Kubernetes Attack Simulation:
The Definitive Guide

Adversary Village, DEF CON 32

WITH secure

whoami

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Attack Path Mapping Lead @ WithSecure

Purple Teams / Threat Simulation

Presented at ROOTCON, BSides

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> We need to measure our Attack Detection capability for this {Windows, Linux, On-prem, Cloud, Kubernetes} environment

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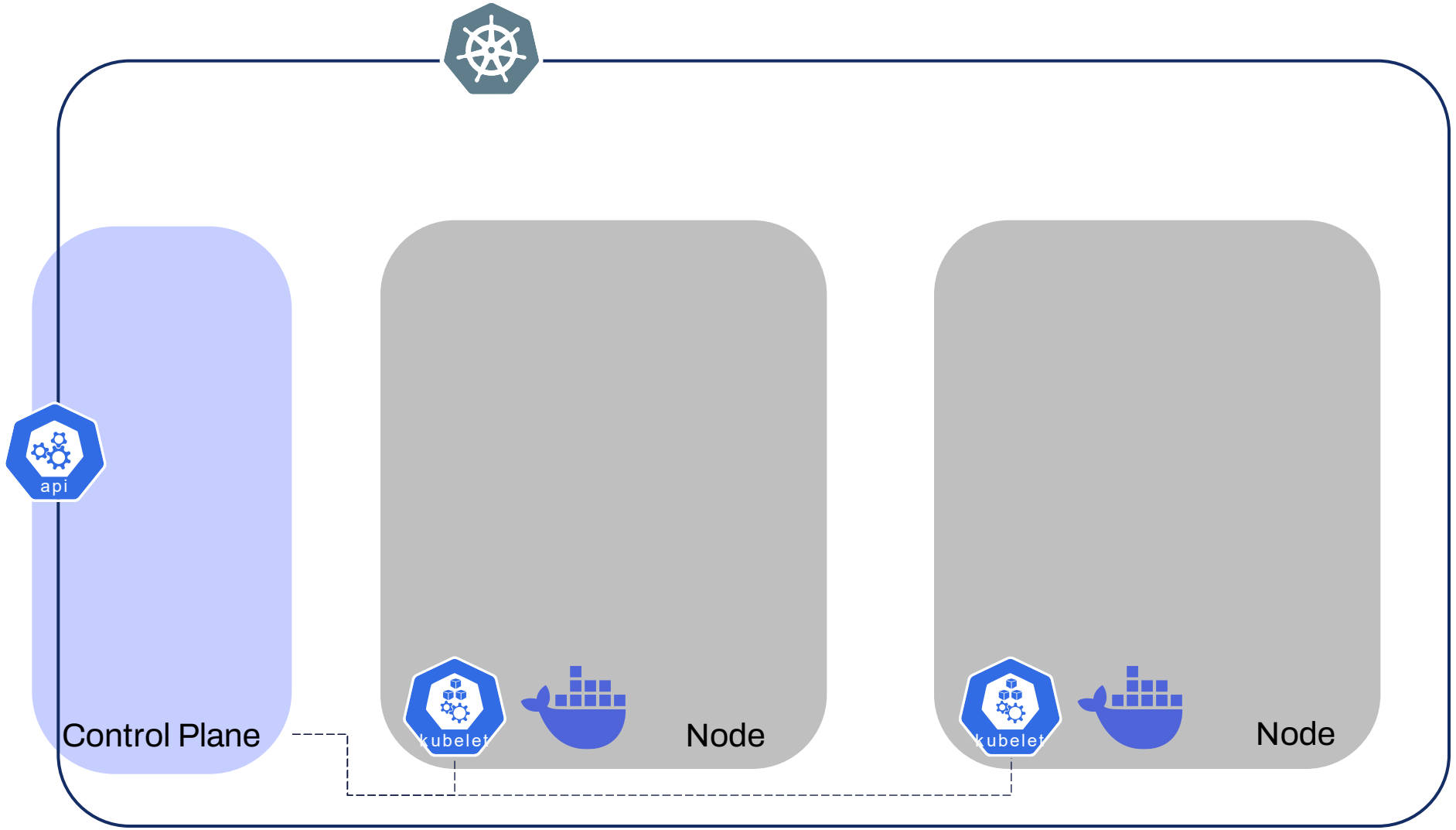
Agenda

1. Kubernetes Introduction
2. Threat Modelling
3. K8S Attack Simulation
4. K8S Attack Detection
5. Demo

Intro to Kubernetes

A View to a Cluster



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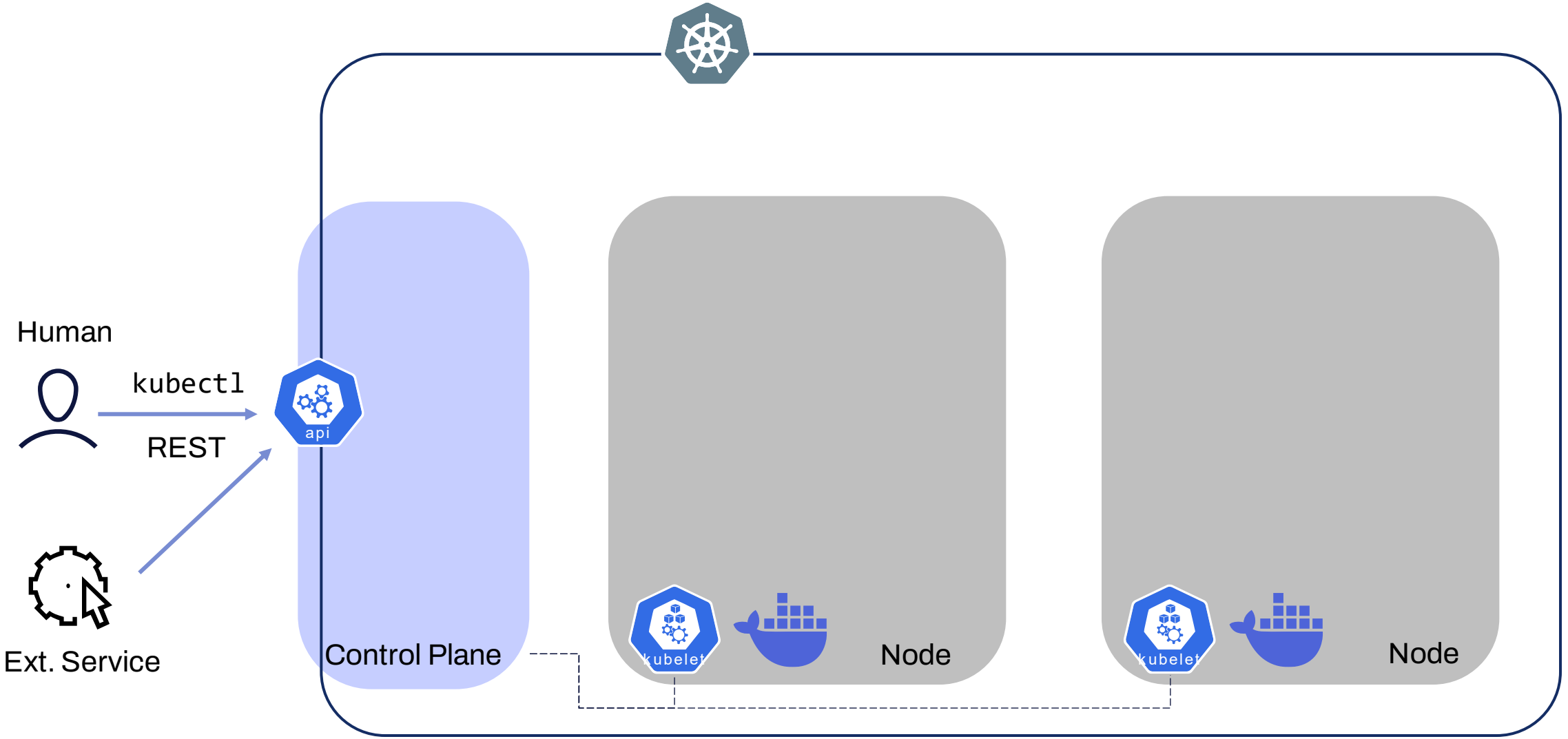

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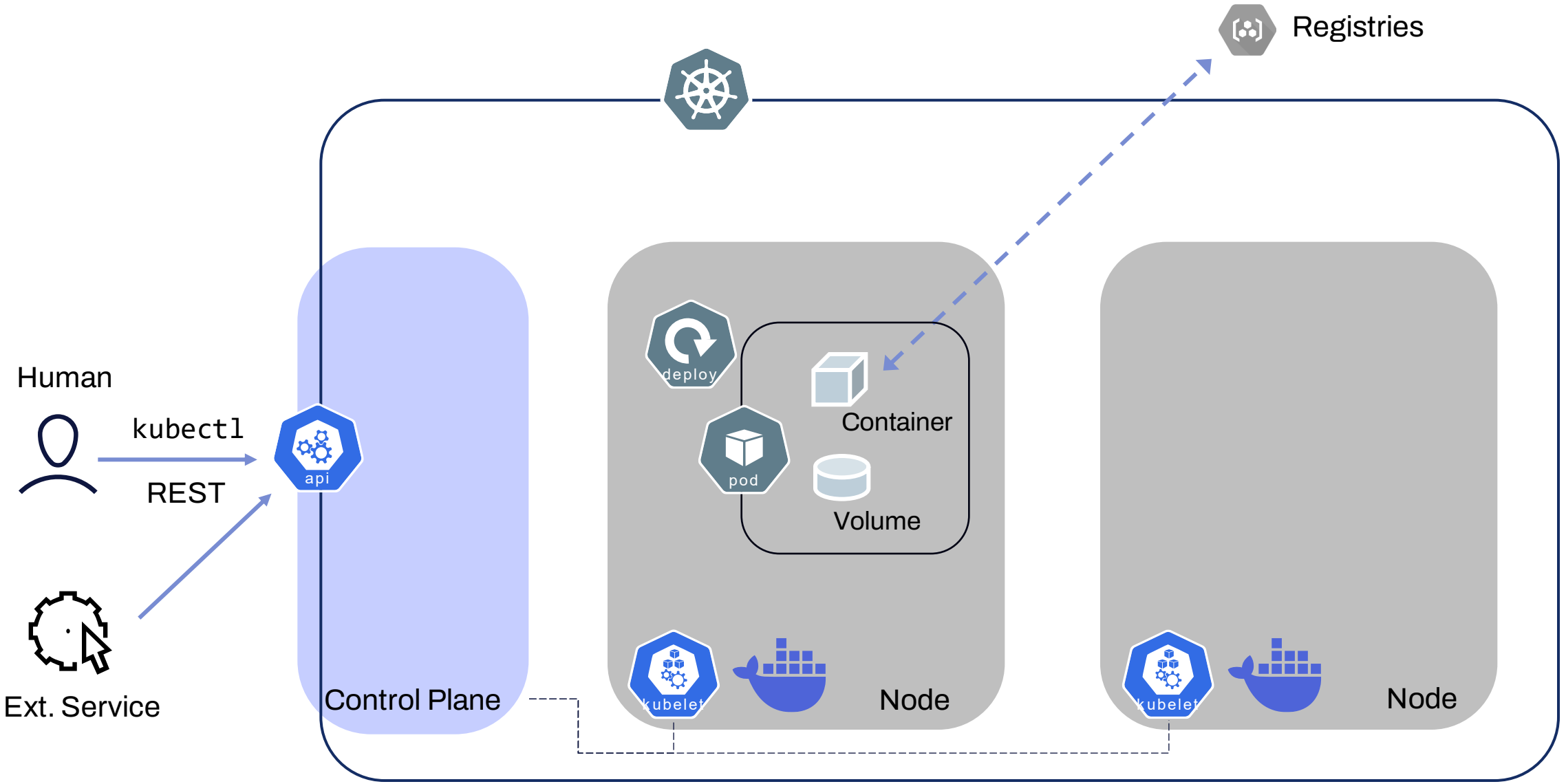

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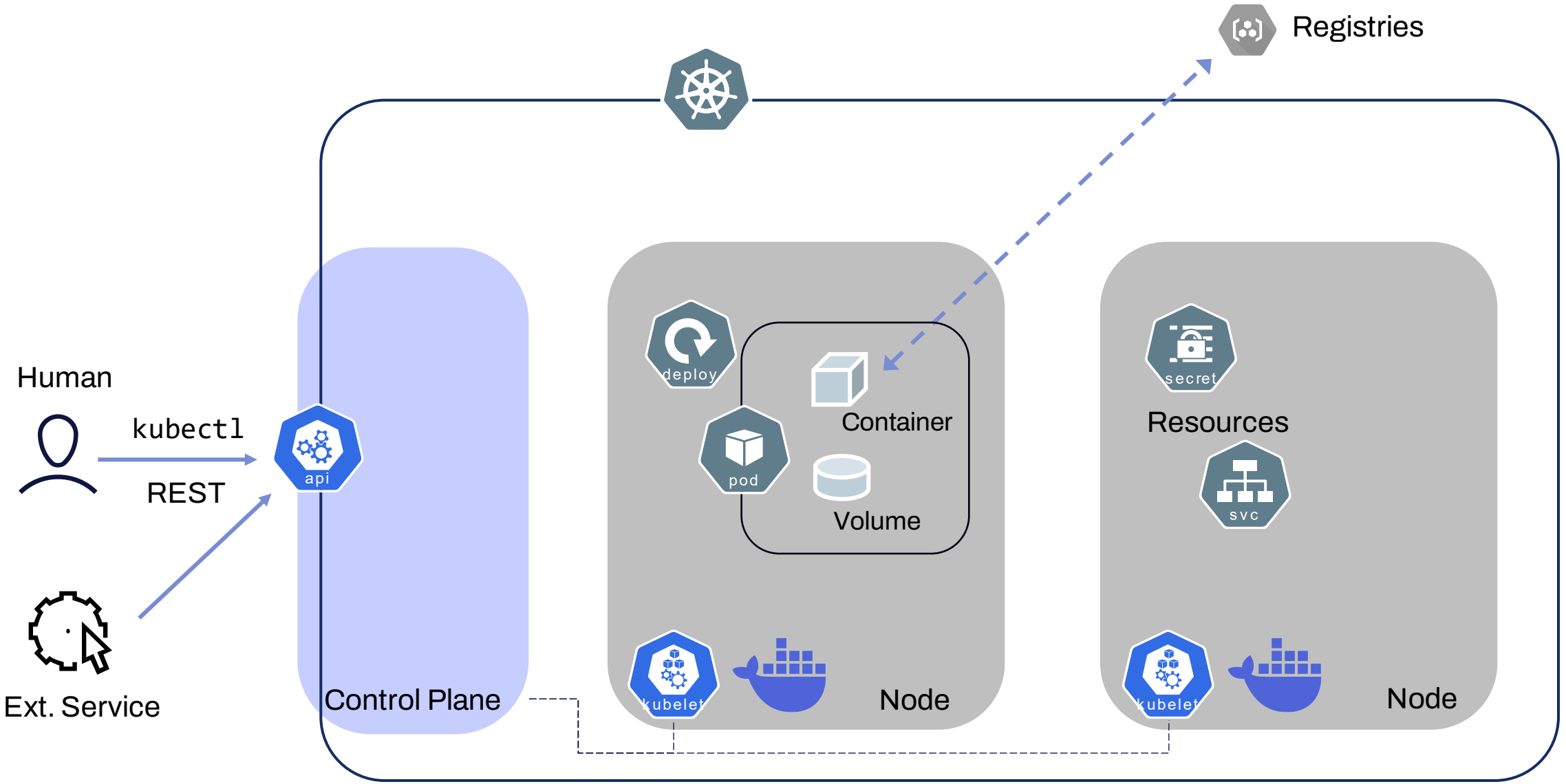

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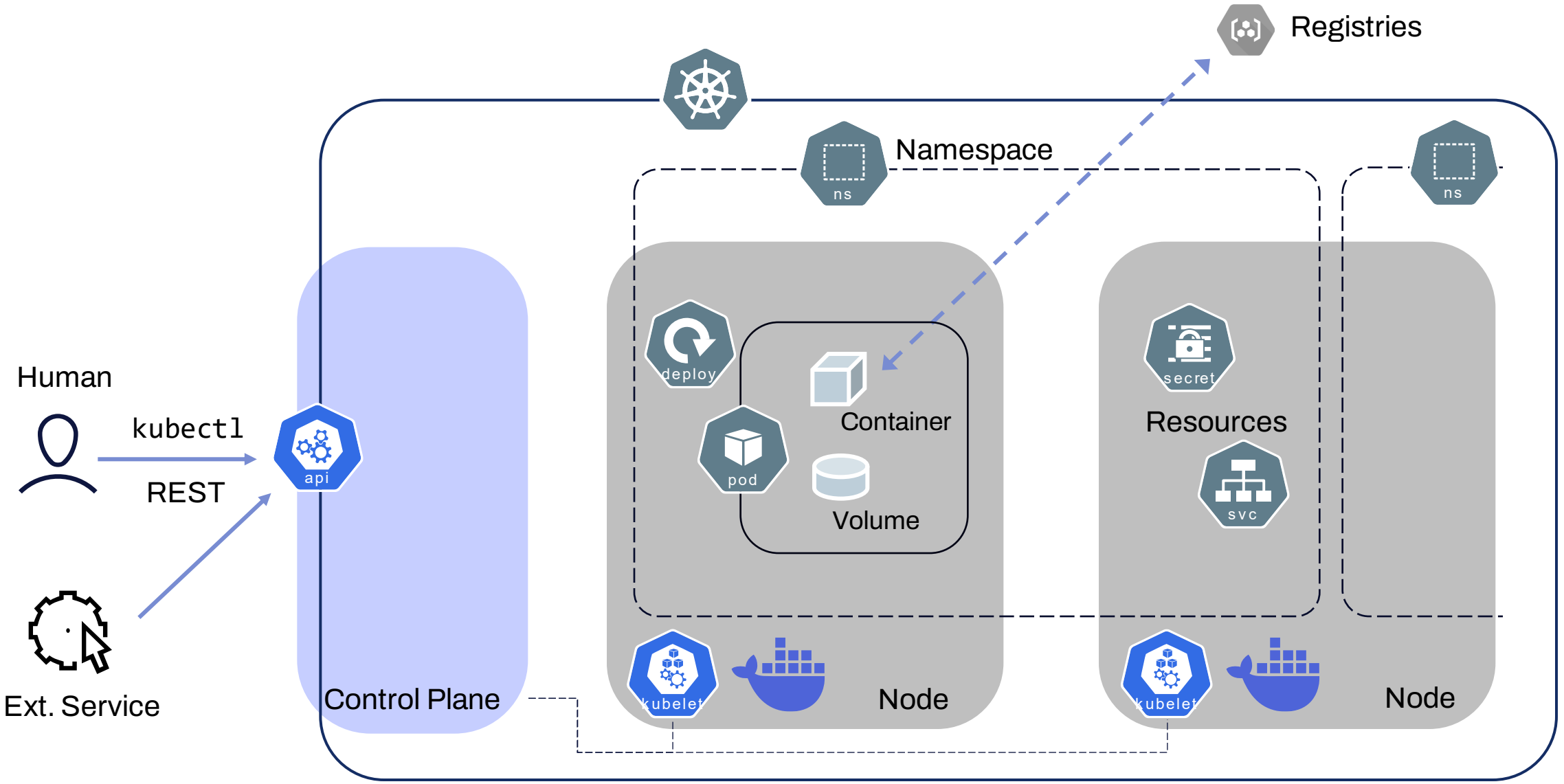

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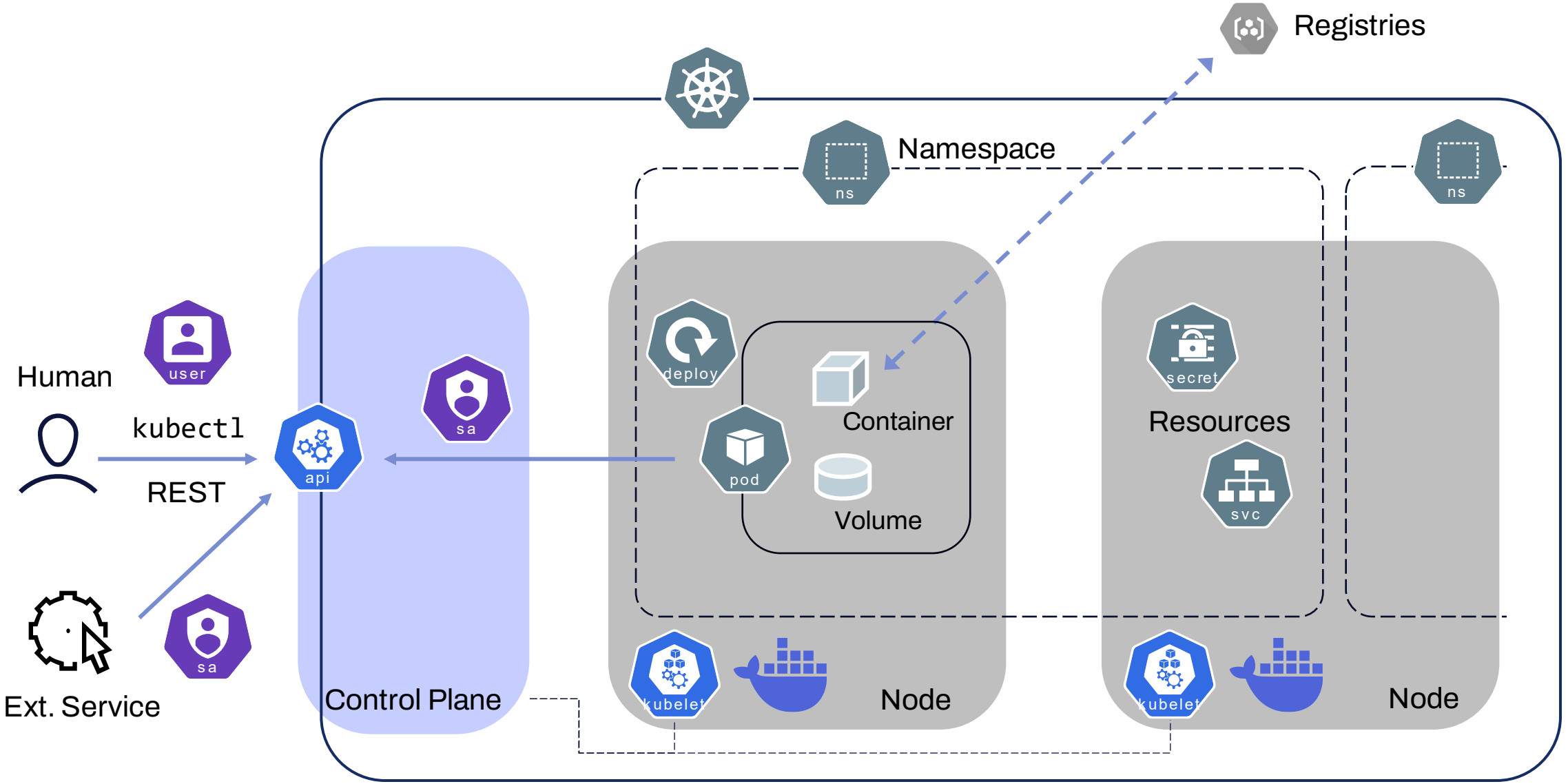
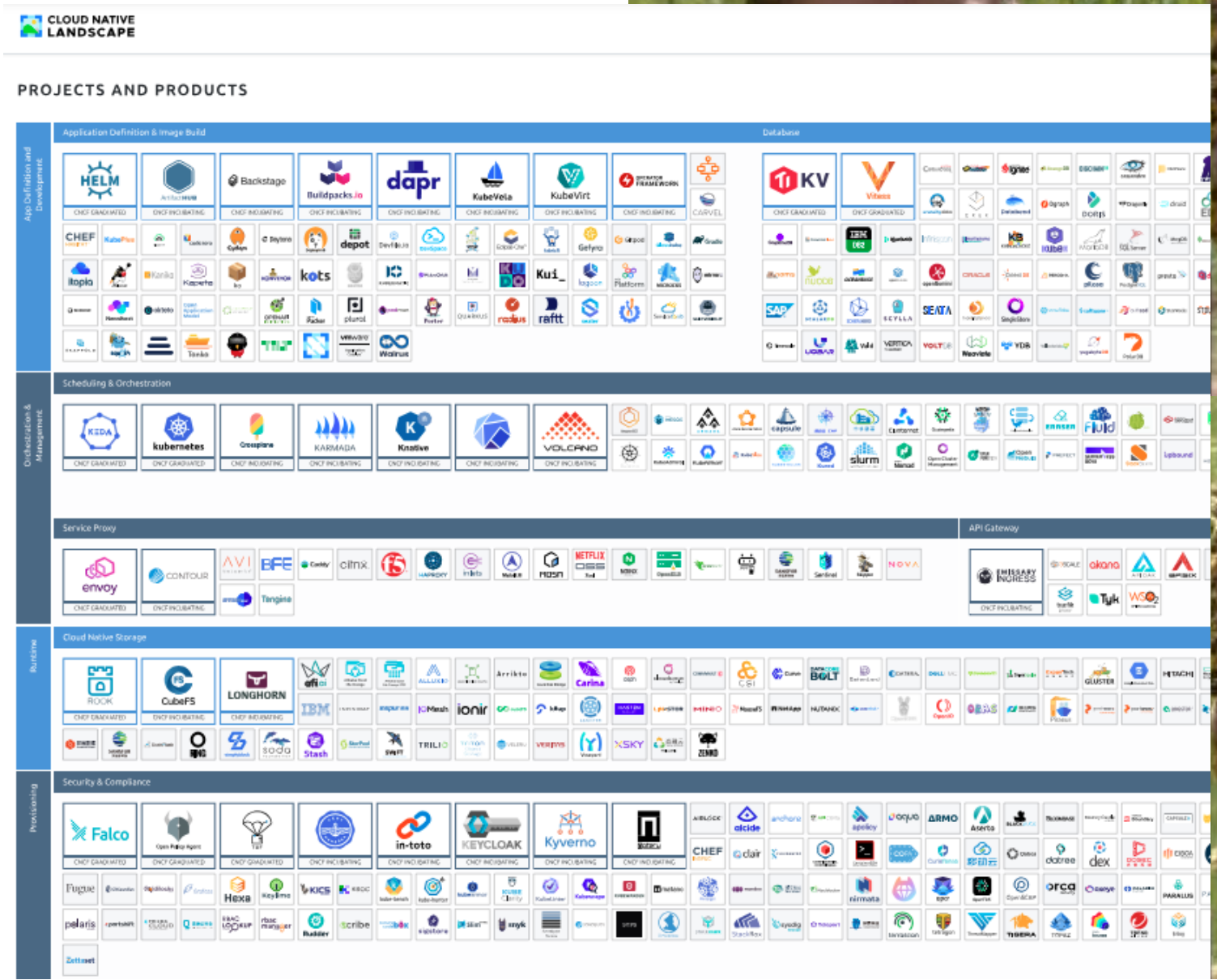


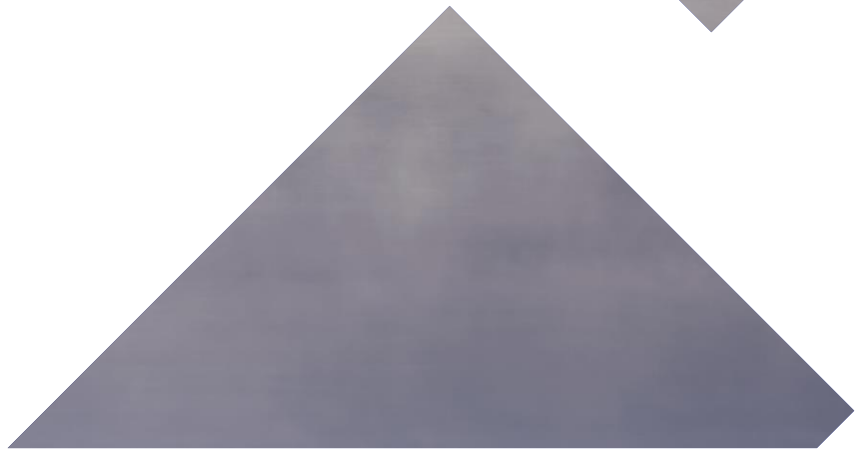
Simple enough



Threat Modelling

Kubernetes
Attack Simulation

Kubernetes
Attack Detection



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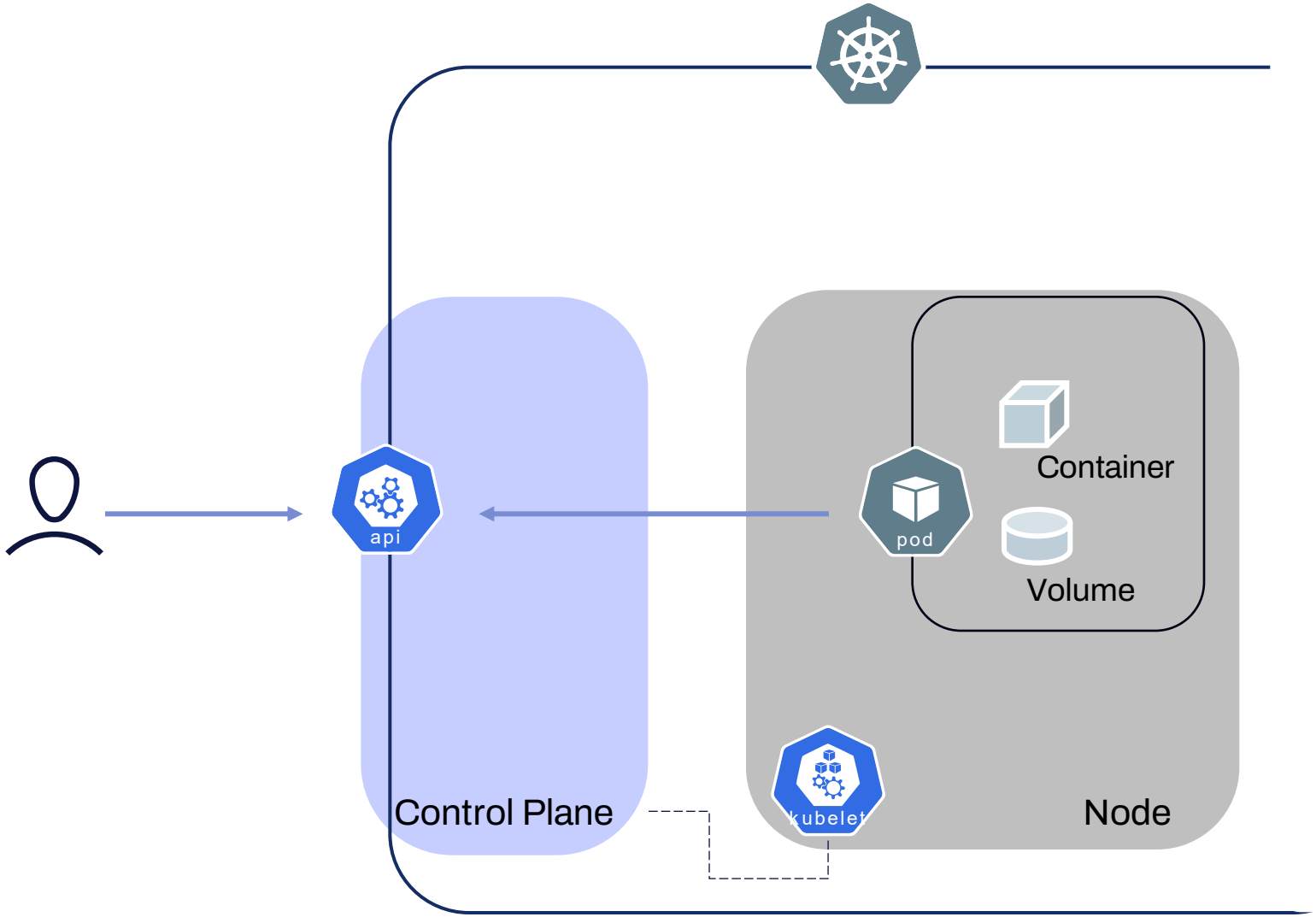
Attack Surfaces



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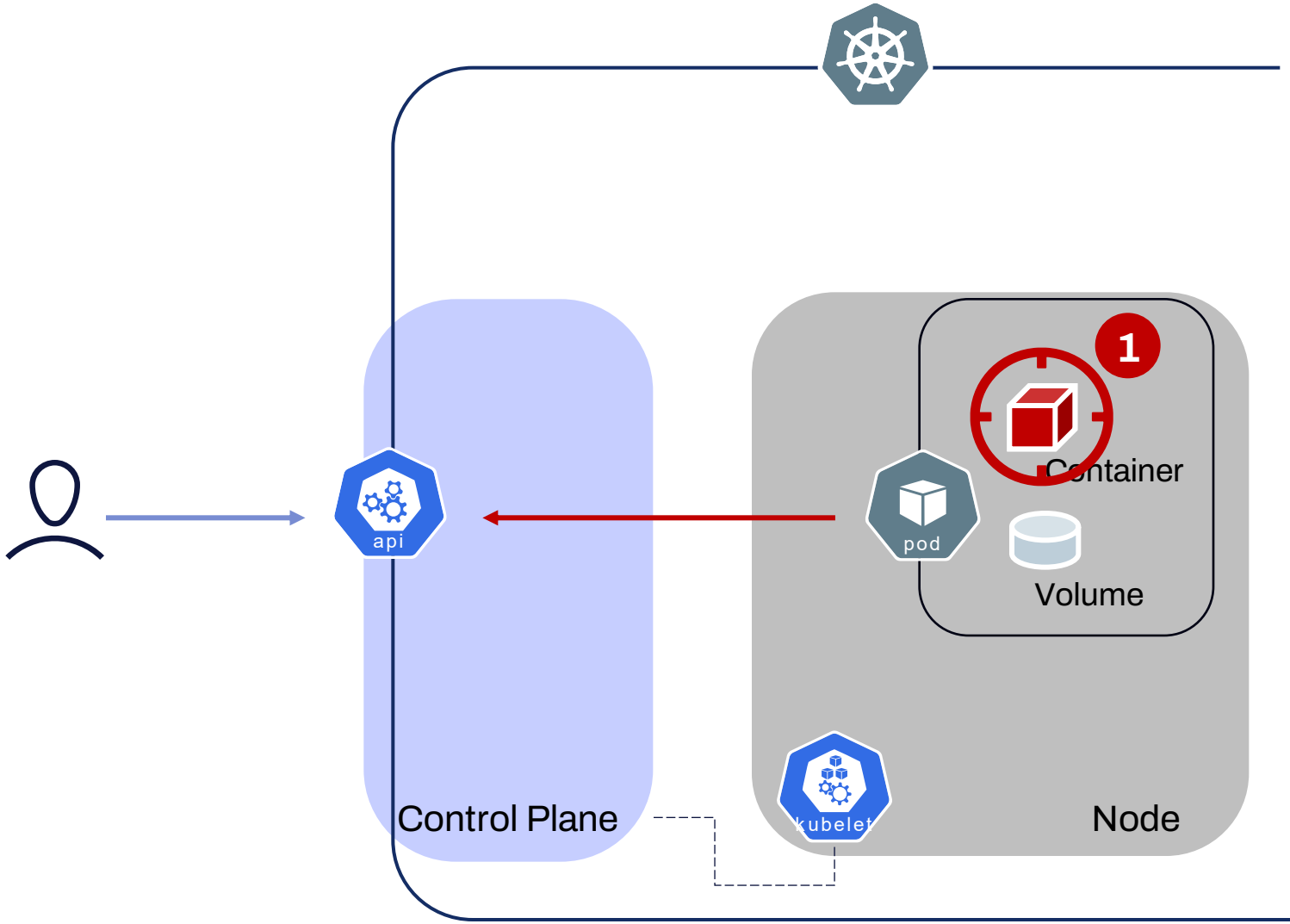

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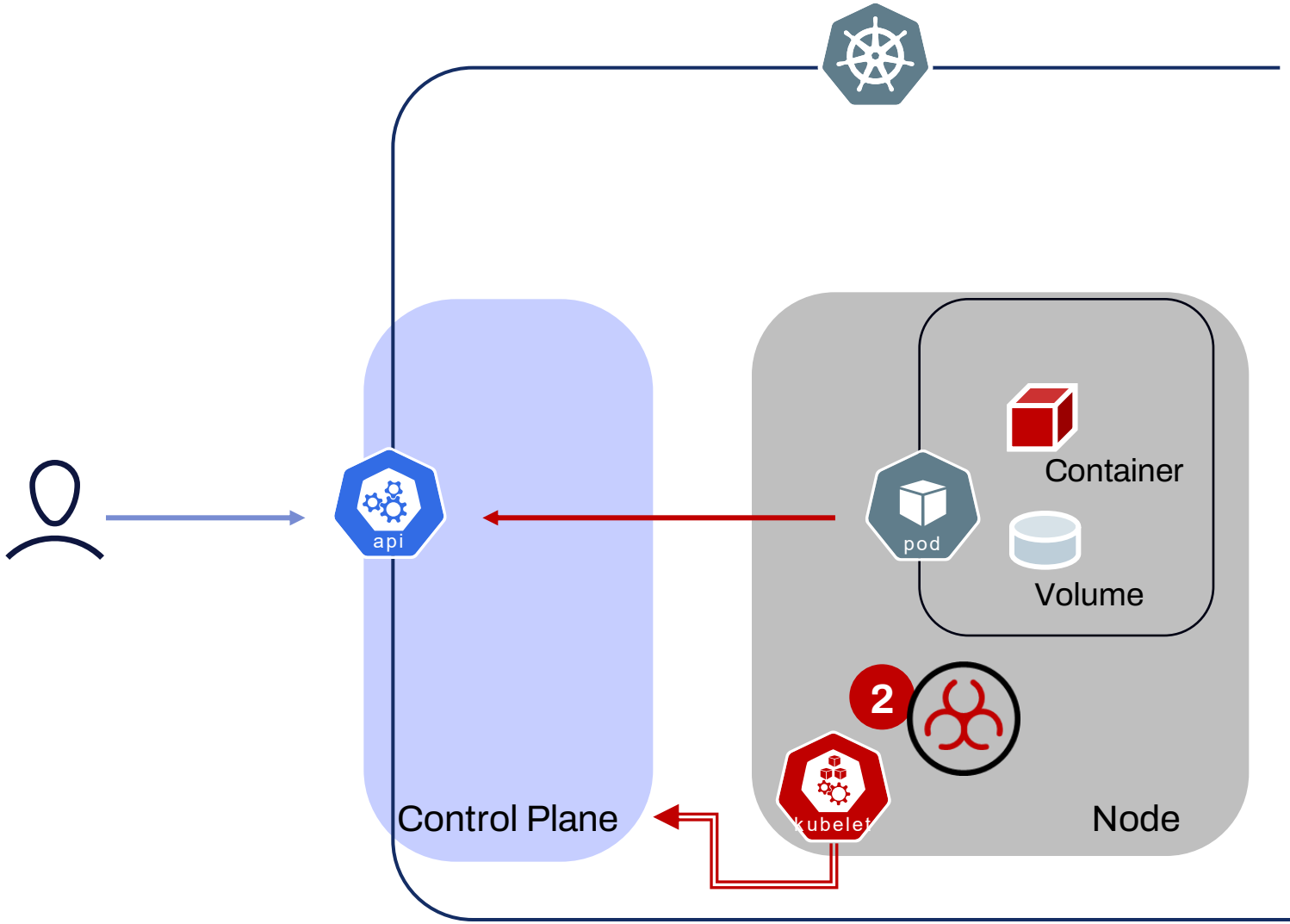

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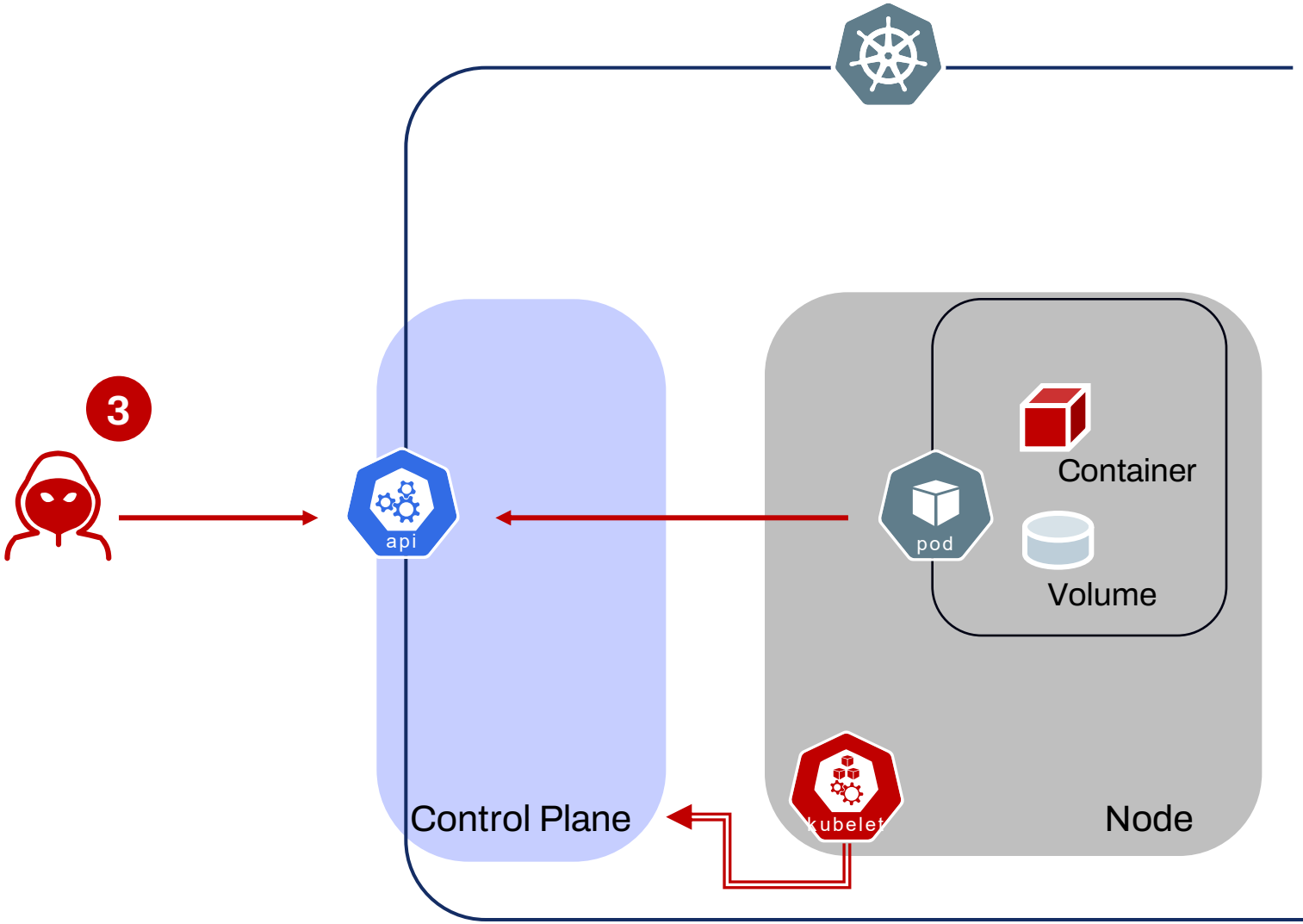

Attacker Incentives

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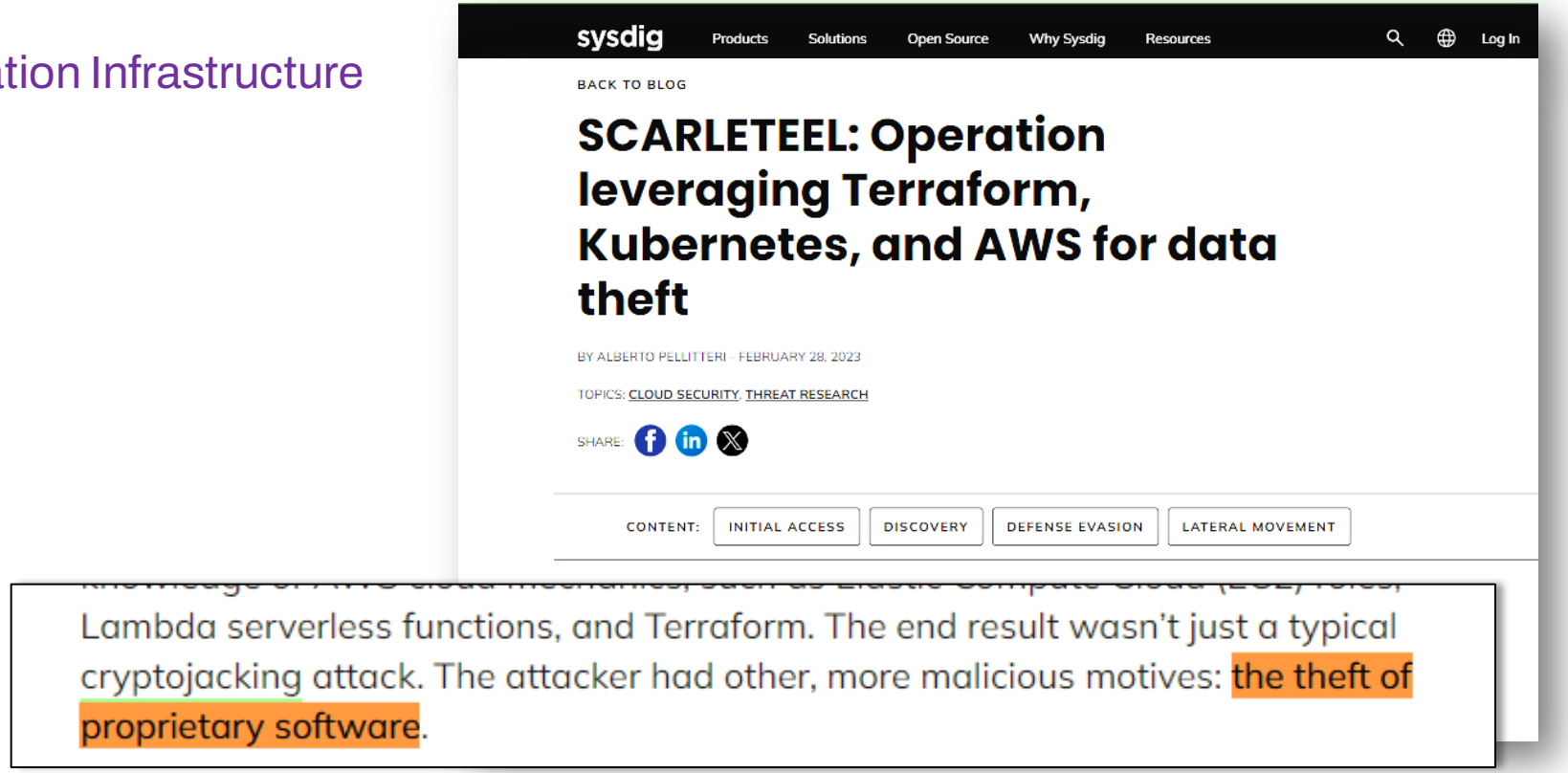
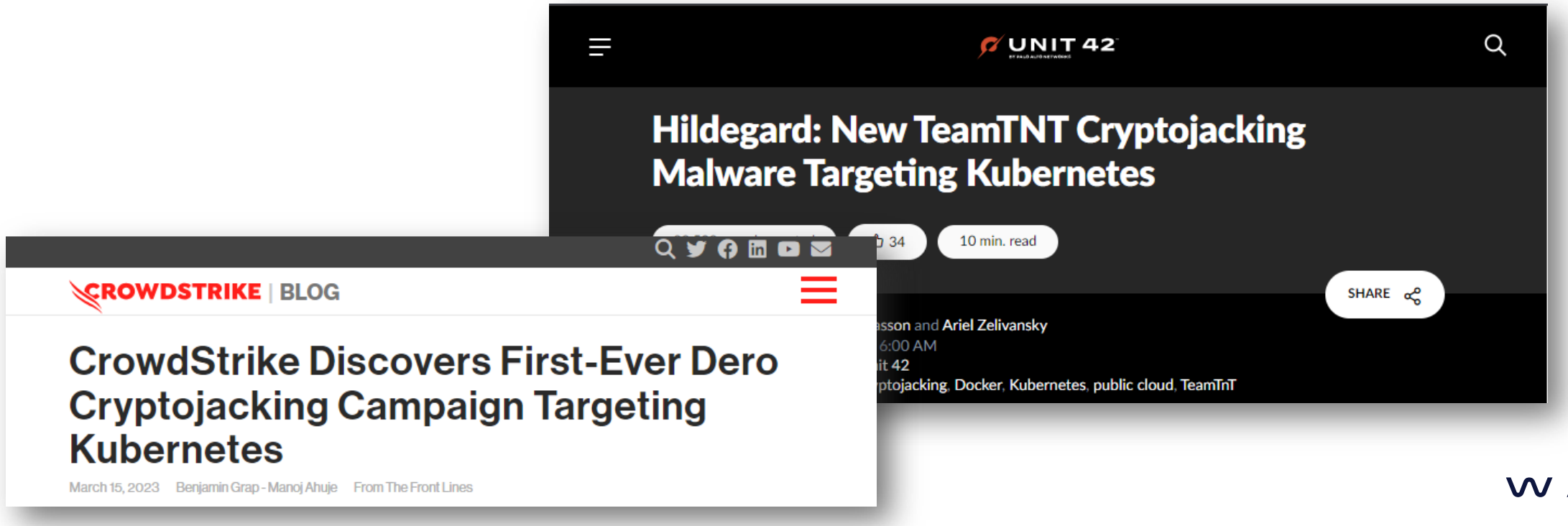
- Orchestration Platform = Application Infrastructure



Attacker Incentives

- Orchestration Platform = Application Infrastructure
- Compute Resources = Hardware for Mining



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- Orchestration Platform = Application Infrastructure
- Compute Resources = Hardware for Mining
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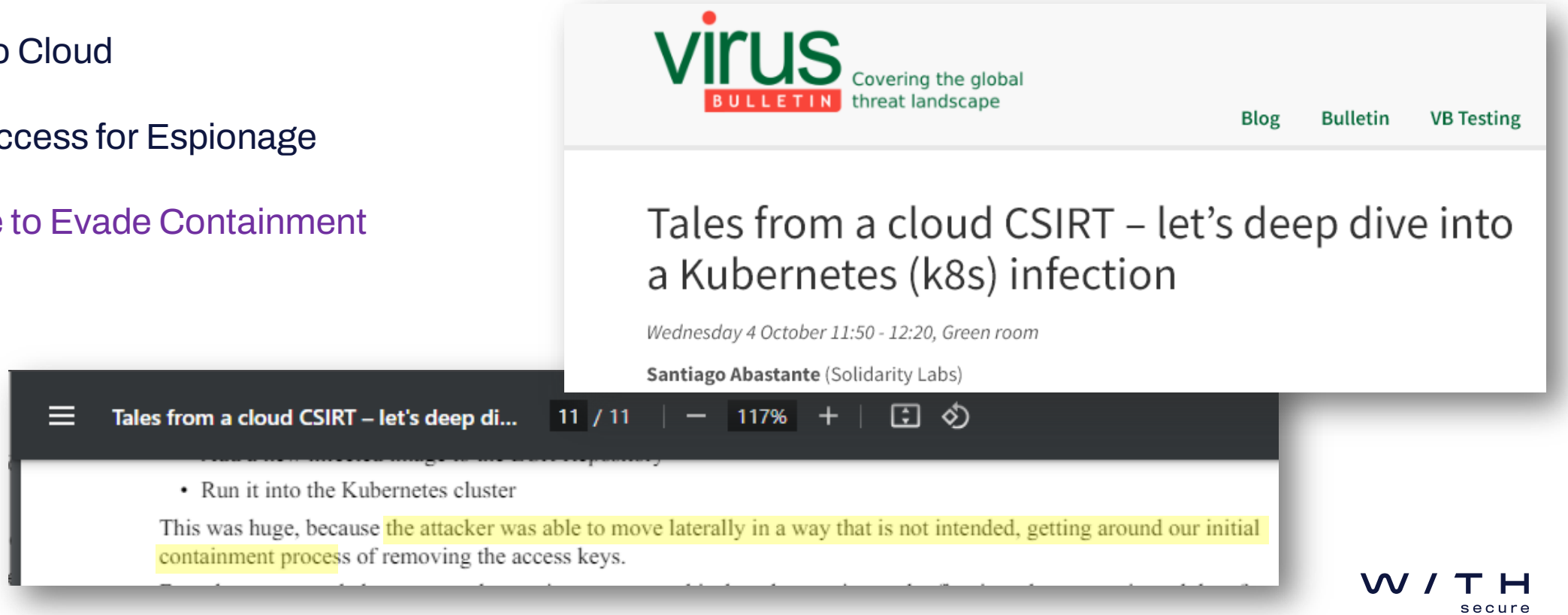
- Persistent access for Espionage
- Hiding place to Evade Containment



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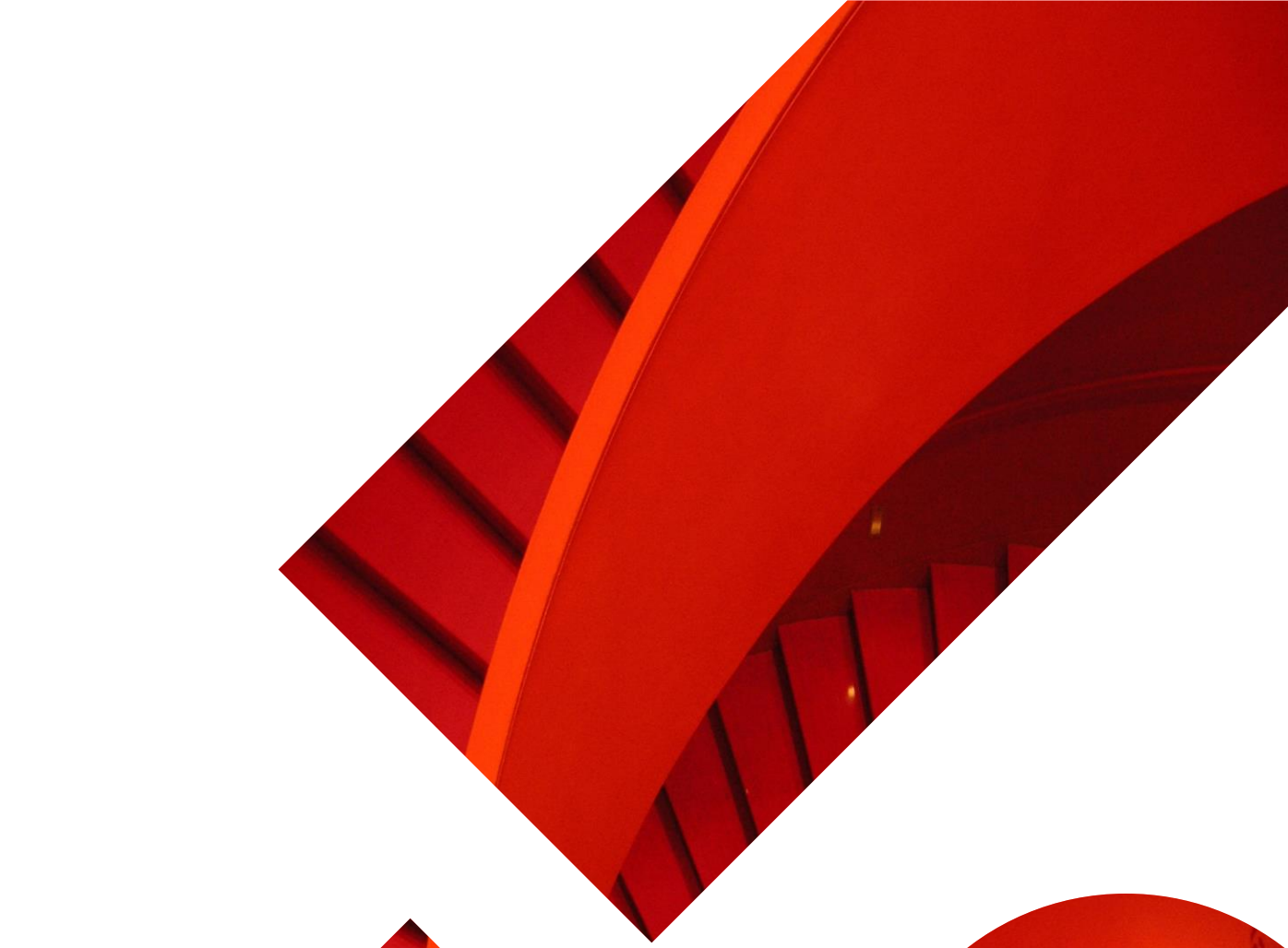
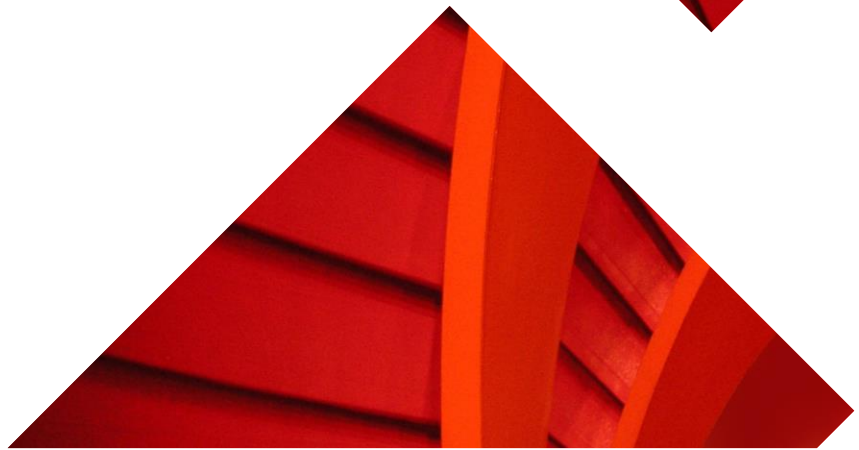
Threat Modelling

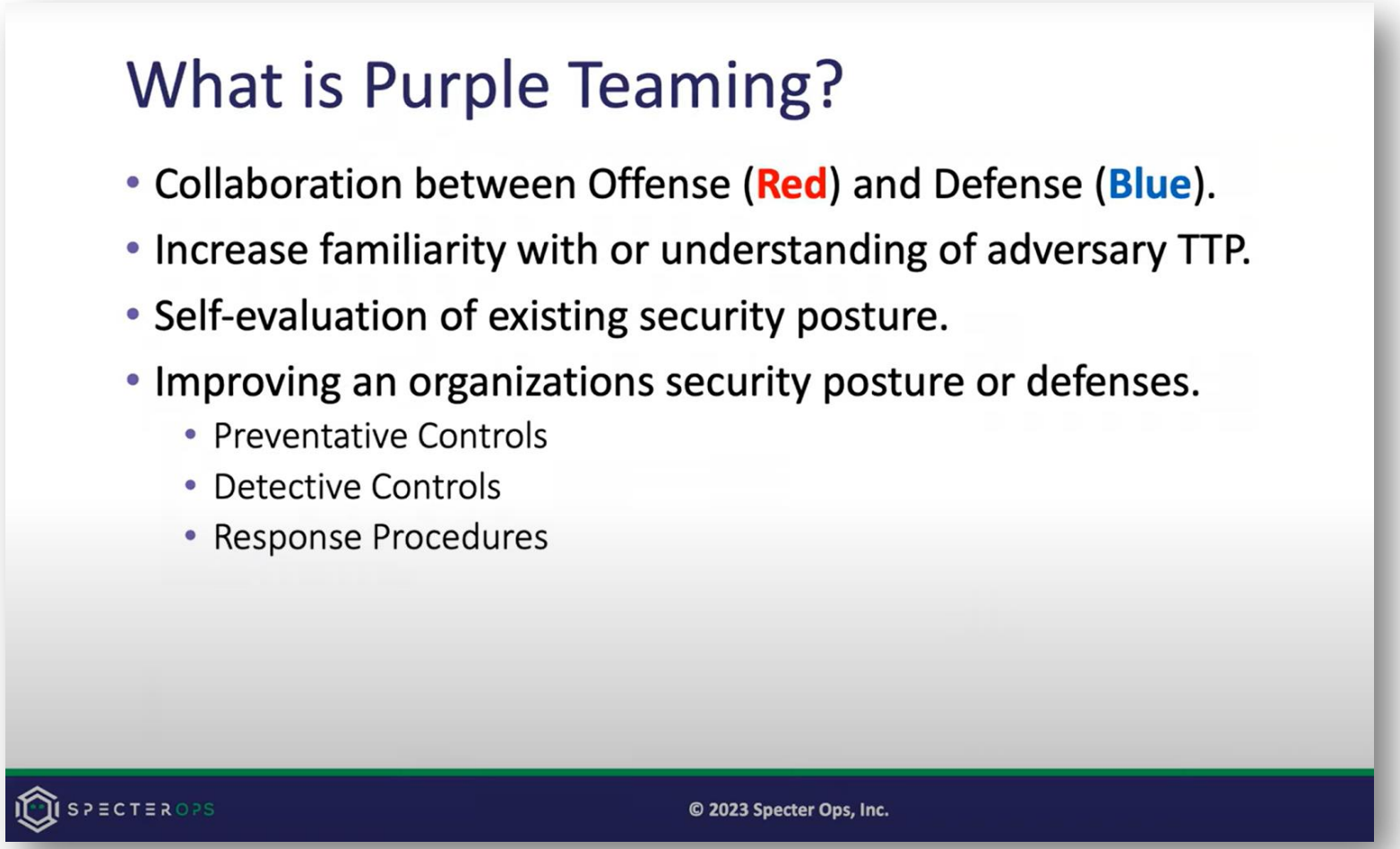
Kubernetes Attack Simulation

Kubernetes Attack Detection

Demo

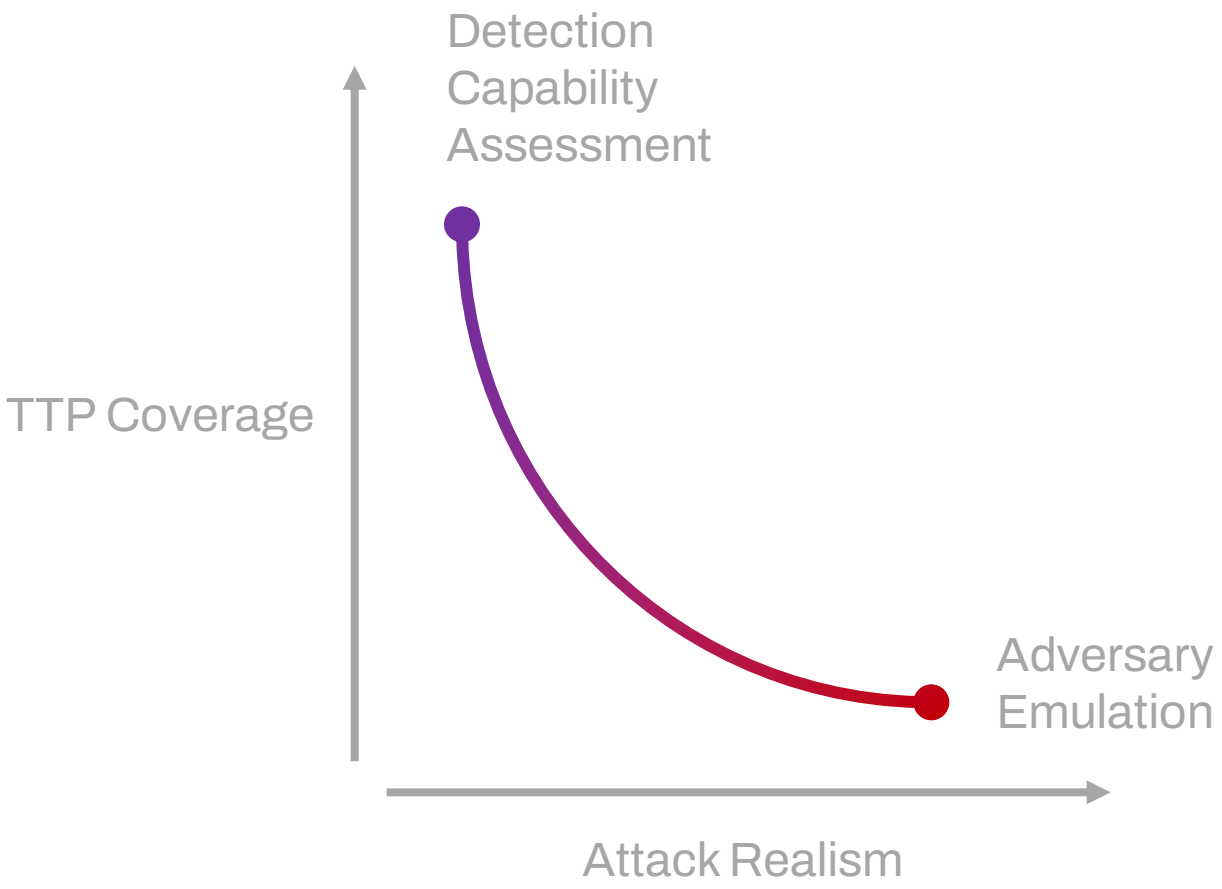






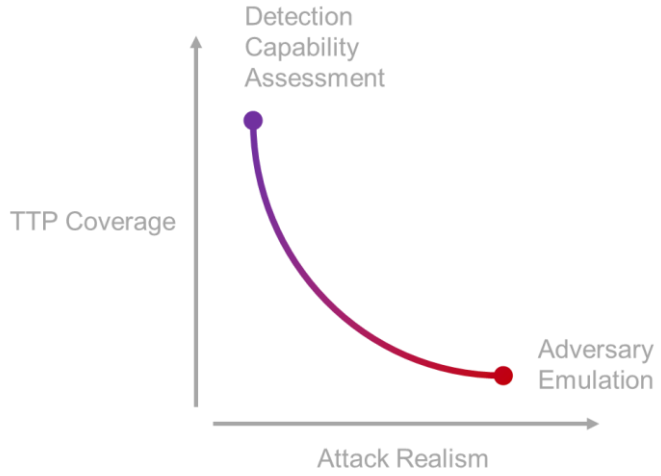
Specter Ops | Purple Teaming (Black Hat USA 2023 Booth Talk)

Shades of Purple



Planning the Exercise

TI-driven



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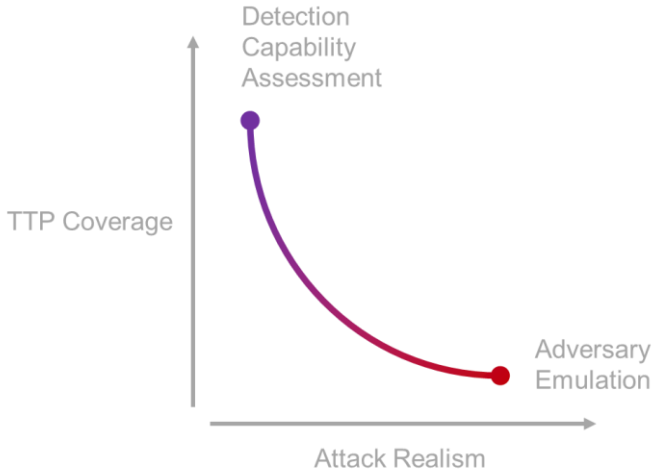
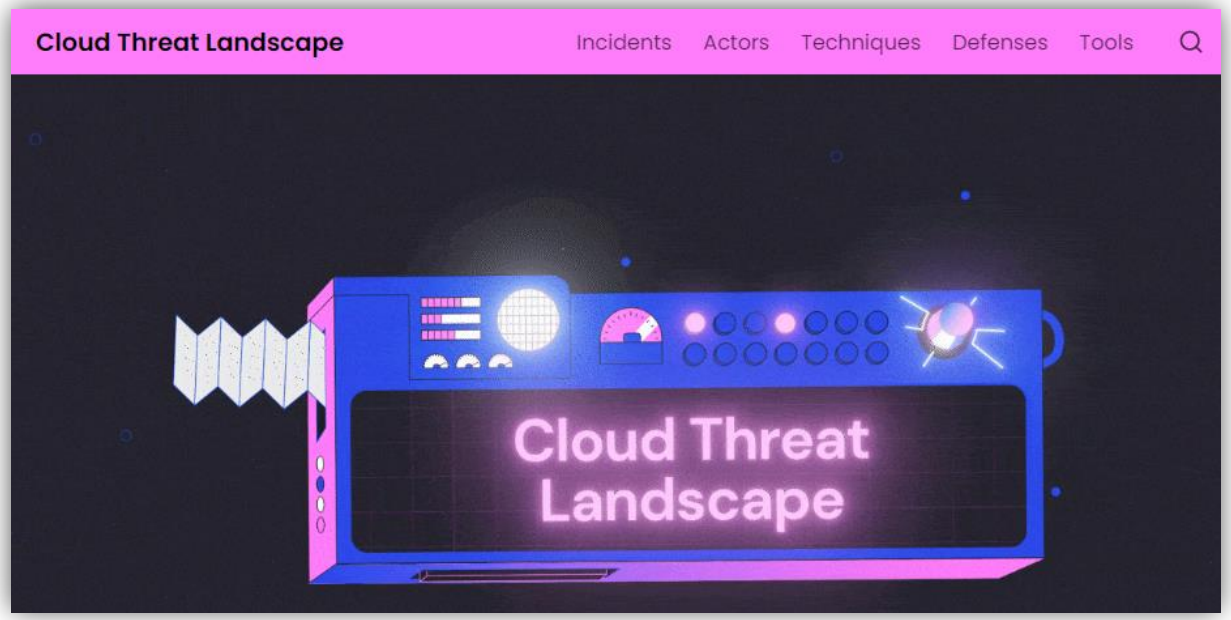


Select Campaign of interest



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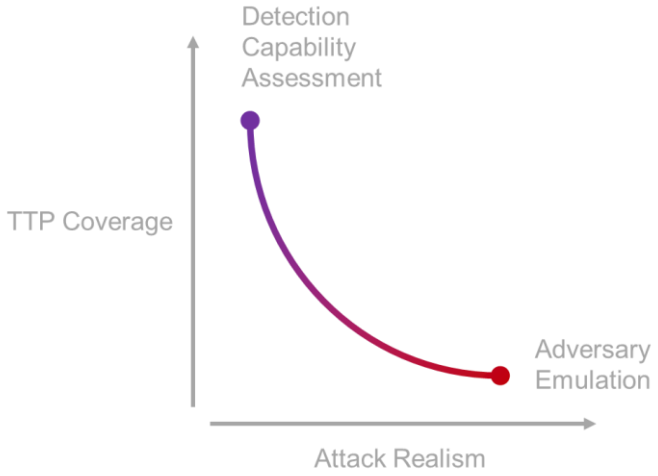
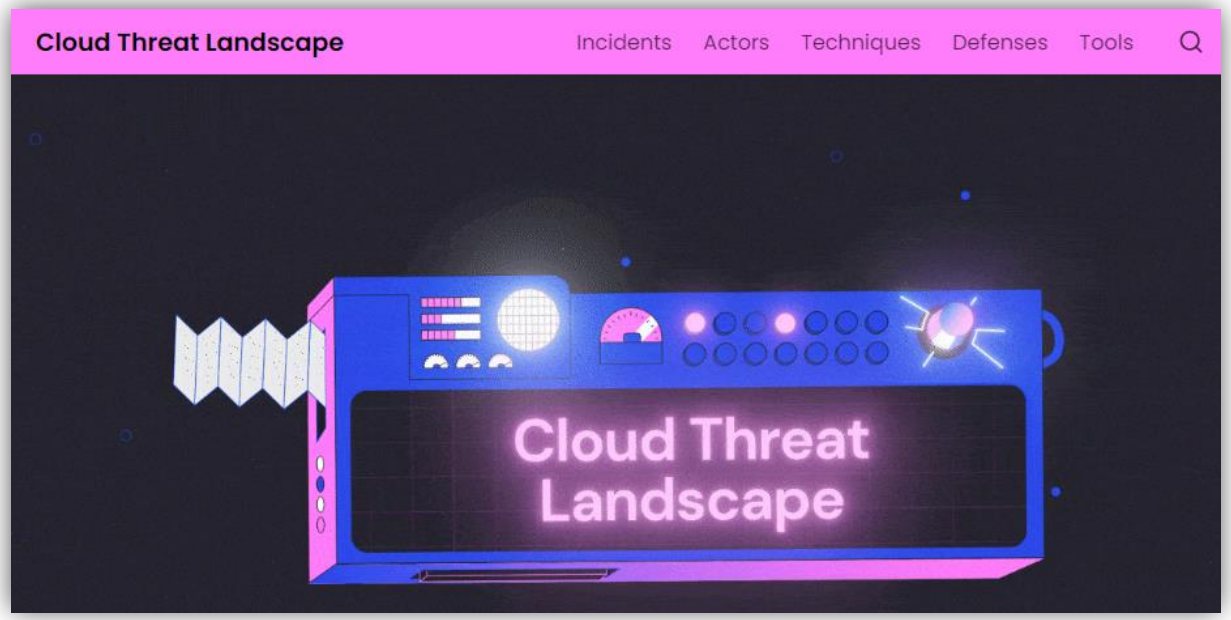


Select Campaign of interest → Gather Threat Intelligence



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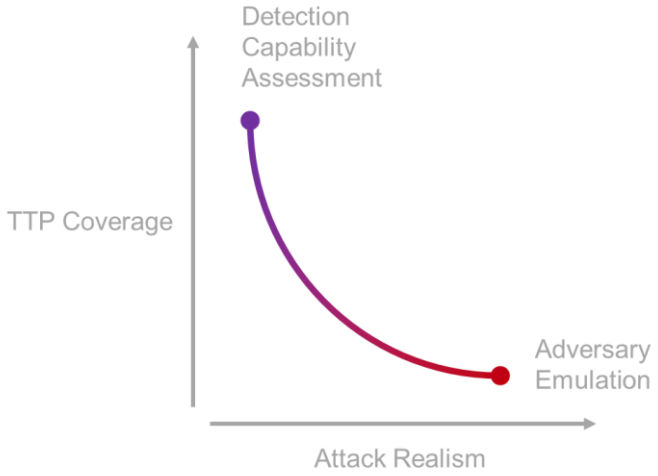

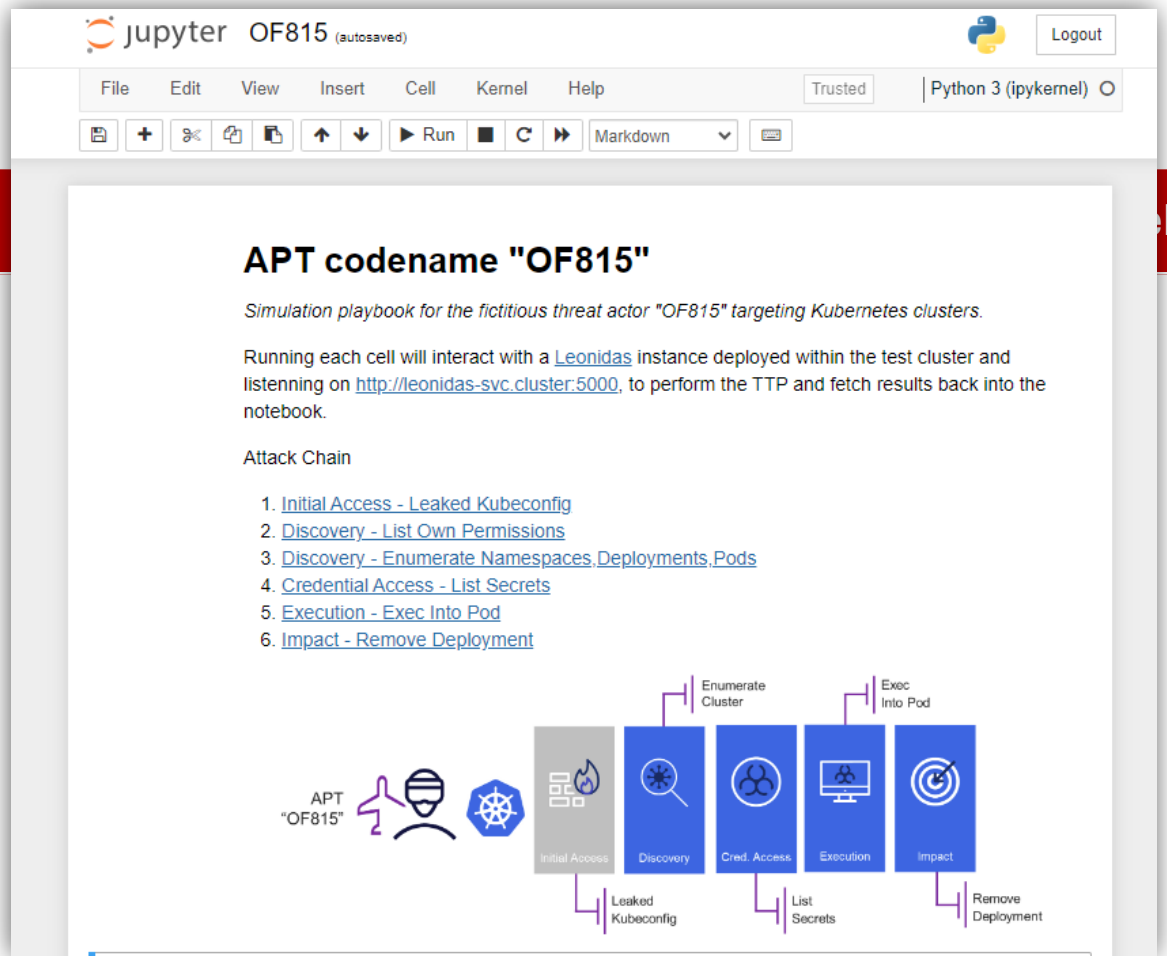

elligence → Re-produce Attack Chain

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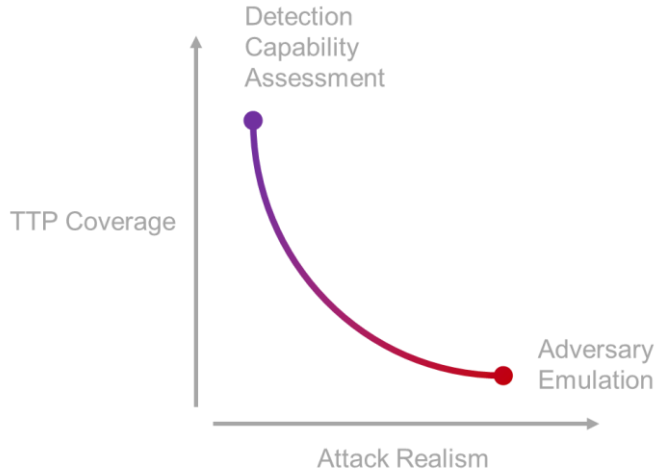
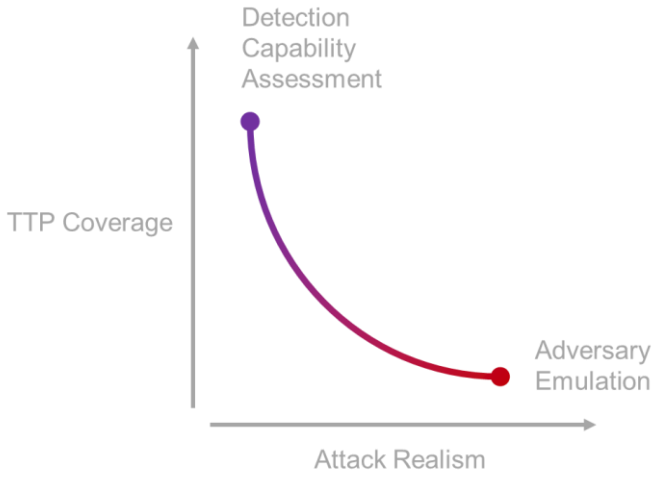
Planning the Exercise

Breadth-first

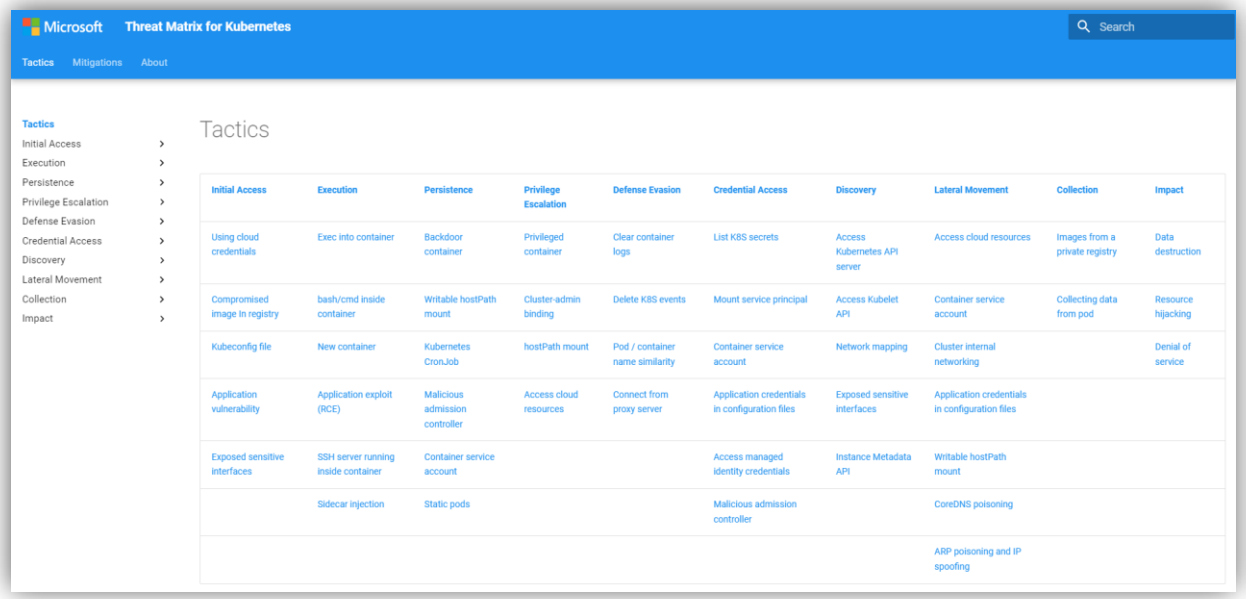


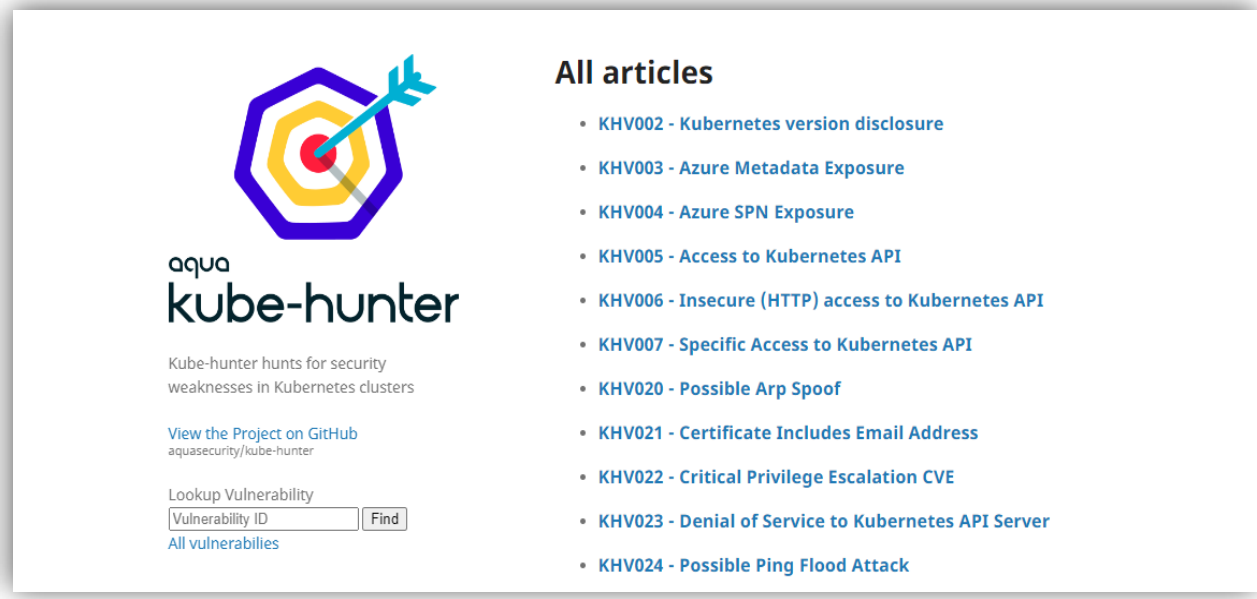
Planning the Exercise

Breadth-first



Select TTPs





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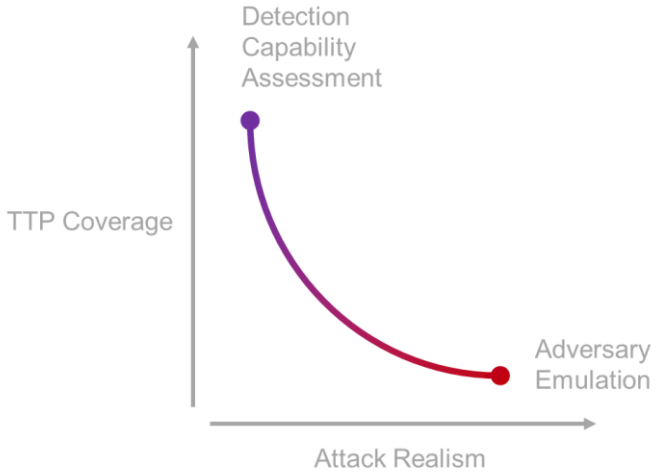

Select TTPs → Design Test Cases

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Planning the Exercise

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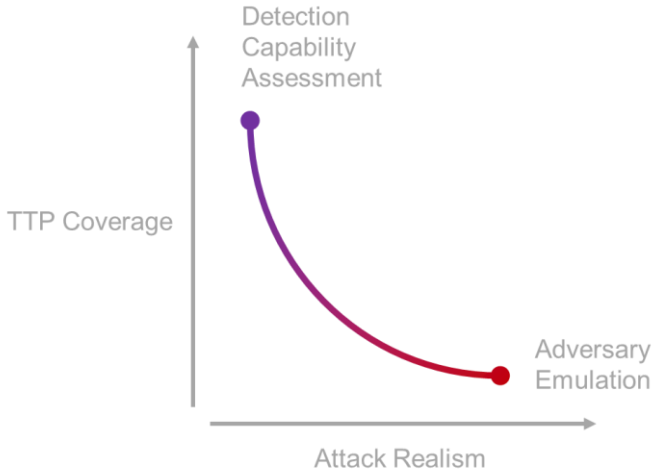


Select TTPs → Design Test Cases → Maintain, Expand, Repeat

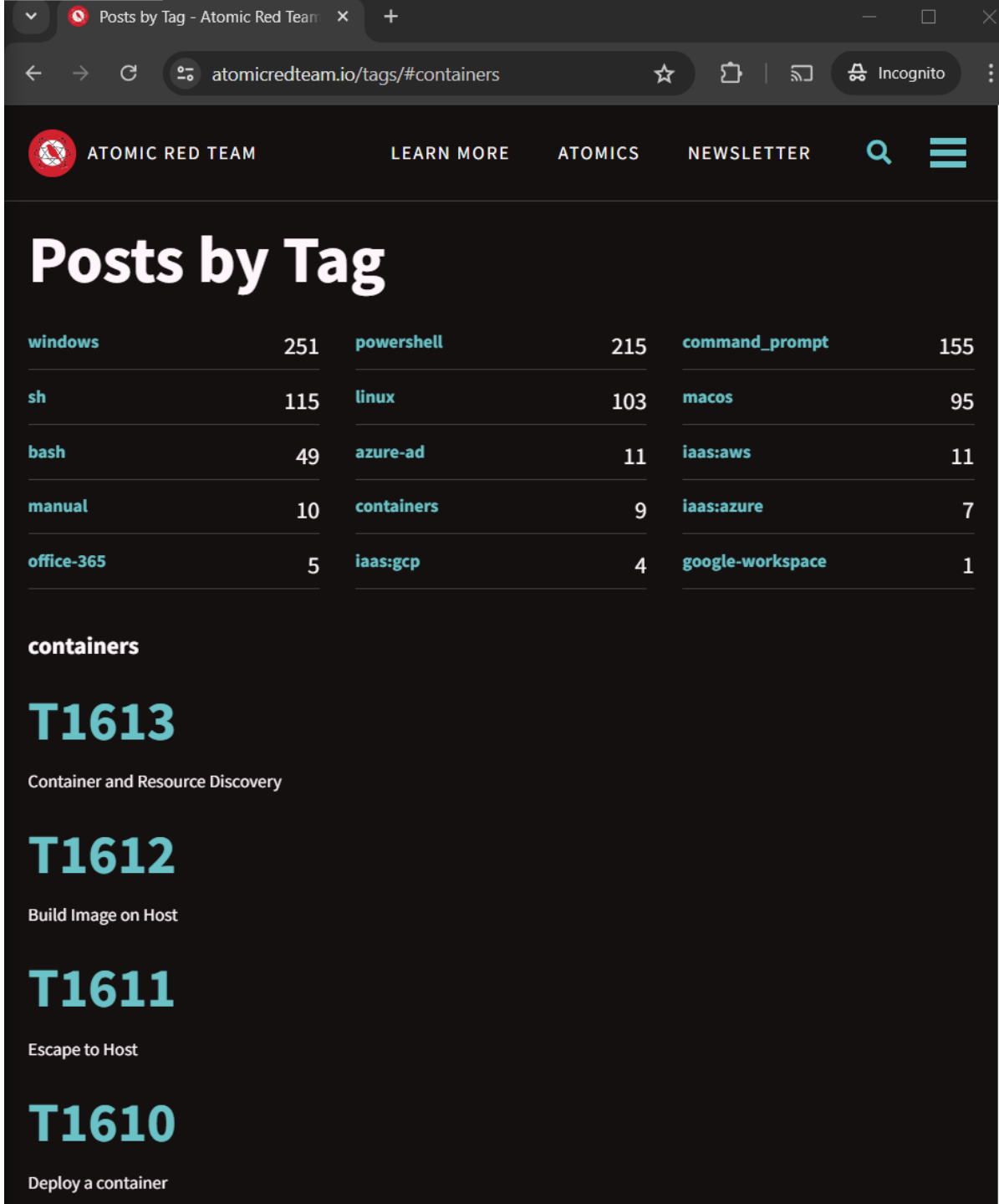
```
On branch master
Your branch is ahead of 'origin/master' by 57 commits.
  (use "git push" to publish your local commits)

Changes to be committed:
  (use "git restore --staged <file>..." to unstage)
        modified:   definitions/credential-access/access-secrets-api-server.yml
        modified:   definitions/credential-access/access-secrets-pod-filesystem.yml
        modified:   definitions/credential-access/app-creds-configmaps.yml
        modified:   definitions/credential-access/app-creds-env.yml
        modified:   definitions/defense-evasion/delete-kubernetes-events.yml
        modified:   definitions/defense-evasion/pod-name-similarity.yml
        modified:   definitions/discovery/enumerate-nodes.yml
        modified:   definitions/discovery/enumerate-pods.yml
        modified:   definitions/discovery/enumerate-rbac-permissions.yml
        modified:   definitions/execution/create-pod-public-image.yml
        modified:   definitions/execution/exec-into-container.yml
        modified:   definitions/execution/settofail.yml
        modified:   definitions/execution/sidecar-injection.yml
        modified:   definitions/impact/delete-pod.yml
        modified:   definitions/impact/delete-serviceaccount.yml
        modified:   definitions/persistence/create-serviceaccount.yml
```

Execution

- K8S Attack Simulation Tools / Frameworks

Execution

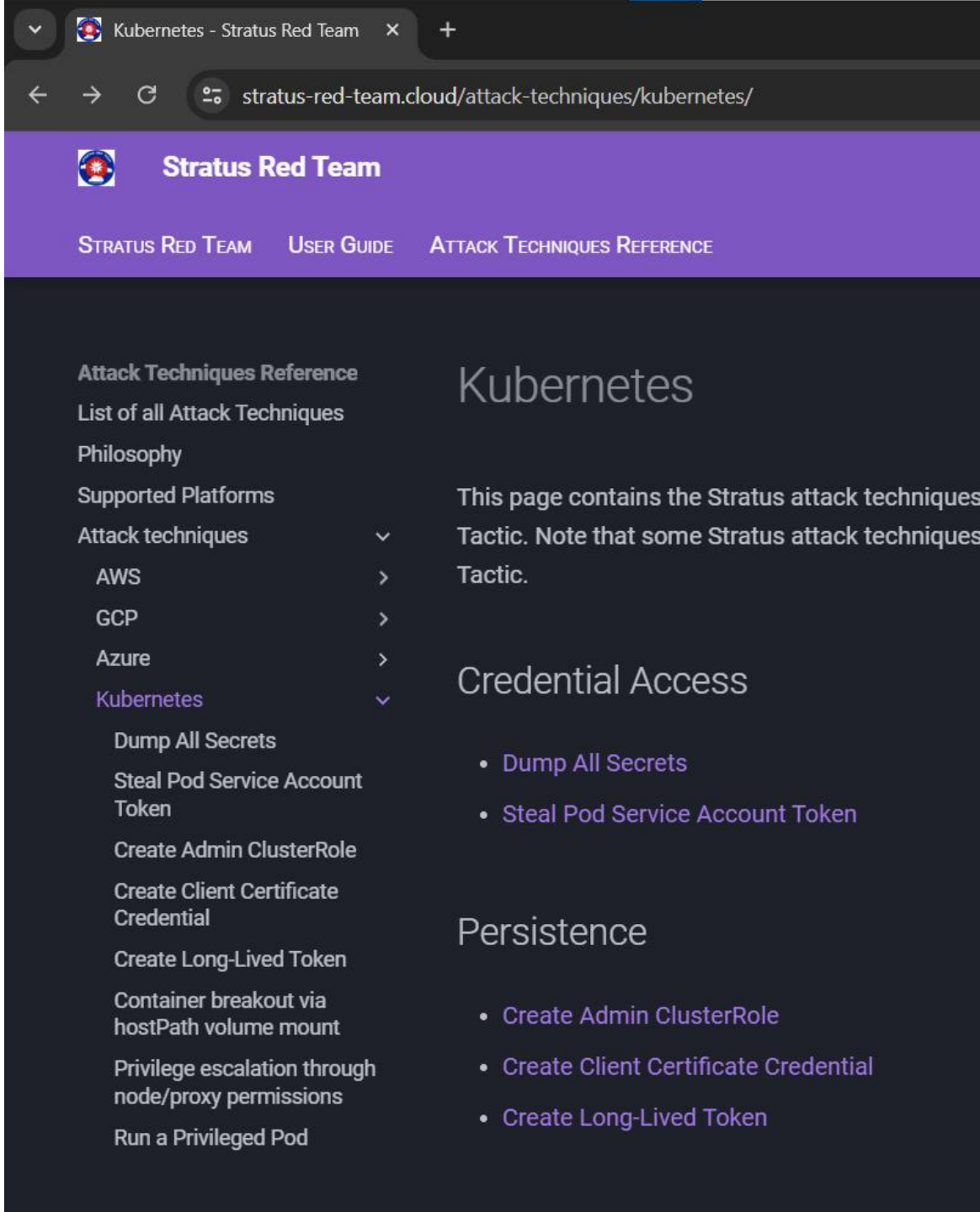
- K8S Attack Simulation Tools / Frameworks
    1. Atomic Red Team



Execution

- K8S Attack Simulation Tools / Frameworks

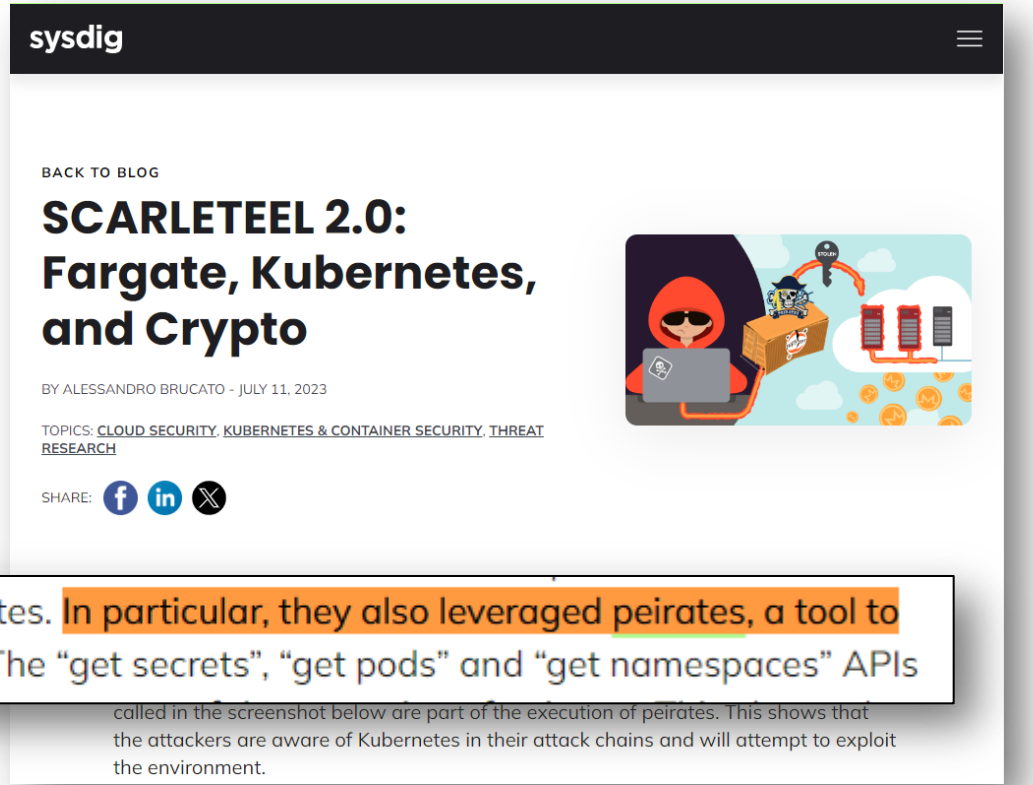
    1. Atomic Red Team
    2. Stratus Red Team



Execution

- K8S Attack Simulation Tools / Frameworks

1. Atomic Red Team
2. Stratus Red Team
3. Peirates

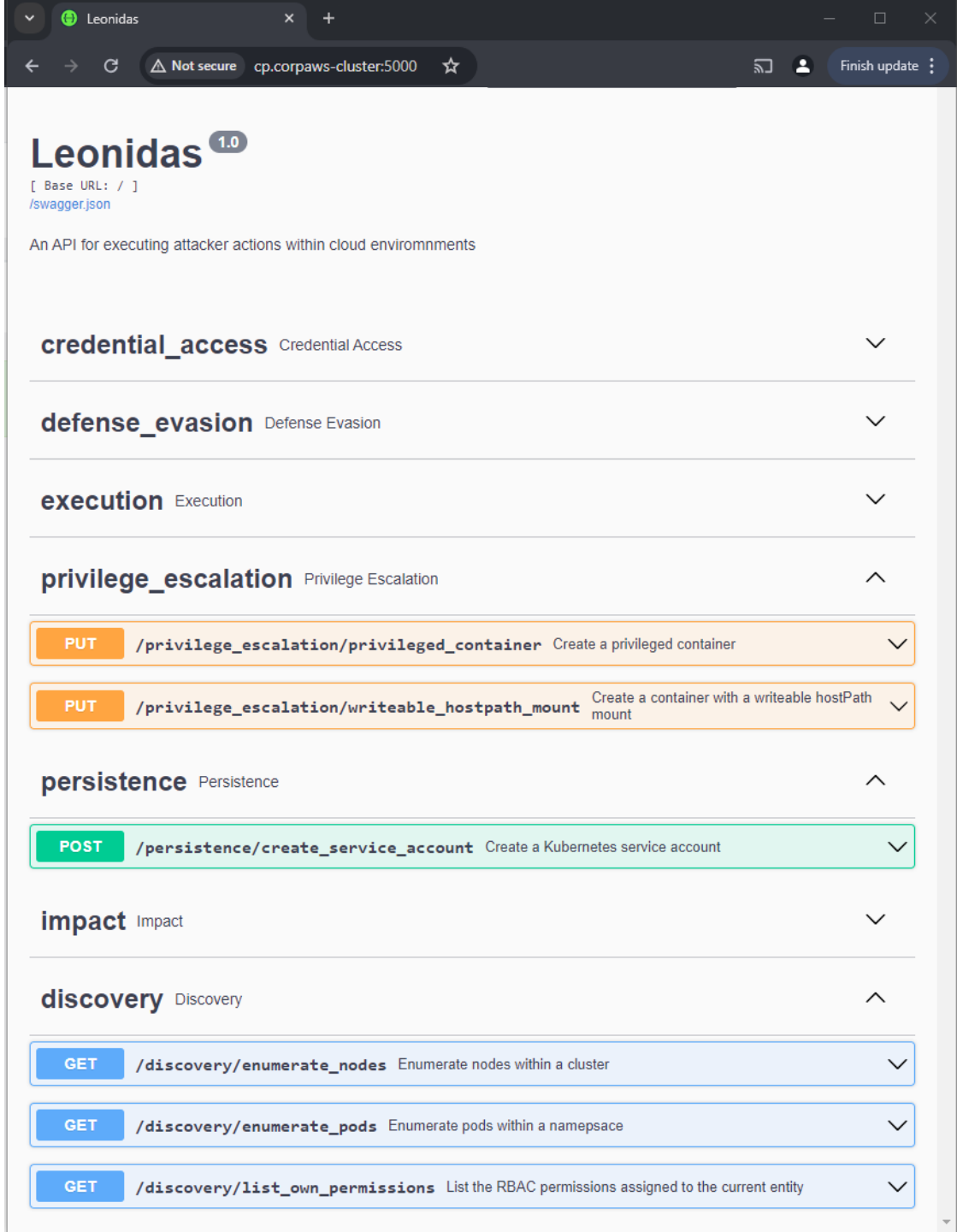


including targeting Kubernetes. In particular, they also leveraged peirates, a tool to further exploit Kubernetes. The "get secrets", "get pods" and "get namespaces" APIs called in the screenshot below are part of the execution of peirates. This shows that the attackers are aware of Kubernetes in their attack chains and will attempt to exploit the environment.

Execution

- K8S Attack Simulation Tools / Frameworks

1. Atomic Red Team
2. Stratus Red Team
3. Peirates
4. Leonidas for K8S

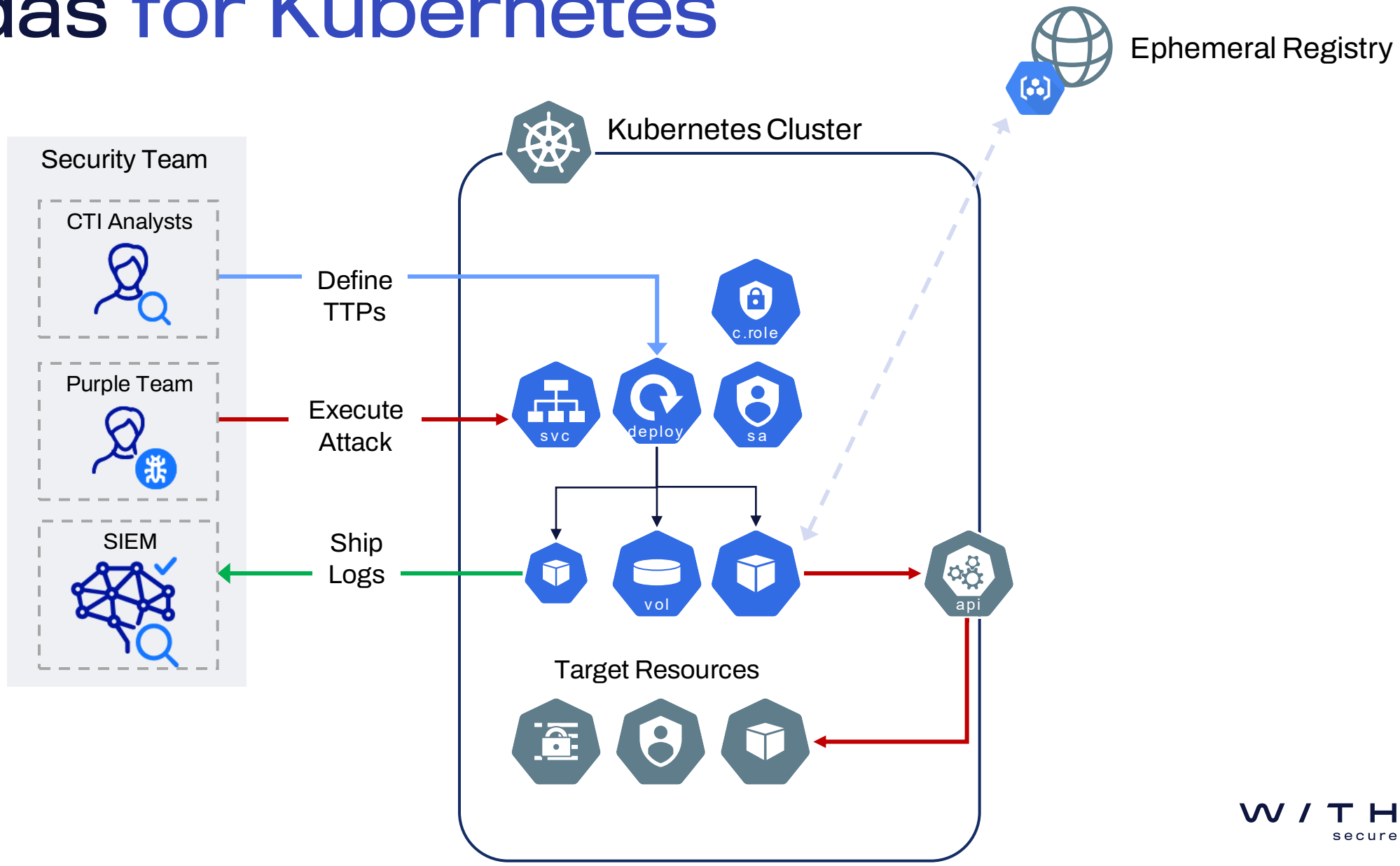


Leonidas

https://github.com/WithSecureLabs/leonidas

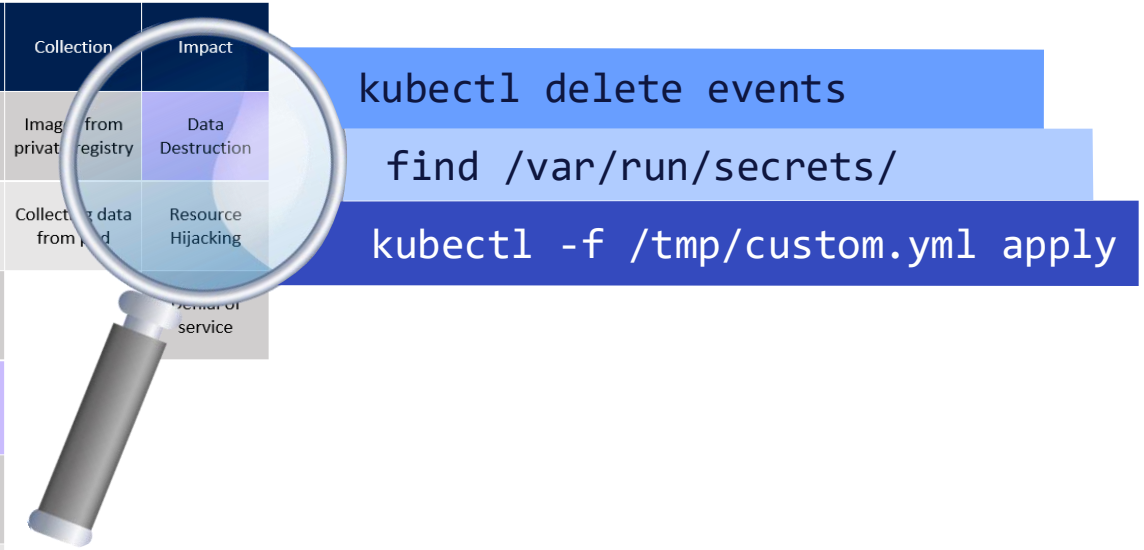
- Extensible
- Easy to write attack test cases
- Attacks- & Detections-as-Code
- Permission management
- REST API / Scripting-friendly

Leonidas for Kubernetes



Leonidas for Kubernetes

Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Collection	Impact
Cloud Credentials	Exec into container	Backdoor Container	Privileged container	Clear container logs	List K8S secrets	Access the K8S API server	Access cloud resources	Imag from privat registry	Data Destruction
Compromised image in registry	bash/cmd inside container	Writeable hostPath mount	Cluster-admin binding	Delete K8S events	Mount service principal	Access Kubelet API	Container service account	Collect data from d	Resource Hijacking
Kubeconfig file	New container	Kubernetes CronJob	Hostpath mount	Pod / container name similarity	Access container service account	Network mapping	Cluster internal networking		service
Application Vulnerability	Application Exploit (RCE)	Malicious admission controller	Access cloud resources	Connect from proxy server	Application credentials in configuration files	Access Kubernetes dashboard	Application credentials in configuration files		
Exposed Dashboard	SSH server running inside container	Container service account				Instance Metadata API	Writeable volume mounts on the host		
	Sidecar Injection	Static pods					Access dashboard		
							Access tiller endpoint		
							CoreDNS poisoning		
							ARP poisoning and IP spoofing		



https://microsoft.github.io/Threat-Matrix-for-Kubernetes/

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Threat Modelling

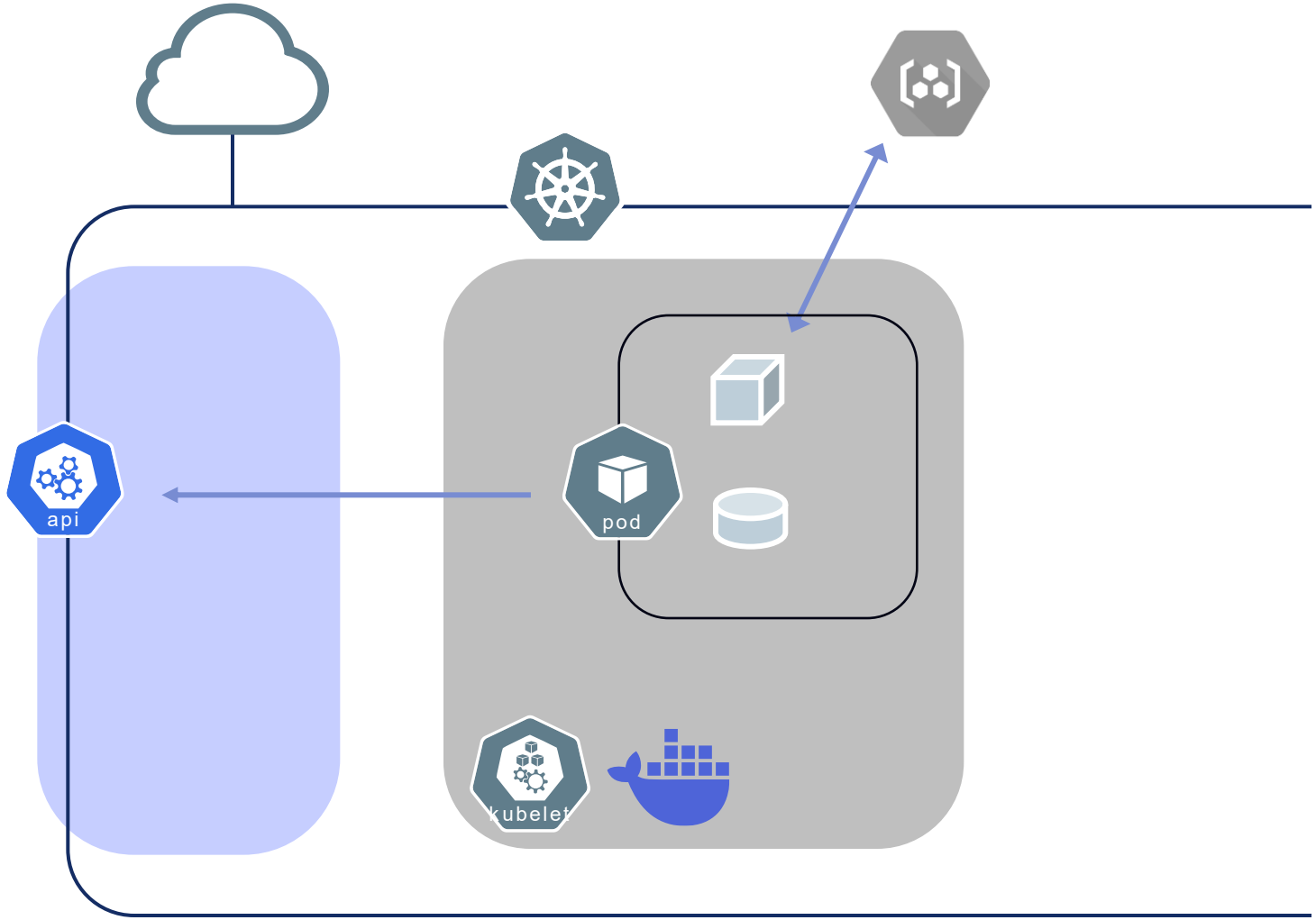
Kubernetes
Attack Simulation

Kubernetes Attack Detection

Demo

Log Sources

https://kubernetes.io/docs/concepts/cluster-administration/logging/



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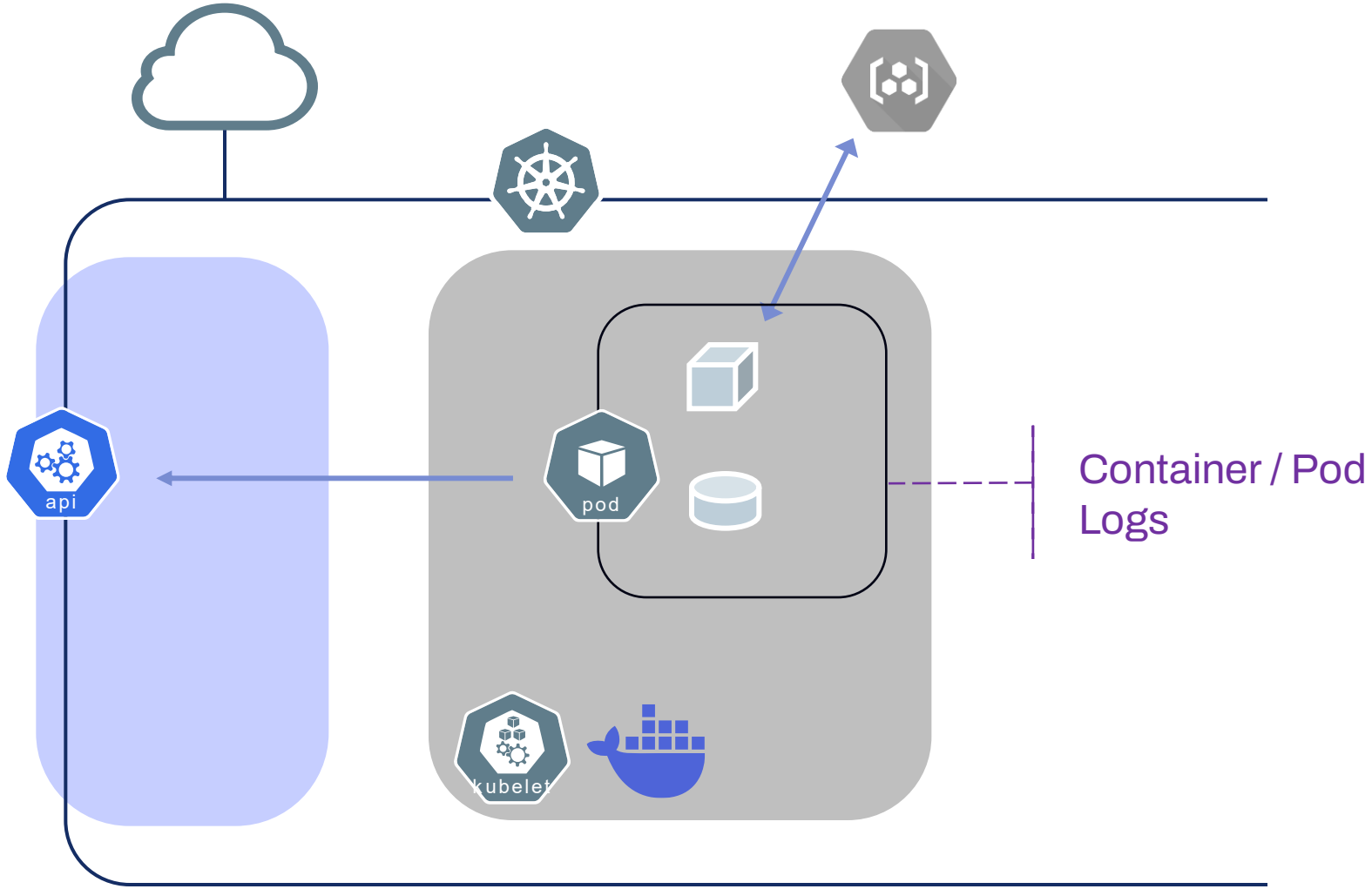

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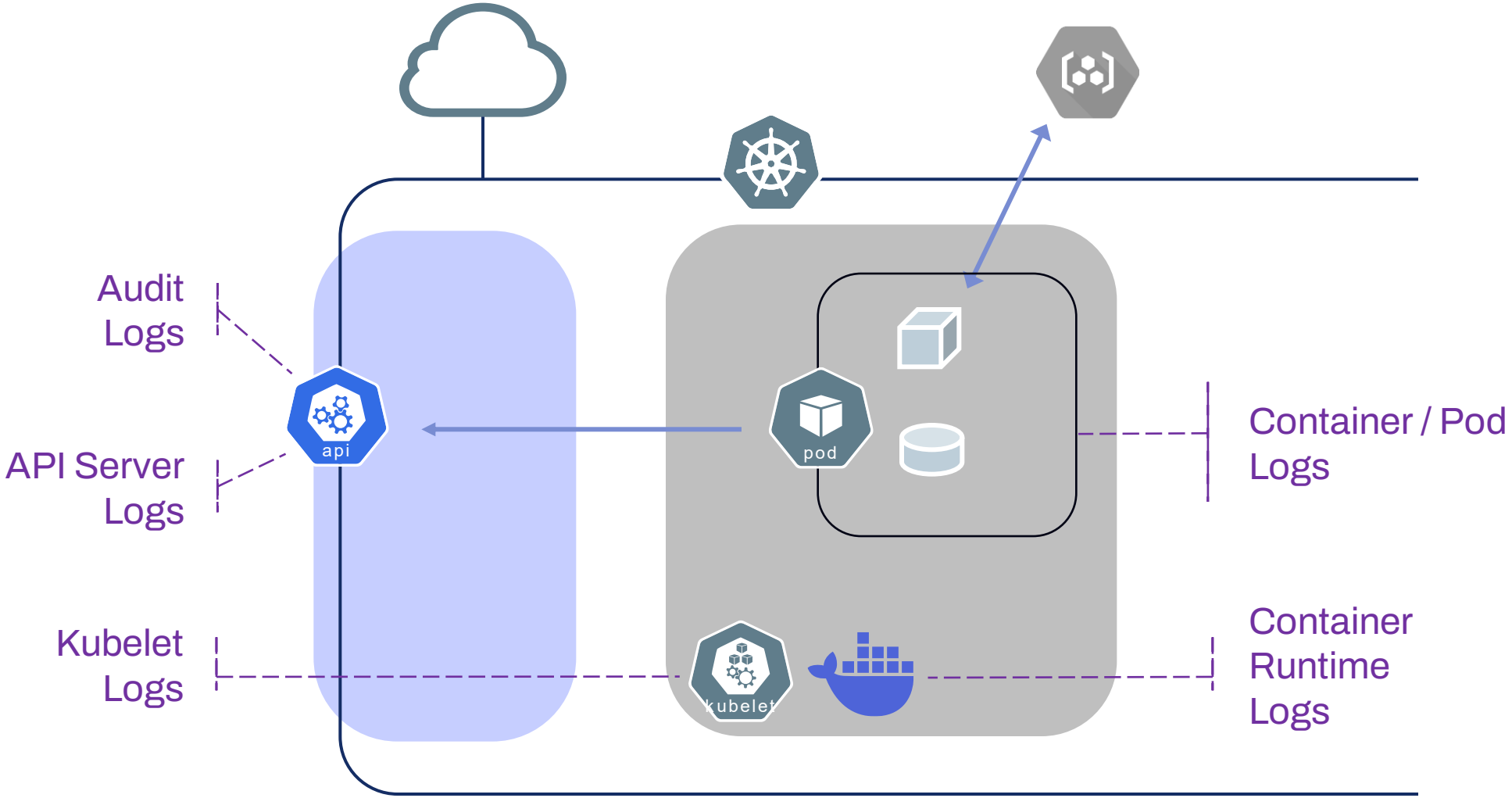

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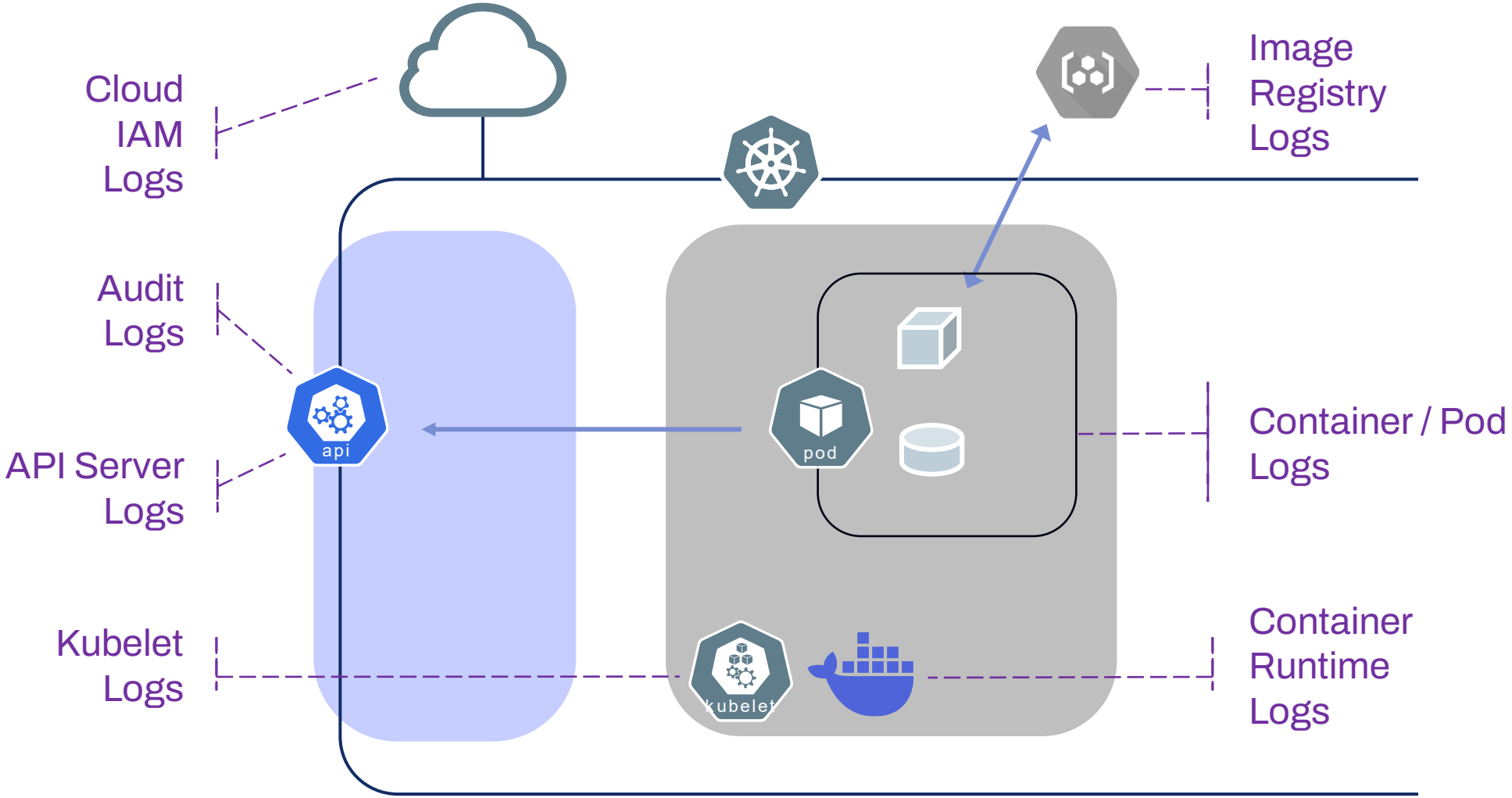

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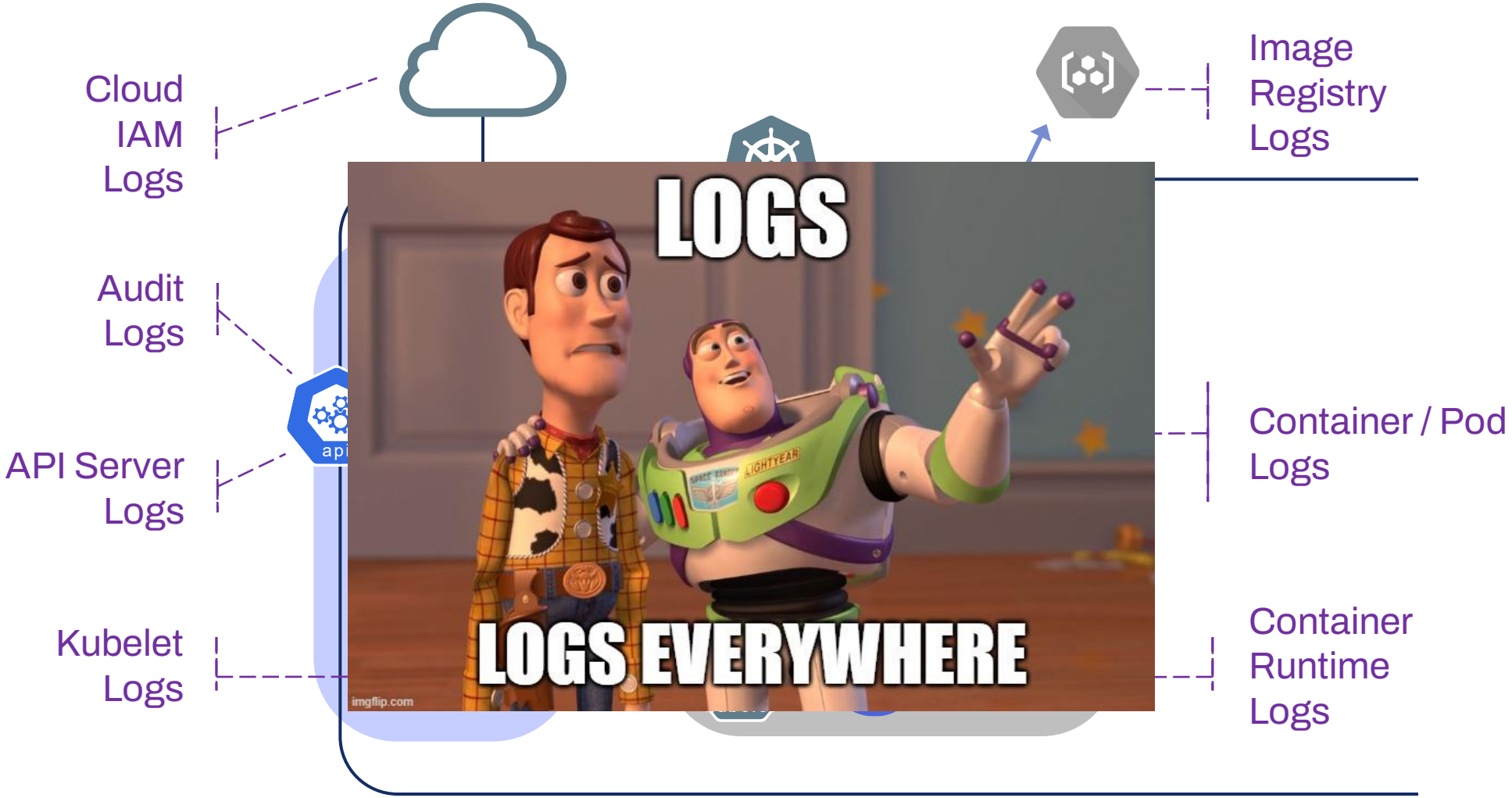
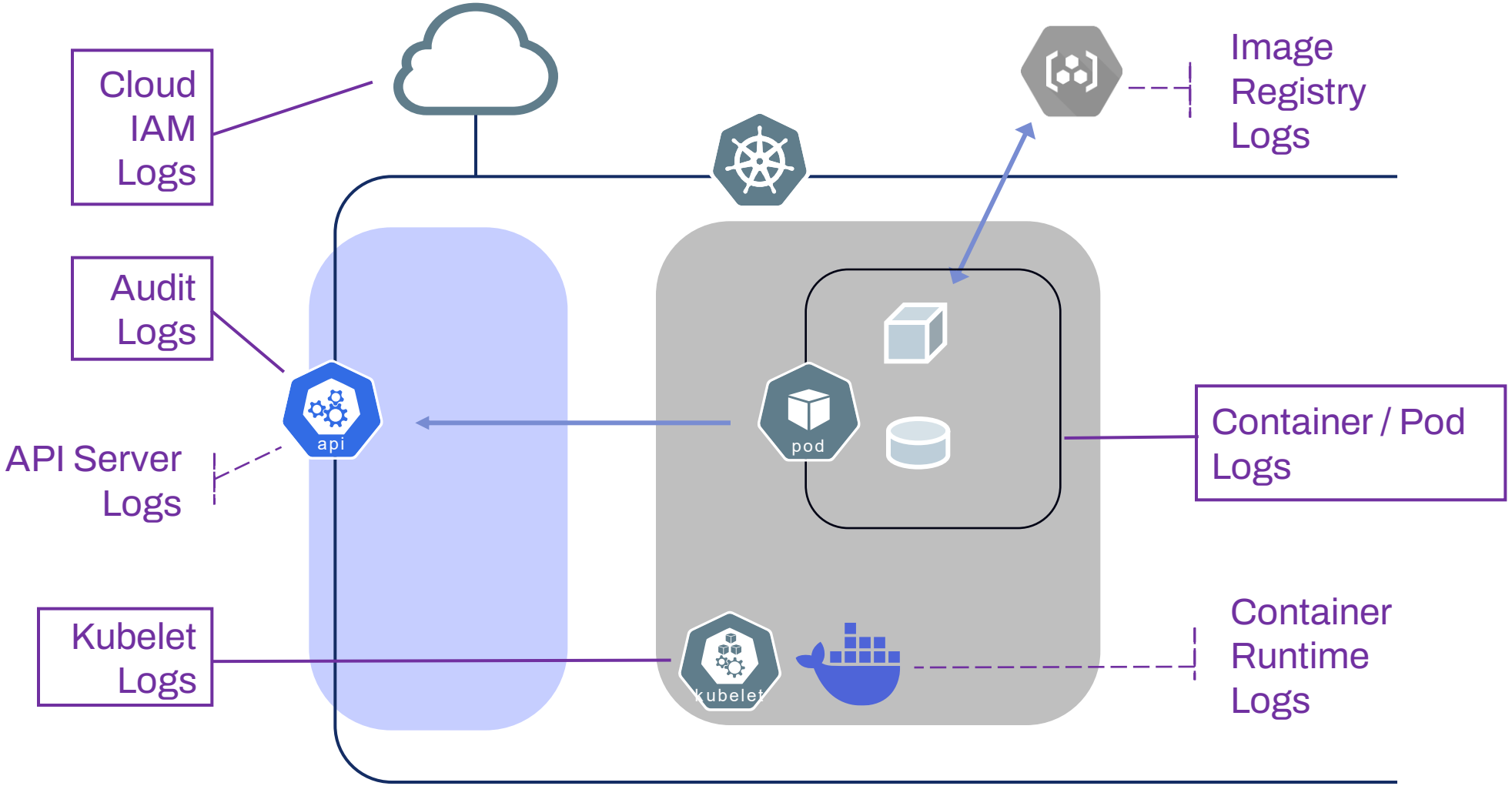


Security-relevant Logs



K8S Audit Logs

- “Access Logs” of API Server

- *Not enabled by default*
- *There are ways to evade them*

K8S Audit Logs

- Audit Policy YAML

- Configurable **Verbosity** level - per Event
  1. None
  2. Metadata
  3. Request
  4. RequestResponse

- File / Webhook **Backend**
  - Agents like Filebeat can then pipe them into the SIEM

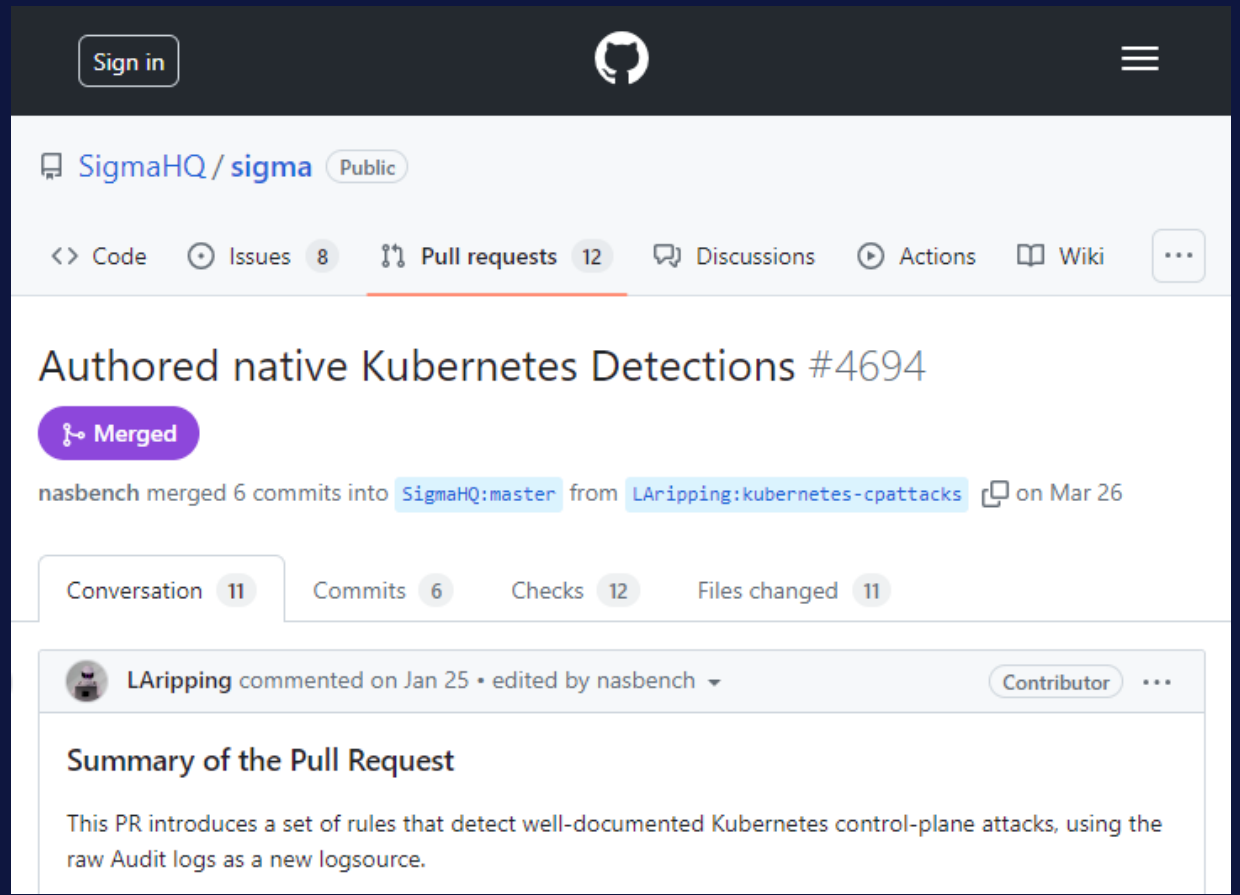
- Caveat: *Not customizable in managed clusters!*

https://github.com/kubernetes/kubernetes/blob/master/cluster/gce/gci/configure-helper.sh

```yaml
apiVersion: audit.k8s.io/v1
kind: Policy
rules:
  # Don't log these read-only URLs
  - level: None
    nonResourceURLs
      - /healthz*
      - /version
      - /swagger*

  # Secrets, ConfigMaps, TokenRequest and TokenReviews
can contain sensitive & binary data,
  - level: Request
    resources:
      - group: ""
        resources: ["secrets", "configmaps",
"serviceaccounts/token"]
      - group: authentication.k8s.io
        resources: ["tokenreviews"]
    omitStages:
      - "RequestReceived"

  ...

  # Default level for all other requests.
  - level: Metadata
    omitStages:
      - "RequestReceived"
```

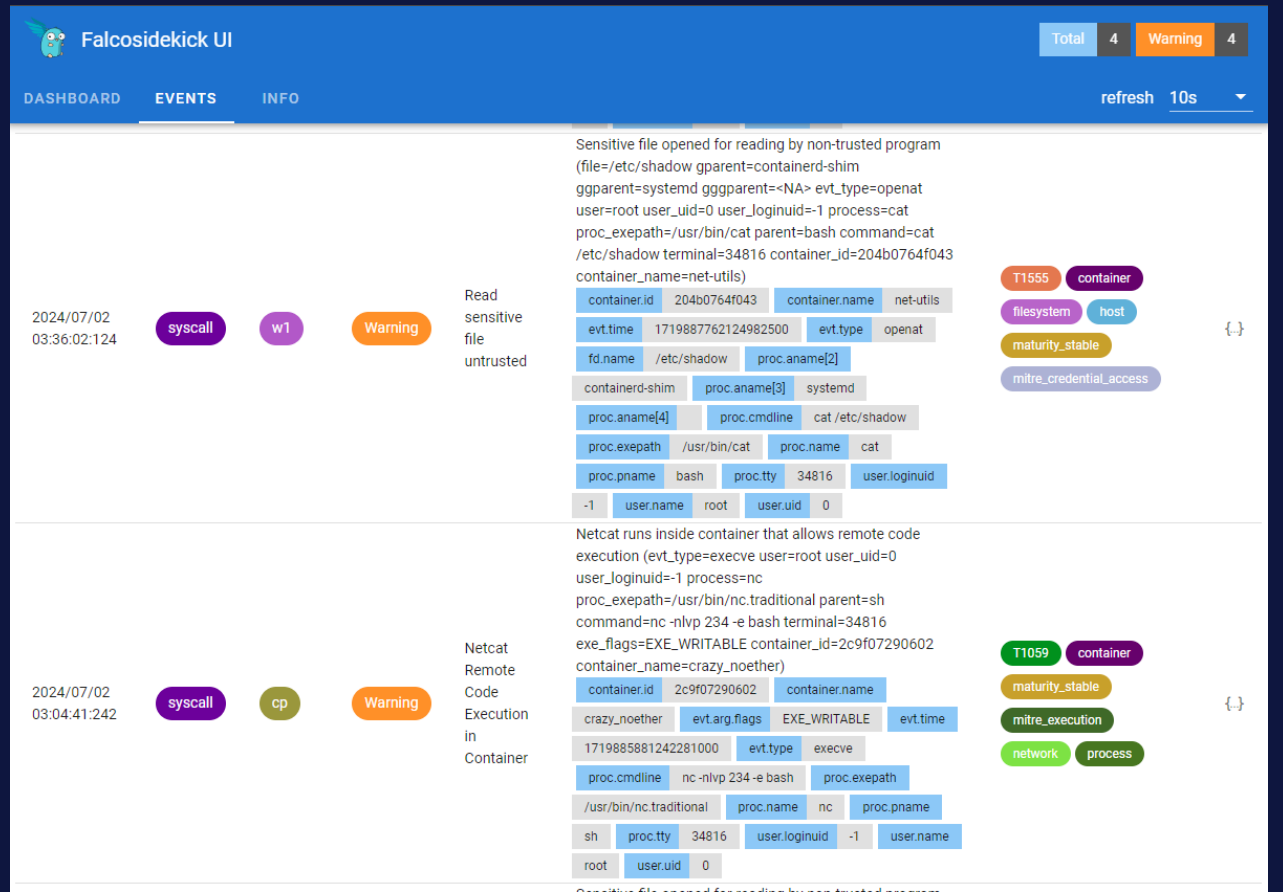
K8S Detection Engineering: Control Plane


```yaml
title: Kubernetes Secrets Enumeration
description: Detects enumeration of Kubernetes secrets.
tags:
    - attack.t1552.007
logsource:
    category: application
    product: kubernetes
    service: audit
detection:
    level: low
    condition: selection
    selection:
        verb: 'list'
        objectRef.resource: 'secrets'
```



K8S Detection Engineering: Kernel Level

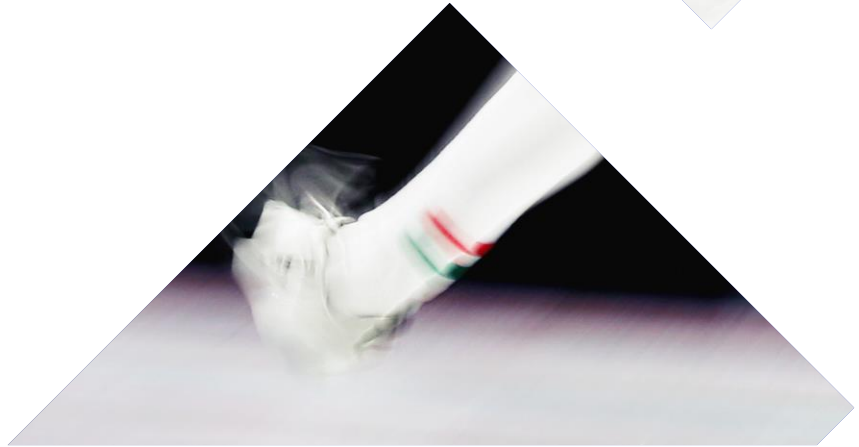

```
- rule: Netcat Remote Code Execution in Container

  desc: >

    Netcat Program runs inside container that allows remote
    code execution and may be utilized as a part of a variety
    of reverse shell payloads
    https://github.com/swisskyrepo/PayloadsAllTheThings/.

  condition: >
    spawned_process
    and container
    and ((proc.name = "nc" and (proc.cmdline contains " -e"))

  priority: WARNING
  tags: [T1059, mitre_execution, container, network, process]
```



Kubernetes
Attack Simulation

Kubernetes
Attack Detection

Demo
K8S Attack Simulation with Leonidas

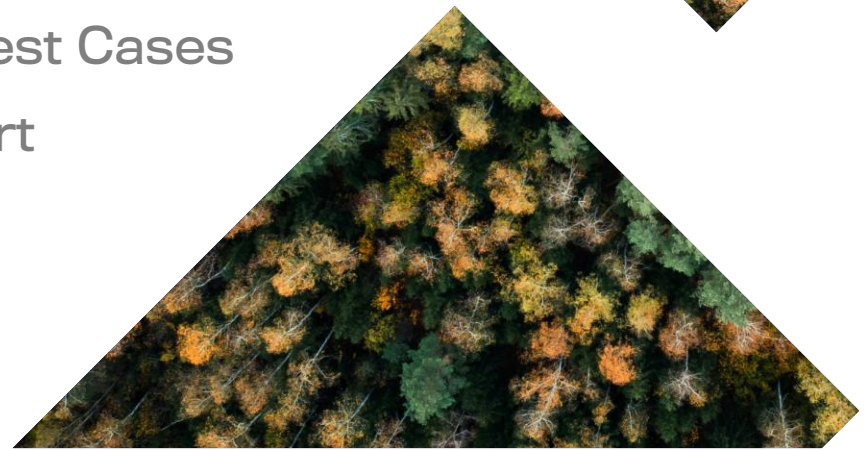


Takeaways

- Understand the threats to your cluster
- Simulate adversaries proactively
- Build defences collaboratively

Contributions

- **Simulation Framework** Leonidas for Kubernetes
- **Attack Definitions** 17 Kubernetes Test Cases
- **Detection Signatures** Sigma support



Thank You

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References