MetalK8s Documentation

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Scality

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MetalK8s is an opinionated Kubernetes distribution with a focus on long-term on-prem deployments, launched by Scality to deploy its Zenko solution in customer datacenters.

It is based on the Kubespray project to reliably install a base Kubernetes cluster, including all dependencies (like etcd), using the Ansible provisioning tool. This installation is further augmented with operational tools for monitoring and metering, including Prometheus, Grafana, ElasticSearch and Kibana. Furthermore, an "ingress controller" is deployed by default, based on Nginx. All of these are managed as Helm packages. See *Cluster Services* for a whole listing.

Unlike hosted Kubernetes solutions, where network-attached storage is available and managed by the provider, we assume no such system to be available in environments where MetalK8s is deployed. As such, we focus on managing node-local storage, and exposing these volumes to containers managed in the cluster. See *Storage Architecture* for more information.

CHAPTER 1

Getting started

See our *Quickstart Guide* to deploy a cluster.

1.1 Quickstart Guide

To quickly set up a testing cluster using MetalK8s, you need 3 machines running CentOS 7.4 to which you have SSH access (these can be VMs). Each machine acting as a Kubernetes node (all of them, in this example) also need to have at least one disk available to provision storage volumes.

Todo: Give some sizing examples

1.1.1 Defining an Inventory

To tell the Ansible-based deployment system on which machines MetalK8s should be installed, a so-called *inventory* needs to be provided. This inventory contains a file listing all the hosts comprising the cluster, as well as some configuration.

First, create a directory, e.g. `inventory/quickstart-cluster`, in which the inventory will be stored. For our setup, we need to create two files. One listing all the hosts, aptly called `hosts`:

```
node-01 ansible_host=10.0.0.1 ansible_user=centos
node-02 ansible_host=10.0.0.2 ansible_user=centos
node-03 ansible_host=10.0.0.3 ansible_user=centos

[kube-master]
node-01
node-02
node-03

[etcd]
```

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```
node-01
node-02
node-03

[kube-node]
node-01
node-02
node-03

[k8s-cluster:children]
kube-node
kube-master
```

Make sure to change IP-addresses, usernames etc. according to your infrastructure.

In a second file, called `kube-node.yml` in a `group_vars` subdirectory of our inventory, we declare how to setup storage (in the default configuration) on hosts in the *kube-node* group, i.e. hosts on which Pods will be scheduled:

```
metal_k8s_lvm:
  vgs:
    kubevg:
      drives: ['/dev/vdb']
```

In the above, we assume every *kube-node* host has a disk available as `/dev/vdb` which can be used to set up Kubernetes *PersistentVolumes*. For more information about storage, see *Storage Architecture*.

1.1.2 Entering the MetalK8s Shell

To easily install a supported version of Ansible and its dependencies, as well as some Kubernetes tools (**`kubectl`** and **`helm`**), we provide a **`make`** target which installs these in a local environment. To enter this environment, run **`make shell`** (this takes a couple of seconds on first run):

```
$ make shell
Creating virtualenv...
Installing Python dependencies...
Downloading kubectl...
Downloading Helm...
Launching MetalK8s shell environment. Run 'exit' to quit.
(metal-k8s) $
```

Now we're all set to deploy a cluster:

```
(metal-k8s) $ ansible-playbook -i inventory/quickstart-cluster -b playbooks/deploy.yml
```

Grab a coffee and wait for deployment to end.

1.1.3 Inspecting the cluster

Once deployment finished, a file containing credentials to access the cluster is created: `inventory/quickstart-cluster/artifacts/admin.conf`. We can export this location in the shell such that the **`kubectl`** and **`helm`** tools know how to contact the cluster *kube-master* nodes, and authenticate properly:

```
(metal-k8s) $ export KUBECONFIG=`pwd`/inventory/quickstart-cluster/artifacts/admin.
↪conf
```

Now, assuming port *6443* on the first *kube-master* node is reachable from your system, we can e.g. list the nodes:

```
(metal-k8s) $ kubectl get nodes
NAME         STATUS    ROLES           AGE       VERSION
node-01      Ready     master,node     1m        v1.9.5+coreos.0
node-02      Ready     master,node     1m        v1.9.5+coreos.0
node-03      Ready     master,node     1m        v1.9.5+coreos.0
```

or list all pods:

```
(metal-k8s) $ kubectl get pods --all-namespaces
NAMESPACE      NAME                                                READY
↪STATUS      RESTARTS   AGE
kube-ingress   nginx-ingress-controller-9d8jh                      1/1
↪Running     0          1m
kube-ingress   nginx-ingress-controller-d7vvg                      1/1
↪Running     0          1m
kube-ingress   nginx-ingress-controller-m8jpq                      1/1
↪Running     0          1m
kube-ingress   nginx-ingress-default-backend-6664bc64c9-xsws5      1/1
↪Running     0          1m
kube-ops       alertmanager-kube-prometheus-0                      2/2
↪Running     0          2m
kube-ops       alertmanager-kube-prometheus-1                      2/2
↪Running     0          2m
kube-ops       es-client-7cf569f5d8-2z974                          1/1
↪Running     0          2m
kube-ops       es-client-7cf569f5d8-qq4h2                          1/1
↪Running     0          2m
kube-ops       es-data-cd5446fff-pkmhn                             1/1
↪Running     0          2m
kube-ops       es-data-cd5446fff-zzd2h                             1/1
↪Running     0          2m
kube-ops       es-exporter-elasticsearch-exporter-7df5bcf58b-k9fdd  1/1
↪Running     3          1m
...
```

Similarly, we can list all deployed Helm applications:

```
(metal-k8s) $ helm list
NAME                    REVISION        UPDATED                         STATUS
↪  CHART                         NAMESPACE
es-exporter             3               Wed Apr 25 23:10:13 2018        DEPLOYED
↪  elasticsearch-exporter-0.1.2  kube-ops
fluentd                 3               Wed Apr 25 23:09:59 2018        DEPLOYED
↪  fluentd-elasticsearch-0.1.4   kube-ops
heapster                3               Wed Apr 25 23:09:37 2018        DEPLOYED
↪  heapster-0.2.7                kube-system
kibana                  3               Wed Apr 25 23:10:06 2018        DEPLOYED
↪  kibana-0.2.2                  kube-ops
kube-prometheus         3               Wed Apr 25 23:09:22 2018        DEPLOYED
↪  kube-prometheus-0.0.33        kube-ops
nginx-ingress           3               Wed Apr 25 23:09:09 2018        DEPLOYED
↪  nginx-ingress-0.11.1          kube-ingress
prometheus-operator     3               Wed Apr 25 23:09:14 2018        DEPLOYED
↪  prometheus-operator-0.0.15    kube-ops
```

1.1.4 Access to dashboard, Grafana and Kibana

Once the cluster is running, you can access the Kubernetes dashboard, Grafana metrics and Kibana logs from your browser.

To access these services, first create a secure tunnel into your cluster by running `kubectl proxy`. Then, while the tunnel is up and running, access the dashboard at http://localhost:8001/api/v1/namespaces/kube-system/services/https:kubernetes-dashboard:/proxy/, Grafana at http://localhost:8001/api/v1/namespaces/kube-ops/services/kube-prometheus-grafana:http/proxy/ and Kibana at http://localhost:8001/api/v1/namespaces/kube-ops/services/http:kibana:/proxy/. When accessing Kibana for the first time, set up an *index pattern* for the `logstash-*` index, using the `@timestamp` field as *Time Filter field name*.

See *Cluster Services* for more information about these services and their configuration.

1.2 Architecture

1.2.1 Cluster Services

A Kubernetes cluster deployed on the Google Cloud Platform using GKE, on Microsoft Azure using AKS or even using Kops or similar tools on Amazon AWS comes with built-in tooling for centralized container log management, metrics collection, tracing, node health checking and more.

In MetalK8s, we augment a basic Kubernetes cluster deployed using the Kubespray playbook) with various tools to bring an on-premise cluster to the same level of operability.

Basic Cluster Addons

On top of the basic Kubernetes services, the following addons are deployed:

Helm / Tiller

Helm is a *package manager* for Kubernetes. It can be used to deploy various services in a Kubernetes cluster using templates to describe objects. *Tiller* is a cluster-side service used by the **`helm`** CLI tool to manage these deployments.

Heapster

Heapster is a service which collects and exposes resource consumption metrics of containers running in a cluster. The Kubernetes Dashboard uses the Heapster service, when available, to display CPU and memory usage of Pods, Deployments and more.

metrics-server

The metrics-server service is derived from Heapster, and provides an implementation of the Metrics API exposing CPU and memory consumption of containers. These metrics are in turn used by the HorizontalPodAutoscaler controller.

Ingress Controller

To expose Services to the outside world using an Ingress object, Kubernetes requires an Ingress Controller to be running in the cluster. For this purpose, MetalK8s deploys the nginx-ingress-controller, which uses the well-known Nginx HTTP server under the hood.

Metering / Monitoring

Metering and monitoring of a MetalK8s cluster is handled by the Prometheus stack, including the Prometheus TSDB for metrics storage, Alertmanager to send alerts when preconfigured conditions are (not) met, and Grafana to visualize stored metrics using predefined dashboards.

prometheus-operator

The CoreOS Prometheus Operator is deployed in the cluster to manage Prometheus instances, scrape targets and alerting rules.

kube-prometheus

We use kube-prometheus to provide operational insight into the Kubernetes cluster and containers managed by it. This includes predefined alerting rules and various Grafana dashboards.

kube-prometheus uses *prometheus-operator* to deploy all required services.

node-exporter

The node-exporter service is deployed to expose various node OS metrics, which are in turn captured by Prometheus. These metrics include CPU, memory, disk and network consumption as well as many Linux-specific values.

Grafana

To ease cluster operations, several Grafana dashboards are made available, including cluster-wide views and health-checks, node OS metrics, per-*Deployment* or per-*Pod* resource usage, monitoring of the Prometheus service itself, and many more.

Todo: Do we need to list all exported deployed with kube-prometheus?

Log Collection

ElasticSearch

The ElasticSearch full-text indexing service is used to ingest all container logs in a central place, and make them accessible to operators. This ElasticSearch cluster is deployed using the manifests provided in *pires/kubernetes-elasticsearch-cluster*, which are tuned to use production-grade settings.

ElasticSearch Curator

To ensure ingested logs don't flood the ElasticSearch resources, ElasticSearch Curator is deployed with a default configuration which drops *logstash-** indices on a given schedule.

fluentd

The fluentd service is deployed as a DaemonSet to stream all container logs into ElasticSearch.

In MetalK8s, **`fluentd`** has a role similar to Logstash in the *ELK* stack.

Kibana

To give operators access to the logs stored in ElasticSearch, a Kibana instance is provided.

Note: When accessing Kibana for the first time, an *index pattern* for the `logstash-*` indices needs to be configured, using `@timestamp` as *Time Filter field name*.

1.2.2 Storage Architecture

1.3 Changes in MetalK8s

1.3.1 Release 0.1.0

This marks the first release of MetalK8s.

Note: Compatibility with future releases of MetalK8s is not guaranteed until version 1.0.0 is available. When deploying a cluster using pre-1.0 versions of this package, you may need to redeploy later.

Incompatible changes

PR #106 - the Ansible playbook which used to be called `metal-k8s.yml` has been moved to `playbooks/deploy.yml`

Features added

PR #100 - disable Elasticsearch deployment by setting *metalk8s_elasticsearch_enabled* to *false* (#98)

PR #104 - *kube-proxy* now uses *ipvs* instead of *iptables* to route *Service* addresses, in preparation for Kubernetes 1.11. The *ipvsadm* tool is installed on all *k8s-cluster* hosts.

PR #104 - use CoreDNS instead of kubedns for in-cluster DNS services, in preparation for Kubernetes 1.11.

PR #113 - deploy the Prometheus *node_exporter* on *k8s-cluster* and *etcd* hosts instead of using a *DaemonSet*

Known issues

#62 - Elasticsearch Curator may not properly prune old *logstash-** indices

CHAPTER 2

Indices and tables

- genindex
- modindex
- search