



# AWS Monitoring & Observability

Actionable insights using CloudWatch Logs

Ashok Swaminathan  
Principal Product Manager, CloudWatch

# Agenda

## 1. CloudWatch Logs overview

- Enable insights and alerts
- Analyze logs during operational troubleshooting
- Detect and protect sensitive data
- Build a holistic, observability view

## 2. Recent launches

## 3. Demo



# Foundation for observability: data drives decisions



Logs

---



Metrics

---



Traces

---



AWS monitoring and observability services help you maintain SLAs by **detecting, investigating, and remediating problems** to achieve

Availability

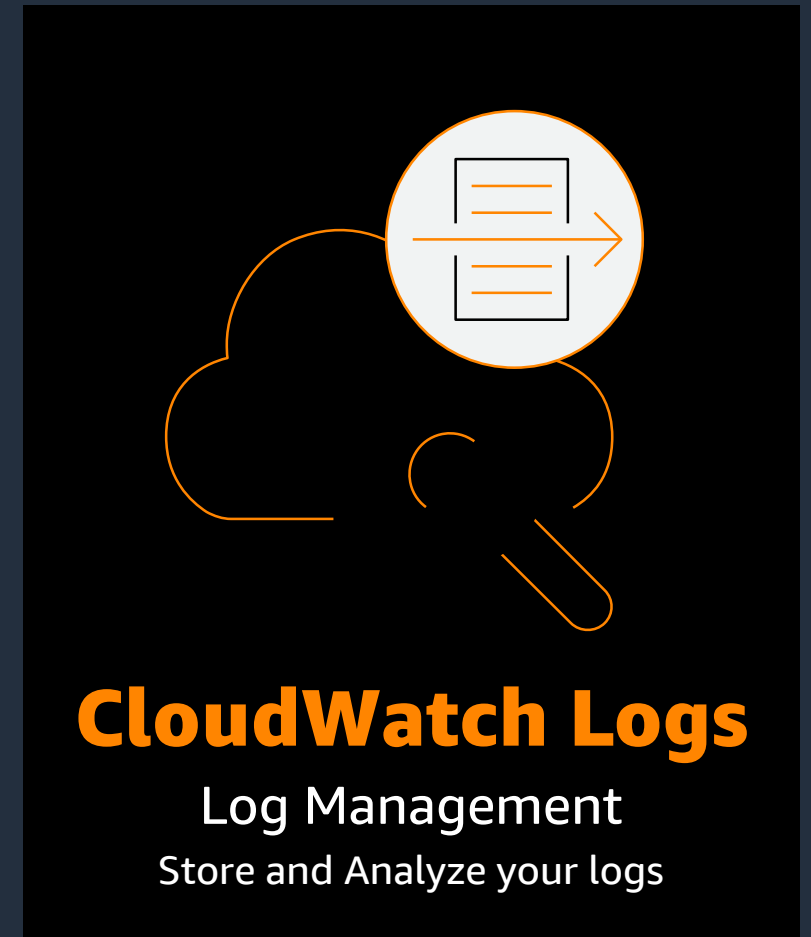
Reliability

Performance



# CloudWatch Logs

- Fully managed service – supporting exabyte scale log ingestion and storage
- Move logs (infrastructure, application, service logs) off of your hosts and store them in secure and durable storage
- Set automatic retention policies
- Create metrics and alarms from your logs
- Analyze logs using queries



# Logs Use Cases



**Application  
Troubleshooting**



**Infrastructure  
Monitoring**

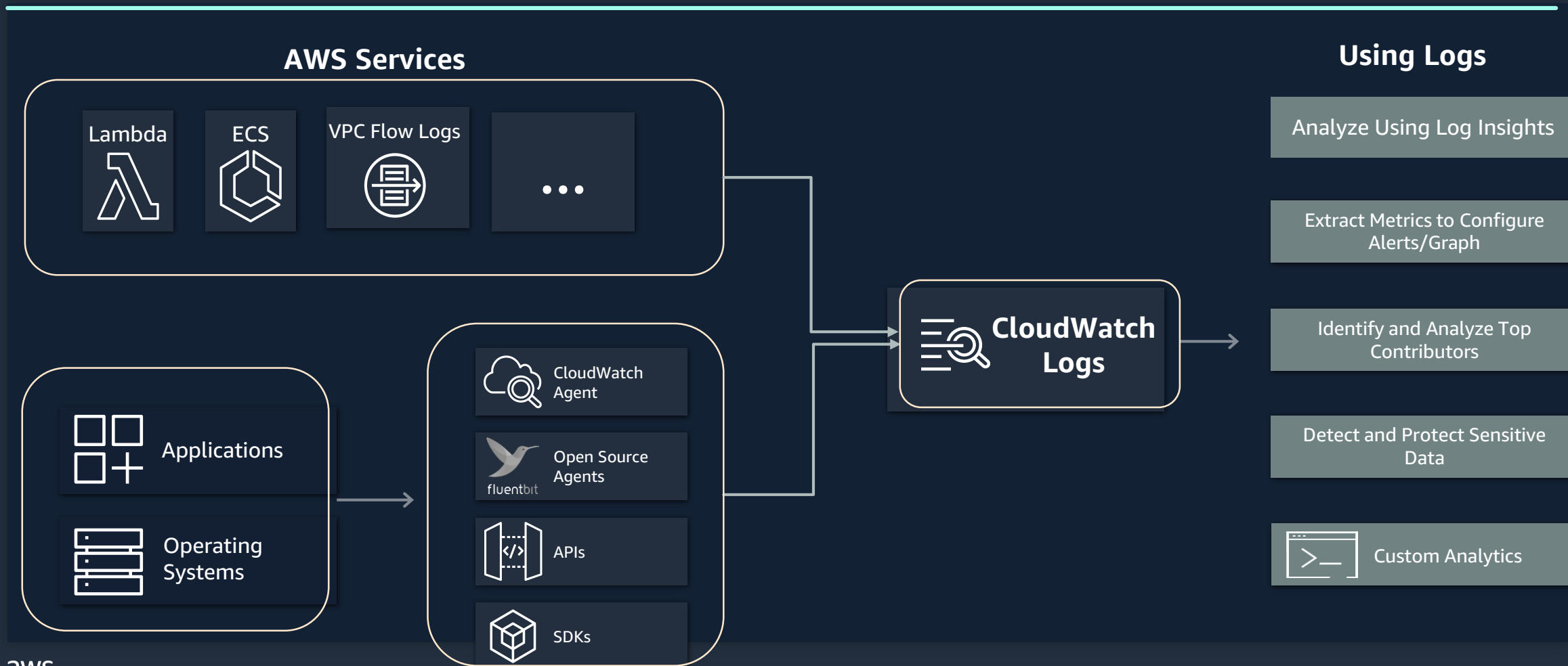


**Security and  
Compliance**



**Business Insights**

# How It Works



# Terminology: Log Events, Steams, Groups

## Log Event

```
{  
  "time": 2022-11-01T16:00:00.000Z",  
  "remoteIP": "10.0.155.113",  
  "host": "10.0.53.21",  
  "request": "/index.php",  
  "query": "",  
  "method": "GET",  
  "status": "200",  
  "userAgent": "ELB-HealthChecker/2.0",  
  "referer": "-"  
}
```

## Log Stream

CloudWatch > Log groups > /films/access\_log > I-088da53150dd716a4

**Log events**  
You can use the filter bar below to search for and match terms, phrases, or values in your log events. [Learn more about filter patterns](#)

☐ View as text **Actions**

1m 30m 1h 12h Custom

▶	Timestamp	Message
		There are older events to load. <a href="#">Load more.</a>
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:50.381+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:49.536Z", "proces...
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:51.109+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:49.816Z", "proces...
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:51.109+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:50.546Z", "proces...
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:51.359+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:50.609Z", "proces...
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:52.612+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:50.908Z", "proces...
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:53.614+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:52.248Z", "proces...
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:54.866+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:52.995Z", "proces...
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:55.367+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:54.342Z", "proces...
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:56.369+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:54.885Z", "proces...
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:57.622+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:55.948Z", "proces...
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:58.373+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:56.887Z", "proces...
▶	2022-09-18T20:28:59.877+01:00	{ "time": "2022-09-18T19:28:57.847Z", "proces...

## Log Group

/films/access\_log

**Actions**

▶ **Log group details**

**Log streams** | Metric filters | Subscription filters | Contributor Insights | Tags

**Log streams (4)**

☐ Exact match

1

<input type="checkbox"/>	Log stream	Last event time
<input type="checkbox"/>	I-088da53150dd716a4	2022-09-18 20:16:50 (UTC+01:00)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I-03c8c7dab14566bbb	2022-09-18 20:10:50 (UTC+01:00)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I-Odd9c52985cc0b078	2022-06-26 19:56:34 (UTC+01:00)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I-0810e20e1535e1943	2022-06-26 19:56:33 (UTC+01:00)

*Retention policies at Log Group level*

# Operationalize Logs





# Operationalize Logs



**Enable Insights and Alerts**



**Detect and Protect Sensitive Data**



**Analyze Logs During Troubleshooting**



**Build a holistic, observability view**

# Operationalize Logs

Enable Insights and Alerts



# Enable Insights and Alerts

1. **Graph and Alert on Metrics Extracted From Logs**
2. **Identify and Analyze top contributors - Contributor Insights**
3. **Analyze High Cardinality Data – using Embedded Metric Format**

# Graph and Alert on Metrics Extracted From Logs

## METRIC FILTERS

## Example:

- Detect errors such as 4xx, 5xx and if they exceed threshold
- Continuously monitor logs for unexpected actions – e.g: security events (login failures)

## Filter log data as it is ingested based on patterns in logs – to create metrics

## Configure Alarms on metrics or add to dashboards

### Create filter pattern

Filter pattern

Specify the terms or pattern to match in your log events to create metrics.

### Test pattern

Select log data to test

Results

Found 50 matches out of 50 event(s) in the sample log.

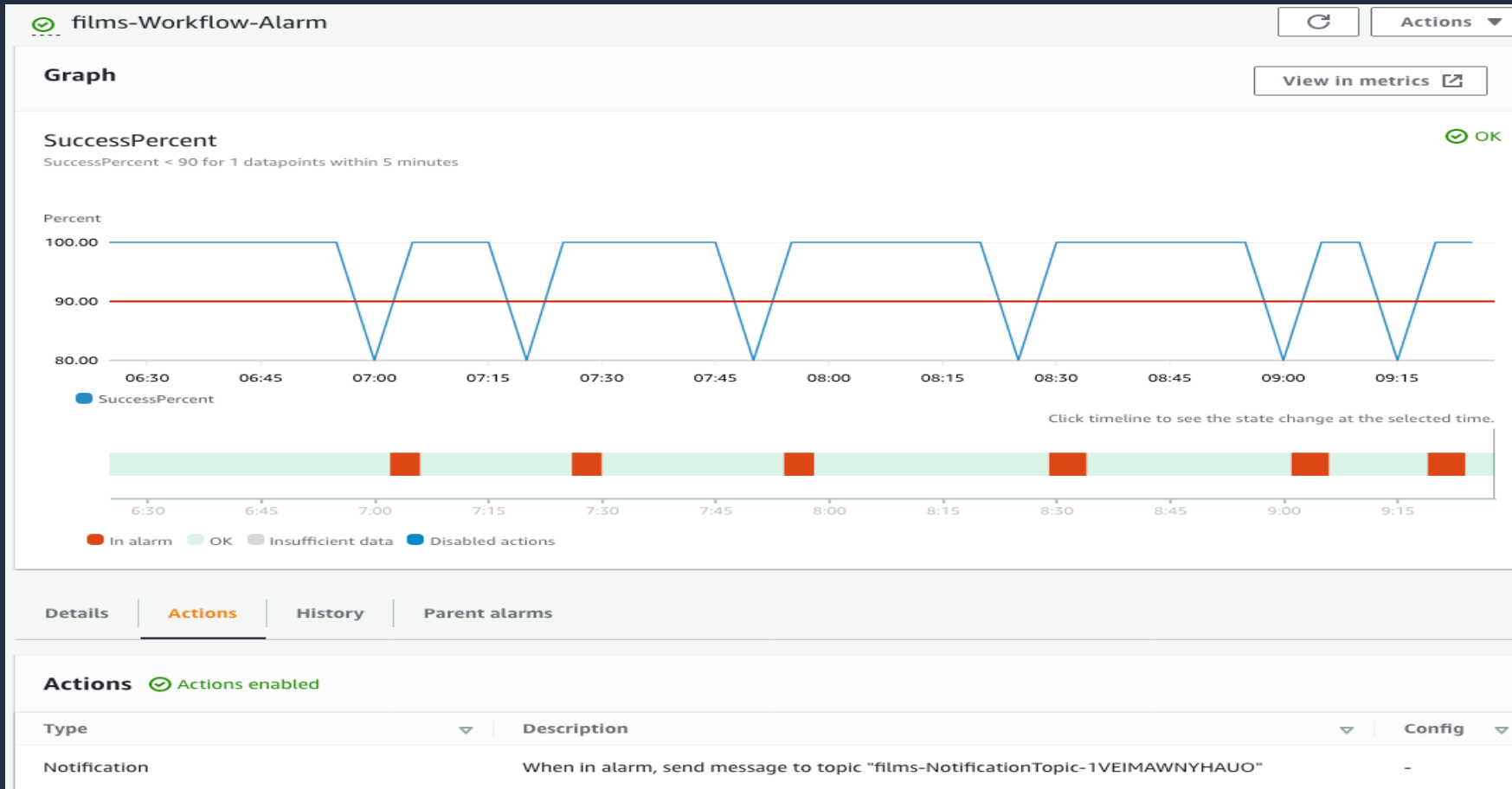
Show test results

.php", "query":"","method":"GET", "status":"200", "userAgent":"ELB-HealthCheck

.php", "query":"","method":"GET", "status":"200", "userAgent":"ELB-HealthCheck

# Metric Based Alarm

Create metric on success rate and notify, based on 5 minute duration



# Identify Top Contributors –Contributor Insights



## Surface outliers and top talkers

Cost effectively analyze and visualize high cardinality data in CloudWatch Logs - build rules from scratch or use sample rules that AWS has created



## Identify impacted users and resources

Understand network traffic, top API calls, or frequently queried domain names

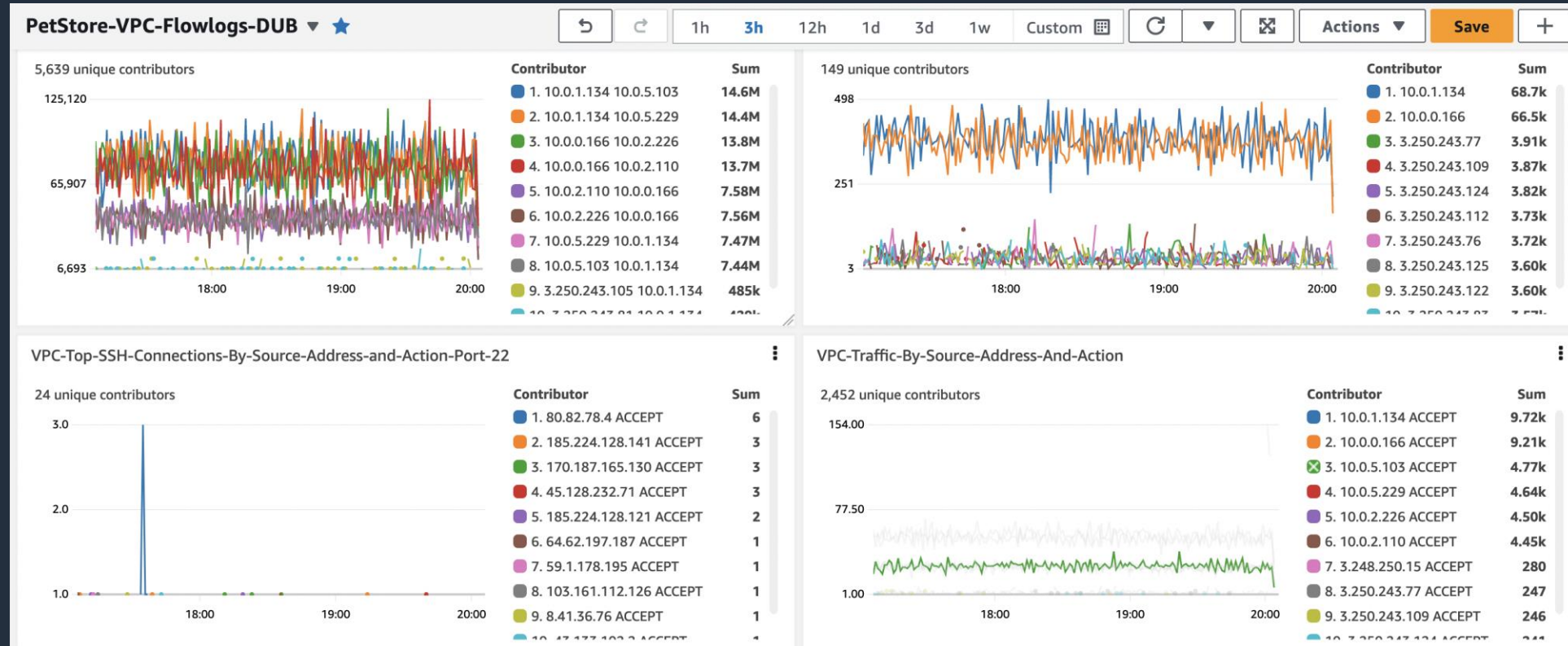


## Integrations with DynamoDB & PrivateLink

Integration with DynamoDB identifies the most frequently accessed and throttled keys in your table or index at a glance. PrivateLink integration supports endpoint services analytics

# CloudWatch Contributor Insights

Real-time analysis of high cardinality time-series data to help you understand who or what is impacting system and application performance the most



Evaluate patterns in structured log events as they are streamed to CloudWatch Logs

Popular use cases include VPC Flow Log, CloudTrail, Route53 Resolver, and NGINX log analysis

Find top talkers and understand who or what is impacting system performance

Integrated with CloudWatch metrics to create alarms and anomaly detection



# Analyzing High Cardinality Data

## Embedded Metric Format

- **Example:**
  - Analyze and troubleshoot types of issues customers have, by device type
    - Send metrics related to customer operations in logs – devices types, error codes along with customer name, IP address and other relevant information useful for troubleshooting
- **Embed metrics alongside log event data – using CloudWatch embedded metric format**
- **Ingest high-cardinality application data in the form of logs**
  - Generate actionable metrics from them
- **CloudWatch automatically extracts the metrics**
  - Visualize and alarm on them, for real-time incident detection
  - Correlate metrics with logs
  - Query detailed log events associated with the extracted metrics using CloudWatch Logs Insights



# Embedded Metric Format

```
{
  "_aws": {
    "Timestamp": 1565375354953123,
    "CloudWatchMetrics": [
      {
        "Namespace": "aws-embedded-metrics",
        "Dimensions": [
          [ "Operation" ],
          [ "Operation", "Partition" ]
        ],
        "Metrics": [
          { "Name": "Requests" },
          { "Name": "ProcessingLatency", "Unit": "Milliseconds" }
        ]
      }
    ]
  },
  "Message": "Completed processing",
  "CustomerName": "Globex Corp",
  "Requests": 1,
  "Operation": "Store",
  "Partition": "4",
  "ProcessingLatency": 137.52,
  "RequestId": "a4110ca8-4139-444d-ab95-ae8fe230aad"
}
```

Embedded Metric Definition

## Metrics Generated

All metrics

Graphed metrics (0/1)

Graph options

Source

All > aws-embedded-metrics > LogGroup, Partition, ServiceName, ServiceType

Q

Search for any metric, dimension or resource id

Graph search

<input type="checkbox"/>	LogGroup (6)	Partition	ServiceName	ServiceType	Metric Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	/service/MyService	2	MyService	AWS::EC2::Instance	ProcessingLatency
<input type="checkbox"/>	/service/MyService	2	MyService	AWS::EC2::Instance	Requests
<input type="checkbox"/>	/service/MyService	1	MyService	AWS::EC2::Instance	ProcessingLatency
<input type="checkbox"/>	/service/MyService	1	MyService	AWS::EC2::Instance	Requests
<input type="checkbox"/>	/service/MyService	3	MyService	AWS::EC2::Instance	ProcessingLatency
<input type="checkbox"/>	/service/MyService	3	MyService	AWS::EC2::Instance	Requests

Embedded Metrics + Additional Fields

# Operationalizing Logs

Analyze Logs During Troubleshooting

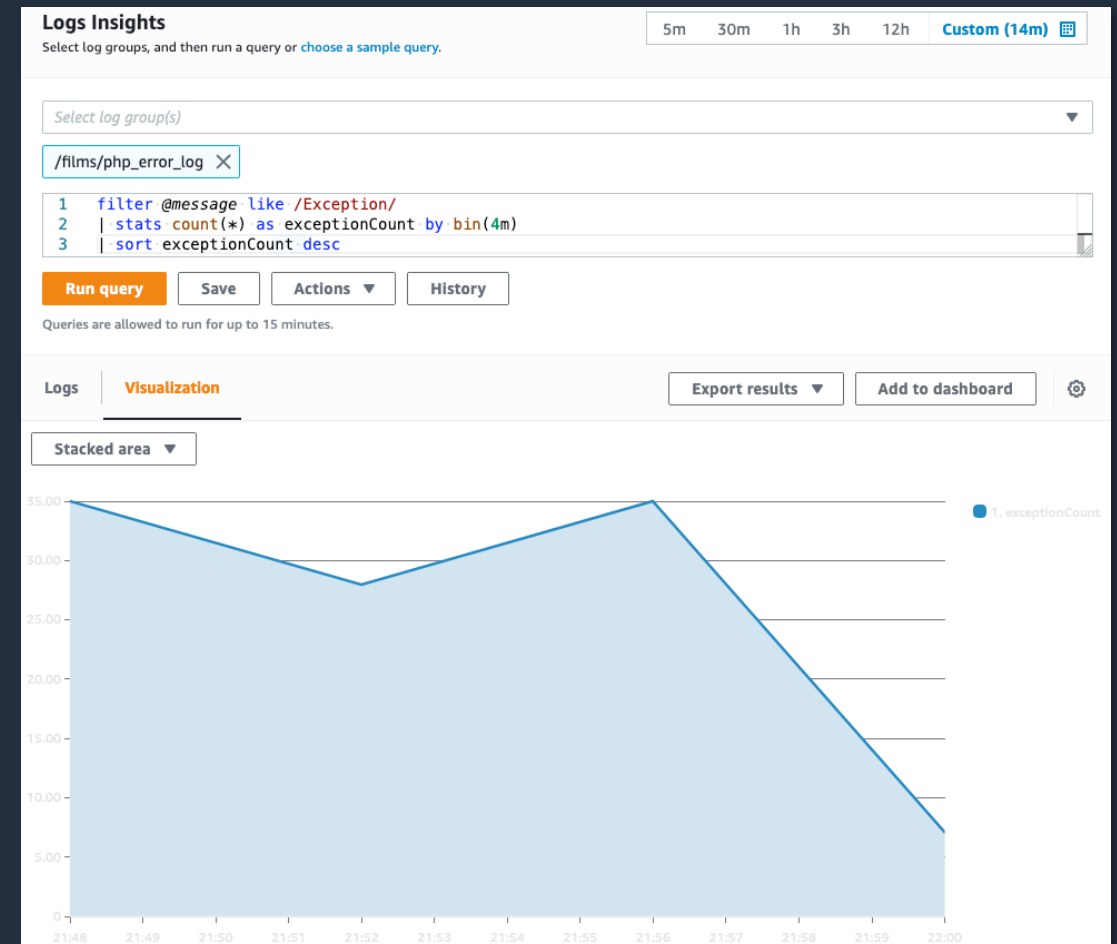


# Analyze Logs For Troubleshooting

1. Query Logs Using Logs Insights
2. Real Time Monitoring Of Logs – using Live Tail

# Query Logs Using CloudWatch Logs Insights

- Interactively query and analyze your log data
- Sample queries, command descriptions, query autocompletion, and log field discovery
- Automatically discovers fields in logs:
  - Amazon Route 53
  - AWS Lambda
  - AWS CloudTrail
  - Amazon VPC
  - Any application that emits log events as JSON



# Logs Insights - Capabilities

- **Pipelined query language, with support for filtering, computations, and group by operations**
- **Supporting structured and unstructured log analysis**
  - Parse, extract and analyze fields from unstructured logs
- **Support arithmetic, Boolean and comparison operators**
- **Functions: Statistical, date/time (e.g. binning, date ceilings, etc.), IP address, strings**

# Logs Insights – Examples

## Filtering with calculated values

```
filter Operation = "Insert"  
| fields @timestamp, Operation, Bytes/1000 as @KBs
```

## Filtering, aggregate calculation by certain field, with sort

```
filter Operation != "Search"  
| stats percentile(Latency, 99.9) as @My3ninesLatency by Operation  
| sort @My3ninesLatency desc  
| limit 10
```

## Get a timeseries of some aggregates for log events that match a certain regex

```
filter Operation like /Kinesis/  
| stats max(Latency) by bin(5m)
```

# CloudWatch Logs – Live Tail

View Logs in real time

Use it for incident troubleshooting, monitor deployments, etc.

## User Experience

1. Select a Log Group and optionally select Log Streams
2. Raw events can be streaming in at 1,000s of events/sec
3. Filters can be applied to narrow down events
4. Highlight terms

**Filter** ×

Select log groups  
Select up to 10 log groups. You can specify log streams if only one log group is selected.

/aws/containerinsights/PetSite/application ×  
IntroAWSAccount 424315577805

/aws/apigateway/welcome ×  
IntroAWSAccount 424315577805

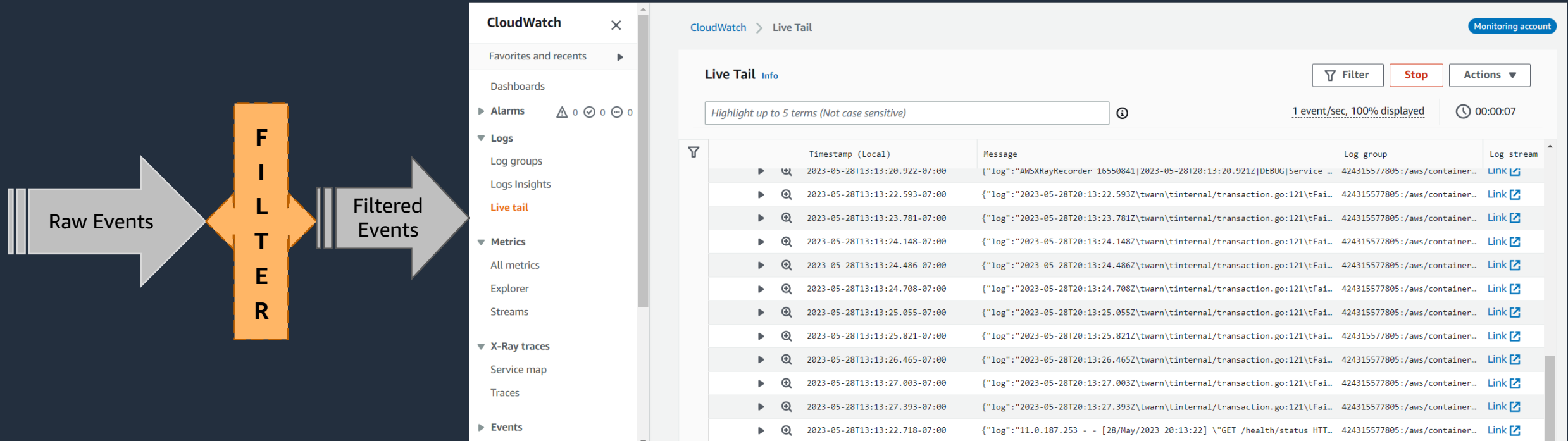
Select log streams - optional

Add filter patterns (Case sensitive) - optional [Info](#)

Apply filters



# CloudWatch Logs – Live Tail





# Operationalizing Logs

Detect and Protect Sensitive Data



# Identify and prevent sensitive data leakage for log and message data in transit



Applications are producing, distributing, and exchanging growing volumes of data



Increasingly challenging to comply with data privacy regulations



Customers take on the expense to custom-build and manage their own data protection capabilities

# Anatomy of data protection policies

## Data Protection Policy



Policies are associated to log groups and topics

### 1 Policy Config

- Name
- Description
- Version
- Data Direction (*SNS only*)
- Principals (*SNS only*)

### 2 Data identifiers

- Personally identifiable information (PII)
- Protected health information (PHI)
- Financial
- Credentials & devices

*Leverages regular expressions & AI/ML*

### 3 Actions

- Audit (*incl. sample rate SNS only*)
- De-identify
- Deny (*SNS only*)

### 4 Finding destinations

- S3
- Kinesis Firehose
- CloudWatch

# Protect Sensitive Data

Create policy to specify data to protect data

## Data protection [Info](#)

Enable data protection to detect patterns of sensitive data within this log group as it is ingested.

Details

Syntax

### Specify the data you want to protect

Use the following policy to set up your auditing and masking configurations.

#### Auditing and masking configuration

##### Data identifiers [Info](#)

Select the data identifier(s) that you want to audit.

EmailAddress ×

Category: Personal

##### Audit destinations - optional

Select the AWS service(s) where you want to send audit findings.

- ☐ Amazon CloudWatch Logs
- ☐ Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose
- ☐ Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3)

Cancel

Activate data protection

## Sensitive Data Masked in Logs

CloudWatch > Log groups > /aws/lambda/sam-test-data-protection-MyFunction-Vgb6qBmKmRoH > 2022/11/08/[\$LATEST]a3c4ac76fd6742e091e024099e21248f

### Log events

You can use the filter bar below to search for and match terms, phrases, or values in your log events. [Learn more about filter patterns](#)



Actions ▼

Create metric filter

Filter events

Clear

1m

30m

1h

12h

Custom

Display ▼



Timestamp

Message

There are older events to load. [Load more](#).

▶	2022-11-08T16:12:16.687+02:00	START RequestId: a68f40b6-d002-4e08-91e3-34c76fb62ba2 Version: \$LATEST
▼	2022-11-08T16:12:16.687+02:00	2022-11-08T14:12:16.687Z a68f40b6-d002-4e08-91e3-34c76fb62ba2 INFO This is a log with an email address but I w...
	2022-11-08T14:12:16.687Z	a68f40b6-d002-4e08-91e3-34c76fb62ba2 INFO This is a log with an email address but I won't show it to you here it is *****
▶	2022-11-08T16:12:16.688+02:00	END RequestId: a68f40b6-d002-4e08-91e3-34c76fb62ba2
▶	2022-11-08T16:12:16.688+02:00	REPORT RequestId: a68f40b6-d002-4e08-91e3-34c76fb62ba2 Duration: 1.46 ms Billed Duration: 2 ms Memory Size: 12...
No more records within selected time range Auto retry paused. <a href="#">Resume</a>		

Copy



# Operationalizing Logs

Build holistic observability view

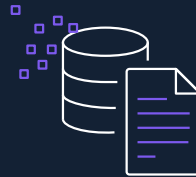


# Data visualization with CloudWatch Dashboards



## Unified Data Visualization

CloudWatch Dashboards consolidates data from multiple sources, providing a comprehensive view of application and infrastructure performance.



## Customization / Flexibility

Easily create and tailor dashboards to meet specific requirements, enabling efficient and data-driven decision-making.



## Scalability and Security

CloudWatch Dashboards scales with your data while maintaining security and privacy.

# Recent Launches



# Recently Launched

## Cross Account Observability

Search and Analyze metrics, logs and traces without account boundaries – and without data copy

---

## Live Tail

Real time monitoring of logs

---

## Deeper insights with CloudWatch Logs

- Increased quotas for Logs Insights
  - Log Group – 50 , Concurrency – 30 , Timeout - 60 minutes
- 

## Simplified metric extraction using Embedded Metric Format

- Simpler format, without requiring headers
  - High resolution metric extraction – 1s granularity supported
  - Added error visibility – parsing and validation
- 

## Contributor Insights Sample Rules

Sample rules added for WAF and CloudTrail

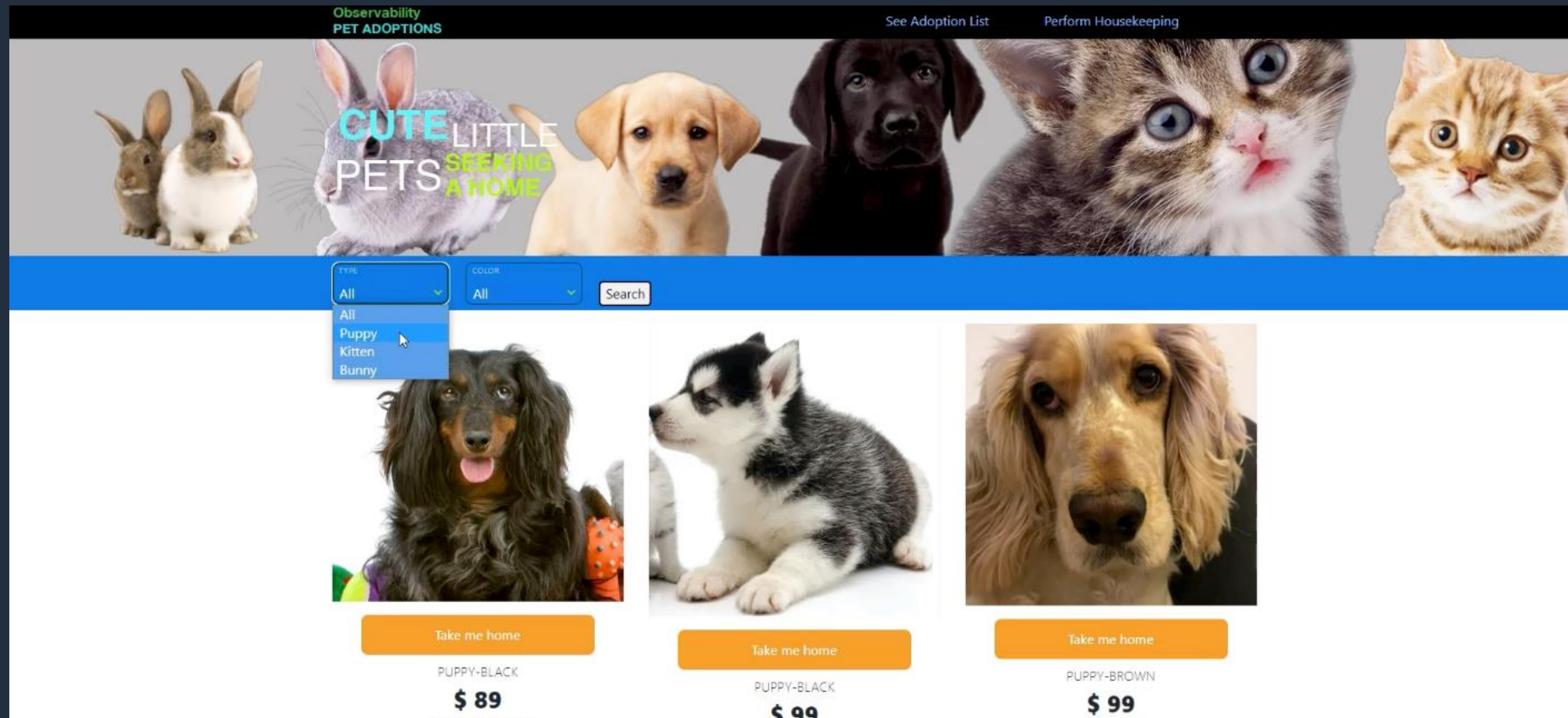




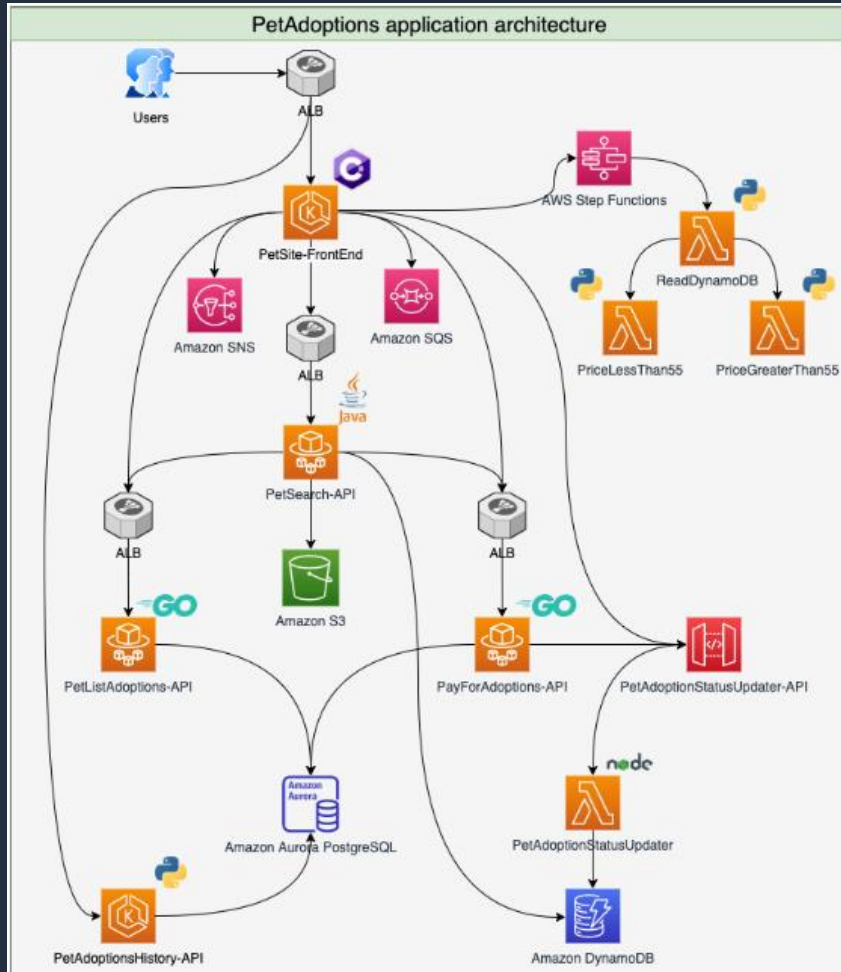
# Demo



# Pet adoption site!



# Demo Overview



## Demo

1. Query Logs Using CloudWatch Logs Insights
2. Real time analysis of Logs using Live Tail

# Summary



# CloudWatch Logs - Summary

**Fully managed service, for securely storing and analyzing logs at scale**

**Extensive support for analyzing and operationalizing logs**

- Extract metrics from logs – graph and alert on them
- Identify and analyze top contributors by various dimensions
- Query logs using powerful, pipelined language
- Analyze logs in real time to diagnose production issues, config changes
- Detect and protect sensitive data in logs
- Create dashboards to provide centralized view of key log queries, alarms, and metrics

# Resources

One Observability  
Workshop



Observability  
Best Practices



AWS Observability  
Accelerator



Skill Builder – AWS  
Observability





# Thank you!

Ashok Swaminathan

ashokswa@amazon.com