



Observing chaos

How distributed tracing brings observability
to a service mess

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Microservices

They are just distributed systems. But in the hundreds.

Distributed systems fail. All the time!

Each service at a potentially different version.

A/B tests, canary releases, ...



Microservices

Chaos.



Microservices

Chaos. YAY!

(as long as we can observe it...)



Observability

What went wrong, where, and why

Metrics, logs, distributed tracing, ...

Distributed systems as context



Distributed Tracing

Tells the story of a request across services

Which services were touched, when, and in which order



Distributed Tracing

Measures units of work (“spans”)

When did it start, how long it took, ...

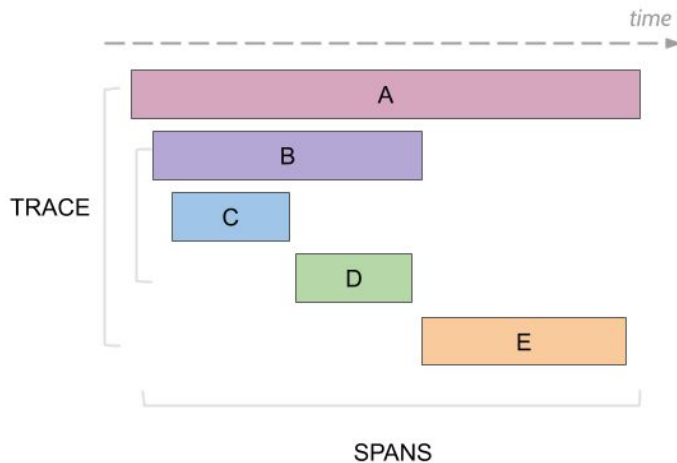
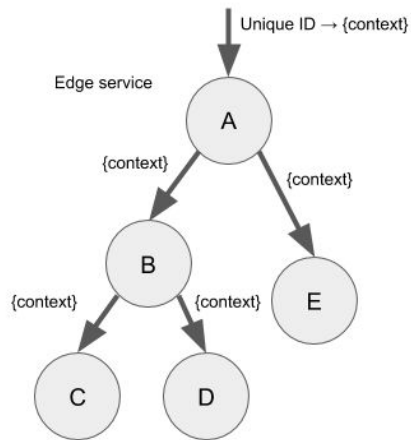
Causality

Spans may contain references to other spans

Context propagation



Distributed Tracing





Distributed Tracing

Our code

```
@GET
@Produces(MediaType.TEXT_PLAIN)
public String submit() {

    Account account = accountsService.getAccount();
    Order order = new Order(UUID.randomUUID().toString(), account);
    inventoryService.processOrder(order);
    return String.format("Order submitted: %s", order);
}
```



Distributed Tracing

Our code with distributed tracing

```
@GET
@Produces(MediaType.TEXT_PLAIN)
public String submit() {
    try (Scope scope = tracer.buildSpan("submitOrder").startActive(true)) {

        Account account = accountsService.getAccount();
        Order order = new Order(UUID.randomUUID().toString(), account);
        inventoryService.processOrder(order);
        return String.format("Order submitted: %s", order);
    }
}
```



Distributed Tracing

Our code with distributed tracing and custom tags

```
@GET
@Produces(MediaType.TEXT_PLAIN)
public String submit() {
    try (Scope scope = tracer.buildSpan("submitOrder").startActive(true)) {
        scope.span().setTag("priority", "high");
        Account account = accountsService.getAccount();
        Order order = new Order(UUID.randomUUID().toString(), account);
        inventoryService.processOrder(order);
        return String.format("Order submitted: %s", order);
    }
}
```



Jaeger

Complete tracing solution

Client libraries (aka Tracers)

Backend components (Collector, Ingester, Query)

User interface

Jaeger

Available as part of OpenShift Service Mesh

Jaeger Operator

Uses Elasticsearch (via Elasticsearch Operator)

Seamless integration with Istio

Deep integration with Kiali



Thank you

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Recommended resources:

[Jaeger](#), [Istio](#), [Kiali](#), [Istio by example](#)

Photos from Pixabay and Pexels:

[Microservices](#), [Observability](#), [Distributed Tracing](#)

