# Setup Guide

## Overview

This guide walks through deploying a scalable and cost-efficient Flask-based web application on DigitalOcean Kubernetes (DOKS). This app is containerized in Docker, deployed via Kubernetes manifests, exposed with a load balancer, and horizontally scaled using CPU-based autoscaling.

## Prerequisites

The following tools must be installed and configured:

* Docker
* kubectl
* doctl
* git

## Instructions

### Step 1: Clone the repository

git clone https://github.com/YOUR-USERNAME/birthday-reminder-doks.git

cd birthday-reminder-doks

### Step 2: Build and Push the Docker Image

1. Log into your DOCR registry:

doctl registry login

1. Tag and push the image:

docker build -t birthday-app .

docker tag birthday-app registry.digitalocean.com/<your-registry-name>/birthday-app:latest

docker push registry.digitalocean.com/<your-registry-name>/birthday-app:latest

### Step 3: Provision a Kubernetes Cluster on DOKS

1. Create .env as a Kubernetes Secret:  
   kubectl create secret generic birthday-app-secrets --from-env-file=.env
2. Create a new cluster:

doctl kubernetes cluster create birthday-cluster \

--region nyc3 \

--version 1.33.1-do.0 \

--count 3 \

--size s-2vcpu-4gb

*NOTE: This action can also be performed on the DigitalOcean Dashboard*

1. Save cluster credentials:

doctl kubernetes cluster kubeconfig save birthday-cluster

kubectl get nodes

### Step 4: Allow Private Image Pulls from DOCR

doctl registry kubernetes-manifest --cluster birthday-cluster | kubectl apply -f -

### Step 5: Deploy the Application

Apply the following Kubernetes manifests, which can be found in the project directory:

kubectl apply -f k8/deployment.yaml

kubectl apply -f k8/service.yaml

kubectl apply -f k8/hpa.yaml

### Step 6: Access the Application

1. Get the external IP for the load balancer:

kubectl get svc

1. Visit this URL in a web browser:

https://<external-ip>

1. At this point, a basic web UI containing mock birthday reminders should appear.

### Step 7: Verify Horizontal Pod Autoscaling (optional)

1. Watch the current state of HPA autoscaling

kubectl get hpa -w

1. In a separate console, simulate CPU load:

ab -n 10000 -c 100 http://<external-ip>/

1. Return to the original terminal, then wait and confirm that pods are scaling up properly