



# Open Policy Agent (OPA)

Introduction - KubeCon Shanghai 2019





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Co-creator of OPA



tsandall on OPA slack



sometorin

[openpolicyagent.org](https://openpolicyagent.org)



# OPA: Community

## Inception

Project started in 2016 at Styra.

## Goal

Unify policy enforcement across the stack.

## Users

Netflix  
Chef  
Medallia  
Cloudflare  
State Street  
Pinterest  
Intuit  
Capital One  
...and many more.

## Use Cases

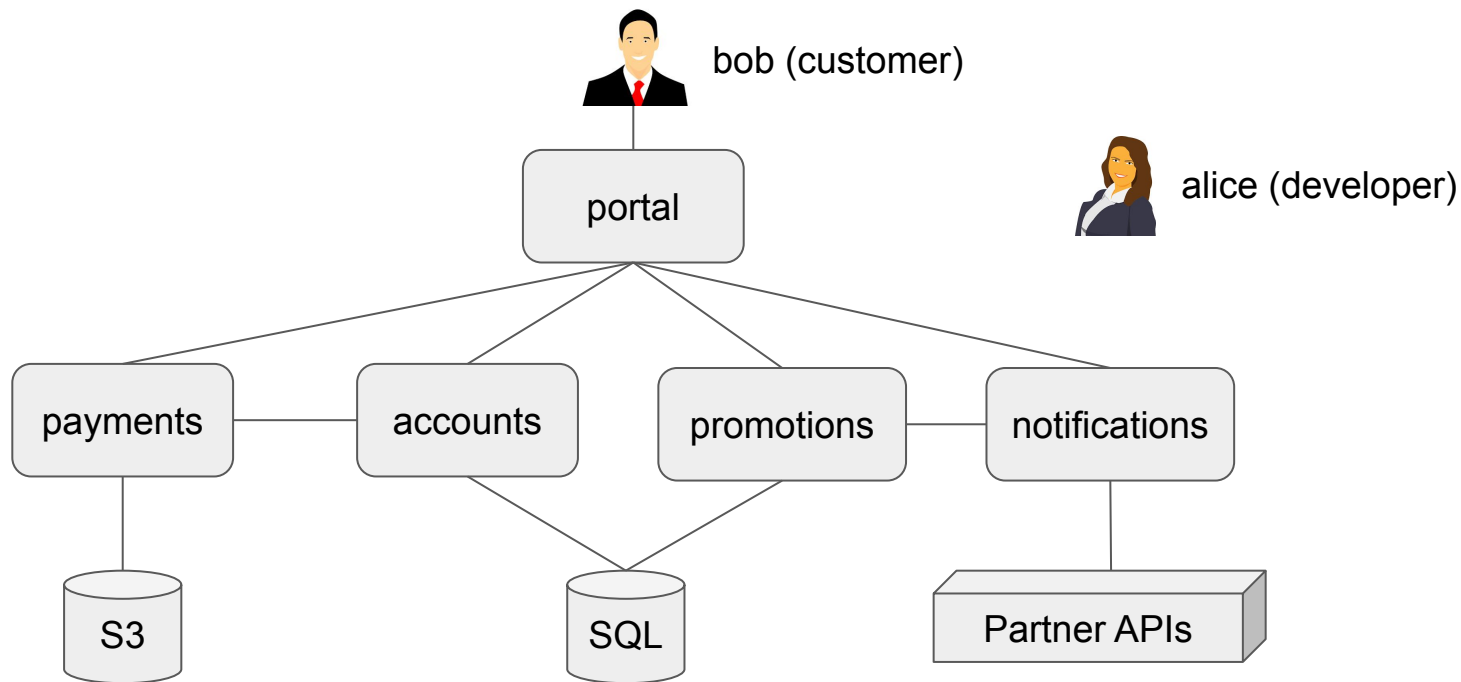
Admission control  
Authorization  
ACLs  
RBAC  
IAM  
ABAC  
Risk management  
Data Protection  
Data Filtering

## Today

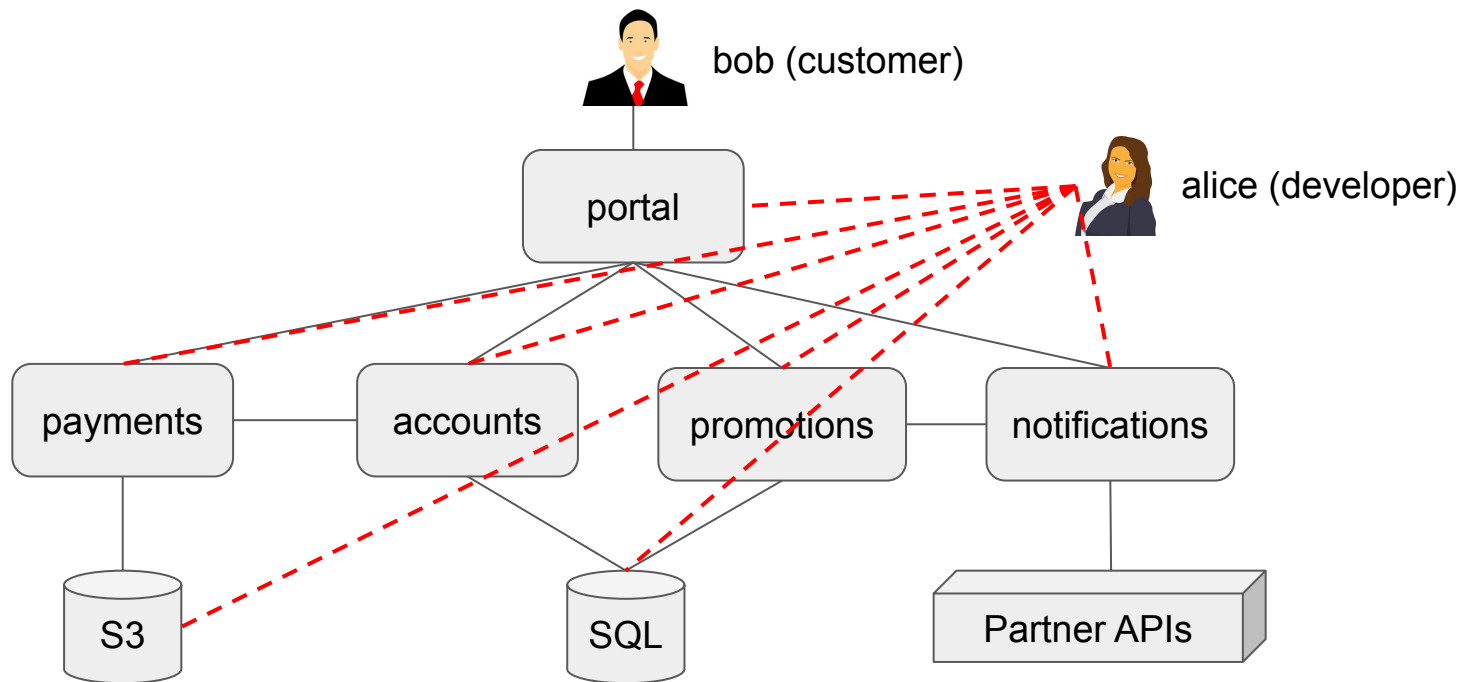
CNCF project  
(Incubating)  
  
60+ contributors  
900+ slack members  
2,000+ stars  
20+ integrations



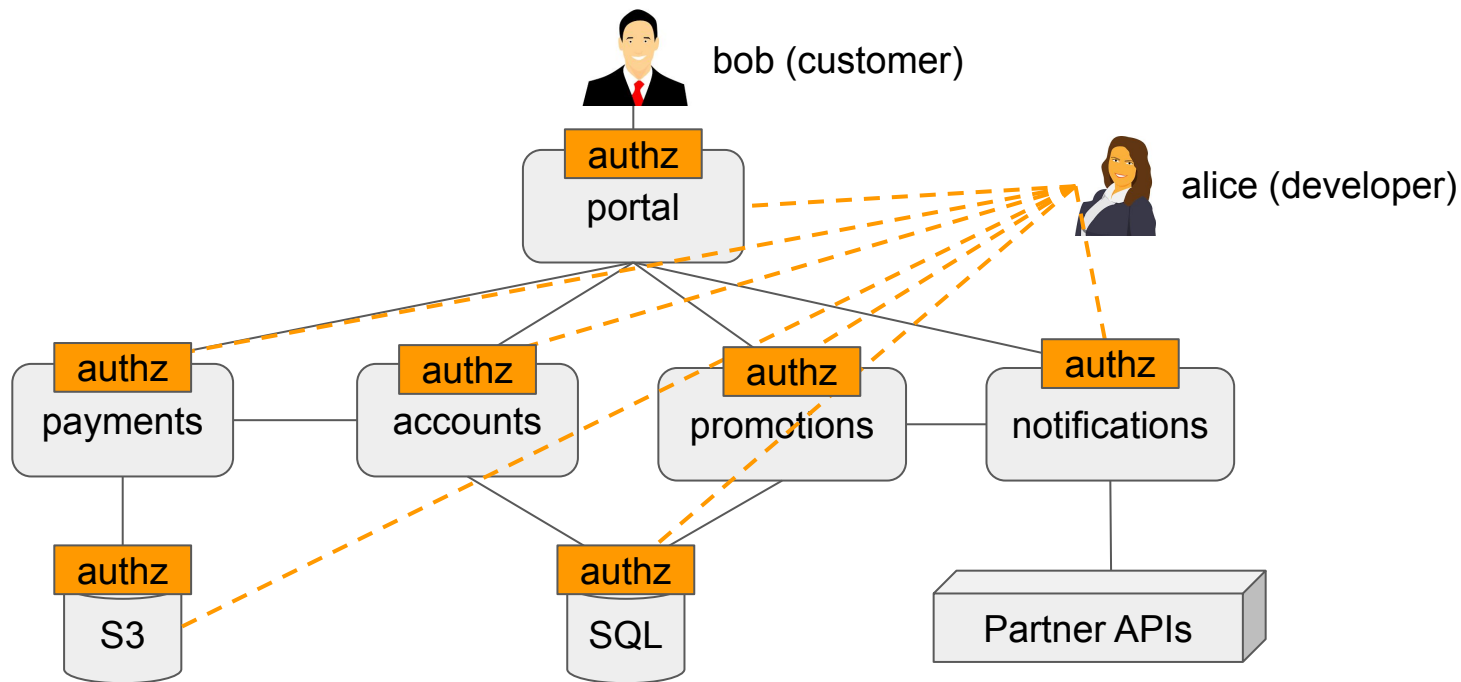
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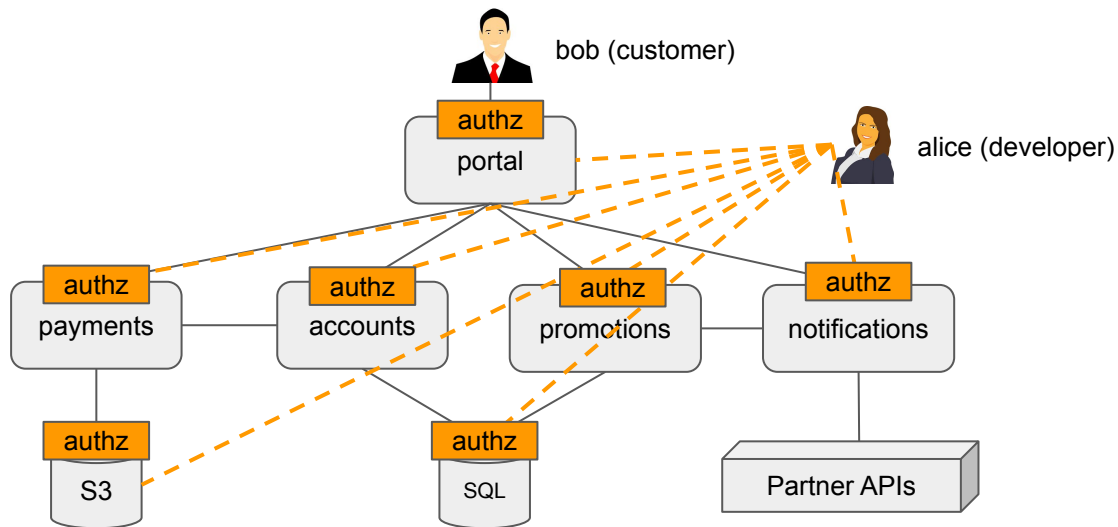
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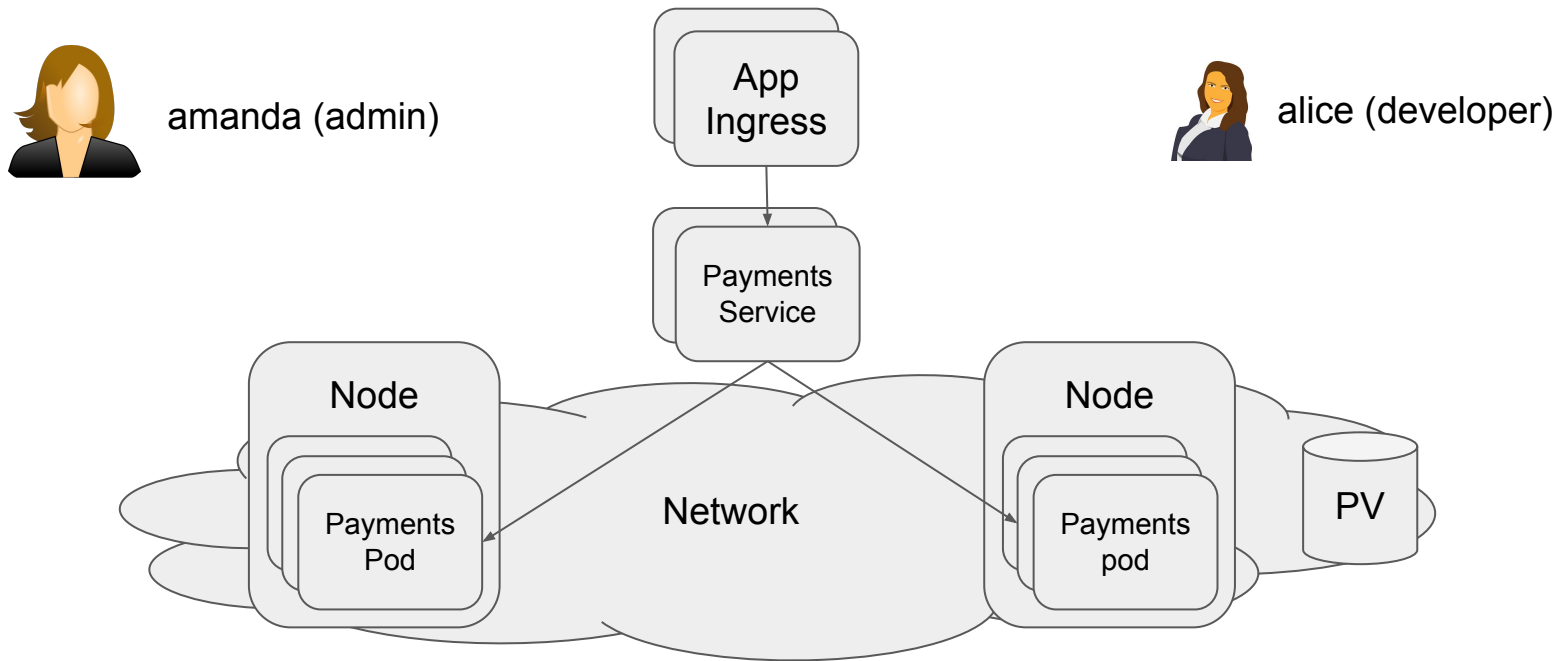
# Example: Application

## Obvious questions...

- How do you enforce new policies from infosec, compliance, or legal?
- How do you delegate control to your end-users?
- How do you roll-out policy changes?
- How do you leverage context, e.g., HR/User DB?
- How do you render UIs based on policy?
- How do you test your policies for correctness?
- What about 100+ services written in Java, Ruby, ...

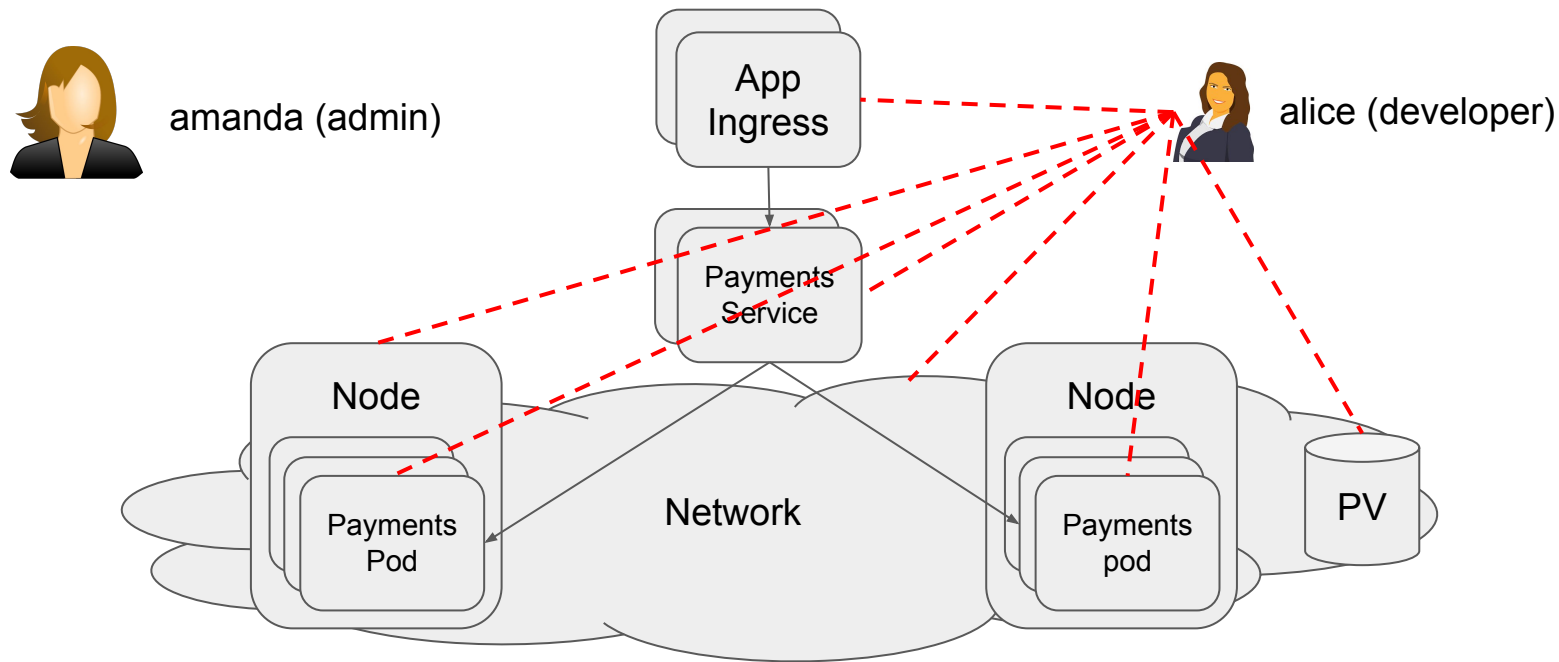


# Example: Kubernetes Platform

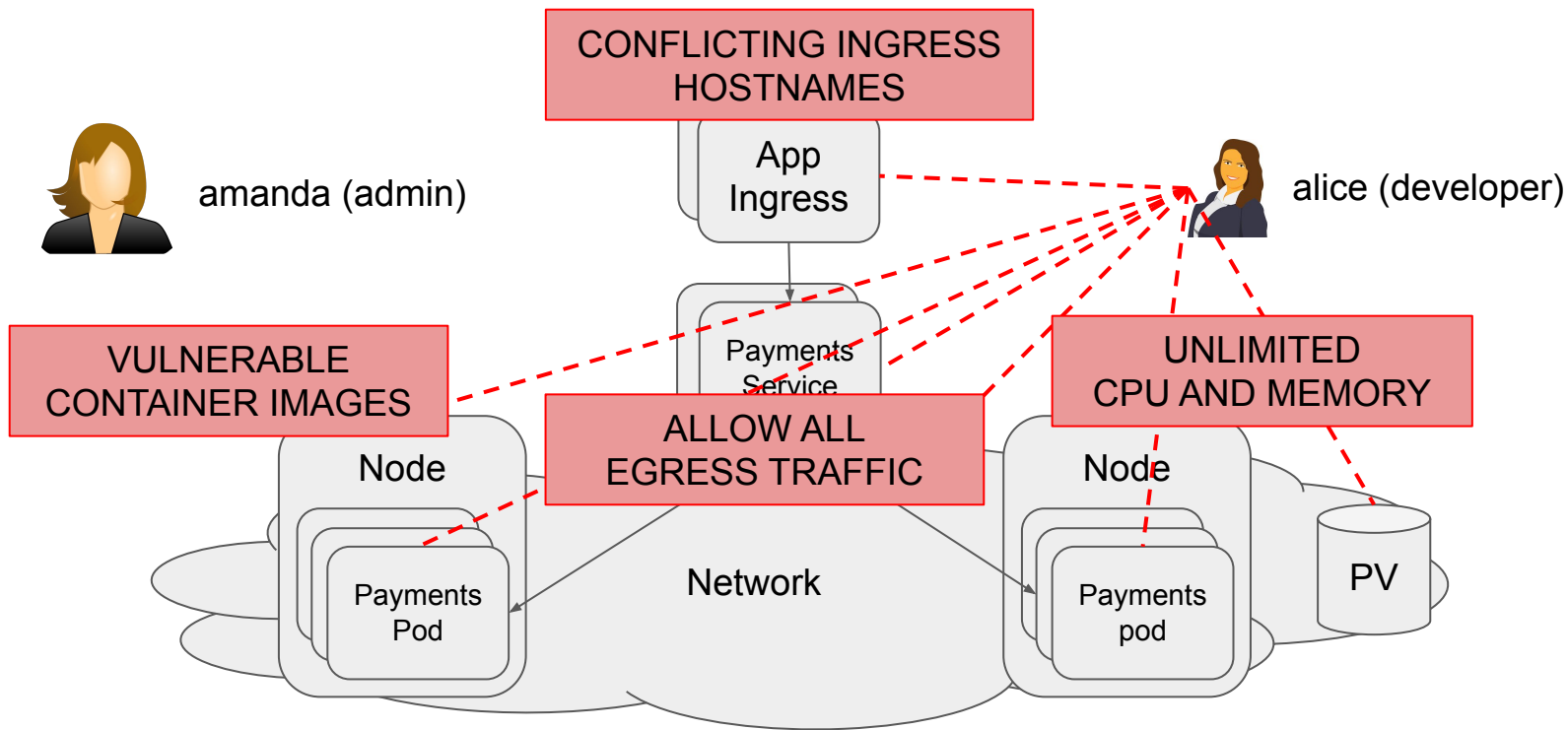




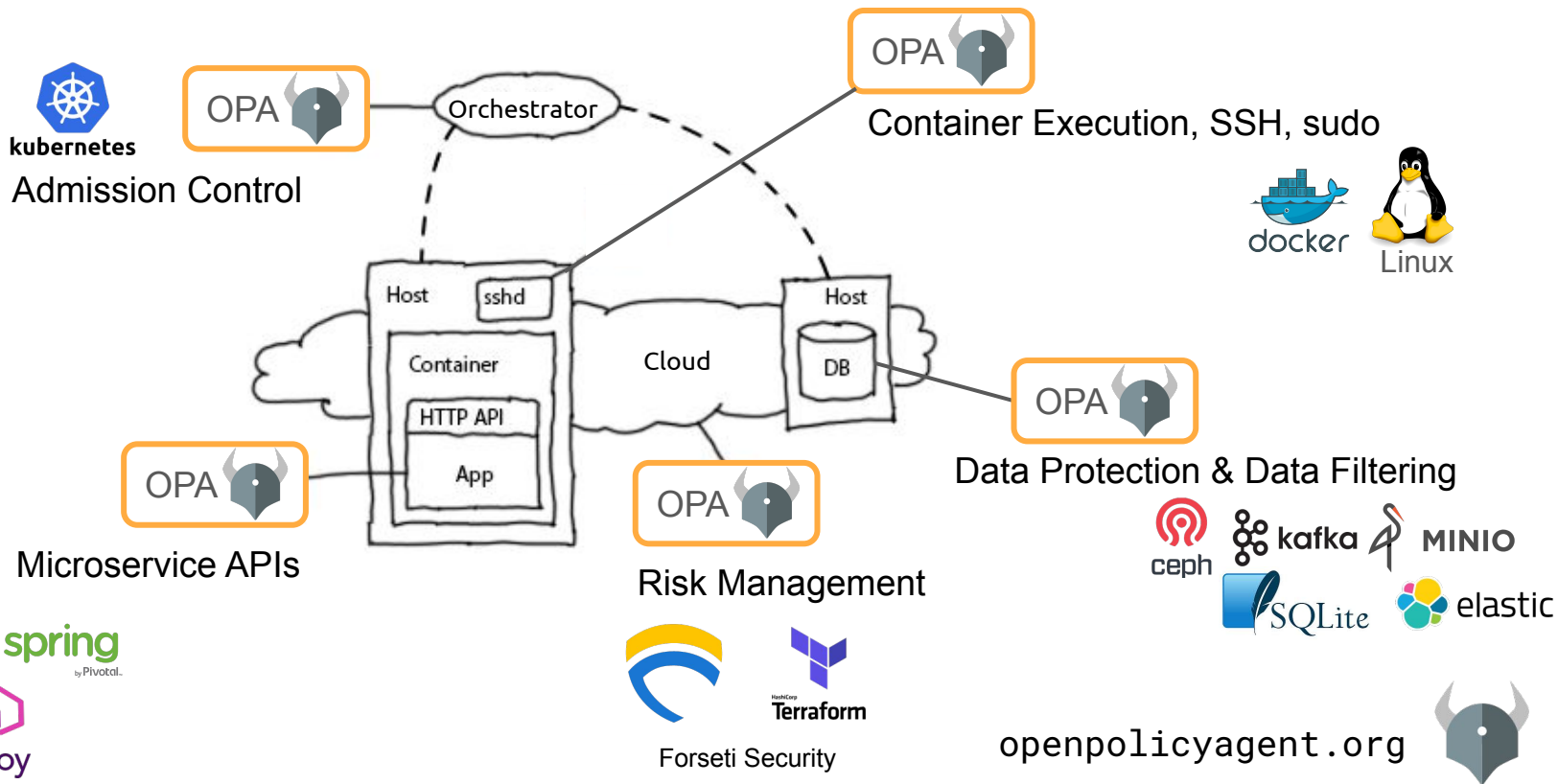
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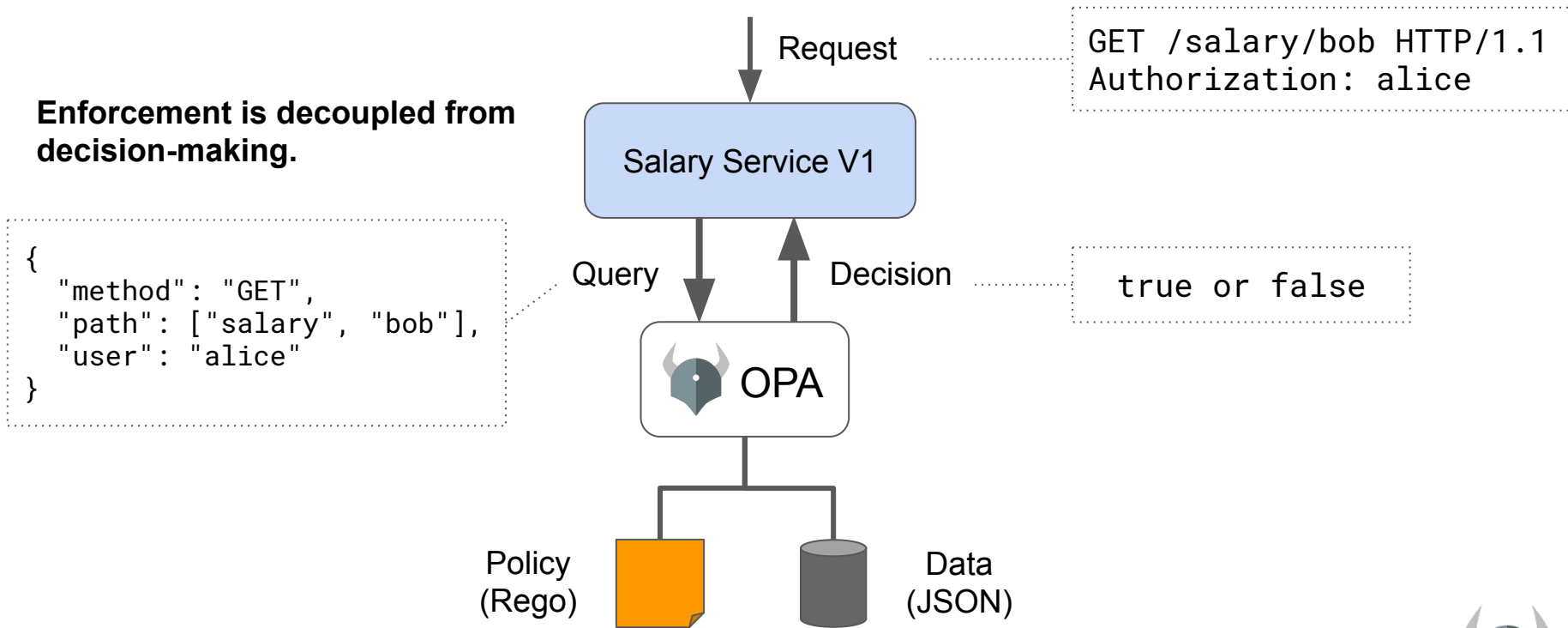


# OPA: Unified Policy Enforcement Across the Stack



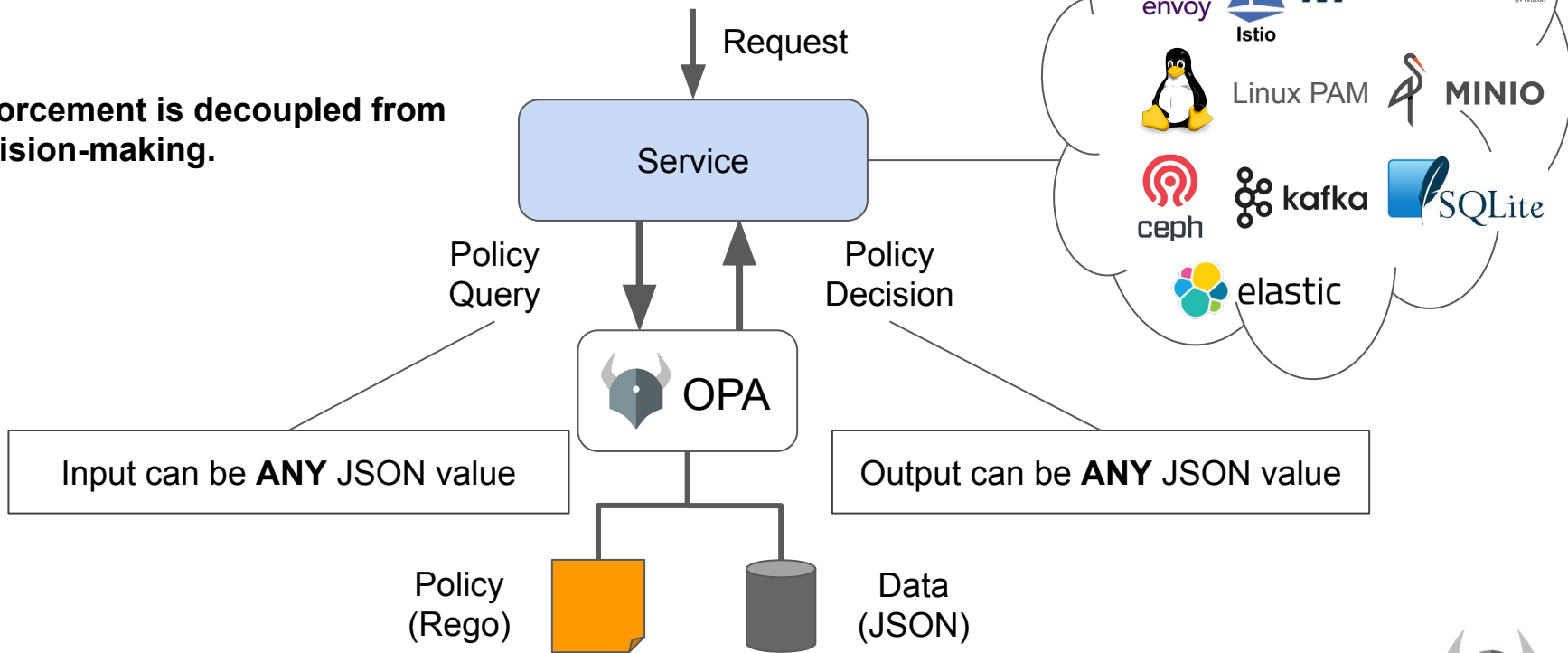
# OPA: General-purpose Policy Engine

**Enforcement is decoupled from decision-making.**



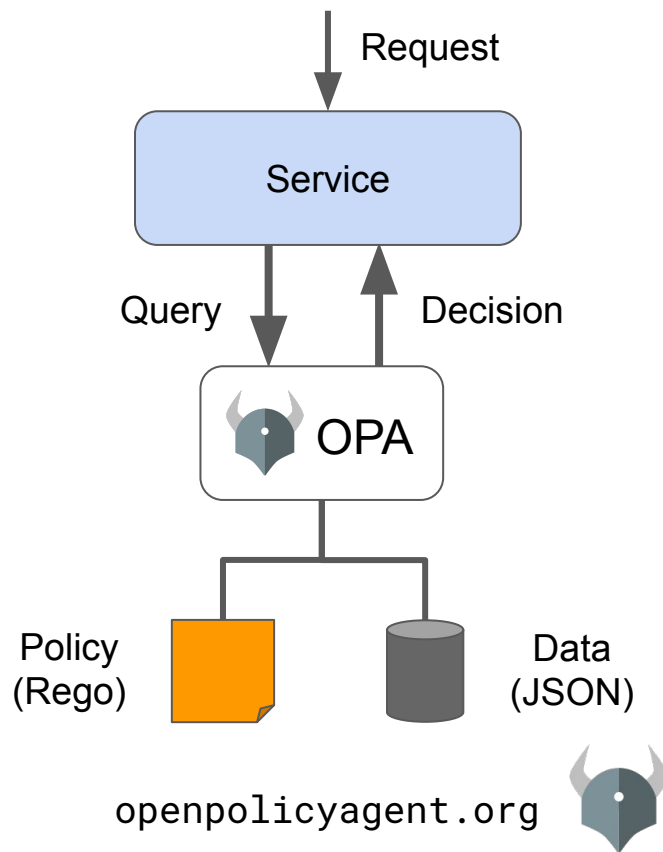
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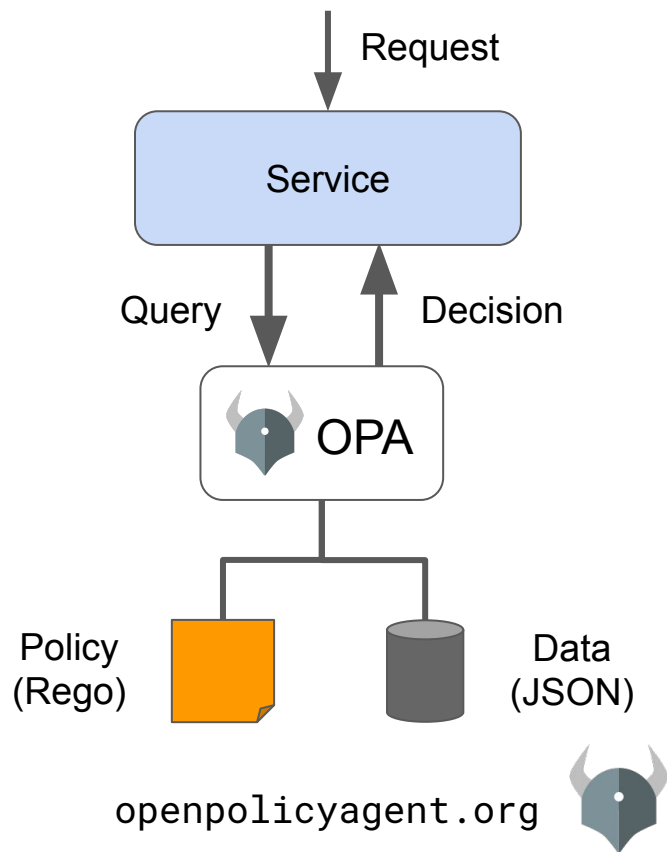
# OPA: Features

- **Declarative Policy Language (Rego)**
  - Can user X do operation Y on resource Z?
  - What invariants does workload W violate?
  - Which records should bob be allowed to see?



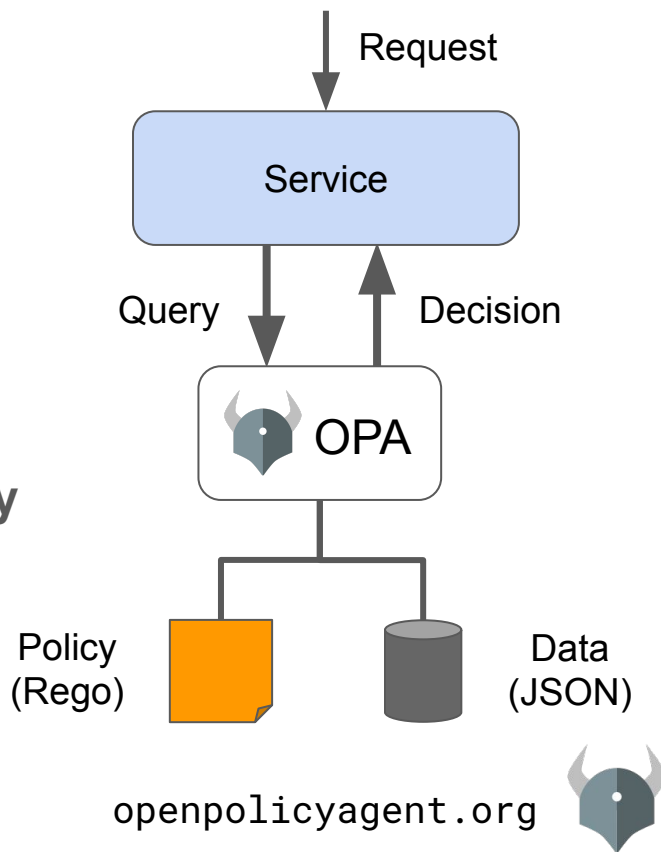
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  - Policy and data are kept in-memory
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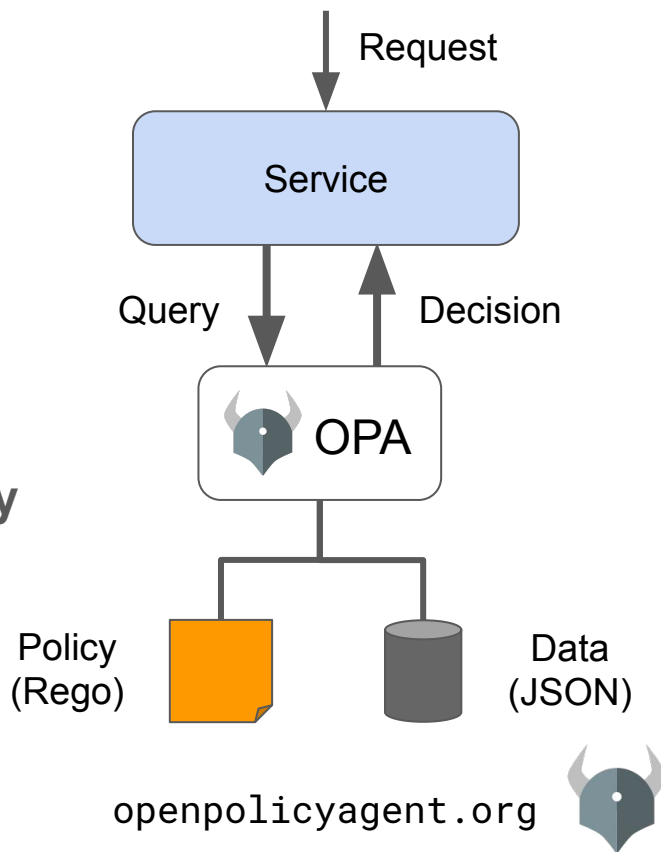
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  - Bundle service API for sending policy & data to OPA
  - Status service API for receiving status from OPA
  - Log service API for receiving audit log from OPA





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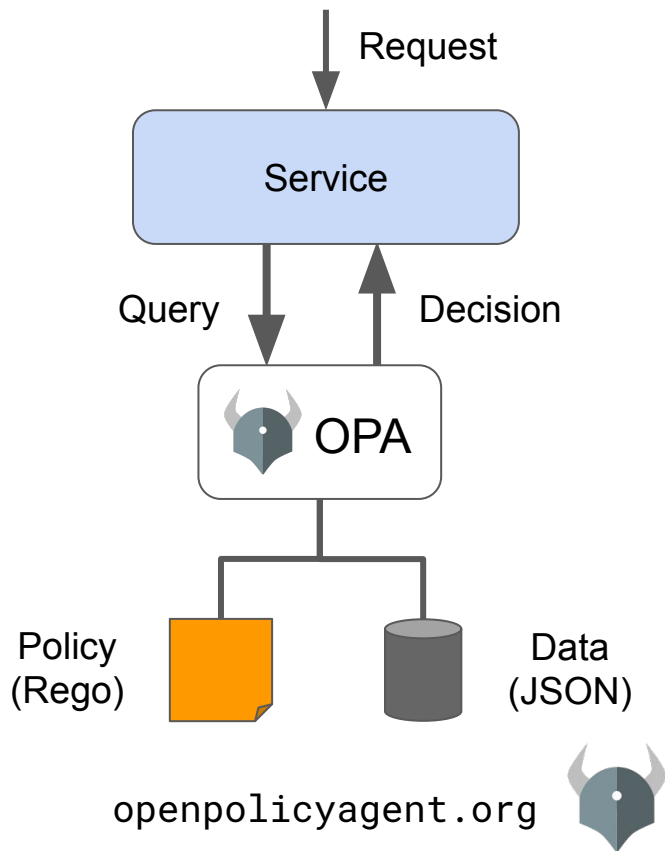
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- **Management APIs for control & observability**
  - Bundle service API for sending policy & data to OPA
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  - Log service API for receiving audit log from OPA
- **Tooling to build, test, and debug policy**
  - opa run, opa test, opa fmt, opa deps, opa check, etc.
  - VS Code plugin, Tracing, Profiling, etc.



# OPA: Example

## Example policy

*"Employees can read their own salary and the salary of anyone they manage."*



# OPA: Integrations



Admission Control

*"Restrict ingress hostnames for payments team."  
"Ensure container images come from corporate repo."*



API Authorization

*"Deny test scripts access to production services."  
"Allow analysts to access APIs serving anonymized data."*



Linux PAM

SSH & sudo

*"Only allow on-call engineers to SSH into production servers."*



Data Protection

*"Trades exceeding \$10M must be executed between 9AM and 5PM and require MFA."*



Data Filtering

*"Users can access files for past 6 months related to the region they licensed."*

[openpolicyagent.org](https://openpolicyagent.org)



# NETFLIX Use Case: Authorization

Uses OPA to enforce **access control** in microservices across a **variety of languages and frameworks** for **thousands of instances** in their cloud infrastructure. Netflix takes advantage of OPA's ability to bring in **contextual information** and data from remote resources in order to evaluate policies in a **flexible and consistent manner**. For a description of how Netflix has architected access control with OPA check out [this talk from KubeCon Austin 2017](#).





## Use Case: API Authorization

Integrates OPA to implement **IAM-style access control** and **enumerate user->resource permissions** in Chef Automate V2. The integration utilizes OPA's Partial Evaluation feature to reduce evaluation time (in exchange for higher update latency.)



# intuit. Use Case: k8s Admission Control

Uses OPA as a **validating and mutating admission controller** to implement various security, multi-tenancy, and risk management policies across approximately **50 clusters and 1,000 namespaces**. For more information on how Intuit uses OPA see [this talk from KubeCon Seattle 2018](#).



# Thank You! Questions?

Tuesday, June 25 • 18:15 - 18:50



Gatekeeper: Flexible, Shareable Policy for Kubernetes - Craig Peters, Microsoft



Deep Dive: Kubernetes Policy WG - Zhipeng Huang, Huawei



[open-policy-agent/opa](https://github.com/open-policy-agent/opa)



[slack.openpolicyagent.org](https://slack.openpolicyagent.org)

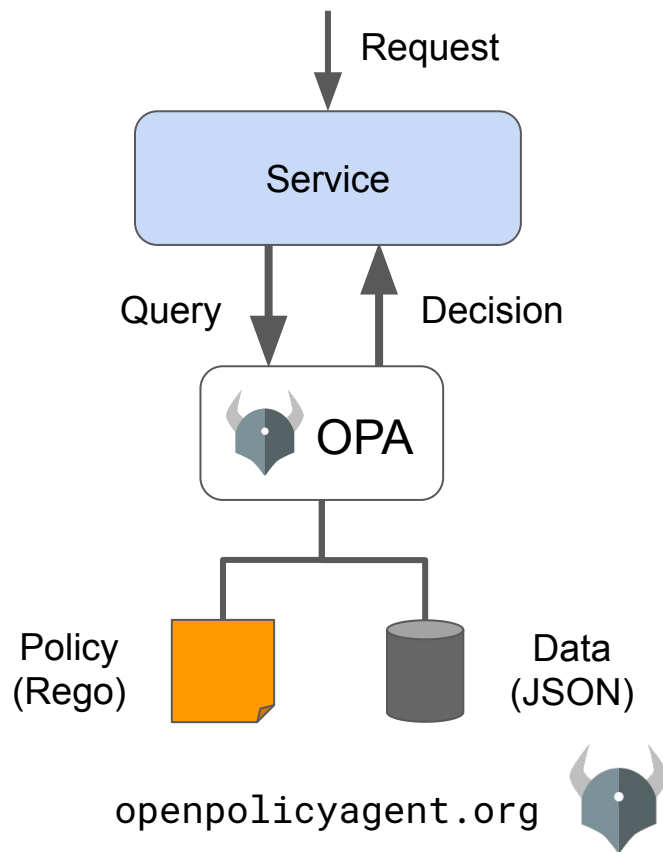
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# How Does OPA Work?

## Example policy

*"Employees can read their own salary and the salary of anyone they manage."*





# OPA: Declarative Language (Rego)

## Example policy

Employees can read their own salary and the salary of anyone they manage.



# OPA: Declarative Language (Rego)

## Example policy

Employees can read their own salary and the salary of anyone they manage.

## Input Data

```
method: "GET"  
path: ["salary", "bob"]  
user: "bob"
```



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Employees can read their own salary and the salary of anyone they manage.

## Input Data

```
method: "GET"  
path: ["salary", "bob"]  
user: "alice"
```

Different user now!

```
allow = true {  
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This statement will "FAIL"



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## Context Data

```
{  
  "managers": {  
    "bob": ["alice", "fred"]  
    "alice": ["fred"]  
  }  
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# OPA: Declarative Language (Rego)

More information at [openpolicyagent.org](https://openpolicyagent.org)

See **How Do I Write Policies?**

- Explains language constructs

See **Language Reference**

- Documents built-in functions: glob, regex, JWTs, x509, etc.

See **Tutorials** section

- HTTP APIs, Kubernetes, Docker, Terraform, Kafka, SSH, etc.

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