

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.

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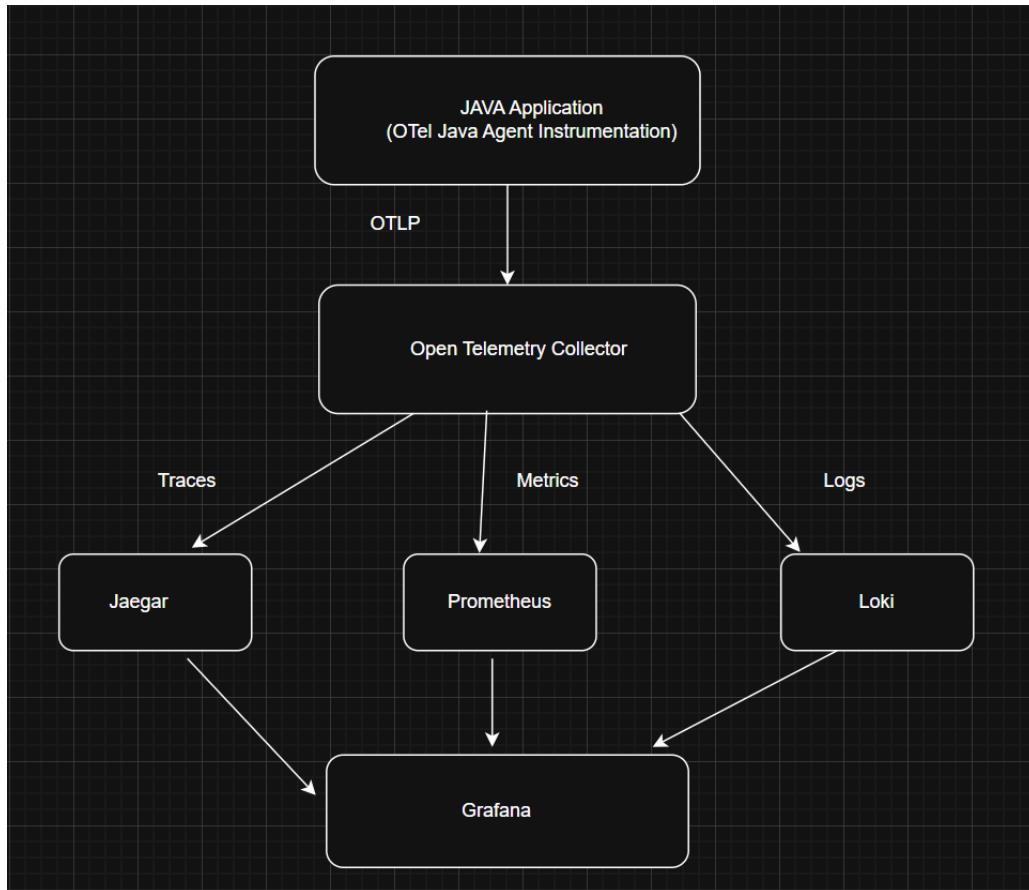
1. Introduction

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.exporter.otlp.protocol=grpc", "-Dotel.resource.attributes=service.name=dummy-java-app"]
```

6. Step 3 — OpenTelemetry Configuration Files

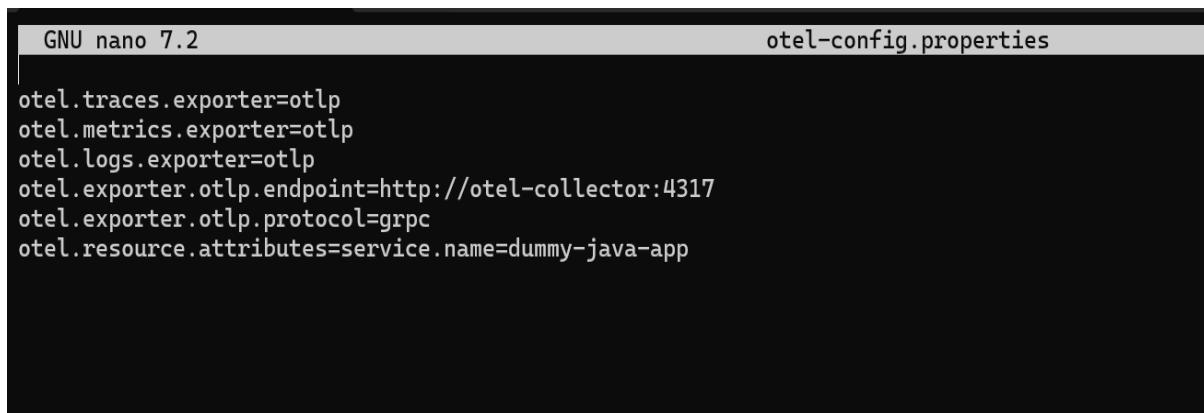
Create: `nano otel-config.properties`

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

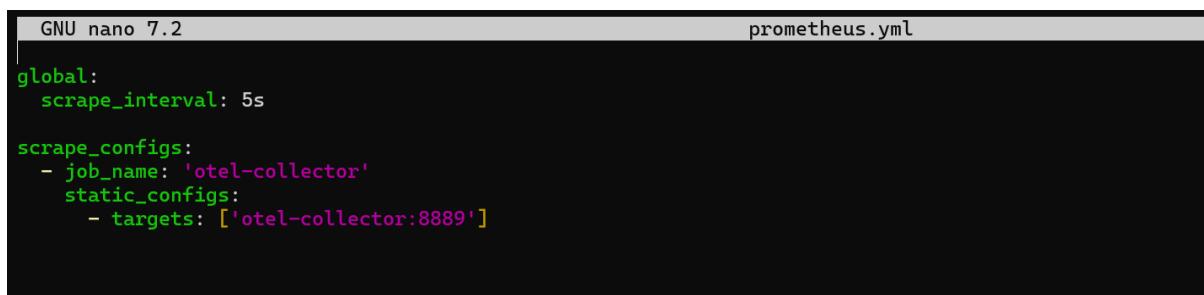
```
nano prometheus.yml
```

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
60c0626ceafdf	test:v5	"/_/cacert_entrypoint..."	About an hour ago	Up About an hour	0.0.0.0:8080->8080/tcp
8080->8080/tcp, [::]:8080->8080/tcp	java-app				
9f4fb56fdb450	prom/prometheus	"/bin/prometheus --c..."	About an hour ago	Up About an hour	0.0.0.0:9090->9090/tcp
9090->9090/tcp, [::]:9090->9090/tcp	prometheus				
7cefe90f3ff6	grafana/loki:2.9.0	"/usr/bin/loki -conf..."	About an hour ago	Up About an hour	0.0.0.0:3100->3100/tcp
3100->3100/tcp, [::]:3100->3100/tcp	loki				
fd4d339a744f	grafana/grafana	"/run.sh"	About an hour ago	Up About an hour	0.0.0.0:3000->3000/tcp
3000->3000/tcp, [::]:3000->3000/tcp	grafana				
a28536ca0a46	jaegertracing/all-in-one	"/go/bin/all-in-one..."	About an hour ago	Up About an hour	0.0.0.0:14250->14250/tcp, [::]:14250->14250/tcp, 0.0.0.0:16686->16686/tcp, [::]:16686->16686/tcp
	jaeger				
cde2a5570bc3	otel/opentelemetry-collector-contrib:0.71.0	"/otelcol-contrib ..."	About an hour ago	Up About an hour	0.0.0.0:4317->4318->4318/tcp, [::]:4317->4318->4318/tcp, 0.0.0.0:8889->8889/tcp, [::]:8889->8889/tcp, 0.0.0.0:55679->55679/tcp, [::]:55679->55679/tcp
	otel-collector				

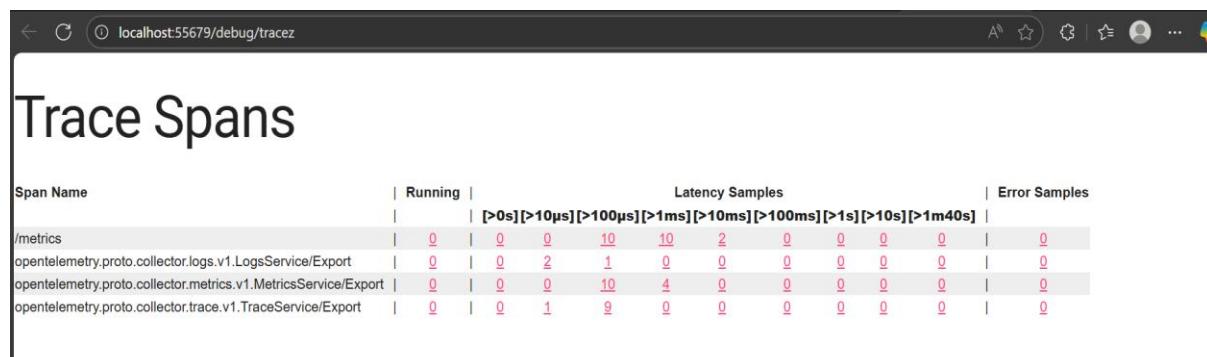
Test Java App

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

Test Tracez Debug Page (zpages)

Open browser:

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



Test Loki Push

```
curl -X POST "http://localhost:3100/loki/api/v1/push" \
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \
-d '{
  "streams": [
    {
      "stream": "logs",
      "log": {
        "time": "2023-10-01T12:00:00Z",
        "text": "Hello, Loki!"
      }
    }
  ]
}'
```

```
{
  "stream": {"job":"test","level":"info"},

  "values": [[ "'$(date +%s%N)'", "Hello from Linux curl" ]]

}

}

}'
```

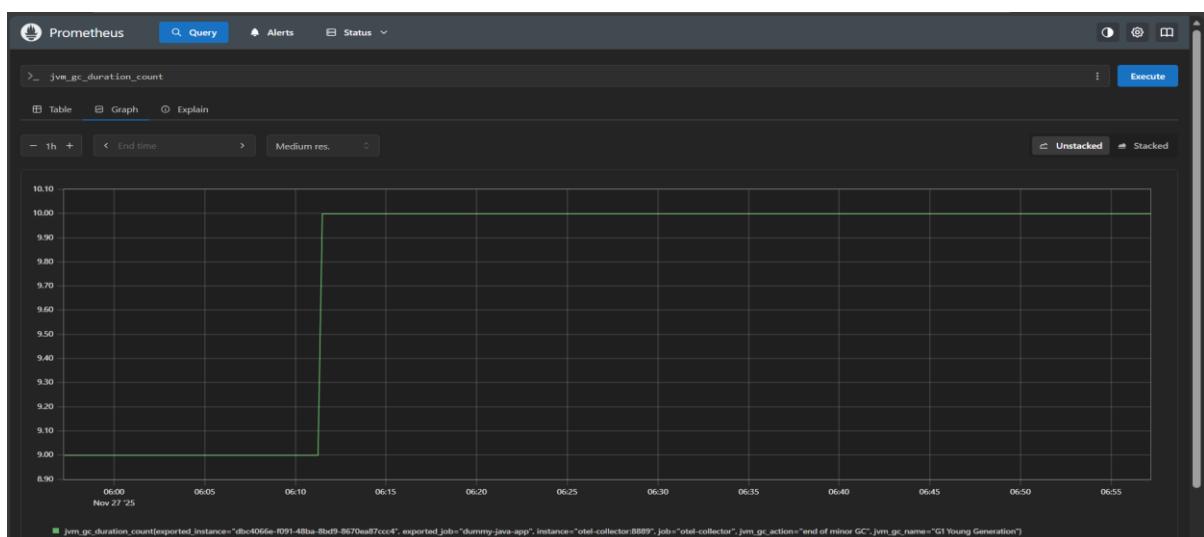
Test Prometheus UI

<http://localhost:9090>

Query: jvm_gc_duration_count

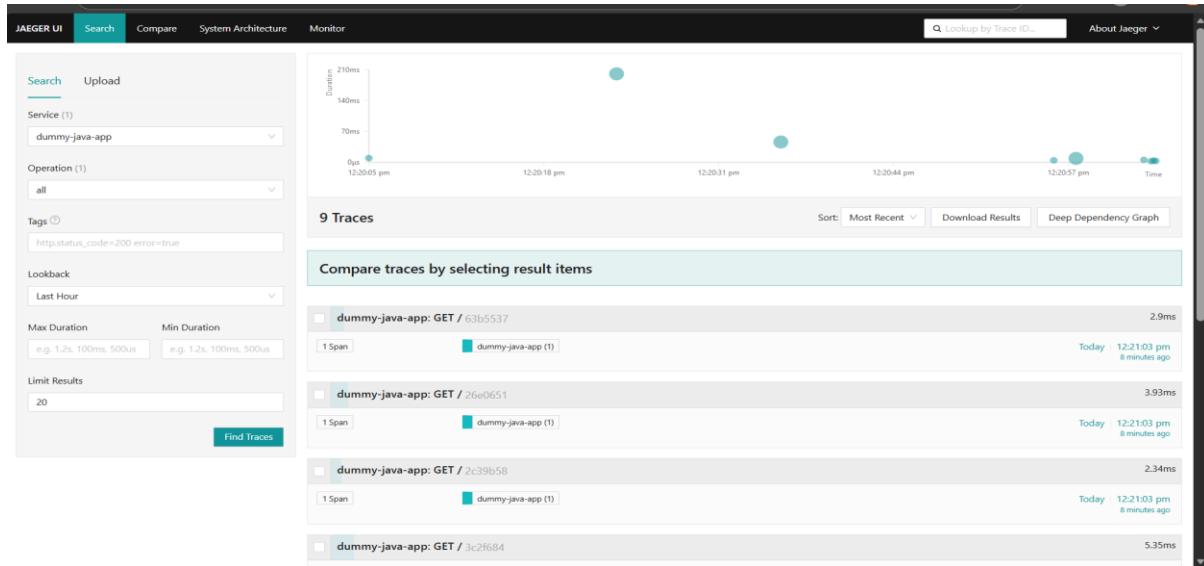
Screenshot

The screenshot shows the Prometheus web interface with a dark theme. At the top, there are tabs for 'Query', 'Alerts', and 'Status'. Below the tabs is a search bar containing the query: `>_ jvm_gc_duration_count`. To the right of the search bar is an 'Execute' button. Underneath the search bar, there are three navigation buttons: 'Table' (which is selected), 'Graph', and 'Explain'. A status message at the top right indicates 'Load time: 19ms Result series: 1'. The main area displays a single data series in a table format. The table has two columns: one for labels and one for values. The labels column contains the following row: `jvm_gc_duration_count{exported_instance="dbc4066e-f091-48ba-8bd9-8670ea87ccc4", exported_job="dummy-java-app", instance="otel-collector:8889", job="otel-collector", jvm_gc_action="end of minor GC", jvm_gc_name="G1 Young Generation"}`. The value column contains the number `10`. At the bottom left, there is a '+ Add query' button.



Test Jaeger UI

<http://localhost:16686>



12. Setup Grafana

Open:

<http://localhost:3000>

Login: admin / admin

Add Loki Datasource

URL: <http://loki:3100>

The screenshot shows the Grafana connection configuration page for a Loki datasource. The URL is set to <http://loki:3100>. The authentication method is set to 'No Authentication'. The page includes sections for Connection, Authentication, and a note about configuring the data source.

Type: Loki

Connection

URL: http://loki:3100

Authentication

Authentication methods

Choose an authentication method to access the data source

Authentication method: No Authentication

Add Prometheus Datasource

URL: <http://prometheus:9090>

The screenshot shows the Grafana interface for adding a Prometheus data source. The top navigation bar includes Home, Connections, Data sources, and a search bar. The current page is 'Data sources > prometheus'. The data source type is listed as 'Prometheus' with 'Supported' status. The main section is titled 'Configure your Prometheus data source below' and includes a note about using the free forever Grafana Cloud plan. A 'Name' field is set to 'prometheus' with a 'Default' button. Below it, a note 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 also says 'Fields marked with * are required'. The 'Connection' section contains a 'Prometheus server URL' input field with the value 'http://prometheus:9090'. The 'Authentication' section is present but empty.

Add Jaeger Datasource

URL: <http://jaeger:16686>

The screenshot shows the Grafana interface for adding a Jaeger data source. The top navigation bar includes Home, Connections, Data sources, and a search bar. The current page is 'Data sources > jaeger'. The data source type is listed as 'Jaeger' with 'Not supported' status. The main section is titled 'Configure your Jaeger data source below' and includes a note about using the free forever Grafana Cloud plan. A 'Name' field is set to 'jaeger' with a 'Default' button. Below it, a note 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 contains a 'URL' input field with the value 'http://jaeger:16686'. The 'Authentication' section includes a dropdown menu for 'Authentication method' with the option 'No Authentication' selected. The 'TLS settings' section contains three checkboxes: 'Add self-signed certificate', 'TLS Client Authentication', and 'Skip TLS certificate validation'.

Overall Datasources

The screenshot shows the Grafana interface at localhost:3000/connections/datasources. It lists three data sources:

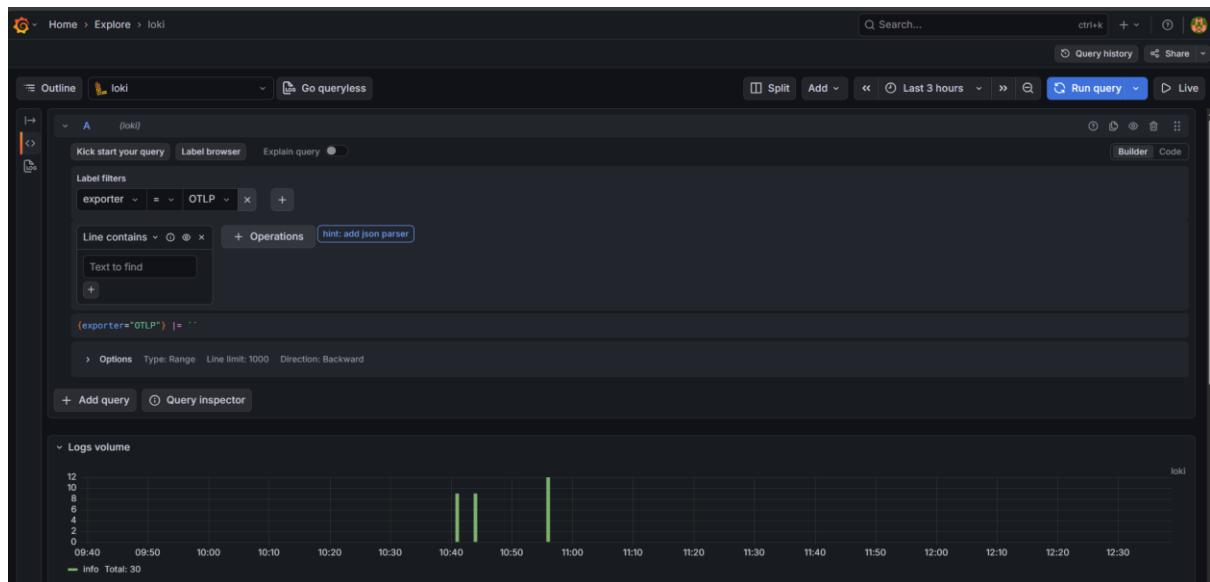
- jaeger**: Jaeger | <http://jaeger:16686> | [Build a dashboard](#) | [Explore](#)
- loki**: Loki | <http://loki:3100> | [Build a dashboard](#) | [Explore](#)
- prometheus**: Prometheus | <http://prometheus:9090> | [default](#) | [Build a dashboard](#) | [Explore](#)

13. Verify Everything

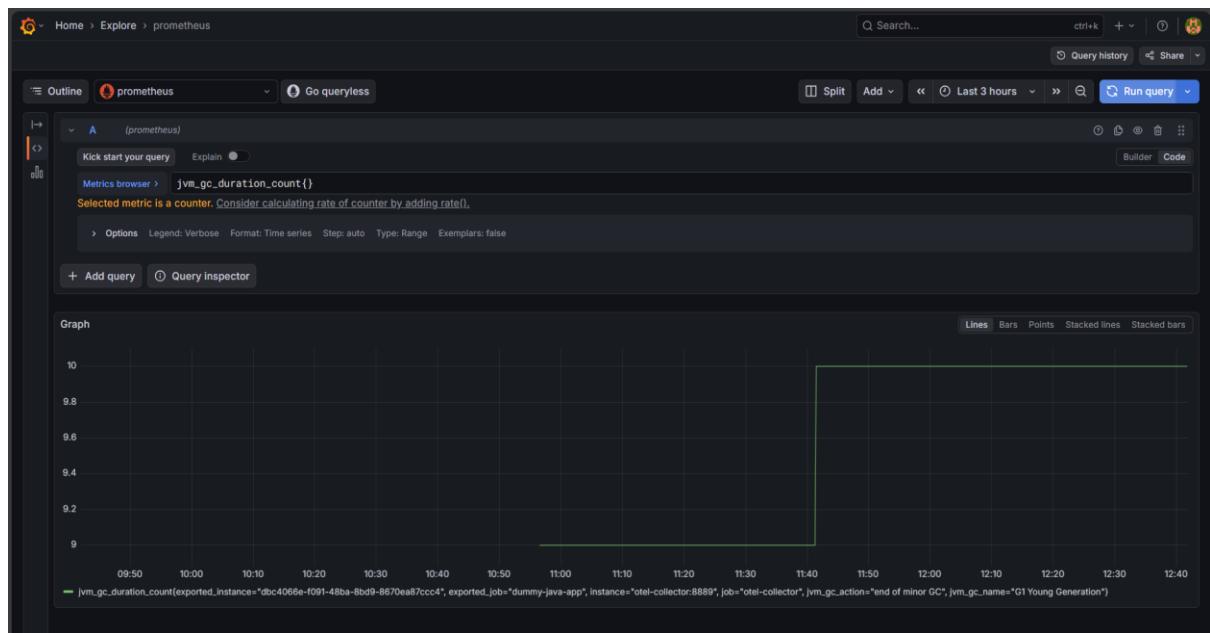
i) Logs (Grafana → Explore → Loki)

Label Filters

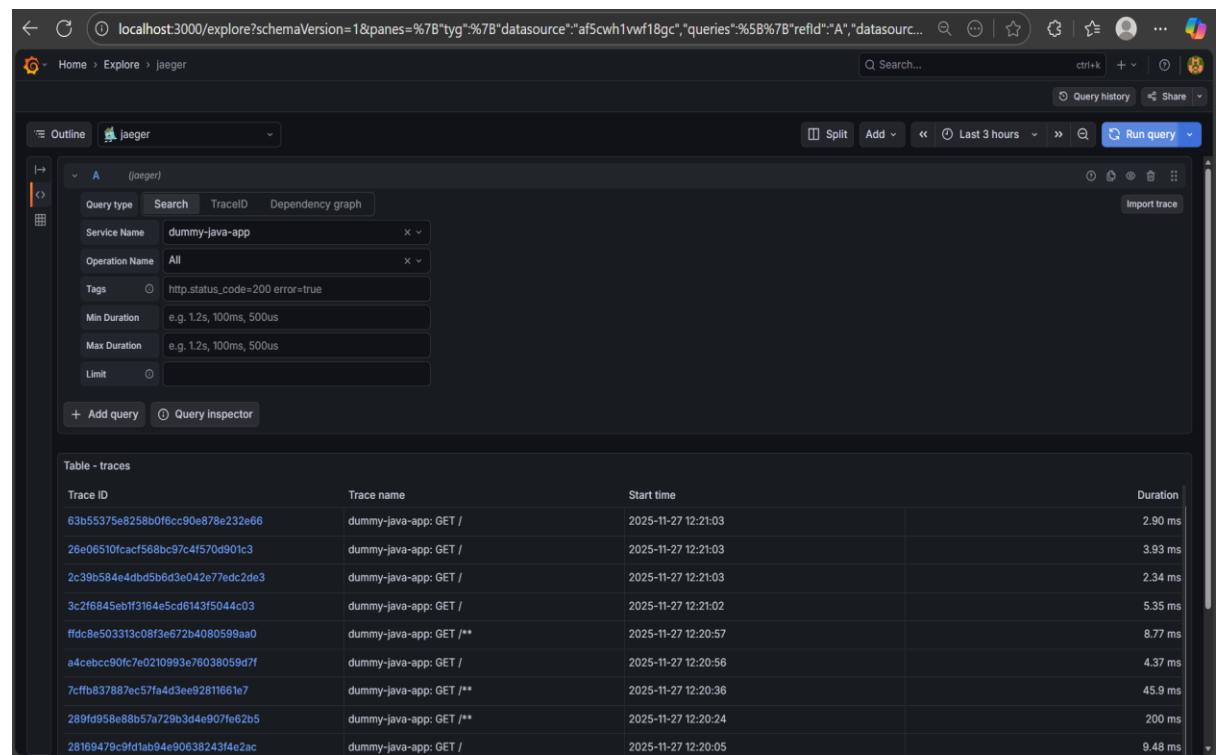
Screenshot



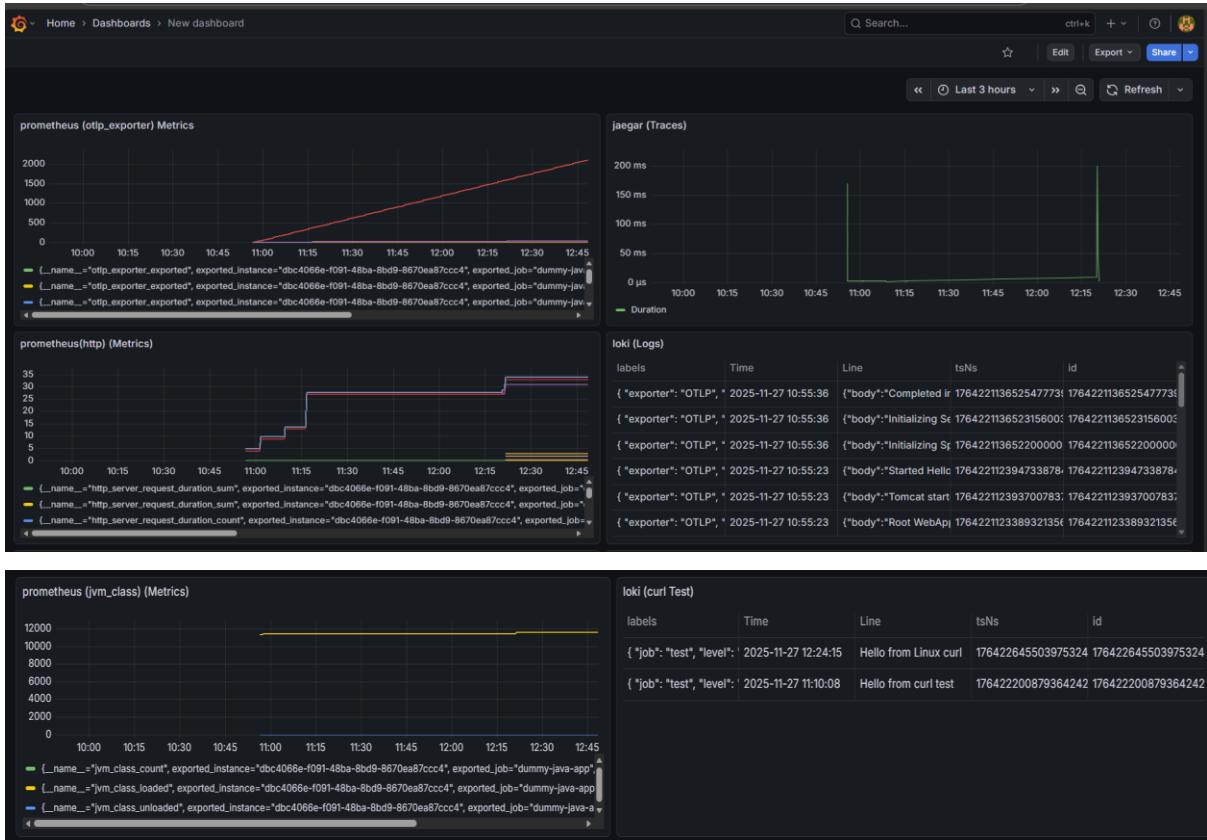
ii) Metrics (Grafana → Explore → Prometheus)



iii) Traces (Grafana → Explore → Traces)



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.