

# You might still need patches for your denim, but you no longer need them for prod

Maya Kaczorowski & Dan Lorenc  
Google Cloud

BSidesSF  
March 4, 2019



# **Maya Kaczorowski**

Security PM, Google Cloud



@MayaKaczorowski



# **Dan Lorenc**

Software Engineer, Container Tools,  
Google Cloud

# Agenda

- 
- 1 Containers, Kubernetes, and a different model for security
  - 2 Traditional software supply chain and patch management
  - 3 Ideal software supply chain and best practices in image maintenance, patching, and validation
  - 4 Demo: patching 0days
  - 5 Using live migration in practice at Google

**Containers,  
Kubernetes, and a  
different model for  
security**

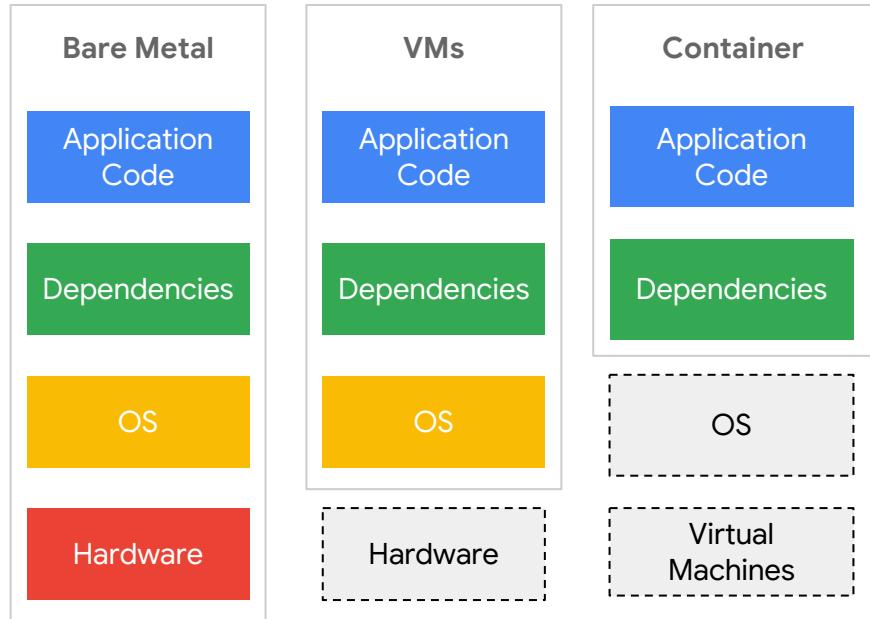


# First, what's a container?



Containers are all the rage these days, getting us close to the dream of write once, run anywhere.

They package and isolate applications and dependencies.

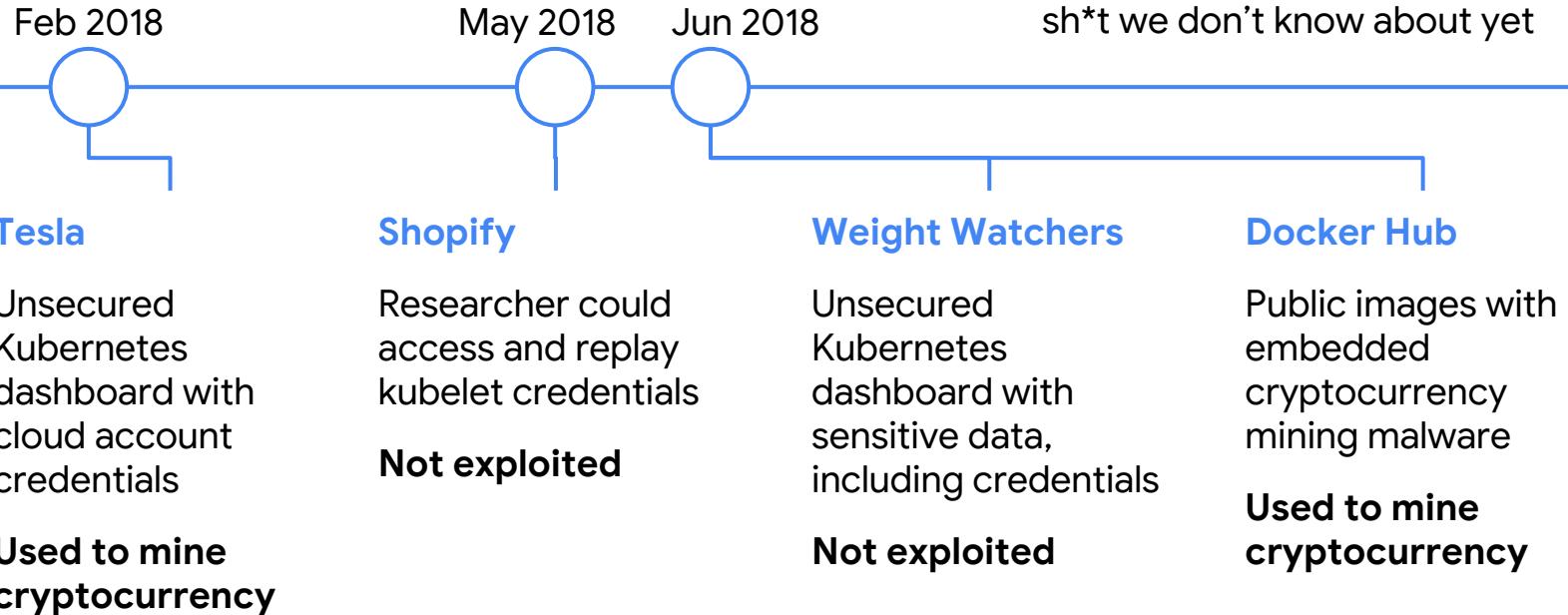


# Enter Kubernetes

- A portable, open-source, **container-centric** management platform
- Built-in primitives for **deployments, rolling upgrades, scaling, monitoring, and more**
- Inspired by **Google's internal systems**
- Get true **workload portability** and increased **infrastructure efficiency**

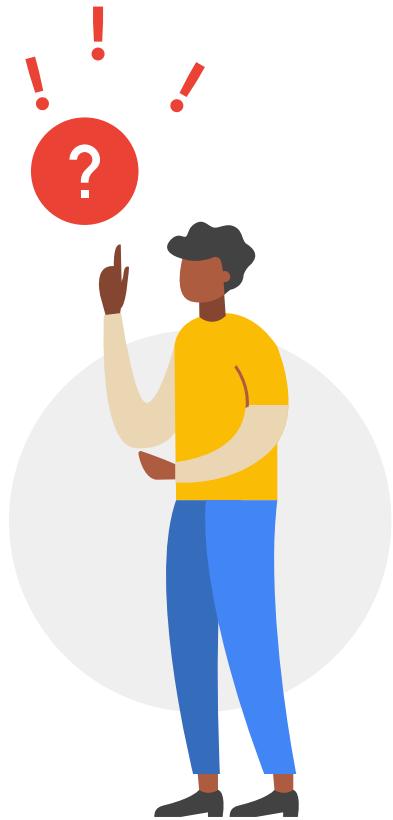


# Containers are actually being attacked



# Security people like to complain about containers and Kubernetes

- What's a koober net ease
- I can't use my IDS, firewall, ...
- Containers don't contain
- I am stuck with it, help me



# How is securing a container different?

## Surface of Attack

—  
**Minimalist host OS** and limits the surface of an attack.

## Resource Isolation

—  
Host resources are **separated using namespaces and cgroups.**

## Permissions

—  
**Access controls are** for app privileges and shared resources.

## Lifecycle

—  
Containers have a **shorter, better defined lifecycle.**

**Traditional software  
supply chain and  
patch management**



# Traditional software supply chain



# Traditional patch management

01

## Get patch

From the distributor,  
some random mailing  
list, a vendor. Not always  
sent to the security  
team.

02

## Take down server n=1 and apply patch

Test the patch in prod!  
Take some unimportant  
workload down to make  
sure nothing goes too  
bad.

03

## Repeat for n servers, where n is unknown

It worked! Now do it  
again, for everything you  
think is affected. Miss a  
bunch of it.

# Problems with traditional patch management

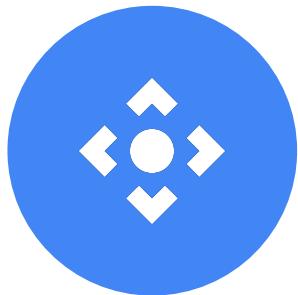
- Spreadsheet-driven management
- Down time
- 0days are scary
- Unclear what's running in your infrastructure / what's running where / if you even need a patch



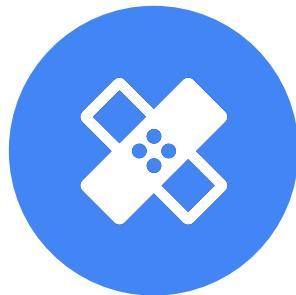
# Ideal software supply chain and best practices

D3

# Running containers allows you to adopt a fundamentally different security model



Containers give you a  
**software supply  
chain**



Containers let you  
**patch continuously,**  
automatically

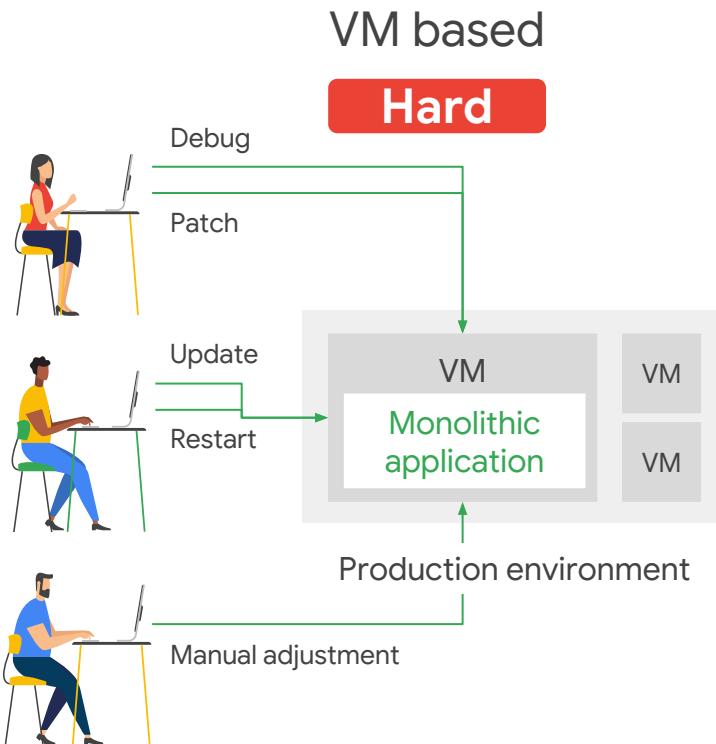


Containers mean you  
can actually **tell if  
you're affected** by a  
new vulnerability

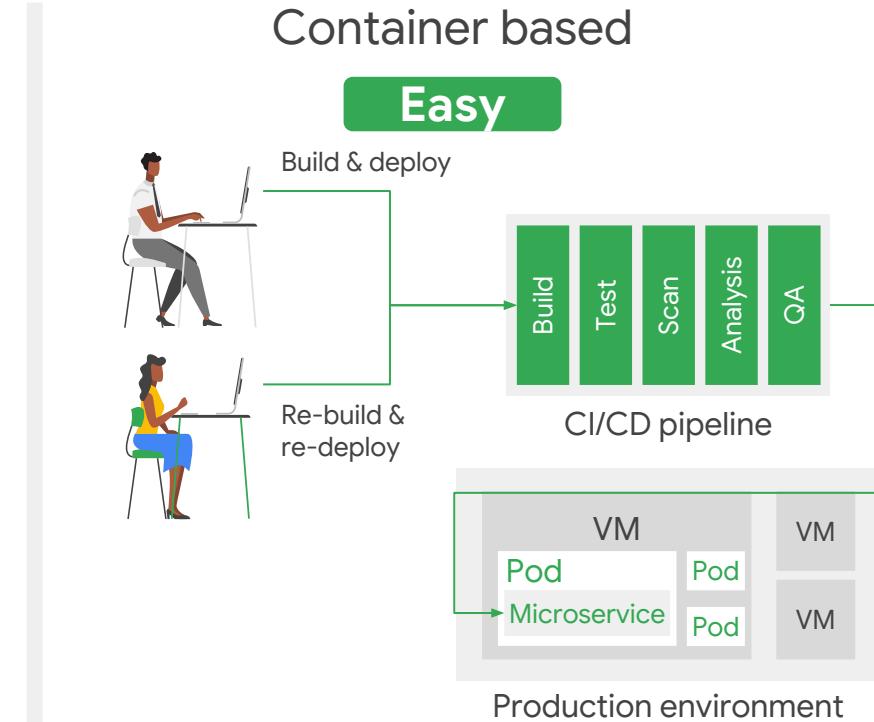
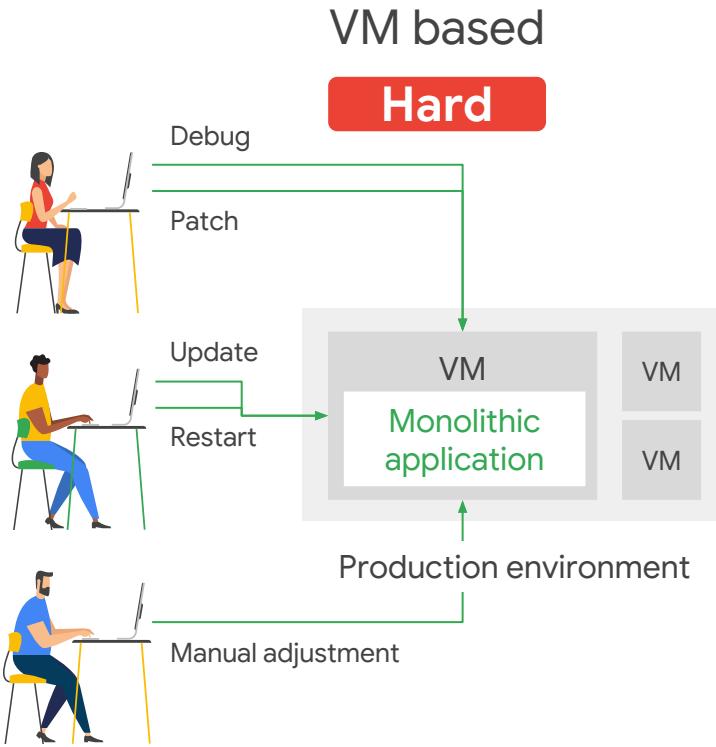


# Containers give you a software supply chain

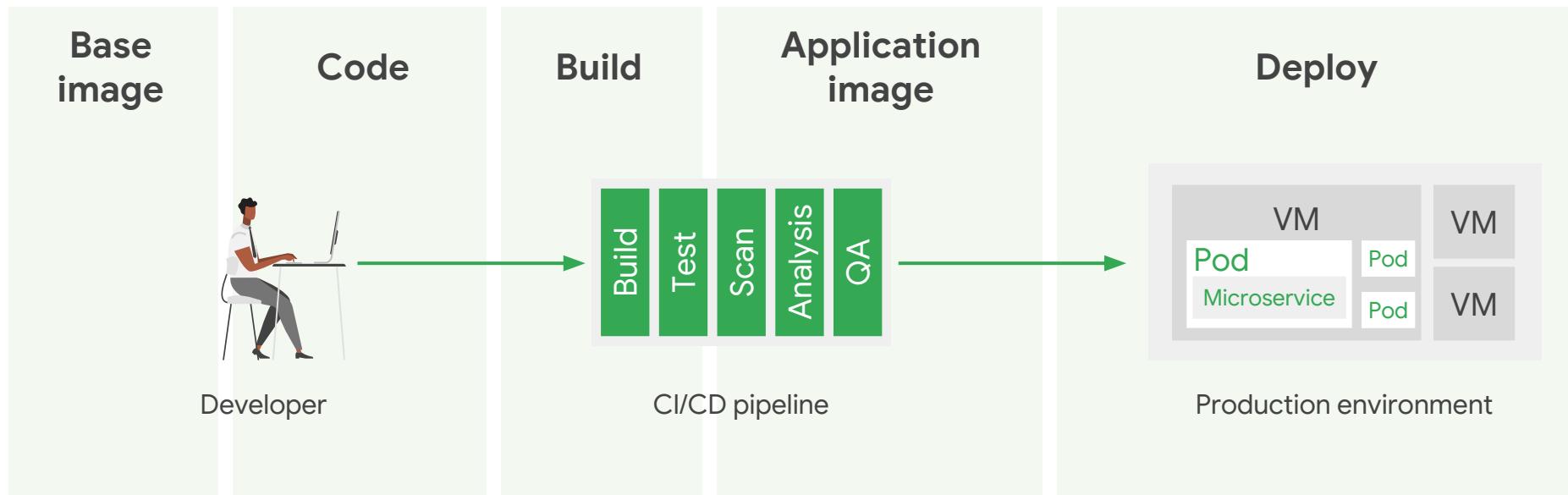
# What's different about supply chains with containers



# What's different about supply chains with containers



# Containers let you enforce a software supply chain





**Containers let you  
patch continuously,  
automatically**

# Constantly patch your registry... and roll out as normal

01

**Patch the image in your registry**

Figure out what's affected, and apply the patch everywhere you need it.

02

**Test, validate, and roll out**

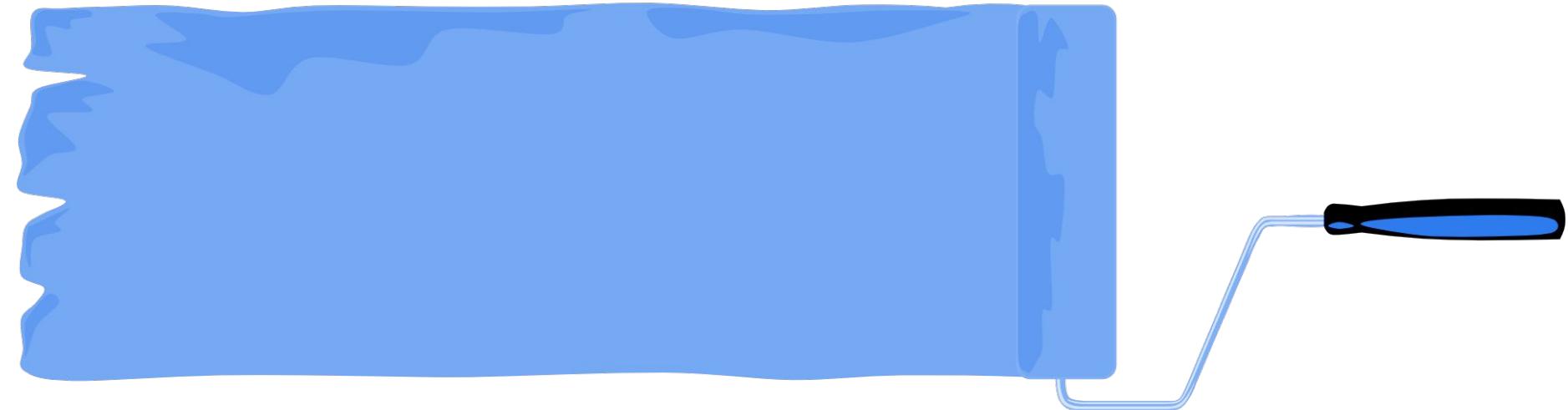
Roll out the patch like you would any other infrastructure change, going incrementally.

03

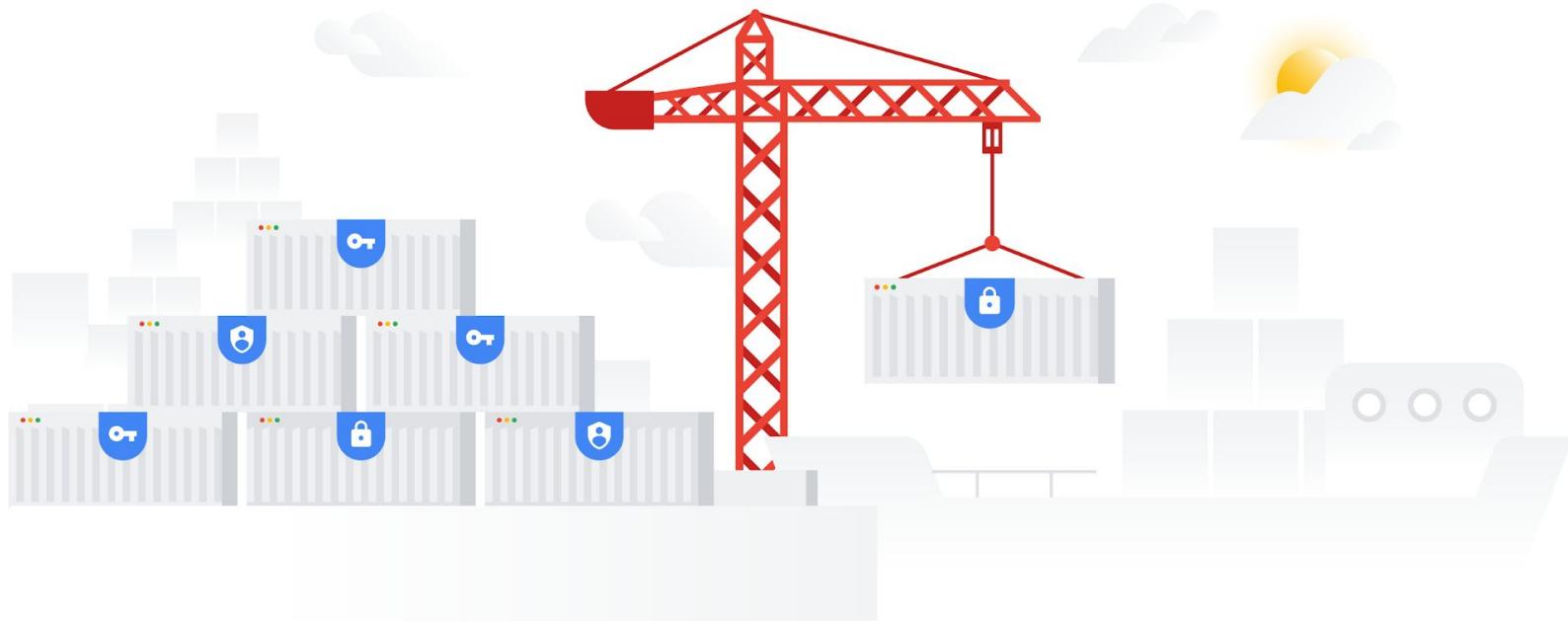
**Load balance traffic over**

When testing is successful, move traffic over to the new, patched workload, with no downtime.

**Rollout patches the same way other  
changes rollout**



# Containers enable passive patching



# Vulnerability mitigation strategies

## Update packages

apt-get update & upgrade gets you pretty far. Do this daily.



## Remove packages

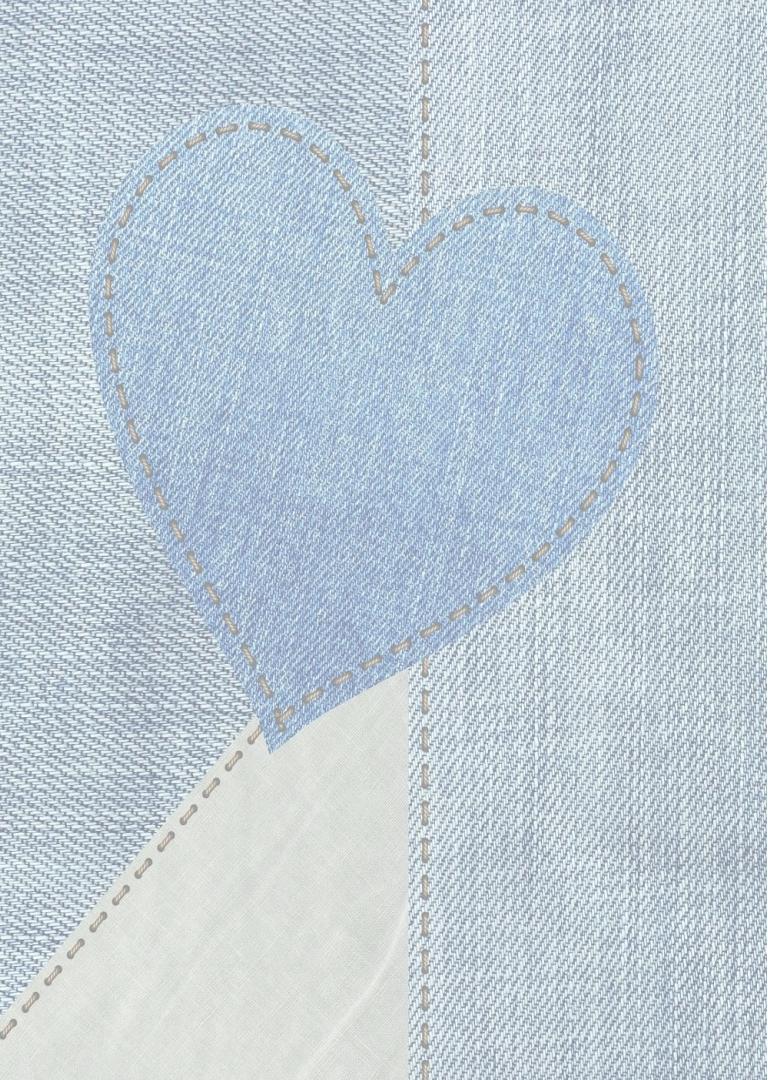
Do you really need  $6.022 \times 10^{23}$  debian packages installed on your production image?



## New distro

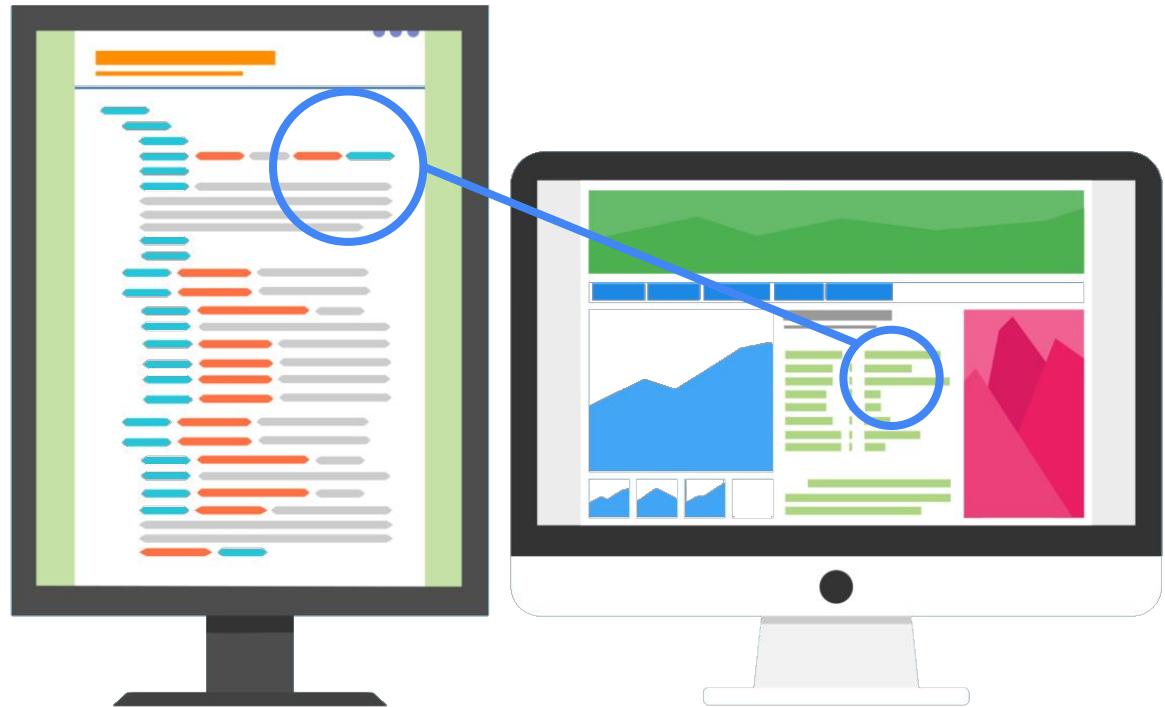
In many cases, you can get away with a smaller distro like Alpine or Debian Slim.





**Containers mean you  
can actually tell if  
*you're affected* by a  
new vulnerability**

# Check your registry and compare to what you deployed



# Figure out what's in prod

## Find all the containers in prod

kubectl get pods  
resolve everything to a digest



## Find out what is in those containers

Package manifests,  
application dependencies



## Find out what vulnz are in those packages

Cross reference BOM with  
CVE databases



# Demo: Patching 0days



**Time to roll  
up your  
sleeves**



# Using live migration at Google

D5

# Blue/green deployments

Blue

Existing workload



Green

New (patched) workload



# Borg and live migration

## Large-scale cluster management at Google with Borg

Abhishek Verma<sup>†</sup> Luis Pedrosa<sup>†</sup> Madhukar Korupolu  
David Oppenheimer Eric Tune John Wilkes

Google Inc.

### Abstract

Google's Borg system is a cluster manager that runs hundreds of thousands of jobs, from many thousands of different applications, across a number of clusters each with up to tens of thousands of machines.

It achieves high utilization by combining admission control, efficient task-packing, over-commitment, and machine sharing with process-level performance isolation. It supports high-availability applications with runtime features that minimize fault-recovery time, and scheduling policies that reduce the probability of correlated failures. Borg simplifies life for its users by offering a declarative job specification language, name service integration, real-time job monitoring, and tools to analyze and simulate system behavior.

We present a summary of the Borg system architecture and features, important design decisions, a quantitative analysis of some of its policy decisions, and a qualitative examination of lessons learned from a decade of operational

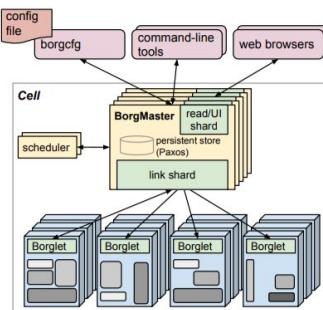
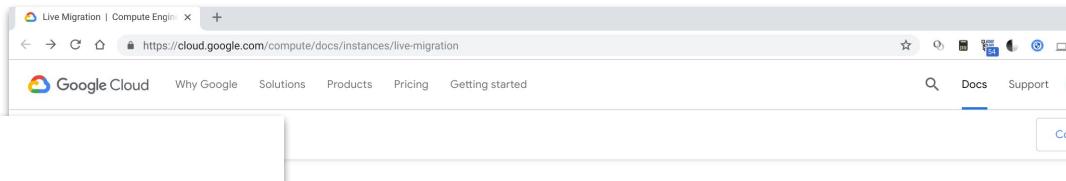


Figure 1: The high-level architecture of Borg. Only a tiny fraction of the thousands of worker nodes are shown.



Compute Engine > Documentation

## Live Migration

Compute Engine offers live migration to keep your virtual machine instances running even when a host system event occurs, such as a software or hardware update. Compute Engine live migrates your running instances to another host in the same zone rather than requiring your VMs to be rebooted. This allows Google to perform maintenance that is integral to keeping infrastructure protected and reliable without interrupting any of your VMs.

Live migration keeps your instances running during:

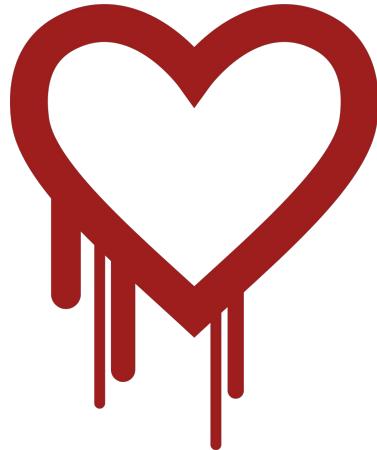
- Regular infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.
- Network and power grid maintenance in the data centers.
- Failed hardware such as memory, CPU, network interface cards, disks, power, and so on. This is done on a best-effort basis; if a hardware fails completely or otherwise prevents live migration, the VM crashes and restarts automatically and a `hostError` is logged.
- Host OS and BIOS upgrades.
- Security-related updates, with the need to respond quickly.
- System configuration changes, including changing the size of the host root partition, for storage of the host image and packages.

Live migration does not change any attributes or properties of the VM itself. The live migration process just transfers a running VM from one host machine to another host machine within the same zone. All VM properties and attributes remain unchanged, including internal and external IP addresses, instance metadata, block storage data and volumes, OS and application state, network settings, network connections, and so on.

How does the live migration process work?

# Patched under embargo

Heartbleed  
2014



Spectre  
2018



Meltdown  
2018



# Containers: patched



# Learn more

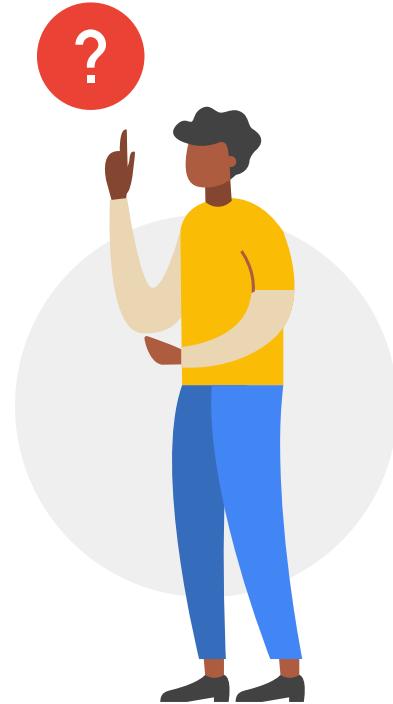
Blog post: [goo.gl/Ew6hYa](http://goo.gl/Ew6hYa)

[cloud.google.com/containers/security](http://cloud.google.com/containers/security)



# Questions & answers

sli.do  
#BSidesSF2019





Join Google Cloud at

# 2019 Google Cloud Security Talks

Wednesday, March 6, 2019 - Thursday, March 7, 2019  
8:30 AM - 5:15 PM

Bespoke @ Westfield San Francisco Centre  
845 Market Street, LEVEL 4, San Francisco, CA

Topics include...

**Containers & Kubernetes**

**Implementing BeyondCorp**

Trends on the accounts, passwords  
& malware threat landscapes

More information at [g.co/cloud/securitytalks2019](https://g.co/cloud/securitytalks2019)

Register **onsite** at Bespoke