

How it works

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The **funktion operator** watches for **Flow** and **Function** resources.

When a new **function** is created then the operator will spin up a matching **Deployment** for running the **function source code** along with a **Service** to expose the service as a HTTP or HTTPS endpoint.

When a new **flow** is created then this operator will spin up a matching **Deployment** which consumes from some **Connector** and typically invokes a function using HTTP.

The following kubernetes resources are used:

Kubernetes Resources

A **function** is modelled as a Kubernetes **ConfigMap** with the label **kind.funktion.fabric8.io: "Function"** which contains the source code of the function inside the **Data['source']** entry.

A **flow** is modelled as a Kubernetes **ConfigMap** with the label **kind.funktion.fabric8.io: "Flow"**. A **ConfigMap** is used so that the entries inside the **ConfigMap** can be mounted as files inside the **Deployment**. For example this will typically involve storing the **funktion.yml** file or maybe a Spring Boot **application.properties** file inside the **ConfigMap** like [this example flow](#)

A **Connector** is generated **for every Camel Component** and each connector has an associated **ConfigMap** resource like [this example](#) which uses the label **kind.funktion.fabric8.io: "Connector"**. The **Connector** stores the **Deployment** metadata, the **schema.yml** for editing the connectors endpoint URL and the **documentation.adoc** documentation for using the Connector.

So a **Connector** can have **0..N flows** associated with it. For those who know **Apache Camel** this is like the relationship between a **Component** having **0..N Endpoints**.

For example we could have a Connector called **kafka** which knows how to produce and consume messages on **Apache Kafka** with the Connector containing the metadata of how to create a consumer, how to configure the kafka endpoint and the documentation. Then a flow could be created for **kafka://cheese** to subscribe on the **cheese** topic and post messages to **http://foo/**.

Typically a number of **Connector** resources are shipped as a package; such as inside the **Red Hat iPaaS** or as an app inside fabric8. Though a **Connector** can be created as part of the CD Pipeline by an expert Java developer who takes a Camel component and customizes it for use by **Funktion** or the **iPaaS**.

The collection of **Connector** resources installed in a kubernetes namespace creates the **integration palette** thats seen by users in tools like CLI or web UIs.

Then a **flow** can be created at any time by users from a **Connector** with a custom configuration (e.g. choosing a particular queue or topic in a messaging system or a particular table in a database or folder in a file system).

Debugging

If you ever need to you can debug any **flow** as each flow matches a **Deployment** of one or more pods. So you can just debug that pod which typically is a regular Spring Boot and camel application.

Otherwise you can debug the pod thats exposing an HTTP endpoint using whatever the native debugger is; e.g. using Java or NodeJS or whatever.