

An Implementation of Red Hat OpenShift Network Isolation Using Multiple Ingress Controllers

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Cloud

Infrastructure Solutions





An Implementation of Red Hat OpenShift Network Isolation Using Multiple Ingress Controllers

This IBM® Redpaper describes network isolation on a multitenant Red Hat OpenShift cluster.

This publication describes the following topics:

- ► Introduction
- ► Problem statement
- ► Solution
- ► Cluster network configuration
- ► Ingress controller configuration
- ► Load balancer configuration
- Red Hat OpenShift network policy
- ► Application deployment

Introduction

Red Hat OpenShift is a great platform for developing, testing, and running applications. It handles multitenancy within Red Hat OpenShift Cluster by using users and namespaces, which allows it to run different production applications and workloads on the same Red Hat OpenShift Cluster.

From a network point of view, a default Red Hat OpenShift Cluster implementation has three networks, one load balancer, and one DNS domain:

- One external or physical network: This network is used to build the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster (for installation and initial setup, run core0S netboot). This network is used to connect to each of the Red Hat OpenShift nodes (masters and workers) from outside of the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster. It is also the network on top of which Red Hat OpenShift defines the cluster network and the service network, which are two software-defined networks (SDNs) (overlaid on top of the external or physical network).
- One internal cluster network: This network is available or reachable only within the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster, and Red Hat OpenShift manages it (IP address management (IPAM) and access control lists (ACLs)).
- ► One internal service network: This network is available or reachable only within the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster, and Red Hat OpenShift manages it (IPAM and ACLs).
- ▶ One load balancer: This item is a node or appliance that has a network interface that is configured on the external or physical network. It must be configured to send incoming traffic to the different ingress controllers of the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster.
- ► One DNS domain: This item is managed by Red Hat OpenShift Cluster. A wildcard DNS entry must be added by a network administrator, and the wildcard entry must resolve to the IP address of the load balancer (for example, *.myocp.my.domain.com).

When a Pod is created in Red Hat OpenShift, it receives an IP address from the Cluster network that is not static, which means that if the Pod is shut down and then restarted, the IP address can change.

This situation is where the concept of services is useful. When you create a service, you bind it to a Pod, and this service receives a fixed IP address on the service network. When you connect to that IP address on the service network, you are automatically connected to the Pod to which the service is bound. This service is what is being used by other applications running within Red Hat OpenShift (in other Pods) to connect between them. For example, a Pod running a web server connects to another Pod running a database by using the service that is bound to the database Pod. The service also allows a single IP to potentially reach a Pod that has several replicas, which makes the application highly available (Figure 1 on page 3).

From within the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster, you can reach Pods from either the cluster network or the service network if a service is bound to the Pod.

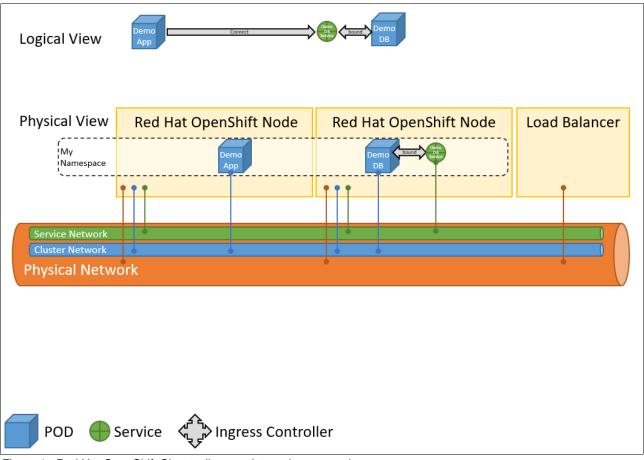


Figure 1 Red Hat OpenShift Cluster diagram: Internal access only

The cluster and service networks from Red Hat OpenShift are software-defined. Red Hat OpenShift uses network policies to defines how Pods and services can communicate between them.

By default, all Pods and services can talk to each other within Red Hat OpenShift. To isolate the Pods from different projects, you can define network policies as a part of your network configuration, which is described in "Red Hat OpenShift network policy" on page 11.

So, you now know how to isolate Pods and services from each other on the Red Hat OpenShift internal networks (cluster and service), but none of the Pods and services that you create can be reached from outside the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster. If you take an application running on a bare metal system or a virtual machine (VM) (or any host outside of the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster), this application does not have access to the internal cluster or service network from the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster.

In order for anything external to the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster to communicate with a Pod, the service that is bound to that Pod must be exposed.

With the default implementation of a Red Hat OpenShift Cluster, exposing a service is done by using a *route*, which is a URL that is tied to the DNS domain that is managed by the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster, for example, demo.apps.mydomain.com.

A route is managed by an ingress controller.

An ingress controller is a Pod running within Red Hat OpenShift that provides a way to access Pods and services from outside the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster. For example, it can provide a way for an application running on a bare metal system, VM, or external host to reach a Pod or service in the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster.

Typically, ingress controllers are running on Red Hat OpenShift Workers nodes and listen on TCP ports of the external or physical network IP address of the worker node.

The load balancer points to the workers nodes IP and ports to which the ingress controller is listening.

When a route is created to expose a service, the ingress controller now listens for an incoming connection on that specific route (demo.apps.mydomain.com) and redirects it to the corresponding service.

In the end, when an application running on a bare metal system, VM, or external host tries to reach the URL of that route, for example, demo.apps.mydomain.com, it points first to the load balancer (due to the wildcard DNS entry). Then, the load balancer points to the ingress controllers, and the ingress controllers parse the URL (check the hostname / registered name, which in this example is demo) and redirects to the appropriate service within Red Hat OpenShift.

The application running in a Pod in Red Hat OpenShift is now accessible from outside the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster, as shown in Figure 2.

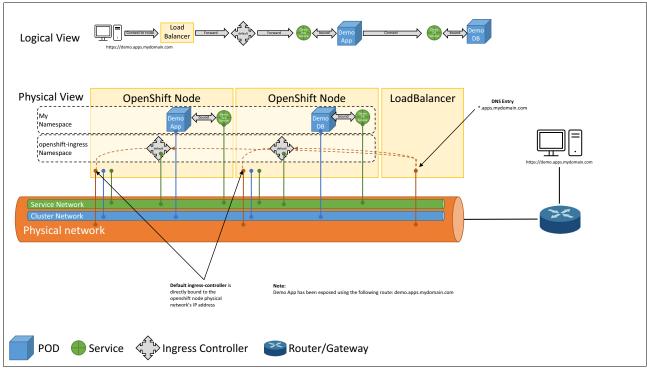


Figure 2 Red Hat OpenShift Cluster diagram: External access

In summary, you must make sure that any bare metal system, VM, or external host that needs to access Pod or service can reach the IP address of the load balancer.

Problem statement

In "Introduction" on page 2, we indicated that we use a network policy on the Red Hat OpenShift internal networks that prevents Pods and services from a namespace within Red Hat OpenShift to communicate with Pods and services from another namespace, thus guaranteeing network isolation within Red Hat OpenShift.

But now that our Pod and service is exposed by using a route, any bare metal system, VM, or external host outside of the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster that has access to the load balancer IP address can potentially access our exposed Pod and service if they know the URL.

In a production environment, for security reasons, you want to ensure that not all bare metal systems, VMs, or external hosts in the data center can access the exposed Pod or services from the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster. Instead, it is a best practice to allow only certain bare metal systems, VMs, and external hosts to access specific exposed Pods or services. But how do you achieve this goal?

Many production environments rely on the concept of virtual local area networks (VLANs) to isolate different components of the production environment on different networks.

VLANs are widely available on enterprise-grade switches and provide a simple and secure way to ensure that two components cannot communicate between each other by isolating them on different Ethernet broadcast domain (OSI Layer 2).

This network option is one of several preferred network security methods in many data centers for bare metal servers and VMs because it offers low-level network isolation.

How can we combine VLANs isolation, which is widely used inside typical production environments (by using bare metal systems and VMs), with the network policies that are offered by Red Hat OpenShift SDNs and the mechanism to expose Pods and services outside of the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster to maintain full network isolation inside and outside of Red Hat OpenShift?

Solution

The solution that is described in this section tries to isolate each project in the following way:

- ► Red Hat OpenShift projects are isolated from each other inside the Red Hat OpenShift Cluster by using network policies.
- An ingress controller is created for each project to allow a specific project to expose services.
- ► Each project is allocated a specific VLAN so that services that belong to a different project are exposed through a different VLAN.
- ► There is only one load balancer, and the load balancer is listening to the different VLANs.
- ▶ When request comes to the load balancer on a VLAN, the load balancer forwards the request to the corresponding ingress controller.

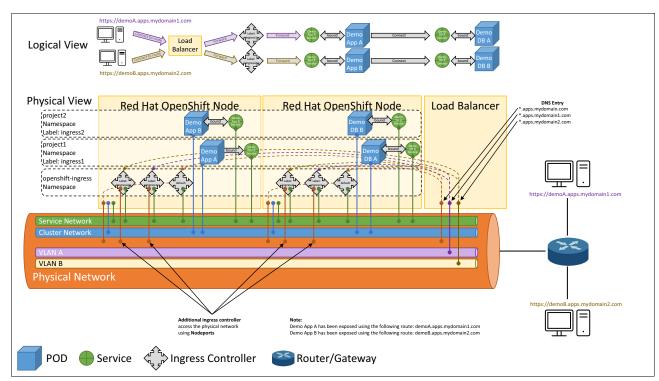


Figure 3 shows the architecture summary of the solution.

Figure 3 Architectural solution summary

The following sections describe implementation details for the solution.

Cluster network configuration

In a typical Red Hat OpenShift Cluster environment, all the nodes have a single external or physical network interface. For multitenancy, we must separate each tenant's ingress traffic into its own isolated network. To achieve such isolation without adding more servers, we add a physical Ethernet adapter to our Bastion or load balancer node. This adapter is connected to a VLAN-enabled 8021.q standard switch. All VLANs that we plan to use for our network isolation are tagged or trunked to the connected switch port. Instead of tagging all VLANs to the switch port at initial setup, VLANs can be tagged to the switch port as more isolated networks are needed. For each VLAN, the network administrator also must create a DNS wildcard entry that resolves to an IP address within that VLAN.

The primary or admin network interface is configured with the Bastion IP address and used as the front end of the Red Hat OpenShift API and the cluster's default ingress route. For our cluster, the backing device for this interface is virtual Ethernet. For the physical device, VLAN interfaces are created and configured with the IP addresses from the network administrator. Instead of creating all VLAN interfaces during initial setup, create VLAN interfaces when you add tenants to the Red Hat OpenShift cluster. Each tenant is given its own DNS wildcard entry (subdomain), which corresponds to the IP address of the VLAN interface. This entry or domain is what you use to expose its Pods and services.

The following steps show an example about how to create a VLAN interface on the Bastion node. There are multiple methods that you can use to configure VLAN interfaces, and depending on which method or methods that you choose, packages like NetworkManager-config-routing-rules might need to be installed.

For our example, we use the **NetworkManager nmcli** command to create the VLAN interface and configure its IP information. Then, we change to use the traditional route and rules files to implement policy routing.

Complete the following steps:

1. Determine the device name:

[root@bastion $^{\prime}$] # nmcli connection show NAME UUID TYPE DEVICE System env32 4e8d61b2-0043-00e9-937c-a0835d16ea18 ethernet env32 System enP545p80s0f0 042b6f0a-9971-e4b7-6afd-171a0ad62ada ethernet -- Wired connection 1 f9a8b089-11e8-3845-a5a3-e9a15c5d4c0d ethernet --

2. Create a VLAN interface on a tagged device (the tagged device is enP545p80s0f0; our VLAN is 1285, and we pick the interface name vlan1285):

[root@bastion $^{\prime}$] # nmcli connection add type vlan con-name vlan1285 ifname vlan1285 vlan.parent enP545p80s0f0 vlan.id 1285 Connection 'vlan1285' (d5cce68d-c003-4ee4-b801-5ab521739bbd) successfully added.

3. Add IP information to the VLAN interface:

[root@bastion ~]# nmcli connection modify vlan1285 ipv4.address 129.40.94.9/29 [root@bastion ~]# nmcli connection modify vlan1285 ipv4.method manual

[root@bastion ~]# nmcli connection show

NAME UUID TYPE DEVICE
System env32 4e8d61b2-0043-00e9-937c-a0835d16ea18 ethernet vlan1285 d5cce68d-c003-4ee4-b801-5ab521739bbd vlan vlan1285
System enP545p80s0f0 042b6f0a-9971-e4b7-6afd-171a0ad62ada ethernet -Wired connection 1 f9a8b089-11e8-3845-a5a3-e9a15c5d4c0d ethernet --

4. Remove the default route from the VLAN interface:

[root@bastion ~] # sed -i 's/DEFROUTE=yes/DEFROUTE=no/'/etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-vlan1285

5. Create route and rule policy files for the VLAN interface:

[root@bastion ~]# echo "default via 129.40.94.14 dev vlan1285 table 1285" >
/etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/route-vlan1285

[root@bastion $^$]# echo "from 129.40.94.9 table 1285 to 129.40.94.9 table 1295" > /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/rule-vlan1285

6. Apply the policy files to the VLAN interface:

[root@bastion ~]# nmcli connection reload
[root@bastion ~]# nmcli connection up vlan1285

The new VLAN interface looks like the following output:

[root@bastion ~]# ip address show dev vlan1285
11: vlan1285@enP577p80s0f0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc
noqueue state UP group default qlen 1000
 link/ether 40:f2:e9:31:5c:d0 brd ff:ff:ff:ff
inet 129.40.94.9/29 brd 129.40.94.15 scope global noprefixroute vlan1285

[root@bastion ~]# ip route show table 1285 default via 129.40.94.14 dev vlan1285

[root@bastion ~] # ip rule show table 1285

```
32727: from all to 129.40.94.9 lookup VLAN1285 32730: from 129.40.94.9 lookup VLAN1285
```

Now that we have a VLAN interface that is configured on one of our isolated networks, we now describe the Red Hat OpenShift ingress controller configuration.

Ingress controller configuration

Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform allows external application access by using an ingress controller, which can be further configured by using one of the following methods:

- ► Load balancer
- Nodeport
- External IP address

To achieve network isolation within our multitenant Red Hat OpenShift cluster, we configure one ingress controller per namespace that is dedicated to a tenant, and every ingress controller uses the service type nodeport. Each tenant also has a subdomain and must use this subdomain when deploying web applications so that the tenant can be accessed externally.

Here is the environment information that we use in our example:

- ► Cluster ID: ocp4
- ► Domain: example.ihost.com
- ► DNS wildcard entry: *.apps.ocp4.example.ihost.com
- ► Subdomain: apps.ocp4.example.ihost.com
- ► Ingress controller label: ingress1
- ► Project name: demoproject

As a part of the implementation, we dedicated one project to each tenant. Every project is labeled, which is then used as a part of an ingress controller and network policies configuration, as shown in Example 1 and Example 2 on page 9.

Example 1 shows a sample YAML file that is used to create the tenant's ingress controller. In Example 1, the tenant has a subdomain that is called apps.ocp4.example.ihost.com.

Example 1 YAML file to create an ingress controller

```
apiVersion: operator.openshift.io/v1
kind: IngressController
metadata:
  namespace: openshift-ingress-operator
  name: ingress1
spec:
  endpointPublishingStrategy:
    type: NodePortService
  domain: apps.ocp4.example.ihost.com
  nodePlacement:
    nodeSelector:
      matchlahels:
        node-role.kubernetes.io/worker: ""
  namespaceSelector:
   matchLabels:
      type: ingress1
  replicas: 1
```

Using the YAML definition in Example 1 on page 8, we create an ingress controller Pod in the Red Hat OpenShift ingress namespace by running the following command:

```
[root@bastion ~] # oc create -f ingress-controller.yaml
```

Example 2 shows snapshots of the Pods and ingress controllers that are created by using the YAML definition.

Example 2 Pods and ingress controllers that are created

```
[root@bastion ~] # oc get pods -n openshift-ingress
                                               STATUS
                                       READY
                                                         RESTARTS
                                                                    AGE
                                               Running
router-ingress1-68dd69c965-8rjtt
                                       1/1
                                                                    5d21h
router-default-74b7fd9887-9ldq7
                                       1/1
                                               Running
                                                                    5d4h
router-default-74b7fd9887-rhhv8
                                       1/1
                                               Running
                                                                    5d4h
                                                         0
[root@bastion ~] # oc get svc -n openshift-ingress
NAME
                     TYPE
                               CLUSTER-IP
                                              EXTERNAL-IP PORT(S)
AGE
router-internal-default
                          ClusterIP 172.30.187.184 <none>
80/TCP,443/TCP,1936/TCP
                             6d23h
router-nodeport-ingress1 NodePort
                                     172.30.198.7
                                                      <none>
80:30892/TCP,443:31722/TCP
                             5d21h
[root@mtocp-prod-lb1 ~]# oc get ingresscontrollers -n openshift-ingress-operator
NAME
              AGE
              4d1h
ingress1
default
              6d23h
```

By default, Red Hat OpenShift uses ports 30000 - 32767 when nodeport is used as a service to configure applications. This port range can be increased for large clusters. As shown in Example 2, ports 30892 and 31722 are allocated to service with the name router-nodeport-ingress1. These ports play a major role for the network traffic routing and load balancer configuration that is explained in "Load balancer configuration" on page 9.

Example 2 adds a label to the ingress controller Pod, and this same label, ingress1, must be added to the namespace that is created for the tenant by running the command that is shown in Example 3.

Example 3 Add label to namespace to match the ingress controller

```
[root@bastion ~]# oc label namespace demoproject ingress1
```

After we deploy the ingress controller and label the namespace with the same label on the ingress controller, network traffic is enabled between the ingress controller Pod and applications that are deployed in the namespace, which in this case is demoproject.

Load balancer configuration

Depending on your setup, this section might not apply directly.

In our setup, we use HAProxy as the main front-end load balancer for Red Hat OpenShift. If you use a different load balancer, you need to adapt the following configuration to your load balancer.

HAProxy is an open source software for load balancing TCP/HTTP requests. It uses a configuration file, /etc/haproxy/haproxy.cfg, to determine how traffic is divided across multiple nodes. There are multiple sections in the configuration file, but for our network isolation description, we look at only the front-end and back-end sections. Front-end rules describe the type of incoming traffic that HAProxy monitors, and back-end rules describe how HAProxy load balances the network traffic. There are usually multiple front-end and back-end rules in a configuration file.

Example 4 shows a segment from the /etc/haproxy/haproxy.cfg file on the Bastion node that is configured for the default Red Hat OpenShift setup. It shows the front-end and back-end rules for the HTTP and HTTPS traffic.

Example 4 Bastion node /etc/haproxy/haproxy.cfg segment

```
frontend ingress-http
   bind *:80
    default backend ingress-http
    option tcplog
backend ingress-http
    balance source
    server worker1-http-router0 129.40.242.154:80 check
    server worker2-http-router1 129.40.242.155:80 check
frontend ingress-https
    bind *:443
    default backend ingress-https
    option tcplog
backend ingress-https
   balance source
    server worker1-https-router0 129.40.242.154:443 check
    server worker2-https-router1 129.40.242.155:443 check
```

Both front-end rules tell HAProxy to listen to all requests on the port. The rules also specify which back-end rule is used to load balance a request. For example, the front-end rule ingress-http tells HAProxy to listen to all requests on port 80 and uses the back-end rule ingress-http to proxy the request. Then, the back-end rule ingress-http load balances the request to port 80 of either worker1 or worker2.

In "Ingress controller configuration" on page 8, we created a nodeport ingress controller, router-nodeport-ingress1 and Red Hat OpenShift assigned two ports, 30892 and 31722:

These ports must be added to the HAProxy configuration file so that HAProxy knows how to proxy network traffic. Example 5 on page 11 shows the additional front-end and back-end rules to accomplish this task. The front-end rule vlan1285-http tells HAProxy to listen on port 80 for network traffic that is directed to IP address 129.40.94.9 only (this IP address is the one that we assigned to our secured VLAN interface), and the back-end rule vlan1285-http load balances the network request to port 30892 (the HTTP port that is assigned by our new nodeport ingress controller) of either worker1 or worker2. A similar pair of front-end and back-end rules is also needed to handle HTTPS traffic.

```
frontend vlan1285-http
    bind 129.40.94.9:80
    default backend vlan1285-http
   mode tcp
    option tcplog
backend vlan1285-http
   balance source
   mode tcp
    server worker1-http-router0 129.40.242.154:30892 check
    server worker2-http-router1 129.40.242.155:30892 check
frontend vlan1285-https
    bind 129.40.94.9:443
    default backend vlan1285-http
   mode tcp
    option tcplog
backend vlan1285-https
    balance source
   mode tcp
    server worker1-https-router0 129.40.242.154:31722 check
    server worker2-https-router1 129.40.242.155:31722 check
```

With the updated configuration file, network traffic that is directed to 129.40.242.150:80 (our Bastion node main interface) is proxied by using the front-end and back-end rules with the label ingress-http, and traffic that is directed to 129.40.94.9:80 (our secured VLAN interface) is proxied by using the front-end and back-end rules with the label vlan1285-http. The same is true for network traffic on port 443.

As we create more secured VLAN interface and nodeport ingress controllers, we must add similar front-end and back-end rules for the new IP address and ports.

Red Hat OpenShift network policy

Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform uses a Red Hat OpenShift SDN as the default container network interface (CNI) plug-in to allow communication between Pods and services. This default SDN plug-in can be configured in three modes:

- 1. Network policy
- 2. Multitenant
- 3. Subnet

By default, all Pods and services in Red Hat OpenShift can communicate with each other. After we create a network policy object for a project by using a Pod selector that matches the namespace's label, all Pods and services within the project are isolated from every other project within the cluster.

To achieve network isolation between projects and allow traffic between the Red Hat OpenShift ingress controller Pods that we created for the project, we create a network policy object that we name allow-pod-and-namespace-both.

Example 6 shows a namespace selector and Pod selector that are used as part of the configuration to allow the traffic from the openshift-ingress namespace, which is labeled ingress, and the Pod within the openshift-ingress namespace, which is labeled ingress1, to the tenant namespace, which is named demoproject.

To achieve network isolation between projects and allow traffic between the Red Hat OpenShift ingress controller Pods that are created for the project, we create a network policy object that is named allow-pod-and-namespace-both and list it by running the following command (Example 6):

[root@bastion ~] # oc create -f network-isolation.yaml -n demoproject

Example 6 The network-isolation.yaml contents

The following command shows the network policies:

Application deployment

The following steps show an example of how to deploy an application by using the new subdomain and ingress controller that we created. From the Red Hat OpenShift console, complete the following steps:

1. Select the **Developer** account, as shown in Figure 4.

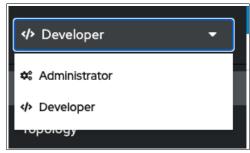


Figure 4 Selecting the account type

2. If you choose to add a From Catalog application, as shown in Figure 5, go to step 3.

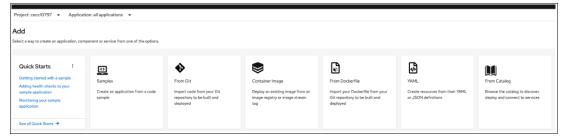


Figure 5 Adding an application

3. Select the Apache template, as shown in Figure 6.

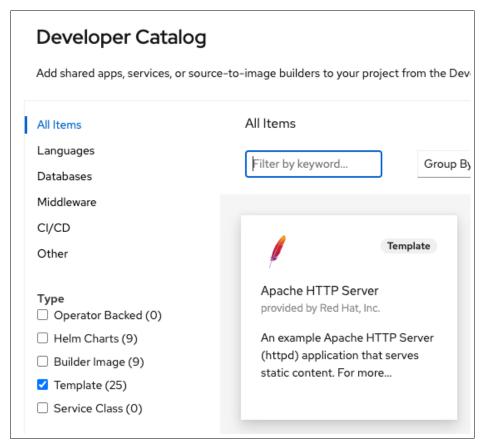


Figure 6 Developer Catalog window

4. The template autopopulates most information. An Application Hostname must be specified by using the new subdomain. As part of the application deployment, Red Hat OpenShift creates the route and lets you access the applications from your web browser. Because our subdomain is apps.ocp4.example.ihost.com, we name the Application Hostname example-to-showusers.apps.ocp4.example.ihost.com, as shown in Figure 7.

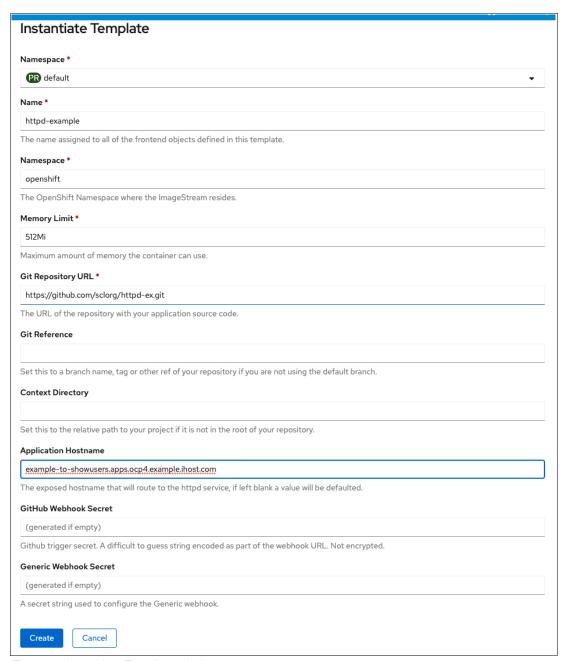


Figure 7 Instantiate Template window

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