



Thanos

Inside a Distributed Monitoring System

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Speakers



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Agenda

- Quick intro, reiterate quickly on components
- StoreAPI
 - Querier (discovery, fanout, filtering)
 - Producer vs Browser
 - Integrations: OpenTSDB
- Downsampling
- Horizontal Query scaling
- Summary





Thanos Community

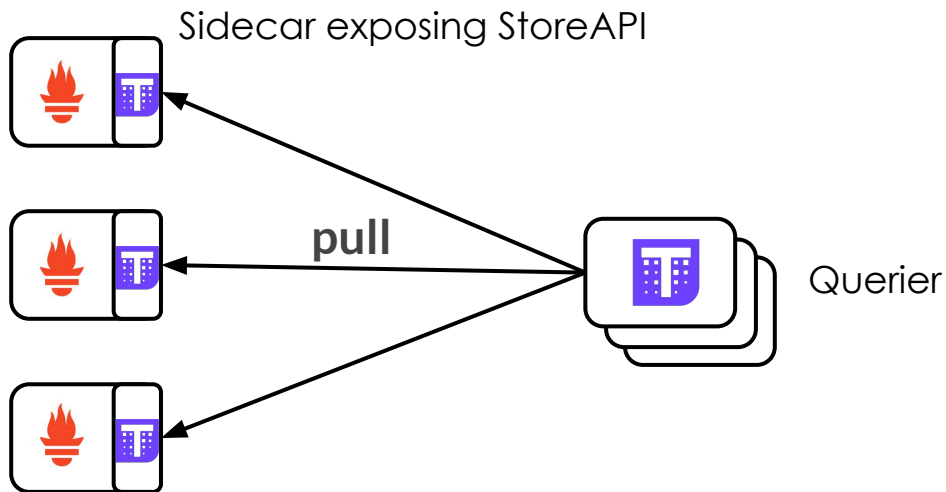
- Fully open source from start
- Started in Nov 2017
- Part of **CNCF Sandbox**

- 4600+ Github stars
- 160+ contributors
- ~500 slack users
- 8 maintainers, 3 triagers from 7 different companies.

- Transparent Governance
- Prometheus Ecosystem

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository for Thanos. At the top, it displays the repository name 'thanos-io / thanos' along with statistics: 154 Unwatched, 4.6k Stars, and 570 Forks. Below this, there are navigation tabs for Code, Issues (196), Pull requests (52), Actions, Projects (1), Wiki, Security, Insights, and Settings. A description states: 'Highly available Prometheus setup with long term storage capabilities. CNCF Sandbox project. <https://thanos.io>'. There are several topic tags like 'prometheus', 'golang', 'google-cloud-storage', etc. A 'Manage topics' section shows metrics: 1,105 commits, 120 branches, 21 releases, 1 environment, 160 contributors, and Apache-2.0 license. Below this is a 'Branch: master' dropdown and a 'New pull request' button. A 'README.md' file is selected, showing the Thanos logo and the word 'Thanos' in large blue letters. At the bottom of the README, there are status badges: 'PASSED', 'go report', 'godoc', 'reference', 'join slack', 'athanos', and 'netlify Success'. An 'Overview' section follows, describing Thanos as a set of components for a highly available metric system with unlimited storage capacity, and mentioning it is a CNCF Sandbox project. It also notes that Thanos leverages Prometheus 2.0 storage format for cost-efficient storage of historical data.

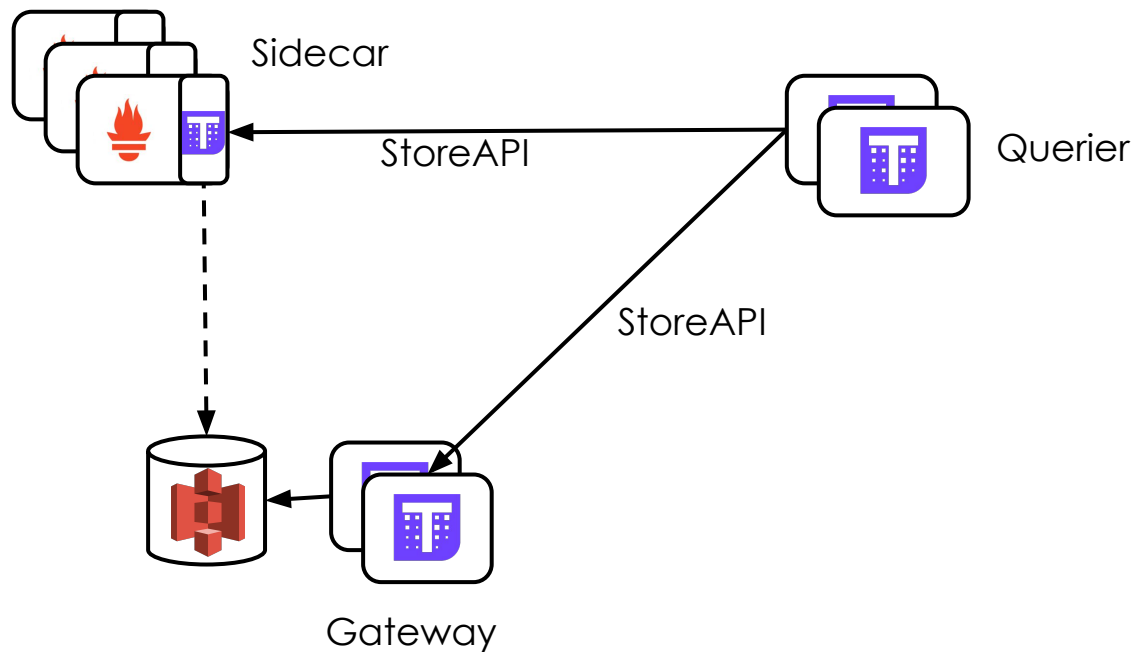
Let's quickly reiterate on Thanos



Let's quickly reiterate on Thanos

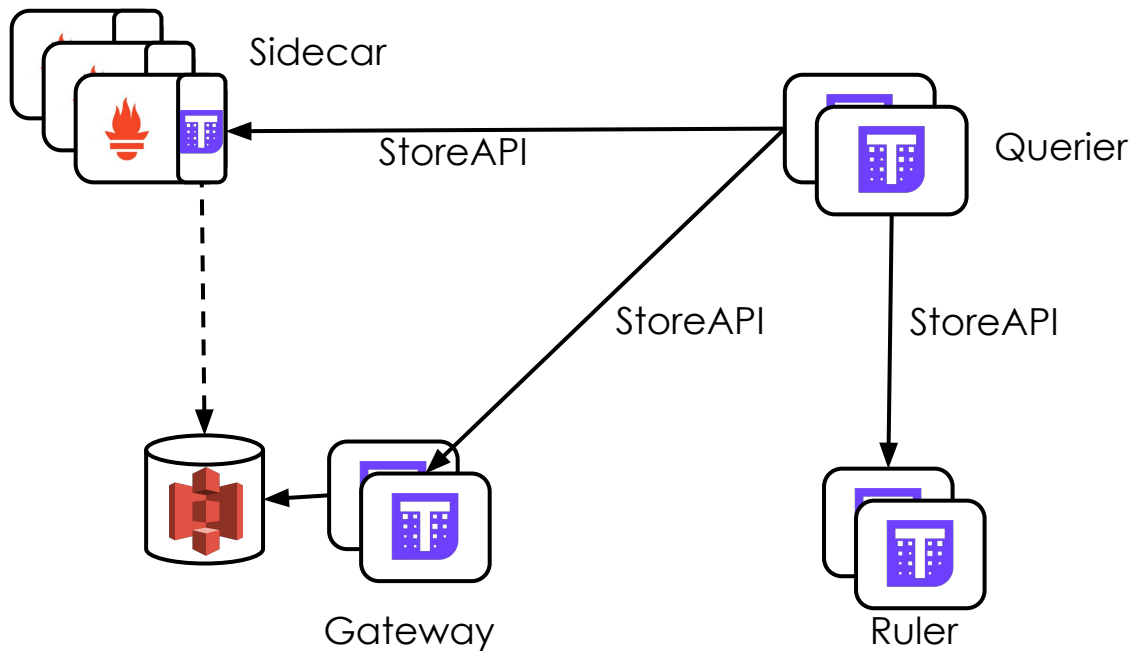


Let's quickly reiterate on Thanos

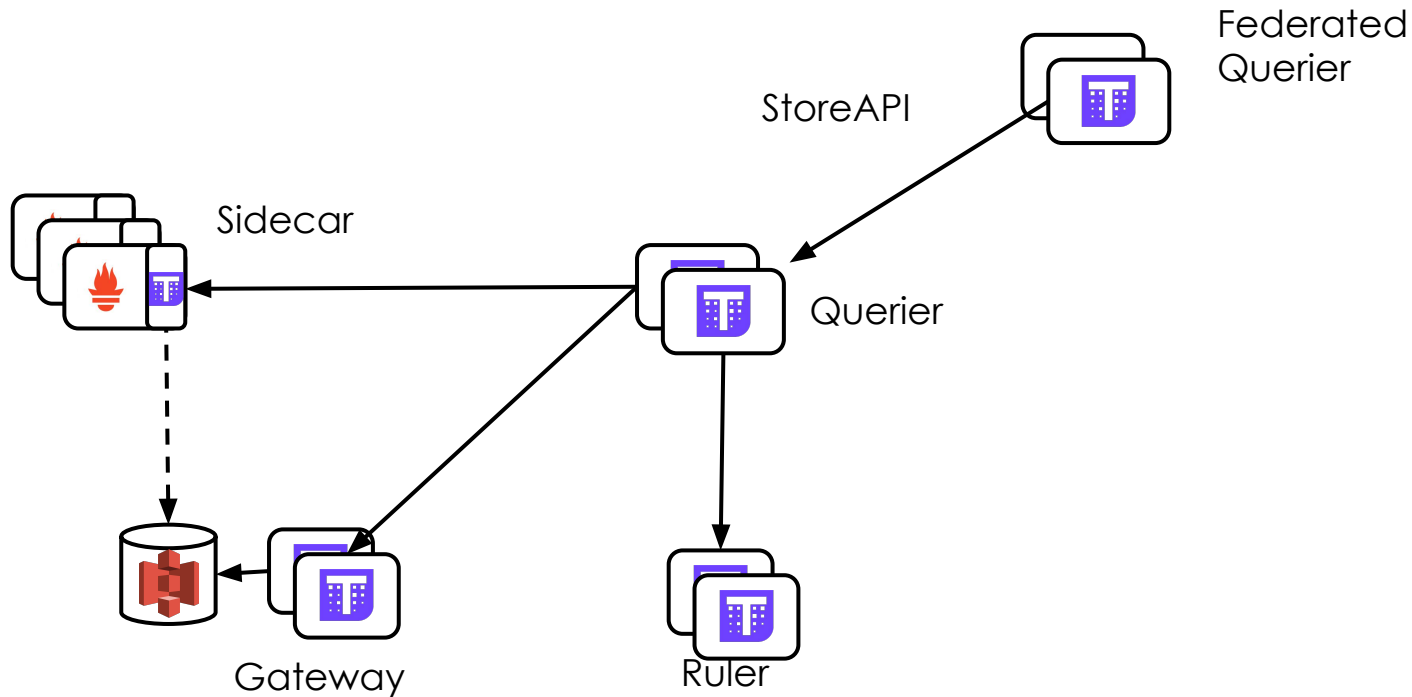




Let's quickly reiterate on Thanos



Let's quickly reiterate on Thanos



**There was something
common in all these
architectures**

StoreAPI



- Every component in Thanos serves data via gRPC StoreAPI
 - sidecar
 - store
 - rule
 - receive (experimental component)
 - query
- Integrations! <https://thanos.io/integrations.md/>
 - OpenTSDB as StoreAPI: <https://github.com/G-Research/geras>



```
service Store {  
  rpc Info(InfoRequest) returns (InfoResponse);  
  rpc Series(SeriesRequest) returns (stream SeriesResponse);  
  rpc LabelNames(LabelNamesRequest) returns (LabelNamesResponse);  
  rpc LabelValues(LabelValuesRequest) returns (LabelValuesResponse);  
}
```

From: [rpc.proto](#)

- --store flag
 - Exact endpoints
 - DNS discovery: A, AAAA, SRV

```
● ● ●  
$ thanos query  
  --store=1.2.3.4:10901  
  --store=dnsSRV+_grpc._tcp.thanos-stores.monitoring
```



Thanos Query: Store Infos

- Every 10s requests Info endpoint
- Healthiness
- Metadata propagation

```
message InfoResponse {  
  int64 min_time = 1;  
  int64 max_time = 2;  
  StoreType storeType = 3;  
  repeated LabelSet label_sets = 4;  
}
```



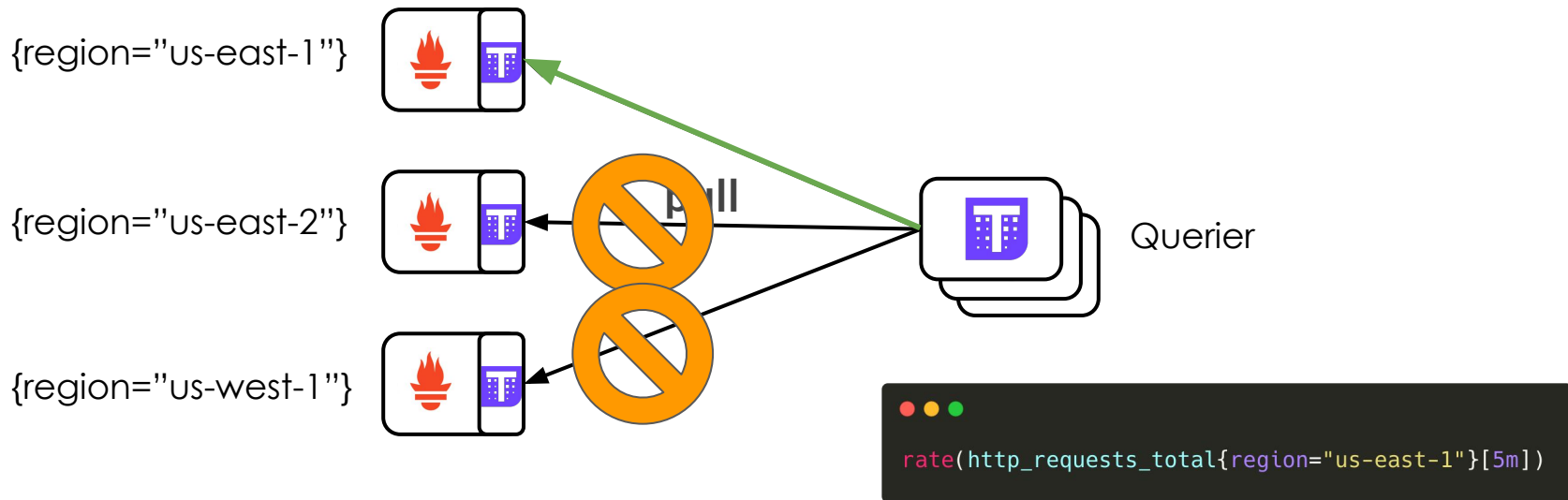
Thanos Query: Life of a query

- Query
 - Select possible stores
 - Fan out to gather data
 - Process query

```
rate(http_requests_total{region="us-east-1"}[5m])
```




Thanos Query: Life of a query

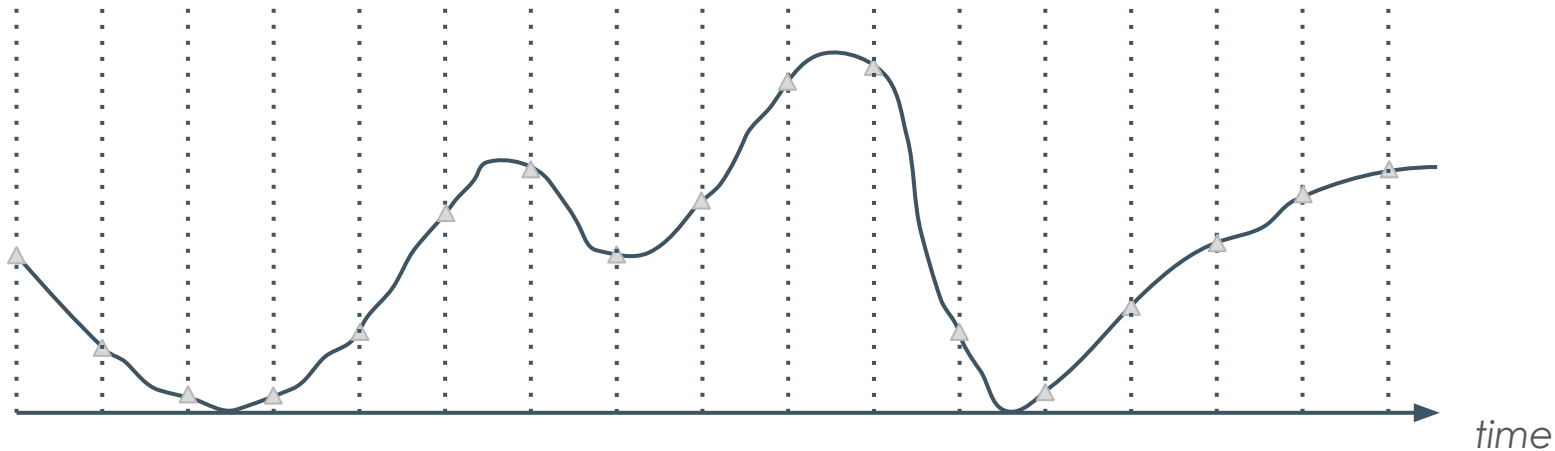


ProxyStore

Challenges of Querying Years of Data



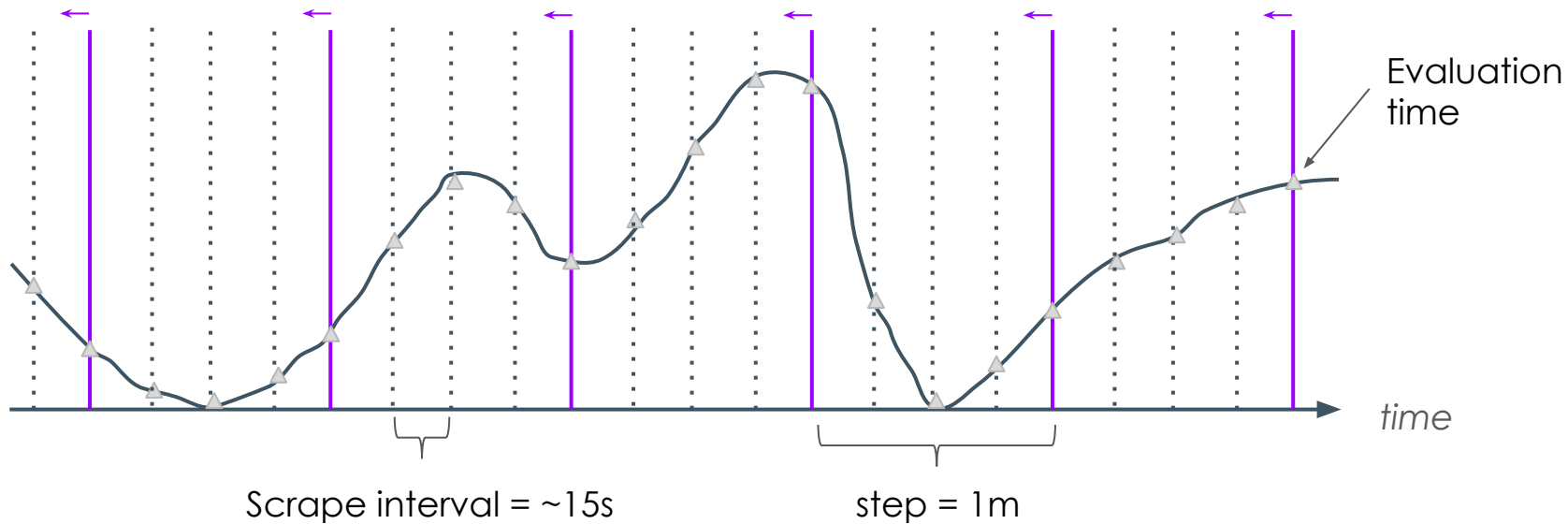
Query Resolution



- Typical scrape period of Prometheus is 15s
- Querying 30 days means ~170k samples

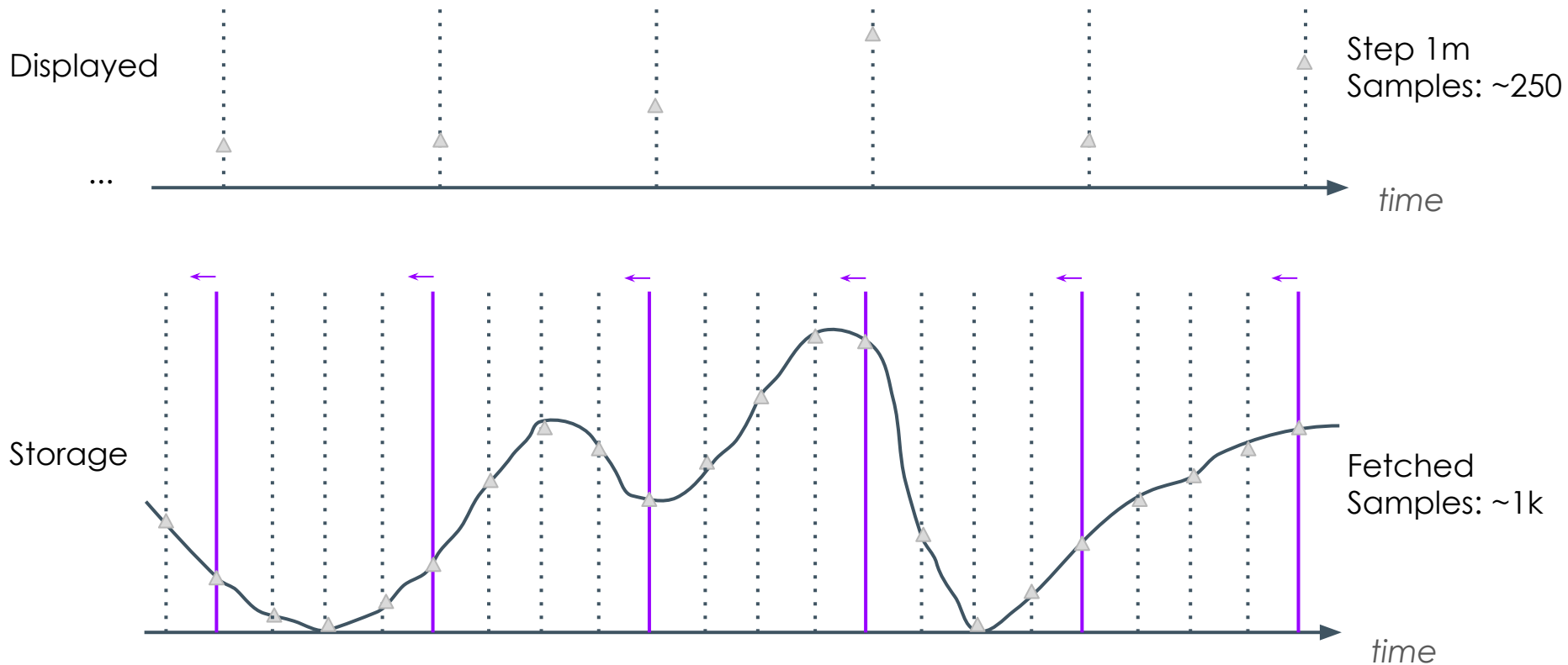


Query Resolution



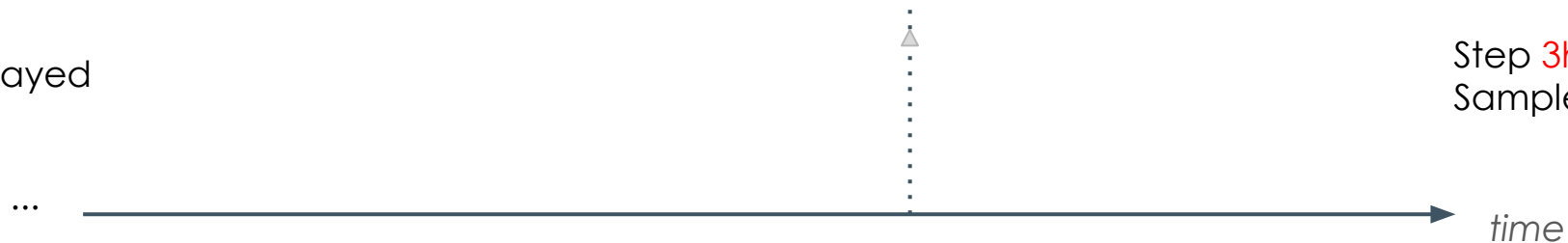


Query Resolution: 5h range



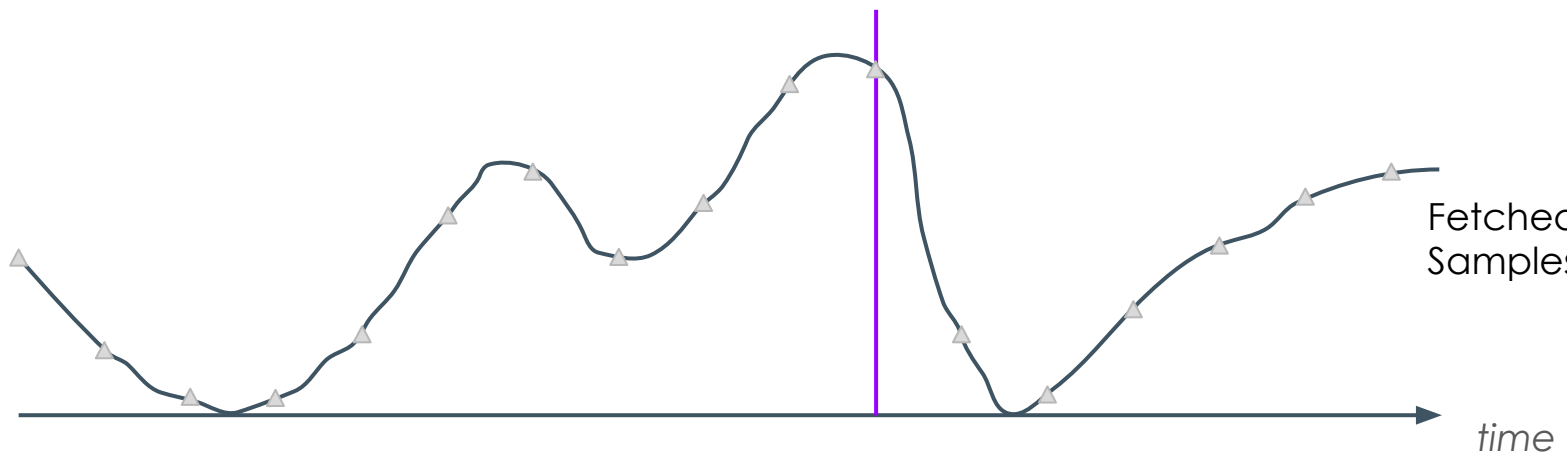
Query Resolution: 30d range

Displayed



Step 3h
Samples: ~250

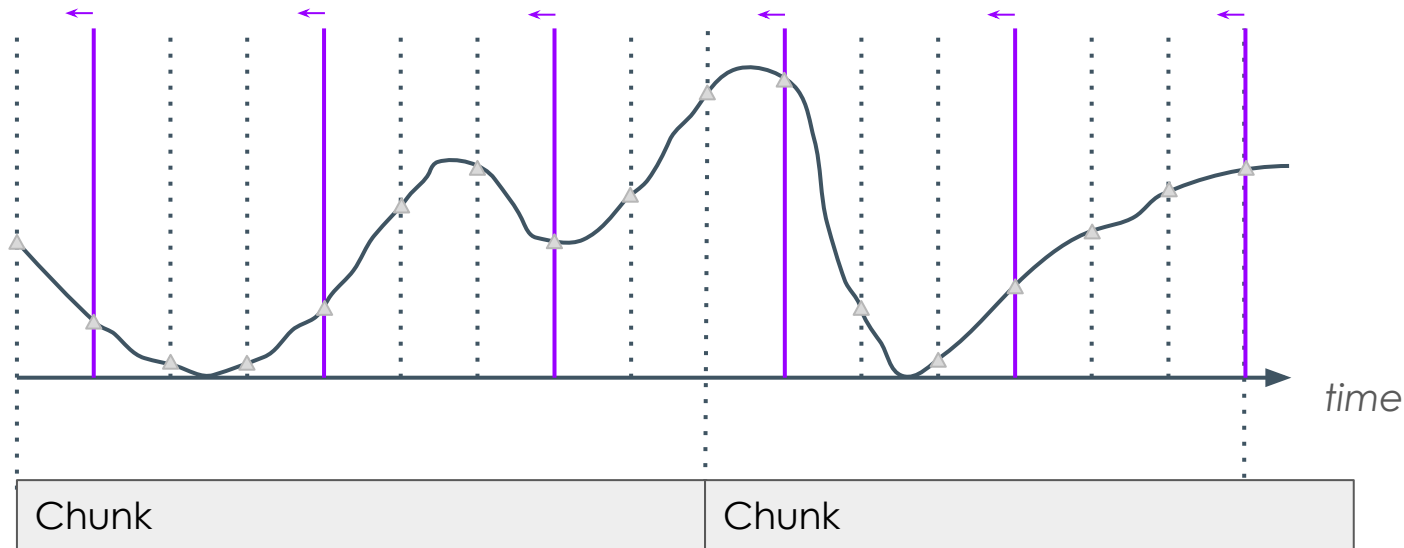
Storage



Fetches
Samples: ~170k



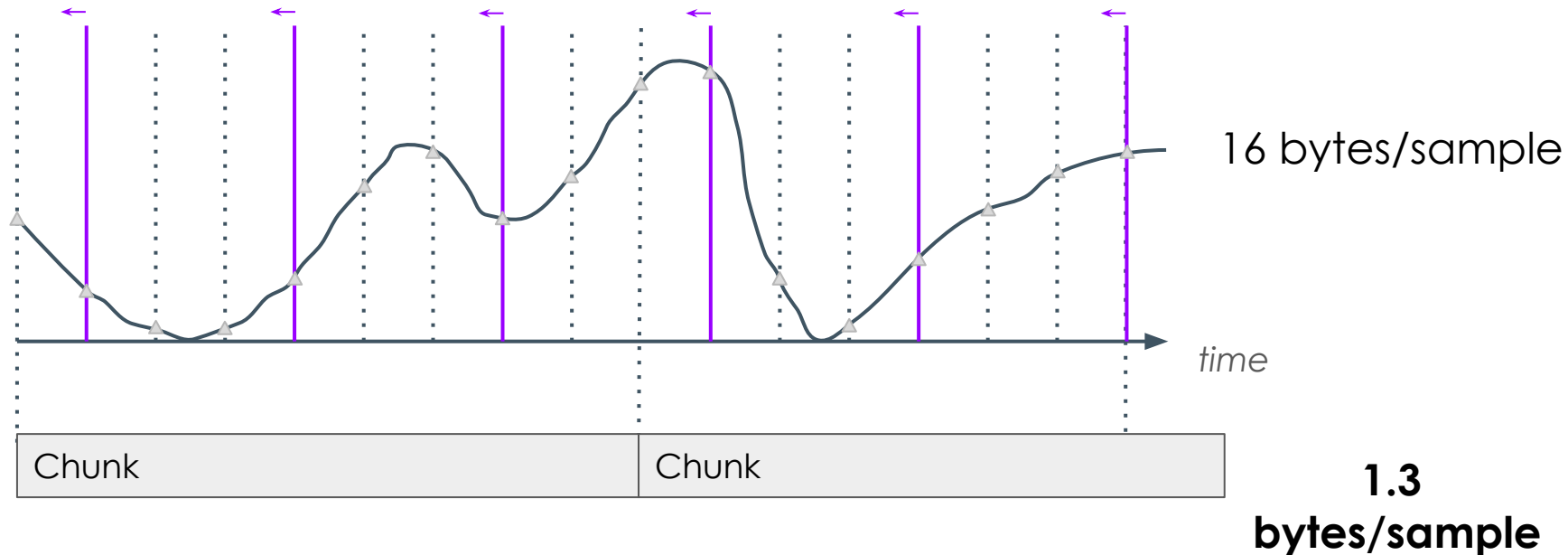
Chunks



Samples are stored in chunks



Chunks



Samples are stored in chunks



Chunk tradeoff

Decompressing one sample takes 10-40 nanoseconds



Chunk tradeoff

Decompressing one sample takes 10-40 nanoseconds

Query Range	Samples for 1000 series	Decompression latency	Chunk data size
30m	~120 000	~5ms	~160KB
1d	~6 millions	~240ms	~8MB



Chunks tradeoff

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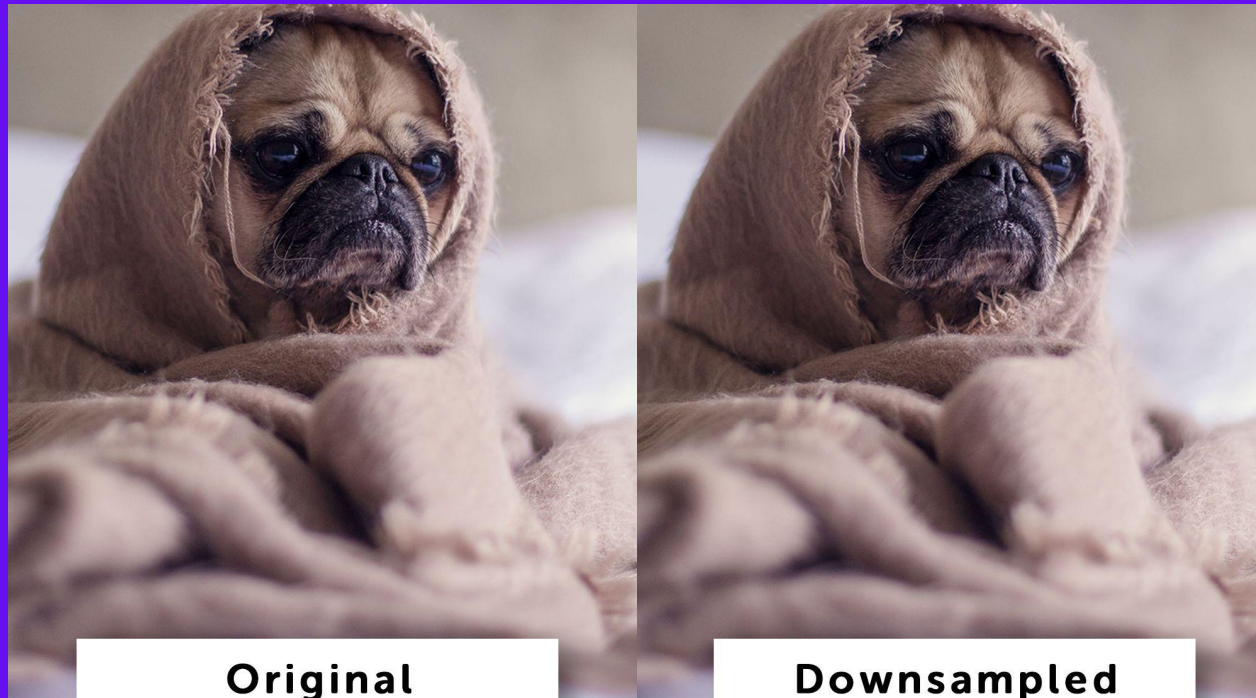


Chunks tradeoff

Decompressing one sample takes 10-40 nanoseconds

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1y	~2 billions	~1m20s	~2GB 🤯

Downsampling

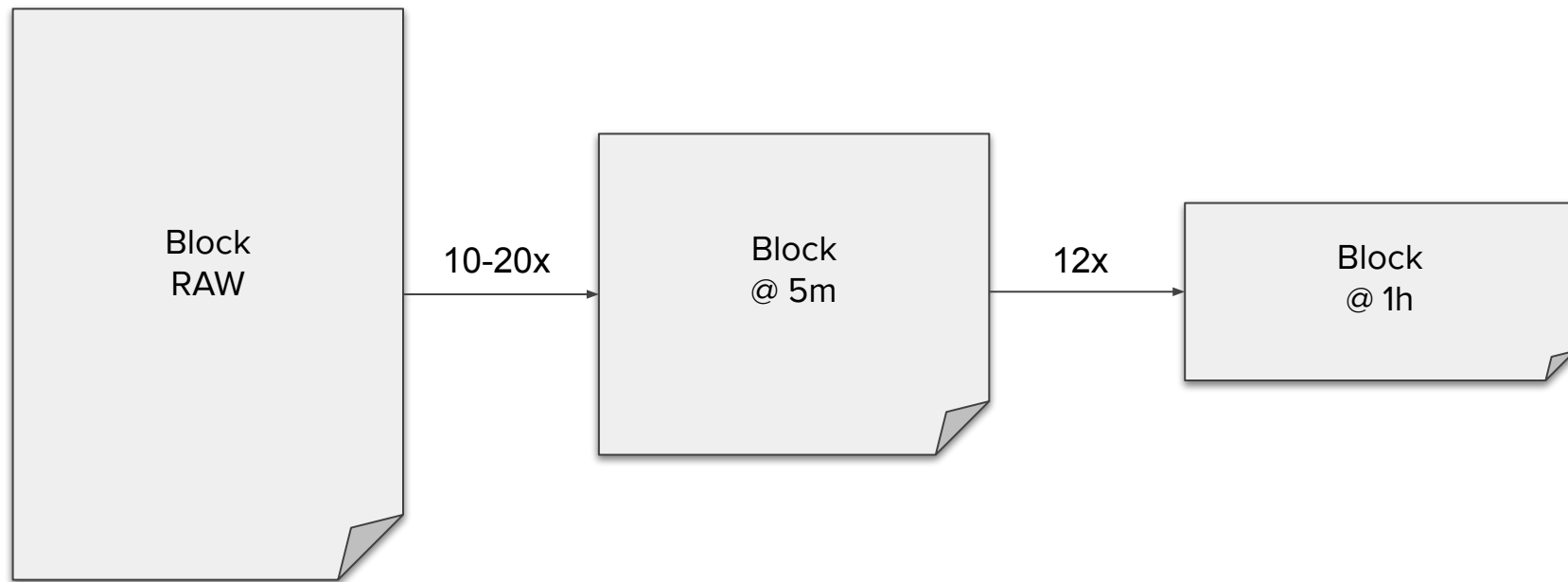


Original

Downsampled



Downsampling





Downsampling





Downsampling

count

sum

min

max

counter

```
count(requests_total)
```

```
count_over_time(requests_total[1h])
```



Downsampling

count

sum

min

max

counter

```
sum_over_time(requests_total[1h])
```



Downsampling

count

sum

min

max

counter

```
min(requests_total)
```

```
min_over_time(requests_total[1h])
```



Downsampling



`max(requests_total)`

`max_over_time(requests_total[1h])`



Downsampling

count

sum

min

max

counter

```
rate(requests_total[1h])
```

```
increase(requests_total[1h])
```



Downsampling



avg

requests_total

avg(requests_total)

sum(requests_total)



Downsampling: What chunk to use on query?

PromQL

```
range query from t0 to t1, step 10s:  
rate(alerts_total[5m])
```



Downsampling: What chunk to use on query?

PromQL

```
range query from t0 to t1, step 10s:  
rate(alerts_total[5m])
```

Select

```
labels:  
  __name__ = "alerts_total"  
time:  
  start: t0-5m  
  end: t1  
step:  
  10s  
read hints:  
  func: "rate"
```




Downsampling: What chunk to use on query?

PromQL

```
range query from t0 to t1, step 10s:  
rate(alerts_total[5m])
```

Select

```
labels:  
  __name__ = "alerts_total"  
time:  
  start: t0-5m  
  end: t1  
step:  
  10s  
read hints:  
  func: "rate"
```

Fetch

raw

raw





Downsampling: What chunk to use on query?

PromQL

```
range query from t0 to t1, step 30m:  
rate(alerts_total[1h])
```

Select

```
labels:  
  __name__ = "alerts_total"  
time:  
  start: t0-5m  
  end: t1  
step:  
  30m  
read hints:  
  func: "rate"
```

Can we fit 5 samples for this step with lower resolution?



Downsampling: What chunk to use on query?

PromQL

```
range query from t0 to t1, step 30m:  
rate(alerts_total[1h])
```

Select

```
labels:  
  __name__ = "alerts_total"  
time:  
  start: t0-5m  
  end: t1  
step:  
  30m  
read hints:  
  func: "rate"
```

Can we fit 5 samples for this step with lower resolution?

Fetch

counter

counter

yes for 5m resolution!



Downsampling: What chunk to use on query?

PromQL

range query from t0 to t1, step 30m:
avg(alerts{state="active"})

Select

labels:
__name__ = "alerts"
state = "active"
time:
start: t0
end: t1
step:
30m
read hints:
func: "**avg**"

Fetch

sum	sum
count	count



Downsampling

Query Range	Samples for 1000 series	Decompression latency	Fetches chunks size
30m	~120 000	~5ms	~160KB
1d	~6 millions	~240ms	~8MB
30d	~170 millions	~7s	~240MB
30d	~8 millions	~300ms	~9MB
1y	~2 billions	~80s	~2GB
1y	~8 millions	~300ms	~9MB

5m resolution
[~5d+ queries]

1h resolution
[~50d+ queries]



Downsampling: Caveats

- Thanos/Prometheus UI: **Step** (evaluation interval in seconds)
- Grafana: **Resolutions** (1/x samples per pixel)
- `rate[<5m]` vs `rate[1h]` / `rate[5h]` / `rate[$_interval]`
- Storing **only** downsampled data and trying to zoom-in



Downsampling: Caveats

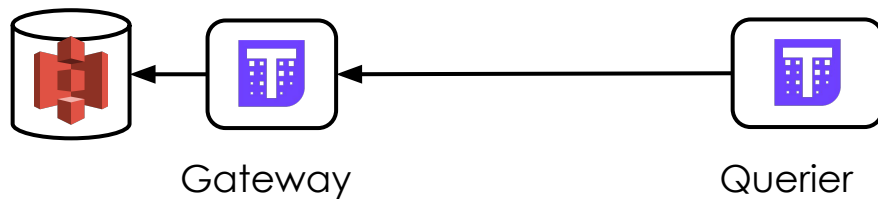
- Thanos/Prometheus UI: **Step** (evaluation interval in seconds)
- Grafana: **Resolutions** (1/x samples per pixel)
- `rate[<5m]` vs `rate[1h]` / `rate[5h]` / `rate[$_interval]`
- Storing **only** downsampled data and trying to zoom-in

Standardize downsampling?

Horizontal Scaling of Long Term Storage Read Path



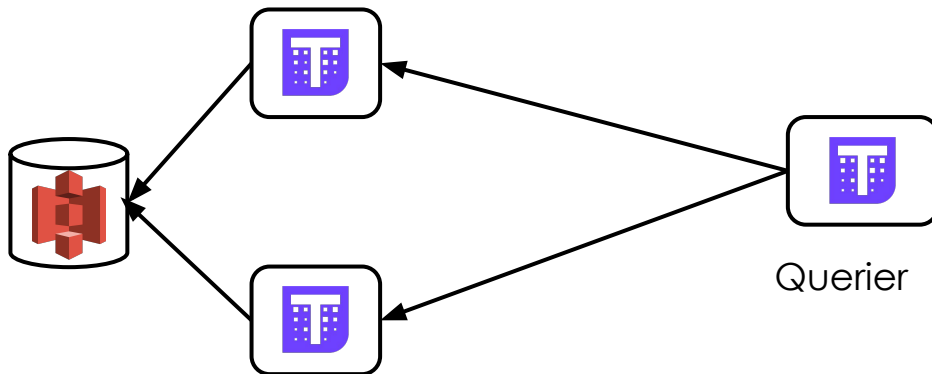
Querying long term storage backend





Time partitioning

Gateway: `--min-time=1y --max-time=150d`

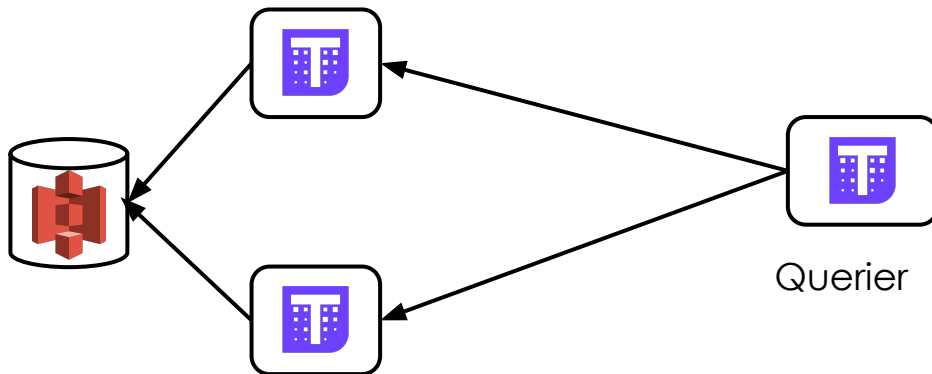


Gateway: `--min-time=150d`



Block Sharding

```
Gateway: --selector.relabel-config=  
- action: keep  
  regex: "eu.*"  
  source_labels:  
  - region
```

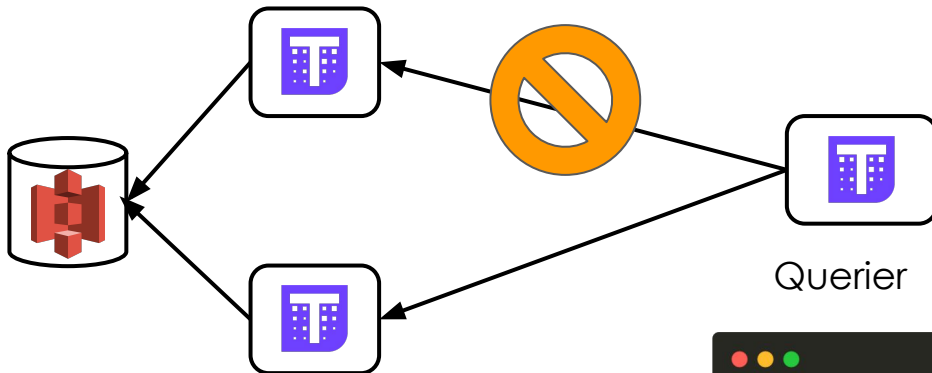


```
Gateway: --selector.relabel-config=  
- action: keep  
  regex: "us.*"  
  source_labels:  
  - region
```



Block Sharding

```
Gateway: --selector.relabel-config=  
- action: keep  
  regex: "eu.*"  
  source_labels:  
  - region
```



```
Gateway: --selector.relabel-config=  
- action: keep  
  regex: "us.*"  
  source_labels:  
  - region
```

```
rate(http_requests_total{region="us-east-1"}[5m])
```



Common StoreAPI

Downsampling

Horizontal Scaling of Long Term Storage



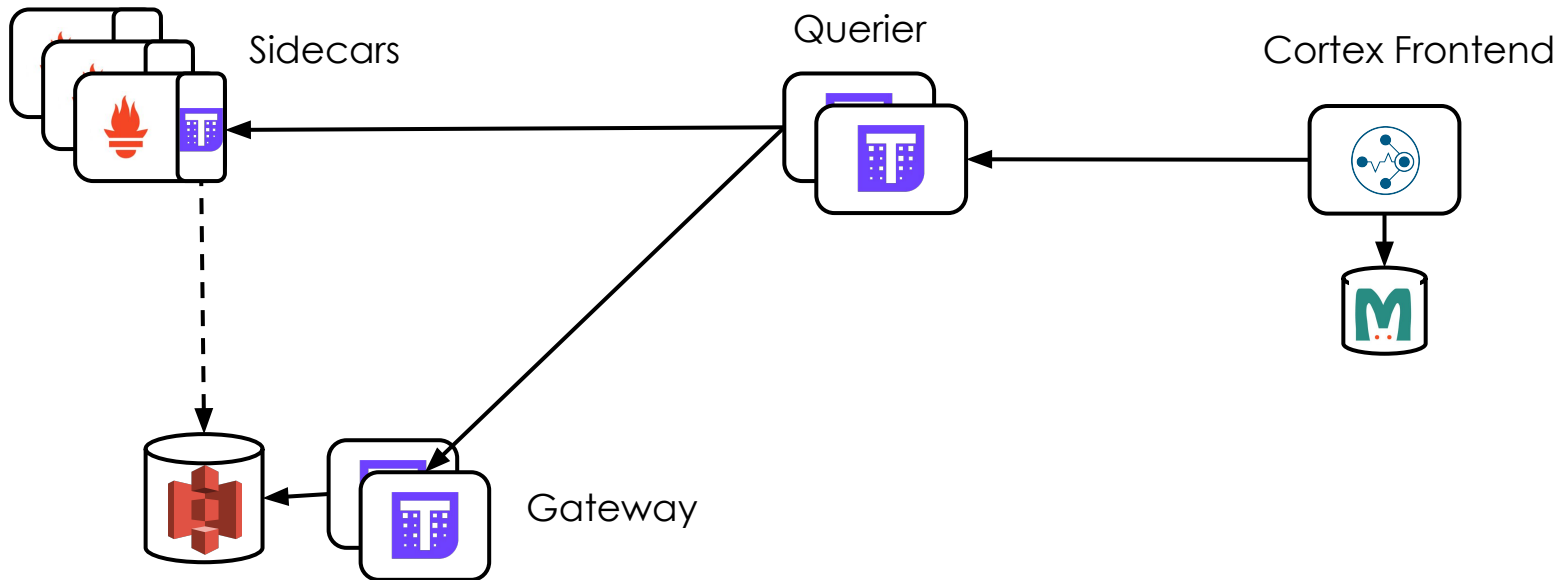
Thank You!

<https://thanos.io>



Bonus: Caching

Caching





Response Caching: Challenges

- Extremely useful for rolling windows (e.g Grafana “last 1h”)
- Dynamically changing StoreAPIs
- Downsampling
- Partial Response
- Backfilling/Deletion