

Lab: Exploring Probes

Lab 1: Liveness Probe Demonstration

Objective:

Explore the Kubernetes liveness probe.

Steps

File: `liveness-pod.yaml`

1. Deploy:

```
kubectl apply -f liveness-pod.yaml
```

2. Observe automatic container restart using:

```
kubectl describe pod liveness-demo
```

2. (continued)

Events

Type	Reason	Age	From	Message
Warning	Unhealthy	5s (x3 over 15s)	kubelet	Liveness probe failed: HTTP probe failed with statuscode: 404
Normal	Killing	5s	kubelet	Container liveness-container failed liveness probe, will be restarted

This means:

- The liveness probe started after 10 seconds
- It made a request to `http://<pod_ip>:8080/healthz`
- NGINX didn't respond (wrong port) or returned 404 (wrong path)
- Kubernetes restarted the container

3. Modify the livenessProbe path and the initialDelaySeconds of the yaml to the following. This uses a path that NGINX can serve (e.g., /) and modifies the initial delay.

```
livenessProbe:
  httpGet:
    path: /
    port: 80
  initialDelaySeconds: 5
  periodSeconds: 5
```

After editing the file use these commands:

```
kubectl delete -f liveness-pod.yaml
kubectl apply -f liveness-pod.yaml
```

Successfully running pod:

Events

Type	Reason	Age	From	Message
Normal	Scheduled	14s	default-scheduler	Successfully assigned default/liveness-demo to minikube-m03
Normal	Pulling	14s	kubelet	Pulling image "nginx"
Normal	Pulled	13s	kubelet	Successfully pulled image "nginx" in 1.039s (1.039s including waiting). Image size: 197741282 bytes.
Normal	Created	13s	kubelet	Created container: liveness-container
Normal	Started	13s	kubelet	Started container liveness-container

4. Cleanup

```
kubectl delete -f liveness-pod.yaml
```

Lab 2: Readiness Probe Demonstration

Objective:

Explore the Kubernetes readiness probe.

Unlike liveness probes (which restarts a Pod if it's unhealthy), readiness probes control traffic flow. When the readiness check fails:

- The Pod stays running
- But it is removed from the Service endpoints
- So it does not receive any traffic

Steps

File: `readiness-pod.yaml`

1. Deploy:

```
kubectl apply -f readiness-pod.yaml
```

This pod has defined a readinessProbe path of `/ready`. NGINX does not have a `/ready` path, so this readiness probe will fail with a 404.

2. Check pod by running command:

```
kubectl get pods
```

NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
readiness-demo	0/1	Running	0	18s

Notice the pod status is **Running** and the **Ready** column is showing **0/1**, meaning not ready.

Lets view the pod events by using describe:

```
kubectl describe pod readiness-demo
```

Events

Type	Reason	Age	From	Message
Normal	Scheduled	2m54s	default-scheduler	Successfully assigned default/readiness-demo to minikube-m03
Normal	Pulling	2m55s	kubelet	Pulling image "nginx"
Normal	Pulled	2m53s	kubelet	Successfully pulled image "nginx" in 1.196s (1.196s including waiting). Image size: 197741282 bytes.
Normal	Created	2m53s	kubelet	Created container: readiness-container
Normal	Started	2m53s	kubelet	Started container readiness-container
Warning	Unhealthy	97s (x25 over 2m48s)	kubelet	Readiness probe failed: HTTP probe failed with statuscode: 404

3. Modify the readiness-pod.yaml file by making the following change;

```
path: /ready to path: /
```

4. Delete the old pod and deploy the changed pod (you must delete the old pod before creating the new pod):

```
kubectl delete -f readiness-pod.yaml  
kubectl apply -f readiness-pod.yaml
```

5. Check pod by running the command quickly, multiple times, after deploying the pod:

```
kubectl get pods
```

NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
readiness-demo	0/1	Running	0	3s
NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
readiness-demo	0/1	Running	0	6s
NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
readiness-demo	1/1	Running	0	7s

Note the AGE column is showing how many seconds the pod has been running.

Lab 3: startup Probe Demonstration

Objective:

Explore the Kubernetes readiness probe.

Startup Probe Lab

File: `startup-pod.yaml`

1. Deploy:

```
kubectl apply -f startup-pod.yaml
```

2. Observe how liveness probe waits until startup completes:

```
kubectl describe pod startup-demo
```

Events

Type	Reason	Age	From	Message
----	-----	----	----	-----
Normal	Scheduled	26s	default-scheduler	Successfully assigned default/startup-demo to minikube-m03
Normal	Pulling	26s	kubelet	Pulling image "nginx"
Normal	Pulled	25s	kubelet	Successfully pulled image "nginx" in 916ms (916ms including waiting). Image size: 197741282 bytes.
Normal	Created	25s	kubelet	Created container: nginx
Normal	Started	25s	kubelet	Started container nginx
Warning	Unhealthy	6s (x2 over 16s)	kubelet	Startup probe failed: Get "http://10.244.2.68:80/": dial tcp 10.244.2.68:80: connect: connection refused

2. (continued)

You're seeing:

```
Startup probe failed: Get "http://10.244.2.68:80/": dial tcp 10.244.2.68:80: connect: connection refused
```

This means:

- The container was started
- The probe tried to connect to port 80 inside the container
- But nothing was listening on that port at that moment

This happened because of:

```
command: ["sh", "-c", "sleep 60 && nginx -g 'daemon off;']
```

Explanation:

- You told the container to sleep for 60 seconds before starting NGINX
- During that 60-second sleep, there is no NGINX process running yet
- But your startupProbe begins sending HTTP requests before NGINX is running
- So the connection is refused, not just returning a 404 – it's literally not accepting TCP connections

3. Stop the non-working pod:

```
kubectl delete -f startup-pod.yaml
```

4. Deploy the fixed pod.

```
kubectl deploy startup-pod-fixed.yaml
```

These changes have been made in the new yaml file.

```
startupProbe:
  httpGet:
    path: /
    port: 80
  initialDelaySeconds: 30    # ← Added this
  failureThreshold: 10
  periodSeconds: 10
```

You could also shorten the sleep;

```
command: ["sh", "-c", "sleep 20 && nginx -g 'daemon off;']
```

5. Cleanup:

```
kubectl delete -f startup-pod-fixed.yaml
```