

The Evolution of the AppDirect Kubernetes Network Infrastructure



KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

North America 2018



About Us



Alexandre Gervais

Staff Software Engineer

AppDirector since 2015

github.com/alexgervais



Pierre Lacerte

Director Engineering

AppDirector since 2014

github.com/ephemeral

TOC

1. The Beginnings
2. LBs, Consul Template and HAProxy
3. Strangler Pattern
4. API Gateway and Ambassador
5. Observability
6. Lessons Learned (Failures)
7. What's Next?





Who?



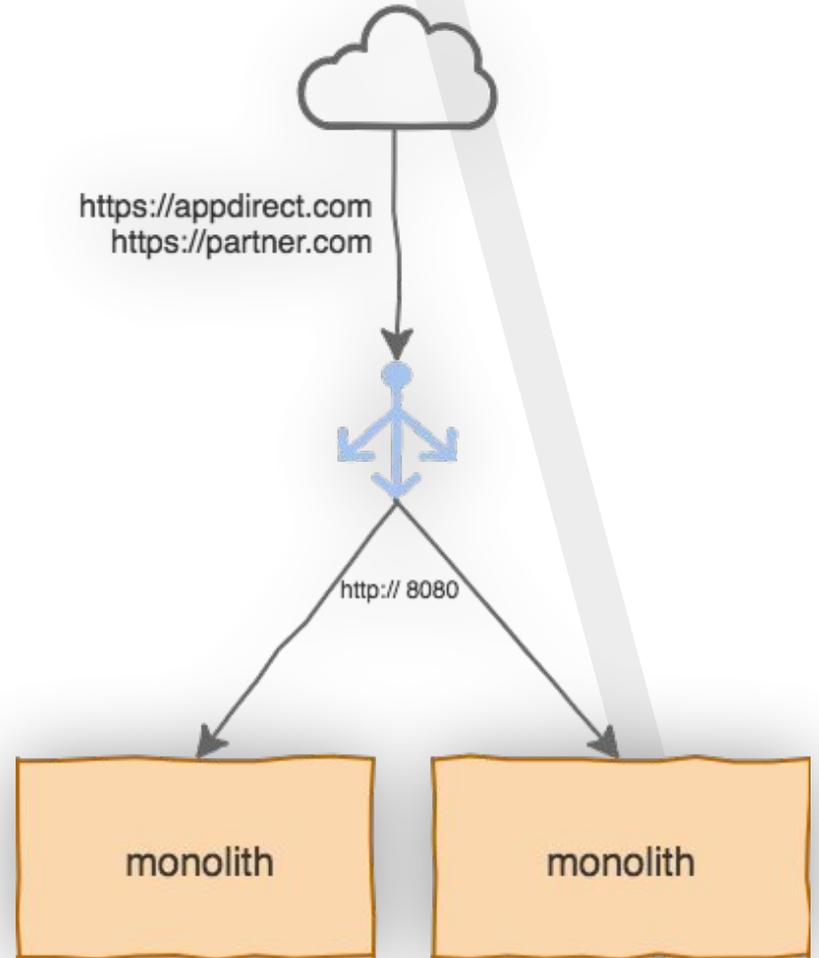
Load Balancer

Monolith

SNI

Cloud agnostic

Terraform automation



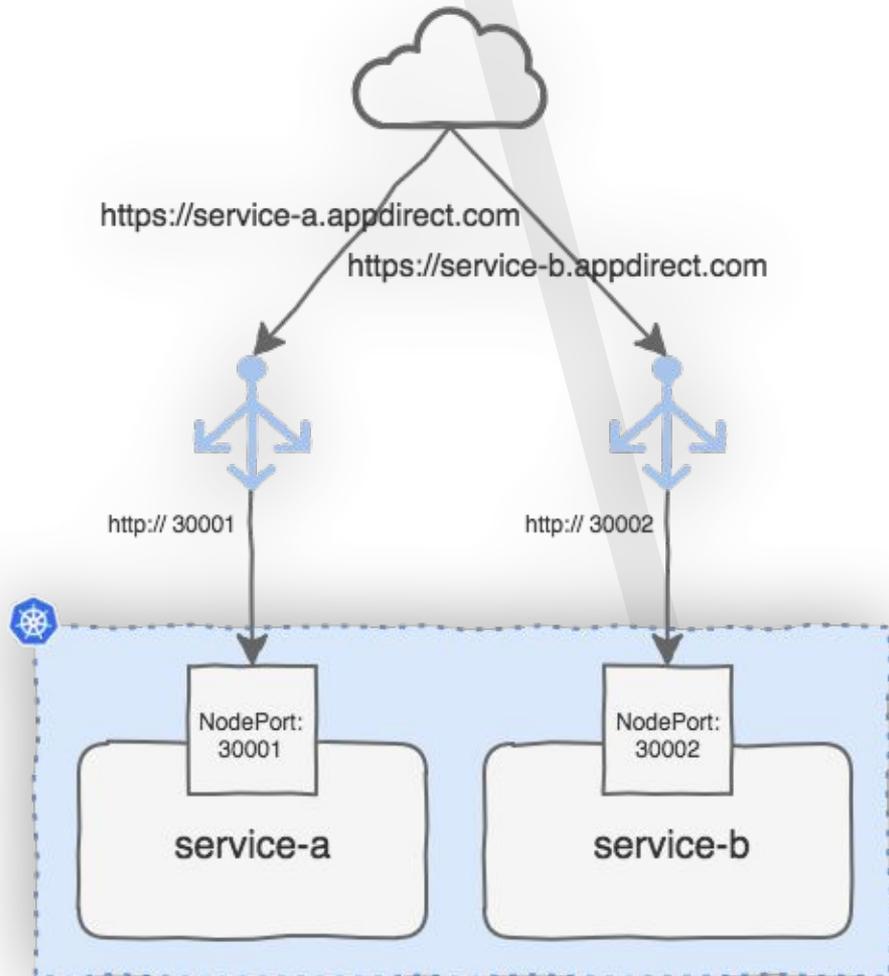
Load Balancers

Reserved ports

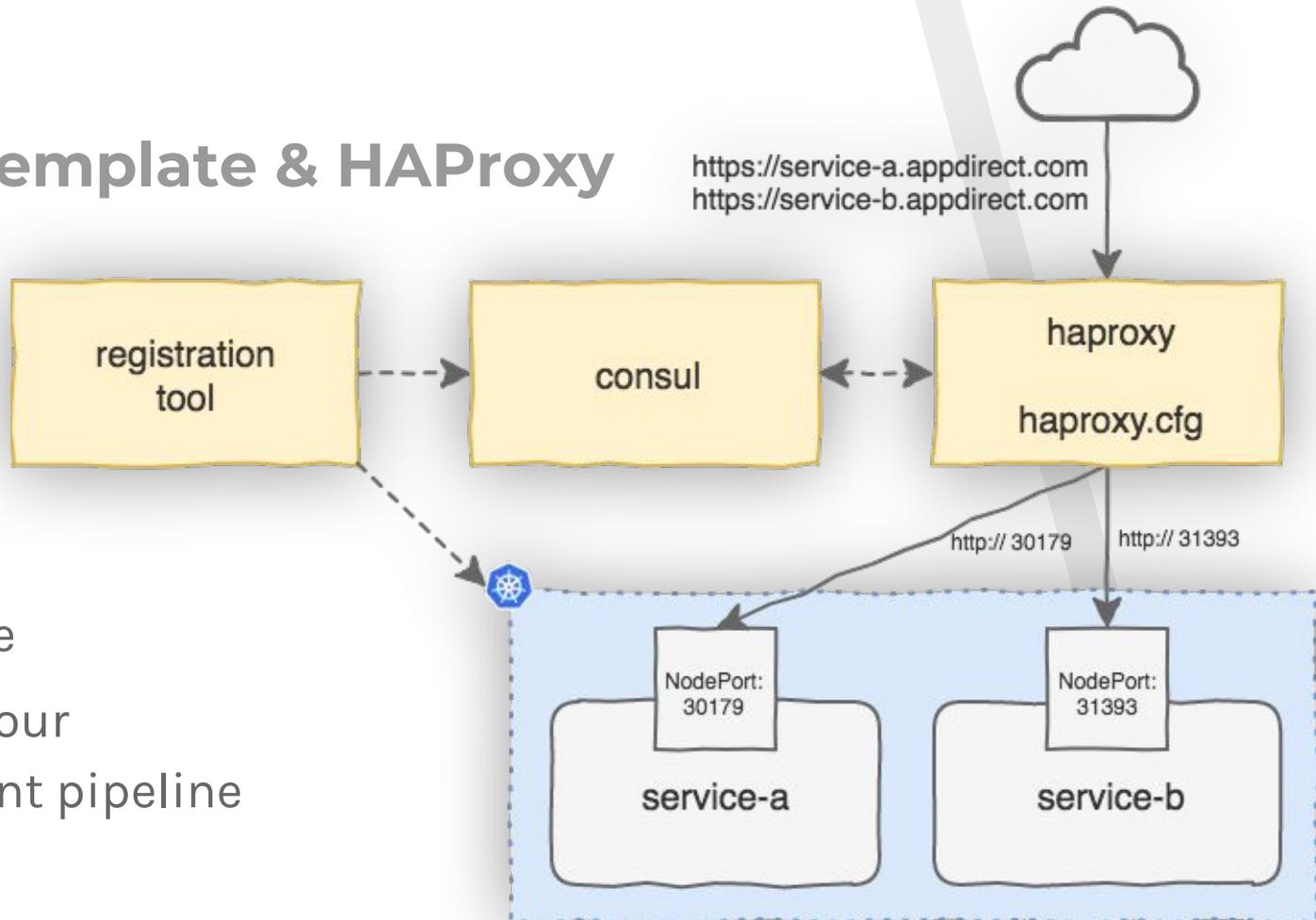
Duplications & Clutter

Development teams are
not autonomous

DNS



Consul Template & HAProxy



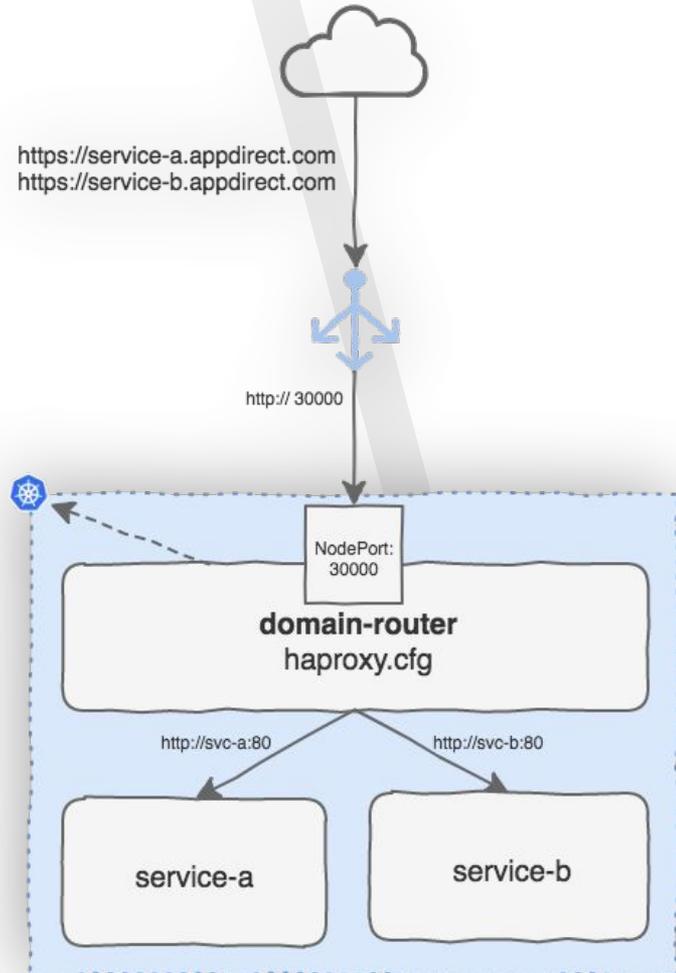
Complexity

Performance

Changes to our
deployment pipeline

Domain Router

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
  annotations:
    appdirect.com/ingress.name: service-a
  name: a-svc
spec:
  ports:
    - port: 80
```



A black and white photograph of Darth Vader from Star Wars, standing in a hallway and pointing his right hand towards the camera. The hallway has a perspective view with lights on the ceiling and panels on the walls. The text "Strangler Pattern" is overlaid in white on the lower half of the image.

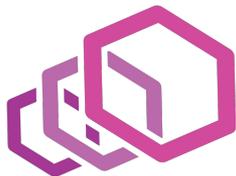
Strangler Pattern

Landscape

Build vs Buy

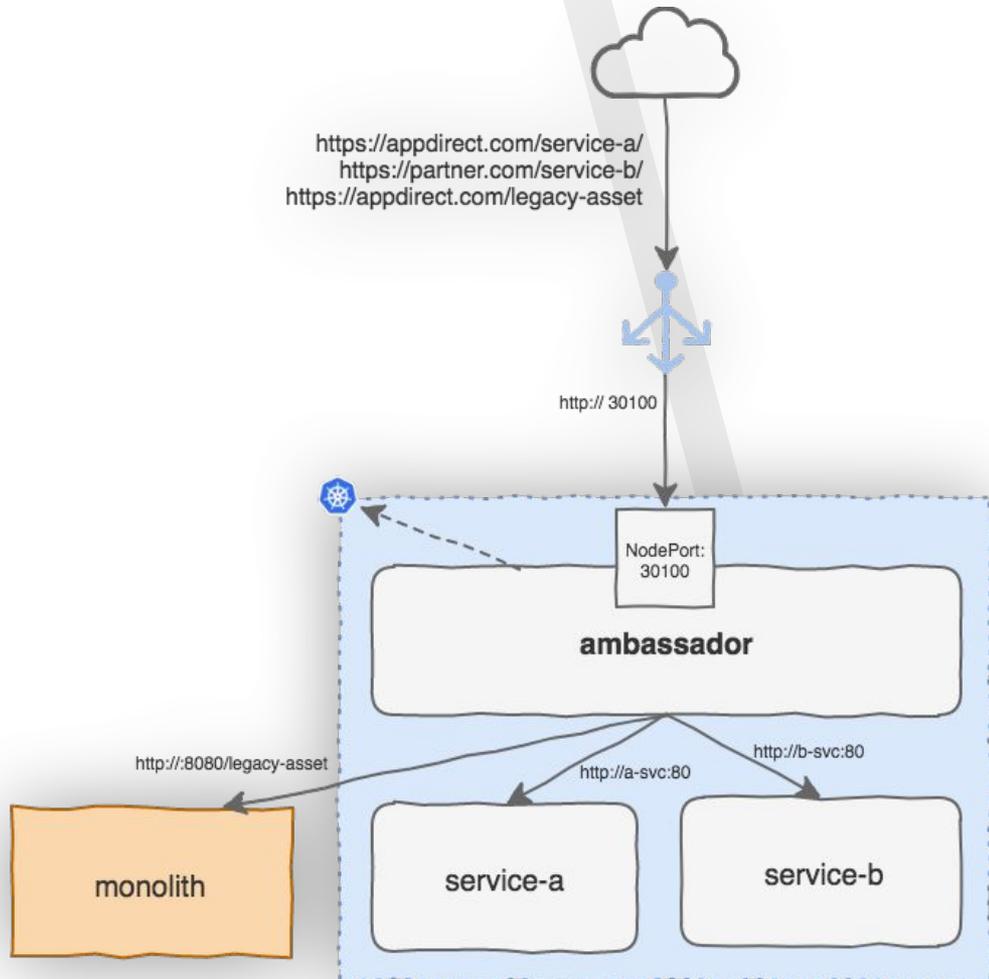
Cloud provider solutions

Open source solutions



API Gateway

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
  annotations:
    getambassador.io/config: |
      apiVersion: ambassador/v0
      kind: Mapping
      name: catch-service-a
      prefix: /service-a
      service: a-svc:80
      rate_limits:
        - descriptor: {}
      cors:
        origins: "*"
  name: a-svc
spec:
  ports:
    - port: 80
```



Ambassador Architecture

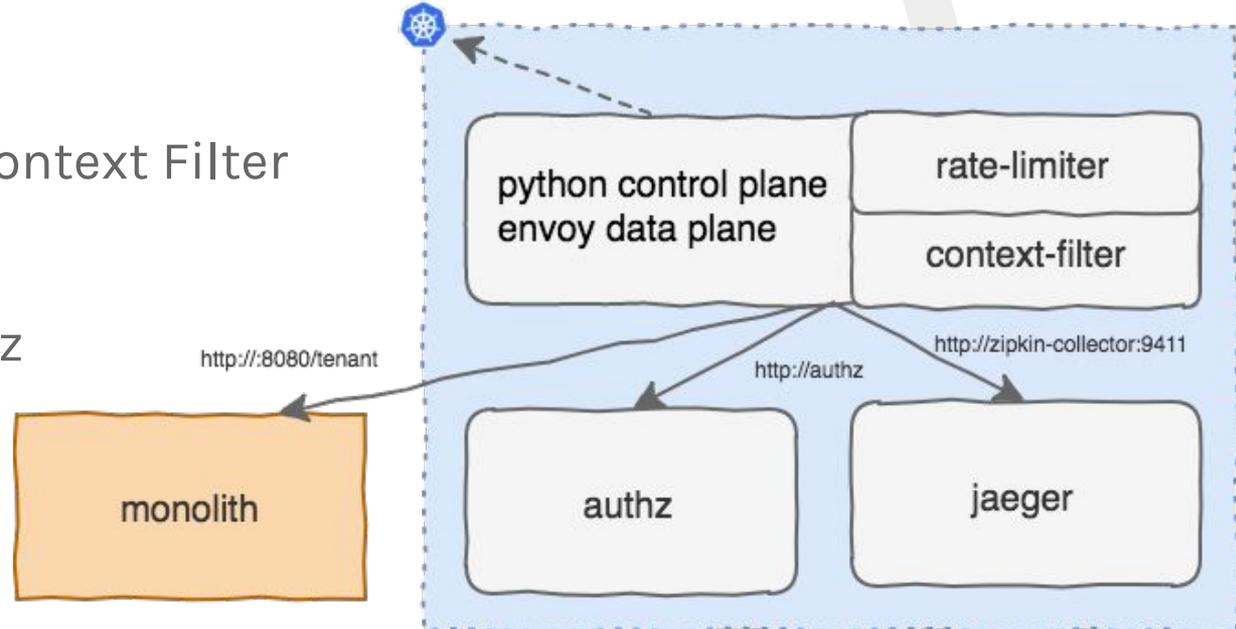
Ambassador

Rate Limiting

Authentication / Context Filter

Tracing

Monolith and Authz

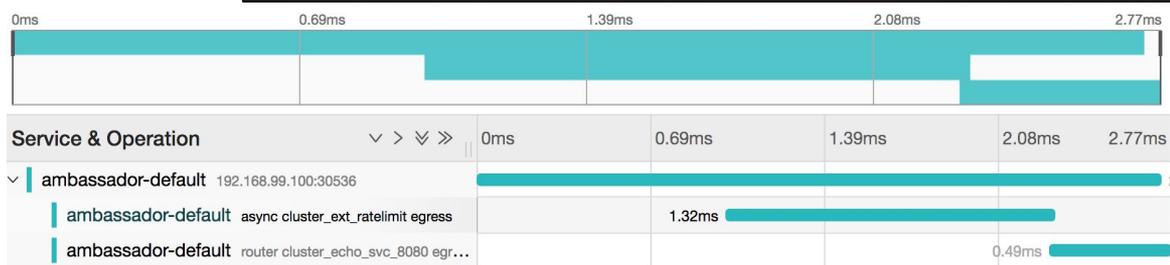
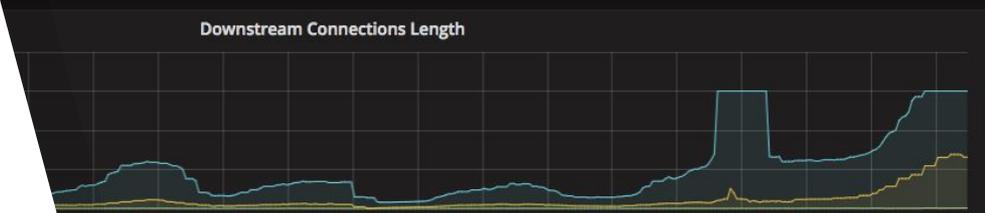
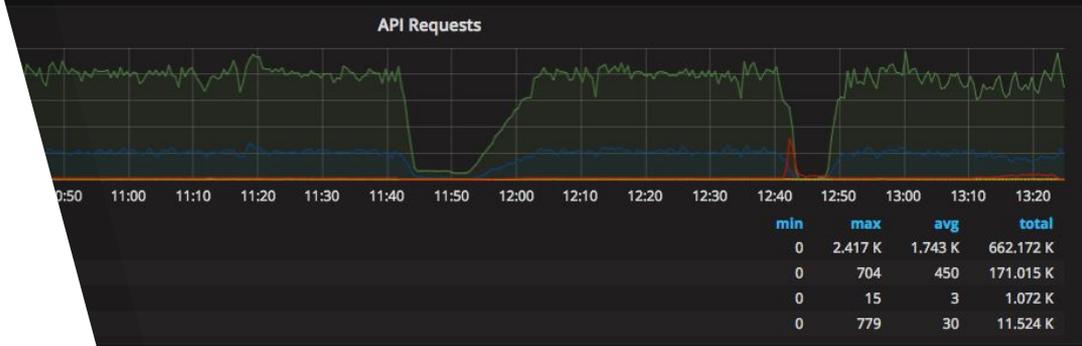


Observability

Logs

Traces

Metrics



3

<https://grafana.com/dashboards/4698>

Lessons Learned

(Where did we fail?)



Everything went well...
not!

Layers | Layers

- ▶ Org Structure
- ▶ Different technologies
- ▶ Alignment
- ▶ HTTP Proxies



Contributing to Open Source is hard

(but so rewarding!)

- ▶ First contact is key
- ▶ Aligned on the product vision
- ▶ Huge motivator



Watch out for Defensive Decisions

- ▶ Before Ambassador, we spent 6 months on another POC
- ▶ Should we start over?
- ▶ How will leadership see this?
- ▶ How will the team react to this?



API Gateway will not fix your Culture

- ▶ “If you build it, they will come”
- ▶ Our monolith is still around
- ▶ Code freeze is not an option for us



What's Next for AppDirect

Reducing the number of layers (HAProxy -> ELB -> HAProxy -> API Gateway) to improve debugging

More CRDs (RabbitMQ, Databases, Ambassador)

Service Mesh

Chaos Engineering

Continuous Deployment, Canaries

What's Next for Ambassador

Broader protocol support: gRPC-Web, GraphQL, TCP

More load balancing algorithms: sticky sessions, Maglev

Simplify contributor onboarding: CI/tests on PR, better developer guides

Total system integrity: Insure that one bad configuration is isolated and does not impact Ambassador



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Thank you!

