Tanzu Kubernetes Grid Integrated (TKGI) Workload Isolation using NSX-T Micro Segmentation

May 2020



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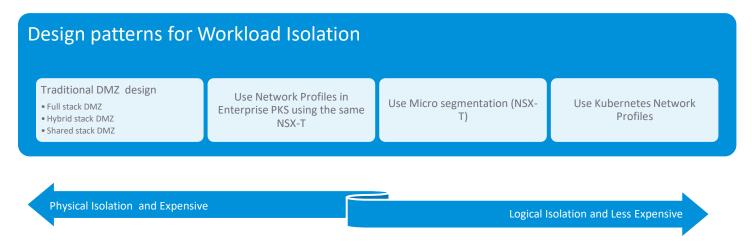
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Introduction

Containers provide a great deal of benefits to your development pipeline and leverage resource isolation but they're not designed with strong security boundaries or workload isolation. Tanzu Kubernetes Grid Integrated (TKGI) or Enterprise PKS (PKS) integrates with VMware NSX-T Data Center (NSX-T) and built on top of VMware vSphere to provide an agile software defined infrastructure to build cloud-native applications. NSX-T primarily focuses on networking and security for these applications and used to create stronger workload isolation.

In TKGI, workload isolation can be performed by physically isolating workload at the vSphere level or by logically isolating workloads within the TKGI deployed clusters (at cluster or namespace isolation). The following design patterns can be considered for workload isolation.

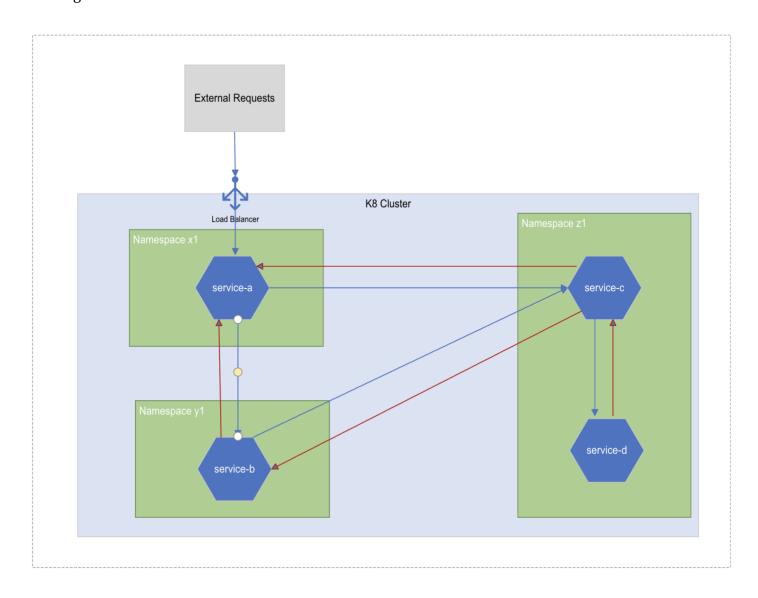


In this document, we focus on how you can leverage the micro-segmentation feature within NSX-T to provide workload isolation. NSX-T comes with a distributed firewall that can provide complete control of both North-South Traffic but also East-West Traffic and can isolate workloads, even if they are next to each other. For example, traditional firewalls only isolate network traffic between network VLANs or segments but not within a network segment. But with NSX-T distributed firewall, you can create rules to isolate workload on the same segment and with Kubernetes tags, you can isolate even POD to POD communication.

In this document, we take a simple application that has several components or services. These services are required to communicate with each other in a very defined manner. For example, service-a need to communicate with service-c and service-b but not with any other service. Similarly, service-c needs to communicate with service-d but not with service-a or service-b.

In such a scenario, we look at how you can isolate the workload using NSX-T and this is all done dynamically as pods are created and destroyed.

Now, let us assume that all ingress traffic from outside the cluster comes into service-a. service-a can is running in namespace x1 and is a typically ingress controller like nginx or contour. service-a routes to service-b or service-c and service-c might need to talk to database service like that defined in service-d. This diagram shows which workload should is allowed and what is not between the services.





Use-case

The k8s cluster has three namespaces (namespace x1, y1 and z1). All ingress into the cluster is restricted to namespace x1 and pod service-a.

Namespace y1 runs a pod service-b and namespace z1 runs pods service-c and service-d.

Traffic flows

All ingress traffic into the cluster can only be serviced by service-a on namespace x1

Service-b allows traffic from service-a Service-b denies traffic from service-c Service-c allows traffic from service-a and service-b Service-d allows traffic from only service-c Service-c denies traffic from service-d

Assumptions

K8s cluster exists and there is integration with NSX-T

K8s Resources

Pod Definition

We will be using a pod definition with 2 containers

- nginx (to service web requests)
- busybox with curl (container to test service to service traffic)

Deployments And Services

service-a, service-b, service-c and service-d are identical and run the above pod definition on their respective namespaces, they run two replicas and are exposed as services svc-service-a, svc-service-b, svc-service-c, svc-service-d



K8s Resource Deployments

This section goes through the steps to set up the K8 environment with the deployments in their respective namespaces. At the end of the setup a test will be performed to establish that the traffic flows between the different services deployed

K8 Deployments

1. Login to k8s cluster

```
pks login -a <pks-api> -u <pksuser> -p <pks-password> -k
Eg.
pks login -a pks.corp.local -u pksadmin -p VMware1! -k
```

2. Get Kubeconfig

```
pks get-kubeconfig <cluster-name> -a <pks-api> -u <pksuser> -p <pks-password> -k
Eg.

pks get-kubeconfig ci-cluster -a pks.corp.local -u pksadmin -p VMware1! -k
```

3. Change context

kubectl config use-context ci-cluster

4. Create Namespace x1, y1, z1

kubectl create ns x1 kubectl create ns y1 kubectl create ns z1



NSX-T & K8s Micro Segmentation

ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$	kubectl	create	ns	x1
namespace/x1 created ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ namespace/y1 created	kubectl	create	ns	у1
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$	kubectl	create	ns	z1



5. Check if namespace is created

kubectl ge ns

6. Create Deployments & Services

Download the yaml file or copy contents to a local file Eg. micro.yaml. This file declares the K8 resources required. Create the necessary resources in their respective namespaces

https://github.com/riazvm/nsxtk8smicrosegmentation/blob/master/yaml/micro.yaml

kubectl apply -f micro.yaml

```
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz$ vi micro.yaml
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz$ kubectl apply -f micro.yaml
deployment.apps/service-a created
service/svc-service-a created
deployment.apps/service-b created
service/svc-service-b created
deployment.apps/service-c created
service/svc-service-c created
deployment.apps/service-d created
service/svc-service-d created
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz$
```



7. Check services and pods created in each namespace

kubectl get all -n x1

NAME		REA	ADY STATUS		RESTART:	5 AGE		
pod/service-a-84965f57c	c-nhbrx	2/2	2 Running	3	0	105s		
pod/service-a-84965f57c	c-q72fh	2/2	2 Running	g	0	105s		
NAME	TYPE		CLUSTER-IP		EXTER	NAL-IP	PORT (S)	AGE
service/svc-service-a	Cluster	P	10.100.200.	143	<none:< td=""><td>></td><td>80/TCP</td><td>105s</td></none:<>	>	80/TCP	105s
NAME	REAL	Y	UP-TO-DATE	A	VAILABLE	AGE		
deployment.apps/service	-a 2/2		2	2		105s		
NAME			DESIRED	Ct	JRRENT	READY	AGE	
replicaset.apps/service	-a-84965f	57cc	2	2		2	105s	

kubectl get all -n y1

```
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz$ kubectl get all -n y1

NAME READY STATUS RESTARTS AGE

pod/service-b-86d8c888c7-6r9kp 2/2 Running 0 2m39s

pod/service-b-86d8c888c7-jpwf9 2/2 Running 0 2m39s

NAME TYPE CLUSTER-IP EXTERNAL-IP PORT(S) AGE

service/svc-service-b ClusterIP 10.100.200.12 <none> 80/TCP 2m39s

NAME READY UP-TO-DATE AVAILABLE AGE
deployment.apps/service-b 2/2 2 2 2m39s

NAME DESIRED CURRENT READY AGE
replicaset.apps/service-b-86d8c888c7 2 2 2 2m39s
```



kubectl get all -n z1

ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ ku	bectl get	all -n	z1					
NAME		READY	STATUS	RE	STARTS	AGE		
pod/service-c-5c5fc5c857-d9sqm		2/2	Running		0 :		3	
pod/service-c-5c5fc5c85	7-jxqbh	2/2	Running	0		2m52	3	
		2/2	Running	0		2m52	3	
pod/service-d-69f59f4cb	9-pkplt	2/2	Running	0		2m52	3	
NAME	TYPE	CLUS	STER-IP		EXTERN	AL-IP	PORT (S)	AGE
service/svc-service-c	ClusterI	P 10.	100.200.1	17	<none></none>		80/TCP	2m52s
service/svc-service-d	ClusterI	P 10.	100.200.2	11	<none></none>		80/TCP	2m52s
NAME	READ	Y UP-1	TO-DATE	AVA	LABLE	AGE		
deployment.apps/service	-c 2/2	2		2		2m52s	10	
deployment.apps/service	-d 2/2	2		2		2m52s	10	
NAME		1	DESIRED	CURE	RENT	READY	AGE	
replicaset.apps/service	-c-5c5fc5	c857 2	2	2		2	2m52s	
replicaset.apps/service	-d-69f59f	4cb9	2	2		2	2m52s	

8. Expose service-a as a load-balancer service

kubectl expose deployment service-a \
--name=service-a-lb --port=80 --target-port=8080 --type=LoadBalancer --namespace=x1

```
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz$ kubectl expose deployment service-a \
> --name=service-a-lb --port=80 --target-port=8080 --type=LoadBalancer --namespace=x1
service/service-a-lb exposed
```

9. Check the external URL/IP address assigned to the service (make note of the first IP addres under External-IP).

kubectl get svc -n x1

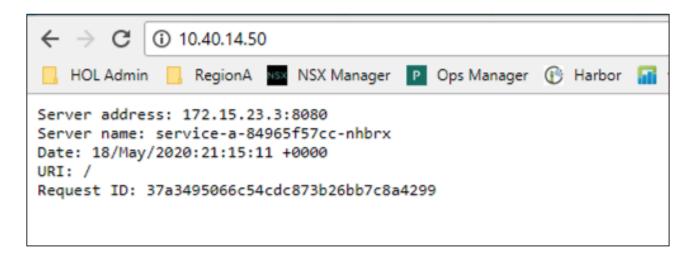
ubuntu@cli-vm:~	/dmz\$ kubectl	get svc -n x1			
NAME	TYPE	CLUSTER-IP	EXTERNAL-IP	PORT (S)	AGE
service-a-lb	LoadBalancer	10.100.200.49	10.40.14.50	80:32650/TCP	12s
svc-service-a	ClusterIP	10.100.200.143	<none></none>	80/TCP	15m



Current Traffic Flow

Traffic flow from external network to k8 cluster.

Open a browser and browse to the external ip from the previous step



service-a can be reached from the external network through the load balancer which is created in NSX-T

service-b, service-c and service-d are not exposed and hence are not reachable from the external network.

Traffic flow between pods

We will be using the busy-box container within service-a pod and use curl to check for responses between service.

Source Service – service-a (namespace x1) Target Service – service-b (namespace y1)

1. Get pods running on namespace x1

kubectl get po -n x1



ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ kubectl	get po	-n x1		
NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
service-a-84965f57cc-nhbrx	2/2	Running	0	31m
service-a-84965f57cc-q72fh	2/2	Running	0	31m
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$				

2. Get service name for service-b running on namespace y1

kubectl get svc -n y1

ubuntu@cli-vm:~	/dmz\$ kubect	l get svc -n y1			
NAME	TYPE	CLUSTER-IP	EXTERNAL-IP	PORT (S)	AGE
svc-service-b	ClusterIP	10.100.200.12	<none></none>	80/TCP	38m

3. Exec into the busybox container running on a service-a pod

kubectl exec -n <namespace> <podname> -it -c busybox -- /bin/sh Eg

kubectl exec -n x1 service-a-84965f57cc-nhbrx -it -c busybox -- /bin/sh

4. Use curl to reach service-b in namespace y1

curl http://svc-service-b.y1

NOTE: the service name is prepended by svc in this case, this is defined in the yaml we used to create the K8 resources. The service name is also appended by the namespace.

5. This results in a successful response

```
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz$ kubectl exec -n x1 service-a-84965f57cc-nhbrx -it -c busybox -- /bin/sh /home # curl http://svc-service-b.y1
Server address: 172.15.13.3:8080
Server name: service-b-86d8c888c7-jpwf9
Date: 18/May/2020:21:38:00 +0000
URI: /
Request ID: cfe8d330cac2894b204a1b57082e10cc
```

6. Use the curl command to check the service response of service-d in namespace z1



curl http://svc-service-d.z1

This should be successful as well

```
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz$ kubectl exec -n x1 service-a-84965f57cc-nhbrx -it -c busybox -- /bin/sh
/home # curl http://svc-service-b.y1
Server address: 172.15.13.3:8080
Server name: service-b-86d8c888c7-jpwf9
Date: 18/May/2020:21:38:00 +0000
URI: /
Request ID: cfe8d330cac2894b204a1b57082e10cc
/home # curl http://svc-service-d.z1
Server address: 172.15.9.4:8080
Server name: service-d-69f59f4cb9-f94rs
Date: 18/May/2020:21:40:51 +0000
URI: /
Request ID: 9acb24c07338cadfa53b59c99f042c47
```

At this point all services should be able to communicate to each other. The only traffic allowed from outside the cluster is to service-a via the loadbalancer.

Configure Micro Segmentation with NSX-T

This section goes through the configuration of NSX-T DFW rules that are required to allow, restrict or drop pod to pod traffic.

1. Check labels on the pods



kubectl get pod --show-labels -n x1

Check the labels on the pods in namespace y1 and z1 as well. All tags are defined as app={service name}. e.g.: app=service-a

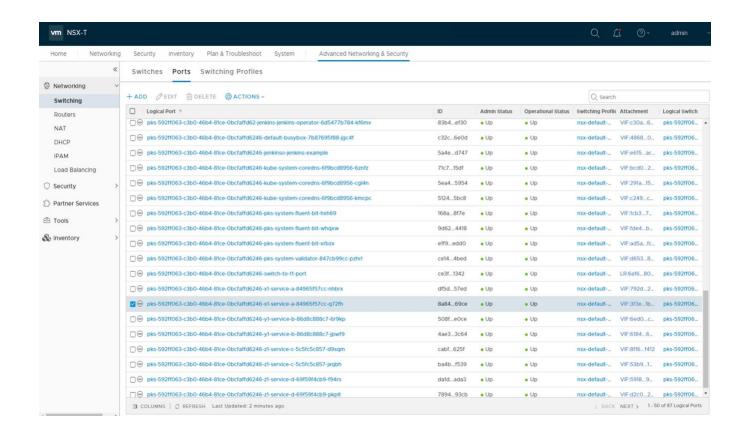
. e.g app-sei vice-a					
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ kubectl	get pod	show-la	bels -n x1		
NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE	LABELS
service-a-84965f57cc-nhbrx	2/2	Running	0	80m	app=service-a,pod-template-hash=84965f57cc
service-a-84965f57cc-q72fh	2/2	Running	0	80m	app=service-a,pod-template-hash=84965f57cc
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ kubectl	get pod	show-la	bels -n yi		
No resources found.					
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ kubectl	get pod	show-la	bels -n y1		
NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE	LABELS
service-b-86d8c888c7-6r9kp	2/2	Running	0	81m	app=service-b,pod-template-hash=86d8c888c7
service-b-86d8c888c7-jpwf9	2/2	Running	0	81m	app=service-b,pod-template-hash=86d8c888c7
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ kubectl	get pod	show-la	bels -n z1		
NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE	LABELS
service-c-5c5fc5c857-d9sqm	2/2	Running	0	81m	app=service-c,pod-template-hash=5c5fc5c857
service-c-5c5fc5c857-jxqbh	2/2	Running	0	81m	app=service-c,pod-template-hash=5c5fc5c857
service-d-69f59f4cb9-f94rs	2/2	Running	0	81m	app=service-d,pod-template-hash=69f59f4cb9
service-d-69f59f4cb9-pkplt	2/2	Running	0	81m	app=service-d,pod-template-hash=69f59f4cb9

2. Check tags for pods in NSXT

Login to NSXT and Navigate to Advanced Networking & Security → Switching → Ports The pods service-a , service-b, service-c and service-d would have a logical port assigned to them



NSX-T & K8s Micro Segmentation



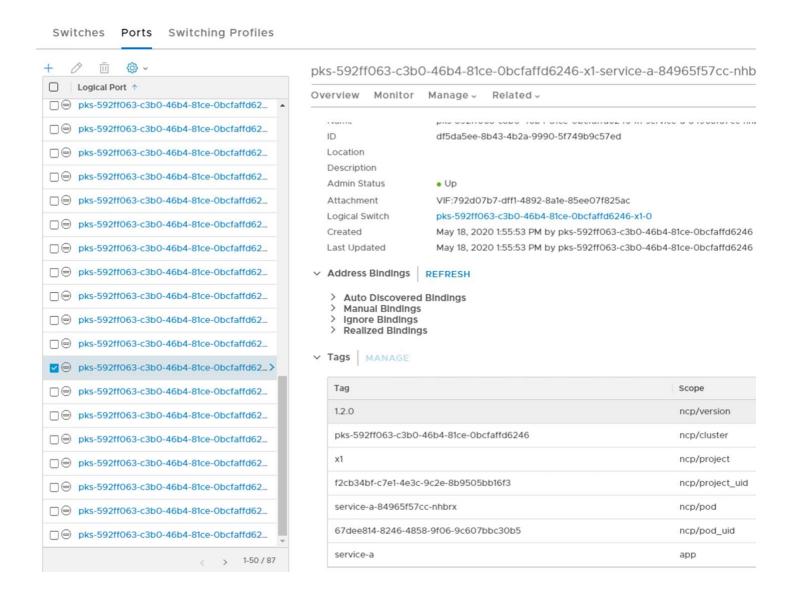


Switches Ports Switching Profiles

+ ADD Ø EDIT Ü DELETE Ŵ ACTIONS →
□ Logical Port ↑
☐
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-jenkinso-jenkins-example
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-kube-system-coredns-6f9bcd8956-6znfz
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-kube-system-coredns-6f9bcd8956-cgl4n
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-kube-system-coredns-6f9bcd8956-kmcpc
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-pks-system-fluent-bit-hxh69
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-pks-system-fluent-bit-whqxw
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-pks-system-fluent-bit-xrbzx
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-pks-system-validator-847cb99cc-pzhrl
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-switch-to-t1-port
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-x1-service-a-84965f57cc-nhbrx
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-x1-service-a-84965f57cc-q72fh
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-y1-service-b-86d8c888c7-6r9kp
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-y1-service-b-86d8c888c7-jpwf9
☐
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-z1-service-c-5c5fc5c857-jxqbh
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-z1-service-d-69f59f4cb9-f94rs
pks-592ff063-c3b0-46b4-81ce-0bcfaffd6246-z1-service-d-69f59f4cb9-pkplt



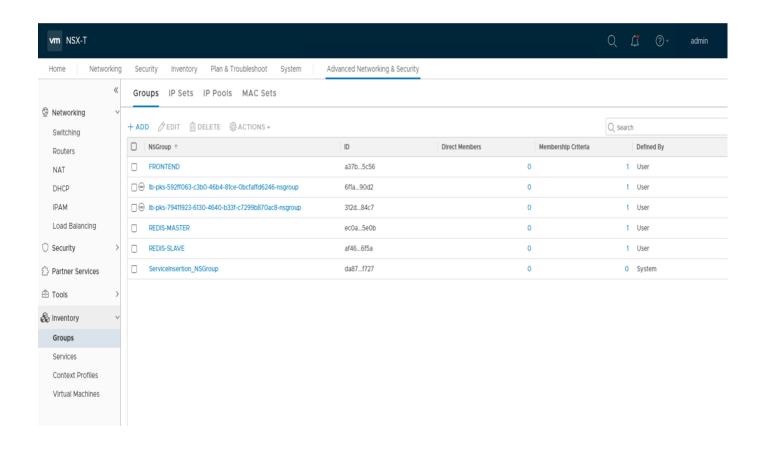
Click on one of the Logical ports associated with the services we are working with and notice that the tags on NSXT is the labels defined for the pods in K8s.





3. Create NSX-T NSGroup (NSX-T Security Group)

Login to NSXT and Navigate to Advanced Networking & Security → Inventory → Groups



Create a new NSGroup by clicking on ADD

Create an NSGroup for service-a

NSGroup name – nsg-service-a





Click on Membership Critera

And add the following criteria Logical Port > Tag > Equals > service-a > Scope > equals > app

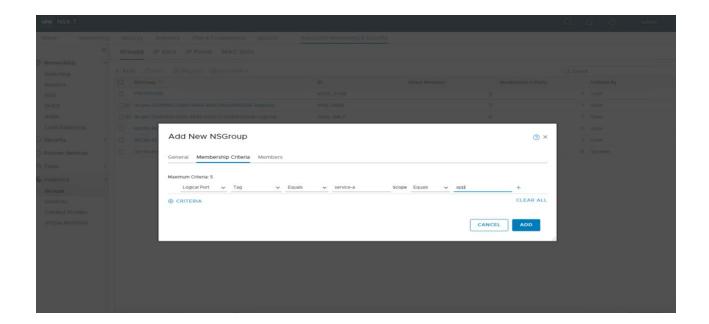
Note these are the values of the tag retrieved in step 2.

For example, if you defined a Kubernetes tag of "app=service-a" then "service-a" should be used for "Tag" value for the Logical Port and "app" should be used for the "scope".

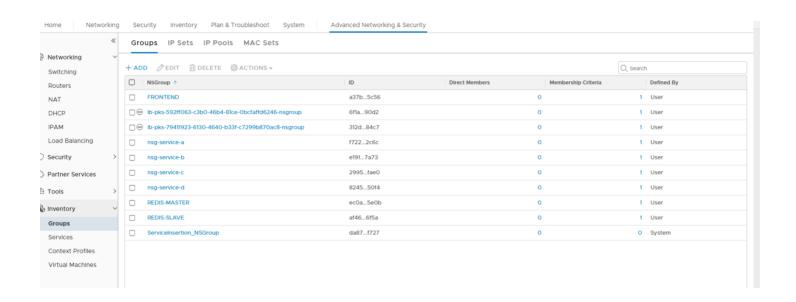
If you want to further refine the membership criteria to include only pods in a namespace, you can use the namespace name as the tag and scope should be defined as "ncp/project". So for this service, the tag will be "x1" and scope "ncp/project".

You can use multiple tags to define your membership criteria.



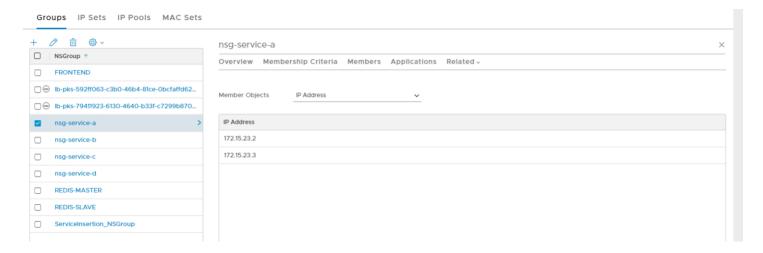


Repeat the same to create NSGroups for service-b, service-c and service-d





Click on the newly created groups and select Members, check IP addresses



Run the following kubectl command from the terminal to verify that the ip-address match the pods ip addresses

kubectl get po -n x1 -o wide

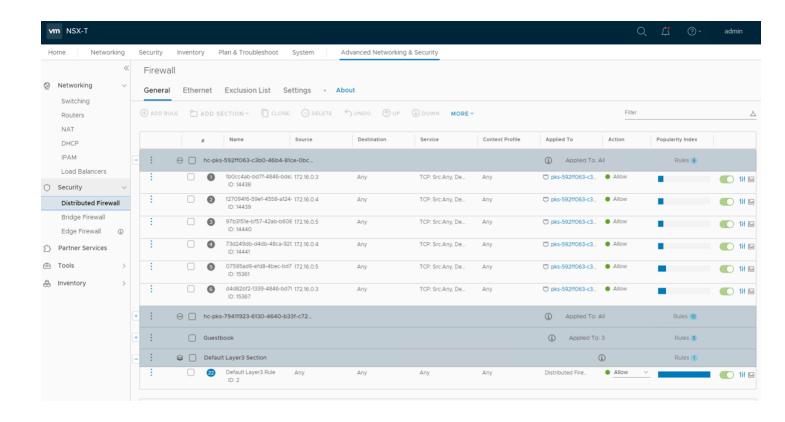
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ kubect]	get po	-n x1 -o v	ride		0.01			
NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE	IP	NODE	NOMINATED NODE	READINESS GATES
service-a-84965f57cc-nhbrx	2/2	Running	0	127m	172.15.23.3	a60cfb28-f6d8-4022-8dcb-c202aa9335c3	<none></none>	<none></none>
service-a-84965f57cc-q72fh	2/2	Running	0	127m	172.15.23.2	f9be16c4-7396-41c6-9c97-7b5280f165f0	<none></none>	<none></none>

Repeat the same for the other NSGroups created

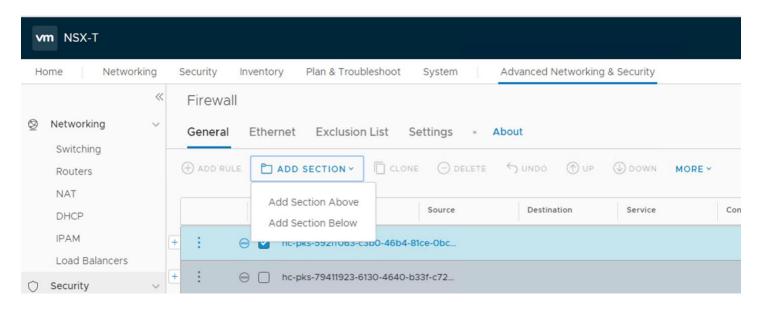
5. Create DFW rules

Login to NSXT and navigate to Advanced Networking & Security → Security → Distributed Firewall





Select the first section listed and navigate to ADD SECTION \rightarrow Add Section Above



Section Name – PtoPDFW-MicroSegmentation Object Type – NSGroup

Select – nsg-service-b, nsg-service-c and nsg-service-d



New Section				\times						
Add a new section to organize firew departments in separate sections.	all rules. For exar	mple, yo	ou might want to have rules for	r sales and engineering						
Section Name PtoPDFW-MicroSegmentation										
Section Properties	☐ Enable TCP Strict ③									
Applied To	Enable State	eless Fir	ewall (i)							
Section level 'Applied To' entities of the same section.	ties mentioned h	ere, will	take precedence over rule lev	vel 'Applied To'						
Object Type: NSGroup	~									
Available Objects O Filter			Selected Objects							
Name			Name	Object Type						
(a) nsg-service-a	^		☐ ⑥ nsg-service-b	NSGroup						
nsg-service-b		\Rightarrow	☐ ⑥ nsg-service-c	NSGroup						
nsg-service-c		Θ	☐ ⑥ nsg-service-d	NSGroup						
nsg-service-d	•									
	1 - 9 of 9 Objects		Max limit: 128	3 Objects						
CREATE NEW NSGROUP										
				OK CANCEL						



Select the newly created PtoPDFW-MicroSegmentation segment and click on Add rule

Rule 5: Denies all Traffic to nsg-service-a, nsg-service-b, nsg-service-c and nsg-service-d

ID : DenyAll Source : Any Destination: Any Service: Any

ContextProfile: Any Action : Reject

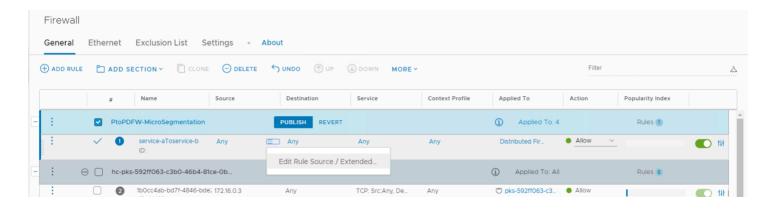
Rule 4: Allow service-a to service-b traffic

ID: service-aToservice-b Source: nsg-service-a Destination: nsg-service-b

Service: Any

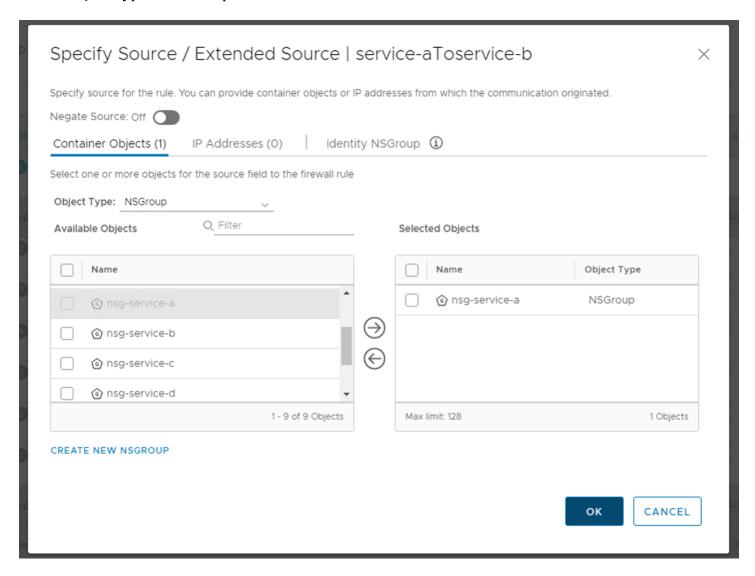
ContextProfile: Any Action : Allow

To select the Source click on the icon next to the source filed and click on Edit Rule Source



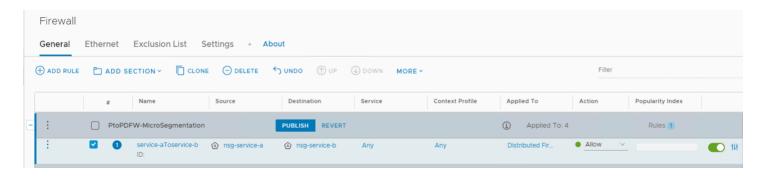


Select Object Type as NSGroup





Similarly select nsg-service-b for destination.



Rule 3: Allow service-a to service-c traffic

ID: service-aToservice-c Source: nsg-service-a Destination: nsg-service-c

Service: Any

ContextProfile: Any

Action: Allow

Rule 2: Allow service-b to service-c traffic

ID: service-bToservice-c Source: nsg-service-b Destination: nsg-service-c

Service: Any

ContextProfile: Any

Action: Allow

Rule 1: Allow service-c to service-d traffic

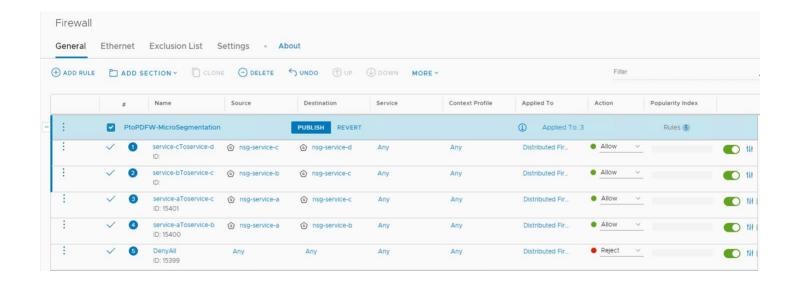
ID: service-cToservice-d Source: nsg-service-c Destination: nsg-service-d

Service: Any

ContextProfile: Any



Action: Allow



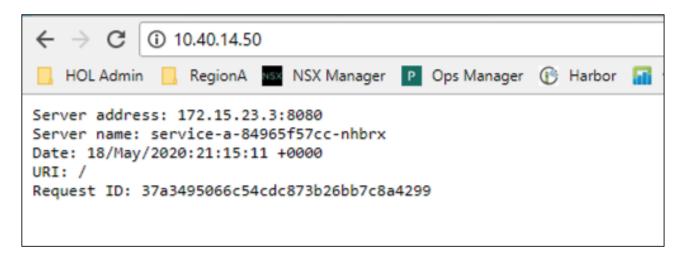
Select PtoPDFW-Microsegmentation and click on Publish

Test Traffic Flow

Traffic flow from external network to k8 cluster.

Open a browser and browse to the external ip from the previous step





service-a can be reached from the external network through the load balancer which is created in NSX-T

service-b, service-c and service-d are not exposed and hence are not reachable from the external network.

Traffic flow between pods

We will be using the busy-box container within service-a pod and use curl to check for responses between service.

Source Pod	Destination Pod	Result
service-a	service-b	Success
service-a	service-c	Success
service-a	service-d	Fail
service-b	service-c	Success
service-b	service-d	Fail

service-c	service-d	Success
service-c	service-b	Fail
service-d	service-c	Fail
service-d	service-b	Fail
service-c	service-a	Fail
service-b	service-a	Fail

1. Get pods running on namespace x1

kubectl get po -n x1

ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ kubectl	get po	-n x1		
NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
service-a-84965f57cc-nhbrx	2/2	Running	0	31m
service-a-84965f57cc-q72fh	2/2	Running	0	31m
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$				

2. Get service name for service-b running on namespace y1

kubectl get svc -n y1

ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz\$ kubectl get svc -n y1						
NAME	TYPE	CLUSTER-IP	EXTERNAL-IP	PORT (S)	AGE	
svc-service-b	ClusterIP	10.100.200.12	<none></none>	80/TCP	38m	



3. Exec into the busybox container running on a service-a pod

```
kubectl exec -n <namespace> <podname> -it -c busybox -- /bin/sh Eg
```

kubectl exec -n x1 service-a-84965f57cc-nhbrx -it -c busybox -- /bin/sh

```
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz$ kubectl exec -n x1 service-a-84965f57cc-nhbrx -it -c busybox -- /bin/sh /home # |
```

Use curl to reach service-b in namespace y1

```
curl http://svc-service-b.y1
```

NOTE: the service name is prepended by svc in this case, this is defined in the yaml we used to create the K8 resources. The service name is also appended by the namespace.

4. This results in a successful response

```
ubuntu@cli-vm:~/dmz$ kubectl exec -n x1 service-a-84965f57cc-nhbrx -it -c busybox -- /bin/sh /home # curl http://svc-service-b.y1
Server address: 172.15.13.3:8080
Server name: service-b-86d8c888c7-jpwf9
Date: 18/May/2020:21:38:00 +0000
URI: /
Request ID: cfe8d330cac2894b204a1b57082e10cc
```

5. Use the curl command to check the service response of service-c in namespace z1

```
curl http://svc-service-c.z1
```

This should be successful as well

6. Use the curl command to check the service response of service-d in namespace z1



This would fail

```
/home # curl http://svc-service-d.z1
curl: (7) Failed connect to svc-service-d.z1:80; Connection refused
```

Exec into each pod and check connectivity between pods.





