

Scaling Pipelines with Tekton

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Scaling Continuous Delivery (Virtual)



Scaling Tekton



Introduction
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Q&A



Introduction



Photo by Mike Benna, CC0



Tekton is an open-source framework for creating CI/CD systems

Cloud Native
Serverless,
Scalable
Pipelines



Standardization
Built In Best
Practices

Maximum
Flexibility

Core Projects
➤ Pipeline
➤ Triggers

Tooling:
➤ CLI *tkn*
➤ Dashboard
➤ Operator

Discovery:
➤ Catalog
➤ Hub

Add-ons:
➤ Results
➤ Chain
➤ Experiments

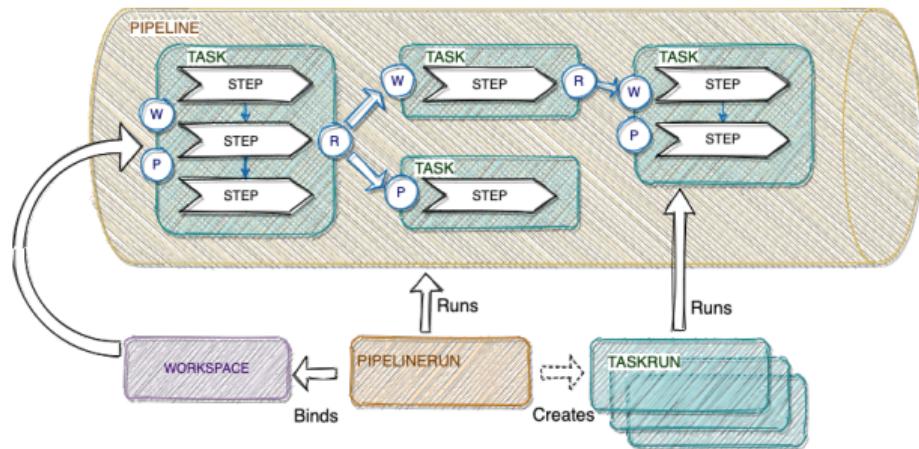


A bit of history

- › From Knative Built, to Pipeline
- › Extend the k8s API with CRDs
- › Tekton and the CDF



- › Definitions: Step, Task, Pipeline
- › Bindings: Workspaces, Parameters, Results
- › Execution: TaskRun, PipelineRun



Authoring



Building Blocks



Steps:

- Off the Shelves containers
- Small scripts

Tasks:

- Solve one specific problem
- Owned by a team
- Distributed maintenance

Reusability:

- Discovery
- Versioning
- Execution efficiency

Catalog and Hub

Discovery:

- › Kubernetes cluster
- › Tekton Catalog
- › Tekton Hub & API

Versioning:

- › Tekton Bundles
- › Bundles CLI

Execution efficiency:

- › Task Specialization
- › Multiple Tasks in a Pod/Node

The screenshot shows the Tekton Hub interface. At the top, there's a search bar with 'build' and a 'Login' button. Below it, a banner says 'Welcome to Tekton Hub' and 'Discover, search and share reusable Tasks and Pipelines'. The main area has a sidebar with filters for 'Kind' (Task), 'Catalog' (Tekton), and 'Category' (Automation, Build Tools, CLI, Cloud, Deploy, Editor, Go, Image Build, Language, Messaging, Monitoring, Notification, Others, Security, Storage). A 'Sort By' dropdown is set to 'Rating'. The tasks listed are:

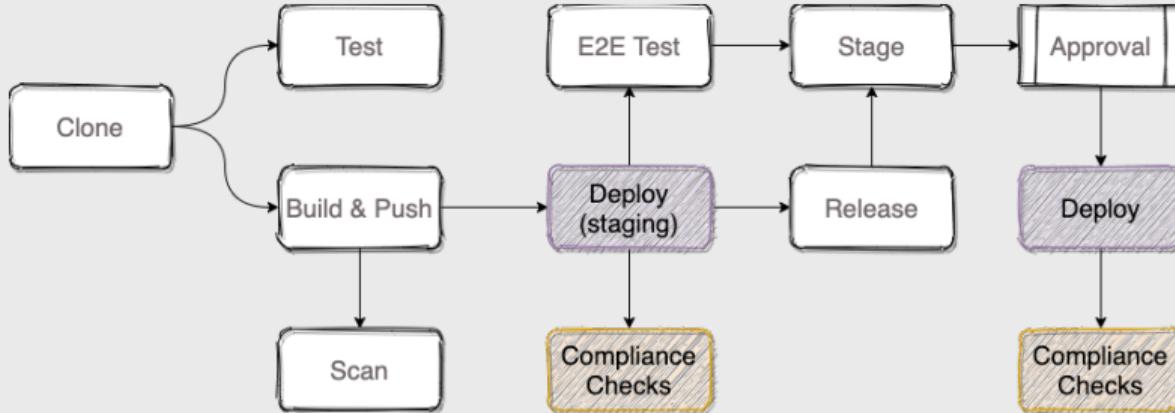
- buildid** v0.1 ★ 3: Given a base version, this task generates a unique build id by appending the base-version to the current timestamp. Updated 3 months ago. Tagged as 'Build-tools'.
- buildah** v0.2 ★ 4: Buildah task builds source into a container image and then pushes it to a container registry. Buildah Task builds source into a container image using Project Atomic's Buildah build tool. Updated 3 months ago.
- buildkit** v0.1 ★ 0: This Task builds source into a container image using Moby BuildKit. Updated 3 months ago.
- buildpacks** v0.2 ★ 5: The Buildpacks task builds source into a container image and pushes it to a container registry. Updated 3 months ago.
- golang-build** v0.1 ★ 5: The Golang-build task performs git operations. It can clone, pull, push, and commit code. Updated 3 months ago.

A modal window is open for the 'buildpacks' task, showing its detailed configuration:

```
{
  "id": 3,
  "name": "git-clt",
  "catalog": {
    "id": 3,
    "name": "tekton",
    "type": "community"
  },
  "kind": "Task",
  "latestVersion": {
    "version": "v0.2"
  },
  "tags": [
    {
      "id": 16,
      "name": "git"
    }
  ],
  "rating": 5
},
{
  "id": 4,
  "name": "golang-build",
  "catalog": {
    "id": 1,
    "name": "tekton",
    "type": "community"
  },
  "kind": "Task",
  "latestVersion": {
    "version": "v0.1"
  },
  "tags": [
    {
      "id": 17,
      "name": "golang"
    }
  ],
  "rating": 5
}
```



Pipelines



Building block?
Supported by
the catalog

Swap a block
Add a branch

Different:
➤ Team
➤ Access
➤ Namespace
➤ Cluster

One workflow.
How can we
connect the
parts?



Running



Photo by Ray Bilcliff, CC0



Triggers

Run Pipelines on Events:

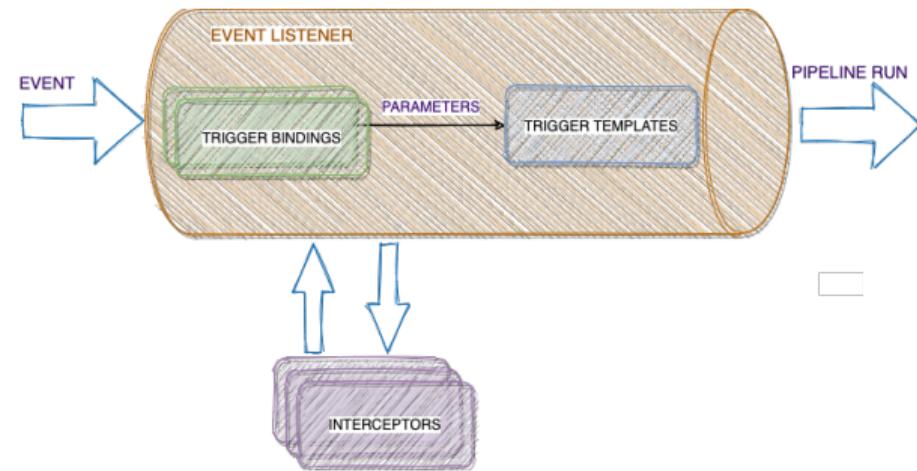
- › HTTP POST
- › Pull Request, Image Published

Components:

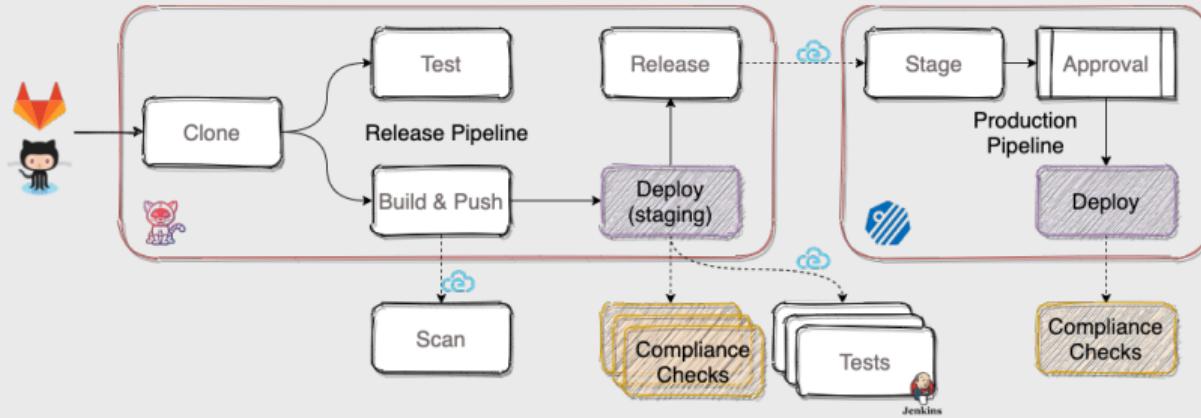
- › Receive: Event Listener
- › Filter: Interceptors
- › Run: Binding and Templates

Generate Events:

- › k8s and CloudEvents
- › Start, Run and Stop



Events



Receiving and sending events

Overall workflow made of separate pipelines

Orchestration?

Interop and event SIG



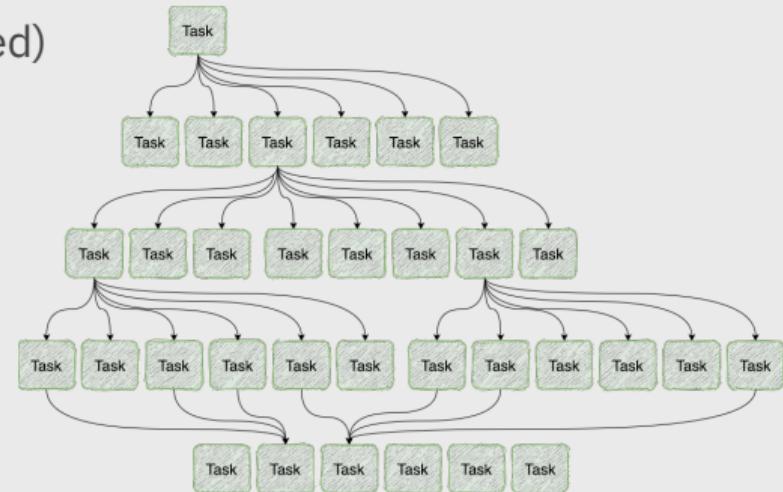


Bottlenecks



Growing pipelines

- › Directed Acyclic Graphs
- › Large Pipelines (100 nodes, densely connected)
- › Scale Issues?
- › DAG build on every reconcile
- › Suboptimal code in the DAG computation
- › Hundreds of nodes and connections



Under Pressure

Concurrent execution

- › Cluster Resources: K8s scheduler
- › K8s API: Informers
- › Tekton Controllers: LeaderElection

In real life

- › Thousands Tasks/month upstream
- › Millions containers/month @IBM
- › Throttling (for security too)
- › Cluster pollution

Potential enhancements:

- › Throttling pipeline execution
- › Tekton custom scheduler

Upcoming features:

- › Tekton Results
- › Performance testing
- › Metric improvements



Data and I/O

Reusability vs. Efficiency

Common Tasks (→Pods):

- › Clone a git repository
- › Build a container image
- › Download content from storage
- › Run tests

Pods scheduled independently

- › Shared storage required (PVC)
- › Extra I/O
- › Extra execution time
- › Multi-region clusters

Data in Pipelines

Meta: "Results", Large: "Workspaces"

Alternatives:

- › Multiple Tasks in a Pod
- › Re-usable Steps
- › Custom scheduler





Thank You! Questions?

References

- › Come and Join Us at Tekton!
- › Tekton community: github.com/tektoncd/community
- › Slides: github.com/afrittoli/scaling_pipelines_with_tekton
- › Tekton: tekton.dev
- › Tekton on GitHub: github.com/tektoncd
- › Performance TEP: [TEP-0036](#)
- › Metrics TEP: [TEP-0006](#)
- › Tekton Results: github.com/tektoncd/results

