

# leigh capili



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< Performance Art >



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**Can I get some access?**



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# How the Basics of RBAC Scale for Organizations



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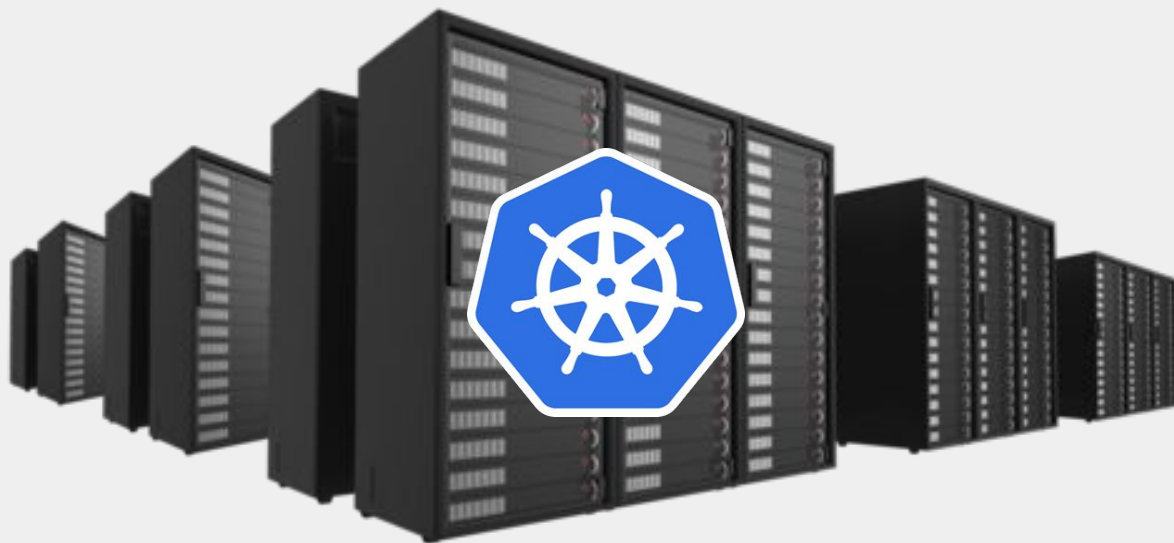
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Deploy Apps

Setup Networks

Manage Lots of Servers

Enforce Policy



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**Deployment**

**Service**

**Node**

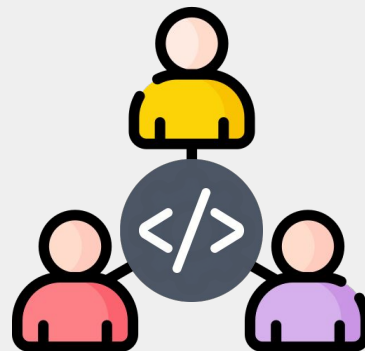
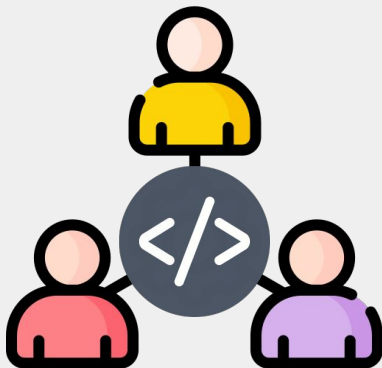
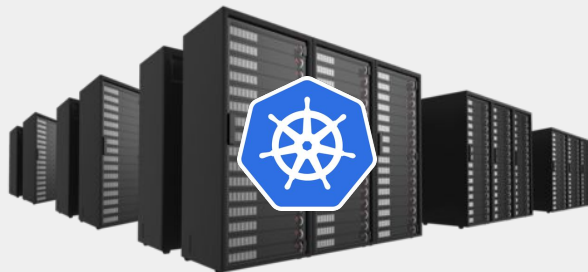
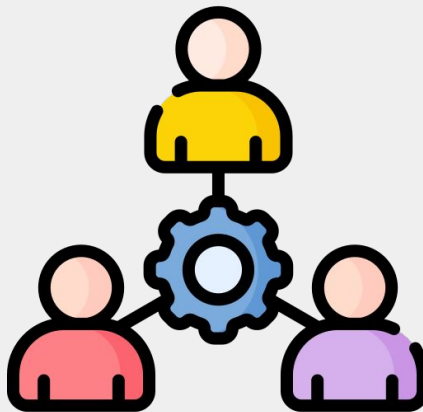
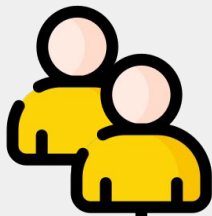
**NetworkPolicy**



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# **RBAC**

## **Role-Based Access Control**



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When we **login** to a computer  
the computer needs to

1. know **who** we are
2. grant what we have **access** to



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1. know who we are

## Authentication

2. grant what we have access to

## Authorization



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1. know who we are

**Authentication**

2. grant what we have access to

**Authorization**



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1. know who we are

**AuthN**

2. grant what we have access to

**AuthZ**



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# Role-Based Access Control is **Authorization**

What are *people or apps* able to **access**?



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What are people or apps able to access?

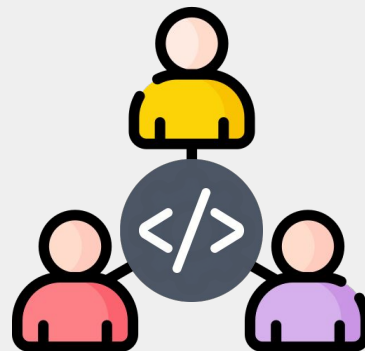
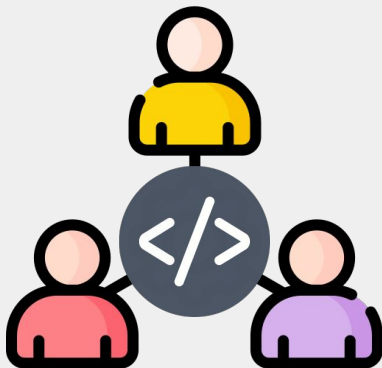
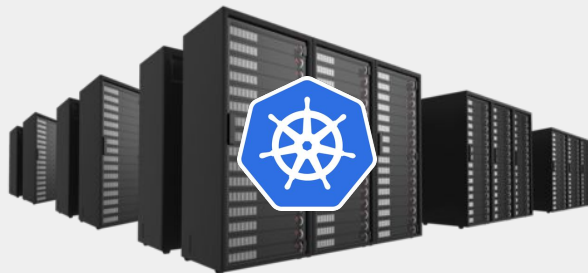
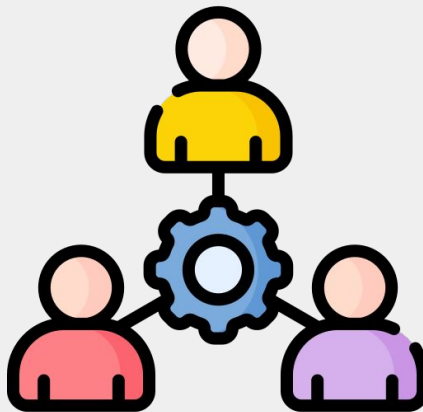
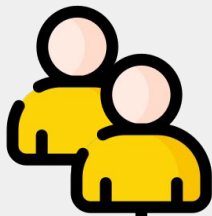
## Subjects



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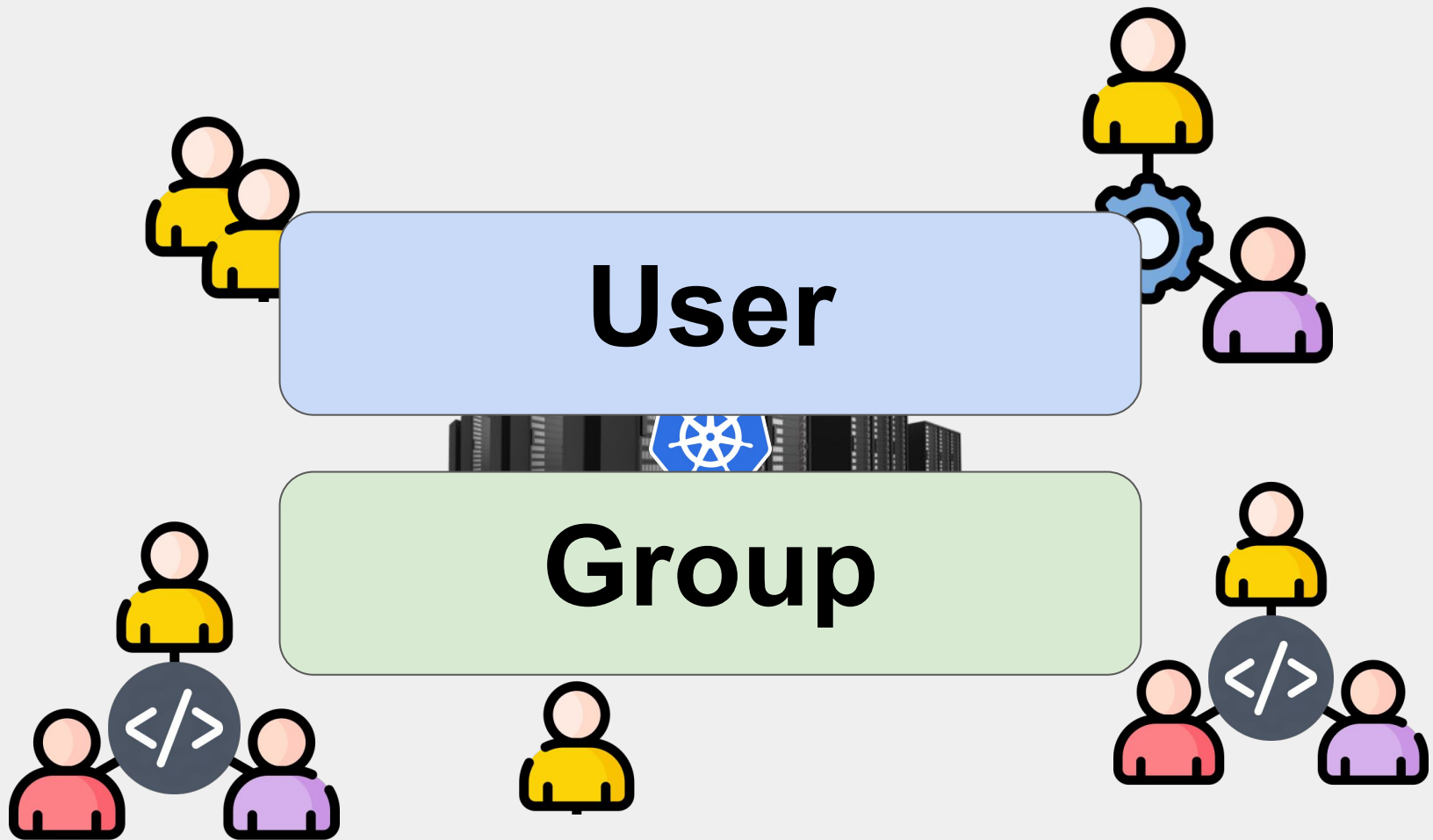
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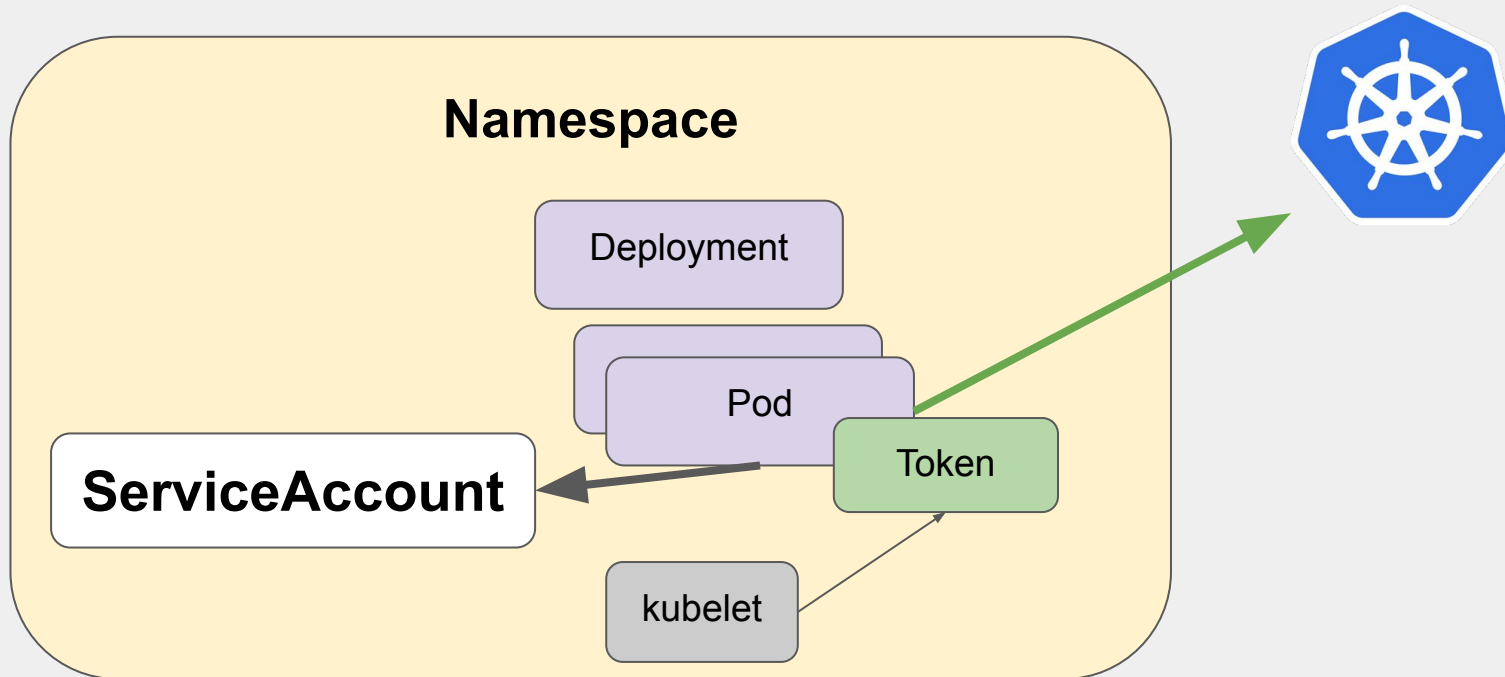


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# ServiceAccounts are apps



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# Subjects

## People

- User
- Group

## Apps

- ServiceAccount



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# Subjects

Subjects are the **who** in  
“who has access?”



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# Roles

Roles are used to describe  
**what** should be accessed



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# Roles

Roles have **rules**  
that list what resources and verbs  
are allowed



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# Roles

list allowed API's

list verbs allowed for each one

Roles live in a Namespace

Roles list namespaced resources

ClusterRoles can list

- namespaced resources
- cluster-scoped resources

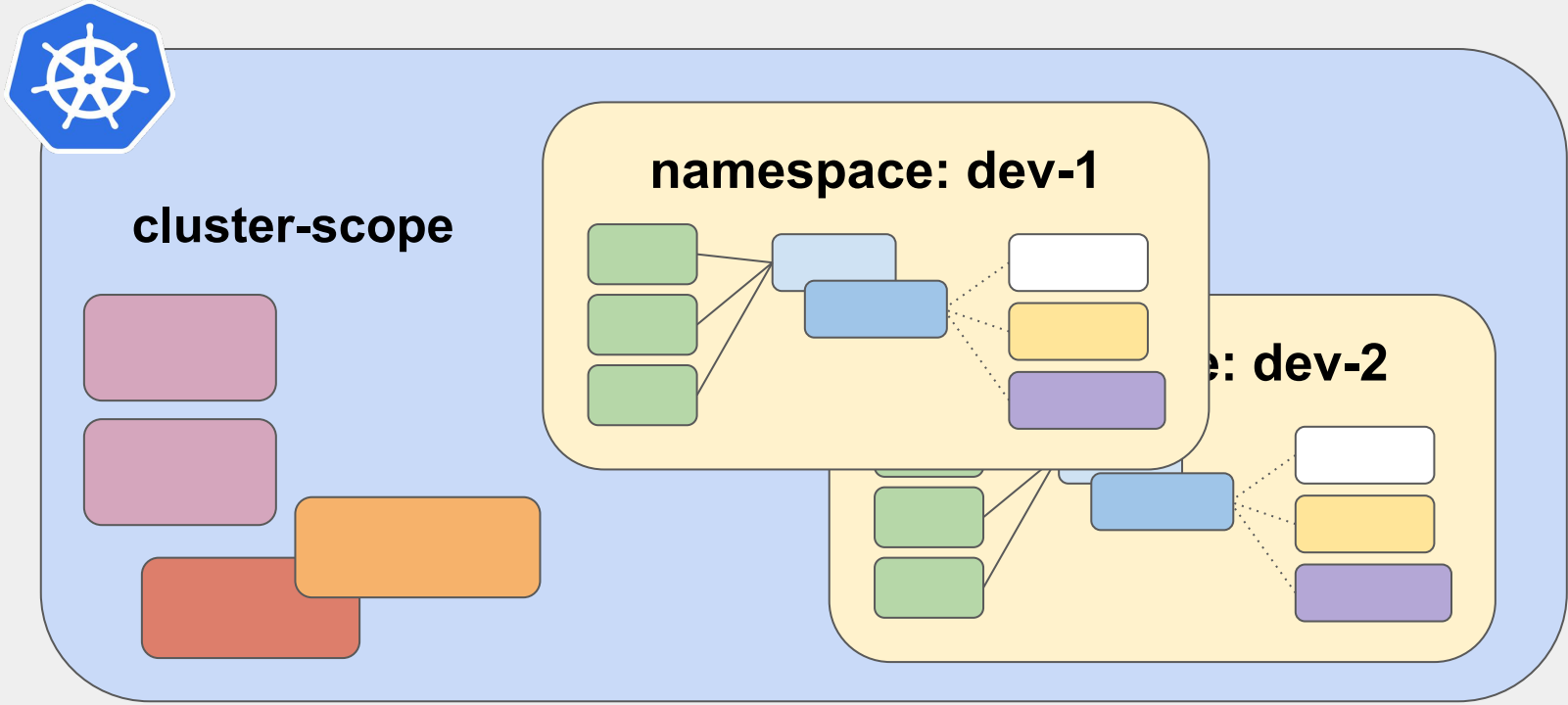


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# Namespaces



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# Role



**cluster-scope**

**namespace: dev-1**

**namespace: dev-2**

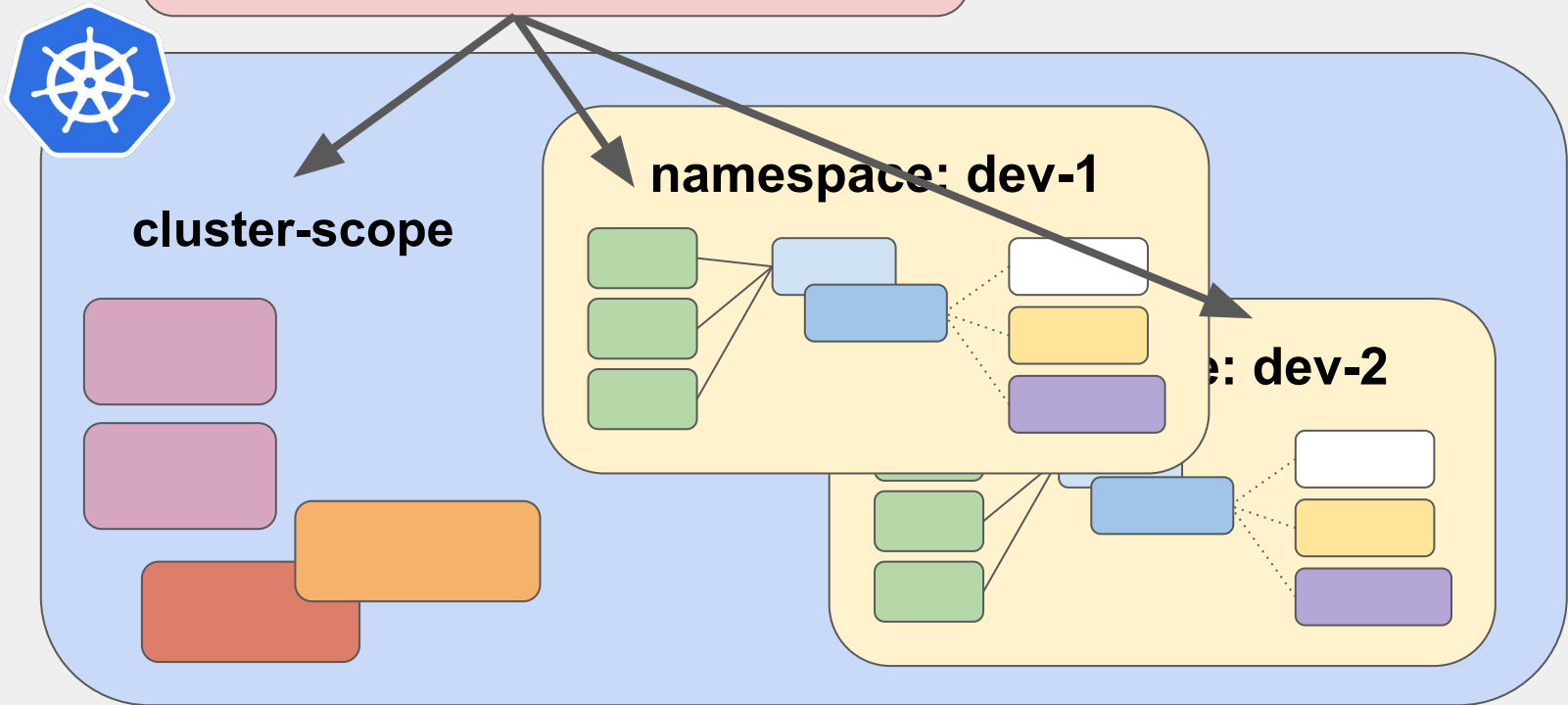


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# ClusterRole



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# Subject

Who

# Role

What



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# RoleBinding

```
graph TD; RB[RoleBinding] --> S[Subject]; RB --> R[Role];
```

Subject

Who ?

Role

What ?

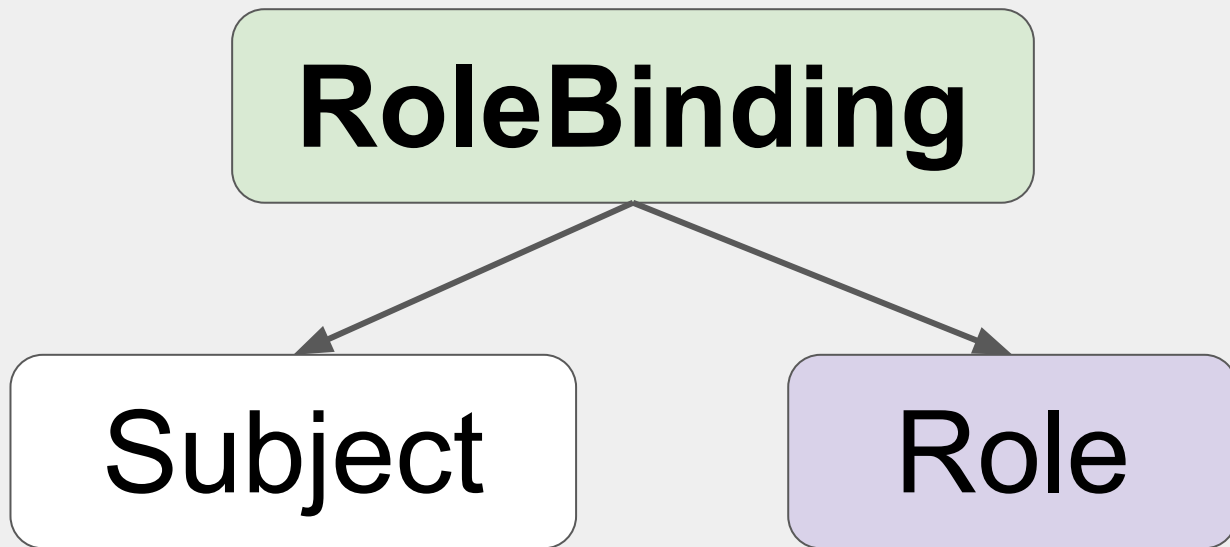


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# Authorize the Subject to the Role's access rules



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# RoleBindings

RoleBinding + Role

must be within the same namespace

grants **access**:

- *resources within the namespace*

## ClusterRoleBinding

uses only ClusterRoles

grants **access**:

- *resources across all namespaces*
- *resources at cluster-scope*



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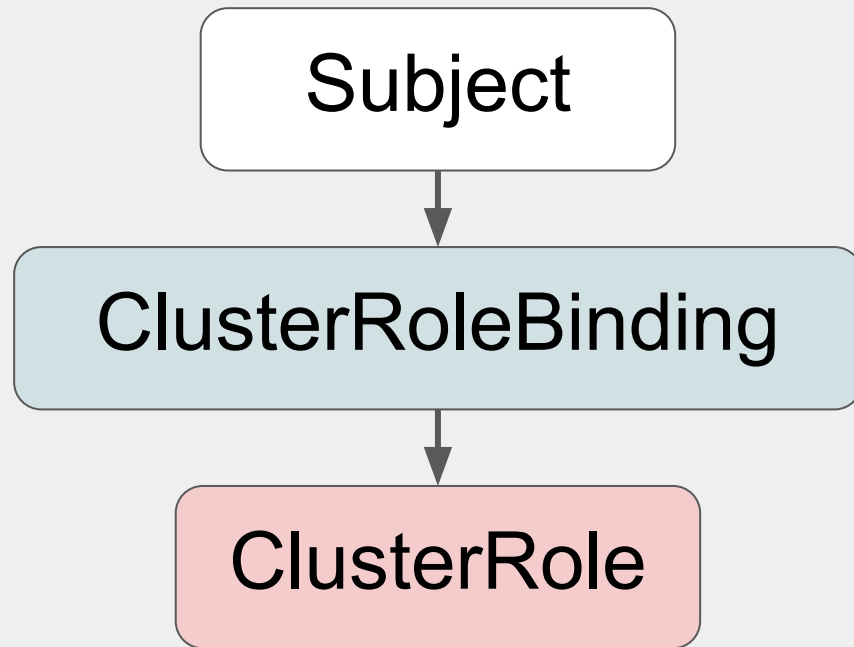
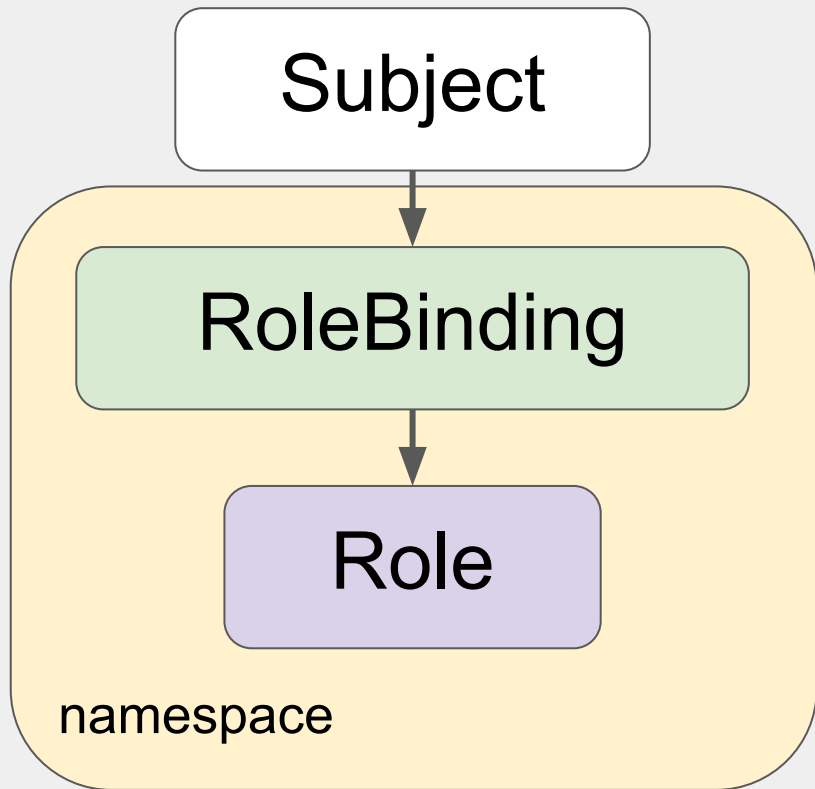
# Misconceptions



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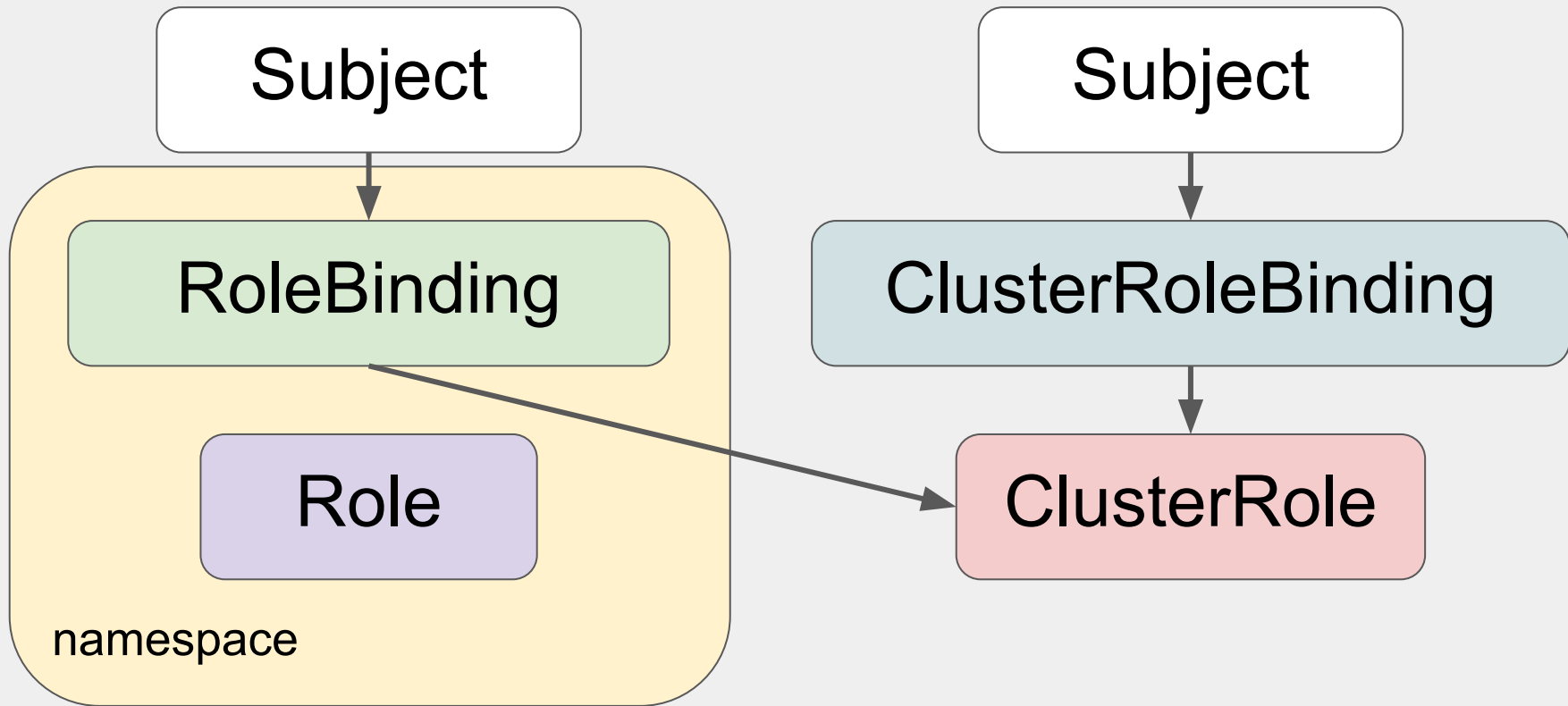
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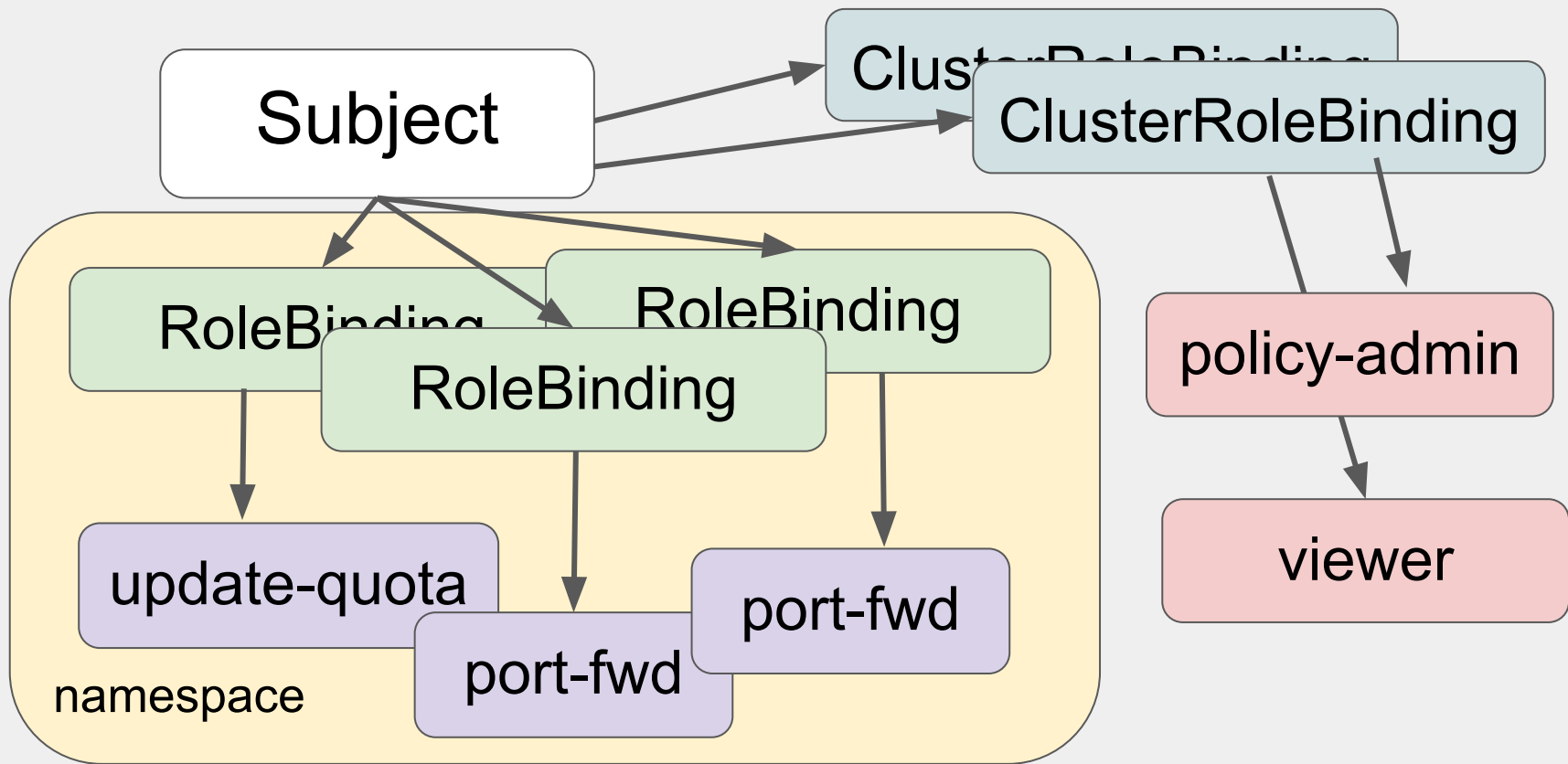
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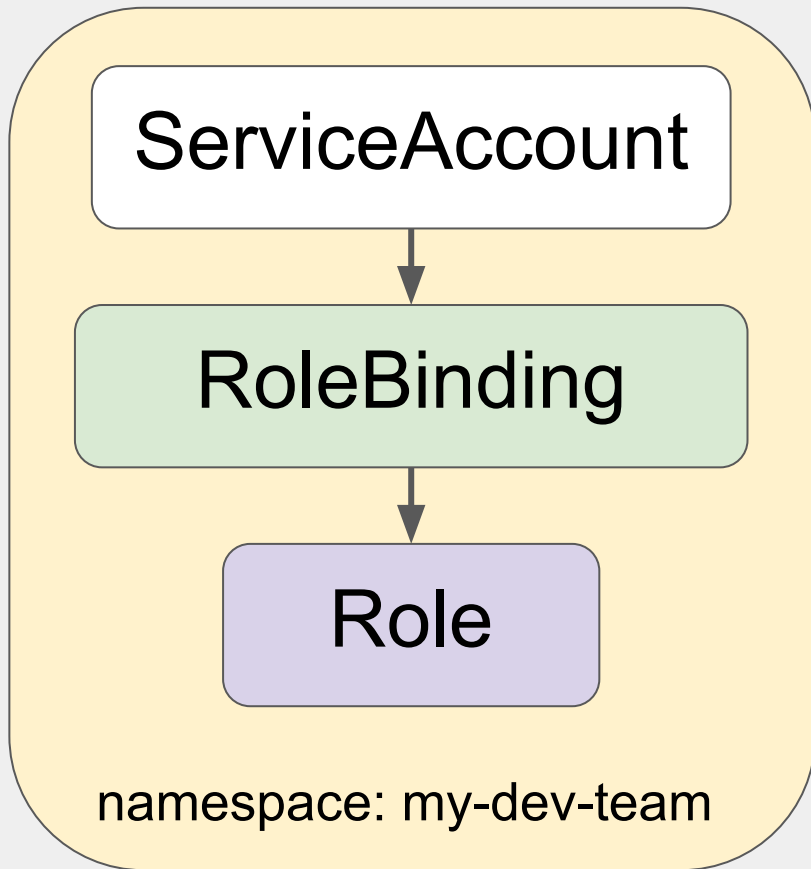
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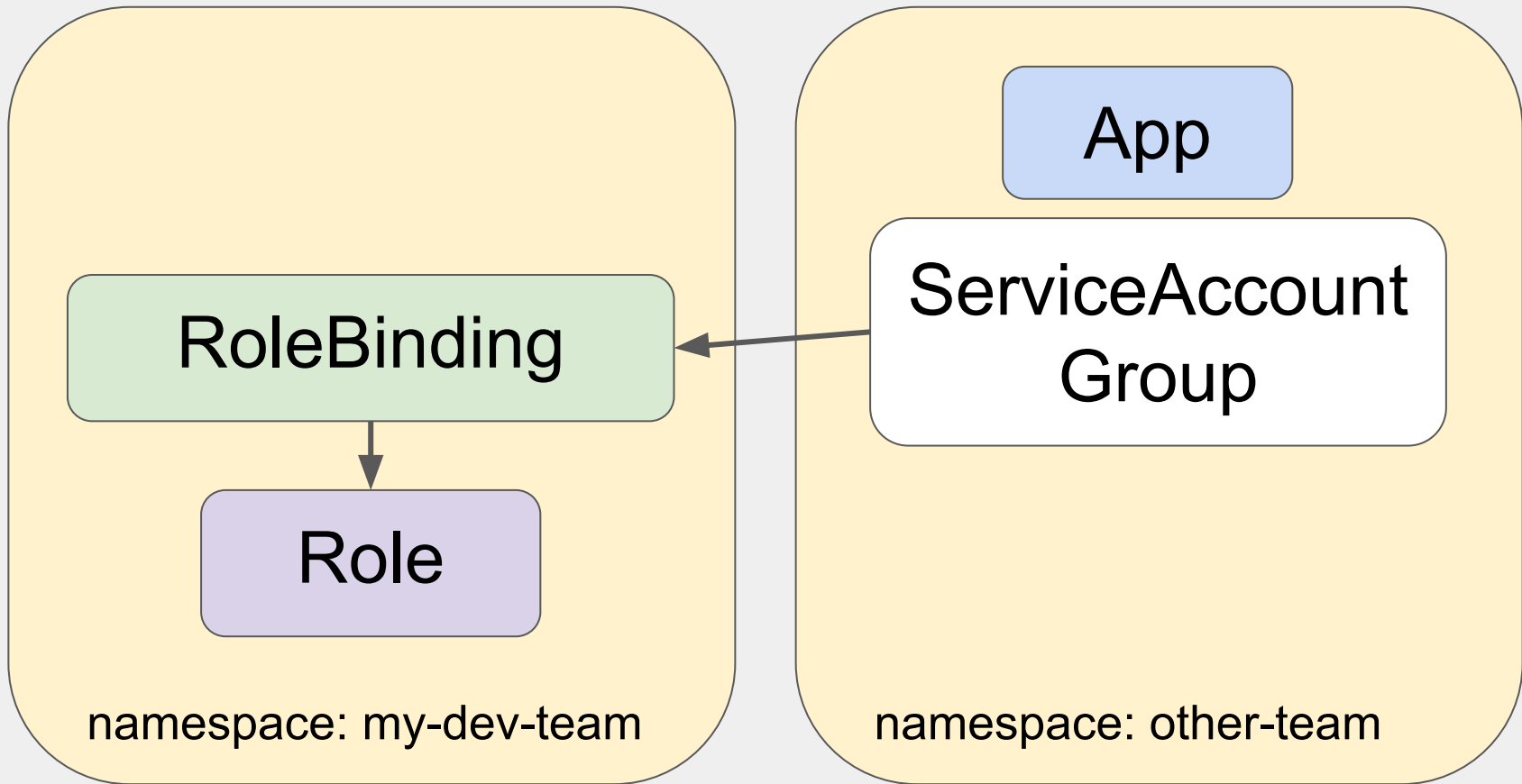
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# ServiceAccounts are just Users with formatted names

`system:serviceaccount:{{namespace}}:{{name}}`



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# Service Accounts also get Groups

```
system:serviceaccounts
```

```
system:serviceaccounts: { {namespace} }
```



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# Underused Features



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# resourceNames

```
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: Role
metadata:
  namespace: default
  name: configmap-updater
rules:
  verbs: ["update", "get"]
- apiGroups: [""]
  resources: ["configmaps"]
  resourceNames: ["my-configmap"]
```



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# create with resourceNames (only works /w server-side apply)

```
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: Role
metadata:
  namespace: default
  name: configmap-updater
rules:
  verbs: ["create", "update", "get"]
- apiGroups: [""]
  resources: ["configmaps"]
  resourceNames: ["my-configmap"]
```



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# ClusterRole Aggregation



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# sub-resources

namespaces/**finalize**

namespaces/**status**

nodes/**proxy**

nodes/**status**

persistentvolumeclaims/**status**

persistentvolumes/**status**

Pods/**attach**

Pods/**binding**

Pods/**eviction**

Pods/**portforward**

Pods/**proxy**

Pods/**status**

replicationcontrollers/**scale**

replicationcontrollers/**status**

resourcequotas/**status**

serviceaccounts/**token**

services/**proxy**

services/**status**



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weird, virtual verbs

**bind**

**escalate**

**impersonate**



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# Impersonation



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# RBAC & your teams



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# Authentication

Plain Kubernetes is ready for your **Apps**,  
but it's **not ready** to authenticate **People**.

Integrate your cluster's login with what you  
**already use** for Identity

I don't recommend using Certificate auth or  
ServiceAccounts outside the cluster for  
general usage by People



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Use the “**bootstrap**” ClusterRoles.



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# Use groups!

Try to use an IdP that supports groups.



/w OIDC this is the "groups claim"



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Tools  -> Habits  




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Use declarative configs

## **GitOps your Access Control**

Transparency  
Onboarding  
Org Changes  
Emergencies



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Use declarative configs

## **GitOps your Access Control**

Make sure you have proper process for changing and protecting these configs



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Use declarative configs

## **GitOps your Access Control**

“Who should access what” is  
some of the most important  
IP in your org.



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# Consider running automated **integration tests** that use **impersonation**

People (Users/Groups)

- have the access they need

- can't access things they shouldn't

App ServiceAccounts

- have the access they need

- within their Namespace

- in other needed Namespaces or cluster-scope

- can't access things they shouldn't



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Consider running automated  
**integration tests** that use **impersonation**

```
kubectl auth can-i \  
  --as user_or_svc_account  
  --as-group group
```



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# Limitations



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**list & watch**  
allow getting of every object.



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You can't use resourceNames  
to **filter** lists.

This is problematic for things like  
Namespaces if you need secrecy



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You can't use resourceNames  
to **filter** lists.

If you need this consider  
virtualizing the k8s API /w **vclusters**  
or an **k8s API server proxy** like Clastix



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resourceNames + the create verb  
only works with server-side apply

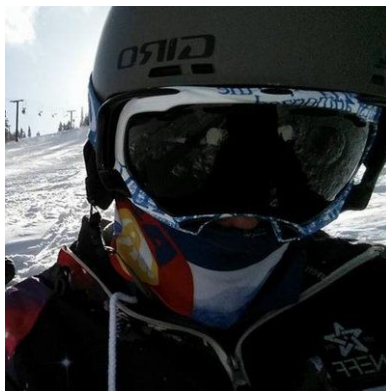
( Maybe you could use another Namespace?  
Also see hierarchical namespace controller )



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