



# Serverless with Knative

Kubernetes-based platform for modern event-driven serverless workloads

JAX Mainz, September 10, 2020

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# Serverless

"Serverless computing refers to the concept of building and running **applications** that **do not require server management**. It describes a finer-grained **deployment model** where applications, bundled as one or more functions are uploaded to a platform and then **executed**, **scaled**, and **billed** in response to the exact **demand** needed at the moment"

-- CNCF Definition, <https://www.cncf.io/blog/2018/02/14/cncf-takes-first-step-towards-serverless-computing/>

# Wait... wat ?





A photograph of a wooden boat, likely a traditional Thai longtail boat, viewed from the stern looking forward. The boat's deck is made of weathered wooden planks. A thick, coiled rope lies on the deck. At the bow, a wooden mast is visible with some colorful fabric (red, green, and white) tied around its base. The boat is moving through the water, creating a white wake. In the background, the ocean stretches to the horizon under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Several large, dark, rocky islands are visible in the distance.

# Knative

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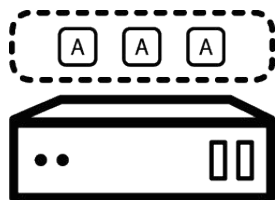
Kubernetes-based platform to  
**deploy and manage** modern  
**serverless workloads.**

<https://knative.dev>

# Components

## Serving

A request-driven model that serves the container with your application and can "scale to zero".



## Eventing

Common infrastructure for consuming and producing events that will stimulate applications.





# Background Information

- Started as an **Open Source** Project mid-2018 by Google
- Community driven with a lot of vendor backing
  - <https://github.com/knative>
  - <https://knative.dev>
  - Support by Google, Red Hat, IBM, VMware, Triggermesh, SAP and more
  - Organized in multiple Working Groups with weekly meetings
- Releases
  - Current: **v0.17**
  - 6 week release cadence

# Try Knative !

- Install from resource descriptors on Kubernetes Cluster
  - <https://knative.dev/docs/install/>
- Google **Cloud Run** (managed and on GKE)
  - <https://cloud.google.com/run/>
  - Not all Knative features implemented
    - see <https://ahmet.im/blog/cloud-run-is-a-knative> ?
- Red Hat **OpenShift Serverless**
  - <https://www.openshift.com/learn/topics/serverless>
  - Supports all Knative features
  - Serving GA with full support, Eventing in Technical Preview





# Serving

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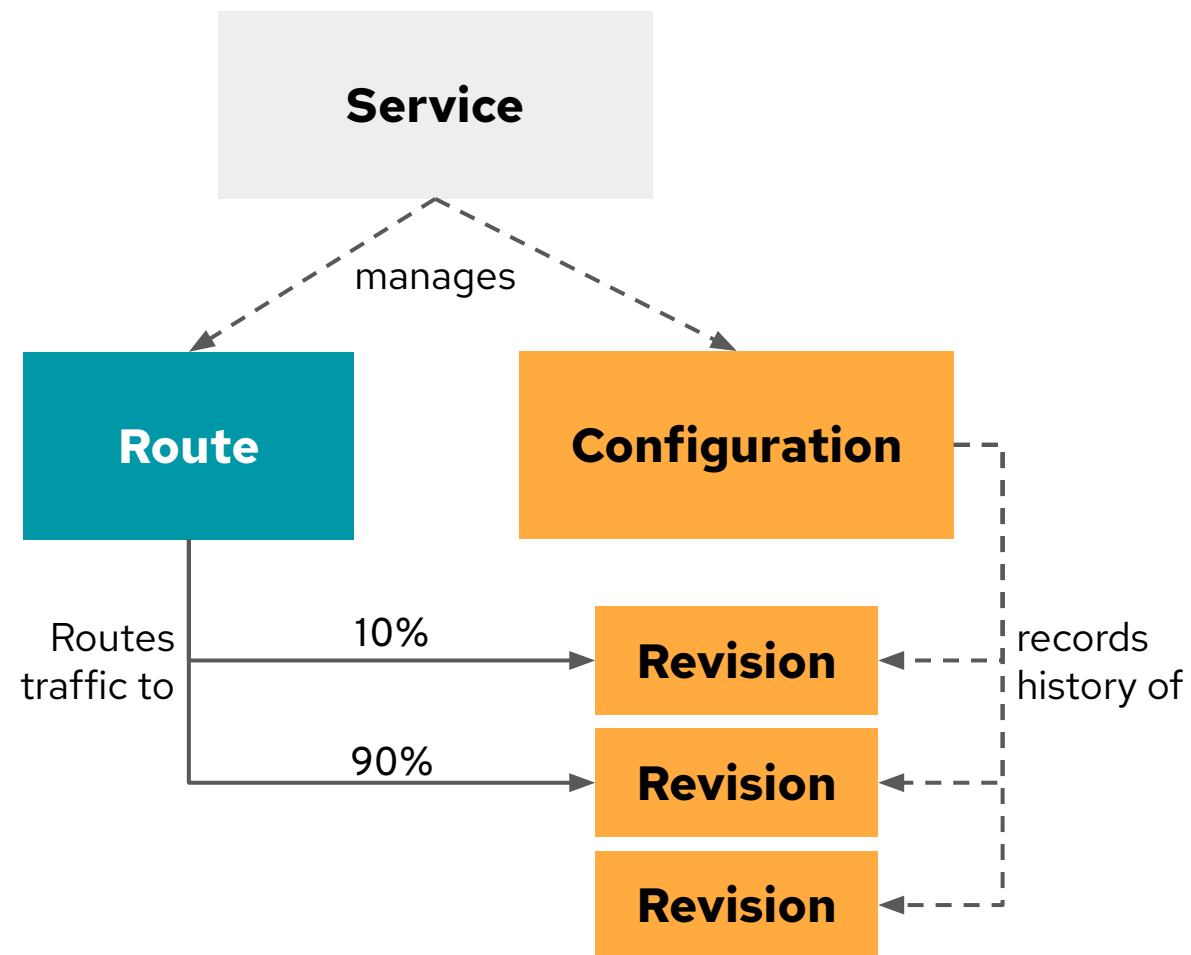
**Route, scale-to-zero** and track application **revisions** with ease.

# Concepts

- **Demand-based autoscaling**, including scale-to-zero
- Separation of code and configuration
- Opinionated deployment model catered for **stateless applications**
  - Single Port
  - No PersistentVolumes
  - Single Container (about to change)
- Rich **traffic split capabilities** to enable custom rollout strategies of new versions

# Resources

- **Configuration** represent the *floating HEAD* of a history of **Revisions**
- **Revision** represents an immutable snapshot of code and configuration
- **Route** configure ingress over a collection of Revisions
- **Service** (not K8s services !) is a top-level entity that manage a set of Routes and Configurations



# From Deployment to KService

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: random
spec:
  replicas: 1
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: random
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: random
    spec:
      containers:
        - image: rhuss/random
          name: random
          ports:
            - containerPort: 8080
```

```
apiVersion: serving.knative.dev/v1alpha1
kind: Service
metadata:
  name: random
spec:
  replicas: 1
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: random
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: random
    spec:
      containers:
        - image: rhuss/random
          name: random
          ports:
            - containerPort: 8080
```

No more K8s  
**Service** or  
**Ingress/Route**  
required!



# Demo





# Eventing



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**Universal subscription, delivery,  
and management of CloudEvents.**

# Eventing

- Based on CloudEvents (CNCF Standard)
- Pluggable event transport via **Channels**
  - In-Memory
  - Apache Kafka
  - Google Pub-Sub
- Flexible routing of events from Sources to Sinks
  - **Source:** Adapter for integrating 3rd party systems and emitting CloudEvents
  - **Sink:** Addressable endpoint for CloudEvents (like a Knative Service)



# Event Sources

- Integrating 3rd party systems with Knative
- More often “**Adapter**” than an original event source
- Declared with a **Custom Resource**
- Evaluated by an Operator
- Push or Pull based
- Converting custom event formats to **CloudEvents**

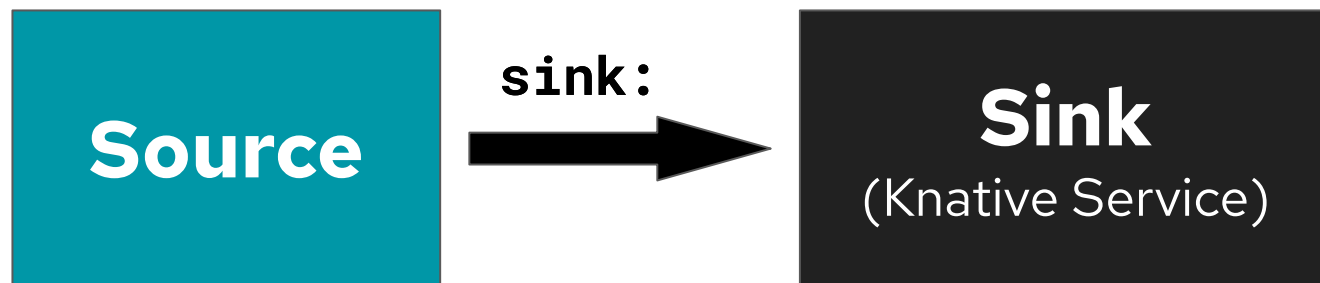


# Sources

Builtin Sources	
<b>PingSource</b>	Emitting static CloudEvents periodically
<b>ApiServerSource</b>	Kubernetes API Server events as CloudEvents
<b>SinkBinding</b>	Binds an arbitrary Pod specification to a Sink
<b>ContainerSource</b>	Meta-Source combining SinkBinding & Deployment
Contributed Sources	
<b>GitHubSource</b>	Converts GitHub webhooks events to CloudEvents
<b>KafkaSource</b>	Apache Kafka messages as CloudEvents
<b>CamelKSource</b>	Apache Camel components as sources

and many more: <https://knative.dev/docs/eventing/sources/>

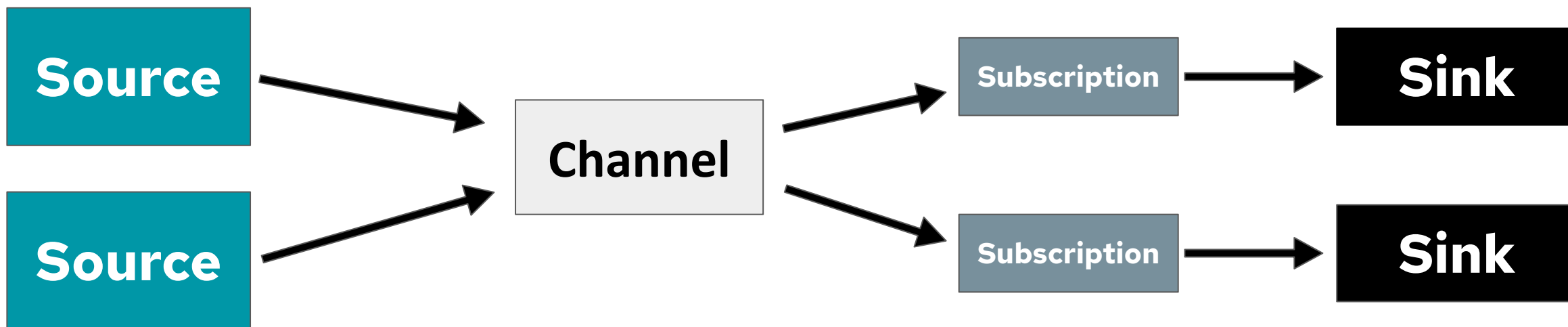
# Source → Service : Direct Connection



- Simplest way to get CloudEvents to a service
- Drawbacks:
  - No queuing support when service is unavailable
  - No back pressure support
  - Only one Service can consume events
  - No filtering, Service gets always all events

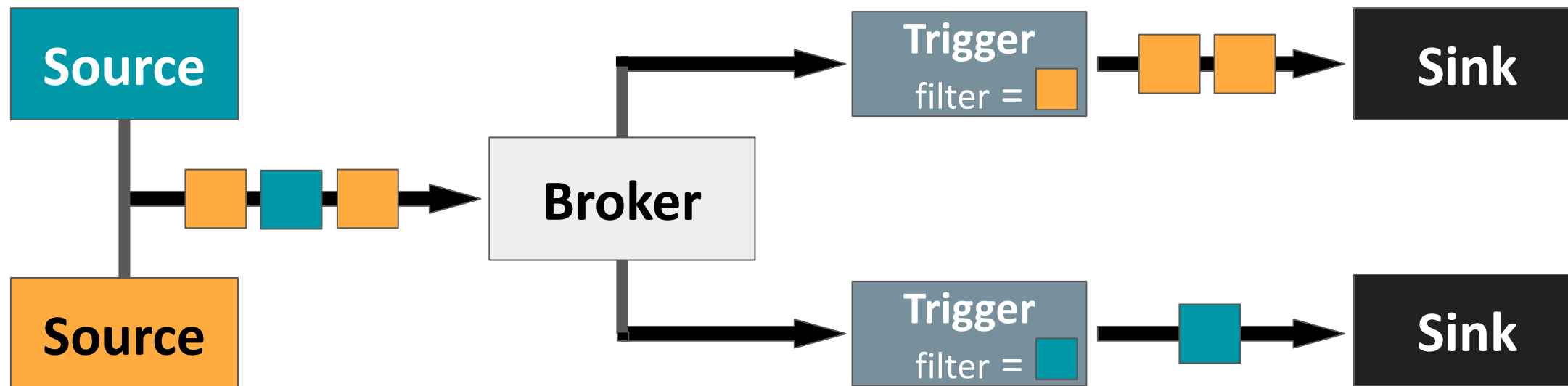
# Demo

# Source → Service : Channel & Subscription



- Multiple Services can consume the same event
- Subscription can point to a reply channel (not shown here)
- Various Channel Backends available
  - In-Memory, Kafka, GCP PubSub, (write your own)
- Drawbacks:
  - Channel Infrastructure needs to be set up manually
  - No filtering, Service gets always all events

# Source → Service: Broker & Trigger



## Broker

- Eventing Mesh for distributing Events
- Addressed by sources as sink

## Trigger

- Filter on CloudEvent attributes (e.g. type)
- Connects a Sink with Broker



# Source → Service: Broker & Trigger

- **Broker**

- Eventing Mesh (or Event Delivery System)
- Connects Sources with Sinks
- Uses Channels internally, creating on the fly
  - Multi-tenant broker option (since 0.14)

- **Trigger**

- Filter events (e.g. type and/or source)
- Can produce new events (returned to Broker)
- Delivered as CloudEvents

# Demo

# More Knative Eventing

- **EventRegistry**
  - EventType CRD
  - Discoverability of Events
- **Sequence**
  - Chaining multiple Services
  - Sinking to an “Addressable” (Service, Channel, Sequence, Broker ...)
- **Parallel**
  - Branching of events with filters
  - Allows to implement conditional processing

A photograph of a wooden boat's interior, viewed from the stern looking forward. The boat is made of weathered wood and has several coils of rope on the deck. In the background, the ocean stretches to the horizon under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Several small, rocky islands are visible in the distance. The word "Summary" is overlaid in large white text on a dark horizontal band across the middle of the image.

# Summary



# Summary

## **Knative Serving**

- Simplified Deployment for stateless workloads
- Traffic based autoscaling including Scale-to-Zero
- Traffic splitting for custom rollout / rollback scenarios

## **Knative Eventing**

- External Triggers for feeding Knative Services
- Based on CloudEvents
- Backed by proven messaging systems
- Flexible messaging setup

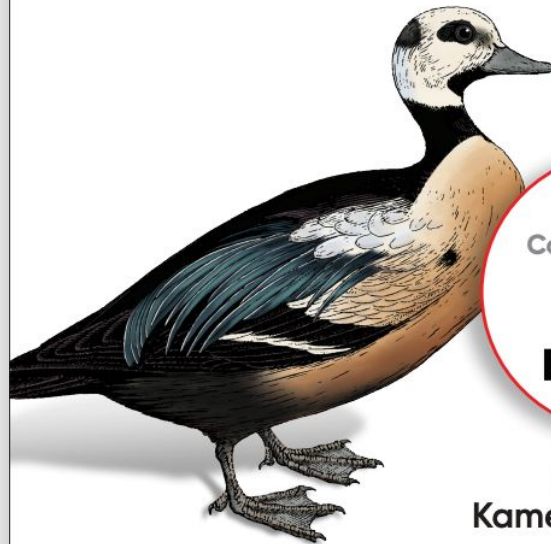




O'REILLY®

# Knative Cookbook

Building Effective Serverless Applications  
with Kubernetes and OpenShift

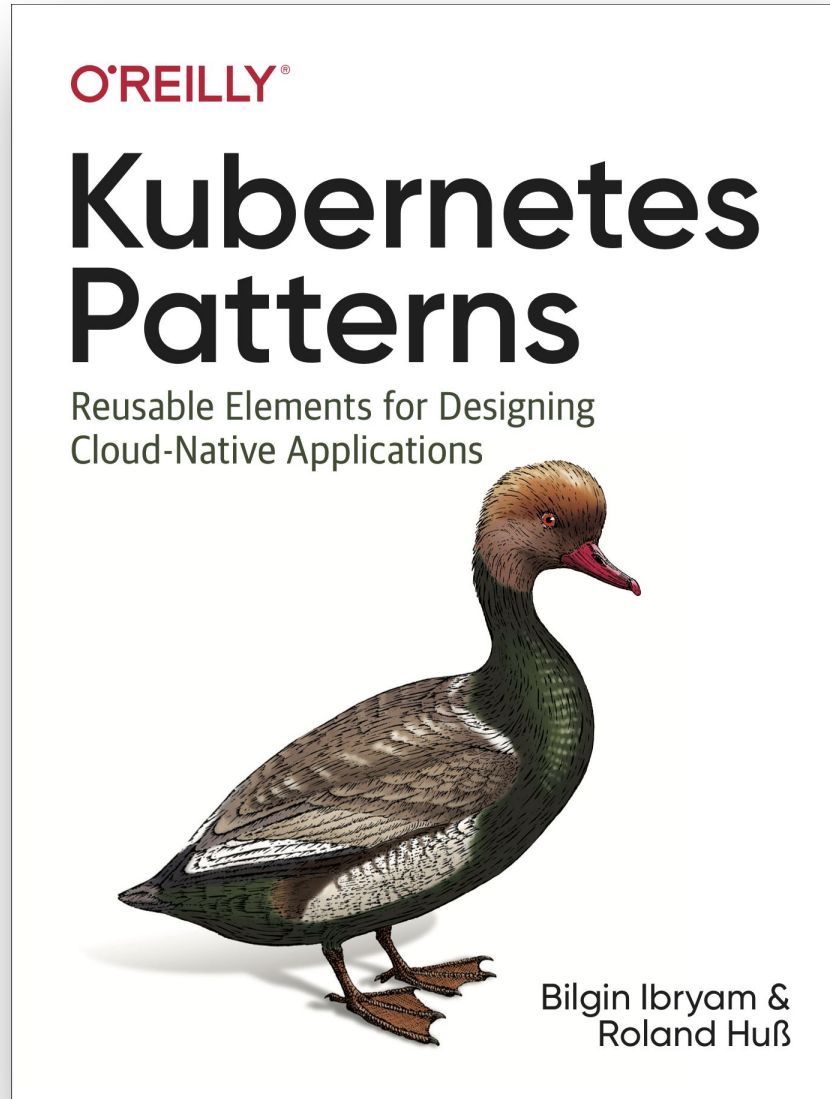


Compliments of



**Red Hat**

Burr Sutter &  
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<https://k8spatterns.io>

# Thank you



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