

the Edge

Confoo.ca 2025



#### **About Michael Dawson**



Node.js lead for Red Hat and IBM

Active Node.js community member

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Active OpenJS Foundation member

Voting Cross Project Council Member

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#### Overview

- Why Node.js at the Edge
- Running Node.js applications on the edge
  - The Hardware
  - The Software
- Containerizing your Node.js applications at the edge
- Advanced container management at the edge

### Why Node.js at the edge

- Existing C/C++ Developers reaching for "just one more language"
- Evolution of Edge devices

#### My journey through building an edge application

- What hardware?
- What Operating System
- How do I build my application
- How to I package and deploy my application
- How do update my application
- How do I monitor and manage my application

#### What Hardware?

- Often ARM base for small size and low power
- Raspberry PI ok for experimentation
  - Supported by Fedora IoT



 More robust/commercially supported H/W often used for production deployments



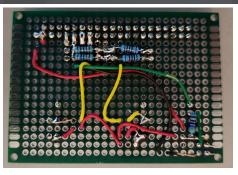
Model name	fitlet2
CPU model name	Intel® Atom x5-E3930 [CE3930
Memory capacity	4.00 GiB

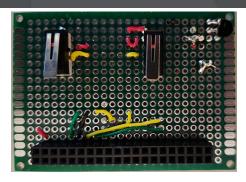


<u>Install RHEL for Edge on Compulab Fitlet 2</u>

#### A look at the hardware for our example

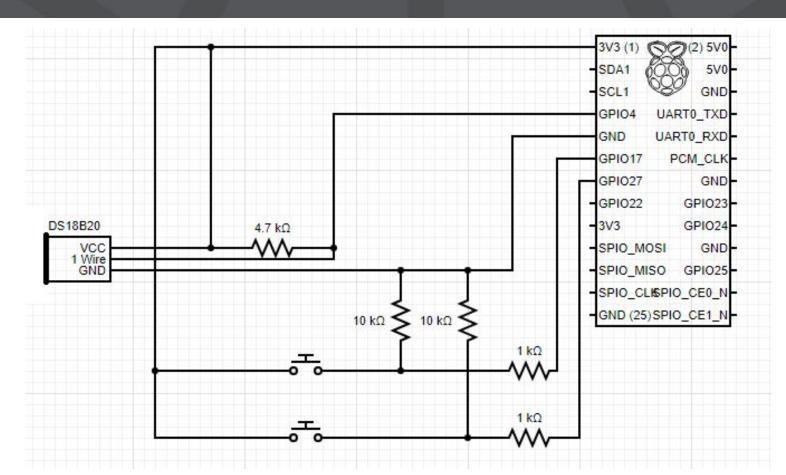








#### Hardware - Circuit



#### Hardware - Live View

#### The software

- Operating System
- Device Drivers
- Application

### The Operating System

- Key Attributes
  - Immutable
  - Image based
  - Atomic updates
  - Change on reboot/rollback

### The Operating System

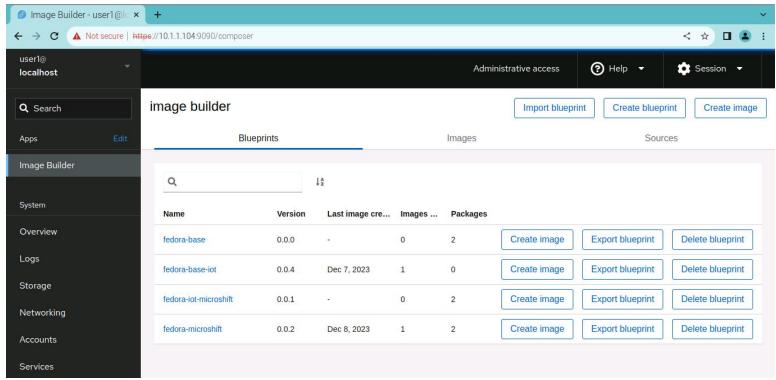
- Fedora IoT
- RHEL for Edge

• rpm-ostree



#### The Operating System

Image Builder - http://X1.X2.X3.X4:9090



"Introduction to Image builder"

#### Blueprints

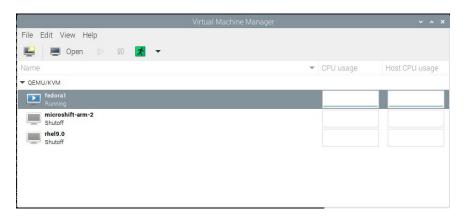
```
name = "fedora-base"
description = "base template for Node.js edge example"
version = "0.0.4"
modules = []
groups = []
distro = ""
[[packages]]
name = "nodejs20"
[[packages]]
name = "podman"
[customizations]
[customizations.timezone]
[customizations.locale]
[customizations.firewall]
ports = ["3000:tcp"]
[customizations.firewall.services]
enabled = ["http", "https", "ntp", "dhcp", "ssh"]
disabled = ["telnet"]
[customizations.services]
enabled = ["sshd"]
```



#### Development system



- Raspberry PI 4 8 G
- 512G SSD
- KVM
  - Easy spin up/down of virtual machines

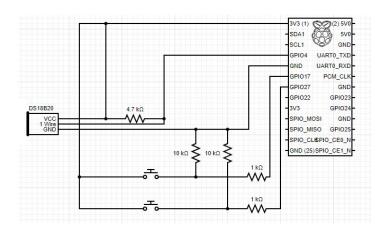


#### Creating the SD card

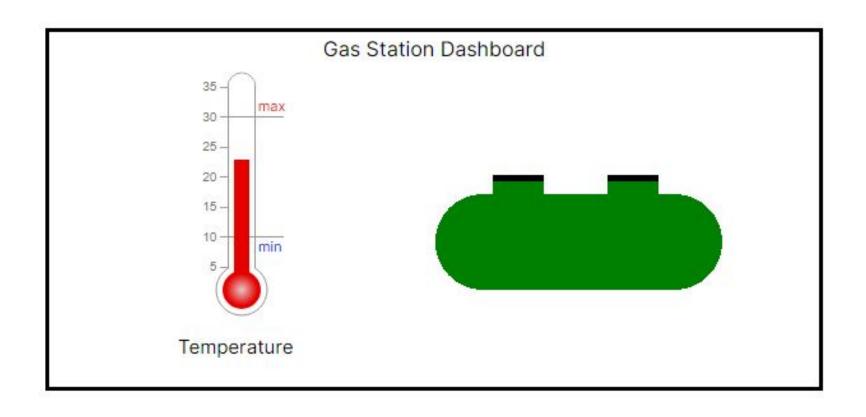
- Building the edge commit and starting a container which serves that commit
- Building a raw image
- Burning the raw image to an SD card

#### **Device Drivers**

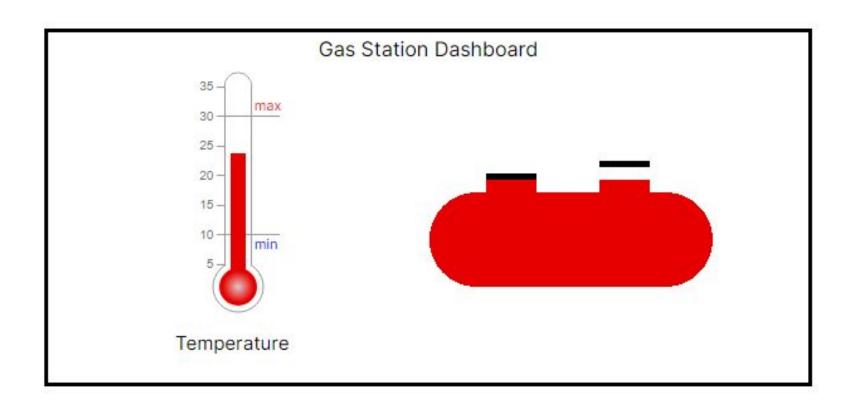
- GPIO
  - gpioget
  - o /dev/gpiochip0
  - chmod to make accessible
  - /boot/efi/config.txt
    - dtoverlay=w1-gpio
- Temperature Sensor
  - o DS18B20
  - kernel-modules-extra



### The application



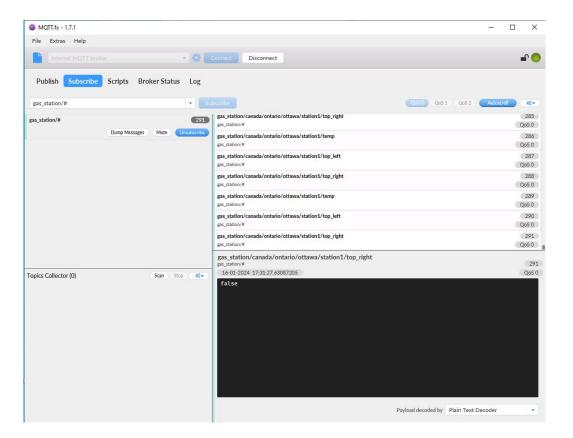
### The application



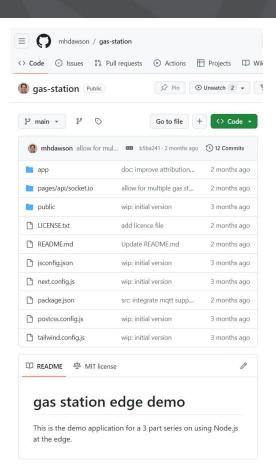
#### The application

#### Publishing to MQTT

- gas\_station/XXX/temp
- gas\_station/XXX/top\_left
- gas\_station/XXX/top\_right



## The application - Live View



https://github.com/mhdawson/gas-station

```
return (
  \langle div \rangle
   <div style={{ paddingLeft: '10px', paddingTop: '10px',</pre>
height: '250px', width: '100%'}}>
    Gas
Station Dashboard
      <t
        GasTank data={{Left: topLeft, Right:
topRight}}/>
     </div>
  </div>
```

```
React.useEffect(() => {
 // Create a socket connection
  const socket = io({ path: '/api/socket.io'});
 // Listen for incoming messages
  socket.on('message', (message) => {
   if (message.temp)
      setTemp(message.temp);
   if (message.topLeft !== undefined)
      setLeft(message.topLeft);
   if (message.topRight !== undefined)
      setRight (message.topRight);
 });
 // Clean up the socket connection on unmount
 return () => {
      socket.disconnect();
 };
}, []);
```

```
setInterval(() => {
  const temp = readTemp(tempSensorFile);
  readGpio(TOP_LEFT_PIN, (left) => {
    readGpio(TOP_RIGHT_PIN, (right) => {
      io.emit('message', {temp: temp, topLeft: left, topRight: right});
      mqttClient.publish(TEMP_TOPIC, temp.toString());
      mqttClient.publish(TOP_LEFT_TOPIC, left.toString());
      mqttClient.publish(TOP_RIGHT_TOPIC, right.toString());
    });
  });
} , POLL_INTERVAL);
```

```
function readGpio(pin, callback) {
  exec('gpioget gpiochip0 ' + pin, (err, stdout, stderr) => {
    const pinValueString = stdout.replace(/\s+/g,'');

  let pinValue = false;
  if (pinValueString === '0')
     pinValue = true;

  callback(pinValue);
  });
};
```

```
function readTemp(tempSensorFile) {
  if (tempSensorFile) {
    const valueRead = readFileSync(tempSensorFile);
    return valueRead/1000;
  }
  return 0;
};
```

#### Deploying the Application

- Challenges with using rpm-ostree or image builder
  - It requires a different development workflow from how typical hybrid cloud applications are delivered.
  - It results in a tight binding to operating system components, versions and dependencies, beyond those needed by the code integrating the devices.
  - Potential conflicts between different pieces of an application in terms of operating system component versions.
  - A reboot would be required each time the application was updated

#### Deploying the Application

- We already have existing flows to build/package cloud native applications
  - Dockerfiles -> Containers

#### Containerizing the Application

```
# Install dependencies only when needed
FROM registry.access.redhat.com/ubi8/nodejs-20 AS deps
HSER O
WORKDIR /app
# Install dependencies based on the preferred package manager
COPY package.json yarn.lock* package-lock.json* pnpm-lock.yaml* ./
RUN \
  if [ -f yarn.lock ]; then yarn --frozen-lockfile; \
  elif [ -f package-lock.json ]; then npm ci; \
  elif [ -f pnpm-lock.yaml ]; then yarn global add pnpm && pnpm i; \
  else echo "Lockfile not found." && exit 1; \
  fi
# Rebuild the source code only when needed
FROM registry.access.redhat.com/ubi8/nodejs-20 AS builder
USER 0
WORKDIR /app
COPY --from=deps /app/node modules ./node modules
COPY . .
# Next.js collects completely anonymous telemetry data about general usage.
# Learn more here: https://nextjs.org/telemetry
# Uncomment the following line in case you want to disable telemetry during the build.
ENV NEXT TELEMETRY DISABLED 1
# If using yarn uncomment out and comment out npm below
# RUN yarn build
# If using npm comment out above and use below instead
RUN npm run build
```

https://github.com/mhdawson/gas-station/blob/main/Dockerfile

#### Containerizing the Application

```
ENV NODE ENV production
# Uncomment the following line in case you want to enable telemetry during runtime.
ENV NEXT TELEMETRY DISABLED 1
COPY --from=builder /app/public ./public
# Set the correct permission for prerender cache
RIIN mkdir next
RUN chown 1001.1001 next
# Automatically leverage output traces to reduce image size
# https://nextjs.org/docs/advanced-features/output-file-tracing
COPY --from=builder --chown=1001:1001 /app/.next/standalone ./
COPY --from=builder --chown=1001:1001 /app/.next/static ./.next/static
# add in libpiod for access to Raspberry PI IO pins
RUN rpm -ivh https://dl.fedoraproject.org/pub/epel/epel-release-latest-8.noarch.rpm
RUN microdnf install libgpiod-utils
USER 1001
EXPOSE 3000
ENV PORT 3000
CMD ["node", "server"]
```

#### Building the containers

```
podman build . -t gas-station:latest
```

```
podman build . --arch=arm64 -t gas-station:latest
```

```
[user1@localhost gas-station]$ podman images |grep gas-station
localhost/gas-station latest
30ded1b2fcb5 2 hours ago 295 MB
```

#### Podman/Podman Desktop

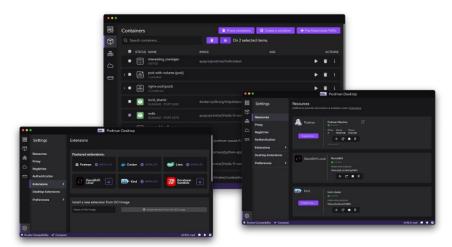
# Containers and Kubernetes for application developers

Podman Desktop is an open source graphical tool enabling you to seamlessly work with containers and Kubernetes from your local environment.

Download Now

For Windows (browser-detected)

Other downloads



#### Getting the container onto the edge device

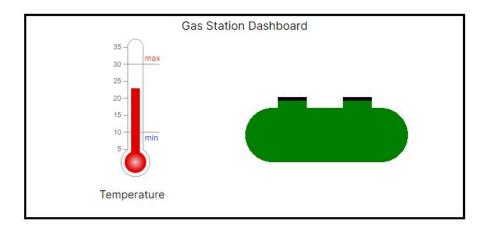
```
name = "fedora-base"
description = "base template for Node.js edge example"
version = "0.0.4"
modules = []
groups = ∏
distro = ""
[[packages]]
name = "nodejs20"
[[packages]]
name = "podman"
[customizations]
[customizations.timezone]
[customizations.locale]
[customizations.firewall]
ports = ["3000:tcp"]
[customizations.firewall.services]
enabled = ["http", "https", "ntp", "dhcp", "ssh"]
disabled = ["telnet"]
[customizations.services]
enabled = ["sshd"]
```

#### Getting the container onto the edge device

```
podman tag 30ded1b2fcb5 <u>quay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest</u> podman push <u>quay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest</u>
```

```
podman pull <a href="mailto:guay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest">guay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest</a>
podman run -d -p 3000:3000 <a href="mailto:guay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest">guay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest</a>
```

### But there are problems





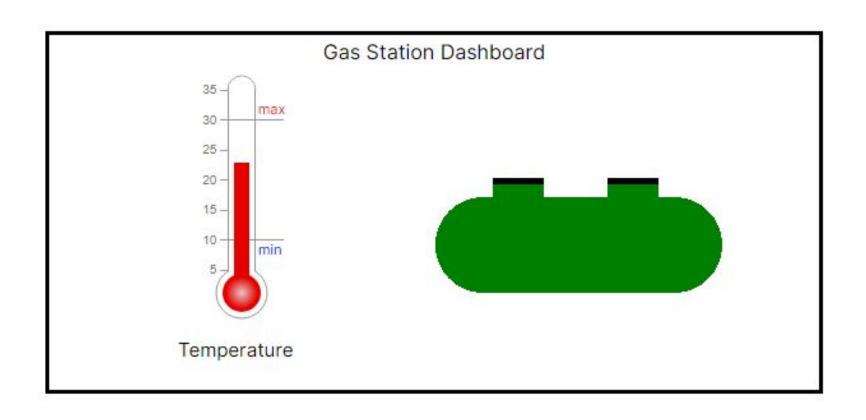
## Passing devices into the container

```
podman run --device=/dev/gpiochip0 -d -p 3000:3000
quay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest
```

```
podman run --group-add keep-groups --device=/dev/gpiochip0 -d -p 3000:3000 quay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest.
```

Using files and devices in Podman rootless containers"

## Why did the thermometer work in the container?



#### Podman Quadlet

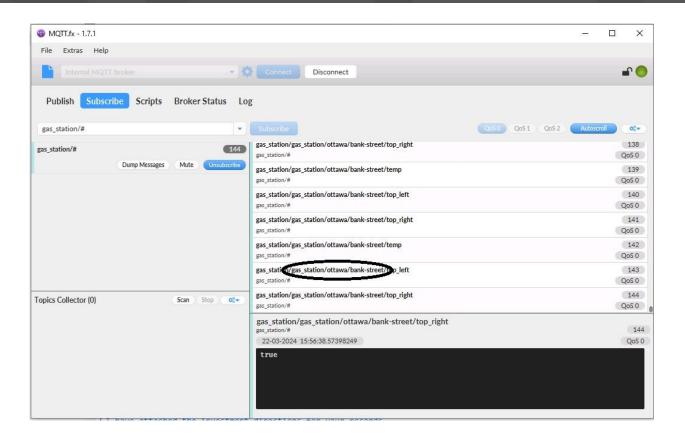
```
/etc/containers/systemd/gas-station.container
[Service]
Restart=always
ExecStartPre=chmod 666 /dev/gpiochip0
ExecStartPre=modprobe w1-therm
ExecStartPre=/bin/sleep 30
[Container]
ContainerName=gas-station
Environment=STATION TOPIC PATH=gas station/ottawa/bank-street
Image=quay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest
Label="io.containers.autoupdate=image"
PublishPort=3000:3000
AddDevice=/dev/gpiochip0
PodmanArgs=--group-add keep-groups
[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

```
systemctl stop gas-station
systemctl start gas-station
systemctl restart gas-station
bash-5.2# systemctl status gas-station

    gas-station.service

     Loaded: loaded (/etc/containers/systemd/gas-station.container; generated)
    Drop-In: /usr/lib/systemd/system/service.d
             └10-timeout-abort.conf
    Active: active (running) since Fri 2024-03-22 19:47:21 UTC; 15min ago
    Process: 29720 ExecStartPre=chmod 666 /dev/qpiochip0 (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
    Process: 29722 ExecStartPre=modprobe w1-therm (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
    Process: 29723 ExecStartPre=/bin/sleep 30 (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
   Main PID: 29857 (conmon)
      Tasks: 12 (limit: 8976)
     Memory: 55.2M
        CPU: 22.441s
     CGroup: /system.slice/gas-station.service
             ─libpod-payload-484377384e684b45377a90e3f5d220684145d81f1c8bfafb66efabd4d340f108
               L29859 next-server
             ∟runtime
              └─29857 /usr/bin/conmon --api-version 1 -c 484377384e684b45377a90e3f5d220684145d81f1c8bfafb66efabd4d340f108
-u 484377384e684b45377a90e3f5d220684145d81f1c8bfafb66efabd4d340f108 -r /usr/bin/>
Mar 22 19:47:21 localhost.localdomain podman[29774]: 2024-03-22 19:47:21.289284965 +0000 UTC m=+0.844523639 container init
484377384e684b45377a90e3f5d220684145d81f1c8bfafb66efabd4d340f108 (image=quay.io/>
```

```
/etc/containers/systemd/gas-station.container
[Service]
Restart=always
ExecStartPre=chmod 666 /dev/gpiochip0
ExecStartPre=modprobe w1-therm
ExecStartPre=/bin/sleep 30
[Container]
ContainerName=gas-station
Environment=STATION_TOPIC_PATH=gas_station/ottawa/bank-street
Tmage=quav.io/midawson/gas-station:latest
Label="io.containers.autoupdate=image"
PublishPort=3000:3000
AddDevice=/dev/gpiochip0
PodmanArgs=--group-add keep-groups
[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```



## Updating the application

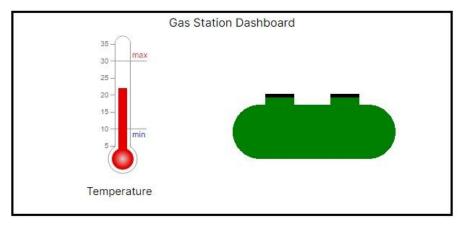
- 1) building a new version of the application and pushing it to the registry with podman push <a href="mailto:guay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest">guay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest</a>
- 1) logging into the device and running:

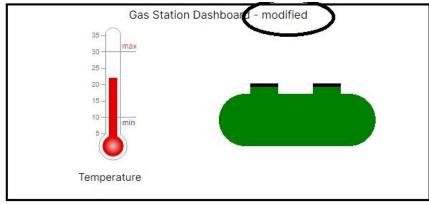
```
podman pull <u>quay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest</u>
systemctl restart gas-station
```

## Updating the application

```
/etc/containers/systemd/gas-station.container
[Service]
Restart=always
ExecStartPre=chmod 666 /dev/gpiochip0
ExecStartPre=modprobe w1-therm
ExecStartPre=/bin/sleep 30
[Container]
ContainerName=gas-station
Environment=STATION TOPIC PATH=gas station/ottawa/bank-street
Label="io.containers.autoupdate=image"
      2000.3000
AddDevice=/dev/gpiochip0
PodmanArgs=--group-add keep-groups
[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

# Updating the application





# Fully configured SD Card - Updated blueprint

```
name = "fedora-base-container"
description = "base container launch template for Node.js edge example"
version = 0.0.1
modules = []
groups = []
distro = ""
[[packages]]
name = "podman"
[[packages]]
name = "kernel-modules-extra"
[customizations]
[customizations.timezone]
[customizations.locale]
[customizations.firewall]
ports = ["3000:tcp"]
[customizations.firewall.services]
enabled = ["http", "https", "ntp", "dhcp", "ssh"]
disabled = ["telnet"]
[customizations.services]
enabled = ["sshd"]
```



## Fully configured SD Card

```
[[customizations.files]]
path = "/etc/containers/systemd/gas-station.container"
user = "root"
group = "root"
mode = "644"
data = "[Service]\nRestart=always\nExecStartPre=chmod 666 /dev/gpiochip0\nExecStartPre=modprobe
w1-therm\nExecStartPre=/bin/sleep
30\n\n[Container]\nContainerName=gas-station\nEnvironment=STATION_TOPIC_PATH=gas_station/ottawa/bank-street\nIma
ge=quay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest\nLabel=\"io.containers.autoupdate=image\"\nPublishPort=3000:3000\nAddDevi
ce=/dev/gpiochip0\nPodmanArgs=--group-add keep-groups\n\n[Install]\nWantedBy=multi-user.target\n"
```

- Red Hat Advance Cluster Management for Kubernetes
- Microshift
- Red Hat Device Edge with Microshift

## Microshift Installation

## Blueprint as before

https://www.redhat.com/en/blog/meet-red-hat-device-edge-with-micros hift?extIdCarryOver=true&intcmp=7013a000002CtetAAC&sc\_cid=RH CTG0240000427545

```
name = "rhde-microshift"
description = "RHDE Microshift Image"
version = "1.0.0"
modules = ∏
groups = []
[[packages]]
name = "microshift"
version = "*"
[[packages]]
name = "openshift-clients"
version = "*"
[[packages]]
name = "git"
version = "*"
[[packages]]
name = "iputils"
version = "*"
[[packages]]
name = "bind-utils"
version = "*"
[[packages]]
name = "net-tools"
version = "*"
[[packages]]
name = "iotop"
version = "*"
[[packages]]
name = "redhat-release"
version = "*"
[customizations]
[customizations.services]
enabled = ["microshift"]
EOF
```

## Similar Challenges

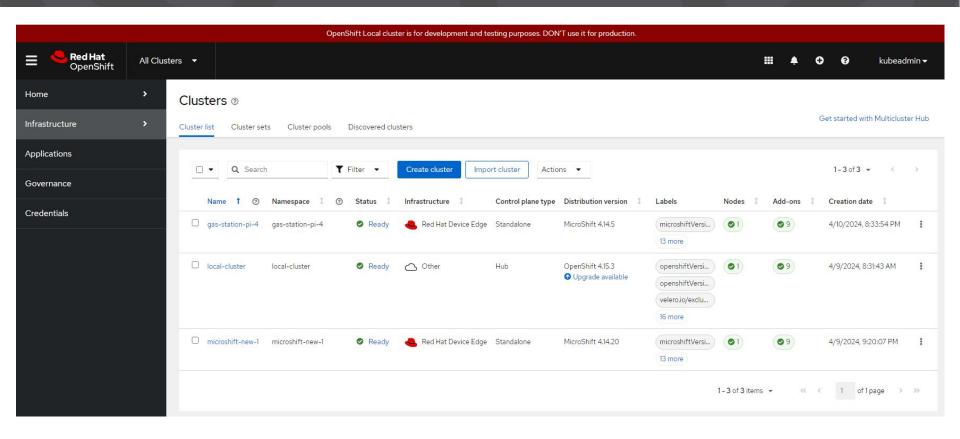
- Access to Device
  - Approach 1 security context
  - Approach 2 /etc/crio/crio.conf

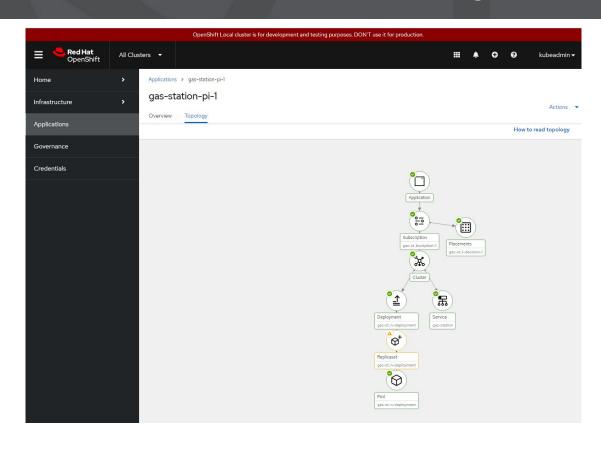
```
# List of additional devices. specified as
additional_devices = [
  "/dev/gpiochip0:/dev/gpiochip0:rwm"
]
```

## Deployment

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
 name: gas-station-deployment
 labels:
  app: gas-station
spec:
 selector:
  matchLabels:
   app: gas-station
 replicas: 1
 template:
  metadata:
   labels:
    app: gas-station
  spec:
   containers:
   - name: gas-station
    image: quay.io/midawson/gas-station:latest
    ports:
    - containerPort: 3000
    resources:
     limits:
       memory: 128Mi
       cpu: "500m"
     requests:
       memory: 128Mi
       cpu: "250m"
```

apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
name: gas-station
spec:
selector:
app: gas-station
ports:
- protocol: TCP
port: 3000
targetPort: 3000
nodePort: 30011
type: NodePort







```
user1@microshift-new:~
                                                                                    - □ ×
bash-5.2#
bash-5.2# oc get pods
NAME
                                           READY
                                                   STATUS
                                                              RESTARTS
                                                                         AGE
gas-station-deployment-5df5dbf989-dgsk4
                                           1/1
                                                   Running
                                                             2
                                                                         15h
bash-5.2# _
```

## To dive into more details

- Three part blog post series:
  - Run Node.js applications on the edge with RHEL and Fedora
  - Containerizing your Node.js applications at the Edge on RHEL/Fedora
  - Advanced container management at the Edge for Node.js applications

# Thank You

Questions?



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