

Practice Lab: Autoscaling and Secrets Management



This practice lab is designed to provide hands-on experience with Kubernetes, focusing on vertical and horizontal pod autoscaling and secrets management.

Objectives

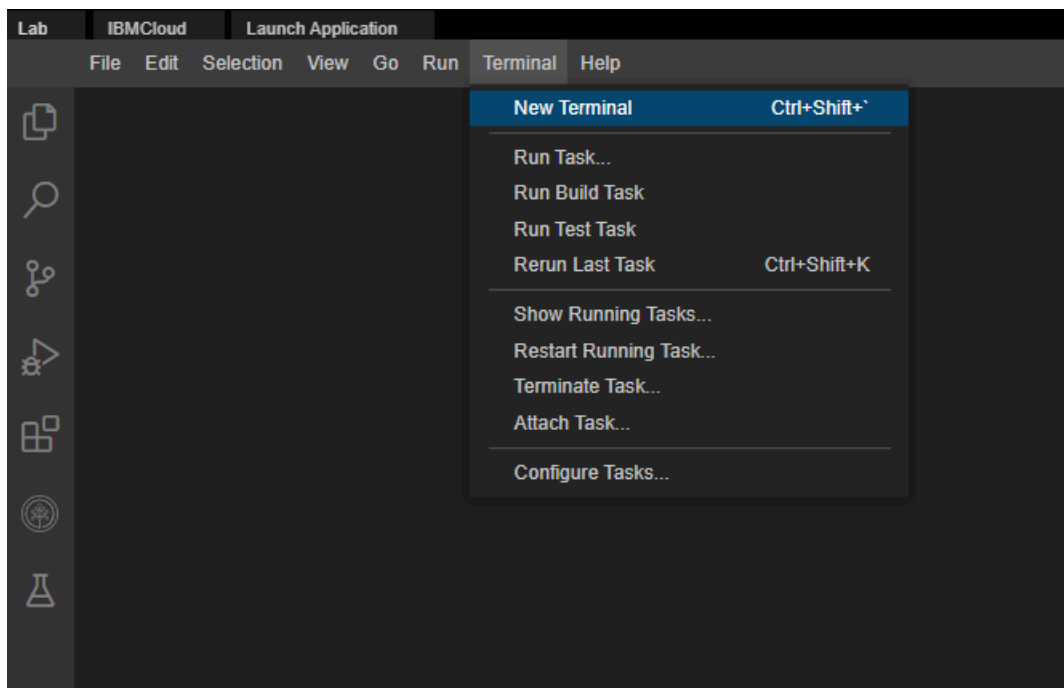
In this practice lab, you will:

- Build and deploy an application to Kubernetes
- Implement Vertical Pod Autoscaler (VPA) to adjust pod resource requests/limits
- Implement Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) to scale the number of pod replicas based on resource utilization
- Create a Secret and update the deployment for using it

Note: Kindly complete the lab in a single session without any break because the lab may go in offline mode and cause errors. If you face any issues/errors during the lab process, please logout from the lab environment. Then, clear your system cache and cookies and try to complete the lab.

Setup the environment

On the menu bar, click Terminal and select the New Terminal option from the drop-down menu.



Note: If the terminal is already open, please skip this step.

Step 1: Verify kubectl version

Before proceeding, ensure that you have kubectl installed and properly configured. To check the version of kubectl, run the following command:

```
kubectl version
```

You should see the following output, although the versions may be different:

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project$ kubectl version
WARNING: This version information is deprecated and will be replaced with the output from kubectl version --short. Use --output=yaml to get the full version.
Client Version: version.Info{Major:"1", Minor:"27", GitVersion:"v1.27.6", GitCommit:"741c8db18a52787d734cbe4795f0b4ad860906d6", BuildDate:"2023-09-13T09:21:34Z", GoVersion:"go1.20.8", Compiler:"gc", Platform:"linux/amd64"}
Kustomize Version: v5.0.1
Server Version: version.Info{Major:"1", Minor:"27", GitVersion:"v1.27.14+IKS", GitCommit:"8db9c4804f1f37994e83aa5326700063697", BuildDate:"2024-05-15T17:52:02Z", GoVersion:"go1.21.9", Compiler:"gc", Platform:"linux/amd64"}
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project$
```

Step 2: Clone the project repository

Clone the repository with the starter code to commence the project.

```
git clone https://github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.git
```

Exercise 1: Build and deploy an application to Kubernetes

The Dockerfile in this repository already has the code for the application. You are just going to build the docker image and push it to the registry.

You will be giving the name myapp to your Kubernetes deployed application.

Step 1: Build the Docker image

1. Navigate to the project directory.

```
cd k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt
```

2. Export your namespace.

```
export MY_NAMESPACE=sn-labs-$USERNAME
```

3. Build the Docker image.

```
docker build . -t us.icr.io/$MY_NAMESPACE/myapp:v1
```

```
theia@theiados:~/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ docker build . -t us.icr.io/$MY_NAMESPACE/myapp:v1
[+] Building 21.9s (5/10)
=> [internal] load build definition from Dockerfile
=> => transferring dockerfile: 464B
=> [internal] load .dockerignore
=> => transferring context: 2B
=> [internal] load metadata for docker.io/library/node:14
=> [auth] library/node:pull token for registry-1.docker.io
=> [1/5] FROM docker.io/library/node:14@sha256:a158d3b9b4e3fa813fa6c8c590b8f0a860e015ad4e59bbce5744d2f6fd8461aa
=> => resolve docker.io/library/node:14@sha256:a158d3b9b4e3fa813fa6c8c590b8f0a860e015ad4e59bbce5744d2f6fd8461aa
=> => sha256:a158d3b9b4e3fa813fa6c8c590b8f0a860e015ad4e59bbce5744d2f6fd8461aa 776B / 776B
=> => sha256:1d12470fa662a2a5cb50378dc8ea228c1735747db410bbefb8e2d9144b5452 7.51kB / 7.51kB
=> => sha256:2cafa3fbb0b6529ee4726b4f599ec27ee557ea3dea7019182323b3779959927f 2.21kB / 2.21kB
=> => sha256:2ff1d7c41c74a25258bfa6f0b8adb0a727f84518f55f65ca845ebc747976c408 50.45MB / 50.45MB
/10)
de101a38a045ff7bc656e3b0fbfc7c05cca5 7.86MB / 7.86MB
=> [internal] load build definition from Dockerfile
d995ccccf12851a50820de03d34a17011dcb9ac9fdcf3a50c952cbb131 10.00MB / 10.00MB
=> => transferring dockerfile: 464B
68b103d05fa8960e0f77951ff54b912b63429c34f5d6adfd09f5f9ee2 51.88MB / 51.88MB
=> [internal] load .dockerignore
894511ce28a05e2925a75e8a4acbd0634c39ad734fd7ba8e23d1b1569 191.85MB / 191.85MB
=> => transferring context: 2B
05deac0d99898e41b8ce60ebf250ebe1a31a0b03f613aec6bbcb9b83d8 4.19kB / 4.19kB
=> [internal] load metadata for docker.io/library/node:14
```

Step 2: Push and list the image

1. Push the tagged image to the IBM Cloud Container Registry.

```
docker push us.icr.io/$MY_NAMESPACE/myapp:v1
```

```
theia@theiados:~/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ docker push us.icr.io/$MY_NAMESPACE/myapp:v1
The push refers to repository [us.icr.io/sn-labs-ksundararaja/myapp]
d60490235730: Pushed
003de62710da: Pushed
306c0ccb34b4: Pushed
769169bec673: Pushed
0d5f5a015e5d: Pushed
3c777d951de2: Pushed
f8a91dd5fc84: Pushed
cb81227abde5: Pushed
e01a454893a9: Pushed
c45660adde37: Pushed
fe0fb3ab4a0f: Pushed
f1186e5061f2: Pushed
b2dba7477754: Pushed
v1: digest: sha256:28d591aa82841c98be17f9d0f04bc9d56df6e3cce36b43320b64e5747cee2078 size: 3042
theia@theiados:~/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$
```

2. List all the images available. You will see the newly created myapp image.

```
ibmcloud cr images
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ ibmcloud cr images
Listing images...
```

Repository	Digest	Namespace	Created	Size	Tag	Security status
us.icr.io/sn-labs-ksundararaja/myapp	28d591aa8284	sn-labs-ksundararaja	2 minutes ago	350 MB	v1	-
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/categories-watson-nlp-runtime	6b01b1e5527b	sn-labsassets	2 years ago	3.1 GB	latest	-
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/classification-watson-nlp-runtime	dbd407898549	sn-labsassets	2 years ago	4.0 GB	latest	-
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/concepts-watson-nlp-runtime	1e4741f10569	sn-labsassets	2 years ago	3.2 GB	latest	-
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/custom-watson-nlp-runtime	f6513e19a33d	sn-labsassets	2 years ago	6.5 GB	latest	-
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/detag-watson-nlp-runtime	38916c2119fc	sn-labsassets	2 years ago	2.7 GB	latest	-
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/emotion-watson-nlp-runtime	1c9de1d27318	sn-labsassets	2 years ago	4.0 GB	latest	-
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/entity-mentions-bert-watson-nlp-runtime	57d92957214f	sn-labsassets	2 years ago	3.8 GB	latest	-
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/entity-mentions-hilstm-watson-nlp-runtime					latest	-

Step 3: Deploy your application

1. Open the deployment.yaml file located in the main project directory. It's content will be as follows:

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: myapp
  labels:
    app: myapp
spec:
  replicas: 1
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: myapp
  strategy:
    rollingUpdate:
      maxSurge: 25%
      maxUnavailable: 25%
    type: RollingUpdate
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: myapp
    spec:
      containers:
        - image: us.icr.io/<your SN labs namespace>/myapp:v1
          imagePullPolicy: Always
          name: myapp
          ports:
            - containerPort: 3000
              name: http
          resources:
            limits:
              cpu: 50m
            requests:
              cpu: 20m
```

2. Replace <your SN labs namespace> with your actual SN lab's namespace.

► Click here for the ways to get your namespace

3. Apply the deployment.

```
kubectl apply -f deployment.yaml
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl apply -f deployment.yaml
deployment.apps/myapp created
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$
```

4. Verify that the application pods are running and accessible.

```
kubectl get pods
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl get pods
NAME                                READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
myapp-6cc7f9ffcf-2xnm6             1/1     Running   0           29s
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$
```


Step 4: View the application output

1. Start the application on port-forward:

```
kubectl port-forward deployment.apps/myapp 3000:3000
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl port-forward deployment/apps/m
Forwarding from 127.0.0.1:3000 -> 3000
Forwarding from [::1]:3000 -> 3000
```

2. Launch the app on Port 3000 to view the application output.
3. You should see the message Hello from MyApp. Your app is up!.

← → ↻  ksundararaja-3000.theiadockernext-0-labs-prod-theiak8s-4-tor01.proxy.cognitiveclass.ai

MyApp

Hello from MyApp. Your app is up!

4. Stop the server before proceeding further by pressing CTRL + C.
5. Create a ClusterIP service for exposing the application to the internet:

```
kubectl expose deployment/myapp
```

```
^Ctheia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl expose deployment/myapp
service/myapp exposed
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$
```

Exercise 2: Implement Vertical Pod Autoscaler (VPA)

Vertical Pod Autoscaler (VPA) helps you manage resource requests and limits for containers running in a pod. It ensures pods have the appropriate resources to operate efficiently by automatically adjusting the CPU and memory requests and limits based on the observed resource usage.

Step 1: Create a VPA configuration

You will create a Vertical Pod Autoscaler (VPA) configuration to automatically adjust the resource requests and limits for the myapp deployment.

Explore the vpa.yaml file, which has the following content:

```
apiVersion: autoscaling.k8s.io/v1
kind: VerticalPodAutoscaler
metadata:
  name: myvpa
spec:
  targetRef:
    apiVersion: "apps/v1"
    kind: Deployment
    name: myapp
  updatePolicy:
    updateMode: "Auto" # VPA will automatically update the resource requests and limits
```

Explanation

This YAML file defines a VPA configuration for the myapp deployment. The updateMode: "Auto" setting means that VPA will automatically update the resource requests and limits for the pods in this deployment based on the observed usage.

Step 2: Apply the VPA

Apply the VPA configuration using the following command:

```
kubectl apply -f vpa.yaml
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl apply -f vpa.yaml
verticalpodautoscaler.autoscaling.k8s.io/myvpa created
```

Step 3: Retrieve the details of the VPA

1. Retrieve the created VPA:

```
kubectl get vpa
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl get vpa
NAME      MODE   CPU    MEM      PROVIDED  AGE
myvpa     Auto   25m    262144k  True       29s
```

This output shows that:

- The VPA named myvpa is in Auto mode, recommending 25 milli-cores of CPU and 256 MB of memory for the pods it manages.
- It has been created 29 seconds ago and has been providing these recommendations since then.

2. Retrieve the details and current running status of the VPA.

```
kubectl describe vpa myvpa
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl describe vpa myvpa
Name:          myvpa
Namespace:     sn-labs-ksundararaja
Labels:        <none>
Annotations:   <none>
API Version:   autoscaling.k8s.io/v1
Kind:          VerticalPodAutoscaler
Metadata:
  CreationTimestamp:  2024-06-25T15:17:04Z
  Generation:         1
  Resource Version:   287538855
  UID:                57f5fac3-8720-4340-b877-3831490fb03f
Spec:
  Target Ref:
    API Version:  apps/v1
    Kind:         Deployment
    Name:         myapp
  Update Policy:
    Update Mode:  Auto
Status:
  Conditions:
    Last Transition Time:  2024-06-25T15:17:20Z
    Status:               True
    Type:                 RecommendationProvided
  Recommendation:
    Container Recommendations:
      Container Name:  myapp
      Lower Bound:
        Cpu:          25m
        Memory:        262144k
      Target:
        Cpu:          25m
        Memory:        262144k
      Uncapped Target:
        Cpu:          25m
        Memory:        262144k
      Upper Bound:
        Cpu:          60m
        Memory:        262144k
```

Explanation

The output of `kubectl describe vpa myvpa` is providing recommendations for CPU and memory:

Resource	Definition	
Lower Bound	Minimum resources the VPA recommends.	
Target	Optimal resources the VPA recommends.	
Uncapped Target	Target without any predefined limits.	
Upper Bound	Maximum resources the VPA recommends.	
Resource	CPU	Memory
Lower Bound	25m	256MiB (262144KiB)
Target	25m	256MiB
Uncapped Target	25m	256MiB
Upper Bound	671m	1.34GiB (1438074878KiB)

These recommendations indicate that the VPA is functioning correctly and is providing target values based on observed usage.

You can stop the Kubernetes proxy and load generation commands on the other two terminals by pressing CTRL + C before continuing further.

Exercise 3: Implement Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA)

Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) automatically scales the number of pod replicas based on observed CPU/memory utilization or other custom metrics. VPA adjusts the resource requests and limits for individual pods. However, HPA changes the number of pod replicas to handle the load.

Step 1: Create an HPA configuration

You will configure a Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) to scale the number of replicas of the myapp deployment based on CPU utilization.

Explore the hpa.yaml file, which has the following content:

```
apiVersion: autoscaling/v1
kind: HorizontalPodAutoscaler
metadata:
  name: myhpa
spec:
  scaleTargetRef:
    apiVersion: apps/v1
    kind: Deployment
    name: myapp
  minReplicas: 1           # Minimum number of replicas
  maxReplicas: 10         # Maximum number of replicas
  targetCPUUtilizationPercentage: 5 # Target CPU utilization for scaling
```

Explanation

This YAML file defines a Horizontal Pod Autoscaler configuration for the myapp deployment. The HPA will ensure that the average CPU utilization across all pods remains close to 5%. If the utilization is higher, HPA will increase the number of replicas, and if it's lower, it will decrease the number of replicas within the specified range of 1 to 10 replicas.

Step 2: Configure the HPA

Apply the HPA configuration:

```
kubectl apply -f hpa.yaml
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl apply -f hpa.yaml
horizontalpodautoscaler.autoscaling/myhpa created
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$
```

Step 3: Verify the HPA

Obtain the status of the created HPA resource by executing the following command:

```
kubectl get hpa myhpa
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl get hpa myhpa
NAME         REFERENCE          TARGETS   MINPODS   MAXPODS   REPLICAS   AGE
myhpa        Deployment/myapp    0%/5%     1         10        1          61s
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$
```

This command provides details about the current and target CPU utilization and the number of replicas.

Step 4: Start the Kubernetes proxy

Open another terminal and start the Kubernetes proxy:

```
kubectl proxy
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project$ kubectl proxy
Starting to serve on 127.0.0.1:8001
```

Step 5: Spam and increase the load on the app

Open another new terminal and enter the below command to spam the app with multiple requests for increasing the load:

```
for i in `seq 100000`; do curl -L localhost:8001/api/v1/namespaces/sn-labs-$USERNAME/services/myapp/proxy; done
```

```

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>Simple App - v1</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="./style.css">
</head>
<body>
  <h1>MyApp</h1>
  <p>Hello from MyApp. Your app is up!</p>
</body>
</html>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>Simple App - v1</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="./style.css">
</head>
<body>
  <h1>MyApp</h1>
  <p>Hello from MyApp. Your app is up!</p>
</body>
</html>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>Simple App - v1</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="./style.css">
</head>
<body>
  <h1>MyApp</h1>
  <p>Hello from MyApp. Your app is up!</p>
</body>
</html>

```

Proceed with further commands in the new terminal.

Step 6: Observe the effect of autoscaling

1. Run the following command to observe the replicas increase in accordance with the autoscaling:

```
kubectl get hpa myhpa --watch
```

```

theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl get hpa myhpa --watch
NAME      REFERENCE          TARGETS   MINPODS   MAXPODS   REPLICAS   AGE
myhpa     Deployment/myapp    95%/5%    1          10         5           3m26s
myhpa     Deployment/myapp    45%/5%    1          10         10          3m30s
myhpa     Deployment/myapp    25%/5%    1          10         10          4m16s
myhpa     Deployment/myapp    19%/5%    1          10         10          4m31s

```

2. You will see an increase in the number of replicas, which shows that your application has been autoscaled.
3. Terminate this command by pressing CTRL + C.

Step 7: Observe the details of the HPA

1. Run the following command to observe the details of the horizontal pod autoscaler:

```
kubectl get hpa myhpa
```

```

theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl get hpa myhpa
NAME      REFERENCE          TARGETS   MINPODS   MAXPODS   REPLICAS   AGE
myhpa     Deployment/myapp    16%/5%    1          10         10          5m17s
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$

```

2. You will notice that the number of replicas has increased now.
3. Stop the proxy and the load generation commands running in the other two terminals by pressing CTRL + C.

Exercise 4: Create a Secret and update the deployment

Kubernetes Secrets lets you securely store and manage sensitive information, such as passwords, OAuth tokens, and SSH keys. Secrets are base64-encoded and can be used in your applications as environment variables or mounted as files.

Step 1: Create a Secret

Explore the content of the file `secret.yaml`:

```

apiVersion: v1
kind: Secret

```

```

metadata:
  name: myapp-secret
  type: Opaque
data:
  username: bXl1c2VybmFtZQ==
  password: bXlwYXNzd29yZA==

```

Explanation

This YAML file defines a secret named `mysecret` with two key-value pairs: `username` and `password`. The values are base64-encoded strings.

Step 2: Update the deployment to utilize the secret

Add the following lines at the end of `deployment.yaml`:

```

env:
- name: MYAPP_USERNAME
  valueFrom:
    secretKeyRef:
      name: myapp-secret
      key: username
- name: MYAPP_PASSWORD
  valueFrom:
    secretKeyRef:
      name: myapp-secret
      key: password

```

Explanation

- `name:` - Defines the environment variables: `'MYAPP_USERNAME'` and `'MYAPP_PASSWORD'`, respectively.
- `valueFrom:` - Specifies that the value of the environment variable should be sourced from another location rather than being hardcoded.
- `secretKeyRef:` - Indicates that the value of the environment variable should come from a Kubernetes secret.
- `name: myapp-secret` - Specifies the name of the secret `'myapp-secret'`, from which to retrieve the value.
- `key:` - Specifies which key within the secret is to be used for the value of the `'MYAPP_USERNAME'` and `'MYAPP_PASSWORD'` environment variables, respectively.

With these updates, the `myapp` application can now read these environment variables to get the required credentials, making it more secure and flexible.

Step 3: Apply the secret and deployment

1. Apply the secret using the following command:

```
kubectl apply -f secret.yaml
```

```

theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl apply -f secret.yaml
secret/mysecret created

```

2. Apply the updated deployment using the following command:

```
kubectl apply -f deployment.yaml
```

```

theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl apply -f deployment.yaml
deployment.apps/myapp configured

```

Step 4: Verify the secret and deployment

You will now verify if the secret and the deployment using it have been applied.

1. Run the following command to retrieve the details of `myapp-secret` showing its name, type, and creation timestamp:

```
kubectl get secret
```

```

theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl get secret
NAME                                TYPE                                DATA  AGE
dh                                  kubernetes.io/dockerconfigjson    1      12m
icr                                  kubernetes.io/dockerconfigjson    1      12m
myapp-secret                        Opaque                             2      16s

```

2. Run the following command to show the status of the deployment, including information about replicas and available replicas.

```
kubectl get deployment
```

```

theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl get deployment
NAME    READY  UP-TO-DATE  AVAILABLE  AGE
myapp   5/10   1           5          6m6s
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$

```

Conclusion

In this lab, you began by building and deploying an application called `myapp` on Kubernetes.

Following this, you configured a Vertical Pod Autoscaler (VPA) to automatically adjust resource requests and limits for the `myapp` deployment.

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Subsequently, you implemented a Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) to scale the number of replicas for the myapp deployment based on CPU utilization. Finally, you created a Secret and updated the myapp deployment to utilize it.

Author(s)

[Nikesh Kumar](#)

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