



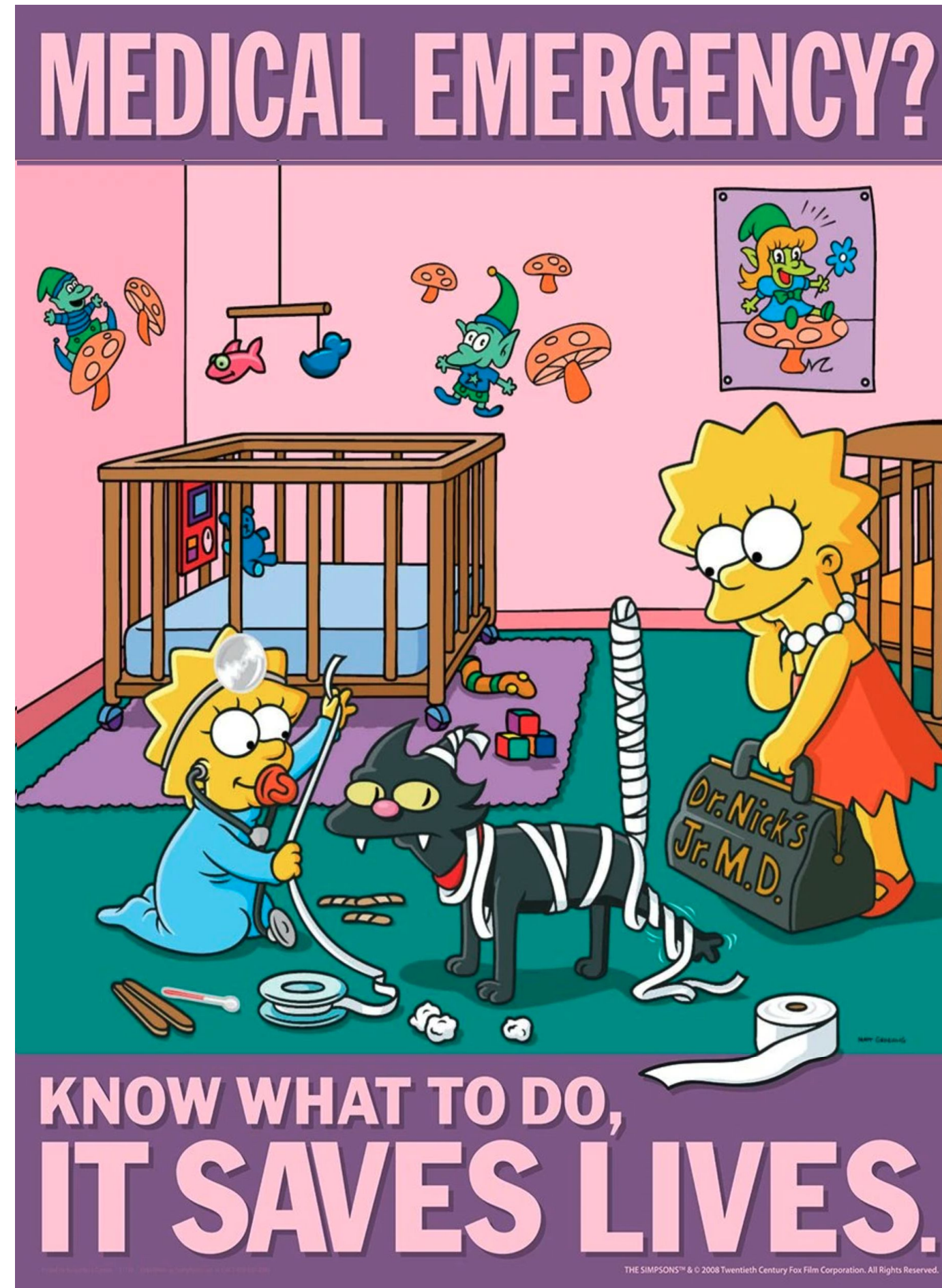
Community Conference 2021

Troubleshooting your Elasticsearch cluster like a Support Engineer

Janko Strassburg, Imma Valls
Sr. Support Engineers, Elastic
[@jankopueh](#), [@eyeveebee](#)



Cluster down!



**How can we
approach
troubleshooting?**



The hospital Emergency Room model



1 triage

- ✓ Vital signs
- ✓ Symptoms
- ✓ What happened?
- ✓ Was anything attempted to fix it?



URGENT?

NO

YES

Schedule appointment



2 diagnostics



engineers

- ✓ Github known issues
- ✓ Elastic discuss forums
- ✓ Stackoverflow
- ✓ Google

search

data interpretation

tools

- ✓ REST API calls / Support diagnostics
- ✓ Log analysis
- ✓ Monitoring data

Root Cause Analysis



3 treatment

- ✓ Tactical interventions

NO

STABLE?

YES

4 discharge



- ✓ Prevention strategies
- ✓ Best practices

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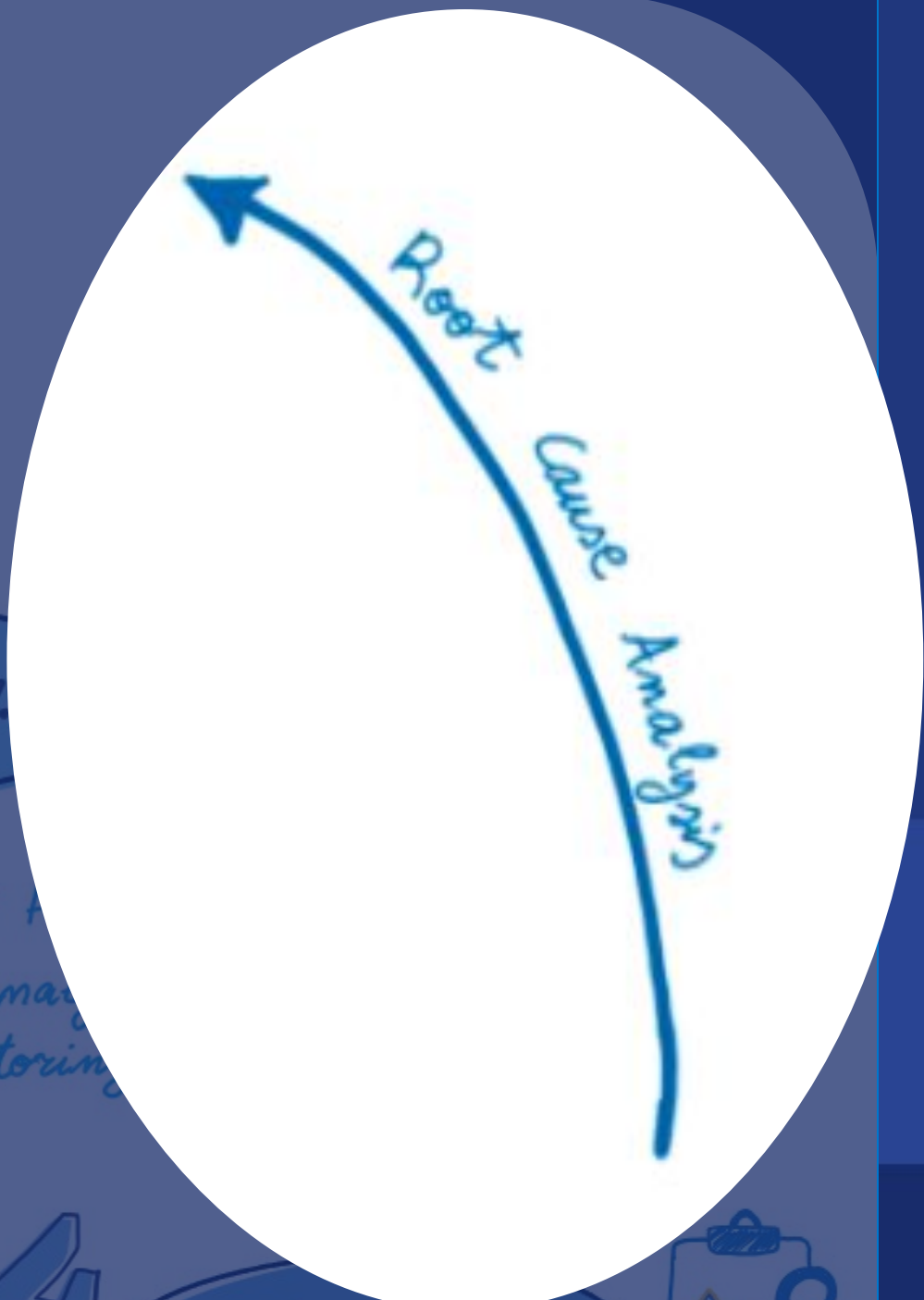
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- ✓ Prevention strategies
- ✓ Best practices

Most Common Issues?

slow search
cluster down
cluster upgrade
failed upgrade
error 429
high cpu
mapping issues
OutOfMemory
ingest stopped
nodes leaving
put template failing
watcher fails

Troubleshooting by Example



[Urgent Severity] Red cluster

Vital signs

- Cluster in red health
- No ingest into any indices

Symptoms

- Beats fail to ingest
- Cluster is responsive, search and REST API still work

```
Dev Tools
Console Search Profiler Grok Debugger Painless Lab BETA
History Settings Help
1 GET _cluster/health
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
1 {
2   "cluster_name" : "5dea7da7854a4f69b640e74744822a6c",
3   "status" : "red",
4   "timed_out" : false,
5   "number_of_nodes" : 1,
6   "number_of_data_nodes" : 1,
7   "active_primary_shards" : 37,
8   "active_shards" : 37,
9   "relocating_shards" : 0,
10  "initializing_shards" : 0,
11  "unassigned_shards" : 1,
12  "delayed_unassigned_shards" : 0,
13  "number_of_pending_tasks" : 0,
14  "number_of_in_flight_fetch" : 0,
15  "task_max_waiting_in_queue_millis" : 0,
16  "active_shards_percent_as_number" : 97.36842105263158
17 }
```



[Urgent Severity] **Red cluster**

What happened?

→ Out of the blue, no changes

Any attempts to fix it?

→ No

Next steps

→ Share a support diagnostics that will provide REST API calls

<https://www.elastic.co/blog/why-does-elastic-support-keep-asking-for-diagnostic-files>

<https://github.com/elastic/support-diagnostics/blob/main/src/main/resources/elastic-rest.yml>

<https://github.com/elastic/support-diagnostics>

```
> ./diagnostics.sh --host https://localhost -u elastic -p --port 9200 --ssl --type api --noVerify
```




[Urgent Severity] Red cluster

Why is the **cluster** red?

→ REST API calls - CAT Indices API

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/rest-apis.html>

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/cat-indices.html>

Console Search Profiler Grok Debugger Painless Lab **BETA**

History Settings Help

1	GET _cluster/health	1	health	status	index	docs.count	pri	rep
2		2	red	open	eventlogs-000007		1	0
3	GET /_cat/indices?help	3	green	open	.apm-agent-configuration	0	1	0
4		4	green	open	.apm-custom-link	0	1	0
5	GET _cat/indices?v&s=health:desc,index&h=health, status, index, docs.count, pri, rep	5	green	open	.async-search	0	1	0
6		6	green	open	.kibana-event-log-7.10.2-000001	270800	1	0
		7	green	open	.kibana_1	276	1	0



[Urgent Severity] Red cluster

Why is an **index red**?

→ Check shards that are not started:

INITIALIZING or **UNASSIGNED**

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/cat-shards.html>

```
1 GET _cluster/health
2
3 GET /_cat/indices?help
4
5 GET _cat/indices?v&s=health:desc,index&h=health
  ,status,index,docs.count,pri,rep
6
7 GET _cat/shards?v&s=state:asc,node,index&h=index
  ,shard,prirep,state,docs,node
```

index	shard	pri	rep	state	docs	node
eventlogs-000007	0	p		UNASSIGNED		
.apm-agent-configuration	0	p		STARTED	0	instance-0000000000
.apm-custom-link	0	p		STARTED	0	instance-0000000000
.async-search	0	p		STARTED	0	instance-0000000000
.kibana-event-log-7.10.2-000001	0	p		STARTED	270800	instance-0000000000
.kibana_1	0	p		STARTED	279	instance-0000000000
.kibana_security_session_1	0	p		STARTED		instance-0000000000
.kibana_task_manager_1	0	p		STARTED	17	instance-0000000000

History Settings Help

```
7 GET _cat/shards/eventlogs-000007?v&h=index,shard
  ,prirep,state,docs,node
8
9
```

index	shard	pri	rep	state	docs	node
eventlogs-000007	0	p		UNASSIGNED		



[Urgent Severity] **Red cluster**

Why is a **shard UNASSIGNED**?

→ Cluster allocation explain API

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/current/cluster-allocation-explain.html>

```
0
9 GET _cluster/allocation/explain
10 {
11   "index": "eventlogs-000007",
12   "shard": 0,
13   "primary": true
14 }
15
```



[Urgent Severity] Red cluster

Why is a shard UNASSIGNED?

```
{
  "index" : "eventlogs-000007",
  "shard" : 0,
  "primary" : true,
  "current_state" : "unassigned",
  "unassigned_info" : {
    "reason" : "INDEX_CREATED",
    "at" : "2021-02-24T09:18:30.138Z",
    "last_allocation_status" : "no"
  },
  "can_allocate" : "no",
  "allocate_explanation" : "cannot allocate because allocation is not permitted to any of the nodes",
  "node_allocation_decisions" : [
    {
      "node_id" : "XA31jb-eSgWtWTb9IfeuhQ",
      "node_name" : "instance-0000000000",
      "transport_address" : "172.27.148.253:19048",
      "node_attributes" : {
        "logical_availability_zone" : "zone-0",
        "server_name" : "instance-0000000000.5dea7da7854a4f69b640e74744822a6c",
        "availability_zone" : "eu-west-1c",
        "xpack_installed" : "true",
        "data" : "hot",
        "instance_configuration" : "aws.data.highio.i3",
        "transform.node" : "true",
        "region" : "eu-west-1"
      },
      "node_decision" : "no",
      "weight_ranking" : 1,
      "deciders" : [
        {
          "decider" : "disk_threshold",
          "decision" : "NO",
          "explanation" : "the node is above the high watermark cluster setting [cluster.routing.allocation.disk.watermark.high=90%], using more disk space than the maximum allowed [90.0%], actual free: [9.13542901901972%]"
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```



[Urgent Severity] Red cluster

Have we used all the cluster storage?

→ Use CAT Allocation API

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/cat-allocation.html>



shards	disk.indices	disk.used	disk.avail	disk.total	disk.percent	host	ip	node
37	12.5gb	19.1gb	1.9gb	21gb	91	172.27.148.253	172.27.148.253	instance-0000000000
1								UNASSIGNED



[Urgent Severity] Red cluster

Interpret data

→ Cluster reached its disk high watermark

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/modules-cluster.html#disk-based-shard-allocation>

```
History Settings Help
1 GET _cluster/settings
  ?include_defaults
  =true&filter_path=defaults
  .cluster.routing.allocation.disk
2
3
```

```
{
  "defaults": {
    "cluster": {
      "routing": {
        "allocation": {
          "disk": {
            "reroute_interval": "60s",
            "include_relocations": "true",
            "watermark": {
              "flood_stage": "95%",
              "high": "90%",
              "low": "85%",
            },
            "enable_for_single_data_node": "true"
          }
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```



[Urgent Severity] **Red cluster**

Interpret data

→ Existing indices are blocked for write

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/cluster-get-settings.html>

```
Console Search Profiler Grok Debugger Painless Lab BETA
History Settings Help
1 GET eventlogs-000001/_settings?flat_settings=true
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14 {
  1 {
  2 "eventlogs-000001" : {
  3 "settings" : {
  4 "index.blocks.read_only_allow_delete" : "true",
  5 "index.creation_date" : "1614108797416",
  6 "index.number_of_replicas" : "0",
  7 "index.number_of_shards" : "1",
  8 "index.provided_name" : "eventlogs-000001",
  9 "index.routing.allocation.include._tier_preference" : "data_content",
  10 "index.uuid" : "6V3cSKDyTdS0FhHyP2rGqA",
  11 "index.version.created" : "7100299"
  12 }
  13 }
  14 }
```



[Urgent Severity] **Red cluster**

Fixing the root cause

→ **Delete indices** to increase available storage

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/indices-delete-index.html>

Do we have **snapshots**? We can restore later.

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/snapshot-restore.html>

→ **Add nodes** or increase storage capacity (easier on cloud)

nodes in this tier ingest and process frequently queried data.

Configuration	aws.data.highio.i3	data_hot	data_content	coordinating	ingest		
Description	An I/O optimized Elasticsearch instance running on an AWS i3.						
RAM size							
RAM	1 GB	2 GB	4 GB	8 GB	15 GB	29 GB	58 GB
Storage	30 GB	60 GB	120 GB	240 GB	450 GB	870 GB	1.7 TB
No. of nodes	2	?					
Fault tolerance	<input type="radio"/> 1 zone	<input type="radio"/> 2 zones	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 zones				



[Urgent Severity] **Red cluster**

Temporary Hotfix

→ Alter the cluster settings to **temporarily** allow a higher disk usage

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/cluster-update-settings.html>

```
PUT _cluster/settings
{
  "transient": {
    "cluster.routing.allocation.disk.watermark.low": "100gb",
    "cluster.routing.allocation.disk.watermark.high": "150gb",
    "cluster.routing.allocation.disk.watermark.flood_stage": "100gb"
  }
}
```



[Urgent Severity] Red cluster

Remove write block on the indices

→ Once we have enough disk, remove the index block if needed

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/indices-update-settings.html>

```
PUT eventlogs-000001/_settings
{
  "index": {
    "blocks": {
      "read_only_allow_delete": null
    }
  }
}
```

```
1 {
2   "acknowledged" : true
3 }
4
```



[Urgent Severity] Red cluster

Bonus track

- If corrupted shards, and no snapshots, we can force allocation accepting potential data loss

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/cluster-reroute.html#cluster-reroute-api-request-body>

```
History Settings Help
1 POST _cluster/reroute
2 {
3   "commands": [
4     {
5       "allocate_empty_primary": {
6         "index": "eventlogs-000008", "shard": 2,
7         "node": "instance-0000000000"
8       }
9     }
10  ]
11 }
12
```



[Urgent Severity] **Red cluster**

Takeaways

→ Proactively **monitor disk usage** on each node / **Alerts**

Aim to 75% used storage to be on the safe side (< 85%)

→ Plan for data retention / deletion with **ILM** or **Data Tiers**

Index Lifecycle Management (ILM) can help automate

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/index-lifecycle-management.html>

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/data-tiers.html>

→ Snapshot / Snapshot Lifecycle Management (**SLM**) for backups

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/snapshot-lifecycle-management.html>

[Urgent Severity] Red cluster



Triage

- [Cluster health](#) is **red**
- Stopped ingesting
- Search works



Diagnostic

Reached high disk watermark

- [CAT APIs](#)
- [Allocation Explain](#)
- [Cluster](#) and [index](#) settings
- [Support diagnostics](#)



Treatment

- [Delete](#) indices
- Add data node/s
- [Update index settings](#) / allow write



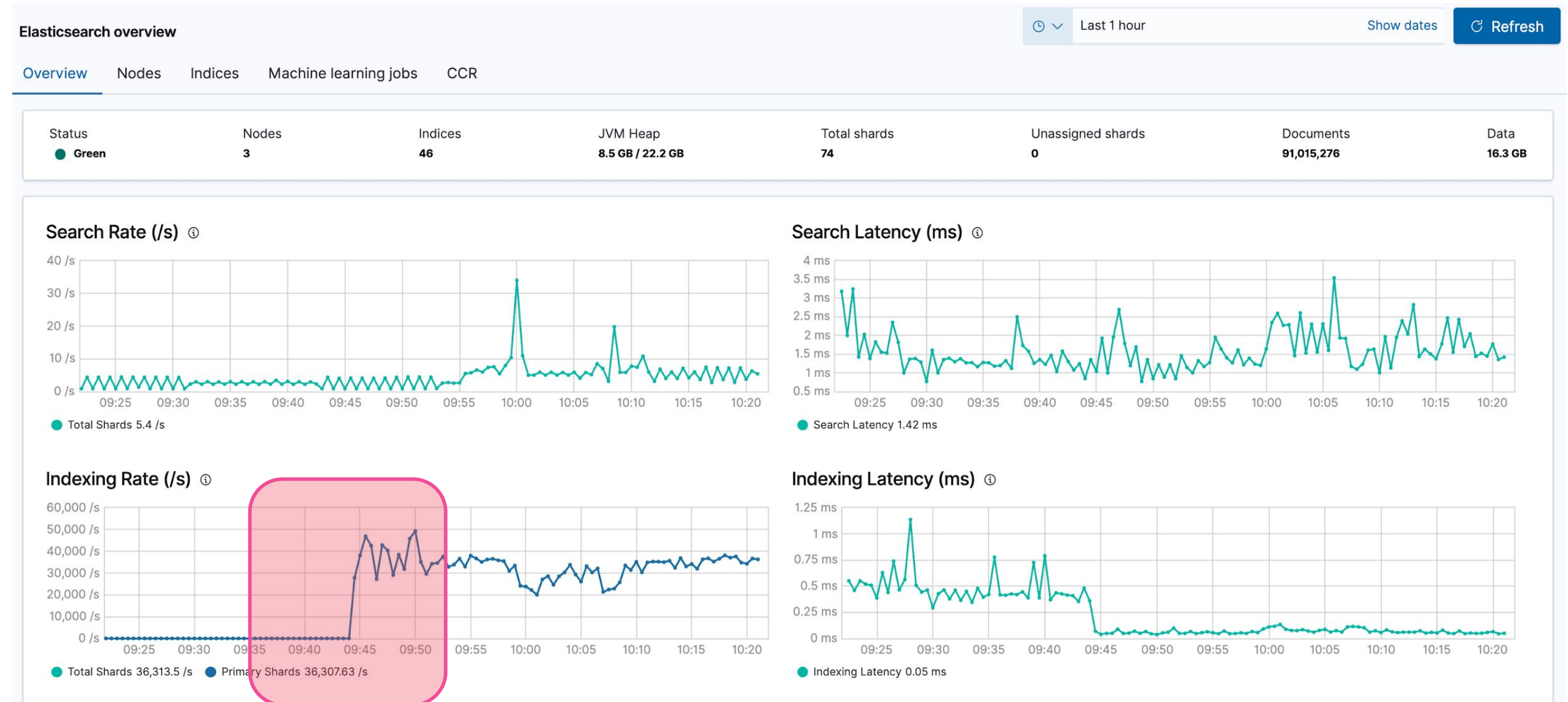
Discharge

- Proactively monitor disk usage (alerts)
- [Snapshots](#)
- [Index Lifecycle Management](#) deletes old data and manages replicas
- Data Tiers with [Cold Tier](#)

More Tools & Resources

→ Monitoring in production - dedicated cluster

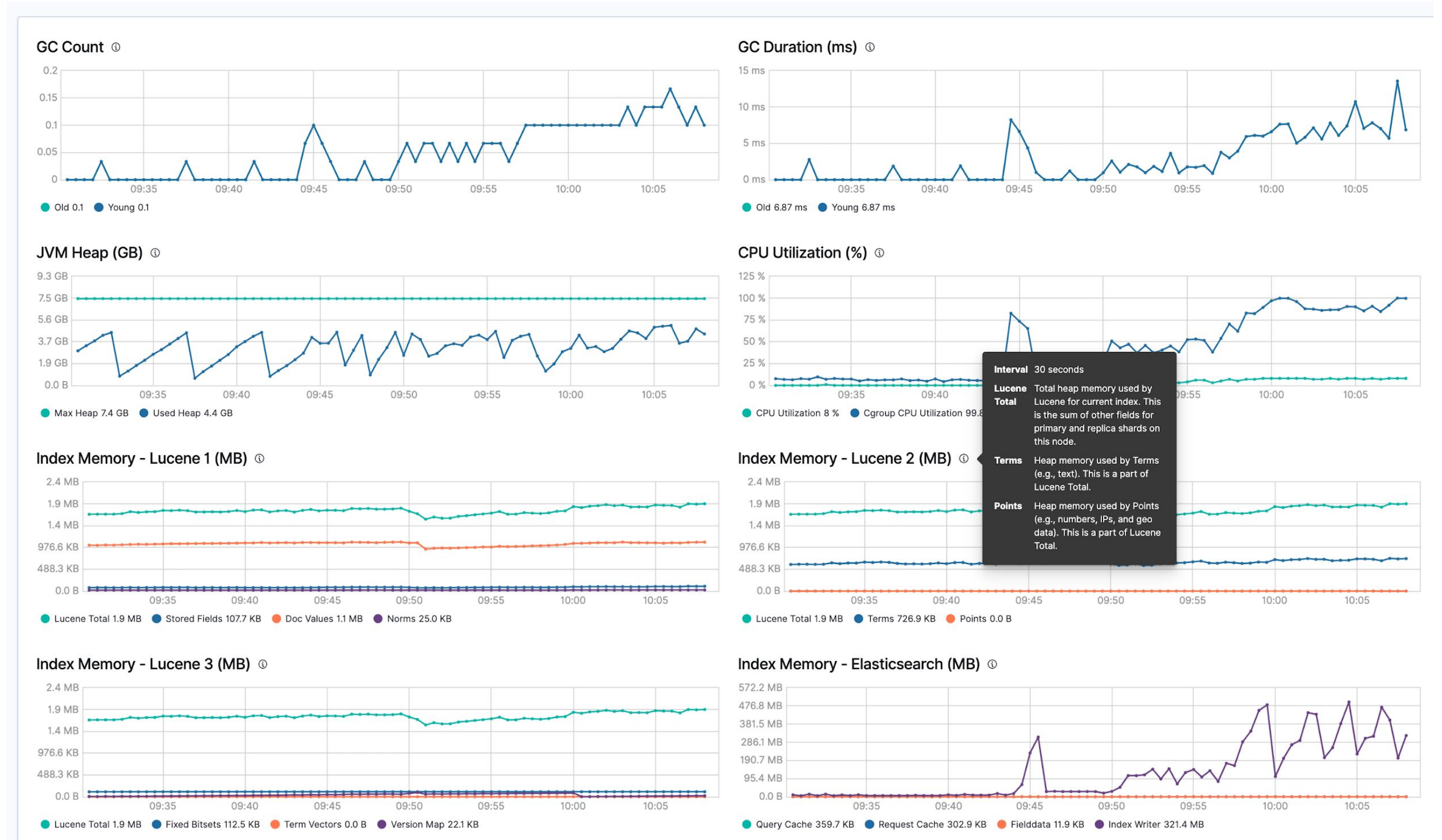
<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/monitoring-production.html>



Monitoring

→ Nodes' memory usage

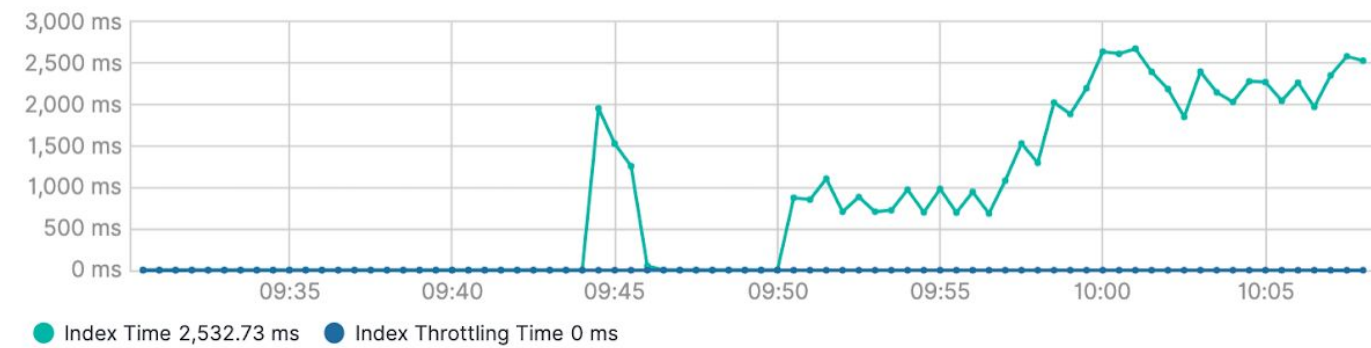
Monitoring



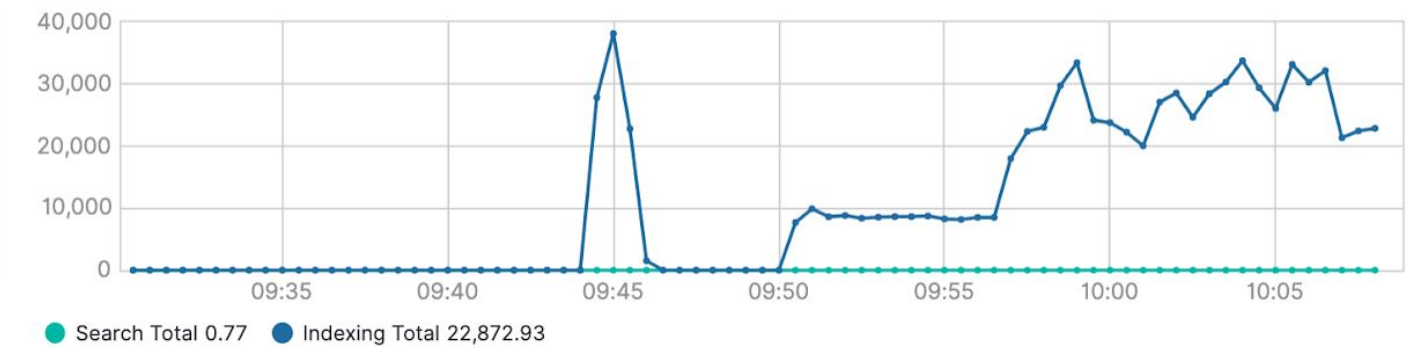
→ Ingest and Search queues and rejections

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/cat-thread-pool.html>

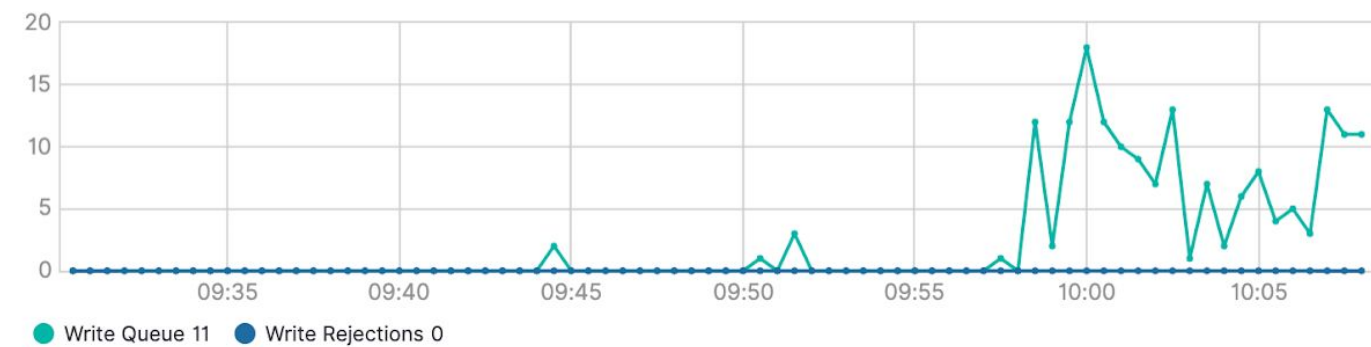
Indexing Time (ms) ⓘ



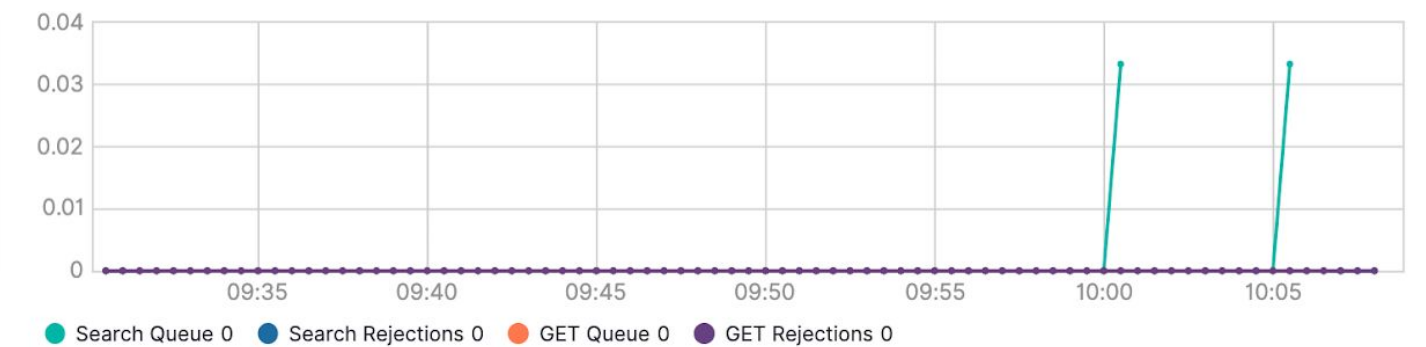
Request Rate ⓘ



Indexing Threads ⓘ



Read Threads ⓘ



Monitoring



→ Example - High CPU usage

The screenshot shows the Elasticsearch monitoring dashboard for a cluster named 'communityconf2021'. The 'Nodes' tab is selected, displaying a summary of cluster health and a table of node details. The cluster status is 'Green' with 2 alerts. The table lists three nodes, with the middle node (instance-000000009) showing 84.63% CPU usage and 725.3m CPU throttling. A red box highlights the CPU usage and throttling columns. An alert popup is visible for the high-CPU node, indicating a CPU usage of 88.95% at 10:01 AM CET on February 25, 2021. The popup includes links to 'Check hot threads' and 'Check long running tasks'.

Enter setup mode

Last 30 minutes Show dates

Elasticsearch nodes

Overview **Nodes** Indices Machine learning jobs CCR

Status	Alerts	Nodes	Indices	JVM Heap	Total shards	Unassigned shards	Documents	Data
Green	2	3	46	9.7 GB / 22.2 GB	74	0	64,783,434	13.3 GB

Filter Nodes...

Name ↑	Alerts	Status	Shards	CPU Usage	CPU Throttling	JVM Heap	Disk Free Space
instance-000000008 172.27.110.90:19203	Clear	Online	25	9.11%	0	44%	478.4 GB
instance-000000009 172.27.145.62:19862	1 alert	Online	25	84.63%	725.3m	48%	475.5 GB
instance-000000010 172.27.51.9:19607		Online	24	4.6%	0	23%	471.6 GB

Rows per page: 20

< 1 >

FEBRUARY 25, 2021 10:01:02 AM

Node [instance-000000009](#) is reporting cpu usage of 88.95% at February 25, 2021 10:01 AM CET

[Check hot threads](#)

[Check long running tasks](#)

Monitoring

→ Example - High CPU usage

Monitoring

Clusters / communityconf2021 / Elasticsearch

Elasticsearch indices Last 30 minutes Show dates Refresh

Overview Nodes **Indices** Machine learning jobs CCR

Status	Nodes	Indices	JVM Heap	Total shards	Unassigned shards	Documents	Data
● Green	3	46	7.8 GB / 22.2 GB	74	0	70,058,569	13.9 GB

Filter for system indices

Filter Indices...

Name	Status	Document Count	Data	Index Rate ↓	Search Rate	Unassigned Shards
logs-211998	● Green	15.2m	1,001.0 MB	8,476.56 /s	0 /s	0
logs-201998	● Green	13.1m	880.4 MB	7,251.92 /s	0 /s	0
eventdata	● Green	9.8m	2.3 GB	5,740.37 /s	0 /s	0
logs-191998	● Green	9.7m	671.6 MB	5,387.71 /s	0 /s	0
logs-181998	● Green	2.7m	188.8 MB	1,504.86 /s	0 /s	0
logs-221998	● Green	0	6.3 MB	178.46 /s	0 /s	0
logs-231998	● Green	0	208.0 B	0 /s	0 /s	0
logs-241998	● Green	0	208.0 B	0 /s	0 /s	0
kibana_sample_data_ecommerce	● Green	4.7k	8.7 MB	0 /s	0 /s	0
eventlogs-000003	● Green	2.4m	1.0 GB	0 /s	0 /s	0
eventlogs-000002	● Green	2.4m	1.0 GB	0 /s	0 /s	0
eventlogs-000001	● Green	5m	2.1 GB	0 /s	0 /s	0

→ Example - High CPU usage

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/cat-shards.html>

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/cluster-nodes-hot-threads.html>

History Settings Help	
1	GET _cat/shards/logs-*,eventdata*?v&s=node&h=index,shard,prerep,docs,node
2	
3	GET logs-221998/_settings

id	index	shard	prerep	docs	node
1	logs-191998	0	p	9697882	instance-0000000008
2	logs-221998	0	p	8072360	instance-0000000008
3	logs-181998	0	p	2708746	instance-0000000009
4	logs-241998	0	p	0	instance-0000000009
5	eventdata	0	p	14072991	instance-0000000009
6	logs-211998	0	p	17647279	instance-0000000009
7	logs-201998	0	p	13053463	instance-0000000010

And CAT APIs again!

History Settings Help	
1	GET _cat/shards/logs-*,eventdata*?v&s=node&h=index,shard,prerep,docs,node
2	
3	GET logs-221998/_settings

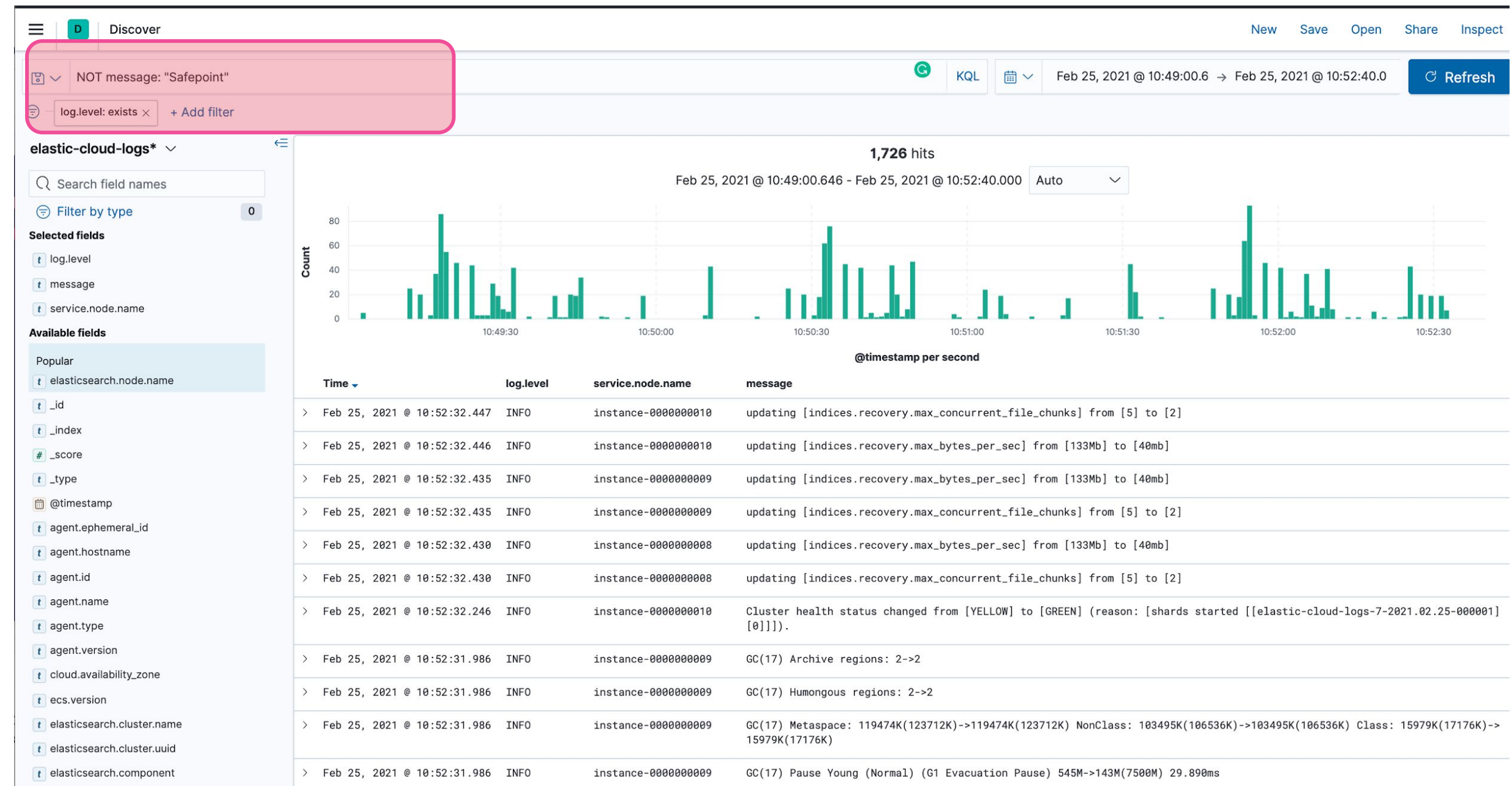

```
1- {
2-   "logs-221998" : {
3-     "settings" : {
4-       "index" : {
5-         "routing" : {
6-           "allocation" : {
7-             "include" : {
8-               "_tier_preference" : "data_content"
9-             }
10-          }
11-        },
12-        "number_of_shards" : "1",
13-        "provided_name" : "logs-221998",
14-        "creation_date" : "1614242653881",
15-        "requests" : {
16-          "cache" : {
17-            "enable" : "false"
18-          }
19-        },
20-        "number_of_replicas" : "0",
21-        "uuid" : "Qd21tmIMTKyf8v9PL_7_RQ",
22-        "version" : {
23-          "created" : "7100299"
24-        }
25-      }
26-    }
27-  }
28- }
```

→ Elasticsearch Logging

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/logging.html>

<https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/configuring-filebeat.html>

Log Analysis



Common Resources Shared

Sizing - how many shards per node and what size

- <https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/size-your-shards.html>
- <https://www.elastic.co/blog/how-many-shards-should-i-have-in-my-elasticsearch-cluster>
- <https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/cloud/current/ec-reference-hardware.html>
- <https://benchmarks.elastic.co/>
- <https://esrally.readthedocs.io/>

Storage

- <https://www.elastic.co/blog/how-to-design-your-elasticsearch-data-storage-architecture-for-scale>
- <https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/tune-for-disk-usage.html>

JVM Heap - do not go over ~30Gb heap

- <https://www.elastic.co/blog/a-heap-of-trouble>

Hot/Warm/Cold architectures for time series data

- <https://www.elastic.co/blog/optimizing-costs-elastic-cloud-hot-warm-index-lifecycle-management>

Common Resources Shared

Tuning for search - slow searches

- <https://www.elastic.co/blog/advanced-tuning-finding-and-fixing-slow-elasticsearch-queries>
- <https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/tune-for-search-speed.html>

Tuning for ingest - use bulk!

- <https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/tune-for-indexing-speed.html>
- <https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/7.11/docs-bulk.html>

Upgrading the Stack - be prepared, test and snapshots!

- <https://www.elastic.co/webinars/expert-tips-for-upgrading-the-elk-stack>
- <https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elastic-stack/7.11/upgrading-elastic-stack.html>

Secure the Stack

- <https://www.elastic.co/blog/configuring-ssl-tls-and-https-to-secure-elasticsearch-kibana-beats-and-logstash>

Optimize Mappings

- <https://www.elastic.co/blog/strings-are-dead-long-live-strings>

Wrapping Up



Triage incidents

- How critical is it?
- Do we need urgent care or is there a workaround to stabilize?



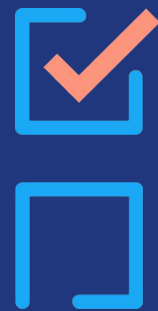
Have tools ready

- REST APIs / Support diagnostics
- Monitoring & Alerts
- Log Analysis / Kibana Discover
- Search Elastic discuss, Stackoverflow, Elastic GitHub repos, etc..



Lessons learned

- Follow best practices
- Prevent future incidents - proactively investigate unexpected logs, etc.



Q & A

Thank You

