

Lab 7 – Observability & Troubleshooting (CKA Focus)

Objectives

- Practice log inspection, probes, and metrics
 - Troubleshoot common pod and cluster component issues
 - Align with CKA expectations for observability (~30% exam weight)
-

Prerequisites

- A running **Kind cluster**
- `kubectl` and `metrics-server` installed

```
kubectl apply -f https://github.com/kubernetes-sigs/metrics-server/releases/latest/download/components.yaml
kubectl patch deployment metrics-server -n kube-system \
  --type=json -p='[{"op":"add","path":"/spec/template/spec/containers/0/args/-","value":"--kubelet-insecure-tls"}]'
```

Step 1 – Investigate Logs & Pod Failures

1. Create a faulty deployment:

```
kubectl create deployment badapp --image=nginx:1.25
kubectl set image deployment/badapp nginx=nonexistent:latest
```

2. Inspect the pod:

```
kubectl get pods  
kubectl describe pod <badapp-pod-name>  
kubectl logs <badapp-pod-name>
```

Understand why the container fails to start.

Here are common pod error types you might encounter, this table summarizes them:

Pod Error Type	Error Description
<code>ErrImagePull</code>	If kubernetes is not able to pull the image mentioned in the manifest.
<code>ErrImagePullBackOff</code>	Container image pull failed, kubelet is backing off image pull
<code>ErrInvalidImageName</code>	Indicates a wrong image name.
<code>ErrImageInspect</code>	Unable to inspect the image.
<code>ErrImageNeverPull</code>	Specified Image is absent on the node and PullPolicy is set to NeverPullImage
<code>ErrRegistryUnavailable</code>	HTTP error when trying to connect to the registry
<code>ErrContainerNotFound</code>	The specified container is either not present or not managed by the kubelet, within the declared pod.
<code>ErrRunInitContainer</code>	Container initialization failed.
<code>ErrRunContainer</code>	Pod's containers don't start successfully due to misconfiguration.
<code>ErrKillContainer</code>	None of the pod's containers were killed successfully.
<code>ErrCrashLoopBackOff</code>	A container has terminated. The kubelet will not attempt to restart it.
<code>ErrVerifyNonRoot</code>	A container or image attempted to run with root privileges.
<code>ErrCreatePodSandbox</code>	Pod sandbox creation did not succeed.
<code>ErrConfigPodSandbox</code>	Pod sandbox configuration was not obtained.
<code>ErrKillPodSandbox</code>	A pod sandbox did not stop successfully.
<code>ErrSetupNetwork</code>	Network initialization failed.
<code>ErrTearDownNetwork</code>	Network teardown failed.

Step 2 – Liveness & Readiness Probes

Apply the following manifest:

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  name: probe-pod
spec:
  containers:
  - name: nginx
    image: nginx
    livenessProbe:
      httpGet:
        path: /doesnotexist
        port: 80
      initialDelaySeconds: 5
      periodSeconds: 10
    readinessProbe:
      httpGet:
        path: /ready
        port: 80
      initialDelaySeconds: 3
      periodSeconds: 5
```

Then:

```
kubectl apply -f module-7/manifests/probe-pod.yaml
kubectl describe pod probe-pod
kubectl get events
```

Observe how misconfigured probes affect pod health.

Step 3 – Monitor Metrics

1. Create a pod that generates CPU load:

```
kubectl create deployment cpu-burner --image=busybox -- sleep 3600
kubectl exec -it $(kubectl get pod -l app=cpu-burner -o name) -- sh -c "while true; do yes > /dev/null; done"
```

2. Monitor usage:

```
kubectl top nodes
kubectl top pods
```

Final Challenge – Custom Logging & Resource Issue

◆ **Goal:** Create a pod called `logger-challenge` that logs to a file instead of stdout.

◆ **Your Tasks:**

- Configure a sidecar container to tail the log file and print to stdout
- Ensure logs from the sidecar appear with `kubectl logs logger-challenge -c sidecar`

Use the [Kubernetes documentation](#) to complete this challenge.

✅ End of Lab 7 – You’ve practiced key CKA troubleshooting and observability scenarios, including logs, probes, metrics, and core component failure!