

Observability 200: Logging with OpenTelemetry

The advent of OpenTelemetry has forever changed how we capture observability signals. While OTel initially focused on delivering traces and metrics, support for collection of logs is now stable and gaining adoption, particularly in Kubernetes environments.

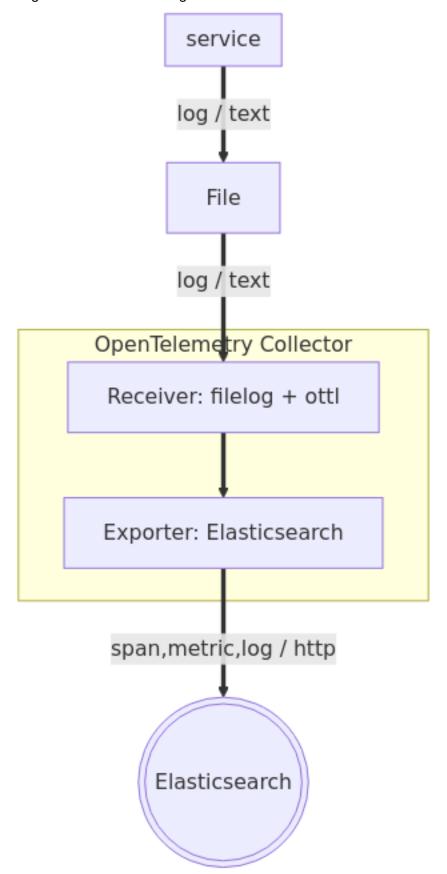
In this lab, we will explore several models for using OpenTelemetry to collect log signals.

1) Service to Collector via OTLP

In this model, we forgo log files entirely, routing log messages directly via the network (OTLP) from services to a Collector.



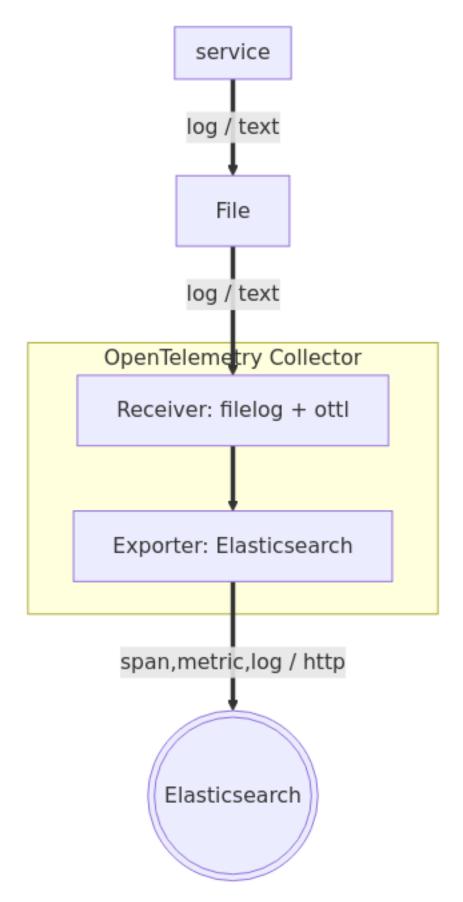
2) Service to Collector via log files captured with the filelogreceiver In this model, we output logs from services to a log file written with OTel Semantic Conventions (otlpjson), which we then



collect via a Collector.

3) Service to Collector via log files captured with the receivercreator

In this model, we output logs from select services to a log file written in an arbitrary format, which we then collect via a



Collector.

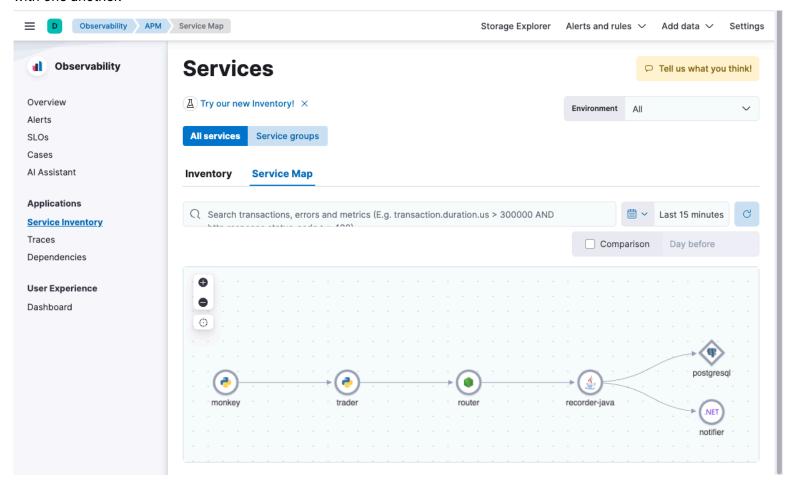
Additionally, for each model considered, we discuss how to add attributes to log messages and how to parse logs (both at the edge and in Elastic).

Getting Our Bearings

In this lab, we will be working with an exemplary stock trading system, comprised of several services and their dependencies, all instrumented using OpenTelemetry.

Elasticsearch

We will be working with a live Elasticsearch instance, displayed in the browser tab to the left. We are currently looking at Elastic's dynamically generated Service Map. It shows all of the services that comprise our system, and how they interact with one another.



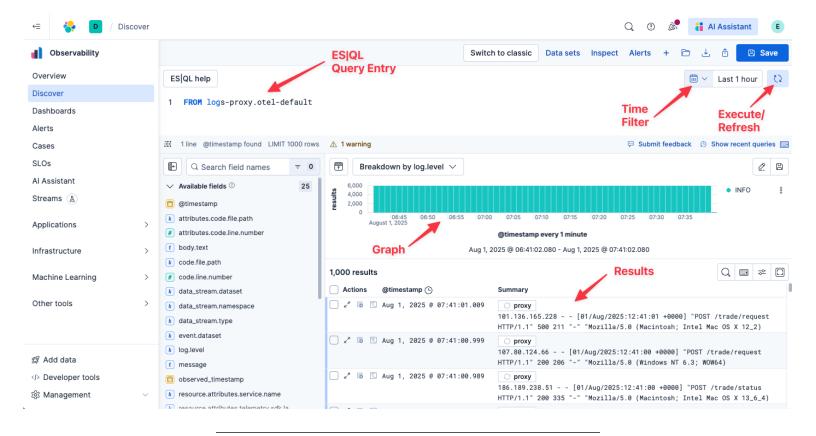
Our trading system is composed of: * trader: a python application that trades stocks on orders from customers * router: a node.js application that routes committed trade records * recorder-java: a Java application that records trades to a PostgreSQL database * notifier: a .NET application that notifies an external system of completed trades

Finally, we have monkey, a python application we use for testing our system that makes periodic, automated trade requests on behalf of fictional customers.

[!NOTE] You are welcome to explore each service and our APM solution by clicking on each service icon in the Service Map and selecting Service Details

When you are ready, click the Next button to continue.

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.



In this model, we will be sending logs directly from a service to an OpenTelemetry Collector over the network using the OTLP protocol. This is the default mechanism most OpenTelemetry SDKs use for exporting logs from a service.



Looking at the diagram: 1) a service leverages an existing logging framework (e.g., logback in Java) to generate log statements 2) on service startup, the OTel SDK injects a new Appender module into the logging framework. This module formats the log metadata to appropriate OTel semantic conventions (e.g., log.level), adds appropriate contextual metadata (e.g., trace.id), and outputs the log lines via OTLP (typically buffered) to a configured OTel Collector 3) an OTel Collector (typically, but not necessarily) on the same node as the service receives the log lines via the otlp receiver 4) the Collector enriches the log line with additional metadata and optionally parses or otherwise transforms the message 5) the Collector then outputs the logs downstream (either directly to Elasticsearch, or more typically through a gateway Collector, and then to Elasticsearch)

Assumptions

While this model is relatively simple to implement, it assumes several things: 1) The service can be instrumented with Open-Telemetry (either through runtime zero-configuration instrumentation, or through explicit instrumentation). This essentially rules out use of this method for most opaque, third-party applications and services. 2) Your OTel pipelines are robust enough to forgo file-based logging. Traditional logging relied on services writing to files and agents reading or "tailing" those log files. File-based logging inherently adds a semi-reliable, FIFO, disk-based queue between services and the Collector. If there is a downstream failure in the telemetry pipeline (e.g., a failure in the Collector or downstream of the Collector) or back-pressure from Elasticsearch, the file will serve as a temporary, reasonably robust buffer. Notably, this concern can be mitigated with Collector-based disk queues and/or the use of a Kafka-like queue somewhere in-between the first Collector and Elasticsearch.

Advantages

There are, of course, many advantages to using OTLP as a logging protocol where possible: 1) you don't have to deal with file rotation or disk overflow due to logs 2) there is less io overhead (no file operations) on the node 3) the Collector need not be local to the node running the applications (though you would typically want a Collector per node for other reasons)

Additionally, exporting logs from a service using the OTel SDK offers the following general benefits: 1) logs are automatically formatted with OTel Semantic Conventions 2) key/values applied to log statements are automatically emitted as attributes 3) traceid and spanid are automatically added when appropriate 4) contextual metadata (e.g., service.name) are automatically emitted as attributes 5) custom metadata in baggage can be automatically applied as attributes to each log line

All of the above leads to logs with rich context and metadata with little to no additional work. It is worth noting that the Collector now supports a disk-based buffer between the receivers and the exporters.

Configuration

Most of the languages supported by OpenTelemetry are automatically instrumented for logging via OTLP by default. In the case of Java, for example, the OTel SDK, when in zero-code instrumentation, will automatically attach an OTLP appender to either Logback or Log4j.

In this example, we are leveraging the OpenTelemetry Operator for Kubernetes to automatically inject the OTel SDK into our services, including the recorder-java service. Our recorder-java service is using Logback as a logging framework with a slf4j facade.

Let's first validate we have logs coming in from our recorder-java service:

- 1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab
- 2. Execute the following query:

FROM logs-*
| WHERE service.name == "recorder-java"

- 3. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions
- 4. Click on the Attributes tab

You note that the log.file.path attribute is empty, in this case indicating this log line was delivered via OTLP without having been written to a log file.

Checking the Source

Let's have a look at the configuration of our recorder-java service.

1. Open the button label="recorder-java Source" tab

- 2. Navigate to src/main/resources/logback.xml
- 3. Note that no appenders are specified in the logback configuration (they are automatically injected by the OTel SDK on startup)

Let's further validate that no logs are being written to stdout (which would be picked up and dumped to a log file by Kubernetes):

- 1. Open the button label="Terminal" tab
- 2. Execute the following to get a list of the active Kubernetes pods that comprise our trading system:

kubectl -n trading get pods

- 3. Find the active recorder-java-... pod in the list
- 4. Get stdout logs from the active recorder-java pod:

kubectl -n trading logs <recorder-java-...>

(replace ... with the pod instance id)

Note that there are no logs being written to stdout from recorder-java because we have not configured any appenders in the logback configuration.

This confirms that logs coming from the recorder-java application to our OTel Collector via OTLP, and not by way of a log file.

[!NOTE] It is possible to leave a console appender in your logback configuration such that you can still view the logs locally (with kubectl logs or by tailing the log file itself). In this case, you would want to be sure you are explicitly excluding this log file from also being scrapped by your OTel Collector to avoid duplicative log input into Elasticsearch. We will show a straightforward way of doing this in a future challenge.

Correlation

One major advantage of using OTLP for logging is the ability to very easily append the active trace.id and span.id if the log is emitted during an active APM span.

- 1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab
- 2. Click Applications > Service Inventory in the left-hand navigation pane
- 3. Click on the recorder-java service
- 4. Click on the Transactions tab
- 5. Click on the POST /record tab
- 6. Scroll down to Trace sample
- 7. Click on the Logs tab

These are all the logs associated with this specific transaction.

Attributes via Structured Logging

Let's say that we think we might have a problem with the Garbage Collector in our Java Virtual Machine (JVM) running too often, possibly affecting database performance. As a developer, you might think to sample the amount of time spent in GC and then report that in a log file.

Say we wanted to graph GC time by region to see if perhaps the issue is localized. To do that, we need GC time as a metric value. While we could just encode it into the log message as text and parse it out, that's unneccessary with modern structured logging APIs and OpenTelemetry.

OTLP logging allows us to easily add attributes to our log lines by using key/value mechanisms present in your existing logging API. In this case, we can use the addKeyValue() API exposed by our logging facade, slf4j.

- 1. Open the button label="recorder-java Source" tab
- 2. Navigate to src/main/java/com/example/recorder/TradeRecorder.java
- 3. Find the following line:

log.atInfo().log("trade committed for " + trade.customerId);

and change it to:

[!NOTE] It is generally considered best practice to prepend any custom attributes with a prefix scoped to your enterprise, like com.example

Now let's recompile and redeploy our recorder-java service. 1. Open the button label="Terminal" tab 2. Execute the following:

```
./builddeploy.sh -s recorder-java
```

Now let's see what our logs look like in Elasticsearch. 1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab 2. Click Discover in the left-hand navigation pane 3. Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-* WHERE service.name == "recorder-java" and message LIKE "trade committed"
```

- 4. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions
- 5. Click on the Attributes tab

Note the added attribute attributes.com.example.gc_time!

[!NOTE] if gc_time is not yet present as an attribute, close the log line flyout, refresh the view in Discover, and try again.

Now let's graph gc_time to answer our question.

Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-*
| WHERE service.name == "recorder-java"
| STATS count = MAX(attributes.com.example.gc_time) BY attributes.com.example.region, BUCKET(@timestamp, 1 minute)
```

Indeed, it looks like only the "recorder-java" service deployed to the "NA" region is exhibiting this problem.

Attributes via Baggage

Note that the log record has other custom attributes like attributes.com.example.customer_id. We didn't add that in our logging statement in recorder-java. How did it get there?

- 1. Click Applications > Service Inventory in the left-hand navigation pane
- 2. Click on the Service Map tab
- 3. Click on the trader service
- 4. Click on Service Details
- 5. Click on the Transactions tab
- 6. Scroll down and click on the POST /trade/request transaction under Transactions
- 7. Scroll down to the waterfall graph under Trace sample
- 8. Click on the first span POST /trade/request to open the flyout

Note that attributes.com.example.customer id exists in this span too!

- 1. Close the Transaction details flyout
- 2. Click on the Logs tab under Trace sample
- 3. Click on the log line that looks like traded <stock.symbol> on day <day> for <customer.id>

Note that attributes.com.example.customer_id exists here too!

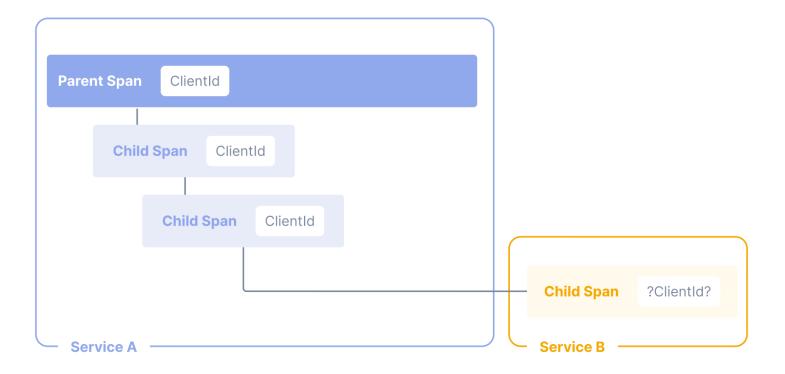
This is a great example of the power of using OpenTelemetry Baggage. Baggage lets us inject attributes early on in our distributed service mesh and then automatically distribute and apply them downstream to every span and log message emitted in context!

Imagine how easy this will make the life of your SREs and analysts to easily search across all of your observability signals using the inputs they are accustomed to: namely, customer id, for example.

Let's look at the code which initially stuck customer_id into OTel baggage:

- 1. Open the button label="recorder-java Source" tab
- 2. Navigate to app.pv
- 3. Look for calls to set_attribute_and_baggage() inside the decode_common_args() function

Here, we are pushing attributes into OTel Baggage. OTel is propagating that baggage with every call to a distributed surface. The baggage follows the context of a given span through all dependent services. Within a given service, we can leverage BaggageProcessor extensions to automatically apply metadata in baggage as attributes to the active span (including logs).



Let's add an additional attribute in our trader service.

1. Find the following line in the decode_common_args() function:

subscription = params.get('subscription', None)

2. Add the following to push subscription into baggage:

```
if subscription is not None:
    set_attribute_and_baggage(f"{ATTRIBUTE_PREFIX}.subscription", subscription)
```

Now let's recompile and redeploy our trader service. 1. Open the button label="Terminal" tab 2. Execute the following:

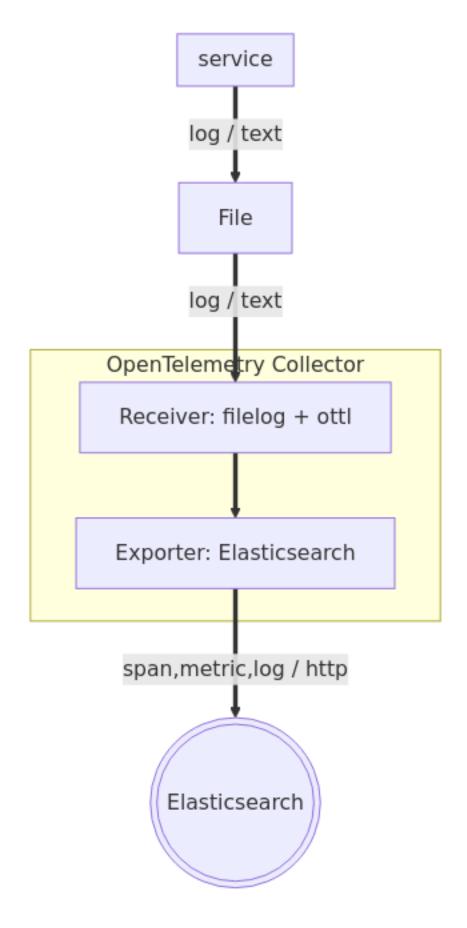
./builddeploy.sh -s trader

And now let's check our work in Elasticsearch:

- 1. Click Applications > Service Inventory in the left-hand navigation pane
- 2. Click on the Service Map tab
- 3. Click on the trader service
- 4. Click on Service Details
- 5. Click on the Transactions tab
- 6. Scroll down and click on the POST /trade/request transaction under Transactions
- 7. Scroll down to the waterfall graph under Trace sample
- 8. Click on the Logs tab
- 9. Click on the trade committed for <customer_id> log line emitted by the recorder-java service
- 10. Note the presence of the subscription attribute!

As noted, there are many reasons why use of OTLP logging may be impractical. Chief among them is accommodating services which cannot be instrumented with OpenTelemetry (e.g., third-party services). These services simply write their logs to disk directly, or more commonly to stdout, which is then written to disk by the Kubernetes or Docker logging framework, for example.

To accommodate such services, we can use the filelog receiver in the OTel Collector. In many regards, the filelog receiver is the OTel equivalent of Elastic's filebeat (often running as a module inside Elastic Agent).



In this example, we will be working with a service which outputs logs to stdout in a custom JSON format.

Now let's see what our logs look like in Elasticsearch. 1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab 2. Click Discover in the left-hand navigation pane 3. Execute the following query:

FROM logs-* WHERE service.name == "router"

4. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions

5. Click on the Log overview tab

Note that the body of the message is JSON-formatted.

Checking the Source

Now let's validate that these logs are being emitted to stdout, and written to disk:

- 1. Open the button label="Terminal" tab
- 2. Execute the following to get a list of the active Kubernetes pods that comprise our trading system:

kubectl -n trading get pods

- 3. Find the active router-... pod in the list
- 4. Get stdout logs from the active router pod:

```
kubectl -n trading logs <router-...>
```

(replace ... with the pod instance id)

Note that logs are written to stdout.

Now let's validate that Kubernetes is picking up stdout and written to disk:

- 1. Open the button label="Terminal" tab
- 2. Let's peek on the logs being written to disk by Kubernetes

```
cd /var/log/pods/
ls
```

3. Get logs for current instant of the router pod

```
cd trading_router*
ls
cd router
```

4. Look at the logs:

cat 0.log

Making Sense of JSON Logs

Many custom applications log to a JSON format to provide some structure to the log line. To fully appreciate this benefit in a logging backend, however, you need to parse that JSON (embedded in the log line) and extract fields fo interest.

While you could do this with Elasticsearch using Streams (as we will see in the future challenge), with OpenTelemetry, this can also be done in the Collector using OTTL.

OTTL Playground

It is pretty tricky to craft OTTL in your Collector config, test, possibly fail, and fix. Fortunately, Elastic has made a great tool to let you interactively refine your OTTL before putting it in production.

- Open the button label="OTTL Playground" tab
- 2. Paste into the OTLP Payload pane an example of our JSON-ified router logs:

3. Pase into the Configuration pane the following starter configuration:

```
log_statements:
    - context: log
    conditions:
     - body != nil and Substring(body, 0, 2) == "{\""
    statements:
     - set(cache, ParseJSON(body))
     - flatten(cache, "")
     - merge_maps(attributes, cache, "upsert")
```

Those initial set of log statements: 1. checks if the message body is JSON formatted 2. if so, parses the body as json, flattens the key names (to prevent nesting), and merges the results to attributes

Click on the Run > button. In the Result pane, you can see the diff of what this OTTL would do, and it kind of matches what we expect.

It is far from ideal: * it does not conform to OTel semantic conventions (e.g., _meta.logLevelName, _meta.date) * the message body is now stored as an attribute with key 0

Let's clean that up. 1. Paste the following into the Configuration pane:

2. Click on the Run > button

Ah, that looks better. We: * converted the date from a string to an epoch timestamp and copied it into the proper field * copied the log level into the proper fields * deleted the remaining _meta.* fields * copied the body from attributes.0 to the proper field * deleted the body from attributes.0

This looks great. Let's put it into production!

Modifying values.yaml

- 1. Open the button label="collector Config" tab
- 2. Search for the comment # WORKSHOP CONTENT GOES HERE
- 3. Replace it with the OTTL we developed above:

```
log_statements:
    - context: log
    conditions:
        - body != nil and Substring(body, 0, 2) == "{\""
        statements:
            - set(cache, ParseJSDN(body))
            - flatten(cache, "")
            - merge_maps(attributes, cache, "upsert")

            - set(time, Time(attributes["_meta.date"], "%Y-%m-%dT%H:%M:%SZ"))
            - set(severity_text, attributes["_meta.logLevelName"])
            - set(severity_number, attributes, "_meta\\..*")
```

```
- set(body, attributes["0"])
- delete_key(attributes, "0")
```

Now let's redeploy the OTel Operator with our updated config:

- 1. Open the button label="Terminal" tab
- 2. Execute the following:

```
helm upgrade --install opentelemetry-kube-stack open-telemetry/opentelemetry-kube-stack --force \
--namespace opentelemetry-operator-system \
--values 'collector/values.yaml' \
--version '0.9.1'
```

Wait for a minute or so. We can check when the config has taken affect by looking for the daemonset collectors to restart.

- 1. Open the button label="Terminal" tab
- 2. Execute the following:

```
kubectl -n opentelemetry-operator-system get pods
```

Once the daemonset collectors have restarted, let's check the logs coming into Elastic:

- Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab
- 2. Click Discover in the left-hand navigation pane
- 3. Execute the following guery:

```
FROM logs-* WHERE service.name == "router"
```

- 4. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions
- 5. Click on the Log overview tab

Note the parsed JSON logs.

Let's do structured logging

- 1. Open the button label="router Source" tab
- 2. Navigate to app.ts
- 3. Find the line in the function customRouter()

```
logger.info(`routing request to ${host}`);
```

4. Modify it to

```
logger.info(`routing request to ${host}`, {method: method});
```

Now let's recompile and redeploy our router service. 1. Open the button label="Terminal" tab 2. Execute the following:

```
./builddeploy.sh -s router
```

Now let's see how that looks in Elasticsearch: 1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab 2. Click Discover in the left-hand navigation pane 3. Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-* WHERE service.name == "router"
```

- 4. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions
- 5. Click on the Log overview tab

ugh, 1.method is ugly. Let's fix it!

- 1. Open the button label="OTTL Playground" tab
- 2. Pase into the Configuration pane the following starter configuration:

```
log_statements:
    - context: log
    conditions:
        - body != nil and Substring(body, 0, 2) == "{\""
        statements:
            - set(cache, ParseJSON(body))
            - flatten(cache, "")
            - merge_maps(attributes, cache, "upsert")

            - set(time, Time(attributes["_meta.date"], "%Y-%m-%dT%H:%M:%SZ"))
            - set(severity_text, attributes["_meta.logLevelName"])
            - set(severity_number, attributes["_meta.logLevelId"])
            - delete_matching_keys(attributes, "_meta\\..*")
```

```
- set(body, attributes["0"])
- delete_key(attributes, "0")
- replace_all_patterns(attributes, "key", "\\d+\\.", "")
```

Note the addition of replace_all_patterns(attributes, "key", "\\d+\\.", "") which will remove the numerical prefix from attributes.

Now let's redeploy the OTel Operator with our updated config:

- 1. Open the button label="Terminal" tab
- 2. Execute the following:

```
helm upgrade --install opentelemetry-kube-stack open-telemetry/opentelemetry-kube-stack --force \
--namespace opentelemetry-operator-system \
--values 'collector/values.yaml' \
--version '0.9.1'
```

Wait for a minute or so. We can check when the config has taken affect by looking for the daemonset collectors to restart.

- 1. Open the button label="Terminal" tab
- 2. Execute the following:

```
kubectl -n opentelemetry-operator-system get pods
```

Now let's see how that looks in Elasticsearch: 1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab 2. Click Discover in the left-hand navigation pane 3. Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-* WHERE service.name == "router"
```

- 4. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions
- 5. Click on the Log overview tab

Yeah! we've parsed our JSON logs! ____

Modifying the collector config to parse specific logs feels awkward. it might make sense if most of your custom logs follow a common format, but typically the format is unique and bespoke to specific apps. If your apps are deployed on k8s, we can use the Receiver Creator to move the parsing config to the app yaml rather than values.yaml.

Let's have a look at our postgresql logs.

- 1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab
- 2. Click Discover in the left-hand navigation pane
- 3. Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-* WHERE service.name == "postgresql"
```

- 4. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions
- 5. Click on the Log overview tab

Note the unstructured nature of these logs. One kind of neat aspect is the present of traceparent on some of the logs. Recall that these logs are generated from postgresql directly. Postgresql at present is not OpenTelemetry enabled, and thus has no native provisions for accepting a traceparent via distributed tracing. How did this line get there?

SQL Commentor. SQL comments is an extension (available for at least the Java language) which can append traceparentas a comment to SQL queries. Most databases (including postgresql) will output the comment as part of the audit log.

Let's parse these logs using the Receiver Creator.

Let's have a look at the Receiver Creator config 1. Open the button label="Collector Config" tab

Now we need to modify our postgresql.yaml to include our directives.

- Open the button label="postgresql Config" tab
- 2. Search for the comment # WORKSHOP CONTENT GOES HERE
- 3. Replace it with the following:

```
io.opentelemetry.discovery.logs/config: |
    operators:
    - type: container
    - type: regex_parser
    on_error: send_quiet
    parse_from: body
    regex: '^(?P<timestamp_field>\d{4}-\d{2}-\d{2}\s\d{2}:\d{2}:\d{2}.\d{3}\s[A-z]+)\s\[\d+\]\s(?P<severity_field>[A-Z]+):\s*(?<msg_timestamp:
        parse_from: attributes.timestamp_field</pre>
```

```
on_error: send_quiet
   layout_type: strptime
layout: '%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S.%L %Z'
  trace:
    trace_id:
     parse_from: attributes.trace_id
      on_error: send_quiet
    span_id:
     parse_from: attributes.span_id
     on_error: send_quiet
    trace_flags:
     parse_from: attributes.trace_flags
     on_error: send_quiet
   parse_from: attributes.severity_field
    on_error: send_quiet
   mapping:
     warn:
        - WARNING
        - NOTICE
        - ERROR
      info:
       - LOG
       - INFO
         STATEMENT
      debug1:
        - DEBUG1
      debug2:
        - DEBUG2
      debug3:
       - DEBUG3
      debug4:
        - DEBUG4
      debug5:
        - DEBUG5
      fatal:
       - FATAL
        - PANIC
- type: move
  on_error: send_quiet
 from: attributes.msg_field
 to: body
- type: remove
 on error: send quiet
  field: attributes.timestamp_field
- type: remove
 on_error: send_quiet
 field: attributes.severity_field
 type: remove
  on_error: send_quiet
 field: attributes.trace_version
- type: remove
 on_error: send_quiet
  field: attributes.trace_id
- type: remove
 on_error: send_quiet
 field: attributes.span_id
- type: remove
  on_error: send_quiet
  field: attributes.trace_flags
```

This blog applies a regex.

Now apply it: 1. Open the button label="Terminal" tab 2. Execute the following:

```
./deploy.sh -s postgresql
```

Check Elasticsearch: 1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab 2. Click Discover in the left-hand navigation pane 3. Execute the following query:

```
FROM logs-* WHERE service.name == "postgresql"
```

- 4. Open the first log record by clicking on the double arrow icon under Actions
- 5. Click on the Log overview tab

Check logs:

1. Click Applications > Service Inventory in the left-hand navigation pane

- 2. Click on the Service Map tab
- 3. Click on the trader service
- 4. Click on Service Details
- 5. Click on the Transactions tab
- 6. Scroll down and click on the POST /trade/request transaction under Transactions
- 7. Scroll down to the waterfall graph under Trace sample
- 8. Click on the Logs tab
- 9. Click on the execute <unnamed>: ... log line emitted by the postgresql service
- 10. Click on the Table tab
- 11. Search for the attribute trace.id

Note how with SQL Commentor, OpenTelemetry, and Elastic, we can correlate our postgresql audit logs with our traces!

In many cases, you might be ok to parse your logs on-demand. As an example, i can use ES|QL to parse my nginx proxy logs as needed.

ES|QL

Let's first try query-time parsing using ES|QL:

- 1. Open the button label="Elasticsearch" tab
- 2. 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_partial 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
```

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.

While you could use our OOTB integration to parse nginx logs, we've customized our nginx logs with a duration. Streams is really good at working with this.

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

Parsing the log message

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

- 1. Click Add a processor
- 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 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:client.ip} - %{NOTSPACE:client.user} \[%{HTTPDATE:timestamp}\] "%{WORD:http.request.method} %{URIPATH:http.request.url.path} HTTP/%{N

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

Parsing the timestamp

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

1. Click Add a processor

- 2. Select Date
- 3. Set Field to timestamp
- 4. Elastic should auto-recognize the format: dd/MMM/yyyy:HH:mm:ss XX
- 5. Click Add processor

Now save the Processing by clicking Save changes in the bottom-right.

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:



In this lab, we presented several different ways of capturing and parsing logs using OpenTelemetry.

In reality, you will likely use a combination of these techniques, depending on your system:

- you might use OTLP for greenfield applications
- you might use Receiver Creator for k8s applications
- you might use file receiver for VMs
- you might rely on ES|QL parsing for on-demand parsing
- for permanent parsing, you might use edge parsing for well-known log formats (postgresql), but rely on Streams for more flexible formats (custom apps)