Why You Should Upgrade Your Java In Containers Right Now

Ben Evans, New Relic (He / Him)

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Safe Harbor

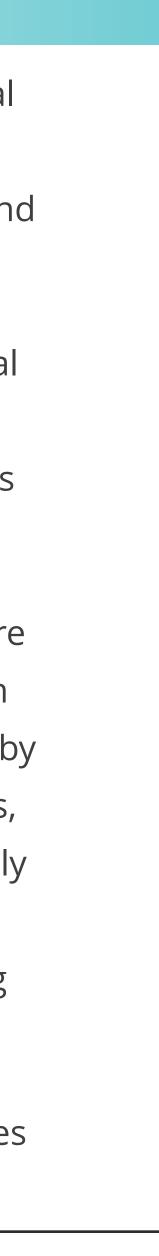
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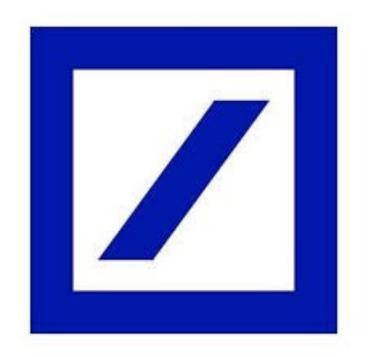




About Me – Career

- New Relic, Lead Architect
- jClarity, Co-founder
 - Sold to Microsoft
- Deutsche Bank
 - Chief Architect (Listed Derivatives)
- Morgan Stanley
 - Google IPO
- Sporting Bet
 - Chief Architect

New Relic. jClarity



Morgan Stanley





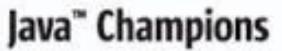
About Me – Community

- Java Champion
- JavaOne Rock Star Speaker
- Java Community Process **Executive Committee**
- London Java Community
 - Organising Team
 - Co-founder, AdoptOpenJDK























- How We Got Here
- Introduction to New Relic
- Current State of Java
- Why is 11 better in containers?
- JFR
- Conclusions

Today's Talk



How We Got Here

- Java & OpenJDK History
- New Release & Support Model
- Mainline dev
- OpenJDK 8 & 11



A Brief History of Java

- Sun release Java in beta to much hype (1995)
- Sun fully open-source Java (2006)







A Brief History of Java

- Solution of the second ORACLE
- Sun release Java in beta to much hype (1995) • Sun fully open-source Java (2006) • Oracle acquire Sun (2010)
- Java 7: First release based on OSS codebase (2011)





- Sun release Java in beta to much hype (1995)
- Sun fully open-source Java (2006)
- Oracle acquire Sun (2010)

- Java 9: New release model (2017)



Java 11: Current Long-Term Support Release (2018)

Java 8: "Classic" Long-Term Support Release (2014)

• Java 7: First release based on OSS codebase (2011)

A Brief History of Java



Java

New Release Model

- Feature Releases
 - Every 6 months
 - Only supported for 6 months by Oracle • Other vendors may offer other options
- Long-Term Support releases (LTS)
 - Every 3 years
 - Java 8 & 11 are LTS (& 17 will be)
 - Java 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16 are NOT LTS



What has Changed in Java?

- Paid support options
 - Oracle (LTS only)
 - Azul, various other OpenJDK vendors



- Paid support options
 - Oracle (LTS only)
 - Azul, various other OpenJDK vendors
- Free updates are still available from:
 - Oracle (must upgrade every 6 months)
 - OpenJDK vendors (for LTS versions only)



- Paid support options
 - Oracle (LTS only)
 - Azul, various other OpenJDK vendors
- Free updates are still available from:
 - Oracle (must upgrade every 6 months)
 - OpenJDK vendors (for LTS versions only)
- Oracle's Java market share is diminishing
 - OpenJDK is gaining greater prominence



Who are the New Players?

- Eclipse Adoptium (AdoptOpenJDK)
- Amazon (Corretto)
- Microsoft
- Red Hat (lcedTea)
- Azul Systems (Zulu)
- AliBaba (Dragonwell)
- IBM (OpenJ9)



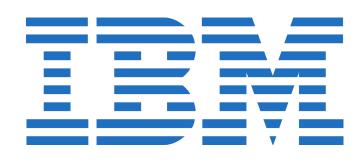














Mainline Dev

- OpenJDK now uses a mainline dev model
- Features are merged only when code complete
- Releases occur on a strict time cadence
- Late features are held over for the next release
- Trunk / mainline is always releasable
 - Emergency fixes can be pushed out immediately
- Longer-term projects explore / research future directions



OpenJDK 8 & 11

- OpenJDK 8 & 11 now run by the community Oracle engineers no longer contribute directly
- Oracle are still producing security patches for \$\$\$ • Same patches must also appear in OpenJDK
- Adoptium have committed to support 8 until 2023
 - At least...



Ongoing Maintenance

- "Housekeeping updates"
 - Japanese Era
 - Xcode 10+ (Mac)
 - Timezone database
 - TLS 1.3
- Selected bug fixes backported (e.g. security)
- Some potential for (very small) features
 - Features may not change semantics
 - JFR



Introduction to New Relic

- New Relic is a performance monitoring company
- Billions of events handled per minute



Introduction to New Relic

- New Relic is a performance monitoring company
- Billions of events handled per minute
- New Relic One
 - Market's first Observability Platform
- Recently open-sourced \$700M of our code

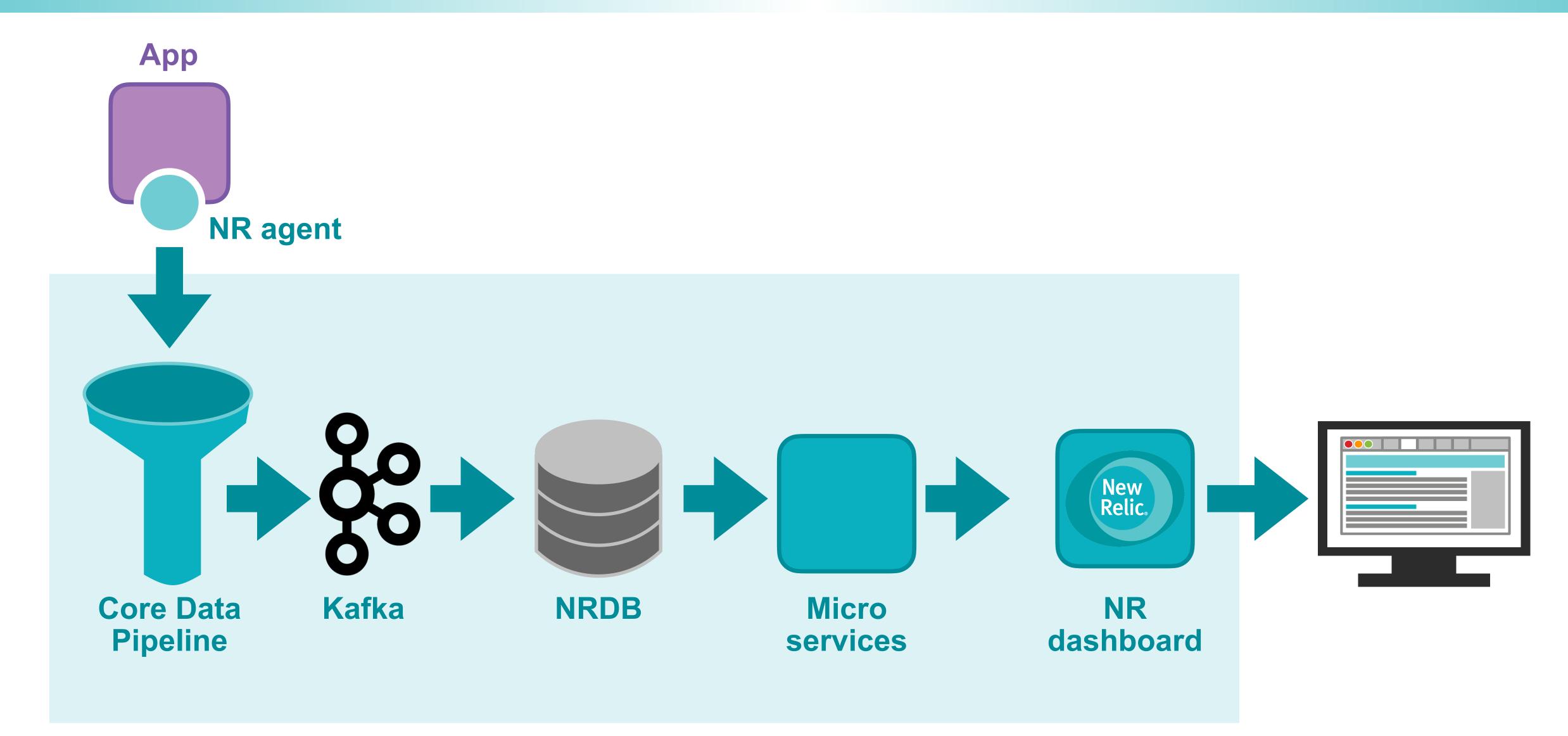


Introduction to New Relic

- New Relic is a performance monitoring company
- Billions of events handled per day
- New Relic One
 - Market's first Observability Platform
- Recently open-sourced \$700M of our code
- Java is the majority of our services
 - One of the biggest Kafka installs in the world!
 - We also use the Kotlin language extensively



High-Level Product Architecture



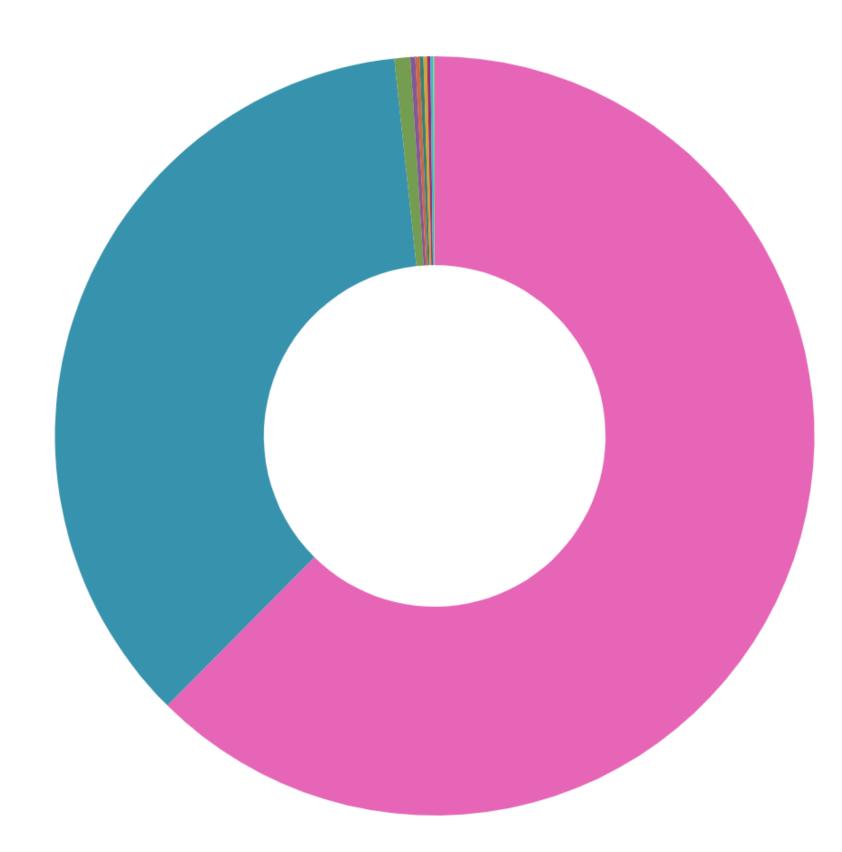


Current State of Java

- New Relic aggregates data from our customers
- Reveals trends about the shape of the market
 - Which versions, which vendors etc people use
- Live data, accurately reported from customers VMs
- Analyst estimates: ~1% of Java SE VMs worldwide



Since 1 week ago

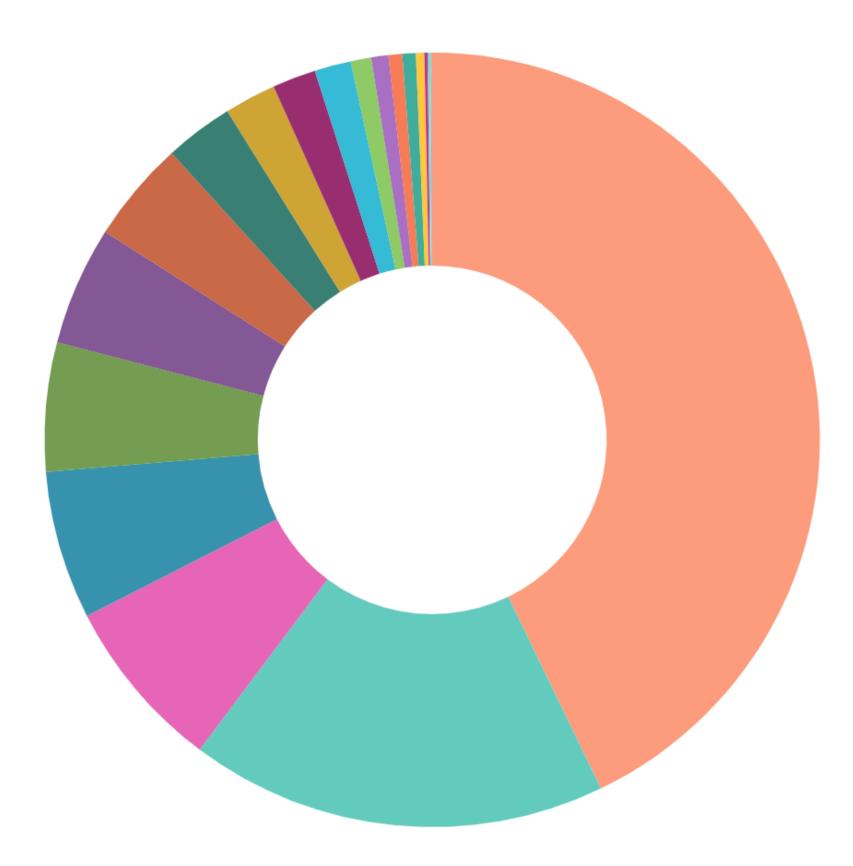


Java Versions

	Share ~
JVMMETADATASUMMARIES	
• 8	62.43 %
• 11	35.87 %
• 13	0.68 %
• 14	0.21 %
• 9	0.18 %
• 15	0.16 %
• 10	0.15 %
• 7	0.15 %
• 6	0.12 %
• 12	0.056 %



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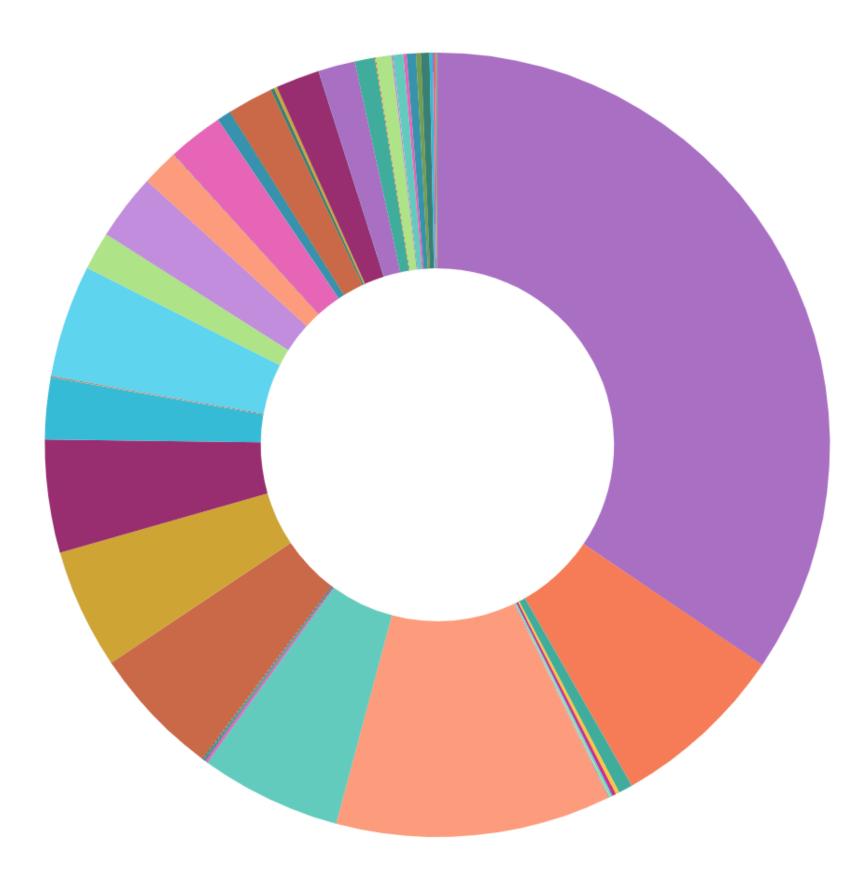


Java Vendors

	Share ~
JVMMETADATASUMMARIES	
Oracle Corporation	42.83 %
 AdoptOpenJDK 	17.4 %
Azul Systems, Inc.	7.25 %
 Red Hat, Inc. 	6.2 %
• Ubuntu	5.38 %
● IcedTea	4.95 %
Amazon.com Inc.	4.26 %
 BellSoft 	2.87 %
 IBM Corporation 	2.15 %
Private Build	1.82 %
 Tableau 	1.51 %
N/A	0.85 %
Pivotal Software Inc	0.72 %
Eclipse OpenJ9	0.57 %
 GraalVM Community 	0.56 %
Debian	0.35 %
SAP SE	0.14 %



Since 1 week ago



Vendors and Versions

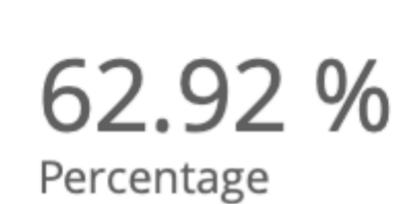
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Ubuntu, 11	5.38 %
IcedTea, 8	4.95 %
 Azul Systems, Inc., 11 	4.66 %
 Red Hat, Inc., 8 	4.64 %
Amazon.com Inc., 8	2.73 %
 Azul Systems, Inc., 8 	2.53 %
BellSoft, 8	2.29 %
 IBM Corporation, 8 	1.89 %
 Private Build, 8 	1.81 %
Red Hat, Inc., 11	1.56 %
Amazon.com Inc., 11	1.52 %
 Tableau, 11 	1.51 %

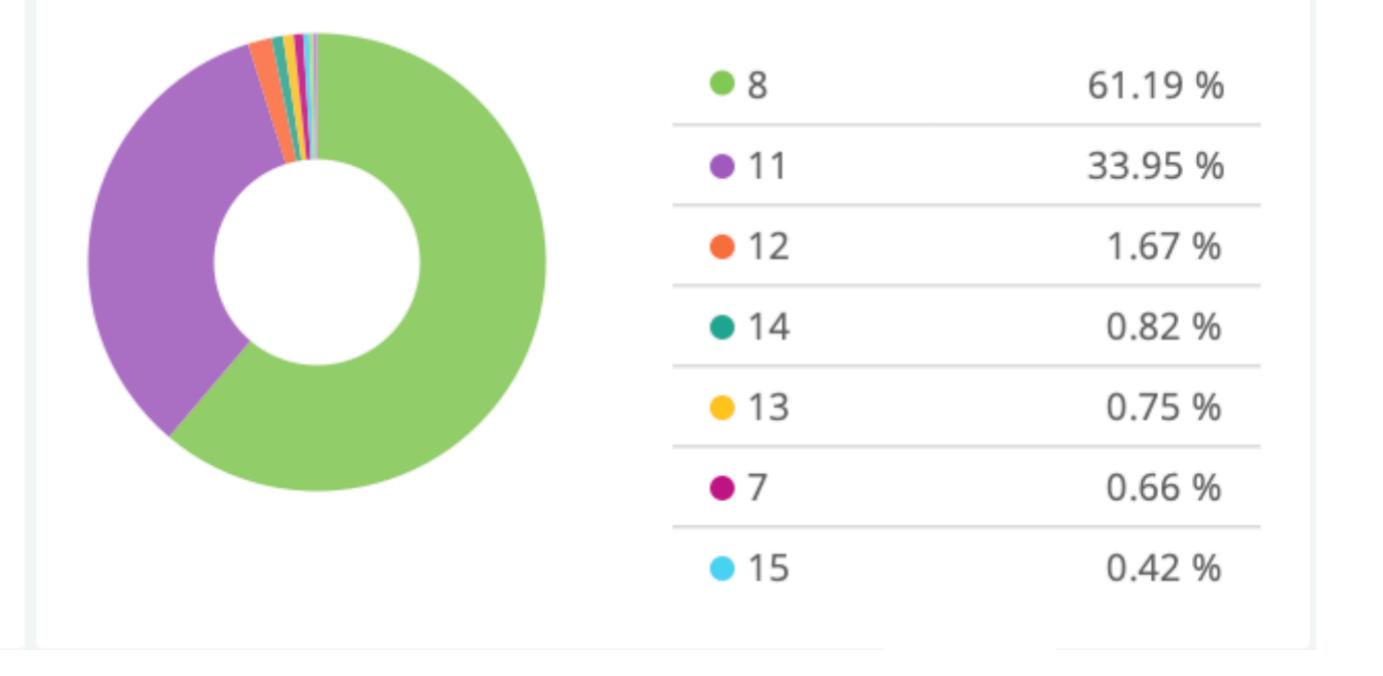


Containerized JVMs

Since Feb 10, 06:29 ...

Java Versions in Containers Since Feb 10, 06:29 am until Feb 11, 07:22 am





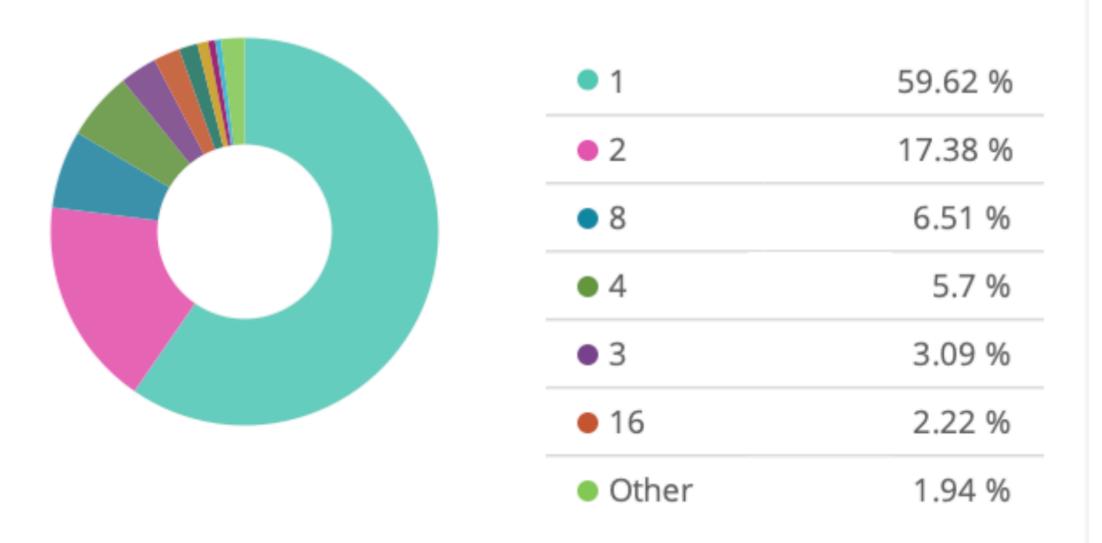
Containers

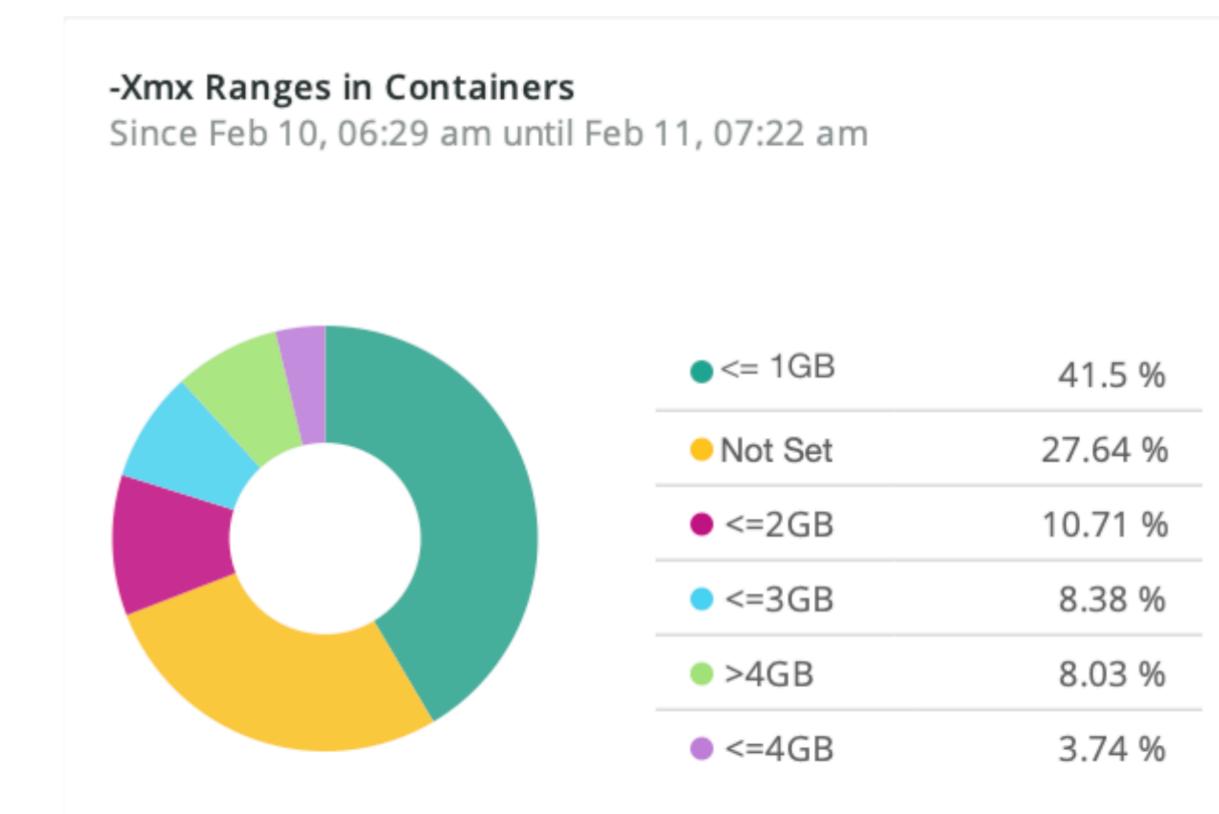


CPUs & Memory In Use

CPUs in Containers

Since Feb 10, 06:29 am until Feb 11, 07:22 am







Other GC Parameters

JVM Heap Sizing in Containers

Since Feb 10, 06:29 am until Feb 11, 07:22 am

72.36 % -Xmx

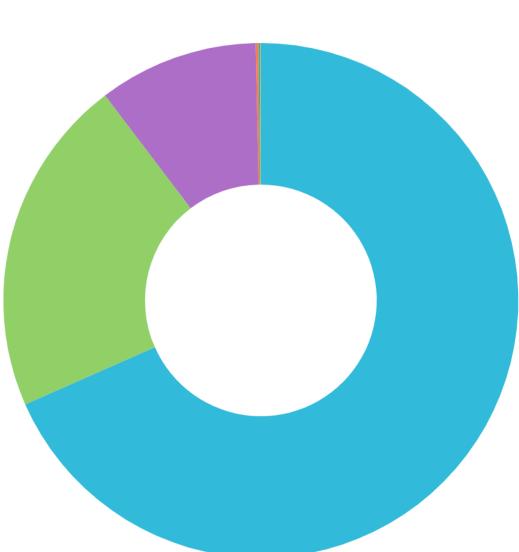
8.47 % -XX:MaxRAMPercentage

Explicitly Configured GC Threads Since Feb 10, 06:29 am until Feb 11...

6.13% Percentage



Who Actively Selects A GC?

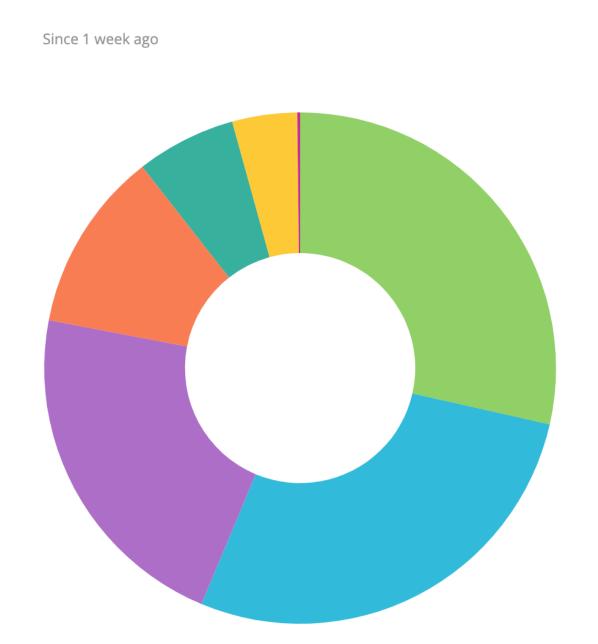


Since 1 week ago

JVMMETADATASUMMARIES

 Unconfigured 	68.38
• G1	21.28
• CMS	10.01
Parallel	0.18
• ZGC	0.11
Shenandoah	0.032





_J/

	Share ~
JVMMETADATASUMMARIES	
 Unknown 	28.54 %
• G1	27.76 %
• Serial	21.7 %
• CMS	11.42 %
Parallel	6.29 %
• gencon	4.11 %
• Other	0.18 %



Why is 11 better in containers?



Why is 11 better in containers?

- Main reasons:
 - var
 - Modules
 - HTTP/2



Why is 11 better in containers?

- Main reasons:
 - var
 - Modules
 - HTTP/2

Just Kidding...



Real Reasons for Using 11 in Containers?

- "Container-Aware"
- Decent version of G1GC
- Compact Strings & Heap Reduction
- JDK Flight Recorder



"Container-Aware"

- Containers requires thought about:
 - GC algorithms and selections
 - Memory usage
 - CPU Usage

• What does Runtime.getAvailableProcessors() return?



- "GC Ergonomics"
- Depends upon
 - Java version
 - "Server" or "client" class determination
 - CPU count





Selecting a GC

GCArguments* GCConfig::select_gc() {

// Fail immediately if an unsupported GC is selected

fail_if_non_included_gc_is_selected();

if (is_no_gc_selected()) {

// Try select GC ergonomically

select_gc_ergonomically();

if (is_no_gc_selected()) {

}

}

// Succeeded to select GC ergonomically
_gc_selected_ergonomically = true;



• By default, on bare metal, 1/4 physical memory

• But what about in a container?

Max Heap Size

- \$ java -XX:+PrintFlagsFinal -version | grep -iE 'MaxHeapSize' size_t MaxHeapSize = 4294967296 {product} {ergonomic}



• By default, on bare metal, 1/4 physical memory

- But what about in a container?
- It depends...
 - Early versions of 8 can't see the container
 - 8u191 improves the situation somewhat

Max Heap Size

\$ java -XX:+PrintFlagsFinal -version | grep -iE 'MaxHeapSize' size_t MaxHeapSize = 4294967296 {product} {ergonomic}



Memory in Containers

- Container memory consists of:
 - Java Heap memory
 - Offheap
 - Metaspace
 - JFR data
 - General book-keeping
 - Memory for auxiliary processes
- - ~20% of containers are in this situation

Not setting heap memory size means potential OOM



- Java 8 is not well-suited for deploying in containers Prior to 8u131 cgroups settings are not respected at all Post-8u131 a fixed approx, based on cpu_shares, is used Post-8u191 more support is backported

- Need to be careful of
 - # of GC threads used for parallel (& concurrent) GC phases # of threads in auto-sized, VM-managed thread pools
- Consider explicitly setting flags to size these exactly

Java 8 CPU Limits



New Garbage Collector - G1





New version of G1GC

- "Garbage First" collector
 - experimental in 7
 - supported in 8
 - production-quality in 8u40
 - default in 9
 - very improved in 11
- Originally intended to be low-pause
 - replacement for CMS
- Ended up as a general-purpose collector
 - replacement for Parallel collectors



Tradeoffs Between Collectors

- No "one size fits all" for GC
- - Pause time
 - Throughput (%age)
 - Pause frequency
 - Reclamation efficiency
 - Pause consistency

• Different metrics are important for different apps



- Design aims of G1
 - scalable to larger heaps
 - better control of pause times
 - easy to tune (-XX:MaxGCPauseMillis)
 - Predictable





- Design aims of G1
 - scalable to larger heaps
 - better control of pause times
 - easy to tune (-XX:MaxGCPauseMillis)
 - Predictable
- As a collector, G1 is...
 - Parallel
 - Concurrent (for marking)
 - Exact
 - Evacuating
 - "Statistically Compacting"





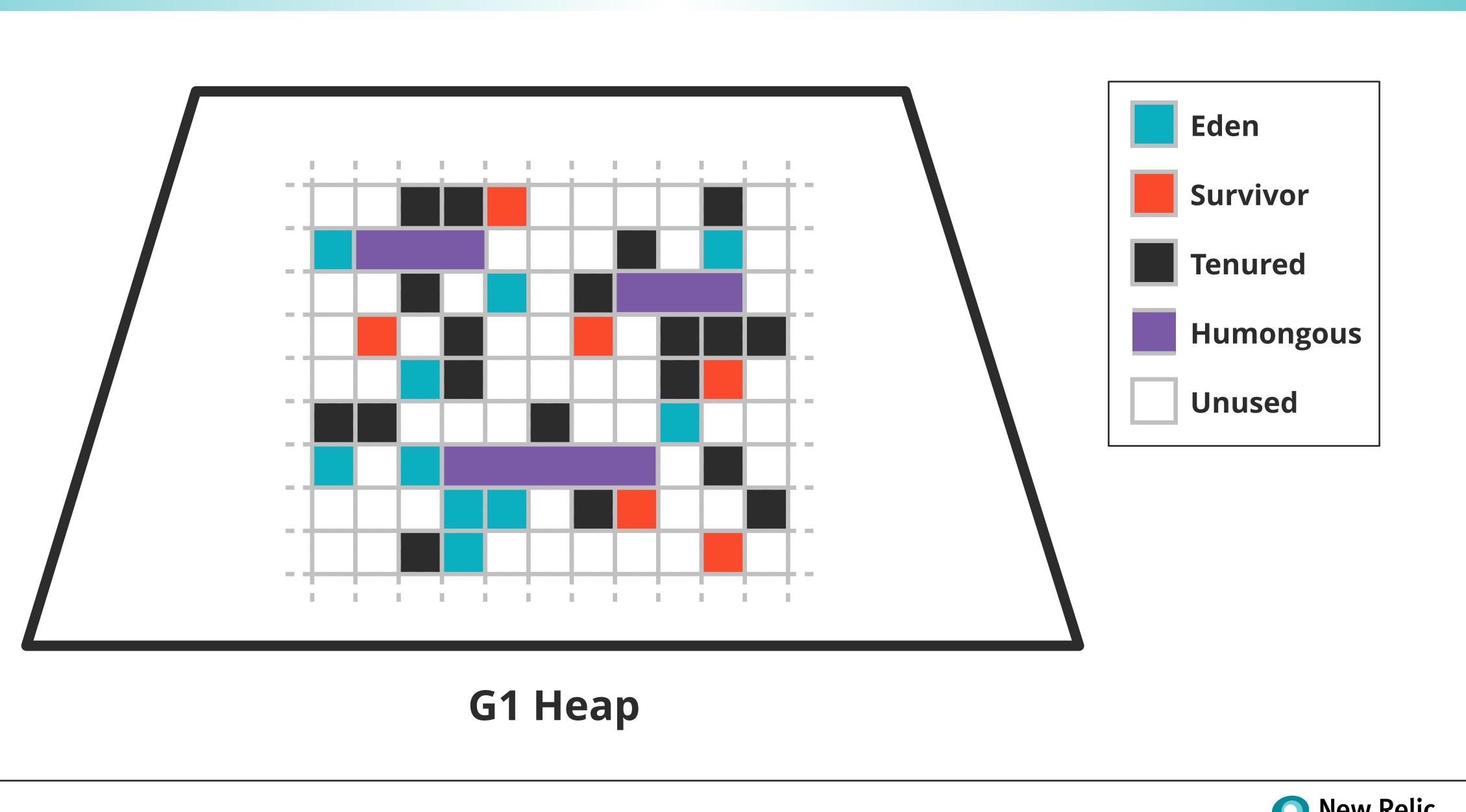




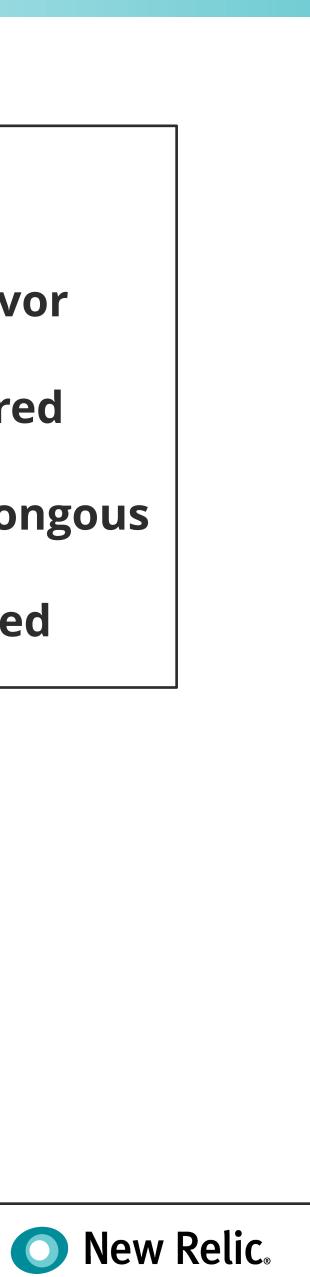
G1 – Regional Collection

- G1 uses regions for collection not hemispherical heap (like Parallel & CMS)
- Regions
 - allow GC cycles to "partially clean" & then restart app threads can be 1 - 64M in size (1M default for small heaps)
- Generational Collection
 - regions still belong to generations
 - generations are not contiguous
 - heap is still contiguous





The G1 Heap



Remembered Sets (RSets)

- Similar idea to GC "card tables"
 - track pointers between regions
- If app thread mutates
 - change is put on a "refinement queue"
 - reduce work done on app thread
 - separate threads drain refinement queues
- Example of "balancing between allocator & collector"



G1 – The Bad News

- Can interfere with application throughput
 - write barriers, RSet update threads and back pressure
- Concurrent GC uses cores while GC is running
 - Full STW Fallback can still occur
 - e.g. if allocation greatly exceeds reclamation
- Full predictability of G1 pauses is still lacking
 - 200ms goal is easy to achieve
 - Guaranteed <50ms not at all easy
- G1 not a true compacting collector



Java 11 & G1

- Java 11's G1 is significantly better
 - Has a Parallel fallback STW collector
 - Better able to meet pause time guarantees
- Algorithm is significantly different between versions
 - Ensure that tuning advice relates to the correct version
- Most apps see benefit from G1 on Java 11
 - But overall CPU utilization may increase slightly
- Other changes in 11 may also help GC performance



New Default GC

- Java 9 switched the default GC from Parallel to G1 • This refers to the GC used to collect "old" objects
- Both GCs use STW collection to collect "young" objects
- G1 is a concurrent GC
 - Parallel is STW
- G1 will use more CPU than Parallel
 - In exchange for shorter pause times
 - Default G1 pause is 200ms



Compact Strings





Practical Impacts

- Before Java 9 Strings are represented as char[]
 - 2 bytes per char (UTF-16)

 - First byte is always zero

• In Western European langs, this wastes 50% storage



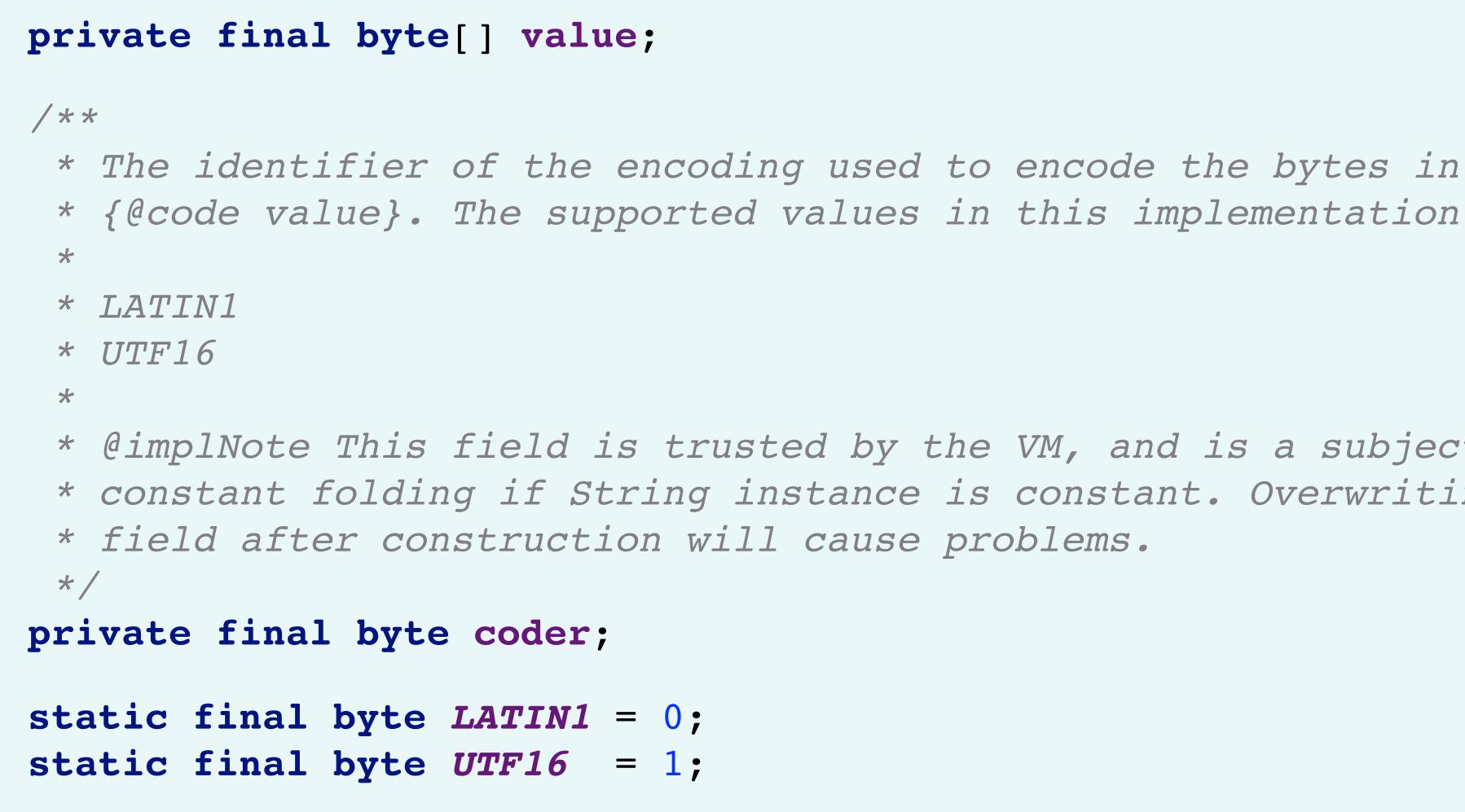
Practical Impacts

- Before Java 9 Strings are represented as char[]
 - 2 bytes per char (UTF-16)

 - First byte is always zero
- Java 9 introduces a per-string choice
 - Latin-1
 - UTF-16
- Internal representation moves to bytes
 - Saves space in common case

In Western European langs, this wastes 50% storage





* {@code value}. The supported values in this implementation are

* @implNote This field is trusted by the VM, and is a subject to * constant folding if String instance is constant. Overwriting this



JDK Flight Recorder (JFR)

- A profiling tool to gather diagnostics & profiling data From an in-flight Java application
- Proprietary tool in Java 8, OSS in Java 11 Now backported to OpenJDK 8u262+
- Low overhead

 - Oracle claim ~1% impact to steady state performance • We observe ~3% on a useful data profile
- GUI console available Mission Control (JMC) •



Using Flight Recorder

- JFR is started with a command line flag
- Generates an output file

java -XX:+FlightRecorder

-XX:StartFlightRecording=duration=200s,filename=flight.jfr Klass

- Can be challenging to work with in containers

• Streaming solution exists (in Java 14, but not LTS)



- Can start and stop
- Dump a current snapshot
- \$ jcmd <pid> JFR.dump filename=recording.jfr \$ jcmd <pid> JFR.stop

Using jcmd

• The Java command - jcmd can be used to control JFR

\$ jcmd <pid> JFR.start name=Recording1 settings=default



Using Mission Control

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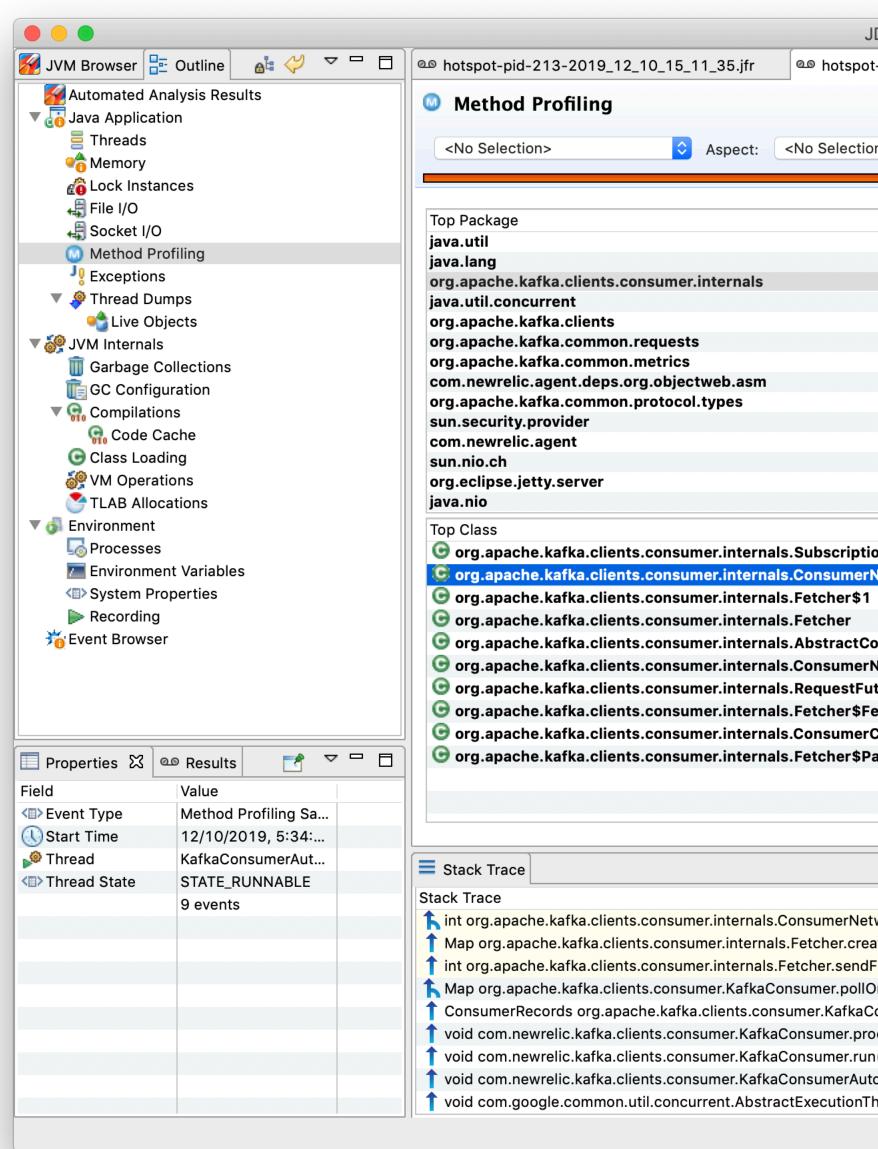


Allocation Detail (TLAB)

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Method Profiling



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ateFetchRequests()		4					
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Once(long)		3					
Consumer.poll(long)		3					
ocessRecords()		3					
n()		3					
oService.run()		3					
hreadService\$1\$2.run()		3					



- Use JFR as a "ring buffer"
- Use jcmd to dump the file as required
- Allows you to ssh in & dump the buffer
 - Allows you to "go back in time"
- Not ideal
 - Need sshd running
 - Not very "DevOps Pro"

Best Practices

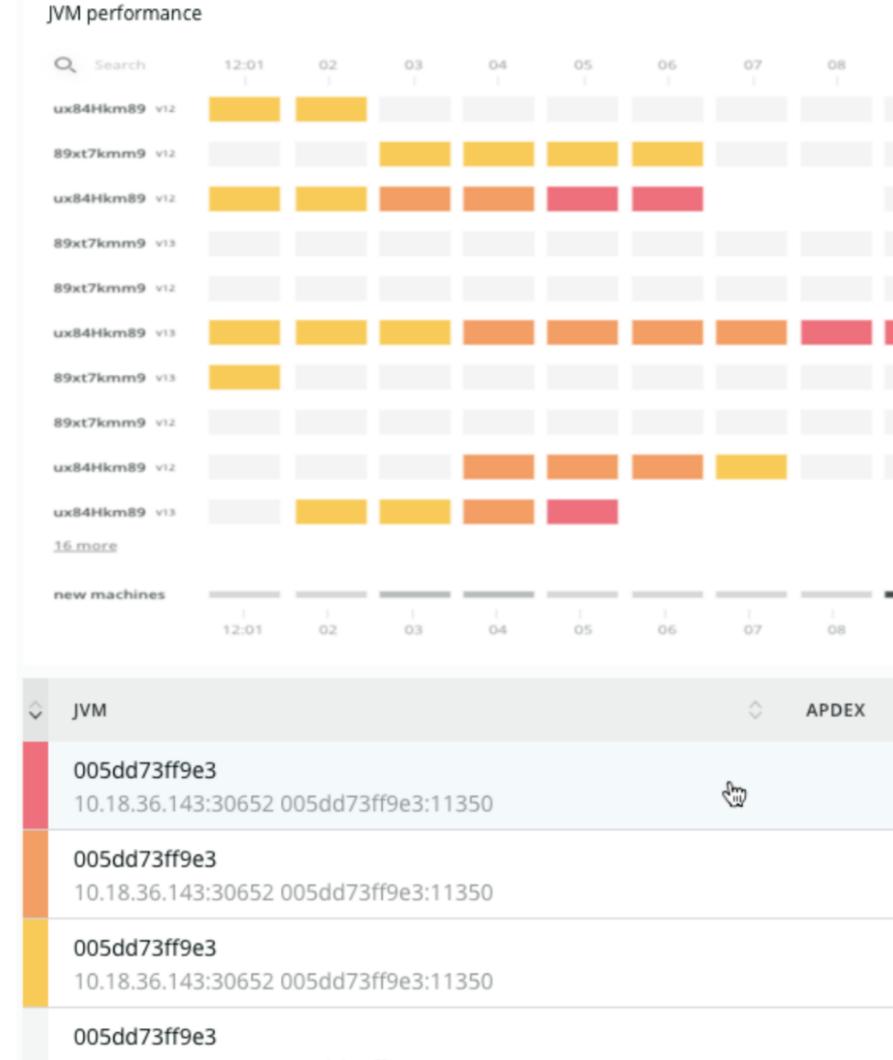


New Relic: Real-Time Profiling for Java

- New Relic released GA support for JFR Called "Real-Time Profiling For Java"
- Open-source codebase
 - <u>https://github.com/newrelic/newrelic-jfr-core</u>
 - Version 1.1.0 out now
- Support for jlink'd deployments is coming
- https://newrelic.com/signup
 - 100GB / month free forever



Cluster Explorer Timeline



10.18.36.143:30652 005dd73ff9e3:11350

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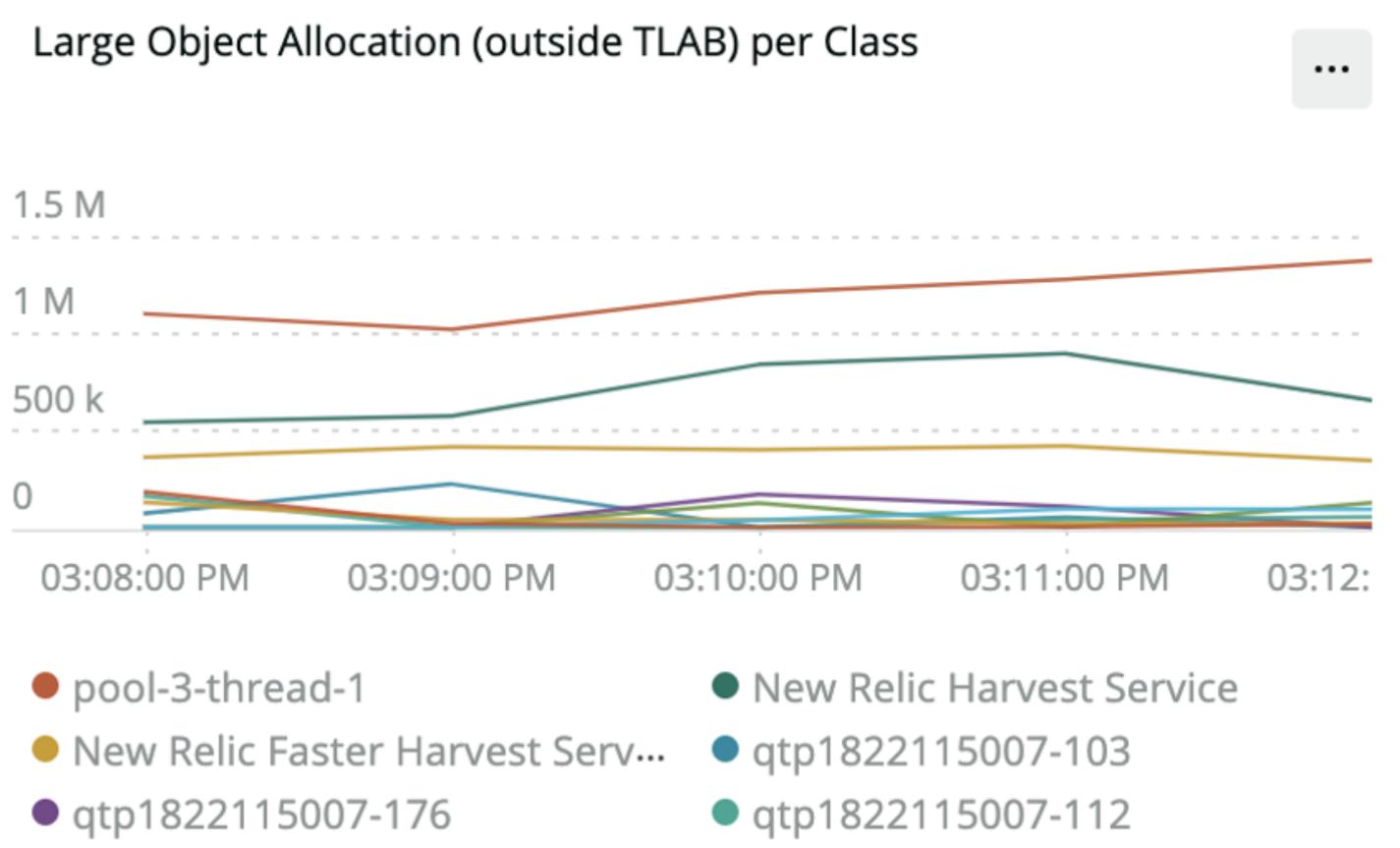


Execution Flamegraph





Deep Dive Graphs





- Java Flight Recorder
 - Oracle technology (open-sourced as of Java 11)
 - Backport of the tech to OpenJDK 8
- JFR is key piece of the ecosystem not all of it
 - Part of the pivot towards Open Instrumentation
 - JFR can be bridged to OpenTracing and other OSS tools

JFR & Open Instrumentation



- Further frontiers for fast startup
 - GraalVM Native mode
 - Quarkus
 - jlink'd binaries
- Challenges
 - Full modularization
 - Closed world assumption

jlink & GraalVM



Conclusions

- Upgrade to 11
- Size your container correctly
- Don't use single-core containers
- Explicitly choose your memory & GC flags
 Use a concurrent GC
- Enable JFR

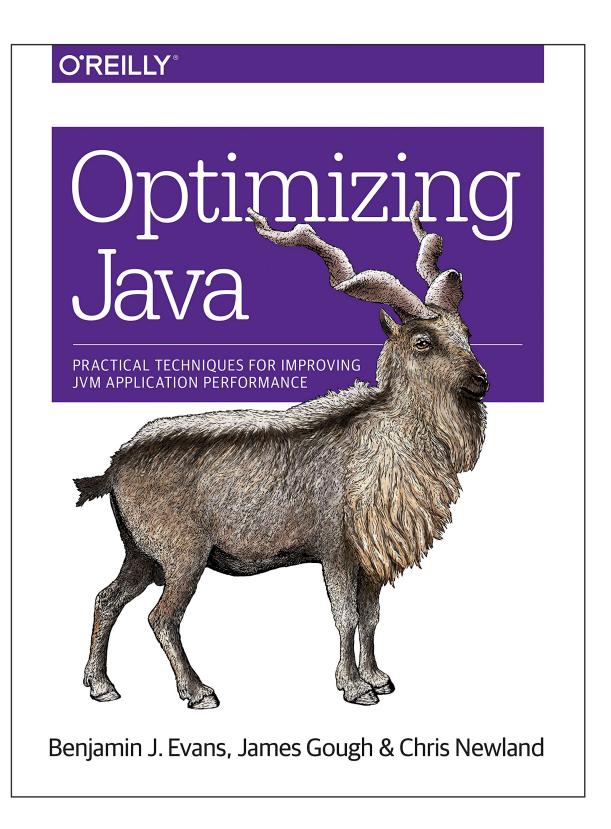


Why Are We Going to 11?

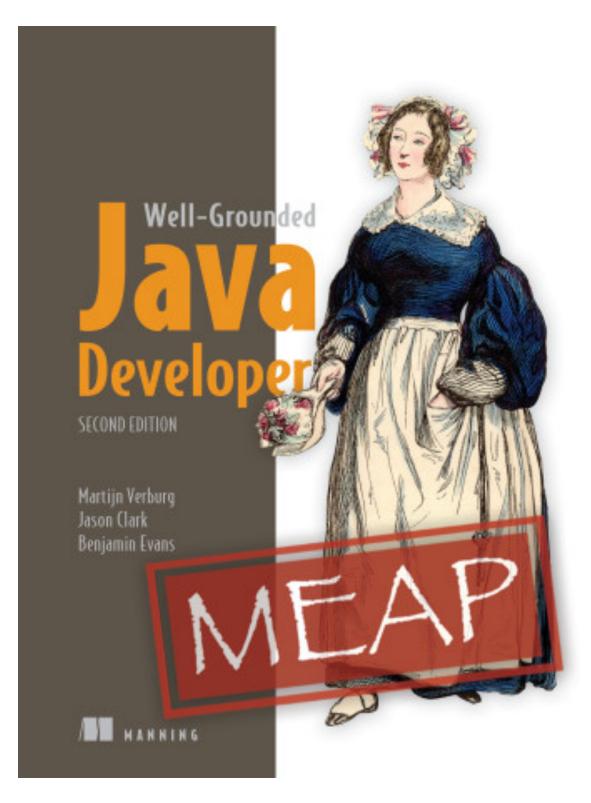
- It's the long-term support release (through 2023)
- Move from 8 ... then don't have to upgrade again
- Smaller footprint, cloud friendly, cool new tech
- Teams are using:
 - Version 11 for new apps
 - Version 8 for sustaining / BAU apps
- Upgrades are occurring at teams own pace Almost all major New Relic systems have started migration



Questions & Thank You



bevans@newrelic.com





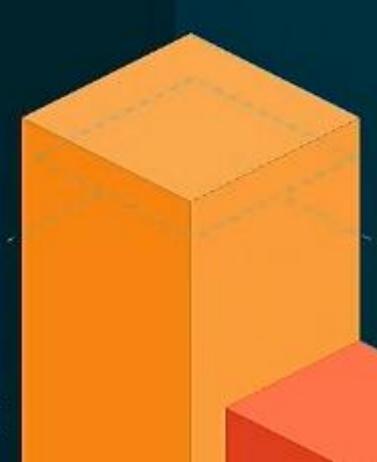


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OPEN

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#FUTURESTACK

CONNECTED

PROGRAMMABLE

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