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# OPMIG-06: Processing, Parsing & Transformation
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> **Series:** OPMIG | **Notebook:** 6 of 9 | **Created:** December 2025
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> **OpenPipeline Migration Series** | Notebook 6 of 9
```

```
> **Level:** Intermediate to Advanced
```

```
> **Estimated Time:** 75 minutes
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Learning Objectives

By completing this notebook, you will:

1. Master Dynatrace Pattern Language (DPL) for log parsing
2. Configure DQL processors for data transformation
3. ★ **NEW:** Parse Apache, Nginx, and JSON logs with production-ready patterns
4. ★ **NEW:** Migrate from ELK/Logstash (Grok to DPL conversion)
5. ★ **NEW:** Use the complete Parsing Pattern Library (timestamps, stack traces, HTTP)
6. Implement drop processors for cost optimization
7. Validate parsing success rates and troubleshoot failures

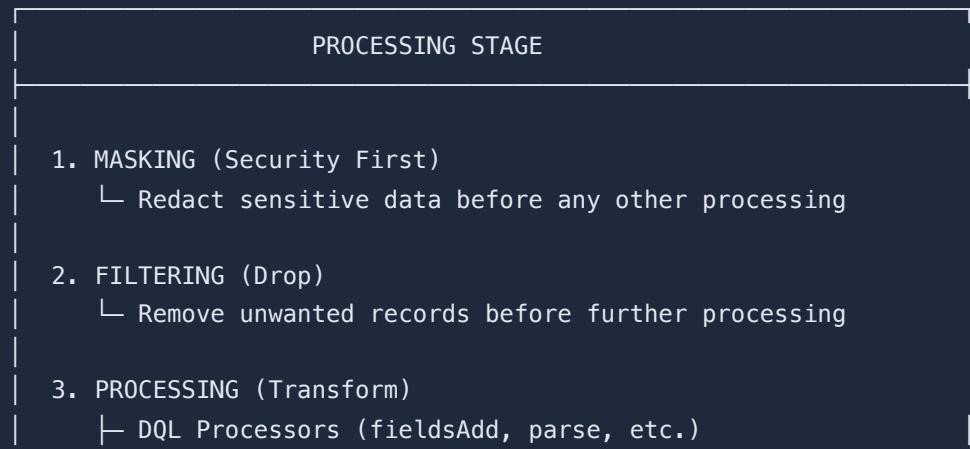
```
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```
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Processing Stage Overview

The Processing stage is where data transformation happens. It includes three sub-stages executed in order:

```
```
```



```
| ┌── Technology Parsers (JSON, Apache, etc.)
| └── Custom transformations
```

```
```
```

Processor Execution Order

Within each sub-stage, processors execute in the order they're defined. You can reorder them in the UI.

>  **Best Practice:** Order processors logically – parse first, then enrich with computed fields based on parsed values.

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```

DQL Processor Commands

The DQL processor supports a subset of DQL commands for data transformation.

Available Commands

Command	Purpose	Example
`fieldsAdd`	Add new fields	`fieldsAdd env = "production"`
`fieldsRemove`	Remove fields	`fieldsRemove sensitive_field`
`fieldsRename`	Rename fields	`fieldsRename old = new_name`
`parse`	Extract with DPL	`parse content, "INT:count"`

fieldsAdd Examples

```
#### Static Values  
```dql  
fieldsAdd environment = "production"
fieldsAdd application = "checkout-service"
fieldsAdd team = "platform-engineering"
```
```

```
#### Conditional Values (if/else)  
```dql  
fieldsAdd severity = if(loglevel == "ERROR", "critical",
 else: if(loglevel == "WARN", "warning",
 else: "info"))
```
```

```
#### Computed Values  
```dql  
fieldsAdd message_length = stringLength(content)
```

```

fieldsAdd short_host = substring(host.name, 0, 15)
fieldsAdd is_error = loglevel == "ERROR"
```

#### String Operations
```dql
fieldsAdd normalized_status = toLowerCase(status)
fieldsAdd log_prefix = substring(content, 0, 50)
fieldsAdd clean_message = trim(content)
```

#### Coalesce (First Non-Null)
```dql
fieldsAdd effective_level = coalesce(loglevel, status, "UNKNOWN")
```

### fieldsRemove Examples

```dql
// Remove single field
fieldsRemove internal_id

// Remove multiple fields
fieldsRemove temp_field, debug_info, internal_state
```

### fieldsRename Examples

```dql
// Standardize field names
fieldsRename user_id = userId
fieldsRename request_id = requestId
fieldsRename transaction_id = transactionId
```

---

## Dynatrace Pattern Language (DPL)

DPL is a powerful pattern matching language for extracting structured data from text.

### Core Matchers

Matcher	Description	Matches
`INT`	Integer	`42`, `-17`, `0`
`LONG`	Long integer	`1234567890123`

```

```

`DOUBLE`	Decimal	`3.14`, `-0.5`, `1.0`
`IPADDR`	IP address	`192.168.1.1`, `::1`
`IPV4ADDR`	IPv4 only	`10.0.0.1`
`IPV6ADDR`	IPv6 only	`2001:db8::1`
`LD`	Line data (to delimiter)	Any text until next match
`DATA`	Greedy match	Everything remaining
`SPACE`	Whitespace	Spaces, tabs
`NSPACE`	Non-whitespace	Word-like content
`WORD`	Word chars	`hello`, `user123`
`JSON`	JSON object	`{"key": "value"}`
`EOL`	End of line	Line terminator

```

Pattern Syntax Elements

| Syntax | Meaning | Example |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| `MATCHER:field` | Extract to named field | `INT:count` |
| `MATCHER` | Match but don't extract | `SPACE` |
| `MATCHER?` | Optional match | `(: INT:port)?` |
| `'literal'` | Match exact text | `'error_code='` |
| `(a\ b)` | Alternatives | `('user='\ 'userId=')` |
| `MATCHER{n,m}` | Quantifier | `WORD{1,3}` |

Basic Parse Examples

```

```dql
// Extract user ID after "user="
parse content, "'user=' LD:user_id"

// Extract error code (integer)
parse content, "'error_code=' INT:error_code"

// Extract IP and port
parse content, "IPADDR:client_ip ':' INT:port"

// Extract JSON payload
parse content, "LD JSON:payload"
```

```

Real-World Log Format Examples ★ NEW

Production-ready DPL patterns for the most common log formats.

Apache Access Logs (Common Log Format)

```
**Sample:** `192.168.1.100 - frank [12/Dec/2024:10:30:45 +0000] "GET
```

```

/api/users HTTP/1.1" 200 1234` 

```dql
parse content, """
 IPADDR:client_ip SPACE '-' SPACE LD:user SPACE
 '[' TIMESTAMP('dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ss Z'):timestamp ']' SPACE
 ''' LD:method SPACE LD:request_path SPACE LD:protocol ''' SPACE
 INT:status_code SPACE INT:response_bytes
```
```
```

**Extracted:** client_ip, user, timestamp, method, request_path, protocol,
status_code, response_bytes

### Nginx (with Response Time)

**Sample:** `192.168.1.50 - - [12/Dec/2024:10:30:45 +0000] "POST
/api/checkout HTTP/1.1" 201 456 "-" "Mozilla/5.0" "0.342"`

```dql
parse content, """
 IPADDR:client_ip SPACE '-' SPACE '-' SPACE
 '[' TIMESTAMP('dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ss Z'):timestamp ']' SPACE
 ''' LD:method SPACE LD:request_path SPACE LD:protocol ''' SPACE
 INT:status_code SPACE INT:response_bytes SPACE
 ''' LD:referrer ''' SPACE ''' LD:user_agent ''' SPACE
 ''' DOUBLE:response_time_sec '''
```
```
| fieldsAdd response_time_ms =.toInt(response_time_sec * 1000)
```

### JSON Application Logs

**Sample:** `{"timestamp":"2024-12-
12T10:30:45.123Z","level":"ERROR","service":"payment-api","message":"Payment
gateway timeout"}`

**Option 1: Use Technology Parser** (Recommended)
- Add **Technology** processor → Select **JSON** parser
- All fields automatically flattened

**Option 2: DQL Parsing**
```dql
parse content, "JSON:log_data"
| fieldsAdd service = log_data["service"]
| fieldsAdd message = log_data["message"]
| fieldsAdd level = log_data["level"]
```

```

```

### Syslog (RFC 3164)

**Sample:** `<34>Dec 12 10:30:45 webserver sshd[1234]: Failed password for
admin from 192.168.1.100`


```dql
parse content, """
 '<' INT:priority '>'
 TIMESTAMP('MMM dd HH:mm:ss'):timestamp SPACE
 LD:hostname SPACE LD:app_name '[' INT:pid ']': SPACE
 DATA:message

 | fieldsAdd facility =.toInt(priority / 8)
 | fieldsAdd severity =.toInt(priority % 8)
```

### Java Application Logs (Log4j)

**Sample:** `2024-12-12 10:30:45,123 [http-nio-8080-exec-5] ERROR
com.example.Service - Payment failed`


```dql
parse content, """
 TIMESTAMP('yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss,SSS'):log_timestamp SPACE
 '[' LD:thread ']': SPACE
 LD:level SPACE LD:logger SPACE '-' SPACE
 DATA:message

```

**Stack Trace Extraction:**


```dql
parse content, "LD:exception_class ':' SPACE LD:exception_message EOL"
| parse content, "'at ' LD:error_location '(' LD:file ':' INT:line_number
')'"
```

### Kubernetes / Container Logs

**Sample:** `2024-12-12T10:30:45.123456789Z stdout F
{"level":"info","msg":"Request processed"}`


```dql
parse content, """
 TIMESTAMP('yyyy-MM-dd\ 'T\ 'HH:mm:ss.SSSSSSSSSXXX'):k8s_timestamp SPACE
 LD:stream SPACE LD:log_tag SPACE
 JSON:log_payload
```

```

```
....  
| fieldsAdd level = log_payload["level"]  
| fieldsAdd msg = log_payload["msg"]  
`..  
  
---  
  
---  
  
## Common Parsing Patterns  
  
### Apache/Nginx Access Logs  
  
**Sample log:**  
```  
192.168.1.100 - - [12/Dec/2024:10:30:45 +0000] "GET /api/users HTTP/1.1" 200
1234
```  
  
**DPL Pattern:**  
```dql  
parse content, "IPADDR:client_ip SPACE '-' SPACE LD:user SPACE '['
LD:timestamp ']' SPACE '\"' LD:method SPACE LD:path SPACE LD:protocol '\"'
SPACE INT:status_code SPACE INT:bytes"
```  
  
### Key-Value Logs  
  
**Sample log:**  
```  
userId=12345, action=login, status=success, duration=150ms
```  
  
**DPL Patterns:**  
```dql  
// Extract each key-value pair
parse content, "'userId=' INT:user_id"
parse content, "'action=' LD:action ''"
parse content, "'status=' LD:status ''"
parse content, "'duration=' INT:duration_ms 'ms'"
```  
  
### Flexible User ID Extraction  
  
**Sample logs with varying formats:**  
```  
Processing request for user=john123
```

```
User userId=john123 authenticated
Request from user_id=john123 received
```

**DPL Pattern (alternatives):**
```dql
parse content, "('user='|'userId='|'user_id=') LD:user_id"
```

### Timestamp Parsing

**DPL with timestamp format:**
```dql
parse content, "TIMESTAMP('yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss'):log_timestamp"
parse content, "TIMESTAMP('dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ss Z'):apache_time"
```

### Optional Fields

**Sample log:**
```
Request to server:8080 completed
Request to server completed
```

**DPL Pattern (optional port):**
```dql
parse content, "'Request to ' LD:server ':' INT:port)? ' completed'"
```

### Stack Trace Extraction

**DPL Pattern:**
```dql
parse content, "LD:exception_class ':' LD:exception_message"
```

---

## Data Transformation Examples

### Example 1: Parse and Enrich Application Logs

**Input:**
```json
{"content": "[2024-12-12T10:30:45] ERROR PaymentService - Payment failed for orderId=12345, amount=99.99"}
```

```

```

**Processor 1: Parse log structure**
```dql
parse content, '[' TIMESTAMP('yyyy-MM-dd\T\HH:mm:ss'):log_time ']'
LD:level SPACE LD:service ' - ' DATA:message"
```

**Processor 2: Extract payment details**
```dql
parse content, 'orderId=' INT:order_id ''
| parse content, 'amount=' DOUBLE:amount"
```

**Processor 3: Add computed fields**
```dql
fieldsAdd severity = if(level == "ERROR", "critical", else: "normal")
| fieldsAdd application_tier = "payment"
```

### Example 2: JSON Log Processing

**Input:**
```json
{"content": "{\"level\": \"info\", \"msg\": \"Request processed\", \"duration_ms\": 150}"}
```

**Processor: Parse JSON and flatten**
```dql
parse content, "JSON:json_data"
```

```

Using a Technology Parser (JSON) is often easier for JSON logs.

```

### Example 3: Multi-Format Log Normalization

**Processor: Normalize different log level formats**
```dql
fieldsAdd normalized_level = if(contains(content, "ERROR") OR
contains(content, "error"), "ERROR",
else: if(contains(content, "WARN") OR
contains(content, "warn"), "WARN",
else: if(contains(content, "INFO") OR
contains(content, "info"), "INFO",
else: if(contains(content, "DEBUG") OR
contains(content, "debug"), "DEBUG",
else: "UNKNOWN")))
```

```

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```

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## Parsing Pattern Library ★ NEW
```

```
### Timestamp Patterns (10+ Formats)
```

| Format | Example | DPL |
|------------|------------------------------|---|
| ISO 8601 | `2024-12-12T10:30:45Z` | `TIMESTAMP('yyyy-MM-dd\T\HH:mm:ssXXX')` |
| ISO + MS | `2024-12-12T10:30:45.123Z` | `TIMESTAMP('yyyy-MM-dd\T\HH:mm:ss.SSSXXX')` |
| Apache | `12/Dec/2024:10:30:45 +0000` | `TIMESTAMP('dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ssZ')` |
| Syslog | `Dec 12 10:30:45` | `TIMESTAMP('MMM dd HH:mm:ss')` |
| Java | `2024-12-12 10:30:45,123` | `TIMESTAMP('yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss,SSS')` |
| MySQL | `2024-12-12 10:30:45` | `TIMESTAMP('yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss')` |
| Unix Epoch | `1702380645` | `LONG:epoch` → `toTimestamp(epoch * 1000)` |

```
### HTTP Request Patterns
```

```
```dql
// Full request line
parse content, "''' LD:method SPACE LD:path SPACE LD:protocol '''"

// Separate path and query
parse content, "''' LD:method SPACE LD:path ('?' LD:query)? SPACE LD:protocol """
```

// RESTful API paths (/api/v1/users/12345)
parse content, "'/api/v' INT:api_version '/' LD:resource '/' INT:id"
```
```

```
Key-Value Patterns
```

```
```dql
// Simple: user=john count=42
parse content, "'user=' LD:user SPACE 'count=' INT:count"

// Quoted: user="John Doe" email="john@example.com"
parse content, "'user=' LD:user ''' SPACE 'email=' LD:email """"

// Logfmt: level=info msg="OK" duration=150ms
parse content, "'level=' LD:level SPACE 'msg=' LD:msg """ SPACE 'duration='
INT:dur 'ms'"
```
```

```

Stack Trace Patterns

```dql
// Java exception
parse content, "LD:exception_class ':' SPACE LD:exception_message EOL"

// Stack trace line
parse content, "'at ' LD:class_method '(' LD:file ':' INT:line ')'"

// Caused by
parse content, "'Caused by: ' LD:caused_by ':' SPACE LD:message"

// Python traceback
parse content, "'File '" LD:file "", line ' INT:line ', in ' LD:function"
```

PII Masking Patterns

```dql
// Credit cards (1234-5678-9012-3456 → ****-****-****-****)
fieldsAdd content = replaceAll(content, "\b\d{4}[\s-]?\d{4}[\s-]?\d{4}[\s-]?\d{4}\b", "****-****-****-****")

// Partial masking (keep last 4)
fieldsAdd content = replaceAll(content, "\b(\d{4})[\s-]?( \d{4})[\s-]?( \d{4})[\s-]?( \d{4})\b", "****-****-****-$4")

// Email addresses
fieldsAdd content = replaceAll(content, "\b[A-Za-z0-9._%+-]+@[A-Za-z0-9.-]+\.\[A-Z|a-z]{2,}\b", "***@***.***")

// SSN (123-45-6789 → ***-**-****)
fieldsAdd content = replaceAll(content, "\b\d{3}-\d{2}-\d{4}\b", "***-**-****")
```

Network Patterns

```dql
// IP and port
parse content, "IPADDR:ip ':' INT:port"

// IPv4 only
parse content, "IPV4ADDR:ipv4"

// IPv6 only
parse content, "IPV6ADDR:ipv6"

```



```

### Complete Migration Example

**Logstash:**
```ruby
filter {
 if [level] == "DEBUG" { drop {} }
 grok { match => { "message" => "%{TIMESTAMP_ISO8601:ts} %{LOGLEVEL:level} %{GREEDYDATA:msg}" } }
 mutate { add_field => { "env" => "production" } }
}
```

**OpenPipeline:**
1. Drop processor: `loglevel == "DEBUG"`
2. DQL parse: `parse content, "TIMESTAMP('yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss'):ts SPACE LD:level SPACE DATA:msg"`
3. DQL add: `fieldsAdd env = "production"`

---
---

## Technology Bundle Parsers

OpenPipeline includes built-in parsers for common log formats.

### Available Technology Parsers

Parser	Log Format	Extracted Fields
**Apache**	Apache access logs	client_ip, method, path, status, bytes
**Nginx**	Nginx access logs	Similar to Apache
**JSON**	JSON-formatted logs	All JSON fields flattened
**Syslog**	RFC 3164/5424 syslog	facility, severity, hostname, message
**Log4j**	Java Log4j format	level, logger, thread, message
**AWS CloudWatch**	AWS logs	AWS-specific fields

### When to Use Technology Parsers

Use Technology Parser	Use Custom DQL/DPL
Standard log format	Custom/proprietary format
Quick setup needed	Specific field extraction
Common technology	Conditional parsing
All fields needed	Selective extraction

```

Configuring Technology Parsers

1. Open pipeline in OpenPipeline settings
2. Go to **Processing** tab
3. Click *** Processor*** → ***Technology***
4. Select parser type
5. Configure matching condition
6. Save

Drop Processors

Drop processors remove records from the pipeline before storage.

Common Drop Patterns

| Use Case | Matching Condition |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Debug logs | `log.level == "DEBUG"` |
| Trace logs | `log.level == "TRACE"` |
| Health checks | `contains(content, "health")` |
| Readiness probes | `contains(content, "/ready")` |
| Metrics endpoints | `contains(content, "/metrics")` |
| Heartbeats | `contains(content, "heartbeat")` |
| Specific source | `log.source == "noisy-service"` |

Drop Processor Configuration

```

Processor Type: Drop

Name: Drop debug logs

Matching Condition: log.level == "DEBUG" OR status == "DEBUG"

```

Combining Drop Conditions

```

```
// Drop all non-essential logs
log.level == "DEBUG"
OR log.level == "TRACE"
OR contains(content, "health")
OR contains(content, "/metrics")
````
```

> **⚠** **Important:** Dropped data is gone forever. Test drop conditions carefully before deploying.

Advanced Processing Patterns

Pattern 1: Fix Missing Timestamp

When logs have a custom timestamp format that's not recognized:

```
```dql
// Parse timestamp from content
parse content, "['TIMESTAMP('yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss'):parsed_timestamp']"
```

```

Pattern 2: Fix Missing Log Level

When logs don't have a standard loglevel field:

```
```dql
// Extract level from content
fieldsAdd loglevel = if(contains(content, "[ERROR]") OR contains(content,
"ERROR:"), "ERROR",
 else: if(contains(content, "[WARN]") OR
contains(content, "WARN:"), "WARN",
 else: if(contains(content, "[INFO]") OR
contains(content, "INFO:"), "INFO",
 else: if(contains(content, "[DEBUG]") OR
contains(content, "DEBUG:"), "DEBUG",
 else: "NONE")))
```

```

Pattern 3: Parse JSON from Within Text

When JSON is embedded in a log message:

```
```dql
// Extract JSON from text
parse content, "LD JSON:embedded_json LD"
```

```

Pattern 4: Compute Response Time Categories

```

#### Pattern 5: Standardize Boolean Fields

```dql
fieldsAdd is_success = if(status == "success" OR status == "ok" OR status ==
"200", true, else: false)
```

#### Pattern 6: Extract Service Name from Path

```dql
// From /api/v1/users → users
parse content, "'/api/v' INT '/' LD:service_name"
```

---

## Validating Your Processing

After configuring processors, validate that parsing is working correctly.

```python
// Check parsing success rate across all pipelines
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| summarize {
 total = count(),
 with_loglevel = countIf(isNotNull(loglevel)),
 with_status = countIf(isNotNull(status)),
 with_either = countIf(isNotNull(loglevel) OR isNotNull(status))
}
| fieldsAdd parsing_rate = round((toDouble(with_either) / toDouble(total)) *
100, decimals: 1)
```

```python
// Parsing success rate by pipeline
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| filter isNotNull(dt.openpipeline.pipelines)
| summarize {
 total = count(),
 parsed = countIf(isNotNull(loglevel))
}, by: {dt.openpipeline.pipelines}
| fieldsAdd parsing_rate = round((toDouble(parsed) / toDouble(total)) * 100,
decimals: 1)
| sort parsing_rate asc
```

```python
// Sample logs that failed parsing (no loglevel extracted)
```

```

```

fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| filter isNull(loglevel) AND isNull(status)
| fields timestamp, log.source, dt.openpipeline.pipelines, content
| limit 25
```

```python
// Verify specific parsed fields exist
// Replace 'your_field' with fields your parsing should create
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| filter isNotNull(dt.openpipeline.pipelines)
| summarize {
    total = count(),
    with_user_id = countIf(isNotNull(user_id)),
    with_request_id = countIf(isNotNull(request_id))
}, by: {dt.openpipeline.pipelines}
```

```python
// Sample successfully parsed logs to verify field extraction
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| filter isNotNull(loglevel)
| limit 20
```

```python
// Verify drop processors are working
// If drops are configured, debug log count should be low
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| summarize {debug_count = countIf(loglevel == "DEBUG")}
| fieldsAdd message = if(debug_count == 0, "✅ Drop processor working - no
debug logs",
                           else: "⚠️ Debug logs still present - check drop
configuration")
```

```python
// Check log level distribution after processing
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| summarize {log_count = count()}, by: {loglevel}
| sort log_count desc
```

DPL Architect Tool

Dynatrace provides a **DPL Architect** tool for building and testing

```

```
patterns:

Accessing DPL Architect

1. Navigate to **Settings → OpenPipeline**
2. When adding a parse processor, click **Open DPL Architect**
3. Or access via: `https://{{your-
environment}}.apps.dynatrace.com/ui/apps/dynatrace.dpl.architect`

Using DPL Architect

1. Paste sample log content
2. Build pattern interactively
3. See extracted fields in real-time
4. Copy pattern to processor definition

>💡 **Tip:** Always test patterns in DPL Architect before deploying to
production pipelines.

Complete Processing Pipeline Example

Pipeline: `application-logs`

Processor 1: Drop Debug (Drop)
```
Matching: loglevel == "DEBUG" OR contains(content, "[DEBUG]")
```

Processor 2: Parse Application Log (DQL)
```
dql
parse content, "'[' TIMESTAMP('yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss'):log_ts ']' SPACE '['
LD:level ']' SPACE '[' LD:thread ']' SPACE LD:class ' - ' DATA:message"
```

Processor 3: Extract Request ID (DQL)
```
dql
parse content, "'requestId=' LD:request_id"
```

Processor 4: Add Environment Tags (DQL)
```
dql
fieldsAdd environment = "production"
| fieldsAdd application = "checkout-service"
| fieldsAdd team = "platform"
```

```

```
Processor 5: Compute Severity (DQL)
```dql
fieldsAdd severity = if(level == "ERROR", "P1",
                        else: if(level == "WARN", "P2",
                                else: "P3"))
```

```

## ## Next Steps

Now that you can transform data, continue with:

| Notebook     | Focus Area                     |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| -----        | -----                          |
| **OPMIG-07** | Metric & Event Extraction      |
| **OPMIG-08** | Security, Masking & Compliance |
| **OPMIG-09** | Troubleshooting & Validation   |

## ## References

- [OpenPipeline Processing](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/discover-dynatrace/platform/openpipeline/concepts/processing>)
- [Processing Examples](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/discover-dynatrace/platform/openpipeline/use-cases/processing-examples>)
- [Dynatrace Pattern Language](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/discover-dynatrace/platform/grail/dynatrace-pattern-language>)
- [DPL Architect Tool](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/discover-dynatrace/platform/grail/dynatrace-pattern-language/dpl-architect>)
- [DQL Functions in OpenPipeline](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/discover-dynatrace/platform/openpipeline/reference/openpipeline-dql-functions>)

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