

Lab Exercise 10- Creating and Managing a ReplicaSet in Kubernetes

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Objective:

A ReplicaSet in Kubernetes ensures a specified number of Pod replicas are running at any given time. This exercise will guide you through creating a ReplicaSet to maintain the desired state of your application.

- Understand the syntax and structure of a Kubernetes ReplicaSet definition file (YAML).
- Learn how to create and manage a ReplicaSet to ensure application availability.
- Understand how a ReplicaSet helps in scaling applications and maintaining desired states.

Prerequisites

- Kubernetes Cluster: Have a running Kubernetes cluster (locally using Minikube or kind, or a cloud-based service).
- kubectl: Install and configure kubectl to interact with your Kubernetes cluster.
- Basic Knowledge of YAML: Familiarity with YAML format will be helpful for understanding Kubernetes resource definitions.

Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: Understanding ReplicaSet

A ReplicaSet ensures a specified number of Pod replicas are running at any given time. If a Pod crashes or is deleted, the ReplicaSet creates a new one to meet the defined number of replicas. This helps maintain application availability and ensures that your application can handle increased load by distributing traffic among multiple Pods.

Step 2: Create a ReplicaSet

We'll define a ReplicaSet to maintain three replicas of a simple Nginx web server Pod.

Create a YAML file named nginx-replicaset.yaml with the following content:

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: ReplicaSet
metadata:
  name: nginx-replicaset
spec:
  replicas: 3
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: my-app
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: my-app
    spec:
      containers:
        - name: nginx
          image: nginx:latest
      ports:
        - containerPort: 80
```

```
! nginx-replicaset.yaml
1 apiVersion: apps/v1
2 kind: ReplicaSet
3 metadata:
4   name: nginx-replicaset
5 spec:
6   replicas: 3
7   selector:
8     matchLabels:
9       app: my-app
10    template:
11      metadata:
12        labels:
13          app: my-app
14      spec:
15        containers:
16          - name: nginx
17            image: nginx:latest
18
```

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Explanation:

- **apiVersion:** Defines the API version (apps/v1) used for the ReplicaSet resource.
- **kind:** Specifies that this resource is a ReplicaSet.
- **metadata:** Contains metadata about the ReplicaSet, including name.
 - **name:** The unique name for the ReplicaSet.
- **spec:** Provides the specification for the ReplicaSet.
 - **replicas:** Defines the desired number of Pod replicas.
 - **selector:** Criteria for selecting Pods managed by this ReplicaSet.
 - **matchLabels:** Labels that Pods must have to be managed by this ReplicaSet.
 - **template:** Defines the Pod template used for creating new Pods.
 - **metadata:** Contains metadata for the Pods, including labels.
 - **labels:** Labels applied to Pods created by this ReplicaSet.
 - **spec:** Specification for the Pods.
 - **containers:** Lists the containers that will run in the Pod.
 - **name:** The unique name of the container within the Pod.

- image: The Docker image used for the container.
- ports: Ports exposed by the container.

Step 3: Apply the YAML to Create the ReplicaSet

Use the kubectl apply command to create the ReplicaSet based on the YAML file.

```
kubectl apply -f nginx-replicaset.yaml
```

```
PS D:\kubs> kubectl apply -f nginx-replicaset.yaml
replicaset.apps/nginx-replicaset created
PS D:\kubs>
```

Verify the ReplicaSet is running and maintaining the desired number of replicas:

```
kubectl get replicaset
```

```
PS D:\kubs> kubectl get replicaset
NAME          DESIRED   CURRENT   READY   AGE
nginx-replicaset   3        3        0      11s
```

This command lists all ReplicaSets in the current namespace.

To check the Pods created by the ReplicaSet:

```
kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
```

This command lists all Pods with the label app=nginx.

Step 4: Managing the ReplicaSet

1. Scaling the ReplicaSet

You can scale the number of replicas managed by the ReplicaSet using the kubectl scale command.

```
kubectl scale --replicas=5 replicaset/nginx-replicaset
```

```
PS D:\kubs> kubectl scale --replicas=5 replicaset/nginx-replicaset  
replicaset.apps/nginx-replicaset scaled
```

This command scales the ReplicaSet to maintain 5 replicas. Verify the scaling operation:

```
kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
```

```
PS D:\kubs> kubectl get pods -l app=my-app  
NAME          READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE  
nginx-replicaset-bfhmm  1/1     Running   0          4m46s  
nginx-replicaset-cn7kv  1/1     Running   0          3m55s  
nginx-replicaset-mcg9  1/1     Running   0          4m46s  
nginx-replicaset-x2vmp  1/1     Running   0          4m46s  
nginx-replicaset-xgk7v  1/1     Running   0          3m55s  
PS D:\kubs> |
```

You should see that the number of Pods has increased to 5.

2. Updating the ReplicaSet

If you need to update the Pod template (e.g., to use a different Docker image version), modify the YAML file and apply it again. For instance, change the image to a specific version of Nginx:

```
spec:  
template:  
  spec:  
    containers:  
      - name: nginx  
        image: nginx:1.19.3 # Change to a specific version
```

```
13      app: my-app
14
15   spec:
16     containers:
17       - name: nginx
18         image: nginx:1.19.3
19
20   ports:
```

Apply the changes:

```
kubectl apply -f nginx-replicaset.yaml
See 'kubectl apply -h' for help and examples
PS D:\kubs> kubectl apply -f nginx-replicaset.yaml
replicaset.apps/nginx-replicaset configured
PS D:\kubs>
```

Check the status to ensure the Pods are updated:

```
kubectl get pods -l app=nginx
PS D:\kubs> kubectl get pods -l app=my-app
NAME          READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
nginx-replicaset-cn7kv  1/1     Running   0          6m33s
nginx-replicaset-mcgs9  1/1     Running   0          7m24s
nginx-replicaset-x2vmp  1/1     Running   0          7m24s
```

Note: Updating a ReplicaSet doesn't automatically replace existing Pods with new ones. In practice, you often create a new ReplicaSet or Deployment for updates.

3. Deleting the ReplicaSet

To clean up the ReplicaSet and its Pods, use the `kubectl delete` command:

```
kubectl delete -f nginx-replicaset.yaml
PS D:\kubs> kubectl delete -f nginx-replicaset.yaml
replicaset.apps "nginx-replicaset" deleted from default namespace
PS D:\kubs>
```

This command deletes the ReplicaSet and all the Pods managed by it.