Data Persistency

Current implementation in Jupyterhub (Open Data Hub)

- Each user gets its own personal space to store data.
- A new unique PVC is created the first time a user launches a notebook.
- This PVC is automatically mounted in the pod at notebook launch time.
- The mount point acts as the user's home and root of the notebook.

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Requirements and Limits

- Users want to share data and notebooks.
- They also want different access levels depending on data sensitivity (public, private, secret).
- For some environments, the Object Storage approach to data sharing may bring some limitations:
 - Overkill for small datasets (e.g. a few GBs of CSV files).
 - Not all applications or libraries support reading data from S3.
 - Existing notebooks referring to "paths" have to be modified:
 - Change management can hamper the adoption of the solution.
 - Work has to be done to make those modifications, which on top breaks the ability for further movements (local computer <-> Open Data Hub environment).

Solutions: RWX volumes!

- For Data and Notebooks sharing:
 - Create RWX PVCs for the shares.
 - Mount the PVCs as additional volumes at spawn time.
 - Handle access level control +
 R/W rights through config
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Requirements and Limits

- Libraries or applications not in a notebook container image, or not at the required version can be:

Solution	Pros	Cons
Installed temporarily in the environment (e.g. 'pip install xyz')	 Quick and easy Direct control by the user (no other people involved) 	 Has to be repeated each time the notebook is used, which can take time for some libraries or sets Not everything can be installed this way (rpms,)
Installed in new version of the container image	 No technical involvement for the user Sanitized images handled by a dedicated team 	 May take time: request to the images maintainers, new build, deployment Ever growing size of images to handle all requests App or library may require update of other components which will: break the image unicity or multiply the images to satisfy all requests
Installed locally by the user in its own space	 Direct control of installation and updates 	 Feasible for libraries, difficult for applications Higher storage consumption (several 100's of MB per user) Reproducibility and notebook sharing can be difficult (version mismatch, conflicts)



Solutions: RWX volumes!

- For Libraries sharing (WIP):
 - Mount centralized apps/libraries collections as RWX volumes inside each container.
 - Leverage LMod to dynamically load apps and libraries.

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