ORACLE

Observability, Monitoring and Alerting Across Multiple Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems–Part 1

A step-by-step guide to deploying an external Grafana Server service to provide a common monitoring and alerting framework across multiple Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems

September, 2023, Version 1.0.1

Purpose statement

This document outlines the steps necessary for the creation, and use, of an external Grafana Server service to provide a single, central, and common monitoring and alerting framework for multiple Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems.

It is intended solely to help you assess the business benefits of using such an approach and to plan your information technology projects accordingly.

Disclaimer

This document in any form, software, or printed matter, contains proprietary information that is the exclusive property of Oracle. Your access to and use of this confidential material is subject to the terms and conditions of your Oracle software license and service agreement, which has been executed and with which you agree to comply.

This document and information contained herein may not be disclosed, copied, reproduced, or distributed to anyone outside Oracle without prior written consent of Oracle.

This document is not part of your license agreement, nor can it be incorporated into any contractual agreement with Oracle or its subsidiaries or affiliates.

This document is for informational purposes only and is intended solely to assist you in planning for the implementation and upgrade of the product features described. It is not a commitment to deliver any material, code, or functionality, and should not be relied upon in making purchasing decisions.

The development, release, and timing of any features or functionality described in this document remains at the sole discretion of Oracle. Due to the nature of the product architecture, it may not be possible to safely include all features described in this document without risking significant destabilization of the code.

Table of contents

List of images

List of tables

No table of figures entries found.

Introduction

Oracle Private Cloud Appliance (PCA) is an Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI)-compatible Engineered System, providing a fast and efficient infrastructure for modern software and business applications. Oracle Private Cloud Appliance has the same infrastructure constructs with APIs and SDKs compatible with OCI. This enables customers to adopt a “develop once, deploy anywhere” approach to rapidly design and develop high-performance applications and middleware.

Advantages of Oracle Private Cloud Appliance

Oracle Private Cloud Appliance (PCA) is an Oracle Engineered System designed for implementing the application and middleware tiers. PCA is an integrated hardware and software system that reduces infrastructure complexity and deployment time for virtualized workloads in private clouds. It is a complete platform for a wide range of application types and workloads, with built-in management, compute, storage, and networking resources. PCA provides excellent performance and other system properties for hosting a broad range of applications.

Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 is the latest member of the Oracle Private Cloud Appliance product family. It provides cloud and administrative services for a supporting range of workloads including cloud native applications. It makes use of a modern microservices architecture, Kubernetes, and related technologies, for a future-proofed software stack.

A key new feature of Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2, compared to previous versions, is that it delivers private cloud infrastructure and architecture consistent with Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI). Oracle Private Cloud Appliance brings APIs and SDKs compatible with Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) to an on-premises implementation at rack scale, making workloads, user experience, tool sets and skills portable between private and public clouds. Oracle Private Cloud Appliance can be paired with Oracle Exadata to create an ideal infrastructure for scalable, multitier applications. Customers preferring or requiring an on-premises solution can realize the operational benefits of public cloud deployments using Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2.

Scope and Content

This document consists of four separate sections, each providing a detailed step-by-step guide on a specific key area as to how customers with one or more Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems can install and setup a single, external Grafana Server service to provide monitoring and alerting services across their Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 estate.

- The first two sections provide instructions on base system preparation, installation, and the base configuration of the external Grafana Server service.
- The final two sections provide instructions on the detailed configuration of the external Grafana Server service to receive telemetry from multiple Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems and display metrics in Grafana dashboards.

Monitoring and Alerting on Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2

Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 provides monitoring and alerting capabilities through a fully integrated Grafana service. For customers with multiple Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 racks, this capability can be further expanded to monitor multiple systems through a single, centralized, external Grafana instance.

For customers who are not using Grafana widely within their organization, a new Grafana instance is likely to be needed to act as the centralized "single window" into their Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 estate.

- The first section of this document provides a step-by-step guide to creating a new host system for the external Grafana instance. In the example below, this is based on an Oracle Linux 9 update 1 virtual machine and uses a Podman (Docker) Container to provide the runtime Grafana environment.
- The second section of this document provides a step-by-step guide on the installation and configuration of a containerized Grafana Server service based on the basic Oracle Linux system configured previously.
- The third section of this document provides a step-by-step guide to adding multiple Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems to an external Grafana Server service as Prometheus-based data sources.
- The fourth, and final, section of this document provides a step-by-step guide for importing existing Grafana Dashboards from a single Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 to be used to monitor all the systems via the external Grafana Server service.

Providing a Host System

Create a suitable host system to act as the external Grafana Server. This can be either a physical server, or a virtual machine.

Virtual Host System

In this instance, a virtual machine-based Oracle Linux 9 update 1 system was created to act as the host platform for the external Grafana services.

This system consists of the following:

- 4 vCPU
- 16GB RAM
- 50GB Boot Volume
- 250GB Data Volume

The relevant proxy settings were enabled for:

- dnf / yum services - add the environment variable 'proxy=<local proxy server:port> within the'/etc/yum.conf' configuration file; include the 'proxy_username=' and 'proxy_password=' variables & values if required
- system services - add the environment variables HTTP_PROXY, HTTPS_PROXY & NO_PROXY to the system, with any user / password values required. In this example an '/etc/profile.d/proxy.sh' configuration file was created with the following settings:

```
HTTP_PROXY=<protocol://proxy_host_FQDN:port>
HTTPS_PROXY=<protocol://proxy_host_FQDN:port>
NO_PROXY="127.0.0.1, localhost, <required domains, comma separated>"
export HTTP_PROXY
export HTTPS_PROXY
export NO_PROXY
```

A full system update ('dnf update') was run to bring the system up to the latest rpm package levels.

Install Container Management Tools

The container management tools need to be installed. For Oracle Linux, Podman is used.

Podman provides a lightweight utility to run and manage Open Container Initiative (OCI) compatible containers. As such, a Podman deployment can reuse existing container images that are designed for Kubernetes, Oracle Container Runtime for Docker, and Oracle Cloud Native Environment.

Podman is also intended as a drop-in replacement for Oracle Container Runtime for Docker, so the command-line interface (CLI) functions the same way if the `podman-docker` package is installed.

Install the following rpm packages:

- podman-docker
- container-tools

Use the command `'dnf install podman-docker container-tools'` to complete this task.

The following output should be seen:

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# DNF INSTALL PODMAN-DOCKER CONTAINER-TOOLS
LAST METADATA EXPIRATION CHECK: 0:14:51 AGO ON MON 16 JAN 2023 16:23:17 GMT.
DEPENDENCIES RESOLVED.
================================================================================================================================================
 PACKAGE                          ARCHITECTURE              VERSION                 REPOSITORY                                  SIZE
================================================================================================================================================
INSTALLING:
 CONTAINER-TOOLS                  NOARCH                    1-12.0.1.EL9            OL9_APPSTREAM                              7.9 K
 PODMAN-DOCKER                    NOARCH                    2:4.2.0-7.0.1.EL9_1     OL9_APPSTREAM                               41 K
INSTALLING DEPENDENCIES:
 PODMAN-REMOTE                    X86_64                    2:4.2.0-7.0.1.EL9_1     OL9_APPSTREAM                              8.1 M
 PYTHON3-PODMAN                   NOARCH                    3:4.2.1-1.EL9_1         OL9_APPSTREAM                              265 K
 PYTHON3-PYXDG                    NOARCH                    0.27-3.EL9              OL9_APPSTREAM                              144 K
 PYTHON3-TOML                     NOARCH                    0.10.2-6.0.1.EL9        OL9_APPSTREAM                               61 K
 SKOPEO                           X86_64                    2:1.9.4-0.1.EL9_1       OL9_APPSTREAM                              6.6 M
 UDICA                            NOARCH                    0.2.6-4.EL9             OL9_APPSTREAM                               74 K
TRANSACTION SUMMARY
================================================================================================================================================
INSTALL  8 PACKAGES
TOTAL DOWNLOAD SIZE: 15 M
INSTALLED SIZE: 52 M
IS THIS OK [Y/N]: Y
DOWNLOADING PACKAGES:
(1/8): PODMAN-DOCKER-4.2.0-7.0.1.EL9_1.NOARCH.RPM                                                84 KB/S |  41 KB     00:00
(2/8): CONTAINER-TOOLS-1-12.0.1.EL9.NOARCH.RPM                                                   16 KB/S | 7.9 KB     00:00
(3/8): PYTHON3-PODMAN-4.2.1-1.EL9_1.NOARCH.RPM                                                  1.6 MB/S | 265 KB     00:00
(4/8): PYTHON3-PYXDG-0.27-3.EL9.NOARCH.RPM                                                      721 KB/S | 144 KB     00:00
(5/8): PYTHON3-TOML-0.10.2-6.0.1.EL9.NOARCH.RPM                                                 694 KB/S |  61 KB     00:00
(6/8): PODMAN-REMOTE-4.2.0-7.0.1.EL9_1.X86_64.RPM                                               8.6 MB/S | 8.1 MB     00:00
(7/8): UDICA-0.2.6-4.EL9.NOARCH.RPM                                                             315 KB/S |  74 KB     00:00
(8/8): SKOPEO-1.9.4-0.1.EL9_1.X86_64.RPM                                                         13 MB/S | 6.6 MB     00:00
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
TOTAL                                                                                            12 MB/S |  15 MB     00:01
RUNNING TRANSACTION CHECK
TRANSACTION CHECK SUCCEEDED.
RUNNING TRANSACTION TEST
TRANSACTION TEST SUCCEEDED.
RUNNING TRANSACTION
  PREPARING        :                                                                                                              1/1
  INSTALLING       : UDICA-0.2.6-4.EL9.NOARCH                                                                                     1/8
  INSTALLING       : SKOPEO-2:1.9.4-0.1.EL9_1.X86_64                                                                              2/8
  INSTALLING       : PYTHON3-TOML-0.10.2-6.0.1.EL9.NOARCH                                                                         3/8
  INSTALLING       : PYTHON3-PYXDG-0.27-3.EL9.NOARCH                                                                              4/8
  INSTALLING       : PYTHON3-PODMAN-3:4.2.1-1.EL9_1.NOARCH                                                                        5/8
  INSTALLING       : PODMAN-REMOTE-2:4.2.0-7.0.1.EL9_1.X86_64                                                                     6/8
  INSTALLING       : PODMAN-DOCKER-2:4.2.0-7.0.1.EL9_1.NOARCH                                                                     7/8
  INSTALLING       : CONTAINER-TOOLS-1-12.0.1.EL9.NOARCH                                                                          8/8
  RUNNING SCRIPTLET: CONTAINER-TOOLS-1- 12.0.1.EL9.NOARCH                                                                         8/8
  VERIFYING        : CONTAINER-TOOLS-1-12.0.1.EL9.NOARCH                                                                          1/8
  VERIFYING        : PODMAN-DOCKER-2:4.2.0-7.0.1.EL9_1.NOARCH                                                                     2/8
  VERIFYING        : PODMAN-REMOTE-2:4.2.0-7.0.1.EL9_1.X86_64                                                                     3/8
  VERIFYING        : PYTHON3-PODMAN-3:4.2.1-1.EL9_1.NOARCH                                                                        4/8
  VERIFYING        : PYTHON3-PYXDG-0.27-3.EL9.NOARCH                                                                              5/8
  VERIFYING        : PYTHON3-TOML-0.10.2-6.0.1.EL9.NOARCH                                                                         6/8
  VERIFYING        : SKOPEO-2:1.9.4-0.1.EL9_1.X86_64                                                                              7/8
  VERIFYING        : UDICA-0.2.6-4.EL9.NOARCH                                                                                     8/8
INSTALLED:
  CONTAINER-TOOLS-1-12.0.1.EL9.NOARCH         PODMAN-DOCKER-2:4.2.0-7.0.1.EL9_1.NOARCH    PODMAN-REMOTE-2:4.2.0-7.0.1.EL9_1.X86_64

  PYTHON3-PODMAN-3:4.2.1-1.EL9_1.NOARCH       PYTHON3-PYXDG-0.27-3.EL9.NOARCH             PYTHON3-TOML-0.10.2-6.0.1.EL9.NOARCH

  SKOPEO-2:1.9.4-0.1.EL9_1.X86_64             UDICA-0.2.6-4.EL9.NOARCH
COMPLETE!
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

Verify the status of the podman service using the `'podman info'` command:

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PODMAN INFO
HOST:
  ARCH: AMD64
  BUILDAHVERSION: 1.27.1
  CGROUPCONTROLLERS:
  - CPUSET
  - CPU
  - IO
  - MEMORY
  - HUGETLB
  - PIDS
  - RDMA
  - MISC
  CGROUPMANAGER: SYSTEMD
  CGROUPVERSION: V2
  CONMON:
    PACKAGE: CONMON-2.1.4-1.EL9.X86_64
    PATH: /USR/BIN/CONMON
    VERSION: 'CONMON VERSION 2.1.4, COMMIT: 72C22139FBCA75534D8C39FD72457900F499CE2B'
  CPUUTILIZATION:
    IDLEPERCENT: 97.76
    SYSTEMPERCENT: 1.2
    USERPERCENT: 1.04
  CPUS: 4
  DISTRIBUTION:
    DISTRIBUTION: '"OL"'
    VARIANT: SERVER
    VERSION: "9.1"
  EVENTLOGGER: JOURNALD
  HOSTNAME: SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA
  IDMAPPINGS:
    GIDMAP: NULL
    UIDMAP: NULL
  KERNEL: 5.15.0-6.80.3.1.EL9UEK.X86_64
  LINKMODE: DYNAMIC
  LOGDRIVER: JOURNALD
  MEMFREE: 14865276928
  MEMTOTAL: 16292057088
  NETWORKBACKEND: NETAVARK
  OCIRUNTIME:
    NAME: CRUN
    PACKAGE: CRUN-1.5-1.EL9.X86_64
    PATH: /USR/BIN/CRUN
    VERSION: |-
      CRUN VERSION 1.5
      COMMIT: 54EBB8CA8BF7E6DDAE2EB919F5B82D1D96863DEA
      SPEC: 1.0.0
      +SYSTEMD +SELINUX +APPARMOR +CAP +SECCOMP +EBPF +CRIU +YAJL
  OS: LINUX
  REMOTESOCKET:
    PATH: /RUN/PODMAN/PODMAN.SOCK
  SECURITY:
    APPARMORENABLED: FALSE
    CAPABILITIES:
CAP_NET_RAW,CAP_CHOWN,CAP_DAC_OVERRIDE,CAP_FOWNER,CAP_FSETID,CAP_KILL,CAP_NET_BIND_SERVICE,CAP_SETFCAP,CAP_SETGID,CAP_SETPCAP,CAP_S
ETUID,CAP_SYS_CHROOT
    ROOTLESS: FALSE
    SECCOMPENABLED: TRUE
    SECCOMPPROFILEPATH: /USR/SHARE/CONTAINERS/SECCOMP.JSON
    SELINUXENABLED: TRUE
  SERVICEISREMOTE: FALSE
  SLIRP4NETNS:
    EXECUTABLE: /USR/BIN/SLIRP4NETNS
    PACKAGE: SLIRP4NETNS-1.2.0-2.EL9_0.X86_64
    VERSION: |-
      SLIRP4NETNS VERSION 1.2.0
      COMMIT: 656041D45CFCA7A4176F6B7EED9E4FE6C11E8383
      LIBSLIRP: 4.4.0
      SLIRP_CONFIG_VERSION_MAX: 3
      LIBSECCOMP: 2.5.2
  SWAPFREE: 0
  SWAPTOTAL: 0
  UPTIME: 0H 11M 6.00S
PLUGINS:
  AUTHORIZATION: NULL
  LOG:
  - K8S-FILE
  - NONE
  - PASSTHROUGH
  - JOURNALD
  NETWORK:
  - BRIDGE
  - MACVLAN
  VOLUME:
  - LOCAL
REGISTRIES:
  SEARCH:
  - CONTAINER-REGISTRY.ORACLE.COM
  - DOCKER.IO
STORE:
  CONFIGFILE: /ETC/CONTAINERS/STORAGE.CONF
  CONTAINERSTORE:
    NUMBER: 0
    PAUSED: 0
    RUNNING: 0
    STOPPED: 0
  GRAPHDRIVERNAME: OVERLAY
  GRAPHOPTIONS:
    OVERLAY.MOUNTOPT: NODEV,METACOPY=ON
  GRAPHROOT: /VAR/LIB/CONTAINERS/STORAGE
  GRAPHROOTALLOCATED: 51954630656
```

```
  GRAPHROOTUSED: 5100552192
  GRAPHSTATUS:
    BACKING FILESYSTEM: XFS
    NATIVE OVERLAY DIFF: "FALSE"
    SUPPORTS D_TYPE: "TRUE"
    USING METACOPY: "TRUE"
  IMAGECOPYTMPDIR: /VAR/TMP
  IMAGESTORE:
    NUMBER: 0
  RUNROOT: /RUN/CONTAINERS/STORAGE
  VOLUMEPATH: /VAR/LIB/CONTAINERS/STORAGE/VOLUMES
VERSION:
  APIVERSION: 4.2.0
  BUILT: 1669064937
  BUILTTIME: MON NOV 21 21:08:57 2022
  GITCOMMIT: ""
  GOVERSION: GO1.18.4
  OS: LINUX
  OSARCH: LINUX/AMD64
  VERSION: 4.2.0

[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

Enable the podman service to auto start on system reboot.

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# SYSTEMCTL ENABLE --NOW PODMAN
CREATED SYMLINK /ETC/SYSTEMD/SYSTEM/DEFAULT.TARGET.WANTS/PODMAN.SERVICE →
/USR/LIB/SYSTEMD/SYSTEM/PODMAN.SERVICE.
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

Finally, check the default podman network created during this system build:

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PODMAN NETWORK LS
NETWORK ID    NAME        DRIVER
2F259BAB93AA  PODMAN      BRIDGE
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PODMAN NETWORK INSPECT PODMAN
[
     {
          "NAME": "PODMAN",
          "ID":
"2F259BAB93AAAAA2542BA43EF33EB990D0999EE1B9924B557B7BE53C0B7A1BB9",
          "DRIVER": "BRIDGE",
          "NETWORK_INTERFACE": "PODMAN0",
          "CREATED": "2023-01-17T10:28:53.881947417Z",
          "SUBNETS": [
               {
                    "SUBNET": "10.88.0.0/16",
                    "GATEWAY": "10.88.0.1"
               }
          ],
          "IPV6_ENABLED": FALSE,
          "INTERNAL": FALSE,
          "DNS_ENABLED": FALSE,
          "IPAM_OPTIONS": {
               "DRIVER": "HOST-LOCAL"
          }
     }
]
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

This system is now ready for the download (pull) and operation of podman (docker) containers.

Enable Additional Services

There are several additional services to configure prior to starting work with Grafana. These are optional but will be used elsewhere within this document and have been included for completeness.

Sendmail

As part of this step-by-step guide, the use of email alerting will be shown. To enable this, the `'sendmail'` packages need to be installed and configured.

First, install the sendmail rpm and any dependencies:

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# DNF INSTALL SENDMAIL
LAST METADATA EXPIRATION CHECK: 0:47:51 AGO ON TUE 17 JAN 2023 09:23:45 GMT.
DEPENDENCIES RESOLVED.
================================================================================================================================================
 PACKAGE                      ARCHITECTURE             VERSION                     REPOSITORY                                  SIZE
================================================================================================================================================
INSTALLING:
 SENDMAIL                     X86_64                   8.16.1-10.0.1.EL9           OL9_APPSTREAM                              788 K
INSTALLING DEPENDENCIES:
 PROCMAIL                     X86_64                   3.22-56.EL9                 OL9_APPSTREAM                              212 K
 TINYCDB                      X86_64                   0.78-18.EL9                 OL9_APPSTREAM                               39 K

TRANSACTION SUMMARY
================================================================================================================================================
INSTALL  3 PACKAGES

TOTAL DOWNLOAD SIZE: 1.0 M
INSTALLED SIZE: 2.0 M
IS THIS OK [Y/N]: Y
DOWNLOADING PACKAGES:
(1/3): TINYCDB-0.78-18.EL9.X86_64.RPM                                                  83 KB/S |  39 KB     00:00
(2/3): PROCMAIL-3.22-56.EL9.X86_64.RPM                                                326 KB/S | 212 KB     00:00
(3/3): SENDMAIL-8.16.1-10.0.1.EL9.X86_64.RPM                                          1.1 MB/S | 788 KB     00:00
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
TOTAL                                                                                 1.4 MB/S | 1.0 MB     00:00
RUNNING TRANSACTION CHECK
TRANSACTION CHECK SUCCEEDED.
RUNNING TRANSACTION TEST
TRANSACTION TEST SUCCEEDED.
RUNNING TRANSACTION
  PREPARING        :                                                                                                            1/1
  INSTALLING       : TINYCDB-0.78-18.EL9.X86_64                                                                                 1/3
  INSTALLING       : PROCMAIL-3.22-56.EL9.X86_64                                                                                2/3
  RUNNING SCRIPTLET: SENDMAIL-8.16.1-10.0.1.EL9.X86_64                                                                          3/3
  INSTALLING       : SENDMAIL-8.16.1-10.0.1.EL9.X86_64                                                                          3/3
  RUNNING SCRIPTLET: SENDMAIL-8.16.1-10.0.1.EL9.X86_64                                                                          3/3
  VERIFYING        : PROCMAIL-3.22-56.EL9.X86_64                                                                                1/3
  VERIFYING        : SENDMAIL-8.16.1-10.0.1.EL9.X86_64                                                                          2/3
  VERIFYING        : TINYCDB-0.78-18.EL9.X86_64                                                                                 3/3

INSTALLED:
  PROCMAIL-3.22-56.EL9.X86_64                SENDMAIL-8.16.1-10.0.1.EL9.X86_64                TINYCDB-0.78-18.EL9.X86_64
COMPLETE!
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

Then configure sendmail to enable any podman containers to access the host system sendmail service.

This is achieved by adding the podman network into the sendmail configuration. Add a new line into the `'etc/mail/access'` configuration file to include the podman default network `'10.88.0.0/24'` subnet as a RELAY address range.

For example:

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# CAT /ETC/MAIL/ACCESS
# CHECK THE /USR/SHARE/DOC/SENDMAIL/README.CF FILE FOR A DESCRIPTION
# OF THE FORMAT OF THIS FILE. (SEARCH FOR ACCESS_DB IN THAT FILE)
# THE /USR/SHARE/DOC/SENDMAIL/README.CF IS PART OF THE SENDMAIL-DOC
# PACKAGE.
#
# IF YOU WANT TO USE AUTHINFO WITH "M:PLAIN LOGIN", MAKE SURE TO HAVE THE
# CYRUS-SASL-PLAIN PACKAGE INSTALLED.
#
# BY DEFAULT WE ALLOW RELAYING FROM LOCALHOST...
CONNECT:LOCALHOST.LOCALDOMAIN           RELAY
CONNECT:LOCALHOST                       RELAY
CONNECT:127.0.0.1                       RELAY
CONNECT:10.88.0                         RELAY
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

Email forwarding will now be available to the Grafana Server instance.

For the purpose of this step-by-step guide, a default, but insecure, sendmail configuration is being used.

When deploying within a customer's data center, the appropriate secure configuration should be used.

Cockpit

Within the standard Oracle Linux base installation, the web-based management tool Cockpit (https://cockpit-project.org/) is installed, but unconfigured by default.

This provides a browser-based administration service to enable a GUI-based systems administration capability.

All that is required is to enable the default Cockpit service and configure to auto-start on system reboot.

Running the simple command

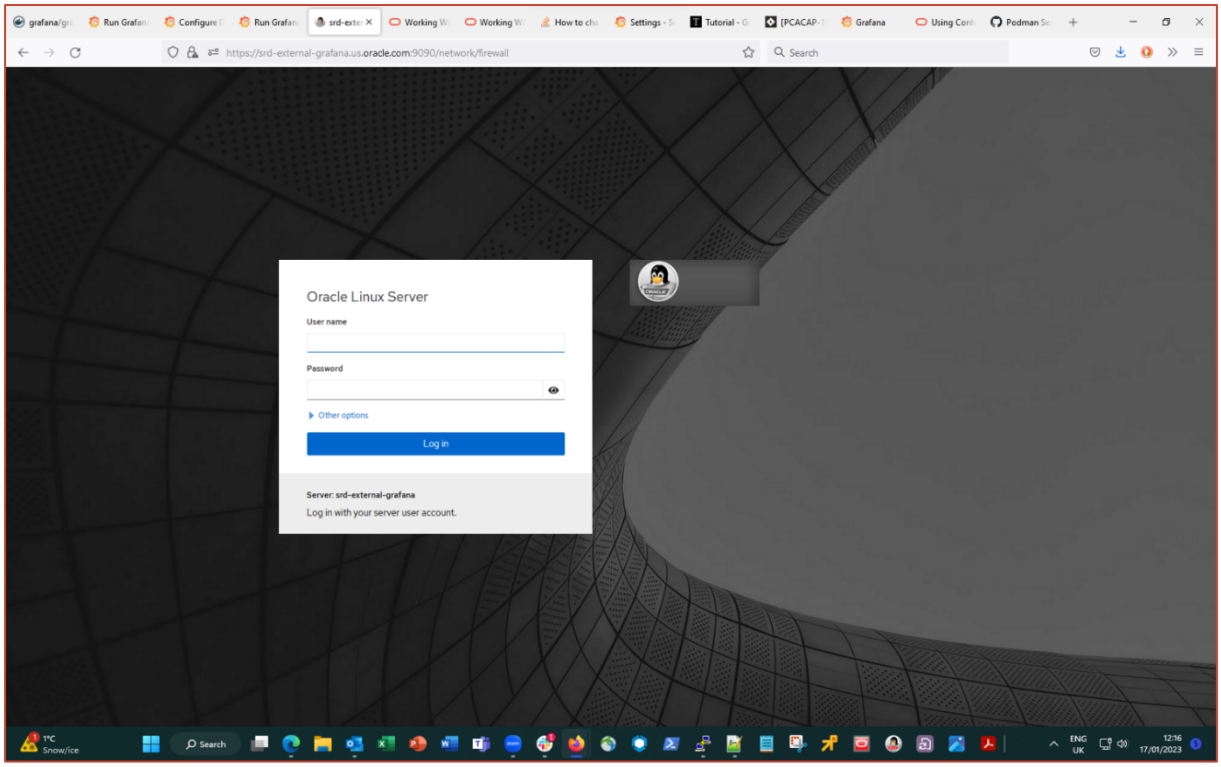
```
systemctl enable --now cockpit.socket
```

Is sufficient to enable this service, which is accessible using the `'https://<system_name>:9090'` URL address.

On some systems, the appropriate firewall setting may need to be enabled as well.

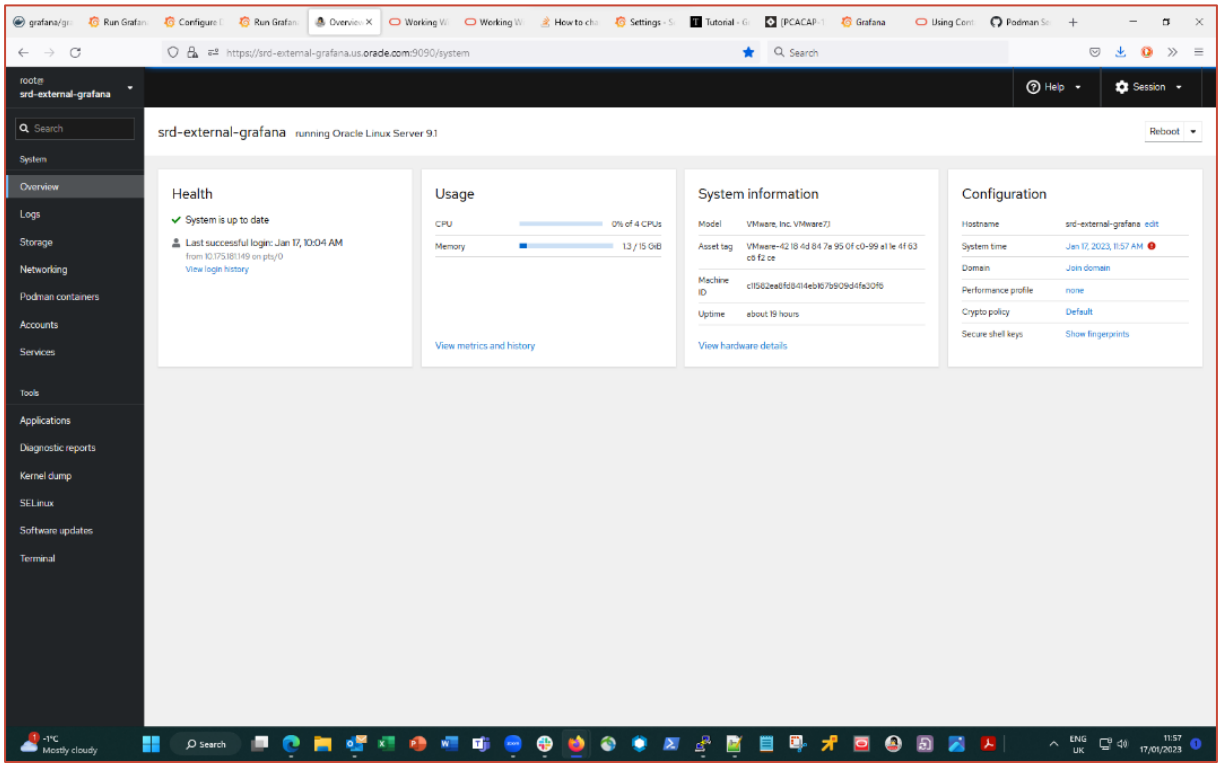
```
firewall-cmd --add-service=cockpit --permanent
```

This then provides the following browser-based access screen.



Host System – Cockpit login screen

Logging into the Cockpit GUI will present the default Systems Overview dashboard page:



Host System – Cockpit Systems Overview dashboard

There will be several occasions where the Cockpit Systems Administration tool will be used within this step-by-step guide.

Performance Co-Pilot

Performance Co-Pilot (https://pcp.io/) is a lightweight systems performance toolkit providing an extensible framework to collect, collate, and report on a wide number of system metrics.

Additional 'plugin agents' can be used to extend this toolkit to collect metrics for:

- Databases
- Web servers
- Cluster infrastructure
- Mail systems
- Cisco routers

Details about the capabilities of the Performance Co-Pilot (pcp) framework is well documented. See the following URL for further information:

https://pcp.readthedocs.io/en/latest/

For the Grafana Server host system, the following additional components need to be installed and configured.

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# DNF INSTALL PCP COCKPIT-PCP
LAST METADATA EXPIRATION CHECK: 0:03:24 AGO ON TUE 17 JAN 2023 11:13:56 GMT.
DEPENDENCIES RESOLVED.
================================================================================================================
 PACKAGE                    ARCHITECTURE      VERSION                    REPOSITORY                    SIZE
================================================================================================================
INSTALLING:
 COCKPIT-PCP                X86_64            276.1-1.0.1.EL9            OL9_APPSTREAM                 78 K
 PCP                        X86_64            5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9            OL9_APPSTREAM                1.7 M
UPGRADING:
 COCKPIT-BRIDGE             X86_64            276.1-1.0.1.EL9            OL9_BASEOS_LATEST            297 K
INSTALLING DEPENDENCIES:
 CYRUS-SASL-SCRAM           X86_64            2.1.27-20.EL9              OL9_BASEOS_LATEST             28 K
 PCP-CONF                   X86_64            5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9            OL9_APPSTREAM                 38 K
 PCP-LIBS                   X86_64            5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9            OL9_APPSTREAM                610 K
 PCP-SELINUX                X86_64            5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9            OL9_APPSTREAM                 39 K

TRANSACTION SUMMARY
================================================================================================================
INSTALL  6 PACKAGES
UPGRADE  1 PACKAGE

TOTAL DOWNLOAD SIZE: 2.8 M
IS THIS OK [Y/N]: Y
DOWNLOADING PACKAGES:
(1/7): CYRUS-SASL-SCRAM-2.1.27-20.EL9.X86_64.RPM                 53 KB/S |  28 KB     00:00
(2/7): COCKPIT-PCP-276.1-1.0.1.EL9.X86_64.RPM                   131 KB/S |  78 KB     00:00
(3/7): PCP-CONF-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64.RPM                      209 KB/S |  38 KB     00:00
(4/7): PCP-SELINUX-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64.RPM                   424 KB/S |  39 KB     00:00
(5/7): PCP-LIBS-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64.RPM                      2.1 MB/S | 610 KB     00:00
(6/7): PCP-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64.RPM                           1.7 MB/S | 1.7 MB     00:01
(7/7): COCKPIT-BRIDGE-276.1-1.0.1.EL9.X86_64.RPM                1.2 MB/S | 297 KB     00:00
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
TOTAL                                                           2.6 MB/S | 2.8 MB     00:01
RUNNING TRANSACTION CHECK
TRANSACTION CHECK SUCCEEDED.
RUNNING TRANSACTION TEST
TRANSACTION TEST SUCCEEDED.
RUNNING TRANSACTION
  PREPARING        :                                                                              1/1
  UPGRADING        : COCKPIT-BRIDGE-276.1-1.0.1.EL9.X86_64                                        1/8
  INSTALLING       : PCP-SELINUX-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64                                           2/8
  RUNNING SCRIPTLET: PCP-SELINUX-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64                                           2/8


  INSTALLING       : PCP-CONF-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64                                              3/8
  INSTALLING       : PCP-LIBS-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64                                              4/8
  INSTALLING       : CYRUS-SASL-SCRAM-2.1.27-20.EL9.X86_64                                        5/8
  RUNNING SCRIPTLET: PCP-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64                                                   6/8
  INSTALLING       : PCP-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64                                                   6/8
  RUNNING SCRIPTLET: PCP-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64                                                   6/8
  INSTALLING       : COCKPIT-PCP-276.1-1.0.1.EL9.X86_64                                           7/8
  RUNNING SCRIPTLET: COCKPIT-PCP-276.1-1.0.1.EL9.X86_64                                           7/8
  CLEANUP          : COCKPIT-BRIDGE-264.1-1.0.3.EL9.X86_64                                        8/8
  RUNNING SCRIPTLET: COCKPIT-BRIDGE-264.1-1.0.3.EL9.X86_64                                        8/8
  VERIFYING        : CYRUS-SASL-SCRAM-2.1.27-20.EL9.X86_64                                        1/8
  VERIFYING        : COCKPIT-PCP-276.1-1.0.1.EL9.X86_64                                           2/8
  VERIFYING        : PCP-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64                                                   3/8
  VERIFYING        : PCP-CONF-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64                                              4/8
  VERIFYING        : PCP-LIBS-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64                                              5/8
  VERIFYING        : PCP-SELINUX-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64                                           6/8
  VERIFYING        : COCKPIT-BRIDGE-276.1-1.0.1.EL9.X86_64                                        7/8
  VERIFYING        : COCKPIT-BRIDGE-264.1-1.0.3.EL9.X86_64                                        8/8

UPGRADED:
  COCKPIT-BRIDGE-276.1-1.0.1.EL9.X86_64
INSTALLED:
  COCKPIT-PCP-276.1-1.0.1.EL9.X86_64  CYRUS-SASL-SCRAM-2.1.27-20.EL9.X86_64  PCP-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64
  PCP-CONF-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64     PCP-LIBS-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64        PCP-SELINUX-5.3.7-7.0.2.EL9.X86_64

COMPLETE!
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

Once installed, a few simple configuration changes need to be made.

First, edit the `'/etc/pcp/pmlogger/control.d/local'` configuration file to enable archive log compression. In this example, the default 3-day retention of uncompressed logs is set by removing the hash ('#') at the start of the PCP_COMPRESSAFTER=3' line:

```
#
# PCP ARCHIVE LOGGING CONFIGURATION/CONTROL
#
# SEE ../CONTROL FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE FORMAT
#

# === VARIABLE ASSIGNMENTS ===
#
# DO NOT REMOVE OR EDIT THE FOLLOWING LINE
$VERSION=1.1

# UNCOMMENT ONE OF THE LINES BELOW TO ENABLE/DISABLE COMPRESSION BEHAVIOUR
# THAT IS DIFFERENT TO THE PMLOGGER_DAILY DEFAULT.
# VALUE IS DAYS BEFORE COMPRESSING ARCHIVES, 0 IS IMMEDIATE COMPRESSION,
# "NEVER" OR "FOREVER" SUPPRESSES COMPRESSION.
#
#$PCP_COMPRESSAFTER=0
$PCP_COMPRESSAFTER=3
#$PCP_COMPRESSAFTER=NEVER

# === LOGGER CONTROL SPECIFICATIONS ===
#
#HOST           P?  S?  DIRECTORY                       ARGS

# LOCAL PRIMARY LOGGER
LOCALHOSTNAME   Y   N   PCP_ARCHIVE_DIR/LOCALHOSTNAME   -R -T24H10M -C CONFIG.DEFAULT -V 100MB
```

Then, append the following text '`-i <system IP address>`' to the '`/etc/pcp/pmcd/pmcd.options`' configuration file to enable the pmcd service to be externally addressable by an external collector system.

With this example, the basic system level metrics will be collected using the '`pmcd`' service, and locally retained and archived using the '`pmlogger`' services.

An external system will act as the collection point for multiple system hosts with the '`pmcd`' service operational.

To enable the various pcp services required, use the following commands:

```
systemctl enable --now pmcd pmlogger
```

To check the status of the pmcd services, issue the command '`pcp`':

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PCP
PERFORMANCE CO-PILOT CONFIGURATION ON SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA:

 PLATFORM: LINUX SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA 5.15.0-6.80.3.1.EL9UEK.X86_64 #2 SMP TUE JAN 10 12:56:46 PST 2023 X86_64
 HARDWARE: 4 CPUS, 2 DISKS, 1 NODE, 15537MB RAM
 TIMEZONE: GMT
 SERVICES: PMCD
     PMCD: VERSION 5.3.7-7, 9 AGENTS, 2 CLIENTS
     PMDA: ROOT PMCD PROC PMPROXY XFS LINUX MMV KVM JBD2
 PMLOGGER: PRIMARY LOGGER: /VAR/LOG/PCP/PMLOGGER/SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA/20230117.10.09
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

This shows that the Performance Metrics Collector Daemon (pmcd) has nine associated Performance Metrics Domain Agents (pmda) associated with the service and that the pcp logger service 'pmlogger' is active and recording metrics into the '`/var/log/pcp/pmlogger`' directory.

The command '`pminfo -t`' will list the available metrics (over 2,500+) being collected that can then be reviewed for further analysis.

Please see the Performance Co-Pilot documentation for further information regarding the additional pmda agents that can be installed and enabled.

On some systems, the appropriate firewall setting may need to be enabled as well for external collection & collation of the pmcd metrics.

```
firewall-cmd --add-service=pmcd --permanent
firewall-cmd --add-service=pmproxy --permanent
```

Section References

The following URL's provide links to additional documentation:

- Oracle Linux – Reference Library – https://docs.oracle.com/en/operating-systems/oracle-linux/9/
- Oracle Linux – Podman User Guide – https://docs.oracle.com/en/operating-systems/oracle-linux/podman/
- Oracle Linux – Using the Cockpit Web Console – https://docs.oracle.com/en/operating-systems/oracle-linux/cockpit/
- Cockpit documentation – https://cockpit-project.org/documentation.html
- Performance Co-Pilot documentation – https://pcp.readthedocs.io/en/latest/
- Performance Co-Pilot documentation – Quick Reference Guide – https://pcp.readthedocs.io/en/latest/QG/QuickReferenceGuide.html

Creating an external Grafana Server Service

The first section covered the initial setup of the host system to be used for the external Grafana Server service. Now the external Grafana Server service needs to be enabled.

Grafana provides its own thorough documentation and tutorials on how to install, configure, and administer a Grafana Server instance.

Please see the links at the end of this section for more details.

Download and Initiate (run) the Grafana Container

Once the base system preparations are complete, log into the Docker registry, find, and pull down the Grafana Container image:

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PODMAN LOGIN DOCKER.IO
USERNAME: STDENNI03
PASSWORD:
LOGIN SUCCEEDED!
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#

[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PODMAN SEARCH GRAFANA
NAME                                          DESCRIPTION
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA                     THE OFFICIAL GRAFANA DOCKER CONTAINER
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/LOKI                        LOKI - CLOUD NATIVE LOG AGGREGATION BY GRAFA...
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/PROMTAIL
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA-OSS                 THE REPO FOR THE GRAFANA OSS EDITION
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA-IMAGE-RENDERER
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA-ENTERPRISE          OFFICIAL GRAFANA ENTERPRISE DOCKER IMAGE
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/FLUENT-BIT-PLUGIN-LOKI
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/MIMIR                       HORIZONTALLY SCALABLE, HIGHLY AVAILABLE, MUL...
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/AGENT
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/TEMPO
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/LOKI-CANARY
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA-DEV
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA-OSS-DEV             GRAFANA OSS MASTER BUILDS
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/TEMPO-QUERY
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/LOKI-DOCKER-DRIVER
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA-ARM32V7-LINUX
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/BUILD-CONTAINER             CONTAINER USED FOR BUILDING GRAFANA.
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/AGENT-OPERATOR
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/MIMIRTOOL                   TOOL TO INTERACT WITH USER-FACING GRAFANA MI...
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/SYNTHETIC-MONITORING-AGENT  BLACKBOX EXPORTER AGENT WHICH EXECUTES CHECK...
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA-IMAGE-TAGS          REPOSITORY FOR HOLDING PER-ARCHITECTURE IMAG...
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA-ENTERPRISE-DEV
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/ONCALL
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/CORTEX-TOOLS
DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA-ENTERPRISE-IMAGE-TAGS  REPOSITORY FOR HOLDING PER-ARCHITECTURE IMAG...
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#

[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#  PODMAN PULL GRAFANA/GRAFANA-OSS
¿ DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA-OSS:LATEST
TRYING TO PULL DOCKER.IO/GRAFANA/GRAFANA-OSS:LATEST...
GETTING IMAGE SOURCE SIGNATURES
COPYING BLOB 9621F1AFDE84 DONE
COPYING BLOB D8D1A816D728 DONE
COPYING BLOB 0F9C8679DE96 DONE
COPYING BLOB 2D9C2CFEF851 DONE
COPYING BLOB AFB29F8D05C6 DONE
COPYING BLOB DB7FBC631880 DONE
COPYING BLOB 09AAC180A7FC DONE
COPYING BLOB 0B0714AC27D7 DONE
COPYING BLOB 1C5EC5C4E84A DONE
COPYING CONFIG 83F377CC32 DONE
WRITING MANIFEST TO IMAGE DESTINATION
STORING SIGNATURES
83F377CC32A015315824550D2D1F22FF313467D4B5D9D23E6E4D95E0345D6169
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

In this instance we are using the Alpine-based Grafana Server OSS latest image (v9.3.2).

Running the Grafana Server service as a Podman (Docker) container provides a repeatable 'runtime' environment. Data persistence is required to help ensure that the configuration and any plugins and static date are retained. To this end, several Podman (storage) volumes need to be created:

A simple '`podman volume ls`' command will show the current defined volumes (of which there are none):

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PODMAN VOLUME LIST
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

Three independent volumes need to be created for:

- Configuration - '/etc/grafana'
- Data - '/var/lib/grafana'
- Logging - '/var/log/grafana'

The following commands show the creation and details for each of these three volumes:

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PODMAN VOLUME LS
DRIVER      VOLUME NAME
LOCAL       GRAFANA-CONFIG
LOCAL       GRAFANA-LOGS
LOCAL       GRAFANA-STORAGE
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PODMAN VOLUME INSPECT GRAFANA-CONFIG
[
     {
          "NAME": "GRAFANA-CONFIG",
          "DRIVER": "LOCAL",
          "MOUNTPOINT": "/VAR/LIB/CONTAINERS/STORAGE/VOLUMES/GRAFANA-CONFIG/_DATA",
          "CREATEDAT": "2023-01-16T17:35:06.399889029Z",
          "LABELS": {},
          "SCOPE": "LOCAL",
          "OPTIONS": {},
          "UID": 472,
          "MOUNTCOUNT": 0
     }
]
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PODMAN VOLUME INSPECT GRAFANA-LOGS
[
     {
          "NAME": "GRAFANA-LOGS",
          "DRIVER": "LOCAL",
          "MOUNTPOINT": "/VAR/LIB/CONTAINERS/STORAGE/VOLUMES/GRAFANA-LOGS/_DATA",
          "CREATEDAT": "2023-01-16T17:35:16.160771296Z",
          "LABELS": {},
          "SCOPE": "LOCAL",
          "OPTIONS": {},
          "UID": 472,
          "MOUNTCOUNT": 0,
          "NEEDSCOPYUP": TRUE
     }
]
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PODMAN VOLUME INSPECT GRAFANA-STORAGE
[
     {
          "NAME": "GRAFANA-STORAGE",
          "DRIVER": "LOCAL",
          "MOUNTPOINT": "/VAR/LIB/CONTAINERS/STORAGE/VOLUMES/GRAFANA-STORAGE/_DATA",
          "CREATEDAT": "2023-01-16T17:35:23.093881926Z",
          "LABELS": {},
          "SCOPE": "LOCAL",
          "OPTIONS": {},
          "UID": 472,
          "MOUNTCOUNT": 0
     }
]
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

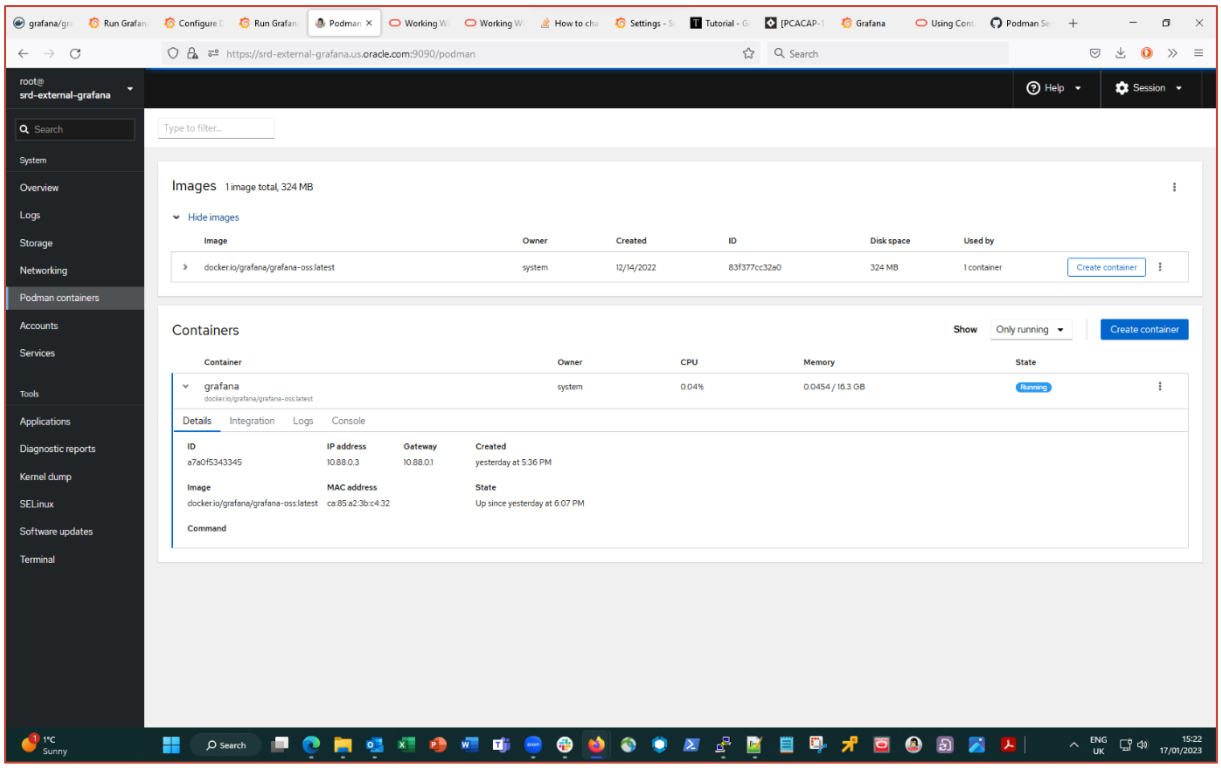
Having created the persistent storage volumes to be utilized by the Grafana Server container, a simple command line invocation of the 'podman run' command will enable this Grafana Server container:

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA VOLUMES]# PODMAN  RUN -D -P 3000:3000 --NAME=GRAFANA -V grafana-config:/etc/grafana -V grafana-
storage:/var/lib/grafana -V grafana-logs:/var/log/grafana GRAFANA/GRAFANA-OSS
A7A0F5343345D8177412CE979983BFC6BB2F39B2B967E670A1796CCD2C1CA125
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA VOLUMES]#
```

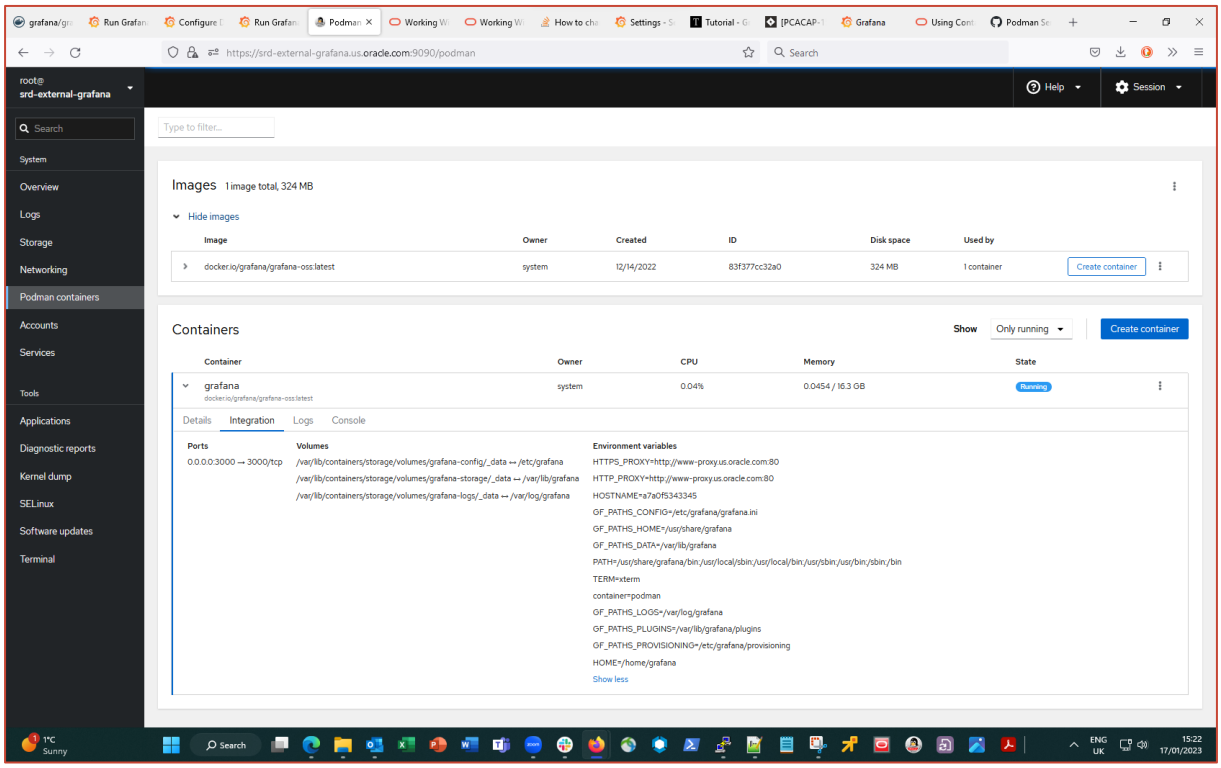
This bring up the Grafana Server container, named `'grafana'` on the host system, with persistent storage being provided for the three file system mount points outlined above.

```
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]# PODMAN CONTAINER LS
CONTAINER
ID  IMAGE                                COMMAND     CREATED       STATUS           PORTS                   NAMES
A7A0F5343345  docker.io/grafana/grafana-oss:latest              22 HOURS AGO  UP 21 HOURS AGO  0.0.0.0:3000-
>3000/TCP  GRAFANA
[ROOT@SRD-EXTERNAL-GRAFANA ~]#
```

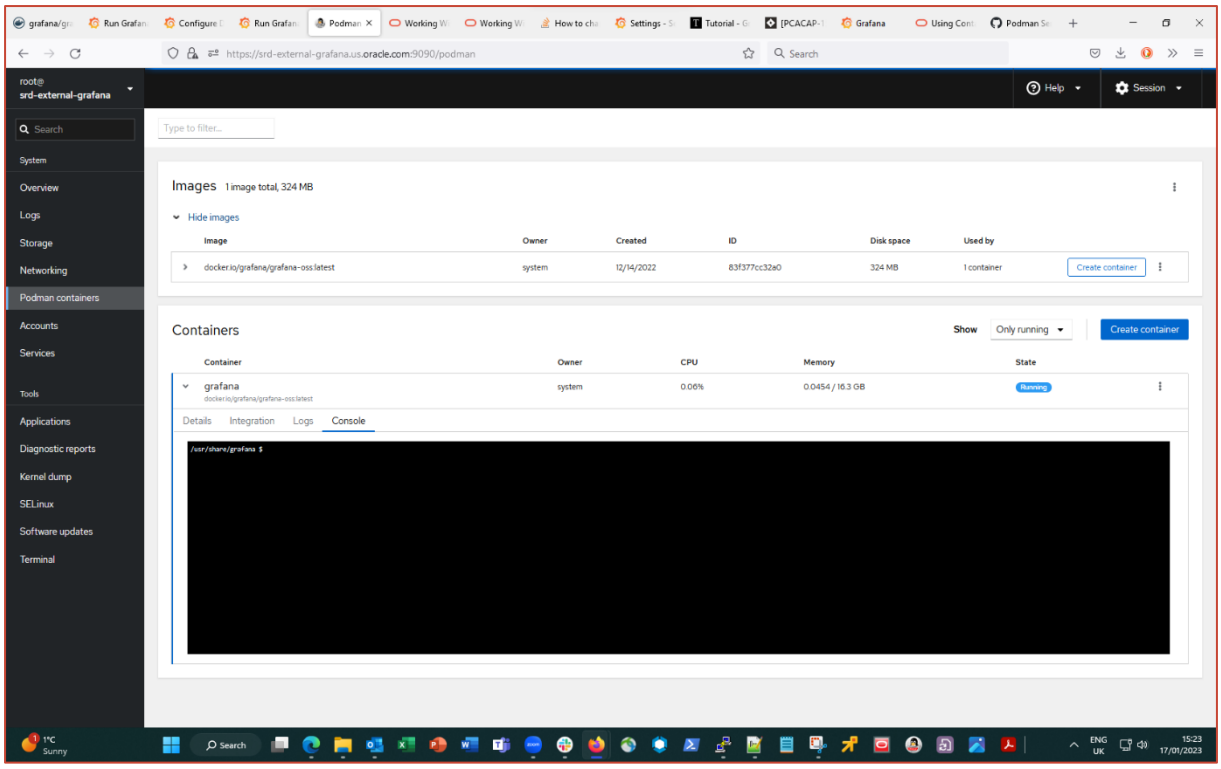
Using the Cockpit Web Console, a more detailed inspection of this container can be achieved:



Grafana Server – Cockpit Podman Container - Details tab



Grafana Server – Cockpit Podman Container - Integration tab



Grafana Server – Cockpit Podman Container - Console tab

As can be seen above, the Cockpit Web Console provides a simple to use graphical view into the Linux Container runtime environment on the host system.

Configure the Grafana Server Services

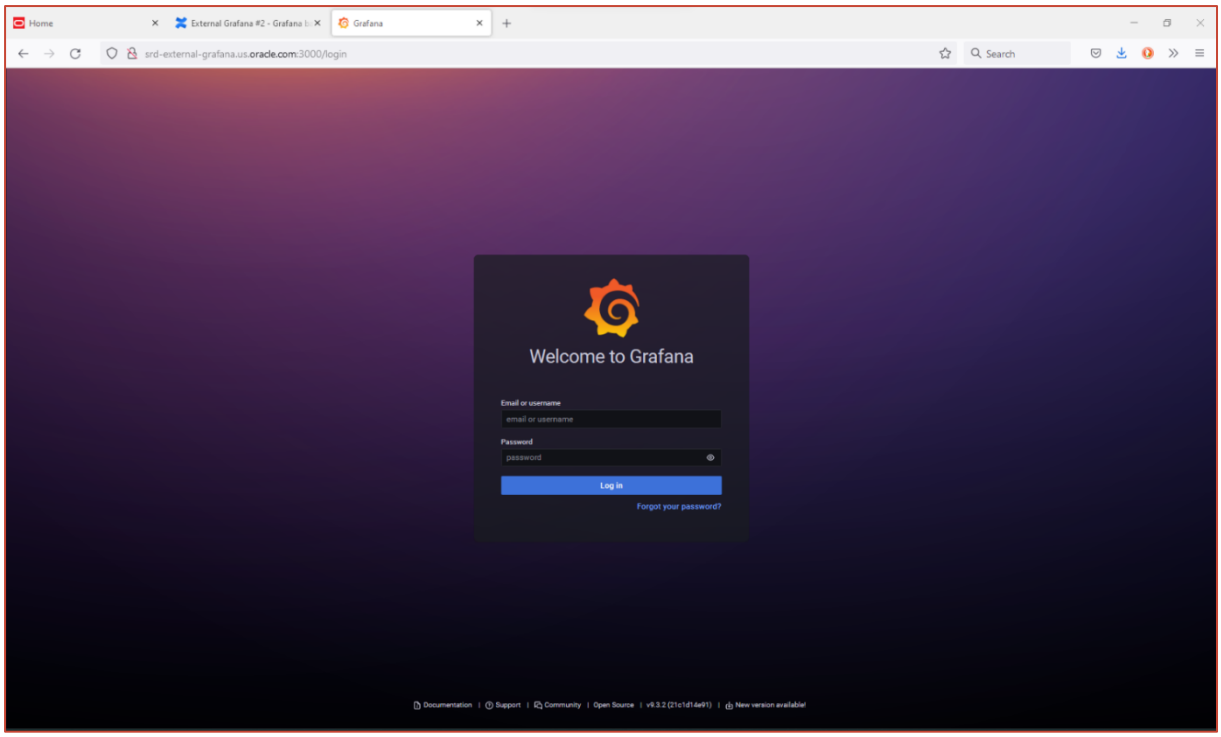
A series of configuration steps will now be described:

Initial Access to the Grafana Server Home Page

Now the podman Grafana Server container is running, access to the Grafana Server service requires a simple login to the correct URL:

http://srd-external-grafana.us.oracle.com:3000/login

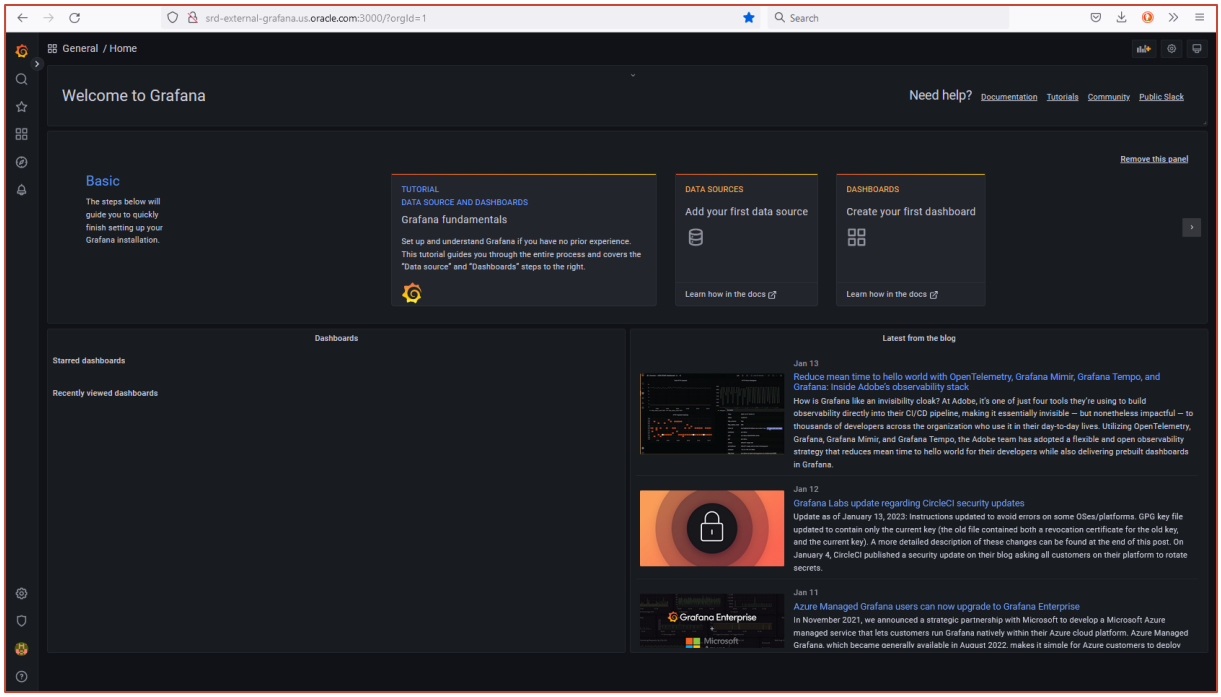
This presents the initial login screen:



Grafana Server - Login Screen

By default, the container image has a single user 'admin', with a temporary password 'admin', that will be changed upon first login.

Once the 'admin' user has been logged in and a new password set, the basic Grafana Home screen is presented:



Grafana Server - Initial Home Page

Edit the Grafana Server configuration file to enable email forwarding

Before starting the Grafana Server configuration through the Grafana GUI, there is one group of settings that need to be amended within the `'/etc/grafana/grafana.ini'` Grafana configuration file.

This requires a `'root'` user bash console session to the running Grafana Server container:

- Connect to the running podman container using the 'podman exec' command to access the container 'bash' environment:

```
[root@srd-external-grafana ~]# podman exec -u 0 -it grafana bash
bash-5.1#
```

- Edit the [smtp] section within the '/etc/grafana/grafana.ini' configuration file as follows:

```
[smtp]
enabled = true
host = <Host System Public IP>:25

skip_verify = true
from_address = admin@grafana.srd-external-grafana.us.oracle.com
from_name = Grafana
```

  - Note: use the public IP address of the host system as the 'host' address, with the default port 25 in use to enable email relaying

- Edit the '[emails] section within the '/etc/grafana/grafana.ini' configuration file as follows:

```
[emails]
welcome_email_on_sign_up = true
```

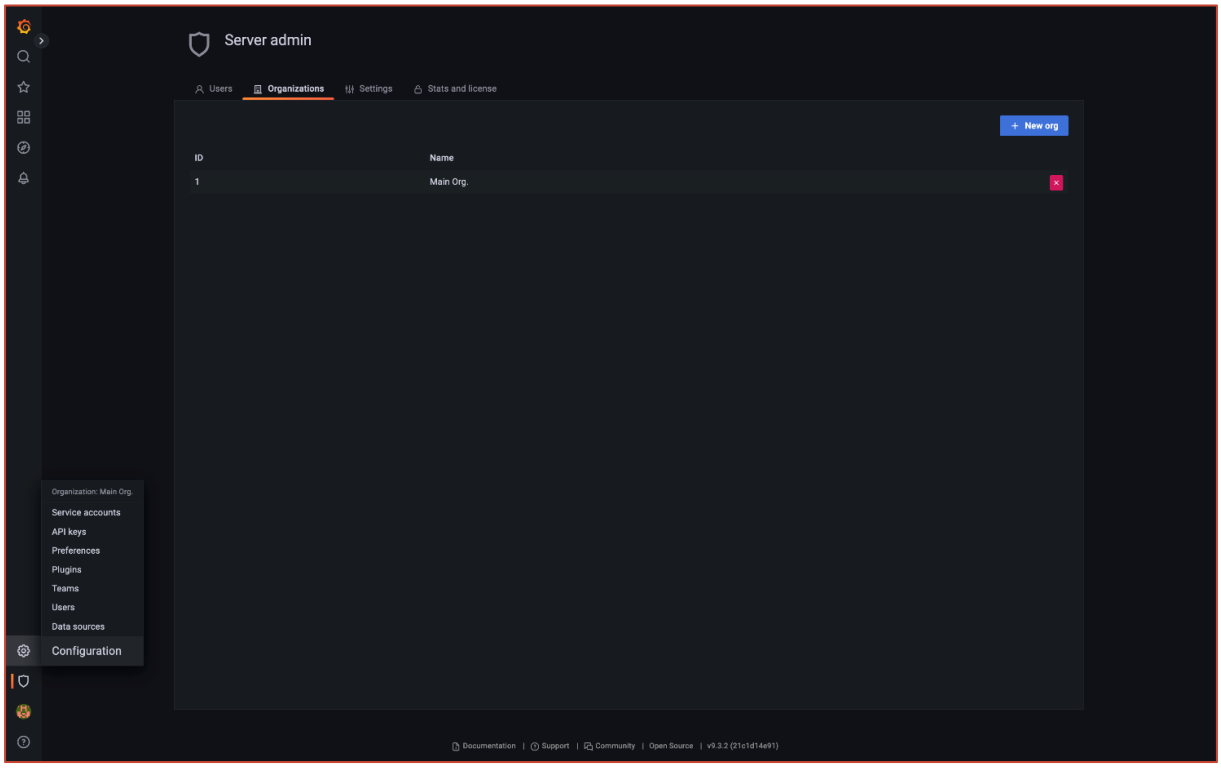
Exit the container 'bash' environment and restart the Grafana Server container to bring the new configuration into place.

Provide Organization, Teams / Group and User information

The following sub-sections describe how to setup the Grafana Server Organization, User and Teams / Group administration structure.

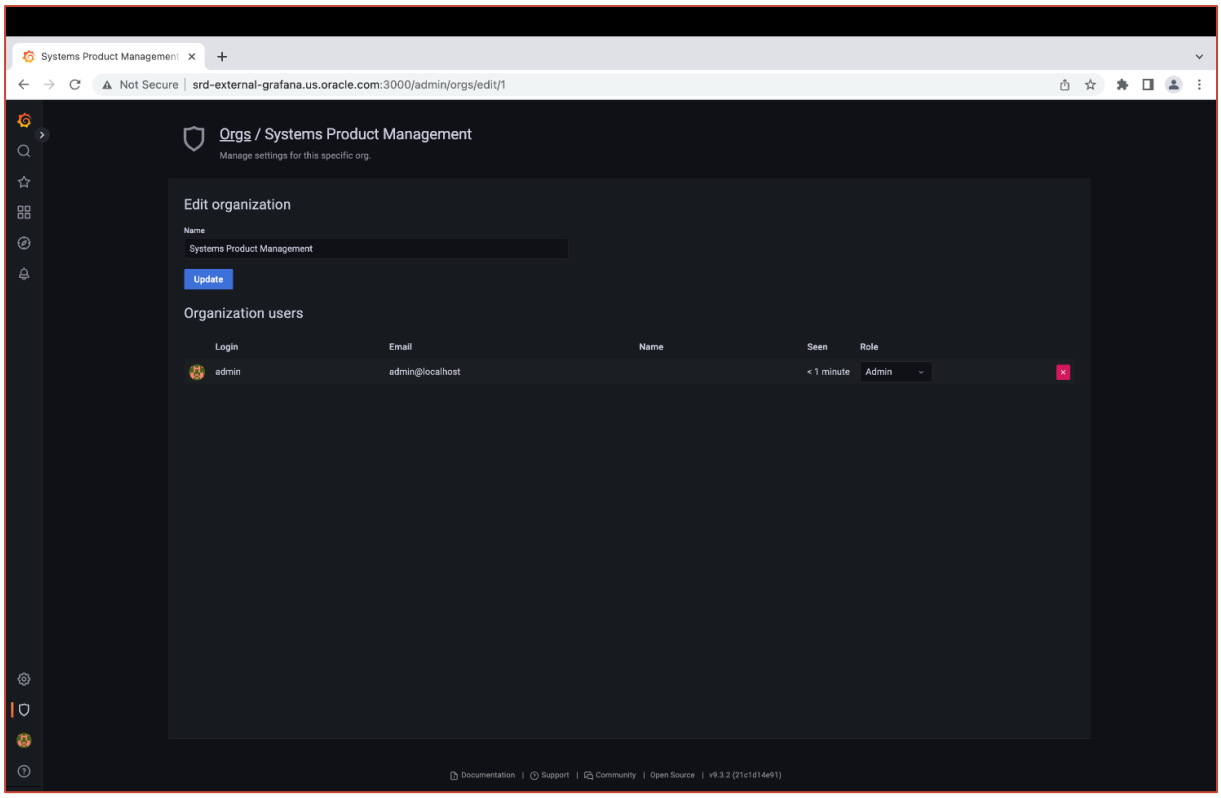
Organization

The default Grafana Server installation has a single default organization, 'main.org'



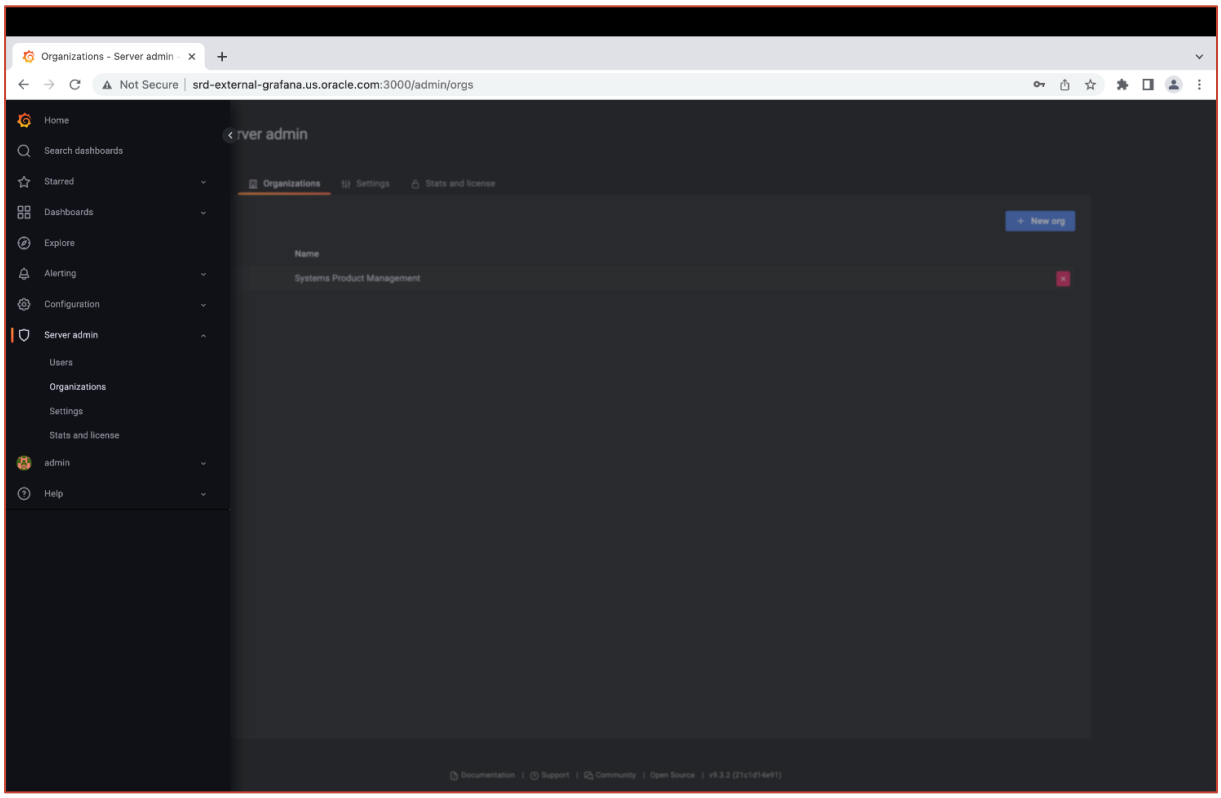
Grafana Server – Default Organization

Edit and update to reflect the overarching organization owner for this Grafana Server instance. Double click on the organization (id=1) name and edit as appropriate:



Grafana Server – Edited Organization

The changed organization name is now displayed:



Grafana Server – Updated Organization details

Users

Now create additional users for accessing the external Grafana Server instance.

Within Grafana, named user and role assignment provide fine-level access control for users accessing the Grafana Server instance. Three levels of user role are available:

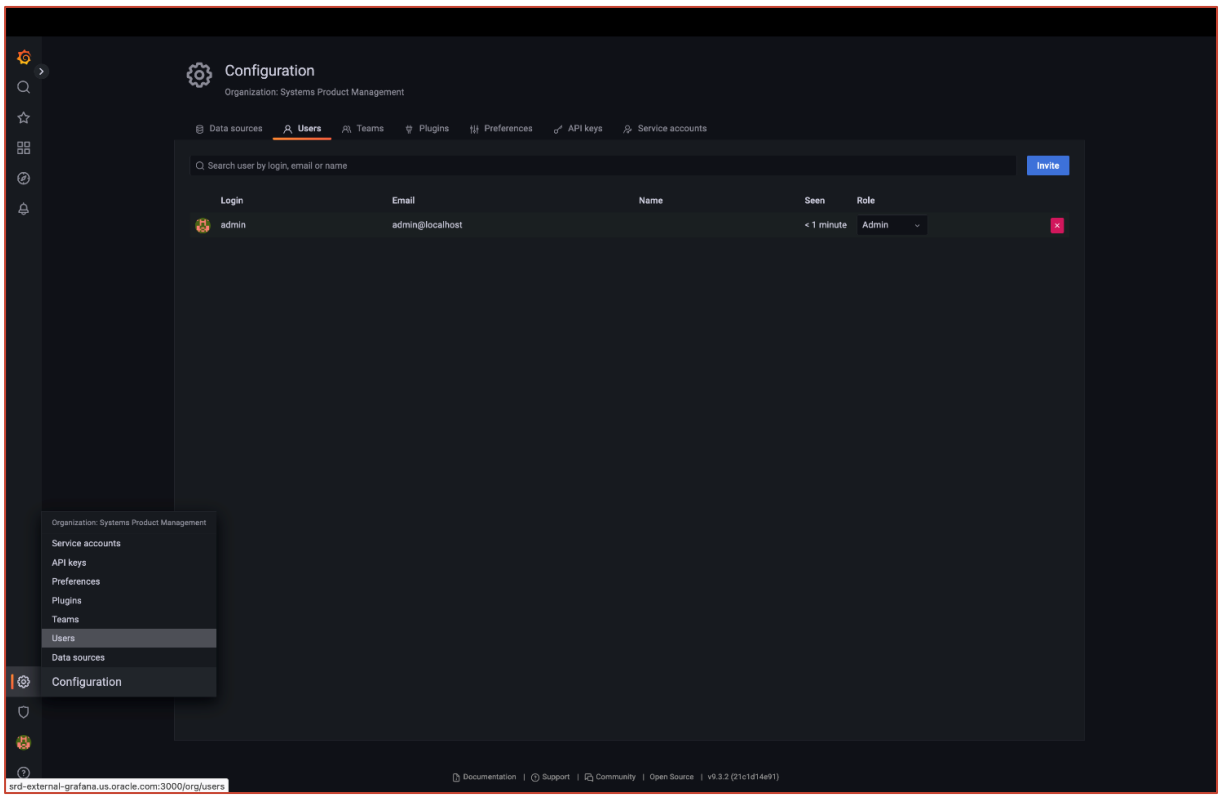
- Viewer
- Editor
- Admin

In addition, there is a fourth role available only to the default admin user (admin@localhost) account

- Grafana Admin

Create a range of local user accounts as needed. Assign the minimum level of access required - e.g., Viewer Access for users that only need to view Grafana dashboards.

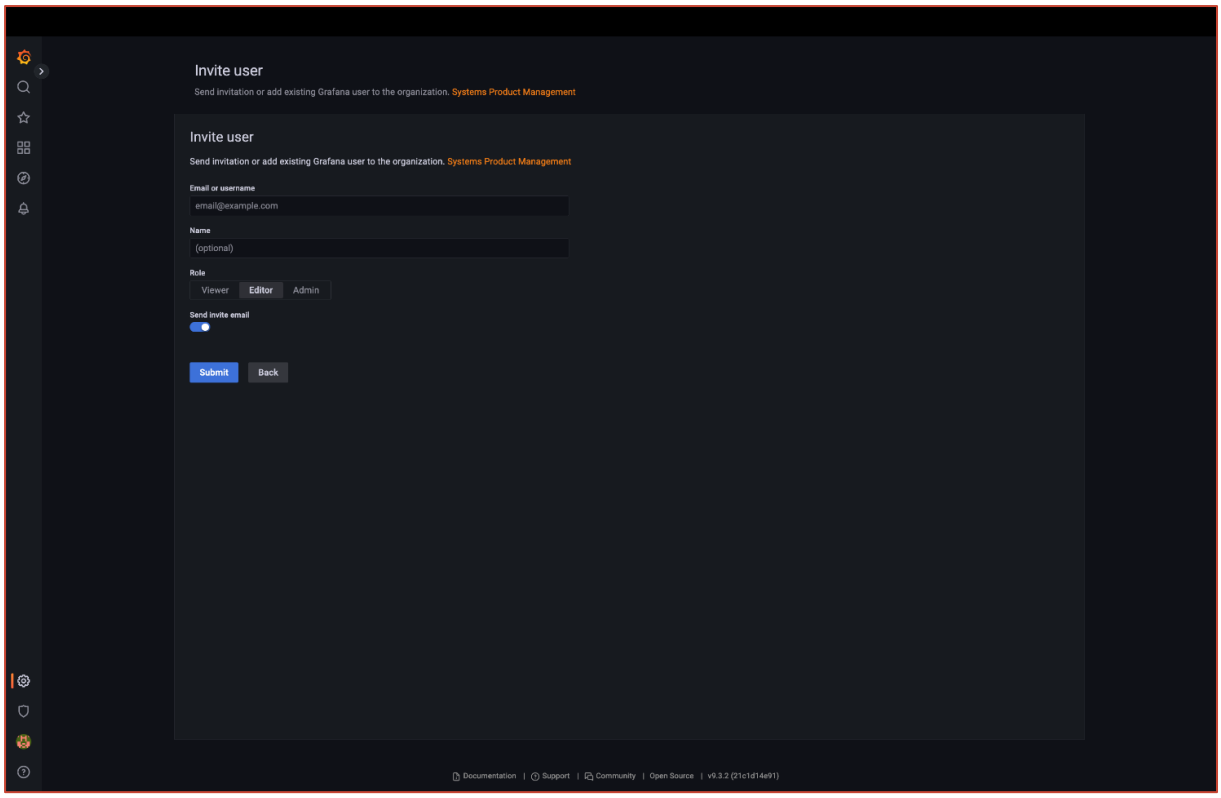
Access the Grafana User Administration screen. Initially only the default local admin account is shown:



Grafana Server – Default User

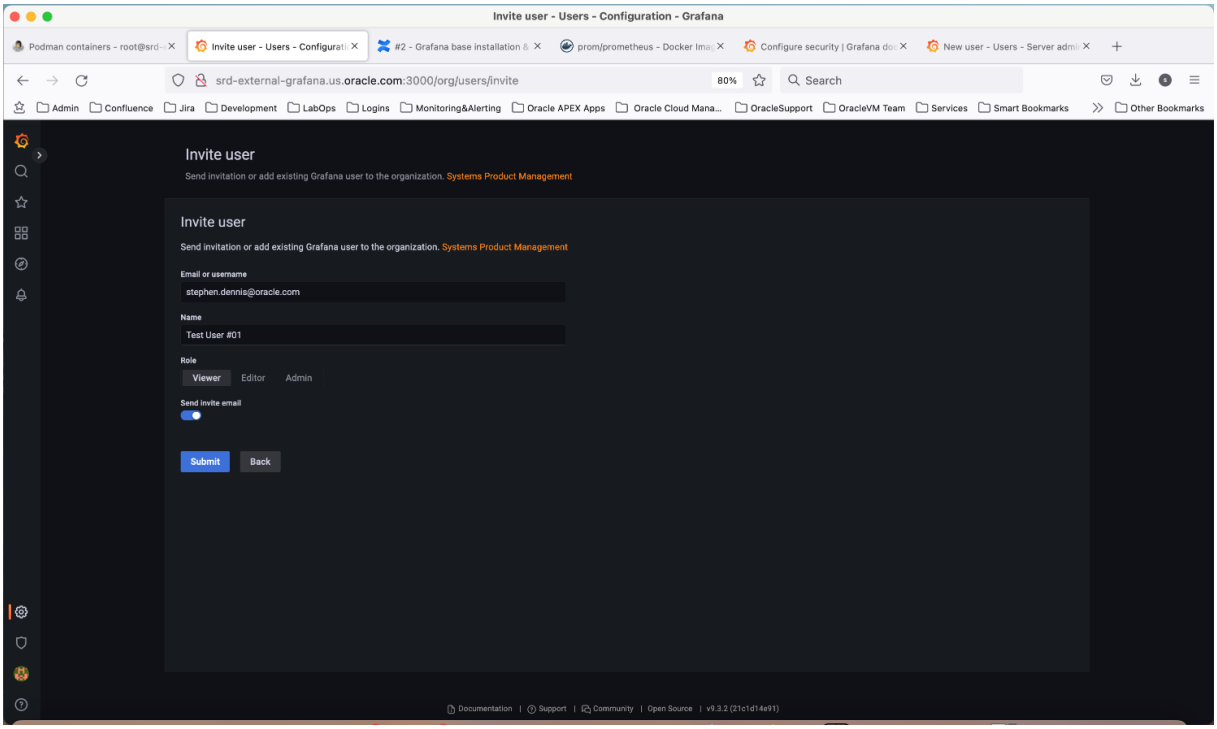
Since local email access has been enabled within this Grafana Server instance, use the "Invite" button to add new users.

This displays the screen below:



Grafana Server – Invite New User

Note the option to select the correct role for each user and provide an email invitation, if required, as well as the username and email details for each new user.

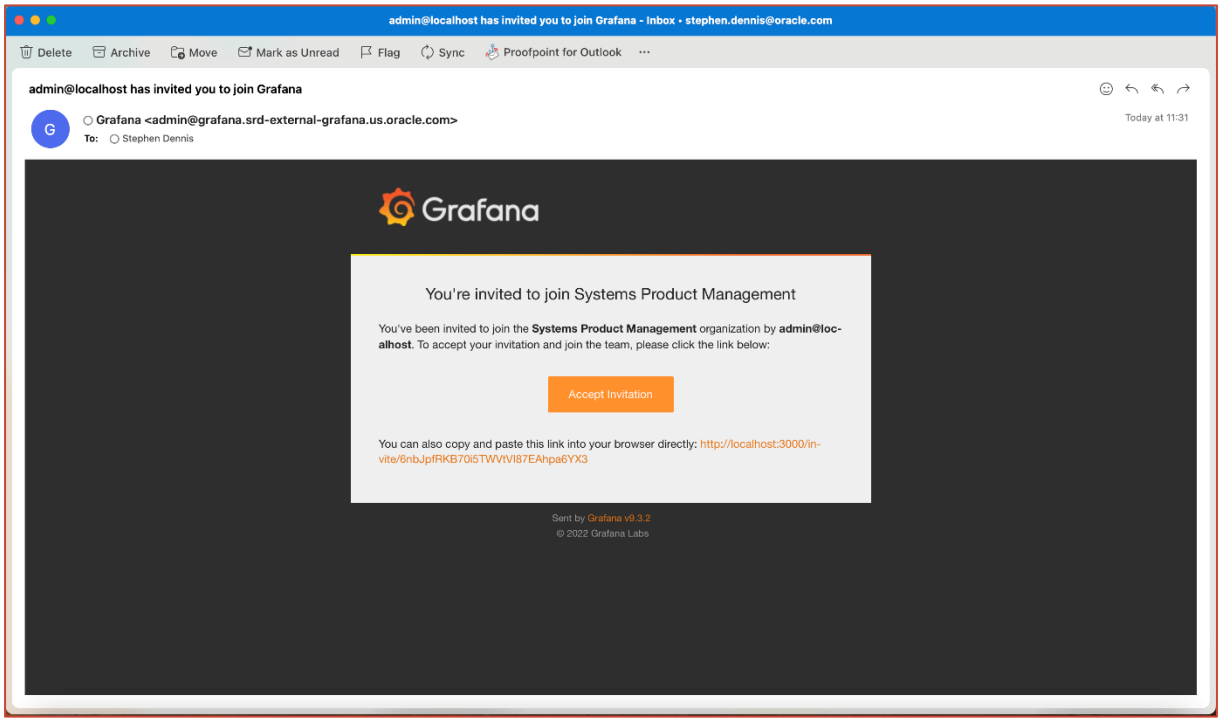


Grafana Server – Add New User

A single test user with viewer privileges has been created and an email invite sent to the provided email address for acceptance.

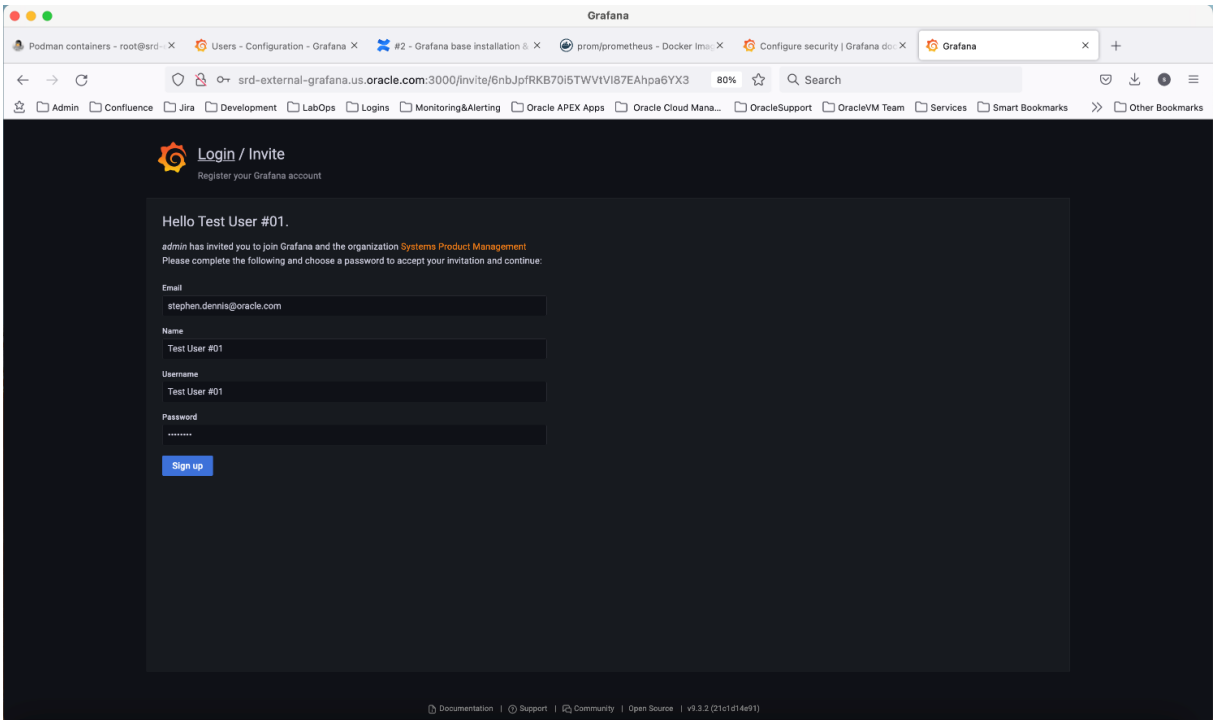
A valid email address is required for this approach.

This will generate an email invitation to the new user account, see below:



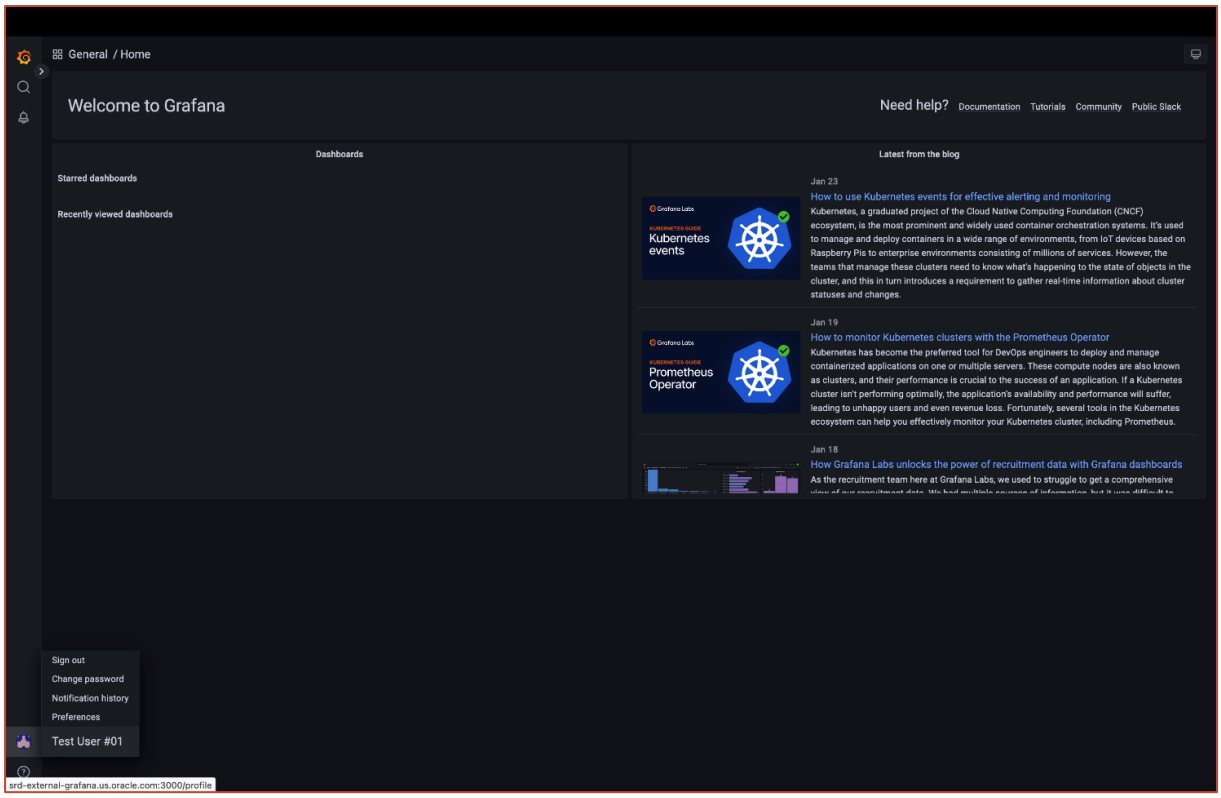
Grafana Server – Email Invite

Accepting the invitation enables the user to access the external Grafana Server instance and set several user values, such as username (can default to email address) and password:



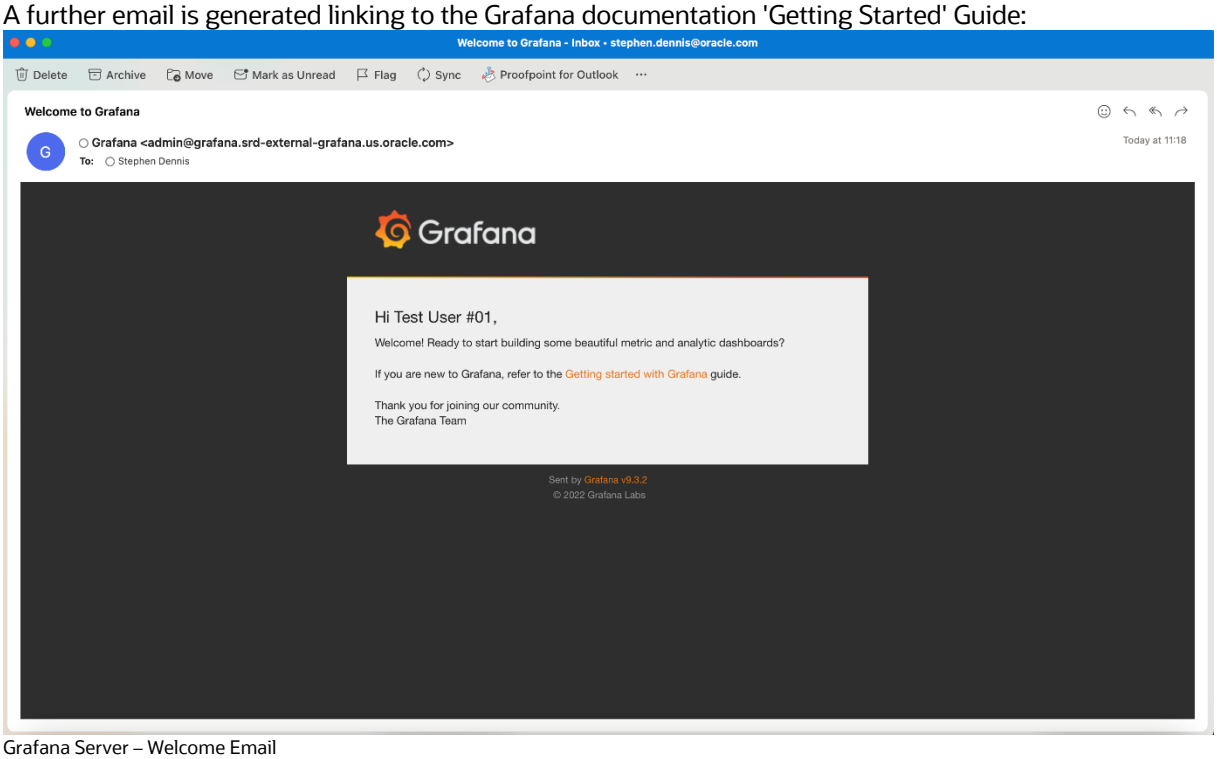
Grafana Server – Accepted Email Invite; Setting Password

Once the password has been set and saved, the user is automatically logged into the Grafana Server instance.



Grafana Server – New User Log In

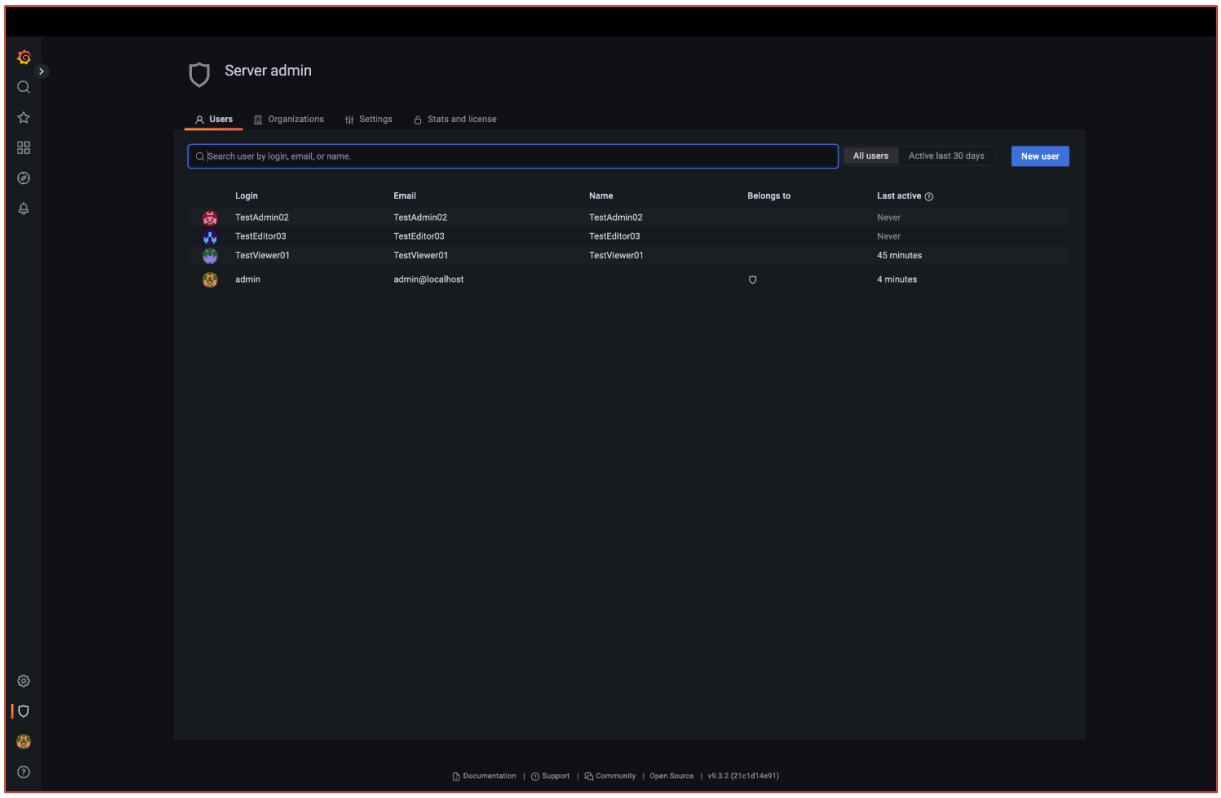
A further email is generated linking to the Grafana documentation 'Getting Started' Guide:



Grafana Server – Welcome Email

Now repeat for the number and types of users required.

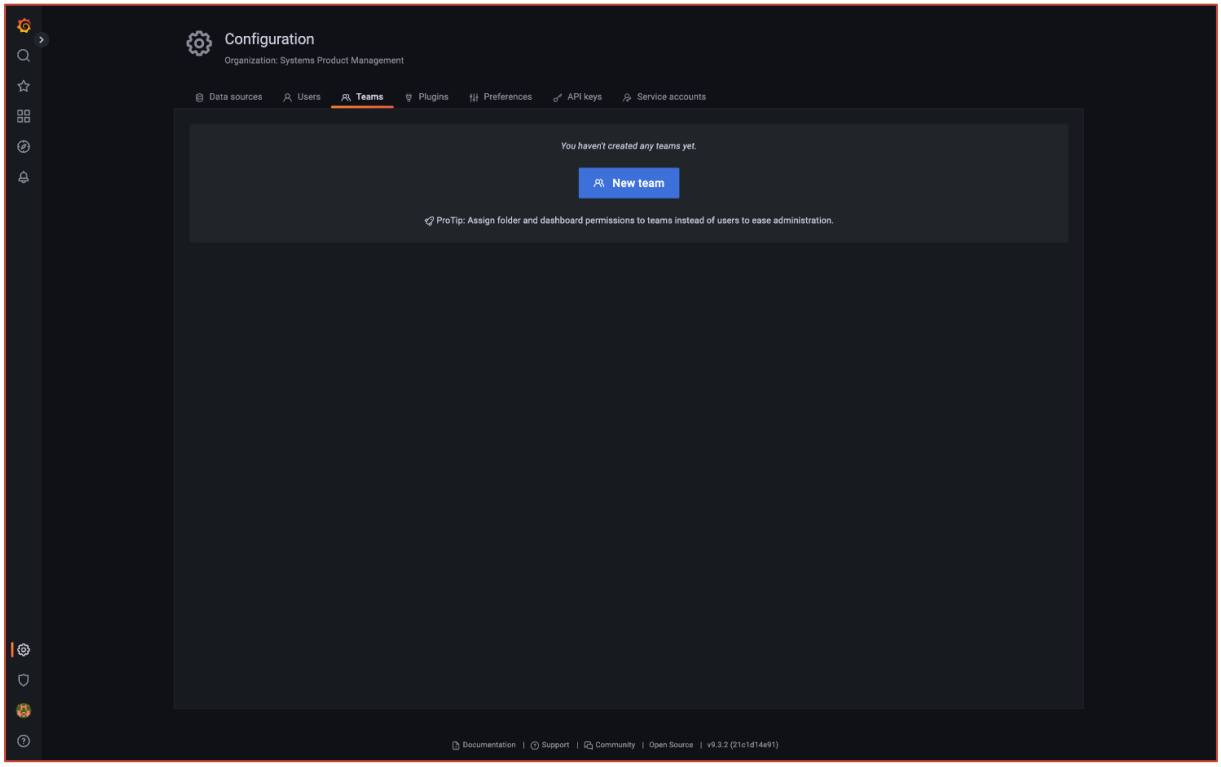
In this case, three new local user accounts have been created; one for each available Grafana Server user role:



Grafana Server – Multiple Users

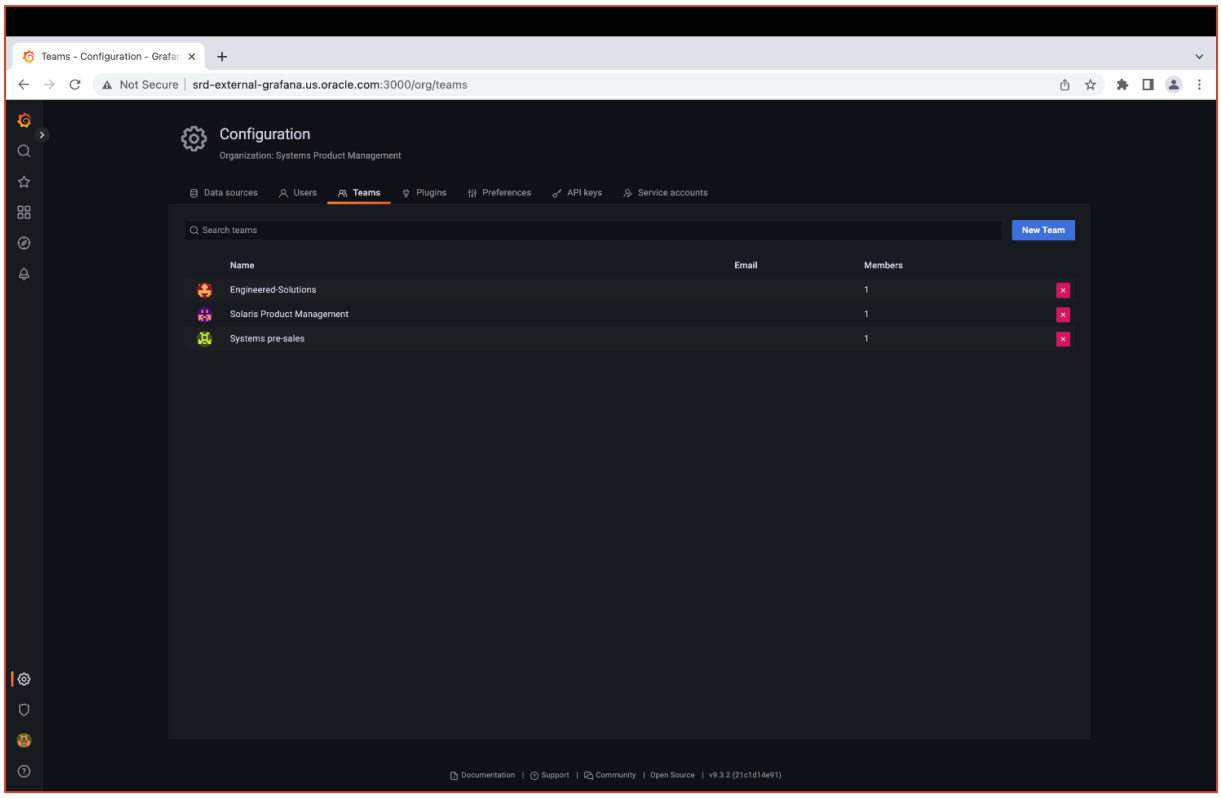
Teams / Groups

Now create teams within this organization structure:



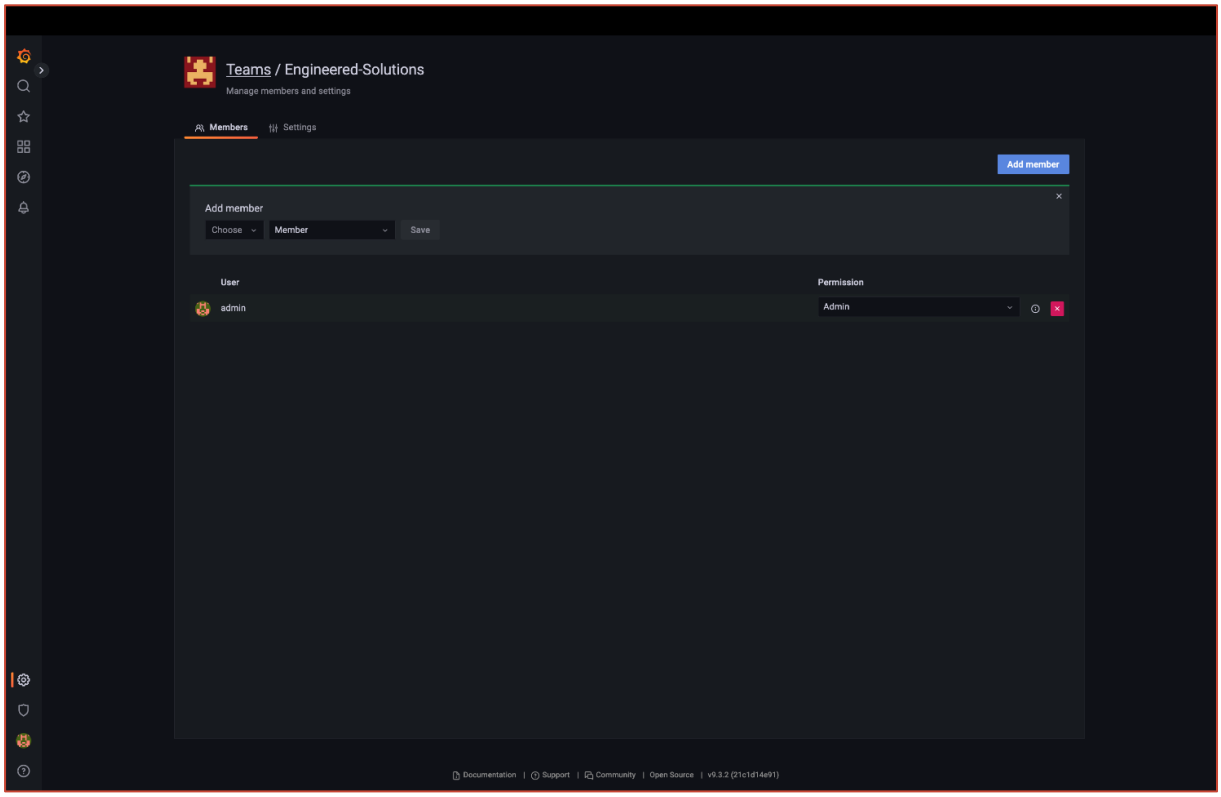
Grafana Server – Add Team

Multiple teams can be defined. In this example, three teams have been defined: -



Grafana Server – Added Teams

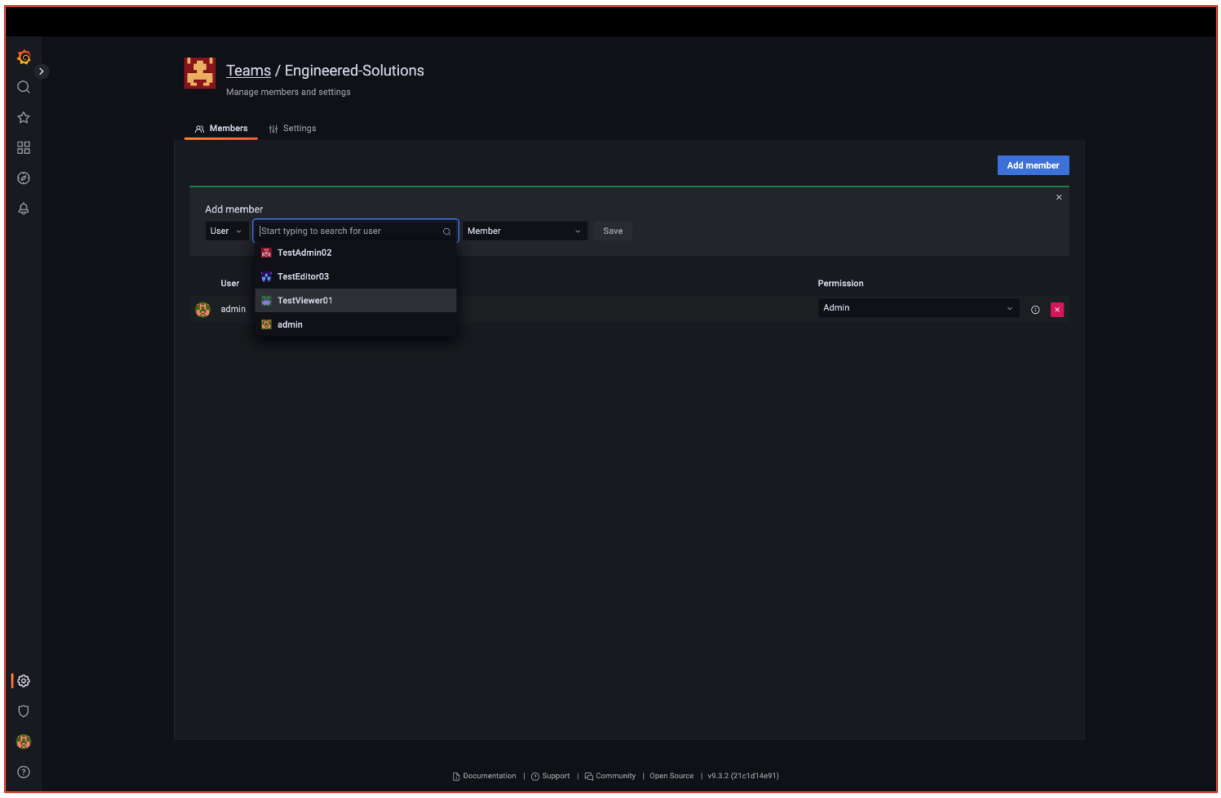
Once the required teams have been created, the newly created users can be assigned to the relevant team(s):



Grafana Server – Team Users

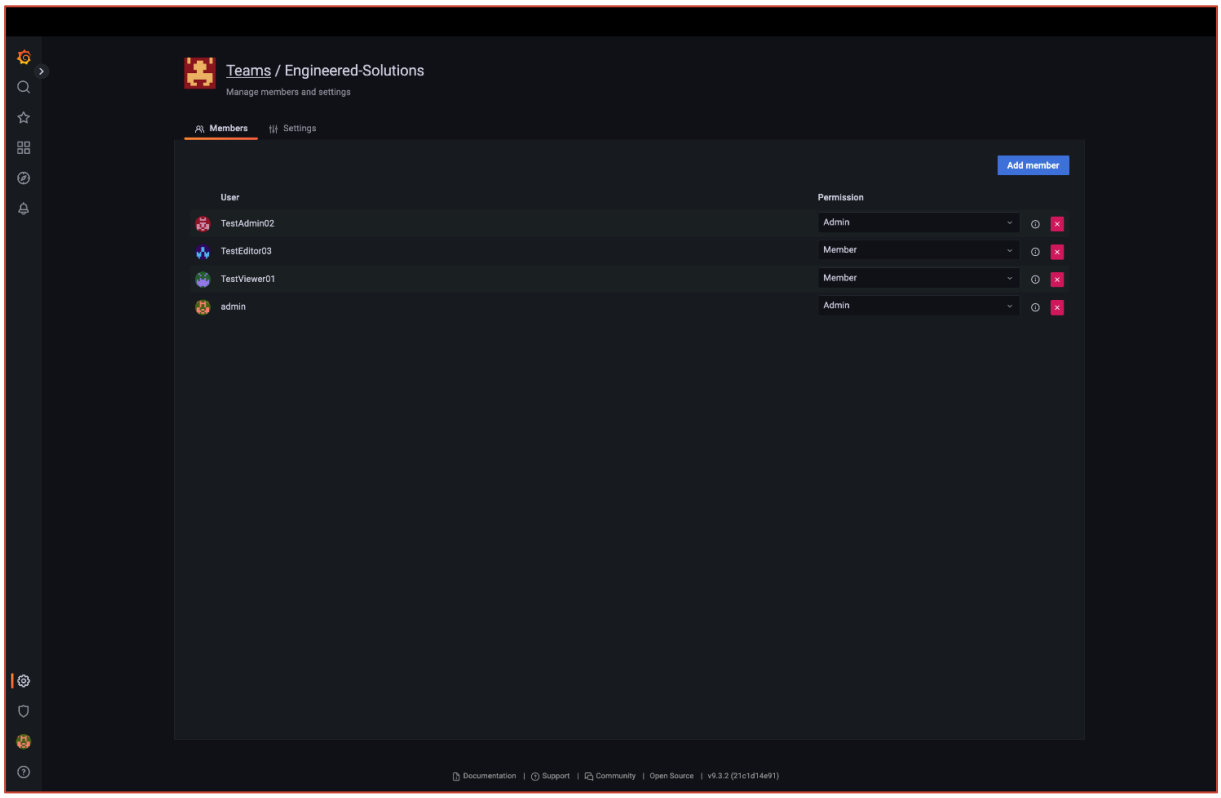
Use the Configuration → Teams menu to access this screen.

Now select the required user(s) to be included within this team: -



Grafana Server – Team User Add

Confirm the users have been correctly assigned:



Grafana Server – Teams and Users verified

Two areas to note:

- A user can be a member of multiple teams
- A user can be assigned either 'member' or 'admin' status for each team

Grafana Server Monitoring and Alerting

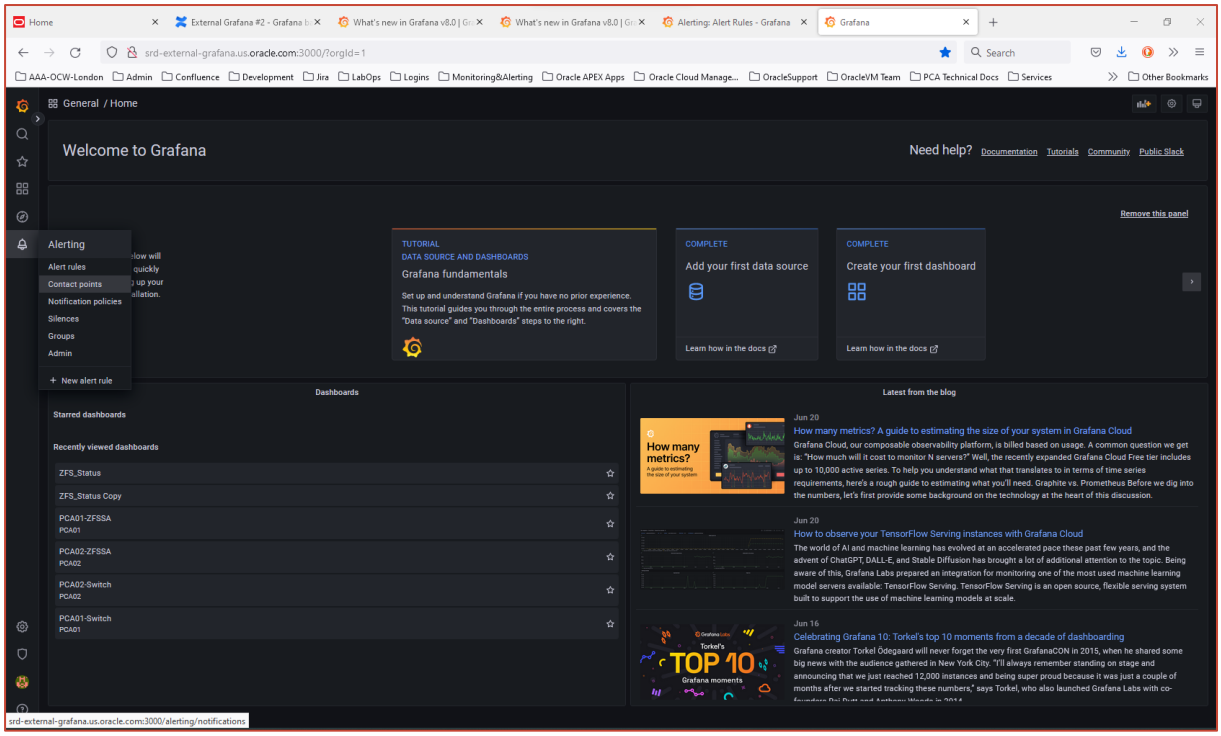
Previous versions of Grafana (v7.5 and below), provided an alerting framework which consisted of two components; 'Alert Rules', defined within individual Grafana dashboards, and 'Notification Channels', providing one (or more) mechanisms to send any alerts generated to end users.

Since Grafana Server version 8, and above, the capabilities of Grafana to provide a robust monitoring and alerting framework have been significantly improved. The following features are now available:

- Alert Rules – Standard Grafana Dashboard driven Alert Rules
- Notification Policies – New feature
- Contact Points – The replacement for Notification Channels
- Silences – New feature
- Groups – New feature
- Admin – New feature

Please refer to the Grafana Documentation for more details on these new capabilities (https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/alerting/).

The screen shot below shows these alerting menu options:



Grafana Server – Alerting

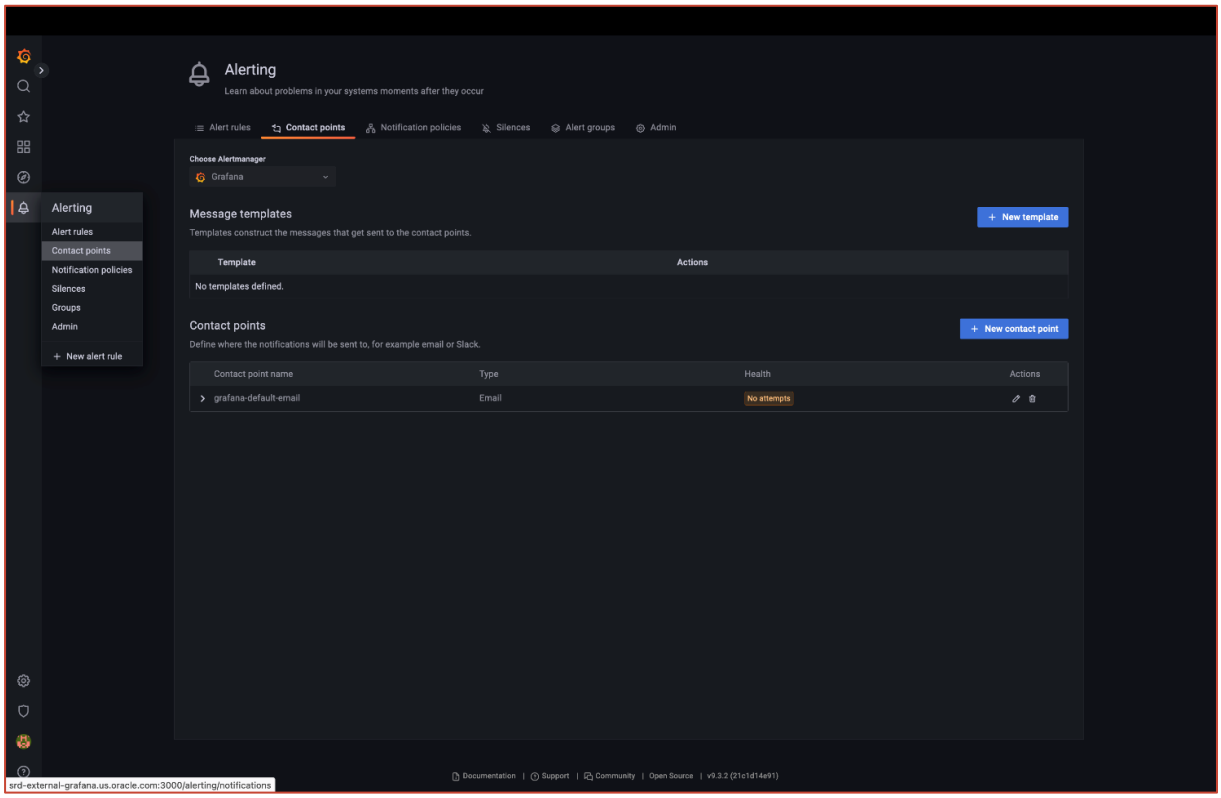
The final configuration change to be made for this new Grafana Server installation is to configure the Contact Points for the Grafana dashboard alerts to use.

For this step-by-step guide, two Contact Points will be created

- Email Alerting
- Webhook (HTTP) Alerting

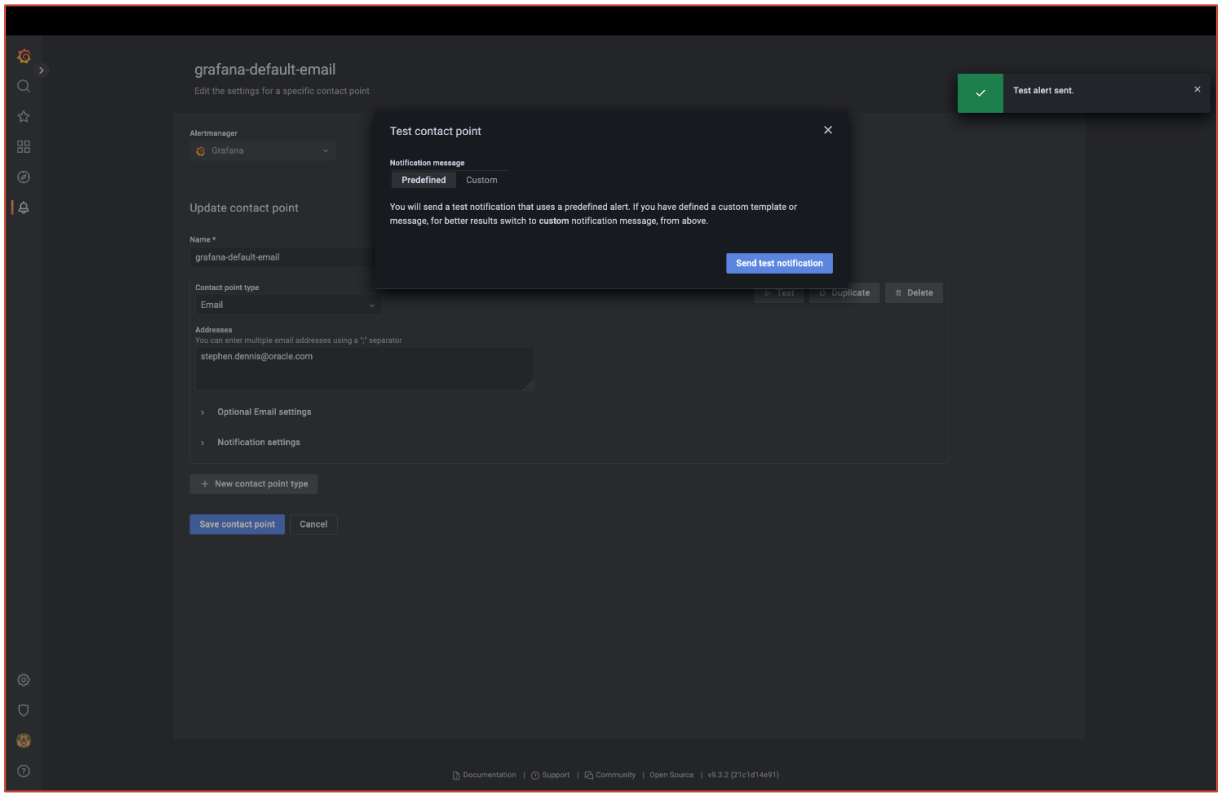
Email Alerting

By default, a single contact point is provided out-of-the-box. This provides an email alerting mechanism:



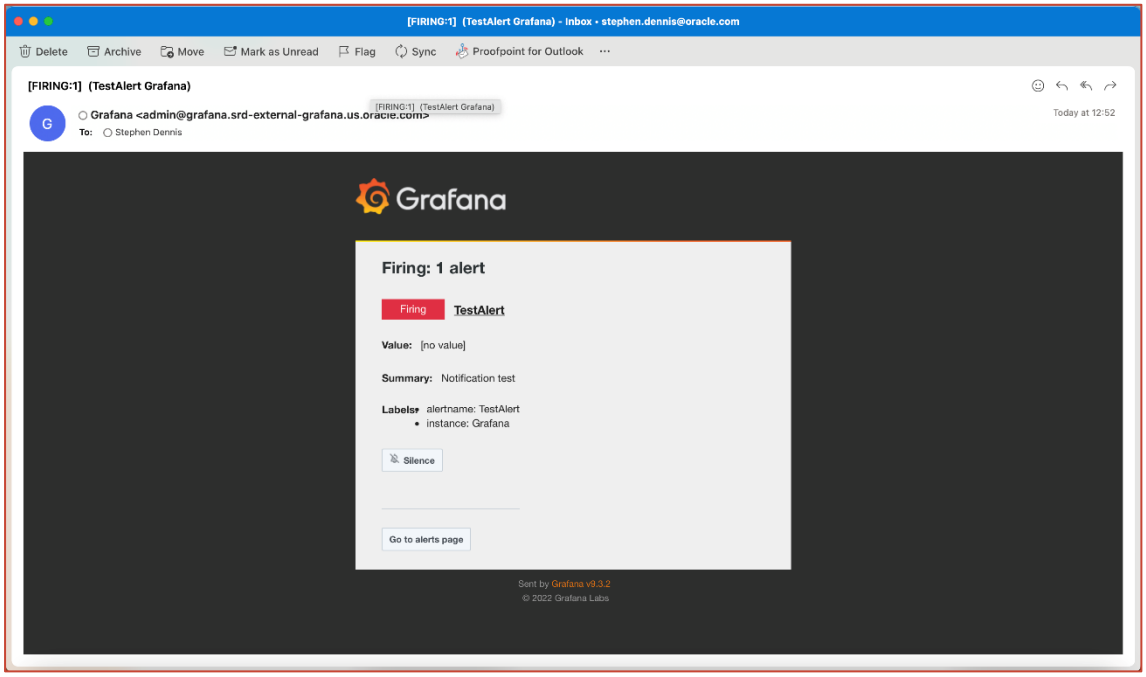
Grafana Server – Default Contact Point

Since this Grafana Server instance has an email forwarding capability enabled, a simple edit of the default 'grafana-default-email' contact point to provide a recipient email address and a test alert is all that is required:



Grafana Server – Email Contact Point – Configure & Test

A single email address has been added to the configuration. This could be a list of named users. or a valid email group. A test notification has been sent and confirmation of the Test Alert received within Grafana.



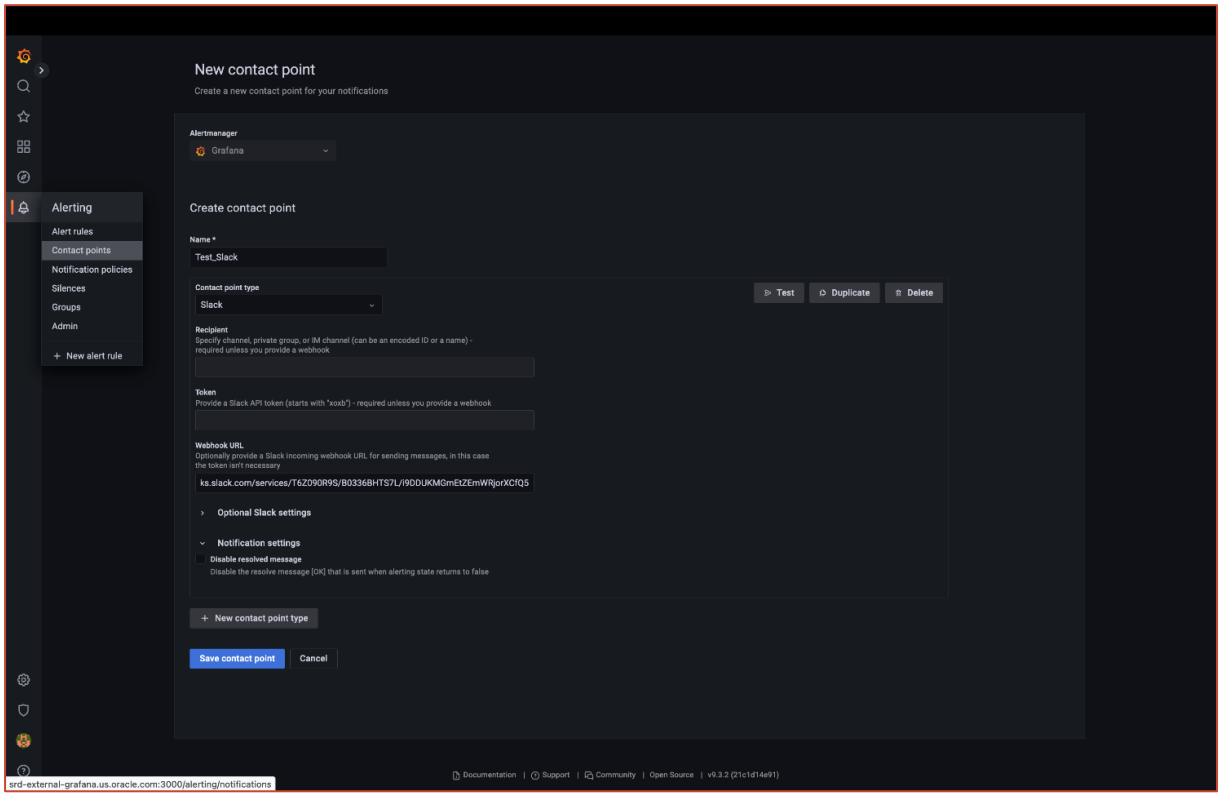
Grafana Server – Email Contact Point – Test Alert

The above email test alert was successfully received.

Slack (Webhook) HTTP Alerting

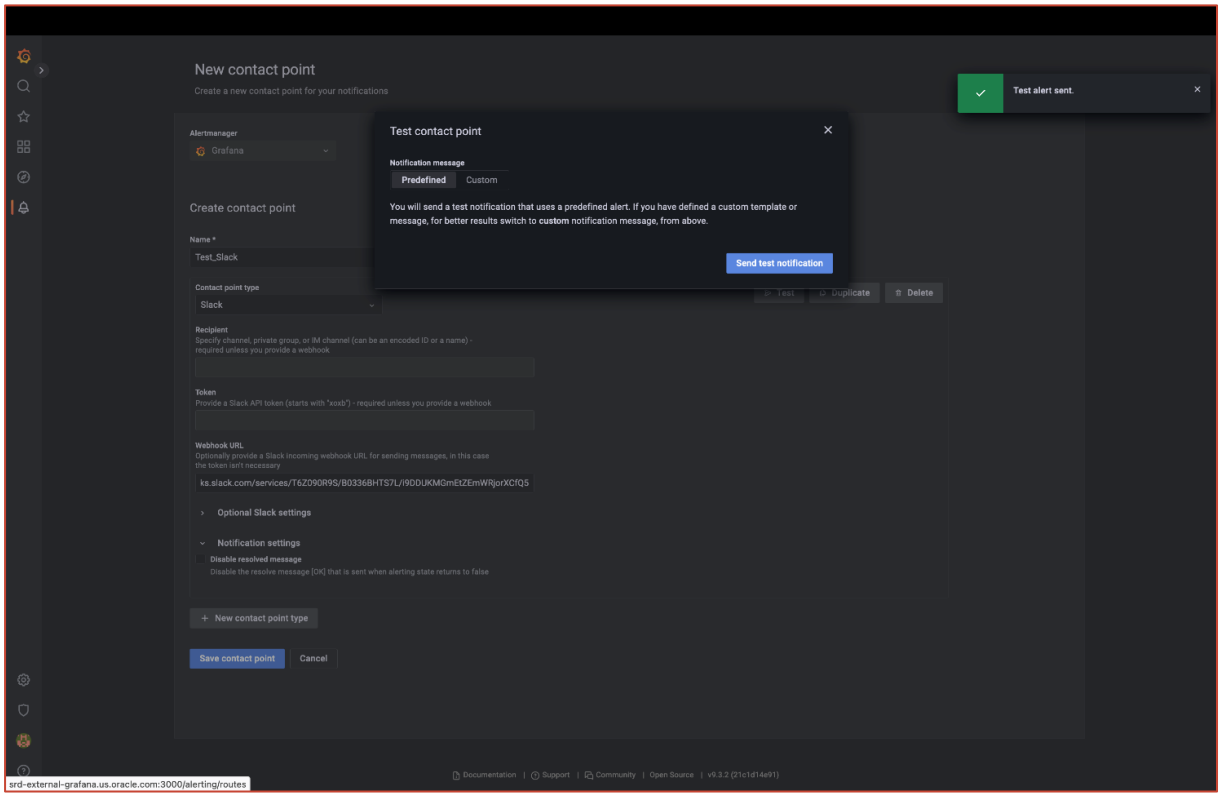
A new Contact Point needs to be created to permit HTTP based Webhook alerts to be sent.

In this case, a Slack Bot has been previously created to act as the recipient of the Grafana Server alerts. Please use the correct site-specific settings to enable this functionality. First, create a new Contact Point:



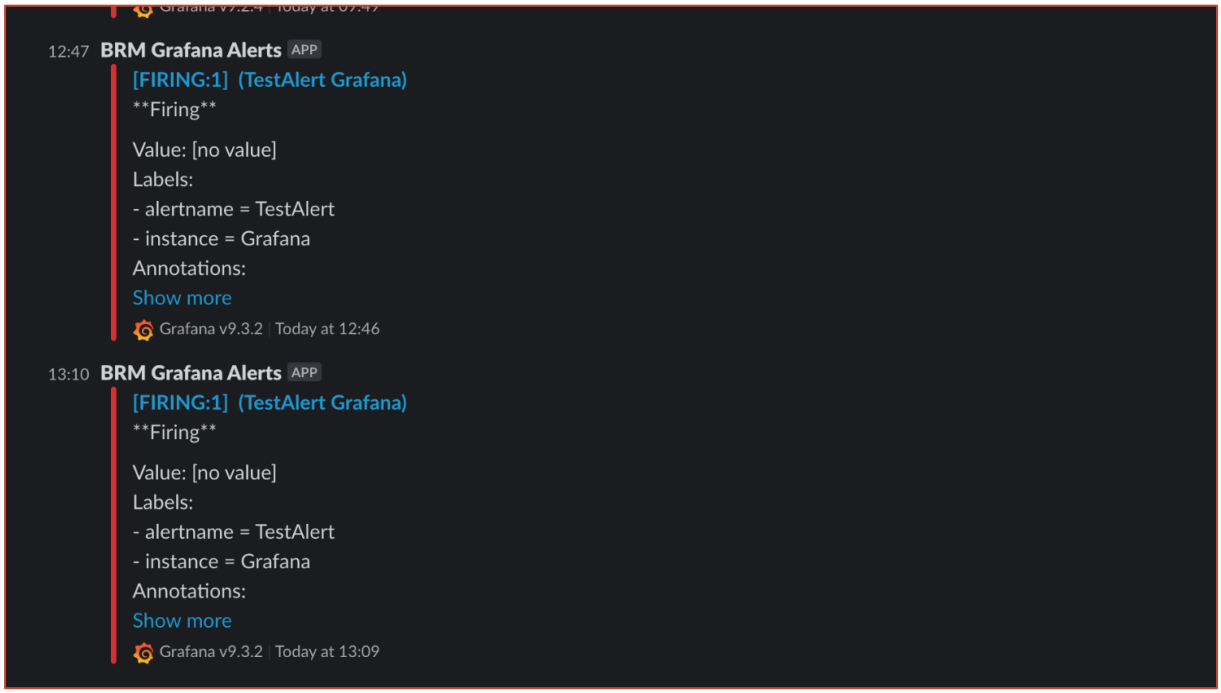
Grafana Server – Slack Contact Point – Create

Test fire an alert:



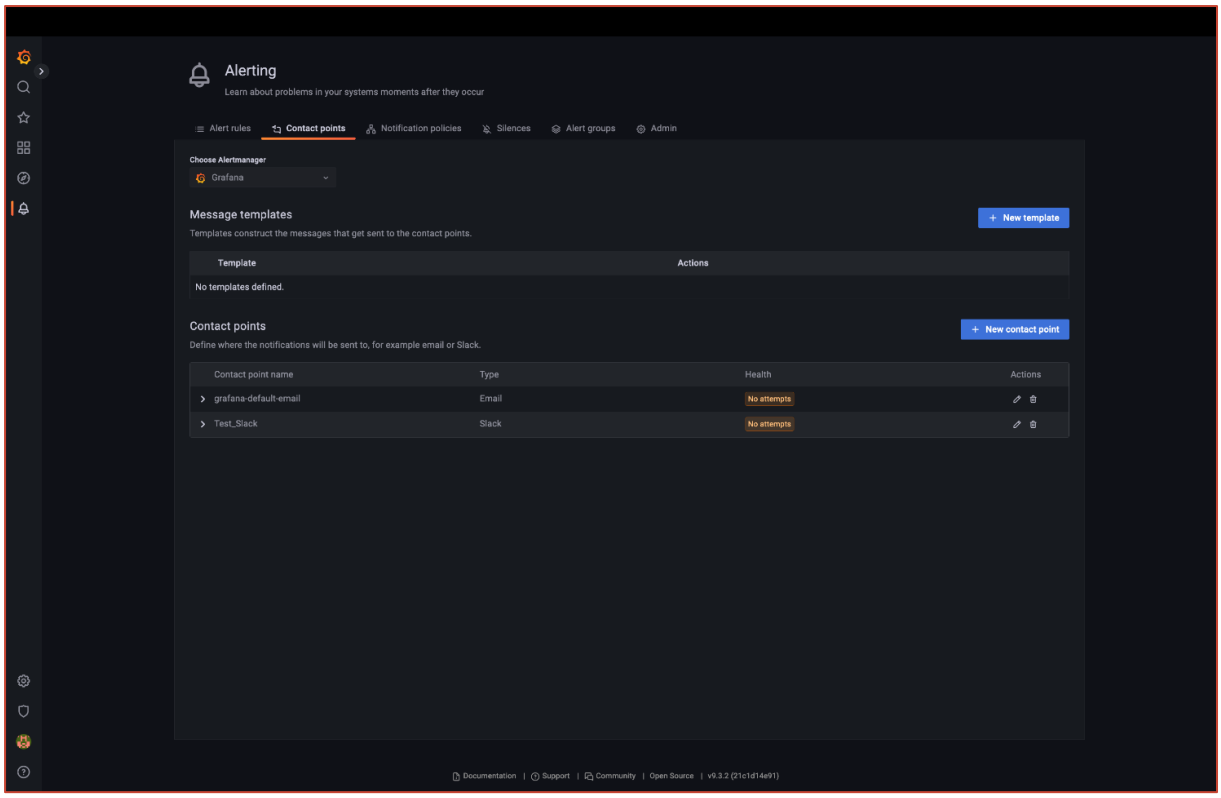
Grafana Server – Slack Contact Point – Test Alert

Check in Slack for receipt of the test alert:



Grafana Server – Slack Contact Point – Test Received

Display the update list of valid (and tested) Contact Points:



Grafana Server – Available Contact Points

This completes this section of the step-by-step guide.

Section References

The following URL's provide links to additional documentation:

- Grafana Setup – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/setup-grafana/
- Grafana Administration – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/administration/
- Grafana Security – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/setup-grafana/configure-security/
- Grafana Alerting – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/alerting/

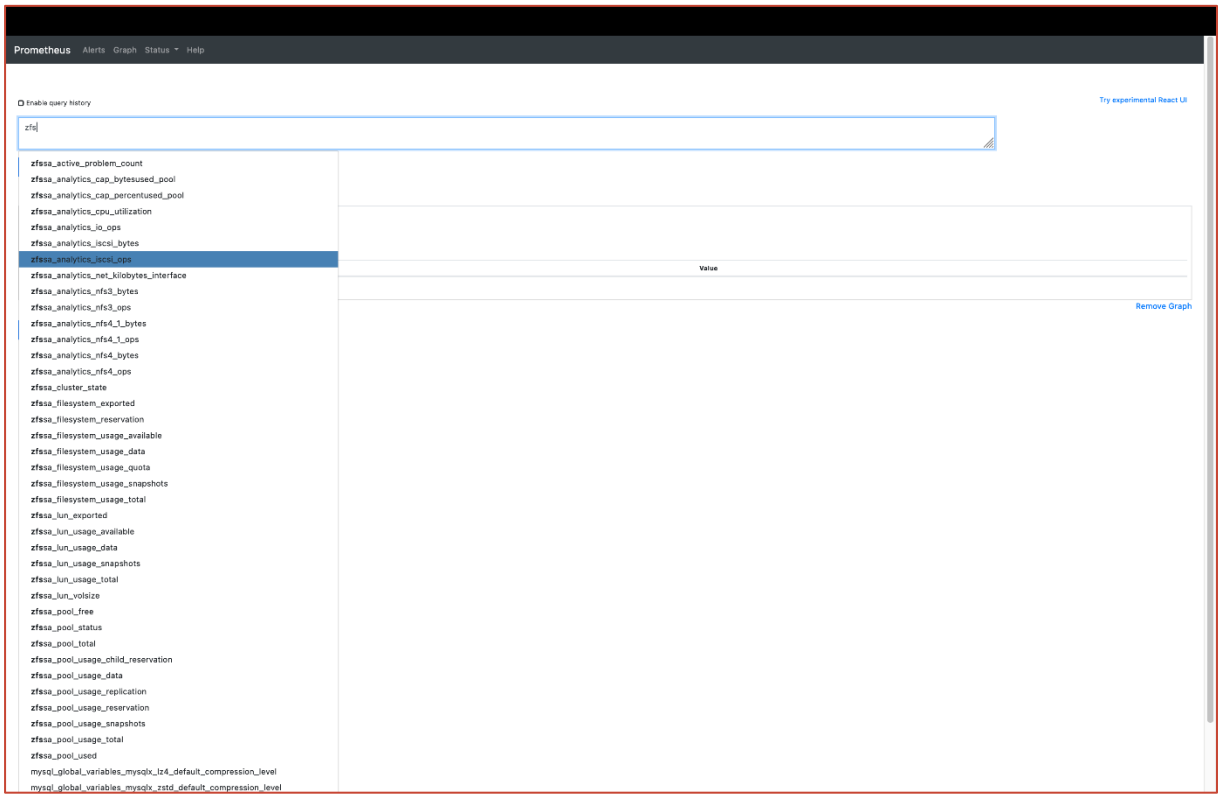
Adding Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 Systems to an External Grafana Server Service

This section provides a step-by-step guide to adding multiple Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems to an external Grafana Server service.

Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 Prometheus Service

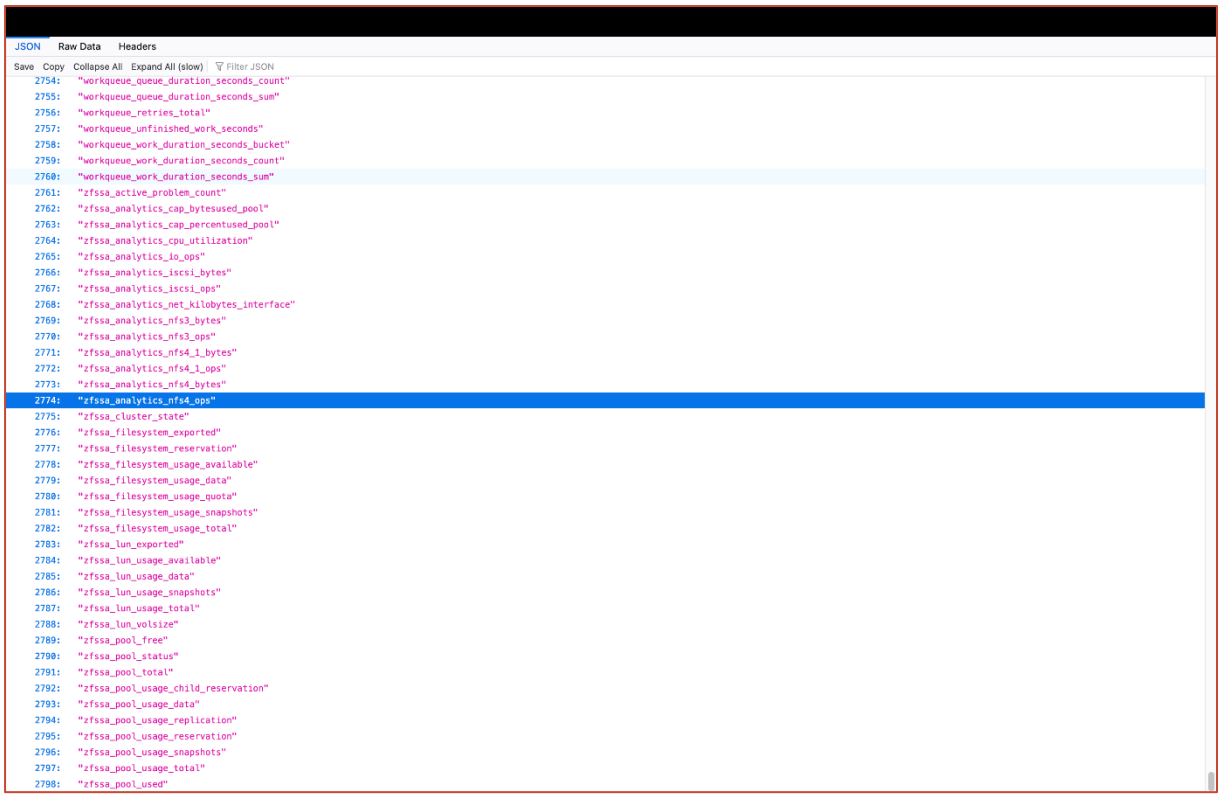
In the same manner as the internal PCA Grafana Server service is directly addressable using the URL `'grafana.<FQDN>'` for each PCA system, each Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 system's internal Prometheus service can be externally addressed using the URL `'prometheus.<FQDN>'`.

The URL `'prometheus.<FQDN>/graph'` will display the Prometheus graphing capability:



External Grafana – Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 Prometheus service – Graphing

And the URL `'prometheus.<FQDN>/api/v1/label/__name__/values'` will display a list of the available metrics being collected internally within the Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 by the Prometheus service.

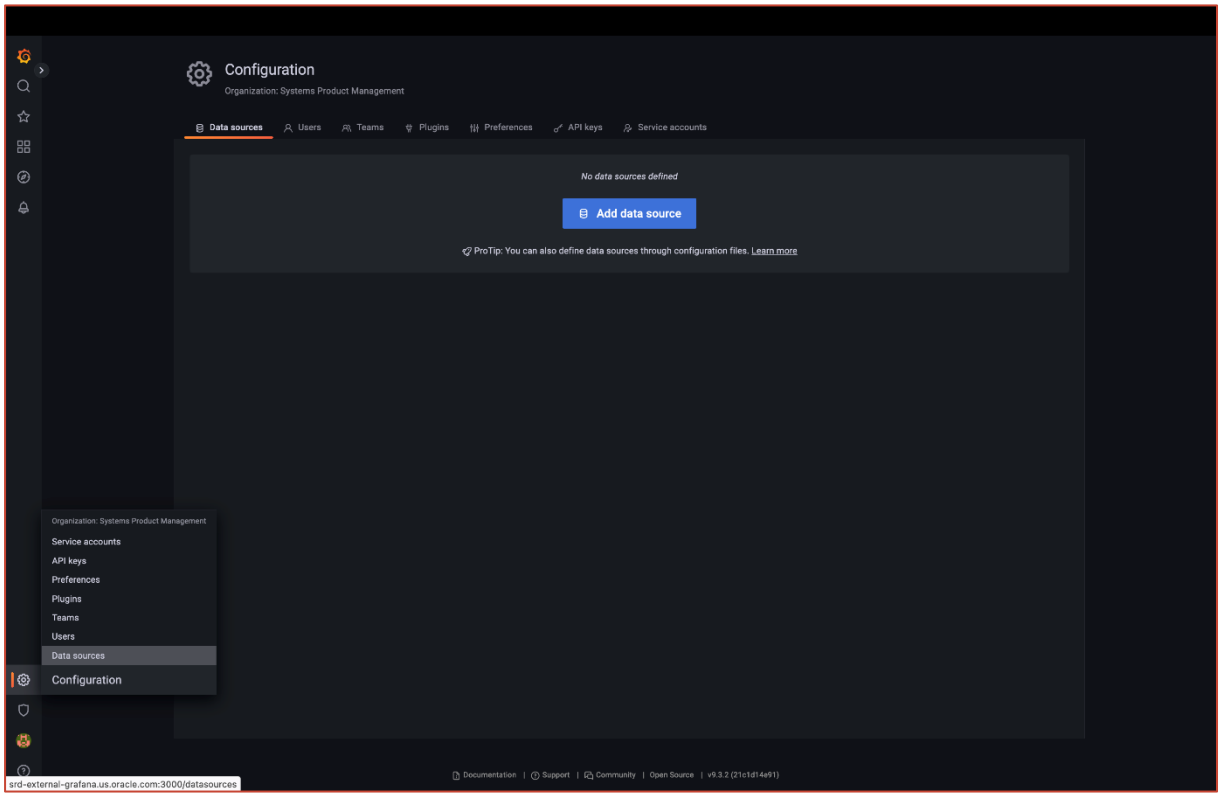


External Grafana – Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 Prometheus service - Metrics

Almost 2,800 Prometheus metrics are available from each Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 system.

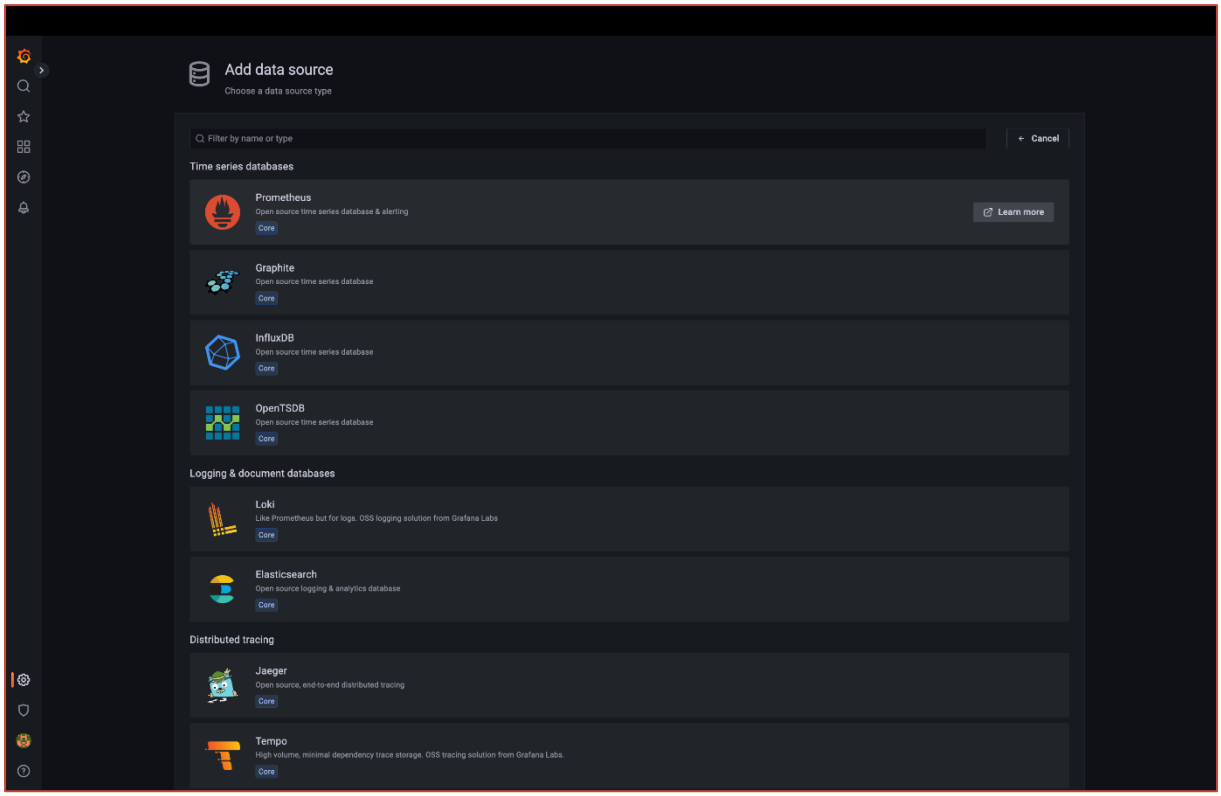
Adding Grafana Data Sources

A new Grafana data source can be created using the externally exposed Prometheus service from within each Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 system. By default, the new Grafana Server instance will have NO configured data sources:



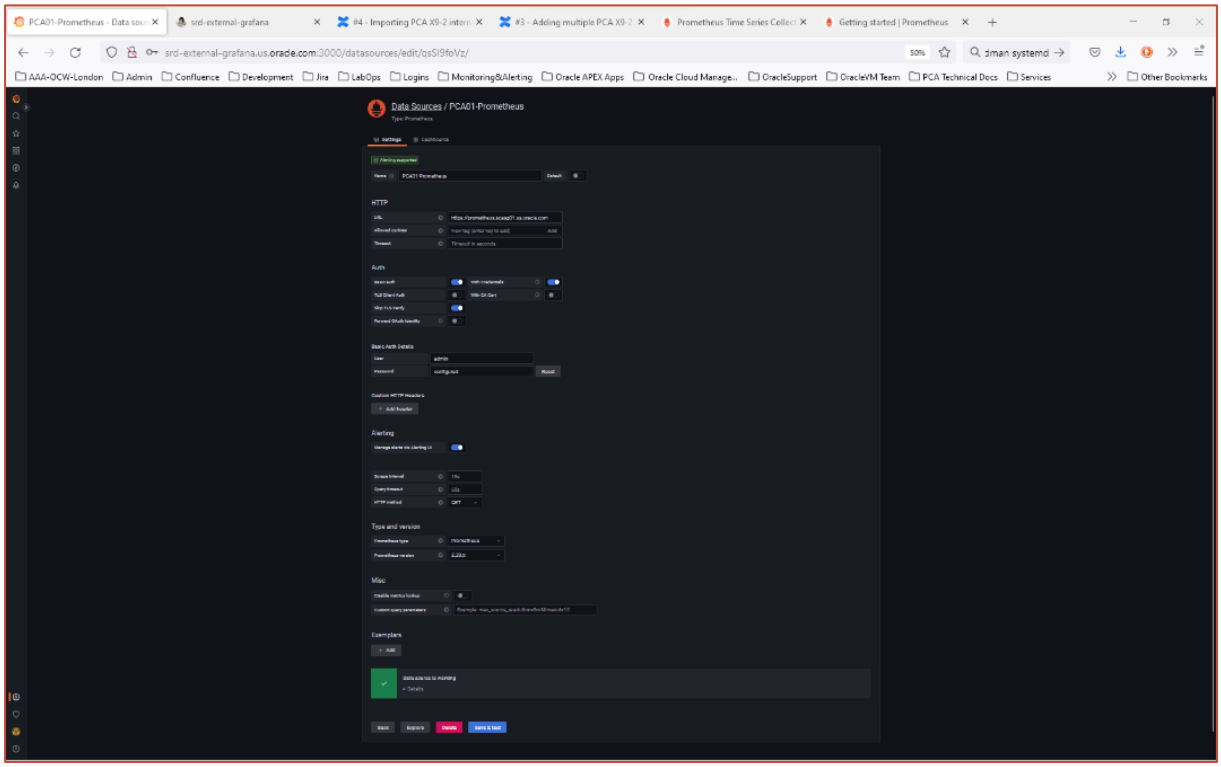
External Grafana – Empty Data source

So, let's add the first Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 Prometheus data source service. Create a new Grafana data source using the Prometheus template:



External Grafana – Add Prometheus Data source

Then configure for the first PCA (PCA01) system:



External Grafana – Create first PCA Data source

For simplicities' sake, the following options have been used:

- Basic Authentication
- With Credentials
- Skip TLS Verify
- Basic Authentication Details (username & password)

Obviously, a more secure connection model may be required.

In which case, follow the Grafana specific documentation to enable TLS Client Auth and/or CA Certificate exchange. (https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/datasources/prometheus/)

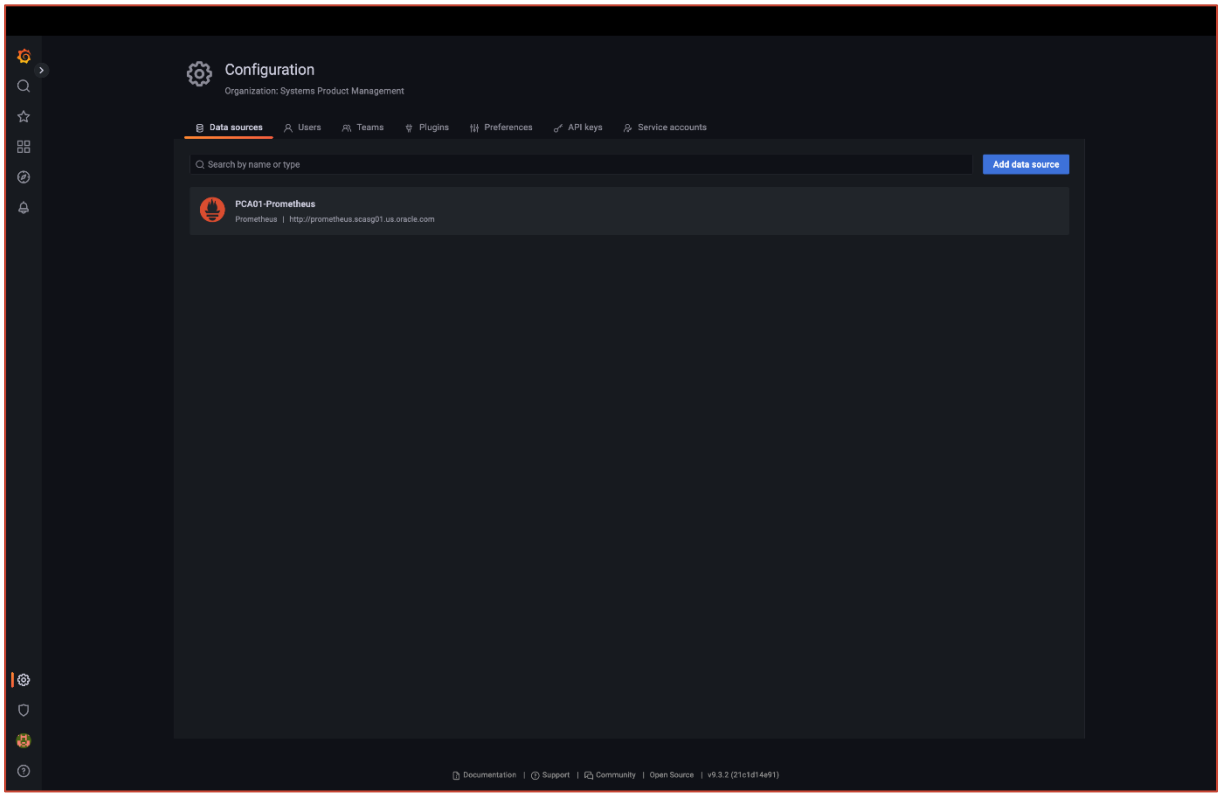
There are further mandatory option settings required to for a working data source:

- HTTP Method should be set to 'GET'
- Data source Type should be set to 'Prometheus'
- Prometheus Version should be set to '2.20.x'

Save and test the new data source to make sure it is working.

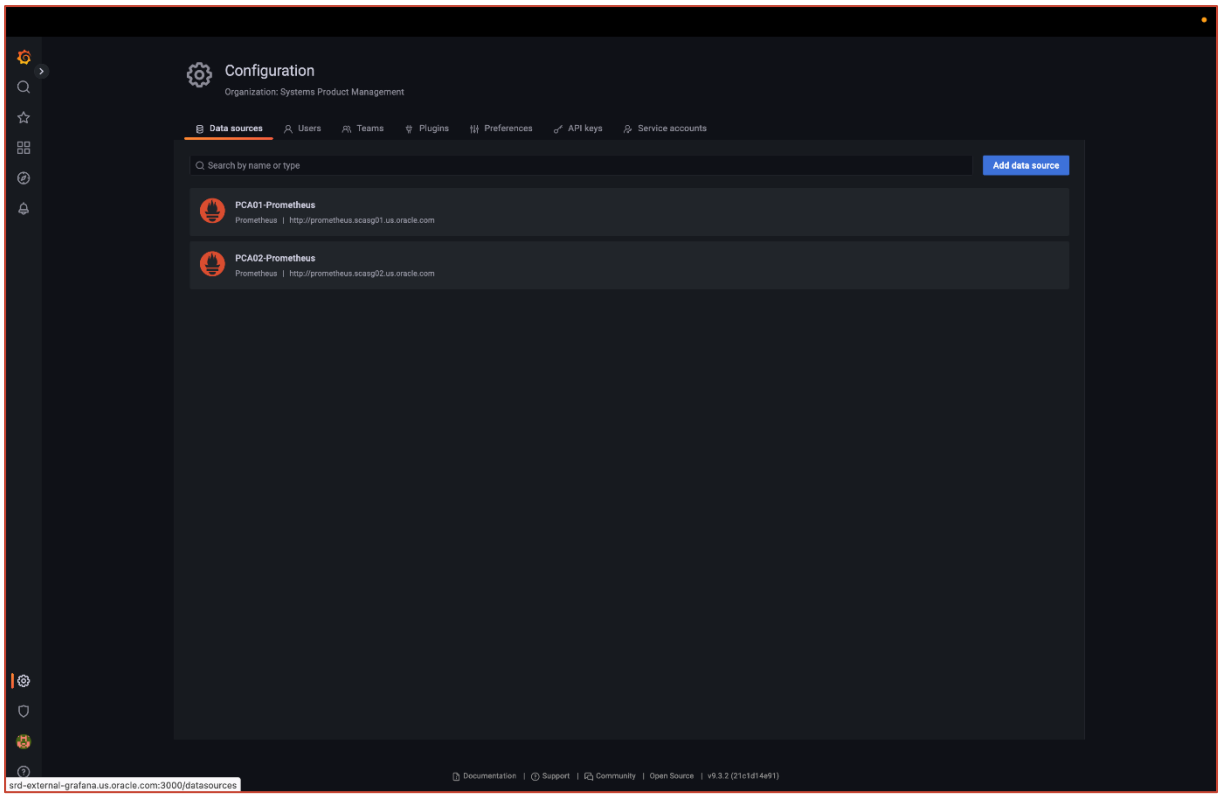
The test connection has worked, and the data source is registered as valid (working).

This new data source can now be seen in the Configuration → Data Sources screen within the external Grafana Server instance:



External Grafana – Validated PCA data source

Now repeat to add further Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems as additional data sources.



External Grafana – Multiple PCA Data sources

As can be seen in the screenshot above, there are now two working Prometheus data sources defined and working:

- PCA01-Prometheus - (http://prometheus.scasg01.us.oracle.com)
- PCA02-Prometheus - (http://prometheus.scasg02.us.oracle.com)

This completes this section on adding multiple Grafana data sources to an external Grafana Server service.

Section References

As always, the definitive source for information and instruction for configuring Grafana Server remains the Grafana documentation itself:

- Main Grafana Document Library – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/
- Grafana data source documentation – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/datasources/

Importing Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 Internal Grafana Dashboards

This section provides a step-by-step guide for importing existing Grafana Dashboards from a single,existing Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 to be used to monitor all the systems via the external Grafana server service.

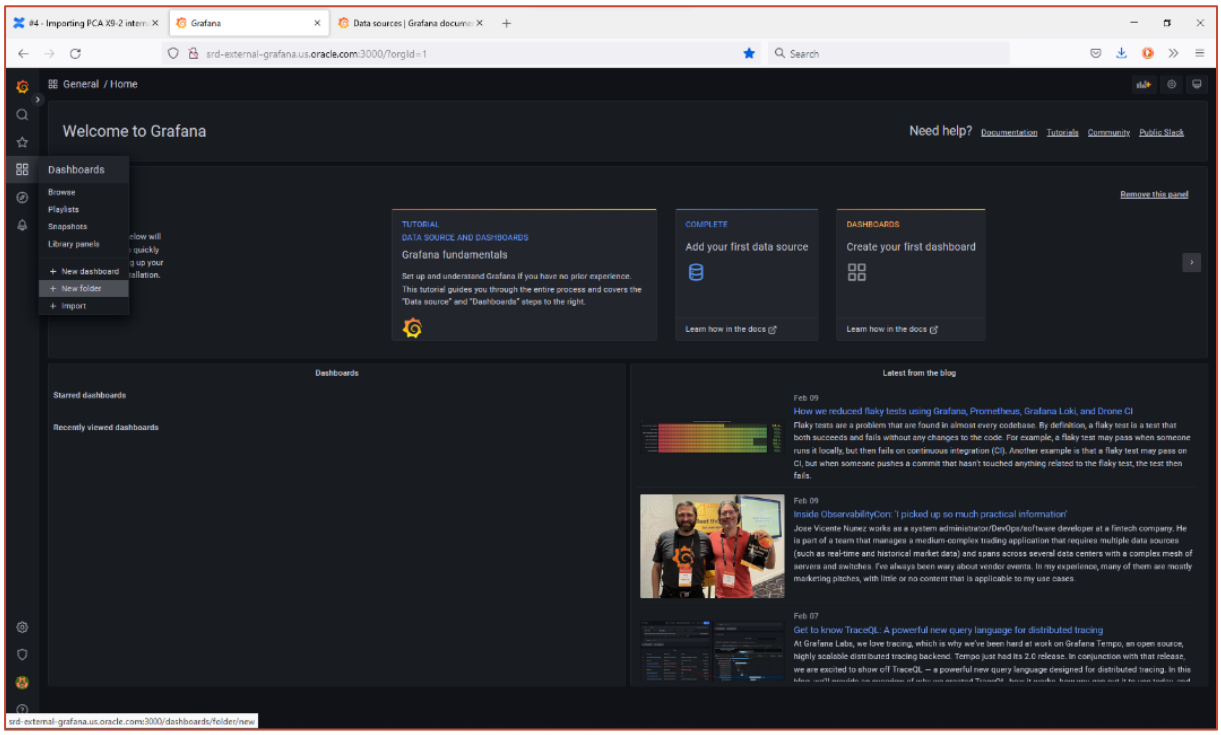
Create Oracle Private Cloud Appliance Specific Folders

Initially, we will import one existing PCA Grafana dashboard from a single Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 to use for all PCA's being monitored through this external Grafana Server.

Since each imported Grafana dashboard will only be able to have a single Grafana data source, any dashboards will need to be imported multiple times and create PCA-specific versions of each dashboard.

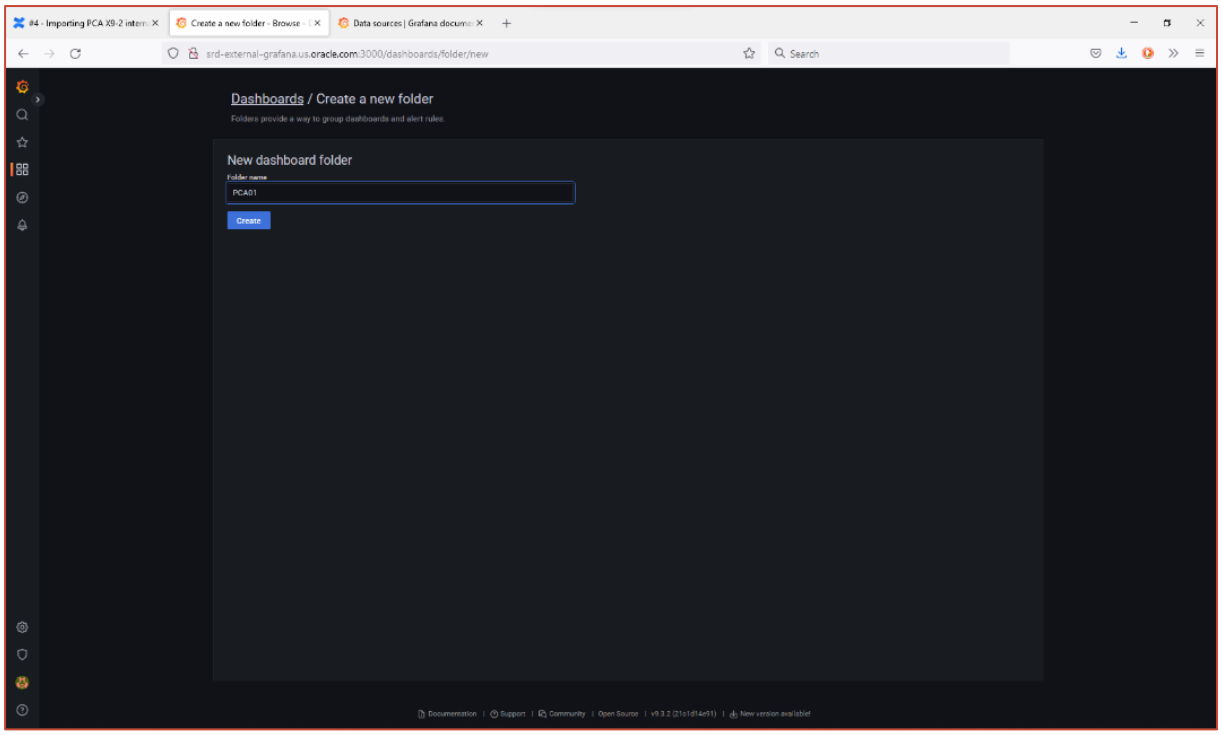
To separate these imported dashboards, a PCA-specific folder will be created to hold each imported dashboard.

From the external Grafana Server home page dashboard icon, select add new folder:



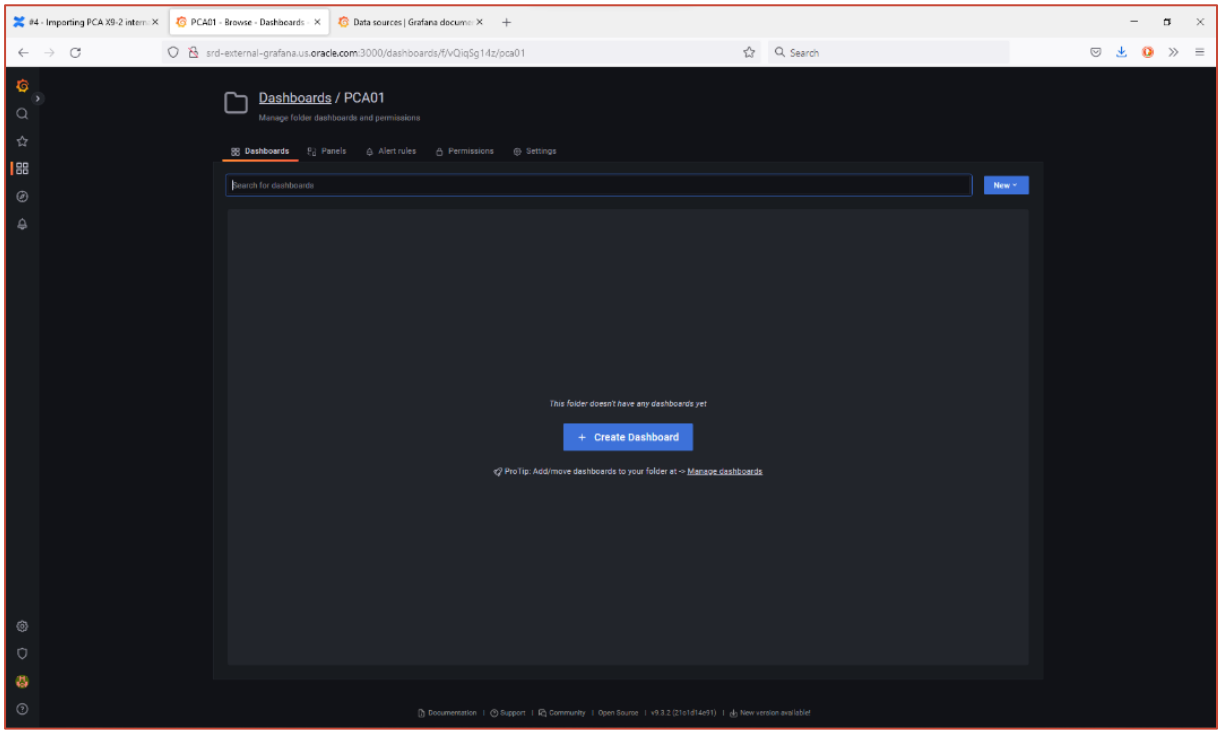
Import Dashboards – Create Folder

This will display the following screen:



Import Dashboards – New Folder

Create a folder for the first PCA, in this case, PCA01. Upon creation the empty folder is displayed:



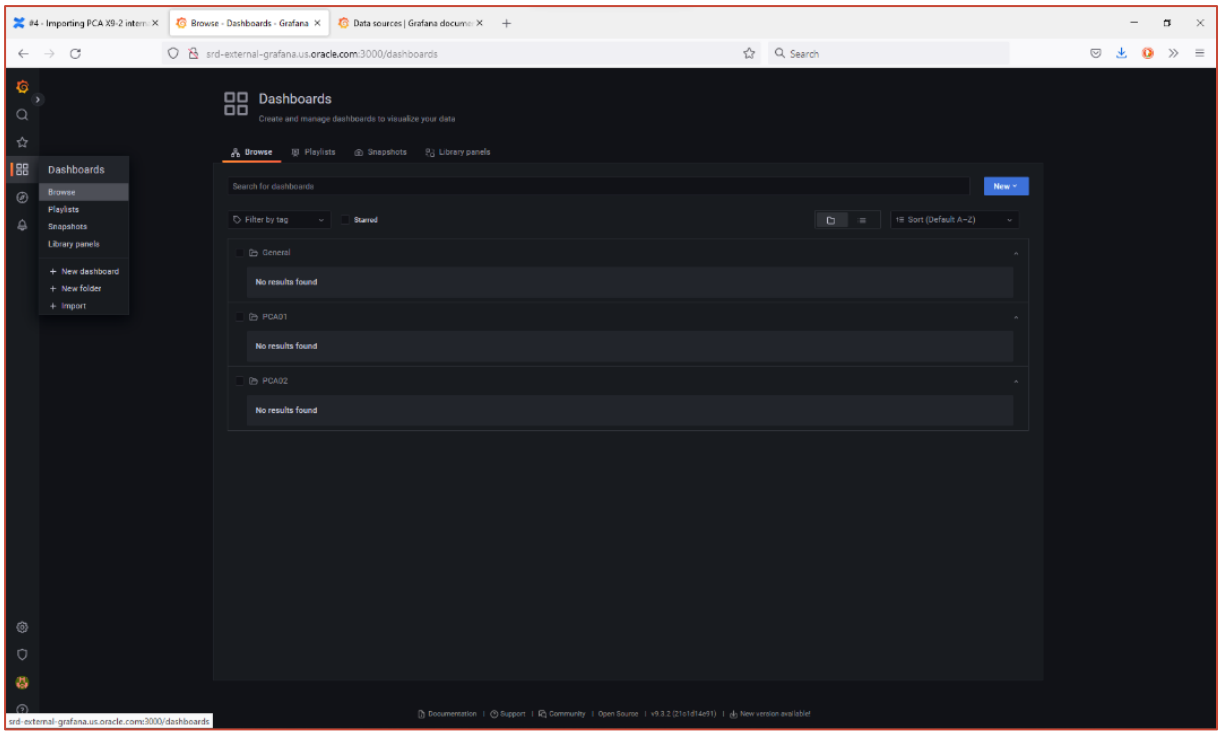
Import Dashboards – PCA01 Folder

Now repeat for the additional Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems for which Prometheus data sources have been created in the previous section.

Once complete, browsing the Grafana dashboards will show the following empty folders:

- General - Default Folder
- PCA01 - First PCA Dashboard Folder

- PCA02 - Second PCA Dashboard Folder



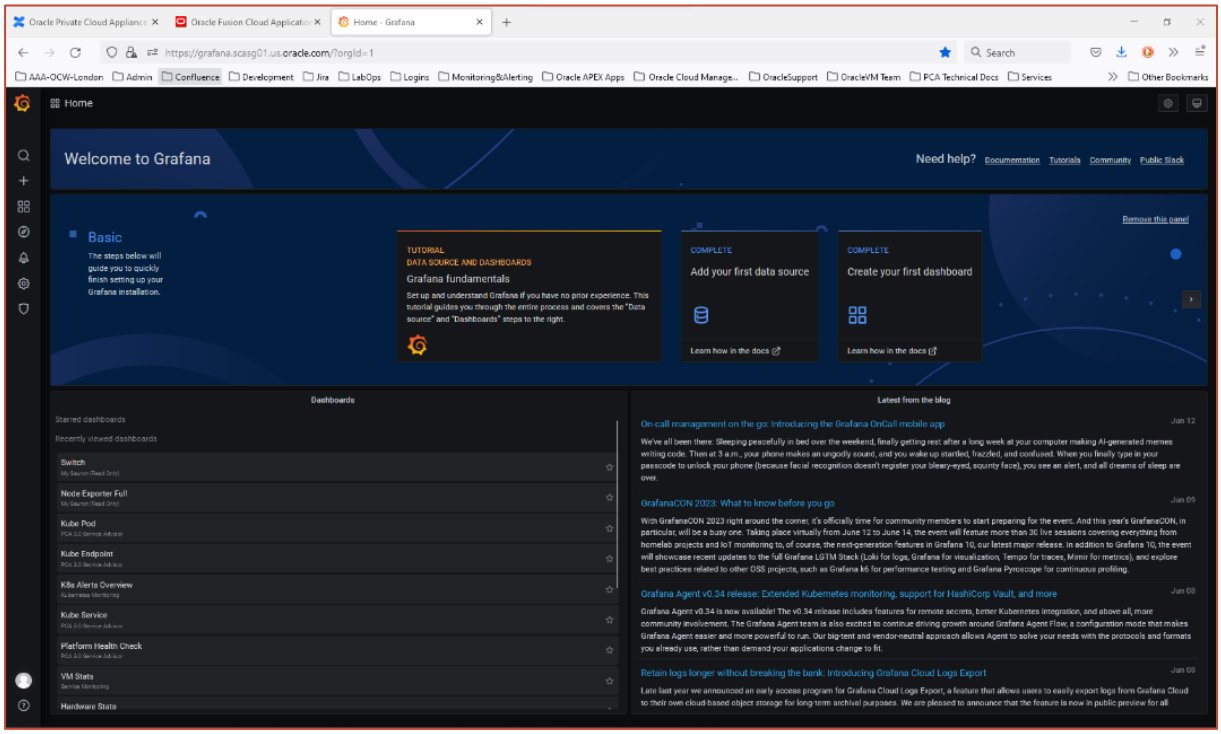
Import Dashboards – Completed Folders

Now the external Grafana Server is ready for Grafana dashboards to be imported or created.

Export Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 Grafana Dashboards from a Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2

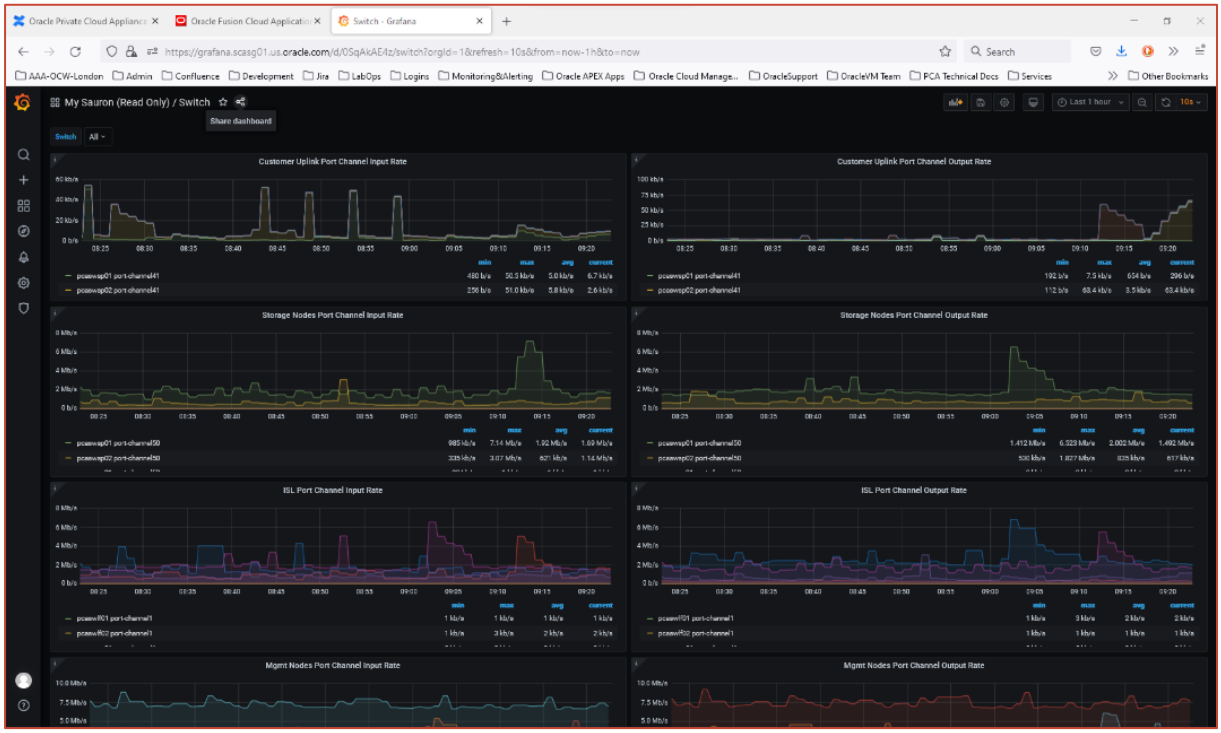
For the purposes of this paper, one of the standard Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 Grafana dashboards will be displayed and then exported from the first PCA system defined.

Connecting to the *INTERNAL* Grafana service provided by PCA01 displays the standard Grafana home page:



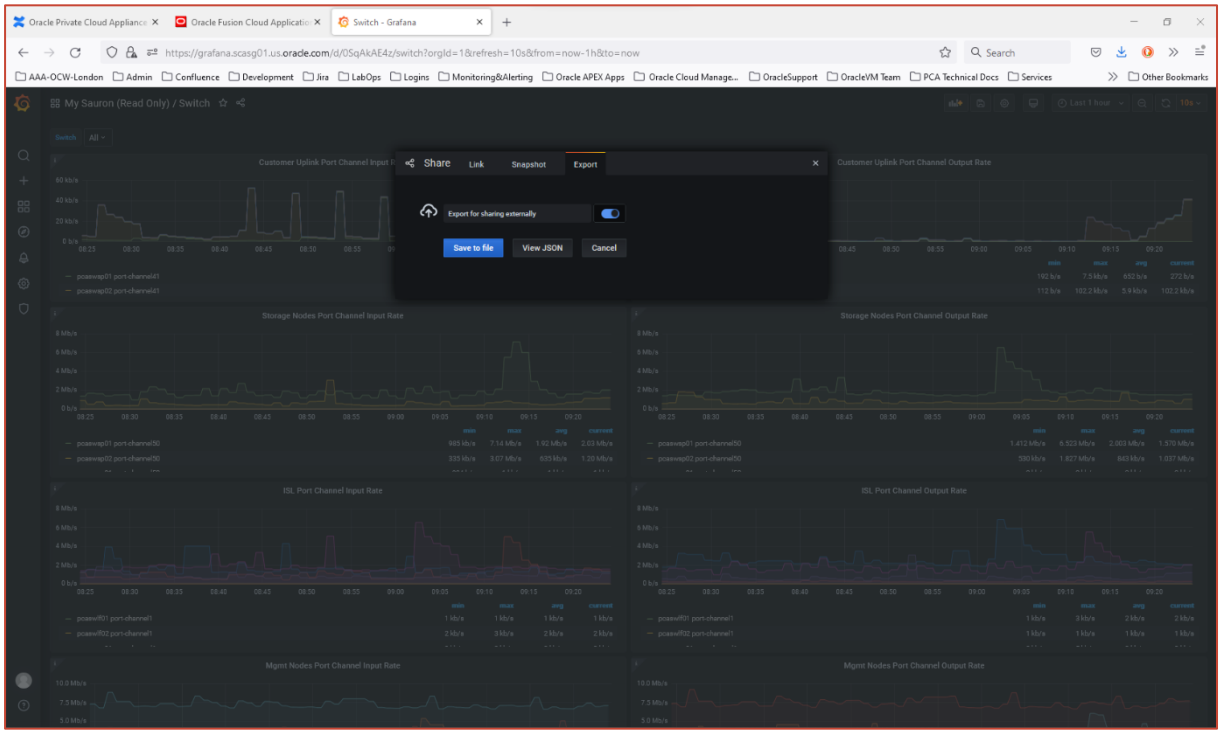
Import Dashboards – Export from Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2

The Switch Grafana dashboard provided as part of the base PCA3 build will be selected. Click on the 'Switch' entry in the recently viewed dashboards list:



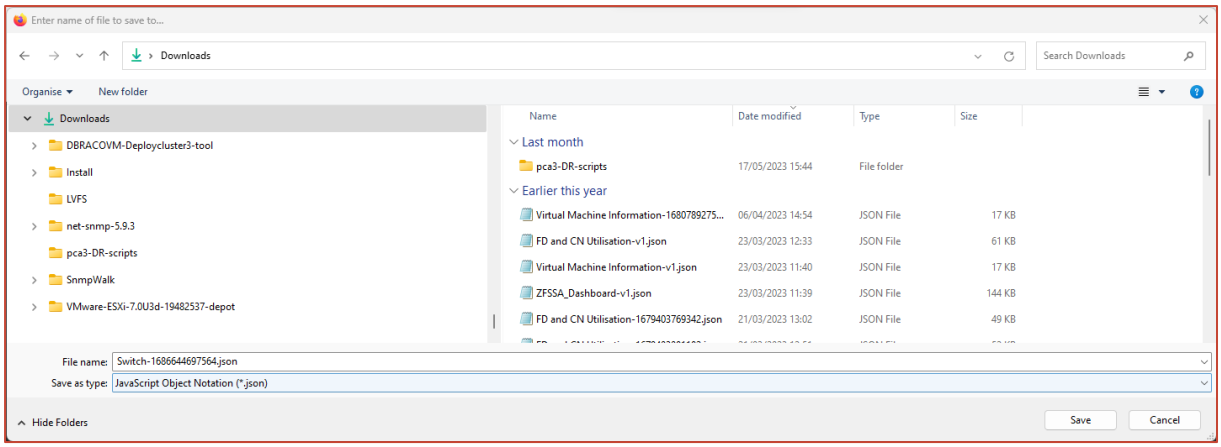
Import Dashboards – Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 Switch Dashboard

Alongside the dashboard Title (top left of the screen) is the share link (as highlighted above). Click through on this and the share windows pops up:



Import Dashboards – Export Switch Dashboard

Select the Export tab, enable the 'Export for sharing externally' option and then save to file:



Import Dashboards – Save exported Switch Dashboard

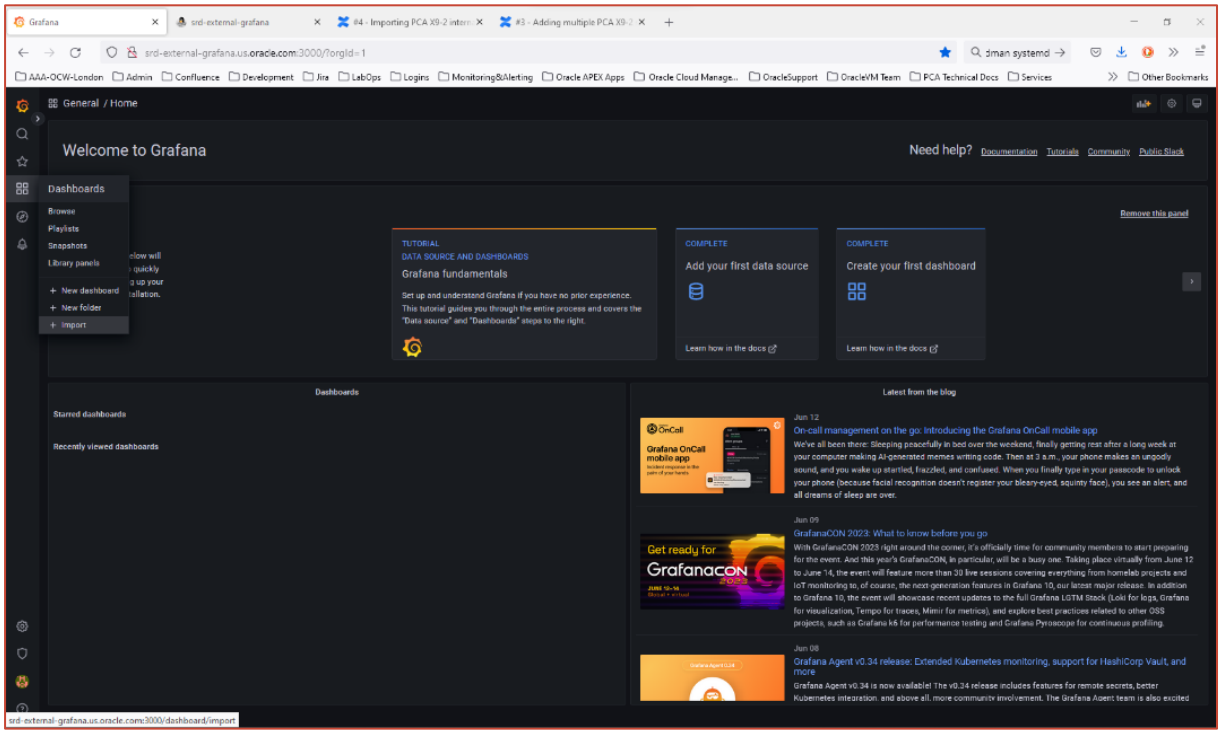
This saves the complete switch dashboard as a JSON file.

Take note of both the filename and its location.

This file can then be imported into the external Grafana Server service.

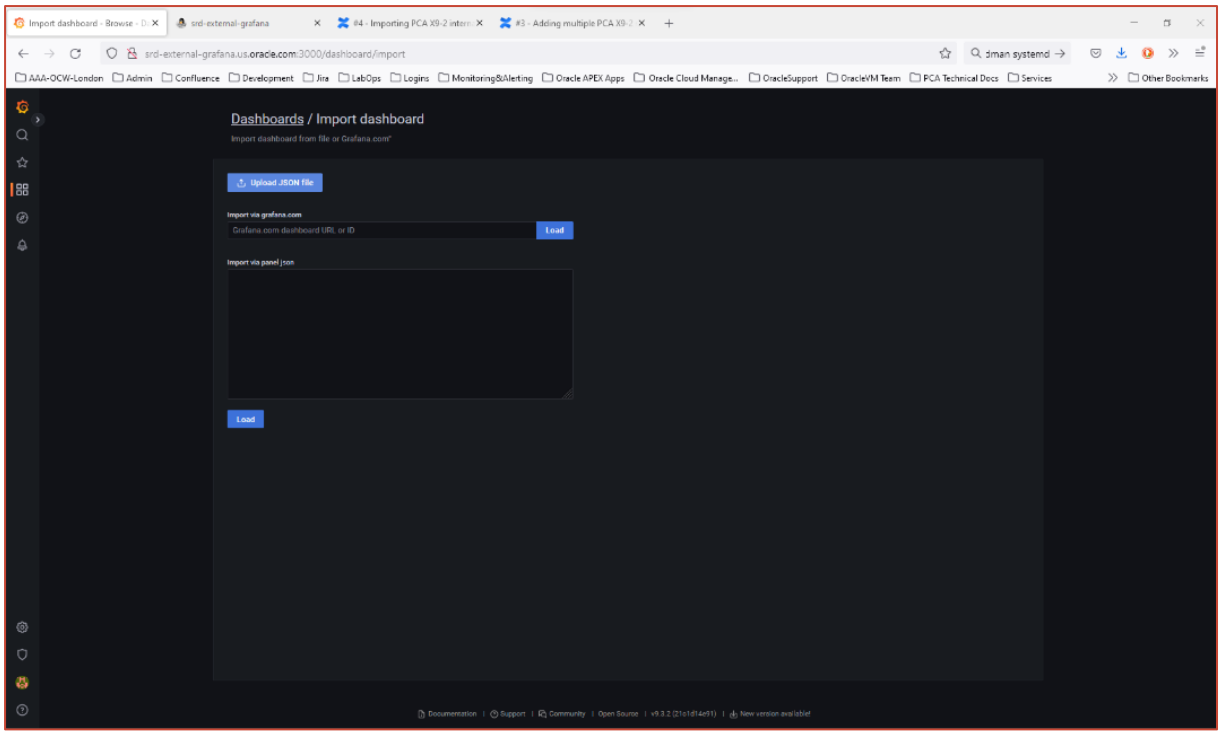
Import Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 Grafana Dashboards to PCA-specific folders

Returning to the external Grafana Server instance, select the 'Import' option from the dashboards menu:



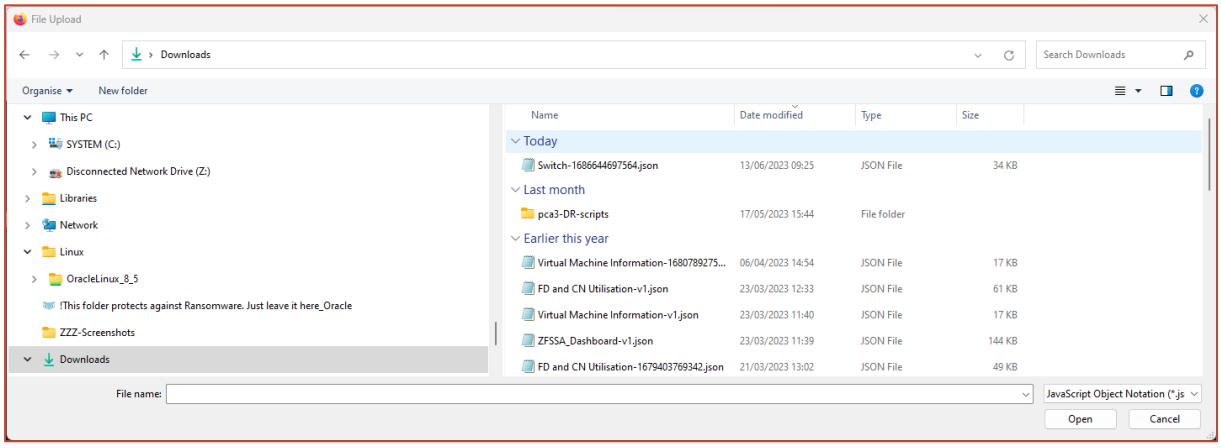
Import Dashboards - Importing

Then click on the 'Upload JSON file' button:



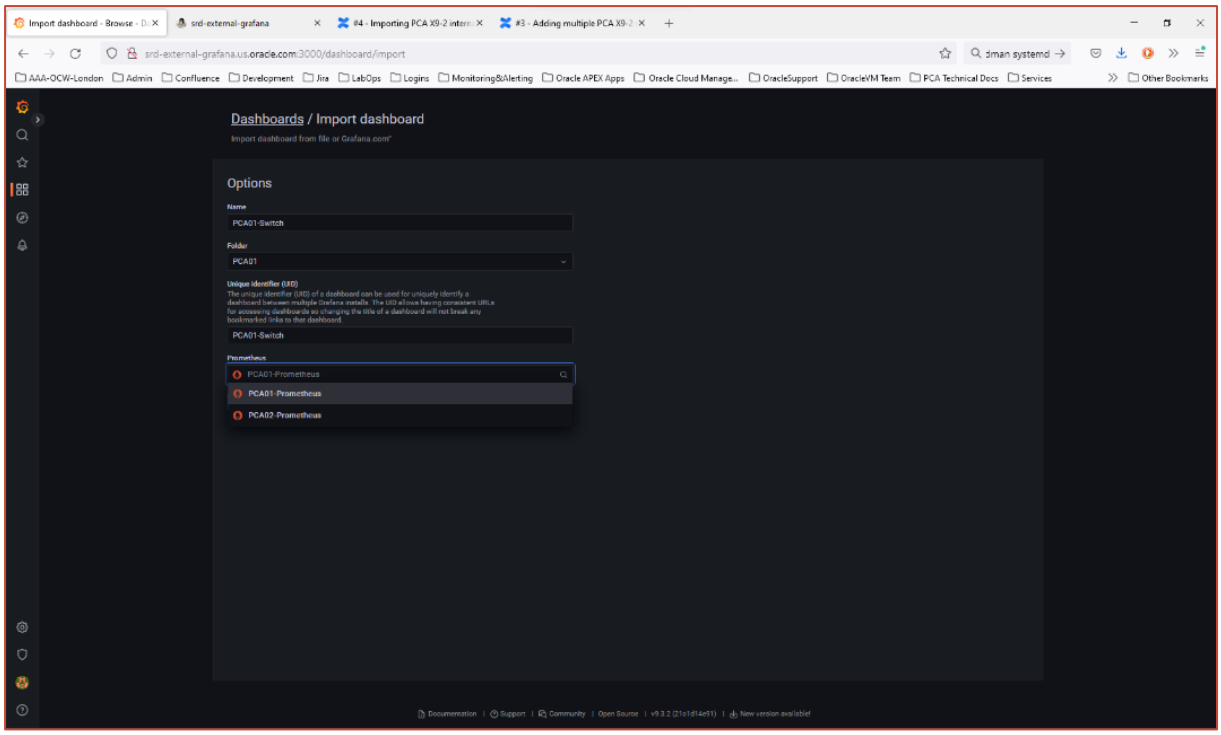
Import Dashboards – Import Switch Dashboard

An import window will open. Select the JSON file saved previously:



Import Dashboards – Select exported JSON file

An import window is then displayed:



Import Dashboard – Importing JSON file

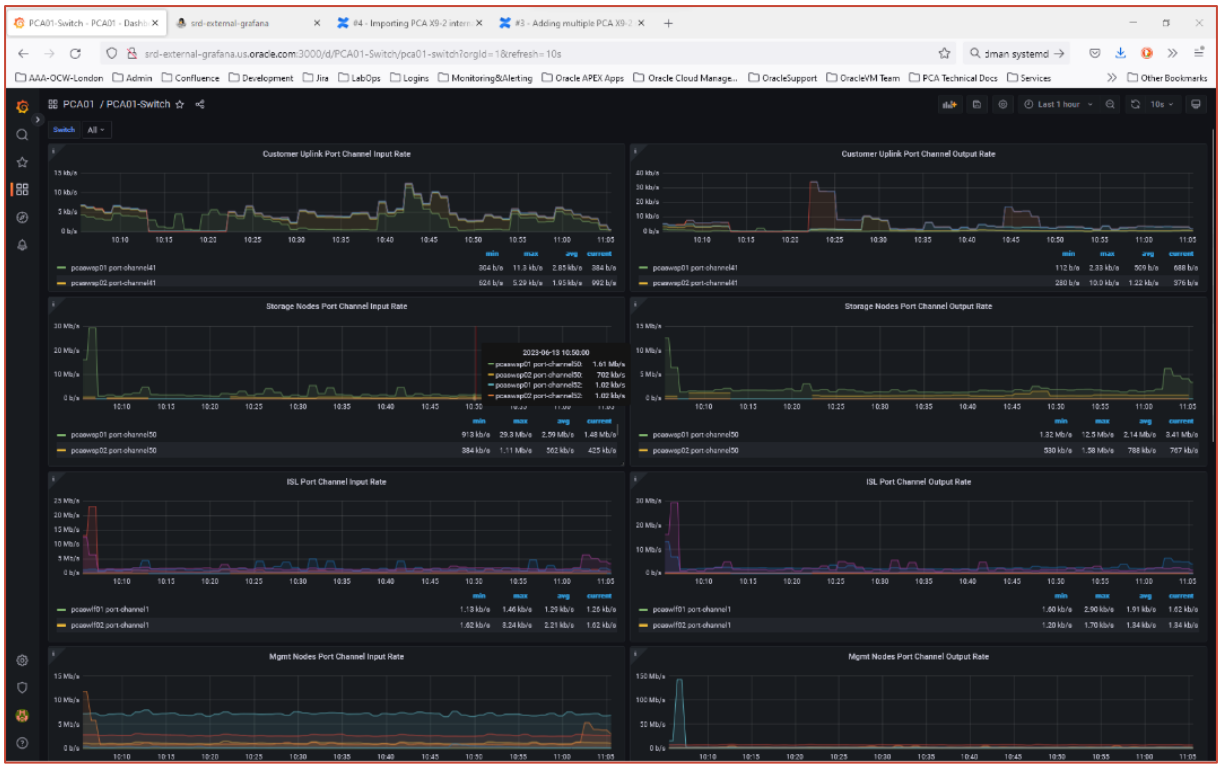
Because this same JSON file is going to be imported several times, there are edits to each of the default values prepopulated within this window.

These are:

- Name:
  - By default, the imported dashboard will retain the name of the original (e.g. Switch)
  - Change the name of the dashboard to reflect the Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 system it will be displaying the Prometheus data for - in this case; 'PCA01-Switch'
- Folder:
  - The default folder for all dashboard imports is the 'General' folder
  - Change the import folder to the correct PCA specific name - in this case 'PCA01'
- Unique Identifier:
  - Each Grafana dashboard has an alphanumeric UUID. This cannot be duplicated within the Grafana Server service
  - Change the UUID to a PCA specific name - the simplest option here is to repeat the name given to the dashboard above
  - This has an added benefit when Grafana alerting is enabled, since the alerts use the UUID of the dashboard to identify where the alerts originate from
- Prometheus (data source):
  - Select the correct Prometheus data source for the Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 system - in this case 'PCA01-Prometheus'

Then click on the 'Import' button.

The dashboard will then load:

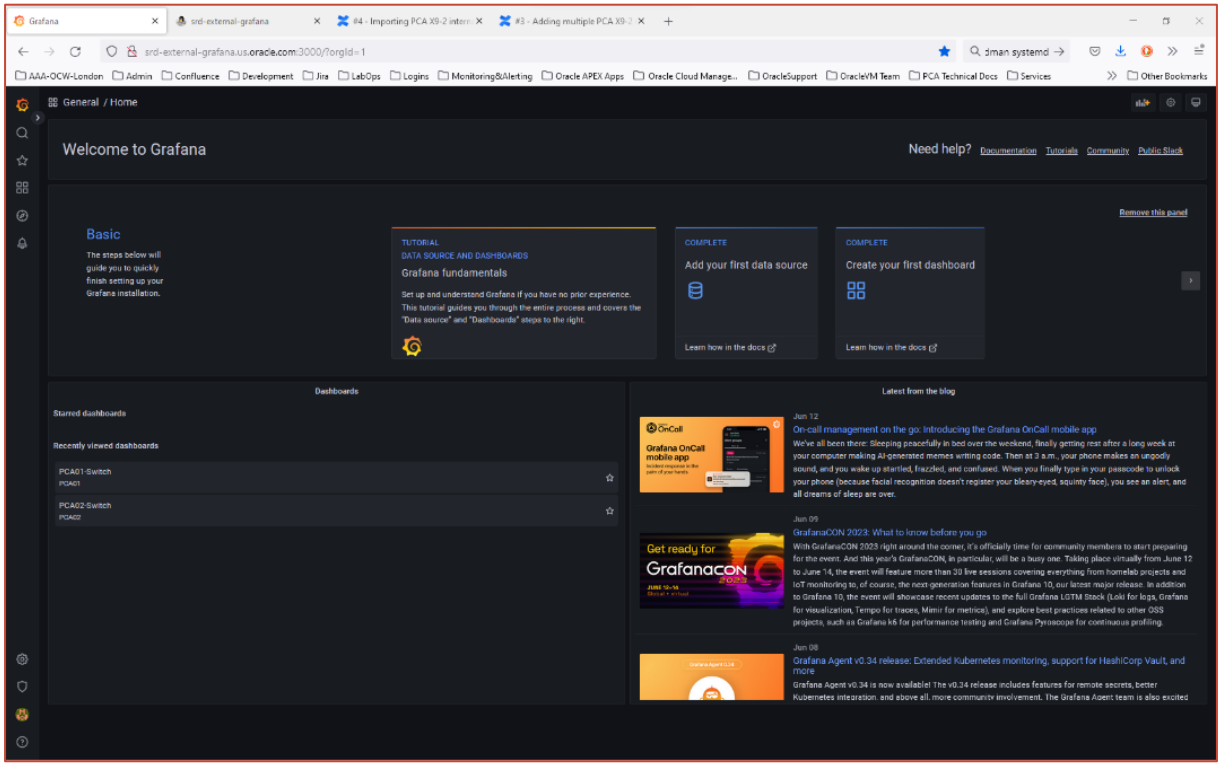


Import Dashboards – Imported Switch Dashboard for PCA01

As can be seen in the above screenshot, the folder (PCA01) and dashboard name (PCA01-Switch) are displayed in the top left of the screen and data is already being displayed.

Now repeat again for the second PCA.

Returning to the external Grafana home page now shows the two switch dashboards within the recently viewed dashboards panel:



Import Dashboards – Completed Imports

This same process of exporting & importing Grafana dashboards can then be repeated to populate the external Grafana Server instance with dedicated dashboards for each Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 system with a valid Prometheus data source defined.

This completes this section on importing Grafana dashboards into the external Grafana Server instance.

For some deployments, just having a single Grafana Server service which can provide a centralized monitoring and alerting reference point may be sufficient.

Further documents will show how this external Grafana Server service can be extended to:

- Combine multiple Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems within a single Grafana dashboard
- Provide in-depth monitoring and alerting capabilities at an operating systems level for:
  - VM instances running within the Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems
  - Physical and/or virtualized systems external to the Oracle Private Cloud Appliance X9-2 systems

Section References

The definitive source for information and instruction for configuring Grafana Server remains the Grafana documentation itself:

- Main Grafana Document Library – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/
- Grafana Dashboard Documentation – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/dashboards/

Reference Materials

The following reference URLs provide a consolidated summary of the various section references provided elsewhere within this document:

Oracle References

- Oracle Linux – Reference Library – https://docs.oracle.com/en/operating-systems/oracle-linux/9/
- Oracle Linux – Podman User Guide – https://docs.oracle.com/en/operating-systems/oracle-linux/podman/
- Oracle Linux – Using the Cockpit Web Console – https://docs.oracle.com/en/operating-systems/oracle-linux/cockpit/

Grafana References

- Grafana Document Library – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/
- Grafana Setup – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/setup-grafana/
- Grafana Administration – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/administration/
- Grafana Security – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/setup-grafana/configure-security/
- Grafana Alerting – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/alerting/
- Grafana Data Source documentation – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/datasources/
- Grafana Dashboard Documentation – https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/dashboards/

Other References

- Cockpit documentation – https://cockpit-project.org/documentation.html
- Performance Co-Pilot documentation – https://pcp.readthedocs.io/en/latest/
- Performance Co-Pilot documentation – Quick Reference Guide – https://pcp.readthedocs.io/en/latest/QG/QuickReferenceGuide.html

Connect with us

Call +**1.800.ORACLE1** or visit **oracle.com**. Outside North America, find your local office at: **oracle.com/contact**.

blogs.oracle.com facebook.com/oracle twitter.com/oracle