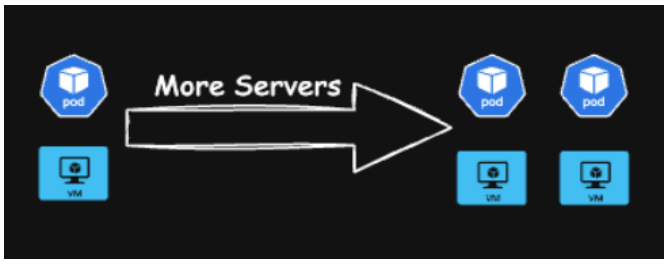
KUBERNETES HPA & VPA CONCEPTS

SCALING: Adjusting the resources based on varying load on application.

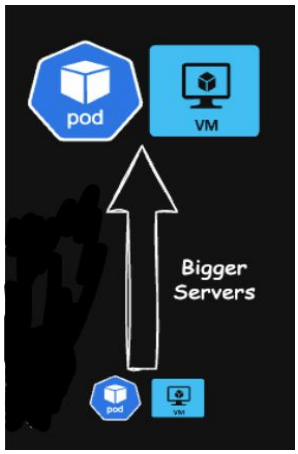
Pods can be scaled in following 2 ways in K8s:

1) **Horizontal Scaling**: Increasing or Decreasing the number of pods or number of VMs based on application load.
   - **Manual Scaling:** By changing replicas count in deployment.yaml
   - **Automatic Scaling:** By using Horizontal pods Autoscaler



Horizontal Scaling

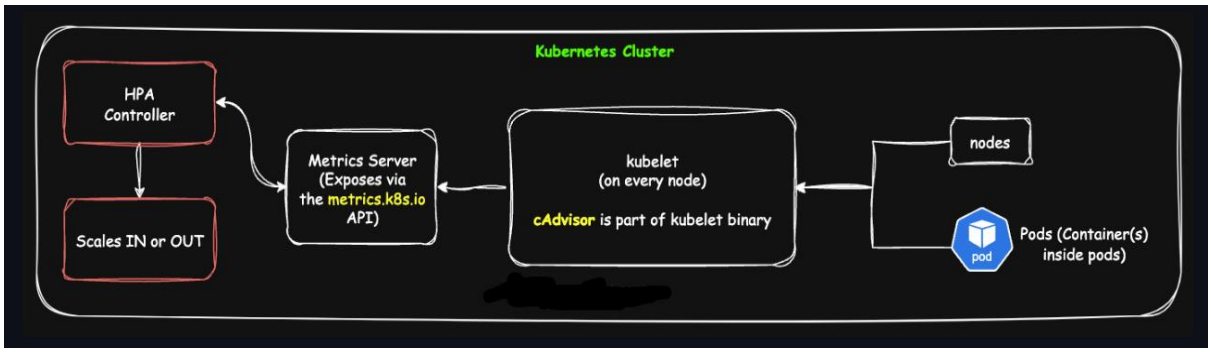
2) **Vertical Scaling**: Increasing or decreasing the resources(CPU, Memory etc) of the same pod or VM based on traffic to application.
   - **Manual Scaling:** By changing container requests and limits in deployment.yaml
   - **Automatic Scaling:** By using Vertical pods Autoscaler



Vertical Scaling

1) Horizontal Pods Autoscaler(HPA): It is a Kubernetes object that automatically **scales out(increase)** or **sclaes in(decrease)** the number of

pods based on Resource usage or Custom metrics. It runs as a control loop, checking metrics every 15 seconds.



Flow with Default Resource Metrics (CPU & Memory)

Note: Metric Server is the pre-requisite for HPA

Practical:

Deployment.yaml:

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: nginx-deploy
spec:
  replicas: 1
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: nginx
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: nginx
    spec:
      containers:
      - name: nginx
        image: nginx
        resources:
          requests:
            cpu: "100m"
          limits:
            cpu: "200m"
```

```
        ports:
        - containerPort: 80
```

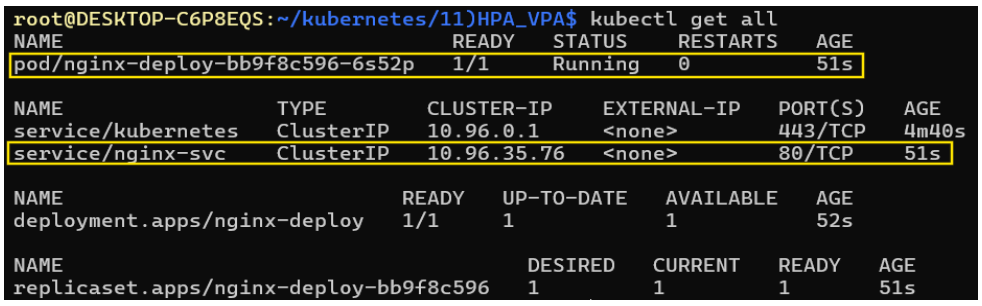
Service .yaml:

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
  name: nginx-svc
spec:
  selector:
    app: nginx
  ports:
  - protocol: TCP
    port: 80
    targetPort: 80
  type: ClusterIP
```

Apply;

```
kubectl apply -f nginx-deployment.yaml
kubectl apply -f nginx-Service .yaml
```

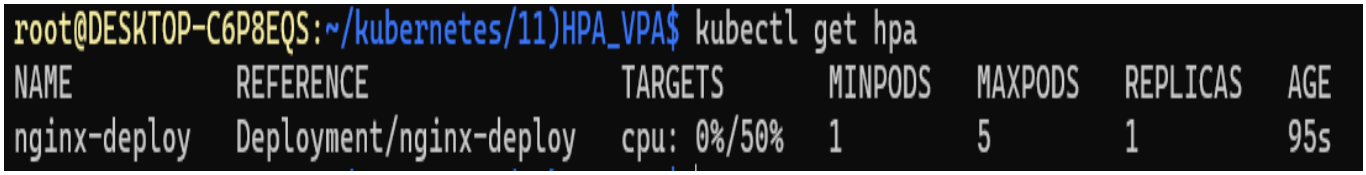
Verify;



Lets create a HPA object:

```
kubectl autoscale deployment nginx-deploy --
cpu='50%' --min=1 --max=5
```

It states that at least 1 replica must run, and if CPU usage exceeds 50% of the request, scale up to a maximum of 5 replicas.



Lets apply some CPU load on the pods using below command from 2 different tabs:

```
kubectl run -it --rm load-generator-1 --image=busybox -- /bin/sh -c "while true; do wget -q -O- http://nginx-svc; done"
```

Behavior:

- As load increases, CPU utilization rises.
- HPA will scale from 1 pod up to max 5 if needed.
- Once load decreases (stop load-generator), HPA scales back down.

CPU Utilization:

```
root@DESKTOP-C6P8EQS:~/kubernetes/11)HPA_VPA$ kubectl get hpa nginx-deploy -w
NAME           REFERENCE                     TARGETS         MINPODS   MAXPODS   REPLICAS   AGE
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 0%/50%     1         5         1          10m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 3%/50%     1         5         1          11m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 85%/50%    1         5         1          11m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 95%/50%    1         5         2          11m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 82%/50%    1         5         2          11m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 80%/50%    1         5         2          12m
```

Scaling out of Replicas:

```
root@DESKTOP-C6P8EQS:~/kubernetes/11)HPA_VPA$ kubectl get pods -w
NAME                              READY   STATUS              RESTARTS   AGE
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6s52p      1/1     Running             0          12m
load-generator-1                  0/1     Pending             0          0s
load-generator-1                  0/1     Pending             0          0s
load-generator-1                  0/1     ContainerCreating   0          0s
load-generator-1                  1/1     Running             0          7s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6t2k8      0/1     Pending             0          0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6t2k8      0/1     Pending             0          0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6t2k8      0/1     ContainerCreating   0          0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6t2k8      1/1     Running             0          28s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz      0/1     Pending             0          0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz      0/1     Pending             0          0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz      0/1     ContainerCreating   0          0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz      1/1     Running             0          5s
```

Kubectl Events:

```
0s          Normal   Scheduled           Pod/load-generator-1                Successfully assigned default/load-generator-1 to rayeez-cluster-worker
0s          Normal   Pulling             Pod/load-generator-1                Pulling image "busybox"
0s          Normal   Pulled              Pod/load-generator-1                Successfully pulled image "busybox" in 7.568s (7.568s including waiting). Image size: 2224358 bytes.
0s          Normal   Created             Pod/load-generator-1                Created container load-generator-1
0s          Normal   Started             Pod/load-generator-1                Started container load-generator-1
0s          Normal   SuccessfulRescale   HorizontalPodAutoscaler/nginx-deploy   New size: 2; reason: cpu resource utilization (percentage of request) above target
0s          Normal   ScalingReplicaSet   Deployment/nginx-deploy             Scaled up replica set nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596 to 2 from 1
0s          Normal   SuccessfulCreate    ReplicaSet/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596   Created pod: nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6t2k8
0s          Normal   Scheduled           Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6t2k8    Successfully assigned default/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6t2k8 to rayeez-cluster-worker2
0s          Normal   Pulling             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6t2k8    Pulling image "nginx"
0s          Normal   Pulled              Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6t2k8    Successfully pulled image "nginx" in 27.65s (27.65s including waiting). Image size: 59772801 bytes.
0s          Normal   Created             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6t2k8    Created container nginx-container
0s          Normal   Started             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6t2k8    Started container nginx-container
0s          Normal   SuccessfulRescale   HorizontalPodAutoscaler/nginx-deploy   New size: 3; reason: cpu resource utilization (percentage of request) above target
0s          Normal   ScalingReplicaSet   Deployment/nginx-deploy             Scaled up replica set nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596 to 3 from 2
0s          Normal   SuccessfulCreate    ReplicaSet/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596   Created pod: nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz
0s          Normal   Scheduled           Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz    Successfully assigned default/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz to rayeez-cluster-worker
0s          Normal   Pulling             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz    Pulling image "nginx"
0s          Normal   Pulled              Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz    Successfully pulled image "nginx" in 2.654s (2.654s including waiting). Image size: 59772801 bytes.
0s          Normal   Created             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz    Created container nginx-container
0s          Normal   Started             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz    Started container nginx-container
```

Applied Load generator-2;

```
kubectl run -it --rm load-generator-2 --
image=busybox -- /bin/sh -c "while true; do
wget -q -O- http://nginx-s
vc; done"
```

CPU Utilization:

```
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 31%/50%   1   5   3   20m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 36%/50%   1   5   3   20m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 30%/50%   1   5   3   20m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 38%/50%   1   5   3   21m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 30%/50%   1   5   3   21m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 65%/50%   1   5   3   21m
```

Scaling out of Replicas:

```
load-generator-2                0/1   Pending             0   0s
load-generator-2                0/1   Pending             0   0s
load-generator-2                0/1   ContainerCreating   0   0s
load-generator-2                1/1   Running             0   10s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-d425x    0/1   Pending             0   0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-d425x    0/1   Pending             0   0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-d425x    0/1   ContainerCreating   0   0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-d425x    1/1   Running             0   4s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595    0/1   Pending             0   0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595    0/1   Pending             0   0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595    0/1   ContainerCreating   0   0s
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595    1/1   Running             0   5s
```

Kubectl Events:

```
0s   Normal   Scheduled           Pod/load-generator-2                 Successfully assigned default/load-generator-2 to rayeez-cluster-worker2
0s   Normal   Pulling             Pod/load-generator-2                 Pulling image "busybox"
0s   Normal   Pulled              Pod/load-generator-2                 Successfully pulled image "busybox" in 7.49s (7.49s including waiting). Image size: 2224358 bytes.
0s   Normal   Created             Pod/load-generator-2                 Created container load-generator-2
0s   Normal   Started             Pod/load-generator-2                 Started container load-generator-2
0s   Normal   SuccessfulRescale   HorizontalPodAutoscaler/nginx-deploy New size: 4; reason: cpu resource utilization (percentage of request) above target
0s   Normal   ScalingReplicaSet   Deployment/nginx-deploy              Scaled up replica set nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596 to 4 from 3
0s   Normal   SuccessfulCreate    ReplicaSet/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596    Created pod: nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-d425x
0s   Normal   Scheduled           Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-d425x     Successfully assigned default/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-d425x to rayeez-cluster-worker2
0s   Normal   Pulling             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-d425x     Pulling image "nginx"
0s   Normal   Pulled              Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-d425x     Successfully pulled image "nginx" in 2.317s (2.317s including waiting). Image size: 59772801 bytes.
0s   Normal   Created             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-d425x     Created container nginx-container
0s   Normal   Started             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-d425x     Started container nginx-container
0s   Normal   SuccessfulRescale   HorizontalPodAutoscaler/nginx-deploy New size: 5; reason: cpu resource utilization (percentage of request) above target
0s   Normal   ScalingReplicaSet   Deployment/nginx-deploy              Scaled up replica set nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596 to 5 from 4
0s   Normal   SuccessfulCreate    ReplicaSet/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596    Created pod: nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595
0s   Normal   Scheduled           Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595     Successfully assigned default/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595 to rayeez-cluster-worker
0s   Normal   Pulling             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595     Pulling image "nginx"
0s   Normal   Pulled              Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595     Successfully pulled image "nginx" in 2.71s (2.71s including waiting). Image size: 59772801 bytes.
0s   Normal   Created             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595     Created container nginx-container
0s   Normal   Started             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595     Started container nginx-container
```

```
Kubectl describe hpa nginx-deploy
```

```
root@DESKTOP-C6P8EQS:~/kubernetes/11)HPA_VPA$ kubectl describe hpa nginx-deploy
Name:                                                  nginx-deploy
Namespace:                                             default
Labels:                                                <none>
Annotations:                                           <none>
CreationTimestamp:                                     Sat, 22 Nov 2025 10:30:22 +0000
Reference:                                             Deployment/nginx-deploy
Metrics:                                               ( current / target )
  resource cpu on pods  (as a percentage of request):  35% (35m) / 50%
Min replicas:                                          1
Max replicas:                                          5
Deployment pods:                                       5 current / 5 desired
Conditions:
  Type            Status  Reason               Message
  ----            ------  ------               -------
  AbleToScale     True    ScaleDownStabilized  recent recommendations were higher than current one, applying the highest recent recommendation
  ScalingActive   True    ValidMetricFound     the HPA was able to successfully calculate a replica count from cpu resource utilization (percentage of reque
st)
  ScalingLimited  False   DesiredWithinRange   the desired count is within the acceptable range
Events:
  Type    Reason             Age    From                       Message
  ----    ------             ----   ----                       -------
  Normal  SuccessfulRescale  23m    horizontal-pod-autoscaler  New size: 2; reason: cpu resource utilization (percentage of request) above target
  Normal  SuccessfulRescale  22m    horizontal-pod-autoscaler  New size: 3; reason: cpu resource utilization (percentage of request) above target
  Normal  SuccessfulRescale  13m    horizontal-pod-autoscaler  New size: 4; reason: cpu resource utilization (percentage of request) above target
  Normal  SuccessfulRescale  4m45s  horizontal-pod-autoscaler  New size: 5; reason: cpu resource utilization (percentage of request) above target
```

Lets Terminate Load generator-2 and observe scaling in behaviour;

```
load-generator-2                1/1     Terminating         0          18m
load-generator-2                0/1     Error               0          18m
load-generator-2                0/1     Error               0          18m
load-generator-2                0/1     Error               0          18m
```

CPU Utilization:

```
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 20%/50%   1   5   5   43m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 19%/50%   1   5   5   43m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 25%/50%   1   5   5   43m
nginx-deploy   Deployment/nginx-deploy   cpu: 18%/50%   1   5   5   43m
```

Scaling in of Replicas:

```
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595   1/1     Terminating   0   13m
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595   0/1     Completed     0   13m
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595   0/1     Completed     0   13m
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595   0/1     Completed     0   13m
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz   1/1     Terminating   0   31m
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz   0/1     Completed     0   31m
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz   0/1     Completed     0   31m
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz   0/1     Completed     0   31m
```

Kubectl Events:

```
0s   Normal   SuccessfulRescale   HorizontalPodAutoscaler/nginx-deploy   New size: 4; reason: All metrics below target
0s   Normal   ScalingReplicaSet   Deployment/nginx-deploy                Scaled down replica set nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596 to 4 from 5
0s   Normal   SuccessfulDelete    ReplicaSet/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596      Deleted pod: nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595
0s   Normal   Killing             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-9g595       Stopping container nginx-container
0s   Normal   SuccessfulRescale   HorizontalPodAutoscaler/nginx-deploy   New size: 3; reason: All metrics below target
0s   Normal   ScalingReplicaSet   Deployment/nginx-deploy                Scaled down replica set nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596 to 3 from 4
0s   Normal   SuccessfulDelete    ReplicaSet/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596      Deleted pod: nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz
0s   Normal   Killing             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-dggsz       Stopping container nginx-container
```

Conclusion:

HPA automatically scales out and scales in the number of replicas on the cluster based on load/traffic received by the application.

2) Vertical Pods Autoscaler(VPA):

It automatically adjust the **CPU** and **memory requests** and **limits** of pods based on their actual usage.

- It increases or decreases the CPU & memory reservations of pods.
- Pods always have enough resources to perform efficiently.
- Wasted resources are minimized, avoiding over-provisioning.
- Removes guesswork. No need to manually tune CPU/memory requests.

Prequisite: VPA recommender, Updater, Admission controller and metric Server.

Practical:

deployment.yaml:

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: nginx-deploy
spec:
  replicas: 2
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: nginx
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: nginx
    spec:
      containers:
      - name: nginx
        image: nginx
        resources:
          requests:
            cpu: "100m"
          limits:
            cpu: "200m"
        ports:
        - containerPort: 80
```

Service.yaml:

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
  name: nginx-svc
spec:
  selector:
```

```
    app: nginx
  ports:
  - protocol: TCP
    port: 80
    targetPort: 80
  type: ClusterIP
```

vpa.yaml:

```
apiVersion: autoscaling.k8s.io/v1
kind: VerticalPodAutoscaler
metadata:
  name: nginx-vpa
spec:
  targetRef:
    apiVersion: "apps/v1"
    kind:       Deployment
    name:       nginx-deploy
  updatePolicy:
    # updateMode options:
    # "Off"     - VPA only recommends
resources, does NOT apply them.
    # "Initial" - VPA sets recommended
resources at pod creation, no changes after.
    # "Auto"    - VPA automatically updates
resources and restarts pods as needed.
    updateMode: "Auto"
```

Apply;

```
kubectl apply -f nginx-deployment.yaml
kubectl apply -f nginx-Service .yaml
```

Verify;

```
root@DESKTOP-C6P8EQS:~/kubernetes/11)HPA_VPA$ kubectl get all
NAME                                READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-86hwq    1/1     Running   0          43s
pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-nlccm    1/1     Running   0          43s

NAME                 TYPE        CLUSTER-IP     EXTERNAL-IP   PORT(S)   AGE
service/kubernetes   ClusterIP   10.96.0.1      <none>        443/TCP   91m
service/nginx-svc    ClusterIP   10.96.104.63   <none>        80/TCP    43s

NAME                           READY   UP-TO-DATE   AVAILABLE   AGE
deployment.apps/nginx-deploy   2/2     2            2           44s

NAME                                      DESIRED   CURRENT   READY   AGE
replicaset.apps/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596    2         2         2       43s
```

We have set this CPU request and limit in yaml manifest:

```
Limits:
  cpu:   200m
Requests:
  cpu:         100m
```

Lets create VPA and observe its behaviour;

```
kubectl apply -f vpa.yaml
```

Verify;

```
root@DESKTOP-C6P8EQS:~/kubernetes/11)HPA_VPA$ kubectl get vpa
NAME         MODE   CPU   MEM      PROVIDED   AGE
nginx-vpa    Auto   25m   250Mi    True       37s
```

The moment we have created VPA; This event took place:

```
0s          Normal   EvictedPod          VerticalPodAutoscaler/nginx-vpa       VPA Updater evicted Pod nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-bdcrq to apply resource recommendation.
0s          Normal   SuccessfulCreate    ReplicaSet/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596     Created pod: nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-gnwkf
0s          Normal   Scheduled           Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-gnwkf      Successfully assigned default/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-gnwkf to rayeez-cluster-worker2
0s          Normal   Pulling             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-gnwkf      Pulling image "nginx"
0s          Normal   Pulled              Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-gnwkf      Successfully pulled image "nginx" in 2.224s (2.224s including waiting). Image size: 597728
01 bytes.
0s          Normal   Created             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-gnwkf      Created container nginx-container
0s          Normal   Started             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-gnwkf      Started container nginx-container
```

Now the CPU requests and limits are adjusted to following values by VPA.

```
Limits:
  cpu:   50m
Requests:
  cpu:         25m
  memory:      250Mi
```

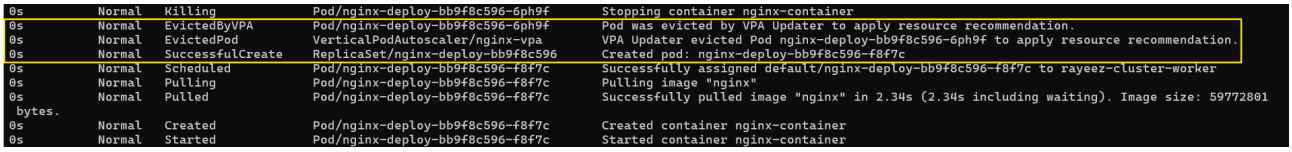
Lets apply some CPU load on the pods using below command from 2 different tabs:

```
kubectl run -it --rm load-generator-1 --
image=busybox -- /bin/sh -c "while true; do
wget -q -O- http://nginx-svc; done"
```

Now Because of increasing CPU load on pods, VPA has set new CPU request, limits values to pods:

```
nginx-vpa    Auto   25m   250Mi    True       6m21s
nginx-vpa    Auto   25m   250Mi    True       7m19s
nginx-vpa    Auto   25m   250Mi    True       8m18s
nginx-vpa    Auto   25m   250Mi    True       9m14s
nginx-vpa    Auto   49m   250Mi    True       10m
nginx-vpa    Auto   49m   250Mi    True       11m
nginx-vpa    Auto   63m   250Mi    True       12m
nginx-vpa    Auto   63m   250Mi    True       12m
nginx-vpa    Auto   63m   250Mi    True       13m
```

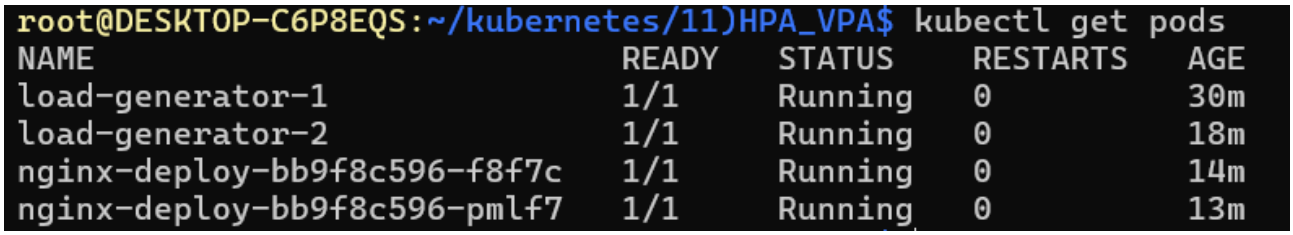
Kubectl Events:



```
0s          Normal   Killing             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6ph9f       Stopping container nginx-container
0s          Normal   EvictedByVPA        Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6ph9f       Pod was evicted by VPA Updater to apply resource recommendation.
0s          Normal   EvictedPod          VerticalPodAutoscaler/nginx-vpa        VPA Updater evicted Pod nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-6ph9f to apply resource recommendation.
0s          Normal   SuccessfulCreate    ReplicaSet/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596      Created pod: nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-f8f7c
0s          Normal   Scheduled           Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-f8f7c       Successfully assigned default/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-f8f7c to rayeez-cluster-worker
0s          Normal   Pulling             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-f8f7c       Pulling image "nginx"
0s          Normal   Pulled              Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-f8f7c       Successfully pulled image "nginx" in 2.34s (2.34s including waiting). Image size: 59772801
 bytes.
0s          Normal   Created             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-f8f7c       Created container nginx-container
0s          Normal   Started             Pod/nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-f8f7c       Started container nginx-container
```

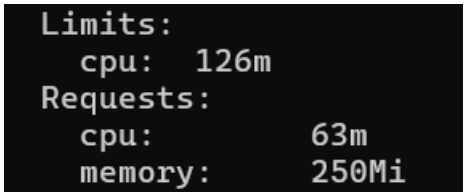
The VPA evicted one of the running pods, updated the CPU requests and limits, and then the ReplicaSet controller created new pods with these updated resource values.

Kubecetl get pods



```
root@DESKTOP-C6P8EQS:~/kubernetes/11)HPA_VPA$ kubectl get pods
NAME                                READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
load-generator-1                    1/1     Running   0          30m
load-generator-2                    1/1     Running   0          18m
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-f8f7c        1/1     Running   0          14m
nginx-deploy-bb9f8c596-pmlf7        1/1     Running   0          13m
```

Now the CPU request, Limits are set as below in each pods:



```
Limits:
  cpu:  126m
Requests:
  cpu:        63m
  memory:     250Mi
```

Conclusion: VPA dynamically adjusts the pod's resource requests and limits based on the application's varying load, while keeping the number of pods unchanged.