

# Designing Observability for Fault Diagnosis

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**Elton Stoneman**

Consultant & Trainer

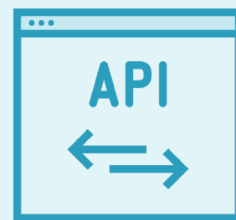
@EltonStoneman [blog.sixeyed.com](http://blog.sixeyed.com)



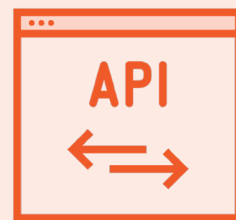
A Globomantics Company



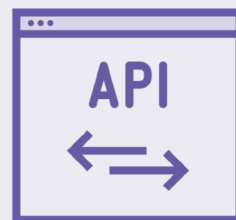
Amila



Monitoring



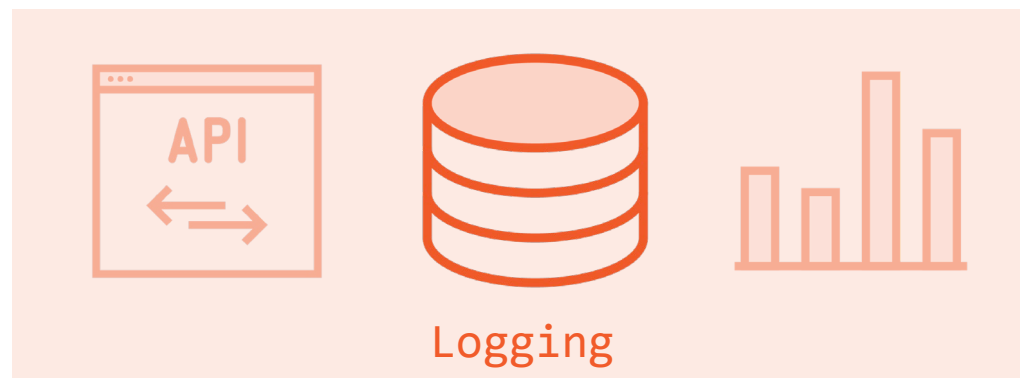
Logging



Tracing



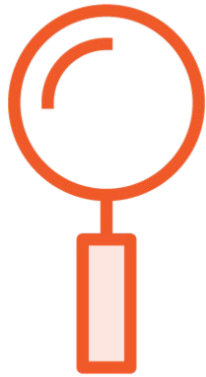
A Globomantics Company



# Incident Model



**Triage**



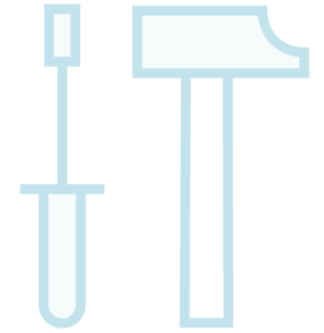
**Examine**



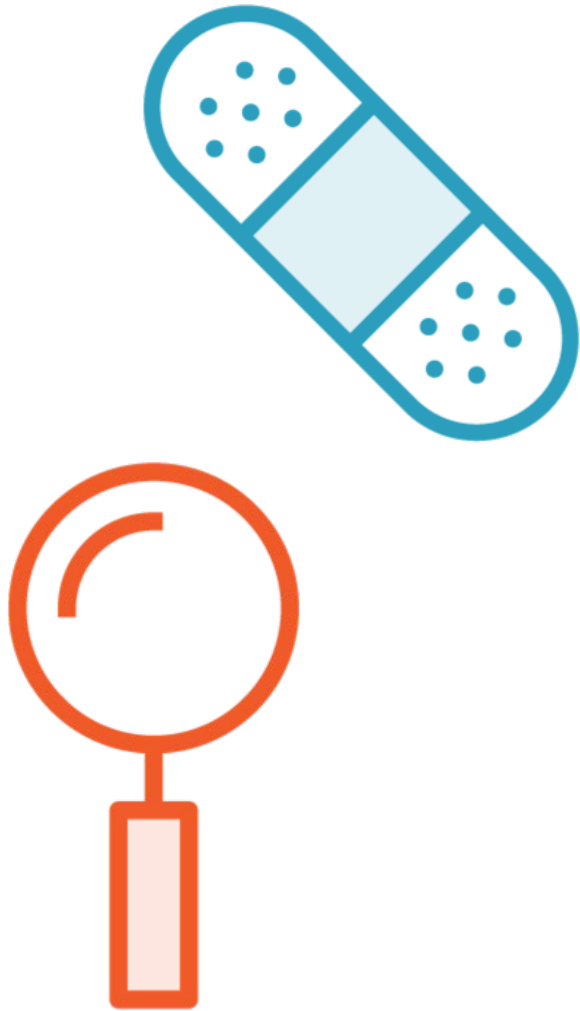
**Diagnose**



**Test**



**Cure**



## Triage

- Get back to "good enough"
- Application health dashboards
- High-level metrics overview

## Examine

- Understand the problem & trigger
- Application logs & network traces
- Low-level details

# Golden Signals



## Latency

Job processing time  
Response generation time



## Traffic

Length of message queue  
Requests per second



## Errors

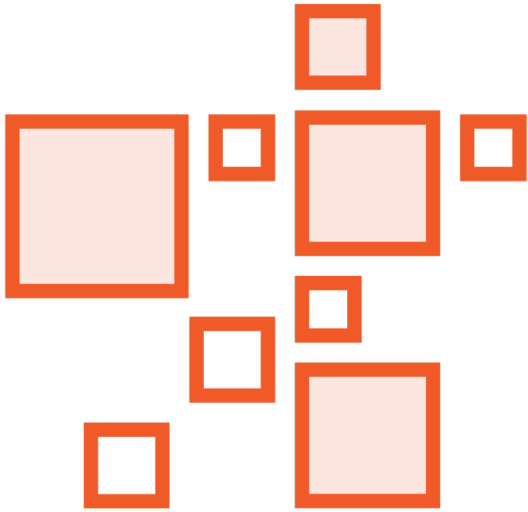
Request failures  
Response correctness



## Saturation

CPU & memory utilization  
Network bandwidth

# Observability Data



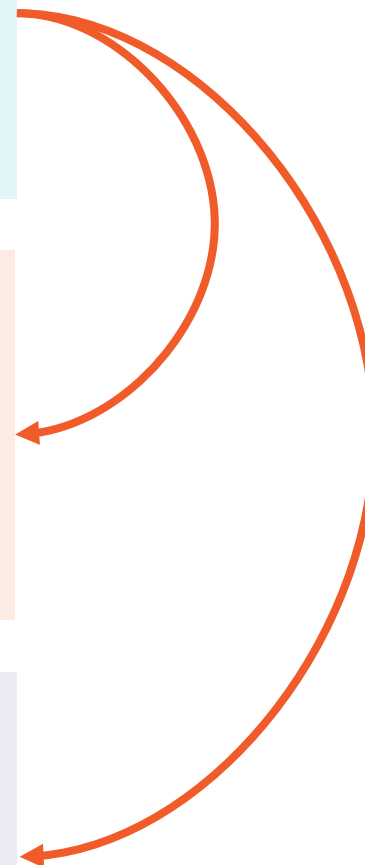
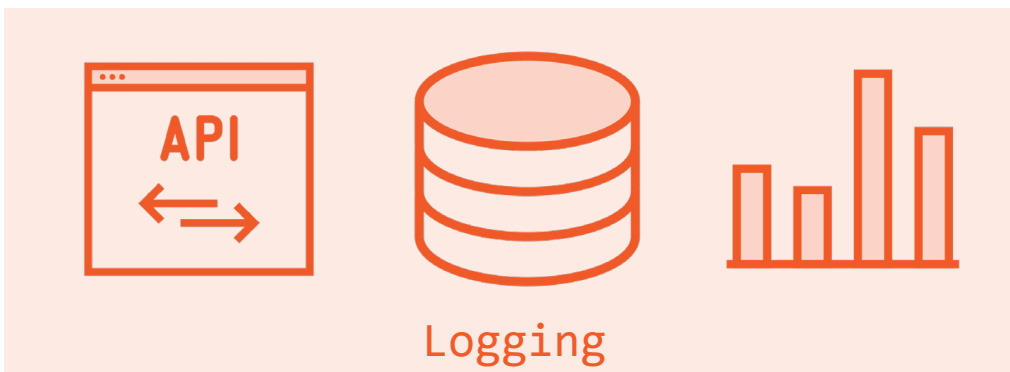
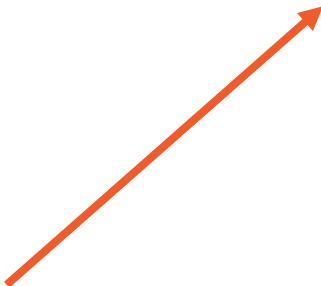
**Detail levels**



**Amounts available**



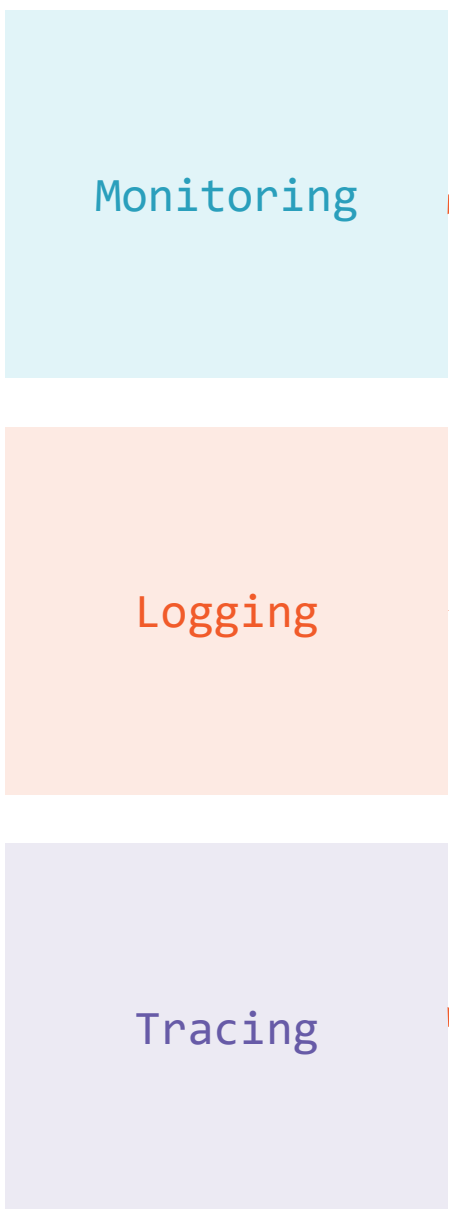
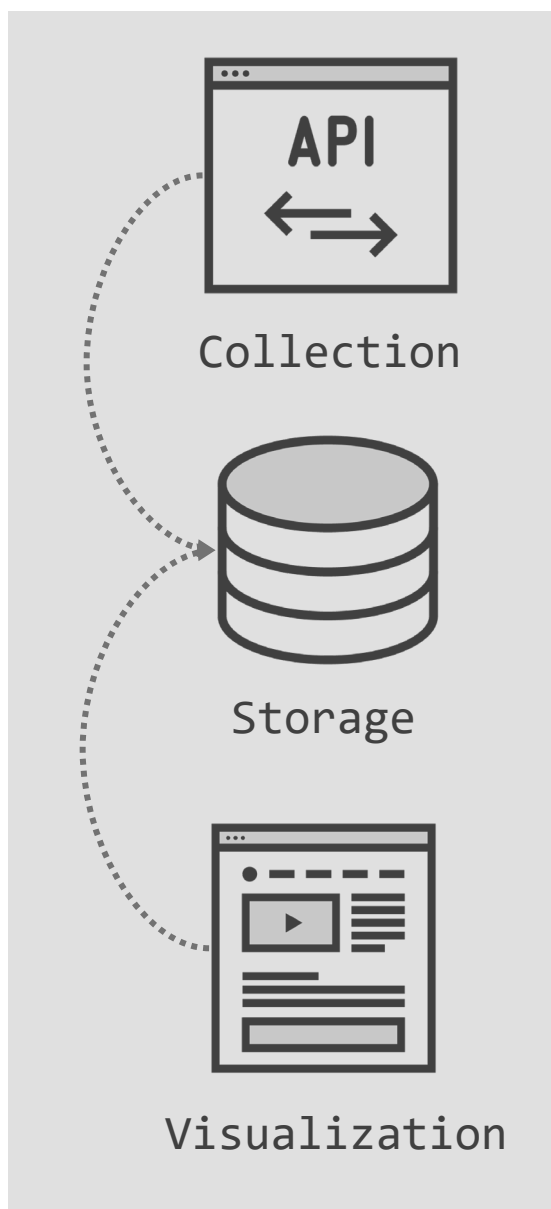
**Investigative tools**





# Exploring the Three Pillars of Observability

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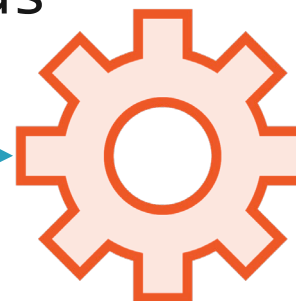


GET /metrics

- Latency
- Queue



- Threads
- GC



- CPU
- Memory



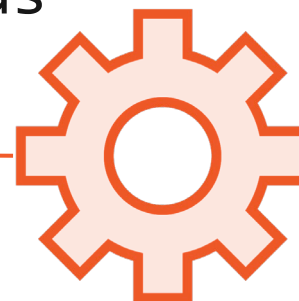


POST /metrics

- Latency
- Queue

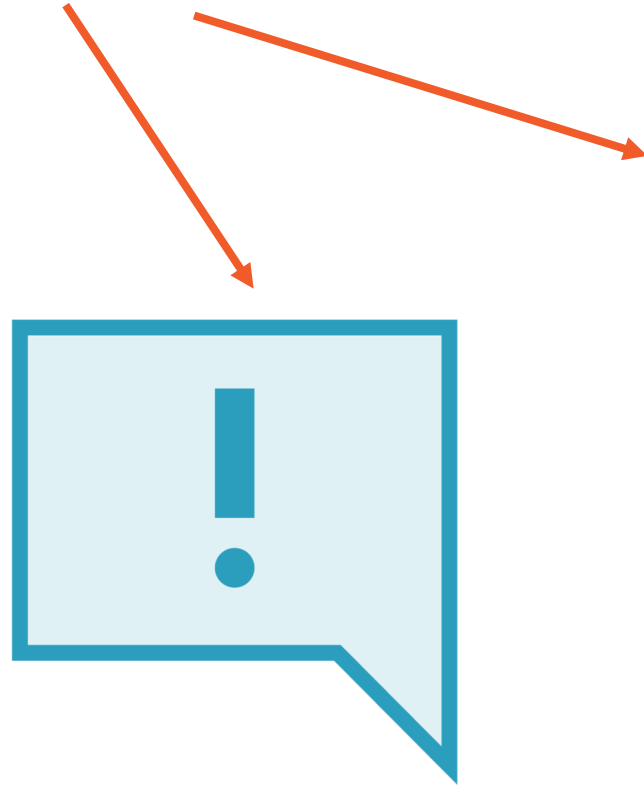


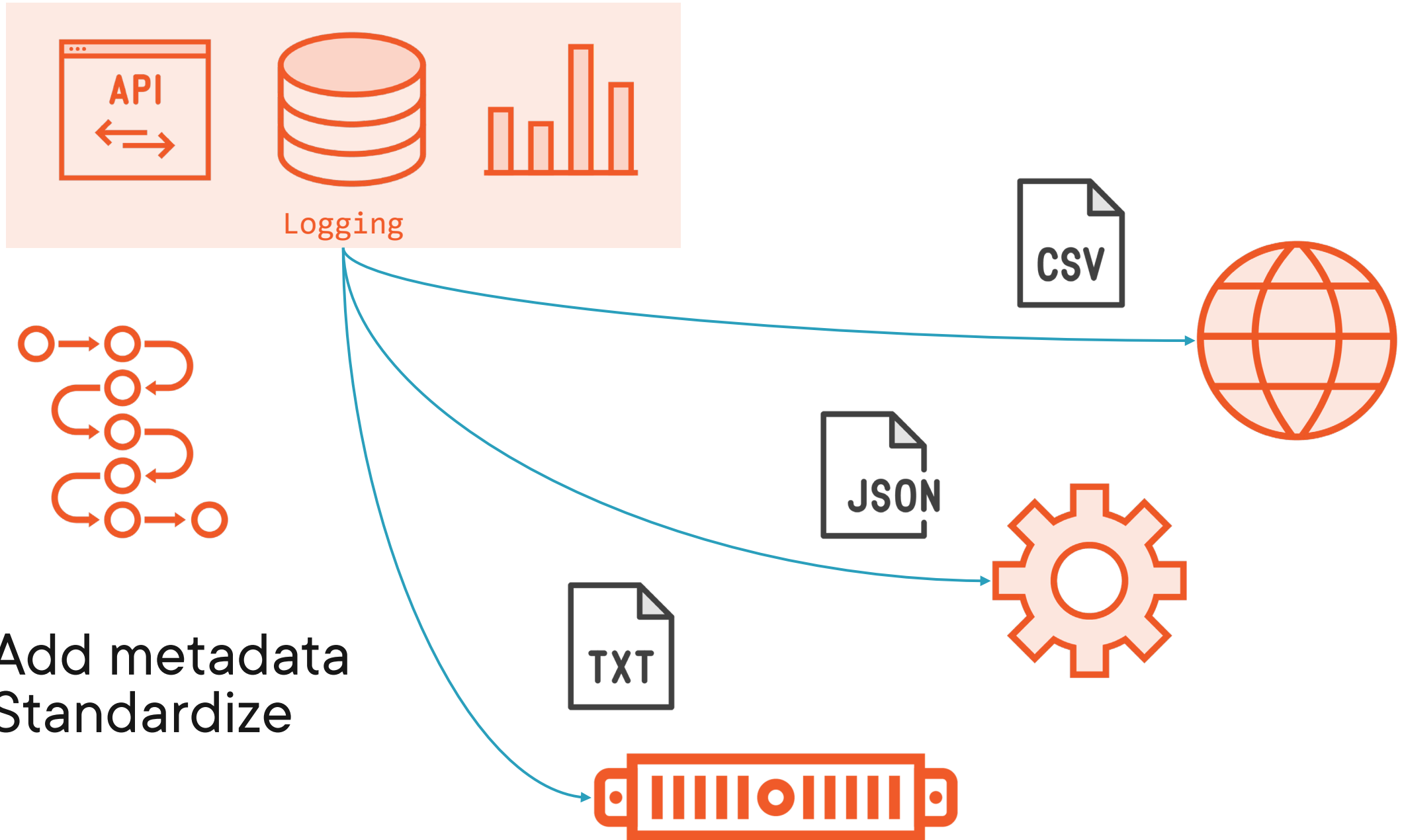
- Threads
- GC



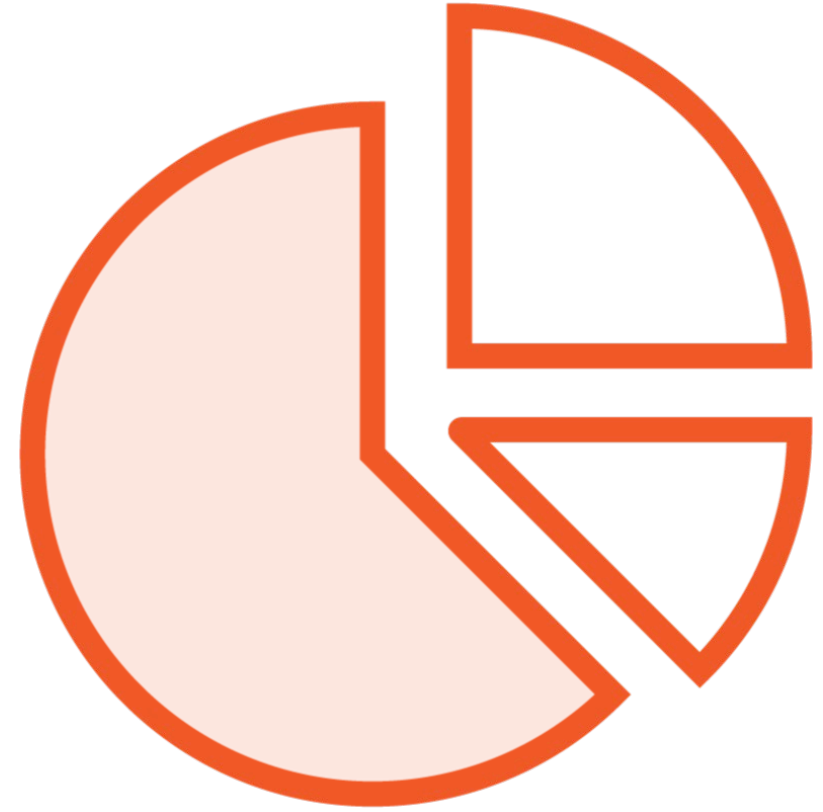
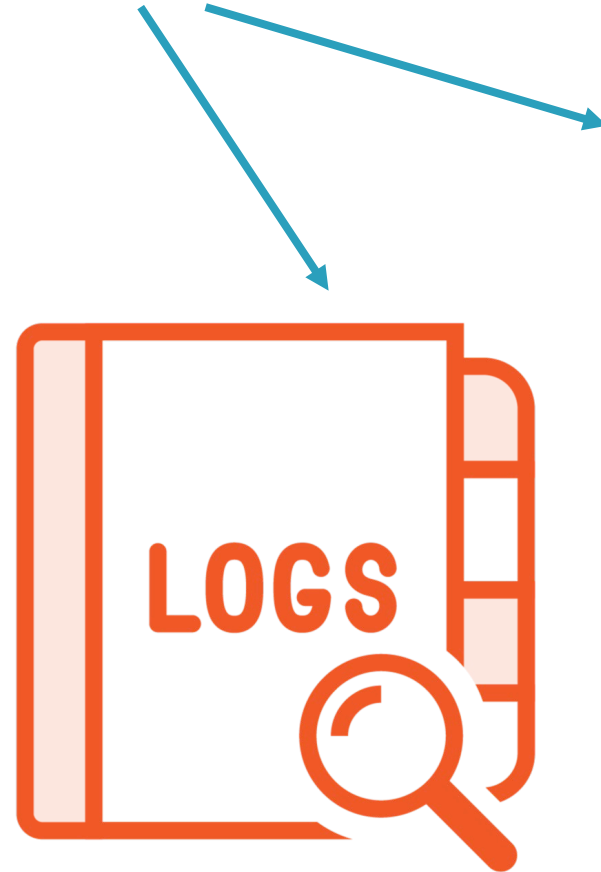
- CPU
- Memory







- Add metadata
- Standardize



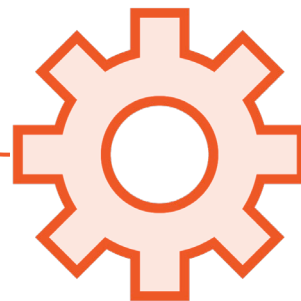


POST /traces

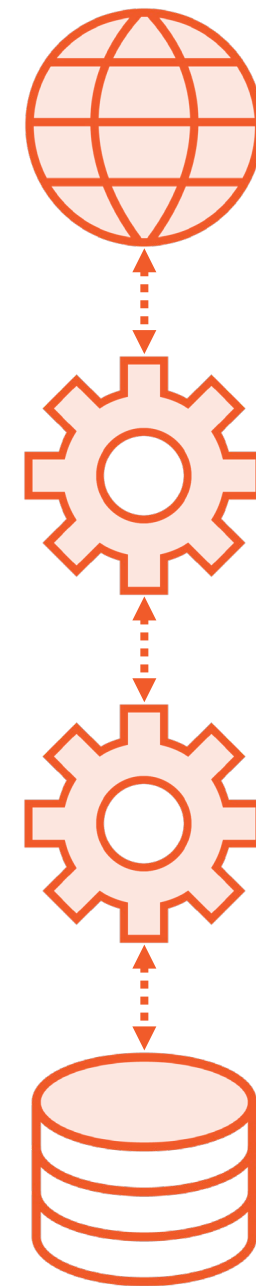
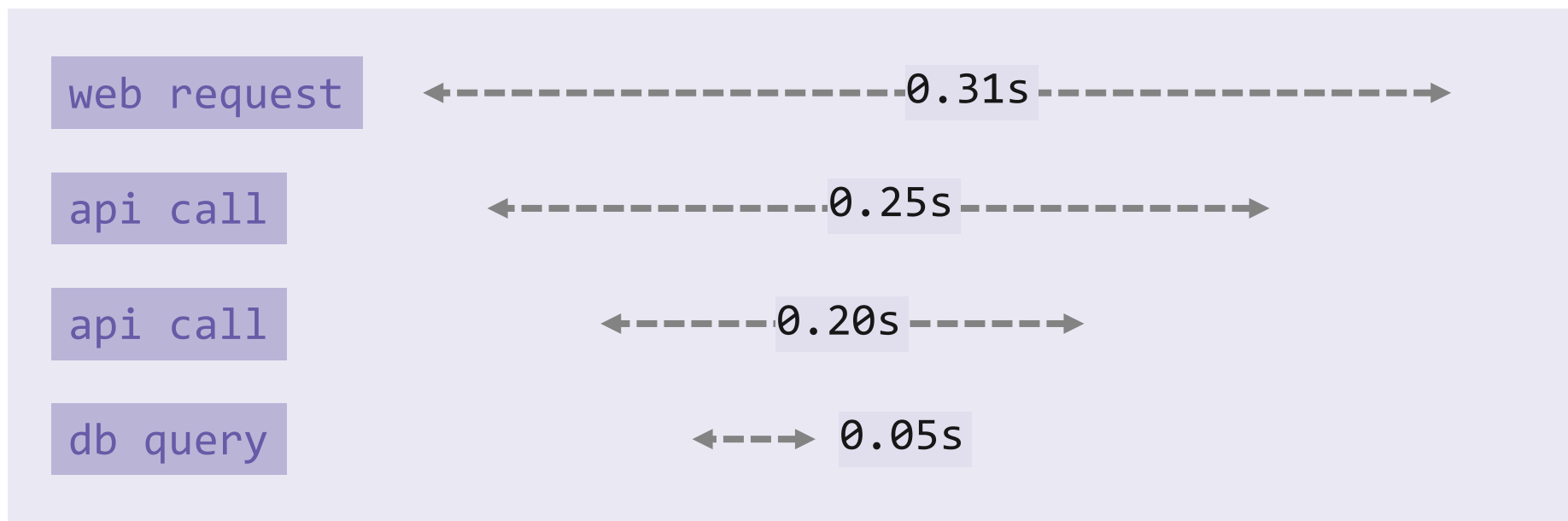
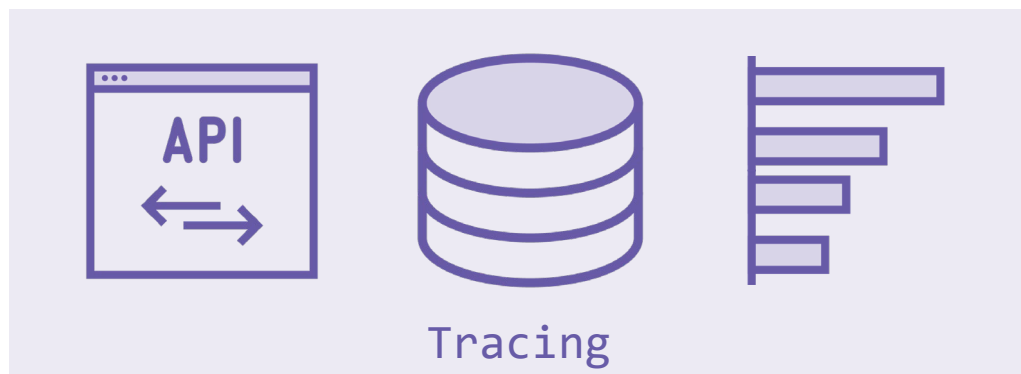
- Request sent
- Response received



- Request received
- Response sent





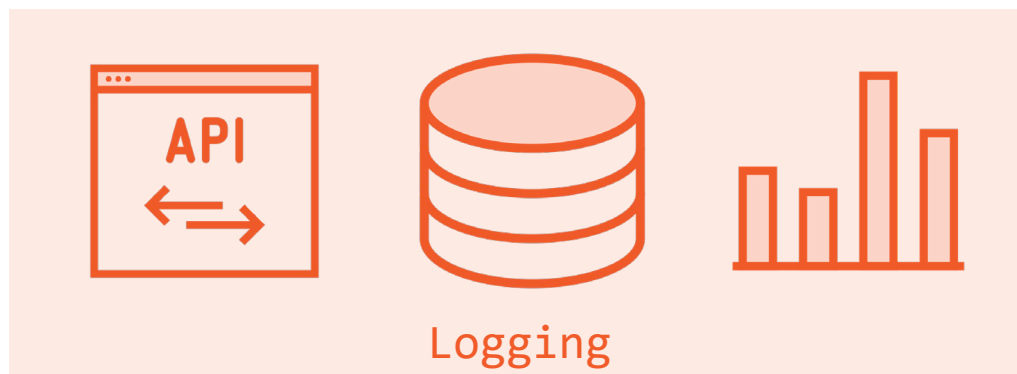


# #1



- Overall insight
- Uptime & usage
- App-level metrics

# #2



- Low-level detail
- Collect existing logs
- Transform pipeline

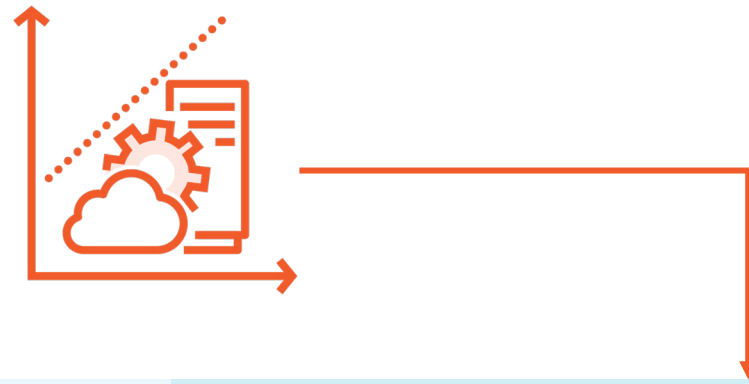
# #3



- Communication detail
- Visualize interaction
- Needs tracing library

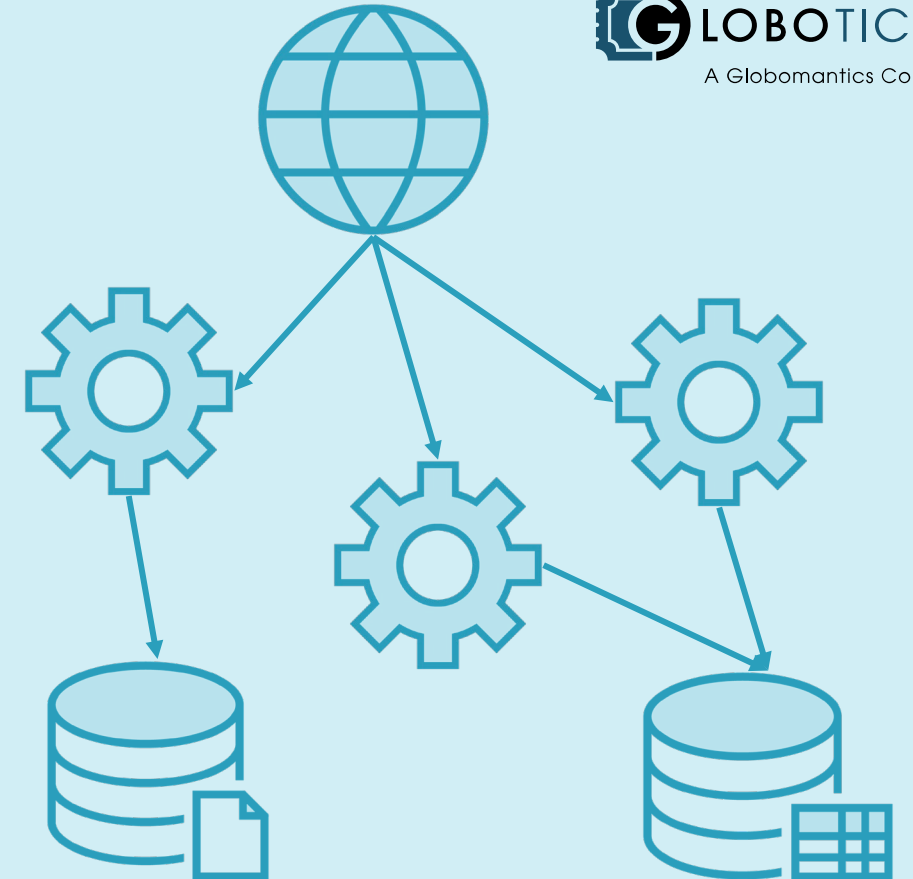
# Scenario: Putting Metrics to Use

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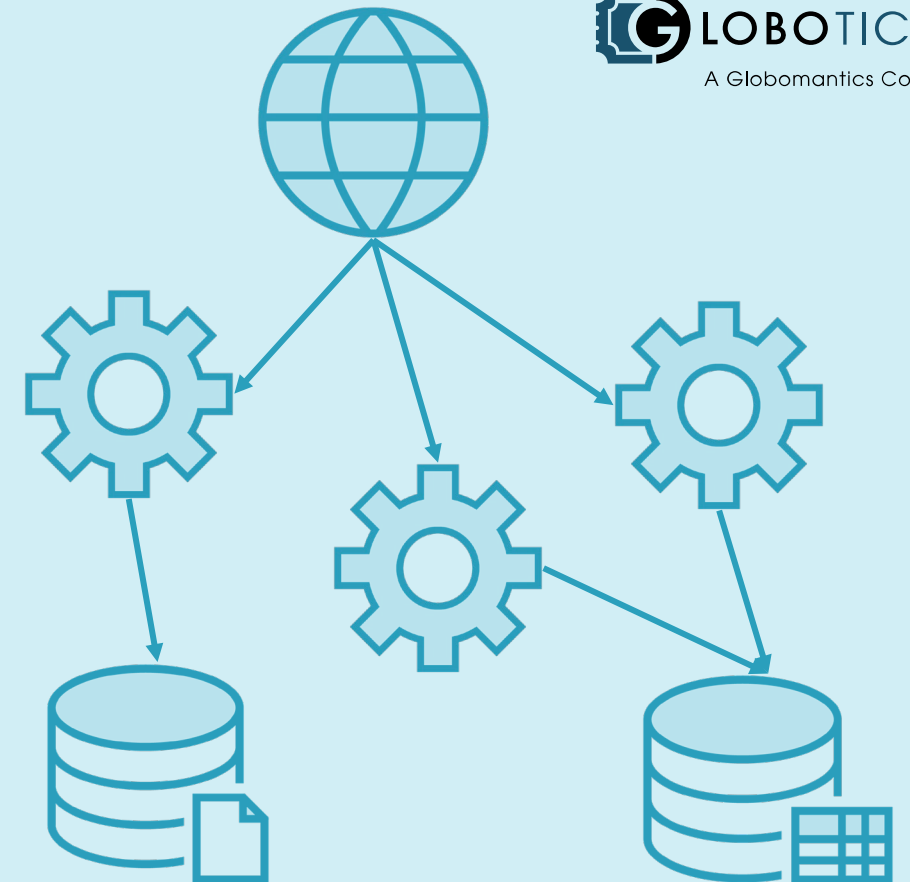
Amila

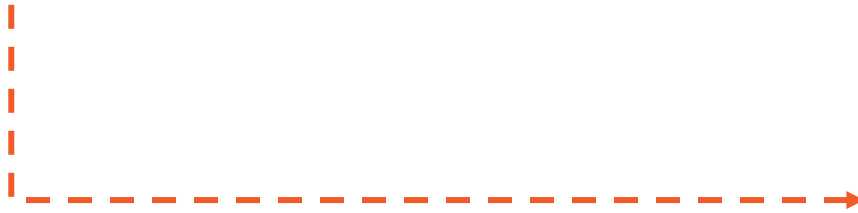
How do  
you add  
capacity  
when you  
need to?



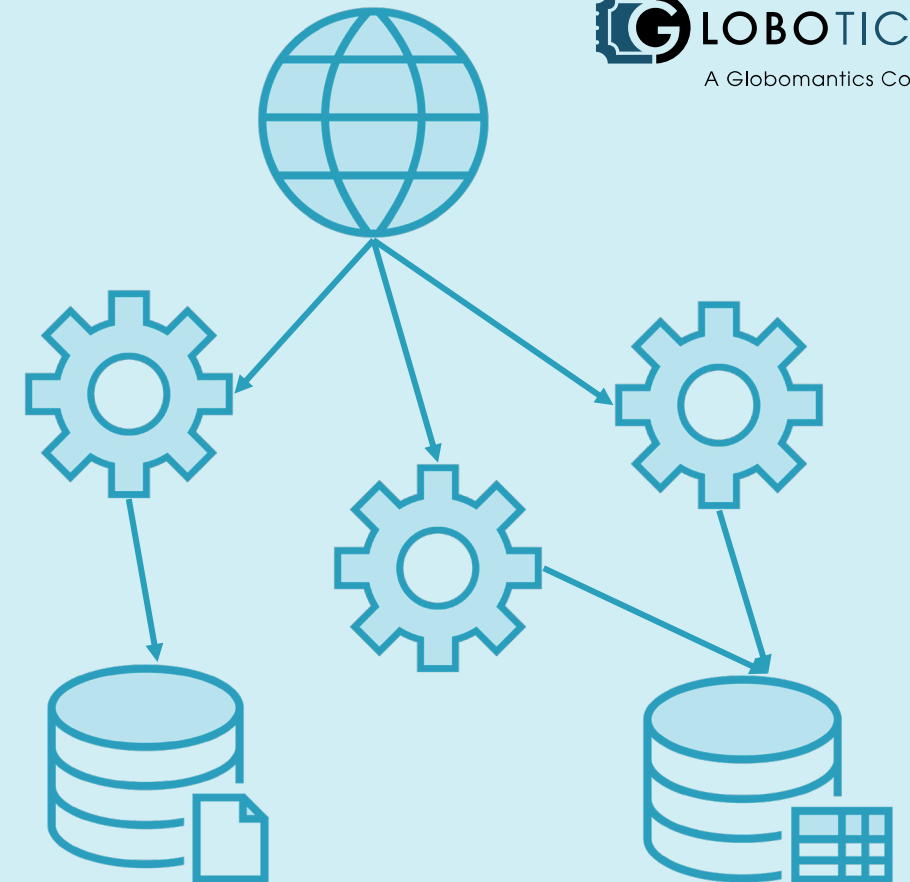


- CPU & memory measured
- Tracked by component
- Alerts outside normal range



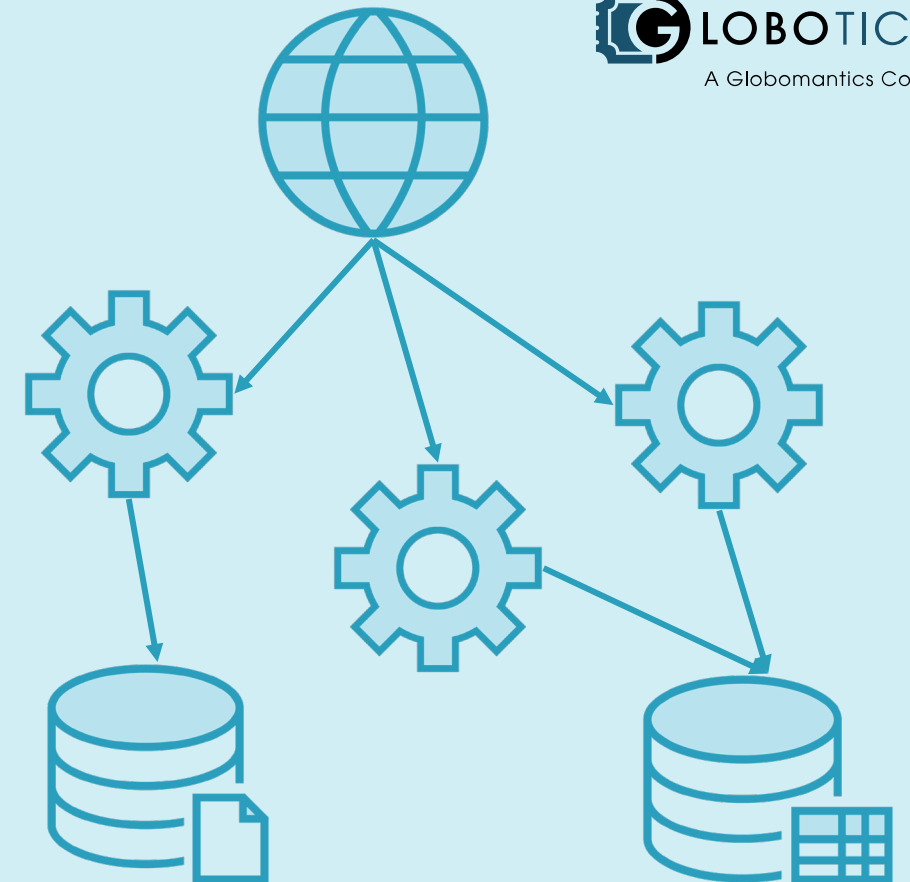


- Already auto-scaled
- Engineer investigates
- Adds more scale if needed



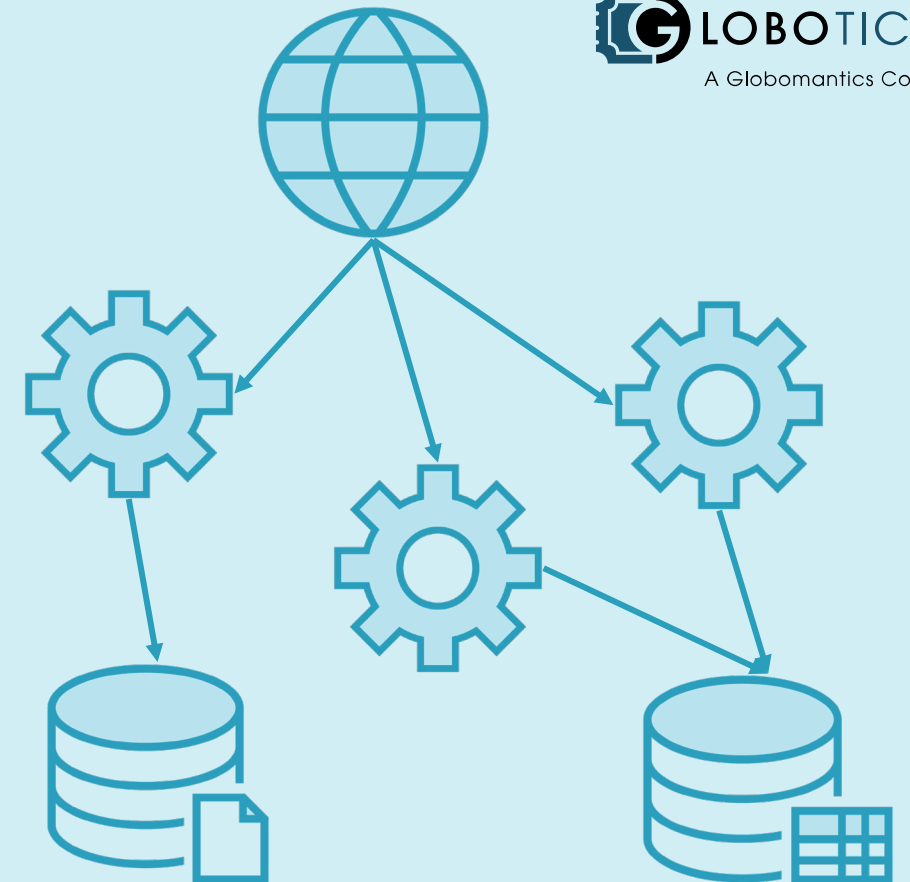


- Alert on budget
- Standard runbook
- Scale guidance



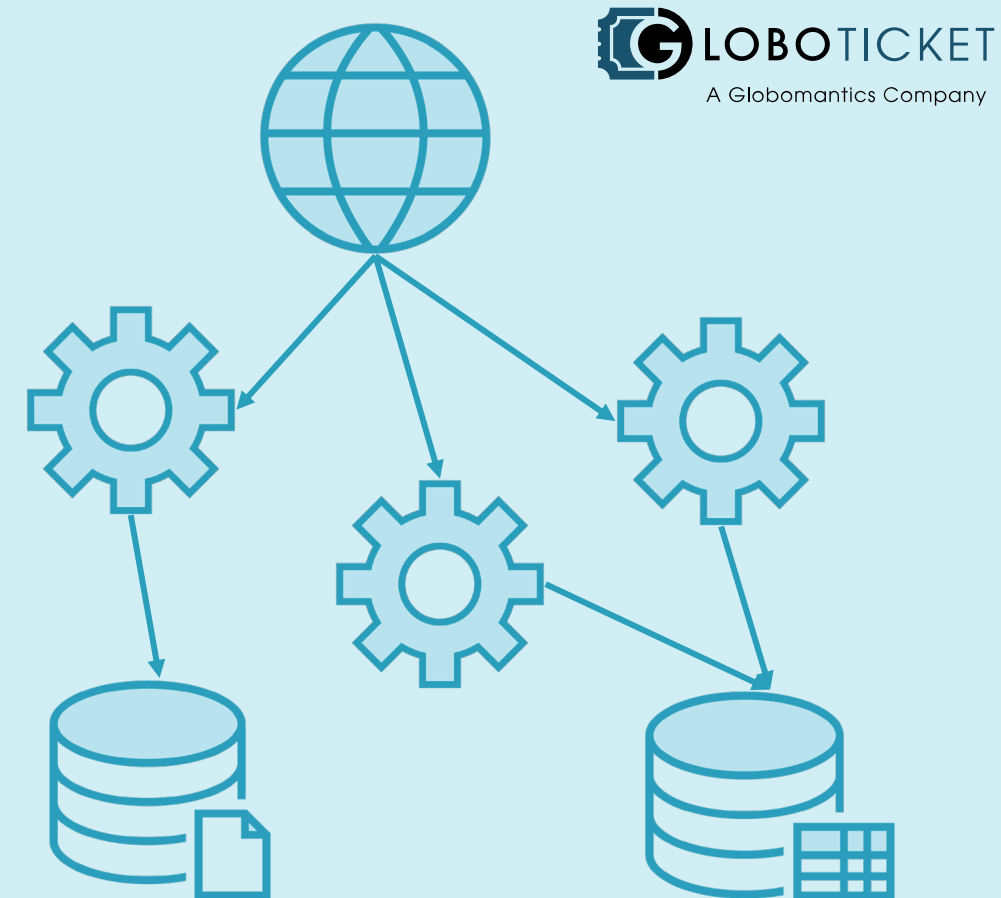
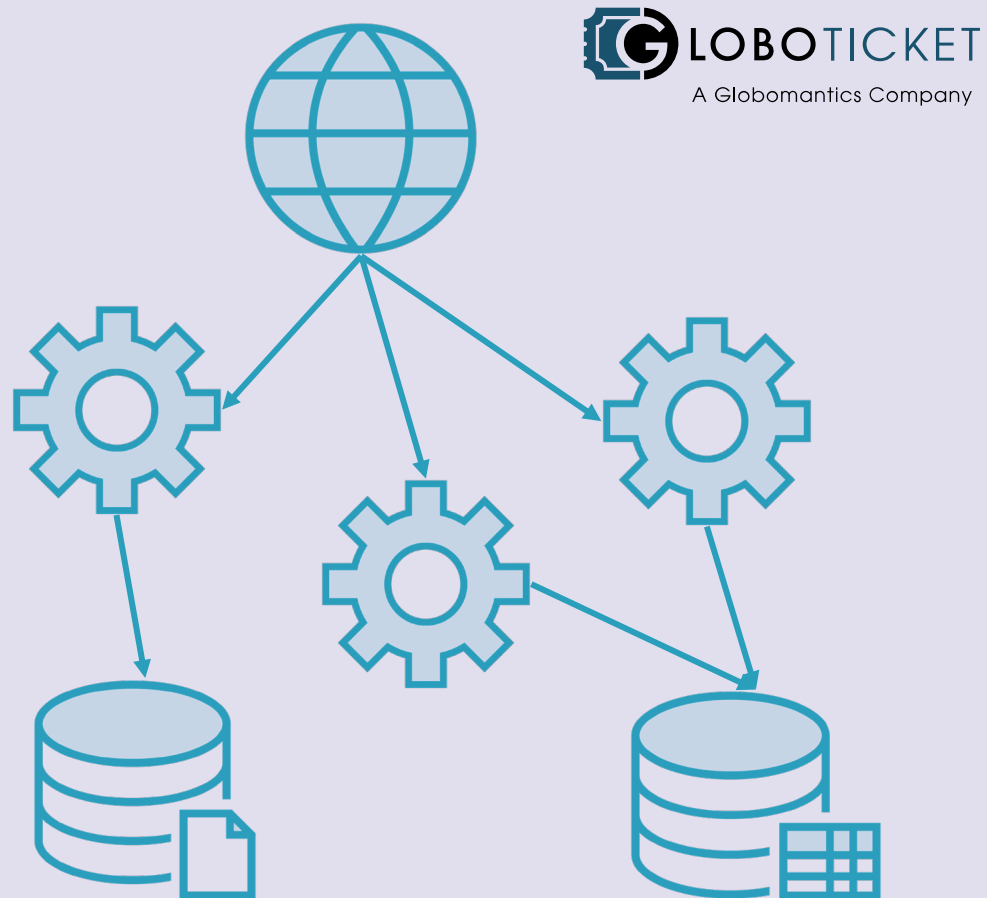
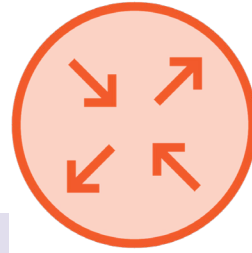


Can you  
shift  
traffic  
between  
regions?

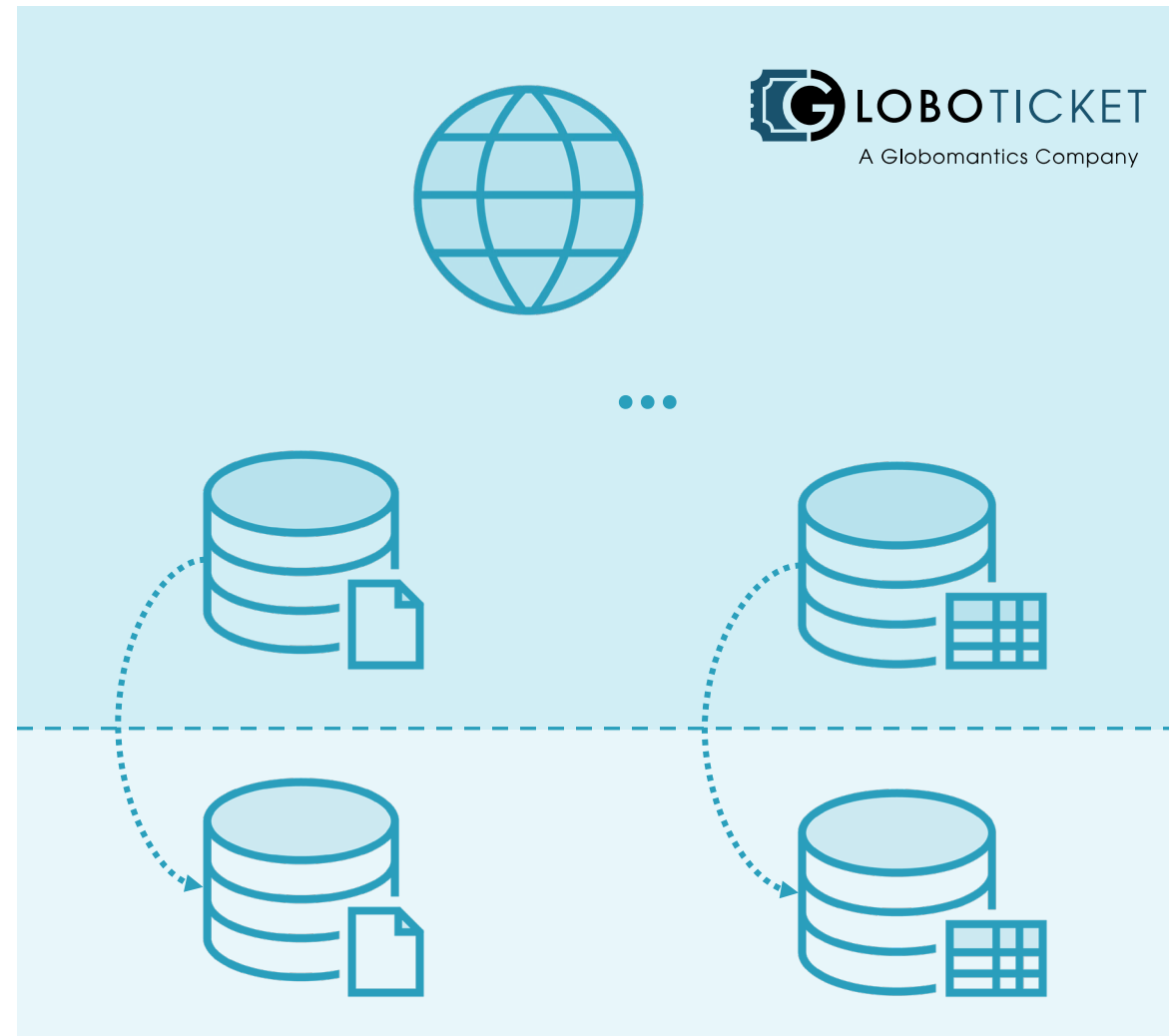
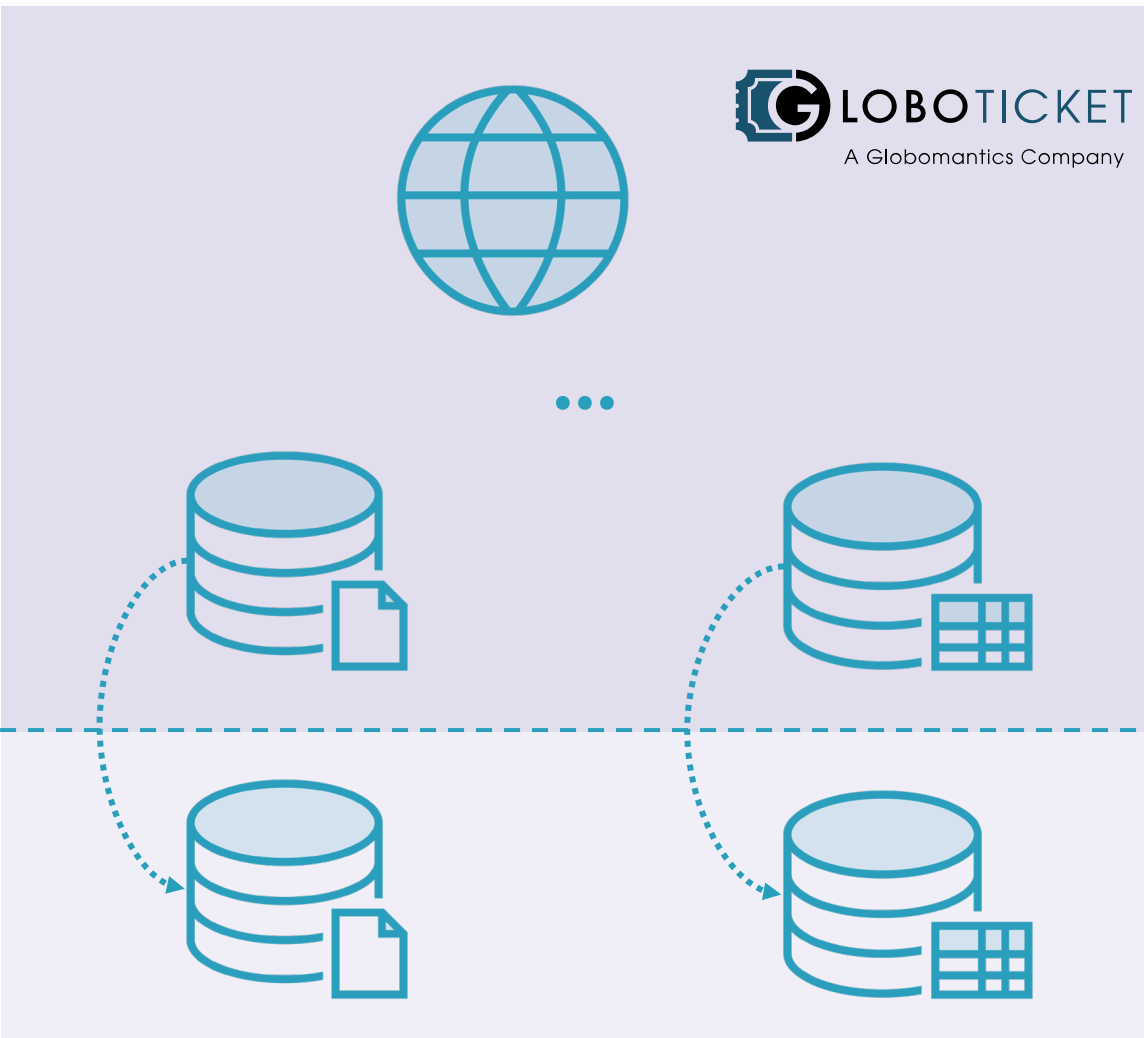
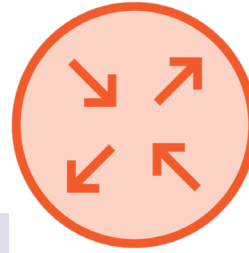




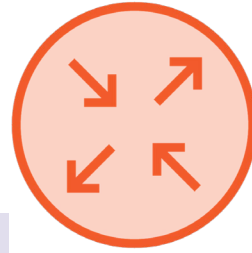
- DNS routing
- Latency + health

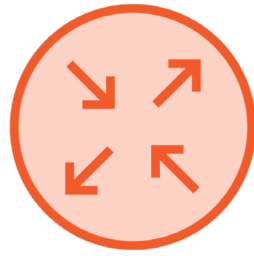


- Region-specific data
- Replicated in region

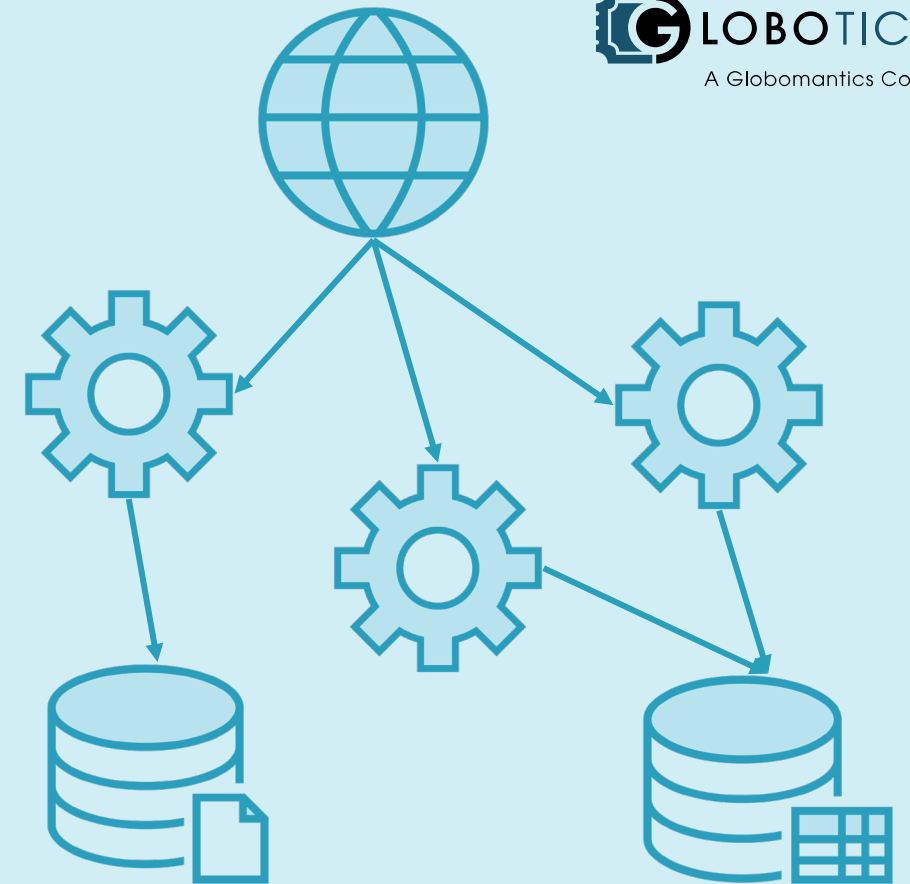


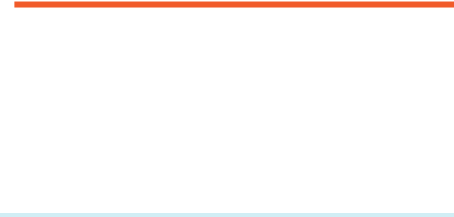
- Global replication
- Platform feature



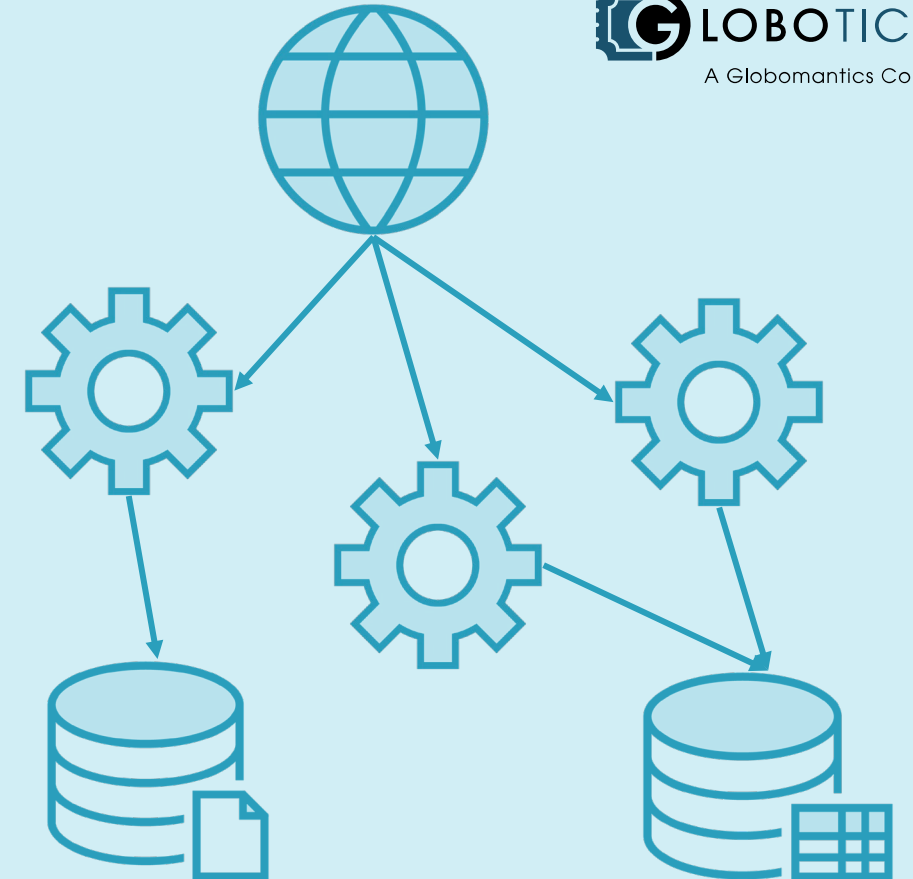


- Global data
- Routing metrics
- Manual override



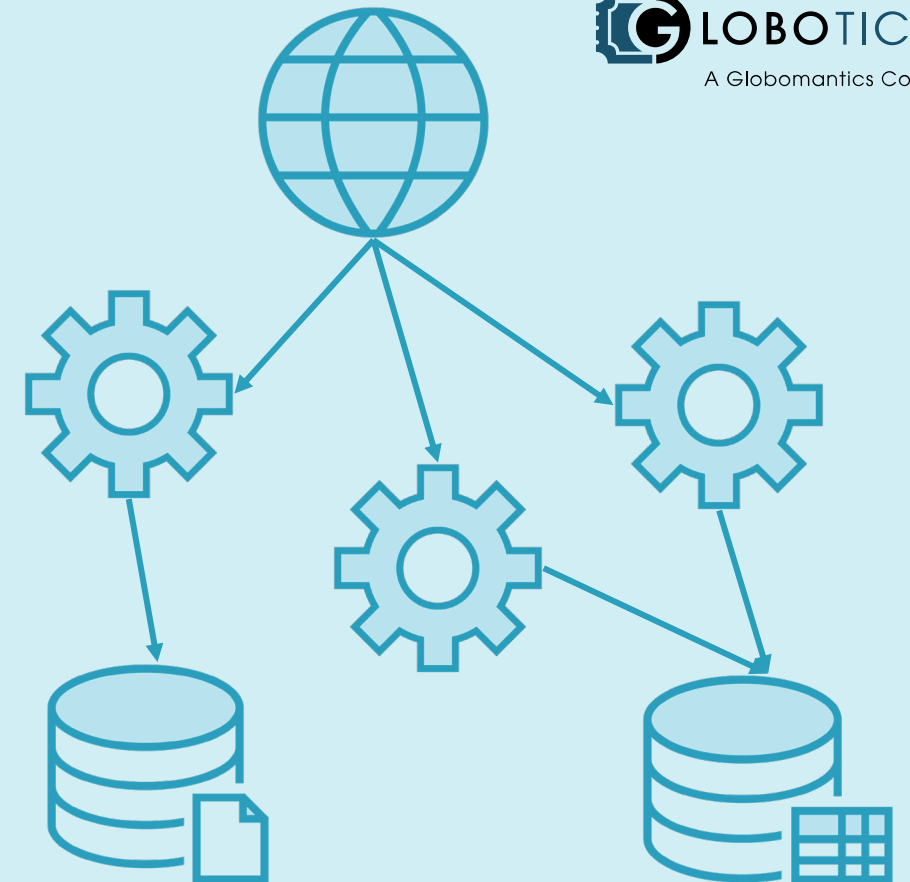


# When do you downgrade service levels?



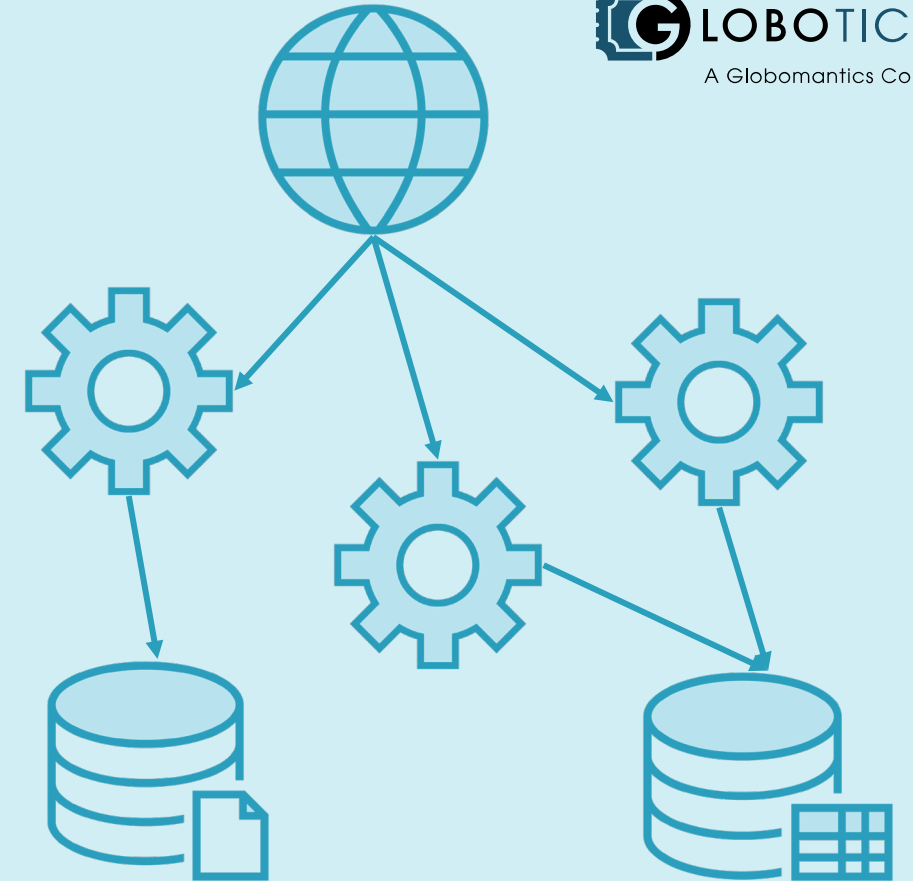


- Component saturation?
- Region saturation?
- Global saturation?





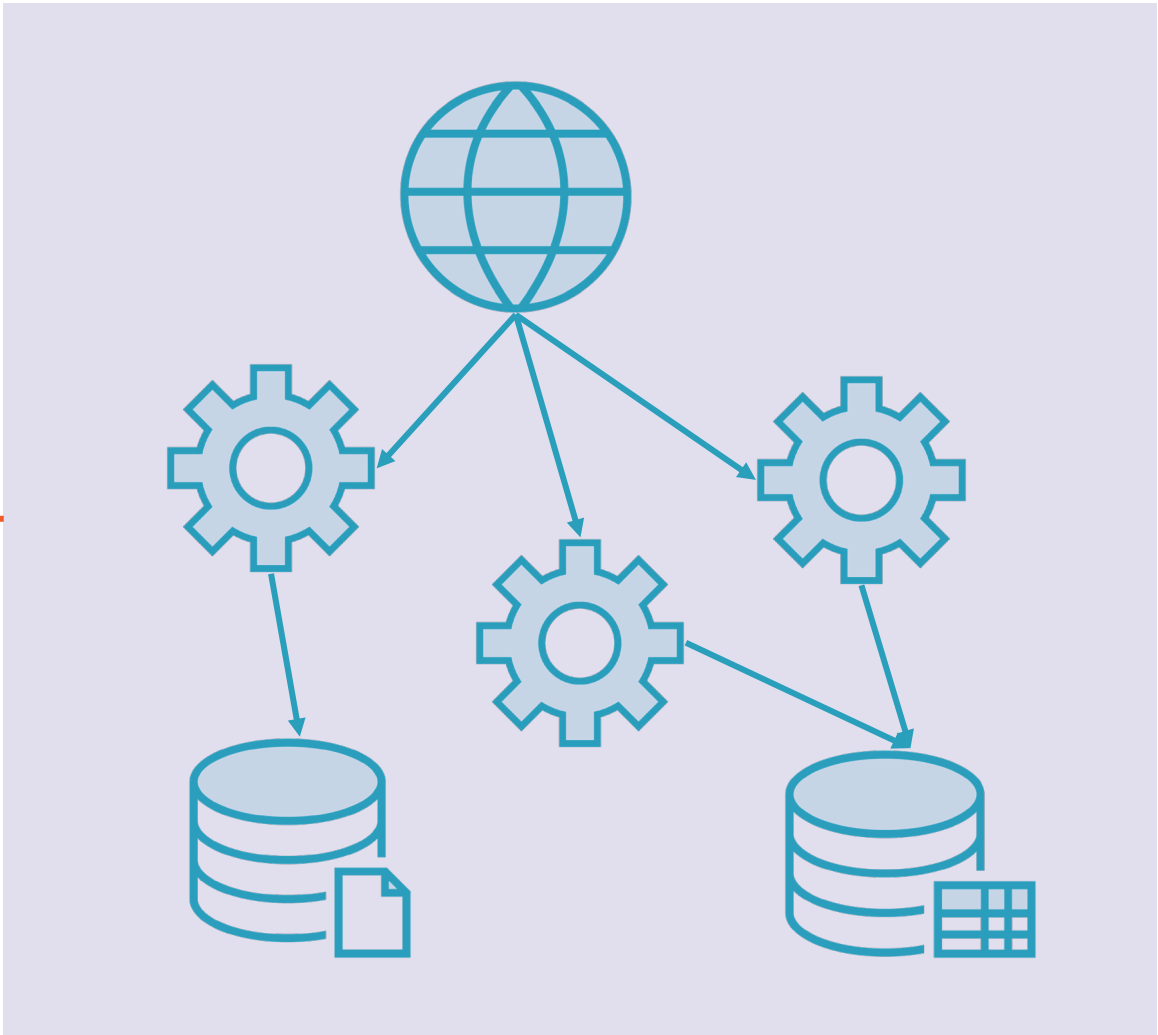
- Health dashboards
- Metric metadata
- Quick triage



# Supporting Triage with High-level Metadata

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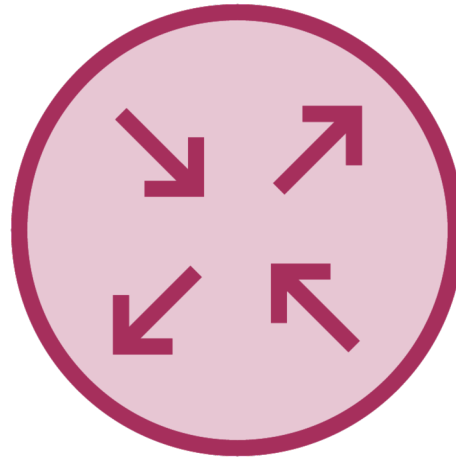




# Triage: First Responses



**Scale up**  
*If compute-bound*



**Re-route traffic**  
*If regional*



**Downgrade service**  
*If global*

# Core Metrics



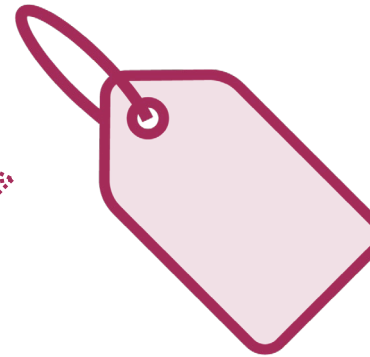
**Traffic**



**Latency**



**Saturation**



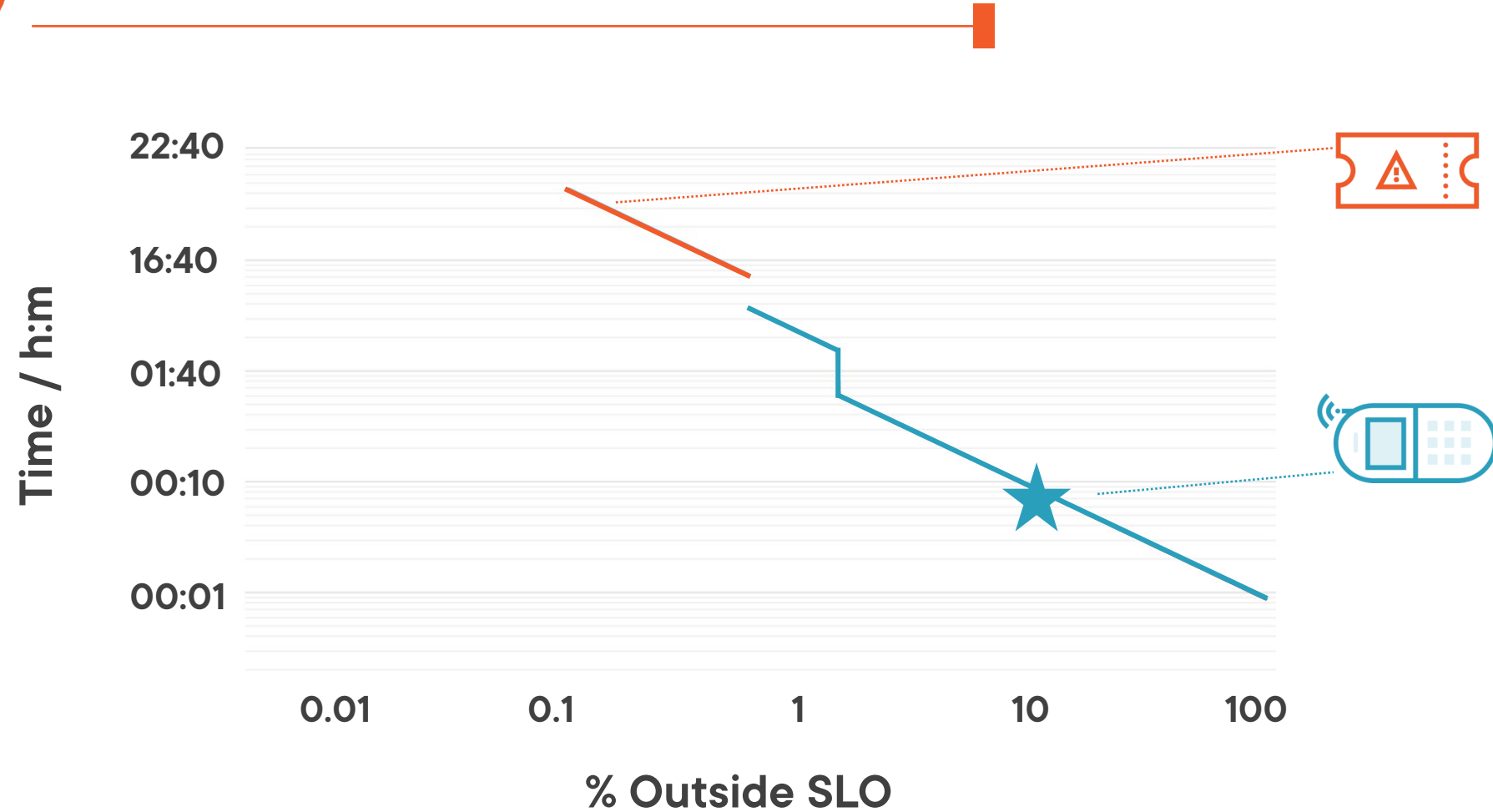
- Region
- Component

# Alerting on Error Budget Burn



Latency

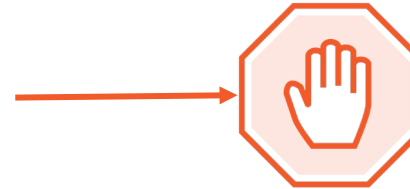
SLO: 99.9% within 2sec



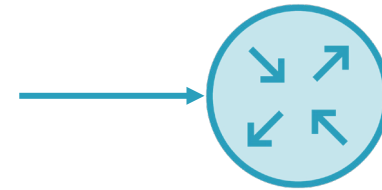
# Identifying First Response



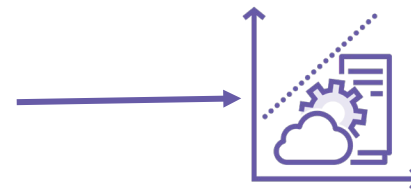
**Traffic and saturation high globally**

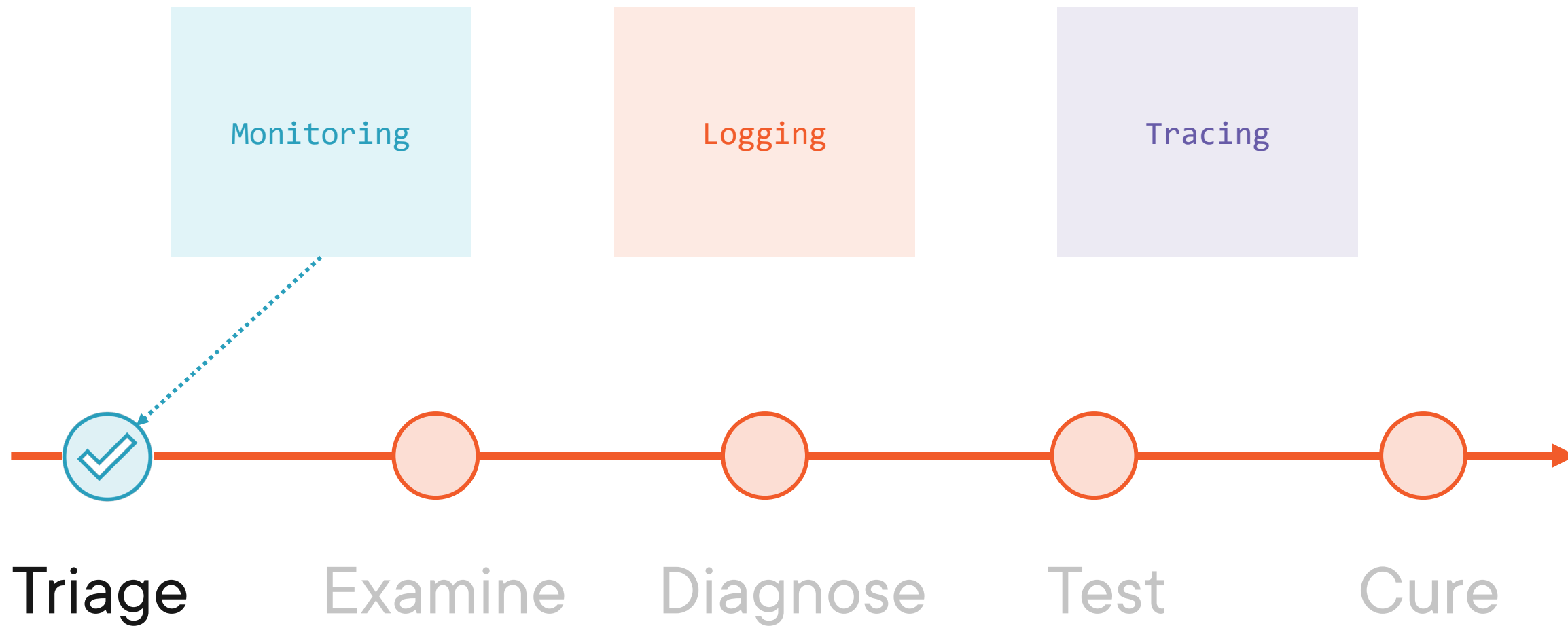


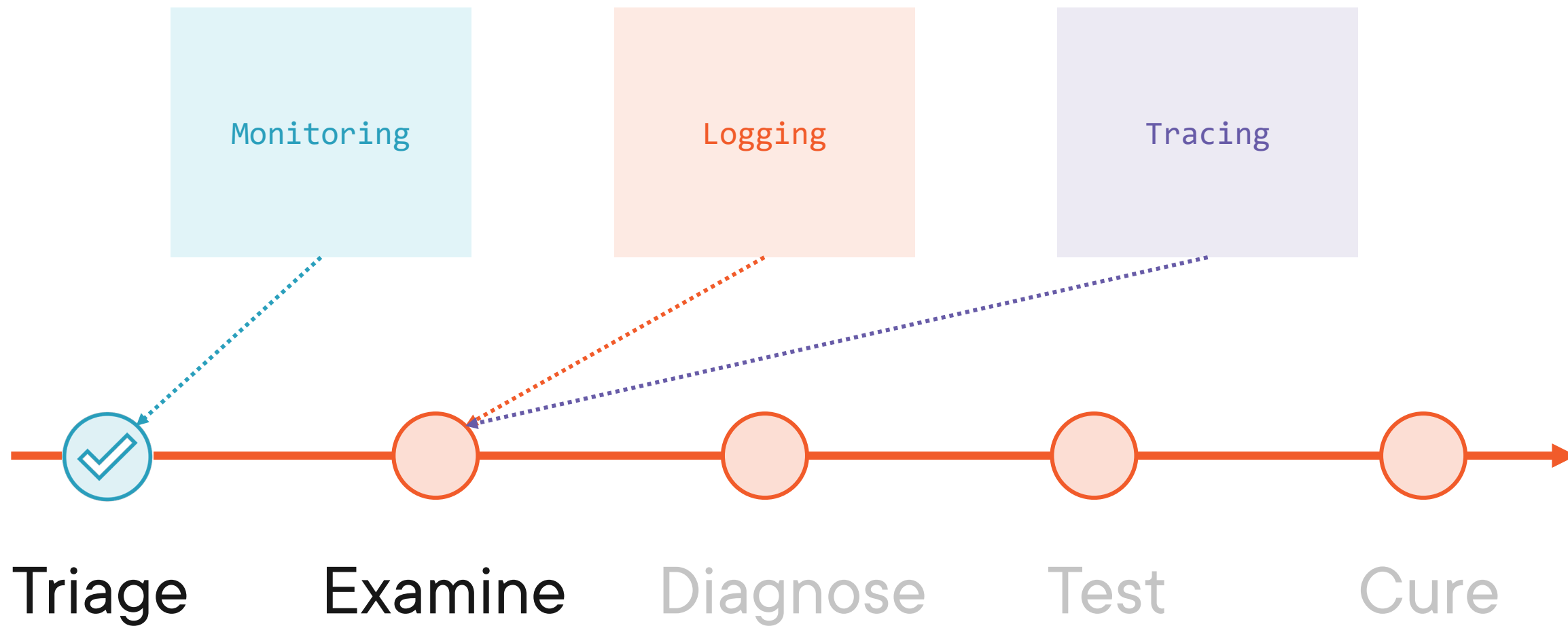
**Traffic high for all components in one region**



**One component saturated in one region**



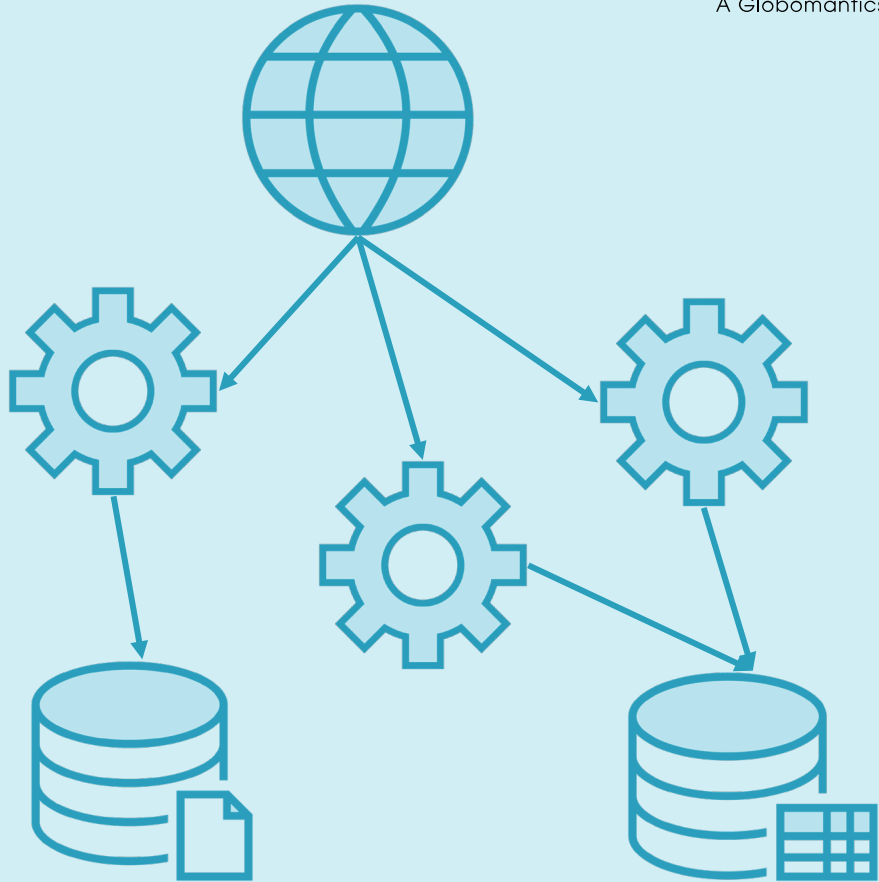
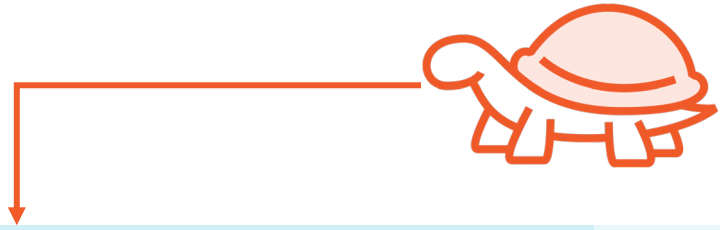




# Scenario: Putting Traces to Use

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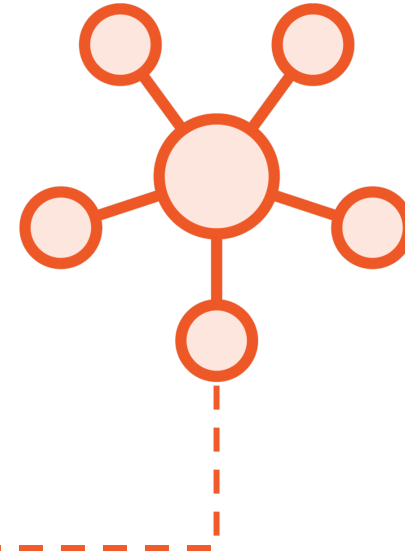


# Latency spikes - which is the slow service?

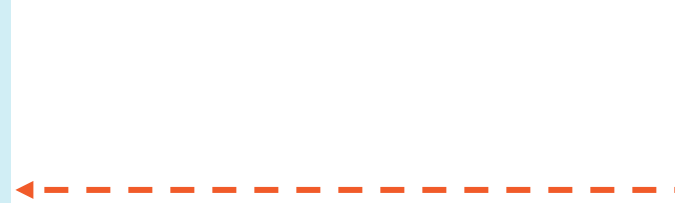
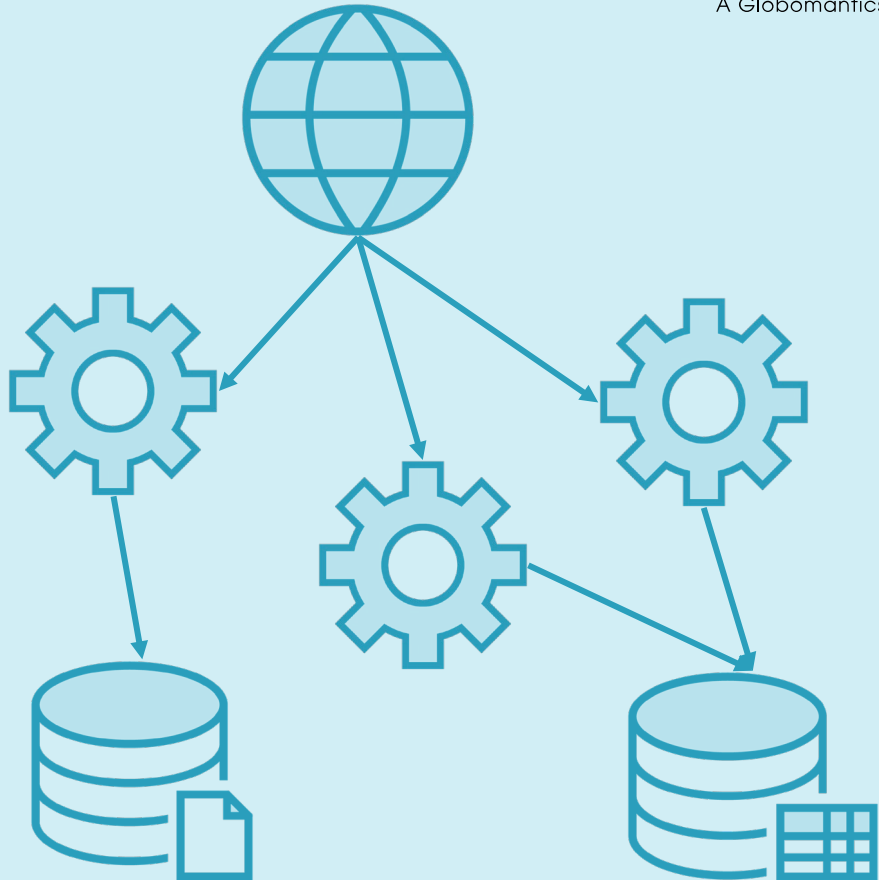




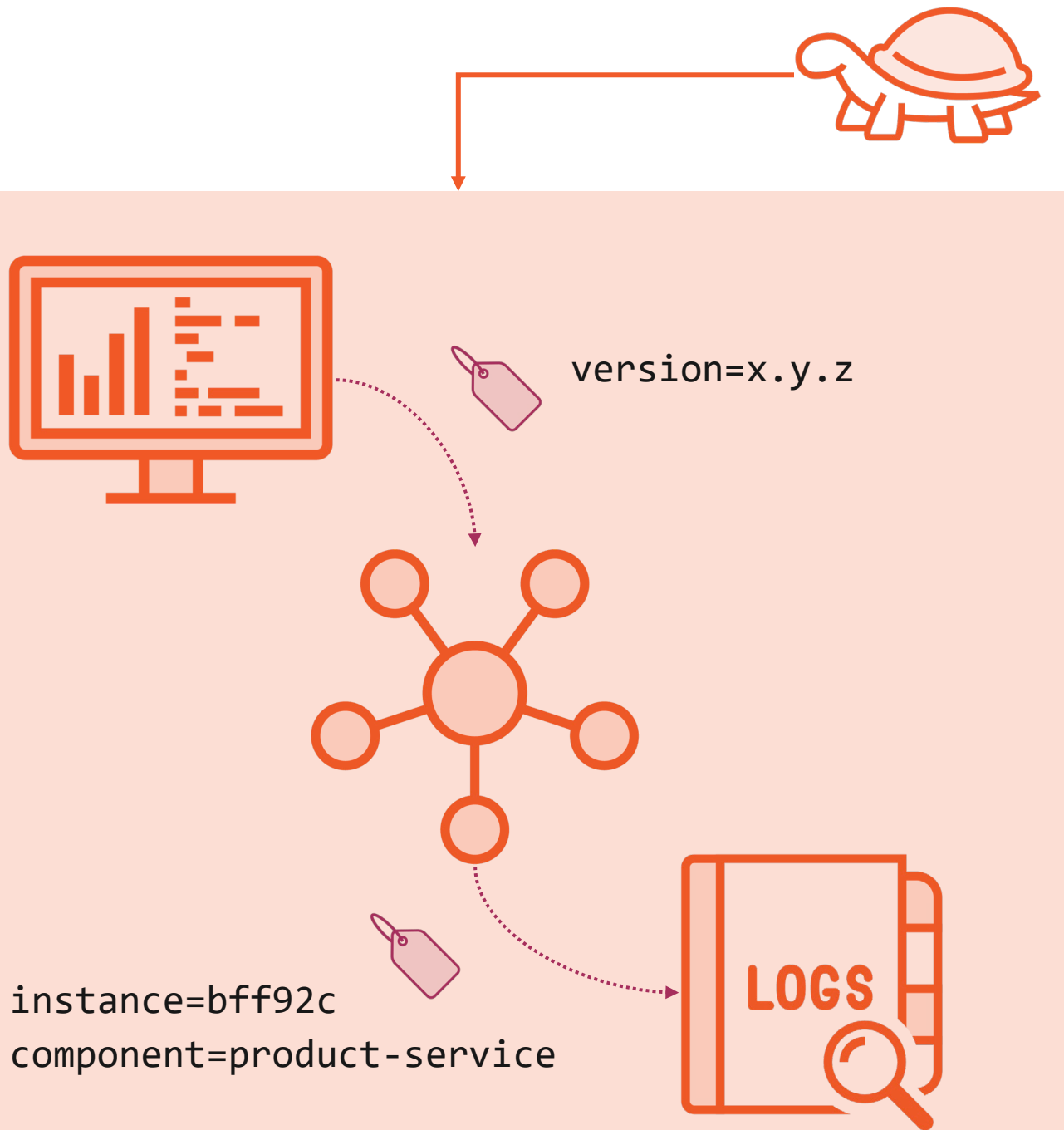
- Versioned metrics
- Filter before and after
- Confirm release trigger



- Filter traces by time
- Sample before and after
- Identify slow instance

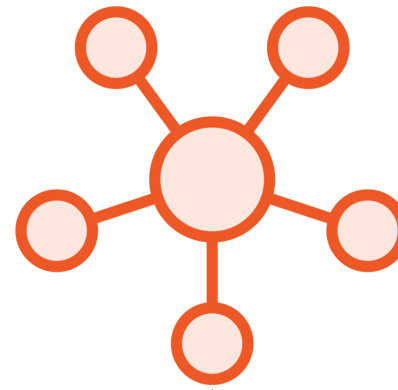


- Filter logs by instance
- Filter by time
- Drill into detail

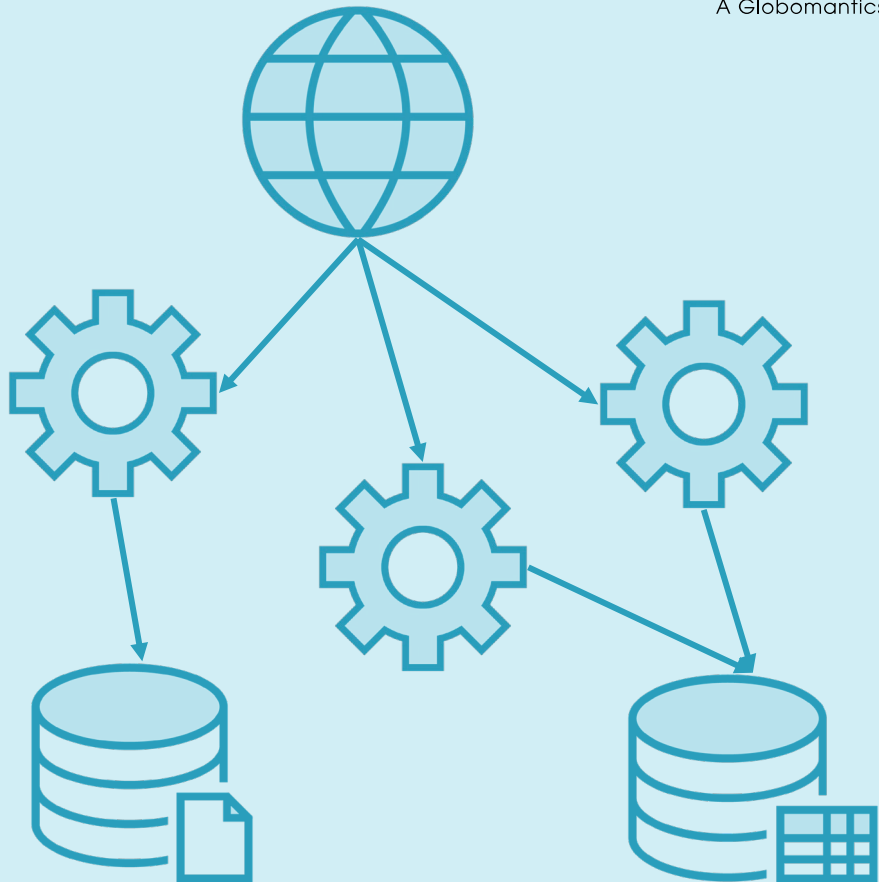
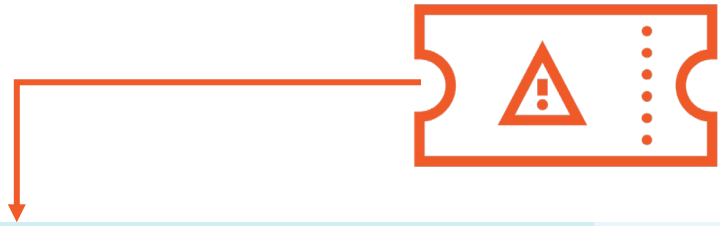


- Version in traces
- Trace ID in logs
- Is the data there?





- 1/1000 traces sampled
- Logs at WARN level



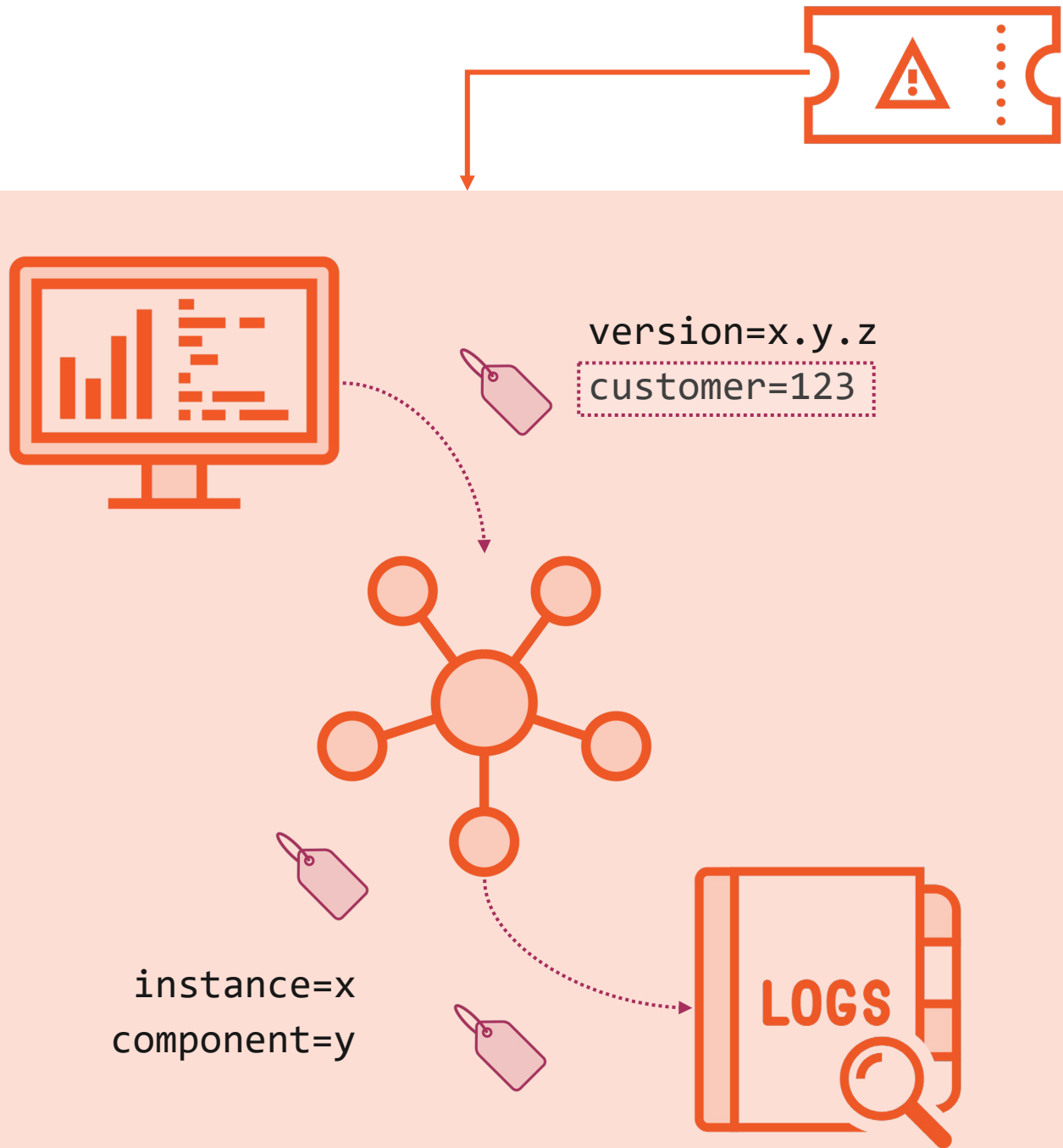
Poor  
experience  
for one  
customer -  
why?





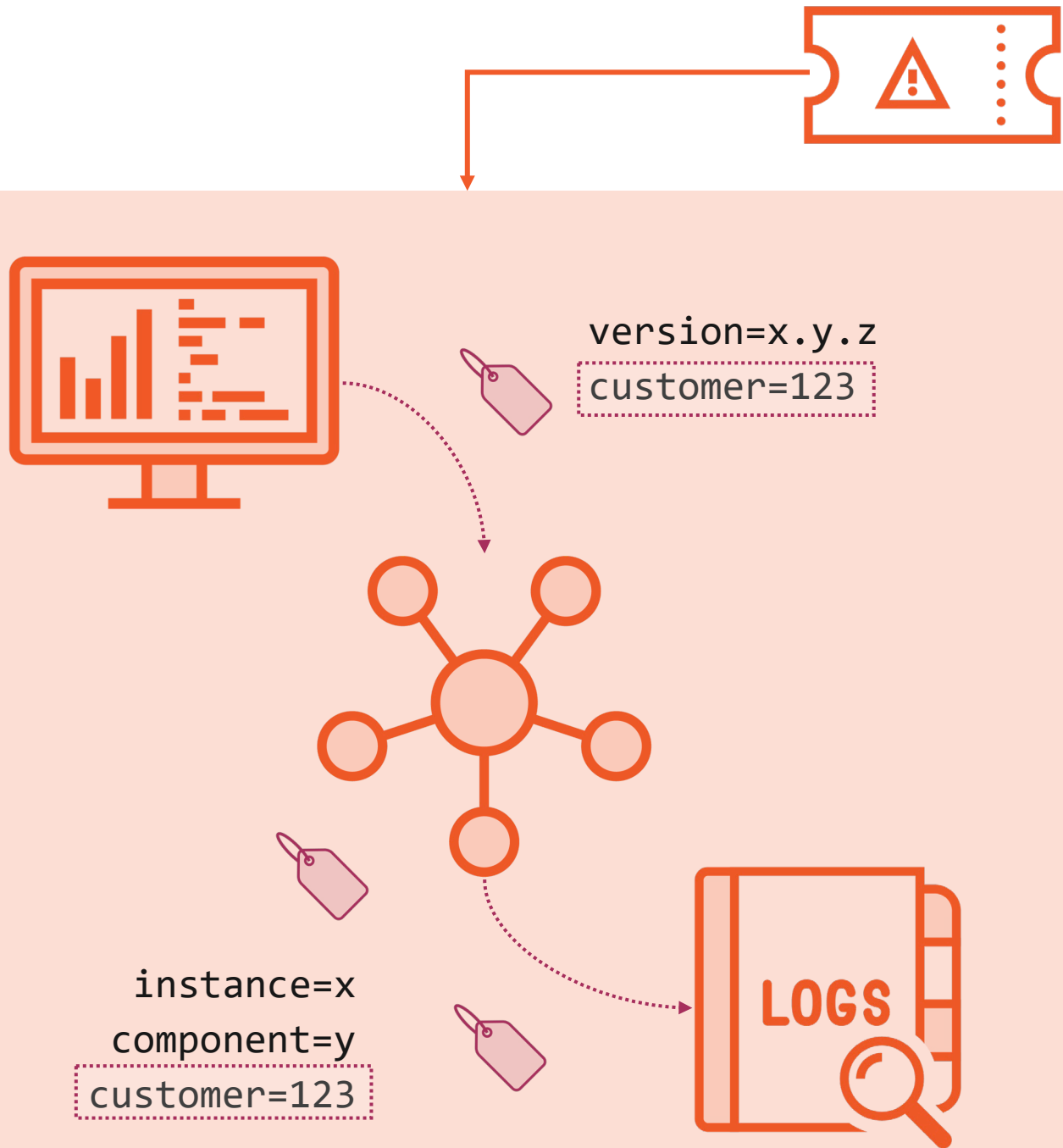
- No customer IDs
- Specific feature?
- Call product team





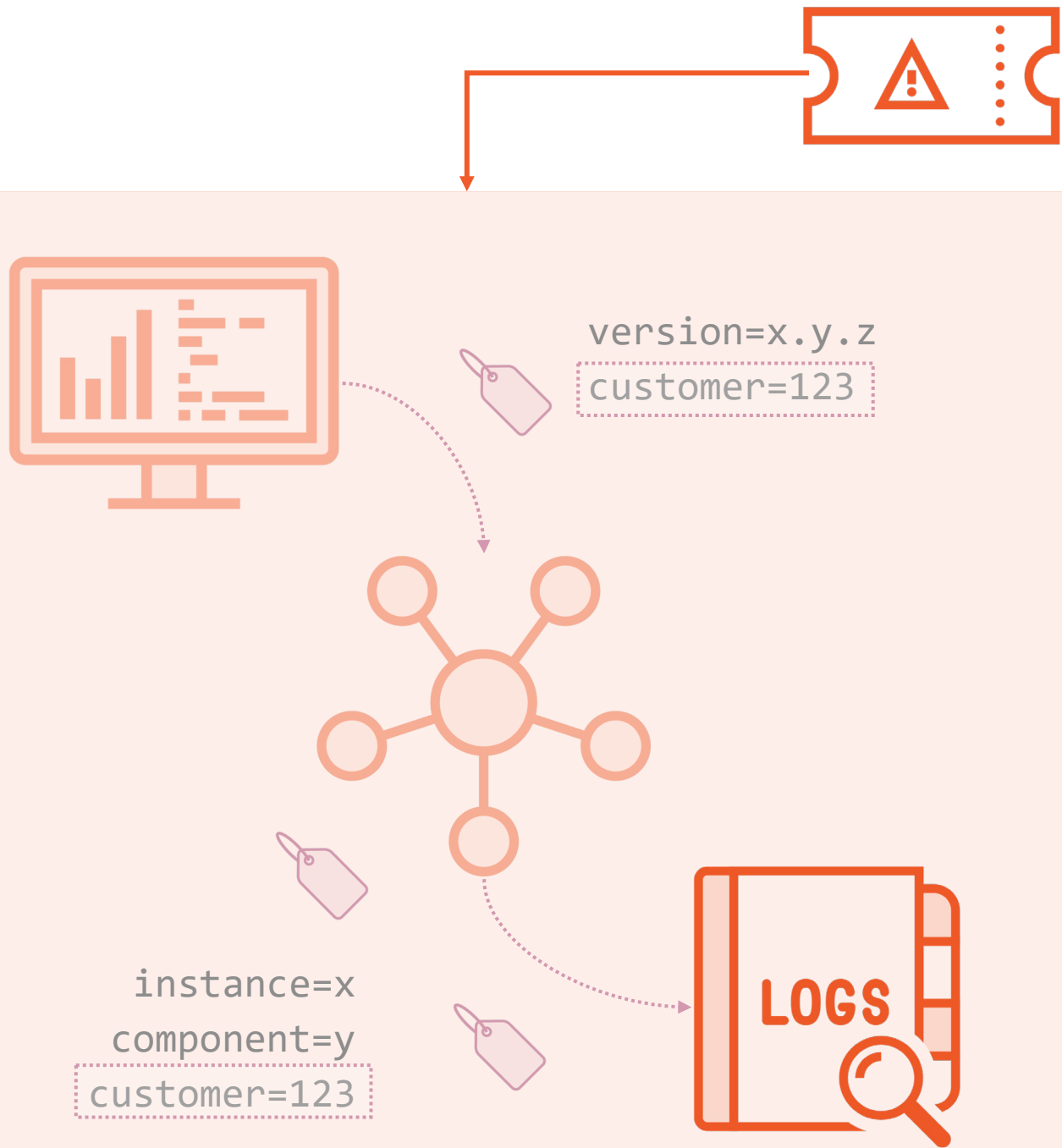
- Low-level metadata
- Not for all metrics
- Customer SLOs





- Trace by customer
- Add ID to logs
- Work backwards



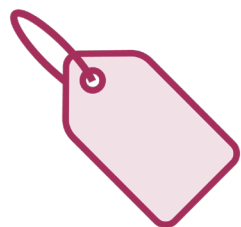


- Is the data there?

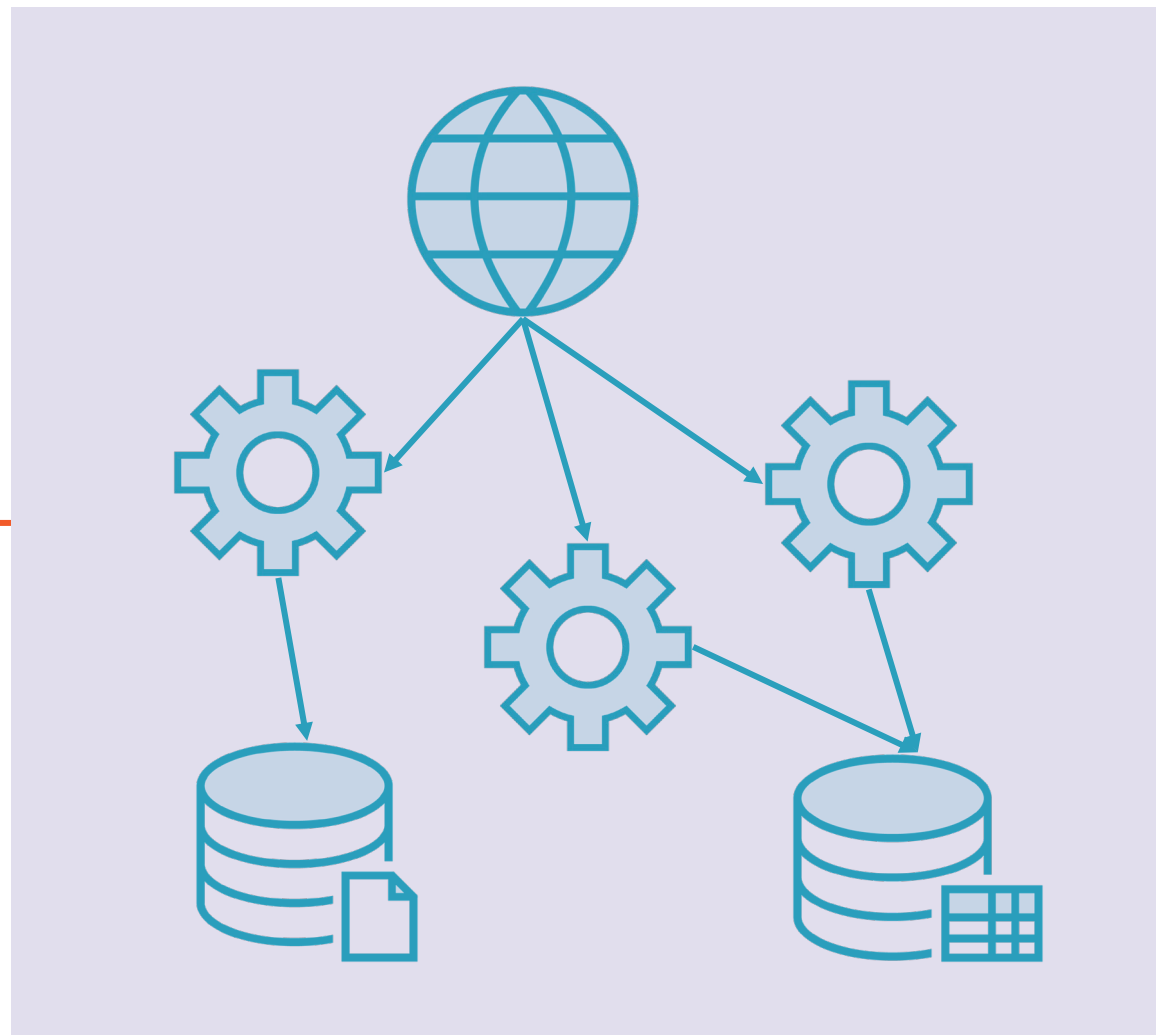


# Supporting Examination with Low-level Metadata

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- Region
- Component



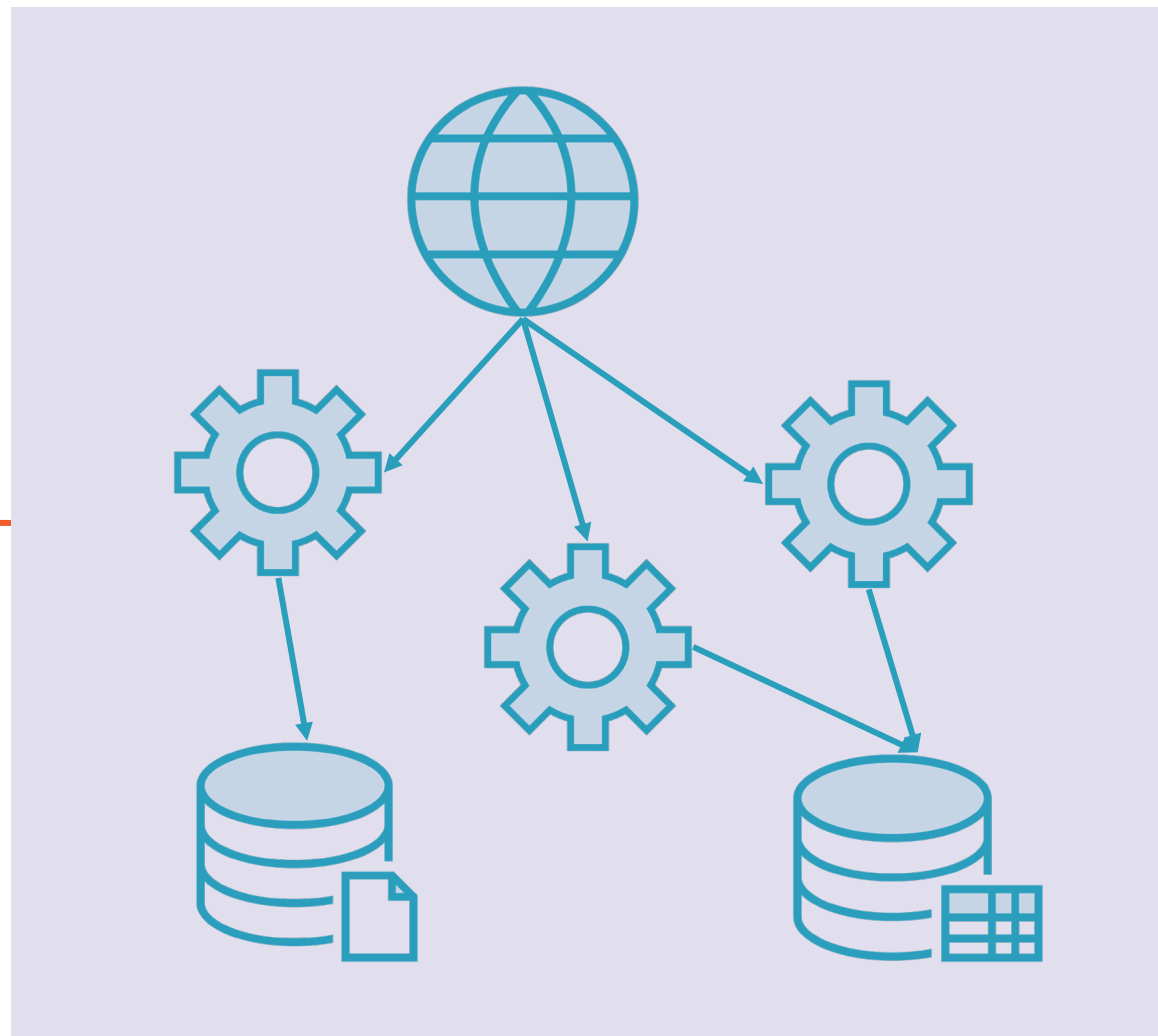


latency{component=1,region=1}: 0.9

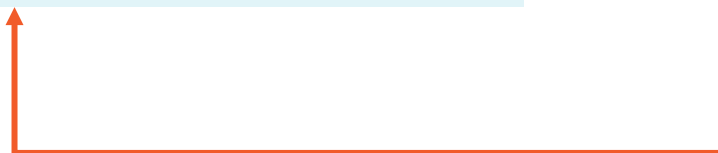
latency{component=1,region=2}: 0.7

...

latency{component=20,region=4}: 0.1



480/hr

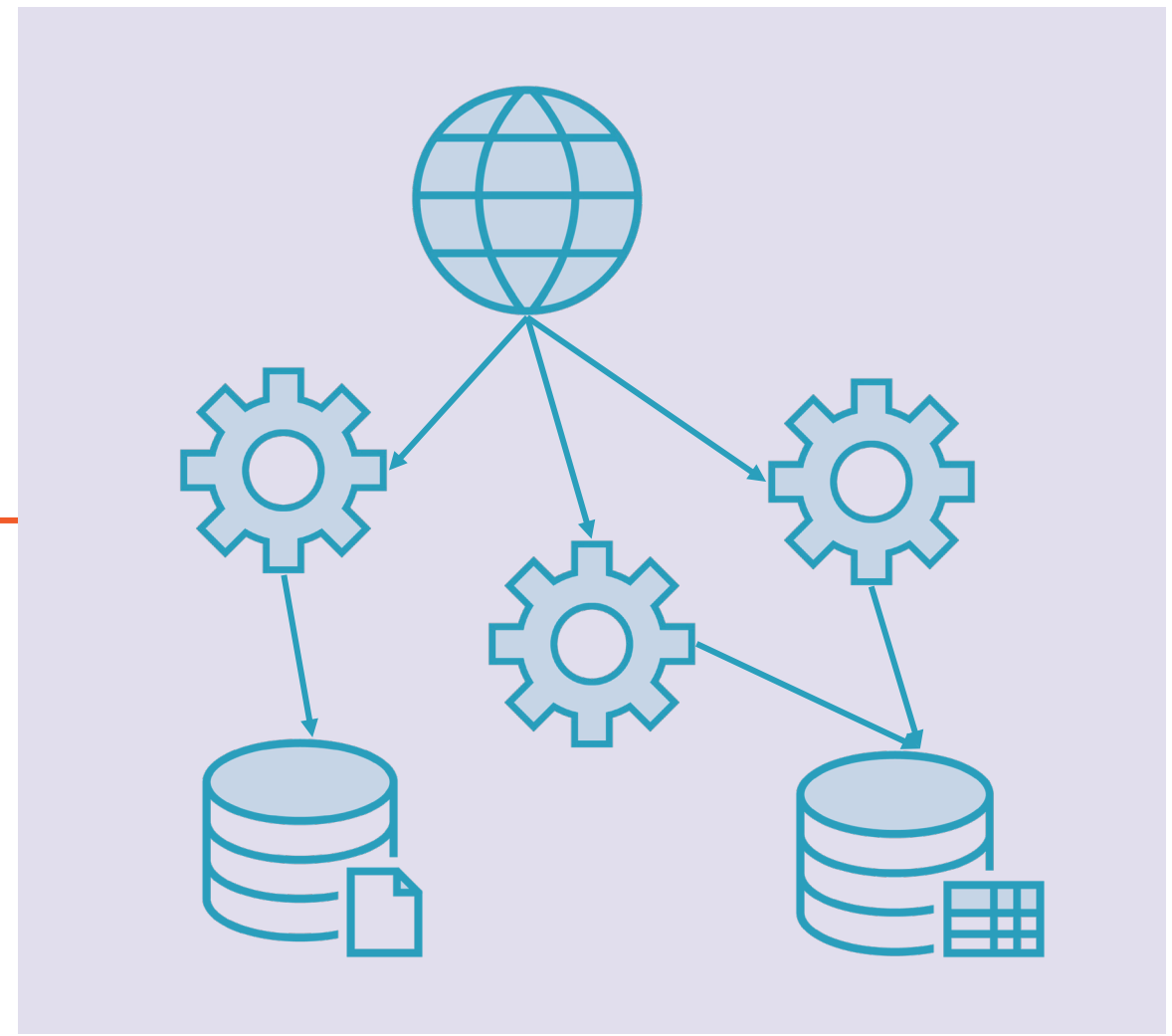


latency{customerId=1}: 0.8

latency{customerId=2}: 0.8

...

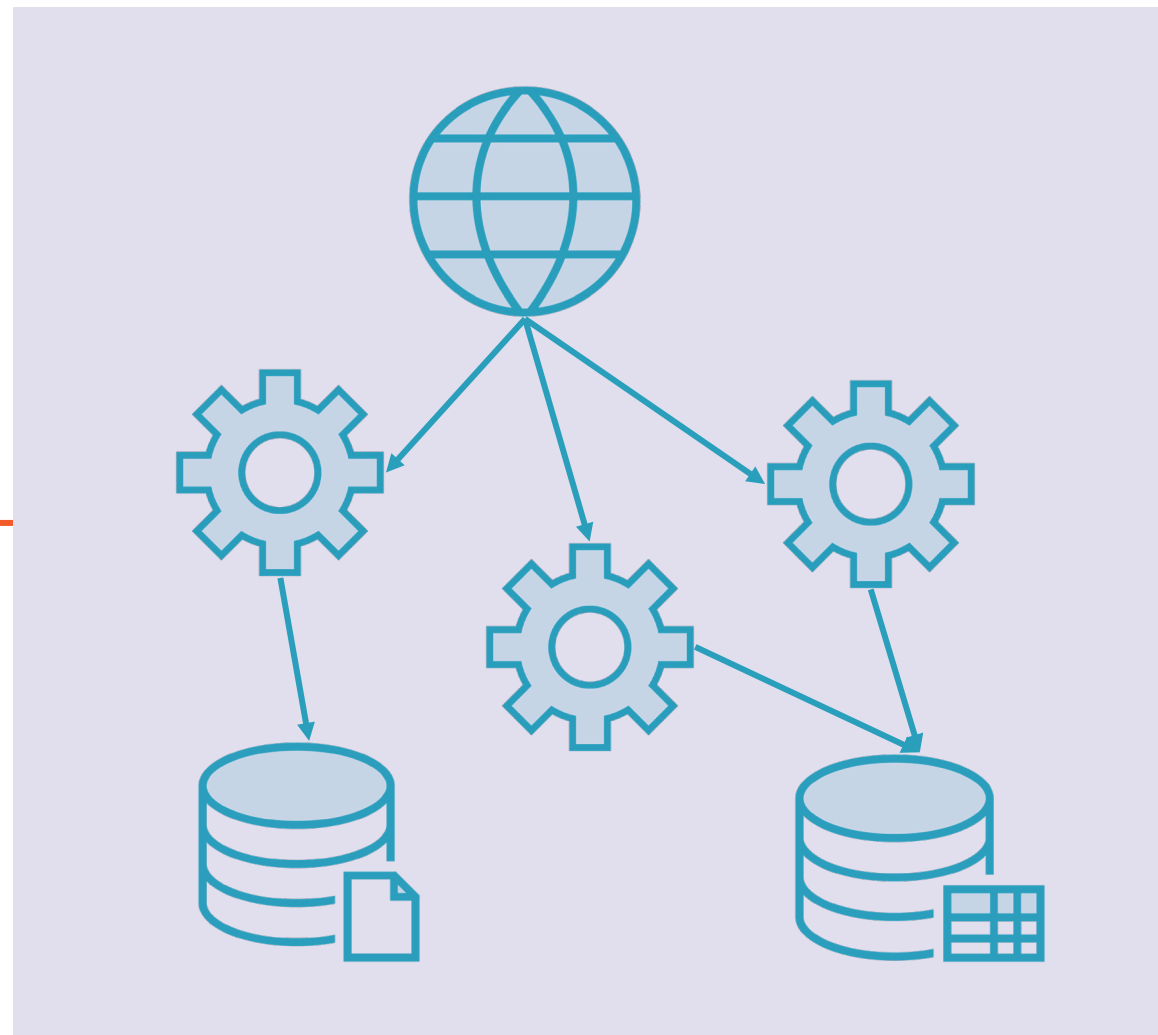
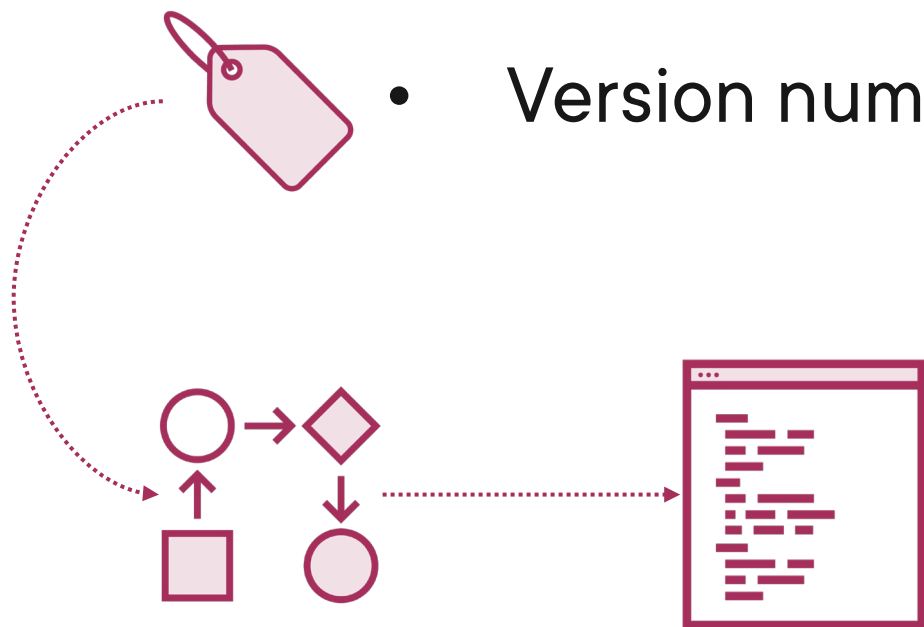
latency{customerId=10000}: 0.9



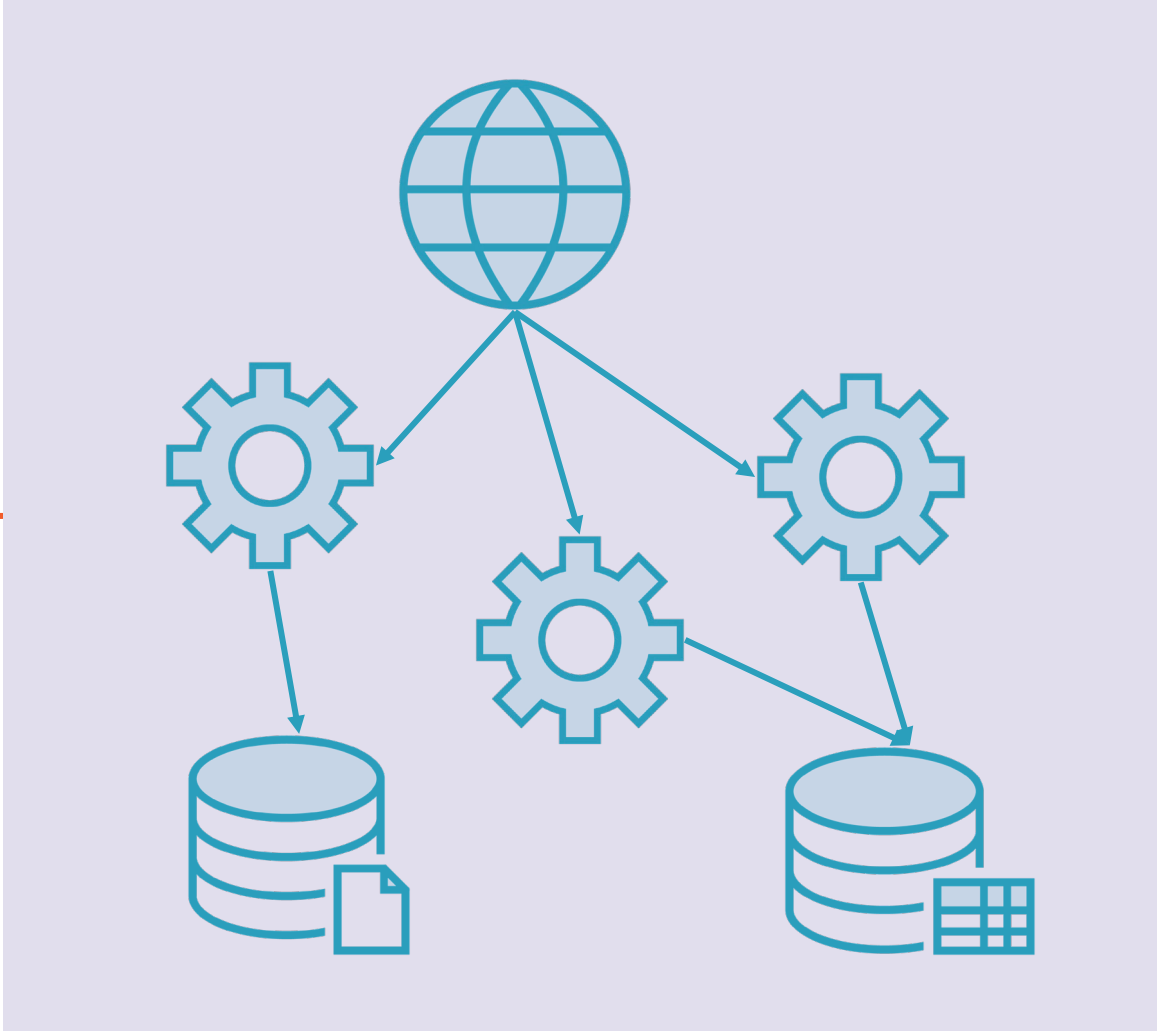
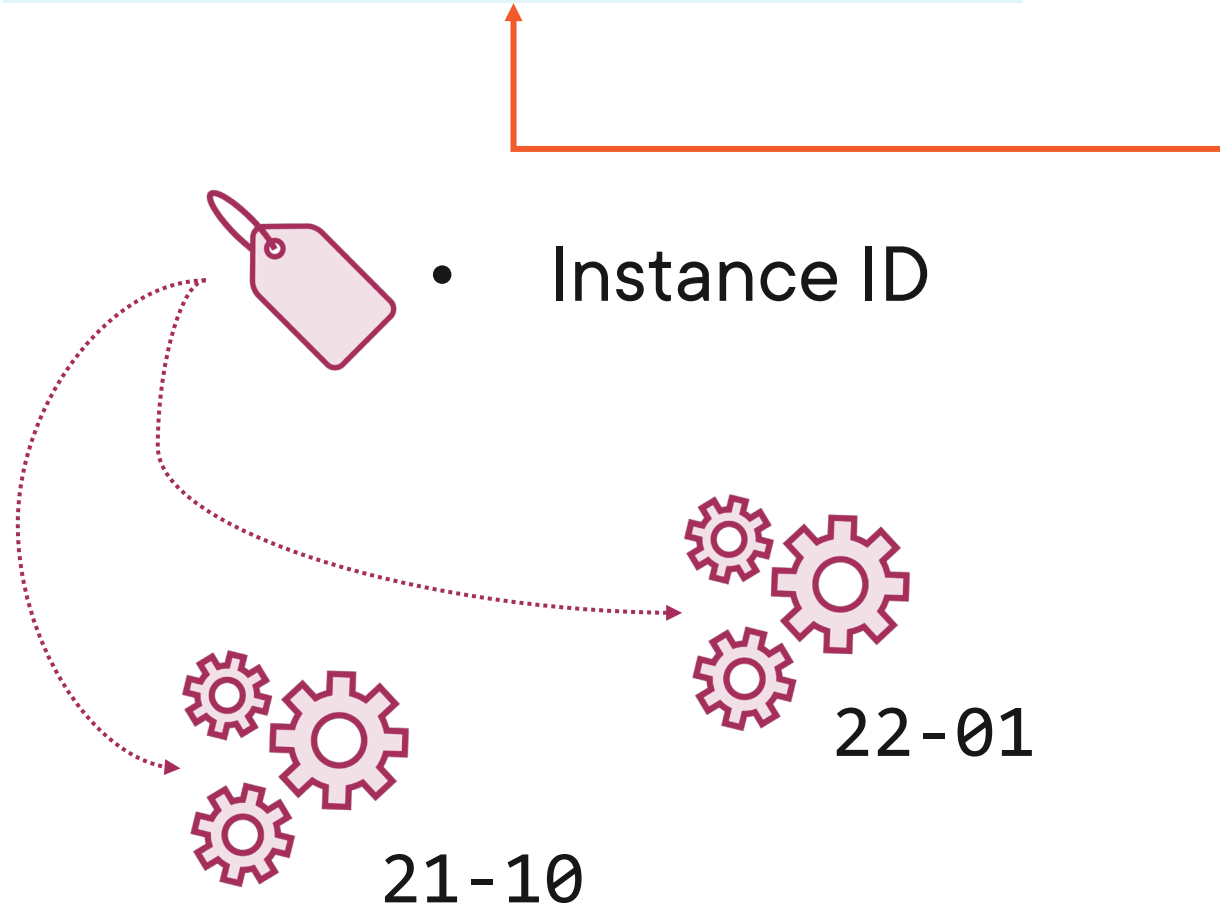
1.2M/hr

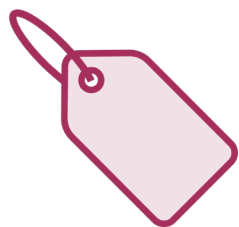


- Version number

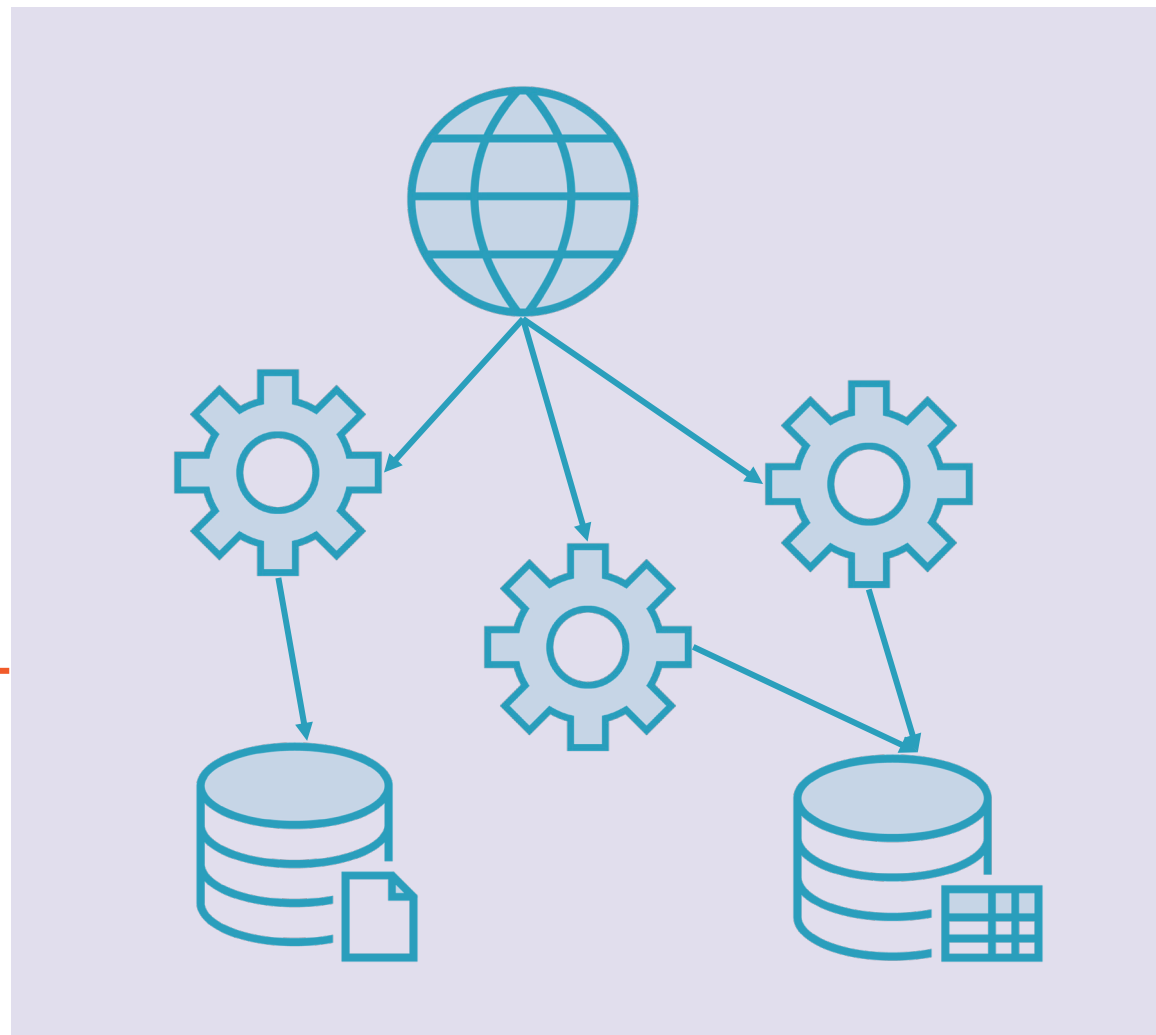








- Region
- Instance ID
- Customer ID



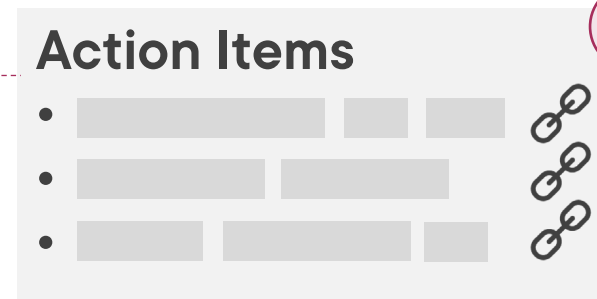
- Identifying region took >1hr

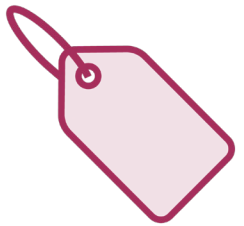
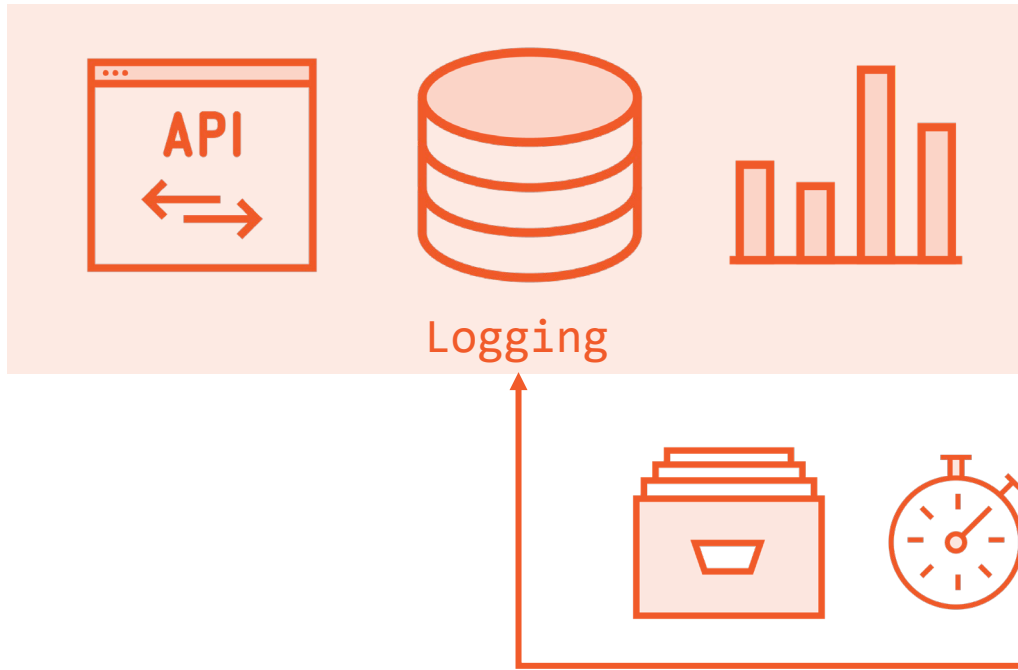


- Need metadata to correlate metrics & traces

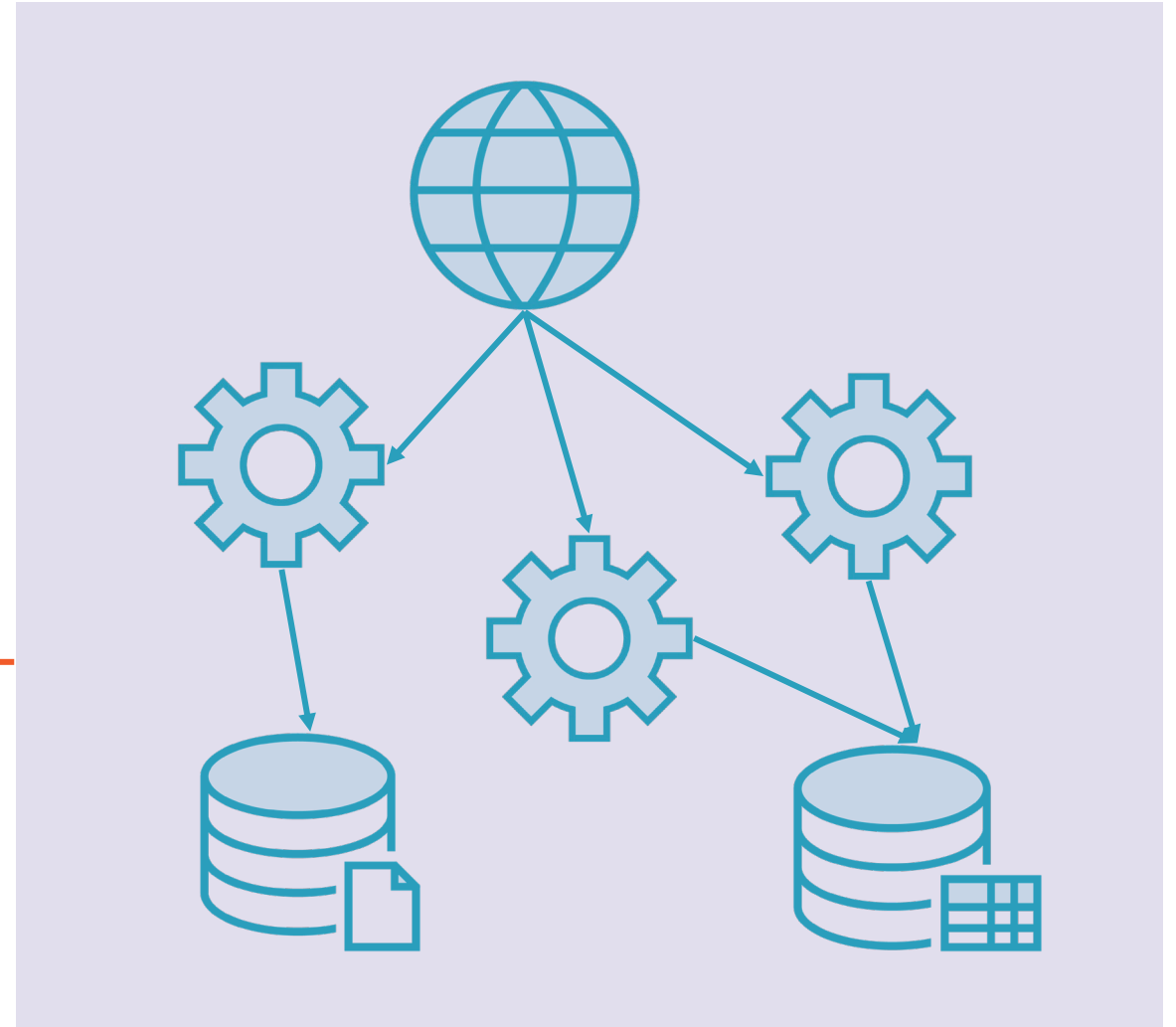


- Add region ID to Prometheus & Jaeger



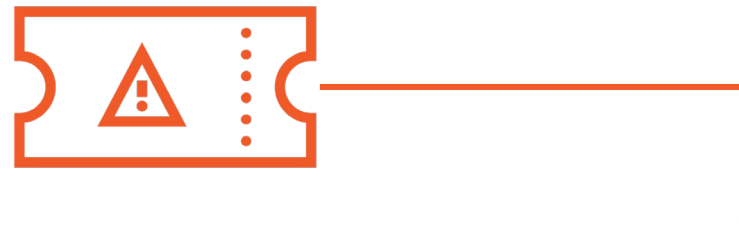


- Region
- Instance ID
- Version
- Customer ID
- Transaction ID



# Scenario: Putting Logs to Use

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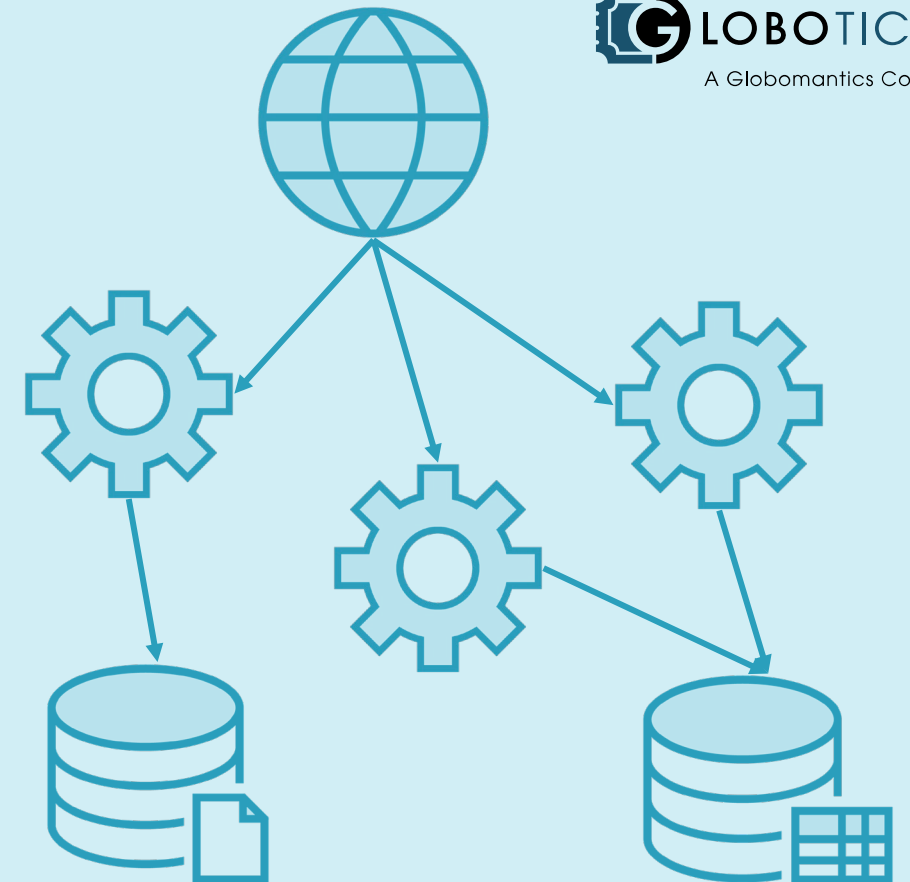


How do  
you find  
the log for  
a unique  
error ID?



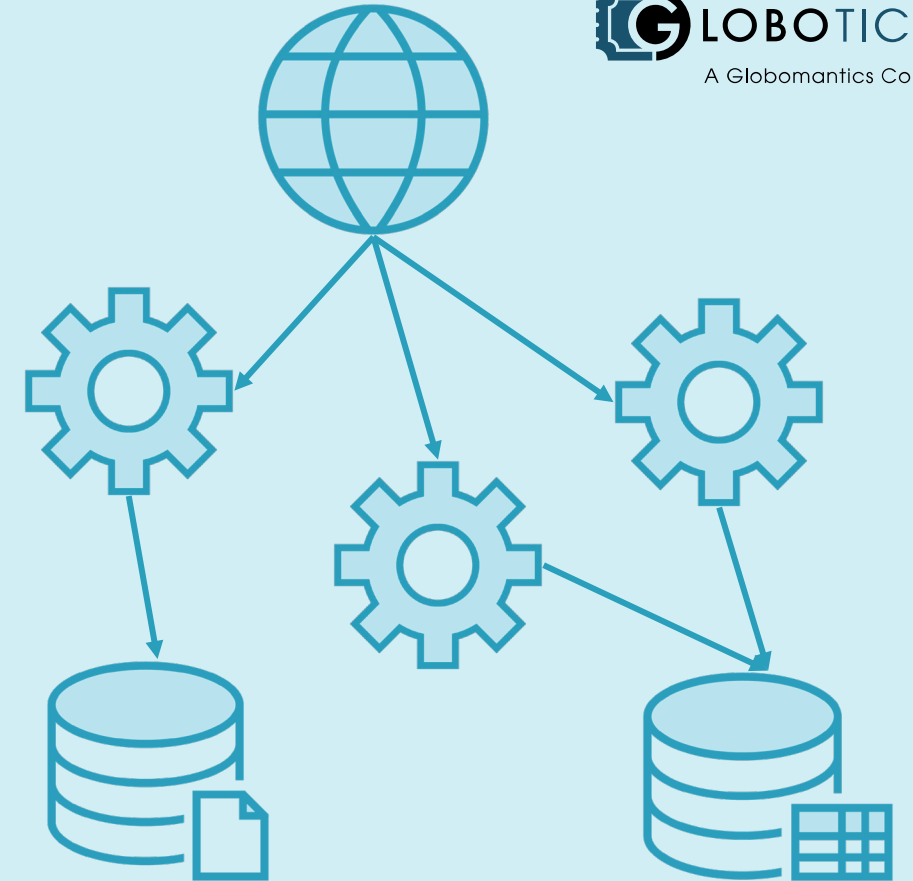


- All errors are logged
- UI for full-text search
- Component in metadata





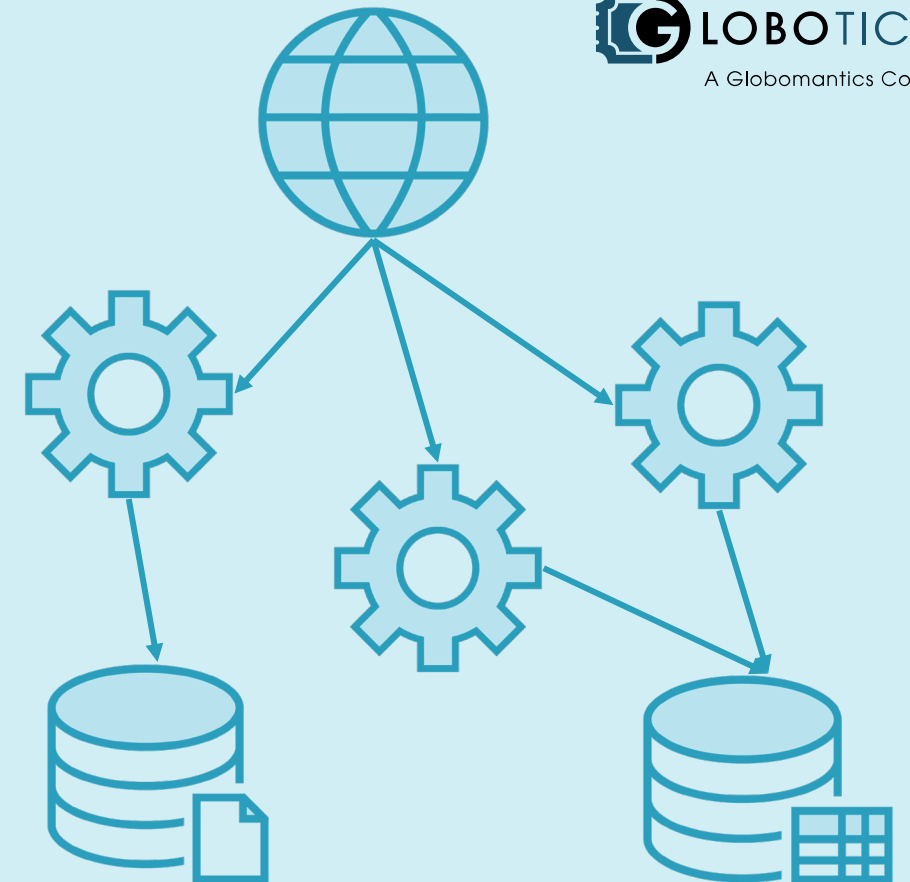
- Structured logs
- Key data in fields
- Efficient filtering

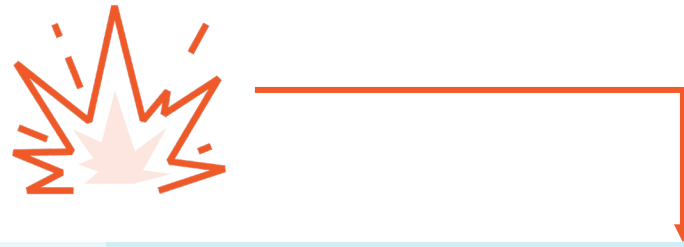






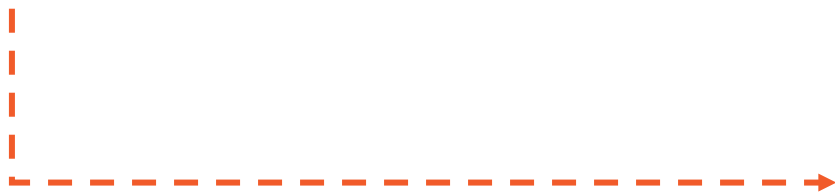
- More investigation
- Transaction ID
- Rebuild user path



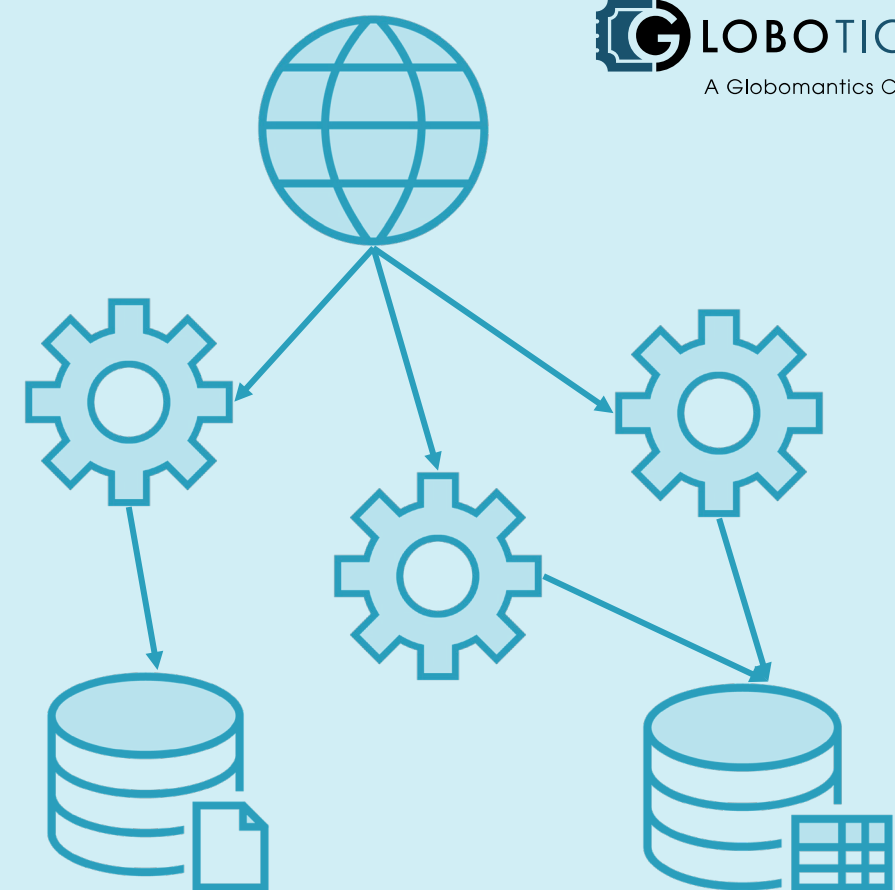


How do  
you track  
an  
increase  
in errors?



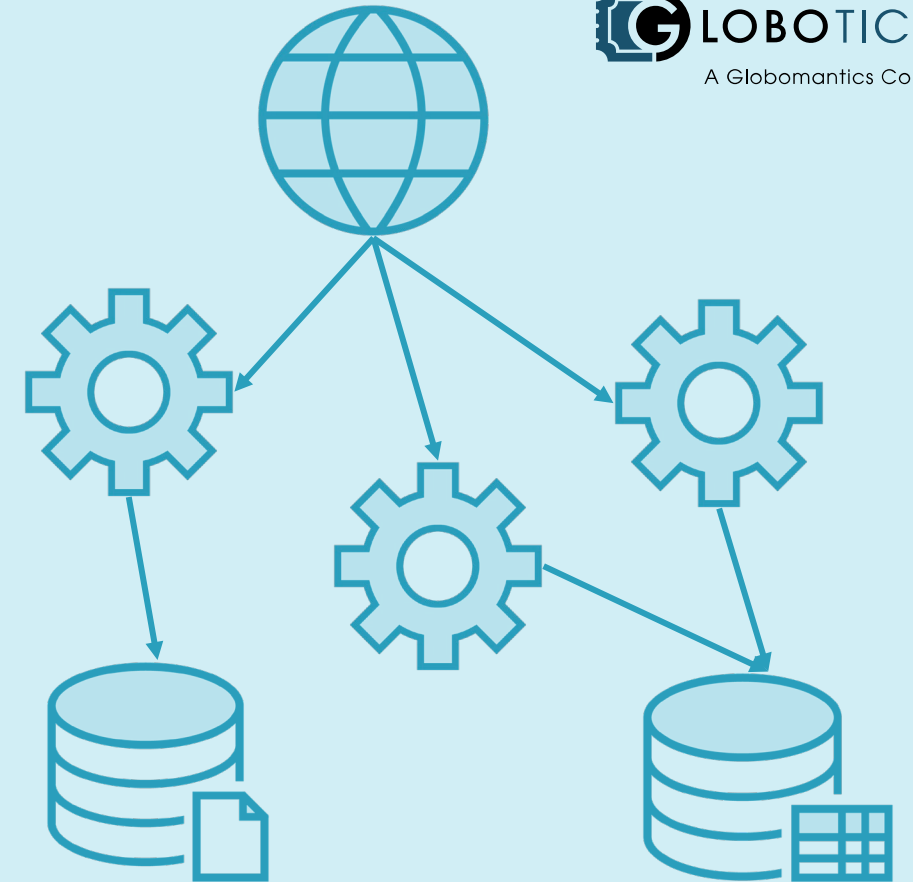


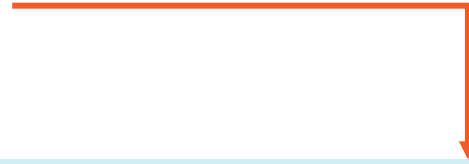
- Standard log levels
- Logging dashboards
- Alerts from monitoring





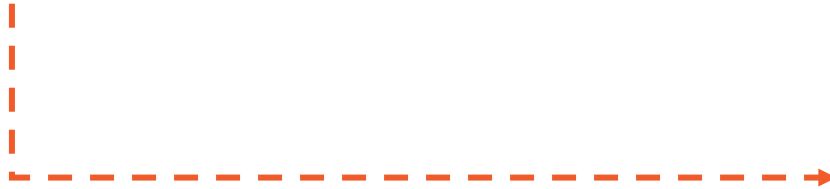
- Metrics for logging
- Count by level
- Trigger alerts



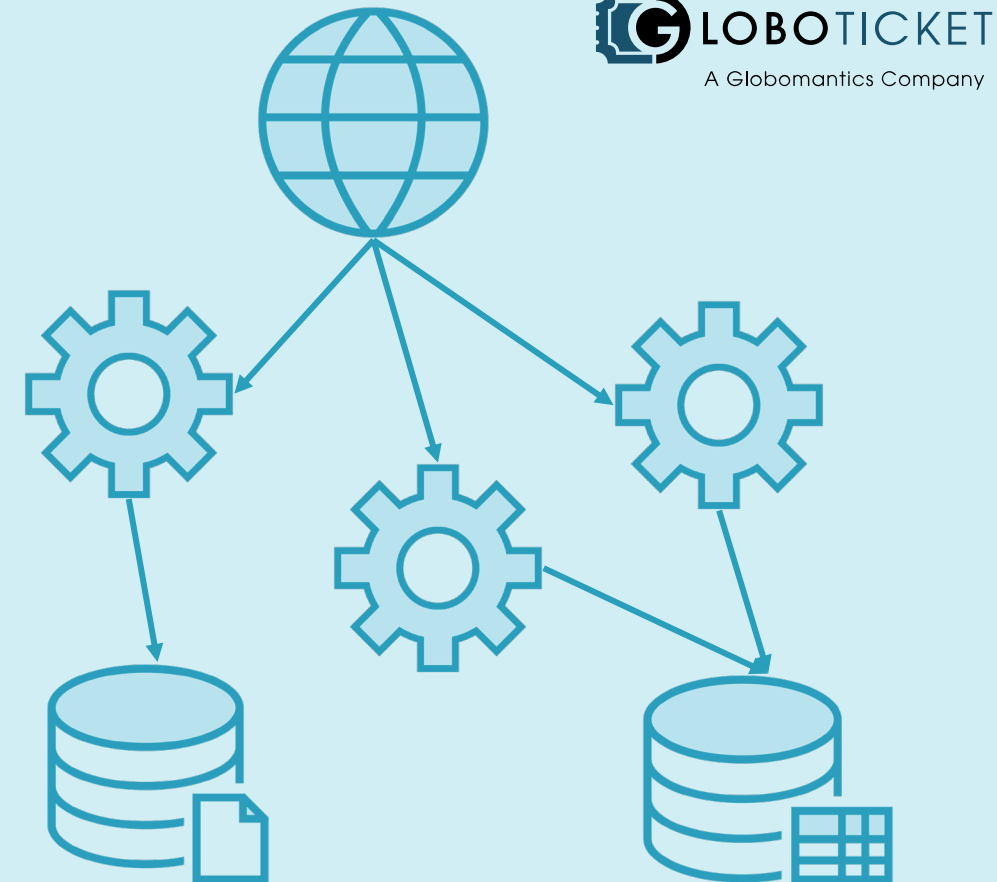


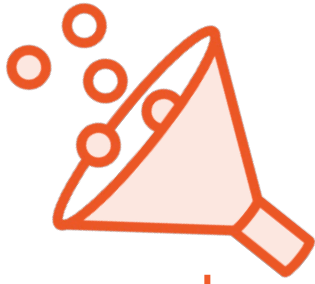
# Can you increase logging levels on the fly?



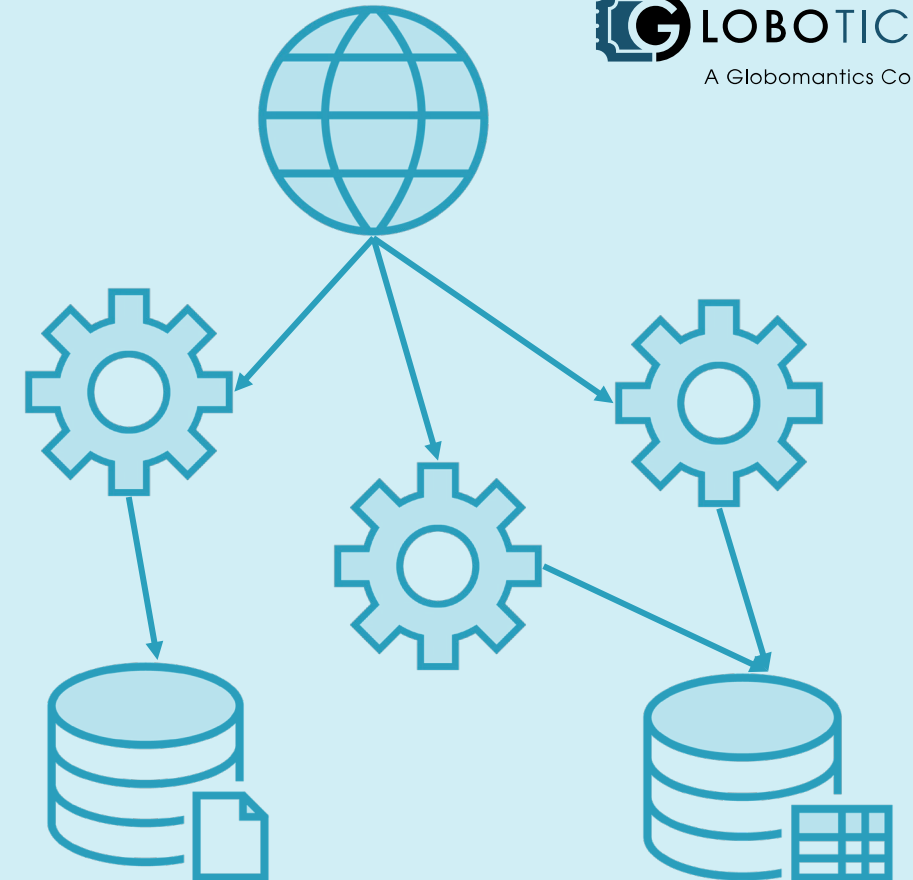


- Levels set by component
- Config rollout
- Instance restart





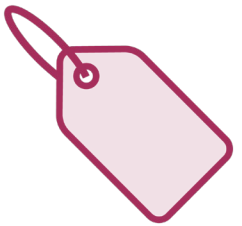
- Generate INFO logs
- Filter in pipeline
- Configure levels



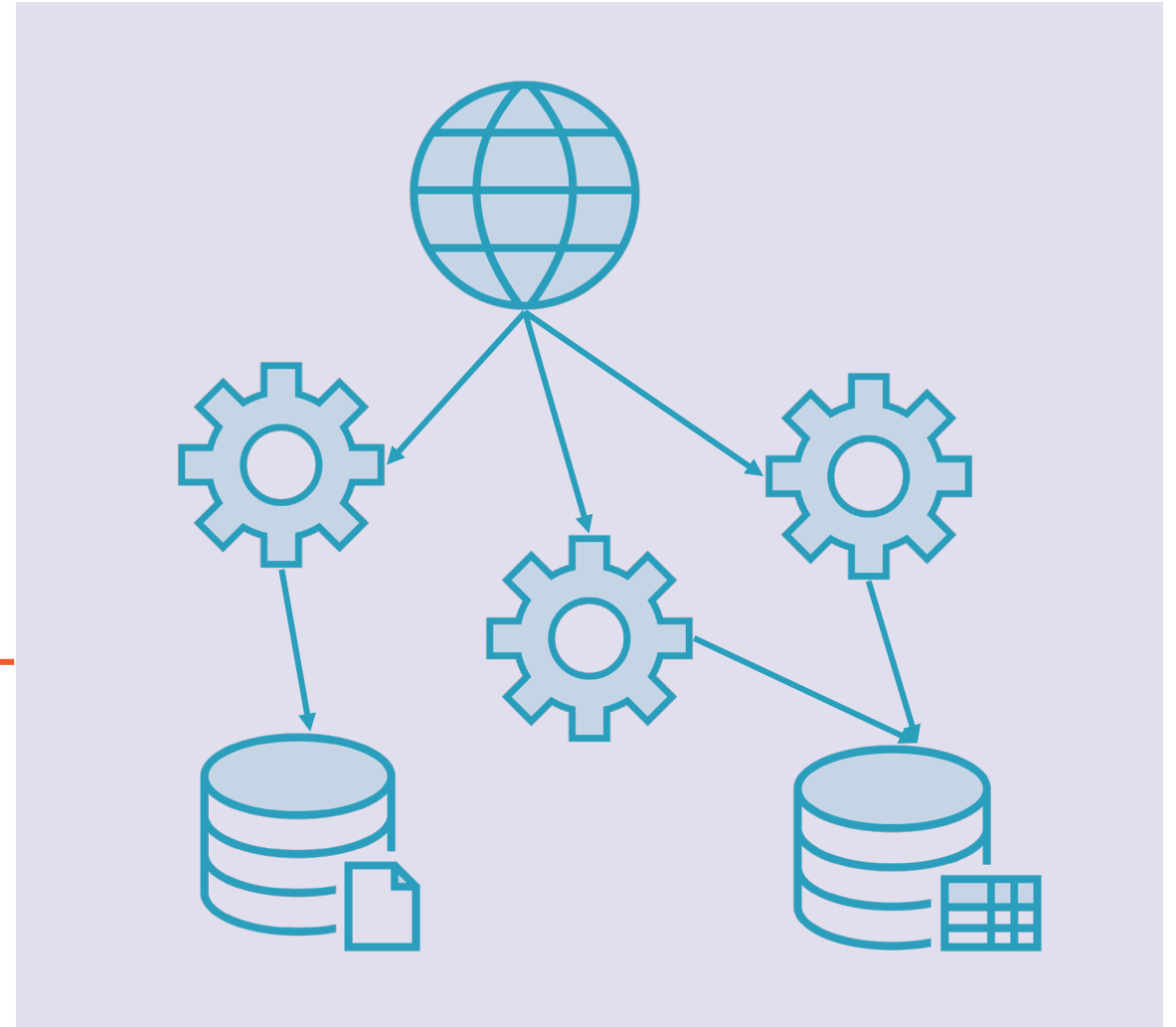
# Module Summary

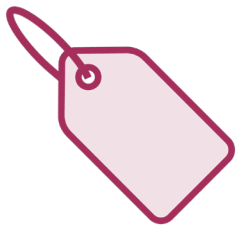
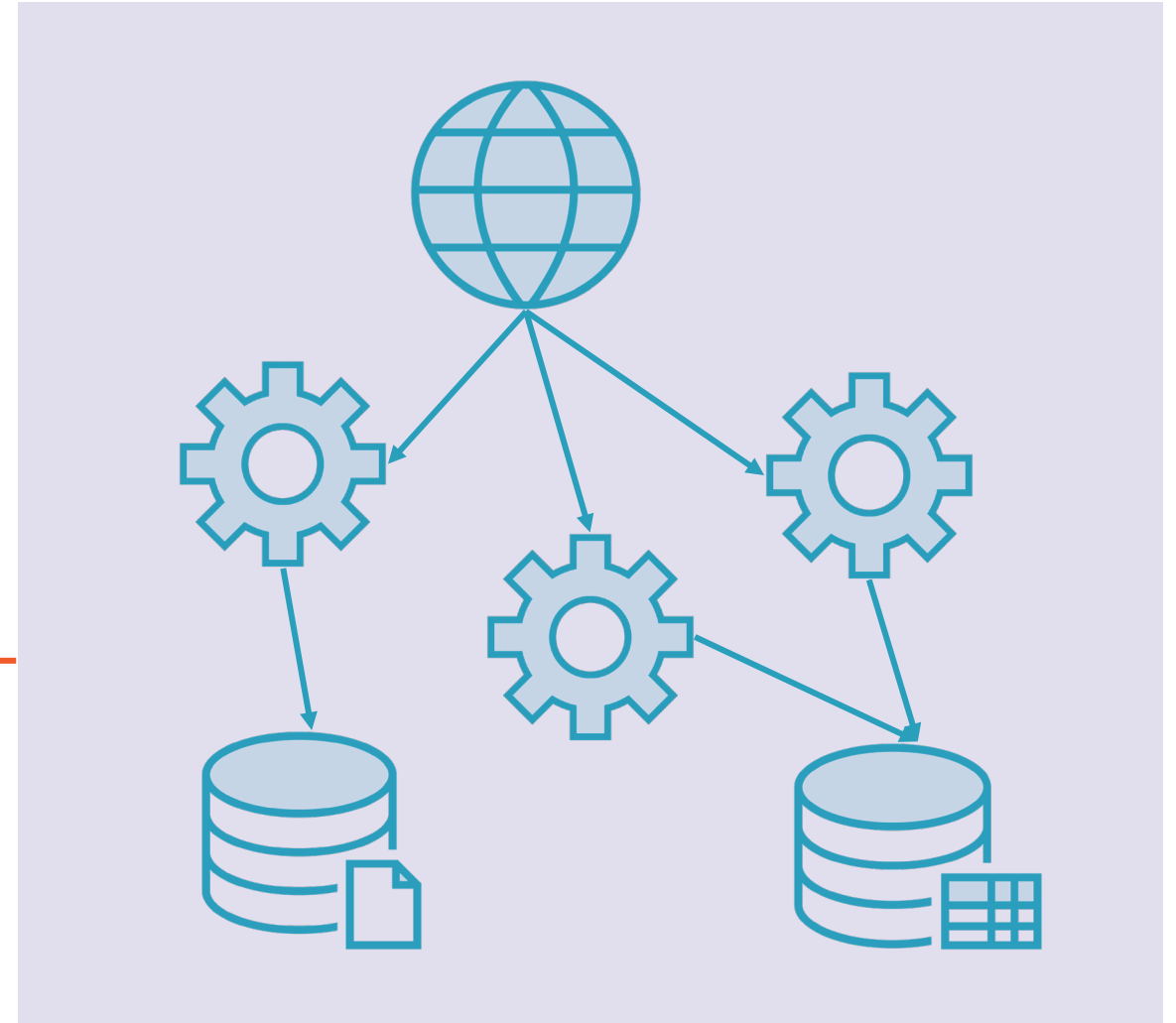
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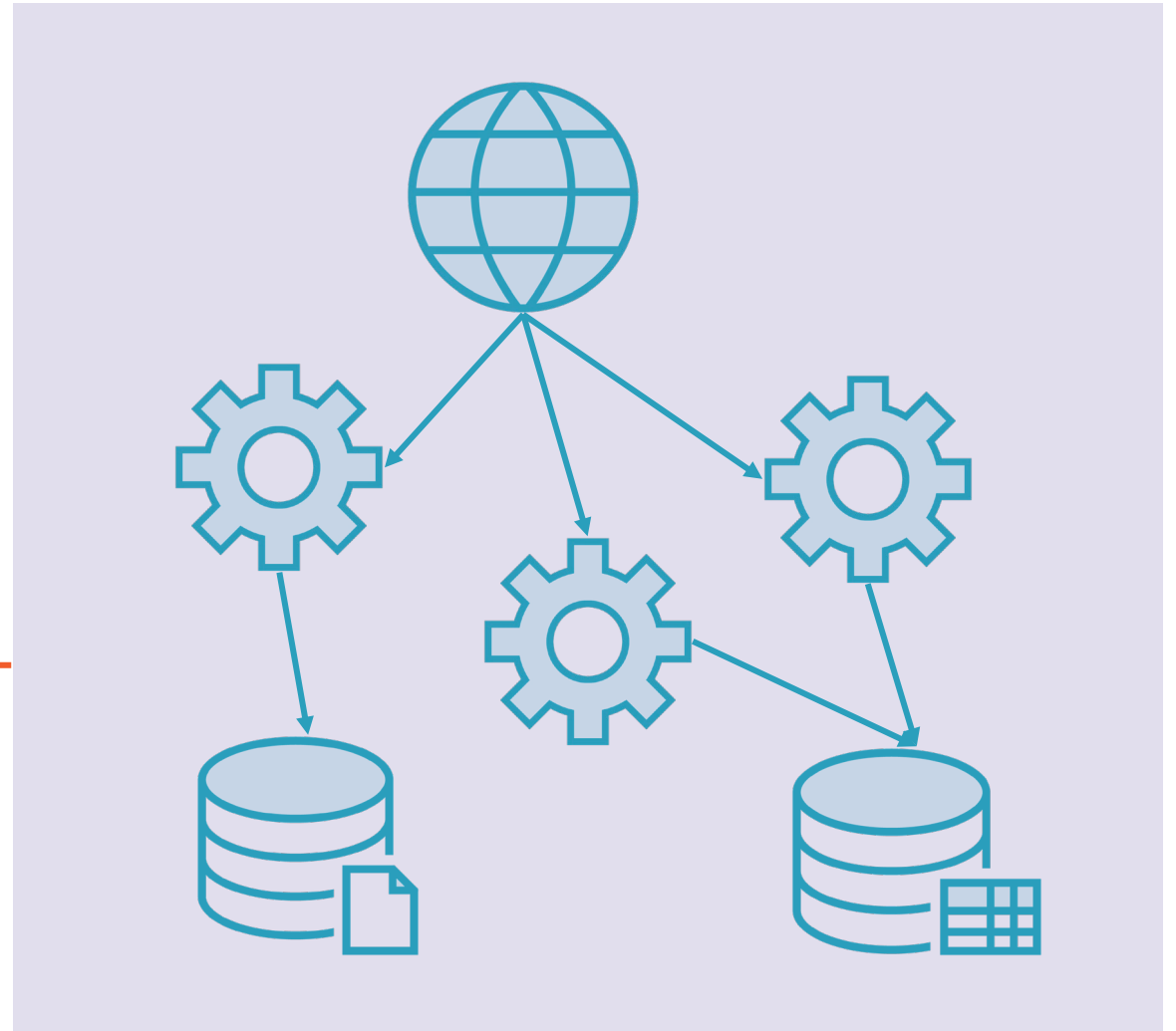
- Region
- Instance ID
- Version
- Customer ID
- Transaction ID



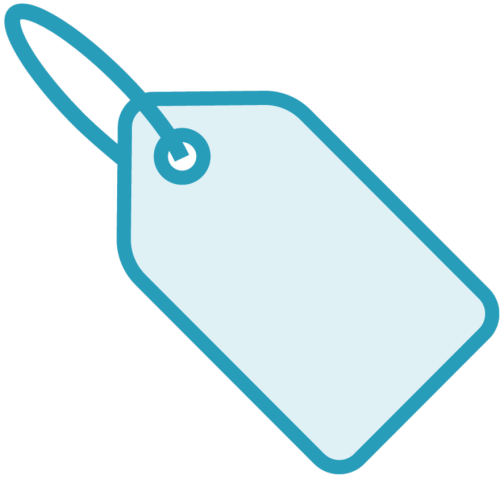


- Timestamp
- Log level
- Component
- Log entry

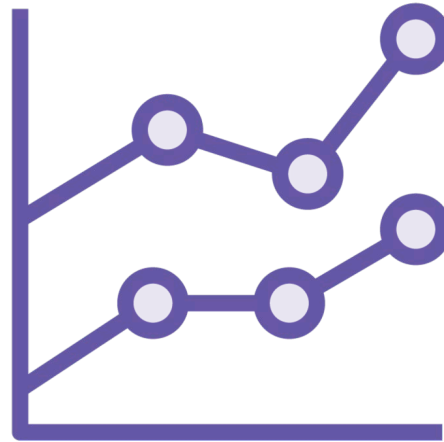
component=WEB & level >= WARN  
component=API & level >= INFO



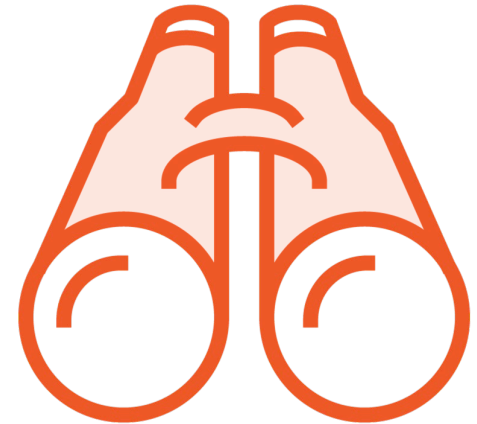
# Designing Observability



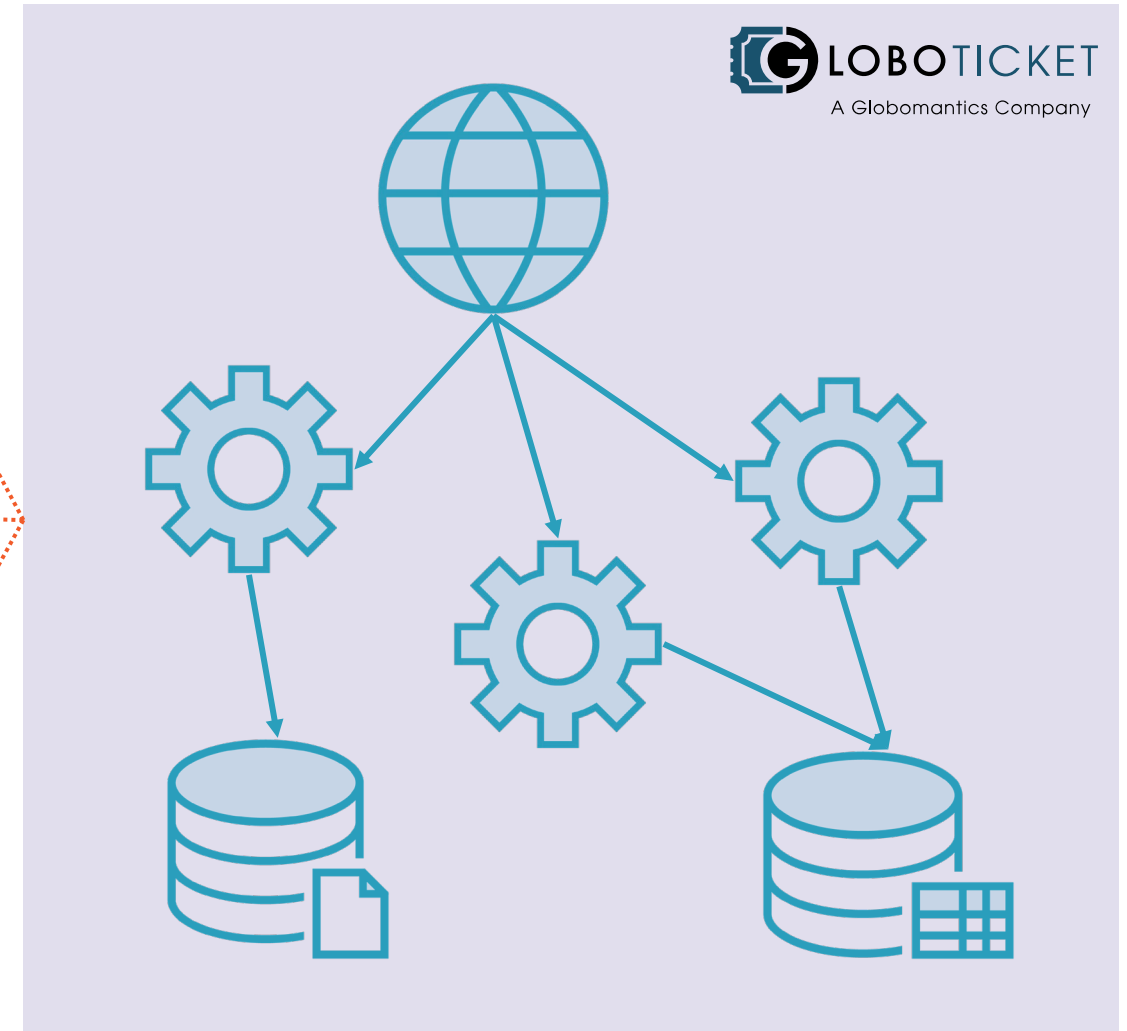
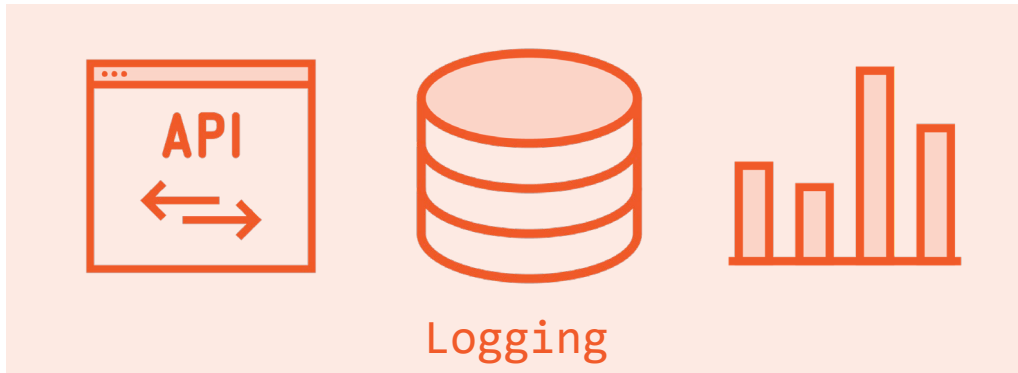
**Correlation**



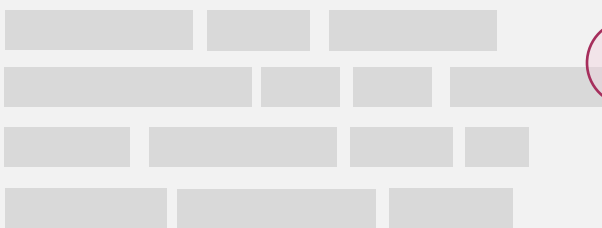
**Real-time insight**



**Historical data**



## Timeline

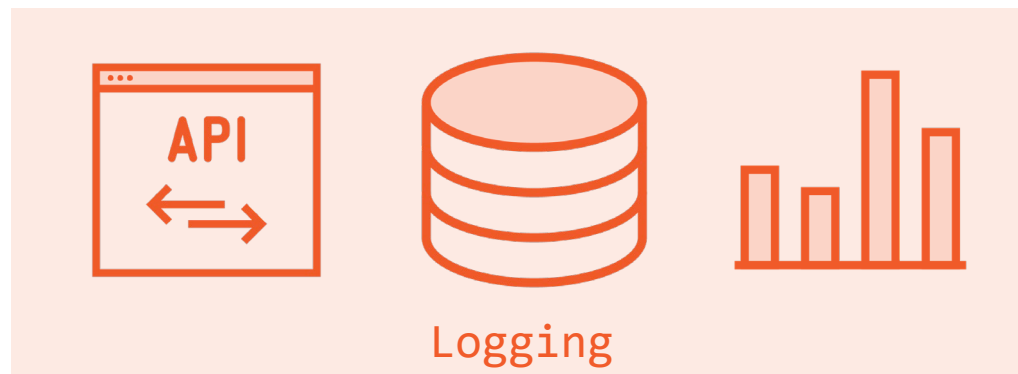


## Lessons Learned



## Action Items

- [ ] [ ] [ ]
- [ ] [ ] [ ]
- [ ] [ ] [ ]



Up Next:

Driving Continuous Improvement  
with Service Levels

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