The Case to Not Outsource Your Metrics

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March 15th, 2024

Storytime

Target audience

All creatures, great and small:

- Passion Projects
- Startups
- Enterprise

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Scope + Terms

Metrics

- Counters, Histograms, Gauges, etc.
- Logs

  … things that you'd use to construct SLI's, SLO's, and SLA's on.

Outsourcing

- Not deploying your own TSDB, Visualizer, and Alerting system(s).
  - ELK
  - Victoria Metrics
  - Prometheus
  - Grafana
  - Loki
  - …etc
- Metrics or logs are emitted and shipped to one of the many SaaS providers in this space

The Case

1 - Dog Food
- Acquire or build the skills to run your own metrics stack
- Empower a strong DevOps practice

2 - Availability
- Don't fall for the FUD
- High uptimes are doable in the real world without dedicating a lot of human resources to it.

3 - High Fidelity
- No pre-downsampling. Downsample later, object storage is cheap
- No excuse to not instrument every part of your stack

4 - Cost
- Predictability
- Can be highly optimized - compromise less

Spoiled for Choice:
No solution is perfect forever. As requirements change, so too should solutions, and it's a good thing we have so many to choose from.

Thank you!