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Athenz with Istio:

Single Access Control Model in Cloud Infrastructures



Agenda



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- What is Athenz?
 - Service Authentication
 - Authorization
- Multi-cloud in Yahoo Japan
- How do we integrate with Istio?
 - Why Istio?
 - Benefit of using Athenz with Istio

About



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- Tatsuya Yano
 - Platform Developer, Yahoo Japan Corporation
 - Contributor to Athenz
 - Open Source Summit Japan (<https://sched.co/FDjp>)

Athenz: Open Source System

Created by Yahoo Inc.



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- Service Authentication
 - Provide secure identity in the form short lived x.509 certificate to every workload / service in modern environments
- Authorization
 - Provides fine-grained Role Based Access Control (RBAC)



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Service Authentication



Authentication



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- User Authentication
 - AD / LDAP / Kerberos / etc
- Service Authentication
 - Instances within a service with a unique identity to enable secure communication
 - IP / Networks ACLs / iptable
 - Headless/Automation users
 - Shared secrets
 - Mutual TLS with x.509 certificates

Certificate Based Authentication



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- Every instance / service in your cloud has its own identity
- Stronger security by Mutual TLS Authentication
- Zero-trust security
- Short Lived Certificates

Copper Argos

- Generalized model for authorized service providers to launch other service identities in an authorized way through a callback-based verification model.

Providers



OpenStack



Kubernetes



Screwdriver



Amazon EC2



AWS ECS



AWS Lambda

Bootstrapping Athenz Identity

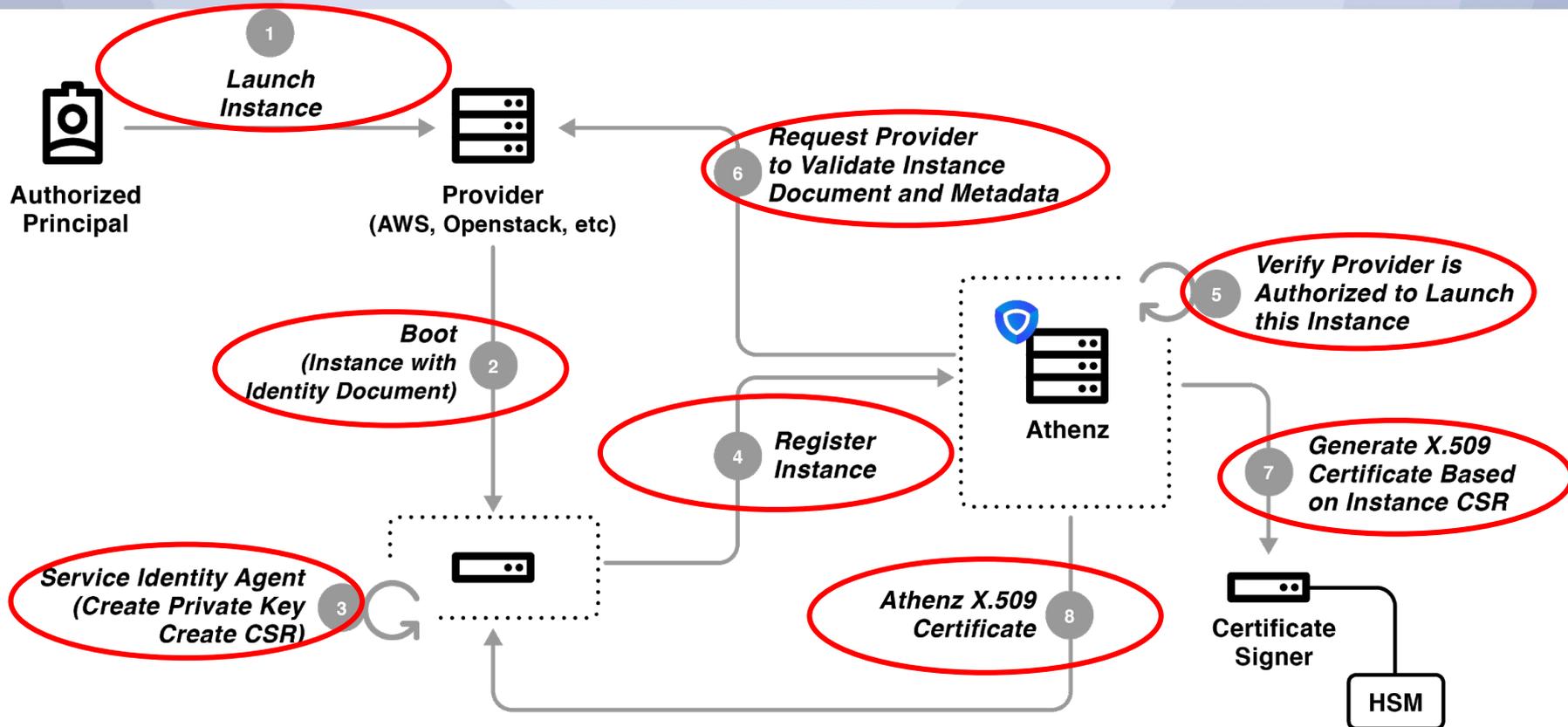


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Authorization



Athenz Data Model

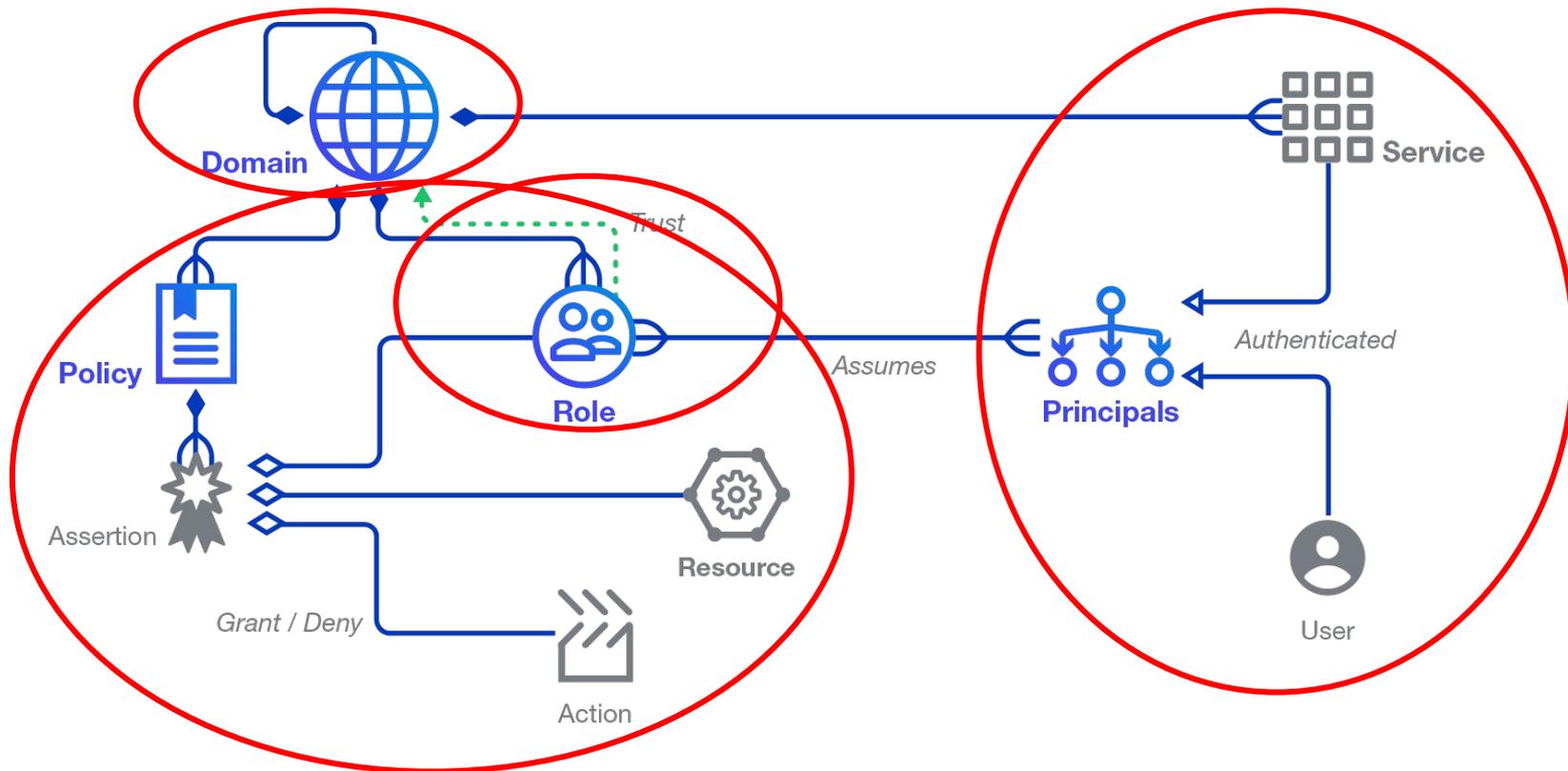


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Domain data example (YAML)



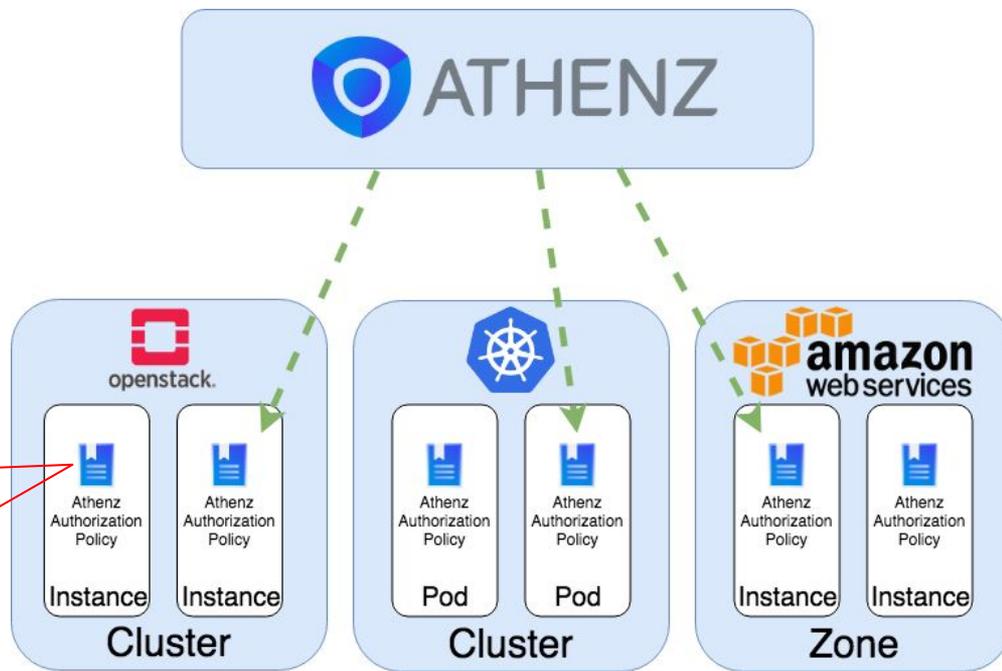
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```
1  domain:
2    name: athenz
3    audit_enabled: false
4    modified: 2018-12-11T08:21:25.896Z
5    roles:
6      - name: admin
7        members:
8          - user.admin
9      - name: frontend
10       members:
11         - athenz.instance
12     policies:
13       - name: admin
14         assertions:
15           - grant * to admin on *
16       - name: blacklist
17         assertions:
18           - deny post to admin on webapi/secret
19       - name: whitelist
20         assertions:
21           - grant get to frontend on webapi/backend
22           - grant post to frontend on webapi/backend
23     services:
24       - name: athenz.instance
25         modified: 2018-12-10T23:45:48.188Z
26         publicKey: []
```



Authorization - Centralized Access Control



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sports.config-mgr service
(bootstrapped with its
Athenz identity X.509 certificates)

Set "Max Heap Memory" setting to 8GB
(Mutual TLS authentication)

Configuration
Service Manager



X-509 TrustStore:
Athenz CA
Certificates

1

Extract Athenz
Service from Certificate
(sports.config-mgr)

2

Contact Athenz: Does
sports.config-mgr
have access to set
"Max Heap Memory"
setting value?

Domain
Admin



Grant sports.config-mgr access to set
"Max Heap Memory" setting



Athenz

Authorization - Decentralized Access Control

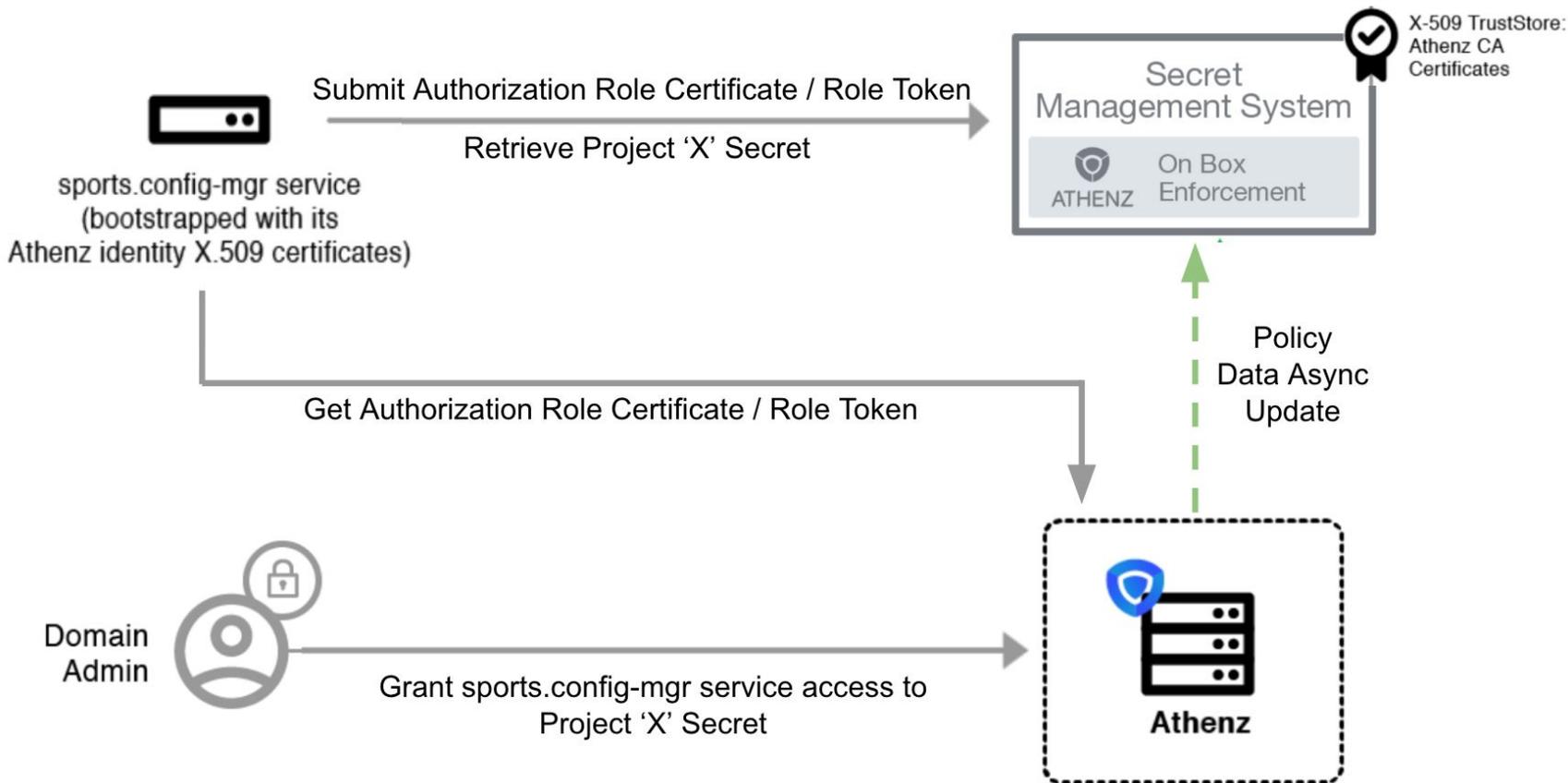


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Advantages of Athenz



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- To provide service identity X.509 certificates for services running in common providers like Kubernetes, OpenStack or AWS that can be used for mutual TLS authentication.
- To have precise and frequently configurable access controls with single source of truth.

Athenz in Yahoo Japan

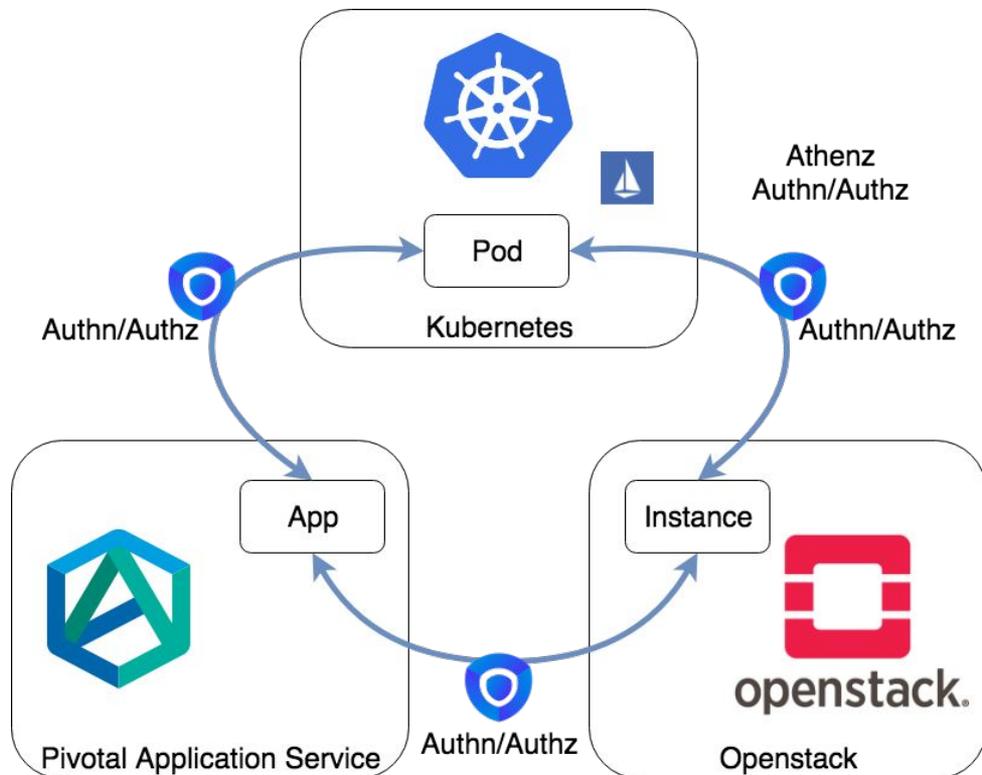


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How do we integrate with Istio?



Why use Istio?



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- Automatic load balancing.
- Fine-grained control of traffic behavior.
- A pluggable policy layer and configuration API.
- Automatic metrics, logs, and traces for all traffic.
- Secure service-to-service communication.

Referred from: <https://istio.io/docs/concepts/what-is-istio/>

Benefits of using Athenz with Istio

- Istio is in CNCF landscape.
 - Service mesh strongly supports microservices architecture.
- +
- Athenz enables single access control model in multi cloud.

Basics of Istio Mixer

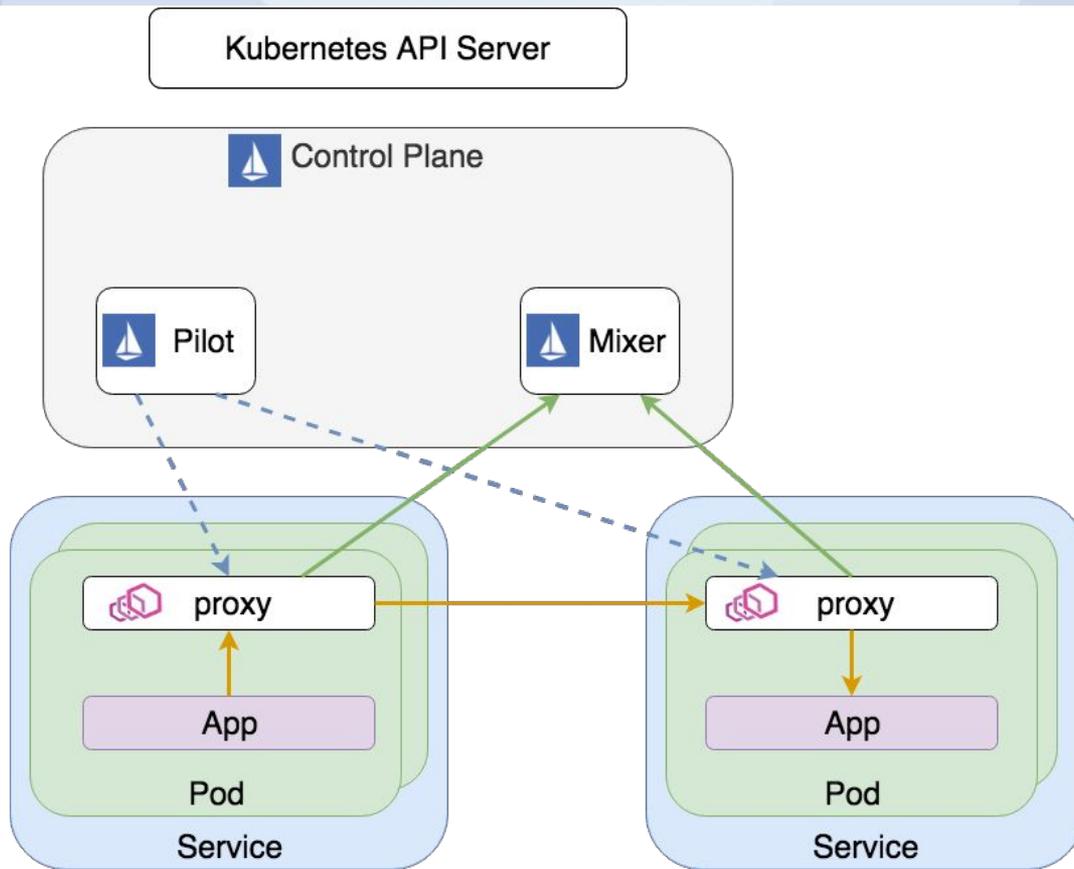


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Example integration: Athenz Istio Mixer adapter

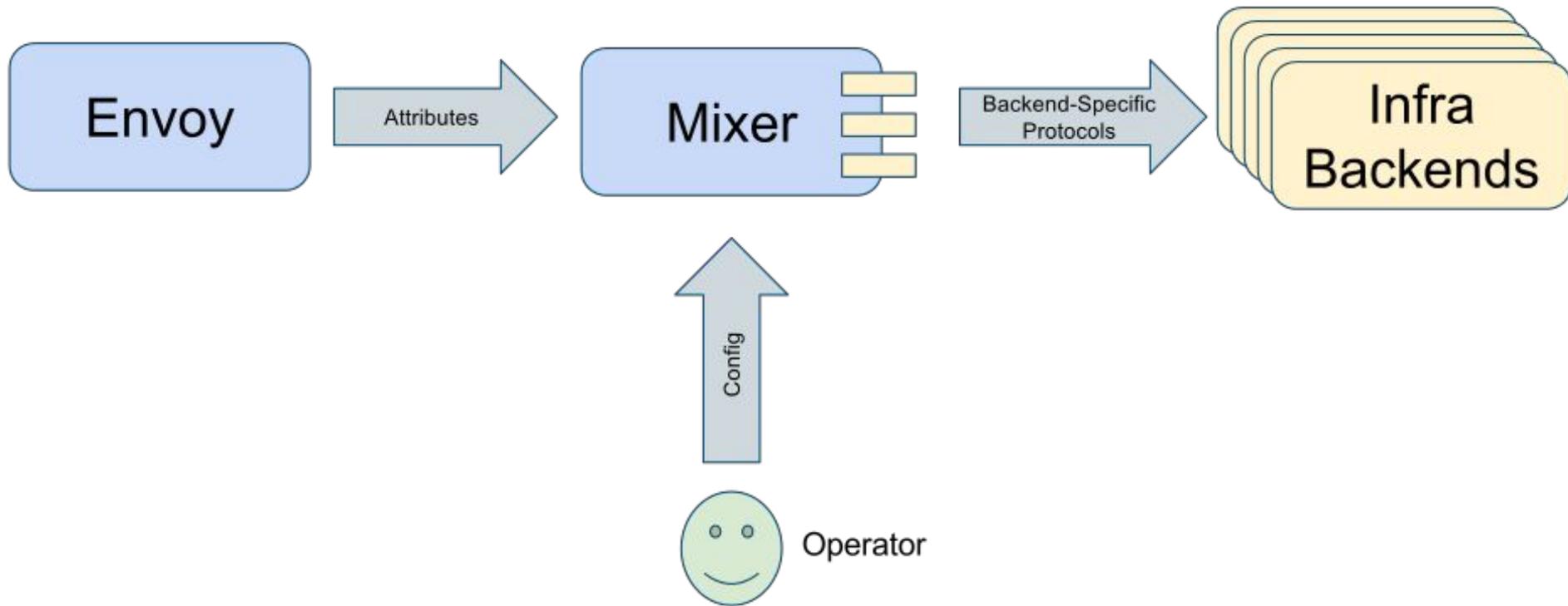


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Referred from: <https://istio.io/blog/2017/adapter-model/>

Example integration: Athenz Istio Mixer adapter

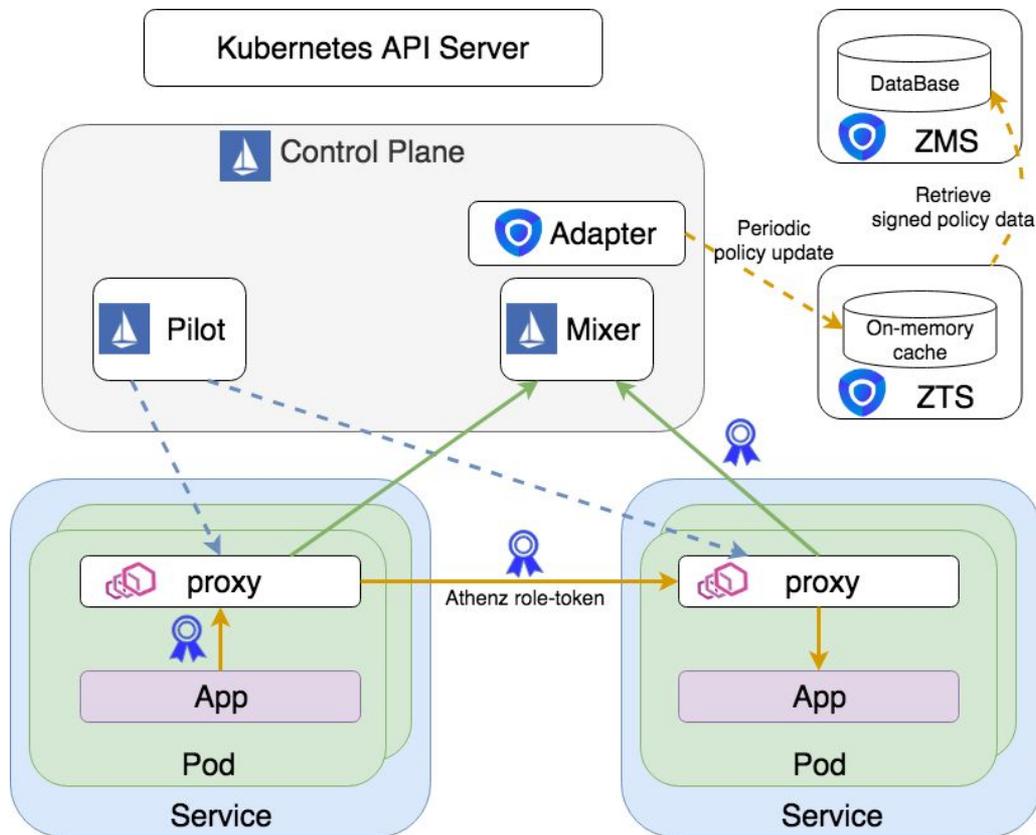


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Other use-case: Simplified mTLS authN/Z using Istio/Athenz

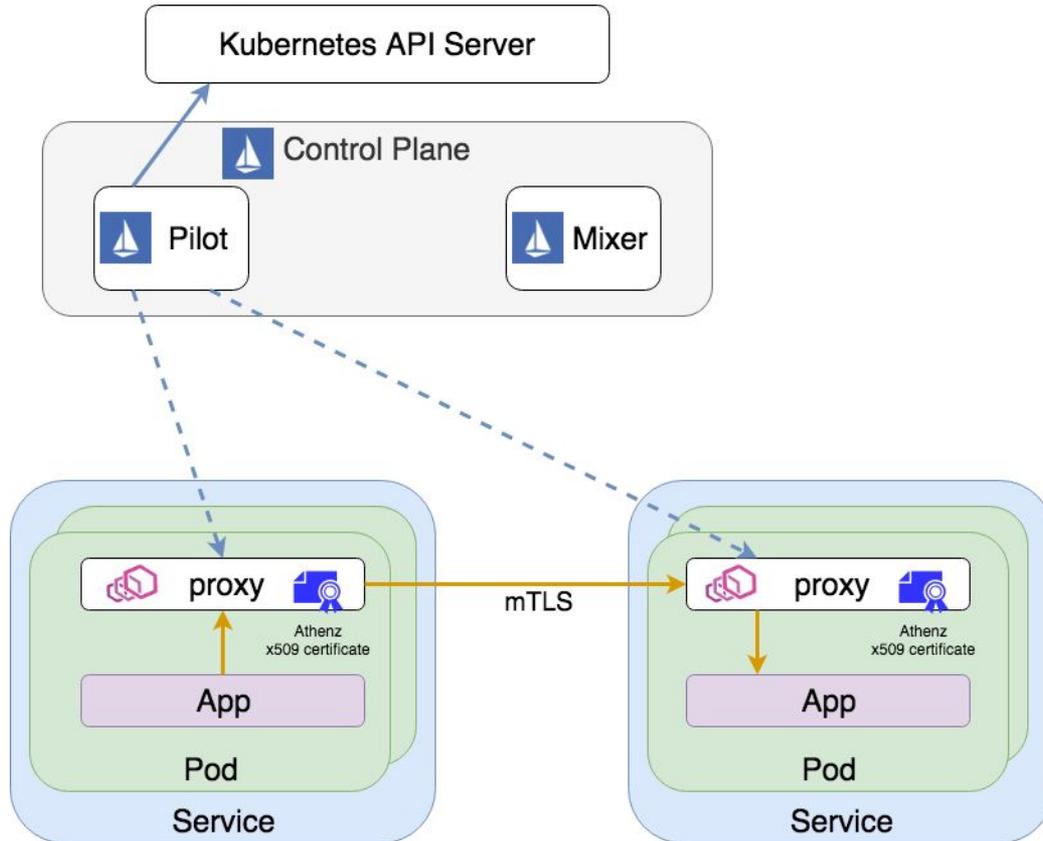


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Simplified mTLS authN/Z using Istio/Athenz



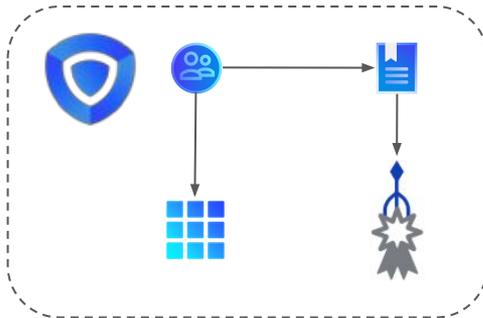
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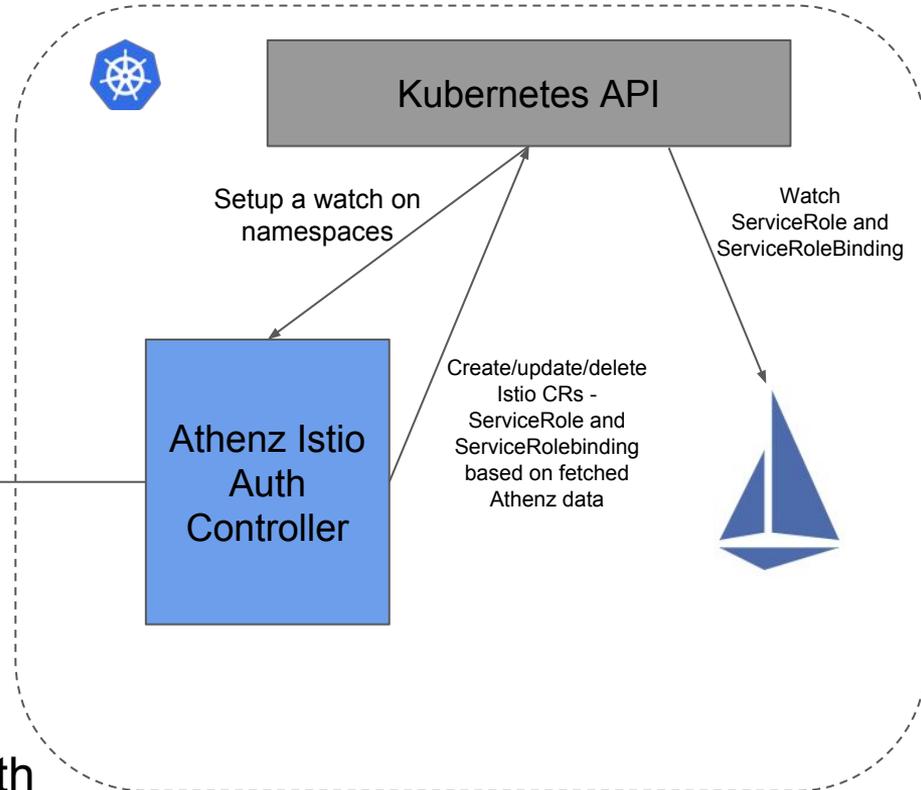
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Athenz Istio Auth Controller translates Athenz defined roles/policies into Istio CRs - ServiceRole and ServiceRolebinding



Fetch role/policy information from Athenz



<https://github.com/yahoo/k8s-athenz-istio-auth>



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Prototype Demo



Future plans



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- Currently
 - On Premises and AWS Provisioning
- Planned
 - Provide Athenz servers with Docker images
 - Helm charts
 - Productionize Athenz x509 certificate provisioning
 - Productionize the authorization flow using Istio Envoy

Resources



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- Website : <http://www.athenz.io>
- Github: <https://github.com/yahoo/athenz>
- Slack Channel: <https://athenz.slack.com/>
- Discussion Group:
 - Google Group: [Athenz-Users](#)
- Questions or Comments:
 - Tatsuya Yano: tatyano@yahoo-corp.jp



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Join Us

<http://www.athenz.io>



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Thank you





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Q & A





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