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SAP Cloud Platform: An open enterprise platform with a cloud-native core

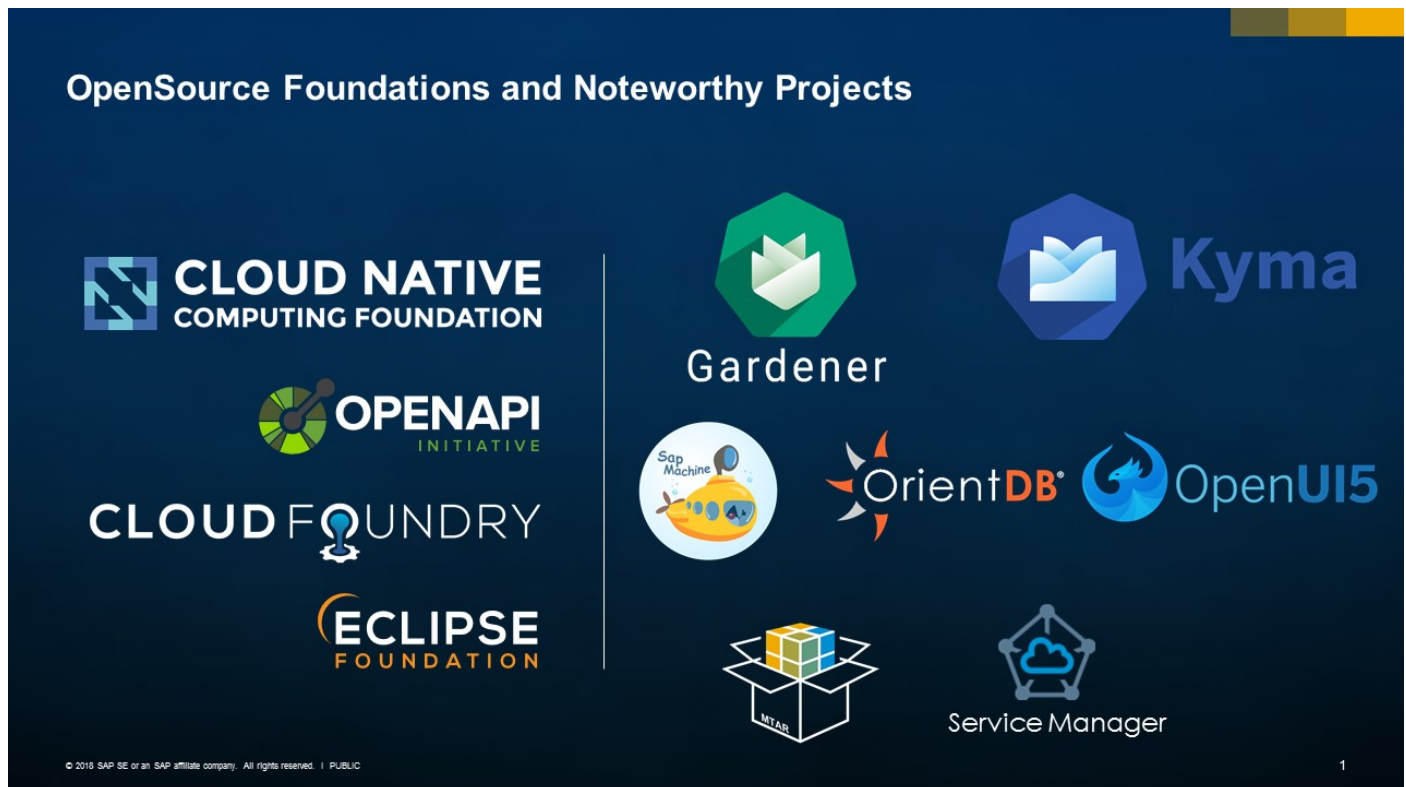
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For SAP Cloud Platform, open-source and open standards have always been guiding principles to ensure that our customers and partners benefit from the latest development in cloud technology in a non-disruptive manner. At the same time, we abstract complexity away from the app developer, so they can focus on their app functionality, not on the infrastructure needed to run the app. We believe that a cutting-edge and future-proof platform can only be achieved through co-innovation and close collaboration among the technology and industry leaders. This is why SAP joined the [Cloud Foundry Foundation](#) as a founding platinum member in 2014 and the [Cloud Native Computing Foundation](#) (CNCf) as a platinum member in 2017.

Both Cloud Foundry, the de-facto standard Platform as a Service and Kubernetes, the popular container orchestration technology managed by CNCf are central components of SAP Cloud Platform. SAP is actively contributing to both technologies, with a focus on projects that address enterprise readiness such as security, scalability and interoperability (refer to [this blog post](#) for more details). In the meantime, SAP has become the second-largest contributor to the Cloud Foundry codebase with close to 100 engineers working

on key components. In the same vein, SAP just recently open-sourced [Gardener](#), a technology to provide Kubernetes clusters as a Service (please read [this blog post](#) for more details).



Cloud Foundry and Kubernetes

SAP has been at the forefront of promoting a joint future for Cloud Foundry and Kubernetes. In fact, for almost two years, we have started making the case for such a joint future and to discuss with similar minded companies on how-to bring the two technologies closer together. End of 2017, we shared the results of these discussions with a broader audience (see [here](#)) and since then several projects were founded together with IBM and Suse:

- [Peripli](#), the Service Manager allowing for a common catalog of services between Cloud Foundry and Kubernetes and the sharing of service instances
- [Eirini](#), a Cloud Foundry Runtime incubation project aiming at allowing Cloud Foundry to schedule applications on Kubernetes
- [Containerizing Cloud Foundry](#), allowing the deployment of Cloud Foundry infrastructure components on Kubernetes

Knative

Given the strategic partnership between Google and SAP, there are numerous co-innovation projects such as jointly delivering an [Android SDK for SAP Cloud Platform](#) and running [SAP Cloud Platform on Google Cloud Platform](#) (GCP) to just name two prominent examples. Being aware of SAP's efforts in the area of integrating Cloud Foundry and Kubernetes, Google approached us in early 2018. They shared with us their plans about an open source project, now known as Knative, that was aiming at closing the divide between and reducing the complexity of Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Function as a Service (FaaS) on top of Kubernetes.

For us, this sounded very interesting and we were excited about the opportunity to explore and evaluate Knative early on. Based on our findings we see a lot of potential as it addresses several aspects that are key to SAP Cloud Platform, such as:

- allowing developers to focus on developing apps and functions to solve business challenges without having to deal with lower-level technical complexity
- addressing auto-scaling as a central concern and built-in capability
- natively supporting eventing, which is a vital concept when developing distributed, loosely-coupled systems based on microservices

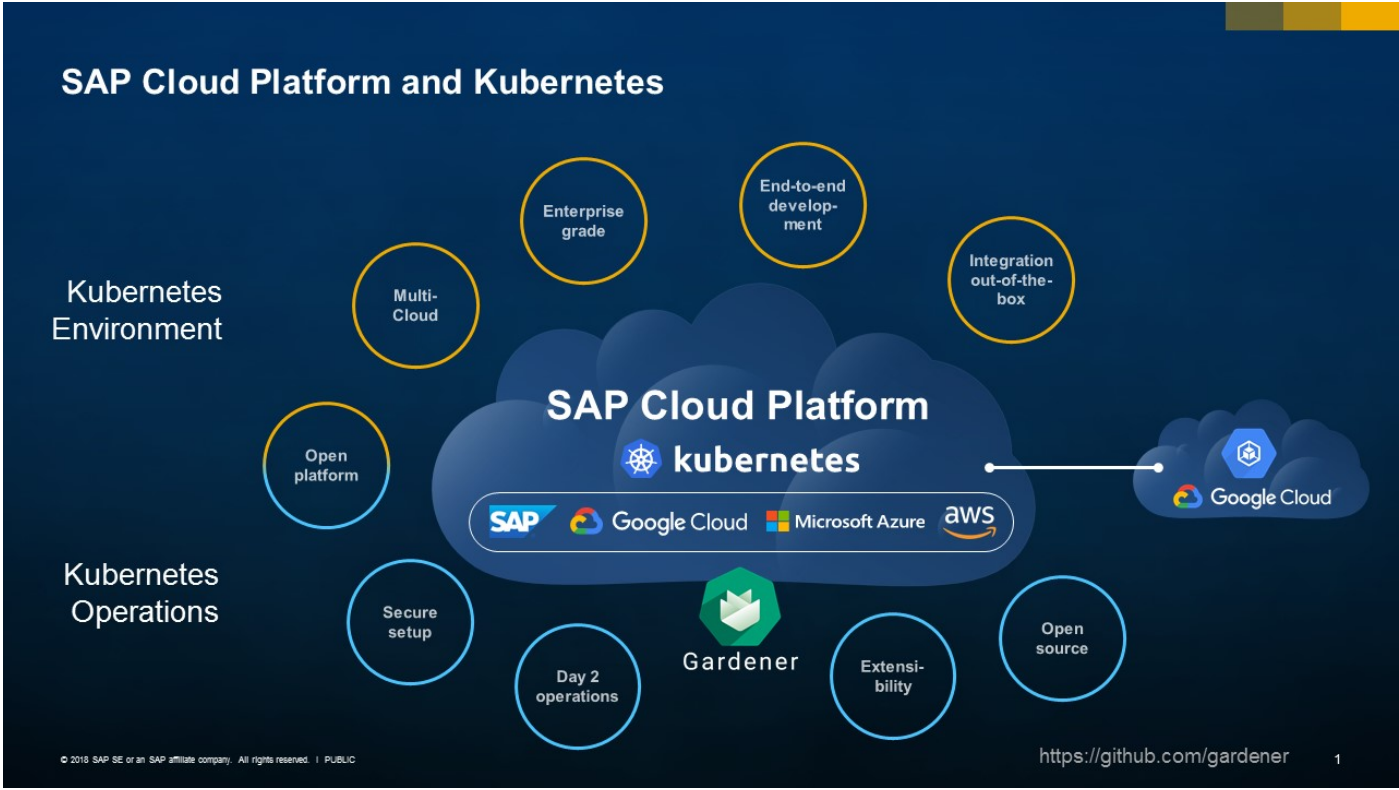
Project Kyma

For said reasons, we figured Knative would be a natural fit for a solution being developed in the context of our enterprise commerce offering SAP C/4HANA, a project called [Kyma](#). Kyma addresses the need to provide a lightweight framework to build custom extensions to SAP's commerce portfolio based on cloud-native technologies and eventing. In late April 2018, we decided to continue the development of Kyma as an open source project and hereby allowing the larger SAP Hybris implementation partners ecosystem to contribute. We are excited to announce and showcase the results of this collaboration between the Knative and Kyma teams at Google Cloud Next '18.

The road ahead

Overall, we see the development in the cloud native ecosystem as a validation of our strategy and vision of SAP Cloud Platform as an enterprise cloud platform based on cloud-native technologies and we are looking forward to jointly shape the future with our partners for the benefit of our customers.

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