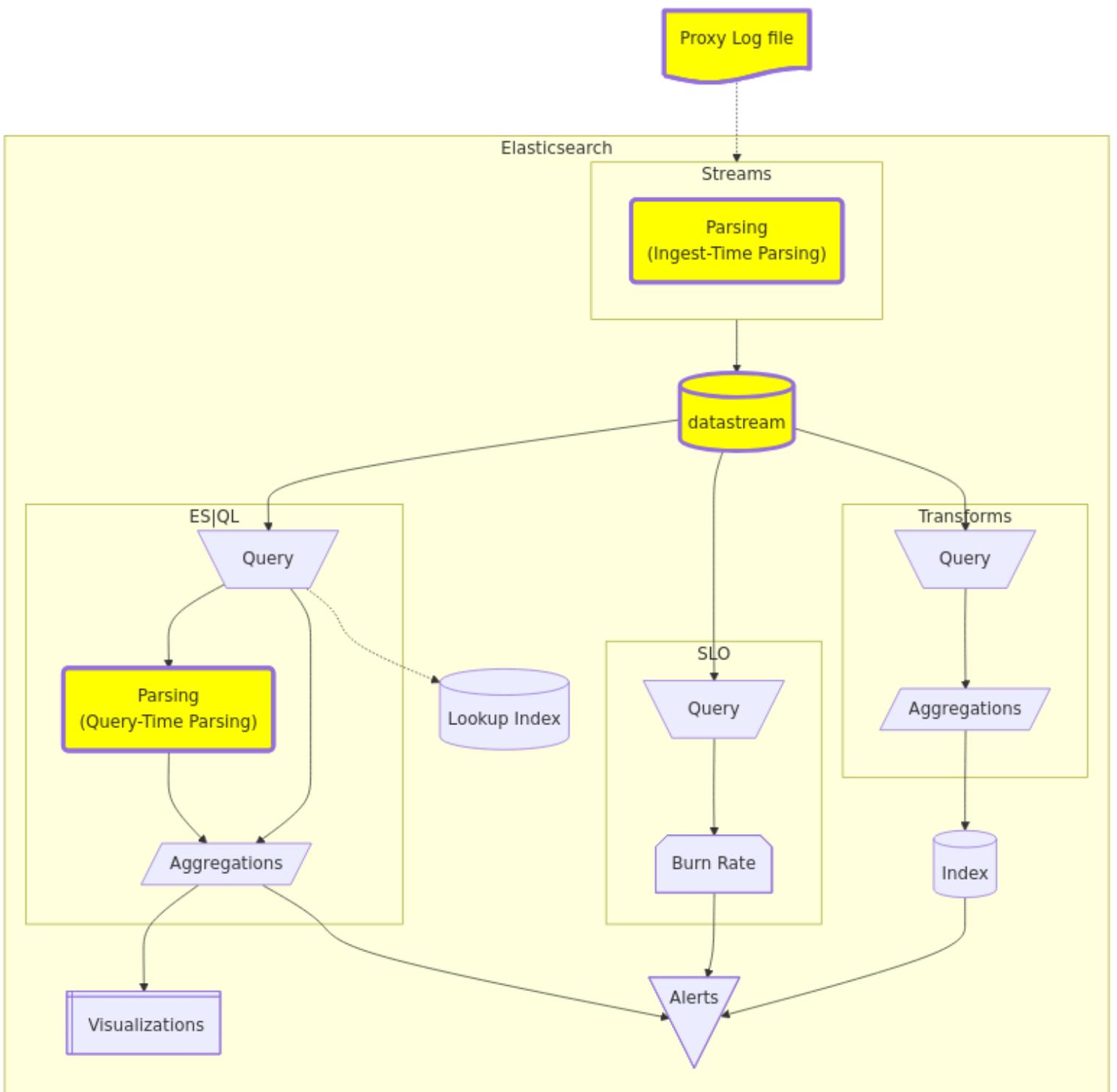


Observability 100: A Modern Logging Workflow

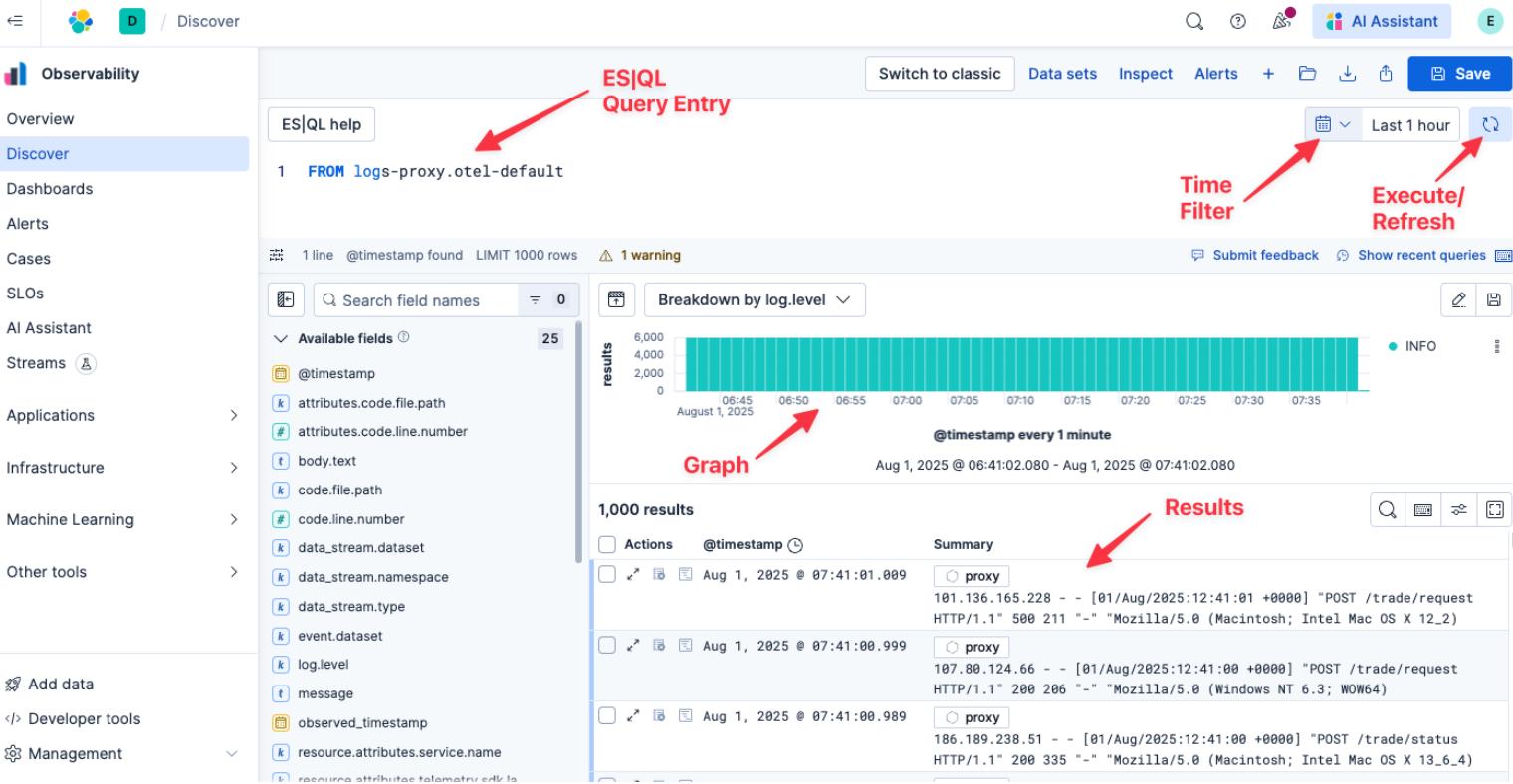
We've gotten word from our customer service department that some users are receiving an error when trying to use our web-based application. We will use this workshop to showcase Elastic's state-of-the-art logging workflow to get to the root cause of these errors.

Ingest vs. query-time parsing

Throughout this workshop, we will be pivoting back and forth between query-time parsing using ES|QL and ingest-time parsing using Streams. ES|QL lets us quickly test theories and look for possible tells in our log data. Once we've determined value in parsing our logs using ES|QL at query-time, we can shift that parsing to ingest-time using Streams. As we will see in this lab, ingest-time parsing allows for more advanced and complex workflows. Moving parsing to ingest-time also facilitates faster search results. Regardless of where the parsing is done, we will leverage ES|QL to perform aggregations, analysis, and visualization.

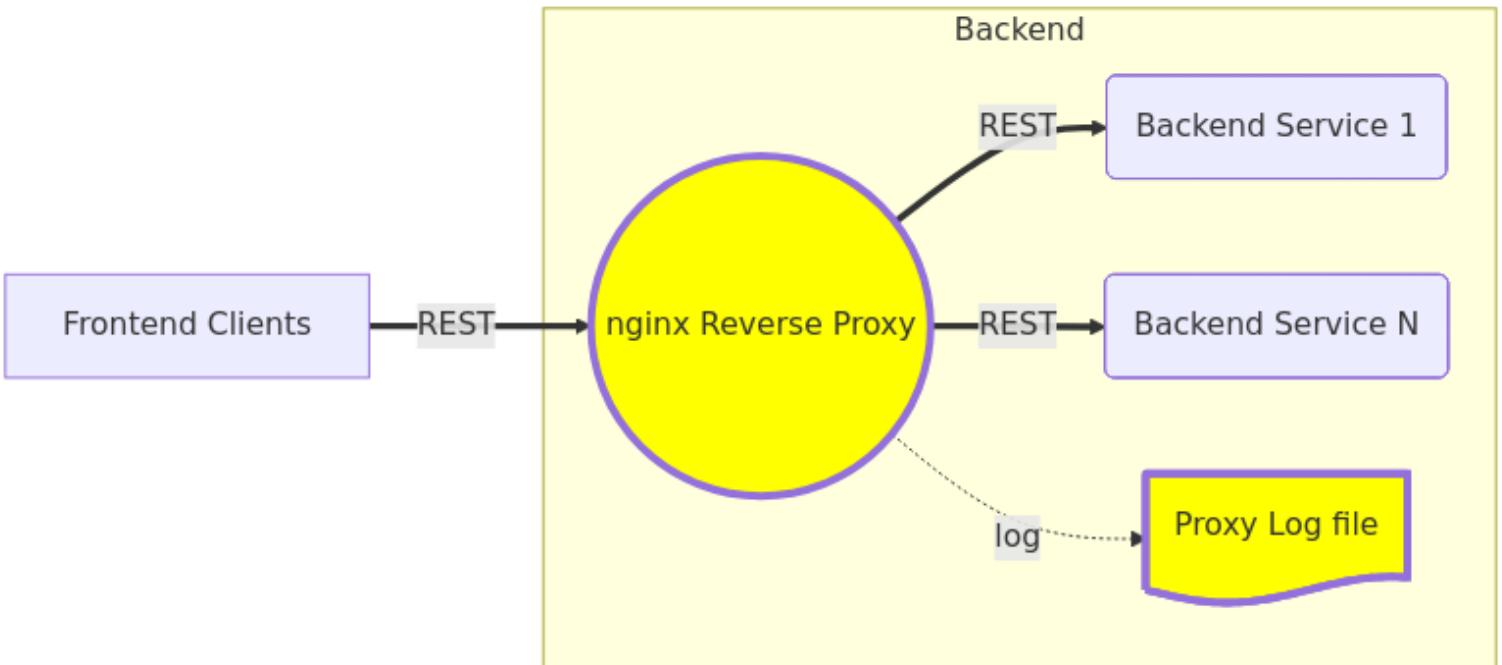


This workshop will heavily leverage ES|QL, Elastic's query-time language, to analyze our nginx reverse proxy logs. You can enter your queries in the pane at the top of the Elasticsearch tab. You can change the time window of your search using the Time Filter. To execute a search, click the Play/Refresh icon.



Getting started

We know that all of the REST API calls from our frontend web app flow through a nginx reverse proxy en route to our backend services; that seems like a good place to start our investigation.



Finding errors

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
```

We can see that there are still transactions occurring, but we don't know if they are successful or failing. Before we spend time parsing our logs, let's just quickly search for common HTTP "500" errors in our nginx logs.

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| WHERE body.text LIKE "* 500 *" // look for messages containing " 500 " in the body
```

If we didn't find any 500 errors, we could of course add additional `LIKE` criteria to our `WHERE` clause, like `WHERE body.text LIKE "* 500 *" OR body.text LIKE "* 404 *"`. We will do a better job of implicitly handling more types of errors once we start parsing our logs. For now, though, we got lucky: indeed, we are clearly returning 500 errors for some users.

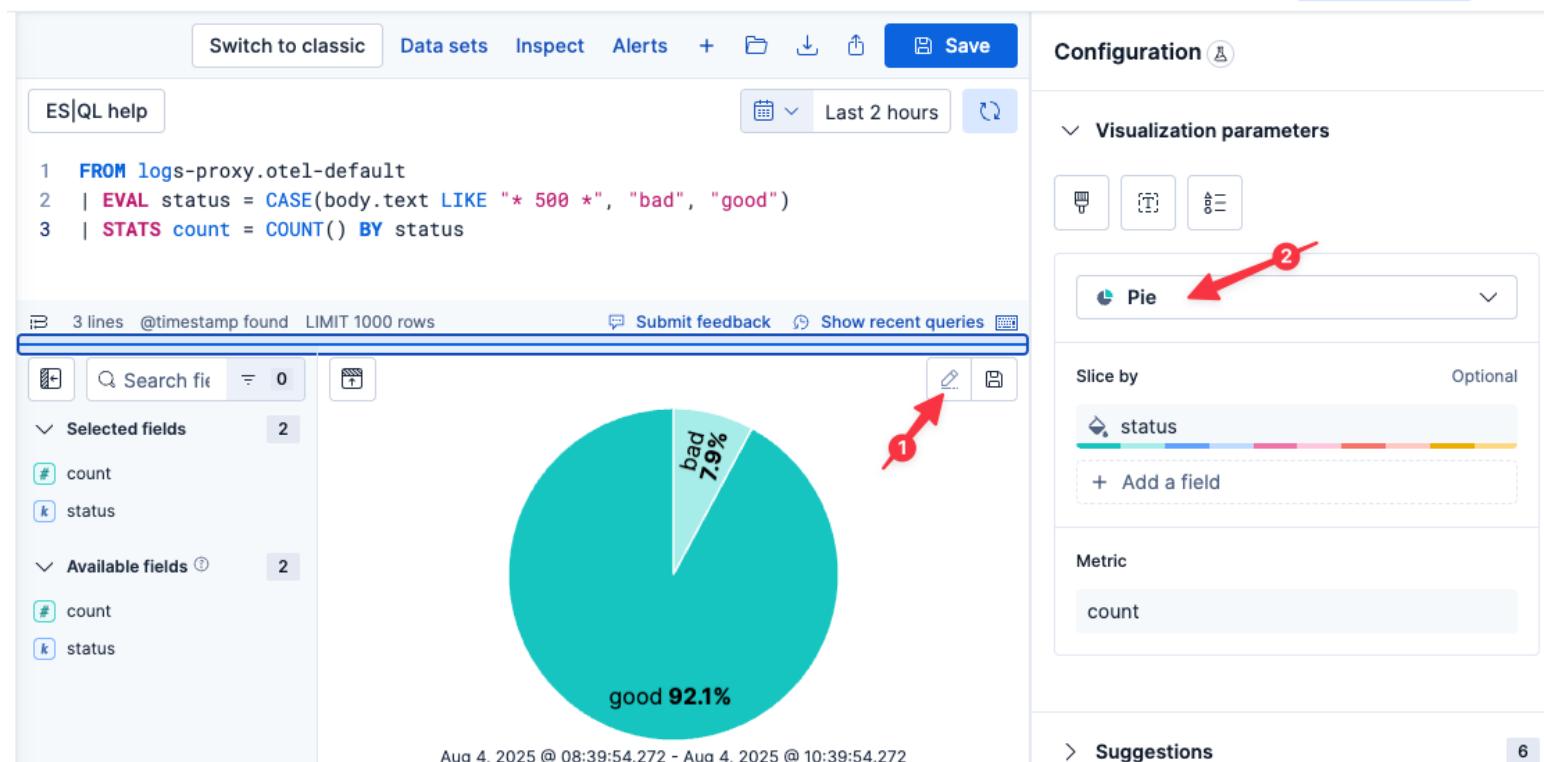
Are the errors affecting all requests?

The next thing we quickly want to understand is what percentage of requests to our backend services are resulting in 500 errors?

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| EVAL status = CASE(body.text LIKE "* 500 *", "bad", "good") // label messages containing " 500 " as "bad", else "good"
| STATS count = COUNT() BY status // count good and bad
```

Let's visualize this as a pie graph to make it a little easier to understand.



1. Click on the pencil icon to the right of the existing graph
2. Select Pie from the visualizations drop-down menu
3. Click Apply and close

This error appears to only be affecting a percentage of our overall requests. We don't yet have the tools to break this down by customer or client, but we will in a future exercise.

Are the errors still occurring?

Let's confirm that we are still seeing a mix of 500 and 200 errors (e.g., the problem wasn't transitory and somehow fixed itself).

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| EVAL status = CASE(body.text LIKE "* 500 *", "bad", "good") // label messages containing " 500 " as "bad", else "good"
| STATS COUNT() BY minute = BUCKET(@timestamp, "1 min"), status
```

Then change the resulting graph to a bar graph over time:

1. Click on the pencil icon to the right of the existing graph
2. Select Bar from the visualizations drop-down menu
3. Click Apply and close

Indeed, we are still seeing a mix of 500 and 200 errors.

When did the errors start?

Let's see if we can find when the errors started occurring. Use the Time Filter to show the last 3 hours of data; this should automatically rerun the last query.

The screenshot shows the ES|QL interface with a query editor containing the following code:

```
1 FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
2 | EVAL status = CASE(body.text LIKE "* 500 *", "bad", "good") // label messages containing " 500 " as "bad", else "good"
3 | STATS COUNT() BY minute = BUCKET(@timestamp, "1 min"), status
```

Below the query editor is a time filter configuration panel. It includes a 'Quick select' dropdown set to 'Last 3 Hours'. The '3' in the dropdown is highlighted with a red arrow labeled '2'. A red arrow labeled '1' points to the 'Last 1 hour' button. A red arrow labeled '3' points to the 'Apply' button.

Ok, it looks like this issue first started happening roughly in the last 2 hours. We can use ES|QL's CHANGE_POINT to narrow it down to a specific minute:

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| EVAL status = CASE(body.text LIKE "* 500 *", "bad", "good") // label messages containing " 500 " as "bad", else "good"
| STATS count = COUNT() BY minute = BUCKET(@timestamp, "1 min"), status
| CHANGE_POINT count ON minute AS type, pval // look for distribution change
| WHERE type IS NOT NULL
| KEEP type, minute
| EVAL minutes_ago = DATE_DIFF("minute", minute, NOW())
```

A-ha! Using CHANGE_POINT, we can say that these errors clearly started occurring 60-80 minutes ago.

Parsing logs with ES|QL

As you can see, simply searching for known error codes in our log lines will only get us so far. Maybe the error code isn't just 500, or maybe we want to analyze status code vs. request URL, for example.

Fortunately, nginx logs are semi-structured which makes them (relatively) easy to parse.

Some of you may already be familiar with grok expressions which provides a higher-level interface on top of regex; namely, grok allows you define patterns. If you are well versed in grok, you may be able to write a parsing pattern yourself for nginx logs, possibly using tools like Grok Debugger to help.

If you aren't well versed in grok expressions, or you don't want to spend the time to debug an expression yourself, you can leverage our AI Assistant to help!

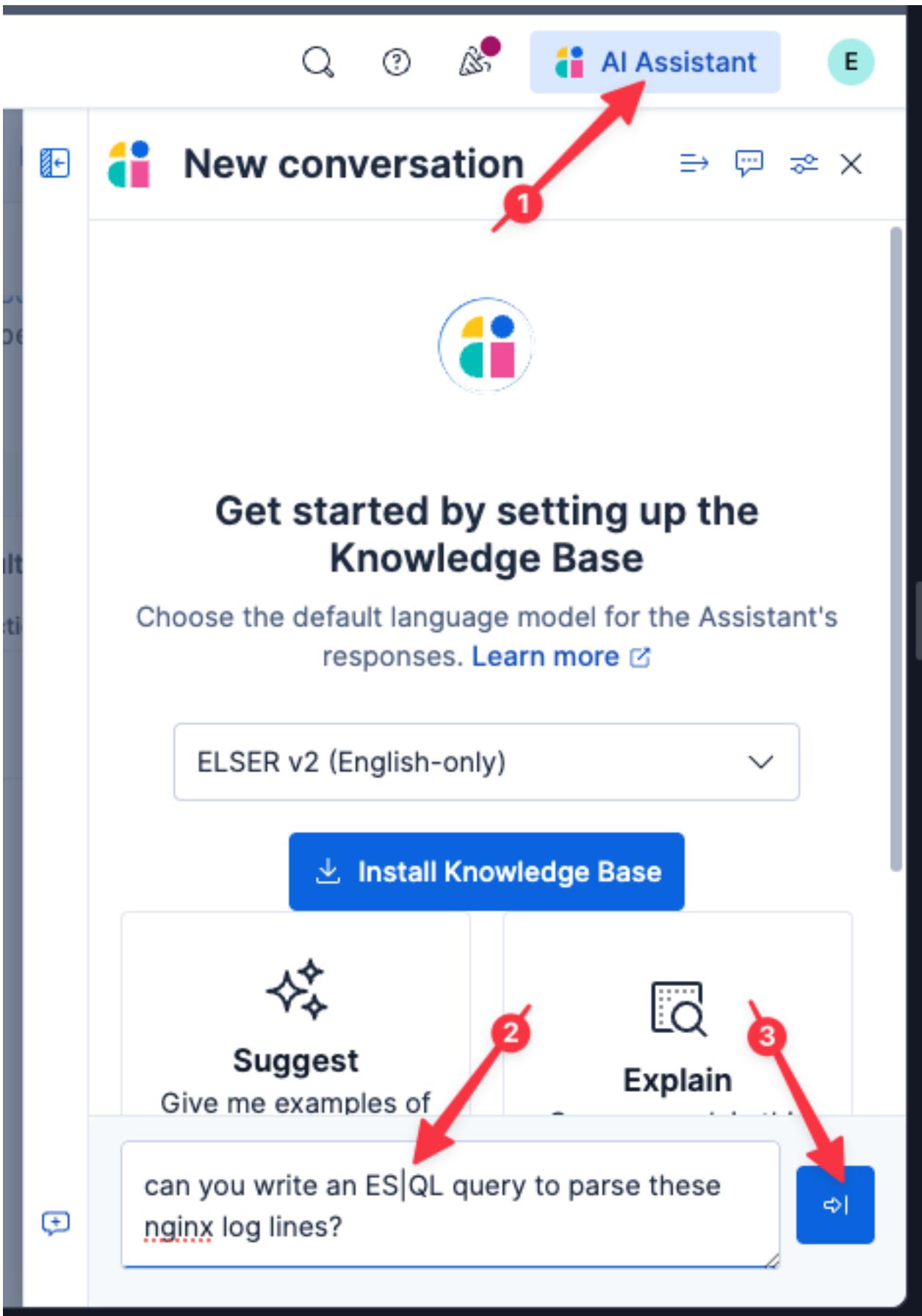
1. Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
```

2. Click on the AI Assistant button in the upper-right.
3. Enter the following prompt in the Send a message to the Assistant field at the bottom of the fly-out.

can you write an ES|QL query to parse these nginx log lines?

4. Click the execute button



[!NOTE] The output should look something like the following. Notably, the AI Assistant may generate slightly different field names on each generating. Because we rely on those field names in subsequent analysis, please close the flyout and copy and paste the following ES|QL expression into the ES|QL query entry box.

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| GROK body.text "%{IPORHOST:client_ip} %{USER:ident} %{USER:auth} \\[%{HTTPDATE:timestamp}\\] \\\"%{WORD:http_method} %{NOTSPACE:request_path}
| WHERE status_code IS NOT NULL
```

```
| EVAL @timestamp = DATE_PARSE("dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ss Z", timestamp) // use embedded timestamp as record timestamp
| KEEP @timestamp, client_ip, http_method, request_path, status_code, user_agent
```

Is this affecting several or just one backend API?

Let's make use of these parsed fields to break down `status_code` by `request_path` to see if this is affecting only a specific API, or several APIs?

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| GROK body.text "%{IPORHOST:client_ip} %{USER:ident} %{USER:auth} \\[%{HTTPDATE:timestamp}\\] \\\"%{WORD:http_method} %{NOTSPACE:request_path}
| WHERE status_code IS NOT NULL
| STATS COUNT() BY status_code, request_path
```

Ok, it seems these errors are affecting all of the APIs (2) exposed by our simple backend.

[!NOTE] You may notice that our search has gotten a little slower when we added query-time grok parsing. This is because Elasticsearch is now applying our grok pattern to every log line in the selected time window. In our next challenge, we will show you how we can retain fast-search over long time windows WITH parsing using ingest-time parsing!

Is this affecting all User Agents?

Our nginx access logs also include a User Agent field, which is a semi-structured field containing some information about the requesting browser. Ideally, we could also cross-reference the errors against this field to understand if it is affecting all browsers, or only some types of browsers.

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| GROK body.text "%{IPORHOST:client_ip} %{USER:ident} %{USER:auth} \\[%{HTTPDATE:timestamp}\\] \\\"%{WORD:http_method} %{NOTSPACE:request_path}
| WHERE status_code IS NOT NULL
| WHERE TO_INT(status_code) == 500
| STATS bad = COUNT() BY user_agent
```

Unfortunately, the unparsed `user_agent` field is too unstructured to really be useful for this kind of analysis. We could try to write a grok expression to further parse `user_agent`, but in practice, it is too complicated (it requires translations and lookups in addition to parsing). Let's put a pin in this topic and revisit it in a bit when we have more tools at our disposal.

Making use of our parsed fields

Let's redraw the time graph we drew before, but this time using `status_code` instead of looking for specific error codes.

Execute the following query:

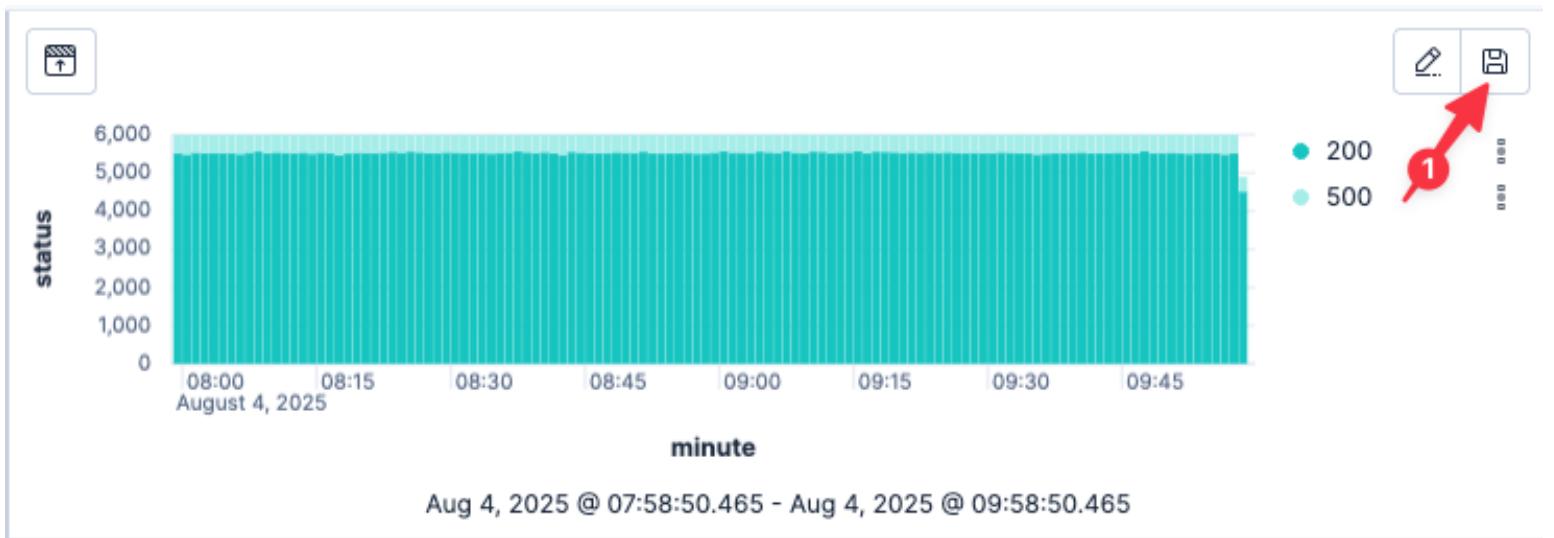
```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| GROK body.text "%{IPORHOST:client_ip} %{USER:ident} %{USER:auth} \\[%{HTTPDATE:timestamp}\\] \\\"%{WORD:http_method} %{NOTSPACE:request_path}
| WHERE status_code IS NOT NULL
| EVAL @timestamp = DATE_PARSE("dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ss Z", timestamp)
| STATS status_count = COUNT() BY status_code, minute = BUCKET(@timestamp, "1 min")
```

[!NOTE] If the resulting graph does not default to a bar graph plotted over time, click on the Pencil icon in the upper-right of the graph and change the graph type to Bar

Now that we are graphing by `status_code`, we know definitively that we returning only 200 and 500 status codes.

Saving our visualization to a dashboard

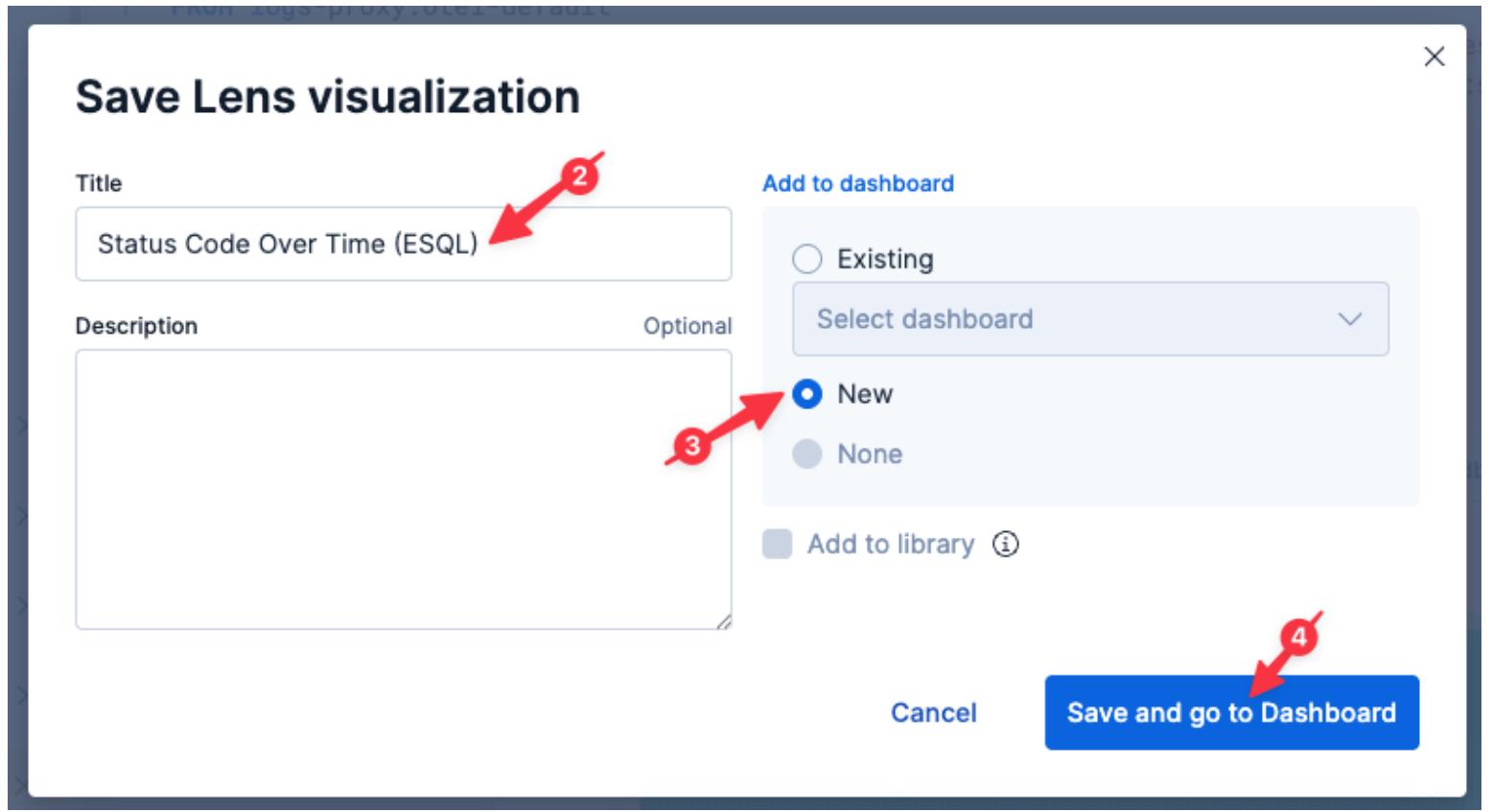
Let's save this graph to a dashboard for future use.



1. Click on the Disk icon in the upper-right of the resulting graph
2. Name the visualization

Status Code Over Time (ESQL)

3. Select New under Add to dashboard
4. Click Save and go to Dashboard



You will be taken to a new dashboard. Let's save it for future reference.

1. Click the Save button in the upper-right
2. Enter the title of the new dashboard as

Ingress Status

3. Click Save

Setting up a simple alert

Go back to Discover using the left-hand navigation pane.

Let's create a simple alert to notify us whenever a `status_code >= 400` is received:

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| GROK body.text "%{IPORHOST:client_ip} %{USER:ident} %{USER:auth} \\[%{HTTPDATE:timestamp}\\] \\\"%{WORD:http_method} %{NOTSPACE:request_path}
| WHERE status_code >= 400
```

The screenshot shows the Elasticsearch interface with a search bar containing the ES|QL query. The toolbar above has tabs for 'Switch to classic', 'Data sets', 'Inspect' (selected), 'Alerts' (highlighted with a red circle and arrow), '+', 'File', 'Download', 'Upload', 'Save', and 'AI Assistant'. A dropdown menu from the 'Alerts' tab lists options: 'Create search threshold rule' (selected, highlighted with a red circle and arrow), 'Create custom threshold rule', 'Create SLO', and 'Manage rules and connectors'. The results of the search are visible below the toolbar.

1. Click Alerts in the toolbar
2. Select Create search threshold rule
3. Click Test query
4. Leave the defaults and click Next
5. Click Next on Actions tab
6. Set Rule name to

```
status_code >= 400
```

7. Set Tags to

```
ingress
```

8. Click Create rule on Details tab
9. Click Save rule on the pop-up dialog

In practice, this alert is too simple. We probably are okay with a small percentage of non-200 errors for any large scale infrastructure. What we really want is to alert when we violate a SLO. We will revisit this topic in a bit.

[!NOTE] For the purposes of this workshop, we aren't setting up any Connectors to take action on our alerts. Typically, you would configure one or more Actions when creating an Alert.

Summary

Let's take stock of what we know:

- a percentage of requests are experiencing 500 errors
- the errors started occurring around 80 minutes ago
- the only error type seen is 500
- the errors occur over all APIs

And what we've done:

- Created a dashboard to monitor our ingress proxy
- Created graphs to monitor status codes over time
- Created a simple alert to let us know if we ever return non-200 error codes

So far, we've been using ES|QL to parse our proxy logs at query-time. While incredibly powerful for quick analysis, we can do even more with our logs if we parse them at ingest-time.

Parsing with Streams

We will be working with Elastic Streams which makes it easy to setup log parsing pipelines.

1. Select logs-proxy.otel-default from the list of data streams (if you start typing, Elasticsearch will help you find it)
2. Select the Processing tab

D / Streams / logs-proxy.otel-default

logs-proxy.otel-default

Retention Processing Schema Data quality Significant events Advanced

Extract useful fields from your data

Transform your data before indexing with conditions and processors.

Suggest a pipeline

Use the power of AI to generate the most effective pipeline

❖ Suggest a pipeline

Create your first step ▾

②

Data preview Modified fields

All samples Parsed Partially pa

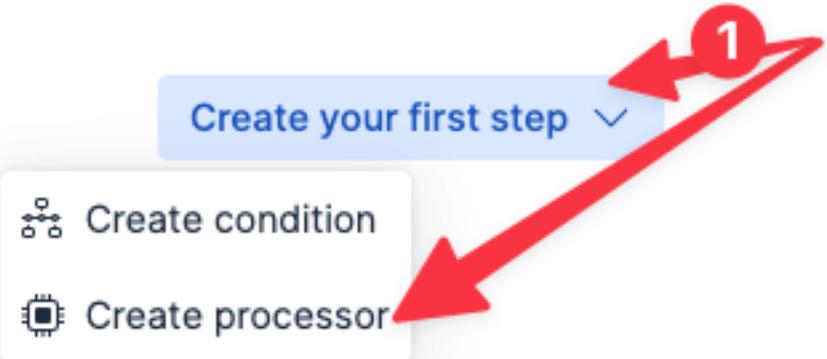
Columns Summary

Summary		
proxy	102.65.20.38	-- [08/D]
proxy	107.80.153.111	-- [08/
proxy	107.80.98.127	-- [08/
proxy	186.189.233.208	-- [08/
proxy	103.107.52.197	-- [08/
proxy	149.254.212.114	-- [08/
proxy	149.254.212.163	-- [08/
proxy	107.80.138.200	-- [08/

Parsing the log message

We can parse our nginx log messages at ingest-time using the Elastic Grok processor.

1. Select Create processor from the menu Create your first step



2. Select the Grok Processor (if not already selected)
3. Set the Field to

body.text

4. Click Generate pattern. Elasticsearch will analyze your log lines and try to determine a suitable grok pattern.
5. To ensure a consistent lab experience, copy the following grok expression and paste it into the Grok patterns field (do not click the Accept button next to the generated pattern)

`%{IPV4:attributes.client.ip}\s-\s-\s\[%{HTTPDATE:attributes.custom.timestamp}\]\s"%{WORD:attributes.http.request.method_original} /(?<attribute>`

6. Wait until the sample body.text on the right shows highlighting, then click Create

GROK

Processor

Grok

Uses grok expressions to extract matches from a field.

Source Field

body.text

Field to search for grok matches in simulation data

Grok patterns

```
{INT:attributes.http.response.status_code}\s%{INT:attributes.http.response.body.size}\s"-"\s%{DATA:resource.attributes.user_agent.original}
```

Generate pattern Add pattern

> Advanced settings

Ignore failures for this processor

Ignore missing

Ignore documents with a missing field.

Cancel Create

The screenshot shows the 'Processing' tab in the Elasticsearch interface. A 'Grok' processor is selected. The 'Source Field' is set to 'body.text'. In the 'Grok patterns' section, a pattern is defined: {INT:attributes.http.response.status_code}\s%{INT:attributes.http.response.body.size}\s"-"\s%{DATA:resource.attributes.user_agent.original}. There are two 'Advanced settings' checkboxes: 'Ignore failures for this processor' (checked) and 'Ignore missing' (checked). At the bottom, there are 'Cancel' and 'Create' buttons, with 'Create' being highlighted by a red arrow labeled '6'.

Parsing the timestamp

The nginx log line includes a timestamp; let's use that as our record timestamp.

1. Select Create processor from the menu Create
2. Select the Date Processor
3. Set Field to attributes.custom.timestamp
4. Elastic should auto-recognize the format: dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ss XX
5. Click Create

Retention Processing Schema Data quality

GROK ✓ 100% 8 fields Unsaved ...

```
%{IPV4:attributes.client.ip}\s-\s-\s\[%{HTTPDATE:a}
```

DATE

Processor **Date** ✖ ▾

Converts a date to a document timestamp.

Source Field **attributes.custom.timestamp** ✖ ▾

Field containing date values to parse.

Format **dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ss XX** ✖ [Generate suggestions](#)

Expected date format. Accepts a Java time pattern, ISO8601, UNIX, UNIX_MS, or TAI64N format.

> Advanced settings

Ignore failures for this processor

Cancel Create

The screenshot shows the 'Processing' tab of the Elasticsearch interface. At the top, it says 'GROK' with a green checkmark, '✓ 100%', '8 fields', and 'Unsaved'. Below this is a GROK pattern: ` %{IPV4:attributes.client.ip}\s-\s-\s\[%{HTTPDATE:a}`. The main area is titled 'DATE' and contains three configuration sections: 'Processor' (set to 'Date'), 'Source Field' (set to 'attributes.custom.timestamp'), and 'Format' (set to 'dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ss XX'). Each section has a red arrow with a number pointing to it: '2' for the processor, '3' for the source field, and '4' for the format. A fifth red arrow with the number '5' points to the 'Create' button at the bottom right. At the bottom left, there's a link to 'Advanced settings' and a checkbox for 'Ignore failures for this processor'.

Setting field mappings

1. Click the Modified fields tab
2. Find the field `attributes.http.response.status_code`
3. Click the ellipse on the far right of the `attributes.http.response.status_code` row
4. Select Map field

Advanced

The screenshot shows the Logstash configuration interface with the 'Modified fields' tab selected. The table lists various fields with their types and mapping status. The 'status_code' field is highlighted with a red arrow labeled 2. A red arrow labeled 3 points to the three-dot menu icon next to it. A red arrow labeled 4 points to the 'Map field' option in the context menu that appears when the menu is clicked.

Field	Type	Format	Mapping status	Simulation result
attributes.http.request.method_original	Keyword	-----	Mapped	Created
attributes.http.response.body.size	Number (long)	-----	Mapped	Created
@timestamp	Date	-----	Mapped	Modified
attributes.client.ip	<dynamic>	-----	Dynamic	Created
attributes.custom.timestamp	<dynamic>	-----	Dynamic	Created
attributes.http.response.status_code	<dynamic>	-----	Dynamic	Created
attributes.http.version	<dynamic>	-----	Dynamic	Created
attributes.url.path	<dynamic>	-----	Dynamic	Created
resource.attributes.user_agent.original	<dynamic>	-----	Dynamic	Created

5. Set the type to Number (long)
6. Click Stage changes

attributes.http.response.status_code

X

Field summary

Status ⓘ

Unmapped

5

Type

Number (long)

▼

Recommended type: long

Field Parent

logs-proxy.otel-default

> Advanced field mapping parameters

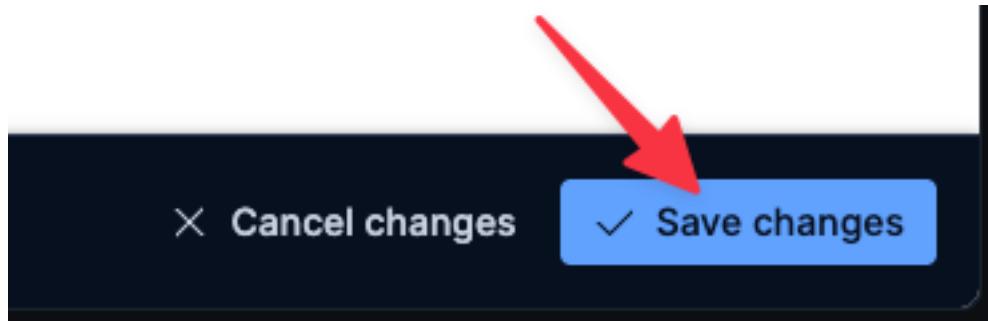
X Cancel

6 Stage changes

Saving our processors

Now let's save our Processing chain.

1. Click Save changes in the bottom-right
2. Click Confirm changes in the resulting dialog



A faster way to query

Now let's jump back to Discover by clicking `Discover` in the left-hand navigation pane.

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| WHERE http.response.status_code IS NOT NULL
| KEEP @timestamp, attributes.client.ip, attributes.http.request.method_original, attributes.url.path, attributes.http.response.status_code,
```

[!NOTE] If you get back 1,000 results but the resulting columns are empty, remove the Selected fields (by clicking the X next to each), and then add each Available field (by clicking the + next to each).

Let's redraw our status code graph using our newly parsed field:

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| WHERE attributes.http.response.status_code IS NOT NULL
| STATS COUNT() BY TO_STRING(attributes.http.response.status_code), minute = BUCKET(@timestamp, "1 min")
```

Note that this graph, unlike the one we drew before, currently shows only a few minutes of data. That is because it relies upon the fields we parsed in the Processing we just setup. Prior to that time, those fields didn't exist. Change the time field to Last 5 Minutes to zoom in on the newly parsed data.

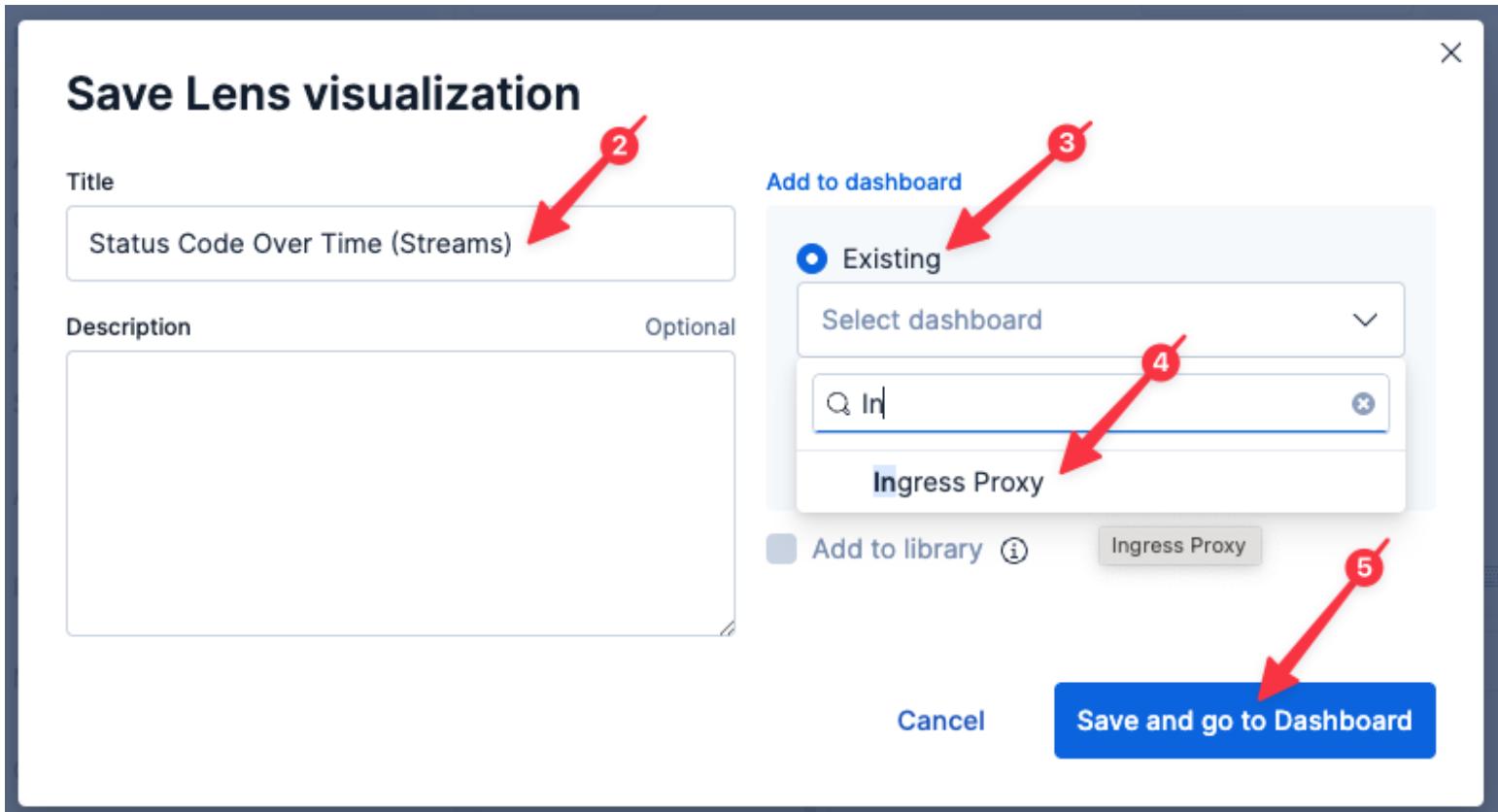
Saving our visualization to a dashboard

This is a useful graph! Let's save it to our dashboard for future use.

1. Click on the Disk icon in the upper-right of the resulting graph
2. Name the visualization

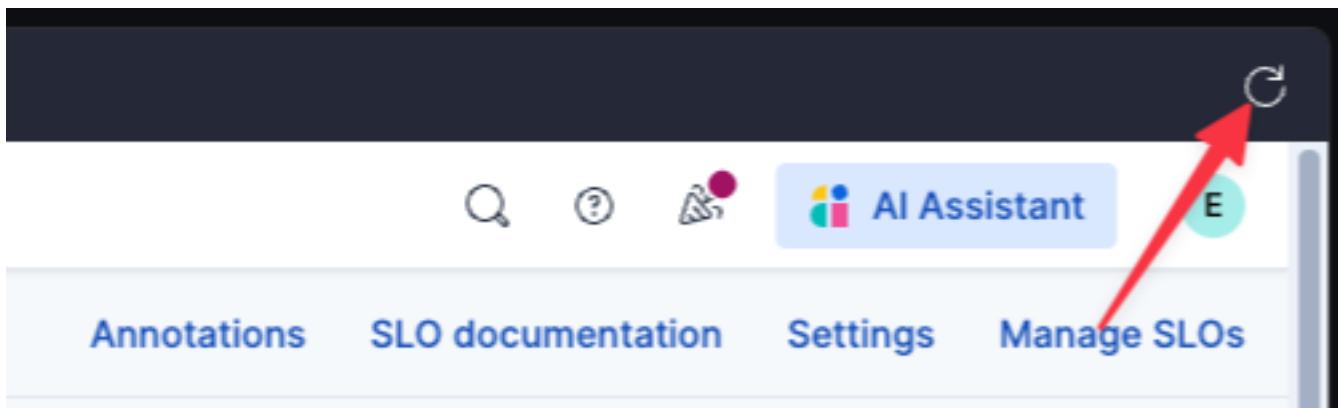
Status Code Over Time (Streams)

3. Select Existing Under Add to dashboard
4. Select the existing dashboard Ingress Status (you will need to start typing Ingress in the Search dashboards... field)
5. Click Save and go to Dashboard
6. Once the dashboard has loaded, click the Save button in the upper-right



Creating a SLO

[!NOTE] Because we are moving quickly, Elasticsearch may take some time to update field lists in the UI. If you encounter a situation where Elasticsearch doesn't recognize one of the fields we just parsed, click the Refresh icon in the upper-right of the Instruqt tab and try again to create the SLO.



Remember that simple alert we created? Now that we are parsing these fields at ingest-time, we can create a proper SLO instead of a simple binary alert. With a SLO, we can allow for some percentage of errors over time (common in a complex system) before we get our support staff out of bed.

1. Click SLOs in the left-hand navigation pane
2. Click Create SLO
3. Select Custom Query (if not already selected)
4. Set Data view to logs-proxy.otel-default
5. Set Timestamp field to @timestamp (if not already selected)
6. Set Good query to

```
attributes.http.response.status_code < 400
```

7. Set Total query to

```
attributes.http.response.status_code : *
```

8. Set Group by to

attributes.url.path

Define SLI

Choose the SLI type Custom Query 3

Index Data view logs-proxy.otel-default 4

Timestamp field @timestamp 5

Query filter Optional = + Custom filter to apply on the index 6

Good query Optional = + http.response.status_code < 400 7

Total query Optional = + http.response.status_code : * 8

Group by Optional http.request.url.path

9. Set SLO Name to

Ingress Status

10. Set Tags to

ingress

11. Click Create SLO



Describe SLO

SLO Name

Ingress Status

9

Description

Optional

A short description of the SLO

Tags

ingress X

X ✓

10

Create SLO

Cancel

Equivalent API request

SLO Inspect

11

Alerting on a SLO

Now let's setup an alert that triggers when this SLO is breached.

1. Click on your newly created SLO Ingress Status
2. Under the Actions menu in the upper-right, select Manage burn rate rule

With burn rates, we can have Elastic dynamically adjust the escalation of a potential issue depending on how quickly it appears we will breach our SLO.

3. Click on the Actions tab of the fly-out
4. Click Add action
5. Select Cases (this will automatically open a case/ticket when this SLO is breached)

Edit rule



Definition **Actions** Details



Cases



Group by alert field

Optional

Time window

7

days



Template name

Optional

No template selected



Select a template to use its default field values.

Reopen when the case is closed

6. Click on the Details tab of the fly-out

7. Set the Rule name to :

Ingress Status SLO

8. Set Tags to

ingress

9. Click Save changes

Edit rule

Definition Actions Details

Rule name

Ingress Status SLO

Tags

ingress X

Optional

Investigation guide ?

Optional

B I ≡ ≡ ≡ “ ” </> ⌂ ...

Preview

Add guidelines for addressing alerts created by this rule

M+

Cancel

Show request

Save changes

We now have a SLO that will tolerate a configurable percentage of errors, governed by a contractual goal. When it looks like we may violate that SLO, an alert will fire, which in turn will automatically open a case in Elastic! Moreover, if configured, Elastic can synchronize cases with your existing ticket management systems.

Adding SLO monitors to our dashboard

Now let's add the SLO monitor to our dashboard to help us find it in the future.

1. Click Dashboards in the left-hand navigation pane
2. Open the Ingress Status dashboard (if not already open)
3. Click Add panel
4. Select SLO Overview
5. Select Grouped SLOs
6. Set Group by to Tags
7. Set Tags to ingress
8. Click Save

Overview configuration

X

View type

Single SLO

Grouped SLOs

Group by

Tags

▼

Tags

Optional

ingress X

▼

Custom filter

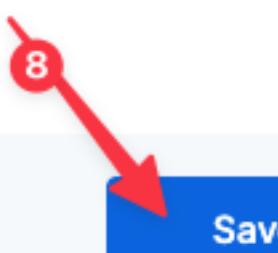
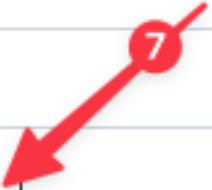
Optional

=

+



Custom filter



Cancel

Save

Note that we are dynamically adding SLOs by tag. Any additional SLOs tagged with ingress will also appear here.

Adding alerts to our dashboard

Let's also add our growing list of alerts to our dashboard.

1. Click Add panel
2. Select Alerts
3. Set Filter by to Rule tags
4. Set Rule tags to ingress
5. Click Save

Note that we are dynamically adding alerts by tag. Any additional alerts tagged with `ingress` will also appear here.

Now save the changes to our dashboard by clicking the `Save` button in the upper-right.

Summary

Let's take stock of what we know:

- a small percentage of requests are experiencing 500 errors
- the errors started occurring around 80 minutes ago
- the only error type seen is 500
- the errors occur over all APIs

And what we've done:

- Created a dashboard to monitor our ingress proxy
- Created graphs to monitor status codes over time
- Created a simple alert to let us know if we ever return non-200 error codes
- Parsed the logs at ingest-time for quicker and more powerful analysis
- Create a SLO (with alert) to let us know if we ever return a significant number of non-200 error codes over time

We still don't know why some requests are failing. Now that we are parsing the logs, however, we have access to a lot more information.

Is this affecting every region?

Let's analyze our clients by `client.ip` to look for possibly geographic patterns.

Adding the GeoIP processor

We can add the Elastic GeoIP processor to geo-locate our clients based on their client IP address.

1. Select `logs-proxy.otel-default` from the list of Streams.
2. Select the Processing tab
3. Select Create processor from the menu Create
4. Select the Manual pipeline configuration Processor
5. Set the Ingest pipeline processors field to:

```
[  
 {  
   "geoip": {  
     "field": "attributes.client.ip",  
     "target_field": "client.geo",  
     "ignore_missing": true  
   }  
 }]
```

6. Click Create
7. Click Save changes in the bottom-right
8. Click Confirm changes in the resulting dialog

● GROK

⋮

```
%{IPV4:attributes.client.ip}\s-\s-\s\[%{HTTPDATE:att
```

● DATE

⋮

```
attributes.custom.timestamp : dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ss X
```

MANUAL_INGEST_PIPELINE

Processor

 Manual pipeline configuration x ▼

Specify an array of ingest pipeline processors using JSON.

Ingest pipeline processors

```
1 [  
2 {  
3     "geoip": {  
4         "field": "attributes.client.ip",  
5         "target_field": "client.geo",  
6         "ignore_missing": true  
7     }  
8 }  
9 ]
```

A JSON-encoded array of [ingest pipeline processors](#). Conditions defined in the processor JSON take precedence over conditions defined in "Optional fields".

> Advanced settings

Ignore failures for this processor

Cancel

Create

4

5

6

Setting field mappings

Now we need to map several of our new fields to the proper field type.

1. Select the Schema tab
2. Search for field `client.geo`
3. Click on the ellipse on the right-hand side of the `client.geo.location.lat` row and select Map as geo field
4. Click Stage changes in the resulting dialog
5. Click on the ellipse on the right-hand side of the `client.geo.country_iso_code` row and select Map field
6. Set Type to Keyword
7. Click Stage changes in the resulting dialog
8. Click Submit changes in the bottom-right
9. Click Confirm changes in the resulting dialog

The screenshot shows the AWS CloudWatch Metrics Insights interface. At the top, there are tabs: Retention, Processing, Schema (which is highlighted with a red arrow labeled 1), Data quality, Significant events, and Advanced. Below the tabs is a search bar containing the query `client.geo`. To the right of the search bar are filters for Type (3) and Status (2), a Refresh button, and an Add field button. The main area is a table titled "Columns 4/7 Sort fields". It lists eight fields under the "Field" column: `client.geo.city_name`, `client.geo.continent_name`, `client.geo.country_iso_code`, `client.geo.country_name`, `client.geo.location.lat`, `client.geo.location.lon`, `client.geo.region_iso_code`, and `client.geo.region_name`. The "Type" column shows all as <dynamic>. The "Format" column shows all as -----. The "Mapping status" column shows all as Dynamic. A context menu is open over the last row (`client.geo.region_name`). The menu has three options: "Field actions" (highlighted with a red arrow labeled 2), "View field", and "Map field". The "Map field" option is highlighted with a red arrow labeled 3, and a tooltip "Map as geo field" is shown next to it.

Field	Type	Format	Mapping status
<code>client.geo.city_name</code>	<dynamic>	----	Dynamic
<code>client.geo.continent_name</code>	<dynamic>	----	Dynamic
<code>client.geo.country_iso_code</code>	<dynamic>	----	Dynamic
<code>client.geo.country_name</code>	<dynamic>	----	Dynamic
<code>client.geo.location.lat</code>	<dynamic>	----	Dynamic
<code>client.geo.location.lon</code>	<dynamic>	----	Dynam Field actions
<code>client.geo.region_iso_code</code>	<dynamic>	----	Dynam View field
<code>client.geo.region_name</code>	<dynamic>	----	Dynam Map field

Analyzing with Discover

Jump back to Discover by clicking `Discover` in the left-hand navigation pane.

Adjust the time field to show the last 3 hours of data.

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| WHERE client.geo.country_iso_code IS NOT NULL AND attributes.http.response.status_code IS NOT NULL
| STATS COUNT() BY attributes.http.response.status_code, client.geo.country_iso_code
| SORT attributes.http.response.status_code DESC
```

Let's make this a pie chart to allow for more intuitive visualization.

1. Click the pencil icon to the right of the graph
2. Select Pie from the dropdown menu
3. Click Apply and close

Wow! It looks like all of our 500 errors are occurring in the TH (Thailand) region. That is really interesting; without more information, we might be tempted to stop our RCA analysis here. However, there is often more to the story, as we will see.

Saving our visualization to a dashboard

In the meantime, this is a useful graph! Let's save it to our dashboard for future use.

1. Click on the Disk icon in the upper-right of the resulting graph

2. Name the visualization

Status by Region

3. Select Existing under Add to dashboard
4. Select the existing dashboard Ingress Status (you will need to start typing Ingress in the Search dashboards... field)
5. Click Save and go to Dashboard
6. Once the dashboard has loaded, click the Save button in the upper-right

Visualizing with Maps

[!NOTE] Because we are moving quickly, Elasticsearch may take some time to update field lists in the UI. If you encounter a situation where Elasticsearch doesn't recognize one of the fields we just parsed, click the Refresh icon in the upper-right of the Instruct tab and try again to create the Map.

Sometimes it is helpful to visualize client geography on a map. Fortunately, Elastic has a built-in Map visualization we can readily use!

First, let's change the map projection from 3D to 2D:

1. Go to Other tools > Maps using the left-hand navigation pane
2. Click Settings in the upper-right
3. Under Display, set Projection to Mercator
4. Click Keep changes in the settings fly-out

Settings

Inspect

Full screen

Save

2

Settings

Custom icons

Add a custom icon that can be used in layers in this map.

+ Add

Display

Background color

TRANSPARENT



Projection

Mercator



Show scale

Navigation

Auto fit map to data bounds

Zoom range

0

4



24

Discard changes

✓ Keep changes

2

3

4

Now let's visualize client access by location and status code:

1. Click Add layer
2. Click the Elasticsearch tab under Add layer
3. Select Documents
4. Select Data view to logs-proxy.otel-default
5. Set Geospatial field to client.geo.location (if this field isn't available, refresh the Instruqt virtual browser tab)
6. Click Add and continue
7. Scroll down to Layer style
8. Set Fill color to By value
9. Set Select a field to http.response.status_code
10. Select Custom color ramp in the field next to As number
11. Select a greenish color for the first number row (if not already selected)
12. Click the + button to the right of the first number row
13. Enter 400 in the second number row
14. Select a reddish color for the 400 number row
15. Set Symbol Size to By value
16. Set Select a field to http.response.status_code
17. Click Keep changes

Layer style

Symbol type

marker

icon

Fill color

By value

http.response.status_code

As number

Custom color ramp

 11

#16C5C0

400

#F6726A

Border color

Solid

Border width

Fixed

0

px

Symbol size

By value

http.response.status_code

7

→

32

px

Reverse size

 Data mapping

Label

[Discard changes](#)

[Remove layer](#)

 [Keep changes](#)

Feel free to scroll around the globe and note the intuitive visualization of client locations and status codes.

Saving our map to a dashboard

Let's add our map to our dashboard for future reference.

1. Click the Save button in the upper-right
2. Set Title to

Status Code by Location

3. Select existing dashboard Ingress Status (you will need to start typing Ingress in the Search dashboards... field)
4. Click Save and go to dashboard

Now save the dashboard by clicking on the Save button in the upper-right.

Summary

Let's take stock of what we know:

- a small percentage of requests are experiencing 500 errors
- the errors started occurring around 80 minutes ago
- the only error type seen is 500
- the errors occur over all APIs
- the errors occur only in the TH (Thailand) region

And what we've done:

- Created a dashboard to monitor our ingress proxy
- Created graphs to monitor status codes over time
- Created a simple alert to let us know if we ever return non-200 error codes
- Parsed the logs at ingest-time for quicker and more powerful analysis
- Create a SLO (with alert) to let us know if we ever return a significant number of non-200 error codes over time
- Created visualizations to help us visually locate clients and errors

We know that errors appear to be localized to a specific region. But maybe there is more to the story?

Is this affecting every type of browser?

Remember the User Agent string we tried to group by and failed using ES|QL? While nearly impossible to parse with a simple grok expression, we can easily parse the User Agent string using the Elastic User agent processor.

Adding the User Agent processor

1. Select logs-proxy.otel-default from the list of Streams.
2. Select the Processing tab
3. Select Create processor from the menu Create
4. Select the Manual pipeline configuration Processor
5. Set the Ingest pipeline processors field to:

```
[  
 {  
   "user_agent": {  
     "field": "resource.attributes.user_agent.original",  
     "target_field": "user_agent",  
     "extract_device_type": true,  
     "ignore_missing": true  
   }  
 }]  
6. Click Create
```

Retention

Processing

Schema

Data quality

3
www.english-test.net

DATE

attributes.custom.timestamp • dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ss

● MANUAL_INGEST_PIPELINE

```
{"processors": [{"geoip": {"field": "attributes.client_ip"}},
```

MANUAL_INGEST_PIPELINE

Processor

Manual pipeline configuration

Specify an array of ingest pipeline processors using JSON.

Ingest pipeline processors

```
1 [ {  
2   {  
3     "user_agent": {  
4       "field": "resource.attributes.  
5         user_agent.original",  
6       "target_field": "user_agent",  
7       "extract_device_type": true,  
8       "ignore_missing": true  
9     }  
10   }  
11 }
```

A JSON-encoded array of ingest pipeline processors ↗.

Conditions defined in the processor JSON take precedence over conditions defined in "Optional fields".

> Advanced settings

Ignore failures for this processor

Cancel

Create

Setting field mappings

1. Click the Modified fields tab
2. Click the ellipse on the far right of the user_agent.name row
3. Select Map field
4. Set the type to Keyword
5. Click the ellipse on the far right of the user_agent.version row
6. Select Map field
7. Set the type to Keyword
8. Click the ellipse on the far right of the user_agent.os.name row
9. Select Map field
10. Set the type to Keyword
11. Click the ellipse on the far right of the user_agent.os.version row
12. Select Map field
13. Set the type to Keyword
14. Click Stage changes

Saving our processors

Now let's save our Processing chain.

1. Click Save changes in the bottom-right
2. Click Confirm changes in the resulting dialog

Analyzing with Discover

Now let's jump back to Discover by clicking **Discover** in the left-hand navigation pane.

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| EVAL user_agent.full = CONCAT(user_agent.name, " ", user_agent.version)
| WHERE user_agent.full IS NOT NULL
| STATS good = COUNT(http.response.status_code < 400 OR NULL), bad = COUNT(http.response.status_code >= 400 OR NULL) BY user_agent.full
| SORT bad DESC
```

Ah-ha, there is more to the story! It appears our errors may be isolated to a specific browser version. Let's break this down by `user_agent.version`.

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| WHERE user_agent.version IS NOT NULL
| STATS good = COUNT(http.response.status_code < 400 OR NULL), bad = COUNT(http.response.status_code >= 400 OR NULL) BY user_agent.version
| SORT bad DESC
```

Indeed, it appears we might have a problem with version 136 of the Chrome browser!

Correlating with region

So what's the correlation with the geographic area we previously identified as being associated with the errors we saw?

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| WHERE client.geo.country_iso_code IS NOT NULL AND user_agent.version IS NOT NULL AND http.response.status_code IS NOT NULL
| EVAL version_major = SUBSTRING(user_agent.version,0,LOCATE(user_agent.version, ".")-1)
| WHERE user_agent.name LIKE "*Chrome*" AND TO_INT(version_major) == 136
| STATS COUNT() BY client.geo.country_iso_code
```

A-ha! It appears that this specific version of the Chrome browser (v136) has only been seen in the TH region! Quite possibly, Google has rolled out a specialized or canary version of their browser first in the TH region. That would explain why we saw errors only in the TH region.

Congratulations! We found our problem! In the next challenge, we will setup a way to catch new User Agents in the future.

Summary

Let's take stock of what we know:

- a small percentage of requests are experiencing 500 errors
- the errors started occurring around 80 minutes ago
- the only error type seen is 500
- the errors occur over all APIs
- the errors occur only in the TH region
- the errors occur only with browsers based on Chrome v136

And what we've done:

- Created a dashboard to monitor our ingress proxy
- Created graphs to monitor status codes over time
- Created a simple alert to let us know if we ever return non-200 error codes
- Parsed the logs at ingest-time for quicker and more powerful analysis
- Create a SLO (with alert) to let us know if we ever return a significant number of non-200 error codes over time
- Created visualizations to help us visually locate clients and errors

Now that we know what happened, let's try to be sure this never happens again by building out more reporting and alerting.

Generating a breakdown of user agents

As long as we are parsing our User Agent string, let's build some visualizations of the makeup of our browser clients. We can accomplish this using our parsed User Agent string and ES|QL.

Breakdown by OS

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| WHERE user_agent.os.name IS NOT NULL
| STATS COUNT() by user_agent.os.name, user_agent.os.version
```

1. Click on the pencil icon to the right of the existing graph
2. Select Treemap from the visualizations drop-down menu
3. Click Apply and close

Saving our visualization to a dashboard

Let's save it to our dashboard for future use.

1. Click on the Disk icon in the upper-right of the resulting graph
2. Name the visualization

Client OSs

3. Select Existing under Add to dashboard
4. Select the existing dashboard Ingress Status (you will need to start typing Ingress in the Search dashboards... field)
5. Click Save and go to Dashboard
6. Once the dashboard has loaded, click the Save button in the upper-right

Breakdown by Browser

Let's also create a chart depicting the overall breakdown of browsers.

Jump back to Discover by clicking `Discover` in the left-hand navigation pane.

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| WHERE user_agent.name IS NOT NULL
| STATS COUNT() by user_agent.name
```

1. Click on the pencil icon to the right of the existing graph
2. Select Pie from the visualizations drop-down menu
3. Click Apply and close

Adding our visualization to a dashboard

Let's save it to our dashboard for future use.

1. Click on the Disk icon in the upper-right of the resulting graph
2. Name the visualization

Client Browsers

3. Select Existing Under Add to dashboard
4. Select the existing dashboard Ingress Status (you will need to start typing Ingress in the Search dashboards... field)
5. Click Save and go to Dashboard
6. Once the dashboard has loaded, click the Save button in the upper-right

Generating a table of user agents

It would also be helpful is to keep track of new User Agents as they appear in the wild.

Jump back to Discover by clicking `Discover` in the left-hand navigation pane.

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| EVAL user_agent.full = CONCAT(user_agent.name, " ", user_agent.version)
| WHERE user_agent.full IS NOT NULL
| STATS @timestamp.min = MIN(@timestamp), @timestamp.max = MAX(@timestamp) BY user_agent.full
```

This is good, but it would also be helpful, based on our experience here, to know the first country that a given User Agent appeared in.

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| EVAL user_agent.full = CONCAT(user_agent.name, " ", user_agent.version)
| WHERE user_agent.full IS NOT NULL
| STATS @timestamp.min = MIN(@timestamp), @timestamp.max = MAX(@timestamp) BY user_agent.full, client.geo.country_iso_code
| SORT @timestamp.min ASC // sort first seen to last seen
| STATS first_country_iso_code = TOP(client.geo.country_iso_code , 1, "asc"), first_seen = MIN(@timestamp.min), last_seen = MAX(@timestamp.max)
| SORT user_agent.full, first_seen, last_seen, first_country_iso_code
```

Fabulous! Now we can see every User Agent we encounter, when we first encountered it, and in what region it was first seen.

Using LOOKUP JOIN to determine release date

Say you also wanted to know when a given User Agent was released to the wild by the developer?

We could try to maintain our own User Agent lookup table and use ES|QL LOOKUP JOIN to match browser versions to release dates:

Execute the following query:

```
FROM ua_lookup
```

We built this table by hand; it is far from comprehensive. Now let's use LOOKUP JOIN to do a real-time lookup for each row:

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| EVAL user_agent.full = CONCAT(user_agent.name, " ", user_agent.version)
| WHERE user_agent.full IS NOT NULL
| EVAL user_agent.name_and_vmajor = SUBSTRING(user_agent.full, 0, LOCATE(user_agent.full, ".")-1) // simplify user_agent
| STATS @timestamp.min = MIN(@timestamp), @timestamp.max = MAX(@timestamp) BY user_agent.name_and_vmajor, client.geo.country_iso_code
| SORT @timestamp.min ASC // sort first seen to last seen
| STATS first_country_iso_code = TOP(client.geo.country_iso_code , 1, "asc"), first_seen = MIN(@timestamp.min), last_seen = MAX(@timestamp.max)
| SORT user_agent.name_and_vmajor, first_seen, last_seen, first_country_iso_code
| LOOKUP JOIN ua_lookup ON user_agent.name_and_vmajor // lookup release_date from ua_lookup using user_agent.name_and_vmajor key
| KEEP release_date, user_agent.name_and_vmajor, first_country_iso_code, first_seen, last_seen
```

We can quickly see the problem with maintaining our own `ua_lookup` index. It would take a lot of work to truly track the release date of every Browser version in the wild.

Using COMPLETION to determine release date

Fortunately, Elastic makes it possible to leverage an external Large Language Model (LLM) as part of an ES|QL query using the COMPLETION command. In this case, we can pipe each browser to the LLM and ask it to return the release date.

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
| EVAL user_agent.full = CONCAT(user_agent.name, " ", user_agent.version)
| WHERE user_agent.full IS NOT NULL
| STATS @timestamp.min = MIN(@timestamp), @timestamp.max = MAX(@timestamp) BY user_agent.full, client.geo.country_iso_code
| SORT @timestamp.min ASC // sort first seen to last seen
| STATS first_country_iso_code = TOP(client.geo.country_iso_code , 1, "asc"), first_seen = MIN(@timestamp.min), last_seen = MAX(@timestamp.max)
| SORT first_seen DESC
| LIMIT 10 // intentionally limit to top 10 first_seen to limit LLM completions
| EVAL prompt = CONCAT(
  "when did this version of this browser come out? output only a version of the format mm/dd/yyyy",
  "browser: ", user_agent.full
) | COMPLETION release_date = prompt WITH {"inference_id" : "openai_completion"} // call out to LLM for each record
| EVAL release_date = DATE_PARSE("MM/dd/YYYY", release_date)
| KEEP release_date, first_country_iso_code, user_agent.full, first_seen, last_seen
```

[!NOTE] If this encounters a timeout, try executing the query again.

You'll note that we are limiting our results to only the top 10 last seen User Agents. This is intentional to limit the number of COMPLETION commands executed, as each one will result in a call to our configured external Large Language Model (LLM). Notably, the use of the COMPLETION command is in Tech Preview; future revisions of ES|QL may include a means to more practically scale the use of the COMPLETION command.

Let's save this search for future reference:

1. Click the Save button in the upper-right
2. Set Title to

ua_release_dates

3. Click Save

Saving an ES|QL query allows others on our team to easily re-run it on demand.

Organizing our dashboard

As we are adding panels to our dashboard, we can group them into collapsible sections.

1. Go to Dashboards using the left-hand navigation pane and open Ingress Status if it is not already open
2. Click on Add and select Collapsible Section
3. Click on the Pencil icon to the right of the name of the new collapsible section
4. Name the collapsible section

User Agent

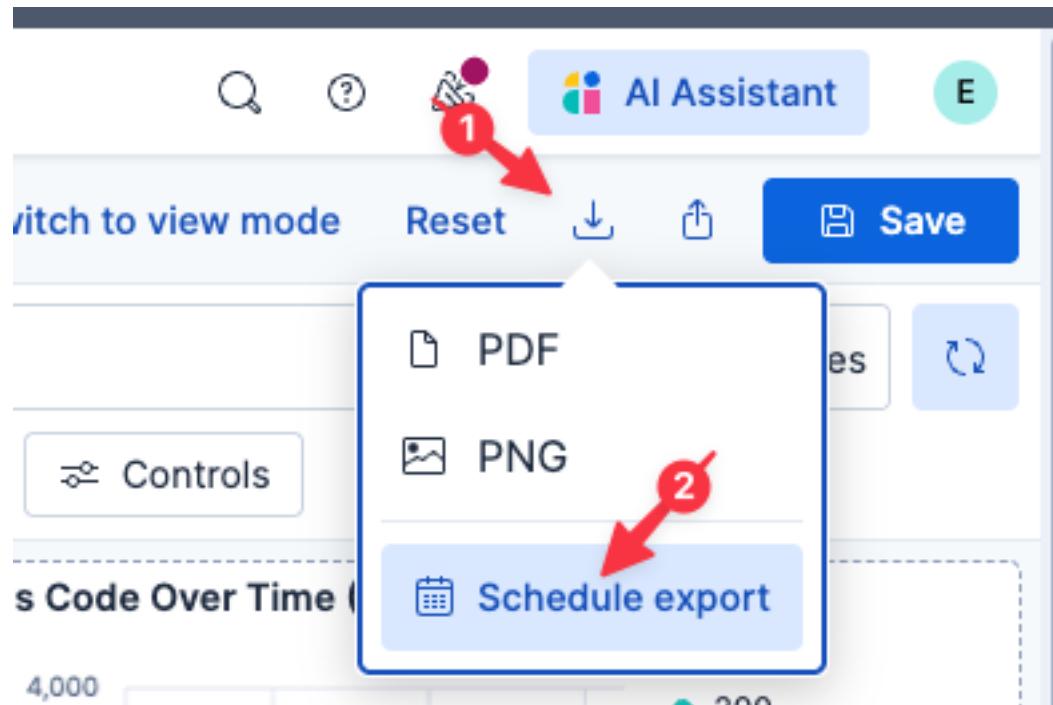
5. Click the green check box next to the name of the collapsible section
6. Open the collapsible section (if it isn't already) by clicking on the open/close arrow to the left of the collapsible section name
7. Drag the Client Browsers pie chart, and the Client OSs treemap into the body below the User Agent collapsible section
8. Click Save to save the dashboard

Feel free to create additional collapsible sections to group and organize other visualizations on our dashboard.

Scheduling a report

The CIO is concerned about us not testing new browsers sufficiently, and for some time wants a nightly report of our dashboard. No problem!

1. Click on Export icon
2. Select Schedule exports
3. Click Schedule exports at the bottom-right of the resulting fly-out



[!NOTE] In practice, you would setup an email Connector to allow Elasticsearch to automatically email the report to the CIO on the schedule you defined.

Alert when a new UA is seen

Ideally, we can send an alert whenever a new User Agent is seen. To do that, we need to keep state of what User Agents we've already seen. Fortunately, Elastic Transforms makes this easy!

Transforms run asynchronously in the background, querying data, aggregating it, and writing the results to a new index. In this case, we can use a Pivot transform to read from our parsed proxy logs and pivot based on `user_agent.full`. This will create a new index with one record per `user_agent.full`. We can then alert whenever a new record is added to this index, indicating a new User Agent!

Creating a transform

[!NOTE] Because we are moving quickly, Elasticsearch may take some time to update field lists in the UI. If you encounter a situation where Elasticsearch doesn't recognize one of the fields we just parsed, click the Refresh icon in the upper-right of the Instruqt tab and try again to create the Transform.

1. Go to Data management > Transforms using the left-hand navigation pane
2. Click Create a transform
3. Select `logs-proxy.otel-default` as the data source
4. Select Pivot (if not already selected)
5. Set Search filter to

`user_agent.name :*`

6. Set Group by to `terms(user_agent.name)` and `terms(user_agent.version)`
7. Add an aggregation for `@timestamp.min`
8. Click > Next

Time range

Last 1 hour

Use full data



Search filter

 user_agent.full :*

5

 Edit JSON query

Runtime fields

No runtime field

 Edit runtime fields

Source documents

Results are limited to a maximum of 10000 for preview purposes

 Columns 10/57 Histogram charts

1755095800000 - 175...	1 category attributes.code.file.path	Chart not supported. attributes.code.file.path....	0 attributes.code.line.num...	Chart not sup body.text
Aug 13, 2025 @ 09:37:5...	proxy.py	proxy.py	0	107.80.111.1
Aug 13, 2025 @ 09:37:5...	proxy.py	proxy.py	0	103.107.52.5
Aug 13, 2025 @ 09:37:5...	proxy.py	proxy.py	0	102.65.25.10
Aug 13, 2025 @ 09:37:5...	proxy.py	proxy.py	0	103.107.52.2
Aug 13, 2025 @ 09:37:5...	proxy.py	proxy.py	0	149.254.212

Rows per page: 5

< 1 2 3 4 5 ... 2000 >

Transform configuration

Group by

user_agent.full

6

 Edit JSON config 

Add a group by field ...

7

Aggregations

@timestamp.min

8

X

Add an aggregation ...

Preview

 Columns 2

user_agent.full	@timestamp.min
Chrome 126.0.6478.222	August 13th 2025, 09:3...
Chrome 127.0.6533.37	August 13th 2025, 09:3...
Chrome 128.0.6613.59	August 13th 2025, 09:3...
Chrome 131.0.6778.27	August 13th 2025, 09:3...
Chrome 133.0.6943.116	August 13th 2025, 09:3...

Rows per page: 5

< 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 >

> Next

9. Set the Transform ID to

user_agents

10. Set Time field to min(@timestamp) (if not already selected)
11. Set Continuous mode ON
12. Set Delay under Continuous mode to 0s
13. Open Advanced settings
14. Set the Frequency to 1s under Advanced Settings
15. Click Next

Transform ID
 

Transform description

Use transform ID as destination index name

Destination ingest pipeline

Create data view

Time field for data view
 

Select a primary time field for use with the global time filter.

Continuous mode

Date field for continuous mode

Select the date field that can be used to identify new documents.

Delay
 

Time delay between current time and latest input data time.

Retention policy

Advanced settings 

Frequency
 

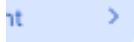
The interval to check for changes in source indices when the transform runs continuously.

Maximum page search size

The initial page size to use for the composite aggregation for each checkpoint.

Number of failure retries

The number of retries on a recoverable failure before the transform task is marked as failed. Set it to -1 for infinite retries.

 < Previous> Next 

16. Click Create and start

3 Create

16

Create and start

Creates and starts the transform. A transform will increase search and indexing load in your cluster. Please stop the transform if excessive load is experienced. After the transform is started, you will be offered options to continue exploring the transform.

Create

Creates the transform without starting it. You will be able to start the transform later by returning to the transforms list.

Copy to clipboard

Copies to the clipboard the Kibana Dev Console command for creating the transform.

< Previous

[!NOTE] We are intentionally choosing very aggressive settings here strictly for demonstration purposes (e.g., to quickly trigger an alert). In practice, you would use more a more practical frequency, for example.

Our transform is now running every second looking for new User Agents in the `logs-proxy.otel-default` datastream. It is smart enough to only look for new User Agents across log records which have arrived since the last run of the transform. When a new User Agent is seen, a corresponding record is written to the `user_agents` index.

Creating an alert

Let's create a new alert which will fire whenever a new User Agent is seen. We specifically want to alert whenever a new record is written to the `user_agents` index, which in turn is maintained by the transform we just created.

1. Go to Alerts using the left-hand navigation pane
2. Click Manage Rules
3. Click Create Rule
4. Select Custom threshold
5. Set DATA VIEW to `user_agents`
6. Change IS ABOVE to IS ABOVE OR EQUALS
7. Set IS ABOVE OR EQUALS to 1
8. Set FOR THE LAST to 1 minute
9. Set Group alerts by (optional) to `user_agent.name` and `user_agent.version`
10. Set Rule schedule to 1 seconds

Select a data view

DATA VIEW user_agents



5

Define query filter (optional)

Search for observability data... (e.g. host.name:host-1)

Set rule conditions

Aggregation A

COUNT all documents

+ Add aggregation/field

Equation and threshold

EQUATION A

IS ABOVE OR EQUALS 1

Label (optional)

Custom equation

Custom label will show on the alert chart and in reason



+ Add condition

Group alerts by (optional)

user_agent.full



Create an alert for every unique value. For example: "host.id" or "cloud.region".

Alert me if there's no data ⓘ

Rule schedule

Set the frequency to check the alert conditions ⓘ

Every 1

second



Intervals less than 1 minute are not recommended due to performance considerations.

11. Set Rule name to

New UA Detected

12. Set Tags to

ingress

13. Set Related dashboards to Ingress Status

14. Click Create rule

15. Click Save rule in the resulting pop-up



10

3 Details

Rule name: New UA Detected (11)

Tags: ingress (12)

Investigation guide (13)

Related dashboards: Ingress Proxy (14)

Create rule (button)

[!NOTE] We are intentionally choosing very aggressive settings here strictly for demonstration purposes (e.g., to quickly trigger an alert). In practice, you would use more a more practical frequency, for example.

Testing our alert

1. Open the button label="Terminal" Instruqt tab
2. Run the following command:

```
curl -X POST http://kubernetes-vm:32003/err/browser/chrome
```

This will create a new Chrome UA v137. Let's go to our dashboard and see if we can spot it.

1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" Instruqt tab
2. Go to Dashboards using the left-hand navigation pane
3. Open Ingress Status (if it isn't already open)

Look at the table of UAs that we added and note the addition of Chrome v137! You'll also note a new active alert New UA Detected!

Summary

Let's take stock of what we know:

- a small percentage of requests are experiencing 500 errors
- the errors started occurring around 80 minutes ago
- the only error type seen is 500
- the errors occur over all APIs
- the errors occur only in the TH region
- the errors occur only with browsers based on Chrome v136

And what we've done:

- Created a dashboard to monitor our ingress proxy
- Created graphs to monitor status codes over time
- Created a simple alert to let us know if we ever return non-200 error codes

- Parsed the logs at ingest-time for quicker and more powerful analysis
- Create a SLO (with alert) to let us know if we ever return a significant number of non-200 error codes over time
- Created visualizations to help us visually locate clients and errors
- Created graphs in our dashboard showing the breakdown of User Agents
- Created a table in our dashboard iterating seen User Agents
- Created a nightly report to snapshot our dashboard
- Created an alert to let us know when a new User Agent string appears __

Sometimes our data contains PII information which needs to be restricted to a need-to-know basis and kept only for a limited time.

Limiting access

With Elastic's in-built support for RBAC, we can limit access at the index, document, or field level.

In this example, we've created a limited_user with a limited_role which restricts access to the attributes.client.ip and body.text fields (to avoid implicitly leaking the attributes.client.ip).

In the Elasticsearch tab, we are logged in as a user with full privileges. Let's check our access. 1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab 2. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions 3. Click on the Table tab in the flyout 3. Note that the attributes.client.ip and body.text fields are accessible and shown

In the Elasticsearch (Limited) tab, we are logged in as a user with limited privileges. Let's check our access.

1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch (Limited)" tab
2. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions
3. Click on the Table tab in the flyout
4. Note that the attributes.client.ip and body.text fields are not accessible and not shown

Let's change permissions and see what happens:

1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab
2. Go to Management > Stack Management > Security > Roles using the left-hand navigation pane
3. Find the role limited_viewer and click on the pencil icon to the right of that row to edit it
4. For Indices logs-proxy.otel-default, update Denied fields to remove body.text (it should only contain attributes.client.ip)
5. Click Update role

Now let's ensure our limited user has access to a redacted body.text.

1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch (Limited)" Instruqt tab
2. Close the open log record flyout
3. Run the search query again
4. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions
5. Note that attributes.client.ip is not accessible, but body.text is (in redacted form)

Redaction

We can further add a Redaction processor to remove attributes.client.ip from body.text:

1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab
2. Go to Streams using the left-hand navigation pane
3. Select logs-proxy.otel-default from the list of Streams.
4. Select the Processing tab
5. Select Create processor from the menu Create
6. Select the Manual pipeline configuration Processor
7. Set the Ingest pipeline processors field to:

```
[  
 {  
   "redact": {  
     "field": "body.text",  
     "patterns": [  
       "%{IP:client_ip}"  
     ],  
     "ignore_missing": true,  
     "ignore_failure": true  
   }  
 }]
```

8. Click Create
9. Click Save changes in the bottom-right
10. Click Confirm changes in the resulting dialog

[!NOTE] This redaction will apply to ALL roles, not just the limited viewer

Now let's jump back to Discover by clicking Discover in the left-hand navigation pane.

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-proxy.otel-default
```

1. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions
2. Click on the Table tab in the flyout
3. Note that any presence of the client's ip address in body.text has been redacted as <client_ip>, yet non-limited viewers will still be able to see client ip explicitly in the field attributes.client.ip

Limits retention

Say your records department requires you to keep these logs generally accessible only for a very specific period of time. We can ask Elasticsearch to automatically delete them after some number of days.

1. Navigate to Streams using the left-hand navigation pane
2. Select logs-proxy.otel-default from the list of Streams
3. Click on the Retention tab
4. Click Edit data retention
5. Uncheck Use the stream's index template retention configuration
6. Select Custom period
7. Set to 30 days

Retention

Processing

Schema

Data quality

Significant events

Advanced

General data

Retention

logs

ILM policy · Inherit

ILM policy data tier

∞

Ingestion over time

5

Edit data retention

Inherit from index template

 Use the stream's index template retention configuration

Custom retention

Indefinite

Custom period

ILM policy

30

Days ▾

This retention period stores data in the hot tier for best indexing and search performance. To use alternative storage tiers, consider an ILM policy.

[Copy API Request](#)

Cancel

Save

Elasticsearch will now remove this data from its online indices after 30 days. At that time, it will only be available in backups.

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- Created a nightly report to snapshot our dashboard
- Created an alert to let us know when a new User Agent string appears
- Setup RBAC to restrict access to client.ip

- Setup Redaction to remove IP addresses from the log message body

Wrap-Up

Over the course of this lab, we learned about:

- Using ES|QL to search logs
- Using ES|QL to parse logs at query-time
- Using ES|QL to do advanced aggregations, analytics, and visualizations
- Creating a dashboard
- Using ES|QL to create Alerts
- Using AI Assistant to help write ES|QL queries
- Using Streams to setup ingest-time log processing pipeline (GROK parsing, geo-location, User Agent parsing)
- Setting up SLOs
- Using Maps to visualize geographic information
- Scheduling dashboard reports
- Setting up a Pivot Transform and Alert
- Setting up RBAC
- Setting up data retention

We put these technologies to use in a practical workflow which quickly took us from an unknown problem to a definitive Root Cause. Furthermore, we've setup alerts to ensure we aren't caught off-guard in the future. Finally, we built a really nice custom dashboard to help us monitor the health of our Ingress Status.

All of this from just a lowly nginx access file. That's the power of your logs unlocked by Elastic.
