Splunk Observability Cloud:
Getting Started

As companies move more of their computing and data infrastructure to the cloud, they're discovering that traditional alert monitoring tools can't keep up with the complexities of cloud environments.

It's time for observability, a modern monitoring approach that allows DevOps teams to more reliably pinpoint root causes for faster issue resolution and smoother rollouts that scale effectively.

TekStream has extensive experience implementing and managing Splunk applications for our clients. Based on that expertise, we have developed a proven process for quickly defining and standing up Splunk Observability Cloud instances that deliver near instantaneous operational improvements.

Our process, QuickStream for Splunk Observability Cloud is a seamless, multi-step process, focused on getting you to a defined end goal in the most efficient manner.
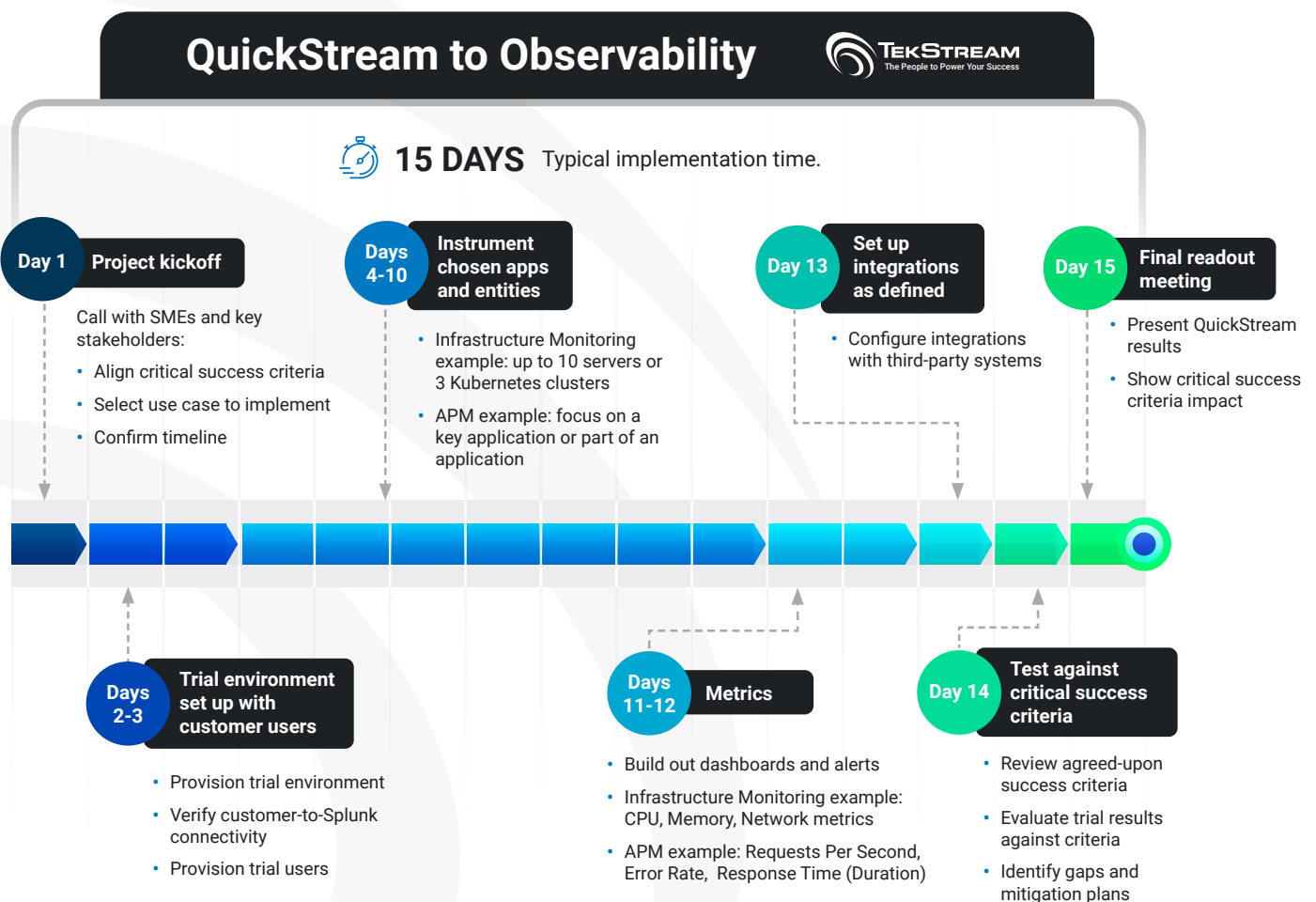
QuickStream to Observability

15 DAYS Typical implementation time.

Day 1 Project kickoff

Call with SMEs and key stakeholders:
- Align critical success criteria
- Select use case to implement
- Confirm timeline

Days 2-3 Trial environment set up with customer users

- Provision trial environment
- Verify customer-to-Splunk connectivity
- Provision trial users

Days 4-10 Instrument chosen apps and entities

- Infrastructure Monitoring example: up to 10 servers or 3 Kubernetes clusters
- APM example: focus on a key application or part of an application

Days 11-12 Metrics

- Build out dashboards and alerts
- Infrastructure Monitoring example: CPU, Memory, Network metrics
- APM example: Requests Per Second, Error Rate, Response Time (Duration)

Day 13 Set up integrations as defined

- Configure integrations with third-party systems

Day 14 Test against critical success criteria

- Review agreed-upon success criteria
- Evaluate trial results against criteria
- Identify gaps and mitigation plans

Day 15 Final readout meeting

- Present QuickStream results
- Show critical success criteria impact

Figure 1: QuickStream Observability Implementation Process

Quickstream Success Starts With the End In Mind

Successful implementation of an Observability Cloud solution requires you to think backward. Defining the end result at the beginning allows us to successfully chart the path of actions to get there. Using the QuickStream process, we work with clients to quickly and efficiently answer 4 key questions:

- What aspect of your business would benefit from observability?
- What processes do you need to have visibility into?
- What would the business benefit be if you had that information today?
- What information do you need to be able to determine the health of those processes?

With these endpoints defined, we next work together to map how to get from where we are today (Point A) to our defined improved future state (Point B). As part of the mapping process, we examine and address the following areas:

What needs to change to get you to point B?

While there will most likely be changes to code (e.g., to instrument it to make it more observable), there are usually needed changes to existing processes, and as importantly, how people think.

Observability, like DevOps, is a mindset and culture that must be embraced by everyone involved to be successful. The most successful observability processes are designed up front, rather than adding on after the fact.

Who needs to be involved?

It's easy to identify developers who will need to change their code. But just making code observable is only the beginning. Everyone involved in supporting the business process needs to be part of the transformation, including:

- Site Reliability Engineers
- DevOps Engineers
- Leadership
- Your internal customers – because they will be needed to help drive requirements, filter the end users' expectations, and set priorities.

What third-party services need to be brought into the observability fold?

What can you observe about those external systems today? Can you work with vendors to get them to provide better visibility into their systems?

What is the timeframe?

Our QuickStream process is typically a 2-3 week implementation, so it's important for everyone to be on the same page for timely delivery across the stages.

With these key aspects of the project defined, TekStream and our clients are in a much stronger position to jointly chart the path, engage the right team members, and keep our focus on the goal(s): quicker MTTR, improved customer experiences, and ultimately greater ROI and profitability.

Interested in learning how to get started with Splunk Observability Cloud?
Give us a call (844-TEK-STRM), or connect with us at TekStream.com.