Lab Exercise 8- Creating and Managing a ReplicaSet in Kubernetes

Objective:

A ReplicaSet in Kubernetes ensures a specified number of Pod replicas are running at any given time. This exercise will guide you through creating a ReplicaSet to maintain the desired state of your application.

- Understand the syntax and structure of a Kubernetes ReplicaSet definition file (YAML).
- Learn how to create and manage a ReplicaSet to ensure application availability.
- Understand how a ReplicaSet helps in scaling applications and maintaining desired states.

Prerequisites

- Kubernetes Cluster: Have a running Kubernetes cluster (locally using Minikube or kind, or a cloud-based service).
- kubectl: Install and configure kubectl to interact with your Kubernetes cluster.
- Basic Knowledge of YAML: Familiarity with YAML format will be helpful for understanding Kubernetes resource definitions.



Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: Understanding ReplicaSet

A ReplicaSet ensures a specified number of Pod replicas are running at any given time. If a Pod crashes or is deleted, the ReplicaSet creates a new one to meet the defined number of replicas. This helps maintain application availability and ensures that your application can handle increased load by distributing traffic among multiple Pods.

Step 2: Create a ReplicaSet

We'll define a ReplicaSet to maintain three replicas of a simple Nginx web server Pod. Create a YAML file named nginx-replicaset.yaml with the following content:

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
                       # Specifies the API version used.
kind: ReplicaSet
                     # The type of resource being defined; here, it's a ReplicaSet.
metadata:
name: nginx-replicaset # The name of the ReplicaSet.
spec:
replicas: 3
                  # The desired number of Pod replicas.
 selector:
  matchLabels:
                     # Criteria to identify Pods managed by this ReplicaSet.
                   # The label that should match Pods.
   app: nginx
 template:
                  # The Pod template for creating new Pods.
  metadata:
   labels:
    app: nginx
                   # Labels applied to Pods created by this ReplicaSet.
  spec:
   containers:
   - name: nginx
                     # Name of the container within the Pod.
    image: nginx:latest # Docker image to use for the container.
```

```
ports:
- containerPort: 80 # The port the container exposes.
             apiVersion: apps/v1
           1 kind: ReplicaSet
           2 metadata:
           3 name: nginx-replicaset
           4 spec:
               replicas: 3
              selector:
                 matchLabels:
                   app: nginx
              template:
                 metadata:
          10
          11
                   labels:
          12
                    app: nginx
                 spec:
                   containers:
          14
                   - name: nginx
          16
                     image: nginx:latest
                        ports:
          17
                     - containerPort: 80
```

Explanation:

- apiVersion: Defines the API version (apps/v1) used for the ReplicaSet resource.
- kind: Specifies that this resource is a ReplicaSet.
- metadata: Contains metadata about the ReplicaSet, including name.
 - o name: The unique name for the ReplicaSet.
- spec: Provides the specification for the ReplicaSet.
 - $\circ \;\;$ replicas: Defines the desired number of Pod replicas.
 - o selector: Criteria for selecting Pods managed by this ReplicaSet.
 - matchLabels: Labels that Pods must have to be managed by this ReplicaSet.
 - o template: Defines the Pod template used for creating new Pods.
 - metadata: Contains metadata for the Pods, including labels.
 - labels: Labels applied to Pods created by this ReplicaSet.
 - \circ spec: Specification for the Pods.
 - containers: Lists the containers that will run in the Pod.

- name: The unique name of the container within the Pod.
- image: The Docker image used for the container.
- ports: Ports exposed by the container.

Step 3: Apply the YAML to Create the ReplicaSet

Use the kubectl apply command to create the ReplicaSet based on the YAML file.

```
kubectl apply -f nginx-replicaset.yaml

vim nginx-replicaset.yaml

kubectl apply -f nginx-replicaset.yaml
replicaset.apps/nginx-replicaset created
```

Verify the ReplicaSet is running and maintaining the desired number of replicas:

```
kubectl get replicaset

> kubectl get replicaset

NAME DESIRED CURRENT READY AGE

nginx-replicaset 3 3 3 28s
```

This command lists all ReplicaSets in the current namespace.

To check the Pods created by the ReplicaSet:

```
kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
  > kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
  NAME
                             READY
                                     STATUS
                                                RESTARTS
                                                            AGE
  nginx-replicaset-8bpfm
                             1/1
                                     Running
                                                            59s
                                                0
  nginx-replicaset-dfvxk
                             1/1
                                     Running
                                                0
                                                            59s
  nginx-replicaset-fnjcf
                                     Running
                             1/1
                                                0
                                                            59s
```

This command lists all Pods with the label app=nginx.

Step 4: Managing the ReplicaSet

1. Scaling the ReplicaSet

You can scale the number of replicas managed by the ReplicaSet using the kubectl scale command.

This command scales the ReplicaSet to maintain 5 replicas. Verify the scaling operation:

```
kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
  > kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
  NAME
                             READY
                                      STATUS
                                                RESTARTS
                                                            AGE
                                     Running
  nginx-replicaset-45mln
                             1/1
                                                            22s
                                                0
  nginx-replicaset-8bpfm
                             1/1
                                      Running
                                                0
                                                            107s
  nginx-replicaset-dfvxk
                             1/1
                                                            107s
                                      Running
                                                0
  nginx-replicaset-fnjcf
                             1/1
                                      Running
                                                0
                                                            107s
  nginx-replicaset-tcm72
                                     Running
                             1/1
                                                0
                                                            22s
```

You should see that the number of Pods has increased to 5.

2. Updating the ReplicaSet

If you need to update the Pod template (e.g., to use a different Docker image version), modify the YAML file and apply it again. For instance, change the image to a specific version of Nginx:

```
spec:
template:
spec:
containers:
- name: nginx
image: nginx:1.19.3 # Change to a specific version
```

```
vim
18 apiVersion: apps/v1
17 kind: ReplicaSet
16 metadata:
     name: nginx-replicaset
14 spec:
13 replicas: 3
12
     selector:
11
      matchLabels:
         app: nginx
10
 9 template:
 8
       metadata:
 7
         labels:
 6
           app: nginx
 5
       spec:
         containers:
 4
 3
         - name: nginx
           image: nginx:1.19.3 # Specific version as mentioned
 2
           ports:
 1
           - containerPort: 80
19
```

Apply the changes:

```
kubectl apply -f nginx-replicaset.yaml

vim nginx-replicaset.yaml

kubectl apply -f nginx-replicaset.yaml
replicaset.apps/nginx-replicaset configured
```

Check the status to ensure the Pods are updated:

```
kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
  > kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
  NAME
                            READY
                                     STATUS
                                               RESTARTS
                                                           AGE
  nginx-replicaset-45mln
                            1/1
                                     Running
                                                           8m14s
  nginx-replicaset-dfvxk
                            1/1
                                     Running
                                               0
                                                           9m39s
  nginx-replicaset-fnjcf
                            1/1
                                     Running
                                                           9m39s
                                                0
```

Note: Updating a ReplicaSet doesn't automatically replace existing Pods with new ones. In practice, you often create a new ReplicaSet or Deployment for updates.

3. Deleting the ReplicaSet

To clean up the ReplicaSet and its Pods, use the kubectl delete command:

```
kubectl delete -f nginx-replicaset.yaml

> kubectl delete -f nginx-replicaset.yaml
replicaset.apps "nginx-replicaset" deleted
```

This command deletes the ReplicaSet and all the Pods managed by it.