Multi-architecture devOps using OpenShift

In this lab you will learn how to deploy a Jenkins pipeline to build your source code from github and deploy it to both OpenShift on Intel and OpenShift on IBM Z/LinuxONE.

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Environment

- RedHat OpenShift (ROKS) on IBM Cloud
- RedHat OpenShift on IBM LinuxONE (in IBM Washington System Center)
- Jenkins (in IBM Washington System Center)
- IBM Container Registry on IBM Cloud
- Jenkins agent on IBM LinuxONE Community Cloud

ID Prerequisites

- GitHub
- Docker
- IBM Cloud
- IBM Washington System Center (will be distributed as part of the lab)
- LinuxONE Community Cloud (optional, but useful for self paced lab)

What is a multi-architecture deployment anyway?

A multi-architecture deployment is a deployment that lets you consume the same image (e.g hello-world:latest) on any platform using the same deployment artifacts (pod definitions, deployments, services, routes etc). This greatly simplifies the deployment process while letting an organization optimize for metrics like:

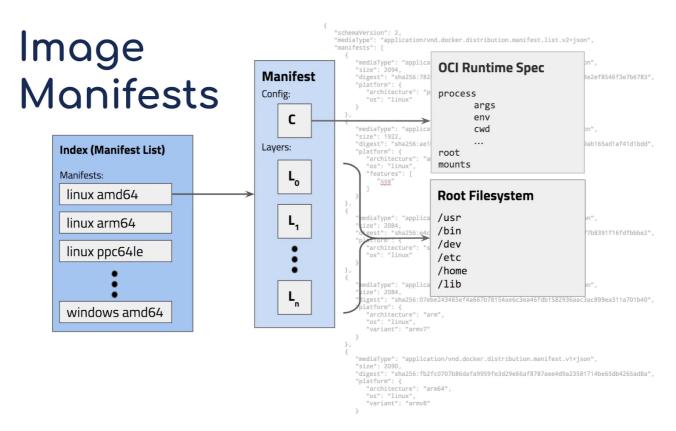
- Cost
- Throughput
- Latency
- Security and Compliance
- Scalability

- Resiliency and reliability
- Uptime

Platform includes:

- Operating System (windows, linux etc)
- Instruction Architecture (amd64, s390x, ppcle64, arm64 etc)

Multi-architecture Manifests



To enable multi-architecture, docker added support for manifests which let you link which platform to image (but exposing the end result as the same image). e.g "docker run hello-world" will first look at the version (latest is implied if no version tag is specified) then will check the local operating system and architecture (e.g linux, s390x) and query that combination in the registry. Once it fins that combination, it'll pull only that specific container locally. Multi-arch images are similar to "fat binaries" at the container registry level but single, os and architecture specific images at the docker daemon level.

By default the Docker daemon will look at its current operating system and architecture but it is possible to force download of a specific platform/architecture using the —platform command which is available in docker API 1.32+ amd meed experimental features turned on in Docker daemon. The full specification of multi-architecture manifests can be found here. More information on docker pull be found in the official docs here.

Building multi-arch images

Images are just binaries and as such, require to be built on the appropriate platform (build architecture = destination architecture). There are 2 ways of building multi-arch images:

- docker buildx builder
- docker default builder

The builx builder is the most convenient mechanism but can be slow for non-native architectures as it is emulating the target architectures ISA in qemu. Docker's default builder is the most popular and is used in production by almost every organization building multi-arch images.

Combining multi-arch images and manifests

The first step is to build the containers on each architecture and store then in a single location. You could push them separately once the manifest is pushed to the repo.

```
thinklab/go-ascii-banner:x64-latest
thinklab/go-ascii-banner:arm32-latest
thinklab/go-ascii-banner:s390x-latest
```

Next, we create a manifest which contains each of these images:

```
docker manifest create thinklab/go-ascii-banner:latest \
thinklab/go-ascii-banner:x64-latest \
thinklab/go-ascii-banner:arm32-latest \
thinklab/go-ascii-banner:s390x-latest
```

Now let's review the output of:

```
docker manifest inspect thinklab/go-ascii-banner:latest
```

```
"schemaVersion": 2,
 "mediaType":
"application/vnd.docker.distribution.manifest.list.v2+json",
  "manifests": [
      "mediaType": "application/vnd.docker.distribution.manifest.v2+json",
      "size": 3254,
      "digest": "sha256:....",
      "platform": {
        "architecture": "s390x",
        "os": "linux"
      }
    },
      "mediaType": "application/vnd.docker.distribution.manifest.v2+json",
      "size": 3038,
      "digest": "sha256:...",
      "platform": {
        "architecture": "arm",
        "os": "linux"
     }
    },
      "mediaType": "application/vnd.docker.distribution.manifest.v2+json",
```

```
"size": 2824,
    "digest": "sha256:...",
    "platform": {
        "architecture": "amd64",
        "os": "linux"
     }
    }
}
```

The manifest command automatically picked up and annotated the architecture and os for each image.

You could also manually annotate with:

```
docker manifest annotate thinklab/go-ascii-banner:latest \
thinklab/go-ascii-banner:s390x-latest --arch s390x --os linux
```

If we want to update the images referenced in the manifest, we could rebuild and tag appropriately, then run:

```
docker manifest create thinklab/go-ascii-banner:latest \
   --amend thinklab/go-ascii-banner:x64-latest \
   --amend thinklab/go-ascii-banner:s390x-latest
```

Finally to push to your container registry:

```
docker manifest push thinklab/go-ascii-banner:latest
```

Now you can do a docker pull on either Intel, ARM or IBM Z (s390x) and it will automatically pull the right container. This also applies to Kubernetes.

```
docker pull thinklab/go-ascii-banner
```

Container Registries

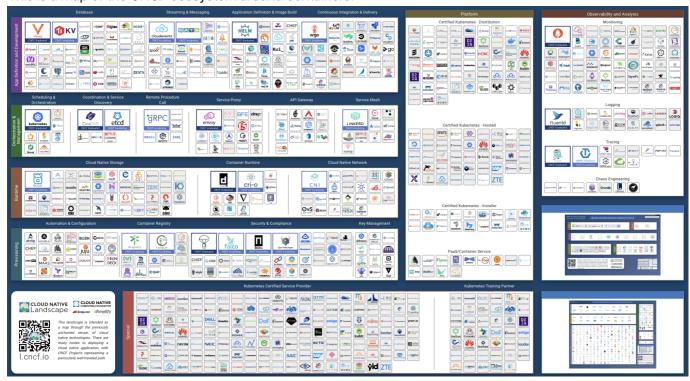
When doing multi-arch, not all container registries are created equal. There are a few factors that might be important to help make a selection.

Name	Supports multi-architecture manifests	Certified for LinuxONE	Independant Product
OpenShift Container Registry		▽	

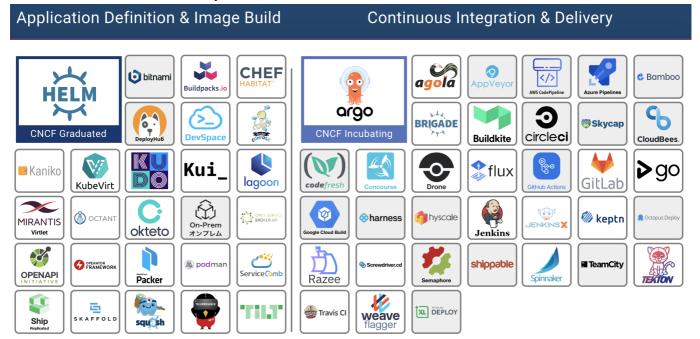
Name	Supports multi-architecture manifests	Certified for LinuxONE	Independant Product
Quay	V		V
Docker Trusted Registry	V	\checkmark	
jFrog Artifactory	V		V
Gitlab	V		V

DevOps ecosystem

This is a map of the CNCF ecosystem around containers:



Drill down to the build and delivery section:



As there are many options, each doing things in its own opinionated way, we will use Jenkins for this lab which will give you a foundation to build upon and consume the other tools.

Jenkins



We will not cover Jenkins setup as it is a "household name" in the world of modern delivery pipelines. More information can be found at Jenkins official

Useful plugins to install:

- SSH
- Kubernetes
- OpenShift Jenkins Pipeline
- OpenShift Login

Note: While using Jenkins plugins will make this *much* easier, we will do *devops the hard way* as a learning exercise in this lab.

We will be using Jenkins as a tool that can run bash scripts remotely. Other tools such as Tekton, JenkinsX, Razee etc make this much easier as they were built for kubernetes CI/CD. Cloud providers offer their own build tooling and now even GitHub offers native CI/CD with GitHub Actions.

If you don't specify a node, Jenkins will run the stage on any node. If you only use one architecture the default behavior might be ok but for multi-arch builds, you need to build on the deployment architecture if you use the native docker builder (docker build).

```
node ('s390x') {
    stage('Source') {
        // Get some code from our Git repository
        git 'https://github.com/IBM/node-s2i-openshift.git'
    }
    stage('Build') {
        // Build the container
        docker build -t node .
    }
    ..
}
```

Mixed node builds are also possible.

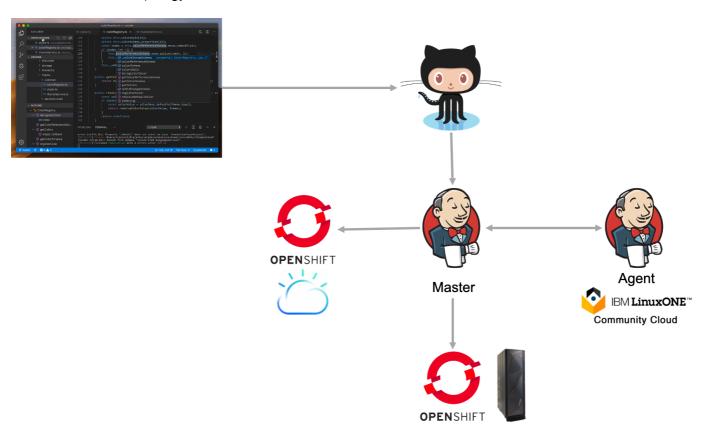
```
node ('s390x') {
...
}
```

```
node {
    ...
}
node ('prod') {
    ...
}
```

Here, the stages in the middle node {} can run on any node, the stages on the node ('prod') will run on any nodes with prod label and of course, node ('s390x') will run on our node labeled s390x for this lab.

Topology diagram:

The lab follows this topology:



Note: Using the kubernetes Jenkins plugin or OCP native Jenkins or other cloud native devOps pipline tooling would enable even fewer moving parts

Application

We picked a simple app, that provides some interactivity in terms of its output across code changes. We will be using a Go app that prints ASCII art from text.

Putting it all together

- 1. Fork the code into your GitHub repo
- 2. Modify the Jenkinsfile and replace ["GIT REPO HERE"] to use your repo
- 3. Copy the contents of the Jenkinsfile to your Jenkins job
- 4. Run the job
- 5. See your output at https://ip:port for your ROCKS cluster and https://ip:port for your OCP on Z cluster (links to both will be shown as part of the job
- 6. clone the repo you forked in step 1.
- 7. Change the Hello World in the code to anything you prefer and commit and push your code to github

```
myFigure := figure.NewFigure("Hello World", "", true)
```

8. Watch the Jenkins dashboard for activity and follow the links at end to get connectivity information to your code

As this job uses Github hooks, it'll automatically build after step 7.

Note, how our Jenkinsfile has a mix of node ('s390x') and node ('amd64').

Note, our use of manifests

IBM Multicloud Manager

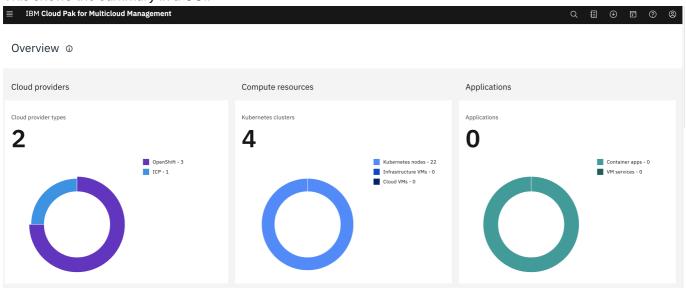
Using MCM you could add both OCP on Intel and Z clusters, setup a podPlacementPolicy and deploy your app to MCM and let MCM decide the best place to deploy it.

apiVersion: mcm.ibm.com/v1alpha1
 kind: PlacementPolicy
 metadata:
 name: placement1
 namespace: mcm
 spec:
 clusterLabels:
 matchLabels:
 cloud: ibm-linuxone

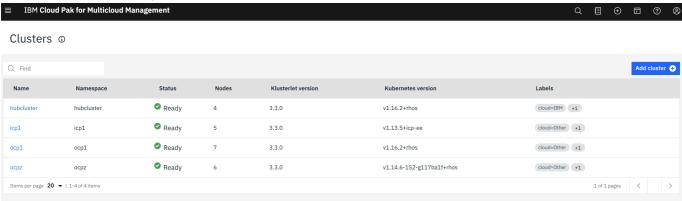
More details on placement policies can be found in the official IBM Multicloud Manager documentation

Our MCM cluster is setup with several kubernetes based PaaS clusters.

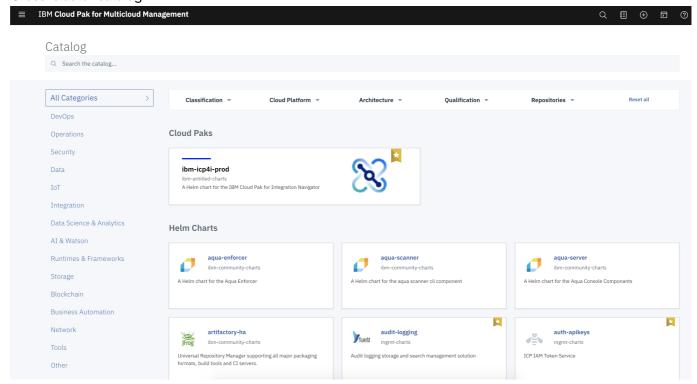
This shows the summary in a GUI:



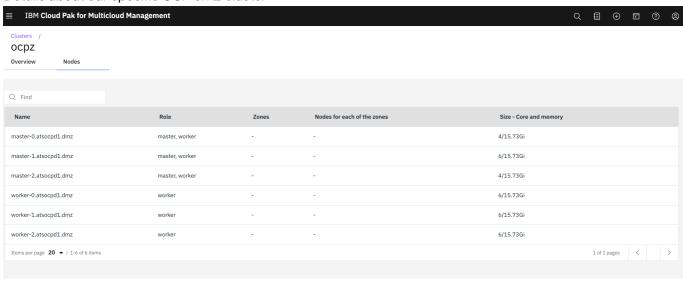
Cluster(s) health in a single view:



Cross-cluster catalog:



Details about our specific OCP on Z cluster



Clicking on the endpoint will take you to the OCP on Z Cluster:

