

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:

```
C:\Users\iamyo>notepad nginx-replicaset.yaml
```

```
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.
      app: nginx         # The label that should match Pods.
  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
kind: ReplicaSet
metadata:
  name: nginx-replicaset
spec:
  replicas: 3
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: nginx
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: nginx
    spec:
      containers:
        - name: nginx
          image: nginx:latest
          ports:
            - 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.
 - **name:** The unique name for the ReplicaSet.
- **spec:** Provides the specification for the ReplicaSet.
 - **replicas:** Defines the desired number of Pod replicas.
 - **selector:** Criteria for selecting Pods managed by this ReplicaSet.
 - **matchLabels:** Labels that Pods must have to be managed by this ReplicaSet.
 - **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.

- 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
```

```
C:\Users\iamyo>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
```

```
C:\Users\iamyo>kubectl get replicaset
NAME                DESIRED   CURRENT   READY   AGE
nginx-replicaset    3         3         3       45s
```

This command lists all ReplicaSets in the current namespace.

To check the Pods created by the ReplicaSet:

```
kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
```

```
C:\Users\iamyo>kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
NAME                READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
nginx-replicaset-2qgtl  1/1     Running   0          86s
nginx-replicaset-7k5mh  1/1     Running   0          86s
nginx-replicaset-bpf4q  1/1     Running   0          86s
```

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.

```
kubectl scale --replicas=5 replicaset/nginx-replicaset
```

```
C:\Users\iamyo>kubectl scale --replicas=5 replicaset/nginx-replicaset  
replicaset.apps/nginx-replicaset scaled
```

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

```
kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
```

```
C:\Users\iamyo>kubectl get pods -l app=nginx  
NAME                                READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE  
nginx-replicaset-2qg7l             1/1     Running   0           3m19s  
nginx-replicaset-7k5mh             1/1     Running   0           3m19s  
nginx-replicaset-bpf4q             1/1     Running   0           3m19s  
nginx-replicaset-q7mtj             1/1     Running   0           68s  
nginx-replicaset-tl2s6             1/1     Running   0           68s
```

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
```

Apply the changes:

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

```
C:\Users\iamyo>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
```

```
C:\Users\iamyo>kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
NAME                                READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
nginx-replicaset-2qgtl             1/1     Running   0           6m13s
nginx-replicaset-7k5mh             1/1     Running   0           6m13s
nginx-replicaset-bpf4q             1/1     Running   0           6m13s
```

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
```

```
C:\Users\iamyo>kubectl delete -f nginx-replicaset.yaml
replicaset.apps "nginx-replicaset" deleted
```

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