# Why You Should Upgrade Your Java In Containers Right Now

#### Ben Evans, New Relic (He / Him)

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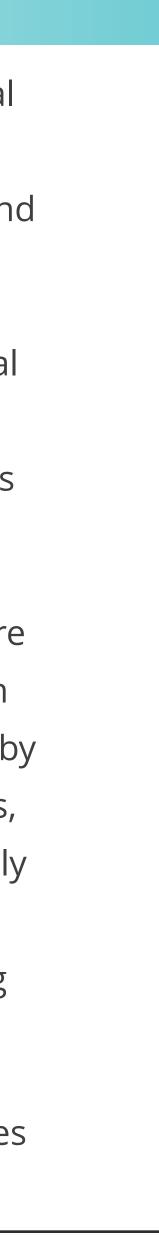
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#### **About Me – Career**

- 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





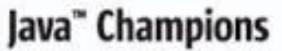
### **About Me – Community**

- 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
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- Free updates are still available from:
  - Oracle (must upgrade every 6 months)
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- Paid support options
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- 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)



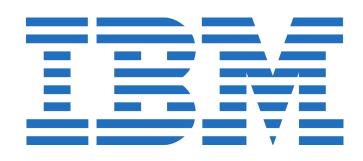














#### **Mainline Dev**

- 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

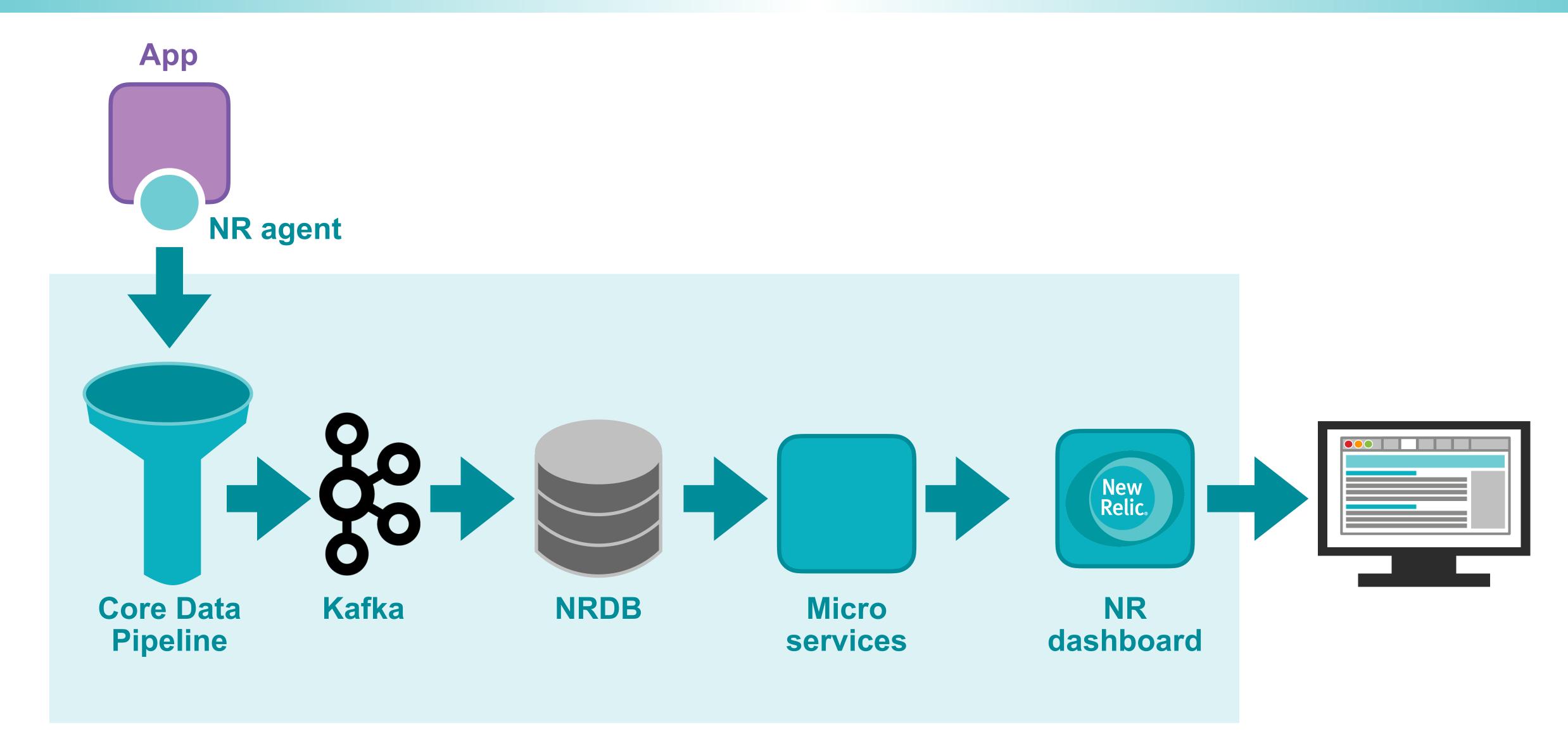


### Introduction to New Relic

- 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**



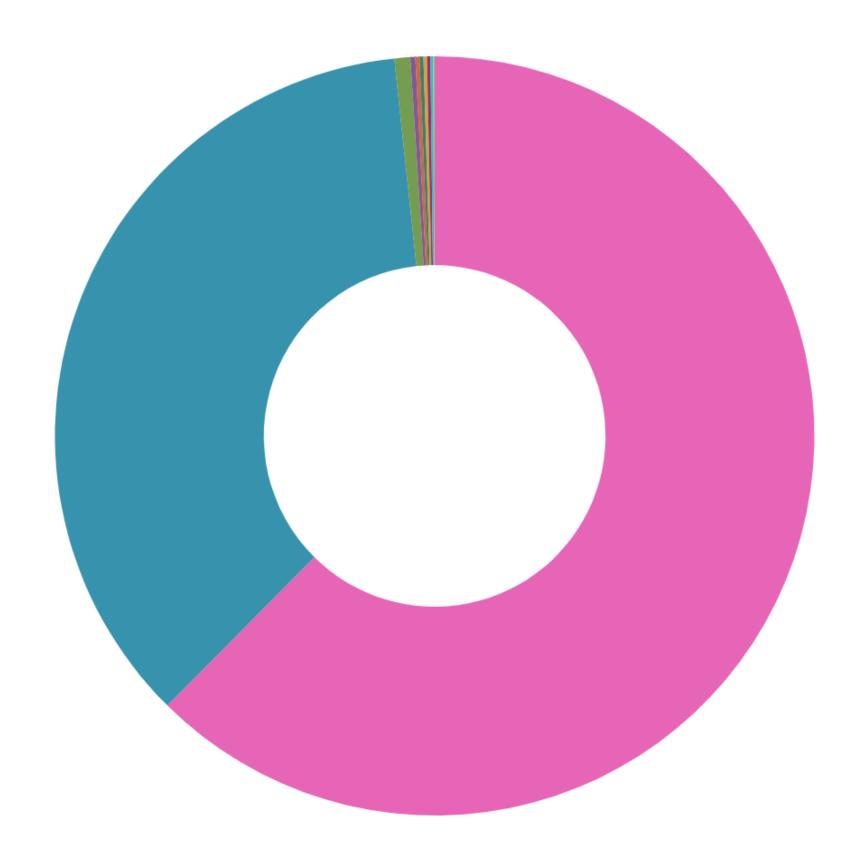


### **Current State of Java**

- 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

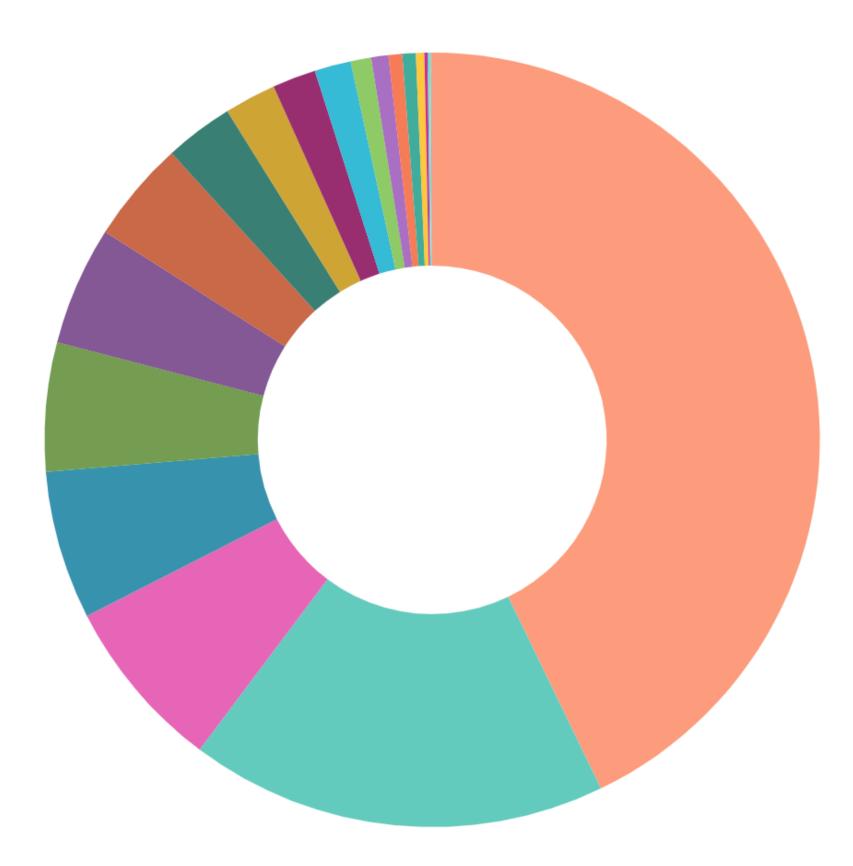


### Java Versions

	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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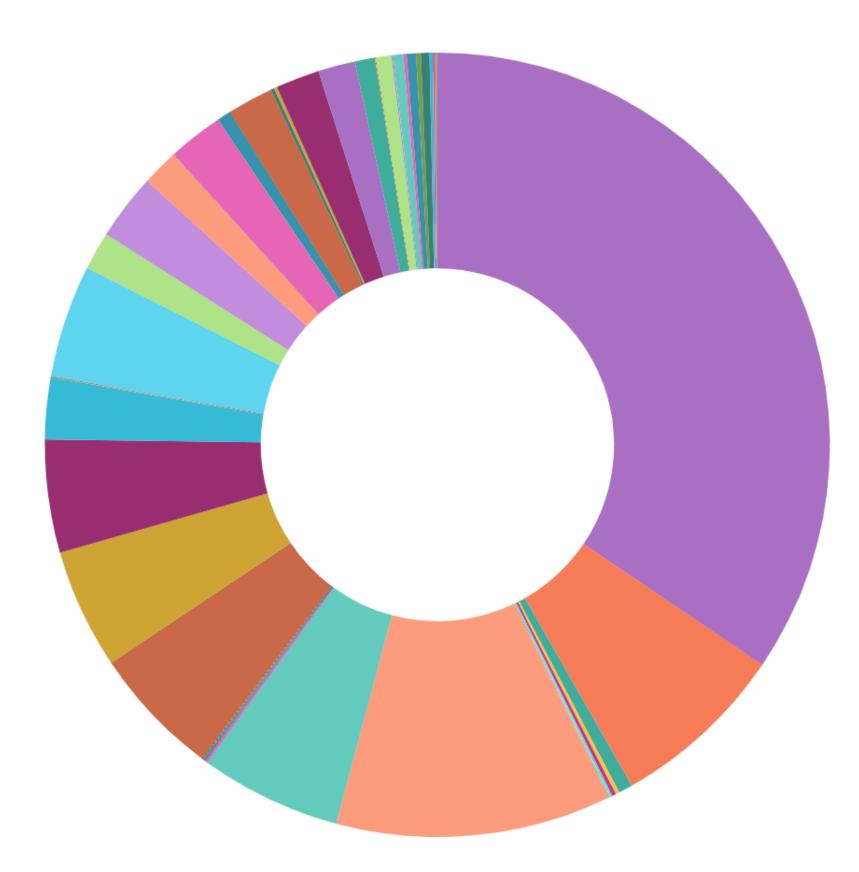


### Java Vendors

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



Since 1 week ago



#### **Vendors and Versions**

	Share ~
JVMMETADATASUMMARIES	
<ul> <li>Oracle Corporation, 8</li> </ul>	34.49 %
AdoptOpenJDK, 11	11.32 %
<ul> <li>Oracle Corporation, 11</li> </ul>	7.27 %
<ul> <li>AdoptOpenJDK, 8</li> </ul>	5.83 %
Ubuntu, 11	5.38 %
IcedTea, 8	4.95 %
<ul> <li>Azul Systems, Inc., 11</li> </ul>	4.66 %
<ul> <li>Red Hat, Inc., 8</li> </ul>	4.64 %
Amazon.com Inc., 8	2.73 %
<ul> <li>Azul Systems, Inc., 8</li> </ul>	2.53 %
BellSoft, 8	2.29 %
<ul> <li>IBM Corporation, 8</li> </ul>	1.89 %
<ul> <li>Private Build, 8</li> </ul>	1.81 %
Red Hat, Inc., 11	1.56 %
Amazon.com Inc., 11	1.52 %
<ul> <li>Tableau, 11</li> </ul>	1.51 %

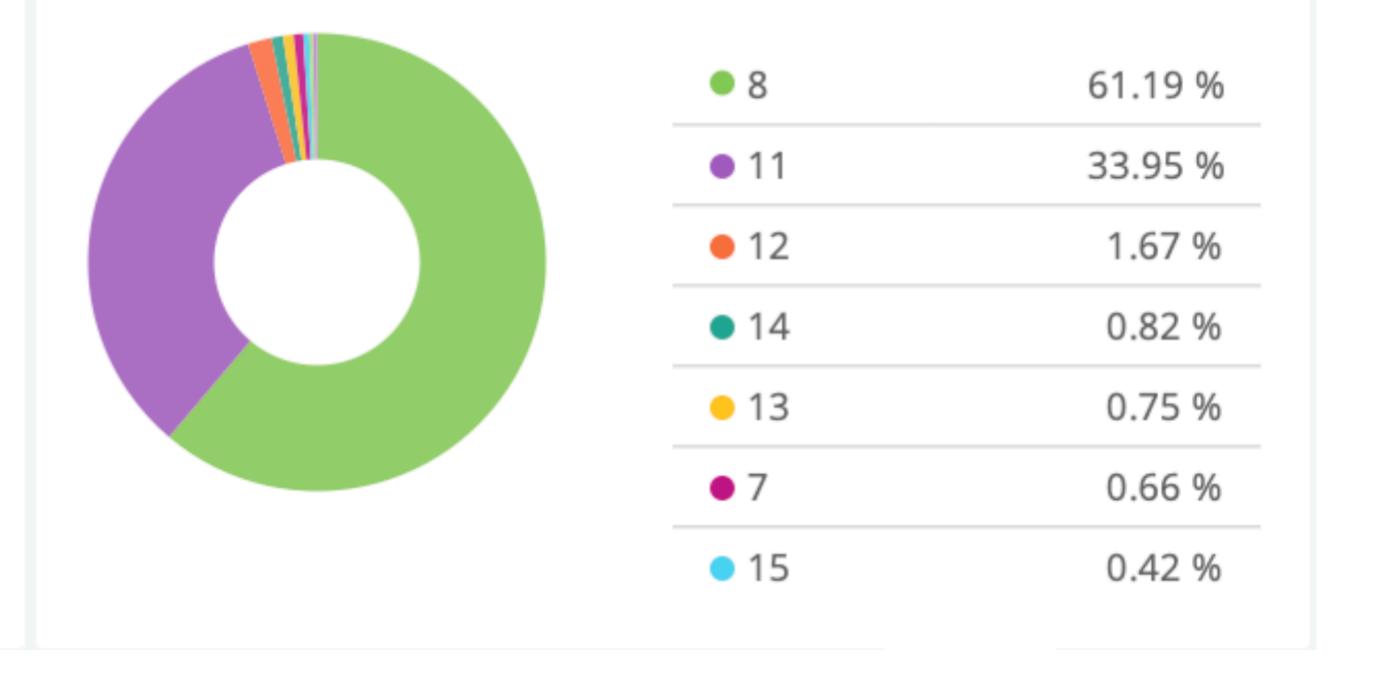


#### Containerized JVMs

Since Feb 10, 06:29 ...

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





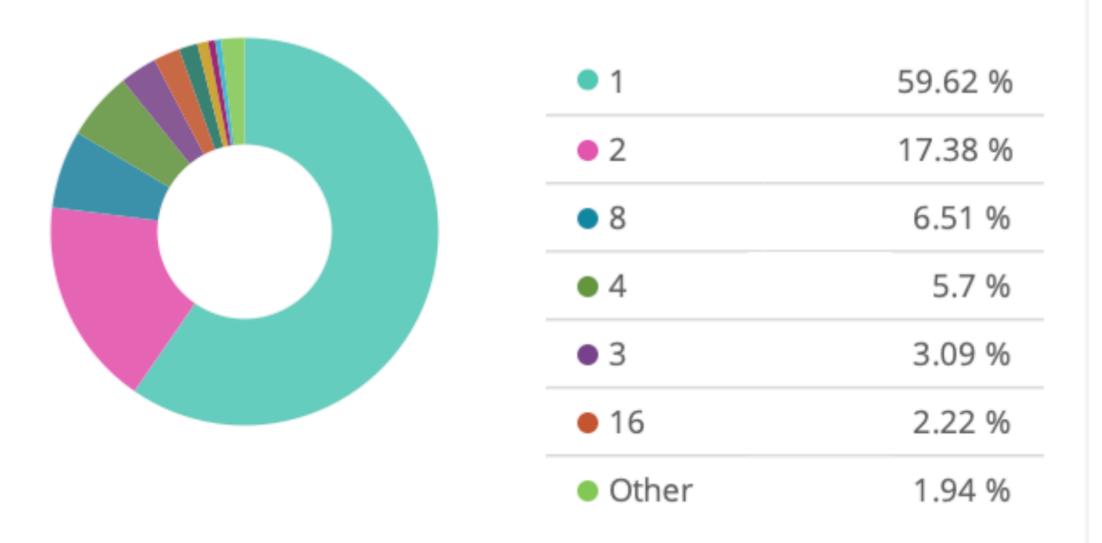
#### Containers

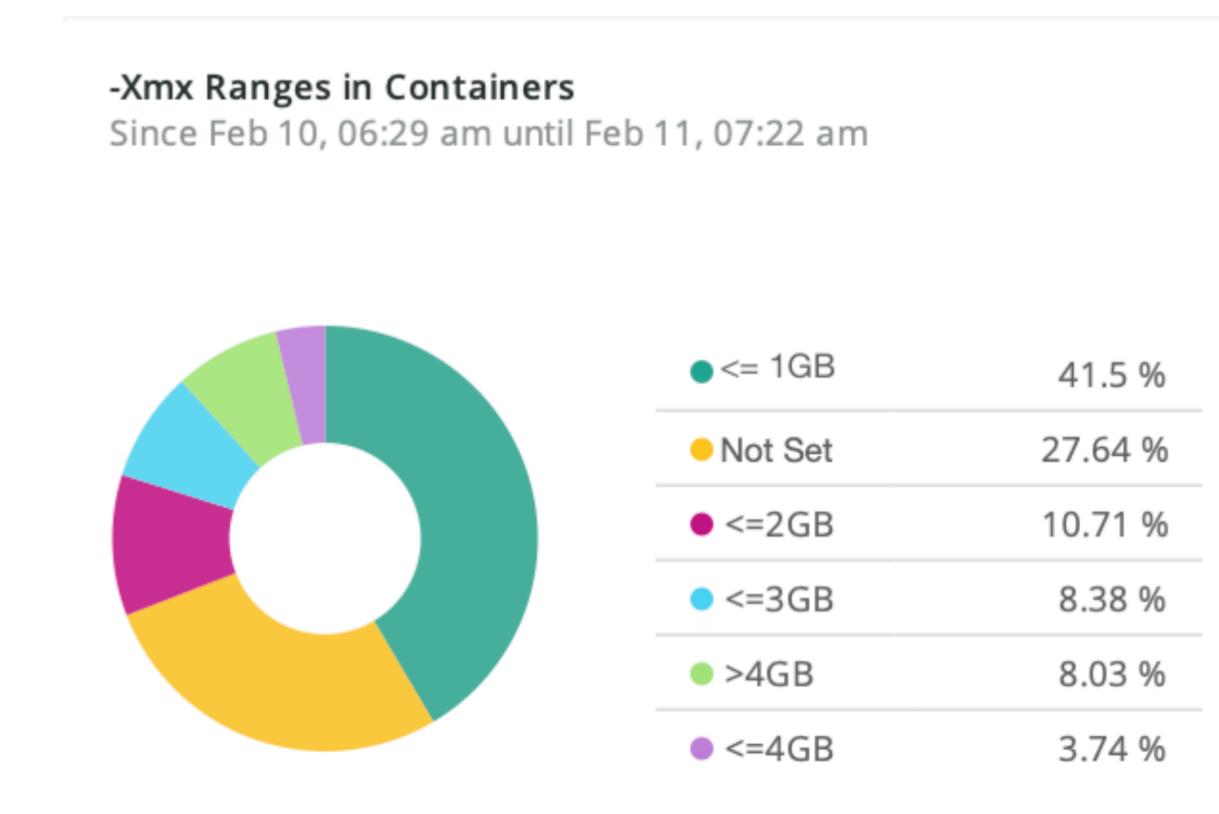


### CPUs & Memory In Use

#### 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

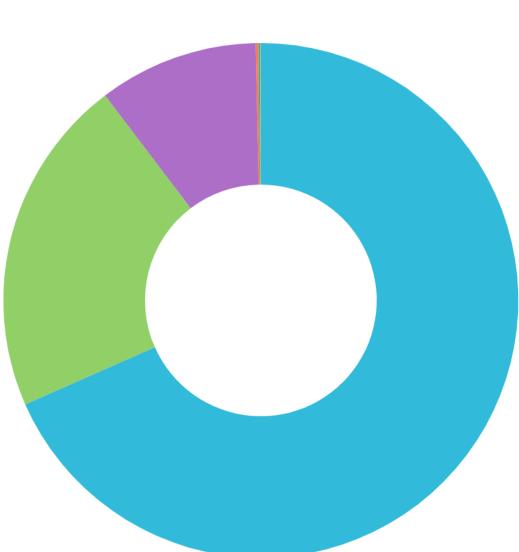
8.47 % -XX:MaxRAMPercentage

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

# 6.13% Percentage



### Who Actively Selects A GC?

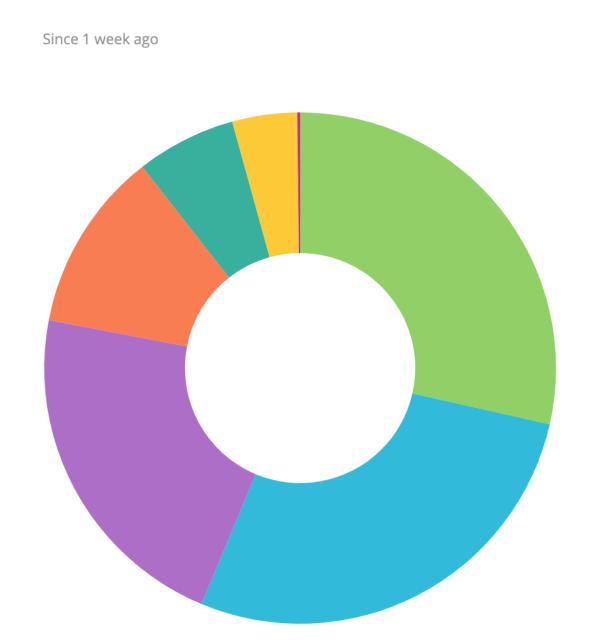


Since 1 week ago

#### **JVMMETADATASUMMARIES**

<ul> <li>Unconfigured</li> </ul>	68.38
• G1	21.28
• CMS	10.01
Parallel	0.18
• ZGC	0.11
Shenandoah	0.032





#### \_J/

	Share ~
JVMMETADATASUMMARIES	
<ul> <li>Unknown</li> </ul>	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"





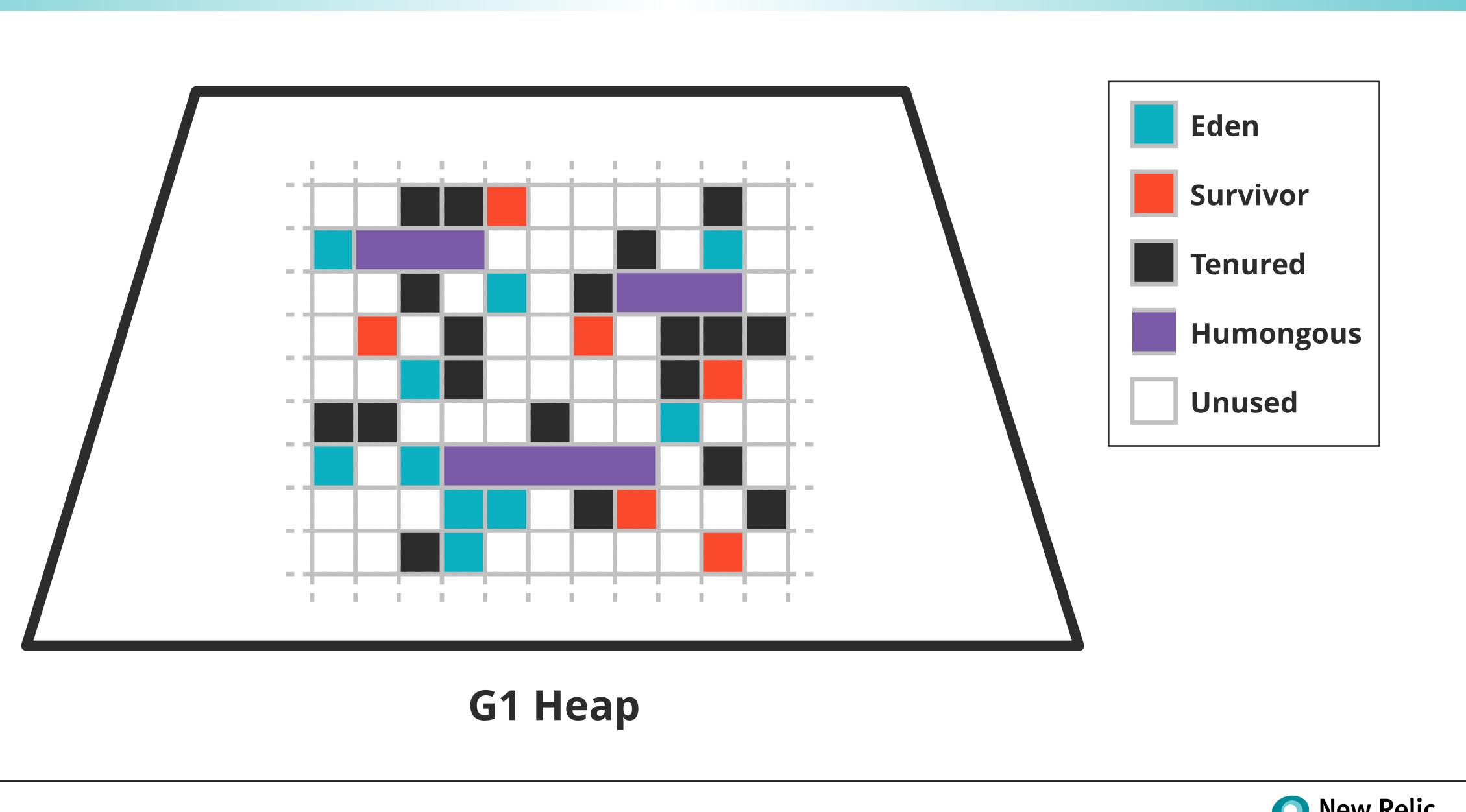




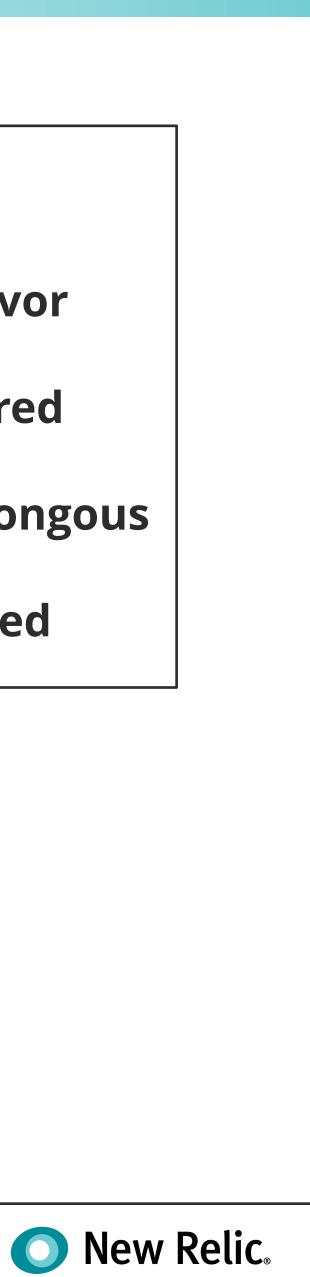
# **G1** – Regional Collection

- 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



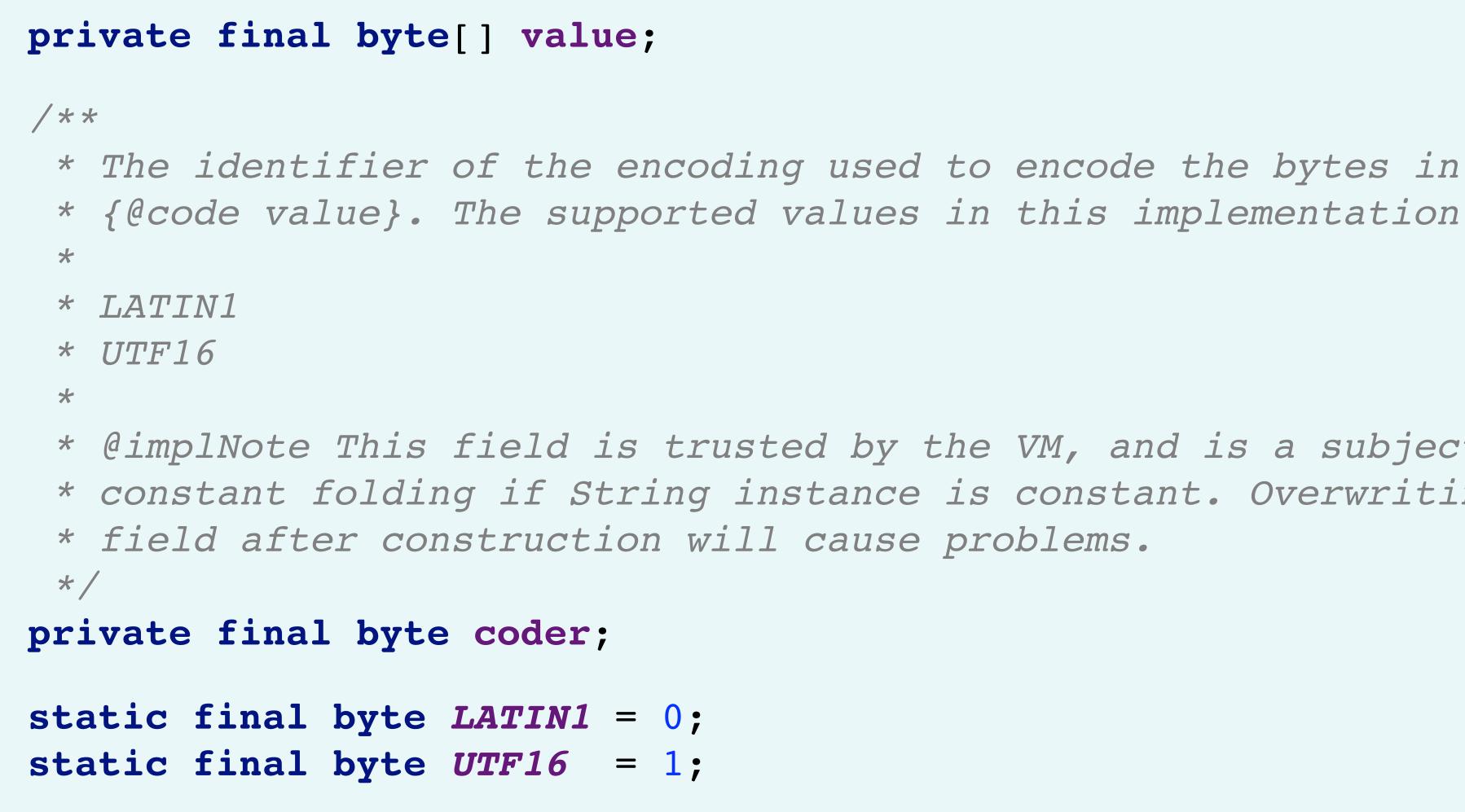
### **Practical Impacts**

- 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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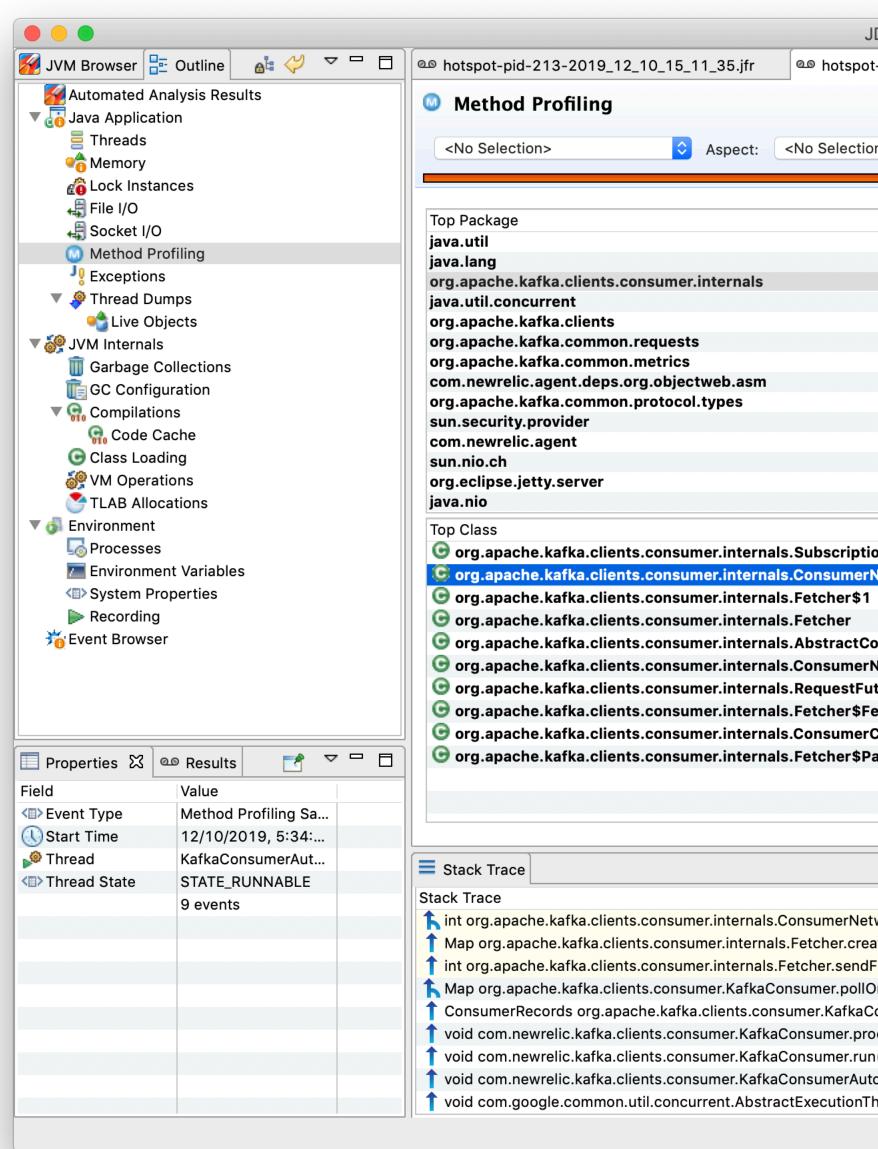


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kafka-coordinator-heart			4,637	33.3 B	663 B	15.7 MiB	4
New Relic Faster Harvest			4,401	394 B	11.6 KiB	59.9 MiB	10
New Relic Sampler Service			3,911	50.2 B	3.58 KiB	57.2 MiB	6
New Relic Harvest Servic	e		3,836	212 B	13.4 KiB	195 MiB	5.
JFR Periodic Tasks			3,726	18.4 B	1.19 KiB	10 MiB	4
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AnalyticEventPartitioner			1,981	330 B	9.99 KiB	28.3 MiB	7.
NewRelicMetricsReporte	r-1		1,638	47.6 B	86.3 B	5.02 MiB	1
🍳 main			1,589	1.32 KiB	19.1 KiB	457 MiB	4.
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<sup>©</sup> dw-213			382	44.3 B	4.07 KiB	3.43 MiB	3
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String java.lang.StringBuilde	er.toString()				361		
	at.makeFormat(int, int, StringBuild	der[])			207		
void java.text.MessageForm	at.applyPattern(String)				207		
void java.text.MessageForm	at. <init>(String)</init>				207		
String java.text.MessageFor	mat.format(String, Object[])				207		
	mplers.MemorySampler\$PoolUsag	e.recordStats(StatsEngine)			207		
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# **Method Profiling**



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ateFetchRequests()		4					
Fetches()		4					
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**

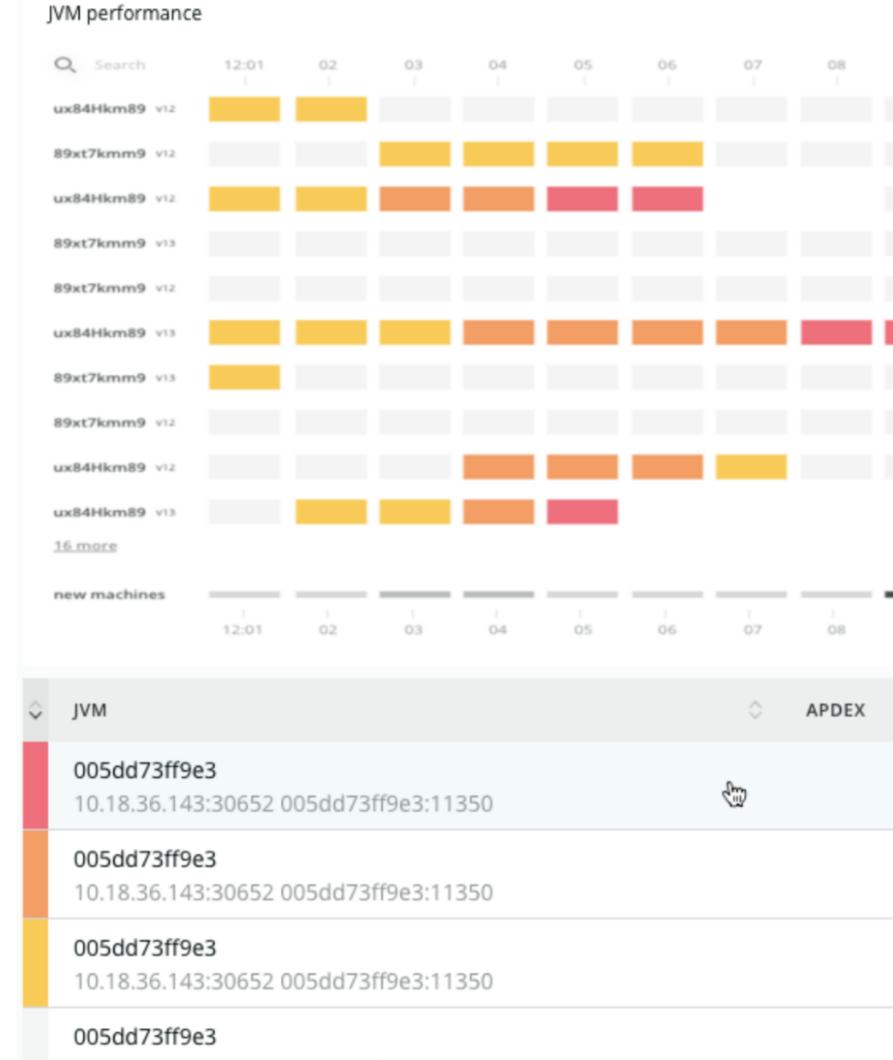


# **New Relic: Real-Time Profiling for Java**

- 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**

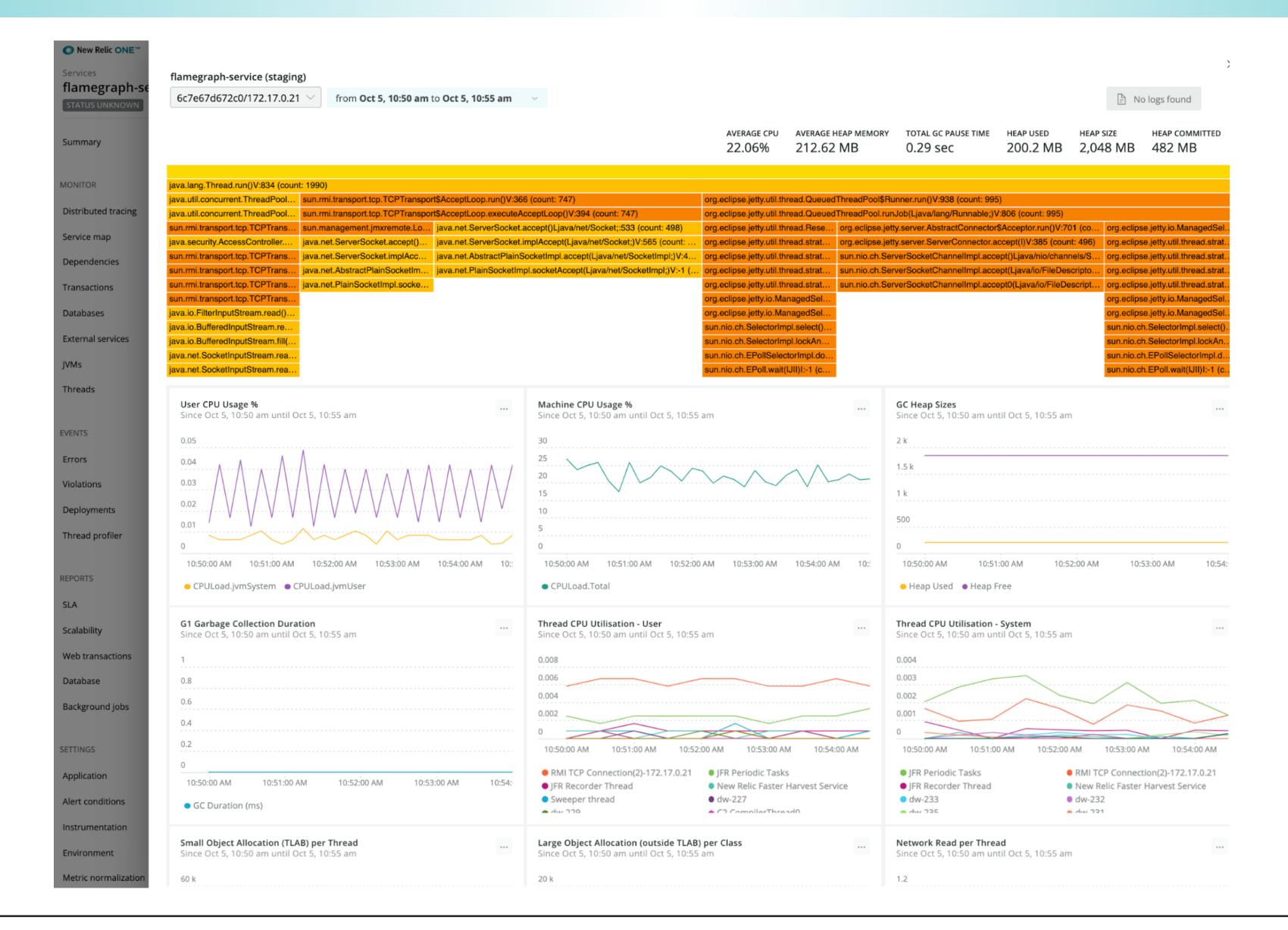


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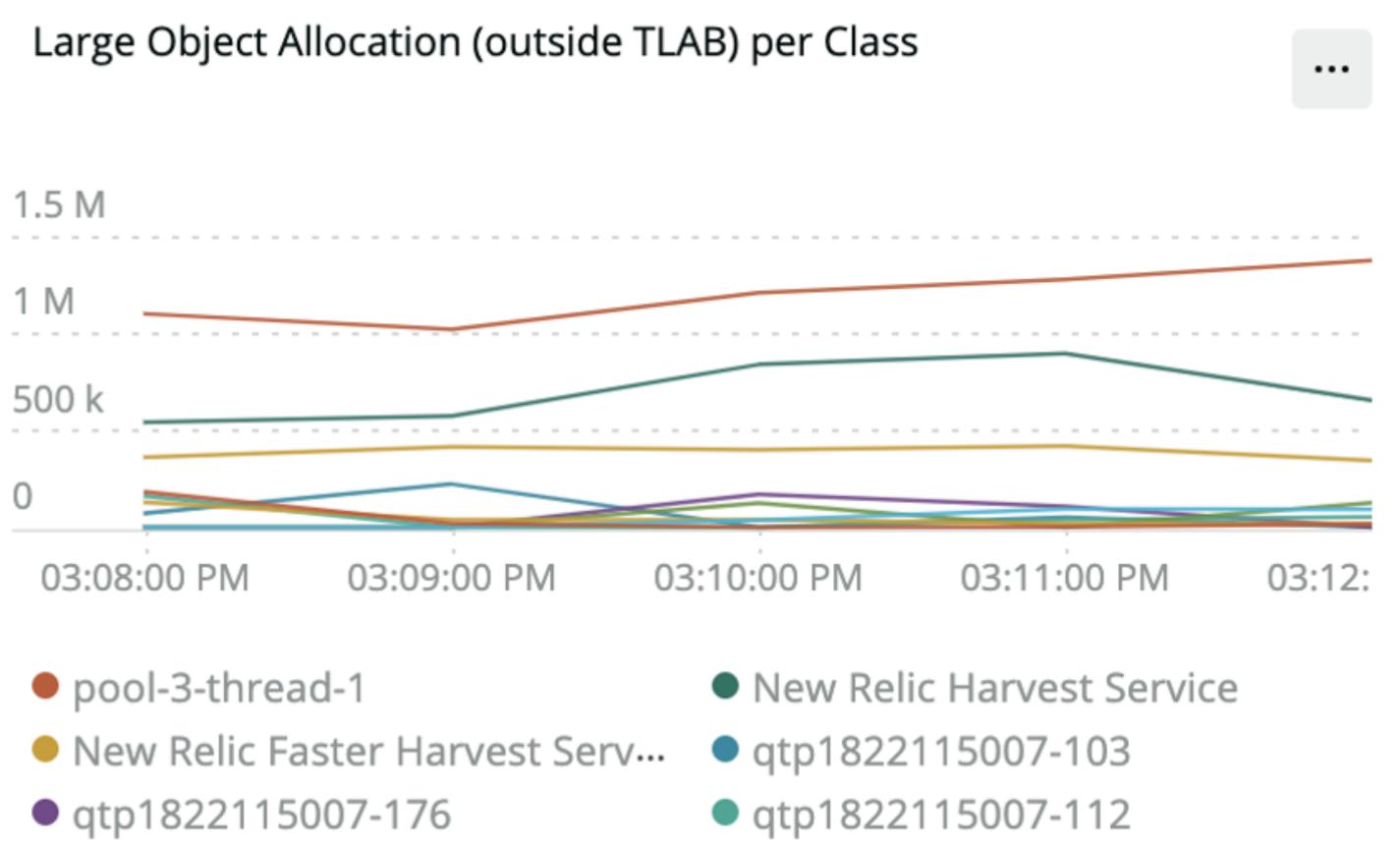


### **Execution Flamegraph**





### **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

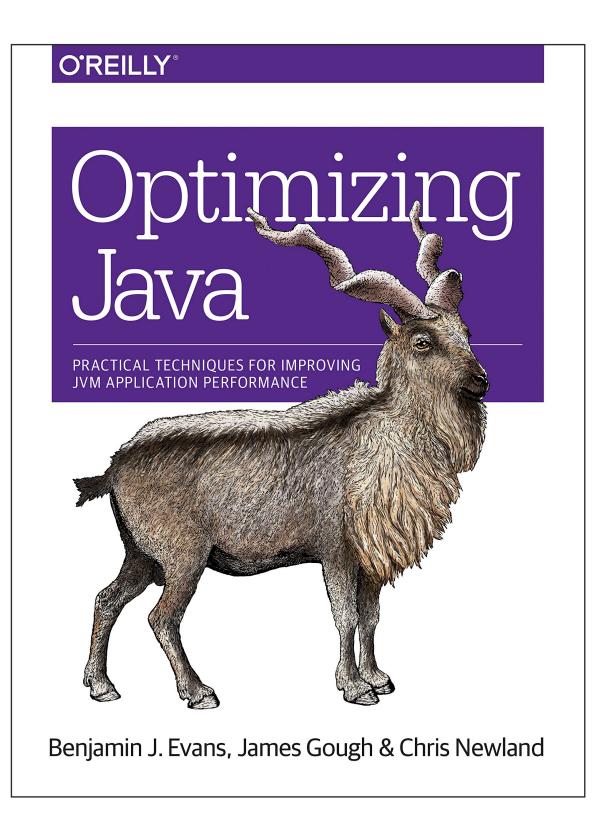


### Why Are We Going to 11?

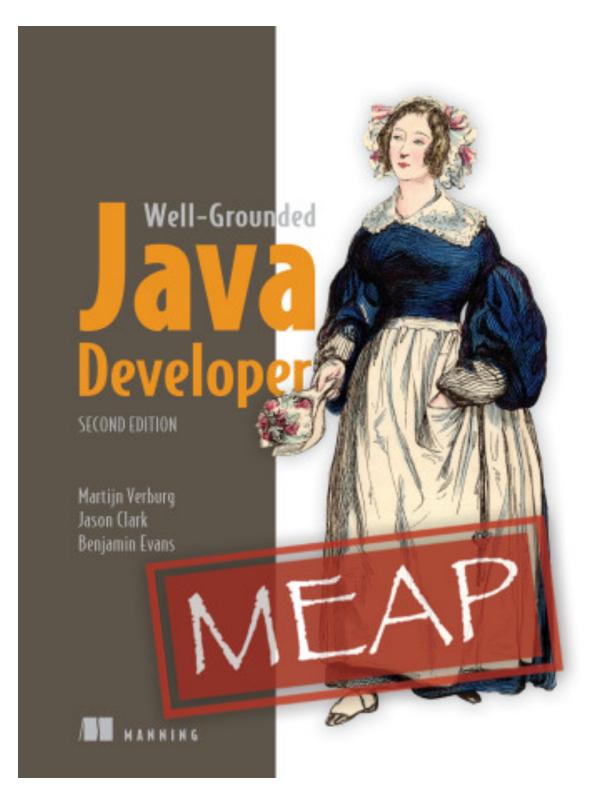
- It's the long-term support release (through 2023)
- Move from 8 ... then don't have to upgrade again
- Smaller footprint, cloud friendly, cool new tech
- Teams are using:
  - Version 11 for new apps
  - Version 8 for sustaining / BAU apps
- Upgrades are occurring at teams own pace Almost all major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



### **Questions & Thank You**



# bevans@newrelic.com





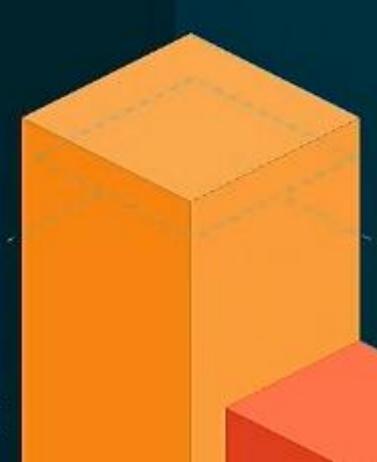


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