



VOLUMES AND DATA

Volumes and Data

Using Secrets via Environment Variables

A secret can be used as an environmental variable in a Pod. You can see one being configured in the following example:

```
...
spec:
  containers:
  - image: mysql:5.5
    name: dbpod
    env:
    - name: MYSQL_ROOT_PASSWORD
      valueFrom:
        secretKeyRef:
          name: mysql
          key: password
```

There is no limit to the number of Secrets used, but there is a 1MB limit to their size. Each secret occupies memory, along with other API objects, so very large numbers of secrets could deplete memory on a host.

They are stored in the **tmpfs** storage on the host node, and are only sent to the host running Pod. All volumes requested by a Pod must be mounted before the containers within the Pod are started. So, a secret must exist prior to being requested.