Upgrade Rancher (RKE)

Lab 11

What are you Learning?

In this lab you'll upgrade your RKE backed Rancher installation.
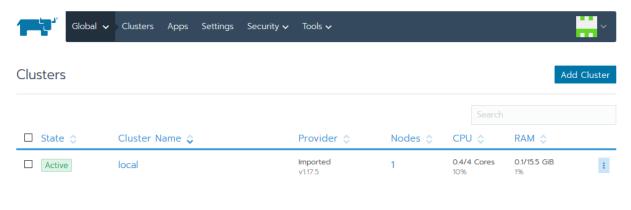
Why is it important?

New versions of Rancher come with new features. They also support newer versions of Kubernetes. You may not want to replace an existing Rancher installation in your environments every time a new version launches, so being able to update to a new version is tantamount.
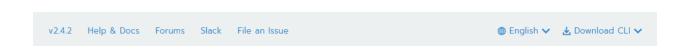
Upgrade Rancher

1. Review version release notes in the forums, and any known upgrade issues.
2. Backup your Kubernetes cluster, where Rancher is installed.
3. Update your Helm Repository, so the new version of Rancher is available.
4. Upgrade Rancher, be certain to use the same values you used to install your cluster, except for the new version number.

Testing That It Works

1. You should be able to navigate and login to your cluster. You'll notice the updated version in the lower right-hand corner of the screen.

Consider what you would do if something failed. This is why it's important you take a backup prior to performing an upgrade.

References

- Rancher Release v2.4.2 - https://forums.rancher.com/t/rancher-release-v2-4-2/17027
- Back up Your Kubernetes Cluster that is Running Rancher Server - https://rancher.com/docs/rancher/v2.x/en/upgrades/upgrades/ha/#a-backup-your-kubernetes-cluster-that-is-running-rancher-server
- Update the Chart Repository - https://rancher.com/docs/rancher/v2.x/en/upgrades/upgrades/ha/#b-update-the-helm-chart-repository
- Upgrade Rancher - https://rancher.com/docs/rancher/v2.x/en/upgrades/upgrades/ha/#c-upgrade-rancher
- Kubernetes Rollbacks - https://rancher.com/docs/rancher/v2.x/en/upgrades/rollbacks/ha-server-rollbacks/