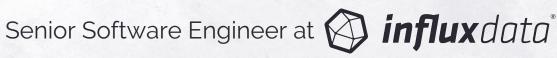
# From logs to metrics.

on the desperate attempt to combat entropy

### Who I am.

#### **Leonardo Di Donato**



Creator of go-syslog



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# How many logs do we generate every day?

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### The quantity is not the only factor ...

How many standards - if any - we use to log?

How strictly we follow those standards formats?

# How to transform kubernetes logs into metrics with the TICK stack.

Almost everyone needs to govern their logs. Deriving metrics, synthesizing and visualizing them helps in decision making.

git.io/k8s-logs-to-metrics-tick (PoC)

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First of all we needed a log parser.

## But to parse which format ...?

BSD-syslog - RFC 3164 - resembled a de-facto standard. Wide usage, lot of tools, long lifetime span (2001). But ...

messy/informal RFC ...
no strict well-defined grammar
no single stable framing technique
too many customisations around.



## Thus we chose

#### RFC 5424 deprecates RFC 3164

- Well-defined grammar
- Octet counting framing
  - o finally the stack trace for a 27 STRUCTURED 28 SD-ELEMENT 29 SD-PARM 30 SD-ID 31 PARAM-NAME 31 PARAM-NAME
- TLS transport mapping
  - secure logs
- Only 9 years old ie., 2009

```
5 PRIVAL
                  = 1*3DIGIT ; range 0 .. 191
                  = NONZERO-DIGIT 0*2DIGIT
 6 VERSION
                  = NILVALUE / 1*255PRINTUSASCII
 7 HOSTNAME
                             3F INT SC'
                  = NILVALU / I JEPKINI JASCII
                  = NILVALUE / FULL-DATE "T" FULL-TIME
13 TIMESTAMP
                  = DATE-FULLYEAR "-" DATE-MONTH "-" DATE-MDAY
14 FULL-DATE
15 DATE-FULLYEAR
                  = 4DIGIT
                  = 2DIGIT : 01-12
16 DATE-MONTH
17 DATE-MDAY
                  = 2DIGIT ; 01-28, 01-29, 01-30, 01-31 based on month/year
18 FULL-TIME
                  = PARTIAL-TIME TIME-OFFSET
19 PARTIAL-TIME
                  = TIME-HOUR ":" TIME-MINUTE ":" TIME-SECOND [TIME-SECFRAC]
20 TIME-HOUR
                  = 2DIGIT ; 00-23
                  = 2DIGIT ; 00-59
21 TIME-MINUTE
22 TIME-SECOND
                  = 2DIGIT : 00-59
23 TIME-SECFRAC
                  = "." 1*6DIGIT
                  = "Z" / TIME-NUMOFFSET
24 TIME-OFFSET
25 TIME-NUMOFFSET
                  = ("+" / "-") TIME-HOUR ":" TIME-MINUTE
27 STRUCTURED-DATA = NILVALUE / 1*SD-ELEMENT
                  = "[" SD-ID *(SP SD-PARAM) "]"
29 SD-PARAM
                  = PARAM-NAME "=" %d34 PARAM-VALUE %d34
30 SD-ID
                  = SD-NAME
31 PARAM-NAME
                  = SD-NAME
32 PARAM-VALUE
                  = UTF-8-STRING; characters '"', '\' and ']' MUST be escaped.
33 SD-NAME
                  = 1*32PRINTUSASCII ; except '=', SP, ']', %d34 (")
35 MSG
                  = MSG-ANY / MSG-UTF8
36 MSG-ANY
                  = *OCTET; not starting with BOM
                  = BOM UTF-8-STRING
37 MSG-UTF8
38 BOM
                  = %xEF.BB.BF
39 UTF-8-STRING
                  = *OCTET; UTF-8 string as specified in RFC 3629
41 OCTET
                  = %d00-255
42 SP
                  = %d32
43 PRINTUSASCII
                  = %d33-126
44 NONZERO-DIGIT
                  = %d49-57
45 DIGIT
                  = %d48 / NONZERO-DIGIT
                                                                              @leodido
                  = "-"
46 NILVALUE
```

= HEADER SP STRUCTURED-DATA [SP MSG]

= "<" PRIVAL ">"

= PRI VERSION SP TIMESTAMP SP HOSTNAME SP APP-NAME SP PROCID SP MSGID

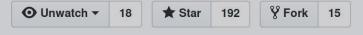
1 SYSLOG-MSG 2 3 HEADER

4 PRI



parser

syslog



#### Blazing fast syslog parser rfc5424 rfc5425 Manage topics

#### We chose Ragel to create the (Go) syslog parser qithub.com/influxdata/qo-sysloq

#### A state machine compiler

- regular languages -> FSM
- can execute code (actions) at arbitrary points
- non-determinism operators
- table or control flow driven state machines
- various host languages c, c++, obj-c, asm, d, go, java, ruby, c#, ocaml

```
action dgt
                  { printf("DGT: %c\n", fc); }
                                                             st0:
action dec
                  { printf("DEC: .\n"); }
                                                               if (++p == pe)
action exp { printf("EXP: %c\n", fc); }
                                                                 goto out0;
action exp_sign { printf("SGN: %c\n", fc); }
                                                               if (48 \le (*p) \& (*p) \le 57)
action number { /*NUMBER*/ }
                                                                 goto tr0;
                                                               goto st err;
number =
                                                             trO:
    [0-9]+ $dgt ( '.' @dec [0-9]+ $dgt )?
                                                               { printf("DGT: %c\n", (*p)); }
    ([eE] ([+\-] \$exp\_sign)? [0-9] + \$exp)?
) %number;
                                                               if (++p == pe)
                                                                 goto out1;
main := ( number '\n' )*;
                                                               switch ( (*p) ) {
                                                                 case 10: goto tr5;
                                                                 case 46: goto tr7;
                                                                 case 69: goto st4;
                                                                 case 101: goto st4;
                                                               if (48 \le (*p) \& (*p) \le 57)
                                                                 goto tr0;
                                                               goto st err;
```

The gotos are your best friends. Only when you do not write them!

#### go-syslog provides parsers for RFC 5424 and RFC 5425.

`<<mark>85>4 2018-10-11T22:14:15.003Z leodido - 31932 - [ex@32473 iut="3"] An auth token...`</mark>

Numerical Code	Facility
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	kernel messages user-level messages mail system system daemons security/authorization messages messages generated internally by syslogd line printer subsystem network news subsystem UUCP subsystem
9	clock daemon security/authorization messages
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	FTP daemon NTP subsystem log audit log alert clock daemon (note 2) local use 0 (local0) local use 1 (local1) local use 2 (local2) local use 3 (local3) local use 4 (local4) local use 5 (local5) local use 6 (local6) local use 7 (local7)

Table 1. Syslog Message Facilities

```
Numerical Severity
Code

0 Emergency: system is unusable
1 Alert: action must be taken immediately
2 Critical: critical conditions
3 Error: error conditions
4 Warning: warning conditions
5 Notice: normal but significant condition
6 Informational: informational messages
7 Debug: debug-level messages
```

Table 2. Syslog Message Severities

- tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5424.html (Syslog grammar)
- tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5425.html (TLS + octet counting)
- tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5426.html (UDP)
- tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6587.html (TCP + octet counting)
- man7.org/linux/man-pages/man3/syslog.3.html
- man7.org/linux/man-pages/man0/syslog.h.0p.html
- man7.org/linux/man-pages/man1/logger.1.html

```
bestEffortOn := true
i := []byte(`<165>4 2018-10-11T22:14:15.003Z mymach.it e - 1 [ex@32473 iut="3"] An app event...`)
p := rfc5424.NewParser()
m, e := p.Parse(i, &bestEffortOn) // best effort mode on means both m and e can have value ...
This results in m being equal to the following SyslogMessage instance. While error e is nil in this case.
// (*rfc5424.SyslogMessage)({
// priority: (*uint8)(165),
// facility: (*uint8)(20),
// severity: (*uint8)(5),
// version: (uint16) 4,
// timestamp: (*time.Time)(2018-10-11 22:14:15.003 +0000 UTC),
// hostname: (*string)((len=9) "mymach.it"),
// appname: (*string)((len=1) "e"),
// procID: (*string)(<nil>),
// msqID: (*string)((len=1) "1"),
// structuredData: (*map[string]map[string]string)((len=1) {
   (string) (len=8) "ex@32473": (map[string]string) (len=1) {
  (string) (len=3) "iut": (string) (len=1) "3"
// message: (*string)((len=33) "An app event...")
// })
```

#### It provides also a builder.

Incrementally build <u>valid</u> syslog messages

```
msg := &SyslogMessage{}
msg.SetTimestamp("not a RFC3339MICRO timestamp")
// Not yet a valid message (try msg.Valid())
msg.SetPriority(191)
msg.SetVersion(1)
msg.Valid() // Now it is minimally valid
str, _ := msg.String()
// str is "<191>1 - - - - - - "
```

Notice that its API ignores input values that does not follow the grammar.

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#### Performances.

- ~250ns to parse the smallest legal message
- ~2µs to parse an average legal message
- ~4µs to parse a very long legal message

[no]_empty_input4	30000000	253	ns/op	224 B/op	3 allocs/op
<pre>[no]_multiple_syslog_messages_on_multiple_lines4</pre>	20000000	433	ns/op	304 B/op	12 allocs/op
[no]_impossible_timestamp4	10000000	1080	ns/op	528 B/op	11 allocs/op
[no]_malformed_structured_data4	20000000	552	ns/op	400 B/op	12 allocs/op
<pre>[no]_with_duplicated_structured_data_id4</pre>	5000000	1246	ns/op	688 B/op	17 allocs/op
[ok]_minimal4	30000000	264	ns/op	247 B/op	9 allocs/op
[ok]_average_message4	5000000	1984	ns/op	1536 B/op	26 allocs/op
[ok]_complicated_message4	5000000	1644	ns/op	1280 B/op	25 allocs/op
[ok]_very_long_message4	2000000	3826	ns/op	2464 B/op	28 allocs/op
[ok]_all_max_length_and_complete4	3000000	2792	ns/op	1888 B/op	28 allocs/op
[ok]_all_max_length_except_structured_data_and_mes-4	5000000	1830	ns/op	883 B/op	13 allocs/op
[ok]_minimal_with_message_containing_newline4	20000000	294	ns/op	250 B/op	10 allocs/op
[ok]_w/o_procid,_w/o_structured_data,_with_message-4	10000000	956	ns/op	364 B/op	11 allocs/op
[ok]_minimal_with_UTF-8_message4	20000000	586	ns/op	359 B/op	10 allocs/op
[ok]_with_structured_data_id,_w/o_structured_data4	10000000	998	ns/op	592 B/op	14 allocs/op
[ok]_with_multiple_structured_data4	5000000	1538	ns/op	1232 B/op	22 allocs/op
[ok]_with_escaped_backslash_within_structured_data-4	5000000	1316	ns/op	920 B/op	20 allocs/op
[ok]_with_UTF-8_structured_data_param_value,_with4	5000000	1580	ns/op	1050 B/op	21 allocs/op

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# Telegraf is the plugin-driven server agent for collecting & reporting metrics.

github.com/influxdata/telegraf

#### Thus we created the syslog input plugin for it, using go-syslog

- Listens for syslog messages transmitted over UDP RFC 5426 or TCP.
- Supports (atm) only messages formatted according to RFC 5424.
- Supports TLS, octet framing (both over TCP RFC 6587 and TLS RFC 5425).
- BSD format RFC 3164 in progress.

#### **Metrics**

#### Measurement: syslog

- tags
  - severity (string)
  - facility (string)
  - hostname (string)
  - o appname (string)
- fields
  - version (integer)
  - severity\_code (integer)
  - facility\_code (integer)
  - timestamp (integer) the time recorded in the syslog message
  - procid (string)
  - msgid (string)
  - o sdid (bool)
  - structured data elements (string)
- timestamp the time the messages was received

```
[[inputs.syslog]]
 ## Specify an ip or hostname with port - eq., tcp://localhost:6514, tcp://10.0.0.1:6514
 ## Protocol, address and port to host the syslog receiver.
 ## If no host is specified, then localhost is used.
 ## If no port is specified, 6514 is used (RFC5425#section-4.1).
 server = "tcp://:6514"
 ## TLS Confia
 # tls_allowed_cacerts = ["/etc/telegraf/ca.pem"]
 # tls cert = "/etc/telegraf/cert.pem"
 # tls_key = "/etc/telegraf/key.pem"
 ## Period between keep alive probes.
 ## 0 disables keep alive probes.
 ## Defaults to the OS configuration.
 ## Only applies to stream sockets (e.g. TCP).
 # keep_alive_period = "5m"
 ## Maximum number of concurrent connections (default = 0).
 ## 0 means unlimited.
 ## Only applies to stream sockets (e.g. TCP).
 # max connections = 1024
 ## Read timeout is the maximum time allowed for reading a single message (default = 5s).
 ## 0 means unlimited.
 # read timeout = "5s"
 ## Whether to parse in best effort mode or not (default = false).
 ## By default best effort parsing is off.
 # best effort = false
 ## Character to prepend to SD-PARAMs (default = "_").
 ## A syslog message can contain multiple parameters and multiple identifiers within structured data
 ## Eg., [id1 name1="val1" name2="val2"][id2 name1="val1" nameA="valA"]
 ## For each combination a field is created.
 ## Its name is created concatenating identifier, sdparam_separator, and parameter name.
 # sdparam_separator = "_"
```

#### Input (with octet counting)

```
169 <165>1 2018-10-01:14:15.000Z mymachine.example.com evntslog - ID47 [exampleSDID@32473 iut="3" eventSource="Application" eventID="1011"] An application event log entry...
```

#### Output

```
syslog,appname=evntslog,facility=local4,hostname=mymachine.example.com,severity=notice exampleSDID@32473_eventID="1011",exampleSDID@32473_eventSource="Application",exampleSDID@32473_iut="3",facility_code=20i,message="An application event log entry...",msgid="ID47",severity_code=5i,timestamp=1065910455003000000i,version=1i 1538421339749472344
```

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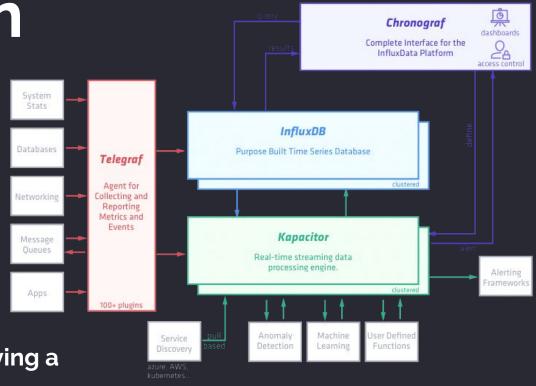
## Our solution

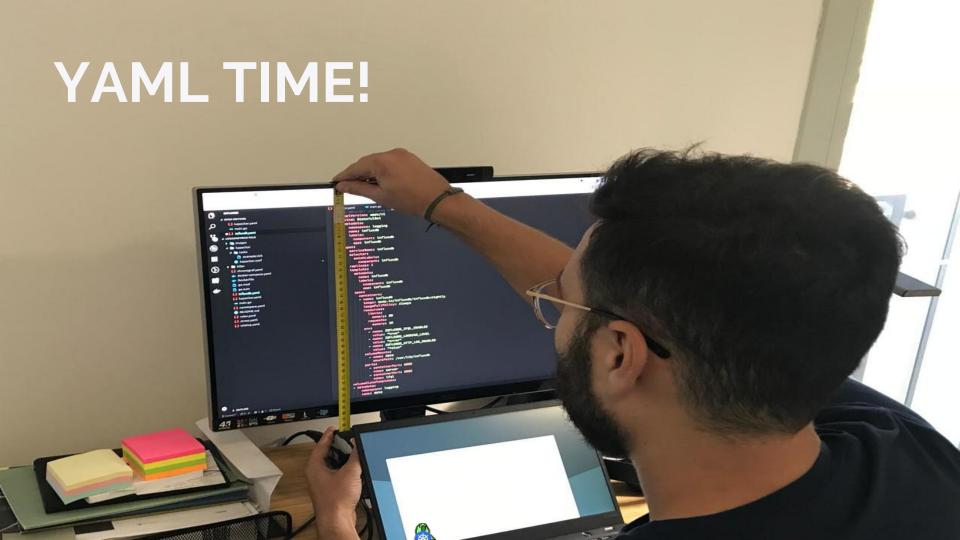
Grab k8s and kernel logs from journald.

Parse them via telegraf syslog input plugin.

Visualize logs with chronograf log viewer.

Elicit new metrics to plot applying a kapacitor UDF.





#### Using rsyslog to grab RFC 5424 syslog messages from journald.

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: ConfigMap
metadata:
 name: rsyslog
 namespace: logging
 labels:
   component: rsyslog
   app: rsyslog
data:
 rsyslog.conf: |+
   # ...
   module(load="imjournal" ...)
   # This module only works with the journald and json-file docker log drivers
   module(load="mmkubernetes" tls.cacert="..." tokenfile="..." annotation_match=["."])
   # Extracts k8s metadata
   action(type="mmkubernetes")
   # ...
   # Compose RFC5424 message
   template(name="rfc5424" type="list") { ... }
   action(type="omfwd" target="127.0.0.1" port="6514" protocol="tcp" tcp_framing="octet-counted"
     template="rfc5424" ...)
```

#### Setup telegraf syslog plugin to receive log messages over TCP.

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: ConfigMap
metadata:
 name: telegraf
 namespace: logging
 labels:
   component: telegraf
   app: telegraf
data:
 telegraf.conf: |+
   # ...
   [agent]
     interval = "10s"
     round interval = true
     metric batch size = 1000
     # ...
   [[outputs.influxdb]]
     urls = ["http://influxdb:8086"] # required
     database = "telegraf" # required
     retention_policy = "autogen"
     write_consistency = "any"
     timeout = "1m"
   [[inputs.syslog]]
     server = "tcp://:6514"
     best effort = true
```



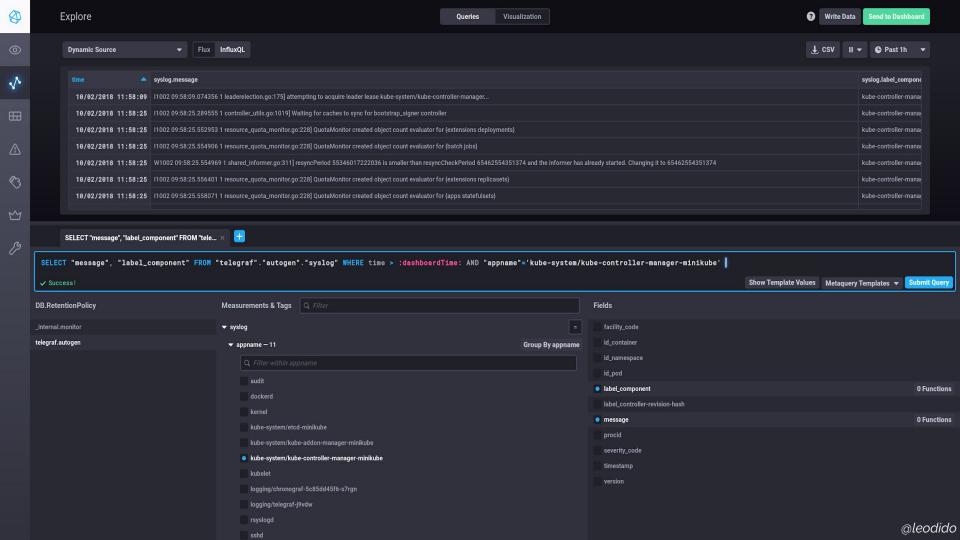


#### Let's deploy chronograf and influxDB

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
 name: chronograf
 namespace: logging
 labels:
   component: chronograf
   app: chronograf
spec:
 ports:
 - port: 80
   targetPort: 8888
   name: server
 selector:
   component: chronograf
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
# ...
```

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
 name: influxdb
 namespace: logging
 labels:
   component: influxdb
   app: influxdb
 annotations:
   service.alpha.kubernetes.io/tolerate-unready-endpoints: "true"
spec:
 clusterIP: None
 ports:
 - port: 8086
   name: server
 selector:
   component: influxdb
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: StatefulSet
# ...
```





# Logs are just a mess!

Inspecting logs coming from a single server is easy.
Inspecting logs coming from a distributed system is hard.

## We need metrics!

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#### Now we want to detect and count the OOMs.

# Logs are streams. We need a streaming processor!

github.com/influxdata/kapacitor

A streaming processor can be programmed to identify the patterns we want and act on them, e.g. OOM Kills.

Memory cgroup out of memory: Kill process 13012 (stress) score 1958 or sacrifice child

#### Let's write a tick script to grab log points

```
dbrp "telegraf"."autogen"
stream
     |from()
          .measurement('syslog')
          .truncate(1ms)
          .where(lambda: "appname" == 'kernel') # filter by points tag
          .where(lambda: "message" =~ /sacrifice/) # filtering on messages with regex
    @example() # passing points to our user defined function (UDF)
     |influxDBOut()
          .database('telegraf')
          .measurement('k8s')
                                                                     Stream
                                                                  reprocessing
         Collection
                            Ingestion
                                               Storage
                                                                   Dashboards
```



#### Let's configure kapacitor

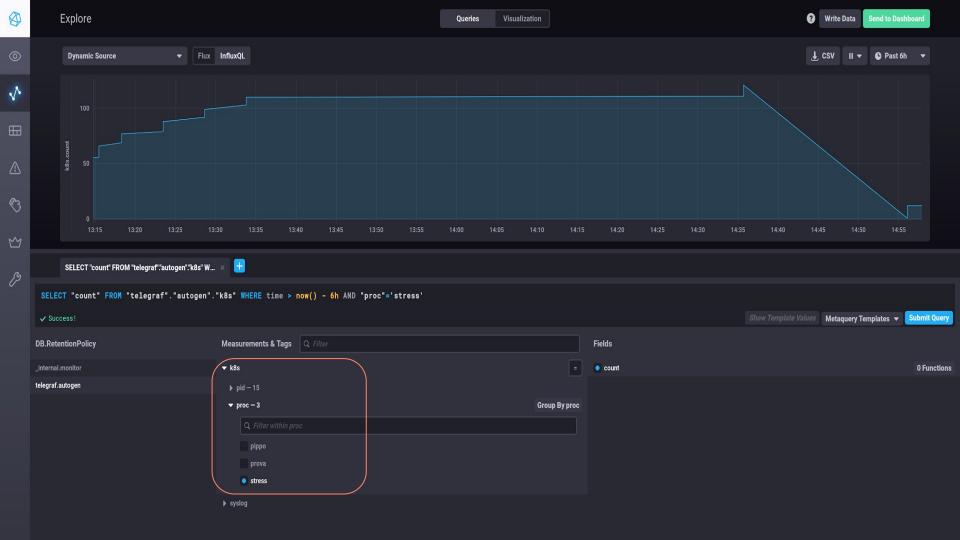
```
udf
udf.functions
   [udf.functions.example]
    socket = "/tmp/example.sock"
    timeout = "10s"
[[influxdb]]
enabled = true
default = true
name = "logging"
urls = ["http://localhost:8086"]
timeout = 0
startup-timeout = "5m"
 [influxdb.subscriptions]
  telegraf = ["autogen"]
```



#### Let's write the UDF

```
func (h *handler) Point(p *agent.Point) error {
    var r = regexp.MustCompile(`(?m).*Kill process (?P<pid>\d+) (?P<proc>\(.*\)) score (?P<score>\d+)`)
    message, ok := p.FieldsString["message"]
    if ok {
        m := r.FindStringSubmatch(message)
        data := mapSubexpNames(m, r.SubexpNames())
        proc := strings.Trim(data["proc"], "()")
        state := h.state[proc]
        if state == nil {
            state := &myState{Counter: 0}
            h.state[proc] = state
        h.state[proc].update()
        newpoint := &agent.Point{
            Time: time.Now().UnixNano(),
            Tags: map[string]string{
                "proc": proc.
                "pid": string(data["pid"]),
            FieldsInt: map[string]int64{
                "count": h.state[proc].Counter,
            },
        // Send point
        h.agent.Responses <- &agent.Response{</pre>
            Message: &agent.Response_Point{
                Point: newpoint,
            },
    return nil
```





## Thanks.

@leodido git.io/k8s-logs-to-metrics-tick git.io/go-syslog github.com/influxdata







