

Application Performance Monitoring Lab

Throughout this lab, each section will be broken down into a series of steps. To navigate between sections, click each header to expand or collapse the sections.

Make sure you are logged into Datadog using the Datadog training account credentials provisioned for you. You can find that information by running `creds` in the lab terminal.

About Tracing

Application traces are continuous streams of data about an application's execution. They can tell you the specific lines of code that ran, when they ran, and how long they took.

When configured correctly, Datadog associates traces with everything it knows about your infrastructure. You can fluidly navigate across traces, logs, processes, metrics and events to get a complete picture of what was happening at any point in time.

The Datadog Agent is automatically configured to accept traces. You need to instrument your applications to submit them to the Agent. This is done by adding a Datadog tracing library to your application.


Examine the Configured Service


Everything for APM has been configured for you already in this lab, but it's important to know how it's done.


First, take a look at how Datadog guides you through enabling tracing for many languages in several environments:

1. Log in to Datadog using the trial credentials the lab created for you. You can run `creds` in the lab terminal whenever you need to retrieve your Datadog training account credentials.
2. Navigate to **APM > Setup & Configuration** and click on the **Service Setup** tab.
3. On the **APM Setup & Docs** page, in the left-hand column, click on **Container-Based**.
4. Under **Choose your Environment and Application Language**, click on **Docker**, then **Same host**, then **Python**.

Where are your traces coming from?

**Host-Based**
Datadog Agent on the same host as application


**Container-Based**
Docker, Kubernetes, ECS, Fargate


**Serverless**
Lambda Functions


Container-based setup will take about 7 minutes to complete


1 Choose your Environment and Application Language
Please choose your environment and application language, as the steps for setting up trace collection depends on each.

Which environment is your Datadog Agent is running in?

 docker

 kubernetes

 Amazon ECS


 AWS Fargate


Would you like to run your agent on the same host as your instrumented app?


From another host


Same host


Which language is the application you're instrumenting?


 java


 python


 Ruby

 GO

 node

 .NET

 php

 C++

5. The rest of the page is then updated to walk you through instrumenting your application based on the selections you made:

- Under **Run the Agent**, you are told how to configure the Agent container at runtime to accept traces from applications. In this lab, the Agent container is already configured similarly in the `docker-compose.yml` file for Storedog.
- The **Install the Python client** step tells you the command to add the `ddtrace` library to a Python application. This is typically done by application developers, and has already been done for the discounts and advertisements services in this lab.
- The **Instrument your application** step helps you build the command for running a Python script with `ddtrace-run`. `ddtrace` relies on environment variables to know where and how to send traces to the Datadog Agent.

6. Under the **Instrument your application** step, do the following to see what the APM configuration for this lab's discounts service would look like:

1. In the form, set **DD_SERVICE** to `discounts-service`.
2. Set **DD_ENV** to `dd101-dev`.
3. Enable **Configure a sampling rate for your service** and leave the default value for `dd.trace.sample`.
4. Enable **Continuous Profiler**.
5. Confirm that your configuration snippet looks like this:

4 Instrument your application

Instrumentation describes how your application sends traces to APM.

Build your configuration snippet

To automatically instrument your Python application, add the following arguments to your application `ddtrace-run` command. **Finish your installation by restarting your service.** For more details and additional configurations, refer to the [full documentation](#)

```
DD_SERVICE="discounts-service" DD_ENV="dd101-dev"
DD_LOGS_INJECTION=true DD_TRACE_SAMPLE_RATE="1"
DD_PROFILING_ENABLED=true ddtrace-run python my_app.py
```

Service name
The name your service will show within the Datadog UI

DD_SERVICE discounts-service

Environment name
Set an environment name to separate services and traces within Datadog

DD_ENV dd101-dev

Version
Measure performance and errors by deployed version within Datadog.
[Learn more](#)

☒ **Automatically Inject Trace and Span IDs into Logs**

Inject trace_id and span_id into your logs to correlate with traces in the Datadog UI. [Learn more](#)

☒ **Configure a sampling rate for your service**

Set a sampling rate for your service, to only keep traces relevant to your business and your observability. Requires agent 6.19+ and 7.19+.
[Learn more about Trace Sampling Configuration](#)

dd.trace.sample 1

Note: this may impact your bill if your total ingestion exceeds the included GBs. For more information, see the [APM Billing page](#).

☒ **Continuous Profiler**

Send profiles from production to continuously measure line of code performance with ultra low overhead, allowing you to pinpoint hard to replicate code issues and performance regressions.
Requires agent 7.20.2+ or 6.20.2+. [Learn more](#)

Now compare that with the configuration that is already in the `docker-compose.yml` file for Storedog.

1. In the lab IDE, open `docker-compose.yml`.
2. Compare that configuration snippet from Datadog with what's in `docker-compose.yml`:

```

discounts:
  environment:
    - FLASK_APP=discounts.py
    - FLASK_DEBUG=1
    - POSTGRES_PASSWORD
    - POSTGRES_USER
    - POSTGRES_HOST=db
    - DD_SERVICE=discounts-service
    - DD_ENV=dd101-dev
    - DD_LOGS_INJECTION=true
    - DD_TRACE_SAMPLE_RATE=1
    - DD_PROFILING_ENABLED=true
    - DD_AGENT_HOST=datadog
  image: 'ddtraining/discounts:2.1.4'
  ports:
    - '5001:5001'
  depends_on:
    - datadog
    - db
  labels:
    com.datadoghq.tags.env: 'dd101-dev'
    com.datadoghq.tags.service: 'discounts-service'
    com.datadoghq.tags.version: '2.1'
    my.custom.label.team: 'discounts'
    com.datadoghq.ad.logs: '[{"source": "python", "service": "discounts-service"}]'
  volumes:
    - '/root/lab/discounts-service:/app'

```

These values match the values you set under the **Instrument your application** step in Datadog. They provide context for the Datadog tracing library installed into each of these services at the application-level.

The `DD_AGENT_HOST` tells the Datadog tracing library to send traces to the `datadog` service.

3. In the IDE, open `discounts-service/requirements.txt`. These are the libraries that will be installed when the discounts service starts up.

On line 4, you can see that `ddtrace` is already listed. Thanks to Storedog's forward-thinking developers, you don't need to do anything further with the application code.

4. In the lab terminal, confirm that the `discounts-service`, `advertisements-service`, and `store-frontend` service are all sending traces to APM by running the following command:

```
docker-compose exec datadog agent status
```

5. In the **APM Agent** section, notice it is receiving Python traces from all three services:

```
=====
APM Agent
=====
Status: Running
Pid: 375
Uptime: 565 seconds
Mem alloc: 17,383,768 bytes
Hostname: dd101-dev-host
Receiver: 0.0.0.0:8126
Endpoints:
  https://trace.agent.datadoghq.com

Receiver (previous minute)
=====
From python 3.9.6 (CPython), client 0.46.0
  Traces received: 21 (1,460,031 bytes)
  Spans received: 3087

From ruby 2.7.2 (ruby-x86_64-linux), client 0.50.0
  Traces received: 169 (1,414,432 bytes)
  Spans received: 3566

Default priority sampling rate: 100.0%
Priority sampling rate for 'service:advertisements-service,env:dd101-dev': 100.0%
Priority sampling rate for 'service:discounts-service,env:dd101-dev': 100.0%
Priority sampling rate for 'service:store-frontend,env:dd101-dev': 100.0%

Writer (previous minute)
=====
Traces: 0 payloads, 0 traces, 0 events, 0 bytes
Stats: 0 payloads, 0 stats buckets, 0 bytes
```

Explore Traces in the Datadog App

Now that the Agent is collecting traces from the discounts service, take a look at those traces in Datadog. It can take several minutes for Datadog to process traces when they first start coming in, so wait a few minutes if you don't see anything at first.

1. In Datadog, navigate to **APM > Service Catalog**. If you have taken other courses within the past two weeks, you likely have a **Show data from** selector with multiple options. Make sure that **env:dd101-dev** is selected.
2. You'll see a list of all the services that are enabled. You'll also see **postgres**, which doesn't communicate with the Datadog Agent directly.

postgres shows up because **discounts-service** and **advertisements-service** traces capture it. You configured the PostgreSQL integration in the previous lab, but it doesn't send traces to the Datadog Agent. Applications that *connect* to the database do.

Similarly, you'll see some new services that don't correspond to Docker containers: **active_record**, **store-frontend-cache**, and **store-frontend-sqlite**. The **store-frontend** service is instrumented to tag these subsidiary areas of the application as services. You can see how this is done in the **store-frontend/config/initializers/datadog.rb** file.

3. You'll notice the **discounts-service** has an alert in the **Monitors** column on the page:

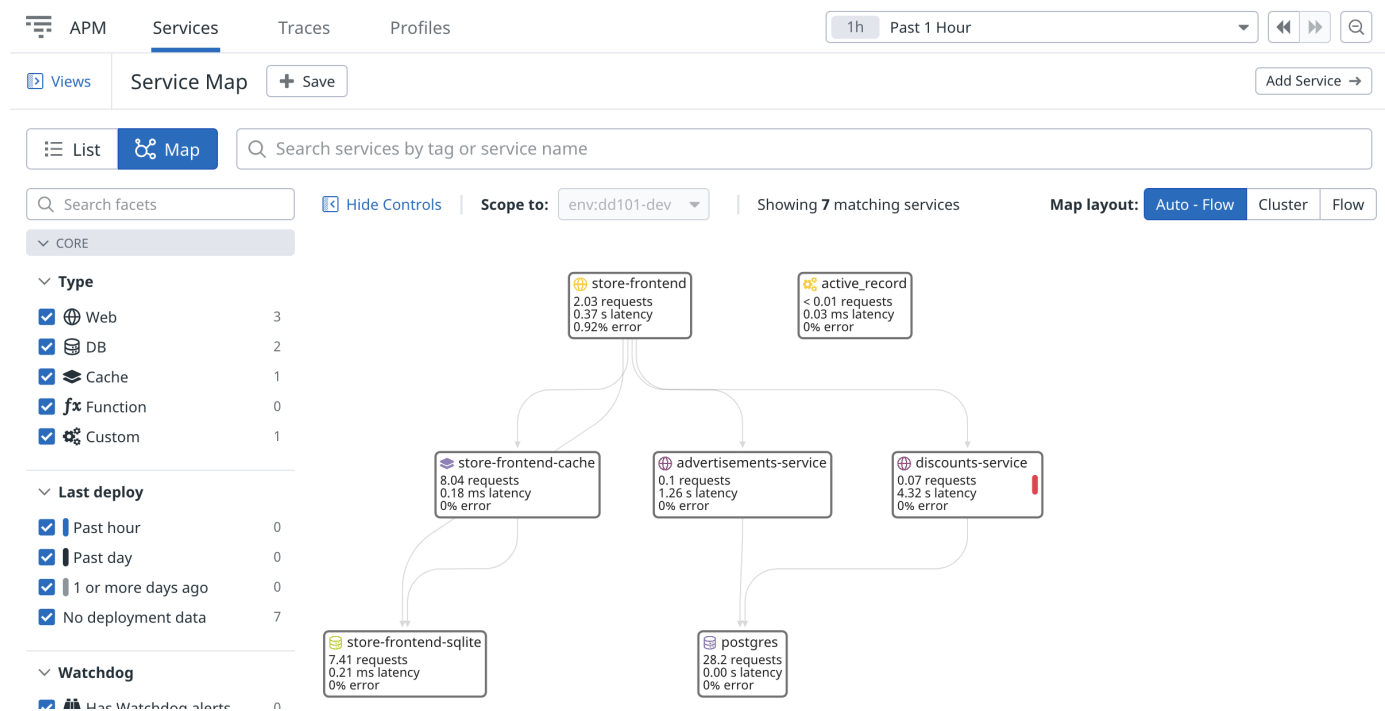
Show data from: env:dd101-dev

↓ ★	TYPE	SERVICE	LAST DEPLOY	↓ REQUESTS	P95 LATENCY	ERROR RATE	INFRASTRU...	DASHBO...	MONITORS
☆	DB	postgres		1.8 req/s	8.89 ms	< 0.1%			
☆	DB	store-frontend-sqlite		1.8 req/s	767 μs	0%			
☆	Cache	store-frontend-cache		1.5 req/s	779 μs	0%			
☆	Web	store-frontend		0.2 req/s	2.89 s	1.0%	2		
☆	Web	advertisements-service		< 0.1 req/s	2.55 s	0%	2		
☆	Web	discounts-service		< 0.1 req/s	4.06 s	0%	2		1 ALERT
☆	Custom	active_record		< 0.1 req/s	41.6 μs	0%			

A site reliability engineer (SRE) at Storedog created a monitor to check the latency of this service, and it seems to be a bit higher than expected.

You'll come back to this in a few minutes, but for now, continue exploring APM.

- Select the **Map** tab in the top left corner, and you'll see a map of how each service communicates with one another:



Note: This map can take a long time to appear after Datadog receives new traces. Come back later if you don't see it right now.

- Notice the **Map layout** buttons in the upper-right corner. Switch between **Cluster** and **Flow** to see the differences. The **Flow** layout is more suited for larger service maps.

Also notice that the service monitor status is indicated in red for the **discount-service** in these maps.

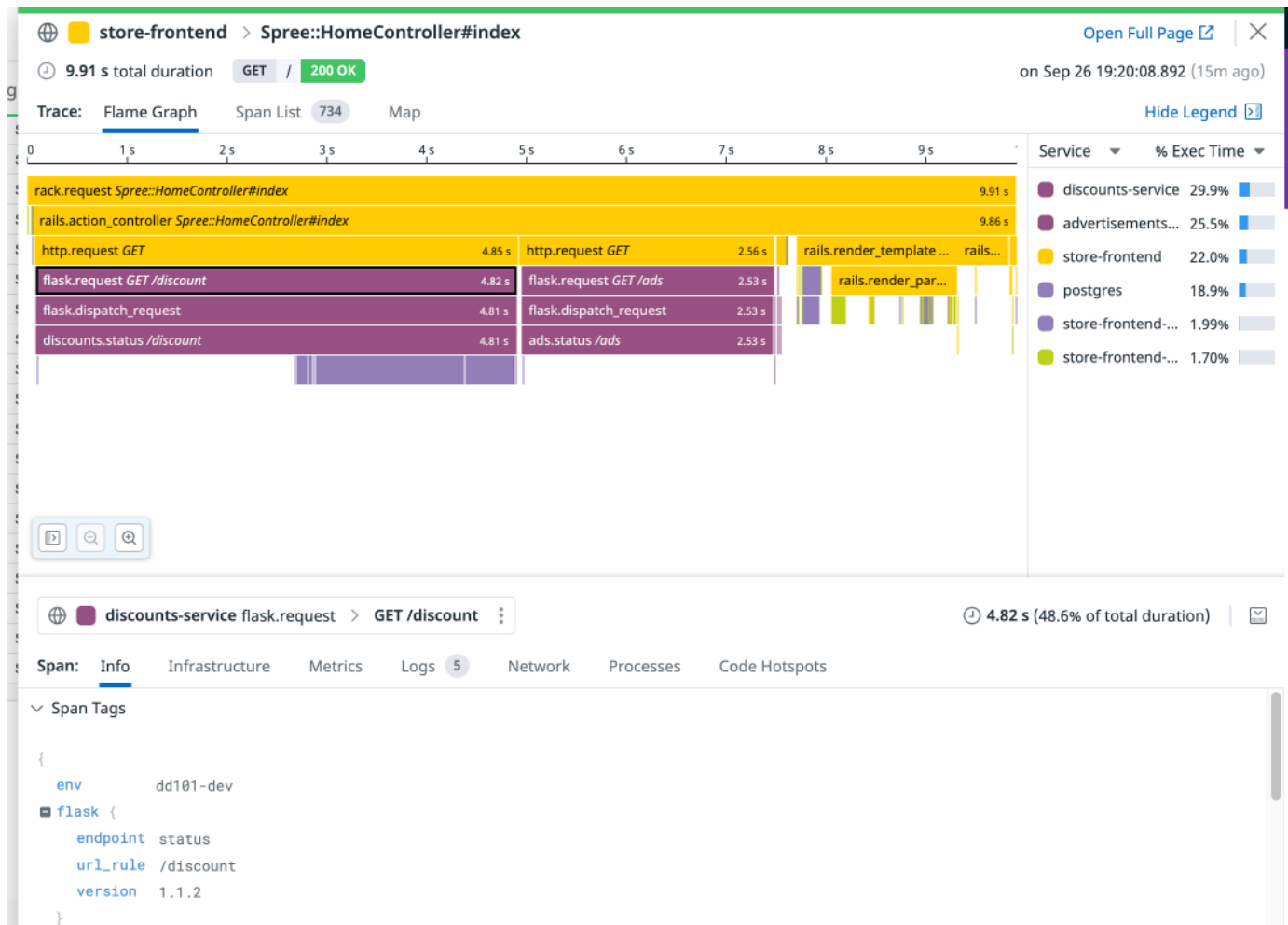
- Click on **discounts-service** and then **View service overview**. (If you don't have a service map yet, you can go to the Service Catalog and hover over **discounts-service** in the list then click **Full Page**.)
- On the resulting page, scroll down to **Resources**. Here you will see all of the service's application endpoints that APM traced. This service has one endpoint, **GET /discount**

Resources 1 Resource		Search Resources					Options	
NAME	REQUESTS	TOTAL TIME	P50 LATENCY	P99 LATENCY	ERRORS	ERROR RATE	API TESTS	
GET /discount	122	2.55 min	1.32 s	3.51 s	0	0%		

- Navigate to **APM > Traces**. Here you see a live stream of the traces APM has captured over the past 15 minutes. Try and locate one for the **discounts-service** service.

Note: You may have to filter the traces by service name. Use the facets menu on the left to filter by the **discounts-service** service.

- Click on a **discounts-service** trace to open the trace details side panel. The flame graph displays the time spent in each service for this trace:



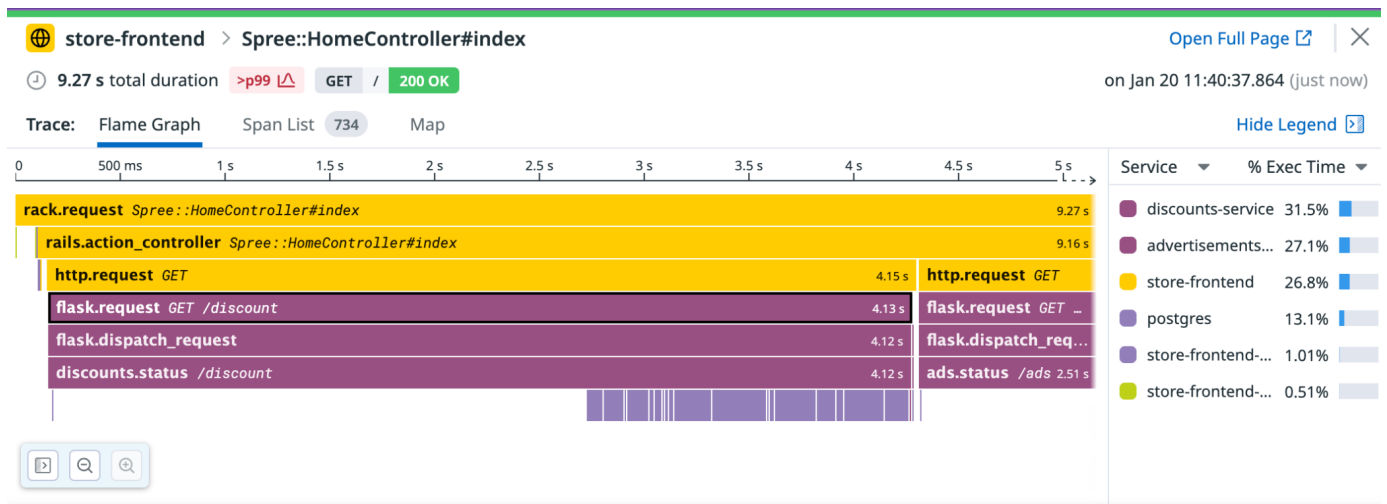
Traverse APM Traces to Log Entries

Take a moment to examine the logs for the traces.

- Click the **Logs** tab at the bottom of the trace details panel. You can resize the logs display area by dragging the horizontal divider at the top.

Note: If you see a message like, “Get started with Log Management...”, click the link to enable logging. Then return to **APM > Traces** and open a **discounts-service** trace again.

These are the related log lines captured during the trace’s timeframe. You may notice that it’s taking a long time to complete this request.



discounts-service flask.request > GET /discount 4.13 s (44.5% of total duration)

Span: Info Infrastructure Metrics **Logs 5** Network Processes Code Hotspots

Trace ID trace_id:3662431455315162039

DATE	SERVICE	HOST
Jan 20 11:40:38.065	discounts-service	dd101-dev-host
Discounts available: 206		
Jan 20 11:40:42.133	discounts-service	dd101-dev-host
Total of 202 influencer specific discounts as of this request		
Jan 20 11:40:42.188	advertisements-service	dd101-dev-host
Total advertisements available: 3		
Jan 20 11:40:44.951	advertisements-service	dd101-dev-host
attempting to grab banner at 3.jpg		
Jan 20 11:40:47.135	store-frontend	61ca85868f2b
Completed #index		

2. Mouse over each line and look at the flamegraph. You'll see a vertical line marking the exact point in the trace that the log line was emitted. This is enabled by the DD_LOGS_INJECTION configuration.
3. In the **Logs** table, click the icon for **Open in Log Explorer** to the far end of the **Hosts** column:

discounts-service flask.request > GET /discount 4.13 s (44.5% of total duration)

Span: Info Infrastructure Metrics **Logs 5** Network Processes Code Hotspots

Trace ID trace_id:3662431455315162039

DATE	SERVICE	HOST	Open in Log Explorer
Jan 20 11:40:38.065	discounts-service	dd101-dev-host	
Discounts available: 206			
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Total of 202 influencer specific discounts as of this request			
Jan 20 11:40:42.188	advertisements-service	dd101-dev-host	
Total advertisements available: 3			
Jan 20 11:40:44.951	advertisements-service	dd101-dev-host	
attempting to grab banner at 3.jpg			

This will open a new tab to the Logs Explorer page with the associated logs for the trace you just viewed based on the trace_id.

4. Click on one of the log entries to open the log entry details panel.

INFO Jan 20, 2023 at 11:40:38.065 (5 minutes ago)

 View in Context   

HOST



dd101-dev-host

SERVICE

discounts-service

SOURCE

python



CONTAINER NAME



lab_discounts_1

DOCKER IMAGE

ddtraining/discounts

ALL TAGS

env:dd101-dev accessible-from-goog-gke-node allow-external-ingress-high-ports allow-external-ingress-http allow-external-ingress-https

container_id:a88af0d15c2bb5b65b0723f0993d11cc71596b6feef590d80587fd05a94488e6 container_name:l... +21

Discounts available: 206



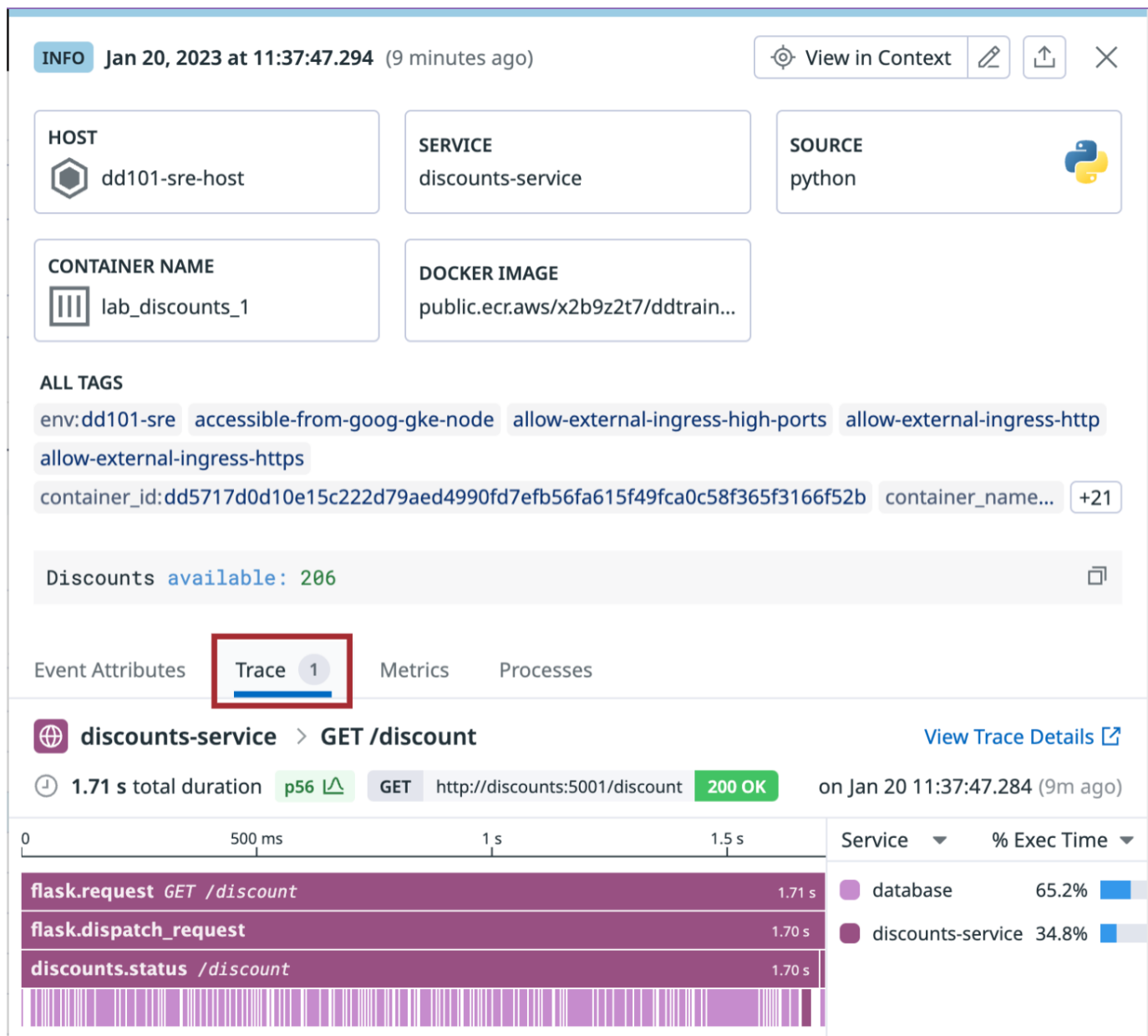
Event Attributes Trace 1 Metrics Processes

```
{
  dd {
    service discounts-service
  }
  filename discounts.py
  levelname INFO
  lineno 32
  process {
    name bootstrap
  }
  timestamp 1674232838065
}
```

Traverse Log Entries to APM Traces

Now that you know how to navigate from an APM trace to its associated logs, try to navigate from a log line to its associated APM trace.

1. Back on the Log Explorer page, clear the search field and change the timeframe dropdown in the upper-right corner to **Past 15 Minutes** to view all of the most recent logs.
2. In the **Service** section of the left-hand pane, click on the **discounts-service** facet to see only the logs from the **discounts-service**.
3. Click on a **discounts-service** log line that states **Discounts available...**
4. In the log details side panel, click on the **Trace** tab.



5. Here is the trace for this log line, right in the log details view!

Click on **View Trace Details** to view the trace in the APM trace details page.

You can now travel back and forth between APM traces and logs for the discounts service.

Examine APM Monitors

In a previous step, you noticed that there was an alert for the discounts service. This alert came from an APM monitor that was created by one of Storedog's SREs to alert you when the discounts service is experiencing performance issues, allowing you to quickly take action to fix the issue.

In Datadog, monitors can be created to track any part of an application to detect changes in behavior or performance that you want to be alerted to. For example, you can create a monitor to track the number of requests to a specific endpoint over a period of time, or you can create a monitor to track the number of errors that occur on a specific endpoint.

Check the monitor

1. Navigate to **APM > Service Catalog** to see a list of the services.

The discounts service has a monitor associated with it on the right.

2. Hover over the monitor's status and select the **View Monitors** link to see the monitor details.
3. On the **Monitors** page, click on the monitor with an **Alert** status to see what this monitor was set up to alert you to.
4. Here you'll find the query that was used to create the monitor, which is to check the average latency of the discounts service over the span of a minute. It is currently around 4 seconds, but the monitor is set to alert you if the latency is greater than 1 second.

ALERT

Monitor status since 3 days and 3 hours ago (23 Sep, 16:52:17 America/New_York)

Mute

Resolve

Declare Incident

Resource get_/discount has a high average latency on env:dd101-dev

Properties

APM Monitor

ID: 90782957

Created at Sep 23, 2022, 4:51 pm

by Datadog Learning Parent

TAGS

service:discounts-service

env:dd101-dev

resource_name:get_/disco...

PRIORITY

Not Defined

QUERY

avg(last_1m):avg:trace.flask.request{env:dd101-dev,resource_name:get_/discount,service:discounts-service} > 1

MESSAGE

discounts-service throughput deviated too much from its usual value.

Filter monitor groups and their events

Alert 1

Warn 0

No Data 0

OK 0

1 of 1 groups

UTC-04:00

4h

Past 4 Hours

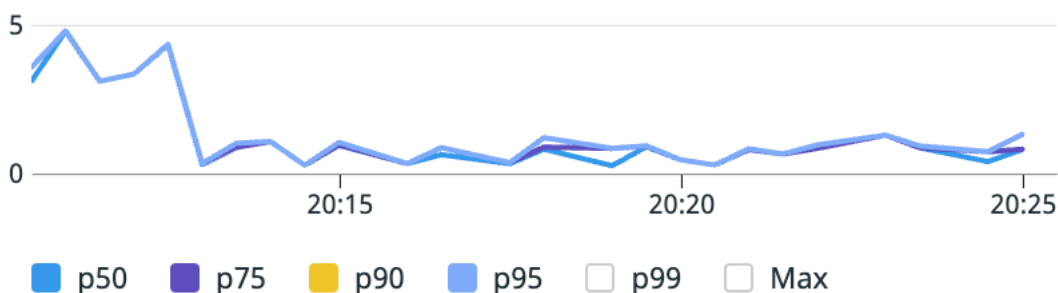
5. Also notice how you can view a list of events around this monitor, so you know when it changes status.

This monitor is set to alert you when the `/discounts` resource is slow, so it's safe to assume that there is an issue in that service's code that you should go look at.

Fix the latency issue

1. In the IDE, open `discounts-service/discounts.py`.
2. Find the `time.sleep()` methods that were previously left in the file by accident.
Remove or comment out those two lines and the IDE automatically saves for you. The changes will immediately update in the running container.
3. It will take a moment or two for the monitor to leave its **Alert** status and return to its **OK** status, so use this time to see if the latency is now less in the **APM > Traces** page.
4. Click on the `discounts-service` facet on the left to see only those from the `discounts-service`.
5. Notice how the latency is now going down. The list of traces may show a difference, but you can also see it in the **Latency** graph towards the top of the page.

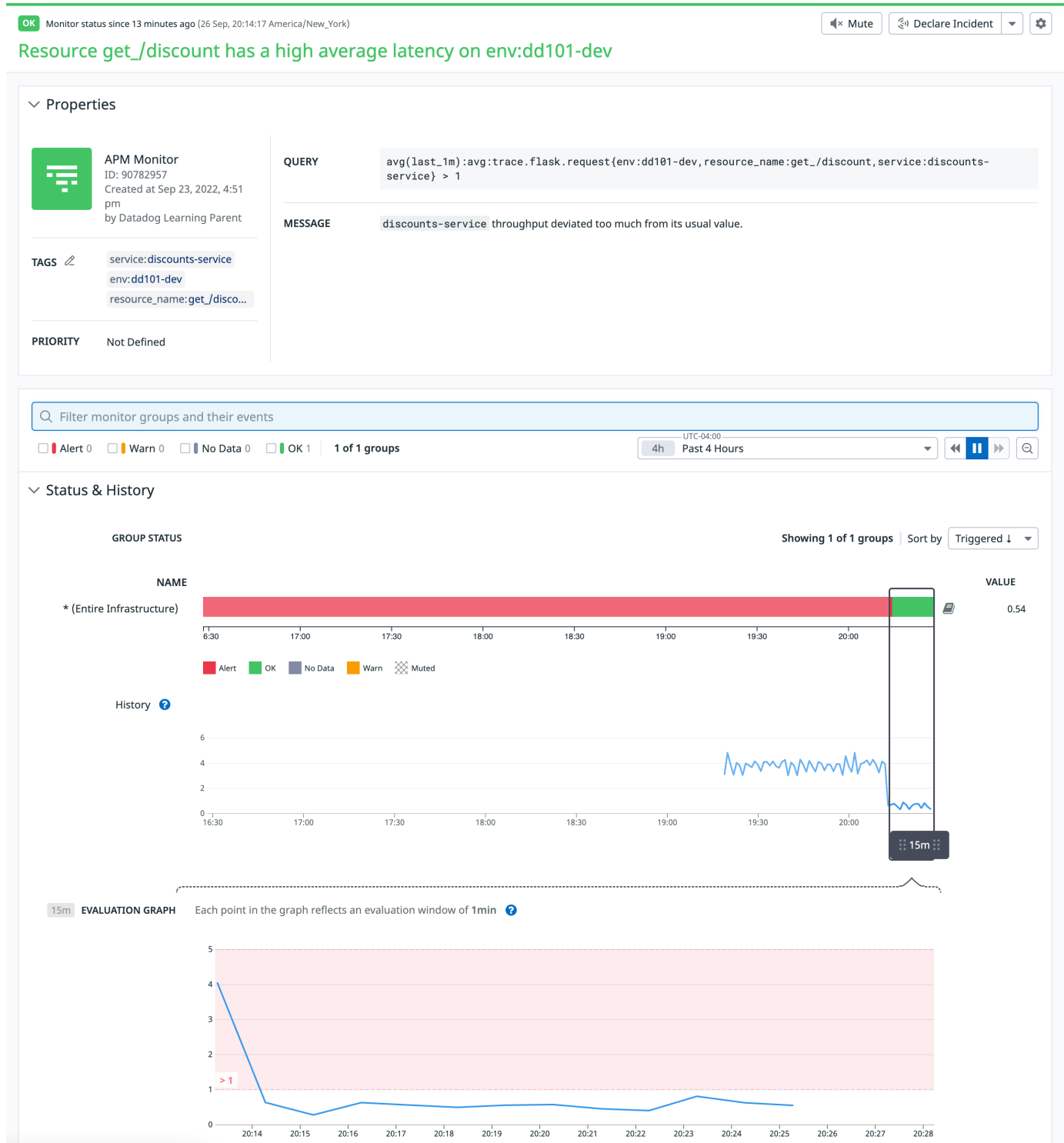
Latency



6. While you're here, take a moment and explore some of the other services that are also being monitored.

You'll find that even though the `store-frontend-sqlite` and `store-frontend-cache` services weren't explicitly configured for APM, they are set up within the `store-frontend` service, which we did configure for APM.

7. After a moment or two, the monitor should be in an **OK** status. Navigate to it and you should see something like this image:



Note: The monitor may take a few minutes to update its status. Feel free to move onto the next step and check back in a few minutes.

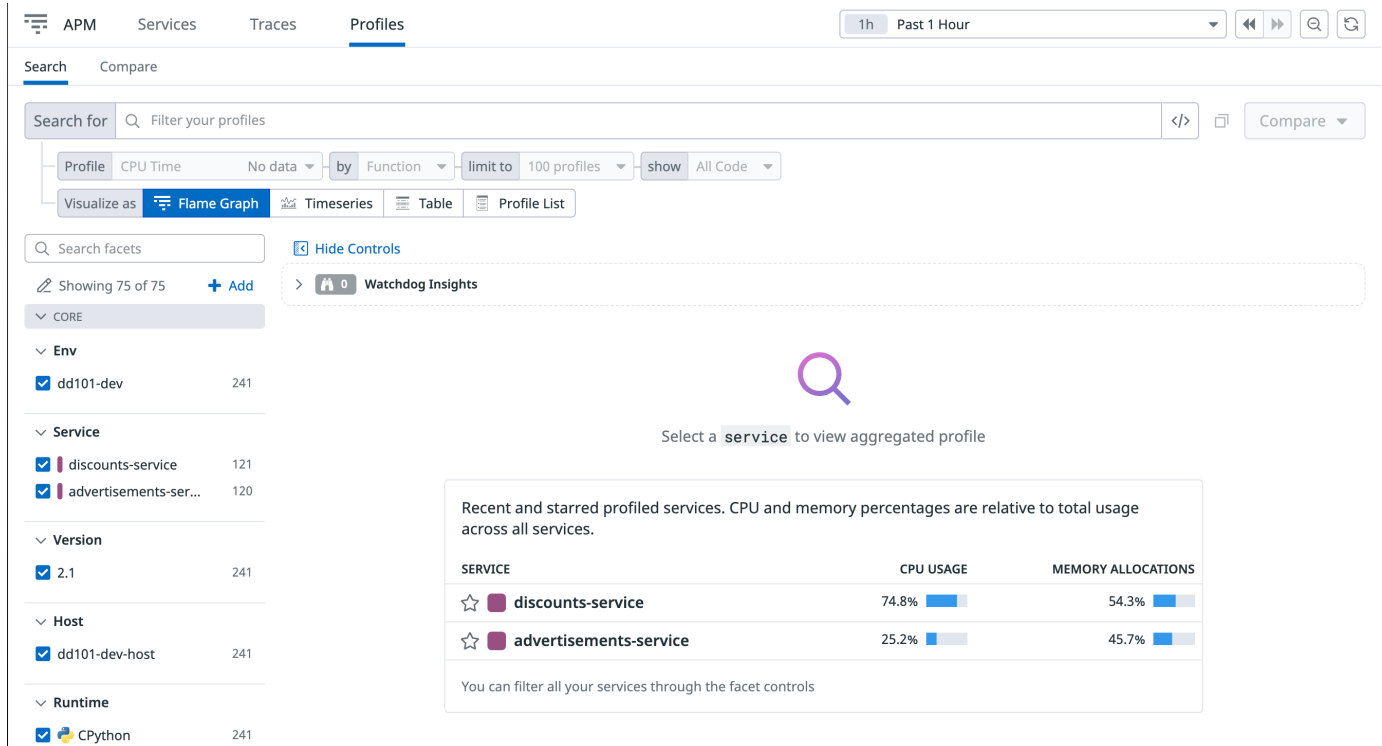
Great work on using an APM monitor to quickly detect performance issues! Having the ability to see the performance of a service in your application is a great way to detect issues that may not be immediately apparent.

Observe Continuous Profiling

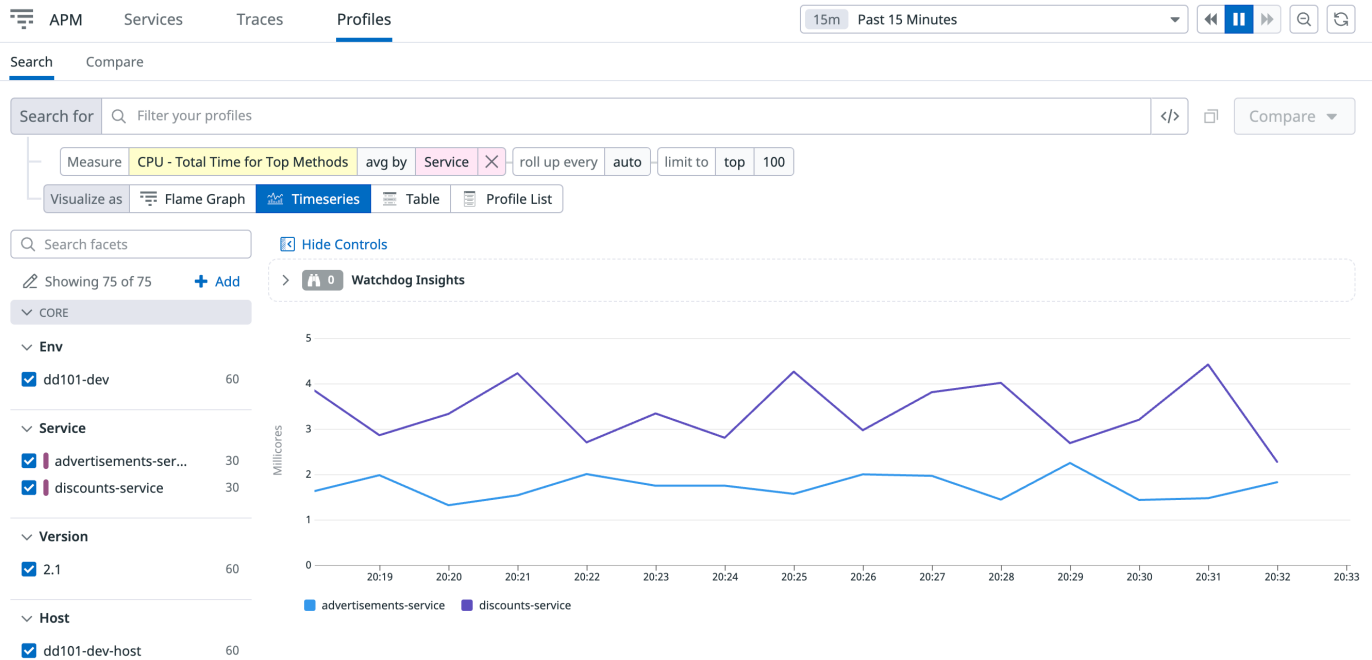
Datadog's Continuous Profiler gives you insight into the system resource consumption of your applications beyond traces. You can see CPU time, memory allocation, file IO, garbage collection, network throughput, and more.

Profiling is enabled automatically for Storedog's Python services that send APM traces. You can learn more about configuring profiling for different programming languages in the **Profiling Documentation**.

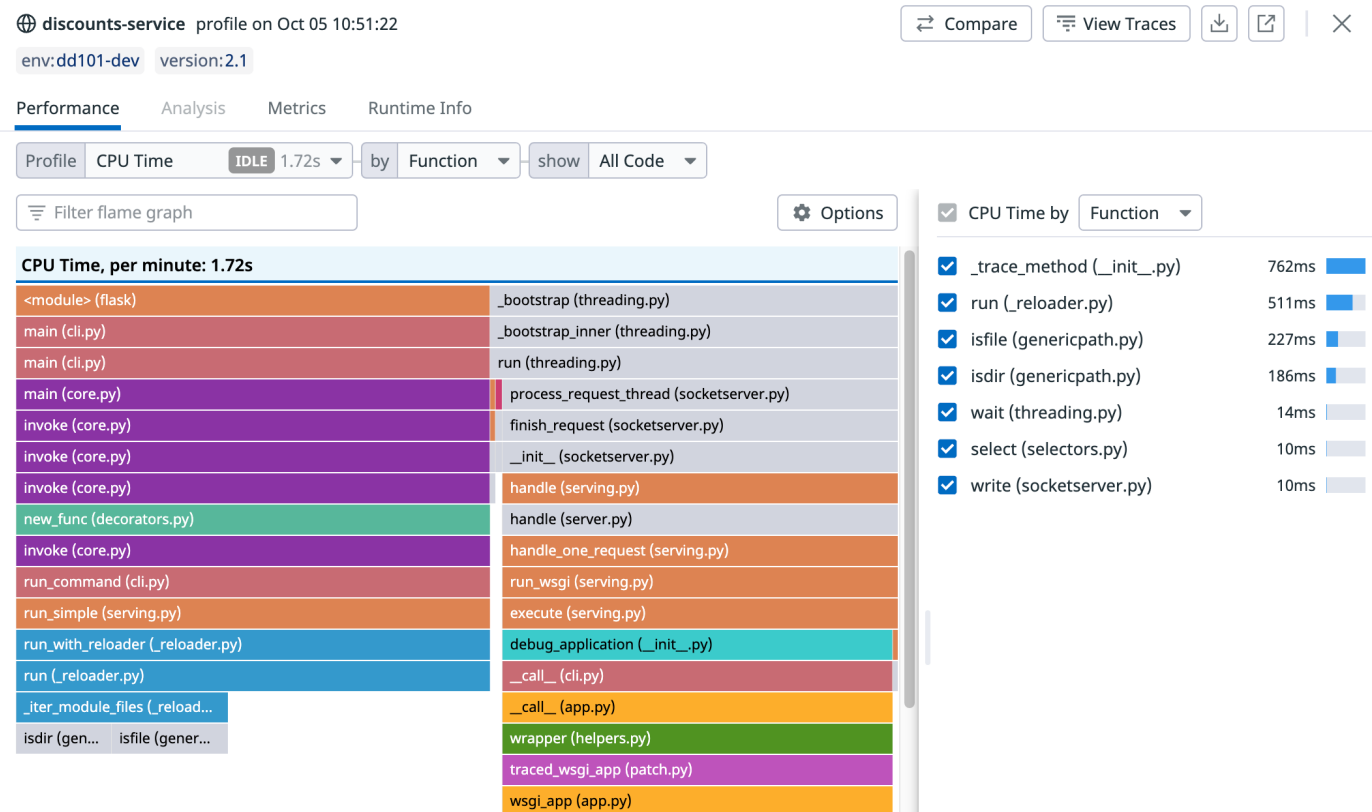
1. Navigate to **APM > Profiles** to see the **advertisements-service** and **discounts-service** profiling. You may have to refresh the page if you see a **Getting Started** page instead.



2. In the timeframe dropdown in the upper-right corner, select **Past 15 Minutes**.
3. In the **Service** facet section of the left-hand panel, make sure **discounts-service** and **advertisements-service** are selected.
4. For **Visualize as**, select **Timeseries**.
5. For **Measure**, keep **CPU - Total Time for Top Methods** but change **avg by** to **Service** to compare the two services.



6. Switch **Visualize as** to **Profile List** and click on a profile for **discounts-service**. It will open up in a side panel:



Lab Conclusion

Great job! You have examined how APM was enabled on all of Stordog's services, and you can fluidly navigate between their traces and log entries in the Datadog app. You now also know about how monitors can be set up and used to alert you on potential issues in your application and how you can proactively monitor your application's performance. You also know that APM provides profiling, and where to look for documentation for configuring it for your applications. This is a great resource for developers to optimize their code and reduce strain on resources.

For more information on Datadog APM, head over to our [Introduction to Application Performance Monitoring Course](#) on the Learning Center.

When you're done, enter the following command in the terminal:

```
finish
```

Click the **Check** button in the lower right corner of the lab and wait for the lab to close down before moving on to the next lesson.