

Hashicorp Vault Installation on Azure Kubernetes Services

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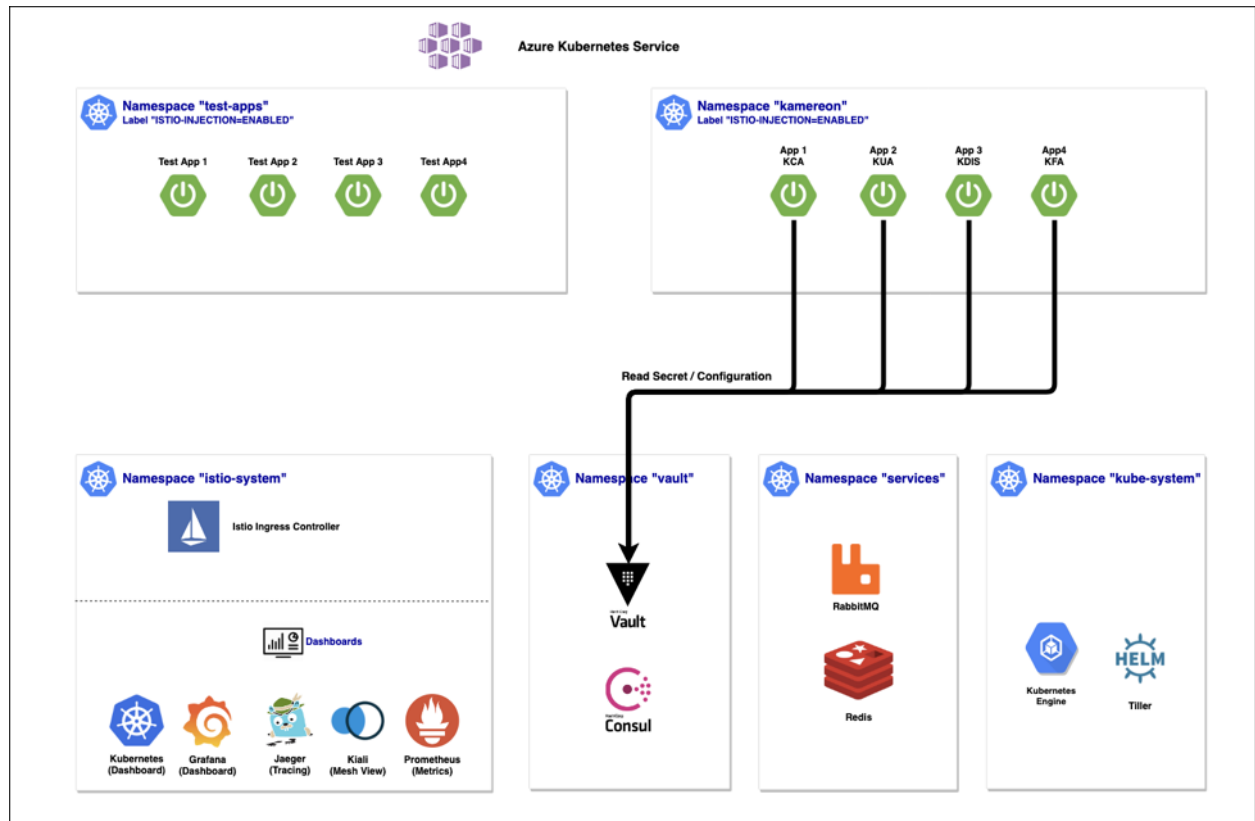
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1. Changes

Date	Version	Author	Changes
01/08/2019	1.0	Hichem BOUSSETTA	Initial version - Vault installation and basic setup and policy definition - Vault HA - Vault auto-unseal with Azure
09/08/2019	1.1	Hichem BOUSSETTA	- Integration with Spring Cloud Vault - Use of Kubernetes auth method in Vault
14/08/2019	1.2	Hichem BOUSSETTA	- Service account role configuration - Comparison between Vault / Kubernetes Secrets from client perspective
05/11/2019	1.3	Hichem BOUSSETTA	Added Vault OIDC Configuration

2. Overview

In this document, we will install a Consul-backed Hashicorp Vault Server on Kubernetes and configure it to store the secrets and credentials of applications.



After installation and creation of root account, vault must be configured with admin and provisioner policies.

<https://www.hashicorp.com/resources/policies-vault>

- **root** sets up initial policies for admin
- **admin** is empowered with managing a Vault infrastructure for a team or organizations
- **provisioner** configures secret backends and creates policies for client apps

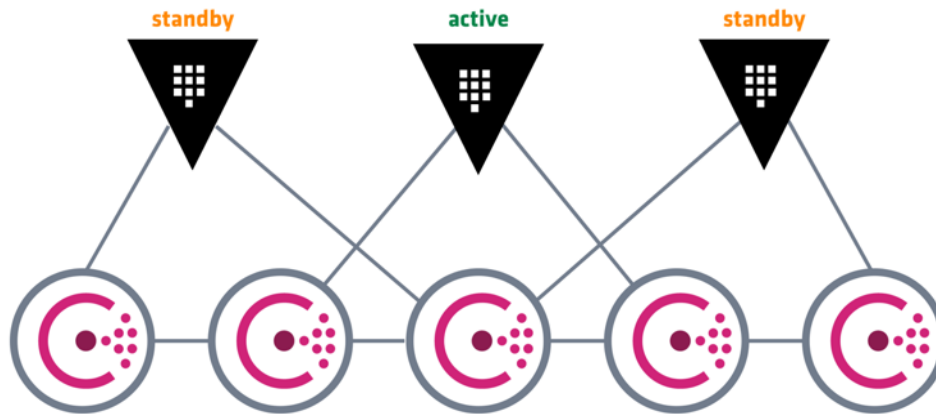
The document will also cover how to auto-unseal the Vault cluster on a Azure Kubernetes Service by relying on the native cloud vault support.

Microsoft Recommendations regarding using Hashicorp Vault with AKS can be referred to from the following location:

<https://azure.microsoft.com/fr-fr/resources/videos/azure-friday-using-hashicorp-vault-with-azure-kubernetes-service-aks/>

3. Installation & Configuration

This paragraph describes a standard Hashicorp Vault installation on a Kubernetes cluster. The installation will rely on helm installer and official vault and consul helm charts. Vault can be installed with different storage backends. The one that is used here is Consul as explained in the graphics below:



- Vault and Consul are installed in high availability mode
 - Each Consul pod will have its own dedicated persistent volume storage
- Vault pods will be installed in master / slave configuration

3.1. Installation

- Install Consul

```
helm install --name consul stable/consul
```

- Install Vault (Vault helm repo to be added beforehand)

```
helm repo add incubator http://storage.googleapis.com/kubernetes-charts-incubator  
  
helm install incubator/vault --set vault.dev=false --set  
vault.config.storage.consul.address="consul:8500",vault.config.storage.consul.path=  
"vault"
```

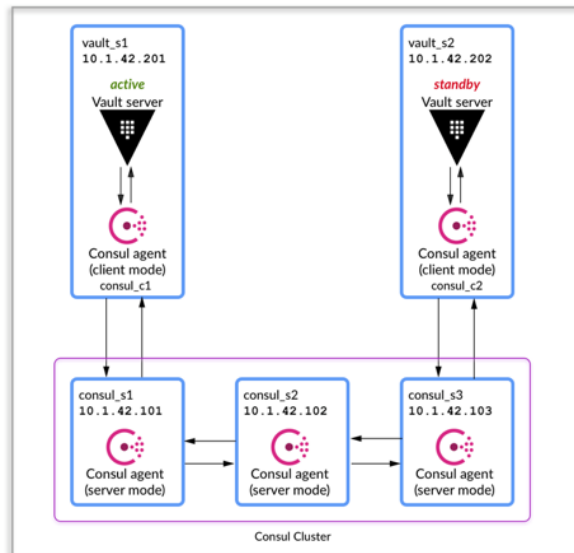
Github page

<https://github.com/helm/charts/tree/master/incubator/vault>

3.2. Highly Available Vault Installation

The reference Diagram for HA installation of Vault / Consul is described at the following link:

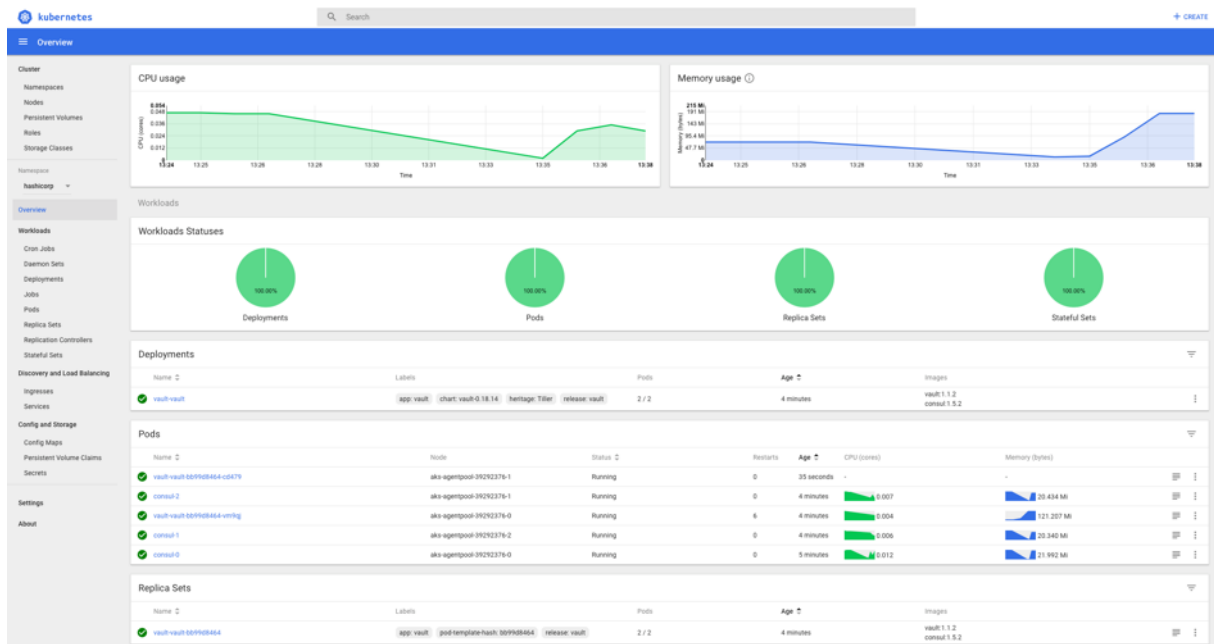
<https://learn.hashicorp.com/vault/operations/ops-vault-ha-consul>



In this installation:

- Vault does not communicate directly with Consul but with a local Consul Agent in the same pod
- The Local Consul Agent communicate with the Consul server and are responsible of registering health checks, service discovery and cluster HA failover coordination

3.3. Vault / Consul on Kubernetes Dashboard

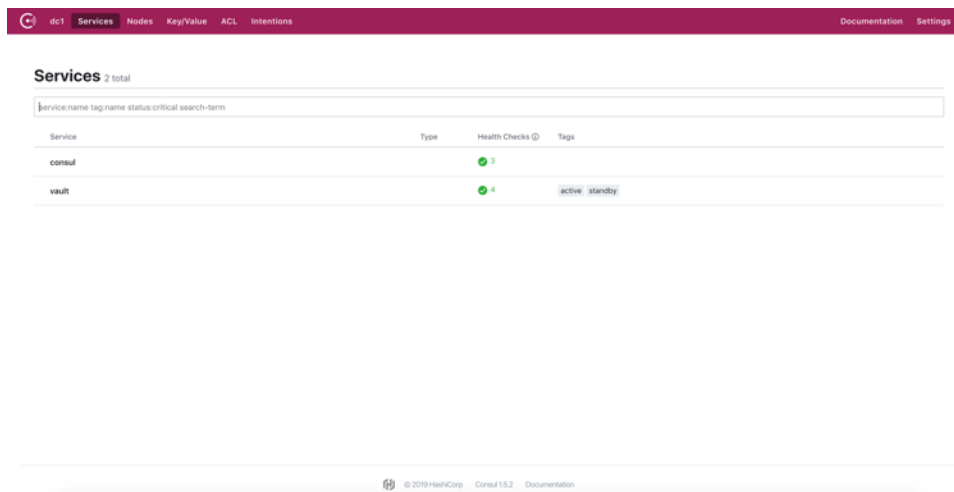


3.4. Check Vault Status in Consul Dashboard

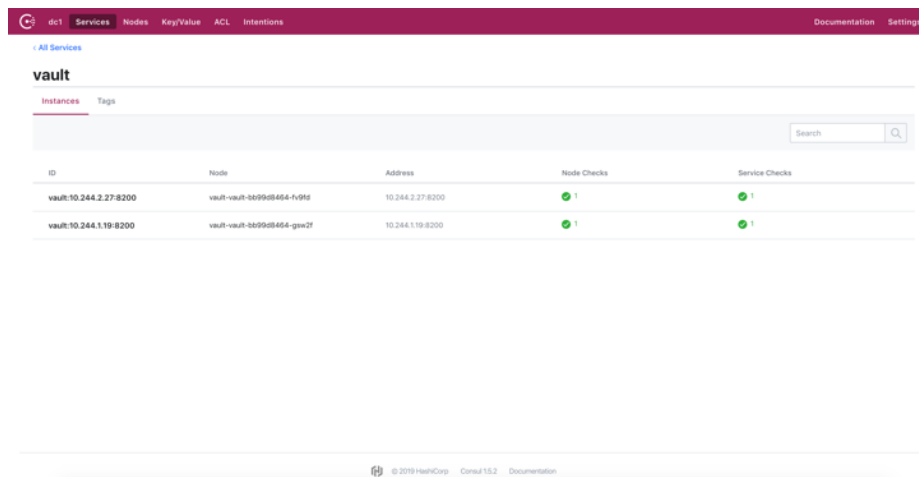
- Enable local port forwarding to a consul pod:

```
$ kubectl -n hashicorp port-forward consul-0 8500:8500
```

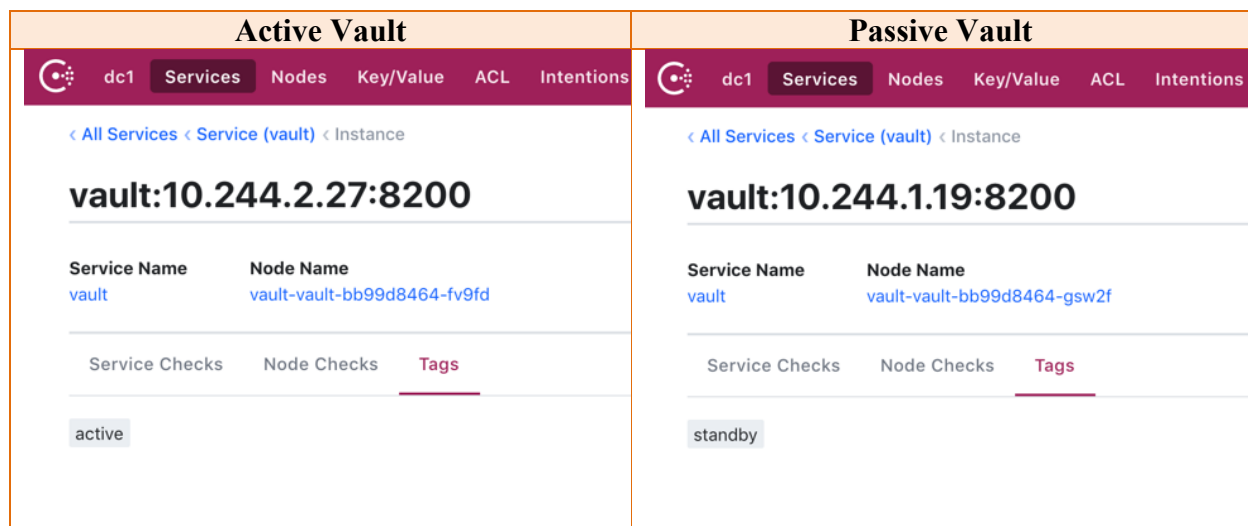
- Open URL in browser: <http://localhost:8500/ui>



- Click on Vault to check its status: 2 nodes in active state can be seen



- Click on each node and take a look at its tag attributes:
 - One node is in **active** mode
 - One node is in **standby** mode (passive)



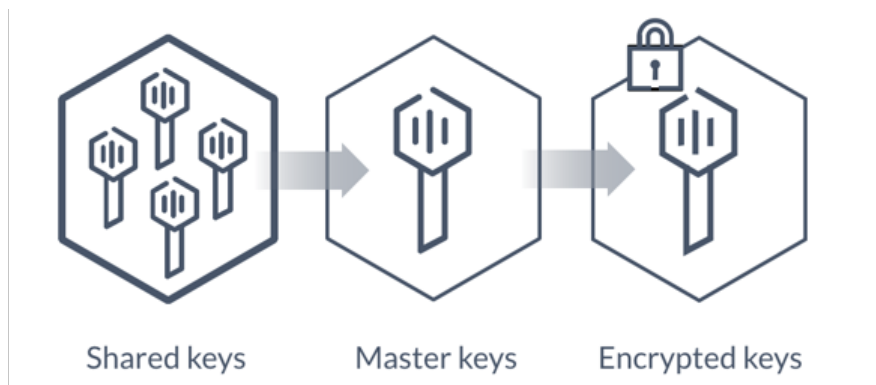
4. Vault Initialization

Vault initialization consists of the following steps:

- Create Vault Master Key and split it into shares to be hold by operators (custodians)
- Unseal Vault
- Create Admin Policy
- Create Provisioner Policy

4.1. Unseal Vault Manually

Vault is configured by default to use Shamir's Secret Sharing to split the master encryption key into shards. A certain threshold of shards is required to reconstruct the master key and unseal Vault data. The shards are added one at a time (in any order) until enough are present to reconstruct the master key and decrypt the data.



- Install vault client binary from official hashicorp page
- Enable port-forwarding between the vault agent running on kubernetes and your local machine

```
$ kubectl port-forward $(kubectl get pod -l app=vault-vault -o  
jsonpath='{.items[0].metadata.name}') 8200:8200
```

If vault is installed in a dedicated namespace named **hashicorp** within kubernetes, then call the aforementioned command with **-n** option to indicate the namespace

```
$ kubectl -n hashicorp port-forward $(kubectl -n hashicorp get pod -l app=vault -o  
jsonpath='{.items[0].metadata.name}') 8200:8200
```

Set the following environment variables to be used by vault client locally

```
$ export VAULT_ADDR=http://localhost:8200  
$ export VAULT_SKIP_VERIFY=true
```

Initialize the vault cluster by running this command (we don't split the key to make the example easier).

```
$ vault operator init -key-shares=1 -key-threshold=1
```

```
Unseal Key 1: DhzoEw3uKbiyXFmqRiIO7cz8goZp9LbPM2QXVS1wUos=  
Initial Root Token: s.4jYP6KL1T7lyrnIzbIsjP61g
```

Vault initialized with 1 key shares and a key threshold of 1. Please securely distribute the key shares printed above. When the Vault is re-sealed, restarted, or stopped, you must supply at least 1 of these keys to unseal it before it can start servicing requests. Vault does not store the generated master key. Without at least 1 key to reconstruct the master key, Vault will remain permanently sealed! It is possible to generate new unseal keys, provided you have a quorum of existing unseal keys shares. See "vault operator rekey" for more information.

Unseal the vault cluster using the generated unseal key

```
$ vault operator unseal  
  
Unseal Key (will be hidden):  
Handling connection for 8200  
Key          Value  
---          -  
Seal Type    shamir  
Initialized   true  
Sealed       false  
Total Shares 1  
Threshold    1  
Version      1.1.2  
Cluster Name vault-cluster-32099219  
Cluster ID   5ad76e1b-0ef3-8e97-bcbd-cd67d199b559  
HA Enabled   true  
HA Cluster   https://10.244.1.26:8201  
HA Mode      active
```

4.2. Create Vault Policies

4.2.1. Login with Root Token

Authenticate to vault using the root token

```
$ vault login <your-generated-root-token>  
  
Success! You are now authenticated. The token information displayed below  
is already stored in the token helper. You do NOT need to run "vault login"  
again. Future Vault requests will automatically use this token.  
  
Key          Value  
---          -  
token        s.4jYP6KL1T7lyrnIzbIsjP61g  
token_accessor G7E9m9Y1tqEZXC42d14c2S6a  
token_duration ∞  
token_renewable false  
token_policies ["root"]  
identity_policies []  
policies       ["root"]
```

4.2.2. Create Admin Policy

Create admin policy file admin-policy.hcl. Example hereafter:

```
# Manage auth methods broadly across Vault  
path "auth/*"  
{  
  capabilities = ["create", "read", "update", "delete", "list", "sudo"]  
}  
  
# Create, update, and delete auth methods  
path "sys/auth/*"  
{  
  capabilities = ["create", "update", "delete", "sudo"]  
}
```

```
# List auth methods
path "sys/auth"
{
  capabilities = ["read"]
}

# List existing policies
path "sys/policies/acl"
{
  capabilities = ["read"]
}

# Create and manage ACL policies
path "sys/policies/acl/*"
{
  capabilities = ["create", "read", "update", "delete", "list", "sudo"]
}

# List, create, update, and delete key/value secrets
path "secret/*"
{
  capabilities = ["create", "read", "update", "delete", "list", "sudo"]
}

# Manage secret engines
path "sys/mounts/*"
{
  capabilities = ["create", "read", "update", "delete", "list", "sudo"]
}

# List existing secret engines.
path "sys/mounts"
{
  capabilities = ["read"]
}

# Read health checks
path "sys/health"
{
  capabilities = ["read", "sudo"]
}
```

Create admin policy by running the following command

```
$ vault policy write admin admin-policy.hcl
```

4.2.3. Create Provisioner Policy

Create provisioner policy HCL file provisioner-policy.hcl. Example:

```
# Manage auth methods broadly across Vault
path "auth/*"
{
  capabilities = ["create", "read", "update", "delete", "list", "sudo"]
}

# Create, update, and delete auth methods
path "sys/auth/*"
{
  capabilities = ["create", "update", "delete", "sudo"]
}

# List auth methods
path "sys/auth"
{
  capabilities = ["read"]
}

# List existing policies
path "sys/policies/acl"
{

```

```
capabilities = ["read"]
}

# Create and manage ACL policies via API & UI
path "sys/policies/acl/*"
{
  capabilities = ["create", "read", "update", "delete", "list", "sudo"]
}

# List, create, update, and delete key/value secrets
path "secret/*"
{
  capabilities = ["create", "read", "update", "delete", "list"]
}
```

Create provisioner policy

```
$ vault policy write provisioner provisioner-policy.hcl
```

4.2.4. List Policies

Run the following command to list policies

```
$ vault policy list

admin
default
provisioner
root
```

4.2.5. Enable KV Secret Engine

Get a token for admin policy

```
vault token create -policy=admin

Key          Value
---          -
token        s.HDoPEp5aKJs7HsdcLB46xy1Z
token_accessor etUitQFBLxdGwbiisOgETLiB
token_duration 768h
token_renewable true
token_policies ["admin" "default"]
identity_policies []
policies       ["admin" "default"]
```

Login with admin token

```
vault login s.OQInhur8aVH7r6RRk814RZxP

Success! You are now authenticated. The token information displayed below
is already stored in the token helper. You do NOT need to run "vault login"
again. Future Vault requests will automatically use this token.

Key          Value
---          -
token        s.HDoPEp5aKJs7HsdcLB46xy1Z
token_accessor etUitQFBLxdGwbiisOgETLiB
token_duration 767h59m53s
token_renewable true
token_policies ["admin" "default"]
identity_policies []
policies       ["admin" "default"]
```

Enable kv secret engine for path secret

```
$ vault secrets enable -path=secret kv
```

4.3. Write / Read Secrets

Connect with provisioner token as it is the one responsible for creating secrets

```
$ vault token create -policy=provisioner
```

Key	Value
token	s.bKpKQG0ajvaw7yalLaVynosRo
token_accessor	wbhRSxOFL8l8YcS06r3C0UvU
token_duration	768h
token_renewable	true
token_policies	["default" "provisioner"]
identity_policies	[]
policies	["default" "provisioner"]

```
$ vault login s.bKpKQG0ajvaw7yalLaVynosRo
```

Write a secret to vault. Let's name it car because it contains the parameters of car app. 2 commands can be used in order to write the secret

```
$ vault write secret/car var1=1 var2=2 var3=3
or
$ vault kv put secret/car var1=1 var2=2 var3=3
```

```
Success! Data written to: secret/car
```

Read the data from the secret

```
$ vault read secret/car
or
$ vault kv get secret/car
```

```
==== Data ====
Key      Value
---      -
var1     1
var2     2
var3     3
```

5. Auto-Unseal using Azure Key Vault

Unsealing Vault manually as we have seen in the previous paragraph required manual intervention of security teams or admins. In production environment, it is mandatory to make sure this procedure is done automatically. Here comes the auto-unseal feature of Vault.

Starting from Vault 1.0, Hashicorp has open sourced the auto-unseal feature that previously required Vault Enterprise Pro. It is possible now to opt-in for automatic unsealing via your trusted cloud provider (for example Azure).

Source:

<https://www.hashicorp.com/blog/vault-learning-resources-auto-unseal-agent-kubernetes>

Auto-Unseal using Azure Key Vault:

<https://learn.hashicorp.com/vault/operations/autounseal-azure-keyvault>

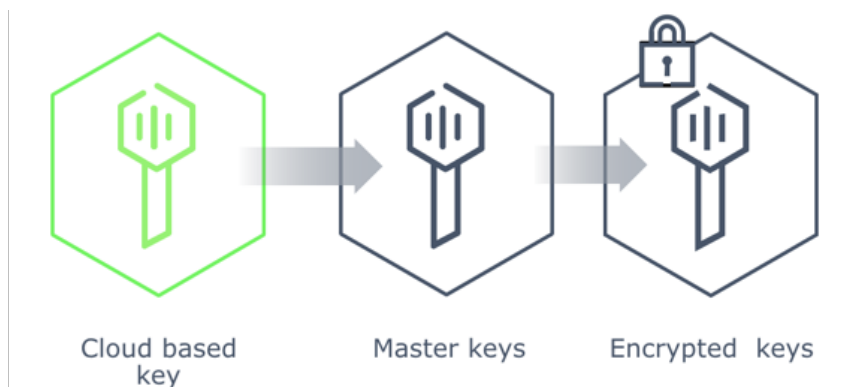
In this paragraph, we explain how to configure Vault Auto-Unseal feature based on Azure Vault.

5.1. Auto-Unseal Principle

Auto unseal was developed to aid in reducing the operational complexity of unsealing Vault while keeping the master key secure. This feature delegates the responsibility of securing the master key from *operators* to a trusted *device* or *service*.

Instead of only constructing the key in memory, **the master key is encrypted with a cloud-based Key Management System (KMS) or an on-premises Hardware Security Module (HSM) and then stored in the storage backend allowing Vault to decrypt the master key at startup and unseal automatically.**

→ This eliminates the need for multiple operators or agents to provide parts of the shared key in either a manual or custom-built automated process.



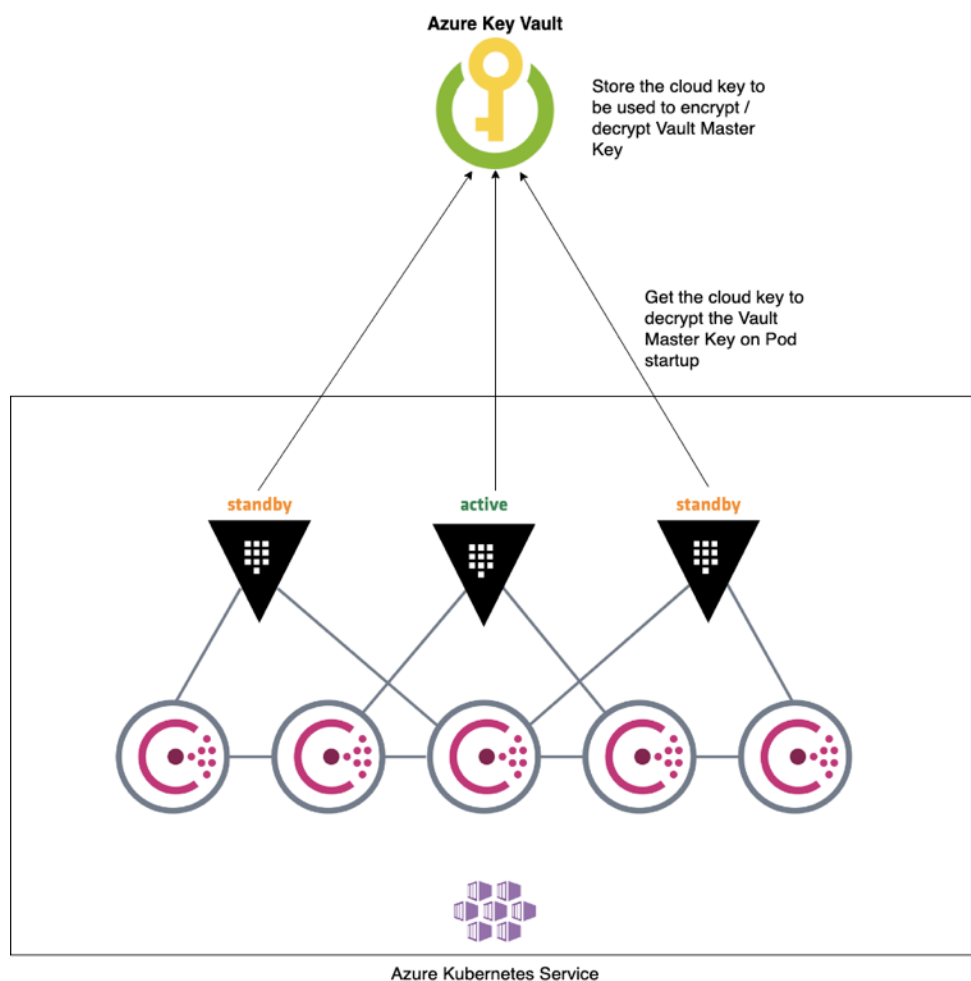
Auto unseal using a cloud-based KMS is available in the open source version as of Vault 1.0. **Auto unseal with a HSM remains a Vault Enterprise feature.**

When using auto unseal, there are certain operations in Vault that still require a quorum of users to perform, such as generating a root token. During the initialization process a set of Shamir keys are generated that are called *Recovery Keys* and are used for these operations.

Source:

<https://www.hashicorp.com/blog/enabling-cloud-based-auto-unseal-in-vault-open-source>

5.2. Vault Cluster Topology



- Azure Key Vault stores the encryption **Cloud Key** used to encrypt **Vault Master Key**
- **Cloud Key** is created using Azure CLI or Terraform (example is provided afterwards)
- **Vault Master Key** is generated during Vault installation and stored encrypted on Vault backend (Consul)
- Each Vault Pod requests the **Cloud Key** on startup, and use it to decrypt the **Master Key**, and then decrypt the data encrypted in Vault backend.

5.3. Create Azure Key Vault & Cloud Key

We will use **Terraform** tool in order to provision and Azure Key Vault and create a Cloud Key that will be used in order to encrypt Vault Master Key. Below is the terraform script:

5.3.1. Setup Azure Key Vault

```
resource "random_id" "keyvault" {
  byte_length = 4
}

resource "azurerm_key_vault" "vault" {
  name                        = "vault-${random_id.keyvault.hex}"
  location                  = "${var.location}"
  resource_group_name       = "${azurerm_resource_group.k8s.name}"
  enabled_for_deployment    = true
  enabled_for_disk_encryption = true
  tenant_id                 = "${var.tenant_id}"

  sku_name = "standard"

  tags = {
    environment = "${var.environment}"
  }

  access_policy {
    tenant_id = "${var.tenant_id}"

    object_id = "${var.sp_object_id}"
    #object_id = "${data.azurerm_client_config.current.service_principal_object_id}"

    key_permissions = [
      "get",
      "list",
      "create",
      "delete",
      "update",
      "wrapKey",
      "unwrapKey",
    ]
  }

  network_acls {
    default_action = "Allow"
    bypass        = "AzureServices"
  }
}
```

5.3.2. Setup Cloud Key

```
resource "azurerm_key_vault_key" "generated" {
  name           = "${var.az_vault_key_name}"
  key_vault_id = "${azurerm_key_vault.vault.id}"
  key_type      = "RSA"
  key_size      = 2048

  key_opts = [
    "decrypt",
    "encrypt",
    "sign",
    "unwrapKey",
    "verify",
    "wrapKey",
  ]
}
```


5.4. Use HSM for Storing Cloud Key

The use of HSM for storing the Cloud Key requires **Hashicorp Vault Enterprise**. The open source version of Hashicorp Vault cannot be used with HSM.

<https://www.vaultproject.io/docs/enterprise/hsm/index.html>

5.5. Install Hashicorp Vault with Azure Key Vault Options

We use Terraform & Helm Provider to install Consul backend and Vault.

5.5.1. Install Consul Server

Nothing changes regarding Consul installation.

```
resource "random_string" "consul-gossip-password" {
  length = 16
  special = true
}

#Install Consul
resource "helm_release" "consul" {

  name      = "consul"
  chart     = "stable/consul"
  namespace = "${kubernetes_namespace.hashicorp.metadata.0.name}"

  timeout   = 300

  set {
    name = "image.pullPolicy"
    value = "Always"
  }
  set {
    name = "replicaCount"
    value = 1
  }
  set {
    name = "GossipKey"
    value = "${random_string.consul-gossip-password.result}"
  }

  depends_on=["local_file.kube_config"]
}
```

5.5.2. Install Vault Server

We add the following options to instruct vault to use azure key vault auto-unseal feature:

Option	Description
<code>vault.config.seal.azurekeyvault.tenant_id</code>	Azure Subscription Tenant ID
<code>vault.config.seal.azurekeyvault.client_id</code>	Azure App ID (SP ID)
<code>vault.config.seal.azurekeyvault.client_secret</code>	Azure App Secret (SP Secret)
<code>vault.config.seal.azurekeyvault.vault_name</code>	Azure Key Vault Name
<code>vault.config.seal.azurekeyvault.key_name</code>	Azure Key (Cloud Key) to be used to encrypt Vault Master Key

→ how vault stores azure service principal credentials?

```
resource "helm_release" "vault" {
```

```

name      = "vault"
chart     = "incubator/vault"
repository = "${data.helm_repository.incubator.metadata.0.name}"
namespace = "${kubernetes_namespace.hashicorp.metadata.0.name}"
version   = "0.18.14"
timeout   = 300

set {
  name = "image.pullPolicy"
  value = "Always"
}
set {
  name = "replicaCount"
  value = 1
}
set {
  name = "vault.dev"
  value = false
}
set {
  name = "vault.config.storage.consul.address"
  #value = "consul:8500"
  value = "127.0.0.1:8500"
}
set {
  name = "vault.config.storage.consul.path"
  value = "vault"
}
set {
  name = "consulAgent.join"
  value = "consul"
}
set {
  name = "consulAgent.gossipKeySecretName"
  value = "consul-gossip-key"
}
set {
  name = "consulAgent.tag"
  value = "1.5.2"
}
set {
  name = "vault.config.storage.consul.scheme"
  value = "http"
}

## Enable auto-unseal using Azure Key Vault
set {
  name = "vault.config.seal.azurekeyvault.tenant_id"
  value = "${var.tenant_id}"
}
set {
  name = "vault.config.seal.azurekeyvault.client_id"
  value = "${var.client_id}"
}
set {
  name = "vault.config.seal.azurekeyvault.client_secret"
  value = "${var.client_secret}"
}
set {
  name = "vault.config.seal.azurekeyvault.vault_name"
  value = "${azurerm_key_vault.vault.name}"
}
set {
  name = "vault.config.seal.azurekeyvault.key_name"
  value = "${var.az_vault_key_name}"
}
# Enable Vault UI in production
set {
  name = "vault.config.ui"
  value = true
}
set {
  name = "vault.config.listener.tcp.tls_disable"
  value = 1
}

depends_on=["helm_release.vault"]

```

```
}
```

5.6. Initialize Auto-Unsealed Vault

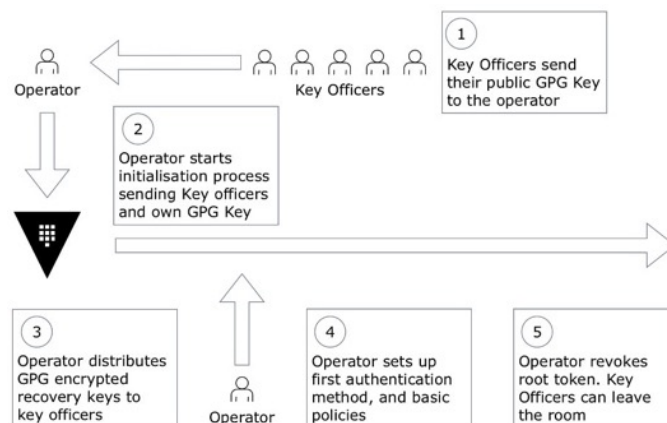
5.6.1. Initialization Ceremony

Refer to the following documentation:

<https://www.hashicorp.com/resources/adopting-hashicorp-vault>

While the auto-unseal process is automated using the provider's (azure) KMS system (key vault and cloud key), the initialization of Vault is **a manual process and requires the presence of key holders**. This process must be executed as follows:

1. The Operator starts the Vault daemon and the initialization process, providing the public GPG keys from the Keyholders, and the Operators own public GPG key for the root token.
2. Vault will return the GPG encrypted recovery keys, which should be distributed among the keyholders.
3. The operator uses the root token for loading the initial policy and configuring the first authentication backend, traditionally Active Directory or LDAP, as well as the Audit backend.
4. The operator validates they can log into Vault with their directory account, and can add further policy.
5. The operator revokes the root token. The Keyholders can now leave the room with the assurance that no one person has full and unaudited access to Vault.



5.6.2. Initialize Auto-Unsealed Vault using Command Line

Vault requires a first initialization operation that returns the following:

- Recovery Key Shares
- Initial Root Token

Hereafter the steps required in order to initialize Vault:

Create port forwarding from your local machine to vault pod:

```
$ kubectl -n hashicorp port-forward $(kubectl -n hashicorp get pod -l app=vault -o jsonpath='{.items[0].metadata.name}') 8200:8200
```

Export required environment variables:

```
$ export VAULT_ADDR=http://localhost:8200
$ export VAULT_SKIP_VERIFY=true
```

Run the vault status command to get the status of vault server. The command would return the following output (note the recovery seal type **azurekeyvault**)

```
$ vault status

Key                Value
---                -
Recovery Seal Type  azurekeyvault
Initialized         false
Sealed              true
Total Recovery Shares 0
Threshold           0
Unseal Progress     0/0
Unseal Nonce        n/a
Version             n/a
HA Enabled          true
```

Run the init command with number of key shares and threshold (we choose 5 key shares which means the master key will be split in 5 shares, and we choose 3 as threshold which means 3 shares are enough to recover the master key).

```
$ vault operator init -key-shares=5 -key-threshold=3

Recovery Key 1: 1Q6JWdYAbrcH5rxflQTP61092irVbDEOXqYP88sju0MV
Recovery Key 2: N91y3LiP5n+adQNYnt2jh/utz4u/RFHRLWo79kWxkMGj
Recovery Key 3: yzadGVdmMPldF5cObkq/V4e58ObZtEY2nqkIiplgFkO4
Recovery Key 4: mHMUlh8aIBeheYK/e22EqVITvJyTM6C1HoCx/jmkVStD
Recovery Key 5: stiXLIc6vrJHhDCII3rZZyomP0Jpj1llzqNQn2mEnCnHy

Initial Root Token: s.S2A1q9R9N4f3JAXLrpwAteDo

Success! Vault is initialized

Recovery key initialized with 5 key shares and a key threshold of 3. Please
securely distribute the key shares printed above.
```

The Initial Root Token can then be used to provision the ACLs as in paragraph 4.2.

→ Refer to documentation for more initialization options and encryption of recovery keys and root token using PGP:

<https://www.vaultproject.io/docs/commands/operator/init.html>

5.6.3. Initialize & Configure Auto-Unsealed Vault using Web UI

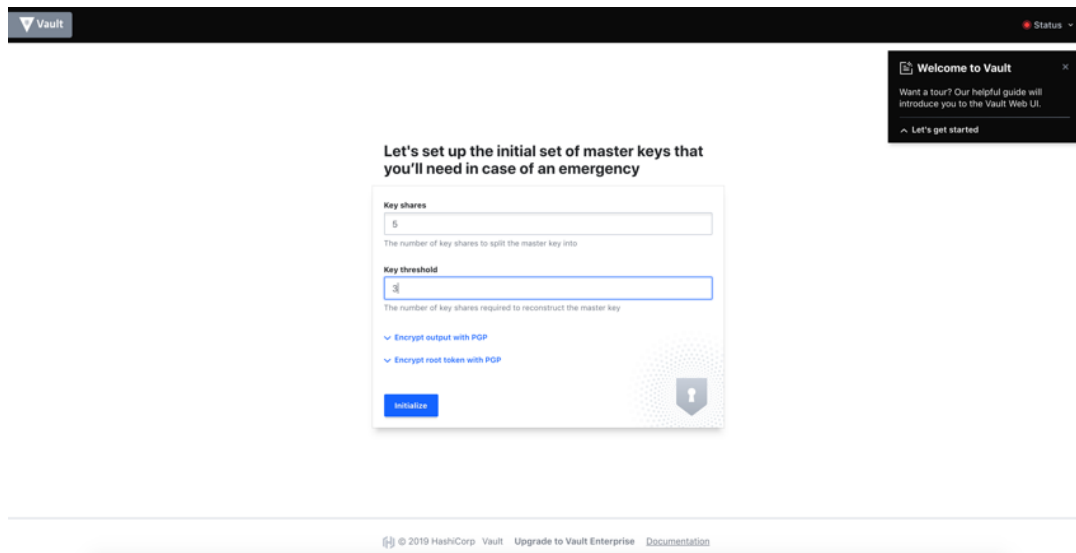
Enable port forwarding to vault's pods using **kubectl port-forward** command and define required environment variables:

```
$ kubectl -n hashicorp port-forward $(kubectl -n hashicorp get pod -l app=vault -
o jsonpath='{.items[0].metadata.name}') 8200:8200

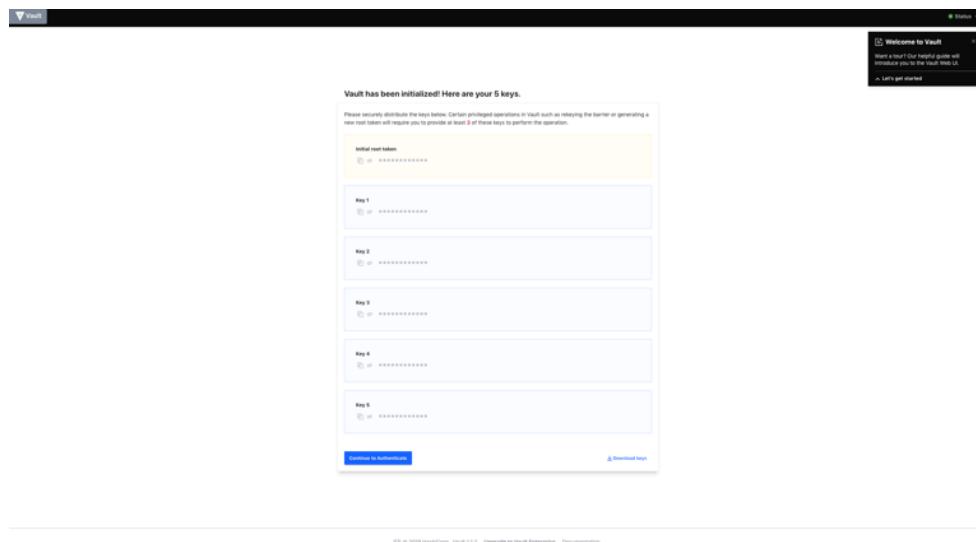
$ export VAULT_ADDR=http://localhost:8200
$ export VAULT_SKIP_VERIFY=true
```

Open the following URL in browser: <http://localhost:8200/ui/>

Notice that vault status is red (uninitialized) and you are invited to initialize vault.

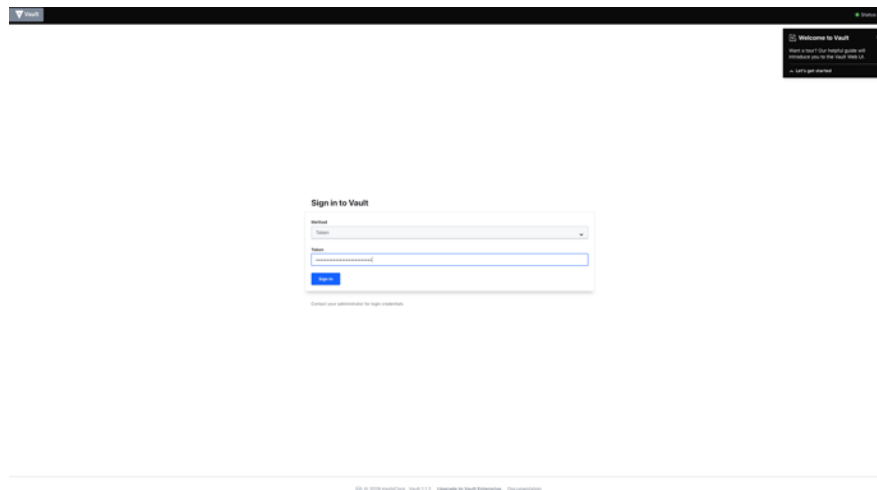


Specify the number of key shares and threshold as before (5 shares and threshold 3) and press the initialize button.



Note that vault is now initialized, and status is in green (picture below)

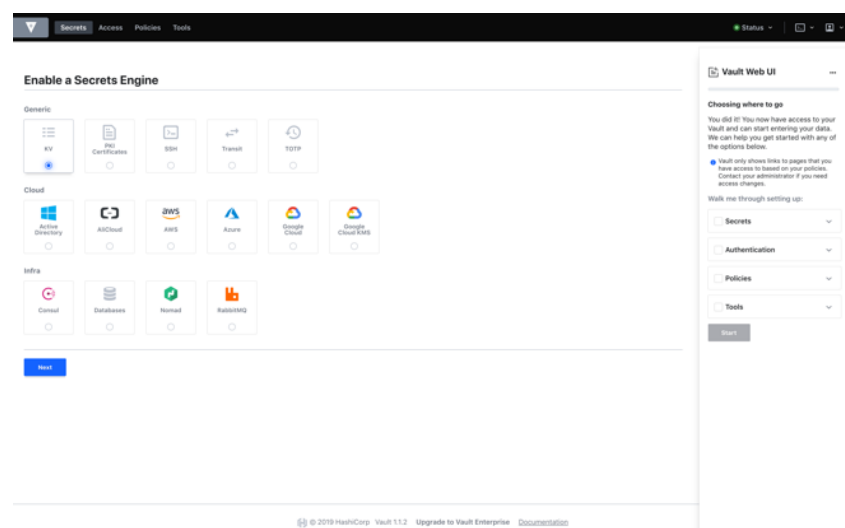
- Download the recovery key shares and save them to a secure place
- Make the initial root token visible and use it to authenticate the first time and configure vault



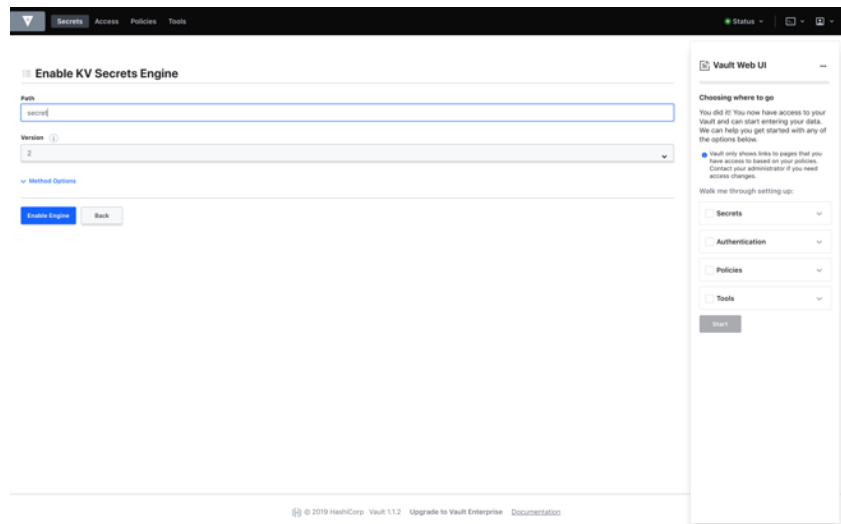
Once we are authenticated, we are presented with the enabled secret engines. Press **Enable new engine** link to enable the KV secret engine that we are going to use to store application secrets.



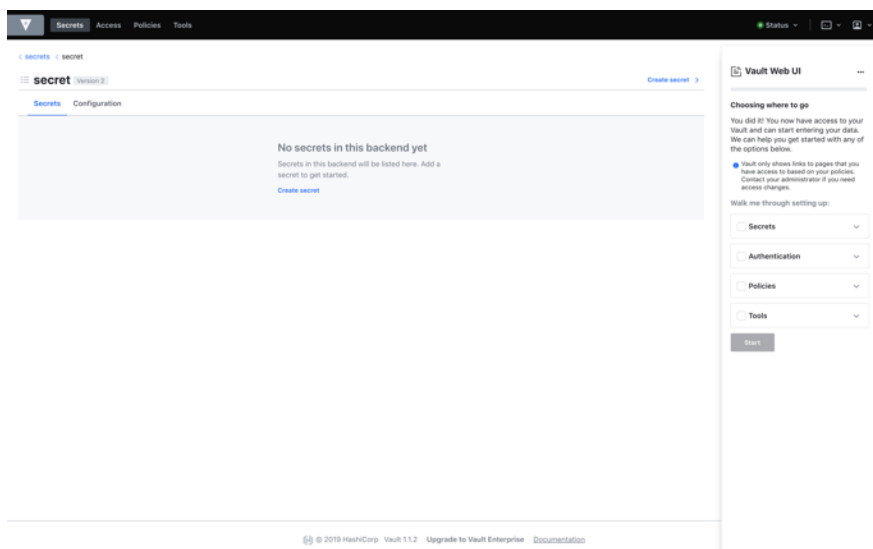
Select the KV engine and then press Next



Name the path of the KV engine “**secret**” as we did in the command line and then press **Enable Engine**



The secret KV engine is now created and we can create secrets for applications



Create a secret named **car** for our **car** application and create 2 properties in this secret:

- spring.rabbitmq.username
- spring.rabbitmq.password

Set the maximum number of versions to 1 to have only one version of this secret, and then hit the **Save** button to save the new Secret.

secret

Create secret

JSON

Path for this secret

car

Secret metadata

Maximum Number of Versions

1

☐ Require Check and Set ⓘ

Version data

spring.rabbitmq.username	*****		
spring.rabbitmq.password	*****		
key	value		Add

Save Cancel

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The secret with path **secret/car** is now created

secret / car

car

Delete secret >

JSON Copy secret Create new version Version 1 > History >

KEY	VALUE
spring.rabbitmq.password	*****
spring.rabbitmq.username	*****

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5.7. Vault Root Token Recovery

Refer to this link:

<https://www.vaultproject.io/docs/commands/operator/generate-root.html>

6. Vault Production Hardening

Hashicorp Vault production hardening recommendations can be found here:

<https://www.vaultproject.io/guides/operations/production>

7. Vault Spring Boot Integration

Spring has Spring Cloud Vault framework that facilitates Vault integration into Spring Boot applications.

Vault API Reference can be found at this link:

<https://cloud.spring.io/spring-cloud-vault/reference/html/>

7.1. Application Dependencies

Update the **pom.xml** file with the following dependency in order to enable Spring Cloud Vault Secret Management.

```
<!-- Spring Cloud Vault -->
<dependency>
  <groupId>org.springframework.cloud</groupId>
  <artifactId>spring-cloud-starter-vault-config</artifactId>
  <version>2.1.2.RELEASE</version>
</dependency>
```

7.2. Spring Cloud Vault Configuration

Spring Cloud Vault must be enabled / configured in **bootstrap.properties** file so that Spring Boot can use it to load its configuration. This file must provide Spring Boot app with the following information:

- Vault URI
- Vault Authentication Method
- Scheme (http / https)
- Information required to authenticate with Vault

This is an example **bootstrap.properties** configuration file that uses Vault Token Authentication method.

```
# Application Name
spring.application.name=car

# Vault Parameters
spring.cloud.vault.enabled = true
spring.cloud.vault.uri=http://localhost:8200
spring.cloud.vault.token=s.RUV2kChBNXwXwcwV61nNdnXM
spring.cloud.vault.scheme=http
spring.cloud.vault.kv.enabled=true
```

7.3. Application K/V Secrets Store in Vault

Spring Cloud Vault allows Spring Boot Application to load its secrets from a K/V store that has the same name of the application.

For example, my **car** application will load its secrets from **secret/car** secret store.

The application name must be specified using **spring.application.name** property in **application.properties** file.

7.4. Access Vault K/V Secrets from Spring Boot App

Secrets are stored in Vault as Key / Value pairs. These K/V secrets can be retrieved like any other application setting stored in **application.properties**. As an example, load AMQP connection credentials from Vault:

```
@Value("${spring.rabbitmq.username}")
private String username;

@Value("${spring.rabbitmq.password}")
private String password;

@Bean
public ConnectionFactory connectionFactory() {
    CachingConnectionFactory connectionFactory = new CachingConnectionFactory(hostname);
    connectionFactory.setUsername(username);
    connectionFactory.setPassword(password);
    connectionFactory.setPublisherConfirms(true);
    return connectionFactory;
}
```

8. Kubernetes Authentication Method

Kubernetes authentication mechanism (since Vault 0.8.3) allows to authenticate with Vault using a Kubernetes Service Account Token. The authentication is role based and the role is bound to a service account name and a namespace.

Refer to the following Spring / Pivotal Documentation:

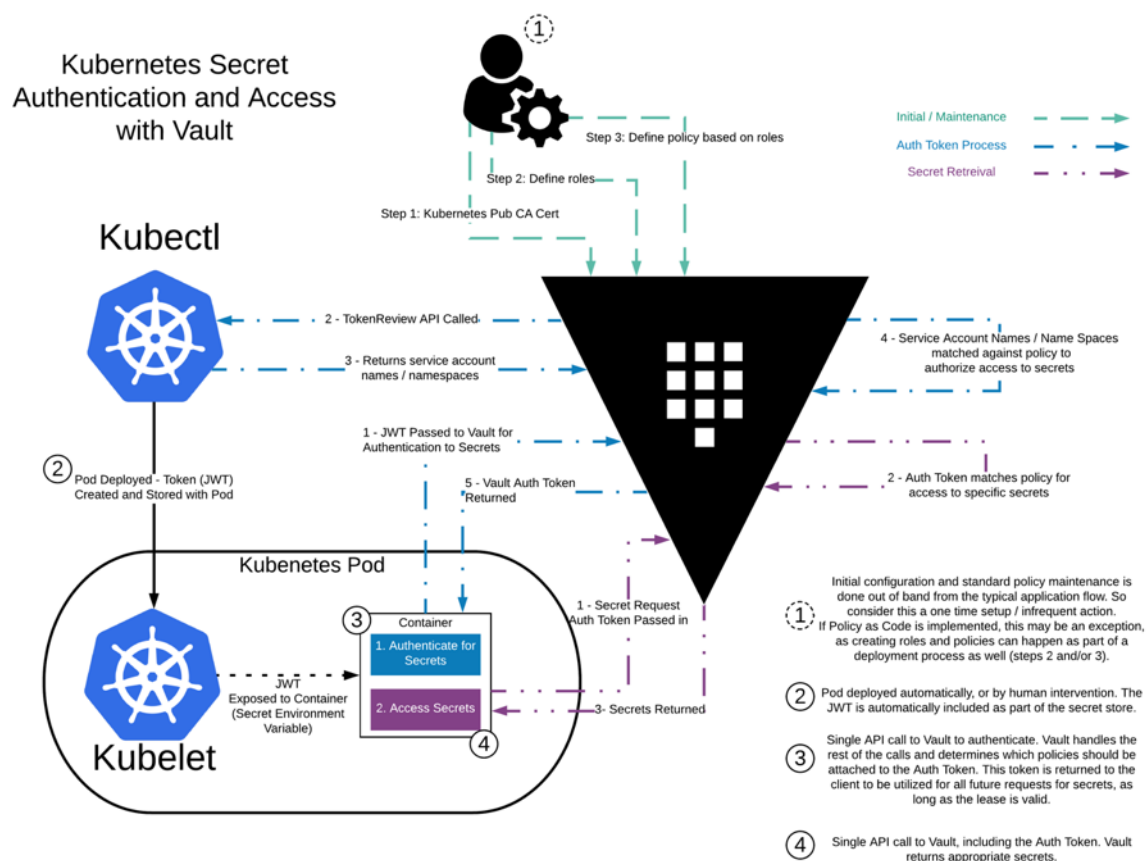
<https://cloud.spring.io/spring-cloud-vault/reference/html/#vault.config.authentication.kubernetes>

Refer also to Hashicorp documentation to understand how to configure Vault to use Kubernetes as an authentication method.

<https://learn.hashicorp.com/vault/identity-access-management/vault-agent-k8s>

8.1. Kubernetes Authentication Principle

The following diagram explains how Kubernetes-based authentication works with Hashicorp Vault.



- Admin defines roles and policies in Vault
- Each Kubernetes application has its own service account (to be defined in its helm chart)
- Kubernetes auto-mounts the service account when it starts an application Pod and generate a JWT token and give it to the pod

- The pod gives its JWT token to Vault to get an authentication token. Vault review this request and returns the authentication token matching the defined policies
- The pod uses the authentication token to get access to its secrets

→ Using this method, we do not need to set Vault token in **bootstrap.properties**. The pod will use Kubernetes service account token to retrieve a Vault Token.

8.2. Cluster Role Binding for Vault Service Account

Vault must be granted access to the token review api for Kubernetes.

This can be done by:

- Creating a service account for Vault (name it for example **vault-auth**)
- Creating a cluster role binding for this service account to give it access to the token review api. Below is the yaml configuration file named **vault-auth-service-account.yaml** to be created in order to create the role binding:

```
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: ClusterRoleBinding
metadata:
  name: role-tokenreview-binding
  namespace: default
roleRef:
  apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
  kind: ClusterRole
  name: system:auth-delegator
subjects:
- kind: ServiceAccount
  name: vault-auth
  namespace: default
```

- This binding can be applied using the command:

```
$ kubectl apply -f vault-auth-service-account.yaml
```

8.3. Enable Kubernetes Auth Method in Vault

8.3.1. Activation in CLI

Kubernetes auth method can be enabled in Vault using this command:

```
$ vault auth enable kubernetes
```

In order to configure Vault with Kubernetes information, we need first to export this information as environment variables. Source the bash script below:

```
# Set VAULT_SA_NAME to vault service account name
export VAULT_SA_NAME=$(kubectl get sa vault-auth -o jsonpath="{.secrets[*]['name']}")

# Set SA_JWT_TOKEN value to the service account JWT used to access the TokenReview API
export SA_JWT_TOKEN=$(kubectl get secret $VAULT_SA_NAME -o jsonpath="{.data.token}" | base64 --decode; echo)

# Set SA_CA_CRT to the PEM encoded CA cert used to talk to Kubernetes API
export SA_CA_CRT=$(kubectl get secret $VAULT_SA_NAME -o jsonpath="{.data['ca.crt']}" | base64 --decode; echo)

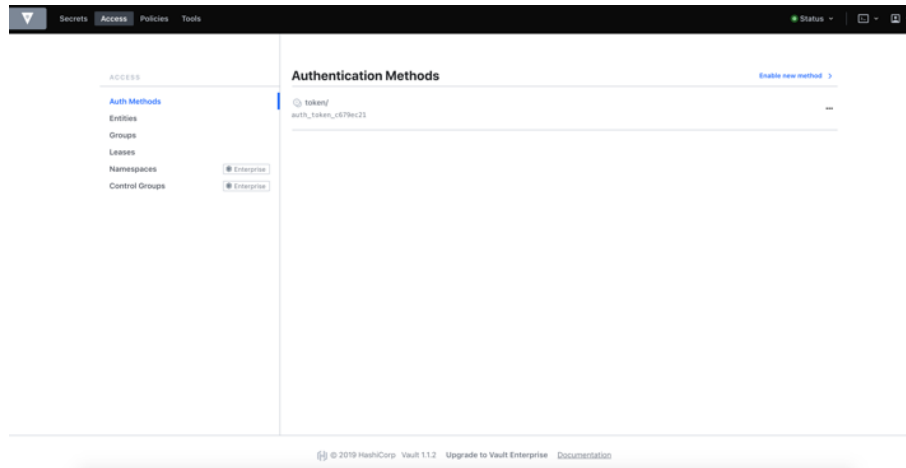
# Set K8S_HOST to minikube IP address
export K8S_HOST=$(terraform output host)
```

Then run the following command to apply the configuration to Vault:

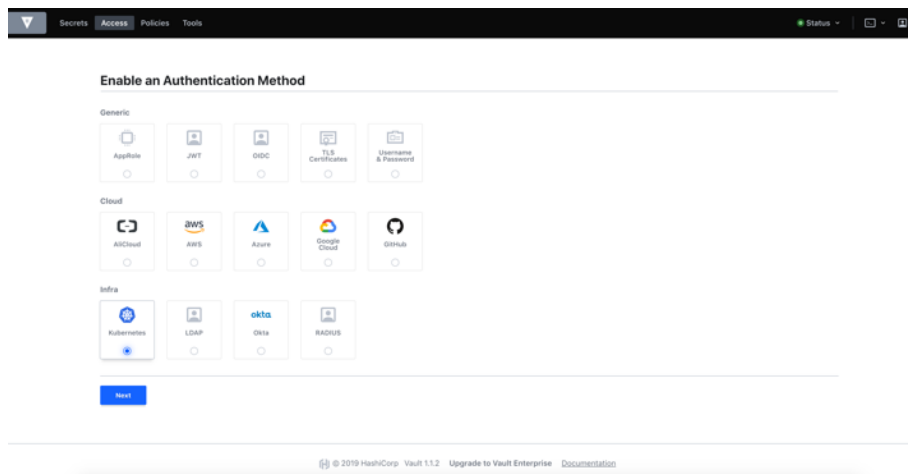
```
$ vault write auth/kubernetes/config \
  token_reviewer_jwt="$SA_JWT_TOKEN" \
  kubernetes_host="$K8S_HOST" \
  kubernetes_ca_cert="$SA_CA_CERT"
```

8.3.2. Web Activation

- The Kubernetes authentication method can also be enabled using the web ui
 - Go to Access > Auth Methods



- Enable the Kubernetes method



- Keep the default path **Kubernetes** and press **Enable Method**

The screenshot shows the 'Enable Kubernetes Authentication Method' page in the Vault UI. The top navigation bar includes 'Secrets', 'Access', 'Policies', and 'Tools'. The 'Access' tab is selected. The page title is 'Enable Kubernetes Authentication Method'. Below the title, there is a 'Path' field with the value 'kubernetes'. A 'Method Options' section is collapsed. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Enable Method' (in blue) and 'Back' (in grey). The footer shows '© 2019 HashiCorp Vault 1.1.2' and links to 'Upgrade to Vault Enterprise' and 'Documentation'.

- Provide Kubernetes api server host to vault. The api server can be addressed internally through the following host name: **kubernetes.default.svc**
Refer to link: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/tasks/access-application-cluster/access-cluster/#accessing-the-api-from-a-pod>

The screenshot shows the 'Configure Kubernetes' page in the Vault UI. The top navigation bar is the same as the previous screenshot. The page title is 'Configure Kubernetes'. Below the title, there are two tabs: 'Configuration' (selected) and 'Method Options'. The 'Configuration' tab contains a 'Kubernetes Host' field with the value 'kubernetes.default.svc'. Below this is a 'Kubernetes CA Certificate' section with a 'Choose a file...' button and a 'No file chosen' message. To the right of this section is a 'Enter as text' button. Below the 'Configuration' tab, there is a 'Kubernetes Options' section which is collapsed. At the bottom, there is a 'Save' button. The footer is the same as the previous screenshot.

- The Kubernetes auth method is now enabled in Vault

The screenshot shows the 'Authentication Methods' page in the Vault UI. The top navigation bar is the same. The left sidebar shows the 'ACCESS' section with 'Auth Methods' selected. The main content area is titled 'Authentication Methods' and shows a list of methods. The first method is 'kubernetes/' with the path 'auth/kubernetes_8f131f76'. The second method is 'token/' with the path 'auth/token_c679ec21'. Both methods have a status of '***'. At the bottom right of the list, there is a link 'Enable new method'. The footer is the same as the previous screenshots.

8.4. Configure Application

Each application pod must have:

- A Kubernetes service account giving it a unique identity within the cluster and a Kubernetes JWT token
- A Vault Policy grant it access to secret or other type of operations in Vault
- A role that associates the application Kubernetes service account to the application Vault Policy

8.4.1. Create Service Account

Each application should have a unique service account to manage its access to Kubernetes resources and to Vault secrets. The service account can be specified in the Helm chart of the application so that it can be created during the application installation stage.

The helm chart of the application will have a file named **service-account.yaml** that contains the following:

```
{{- if .Values.serviceAccount.create }}
apiVersion: v1
kind: ServiceAccount
metadata:
  name: {{ include "app.fullname" . }}
{{- end }}
```

The creation of the service account must be enabled in the **values.yaml** file of the helm chart:

```
serviceAccount:
  create: true
```

→ All applications will use the same helm chart template and will all be configured to create a specific service account having the same name as the application.

8.4.2. Service Account Role Binding

The service account created for the application in the previous paragraph needs to be explicitly granted access to resources the application needs to work properly. This is necessary because of Kubernetes RBAC mechanism.

This is accomplished by creating a role for the application allowing it to access configmaps and other resources its needs, and by binding this role to the application service account.

We add therefore an **rbac.yaml** file in the application helm chart to create the role and the rolebinding.

```
{{- if .Values.rbac.create }}
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: Role
metadata:
  name: {{ include "app.fullname" . }}
rules:
- apiGroups:
  - ""
  resources:
  - services
  - pods
  - endpoints
```



```

- namespaces
- configmaps
- secrets
verbs:
- get
- list
- watch
---
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: RoleBinding
metadata:
  name: {{ include "app.fullname" . }}
roleRef:
  apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
  kind: Role
  name: {{ include "app.name" . }}
subjects:
- kind: ServiceAccount
  name: {{ include "app.fullname" . }}
  namespace: {{ .Release.Namespace }}
{{- end }}

```

8.4.3. View Application Service Account in Kubernetes

Use the following command to get the service accounts in a given namespace (here **microservices**):

```

$ kubectl -n microservices get serviceAccounts

NAME      SECRETS  AGE
car        1         3m46s
default    1         7h33m

```

Use this command to get the metadata of a given service account:

```

$ kubectl -n microservices get serviceAccounts/car -o yaml

apiVersion: v1
kind: ServiceAccount
metadata:
  creationTimestamp: 2019-08-09T16:41:51Z
  name: car
  namespace: microservices
  resourceVersion: "42387"
  selfLink: /api/v1/namespaces/microservices/serviceaccounts/car
  uid: 96dc7151-bac4-11e9-8d8b-3a0487af82f4
secrets:
- name: car-token-hw6k6

```

8.4.4. Create Application Vault Policy

Create a Vault policy **car-policy.hcl** file for **car** application for example. The policy file would have the following content:

```

path "secret/car" {
  capabilities = ["read", "list"]
}

```

This policy will give car applications all access rights over its secret path **secret/car/***. Create the policy named **car** using the following command:

```

$ vault policy write car car-policy.hcl

```

8.4.5. Create Application Role in Vault

After the policy is created, we must bind it with the Kubernetes service account of the application. This binding can be achieved using the command below. We create a role named “**car**” for the application to name the binding.

```
$ vault write auth/kubernetes/role/car \
bound_service_account_names=car \
bound_service_account_namespaces=microservices \
policies=car
```

8.4.6. Test Authentication

To test and validate application authentication using the service account we created for the pod, we will do the following:

- Get the jwt token of the application service account
- Login using the jwt token and the application vault role

```
$ TOKEN_NAME=$(kubectl get sa vault-auth -o jsonpath="{.secrets[*]['name']}")
$ JWT=$(kubectl get secret $TOKEN_NAME -o jsonpath="{.data.token}" | base64 --
decode; echo)
bound_service_account_namespaces=microservices \
policies=car
```

8.4.7. Update Spring Boot Configuration

Now, that Kubernetes auth method is configured in Vault, and the role binding between the app service account and vault policy created, we can update application **bootstrap.properties** file accordingly so it can use Kubernetes / Vault authentication:

```
# Application Name
spring.application.name=car

# Vault Kubernetes Parameters
spring.cloud.vault.enabled = ${VAULT_ENABLED}
spring.cloud.vault.uri=${VAULT_ADDR}
spring.cloud.vault.authentication = KUBERNETES
spring.cloud.vault.kubernetes.role = car
spring.cloud.vault.kubernetes.kubernetes-path = kubernetes
spring.cloud.vault.kubernetes.service-account-token-file =
/var/run/secrets/kubernetes.io/serviceaccount/token
spring.cloud.vault.kv.enabled=false
#spring.cloud.vault.kv.backend=secret
spring.cloud.vault.generic.enabled=true
spring.cloud.vault.generic.backend=secret
spring.cloud.vault.generic.default-context=car
```

8.4.8. Running Spring Boot Application

When running our car Spring Boot application, we can see in the traces below that the application managed to locate all property sources (configmap, secret, vault) and load them successfully:

```
PropertySourceBootstrapConfiguration : Located property source: CompositePropertySource
{name='vault', propertySources=[LeaseAwareVaultPropertySource
{name='secret/data/car/kubernetes'}, LeaseAwareVaultPropertySource {name='secret/data/car'},
LeaseAwareVaultPropertySource {name='secret/data/application/kubernetes'},
LeaseAwareVaultPropertySource {name='secret/data/application'},
LeaseAwareVaultPropertySource {name='secret/car/kubernetes'}, LeaseAwareVaultPropertySource
{name='secret/car'}, LeaseAwareVaultPropertySource {name='secret/application/kubernetes'},
LeaseAwareVaultPropertySource {name='secret/application'}}]
PropertySourceBootstrapConfiguration : Located property source: CompositePropertySource
```

```
{name='composite-configmap', propertySources=[ConfigMapPropertySource
{name='configmap.car.microservices'}}]}

PropertySourceBootstrapConfiguration : Located property source: SecretsPropertySource
{name='secrets.car.microservices'}
```

→ There is no conflict in using Vault / Consul stores with Kubernetes Configmap / Secrets.

8.4.9. Vault vs Kubernetes K/V Store

From a client / developer perspective, the difference in storing secrets in Vault compared to Kubernetes is that with Vault and Spring Cloud Vault, we don't need to expose the secrets as environment variables to the application.

For example, in Vault we can create those 2 secrets:

Key	Value
spring.rabbitmq.username	guest
spring.rabbitmq.password	guest

The application with Spring Cloud Vault, will retrieve those secrets without any additional configuration.

With Kubernetes secrets however, we must create a secret (named **car**) that contains the same 2 Key/Values as in the table above.

Besides, we must in our pod deployment create environment variables to expose those secrets to the application. Here, the environment variables are:

- RABBITMQ_USERNAME
- RABBITMQ_PASSWORD

```
env:
- name: RABBITMQ_USERNAME
  valueFrom:
    secretKeyRef:
      name: car
      key: spring.rabbitmq.username
- name: RABBITMQ_PASSWORD
  valueFrom:
    secretKeyRef:
      name: car
      key: spring.rabbitmq.password
```

Then, in the configmap, we must set our application properties from exposed environment variables:

```
spring.rabbitmq.username = ${RABBITMQ_USERNAME}
spring.rabbitmq.password = ${RABBITMQ_PASSWORD}
```

→ From client perspective, using Spring Cloud Vault to provide secrets to application is easier than using Spring Cloud Kubernetes

9. Single Sign-On with OIDC

Vault can be configured to use existing identity providers to authenticate users. Connection to identity providers use the Open ID Connect protocol (OIDC).

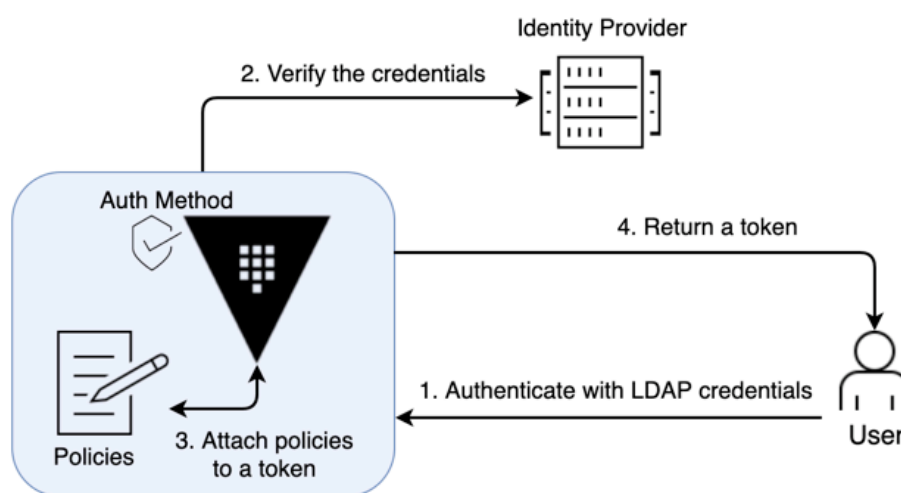
Example of identity providers tested with Vault:

https://www.vaultproject.io/docs/auth/jwt_oidc_providers.html

The following documentation describes how to enable and configured OIDC in Vault:

<https://learn.hashicorp.com/vault/identity-access-management/oidc-auth>

The diagram below shows the user authentication flow using OIDC:



In order to enable and configure OIDC, follow these steps:

- Create an OIDC application in your OIDC provider (Azure AD, Okta, Autho, ...)
- Enable the OIDC authentication method in Vault and configure it to use the OIDC application parameters (Discovery URL, Client ID, Client Secret)
- Create user roles in Vault (Admin, Provisioner, Secret Admin, Secret Reader for example). A role is bound to a vault policy that defines its access rights
- Create Internal identity groups in vault to be associated with different policies created
- Bind the internal group IDs to external group IDs (IDs created in azure ad or okta) by creating aliases

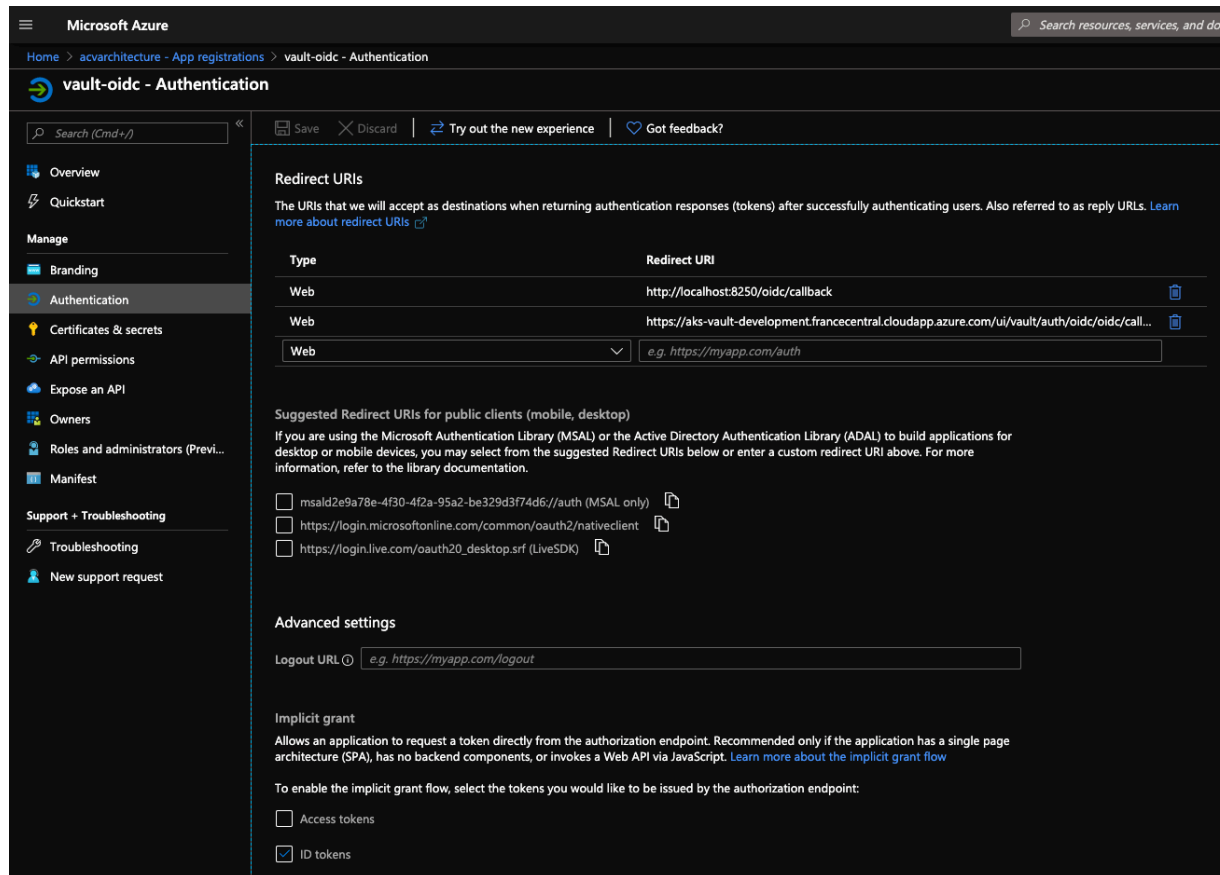
In the next paragraph, we give an example of how to create an OIDC application in Azure AD and link it to Vault.

9.1. Create Azure AD OIDC App

Azure AD OIDC Application can be created in Azure Portal in the following menu:

Azure Active Directory > App Registrations

We create an application named **vault-oidc**. Application ID is the client id to be used by vault to connect to **vault-oidc** application to perform user authentication.

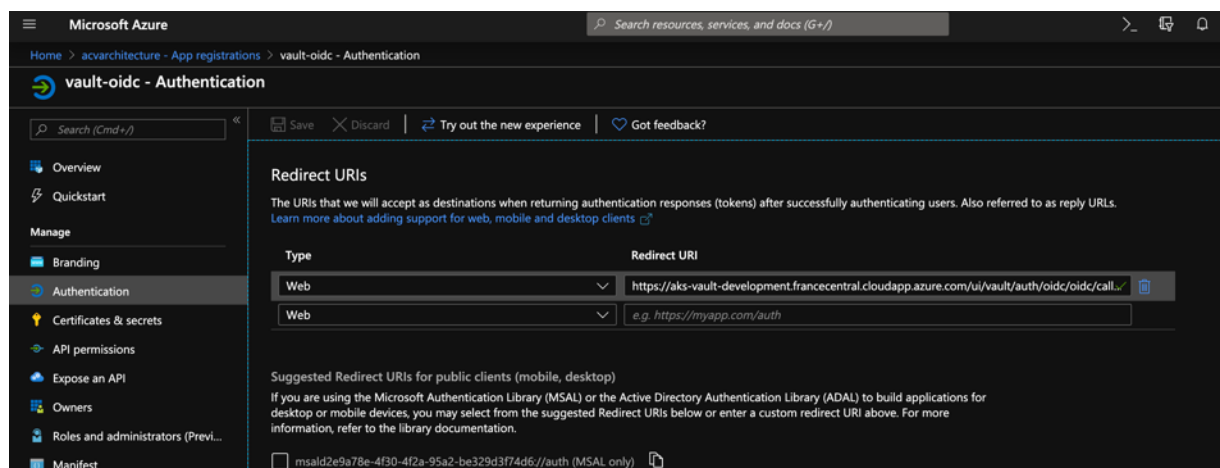


In application authentication menu, we provide the callback URL of the vault server that is called by azure ad **vault-oidc** application after user authentication.

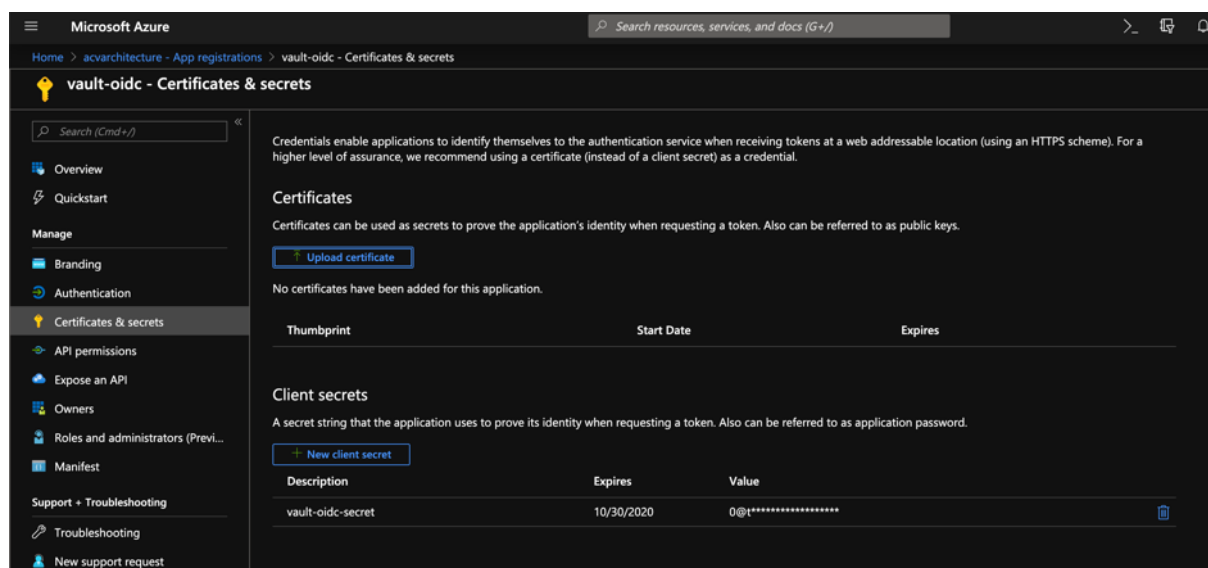
Example of callback url:

<https://aks-vault-development.francecentral.cloudapp.azure.com/ui/vault/auth/oidc/oidc/callback>
<http://localhost:8250/oidc/callback>

- The localhost URL is used with Vault command to perform OIDC authentication in the CLI
- Make sure the vault server is secured with valid TLS certificate.



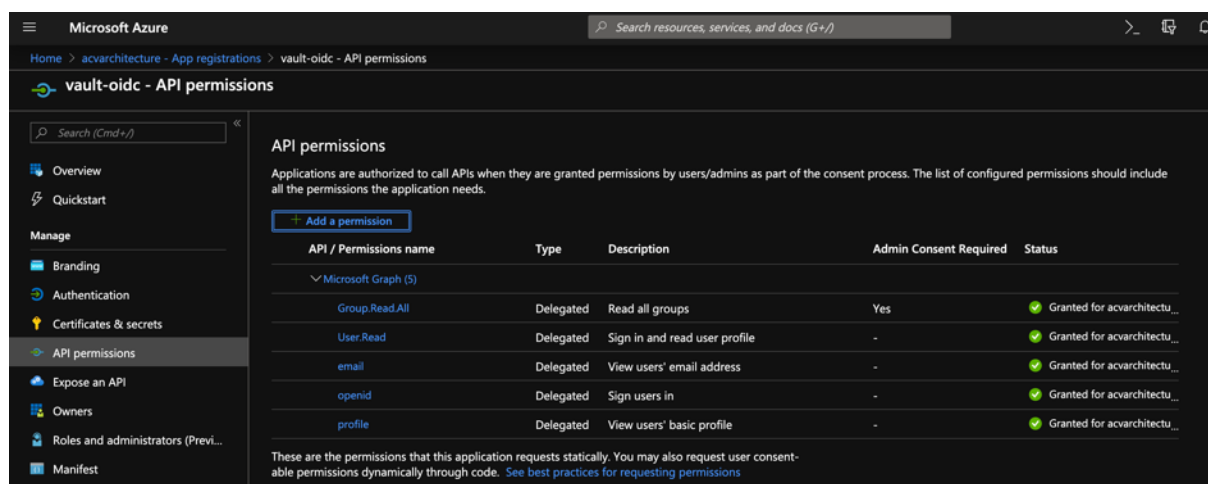
In Certificates & Secrets menu, create the client secret to be used by Vault to perform oidc authentication with **vault-oidc** azure ad application.



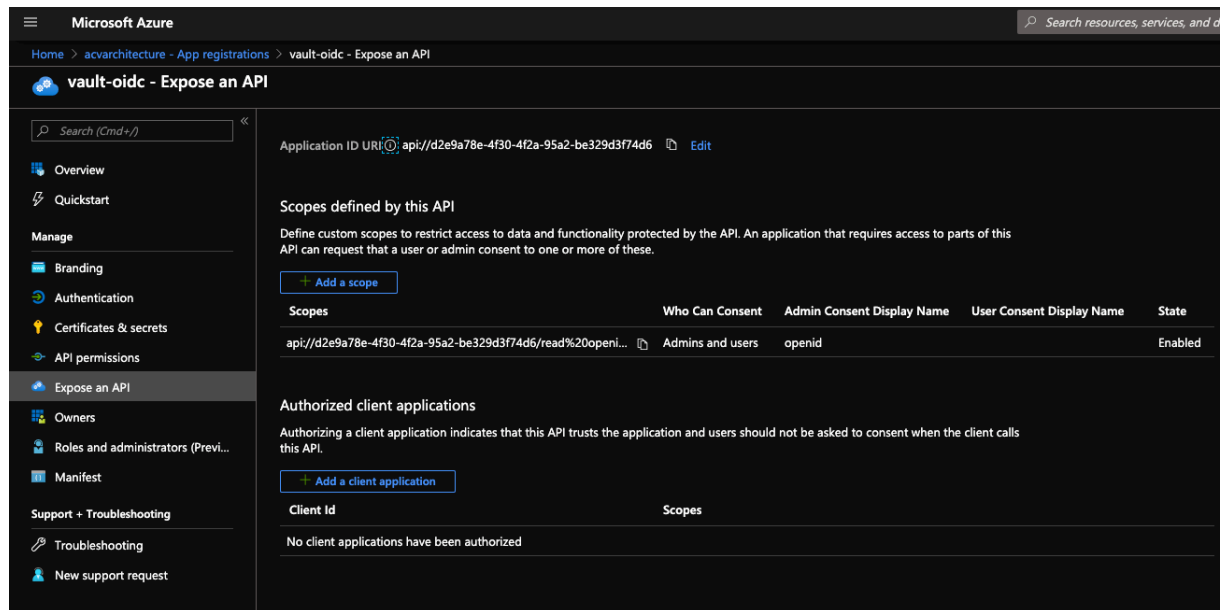
In API Permissions menu, provide **vault-oidc** application access to the following Azure AD resources:

- Group.Read.All
- User.Read
- Email
- Openid
- Profile

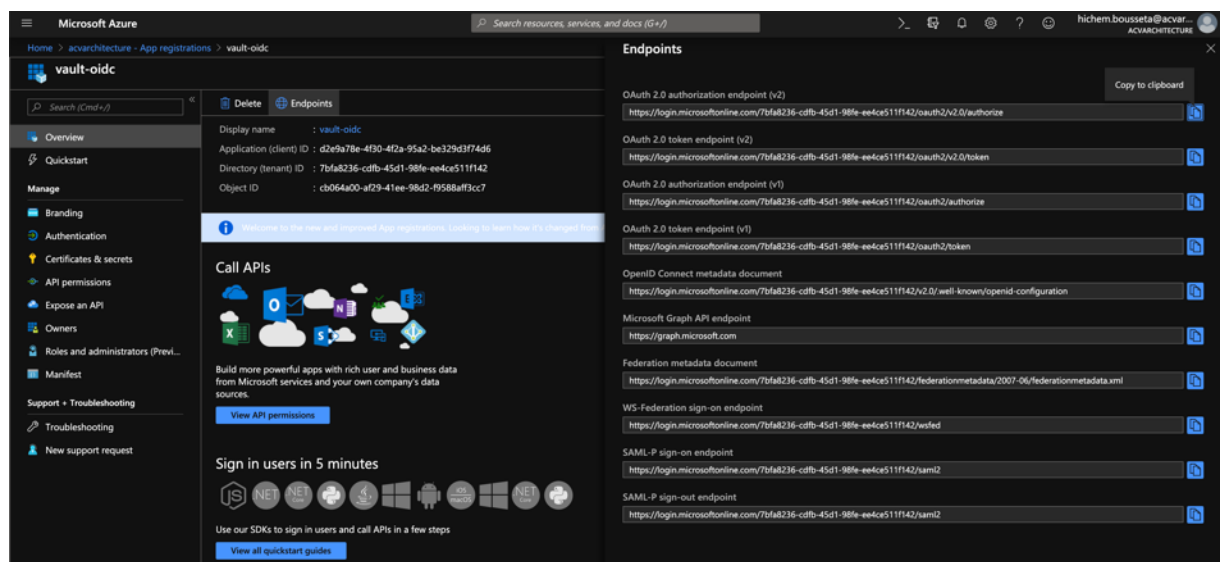
Azure admin consent is required for Group.Read.All permission.



Expose an API for the resource to be exposed in Azure Resource Manager:



In **vault-oidc** app Overview > Endpoints, get the OIDC discovery URL to be used to configure Vault with OIDC:



The OIDC discovery URL is:

<https://login.microsoftonline.com/7bfa8236-cdfb-45d1-98fe-ee4ce511f142/v2.0/.well-known/openid-configuration>

When you call this URL in browser, you get the settings of your **vault-oidc** application:

```
{
  "token_endpoint": "https://login.microsoftonline.com/7bfa8236-cdfb-45d1-98fe-ee4ce511f142/oauth2/v2.0/token",
  "token_endpoint_auth_methods_supported": [
    "client_secret_post",
    "private_key_jwt",
    "client_secret_basic"
  ],
  "jwks_uri": "https://login.microsoftonline.com/7bfa8236-cdfb-45d1-98fe-ee4ce511f142/discovery/v2.0/keys",
  "response_modes_supported": [
    "query",
    "fragment",
    "form_post"
  ]
}
```

```

    ],
    "subject_types_supported": [
      "pairwise"
    ],
    "id_token_signing_alg_values_supported": [
      "RS256"
    ],
    "response_types_supported": [
      "code",
      "id_token",
      "code id_token",
      "id_token token"
    ],
    "scopes_supported": [
      "openid",
      "profile",
      "email",
      "offline_access"
    ],
    "issuer": "https://login.microsoftonline.com/7bfa8236-cdfb-45d1-98fe-ee4ce511f142/v2.0",
    "request_uri_parameter_supported": false,
    "userinfo_endpoint": "https://graph.microsoft.com/oidc/userinfo",
    "authorization_endpoint": "https://login.microsoftonline.com/7bfa8236-cdfb-45d1-98fe-ee4ce511f142/oauth2/v2.0/authorize",
    "http_logout_supported": true,
    "frontchannel_logout_supported": true,
    "end_session_endpoint": "https://login.microsoftonline.com/7bfa8236-cdfb-45d1-98fe-ee4ce511f142/oauth2/v2.0/logout",
    "claims_supported": [
      "sub",
      "iss",
      "cloud_instance_name",
      "cloud_instance_host_name",
      "cloud_graph_host_name",
      "msgraph_host",
      "aud",
      "exp",
      "iat",
      "auth_time",
      "acr",
      "nonce",
      "preferred_username",
      "name",
      "tid",
      "ver",
      "at_hash",
      "c_hash",
      "email"
    ],
    "tenant_region_scope": "EU",
    "cloud_instance_name": "microsoftonline.com",
    "cloud_graph_host_name": "graph.windows.net",
    "msgraph_host": "graph.microsoft.com",
    "rbac_url": "https://pas.windows.net"
  }
}

```

The configuration is now done for the azure ad oidc application. We will move to Vault configuration.

9.2. Configure Vault OIDC

In order to enable user Single Sign-On and authentication to Vault using the azure ad OIDC application that we created in the previous paragraph, we must go through few steps (all theses actions are performed using the initial root token of vault):

→ Create specific roles for users. Here we will create a secret reader role, and secret manager role defined in 2 .acl files:

reader.acl (read access)


```
# Read permission on the k/v secrets
path "/secret/*" {
  capabilities = ["read", "list"]
}
```

manager.acl (read / write access)

```
# Manage k/v secrets
path "/secret/*" {
  capabilities = ["create", "read", "update", "delete", "list"]
}
```

Create the policies by running the following commands:

```
# Create manager policy
vault policy write manager aks-vault/k8s/policies/manager.hcl

# Create reader policy
vault policy write reader aks-vault/k8s/policies/reader.hcl
```

→ Enable OIDC authentication method

```
# Enable OIDC auth backend
vault auth enable oidc
```

→ Create OIDC Configuration using **vault-oidc** application parameters that we got in the previous paragraph:

- Discovery URL
- Client ID
- Client Secret

The discovery url is the same url as we had in the previous paragraph but without the **.well-known/openid-configuration** part.

<https://login.microsoftonline.com/7bfa8236-cdfb-45d1-98fe-ee4ce511f142/v2.0>

```
# Create OIDC Config
vault write auth/oidc/config \
  oidc_discovery_url="https://login.microsoftonline.com/${TENANT_ID}/v2.0" \
  oidc_client_id="${AD_APP_ID}" \
  oidc_client_secret="${AD_APP_SECRET}" \
  default_role="reader"
```

We set the default role to reader.

→ Create Reader role

```
# Create a reader role
vault write -address="${VAULT_ADDR}" auth/oidc/role/reader \
  bound_audiences="${AD_APP_ID}" \
  allowed_redirect_uris="${VAULT_ADDR}/ui/vault/auth/oidc/oidc/callback" \
  oidc_scopes="openid,profile,email,https://graph.microsoft.com/.default" \
  user_claim="sub" \
  groups_claim="groups" \
  policies="reader"
```

→ Create Manager role

```
# Create Manager Role
vault write -address="${VAULT_ADDR}" auth/oidc/role/manager \
  bound_audiences="${AD_APP_ID}" \
  allowed_redirect_uris="${VAULT_ADDR}/ui/vault/auth/oidc/oidc/callback" \
  oidc_scopes="openid,profile,email,https://graph.microsoft.com/.default" \
  user_claim="sub" \
  groups_claim="groups" \
```

```
policies="manager"
```

→ Create internal manager group to be bound to external azure ad amin group

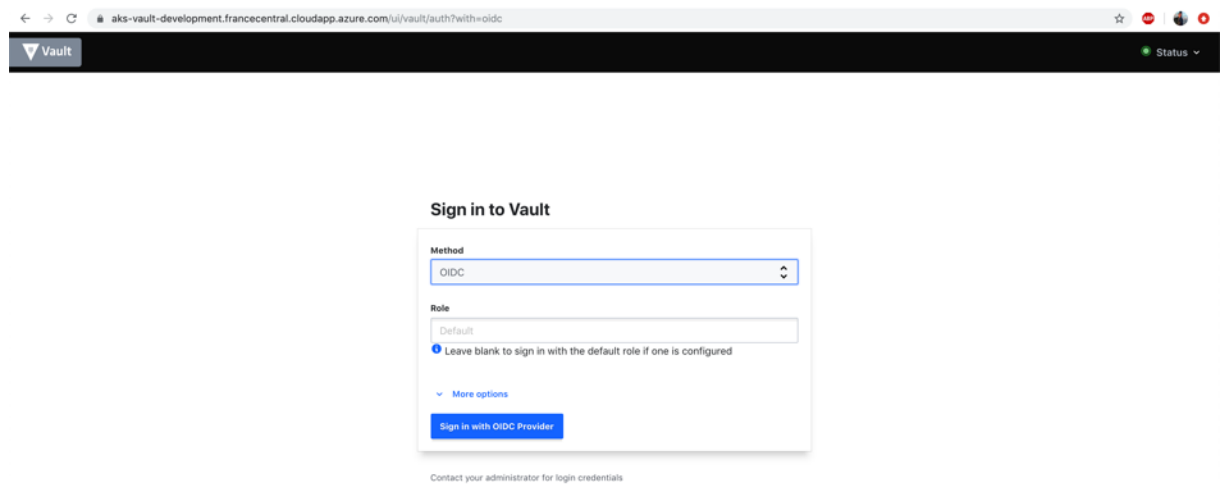
```
OUT=$(vault write identity/group name="manager" type="external" policies="manager" metadata=response="Manage K/V Secrets")
MANAGER_GROUP_ID=$(echo "$OUT" | grep id | awk -F ' ' '{print $2}')
OIDC_ACCESSOR=$(vault auth list | grep oidc | awk -F ' ' '{print $3}')

vault write identity/group-alias name="$AD_GROUP_ADMIN" \
  mount_accessor=${OIDC_ACCESSOR} \
  canonical_id="$MANAGER_GROUP_ID"
```

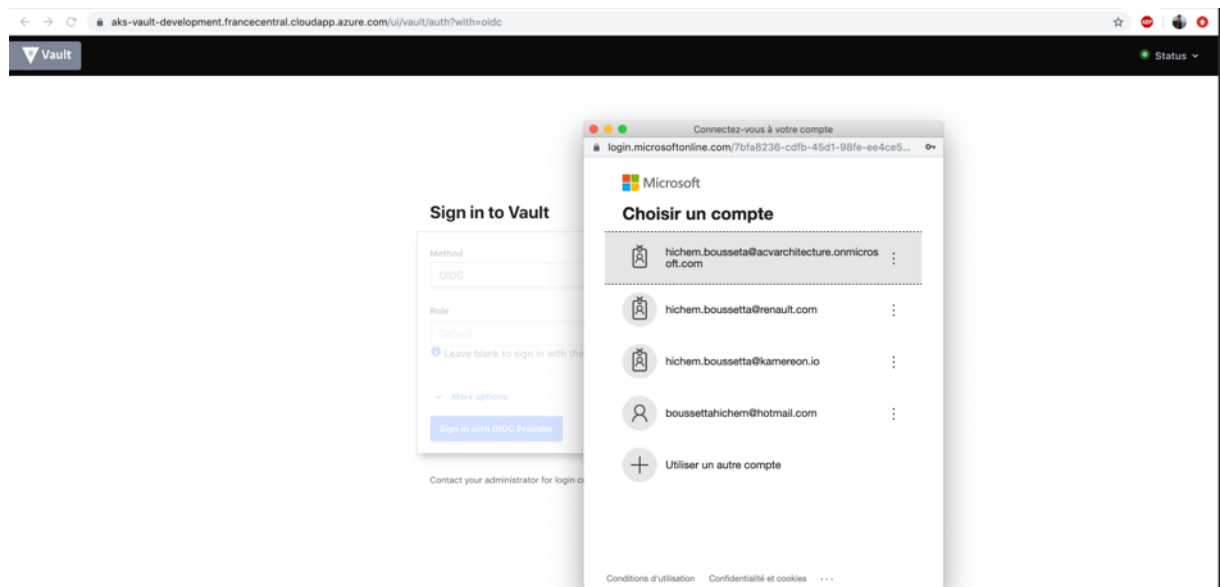
\$AD_GROUP_ADMIN variable contains the ID of a group we created in azure ad
\$MANAGER_GROUP_ID is the id of the manager group we created inside vault

9.3. Test OIDC Connection

Open the Vault server URL and select OIDC authentication:



Leave the role to Default and click on **Sign in with OIDC Provider**. We are presented the azure login screen and invite to provide azure credentials:



Connect using your azure credentials to get access to vault:

