

# APPD VS DATADOG

**When to use what?**

**Kenani**

# 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 say 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

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

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