



Tag and Release

Monitoring Increasingly Distributed Applications

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Outline

- What is distributed tracing?
- Who's doing it, and how?
- Challenges, and future directions?

Music Lives Here

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Balance: \$67.52 (Add \$)

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1 Brett Dennen 2 of Montreal 3 The Parlotones

New Of Montreal Pre-order!

Spin calls it "2008's most insane album" — hear *Skeletal Lamping* one week before its official release, only on Amie Street!

Community Recommendations

All Amie Street My Network

"Beneath Your Feet" by [Toboggan](#)

Infectious power pop! I wish I had found these guys earlier!

— [frankie92](#)

"Sunrise_daphunk_remix" by [Shannon Hurley](#)

cool remix : i totally different Shannon Hurley than we're used to hearing, but fun! she...

— [TheMile](#)

"Square Peg Overload Mix" by [Izzy](#)

If the reason you're here on Amie Street is because you see yourself an indie type, wanting...

— [mwp32](#)

"Forty Years of Pain" by [Marie Skarvén](#)

New Releases

Editor's Picks Hip Hop Rock Indie Rock

Concierge Popular My Playlists Explore

It's Friday afternoon.
Play music for:

An Energy Boost

A Weekday Dance Party

Summertime

Brand New Music

Taking The Day Off

Popular Genres

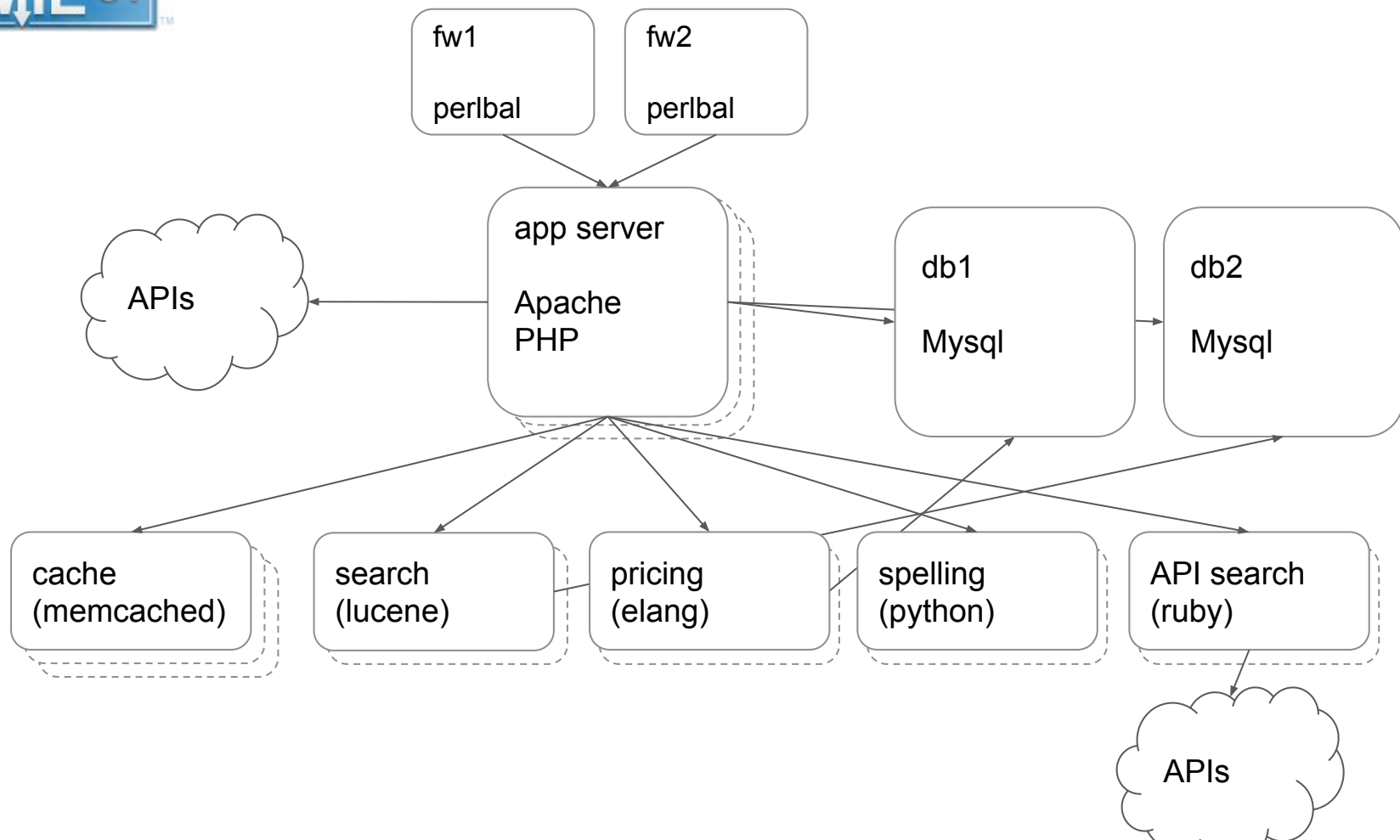
Stars of the Lid
Dungtitled (In A Major)

Like Dislike Play Next

Navigation icons: back, home, recent apps

Thrift Shop

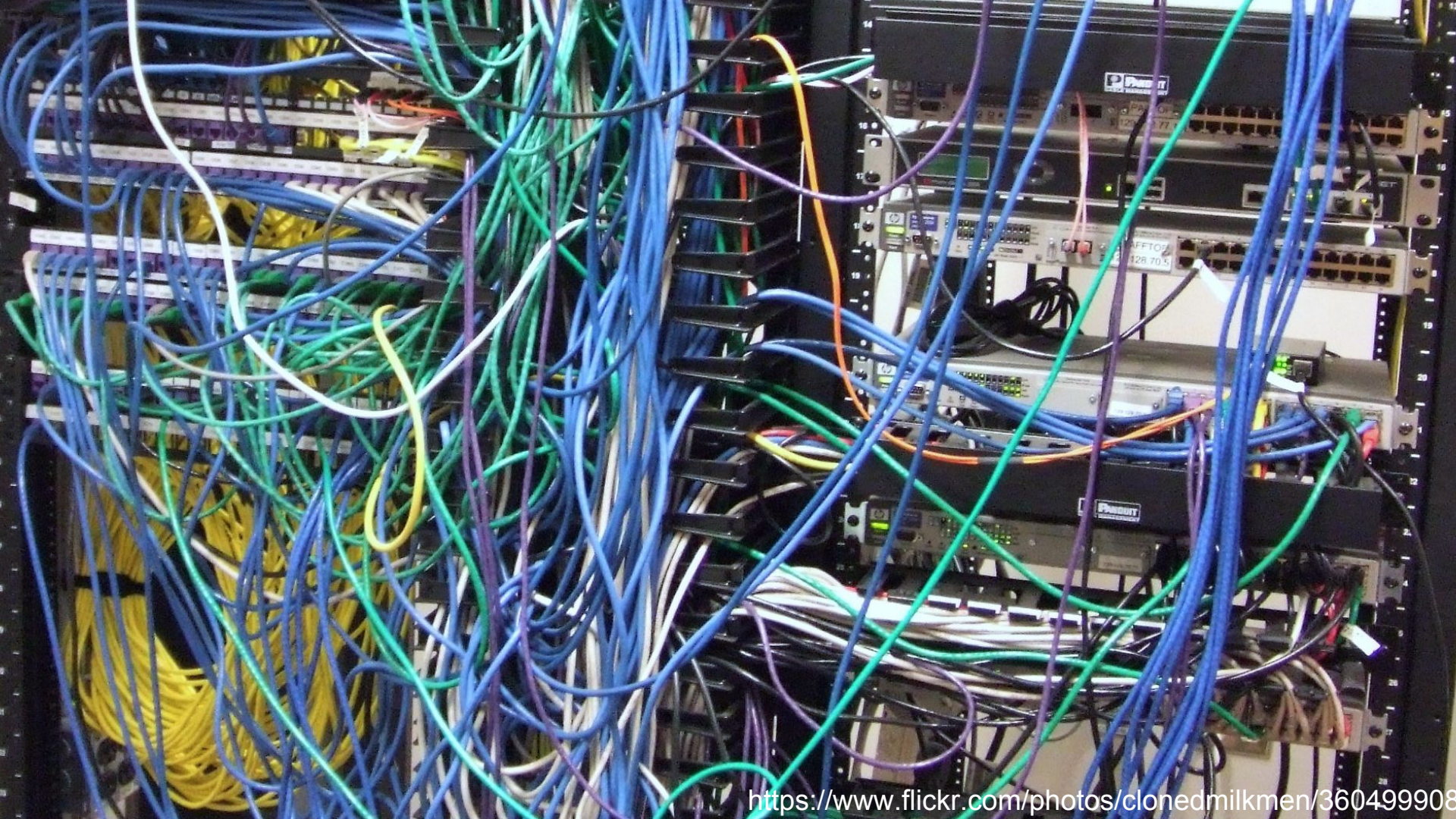
- Frontend web app: PHP
- Text search: lucene-based, via thrift
- Pricing service: erlang, via thrift
- Spelling corrector: python bindings around xapian, via thrift
- Content provider search: ruby, via thrift
- ...



Q: Why do you remember this so well?

Q: Why do you remember this so well?

A: ops



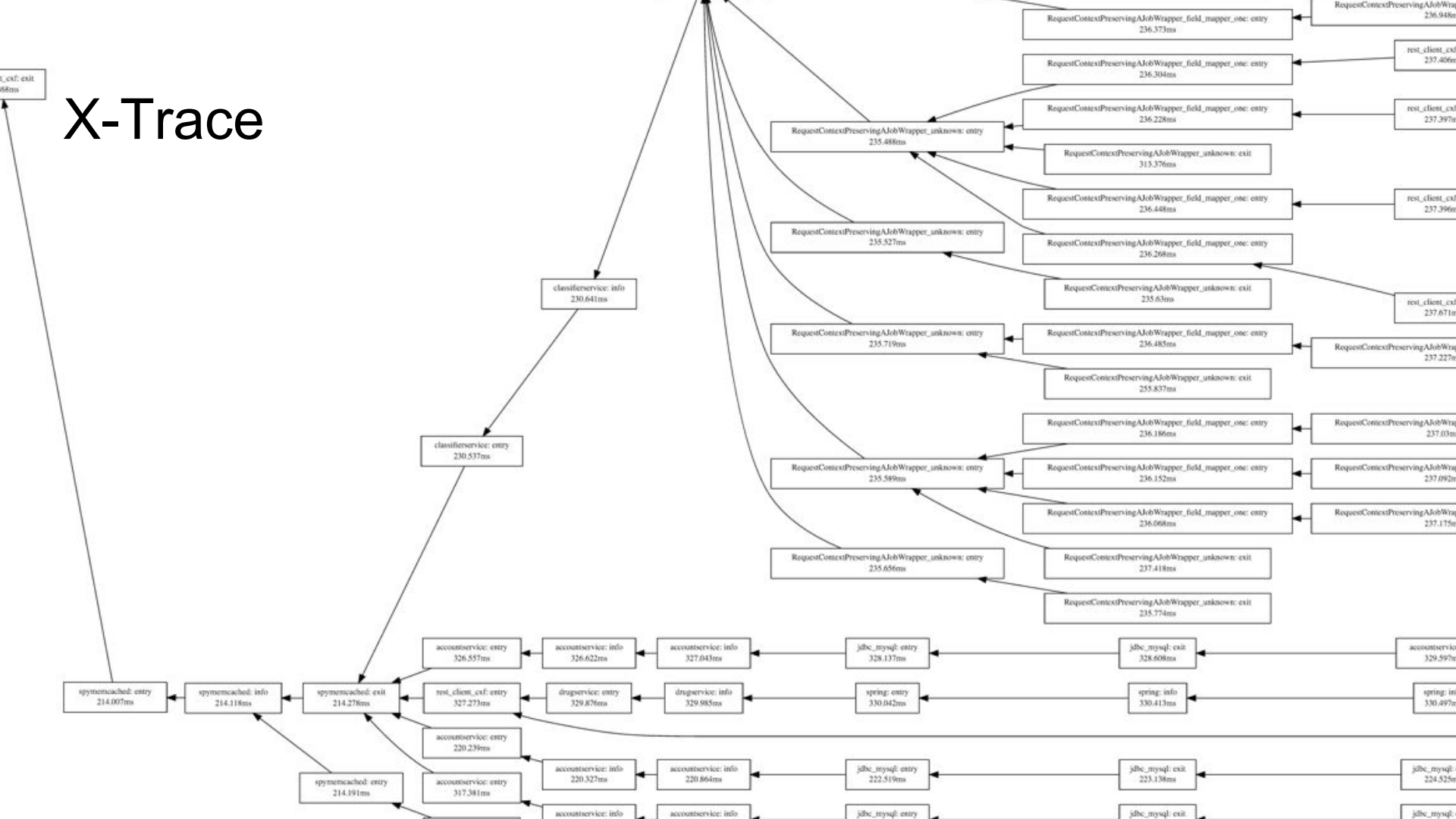
Things we had

- Ganglia
- Nagios
- Thrift
 - Per-service status page
 - Service status page
- Logs

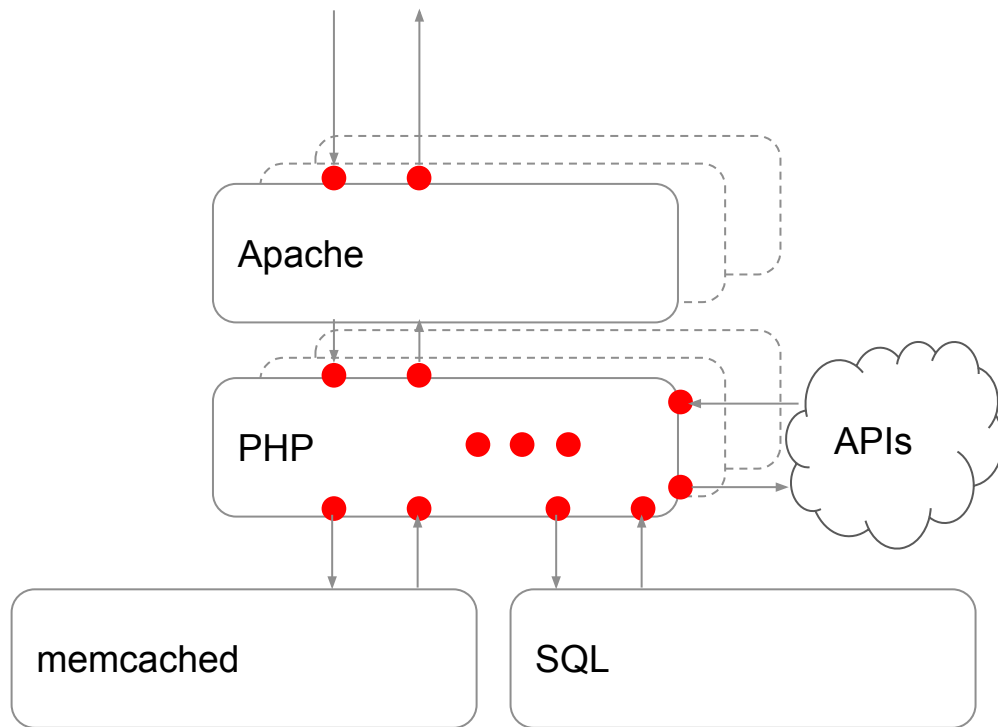
Sample performance / debug workflow

1. Are any services outright down?
2. Hit refresh N times -- how many times were problematic?
3. Systematically tail the logs of every service on every machine
4. Check database processlist
5. SSH in and poke around
6. Deploy new release with debug logging
7. Google

X-Trace



Example: Drupal request handling



Drupal TraceView project

TraceView

[View](#) [Version control](#) [Revisions](#) [Automated Testing](#)

Posted by [pdrake](#) on September 3, 2013 at 12:04pm

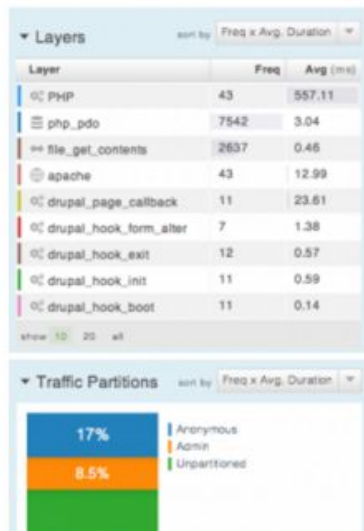
[AppNeta TraceView](#) (formerly Tracelytics) is a SAAS application performance management tool which provides full-stack application tracing across any number of hosts. This module is a replacement for the original [tracelytics module](#).

The tracelytics module exposes Drupal-specific performance details to the TraceView agent:

- hook-level data for core and some contrib modules
- request partitioning by role or function
- per-menu-item filtering
- real user monitoring (RUM) JavaScript injection

For more information, watch the video introduction to [TraceView & Drupal](#).

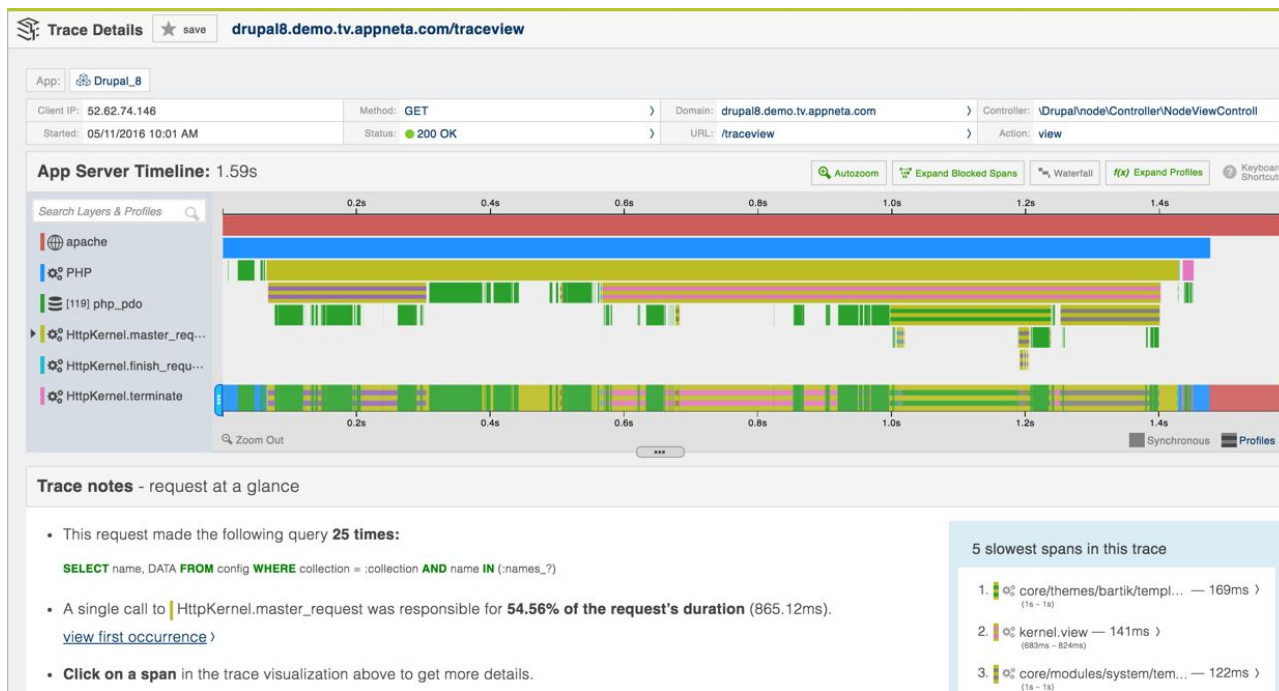
This module is not maintained by AppNeta but does include properly attributed contributions from AppNeta employees.



D6/7: <https://www.drupal.org/project/traceview>

D8: <https://www.drupal.org/node/2113637>

Drupal 8 request handling



<https://helloapp.tv.appneta.com/traces/view/FECA51A4134E765EBB04717C1D07F64352DE49E0>

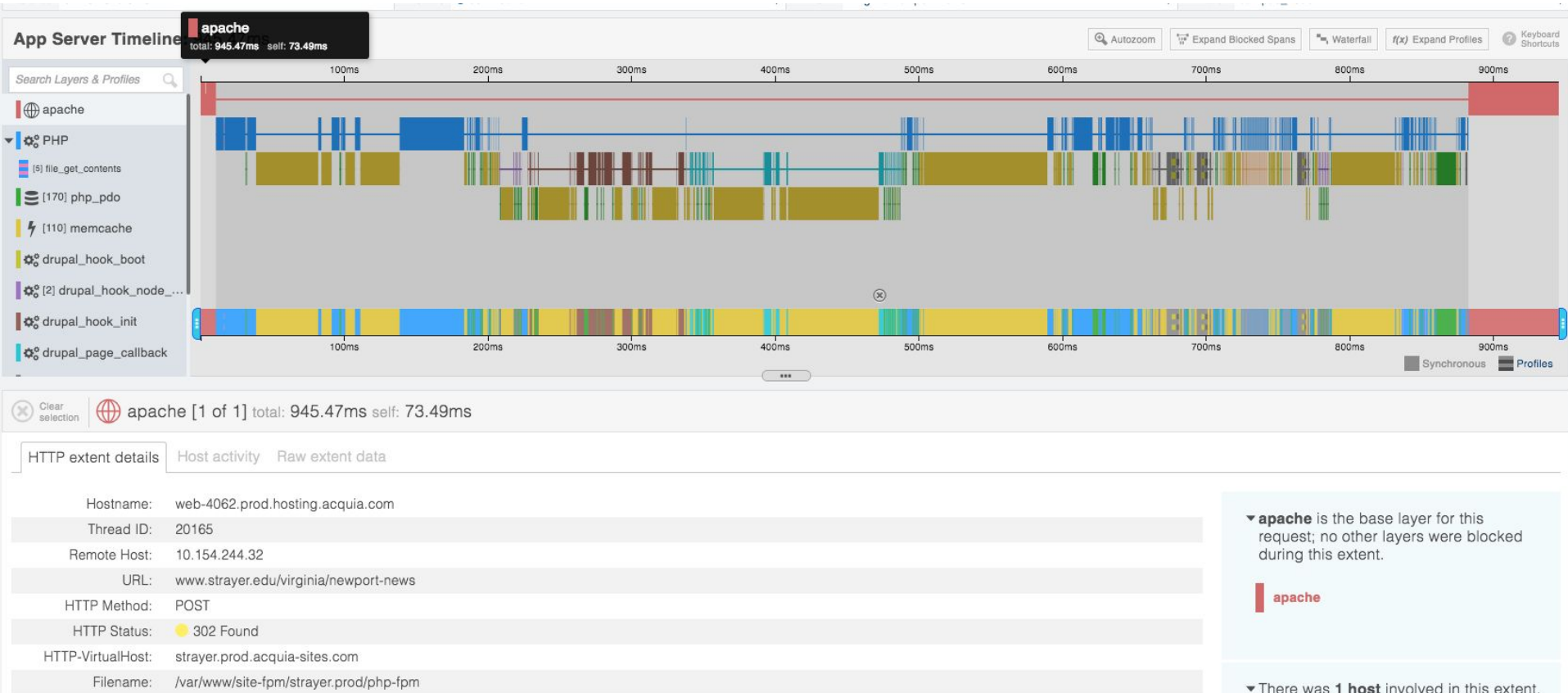
Example Drupal 7 request



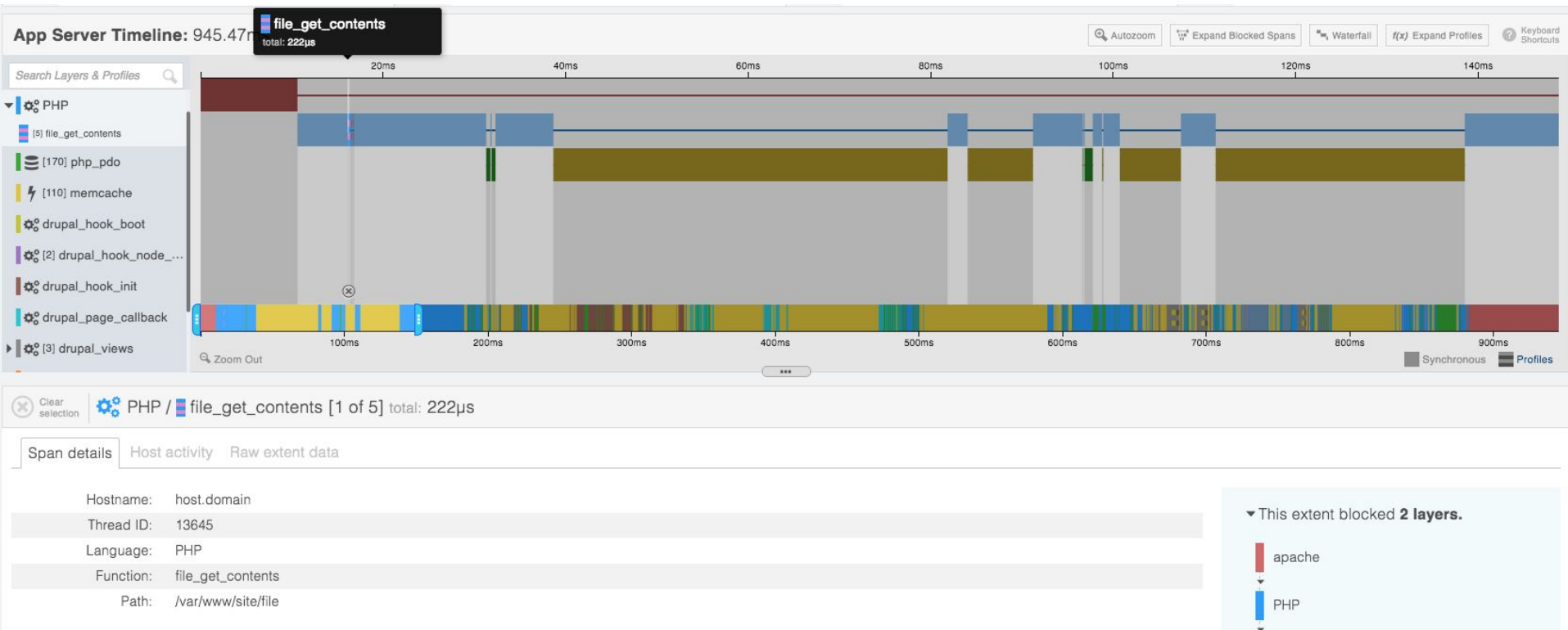
Example Drupal 7 request



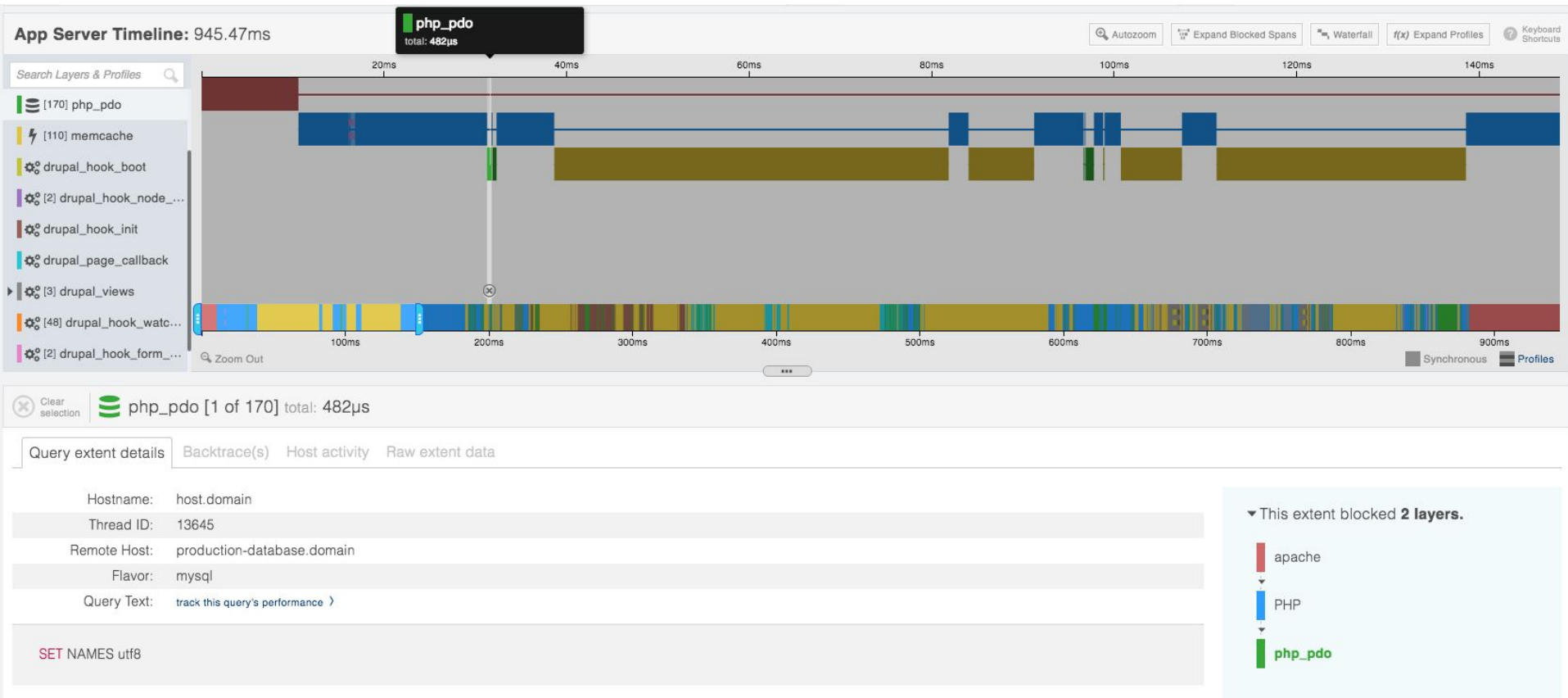
Example Drupal 7 request



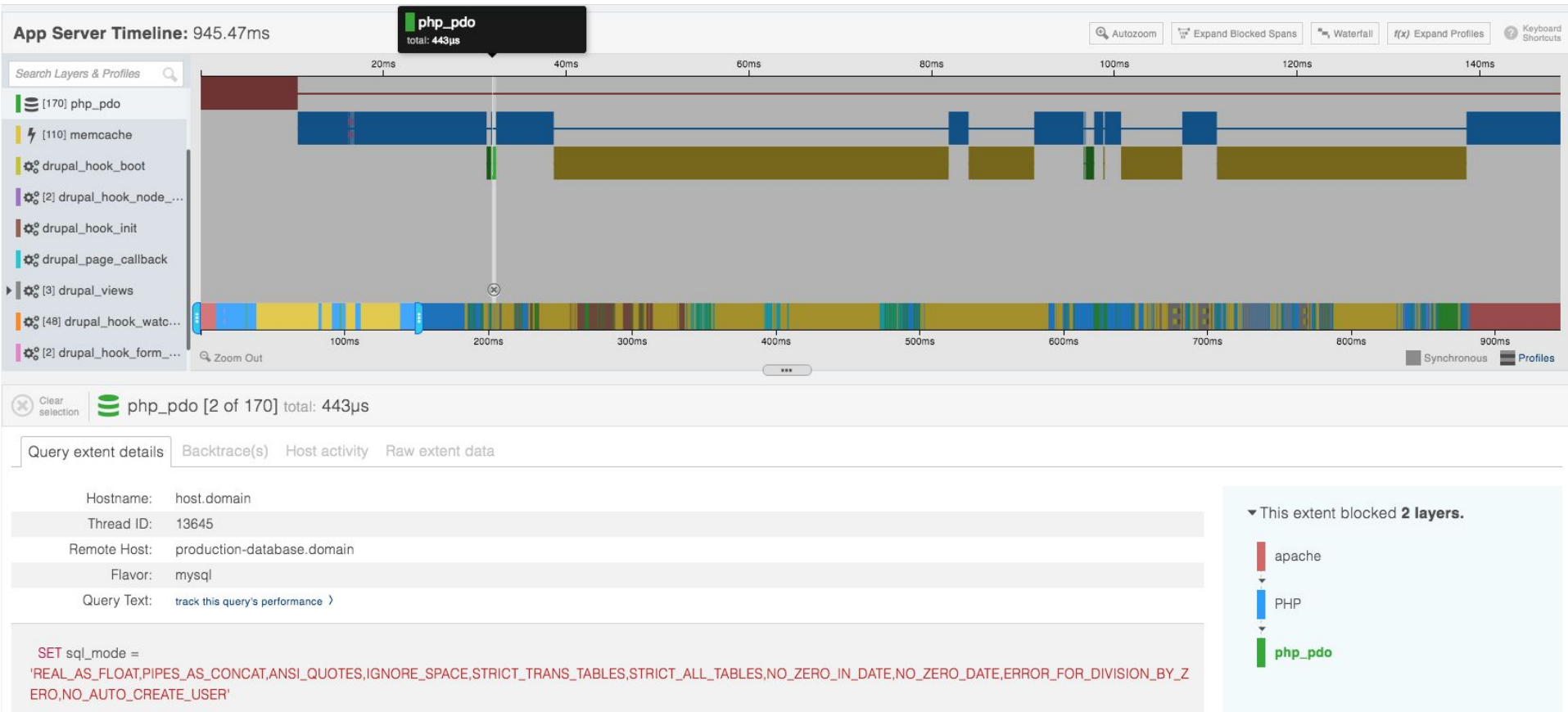
Example Drupal 7 request



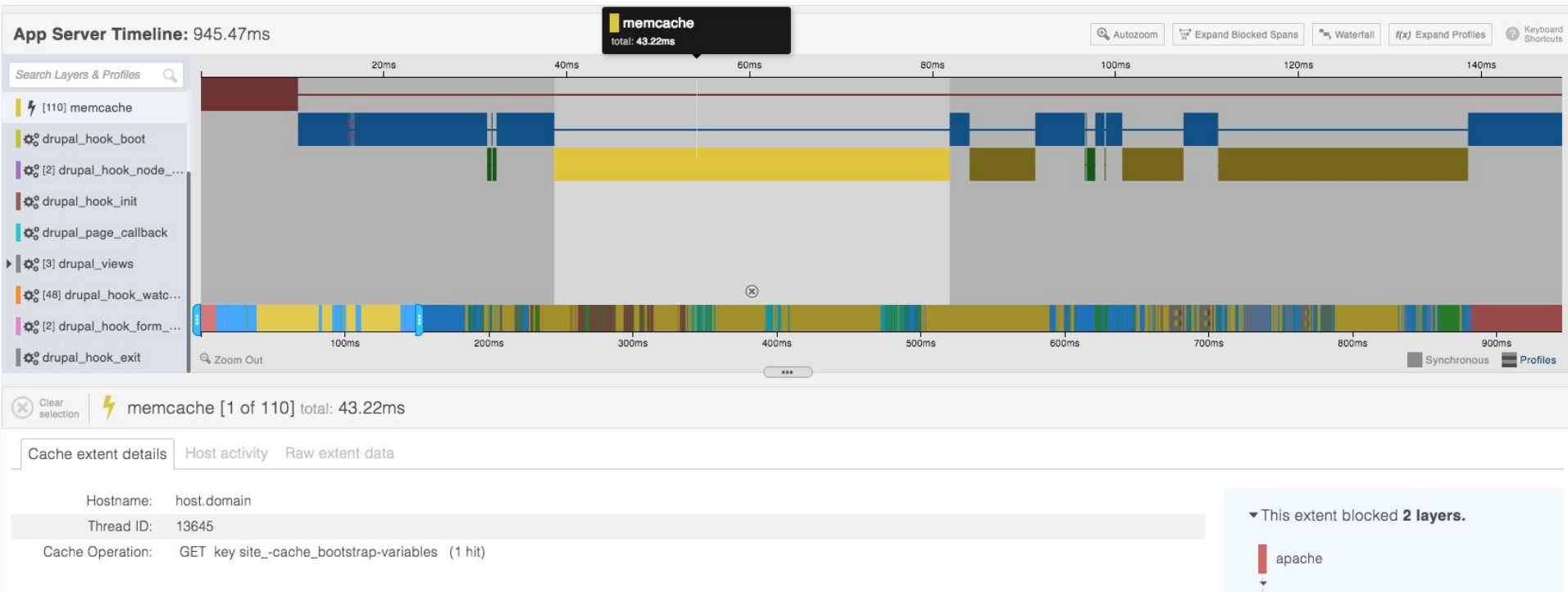
Example Drupal 7 request



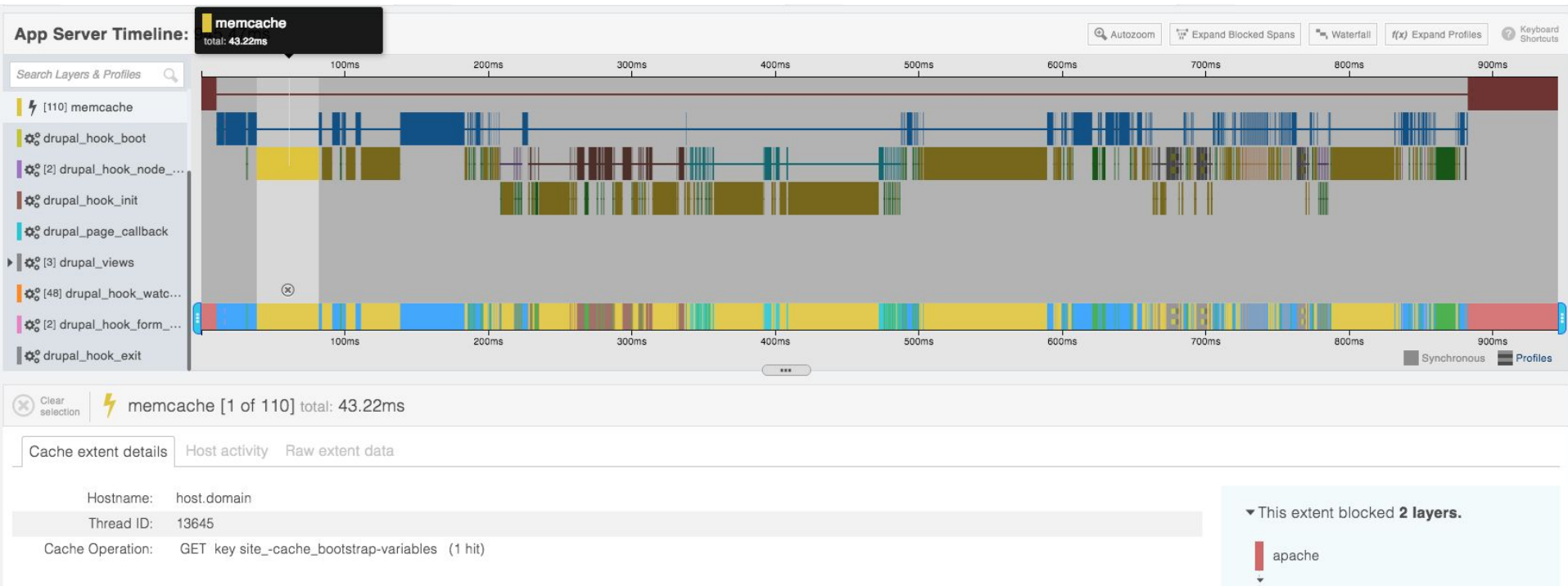
Example Drupal 7 request



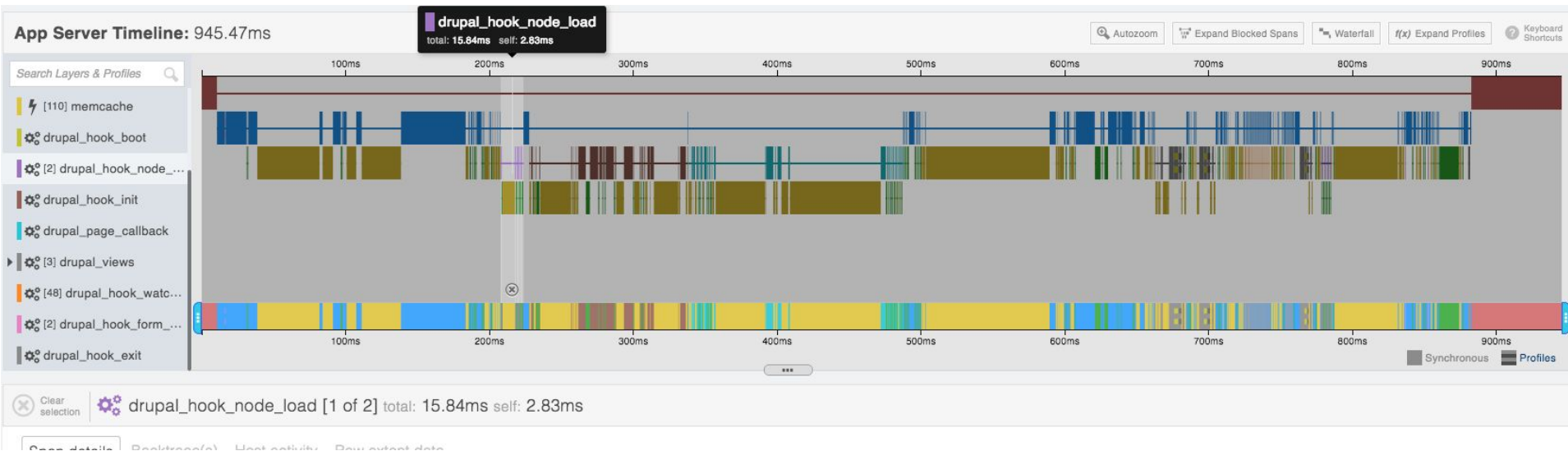
Example Drupal 7 request



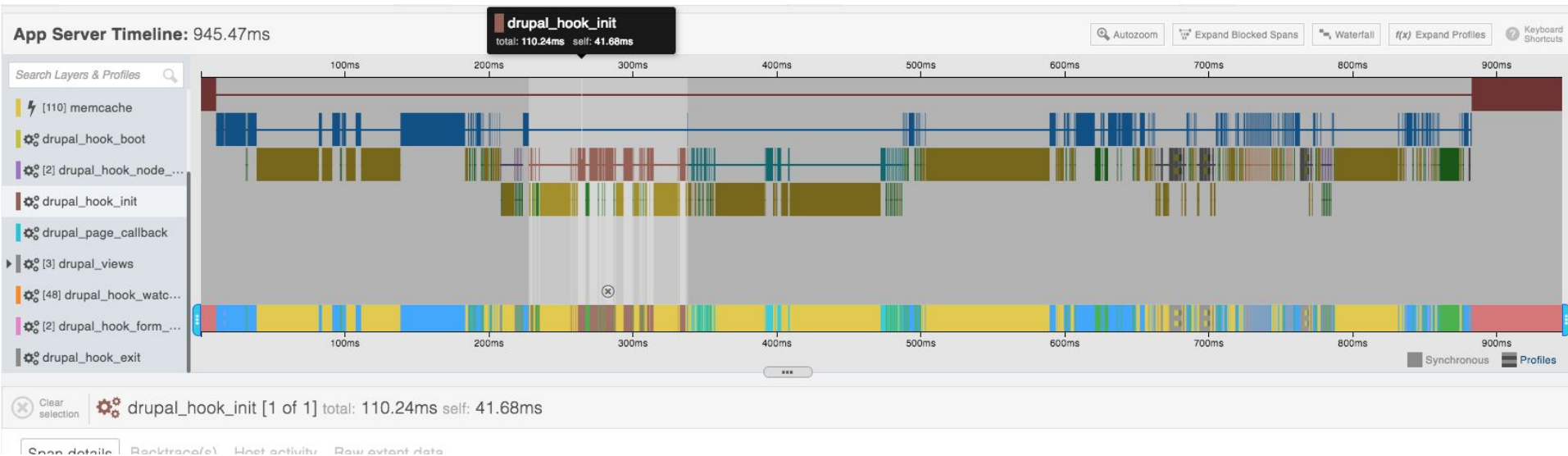
Example Drupal 7 request



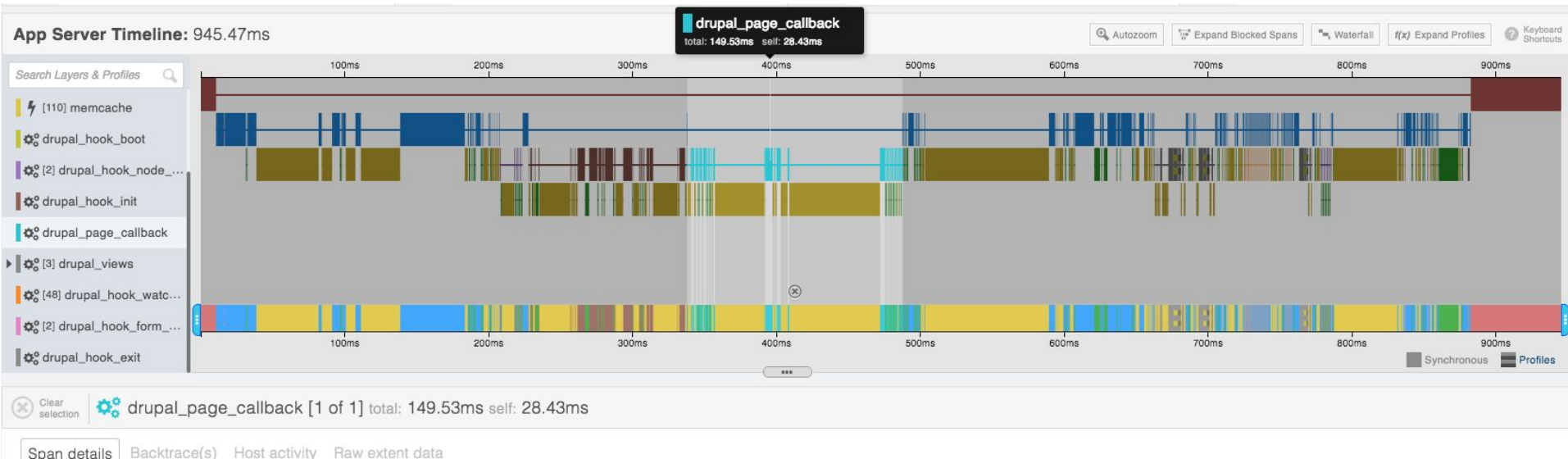
Example Drupal 7 request



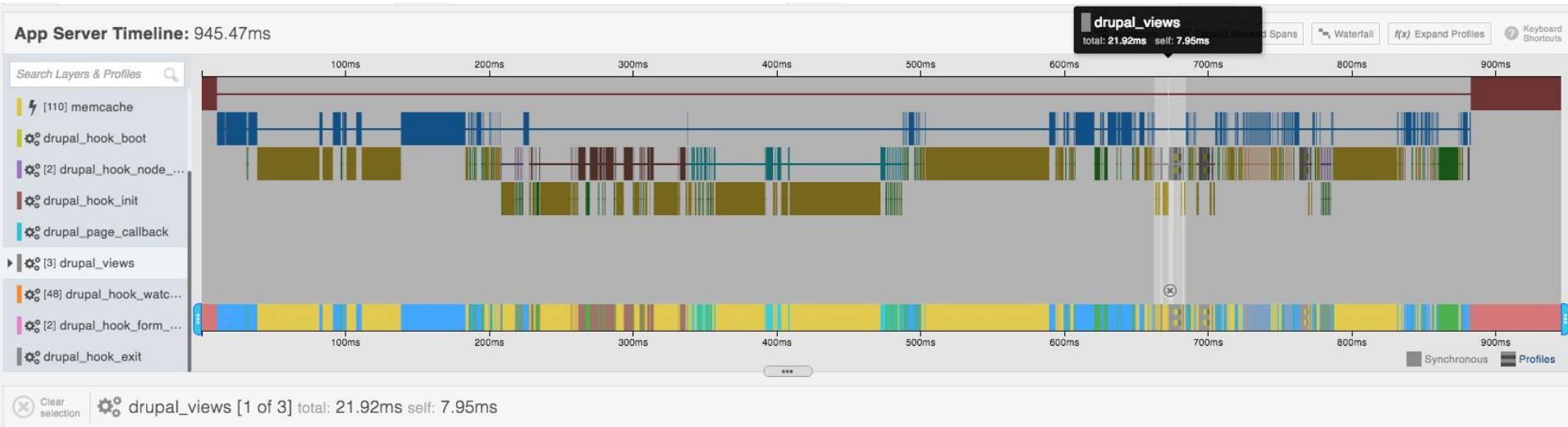
Example Drupal 7 request



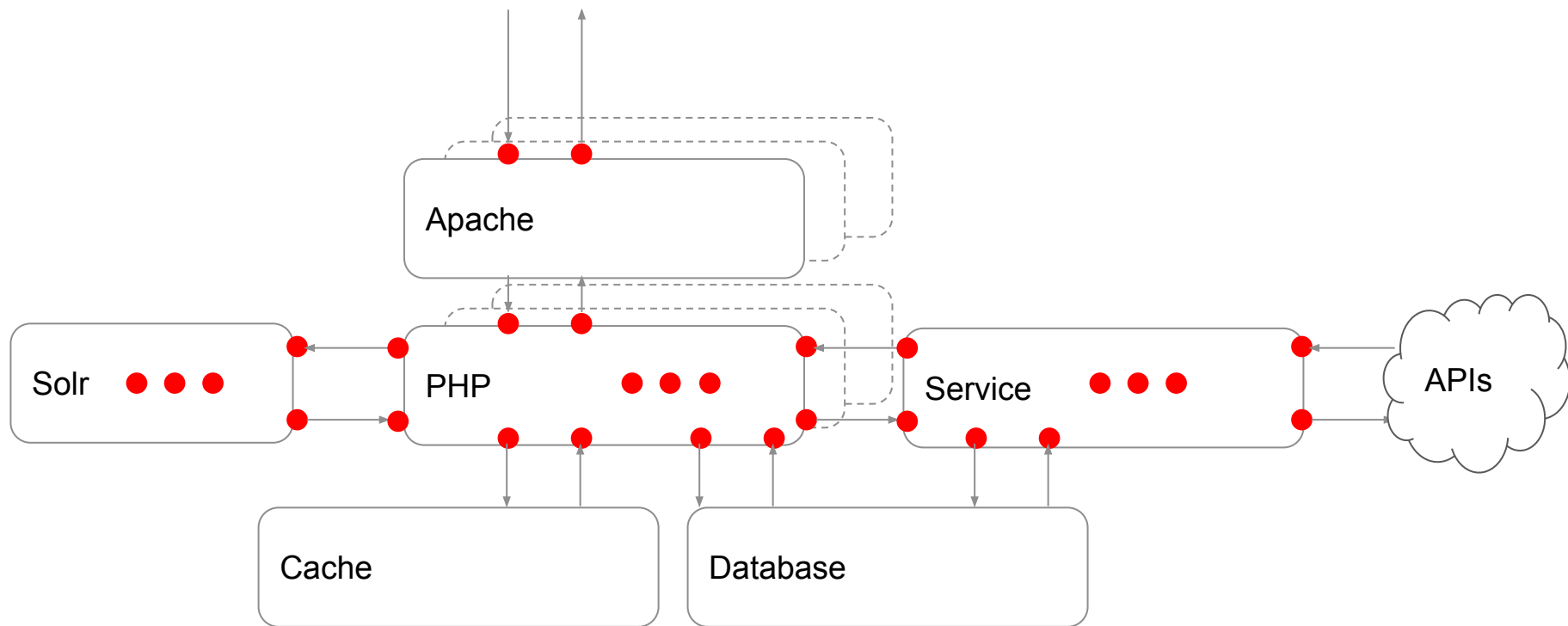
Example Drupal 7 request



Example Drupal 7 request



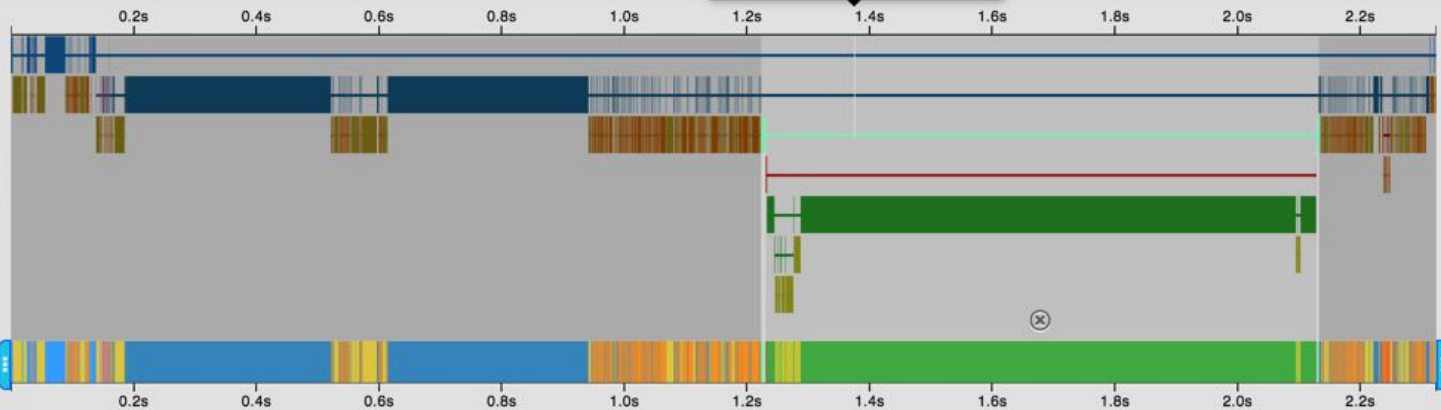
Example Drupal request: more distributed



App Server Timeline: 2.32s

Search Layers & Profiles

- drupal_page_callback
- drupal_hook_watchdog
- cURL
- java
- [2] java-jbossclient
- [8] jdbc_oracle
- drupal_hook_node_load
- drupal_hook_exit



Clear selection cURL [1 of 1] total: 909.45ms self: 11.27ms

RPC extent details Backtrace(s) Host activity Raw extent data

Hostname: appserver.domain

Thread ID: 15012

Remote Host: javaservice.domain

RPC: http://jvaservice.domain/endpoint/get?user=asdfjk

▼ This extent blocked 2 layers.

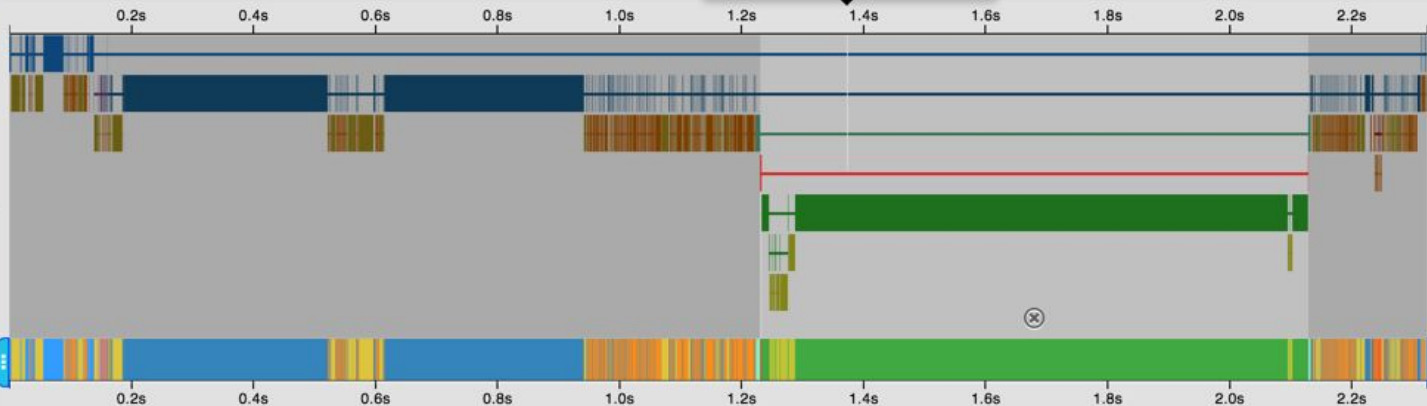
PHP

drupal_page_callback

App Server Timeline: 2.32s

Search Layers & Profiles

- drupal_page_callback
- drupal_hook_watchdog
- cURL
- java
- [2] java-jbossclient
- [8] jdbc_oracle
- drupal_hook_node_load
- drupal_hook_exit



Clear selection



java [1 of 1] total: 898.18ms self: 2.60ms

HTTP extent details

Host activity

Raw extent data

Hostname: javaservice.domain

Thread ID: 20773818

Remote Host: 10.4.35.65

URL: http://jvaservice.domain/endpoint/get?user=asdfjk

HTTP Method: GET

HTTP Status: 200 OK

▼ This extent blocked 3 layers.

- PHP
- drupal_page_callback
- cURL
- java

Great minds...

- Distributed tracing based on ID propagation
 - Google Dapper (200x? Published paper 2010)
 - Twitter Zipkin (Open-sourced 2012, 3rd party PHP support)
 - Etsy Cross Stitch (2014ish)
 - OpenTracing (2016ish)
- Commercial APM -- semi-distributed tracing
 - New Relic
 - AppDynamics

Challenges: Instrumentation Points

```
function interesting_method(...) {  
    log_entry(...);  
    _do_stuff();  
    log_exit(...);  
}
```

Challenges: Trace ID Propagation

```
function interesting_method(trace_id, ...) {  
    log_entry(trace_id, ...);  
    _do_stuff(?);  
    log_exit(trace_id, ...);  
}
```



Optional in PHP! Could use glo
due to single-request handling
model.

Challenges: Trace ID Propagation

```
function http_rpc_call (...) {  
    log_entry(...);  
    $opt = array(modified_headers);  
    drupal_http_request($url, $opt);  
    log_exit(...);  
}
```

Challenges: Extracting Value

Zipkin Investigate system behavior

Find a trace

Aggregates



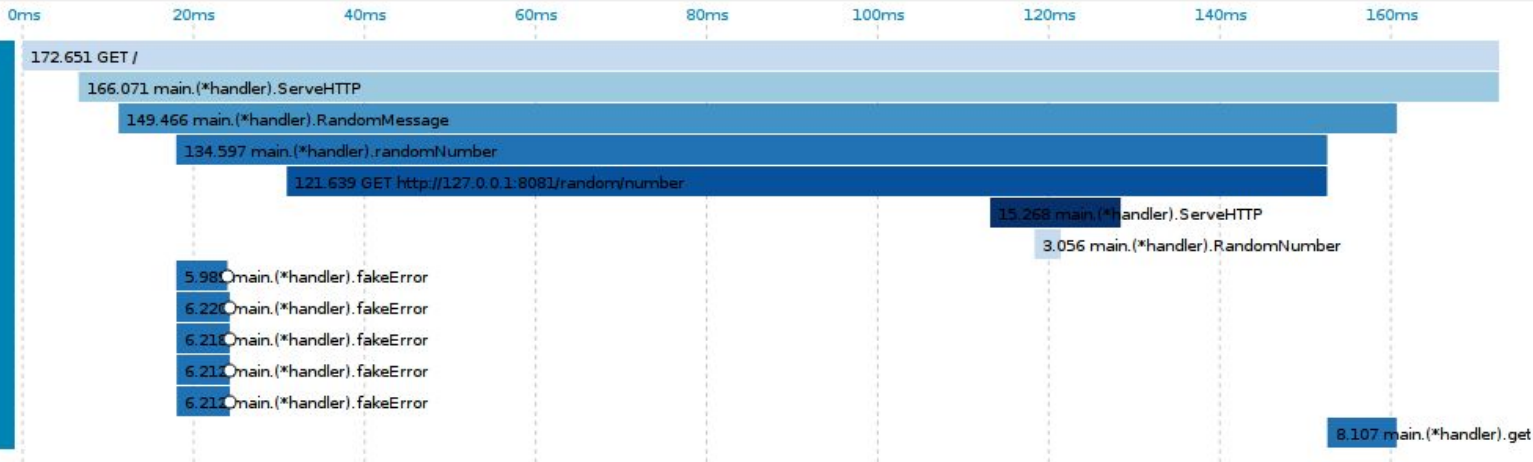
Overview Timeline Dependencies

Search term (service)



172.651 ms

about 5 seconds ago



No Duplicates :)

- Service summary

Service	CPU ↓	Wait
randhost, uihost	106.371	15.268
uihost	81.863	579.880
randhost	15.268	3.056

Rich data set

- Distributed tracing “only”
 - Follow request flow through application
 - Understand end-to-end latency
 - Associate backend load with frontend requests
 - Provide errors with distributed context
- While you’re in there
 - Latency of queries, RPC calls, in each tier
 - Slow code
 - Cache hit/miss ratio
 - Errors and exceptions
 - Custom tagging/categorization of data
 - ...

How does it actually work?

- PHP extension
 - Hook into core methods
- TraceView Module
 - Hook into key events -- take timing and attributes
- Drupal 8 module, for example:
 - Event Dispatcher -- log timing of different kernel actions, etc
 - Event Subscriber -- figure out if user is anon/authenticated/admin
 - Service Provider -- alter base template class
 - Wrapper for Twig -- get timing and info on templates

How does it actually work?

```
class TraceViewContainerAwareEventDispatcher extends ContainerAwareEventDispatcher
{
    public function dispatch($eventName, Event $event = null)
    {
        // On an untraced request, bail out early.
        if (!oboe_is_tracing()) {
            return parent::dispatch($eventName, $event);
        }

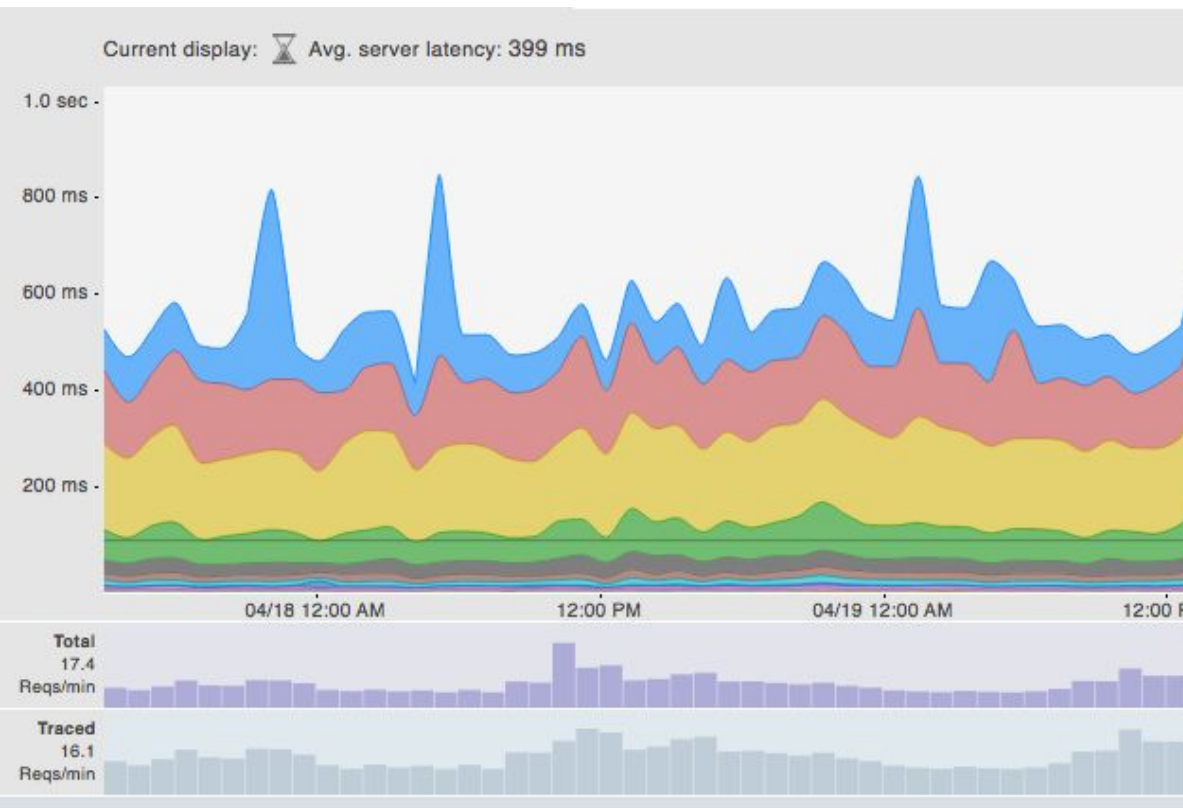
        ...

        // Figure out what event we're dispatching
        if ($is_request) {
            oboe_log(($event->getRequestType() === HttpKernelInterface::MASTER_REQUEST) ? 'HttpKernel.
master_request' : 'HttpKernel.sub_request', "entry", array('Event' => get_class($event)), TRUE);
            oboe_log(NULL,"profile_entry", array('Event' => get_class($event), 'ProfileName' => $eventName),
TRUE);
        } elseif ($is_finish_request) {
            ...

            // Try to dispatch the event as normal.
            try {
                $ret = parent::dispatch($eventName, $event);
            } catch (\Exception $e) {
                ...
            }

            // And mark the end timing as well
```

Aggregate performance

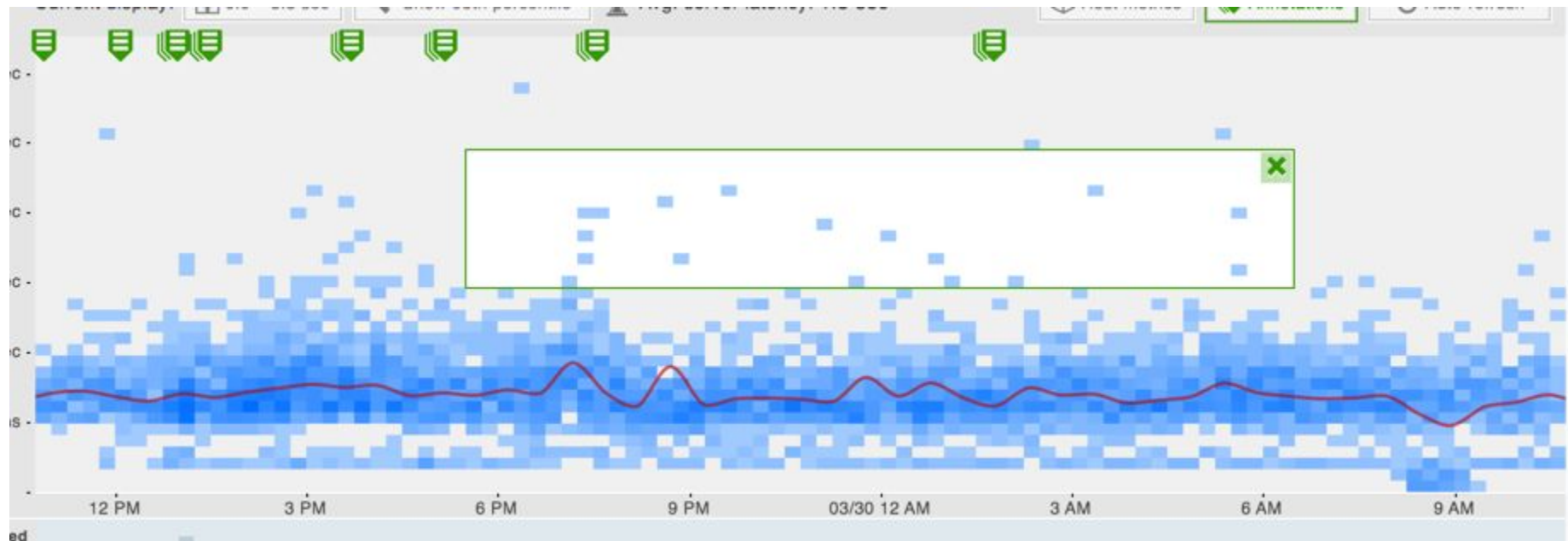


▼ Layers by

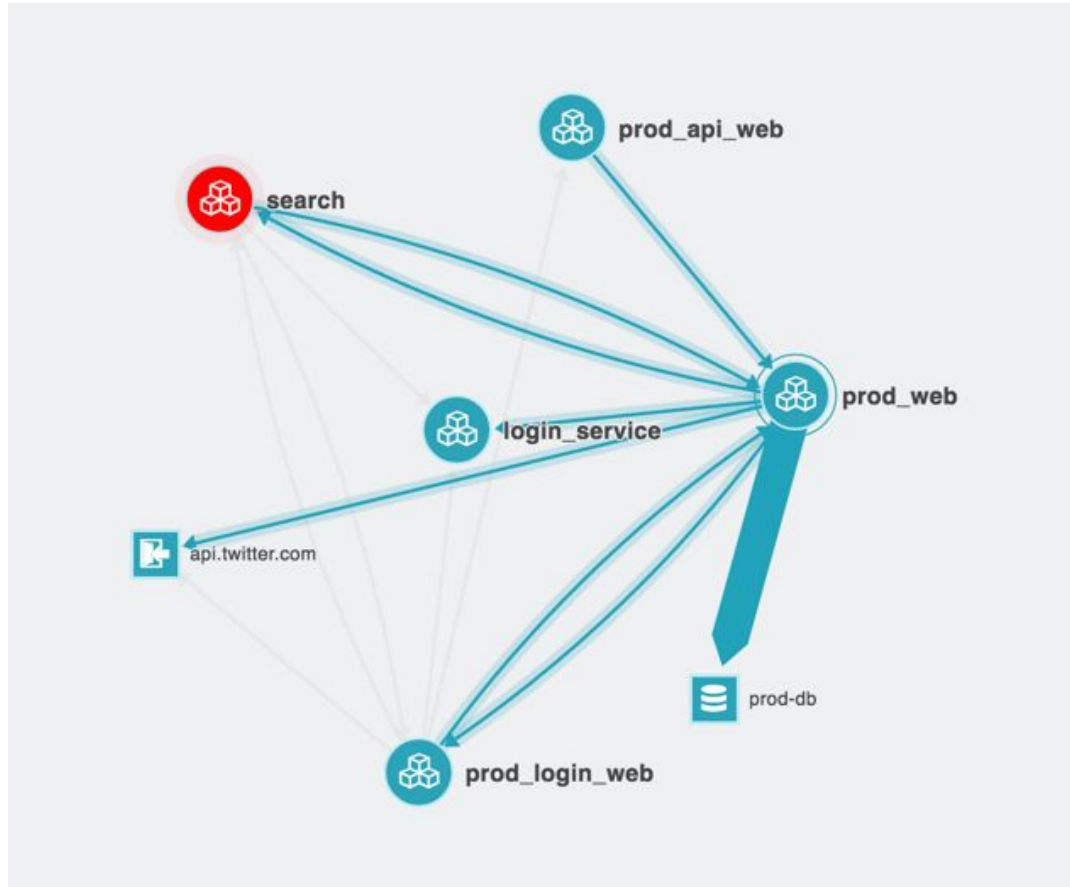
Layer	# Calls	Avg (ms)
≡ php_pdo	4044112	0.42
⚡ memcache	1178948	2.48
⚙️ drupal_hook_watchdog	66048	0.14
⚙️ drupal_hook_node_load	59139	1.95
⚙️ drupal_hook_form_alter	28098	1.00
🌐 apache	25839	91.10
⚙️ PHP	23853	84.28
⚙️ drupal_hook_boot	19594	0.09
⚙️ drupal_hook_exit	19142	0.86
⚙️ drupal_hook_init	15765	14.78
⚙️ drupal_page_callback	11603	15.54
⚙️ drupal_views	9420	51.10
↔ cURL	525	59.95
↔ drupal_http_request	438	98.12
⚙️ drupal_panels	73	39.13
≡ php_mysqli	72	0.67
↔ php_http	8	317.79

Show 10 **20** all

Outliers, trends



Topology mapping





Thanks!

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