

## Learning Objectives

The learning objectives in the tutorial are:

- Installing a monitoring stack on the cloud server
- Understand how the components of the monitoring stack work together/are interlinked
- Being able to create panels with plots to display data collected by the monitoring stack

## Tools

- InfluxDB, Telegraf
- Grafana
- Centos 8 server
- an editor (vim, nano,...)
- bash
- browser

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## Installing InfluxDB 1: Tutorial (20 min)

Goal of this task is to set up the InfluxDB v2x, which is the foundation for the rest of the tutorial. After this the InfluxDB should be running and the following information is available for the further tasks:

- `< influxip >` - IP of the InfluxDB server: not the floating ip
- `< influxport >` - Port of InfluxDB: the port the InfluxDB will listen to
- `< org >` - Organization Name - the organization of the database within InfluxDB
- `< bucket >` - Bucket Name - the name of the database within InfluxDB
- `< influxuser >` - the main user for the Bucket
- `< influxpassword >` Password - password of the user for the bucket
- `< token >` Token - the access token to access the bucket
- `< grafanaadminpass >` - the password for the admin access of the grafana server (application)
- `< frontendfloatingip >` - the floating ip of the frontend server

The term bucket will be explained a little bit more later.

It should be ensured that the data listed above is stored somewhere - e.g. a pad or in a local editor - for easy access.

The `< frontendfloatingip >` can be found in the cloud administration tool [cloud.gwdg.de](https://cloud.gwdg.de)

### 1.1 Install the packages

The database for storing the metrics provided by the different agent on the systems to monitor has to be set up first. This will be done on the **frontend server**.

- Login to the server via ssh.
- `$ ifconfig`
- note down the `inet` ip adress of `eth0` as `< influxip >` w/o the netmask: e.g if the `inet` is 10.254.1.9/24 `< influxip >` would be 10.254.1.9
- note down "8086" as `< influxport >` (will be changed later - just in case)

The standard Redhat/Centos package manager **yum** is used to install the InfluxDB. The repository is not yet in the repository list of **yum** and has to be added. Copy the following bash code block to the bash and execute it:

```
cat <<EOF | sudo tee /etc/yum.repos.d/influxdb.repo
[influxdb]
name = InfluxDB Repository { RHEL \${releasever}
baseurl = https://repos.influxdata.com/rhel/\${releasever}/\${basearch}/stable
enabled = 1
gpgcheck = 1
gpgkey = https://repos.influxdata.com/influxdb.key
EOF
```

The InfluxDB repository should have been added. Now the InfluxDB and its according commandline tools can be installed:

- `$ sudo yum install influxdb2 influxdb2-cli --nogpgcheck`
- confirm the installation of the two packages

In order to set the InfluxDB2 up the according service has to be started:

```
$ sudo systemctl start influxdb
```

This gives no feedback. In order to check if the system is running, the status can be checked via

```
$ sudo systemctl status influxdb
```

The output should be similar to this and should not contain errors or the info that the service did not start:

```
1 influxdb.service - InfluxDB is an open-source, distributed, time series database
2   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/influxdb.service; enabled; vendor preset: disabled)
3   Active: active (running) since Wed 2023-02-15 20:59:20 CET; 1h 16min ago
4     Docs: https://docs.influxdata.com/influxdb/
5   Main PID: 1777 (influxd)
6     Tasks: 10 (limit: 11167)
7   Memory: 22.0M
8   CGroup: /system.slice/influxdb.service
9           1777 /usr/bin/influxd -config /etc/influxdb/influxdb.conf
10
11 Feb 15 21:04:12 influx.novalocal influxd-systemd-start.sh[1777]: ts=2023-02-15T20:04:12.537837Z lvl=info
12   ↪ msg="Executing query" log_id=0g1fPRtW000 service=query query="SHOW DATABASES"
13 Feb 15 21:04:12 influx.novalocal influxd-systemd-start.sh[1777]: [httpd] ::1 - - [15/Feb/2023:21:04:12
14   ↪ +0100] "GET /query?q=SHOW+DATABASES HTTP/1.1" 200 109 "-" "curl/7.61.1"
15   ↪ ea7acf28-ad6b-11ed-8003-fa163e2e1076 332
16 Feb 15 21:18:13 influx.novalocal influxd-systemd-start.sh[1777]: [httpd] ::1 - - [15/Feb/2023:21:18:13
17   ↪ +0100] "POST /api/v2/query?org=hpcsa HTTP/1.1" 403 100 "-" "influx/2.6.1 (linux) Sha/61c5b4d
18   ↪ Date/2022-12-29T15:41:09Z" dfa73235-ad6d-11ed-8004-fa163e2e1076 107
19 Feb 15 21:18:24 influx.novalocal influxd-systemd-start.sh[1777]: [httpd] ::1 - - [15/Feb/2023:21:18:24
20   ↪ +0100] "POST /api/v2/query?org=hpcsa HTTP/1.1" 403 100 "-" "influx/2.6.1 (linux) Sha/61c5b4d
21   ↪ Date/2022-12-29T15:41:09Z" e6389dcb-ad6d-11ed-8005-fa163e2e1076 89
22 Feb 15 21:29:19 influx.novalocal influxd-systemd-start.sh[1777]: ts=2023-02-15T20:29:19.633746Z lvl=info
23   ↪ msg="Retention policy deletion check (start)" log_id=0g1fPRtW000 service=retention
24   ↪ trace_id=0g1h7J_G000 op_name=retention_delete_check op_event=start
25 Feb 15 21:29:19 influx.novalocal influxd-systemd-start.sh[1777]: ts=2023-02-15T20:29:19.633798Z lvl=info
26   ↪ msg="Retention policy deletion check (end)" log_id=0g1fPRtW000 service=retention
27   ↪ trace_id=0g1h7J_G000 op_name=retention_delete_check op_event=end op_elapsed=0.065ms
28 Feb 15 21:43:24 influx.novalocal influxd-systemd-start.sh[1777]: [httpd] ::1 - - [15/Feb/2023:21:43:24
29   ↪ +0100] "GET /health HTTP/1.1" 200 107 "-" "influx/2.6.1 (linux) Sha/61c5b4d
30   ↪ Date/2022-12-29T15:41:09Z" 647410e2-ad71-11ed-8006-fa163e2e1076 110
31 Feb 15 21:59:19 influx.novalocal influxd-systemd-start.sh[1777]: ts=2023-02-15T20:59:19.633744Z lvl=info
32   ↪ msg="Retention policy deletion check (start)" log_id=0g1fPRtW000 service=retention
33   ↪ trace_id=0g1iqApG000 op_name=retention_delete_check op_event=start
34 Feb 15 21:59:19 influx.novalocal influxd-systemd-start.sh[1777]: ts=2023-02-15T20:59:19.633849Z lvl=info
35   ↪ msg="Retention policy deletion check (end)" log_id=0g1fPRtW000 service=retention
36   ↪ trace_id=0g1iqApG000 op_name=retention_delete_check op_event=end op_elapsed=0.116ms
37 Feb 15 22:13:52 influx.novalocal influxd-systemd-start.sh[1777]: [httpd] ::1 - - [15/Feb/2023:22:13:52
38   ↪ +0100] "GET /health HTTP/1.1" 200 107 "-" "influx/2.6.1 (linux) Sha/61c5b4d
39   ↪ Date/2022-12-29T15:41:09Z" a61e6767-ad75-11ed-8007-fa163e2e1076 64
```

To ensure that this service will be started after a boot it needs to be enabled permanently:

```
$ sudo systemctl enable influxdb
```

## Hints

- The reason to use the option `--nogpgcheck` is an issue with the gpg-keys that confirm the identity of the binary packages that are installed via yum. Usually these *fingerprints* should be adapted by the package provider when building new versions, but this seems to be not the case. It is usually not recommended



The token will be important later and allows accessing the database via the port. Note the token down as `< token >`.

In this example output the token is

```
“slgaGixZXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXw==”
```

- as this is different for every single config and installation the example token shown here can not be used, so ensure that you use your token from your output.

### 1.3 Change port of InfluxDB

In case that another port has to be used by influx it can be changed by editing the config files. In this case that is required in order to allow later access to the influx web interface. This can be done by appending the according address to the InfluxDB server config and of course by adapting the config for the Influx CLI tool. The following has to be executed line by line.

```
echo http-bind-address = \":8009\" | sudo tee -a /etc/influxdb/config.toml
sudo systemctl restart influxdb
sed -i s/8086/8009/g ~/.influxdbv2/configs
```

#### Important!

The `$ tee` command with the `-a` option appends a line to an existing file. If the given command is executed multiple times, e.g. to configure another port for the `http-bind-address` the config file will end up with having multiple lines defining that option. When restarting the InfluxDB service will fail due to a malformed config while giving a non explanatory log output. In that case the wrong `http-bind-address` lines in the config file `/etc/influxdb/config.toml` have to be removed.

To check if the InfluxDB has been restarted with the correct port:

```
$ sudo systemctl status influxdb | grep port
```

The output should show that InfluxDB uses port 8009 now:

```
1 Feb 16 21:58:42 worker.novalocal influxd-systemd-start.sh[11730]: ts=2023-02-16T20:58:42.601641Z lvl=info
  ↳ msg=Listening log_id=0g30CKUG000 service=tcp-listener transport=http addr=:8009 port=8009
```

The `< influxport >` value in the notes has to be modified to be “8009”, too.

## Installing Telegraf 2: Tutorial (20 min)

In order to fill the database at least one node agent has to run in order provide metrics to the InfluxDB. This will be done in this tutorial.

### 2.1 Install package

The initial Telegraf agent will be installed on the frontend as this is the only machine with access to the internet which is required for an easy download and install of the Telegraf package.

Telegraf is part of the InfluxDB repository and needs the same repository setup as InfluxDB. Therefore, Telegraf can just be installed as InfluxDB repos has already been added to the repository list of the frontend server.

```
$ sudo yum install telegraf --nogpgcheck
```

The service is now installed but not started yet. Telegraf will not run with the default configuration - it has to be modified first.

## 2.2 Configure telegraf

In order to run Telegraf it has to be configured properly. At least one input and one output plugin has to be configured. The standard input plugin is configured, but the output is not yet done.

The information to be provided in the config in the following steps are the `< influxip >`, `< influxport >`, `< bucket >`, `< org >` and `< token >` from the InfluxDB setup. This information is used by the Telegraf agent to contact InfluxDB and access the database (bucket) that has been defined.

### Steps

1. open the file `/etc/telegraf/telegraf.conf` with an editor using sudo (e.g sudo nano)
  - if nano is not installed it must be installed via `$ sudo yum install nano`
2. search for the section `[[outputs.influxdb_v2]]`
3. uncomment (remove the leading `#`) and modify following entries according to the data collected during the influxdb config:
  - `# [[outputs.influxdb_v2]]` → just uncomment
  - `# urls = ["http://127.0.0.1:8086"]` → `urls = ["http://< influxip >:< influxport >"]`
  - `# token = ""` → `token = "< token >"`
  - `# organization = ""` → `organization = "< org >"`
  - `# bucket = ""` → `bucket = "< bucket >"`
4. save the file and leave the editor (for nano CTRL-o, Return, CTRL-X)

To check if the configuration is correct:

```
$ telegraf
```

If there are no errors in the Telegraf output the config is ok:

```
1 023-02-16T06:07:26Z I! Using config file: /etc/telegraf/telegraf.conf
2 2023-02-16T06:07:26Z I! Starting Telegraf 1.25.2
3 2023-02-16T06:07:26Z I! Available plugins: 228 inputs, 9 aggregators, 26 processors, 21 parsers, 57
  ↪ outputs, 2 secret-stores
4 2023-02-16T06:07:26Z I! Loaded inputs: cpu disk diskio kernel mem processes swap system
5 2023-02-16T06:07:26Z I! Loaded aggregators:
6 2023-02-16T06:07:26Z I! Loaded processors:
7 2023-02-16T06:07:26Z I! Loaded secretstores:
8 2023-02-16T06:07:26Z I! Loaded outputs: influxdb_v2
9 2023-02-16T06:07:26Z I! Tags enabled: host=worker2.novalocal
10 2023-02-16T06:07:26Z I! [agent] Config: Interval:10s, Quiet:false, Hostname:"worker2.novalocal", Flush
  ↪ Interval:10s
11 ^C2023-02-16T06:07:43Z I! [agent] Hang on, flushing any cached metrics before shutdown
```

This output shows which plugins are loaded for input and output.

To stop telegraf:

```
$ CTRL-C
```

Now the telegraf service can be started and enabled:

```
$ sudo systemctl start telegraf
$ sudo systemctl enable telegraf
```

Check if telegraf has been started:

```
$ sudo systemctl status telegraf
```

## Hints

- the pre-configured standard plugin configuration can be found in the section `[[inputs.cpu]]` of the `/etc/telegraf/telegraf.conf` file. More details to the settings/metrics for this plugin can be found on the according «CPU Input Plugin» webpage.

## 2.3 Smoke test for Telegraf-InfluxDB connection

The influx commandline tools can be used to check if data is arriving in the influxdb. On the *frontend* do:

```
$ influx query
```

This opens a query pipeline. The influx tool now waits for a query. Copy this query to the shell with the query pipeline

```
from(bucket: "<bucket>") |> range(start: -10m)
```

Press Ctrl-d, Ctrl-d to execute the query

This should give some output with table info, system info and data. Depending of the amount of data it will look like:

```
1 Table: keys: [_start, _stop, _field, _measurement, device, fstype, host, mode, path]
2   _start:time _stop:time _field:string _measurement:string device:string fstype:string
3   ↪ host:string mode:string path:string _time:time _value:int
4 -----
5   ↪ -----
6   ↪ -----
7   ↪ -----
8 2023-02-16T06:05:22.994420188Z 2023-02-16T06:15:22.994420188Z free disk vda1 ext4 worker2.novalocal rw /
9   ↪ 2023-02-16T06:07:30.000000000Z 18264272896
10 Table: keys: [_start, _stop, _field, _measurement, device, fstype, host, mode, path]
11   _start:time _stop:time _field:string _measurement:string device:string fstype:string
12   ↪ host:string mode:string path:string _time:time _value:int
13 -----
14   ↪ -----
15   ↪ -----
16   ↪ -----
17 2023-02-16T06:05:22.994420188Z 2023-02-16T06:15:22.994420188Z inodes_free disk vda1 ext4 worker2.novalocal
18   ↪ rw / 2023-02-16T06:07:30.000000000Z 1274475
19 Table: keys: [_start, _stop, _field, _measurement, device, fstype, host, mode, path]
20   _start:time _stop:time _field:string _measurement:string device:string fstype:string
21   ↪ host:string mode:string path:string _time:time : _value:int
22 -----
23   ↪ -----
24   ↪ -----
25   ↪ -----
26 2023-02-16T06:05:22.994420188Z 2023-02-16T06:15:22.994420188Z inodes_total disk vda1 ext4
27   ↪ worker2.novalocal rw / 2023-02-16T06:07:30.000000000Z 1310720
28 Table: keys: [_start, _stop, _field, _measurement, device, fstype, host, mode, path]
29   _start:time _stop:time _field:string _measurement:string device:string fstype:string
30   ↪ host:string mode:string path:string _time:time _value:int
31 -----
32   ↪ -----
33   ↪ -----
34   ↪ -----
35 2023-02-16T06:05:22.994420188Z 2023-02-16T06:15:22.994420188Z inodes_used disk vda1 ext4 worker2.novalocal
36   ↪ rw / 2023-02-16T06:07:30.000000000Z 36245
37 Table: keys: [_start, _stop, _field, _measurement, device, fstype, host, mode, path]
38   _start:time _stop:time _field:string _measurement:string device:string fstype:string
39   ↪ host:string mode:string path:string _time:time _value:int
```

```

19 -----
   ↪ -----
   ↪ -----
   ↪ -----
20 2023-02-16T06:05:22.994420188Z 2023-02-16T06:15:22.994420188Z total disk vda1 ext4 worker2.novalocal rw /
   ↪ 2023-02-16T06:07:30.000000000Z 21046689792
21 Table: keys: [_start, _stop, _field, _measurement, device, fstype, host, mode, path]
22   _start:time _stop:time _field:string _measurement:string device:string fstype:string
   ↪ host:string mode:string path:string _time:time _value:int

```

## Installing Grafana and setting up a simple dashboard 3: Tutorial (35 min)

Grafana will be used to display data collected by the Telegraf agent. In the following the Grafana service/server will be setup and configured. At the end a simple dashboard will be created.

### 3.1 Installing Grafana package

Grafana will be the outward facing user interface that will be used to display plots from time-series data. Therefore it needs to be installed on the *frontend*:

```
$ sudo yum install grafana
```

This will install two packages.

Before starting Grafana the port has to be adjusted to avoid conflicts:

- open `/etc/grafana/grafana.ini` in an editor with sudo right (e.g `sudo nano` - install it if not installed)
- search for the option `http_port`
- set the value to 8000
- save the file and exit

Now the Grafana server can be started:

```
$ sudo systemctl start grafana-server
```

The status should be checked as before with InfluxDB and Telegraf.

```
$ sudo systemctl status grafana-server
```

If the server is running it should be checked if the port is set correctly to "8000":

```
$ sudo systemctl status grafana-server | grep address
```

The output should show the correct port to be used by grafana-server:

```

1 Feb 17 06:57:16 frontend.novalocal grafana-server[27906]: t=2023-02-17T06:57:16+0100 lvl=info msg="HTTP
   ↪ Server Listen" logger=http.server address=[::]:8000 protocol=http subUrl= socket=

```

If everything is ok the service can be enabled permanently:

```
$ sudo systemctl enable grafana-server
```

### 3.2 First admin login

Setting up Grafana is done via the web-interface. Grafana provides its own web server. First the "admin" account has to be setup. This happens automatically when trying to login to Grafana for the first time.



## Steps

1. open a browser
2. URL to use: < *frontendfloatingip* >:8000
3. enter “admin” as user name
4. enter “admin” as password
5. Grafana ask for a new password and the according confirmation - enter an arbitrary password
6. the password should be noted down as < *grafanaadminpass* > - just in case

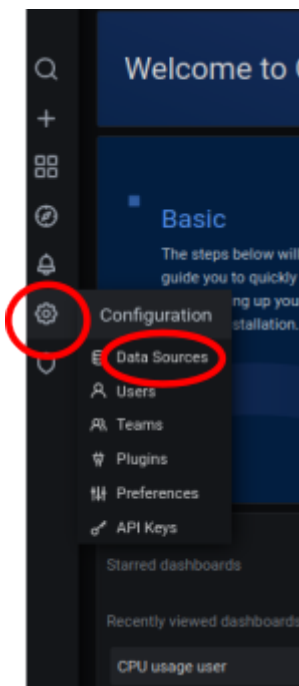
## Hints

- If you loose the Grafana admin password it can be reset on the frontend:  
`$ sudo grafana-cli --homepath "/usr/share/grafana" admin reset-admin-password <new password>`

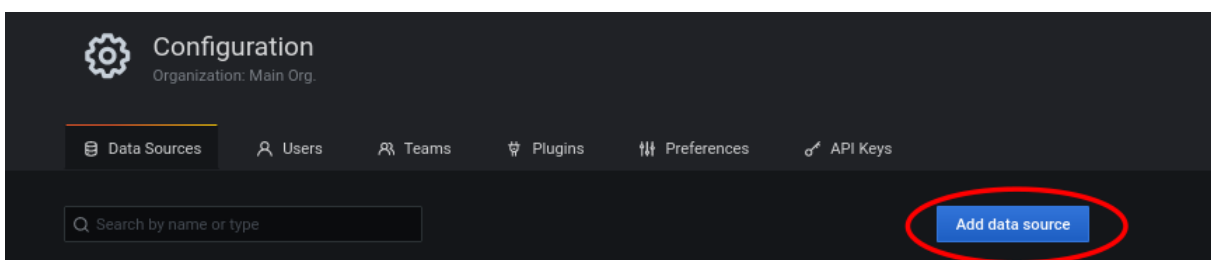
### 3.3 Create datasource

In order to display data in Grafana the application requires the information where and how to retrieve the data from. This is information a “Datasource”. It is possible to define multiple datasources, but in this case only one is created.

As “admin” on the Grafana server select “Configuration – Data Sources” from the toolbar on the left:

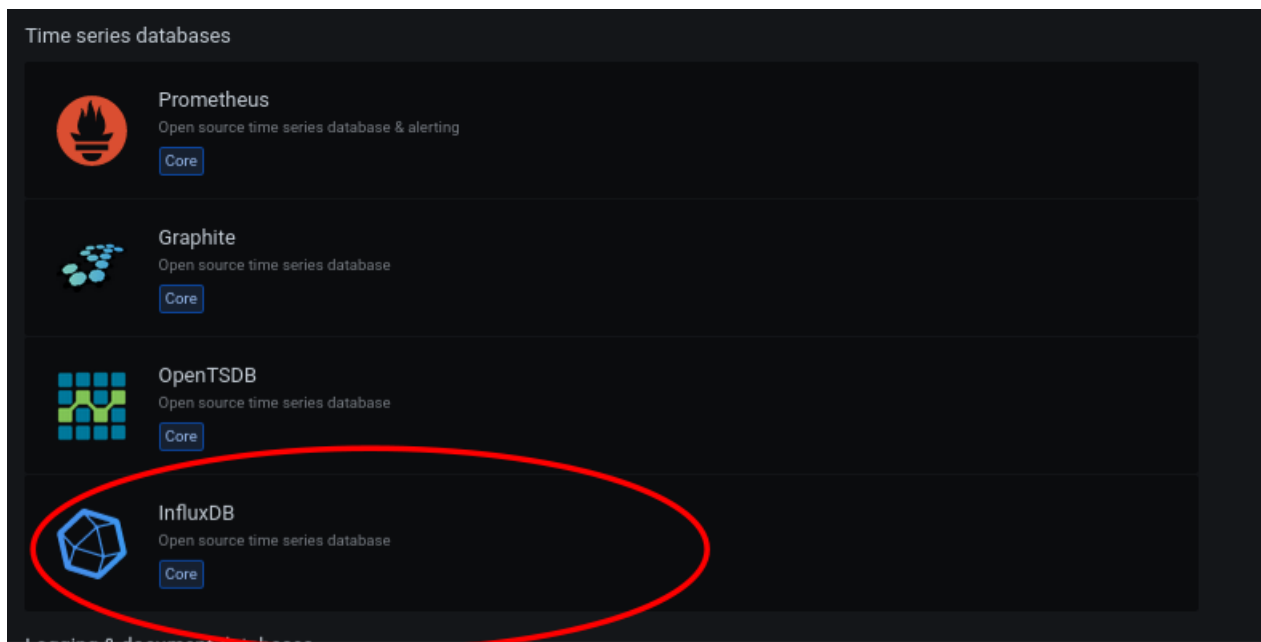


To add a datasource select the “Add data source” button:



Now the data gathered before has to be provided in the form:

Select the option “InfluxDB” in the section time series db:



Fill out the given form with the collected information, check the image and the text below for hints:

Settings

Name  Default

### Query Language

---

Support for Flux in Grafana is currently in beta  
 Please report any issues to:  
<https://github.com/grafana/grafana/issues>

### HTTP

URL

Access  [Help >](#)

Whitelisted Cookies  [Add](#)

### Auth

Basic auth  With Credentials

TLS Client Auth  With CA Cert

Skip TLS Verify

Forward OAuth Identity

### Basic Auth Details

User

Password

### Custom HTTP Headers

[+ Add header](#)

### InfluxDB Details

Organization

Token

Default Bucket

Min time interval

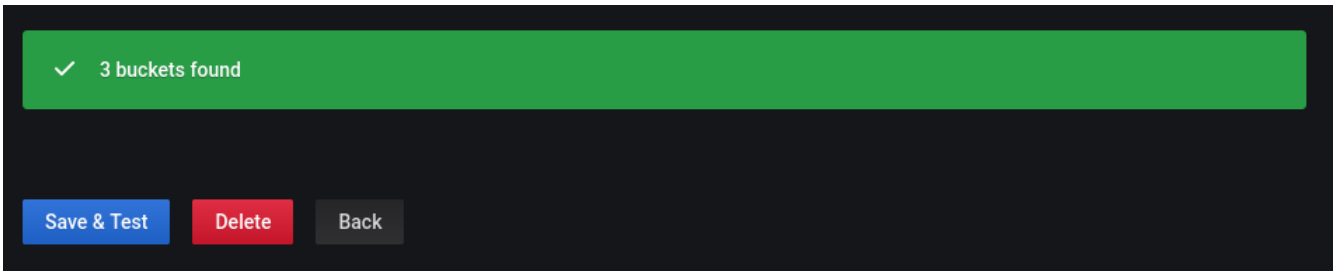
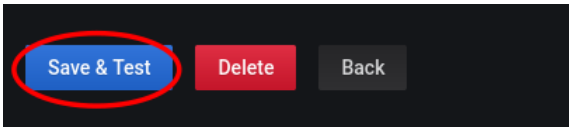
Max series

[Save & Test](#) [Delete](#) [Back](#)

- Name — select any name

- Query Language — select “Flux”
- Password for `< influxuser >` is `< influxpassword >`
- Token — `< token >`

When done press the “Save and test” button at the bottom of the form. If everything is setup correctly there will be green feedback:



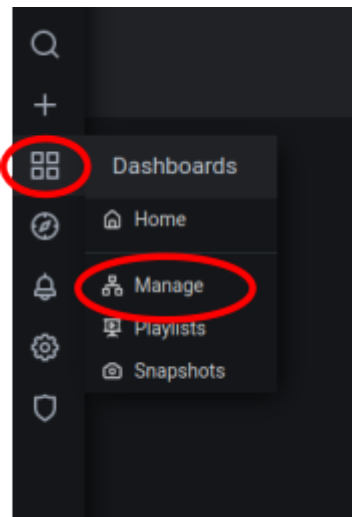
Grafana is now able to connect to the given database and retrieve metrics to display

### 3.4 Create simple dashboard

As the datasource is setup it is possible to create panels showing plots from metrics of this source. In the following a simple dashboard is created using the Flux query language. Flux is a topic on its own, so the according query will be provided.

This can be done as user “admin” in Grafana as no other user is created yet.

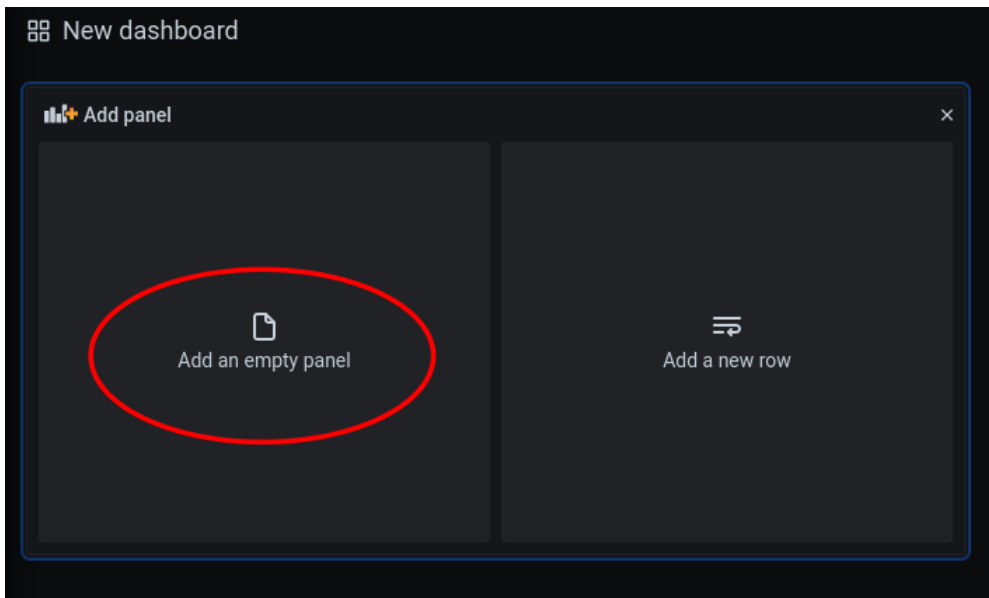
Select the menu “Dashboards — Manage” from the toolbar on the left:



Create a new dashboard by pressing “New dashboard”:

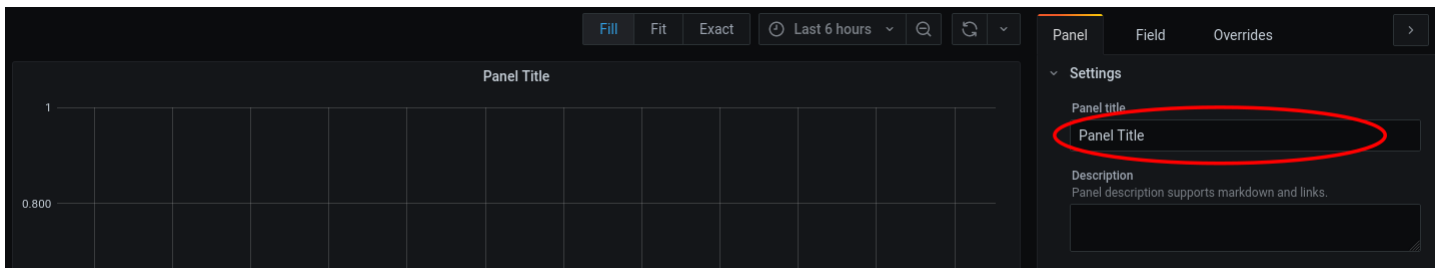


The dashboard creation interface shows up. Select the “Add an empty panel” option in the “Add panel” field:

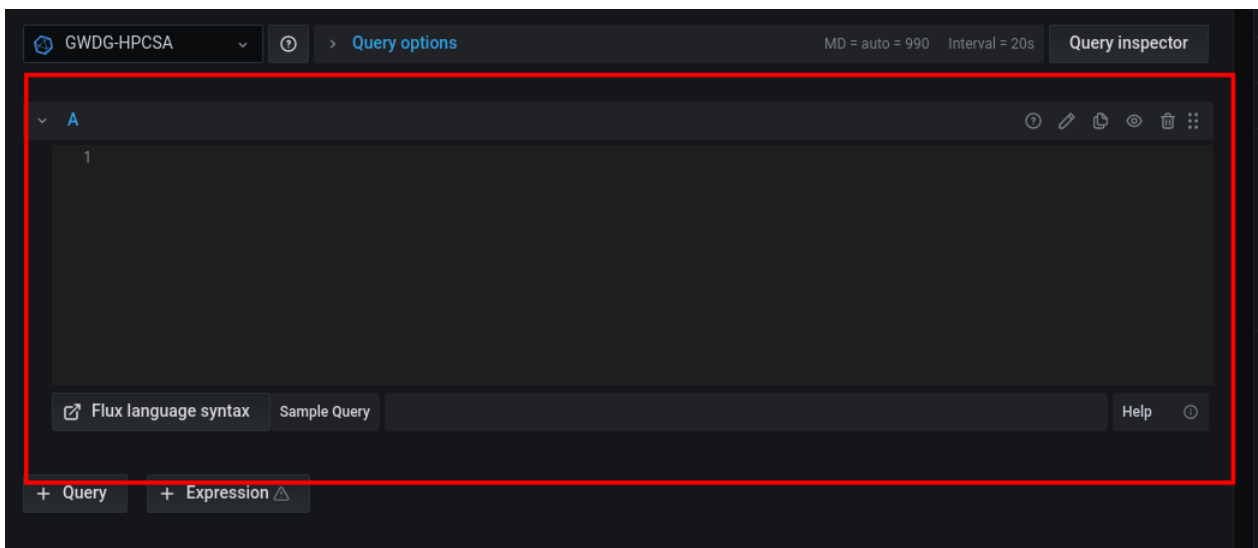


The panel editor is now presented. It is already setup to the correct datasource as it is the only one created yet.

Enter a panel title in the top right:



On the bottom is the query editor:



Copy and paste this Flux query into the editor and modify the bucket to match *< bucket >* from the InfluxDB config:

```
from(bucket: "<bucket>")
  |> range(start: v.timeRangeStart, stop: v.timeRangeStop)
  |> filter(fn: (r) => r["_measurement"] == "cpu")
  |> filter(fn: (r) => r["_field"] == "usage_user")
  |> filter(fn: (r) => r["cpu"] == "cpu-total" or r["cpu"] == "cpu0" or r["cpu"] == "cpu1")
  |> yield(name: "mean")
```

This query request data from the given bucket with in the time-range given (this is a dynamic timerange). The InfluxDB will first select all data in the given timespan, and they apply the filters on it. In this case the query filters for the general CPU usage of the users on the systems which provide the according measurements.

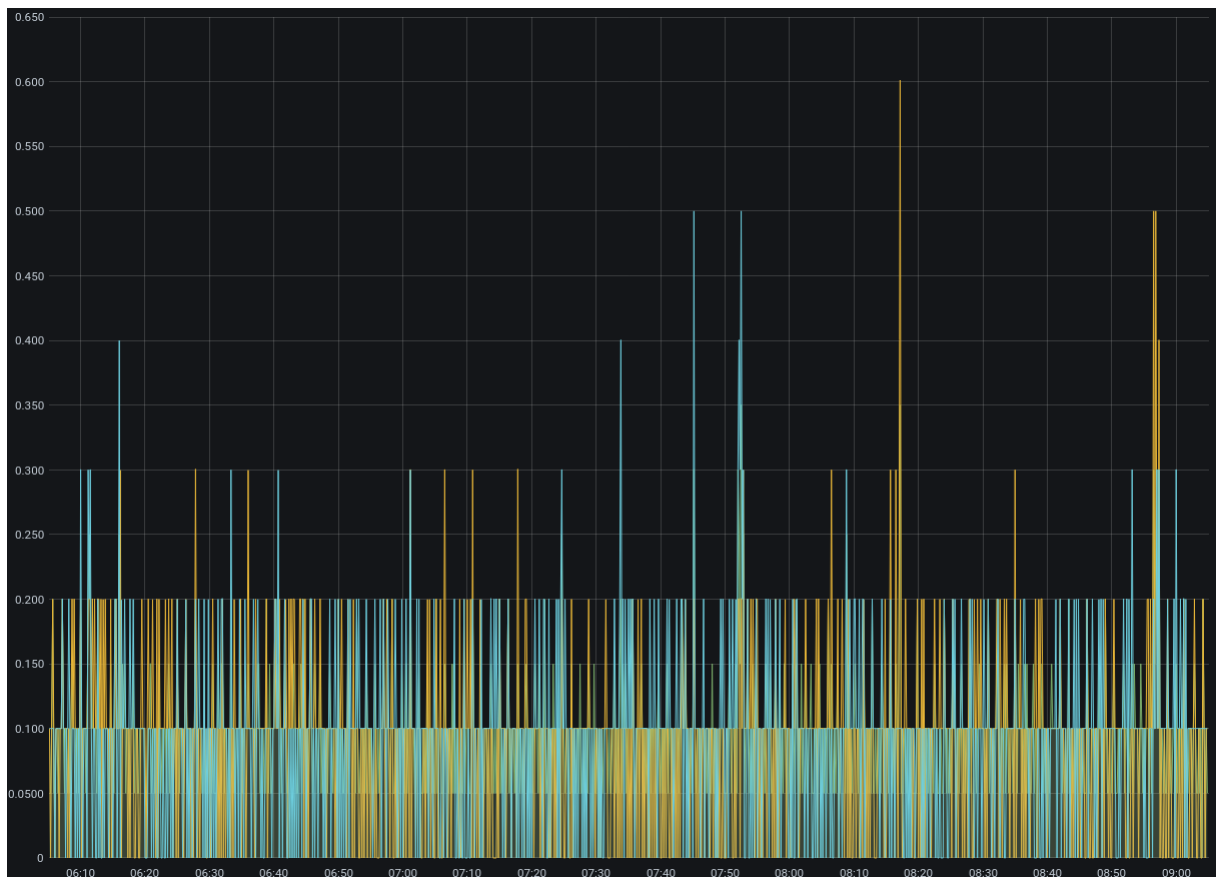
Press apply in the top right corner:



The panel is shown, but it is empty - the timeframe has to be selected in the dropdown menu first



Now there should be data displayed in the panel



To save this dashboard for future use press the name/title of the dashboard and select “edit”. The editor shows up again. Save it with the according button in the top right.

---

## Optional: Explore data and create own queries 4: Tutorial (0 min)

The dashboard created is quite simple. The issue with creating more interesting panel is to know the available metrics and the syntax. InfluxDB provides a web interface for data exploration to make this easier for the users.

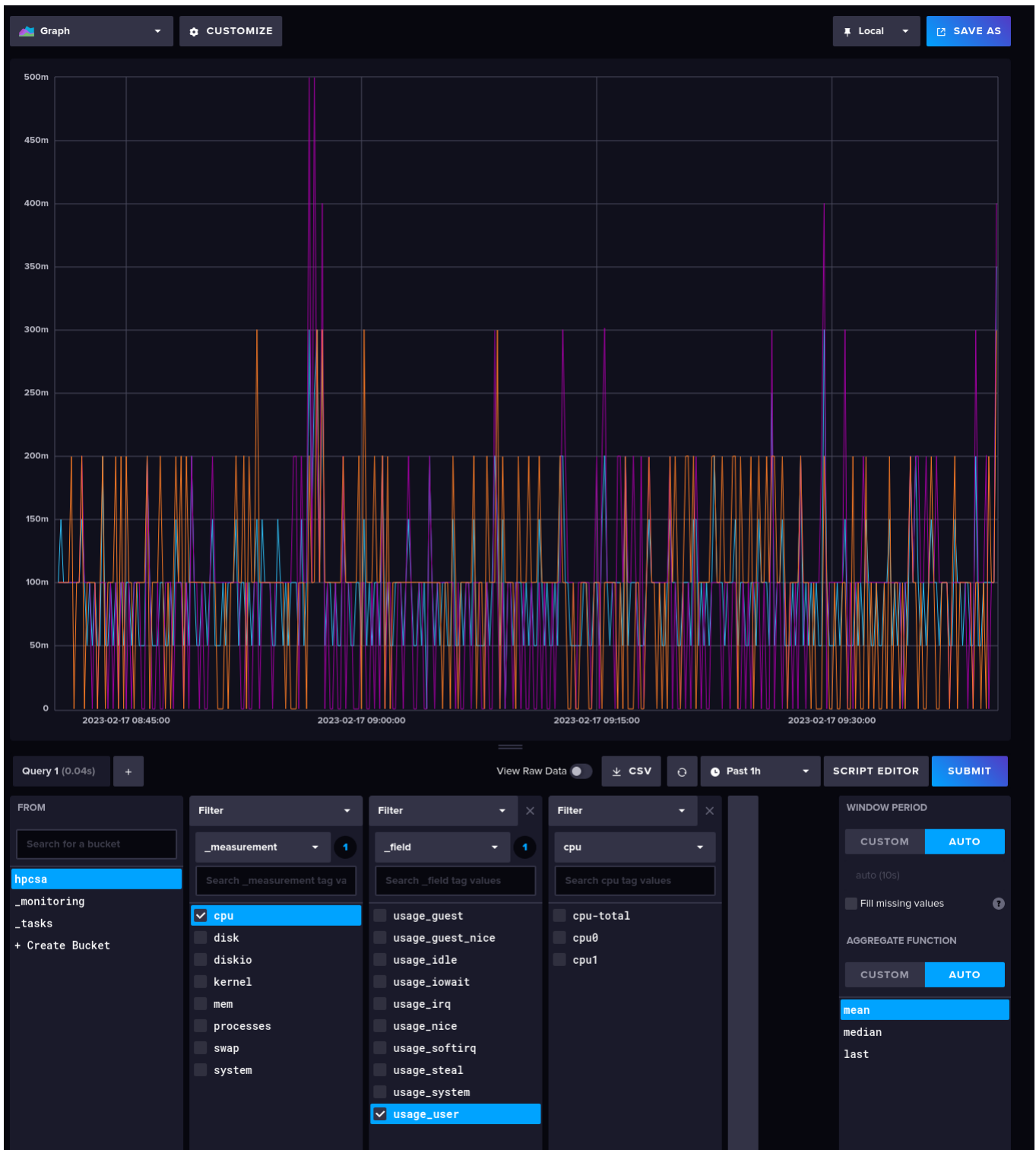
This web interface can be reached via web browser on `< frontendfloatingip:< influxport >`.

Login is `< influxuser >` and `< influxpassword >`.

Select the dataexplorer from the toolbar on the left:



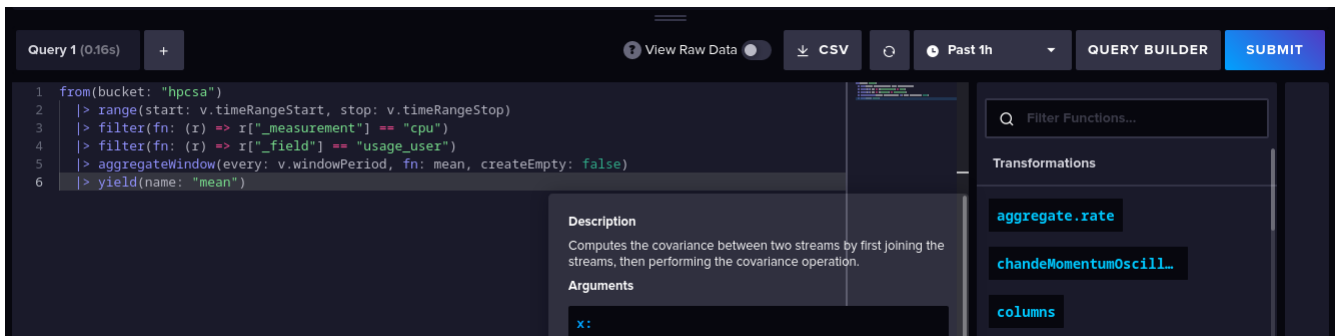
This will open the dataexplorer. At the bottom are columns letting users select, the bucket, measurements, according metrics - with this it is easy to dig down through the data in InfluxDB.



To execute a query press the “Submit” button. This will build the graph accordingly.

In order to get the script for this query to use in other tools, e.g. Grafana, the script editor has to be opened by pressing “Script Editor”.





To use the script displayed there in Grafana just mark the script and copy/paste it to the query editor in the panel creation in Grafana.

## Optional: Install another Telegraf Plugin 5: Tutorial (0 min)

This requires a working TIG Stack as it has been installed in the previous tasks.

Check the available plugins on the according webpage <https://docs.influxdata.com/telegraf/v1.20/plugins/> , select one of them, install and configure it.

## Optional: Install telegraf on the worker nodes 6: Tutorial (0 min)

Requires at least the PXE booting worker nodes setup before.

Two worker nodes have been set up during previous sessions. Install telegraf on those machines and integrate them into a dashboard.

## Optional: Setup Database and Grafana with specific users 7: Tutorial (0 min)

Requires a basic TIG stack running as setup in the first 3 tasks.

Recap the previous installation. Just one main user has been used to access the database and the Grafana dashboard. Usually this is considered bad practice in regards to security. Setup users for the InfluxDB and Grafana and modify all parts of the stack accordingly.

### Hints

- Think about the following: Wow many users would be useful for the InfluxDB and for Grafana? What rights should they have? Why?
- Do not forget to change parts the telegraf configuration.

## Optional: Central setup for telegraf 8: Tutorial (0 min)

Requires the working TIG stack from this tutorial and telegraf already integrated on the worker nodes.

In a previous lecture slurm has been setup using a central installation and configuration. Is this possible for telegraf, too? Or has something to be considered and adapted to telegraf. Implement you solution.

---

## Hints

- Hint for tutor: you may have different hardware installed which utilize different plugins. Therefore at least the configuration has to be local for the specific machine types/hardware.

## Further Reading

- <https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/getting-started/get-started-grafana-influxdb/>
- <https://grafana.com/docs/grafana/latest/introduction/>
- <https://docs.influxdata.com/influxdb/v2.6/install/>
- <https://docs.influxdata.com/telegraf/v1.20/plugins/>