

Refactoring Charts - Best practices

The DevOps team wants to refactor the umbrella chart so that it is better re-usable and can be shared with other teams as well. Currently, the database connection string needs to be provided in values file. A better approach would be to build the string by using go templates, with the help of functions. Also, the name of the kubernetes service, deployment & other objects can be constructed using functions.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the lab, you will be able to understand

- Functions
- Scope with “with”
- Controlling Whitespaces & Indentations
- Logical Operators, Flow Control (conditions & loops)
- Variables
- Helper Functions and Sub Templates

Template file

1. Create template files for both the `api` and `mysql` charts

`pages/charts/api/templates/_helpers.tpl` & `pages/charts/mysql/templates/_helpers.tpl`

```
touch ~/workspace/helm-charts/pages/charts/api/templates/_helpers.tpl
touch ~/workspace/helm-charts/pages/charts/mysql/templates/_helpers.tpl
```



2. Define `api.fullname` and `api.getdbserviceurl` functions inside `api` chart

`pages/charts/api/templates/_helpers.tpl`

```

{{- define "api.fullname" -}}
{{- if .Values.fullnameOverride -}}
{{- .Values.fullnameOverride -}}
{{- else -}}
{{- printf "%s-%s" .Release.Name .Chart.Name | trunc 63 | trimSuffix "-" -}}
{{- end -}}
{{- end -}}

{{- define "api.getdbserviceurl" -}}
{{- list "jdbc:mysql://" .Values.mysql_svc_name "/" .Values.dbname | join "" | quote -}}
{{- end -}}

```



3. Define `mysql.fullname` and `mysql.getdbserviceurl` functions inside `mysql` chart


`pages/charts/mysql/templates/_helpers.tpl`

```

{{- define "mysql.fullname" -}}
{{- if .Values.fullnameOverride -}}
{{- .Values.fullnameOverride -}}
{{- else -}}
{{- printf "%s-%s" .Release.Name .Chart.Name | trunc 63 | trimSuffix "-" -}}
{{- end -}}
{{- end -}}

{{- define "mysql.getdbserviceurl" -}}
{{- list "jdbc:mysql://" .Values.mysql_svc_name "/" .Values.env.MYSQL_DATABASE | join "" | quote -}}
{{- end -}}

```



Template and helper functions

1. Update `values.yaml` for both charts to externalize service and database names

pages/charts/api/values.yaml

```
mysql_svc_name: mysql
dbname: pages

deployment:
  containerPort: 8080
  replicaCount: 1
```



pages/charts/mysql/values.yaml

```
mysql_svc_name: mysql
```



Update the manifest files for pages api service

1. Config map remains the same for pages api, since we want to ensure the configmap name to be the same as chart name, which is needed by the application.
2. Patch the name field for `pages/charts/api/templates/secret.yaml`

```
name: {{ include "api.fullname" . }}
```



3. Update `pages/charts/api/templates/service.yaml`

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
  labels:
    app: {{ include "api.fullname" . }}
    name: {{ include "api.fullname" . }}
spec:
  ports:
    - port: {{ .Values.service.port }}
      protocol: {{ .Values.service.protocol }}
```

```
targetPort: {{ .Values.service.targetPort }}
selector:
  app: {{ include "api.fullname" . }}
  type: {{ .Values.service.type }}
```



4. Update `pages/charts/api/templates/deployment.yaml`

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  labels:
    app: {{ include "api.fullname" . }}
    name: {{ include "api.fullname" . }}
spec:
  replicas: {{ .Values.deployment.replicaCount }}
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: {{ include "api.fullname" . }}
  strategy:
    type: RollingUpdate
    rollingUpdate:
      maxSurge: 2
      {{- if ge .Values.deployment.replicaCount 5.0 }}
      maxUnavailable: 2
      {{- else }}
      maxUnavailable: 0
      {{- end }}
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: {{ include "api.fullname" . }}
    spec:
      containers:
        - image: {{ .Values.image.repository }}:{{ .Values.image.tag }}
          name: {{ .Chart.Name }}
```


```
imagePullPolicy: {{ .Values.imagePullPolicy }}
ports:
  - containerPort: {{ .Values.deployment.containerPort }}
env:
  - name: PAGE_CONTENT
    valueFrom:
      configMapKeyRef:
        name: {{ .Chart.Name }}
        key: PAGE_CONTENT
  - name: SPRING_DATASOURCE_URL
    value: {{ include "api.getdbserviceurl" . }}
  - name: SPRING_DATASOURCE_USERNAME
    value: {{ .Values.env.SPRING_DATASOURCE_USERNAME | quote }}
  - name: SPRING_DATASOURCE_PASSWORD
    valueFrom:
      secretKeyRef:
        name: {{ include "api.fullname" . }}
        key: password
{{- with .Values.env }}
  - name: DEBUG
    value: {{ .DEBUG | quote }}
  - name: LOGGING_FILE_NAME
    value: {{ .LOGGING_FILE_NAME | quote }}
  - name: LOGGING_LEVEL_ORG_SPRINGFRAMEWORK_WEB
    value: {{ .LOGGING_LEVEL_ORG_SPRINGFRAMEWORK_WEB }}
  - name: LOGGING_LEVEL_ROOT
    value: {{ .LOGGING_LEVEL_ROOT }}
{{- end }}
  - name: MANAGEMENT_ENDPOINTS_WEB_EXPOSURE_INCLUDE
    value: "*"
volumeMounts:
  - name: node-dir
    mountPath: /{{ .Release.Namespace }}
readinessProbe:
  tcpSocket:
```

```

        port: {{ .Values.readinessProbe.tcpSocket.port }}
        initialDelaySeconds: {{ .Values.readinessProbe.initialDelaySeconds }}
    }}

    periodSeconds: {{ .Values.readinessProbe.periodSeconds }}
    livenessProbe:
        httpGet:
            path: {{ .Values.livenessProbe.httpGet.path }}
            port: {{ .Values.livenessProbe.httpGet.port }}
            initialDelaySeconds: {{ .Values.livenessProbe.initialDelaySeconds }}
            periodSeconds: {{ .Values.livenessProbe.periodSeconds }}
    volumes:
        - name: node-dir
          hostPath:
            path: /{{ .Release.Namespace }}

```



Update the manifest files for mysql

1. Patch the name field for `pages/charts/mysql/templates/config.yaml`

```
name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
```



2. Patch the name field for `pages/charts/mysql/templates/secret.yaml`

```
name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
```



3. Update `pages/charts/mysql/templates/service.yaml`

```

apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
    name: {{ .Values.mysql_svc_name }}
    labels:
        app: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
spec:

```

```
ports:
  - port: {{ .Values.service.port }}
selector:
  app: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
type: {{ .Values.service.type }}
```



4. Patch the name field for `pages/charts/mysql/templates/storage-class.yaml`

```
name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}-{{ .Release.Namespace }}
```



5. Update `pages/charts/mysql/templates/pv.yaml`

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: PersistentVolume
metadata:
  name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}-{{ .Release.Namespace }}
  labels:
    type: local
spec:
  storageClassName: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}-{{ .Release.Namespace }}
  capacity:
    storage: {{ .Values.pv.capacity.storage }}
  accessModes:
    - {{ .Values.pv.accessMode }}
  hostPath:
    path: {{ .Values.pv.hostPath.path }}
```



6. Update `pages/charts/mysql/templates/pvc.yaml`

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
metadata:
  name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
spec:
```

```
storageClassName: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}-{{ .Release.Namespace }}
accessModes:
  - {{ .Values.pv.accessMode }}
resources:
  requests:
    storage: {{ .Values.pvc.resources.requests.storage }}
```



7. Update `pages/charts/mysql/templates/flyway-job.yaml`


```
apiVersion: batch/v1
kind: Job
metadata:
  name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
  labels:
    app: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
  annotations:
    "helm.sh/hook": post-install
    "helm.sh/hook-delete-policy": hook-succeeded
spec:
  backoffLimit: 16
  template:
    spec:
      containers:
        - name: {{ .Chart.Name }}
          image: {{ .Values.job.image.repository }}:{{ .Values.job.image.tag }}
          imagePullPolicy: {{ .Values.imagePullPolicy }}
          args:
            - info
            - migrate
            - info
          env:
            - name: FLYWAY_URL
              value: {{ include "mysql.getdbserviceurl" . }}
            - name: FLYWAY_USER
              value: {{ .Values.job.env.FLYWAY_USER }}
```



```

- name: FLYWAY_PASSWORD
  valueFrom:
    secretKeyRef:
      name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
      key: password
- name: FLYWAY_PLACEHOLDER_REPLACEMENT
  value: {{ .Values.job.env.FLYWAY_PLACEHOLDER_REPLACEMENT | quote }}
- name: FLYWAY_PLACEHOLDERS_USERNAME
  valueFrom:
    configMapKeyRef:
      name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
      key: spring.datasource.username
- name: FLYWAY_PLACEHOLDERS_PASSWORD
  valueFrom:
    secretKeyRef:
      name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
      key: password
volumeMounts:
- mountPath: /flyway/sql
  name: sql
volumes:
- name: sql
  configMap:
    name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
restartPolicy: Never

```



8. Update `pages/charts/mysql/templates/deployment.yaml`

```

apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
  labels:
    app: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
spec:

```

```
selector:
  matchLabels:
    app: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
strategy:
  type: Recreate
template:
  metadata:
    labels:
      app: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
  spec:
    containers:
      - image: {{ .Values.image.repository }}:{{ .Values.image.tag }}
        name: {{ .Chart.Name }}
        imagePullPolicy: {{ .Values.imagePullPolicy }}
        env:
          - name: MYSQL_ROOT_PASSWORD
            valueFrom:
              secretKeyRef:
                name: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
                key: password
          - name: MYSQL_SERVICE_HOST
            value: {{ .Values.env.MYSQL_SERVICE_HOST | quote }}
          - name: MYSQL_SERVICE_PORT
            value: {{ .Values.env.MYSQL_SERVICE_PORT | quote }}
          - name: MYSQL_DATABASE
            value: {{ .Values.env.MYSQL_DATABASE | quote }}
        ports:
          - containerPort: {{ .Values.deployment.containerPort }}
        volumeMounts:
          - name: mysql-persistent-storage
            mountPath: {{ .Values.volumeMounts.mountPath }}
    volumes:
      - name: mysql-persistent-storage
        persistentVolumeClaim:
          claimName: {{ include "mysql.fullname" . }}
```



Deploy using helm chart

1. Before installing the helm chart check if your namespace exists and set the kubectl context to point to the right namespace.

```
kubectl get ns
kubectl config get-contexts
kubectl config set-context --current --namespace [name-of-your-team]-dev
```



2. Uninstall the previous app as we cannot upgrade
3. Install the umbrella chart for pages app

```
helm template pages
helm uninstall pagesapp
helm install pagesapp pages --dry-run --debug
helm install pagesapp pages -n [name-of-your-team]-dev
```



4. Verify the installation and deployment

```
helm list
kubectl get deploy pagesapp-api
kubectl get svc pagesapp-api
```



5. Port forward to connect to pages service running inside K8s from the local machine

```
kubectl port-forward svc/pagesapp-api 8080:8080
```



6. Test the pages application by performing CRUD operations using curl/postman. Refer [Pages Curl Guide](#) for testing.

Add NOTES for chart users

1. It is a recommended best practice to add a **NOTES.txt** containing instructions for accessing the installed application. This file is customizable as per the chart user needs.

2. Before adding the notes, add a label to the api service `access=external` for easy accessibility of the service.
3. Create `NOTES.txt` file in the templates directory of the parent chart

```
touch ~/workspace/helm-charts/pages/charts/api/templates/NOTES.txt
```



4. Below is a sample text for our `NOTES.txt`, which is customizable according to application usability

`~/workspace/helm-charts/pages/charts/api/templates/NOTES.txt`

```
Thank you for installing {{ .Chart.Name }}.
```

```
Your release is named {{ .Release.Name }}.
```

```
To learn more about the release, try:
```

```
helm status {{ .Release.Name }}  
helm get all {{ .Release.Name }}
```

```
To access the application, try:
```

```
SVC=$(kubectl get svc -l access=external --namespace {{ .Release.Namespace }} -l  
access=external | awk 'NR==2{print $1}')
```

```
kubectl --namespace {{ .Release.Namespace }} port-forward svc/$SVC 8080:8080
```



5. Re-install/update the umbrella chart for pages app

```
helm upgrade api pages -n dev
```



Task Accomplished

Devops team was successful in refactoring the helm chart to be simple and reusable.