



Kubernetes Failure Stories

HENNING JACOBS

@try_except_



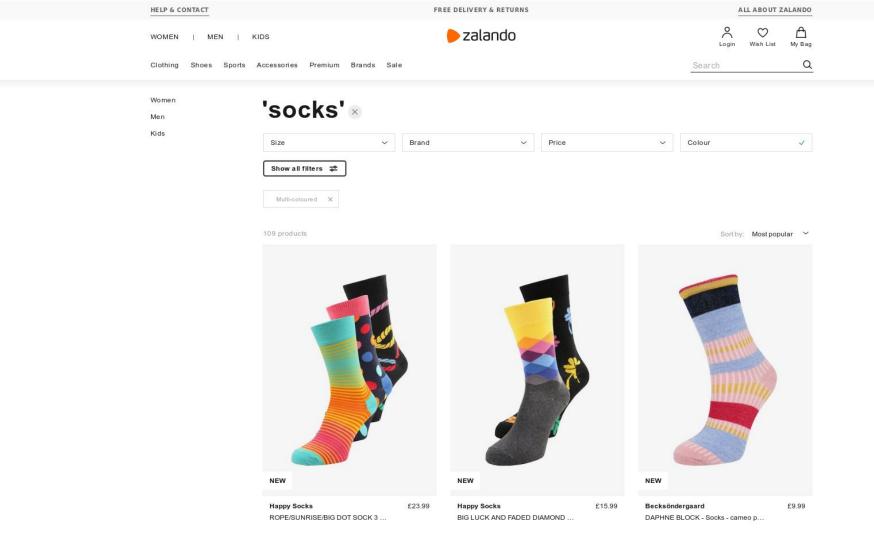




Europe 2019







ZALANDO AT A GLANCE

~ 5.4 billion EUR

revenue 2018

> 15.000 employees in

> 79%
of visits via
mobile devices

> 250 million

visits per month

> 26
million
active customers

> 300.000 product choices

~ 2.000 brands

17 countries



Europe

SCALE

 380_{Accounts}

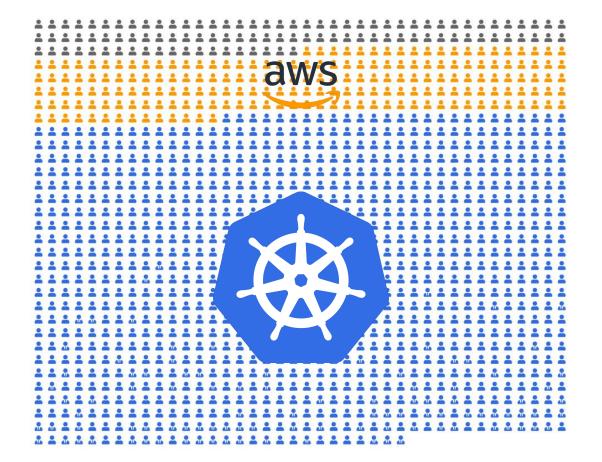




118_{Clusters}

zalando

DEVELOPERS USING KUBERNETES





47+ cluster components





INCIDENT

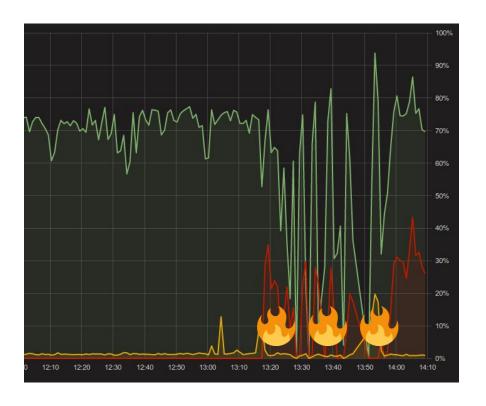
INCIDENT #1: CUSTOMER IMPACT



INCIDENT #1: CUSTOMER IMPACT



INCIDENT #1: INGRESS ERRORS



INCIDENT #1: AWS ALB 502

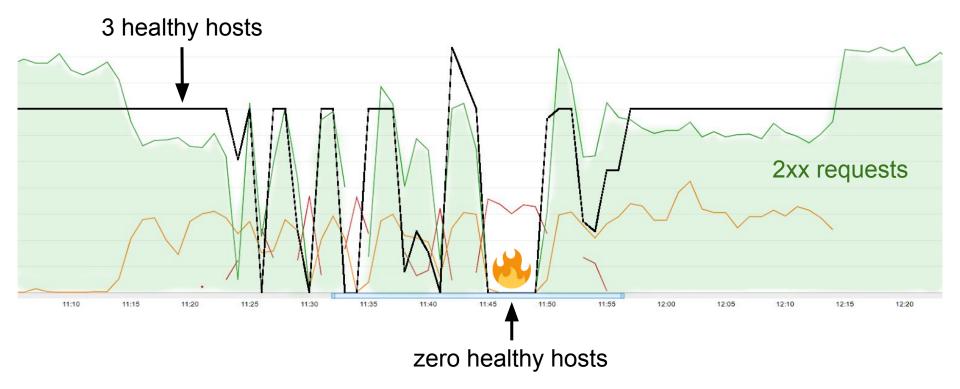
Technical problem occurred: [org.zalando.riptide.NoRouteException: Unable to dispatch response: 502 - Bad Gateway {Server=[awselb/2.0], Date=Tue, 09 Apr 2019 11:35:29 GMT],

```
de.zalando.order.domain.logic.CatchAllLogger.log (line 24) ∧
org.zalando.riptide.NoRouteException: Unable to dispatch response: 502 - Bad Gateway
{Server=[awselb/2.0], Date=[Tue, 09 Apr 2019 11:35:29 GMT], Content-Type=[text/html], Content-Length=[138], Connection=[keep-alive]}
<html>
<head><title>502 Bad Gateway</title></head>
<body bgcolor="white">
<center><h1>502 Bad Gateway</h1></center>
</body>
</html>
        at org.zalando.riptide.Requester$ResponseDispatcher.lambda$dispatch$2(Requester.java:129)
        at org.zalando.fauxpas.ThrowingFunction.apply(ThrowingFunction.java:15)
        at java.util.concurrent.CompletableFuture.uniApply(CompletableFuture.java:602)
        at java.util.concurrent.CompletableFuture.uniApplyStage(CompletableFuture.java:614)
        at java.util.concurrent.CompletableFuture.thenApply(CompletableFuture.java:1983)
        at org.zalando.riptide.Requester$ResponseDispatcher.lambda$call$0(Requester.java:105)
        at org.zalando.riptide.OriginalStackTracePlugin.lambda$prepare$1(OriginalStackTracePlugin.java:16)
        at org.zalando.riptide.Requester$ResponseDispatcher.call(Requester.java:107)
        at org.zalando.riptide.Dispatcher.dispatch(Dispatcher.java:20)
        at org.zalando.riptide.Dispatcher.dispatch(Dispatcher.java:16)
        at org.zalando.riptide.Dispatcher.dispatch(Dispatcher.java:12)
```

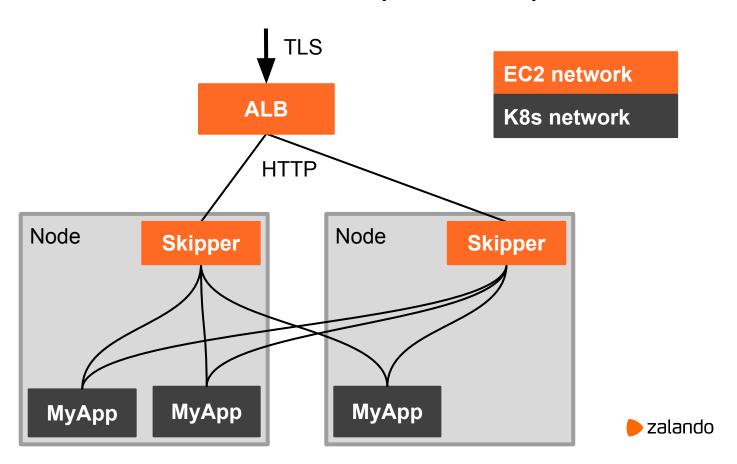
INCIDENT #1: AWS ALB 502

Technical problem occurred: [org.zalando.riptide.NoRouteException: Unable to dispatch response: 502 - Bad Gateway (Server=[awselb/2.0], Date=|Tue, 09 Apr 2019 11:35:29 GMT|, de.zalando.order.domain.logic.CatchAllLogger.log (line 24) ∧ org.zalando.riptide.NoRouteException: Unable to dispato {Server=[awselb/2.0], Date=[Tue, 09 Apr 2019 11:35:29 G eep-alive]} **502 Bad Gateway** <html> <head><title>502 Bad Gateway</title></head> <body bgcolor="white"> <center><h1>502 Bad Gateway</h1></center> </body> Server: awselb/2.0 </html> at org.zalando.riptide.Requester\$ResponseDispat at org.zalando.fauxpas.ThrowingFunction.apply(T at java.util.concurrent.CompletableFuture.uniAp at java.util.concurrent.CompletableFuture.uniAp at java.util.concurrent.CompletableFuture.thenA at org.zalando.riptide.Requester\$ResponseDispat at org.zalando.riptide.OriginalStackTracePlugin.lambda\$prepare\$1(OriginalStackTracePlugin.java:16) at org.zalando.riptide.Requester\$ResponseDispatcher.call(Requester.java:107) at org.zalando.riptide.Dispatcher.dispatch(Dispatcher.java:20) at org.zalando.riptide.Dispatcher.dispatch(Dispatcher.java:16) at org.zalando.riptide.Dispatcher.dispatch(Dispatcher.java:12)

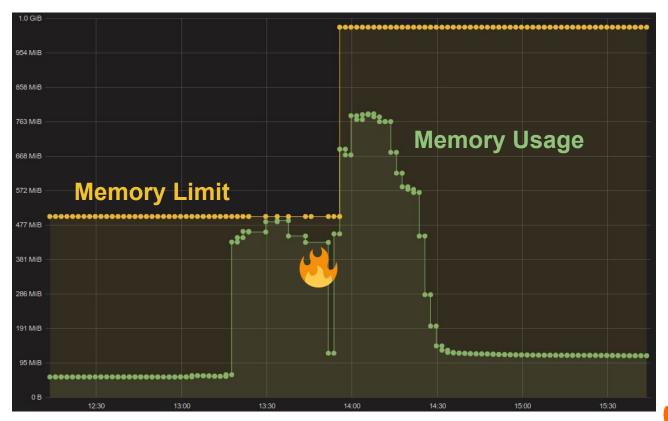
INCIDENT #1: ALB HEALTHY HOST COUNT



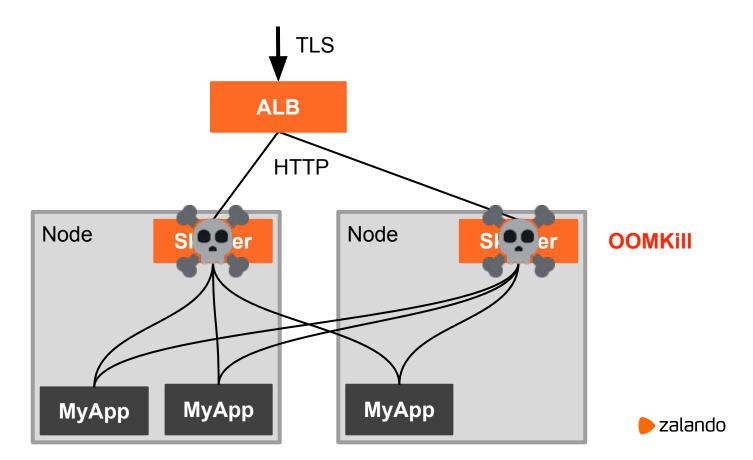
LIFE OF A REQUEST (INGRESS)



INCIDENT #1: SKIPPER MEMORY USAGE



INCIDENT #1: SKIPPER OOM



INCIDENT #1: CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Shared Ingress (per cluster)
- High latency of unrelated app (Solr) caused high number of in-flight requests



- Skipper creates goroutine per HTTP request.
 Goroutine costs 2kB memory + http.Request
- Memory limit was fixed at 500Mi (4x regular usage)

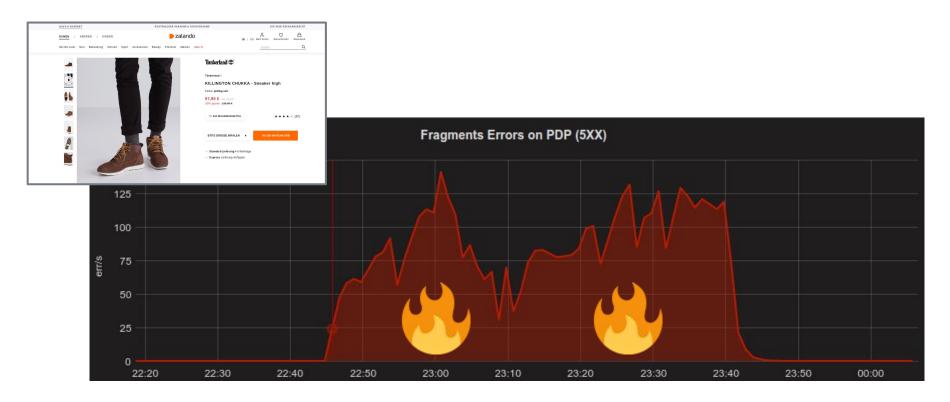
Fix for the memory issue in Skipper:

https://opensource.zalando.com/skipper/operation/operation/#scheduler

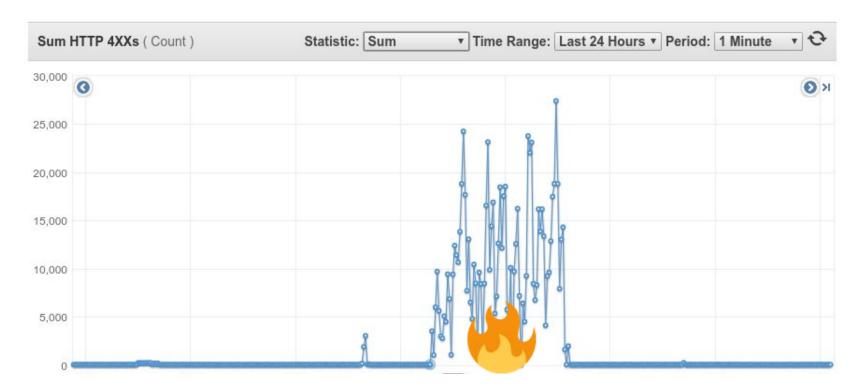


INCIDENT

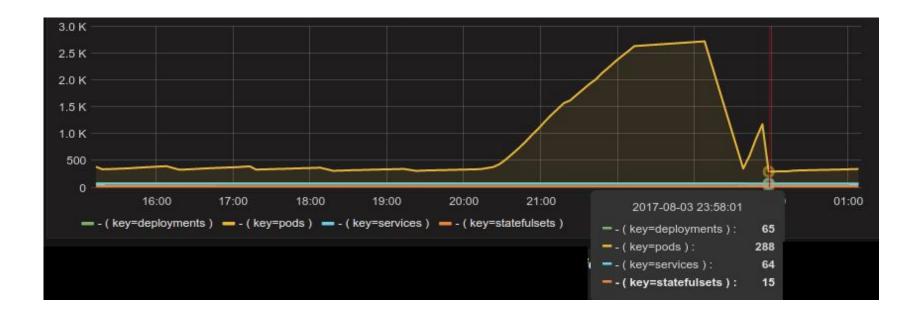
INCIDENT #2: CUSTOMER IMPACT



INCIDENT #1: IAM RETURNING 404

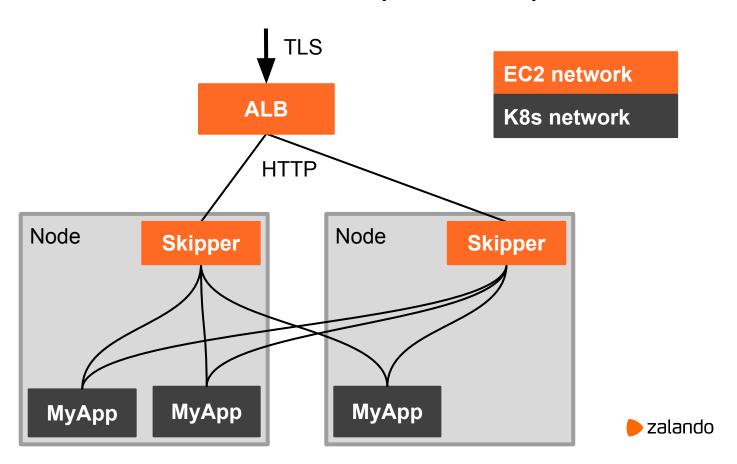


INCIDENT #1: NUMBER OF PODS

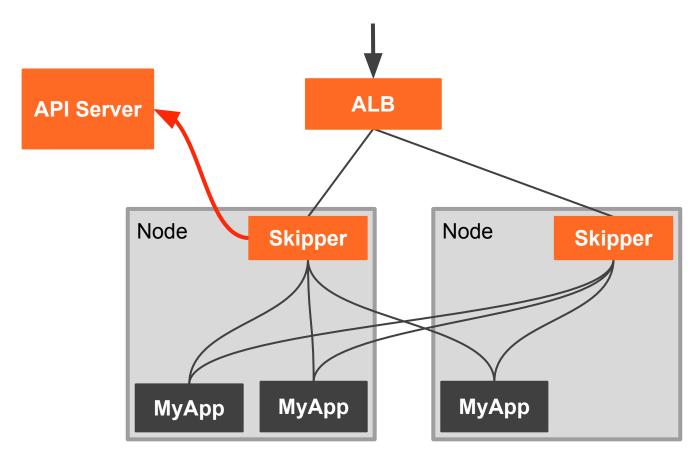




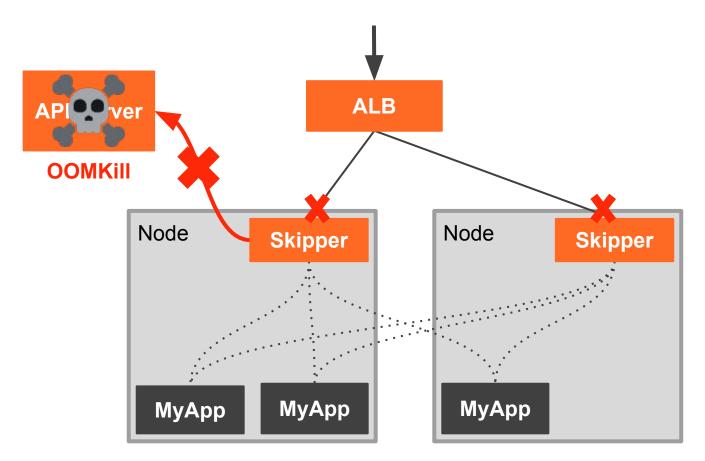
LIFE OF A REQUEST (INGRESS)



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: INGRESS ERRORS





INCIDENT #3: COREDNS OOMKILL

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

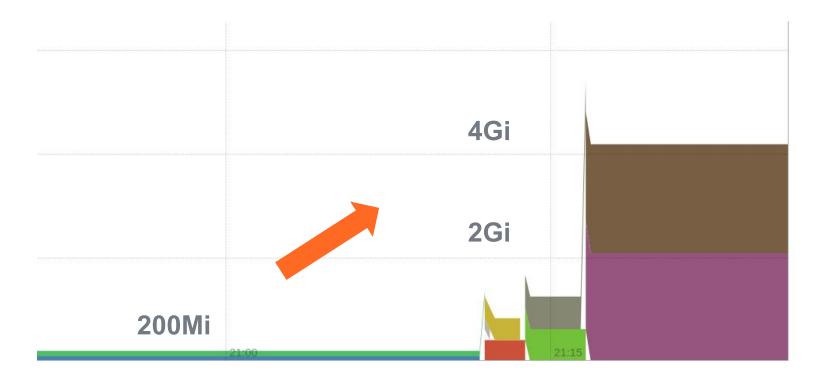
Memory cgroup out of memory: Kill process 6428
(coredns) score 2050 or sacrifice child

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

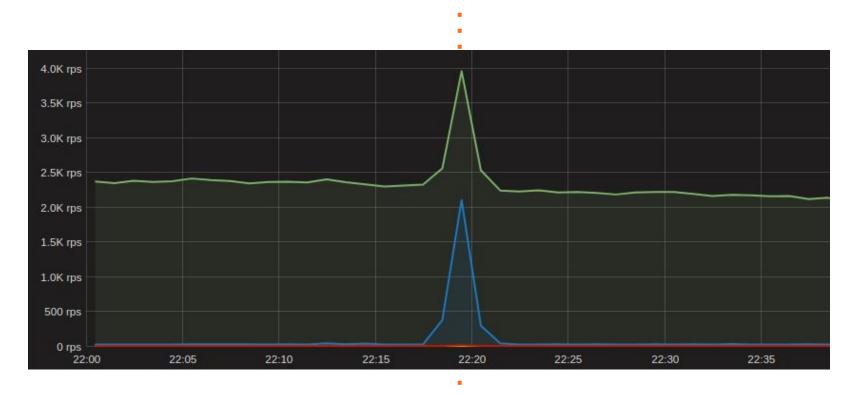




STOP THE BLEEDING: INCREASE MEMORY LIMIT

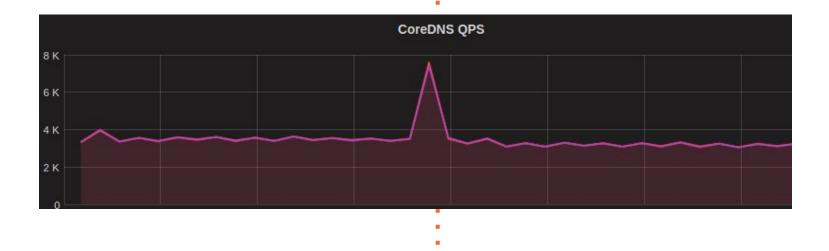


SPIKE IN HTTP REQUESTS



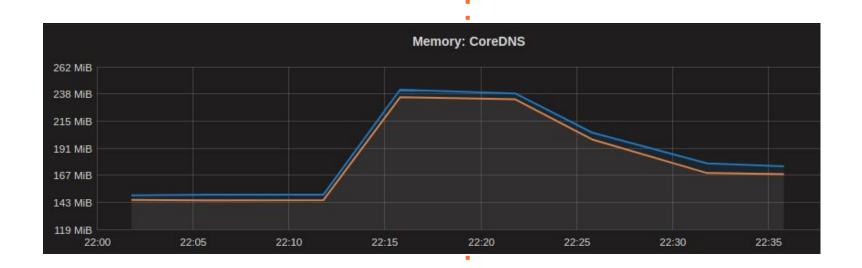


SPIKE IN DNS QUERIES





INCREASE IN MEMORY USAGE



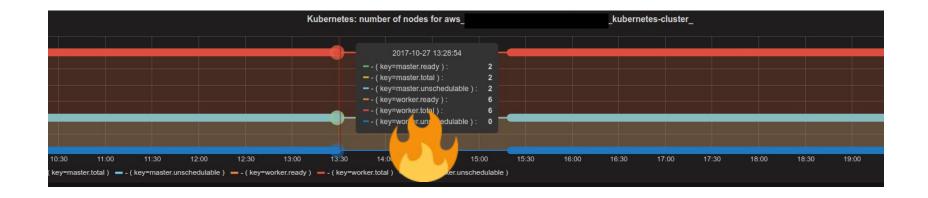
INCIDENT #3: CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- 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 #4: CLUSTER DOWN





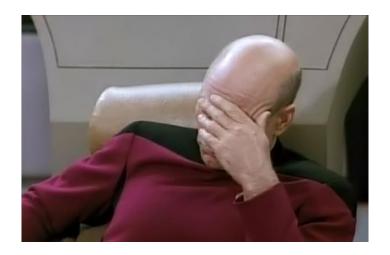
INCIDENT #4: MANUAL OPERATION

% etcdctl del -r /registry-kube-1/certificatesigningrequest prefix



INCIDENT #4: RTFM

% etcdctl del -r /registry-kube-1/certificatesigningrequest prefix
help: etcdctl del [options] <key> [range_end]



MYTH #3: Tooling

Sometimes we have to update production database records by hand, and we can't trust a junior eng to not drop a whole db by accident.



Junior Engineers are Features, not Bugs https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQta4G3ge44

What We Believe

VOL. 1 ISSUE 6

Human Error is NEVER the Root Cause

INCIDENT #4: LESSONS LEARNED

- Disaster Recovery Plan?
- Backup etcd to S3
- Monitor the snapshots

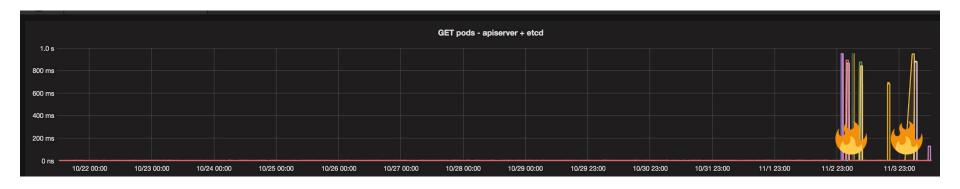






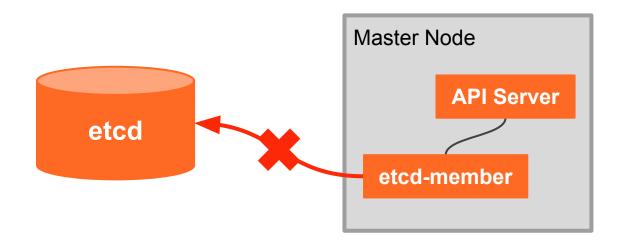
INCIDENT

INCIDENT #5: API LATENCY SPIKES





INCIDENT #5: CONNECTION ISSUES



. . .

Kubernetes worker and master nodes sporadically fail to connect to etcd causing timeouts in the APIserver and disconnects in the pod network.

. . .

INCIDENT #5: STOP THE BLEEDING

```
#!/bin/bash
while true; do
  echo "sleep for 60 seconds"
  sleep 60
  timeout 5 curl http://localhost:8080/api/v1/nodes > /dev/null
  if [ $? -eq 0 ]; then
   echo "all fine, no need to restart etcd member"
   continue
  else
   echo "restarting etcd-member"
   systemctl restart etcd-member
  fi
done
```

INCIDENT #5: CONFIRMATION FROM AWS

[...]

We can't go into the details [...] that resulted the networking problems during the "non-intrusive maintenance", as it relates to internal workings of EC2. We can confirm this only affected the T2 instance types, ...

[...]

We don't explicitly recommend against running production services on T2

[...]



INCIDENT #5: LESSONS LEARNED

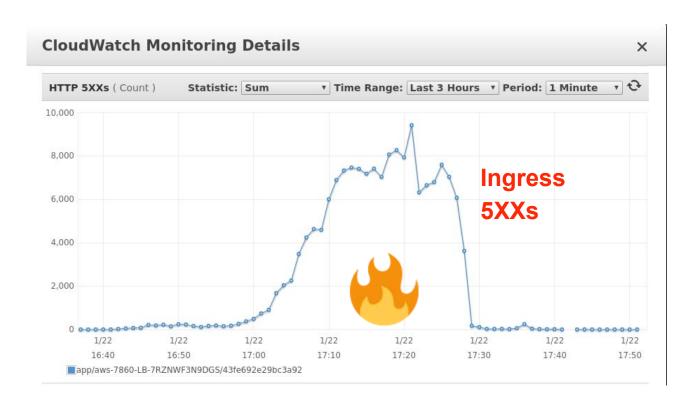
- It's never the AWS infrastructure until it is
- Treat t2 instances with care
- Kubernetes components are not necessarily "cloud native"



Cloud Native? Declarative, dynamic, resilient, and scalable

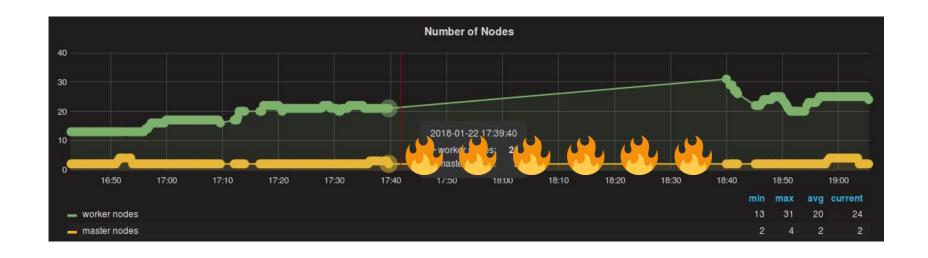
INCIDENT

INCIDENT #6: IMPACT



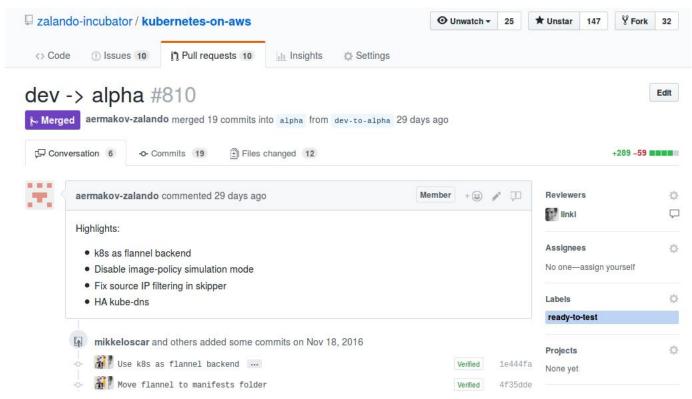


INCIDENT #6: CLUSTER DOWN?





INCIDENT #6: THE TRIGGER

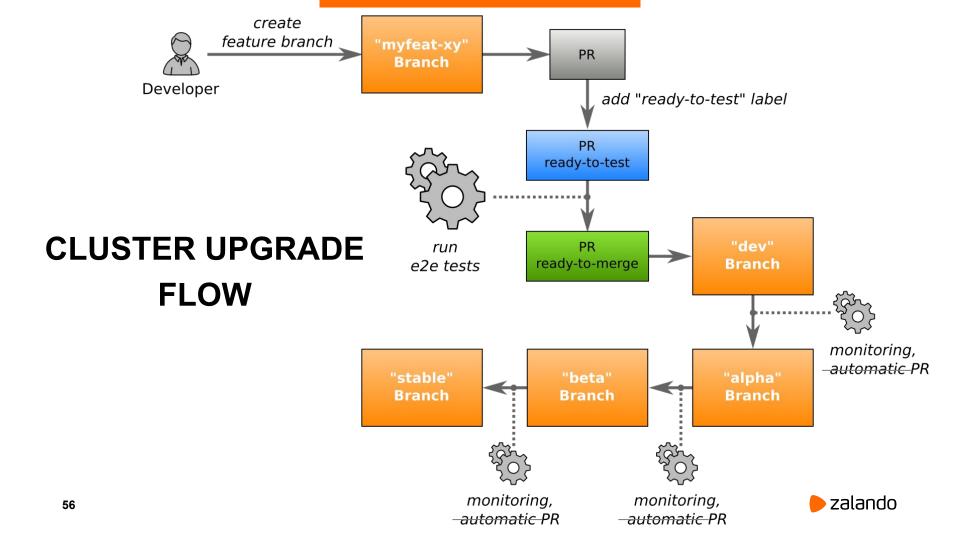




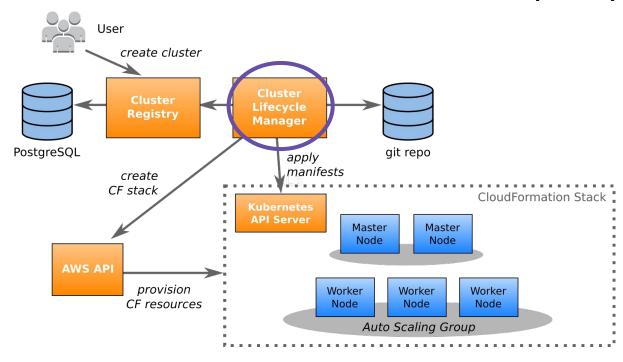
What We Believe

VOL. 1 ISSUE 6

Human Error is NEVER the Root Cause



CLUSTER LIFECYCLE MANAGER (CLM)

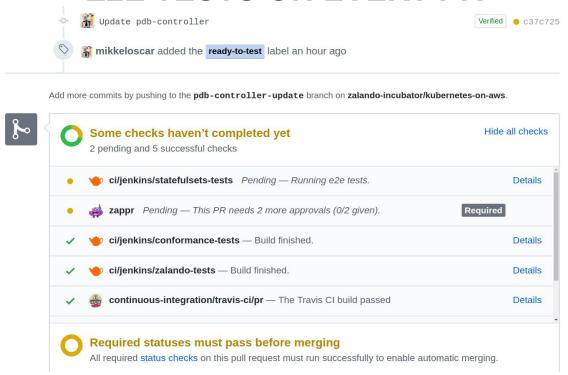


github.com/zalando-incubator/cluster-lifecycle-manager

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).	57+
stable	Product clusters for the rest of the organization (prod).	57+

E2E TESTS ON EVERY PR

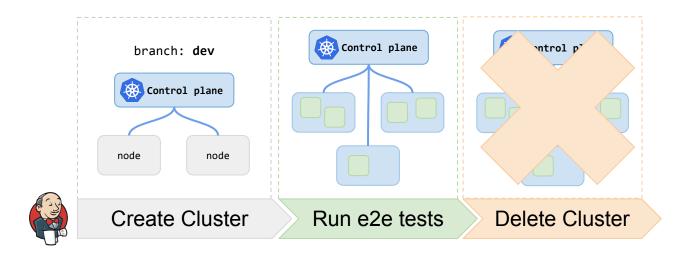


github.com/zalando-incubator/kubernetes-on-aws



RUNNING E2E TESTS (BEFORE)

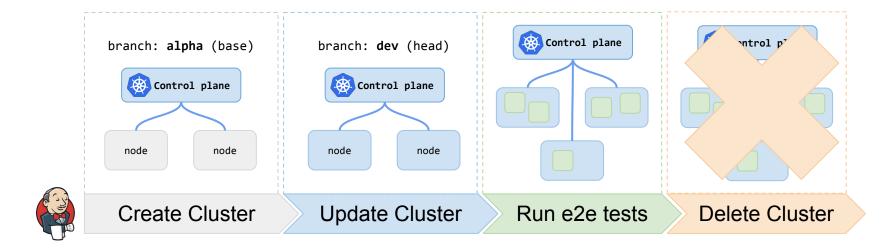
Testing dev to alpha upgrade





RUNNING E2E TESTS (NOW)

Testing dev to alpha upgrade





INCIDENT #6: 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

#7: KERNEL OOM KILLER

Jan 30, 11:59 AM

so this is nice:





investigating a node in

kubelet apparently ate ~9gigs of ram and then the kernel oomkilled everything, including

containerd

Jan 30, 12:00 PM

Way to go KUBELET!!!!

Jan 30, 12:00 PM

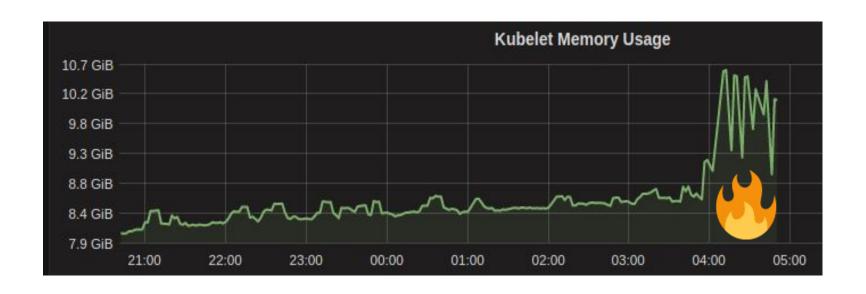
well, it did solve the memory issues on the node!



⇒ all containers on this node down



INCIDENT #7: KUBELET MEMORY





UPSTREAM ISSUE REPORTED

memory leak in kubelet 1.12.5 #73587



szuecs opened this issue 10 days ago · 21 comments



szuecs commented 10 days ago • edited •

Contributor



What happened:

After upgrading to kubernetes 1.12.5 we observe failing nodes, that are caused by kubelet eating all over the memory after some time.

https://github.com/kubernetes/kubernetes/issues/73587



INCIDENT #7: THE PATCH



```
Contributor
szuecs commented 10 days ago
For everyone that finds this issue and needs a patch to disable the reflector metrics:
  diff --git c/pkg/util/reflector/prometheus/prometheus.go i/pkg/util/reflector/prometheus/prom
  index 958a0007cd..63657e9c55 100644
  --- c/pkg/util/reflector/prometheus/prometheus.go
  +++ i/pkg/util/reflector/prometheus/prometheus.go
  @@ -85,8 +85,6 @@ func init() {
          prometheus.MustRegister(watchDuration)
          prometheus.MustRegister(itemsPerWatch)
          prometheus.MustRegister(lastResourceVersion)
          cache.SetReflectorMetricsProvider(prometheusMetricsProvider{})
   type prometheusMetricsProvider struct{}
```



INCIDENT

INCIDENT #8: 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

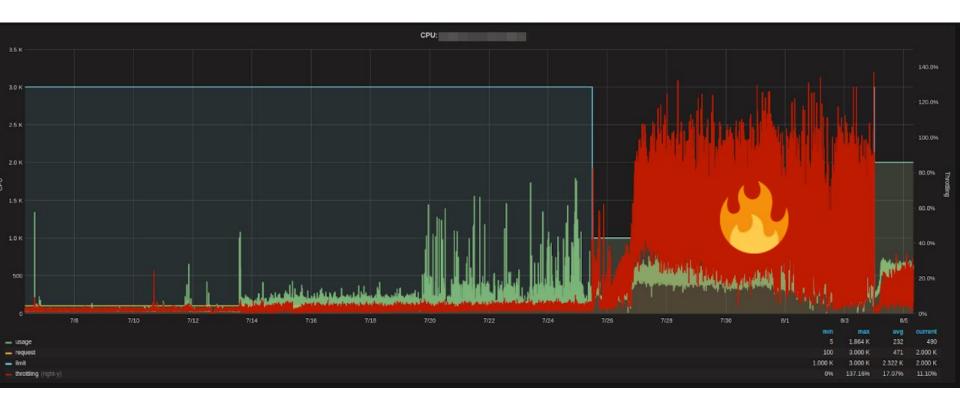


INCIDENT #8: CREDENTIALS QUEUE





INCIDENT #8: CPU THROTTLING



INCIDENT #8: WHAT HAPPENED

Scaled down IAM provider to reduce **Slack**

+ Number of deployments increased

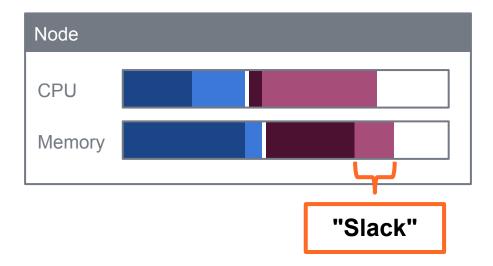


⇒ Process could not process credentials fast enough

SLACK

CPU/memory requests "block" resources on nodes.

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





DISABLING CPU THROTTLING

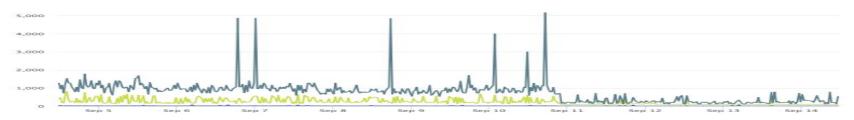
kubelet ... --cpu-cfs-quota=false

[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





A MILLION WAYS TO CRASH YOUR CLUSTER?

- Switch to latest Docker to fix issues with Docker daemon freezing
- Redesign of DNS setup due to **high DNS latencies** (5s), switch from kube-dns to node-local dnsmasq+CoreDNS
- Disabling CPU throttling (CFS quota) to avoid latency issues
- Quick fix for timeouts using etcd-proxy: client-go still seems to have issues with timeouts
- 502's during cluster updates: race condition during network setup

MORE TOPICS

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

TIMEOUTS TO API SERVER...

```
- name: apiserver-proxy
image: registry.opensource.zalan.do/teapot/etcd-proxy:master-3
command:
- /bin/sh
args:
- -c
- "exec /etcd-proxy --listen-address 127.0.0.1:333 $KUBERNETES_SERVICE_HOST:$KUBERNETES_SERVICE_PORT"
resources:
requests:
cpu: 25m
memory: 25Mi
```

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





MANAGED KUBERNETES?

WILL MANAGED K8S SAVE US?

Amazon EKS Announces 99.9% Service Level Agreement

Posted On: Jan 16, 2019

AWS has published a service level agreement (SLA) for Amazon Elastic Container Service for Kubernetes (EKS), which provides availability guarantees for Amazon EKS.

GKE: monthly uptime percentage at 99.95% for regional clusters



WILL MANAGED K8S SAVE US?



e.g. AWS EKS uptime SLA is only for API server

PRODUCTION PROOFING AWS EKS

- · Networking
- · Networking-Limited pod capacity persubnet & VPC
- · Networking-Limited pod capacity per worker node
- Networking—Kubernetes scheduler is unaware about actual IP availability
- Networking—Some pods cannot be accessed from peered networks by default
- Default worker AMI
- AMI—Based on Amazon Linux 2
- · AMI-No docker log rotation
- · AMI-Docker freezes
- AMI—Corrupted disk statistics
- · Authentication and authorization
- Auth—RBAC enabled
- · Auth-AWS IAM authentication
- · Auth-API Server endpoint is public
- Limited availability
- · Alpha Kubernetes features are disabled
- · CronJobs are problematic
- · CronJobs—Backoff limit does not work
- · CronJobs don't work well with the Kubernetes network plugin
- · Single kube-dns pod by default

List of things you might want to look at for EKS in production

https://medium.com/glia-tech/productionproofing-eks-ed52951ffd6c



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)

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



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
```





Honest role description by @mikkeloscar





23:37 - 5. Juni 2018

1 Retweet 40 "Gefällt mir"-Angaben O 40 0 17 1



KUBERNETES FAILURE STORIES

A compiled list of links to public failure stories related to Kubernetes.







We need more failure talks!

Istio? Anyone?



OPEN SOURCE

Kubernetes on AWS

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

AWS ALB Ingress controller

github.com/zalando-incubator/kube-ingress-aws-controller

Skipper HTTP Router & Ingress controller

github.com/zalando/skipper

External DNS

github.com/kubernetes-incubator/external-dns

Postgres Operator

github.com/zalando-incubator/postgres-operator

Kubernetes Resource Report

github.com/hjacobs/kube-resource-report

Kubernetes Downscaler

github.com/hjacobs/kube-downscaler













HEAD OF

DEVELOPER PRODUCTIVITY

henning@zalando.de
@try_except_

Illustrations by @01k



