

# Throw Away Your Passwords

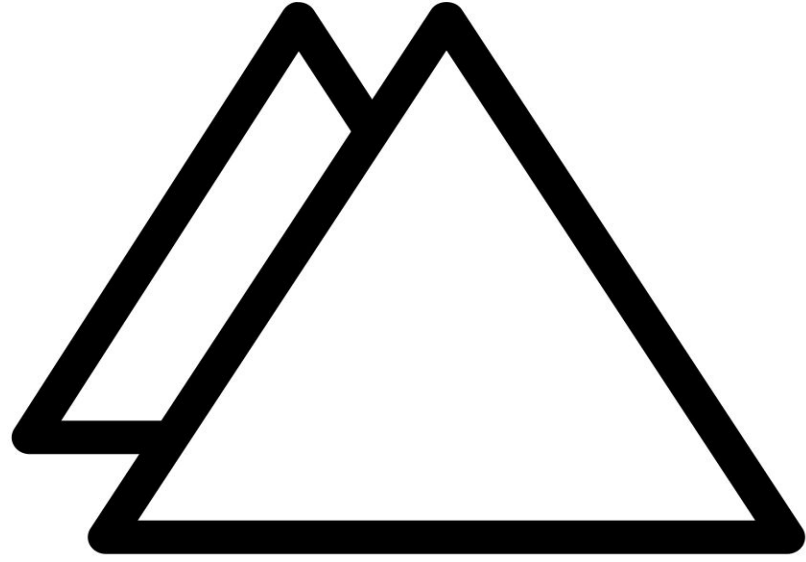
# Trusting Workload Identity





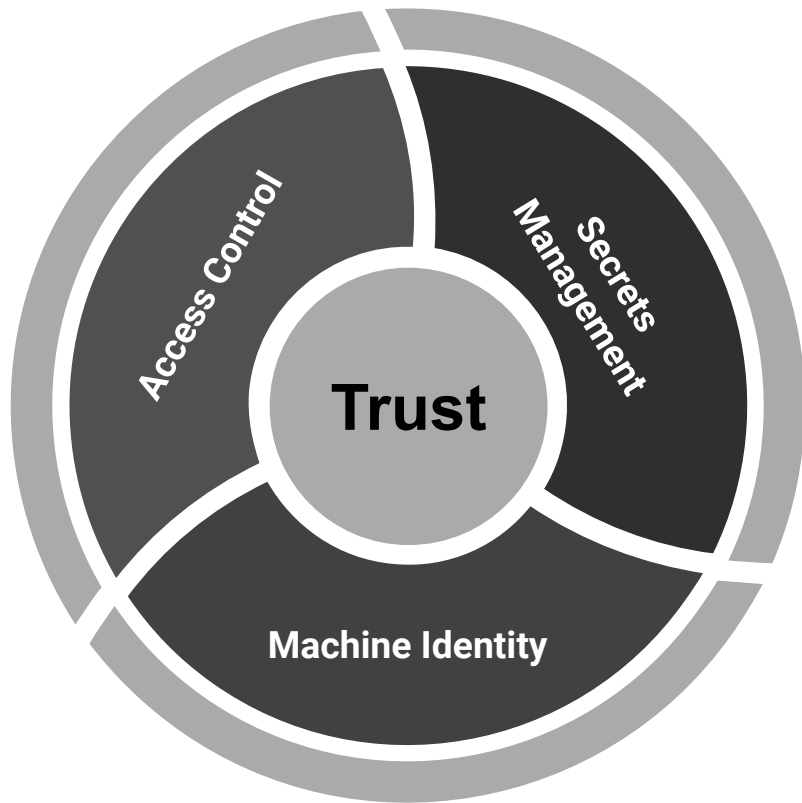
# Ric Featherstone (Cloud Native) Engineer

@controlplaneio



**controlplane**

- **Demystify** Machine Identity
- Discuss **historical issues**
- Solve the "**bottom turtle**" trust bootstrap quandary
- **Acquire** a Workload Identity or Secret Zero
- **Appraise** Open Source implementations and technologies
- Strive for a world in which passwords and static keys are replaced with **dynamic credentials** and **hardware roots of trust**



# Ye Olde Ways



- Location Based
  - Firewalls
  - X.509 IP SAN
- Secrets Management
  - Username and Passwords
  - API Keys
- Authentication Mechanisms
  - PKI
  - Kerberos

# Dynamic Infrastructure

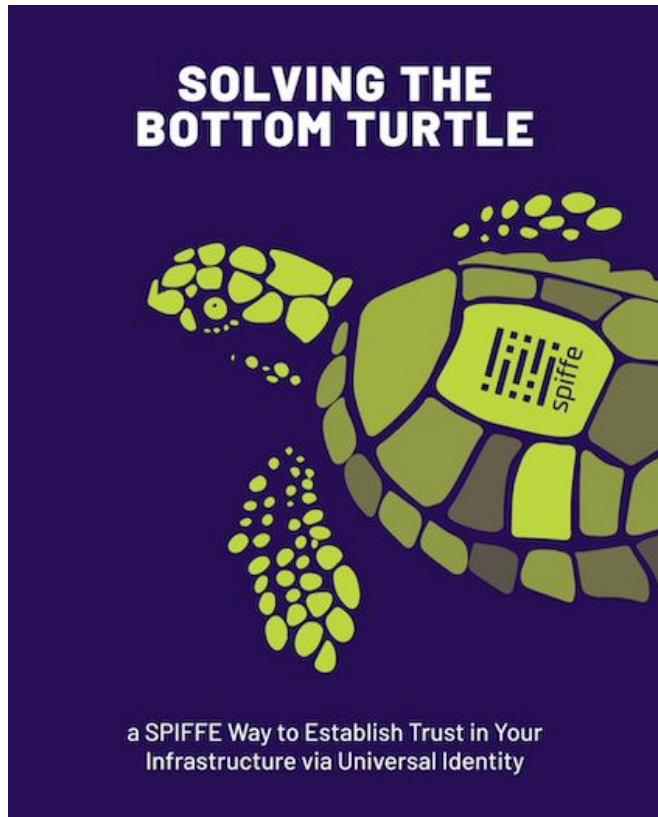


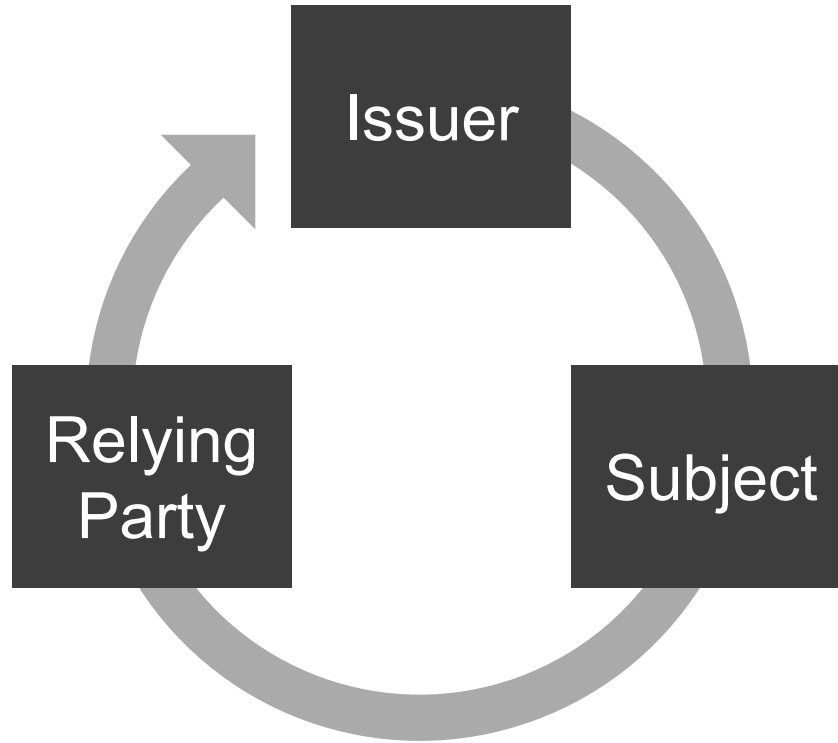
# Secret Zero

Protecting access to one secret results in a new secret you need to protect

“turtles all the way down”

<https://spiffe.io/book/>







This **Secret Zero**  
sounds good, where  
can I get one?



```
curl https://API_SERVER/apis/authentication.k8s.io/v1/tokenreviews
-H "Authorization: Bearer RELYING_PARTY_TOKEN"
-H \'Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8\'
-d @data/token-review.json
```

```
{
  "apiVersion": "authentication.k8s.io/v1",
  "kind": "TokenReview",
  "spec": {
    "token": "SUBJECT_TOKEN"
  }
}
```



Subject



Relying Party

Service Account  
TokenService Account  
Token

```
{
  "authenticated": true,
  "user": {
    "username": "system:serviceaccount:default:example-1",
    "uid": "fa8450cf-00bd-411a-9a34-b86253076633",
    "groups": [
      "system:serviceaccounts",
      "system:serviceaccounts:default",
      "system:authenticated"
    ],
    "extra": {
      "authentication.kubernetes.io/pod-name": [
        "example-1-7c78d55679-9d5jn"
      ],
      "authentication.kubernetes.io/pod-uid": [
        "084ae167-5d1a-4dd0-80ff-4026c9232683"
      ]
    }
  },
  "audiences": [
    "https://container.googleapis.com/v1/projects/**/locations/europe-west2.
workload-identity"
  ]
}
```



# Token Review API

## Requirements

- Access to the API Server
- Permission

rules:

- apiGroups:
  - authentication.k8s.io

resources:

- **tokenreviews**

verbs:

- **create**



**Vault**



Don't use **long lived**  
Service Account  
tokens



# Bound Service Account Tokens

```
"name": "token",
"projected": {
  "sources": [
    {
      "serviceAccountToken": {
        "audience": "demo",
        "expirationSeconds": 900,
        "path": "token"
      }
    }
  ]
}
```

- Projected Volume
- Limited Scope
  - **Audience** Bound
  - **Time** Bound



So now we have a  
**Secrets Management**  
problem again



# Service Account Issuer Discovery

- OpenID Connect (**OIDC**)  
Discovery Compatible
  - Discovery Document
  - JSON Web Key Set (JWKS)
- Vanilla Kubernetes
  - API Service Access
  - RBAC Permissions
- Managed Kubernetes
  - Public Endpoint
  - No Authorization

rules:

- nonResourceURLs:

- **/.well-known/openid-configuration**

- **/openid/v1/jwks** (vanilla)

verbs:

- get





# What is **in** a JWT?



# What is in a JWT?

HEADER . PAYLOAD . SIGNATURE

```
jq -R 'split(".") | .[1] | @base64d | fromjson' <<< $TOKEN
```

## HEADER

```
{
  "alg": "RS256",
  "kid": "9vwrVontDoFY8qW28rmQmC8HNyHb5lD9qJ3gJFfa1ZE"
}
```

## PAYLOAD

```
{
  "aud": [
    "demo"
  ],
  "exp": 1652180920,
  "iat": 1652180020,
  "iss": "https://container.googleapis.com/v1/projects/***/locations/europe-west2/clusters/workload-identity",
  "kubernetes.io": {
    "namespace": "default",
    "pod": {
      "name": "example-1-7c78d55679-pw8kv",
      "uid": "b6f5a8d1-cell1-46cd-a8a5-1453ab141ce9"
    },
    "serviceaccount": {
      "name": "example-1",
      "uid": "771af7f6-5ba0-4223-990f-6d7775358534"
    }
  },
  "nbf": 1652180020,
  "sub": "system:serviceaccount:default:example-1"
}
```

## SIGNATURE

```
"qFeKznKPGyE3yZJEfZ35VQ1T77g1vIKi_lx0TftTkJlQVlyA0-3EPG7homwWwKqJyxegu9fnlXQmKFS2MJBy85NxiEvuyS0z7QAvuP4j
55x-WFn6wwlyGZreLpQi0mjWfvfvautSHTRsf8MBs9XaM0kEV-tJtIA0fEibhCucVzHdaJXh8jdqXcy2DHcrMWZeKL9nXGKZV4neSHdJw
A0572WFnPkH0qXMoPzbwMye9-s3l0cLPzhzY8pBe46Nb90fi8qzely0m6hr3_BazQZ_YpYgZZC-gMnZSAZIVyKooZSpYkHbTME0u5vJSQ
workload-identity $ █
```



What does that **look**  
like?



## PAYLOAD

```
{
  "aud": [
    "demo"
  ],
  "exp": 1652353441,
  "iat": 1652352541,
  "iss": "https://container.googleapis.com/v1/projects/**/locations/europe-west2/clusters/workload-identity",
  "kubernetes.io": {
    "namespace": "default",
    "pod": {
      "name": "example-2-89fbdfcbb-bg44q",
      "uid": "878269db-c170-4465-8e8a-abe49c608c64"
    },
    "serviceaccount": {
      "name": "example-2",
      "uid": "46913dbf-1f0e-4a38-a8da-a32c4a3b41d3"
    }
  },
  "nbf": 1652352541,
  "sub": "system:serviceaccount:default:example-2"
}
workload-identity $ █
```



## DISCOVERY DOCUMENT

```
{
  "issuer": "https://container.googleapis.com/v1/projects/***/locations/europe-west2/clusters/workload-identity",
  "jwks_uri": "https://container.googleapis.com/v1/projects/***/locations/europe-west2/clusters/workload-identity/jwks",
  "response_types_supported": [
    "id_token"
  ],
  "subject_types_supported": [
    "public"
  ],
  "id_token_signing_alg_values_supported": [
    "RS256"
  ],
  "claims_supported": [
    "iss",
    "sub",
    "kubernetes.io"
  ],
  "grant_types": [
    "urn:kubernetes:grant_type:programmatic_authorization"
  ]
}
workload-identity $ █
```



JWKS

```
{
  "keys": [
    {
      "kty": "RSA",
      "alg": "RS256",
      "use": "sig",
      "kid": "LYx5ReZr4IZ73R0I3pZopqPHXZ-AWQnVwlwkU1zTABs",
      "n": "gSXTqNC-DEGyBCq9Ey45WL1LL89Yf8zgk-RrkonSYck7o-0-46sJ8dp4QZTLXpMBFzI1psQ4E5GkyQLca4NlLaIf1A9dMAQnljHVTHeNDV3ABlcyF6Y9T-0yCe_Va2KFeSSUvE3BqkleRClkgyHlup7B7GXYCjkj62wtC8oZBfWJfWEj6-JzmFCKfD01DdwFA7hkeVFqvGbRuChDfuH7maKnUCvDieNZoU0KKL6NQqARKfU1wylJwK8rqDMWn37i4NdHOW0HBwXIDanILUpD6A4D_R1Z6-yWypBI5ba-wOr_ZZvudPyXrGdgU0m2o6-gL0bhcPLd5VN4Gfnnw0Ph8w",
      "e": "AQAB"
    }
  ]
}

workload-identity $ █
```

## PAYLOAD

```
{
  "aud": [
    "demo"
  ],
  "exp": 1652353670,
  "iat": 1652352770,
  "iss": "https://oidc.eks.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/id/BF292F000B51B2A40D716C45519EB46E",
  "kubernetes.io": {
    "namespace": "default",
    "pod": {
      "name": "example-2-89fbdfcbb-lhrg6",
      "uid": "bcff40d4-1953-4b7a-b985-23e679745619"
    },
    "serviceaccount": {
      "name": "example-2",
      "uid": "71966509-2466-4721-9514-7d5574a2711c"
    }
  },
  "nbf": 1652352770,
  "sub": "system:serviceaccount:default:example-2"
}
workload-identity $ █
```





## DISCOVERY DOCUMENT

```
{  
  "issuer": "https://oidc.eks.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/id/BF292F000B51B2A40D716C45519EB46E",  
  "jwks_uri": "https://oidc.eks.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/id/BF292F000B51B2A40D716C45519EB46E/keys",  
  "authorization_endpoint": "urn:kubernetes:programmatic_authorization",  
  "response_types_supported": [  
    "id_token"  
  ],  
  "subject_types_supported": [  
    "public"  
  ],  
  "claims_supported": [  
    "sub",  
    "iss"  
  ],  
  "id_token_signing_alg_values_supported": [  
    "RS256"  
  ]  
}  
workload-identity $ █
```

JWKS

```
{
  "keys": [
    {
      "kty": "RSA",
      "e": "AQAB",
      "use": "sig",
      "kid": "afe102b87b96fa2ad6ae37de27b52a3509f3482a",
      "alg": "RS256",
      "n": "gwfNbUq2oQAl89Dga72223Q9QE1yPskMC2HhPQ0ZdvCGmIqM2uGvZUUIc1SfrDeJRF2BwNTujaSi0JRTqLpyK0uqpgGHcQygKFxr3J-0kLmotBRWUvpAz4u4wpanc0a_02ZKR-bzoivqgK_qpTncvzoi0kgDxQVU37i5cl0K_HLJvNTh-q_SDnU_xESC  
CNZ-pY8vgiJfEBBQ3-nnhyciJy9jJuG5aWMUEJLj5TTgNSx2ElwPmVrXwAlstpLVDsHz3RuIcwBSmLE4wrfFWW87Z8HEnTu0h7wz  
iDZJkzdNVEp-biC7DBjetSD7mZp_1M1mtF8uqVs3Q_mcjsAUvtCZXQ"
    }
  ]
}

workload-identity $ █
```

## PAYLOAD

```
{
  "aud": [
    "demo"
  ],
  "exp": 1652353802,
  "iat": 1652352902,
  "iss": "https://oidc.prod-aks.azure.com/2dc26668-2e05-4bec-91ab-551d4660a786/",
  "kubernetes.io": {
    "namespace": "default",
    "pod": {
      "name": "example-2-89fbdfcbb-h7dhz",
      "uid": "3144dfd8-5234-454c-98b0-a045c3c8a305"
    },
    "serviceaccount": {
      "name": "example-2",
      "uid": "eb18c7ed-1665-4a46-a25e-a04d82bf7894"
    }
  },
  "nbf": 1652352902,
  "sub": "system:serviceaccount:default:example-2"
}
```

workload-identity \$ █



## DISCOVERY DOCUMENT

```
{
  "issuer": "https://oidc.prod-aks.azure.com/2dc26668-2e05-4bec-91ab-551d4660a786/",
  "jwks_uri": "https://oidc.prod-aks.azure.com/2dc26668-2e05-4bec-91ab-551d4660a786/openid/v1/jwks",
  "response_types_supported": [
    "id_token"
  ],
  "subject_types_supported": [
    "public"
  ],
  "id_token_signing_alg_values_supported": [
    "RS256"
  ]
}
workload-identity $ █
```

JWKS

```
{
  "keys": [
    {
      "use": "sig",
      "kty": "RSA",
      "kid": "BM25Mx8UjZEzXUciDU61ecYjWq5qq9Ch4HnWEyP5Dcw",
      "alg": "RS256",
      "n": "yIpi-g_1PQbeLuugwoagz0UX5dJVtVYhPvD33DEaX_BghMSwvm52DJLUC1fVK_2X-1YS50WKBkXKUHY2UxGgeb8J3LX0bE9ZPSMt59by7cUqw3P3fKBb8vl0vNjb-fevXAVefXdVz5b6tUe_pi47vvvP3SwKolblU8Em47cAKZ0zR1bRHx06vFLR5v0kUNS0lnzgAbsh5vAdsDvN3eDsNi_IUSNTZydE6bg-KkHSJrJ9gGCBjaykRMLkJh9KL-l1Dcw9AwnQe9xe0QQZHq5CC0riCL89uaR64PVBZNV02wg0PnLpY207nAvhI1WSU7Xp9JLA6hSyqXGbWvWIEa9d95bnv6o1WcpJeDQuA4Gbta8cRC-MP9_51uCPBHs5KJBukVH4T8_FDIFIobZRaitUM0L8gnGlg1bJIL4um3GLl7AtVnu0bFME4vuVePEIevvftFEgYiUWsyaa7EHWU5EEUpnaCYJJsi_S7Moe6LgUmQpZUzLyhjpd75gYHFvtL734DzS8sKqrGGB_ZxTTeC6HmQ_QfAFM7wXZzv-Gei4ZxncQxWIVhfsNM0xnQodiwcSAuvsg7Sinezyakfv4rvu9XJHY1p__irZL077vN_zVg-ZSmMiVBLWa0jUzfKacTPVXZ16z057jKwWVS9FneVvOVjQF9UWwyEKrWow09pbZ7c",
      "e": "AQAB"
    }
  ]
}
```

workload-identity \$ █

**What can I do with  
that then?**



# Web Identity Federation

- **Cloud** Identity and Access Management (**IAM**)
  - GCP
  - AWS
  - Azure (Preview)
- Configure
  - OIDC Provider
  - Role Mappings



```
decoded = io.jwt.decode(token)
discovery = http.send({
  "url": concat("", [decoded[1].iss, "/.well-known/openid-configuration"]),
  "method": "GET"
}).body

jwks = http.send({
  "url": discovery.jwks_uri,
  "method": "GET"
}).raw_body

verified = io.jwt.verify_rs256(token, jwks)
subject = decoded[1].sub
audience = decoded[1].aud

workload-identity $ █
```



# Open Policy Agent



**Your Identity  
Provider** does not  
have to be Kubernetes



```
gcloud iam workload-identity-pools providers create-oidc "github-provider" \
  --location="global" \
  --workload-identity-pool="demo-pool" \
  --display-name="GitHub provider" \
  --attribute-mapping="google.subject=assertion.sub,attribute.actor=assertion.actor,attribute.aud=as
sertion.aud,attribute.repository=assertion.repository" \
  --issuer-uri="https://token.actions.githubusercontent.com"

gcloud iam service-accounts add-iam-policy-binding "demosa@***.iam.gserviceaccount.com" \
  --role="roles/iam.workloadIdentityUser" \
  --member="principalSet://iam.googleapis.com/$pool_name/attribute.repository/demo-org/demo-repo"

workload-identity $
```



```
- id: 'auth'
  name: 'Authenticate to Google Cloud'
  uses: 'google-github-actions/auth@v0.4.0'
  with:
    token_format: 'id_token'
    workload_identity_provider: 'projects/***/locations/global/workloadIdentityPools/demo-pool/providers/github-provider'
    service_account: 'demosa@***.gserviceaccount.com'
    id_token_audience: demo

- name: 'Whoami'
  run: echo '${{ steps.auth.outputs.id_token }}' | jq -R 'split(".") | .[1] | @base64d | fromjson'

workload-identity $
```



## google-auth

succeeded 2 days ago in 4s

- > ☒ Set up job
- > ☒ Run actions/checkout@v3
- > ☒ Authenticate to Google Cloud

### ✓ Whoami

```
1 ▶ Run echo '****' | jq -R 'split(".") | .[1] | @base64d | fromjson'
12 {
13   "aud": "demo",
14   "azp": "108524896999291150114",
15   "exp": 1651436309,
16   "iat": 1651432709,
17   "iss": "https://accounts.google.com",
18   "sub": "108524896999291150114"
19 }
```

- > ☒ Post Run actions/checkout@v3
- > ☒ Complete job



What if I **need** more  
than that?





# spiffe

Secure Production Identity Framework for Everyone (SPIFFE)

## SPIFFE Identity

- `spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments`

SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Document (**SVID**)

- **JWT** SVID
- **X.509** SVID
- **Trust Bundle**

Workload Endpoint and Workload API

- Unauthenticated Identity Bootstrapping



# SPIRE

SPIFFE Runtime Environment (SPIRE)

- Implementation of the SPIFFE standards
- **Attestation**
  - Nodes
  - Workloads
- **Registration** based on selectors (metadata)





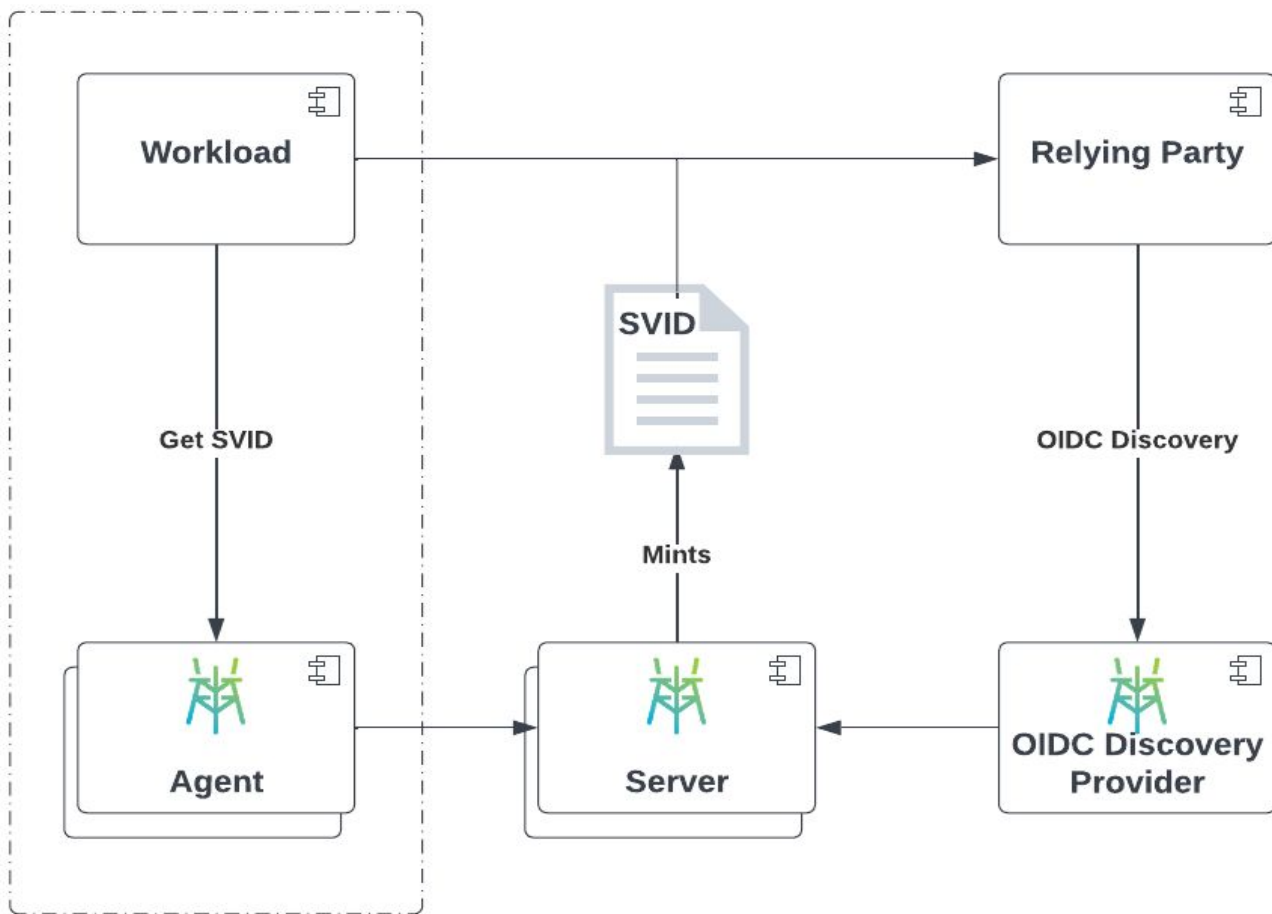
## Node Attestation

- join\_token
- x509pop
- sshpop
- k8s\_sat
- k8s\_psat
- gcp\_iit
- aws\_iid
- azure\_msi

## Workload Attestation

- unix
- docker
- k8s







## HEADER

```
{  
  "alg": "RS256",  
  "kid": "k23CZK9ew7L2baDbbvgs1aJzjXSTneS7",  
  "typ": "JWT"
```

```
}
```

## PAYLOAD

```
{  
  "aud": [  
    "demo"  
  ],  
  "exp": 1652181606,  
  "iat": 1652181306,  
  "iss": "https://oidc.ricfeatherstone.com",  
  "sub": "spiffe://ricfeatherstone.com/example-3"
```

```
}
```

## SIGNATURE

```
"JwdNZvD6cZ5wWL7og10Y8XTB5SwLUP-4KBlpjy16xpQrKf1KfBIAA49l0CvGxt4iYWzr10gLcDT286ezlRfi900SIUdInar5cQ05acoDuXEYKoSQeWbdz4  
pJ1vahL05L1XSA8A2dEUpcobFZmQAd9fYnbTc3pimjU0Egp2U0mZkWuk_xQbwGBApyVIj7f5BsF-IwGJLrXeHq2acYySFVgDYsjr0edHF5shDiL0ZxQ4aU9  
cBed3ufXzrLlkbComnly5HF8CPNlXBvfu7bbEIcK2psUlszcb8XFxVWC15Fx_EgloNNjHbXByDlIlR6n_t7Pd1s1xpMKrwD2aLyYxj4bw"
```

```
workload-identity $ █
```

## DISCOVERY DOCUMENT

```
{
  "issuer": "https://oidc.ricfeatherstone.com",
  "jwks_uri": "https://oidc.ricfeatherstone.com/keys",
  "authorization_endpoint": "",
  "response_types_supported": [
    "id_token"
  ],
  "subject_types_supported": [],
  "id_token_signing_alg_values_supported": [
    "RS256",
    "ES256",
    "ES384"
  ]
}
workload-identity $
```

JWKS

```
{
  "keys": [
    {
      "use": "sig",
      "kty": "RSA",
      "kid": "ag8gAREwfjqL1JBxDwiXRJgpMQuiPlX",
      "n": "ycnvlGNMWj-NBlnTcaKyfkMNwjeKw0YviWJ7rY-qWP_XeSJgx9zJMYG3Y0rCL0mB0x9o6m6RZlqhzP520X0bIHwr_Za-4S-L7jYlMj7aF86s9nj6hRNhXmnIGNPY3cGzRFbMkvZ0oq16csbRMF5XGpaRxq1FKW7gZ3u6Vh4NQ3C-iPqu2ZQI-piHsMrzK1F-qJcoAhHk2ixED0qSs6LVwuS8wAJEPajkSgNZhu4k-i84D9JKpg3-ay6PBHd5auWA8xfRdHt3x-_I5VD0vVkZnn0fwYNVJqAfNPbvQG2RxdhQDFxa0IQsrE6avGA-Fe3ySsxWqsLuU71sH-kG8D710w",
      "e": "AQAB"
    }
  ]
}
```

workload-identity \$ █

What about those  
**X.509** SVIDs?



Signature Algorithm: sha256WithRSAEncryption

Issuer: CN = ricfeatherstone.com

Validity

Not Before: May 10 11:48:58 2022 GMT

Not After : May 10 12:49:08 2022 GMT

Subject: C = US, O = SPIRE

Subject Public Key Info:

Public Key Algorithm: id-ecPublicKey

Public-Key: (256 bit)

pub:

04:e8:e6:af:91:d4:27:ca:79:a7:0e:f0:42:cc:64:

e4:dc:0b:46:7c:2a:e3:85:a3:cf:cf:c3:96:6e:1c:

7d:11:b5:50:ab:d8:17:ea:36:cd:28:e0:ce:7b:21:

b9:24:7c:d4:05:e4:42:b6:54:54:22:b6:65:33:34:

a5:eb:e0:6c:e6

ASN1 OID: prime256v1

NIST CURVE: P-256

X509v3 extensions:

X509v3 Key Usage: critical

Digital Signature, Key Encipherment, Key Agreement

X509v3 Extended Key Usage:

TLS Web Server Authentication, TLS Web Client Authentication

X509v3 Basic Constraints: critical

CA:FALSE

X509v3 Subject Key Identifier:

64:7C:A9:2E:6C:F3:6B:A7:62:26:01:98:31:29:19:10:B2:DA:16:86

X509v3 Authority Key Identifier:

kevid:41:E3:BD:6A:B6:C4:08:D5:54:39:8A:AB:36:F1:1F:26:E0:EA:12:81

X509v3 Subject Alternative Name:

URI:spiffe://ricfeatherstone.com/example-3

Signature Algorithm: sha256WithRSAEncryption

0b:dc:c2:3f:05:0d:4d:30:35:e1:3c:1f:e7:02:af:ff:fb:09:



You said something  
about **Hardware Root  
of Trust?**





## TPM

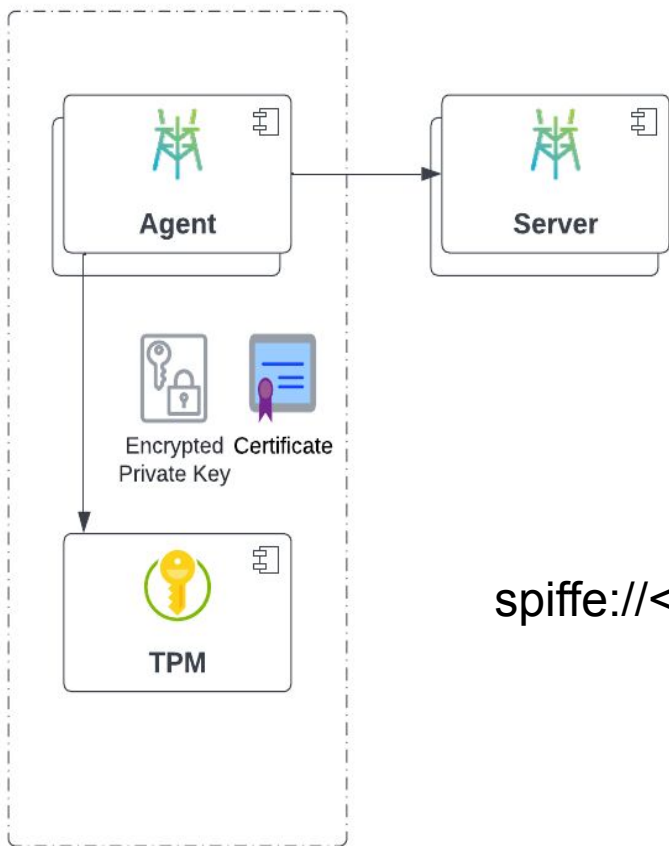
- Hardware, Firmware or Virtual **Crypto-processing** Device
- **Endorsement Key** (EK) burned in a manufacturing time
- Generated Keys cannot leave the TPM **Unencrypted**
- **Platform Configuration Registers** (PCR)

## Keylime

- **Remote Attestation**
- Linux **Integrity Measurement Architecture** (IMA)
- **Continuous Verification**
- Linked to **Attestation Key** (AK) of a **specific** machine

<https://keylime.dev/>





# TPM DevID Attestation

- Like x509\_pop attestation
- Private Key encrypted by TPM
- Physically bound to specific machine

`spiffe://<trust domain>/spire/agent/tpm_devid/<fingerprint>`

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSdWeDf02TM>



# Takeaways

- You might already have a **Workload Identity** that satisfies your use case
- Does your Kubernetes cluster work as your **Identity Provider**?
- If you are using **Service Account Tokens** for Workload Identity
  - Make sure they are **Bound Service Account Tokens**
  - Always use a **Secure Channel** for communication
- **OIDC Discovery** and **Web Identity Federation** cover a number of use cases
- Think about the boundaries of your **Trust Domains**
- Consider **SPIFFE** and **SPIRE**
- Investigate **TPMs** and **Keylime**



