



# // SECURE BY DEFAULT? PRAGMATICALLY IMPROVE APP SECURITY USING K8S BUILT-INS

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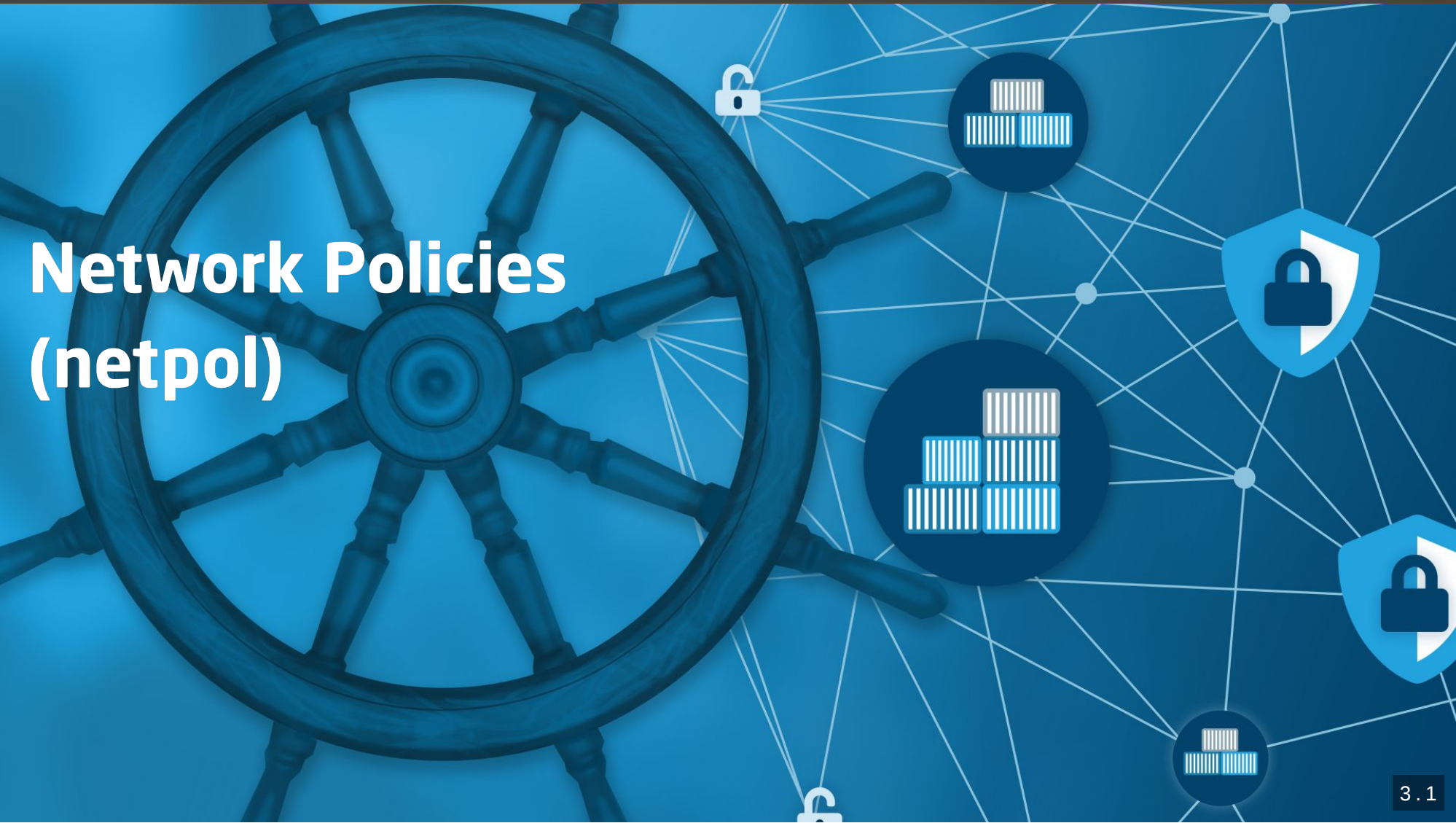
# K8s built-in security mechanisms

- Network Policies
- Security Context
- Pod Security Policies


# Plenty of Options

- Secure by default?
- How to improve pragmatically?

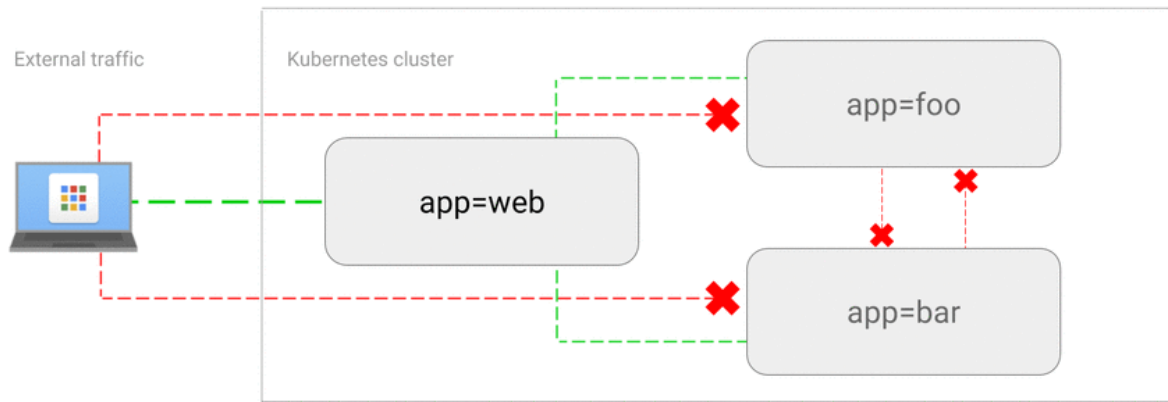
# Network Policies (netpol)



A “firewall” for communication between pods.

- Applied to pods
  - within namespace
  - via labels
- Ingress / egress
  - to/from pods (in namespaces) or CIDRs (egress only)
  - for specific ports (optional)
- Enforced by the CNI Plugin (e.g. Calico)
-  No Network Policies: All traffic allowed

# 📌 Helpful to get started



-  <https://github.com/ahmetb/kubernetes-network-policy-recipes>
- Interactively describes what a netpol does:

```
kubectl describe netpol <name>
```

## **Recommendation: Allow selected ingress traffic only**

In every namespace except kube-system:

- Deny ingress between pods,
- then allow specific routes only.

## Advanced: ingress to kube-system

⚠ Might stop the apps in your cluster from working

Don't forget to:

- Allow external access to ingress controller
- Allow access to DNS from every namespace



## Advanced: egress

- Verbose solution:
  - Deny egress between pods,
  - then allow specific routes,
  - repeating all ingress rules. 🙄
- More pragmatic solution:
  - Allow only egress within the cluster,
  - then allow specific pods that need access to internet.

## Net pol pitfalls

- Allow monitoring tools (e.g. Prometheus)
- Restart might be necessary (e.g. Prometheus)
- No labels on namespaces by default
- Allowing egress to API server difficult
- Policies might not be supported by CNI Plugin.

 Testing!

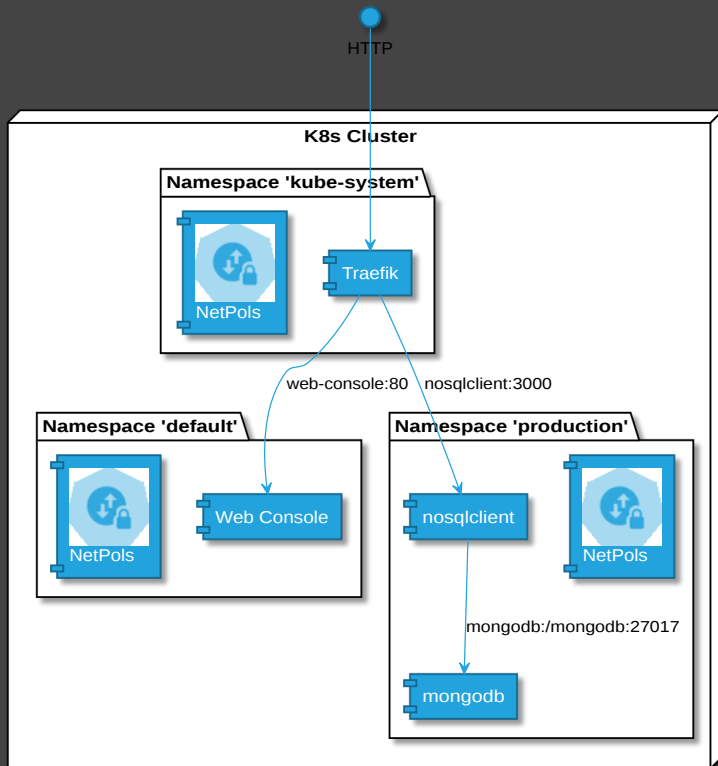
 <https://www.inovex.de/blog/test-kubernetes-network-policies/>

 <https://github.com/inovex/illumination>

## More Features?

- Proprietary extensions of CNI Plugin (e.g. cilium or calico)
- Service Meshes: similar features, also work with multiple clusters
  - ➔ different strengths, support each other (ISO/OSI Layer 7 vs 3/4)
  - 🌐 <https://istio.io/blog/2017/0.1-using-network-policy/>

# Demo



- nosqlclient
- web-console

## **Wrap-Up: Network Policies**

My recommendations:

- In non-kube - system namespaces: allow selected ingress traffic only.
- Use with care
  - limiting ingress traffic in kube - system
  - egress limiting for cluster-external traffic

# Security Context



- Security Context: Defines security parameters *per pod/container*
  - ➔ container runtime
- ↔ Cluster-wide security parameters: See Pod Security Policies

# Recommendations per Container

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  annotations:
    seccomp.security.alpha.kubernetes.io/pod: runtime/default # k8s <= 1.18
spec:
  containers:
    - name: restricted
      securityContext:
        runAsNonRoot: true
        runAsUser: 100000
        runAsGroup: 100000
        allowPrivilegeEscalation: false
        readOnlyRootFilesystem: true
        seccompProfile: # k8s >= 1.19
          type: RuntimeDefault
      capabilities:
        drop:
          - ALL
      enableServiceLinks: false
      automountServiceAccountToken: false # When not communicating with API Server
```



# **Recommendation per Container in Detail**


## Enable seccomp

- Enables e.g. docker's seccomp default profile that block 44/~300 Syscalls
- 🔥 Has mitigated Kernel vulns in past and might in future 🧪  
🌐 <https://docs.docker.com/engine/security/non-events/>
- See also k8s security audit:  
🌐 <https://www.cncf.io/blog/2019/08/06/open-sourcing-the-kubernetes-security-audit/>

## Run as unprivileged user

- `runAsNonRoot: true`

Container is not started when the user is root

- `runAsUser` and `runAsGroup > 10000`
  - 🔥 Reduces risk to run as user existing on host
  - 🔥 In case of container escape UID/GID does not have privileges on host
- 🔥 E.g. mitigates vuln in runc (used by Docker among others)  
 <https://kubernetes.io/blog/2019/02/11/runc-and-cve-2019-5736/>

## No Privilege escalation

- Container can't increase privileges
- 🔥 E.g. sudo, setuid, Kernel vulnerabilities

## Read-only root file system

- Starts container without read-write layer
- Writing only allowed in volumes
- 🔥 Config or code within the container cannot be manipulated

## Drop Capabilities

- Drops even the default caps:



<https://github.com/moby/moby/blob/3152f94/oci/caps/defaults.go>

- 🔥 E.g. Mitigates CapNetRaw attack - DNS Spoofing on Kubernetes Clusters

 <https://blog.aquasec.com/dns-spoofing-kubernetes-clusters>

## Bonus: No Services in Environment

- By default: Each K8s service written to each container's env vars
  - ➔ Docker Link legacy, no longer needed
- 🔥 But convenient info for attacker where to go next

## Bonus: Disable access to K8s API

- SA Token in every pod for api-server authn

```
curl --cacert /var/run/secrets/kubernetes.io/serviceaccount/ca.crt \
-H "Authorization: Bearer $(cat /var/run/secrets/kubernetes.io/serviceaccount/token)" \
https://${KUBERNETES_SERVICE_HOST}/api/v1/
```

- If not needed, disable!
- No authentication possible
- 🔥 Lesser risk of security misconfig or vulns in authz



## Security context pitfalls

## Read-only root file system

Application might need temp folder to write to

- Run image locally using docker, access app
  - 📌 Run automated e2e/integration tests
- Review container's read-write layer via

```
docker diff <containerName>
```

- Mount folders as `emptyDir` volumes in pod

# Drop Capabilities



Some images require capabilities


- Find out needed Caps locally:

```
docker run --rm --cap-drop ALL <image>  
# Check error  
docker run --rm --cap-drop ALL --cap-add CAP_CHOWN <image>  
# Keep adding caps until no more error
```

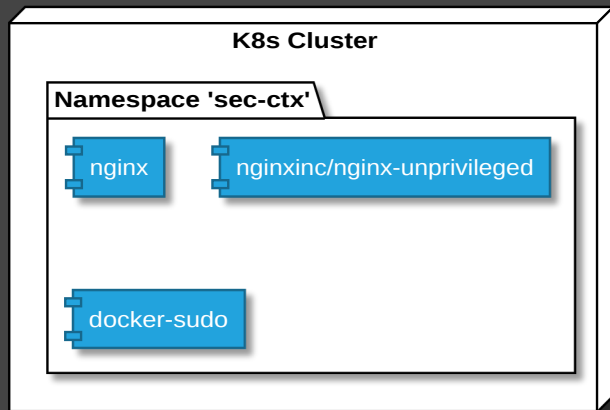
- Add necessary caps to k8s securityContext
- Alternative: Find image with same app that does not require caps, e.g. `nginxinc/nginx-unprivileged`

## Run as unprivileged user

- Some official images run as root by default.
  - Find a **trusted** image that does not run as root  
e.g. for mongo or postgres:  
 <https://hub.docker.com/r/bitnami/>
- Create your own non-root image  
(potentially basing on original image)  
e.g. nginx:  <https://github.com/schnatterer/nginx-unpriv>

- UID 100000 might not have permissions. Solutions:
    - Init Container sets permissions for volume
    - Permissions in image ➡ chmod/chown in Dockerfile
    - Run in root Group - GID 0
-  [https://docs.openshift.com/container-platform/4.3/openshift\\_images/create-images.html#images-create-guide-openshift\\_create-images](https://docs.openshift.com/container-platform/4.3/openshift_images/create-images.html#images-create-guide-openshift_create-images)

# Demo



## **Wrap-Up: Security Context**

My recommendations:

- Start with least privilege
- Only differ if there's absolutely no other way

# Pod Security Policies (PSP)




- enforces security context settings cluster-wide
- additional options enforcing secure defaults
- more effort than security context and different syntax 🙄
- future from K8s 1.22 vague 😞

 <https://github.com/kubernetes/enhancements/issues/5>

➡ Still only built-in solution for cluster-wide security settings

# Recommendation

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: PodSecurityPolicy
metadata:
  name: restrictive
spec:
  privileged: false
  allowPrivilegeEscalation: false
  readOnlyRootFilesystem: true
  hostNetwork: false
  hostIPC: false
  hostPID: false
  runAsUser:
    rule: MustRunAs
    ranges:
      - from: 1000
        to: 1000
  runAsGroup:
    rule: MustRunAs
    ranges:
      - from: 1000
        to: 1000
  fsGroup:
    rule: MustRunAs
    ranges:
      - from: 1000
        to: 1000
  volumes:
    - 'configmap'
    - 'emptydir'
    - 'persistentvolumeclaim'
    - 'secret'
    - 'storageclass'
  allowedCapabilities: []
  defaultAddCapabilities: []
  requiredDropCapabilities:
    - ALL
  seLinux:
    rule: 'RunAsAny'
```

 <https://github.com/cloudogu/k8s-security-demos/blob/master/4-pod-security-policies/demo/01-psp-restrictive.yaml>

# Too much ground to cover for 45 min!



- 🎥 <https://youtu.be/YlvdFE1Rsml?t=3092> 🇩🇪 including Demo
- 🌐 <https://cloudogu.com/en/blog/k8s-app-ops-part-5-pod-security-policies-1> 🇬🇧 🇩🇪

# Summary

- Don't allow arbitrary connections between pods, e.g. via NetPols
- Start with least privilege for your containers
  - using either Security Context or
  - PSP

# Johannes Schnatterer

Cloudogu GmbH

 [cloudogu.com/schulungen](https://cloudogu.com/schulungen)

K8s AppOps security series on JavaSPEKTRUM 05/2019+

See also  [cloudogu.com/blog/tag/k8s-security](https://cloudogu.com/blog/tag/k8s-security)

 [@cloudogu](https://twitter.com/cloudogu)

 [@jschnatterer](https://twitter.com/jschnatterer)

Demo Source:  [github.com/cloudogu/k8s-security-demos](https://github.com/cloudogu/k8s-security-demos)

