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Integration between argo-cd and helmfile

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on Oct 27, 2022

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# Intro

Support for `helmfile` with `argo-cd`.

`argo-cd` already supports `helm` in 2 distinct ways, why is this useful?

- It helps decouple configuration from chart development
- It's similar to using a repo type of `helm` but you can still manage configuration with `git`.
- Because I like the power afforded using `helmfile`'s features such as `environments`, `selectors`, `templates`, and being able to use `ENV` vars as conditionals **AND** values.
- <https://github.com/roboll/helmfile/blob/master/docs/writing-helmfile.md>
- <https://github.com/roboll/helmfile/blob/master/docs/shared-configuration-across-teams.md>

# Security

Please make note that `helmfile` itself allows execution of arbitrary scripts. Due to this feature, execution of arbitrary scripts are allowed by this plugin, both explicitly (see `HELMFILE_INIT_SCRIPT_FILE` env below) and implicitly.

Consider these implications for your environment and act appropriately.

- <https://github.com/roboll/helmfile#templating> ( `exec` description)
- the execution pod/context is the `argocd-repo-server`

# Installation

```

    configManagementPlugins: |
      - name: helmfile
        init:                                # Optional command to initialize
application source directory
        command: ["argo-cd-helmfile.sh"]
        args: ["init"]
      generate:                              # Command to generate manifests YAML
        command: ["argo-cd-helmfile.sh"]
        args: ["generate"]

volumes:
- name: custom-tools
  emptyDir: {}

initContainers:
- name: download-tools
  image: alpine:3.8
  command: [sh, -c]
  args:
    - wget -qO /custom-tools/argo-cd-helmfile.sh
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/travisghansen/argo-cd-
helmfile/master/src/argo-cd-helmfile.sh &&
    chmod +x /custom-tools/argo-cd-helmfile.sh &&
    wget -qO /custom-tools/helmfile
https://github.com/roboll/helmfile/releases/download/v0.138.7/helmfile_linux_amd64
&&
    chmod +x /custom-tools/helmfile
volumeMounts:
- mountPath: /custom-tools
  name: custom-tools
volumeMounts:
- mountPath: /usr/local/bin/argo-cd-helmfile.sh
  name: custom-tools
  subPath: argo-cd-helmfile.sh
- mountPath: /usr/local/bin/helmfile
  name: custom-tools
  subPath: helmfile

```

## Usage

Configure your `argo-cd` app to use a repo/directory which holds a valid `helmfile` configuration. This can be a directory which contains a `helmfile.yaml` file **OR** a `helmfile.d` directory containing any number of `*.yaml` files. You cannot have both configurations.

There are a number of specially handled ENV variables which can be set (all optional):

- HELM\_BINARY - custom path to helm binary
- HELM\_TEMPLATE\_OPTIONS - pass-through options for the templating operation helm template --help
- HELMFILE\_BINARY - custom path to helmfile binary
- HELMFILE\_USE\_CONTEXT\_NAMESPACE - do not set helmfile namespace to ARGOCD\_APP\_NAMESPACE , for use with multi-namespace apps
- HELMFILE\_GLOBAL\_OPTIONS - pass-through options for all helmfile operations helmfile -help
- HELMFILE\_TEMPLATE\_OPTIONS - pass-through options for the templating operation helmfile template --help
- HELMFILE\_INIT\_SCRIPT\_FILE - path to script to execute during init phase
- HELMFILE\_HELMFILE - a complete helmfile.yaml content
- HELMFILE\_HELMFILE\_STRATEGY - one of REPLACE or INCLUDE
  - REPLACE - the default option, only the content of HELMFILE\_HELMFILE is rendered, if any valid files exist in the repo they are ignored
  - INCLUDE - any valid files in the repo **AND** the content of HELMFILE\_HELMFILE are rendered, precedence is given to HELMFILE\_HELMFILE should the same release name be declared in multiple files
- HELMFILE\_CACHE\_CLEANUP - run helmfile cache cleanup on init

Of the above ENV variables, the following do variable expansion on the value:

- HELMFILE\_GLOBAL\_OPTIONS
- HELMFILE\_TEMPLATE\_OPTIONS
- HELM\_TEMPLATE\_OPTIONS
- HELMFILE\_INIT\_SCRIPT\_FILE
- HELM\_DATA\_HOME

Meaning, you can do things like:

- HELMFILE\_GLOBAL\_OPTIONS="--environment \${ARGOCD\_APP\_NAME} --selector cluster=\${CLUSTER\_ID}"

Any of the standard Build Environment variables can be used as well as variables declared in the application spec.

- <https://argoproj.github.io/argo-cd/user-guide/config-management-plugins/#environment>
- <https://argoproj.github.io/argo-cd/user-guide/build-environment/>

## Helm Plugins

To use the various helm plugins the recommended approach is to install the plugins using the `helm initContainers` (explicitly set the `HELM_DATA_HOME` env var during the `helm plugin add` command) and simply set the `HELM_DATA_HOME` environment variable in your application spec (or globally in the pod). This prevents the plugin(s) from being downloaded over and over each run.

```
# repo server deployment
volumes:
  ...
  - name: helm-data-home
    emptyDir: {}

# repo-server container
volumeMounts:
  ...
  - mountPath: /home/argocd/.local/share/helm
    name: helm-data-home

# init container
volumeMounts:
  ...
  - mountPath: /helm/data
    name: helm-data-home

[[ ! -d "${HELM_DATA_HOME}/plugins/helm-secrets" ]] && /custom-tools/helm-v3
plugin install https://github.com/jkroepke/helm-secrets --version
${HELM_SECRETS_VERSION}
chown -R 999:999 "${HELM_DATA_HOME}"

# lastly, in your app definition
...
plugin:
  env:
    - name: HELM_DATA_HOME
      value: /home/argocd/.local/share/helm
```

If the above is not possible/desired, the recommended approach would be to use `HELMFILE_INIT_SCRIPT_FILE` to execute an arbitrary script during the `init` phase. Within the script it's desirable to run `helm plugin list` and only install the plugin only if it's not already installed.

## Custom Init

You can use the `HELMFILE_INIT_SCRIPT_FILE` feature to do any kind of *init* logic required including installing helm plugins, downloading external files, etc. The value can be a relative or absolute path and the file itself can be injected using an `initContainers` or stored in the application git repository.

# Development

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```
# format before commit
shfmt -i 2 -ci -w src/argo-cd-helmfile.sh
```

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## Releases

 2 tags

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## Packages

No packages published


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## Contributors 4

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## Languages

 **Shell** 100.0%