Late-Night Debugging Stories

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Overview

The incident

Timeline

Follow-up

What paged us at 3am

- A slow memory leak in the cache eviction path
- Alerts fired only after the third restart loop
- Root cause took four hours to isolate

Key events

Time	Event
02:58	First OOM kill
03:12	On-call paged
04:40	Root cause found
05:05	Fix deployed

Two columns

What went wrong

- No leak-rate alert existed
- Runbook was out of date

What we fixed

- Added a memory-growth alert
- Rewrote the runbook same week

Action items

1. Load-test the cache eviction path monthly
2. Review every runbook older than six months