

Linux Foundation PCA Exam keywords

Linux Foundation PCA Certification Details	
Exam Code	PCA
Full Exam Name	Linux Foundation Prometheus Certified Associate
No. of Questions	60
Online Practice Exam	Linux Foundation Prometheus Certified Associate (PCA) Practice Test
Sample Questions	Linux Foundation PCA Sample Questions
Passing Score	75%
Time Limit	90 minutes
Exam Fees	\$250 USD

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Linux Foundation Prometheus Certified Associate Exam Sample Questions (Q58-Q63):

NEW QUESTION # 58

Which exporter would be best suited for basic HTTP probing?

- A. JMX exporter
- B. Apache exporter
- C. SNMP exporter
- D. Blackbox exporter

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Blackbox Exporter is the Prometheus component designed specifically for probing endpoints over various network protocols, including HTTP, HTTPS, TCP, ICMP, and DNS. It acts as a generic probe service, allowing Prometheus to test endpoints' availability, latency, and correctness without requiring instrumentation in the target application itself.

For basic HTTP probing, the Blackbox Exporter performs HTTP GET or POST requests to defined URLs and exposes metrics like probe success, latency, response code, and SSL certificate validity. This makes it ideal for uptime and availability monitoring. By contrast, the JMX exporter is used for collecting metrics from Java applications, the Apache exporter for Apache HTTP Server metrics, and the SNMP exporter for network devices. Thus, only the Blackbox Exporter serves the purpose of HTTP probing.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Blackbox Exporter Overview and Exporter Usage Guidelines.

NEW QUESTION # 59

Which PromQL statement returns the average free bytes of the filesystems over the last hour?

- A. `avg(node_filesystem_avail_bytes[1h])`
- B. `sum_over_time(node_filesystem_avail_bytes[1h])`
- C. `avg_over_time(node_filesystem_avail_bytes[1h])`
- D. `sum(node_filesystem_avail_bytes[1h])`

Answer: C

Explanation:

The `avg_over_time()` function calculates the average value of a time series over a specified range vector. It is used to measure how a gauge metric (like available filesystem bytes) behaves over time rather than at a single instant.

For example:

`avg_over_time(node_filesystem_avail_bytes[1h])`

This query returns the average amount of available filesystem space observed across all samples within the last hour for each time series.

By contrast:

`avg()` performs aggregation across different series at a single point, not over time.

`sum()` and `sum_over_time()` compute totals rather than averages.

Thus, only `avg_over_time()` provides the correct temporal average.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - Range Vector Functions, `avg_over_time()` Definition, and Working with Gauge Metrics Over Time sections.

NEW QUESTION # 60

How can you send metrics from your Prometheus setup to a remote system, e.g., for long-term storage?

- A. With S3 Buckets
- B. With "federation"
- C. With "scraping"
- D. With "remote write"

Answer: D

Explanation:

Prometheus provides a feature called Remote Write to transmit scraped and processed metrics to an external system for long-term storage, aggregation, or advanced analytics. When configured, Prometheus continuously pushes time series data to the remote endpoint defined in the `remote_write` section of the configuration file.

This mechanism is often used to integrate with long-term data storage backends such as Cortex, Thanos, Mimir, or InfluxDB, enabling durable retention and global query capabilities beyond Prometheus's local time series database limits.

In contrast, "scraping" refers to data collection from targets, while "federation" allows hierarchical Prometheus setups (pulling metrics from other Prometheus instances) but does not serve as long-term storage. Using "S3 Buckets" directly is also unsupported in native Prometheus configurations.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - Remote Write/Read APIs and Long-Term Storage Integrations sections.

NEW QUESTION # 61

Which of the following metrics is unsuitable for a Prometheus setup?

- A. `prometheus_engine_query_log_enabled`
- B. `promhttp_metric_handler_requests_total{code="500"}`
- C. `http_response_total{handler="static/*filepath"}`
- D. `user_last_login_timestamp_seconds{email="john.doe@example.com"}`

Answer: D

Explanation:

The metric `user_last_login_timestamp_seconds{email="john.doe@example.com"}` is unsuitable for Prometheus because it includes a high-cardinality label (email). Each unique email address would generate a separate time series, potentially numbering in the millions, which severely impacts Prometheus performance and memory usage.

Prometheus is optimized for low- to medium-cardinality metrics that represent system-wide behavior rather than per-user data.

High-cardinality metrics cause data explosion, complicating queries and overwhelming the storage engine.

By contrast, the other metrics `prometheus_engine_query_log_enabled`, `promhttp_metric_handler_requests_total{code="500"}`, and `http_response_total{handler="static/*filepath"}` - adhere to Prometheus best practices. They represent operational or service-level metrics with limited, manageable label value sets.

Reference:

Extracted and verified from Prometheus documentation - Metric and Label Naming Best Practices, Cardinality Management, and Anti-Patterns for Metric Design sections.

NEW QUESTION # 62

Given the following Histogram metric data, how many requests took less than or equal to 0.1 seconds?

```
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_bucket{job="kube-apiserver", le="+Inf"} 3
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_bucket{job="kube-apiserver", le="0.05"} 0
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_bucket{job="kube-apiserver", le="0.1"} 1
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_bucket{job="kube-apiserver", le="1"} 3
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_count{job="kube-apiserver"} 3
apiserver_request_duration_seconds_sum{job="kube-apiserver"} 0.554003785
```

- A. 0
- **B. 1**
- C. 2
- D. 0.554003785

Answer: B

Explanation:

In Prometheus, histogram metrics use cumulative buckets to record the count of observations that fall within specific duration thresholds. Each bucket has a label `le` ("less than or equal to"), representing the upper bound of that bucket.

In the given metric, the bucket labeled `le="0.1"` has a value of 1, meaning exactly one request took less than or equal to 0.1 seconds.

Buckets are cumulative, so:

`le="0.05"` → 0 requests ≤ 0.05 seconds

`le="0.1"` → 1 request ≤ 0.1 seconds

`le="1"` → 3 requests ≤ 1 second

`le="+Inf"` → all 3 requests total

The `_sum` and `_count` values represent total duration and request count respectively, but the number of requests below a given threshold is read directly from the bucket's `le` value.

Reference:

Verified from Prometheus documentation - Understanding Histograms and Summaries, Bucket Semantics, and Histogram Query Examples sections.

NEW QUESTION # 63

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