# Why choose Lightstep over Prometheus

Lightstep's observability platform is the easiest way for developers and SREs to monitor health and respond to changes in cloud-native applications. Powered by cutting-edge distributed tracing and a groundbreaking metrics database, and built by the team that launched observability at Google, Lightstep's Change Intelligence provides actionable insights to help teams answer the question "What caused that change?"

Latency Histogram ☑ 1 hour prior ☐ 1 day prior ☐ 1 week prior

System Diagram ● Latency

Correlations
Service: api-server **+.73**
44% of latency contribution
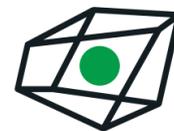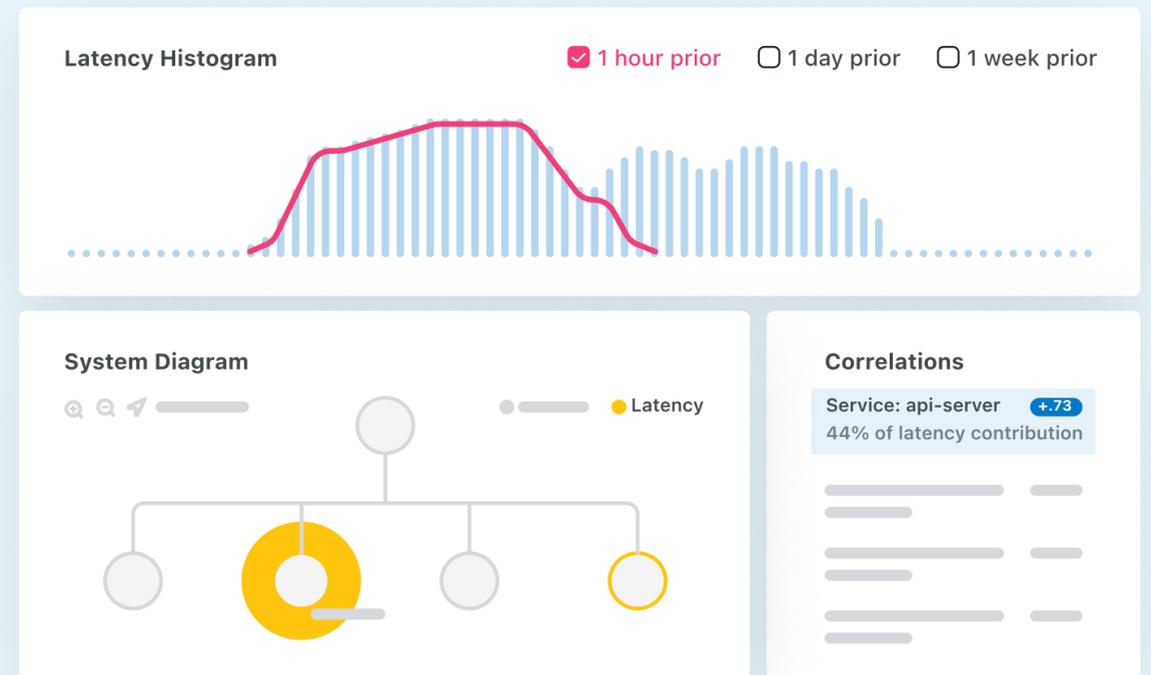
	Lightstep	**Prometheus**
Enterprise ready	● Lightstep is enterprise ready and analyzes 2.5Pb/day	◖ Prometheus is a monolith designed for a small scale load
Trace visualization	● Lightstep provides deep insight into your application through our trace visualizer	○ Prometheus cannot visualize traces
Alerting simplified	● Lightstep has native alerting built-in to the platform and also allows you to integrate with your alerting solution of choice.	◖ Prometheus alerting requires multiple components and configurations to work optimally.
High cardinality	● Lightstep allows unlimited cardinality to measure any subset of data	◖ Prometheus cardinality limits limit your ability to troubleshoot and resolve issues
Unified front-end	● Lightstep is simple, and easy to maintain. Simply configure your instrumentation using our Instrumentation Quality Score, and leave the management of LS to us.	◑ With Prometheus' you have to manage several different components and integrations to achieve a full picture.
Change Intelligence	● Combining the power of metrics + traces to provide you with the full context = Change Intelligence	○ Metrics + traces = full picture; Prometheus cannot provide insight on traces (e.g. context)
100% of your data	● Lightstep provides 100% accuracy when it comes to your environment.	◖ If you need 100% accuracy, Prometheus is not a good choice as the collected data will likely not be detailed and complete enough
Requires Grafana	○ Lightstep is a wholly contained platform, but we know users like choice so Grafana integrations are available.	● While Prometheus doesn't "require" Grafana but "There is a learning curve though, so users new to this style of monitoring should try out Grafana first."
Intelligent alerting	● Lightstep's alerting capabilities provides you with the ability to alert on the smallest or the largest things that matter to you (separating out alerts based on host)	◖ Another layer is needed to add summarization, notification rate limiting, silencing and alert dependencies on top of the simple alert definitions

www.lightstep.com