

Java, OpenTelemetry, and Grafana

This setup demonstrates a **complete observability pipeline** for a Java application using **OpenTelemetry**, containerized with **Docker Compose**. It captures **traces, metrics, and logs** from the Java app and routes them to visualization and storage systems.

Components:

Component	Purpose
Java Application	The main application instrumented with OpenTelemetry Java Agent . Automatically emits traces, metrics, and logs .
OpenTelemetry Collector (OTEL Collector)	Centralized service that receives telemetry data from the app and routes it to the proper backend (Jaeger, Prometheus, Loki).
Jaeger	Collects and visualizes traces for distributed tracing and performance analysis.
Prometheus	Scrapes metrics from OTEL Collector and stores them for monitoring and alerting.
Loki	Stores logs collected from OTEL Collector, which can be queried in Grafana.
Grafana	Dashboard and visualization tool for traces, metrics, and logs . Connects to Jaeger, Prometheus, and Loki.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

S.No.	Contents
1.	Introduction
2	Architecture Overview
3.	Project Folder Structure
4.	Step 1 — Java App Setup + OpenTelemetry Agent
5.	Step 2 — Dockerfile Configuration
6.	Step 3 — OpenTelemetry Configuration Files
7.	Step 4 — OTEL Collector Pipelines Explained
8.	Step 5 — Prometheus Config
9.	Step 6 — Create Loki Config
10.	Step 7 — Create docker-compose.yml
11.	Step 8 — Start all services and Test everything
12.	Setup Grafana
13.	Verify Everything
14.	Grafana Dashboard

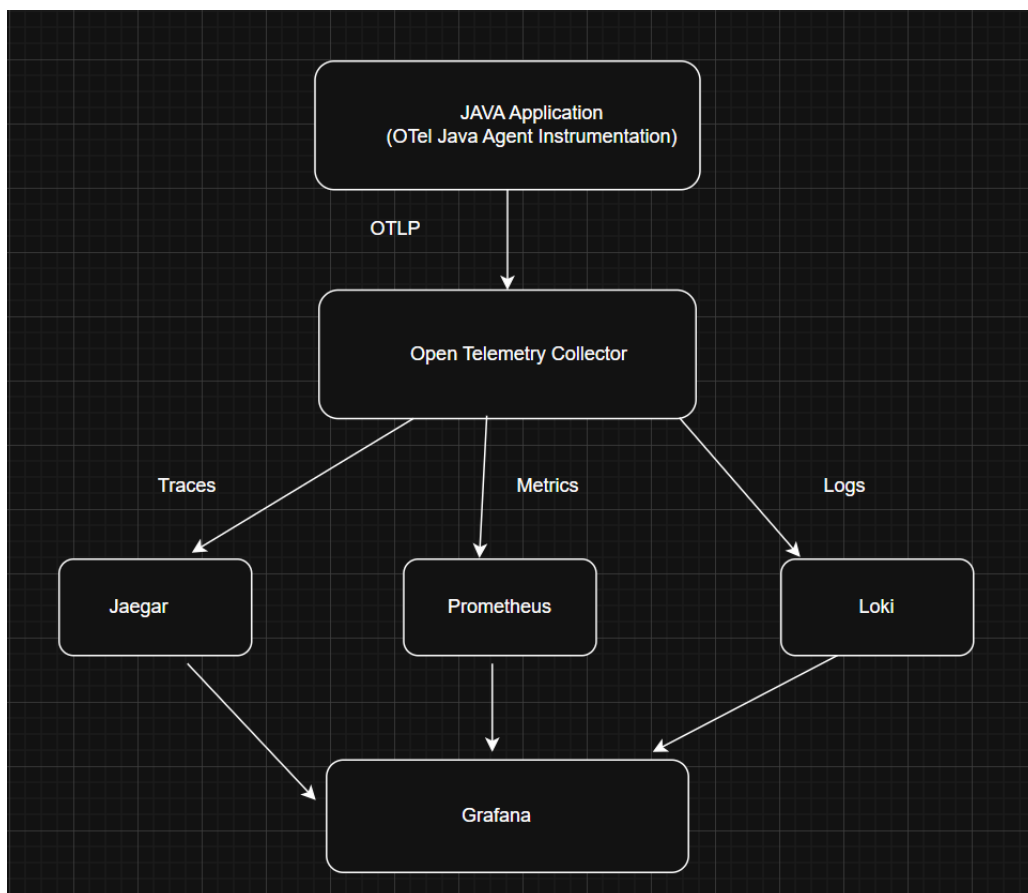
1. Introduction

This documentation explains how to build a **complete observability pipeline** for a Java application using:

- OpenTelemetry Java Instrumentation (Agent-Based)
- OpenTelemetry Collector
- Jaeger → Trace storage & visualization
- Prometheus → Metrics storage
- Loki → Log storage
- Grafana → Unified Observability Dashboard.

2. Architecture Overview

Below is the architecture diagram showing the full flow.



3. Project Directory

Run:

```
mkdir -p ~/otel-java-observability  
cd ~/otel-java-observability
```

4. Step 1 — Java App Setup + OpenTelemetry Agent

- i) Download OpenTelemetry Java Agent

Download the latest OTel agent:

Command to run:

```
wget https://github.com/open-telemetry/opentelemetry-java-  
instrumentation/releases/latest/download/opentelemetry-javaagent.jar
```

- ii) Place Your Java Application

Copy your JAR into the folder

Validate: `ls -l app.jar`

By the end of this you will get 2 jar files in your directory: `opentelemetry-javaagent.jar` and `app.jar`.

5. Step 2 — Dockerfile Configuration

- i) Create: nano Dockerfile
- ii) Paste:

```
FROM eclipse-temurin:17-jre  
WORKDIR /app  
  
COPY app.jar app.jar  
COPY opentelemetry-javaagent.jar opentelemetry-javaagent.jar  
COPY otel-config.properties otel-config.properties  
  
CMD ["java",
```

```
"-javaagent:/app/opentelemetry-javaagent.jar",  
"-Dotel.exporter.otlp.endpoint=http://otel-collector:4317",  
"-Dotel.exporter.otlp.protocol=grpc",  
"-Dotel.resource.attributes=service.name=dummy-java-app",  
"-jar", "/app/app.jar"]
```

iii) Save: CTRL + O → ENTER → CTRL + X

iv) Script Information

Line	What It Does
FROM eclipse-temurin:17-jre	Uses Java 17 runtime as the base image.
WORKDIR /app	Sets working directory inside container.
COPY app.jar app.jar	Copies your Java application JAR.
COPY opentelemetry-javaagent.jar opentelemetry-javaagent.jar	Adds OpenTelemetry Java agent for instrumentation.
COPY otel-config.properties otel-config.properties	Adds OTel agent configuration file.
-javaagent:/app/opentelemetry-javaagent.jar	Enables OpenTelemetry agent when app starts.
-Dotel.exporter.otlp.endpoint=http://otel-collector:4317	Sends telemetry to the OpenTelemetry Collector.
-Dotel.exporter.otlp.protocol=grpc	Uses OTLP/gRPC protocol.
-Dotel.resource.attributes=service.name=dummy-java-app	Sets service name for traces, metrics, logs.
-jar /app/app.jar	Runs the Java application.

Screenshot:

```
GNU nano 7.2 Dockerfile
FROM eclipse-temurin:17-jre
WORKDIR /app
COPY app.jar app.jar
COPY opentelemetry-javaagent.jar opentelemetry-javaagent.jar
COPY otel-config.properties otel-config.properties

CMD ["java", "-javaagent:/app/opentelemetry-javaagent.jar", "-Dotel.exporter.otlp.endpoint=http://otel-collector:4317", "-Dotel.exp
```

6. Step 3 — OpenTelemetry Configuration Files

Create: `nano otel-config.properties`

Paste:

```
otel.traces.exporter=otlp

otel.metrics.exporter=otlp

otel.logs.exporter=otlp

otel.exporter.otlp.endpoint=http://otel-collector:4317

otel.exporter.otlp.protocol=grpc

otel.resource.attributes=service.name=dummy-java-app
```

Property	What It Does
otel.traces.exporter=otlp	Sends traces using OTLP protocol.
otel.metrics.exporter=otlp	Sends metrics using OTLP protocol.
otel.logs.exporter=otlp	Sends logs using OTLP protocol.
otel.exporter.otlp.endpoint=http://otel-collector:4317	Specifies the OpenTelemetry Collector endpoint to receive telemetry.
otel.exporter.otlp.protocol=grpc	Uses gRPC for sending telemetry (fast and efficient).
otel.resource.attributes=service.name=dummy-java-app	Adds metadata (service name) to all telemetry for identification.

Screenshot:

```
GNU nano 7.2                                otel-config.properties
otel.traces.exporter=otlp
otel.metrics.exporter=otlp
otel.logs.exporter=otlp
otel.exporter.otlp.endpoint=http://otel-collector:4317
otel.exporter.otlp.protocol=grpc
otel.resource.attributes=service.name=dummy-java-app
```

7. Step 4 — OTEL Collector Pipelines Explained

Create: `nano collector-config.yaml`

Paste:

```
receivers:
  otlp:
  protocols:
    grpc:
    http:

exporters:
  otlp:
    endpoint: "jaeger:4317"
  tls:
    insecure: true

  prometheus:
    endpoint: "0.0.0.0:8889"

  loki:
    endpoint: "http://loki:3100/loki/api/v1/push"

extensions:
  zpages:
    endpoint: "0.0.0.0:55679"

service:
```

```

extensions: [zpages]
pipelines:
traces:
receivers: [otlp]
exporters: [otlp]

metrics:
receivers: [otlp]
exporters: [prometheus]

logs:
receivers: [otlp]
exporters: [loki]

```

Section / Key	What It Does
receivers: otlp:	Defines OTLP receiver to accept telemetry from apps.
protocols: grpc	Receives telemetry over gRPC.
protocols: http	Receives telemetry over HTTP.
exporters: otlp:	Sends traces to Jaeger.
endpoint: "jaeger:4317"	Jaeger collector endpoint for traces.
tls: insecure: true	Disables TLS for testing / internal network.
exporters: prometheus:	Exposes metrics in Prometheus format.
endpoint: "0.0.0.0:8889"	Prometheus scrapes metrics from this endpoint.
exporters: loki:	Sends logs to Loki.
endpoint: "http://loki:3100/loki/api/v1/push"	Loki push API endpoint for logs.
extensions: zpages:	Adds zPages for debugging collector internals.

Section / Key	What It Does
endpoint: "0.0.0.0:55679"	Access zPages via this port.
service:	Defines the pipelines for OTEL Collector.
pipelines: traces:	Pipeline to handle traces.
receivers: [otlp]	Receives traces via OTLP.
exporters: [otlp]	Exports traces to Jaeger.
pipelines: metrics:	Pipeline to handle metrics.
receivers: [otlp]	Receives metrics via OTLP.
exporters: [prometheus]	Exports metrics to Prometheus.
pipelines: logs:	Pipeline to handle logs.
receivers: [otlp]	Receives logs via OTLP.
exporters: [loki]	Exports logs to Loki.

Screenshot:

```

GNU nano 7.2 collector-config.yaml
receivers:
  otlp:
    protocols:
      grpc:
      http:
exporters:
  otlp:
    endpoint: "jaeger:4317"
    tls:
      insecure: true
  #debug:
  # verbosity: detailed
  prometheus:
    endpoint: "0.0.0.0:8889"
  zipkin:
    endpoint: "http://jaeger:9411/api/v2/spans"
  loki:
    endpoint: "http://loki:3100/loki/api/v1/push"
extensions:
  zpages:
    endpoint: "0.0.0.0:55679"
service:
  extensions: [zpages]
  pipelines:
    traces:
      receivers: [otlp]
      exporters: [otlp]
    metrics:
      receivers: [otlp]

```

8. Step 5 — Prometheus Config

```
nano prometheus.yml
```

Paste:

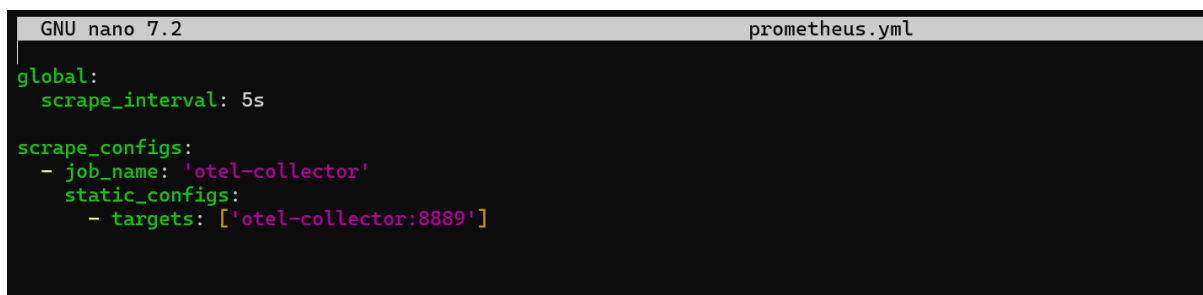
```
global:
  scrape_interval: 5s

scrape_configs:
  - job_name: 'otel-collector'

static_configs:
  - targets: ['otel-collector:8889']
```

Section / Key	What It Does
global: scrape_interval: 5s	Prometheus scrapes metrics every 5 seconds.
scrape_configs:	Defines which targets Prometheus will monitor.
- job_name: 'otel-collector'	Name of this scrape job.
static_configs:	Static list of targets for this job.
- targets: ['otel-collector:8889']	Prometheus scrapes metrics from the OTEL Collector at this endpoint.

Screenshot:



```
GNU nano 7.2 prometheus.yml
global:
  scrape_interval: 5s
scrape_configs:
  - job_name: 'otel-collector'
    static_configs:
      - targets: ['otel-collector:8889']
```

9. Step 6 — Create Loki Config

```
nano loki-config.yaml
```

Paste:

```
auth_enabled: false
server:
  http_listen_port: 3100
ingester:
  chunk_idle_period: 5m
  chunk_retain_period: 30s
schema_config:
  configs:
    - from: 2020-10-24
  store: boltdb
  object_store: filesystem
  schema: v11
  index:
    prefix: index_
    period: 168h
  storage_config:
    boltdb:
      directory: /loki/index
    filesystem:
      directory: /loki/chunks
  limits_config:
    enforce_metric_name: false
```

Section / Key	What It Does
auth_enabled: false	Disables authentication (open access for testing/dev).
server: http_listen_port: 3100	Loki server listens on port 3100 for incoming log requests.
ingester:	Configuration for log ingestion.
chunk_idle_period: 5m	Ingested log chunks idle for 5 minutes before being closed.

Section / Key	What It Does
chunk_retain_period: 30s	Closed chunks are retained in memory for 30 seconds before being flushed to storage.
schema_config:	Defines log indexing schema.
configs: - from: 2020-10-24	Version/date for this schema configuration.
store: boltdb	Index storage engine (BoltDB).
object_store: filesystem	Stores log chunks on filesystem.
schema: v11	Schema version used by Loki.
index: prefix: index_	Prefix used for index files.
index: period: 168h	Index rotation period (168 hours = 7 days).
storage_config:	Storage locations for indexes and log chunks.
boltdb: directory: /loki/index	Directory for BoltDB index files.
filesystem: directory: /loki/chunks	Directory to store log chunks.
limits_config: enforce_metric_name: false	Allows logs without metric name enforcement (relaxed limit for logging).

Screenshot:

```
GNU nano 7.2 loki-config.yaml
auth_enabled: false

server:
  http_listen_port: 3100

ingester:
  lifecycler:
    address: 127.0.0.1
    ring:
      kvstore:
        store: inmemory
      replication_factor: 1
  chunk_idle_period: 5s
  chunk_retain_period: 2m
  max_transfer_retries: 0

schema_config:
  configs:
    - from: 2020-10-24
      store: boltdb
      object_store: filesystem
      schema: v11
      index:
        prefix: index_
        period: 168h

storage_config:
  boltdb:
    directory: /loki/index
  filesystem:
    directory: /loki/chunks
```

10.Step 7 — Create docker-compose.yml

```
nano docker-compose.yml
```

Paste:

```
services:

java-app:
  image: test:v5
  container_name: java-app
  depends_on:
    - otel-collector
  ports:
    - "8080:8080"
  logging:
```

```
driver: "json-file"
volumes:
- ./opentelemetry-javaagent.jar:/app/opentelemetry-javaagent.jar
- ./otel-config.properties:/app/otel-config.properties
command: >
java
-javaagent:/app/opentelemetry-javaagent.jar
-Dotel.javaagent.configuration-file=/app/otel-config.properties
-jar /app/app.jar
```

```
otel-collector:
image: otel/opentelemetry-collector-contrib:0.71.0
container_name: otel-collector
command: ["--config=/etc/otel-collector/config.yaml"]
volumes:
- ./collector-config.yaml:/etc/otel-collector/config.yaml
ports:
- "4317:4317"
- "4318:4318"
- "8889:8889"
- "55679:55679"
```

```
jaeger:
image: jaegertracing/all-in-one
container_name: jaeger
ports:
- "16686:16686"
- "14250:14250"
```

```
prometheus:
image: prom/prometheus
container_name: prometheus
volumes:
- ./prometheus.yml:/etc/prometheus/prometheus.yml
ports:
- "9090:9090"
```

```

loki:
image: grafana/loki:2.9.0
container_name: loki
ports:
- "3100:3100"
volumes:
- ./loki-config.yaml:/etc/loki/local-config.yaml
- ./loki-data:/loki          # Persistent storage
- ./wal:/wal                 # WAL directory
command: ["-config.file=/etc/loki/local-config.yaml"]

grafana:
image: grafana/grafana
container_name: grafana
ports:
- "3000:3000"

```

Service	Image / Container	Ports	Purpose / What It Does
java-app	test:v5	8080:8080	Runs your Java application with OpenTelemetry agent; sends traces, metrics, logs to OTEL Collector.
otel-collector	otel/opentelemetry-collector-contrib:0.71.0	4317, 4318, 8889, 55679	Receives telemetry from apps and routes to Jaeger, Prometheus, Loki.
jaeger	jaegertracing/all-in-one	16686, 14250	Collects and visualizes traces from OTEL Collector.
prometheus	prom/prometheus	9090	Scrapes and stores metrics from OTEL Collector.
loki	grafana/loki:2.9.0	3100	Receives and stores logs from OTEL Collector; supports querying from Grafana.

Service	Image / Container	Ports	Purpose / What It Does
grafana	grafana/grafana	3000	Visualizes traces, metrics, and logs; connects to Jaeger, Prometheus, and Loki.

Screenshot

```

GNU nano 7.2                                     docker-compose.yml
services:

  java-app:
    image: test:v5
    container_name: java-app
    depends_on:
      - otel-collector
    ports:
      - "8080:8080"
    logging:
      driver: "json-file"
    volumes:
      - ./opentelemetry-javaagent.jar:/app/opentelemetry-javaagent.jar
      - ./otel-config.properties:/app/otel-config.properties
    command: >
      java
      -javaagent:/app/opentelemetry-javaagent.jar
      -Dotel.javaagent.configuration-file=/app/otel-config.properties
      -jar /app/app.jar

  otel-collector:
    image: otel/opentelemetry-collector-contrib:0.71.0
    container_name: otel-collector
    command: ["--config=/etc/otel-collector/config.yaml"]
    volumes:
      - ./collector-config.yaml:/etc/otel-collector/config.yaml
    ports:
      - "4317:4317"
      - "4318:4318"
      - "8889:8889"
      - "55679:55679"

```


11.Step 8 — Start all services and Test everything

Commands:

```
docker compose up --build
```

```
docker ps
```

CONTAINER ID	IMAGE	COMMAND	CREATED	STATUS	PORTS
NAMES					
60c0626ceafd	test:v5	"/_cacert_entrypoin..."	About an hour ago	Up	About an hour
8080->8080/tcp, [::]:8080->8080/tcp					0.0.0.0:
9f4b56fbd450	java-app	"./bin/prometheus --c..."	About an hour ago	Up	About an hour
9090->9090/tcp, [::]:9090->9090/tcp					0.0.0.0:
7cfe90f3ff6	prometheus	"./usr/bin/loki -conf..."	About an hour ago	Up	About an hour
3100->3100/tcp, [::]:3100->3100/tcp					0.0.0.0:
fd4d339a744f	grafana/loki:2.9.0	"./run.sh"	About an hour ago	Up	About an hour
3000->3000/tcp, [::]:3000->3000/tcp					0.0.0.0:
a28536ca0a46	grafana/grafana	"./go/bin/all-in-one..."	About an hour ago	Up	About an hour
14250->14250/tcp, [::]:14250->14250/tcp, 0.0.0.0:16686->16686/tcp, [::]:16686->16686/tcp					0.0.0.0:
cde2a5570bc3	jaegertracing/all-in-one	"./otelcol-contrib --..."	About an hour ago	Up	About an hour
4317->4318->4317/tcp, [::]:4317->4318->4317/tcp, 0.0.0.0:8889->8889/tcp, [::]:8889->8889/tcp, 0.0.0.0:55679->55679/tcp, [::]:55679->55679/tcp					0.0.0.0:
	otel/opentelemetry-collector-contrib:0.71.0				
	otel-collector				

Test Java App

```
curl http://localhost:8080
```

Test Tracez Debug Page (zpages)

Open browser:

<http://localhost:55679/debug/tracez>

localhost:55679/debug/tracez

Trace Spans

Span Name	Running	Latency Samples										Error Samples
		>0s	>10µs	>100µs	>1ms	>10ms	>100ms	>1s	>10s	>1m40s		
/metrics	0	0	0	10	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	
opentelemetry.proto.collector.logs.v1.LogsService/Export	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
opentelemetry.proto.collector.metrics.v1.MetricsService/Export	0	0	0	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
opentelemetry.proto.collector.trace.v1.TraceService/Export	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Test Loki Push

```
curl -X POST "http://localhost:3100/loki/api/v1/push" \  
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \  
-d '{  
"streams": [  

```

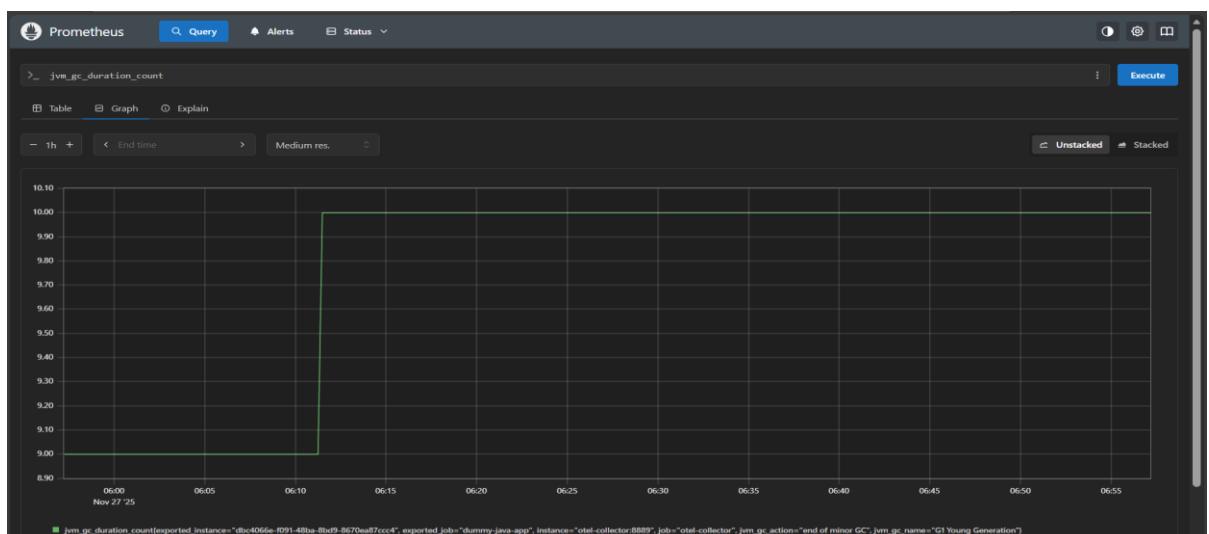
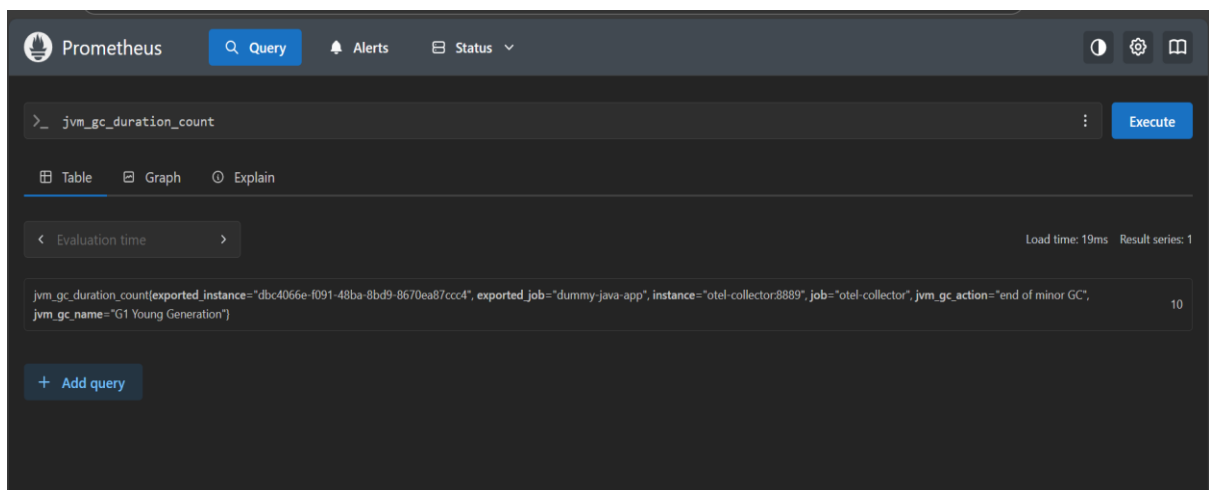
```
{  
  "stream": {"job": "test", "level": "info"},  
  "values": [[ "'$(date +%s%N)'", "Hello from Linux curl" ]]  
}  
]  
'}
```

Test Prometheus UI

<http://localhost:9090>

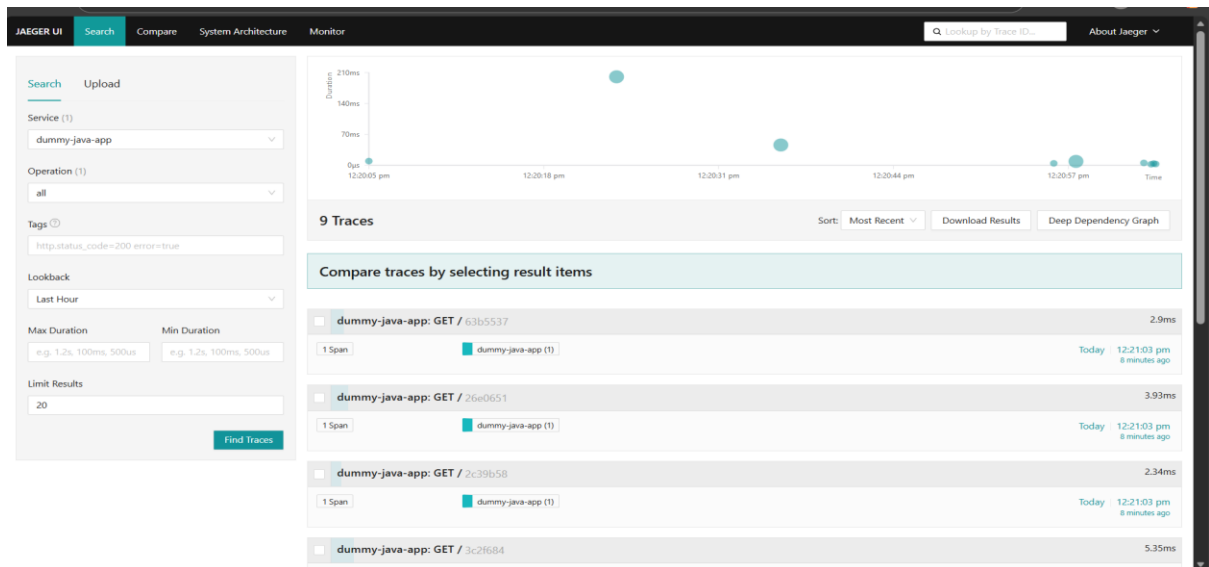
Query: `jvm_gc_duration_count`

Screenshot



Test Jaeger UI

<http://localhost:16686>



12.Setup Grafana

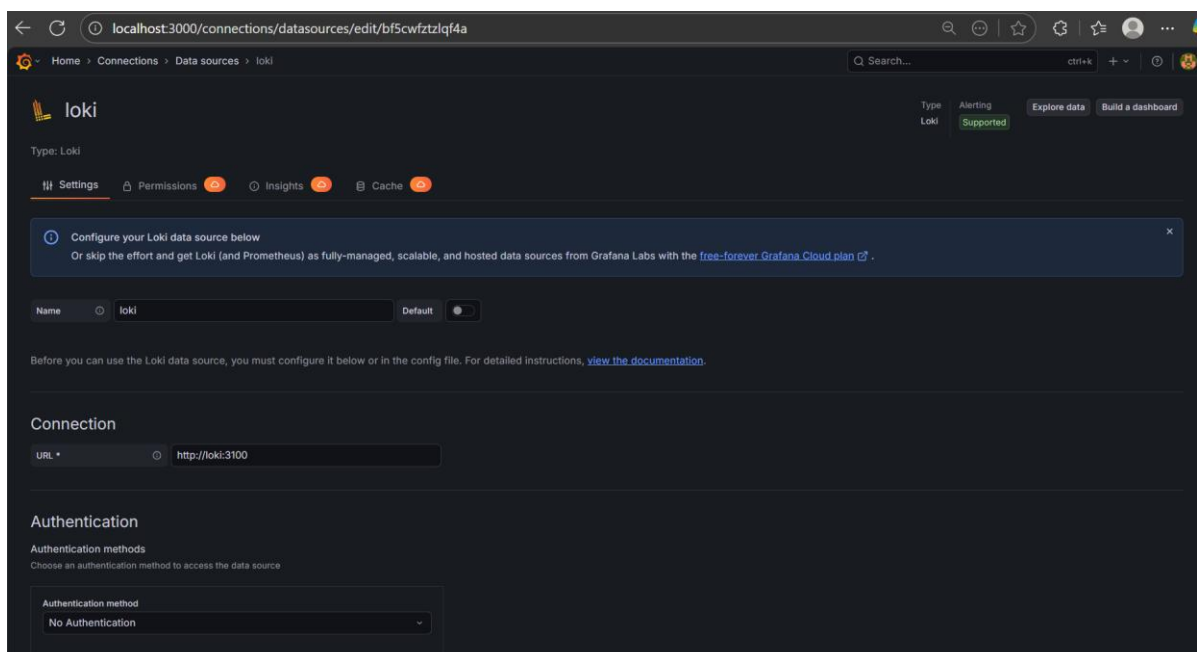
Open:

<http://localhost:3000>

Login: admin / admin

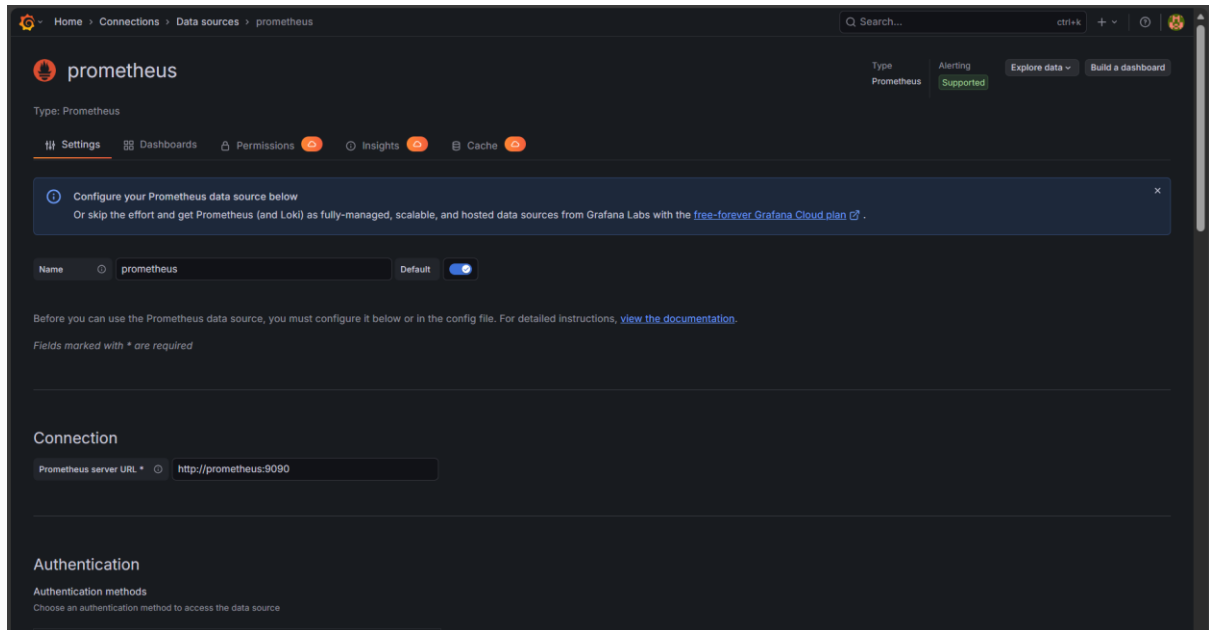
Add Loki Datasource

URL: <http://loki:3100>



Add Prometheus Datasource

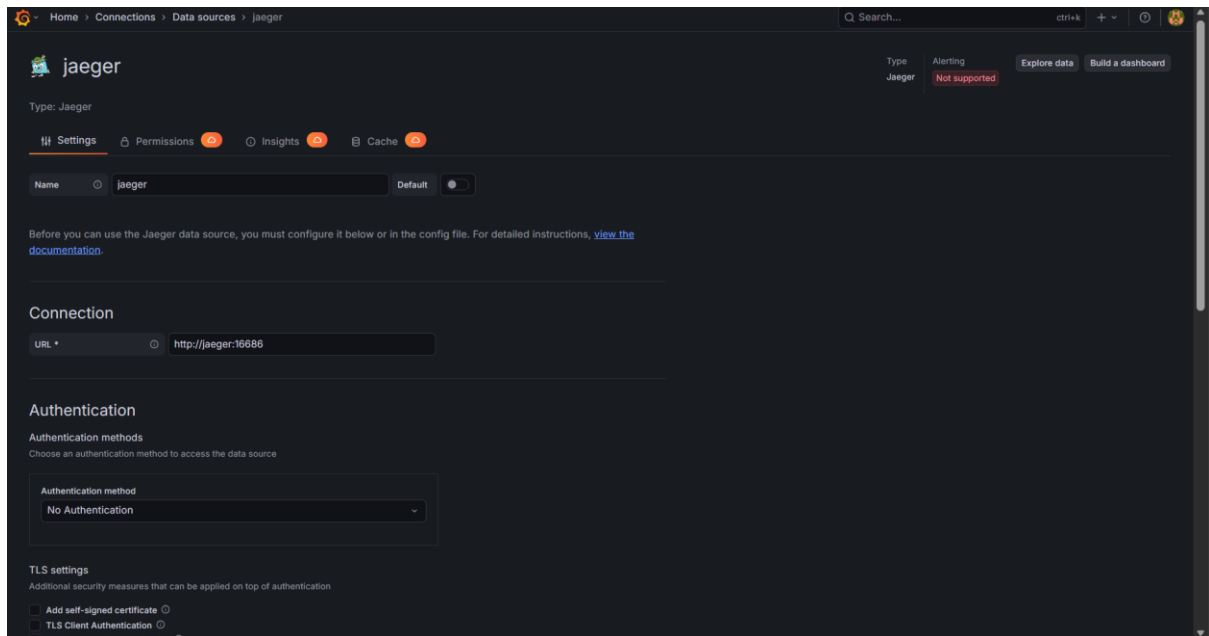
URL: <http://prometheus:9090>



The screenshot shows the Prometheus datasource configuration page in Grafana. The breadcrumb navigation at the top reads "Home > Connections > Data sources > prometheus". The page title is "prometheus". On the right, there are tabs for "Type" (Prometheus), "Alerting" (Supported), "Explore data", and "Build a dashboard". Below the title, there are tabs for "Settings", "Dashboards", "Permissions", "Insights", and "Cache". A blue notification box at the top says: "Configure your Prometheus data source below. Or skip the effort and get Prometheus (and Loki) as fully-managed, scalable, and hosted data sources from Grafana Labs with the [free-forever Grafana Cloud plan](#)". The "Name" field is set to "prometheus" and the "Default" toggle is turned on. Below this, a message states: "Before you can use the Prometheus data source, you must configure it below or in the config file. For detailed instructions, [view the documentation](#)." A note indicates "Fields marked with * are required". The "Connection" section has a "Prometheus server URL *" field set to "http://prometheus:9090". The "Authentication" section shows "Authentication methods" with a note to "Choose an authentication method to access the data source".

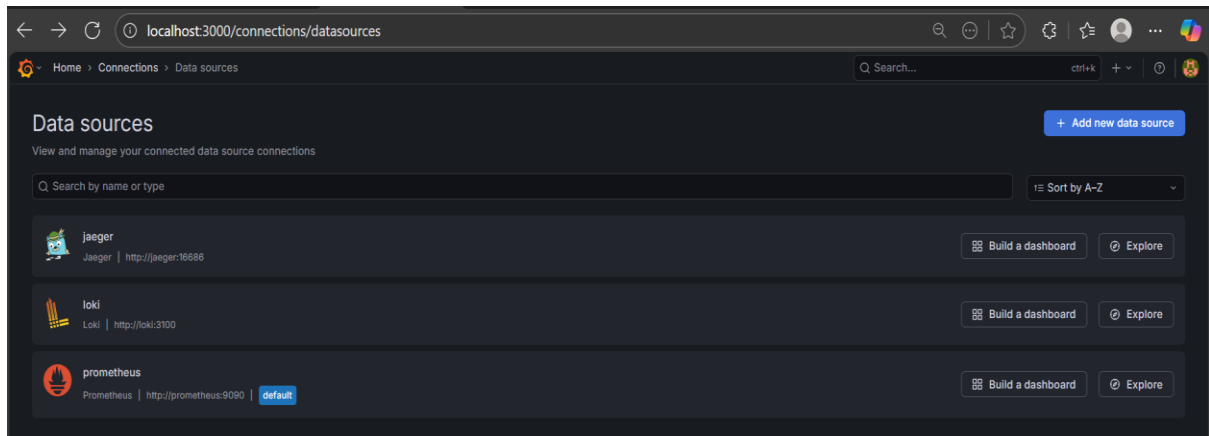
Add Jaeger Datasource

URL: <http://jaeger:16686>



The screenshot shows the Jaeger datasource configuration page in Grafana. The breadcrumb navigation at the top reads "Home > Connections > Data sources > jaeger". The page title is "jaeger". On the right, there are tabs for "Type" (Jaeger), "Alerting" (Not supported), "Explore data", and "Build a dashboard". Below the title, there are tabs for "Settings", "Permissions", "Insights", and "Cache". The "Name" field is set to "jaeger" and the "Default" toggle is turned on. Below this, a message states: "Before you can use the Jaeger data source, you must configure it below or in the config file. For detailed instructions, [view the documentation](#)." The "Connection" section has a "URL *" field set to "http://jaeger:16686". The "Authentication" section shows "Authentication methods" with a note to "Choose an authentication method to access the data source". A dropdown menu for "Authentication method" is set to "No Authentication". The "TLS settings" section has a note: "Additional security measures that can be applied on top of authentication". There are three checkboxes: "Add self-signed certificate", "TLS Client Authentication", and "Skip TLS certificate validation", all of which are currently unchecked.

Overall Datasources

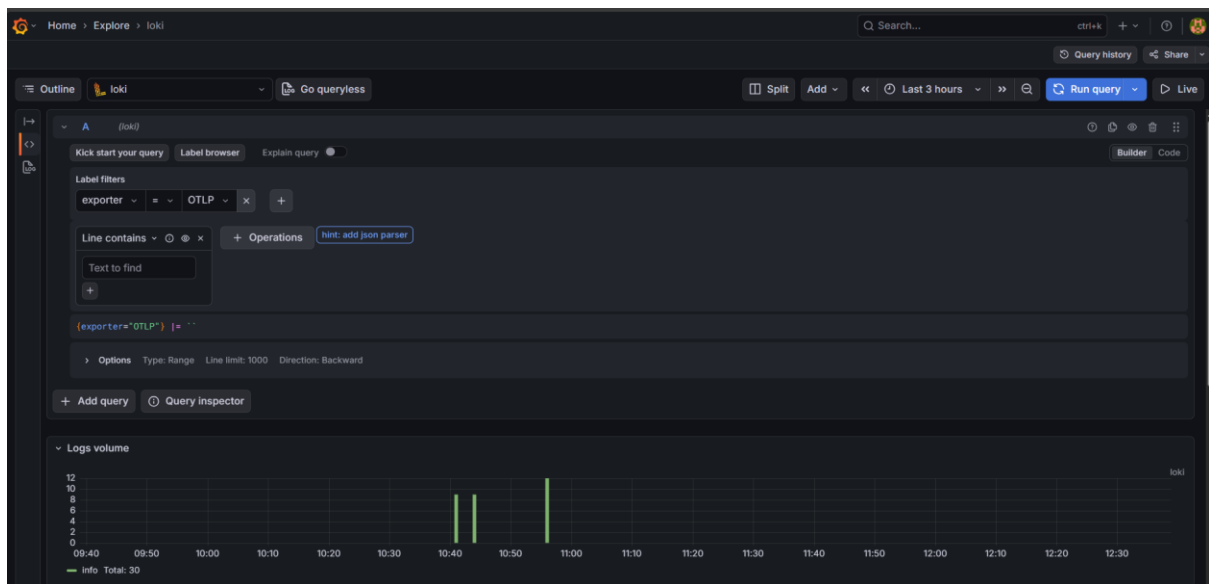


13. Verify Everything

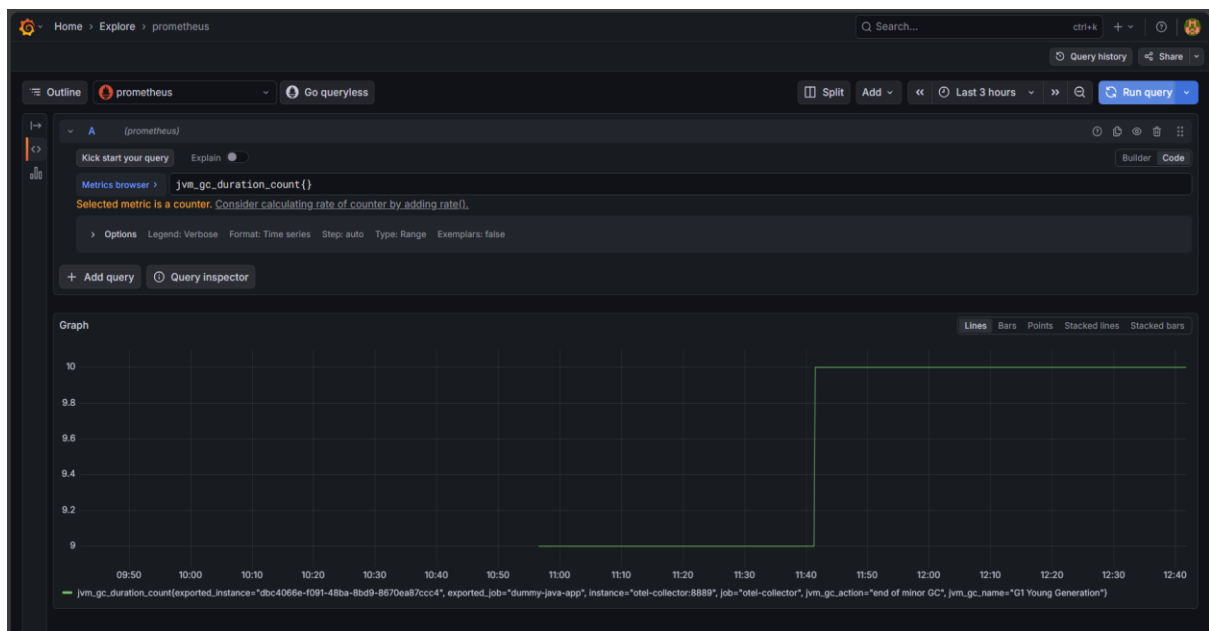
i) Logs (Grafana → Explore → Loki)

Label Filters

Screenshot



ii) Metrics (Grafana → Explore → Prometheus)

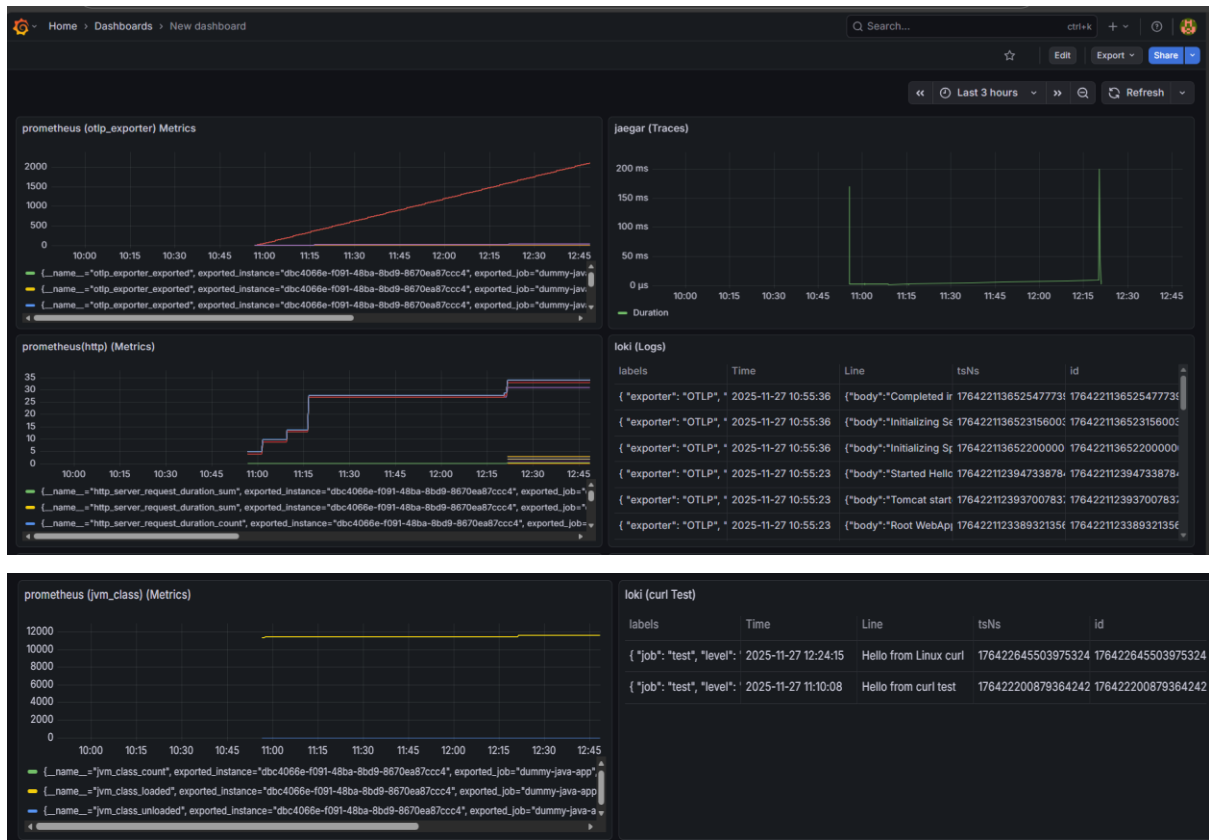


iii) Traces (Grafana → Explore → Traces)

The screenshot shows the Grafana Explore interface for the Jaeger data source. The query type is set to 'Search'. The service name is 'dummy-java-app' and the operation name is 'All'. The tags filter is set to 'http.status_code=200 error=true'. The table below lists the traces found.

Trace ID	Trace name	Start time	Duration
63b55375e8258b0f6cc90e878e232e66	dummy-java-app: GET /	2025-11-27 12:21:03	2.90 ms
26e06510fcacf568bc97c4f570d901c3	dummy-java-app: GET /	2025-11-27 12:21:03	3.93 ms
2c39b584e4dbd5b6d3e042e77edc2de3	dummy-java-app: GET /	2025-11-27 12:21:03	2.34 ms
3c2f6845eb1f3164e5cd6143f5044c03	dummy-java-app: GET /	2025-11-27 12:21:02	5.35 ms
ffd8e503313c08f3e672b4080599aa0	dummy-java-app: GET /**	2025-11-27 12:20:57	8.77 ms
a4cebcc90fc7e0210993e76038059d7f	dummy-java-app: GET /	2025-11-27 12:20:56	4.37 ms
7cffb837887ec57fa4d3ee92811661e7	dummy-java-app: GET /**	2025-11-27 12:20:36	45.9 ms
289fd958e88b57a729b3d4e907fe62b5	dummy-java-app: GET /**	2025-11-27 12:20:24	200 ms
28169479c9fd1ab94e90638243f4e2ac	dummy-java-app: GET /	2025-11-27 12:20:05	9.48 ms

14.Grafana Dashboard (Optional)



SUMMARY

Your setup does the following:

I) Java app emits traces, metrics, and logs via OpenTelemetry agent.

II) OTEL Collector receives all three and routes:

traces → Jaeger

metrics → Prometheus

logs → Loki

III) Grafana connects to Loki/Prometheus/Jaeger to display all data.