

WHY I LOVE KUBERNETES FAILURE STORIES

GOTO BERLIN 2019-10-24

HENNING JACOBS

@try_except_







ROLLING OUT KUBERNETES?

- Y Hacker News new | threads | past | comments | ask | show | jobs | submit
- Ask HN: Do's/don'ts of working with Kubernetes you learned through experience?
 33 points by fiddlerINT 1 day ago | flag | hide | past | web | favorite | 26 comments

"We are rolling out Kubernetes to production next month and I'm interested to hear from people who made that step already."



DON'T USE IT !!!!!

Y Hacker News new | threads | past | comments | ask | show | jobs | submit

Ask HN: Do's/don'ts of working with Kubernetes you learned through experience?

33 points by fiddlerINT 1 day ago | flag | hide | past | web | favorite | 26 comments

We are rolling out Kubernetes to production next month and I'm interested to hear from people who made that step already.

▲ iamnothere123 5 hours ago [-]

DON'T USE IT !!!!!

reply

▲ anon284271 19 hours ago [-]

Don't use Kubernetes.

reply

KUBERNETES FAILURE STORIES





Kubernetes Failure Stories. The fact that this list has a dedicated website is a serious symptom of the complexity problem. #Docker #DevOps k8s.af



Tweet übersetzen

Kubernetes Failure Stories A compiled list of links to public failure stories related to Kubernetes. Most recent publications on top. 10 Ways to Shoot Yourself in the Foot with Kubernetes, #9 W/8 Surprise You - Distadog - KubeCon Barcelona 2019 involved: CoroDNS, #dats:5, IPVS constrack, ImagePullPolicy: Always, DeemonSet NAT instances. Latest lag API server 009Kill, kubeZiam, cluster-autoscaler. PodPriority, audit logs, spec_replices . AWS ASG rebalance, CronJob, Pod toleration, zombles, readinessProbe_exec . ogroup freeze, kubectl - impact: unknown, API server outage, pending pods, slow deployments How Spotify Accidentally Deleted Ali its Kabe Clusters with No User Impact - Spotify - KubeCon Barcelona 2019 involved: GKE, cluster deletion, browser tabs, Terraform, global state file, git PRs, GCP permissions. - impact no impact on end users Kubernetes Failure Stories - Zalando - KubeCon Barcelono 2019 involved Skipper-Ingress, AWS, IOPK111, high latency, CronJob, CoreDNS, India's 5, etcd, CPU throttling - impact: multiple production outages Oh Sh^at! The Config Changed! - Pusher - KubeCon Barcelona 2019 . involved: AWS, nginx, ConfigMap change impact: production outage Misunderstanding the behaviour of one templating line - Skyscanner - blog post 2019. involved: HAPtoxy-Ingress, Service VIPs, Golang templating



ZALANDO AT A GLANCE

~ 5.4 billion EUR

revenue 2018

~ 14,000 employees in Europe

> 80%
of visits via
mobile devices

> 300 million

> 28 million

active customers

visits per month

> 400,000 product choices

> 2,000 brands

17 countries



2019: SCALE

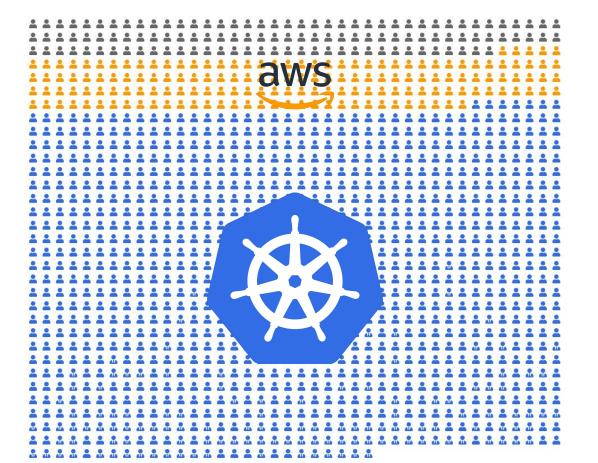
396 Accounts





140_{Clusters}

2019: DEVELOPERS USING KUBERNETES







47+ cluster components





INCIDENT

INCIDENT #1: INGRESS ERRORS



INCIDENT #1: COREDNS OOMKILL

```
coredns invoked oom-killer:
gfp_mask=0x14000c0(GFP_KERNEL),
nodemask=(null), order=0, oom_score_adj=994

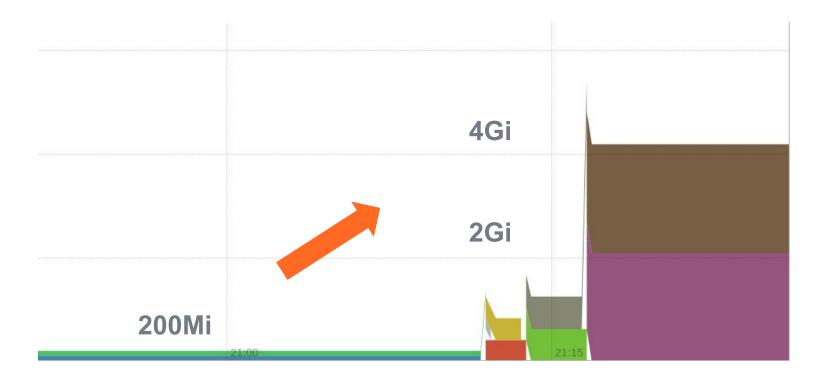
Memory cgroup out of memory: Kill process 6428
(coredns) score 2050 or sacrifice child

oom_reaper: reaped process 6428 (coredns),
now anon-rss:0kB, file-rss:0kB, shmem-rss:0kB
```

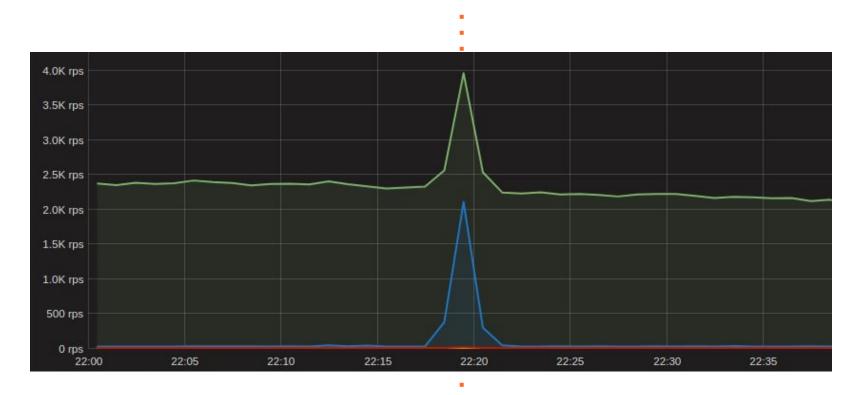




STOP THE BLEEDING: INCREASE MEMORY LIMIT

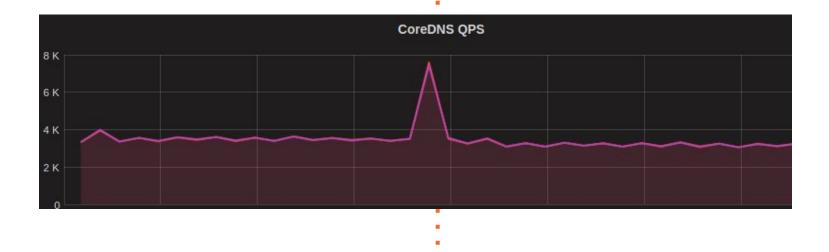


SPIKE IN HTTP REQUESTS



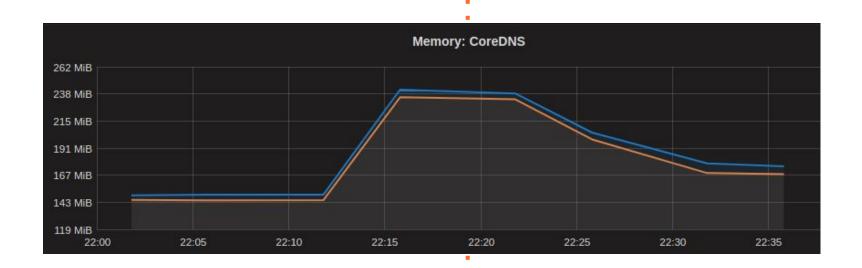


SPIKE IN DNS QUERIES





INCREASE IN MEMORY USAGE



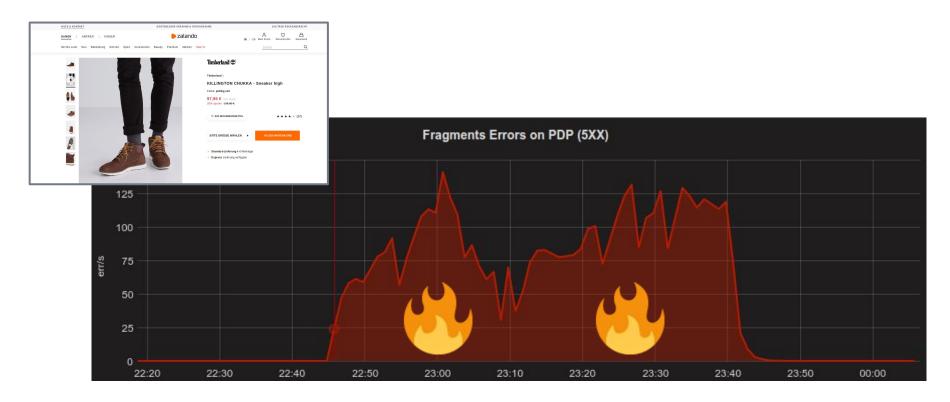
INCIDENT #1: CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- HTTP retries
- No DNS caching
- Kubernetes ndots:5 problem
- Short maximum lifetime of HTTP connections
- Fixed memory limit for CoreDNS
- Monitoring affected by DNS outage

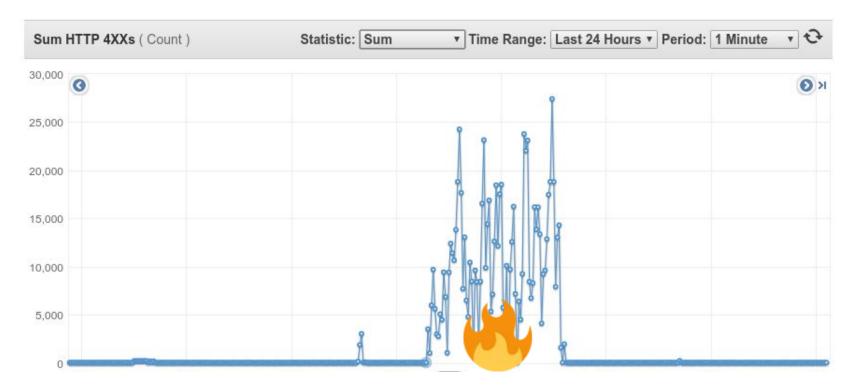


INCIDENT

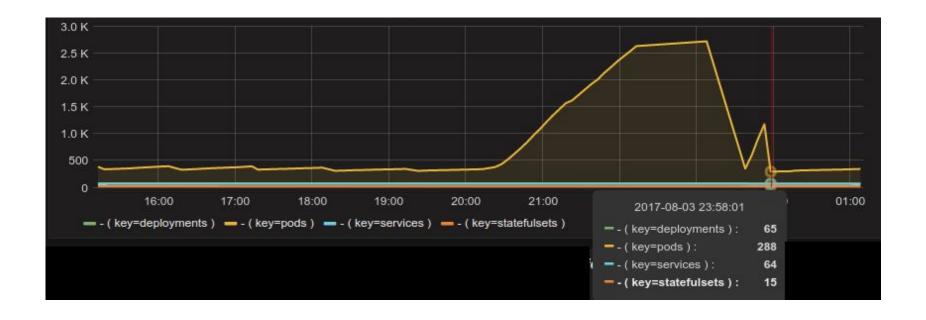
INCIDENT #2: CUSTOMER IMPACT



INCIDENT #2: IAM RETURNING 404

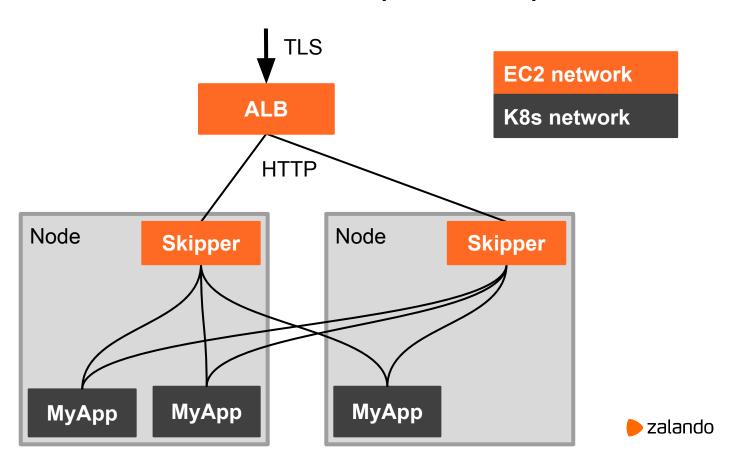


INCIDENT #2: NUMBER OF PODS

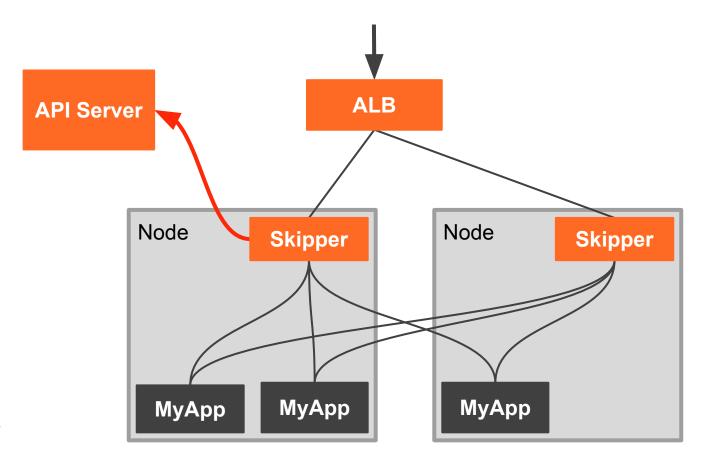




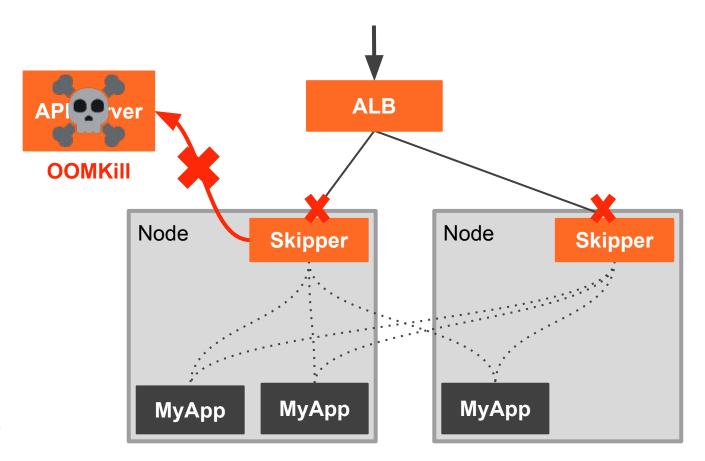
LIFE OF A REQUEST (INGRESS)



ROUTES FROM API SERVER



API SERVER DOWN



INCIDENT #2: INNOCENT MANIFEST

```
apiVersion: batch/v2alpha1
kind: CronJob
metadata:
  name: "foobar"
spec:
  schedule: "*/15 9-19 * * Mon-Fri"
  jobTemplate:
    spec:
      template:
        spec:
        restartPolicy: Never
        concurrencyPolicy: Forbid
        successfulJobsHistoryLimit: 1
        failedJobsHistoryLimit: 1
       containers:
```

INCIDENT #2: FIXED CRON JOB

```
apiVersion: batch/v2alpha1
kind: CronJob
metadata:
  name: "foobar"
spec:
  schedule: "7 8-18 * * Mon-Fri"
  concurrencyPolicy: Forbid
  successfulJobsHistoryLimit: 1
  failedJobsHistoryLimit: 1
  jobTemplate:
    spec:
      activeDeadlineSeconds: 120
      template:
        spec:
          restartPolicy: Never
          containers:
```

INCIDENT #2: LESSONS LEARNED

- Fix Ingress to stay "healthy" during API server problems
- Fix Ingress to retain last known set of routes
- Use quota for number of pods



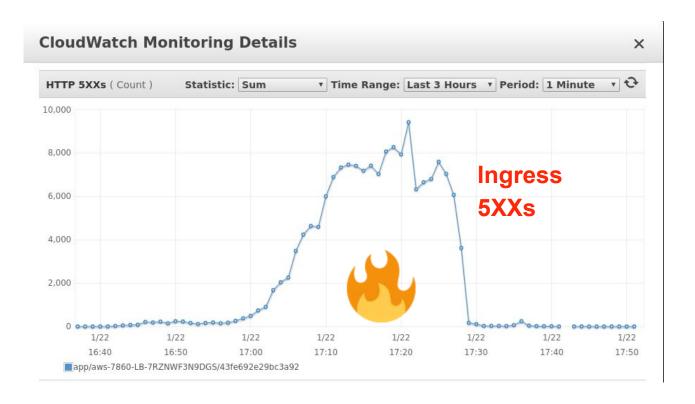
```
apiVersion: v1
kind: ResourceQuota
metadata:
   name: compute-resources
spec:
   hard:
     pods: "1500"
```

NOTE: we dropped quotas recently github.com/zalando-incubator/kubernetes-on-aws/pull/2059

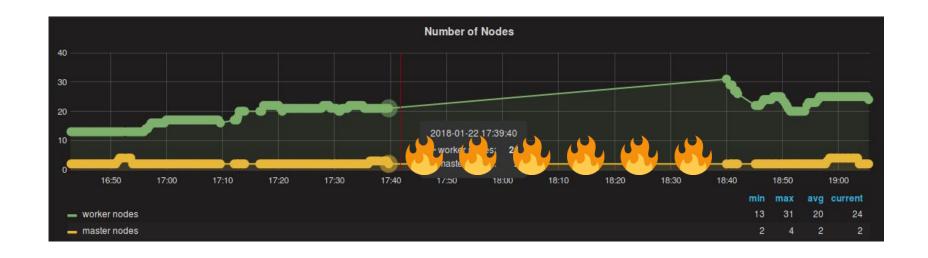


INCIDENT

INCIDENT #3: IMPACT

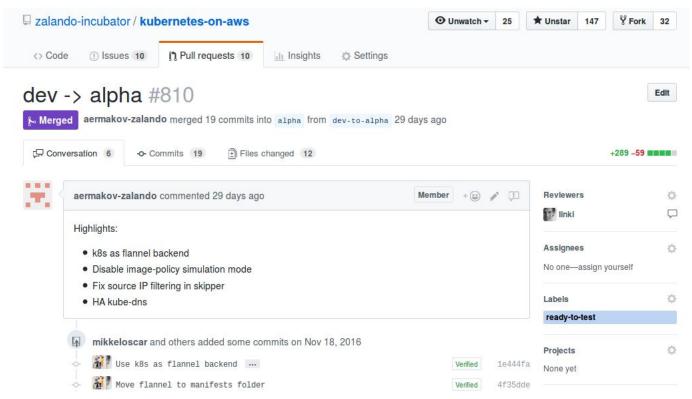


INCIDENT #3: CLUSTER DOWN?





INCIDENT #3: THE TRIGGER

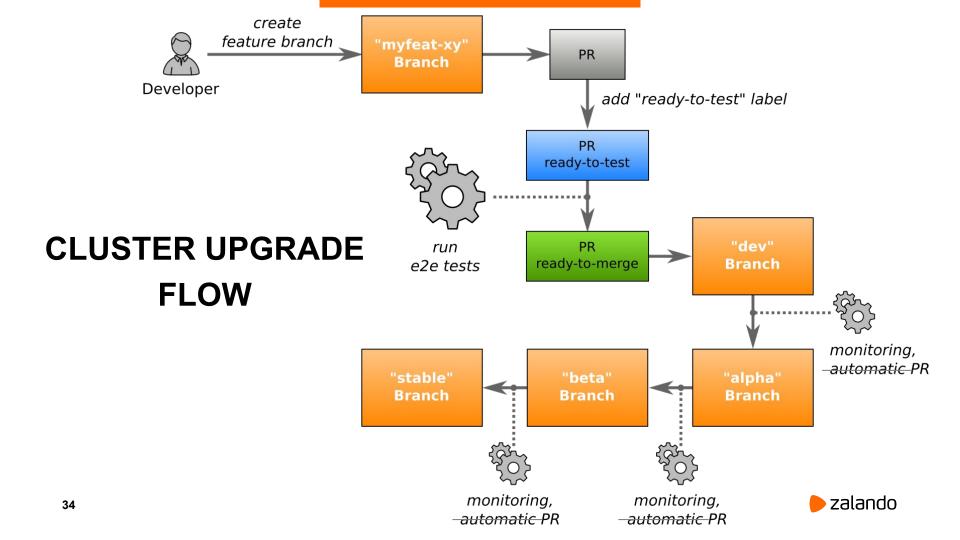




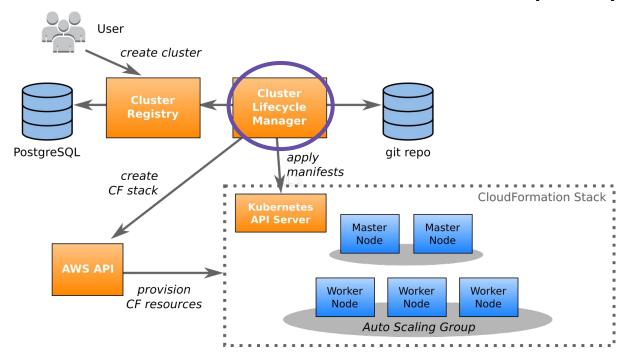
What We Believe

VOL. 1 ISSUE 6

Human Error is NEVER the Root Cause



CLUSTER LIFECYCLE MANAGER (CLM)



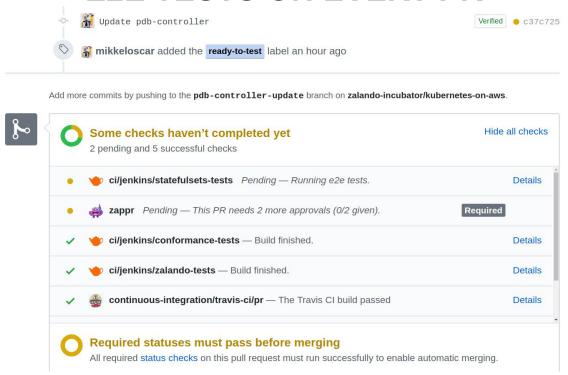
github.com/zalando-incubator/cluster-lifecycle-manager



CLUSTER CHANNELS

Channel	Description	Clusters
dev	Development and playground clusters.	3
alpha	Main infrastructure clusters (important to us).	2
beta	Product clusters for the rest of the organization (non-prod).	60+
stable	Product clusters for the rest of the organization (prod).	60+

E2E TESTS ON EVERY PR

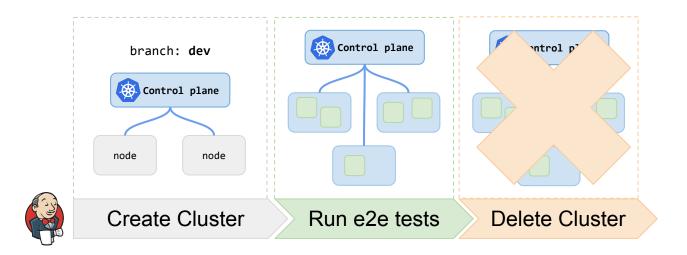


github.com/zalando-incubator/kubernetes-on-aws



RUNNING E2E TESTS (BEFORE)

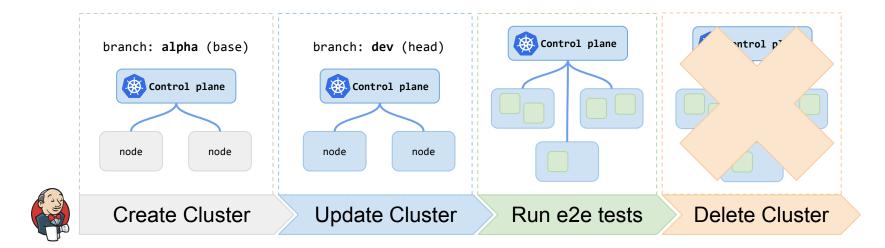
Testing dev to alpha upgrade





RUNNING E2E TESTS (NOW)

Testing dev to alpha upgrade





INCIDENT #3: LESSONS LEARNED

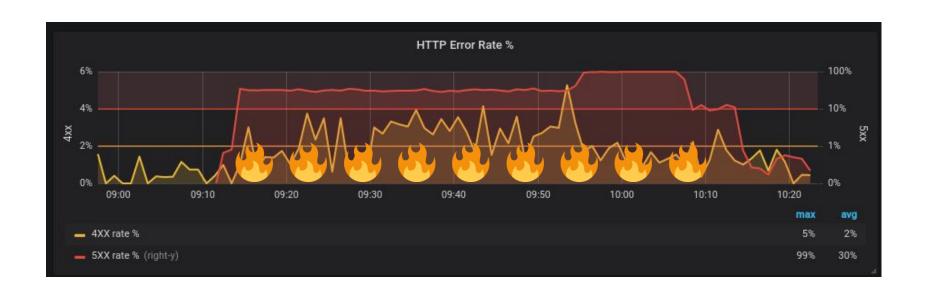
- Automated e2e tests are pretty good, but not enough
- Test the diff/migration automatically



- Bootstrap new cluster with previous configuration
- Apply new configuration
- Run end-to-end & conformance tests

INCIDENT

INCIDENT #4: IMPACT



INCIDENT #4: FLANNEL ERRORS

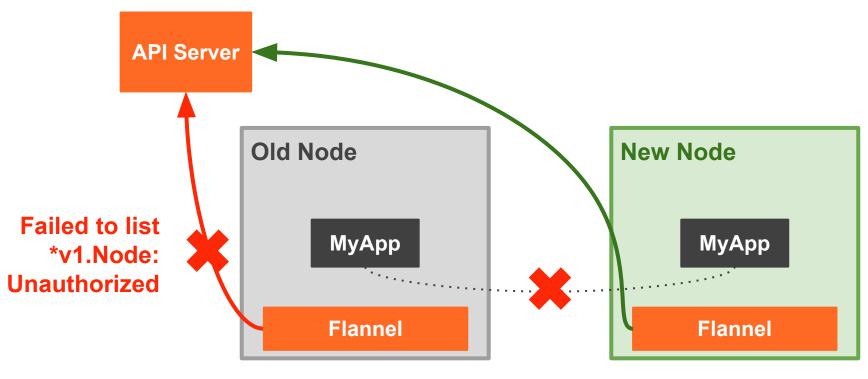
Failed to list *v1.Node: Unauthorized



INCIDENT #4: RBAC CHANGES

```
Viewed
   @@ -44,3 +44,20 @@ post_apply:
     - name: zmon-scheduler
                                                                        - name: zmon-scheduler
       kind: VerticalPodAutoscaler
                                                                          kind: VerticalPodAutoscaler
       namespace: visibility
                                                                          namespace: visibility
                                                                      + - name: kubernetes-dashboard
                                                                         kind: RoleBinding
                                                                         namespace: kube-system
                                                                      + - name: system
                                                                         namespace: kube-system
                                                                         kind: ServiceAccount
                                                                      + - name: privileged-psp
                                                                         namespace: kube-system
                                                                         kind: RoleBinding
                                                                      + - name: cdp-deployer
                                                                          kind: ClusterRoleBinding
```

INCIDENT #4: NETWORK SPLIT



INCIDENT

INCIDENT #5: IMPACT

Error during Pod creation:

```
MountVolume.SetUp failed for volume
"outfit-delivery-api-credentials" :
   secrets "outfit-delivery-api-credentials" not found
```

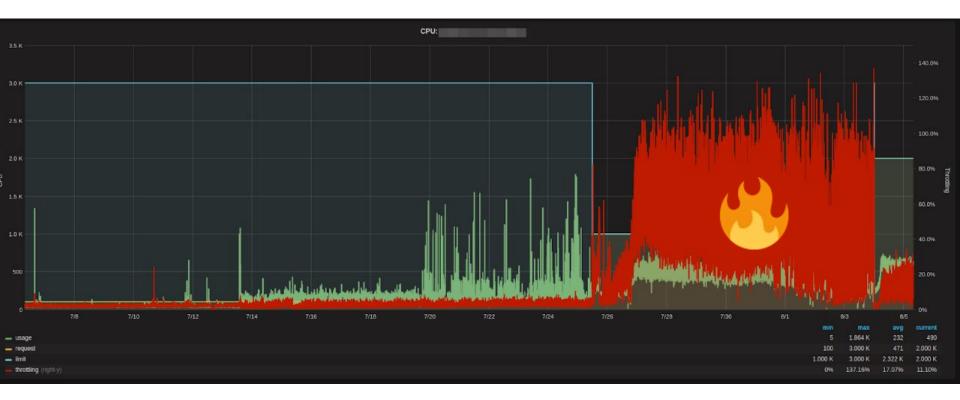
⇒ All new Kubernetes deployments fail



INCIDENT #5: CREDENTIALS QUEUE



INCIDENT #5: CPU THROTTLING



INCIDENT #5: WHAT HAPPENED

Scaled down IAM provider to reduce **Slack**

+ Number of deployments increased

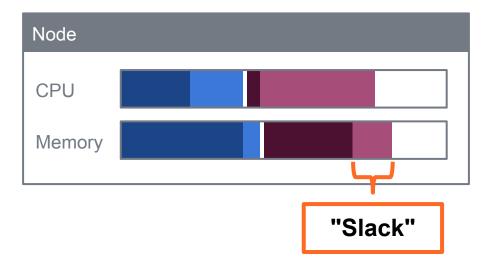


⇒ Process could not process credentials fast enough

SLACK

CPU/memory requests "block" resources on nodes.

Difference between actual usage and requests → **Slack**





DISABLING CPU THROTTLING

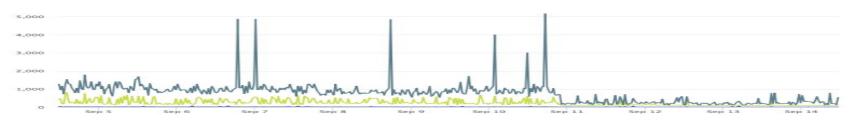
kubelet ... --cpu-cfs-quota=false

[Announcement] CPU limits will be disabled

TLDR: to improve performance and efficiency we will disable CPU limits in Kubernetes clusters. Please revise your resource requests if necessary.

We're going to disable CPU limits in the Kubernetes clusters. According to our experiments, this should improve the latencies for your applications and allow us to use the nodes more efficiently. To ensure that your applications get their fair share of CPU, please update your deployments' resource requests so they match the actual usage. You can use the Application Dashboard to find out how much CPU your applications use.

⇒ Ingress Latency Improvements



DISABLING CPU THROTTLING



We have reduced 75 percentile response time over all apps from 150ms to 90ms after disabling CFS quota (CPU limits) on one of our #kubernetes cluster - #KubeCon learning by @try_except_







MORE TOPICS

- Graceful Pod shutdown and race conditions (endpoints, Ingress)
- Incompatible Kubernetes changes
- CoreOS ContainerLinux "stable" won't boot
- Kubernetes EBS volume handling
- **Docker**





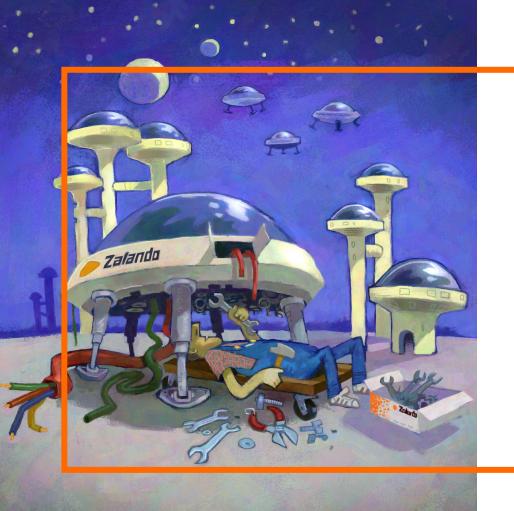
RACE CONDITIONS..

```
21
            priorityClassName: system-node-critical
            serviceAccountName: system
            containers:
24
            - name: delayed-install-cni
              image: registry.opensource.zalan.do/teapot/flannel:v0.10.0-8
              command:
              - /bin/sh
              args:
                "sleep 120 & cp -f /etc/kube-flannel/cni-conf.json /etc/cni/net.d/10-flannel.conf && cat"
31
              volumeMounts:
              - name: cni
34
                mountPath: /etc/cni/net.d
              - name: flannel-cfg
                mountPath: /etc/kube-flannel/
```

DOCKER.. (ON GKE)

```
25
     # We simply kill the process when there is a failure. Another systemd service will
     # automatically restart the process.
     function docker_monitoring {
28
       while [ 1 ]; do
29
         if ! timeout 10 docker ps > /dev/null; then
           echo "Docker daemon failed!"
           pkill docker
           # Wait for a while, as we don't want to kill it again before it is really up.
           sleep 30
34
         else
           sleep "${SLEEP_SECONDS}"
         fi
       done
```





COMMON PITFALLS

COMMON PITFALLS

- Insufficient e2e tests
- Readiness & Liveness Probes
- Resource Requests & Limits
- DNS



READINESS & LIVENESS PROBES

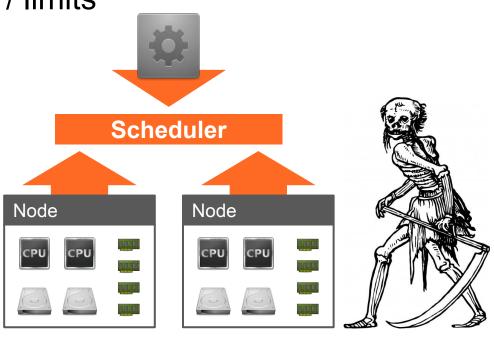


srcco.de/posts/kubernetes-liveness-probes-are-dangerous.html



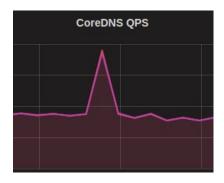
RESOURCE REQUESTS & LIMITS

- No resource requests / limits
- QoS
- OOM
- Overcommit
- CPU throttling

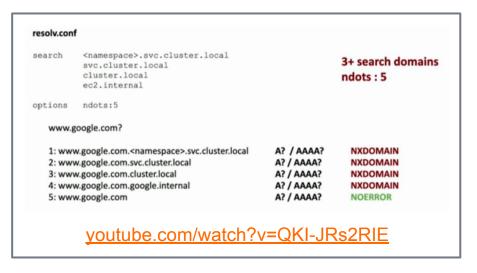


DNS

- ndots: 5
- musl, conntrack, UDP
- overload



It's never always DNS.





AWS EKS IN PRODUCTION

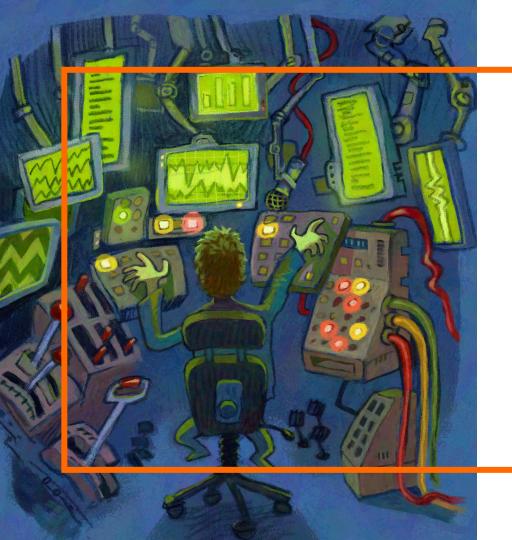
DNS lookup scaling

Out of the box, AWS provides a kube-dns deployment containing a single pod of scale 1. After a week or so in production, I was skimming our logs and came across this beauty. This reinforced something I had seen in our exception handling system.

dnsmasq[14]: Maximum number of concurrent DNS queries reached (max: 150)

kubedex.com/90-days-of-aws-eks-in-production/





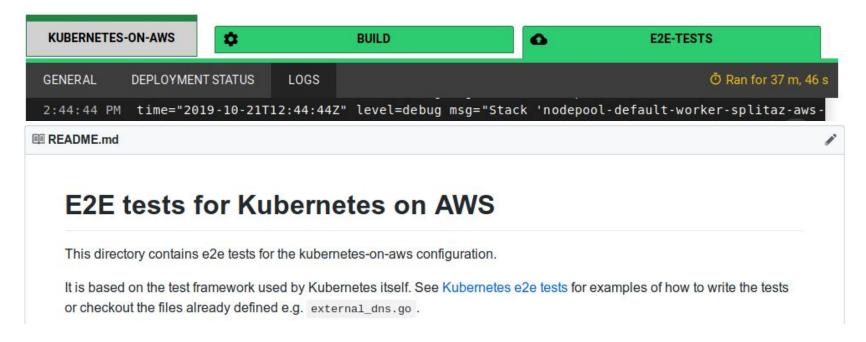
TOOLS & PRACTICES TO HELP YOU

HELPFUL

- Automated e2e tests
- Monitoring
- OpenTracing
- Kubernetes Web View
- Emergency access
- Kubernetes Failure Stories



AUTOMATED E2E TESTS



github.com/zalando-incubator/kubernetes-on-aws/tree/dev/test/e2e



MONITORING

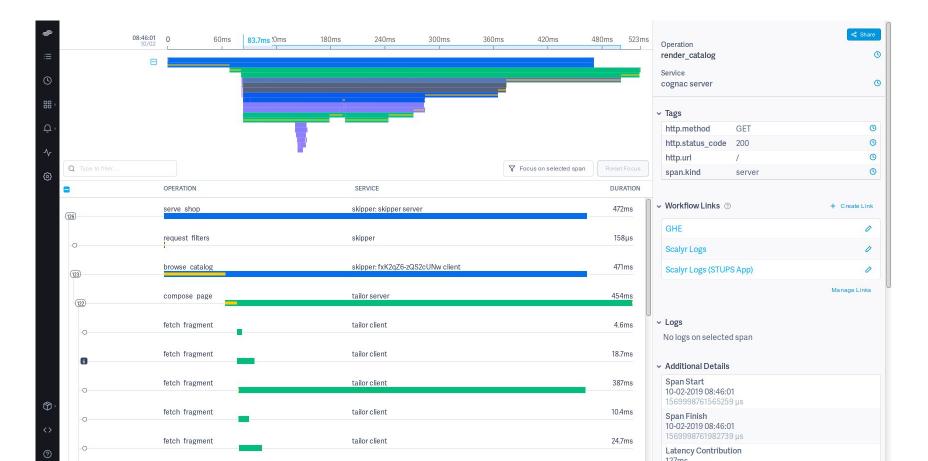
- Alert on symptoms, not potential causes
- What do you need to monitor to ensure cluster availability?
- SLOs

Ready	Status	Restarts •	Age
0/1	CrashLoopBackOff	1404	4d23h
0/1	CrashLoopBackOff	1352	4d18h
0/1	CrashLoopBackOff	1346	4d19h

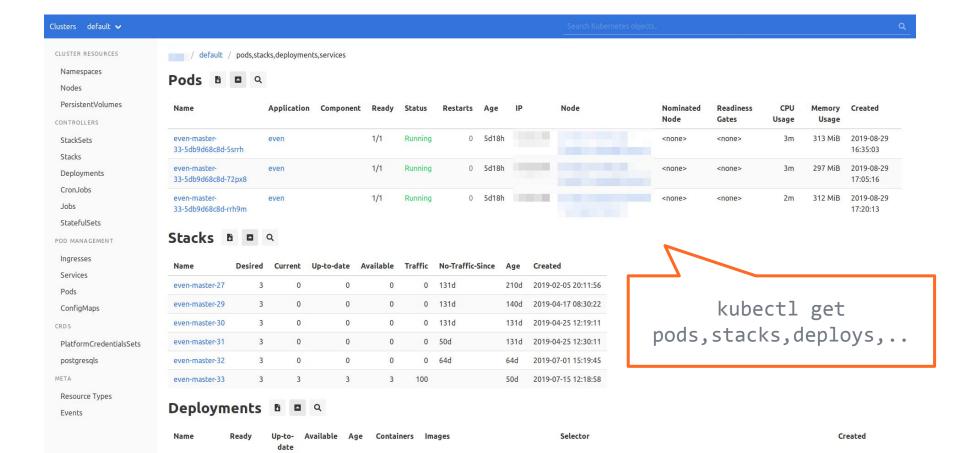


OPENTRACING



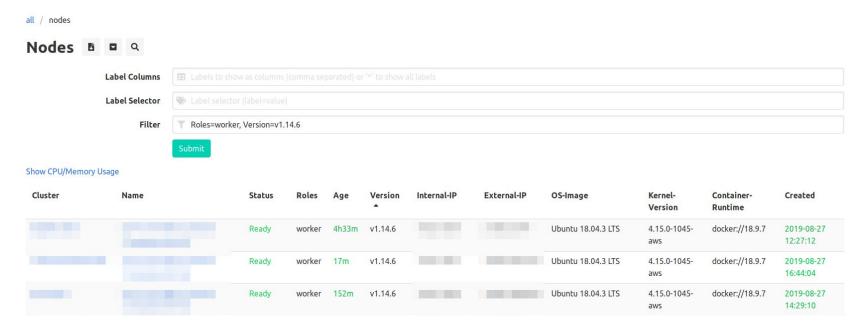


KUBERNETES WEB VIEW



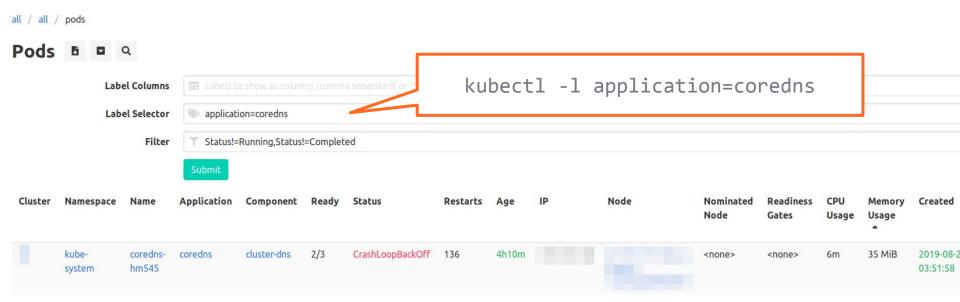
UPGRADE TO KUBERNETES 1.14

"Found 1223 rows for 1 resource type in 148 clusters in 3.301 seconds."





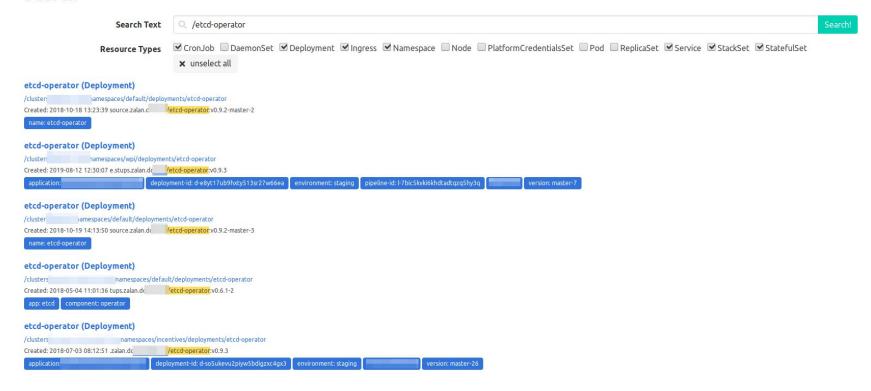
MULTIPLE CONDITIONS

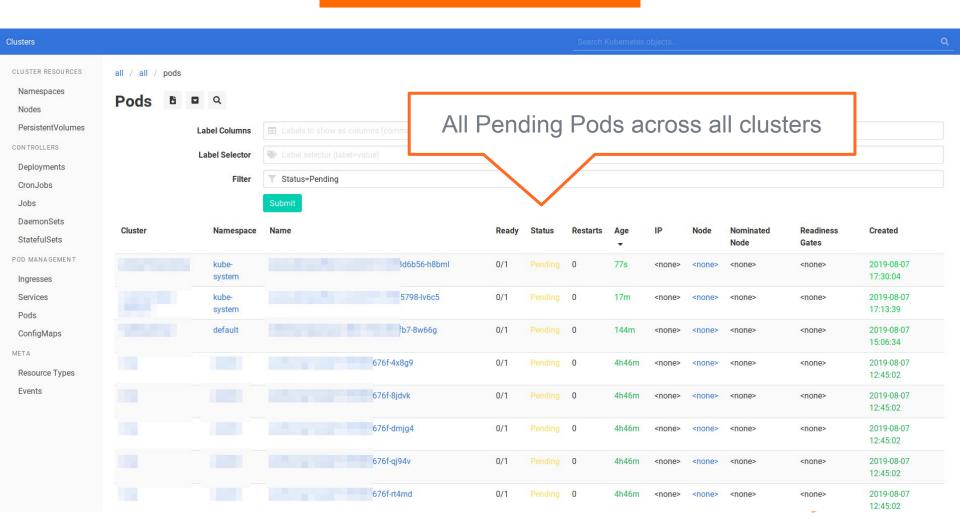


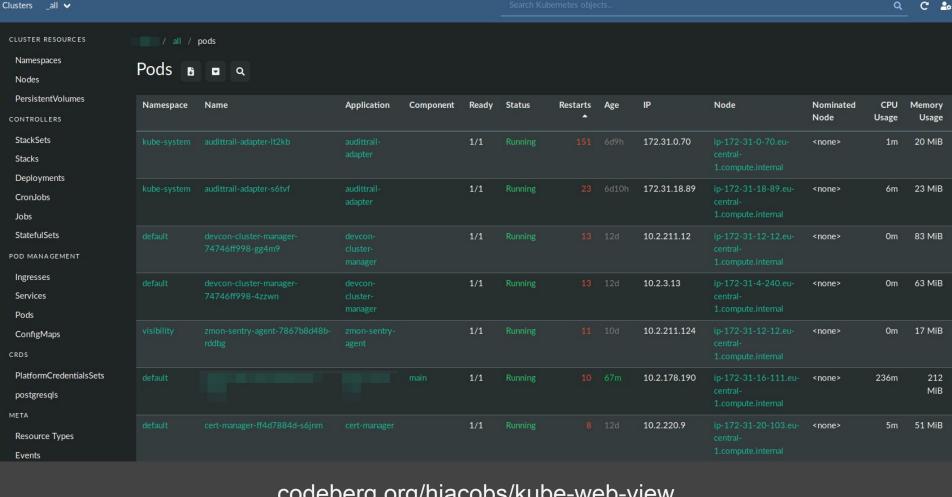
Found 1 row for 1 resource type in 146 clusters in 2.358 seconds.

SEARCHING ACROSS 140+ CLUSTERS

Search







EMERGENCY ACCESS SERVICE

Emergency access by referencing Incident

zkubectl cluster-access request \

--emergency -i INC REASON



Privileged production access via 4-eyes

zkubectl cluster-access request REASON

zkubectl cluster-access approve USERNAME





KUBERNETES FAILURE STORIES

Learning about production pitfalls!





https://k8s.af





https://k8s.af

Kubernetes Failure Stories

Impact prolonged downtime of non-prod environment, nodes lost, falled master apgrade
 Post Motters: Kubernatus Node COM - Bise Notation - Bise out 2019

Involved Aktis, SystemOCAA, Elifs, Fluentif-numelogic, no resource requests/limits.

impolent (ME) impress, resplication controller, SGTDRM, "graceful shutdown"
 import: eccelond-502 errors
 Hav a Production Outage Was Caused Using Kabe vetex Ped Priorities - Guifana Labs 2019

 Impact bold error
 TO Man to the of Neural in the Foot with Kolemeter, EFAVI Service You. Catalog. Kolemen Revolus 2019 and applied inflores in the ordinary of the processing of the control of the contro

- Involved Skipper Ingress, AMS, 1989 [1], high latency, Crox Job, CoreCNS, 1987; S., etc., CPU threttling

- Involved GCP Impress, GKE Clinior, rodes

import production outage
 Macinize learnings from a Kubernetzs duster failure - NSUS - blog post 2019

- Involved public container registery, legress wild card, image size, replica count, 12factor

 Imidised ANS, dot, United, (MUPrater Exception, 9RFC diret, services without endpoints, incompatible Kalbernetes AFI change
 Impact, prediction indepts (ASIFORM INLASE)
 Scarine from the "Papidon" - Coops" - Added conformer 2016 - Insolved GKZ, etcd. Doder deemon, Image registry, dramping valverabilities

Involved PostpriSQL abraining replication
 Impact data loss
 151 Mays to Clash Your Cluster - Montatrom - Kube Con Hords America 2011

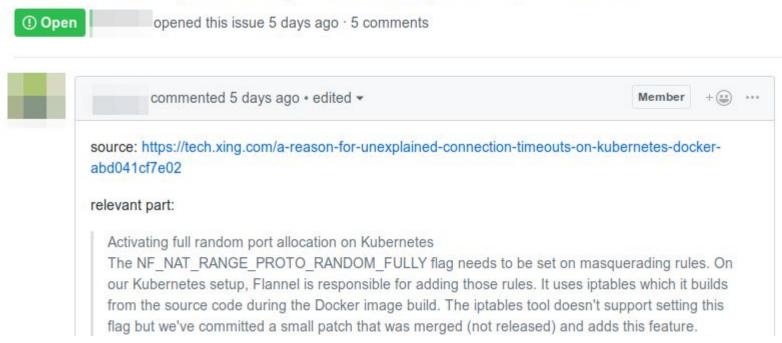
Involved AMS, unboalthy nodes, ingress, Cran.kb
 Impact, prediction evalue
 Search and Reporting Outage - Universe - Incident report 2017

42 stories so far



INTERNAL TICKETS BASED ON FAILURE STORIES

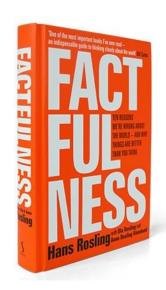
flannel setup to fully random port allocation #2213



FACTFULNESS

Things can be both better and bad!

How would failure stories for your non-K8s infra look like?



https://k8s.af

"I'M TORN ON THIS LIST"

It is important to learn from the mistakes from others, so I like it [...], BUT it feels like folks are using these examples as reasons to stay away from Kubernetes.

There could be a [...] larger list of system failures where

K8s is not involved. Similarly there could [...] be a list of

"Encryption Failure Stories" but that doesn't mean we shouldn't

encrypt things. [...]



FAILURE STORIES CAN BE FOUND EVERYWHERE



Henning Jacobs @try_except_ · 16. Okt. So who starts the list with #AWS ECS failure stories? 60



Sebastian Herzberg @shrzbrg · 16. Okt.

Within a couple of weeks we experienced the same major incident on K8s and ECS. Yesterdays ECS optimized AMI had "releasever=nightly" in yum.conf which pointed to a repository that ordinary users can not access. Resulting in limited ECS cluster capacity for us.











"Daddy, tell me a horror story"
"SSL with Istio and Kubernetes"
"Is it as bad as the NFS monster one?"
"Oh no, nothing is worse than the NFS monster"

Tweet übersetzen

11:45 vorm. · 29. März 2018 · Twitter Web Client

209 Retweets **614** "Gefällt mir"-Angaben



WHY KUBERNETES?

WHY KUBERNETES?

- provides enough abstractions (StatefulSet, CronJob, ..)
- provides consistency (API spec/status)
- is extensible (annotations, CRDs, API aggreg.)
- certain compatibility guarantee (versioning)
- widely adopted (all cloud providers)
- works across environments and implementations

WHY KUBERNETES?

(for Zalando)

- Efficiency
- Common Operational Model
- Developer Experience
- Cloud Provider Independent
- Compliance and Security
- Talent



COMPLEXITY FOR GOOGLE-SCALE INFRA?

- Managed DO cluster: 4 minutes
- K3s single node: 2 minutes



```
install.sh 838B

#!/bin/bash

# Install K3s

curl -sfL https://get.k3s.io | sh -
```









Nuclear hot take: nobody will care about Kubernetes in five years.

CZnative @ home @pczarkowski

Replying to @tmclaughbos @iteration1 @behemphi

As I keep telling people, if you have a kubernetes strategy you've already failed. Kubernetes should be an implementation detail at the tactical level to deal with the strategic imperative of solving the problems that are halting the flow of money.

6:32 PM - 6 Feb 2019



MAYBE THAT'S GOOD?



Antwort an @QuinnyPig

Speaking as a kubernetes dev, that's a victory condition. It means that Kube becomes so ubiquitous, and so easy, that's it's ignorable.

Tweet übersetzen

7:06 nachm. · 7. Feb. 2019 · Twitter Web Client

1 Retweet 18 "Gefällt mir"-Angaben



OPEN SOURCE & MORE

Kubernetes Web View

codeberg.org/hjacobs/kube-web-view

Skipper HTTP Router & Ingress controller

<u>qithub.com/zalando/skipper</u>

Kubernetes Janitor

github.com/hjacobs/kube-janitor

Postgres Operator

<u>github.com/zalando-incubator/postgres-operator</u>

More Zalando Tech Talks

github.com/zalando/public-presentations









HENNING JACOBS

henning@zalando.de @try except





Please

Remember to rate this session

Thank you!

