

Phippy Goes To The

ZOO

A Kubernetes Story



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and



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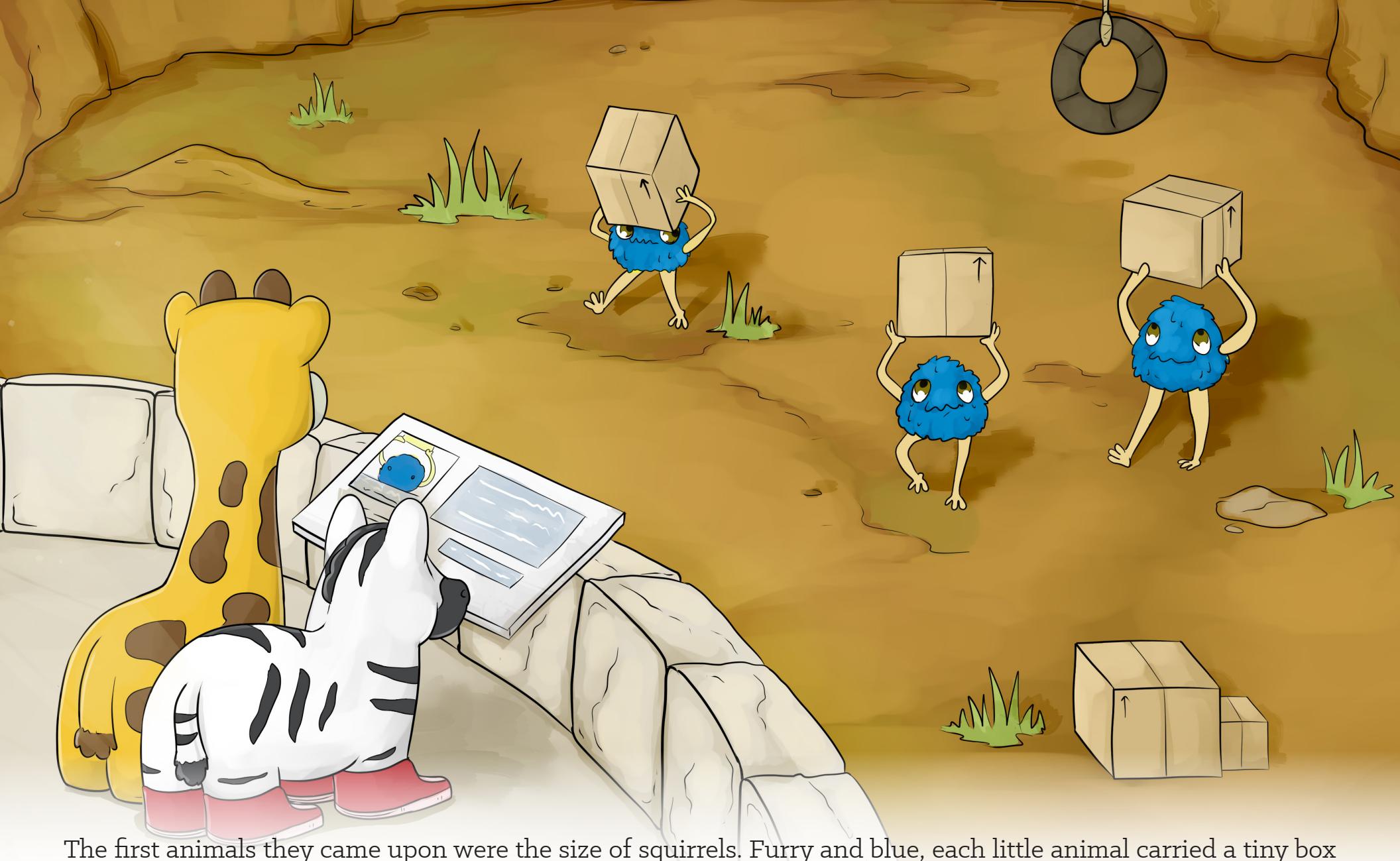
Phippy and friends were conceived by Matt Butcher, Karen Chu, and Bailey Beougher and are licensed by the CNCF under the CC-BY license. More info at phippy.io



"I'm bored Aunt Phippy," Zee slouched further down on the couch. "What are we going to do today?"

"Why not go see the animals?" said Phippy with a smile. "We'll go to the zoo!"

"Yeah!" Zee let out a whoop and ran to find some shoes.



The first animals they came upon were the size of squirrels. Furry and blue, each little animal carried a tiny box as they unceasingly zipped back and forth.

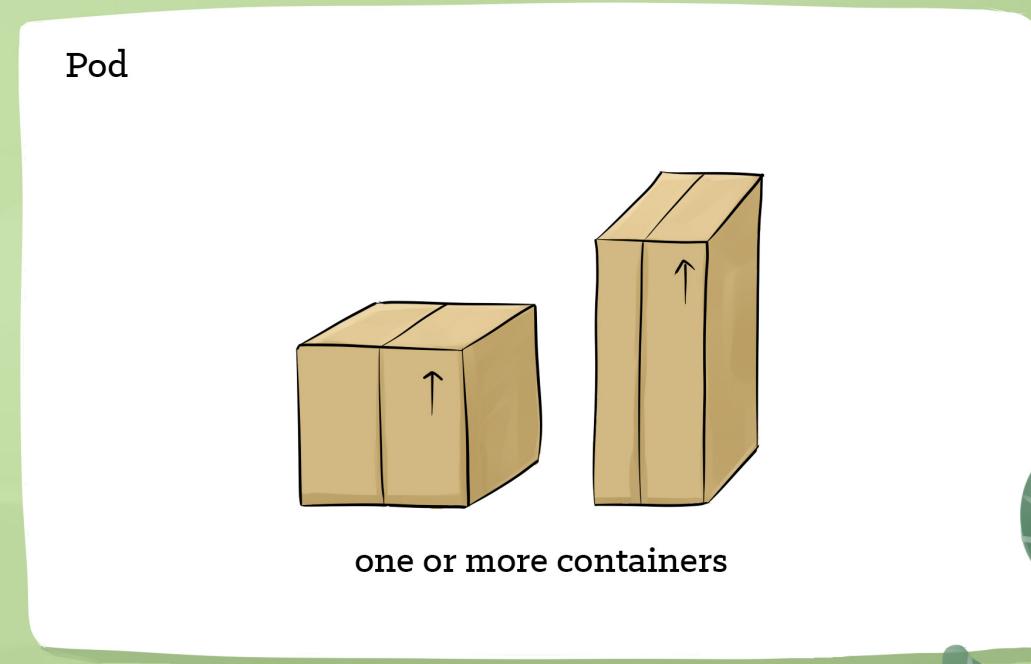
"Those," said Phippy, "are Pods. All day and all night, they run back and forth carrying their little containers."

"Is that all they do, Aunt Phippy?"

"Yup, Zee. For their entire lives, that's all the Pods do. They run."

Pods

- Pods are the basic unit for running containers inside of Kubernetes
- A Pod provides a way to set environment variables, mount storage, and feed other information into a container



In Kubernetes, Pods are responsible for running your containers. Every Pod holds at least one container, and controls the execution of that container. When the containers exit, the Pod dies too.



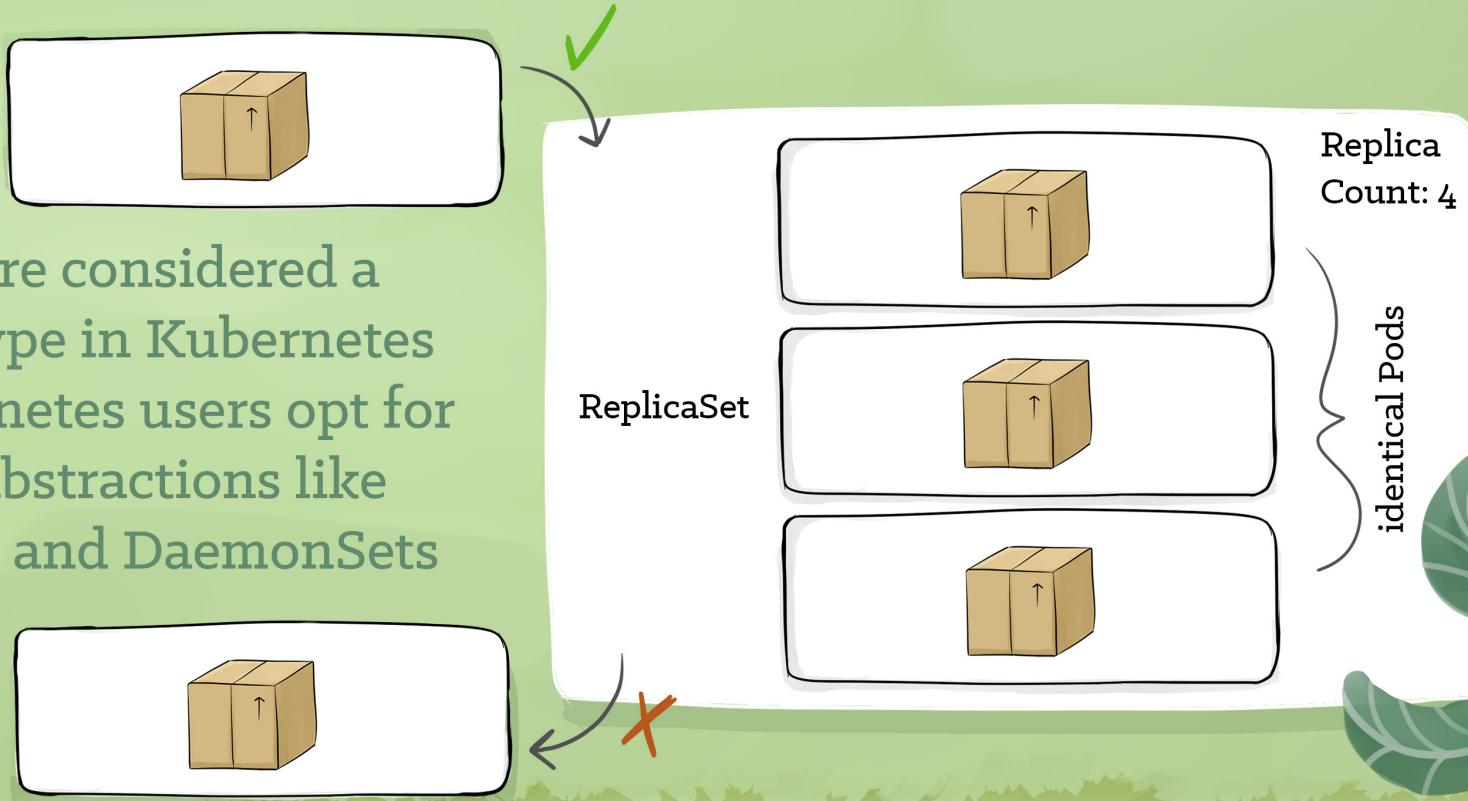
As Phippy and Zee walked on, they saw a large glass enclosure. Pressed against the window was a line of happy little meerkat faces. "Those are the ReplicaSets," said Phippy.

As Zee watched, the face on the right grinned widely, and tipped itself off the ledge. In unison, the others hopped over to fill the space, and then an identical meerkat scurried up on the left side.

"Every time one little replica falls, another one hops right up," explained Phippy.

ReplicaSets

- ReplicaSets are considered a “low-level” type in Kubernetes
- Often, Kubernetes users opt for higher level abstractions like Deployments and DaemonSets



A ReplicaSet ensures that a set of identically configured Pods are running at the desired replica count. If a Pod drops off, the ReplicaSet brings a new one online as a replacement.



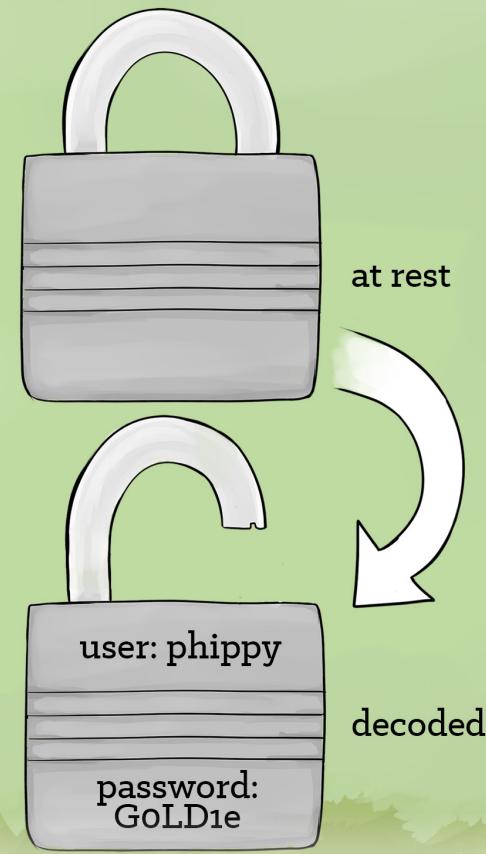
Walking further, Zee pointed out a clump of burrows and warrens. While there were plenty of signs that the area was inhabited, neither Phippy nor Zee could see a single movement.

“The Secrets are in here,” said Phippy. “but you can’t see them without these decoder glasses.”

Zee took the pair of glasses Phippy offered, slid them on, and blushed. “Oh, my. I think I’m ready to go on now, Aunt Phippy.” Zee handed back the glasses, and onward they went.

Secrets

- Secrets are Base 64 encoded “at rest” but the data is automatically decoded when attached to a Pod
- Secrets can be attached as files or environment variables
- Use add-on encryption providers for locking your data



Secrets are used to store non-public information, such as tokens, certificates, or passwords. Secrets can be attached to Pods at runtime so that sensitive configuration data can be stored securely in the cluster.



A group of iguanas gathered near a large slingshot along the shore of a pond. An island stood in the center of the water. An iguana threw herself into the slingshot and the other iguanas launched the little beast toward the island.

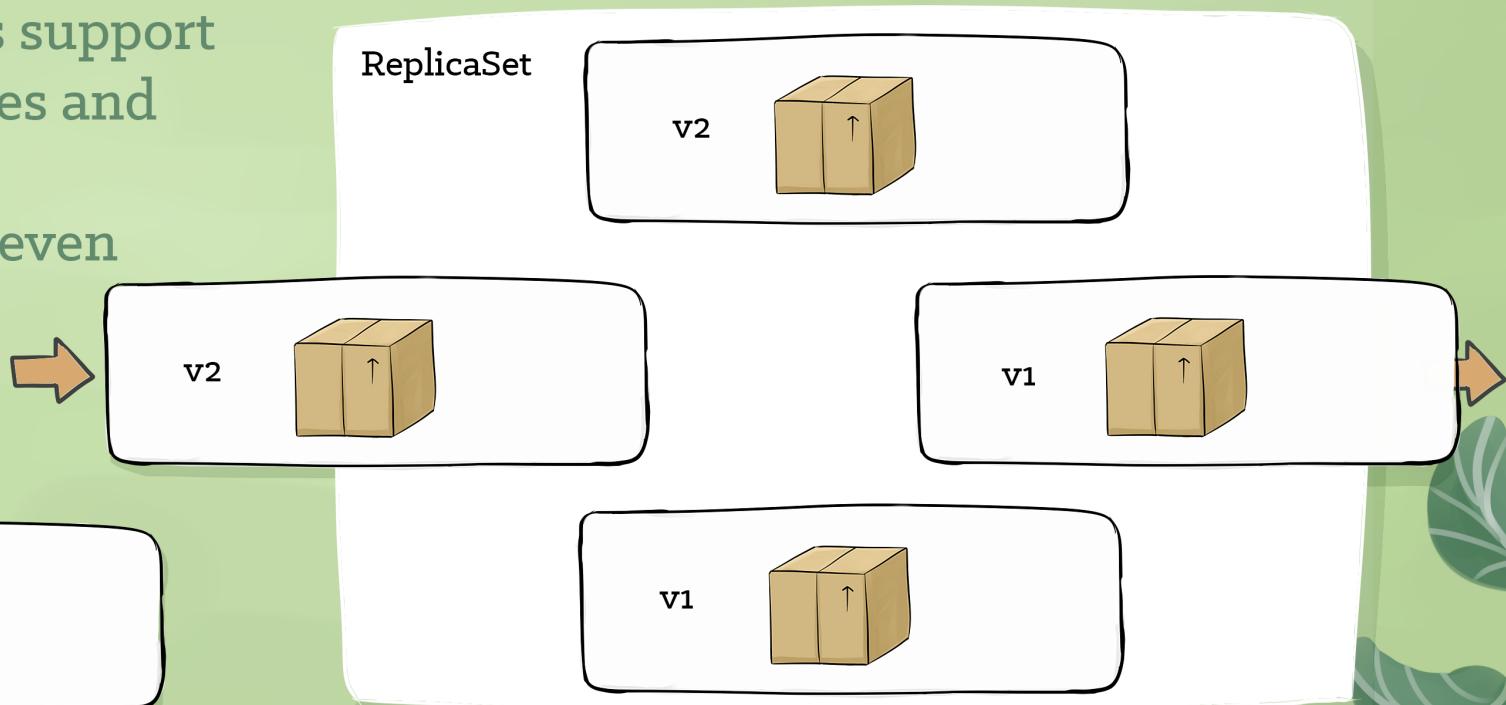
"The Deployments release a group onto the island. Right now, they're trying to get three out there." said Phippy.

At that moment another iguana rocketed into the air but missed the island with a colossal splash in the pond.

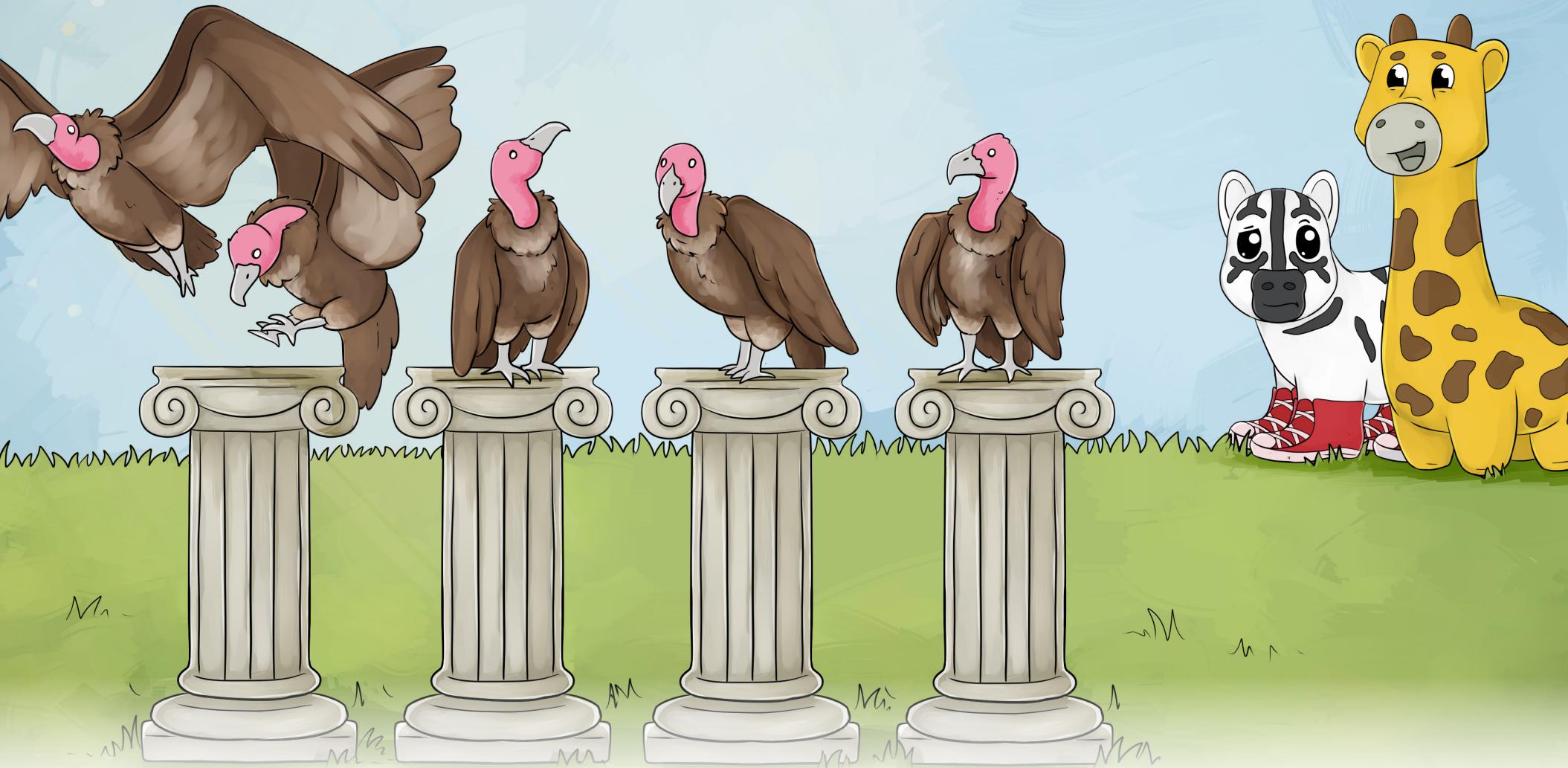
Phippy said, "If they miss, they just keep trying until they get as many as they need."

Deployments

- Deployments support rolling updates and rollbacks
- Rollouts can even be paused



A Deployment is a higher-order abstraction that controls deploying and maintaining a set of Pods. Behind the scenes, it uses a ReplicaSet to keep the Pods running, but it offers sophisticated logic for deploying, updating, and scaling a set of Pods within a cluster.



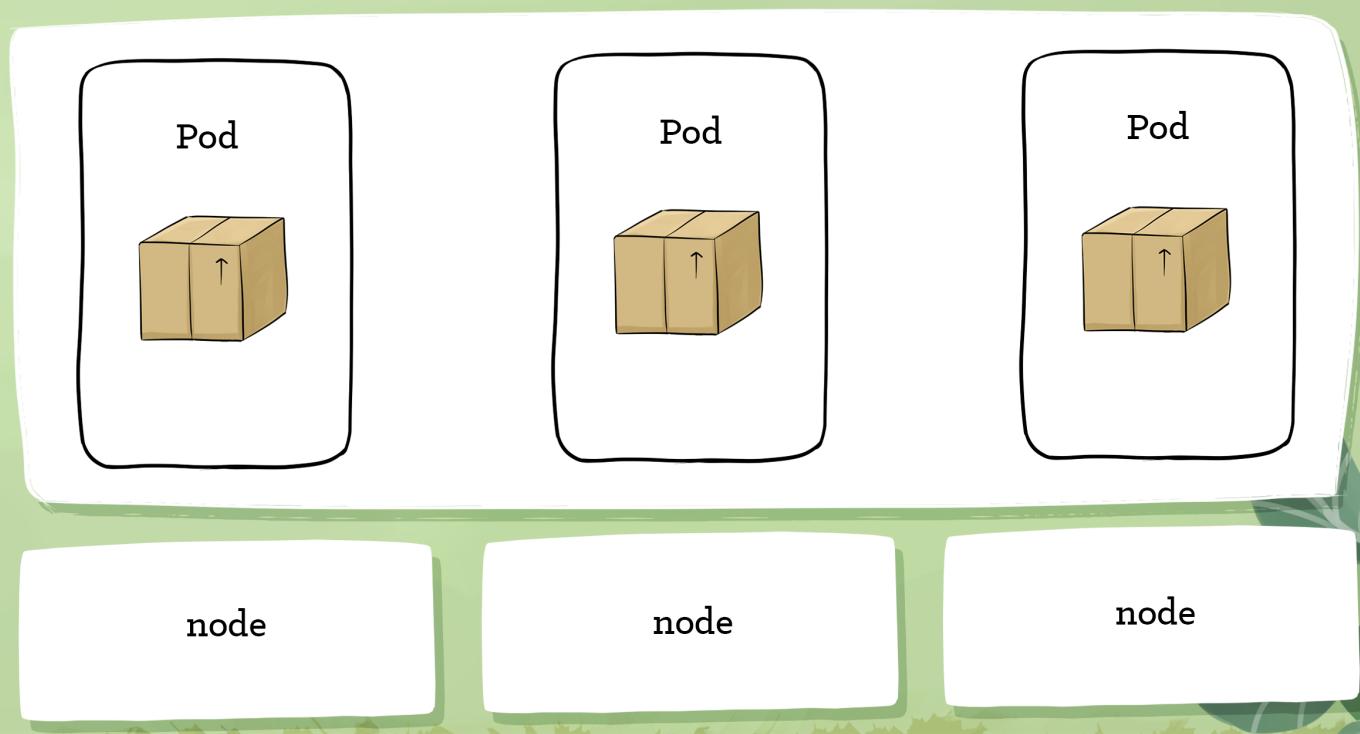
Several stone pillars arose from a grassy knoll and at the top of each sat a vulture. As Zee and Phippy watched, one vulture spread its wings and flapped off into the distance. No sooner had one left than another took its place. Zee asked, "What are they doing?"

"Those are DaemonSets," said Phippy, "They make sure to occupy every pillar, rain or shine, day or night."

"I bet that if we added a new pillar, a new bird would land on it faster than you could say 'cube cuddle,'" chuckled Phippy.

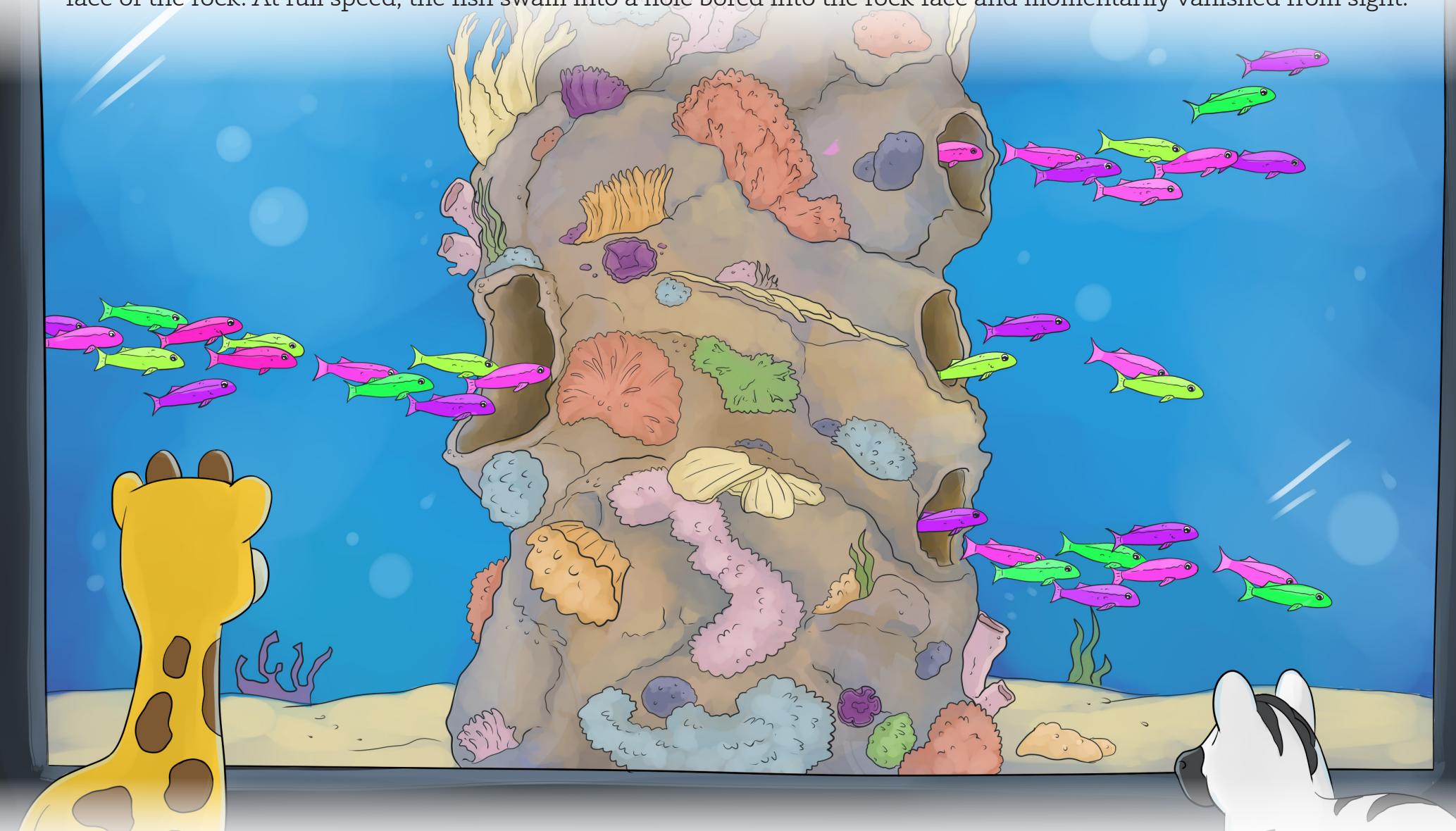
DaemonSets

- DaemonSets have many uses – one frequent pattern is to use a DaemonSet to install or configure software on each host node



DaemonSets provide a way to ensure that a copy of a Pod is running on every node in the cluster. As a cluster grows and shrinks, the DaemonSet spreads these specially labeled Pods across all of the nodes.

As they walked on, they saw an aquarium with an enormous reef. Edge-to-edge, it appeared that the rock would keep anything from passing from one side to the other. Zee watched as hundreds of tiny fish made a dash for the center of the face of the rock. At full speed, the fish swam into a hole bored into the rock face and momentarily vanished from sight.



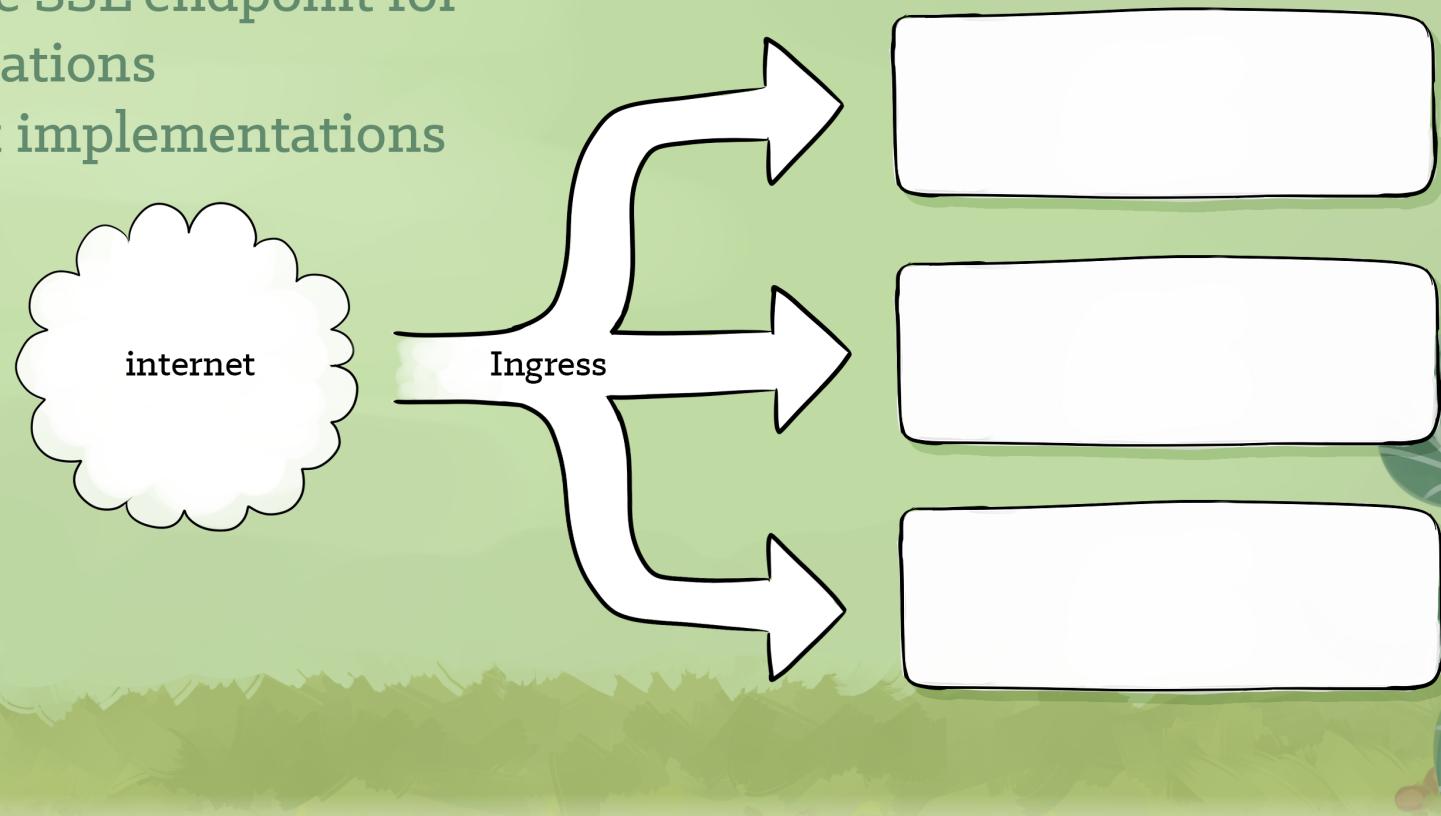
Zee let out a gasp. Multicolored flashes erupted from the opposite side of the coral. Instead of coming out of a single hole, the fish seemed to materialize from tiny fissures all over the far side of the rock.

“Ingresses are beautiful,” said a dreamy eyed Phippy.

Enchanted, Zee muttered, “Uh-huh.”

Ingresses

- Route traffic to and from the cluster
- Provide a single SSL endpoint for multiple applications
- Many different implementations of an ingress allow you to customize for your platform



Ingresses provide a way to declare that traffic ought to be channeled from the outside of the cluster into destination points within the cluster. One single external Ingress point can accept traffic destined to many different internal services.



Zee pointed to the raccoons sprawled motionless in the next enclosure. "What's wrong with them?"

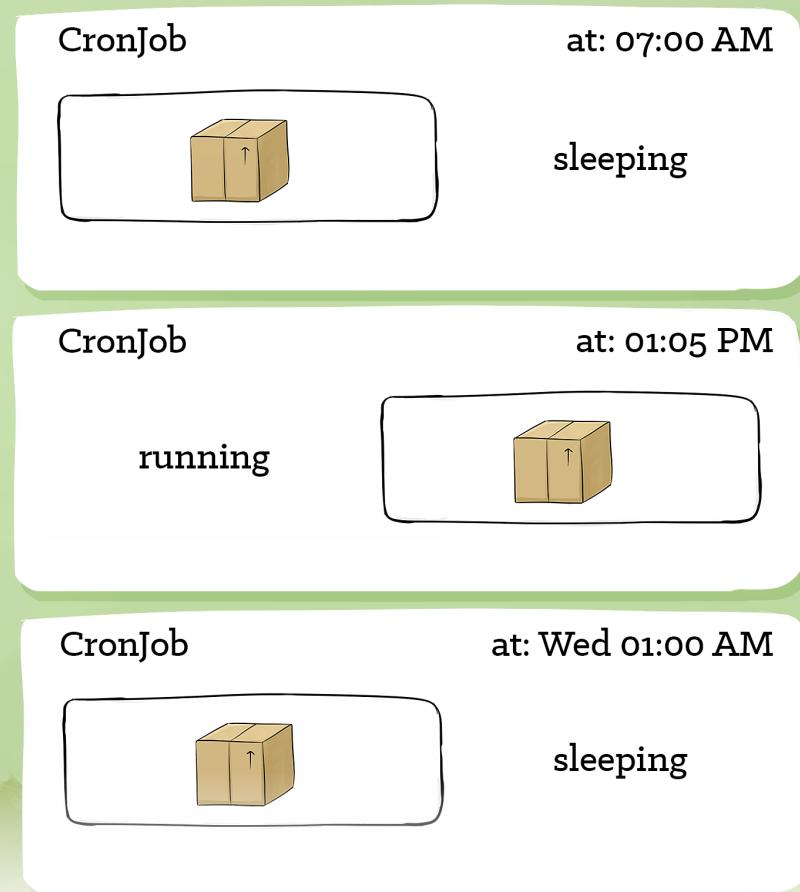
Suddenly, one sprung to its feet, did jumping jacks, then settled back down for another nap.

"Those are CronJobs," said Phippy. "Mostly, they just sleep. But periodically, they spring into action to do a specific job."

As she spoke, another bolted upright, grabbed a broom, swept the entire enclosure, and then dropped off to sleep again. "Aunt Phippy, can I bring that one home to clean my room?" Phippy laughed as they walked on.

CronJobs

- Use common Cron syntax to schedule tasks
- CronJobs are part of the Batch API for creating short lived non-server tools



CronJobs provide a method for scheduling the execution of Pods. They are excellent for running periodic tasks like backups, reports, and automated tests.



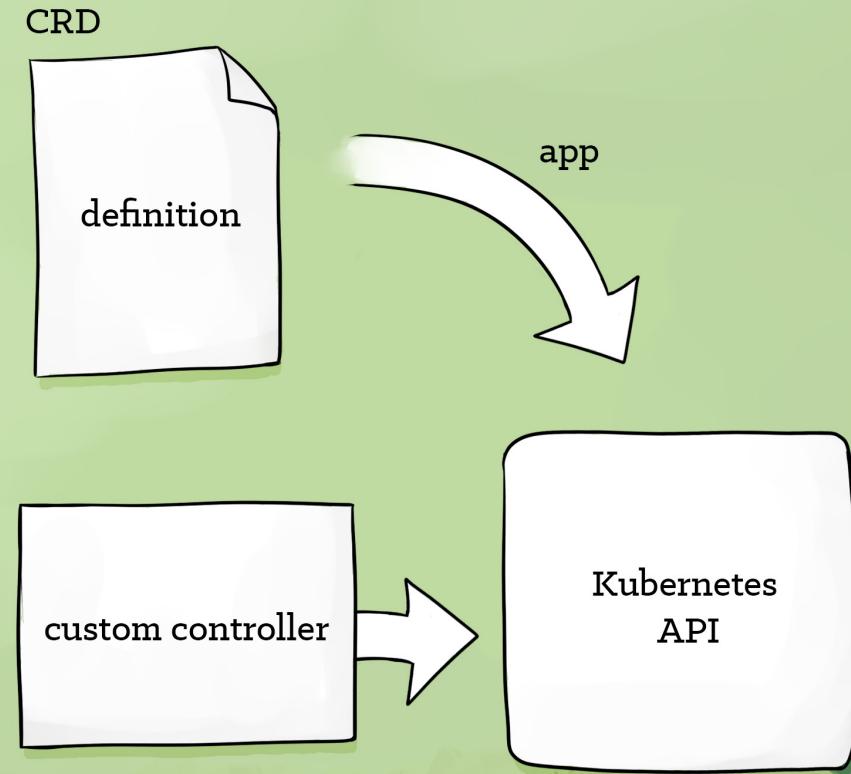
Zee halted abruptly. In the distance, a black-railed fence arose. The arches above the pen were marked C-R-D. Between the bars, Zee could make out some peculiar critters. A giraffe with a hippopotamus head. A snake with raccoon ears. A lion with a beaver's tail. A unicorn with no horn. Zee wasn't sure she liked the looks of that place.

"Oh," said Phippy, a look of concern on her face, "Uh... look! It's lunch time! We'd better head home."

With a look of mild relief, Zee complied. "Can we stop at Captain Kube's Shake Shop on the way out?"

CRDs

- A CRD defines a new resource type, and tells Kubernetes about it
- Once a new resource type is added, new instances of that resource may be created
- Handling CRD changes is up to you. A common pattern is to create a custom controller that watches for new CRD instances, and responds accordingly



CustomResourceDefinitions, or CRDs, provide an extension mechanism that cluster operators and developers can use to create their own resource types.

SEE YOU LATER



