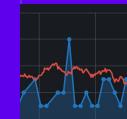




Prometheus for Pets

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October 2025



Ruggles



Not actually a borg

Problem statement



Could be: Keeping tabs on your pet:
water consumption, outdoor time

Actually is: Having a fun project to
experiment with IoT devices and data
analytics

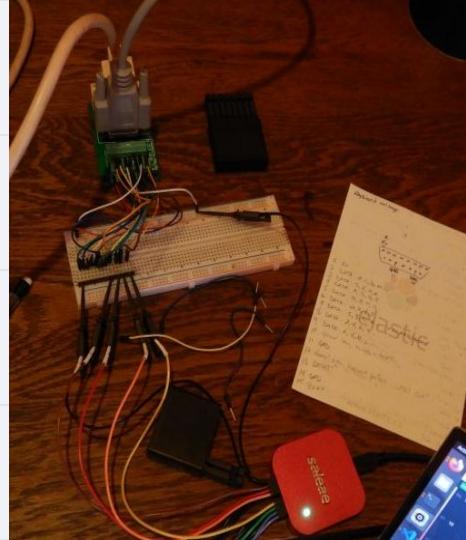


Disclaimer

I'm not a veterinarian and
this is not medical advice!



What we'll use

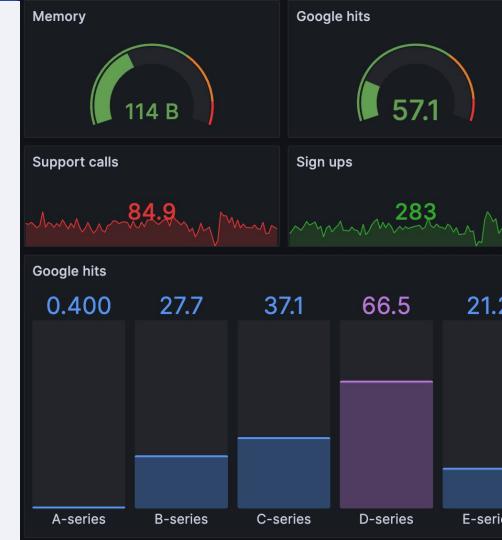


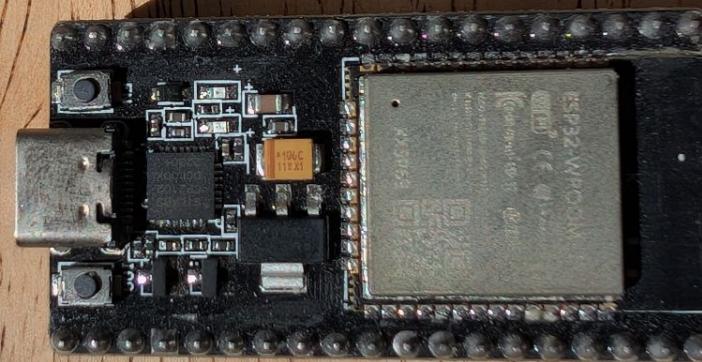
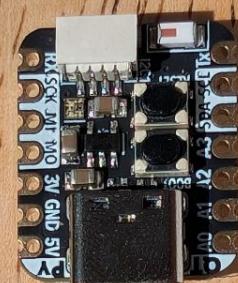
Software (all open source)

- Prometheus
- MQTT
(specifically Mosquitto)
- Grafana

Hardware

- IoT dev boards based on the **ESP32**
- Off-the-shelf sensors (accelerometer, digital scale)
- Output devices (LEDs, speaker)
- A computer





Software



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Prometheus



MQTT



Grafana

Data collector & time-series database

Prometheus has become the defacto metric system for the cloud computing world, used natively in Kubernetes (and many more)

Lightweight message queue / transport

A way of passing messages between services in constrained environments

(It stands for “Message Queuing Telemetry Transport”)

Flexible & extensible data visualization

Grafana is the “Swiss army chainsaw” of data visualization

What we'll build



Pet door monitor

Track entrances and exits
of your pet

Alerting

Get notified when
something is wrong (like
your pet is running low
on water)

Water monitor

Check how much water is
available and monitor its
consumption

Analytics

See trends over time and
react when something
changes



Prometheus



Database

Stores data collected

Query engine

Lets you ask questions about the data

UI

Lightweight web interface to query data

Collector

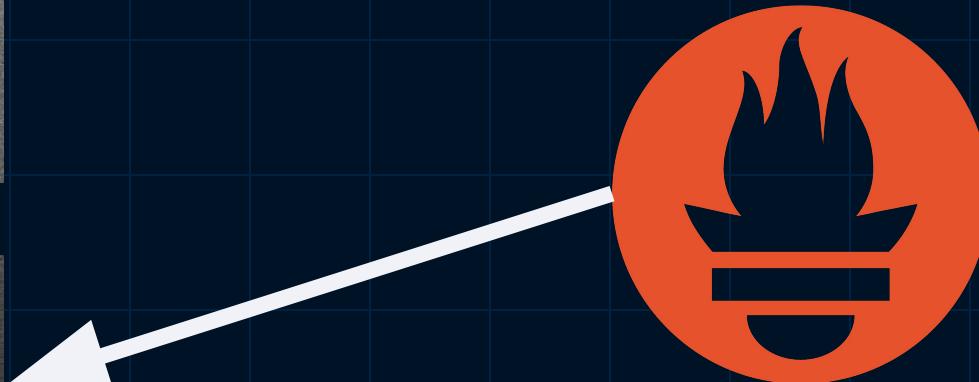
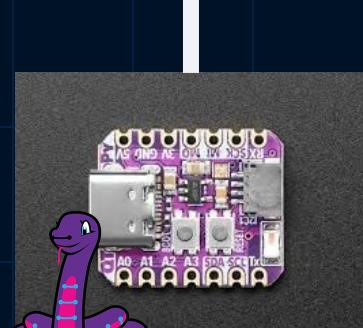
Gets data from whatever provides it

(Usually by “scraping”)

```
# HELP apt_upgrades_pending Apt package pending updates by origin.  
# TYPE apt_upgrades_pending gauge  
apt_upgrades_pending{arch="all",origin="Ubuntu:20.04/focal"} 2  
apt_upgrades_pending{arch="all",origin="Ubuntu:20.04/focal-updates"} 12  
apt_upgrades_pending{arch="amd64",origin="Ubuntu:20.04/focal-updates"} 36  
# HELP node_cpu_seconds_total Seconds the cpus spent in each mode.  
# TYPE node_cpu_seconds_total counter  
node_cpu_seconds_total{cpu="0",mode="idle"} 7.21255975e+06  
node_cpu_seconds_total{cpu="0",mode="iowait"} 14043.08  
node_cpu_seconds_total{cpu="0",mode="irq"} 0  
node_cpu_seconds_total{cpu="0",mode="nice"} 2241.3  
node_cpu_seconds_total{cpu="0",mode="softirq"} 745148.43  
node_cpu_seconds_total{cpu="0",mode="steal"} 0  
node_cpu_seconds_total{cpu="0",mode="system"} 152842.28  
node_cpu_seconds_total{cpu="0",mode="user"} 1.29785252e+06  
# HELP node_disk_read_bytes_total The total number of bytes read successfully.  
# TYPE node_disk_read_bytes_total counter  
node_disk_read_bytes_total{device="sda"} 8.63297020928e+11  
node_disk_read_bytes_total{device="sdb"} 6.77444059648e+12  
node_disk_read_bytes_total{device="sdc"} 1.032704e+07  
node_disk_read_bytes_total{device="sdd"} 0  
node_disk_read_bytes_total{device="sde"} 0  
node_disk_read_bytes_total{device="sr0"} 0  
node_disk_read_bytes_total{device="sr1"} 0
```

Pet Door Sensor

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Door Sensor



```
### Set up a server for Prometheus to scrape
pool = socketpool.SocketPool(wifi.radio)
server = Server(pool, debug=True)
server.start(str(wifi.radio.ipv4_address), port=8080)

# Send Prometheus data when requested
@server.route("/metrics")
def metrics_handler(request: Request):
    global entries, exits

    data = (
        '# HELP door_use_counter number of uses of the pet door\n'
        '+ '# TYPE door_use_counter counter\n'
        + f'door_use_counter_total{{door="front_dog_door", type="entries"}} {entries}\n'
        + f'door_use_counter_total{{door="front_dog_door", type="exits"}} {exits}\n'
    )

    return Response(request, data, content_type="text/plain; version=0.0.4")
```

Door Sensor

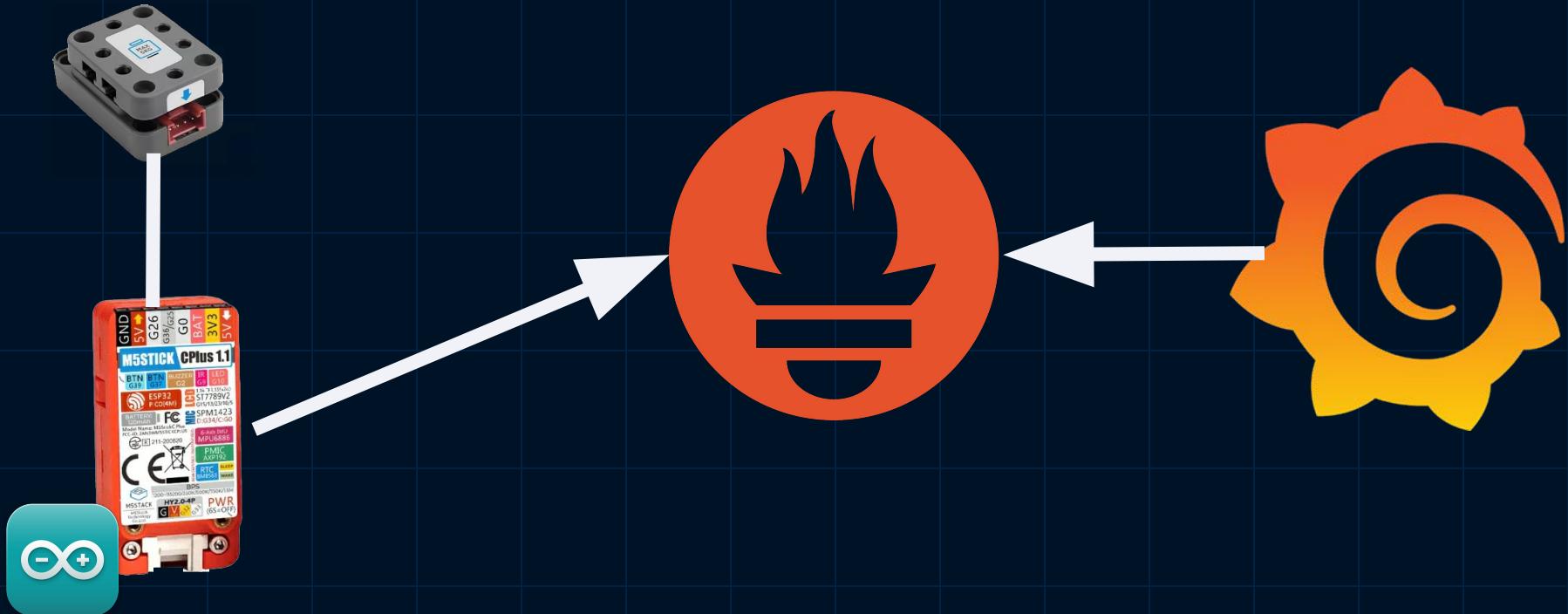


```
while True:  
    # Look for uses of the pet door  
    x, y, z = msa.acceleration  
    if z > 4: # Door is in 'entry' position  
        if prev_state != "entry":  
            entries = entries + 1  
            prev_state = "entry"  
    elif z < -4: # Door is in 'exit' position  
        if prev_state != "exit":  
            exits = exits + 1  
            prev_state = "exit"  
    else: # Door is closed  
        prev_state = "closed"  
  
    # Serve the data to Prometheus  
    server.poll()  
  
    # Sleep a bit - prevents a tight loop in the webserver and also  
    # acts as a cheap 'debounce' so we don't see a bunch of data when it's right on the margin  
    time.sleep(0.25)
```

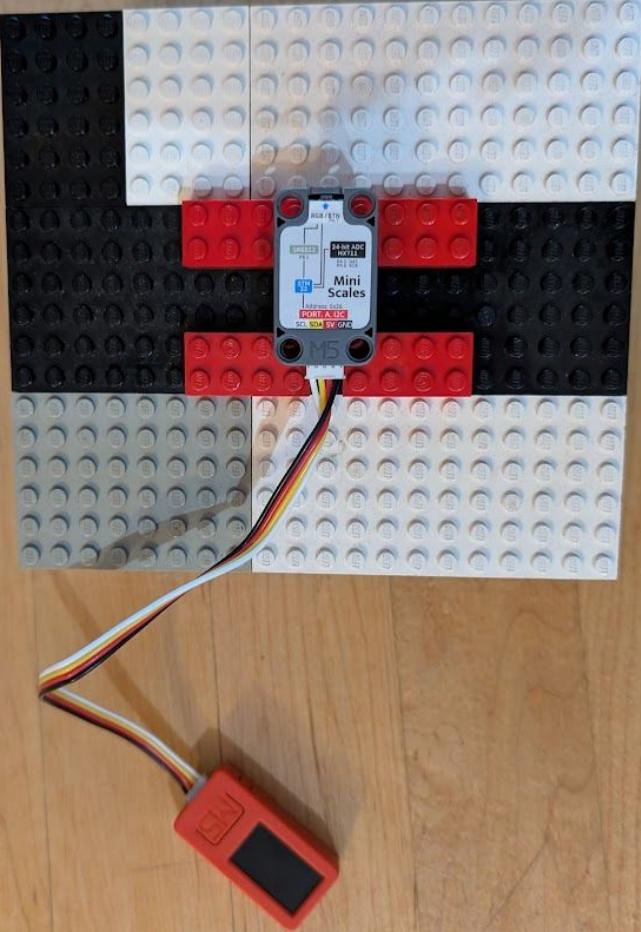
DEMO



Water Sensor



Now you know why



Water Sensor



```
TimeSeries ts_weight(5, "weight_grams", "{job=\"pet_monitor\",device=\"water_scale\"}");  
  
void setup() {  
    /** Set up the hardware **/  
    M5.begin();           // Set up the board  
    //...  
    /** Set up the M5.Lcd **/  
    M5.Lcd.fillScreen(BLACK);  
    //...  
    /** Set up the scale **/  
    scale.begin(&Wire, 32, 33, DEVICE_DEFAULT_ADDR, 100000U);  
    //...  
    /** Set up wifi **/  
    transport.setWifiSsid(WIFI_SSID);  
    transport.setWifiPass(WIFI_PASSWORD);  
    //...  
    /** Set up the Prometheus client **/  
    client.setUrl(GC_URL);  
    client.setPath((char*)GC_PATH);  
    client.setPort(GC_PORT);  
    //...  
    /** Add the timeseries to the write request **/  
    req.addTimeSeries(ts_weight);  
}
```

Water Sensor



```
void loop() {
    int64_t time = transport.getTimeMillis();
    float weight = scale.getWeight();

    /** Show the measurement on the display **/
    M5.Lcd.printf("%.1fg", weight);
    if (weight < WATER_ONE_THIRD + BOWL_WEIGHT)
        M5.Lcd.printf("Empty!");
    else if (weight < WATER_TWO_THIRDS + BOWL_WEIGHT)
        M5.Lcd.printf("Good");
    else
        M5.Lcd.printf("Full!");

    /** Add the measurement **/
    ts_weight.addSample(time, weight);

    /** Send the measurement **/
    PromClient::SendResult res = client.send(req);
    if (ts_weight.addSample(time, weight))
        ts_weight.resetSamples();

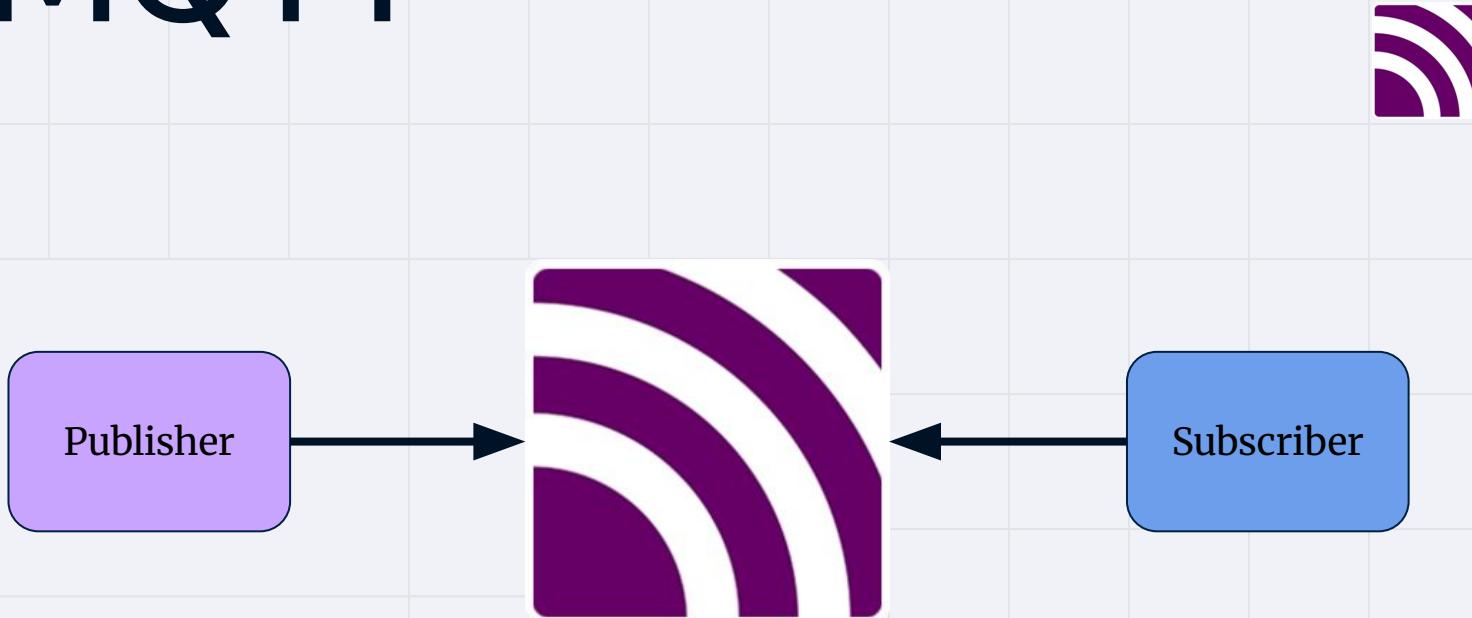
    /** Wait 5 seconds before taking next measurement **/
    delay(5000);
}
```



DEMO

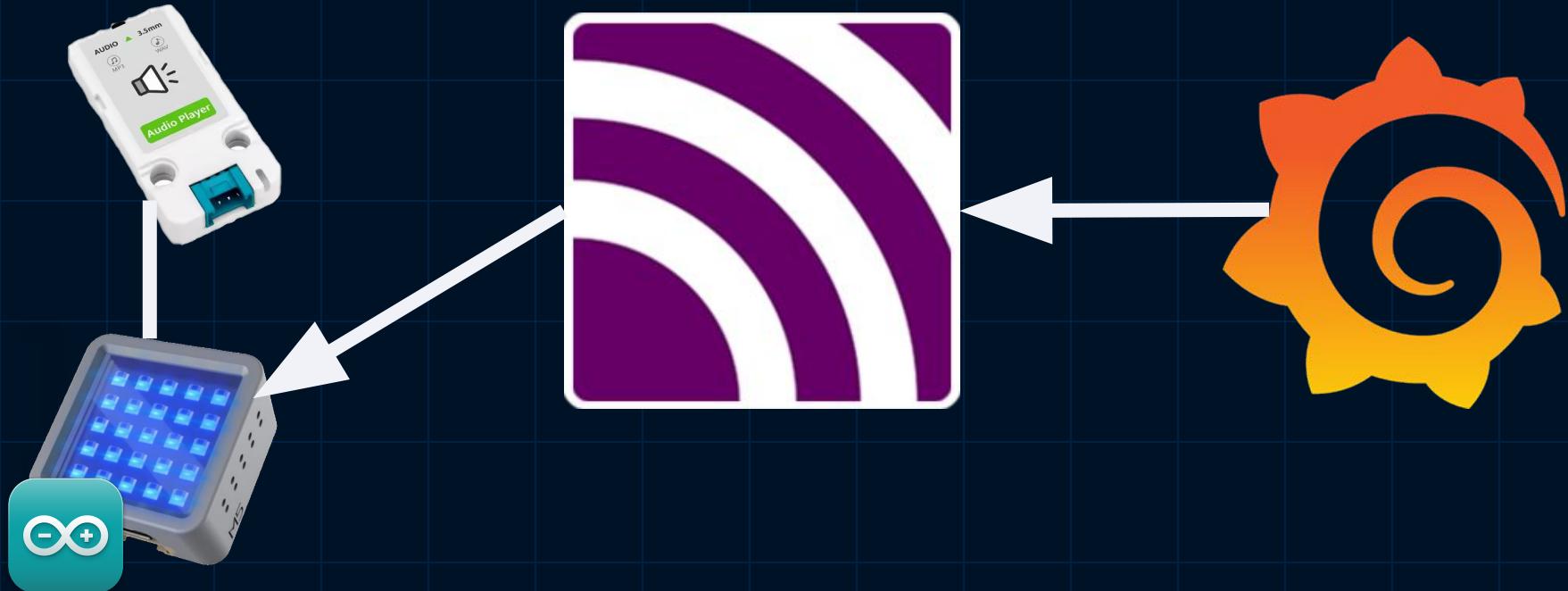
MQTT

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All messages
have a “topic”
that nest in a
path like
dog/alerts

Alerting System



Alerting System



```
void mqttReceived(String &topic, String &payload) {  
  
    /*** Check to see if the message we got was the topic we're subscribed to ***/  
    if (topic == MQTT_TOPIC) {  
        // We could / should actually parse the JSON object we get from the alert.  
        // But instead, we'll just look to see if it contains "status"...  
        if (payload.indexOf("status") != -1) {  
            // ... and if so, if that status contains "firing".  
            // This is _not_ super robust, but it's for a fast demo.  
            if (payload.indexOf("firing") != -1)  
                alerting = true;  
            else  
                alerting = false;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Alerting System



```
void loop() {
    static bool prev_alert_state = false;

    /** See if there's an MQTT message for us **/
    mqtt.loop();

    if (alerting) {
        draw_face(leds, FACE_SAD);
        if (!prev_alert_state)
            audioplayer.playAudio();
        prev_alert_state = true;
    }
    else {
        draw_face(leds, FACE_HAPPY);
        FastLED.show();
        audioplayer.stopAudio();
        prev_alert_state = false;
    }
}
```

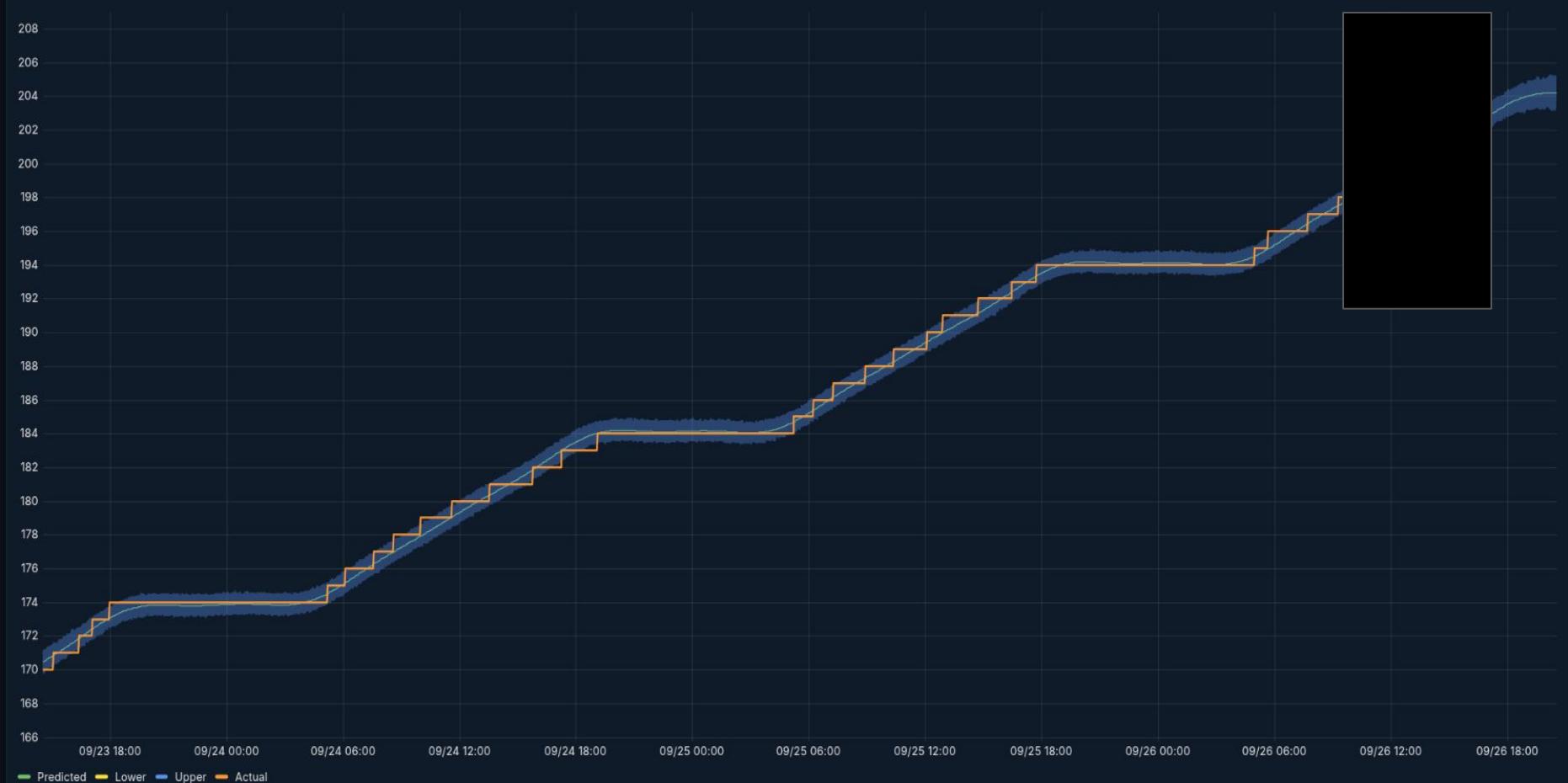
DEMO



Data analytics

<https://rmtesting.grafana.net/d/rmskfjz/pet-door>

Pet door prediction



Thank You!

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github.com/mccollam

