

Kubernetes Control Plane in Depth

Ziping Sun

2025-06-05

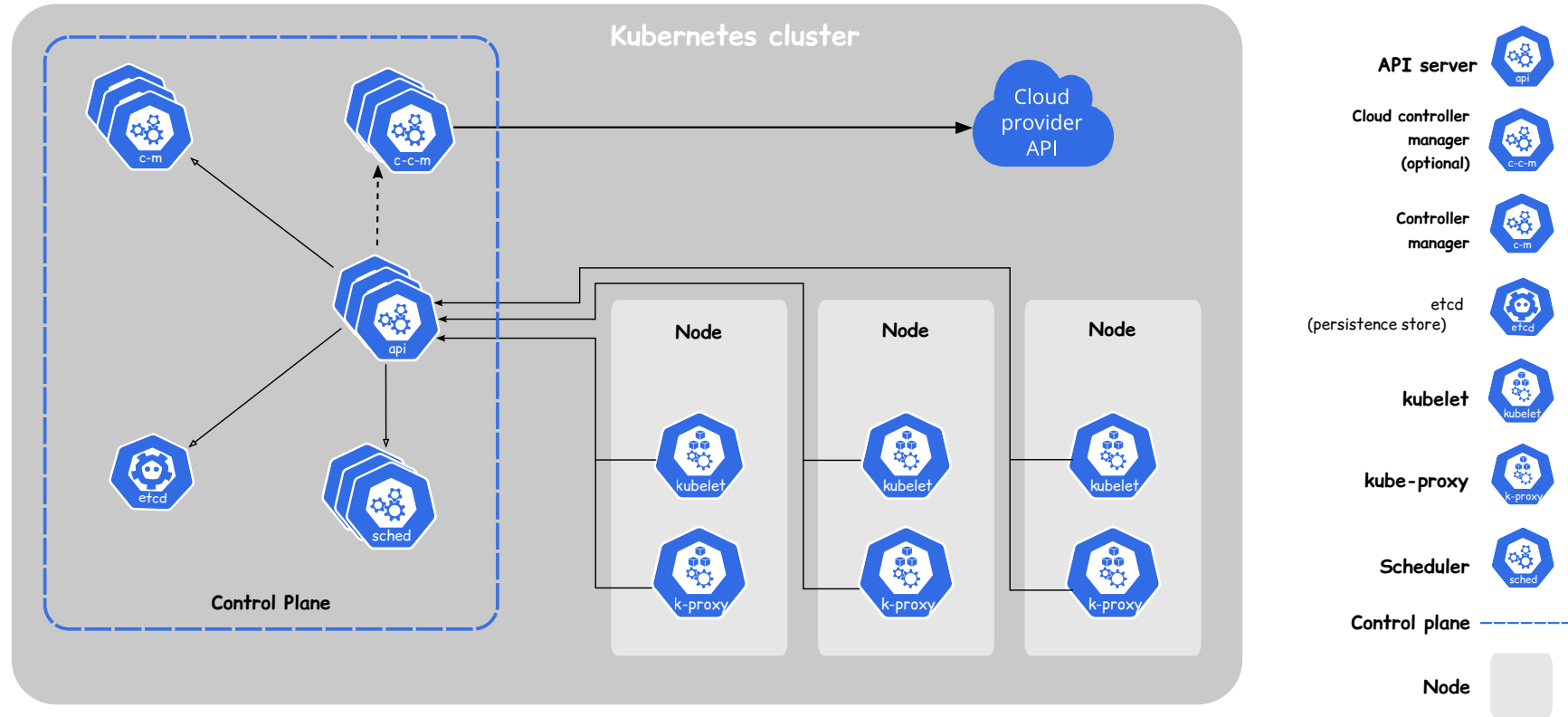
Outline

Overview

Component: API Server

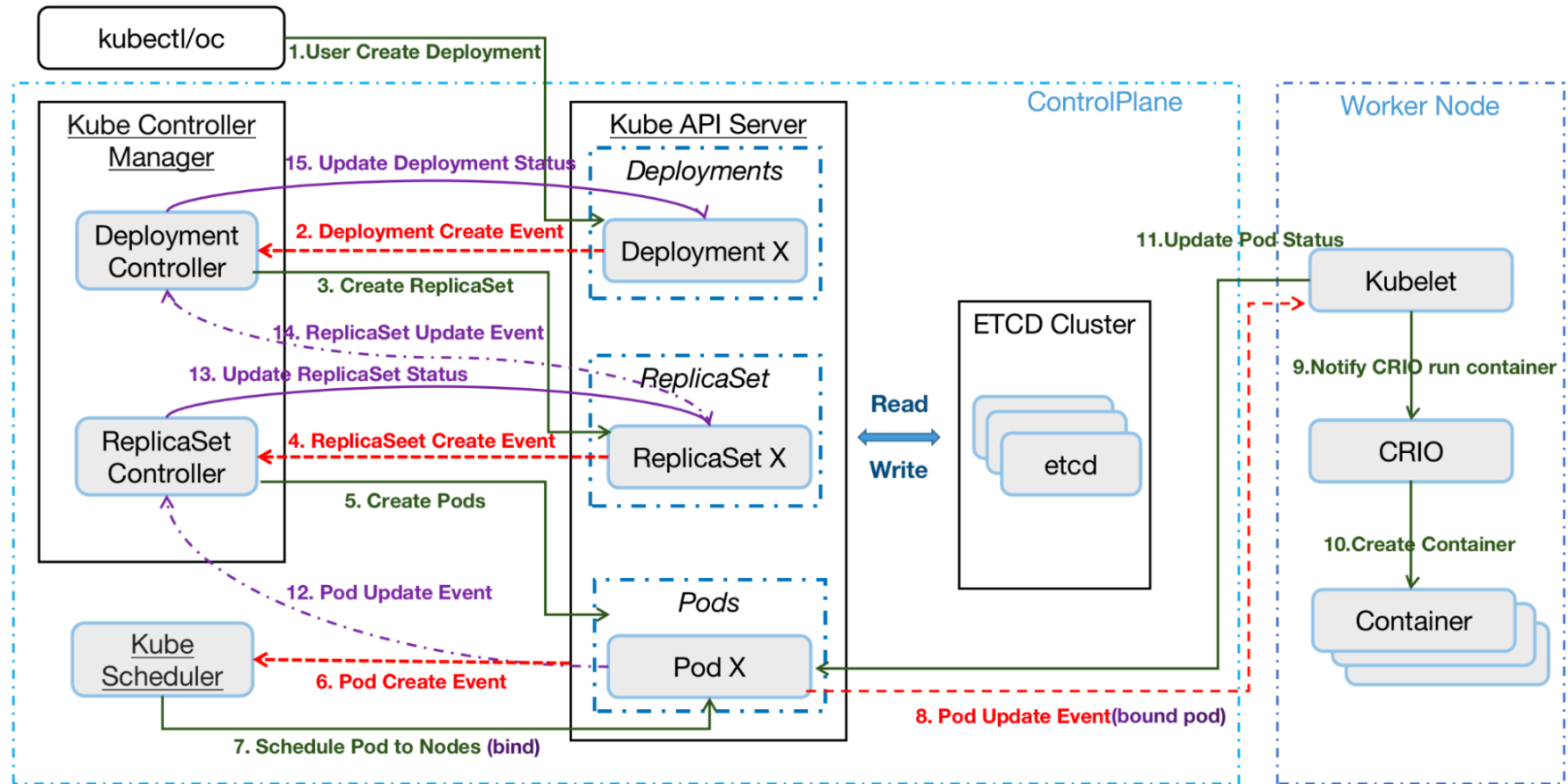
Component: Controller Manager

Overview: Components



Control Plane: API Server, Controller Manager, Scheduler, etcd

Overview: Hub-and-Spoke Pattern



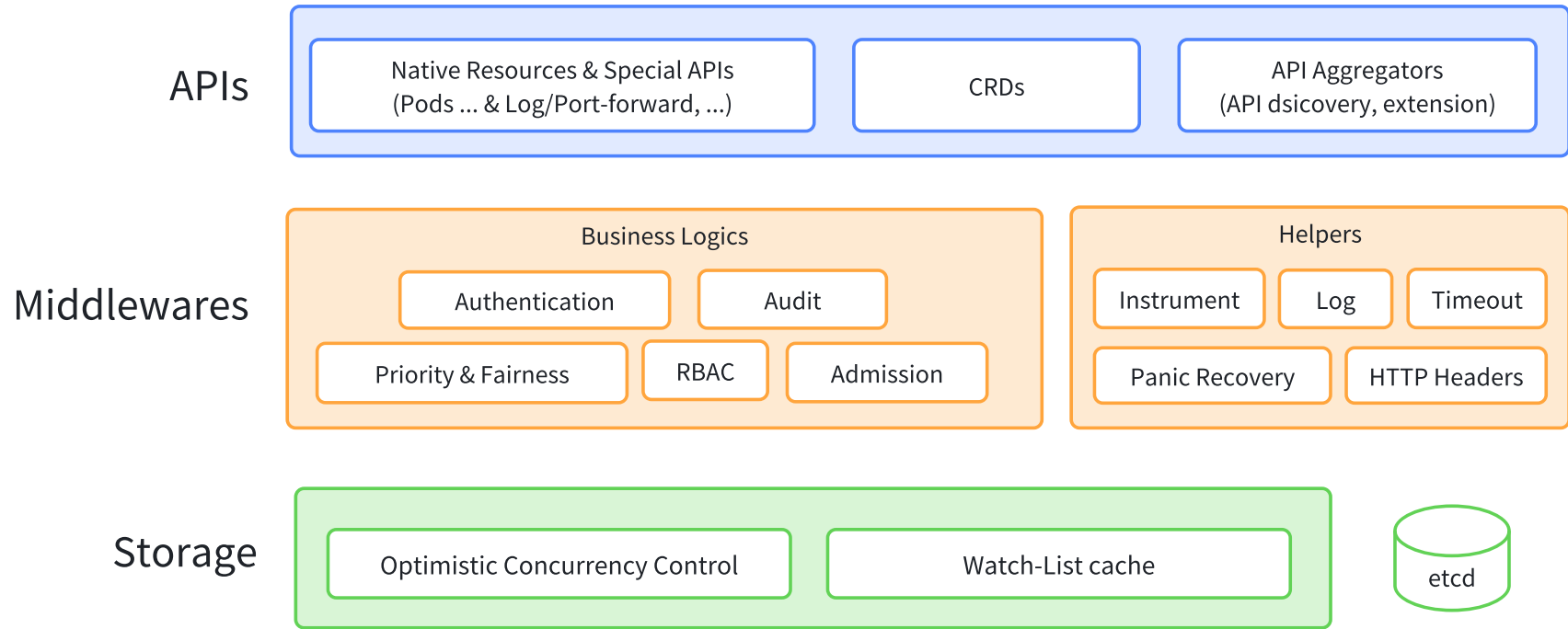
Outline

Overview

Component: API Server

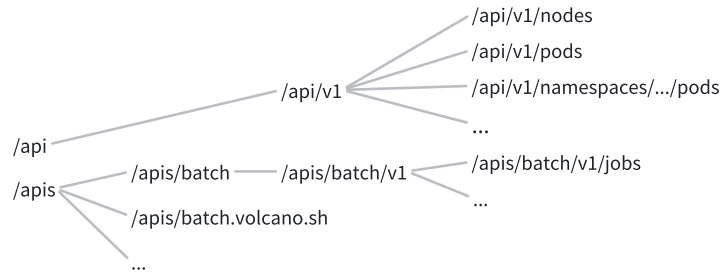
Component: Controller Manager

API Server: Overview



Request Flow: Middlewares (Authn, Audit, Flow Control, RBAC, Admission ...) → APIs → Storage

API Server: APIs



API Categories

- **Native** APIs
- CRDs: **batch.volcano.sh**
- Aggregated APIs: **metrics.k8s.io**

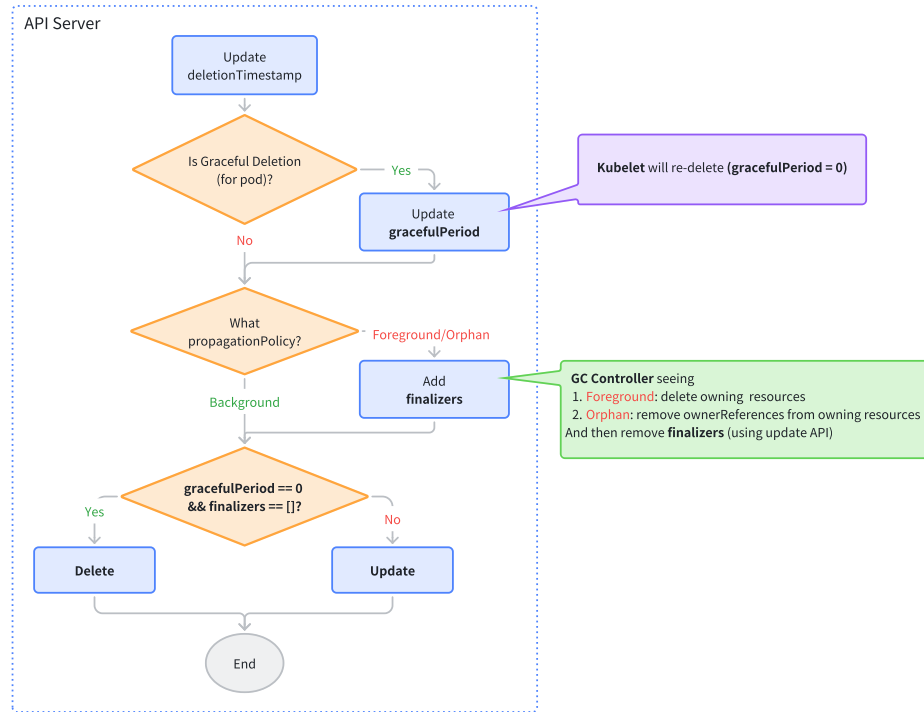
What makes native resources special?

- Special subresources
pods **resize/ephemeralcontainers/eviction/binding**
...
- uncommon “control → data” flow
pods **exec/attach/port-forward**
service/pod/node **proxy**
- Change API Server behavior: **CRD, API Services** ...
- Virtual resources: **TokenReview** ...

CRUD + Watch Consistency

- Per-resource **linearizability**
- No guarantee for watch

API Server: APIs (deletion flow example)¹



- Deletion might be asynchronous
- Cascade deletion is implemented by **GC Controller**
- Typical usage
 - **graceful period** Pod
 - **finalizers** PV/PVC

² Based on [k8s.io/apiserver/pkg/registry/generic/registry/store.go](https://github.com/kubernetes/apiserver/pkg/registry/generic/registry/store.go)

API Server: Middlewares¹

Authentication

- Various methods: [X.509](#), [Service Account](#), [OIDC](#) ...

Audit

- Configured with static Audit Policy

Priority and Fairness v1.29

- Controlled by [FlowSchema](#)

Authorization

- Two methods:
[RBAC](#)
[node](#) (hardcoded for kubelet)

Admission

- Two forms:
[In-tree Plugin](#) PodSecurity, NamespaceLifecycle ...
[Webhooks](#)

² Based on k8s.io/apiserver/pkg/server/config.go

API Server: Storage

Optimistic concurrency control

- **ResourceVersion**

Watch Cache

- consistency read

Outline

Overview

Component: API Server

Component: Controller Manager