

Are We There Yet? My Experience Leading a Kubernetes Release Team

Claire Laurence
Sr. Technical Program Manager
Pivotal Software



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Who am I?



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- **Technical Program Manager at Pivotal Software in NYC**
- **Former Kubernetes Enhancements Lead, Release Team Lead, and Current Release Team Emeritus Advisor**
- **Lover of coffee and travel**

Before we start



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- I am only speaking to my personal experience as a release team member
 - As such this will be focused on the enhancements and release lead aspects of my experience



What is the K8s Release Team?



Kubernetes Release Team



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- Sub-project of SIG-Release
- Responsible for shipping K8s approx. once a quarter
- (Mostly) staffed by volunteers
- Fully distributed team
- Shadow Program to help mentor new release team members

Role	Name (GitHub / Slack ID)	Shadow Name(s) (GitHub / Slack ID)
Lead	Guinevere Saenger (@guineveresaenger / Slack: @gsaenger)	Jeff Sica (@jeefy / Slack: @jeefy), Jorge Alarcon (@alejandrox1 / Slack: @alejandrox1), Maria Ntalla (@mariantalla / Slack: @maria)
Enhancements	Bob Killen (@mrboobytables / Slack: @mrboobytables)	Anna Jung (@annajung / Slack @anna), Jeremy Rickard (@jeremyrickard / Slack: @jerickar), Kristin Martin (@kcmartin / Slack: @kcmartin), Nabarun Pal (@palnabarun / Slack: @palnabarun)
CI Signal	Alena Varkockova (@alenkacz / Slack: @alenkacz)	Nikolaos Moraitis (@droslean / Slack: @droslean), Aditya Sharma (@epk / Slack: @Aditya), Daniel Mangum (@hasheddan / Slack: @hasheddan), Verónica López (@verolop / Slack: @verolop)
Bug Triage	Josiah Bjorgaard (@josiahbjorgaard / Slack: @jb)	Marky Jackson (@markyjackson-taulia / Slack: @markyjackson), Kirsten Garrison (@kikisdeliveryservice / Slack: @oikiki), Silvia Pina (@smourapina / Slack: @smourapina), Abubakr-Sadik Nii Nai Davis (@ttousai / Slack: @ttousai)
Docs	Damini Satya Kammakomati (@daminisatya / Slack: @Damini Satya)	Irvi Aini (@irvifa / Slack: @irvifa), Paul Burt (@pgburt / Slack: @paulb), Vineeth Pothulapati (@VineethReddy02 / Slack: @Vineeth)
Release Notes	Chris Carty (@cartyc / Slack: @macintoshprime)	Eddie Villalba (@Evilgenius75 / Slack: Evil_genius), Ramesh Kumar (@kylx3511 / Slack: kylx3511), Bridget Kromhout (@bridgetkromhout / Slack: bridgetkromhout)
Communications	David McKay (@rawkode / Slack: @rawkode)	Karen Chu (@karenhchu / Slack: @kchu), Imran Pochi (@ipochi / Slack: @imran), Roger Klorese (@qnetter / Slack: @rogerk), Max Körbächer (@mkorbi / Slack: @mkoerbi)
Emeritus Adviser	Claire Laurence (@claurance)	

My Experience on the K8s Release Team



My Journey on the Kubernetes Release Team

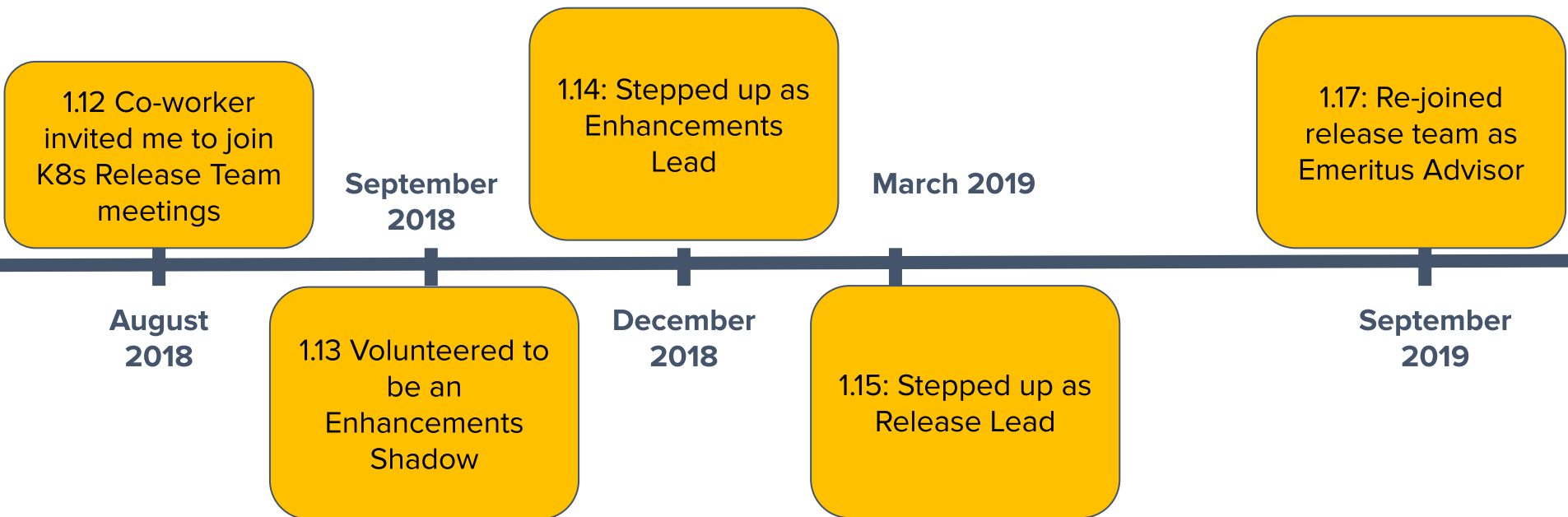


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- **Kubernetes Release Team was my introduction to the K8s Community**
 - **Well defined project with mentorship opportunities**
 - **Touches many different SIGs and WGs**
 - **Many opportunities for growth**

What is interesting about the K8s Release Team



Rotating Release Team



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1.13 Release Team

Role	Name (GitHub / Slack ID)	Shadow Name(s) (GitHub / Slack ID)
Lead	Aishwarya Sundar (@AishSundar)	Aaron Crickenberger (@spiffxp)
Enhancements	Kendrick Coleman (@kacole2)	Michael Singh (@wadadli), Guinevere Saenger (@guineveresaenger / @gsaenger on Slack), Arnaud Meukam (@ameukam), Claire Laurence (@claurence)
CI Signal	Josh Berkus (@jberkus)	Morten Torkildsen (@mortent), Maria Ntalla (@mariantalla)
Test Infra	Cole Wagner (@cjwagner)	Amit Watve (@amwat), Dhawal Yogesh Bhanushali (@imkin), Rahul Mahale (@RahulMahale)
Bug Triage	Niko Penteridis (@nikopen)	Mohammed Zeeshan Ahmed (@mohammedzee1000), Athanasios Kostopoulos (@thanasisk), Shubheksha Jalan (@shubheksha), Tunde (@simplytunde)
Branch Manager	Doug MacEachern (@dougmc)	Yang Li (@idealhack), Hannes Hoerl (@hoegaarden)
Docs	Tim Fogarty (@tfogo)	Jim Angel (@jimangel), Zach Arnold (@zparnold), Naomi Pentrel (@npentrel), Barnabas Makonda (@MAKOSCAFFEE)
Release Notes	Mike Arpaia (@marpaia)	Dave Strebel (@dstrebel), Wang Bing (@pigletfly), Babatunde Olu-Isa (@boluisa)
Communications	Kaitlyn Barnard (@kbarnard10)	Kristen Evans (@kristenevans), Jayakrishna Sahit (@sahitj), Jorge Castro (@castrojo), Srinivasan Rajappa (@srajappa)
Patch Release Managers	Aleksandra Malinowska (@aleksandra-malinowska), Tim Pepper (@tpepper)	
Approval Notifier	k8s-ci-robot (@k8s-ci-robot)	



1.17 Release Team

Role	Name (GitHub / Slack ID)	Shadow Name(s) (GitHub / Slack ID)
Lead	Guinevere Saenger (@guineveresaenger / Slack: @gsaenger)	Jeff Sica (@jeefy / Slack: @jeefy), Jorge Alarcon (@alejandrox1 / Slack: @alejandrox1), Maria Ntalla (@mariantalla / Slack: @maria)
Enhancements	Bob Killen (@mrbobbytables / Slack: @mrbobbytables)	Anna Jung (@annajung / Slack: @anna), Jeremy Rickard (@jeremyrickard / Slack: @jerickar), Kristin Martin (@kcmartin / Slack: @kcmartin), Nabarun Pal (@palnabarun / Slack: @palnabarun)
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Emeritus Adviser	Claire Laurence (@claurence)	

Decision Making



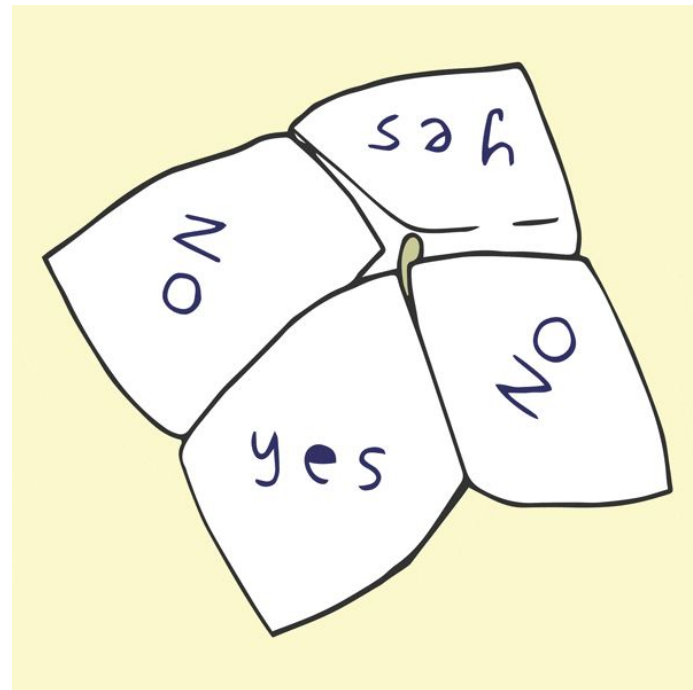
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- Lots of autonomy to make decisions
- Decision making is transparent
- Community > Individual



Few things block a K8s release



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- Team is very effective at risk management
- At risk items often de-scoped and bumped

Iterating: Shadow Program



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- When I joined (1.13) becoming a shadow was commenting on a GitHub Issue
- 1.14 introduced a survey for shadows to volunteer



mariantalla commented on Sep 11, 2018 • edited ▾

Member + 😊 ...

I'd be very interested to shadow CI signal (and/or any other team that needs people, of course; but do have a soft spot for CI :)).



1



laurence commented on Sep 11, 2018

Member + 😊 ...

I would be interested in shadowing the patch release manager or enhancements



1



npentrel commented on Sep 11, 2018

+ 😊 ...

I'd like to shadow @tfogo with the docs if that's still possible!



2



4

QUESTIONS RESPONSES 49

Section 1 of 3

1.15 Release Team Shadow Application

Thank you for volunteering for the Kubernetes 1.15 Release Team!

This questionnaire is meant to learn a little bit more about you, your journey with Kubernetes, your understanding of the Release Team processes and procedures, as well as to determine if you're a good fit for the current Release Team.

Please note that you are expected to be inexperienced in some areas, as a role shadow is a mentorship opportunity.

Participation in the Release Team can include somewhat open-ended expectations. We never know what blocking/critical issue may come up at what point during the release cycle. On a rare occasion this may mean we each make some personal sacrifice to check in on a status or show up at a meeting to give or receive information. The team of leads and shadows must be flexible and pragmatic in addressing these. The Release Team Lead will endeavor to make sure any such inconveniences do not unfairly hit individuals or specific timezones.

Before proceeding further, you must browse and read the relevant Role Handbooks: <https://github.com/kubernetes/sig-release/tree/master/release-team/role-handbooks>

Responses to this application are shared only with leadership of SIG-Release and the current Release Team, and are deleted after the release cycle is over.

Email address *

Valid email address

This form is collecting email addresses. [Change settings](#)

Question



As the project and team mature roles are updated or changed

- **1.12 → 1.13: Features Lead becomes Enhancements Lead**
- **1.14 → 1.15: Add Emeritus Advisor**
- **1.15 → 1.16: Test Infra role is dissolved**

Introducing KEPs



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- **KEP = Kubernetes Enhancement Proposal**
- **KEPs were mandatory for Enhancements freeze starting in 1.14**
- **Rolling out new policies for a massive org isn't always smooth**



claurence 5:53 PM

Hey folks - I've gone through and pinged all issues open in kubernetes/enhancements to check on plans for 1.14 except for issues that were stale ... - if you notice an issue targeted for 1.14 is missing please let me know. Additionally a reminder that all issues need KEPs associated with them 😊 ... Show more



liggitt 3:56 PM

For all those neck-deep in KEPs:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vh3tuL_DVsE

YouTube | NirvanaZe
[Martiens Yep Yep Yep](#) ▾

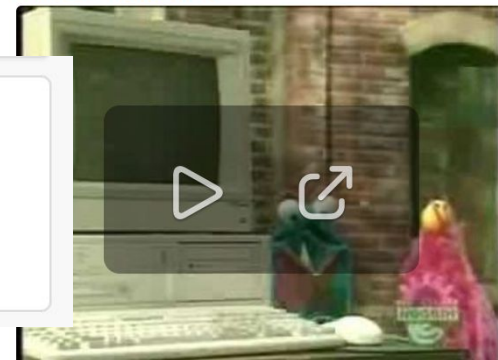
By Monday, February 4, 2019, the KEPs associated with all enhancements landing in v1.14.0 must be merged with an

sig-release - Sep 6th, 2018



justaugustus 7:51 PM

The KEP should be the first work done. Features would follow as units of work within the context of the **KEP**



Takeaways



Kubernetes values = the release team



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- **Distribution is better than centralization**
- **Community over product or company**
- **Automation over process**
- **Inclusive is better than exclusive**
- **Evolution is better than stagnation**

<https://github.com/kubernetes/community/blob/master/values.md#kubernetes-community-values>

Want to learn more?



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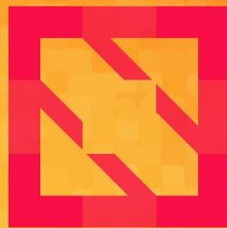
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- **Lots of documentation on github**
 - **github.com/kubernetes/sig-release**
- **Kubernetes Slack - *#sig-release***
- **Interested in joining K8s release team for 1.18 - keep an eye on slack for a survey link for the next release**

Questions



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