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Troubleshooting Kubernetes Cluster Access Issues

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ssh ubuntu

Introduction

In this lab step, you will troubleshoot issues that relate to communicating with and accessing a Kubernetes cluster. The bastion host has `kubectl` installed, but has not been configured correctly to talk to the cluster. You will learn how to diagnose and resolve this problem and more related to accessing a cluster.

Instructions

1. Attempt to list the nodes in the cluster:

Copy code

```
1 | kubectl get nodes
```

The connection to the server localhost:8080 was refused - did you specify the right host or port?

The result is a **connection refused** message. By default, `kubectl` will attempt to connect to the Kubernetes API server on port 8080 of the localhost. The bastion host does not have an API server so there is nothing to connect to. You need to configure `kubectl` to connect to the API server running on the control-plane node. `kubectl` is configured to connect to clusters by using kubeconfig files. By default, `kubectl` looks for a kubeconfig file `~/.kube/config`. This file does not exist on the bastion host. You can copy the kubeconfig file on the control-plane to get it working on the bastion host.

2. Enter the following commands to copy the control-plane node's kubeconfig file, and enter yes when prompted about the authenticity of the host:

Copy code

```
1 | mkdir .kube # create the .kube directory
2 | scp -o "ForwardAgent yes" control-plane:~/.kube/confi
```

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`config`

The kubeconfig file that you copied from the control-plane node includes:

1. Information about the cluster, such as the server address
2. Information about users to authenticate as including certificates that were generated when the cluster was created

3. View the contents of the kubeconfig file:

[Copy code](#)

```
1 | cat ~/.kube/config
```

Most of the contents are certificate and key data, but you can notice that there are several top-level keys including **clusters**, **contexts**, **current-context**, and **users**. The following image highlights the **contexts** and **current-context** keys:

```
contexts:
- context:
  cluster: kubernetes
  user: kubernetes-admin
  name: kubernetes-admin@kubernetes
current-context: kubernetes-admin@kubernetes
```

A context is a triple of a **cluster** (**kubernetes**), a **user** (**admin**), and a namespace (if not specified, the default namespace is used). The context is also given a name for reference (**admin@kubernetes**). The **current-context** sets the context that will be used by `kubectl` by default. To manage the configuration of `kubectl`, you can use its `config` command.

4. View the `config` commands provided by `kubectl`:

[Copy code](#)

```
1 | kubectl config --help
```



```
your system). These paths are merged. When a value is modified, it is modified in the file that defines the stanza. When a value is created, it is created in the first file that exists. If no files in the chain exist, then it creates the last file in the list.  
3. Otherwise, ${HOME}/.kube/config is used and no merging takes place.
```

Available Commands:

```
current-context  Display the current-context  
delete-cluster  Delete the specified cluster from the kubeconfig  
delete-context  Delete the specified context from the kubeconfig  
delete-user     Delete the specified user from the kubeconfig  
get-clusters    Display clusters defined in the kubeconfig  
get-contexts    Describe one or many contexts  
get-users       Display users defined in the kubeconfig  
rename-context  Rename a context from the kubeconfig file  
set             Set an individual value in a kubeconfig file  
set-cluster     Set a cluster entry in kubeconfig  
set-context     Set a context entry in kubeconfig  
set-credentials Set a user entry in kubeconfig  
unset           Unset an individual value in a kubeconfig file  
use-context     Set the current-context in a kubeconfig file  
view           Display merged kubeconfig settings or a specified kubeconfig file
```

These commands can be used to safely write to kubeconfig files using the **delete**, **set**, **unset**, and **use** commands. Assuming the configuration file has the correct cluster and user information, you may have issues connecting to a cluster because the current context is not configured at all; it is set to a different context than you expect.

5. Enter the following `config` command to get a summary of the contexts available in a kubeconfig file:

[Copy code](#)

```
1 | kubectl config get-contexts
```

CURRENT	NAME	CLUSTER	AUTHINFO	NAMESPACE
*	kubernetes-admin@kubernetes	kubernetes	kubernetes-admin	

This view is useful for showing you all of the configured contexts and which is the **CURRENT** context. If there is no current context set, there will be no `*` in the first column. In this lab, there is only one context, but you could have several contexts in practice. There are also multiple contexts for different clusters in the Kubernetes certification exams. If the current context is not what you want, you can use the `use-context` command to change it.

6. Re-attempt to list the nodes in the cluster:

[Copy code](#)

```
1 | kubectl get nodes
```

NAME	STATUS	ROLES
ip-10-0-0-10.us-west-2.compute.internal	Ready	<none>
ip-10-0-0-100.us-west-2.compute.internal	Ready	control-plane
ip-10-0-0-11.us-west-2.compute.internal	Ready	<none>

With the kubeconfig file in the default location of `~/.kube/config` and the

7. Confirm the admin user is authorized to list all nodes:

[Copy code](#)

```
1 | kubectl auth can-i list nodes -A
```

```
yes
```

The `can-i` command will return a binary response for whether or not a user is authorized to perform a specified action. You can learn more about the actions from the command's help page (`kubectl auth can-i --help`). The admin user is authorized because it is bound to an RBAC role that grants permission. Kubernetes does not store any user resources. Instead, role binding resources store information about the names of users or groups that are assigned to a role. Roles can be for a specific namespace (Role) or for an entire cluster (ClusterRole). Similarly, role bindings can be for a specific namespace (RoleBinding) or for an entire cluster (ClusterRoleBinding).

8. List all of the cluster roles:

[Copy code](#)

```
1 | kubectl get clusterroles
```

Kubernetes creates several cluster roles by default. The one that is germane to this exercise is the **cluster-admin** role.

9. Show the cluster-admin cluster role resource YAML:

[Copy code](#)

```
1 | kubectl get clusterrole cluster-admin -o yaml
```



```
annotations:
  rbac.authorization.kubernetes.io/autoupdate: "true"
creationTimestamp: "2022-08-09T19:47:23Z"
labels:
  kubernetes.io/bootstrapping: rbac-defaults
name: cluster-admin
resourceVersion: "78"
uid: b698d652-4d9f-4e38-b9fe-d5ec31b2121a
rules:
- apiGroups:
  - '*'
  resources:
  - '*'
  verbs:
  - '*'
- nonResourceURLs:
  - '*'
  verbs:
  - '*'
```

The **rules** key allows all actions (**verbs**) on all **resources**. You can get the same information from `kubectl describe clusterrole cluster-admin`, but it is useful to use the `-o yaml` option on `get` commands to quickly create templates from existing resources. This is very useful when you need to create new resources and cannot remember which **apiVersion** to use or what the names of certain keys are.

10. Describe the `admin-cluster-binding` cluster role binding to understand how the `cluster-admin` role is bound to users:

[Copy code](#)

```
1 | kubectl describe clusterrolebinding admin-cluster-binding
```

```
Name:          admin-cluster-binding
Labels:        <none>
Annotations:   <none>
Role:
  Kind: ClusterRole
  Name: cluster-admin
Subjects:
  Kind  Name      Namespace
----  ---      -
User   admin
```

The **Role** map specifies the **Name** of the role that is being bound, and the **Subjects** map lists all the subjects (users, groups, or service accounts) that are bound to the role. In this case, the role is bound to

11. Extract the admin certificate from the kubeconfig file, and use OpenSSL to show the certificate details:

[Copy code](#)

```
1 grep "client-cert" ~/.kube/config | \
2   sed 's/\(.*client-certificate-data: \)\(.*\)/\2/' | \
3   base64 --decode \
4   > cert.pem
5 openssl x509 -in cert.pem -text -noout
```

```
Certificate:
  Data:
    Version: 3 (0x2)
    Serial Number: 4780407784204344386 (0x42576b8d53031c42)
    Signature Algorithm: sha256WithRSAEncryption
    Issuer: CN = kubernetes
    Validity
      Not Before: Aug  9 19:47:04 2022 GMT
      Not After : Aug  9 19:47:06 2023 GMT
    Subject: O = system:masters, CN = kubernetes-admin
```

The **Subject** shows the **admin** common name. Kubernetes maps the common name to users and the organization (if present) to groups. You now understand the full authorization chain:

1. The context uses an admin client certificate
2. There is a cluster role binding between the admin user and the cluster-admin cluster role
3. The cluster-admin cluster role grants all actions on all resources

Summary

In this lab step, you learned how to diagnose and resolve issues related to communicating with the desired Kubernetes cluster using `kubectl`. You understood the role of kubeconfig files, contexts, and `config` commands to ensure that `kubectl` is properly configured to communicate with the target cluster. You also reviewed roles and role bindings, and how they allow the admin user to perform any action on the cluster.

VALIDATION CHECKS

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