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K8s Auth{n,z} at Robinhood

Learnings from reductions, migrations and designing automation

Karen Tu, Sujith Katakam
Robinhood Markets, Inc.

Initial design of k8s access control



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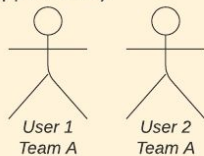
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Kubernetes resources

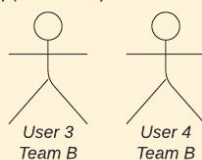
Namespace A

Namespace B

Google group
(app-team-a)



Google group
(app-team-b)



Initial design of k8s access control



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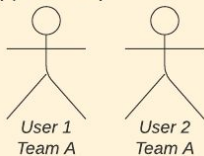
Kubernetes resources

ClusterRole
namespace-admin

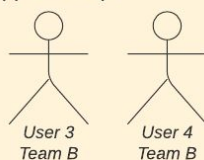
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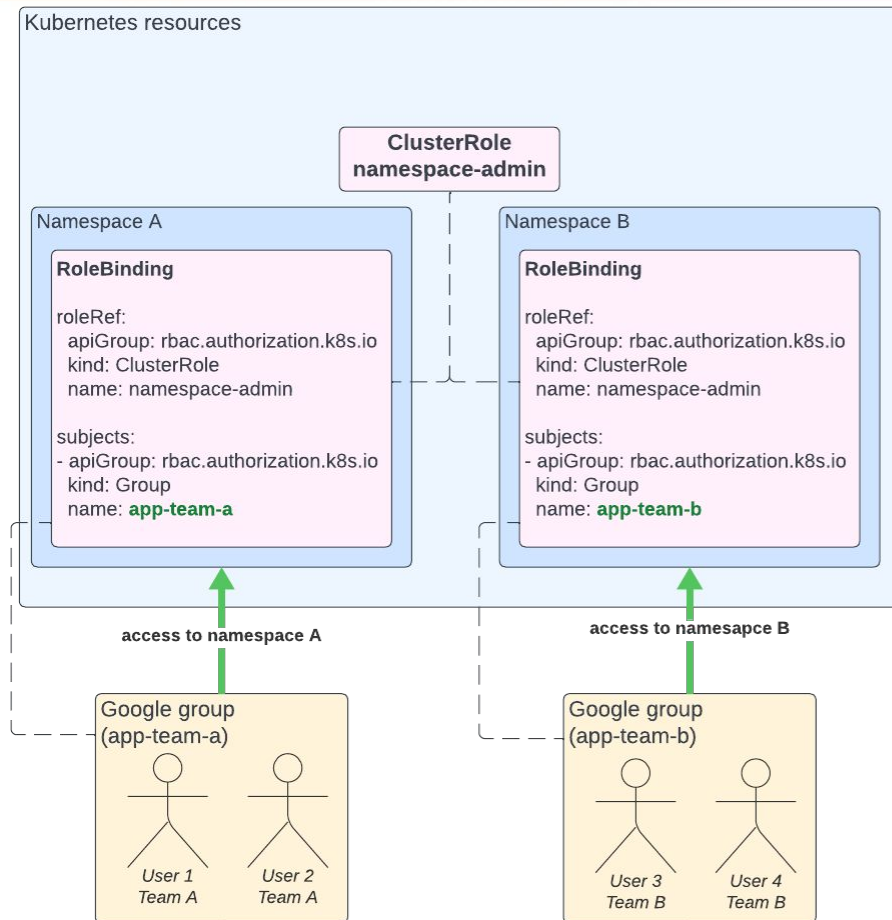


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What about infrastructure teams?

Initial design of k8s access control

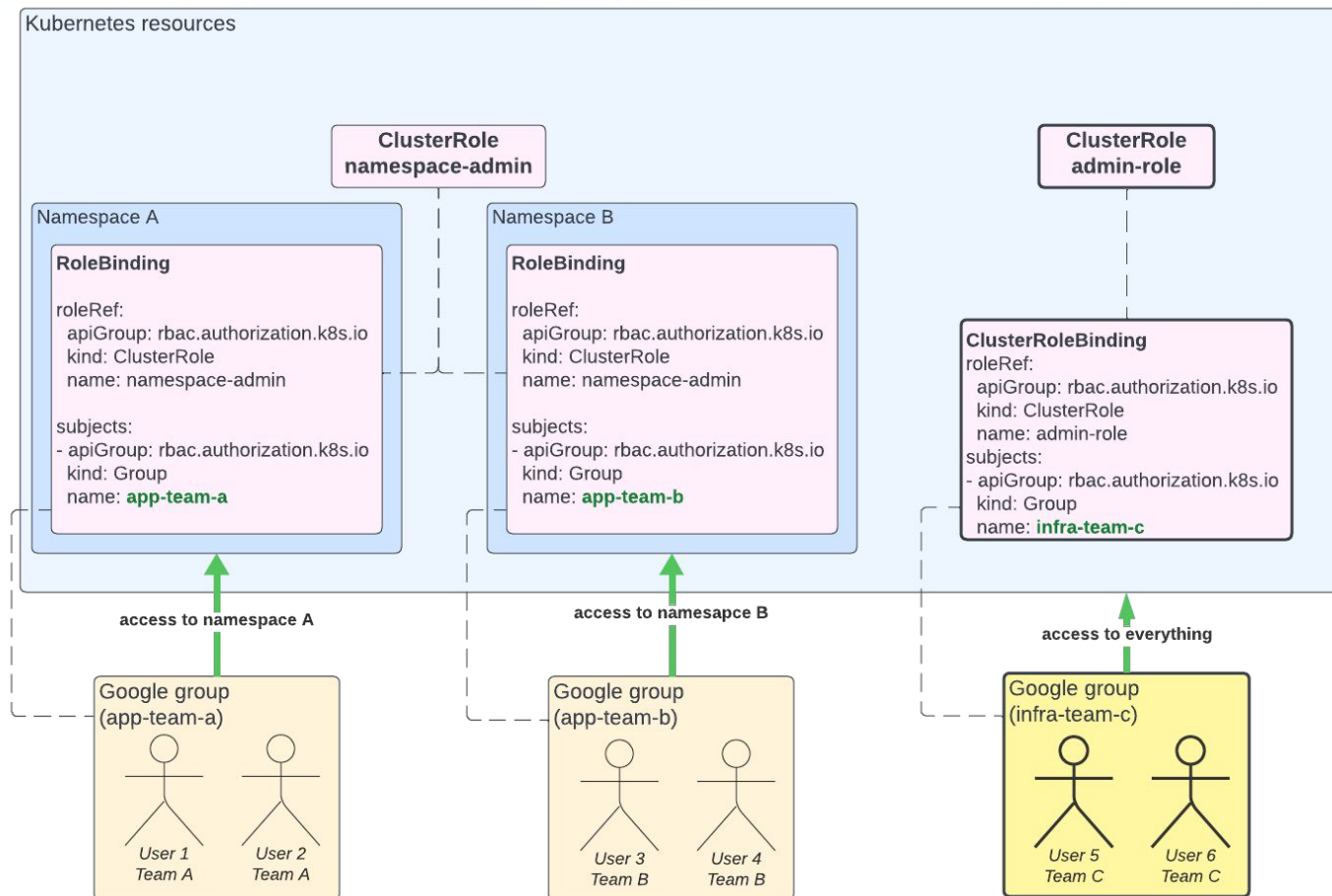


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Why did the initial design NOT scale?



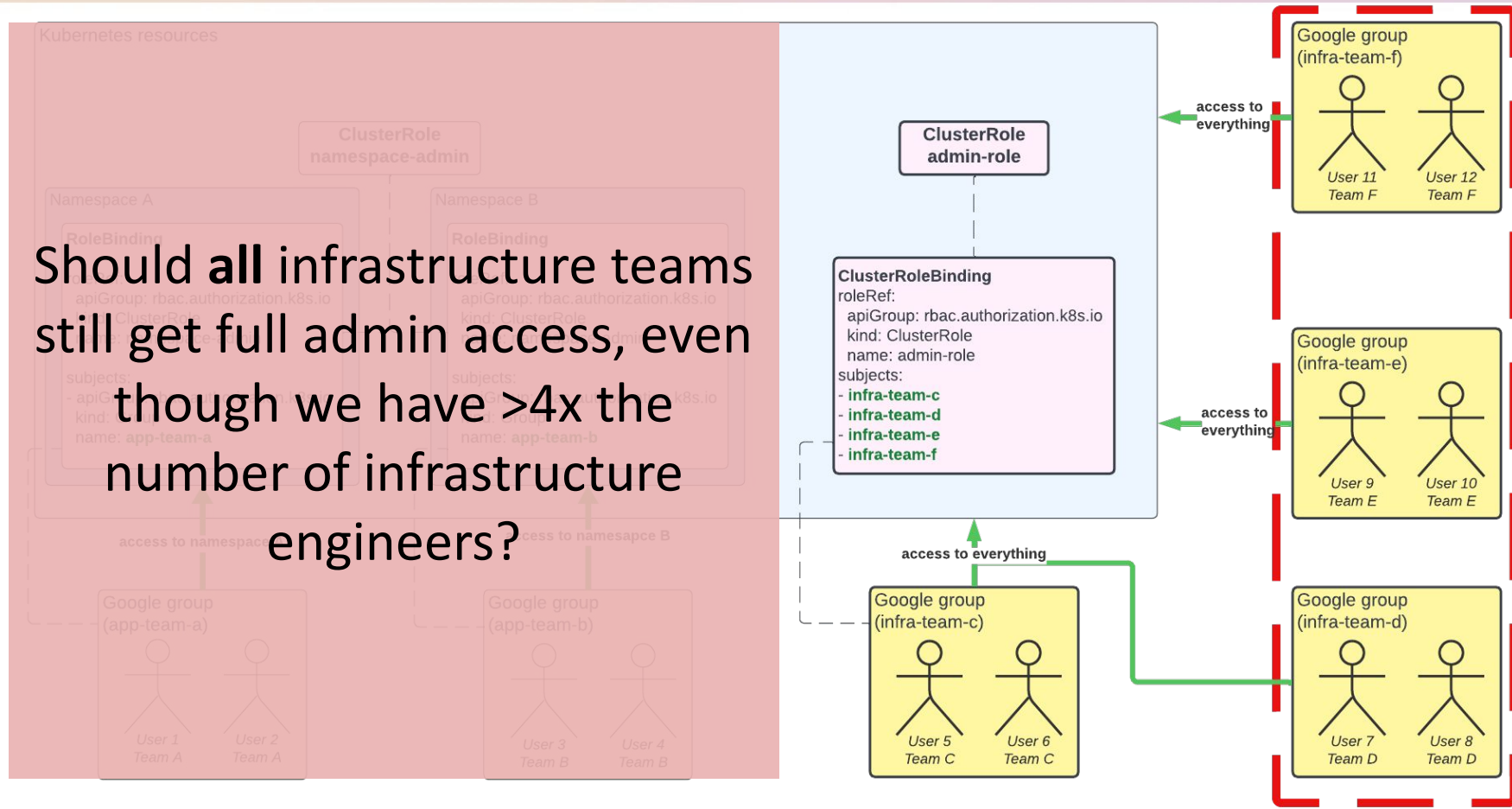
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Should **all** infrastructure teams still get full admin access, even though we have >4x the number of infrastructure engineers?



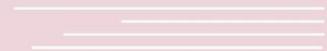


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Evolving our security posture

Evolving our security posture



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	Original Access Policy	New Access Policy
Format	None	Formal document
Admin access definition	Full wildcard * access cluster-wide	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. First order - cluster-wide2. Second order - indirect access
Who gets admin access?	All infrastructure teams	Fine grained guidelines
What can non-admins access?	Their own namespaces	Their own namespaces

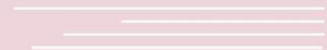


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Enforcing Fine-Grained Admin Access

Surveying the existing state



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- KubiScan
 - Good starting point for identifying risky permissions
 - Limitations
 - Noisy - included the namespace-admin RoleBinding that we create by default in all namespaces
 - Feature gaps - does not handle missing Roles well
- rbac-tool
 - Only for looking up specific subjects



release [v1.14.5](#) Go [v1.19](#) [Build On Push](#) [no status](#) License [Apache 2.0](#) [X](#) Tweet

 | insightCloudSec | RBAC Tool For Kubernetes [↗](#)

→ We wrote our own!



Reducing admin access



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Kubernetes resources

ClusterRole
admin-role

ClusterRoleBinding
roleRef:
kind: ClusterRole
name: admin-role
subjects:
- infra-team-c

???

access to everything

Google group
(infra-team-f)

User 11
Team F

User 12
Team F

Google group
(infra-team-e)

User 9
Team E

User 10
Team E

Google group
(infra-team-c)

User 5
Team C

User 6
Team C

Reducing admin access



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Kubernetes resources

ClusterRole
cluster-role-f

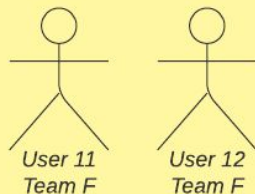
ClusterRole
cluster-role-e

ClusterRole
admin-role

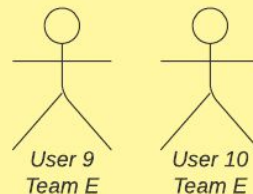
ClusterRoleBinding
roleRef:
kind: ClusterRole
name: admin-role
subjects:
- infra-team-c

access to everything

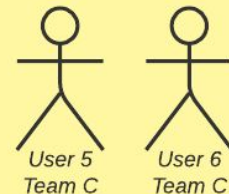
Google group
(infra-team-f)



Google group
(infra-team-e)



Google group
(infra-team-c)



Reducing admin access



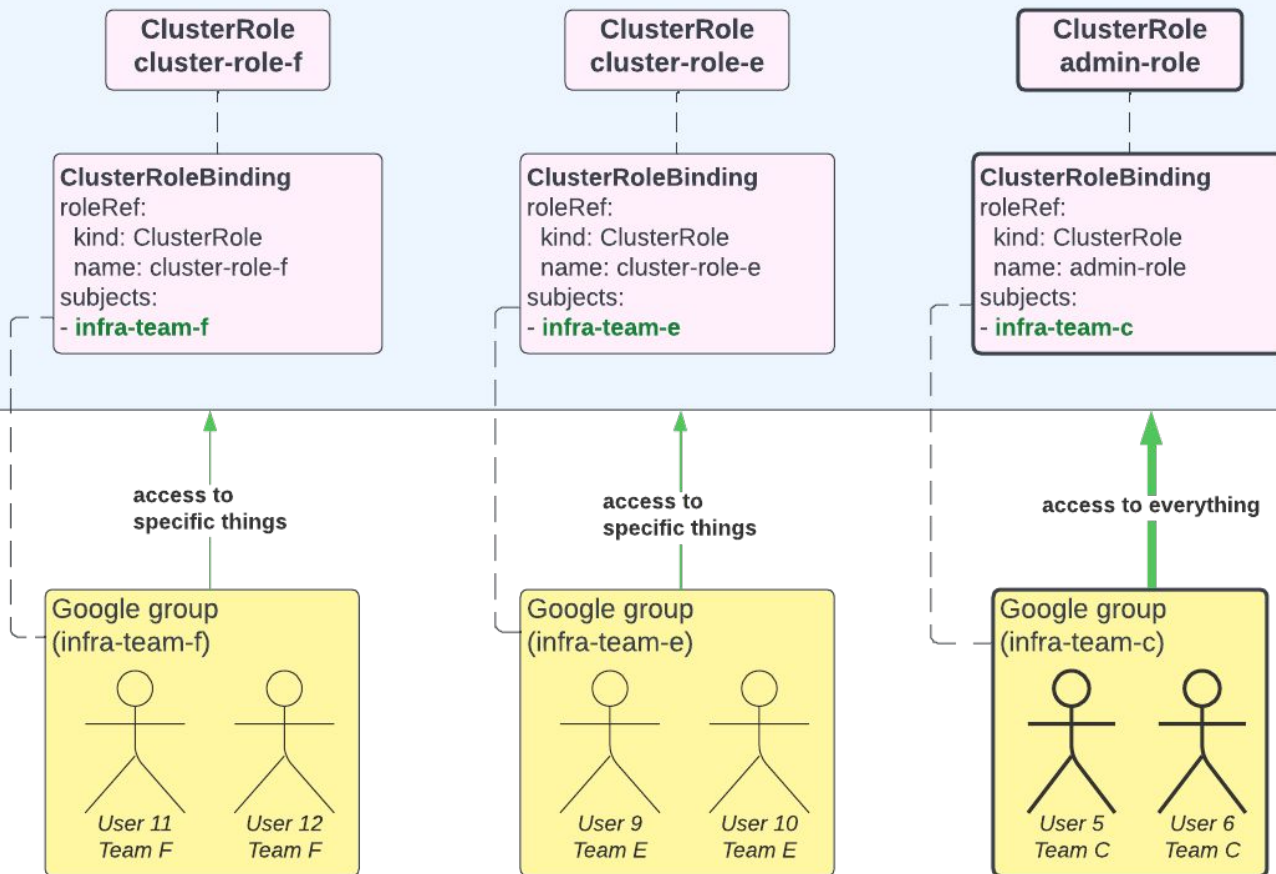
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Kubernetes resources



Reducing admin access



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Kubernetes resources

~~ClusterRole
unused-1~~

~~ClusterRole
unused-2~~

~~ClusterRole
unused-3~~

ClusterRole
cluster-role-f

ClusterRoleBinding
roleRef:
kind: ClusterRole
name: cluster-role-f
subjects:
- **infra-team-f**

ClusterRole
cluster-role-e

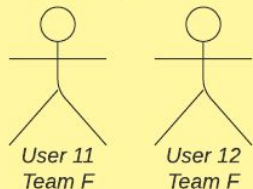
ClusterRoleBinding
roleRef:
kind: ClusterRole
name: cluster-role-e
subjects:
- **infra-team-e**

ClusterRole
admin-role

ClusterRoleBinding
roleRef:
kind: ClusterRole
name: admin-role
subjects:
- **infra-team-c**

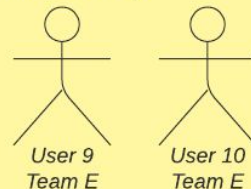
access to
specific things

Google group
(infra-team-f)



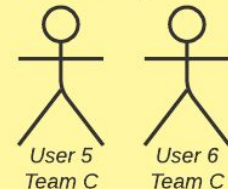
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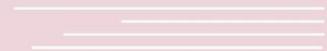


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Designing a better access control mechanism

Guard, a third-party webhook authenticator

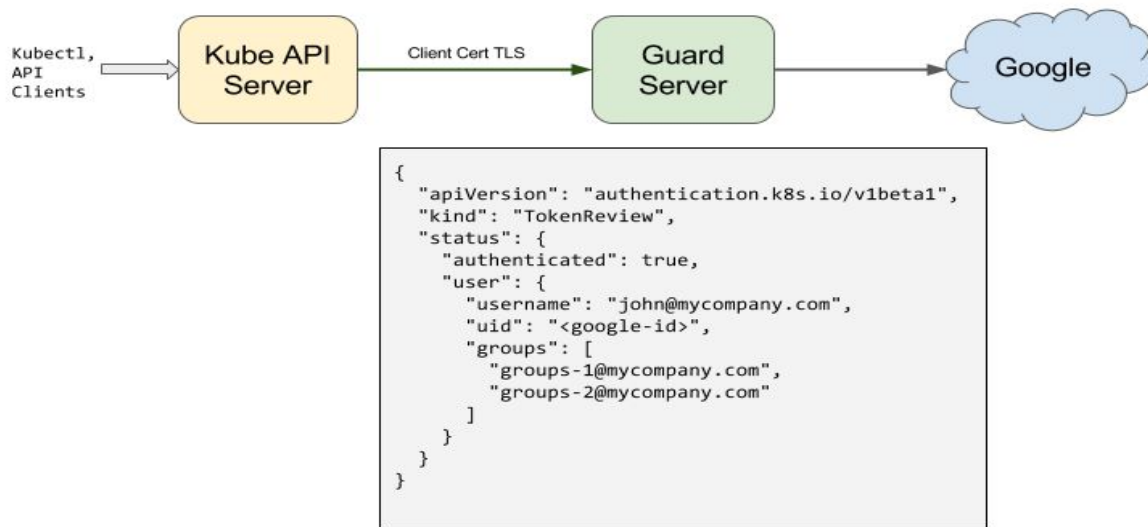


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- Verify id-token received using `status.user.username`
- Secrets from GCP service accounts allowed to read Google Admin Directory
- Inject Google groups in TokenReview

How client-side Guard works with kubectl



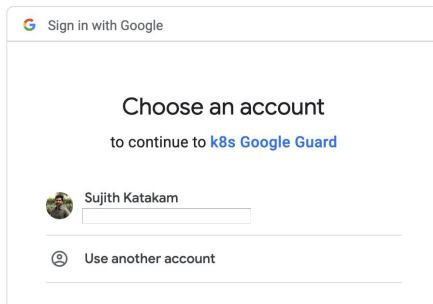
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- Local binary invoked once to write configuration to kubeconfig after user consents
 - `guard get token -o google`
- Once token expires, kubectl fetches a new one from the issuer using the refresh token
 - User doesn't need to login / consent again (*unless the id-token is removed from the kubeconfig*)



```
users:
- name: sample.user@robinhood.com
  user:
    auth-provider:
      config:
        client-id: 484925643224-2gpu9rh2d288mffd8nrqgt8pofrtebkr.apps.googleusercontent.com
        client-secret: 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
        id-token: REDACTED
        idp-issuer-url: https://accounts.google.com
        refresh-token: REDACTED
      name: oidc
```

What's the OAuth client? How is it configured?



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[guard](#) / [auth](#) / [providers](#) / [google](#) / [google.go](#)

↑ Top

Code

Blame

115 lines (94 loc) · 2.69 KB

Raw



```
13
14  const (
15      OrgType = "google"
16
17      googleIssuerUrl = "https://accounts.google.com"
18      // https://developers.google.com/identity/protocols/OAuth2InstalledApp
19      GoogleOAuth2ClientID      = "37154062056-220683ek37naab43v23vc5qg01k1j14g.apps.googleusercontent.com"
20      GoogleOAuth2ClientSecret = "pB9ITCuMPLj-bk0brTqKbt57"
21  )
22
```

- Hardcoding client ID and client secret is *okay* with "OAuth 2.0 for Mobile & Desktop Apps"
- Token always gets redirected to the configured redirect URI (controlled by us), which is user's **localhost:8000**
 - [oauth2 redirect URL](#)

An incident once upon a time



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```
Unable to connect to the server: failed to refresh token: oauth2: cannot fetch token: 401 Unauthorized
```

```
Response: {  
  "error": "deleted_client",  
  "error_description": "The OAuth client was deleted."  
}
```

- Symptoms: No one was able to generate new `id-token` and `refresh-token`
- Logs don't show any errors, only logs like -
Received token review request for google/robinhood.com
- Impact: Authentication & Authorization down for all clusters; no one can do anything (besides admins with break glass static key)

Where is the OAuth client?



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- We tried looking in Robinhood's GCP project, engaging GCP support
 - *There's no OAuth client configured at all in our GCP project!*
- Nothing in our Guard cluster add-on configurations

Google Cloud | kubernetes-clusters-test | Search (/) for resources, docs, products, and more | Search

APIs & Services | Credentials | + CREATE CREDENTIALS | DELETE | RESTORE DELETED CREDENTIALS

Enabled APIs & services | Library | **Credentials** | OAuth consent screen | Page usage agreements

Create credentials to access your enabled APIs. [Learn more](#)

Remember to configure the OAuth consent screen with information about your application. [CONFIGURE CONSENT SCREEN](#)

API Keys

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Creation date ↓	Restrictions	Actions
No API keys to display				

OAuth 2.0 Client IDs

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Creation date ↓	Type	Client ID	Actions
No OAuth clients to display					

Did we find the OAuth client?



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[Google] hard-coded Google OAuth client was deleted #346

New issue



xwan-robinhood opened this issue on Oct 20, 2022 · 1 comment



xwan-robinhood commented on Oct 20, 2022

hi,

we've been using Google Authenticator (<https://appscode.com/products/guard/v0.7.1/guides/authenticator/google/>) and everything was working until 2022/10/17 around 4am PST, the hard-coded Google OAuth client was deleted.

we are getting error when running `guard get token -o google`

```
Unable to connect to the server: failed to refresh token: oauth2: cannot fetch token: 401 Unauthorized
Response: {
  "error": "deleted_client",
  "error_description": "The OAuth client was deleted."
}
```

After communicating with Google, response:

```
"When entering the Client ID we get the error "App not found" which indicates that the Client ID doesn't exist or is not available outside the organization that contains that Client ID."
```

Can the guard team help us understand:

1. is the hard-coded Google OAuth client owned by Guard team?
2. can someone check how / why the client was deleted? thanks

hard-coded Google OAuth client: <https://github.com/kubeguard/guard/blob/master/auth/providers/google/google.go#L32-L38>

Our fix is to create a new Google OAuth client that fully manage by you and recompile the Guard binary and update guard image running on your clusters.



txmoose commented on Apr 20

This is still an issue. Is there a reason these values are hard coded and not passed in as flags/configuration?



Assignees

No one assigned

Labels

None yet

Projects

None yet

Milestone

No milestone

Development

No branches or pull requests

Notifications

Customize

Subscribe

You're not receiving notifications from this thread.

2 participants



We still don't know
what happened to the
OAuth client!

Source: [Open GitHub issue](#)

Additional problems with Guard



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- Obviously, the OAuth client situation was not ideal
- Security
 - Long lived refresh-tokens
 - Tokens shared among all environments
 - No MFA to retrieve tokens
- Operations
 - Drift from central identity management
 - GCP only used for Guard
- Reliability
 - Guard's logs aren't helpful
 - Additional dependency on the control plane



GUARD

Additional problems with Guard



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GUARD

Defining requirements of Auth{n,z}



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Security

- Groups mechanisms used for authorization have tightly controlled procedure of managing membership, dedicated to K8s access only
- Credentials issued should be short-lived, retrieved with multi-factor authentication (MFA)

Reliability

- The identity provider (IdP) should be able to handle our load
- The IdP and associated authentication mechanism should export informative error logs and reliable metrics

Token lifetime

- Balance between security and productivity

Potential providers for Auth{n,z}



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- We want to use OIDC
 - *"Since all of the data needed to validate who you are is in the `id_token`, Kubernetes doesn't need to "phone home" to the identity provider"*
- Okta vs AWS as IdP



AWS
IAM Identity
Center

Q: My application supports OpenID Connect (OIDC) only. Can I use it with IAM Identity Center?

No. IAM Identity Center supports only [SAML](#) 2.0-based applications.

Potential providers for Auth{n,z}



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No. IAM Identity Center supports only [SAML](#) 2.0-based applications.

Args in api-server container



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Webhook authenticator

```
- --authentication-token-webhook-cache-ttl=5m  
- --authentication-token-webhook-config-file=/srv/kubernetes/webhook-guard-config  
- --authentication-token-webhook-version=v1
```

OIDC token authenticator

```
- --oidc-issuer-url=ISSUER_URL  
- --oidc-client-id=PER_ENV_ID  
- --oidc-username-claim=email  
- --oidc-groups-claim=groups
```

Note: apiserver can support more than one authenticator, which we took advantage of during the migration!

Authentication: api-server natively validates id-token

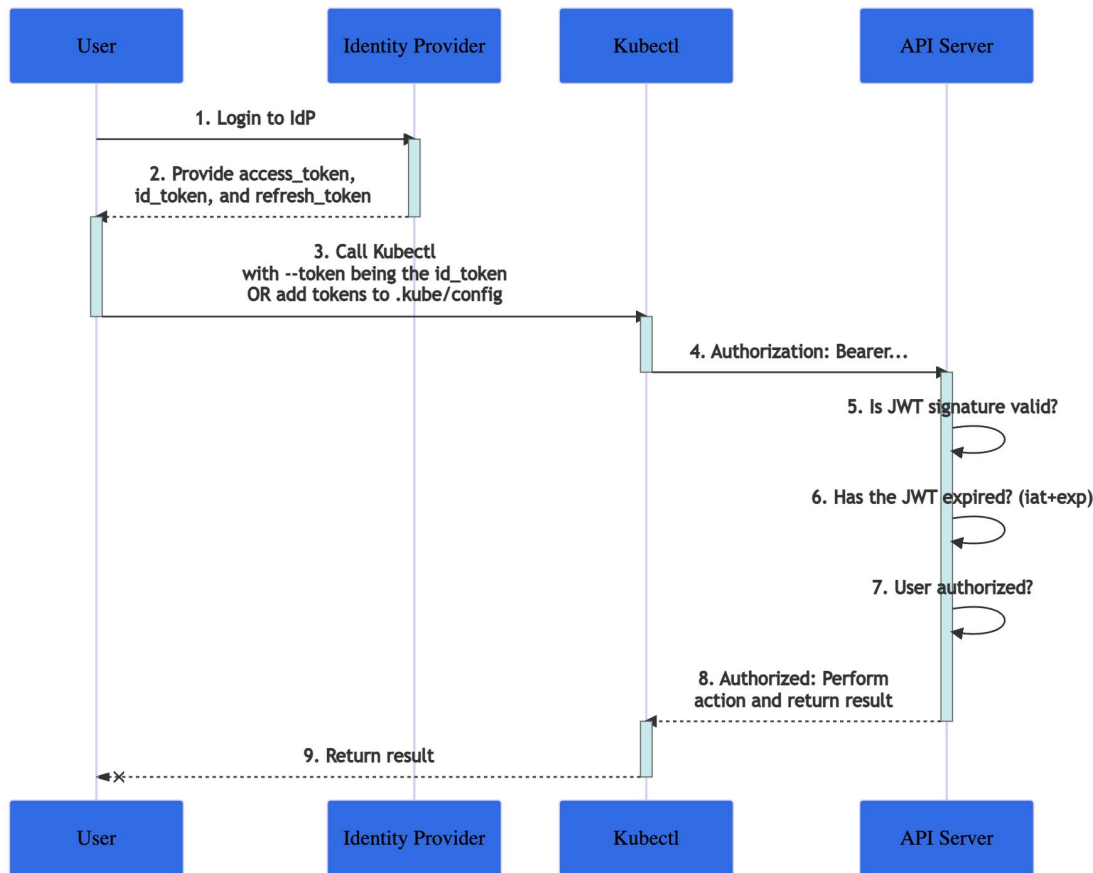


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What our id-token looks like



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```
...
"at_hash": "000000000000",
"aud": "0000000000000000",
"auth_time": 1696517383,
"email": "dummy.user@org.com",
"exp": 1696520984,
"groups": [
  "group_1",
  "group_2",
  "group_3",
  "group_4",
  "group_5"
],
"iat": 1696517384,
"idp": "000000000000",
"iss": "https://foo.org.com/oauth2/thisisfakedata",
"jti": "ID.ccccbctdrkbbdvtghgtffjifjuvenelruvrrdkfvudg",
"nonce": "fkoVRHPahKFfdC87W2h5uxpRjRhUTonLewX597XPnUY",
"sub": "000000000000",
...
```

Per-environment OAuth Client ID

Group-based access control

- But... how can users get the id-token?

Client application to retrieve token



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☰ README.md

kubelogin  go  passing  go report  A+

This is a kubectl plugin for [Kubernetes OpenID Connect \(OIDC\) authentication](#), also known as `kubectl oidc-login`.

client-go credential plugins

FEATURE STATE: [Kubernetes v1.22](#) [stable]

`k8s.io/client-go` and tools using it such as `kubectl` and `kubelet` are able to execute an external command to receive user credentials.

This feature is intended for client side integrations with authentication protocols not natively supported by `k8s.io/client-go` (LDAP, Kerberos, OAuth2, SAML, etc.). The plugin implements the protocol specific logic, then returns opaque credentials to use. Almost all credential plugin use cases require a server side component with support for the [webhook token authenticator](#) to interpret the credential format produced by the client plugin.

```
- name: oidc-user
  user:
    exec:
      apiVersion: client.authentication.k8s.io/v1beta1
      args:
        - oidc-login
        - get-token
        - --oidc-issuer-url=ISSUER_URL
        - --oidc-client-id=PER_ENV_ID
        - --oidc-extra-scope=email
        - --oidc-extra-scope=groups
        - --oidc-extra-scope=offline_access
        - --listen-address=127.0.0.1:18000
      command: kubectl
      env: null
      interactiveMode: IfAvailable
      provideClusterInfo: false
```

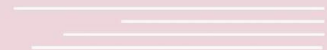


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Challenges with Onboarding to new system

Authorization: Group-based access



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Biggest questions to answer were -

- What would each group represent?
 - RoleBinding? ClusterRoleBinding? Team?
 - *Get data and talk to users!*
- How to govern group membership?
 - *Third party? Build on our own solution?*

```
kind: ClusterRoleBinding
metadata:
  name: pod-writer
roleRef:
  apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
  kind: ClusterRole
  name: pod-writer
subjects:
- apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
  kind: Group
  name: group_1
- apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
  kind: Group
  name: group_2
```

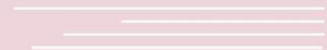



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How can we remediate Persistent Privileged Access ?

JIT (Just-In-Time) Privileged Access

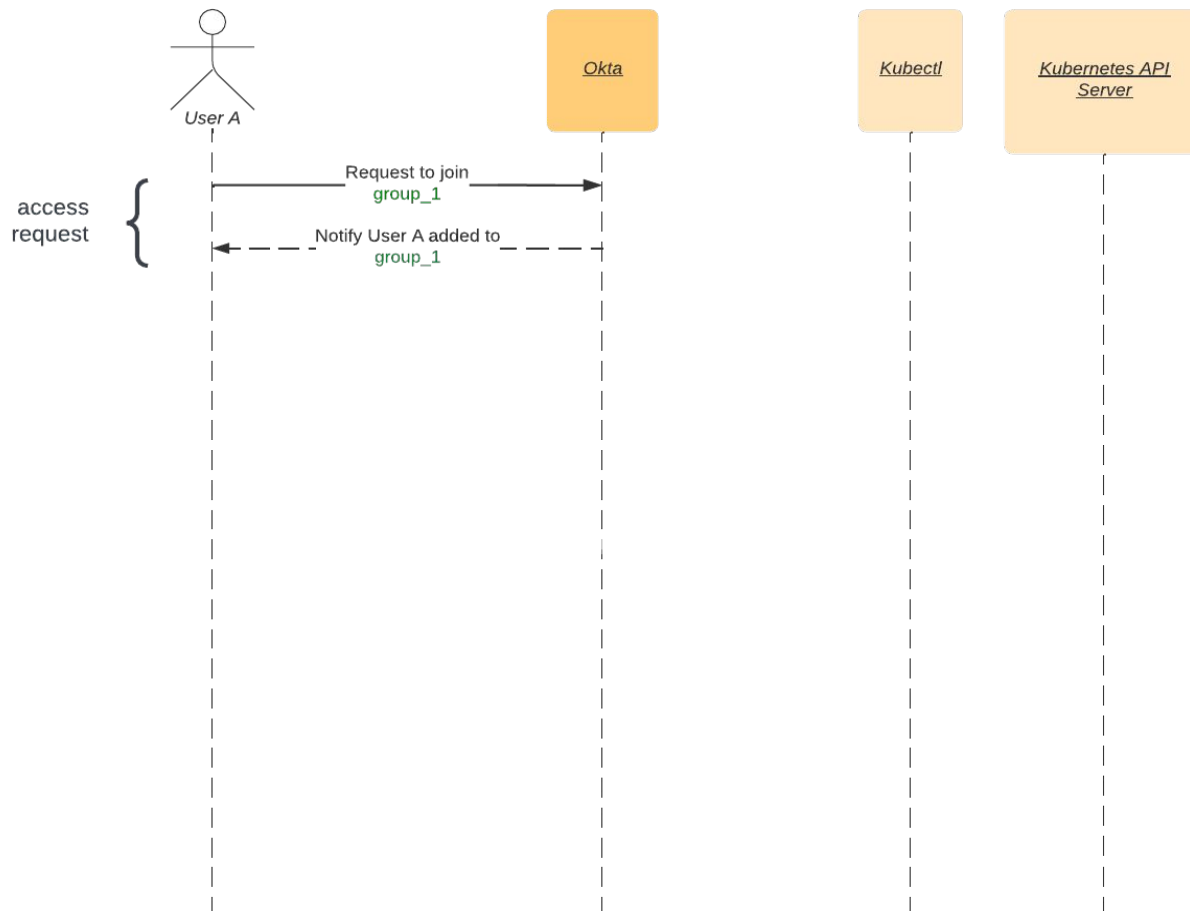


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JIT (Just-In-Time) Privileged Access

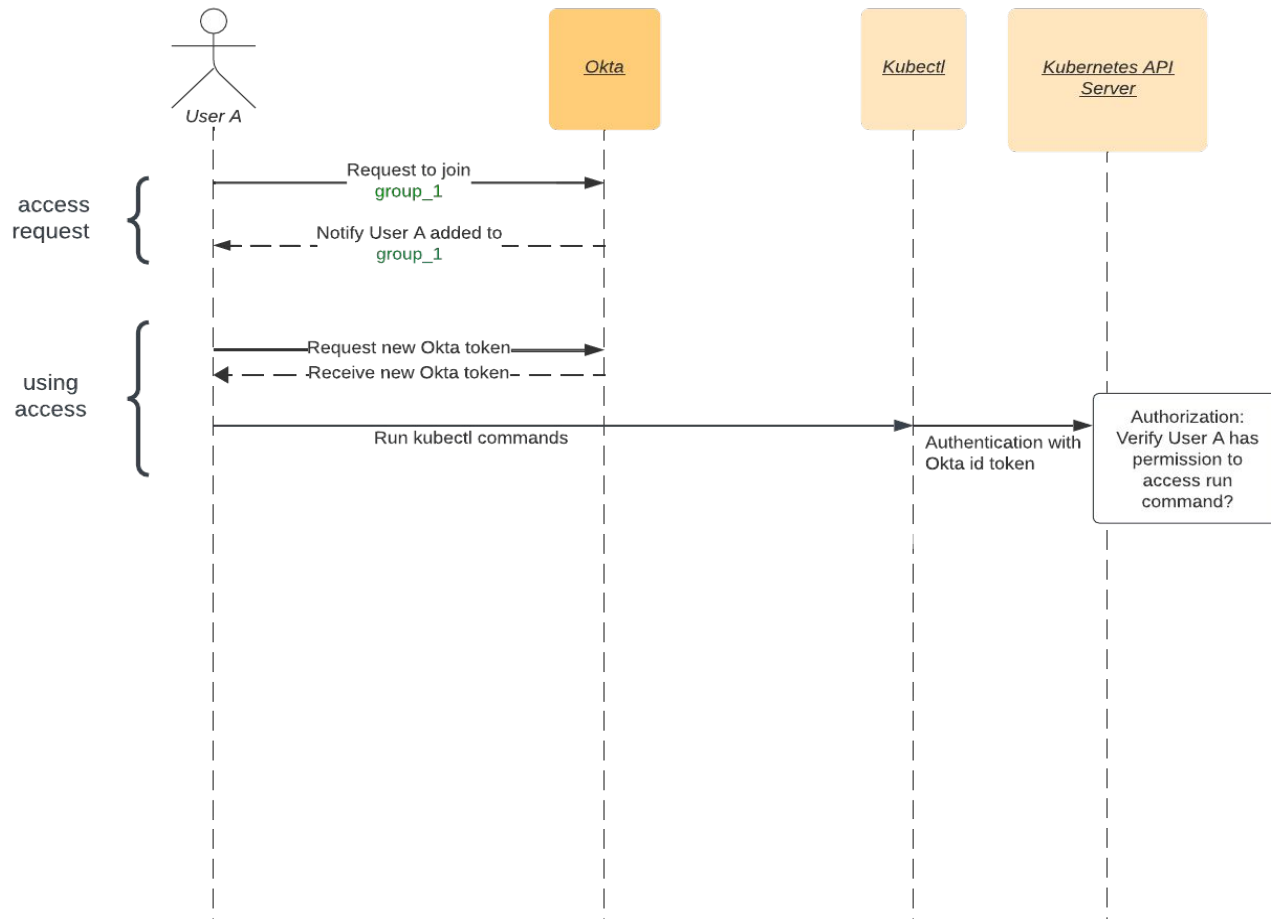


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JIT (Just-In-Time) Privileged Access

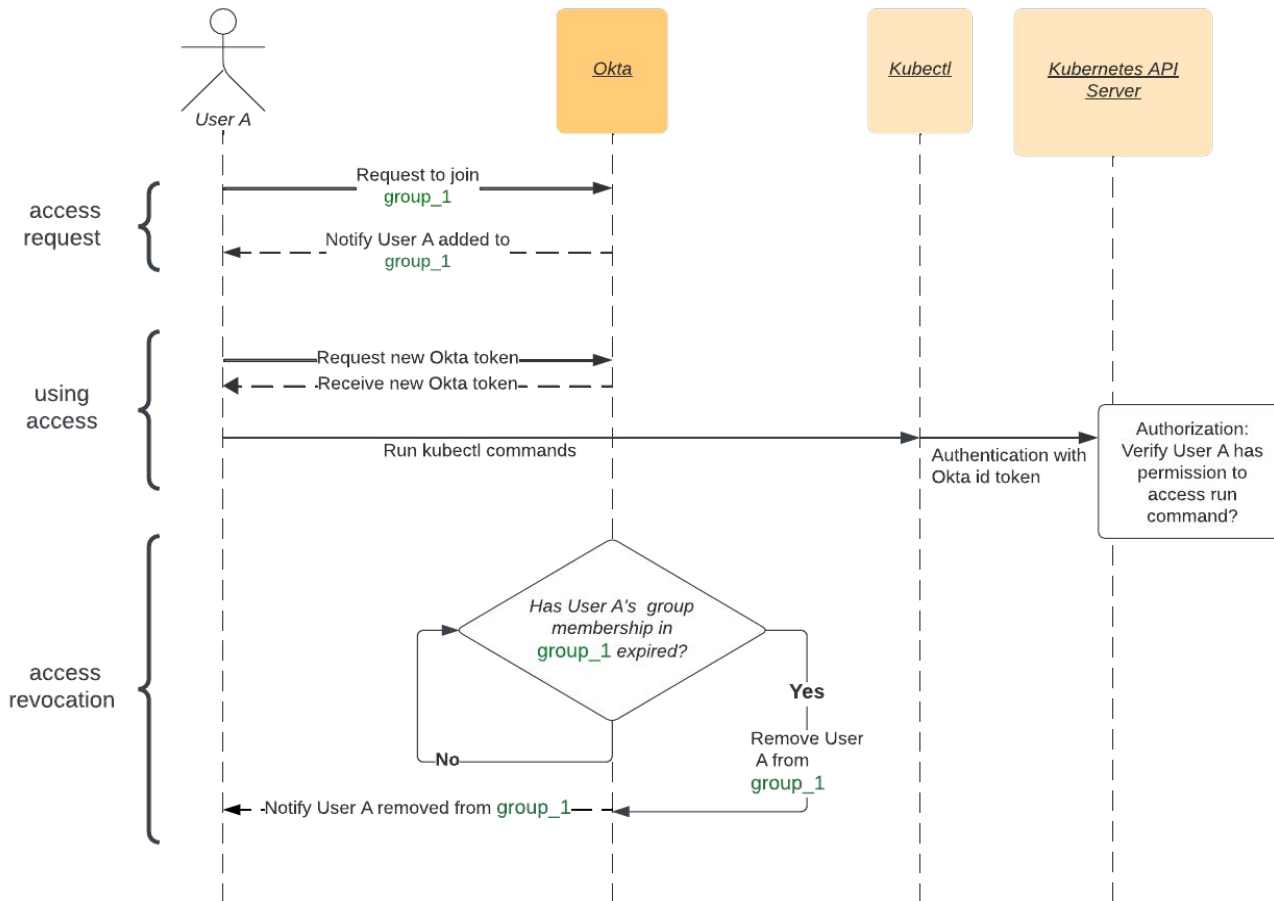


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Takeaways



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- Talk to the users
 - But compare data to what users tell you
- Implement k8s rbac & infrastructure best practices
 - Continuous deployment!
- Proper governance on user groups
- Provide a way to request temporary access



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careers.robinhood.com

Senior Software Engineer - Kubernetes (Container Orchestration)

Staff Software Engineer - Kubernetes (Container Orchestration)

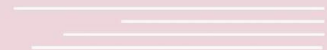


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Questions ?



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