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**Anmol Krishan Sachdeva**

Sr. Hybrid Cloud Architect, **Google**  
@greatdevaks

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# THE FRONT DOOR TO YOUR APPS

EXPOSING SERVICES RELIABLY,  
SECURELY, AND AT SCALE



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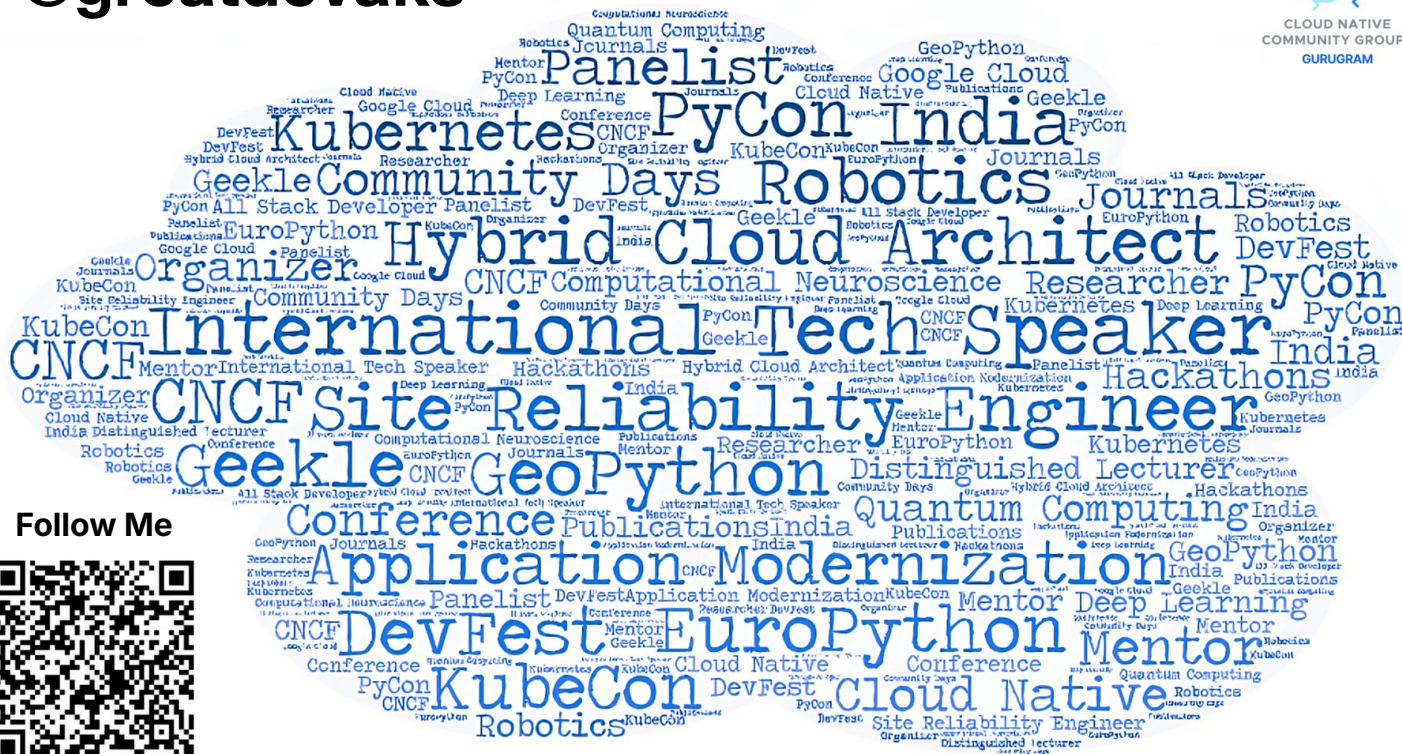


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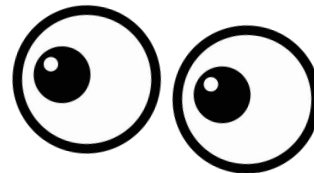
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## Agenda

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# FLOW OF THE TALK



**1.  
Building The  
Foundation: CNI &  
The Pod Network**

**2.  
The Core Problem:  
Ephemeral Pods**

**3.  
Kubernetes  
Services  
&  
kube-proxy  
Modes**

**4.  
Ingress and  
The Evolution**

**5.  
External Exposure  
For Bare-Metal**

**6.  
Modern Networking  
Patterns**



## A Primer on Kubernetes

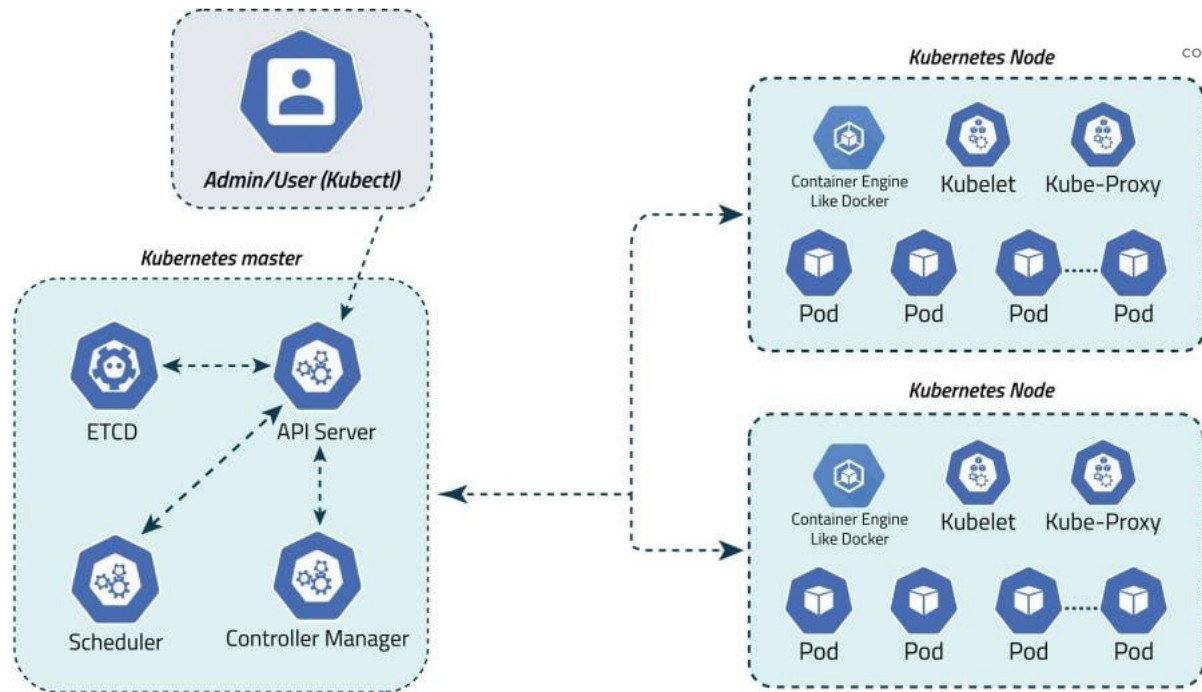
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## CNI & The Pod Network: SDN

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# Container Network Interface

- A framework for dynamically configuring container networking resources

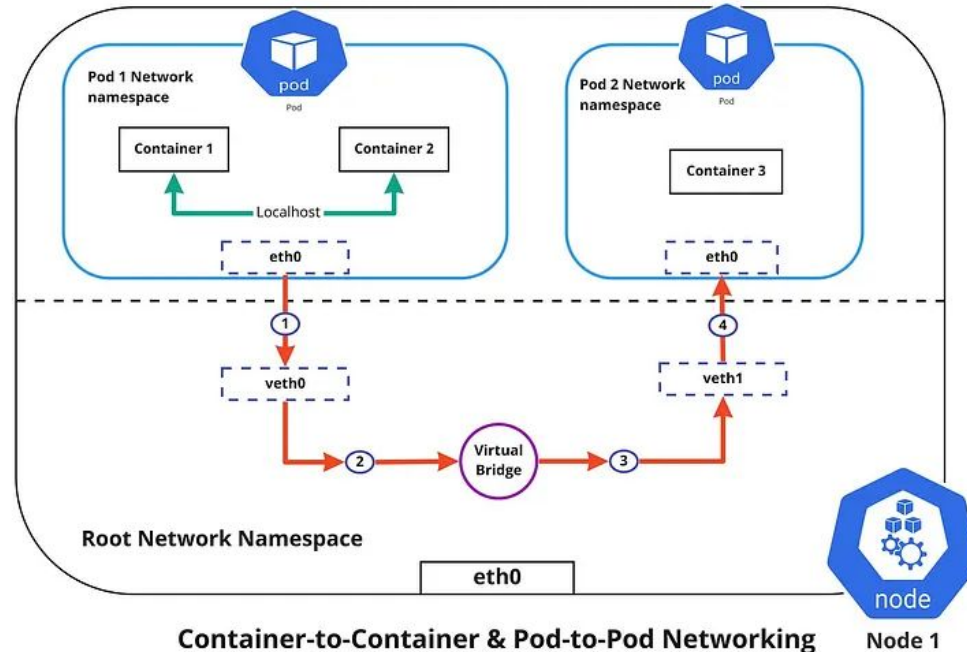


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## The Hidden Gem

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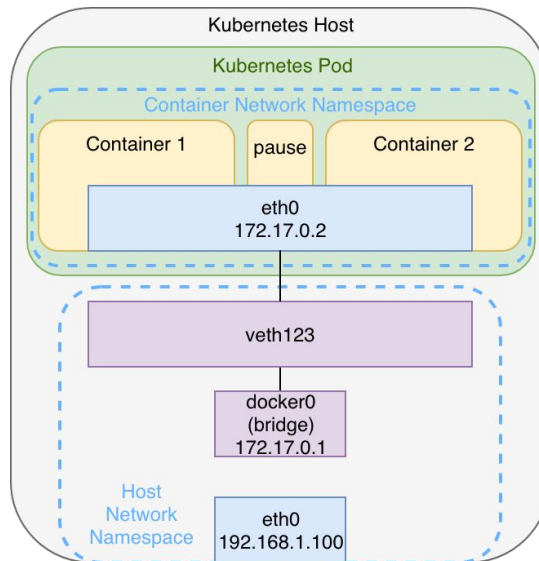
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~~Well-Known~~  
**FUNDAMENTAL**

# Pause Container



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[Inovex](#)



# Why Can't We Just Connect To A Pod's IP?

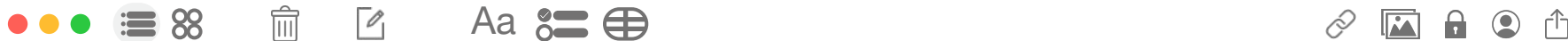
**Ephemeral**

**Dynamic IPs**

**Autoscaled**

**Unbalanced  
Traffic  
Routing**





# Enter Kubernetes Services

**ClusterIP**

**NodePort**

**LoadBalancer**

**ExternalName**

**Headless**



# Kubernetes Services

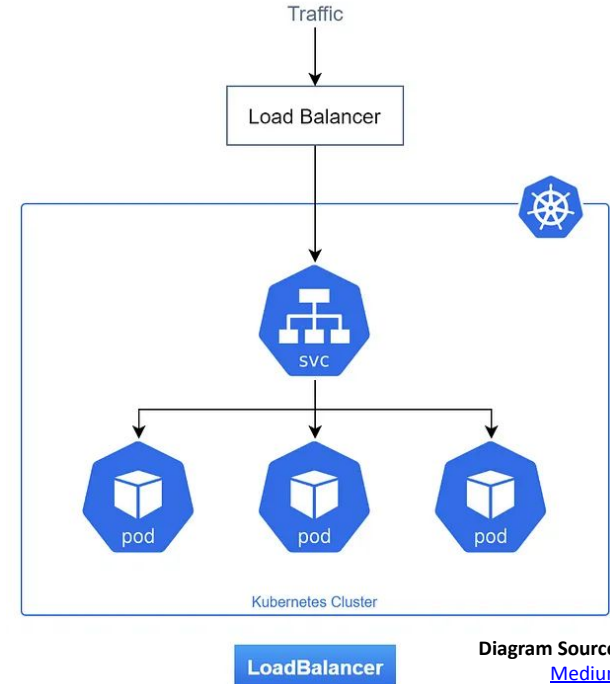
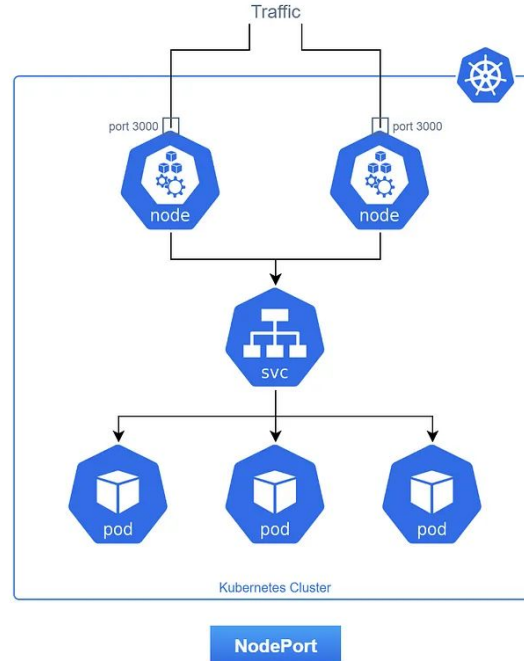
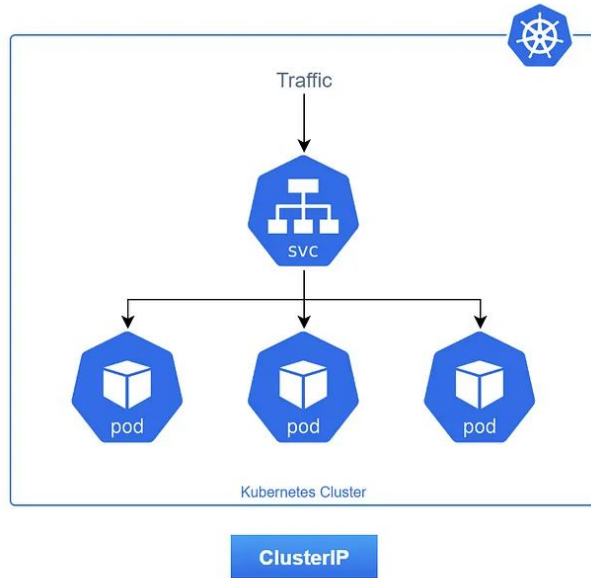


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## ClusterIP Service

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# Noteworthy Points



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```
1 apiVersion: v1
2 kind: Service
3 metadata:
4   name: my-service
5 spec:
6   type: ClusterIP
7   selector:
8     app.kubernetes.io/name: MyApp
9   ports:
10     - name: web-app
11       protocol: TCP
12       port: 80
13       targetPort: 9376
```

## Internal Networking

## Default Service Type

**Even Leveraged By  
NodePort and  
LoadBalancer BTS**

**Kubernetes DNS  
(CoreDNS) Creates  
DNS Records for  
ClusterIP Services**

**<service>.<ns>.svc.  
cluster.local**

**Every Pod Gets  
Domain Suffixes In  
/etc/resolv.conf**

**Know How to Deal  
With The Performance  
Tax: ndots**




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## NodePort Service

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# Noteworthy Points



```
1 apiVersion: v1
2 kind: Service
3 metadata:
4   name: my-service
5 spec:
6   type: NodePort
7   selector:
8     app.kubernetes.io/name: MyApp
9   ports:
10     - port: 80
11       targetPort: 80
12       nodePort: 30007
```

**NodePort is open on every Node**

**Doesn't preserve True Client IP by default**  
**externalTrafficPolicy: cluster**

**Port Range: 30000-32767**

**No two services can share the same NodePort**


**externalTrafficPolicy: Local**

**kube-proxy & healthCheckNodePort**



## LoadBalancer Service

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# Noteworthy Points



```
1 apiVersion: v1
2 kind: Service
3 metadata:
4   name: my-service
5 spec:
6   type: LoadBalancer
7   selector:
8     app.kubernetes.io/name: MyApp
9   ports:
10     - protocol: TCP
11       port: 80
12       targetPort: 9376
```

**Requires Cloud  
Controller Manager or  
Bare-Metal Service  
Controller**

**Almost Always  
Layer 4  
Load Balancer**

**Supports External and  
Internal Exposure**

**Built on top of  
NodePort**

**Same limitation  
BTS...  
Port Range:  
30000-32767**

**externalTrafficPolicy  
configuration holds  
true**




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## kube-proxy

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# kube-proxy

- Runs as a DaemonSet - provisioning can be skipped in latest implementations leveraging eBPF
- Helps implement a Virtual IP mechanism for Services; exception is ExternalName type
- Helps in redirecting (DNAT) traffic from the ClusterIP:Port to PodEndpoint:Port
- Might influence kernel level rules and netfilter configurations
- Can be configured in the below-shown modes:

## userspace

Older method;  
kube-proxy used  
to load balance

## iptables

Netfilter rule  
chains and  
evaluations

Default but slow

## ipvs

HashMap-based  
implementation  
for O(1)  
performance

Actual LB

## nftables

Maps and Sets  
leveraged for  
O(1)  
performance

## kernelspace

Packet  
forwarding rules  
for Windows  
kernel

- Conntrack helps in connection and connection state tracking; session affinity is possible



## kube-proxy

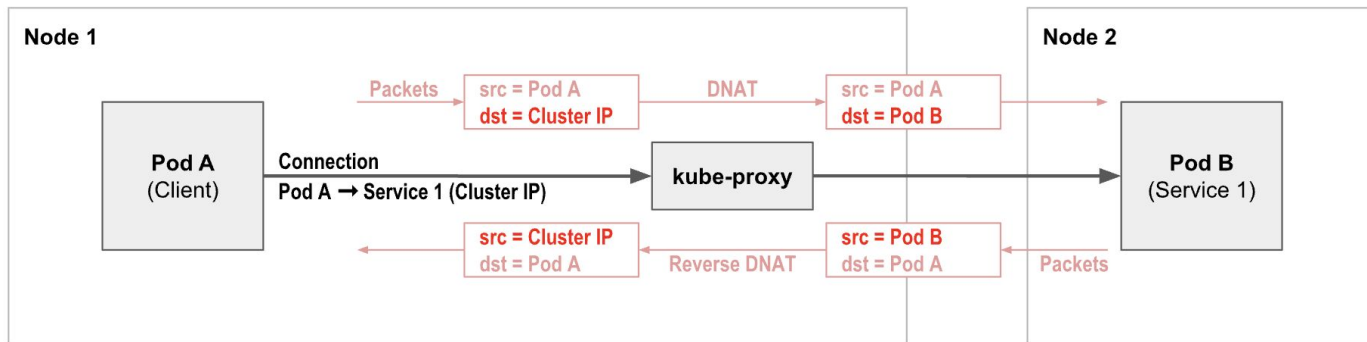
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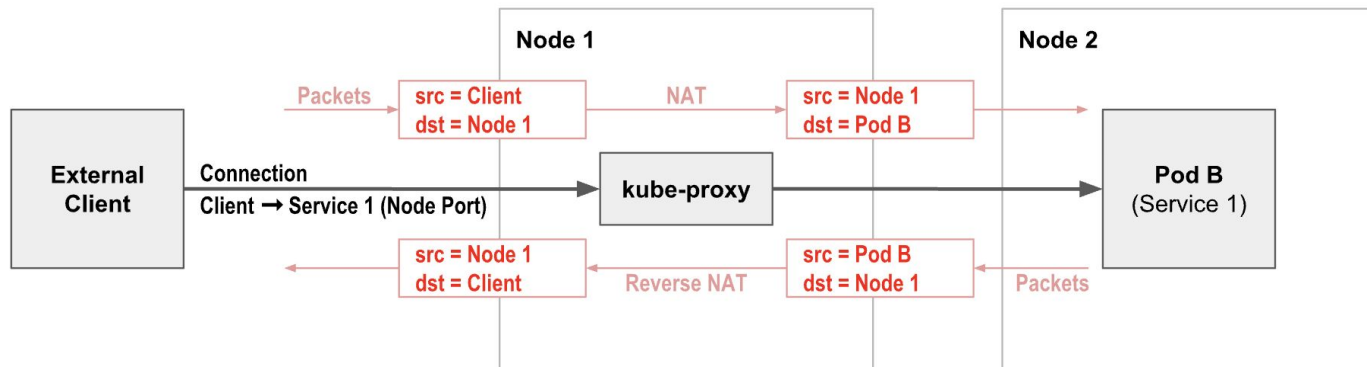
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**ClientIP and kube-proxy**



**NodePort and kube-proxy**

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## kube-proxy

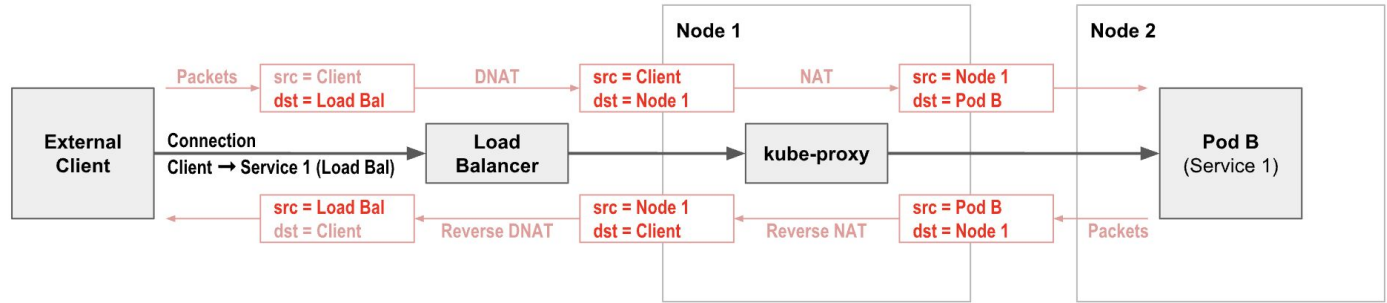
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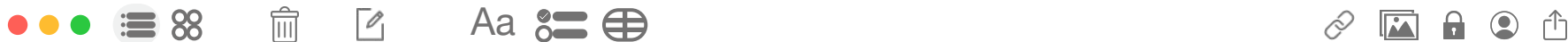
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# Can Layer 7 Load Balancing Be Also Done?

**Ingress  
Controller**

**Multiplexing  
One IP, Many  
Services**

**TLS/mTLS  
Termination**


**Namespaced  
Resource**

**Catch-All Default  
Backend**



## Ingress API and Layer 7 Load Balancing

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```
1 apiVersion: networking.k8s.io/v1
2 kind: Ingress
3 metadata:
4   name: my-multi-service-ingress
5   annotations:
6     nginx.ingress.kubernetes.io/force-ssl-redirect: "true"
7 spec:
8   ingressClassName: nginx
9   tls:
10  - hosts:
11    - app1.example.com
12    - app2.example.com
13    secretName: my-tls-secret
14  rules:
15  - host: "app1.example.com"
16    http:
17      paths:
18      - path: /
19        pathType: Prefix
20        backend:
21          service:
22            name: app1-service
23            port:
24              number: 80
25  - host: "app2.example.com"
26    http:
27      paths:
28      - path: /
29        pathType: Prefix
30        backend:
31          service:
32            name: app2-service
33            port:
34              number: 8080
```

# Noteworthy Points

**Backend Services and  
TLS Secret should be  
in the same  
Namespace as Ingress**

**default Namespace in  
this example**

**Annotation-based  
Advanced Features**

**Annotations are  
Vendor specific**

**HTTP/HTTPS only  
supported**

**Other protocols like  
gRPC not supported;  
L4 ones could work  
with customizations**

**Advanced Traffic  
Splitting, Canary /  
Blue/Green, and  
Mirroring Features not  
natively and commonly  
available**



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## Gateway API and Layer 7 Load Balancing

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```
1 apiVersion: gateway.networking.k8s.io/v1
2 kind: Gateway
3 metadata:
4   name: my-multi-service-gateway
5 spec:
6   gatewayClassName: nginx
7   listeners:
8     - name: https
9       protocol: HTTPS
10      port: 443
11      hostname: "*.example.com"
12      tls:
13        mode: Terminate
14        certificateRefs:
15          - kind: Secret
16            name: my-tls-secret
17 ---
18 apiVersion: gateway.networking.k8s.io/v1
19 kind: HTTPRoute
20 metadata:
21   name: app1-route
22 spec:
23   parentRefs:
24     - name: my-multi-service-gateway
25       sectionName: https
26   hostnames:
27     - "app1.example.com"
28   rules:
29     - matches:
30       - path:
31         type: PathPrefix
32         value: /
33       backendRefs:
34         - name: app1-service
35           port: 80
36 ---
37 apiVersion: gateway.networking.k8s.io/v1
38 kind: HTTPRoute
39 metadata:
40   name: app2-route
41 spec:
42   parentRefs:
43     - name: my-multi-service-gateway
44       sectionName: https
45   hostnames:
46     - "app2.example.com"
47   rules:
48     - matches:
49       - path:
50         type: PathPrefix
51         value: /
52       backendRefs:
53         - name: app2-service
54           port: 8080
55
```

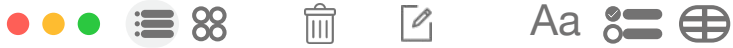
# Noteworthy Points

**No Annotations  
Hassle**

**Cross-Namespace  
Referencing Possible**

**Role-Oriented and  
Composable**  
**Route Attachment can  
be controlled per  
Namespace**

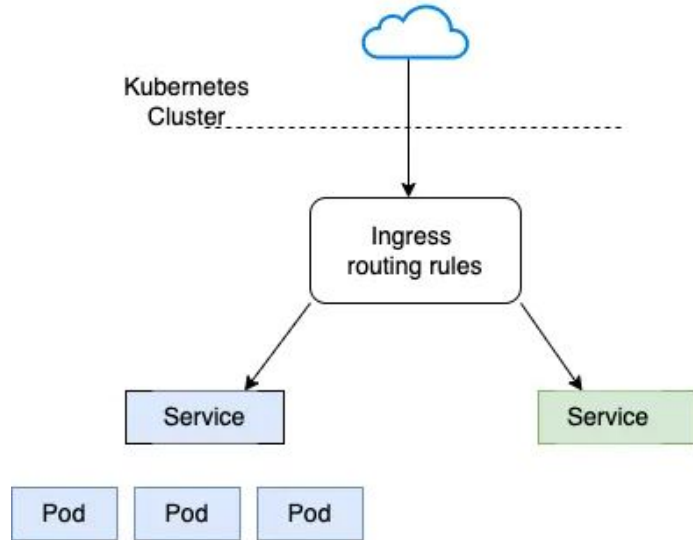
**Advanced Traffic  
Splitting, Canary /  
Blue/Green, and  
Mirroring Features  
natively and commonly  
available**



# Ingress API vs. Gateway API



Ingress



Vs

Gateway

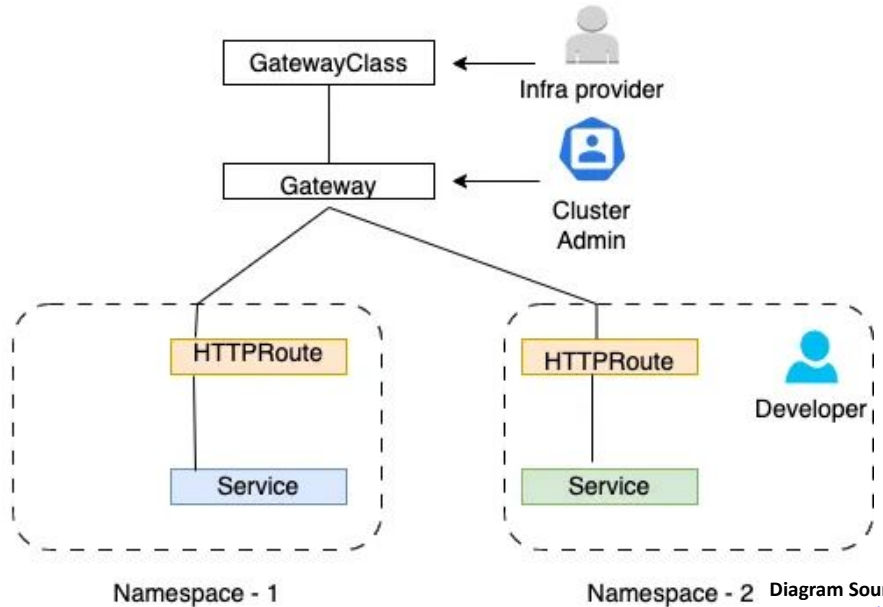


Diagram Source:  
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Battlecard: Ingress API vs. Gateway API

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Feature / Aspect	Ingress API	Gateway API
Operational Mode	Application Centric and Mostly Monolithic	Role-Oriented and Composable
Portability	Low and Vendor-Specific Annotations and Extensions	Leverages Standard Portable Specifications
Protocol Support	HTTP/HTTPS	HTTP/S, TCP, UDP, TLS, gRPC are native
Routing Rules and Traffic Splitting	Host/Path-based	Header-based additionally supported along with Advanced Traffic Splitting and Mirroring
Infrastructure Sharing and Multi-Tenancy	No clean and safe way for sharing a Load Balancer across Namespaces	Gateway operator can control the Namespaces which could participate in attaching routes
Extension	Non-Standard Annotation-based	Allows Custom Filters and Policy Attachments



# Bare-Metal Load Balancing

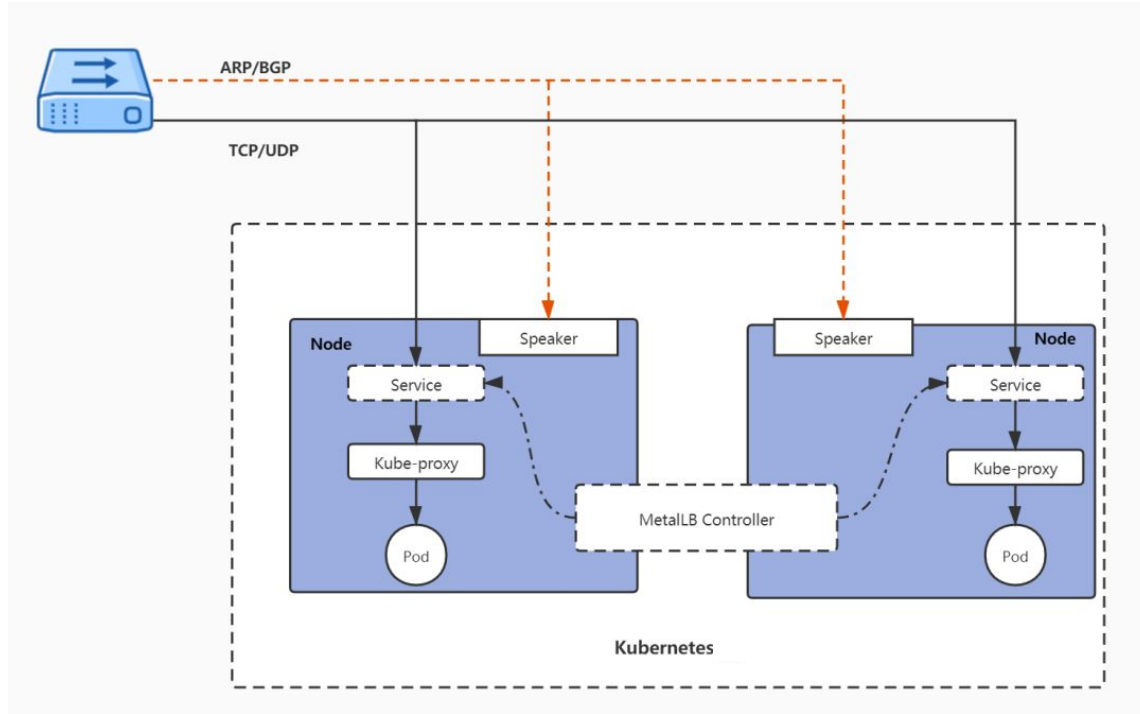


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[ZenTao](#)



**Bare-Metal Load Balancing with MetalLB**

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Feature / Aspect	Layer 2 Mode (ARP)	Layer 3 Mode (BGP)
How it Works	A single “leader” node broadcasts an ARP message on the local network, claiming a Service’s IP for its own MAC Address	Multiple nodes peer with a network router using BGP, each advertising themselves as a valid, equal-cost path to the Service IP
Traffic Path	All traffic funneled through a single leader node for a Service	Equal spread of traffic across multiple nodes
Fitment	Home lab or small scale setups	Production-grade setups needing HA
Drawback(s)	Single-Node Bottleneck and Memory/Page Size Limits	Needs BGP-capable Router and Network Configuration outside Kubernetes

**And ofcourse, alternatively, routing from F5/Cisco to NodePort also works - L7 LBs work too**



## Conclusion

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# Key Takeaways

- eBPF is the New Data Plane; kube-proxy is getting bypassed
- BGP with eBPF could give immense scale to On-Premises/Bare-Metal setups
- Gateway API is the near-term future for North-South traffic management
- Gateway API is well-suited for advanced traffic routing and multi-cluster routing
- NetworkPolicies are evolving and CNI providers are adding many L7 capabilities also to the NetworkPolicies
- Use IPsec or Wireguard for Multi-Cluster Pod-to-Pod communication
- Ingress and Mesh capabilities are getting unified by GAMMA Gateway API project
- Egress Gateways are non-negotiable for security
- Tools like Hubble can help in network observability for Cilium powered implementations



Diagram Source:  
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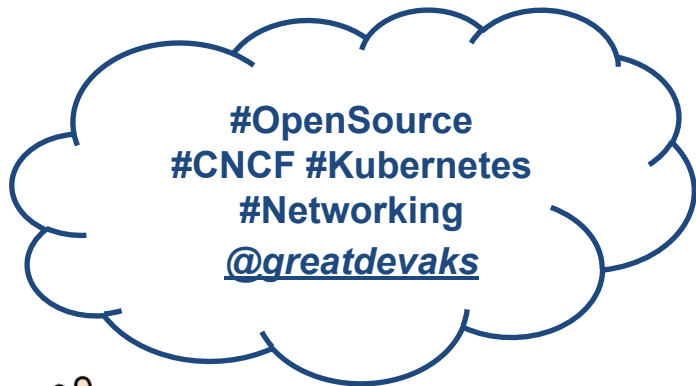
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