K8s Admission Controllers



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Agenda

- What is K8s and why?
- Desired state principle
- Components in K8s
- K8s Architecture
- Setting up K8s locally
- Common misconfigurations
- Admission Controller
- Writing Controller logic w Webhooks
- Setup production-grade cluster w Vagrant



Kuberwhat?!!

- k(j)uːbərˈnɛtɪs, -ˈneɪtɪs, -ˈneɪtiːz, -ˈnɛtiːz
- koo-ber-net-ees
- K8s (8 letters between K and s)
- κυβερνήτης / kubernétēs: Greek for "steersman, navigator" or "guide"
- Also the etymological root of cybernetics

What is it?

• "Kubernetes, also known as K8s, is an open-source orchestration system for automating deployment, scaling, and management of containerised

applications."

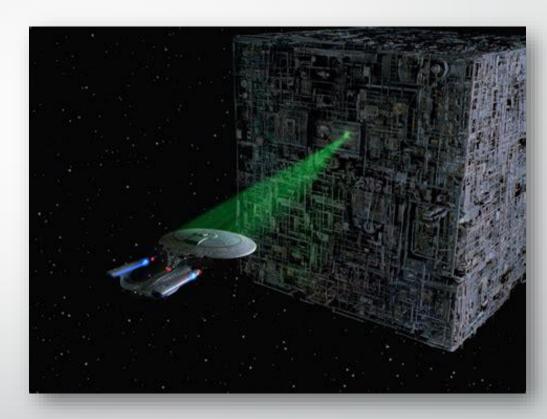
Originated from "Project Borg"

- Originally designed by Google
- Redundancy (like the Borg)
- Open-sourced in 2014



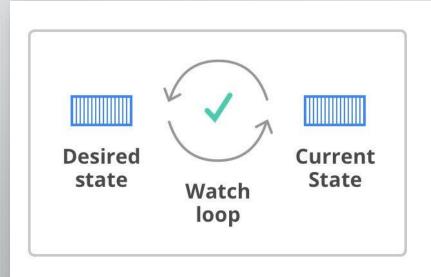
Why K8s?

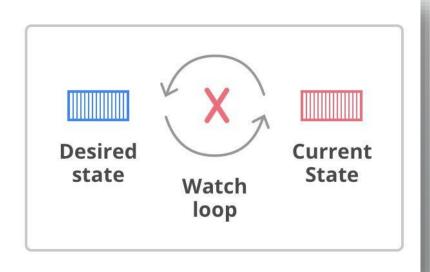
- Move away from monolith architecture
- K8s uses microserver architecture
- Reduce/almost no downtime
- Lose a Borg cube kube? Not an issue
- Easy to orchestrate a large number of containers
- Relies on desired state principle

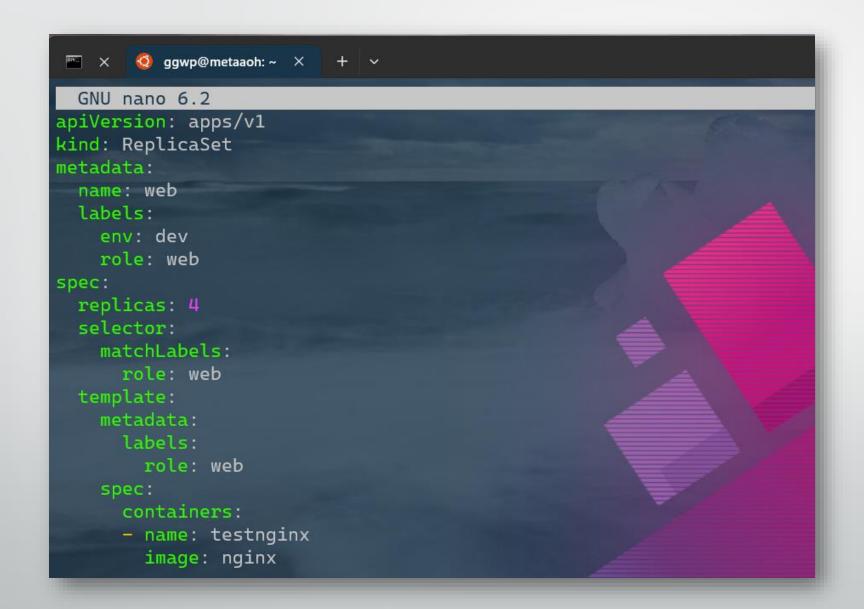


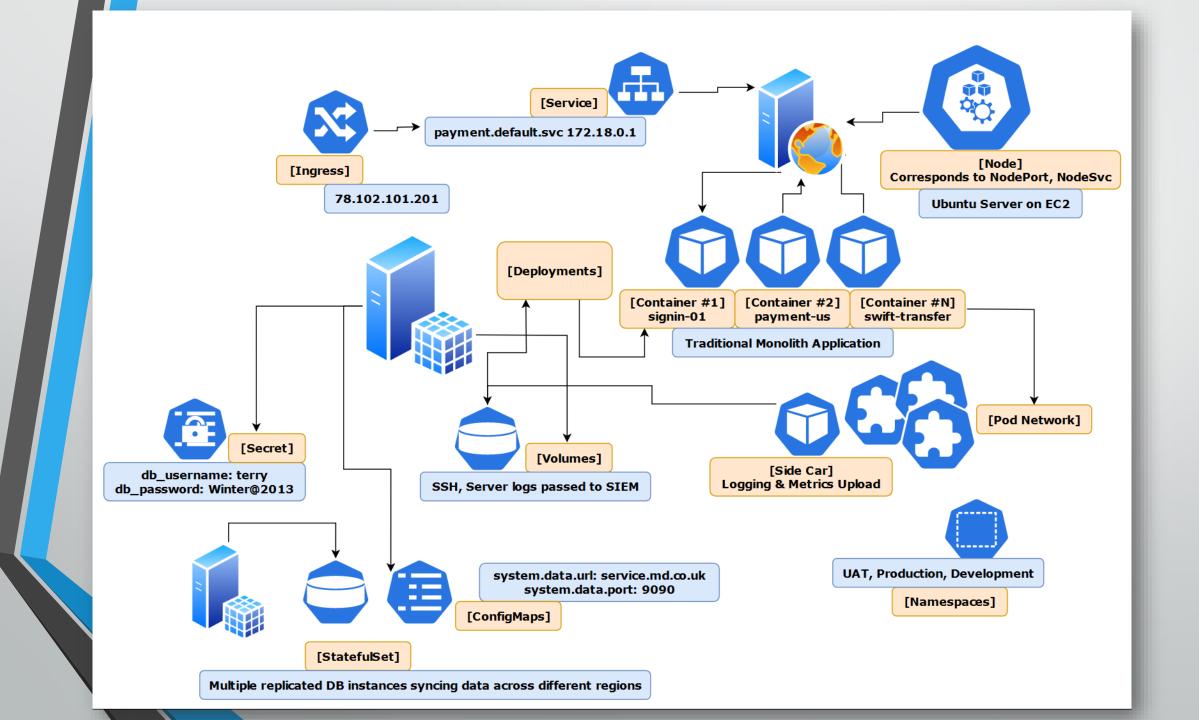
Desired state principle

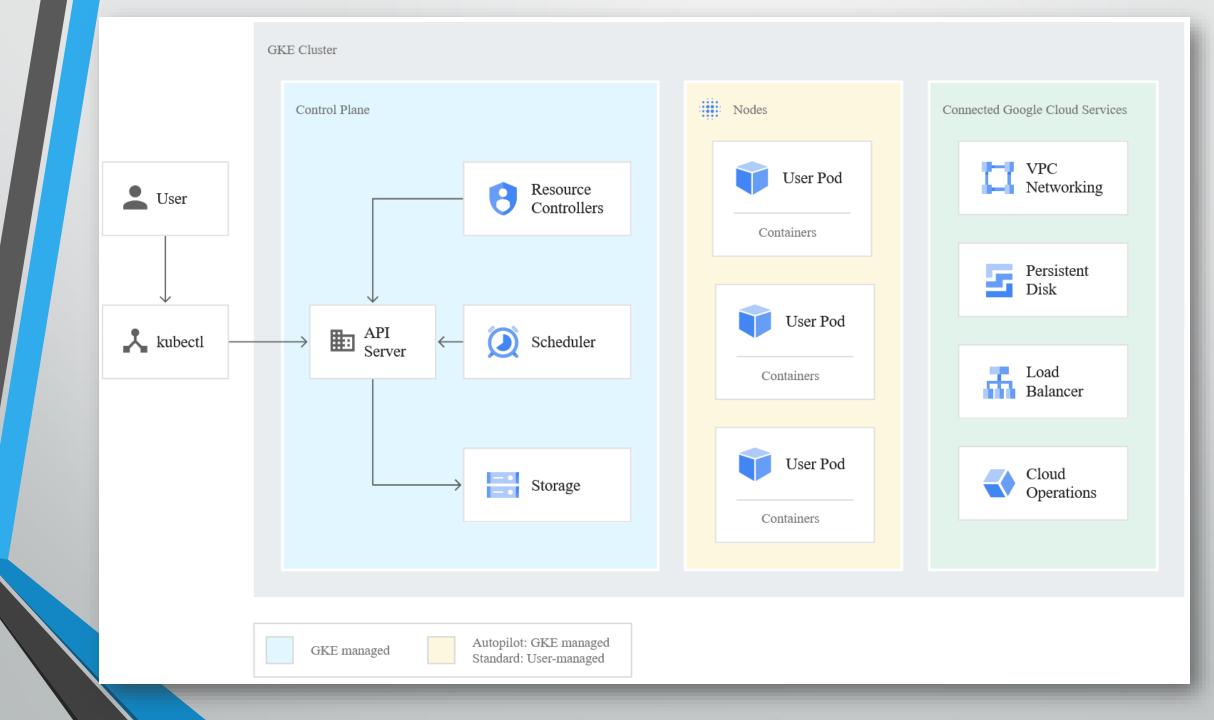
- Any created object will run the exact number of times specified, at any given point
- If a container crashes, the kube-controller-manager should detect this
- There would then be a mismatch between desired state and actual state
- A new container will be launched to obtain desired state

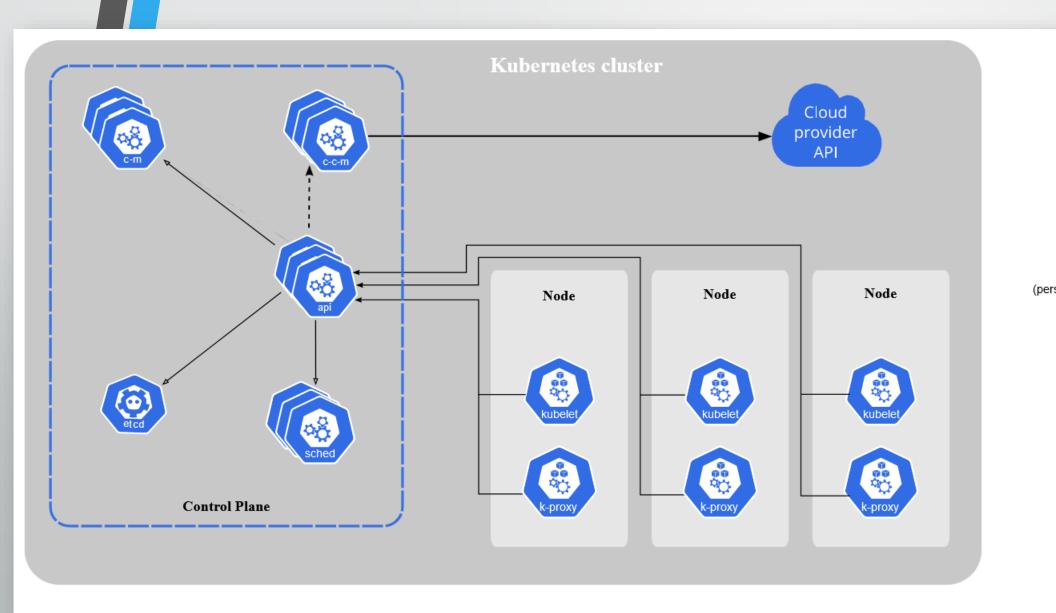












API server



Cloud controller manager (optional)



Controller manager



e (persistence store)



kubelet



kube-proxy



Scheduler



Control plane -----

Node

Setting up K8s locally

- K8S can be setup locally with a minimal set-up for testing. To start a local cluster, need to install docker and minikube binary. Minikube creates a VM and runs master, worker nodes in the same place.
- Once the initial setup is done, start the docker daemon and then minikube.
 Is not production-ready.

\$ curl -LO

https://storage.googleapis.com/minikube/releases/latest/minikube-linux-amd64 && sudo install minikube-linux-amd64 /usr/local/bin/minikube

\$ curl -L -s

https://dl.k8s.io/release/stable.txt/bin/linux/amd64/kubectl

- \$ sudo groupadd docker
- \$ sudo usermod -aG docker \$USER && newgrp docker
- \$ sudo systemctl start docker && minikube start

- Deploying everything in *default* namespace Default NS should not be used for production since the default service token can be abused to get untethered access to all the resources in the cluster, defeats the principle of ns isolation.
- Bad Pods Containers with the ability to privilege escalate, escape to the host OS using a shared socket/folder/IPC/network. Running containers with CAP_SYS_ADMIN permission allows root access with no cgroup limits.
- Malicious Images In the event of a compromise, if an attacker can load a malware image from externally hosted registry or poison the DevOps pipeline via Jenkins
- Insecure RBAC Since companies use custom permissions for resources and there
 is no user accounts out-of-the box from K8S (OIDC providers for provisioning AD
 accounts), RBAC can get tricky.
- Plugins Abusing weak RBAC on the network plugins + container escape +
 service token abuse == Cluster Admin!

GNU nano 6.2 FROM ubuntu:latest RUN apt-get update -y && apt-get install -y python3-pip RUN pip3 install flask WORKDIR /app COPY gkeeper.py /app RUN mkdir certs COPY certs/gkeeperkey.pem /app/certs/gkeeperkey.pem_ COPY certs/gkeepercrt.pem /app/certs/gkeepercrt.pem CMD python3 gkeeper.py

Initial Access

```
GNU nano 6.2
FROM ubuntu:latest

RUN apt-get update -y && apt-get install -y python3-pip
RUN pip3 install flask

WORKDIR /app

COPY gkeeper.py /app
RUN mkdir certs
COPY certs/gkeeperkey.pem /app/certs/gkeeperkey.pem
COPY certs/gkeepercrt.pem /app/certs/gkeepercrt.pem
```

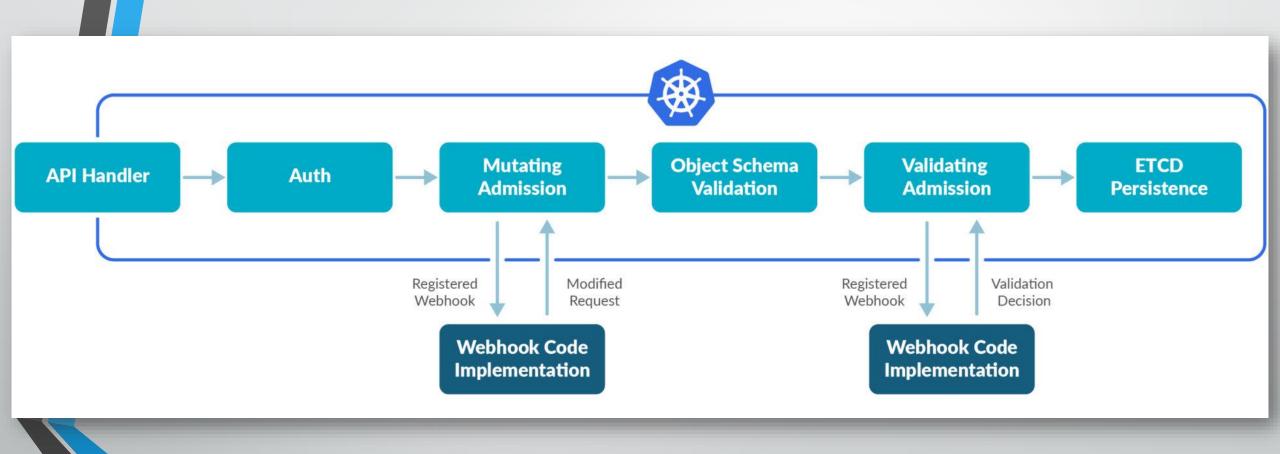
vagrant@enron:~\$ ls -la /etc/kubernetes/admin.conf

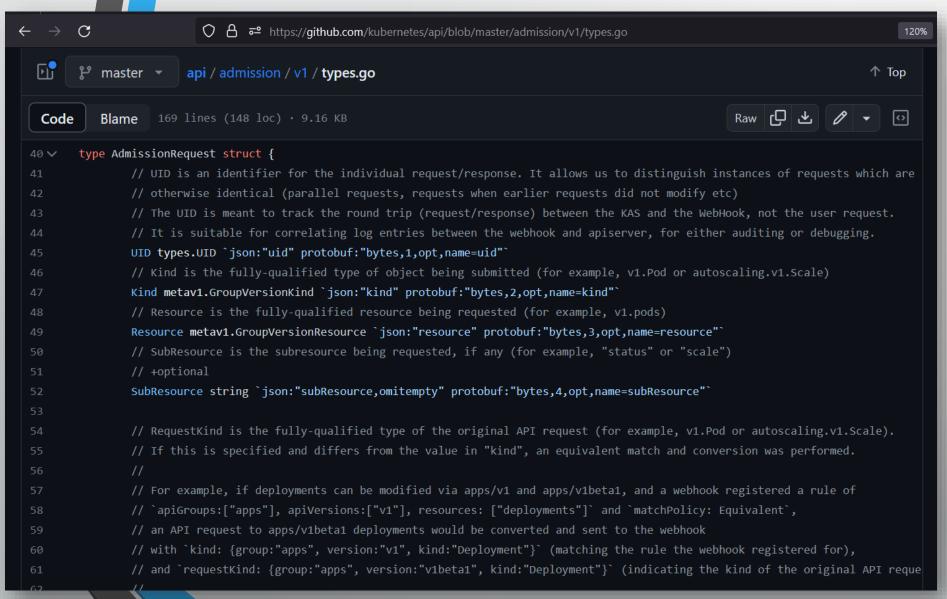
CMD python3 gkeeper.py

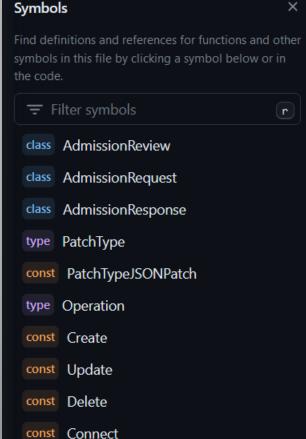
```
GNU nano 6.2
apiVersion: v1
clusters:
- cluster:
  certificate-authority-data: LS0 ...
  server: https://100.10.121.111:6443
 name: kubernetes
contexts:
- context:
  cluster: kubernetes
  user: colby
 name: colby-context
current-context: colby-context
kind: Config
preferences: {}
isers:
- name: colby
 user:
  client-certificate: /home/colby/.certs/colby.cert
  client-key: /home/colby/.certs/colby.key # echo this | base64
```

Admission Controllers

- Gatekeeps the cluster from object writes to ETCD if 'X' does not conform with a policy (e.g., images not pulled from internal.mdsec.docker.registry.com, do not run any container as root)
- Possible to create HTTP callbacks/webhooks with custom logic (e.g., flask web application) to decide if a resource should be let in.
- Mutating and Validating Controllers
- Possible to intercept an API request and PATCH the request to manipulate a struct or an object in it.
- 30+ shipped with K8S, compiled into the kube-apiserver binary
- NameSpaceLifecycle, PodSecurityPolicy, ValidatingAdmissionWebhook and MutatingAdmissionWebhook (dynamic), ServiceAccount
- Flask Server monitoring for webhooks -> Deploy as a SVC -> Register a
 Webhook Controller -> Test







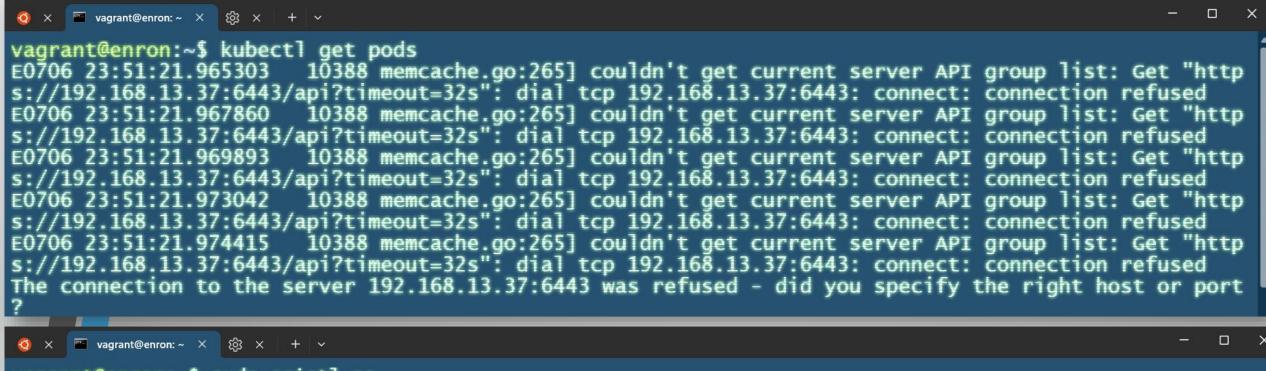
```
api / admission / v1 / types.go
           master 🔻
                                                                                                                                  ↑ Top
                                                                                                             Raw 🗗 🕹
                    169 lines (148 loc) · 9.16 KB
  Code
           Blame
        type AdmissionResponse struct {
116 V
                // UID is an identifier for the individual request/response.
117
                // This must be copied over from the corresponding AdmissionRequest.
118
                UID types.UID `json:"uid" protobuf:"bytes,1,opt,name=uid"`
119
120
                // Allowed indicates whether or not the admission request was permitted.
121
                Allowed bool `json:"allowed" protobuf:"varint,2,opt,name=allowed"`
122
123
                // Result contains extra details into why an admission request was denied.
124
                // This field IS NOT consulted in any way if "Allowed" is "true".
125
                // +optional
126
                Result *metav1.Status `json:"status,omitempty" protobuf:"bytes,3,opt,name=status"`
127
128
                // The patch body. Currently we only support "JSONPatch" which implements RFC 6902.
129
130
                // +optional
                Patch []byte `json:"patch,omitempty" protobuf:"bytes,4,opt,name=patch"`
131
132
                // The type of Patch. Currently we only allow "JSONPatch".
133
                // +optional
134
135
                PatchType *PatchType `json:"patchType,omitempty" protobuf:"bytes,5,opt,name=patchType"`
136
```

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingWebhookConfiguration
metadata:
  name: "pod-policy.example.com"
webhooks:
- name: "pod-policy.example.com"
  rules:
  - apiGroups:
    apiVersions: ["v1"]
    operations: ["CREATE"]
                 ["pods"]
    resources:
                 "Namespaced"
    scope:
  clientConfig:
    service:
     namespace: "example-namespace"
     name: "example-service"
    caBundle: <CA_BUNDLE>
  admissionReviewVersions: ["v1"]
  sideEffects: None
  timeoutSeconds: 5
```

```
/etc/kubernetes/manifests/kube-apiserver.yaml
  GNU nano 6.2
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  annotations:
    kubeadm.kubernetes.io/kube-apiserver.advertise-address.endpoint: 192.168.13.37:6443
 creationTimestamp: null
  labels:
   component: kube-apiserver
    tier: control-plane
  name: kube-apiserver
 namespace: kube-system
spec:
  containers:
  - command:
    kube-apiserver
    --advertise-address=192.168.13.37
    --allow-privileged=true

    --authorization-mode=Node,RBAC

    --client-ca-file=/etc/kubernetes/pki/ca.crt
    - -- enable-admission-plugins=NodeRestriction, ValidatingAdmissionPolicy, NamespaceLifecycle
    --enable-bootstrap-token-auth=true
    --etcd-cafile=/etc/kubernetes/pki/etcd/ca.crt
                vagrant@enron:~$ ls -ls /etc/kubernetes/manifests/
                total 16
```





apiVersion: kubelet.config.k8s.io/v1beta1

kind: KubeletConfiguration

address: "192.168.0.8"

port: 20250

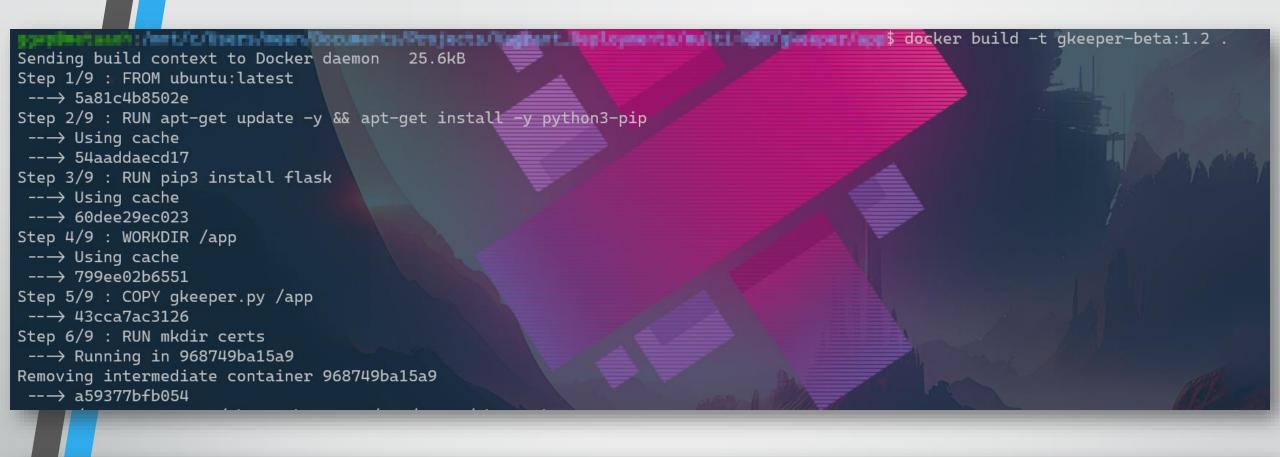
serializeImagePulls: false

evictionHard:

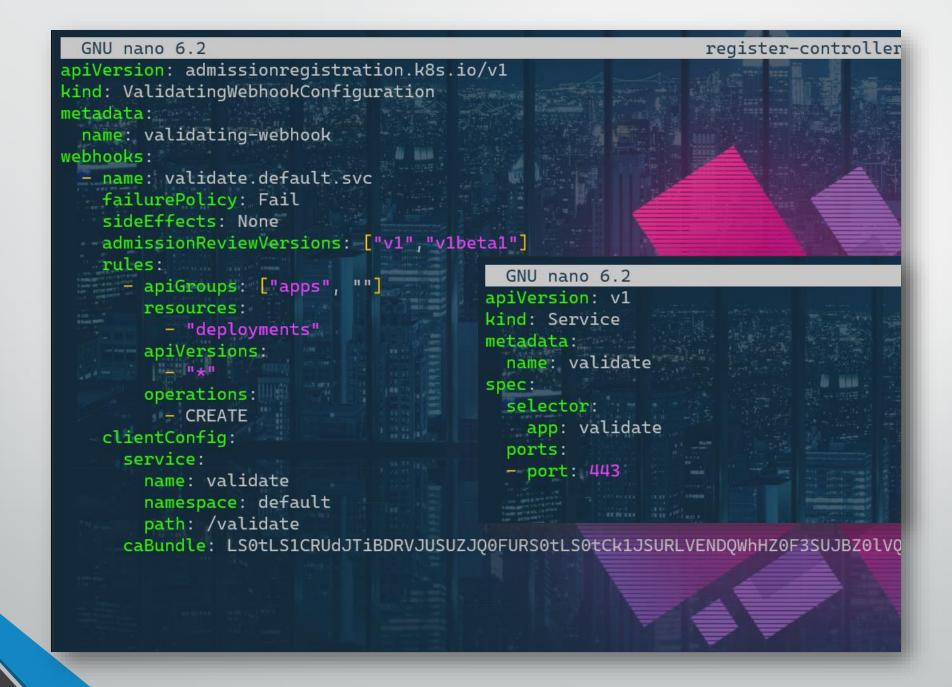
memory.available: "200Mi"

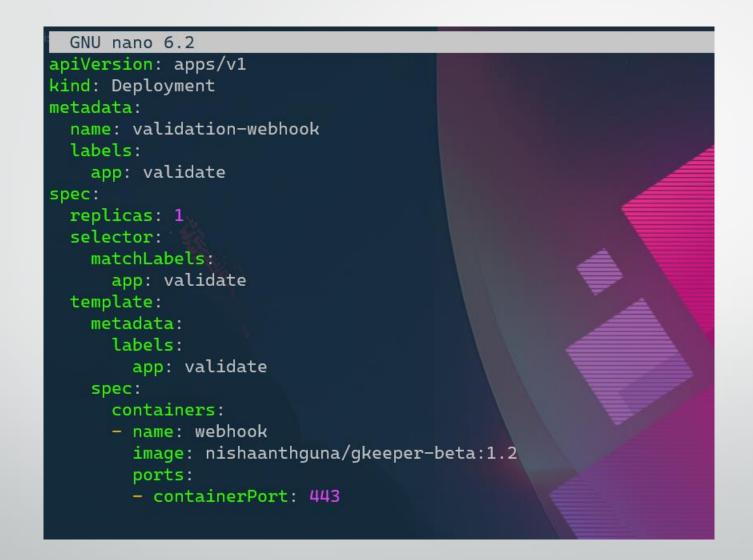
\$ kubectl apply -f clusterconfig.yaml

```
apiVersion: kubeadm.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: ClusterConfiguration
kubernetesVersion: v1.14.3 # change according to kubeadm supported version
apiServer:
  certSANs:
  - 127.0.0.1
  - cluster-api.example.com # change according to your requirements
  extraArgs:
   authorization-mode: Node, RBAC
   feature-gates: "TTLAfterFinished=true"
   audit-policy-file: "/etc/kubernetes/audit-policy.yaml"
   audit-log-path: "/etc/kubernetes/audit/kube-apiserver-audit.log"
   audit-log-maxage: "2"
  extraVolumes:
  - name: "audit-policy"
   hostPath: "/etc/kubernetes/audit-policy.yaml"
   mountPath: "/etc/kubernetes/audit-policy.yaml"
   readOnly: false
   pathType: File
  - name: "audit-volume"
   hostPath: "/var/log/kubernetes/audit"
   mountPath: "/etc/kubernetes/audit"
   readOnly: false
   pathType: DirectoryOrCreate
  timeoutForControlPlane: 4m0s
```





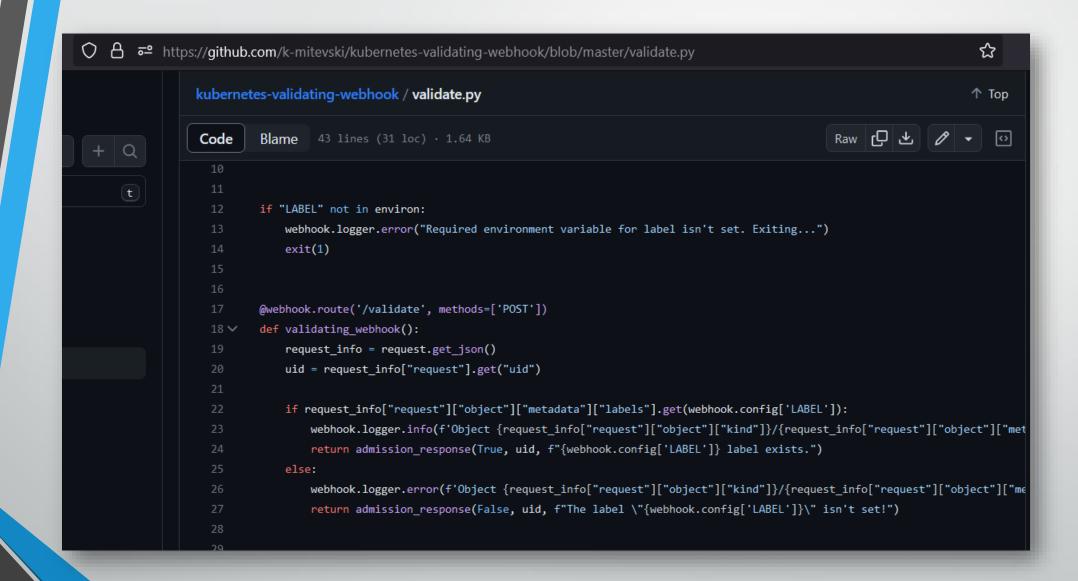




-rwxrwxrwx 1 vagrant vagrant 193 Jul 6 03:00 gitlab-runner.yaml
vagrant@enron:/vagrant/manifests\$ kubectl apply -f webhook.yaml
deployment.apps/validation-webhook created
vagrant@enron:/vagrant/manifests\$ kubectl apply -f svc.yaml
service/validate created
vagrant@enron:/vagrant/manifests\$ kubectl apply -f register-controller.yaml
validatingwebhookconfiguration.admissionregistration.k8s.io/validating-webhook created
vagrant@enron:/vagrant/manifests\$

Projected (a volume that contains injected data from multiple sources) Type: TokenExpirationSeconds: 3607 ConfigMapName: kube-root-ca.crt ConfigMapOptional: <nil> DownwardAPI: true QoS Class: BestEffort Node-Selectors: <none> Tolerations: node.kubernetes.io/not-ready:NoExecute op=Exists for 300s node.kubernetes.io/unreachable:NoExecute op=Exists for 300s Events: Age Message Type Reason From Normal Scheduled 5m15s default-scheduler Successfully assigned default/validation-webhook-766695796f-5dfj7 to enron.corp.k8s.local.e39e305 Normal Pulling 5m15s kubelet Pulling image "nishaanthguna/gkeeper-beta:1.2" Normal Pulled kubelet Successfully pulled image "nishaanthguna/gkeeper-beta:1.2" in 4m58.089296916s (4m58.08931001s inc 16s luding waiting) kubelet Normal Created 16s Created container webhook Normal Started 15s kubelet Started container webhook

vagrant@enron:/vagrant/manifests\$



```
@gkeeper.route('/validate', methods=['POST'])
 6
     def webhook_handler():
         kube request = request.get json()
         uid = kube_request["request"].get("uid")
 8
         container = kube_request["request"]["object"]["spec"]["containers"]
10
11
         try:
             if (container.image != env.ALLOWED_REGISTRIES):
12
                 return webhook_response(True, uid, "Pod pulling image from trusted source")
13
14
         except:
15
             return webhook_response(False, uid, "Not allowed to pull images from arbitraty registries")
16
         return webhook_response(False, uid, "Can't pull the image from the registry")
17
```

```
def webhook response(allowed, uid, message):
19
         return jsonify(
20
                  "apiVersion": "admission.k8s.io/v1",
21
                  "kind": "AdmissionReview",
22
                  "response":
23
24
                      "allowed": allowed,
25
26
                      "uid": uid,
                      "status": {
27
                          "message": message
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
```

\$ kubectl apply -f insecure-registry-pod.yaml Error from server: error when creating "insecure-registry-pod.yaml": admission webhook from "enron.whitelist-private-reg" denied the request: nginx image comes from an untrusted registry! (docker.io/nginx:latest). Only images from https://2122029192.amazonaws.com

\$ kubectl apply -f secure-registry-pod.yaml pod/nginx created

\$ diff -w test-webhook.yaml test-webhook-1.yaml 10c10

< image: nginx

> image: 101290192019.dkr.ecr.us-east-

1.amazonaws.com/nginx

```
Vagrantfile
     Vagrant.configure("2") do |config|
          config.vm.define "k8s-master" do | master |
17
              master.vm.box = IMAGE NAME
              master.vm.network "private_network", ip: API_SERVER_IP
              master.vm.hostname = "#{CLUSTER_NAME}-k8s-control-plane"
              master.vm.provider :virtualbox do |vb|
                  vb.name = "#{CLUSTER_NAME}-k8s-control-plane"
21
                 vb.memory = VM MEMORY
                 vb.cpus = 2
              master.vm.provision "master-common", type: "shell",
              env: {
                  "API_SERVER_IP": API_SERVER_IP,
                  "DNS_SERVER": DNS_SERVER,
                  "KUBERNETES_VERSION": KUBERNETES_VERSION,
                  "CRI VERSION": CRI_VERSION,
                  "CLUSTER_NAME": CLUSTER_NAME,
                  "0S": OS
               path: "init/common.sh"
               master.vm.provision "cluster-start", type: "shell",
               env: {
                  "API_SERVER_IP": API_SERVER_IP,
                  "POD CIDR": POD CIDR,
                  "CLUSTER NAME": CLUSTER NAME,
                  "SERVICE_CIDR": SERVICE_CIDR
              },
              path: "init/master.sh"
44
          (1..WORKER_NODES).each do |i|
              config.vm.define "k8s-worker-#{i}" do |node|
                  node.vm.box = IMAGE_NAME
                  node.vm.network "private_network", ip: "#{WORKER_IP_RANGE}.#{i + 37}"
                                                                           Ln 44, Col 1 (89 selected) Spac
```

```
init > $ common.sh
      apt update -y
      apt install cri-o cri-o-runc -y
      systemctl daemon-reload
      systemctl enable crio --now
      if [ ! -d /etc/modules.load.d/ ]; then
          mkdir /etc/modules.load.d/
      cat <<EOF | sudo tee /etc/modules.load.d/crio.conf</pre>
      overlay
      br netfilter
 54
      EOF
      modprobe overlay
      modprobe br_netfilter
      cat <<EOF | sudo tee /etc/sysctl.d/99-kubernetes-cri.conf</pre>
 60
      net.bridge.bridge-nf-call-iptables = 1
      net.ipv4.ip_forward
 62
      net.bridge.bridge-nf-call-ip6tables = 1
      EOF
      sysctl --system
      # Install K8S
      apt install -y apt-transport-https ca-certificates curl
      curl https://packages.cloud.google.com/apt/doc/apt-key.gpg | apt-key --keyring /usr/share/keyrings/cloud.goog
 70
       curl -fsSL https://packages.cloud.google.com/apt/doc/apt-key.gpg | gpg --batch --dearmor -o /etc/apt/keyrings
 71
 72
       echo "deb [signed-by=/etc/apt/keyrings/kubernetes-archive-keyring.gpg] https://apt.kubernetes.io/ kubernetes-
 74
      apt update -y
      apt install -y jq kubelet="$KUBERNETES_VERSION" kubectl="$KUBERNETES_VERSION" kubeadm="$KUBERNETES_VERSION"
 75
 76
      # config replace regex from https://superuser.com/questions/1485847/command-to-disable-password-login-via-ssh
```

```
init > $ master.sh
      #!/bin/bash
      set -euxo pipefail
      # control plane init and image pull
      kubeadm config images pull
      kubeadm init --apiserver-advertise-address=$API_SERVER_IP --apiserver-cert-extra-sans=$API_SERVER_IP --pod-ne
  7
      echo "[-+-+-+-+-+-+!K8S Control Panel Up!-+-+-+-+-+]"
  8
      # copy token script and kubeconfig from master
 10
      kubeadm token create --print-join-command | tee /vagrant/node_join.sh
 11
      cp /etc/kubernetes/admin.conf /vagrant/admin.config
 12
      echo "[-+-+-+-+-+-+:K8S Credentials copied to host OS /vagrant folder!-+-+-+-+-+----]"
 13
 14
 15
      # copy kube config to master home folder
      mkdir -p /home/vagrant/.kube
 16
      cp /etc/kubernetes/admin.conf /home/vagrant/.kube/config
 17
      chown -R vagrant: /home/vagrant
 18
      echo "[-+-+-+-+-+-+!K8S Credentials exported to /home/vagrant/.kube/!-+-+-+-+-+]"
 19
```

```
0e478
    k8s-master: + echo '[-+-+-+-+-+-+|K8S Control Panel Up!-+-+-+-+-+-|
    k8s-master: [-+-+-+-+-+-+|K8S Control Panel Up!-+-+-+-+-+-+]
    k8s-master: + tee /vagrant/node_join.sh
    k8s-master: + kubeadm token create --print-ioin-command
    k8s-master: kubeadm join 192.168.13.37:6443 --token xel22w.gn1ccd2d8n9g5oxy --discovery-token-ca-cert-hash sha256:14
810ef29a5d70491114fa7633636cfb0862d0cf50abfa97a9cde253b40e478
    k8s-master: + cp /etc/kubernetes/admin.conf /vagrant/admin.config
    k8s-master: [-+-+-+-+-+-+-+|K8S Credentials copied to host OS /vagrant folder!-+-+-+-+-+-+]
    k8s-master: + echo '[-+-+-+-+-+-+-+!K8S Credentials copied to host OS /vagrant folder!-+-+-+-+-+-+-
    k8s-master: + mkdir -p /home/vagrant/.kube
    k8s-master: + cp /etc/kubernetes/admin.conf /home/vagrant/.kube/config
    k8s-master: + chown -R vagrant: /home/vagrant
    k8s-master: [-+-+-+-+-+-+|K8S Credentials exported to /home/vagrant/.kube/|-+-+-+-+-+-+|
    k8s-master: + echo '[-+-+-+-+-+-+-+|K8S Credentials exported to /home/vagrant/.kube/!-+-+-+-+-+-|
==> k8s-worker-1: Importing base box 'bento/ubuntu-22.04'...
==> k8s-worker-1: Matching MAC address for NAT networking...
==> k8s-worker-1: Checking if box 'bento/ubuntu-22.04' version '202303.13.0' is up to date...
==> k8s-worker-1: Setting the name of the VM: enron.corp.k8s.local-k8s-worker-node-1
==> k8s-worker-1: Fixed port collision for 22 => 2222. Now on port 2200.
==> k8s-worker-1: Clearing any previously set network interfaces...
==> k8s-worker-1: Preparing network interfaces based on configuration...
    k8s-worker-1: Adapter 1: nat
    k8s-worker-1: Adapter 2: hostonly
    Kos-worker-i: kun kubecti get nodes on the control-plane to see this hode join the cluster.
   k8s-worker-1:
   k8s-worker-1: [-+-+-+-+-+-+!Worker node joined successfully!-+-+-+-+-+-+-+]
   k8s-worker-1: + echo '[-+-+-+-+-+-+!Worker node joined successfully!-+-+-+-+-+-+-]'
==> k8s-worker-2: Importing base box 'bento/ubuntu-22.04'...
==> k8s-worker-2: Matching MAC address for NAT networking...
   k8s-worker-2: Checking if box 'bento/ubuntu-22.04' version '202303.13.0' is up to date...
   k8s-worker-2: Setting the name of the VM: enron.corp.k8s.local-k8s-worker-node-2
==> k8s-worker-2: Fixed port collision for 22 => 2222. Now on port 2201.
==> k8s-worker-2: Clearing any previously set network interfaces...
```

\$ kubectl get nodes

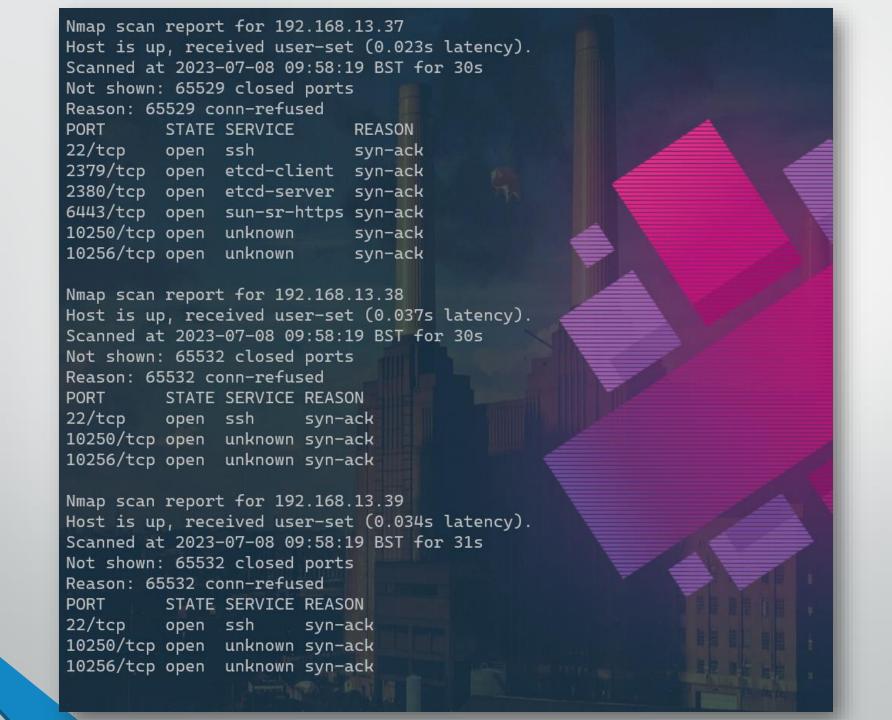
NAME	STATUS	ROLES	AGE	VERSION
enron.corp.k8s.local	Ready	control-plane	4h7m	v1.27.1
enron.corp.k8s.local.1612b401	Ready	<none></none>	4h2m	∨1.27.1
enron.corp.k8s.local.9f8b2815	Ready	<none></none>	3h57m	v1.27.1

\$ nmap -p6443 192.168.13.37 -vv -n
Starting Nmap 7.80 (https://nmap.org) at 2023-07-07 02:11 BST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.13.37
Host is up (0.0025s latency).

PORT STATE SERVICE

6443/tcp open sun-sr-https

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 1.20 seconds



Try it out yourself!

https://github.com/nishaanthguna22/vagrant-deployment-

files/tree/master

https://t.ly/bVMv

References

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kubernetes
- https://kubernetes.io/
- https://cloud.google.com/static/kubernetes-engine/images/gke-architecture.svg
- https://gist.github.com/nilesh93/c743205d34fedb5f48ae4d37d959ba4b
- https://sysdig.com/blog/kubernetes-admission-controllers/
- https://github.com/kubernetes/apimachinery/blob/master/pkg/apis/meta/v1/types.
 go
- https://github.com/kubernetes/api/blob/master/admission/v1/types.go
- https://i.blackhat.com/USA-22/Thursday/US-22-Avrahami-Kubernetes-Privilege-Escalation-Container-Escape-Cluster-Admin.pdf