# **Practice Lab: Autoscaling and Secrets Management**



This practice lab is designed to provide hands-on experience with Kubernetes, focusing on vertical and horizontal pod autoscaling and secrets management.

## **Objectives**

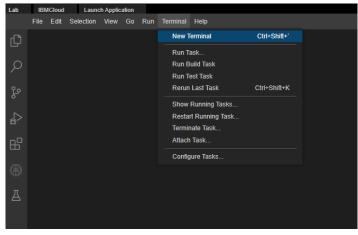
In this practice lab, you will:

- · Build and deploy an application to Kubernetes
- Implement Vertical Pod Autoscaler (VPA) to adjust pod resource requests/limits
- Implement Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) to scale the number of pod replicas based on resource utilization
- · Create a Secret and update the deployment for using it

Note: Kindly complete the lab in a single session without any break because the lab may go in offline mode and cause errors. If you face any issues/errors during the lab process, please logout from the lab environment. Then, clear your system cache and cookies and try to complete the lab.

# Setup the environment

On the menu bar, click Terminal and select the New Terminal option from the drop-down menu.



Note: If the terminal is already open, please skip this step.

## Step 1: Verify kubectl version

Before proceeding, ensure that you have kubectl installed and properly configured. To check the version of kubectl, run the following command:

1. 1 1. kubectl version

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You should see the following output, although the versions may be different:

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project$ kubectl version
WARNING: This version information is deprecated and will be replaced with the output from kubectl version --short. Use --output-yaml|json to get
the full version.
Client Version: version.Info(Major: "1", Minor: "27", GitVersion: "V1.27.6", GitCommit: "741c8db18a52787d734cbe4795f0b4ad860906d6", GitTreeState: "cle
an", Buildoate: "203-3-09-31309:21:342", GoVersion: "go1.20.8", Compiler: "gc", Platform: "linux/amd64")
Kustomize Version: version.Info(Major: "1", Minor: "27", GitVersion: "v1.27.14+IKS", GitCommit: "8db9c4804f137994e83aa532670006369716b8d", GitTreeState
: "clean", Buildoate: "2024-05-15171:52:022", GoVersion: "go1.21.9", Compiler: "gc", Platform: "linux/amd64"}
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/projects
```

# Step 2: Clone the project repository

Clone the repository with the starter code to commence the project.

1. 1

 $1. \ \, \texttt{git clone https://github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt.github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secret-github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secret-github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secret-github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secret-github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secret-github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secret-github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secret-github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/k8-scaling-and-secret-github.com/ibm-developer-$ 

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# Exercise 1: Build and deploy an application to Kubernetes

The Dockerfile in this repository already has the code for the application. You are just going to build the docker image and push it to the registry.

You will be giving the name myapp to your Kubernetes deployed application.

### Step 1: Build the Docker image

- 1. Navigate to the project directory.
- 1. 1
- 1. cd k8-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt

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2. Export your namespace.

1. 1

1. export MY NAMESPACE=sn-labs-\$USERNAME

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- 3. Build the Docker image.
- 1.
- 1. docker build . -t us.icr.io/\$MY\_NAMESPACE/myapp:v1

Copied!

1 of 7

```
nja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ docker build . -t us.icr.io/$MY_NAMESPACE/myapp:v1
/10
                                                                                                             docker:default53ae
894511ce28a05e2925a75e8a4acbd0634c39ad734fdfba8e23d1b1569 191.85MB / 191.85MB
```

## Step 2: Push and list the image

- 1. Push the tagged image to the IBM Cloud Container Registry.
- 1. docker push us.icr.io/\$MY NAMESPACE/myapp:vl

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ docker push us.icr.i
The push refers to repository [us.icr.io/sn-labs-ksundararaja/myapp]
d60490235730: Pushed
0803662719da: Pushed
386.08ccb3db4: Pushed
0865f5a015e5d: Pushed
0865f5a015e5d: Pushed
0865f5a015e5d: Pushed
0877740951de2: Pushed
0878740951de2: Pushed
088127abde5: Pushed
088127abde5: Pushed
088127abde5: Pushed
08163a0430f5.94. Pushed
08163a0430f5.94. Pushed
08163a0430f5.95. Pushed
081660a0de37: Pushed
081660a0de37: Pushed
0816186580f12: Pushed
0816560a0de37: Pushed
0816560a16572: Pushed
081786580f152: Pushed
08186580f152: Pushed
08186580f152: Pushed
08186580f152: Pushed
08186580f152: Pushed
08186580f152: Pushed
08186580f152: Pushed
```

- 2. List all the images available. You will see the newly created myapp image.
- 1. 1
- 1. ibmcloud cr images

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```
eiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ ibmcloud cr images
Repository
Digest Namespace Created Size
us.icr.io/sn-labs-ksundararaja/myapp
28d591aa8284 sn-labs-ksundararaja 2 minutes ago 350 MB
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/categories-watson-nlp-runtime
6801b1e5527b sn-labsassets 2 years ago 3.1 GB
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/classification-watson-nlp-runtime
dbd407898549 sn-labsassets 2 years ago 4.0 GB
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/concepts-watson-nlp-runtime
1e4741f10859 sn-labsassets 2 years ago 3.2 GB
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/custom-watson-nlp-runtime
f5613e19a33d sn-labsassets 2 years ago 6.5 GB
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/detag-watson-nlp-runtime
38916c2119fc sn-labsassets
2 years ago 2.7 GB
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/sn-labsassets 2 years ago 4.0 GB
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/sn-labsassets 2 years ago 4.0 GB
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/sn-labsassets 2 years ago 3.8 GB
us.icr.io/sn-labsassets/entity-mentions-bert-watson-nlp-runtime
57d92957214f sn-labsassets
2 years ago 3.8 GB
            Listing images...
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    Tag
Security status
v1
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          latest
```

# Step 3: Deploy your application

1. Open the deployment.yaml file located in the main project directory. It's content will be as follows:

1. 1 2. 2 3. 3 4. 4 5. 5 6. 6 7. 7 8. 8 9. 9 10. 10 11. 11 12. 12 13. 13 14. 14 15. 15 16. 16 17. 17 18. 18 19. 19 20. 20 21. 21 22. 22 23. 23 24. 24 25. 25 26. 26 27. 27 28. 29 29. 29 30. 31 31 32. 32 33. 33 33. 33 33. 33 1. apiVersion: apps/vl
2. kind: Deployment
3. metadata:
4. name: myapp
5. labels:
6. app: myapp
7. spec: pec:
 replicas: 1
 selector:
 matchLabels: matchLabels: app: myapp strategy: rollingUpdate: maxSurge: 25% maxUnavailable: 25% type: RollingUpdate

10/19/24, 17:12 2 of 7

```
17.

18.

19.

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23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.
             ec:
containers:
               ontainers:
image: us.icr.io/<your SN labs namespace>/myapp:vl
imagePullPolicy: Always
name: myapp
ports:
- containerPort: 3000
name: http
               name: necp
resources:
limits:
cpu: 50m
   2. Replace <your SN labs namespace> with your actual SN lab's namespace.
▼ Click here for the ways to get your namespace
   1. Run the command oc project, and use the namespace mapped to your project name
        theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project$ oc project
Using project "sn-labs-ksundararaja" from context named "ksundararaja-context" on server "https://c1.us-east.containers.cloud.ibm.com:22916
   2. Run the command ibmcloud cr namespaces and use the one which shows your sn-labs-username
        theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project$ ibmcloud cr namespaces
.isting namespaces for account 'Quicklabs - IBM Skills Network' in registry 'us.icr.io'...
       Namespace
sn-labs-ksundararaja
        sn-labsassets
        theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project$ 📕
   3. Apply the deployment.
  1. 1
  1. kubectl apply -f deployment.yaml
Copied!
   4. Verify that the application pods are running and accessible.
  1. 1
  1. kubectl get pods
Copied!
                                                   STATUS
Running
Step 4: View the application output
   1. Start the application on port-forward:
  1. kubectl port-forward deployment.apps/myapp 3000:3006
Copied!
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl port-forward deployment.apps/myapp 3000:3000 Forwarding from 127.0.0.1:3000 -> 3000 Forwarding from [::1]:3000 -> 3000
```

- 2. Launch the app on Port 3000 to view the application output.
- 3. You should see the message Hello from MyApp. Your app is up!.

 $\leftarrow \quad \Rightarrow \quad \textbf{C} \qquad \textbf{$^{\textbf{c}}$} \quad \text{ksundararaja-3000.theiadockernext-0-labs-prod-theiak8s-4-tor01.proxy.cognitive class.ai}$ 

# MyApp

Hello from MyApp. Your app is up!

- 4. Stop the server before proceeding further by pressing CTRL + c.
- 5. Create a ClusterIP service for exposing the application to the internet:
- 1. 1
- 1. kubectl expose deployment/myapp

Copied!

^Ctheia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt\$ kubectl expose deployment/myapp service/myapp exposed theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt\$

# **Exercise 2: Implement Vertical Pod Autoscaler (VPA)**

Vertical Pod Autoscaler (VPA) helps you manage resource requests and limits for containers running in a pod. It ensures pods have the appropriate resources to operate efficiently by automatically adjusting the CPU and memory requests and limits based on the observed resource usage.

# Step 1: Create a VPA configuration

You will create a Vertical Pod Autoscaler (VPA) configuration to automatically adjust the resource requests and limits for the myapp deployment.

Explore the  $\ensuremath{\text{vpa.yaml}}$  file, which has the following content:

1. 1

```
    apiVersion: autoscaling.k8s.io/v1
    kind: VerticalPodAutoscaler
    metadata:
    name: myvpa

         manme: BYVpus Spec:
spec:
spec:
apyVersion: "apps/vl"
kind: Deployment
name: myapp
updatePolicy:
updatePolicy:
updateMode: "Auto" # VPA will automatically update the resource requests and limits
   10.
11.
Copied!
```

#### Explanation

This YAML file defines a VPA configuration for the myapp deployment. The updateMode: "Auto" setting means that VPA will automatically update the resource requests and limits for the pods in this deployment based on the observed usage.

### Step 2: Apply the VPA

Apply the VPA configuration using the following command:

1. kubectl apply -f vpa.yaml

Copied!

#### Step 3: Retrieve the details of the VPA

```
1. Retrieve the created VPA:
```

1. kubectl get vpa

Copied!

This output shows that:

- The VPA named myvpa is in Auto mode, recommending 25 milli-cores of CPU and 256 MB of memory for the pods it manages.
- It has been created 29 seconds ago and has been providing these recommendations since then.
- 2. Retrieve the details and current running status of the VPA.

1. 1

1. kubectl describe vpa myvpa

Copied!

```
ome/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl describe vpa myvpa
agtheladocker-ksundararaja:/hom
:
space: sn-labs-ksundararaja
ls: <none>
tations: <none>
Version: autoscaling.k8s.io/v1
:
VerticalPodAutoscaler
data:
eation Timestamp: 2024-06-25T15:17:04Z
neration: 1
 s:
ditions:
ast Transition Time: 2024-06-25T15:17:20Z
tatus: True
vne: RecommendationProvided
vne:
       e: Rec
mendation:
tainer Recommendations:
ontainer Name: myapp
```

## **Explanation**

The output of kubectl describe  $\mbox{\sc wpa}$  myvpa is providing recommendations for CPU and memory:

Definition		
Minimum resources the VPA recommends.		
Optimal resources the VPA recommends.		
Target without any predefined limits.		
Maximum resources the VPA recommends.		
CPU	Memory	
25m	256MiB (262144KiB)	
25m	256MiB	
25m	256MiB	
	Optim Targe Maxin CPU 25m	Minimum resources the VPA reco Optimal resources the VPA reco Target without any predefined Maximum resources the VPA re CPU Memory 25m 256MiB (262144KiB) 25m 256MiB

Upper Bound 671m 1.34GiB (1438074878KiB)

These recommendations indicate that the VPA is functioning correctly and is providing target values based on observed usage.

You can stop the Kubernetes proxy and load generation commands on the other two terminals by pressing CTRL + c before continuing further.

# **Exercise 3: Implement Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA)**

10/19/24, 17:12 4 of 7

Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) automatically scales the number of pod replicas based on observed CPU/memory utilization or other custom metrics. VPA adjusts the resource requests and limits for individual pods. However, HPA changes the number of pod replicas to handle the load.

#### Step 1: Create an HPA configuration

You will configure a Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) to scale the number of replicas of the Myapp deployment based on CPU utilization

Explore the  $\ensuremath{\mbox{\scriptsize hpa.yaml}}$  file, which has the following content:

```
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. 7
8. 8
9. 9
10. 10
11. 11
2. 12
1. apiVersion: autoscaling/v1
2. kind: MorizontalPodAutoscaler
3. metadata:
4. name: myhpa
5. spec:
6. scaleTargetRef:
7. apiVersion: apps/v1
8. kind: Deployment
9. name: myapp
10. minReplicas: 1 # Minimum number of replicas
11. maxReplicas: 1 # Minimum number of replicas
12. targetCPUUtilizationPercentage: 5 # Target CPU utilization for scaling

Copied!
```

# Explanation

This YAML file defines a Horizontal Pod Autoscaler configuration for the myapp deployment. The HPA will ensure that the average CPU utilization across all pods remains close to 5%. If the utilization is higher, HPA will increase the number of replicas, and if it's lower, it will decrease the number of replicas within the specified range of 1 to 10 replicas.

#### Step 2: Configure the HPA

Apply the HPA configuration:

```
1. 1
1. kubectl apply -f hpa.yaml
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl apply -f hpa.yaml horizontalpodautoscaler.autoscaling/myhpa created theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$
```

#### Step 3: Verify the HPA

Obtain the status of the created HPA resource by executing the following command:

```
    1. 1
    1. kubectl get hpa myhpa

Copied!
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project/k8s-scaling-and-secrets-mgmt$ kubectl get hpa myhpa
NAME REFERENCE TARGETS MINPODS MAXPODS REPLICAS AGE
myhpa Deployment/myapp 0%/5% 1 10 1 61s
```

This command provides details about the current and target CPU utilization and the number of replicas.

# Step 4: Start the Kubernetes proxy

Open another terminal and start the Kubernetes proxy:

```
1. 1
1. kubectl proxy
```

```
theia@theiadocker-ksundararaja:/home/project$ kubectl proxy
Starting to serve on 127.0.0.1:8001
```

## Step 5: Spam and increase the load on the app

Open another new terminal and enter the below command to spam the app with multiple requests for increasing the loads

```
1. 1
1. for i in `seq 100000`; do curl -L localhost:8001/api/v1/namespaces/sn-labs-$USERNAME/services/myapp/proxy; done

Copied!
```

5 of 7 10/19/24, 17:12

```
ta charset="UTF-8">
ta name="viewport" content="width-device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
tle>Simple App - v1</title>
nk rel="stylesheet" href="./style.css">
  /
h1>MyApp</h1>
p>Hello from MyApp. Your app is up!
 d>
(meta charset="UTF-8")
(meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0")
(title>Simple App - v1</title>
(link rel="stylesheet" href="./style.css")
y>
<h1>MyApp</h1>
Hello from MyApp. Your app is up!
 )>
(meta charset="UTF-8">
(meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
(title>Simple App - vi</title>
(link rel="stylesheet" href="./style.css">
,,
<h1>MyApp</h1>
Hello from MyApp. Your app is up!
```

Proceed with further commands in the new terminal.

### Step 6: Observe the effect of autoscaling

- 1. Run the following command to observe the replicas increase in accordance with the autoscaling:
- 1. kubectl get hpa myhpa --watch

Copied!

- 2. You will see an increase in the number of replicas, which shows that your application has been autoscaled.
- 3. Terminate this command by pressing  $\mathsf{CTRL} + \mathsf{C}$ .

#### Step 7: Observe the details of the HPA

- ${\bf 1.} \ {\bf Run} \ {\bf the} \ {\bf following} \ {\bf command} \ {\bf to} \ {\bf observe} \ {\bf the} \ {\bf details} \ {\bf of} \ {\bf the} \ {\bf horizontal} \ {\bf pod} \ {\bf autoscaler} :$
- 1. kubectl get hpa myhpa

Copied!

- 2. You will notice that the number of replicas has increased now.
- 3. Stop the proxy and the load generation commands running in the other two terminals by pressing CTRL + C.

# Exercise 4: Create a Secret and update the deployment

Kubernetes Secrets lets you securely store and manage sensitive information, such as passwords, OAuth tokens, and SSH keys. Secrets are base64-encoded and can be used in your applications as environment variables or mounted as files.

### Step 1: Create a Secret

Explore the content of the file  ${\tt secret.yaml:}$ 

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Secret
metadata:
              username: bXl1c2VybmFtZQ==
password: bXlwYXNzd29yZA==
Copied!
```

# Explanation

 $This YAML file \ defines \ a \ secret \ named \ {\tt mysecret} \ with \ two \ key-value \ pairs: {\tt username} \ and {\tt password}. The \ values \ are \ base 64-encoded \ strings.$ 

## Step 2: Update the deployment to utilize the secret

Add the following lines at the end of deployment.yaml:

```
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. 7
8. 8
9. 9
10. 10
11. 11
                                                      nv:
name: MYAPP_USERNAME
valueFrom:
secretKeyRef:
```

6 of 7

```
key: username
name: MYAPP_PASSWORD
valueFrom:
secretKeyRef:
Copied!
```

# Explanation

- name: Defines the environment variables: 'MYAPP\_USERNAME' and 'MYAPP\_PASSWORD', respectively.
- valueFrom: Specifies that the value of the environment variable should be sourced from another location rather than being hardcoded.
- secretKeyRef: Indicates that the value of the environment variable should come from a Kubernetes secret.
- name: myapp-secret Specifies the name of the secret 'myapp-secret', from which to retrieve the value.
   key: Specifies which key within the secret is to be used for the value of the 'MYAPP\_USERNAME' and 'MYAPP\_PASSWORD' environment variables, respectively.

With these updates, the myapp application can now read these environment variables to get the required credentials, making it more secure and flexible.

### Step 3: Apply the secret and deployment

- 1. Apply the secret using the following command:
- 1. kubectl apply -f secret.yaml

- 2. Apply the updated deployment using the following command:
- 1. kubectl apply -f deployment.yaml

Copied!

## Step 4: Verify the secret and deployment

You will now verify if the secret and the deployment using it have been applied.

- 1. Run the following command to retrieve the details of myapp-secret showing its name, type, and creation timestamp:
- 1. 1
- 1. kubectl get secret

Copied!

- 2. Run the following command to show the status of the deployment, including information about replicas and available replicas.
- 1. 1
- 1. kubectl get deployment

Copied!

## Conclusion

In this lab, you began by building and deploying an application called myapp on Kubernetes.

Following this, you configured a Vertical Pod Autoscaler (VPA) to automatically adjust resource requests and limits for the myapp deployment. Subsequently, you implemented a Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) to scale the number of replicas for the myapp deployment based on CPU utilization. Finally, you created a Secret and updated the myapp deployment to utilize it.

## Author(s)

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7 of 7 10/19/24, 17:12