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Istio on Knative Lessons Learned

How Istio is Fit for Serverless Platform

Ying Chun Guo & Iris Ding, IBM China

About us



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Ying Chun Guo “Daisy” @daisy-ycguo
Interested in Serverless
Contribute to Knative, Apache OpenWhisk



Shao Jun Ding “Iris” @irisdingbj
Interested in Service Mesh
Contribute to Isito

Agenda

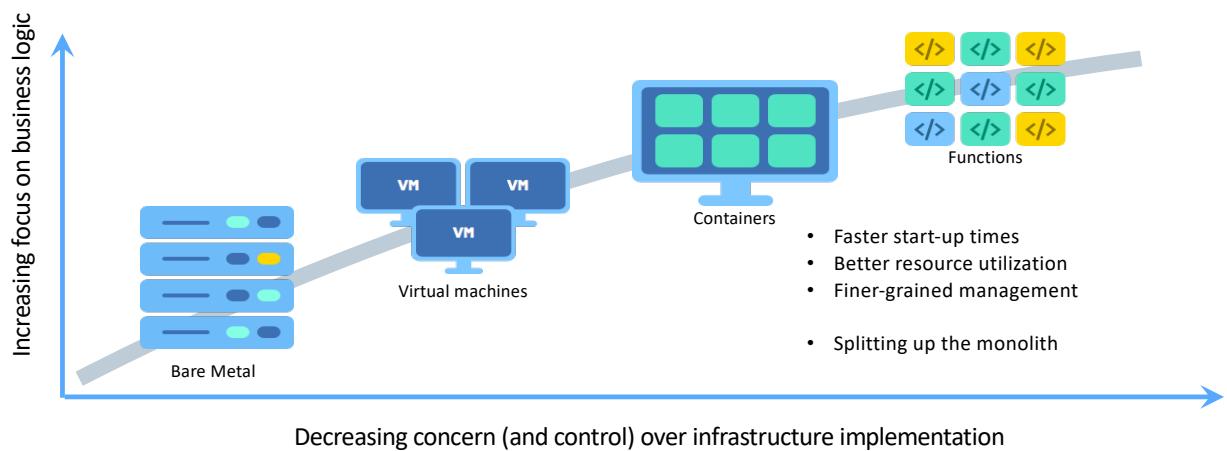


- Serverless and Knative
- Service Mesh and Istio
- Benefits of Istio on Knative
- Costs of Istio on Knative
- Summary

Serverless



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Properties of Serverless



- Stateless
- Event Driven
- Auto-scaled / Scale-to-zero
- Short Lived
- **Reduced Cost**
- **Faster Time to Market**

To make your own Serverless platform.....



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Open Source Serverless Project

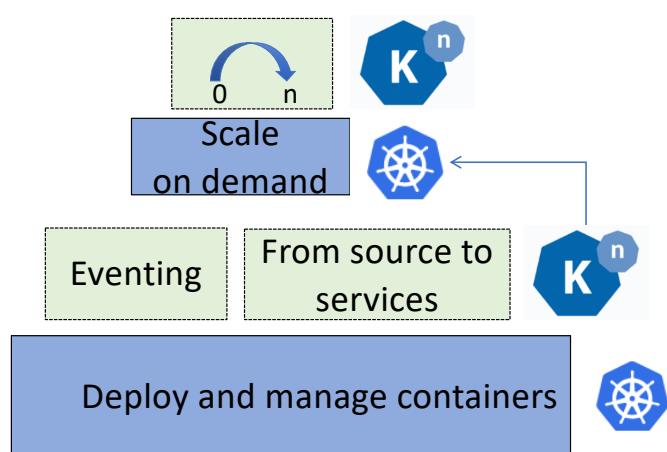
Kubernetes



Knative – Bring Serverless to Kubernetes



- Knative Building
- Knative Serving
- Knative Eventing



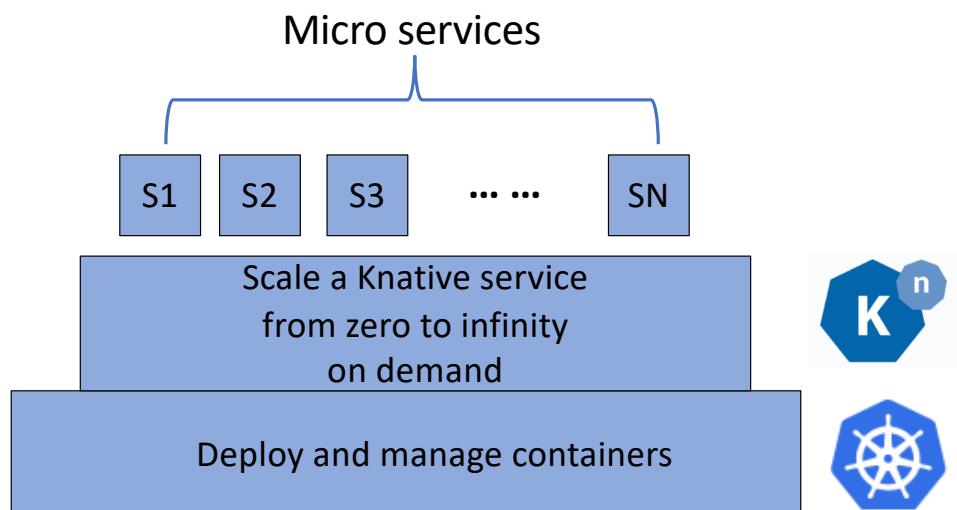
Micro services on Knative



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Users want to ...

- Locate a service by a host name and path
- Control the traffics
- Secure services access
- Logging, monitoring, and tracing
-



Service Mesh



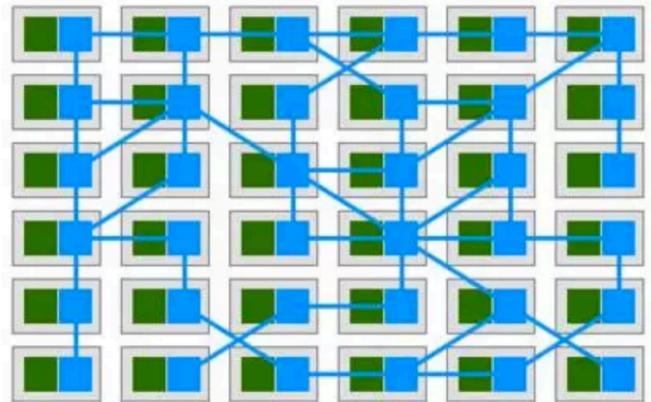
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A service mesh provides a **transparent and language-independent** network for connecting, observing, securing and controlling the connectivity between services.



Istio



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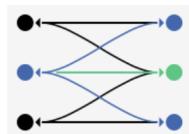
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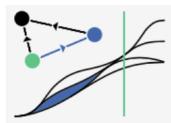
An **open service mesh platform**
to connect, observe, secure,
and control microservices.



An open service mesh platform to connect, observe, secure, and control microservices.



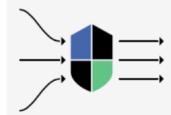
Connect: Traffic Control, Discovery,
Load Balancing, Resiliency



Observe: Metrics, Logging, Tracing



Secure: Encryption (TLS),
Authentication, and Authorization of
service-to-service communication

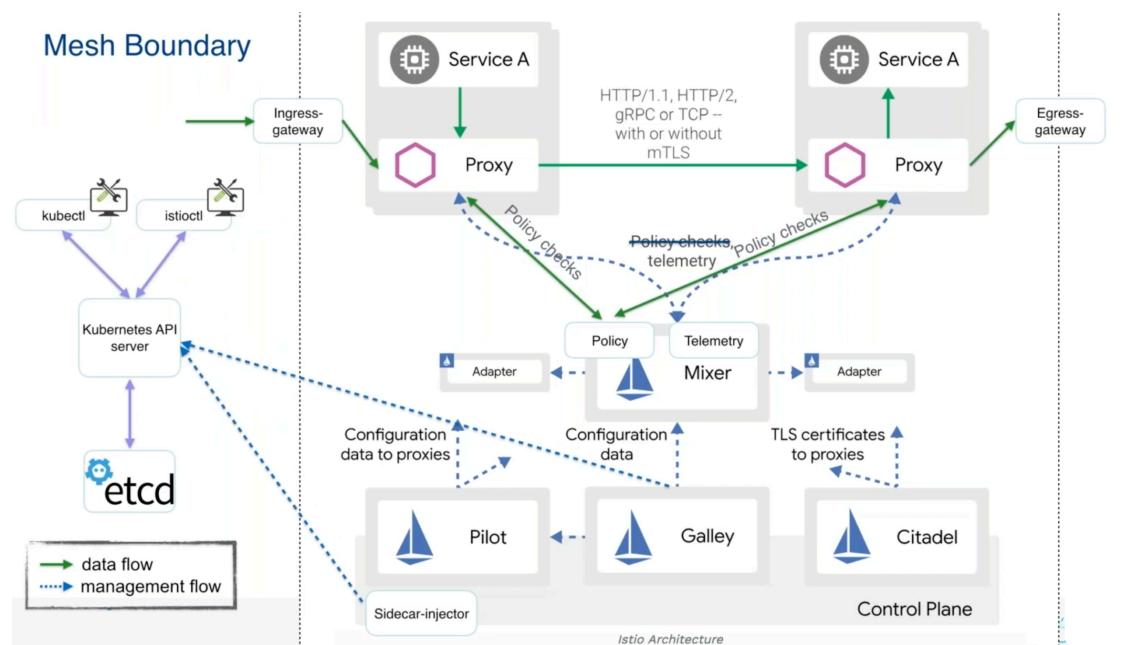


Control: Policy Enforcement

Istio architecture



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Istio on Knative



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Traffic Routing

Telemetry

Security

Istio

Knative

Kubernetes

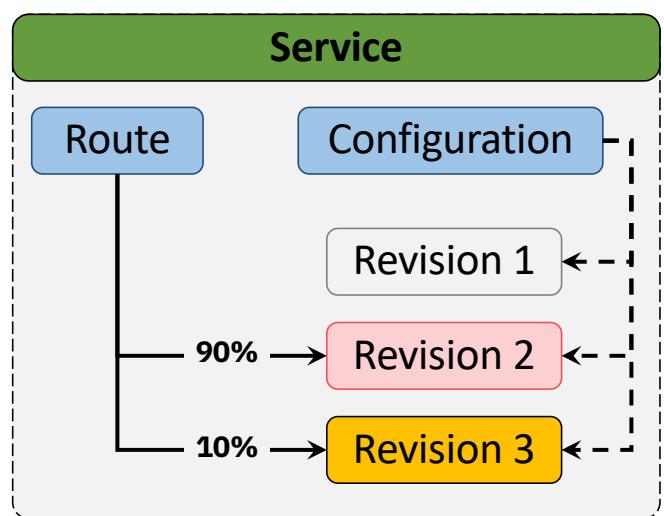
Knative basic concepts



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Manages the hosting aspects of your app

- **Service** - manages the lifecycle of app
- **Configuration** - manage history of app
- **Revision** - A snapshot of your app
 - Config and image
- **Route** - Endpoint and network traffic management

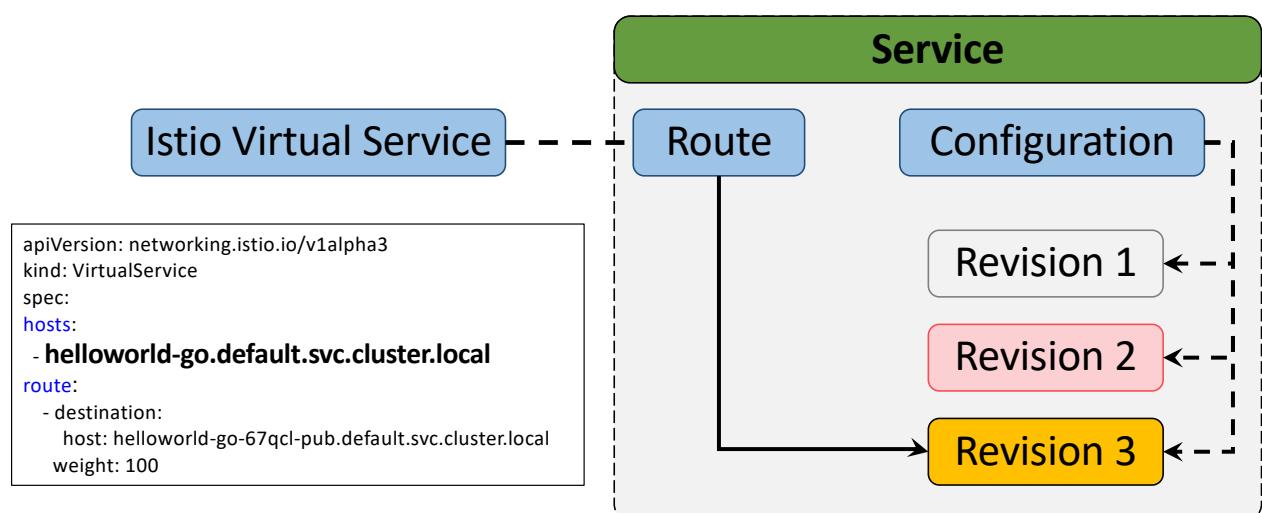


Traffic routing (1)



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An [Istio Virtual Service](#) will be created for every [Route](#)

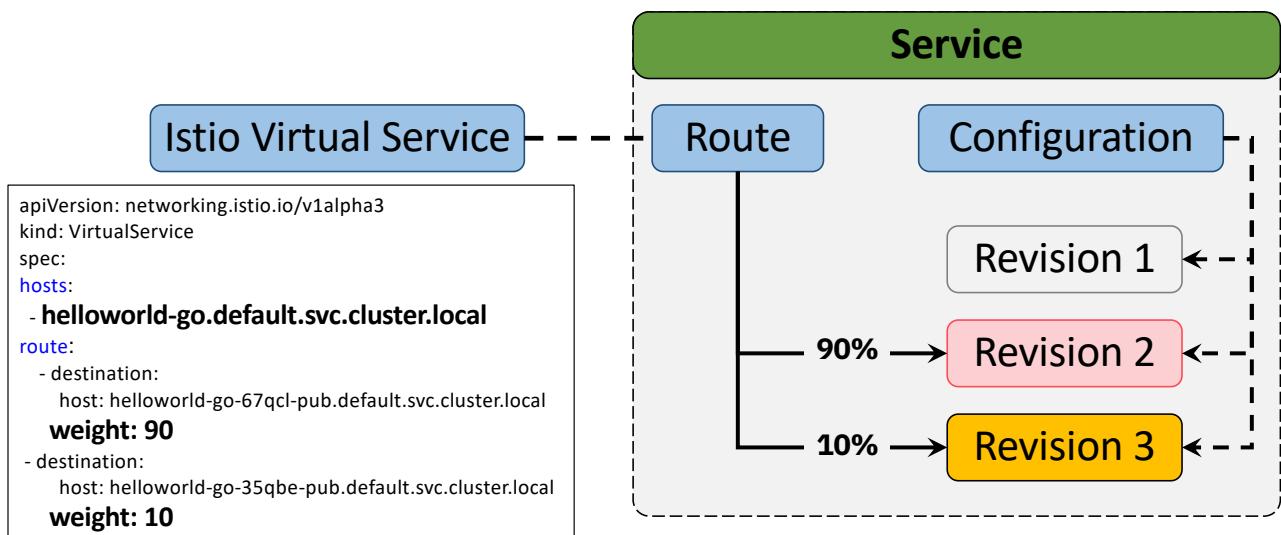


Traffic routing (2)



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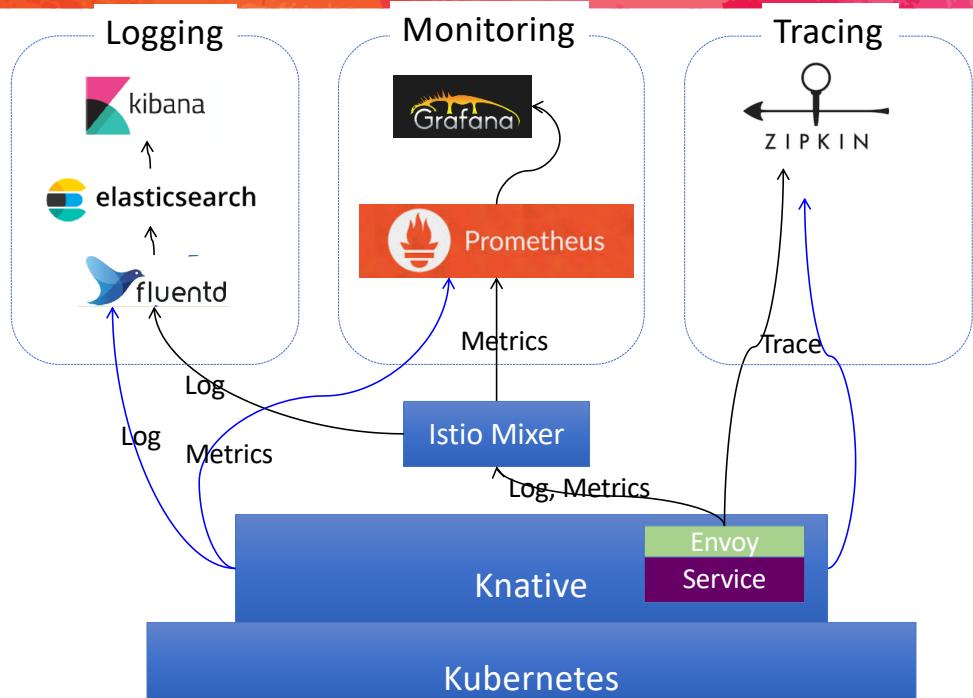
An [Istio Virtual Service](#) will be created for every [Route](#)



Telemetry



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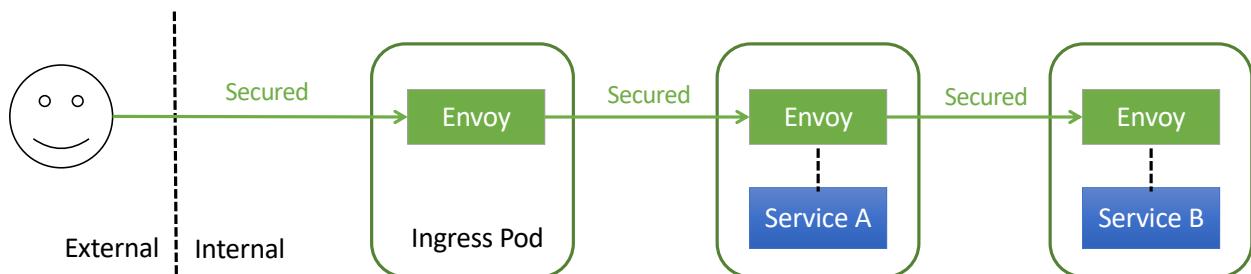
Security



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With side car injected :

- Can turn on mutual TLS, which secures service-to-service traffic within the cluster.
- Can turn on Gateway TLS with Secret Discovery Service (SDS)
- Can use the Istio authorization policy, controlling the access to each Knative service based on Istio service roles.



Benefits summary



- Istio taking care of Service Mesh
 - Traffic control
 - Secure services access
 - Telemetry
- It makes Knative **focus** on serverless

Benefits come at a price.....



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Any costs?



Choices of Istio installation



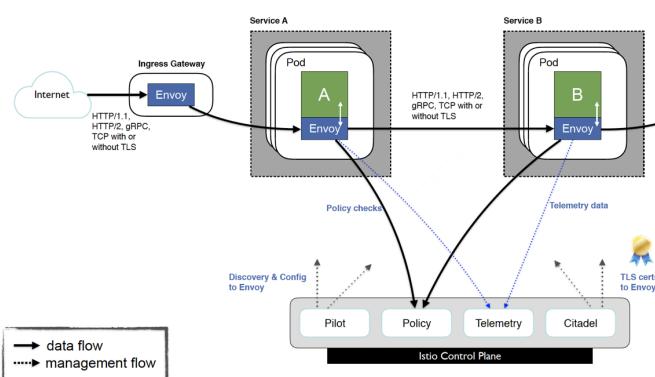
- Full Istio
- Full Istio with CNI plugin
- Full Istio without Policy
- Minimal Istio

Full Istio



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- Full Istio with sidecar using init-container

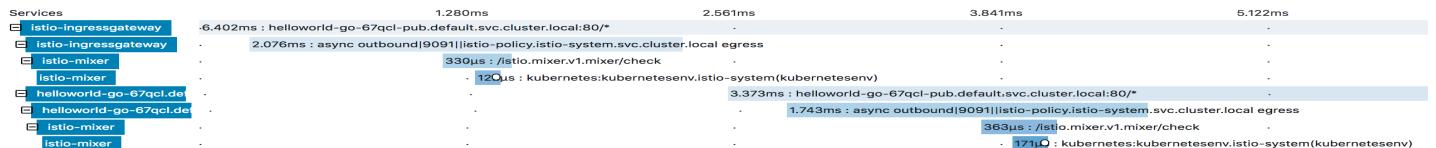


7.316s : pod_creating

2.374s : container_startup_istio-initO
6.558s : container_startup_istio-proxy
6.611s : container_startup_queue-proxy
3.377s : container_startup_user-container

Long cold start-up time

✓ Enjoy control and observability
Additional latency for policy check

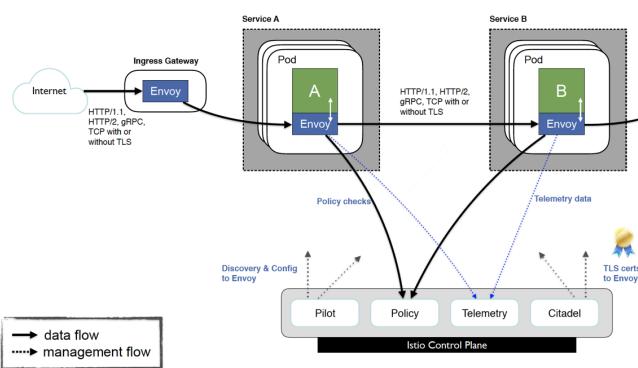


Full Istio with CNI plugin



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- Full Istio with sidecar using CNI plugin

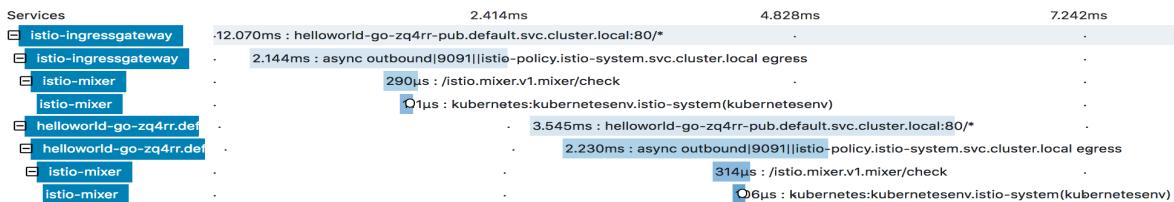


4.187s : pod_creating

3.524s : container_startup_istio-proxy
3.060s : container_startup_queue-proxy
2.016s : container_startup_user-container

Long cold start-up time

- ✓ Enjoy control and observability
 - ✓ Remove security requirement for pod
- Additional latency for policy check

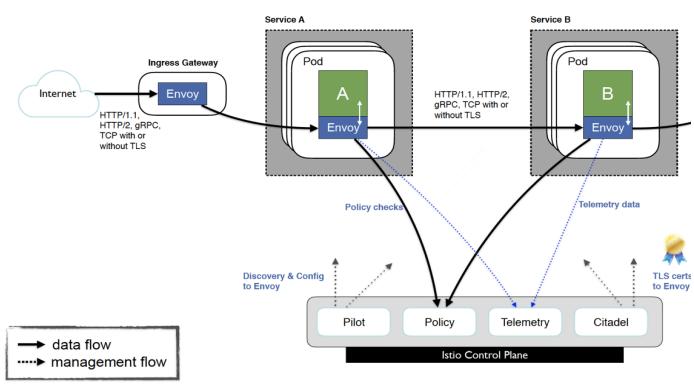


Full Istio without policy



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- Full Istio with sidecar using init-container
- Policy disabled



7.003s : endpoint_wait
6.830s : pod_creating
2.991s : container_startup_istio-init
6.097s : container_startup_istio-proxy
5.106s : container_startup_queue-proxy
3.936s : container_startup_user-container

Long cold start-up time

- ✓ Enjoy traffic control & observability
- ✓ No additional check Latency

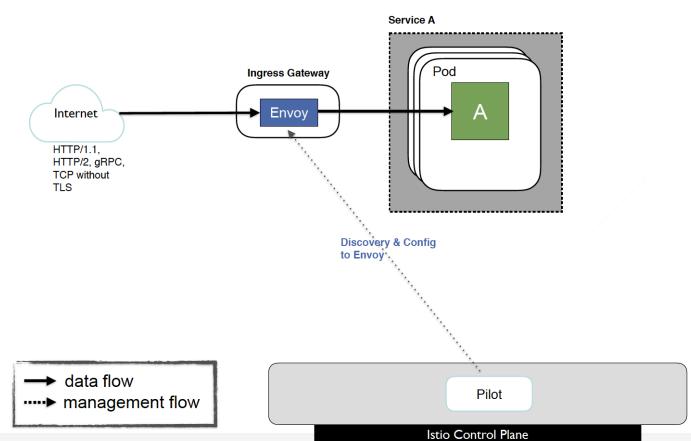
Services	485µs	970µs
istio-ingressgateway	2.424ms : helloworld-go-67qcl-pub.default.svc.cluster.local:80/*	
helloworld-go-67qcl.default		1.369ms : helloworld-go-67qcl-pub.default.svc.cluster.local:80/*

Minimal Istio



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- Minimal Istio without sidecar



1.611s : pod_creating

1.196s : container_startup_queue-proxy
1.133s : container_startup_user-container

- ✓ Short cold start-up time
- ✓ No control and observability
- ✓ No additional latency

Trade-off by yourself



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Istio	Costs			Benefits			
	Long cold start up time	Additional latency in response time	NET_ADMIN capabilities	Traffic Routing	Policy Control	Security	Telemetry
Full Istio	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Full Istio with CNI Plugin	●	●		●	●	●	●
Full Istio without policy	●		●	●		●	●
Minimal Istio without Sidecar				●			●

Recap



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- Istio is a good complement of Knative.
- Carefully selection of Istio
 - ✓ Manual sidecar injection.
 - ✓ Disable policy if possible.
 - ✓ Use CNI plugin if security restriction(Alpha).



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Thank you!



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