

# Liberating K8s from kube-proxy and iptables (and netfilter)

Martynas Pumputis, Cilium

(Daniel Borkmann, Thomas Graf, André Martins)



# Performance

```
# perf top -a -e cycles:k
```

```
PerfTop: 16326 irqs/sec (all, 4 CPUs)
```

---

8.79%	[kernel]	[k] native_sched_clock
<b>4.99%</b>	<b>[ip_tables]</b>	<b>[k] ipt_do_table</b>
3.09%	[e1000e]	[k] e1000_irq_enable
<b>2.51%</b>	<b>[nf_conntrack]</b>	<b>[k] __nf_conntrack_find_get</b>
2.03%	[kernel]	[k] fib_table_lookup
1.98%	[kernel]	[k] sched_clock_cpu
<b>1.75%</b>	<b>[nf_conntrack]</b>	<b>[k] tcp_packet</b>
<b>1.65%</b>	<b>[nf_conntrack]</b>	<b>[k] nf_conntrack_tuple_taken</b>
[...]		

# Reliability

## DNS intermittent delays of 5s #56903

 Closed mikksoone opened this issue on Dec 6, 2017 · 230 comments



mikksoone commented on Dec 6, 2017 · edited ▾

Is this a **BUG REPORT** or **FEATURE REQUEST**?:

/kind bug

**What happened:**

DNS lookup is sometimes taking 5 seconds.

**What you expected to happen:**

No delays in DNS.

Assignees

No one assigned

Labels

area/dns

kind/bug

sig/network

Root cause

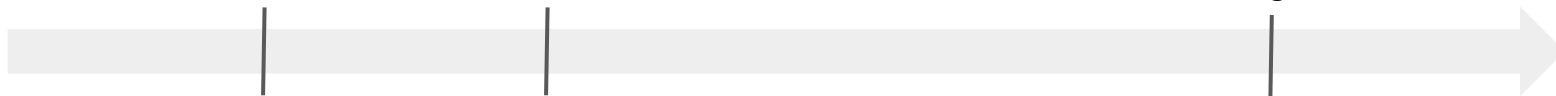
May 27, 2018

Patches  
submitted

Aug 5, 2018

Patches  
merged

Feb 11, 2019



# Reliability

## DNS intermittent delays of 5s #56903

 Closed mikksoone opened this issue on Dec 6, 2017 · 230 comments



mikksoone commented on Dec 6, 2017 · edited ▾

Is this a **BUG REPORT** or **FEATURE REQUEST**?:

/kind bug

**What happened:**

DNS lookup is sometimes taking 5 seconds.

**What you expected to happen:**

No delays in DNS.

Assignees

No one assigned

Labels

area/dns

kind/bug

sig/network

First occurrence  
of bug

Nov 11, 2010

Patches  
merged

Feb 11, 2019



# Debuggability

```
# iptables-save -c
```

```
*filter
```

```
:INPUT ACCEPT [0:0]
```

```
:FORWARD ACCEPT [0:0]
```

```
:OUTPUT ACCEPT [0:0]
```

```
[1:10] -A FORWARD -i eth0 -s 172.17.0.0/16 -j DROP
```



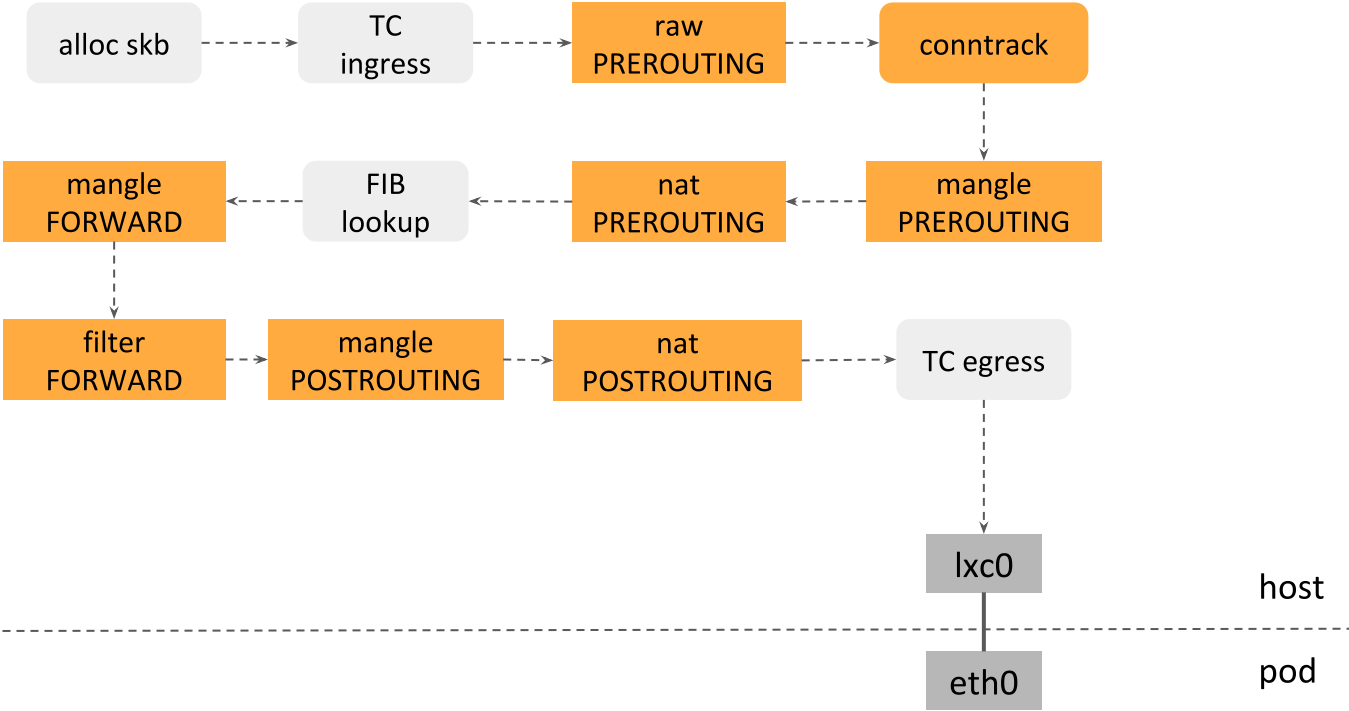
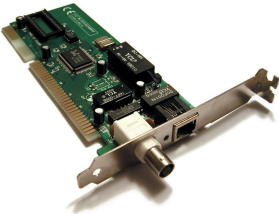
# Compatibility

kube-proxy currently incompatible with `iptables >= 1.8`  
#71305

 Open

**drags** opened this issue on Nov 21, 2018 · 75 comments · May be fixed by [#82966](#) or [#84420](#)

# Packet flow





# ClusterIP with iptables

```
$ kubectl get svc nginx
```

NAME	TYPE	CLUSTER-IP	EXTERNAL-IP	PORT(S)
<b>nginx</b>	<b>ClusterIP</b>	<b>3.3.3.3</b>	<b>&lt;none&gt;</b>	<b>80/TCP</b>

```
$ kubectl get endpoints nginx
```

NAME	ENDPOINTS
<b>nginx</b>	<b>1.1.1.1:80, 1.1.2.2:80</b>

```
-t nat -A PREROUTING -m conntrack --ctstate NEW -j KUBE-SERVICES
```

```
-A KUBE-SERVICES ! -s 1.1.0.0/16 -d 3.3.3.3/32 -p tcp -m tcp --dport 80 -j KUBE-MARK-MASQ
```

```
-A KUBE-SERVICES -d 3.3.3.3/32 -p tcp -m tcp --dport 80 -j KUBE-SVC-NGINX
```

```
-A KUBE-SVC-NGINX -m statistic --mode random --probability 0.50 -j KUBE-SEP-NGINX1
```

```
-A KUBE-SVC-NGINX -j KUBE-SEP-NGINX2
```

```
-A KUBE-SEP-NGINX1 -s 1.1.1.1/32 -j KUBE-MARK-MASQ
```

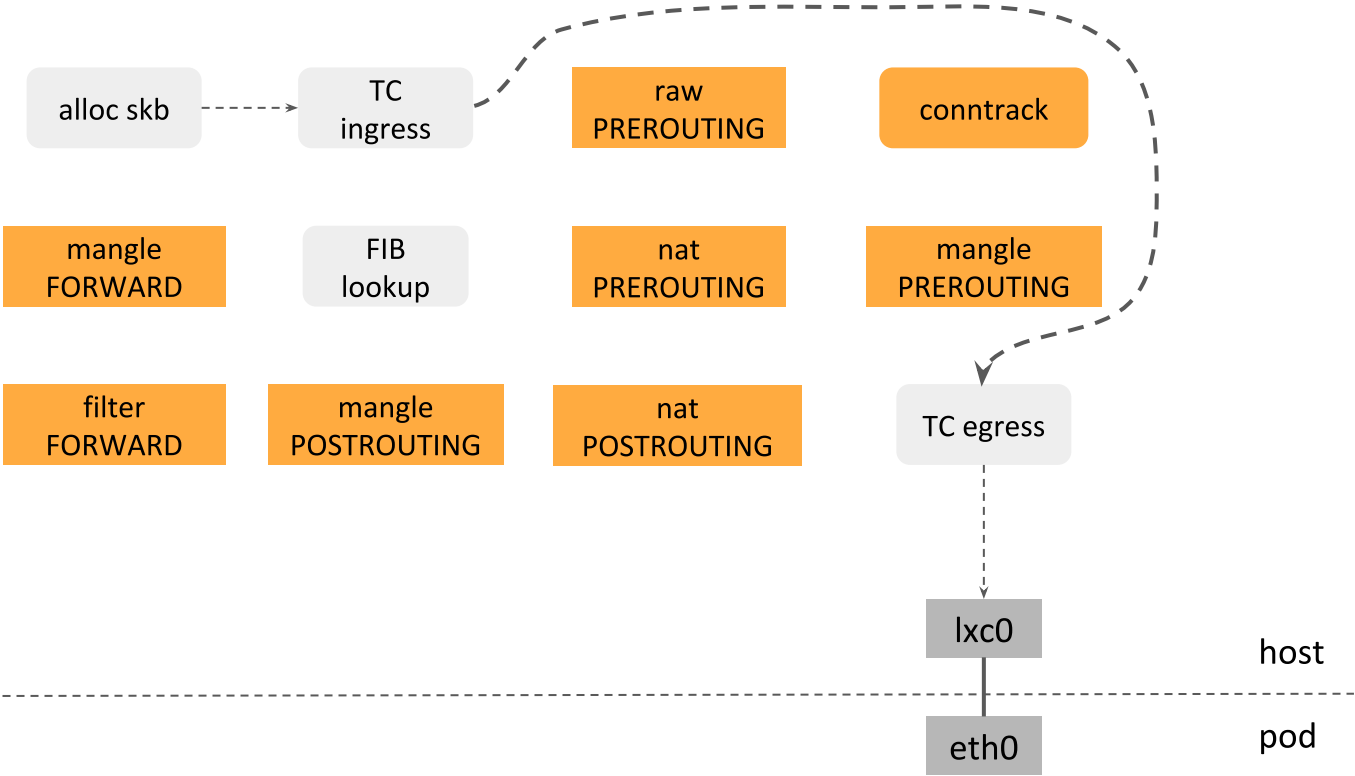
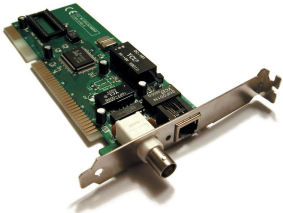
```
-A KUBE-SEP-NGINX1 -p tcp -m tcp -j DNAT --to-destination 1.1.1.1:80
```

```
-A KUBE-SEP-NGINX2 -s 1.1.2.2/32 -j KUBE-MARK-MASQ
```

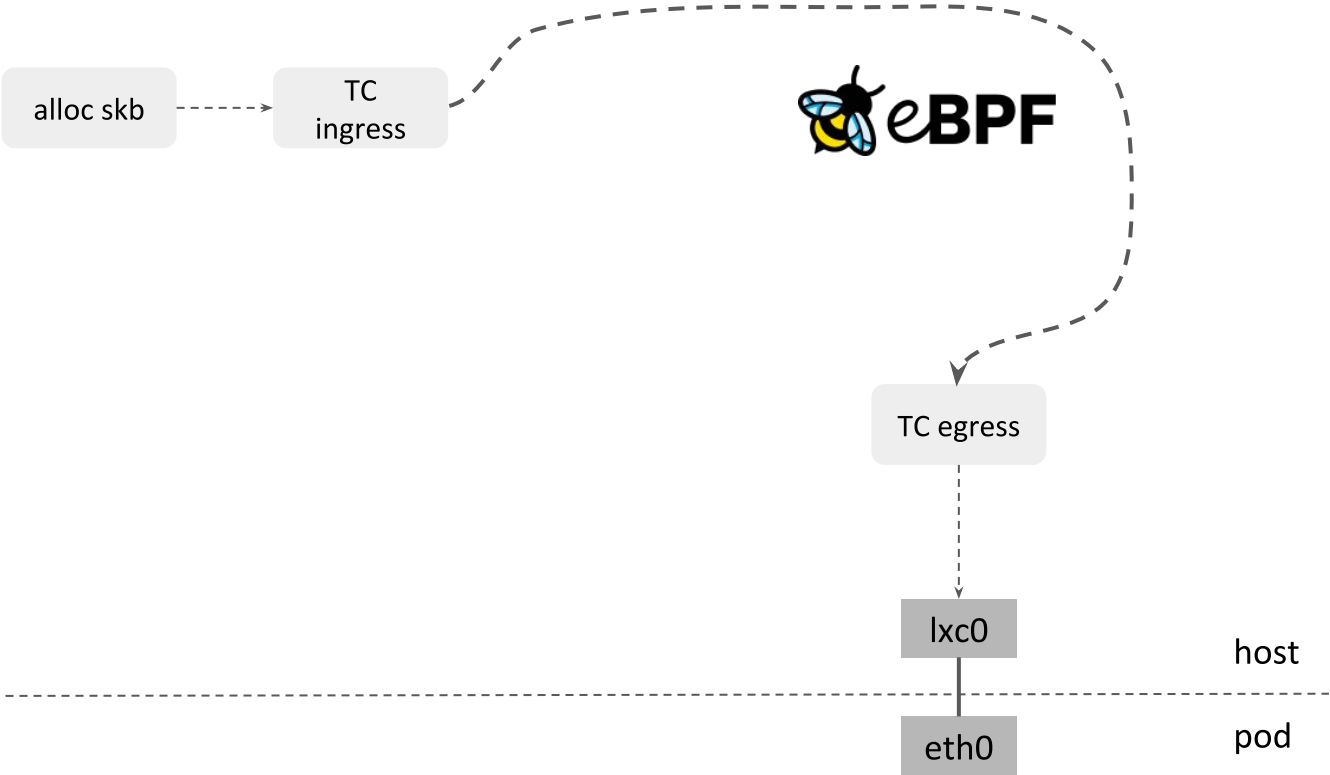
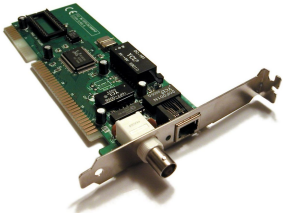
```
-A KUBE-SEP-NGINX2 -p tcp -m tcp -j DNAT --to-destination 1.1.2.2:80
```

nat  
PREROUTING

# Packet flow



# Packet flow





```
SEC("to_netdev")
int handle(struct sk_buff *skb) {
    ...
    if (tcp->dport == 80)
        redirect(nginx_pod);
    ...
}
```

clang -target bpf [...]

foo.o

eBPF loader

bpf(BPF\_PROG\_LOAD, ...)

agent

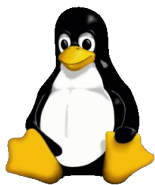
BPF maps

native code

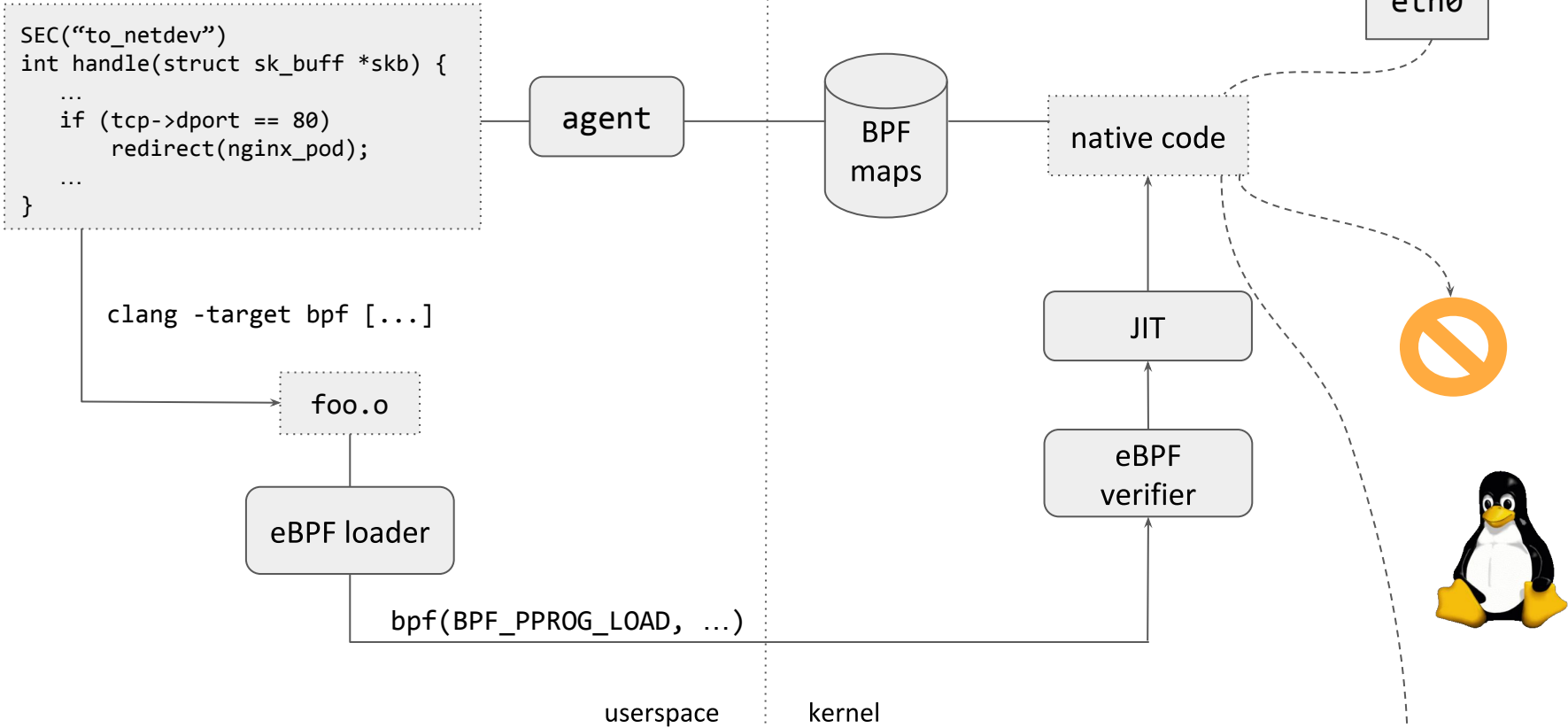
JIT

eBPF verifier

eth0



userspace | kernel





268 contributors (Jan 2016 to Nov 2019):

- 443 Daniel Borkmann (Cilium; maintainer)
- 242 Alexei Starovoitov (Facebook; maintainer)
- 210 Jakub Kicinski (Netronome)
- 195 Andrii Nakryiko (Facebook)
- 161 Yonghong Song (Facebook)
- 151 Stanislav Fomichev (Google)
- 145 Quentin Monnet (Netronome)
- 144 Martin KaFai Lau (Facebook)
- 139 John Fastabend (Cilium)
- 118 Jesper Dangaard Brouer (Red Hat)
- [...]

Users:



TheRustyTwit  
@rusty\_twit

Replying to @LaF0rge

Well, iptables perf used to be "mostly good enough".  
Replacing it has taken so long because it requires a  
radically different approach; nice to see it finally  
happening!

12:46 AM · Apr 18, 2018 · [Twitter for Android](#)

```
$ kubectl -n kube-system delete ds kube-proxy
```

# kube-proxy

## 1. ClusterIP

- In-cluster access via virtual IP

## 2. NodePort

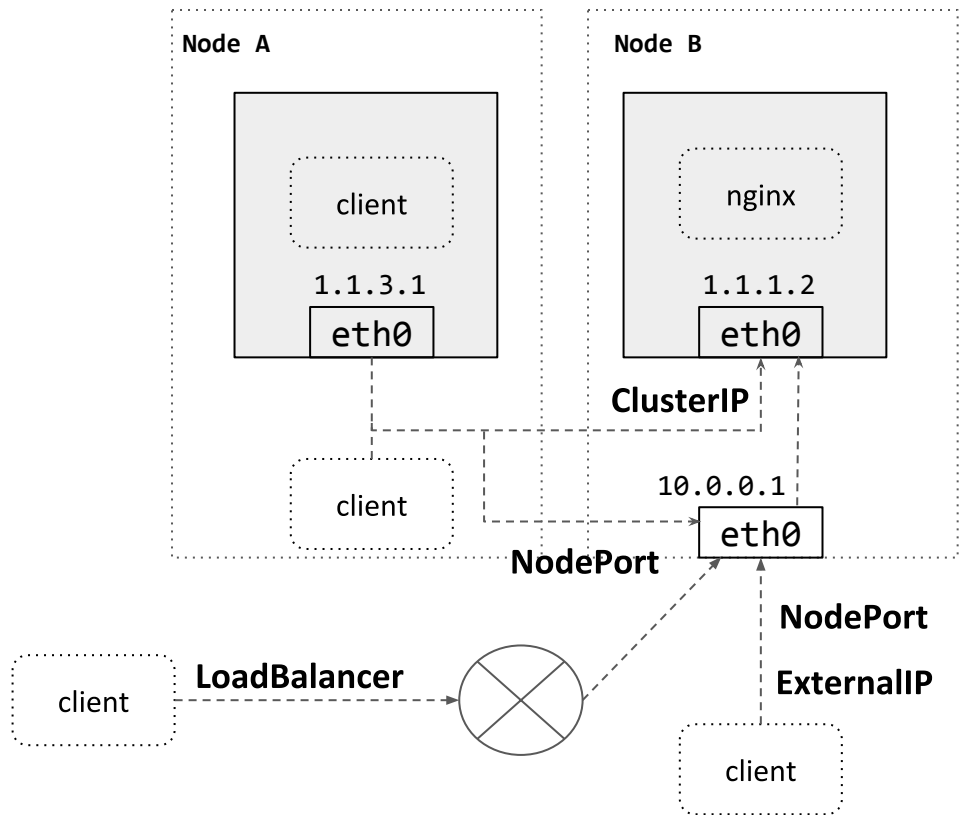
- Access from outside / inside via node IP + port

## 3. ExternalIP

- Access from outside via external IP

## 4. LoadBalancer

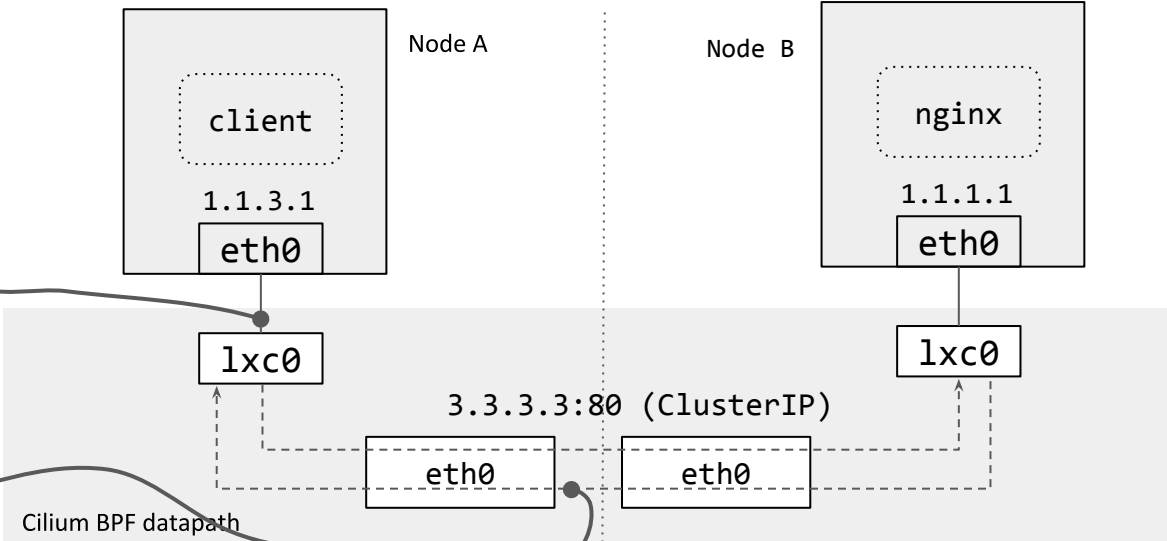
- Access from outside via external LB



# ClusterIP (pod to pod) in Cilium

1. Lookup dst in SVC map
2. If found:
  - a. Create SVC CT
  - b. DNAT
3. Create Egress CT

1. Lookup Egress CT
2. If found:
  - a. Rev-NAT xlation
3. Redirect to lxc0

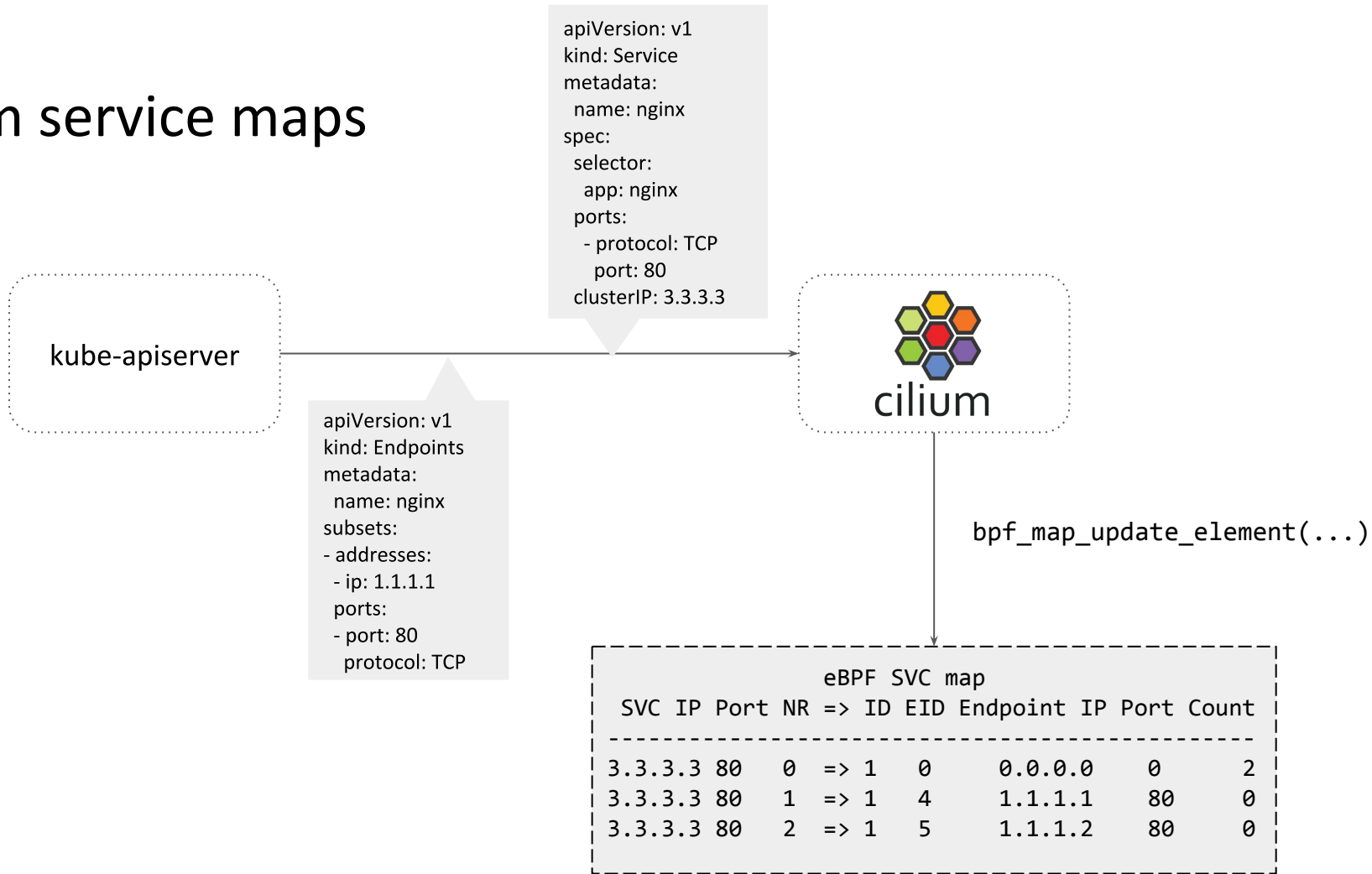


eBPF SVC map								
SVC IP	Port	NR	=>	ID	EID	Endpoint IP	Port	Count
3.3.3.3	80	0	=>	1	0	0.0.0.0	0	2
3.3.3.3	80	1	=>	1	4	1.1.1.1	80	0
3.3.3.3	80	2	=>	1	5	1.1.1.2	80	0

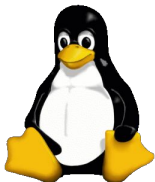
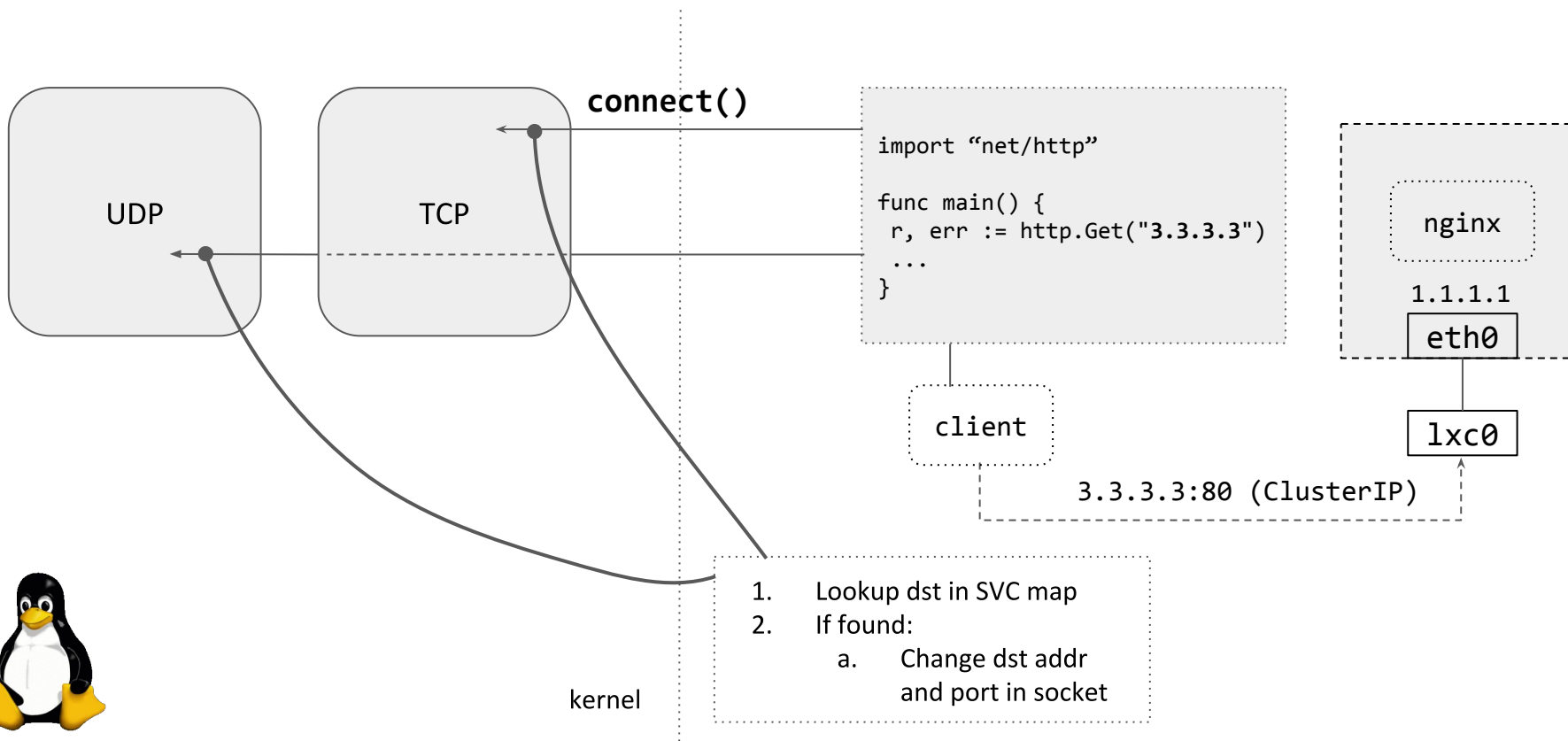
eBPF contrack LRU map					
srcIP	sPort	dstIP	dPort	Type	=> EID SVCID
1.1.3.1	4321	3.3.3.3	80	SVC	=> 4
1.1.3.1	4321	1.1.1.1	80	Egress	=> 1
1.1.1.1	80	1.1.3.1	4321	Ingress	=>



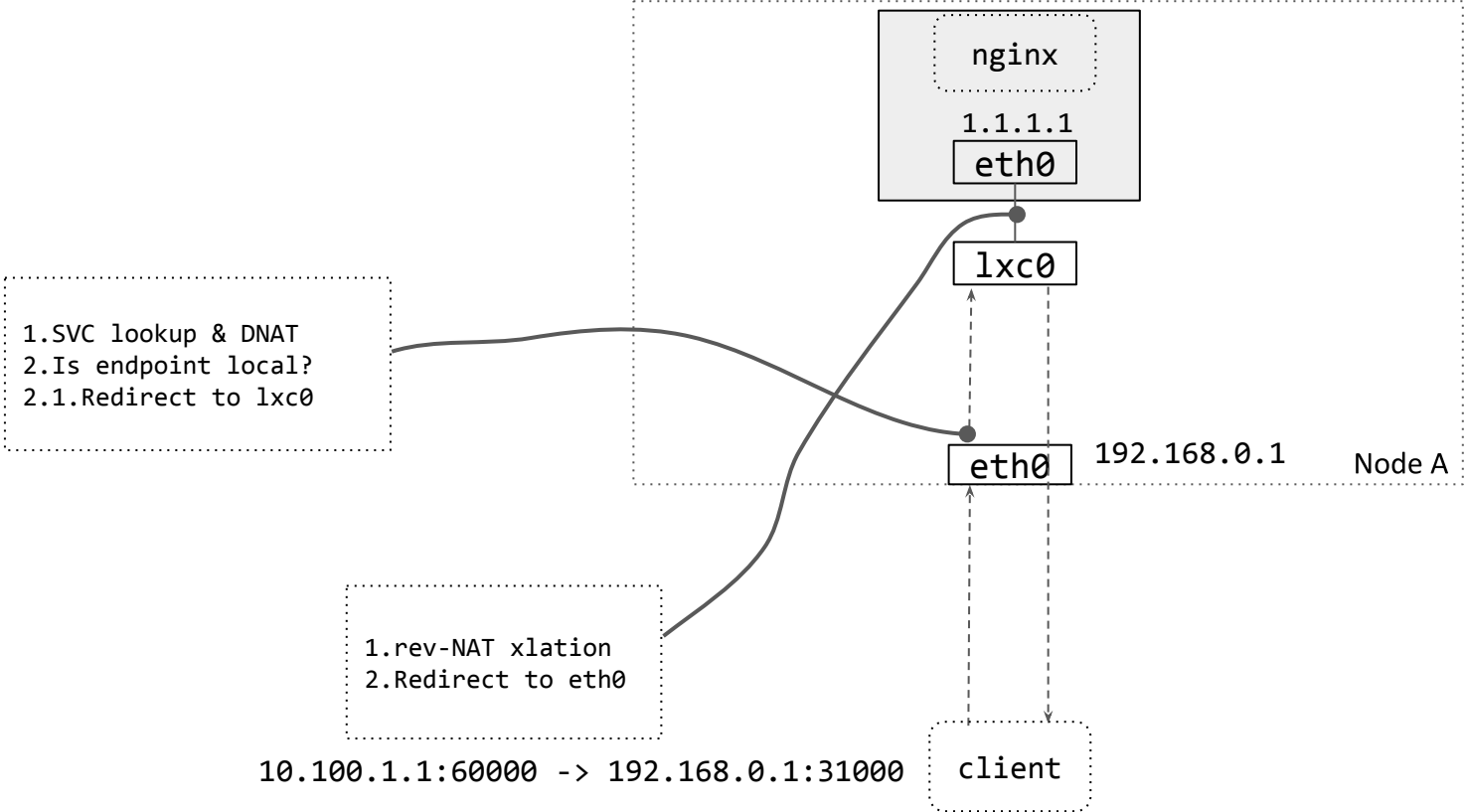
# Cilium service maps



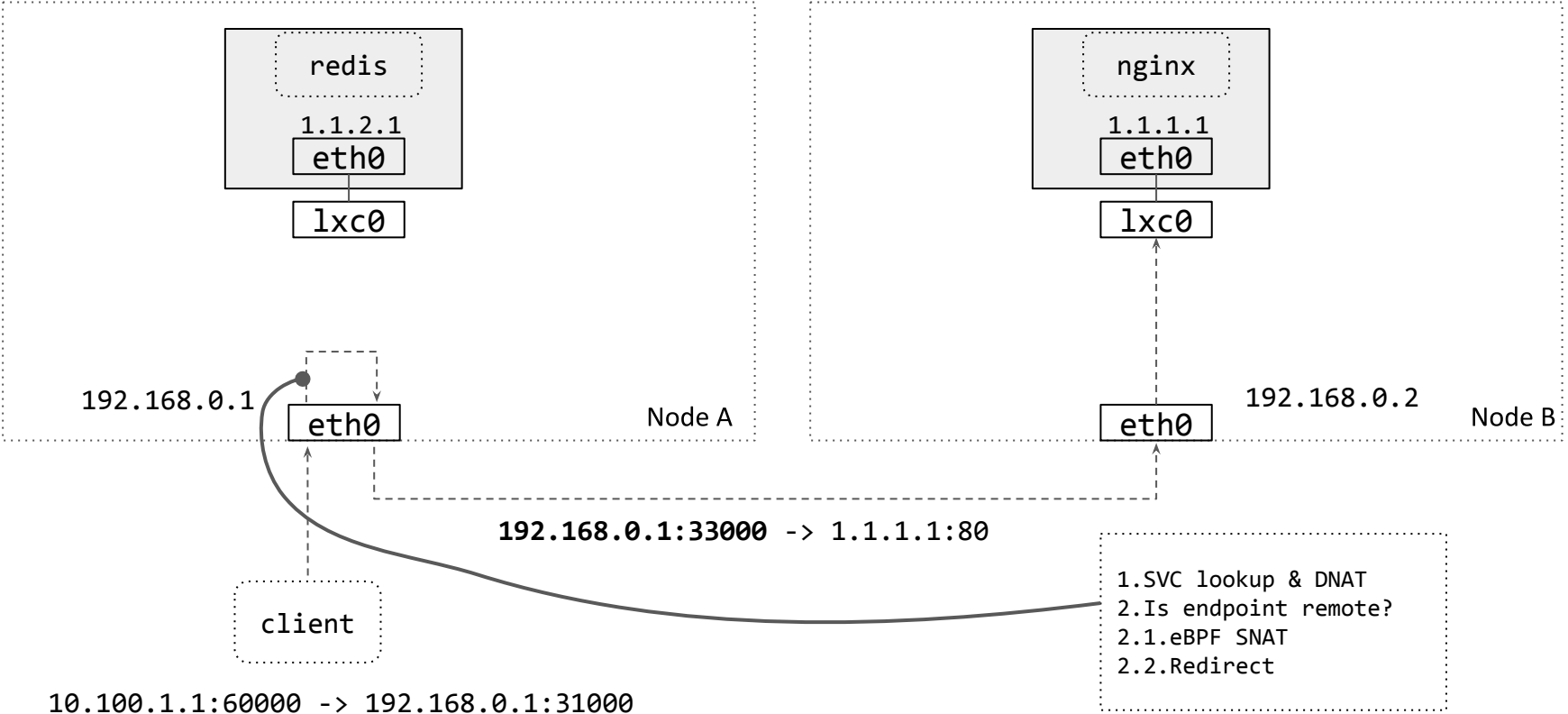
# ClusterIP (host or pod to pod) in Cilium



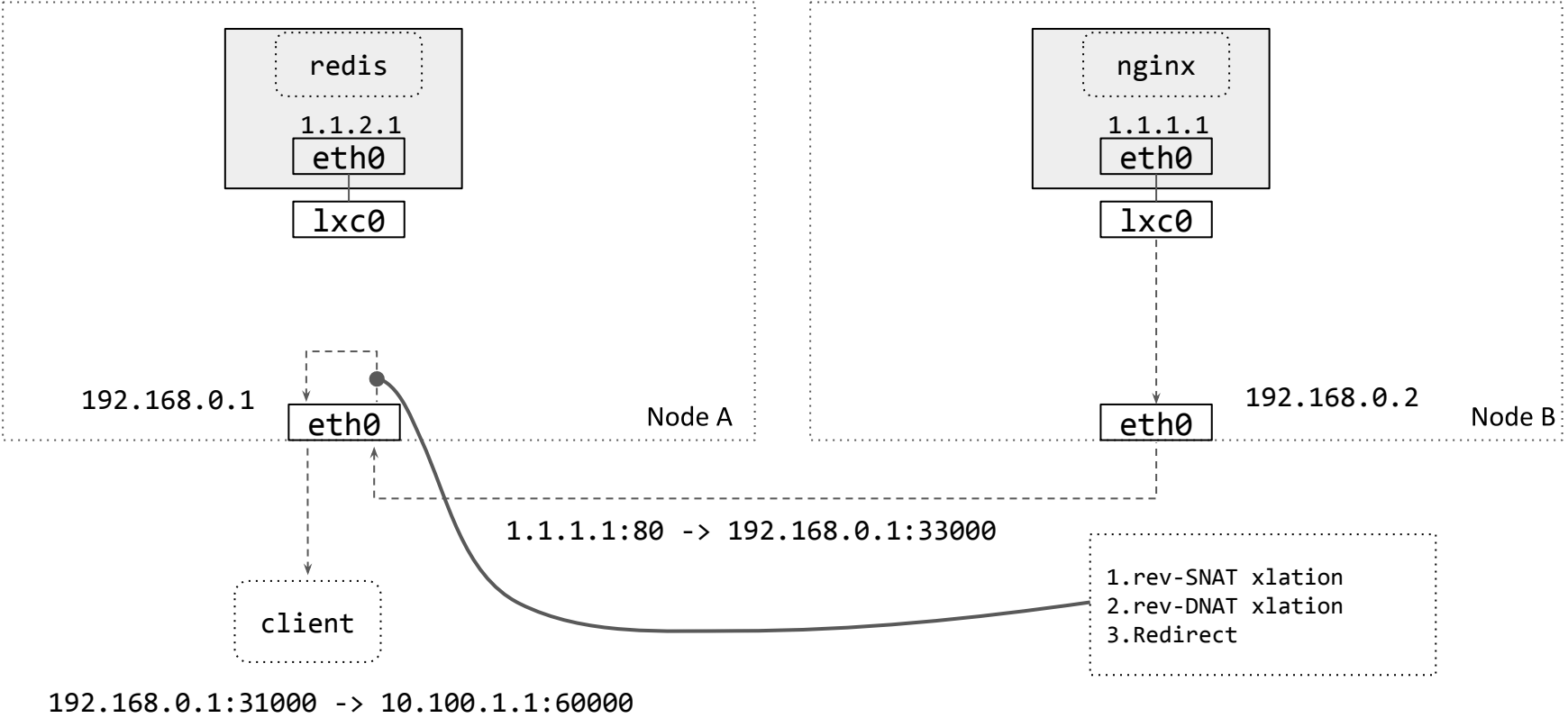
# NodePort with service endpoint on local node in Cilium



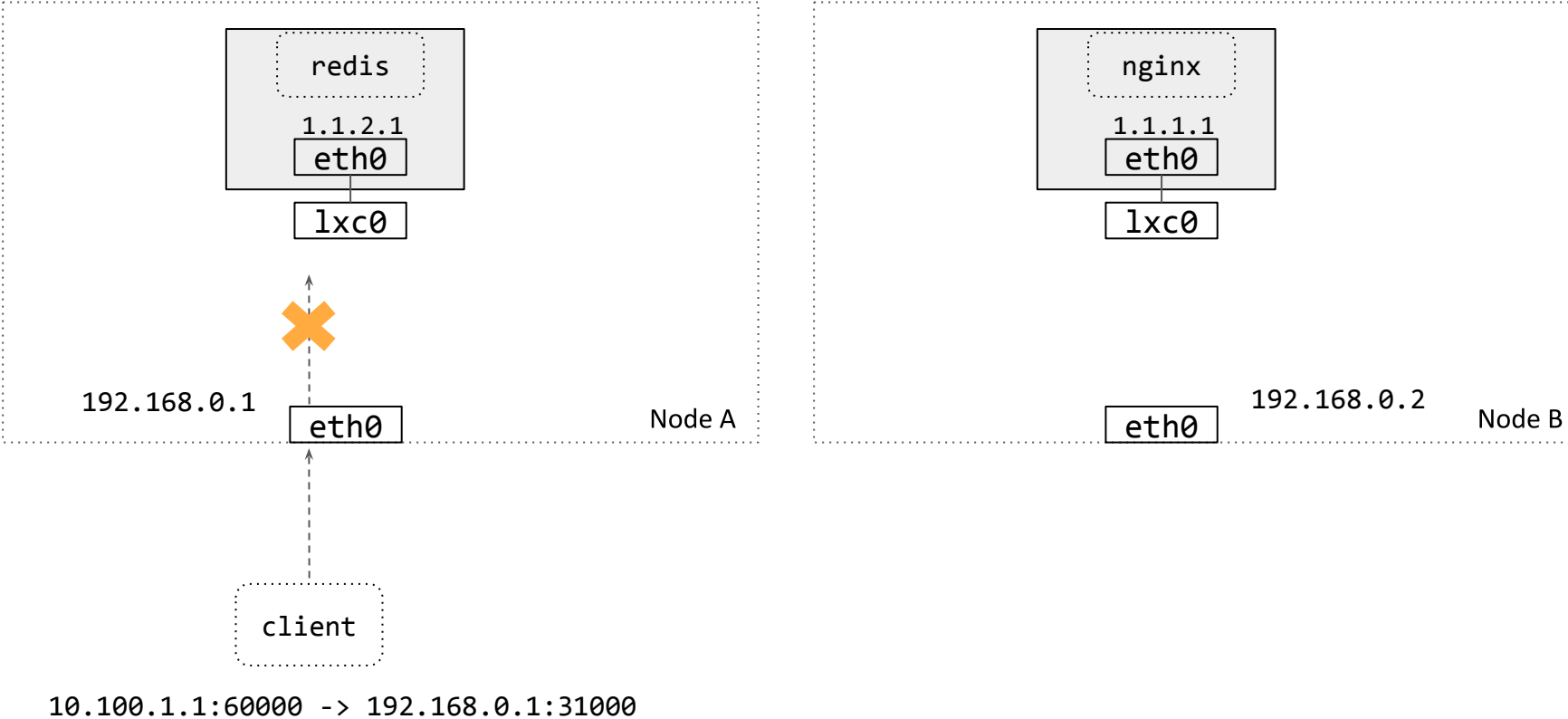
# NodePort with service endpoint on remote node in Cilium



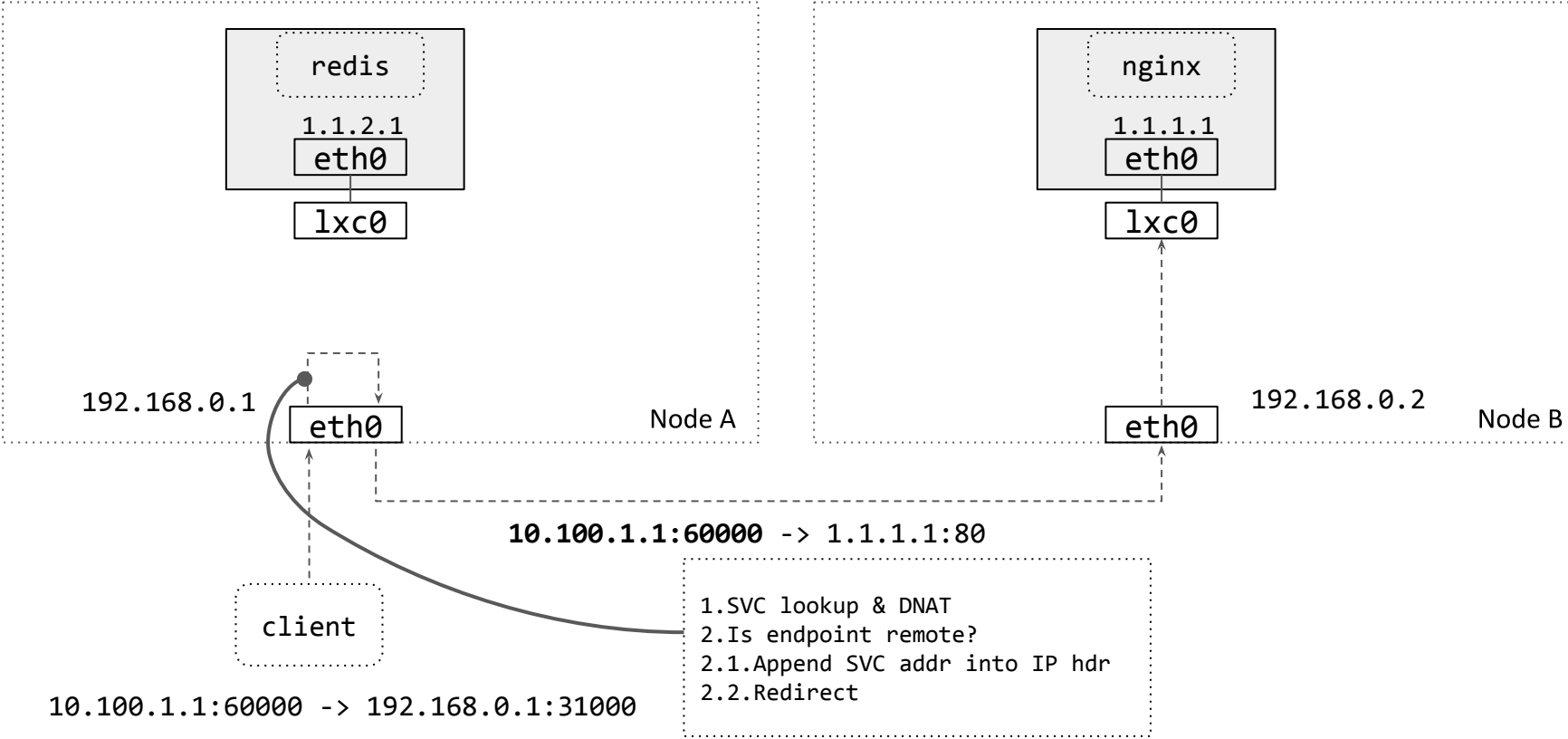
# NodePort with service endpoint on remote node in Cilium



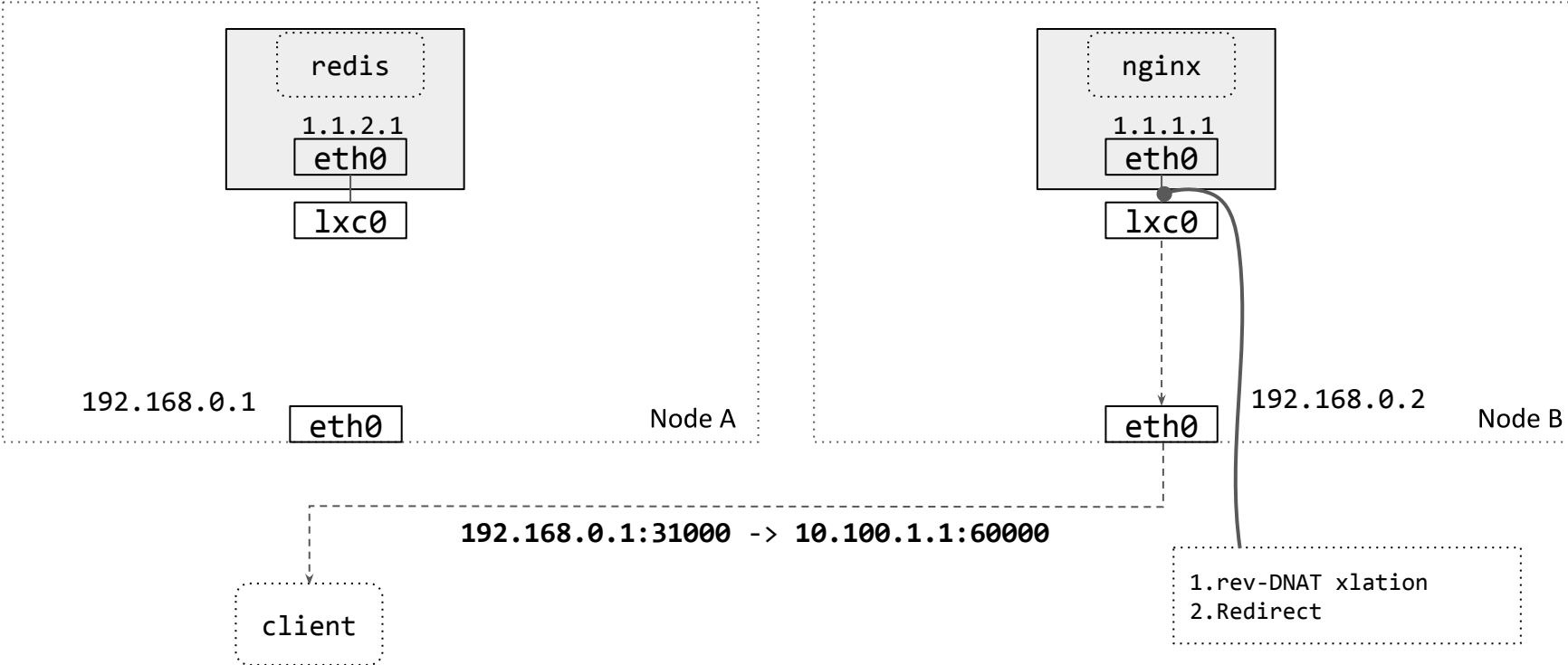
# NodePort externalTrafficPolicy=Local



# NodePort (DSR) in Cilium

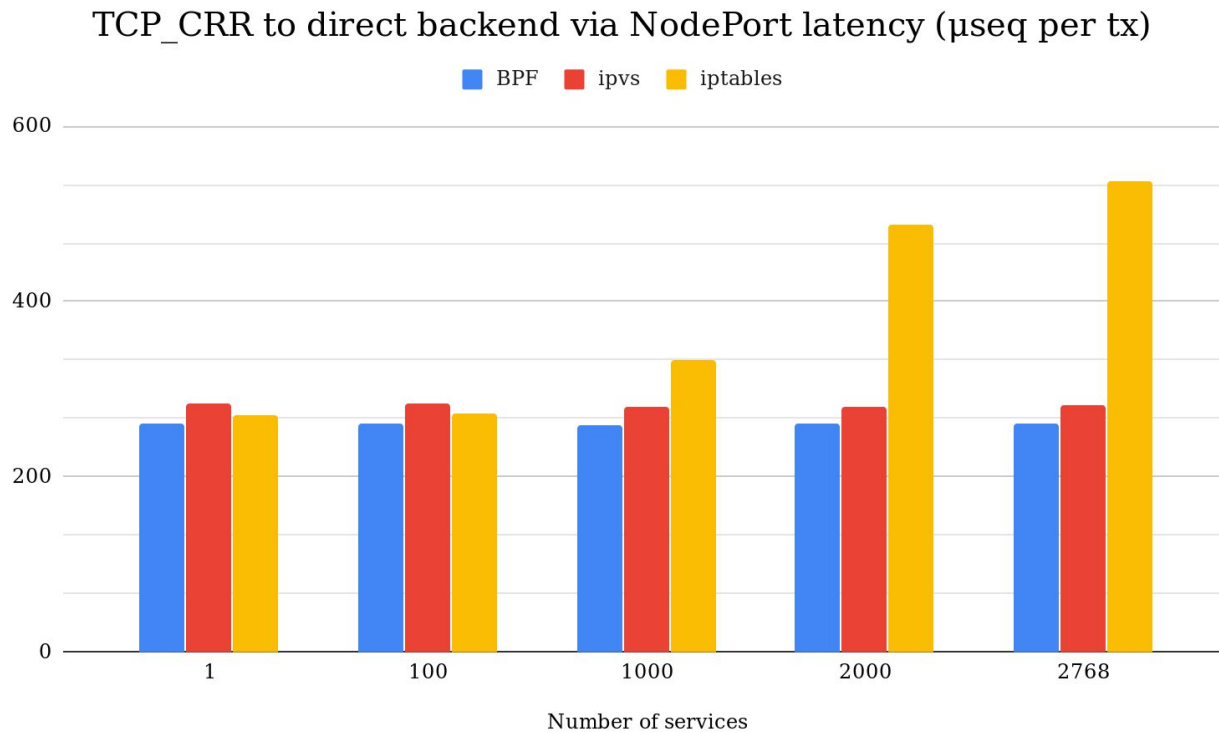


# NodePort (DSR) in Cilium

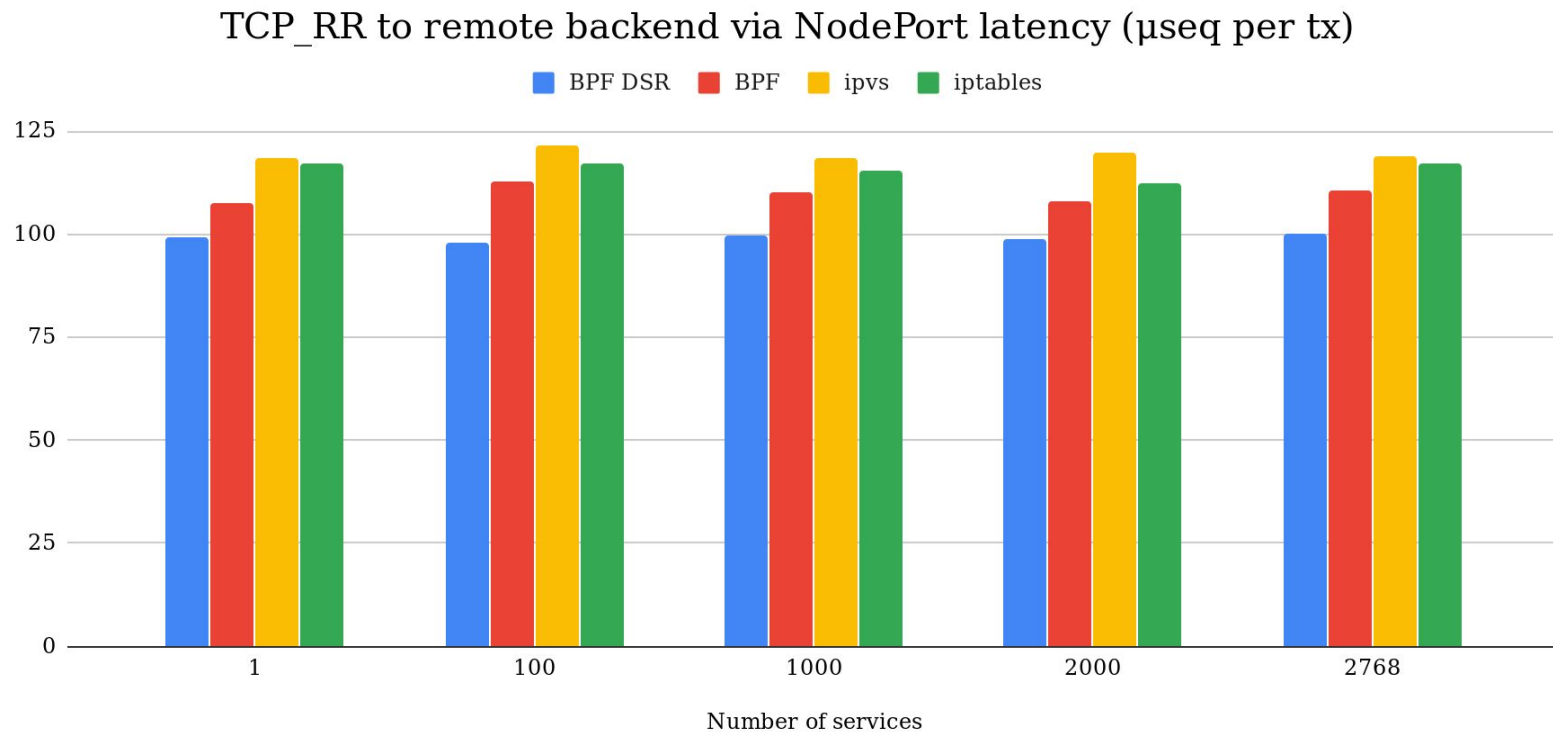




# Performance (lower is better)



# Performance (lower is better)



# Summary

## **Performance**

- Better performance and latency over kube-proxy (ipvs and iptables)

## **Reliability**

- Less LOC in datapath
- No need to wait for a new kernel release to fix a bug

## **Debuggability**

- Better tooling for introspection and troubleshooting

## **Compatibility**

- No more exec iptables

## **Customization**

- Ability to change LB behaviour

# Want to liberate yourself from kube-proxy? Come to our booth (S93)!

<https://cilium.link/kubeproxy-free>

<https://github.com/cilium/cilium>



# ClusterIP (host to pod)

