

See the whole cluster, then follow the work.

A quiet inventory makes draft changes and failed jobs easy to find.

Proposed Next experience

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N Northstar

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Alex Morgan

Platform engineer

Illustrative workspace

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NORTHSTAR / STAGING-EU

Create stack

Stacks

What belongs on this cluster, and what needs your attention.

Needs you

Logging deployment failed

Loki is waiting for storage. Its dependent job is blocked.

Investigate

Find a stack...

Show

All stacks ▼

4 declared stacks

Stack	Configuration	Last job	Observed health
monitoring Metrics and dashboards · 2 add-ons · 1 manifest	Draft pending	Last job succeeded	2 healthy Sample observation · 09:42 Open →
ingress Traffic and certificates · 2 add-ons · 2 manifests	Deployed	Last job succeeded	2 healthy Sample observation · 09:42 Inspect →
logging Logs and retention · 2 add-ons · 1 manifest	Deployed	Last job failed	1 healthy · 1 degraded Sample observation · 09:42 Open →
external-secrets Secrets from your vault · 1 add-on · 1 manifest	Draft only	No jobs recorded	Not observed Never deployed Inspect →

THE PERSON’S NEXT STEP

Start with the cluster’s stacks and open monitoring. Search filters the whole sample set.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

Keep lifecycle, latest job and resource health separate. “Deployed” alone is not proof of health.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions. Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

ANKRA NEXT · CLUSTER STACKS · 14 OCT 2026

Proposed experience · All actions are local simulations

One concern. Every resource in context.

A stack brings its add-ons, manifests and variables together.

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STAGING-EU / MONITORING

Monitoring

Metrics and dashboards for staging-eu.

Overview

Resources

Variables

Dependencies

History

Needs you

A configuration change is waiting

Grafana replicas: 1 → 2 · Domain updated · Running resources are unchanged.

Review draft

Contents

3

2 add-ons · 1 manifest

Observed health

2 / 2

Add-ons healthy · 09:42

Last deployment

Succeeded

Revision 8c42a1f · 09:40

Source

GitOps

platform-config / main

Resources

View dependencies →

Resource	Kind / version	Namespace	Draft change	
monitoring-ns	Manifest	—	Unchanged	<u>Inspect</u>
Prometheus	Helm · 25.27.0	monitoring	Unchanged	<u>Inspect</u>
Grafana	Helm · 8.5.2	monitoring	Values changed	Configure

THE PERSON’S NEXT STEP

See monitoring’s contents and the draft waiting for review.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

Applications remain identifiable members when a stack contains them; this example contains only add-ons and a namespace manifest.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions. Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

Start from what you already know.

Use a published profile, compose a focused stack, or bring a definition from Git.

Proposed Next experience



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STAGING-EU / STACKS

Create a stack

Give one platform concern a home. Everything starts as a draft.



Use a stack profile

Start from a versioned definition, with inputs for this cluster.



Compose a stack

Add Helm releases and manifests. Connect what depends on what.



Bring a Git definition

Use a stack already declared in your connected repository.

Connected source

Repository	northstar/platform-config
------------	---------------------------

Branch main · protected

Cluster path	clusters/staging-eu/
--------------	----------------------

Changes are reviewed in Git before Ankra reconciles them.

This example continues an existing monitoring draft so the storyboard can show a meaningful before-and-after diff.

THE PERSON'S NEXT STEP

Choose a starting point; each opens a concrete next step.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

A new stack starts as a draft. A profile launch pins a version and asks for destination-specific parameters.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions.
Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

Make the configuration deliberate.

Pin the chart version and edit only the values that matter.

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Configure Grafana

Update the draft Helm release. Running resources keep their current values.

Chart

Helm add-on

Registry

grafana · connected

Chart

grafana

Namespace

monitoring

Pinned chart version

8.5.2

Illustrative version. Select an available, verified release in the product.

Values changed by this draft

```
replicas: 2
ingress:
  enabled: true
  hosts:
    - metrics.staging.example.com
admin:
  existingSecret: grafana-admin
```

Domain and replica count resolve from stack variables. The credential value stays in the existing Secret.

Save to draft

Back to resources

THE PERSON’S NEXT STEP

Save the sample Grafana configuration to the draft.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

Resolve the chart from an authorised registry; validate values against its schema. Samples are illustrative, not recommended chart releases.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions. Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

Reuse the intent. Change the environment.

See every value, its scope, and where it is used.

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Variables

Environment-specific values, with their scope and consumers.

Overview

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Variables

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Variable	Resolved value	Source	Used by
metrics_domain	metrics.staging.example.com	Stack override	Grafana ingress
grafana_replicas	2	Stack override	Grafana deployment
grafana_admin	Secret reference · grafana-admin	Existing cluster Secret	Grafana credentials

Resolution preview

metrics_domain

Cluster default → stack override → metrics.staging.example.com

Resolved

grafana_admin

Reference exists in monitoring; secret payload is not shown.

Reference only

The review includes resolved non-secret values and secret reference changes.

THE PERSON’S NEXT STEP

Change the sample domain; keep credentials as references to stored secrets.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

Secret payloads are never rendered. Resolve precedence and missing references before review; preserve SOPS encrypted paths in Git.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions. Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

Show why something must wait.

A resource starts only when all its parents have succeeded.

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Dependencies

Simulate a cycle

OverviewResourcesVariablesDependenciesHistory

01 / FOUNDATION

MANIFEST

monitoring-ns

No parents

→

02 / METRICS

HELM ADD-ON

Prometheus

1 parent

→

03 / DASHBOARDS

HELM ADD-ON

Grafana

2 parents

→ Required parent succeeded

Grafana also depends directly on monitoring-ns.

Deployment order

Namespace → Prometheus → Grafana

The graph comes from declared parents, not the position of the nodes.

Review draft

THE PERSON’S NEXT STEP

Select a resource to inspect its parents, or simulate an invalid cycle.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

Validate cycles and missing parents. Layout positions do not determine deployment order. Independent branches may run concurrently.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions. Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

One review, with the actual change attached.

Understand the target, diff, and expected effect before saving to Git.

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STAGING-EU / MONITORING

Draft pending

Review monitoring

staging-eu · 2 value changes · no resource deletions

Sample validation Ready to review ▼

Grafana values

Base 8c42a1f → draft

- replicas: 1

+ replicas: 2

ingress:

hosts:

- - grafana.staging.example.com

+ - metrics.staging.example.com

What will happen

Target	Northstar / staging-eu / monitoring
Resource impact	Grafana rolls out; others unchanged
Data	Existing volumes retained
Verification	Replica readiness + ingress response

Review in Git

The protected branch requires review. A merged commit is then reconciled by Ankra.

Open pull request

Local simulation · no repository is changed

THE PERSON’S NEXT STEP

Review the draft, then simulate opening a pull request.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

Bind approval to the exact diff and base revision. A changed head or validation failure requires another review.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions. Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

A merged change is the beginning.

Follow Git sync, resource jobs, and the checks that prove readiness.

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STAGING-EU / MONITORING

In progress

Monitoring deployment

Sample run #482 · revision b71a92c · staging-eu

Git sync

Synced

b71a92c · merged at 10:04

Changed resources

0 / 1

Grafana only

Deployment job

Running

Started at 10:04

Observed health

Pending

Fresh checks still needed

This deployment

●

Reviewed commit received

Source and rendered configuration match revision b71a92c.

○

Resolve dependencies

Namespace and Prometheus are unchanged; parent requirements are satisfied.

○

Roll out Grafana

Waiting for the changed release to finish.

○

Observe the service

Replica readiness and ingress response have not yet been confirmed.

Execution evidence

Jobs in this change1

Unchanged resources2

Health observedPending

Advance sample run

Explore a failed run

Storyboard controls advance sample evidence.

THE PERSON’S NEXT STEP

Advance the sample run to see jobs complete and observations arrive.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

Job completion and observed health have separate clocks. Do not infer health from a successful reconcile.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions. Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

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Proposed experience · All actions are local simulations

Explain the blocked work, not just the error.

Keep the failed resource, its dependants and its evidence together.

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STAGING-EU / LOGGING

Deployment failed

Loki could not start

Logging · deployment #479 · staging-eu

Needs you

No storage matches the request

Loki requests fast-ssd, but this cluster exposes standard-rwo.

Prepare a fix

Resource	Job	Observation	Next step
logging-ns	Succeeded	Namespace exists	No change
Loki	Failed	PersistentVolumeClaim Pending	<u>Inspect evidence</u>
Promtail	Blocked	Parent Loki has not succeeded	Wait for parent

Ankra AI · diagnosis

The scheduling event names a missing storage class. This is a configuration failure; repeating the same deployment will not resolve it. Prepare a draft using an available class, review its storage behaviour, and deploy through Git.

Inspect evidence

THE PERSON’S NEXT STEP

Inspect the scheduling evidence, then prepare a configuration fix.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

A deterministic failure requires a change. Retry only when the cause is transient and the operation is safe to repeat.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions. Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

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Proposed experience · All actions are local simulations

Get back to the change that matters.

Connect a revision to its author, deployment, and observed result.

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Compare latest

Change history

Every deployment connects back to a versioned definition.

Overview

Resources

Variables

Dependencies

History

Revision	Change	Who / when	Result	
b71a92c	Scale Grafana and update ingress	Alex · today 10:04	Verified	Compare
8c42a1f	Pin charts and add namespace parents	Alex · yesterday	Verified	Prepare revert
3ed910b	First monitoring deployment	Sam · 12 Oct	Succeeded	Initial revision

Illustrative history after the sample rollout. Verification records include the observation time and the deployed revision.

THE PERSON’S NEXT STEP

Compare revisions or prepare a reviewed revert.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

A revert restores configuration, not database contents. Validate current compatibility and data impact before merging.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions. Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

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Proposed experience · All actions are local simulations

Make the second cluster easier.

Capture the verified stack as a versioned, parameterised profile.

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Review profile

Monitoring baseline

Builder draft

Input	Type	Default / requirement	Destination behaviour
metrics_domain	Hostname	Required	Provided for each cluster
grafana_replicas	Number	2	May be overridden
grafana_admin	Secret reference	Required · no default	Rebind on target cluster

Version contract

Source	staging-eu / monitoring / b71a92c
Contents	2 pinned Helm add-ons + namespace manifest
Dependencies	All 3 edges preserved
Secret handling	References and encryption paths reviewed
Candidate version	1.0.0 · not published

Preview launch on prod-eu

Preview uses a sample published version. Launch creates configuration only.

THE PERSON’S NEXT STEP

Inspect the profile contract and create a destination draft.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

Publishing and launching are separate decisions. Rebind secrets on the destination; copying configuration does not move data.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions. Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

An unknown state deserves a clear answer.

Empty, unavailable and stale states offer an honest next step.

Proposed Next experience



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NORTHSTAR / STAGING-EU

Stacks

Choose a sample condition to inspect its recovery path.

Sample condition

No stacks yet



No stacks yet

Group the services this cluster needs into a focused stack.

Create first stack

THE PERSON'S NEXT STEP

Switch between first use, no results, stale observations, request failure and access loss.

PRODUCT CONTRACT

Never show stale data across an organisation or permission change. An unreadable collection is not an empty collection.

DESIGN INTENT

One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions.
Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

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STAGING-EU / MONITORING

Review blocked

Remove monitoring

staging-eu · 2 add-ons · 1 manifest

Before this stack can be removed

Resolve a dependant

payments dashboards still reference the monitoring data source.

Needs owner

Choose what happens to persistent data

Grafana volume · retain, migrate or explicitly delete after backup verification.

No decision

Review the exact removal diff

Confirm resources, finalisers and retention policies against the target cluster.

Pending

Removal scope

Organisation / cluster

Northstar / staging-eu

Stack

monitoring

Requested removal

2 Helm releases + namespace manifest

A namespace deletion can also remove resources that this stack does not own. Inventory the namespace and resolve ownership before approval.

Resolve checks before removal

Keep stack

THE PERSON'S NEXT STEP	PRODUCT CONTRACT	DESIGN INTENT
Inspect the removal checklist and the blocked review action.	Data disposition and dependency checks must finish before removal can be approved. Retention is an explicit choice, never assumed.	One question per screen. Quiet healthy states; colour for exceptions. Concrete evidence and an explicit next step, with detail on demand.

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