# AKS Networking Plugin Kubenet vs Azure CNI





# Network Plugin options in AKS

#### **Kubenet (Basic Networking)**

Default mode for AKS
Pod CIDR
Internal network

#### **Azure CNI (Advanced Networking)**

Dynamic IP allocation Overlay mode

#### Cilium

**Bring Your Own (BYO)** 

Calico CNI

# Network Plugin options in AKS

#### **Kubenet (Basic Networking)**

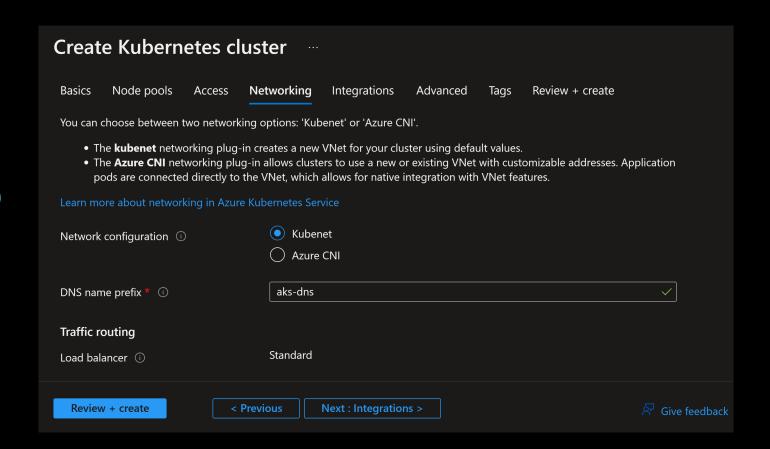
Default mode for AKS
Pod CIDR
Internal network

#### **Azure CNI (Advanced Networking)**

Dynamic IP allocation Overlay mode

#### Cilium

Bring Your Own (BYO)
Calico CNI



# **AKS Network Plugin: Kubenet**

Nodes get an IP address from the Azure virtual network subnet.

Pods receive an IP address from a logically different address space to the Azure virtual network subnet of the nodes.

Network address translation (NAT) is then configured so that the pods can reach resources on the VNET.

The source IP address of the traffic is NAT'd to the node's primary IP address.

This reduces the number of IP addresses that you need to reserve in your network space for pods to use.

### Create an AKS cluster with Kubenet

```
az group create --name rg-aks-cni --location westeurope
```

az aks create -g rg-aks-cni -n aks-cni --network-plugin kubenet

Name ↑↓	Type ↑↓
45508639-9b7d-468c-9eec-e0602fab461f	Public IP address
aks-agentpool-21301641-nsg	Network security group
aks-agentpool-21301641-routetable	Route table
aks-kubenet-agentpool	Managed Identity
aks-nodepool1-80782964-vmss	Virtual machine scale set
<b>←→</b> aks-vnet-21301641	Virtual network
kubernetes	Load balancer

### Kubenet: Nodes IPs are from Subnet

```
$ kubectl get nodes -o wide

NAME

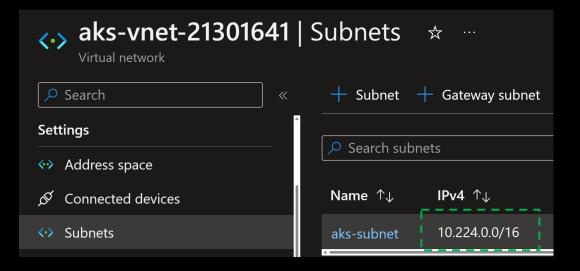
aks-nodepool1-10626751-vmss000000

aks-nodepool1-10626751-vmss000001

aks-nodepool1-10626751-vmss000002

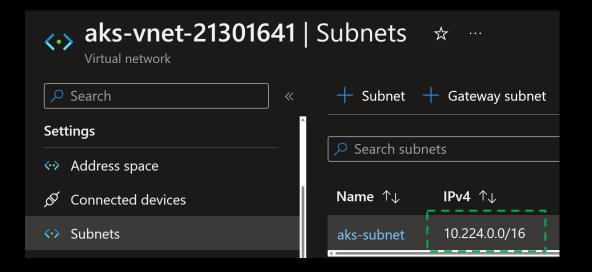
$ 10.224.0.6

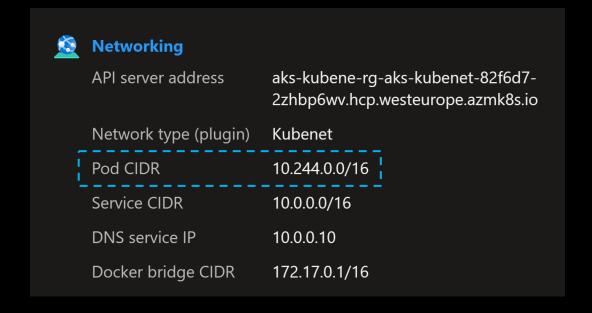
10.224.0.4
```



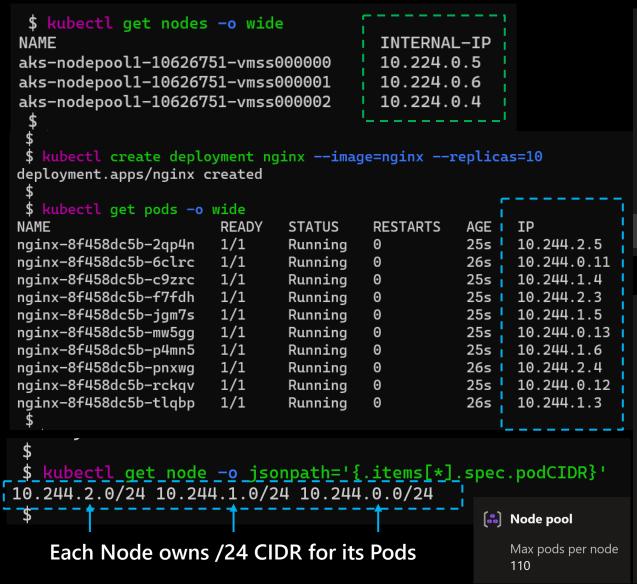
### Kubenet: Pods IPs are from Pod CIDR (except few system Pods)

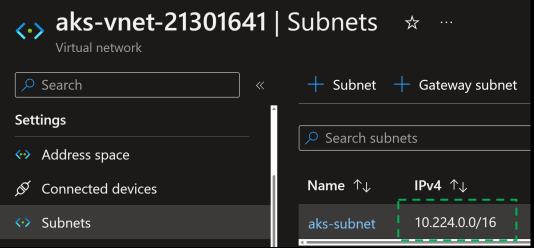
```
$ kubectl get nodes -o wide
NAME
                                          INTERNAL-IP
aks-nodepool1-10626751-vmss000000
                                          10.224.0.5
aks-nodepool1-10626751-vmss000001
                                          10.224.0.6
aks-nodepool1-10626751-vmss000002
                                          10.224.0.4
$ kubectl get pods -A -o wide
NAMESPACE
                                                     ΙP
             azure-ip-masg-agent-4rh2p
                                                     10.224.0.5
kube-system
kube-system
             azure-ip-masq-agent-5w5r8
                                                     10.224.0.4
kube-system
             azure-ip-masg-agent-sv8m4
                                                     10.224.0.6
             cloud-node-manager-7sblb
                                                     10.224.0.4
kube-system
             cloud-node-manager-8fstz
kube-system
                                                     10.224.0.5
             cloud-node-manager-jg826
kube-system
                                                     10.224.0.6
kube-system
             coredns-59b6bf8b4f-66hxq
                                                      10.244.0.8
kube-system
             coredns-59b6bf8b4f-t8wnb
                                                     10.244.0.6
             coredns-autoscaler-5655d66f64-2mvl8
kube-system
                                                     10.244.0.7
             csi-azuredisk-node-fxbnk
kube-system
                                                     10.224.0.6
kube-system
             csi-azuredisk-node-mcvzp
                                                      10.224.0.4
kube-system
             csi-azuredisk-node-mprpw
                                                     10.224.0.5
kube-system
             csi-azurefile-node-78npj
                                                     10.224.0.6
             csi-azurefile-node-cf6bl
                                                     10.224.0.5
kube-system
             csi-azurefile-node-p9xbs
kube-system
                                                     10.224.0.4
             konnectivity-agent-7cc8ddb5bc-flgkk
kube-system
                                                     10.244.2.2
              konnectivity-agent-7cc8ddb5bc-wzfmt
                                                     10.244.1.2
kube-system
kube-system
              kube-proxy-6768z
                                                     10.224.0.6
kube-system
             kube-proxy-hs997
                                                     10.224.0.4
             kube-proxy-k7kjk
kube-system
                                                     10.224.0.5
             metrics-server-5f8d84558d-d5qhq
kube-system
                                                     10.244.0.10
kube-system
             metrics-server-5f8d84558d-wvjzf
                                                      10.244.0.9
```

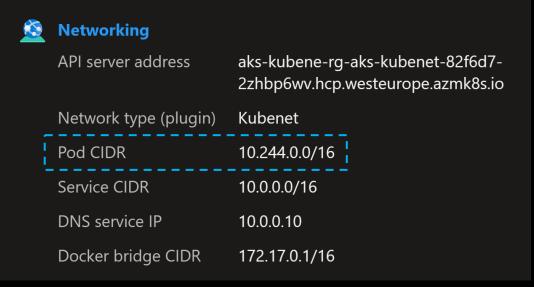




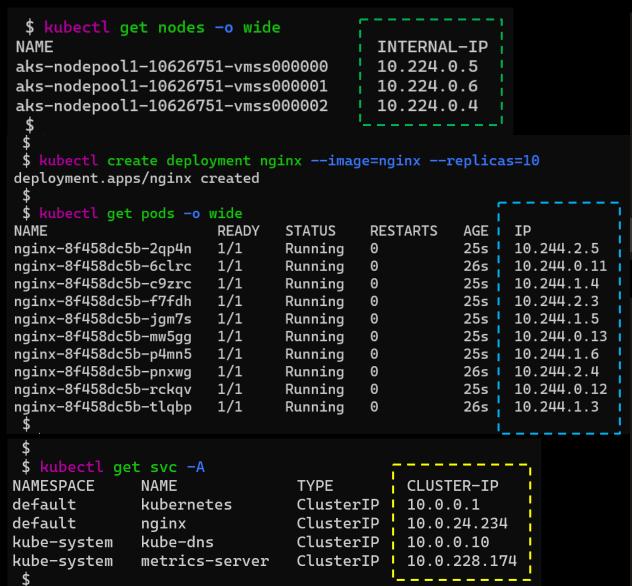
### **Kubenet: Pods IPs are from Pod CIDR**

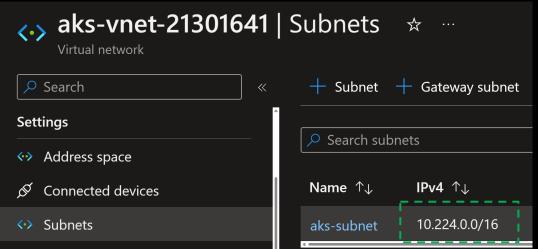


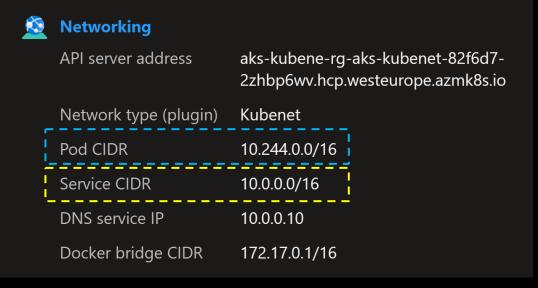




## **Kubenet:** Services IPs are from Service CIDR (like CNI)







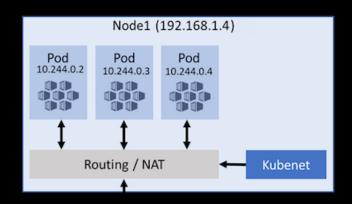
#### **How Kubenet works?**

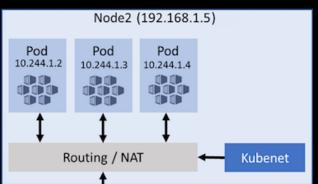
Pods can't communicate directly with each other.

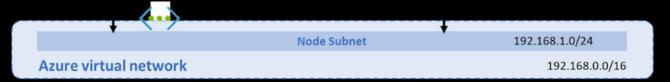
Instead, User Defined Routing (UDR) and IP forwarding is used for connectivity between pods across nodes.

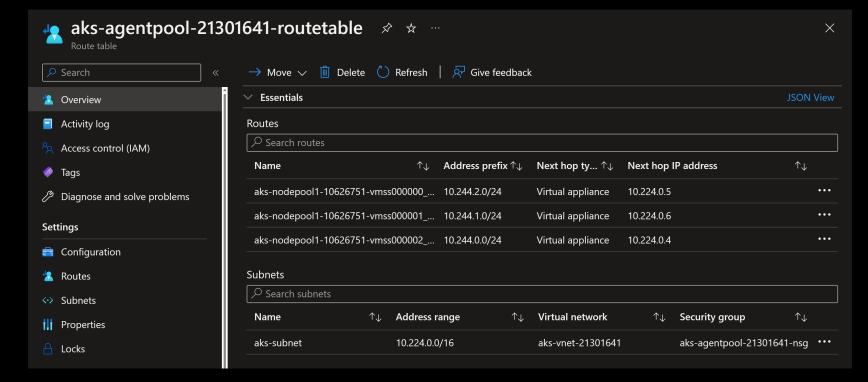
The source IP address of the traffic is NAT'd to the node's primary IP address.

Pods from different nodes communicates through Node route table.









### **Kubenet: Limitations**

Azure supports a maximum of 400 routes in a UDR, so you can't have an AKS cluster larger than 400 nodes.

An additional hop is required in the design of kubenet, which adds minor latency to pod communication.

#### Kubenet doesn't support:

- AKS Virtual Nodes
- Windows Nodepools
- Azure Network Policies
  You can use Calico Network Policies, as they are supported with kubenet.

# Recap: AKS with Kubenet

Nodes are assigned IP addresses from Subnet.

Pods are assigned IP addresses from Pod CIDR (internal network in Kubernetes).

Some system Pods are assigned the same IP address of the Node! Because Pods can request that.

# **AKS Network Plugin: Azure CNI**

Every pod gets an IP address from the subnet and can be accessed directly.

These IP addresses must be unique across the network space and must be planned in advance.

Each node has a configuration parameter for the maximum number of pods that it supports.

The equivalent number of IP addresses per node are then reserved up front for that node.

This approach requires more planning.

Might lead to IP address exhaustion or the need to rebuild clusters in a larger subnet as application demands grow.

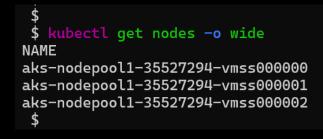
#### Create an AKS cluster with Azure CNI

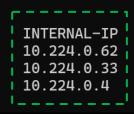
```
az group create --name rg-aks-cni --location westeurope
```

az aks create -g rg-aks-cni -n aks-cni --network-plugin azure

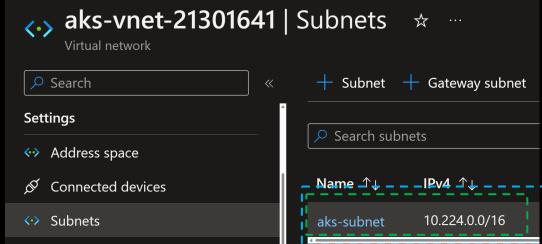
Name ↑↓	Type ↑↓
aks-agentpool-35006646-nsg	Network security group
aks-cni-agentpool	Managed Identity
aks-nodepool1-39057157-vmss	Virtual machine scale set
<b>◯ ⟨·&gt;</b> aks-vnet-35006646	Virtual network
b698b7dc-5b59-4dd0-b071-aae6a6463da3	Public IP address
kubernetes	Load balancer

### **Azure CNI: Node IPs are from Subnet**





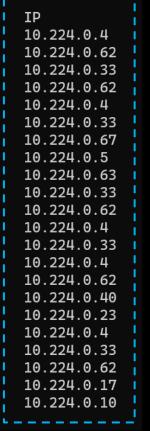


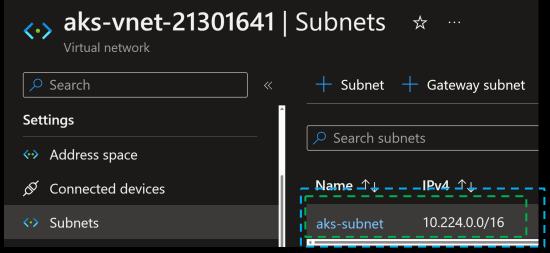


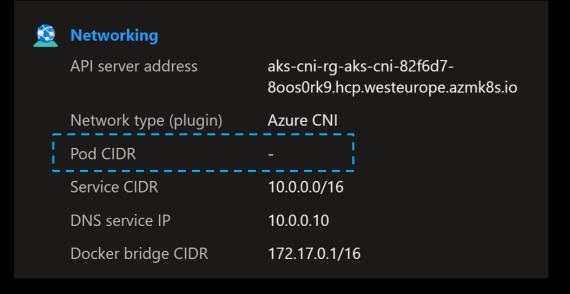
### **Azure CNI: Pods IPs are from Subnet**

```
$ kubectl get nodes -o wide
                                       INTERNAL-IP
NAME
                                       10.224.0.62
aks-nodepool1-35527294-vmss000000
aks-nodepool1-35527294-vmss000001
                                       10.224.0.33
aks-nodepool1-35527294-vmss000002
                                       10.224.0.4
 $ kubectl get pods -A -o wide
NAMESPACE
              azure-ip-masq-agent-bw2gh
kube-system
              azure-ip-masg-agent-v2z8c
kube-system
kube-system
              azure-ip-masg-agent-xgfkt
              cloud-node-manager-95mp2
kube-system
kube-system
              cloud-node-manager-mnxwx
              cloud-node-manager-xjbwd
kube-system
kube-system
              coredns-59b6bf8b4f-49xf2
              coredns-59b6bf8b4f-bdnkj
kube-system
kube-system
              coredns-autoscaler-5655d66f64-955b5
              csi-azuredisk-node-478kj
kube-system
kube-system
              csi-azuredisk-node-fzqfb
              csi-azuredisk-node-m8clc
kube-system
              csi-azurefile-node-j27tj
kube-system
              csi-azurefile-node-nf5d9
kube-system
kube-system
              csi-azurefile-node-w7dak
              konnectivity-agent-7d8d9bfc4b-jgpbg
kube-system
              konnectivity-agent-7d8d9bfc4b-twvvq
kube-system
kube-system
              kube-proxy-bn8gi
kube-system
              kube-proxy-q4r6t
kube-system
              kube-proxy-v9mjp
              metrics-server-5f8d84558d-csnwl
kube-system
kube-system
              metrics-server-5f8d84558d-z9wbm
```

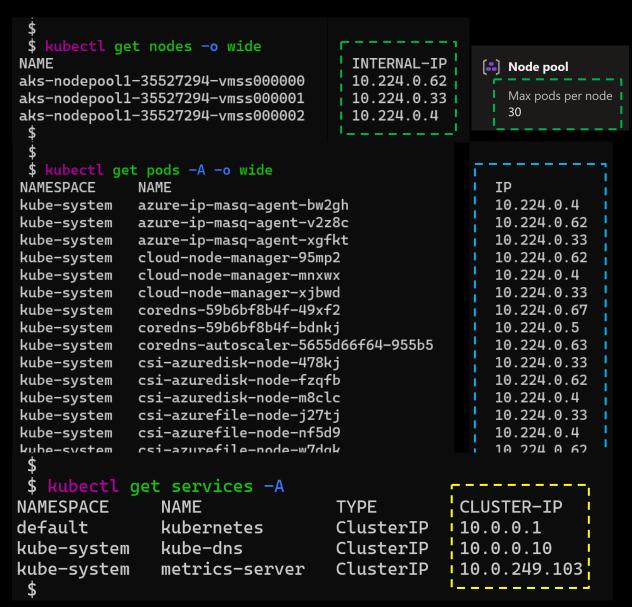


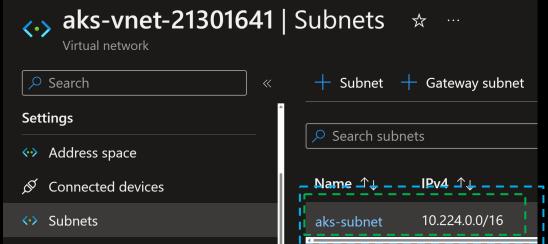


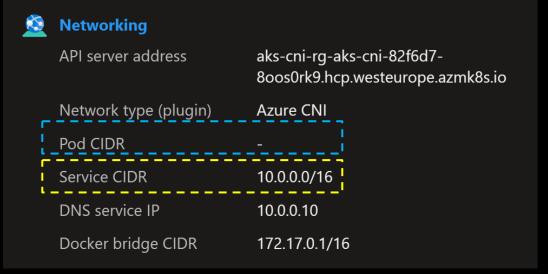




### Azure CNI: Services IPs are from Service CIDR (like Kubenet)







#### IPs utilization in Kubenet vs Azure CNI

How many Nodes and Pods could be deployed into a Subnet with CIDR /24?

Subnet reserves the first three IPs for management operations. Default maximum of 110 pods per node with kubenet. Default maximum of 30 pods per node with Azure CNI.

Subnet CIDR /24	Kubenet	Azure CNI
#Nodes	251 nodes	8 nodes
#Pods	27,610 (251*110) pods	240 (8*30) pods

- ⇒ Problem of IP exhaustion in Azure CNI.
- ⇒ Could be resolved using Azure CNI Overlay.

### **Kubenet or Azure CNI?**

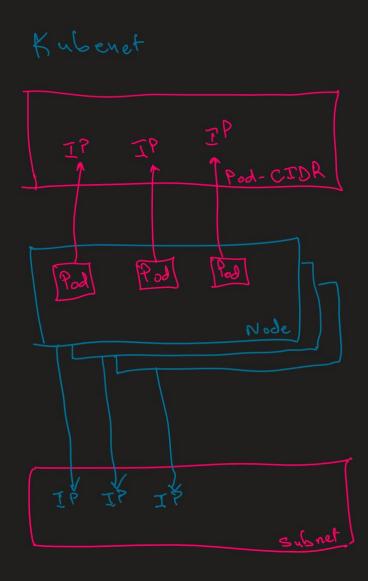
#### Use kubenet when:

- You have limited IP address space.
- Most of the pod communication is within the cluster.
- You don't need advanced AKS features such as virtual nodes or Azure Network Policy.

#### **Use Azure CNI when:**

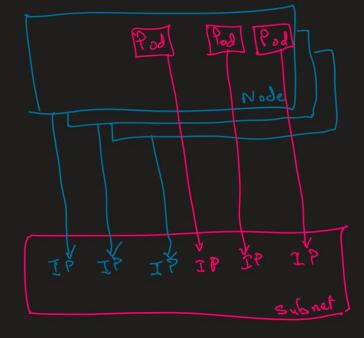
- You have available IP address space.
- Most of the pod communication is to resources outside of the cluster.
- You don't want to manage user defined routes for pod connectivity.
- You need AKS advanced features such as virtual nodes or Azure Network Policy.

### Kubenet vs Azure CNI



Azure CNI

Pod-CIDR = null



# **Azure CNI Overlay overview**

In overlay networking, only the Kubernetes cluster nodes are assigned IPs from a subnet.

Pods receive IPs from a private CIDR that is provided at the time of cluster creation.

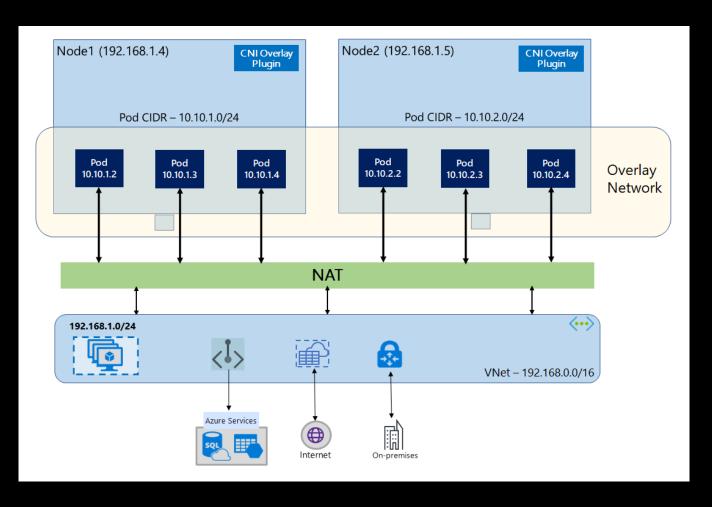
Each node is assigned:

- An IP address from Subnet
- /24 from Pod-CIDR to assign to its Pods.

There is no need to provision custom routes on the cluster subnet or use an encapsulation method to tunnel traffic between pods.

Promises connectivity performance between pods.

Endpoints outside the cluster can't connect to a pod directly.



# Create cluster with Azure CNI Overlay

Name ↑↓	Type ↑↓
aks-agentpool-51020892-nsg	Network security group
aks-cni-overlay-agentpool	Managed Identity
aks-nodepool1-14046306-vmss	Virtual machine scale set
<b> </b>	Virtual network
e1d2d241-1296-4c89-90ba-b300c5a5405d	Public IP address
kubernetes kubernetes	Load balancer

# Azure CNI Overlay: Node IPs are from Subnet

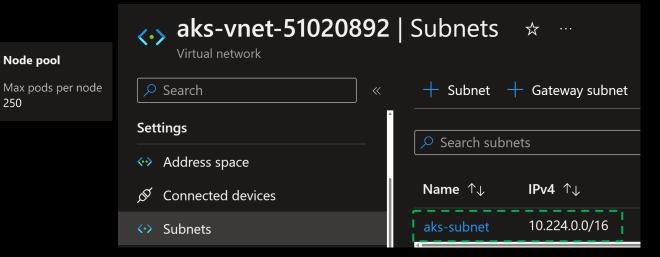
```
$ kubectl get nodes -o wide
                                                                                      aks-vnet-51020892 | Subnets ☆
                                               INTERNAL-IP
NAME
                                               10.224.0.4
aks-nodepool1-14046306-vmss000000
                                                                                           Virtual network
                                                                 Node pool
aks-nodepool1-14046306-vmss000001
                                               10.224.0.5
                                                                    Max pods per node
                                                                                      Search
                                                                                                                           + Subnet + Gateway subnet
aks-nodepool1-14046306-vmss000002
                                               10.224.0.6
                                                                    250
                                                                                     Settings
                                                                                                                           Search subnets
 $ kubectl get pods -A -o wide
 NAMESPACE
                                                      ΙP
                                                                                      Address space
              NAME
                                                      10.224.0.6
 kube-system
              azure-cns-8p4pq
                                                                                                                                         IPv4 ↑↓
                                                                                                                           Name ↑↓
                                                      10.224.0.4
              azure-cns-l76pf
 kube-system
                                                                                         Connected devices
                                                       10.224.0.5
 kube-system
              azure-cns-mjz6p
kube-system
              azure-ip-masg-agent-9h2dw
                                                       10.224.0.5
                                                                                                                           aks-subnet
                                                                                                                                         10.224.0.0/16
                                                                                      <→ Subnets
 kube-system
              azure-ip-masg-agent-ldwc8
                                                      10.224.0.6
 kube-system
              azure-ip-masq-agent-lr64z
                                                      10.224.0.4
kube-system
              cloud-node-manager-d7p55
                                                      10.224.0.6
              cloud-node-manager-fhkmr
                                                      10.224.0.5
 kube-system
                                                                              Networking
kube-system
              cloud-node-manager-pcgdn
                                                      10.224.0.4
              coredns-59b6bf8b4f-2nz4d
                                                      192.168.1.33
kube-system
                                                                              API server address
                                                                                                  aks-cni-ov-rg-aks-cni-overl-82f6d7-
              coredns-59b6bf8b4f-shk6w
                                                       192.168.0.165
kube-system
                                                                                                  iznmpgpa.hcp.westeurope.azmk8s.io
              coredns-autoscaler-5655d66f64-wwfdg
                                                      192.168.1.142
kube-system
              csi-azuredisk-node-6wpqt
                                                      10.224.0.5
 kube-svstem
                                                                              Network type (plugin) Azure CNI
                                                                                                                 "networkProfile": {
              csi-azuredisk-node-d992s
                                                      10.224.0.4
kube-system
                                                                                                                     "networkPlugin": "azure",
kube-svstem
              csi-azuredisk-node-fxqn2
                                                      10.224.0.6
                                                                              Pod CIDR
              csi-azurefile-node-74vcl
                                                      10.224.0.6
kube-system
                                                                                                                     "networkPluginMode": "overlay",
              csi-azurefile-node-f7q72
 kube-system
                                                      10.224.0.4
                                                                                                                     "networkDataplane": "azure",
              csi-azurefile-node-zchd4
                                                      10.224.0.5
                                                                              Service CIDR
                                                                                                  10.0.0.0/16
 kube-system
                                                                                                                     "loadBalancerSku": "Standard",
              konnectivity-agent-79bc94d486-d4t9j
                                                      192.168.1.53
kube-system
                                                                                                                     "loadBalancerProfile": { ...
              konnectivity-agent-79bc94d486-wb4rk
kube-system
                                                       192.168.1.62
                                                                              DNS service IP
                                                                                                  10.0.0.10
              kube-proxy-p28kk
                                                       10.224.0.6
 kube-system
                                                                                                                   I "podCidr": "192.168.0.0/16",
kube-system
              kube-proxy-p2k5c
                                                       10.224.0.4
                                                                              Docker bridge CIDR 172.17.0.1/16
                                                                                                                    "serviceCidr": "10.0.0.0/16",
              kube-proxy-q6d4b
kube-system
                                                      10.224.0.5
              metrics-server-5f8d84558d-dt95p
kube-system
                                                      192.168.0.233
                                                                                                                     "dnsServiceIP": "10.0.0.10",
kube-system
              metrics-server-5f8d84558d-jv46s
                                                       192.168.0.151
                                                                                                                     "dockerBridgeCidr": "172.17.0.1/16",
```

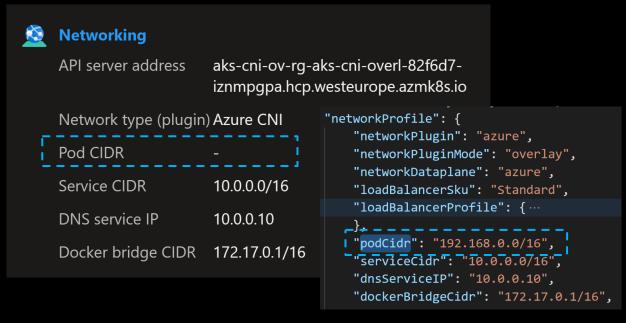
# **Azure CNI Overlay: Pod IPs are from Pod-CIDR**

Node pool

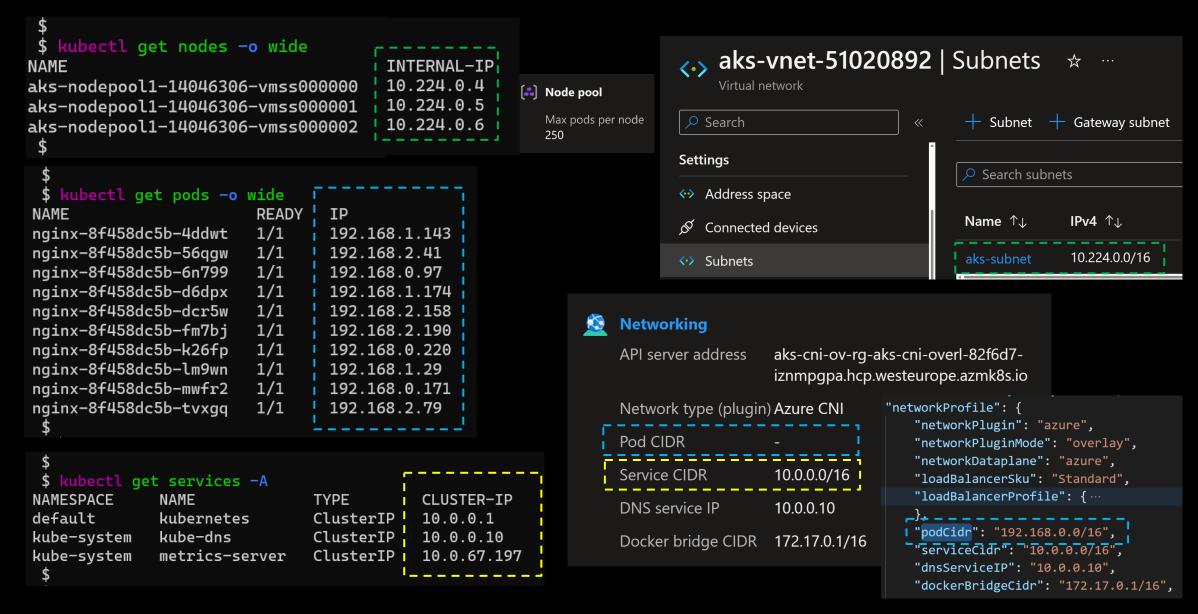
250

```
$ kubectl get nodes -o wide
                                      INTERNAL-IP
NAME
aks-nodepool1-14046306-vmss000000
                                      10.224.0.4
aks-nodepool1-14046306-vmss000001
                                      10.224.0.5
                                      10.224.0.6
aks-nodepool1-14046306-vmss000002
 $ kubectl get pods -o wide
NAME
                        READY
nainx-8f458dc5b-4ddwt
                        1/1
                                192.168.1.143
nginx-8f458dc5b-56ggw
                        1/1
                                192.168.2.41
nginx-8f458dc5b-6n799
                        1/1
                                192.168.0.97
nginx-8f458dc5b-d6dpx
                        1/1
                                192.168.1.174
                                192.168.2.158
nginx-8f458dc5b-dcr5w
                        1/1
nainx-8f458dc5b-fm7bi
                        1/1
                                192.168.2.190
nginx-8f458dc5b-k26fp
                                192.168.0.220
                        1/1
nginx-8f458dc5b-lm9wn
                        1/1
                                192.168.1.29
nginx-8f458dc5b-mwfr2
                        1/1
                                192.168.0.171
nginx-8f458dc5b-tvxgq
                        1/1
                                192.168.2.79
```





### **Azure CNI:** Service IPs are from Service-CIDR



# Kubenet vs Azure CNI Overlay

Area	Azure CNI Overlay	Kubenet
Cluster scale	1000 nodes and 250 pods/node	400 nodes and 250 pods/node
Network configuration	Simple - no additional configuration required for pod networking	Complex - requires route tables and UDRs on cluster subnet for pod networking
Pod connectivity performance	Performance on par with VMs in a VNet	Additional hop adds minor latency
Kubernetes Network Policies	Azure Network Policies, Calico, Cilium	Calico
OS platforms supported	Linux and Windows Server 2022	Linux only

# **Limitations of Azure CNI Overlay**

**Azure CNI Overlay has the following limitations:** 

- You can't use Application Gateway as an Ingress Controller (AGIC) for an overlay cluster.
- Windows Server 2019 node pools are not supported for overlay.

# Bring your own CNI

Cilium (OSS & Enterprise)

Calico CNI

Canal

Flannel

Weave

### CIDR Subnet, Pod, Service & Docker Bridge overlapping

Subnet, Pod, Service & Docker Bridge should have different CIDR ranges. No overlap. Pod, Service and Docker Bridge CIDRs could be the same for different clusters.

These IP address ranges should be an address space that isn't in use elsewhere in:

- Your network environment
  - o including any on-premises network ranges connected, or plan to connect.
- Your Azure virtual networks using Express Route or a Site-to-Site VPN connection.

#### AKS clusters may not use:

- 169.254.0.0/16
- 172.30.0.0/16
- 172.31.0.0/16
- 192.0.2.0/24

#### for the:

- Service-CIDR
- Pod-CIDR
- Cluster virtual network

Can't be updated after cluster creation.

```
az aks create \
    --resource-group myResourceGroup \
    --name myAKSCluster \
    --network-plugin kubenet \
    --service-cidr 10.0.0.0/16 \
    --dns-service-ip 10.0.0.10 \
    --pod-cidr 10.244.0.0/16 \
    --docker-bridge-address 172.17.0.1/16 \
    --vnet-subnet-id $SUBNET_ID
```