From 0 to </>
my one year serendipity journey with OpenTelemetry

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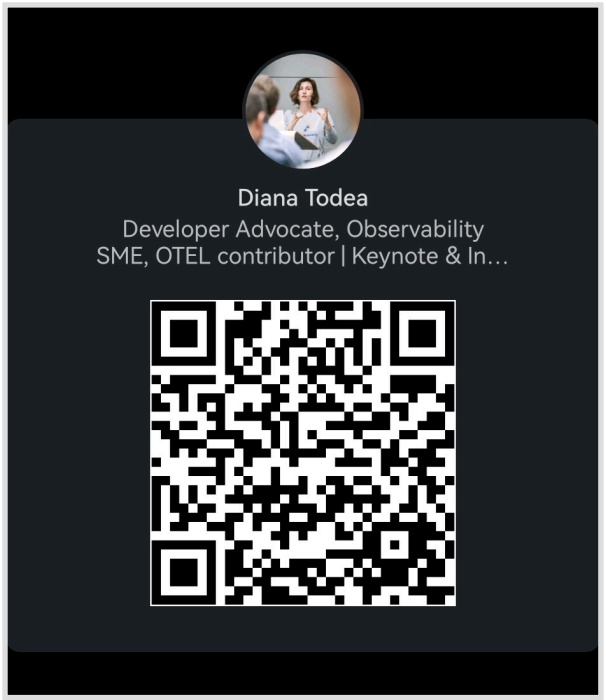
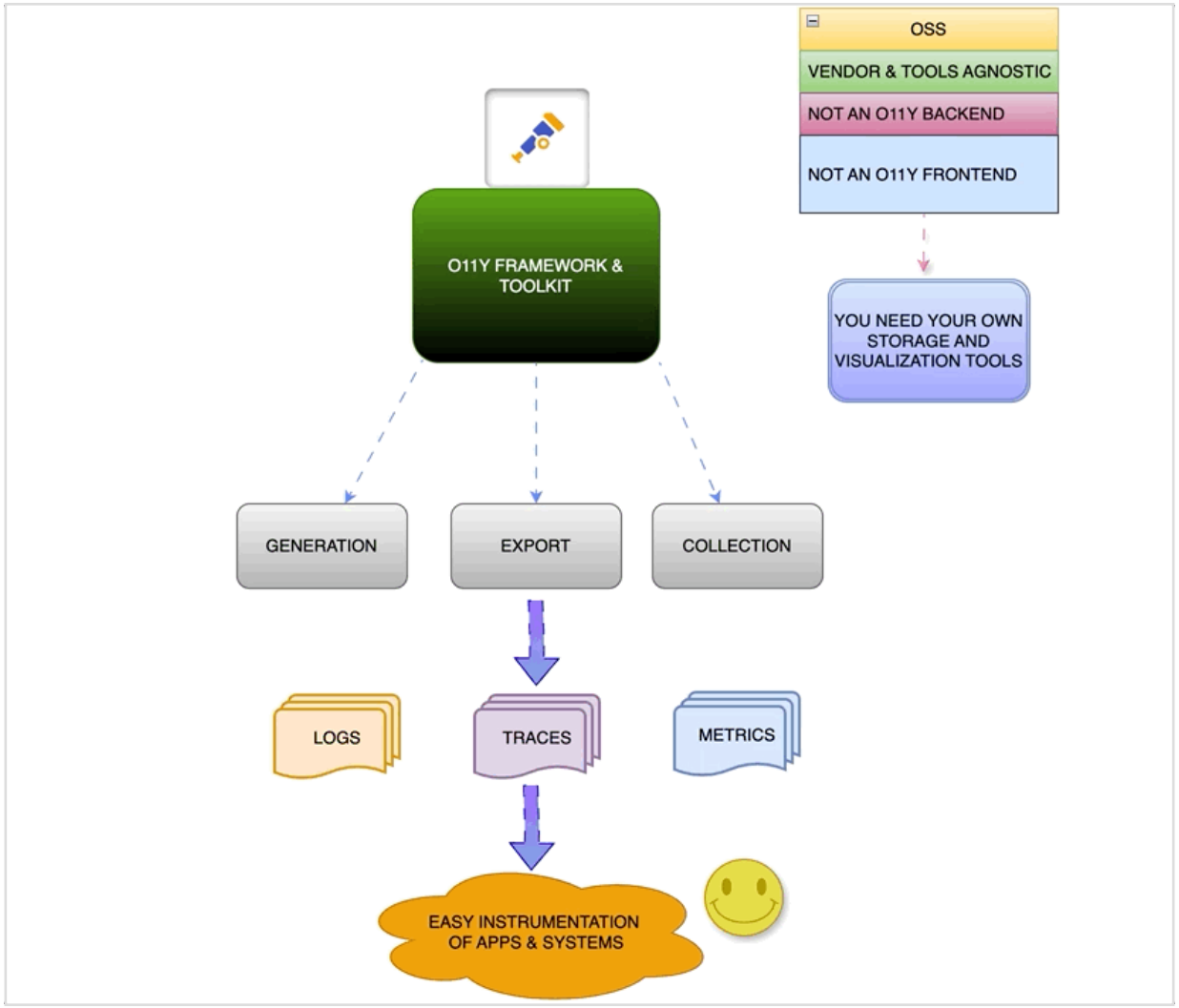
github
@didiviking/Conferences_Talks

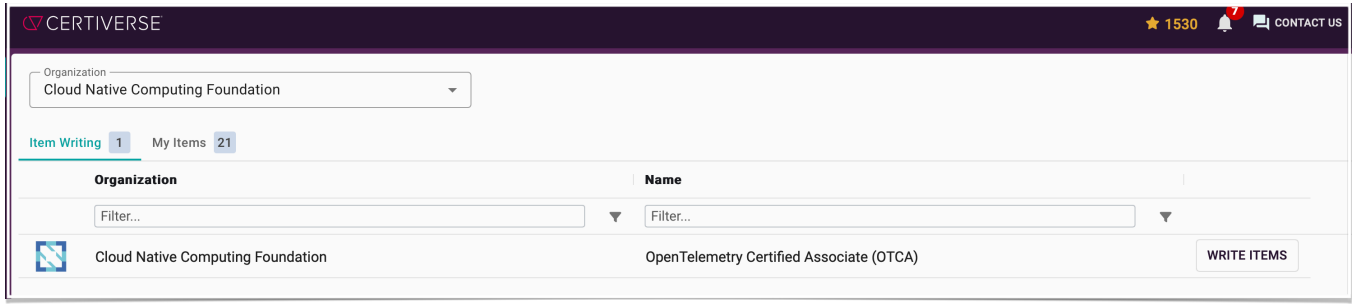


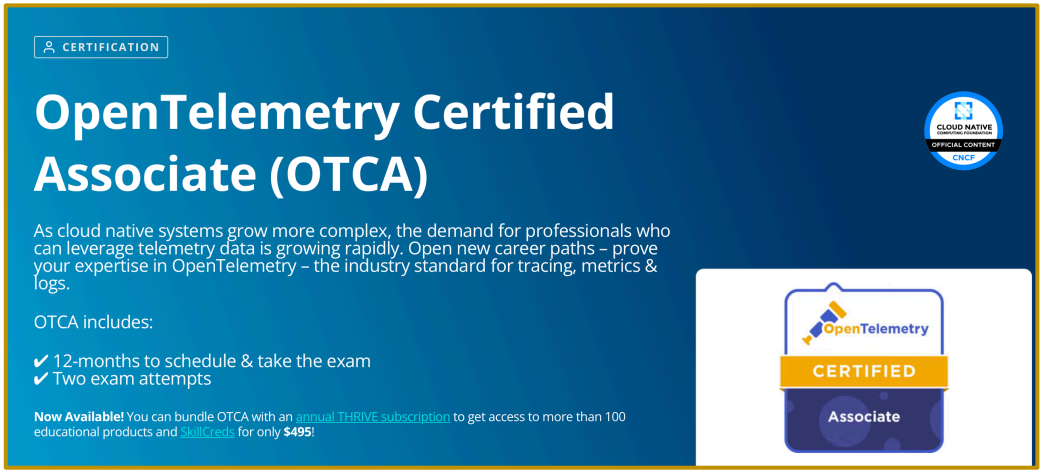
a beginning

“OTel craze and an SRE’s curiosity”


OSS
VENDOR & TOOLS AGNOSTIC
NOT AN O11Y BACKEND
NOT AN O11Y FRONTEND
O11Y FRAMEWORK & TOOLKIT
YOU NEED YOUR OWN STORAGE AND VISUALIZATION TOOLS
GENERATION
EXPORT
COLLECTION
LOGS
TRACES
METRICS
EASY INSTRUMENTATION OF APPS & SYSTEMS

“The OTel call for olly SMEs”





a middle

“Gee, what a great start, can I do more?”

“An SRE’s purpose is to turn everything into OTel”

“How about a POC?”

I played with OTEL and I liked it

Diana Todea
4 min read · Jan 7, 2025

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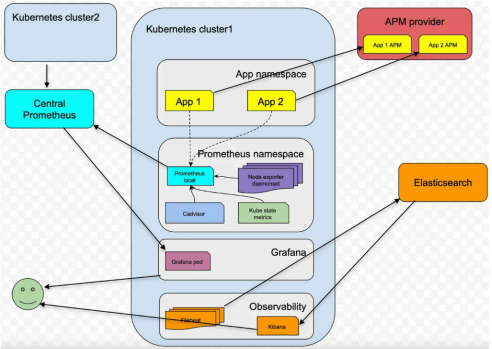
As mentioned in my previous article, in 2024 I had the opportunity to work on an observability project where I wrote a proof of concept on OpenTelemetry. As an SRE I saw the window to experiment with one of the most popular CNCF projects on distributed tracing and provide an open source alternative to monitor the performance of my client's applications. I had the chance to give a more in depth talk on this topic at KCD Accra Ghana as well as at OSMC 2024. You can access my presentations directly on my Github repo.

Architecture

This particular observability architecture was mainly composed of Prometheus metrics, Victoria Metrics, Grafana for visualizations and alerting, ELK for logging and a commercial APM vendor. A fragmented observability architecture leads to a confusing developer and user experience, working in observability for almost 5 years now it's easy to say that most people prefer having a unified monitoring pane of glass, which is easier to onboard and manage.



Observability architecture explaining how the K8s clusters ship metrics, traces and logs

Take-aways:

- great SRE+SWE collaboration
- support the common format and protocol for collecting telemetry data
- vendor neutrality

We loved it, but:

OTel considers profiling and instrumenting as a different scope

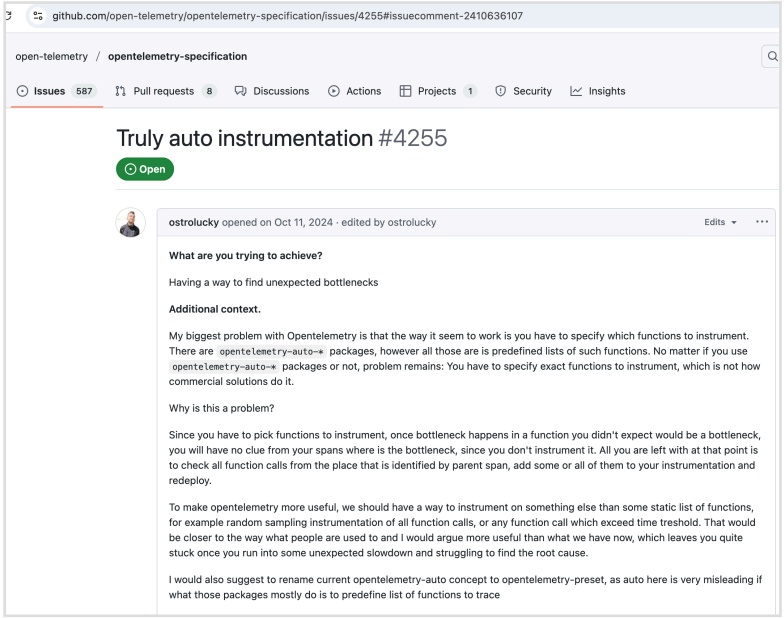
- instrumentation comes with a lot of manual effort
- not the smoothest onboarding due confusing docs
- we didn't account for not enough engineering time/ manpower
- we weren't satisfied with OSS visualization frontend
- OTel is not yet a stable project: what type of support we will get in production?

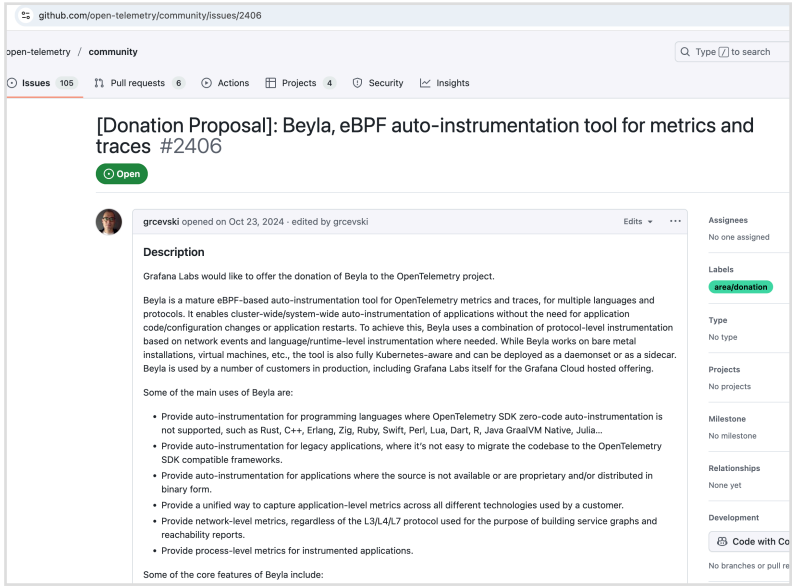
Provide your feedback to the OTel community

https://github.com/open-telemetry/opentelemetry-specification/issues/4255

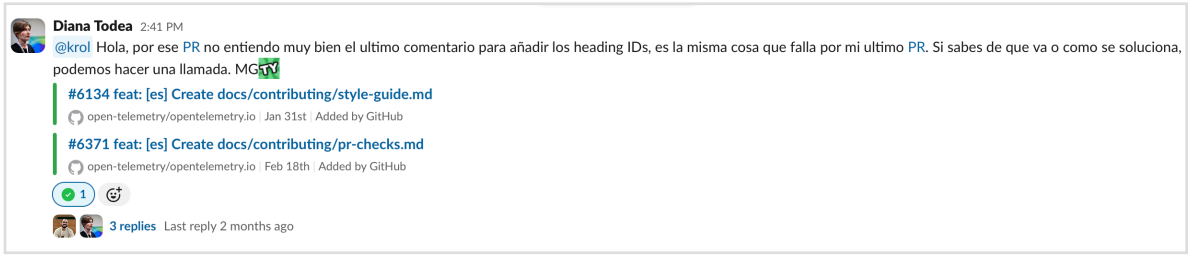
https://github.com/open-telemetry/community/issues/2406

#otel-ebpf-instrumentation

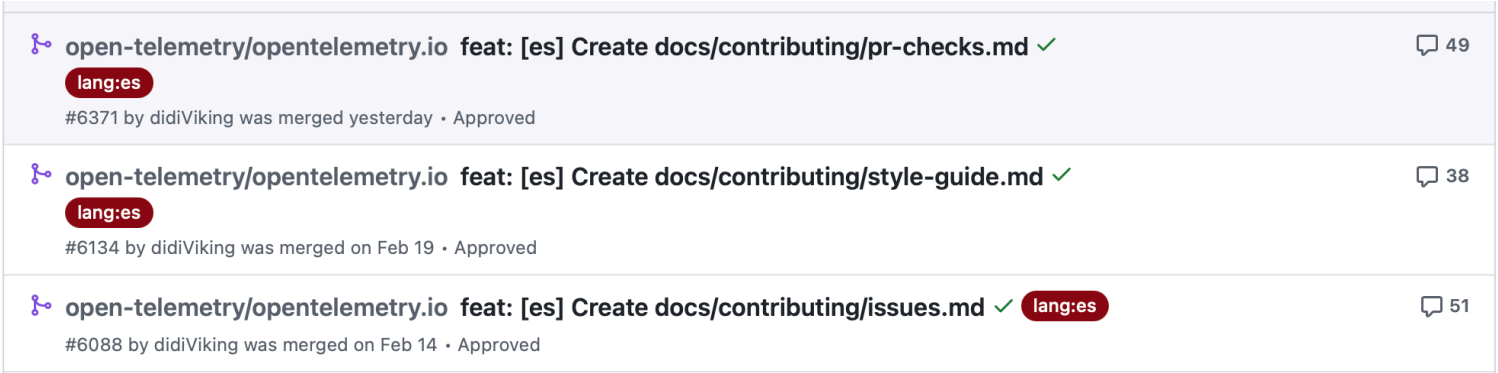




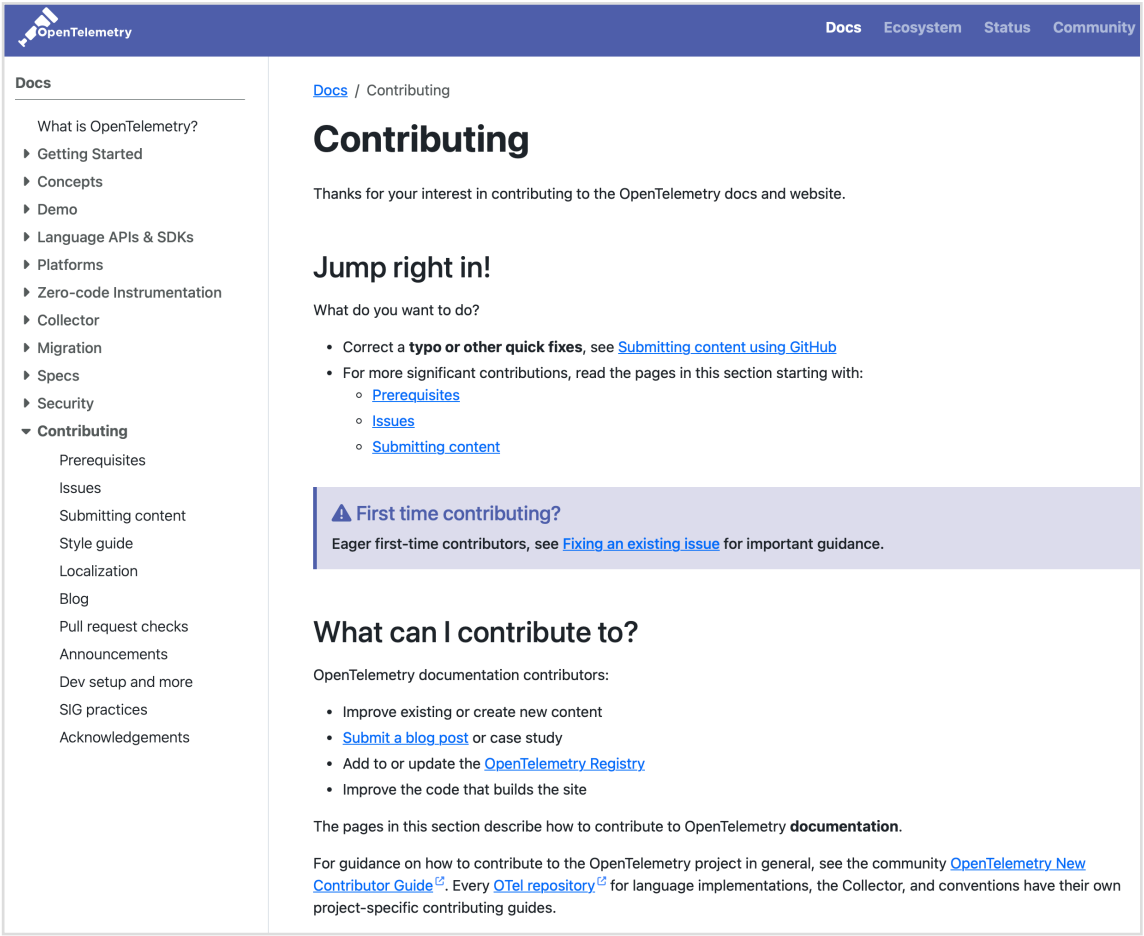
“Don’t despair if it’s not in production.”



Don’t minimize no code contributions



Pay it forward



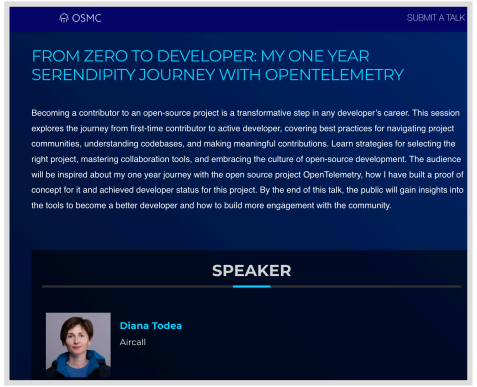
- Nurture local communities!
- Spanish speakers needed!

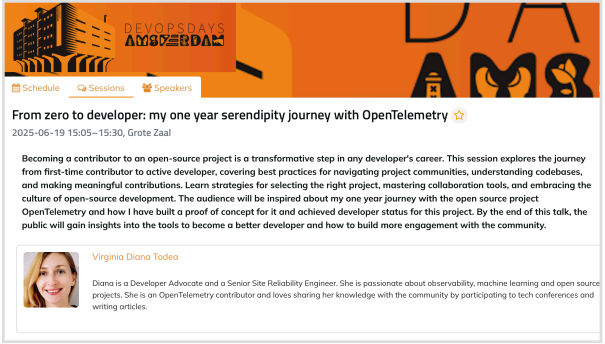
#otel-docs-localization

#otel-localization-es

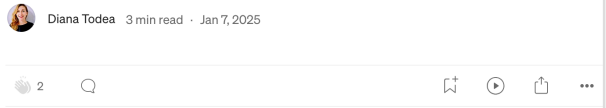
https://community.cncf.io/cloud-native-valencia/

Share with communities





Why feedback matters for open source



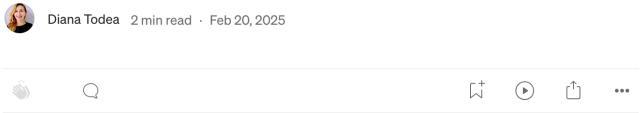
My 2024 has been a year where I finally immersed myself in the open source realm. It has been on my mind for a while to start contributing to an open source project, however I wanted to pick the right project that resonated with my current on-going work.

Putting doubts aside, I was really impressed with OpenTelemetry's popularity and the fact that so many organizations already adopted it into their production environments. When I started drafting my GenerativeAI talk, I interacted with OpenTelemetry, APM and Elastic's Observability stack. Seeing how everything blended together was a great experience, so when the chance opened up to contribute to OpenTelemetry project, I jumped right into it.

OTCA certification from Linux Foundation has been released on the market just very recently. It is the first exam and certification covering the OpenTelemetry topic at its foundational level. I got the chance to contribute as a developer to OTCA exam, writing questions, double checking the documentation sources and putting myself in the shoes of a person who wants to get certified on OpenTelemetry. For me it has been the perfect opportunity to get closer to an open source project I admired from afar and interacting with the open source community.

Educate through written content

Document writing: a great way to contribute to Open Source projects



This year I have started further contributing to Open Source projects, in my case this was OpenTelemetry. OTel has a great need for documentation translation in various languages, you can check their announcement here.

Since my favorite Open Source project needed help I decided to add my contribution helping translating documentation for the Spanish website.

We are just getting started so the need for contributors is acute. It doesn't necessarily take to write code in order to contribute to an open source project, it can be a small step as helping translating a page.

All the steps to start contributing to site localization in different languages is explained in this directory.

In this short article I wanted to share my experience so far as a first time contributor to OTel documentation. It was been an easy onboarding from the first moment and I received support from the maintainers and other contributors of this site via the Slack channel: #otel-docs-localization. Each

Take aways

- Diversify your contributions
- Distinguish between code and no code contributions
- Even the tinniest contribution matters to the community
- Prioritize and nurture local communities and docs localization projects
- Crosspost your findings on different channels
- Pay it forward: keep the collaboration open between OSS projects

We need your contributions!

#otel-profiles

#otel-system-metrics

#otel-contributor-experience

Join CNCF Slack

#otel channels

- I played with OTel and I liked it
- Why feedback matters for Open Source
- Contribute to OTel (OTel blog)

- https://opentelemetry.io/blog/2025/devex-survey
- https://opentelemetry.io/blog/2025/contribex-survey-results/
- https://training.linuxfoundation.org/certification/opentelemetry-certified-associate-otca/

THANKS
Q&A

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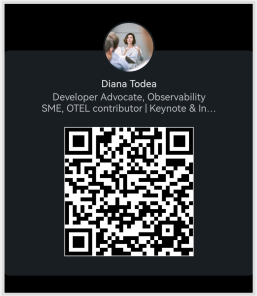

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2025