How to Install Kubernetes Cluster on Ubuntu 24.04 LTS (Step-by-Step Guide)

Introduction

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Kubernetes is a powerful container orchestration platform used for automating the deployment, scaling, and management of containerized applications. In this guide, we will walk you through the step-by-step process of installing Kubernetes on Ubuntu 22.04. This cluster configuration includes a master node and worker nodes, allowing you to harness the full power of Kubernetes.

Kubernetes Nodes

In a Kubernetes cluster, you will encounter two distinct categories of nodes:

Master Nodes: These nodes play a crucial role in managing the control API calls for various components within the Kubernetes cluster. This includes overseeing pods, replication controllers, services, nodes, and more.

Worker Nodes: Worker nodes are responsible for providing runtime environments for containers. It's worth noting that a group of container pods

can extend across multiple worker nodes, ensuring optimal resource allocation and management.

Prerequisites

Before diving into the installation, ensure that your environment meets the following prerequisites:

- An Ubuntu 24.04 LTS system.
- Privileged access to the system (root or sudo user).
- Active internet connection.
- Minimum 2GB RAM or more.
- Minimum 2 CPU cores (or 2 vCPUs).
- 20 GB of free disk space on /var (or more).

Step 1: Update and Upgrade Ubuntu (all nodes)

Begin by ensuring that your system is up to date. Open a terminal and execute the following commands:

```
sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y
```

Step 2: Disable Swap (all nodes)

To enhance Kubernetes performance, disable swap and set essential kernel parameters. Run the following commands on all nodes to disable all swaps:

```
sudo swapoff -a
```

```
sudo sed -i '/ swap / s/^\(.*\)$/#\1/g' /etc/fstab
```

Step 3: Add Kernel Parameters (all nodes)

Load the required kernel modules on all nodes:

```
sudo tee /etc/modules-load.d/containerd.conf <<EOF
overlay
br_netfilter
EOF
sudo modprobe overlay
sudo modprobe br_netfilter
```

Configure the critical kernel parameters for Kubernetes using the following:

```
sudo tee /etc/sysctl.d/kubernetes.conf <<EOF
net.bridge.bridge-nf-call-ip6tables = 1
net.bridge.bridge-nf-call-iptables = 1
net.ipv4.ip_forward = 1
EOF
```

Then, reload the changes:

```
sudo sysctl --system
```

Step 4: Install Containerd Runtime (all nodes)

We are using the containerd runtime. Install containerd and its dependencies with the following commands:

```
sudo apt install -y curl gnupg2 software-properties-common apt-transport-https c
```

Enable the Docker repository:

```
sudo curl -fsSL https://download.docker.com/linux/ubuntu/gpg | sudo gpg --dearmc
sudo add-apt-repository "deb [arch=amd64] https://download.docker.com/linux/ubur
```

Update the package list and install containerd:

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install -y containerd.io
```

Configure containerd to start using systemd as cgroup:

```
containerd config default | sudo tee /etc/containerd/config.toml >/dev/null 2>&1
sudo sed -i 's/SystemdCgroup \= false/SystemdCgroup \= true/g' /etc/containerd/c
```

Restart and enable the containerd service:

```
sudo systemctl restart containerd
sudo systemctl enable containerd
```

Step 5: Add Apt Repository for Kubernetes (all nodes)

Kubernetes packages are not available in the default Ubuntu 22.04 repositories. Add the Kubernetes repositories with the following commands:

```
echo "deb [signed-by=/etc/apt/keyrings/kubernetes-apt-keyring.gpg] https://pkgs.
curl -fsSL https://pkgs.k8s.io/core:/stable:/v1.30/deb/Release.key | sudo gpg --
```

Step 6: Install Kubectl, Kubeadm, and Kubelet (all nodes)

After adding the repositories, install essential Kubernetes components, including kubectl, kubelet, and kubeadm, on all nodes with the following commands:

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install -y kubelet kubeadm kubectl
sudo apt-mark hold kubelet kubeadm kubectl
```

Step 7: Initialize Kubernetes Cluster with Kubeadm (master node)

With all the prerequisites in place, initialize the Kubernetes cluster on the master node using the following Kubeadm command:

```
sudo kubeadm init
```

```
root@master:~# sudo kubeadm init
[init] Using Kubernetes version: v1.30.3
[preflight] Running pre-flight checks
[preflight] Pulling images required for setting up a Kubernetes cluster
[preflight] This might take a minute or two, depending on the speed of your inte
[preflight] You can also perform this action in beforehand using 'kubeadm config
W0810 16:57:59.292992   15792 checks.go:844] detected that the sandbox image "re
[certs] Using certificateDir folder "/etc/kubernetes/pki"
[certs] Generating "ca" certificate and key
[certs] Generating "apiserver" certificate and key
[certs] apiserver serving cert is signed for DNS names [kubernetes kubernetes.de
[certs] Generating "apiserver-kubelet-client" certificate and key
[certs] Generating "front-proxy-ca" certificate and key
[certs] Generating "front-proxy-client" certificate and key
[certs] Generating "etcd/ca" certificate and key
[certs] Generating "etcd/server" certificate and key
[certs] etcd/server serving cert is signed for DNS names [localhost master] and
[certs] Generating "etcd/peer" certificate and key
[certs] etcd/peer serving cert is signed for DNS names [localhost master] and IP
[certs] Generating "etcd/healthcheck-client" certificate and key
[certs] Generating "apiserver-etcd-client" certificate and key
[certs] Generating "sa" key and public key
[kubeconfig] Using kubeconfig folder "/etc/kubernetes"
[kubeconfig] Writing "admin.conf" kubeconfig file
[kubeconfig] Writing "super-admin.conf" kubeconfig file
[kubeconfig] Writing "kubelet.conf" kubeconfig file
[kubeconfig] Writing "controller-manager.conf" kubeconfig file
[kubeconfig] Writing "scheduler.conf" kubeconfig file
[etcd] Creating static Pod manifest for local etcd in "/etc/kubernetes/manifests
[control-plane] Using manifest folder "/etc/kubernetes/manifests"
[control-plane] Creating static Pod manifest for "kube-apiserver"
[control-plane] Creating static Pod manifest for "kube-controller-manager"
[control-plane] Creating static Pod manifest for "kube-scheduler"
[kubelet-start] Writing kubelet environment file with flags to file "/var/lib/ku
[kubelet-start] Writing kubelet configuration to file "/var/lib/kubelet/config.y
[kubelet-start] Starting the kubelet
[wait-control-plane] Waiting for the kubelet to boot up the control plane as sta
[kubelet-check] Waiting for a healthy kubelet. This can take up to 4m0s
[kubelet-check] The kubelet is healthy after 1.004099735s
[api-check] Waiting for a healthy API server. This can take up to 4m0s
[api-check] The API server is healthy after 6.502017982s
[upload-config] Storing the configuration used in ConfigMap "kubeadm-config" in
[kubelet] Creating a ConfigMap "kubelet-config" in namespace kube-system with th
[upload-certs] Skipping phase. Please see --upload-certs
[mark-control-plane] Marking the node master as control-plane by adding the labe
[mark-control-plane] Marking the node master as control-plane by adding the tain
[bootstrap-token] Using token: 72ww2b.6orffywqcf5s4p2z
[bootstrap-token] Configuring bootstrap tokens, cluster-info ConfigMap, RBAC Rol
[bootstrap-token] Configured RBAC rules to allow Node Bootstrap tokens to get no
```

```
[bootstrap-token] Configured RBAC rules to allow Node Bootstrap tokens to post C
[bootstrap-token] Configured RBAC rules to allow the csrapprover controller autc
[bootstrap-token] Configured RBAC rules to allow certificate rotation for all nc
[bootstrap-token] Creating the "cluster-info" ConfigMap in the "kube-public" nam
[kubelet-finalize] Updating "/etc/kubernetes/kubelet.conf" to point to a rotatab
[addons] Applied essential addon: CoreDNS
[addons] Applied essential addon: kube-proxy

Your Kubernetes control-plane has initialized successfully!

To start using your cluster, you need to run the following as a regular user:

  mkdir -p $HOME/.kube
  sudo cp -i /etc/kubernetes/admin.conf $HOME/.kube/config
  sudo chown $(id -u):$(id -g) $HOME/.kube/config

Alternatively, if you are the root user, you can run:

  export KUBECONFIG=/etc/kubernetes/admin.conf

You should now deploy a pod network to the cluster.
Run "kubectl apply -f [podnetwork].yaml" with one of the options listed at:
  https://kubernetes.io/docs/concepts/cluster-administration/addons/

Then you can join any number of worker nodes by running the following on each as

kubeadm join 138.197.184.45:6443 --token 72ww2b.6orffywqcf5s4p2z \
        --discovery-token-ca-cert-hash sha256:aafb79cdd45a6e3b3fac01fb3efba08173
root@master:~#  mkdir -p $HOME/.kube
  sudo cp -i /etc/kubernetes/admin.conf $HOME/.kube/config
  sudo chown $(id -u):$(id -g) $HOME/.kube/config
```

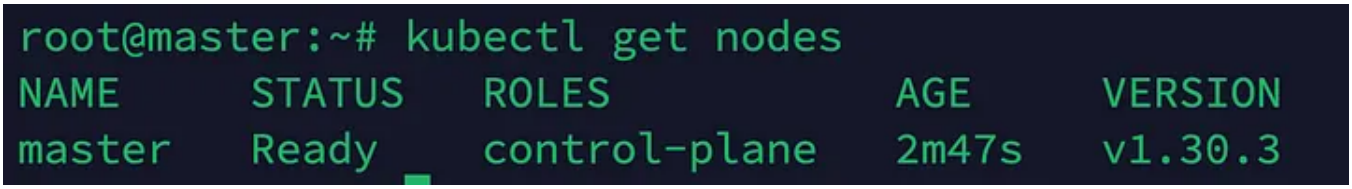
After the initialization is complete make a note of the `kubeadm join` command for future reference.

Run the following commands on the master node:

```
mkdir -p $HOME/.kube
sudo cp -i /etc/kubernetes/admin.conf $HOME/.kube/config
sudo chown $(id -u):$(id -g) $HOME/.kube/config
```

Next, use `kubectl` commands to check the cluster and node status:

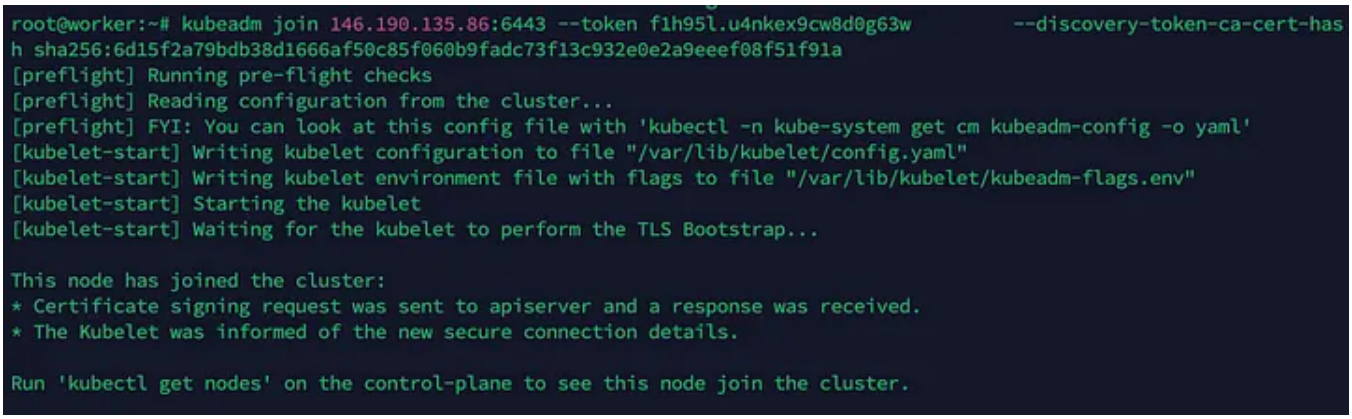
```
kubectl get nodes
```



Step 8: Add Worker Nodes to the Cluster (worker nodes)

On each worker node, use the `kubeadm join` command you noted down earlier:

```
kubeadm join 138.197.184.45:6443 --token 72ww2b.6orffywqcf5s4p2z \
        --discovery-token-ca-cert-hash sha256:aafb79cdd45a6e3b3fac01fb3efba0817
```



Step :9 Install Kubernetes Network Plugin (master node)

To enable communication between pods in the cluster, you need a network plugin. Install the Calico network plugin with the following command from the master node:

```
kubectl apply -f https://raw.githubusercontent.com/projectcalico/calico/v3.25.0/
```

Step 10: Verify the cluster and test (master node)

Finally, we want to verify whether our cluster is successfully created.

```
kubectl get pods -n kube-system
kubectl get nodes
```

```
root@master:~# kubectl get nodes
NAME     STATUS   ROLES           AGE   VERSION
master   Ready    control-plane   17m   v1.30.3
worker   Ready    <none>          65s   v1.30.3
root@master:~# kubectl get pods -n kube-system
NAME                                       READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
calico-kube-controllers-5b9b456c66-dkvq5   1/1     Running   0          15m
calico-node-q8x86                          1/1     Running   0          68s
calico-node-rtllk                          1/1     Running   0          15m
coredns-7db6d8ff4d-ctdfh                   1/1     Running   0          17m
coredns-7db6d8ff4d-m6wxt                   1/1     Running   0          17m
etcd-master                                1/1     Running   0          17m
kube-apiserver-master                      1/1     Running   0          17m
kube-controller-manager-master             1/1     Running   0          17m
kube-proxy-756dt                           1/1     Running   0          17m
kube-proxy-qjh4n                           1/1     Running   0          68s
kube-scheduler-master                      1/1     Running   0          17m
root@master:~#
```

Step 11: Deploy test application on cluster (master node)

```
kubectl run nginx --image=nginx
```

```
root@master:~# kubectl get po
NAME    READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
nginx   1/1     Running   0          46s
root@master:~#
```

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Written by Hakan Bayraktar

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Cloud & DevOps Engineer with 20+ years in IT and 5+ years on AWS, Kubernetes, Terraform, and CI/CD.

Responses (18)

Vic Liu

After I installed the master and run "kubectl get nodes" on the new master, I see the node is "NotReady". After searched and learned that the CNI was not installed properly. So I installed cillium CNI instead using the instruction here: https://docs.cilium.io/en/stable/gettingstarted/k8s-install-default/

B *i* Cancel Respond

Hoffm
May 27, 2024

Great tutorial. I got tripped up on step 5 but was able to solve. kubernetes.io no longer hosts the apt repositories - they have been moved to pkgs.k8s.io. You can see their recommended option here:https://kubernetes.io/blog/2023/08/15/pkgs-k8s-io-introduction/

I am setting up home lab with ubuntu 22.04 with k8s 1.28 using proxmox. Its my first k8s setup mainly for learning. I know there is k8s 1.30 but just want to get things working before I worry about upgrading to the latest. The exact commands I ran for step 5 (taken from the blog post I referenced) are:

#note that 1.28 signature is same in this command as 1.29/1.30/etc so you can use this even if you install k8s 1.30 in the next step

echo "deb [signed-by=/etc/apt/keyrings/kubernetes-apt-keyring.gpg] https://pkgs.k8s.io/core:/stable:/v1.28/deb/ /" |sudo tee /etc/apt/sources.list.d/kubernetes.list

#update to 1.30 if you want latest (I have not tested)

curl -fsSL https://pkgs.k8s.io/core:/stable:/v1.28/deb/Release.key |sudo gpg --dearmor -o /etc/apt/keyrings/kubernetes-apt-keyring.gpg

sudo apt-get update

After that I had no other issues setting up my first k8s cluster using these exact steps

6 Reply

Hoffm
May 31, 2024

Also for step 2 the command didnt work. I had to use the command below (I had to remove space before and after the word swap). All this is doing is adding a comment on any line in the file /etc/fstab which contains swap so you verify the file with… more

6 Reply

Achim
May 22, 2024

> sudo apt-add-repository "deb http://apt.kubernetes.io/ kubernetes-xenial main"

dose not work.

root@k8s-n1:~# sudo apt-add-repository "deb http://apt.kubernetes.io/ kubernetes-xenial main"

Repository: 'deb http://apt.kubernetes.io/ kubernetes-xenial main'

Description:

Archive for codename: kubernetes-xenial components: main

More info: http://apt.kubernetes.io/

Adding repository.

Press [ENTER] to continue or Ctrl-c to cancel.

Adding deb entry to /etc/apt/sources.list.d/archive_uri-http_apt_kubernetes_io_-jammy.list

Adding disabled deb-src entry to /etc/apt/sources.list.d/archive_uri-http_apt_kubernetes_io_-jammy.list

Hit:1 http://ch.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy InRelease

Hit:2 http://ch.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates InRelease

Hit:3 http://ch.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-backports InRelease

Hit:4 http://ch.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-security InRelease

Ign:5 https://packages.cloud.google.com/apt kubernetes-xenial InRelease

Err:6 https://packages.cloud.google.com/apt kubernetes-xenial Release

404 Not Found [IP: 2a00:1450:400a:801::200e 443]

Reading package lists... Done

E: The repository 'http://apt.kubernetes.io kubernetes-xenial Release' does not have a Release file.

N: Updating from such a repository can't be done securely, and is therefore disabled by default.

N: See apt-secure(8) manpage for repository creation and user configuration details.

3 Reply

B *i* Cancel Respond

See all responses