epics-containers

A workshop to look at containerizing EPICS IOCs

EPICS Collaboration Meeting @ ORNL Sept 16th, 2024

giles knap
Beamline Controls – Diamond Light Source

Agenda

- 13:10 Presentation: an overview of epics-containers
- 13:50 Questions
- 14:10 Practical: experimenting with a simulation beamline
- 14:50 Break
- 15:10 Practical: introducing developer containers for generic IOCs
- 16:10 Demo: Kubernetes and ArgoCD on a DLS test beamline
- 16:40 Questions and discussion
- 17:00 End

Preamble

- This presentation is about how DLS will be building and managing IOCs using containers.
- However, we have applied the following principals to make this work useful to other facilities:
 - **Open source first**. All source, re-usable containers, example beamlines and documentation is available at https://github.com/epics-containers.
 - **Modular.** All parts of the framework are as far as practical independent you may adopt just the features you find useful.
 - **Standard EPICS only.** We use the default EPICS build system, upstream versions of EPICS base and support modules.
 - **Standard Tools only.** The tools used in the framework are widely adopted FOSS only.
- The SPARC beamline at INFN-LNF in Rome is already using epicscontainers in production

What?



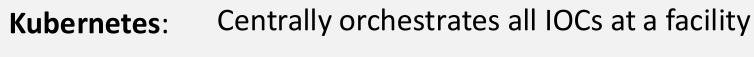
Applying modern industry practices for software delivery to EPICS IOCs





Package IOC software and execute it in a lightweight **Containers**:

virtual environment

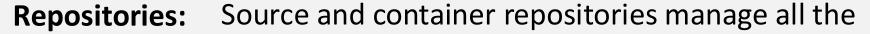






Deploy IOCs into Kubernetes with version **Helm Charts:**

management



above assets



source when updated



CD:

Deployment repositories are automatically synced

with the cluster



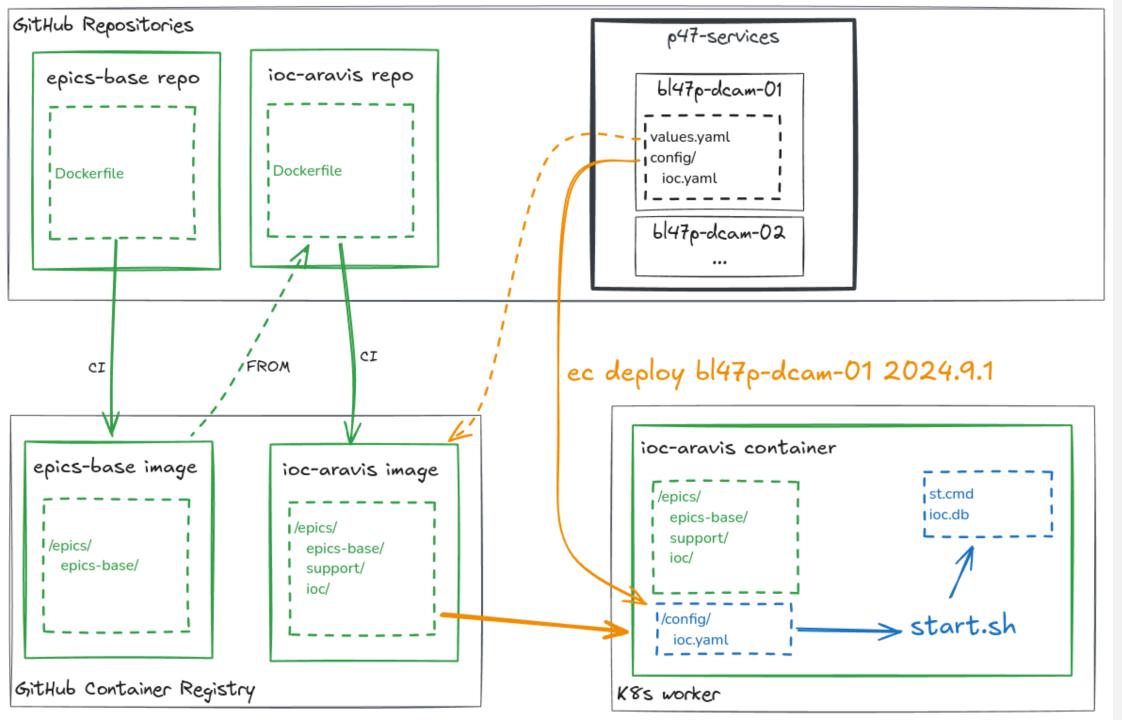
GitHub



Why?

- IOCs are decoupled from the OS
 - No modifying support modules to suit facility infrastructure
 - Allows us to use upstream support modules with no need for local forks
 - Develop and test anywhere
 - Protection from many security vulnerabilities
- Simple server setup: any Linux + container runtime only.
 - Very easy server OS upgrades
- Remove maintenance of internal management tools
- Kubernetes provides (not just for IOCs!):
 - A huge range of supporting tools both FOSS and licensed
 - Shared software deployment and management
 - Shared Logging, monitoring, alerting
 - Shared resource management: Disk / CPU / Memory
 - Skills required are transferrable
 - Just Google it when things go wrong





How?

Supporting Tools



- **ibek** IOC builder for EPICS and Kubernetes
 - Runs inside the container at build time
 - Helpers for building Support and Generic IOC in the container environment
 - Runs inside the container at runtime startup
 - Makes IOC instance startup script and database from a YAML description
 - Extracts IOC instance engineering screens from the container



- ec the epics containers CLI for developers
 - Runs outside the container
 - Helpers for building and deploy IOC Instances
 - Helpers for local debugging and testing of Generic IOCs
 - Thin wrapper around the tools git, helm, kubectl and argocd can be used to learn these tools too



- PVI Process Variables Interface
 - Provides structure for the PV interface to a device
 - Auto generates engineering screens for the device (bob/edm/adl)
 - Supplies DB metadata for use with Bluesky



How to make an IOC Instance?

ioc-instance:

1. Create a beamline repository

- copier copy gh:epics-containers/services-template-helm.
- cp -r services/.ioc-template services/my-new-ioc
- Edit the new IOC Instance config in services/my-new-ioc

1b. An ibek IOC YAML file listing the support 'entities' that we want to instantiate for this IOC instance.

required field is the URL of the Generic IOC to use. p47-services > services > bl47p-ea-dcam-01 > ! values.yaml > { } ioc-instance > • image

1a. A helm chart values override file. The only

```
p47-services > services > bl47p-ea-dcam-01 > config > ! ioc.yaml > [ ] entities
      # yaml-language-server: $schema=https://github.com/epics-conta
      ioc name: bl47p-ea-dcam-01
      description: GigE Sample camera for beamline p47
      entities:

    type: epics.EpicsCaMaxArrayBytes

           max bytes: 3000000
         - type: ADAravis.aravisCamera
           CLASS: AVT Mako G234B
           ID: 192.168.250.3
           P: BL47P-EA-DET-01
           PORT: DET.CAM
 14
           R: ":DET:"
```

2. Deploy the IOC instance:

Tag and push the beamline repo

image: ghcr.io/epics-containers/ioc-adaravis-runtime:2024.8.1

ec ioc deploy bl45p-ea-ioc-01 2024.9.1

How to make a Generic IOC?

1. Create a Generic IOC repo:

- copier copy gh:epics-containers/ioc-template
- edit Readme.md
- edit Dockerfile: add COPY and RUN for each support module using ibek-support recipies

2. Deploy Generic IOC to your container registry:

- Tag and push the generic IOC repo
- CI then:
 - Builds the container image
 - Publishes it to GHCR
 - Publishes a JSON schema for the ibek 'entities' provided inside the container

Dockerfile: iocStats serves as an example for how to add additional support modules

```
ARG BASE=7.0.8ec2
    ARG REGISTRY=ghcr.io/epics-containers
    ARG RUNTIME=${REGISTRY}/epics-base${IMAGE EXT}-runtime:${BASE}
    ARG DEVELOPER=${REGISTRY}/epics-base${IMAGE EXT}-developer:${BASE}
    FROM ${DEVELOPER} AS developer
    ENV SOURCE FOLDER=/epics/generic-source
    RUN ln -s ${SOURCE FOLDER}/ioc ${IOC}
    COPY requirements.txt requirements.txt
    RUN pip install --upgrade -r requirements.txt
20
    WORKDIR ${SOURCE FOLDER}/ibek-support
    COPY ibek-support/ global/ global
    COPY ibek-support/iocStats/ iocStats
    RUN iocStats/install.sh 3.2.0
32
    COPY ioc ${SOURCE FOLDER}/ioc
    RUN cd ${IOC} && ./install.sh && make
    RUN bash ${IOC}/install proxy.sh
39
```

How to Add a new Support Module 1.

1. Add a folder in the ibek-support repo

- Shared ibek-support on GitHub
- Or private ibek-support per facility
- Public Generic IOCs should only use shared ibek-support
- Internal Generic IOCs may use both

2. Add a new install.sh file:

 Use the new support in your Generic IOC Dockerfile

Install.sh example for ADSimDetector. Most install.sh would look almost identical to this but You can add custom steps as needed —it's just bash.

```
ioc-template-example > ibek-support > ADSimDetector > $ install.sh
      #!/bin/bash
      # ARGUMENTS:
      VERSION=${1}
     NAME=ADSimDetector
      FOLDER=$(dirname $(readlink -f $0))
 11
 12
 13
     set -xe
 14
 15
      # get the source and fix up the configure/RELEASE files
      ibek support git-clone ${NAME} ${VERSION} --org http://github.com/areaDetector/
 17
      ibek support register ${NAME}
 19
      ibek support add-libs simDetector
 20
 21
      ibek support add-dbds simDetectorSupport.dbd
 22
 23
 24
      ${FOLDER}/../ global/install.sh ${NAME}
 25
      ibek support compile ${NAME}
 27
      ibek support generate-links ${FOLDER}
```

How to Add a new Support Module 2.

1. Add a folder in the ibek-support repo

- Shared ibek-support on GitHub
- Or private ibek-support per facility
- Public Generic IOCs should only use shared ibek-support
- Internal Generic IOCs may use both

2. Add a new install.sh file:

 Use the new support in your Generic IOC Dockerfile

3. Add an ibek support YAML description:

This allows us to describe our IOC instances as ibek IOC YAML.

Support YAML example for ADSimDetector. Declares instance arguments, startup script lines and database template substitutions.

```
ioc-template-example > ibek-support > ADSimDetector > ! ADSimDetector.ibek.support.yaml > [ ] entity_models > {} 0 >
      # yaml-language-server: $schema=https://github.com/epics-containers/ibek/r
      module: ADSimDetector
      entity models:
        - name: simDetector
  6
          description: Creates a simulation detector
          parameters:
             P:
               type: str
 10
               description: Device Prefix
 11
             R:
 12
               type: str
 13
               description: Device Suffix
 14
             PORT:
 15
               type: id
 16
               description: Port name for the detector
 17
             # ----- Other Parameters omitted for clarity ------
 18
 19
          pre init:
 20
             - type: text
 21
               value:
                 # simDetectorConfig(portName, maxSizeX, maxSizeY, dataType, maxE
 22
 23
                 simDetectorConfig("{{PORT}}", {{WIDTH}}, {{HEIGHT}}, {{DATATYPE}}
 24
 25
          databases:
 26
             - file: $(ADSIMDETECTOR)/db/simDetector.template
               args: { P, R, PORT, TIMEOUT, ADDR }
```

Developer Containers

epics-containers development defines 3 levels of changes:

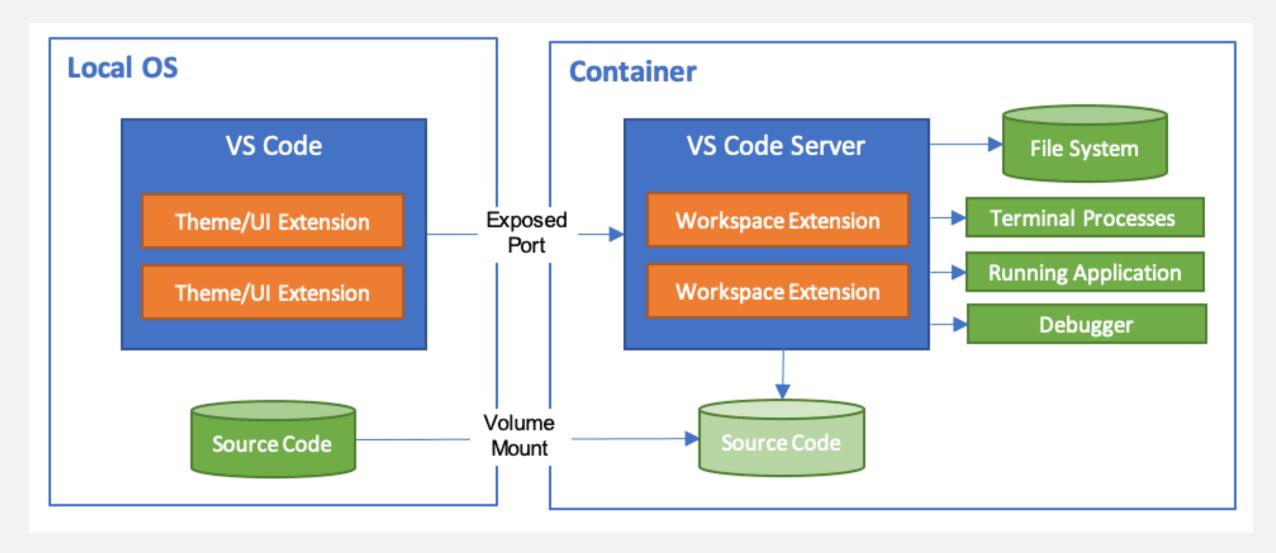
- 1. Changing IOC instance details only
 - Edit values.yaml or ioc.yaml in your beamline repository
 - Push and tag the changes, re-deploy the update instance
- 2. Changing a Generic IOC
 - Edit Dockerfile or ibek-support sub-module in a Generic IOC repository
 - Push changes to publish a new container image
 - Go to 1. to update affected instances
- 3. Changing Support Modules
 - Edit the support module, verify and push and tag source changes.
 - Go to 2. to update a Generic IOC to include the new support version

2 and 3 require rebuilding and deploying containers. For this reason, we use Developer Containers for a fast "inner loop".

For epics-containers the generic IOC container image is an ideal developer container.

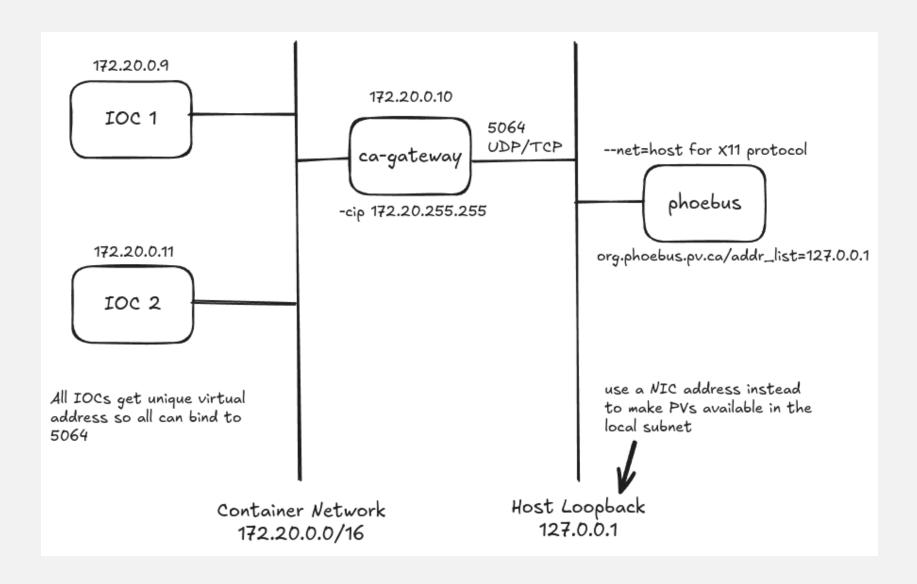


Developer Containers



Networking

For local development and testing we configure the network like this:





Networking network=host



At DLS we use network=host for Kubernetes IOCs

 This means IOCs run without network isolation and look exactly like traditional IOCs from the client's perspective

Motivation

- Channel Access cannot route into the container network
- We did not want to pass all PVs through a ca-gateway
- Channel Access is not the only protocol that will not route into CNI
- For example, GigE streaming protocol will also fail
- Any protocol that does not like NAT will have this problem

Current Status - Sept 2024

- The epics-containers framework is ready for wider exposure and feedback
- There are tutorials to get people started using the framework
- There are a growing number of reference generic IOCs
- Example beamline repositories are also available
- DLS has several beamline clusters running a handful of containerized IOCs in production, plus some fully containerized test beamlines.
- DLS aims to have a representative set of production beamlines fully containerized before the DII dark period 12/2027.
- And all beamlines fully containerized at the end of the dark period 06/2029.

One Take Away



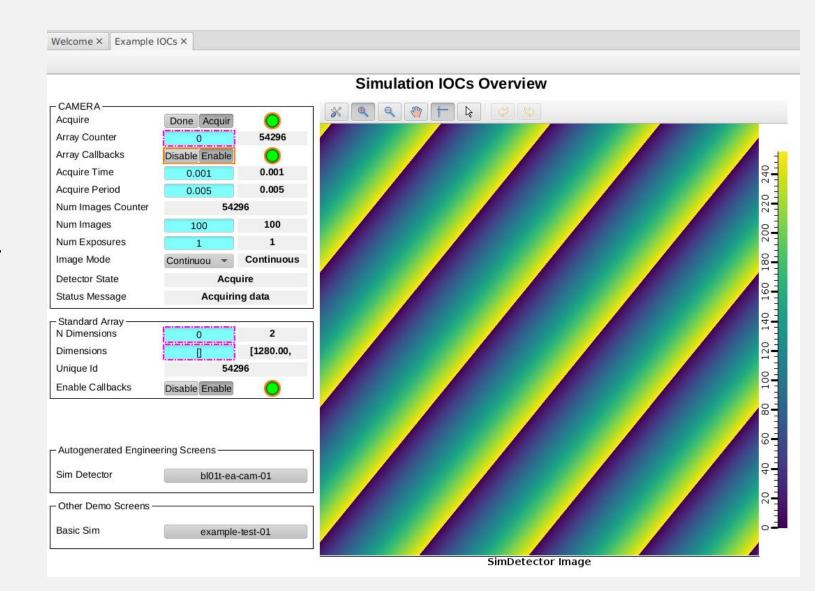
https://github.com/epics-containers

- Includes:
 - Tutorials
 - Documentation
 - Templates
 - Source code
 - A small but growing number of Generic IOC images
 - Example beamlines
 - A Simulation beamline

Questions?

Hands On: Simulation Beamline

- Includes
 - Motion IOC
 - AreaDetector IOC
 - Ca Gateway
 - Phoebus in a container
 - Screens to for the IOCs
- All launched by docker compose



Hands On: Simulation Beamline

- Install git and docker / podman + docker compose
 - o https://epics-containers.github.io/main/tutorials/setup_workstation.html
- Launch a simulation beamline!
 - o git clone https://github.com/epics-containers/example-services.git
 - cd example-services.git
 - source ./environment.sh
 - o ec up −d
- See README.md for more commands
- Examine the configuration
 - o compose.yaml
 - o services/*/config/*
 - See docker compose docs: https://docs.docker.com/reference/compose-file/

Hands On: Make your own beamline

- https://epics-containers.github.io
- Try
 - Create a Beamline Repository
 - Deploying and Managing IOC Instances
 - Create an IOC Instance

If you don't have time to complete these tutorials today, you can do them afterwards at your leisure.

You can open an issue against the documentation project or contact the authors if you need help or have any ideas to discuss.

Also see https://github.com/orgs/epics-containers/discussions

Hands On: Developer Container Tutorial

- Docker users:
 - Add this to \$HOME/.profile and logout/in
 - export EC_REMOTE_USER=\$USER
- https://epics-containers.github.io
- Try
 - Developer Containers
 - Developer Containers Part 2
 - Changing a Generic IOC

Kubernetes

- Kubernetes is by far the dominant container orchestration platform today
- Open-sourced by Google in 2014
- Managed by the Cloud Native Computing Foundation, part of the Linux Foundation
- CNCF looks after a large list of open-source applications that run in Kubernetes
- At DLS we will have a Kubernetes Cluster per beamline, one for the accelerator and a large central cluster for centralized services.

Demo: a Kubernetes Beamline at DLS

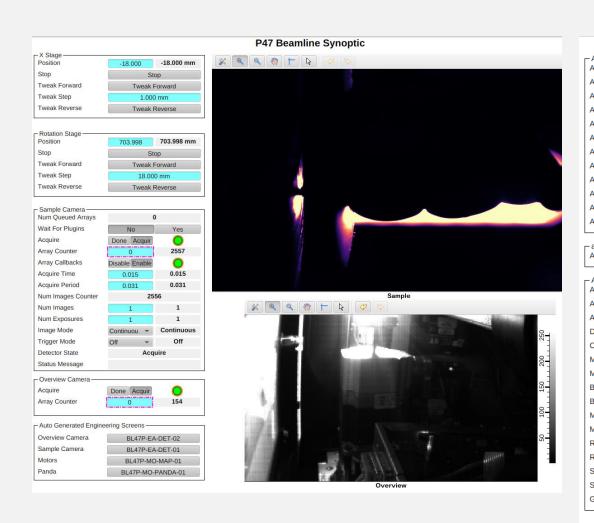
- p47 is a training beamline with 2 detectors, 2 motors, 1 pandabox
- Each Kubernetes Clusters at DLS runs standard services including:-
 - A landing page to access all user services
 - Kubernetes Dashboard manage resources in the cluster
 - Alert Manager sets thresholds and configures recipients of alerts
 - Prometheus monitoring with time series Database
 - Grafana rich visualization of the above data
 - StacksRox monitor running containers for Common Vulnerabilities and Exploits
 - Keycloak single sign on authorization service
 - Kynervo policy engine
 - Argo CD declarative GitOps continuous deployment

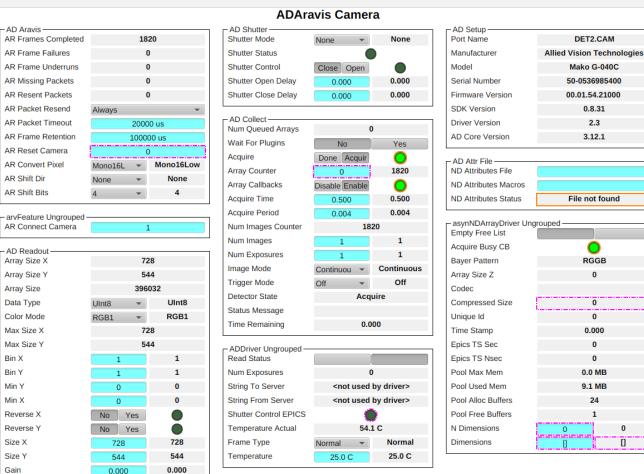
Questions?

Remaining Slides

- Images of demo screens in case I can't connect to DLS
- Some overview diagrams for discussion if needed

Demo: a Kubernetes Beamline at DLS P47





0.8.31

2.3

3.12.1

RGGB

0

0

0.000

9.1 MB

Cluster landing page

Welcome to the Pollux Kubernetes Cluster landing page

Pollux Grafana

Grafana instance for monitoring the Pollux cluster

Pollux Prometheus

Prometheus instance for monitoring the Pollux Cluster

Pollux Alertmanager

Prometheus altermanager instance for monitoring the Pollux cluster

Pollux K8s Dashboard

Kubernetes Dashboard for the Pollux cluster

Kubernetes User Guide

Dev Portal user guide for Kubernetes

Jupyterhub Test

Testing instance of jupyterhub

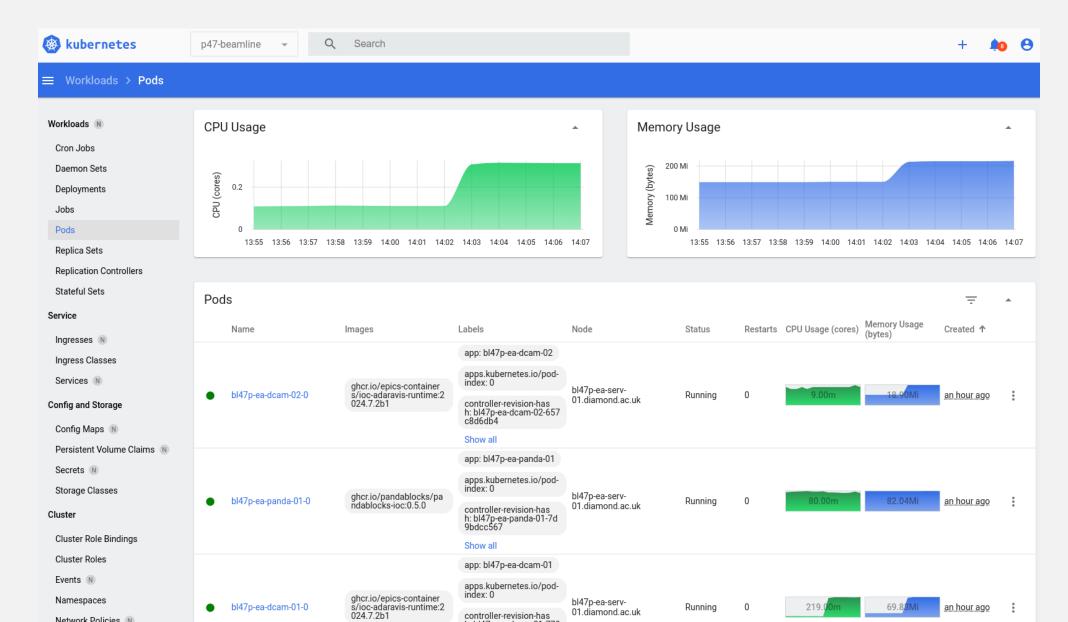
Pollux KeyCloak

Keycloak instance for the Pollux cluster

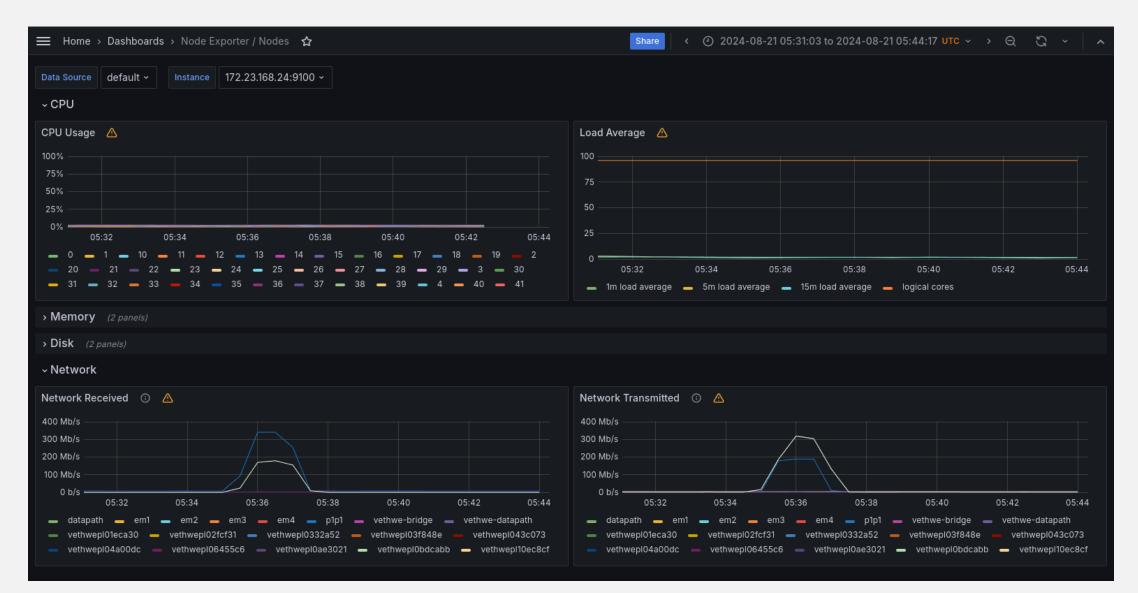
Pollux Stackrox

Stackrox security dashboard for the Pollux cluster

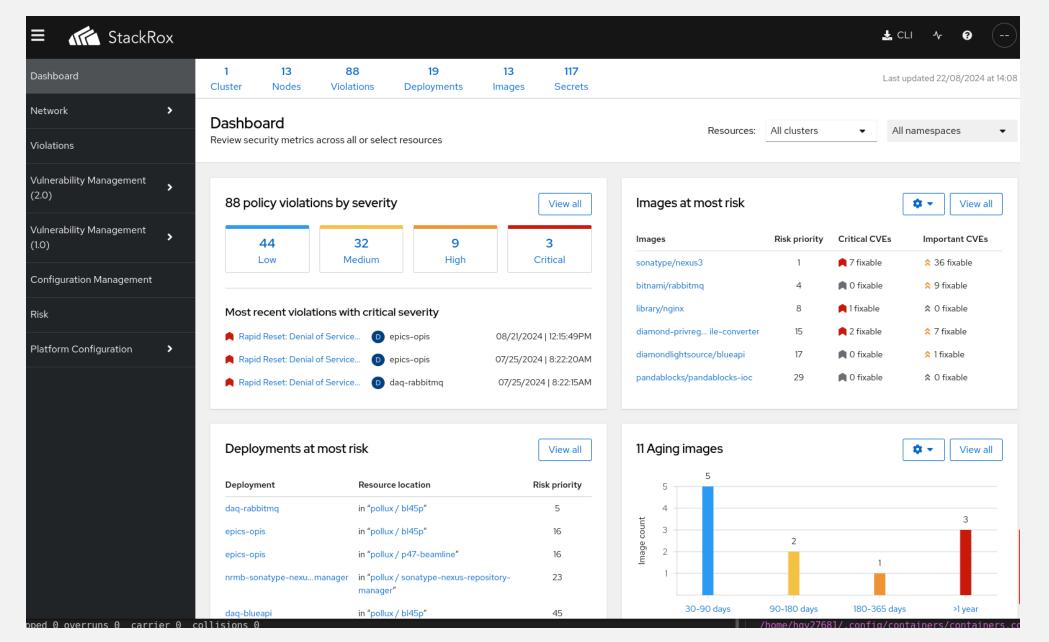
Kubernetes Dashboard



Grafana



StacksRox



Argo CD for p47-beamline

