

Creating an Effective Developer Experience on Kubernetes

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“Developer Experience”



tl;dr

The developer experience is primarily about minimising the friction from idea to code to delivering observable business value

How you construct your ‘platform’ impacts the developer experience greatly

High productivity (and fun) comes from intentionally designing experience of: local development, packaging apps, CI/CD, deployment control, and observability

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Independent Technical Consultant, Product Architect at Datawire

Previously: Academic, software developer (from startups to gov), consultant, CTO, trainer...



Leading change through technology and teams



Setting the Scene

What is Cloud Native?

CLOUD NATIVE COMPUTING FOUNDATION

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Charter

Cloud Native Computing Foundation ("CNCF") Charter

The Linux Foundation
Effective Nov 6 2015 / Updated May 15 2018

1. Mission of the Cloud Native Computing Foundation.
The Foundation's mission is to create and drive the adoption of a new computing paradigm that is optimized for modern distributed systems environments capable of scaling to tens of thousands of self healing multi-tenant nodes.

Cloud native systems will have the following properties:

(a) Container packaged. Running applications and processes in software containers as an isolated unit of application deployment, and as a mechanism to achieve high levels of resource isolation. Improves overall developer experience, fosters code and component reuse and simplify operations for cloud native applications.

(b) Dynamically managed. Actively scheduled and actively managed by a central orchestrating process. Radically improve machine efficiency and resource utilization while reducing the cost associated with maintenance and operations.

(c) Micro-services oriented. Loosely coupled with dependencies explicitly described (e.g. through service endpoints). Significantly increase the overall agility and maintainability of applications. The foundation will shape the evolution of the technology to advance the state of the art for application management, and to make the technology ubiquitous and easily available through reliable interfaces.

<https://www.cncf.io/about/charter/>



<https://www.datawire.io/what-is-cloud-native/>

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What Is This Cloud Native Thing Anyway?

CraftConf 2018
Sam Newman

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<https://www.slideshare.net/spnewman/what-is-this-cloud-native-thing-anyway>

Infrastructure, Platforms, Workflow

❑ Infrastructure

- ❑ Compute, network, IAM



❑ Platform

- ❑ System building blocks

❑ Workflow

- ❑ Design, build, test, deploy

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Kubernetes and PaaS: The Force of Developer Experience and Workflow

16 Feb 2018 11:28am, by Daniel Bryant



A recent conversation within the Datawire team about what the term "PaaS" really means — and how this relates to developer experience (DevEx) and workflow — triggered lots of internal conversation that I believe would be good to share. I know from working with customers and from chatting to people at conferences that other teams deploying applications onto (and similar platforms) are also somewhat unsure as to the relation between the "platform" and workflow, and I hope to provide some clarity — or at the very least learn something as I get trolled in a constructive manner!

Infrastructure, Platform, Workflow: Three Things Essential, They Are

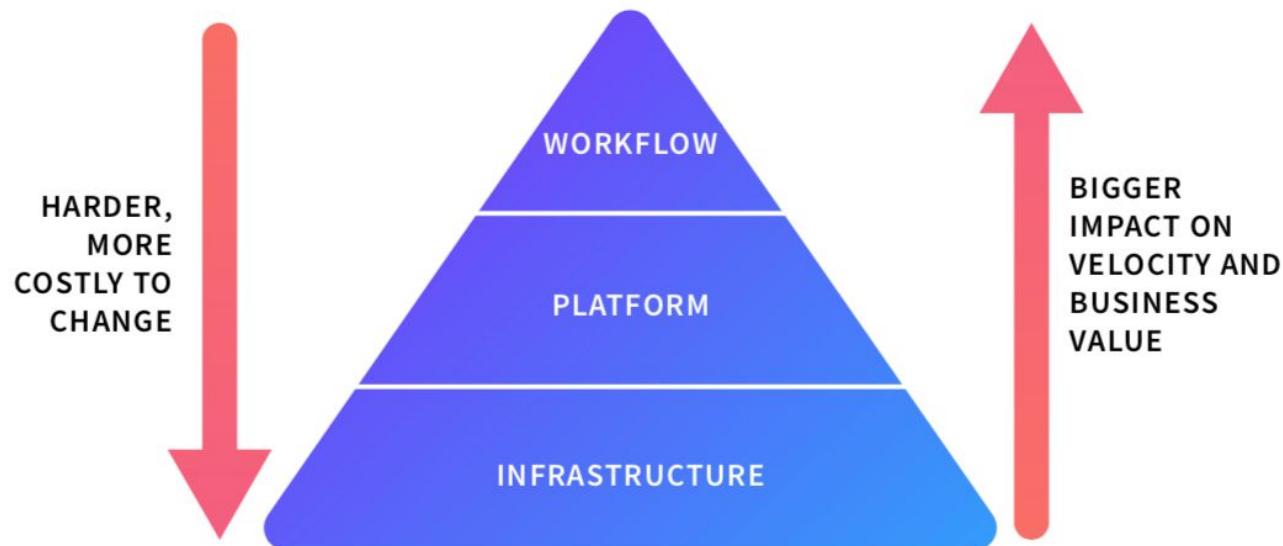
Starting with first principles, I'm fairly confident in saying that all modern web-based software development involves working with three layers:

- **Infrastructure:** This layer is the abstraction that provides raw compute resources like bare metal, VMs, OS, network, storage etc, which will ultimately be responsible for processing code and data associated



Daniel Bryant

Infrastructure, Platforms, Workflow



Focusing on Platform and Workflow

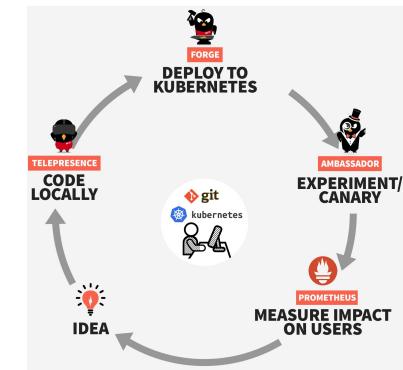
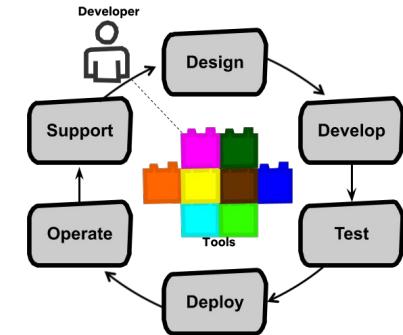
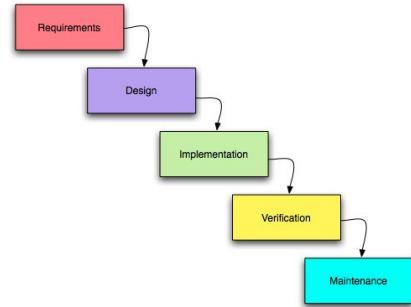
What is workflow?

The platform heavily influences the workflow

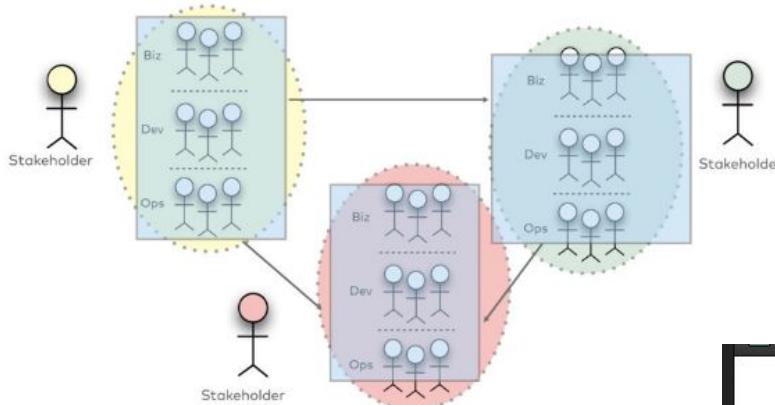
Diving deeper: patterns of good practice

**What is
“Workflow”?**

The Ideal Workflow



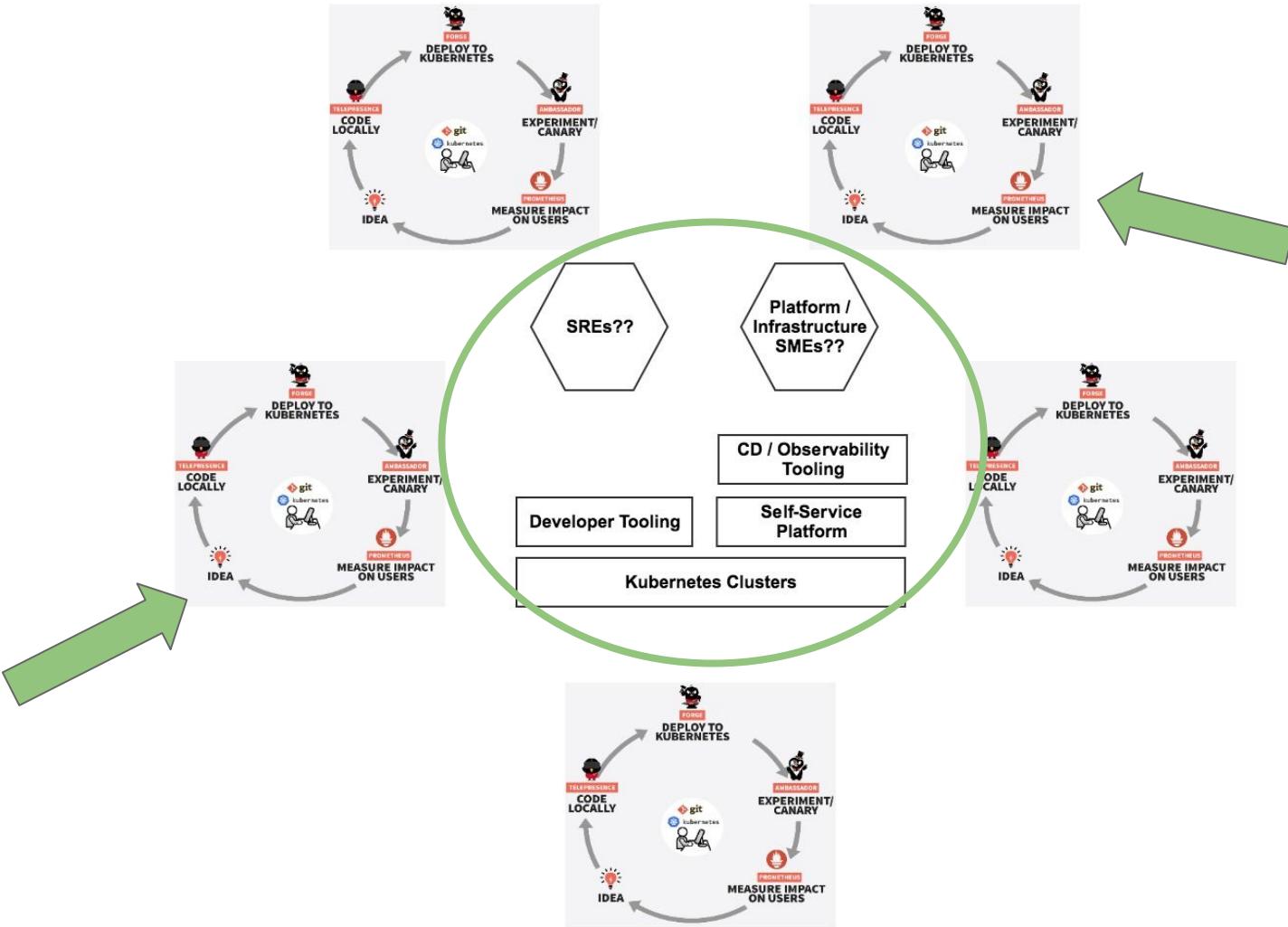
Pattern: Autonomous Cells



Antipattern: Micro Platform



<https://speakerdeck.com/stilkov/microservices-patterns-and-antipatterns-1>



The Platform Drives DevEx

CNCF Vision: Macro-Level Guidance



CLOUD NATIVE TRAIL MAP

The Cloud Native Landscape
<https://github.com/cncf/landscape>.
has a growing number of options.
This Cloud Native Trail Map is a recommended process for leveraging open source, cloud native technologies. At each step, you can choose a vendor-supported offering or do it yourself, and everything after step #3 is optional based on your circumstances.

HELP ALONG THE WAY

A. Training and Certification
Consider training offerings from CNCF and then take the exam to become a Certified Kubernetes Administrator
<https://www.cncf.io/training>

B. Consulting Help
If you want assistance with Kubernetes and the surrounding ecosystem, consider leveraging a Kubernetes Certified Service Provider
<http://cncf.svc/kcp>

Join CNCF End Users



<https://github.com/cncf/landscape#trail-map>

Microservices Practitioner Articles

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Developer Workflow Trail for Cloud Native Applications

The following table documents our current thinking around the stages the development and platform (ops) teams go through when attempting to implement and deploy "cloud native" applications. This provides a starting point as a complement to the [Cloud Native Computing Foundation \(CNCF\) Cloud Native Trail Map](#).

The path is likely to be non-linear and sequential during the initial "re-platforming" (less supported by the fact that there is typically only one platform team within an organisation) whereas a development team's journey would begin again with each new major piece of functionality that requires new services/applications (i.e. there typically tends to be multiple development teams within an organisation, each potentially owning a series of services related to their "product").

In our (anecdotal) experience, after the first few services, a product development team typically starts at Step 3 (and uses a service archetype as mentioned in Step 4) and builds on the success and learnings from previous teams.

	Dev team(s)	Platform team
Step 1. CI/CD	<p>Take your simplest code demo, and deploy this to production, via a skeleton app.</p> <p>Create a "dancing skeleton" pipeline to facilitate code-to-prd</p>	<p>Take the application artifact, and deploy this to production, via a skeleton app.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Initialise artifact repo- Provide guidance on base image or package contents- Perform basic artifact vulnerability scanning- Initialise production environment on existing, or potentially new hosted platform (like GKE)
Step 2. Observability	<p>Ensure basic visibility into applications to enable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Add basic metrics endpoints- Add basic logging <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implement centralised metric collection and aggregated logging

First thoughts around the Cloud Native Developer Workflow (more details via the public Google doc)

Please do let me know what you think in the [Google doc!](#) I plan to make this

<https://articles.microservices.com/developer-workflow-trail-for-cloud-native-applications-request-for-feedback-a9365b64c790>

 **Kelsey Hightower**  @kelseyhightower 

I'm convinced the majority of people managing infrastructure just want a PaaS. The only requirement: it has to be built by them.

12:08 AM - 12 Apr 2017

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55 340 727

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 **Kelsey Hightower**  @kelseyhightower · 12 Apr 2017
Replies to [@kelseyhightower](#)
You know you're building a PaaS when you wrap your current tools with a custom API that provides a workflow to your users.

1 14 45

 **Kelsey Hightower**  @kelseyhightower · 12 Apr 2017
You know you're building a PaaS when you start work on that custom templating engine for deployments and configuration files.

2 15 49

 **Kelsey Hightower**  @kelseyhightower · 12 Apr 2017
You know you're building a PaaS when you start stitching together 1,000,000,000 other tools in order to get one click deployments.

7 46 107

 **Kelsey Hightower**  @kelseyhightower · 12 Apr 2017
Nothing wrong with building a PaaS; just know that's what you're doing.

8 17 61

<https://twitter.com/kelseyhightower/status/851935087532945409>

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The "Paved Road" PaaS for Microservices at Netflix: Yunong Xiao at QCon NY

Like | by Daniel Bryant on Jun 30, 2017. Estimated reading time: 3 minutes | Discuss

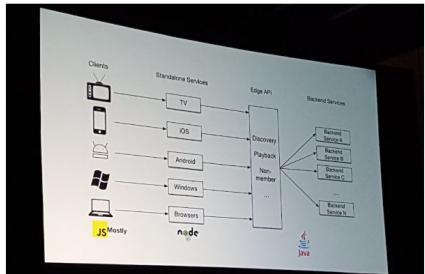
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At QCon New York 2017, Yunong Xiao presented "The Paved PaaS to Microservices at Netflix" which discussed how the Netflix Platform as a Service (PaaS) assists with maintaining the balance between the culture of freedom and responsibility and the overall organisational goals of velocity and reliability. The Netflix PaaS team attempts to provide a sensibly configured but customizable "paved road" platform for developers by offering standardised and compatible components, pre-assembling the platform, and by providing extensive automation and tooling.

Xiao, Principal Software Engineer at Netflix, began the talk by referencing the Wikipedia definition of PaaS "...allows customers to develop, run, and manage applications without the complexity of building and maintaining the infrastructure and platform". Within the Netflix technical stack, functionality provided by the PaaS includes microservice Remote Procedure Calling (RPC), service discovery and registration, operating system, application runtime, configuration, metrics, logging, tracing, dashboards, alerts and stream processing.

At Netflix the backend services are typically deployed onto a Java/JVM runtime which is fronted by an Edge API, but client teams own standalone services that they create in order to meet the needs of their associated end-user delivery technologies like smart TVs, iOS and MS Windows. These services are typically developed using JavaScript and Node.js, and the delivery teams are not necessarily familiar with backend operations and platforms. Netflix famously embraces a culture of freedom and responsibility ("F&R"), and this must be balanced with the overall organisational goals of velocity and reliability. Functionality provided by a PaaS can help with this balance, and this is implemented in three main ways in order to provide a homogenised but configurable "paved road" for developers, including the provision of standardised components, pre-assembled platform, and automation and tooling.



<https://www.infoq.com/news/2017/06/paved-paas-netflix>

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Shopify's Journey to Kubernetes and PaaS: Niko Kurti at QCon NY

Like | by Daniel Bryant on Jul 01, 2018. Estimated reading time: 6 minutes | Discuss

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At QCon New York, Niko Kurti presented "Forced Evolution: Shopify's Journey to Kubernetes", and described the Shopify engineering team's journey to building their own PaaS with Kubernetes as the foundation. Key takeaways for other teams looking to build their own PaaS and associated developer workflow included: target hitting 80% of deployment and operational use cases; create patterns and hide the underlying platform complexity; educate and get people excited about the project; and be conscious of vendor lock-in.

Kurti, production engineer at Shopify, began the talk by describing that Shopify is a rapidly growing Canadian e-commerce company that offers a proprietary e-commerce platform for online stores and retail point-of-sale systems. Shopify currently has 300+ employees, and the company processed \$26 billion in transactions in 2017. The underlying e-commerce software platform sees 80k+ requests per second during peak demand.

At the start of 2016 the engineering team was "running services everywhere", including within their own data centers (using Chef and Docker), on AWS (using Chef) and Heroku. Developers liked the developer experience of Heroku, and Kurti commented that this platform actually scales quite well, with "simple UI sliders" to increase the number of instances and associated CPU and RAM. Although the platform team had defined service tiers and appropriate Service Level Objectives (SLOs) based on criticality to the business, there were many processes that were not scalable, and accordingly these presented challenges as the company grew.



<https://www.infoq.com/news/2018/07/shopify-kubernetes-paas>

Should I Build a PaaS on k8s?

Key Questions to Ask...

Develop and test services locally, or within the cluster (or both)?

- Working locally has many advantages
 - Reduce ops cost of multi-cluster
- Some want to maintain minimal dev envs
 - Or hide Docker/k8s from devs
- Local/remote container dev tools like Telepresence and Squash allow hybrid

Development Environments for Kubernetes

	100% local development	100% remote development		
	Run entire system locally	Run business logic locally, cloud resources remote	Single service local, all other services remote	All remote development
Realism: How closely does this mirror production?	◆	◆◆	◆◆◆◆	◆◆◆◆◆
Fast feedback cycle for developers	◆◆◆◆◆	◆◆◆◆	◆◆◆◆	◆
Low setup and maintenance cost for developers	◆	◆◆	◆◆◆◆	◆◆◆◆◆
Scalability as your application gets more complex	◆	◆◆	◆◆◆◆◆	◆◆◆◆◆

docker kubernetes

Yunong Xiao

How quick do you need user feedback?

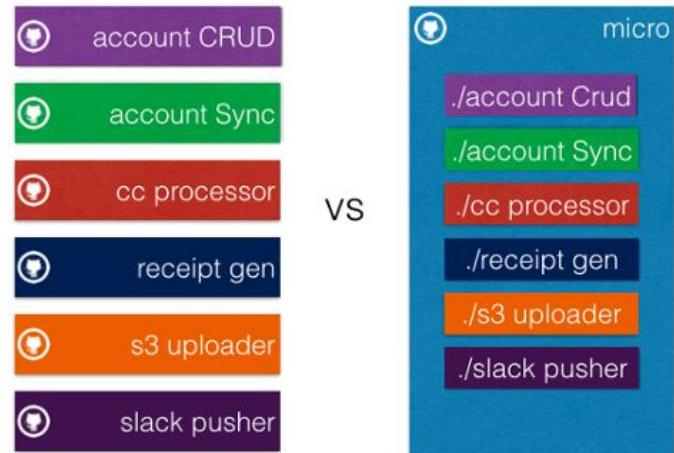
- Canary testing is very powerful
- Needs app and platform support
- Some teams can be nervous about testing in production

The collage consists of three screenshots:

- Top right:** A screenshot of the Netflix Tech Blog website. It features a header with the Netflix logo and a 'Follow' button. Below the header, there's a section titled 'Automated Canary Analysis at Netflix with Kayenta' by Michael Graff and Chris Sanden. The text discusses how they open-sourced Kayenta, a platform for automated canary analysis, and its benefits for rapid and reliable changes.
- Middle left:** A screenshot from the Etsy blog. The title is 'Mobile App Feature Configuration Experiments'. It shows a line graph titled 'Looking at results' comparing 'Control' and '+1.5%' groups over time. The graph shows a dip in conversion rate for the control group followed by a rise for the experimental group. Below the graph, there's a bulleted list: '• Self Selection', '• Refunds / Returns', and '• Visit-level vs. Us'. A small 'Etsy' logo is visible.
- Bottom right:** A screenshot from a blog post titled 'Reverse proxies and Layer 7'. It includes a diagram showing traffic flowing from 'Metrics' to a 'Reverse proxy capable of managing Layer 7 traffic' (labeled 'Envoy Proxy'), which then routes traffic to 'Canary Analysis'. The text explains the use of Envoy Proxy for A/B testing and reverse proxying.

Do you have a strong opinion on code repository structure?

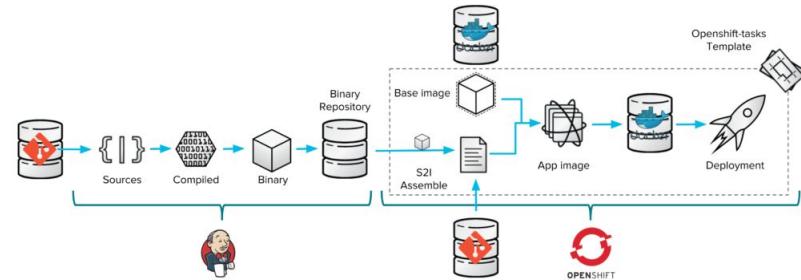
- Monorepo:
 - Coordination of integration and testing across services is generally easier,
 - Service dependency management easier
- Multi-repo:
 - Clearer ownership
 - Can promote loose coupling
 - Refactoring and code-level standardization can be challenging



<http://blog.shippable.com/our-journey-to-microservices-and-a-mono-repository>

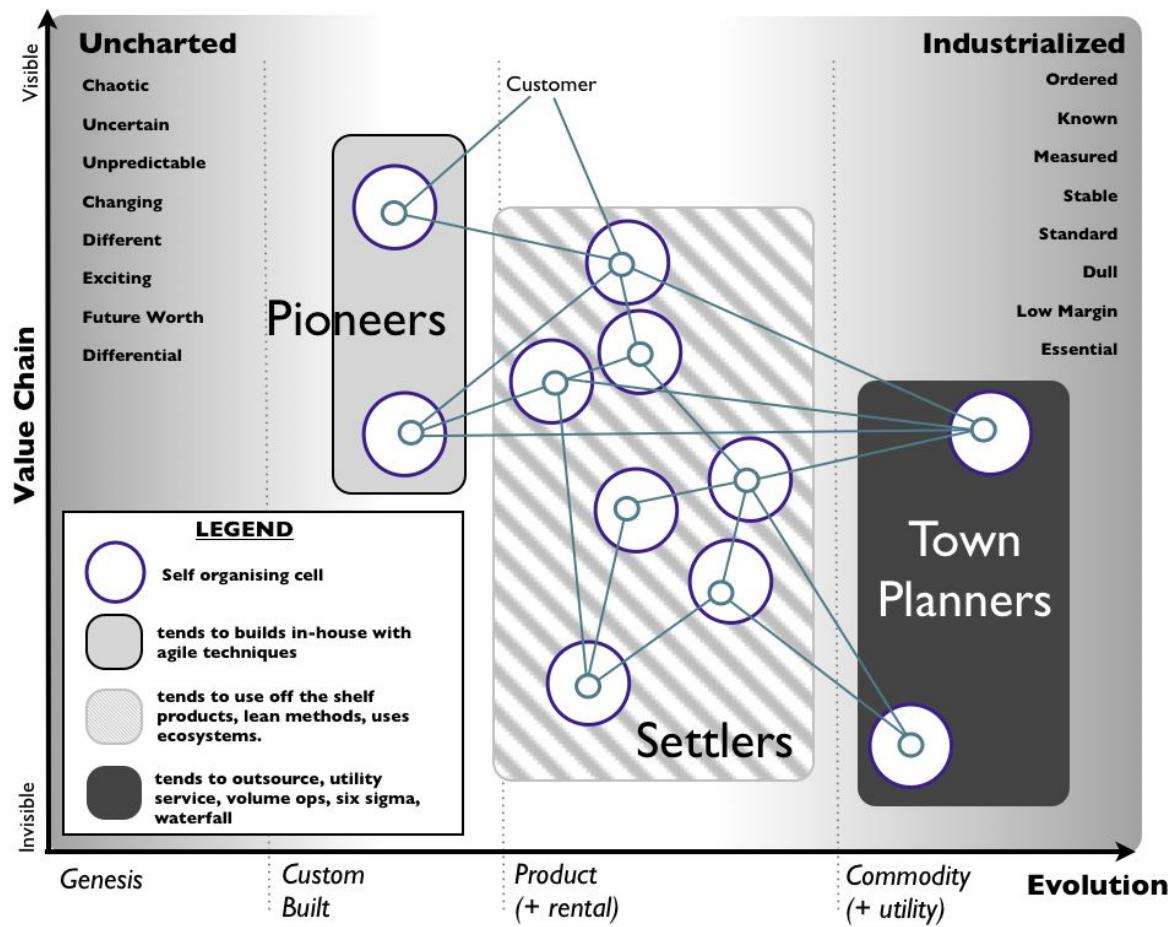
Do you want to implement “guide rails” for your development teams?

- Larger teams often want to provide comprehensive guide rails
- Startups and SMEs may instead value team independence
- Hybrid? Offer platform, but allow service teams freedom and responsibility



<https://blog.openshift.com/multiple-deployment-methods-openshift/>

How much platform should we build?



<https://blog.gardeviance.org/2015/03/on-pioneers-settlers-town-planners-and.html>

Some thoughts on this...

	Prototype	Production	Mission Critical
Dev and test	Local / hybrid	Local / hybrid	Hybrid / local
Deployment	Canary	Canary / pre-prod test	Pre-prod test / Canary
Code repo	Mono / multi	Multi / Mono	Multi
Guide rails	YOLO	Limited	Strong
Where to focus?	CI/CD	Scaffolding	Testing (env creation)

Workflow Tooling and Techniques

Pattern: K8s for Ops

- Kubernetes becoming de facto CoaaS (the new cloud broker?)
 - Lots of hosted options

The image shows two parts. On the left is a screenshot of the CoreOS Operators website. The header includes links for CoreOS, Products, Open Source, Documentation, Community, and Blog, along with a Login button. A large blue bar contains the word "Operators". Below it, a section titled "Overview" explains what an Operator is: "An Operator is a method of packaging, deploying and managing a Kubernetes application. A Kubernetes application is an application that is both deployed on Kubernetes and managed using the Kubernetes APIs and kubectl tooling." It also mentions the Operator Framework and the Operator SDK. On the right, a photograph shows a person speaking on stage at a QCon conference. The stage has large, illuminated letters spelling "QCon". The background of the slide shows a flowchart of the Namebuddy operator's workflow, which involves listening to Ingress objects, reading hosts, and creating or updating DNS records via the K8s API.

- Highly extensible
 - Custom Controllers
 - Operators
 - CloudBuddies

- Extension enables custom workflow
 - [Kubernetes Custom Resource, Controller and Operator Development Tools](#)

Pattern: Development and Deployment



Draft vs Gitkube vs Helm vs Ksonnet vs Metaparticle vs Skaffold

A comparison of tools that help developers build and deploy their apps on Kubernetes

TL;DR

- Draft**
 - deploy code to k8s cluster (automates build-push-deploy)
 - deploy code in [draft-pack supported languages](#) without writing dockerfile or k8s manifests
 - needs draft cli, helm cli, tiller on cluster, local docker, docker registry
- Gitkube**
 - deploy code to k8s cluster (automates build-push-deploy)
 - git push to deploy, no dependencies on your local machine
 - needs dockerfile, k8s manifests in the git repo, gitkube on cluster
- Helm**
 - deploy and manage charts (collection of k8s objects defining an application) on a k8s cluster
 - ready made charts for many common applications, like mysql, mediawiki etc.
 - needs helm cli, tiller on cluster, chart definition locally or from a repo

<https://blog.hasura.io/draft-vs-gitkube-vs-helm-vs-ksonnet-vs-metaparticle-vs-skaffold-f5aa9561f948>

The Code Engineered is the technical blog of Matt Farina. This is where I muse about the cloud, web, developer tools, and more.

Kubernetes: Where Helm And Related Tools Sit

Package management, dependency management, configuration management, and who knows how many other forms of management exist when it comes to computing systems. We have managers for managers for operators of applications. The roles and responsibilities of different tools can, at times, get a little blurred. I sometimes find that's the case with Helm. Is it a configuration management tool like Chef or a package manager like apt? This even begs the question, how do configuration managers, like Puppet, and package managers, like yum, relate to each other and what does any of this mean for Helm and Kubernetes?

To understand Helm ends helps to understand where other tools begin and the interfaces they have with Helm or Helm has with them.

Parts Of The Management Stack

Before we look at Helm, specifically, let's take a look at different parts of a managed stack. This stack is based on a generality of how existing systems work.

Conceptual stack elements:

- Configuration Manager
- Package Manager
- Binaries
- Config
- Operating System

Tags:

- Cloud
- DevOps
- Programming
- Front End Development
- JavaScript
- jQuery
- Web Tools
- Regular Expressions
- Tools
- Drupal
- Drupal Planet
- Symfony
- Wordpress

<https://codeengineered.com/blog/2018/kubernetes-helm-related-tools/>

Pattern: Development and Deployment

- Draft
 - Automates “inner loop” build-push-deploy
 - Utilises Helm
- Gitkube
 - Automates build-push-deploy
 - Provides heroku / CF like experience
- Skaffold
 - Automates build-push-deploy
 - Watches source code
 - Provides “dev” and “run” (CD) modes
- Forge
 - Automates build-push-deploy
 - Templates k8s/Ambassador config
- Helm
 - Package manager for k8s
 - Deploy and manage (ready-made) charts
- Ksonnet
 - Define k8s manifests in jsonnet
 - Create composable config/services
- Metaparticle
 - “Standard library for cloud native apps”
 - Language-specific binding
- Ballerina
 - “Microservice programming language”
 - Annotations for package and deploy

Pattern: Development and Deployment



The screenshot shows the 'My Project' dashboard with the following details:

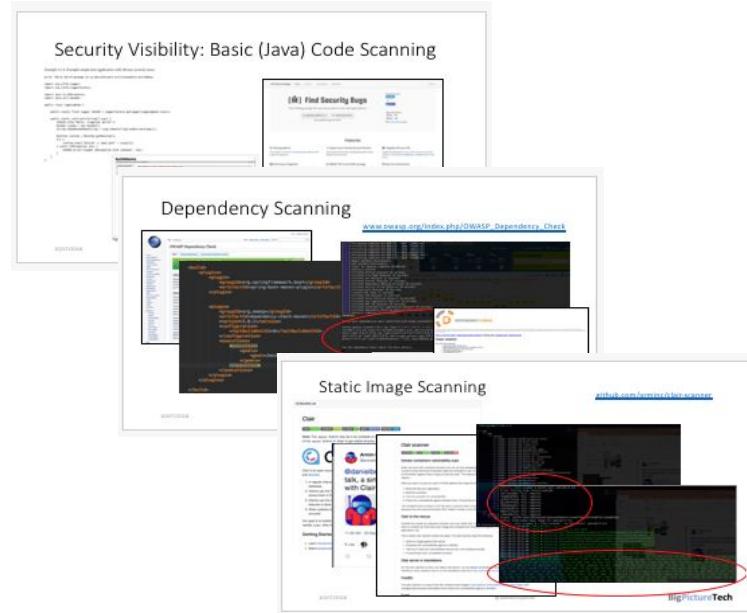
- Image Streams:** busybox
- busybox:** created 19 hours ago
- Follows docker repo:** busybox
- Docker pull spec:** busybox

Annotations table:

Tag	From	Latest Image	Created	Pull Spec
1	busybox:1	a59906	19 hours ago	busybox@sha256:a59906e33509d14c036c8678d687...
1.23	busybox:1.23	278063	19 hours ago	busybox@sha256:2780635f864cc66c7a5c74aca8047...
1.24.0	busybox:1.24.0	fdc254	19 hours ago	busybox@sha256:fdc25416595aa8f71d2b9d6c5e3...
1.25.0	busybox:1.25.0	a59906	19 hours ago	busybox@sha256:a59906e33509d14c036c8678d687...
latest	busybox:latest	a59906	19 hours ago	busybox@sha256:a59906e33509d14c036c8678d687...

Pattern: CI/CD

- Make is easy to do the right thing
 - Self-service pipeline creations
 - Bake-in hooks/slots for platform
- Testing of NFRs is vital
 - Security
 - Performance
 - Quality



https://www.slideshare.net/dbryant_uk/codemotion-rome-2018-continuous-delivery-with-containers-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly

Pattern: Layer 7 Deployment Control

- Allows fine-grained control
- Envoy is de facto proxy data plane
- Many control planes
 - [Ambassador](#)
 - [Gloo](#)
 - [Istio](#)

The screenshot shows a blog post titled "Evolution of the AppDirect Kubernetes Network Infrastructure" by Alexandre Gervais from June 7, 2018. The post discusses the transition from a simple SPOF myth to more sophisticated canary deployment scenarios using Istio. It includes a code snippet for a route configuration:

```
- helloWorld
http://
- headers:
  - cookie:
    regex: "(.*)_company-name(.*)"
  - destination:
    host: helloWorld
    subset: v1
    weight: 50
  - destination:
    host: helloWorld
    subset: v2
    weight: 50
- destination:
  host: helloWorld
  subset: v1
EOF
```

Below the post, a detailed diagram illustrates a service mesh architecture. It shows an external load balancer (partner.com:443/b-service) connecting to an ambassador proxy. The ambassador proxy has two NodePorts: 31000 and 30000. The 31000 port connects to a domain-controller (haproxy.cfg) which routes traffic to two services: service-a and service-b. Both services have their own NodePorts: 30000 for service-a and 30001 for service-b. The 30000 port also receives traffic from the ambassador proxy. The 30001 port receives traffic from the ambassador proxy. The diagram also shows legacy.net:443/b-service connecting to the ambassador proxy.

Pattern: Observability

- Essential part of the platform and developer workflow/experience
 - Monitoring, logging and tracing
 - Bake-in hooks to scaffolding
- Global/service dashboards
- [“Observability and Avoiding Alert Overload from Microservices at the Financial Times”](#)



Elasticsearch



Fluentd



Kibana

Conclusion

In Summary

The developer experience is primarily about minimising the friction from idea to code to delivering observable business value

How you construct your ‘platform’ impacts the developer experience greatly

You must intentionally curate the experience of: local development, packaging apps, CI/CD, deployment control, and observability

Thanks for Listening!

Questions, comments, thoughts...

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[@danielbryantuk](https://twitter.com/danielbryantuk)

More info: dzone.com/articles/creating-a-positive-developer-experience-for-conta

datawire.io/what-is-cloud-native | getambassador.io | istio.io | telepresence.io,
prometheus.io | “[Kubernetes Up and Running](https://kubernetes.io/docs/bookstore/mobile-apps/kubernetes-up-and-running)”