



Omnibus GitLab Integration with VMware TKGI and Harbor

How-to guide for Integration and Configuration of CI/CD with examples

MAY 2020



Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	2
2. 3.	Pre-requisites:	
	Add Existing TKGI K8s Cluster to GitLab project	3
	Install and configure GitLab Runner using Helm chart, associate it with project	7
5.	Configure and Execute Project CI/CD Pipeline on Runner	13

1. Introduction

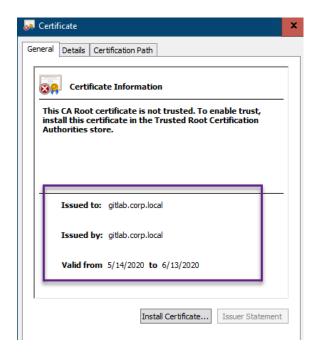
In this document, we provide an overview of integration of OmniBus GitLab (Enterprise Edition) software change management (SCM) platform with VMware Tanzu Kubernetes Grid Integrated (TKGI, formerly known as VMware Enterprise PKS) Kubernetes clusters and Harbor container image registry platform for automated software build tasks. GitLab is a popular DevOps platform since it is compatible with Git file versioning, project directory structure and client software.

We highlight configuration steps to enable integration between GitLab EE and Kubernetes clusters provisioned with TKGI platform and Harbor container image registry to enable CI/CD process automation using GitLab tools.

2. Pre-requisites:

- The following software should be installed and accessible from
 - VMware TKGI (formerly 'Enterprise PKS', v 1.6.1 or 1.7)
 - Kubernetes cluster provisioned via TKGI environment that is accessible via kubectl CLI
 - OmniBus GitLab Enterprise Edition (v 11.2 or later, v 12.10.5-ee used in a Lab for this paper) installed and configured, accessible via URL like https://gitlab.corp.local via administrator level account
 - A GitLab project that contains software artifacts that can be built into container images. We are using the following example from GitHub: https://github.com/riazvm/dockersample cloned into a local GitLab project
 - "CLI VM" typically a Linux VM that is used for Command Line access to Kubernetes clusters and runs other tools (Docker, Helm etc.) for configuration of integrations and intermediate validation of build process stages.
- There should be no networking issues (firewalls, blocked ports, DNS resolution etc.) between GitLab VM, TKGI K8s clusters and Harbor VM
- Main GitLab URL (such as **gitlab.corp.local**) should have a valid CA certificate (typically generated by GitLab installer script such as shown below:



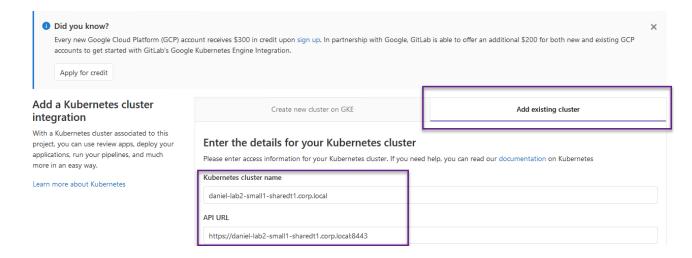


3. Add Existing TKGI K8s Cluster to GitLab project

We need to add K8s cluster to our GitLab project as a target for CI/CD deployments of containerized applications and for deploying Runner components that execute pipeline tasks/scripts. See GitLab documentation for more information on Runners

 Start with "Add Existing Cluster" Tab in the "Operations – Kubernetes" menu for a project:

Specify name and FDQN (create DNS record if doesn't exist yet) based URL of API Server/Master node(s)





 Follow "More Information" links for each field to be filled in, as specified in documentation https://gitlab.acelab.local/help/user/project/clusters/add_remove_clusters.md#add-existing-cluster with the following fields:

```
Obtain CA certificate from the K8s cluster using command like
kubectl get secret <secret name> -o jsonpath =
"{['data']['ca\.crt']}" | base64 -decode

E.G. kubectl get secret <default-token-p6br2> -o jsonpath =
"{['data']['ca\.crt']}" | base64 -d
```

Note: If the command returns the entire certificate chain, copy the *root ca* certificate value at the bottom of the chain:

Copy the above certificate string value for use in the following steps

• Obtain Authentication Token for GitLab authentication against K8s

GitLab authenticates against K8s using service tokens, which are scoped to a namespace. The token used should belong to a service account with 'cluster-admin' privileges. Follow GitLab documentation to create a Service Account and Cluster Role Binding with "cluster-admin" privileges using sample gitlab-admin-service-account.yaml K8s deployment descriptor provided as an example:

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: ServiceAccount
metadata:
 name: gitlab-admin
 namespace: kube-system
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: ClusterRoleBinding
metadata:
 name: gitlab-admin
roleRef:
  apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
  kind: ClusterRole
  name: cluster-admin
subjects:
- kind: ServiceAccount
  name: gitlab-admin
  namespace: kube-system
```



Create Service account and Cluster Role Binding in the target cluster:

kubectl apply -f gitlab-admin-service-account.yaml
serviceaccount/gitlab-admin created
clusterrolebinding.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/qitlab-admin created

• Retrieve token for the *gitlab-admin* Service Account:

kubectl -n kube-system describe secret \$(kubectl -n kubesystem get secret | grep gitlab-admin | awk '{print \$1}')

Name: gitlab-admin-token-rf6fr

Namespace: kube-system

Labels: <none>

Annotations: kubernetes.io/service-account.name: gitlab-admin

kubernetes.io/service-account.uid: dd65123d-1a2c-47e7-8a5e-97adf871c27d

Type: kubernetes.io/service-account-token

Data

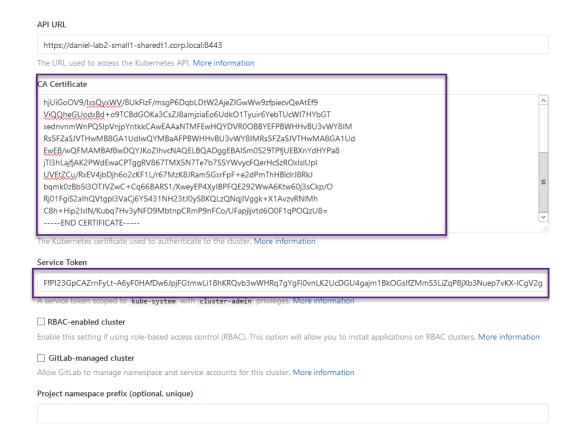
====

ca.crt: 1094 bytes namespace: 11 bytes

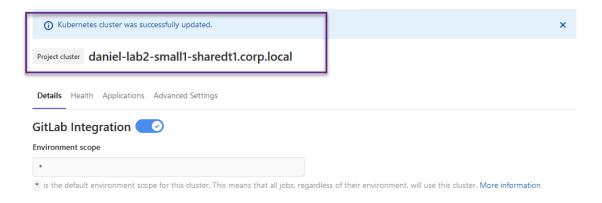
token: < authentication-token>

Paste value of *authentication-token* into the 'Service-Token' filed in the "Add Existing Cluster" GitLab screen:



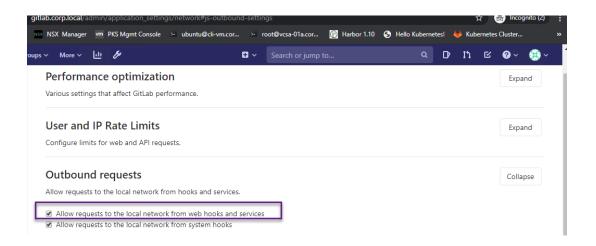


Click "Add Cluster" button – should get a confirmation of successful result on GitLab UI:



NOTE: in case if a warning about blocked requests to local networks is displayed (when GitLab VM and K8s cluster API are on the same network), we may need to explicitly allow requests to local networks from Web Hooks and Services, following KB Article: https://gitlab.com/gitlab-org/gitlab-foss/-/issues/57948





4. Install and configure GitLab Runner using Helm chart, associate it with project

In GitLab CI/CD, Runners run the code defined in the .gitlab-ci.yml pipeline definition file. They can be dedicated virtual machines or dedicated Kubernetes Pods that pick up build jobs through the coordinator API of GitLab CI/CD. A Runner can be specific to a certain project or serve any project in GitLab CI/CD, the latter is called a Shared Runner.

Below are the steps to prepare for installation of GitLab Runners as in-cluster K8s resource via Helm chart, performed on CLI VM.(generally, follows the documentation https://docs.gitlab.com/runner/install/kubernetes.html)

• Install Helm client/server following documentation, validate that it can reach general repositories containing **gitlab-runner** charts

E.G. helm search hub gitlab-runner

URL CHART VERSION APP VERSION **DESCRIPTION** https://hub.helm.sh/charts/choerodon/gitlab-runner 0.2.4 0.2.4 gitlab-runner for Choerodon https://hub.helm.sh/charts/pnnl-miscscripts/git... 0.1.3 0.1.2-1 A Helm chart for **Kubernetes** https://hub.helm.sh/charts/camptocamp/gitlab-ru... 12.6.0 GitLab Runner 0.12.6 https://hub.helm.sh/charts/gitlab/gitlab-runner 0.16.0 12.10.1 GitLab Runner

Download Harbor Registry certificate from its UI

Login to Harbor UI, navigate to the Project where plan to host built container images click on "Registry certificate" to download the certificate file:





Create namespace in the K8s cluster where GitLab Runner Pod will be running

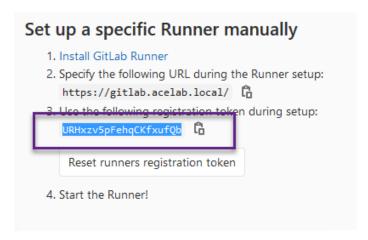
kubectl create ns gitlabrunner

NOTE: Here the Runner namespace is called **gitlabrunner** but it can be other valid namespace name

Set that namespace as current context:

kubectl config set-context --current --namespace=gitlabrunner

Navigate in GitLab UI to "Settings → CI/CD → Runners":



and copy values for GitLab URL and Runner Registration token from the screen above.

Use GitLab URL and registration token values obtained in the previous step in the values.yaml
Helm chart configuration file (full example available for Runner Helm chart installation in the
GitHub repository: https://gitlab.com/gitlab-org/charts/gitlab-runner//blob/master/values.yaml)

```
## GitLab Runner Image
##
## By default it's using gitlab/gitlab-runner:alpine-v{VERSION}
## where {VERSION} is taken from Chart.yaml from appVersion field
##
## ref: https://hub.docker.com/r/gitlab/gitlab-runner/tags/
```



##

##image: gitlab/gitlab-runner:alpine-v11.6.0

gitlabUrl: https://gitlab.acelab.local

runnerRegistrationToken: 'URHxzv5pFehqCKfxufQb'

NOTE: please see GitLab documentation

https://docs.gitlab.com/runner/install/kubernetes.html for recommended values of additional fields in values.yaml file for GitLab Runner Helm chart.

Another important field is RBAC support for a Runner service account. To have the chart create
new Service account during installation, set rbac.create to true

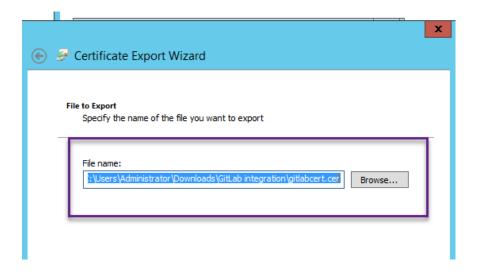
```
## For RBAC support:
rbac:
    create: true
    ## Define specific rbac permissions.
    # resources: ["pods", "pods/exec", "secrets"]
    # verbs: ["get", "list", "watch", "create", "patch", "delete"]
...
(Otherwise, set to rbac create to false and specify existing Service Account)
```

 An important setting is Max number of concurrent jobs to run which is controlled by concurrent filed value. Set it based on projected size of build jobs and related resource utilization:

..
Configure the maximum number of concurrent jobs
ref: https://docs.gitlab.com/runner/configuration/advanced-configuration.html#theglobal-section
##
concurrent: 10

• To allow containers activated on Runner to make API calls against GitLab Secure API, we need to export SSL certificate from GitLab server in a CER (BASE 64) format into a file:





- ✓ The certificate file name used should be in the format <gitlab.hostname.domain.crt>, for example gitlab.corp.local.crt.
- ✓ Any intermediate certificates need to be concatenated to your server certificate in the same file.
- ✓ The hostname used should be the one the certificate is registered for.
- Generate K8s secret from GitLab CA certificate file (saved as gitlab.corp.local.crt in previous step) that complies with above conditions in the K8s namespace where Runner will be deployed using command like:

```
$ kubectl create secret generic gitlabca --from-
file=gitlab.corp.local.crt -n gitlabrunner
secret/gitlabca created
```

Validate the secret got created

\$ kubectl get secrets

NAME TYPE DATA AGE
default-token-ckt9m k10ubernetes.io/service-account-token 3 30m
gitlabca Opaque 1 9s

 Use that K8 Secret name in the certsSecretName section of the values.yaml file as shown below:

Set the certsSecretName in order to pass custom certificates for GitLab Runner to use ## Provide resource name for a Kubernetes Secret Object in the same namespace, ## this is used to populate the /home/gitlab-runner/.gitlab-runner/certs/ directory



 $\hbox{\it \#\# ref: https://docs.gitlab.com/runner/configuration/tls-self-signed.html\#supported-options-for-self-signed-certificates}$

secret name

certsSecretName: gitlabca

• Configure environment variables that will be present when Runner registration command runs in the following section of values.yaml file:

```
## This provides further control over the registration process and the config.toml file
## ref: `gitlab-runner register --help`
## ref: https://docs.gitlab.com/runner/configuration/advanced-configuration.html
##
envVars:
- name: RUNNER_ENV
    value: "DOCKER_TLS_CERTDIR="
- name: CI_SERVER_TLS_CA_FILE
    value: /home/gitlab-runner/.gitlab-runner/certs/gitlab.acelab.local.crt
```

NOTE: certificate file name in the value for **CI_SERVER_TLS_CA_FILE** variable should be same as file name used to generate K8s secret above (**gitlabca**) used in the **certsSecretName** section

- If CI/CD task will require using "executor" images running containers in 'privileged' mode (such as when using popular DIND "docker in docker", per GitLab documentation), perform the following optional configuration steps:
 - a. Update "privileged" parameter flag in the values.yaml file:

```
## Run all containers with the privileged flag enabled
## This will allow the docker:dind image to run if you need to run Docker
## commands. Please read the docivi s before turning this on:
## ref: https://docs.gitlab.com/runner/executors/kubernetes.html#using-docker-
dind
##
privileged: true
.....
```

b. Copy previously downloaded Harbor certificate file to /etc/gitlab/trusted-certs and /etc/gitlab/ssl folders in GitLab VM:

```
ls /etc/gitlab/ssl
ca_harbor.crt
gitlab.acelab.local.crt
....
ls /etc/gitlab/trusted-certs
ca_harbor.crt
```



gitlab.acelab.local.crt

c. Target TKGI K8s cluster should be deployed with Pod Security Policies set to "privileged" mode, per documentation

NOTE: in our CI/CD example below we will be using an executor container image based on Google Project Kaniko which **does not require running in privileged mode**, please see GitLab **documentation** for details. Therefore, the configuration steps in this section are not required for running that example.

Add a Helm repository containing the chart for Runner deployment:

```
helm repo add stable https://kubernetes-
charts.storage.googleapis.com
```

Verify that repository has been added and is available:

```
helm repo list

NAME URL

gitlab https://charts.gitlab.io

stable https://kubernetes-charts.storage.googleapis.com
```

 Perform a Runner installation using Helm chart, from the directory where values.yaml file is located:

```
helm install gitlab-runner -f ./values.yaml gitlab/gitlab-runner -n gitlabrunner
```

NOTES:

- ✓ IMPORTANT: if running Helm command from another directory that doesn't contain values.yaml file, provide full path to that file to customize
- ✓ 'gitlab-runner' is the name of Runner chart deployment, chosen arbitrary
- ✓ gitlab/gitlab-runner is the name of Helm chart

An output of 'helm install' command should look like:

NAME: gitlab-runner

LAST DEPLOYED: Sun May 3 05:46:50 2020

NAMESPACE: gitlabrunner

STATUS: deployed

REVISION: 1

TEST SUITE: None

NOTES:

Your GitLab Runner should now be registered against the GitLab instance

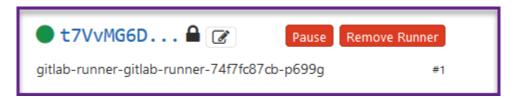
reachable at: https://gitlab.acelab.local



 (Optional) validate that Runner deployments/pods are running in the designated K8s namespace:

• Verify that newly installed Runner is configured for GitLab project(s):

Navigate to **Settings** → **CI/CD** for the Project and check whether Runner shows as active:



Notes:

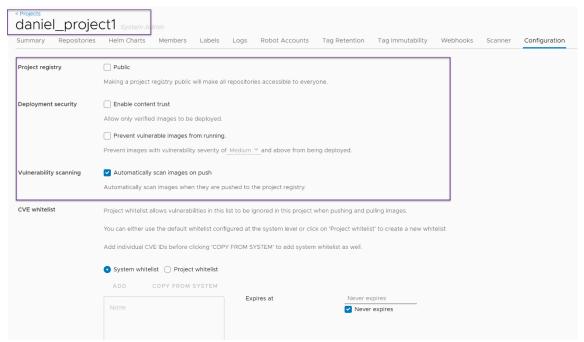
- ✓ Usually, Runner configured on a project level will show up in its Settings → CI/CD automatically, when deployed to integrated cluster. In other cases they may be additional steps needed to make Runner available for a GitLab project, per documentation
- ✓ Same instance GitLab Runner can be optionally shared among multiple projects, that can be configured in GitLab "CI/CD Settings → Shared Runners", per documentation

5. Configure and Execute Project CI/CD Pipeline on Runner

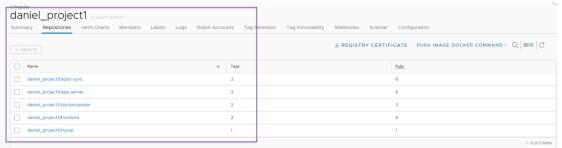
Below is an example of a CI/CD pipeline that builds a simple SpringBoot microservice from its Java source code using Maven, continues to build a container image using Dockerfile residing in a subdirectory and finally pushes built image into designated project in the Harbor container image repository.

Properties of target Harbor project (top level construct for images hosting) are shown below. It
is not 'Public' and therefore requires authorized user login with at least "Developer" access
level, per Harbor documentation. It has image vulnerability scanning on 'push': any time an
image is added to a registry via 'docker push...' command, it will be scanned for vulnerabilities
automatically.

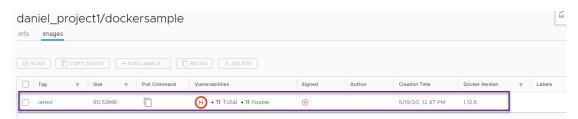




• There are existing image repositories configured for that project, shown below:



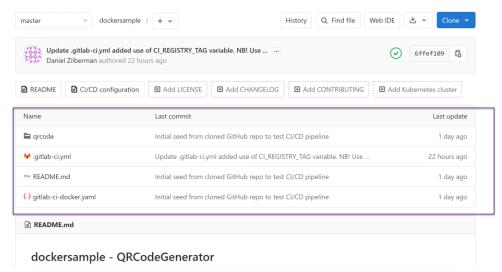
Our GitLab pipeline will be building and pushing images into 'daniel_project1/dockersample' repository:



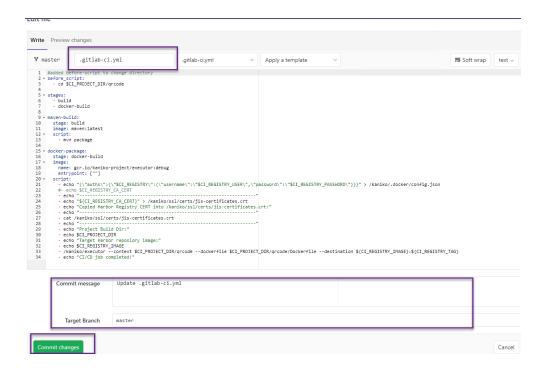
There is an existing version of an image

• Structure of the example project **dockersample** is shown below:





- Add default CI/CD pipeline script file (.gitlab-ci.yaml) at the root level of the Project using "CI/CD Configuration" option
 - NOTE: .gitlab-ci.yaml CI/CD script syntax should comply with structure and stages defined in accordance with documentation: https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/ci/yaml/README.html
- Edit contents of that script file from GitLab IDE (or outside of it and use Git client to commit changes to project repository):



NOTES:

✓ .gitlab-ci.yaml is a default CI/CD pipeline file name for any project, other pipeline definitions can be invoked from it

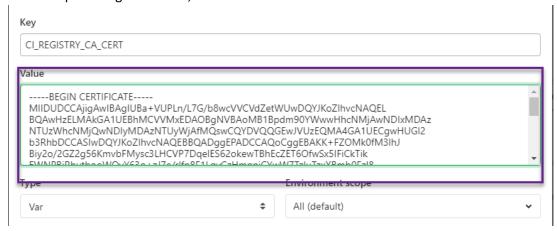


✓ Environment variables values referenced in pipeline scripts (CI_REGISTRY, CI_REGISTRY_USER etc.) should be set via "Settings → CI/CD → Variables" section of the project:



Scope of those variables should be normally set as 'Environment scope', additional options to protect their values, if required, are available via GitLab settings.

✓ For variables that contain values of Container Image registry (Harbor) certificate, make sure it keeps its original format, as shown below:

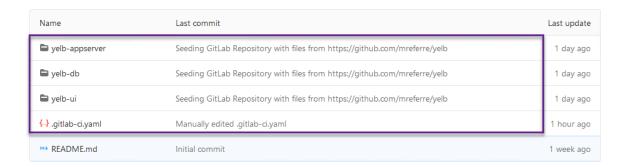


(reason being that we will basically automate commands like: "docker login \${CI_REGISTRY} -u \${CI_REGISTRY_PASSWORD}" to run as API call from CI/CD script)

To bypass a need for executor containers to have privileged access to Docker daemon to run
 "docker build" commands, we can use unprivileged access via Google Kaniko execution
 environment: https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/ci/ (OK for running builds, not for running container
 images) See details in: https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/ci/docker/using_kaniko.html



Edit default CI/CD pipeline script (.gitlab-ci.yaml) at the root of GitLab project directory:



• Example of a working version of above script that builds and pushes Docker container images from GitLab project sub-folders is shown below:

NOTES:

✓ Properly formatted (no TAB characters) snippet of above .gitlab-ci.yml file, including optional debug prints of variable values, can be found below:

```
#added before-script to change working directory
before_script:
   - cd $CI_PROJECT_DIR/qrcode

stages:
   - build
   - docker-build

maven-build:
   stage: build
   image: maven:latest
   script:
        - mvn package

docker-package:
```



```
stage: docker-build
 image:
   name: gcr.io/kaniko-project/executor:debug
   entrypoint: [""]
 script:
   - echo
"{\"auths\":{\"$CI REGISTRY\":{\"username\":\"$CI REGISTRY USER\",\"pas
sword\":\"$CI REGISTRY PASSWORD\"}}}" > /kaniko/.docker/config.json
   - echo $CI REGISTRY CA CERT
   - echo "-----
   - echo "${CI REGISTRY CA CERT}" > /kaniko/ssl/certs/jis-
   - echo "Copied Harbor Registry CERT into /kaniko/ssl/certs/jis-
certificates.crt:"
   - echo "-----
   - cat /kaniko/ssl/certs/jis-certificates.crt
   - echo "-----
----"
   - echo "Project Build Dir:"
   - echo $CI PROJECT DIR
   - echo "Target Harbor repo img:"
   - echo $CI REGISTRY IMAGE
   - /kaniko/executor --context $CI PROJECT DIR/qrcode --dockerfile
$CI PROJECT DIR/qrcode/Dockerfile --destination
${CI REGISTRY IMAGE}:${CI REGISTRY TAG}
   - echo "CI/CD job completed!"
```

- ✓ This CI/CD script example is using gcr.io/kaniko-project/executor:debug container image
 for build jobs execution. It compiles source code, builds image defined in Dockerfile and
 pushes it into registry defined by CI_REGISTRY_IMAGE environment variable with a tag
 defined in the CI_REGISTRY_TAG
- Pipeline execution progress can be monitored in real time and after its completion via GitLab CI/CD UI, as shown below:



```
Target Harbor repo img:
     $ echo $CI REGISTRY
     harbor.corp.local/daniel_project1/dockersample
     E0519 20:30:03.697637 16 aws credentials.go:771 while getting AWS credentials NoCredentialProviders: no valid providers in chain. Deprecated.
           For verbose messaging see aws.Config.CredentialsChainVerboseErrors \,
     INFO[0037] Retrieving image manifest java:8-jdk-alpine
     INFO[0039] Retrieving image manifest java:8-jdk-alpine
    INFO[0040] Built cross stage deps: map[]
     INFO[0040] Retrieving image manifest java:8-jdk-alpine
    INFO[0041] Retrieving image manifest java:8-jdk-alpine
     INFO[0041] Executing 0 build triggers
     INFO[0041] Unpacking rootfs as cmd COPY ./target/qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar /usr/app/ requires it.
    INFO[0053] COPY ./target/qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar /usr/app/
     INFO[0053] Resolving 1 paths
    INFO[0053] Taking snapshot of files...
    INFO[0053] WORKDIR /usr/app
     INFO[0053] cmd: workdir
     INFO[0053] Changed working directory to /usr/app
    INFO[0053] RUN sh -c 'touch qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar'
     INFO[0053] Taking snapshot of full filesystem...
     INFO[0056] Resolving 1672 paths
     INFO[0056] cmd: /bin/sh
     INFO[0056] args: [-c sh -c 'touch qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar']
     INFO[0056] Running: [/bin/sh -c sh -c 'touch qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar']
     INFO[0056] Taking snapshot of full filesystem...
     INFO[0057] Resolving 1672 paths
     INFO[0058] ENTRYPOINT ["java" , "-jar" , "qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar"]
    CI/CD job completed!
   Running after_script
    Saving cache
101 Uploading artifacts for successful job
```

 If Pipeline execution is successful, in the target Harbor project/repository there should be a new built/pushed image(s) from GitLab project, tagged according to passed value of CI_REGISTRY_TAG variable and scanned for vulnerabilities, per project settings:



- Notes on additional GitLab CI/CD resources and Best practices:
 - Examples of end-to-end Docker container build and deployment automation via GitLab CI/CD pipelines can be found in various blogs such as: https://sanderknape.com/2019/02/automated-deployments-kubernetes-gitlab/
 - Operations teams that just need to run stabilized builds may use "Auto DevOps"
 GitLab mode and run pipelines defined in .gitlab-ci.yaml as in example above.
 - Developers may need to create their own customized pipelines, please see GitLab documentation: https://gitlab.acelab.local/help/ci/pipelines/settings#custom-ciconfiguration-path



