# **Kubernetes HA Cluster Deployment Report** (Proof of Concept)

# 1. Introduction

This report outlines the deployment of a **Proof of Concept (PoC)** highly available Kubernetes cluster on a bare-metal hypervisor environment. The goal is to validate core architectural components for security, high availability, and observability in a controlled lab setting.

# 2. Deployment Environment

- **Platform:** Proxmox VE hypervisor cluster
- **Virtual Machines:** 5 VMs total
  - o 3 Control-plane (master) nodes
  - o 2 Worker nodes
- Each VM is provisioned with sufficient CPU, RAM, and storage to simulate production-like workloads and storage replication.

#### 3. Kubernetes Cluster Setup

- **Kubernetes Distribution:** RKE2 (Rancher Kubernetes Engine 2)
  - o Hardened Kubernetes distribution with embedded etcd for HA control plane.
  - Uses containerd runtime.
- Control Plane Load Balancing:
  - HAProxy load balances traffic to the 3 master nodes.
  - o Ports:
    - **6443**: Kubernetes API server.
    - 9345: etcd peer communication.

# 4. Networking & Ingress

- CNI Plugin:
  - o Calico selected due to hardware limitations preventing Cilium usage.
- Load Balancer: MetalLB in Layer 2 mode assigns static IPs for LoadBalancer services.
- **Ingress Controller:** Istio service mesh used as ingress gateway.
  - o Manages ingress traffic via VirtualServices and Gateways.
  - o TLS termination managed by cert-manager.
- DNS & TLS:
  - o DNS managed externally via Cloudflare.
  - cert-manager automates TLS certificate issuance using Cloudflare DNS-01 challenge.

# 5. Storage

- Persistent Storage: Longhorn deployed for distributed block storage.
  - o Supports volume replication and fault tolerance.
  - o Ensures data availability during node failures.

# 6. Application Deployment & Exposure

- **Keycloak** (Identity Provider) and **ArgoCD** (GitOps) deployed via Helm.
- Exposed through Istio Ingress Gateway using VirtualServices.
- Secured with cert-manager TLS certificates.
- Enables testing of secure access, authentication, and continuous deployment.

# 7. Monitoring & Observability

- **Prometheus** collects metrics from cluster components and workloads.
- **Grafana** visualizes cluster health and application telemetry.
- Both deployed for PoC monitoring purposes.

# 8. High Availability & Resilience

- 3-node control plane with embedded etcd maintains quorum under node failure scenarios.
- HAProxy ensures uninterrupted Kubernetes API access.
- Longhorn replication provides storage fault tolerance.
- Istio and MetalLB ensure resilient and secure application ingress.

#### 9. Summary

This PoC environment validates the feasibility of deploying a highly available, secure Kubernetes platform on bare-metal virtualized infrastructure. Key features demonstrated:

- HA control plane with HAProxy load balancing.
- Calico CNI supporting the existing hardware environment.
- Longhorn persistent storage with replication.
- Istio ingress with MetalLB load balancing and automated TLS.
- Secure, Helm-deployed Keycloak and ArgoCD applications.
- Integrated monitoring via Prometheus and Grafana.

```
root@lb:-# kubectl get nodes -o wide

NAME STATUS ROLES
node01 Ready control-plane,etcd,master node02 Ready control-plane,etcd,master worker01 Ready worker

NAME STATUS ROLES
NAME VERSION INTERNAL-IP STATUS ROLES
NAME 172.16.25.152 STATUS ROLES
NAME 172.16.25.155 STATUS ROLES
NAME 172.
```

Figure 1: All Nodes

| root@lb:~# kubectl -n                        | istio-system ge | et svc istio-ing | ressgateway |   |             |
|--|-----------------|------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| NAME<br>istio-ingressgateway<br>root@lb:~# ■ | TYPE            | CLUSTER-IP       | EXTERNAL-IP | PORT(S)<br>15021:30916/TCP,80:32636/TCP,443:31570/TCP,31400:31574/TCP,15443:32239/TCP | AGE<br>3d4h |
| 1000@05#                                     |                 |                  |             |   |             |

Figure 2: istio-ingressgateway

| root@lb:~# kubectl get pods -o wide               |       |         |               |              |               |                  |                |                 |
|---|-------|---------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| NAME  | READY | STATUS  | RESTARTS      | AGE          | IP            | NODE             | NOMINATED NODE | READINESS GATES |
| csi-attacher-6cc66dfc7-drp56                      | 1/1   | Running | 1 (3d5h ago)  | 3d5h         | 10.42.140.68  | node02           | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |
| csi-attacher-6cc66dfc7-mhrqm                      | 1/1   | Running | 0             | 3d5h         | 10.42.30.71   | worker02         | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |
| csi-attacher-6cc66dfc7-xwmhm                      | 1/1   | Running | 5 (3d5h ago)  | 3d5h         | 10.42.5.7     | worker01         | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |
| csi-provisioner-bf9f5dcf-cnswq                    | 1/1   | Running | 5 (3d5h ago)  | 3d5h         | 10.42.5.8     | worker01         | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |
| csi-provisioner-bf9f5dcf-pz78d                    | 1/1   | Running | ο (Susii agu) | 3d5h         | 10.42.140.70  | node02           | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |
| csi-provisioner-bf9f5dcf-pzcj5                    | 1/1   | Running | 9             | 3d5h         | 10.42.30.74   | worker02         | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |
| csi-resizer-79f94cf664-9hadv                      | 1/1   | Running | Θ             | 3d5h         | 10.42.30.74   | node02           | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |
| csi-resizer-79194c1664-jltpg                      | 1/1   | Running | 5 (3d5h ago)  | 3d5h         | 10.42.5.9     | worker01         |                |                 |
| csi-resizer-79194c1664-jttpq                      | 1/1   | Running | ο (sush ago)  | 3d5h         | 10.42.30.72   | worker01         | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |
| csi-snapshotter-55f6bf5866-5xkfd                  | 1/1   |         | Θ             | 3d5h         | 10.42.30.72   | worker02         |                | <none></none>   |
| csi-snapshotter-55f6bf5866-cwwv2                  | 1/1   | Running | θ             | 3d5h         | 10.42.30.73   | node02           | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |
| csi-snapshotter-55f6bf5866-h7s2r                  | 1/1   | Running | Θ             | 3d5h         | 10.42.140.71  | worker01         |                | <none></none>   |
| engine-image-ei-b4bcf0a5-7wkrf                    | 1/1   | Running | Θ             | 3d5h         | 10.42.5.10    | worker01         | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |
| engine-image-ei-b4bcf0a5-fhk9b                    | 1/1   | Running |               | 3d5h         | 10.42.3.4     | worker01         |                | <none></none>   |
|   |       | Running | 0             | 3d5h         |               | node02           | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |
| engine-image-ei-b4bcf0a5-g4ws4                    | 1/1   | Running | 0             |              | 10.42.140.67  |                  |                | <none></none>   |
| engine-image-ei-b4bcf0a5-krpfw                    | 1/1   | Running | 0             | 3d5h<br>3d5h | 10.42.196.143 | node01<br>node03 |                | <none></none>   |
| engine-image-ei-b4bcf0a5-vnfmh                    | 1/1   | Running | 0             |              | 10.42.186.196 | node03<br>node01 |                | <none></none>   |
| instance-manager-5c5e30deb5aae00c21267a1ba69e730a | 1/1   | Running | 0             | 3d5h         | 10.42.196.144 |                  |                | <none></none>   |
| instance-manager-6082f4bff7558b6304bf2ab6f78dfe54 | 1/1   | Running | Θ             | 3d5h         | 10.42.186.197 | node03           |                | <none></none>   |
| instance-manager-aeacf14c683ebaeed5b0844c2f196446 | 1/1   | Running | 0             | 3d5h         | 10.42.30.70   | worker02         |                | <none></none>   |
| instance-manager-bf8074be8c7da594b03daece7d7ac8aa | 1/1   | Running | 0             | 3d5h         | 10.42.140.73  | node02           |                | <none></none>   |
| instance-manager-de5505ac034cffabd831dd638273736e | 1/1   | Running | 0             | 3d5h         | 10.42.5.5     | worker01         |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-csi-plugin-4mdsq                         | 3/3   | Running | 1 (3d5h ago)  | 3d5h         | 10.42.186.198 | node03           |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-csi-plugin-hsd6g                         | 3/3   | Running | 1 (3d5h ago)  | 3d5h         | 10.42.30.75   | worker02         |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-csi-plugin-pjzbq                         | 3/3   | Running | 1 (3d5h ago)  | 3d5h         | 10.42.140.72  | node02           |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-csi-plugin-s45s9                         | 3/3   | Running | 1 (3d5h ago)  | 3d5h         | 10.42.196.145 | node01           |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-csi-plugin-vbs4b                         | 3/3   | Running | 1 (3d5h ago)  | 3d5h         |               | worker01         |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-driver-deployer-74b98bdb6b-2dw7d         | 1/1   | Running | 2 (3d5h ago)  | 3d5h         |               | worker02         |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-manager-b5jr2                            | 2/2   | Running | 1 (3d5h ago)  | 3d5h         | 10.42.196.142 | node01           |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-manager-dqm44                            | 2/2   | Running | Θ             | 3d5h         |               | worker02         |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-manager-fjjmb                            | 2/2   | Running |               | 3d5h         |               | node02           |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-manager-wgl7d                            | 2/2   | Running |               | 3d5h         |               | worker01         |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-manager-z969m                            | 2/2   | Running | Θ             | 3d5h         |               | node03           |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-ui-855f5f5cfb-5cnhh                      | 1/1   | Running |               | 3d5h         |               | worker01         |                | <none></none>   |
| longhorn-ui-855f5f5cfb-x7sl4                      | 1/1   | Running | Θ             | 3d5h         | 10.42.30.68   | worker02         | <none></none>  | <none></none>   |

Figure 3: default namespace

```
| Marcon | Control | Contr
```

Figure 4: argocd

```
| Tote | Custer | Pool | Pool
```

Figure 5: keycloak

```
| Section | Sect
```

Figure 6: monitoring



Figure 7: Grafana Dashboard

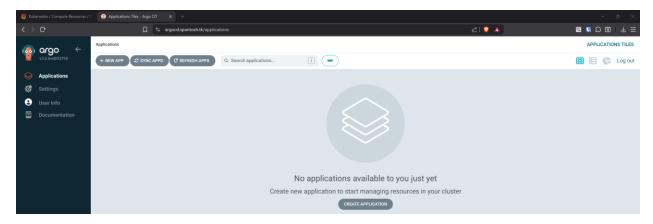


Figure 8: Argocd-UI

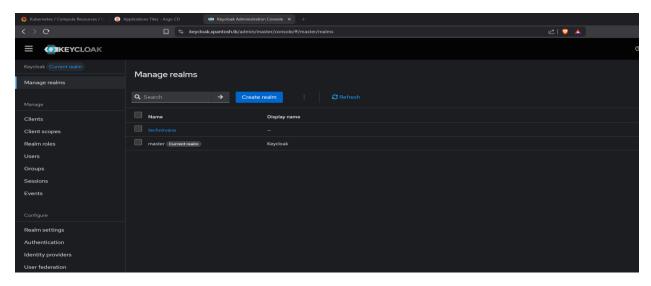


Figure 9: key cloak-UI