

Ion Stefanache <ion.stefanache0@gmail.com>

[ngrok news] Load balance anything, anywhere with new Endpoint Pools

Joel @ ngrok <team@m.ngrok.com> Răspunde la: reply@ngrok.com

Către: ion.stefanache0@gmail.com

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Hi, Ion!

Endpoint Pools are here! And it's the most dead-simple load balancer you'll ever use. When you put two or more endpoints on same URL, ngrok load-balances between them whether they're running on different machines, environments, networks, or even in different clouds:

```
ngrok http 8080 --url https://api.example.com --pooling-enabled # on another machine ngrok http 8080 --url https://api.example.com --pooling-enabled
```

Read about our Endpoint Pools launch →

I've also published a trio of how-tos based on how you deploy services:

- Load Balancing Between Clouds
- Load Balancing Between Services Deployed in Kubernetes
- Load Balancing Between Kubernetes Clusters

Or, watch my big 'ol face in HD giving you the fundamentals of pooling across VMs and K8s clusters in just under 3 minutes.



Protect endpoints with mTLS and a minute of your time

I'm also happy to announce a long-awaited update to Traffic Policy: the terminate-tls action is live, and lets you bring your own certs, route traffic based on TLS handshake details, and wire up mTLS with an unquestionably simpler process than any other gateway you've ever used.

on_tcp_connect:

- actions:

Read the launch blog →

Reuse your Traffic Policy logic with set-vars

Traffic Policy just got cleaner and more readable. You can now define variables once, then reuse them across multiple actions, which means your rules are less repetitive and easier to manage even when your requirements get messier.

Check out variable examples you can use today →

Fingerprint and limit the back actors

You can now observe JA4 fingerprints directly in Traffic Inspector, then take immediate action on requests with a given fingerprint using Traffic Policy. These fingerprints help you track similar clients across IP addresses and their best attempts at user agent spoofing... and they pair particularly well with a rate-limit or deny Traffic Policy action.

Get the rundown on JA4 in ngrok →

Even more tools to block the bevy of search and Al bots

We didn't just stop there—you can now use more granular user agent variables to take action on traffic based on who's pinging your endpoint. That includes the new req.user_agent.is_bot syntactic "sugar" that helps you take action—like a flatout deny—against the scrapers in one fell swoop.

```
on_http_request:
- expressions:
- "req.user_agent.is_bot"
actions:
- type: deny
```

Read our updated bot-blocking post for details →

Have you already hopped into the (endpoint) pool and want to talk about it? Hit reply and send me your thoughts—I'd love to feature your story in a future edition of this newsletter.

Ships, quips, and tips from the ngrok community

ngrok 🗐 Discord

We're spinning up a new community—come flaunt your ingress, brainstorm some new Traffic Policy brilliance, and chat with the engineers who built ngrok from the ground up. A few ngrokkers will also be in the \(\partial \) -hangout channel at 12pm Pacific today, May 21st, to chat endpoint pools!

Join the Discord →

Atlantis, CoderDojo Japan, and Ersilia join the free community licenses program!

From handling Terraform workflows, hosting 200+ programming clubs throughout Japan, to promoting open-source science in the Global South, we're chuffed for ngrok to play a part in these orgs' work. Using ngrok for your own open-source project?

Fill out the app →

The ngrok changelog: What else is new?

- Our CTO Peter recently hopped on The Square Developer Podcast to chat about scaling K8s and the human ← code dynamics at ngrok.
- New string.lower() and string.upper() macros in Traffic Policy normalize strings in a unicode-safe way to upper and lowercase.
- The http-request Traffic Policy action is here to help you integrate ngrok with the APIs of your other services through internal endpoints.
- Office Hours #009 is live on YouTube with a demo of Endpoint Pooling across clusters, clouds, and form factors.

I feel like this has been a well-balanced newsletter, don't you? From endpoint pooling to new Traffic Policy tricks, it's never been a better time to hop in and play around with ngrok's newness.

I'll be back in June with a ton more on all the different ways you can build on these tools once you've graduated beyond ngrok 101.

Joel at ngrok



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ngrok Inc., 548 Market St, PMB 26741, San Francisco, California 94104-5401, United States

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