WAFR REL 6

Documentation

**Instrumenting your application for AWS X-Ray**

There are two ways to instrument your application to send traces to X-Ray:

* AWS Distro for OpenTelemetry
* X-Ray SDKs

The SDKs included with X-Ray are part of a tightly integrated instrumentation solution offered by AWS. The AWS Distro for OpenTelemetry is part of a broader industry solution in which X-Ray is only one of many tracing solutions. You can implement end-to-end tracing in X-Ray using either approach, but it’s important to understand the differences in order to determine the most useful approach for you.

We recommend instrumenting your application with the AWS Distro for OpenTelemetry if you need the following:

* The ability to send traces to multiple different tracing backends without having to re-instrument your code
* Support for a large number of library instrumentations for each language, maintained by the OpenTelemetry community
* Fully managed Lambda layers that package everything you need to collect telemetry data, without requiring code changes when using Java, Python, or Node.js

We recommend choosing an X-Ray SDK for instrumenting your application if you need the following:

* A tightly integrated single-vendor solution
* Integration with X-Ray centralized sampling rules, including the ability to configure sampling rules from the X-Ray console and automatically use them across multiple hosts, when using Node.js, Python, Ruby, or .NET