

The path to modern logging, monitoring, and alerting in GARR

FABIO FARINA, GIANNI MARZULLI - GARR

GN4-3 Telemetry workshop - 10/11/2020

Contact: fabio.farina@garr.it

Outline

*"When you cannot measure it,
your knowledge is of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind"*

Lord William Thomson Kelvin

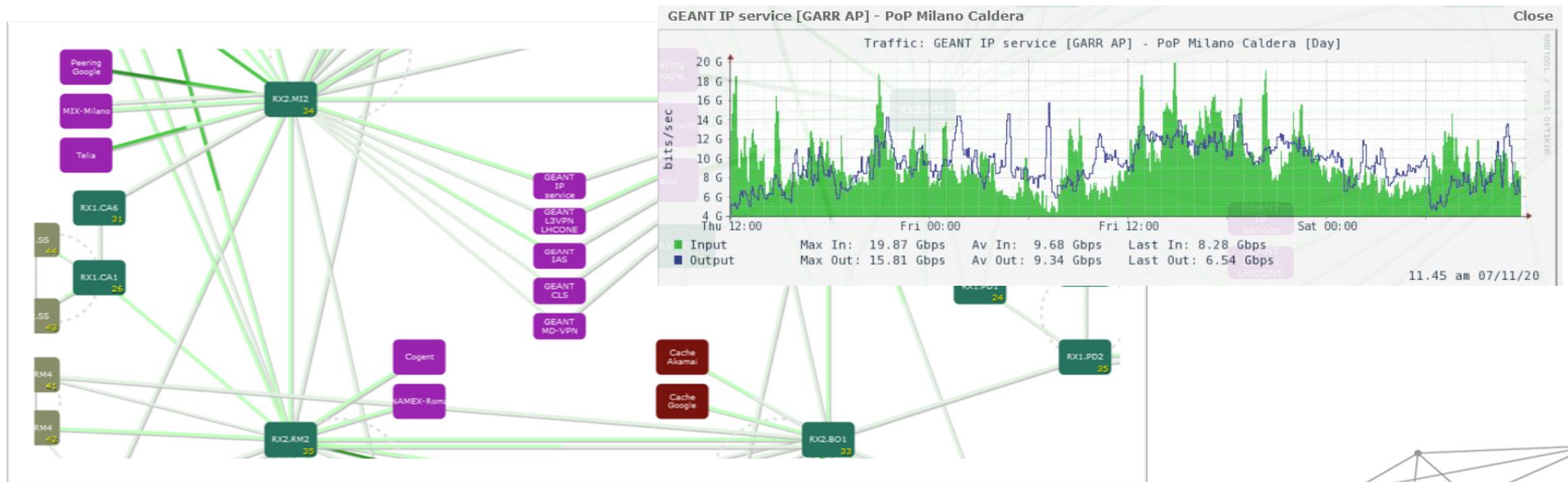
Overview on telemetry usage at GARR

- > A brief history
- > Current model, tools and strategy
- > Future directions

Once upon a time

Since the beginning

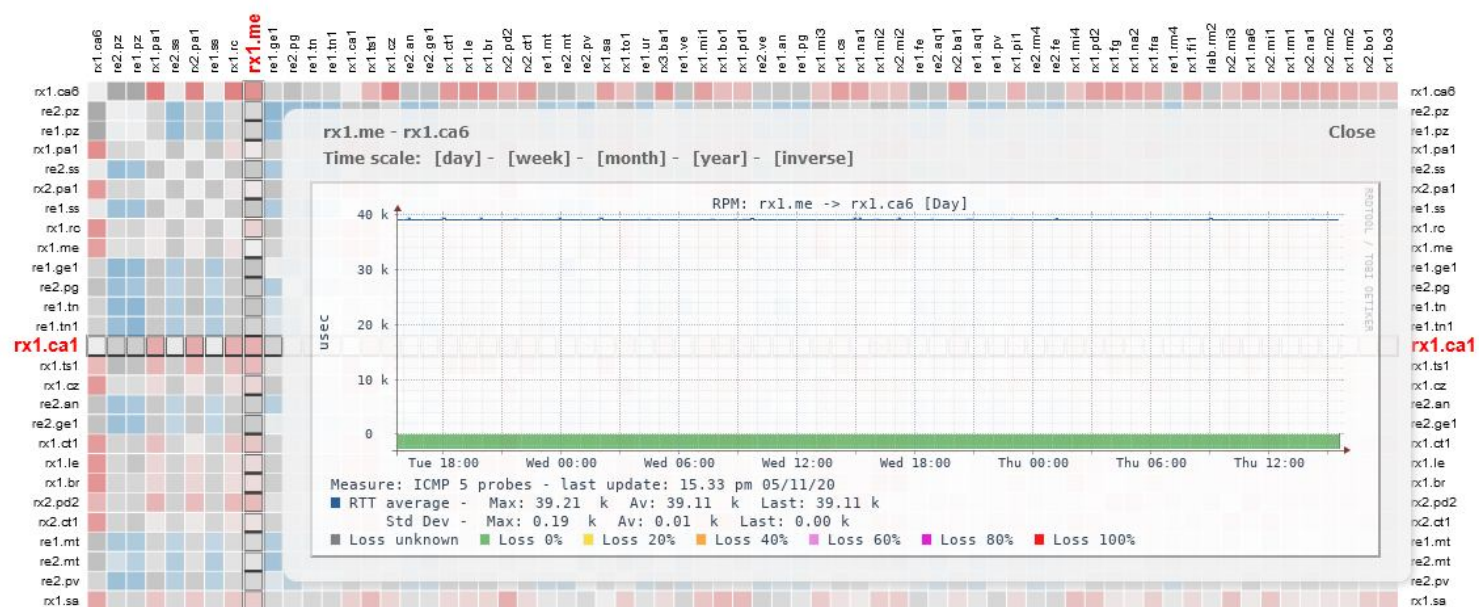
- > GINS monitoring system
- > ad hoc GARR custom development
- > weather maps, RRD, SNMP, counters



Once upon a time

~2017 – Early days

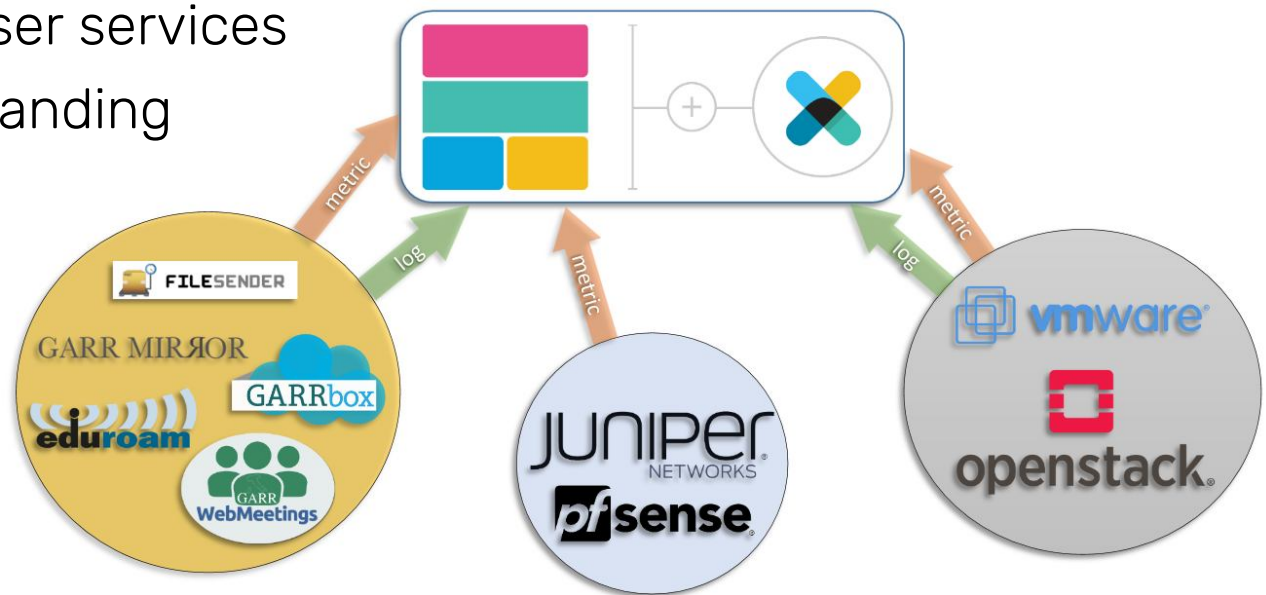
- > Juniper RPM for RTT monitoring
- > InfluxDB & custom visualization



Time goes by

2018 – Elastic.com PoC

- > Log centralization exercise
- > DC, network & end-user services
- > Learning and understanding



Till more recent time

Late 2018 – Set mid-term goals

- > Transition to production
- > Standardize monitoring tools and processes
- > Harmonize with GARR automation methodology



2019 – Backbone central logging facility

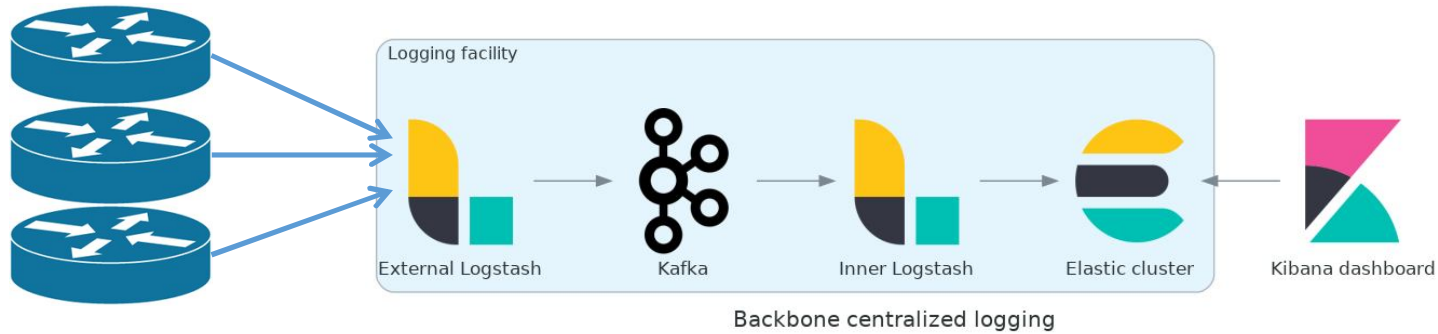


2020 – Telemetry model and tools consolidation

GARR MIRROR

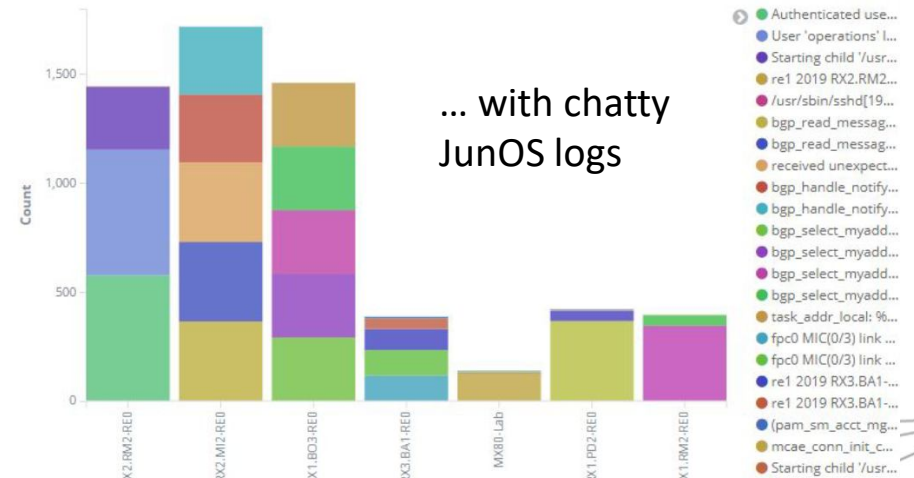
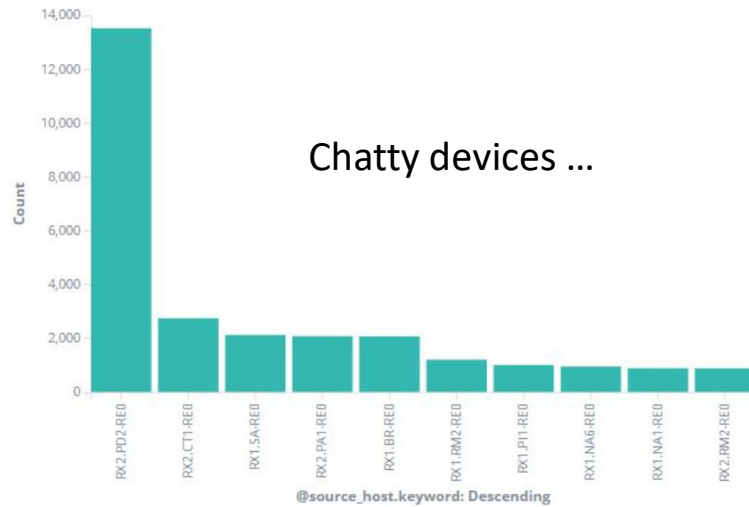


Backbone routers logging facility



«No garbage in!»

4 hours to setup the platform, 2 weeks to clean up the data (mid July 2019)



Backbone logging

Whole network daily index size after data pipeline optimization

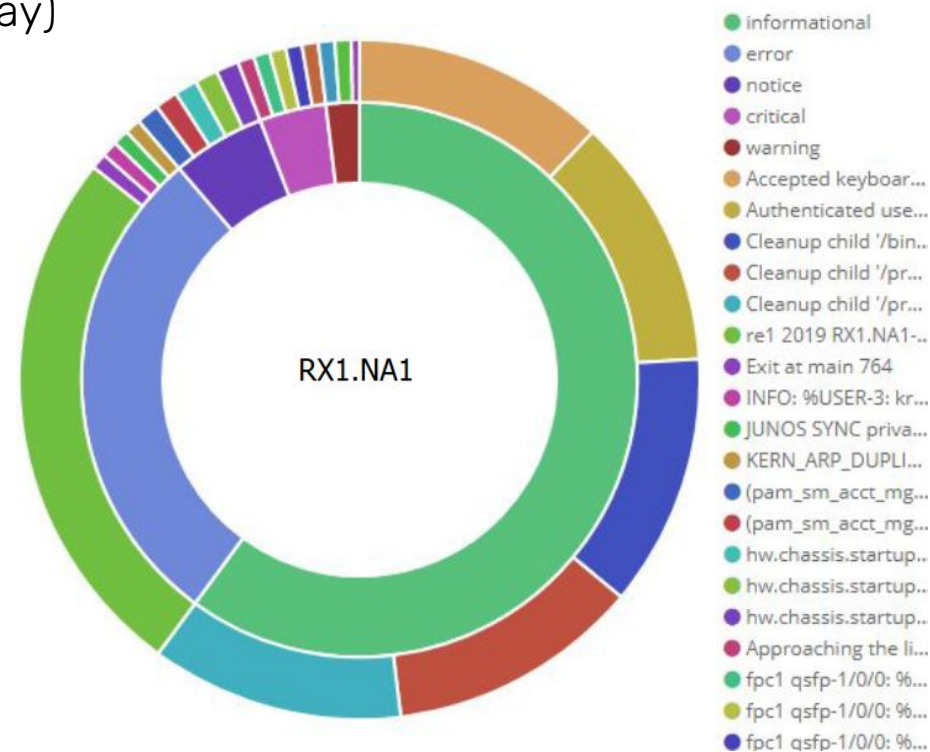
> from 200 MB/day to 60 MB/day (80 kEvents/day)

Usage from the network operations

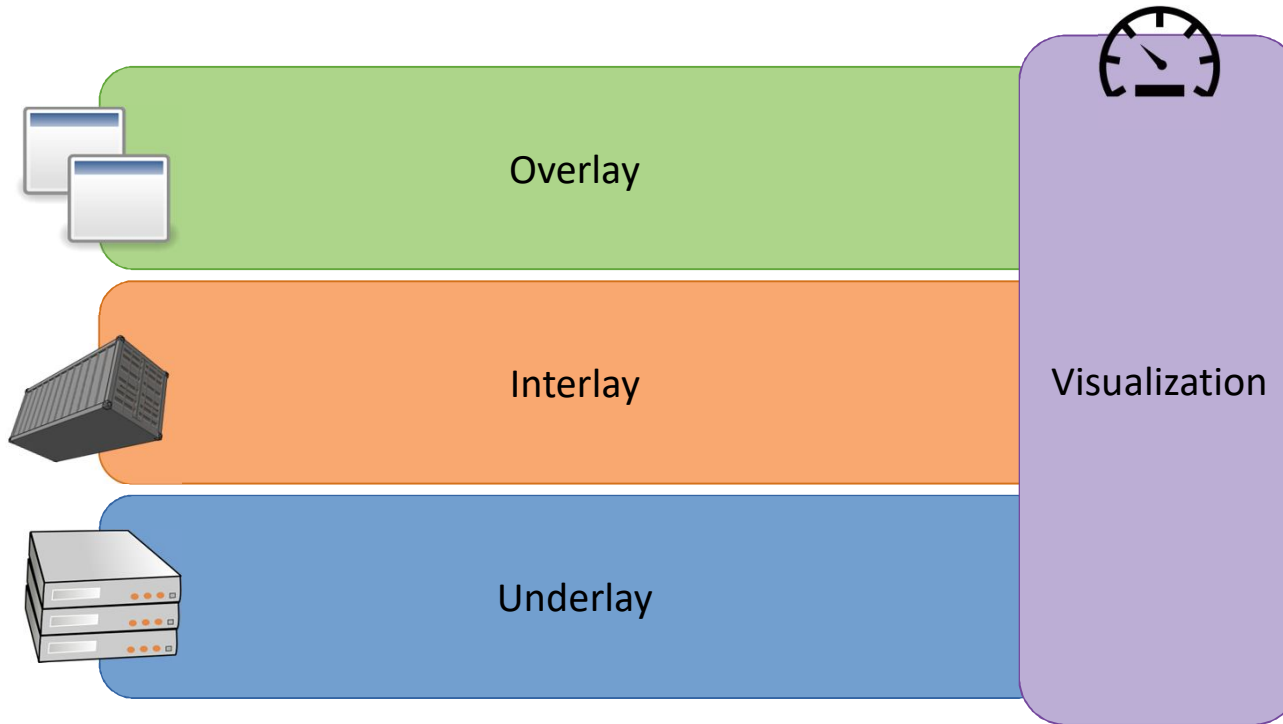
- > check faults and misbehavior
- > track BGP sessions changes
- > check CLI/SSH access on the routers
- > simpler log exchange with Juniper support
- > events clustering by severity / by roles

More recent changes

- > Cisco CPEs log collection
- > Alerting (more later...)



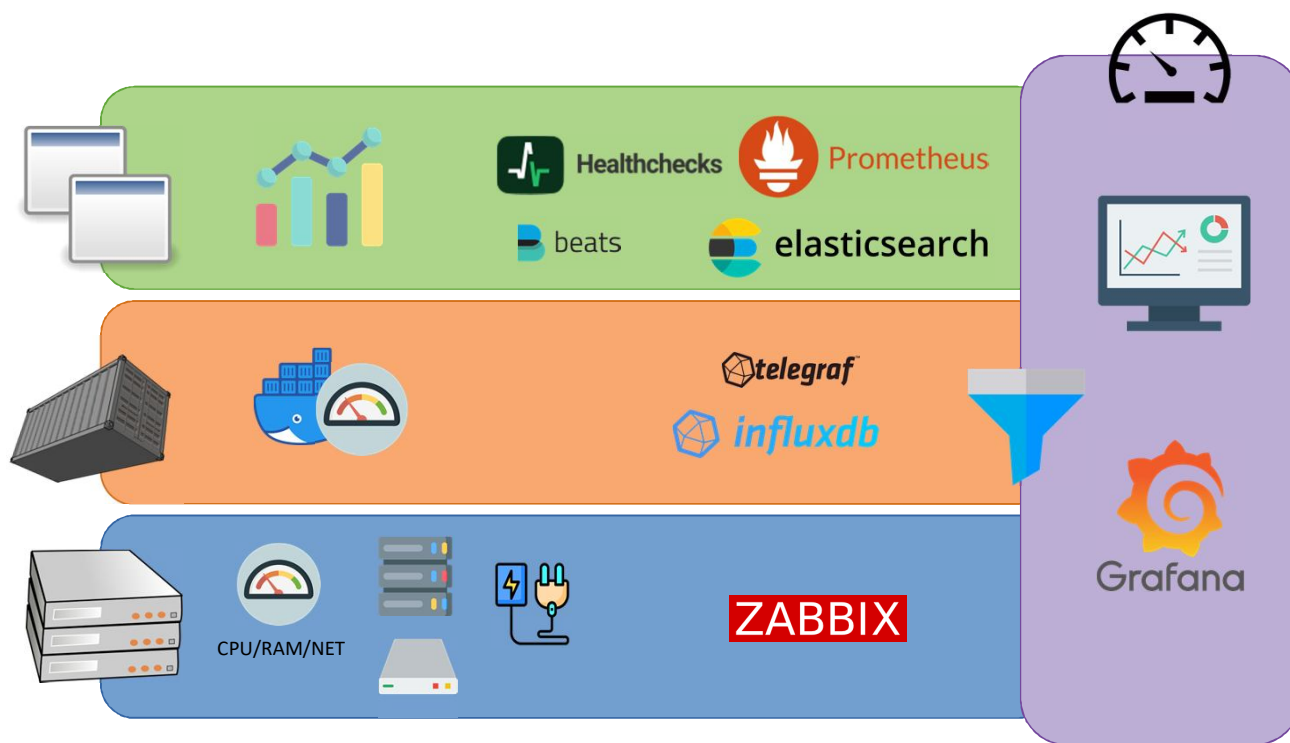
Data collection and presentation



Holistic view
Many services and many
projections through a
single pane of glass

Collection layered model
« You cannot measure blood
pressure with a thermometer »

Toolset: data lakes and probes



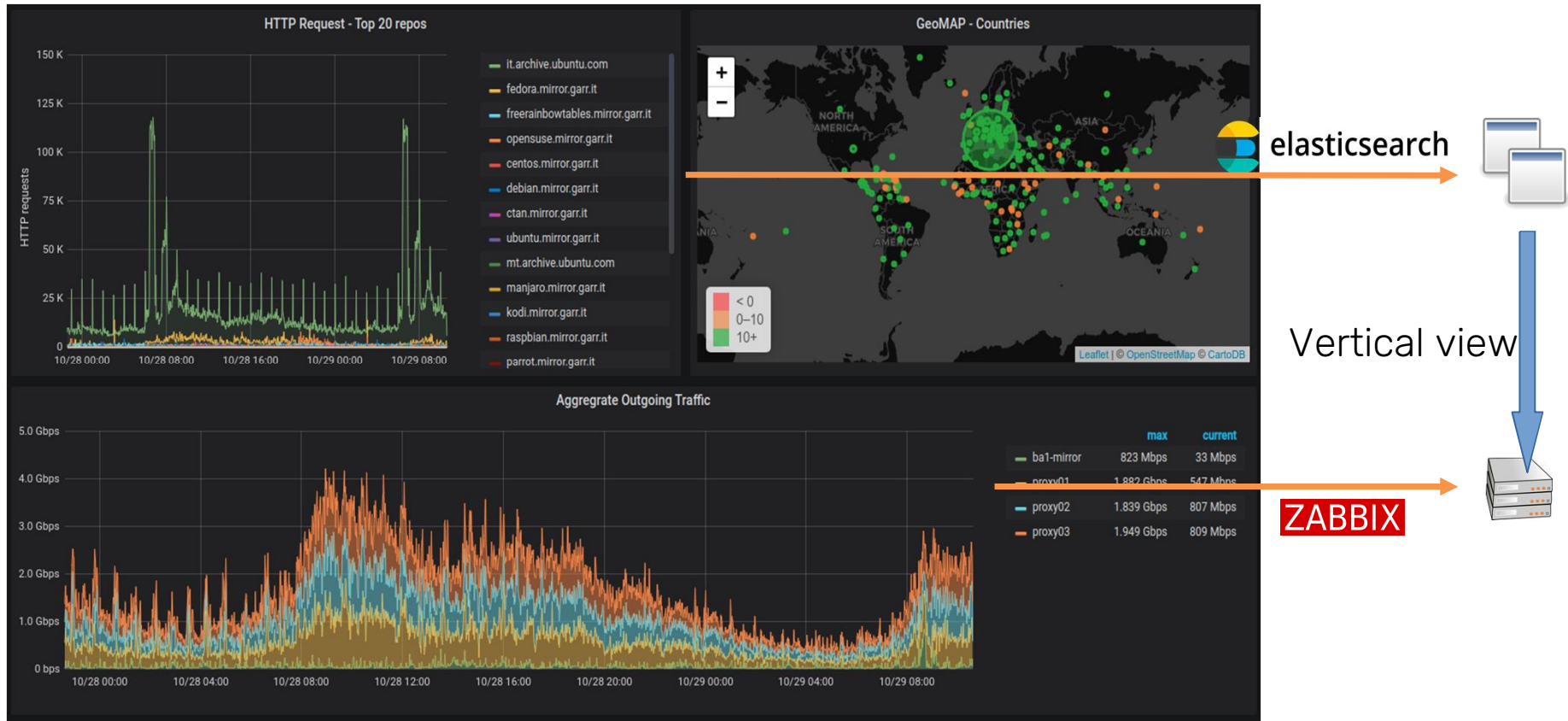
Automation tools

- > Data lakes
- Kubernetes
- Helm packages

- > Probes
- Ansible roles
- Docker containers

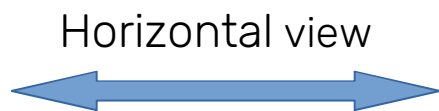
A vertical view - GARR Mirror

Service Operation perspective



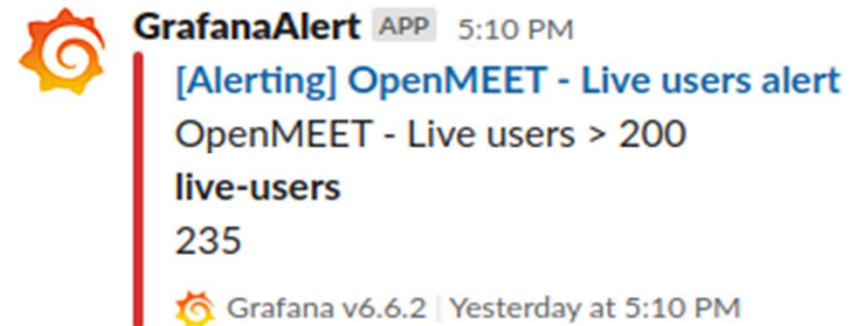
A horizontal view – Videoconference services

Service Planning perspective



Alerting and notification

- Operation paradigm shift
 - Hardware and software fault detection
 - Relevant service events as alerts
- Multi-channel notification
 - Minimal signal/noise ratio
 - Selective sending to the expert
 - Integration with collaboration tools (Slack channels, email)



Conclusions

Long journey

- > standardized telemetry approach
- > methods and decisions first, then tools – but automation is a must-have
- > alerting, notification pave the path for the evolution

Next steps

- > application services log analysis (Kubernetes support, data filtering)
- > telemetry & log analysis convergence
- > smarter thresholds, richer analytics if/where needed
- > nudge the operations teams to Site Resilience Engineering



images by <https://www.flaticon.com>