



RASP (KubeMeln)

Kubernetes Classroom Desktop Platform

The real problem





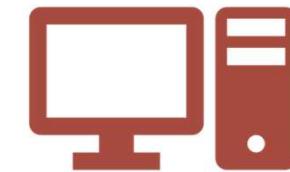
HIGH-LEVEL ARCHITECTURE

System Overview

- Raspberry Pi → Student access device
- Kubernetes (k3s) → Control plane
- Proxmox VE → Virtual machines
- NFS Server → Persistent storage



COMPUTE LAYER (Proxmox)



Virtual Machine Infrastructure

Proxmox VE hypervisor
Ubuntu 24.04 + XFCE desktops
Preconfigured “golden template”
(Template 102)



EMPLATE 102 (GOLDEN TEMPLATE)

Includes:

- Ubuntu 24.04 + XFCE
- Student & teacher accounts
- NFS mount configuration
- QEMU Guest Agent
- Network via DHCP

Why it matters

- All new VMs are cloned from this template
- Fix once → all future VMs fixed
- Break once → all future VMs broken

ACCESS LAYER

(Raspberry Pi)



ACCESS LAYER (Raspberry Pi)

Student Access Layer

- Raspberry Pi in kiosk mode
- Chromium browser only
- No local storage
- No VNC client required



CONTROL LAYER (KUBERNETES)

Why Kubernetes (k3s)?

- Runs system services reliably
- Automatically restarts failed services
- Handles scaling during peak usage

Why k3s

- Lightweight Kubernetes
- Low memory usage
- Perfect for lab environments

K3S CLUSTER SETUP

Cluster Topology

- Single-node k3s cluster
- Control plane and worker on same server
- IP: 10.0.96.99

Runs all backend services:

- Session Manager
- Pool Manager
- VM Controller
- Cleanup Service
- Teachers Portal
- PostgreSQL
- Guacamole



CORE SERVICE ROLES

Session Management

Decides which student gets which VM and ensures one active session per student.

VM Pool Management

Keeps a pool of pre-created desktops ready for instant access.

VM Control

Communicates with Proxmox to start, stop, clone, and delete virtual machines.

Cleanup & Monitoring

Removes expired sessions and recovers stuck or unused VMs.

Teacher Interface

Provides a web dashboard to view and control active sessions.

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Guacamole

Converts VM desktop connections (VNC) into HTML5 so desktops appear in a browser.

PostgreSQL

Stores session data, VM pool state, and Guacamole connection information.

NFS Server (External)

Stores student home directories so files persist across different VMs and sessions.



KUBERNETES SELF- HEALING

Self-Healing Mechanism

- Kubernetes checks /health
- Failed service is restarted automatically
- No manual intervention required

Result

- High availability
- Automatic recovery

Service	Liveness Probe	Interval	Restart Trigger
session-broker	GET /healthz:8081	10s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Auto-restart
vm-controller	✗ None	-	⚠ No auto-restart
pool-manager	GET /healthz:8083	30s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Auto-restart
cleanup-service	GET /healthz:8084	30s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Auto-restart
teachers-portal	GET /health:8082	10s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Auto-restart
guacamole	GET /guacamole/:8080	20s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Auto-restart
guacd	TCP :4822	10s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Auto-restart
guac-postgres	exec pg_isready	10s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Auto-restart
postgres	✗ None	-	⚠ No auto-restart

KUBERNETES AUTO- SCALING

Service	Min	Max	Scale Triggers
session-broker	1	5	CPU 70%, Memory 80%
vm-controller	1	3	CPU 70%

Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA)

- Monitors CPU usage
- Scales Session Manager during login spikes
- Scales down when load decreases

Why only Session Manager

- Login storms happen there
- Other services are backend-bound

FAILURE HANDLING

What Happens When Things Fail

- Service crash → Pod restarts
- Node reboot → Services recreated
- VM crash → Cleanup replaces it
- Student disconnects → Resources reclaimed

No single point of failure

If probe fails → Kubernetes removes pod from Service endpoints (no traffic)

Service	Readiness Probe	Initial Delay	Check Interval	Traffic Control
session-broker	GET /healthz:8081	2s	5s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected
vm-controller	GET /healthz:8080	3s	10s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected
pool-manager	GET /healthz:8083	5s	10s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected
cleanup-service	GET /readyz:8084	5s	10s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected
teachers-portal	GET /health:8082	10s	5s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected
guacamole	GET /guacamole/:8080	10s	10s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected
guacd	TCP :4822	3s	5s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected
guac-postgres	exec pg_isready	5s	5s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected
postgres	✗ None	-	-	⚠️ Unprotected

Demo time

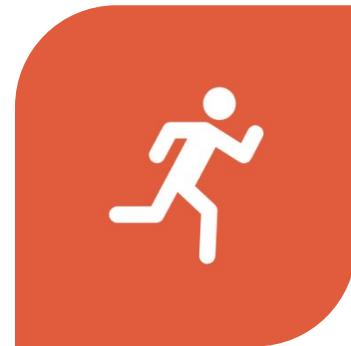
A close-up shot of a man with curly brown hair, wearing a flight helmet with goggles perched on top. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious, focused expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

makeagif.com

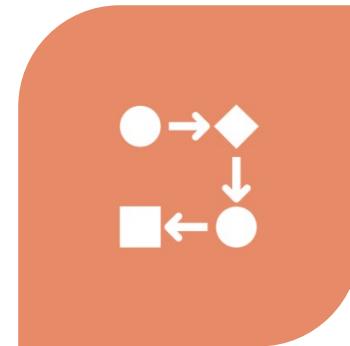
PROMA



GOAL: STABLE END TO END
PLATFORM + FULL EVIDENCE



WORKFLOW: 2 WEEK
SPRINTS



CADENCE: PLAN → STAND-
UP → REVIEW → RETRO (ALL
DOCUMENTED)

Conclusion (technical + PM) and what we have learned

Technical outcomes

End-to-end remote desktop platform on Kubernetes

Automated VM lifecycle with Proxmox

Monitoring + health checks + autoscaling

Admin UI for session control

PM outcomes

Delivered within sprint timeline

Clear responsibilities and documentation

Demo aligned with rubric requirements

Next steps

Stronger auth (SSO), quotas, richer dashboards, HA database, improved security hardening

Q & A



THANK YOU!

