

ASP.NET WEB API FOR MONGODB AND KUBERNETES WITH IDENTITY AND JWT AUTHENTICATION

TECHNICAL DOCUMENT AS A PROOF OF
CONCEPT CONTAINING THE OBTAINED I+D
CONCLUSIONS OF THE DESCRIBED SOLUTION

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| Doc. Version | Date | Author | Description |
|--------------|------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1.0 | 2025-12-24 | https://github.com/kraftcoding | First release of the solution |

Requirements

The next table shows the requirements for the solution described.

| Requirement | Description |
|---|--|
| RQ-001 ASP.NET web API (.Net 8) | Framework (.Net 8) based Web API to authenticate and manage books |
| RQ-002 Web API Authentication and Authorization | JWT and Identity based authentication and authorization procedures |
| RQ-003 MongoDB | NoSQL storage |
| RQ-004 Docker | Docker to run Kubernetes |
| RQ-005 Kubernetes | Containerization system |

Overview

This document contains the technical details of the solution that will show you how to build a web API using ASP.Net Core (.Net 8) that can perform CRUD (Create, Read, Update and Delete) operations on a MongoDB NoSQL database.

To ensure security, we will protect the API using JWT (JSON web tokens) authentication. In addition, we will demonstrate how to store user credentials in a MongoDB database by using Asp.NetCore Authentication and Identity.

Finally we will containerize and deploy the MongoDB service using Docker and Kubernetes.

Scope

The scope of this document is to offer a proof of concept with a detailed explain of how to building modern, stateless back-end applications and services on distributed platforms offering scalability and resiliency to your application, using the technologies described before.

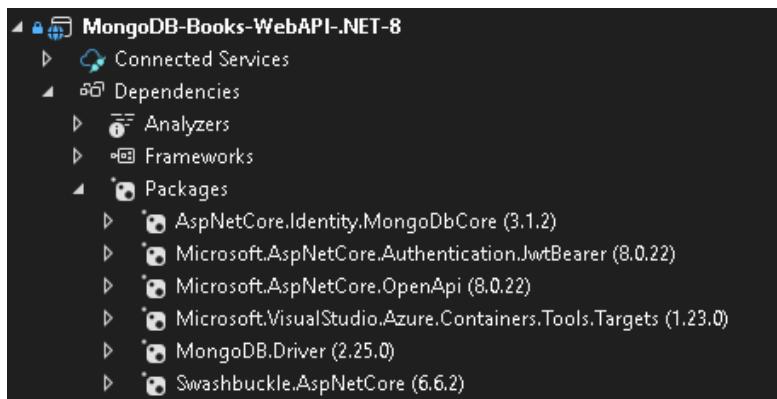
RQ-01 | ASP.NET web API

NOTE: All about JWT and Identity based authentication and authorization is discussed separately.

A Web API or Web Service API is an application processing interface between a web server and web browser. All web services are APIs but not all APIs are web services. REST API is a special type of Web API that uses the standard architectural style explained above.

To deploy a web API for this purpose, we run Visual Studio and create a new project, we select the “ASP.NET Core Web API” template. We set the Project name “BookStoreApi” and the solution path. We select the Framework (.Net 8) and rest of the options: Configure https, use controllers and enable openAPI support.

After the solution is created, add the NuGet libraries:



We add the entity model, we create a “Models” folder/directory to the project root. We add a “Book.cs” class to the “Entities” directory/folder.

Model

In the “Book” class, we require the “Id” property for mapping the object to the MongoDB collection. We use the [BsonId] annotation to make this property the document’s primary key. We also use the [BsonRepresentation(BsonType.ObjectId)] annotation to allow passing the parameter as type string instead of an ObjectId structure.

Mongo handles the conversion from string to ObjectId. The BookName property is annotated with the [BsonElement] attribute. The attribute’s value of “Name” represents the property name in the MongoDB collection. It is optional to use this attribute to rename the C# model property to a MongoDB column name.

We configure the MongoDB connection information in the “appsettings.json” file. We set the connection string, the database name and the books collectionname:

- “mongodb://username:password@localhost:27017/”,
“DatabaseName”:“Bookstore”, “BookCollectionName”: “Books”.

NOTE: It is needed to forward ports to make it available.

We add a “BookStoreDbSettings.cs” class to the “Configuration” directory/folder. We configure the “BookStoreSettings” in the middleware “Program.cs” file. Now we add a CRUD operations to the project. We add a “Services” directory/folder to the project root. Inside this folder we implement the repository interface and class. We create the “IbookRepository.cs” interface. We implement the interface with the “MongoDbBooksRepository.cs” class. We configure the repository in the middleware.

Controller

Finally, we add the controller.

For this purpose, we create the “BooksController.cs” class inside the “Controllers” directory/folder. The controller includes the “IBooksRepository” dependency injection. By means of this service we access the functions (GetAsync, CreateAsync, UpdateAsync, RemoveAsync).

Now we can interchange information with the MongoDb database.

Tests

To test the web API during development we are going to use Swagger which offers a web-based UI OpenAPI specification that provides information about the API functions.

Port forwarding is needed to connect to database (see MongoDB section).

Postman HTTP Request collection is added.

RQ-02 | Web API authentication and authorization

Authentication is the process of verifying user credentials, while authorization is the process of determining whether a user has permission to access specific modules within an application. In order to secure an ASP.NET Core Web API application, we can implement JWT (JSON web token) authentication.

Additionally, we can use authorization in ASP.NET Core to grant access to various functionalities of the application based on a user's privileges. To store user credentials securely, we utilize a MongoDB database.

JSON web token (JWT) is an open standard (RFC 7519) that defines a secure and compact way to transmit information between different parties as a JSON object.

Since JWTs are digitally signed, the transmitted data can be trusted and verified. JWTs can be signed using a secret key (with the HMAC algorithm) or a public/private key pair using RSA or ECDSA.

The compact form of a JSON web token consists of three parts separated by dots (.), namely the Header, Payload, and Signature. This structure makes JWTs easily transferable and straightforward to process. Typically, a JWT looks like this:
xxxx.yyyy.zzzz.

Implementation

We install the Nugget packages: “AspNetCore.Identity.MongoDbCore” and “Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authentication.JwtBearer”.

After loading the Nugget packages, we start our implementation creating a new directory/folder called “Authorization”, where to store all the models to manage the authentication and authorization process. We first define our Identity “User” and “Role” classes.

The Identity User class inherits from “MongoIdentityUser” class and is mapped to “Users” collections. The Identity Role class inherits from “MongoIdentityRole” class and is mapped to “Roles” collections. Also, we create a static class “UserRoles” to add two constant values “Admin” and “User” as roles. You can add as many roles as you wish.

We create a “User.cs” class for new user registration. In this class we store the personal information for each user (Name, Email and Password). We store the login user credentials (name and password) inside the “LoginModel.cs” class.

To store the information required by the JWT authorization we create the “TokenModel.cs” class. In this class we store the access token and the refresh token. The access token is valid for the time period we establish in the “appsettings.json” file. After that period, we must create a new token with the refresh token.

To manage the “http” responses we create the “Response.cs” class. In this class we define the response message and the response status code.

After creating all the authentication and authorization models classes inside the “Authorization” directory/folder, we proceed with the “appsettings.json” file modifications. We must include a new section “JWT”, inside this new section in the “appsettings.json” file we define five new variables (ValidAudience, ValidIssuer, Secret, TokenValidityInMinutes and RefreshTokenValidityInDays).

After setting the JWT configuration variables we must modify the middleware (Program.cs file) to include the authentication and authorization scenario.

Here the Swagger page with the API definition page.

The screenshot shows the Swagger UI interface for the MongoDB-Books-WebAPI-.NET-8 v1 API. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Summarize', 'Chat', and other tools. The main title is 'MongoDB-Books-WebAPI-.NET-8' with version '1.0 OAS 3.0'. Below the title, the URL 'http://localhost:5192/swagger/v1/swagger.json' is displayed. The API is organized into several sections:

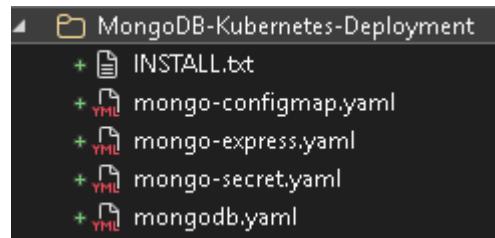
- Authenticate**: Contains six POST operations:
 - /api/Authenticate/registerUser
 - /api/Authenticate/registerAdmin
 - /api/Authenticate/login
 - /api/Authenticate/refresh-token
 - /api/Authenticate/revoke/{username}
 - /api/Authenticate/revoke-all
- Books**: Contains six operations:
 - GET /api/Books
 - POST /api/Books
 - GET /api/Books/{id}
 - PUT /api/Books/{id}
 - DELETE /api/Books/{id}
- Version**: Contains one GET operation:
 - GET /api/Version
- WeatherForecast**: Contains one GET operation:
 - GET /GetWeatherForecastWithNoPermissions

RQ-03 | MongoDB

MongoDB refers to a popular NoSQL database that stores data in flexible, JSON-like documents within "collections," rather than traditional tables and rows, offering dynamic schemas for evolving applications and high scalability for various data types (structured, semi-structured, unstructured). It's known for its agility, ease of use with application objects, and features like sharding and replication, making it great for modern, demanding software.

Installation

Instructions and files for deployment are in the next folder:



Mongo Express

Mongo-Express is an interactive lightweight Web-Based Administrative Tool to effectively manage MongoDB Databases. Written with Node.js, Express, and Bootstrap3, Mongo Express can be used to simplify several MongoDB Admin tasks. Using Mongo Express, you can add, delete or modify databases, collections, and documents.

To launch it, execute:

```
minikube service mongo-express-service.
```

```
C:\Users\User>minikube service mongo-express-service
NAMESPACE     NAME      TARGET PORT   URL
default       mongo-express-service  8081        http://192.168.49.2:30000
* Starting tunnel for service mongo-express-service./
NAMESPACE     NAME      TARGET PORT   URL
default       mongo-express-service  54390       http://127.0.0.1:54390
* Starting tunnel for service mongo-express-service.
* Opening service default/mongo-express-service in default browser...
! Because you are using a Docker driver on windows, the terminal needs to be open to run it.
```

The screenshot shows the Mongo Express dashboard. At the top, there's a header with a green status icon, the title "Mongo Express", and a dropdown menu. Below the header is a section titled "Databases" containing three entries: "admin", "config", and "local". Each entry has a "View" button, a database name, and a "Del" button. Underneath the databases is a "Server Status" section with various metrics:

| Hostname | mongodb-deployment-644cd66579-rwJ9 | MongoDB Version | 8.2.3 |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Uptime | 136 seconds | Node Version | 18.20.3 |
| Server Time | Mon, 26 Dec 2025 13:10:34 GMT | VB Version | 10.2.154-26-node-37 |
| Current Connections | 3 | Available Connections | 419427 |
| Active Clients | 0 | Queued Operations | 0 |
| Clients Reading | 0 | Clients Writing | 0 |
| Read Lock Queue | 0 | Write Lock Queue | 0 |
| Disk Flushes | | Last Flush | |
| Time Spent Flushing | ms | Average Flush Time | ms |
| Total Inserts | 0 | Total Deletes | 1 |

This is the default user we have by default.

The screenshot shows the "Viewing Collection: system.users" page. At the top, there are buttons for "New Document" and "New Index". Below that is a search bar with "Simple" and "Advanced" tabs, and a "Find" button. A red banner at the bottom says "Delete all 1 documents retrieved". The main area displays a table with one document:

| _id | userId | user | db | credentials | roles |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|---|---------------------------------------|
| admin.username | 9261eb5-0723-40ad-b897-b10e62af23e5 | username | admin | <pre>{ "SCRAM-SHA-1": @([4 items]), "SCRAM-SHA-256": @([4 items]) }</pre> | <pre>{ @([2 items]) }</pre> |

Below the table are sections for "Rename Collection" (with "admin" and "system.users" fields and a "Rename" button) and "Tools" (with three progress bars).

We can have relevant information of the cluster too, by executing the next command:

```
kubectl describe service mongodb-service
```

```
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Install the latest PowerShell for new features and improvements! https://aka.ms/PSWindows

PS C:\Users\User> kubectl describe service mongodb-service
Name:           mongodb-service
Namespace:      default
Labels:         <none>
Annotations:   Selector: app=mongodb
Type:          ClusterIP
IP:            10.111.229.68
Port:          <unset>  27017/TCP
TargetPort:    27017/TCP
Endpoints:     10.244.0.3:27017
Session Affinity: None
Events:        <none>
PS C:\Users\User> |
```

Access shell with admin privileges

To access the shell or a client with administrator privileges first we need to forward ports to make the service available.

So to do that we will execute the next command:

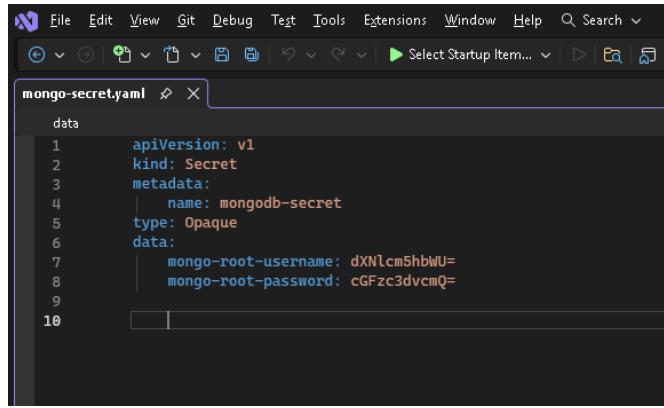
```
kubectl port-forward mongodb-deployment-644cd66579-84gx9 27017:27017
```

```
PS C:\Users\User> kubectl port-forward mongodb-deployment-644cd66579-nswj9 27017:27017
Forwarding from 127.0.0.1:27017 -> 27017
Forwarding from [::1]:27017 -> 27017
```

Where “mongodb-deployment-644cd66579-84gx9” is the pod’s name and we can get it in the description page of the minikube dashboard.

The screenshot shows the Kubernetes Dashboard interface. The left sidebar contains navigation links for Workloads, Cron Jobs, Daemon Sets, Deployments, Jobs, Pods, Replica Sets, Replication Controllers, Stateful Sets, Service, Ingresses, Ingress Classes, Services, Config and Storage, Config Maps, Persistent Volume Claims, Secrets, Storage Classes, Cluster, and Cluster Role Bindings. The main content area displays the details of a pod named 'mongodb-deployment-644cd66579-84gx9' in the 'default' namespace. The pod was created on Dec 24, 2023, and has been running for 47 minutes. It is currently located on the 'minikube' node. The pod's IP address is 10.244.0.3, and it is assigned to the 'default' service account. The pod has a QoS class of 'BestEffort' and 0 restarts. The 'Conditions' table shows that the pod is in a 'Running' state with all containers ready. The 'Metadata' section lists the pod's name, labels (app: mongodb, pod-template-hash: 644cd66579), and its UID.

Now we need the user and password that were used during installation.



```
mongo-secret.yaml
```

```
data
1     apiVersion: v1
2     kind: Secret
3     metadata:
4       |   name: mongodb-secret
5     type: Opaque
6     data:
7       |   mongo-root-username: dXNlcj5hbWU=
8       |   mongo-root-password: cGFzc3dvcmQ=
9
10
```

We decode them.

Decode from Base64 format

Simply enter your data then push the decode button.

```
dXNlcj5hbWU=
cGFzc3dvcmQ=
```

ⓘ For encoded binaries (like images, documents, etc.) use the file upload form a little further down on this page.

UTF-8

Decode each line separately (useful for when you have multiple entries).

Live mode OFF Decodes in real-time as you type or paste (supports only the UTF-8 character set).

< DECODE > Decodes your data into the area below.

```
username
password
```

Now we can login with the shell i.e.

```
mongosh mongodb://<crede X + v
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Install the latest PowerShell for new features and improvements! https://aka.ms/PSWindows

PS C:\Users\User> mongosh --port 27017 --authenticationDatabase "admin" -u "username" -p
Enter password: *****
Current Mongosh Log ID: 694bb963cfde6f27401e2620
Connecting to:      mongodb://<credentials>@127.0.0.1:27017/?directConnection=true&serverSelectionTimeoutMS=2000&authSource=admin&appName=mongosh+2.5.10
Using MongoDB:      8.2.3
Using Mongosh:      2.5.10

For mongosh info see: https://www.mongodb.com/docs/mongodb-shell/

-----
The server generated these startup warnings when booting
2025-12-24T09:05:38.628+00:00: Using the XFS filesystem is strongly recommended with the WiredTiger storage engine. See http://dochub.mongodb.org/core/prodnotes-filesystem
2025-12-24T09:05:38.960+00:00: For customers running the current memory allocator, we suggest changing the contents of the following sysfsfile
2025-12-24T09:05:38.960+00:00: For customers running the current memory allocator, we suggest changing the contents of the following sysfsfile
2025-12-24T09:05:38.960+00:00: We suggest setting the contents of sysfsFile to 0.
2025-12-24T09:05:38.960+00:00: vm.max_map_count is too low
2025-12-24T09:05:38.960+00:00: We suggest setting swappiness to 0 or 1, as swapping can cause performance problems.
-----
test> |
```

RQ-04 | Docker

Docker is a software platform that allows you to build, test, and deploy applications quickly. Docker packages software into standardized units called containers that have everything the software needs to run including libraries, system tools, code, and runtime.

Minikube uses Docker to run Kubernetes node but you can use any VM engine:

```
minikube start --driver=docker
```

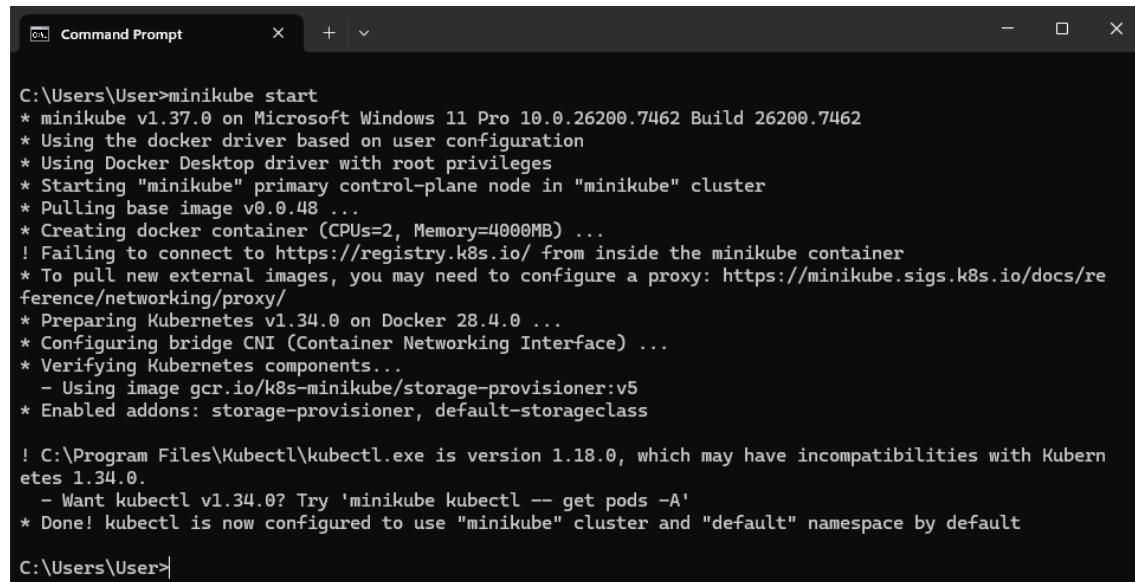
```
minikube start --driver=VMware (for VMWare virtualization)
```

RQ-05 | Kubernetes Single Node (Minikube)

Kubernetes is an open source system to deploy, scale, and manage containerized applications anywhere. This project shows you how to run a sample app on Kubernetes using Minikube.

Minikube is an open-source tool that lets you run a single-node Kubernetes cluster on your local machine (laptop/PC) for learning, development, and testing, providing a lightweight, portable environment that mimics a real cluster without needing complex cloud infrastructure. It runs inside a virtual machine or container on your OS (Linux, macOS, Windows) and includes components like the control plane and worker node, allowing you to practice deploying applications using tools like kubectl.

To start a cluster, run: "minikube start":

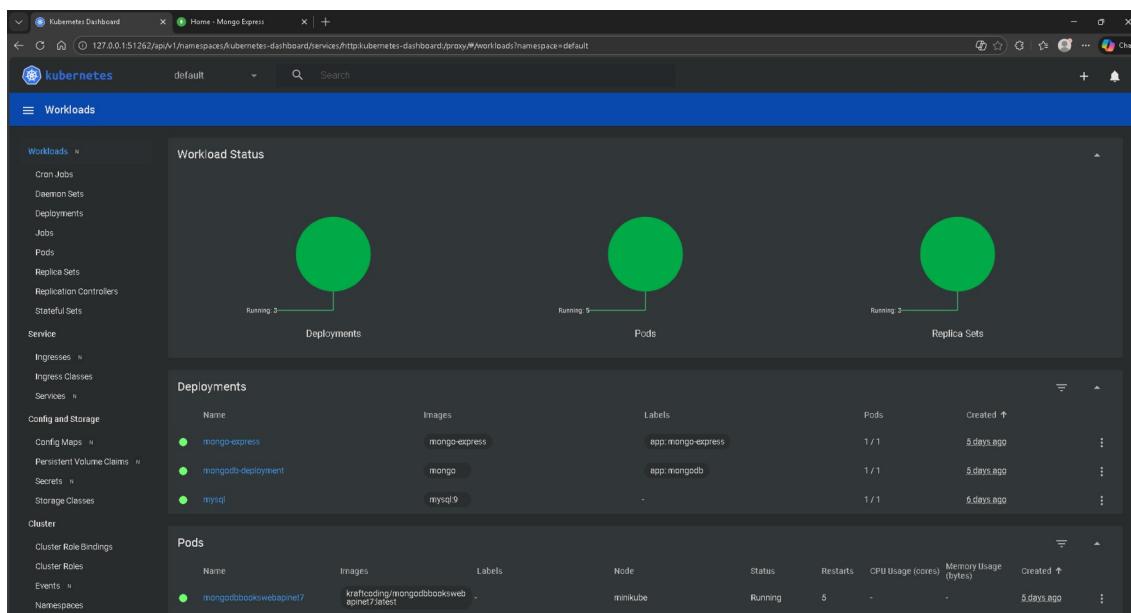


```
C:\Users\User>minikube start
* minikube v1.37.0 on Microsoft Windows 11 Pro 10.0.26200.7462 Build 26200.7462
* Using the docker driver based on user configuration
* Using Docker Desktop driver with root privileges
* Starting "minikube" primary control-plane node in "minikube" cluster
* Pulling base image v0.0.48 ...
* Creating docker container (CPUs=2, Memory=4000MB) ...
! Failing to connect to https://registry.k8s.io/ from inside the minikube container
* To pull new external images, you may need to configure a proxy: https://minikube.sigs.k8s.io/docs/reference/networking/proxy/
* Preparing Kubernetes v1.34.0 on Docker 28.4.0 ...
* Configuring bridge CNI (Container Networking Interface) ...
* Verifying Kubernetes components...
- Using image gcr.io/k8s-minikube/storage-provisioner:v5
* Enabled addons: storage-provisioner, default-storageclass

! C:\Program Files\Kubectl\kubectl.exe is version 1.18.0, which may have incompatibilities with Kubernetes 1.34.0.
- Want kubectl v1.34.0? Try 'minikube kubectl -- get pods -A'
* Done! kubectl is now configured to use "minikube" cluster and "default" namespace by default

C:\Users\User>
```

To start the Dashboard, run: "minikube dashboard":



The screenshot shows the Kubernetes Dashboard interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with navigation links for Workloads, Service, Config & Storage, Cluster, and Events. The main area has two large circular summary metrics: 'Deployments' (Running: 3), 'Pods' (Running: 5), and 'Replica Sets' (Running: 3). Below these are detailed tables for 'Deployments' and 'Pods'. The 'Deployments' table lists three entries: 'mongo-express' (Image: mongo-express, Labels: app:mongo-express, Pods: 1/1, Created: 5 days ago), 'mongodbs-deployment' (Image: mongo, Labels: app:mongodb, Pods: 1/1, Created: 5 days ago), and 'mysql' (Image: mysql, Labels: app:mysql, Pods: 1/1, Created: 6 days ago). The 'Pods' table lists one entry: 'mongodbsbookswebnet7' (Image: kraftcoding/mongodbsbooksweb, Labels: app:booksweb, Node: minikube, Status: Running, Restarts: 5, CPU Usage (cores): -, Memory Usage (bytes): -, Created: 5 days ago).

This will create too an image and a container for the Kubernetes single node in Docker.

Node Management

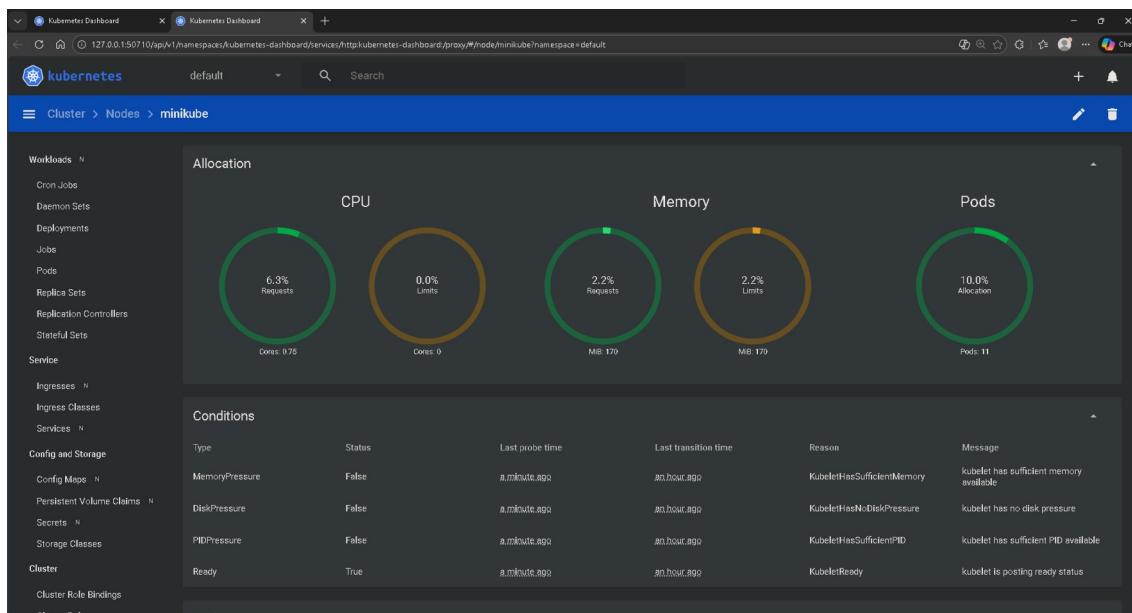
By using the minikube dashboard we can access to the node's information to monitor the components that comprises together to the load and state of the processes, just like a small dedicated linux based OS to manage dockerized applications.

The screenshot shows the Kubernetes Dashboard interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with various navigation options: Cluster, Nodes, Replication Controllers, Stateful Sets, Service, Config and Storage, Cluster, and Cluster Role Bindings. The 'Nodes' option is selected. The main content area is titled 'Nodes' and displays a table with one row for the node 'minikube'. The columns in the table include Name, Labels, Ready, CPU requests (cores), CPU limits (cores), CPU capacity (cores), Memory requests (bytes), Memory limits (bytes), Memory capacity (bytes), Pods, and Created. The 'Labels' column shows annotations such as beta.kubernetes.io/arch: amd64, beta.kubernetes.io/os: linux, and kubernetes.io/arch: amd64. The 'Ready' column shows 'True'. The 'CPU requests' column shows '750.00m (6.25%)'. The 'Memory requests' column shows '170.00Mi (2.16%)'. The 'Pods' column shows '11 (10.00%)'. The 'Created' column shows 'an hour ago'.

Here the node monitoring page with interesting information about the node that we might need to have in account.

- Internal IP: 192.168.49.2
- Hostname: minikube

The screenshot shows the Kubernetes Dashboard interface, specifically the 'Cluster > Nodes > minikube' page. The left sidebar has the same navigation options as the previous screenshot. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'Metadata', 'Resource information', and 'System information'.
In the 'Metadata' section, it shows the node name 'minikube', created date 'Dec 24, 2025', age 'an hour ago', and UID '24bade75-9af9-40ad-8f26-a084514e3e8b'. It also lists labels and annotations.
In the 'Resource information' section, it shows the Pod CIDR '10.244.0.0/24', addresses 'InternalIP: 192.168.49.2', and 'Hostname: minikube'.
In the 'System information' section, it shows the Machine ID 'ce58a23c82fa44bfaa2c1dd8e42519b7', System UUID 'ce58a23c82fa44bfaa2c1dd8e42519b7', and Boot ID 'b1880764-f610-4dd3-a31b-1037a607b21c'.

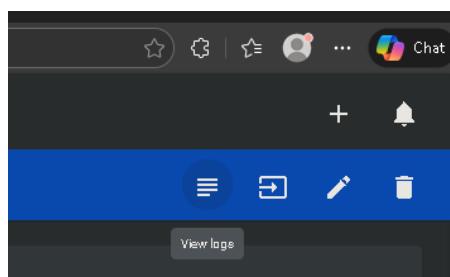


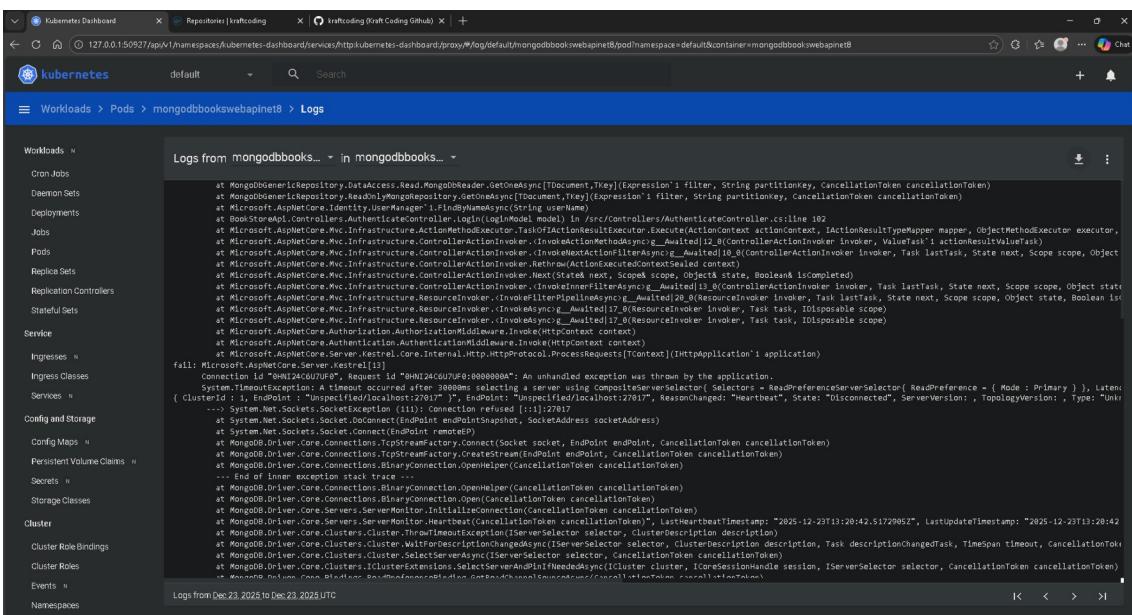
The screenshot shows the Kubernetes Dashboard interface for the 'minikube' node, specifically the 'Pods' section. The table lists the following pods:

| Name | Images | Labels | Node | Status | Restarts | CPU Usage (cores) | Memory Usage (bytes) | Created |
|--|---|---|----------|---------|----------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| dashboard-metrics-scraper-77bf4d6c4c-9j9f9 | docker.io/kubernetes-metrics-scraper:v1.0.8@sha256:700a0a0747e95efec3136cb529b95e22a2d29756092ce220e6b8765c | k8s-app: dashboard-metrics-scraper pod-template-hash: 77bf4d6c4c | minikube | Running | 0 | - | - | 16.minutes.ago |
| kubernetes-dashboard-855c97c49-q5vq9 | docker.io/kubernetes-dashboard:v2.7.0@sha256:0d2993d154a0804050e80fe77ca557a2b090505241588bd1d493841879 | app: kubernetes-dashboard pod-template-hash: 855c97c49 | minikube | Running | 0 | - | - | 16.minutes.ago |
| mongo-express-868b544cd5-59m9j | mongo-express | pod-template-hash: 868b544cd5 | minikube | Running | 0 | - | - | 19.minutes.ago |
| mongodb-deployment-644ed66579-84gp9 | mongo | app: mongoDB pod-template-hash: 644ed66579 | minikube | Running | 0 | - | - | 19.minutes.ago |
| coredns-66bc5c9577-wg7jb | registry.k8s.io/coredns:cor | k8s-app: coredns pod-template-hash: 66bc5c9577 | minikube | Running | 0 | - | - | an.hour.ago |
| kube-proxy-qptmg | registry.k8s.io/kube-proxy:1.14.0 | k8s-app: kube-proxy pod-template-generation: 1 | minikube | Running | 0 | - | - | an.hour.ago |
| storage-provisioner | gcr.io/k8s-minikube/storage-provisioner:9 | addonmanager.kubernetes.io/mode: Recreate pod-template-hash: 9 | minikube | Running | 1 | - | - | an.hour.ago |

Logs

For example if we would need to debug a pod, he can access to it's logs by click in "view logs button".





Deployment

When building modern, stateless applications, containerizing application's components is the first step in deploying and scaling on distributed platforms. By using Docker in development, you can containerize your application by:

- Extracting necessary configuration information from your code.
- Offloading your application's state.
- Packaging your application for repeated use.

To run your services on a distributed platform like Kubernetes, you will need to translate your service definitions to Kubernetes objects to specify how your container images should run. This will allow you to scale your application with resiliency.

For a development environment we will need:

- Docker
- Minikube
- Kubectl

The deployment procedure is the next one:

1. First of all we need Docker running to the launch Minikube
2. Once both are running we can deploy MongoDB components
3. Then we install / launch the Web API

Annexes

Docker Compose

[Docker-compose](#) is the right tool for you to make containers communication to each other. Docker is a software platform that allows you to build, test, and deploy applications quickly. Docker packages software into standardized units called containers that have everything the software needs to run including libraries, system tools, code, and runtime.

Forward Service ports

Due to the MongoDB instance is running in Kubernetes it is needed to forward ports to debug with visual studio.

- `kubectl port-forward mongodb-deployment-66fc75974-mz7nr 27017:27017`