Exploring Load Balancer Options

NetApp Solutions

NetApp
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Exploring load balancer options: Red Hat OpenShift with NetApp

In most of the cases, Red Hat OpenShift makes applications available to the outside world through routes. A service is exposed by giving it an externally reachable hostname. The defined route and the endpoints identified by its service can be consumed by an OpenShift router to provide this named connectivity to external clients.

However in some cases, applications require the deployment and configuration of customized load balancers to expose the appropriate services. One example of this is NetApp Astra Control Center. To meet this need, we have evaluated a number of custom load balancer options. Their installation and configuration are described in this section.

The following pages have additional information about load balancer options validated in the Red Hat OpenShift with NetApp solution:

- MetalLB

Next: Solution validation/use cases: Red Hat OpenShift with NetApp.

Installing MetalLB load balancers: Red Hat OpenShift with NetApp

This page lists the installation and configuration instructions for the MetalLB load balancer.

MetalLB is a self-hosted network load-balancer installed on your OpenShift cluster that allows the creation of OpenShift services of type load balancer in clusters that don't run on a cloud provider. The two main features of MetalLB that work together to support LoadBalancer services are address allocation and external announcement.

MetalLB configuration options

Based on how MetalLB announces the IP address assigned to LoadBalancer services outside of the OpenShift cluster, it operates in two modes:

- **Layer 2 mode.** In this mode, one node in the OpenShift cluster takes ownership of the service and responds to ARP requests for that IP to make it reachable outside of the OpenShift cluster. Because only the node advertises the IP, it has a bandwidth bottleneck and slow failover limitations. For more information, see the documentation here.
- **BGP mode.** In this mode, all nodes in the OpenShift cluster establish BGP peering sessions with a router and advertise the routes to forward traffic to the service IPs. The pre-requisite for this is to integrate MetalLB with a router in that network. Owing to the hashing mechanism in BGP, it has certain limitation when IP-to-Node mapping for a service changes. For more information, refer to the documentation here.

For the purpose of this document, we are configuring MetalLB in layer 2 mode.

Installing The MetalLB Load Balancer

1. Download the MetalLB resources.

```
[netapp-user@rhel7 ~]$ wget
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/metallb/metallb/v0.10.2/manifests/name
space.yaml
[netapp-user@rhel7 ~]$ wget
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/metallb/metallb/v0.10.2/manifests/meta
llb.yaml
```

2. Edit file `metallb.yaml` and remove `spec.template.spec.securityContext` from controller Deployment and the speaker DaemonSet.

   Lines to be deleted:

```
securityContext:
  runAsNonRoot: true
  runAsUser: 65534
```

3. Create the `metallb-system` namespace.

```
[netapp-user@rhel7 ~]$ oc create -f namespace.yaml
namespace/metallb-system created
```

4. Create the MetalLB CR.

```
[netapp-user@rhel7 ~]$ oc create -f metallb.yaml
podsecuritypolicy.policy/controller created
podsecuritypolicy.policy/speaker created
serviceaccount/controller created
serviceaccount/speaker created
clusterrole.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/metallb-system:controller created
clusterrole.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/metallb-system:speaker created
role.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/config-watcher created
role.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/pod-lister created
role.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/controller created
clusterrolebinding.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/metallb-system:controller
created
clusterrolebinding.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/metallb-system:speaker
created
rolebinding.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/config-watcher created
rolebinding.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/pod-lister created
rolebinding.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/controller created
daemonset.apps/speaker created
deployment.apps/controller created
```

5. Before configuring the MetalLB speaker, grant the speaker DaemonSet elevated privileges so that it can perform the networking configuration required to make the load balancers work.

```
[netapp-user@rhel7 ~]$ oc adm policy add-scc-to-user privileged -n
metallb-system -z speaker
clusterrole.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/system:openshift:scc:privileged
added: "speaker"
```

6. Configure MetalLB by creating a `ConfigMap` in the `metallb-system` namespace.

```
[netapp-user@rhel7 ~]$ vim metallb-config.yaml

apiVersion: v1
kind: ConfigMap
metadata:
  namespace: metallb-system
  name: metallb-config
data:
  config: |
    address-pools:
    - name: default
      protocol: layer2
      addresses:
      - 10.63.17.10-10.63.17.200

[netapp-user@rhel7 ~]$ oc create -f metallb-config.yaml
configmap/metallb-config created
```

7. Now when loadbalancer services are created, MetalLB assigns an externalIP to the services and advertises the IP address by responding to ARP requests.

If you wish to configure MetalLB in BGP mode, skip step 6 above and follow the procedure in the MetalLB documentation here.

Next: Solution validation/use cases: Red Hat OpenShift with NetApp.