



Europe 2022 -

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Debugging With Ephemeral Containers

Aaron Alpar, Kasten by Veeam



Ephemeral Containers

Debugging with Ephemeral Containers





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PromCon North America 2021

About this Presentation



- Introduction
- Ephemeral Containers
- Setup and Tools
- Debugging containers in K8s
- Linux Namespaces
- New Pod properties
- Creating Ephemeral Containers with custom securityContext
- Distroless



Kind

- Use Kind in this presentation (https://kind.sigs.k8s.io)
- Local Kubernetes environment
- Used for Kubernetes automated testing
- Uses Docker

Postgres

- Open source database
- Good target for examples



Setup: Kind





Setup: Postgres

postgres -p 5432

\$ helm repo add bitnami https://charts.bitnami.com/bitnami
"bitnami" has been added to your repositories

\$ kubectl create namespace pg
namespace/pg created

\$ helm install pg bitnami/postgresql --namespace="pg"
NAME: pg
LAST DEPLOYED: Tue Apr 12 09:35:44 2022

PGPASSWORD="\$POSTGRES_PASSWORD" psql --host 127.0.0.1 -U postgres -d

Setup: Check versions

```
$ kubectl version --short
```

• • •

Client Version: v1.24.0 Kustomize Version: v4.5.4 Server Version: v1.23.4



Setup



	\$	kubectl	get	pods	-n	pg
--	----	---------	-----	------	----	----

NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
pg-postgresql-0	1/1	Running	0	30s

Ephemeral Containers

- Dynamically allocated containers
- Useful for debugging
- Beta in 1.23





Debug without Ephemeral Containers

• Ephemeral containers start with debugging



Debug without Ephemeral Containers

- Ephemeral containers start with debugging
- Debug by attaching (exec)

```
kubectl exec -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 \
  -c postgresql -- /bin/sh
```

KubeCon CloudNativeCon Europe 2022

Debug without Ephemeral Containers

- Ephemeral containers start with debugging
- Debug by attaching (exec)

```
kubectl exec -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 \
  -c postgresql -- /bin/sh
```

Debug by copy

```
kubectl debug -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 \
   --copy-to pg-postgresql-debug \
   --container debug-postgresql \
   --image busybox -- /bin/sh
```



Debug without Ephemeral Containers

- Debug by attaching limited by the tools in the image
- Debug by copy requires a pod restart
- Debugging workloads requires modifying number of replicas





Debug by ephemeral container

```
kubectl debug -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 \
   --image busybox -- /bin/sh
```



Debug with Ephemeral Containers

Debug by ephemeral container

```
kubectl debug -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 \
   --image busybox -- /bin/sh
```

- Allow sharing of container resources
- Ideal for complicated debugging of failing containers



Debug with Ephemeral Containers

Ephemeral Containers spec:

```
$ kubectl get pod -n pg pg-postgresql-0 -o yaml
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  creationTimestamp: "2021-10-17T19:26:40Z"
spec:
  containers:
  ephemeralContainers:
  - image: busybox
    imagePullPolicy: Always
    name: debug-postgresql
status:
```



Ephemeral Containers spec:

```
spec:
  containers:
 ephemeralContainers:
  - image: busybox
    imagePullPolicy: Always
    name: debug-postgresql
status:
```



Ephemeral Containers status:

```
$ kubectl get pod -n pg pg-postgresql-0 -o yaml
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  creationTimestamp: "2021-10-17T19:26:40Z"
spec:
status:
  containerStatuses:
 ephemeralContainerStatuses:
  - containerID: docker://85a4eb6742bf ...
    image: busybox:latest
    imageID: docker-pullable://busybox@sha25 ...
```





Ephemeral Containers status:

```
spec:
...
status:
  containerStatuses:
    ...
ephemeralContainerStatuses:
    - containerID: docker://85a4eb6742bf ...
    image: busybox:latest
    imageID: docker-pullable://busybox@sha25 ...
...
```

What is a Container?

What is a Container?





What is a Container?

- What is a Container?
- Containers can be thought of as Sandboxes
- Once in a Sandbox, cannot see what's outside of the Sandbox
- Controlling what a container can see is what isolates one Container from another



What is a Container?

- What is a Container?
- Containers can be thought of as Sandboxes
- Once in a Sandbox, cannot see what's outside of the Sandbox
- Controlling what a container can see is what isolates one Container from another
- Linux Namespaces in the Node make this possible



Linux Namespaces

- Linux Namespaces control Container isolation
- Linux Namespaces contain Container resources
 - processes, mounts, ...
- Linux Namespaces can be copied from Container to Container

Linux Namespaces



- There are many
 - mnt, pid, net, ipc, uts, uid, cgroup, time, ...
- Each namespace is identified by an inode

Linux Namespaces



- There are many
 - mnt, pid, net, ipc, uts, uid, cgroup, time, ...
- Each namespace is identified by an inode
- pid
 - Processes
- mnt
 - File system mounts
- net
 - Network interfaces





```
# # get namespaces for PID 1
# ls -l /proc/1/ns/*
lrwx ... /proc/1/ns/cgroup -> cgroup:[4026532459]
lrwx ... /proc/1/ns/ipc -> ipc:[4026532372]
lrwx ... /proc/1/ns/mnt -> mnt:[4026532370]
lrwx ... /proc/1/ns/net -> net:[4026532376]
lrwx ... /proc/1/ns/pid -> pid:[4026532374]
```



```
# pgrep -o postgres # get postgres PID
1935
# ps -f -p $(pgrep -o postgres) # get postgres process info
UID
            PTD
                   PPTD C STIME
                                          TIME CMD
1001
           1935
                   1805 0 00:54
                                      00:00:00 /opt/bitnami/postgresql ...
# ls -l /proc/$(pgrep -o postgres)/ns/* # list postgres namespaces
lrwxrwxrwx 1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:03 /proc/1946/ns/cgroup -> cgroup:[4026532921]
lrwxrwxrwx 1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:03 /proc/1946/ns/ipc -> ipc:[4026532917]
lrwxrwxrwx 1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:03 /proc/1946/ns/mnt -> mnt:[4026532919]
lrwxrwxrwx 1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:03 /proc/1946/ns/net -> net:[4026532837]
lrwxrwxrwx 1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:03 /proc/1946/ns/pid -> pid:[4026532920]
```



```
# # list postgres namespaces
# ls -l /proc/$(pgrep -o postgres)/ns/*
lrwx ... /proc/1946/ns/cgroup -> cgroup:[4026532921]
lrwx ... /proc/1946/ns/ipc -> ipc:[4026532917]
lrwx ... /proc/1946/ns/mnt -> mnt:[4026532919]
lrwx ... /proc/1946/ns/net -> net:[4026532837]
lrwx .../proc/1946/ns/pid -> pid:[4026532920]
```



nsenter

- What you can see depends on what namespace you are in
- nsenter allows execution of a command within a namespace
- The command will only see what the namespace allows



nsenter

```
# nsenter --net=/proc/$(pgrep -o postgres)/ns/net \
    ss --tcp -l
State Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address:Port Peer
Address:Port
LISTEN 0 224 0.0.0.0:postgresql 0.0.0.0:*
LISTEN 0 224 [::]:postgresql [::]:*
```



nsenter

```
# nsenter --target $(pgrep -o postgres) --all ps -e
                      TIME CMD
    PTD TTY
                 00:00:01 postgres
      1 ?
                 00:00:00 postgres
    137 ?
                 00:00:00 postgres
    138 ?
                 00:00:00 postgres
    139 ?
                 00:00:00 postgres
    140 ?
                 00:00:00 postgres
    141 ?
    142 ?
                 00:00:00 postgres
                 00:00:00 ps
  22340 ?
```



Namespaces on Pod Container (K8s)

\$ kubectl exec -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 -- ps -ef

```
UID
                C STIME TTY
                               TIME CMD
     PID
          PPID
                0 17:41 ?
1001
                               00:00:00 /opt/bitnami/postgresql ...
             1 0 17:41 ?
                               00:00:00 postgres: checkpointer
1001
     137
1001
     138
             1 0 17:41 ?
                               00:00:00 postgres: background writer
             1 0 17:41 ?
1001
    139
                               00:00:00 postgres: walwriter
1001
    140
             1 0 17:41 ?
                               00:00:00 postgres: autovacuum la ...
1001 141
             1 0 17:41 ?
                               00:00:00 postgres: stats collector
1001 142
             1 0 17:41 ?
                               00:00:00 postgres: logical repli ...
               0 17:52 pts/0 00:00:00 ps -ef
1001 1180
```



Namespaces using nsenter

```
$ docker exec kind-control-plane /bin/bash -c -- \
  'nsenter --target $(pgrep -o postgres) --all /bin/ps -ef'
UID
     PID
          PPID C STIME TTY
                               TIME CMD
                               00:00:00 /opt/bitnami/postgresql ...
1001
                0 17:41 ?
             1 0 17:41 ?
                               00:00:00 postgres: checkpointer
1001
    137
             1 0 17:41 ?
1001 138
                               00:00:00 postgres: background writer
1001 139
             1 0 17:41 ?
                               00:00:00 postgres: walwriter
1001 140
             1 0 17:41 ?
                               00:00:00 postgres: autovacuum la ...
1001 141
             1 0 17:41 ?
                               00:00:00 postgres: stats collector
1001 142
             1 0 17:41 ?
                              00:00:00 postgres: logical repli ...
1001 682
             0 0 17:46 pts/1 00:00:00 /bin/sh
                0 17:50 pts/1 00:00:00 ps -ef
root 1073
```

Ephemeral Containers: debug

Network namespace shared by default



- Network namespace shared by default
- Other namespaces can be shared





Namespaces when debug by attaching

\$ kubectl exec -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 -c postgresql -- /bin/sh

```
# ls -l /proc/self/ns/*
1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/cgroup -> cgroup: [4026532921]
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/ipc -> ipc:[4026532917]
1 1001
1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/mnt -> mnt:[4026532919]
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/net -> net: [4026532837]
1 1001
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/pid -> pid:[4026532920]
1 1001
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/pid_for_children -> pid:[4026532920]
1 1001
1 1001
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/time -> time: [4026531834]
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/time for children -> time: [4026531834]
1 1001
1 1001
      root
             0 May
                   7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/user -> user:[4026531837]
1 1001
      root
             0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/uts -> uts:[4026532916]
```

Namespaces when using Ephemeral Containe Countaine Count

\$ kubectl debug -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 --image busybox -- /bin/sh

Defaulting debug container name to debugger-n8bvb If you don't see a command prompt, try pressing enter.

```
# ls -l /proc/self/ns/*
1 root root 0 May 7 20:28 /proc/self/ns/cgroup -> cgroup:[4026532924]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:28 /proc/self/ns/ipc -> ipc:[4026532917]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:28 /proc/self/ns/mnt -> mnt:[4026532922]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:28 /proc/self/ns/net -> net:[4026532837]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:28 /proc/self/ns/pid -> pid:[4026532923]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:28 /proc/self/ns/pid_for_children -> pid:[4026532923]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:28 /proc/self/ns/time -> time:[4026531834]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:28 /proc/self/ns/time_for_children -> time:[4026531834]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:28 /proc/self/ns/time_for_children -> time:[4026531837]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:28 /proc/self/ns/user -> user:[4026531837]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:28 /proc/self/ns/uts -> uts:[4026532916]
```



Share namespaces of target container ...

```
$ kubectl debug -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 --image busybox \
    --target postgresql -- /bin/sh
Defaulting debug container name to debugger-vfcxs
If you don't see a command prompt, try pressing enter.
# ls -l /proc/self/ns/*
1 root root 0 May 7 20:31 /proc/self/ns/cgroup -> cgroup: [4026532923]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:31 /proc/self/ns/ipc -> ipc:[4026532917]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:31 /proc/self/ns/mnt -> mnt: [4026532922]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:31 /proc/self/ns/net -> net:[4026532837]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:31 /proc/self/ns/pid -> pid:[4026532920]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:31 /proc/self/ns/pid_for_children -> pid:[4026532920]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:31 /proc/self/ns/time -> time:[4026531834]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:31 /proc/self/ns/time for children -> time: [4026531834]
1 root root 0 May
                   7 20:31 /proc/self/ns/user -> user:[4026531837]
1 root root
             0 May 7 20:31 /proc/self/ns/uts -> uts:[4026532916]
```



Ephemeral Container vs kubectl exec

- Share PID namespace
- Share Network Namespace
- Share IPC, UTS



• Ephemeral containers are a sub-resource



Sub-Resource

- Ephemeral containers are a sub-resource, "ephemeralContainer"
- Added to the pod spec ephemeralContainers property for each invocation
- Container exit status in the ephemeralContainerStatuses property
- Unique names must be used



Sub-Resource



Custom API calls

- Properties not available from kubectl
- Can mount container volumes
- Privileged containers
 - Set securityContext
- Cannot remove or change ephemeralContainers or ephemeralContainerStatuses property



```
$ kubectl proxy &
Starting to serve on 127.0.0.1:8001
$ curl -v -XPATCH -H "Content-Type: application/json-patch+json" \
  'http://127.0.0.1:8001/api/v1/namespaces/pg/pods/pg-postgresql-0/ephemeralcontainers' \
  --data-binary @- << EOF
[{
  "op": "add", "path": "/spec/ephemeralContainers/-",
  "value": {
    "command":[ "/bin/sh" ],
    "stdin": true, "tty": true,
    "image": "busybox",
    "name": "debug-container-1",
    "volumeMounts": [{
      "mountPath": "/mnt",
      "name": "data" }],
    "targetContainerName": "postgresql" }}]
EOF
```



```
$ kubectl proxy &
Starting to serve on 127.0.0.1:8001
$ curl -v -XPATCH -H "Content-Type: application/json-patch+json" \
  'http://127.0.0.1:8001/api/v1/namespaces/pg/pods/pg-postgresql-0/ephemeralcontainers' \
  --data-binary @- << EOF
[{
  "op": "add", "path": "/spec/ephemeralContainers/-",
  "value": {
    "command":[ "/bin/sh" ],
    "stdin": true, "tty": true,
    "image": "busybox",
    "name": "debug-container-1",
    "volumeMounts": [{
      "mountPath": "/mnt",
      "name": "data" }],
    "targetContainerName": "postgresql" }}]
EOF
```



Namespaces when debug by attaching

\$ kubectl exec -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 -c postgresql -- /bin/sh

```
# ls -l /proc/self/ns/*
1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/cgroup -> cgroup: [4026532921]
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/ipc -> ipc:[4026532917]
1 1001
1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/mnt -> mnt:[4026532919]
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/net -> net: [4026532837]
1 1001
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/pid -> pid:[4026532920]
1 1001
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/pid_for_children -> pid:[4026532920]
1 1001
1 1001
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/time -> time: [4026531834]
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/time for children -> time: [4026531834]
1 1001
1 1001
      root
             0 May
                   7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/user -> user:[4026531837]
1 1001
      root
             0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/uts -> uts:[4026532916]
```



\$ kubectl exec -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 -c debug-container-1 -- /bin/sh

```
# ls -l /proc/self/ns/*
1 root root 0 May 7 20:55 /proc/self/ns/cgroup -> cgroup:[4026532923]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:55 /proc/self/ns/ipc -> ipc:[4026532917]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:55 /proc/self/ns/mnt -> mnt:[4026532922]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:55 /proc/self/ns/net -> net:[4026532837]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:55 /proc/self/ns/pid -> pid:[4026532920]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:55 /proc/self/ns/pid_for_children -> pid:[4026532920]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:55 /proc/self/ns/time -> time:[4026531834]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:55 /proc/self/ns/time_for_children -> time:[4026531834]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:55 /proc/self/ns/time_for_children -> time:[4026531837]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:55 /proc/self/ns/user -> user:[4026531837]
1 root root 0 May 7 20:55 /proc/self/ns/uts -> uts:[4026532916]
```



```
# df # can mount pod volumes ("volumes" property in pod)
Filesystem
                    1K-blocks
                                  Used Available Use% Mounted on
overlay
                    123329088
                              61869768 55151536 53% /
tmpfs
                        65536
                                           65536 0% /dev
                                     0
/dev/vda1
                    123329088 61869768 55151536 53% /mnt
/dev/vda1
                    123329088 61869768 55151536 53% /etc/hosts
. . .
```

ls -1 /mnt/data PG_VERSION base global ... postgresql.auto.conf postmaster.opts

postmaster.pid



Netshoot

- Comprehensive toolset for diagnosis of network problems
- System level diagnosis tools
 - strace
 - o ltrace
 - o tcpdump
 - 0 ...



```
$ curl -v -XPATCH -H "Content-Type: application/json-patch+json" \
  'http://127.0.0.1:8001/api/v1/namespaces/pg/pods/pg-postgresql-0/ephemeralcontainers' \
  --data-binary @- << EOF
[{
  "op": "add", "path": "/spec/ephemeralContainers/-",
  "value": {
    "command":[ "/bin/sh" ],
    "stdin": true, "tty": true,
    "image": "nicolaka/netshoot",
    "name": "debug-container-2",
    "securityContext": { "privileged": true },
    "volumeMounts": [{
      "mountPath": "/mnt",
      "name": "data" }],
    "targetContainerName": "postgresql" }}]
EOF
```



```
$ curl -v -XPATCH -H "Content-Type: application/json-patch+json" \
  'http://127.0.0.1:8001/api/v1/namespaces/pg/pods/pg-postgresql-0/ephemeralcontainers' \
  --data-binary @- << EOF
[{
  "op": "add", "path": "/spec/ephemeralContainers/-",
  "value": {
    "command":[ "/bin/sh" ],
    "stdin": true, "tty": true,
    "image": "nicolaka/netshoot",
    "name": "debug-container-2",
    "securityContext": { "privileged": true },
    "volumeMounts": [{
      "mountPath": "/mnt",
      "name": "data" }],
    "targetContainerName": "postgresql" }}]
EOF
```



```
# strace -p $(pgrep postgresql) 2>&1 | head
strace: Process 1 attached
select(8, [5 6 7], NULL, NULL, {tv_sec=55, tv_usec=50862 ...
rt_sigprocmask(SIG_SETMASK, ~[ILL TRAP ABRT BUS FPE SEGV ...
accept(5, {sa_family=AF_INET, sin_port=htons(36538), sin_...
getsockname(9, {sa_family=AF_INET, sin_port=htons(5432), ...
```

exit

Namespaces when debug by attaching (slide 40)

\$ kubectl exec -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 -c postgresql -- /bin/sh

```
# ls -l /proc/self/ns/*
1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/cgroup -> cgroup: [4026532921]
1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/ipc -> ipc:[4026532917]
1 1001 root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/mnt -> mnt:[4026532919]
1 1001
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/net -> net:[4026532837]
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/pid -> pid: [4026532920]
1 1001
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/pid_for_children -> pid:[4026532920]
1 1001
1 1001
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/time -> time: [4026531834]
      root 0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/time for children -> time: [4026531834]
1 1001
1 1001
      root
            0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/user -> user:[4026531837]
1 1001
      root
             0 May 7 20:27 /proc/self/ns/uts -> uts:[4026532916]
```



\$ kubectl exec -it -n pg pg-postgresql-0 -c debug-container-2 -- /bin/sh

```
# ls -l /proc/self/ns/*
1 root root 0 May 7 21:01 /proc/self/ns/cgroup -> cgroup:[4026532459]
1 root root 0 May 7 21:01 /proc/self/ns/ipc -> ipc:[4026532917]
1 root root 0 May 7 21:01 /proc/self/ns/mnt -> mnt:[4026532924]
1 root root 0 May 7 21:01 /proc/self/ns/net -> net:[4026532837]
1 root root 0 May 7 21:01 /proc/self/ns/pid -> pid:[4026532920]
1 root root 0 May 7 21:01 /proc/self/ns/pid_for_children -> pid:[4026532920]
1 root root 0 May 7 21:01 /proc/self/ns/time -> time:[4026531834]
1 root root 0 May 7 21:01 /proc/self/ns/time_for_children -> time:[4026531834]
1 root root 0 May 7 21:01 /proc/self/ns/user -> user:[4026531837]
1 root root 0 May 7 21:01 /proc/self/ns/user -> uts:[4026532916]
```

Linux Namespaces on node (docker) (slide 30) 2022

```
# # get namespaces for PID 1
# ls -l /proc/1/ns/*
lrwxr ... /proc/1/ns/cgroup -> cgroup:[4026532459]
lrwxr ... /proc/1/ns/ipc -> ipc:[4026532372]
lrwxr ... /proc/1/ns/mnt -> mnt:[4026532370]
lrwxr ... /proc/1/ns/net -> net:[4026532376]
lrwxr ... /proc/1/ns/pid -> pid:[4026532374]
```



Distroless Containers

- Separate production release from tools
- Prod and tools projects become version independent
 - Can select tools appropriate to task
 - No longer dependent on versions in container
- Distroless containers are faster to build
 - Fewer layers



Notes

https://opensource.googleblog.com/2022/01/Introducing+Ephemeral+Containers.html

https://www.ianlewis.org/en/what-are-kubernetes-pods-anyway

https://icicimov.github.io/blog/virtualization/Linux-Container-Basics/

https://bit.ly/38Nvd6P

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux_namespaces

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cgroups

https://github.com/GoogleContainerTools/distroless

https://kind.sigs.k8s.io

https://github.com/nicolaka/netshoot

https://github.com/eldadru/ksniff