

# The power of Kubernetes Extensibility

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Secrets Store CSI Driver





2.738 REPUTATION





# Agenda

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- 🧐 Brief introduction to CSI (Container Storage Interface) & Secret Store CSI Driver
- 💡 Use-cases and Alternatives: Vault CSI Provider & Sidecar Injection
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  - ⌚ \$ make create-cluster
  - 🗝️ \$ make setup-vault
  - 🪜 \$ make setup-secrets-store-csi-driver
  - 💉 \$ make test

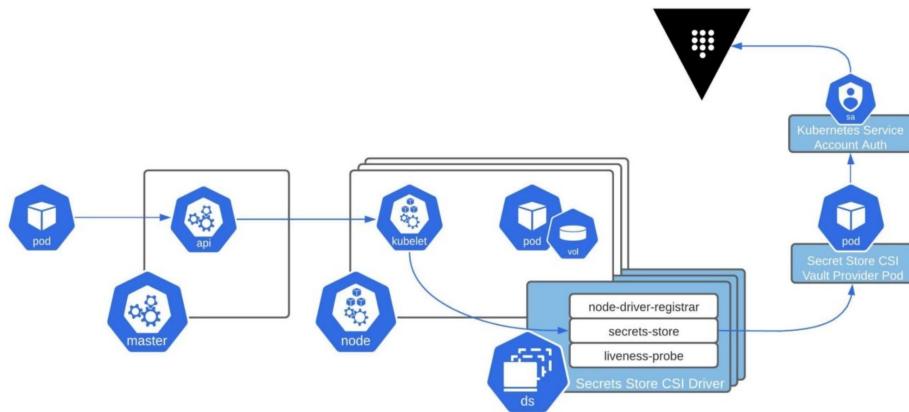
# 🤔 What is wrong with Kubernetes Secrets?



- Kubernetes secrets are the native resources for **storing and managing sensitive data**, like passwords, cloud access keys, or authentication tokens.
- It's critical to ensure that **only authorized entities**—users, services, or workloads—are able to access it.
- Placing sensitive info into a secret object **does not automatically make it secure**. **By default**, data in Kubernetes secrets is **stored in Base64 encoding, which is practically the same as plaintext**.
- As the ultimate location where secrets are stored, etcd must be encrypted and well protected. You should enable data encryption and limit access to the etcd clusters.



# Brief introduction to CSI & Secret Store CSI Driver



- [The Container Storage Interface](#), or CSI, is a standard specification for exposing storage systems to containerized workloads.
- Using CSI third-party storage providers **can write and deploy plugins exposing new storage systems in Kubernetes without ever having to touch the core Kubernetes code.**
- This specification **enables storage providers to write standard plugins to integrate their storage systems into container orchestration systems**, like Kubernetes.
  - Automatically create storage when required.
  - Make storage available to containers wherever they're scheduled.
  - Automatically delete the storage when no longer needed.
- The Kubernetes project maintains a [list of supported CSI drivers](#).
- The Secrets Store CSI driver is one of them. `secrets-store.csi.k8s.io` allows Kubernetes to **mount multiple secrets, keys, and certs stored in enterprise-grade external secrets stores into their pods as a volume**. Once the Volume is attached, the data in it is mounted into the container's file system.

## **Use-cases and Alternatives: Vault CSI Provider & Sidecar Injection**

- Using Kubernetes CSI and the Vault CSI provider is **an alternative to sidecar injector method** ([Vault Agent Injector](#))
- The sidecar method **requires init and/or sidecar containers** to retrieve secrets.
  - This is done either **by adding pod annotations or using configuration maps defining the Vault role and the path to the secret.**
  - This **increases the total number of containers** running in your cluster
  - An important difference is that the sidecar injector method **cannot facilitate syncing of secrets to environment variables.**
- The CSI method simplifies this architecture since it **does not require any sidecar containers.**
  - Vault provider is **deployed as a DaemonSet and renders secrets before the pod starts.**
  - It also **provides a method to sync secrets into environment variables and Kubernetes secrets.**
  - **If your security requirements require you to disable hostPath volumes, you should be aware that this method uses hostPath volumes to communicate with the CSI driver.**



# Hands On



<https://git.io/JwFMq>