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1.1 Introduction

This guide is a supporting document for the installation of Zipkin and ELK. You can find the reference in the respective installation guides.

2. Document Tracing Zipkin

2.1 Installation of Zipkin

You can download and run the application to install Zipkin.

2.1.1 Download and Running

Zipkin works as an independent application and it can be downloaded as a runnable jar from the official website of Zipkin <https://zipkin.io/>. The latest version of Zipkin needs a Java version above 8.

The direct download link of jar is as follows:

https://search.maven.org/remote_content?g=io.zipkin&a=zipkin-server&v=LATEST&c=exec

The downloaded jar can be executed using the java -jar JAR_NAME command.

The configuration of Zipkin can be done environment variables. The port of the Zipkin can be set using QUERY_PORT environment variable.

The application starts on the port number assigned for QUERY_PORT environment variable or its default value of 9411. The web UI of Zipkin can be accessed at <http://localhost:PORT>.

2.2 Zipkin User Interface

The basic layout of Zipkin looks as follows:

The screenshot displays the Zipkin web user interface. At the top, there are navigation links: "Investigate system behavior", "Find a trace", "View Saved Trace", and "Dependencies". On the right side of the top bar, there are buttons for "Try Lens UI", "Go to trace", and "Search". The main search area contains several filters: "Service Name" (set to "zipkin"), "Span Name" (set to "all"), "Remote Service Name" (set to "all"), and "Lookback" (set to "15 minutes"). Below these are "Annotation Query" (with an example: "http.path=/foo/bar/ and cluster=foo and cache.miss"), "Duration (µs) > =" (with an example: "Ex: 100ms or 5s"), "Limit" (set to "10"), and "Sort" (set to "Longest First"). A blue "Find Traces" button with a help icon is located below the filters. A light blue message box at the bottom of the search area says "Please select the criteria for your trace lookup."

We can find the traces of required API calls and services using the above search options given in the user interface. The search options given in the user interface are self-explanatory and there is another UI option (Try Lens UI). It is given a different user interface with same functionality.

The list of the traces can be seen like the above screen. Some error API calls are made to showcase how to track errors. The blue listings show the successful API hits and the red listings indicate errors. Each block indicates a single trace in the listings.

Opening an individual trace shows the below shown screen.

Services	2.163s	432.639ms	865.278ms	1.298s	1.731s	2.163s
zipkin	2.163s : http/api1
zipkin	.	1.001s : api1	.	0	.	.
zipkin	.	.	.	1.068s : http/api2	.	.
zipkin	.	.	.	1.001s : api2	.	.

The above shown image describes the time taken for each block. There are 2 custom spans created inside 2 service calls, so there are total of 4 blocks. The time taken for individual block can be seen above. Clicking an individual block shows the following details.

Date Time	Relative Time	Annotation	Address
9/10/2019, 4:11:23 PM		Server Start	
9/10/2019, 4:11:25 PM	2.163s	Server Finish	

Key	Value
http.host	localhost
http.method	GET
http.path	/api1
http.status_code	200
http.url	http://localhost:8080/api1
mvc.controller.class	Controller
mvc.controller.method	api1
spring.instance_id	eswarperabathini.in.oracle.com:Zipkin

traceld: 9d63642d72ab6f9f
spanid: 9d63642d72ab6f9f

The details of the specific span block are shown above and the logging events can also be seen in the Zipkin UI as small circular blocks. An example of error log is shown below:

Duration: 1.026s Services: 1 Depth: 2 Total Spans: 3

Service	Start Time	End Time	Duration
zipkin	-1.026s	0s	1.026s
zipkin	-1.001s	-0.801s	200.134ms
zipkin	-0.801s	-0.581s	220.267ms

Clicking the **Error** portion gives the clear detail about the error and where the error has arised. AN example is shown below:

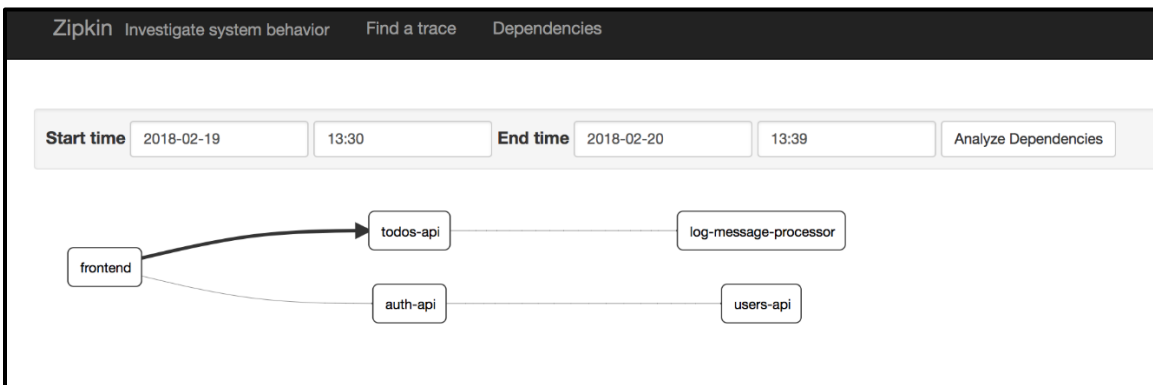
Services: zipkin

Date Time	Relative Time	Annotation	Address
9/11/2019, 6:09:01 PM		Server Start	
9/11/2019, 6:09:02 PM	1.026s	Server Finish	

Key	Value
error	Request processing failed; nested exception is org.springframework.web.client.HttpServerErrorException: 500 null
http.host	localhost
http.method	GET
http.path	/api1
http.status_code	500
http.url	http://localhost:8080/api1
mvc.controller.class	BasicErrorController
mvc.controller.method	errorHtml
spring.instance_id	eswarperabathini.in.oracle.com:Zipkin

If the Lens UI is used in Zipkin, the above screen shots are not applicable, but are relatable to the Lens UI as well.

Traces of the application can be found using Traceld, which can be found in the debug logs of the deployment when spring-cloud-sleuth is included in the dependencies (Included in spring-cloud-starter-zipkin dependency). Clicking the **Dependencies** tab gives the dependency graph info between micro-services. An example dependency graph is shown below:



3. Monitoring ELK

3.1 Introduction

ELK Stack was a collection of the following open-source products:

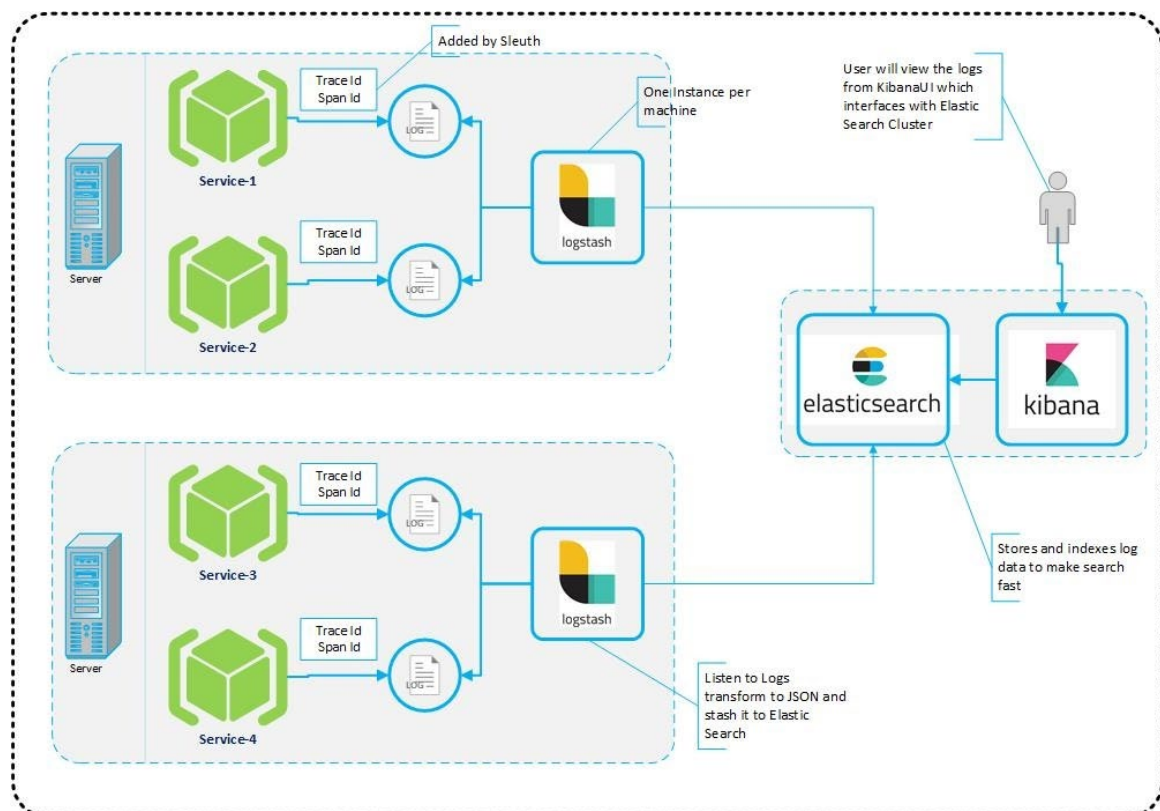
- Elasticsearch
- Logstash
- Kibana

Elasticsearch is an open source, full-text search and analysis engine, based on the Apache Lucene search engine. Logstash is a log aggregator that collects data from various input sources, executes different transformations and enhancements and then ships the data to various supported output destinations. Kibana is a visualization layer that works on top of Elasticsearch, providing users with the ability to analyze and visualize the data.

Together, these different components are most commonly used for monitoring, troubleshooting, and securing IT environments. Logstash take care of data collection and processing, Elasticsearch indexes and stores the data, and Kibana provides a user interface for querying the data and visualizing it.

3.2 Architecture

The below architecture provides a comprehensive solution for handling all the required facets:



Spring cloud Sleuth also provides additional functionality to keep trace of the application calls by providing us a way to create intermediate logging events. Thus, the Spring Cloud Sleuth dependency must be added to applications.

3.3 Installing and Configuring ELK

To install and configure ELK Stack, make sure the versions of the 3 software are same. Download the latest version of the following:

- Logstash
- Elastic Search
- Kibana

The installation guides are given below.

- Logstash : <https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/logstash/current/installing-logstash.html>
- Elastic Search : <https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/current/install-elasticsearch.html>
- Kibana : <https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/kibana/current/install.html>

Follow the process as given in the following sub-sections, after completing the download process of ELK.

3.3.1 Setup

The setup includes the following steps:

- Start Elastic Search
- Setup Logstash and Start
- Setup Kibana and Start

3.3.1.1 Start ElasticSearch

1. Go to Elasticsearch root folder and use nohup to start the Elasticsearch process as below:

```
> nohup ./bin/elasticsearch
```

3.3.1.2 Setup Logstash and Start

1. Create a new **logstash.conf** file that provides the required file parsing and integration to Elasticsearch.

logstatsh.conf:

```
#Point to the application logs
input {
  file {
    type => "java"
    path => "/scratch/app/work_area/app_Logs/*.Log"
    codec => multiline {
      pattern => "^[Y]{YEAR}-[M]{MONTHNUM}-[D]{MONTHDAY} [T]{TIME}.*"
      negate => "true"
      what => "previous"
    }
  }
}

#Provide the parsing logic to transform logs into JSON
filter {
```

```

#If log line contains tab character followed by 'at' then we
will tag that entry as stacktrace
if [message] =~ "\tat" {
  grok {
    match => ["message", "^(\\tat)"]
    add_tag => ["stacktrace"]
  }
}

#Grokking Spring Boot's default Log format
grok {
  match => [ "message",
            "(?<timestamp>%{YEAR}-%{MONTHNUM}-%{MONTHDAY}
            %{TIME}) %{LOGLEVEL:level} %{NUMBER:pid} --- \[(?<thread>[A-Za-
            z0-9-]+)\] [A-Za-z0-9.]*\.(?<class>[A-Za-z0-
            9#_]+)\s*:\s+(?<Logmessage>.*)",
            "message",
            "(?<timestamp>%{YEAR}-%{MONTHNUM}-%{MONTHDAY}
            %{TIME}) %{LOGLEVEL:level} %{NUMBER:pid} --- .+?
            :\s+(?<Logmessage>.*)"
          ]
}

# pattern matching logback pattern
grok {
  match =>
{ "message" => "%{TIMESTAMP_ISO8601:timestamp}\s+{%{LOGLEVEL:seve
rity}}\s+\[%{DATA:service},%{DATA:trace},%{DATA:span},%{DATA:expo
rtable}\]\s+\[%{DATA:environment}\]\s+\[%{DATA:tenant}\]\s+\[%{D
ATA:user}\]\s+\[%{DATA:branch}\]\s+{%{DATA:pid}}\s+---
\s+\[%{DATA:thread}\]\s+{%{DATA:class}}\s+:\s+{%{GREEDYDATA:rest}"
}
}

#Parsing out timestamps which are in timestamp field thanks to
previous grok section
date {
  match => [ "timestamp" , "yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss.SSS" ]
}
}

#Ingest logs to Elasticsearch
output {
  elasticsearch { hosts => ["localhost:9200"] }
  stdout { codec => rubydebug }
}

```

2. Start Logstash process

```
>nohup ./bin/logstash -f logstash.conf
```

3.3.1.3 Setup Kibana and start

- 1. Navigate to the **kibana.yml** available under <kibana_setup_folder>/config and modify the file to include the below:

```
#Uncomment the below line and update the IP address to your host machine IP.
server.host: "xx.xxx.xxx.xx"
#Provide the elasticsearch url. If this is running on the same machine then you can use the below config as is
elasticsearch.url: "http://localhost:9200"
```

- 2. Start Kibana process using the below command:

```
>nohup ./bin/kibana
```

A view of the Kibana dashboard is given below:





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