

Mastering Observability in Distributed Systems

A strategic approach to visibility, insights, and action across complex environments

JL

Raghavender Puchhakayala
Senior IEEE Member
Dallas Chapter





The Business Case for Observability

73%

Faster MTTR

Reduced mean time to resolution

42%

Cost Savings

Decreased infrastructure spend

91%

Customer Satisfaction

Higher user experience ratings

99.99%

SLA Target

Just 22 minutes downtime monthly

Observability vs. Monitoring

Traditional Monitoring

Known unknowns

Pre-defined metrics

Threshold-based alerts

Reactive approach

Modern Observability

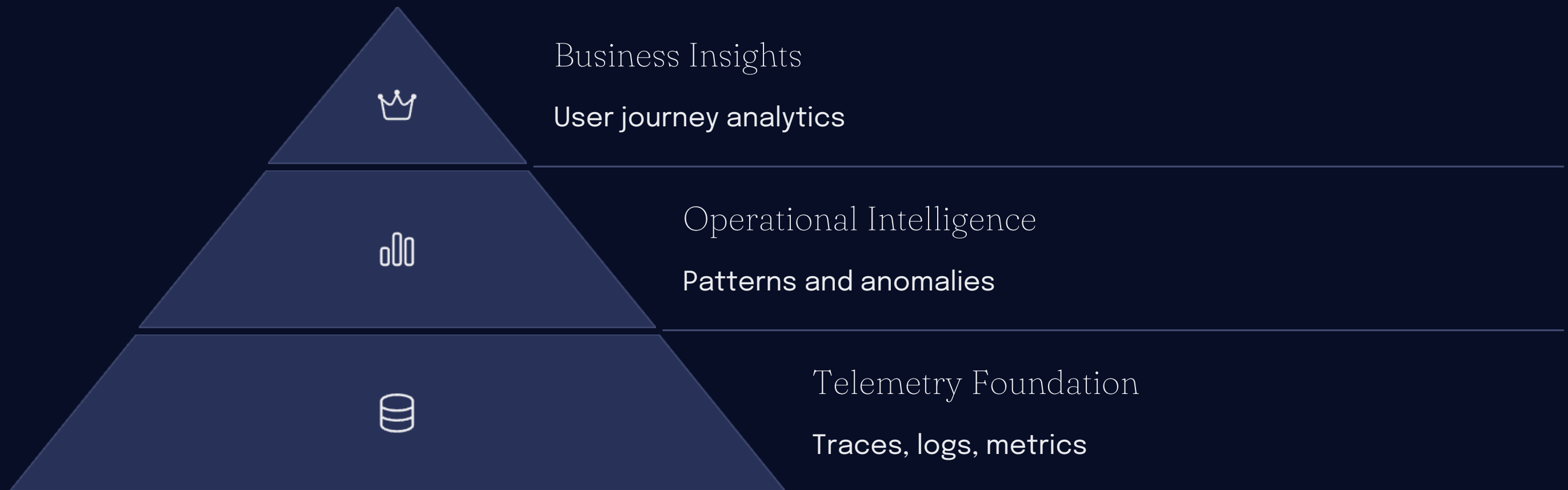
Unknown unknowns

High-cardinality telemetry

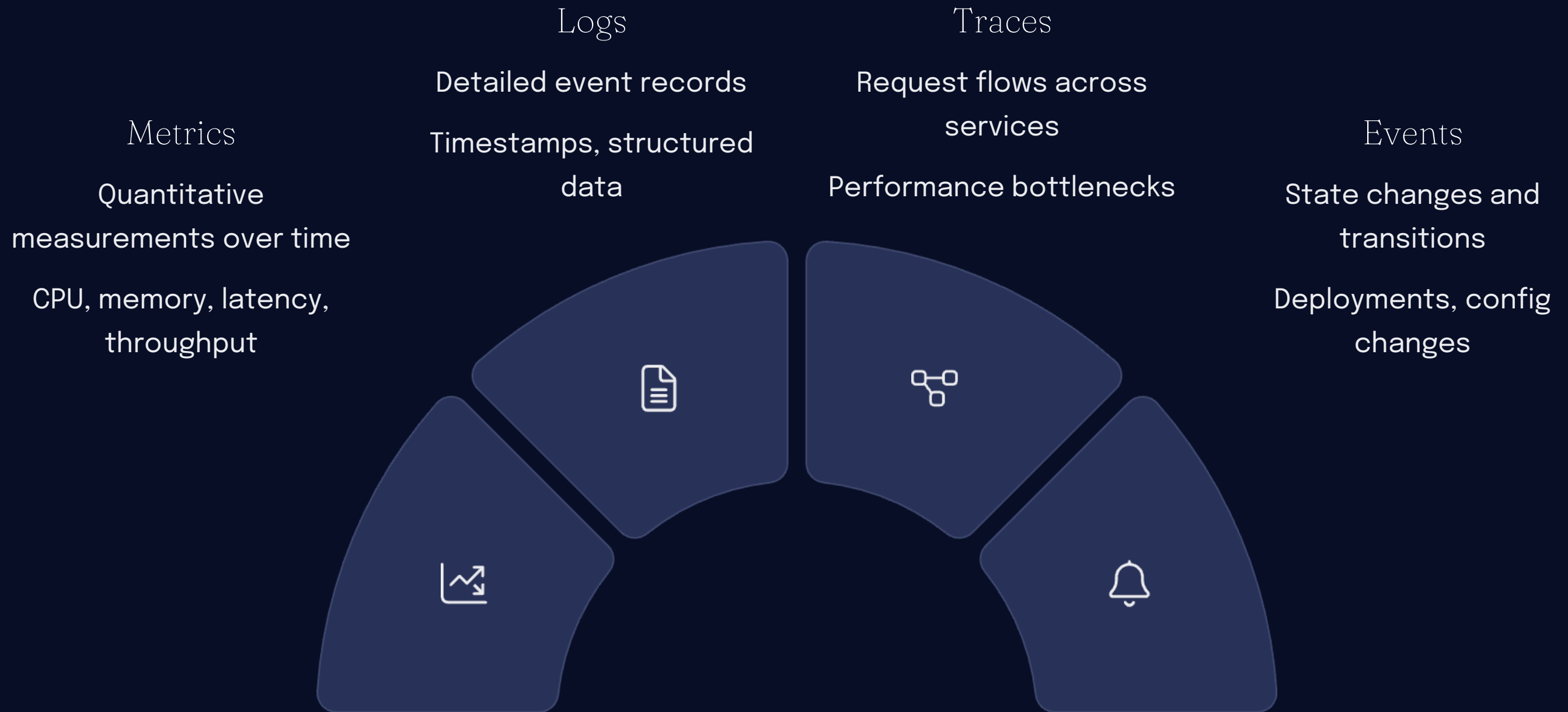
Context-rich insights

Proactive troubleshooting

Observability as a Data Product



The Four Pillars of Observability





Analytics Enhances Observability



Data Exploration

Interactive querying across telemetry



Pattern Recognition

ML-driven anomaly detection



Contextual Correlation

Connecting business and technical data



Predictive Insights

Forecasting issues before impact



Architecture for Scalable Observability

Instrumentation Layer

OpenTelemetry, agents,
SDKs

Collection & Transport

Kafka, Kinesis, Fluentd

Storage & Processing

Time-series DB, distributed
tracing systems

Analysis & Visualization

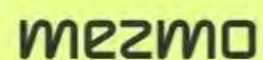
Dashboards, notebooks,
alerting

Tooling Landscape

Observability Platform



Observability Pipeline



AIOps / Troubleshooting / Root Cause Analysis



Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Data Deluge

Collecting everything without purpose

Overwhelming signal-to-noise ratio

Tool Sprawl

Fragmented visibility across platforms

Correlation challenges

Siloed Ownership

Platform team isolation

Limited cross-functional insights

Alert Fatigue

Too many notifications

Low-value interruptions



Observability Maturity Roadmap



Reactive

Responding to incidents after impact



Proactive

Identifying issues as they emerge



Analytical

Understanding patterns and dependencies



Predictive

Forecasting issues before they occur



Analytics Leadership in Observability



Bridge Technical and Business Domains

Translate telemetry into business impact



Architect Data-Driven Feedback Loops

Connect insights to action



Champion Cross-Functional Collaboration

Break down silos between teams



Drive Data Literacy and Culture

Empower everyone to leverage insights

Key Takeaways & Next Steps



Define Business Outcomes

Link observability to value metrics



Evolve Incrementally

Follow the maturity roadmap



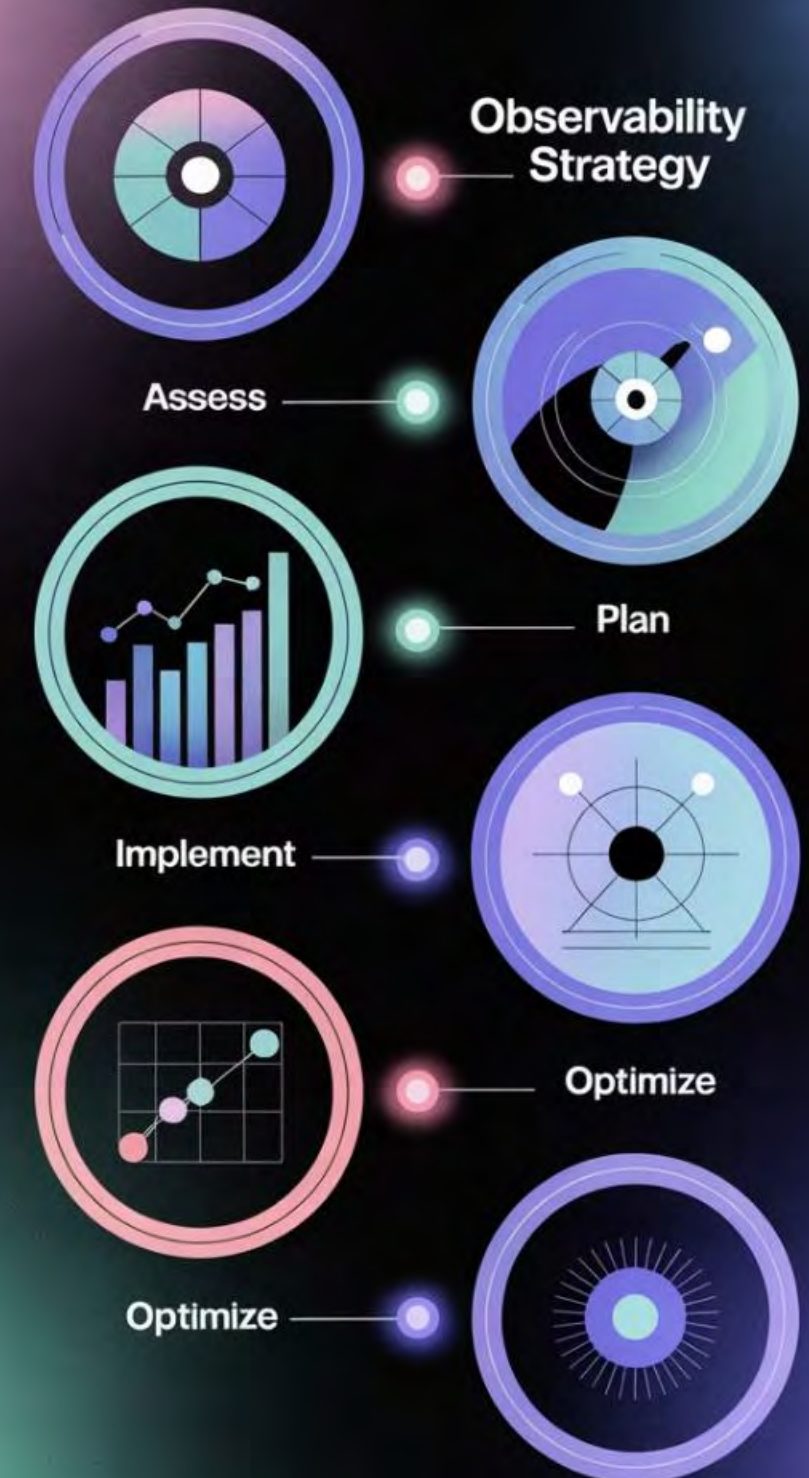
Start Small, Scale Wisely

Prioritize high-impact services first



Build Cross-Functional Teams

Blend analytics and operations expertise



Thank You!

