**Interviewee: Vikarna Tathe (amittat@gmail.com)**

**Interviewer: Lin Sun**

**Date: Jul 24, 2024**

**Organization Intro**

* Can you give us an overview of your organization and what it does?
  + Company (Zeblok Computational Inc.) based in NYC, has a product called AI micro cloud. Provide an abstraction over infrastructure. Cloud or hardware agnostic, any cloud or baremetal or edge.
  + Vikarna is the platform lead for the organization.

**Motivation**

* Compared with other products in this space (proprietary and open), what drew you to the project?
  + A few reasons: Wanted to have a lightweight product and handle network failures.. Also wanted central mgmt, no island clusters.

**Usage Scenario**

* How does your organization use the project and how long have you used it?
  + From mid 2022. Started testing it first then integrated it. Took about 1 year to get the product productized.
* What version is used and what is your update cadence with the project?
  + Starting with 1.12, this year we upgraded to 1.16.
  + In between we didn’t upgrade.
  + We don’t have paid customers using it. Mostly POC.
* Can you walk me through what your experience was in either adopting it outright or integrating it with your existing services and applications? What challenges did you experience with the project?
  + No challenge with respect to usage. Overall usage is good.
  + Integration was smooth.
  + Doc was a bit challenging to find correct things. Have to raise issues a few times on Github. Response was slow (3-4-5 days) but reasonable for OSS.
* Did you find the information in the repo valuable to your implementation? What specifically?
  + The github repo was valuable, no doubt.
  + When we got stuck, we researched existing users and found a lot of them are already resolved/fixed or with a workaround. Issues in github were very helpful.
* Has your implementation of the project provided measurable value?
  + Did a testing in intel lab with thousands of clusters connecting to AI micro cloud with thousands of workloads and published a paper around the work: https://networkbuilders.intel.com/solutionslibrary/zeblok-automates-scaling-of-hub-to-edge-ai-with-low-overhead
* Do you have any future plans regarding the project? More involvement, feature requests, expansion, etc.
  + Once we get customer deployments, then we will have more involvement and feature reqs for KubeEdge.

**Perception**

* What is your perception in terms of the project’s:
  + Community openness
    - It is an open community from my interaction in github. Didn’t get a chance to attend meetings.
  + Governance
    - No concerns.
  + Community growth potential
    - Haven’t seen much growth, seems limited members working on the project.
  + Maintainer diversity and ladder
    - No idea
  + Maintainer response
    - A bit slow but reasonable for OSS.
* How are you participating in the project community?
  + Only through github issues.
* Did you need to engage with the community members or maintainers? If so, what was the context of the engagement and did it reach an acceptable outcome?
  + Only through github issues. The resolution has been satisfactory.

**Project Strengths**

* In your opinion, what are the overall strengths of the project?
  + It is lightweight and centrally managed to manage thousands of edge worker clusters.

**Project Improvements**

* Is there something you feel that holds the project back from reaching its ultimate potential?
  + Proper Documentation and lack of marketing.
* In your opinion, what can the project do better?
  + We felt air gap deployment should be part of KubeEdge.
  + Good partnership with large organizations can help with deployment across the globe.
  + Good project yet adoption of KubeEdge is less compared with other projects.