# Detailed Notes on Inspecting an Elasticsearch Cluster

## Introduction to Elasticsearch Cluster Basics

An Elasticsearch cluster is a collection of one or more nodes working together to store and manage data.

Understanding the cluster's internal workings involves:

Learning how to inspect the cluster using Kibana's Console tool.

Interacting with Elasticsearch's REST API for performing actions.

## Using Kibana’s Console Tool

Steps to Access the Console Tool:

1. Open Kibana.

2. Expand the menu and click on Dev Tools under the Management section.

This is the first time we will send a request to Elasticsearch. Remember that an Elasticsearch cluster exposes a REST API, which is the medium of communication.

## HTTP Verbs and Actions

The HTTP verbs differ depending on the actions to be performed. These verbs include:

- GET: Retrieve information.

- POST: Submit new data.

- PUT: Update existing data.

- DELETE: Remove data.

## Retrieving Cluster Health

Query Format:

To retrieve information about the cluster’s health:

1. Specify the HTTP verb: GET.

2. Specify the request path: /cluster/health.

Note: When using Kibana’s Console tool, the leading forward slash is optional, as Kibana automatically prepends it.

## Example Query

GET /\_cluster/health

Result Interpretation:

The response is a JSON object containing information such as:

- Cluster Name: Defaults to 'elasticsearch,' but configurable in elasticsearch.yml.

- Status: Indicates the health of the cluster, with 'green' meaning everything is okay.