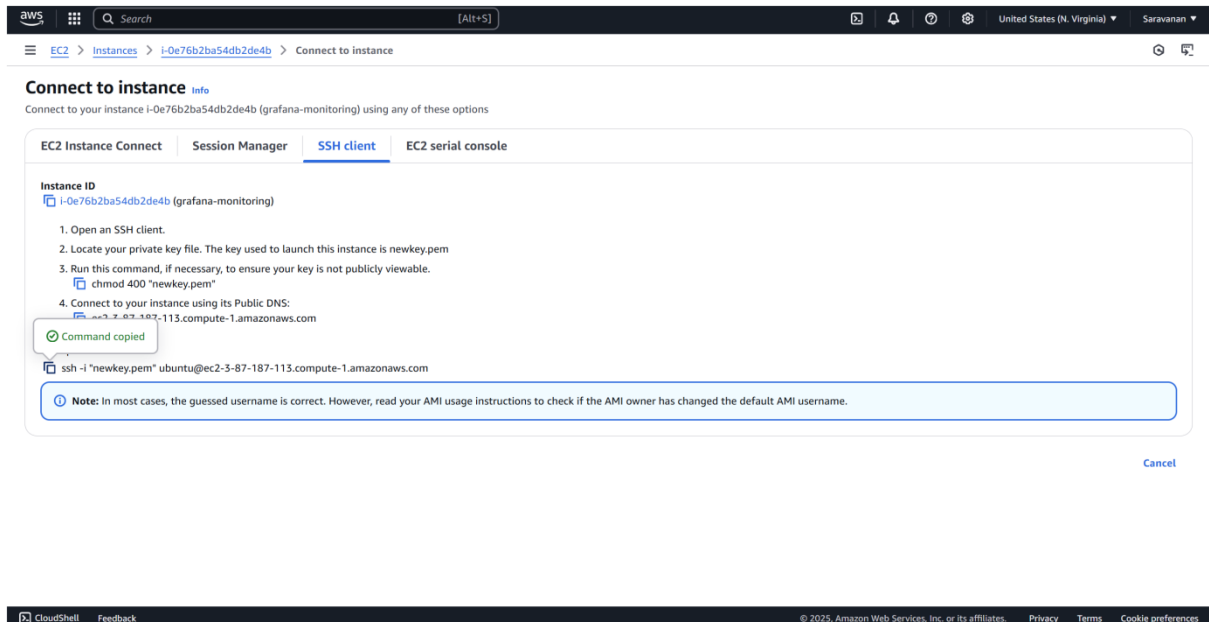
Cancel

Preview changes

Save rules

Step 3:

Connect to the instance via SSH in Command prompt.



```
C:\Users\Hi>cd downloads
C:\Users\Hi\Downloads>ssh -i "newkey.pem" ubuntu@ec2-3-87-187-113.compute-1.amazonaws.com
```

Step 4:

Run the following command to update the package list and upgrade existing packages:

sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-95-162:~$ sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y
```

Step 5:

Create a Prometheus user

sudo useradd --no-create-home --shell /bin/false Prometheus

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~$ sudo useradd --no-create-home --shell /bin/false prometheus
```

Step 6:

Create required directories

sudo mkdir /etc/prometheus

sudo mkdir /var/lib/Prometheus

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~$ sudo mkdir /etc/prometheus
sudo mkdir /var/lib/prometheus
```

Step 7:

Download Prometheus

<https://github.com/prometheus/prometheus/releases/download/v2.45.0/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64.tar.gz>

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~$ wget https://github.com/prometheus/prometheus/releases/download/v2.45.0/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64.tar.g
z
```

Step 8:

Extract and move files

```
tar -xvf prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64.tar.gz  
cd prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64  
sudo mv prometheus promtool /usr/local/bin/  
sudo mv consoles console_libraries /etc/prometheus/  
sudo mv prometheus.yml /etc/prometheus/
```

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~$ tar -xvf prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64.tar.gz  
cd prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64  
sudo mv prometheus promtool /usr/local/bin/  
sudo mv consoles console_libraries /etc/prometheus/  
sudo mv prometheus.yml /etc/prometheus/
```

Step 9:

Set permissions

```
sudo chown -R prometheus:prometheus /etc/prometheus  
/var/lib/Prometheus
```

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64$ sudo chown -R prometheus:prometheus /etc/prometheus /var/lib/prometheus
```

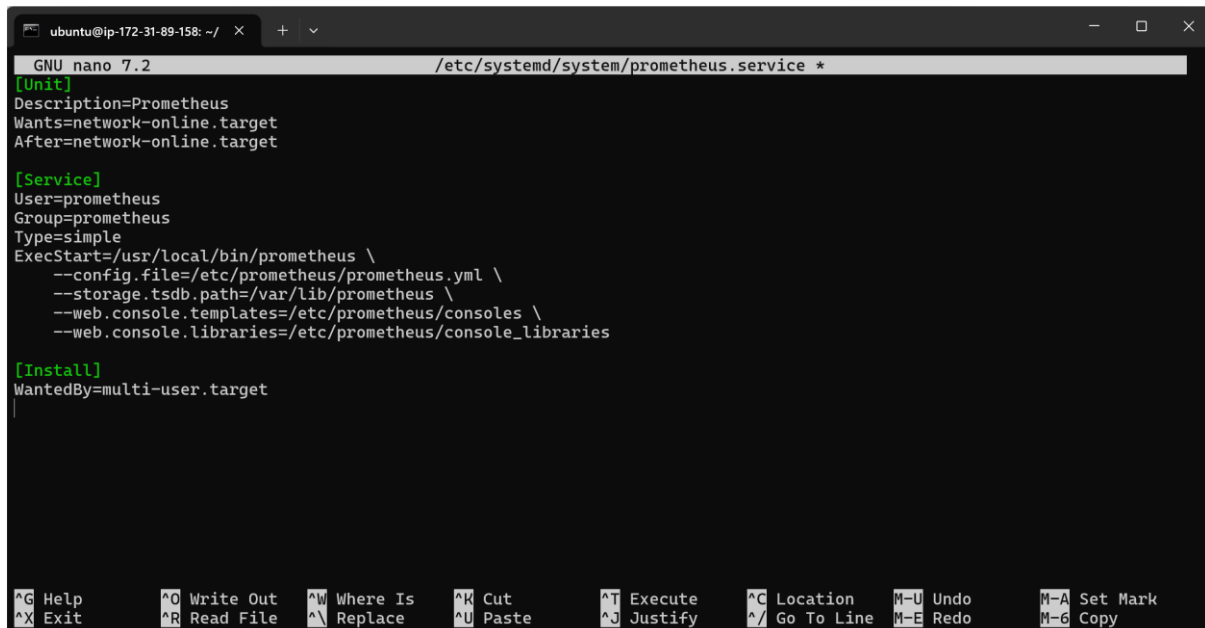
Step 10:

1. Create a systemd service file

```
sudo nano /etc/systemd/system/prometheus.service
```

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64$ sudo nano /etc/systemd/system/prometheus.service
```


2. Paste this content inside the file:



```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158: ~/ X
GNU nano 7.2 /etc/systemd/system/prometheus.service *
[Unit]
Description=Prometheus
Wants=network-online.target
After=network-online.target

[Service]
User=prometheus
Group=prometheus
Type=simple
ExecStart=/usr/local/bin/prometheus \
--config.file=/etc/prometheus/prometheus.yml \
--storage.tsdb.path=/var/lib/prometheus \
--web.console.templates=/etc/prometheus/consoles \
--web.console.libraries=/etc/prometheus/console_libraries

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target

^G Help      ^O Write Out  ^W Where Is   ^K Cut        ^T Execute   ^C Location  M-U Undo     M-A Set Mark
^X Exit      ^R Read File  ^\ Replace    ^U Paste      ^J Justify   ^_ Go To Line M-E Redo     M-G Copy
```

Press **CTRL + O** and then **Enter**. Then Press **Ctrl+X**.

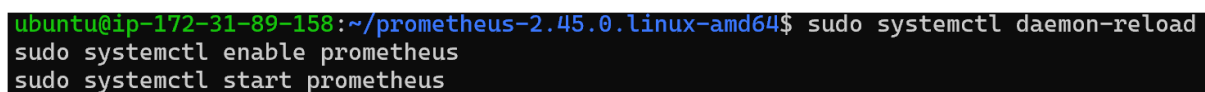
Step 11:

Reload systemd and start Prometheus

sudo systemctl daemon-reload

sudo systemctl enable prometheus

sudo systemctl start Prometheus



```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64$ sudo systemctl daemon-reload
sudo systemctl enable prometheus
sudo systemctl start prometheus
```

Step 12:

Verify Prometheus is running

sudo systemctl status Prometheus

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64$ sudo systemctl status prometheus
● prometheus.service - Prometheus
   Loaded: loaded (/etc/systemd/system/prometheus.service; enabled; preset: enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Mon 2025-03-03 15:12:55 UTC; 46s ago
```

Step 13:

Download Node Exporter

https://github.com/prometheus/node_exporter/releases/download/v1.6.1/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64.tar.gz

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64$ wget https://github.com/prometheus/node_exporter/releases/download/v1.6.1/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64.tar.gz
```

Step 14:

Extract and move files

tar -xvf node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64.tar.gz

cd node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64

sudo mv node_exporter /usr/local/bin/

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64$ tar -xvf node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64.tar.gz
cd node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64
sudo mv node_exporter /usr/local/bin/
node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64/
node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64/NOTICE
node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64/node_exporter
node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64/LICENSE
```

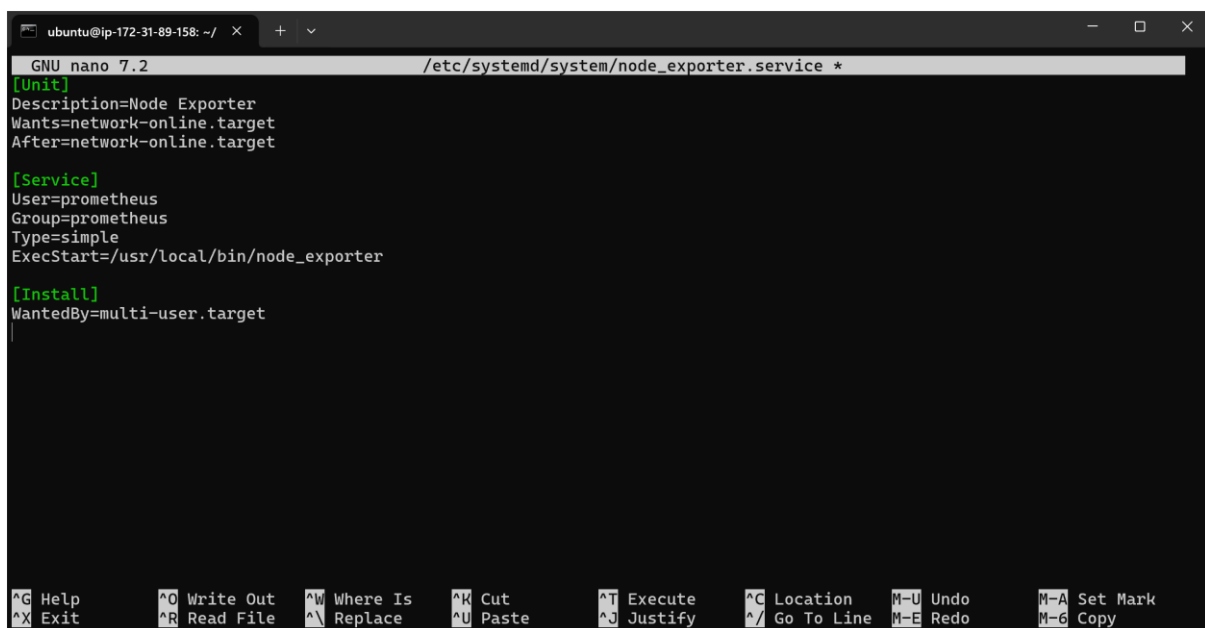
Step 15:

1. Create a systemd service file

sudo nano /etc/systemd/system/node_exporter.service

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158: ~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64$ sudo nano /etc/systemd/system/n  
ode_exporter.service
```

2. Paste this content inside the file:



```
GNU nano 7.2 /etc/systemd/system/node_exporter.service *  
[Unit]  
Description=Node Exporter  
Wants=network-online.target  
After=network-online.target  
  
[Service]  
User=prometheus  
Group=prometheus  
Type=simple  
ExecStart=/usr/local/bin/node_exporter  
  
[Install]  
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

Press **CTRL + O** and then **Enter**. Then Press **Ctrl+X** .

Step 16:

Reload systemd and start Node Exporter

```
sudo systemctl daemon-reload  
sudo systemctl enable node_exporter  
sudo systemctl start node_exporter
```

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64$ sudo systemctl daemon-reload  
sudo systemctl enable node_exporter  
sudo systemctl start node_exporter  
Created symlink /etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/node_exporter.service → /etc/systemd/system/node_exporter.service.
```

Step 17:

Verify Node Exporter is running

```
sudo systemctl status node_exporter
```

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64$ sudo systemctl status node_exporter  
● node_exporter.service - Node Exporter  
   Loaded: loaded (/etc/systemd/system/node_exporter.service; enabled; preset: enabled)  
   Active: active (running) since Mon 2025-03-03 15:15:28 UTC; 8s ago
```

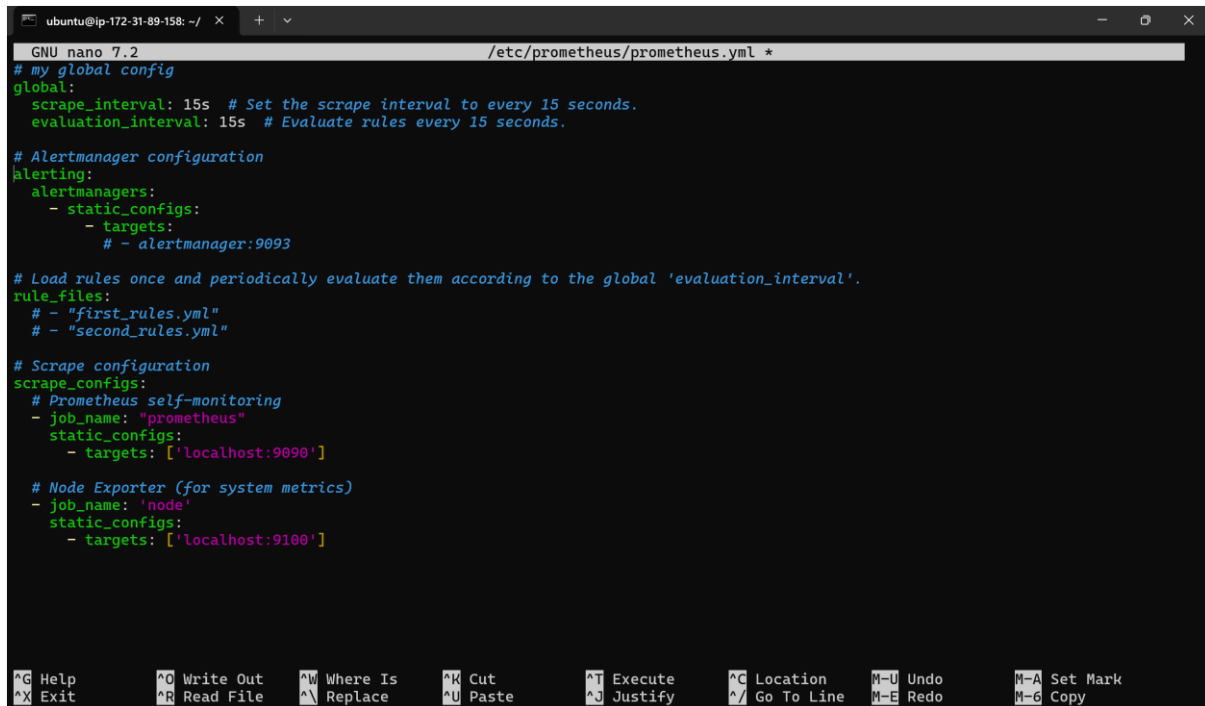
Step 18:

1. Edit Prometheus config

```
sudo nano /etc/prometheus/prometheus.yml
```

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64$ sudo nano /etc/prometheus/prometheus.yml
```

2. Add these lines at the end of the **scrape_configs** section



```
GNU nano 7.2 /etc/prometheus/prometheus.yml *
# my global config
global:
  scrape_interval: 15s # Set the scrape interval to every 15 seconds.
  evaluation_interval: 15s # Evaluate rules every 15 seconds.

# Alertmanager configuration
alerting:
  alertmanagers:
    - static_configs:
      - targets:
        # - alertmanager:9093

# Load rules once and periodically evaluate them according to the global 'evaluation_interval'.
rule_files:
  # - "first_rules.yml"
  # - "second_rules.yml"

# Scrape configuration
scrape_configs:
  # Prometheus self-monitoring
  - job_name: "prometheus"
    static_configs:
      - targets: ['localhost:9090']

  # Node Exporter (for system metrics)
  - job_name: 'node'
    static_configs:
      - targets: ['localhost:9100']

^G Help      ^O Write Out  ^W Where Is   ^K Cut        ^T Execute    ^C Location   M-U Undo      M-A Set Mark
^X Exit      ^R Read File  ^\ Replace    ^U Paste      ^J Justify    ^/ Go To Line M-E Redo      M-G Copy
```

Press **CTRL + O** and then **Enter**. Then Press **Ctrl+X** .

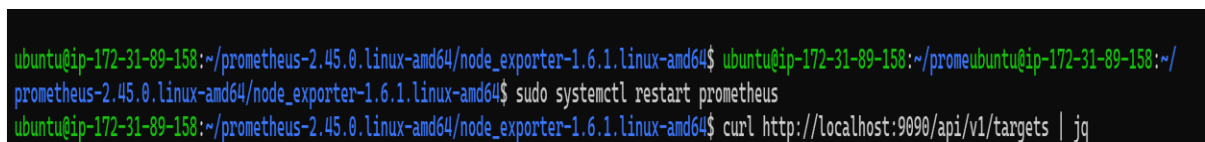
Step 19:

Restart Prometheus

sudo systemctl restart prometheus

Verify Prometheus can see Node Exporter

curl http://localhost:9090/api/v1/targets | jq



```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64$ ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64$ sudo systemctl restart prometheus
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64$ curl http://localhost:9090/api/v1/targets | jq
```

Expected Output: health: "up"

Step 20:

Download and Install Grafana

```
sudo apt install -y software-properties-common  
sudo add-apt-repository "deb  
https://packages.grafana.com/oss/deb stable main"  
sudo wget -q -O - https://packages.grafana.com/gpg.key | sudo  
apt-key add -  
sudo apt update  
sudo apt install -y grafana
```

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64$ sudo apt install -y software-properties-common  
sudo add-apt-repository "deb https://packages.grafana.com/oss/deb stable main"  
sudo wget -q -O - https://packages.grafana.com/gpg.key | sudo apt-key add -  
sudo apt update  
sudo apt install -y grafana
```

Step 21:

Start and enable Grafana

```
sudo systemctl enable grafana-server  
sudo systemctl start grafana-server
```

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64$ sudo systemctl enable grafana-server  
sudo systemctl start grafana-server
```

Step 22:

Check if Grafana is running

```
sudo systemctl status grafana-server
```

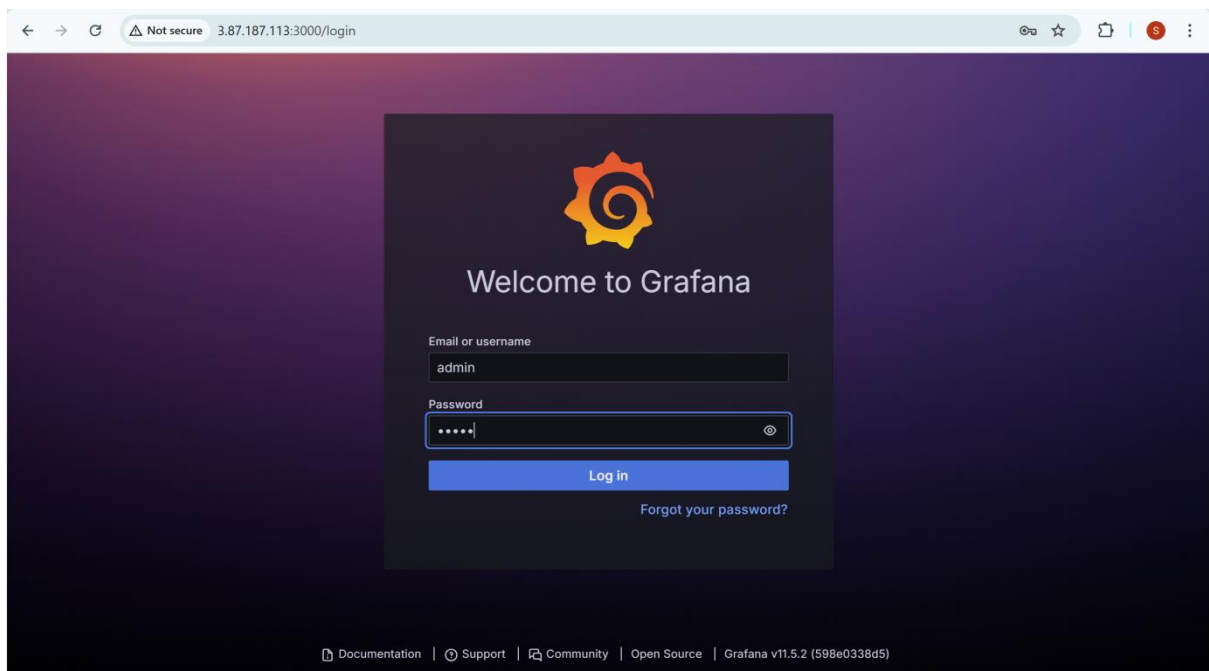
```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-89-158:~/prometheus-2.45.0.linux-amd64/node_exporter-1.6.1.linux-amd64$ sudo systemctl status grafana-server  
● grafana-server.service - Grafana instance  
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/grafana-server.service; enabled; preset: enabled)  
   Active: active (running) since Mon 2025-03-03 15:22:34 UTC; 8s ago
```

Step 23:

Go to:

`http://<your-ec2-public-ip>:3000`

- Username: admin
- Password: admin (default, change it later)

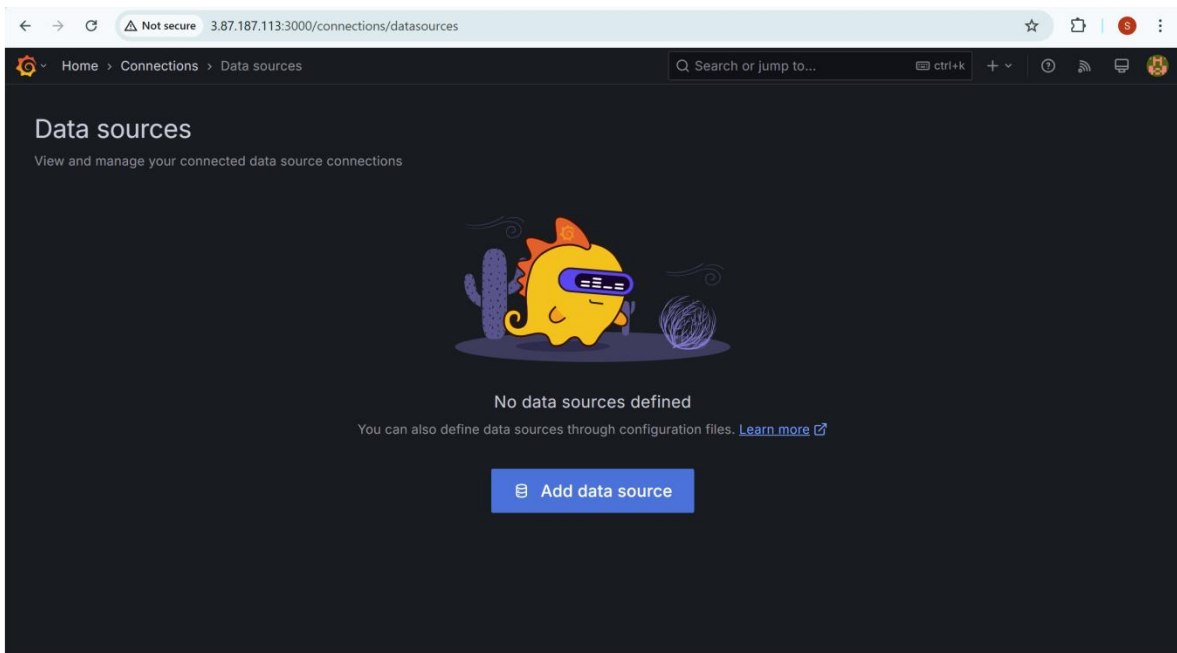
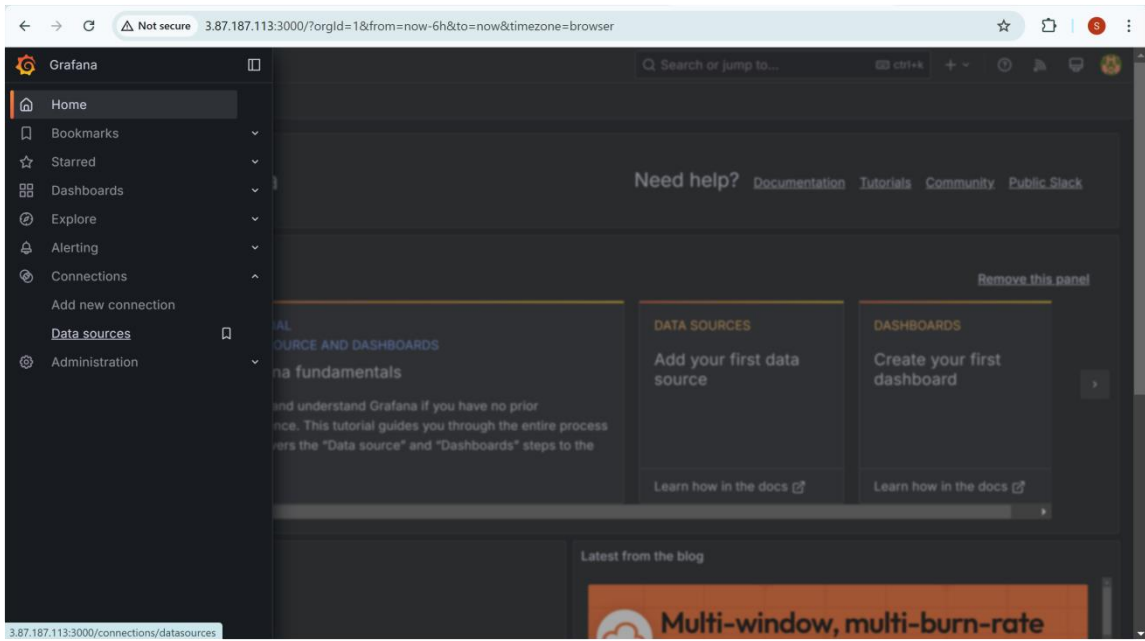


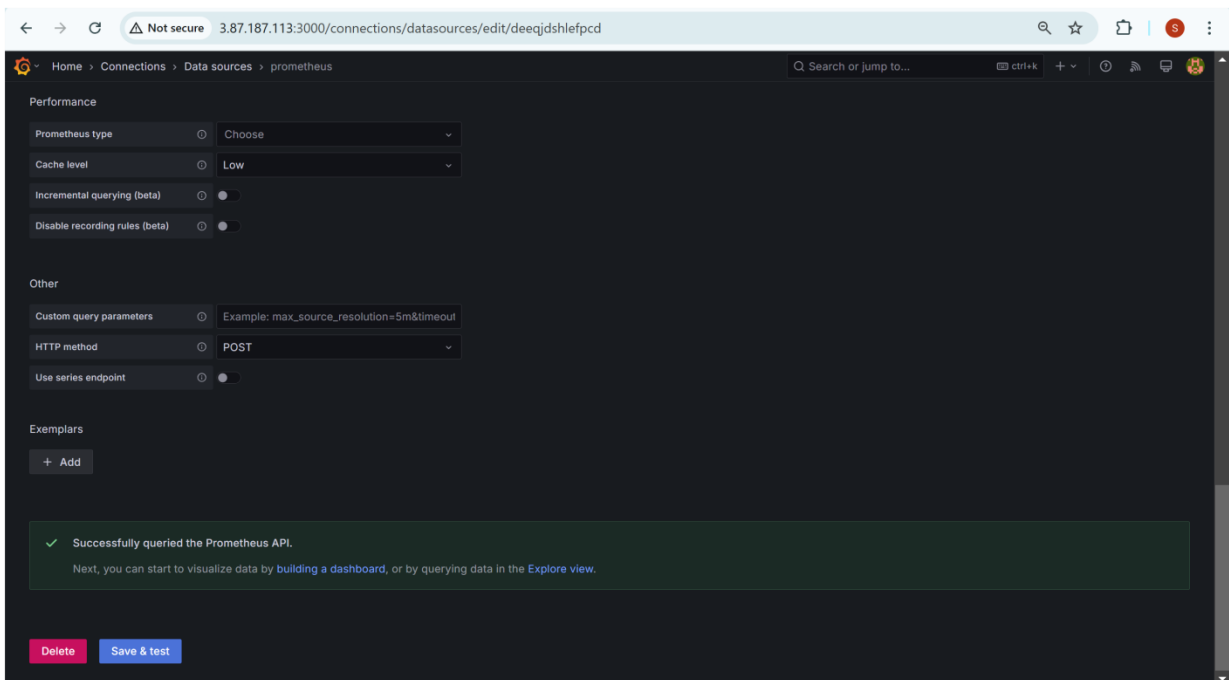
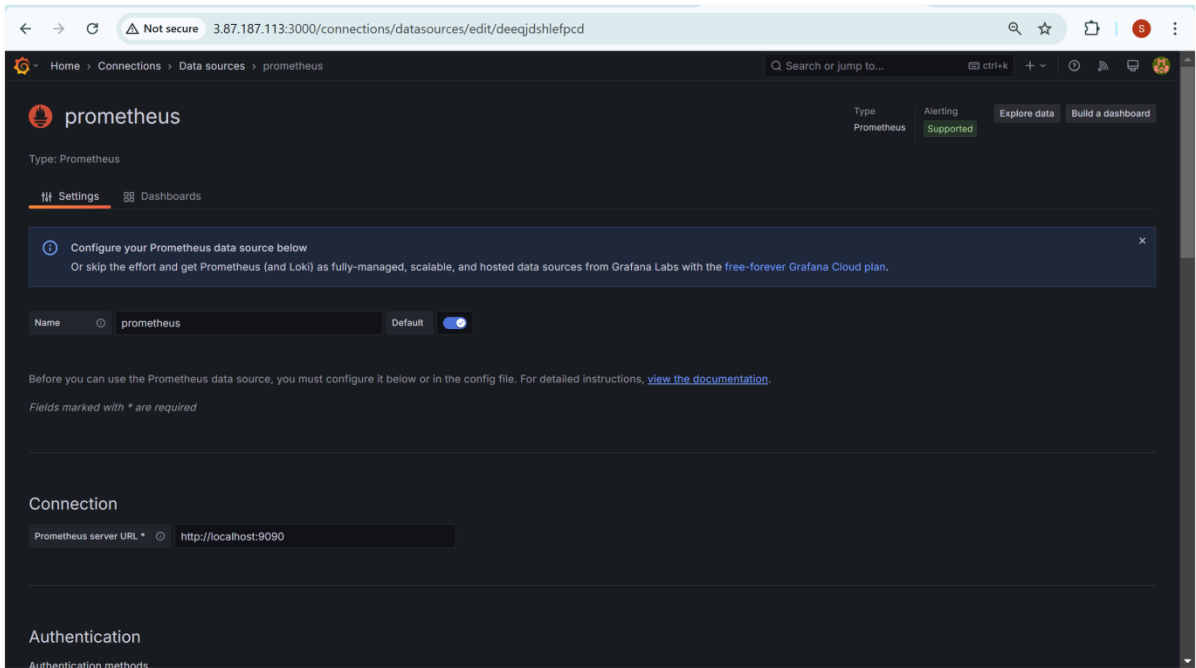
Step 24:

1. Click **Connections** → **Data Sources** → **Add new data source**
2. Select **Prometheus**
3. Change URL to:

<http://localhost:9090>

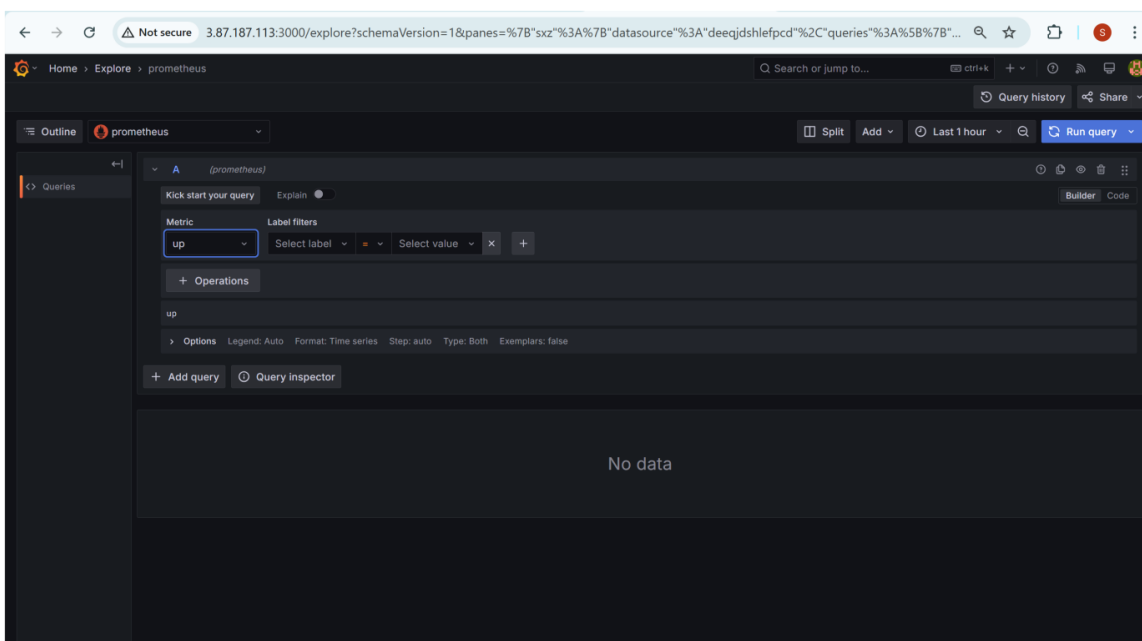
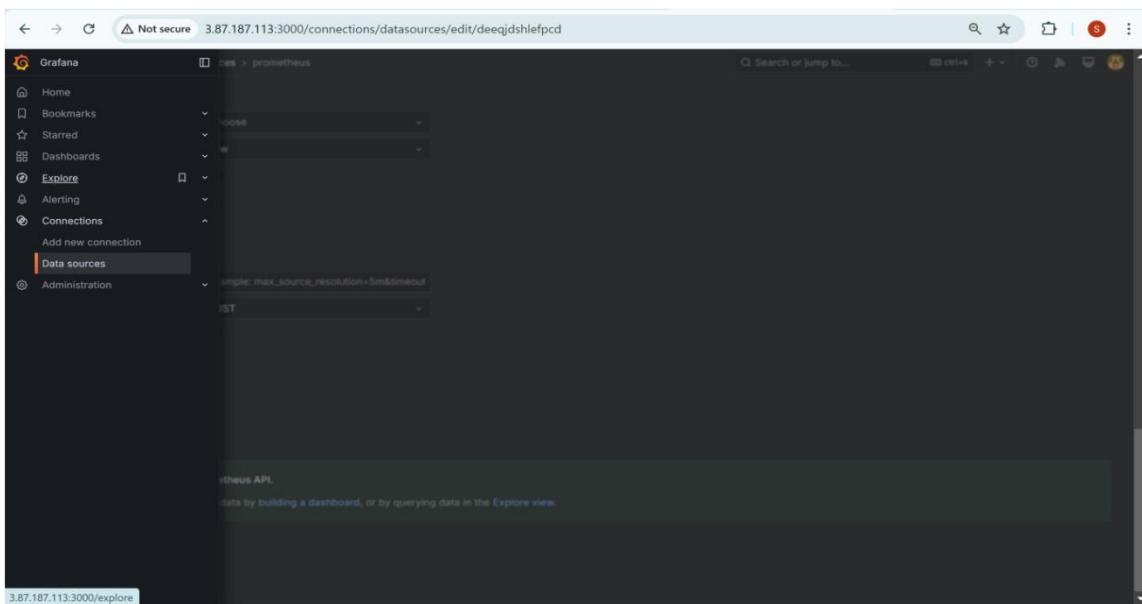
4. Click **Save & Test**

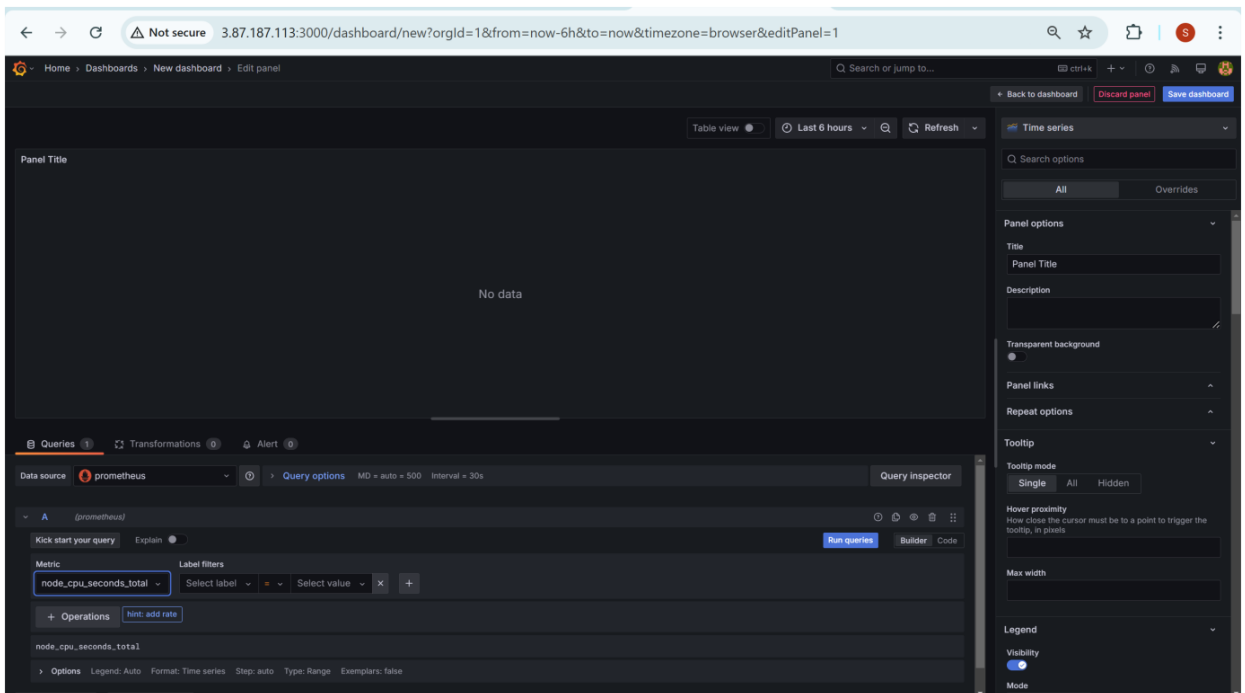
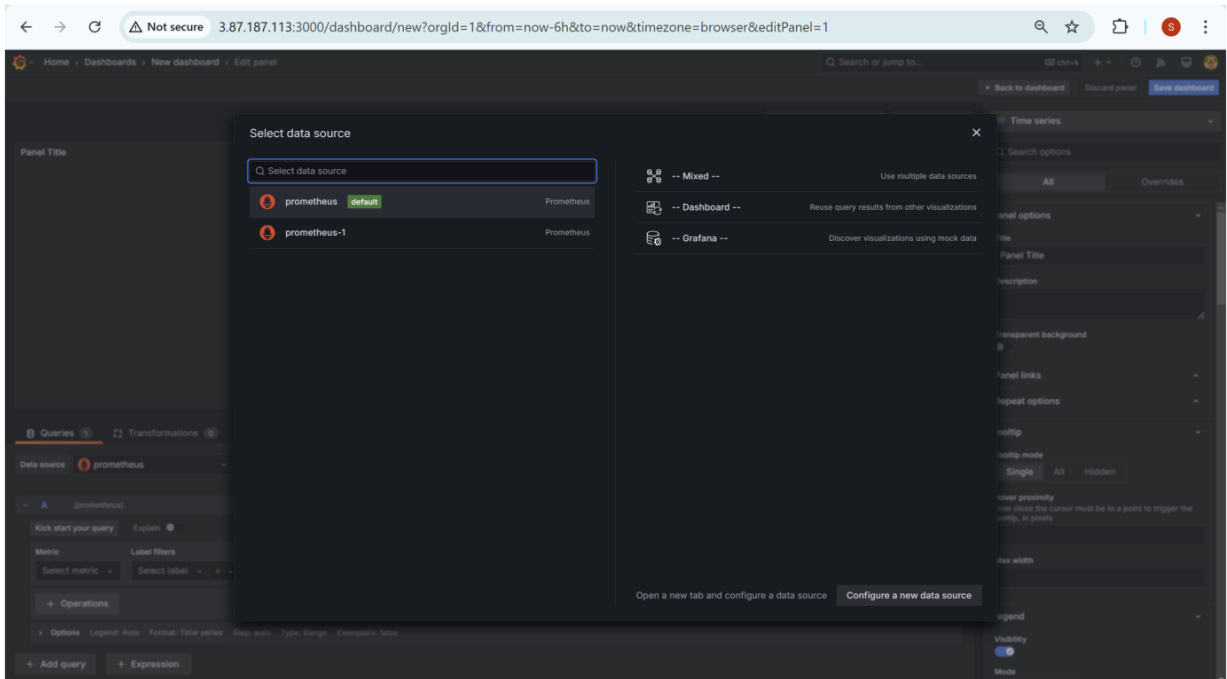


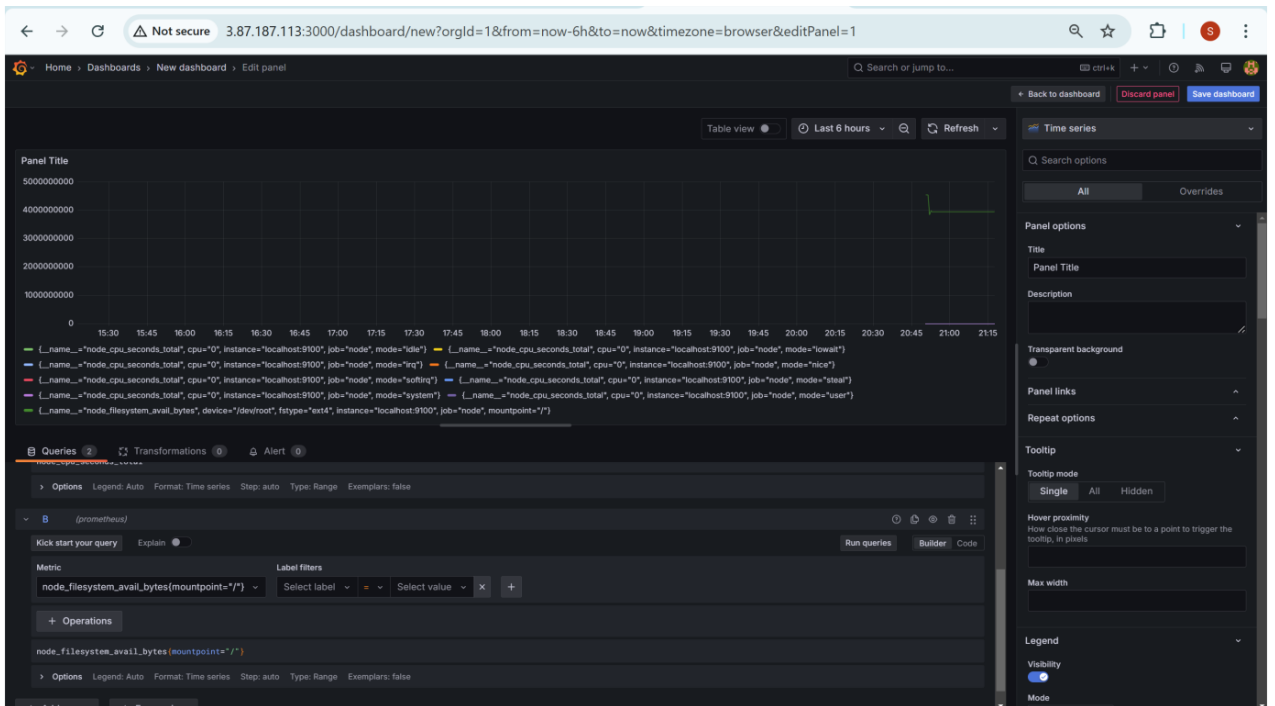
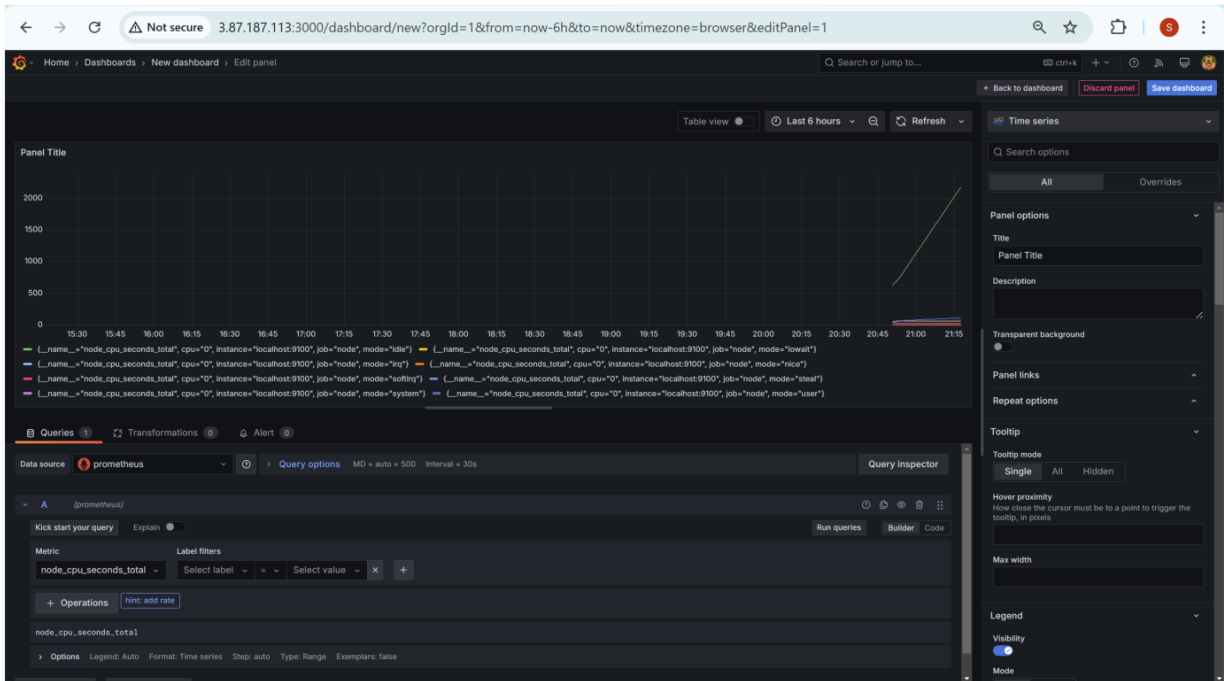


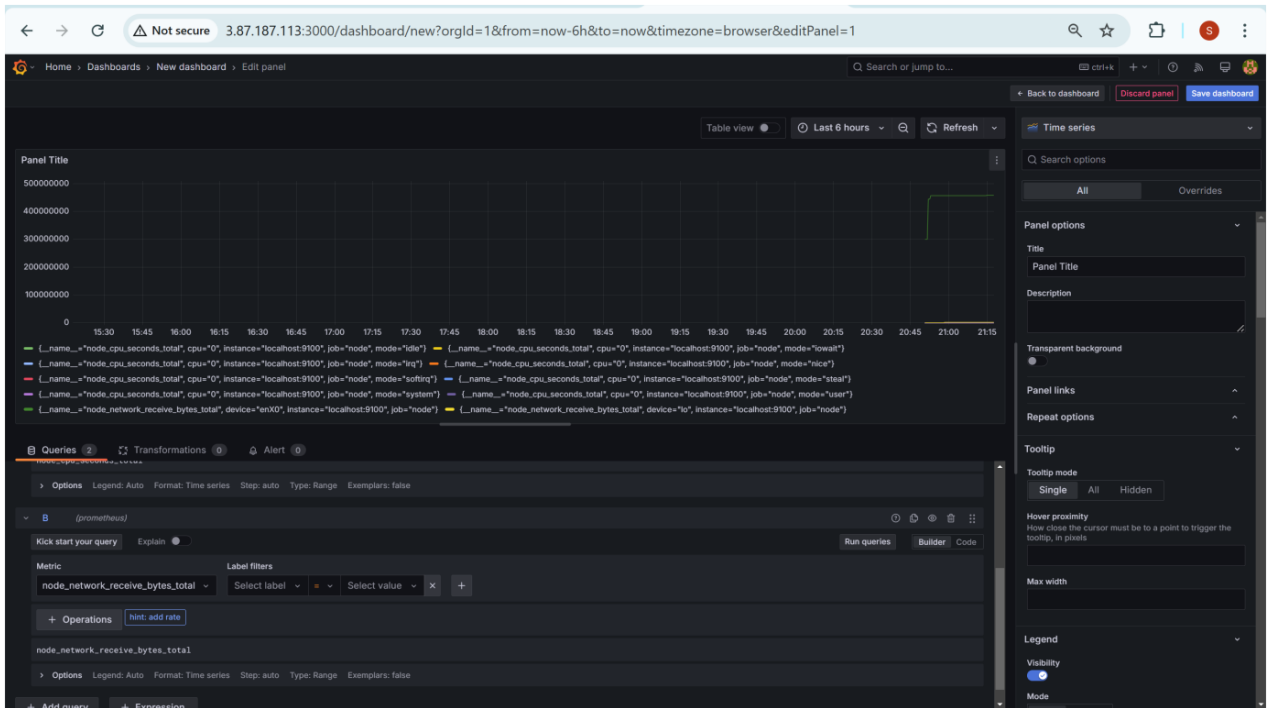
Step 25:

1. Click **Explore** (Compass Icon).
2. Select **Prometheus** as the data source.
3. In the query box, type:
up
4. Click **Run Query**.









Outcomes

By completing this **Prometheus and Grafana for System Monitoring on AWS EC2 PoC**, you will:

1. **Understand Cloud-Based Monitoring** – Gain hands-on experience in setting up Prometheus and Grafana for real-time system monitoring on AWS EC2.
2. **Collect and Analyze System Metrics** – Learn how to scrape and visualize CPU usage, memory consumption, disk performance, and network traffic data using Prometheus and Node Exporter.
3. **Configure PromQL Queries for Analysis** – Develop proficiency in writing PromQL queries to analyze system performance, detect anomalies, and optimize resource utilization.
4. **Set Up Secure Monitoring Infrastructure** – Implement a reliable monitoring stack with Prometheus as the data source and Grafana as the visualization tool.
5. **Enable Real-Time Visualization** – Utilize Grafana dashboards to monitor and visualize key system metrics, improving observability and decision-making.
6. **Enhance Troubleshooting and Alerting** – Gain insights into system behavior and set up alerting mechanisms to proactively detect and resolve issues before they impact performance.
7. **Improve Cloud Resource Management** – Optimize cloud resource usage by continuously monitoring system performance, ensuring efficient workload distribution and cost management.
8. **Apply DevOps Best Practices** – Learn how monitoring fits into DevOps workflows, enhancing automation, incident response, and overall system reliability.