VMware Advanced Customer Engagements (ACE) Team

Omnibus GitLab Integration with VMware TKGI and Harbor

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

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vmware

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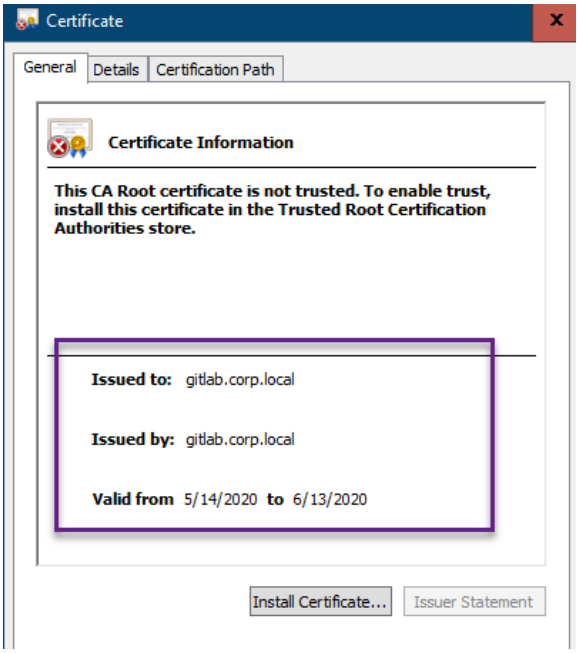
1. Introduction

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:

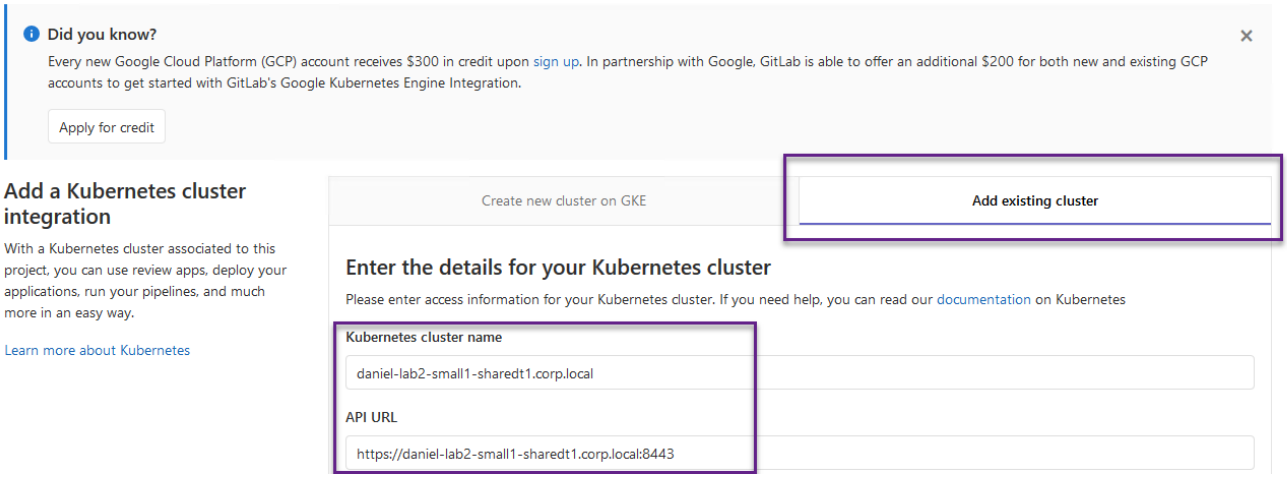


3. *Add Existing TKGI K8s Cluster to GitLab project*

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:

  -----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
  MIIC+zCCAeOgAwIBAgIUBEYdVQpHO7z4r608A+8wNRLmhbkwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQEL
  BQAwDTELMAkGA1UEAxMCY2EwHhcNMjAwNDIyMDQ1NDM1WhcNMjQwNDIyMDQ1NDM1
  WjANMQswCQYDVQQDEwJjYTCCASIwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQEBBQADggEPADCCAQoCggEB
  ……
  ……
  C8h+Hip2IxlN/Kubq7Hv3yNFD9MbtnpCRmP9nFCo/UFapjljvtd6O0F1qPOQzU8=
  -----END CERTIFICATE-----

  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/gitlab-admin created

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

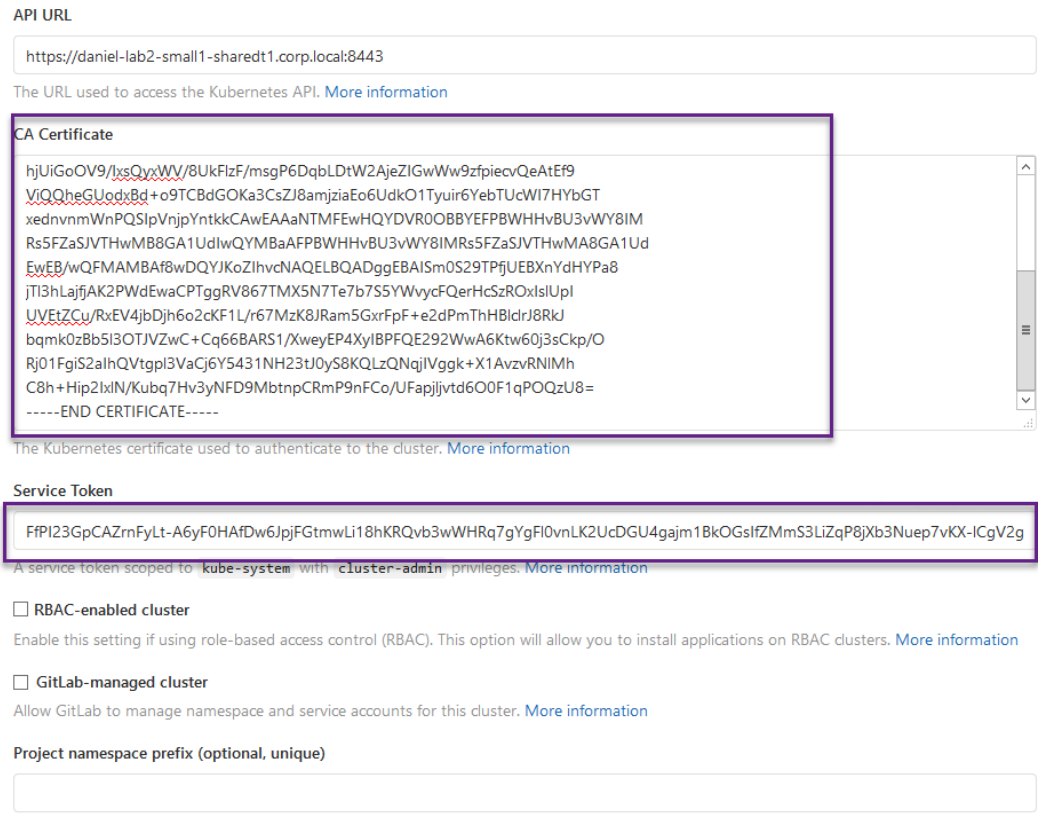
```
kubectl -n kube-system describe secret $(kubectl -n kube-system get secret | grep gitlab-admin | awk '{print $1}')
```

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

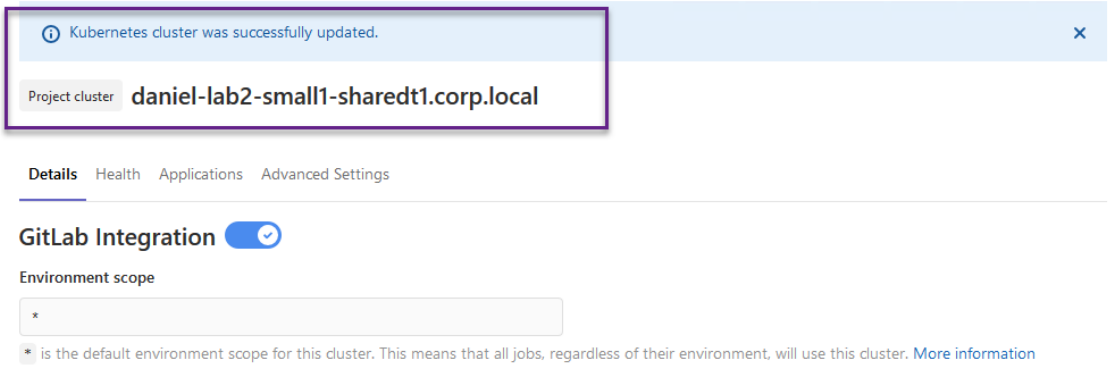
Type: kubernetes.io/service-account-token

Data
====
ca.crt: 1094 bytes
namespace: 11 bytes
token: < authentication-token>

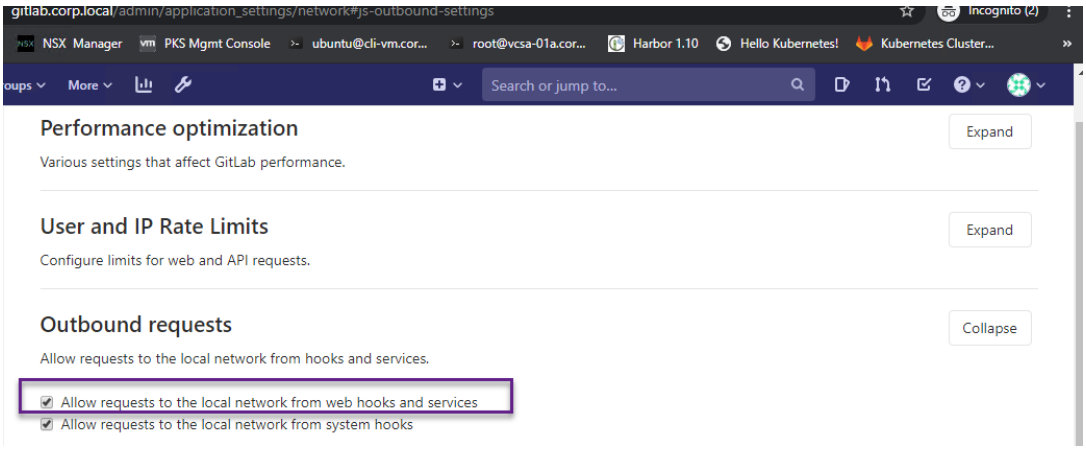
Paste value of ***authentication-token*** into the 'Service-Token' filed in the "Add Existing Cluster" GitLab screen:



- **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)

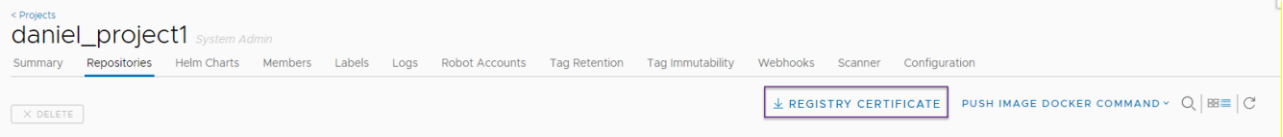
- Install Helm client/server following documentation , validate that it can reach general repositories containing **gitlab-runner** charts

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... 0.12.6 12.6.0 GitLab Runner
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

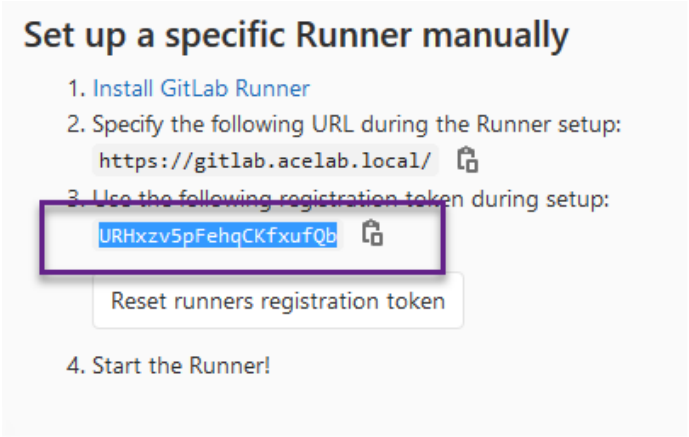
```
kubectl create ns gitlabrunner
```

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**

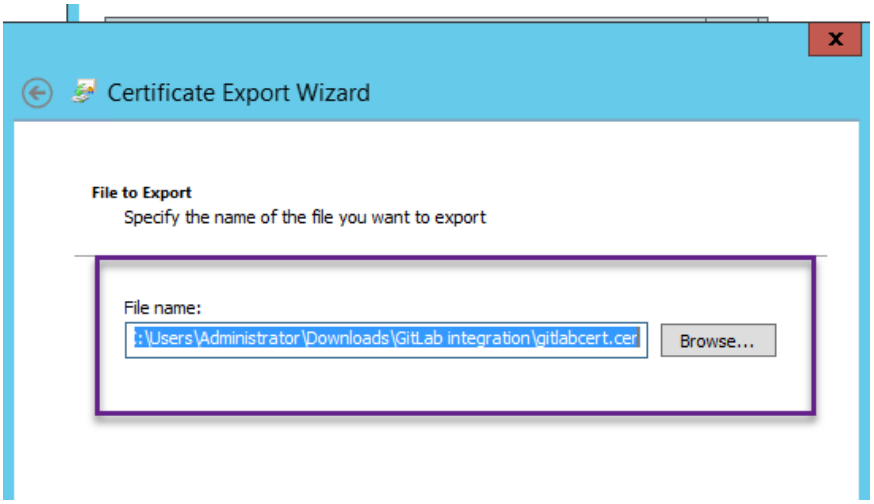
```
## For RBAC support:
rbac:
  create: true
  ## Define specific rbac permissions.
  # resources: ["pods", "pods/exec", "secrets"]
  # verbs: ["get", "list", "watch", "create", "patch", "delete"]
..
```

(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#the-global-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 k11ubernetes.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
```

```
## 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 from the repository

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

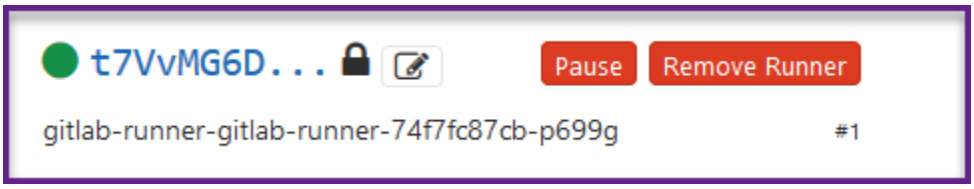
NAME: gitlab-runner
LAST DEPLOYED: Sun May 3 05:46:50 2020
NAMESPACE: gitlabrunner
STATUS: deployed
REVISION: 1
TEST SUITE: None
NOTES:
Your GitLab Runner should now be registered against the GitLab instance reachable at: https://gitlab.acelab.local

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

```
kubectl get deploy, po -n gitlabrunner
NAME                                    READY   UP-TO-DATE   AVAILABLE   AGE
deployment.apps/gitlab-runner-gitlab-runner   1/1     1            1           33s
NAME                                        READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
pod/gitlab-runner-gitlab-runner-74f7fc87cb-p699g   1/1     Running   0          33s
```

- 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:



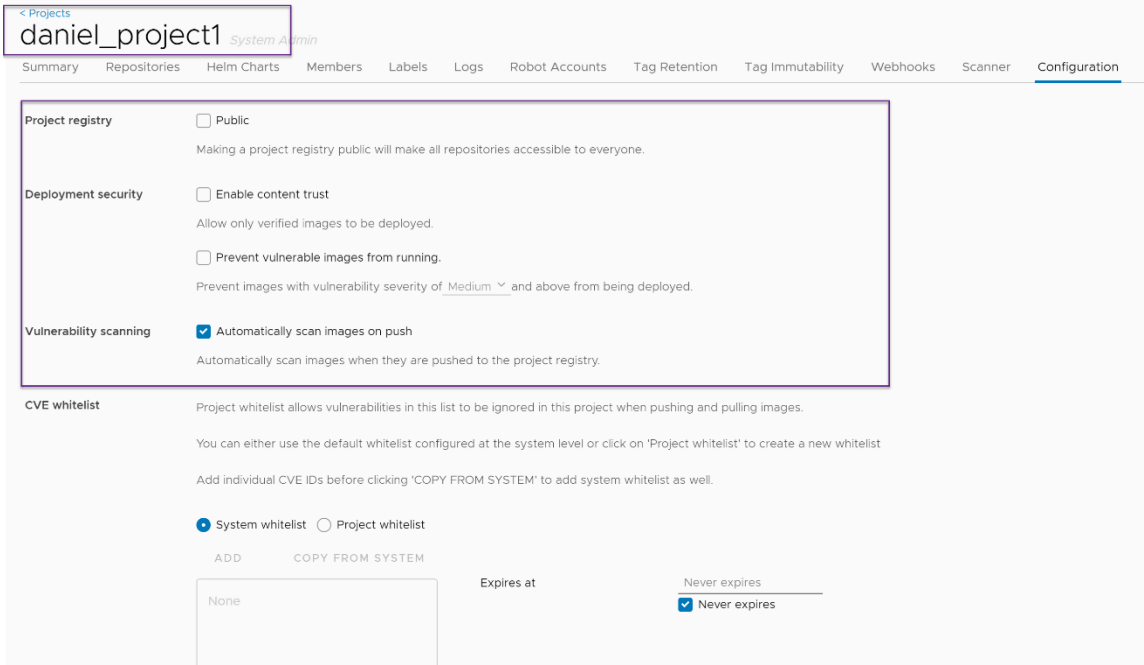
Notes:

- ✓ 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

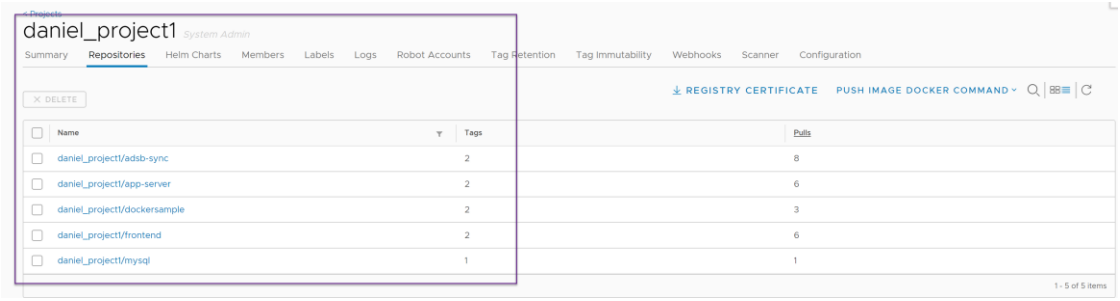
5. Configure and Execute CI/CD Pipeline for Building, Tagging and Publishing Application Image into Registry

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.

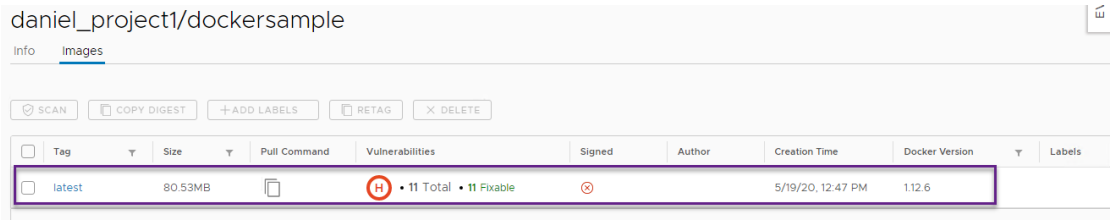
- Properties of target Harbor project (top level construct for images hosting) are shown below. It is not 'Public' and therefore requires authorized user login with at least "Developer" access level, per Harbor documentation. It has image vulnerability scanning on 'push': any time an image is added to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



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

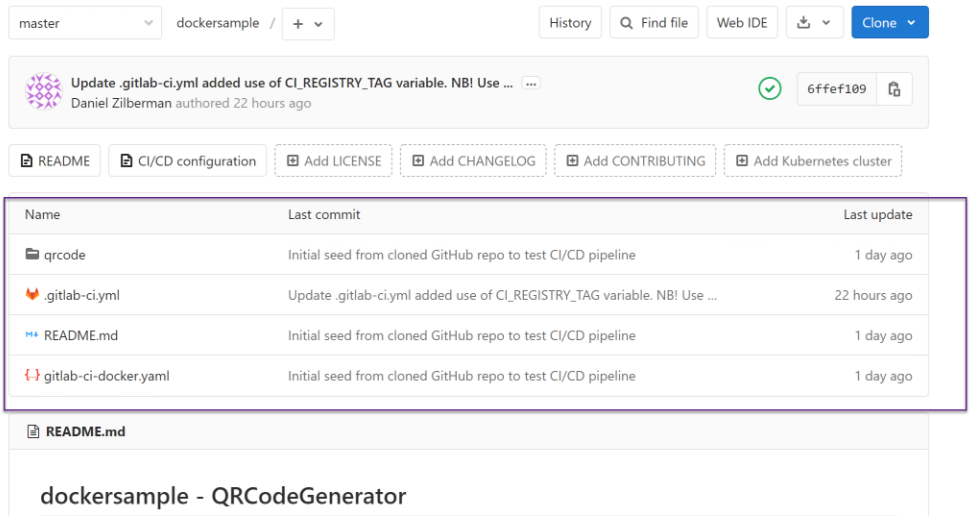


Our GitLab pipeline will be building and pushing images into '**daniel_project1/dockersample**' repository:

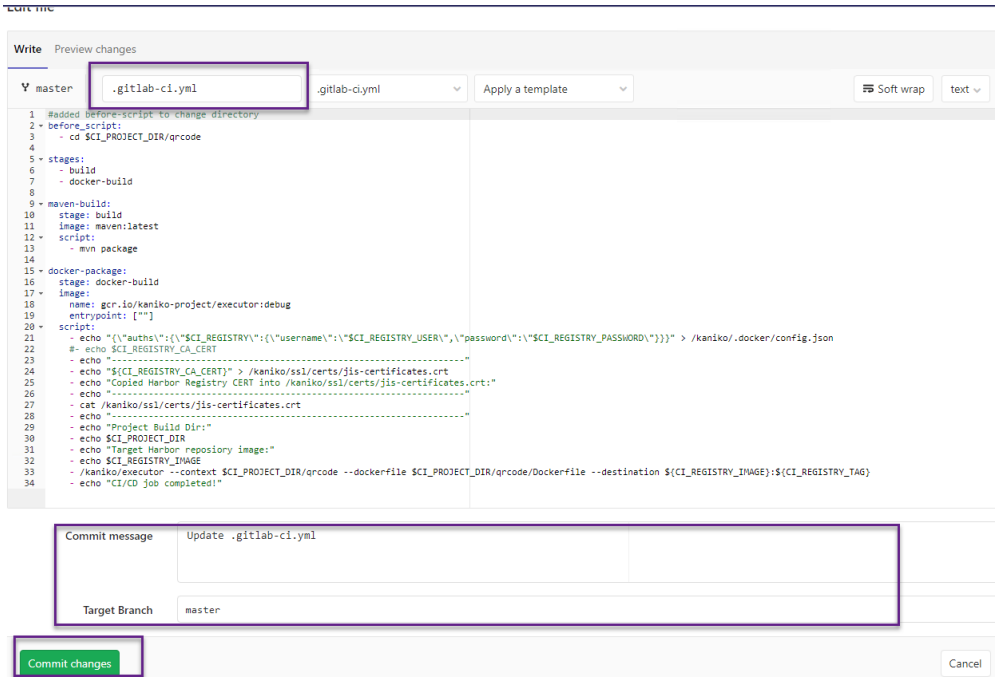


There is an existing version of an image

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



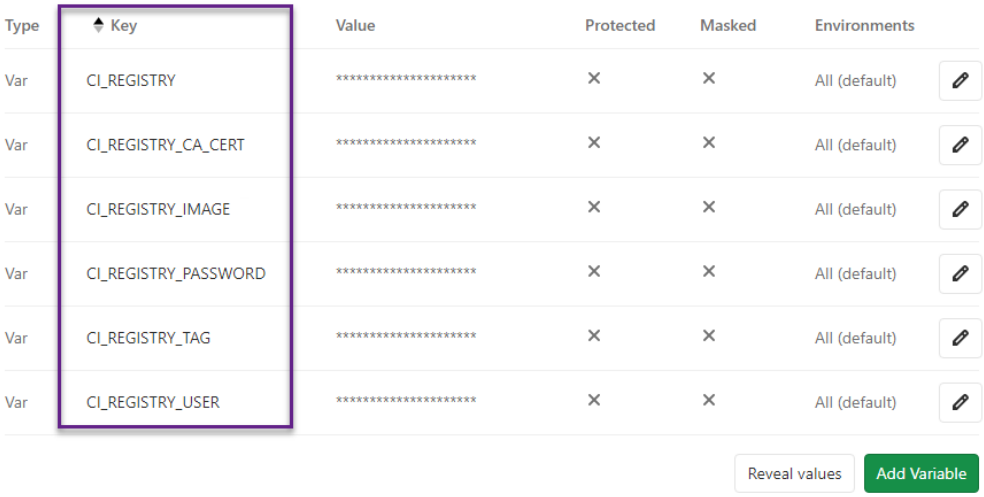
- Add default CI/CD pipeline script file (**.gitlab-ci.yaml**) at the root level of the Project using "CI/CD Configuration" option
  NOTE: **.gitlab-ci.yaml** CI/CD script syntax should comply with structure and stages defined in accordance with documentation: https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/ci/yaml/README.html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



NOTES:

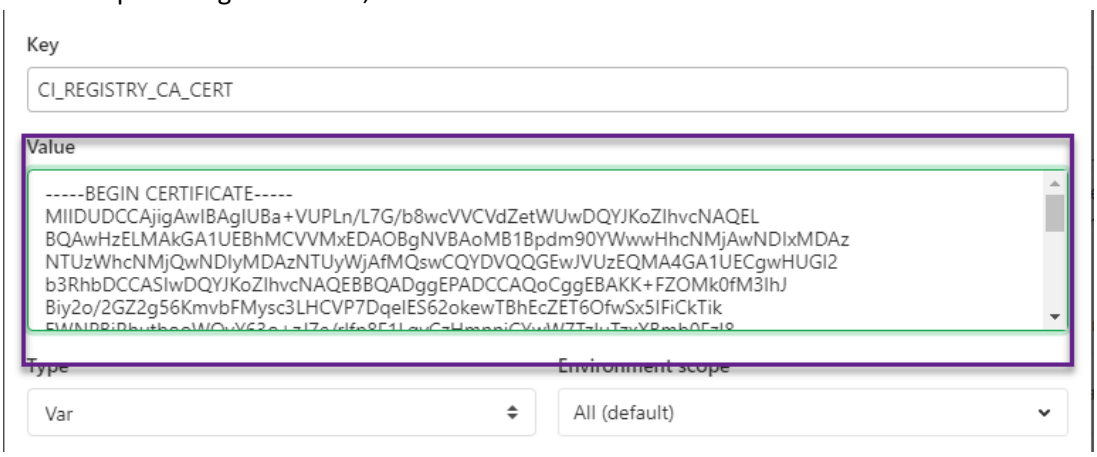
✓ **.gitlab-ci.yaml** is a default CI/CD pipeline file name for any project, other pipeline definitions can be invoked from it

✓ 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.

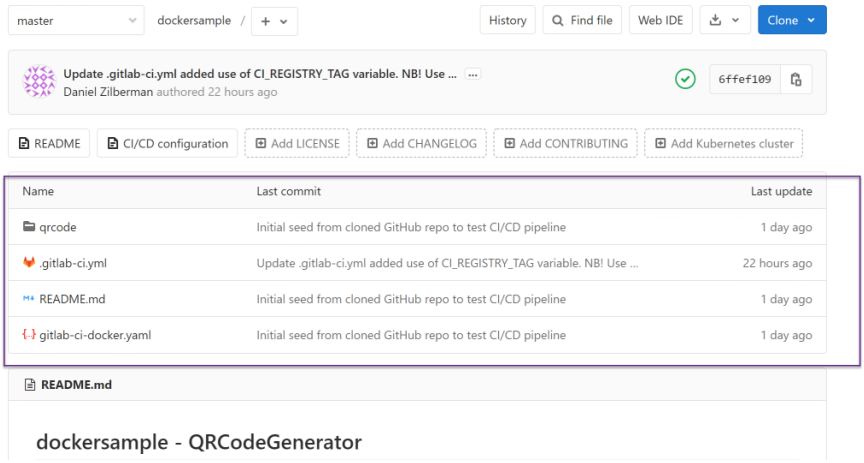
✓ For variables that contain values of Container Image registry (Harbor) certificate, make sure it keeps its original format, as shown below:



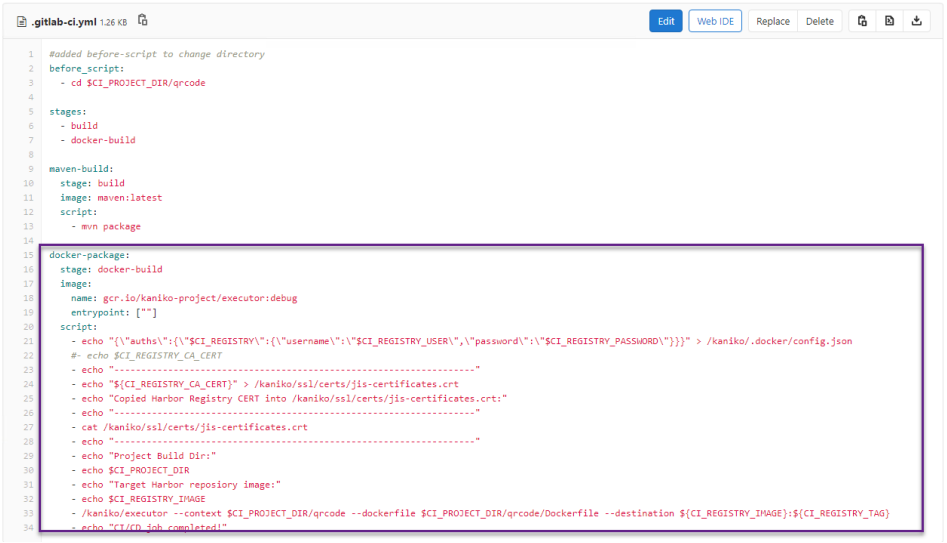
(reason being that we will basically automate commands like: “**docker login ${CI_REGISTRY} -u ${CI_REGISTRY_USER} -p ${CI_REGISTRY_PASSWORD}”** to run as API call from CI/CD script)

- 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 image 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-
certificates.crt
    - 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_IMAGE
harbor.corp.local/daniel_project1/dockersample
$ /kaniko/executor --context $CI_PROJECT_DIR/qrcode --dockerfile $CI_PROJECT_DIR/qrcode/Dockerfile --destination ${CI_REGISTRY_IMAGE}:${CI_REGISTRY_TAG}
E0519 20:30:03.697637      16 aws_credentials.go:77] 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"]
$ echo "CI/CD job completed!"
CI/CD job completed!
Running after_script
Saving cache
Uploading artifacts for successful job
```

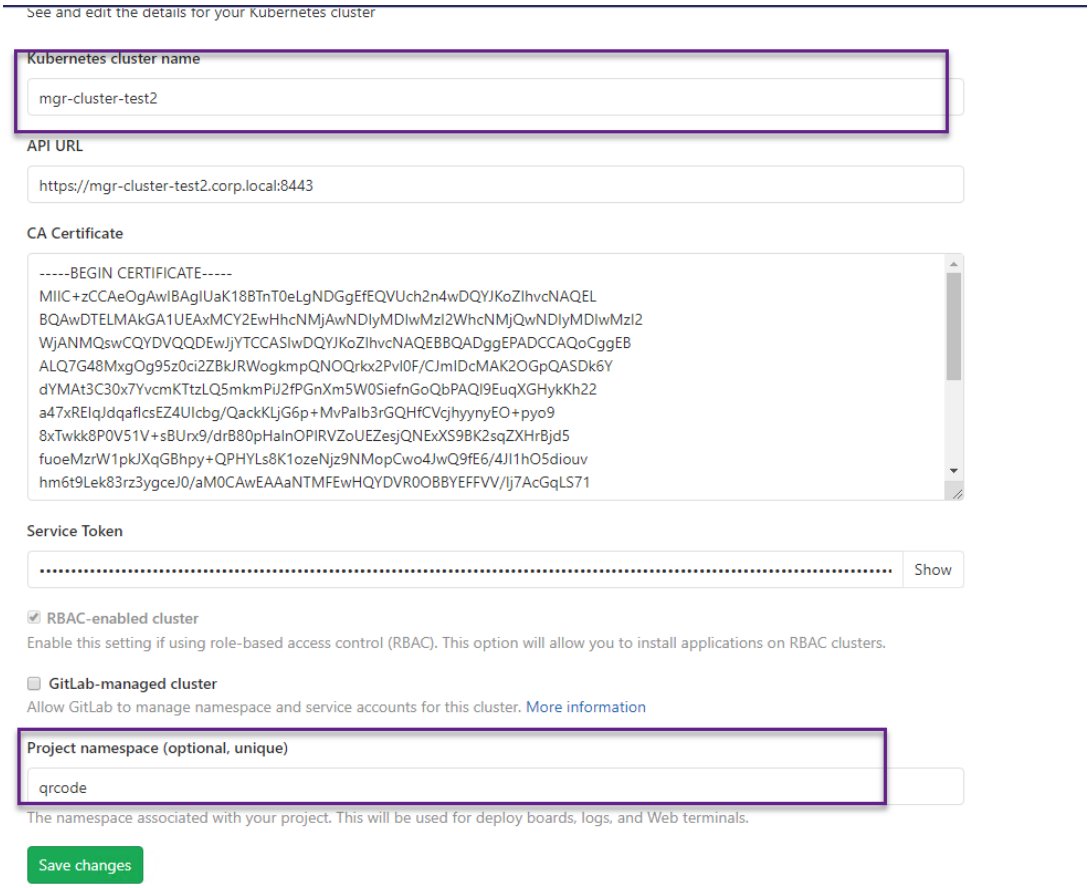
- If Pipeline execution is successful, in the target Harbor project/repository there should be a new built/pushed image(s) from GitLab project, tagged according to passed value of CI_REGISTRY_TAG variable and scanned for vulnerabilities, per project settings:

- 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-ci-configuration-path

6. *Configure and Execute CI/CD Pipeline for Deployment of Application from Registry to K8s Cluster*

In this section we will continue building our end-to-end pipeline that will implement automated deployment of container images from Harbor registry (pushed by previous CI/CD stages) into TKGI Kubernetes cluster integrated with our project

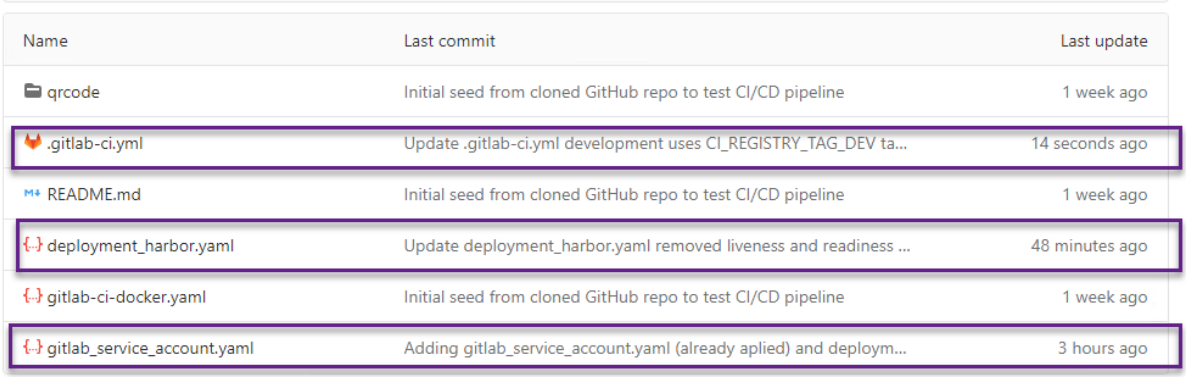
- Similar to how it was done in Section 3 (for deployment of GitLab Runner into the **mgr-cluster-test1** K8s cluster), we will integrate a TKGI K8s cluster **mgr-cluster-test2** for deployment of an application to our GitLab project. Below are properties of an integrated K8s cluster for our project "dockersample":



NOTE: Optional project namespace property will map into K8s namespace that would be set as a target namespace for applications depoyment. In our example, that namespace is "qrcode" and it will need to exist in the target K8s cluster when application will be deployed by CI/CD pipeline

- We will add 2 Kubernetes related files to our GitLab project repository:

- Deployment descriptor for GitLab Service Account used to create service account for integration with K8s cluster above (gitlab-service-account.yaml)
- Deployment descriptor for deployment of application containers into K8s cluster (deployment_harbor.yaml)



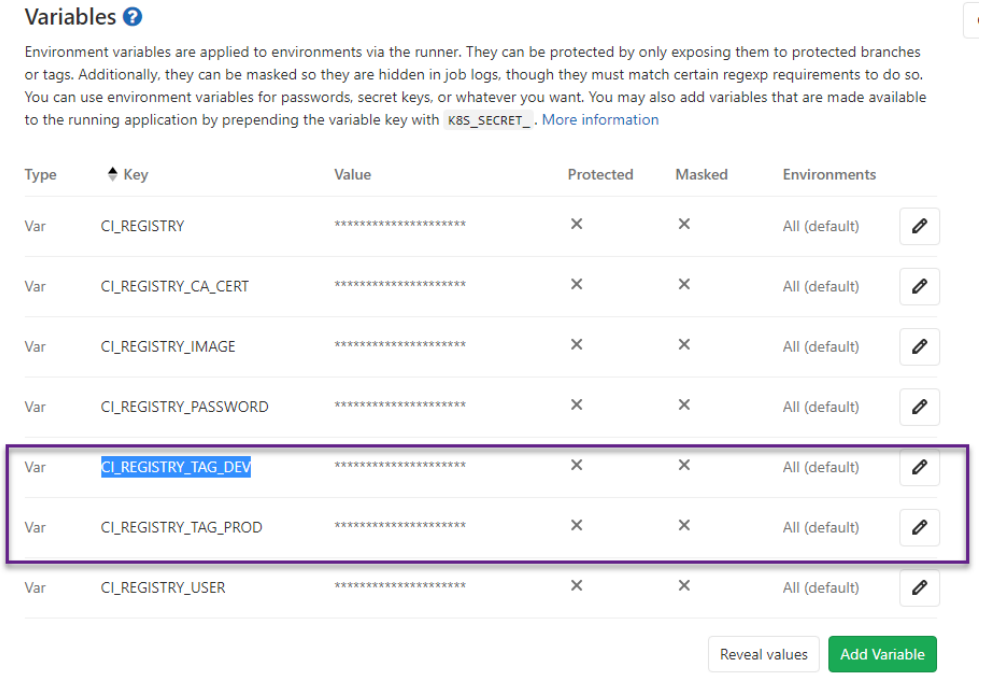
Name	Last commit	Last update
qrcode	Initial seed from cloned GitHub repo to test CI/CD pipeline	1 week ago
.gitlab-ci.yml	Update .gitlab-ci.yml development uses CI_REGISTRY_TAG_DEV ta...	14 seconds ago
README.md	Initial seed from cloned GitHub repo to test CI/CD pipeline	1 week ago
deployment_harbor.yaml	Update deployment_harbor.yaml removed liveness and readiness ...	48 minutes ago
gitlab-ci-docker.yaml	Initial seed from cloned GitHub repo to test CI/CD pipeline	1 week ago
gitlab_service_account.yaml	Adding gitlab_service_account.yaml (already aplied) and deploym...	3 hours ago

- Below is the content of **deployment_harbor.yaml** file – a pretty standard K8s Deployment descriptor that specifies image name, labels and number of replicas to be created in ReplicaSet as well as K8s secret with Harbor login credentials that would need to exist in the namespace where application will be deployed:

```
---
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: qrcode-java
  #namespace: hello-world
  labels:
    app: qrcode
spec:
  replicas: 2
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: qrcode
  strategy:
    type: RollingUpdate
    rollingUpdate:
      maxSurge: 1
      maxUnavailable: 33%
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: qrcode
    spec:
      imagePullSecrets:
        - name: regcred
      containers:
        - name: qrcode
```

```
          #NOTE: cicd-v3 tag is for deploymet branch, will
have to use another one for production
          image:
harbor.corp.local/daniel_project1/dockersample:cicd-v3
          ports:
            - containerPort: 8080
```

NOTE: in this version, the images tagged as **harbor.corp.local/daniel_project1/dockersample:cicd-v3** is expected to be present in the Harbor repository at the time of deployment to K8s. That tag value is contained in the CA_REGISTRY_TAG_DEV variable below



- Now we need to add the stage to our CI/CD pipeline script (.gitlab-ci.yaml defined in the Section 4) that will take care of establishing connection to target K8s cluster and performing all necessary steps to deploy our application using deployment descriptor above:

```
….
deploy to development:
  stage: deploy
  image:  "registry.gitlab.com/gitlab-org/cluster-
integration/auto-deploy-image:v0.15.0"
  script:
    - echo "Will use target K8s API Server:"
    - echo $K8S_SERVER
    - echo "TEST BUILT IN K8s VARS:"
    - echo "Will use KUBE_URL:"
    - echo $KUBE_URL
```

```
    #- echo "KUBE_TOKEN:"
    #- echo $KUBE_TOKEN
    - echo "KUBE_NAMESPACE:"
    - echo $KUBE_NAMESPACE
    - echo "Path to kubeconfig:"
    - echo  $KUBECONFIG
    - echo "================================="
    - echo "Trying to 'get nodes' using default
kubeconfig setting..."
    # will use syntax like kubectl config --
kubeconfig=config-demo set-cluster
    - kubectl --kubeconfig="${KUBECONFIG}" get nodes
    - echo "================================="
    - echo "CHECK K8s current context set to:"
    - kubectl config current-context
    - echo "Getting Nodes info w/o using context:"
    - kubectl get nodes
    #- echo "-----------------------------------------
-----"
    # TODO: add error handling in case if NS exists
    - kubectl create ns $KUBE_NAMESPACE
    - echo "Creating regcred Docker login secret
'regcred'.."
    - kubectl create secret docker-registry regcred --
docker-server=$CI_REGISTRY --docker-
username=$CI_REGISTRY_USER --docker-
password=$CI_REGISTRY_PASSWORD --docker-
email=admin_harbor@acelab.local
    - kubectl get secrets
    - echo "Will deploy QR Code container app to target
cluster:"
    - kubectl apply -f
$CI_PROJECT_DIR/deployment_harbor.yaml
    - echo "QR Code container deployed to K8s cluster,
checking Pod status:"
    #- kubectl get po -n default
    - kubectl get po -n $KUBE_NAMESPACE

  environment:
    name: development
```

NOTES:

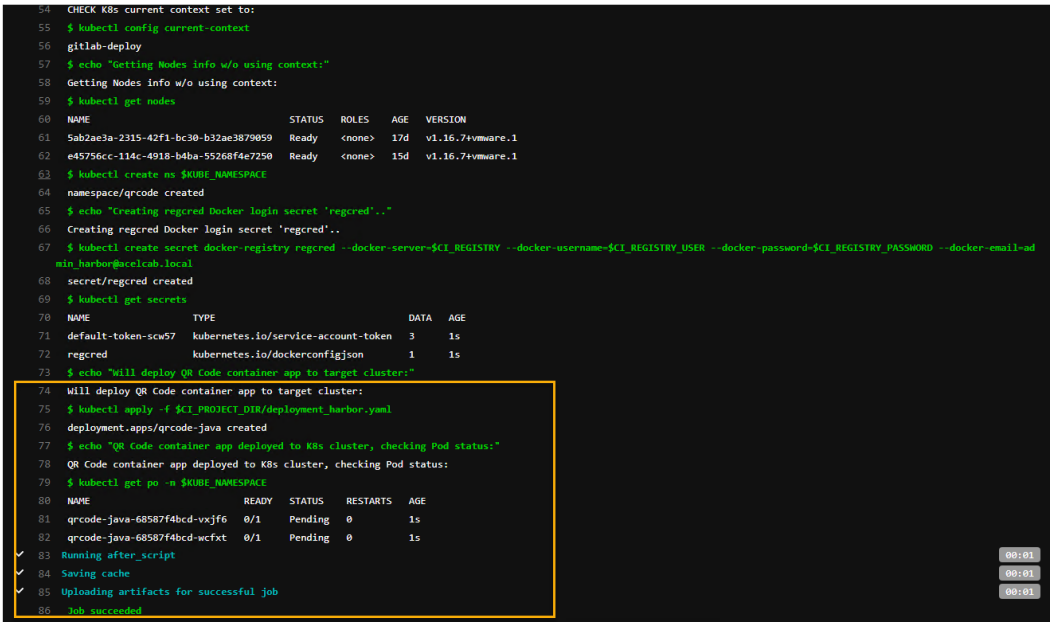
- We are using a different container image to run that stage, "registry.gitlab.com/gitlab-org/cluster-integration/auto-deploy-image:v0.15.0" that has kubectl CLI utility pre-installed

- $KUBE_URL, $KUBE_TOKEN, $KUBE_NAMESPACE and $KUBECONFIG are K8s environment variables that become available to CI/CD script once an **environment** is defined in there, as in the last 2 lines above (see details in documentation: https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/user/project/clusters/#deploying-to-a-kubernetes-cluster)
- $KUBECONFIG variable contains path to K8s configuration file placed on the 'builder' image that can be used by 'kubectl' CLI utility, pretty much the only parameter needed for access to target cluster
- Namespace contained in the $KUBE_NAMESPACE needs to exist in the target K8s cluster so it is getting created by `kubectl create ns $KUBE_NAMESPACE` command
- A secret containing Harbor private registry credentials for deployment of an image needs to exist in that namespace and gets created by `kubectl create secret docker-registry regcred …` command.
- Actual application deployment is done by running `kubectl apply -f $CI_PROJECT_DIR/deployment_harbor.yaml` command that is using deployment descriptor above
- Multiple '- echo ' operators are placed into the script for debugging purposes and can be removed

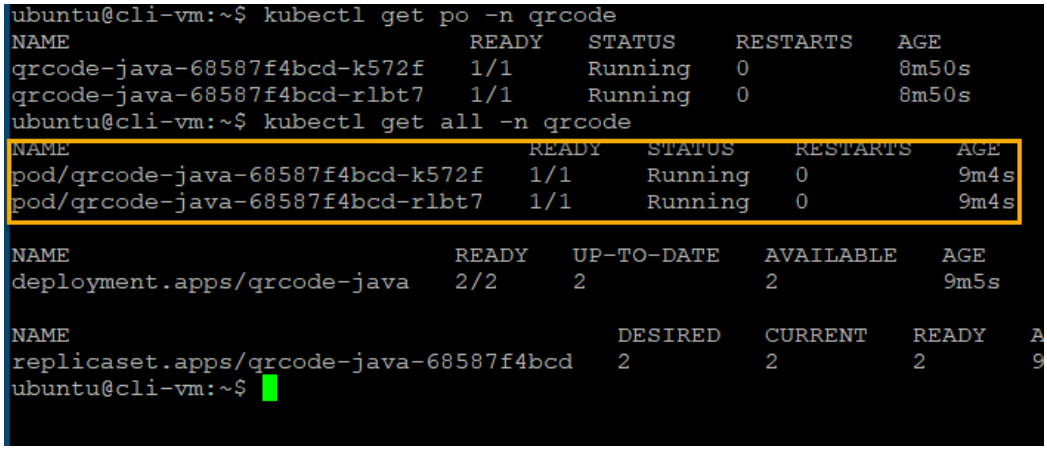
- When our CI/CD pipeline is executed end-to-end, it first rebuilds a Docker image from the source code and instructions contained in the Dockerfile, tags it with value $CI_REGISTRY_TAG_DEV and pushes it into corresponding repository in Harbor. An output of **docker-package** section is shown below:

```
harbor.corp.local/daniel_project1/dockersample
$ /kaniko/executor --context $CI_PROJECT_DIR/qrcode --dockerfile $CI_PROJECT_DIR/qrcode/Dockerfile --destination ${CI_REGISTRY_IMAGE}:${CI_REGISTRY_TAG}
E0529 21:15:42.011468      17 aws_credentials.go:77] while getting AWS credentials NoCredentialProviders: no valid providers in chain. Deprecated.
      For verbose messaging see aws.Config.CredentialsChainVerboseErrors
INFO[0044] Retrieving image manifest java:8-jdk-alpine
INFO[0045] Retrieving image manifest java:8-jdk-alpine
INFO[0046] Built cross stage deps: map[]
INFO[0046] Retrieving image manifest java:8-jdk-alpine
INFO[0047] Retrieving image manifest java:8-jdk-alpine
INFO[0048] Executing 0 build triggers
INFO[0048] Unpacking rootfs as cmd COPY ./target/qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar /usr/app/ requires it.
INFO[0056] COPY ./target/qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar /usr/app/
INFO[0056] Resolving 1 paths
INFO[0056] Taking snapshot of files...
INFO[0057] WORKDIR /usr/app
INFO[0057] cmd: workdir
INFO[0057] Changed working directory to /usr/app
INFO[0057] RUN sh -c 'touch qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar'
INFO[0057] Taking snapshot of full filesystem...
INFO[0061] Resolving 1672 paths
INFO[0062] cmd: /bin/sh
INFO[0062] args: [-c sh -c 'touch qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar']
INFO[0062] Running: [/bin/sh -c sh -c 'touch qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar']
INFO[0062] Taking snapshot of full filesystem...
INFO[0062] Resolving 1672 paths
INFO[0064] ENTRYPOINT ["java" , "-jar" , "qrcode-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar"]
$ echo "CI/CD job completed, image should be available at:"
CI/CD job completed, image should be available at:
$ echo ${CI_REGISTRY_IMAGE}:${CI_REGISTRY_TAG}
harbor.corp.local/daniel_project1/dockersample:tied v3
Running after_script
Saving cache
Uploading artifacts for successful job
Job succeeded
```

Then script in the **deploy to development** stage performs deployment of container image from Harbor registry according to deployment descriptor into created namespace in the K8s cluster:



And checking directly in the **mgr-cluster-test2** K8s cluster, we can see 2 replicas of **qrcode-java** running



NOTES:

- In addition to **development** environment, other environments (e.g. **staging**, **production**) can be defined in the CI/CD script sections and contain different deployment instructions/parameters such as Docker image tags. That's the purpose of having CI_REGISTRY_TAG_PROD variable. Please see documentation for CI/CD pipelines: https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/ci/pipelines/index.html
- There may be **test** stage defined, with jobs for testing deployed application.

- As in our example, GitLab Runner containers and deployed applications may run in different K8s clusters (in fact, that may be preferred) - they just need to have networking/DNS access to each other as **mgr-cluster-test1** and **mgr-cluster-test2** do**.**