

## **Bonus Challenge: Label-Based Access Control**

### **Analysis**

**Problem:** Standard Kubernetes RBAC cannot filter by labels. RBAC controls access to **resource types**, not individual resource instances based on their attributes.

#### **What RBAC CAN do:**

- Allow/deny access to entire resource types (all pods, all deployments)
- Limit by namespace
- Limit by verb (get, create, delete)

#### **What RBAC CANNOT do:**

- Filter by labels
- Filter by specific field values
- Conditional access based on resource content

### **Solution Approach: Admission Controllers**

**OPA (Open Policy Agent) Gatekeeper** or **Kyverno** can be used to enforce label requirements.

#### **How it works:**

1. RBAC grants permission to create/delete pods
2. Admission controller validates that pods have required label
3. If label is missing, admission controller rejects the request

Hence, I have decided to go with **Kyverno**.

## Implementation with Kyverno:

### Step 1: Install Kyverno

```
PS C:\Users\LEGION\Desktop\Fall 2025 Sem\AWS dev Ops\COMP-488_Assignment_RBAC> kubectl create -f https://github.com/kyverno/kyverno/releases/download/v1.10.0/install.yaml
namespace/kyverno created
serviceaccount/kyverno-admission-controller created
serviceaccount/kyverno-background-controller created
serviceaccount/kyverno-cleanup-controller created
serviceaccount/kyverno-cleanup-jobs created
serviceaccount/kyverno-reports-controller created
configmap/kyverno created
configmap/kyverno-metrics created
Warning: unrecognized format "int64"
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/backgroundscanreports.kyverno.io created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/cleanuppolicies.kyverno.io created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/clusteradmissionreports.kyverno.io created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/clusterbackgroundscanreports.kyverno.io created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/clustercleanuppolicies.kyverno.io created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/clusterpolicies.kyverno.io created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/policies.kyverno.io created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/policyexceptions.kyverno.io created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/updaterequests.kyverno.io created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/clusterpolicyreports.wgpolicyk8s.io created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/policyreports.wgpolicyk8s.io created
clusterrole.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/kyverno:admission-controller created
```

### Step 2: Create ServiceAccount with pod permissions

```
part5 > Label_based_Access_Control > ! automation-sa.yaml
1  ---
2  apiVersion: v1
3  kind: ServiceAccount
4  metadata:
5    name: automation-sa
6    namespace: default
7  ---
8  apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
9  kind: Role
10 metadata:
11   name: automation-role
12   namespace: default
13 rules:
14 - apiGroups: [""]
15   resources: ["pods"]
16   verbs: ["create", "delete", "get", "list"]
17 ---
18 apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
19 kind: RoleBinding
20 metadata:
21   name: automation-binding
22   namespace: default
23 subjects:
24 - kind: ServiceAccount
25   name: automation-sa
26   namespace: default
27 roleRef:
28   kind: Role
29   name: automation-role
30   apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
31
```

### Step 3: Create Kyverno Policy

```
Label_based_Access_Control > ! enforce-automation-label.yaml
1  apiVersion: kyverno.io/v1
2  kind: ClusterPolicy
3  metadata:
4    name: require-automation-label
5  spec:
6    # Enforce = block requests that violate the policy
7    validationFailureAction: enforce
8
9    # Disable background mode so the policy only applies to NEW requests
10   background: false
11
12   rules:
13   - name: check-automation-label
14
15     # MATCH section defines WHO + WHAT this policy applies to
16     match:
17       # Match only requests made by the ServiceAccount automation-sa
18       subjects:
19       - kind: ServiceAccount
20         name: automation-sa
21         namespace: default
22
23       # Match only Pod resources (create/update/delete requests on Pods)
24       resources:
25         kinds:
26         - Pod
27
28     # VALIDATION section defines WHAT must be true
29     validate:
30       # Message returned when validation fails
31       message: "Pods created by automation-sa must have label 'managed-by: automation'"
32
33       # REQUIRED Label pattern
34       pattern:
35         metadata:
36         labels:
37         managed-by: "automation"
38
```

## Step 4: Test the policy

### Test 1: Create pod WITHOUT required label (failed)

```
PS C:\Users\LEGION\Desktop\Fall 2025 Sem\AWS dev Ops\COMP-488_Assignment_RBAC\Label_based_Access_Control> kubectl apply -f test-pod-no-label.yaml --as=system:serviceaccount:default:automation-sa
Error from server: error when creating "test-pod-no-label.yaml": admission webhook "validate.kyverno.svc-fail" denied the request:

resource Pod/default/test-no-label was blocked due to the following policies

require-automation-label:
  check-automation-label: 'validation error: Pods created by automation-sa must have
    label ''managed-by: automation'', rule check-automation-label failed at path /metadata/labels/'
PS C:\Users\LEGION\Desktop\Fall 2025 Sem\AWS dev Ops\COMP-488_Assignment_RBAC\Label_based_Access_Control> |
```

### Test 2: Create pod WITH required label (succeed)

```
● PS C:\Users\LEGION\Desktop\Fall 2025 Sem\AWS dev Ops\COMP-488_Assignment_RBAC\Label_based_Access_Control> kubectl apply -f test-pod-with-label.yaml --as=system:serviceaccount:default:automation-sa
● tem:serviceaccount:default:automation-sa
● pod/test-with-label created
● PS C:\Users\LEGION\Desktop\Fall 2025 Sem\AWS dev Ops\COMP-488_Assignment_RBAC\Label_based_Access_Control> kubectl get pod test-with-label
NAME          READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
test-with-label 1/1     Running   0           7s
○ PS C:\Users\LEGION\Desktop\Fall 2025 Sem\AWS dev Ops\COMP-488_Assignment_RBAC\Label_based_Access_Control> |
●
```

### Test 3: Delete the labeled pod (succeed)

```
PS C:\Users\LEGION\Desktop\Fall 2025 Sem\AWS dev Ops\COMP-488_Assignment_RBAC\Label_based_Access_Control> kubectl apply -f test-pod-with-label.yaml --as=system:serviceaccount:default:automation-sa
pod/test-with-label created
PS C:\Users\LEGION\Desktop\Fall 2025 Sem\AWS dev Ops\COMP-488_Assignment_RBAC\Label_based_Access_Control> kubectl get pod test-with-label
NAME          READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
test-with-label 1/1     Running   0           18s
PS C:\Users\LEGION\Desktop\Fall 2025 Sem\AWS dev Ops\COMP-488_Assignment_RBAC\Label_based_Access_Control> kubectl delete pod test-with-label --as=system:serviceaccount:default:automation-sa
pod "test-with-label" deleted
```