
Lab 09: TIG IoT Monitoring Stack

Lab Presentation Date: 04/01/2025 (Tue) - 04/03/2025 (Thu)

Demo and Submission Due Date: 04/08/2025 (Tue) - 04/10/2025 (Thu)

File to submit via Vocareum below (in teams of up to 2):

- Screenshots:
 - Show InfluxDB active
 - Show Telegraf active
 - Show InfluxDB using Telegraf to display CPU data
 - Show Grafana dashboard
- Question writeup (text file)

A little heads up: this lab contains a lot of configs and installations. Go through the instructions slowly, carefully and in order. Also, you will need to use your VM.

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1. Introduction

One of the most important parts of modern IoT systems are data monitoring, gathering, storage and visualization. From all the existing modern monitoring tools, the TIG ([Telegraf](#), [InfluxDB](#) and [Grafana](#)) stack is probably one of the most popular ones. This stack can be used to monitor a wide panel of different data sources: from operating systems (such as Linux Performance metrics), to databases (such as MongoDB or MySQL). Telegraf is an agent responsible for gathering and aggregating data, like the current CPU usage for example. InfluxDB will store data, and expose it to Grafana, which is a modern dashboarding solution.

A Modern Monitoring Architecture



(source: <https://devconnected.com/how-to-setup-telegraf-influxdb-and-grafana-on-linux/>)

You can read more here: <https://hackmd.io/@Inu-iot/tig-stack>

In this lab, you'll be testing each tool in the stack to visualize your CPU usage.

2. InfluxDB and Telegraf

A. Install InfluxDB on your Ubuntu VM

First, create the repository file:

```
echo "deb [trusted=yes] https://repos.influxdata.com/ubuntu focal stable" | sudo tee  
/etc/apt/sources.list.d/influxdb.list
```

By adding `[trusted=yes]`, we're telling the system to bypass GPG key verification for this repository.

Update the Package List and Install InfluxDB:

- Update and install:

```
sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get install influxdb
```

Start and Verify InfluxDB:

- Start the InfluxDB service:

```
sudo systemctl start influxdb
```

Check if it's running correctly:

```
sudo systemctl status influxdb
```

If you run into permission issues, try running the first three instructions above as root (using `sudo su`).

- B. Check if the service is available [if above steps were okay and influx is running, then no need of this]

```
sudo systemctl status influxdb.service
```

If the above set of instructions does not work and you get errors in GPG keys setup, follow this:

```
sudo nano /etc/apt/sources.list.d/influxdb.list
```

Remove everything that is in this file, and paste the below command:

```
deb [trusted=yes] https://repos.influxdata.com/debian bullseye stable[after this save and exit the file]
```

```
sudo apt-get update
```

```
sudo apt-get install influxdb]
```

To check if InfluxDB is installed on your system, you can use the following command:

```
influxd version
```

```
dpkg -l | grep influxdb
```

Check if working:

```
sudo systemctl status influxdb.service
```

- C. Install Telegraf

Step 1: Install Telegraf

```
sudo apt-get install telegraf
```

Step 2: Start Telegraf Service

Start the Telegraf service:

```
sudo systemctl start telegraf
```

Check the status to confirm it's running:

```
sudo systemctl status telegraf
```

Step 3: Troubleshooting "No outputs found" Error

If you encounter an error indicating "no outputs found," configure Telegraf as follows.

Step 4: Edit the Telegraf Configuration File

Open Telegraf's configuration file:

```
sudo nano /etc/telegraf/telegraf.conf
```

Locate (or add) the following **[[outputs.influxdb]]** section to point Telegraf to your InfluxDB instance:

```
[[outputs.influxdb]]  
urls = ["http://localhost:8086"] # Replace with your InfluxDB URL  
database = "telegraf"          # Database name  
username = "telegraf"         # Username if authentication is enabled  
password = "password"         # Password if authentication is enabled
```

Note: Adjust the username and password fields according to your InfluxDB authentication settings.

Step 5: Save and Close the Configuration File

Save changes by pressing Ctrl + O, then Enter, and exit with Ctrl + X.

Step 6: Restart Telegraf

Reload systemd to ensure changes take effect:

```
sudo systemctl daemon-reload
```

Restart Telegraf with the updated configuration:

```
sudo systemctl restart telegraf
```

Check the status to confirm it's active:

```
sudo systemctl status telegraf
```

Step 7: Optional - Test Configuration

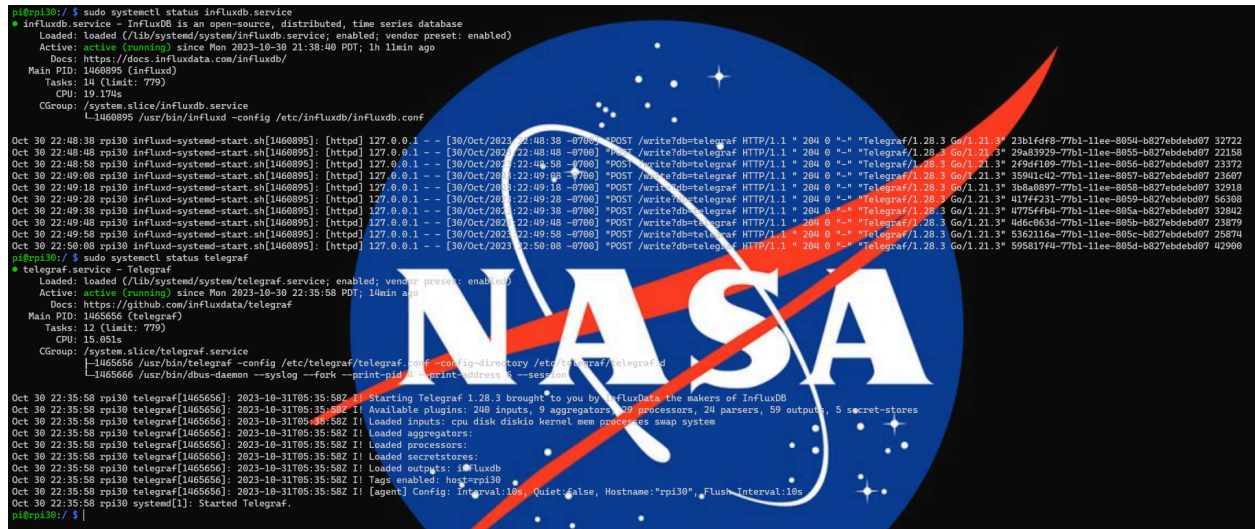
Run Telegraf in test mode to verify it's collecting data as configured:

```
telegraf --config /etc/telegraf/telegraf.conf --test
```

D. Check if the service is available(like mentioned above)

```
sudo systemctl status telegraf
```

Screenshot the active status of both InfluxDB and Telegraf.



```
pi@pi30:~$ sudo systemctl status influxdb.service
* influxdb.service - InfluxDB is an open-source, distributed, time series database
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/influxdb.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Mon 2023-10-30 21:38:40 PDT; 1h 11min ago
     Docs: https://docs.influxdata.com/influxdb/
    Main PID: 1466895 (influxd)
      Tasks: 14 (limit: 779)
        CPU: 19.17ms
    CGroup: /system.slice/influxdb.service
            └─1466895 /usr/bin/influxd -config /etc/influxdb/influxdb.conf

Oct 30 22:48:38 pi30 influx-systemd-start.sh[1466895]: [httpd] 127.0.0.1 -- [30/Oct/2023:22:48:38 -0700] "POST /write?db=telegraf HTTP/1.1" 204 0 "-" "Telegraf/1.28.3 Go/1.21.3" 23b1fdf8-77b1-11ee-8854-b27ebdeb07 32722
Oct 30 22:48:48 pi30 influx-systemd-start.sh[1466895]: [httpd] 127.0.0.1 -- [30/Oct/2023:22:48:48 -0700] "POST /write?db=telegraf HTTP/1.1" 204 0 "-" "Telegraf/1.28.3 Go/1.21.3" 29a83929-77b1-11ee-8855-b27ebdeb07 22158
Oct 30 22:48:58 pi30 influx-systemd-start.sh[1466895]: [httpd] 127.0.0.1 -- [30/Oct/2023:22:48:58 -0700] "POST /write?db=telegraf HTTP/1.1" 204 0 "-" "Telegraf/1.28.3 Go/1.21.3" 219df189-77b1-11ee-8856-b27ebdeb07 23372
Oct 30 22:49:08 pi30 influx-systemd-start.sh[1466895]: [httpd] 127.0.0.1 -- [30/Oct/2023:22:49:08 -0700] "POST /write?db=telegraf HTTP/1.1" 204 0 "-" "Telegraf/1.28.3 Go/1.21.3" 35941c42-77b1-11ee-8857-b27ebdeb07 23697
Oct 30 22:49:18 pi30 influx-systemd-start.sh[1466895]: [httpd] 127.0.0.1 -- [30/Oct/2023:22:49:18 -0700] "POST /write?db=telegraf HTTP/1.1" 204 0 "-" "Telegraf/1.28.3 Go/1.21.3" 3b8a8897-77b1-11ee-8858-b27ebdeb07 32918
Oct 30 22:49:28 pi30 influx-systemd-start.sh[1466895]: [httpd] 127.0.0.1 -- [30/Oct/2023:22:49:28 -0700] "POST /write?db=telegraf HTTP/1.1" 204 0 "-" "Telegraf/1.28.3 Go/1.21.3" 417ff231-77b1-11ee-8859-b27ebdeb07 56388
Oct 30 22:49:38 pi30 influx-systemd-start.sh[1466895]: [httpd] 127.0.0.1 -- [30/Oct/2023:22:49:38 -0700] "POST /write?db=telegraf HTTP/1.1" 204 0 "-" "Telegraf/1.28.3 Go/1.21.3" 47765f4b-77b1-11ee-885a-b27ebdeb07 32842
Oct 30 22:49:48 pi30 influx-systemd-start.sh[1466895]: [httpd] 127.0.0.1 -- [30/Oct/2023:22:49:48 -0700] "POST /write?db=telegraf HTTP/1.1" 204 0 "-" "Telegraf/1.28.3 Go/1.21.3" 4d6c063d-77b1-11ee-885b-b27ebdeb07 23879
Oct 30 22:49:58 pi30 influx-systemd-start.sh[1466895]: [httpd] 127.0.0.1 -- [30/Oct/2023:22:49:58 -0700] "POST /write?db=telegraf HTTP/1.1" 204 0 "-" "Telegraf/1.28.3 Go/1.21.3" 5362116a-77b1-11ee-885c-b27ebdeb07 25874
Oct 30 22:50:08 pi30 influx-systemd-start.sh[1466895]: [httpd] 127.0.0.1 -- [30/Oct/2023:22:50:08 -0700] "POST /write?db=telegraf HTTP/1.1" 204 0 "-" "Telegraf/1.28.3 Go/1.21.3" 59581744-77b1-11ee-885d-b27ebdeb07 42900
pi@pi30:~$ sudo systemctl status telegraf
* telegraf.service - Telegraf
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/telegraf.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Mon 2023-10-30 22:35:58 PDT; 14min ago
     Docs: https://github.com/influxdata/telegraf
    Main PID: 1465656 (telegraf)
      Tasks: 12 (limit: 779)
        CPU: 15.851s
    CGroup: /system.slice/telegraf.service
            └─1465656 /usr/bin/telegraf -config /etc/telegraf/telegraf.conf --config-directory /etc/telegraf/telegraf.d
              └─1465656 /usr/bin/dbus-daemon --syslog --fork --print-pid=1 --print-address=1 --session

Oct 30 22:35:58 pi30 telegraf[1465656]: 2023-10-31T05:35:58Z I! Starting Telegraf 1.28.3 brought to you by InfluxData the makers of InfluxDB
Oct 30 22:35:58 pi30 telegraf[1465656]: 2023-10-31T05:35:58Z I! Available plugins: 240 inputs, 9 aggregators, 10 processors, 24 parsers, 59 outputs, 5 secret-stores
Oct 30 22:35:58 pi30 telegraf[1465656]: 2023-10-31T05:35:58Z I! Loaded inputs: cpu disk io kernel mem processes swap system
Oct 30 22:35:58 pi30 telegraf[1465656]: 2023-10-31T05:35:58Z I! Loaded aggregators:
Oct 30 22:35:58 pi30 telegraf[1465656]: 2023-10-31T05:35:58Z I! Loaded processors:
Oct 30 22:35:58 pi30 telegraf[1465656]: 2023-10-31T05:35:58Z I! Loaded secretstores:
Oct 30 22:35:58 pi30 telegraf[1465656]: 2023-10-31T05:35:58Z I! Loaded outputs: influxdb
Oct 30 22:35:58 pi30 telegraf[1465656]: 2023-10-31T05:35:58Z I! Tags enabled: host=pi30
Oct 30 22:35:58 pi30 telegraf[1465656]: 2023-10-31T05:35:58Z I! [Agent] Config: Interval:10s, Quiet:false, Hostname:"pi30", Flush Interval:10s
Oct 30 22:35:58 pi30 systemd[1]: Started Telegraf.
pi@pi30:~$
```

3. InfluxDB Authentication and Encryption

Many software tools use a client-server model, or service to service model. Somewhere (locally or remotely), a server is running, and it's accessible only by this software's clients. Examples include mysql, and also influxdb. In the last step, we already got the server up and running, this step we'll use the client's command line tool to talk to the server.

Step-by-Step Guide: Final InfluxDB Configuration with Authentication and HTTPS

1. Enable Authentication in InfluxDB

1. Open the InfluxDB Configuration File:
`sudo nano /etc/influxdb/influxdb.conf`
2. Locate the **[http]** Section and enable authentication by adding or updating the following lines:

```
[http]
```

enabled = true

bind-address = ":8086"

auth-enabled = true

3. **Save and Close the File.**

4. **Restart InfluxDB** to apply the changes: ***sudo systemctl restart influxdb***

2. Create InfluxDB Users for Authentication

1. **Access the InfluxDB CLI:**

Type in your terminal: **influx**

2. **Create an Admin User:**

CREATE USER admin WITH PASSWORD 'your_admin_password' WITH ALL PRIVILEGES;

3. **Create a Telegraf User** (for Telegraf to connect and write data):

CREATE USER telegraf WITH PASSWORD 'your_telegraf_password';

4. **Verify Users:**

SHOW USERS;

5. Exit Influx CLI:

exit

Replace *'your_admin_password'* and *'your_telegraf_password'* with secure passwords of your choice.

3. Enable HTTPS in InfluxDB

1. **Generate SSL Certificates:**

sudo mkdir -p /etc/ssl/influxdb

cd /etc/ssl/influxdb

Generate a private key

```
sudo openssl genpkey -algorithm RSA -out server-key.pem -pkeyopt  
rsa_keygen_bits:2048
```

Generate a self-signed certificate

```
sudo openssl req -new -x509 -key server-key.pem -out server-cert.pem -days 365
```

During the `openssl req` command, you'll be prompted to enter details for the certificate (these can be left blank for testing purposes).

2. **Set the Correct Permissions** for the SSL files:

```
sudo chown influxdb:influxdb /etc/ssl/influxdb/server-cert.pem  
/etc/ssl/influxdb/server-key.pem
```

```
sudo chmod 600 /etc/ssl/influxdb/server-cert.pem /etc/ssl/influxdb/server-key.pem
```

3. **Configure InfluxDB to Use HTTPS:**

- Open the InfluxDB configuration file again:

```
sudo nano /etc/influxdb/influxdb.conf
```

In the `[http]` section, update the settings to enable HTTPS and specify the paths for the SSL certificate and key:

[http]

```
enabled = true
```

```
bind-address = ":8086"
```

```
auth-enabled = true
```

```
https-enabled = true
```

```
https-certificate = "/etc/ssl/influxdb/server-cert.pem"
```

```
https-private-key = "/etc/ssl/influxdb/server-key.pem"
```

4. **Save and Close the File.**

5. **Restart InfluxDB** to apply the HTTPS configuration:

```
sudo systemctl restart influxdb
```

4. Configure Telegraf to Use HTTPS with Authentication

1. **Edit the Telegraf Configuration File:**

```
sudo nano /etc/telegraf/telegraf.conf
```

2. **Update the `[[outputs.influxdb]]` Section** to use HTTPS and the Telegraf user credentials:

```
[[outputs.influxdb]]
```

```
urls = ["https://localhost:8086"] # Use HTTPS instead of HTTP
```

```
database = "telegraf"           # Database name
```

```
username = "telegraf"           # InfluxDB username for Telegraf
```

```
password = "your_telegraf_password" # InfluxDB password for Telegraf
```

```
insecure_skip_verify = true      # Skips SSL verification for self-signed certificates
```

Replace `'your_telegraf_password'` with the password you set for the `telegraf` user.

Save and Close the File.

```
sudo systemctl restart telegraf
```

```
sudo systemctl status telegraf
```

5. Test the Setup

1. **Connect to InfluxDB via the CLI with HTTPS** to ensure everything is working:

```
influx -ssl -unsafeSsl -username 'admin' -password 'your_admin_password'
```

2. **Verify Data in the `telegraf` Database:**

In the InfluxDB CLI, run:

SHOW DATABASES;

USE telegraf;

SHOW MEASUREMENTS;

SELECT * FROM cpu LIMIT 10;

This confirms that Telegraf is securely sending data to InfluxDB.

Question 1a: What type of authentication are we using here (currently)? Does it use any keys?

Question 1b: Both TLS (encryption) and crypto authentication use public-private key pairs. For TLS encryption what keys are used when the client sends a message to the server? For crypto authentication, explain how the server can verify a message is from a given client?

BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER, CHECK THE FOLLOWING LIST

At this point, verify the following, you should have all this done already -

- 1) Enter into the influxdb terminal using the command `influx -username 'admin' -password 'password'`

(or after you enter via `influx` use `auth` to verify your username and password)

- 2) In influx terminal, try the following commands -

- a) `SHOW DATABASES`

- You must find a database named telegraf, if not, telegraf is not sending system stats to influxdb, in which case use -
`sudo journalctl -f -u telegraf.service`
to find and fix the errors

- b) `USE telegraf`
`SHOW SERIES`

- you must see a list of time series fields which must contain one related to CPU

- c) `select * from cpu WHERE time > now() - 30s`

- you must see some data in this series, which means telegraf is correctly communicating with influxdb

3) OPTIONAL (RECOMMENDED) -

- Go to [Step 4: Grafana](#) in this document , install Grafana and come back to the following steps.
- Add a data source with the settings shown in the screenshot and make sure the data source is working when you hit Save and Test.

NOTE:

Username and Password for InfluxDB Database Access is - telegraf and password.

-

The screenshot shows the Grafana configuration page for an InfluxDB data source. The interface is dark-themed. At the top, the data source is named 'InfluxDB' and is marked as the 'Default' source with a toggle switch. Below this, the 'Query Language' is set to 'InfluxQL'. The 'HTTP' section shows the 'URL' as 'http://localhost:8086' and 'Access' as 'Browser'. The 'Auth' section has 'Basic auth' disabled and 'With Credentials' disabled. The 'InfluxDB Details' section contains a 'Database Access' warning, a table for configuration, and a status bar at the bottom.

InfluxDB Details	
Database Access	
Setting the database for this datasource does not deny access to other databases. The InfluxDB query syntax allows setting the database for the query. For example: <code>SHOW MEASUREMENTS ON _internal</code> or <code>SELECT * FROM "_internal".. "database" LIMIT 10</code>	
To support data isolation and security, make sure appropriate permissions are configured in InfluxDB.	
Database	telegraf
User	telegraf
Password	configured Reset
HTTP Method	Choose
Min time interval	10s
Max series	1000

✓ Data source is working

Question 2: Here we created a pair of asymmetric keys. What are their names? Which one is the public key and which one is the private key?

Question 3: What is a certificate authority (CA) for public keys? What kind of attack can a CA prevent?

You should see something like the table below. Screenshot this table.

```
zxc@zxc-ThinkPad:/etc/ssl/influxdb$ influx -ssl -unsafessl -username 'admin' -password 'password'
Connected to https://localhost:8080 version 1.7.10
InfluxDB shell version: 1.7.10
> USE telegraf
Using database telegraf
> SELECT * FROM cpu WHERE time > now() - 30s
name: cpu
time                cpu      host      usage_guest usage_guest_nice usage_idle  usage_iowait  usage_irq usage_nice  usage_softirq  usage_steal usage_system  usage_user
-----
1585969400000000000 cpu-total zxc-ThinkPad 0 0 86.97107112763198 0.3221809169764273 0 0 1.0891440014126286 0 1.486988847583619 11.449814126393163
1585969400000000000 cpu0 zxc-ThinkPad 0 0 88.84501480750151 0.39486673247770593 0 0 1.0858835143139367 0 0.9871668311945454 8.687668114511215
1585969400000000000 cpu1 zxc-ThinkPad 0 0 89.21859545005216 0 0 0 1.0880316518299011 0 1.6815034619189635 8.011869436202062
1585969400000000000 cpu2 zxc-ThinkPad 0 0 83.66336633662885 0.39603960396030297 0 0 0.29702970297020 0 1.6831663166316394 13.960396039603705
1585969400000000000 cpu3 zxc-ThinkPad 0 0 85.48258258257686 0.5005005005002952 0 0 0.2802002002001821 0 1.5015015015014546 15.215215215214549
1585969410000000000 cpu-total zxc-ThinkPad 0 0 69.48493683187846 0.21865889212837733 0 0.024295432458695164 1.044703595724082 0 2.1379980563655887 27.089407191450718
1585969410000000000 cpu0 zxc-ThinkPad 0 0 59.76908066217363 0.3849855630415788 0 0 0.7699711260827312 0 2.3099133782481935 36.766121270451684
1585969410000000000 cpu1 zxc-ThinkPad 0 0 70.29128213592339 0.38834951456329864 0 0 2.1359223300979385 0 2.038834951456352 75.145633106790046
1585969410000000000 cpu2 zxc-ThinkPad 0 0 73.14453125000387 0 0 0 0.29296875 0 2.1484375000000346 24.41486250000052
1585969410000000000 cpu3 zxc-ThinkPad 0 0 74.8778103610831 0.19550342130998127 0 0.09775171065493855 0.8797653958944643 0 2.0527859237536923 21.896383186706792
```

4. Grafana

Grafana is a real time visualization tool. In this lab we will use it to fetch data real time from our database influxdb. We won't do much real time visualization though, that is for you to explore in your final project.

A. Install Grafana

```
sudo apt-get install -y adduser libfontconfig1
```

```
sudo wget https://dl.grafana.com/oss/release/grafana_7.5.2_amd64.deb
```

```
sudo dpkg -i grafana_7.5.2_amd64.deb
```

(this should work, in the case if your system is arm64 replace amd64 with arm64)

```
sudo systemctl start grafana-server
```

```
sudo systemctl status grafana-server
```

(my system is arm64, hence I used arm64 in my cmds)

Click on the panel on the left, choose Configuration > Data Sources -> Add Data Source, choose InfluxDB. Use the below config, with password for 'Basic Auth' and the password for 'InfluxDB Details' set to the password for Influxdb. If that doesn't work, disable 'Basic Auth', or delete this influxdb and add it again.

The screenshot shows the Grafana 'Settings' page for a new data source named 'InfluxDB'. The 'Default' toggle is turned on. The 'HTTP' section contains the URL 'https://localhost:8086', 'Access' set to 'Server (Default)', and a 'Whitelisted Cookies' field with 'Add Name'. The 'Auth' section has 'Basic Auth' checked, 'With Credentials' checked, 'TLS Client Auth' unchecked, 'With CA Cert' unchecked, 'Skip TLS Verify' checked, and 'Forward OAuth Identity' unchecked. The 'Basic Auth Details' section shows 'User' as 'admin' and 'Password' as 'configured' with a 'reset' button. The 'InfluxDB Details' section shows 'Database' as 'telegraf', 'User' as 'admin', 'Password' as 'configured' with a 'reset' button, and 'HTTP Method' as 'GET'.

Settings

Name InfluxDB Default ☒

HTTP

URL https://localhost:8086

Access Server (Default) Help ▸

Whitelisted Cookies Add Name

Auth

Basic Auth ☒ With Credentials ☒

TLS Client Auth ☐ With CA Cert ☐

Skip TLS Verify ☒

Forward OAuth Identity ☐

Basic Auth Details

User admin

Password configured reset

InfluxDB Details

Database telegraf

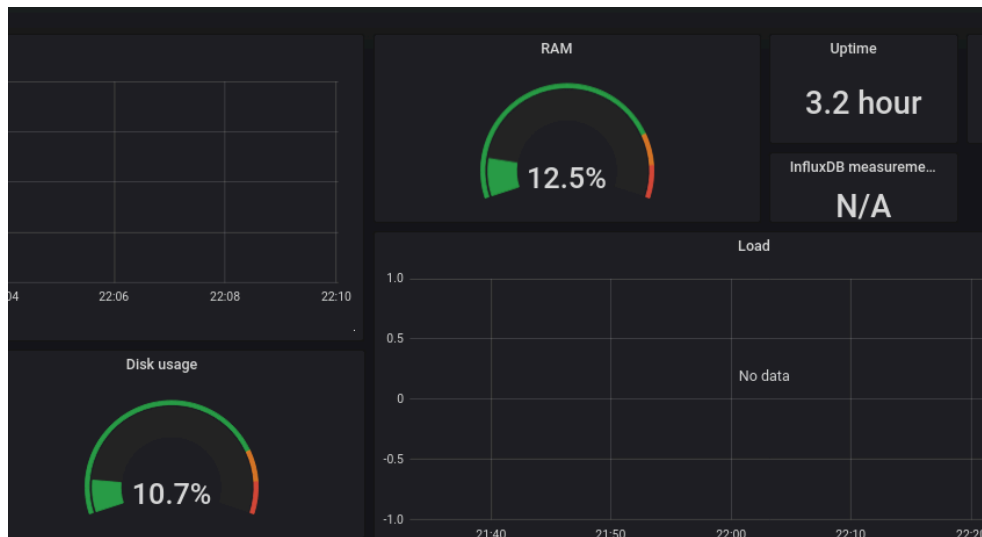
User admin Password configured reset

HTTP Method GET

Click "Save & Test".

Next step is to import a dashboard. We can make our own dashboards, but for this particular lab, we'll use someone else's for convenience. Click Create > Import on the left menu, then load **dashboard ID 8451** from grafana.com.

You should be able to load system info (gathered by Telegraf) in Grafana. Screenshot your data visualization, like below.



After this point, there will be many ways to configure different time slots and visualize different data real time. That's something we won't talk about here, but you can check online and explore it for your final project!

5. Demo and Code Grading Rubric

All files are to be submitted via Vocareum in teams.

<u>Points</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Demo</u>	
2	Show influxdb system status
2	Show telegraf system status
2	Show telegraf communicating with influxdb via HTTPS
2	Show grafana importing data from influxdb
<u>Questions</u>	
2	Question1
2	Question2

2	Question3
	Total points: 14

References:

<https://devconnected.com/how-to-setup-telegraf-influxdb-and-grafana-on-linux/>

<https://devconnected.com/how-to-install-grafana-on-ubuntu-18-04/>

<https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/installation/debian/>