

# Crossplane

The Cloud-Native Framework for  
Platform Engineering

*Jared Watts, Nic Cope*  
*Steering Committee / Maintainers*





# What is Crossplane?

- Your cloud native **control plane**
  - Provision/manage **all** of your resources
- **Compose** those resources into high level **abstractions**
  - Give your developers self-service provisioning
- Kubernetes is a great control plane for containers
  - Crossplane teaches it how to manage **everything** else
- Cloud providers have used control planes for years
  - Now it's your turn to build your own!

# The Basics

Managed Resources

# Managed Resources Example: AWS

Networking

Databases

Kubernetes Clusters

IAM

VMs

Message Queues

Caches

Certificates

...and much more...

The screenshot displays the Upbound Marketplace interface. On the left sidebar, the 'provider-family-aws' package is highlighted, showing it is an official package by Upbound. The main content area shows the 'Overview' for 'provider-family-aws', which is Upbound's official Crossplane provider for managing Amazon Web Services (AWS) config services in Kubernetes. Below the overview, there is a table listing various AWS services managed by this provider, including accessanalyzer, account, acm, acmpca, amp, amplify, apigateway, and apigatewayv2. Each entry shows the provider name, version (latest), and repository.

Provider	Version	Repository
provider-aws-accessanalyzer	latest	upbound/provider-aws-accessanalyzer
provider-aws-account	latest	upbound/provider-aws-account
provider-aws-acm	latest	upbound/provider-aws-acm
provider-aws-acmpca	latest	upbound/provider-aws-acmpca
provider-aws-amp	latest	upbound/provider-aws-amp
provider-aws-amplify	latest	upbound/provider-aws-amplify
provider-aws-apigateway	latest	upbound/provider-aws-apigateway
provider-aws-apigatewayv2	latest	upbound/provider-aws-apigatewayv2


# Managed Resources

```
apiVersion: s3.aws.crossplane.io/v1beta1
kind: Bucket
metadata:
  name: crossplane-deepdive-demo-bucket
spec:
  forProvider:
    acl: private
    locationConstraint: eu-west-1
    paymentConfiguration:
      payer: BucketOwner
    versioningConfiguration:
      status: Enabled
    tagging:
      tagSet:
        - key: Name
          value: CrossplaneDeepDiveDemoBucket
```

## Bucket overview

AWS Region	Amazon Resource Name (ARN)	Creation date
EU (Ireland) eu-west-1	 arn:aws:s3:::crossplane-deepdive-demo-bucket	April 21, 2023, 15:00:23 (UTC+01:00)

## Tags (1)

Track storage cost or other criteria by tagging your bucket. [Learn more](#) 

Key	Value
Name	CrossplaneDeepDiveDemoBucket

# Managed Resources

Status contains values returned from the remote API and the condition of the resources.

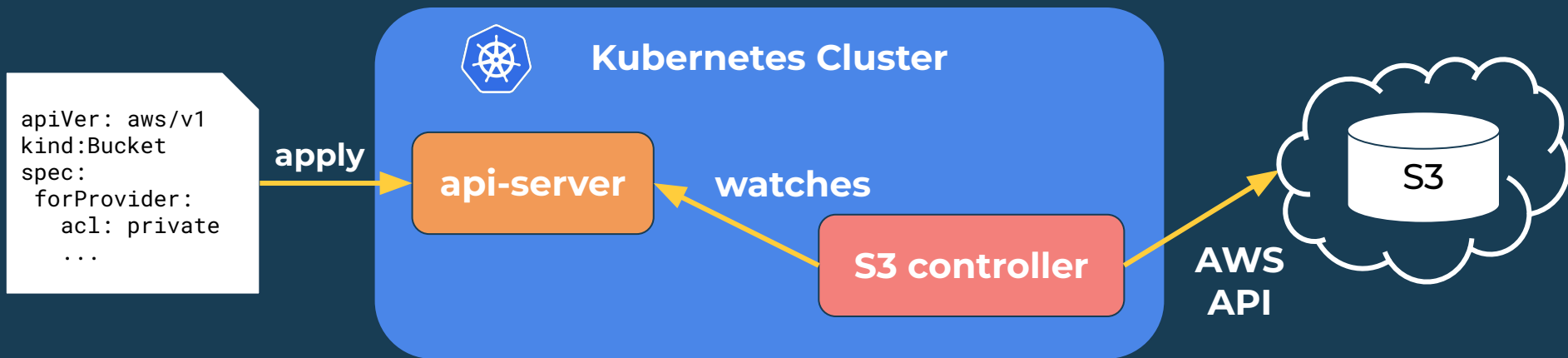
```
Status:
  At Provider:
    Arn:  arn:aws:s3:::crossplane-deepdive-demo-bucket
```

```
Events:
  Type      Age      From                                Message
  ----      -
  Normal    6m8s    bucket.s3.aws.crossplane.io    Successfully created external resource
```

Managed Resources  
Generate K8s Events

# Managed Resource Reconciliation

- Controllers reconcile these CRDs with cloud provider and on-prem APIs (e.g., GCP, AWS, or any API really)



# Building Your Control Plane

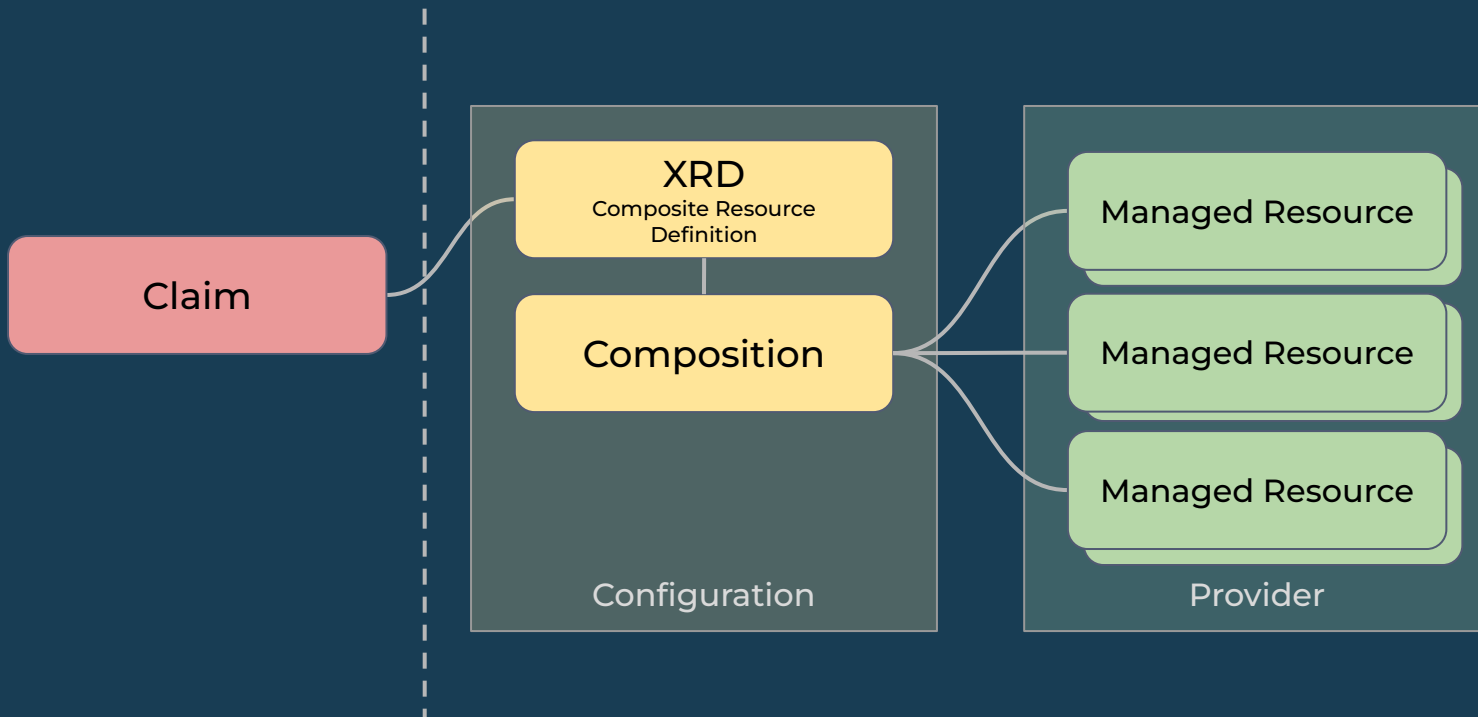
Composition and Functions





# Build your own Platform API

- Assemble granular resources, e.g. from multiple clouds.
- Expose as higher level self-service API for your app teams
  - **Compose** GKE, NodePool, Network, Subnetwork
  - **Offer** as a simple **Cluster** abstraction (API) with limited config for developers to self-service
- Hide infrastructure complexity and codify a “golden path”
- All with K8s API - compatible with kubectl, GitOps, etc.
- No code **required**





Small  
PostgreSQL

```
apiVersion: acme.com/v1
kind: Database
metadata:
  name: cool-db
spec:
  size: small
  engine: postgresql
```

XRD

Composite Resource  
Definition

GCP  
Composition

Configuration

Cloud SQL

SQL User

Global Address

provider-aws

# Composite Resources

```
apiVersion: apiextensions.crossplane.io/v1
kind: CompositeResourceDefinition
metadata:
  name: nosqls.database.example.com
spec:
  group: database.example.com
  names:
    kind: NoSQL
    plural: nosqls
  versions:
  - name: v1alpha1
    served: true
    referenceable: true
    schema:
      openAPIV3Schema:
        type: object
        properties:
```

First create Composite Resource Definition (XRD) to declare our custom platform API

Custom API Group

Standard openAPIV3 Schema

# Compositions

```
apiVersion: apiextensions.crossplane.io/v1
kind: Composition
metadata:
  name: nosqls.database.example.com
spec:
  compositeTypeRef:
    apiVersion: database.example.com/v1alpha1
    kind: NoSQL
  mode: Pipeline
  pipeline:
    - step: generate-resources
      functionRef:
        name: function-acme-func
        input: {}
    - step: filter-resources
      functionRef:
        name: function-filter
        input: {}
```

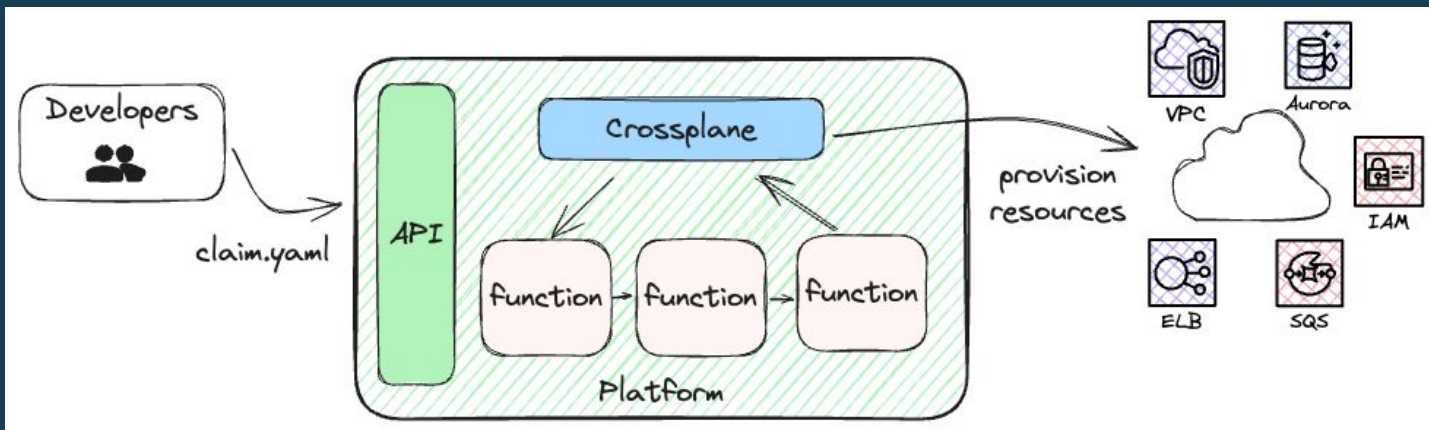
Then we define a Composition which implements the XRD

The XRD this Composition is for

Pipeline of functions to execute that will generate managed resources

# How do Functions work?

- Run a pipeline of simple functions to compose resources
- Written in your language of choice
- Focus only on your unique logic
- Crossplane does the heavy lifting of resources CRUD, reconciling, finalizers, owner refs, etc.





# How do I use Functions?

- You don't have to write any code to use functions
  - Community has built an ecosystem of “reusable functions”
  - Ready to use directly from your compositions
- Enables entire spectrum of no-code → low-code → full-code
  - Choose what you're comfortable with
  - Higher level config languages
  - Low level general purpose programming languages
  - Mix-n-match!
- Let's see some examples...

# Templating

```
pipeline:
- step: render-templates
  functionRef:
    name: function-go-templating
  input:
    apiVersion: gotemplating.fn.crossplane.io/v1beta1
    kind: GoTemplate
    inline:
      template: |
        {{- range $i := until ( .observed.composite.resource.spec.count | int ) }}
        apiVersion: iam.aws.upbound.io/v1beta1
        kind: AccessKey
        spec:
          forProvider:
            userSelector:
              matchLabels:
                crossplane.io/name: user-{{ $i }}
        {{- end }}
```



# Python

```
pipeline:
- step: compose-a-resource-with-python
  functionRef:
    name: function-python
  input:
    apiVersion: python.fn.crossplane.io/v1beta1
    kind: Script
    script: |
      from crossplane.function.proto.v1 import run_function_pb2 as fnv1

      def compose(req: fnv1.RunFunctionRequest, rsp: fnv1.RunFunctionResponse):
        rsp.desired.resources["bucket"].resource.update({
          "apiVersion": "s3.aws.upbound.io/v1beta2",
          "kind": "Bucket",
          "spec": {
            "forProvider": {
              "region": req.observed.composite.resource["spec"]["region"]
            }
          },
        })
        rsp.desired.resources["bucket"].ready = True
```

```
pipeline:
- step: render-instances
  functionRef:
    name: kcl-function
  input:
    apiVersion: krm.kcl.dev/v1alpha1
    kind: KCLInput
    spec:
      source: |
        regions = ["us-east-1", "us-east-2"]
        items = [{
          apiVersion: "ec2.aws.upbound.io/v1beta1"
          kind: "Instance"
          metadata.name = "instance-" + r
          spec.forProvider: {
            ami: "ami-0d9858aa3c6322f73"
            instanceType: "t2.micro"
            region: r
          }
        } for r in regions]
```

```
// if a base ARN exists, render a policy with all ARNs.
if baseARN != "unknown" {
  let allTuples = list.Concat([
    [baseARN, baseARN + "/*"],
    [
      for a in additionalARNs {[a, a + "/*"]},
    ],
  ])
  let allResources = list.FlattenN( allTuples, 1)
  response: desired: resources: iam_policy: resource: {
    apiVersion: "iam.aws.upbound.io/v1beta1"
    kind: "Policy"
    metadata: {
      name: "${compName}-access-policy"
    }
    spec: {
      forProvider: {
        path: "/"
        policy: json.Marshal({
          Version: "2012-10-17"
          Statement: [
            {
              Sid: "S3BucketAccess"
              Action: [
                "s3:GetObject",
                "s3:PutObject",
              ]
              Effect: "Allow"
              Resource: allResources
            }
          ],
        })
      }
    }
  }
}
```

```
desired {
  resources {
    ["cm-obj"] = new {
      resource = new Object {
        spec {
          forProvider {
            manifest = new ConfigMap {
              metadata {
                namespace = "crossplane-system"
              }
              data {
                ["env"] = "prod"
                ["team"] = "core"
              }
            }
          }
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

# Full Code - General Purpose Programming

```
// RunFunction observes an example composite resource (XR). It simple adds one
// S3 bucket to the desired state.
func (f *Function) RunFunction(_ context.Context, req *fnv1beta1.RunFunctionRequest)
(*fnv1beta1.RunFunctionResponse, error) {
    f.log.Info("Running Function", "tag", req.GetMeta().GetTag())
    rsp := response.To(req, response.DefaultTTL)

    // create a single test S3 bucket
    _ = v1beta1.AddToScheme(composed.Scheme)
    name := "test-bucket"
    b := &v1beta1.Bucket{
        ObjectMeta: metav1.ObjectMeta{
            Annotations: map[string]string{
                "crossplane.io/external-name": name,
            },
        },
        Spec: v1beta1.BucketSpec{
            ForProvider: v1beta1.BucketParameters{
                Region: ptr.To[string]("us-east-2"),
            },
        },
    }

    ...

    return rsp, nil
}
```



## ⚡ v1.19 Lightning Tour ⚡

- Maturing Crossplane features and APIs
  - Usage to Beta
  - Claim Server Side Apply to Beta
  - API promotion policy and contributor guide
- HostNetwork scenarios - port configurability
- Automatic dependency management (downgrades)
- Private repos with Crossplane CLI



## v1.20+ Roadmap

- Roll out **change logs** feature across provider ecosystem
- Maturing Crossplane features and APIs
  - DeploymentRuntimeConfig
  - Realtime Compositions
- More high level **metrics** investments
- Clear **insight** into reconciliation of resources
- and of course, **Crossplane v2...**



# Crossplane v2 preview is here!

- **Crossplane v2 is more useful, more intuitive, and less opinionated**
- Three major changes:
  - Composite resources are now namespaced
  - Managed resources are now namespaced
  - Composition supports any Kubernetes resource
- Crossplane v2 is better suited to building control planes for **applications**, not just infrastructure



# Composite resources are namespaced

```
apiVersion: example.crossplane.io/v1
kind: App
metadata:
  namespace: default
  name: my-app
spec:
  image: nginx
  crossplane:
    compositionRef:
      name: app-kcl
```

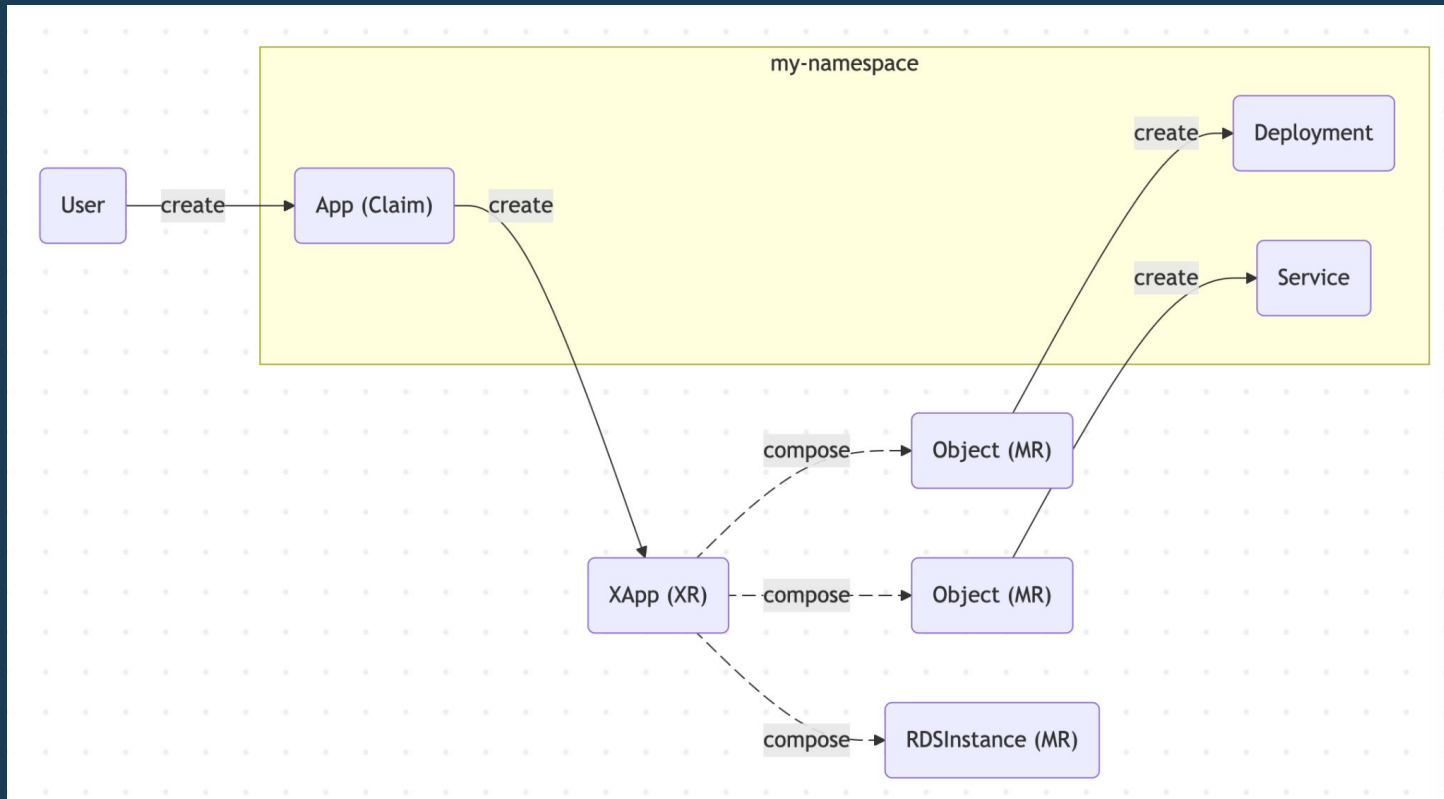
# Most composite resources are namespaced

```
apiVersion: apiextensions.crossplane.io/v2alpha1
kind: CompositeResourceDefinition
metadata:
  name: apps.example.crossplane.io
spec:
  scope: Namespaced
  group: example.crossplane.io
  names:
    kind: App
    plural: apps
  versions:
    - name: v1
    # Removed for brevity
```

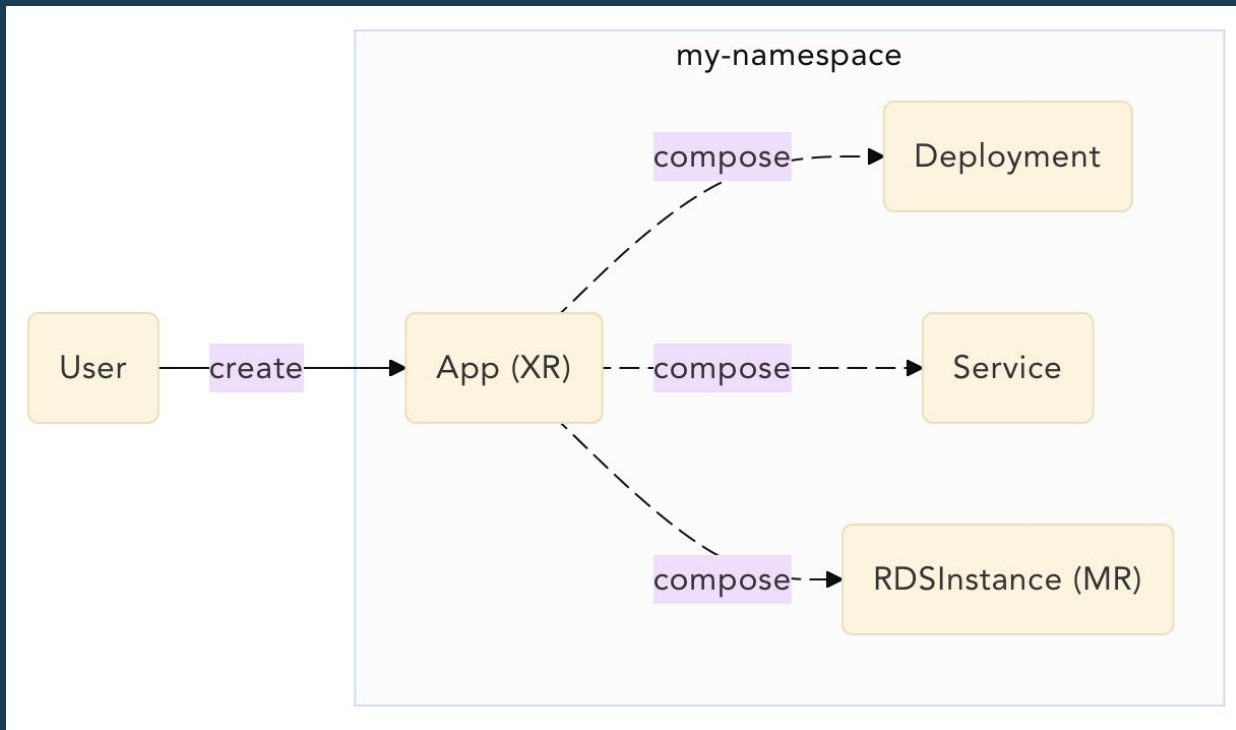
# Managed resources are namespaced

```
apiVersion: s3.aws.m.upbound.io/v1beta1
kind: Bucket
metadata:
  namespace: default
  name: my-bucket
spec:
  forProvider:
    region: us-east-2
```

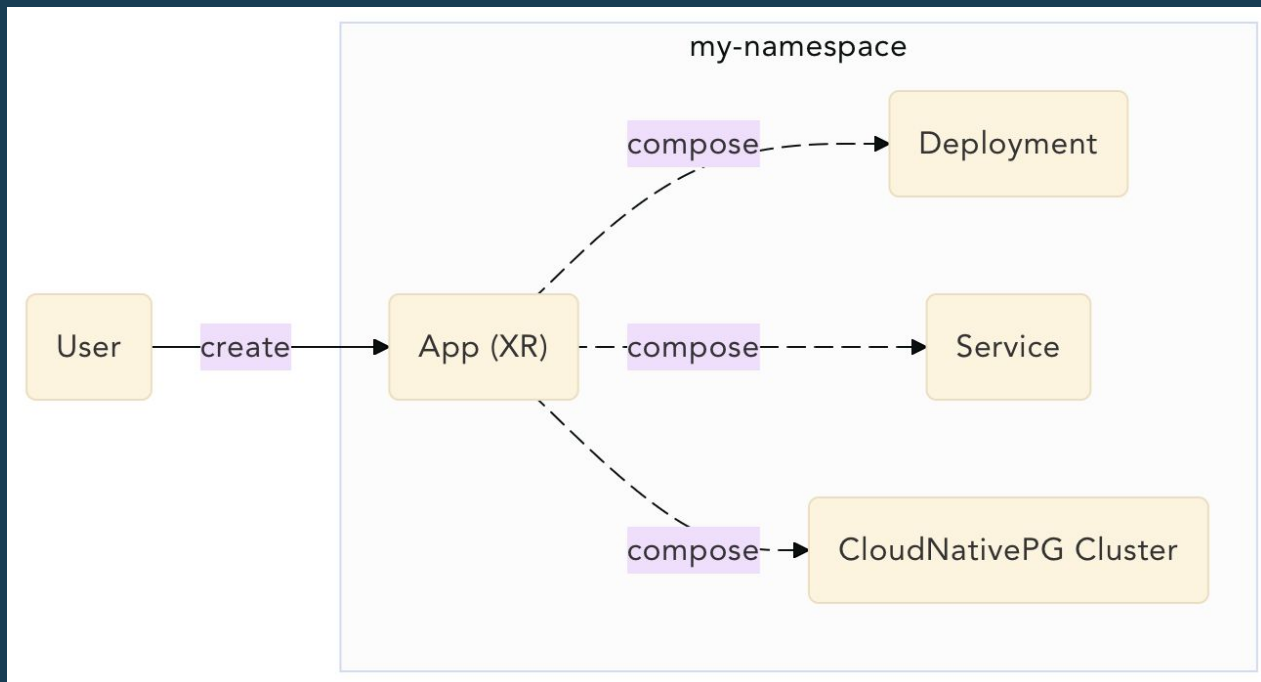
# Compose any resource



# Compose any resource



# Compose any resource





# Crossplane v2 is backward compatible with v1

- **Most people can upgrade from v1 to v2 without breaking changes**
- Special scope: `LegacyCluster` XRD creates a v1-style XR and claim
- Providers still support cluster scoped managed resources
- We removed some already-deprecated features in v2



# Demo!



# Try it today!

- Get started at <https://docs.crossplane.io/v2.0-preview/>



# Community is everything



# Contributors welcome

- Getting started guide now available!
  - [contributing](#) folder in Crossplane GitHub repo
- Code contributions in core and ecosystem
  - lots of functions and providers to help on!
- Docs contributions
  - share your expertise with others
- Good first issues, P0/P1 issues, roadmap
- Mentorship opportunities





## Get Involved

- Website: <https://crossplane.io/>
- Docs: <https://crossplane.io/docs>
- GitHub: <https://github.com/crossplane/crossplane>
- Slack: <https://slack.crossplane.io/>
- Blog: <https://blog.crossplane.io/>
- Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/crossplane.io>
- Twitter: [https://twitter.com/crossplane\\_io](https://twitter.com/crossplane_io)
- Youtube: [Crossplane Youtube](#)

# Try Crossplane v2 today!

- Get started at <https://docs.crossplane.io/v2.0-preview/>

