

DN GitSecOps Reference Architecture (self-hosted)

(GitOps + DevSecOps + Security-as-Code) [in https://www.linkedin.com/in/martinholovsky/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/martinholovsky/)

v0.4 (06-2025)

Core Kubernetes Infrastructure

Kubernetes Distribution: K3s
Container Runtime: containerd
Distributed KV Store: etcd
DNS Management: ExternalDNS
Multi-Cluster Management: Argo CD
Multi-Network Clustering: Submariner
Cloud Native Network/CNI: Cilium
Infrastructure-as-Code: OpenTofu
Policy-as-Code: Kyverno
Configuration Management: Kustomize

Application, Deployment & Data Management

Git Platform: Forgejo or Github
Base Image: Alpine & Scratch (static)
Serverless: WasmEdge (on Knative)
Continuous Integration/Delivery: Argo
Container Registry: Harbor
Cloud Native Storage: Longhorn
Multi-Model Database: SurrealDB
Streaming/Message Broker: RabbitMQ
Backup & DR: Velero

Observability, Monitoring & Testing

Metrics: VictoriaMetrics
Logs: VictoriaLogs
Visualization: Grafana
Network flow visibility: Hubble (Cilium)
Service Map: Hubble (Cilium)
Process-level events: Tetragon (Cilium)
Tracing: Tetragon (Cilium)
Logging Agent: Vector
Resilience & Testing: Chaos Mesh

Proposed reference architecture for deploying and managing secure, scalable, and observable microservices on Kubernetes using K3s, Cilium, Argo CD, and other open-source tools.

Security & Access Control Management

Identity Management: Kanidm
Workload Identity: SPIRE
Container Attestation: Cilium
Secrets Management:
ESO + OpenBao Vault + Yubi/Nitro HSM
Image Signing: Sigstore (cosign)
Code & Artifact Signing: Sigstore
Network Policies: Cilium
API Gateway: Emissary-Ingress
Web Application Firewall: Coraza

Runtime Security & Auditing

Threat Detection: Falco
Threat Response: Tetragon (Cilium)
Application Profiling: Tracee
Vulnerability Scanning: Trivy
Container Best Practices: Dockle
System Call Enforcement: KubeArmor
Process-level Enforcement: AppArmor
Posture Management: Kubescape
Security Benchmark/Audit: Kubescape
DNS Security: Cilium

Application Security

Static Application Security Testing:
- Opengrep
Dynamic Application Security Testing:
- OWASP ZAP
Software Composition & Secrets:
- Trivy + Talisman (pre-commit)
Application Vulnerability Management:
- DefectDojo
Web Fuzzing: FFUF, Radamsa
Threat Modeling: AttackTree

Key requirements in mind:

- Kubernetes-Native
- Resource Efficient
- Scalable
- Declarative
- Immutable Infrastructure
- Multi-Cluster support
- Service Mesh capabilities
- Built-in Security
- eBPF preferred (no side-cars)
- As unified as reasonably possible
- Open Source preferred

Web Application Security & Performance

DDoS Protection, CDN, Web Application Firewall, API Gateway, Bot Management, DNS Security, Web Optimization: CloudFlare



Defensive.Network