

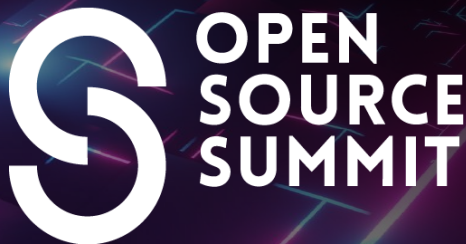


**KubeCon**



**CloudNativeCon**

THE LINUX FOUNDATION



**AI\_dev**  
Open Source GenAI & ML Summit

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**China 2024**

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China 2024

# Understanding the Buzz Around Cilium: Introduction and in Production at Alibaba

Liyi Huang, Isovalent & Bokang Li, Alibaba Cloud

# Agenda



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- Cilium general introduction
- Shallow dive from network policy with ACK
- How CNF looks like at Alibaba Cloud
- Scalability on Alibaba Cloud
- What can you get from a full blown cilium on Alibaba
- Some highlights on cilium 1.16 release
- Q&A



 **eBPF**-based:

- Networking
- Security
- Observability
- Service Mesh & Ingress

Foundation



Technology



What Makes a Good Multi-tenant Kubernetes Solution

[VIDEO 1](#) · [VIDEO 2](#)



Building High-Performance Cloud Native Pod Networks

[READ BLOG](#)



AWS picks Cilium for Networking & Security on EKS Anywhere

[READ BLOG](#)



Bell uses Cilium and eBPF for telco networking

[VIDEO 1](#) · [VIDEO 2](#)



Building a Secure and Maintainable PaaS

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Cloud Native Networking with eBPF



Datadog is using Cilium in AWS (self-hosted k8s)



Managed Kubernetes: 1.5 Years of Cilium Usage at DigitalOcean

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

**Over 120 USERS.md entries**



Scaling a Multi-Tenant Kubernetes Clusters in a Telco

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Meltwater is using Cilium in AWS on self-hosted multi-tenant k8s clusters as the CNI plugin

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



Mobilabs uses Cilium as the CNI for their internal cloud

[READ BLOG](#)



Nexxiot using Cilium as the CNI plugin on EKS for its IoT SaaS

[READ USER STORY](#)



PostFinance is using Cilium as their CNI for all mission critical, on premise k8s clusters

[CASE STUDY](#) · [VIDEO](#)



eBPF & Cilium at Sky

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Skybet uses Cilium as their CNI

[READ BLOG](#)



Trip.com uses Cilium both on premise and in AWS

[BLOG 1](#) · [BLOG 2](#)



 **eBPF**-based:

- Networking
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Foundation



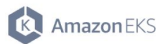
Technology



## Deploy on your preferred cloud



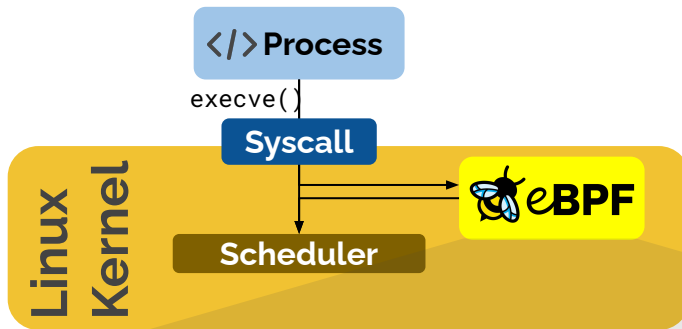
## Use your favorite Kubernetes distribution





Makes the Linux kernel programmable in a secure and efficient way.

*"What JavaScript is to the browser, eBPF is to the Linux Kernel"*



```
int syscall__ret_execve(struct pt_regs *ctx)
{
    struct comm_event event = {
        .pid = bpf_get_current_pid_tgid() >> 32,
        .type = TYPE_RETURN,
    };

    bpf_get_current_comm(&event.comm, sizeof(event.comm));
    comm_events.perf_submit(ctx, &event, sizeof(event));

    return 0;
}
```

# Kubernetes Network policy



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- Pods within the same Kubernetes cluster can communicate with each other without restriction.
- If you want to limit the traffic between pods, you will need to use a network policy.
- You can enable it by ticking the checkbox when creating the ACK cluster, as shown in the following picture.

Network Plug-in

☐ Flannel ☒ Terway

You cannot change the network plug-in after the cluster is created. [How to select a network plug-in for a Kubernetes cluster](#)

☐ DataPath V2 (Formerly known as IPVLAN, this feature combines veth and eBPF to enable NIC virtualization and sharing. Only Alibaba Cloud Linux is supported.)

☒ Support for NetworkPolicy Policy-based network traffic control is provided.



# Kubernetes Network policy



China 2024

- Can pod A talk to pod B?
- A example of the basic network policy

```
apiVersion: networking.k8s.io/v1
kind: NetworkPolicy
metadata:
  name: allow-curl-allow-curl
  namespace: default
spec:
  podSelector:
    matchLabels:
      app: nginx
  policyTypes:
    - Ingress
  ingress:
    - from:
      - podSelector:
          matchLabels:
            app: curl
```



# Kubernetes Network policy



China 2024

- What does this really mean to the Linux host?

```
-A cali-pi-_otwv6_8NtgmJghT8l96 -m comment --comment "cali:1GqLxVx70eolhWn7" -m comment  
--comment "Policy default/knp.default.allow-curl ingress" -m set  
--match-set cali40s:s33YkCe7jRY-julDezRlYdl src -j MARK --set-xmark 0x10000/0x10000
```

- You start to chase the iptables tables/rules and ipset on the host. I found there are around 300 rules(including rules for kube-proxy) with just 2 pods and 3 nodes(1 controller and 2 workers) and no user defined service on it on my KIND cluster.
- How do I know if there is a drop with iptables rules? You need to other non standard network policy implementation to log the flow to a file
- Iptables lookup performance is  $O(n)$ .

# Kubernetes Network policy



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- Same policy for cilium

```
root@kind-worker2:/home/cilium# cilium bpf policy get 2572
POLICY DIRECTION LABELS (source:key[=value])
Allow  Ingress    reserved:host
Allow  Ingress    k8s:app=curl
                        k8s:io.cilium.k8s.namespace.labels.kubernetes.io/metadata.name=default
                        k8s:io.cilium.k8s.policy.cluster=kind-kind
                        k8s:io.cilium.k8s.policy.serviceaccount=default
                        k8s:io.kubernetes.pod.namespace=default
Allow  Egress    reserved:unknown
root@kind-worker2:/home/cilium#
```

```
apiVersion: networking.k8s.io/v1
kind: NetworkPolicy
metadata:
  name: allow-curl-allow-curl
  namespace: default
spec:
  podSelector:
    matchLabels:
      app: nginx
  policyTypes:
  - Ingress
  ingress:
  - from:
    - podSelector:
        matchLabels:
          app: curl
```

```
root@kind-worker2:/home/cilium# cilium monitor --related-to 2572
Listening for events on 12 CPUs with 64x4096 of shared memory
Press Ctrl-C to quit
time="2024-08-01T19:59:41Z" level=info msg="Initializing dissection cache..." subsys=monitor
Policy verdict log: flow 0x7c26234b local EP ID 2572, remote ID 13980, proto 6, ingress, action allow, auth: disabled, match L3-Only, 10.244.2.205:58184 -> 10.244.2.75:80 tcp SYN
-> endpoint 2572 flow 0x7c26234b , identity 13980->5411 state new ifindex lxc29649753a2bf orig-ip 10.244.2.205: 10.244.2.205:58184 -> 10.244.2.75:80 tcp SYN
-> endpoint 2572 flow 0x7c26234b , identity 13980->5411 state established ifindex lxc29649753a2bf orig-ip 10.244.2.205: 10.244.2.205:58184 -> 10.244.2.75:80 tcp ACK
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-> endpoint 2572 flow 0x7c26234b , identity 13980->5411 state established ifindex lxc29649753a2bf orig-ip 10.244.2.205: 10.244.2.205:58184 -> 10.244.2.75:80 tcp ACK, FIN
-> endpoint 2572 flow 0x7c26234b , identity 13980->5411 state established ifindex lxc29649753a2bf orig-ip 10.244.2.205: 10.244.2.205:58184 -> 10.244.2.75:80 tcp ACK
Policy verdict log: flow 0xd3caac78 local EP ID 2572, remote ID 17091, proto 6, ingress, action deny, auth: disabled, match none, 10.244.2.171:51846 -> 10.244.2.75:80 tcp SYN
xx drop (Policy denied) flow 0xd3caac78 to endpoint 2572, ifindex 11, file bpf_lxc.c:2091, , identity 17091->5411: 10.244.2.171:51846 -> 10.244.2.75:80 tcp SYN
```

# Kubernetes Network policy



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- Network policy lookup from cilium is  $O(1)$ .
- You can easily observe it with cilium tool
- More advanced Cilium network policy will be discussed later

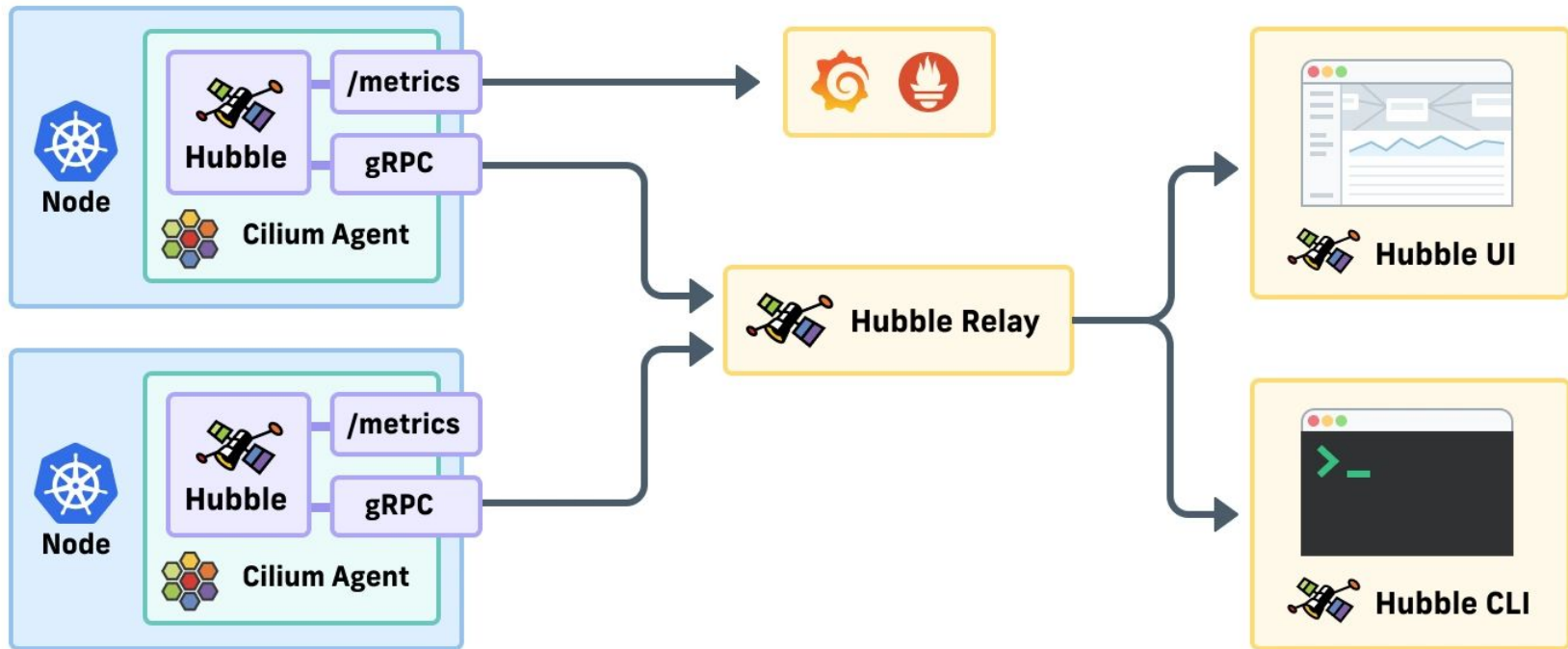
- We still need to get to the cilium container to run cilium monitor command.
- What if we have a tool to see all the flow logs on a cluster even more cluster?
- Can we export all the logs to SIEM?
- Can we generate the network policy based on flow data?

```
root@kind-worker2:/home/cilium# cilium monitor --related-to 2572
Listening for events on 12 CPUs with 64x4096 of shared memory
Press Ctrl-C to quit
time="2024-08-01T19:59:41Z" level=info msg="Initializing dissection cache..." subsys=monitor
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xx drop (Policy denied) flow 0xd3caac78 to endpoint 2572, ifindex 11, file bpf_lxc.c:2091, , identity 17091->5411: 10.244.2.171:51846 -> 10.244.2.75:80 tcp SYN
```

# Hubble Overview



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- Observe the traffic for the whole cluster
- Filter with ip/pod/svc/namespace/fqdn/http/type etc..

```
([kubernetes-admin-cfa30afd55ef249808cf779afd12fba93:default])~/Sync/work/kubecon2024-china hubble observe --to-ip 10.0.0.47 -f
Aug 8 03:03:47.086: default/curl-deployment-65865dbc48-jvdkn:56908 (ID:60451) <-> default/nginx-deployment-7c79c4bf97-rzslx:80 (ID:23319) from-endpoint FORWARDED (TCP Flags: SYN)
Aug 8 03:03:47.086: default/curl-deployment-65865dbc48-jvdkn:56908 (ID:60451) -> default/nginx-deployment-7c79c4bf97-rzslx:80 (ID:23319) policy-verdict:L3-Only INGRESS ALLOWED (TCP Flags: SYN)
Aug 8 03:03:47.086: default/curl-deployment-65865dbc48-jvdkn:56908 (ID:60451) -> default/nginx-deployment-7c79c4bf97-rzslx:80 (ID:23319) to-endpoint FORWARDED (TCP Flags: SYN)
Aug 8 03:03:47.086: default/curl-deployment-65865dbc48-jvdkn:56908 (ID:60451) <-> default/nginx-deployment-7c79c4bf97-rzslx:80 (ID:23319) from-endpoint FORWARDED (TCP Flags: ACK)
Aug 8 03:03:47.086: default/curl-deployment-65865dbc48-jvdkn:56908 (ID:60451) -> default/nginx-deployment-7c79c4bf97-rzslx:80 (ID:23319) to-endpoint FORWARDED (TCP Flags: ACK)
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Aug 8 03:03:47.086: default/curl-deployment-65865dbc48-jvdkn:56908 (ID:60451) -> default/nginx-deployment-7c79c4bf97-rzslx:80 (ID:23319) to-endpoint FORWARDED (TCP Flags: ACK, PSH)
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Aug 8 03:03:47.087: default/curl-deployment-65865dbc48-jvdkn:56908 (ID:60451) -> default/nginx-deployment-7c79c4bf97-rzslx:80 (ID:23319) to-endpoint FORWARDED (TCP Flags: ACK, FIN)
Aug 8 03:03:47.087: default/curl-deployment-65865dbc48-jvdkn:56908 (ID:60451) <-> default/nginx-deployment-7c79c4bf97-rzslx:80 (ID:23319) from-endpoint FORWARDED (TCP Flags: ACK)
Aug 8 03:03:47.087: default/curl-deployment-65865dbc48-jvdkn:56908 (ID:60451) -> default/nginx-deployment-7c79c4bf97-rzslx:80 (ID:23319) to-endpoint FORWARDED (TCP Flags: ACK)
Aug 8 03:04:11.231: default/curl2-deployment-d8fdffdc8-nsbjp:37798 (ID:35318) <-> default/nginx-deployment-7c79c4bf97-rzslx:80 (ID:23319) from-endpoint FORWARDED (TCP Flags: SYN)
Aug 8 03:04:11.231: default/curl2-deployment-d8fdffdc8-nsbjp:37798 (ID:35318) policy-verdict:none INGRESS DENIED (TCP Flags: SYN)
Aug 8 03:04:11.231: default/curl2-deployment-d8fdffdc8-nsbjp:37798 (ID:35318) Policy denied DROPPED (TCP Flags: SYN)
Aug 8 03:04:12.258: default/curl2-deployment-d8fdffdc8-nsbjp:37798 (ID:35318) from-endpoint FORWARDED (TCP Flags: SYN)
Aug 8 03:04:12.258: default/curl2-deployment-d8fdffdc8-nsbjp:37798 (ID:35318) policy-verdict:none INGRESS DENIED (TCP Flags: SYN)
Aug 8 03:04:12.258: default/curl2-deployment-d8fdffdc8-nsbjp:37798 (ID:35318) Policy denied DROPPED (TCP Flags: SYN)
Aug 8 03:04:14.306: default/curl2-deployment-d8fdffdc8-nsbjp:37798 (ID:35318) from-endpoint FORWARDED (TCP Flags: SYN)
Aug 8 03:04:14.306: default/curl2-deployment-d8fdffdc8-nsbjp:37798 (ID:35318) policy-verdict:none INGRESS DENIED (TCP Flags: SYN)
Aug 8 03:04:14.306: default/curl2-deployment-d8fdffdc8-nsbjp:37798 (ID:35318) Policy denied DROPPED (TCP Flags: SYN)
```

# Hubble GUI



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The Hubble GUI interface displays a network diagram and a traffic table. The diagram shows a 'default' namespace with four services: 'curl2', 'nginx', 'curl', and 'nginx2'. 'curl2' and 'nginx' are connected by a bidirectional arrow. 'curl' and 'nginx2' are also connected by a bidirectional arrow. The traffic table below shows the flow of traffic between these services.

Filter labels key=val, ip=0.0.0.0, dns=google.com

Flows Policies All Statuses HTTP Status Columns

Source Pod Name	Source Service	Destination Pod Na...	Destination Service	Destination IP	Destination Port	Destination L7 Info	Status	Last Seen
nginx	io.cilium.k8s.namespace...	ff02::2	reserved:world	ff02::2			forwarded	a few seconds ago
curl2-deployment-d8fdff...	app=curl2 default	nginx-deployment-7c79c...	app=nginx default	10.0.0.47	TCP:80		forwarded	a few seconds ago
curl2-deployment-d8fdff...	app=curl2 default	nginx-deployment-7c79c...	app=nginx default	10.0.0.47	TCP:80		dropped	a few seconds ago



# Hubble metrics



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# About Alibaba Cloud



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**No.1**

Market Share in the Asia Pacific

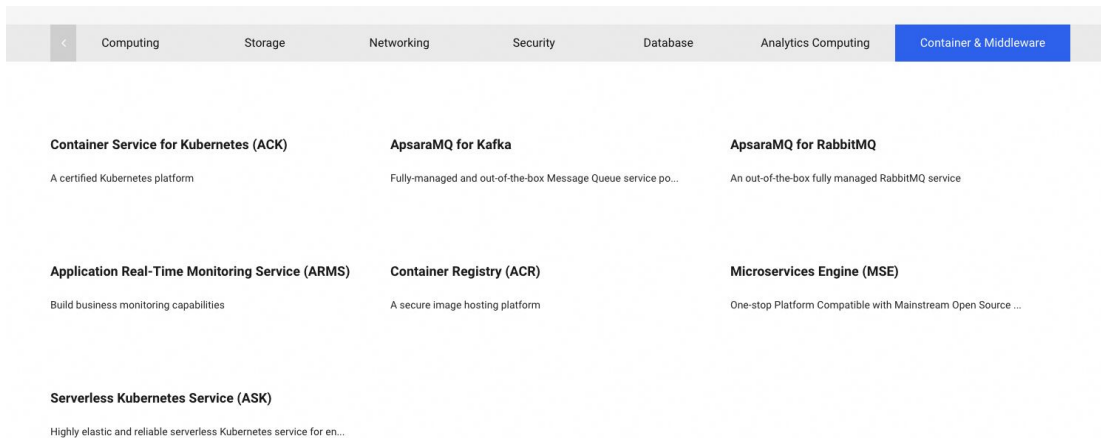
**89**

Availability Zones

**30**

Regions

Container Service @alibabacloud



# How CNI looks like at Alibaba Cloud



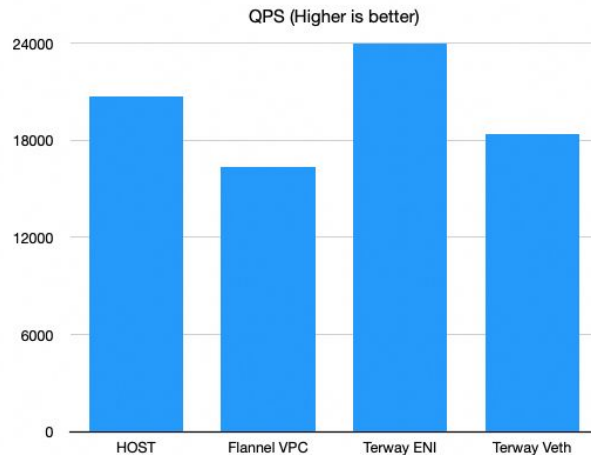
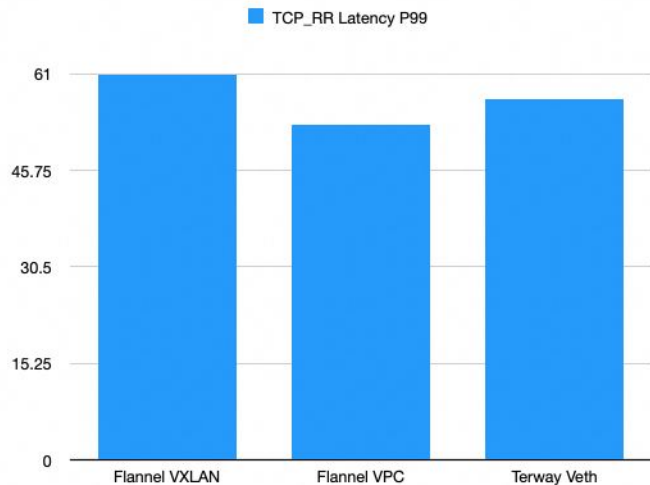
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	ACK Flannel	Terway
Network Type	VPC Route	ECS ENI
Accelerated Networking	None	ipvlan & eBPF,datapath V2
Scale	200 nodes ( up to 1000 nodes)	5000 nodes ( up to 15000 nodes)
Security	None	Pod Security Group, NetworkPolicy, ACK GlobalNetworkPolicy
IPAM	Fixed size for every node	Elastic, can enlarge any time. Support fixed IP.
NFV	None	RDMA,eRDMA,SMC-R,SRIOV,DPDK...
Pod N/S Communication	None	EIP,DNAT Gateway, IPv6 Gateway (with <a href="#">ack-extend-networkr-controller</a> )
Loadbalancer Backend	NodePort	Pod IP

# Overhead on stander datapath

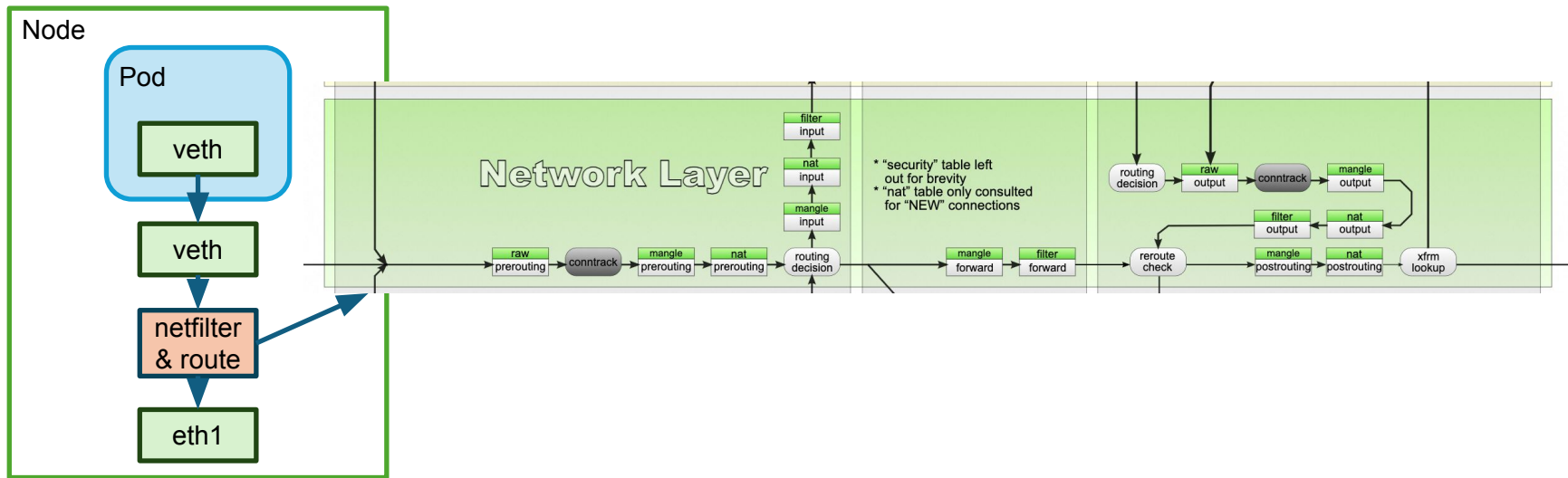


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The reason for the overhead is the packetization and the length of the kernel path

# Overhead on stander datapath

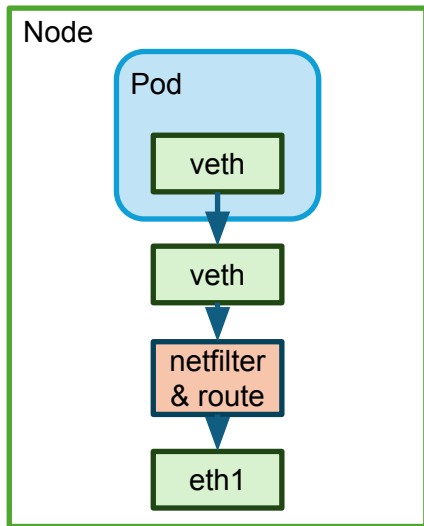


Standard datapath

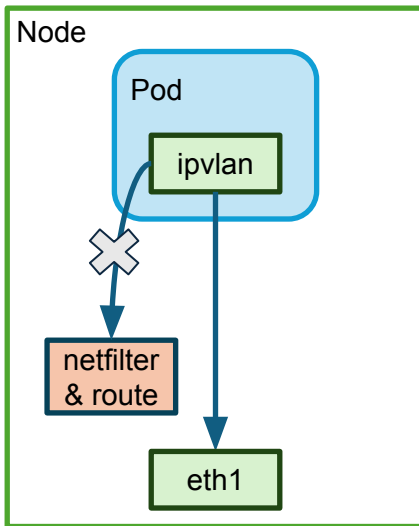
# Datapath IPvlan



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Standard  
datapath



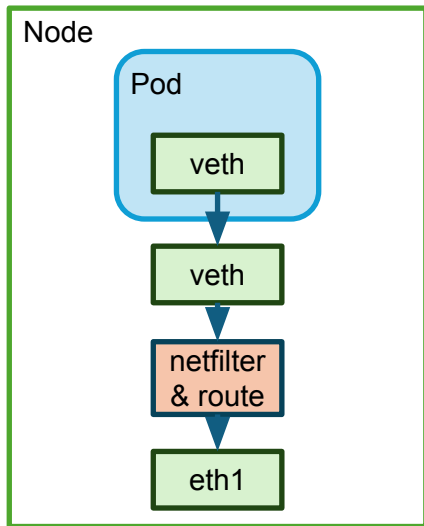
IPVlan  
datapath

IPVlan allows bypassing the host's network stack, but it poses challenges with Service functionality.

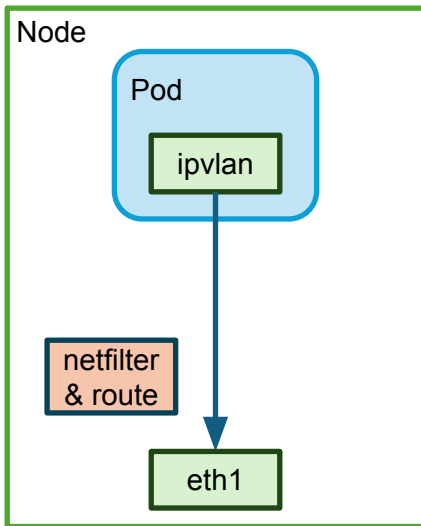
# Datapath IPvlan + eBPF



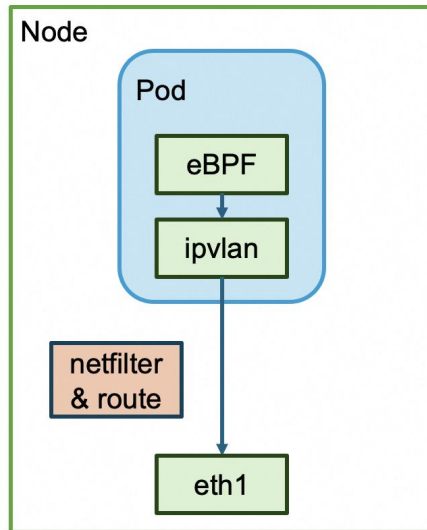
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Standard datapath



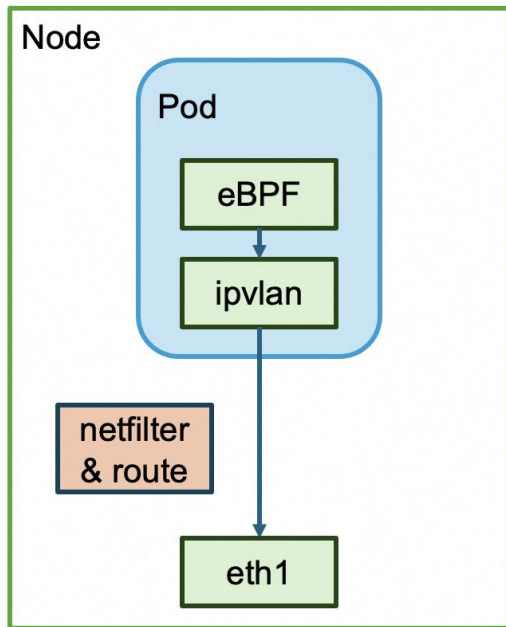
IPvlan datapath



IPvlan + eBPF datapath



# Features we used



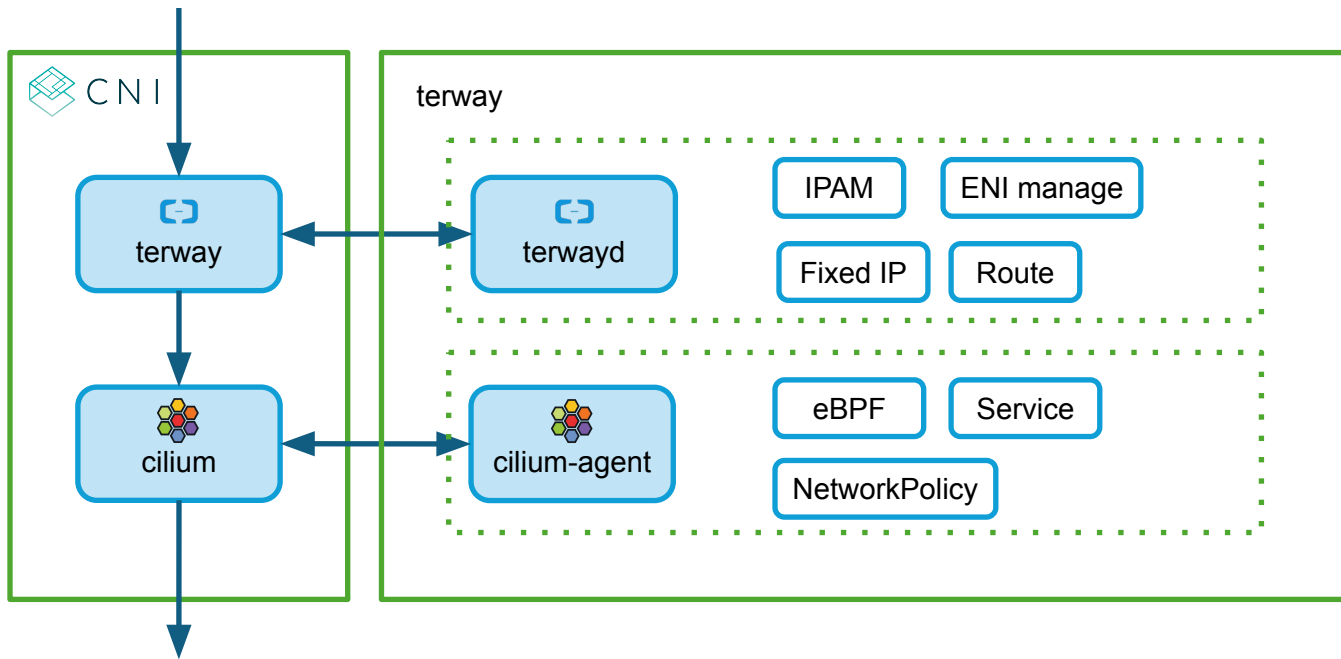
IPvlan + eBPF datapath

- KPR
  - partial, only for containers
- NetworkPolicy
  - K8s NetworkPolicy
  - CiliumClusterWideNetworkPolicy
    - [Use ACK GlobalNetworkPolicy - Container Service for Kubernetes - Alibaba Cloud Documentation Center](#)
- BandwidthManager
  - Egress side, EDT at kernel 5.10
- Hubble
  - [Implement network observability by using ACK Terway and Cilium Hubble - Container - Alibaba Cloud](#)

# CNI Chaining



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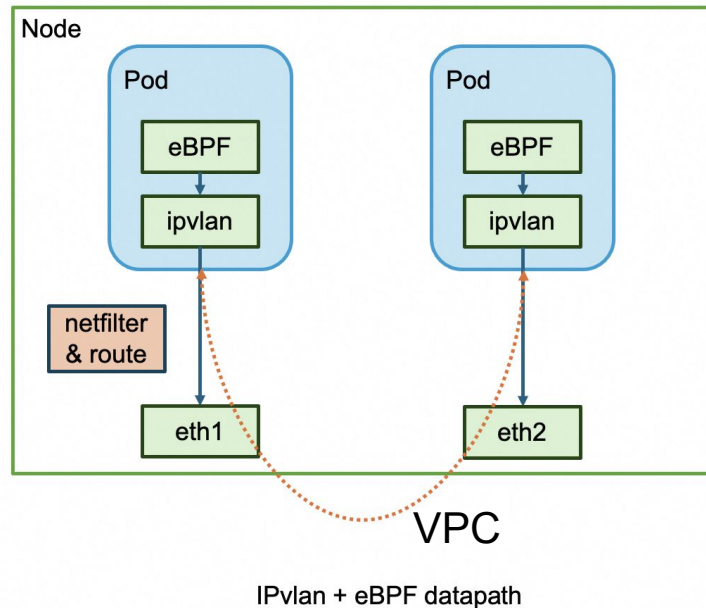


# Limitation on IPvlan+eBPF



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- Traffic will not go through node
  - Need additional redirect rule for traffic like nodelocal dns
  - Monitor may need addition adapt for the datapath
- Connectivity issue
  - NodePort may not be reachable
- Performance
  - Traffic between pods on the same node may route through the VPC



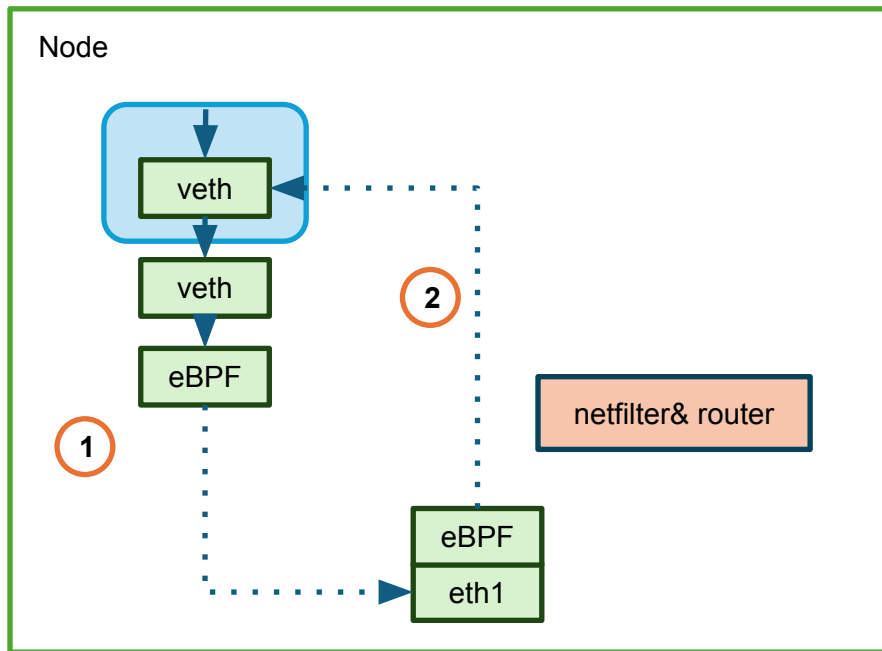
# Datapath V2



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Just like stander datapath, but  
enhanced with eBPF

- Pod to world
  - bpf\_redirect\_neigh
- Reverse package
  - bpf\_redirect\_peer



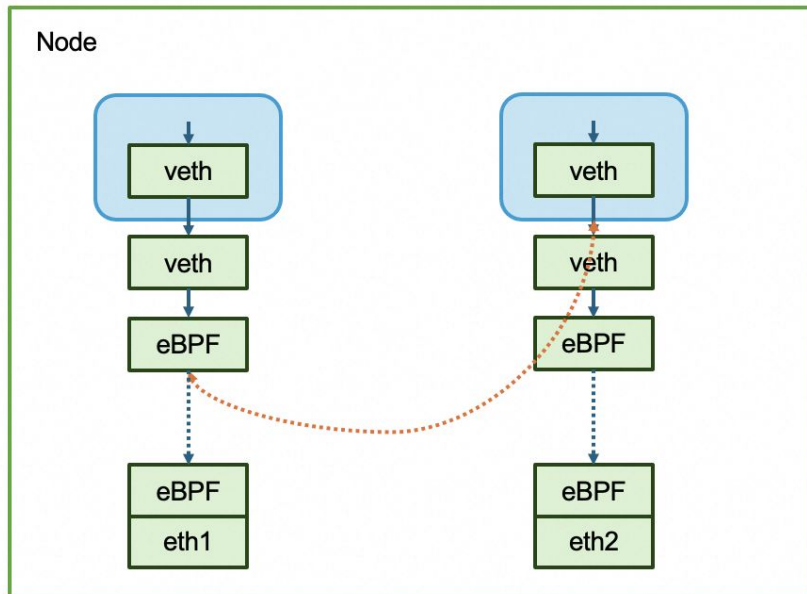
# Datapath V2



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## Enhanced compatibility

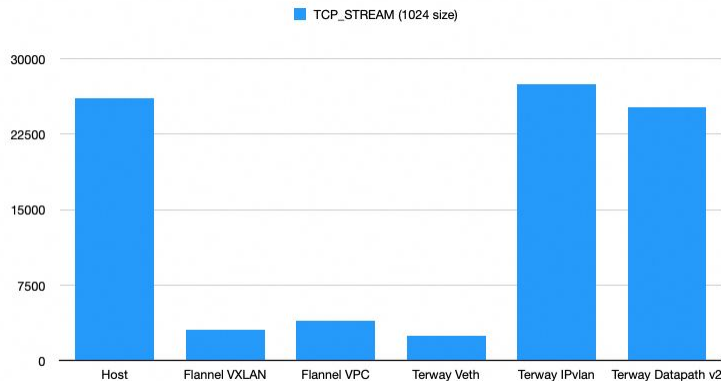
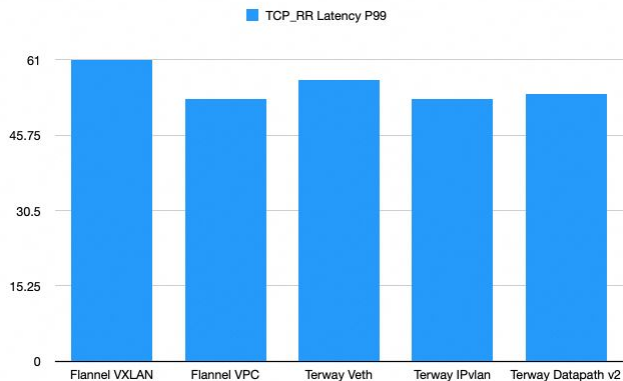
- Pod traffic can be tracked on host
- Pod to Pod on same node, will no longer go through VPC



# Result



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- The IPVlan mode provides the best pod-to-pod performance
- Datapath V2 performance significantly outperforms veth mode, coming very close to IPVlan mode.
- In certain scenarios, Datapath V2 performs better than IPVlan mode.

# Cilium case study with Alibaba cloud



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- <https://www.cncf.io/case-studies/alibaba/>



# What's next



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- netkit provide a faster network namespace switch for off-node traffic
- Full kube-proxy replacement can simplify the deployment configuration
- Network function offloading may be the final form

# Real world disasters

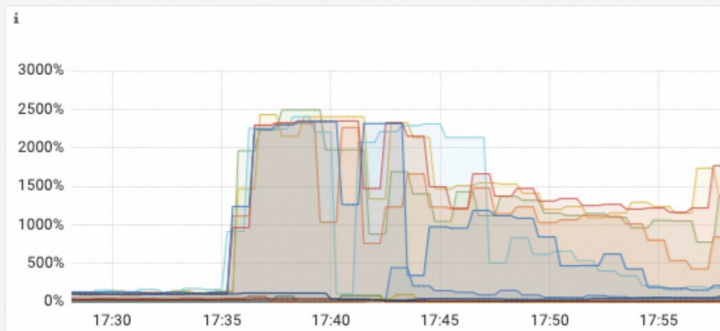
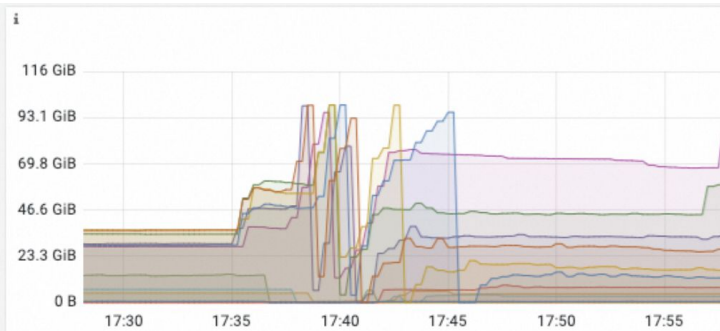


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Change single namespace label.  
Looks harmless...

Result in too massive pressure in  
kube-apiserver.

2K+ Nodes  
80K+ Pods

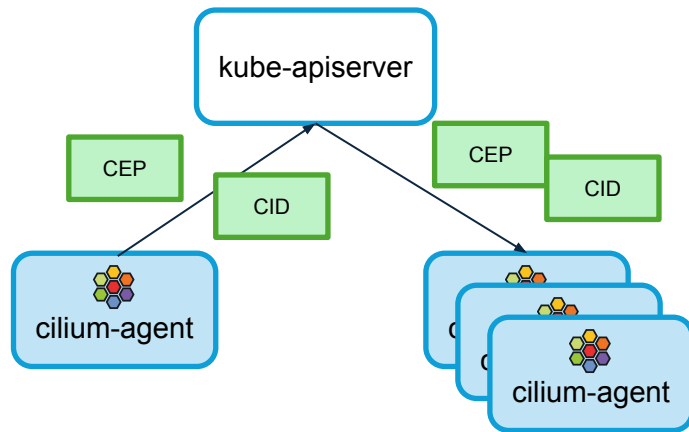


# Cilium architecture



China 2024

- CiliumEndpoint(CEP)
  - Track a pod
  - Every container network pod
  - Contains pod label, CiliumIdentity
- CiliumIdentity(CID)
  - Generated by pod label or CIDR (defined in NetworkPolicy)
  - Used in NetworkPolicy



# Optimize in Alibaba Cloud



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## Changed

- Watch on demand
  - Added a node label for CEP. Default only watch the CEPs related to this node
- Limit the lables used in CID
- Simplify the fields in the CEP definition
- Do not sync pod labels to CEP labels
- Implement rate limiting on Kubernetes API for Cilium resources

## Result

- Memory consumption has decreased by 82.5%
- The convergence time affected by the change has decreased by 95%

# A full blown cilium on Alibaba



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- Cilium network policy with FQDN or HTTP info

```
apiVersion: "cilium.io/v2"
kind: CiliumNetworkPolicy
metadata:
  name: "fqdn"
spec:
  endpointSelector:
    matchLabels:
      org: empire
      class: mediabot
  egress:
    - toFQDNs:
        - matchName: "api.github.com"
    - toEndpoints:
        - matchLabels:
            "k8s:io.kubernetes.pod.namespace": kube-system
            "k8s:k8s-app": kube-dns
  toPorts:
    - ports:
        - port: "53"
        protocol: ANY
  rules:
    dns:
      - matchPattern: ""
```

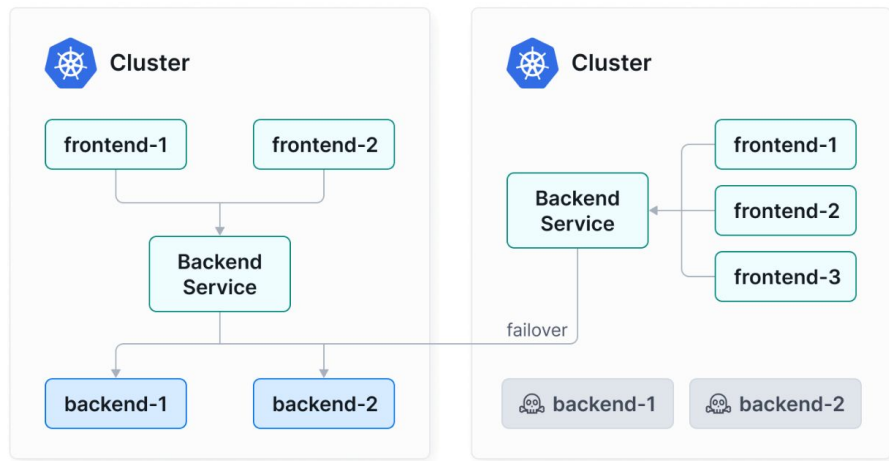
```
apiVersion: "cilium.io/v2"
kind: CiliumNetworkPolicy
metadata:
  name: "l7-rule"
spec:
  endpointSelector:
    matchLabels:
      app: myService
  ingress:
    - toPorts:
        - ports:
            - port: '80'
            protocol: TCP
        rules:
          http:
            - method: GET
              path: "/path1$"
            - method: PUT
              path: "/path2$"
          headers:
            - 'X-My-Header: true'
```

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- Cluster mesh



```
apiVersion: "cilium.io/v2"
kind: CiliumNetworkPolicy
metadata:
  name: "allow-cross-cluster"
spec:
  description: "Allow x-wing in cluster1 to contact rebel-base in cluster2"
  endpointSelector:
    matchLabels:
      name: x-wing
      io.cilium.k8s.policy.cluster: cluster1
  egress:
    - toEndpoints:
        - matchLabels:
            name: rebel-base
            io.cilium.k8s.policy.cluster: cluster2
```

# Cilium 1.16 release



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## Networking

- Cilium netkit: container-network throughput and latency as fast as host-network

## Service mesh & Ingress/Gateway API

- Gateway API GAMMA support: East-west traffic management for the cluster via Gateway API
- Gateway API 1.1 support: Cilium now supports Gateway API 1.1

## Security

- All kinds of enhancements for the Cilium Network Policy

More details on <https://isovalent.com/blog/post/cilium-1-16/>