APPD VS DATADOG

When to use what?

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AppDynamics vs Datadog

When to use what in Cloud?

- Many teams ask: “Which tool should we use?”
- The real question is: What problem are you trying to solve?

Key message:

- These tools don’t replace each other — they solve different layers.

One-Line Positioning

What each tool REALLY answers

- AppDynamics
  - "Is my application hurting the business?"
- Datadog
  - "What is happening across my cloud platform right now?"

What Data Each Tool Looks At??

AppDynamics

- Application agents (Java, .NET, etc.)
- Business transactions
- Code methods, SQL calls
- CloudWatch metrics (basic infra view)

Datadog

- CloudWatch metrics
- VPC Flow Logs
- Logs, metrics, traces
- Agents on EC2 / EKS / Lambda (optional)

Key takeaway:

- APPD looks inside the application
- Datadog looks around the application

Demo Scenario #1 (APPD Wins)

Scenario: "Checkout(User clicks "Pay/Place Order") is slow"

Facts

- CPU is normal
- Network is fine
- Only checkout users affected

AppDynamics Demo Flow

1. Open Business Transaction
2. Show response time increase
3. Drill down:
    - Application tier
    - Method call
    - Slow SQL query
4. Show business impact

We can says clearly that - "Infrastructure is healthy. The problem is in application logic." And the Correct tool: **AppDynamics**

Demo Scenario #2 (Datadog Wins)

Scenario: "Multiple apps slow at the same time"

Facts

- App A, B, C all affected
- No code deployment happened

Datadog Demo Flow

1. Open VPC / Cloud overview
2. Show NAT Gateway or network spike
3. Show VPC Flow Logs (traffic surge / rejects)
4. Correlate with EKS / EC2 metrics

We can say this clearly: "This is a platform-level issue, not an app bug." Correct tool: **Datadog**

Decision Rule

When to use what?

Use AppDynamics when:

- You care about business transactions
- You need code-level root cause
- You support enterprise or monolith apps

Use Datadog when:

- You run AWS / Kubernetes / Lambda
- You troubleshoot VPC, network, infra
- You want full cloud observability

What you MISS if you choose AppDynamics only

1) Cloud & VPC visibility

You do not get:

- VPC Flow Logs analysis
- Allowed vs rejected traffic
- NAT Gateway bottlenecks
- East-west traffic visibility
- Kubernetes pod-to-pod networking
- Impact: Infra/network issues look like “app slowness”
  Root cause takes longer

2) Unified logs + metrics + traces

AppDynamics is **APM-centric**.

You miss:

- Single screen correlation of logs + metrics + traces
- Infra-first troubleshooting
- Platform-wide blast radius view

Impact: SRE / DevOps teams need extra tools

3) Modern cloud-native depth

Limited or weaker support for:

- Kubernetes-native troubleshooting
- Serverless-first workflows
- Ephemeral workloads

Impact:Cloud teams feel restricted

4️⃣ Fast onboarding for infra teams

- Heavier agent configuration
- Slower time to value for infra monitoring

What you MISS if you choose Datadog only

What you MISS if you choose Datadog only

1) Deep code-level root cause

Datadog APM is good, but **not APPD-level**.

You miss:

- Method-level execution graphs
- Thread-level diagnostics
- Automatic business transaction baselining

Impact: Developers still guess *why* code is slow

2) Business transaction & KPI mapping

You miss:

- Revenue impact per transaction
- Case / order / checkout health
- SLA tied directly to business flows

Impact:Business teams don’t see “money impact”

3) Enterprise monolith excellence

Datadog is strongest in:

- Microservices
- Cloud-native

You miss:

- Deep insights for large monoliths
- Legacy app instrumentation depth

4) Clear app-first troubleshooting

Datadog often starts from:

- Metrics
- Dashboards

Not from:

- User action
- Business flow

Impact: App RCA takes longer for complex logic

If the question starts with “WHY is my app slow?” → AppDynamics

If the question starts with “WHAT is happening in my cloud?” → Datadog