



# Filling the gap between Terraform and Argo CD

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# Speaker



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hobbies: Cycling 🚴 & Biketouring 🏠

 @the-technat

# Agenda

1 Why an Argo CD provider?

2 History of the provider

3 Use Case @ Swiss Post

4 Use Case : Registering Clusters to central Argo CD

5 Use Case : Creating API Tokens for service accounts

6 Use Case : Terraform Onboarding Module

# Why an Argo CD Provider?



# Why an Argo CD Provider?

# Why an Argo CD Provider?

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I thought Argo CD already allowed for 100% declarative configuration?

---

Wouldn't using the Kubernetes provider to handle Argo CD configuration be enough?



# Benefits using the Argo CD Provider

Cluster-independent (you don't need access to the Kubernetes API to configure Argo CD)

```
provider "argocd" {  
  server_addr = "argocd.local:443"  
  auth_token  = "1234..."  
}
```

```
provider "argocd" {  
  use_local_config = true  
}
```

```
provider "argocd" {  
  auth_token    = "1234..."  
  port_forward  = true  
}
```

```
provider "argocd" {  
  core = true  
}
```

# Benefits using the Argo CD Provider

Atomic configuration

Sample File	Resource Name	Kind	Description
argocd-cm.yaml	argocd-cm	ConfigMap	General Argo CD configuration
argocd-repositories.yaml	my-private-repo / istio-helm-repo / private-helm-repo / private-repo	Secrets	Sample repository connection details

```
► kubectl api-resources |grep ar
applications
applicationsets
appprojects
```



true  
true  
true

Application  
ApplicationSet  
AppProject

## Argo CD - Declarative GitOps CD for Kubernetes

## Declarative Setup

argocd-secret.yaml	argocd-secret	Secret	User Passwords, Certificates (deprecated), Signing Key, Dex secrets, Webhook secrets
argocd-rbac-cm.yaml	argocd-rbac-cm	ConfigMap	RBAC Configuration
argocd-tls-certs-cm.yaml	argocd-tls-certs-cm	ConfigMap	Custom TLS certificates for connecting Git repositories via HTTPS (v1.2 and later)
argocd-ssh-known-hosts-cm.yaml	argocd-ssh-known-hosts-cm	ConfigMap	SSH known hosts data for connecting Git repositories via SSH (v1.2 and later)



# Benefits using the Argo CD Provider

```
apiVersion: argoproj.io/v1alpha1
kind: AppProject
metadata:
  name: meetup
  namespace: argocd
spec:
  description: "..."
  destinations:
  - namespace: test-crd
    server: https://kubernetes.default.svc
  roles:
  - name: test-crd
    policies:
    - p, proj:someotherproject:testrole, applications, sync, meetup/*, allow",
  sourceNamespace: argocd
  sourceRepos:
  - '*'
```

```
resource "kubernetes_manifest" "test-crd" {
  manifest = yamldecode(file("${path.module}/argocd_app.yaml"))
}
```

```
resource "argocd_project" "meetup" {
  metadata {
    name      = "meetup"
    namespace = "argocd"
  }

  spec {
    destinations = ["https://kubernetes.default.svc"]
  }
}
```

```
    "p, proj:someotherproject:testrole, applications, sync, meetup/*, allow",
  ]
}
}
```

```
Plan: 1 to add, 0 to change, 0 to destroy.
kubernetes_manifest.test-crd: Creating ...
kubernetes_manifest.test-crd: Creation complete after 0s

Apply complete! Resources: 1 added, 0 changed, 0 destroyed.
```

## Error: failed to expand project

```
with argocd_project.meetup,
on main.tf line 16, in resource "argocd_project" "meetup":
16: resource "argocd_project" "meetup" {

invalid policy rule 'p, proj:someotherproject:testrole, applications, sync, meetup/*,
allow': policy subject must be: 'proj:meetup:testrole', not
'proj:someotherproject:testrole'
```

# Benefits using the Argo CD Provider

module.eks\_post.kubernetes\_manifest.chaoskube\_app

manifest :

spec :

source :

targetRevision :

"int" → "develop"

... 3 unchanged attributes hidden

... 4 unchanged attributes hidden

object :

spec :

source :

targetRevision :

"int" → "develop"

... 6 unchanged attributes hidden

module.eks\_post.argoacd\_application.chaoskube[0]

id :

"chaoskube:argocd"

... 4 unchanged attributes hidden

spec {

... 2 unchanged attributes hidden

source {

target\_revision :

"int" → "develop"

module.eks\_post.kubernetes\_manifest.chaoskube\_app

✓ Updated

1s

module.eks\_post.argoacd\_application.chaoskube[0]

✓ Updated

id=chaoskube:argocd

6s

# History of the Provider

# Beginnings of the Provider



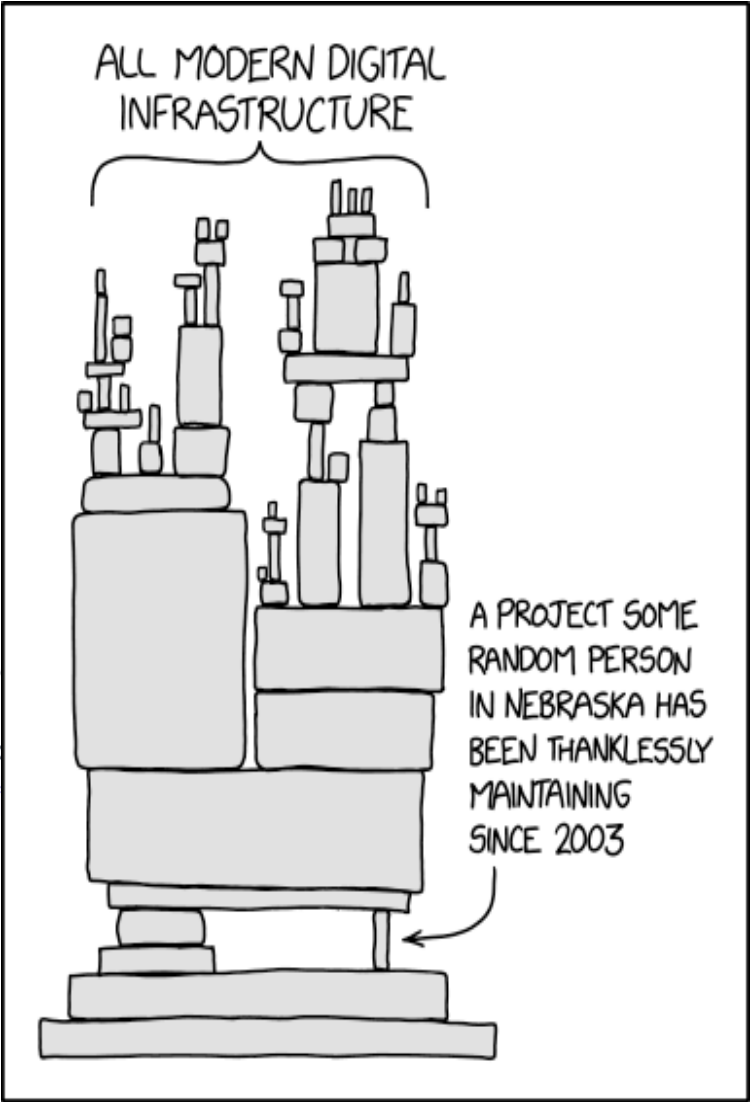
## argocd

by: [oboukili](#)

Continuous Integration/Deployment (CI/CD)

This Provider was migrated to - <https://registry.terraform.io/providers/argocd>

VERSION	🕒 PUBLISHED	🔗 SOURCE CODE
6.2.0	a year ago	<a href="#">oboukili/terraform-provider-argocd</a>



Provider Downloads	All versions ▾
Downloads this week	41,551
Downloads this month	229,720
Downloads this year	3.1M
Downloads over all time	11.6M

# Let's make it official

Thread # argo-contributors



**Marco Kilchhofer** 2 hours ago

Hi folks,

Are there some argo maintainers here who are also very interested in terraform? It seems that there



**Blake Pettersson (akuity.io)** Mar 6th, 2024 at 2:18 PM

I guess for interests sake, are you guys at swisspost willing to help maintain this?



4 replies



**Michael Crenshaw** 2 hours ago

I'd be in favor of that. Looks well-maintained.



**Blake Pettersson** 1 hour ago

I use it at [\\$dayjob](#) for registering clusters to argocd, I like it 🙌

# Official Argo CD Provider!



**argocd**

by: [argoproj-labs](#)

Continuous Integration/Deployment (CI/CD)

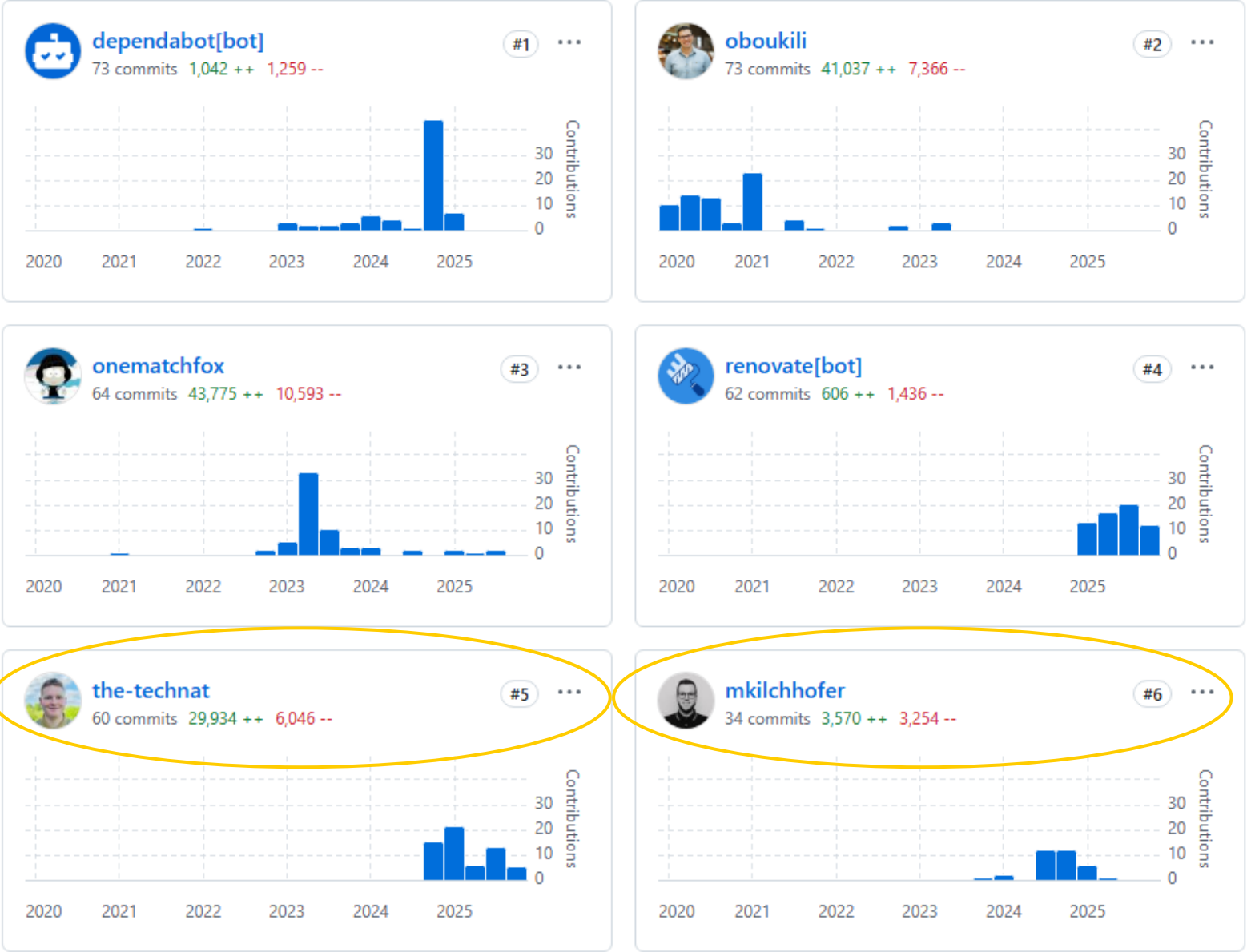
VERSION	🕒 PUBLISHED	🔗 SOURCE CODE
7.12.0	a day ago	<a href="#">argoproj-labs/terraform-provider-argocd</a>

Provider Downloads	All versions ▾
Downloads this week	198,636
Downloads this month	525,737
Downloads this year	8.4M
Downloads over all time	10.9M



(since April 2024)

# How does maintaining go?





# Use Case @ Swiss Post

# K8s@Swiss Post factoids

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We strive for 100% automation

---

We have shared clusters per business unit

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Our clusters can be managed independently

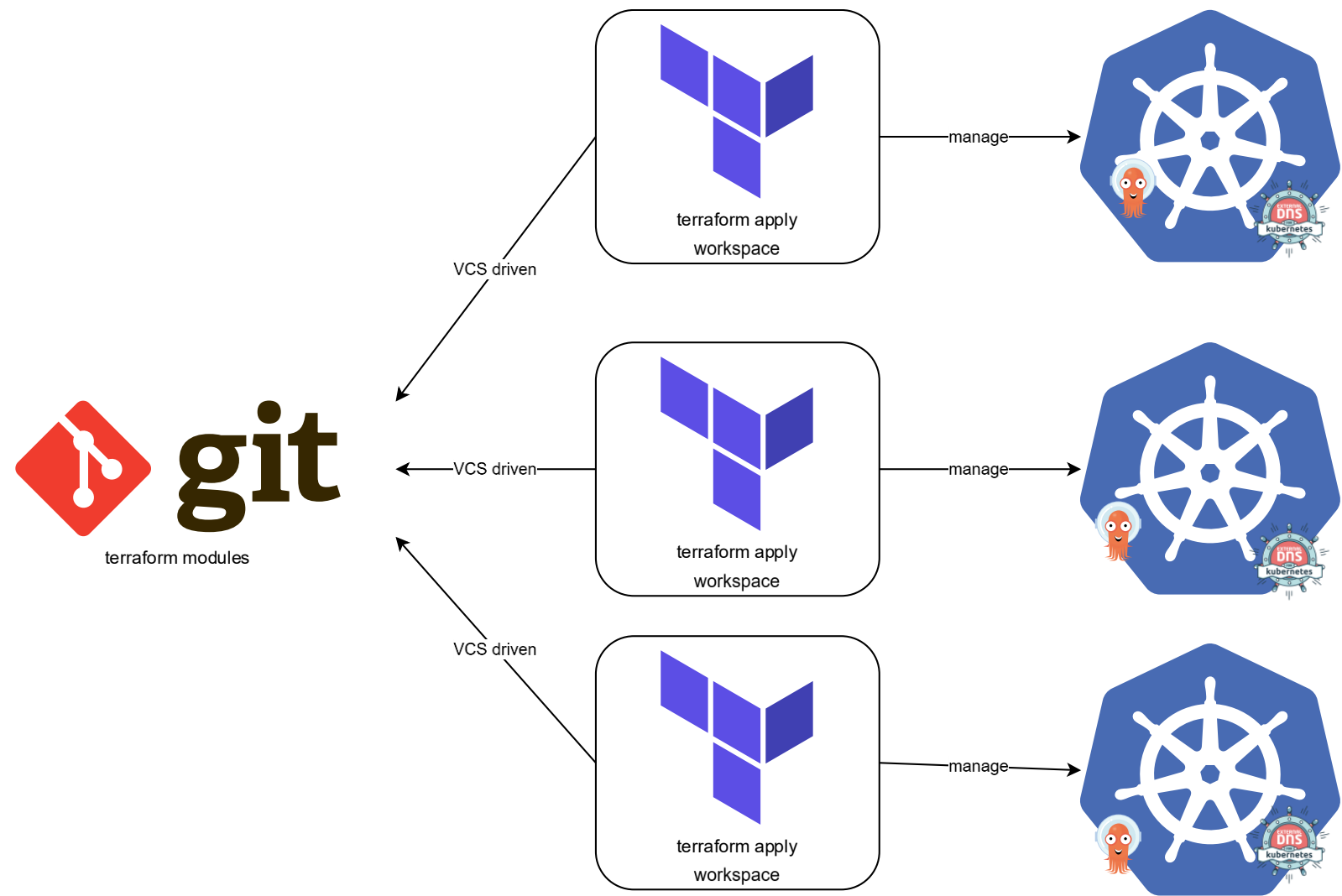
---

We manage everything using Terraform and deploy infrastructure addons using Argo CD

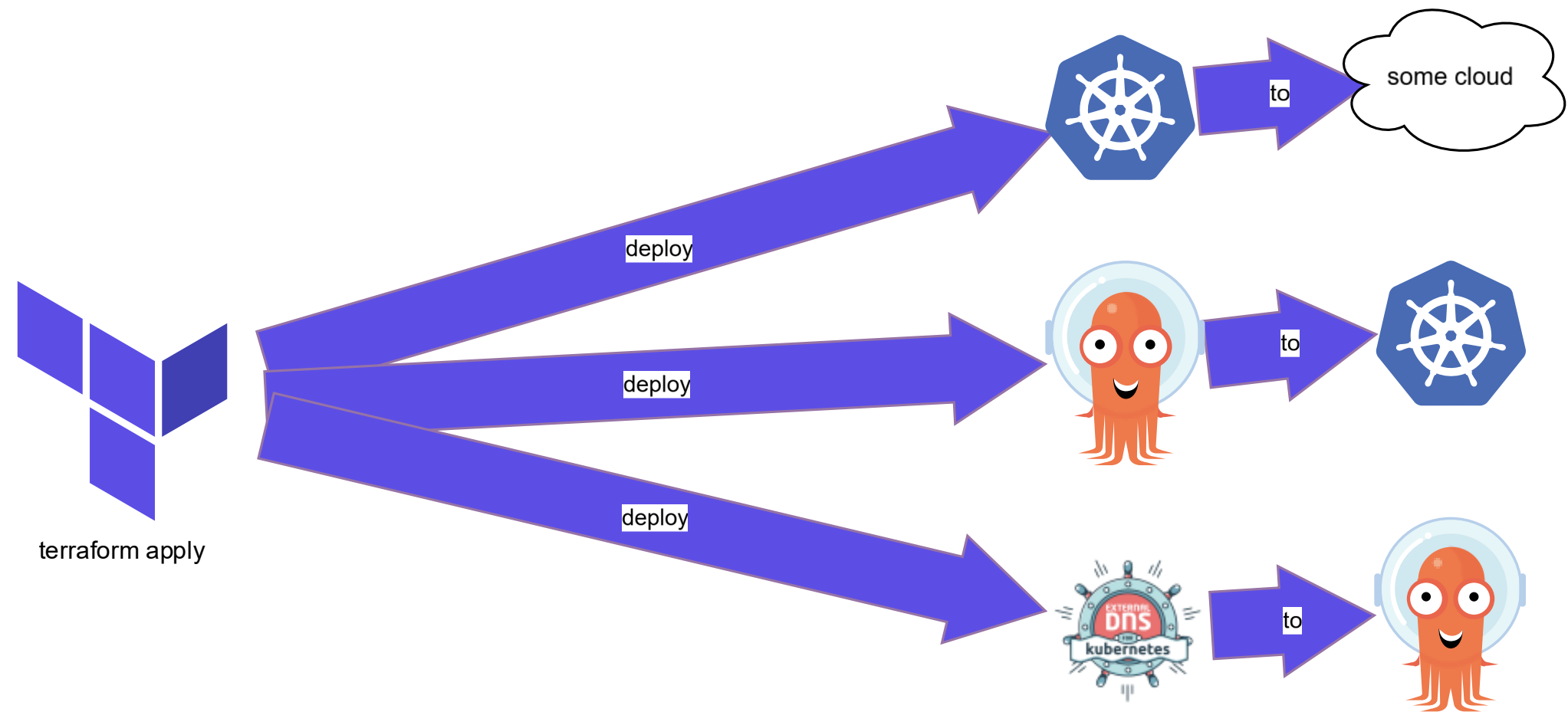
---

All our clusters should be configured the same with only a small degree of customization

# Swiss Post's Deployment Model



# Deploying a cluster in one run



# Install EKS Cluster using AWS Provider

```
1 module "eks" {
2   source = "terraform-aws-modules/eks/aws"
3   version = "~> 21.0"
4
5   name = "meetup_cluster"
6   kubernetes_version = "1.33"
7
8   compute_config = {
9     enabled = true
10    node_pools = ["general-purpose"]
11  }
12
13   vpc_id = "vpc-1234556abcdef"
14   subnet_ids = ["subnet-abcde012", "subnet-bcde012a", "subnet-fghi345a"]
15 }
```

# Install Terraform using Helm Provider

```
1 resource "helm_release" "argocd" {
2   name      = "argocd"
3   repository = "oci://ghcr.io/argoproj/argo-helm/"
4   chart     = "argo-cd"
5   version   = "9.1.3"
6   namespace = "argocd"
7   wait      = true
8
9   set {
10    name  = "configs.secret.argocdServerAdminPassword"
11    value = bcrypt_hash.argocd_password.id
12  }
13
14  depends_on = [
15    module.eks_cluster
16  ]
17 }
```

# Helm Provider Declaration

```
1 provider "helm" {
2   kubernetes {
3     host = module.eks.cluster_endpoint
4     cluster_ca_certificate = base64decode(module.eks.cluster_certificate_authority_data)
5
6     exec {
7       api_version = "client.authentication.k8s.io/v1beta1"
8       command     = "aws"
9       args = ["eks", "get-token", "--cluster-name", module.eks.cluster_name, "--output", "json"]
10    }
11  }
12 }
```



# Create Argo CD Apps

```
1 resource "argocd_application" "external_dns" {
2   metadata {
3     name      = "external-dns"
4     namespace = "argocd"
5   }
6   wait = true
7   spec {
8     project = "swisspost-addons"
9     source {
10      path          = "helm"
11      repo_url       = "https://(...).git"
12      target_revision = int
13      helm { value_files = ["values.yaml", "EKS-values.yaml"] }
14    }
15    destination {
16      server      = "https://kubernetes.default.svc"
17      namespace = kubernetes_namespace.external_dns[0].metadata[0].name
18    }
19  }
20  depends_on = [helm_release.argocd]
21 }
```

# Argo CD Provider Declaration

```
1 provider "argocd" {
2   username = "admin"
3   password = random_password.argocd_password.result
4
5   port_forward_with_namespace = "argocd"
6
7   kubernetes {
8     host = module.eks.cluster_endpoint
9     cluster_ca_certificate = base64decode(module.eks.cluster_certificate_authority_data)
10
11     exec {
12       api_version = "client.authentication.k8s.io/v1beta1"
13       command     = "aws"
14       args = ["eks", "get-token", "--cluster-name", module.eks.cluster_name, "--output", "json"]
15     }
16   }
17 }
```

# Important Facts about this deployment model

Don't update the control-plane and helm/k8s things in the same run

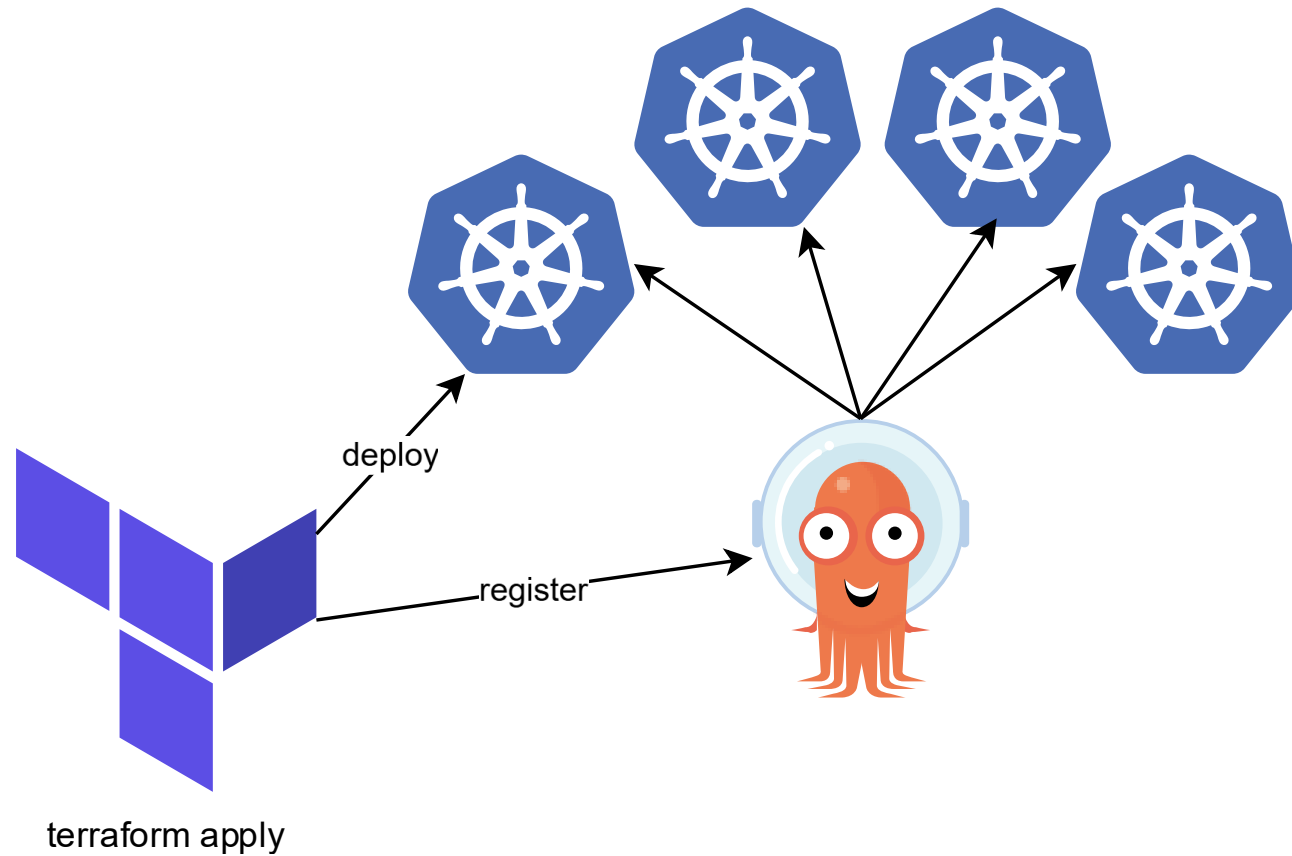
Create and Delete works tough

## WARNING

When using interpolation to pass credentials to the Kubernetes provider from other resources, these resources SHOULD NOT be created in the same Terraform module where Kubernetes provider resources are also used. This will lead to intermittent and unpredictable errors which are hard to debug and diagnose. The root issue lies with the order in which Terraform itself evaluates the provider blocks vs. actual resources. Please refer to [this section of Terraform docs](#) for further explanation.

# Use Case: Registering clusters in Argo CD

# Use Case: Registering Clusters in Argo CD



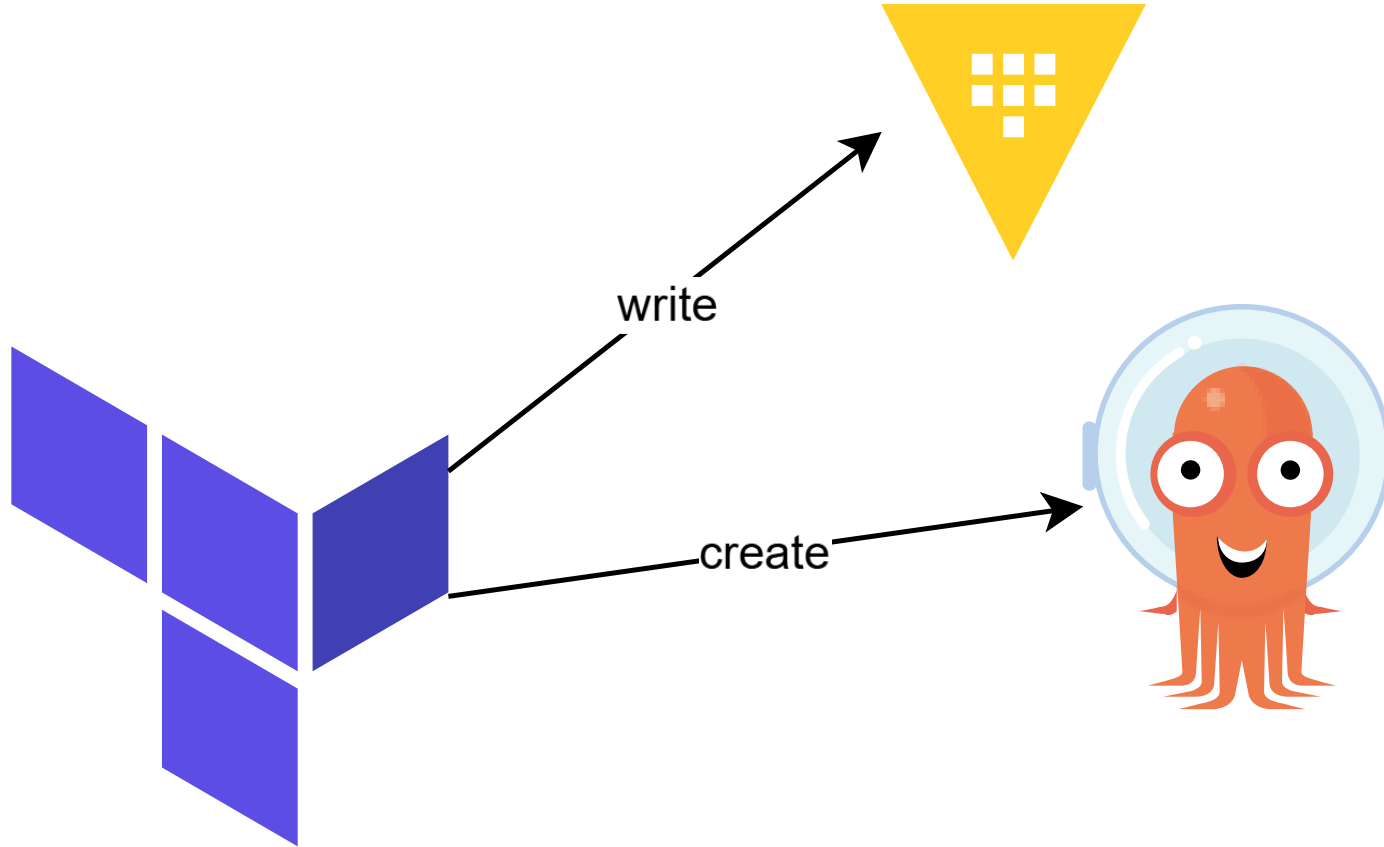
# Use Case: Registering Clusters in Argo CD

```
1 resource "argocd_cluster" "eks" {
2   server      = format("https://%s", module.eks.cluster_endpoint)
3   name        = "meetup_cluster"
4   namespaces  = ["default", "optional"]
5
6   config {
7     aws_auth_config {
8       cluster_name = "meetup_cluster"
9       role_arn      = "arn:aws:iam::<123456789012>:role/<role-name>"
10    }
11    tls_client_config {
12      ca_data = base64decode(module.eks.cluster_certificate_authority_data)
13    }
14  }
15 }
```

# Use Case: Generate project/account tokens



# Use Case: Generating tokens

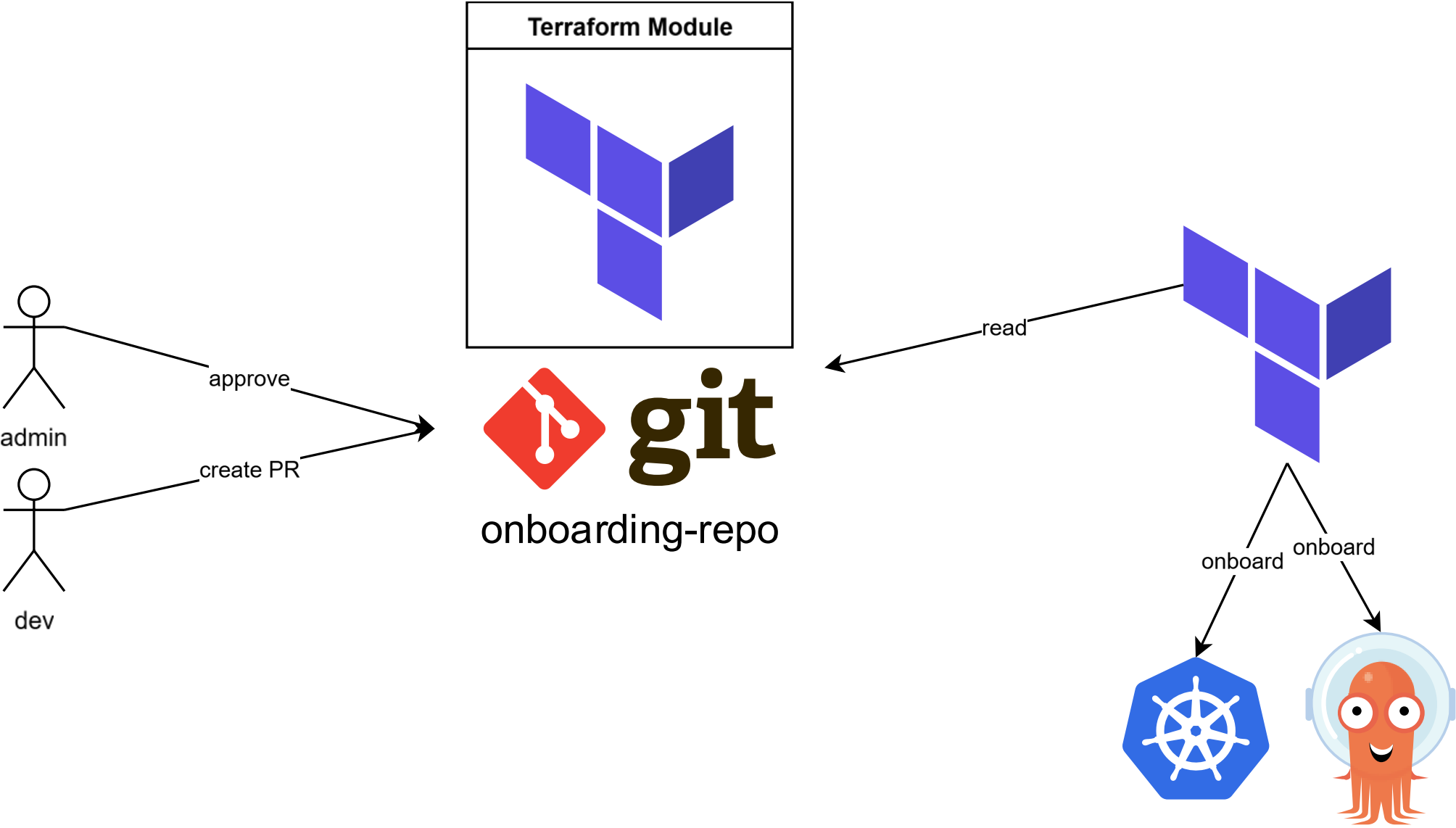


# Use Case: Generating tokens

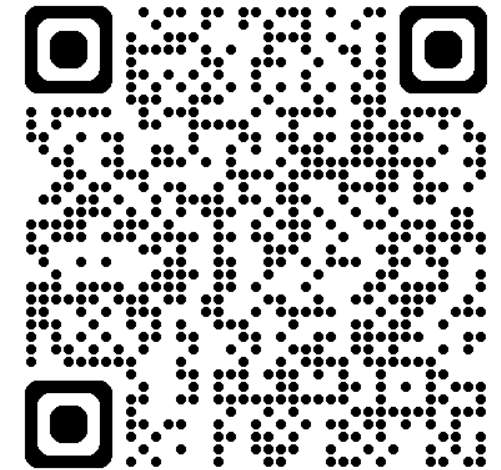
```
1 resource "argocd_project_token" "secret" {
2   project      = "someproject"
3   role         = "foobar"
4   description   = "short lived token"
5   expires_in   = "1h"
6   renew_before = "30m"
7 }
8
9 resource "vault_kv_secret_v2" "example" {
10  mount      = vault_mount.kvv2.path
11  name       = "argocd_token"
12  data_json  = jsonencode({ "token" = argocd_project_token.secret.jwt })
13 }
14
```

# Use Case: Terraform Onboarding

# Use Case: Terraform Onboarding Module



# Talk Recommendation: Terraform Onboarding Module



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oJAZpLAPtg>

# Summary



The UX is better using the Argo CD Terraform Provider



Use Cases are very specific and narrow



OSS is hard

**Danke, Merci,  
Grazie, Thank you**

