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Secrets Management at Scale with Vault & Rancher



Bastian Hofman
Senior Field Engineer
SUSE
bastian.hofmann@suse.com



Kapil Arora
Senior Solution Engineer
HashiCorp
kapil@hashicorp.com



Robert de Bock
Senior DevOps Engineer
Adfinis
robert.debock@adfinis.com

Containers are great!



One self-contained, portable package for your application



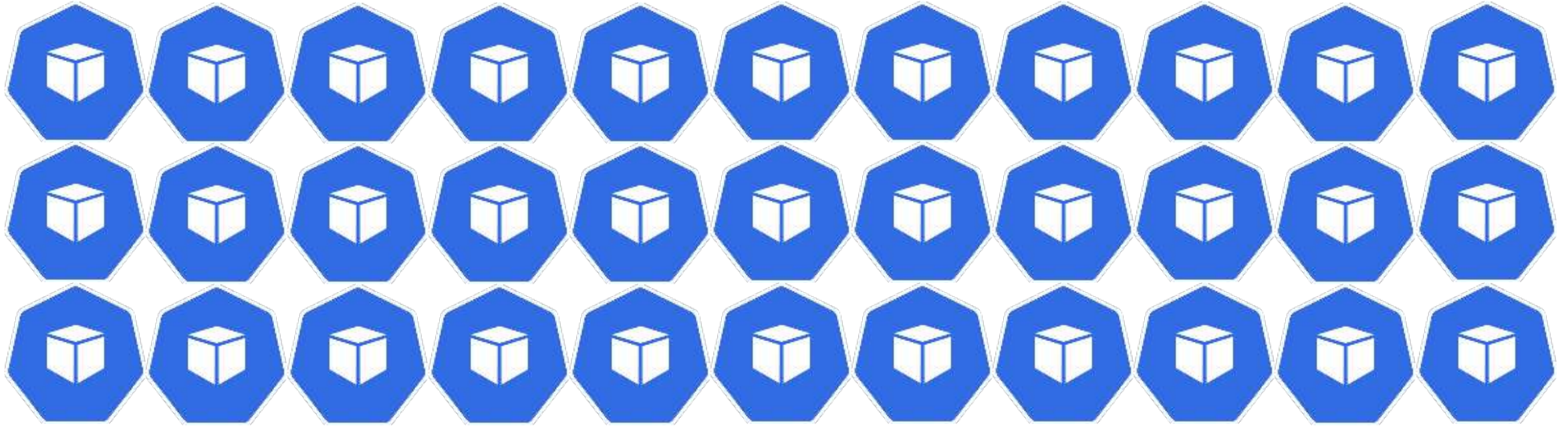
Containers are great.....but



Managing a couple – no problem



Containers are great.....but



How about managing
many?

How do we address:

Networking, Security, Scheduling, Automation, etc?



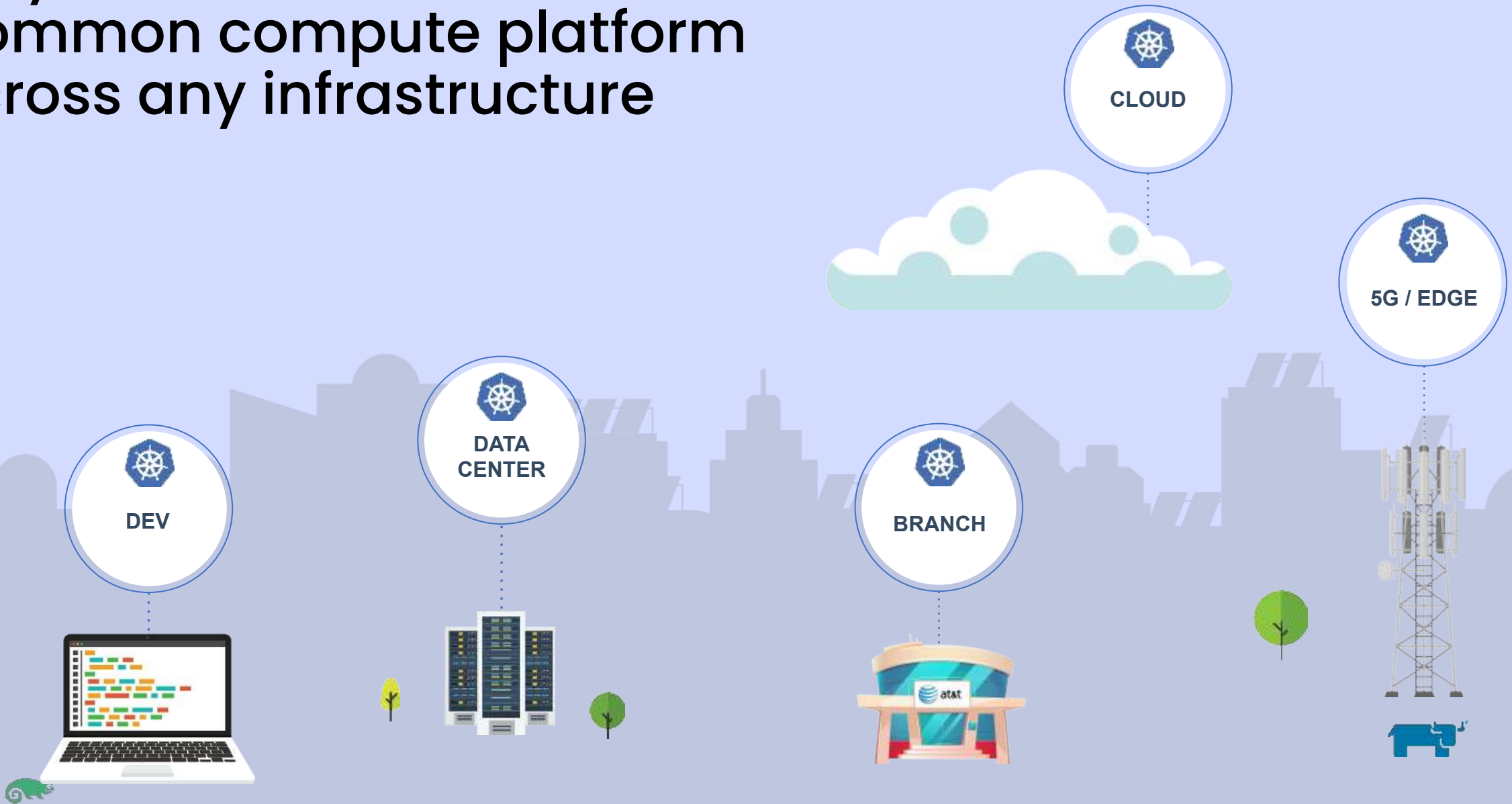


kubernetes



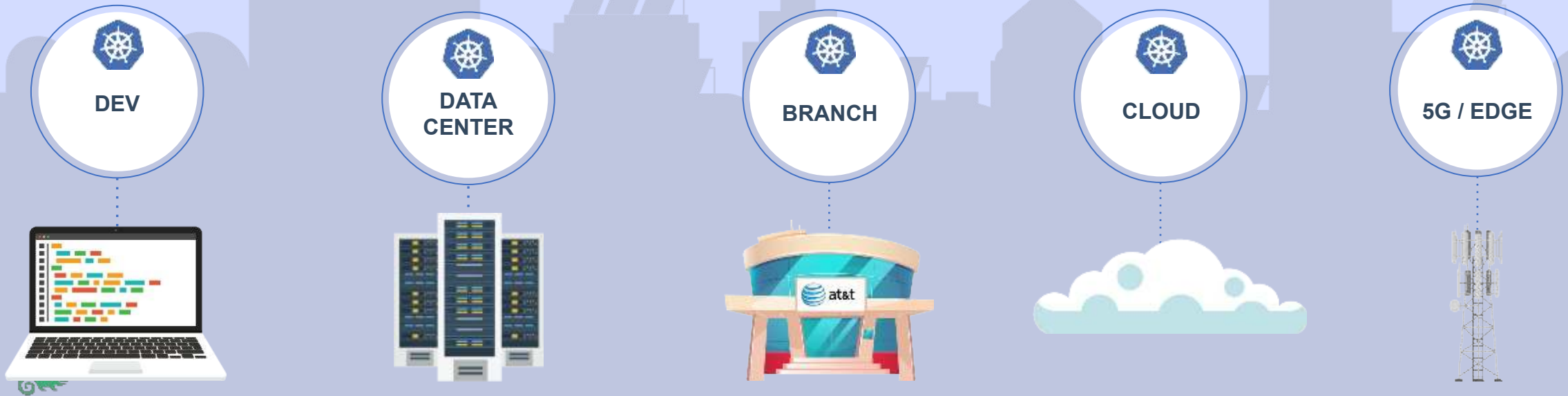
Why Kubernetes ?

Common compute platform across any infrastructure

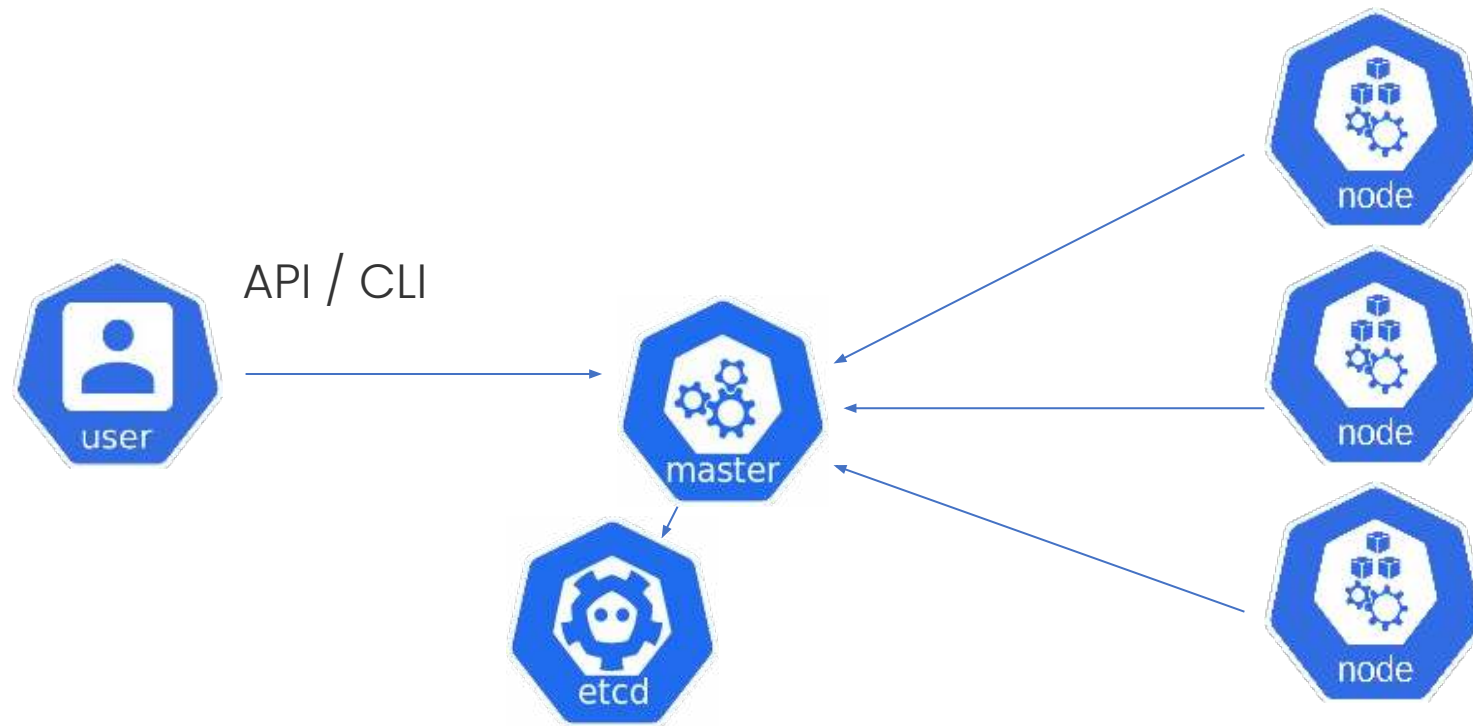


Common compute platform across any infrastructure & a consistent set of infrastructure capabilities

- ✓ Common API & Packaging
- ✓ Health Checks/HA
- ✓ Load Balancing
- ✓ Overlay Networking
- ✓ Network Security Policies
- ✓ Backup and Recovery
- ✓ Autoscaling
- ✓ Service Discovery
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ RBAC & Access Control



Kubernetes architecture



- Controlplane: Manages the cluster and exposes an API for control
- Etcd: a key value store used as Kubernetes' backing store for all cluster data.
- Worker: Runs workloads and all of the supporting components.



Setting up Kubernetes is hard

kelseyhightower / kubernetes-the-hard-way

Watch 903

Code Issues 53 Pull requests 45 Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights

master kubernetes-the-hard-way / docs /

Go to file Add file ...

kelseyhightower Update to Kubernetes 1.18.6 cap6371 on 18 Jul 2020 History

--		
images	Update to Kubernetes 1.10.2 and add gVisor support	3 years ago
01-prerequisites.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.18.6	9 months ago
02-client-tools.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.18.6	9 months ago
03-compute-resources.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.18.6	9 months ago
04-certificate-authority.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.15.3	2 years ago
05-kubernetes-configuration-files.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.15.3	2 years ago
06-data-encryption-keys.md	update docs	4 years ago
07-bootstrapping-etcd.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.18.6	9 months ago
08-bootstrapping-kubernetes-controllers.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.18.6	9 months ago
09-bootstrapping-kubernetes-workers.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.18.6	9 months ago
10-configuring-kubectl.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.18.6	9 months ago
11-pod-network-routes.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.18.6	9 months ago
12-dns-addon.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.18.6	9 months ago
13-smoke-test.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.18.6	9 months ago
14-cleanup.md	Update to Kubernetes 1.15.3	2 years ago



You don't compile Linux from scratch, you use a distribution



Rancher Kubernetes Engine

- 100% Upstream Kubernetes
- CNCF certified
- Easy installation
- Zero-downtime upgrades
- Backup & Disaster Recovery
- Air gapped installation support



RKE

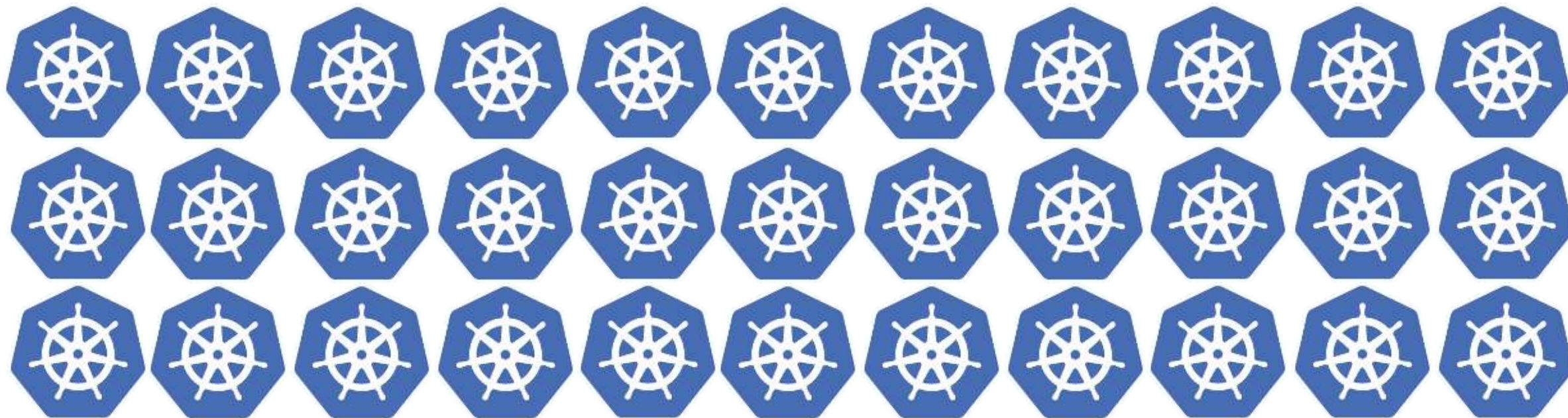
Kubernetes clusters are great.....but



Managing a couple – no problem



Kubernetes clusters are great.....but



How about managing
many?

- Different environments
- Different teams
- Different hardware
- Different locations
- Edge devices

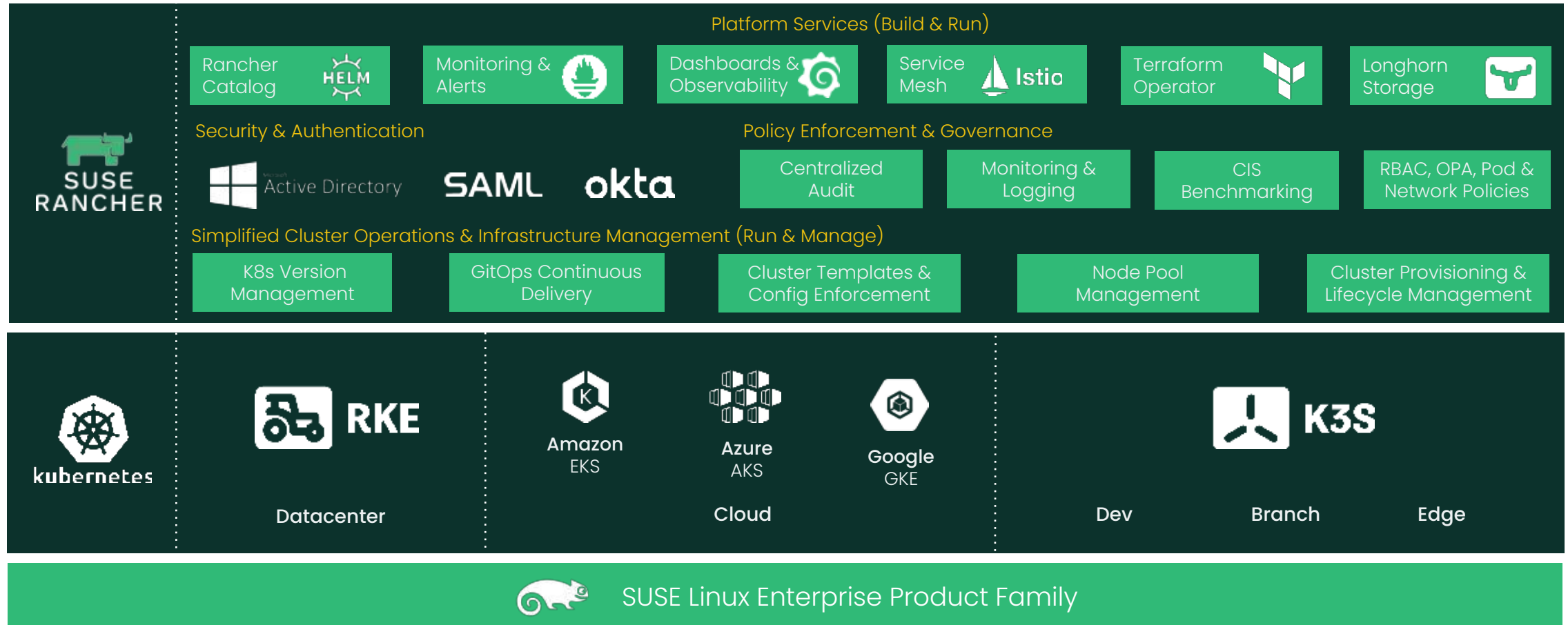


SUSE Rancher – the industry's only platform to manage all Kubernetes distributions

Applications 1

Applications 2

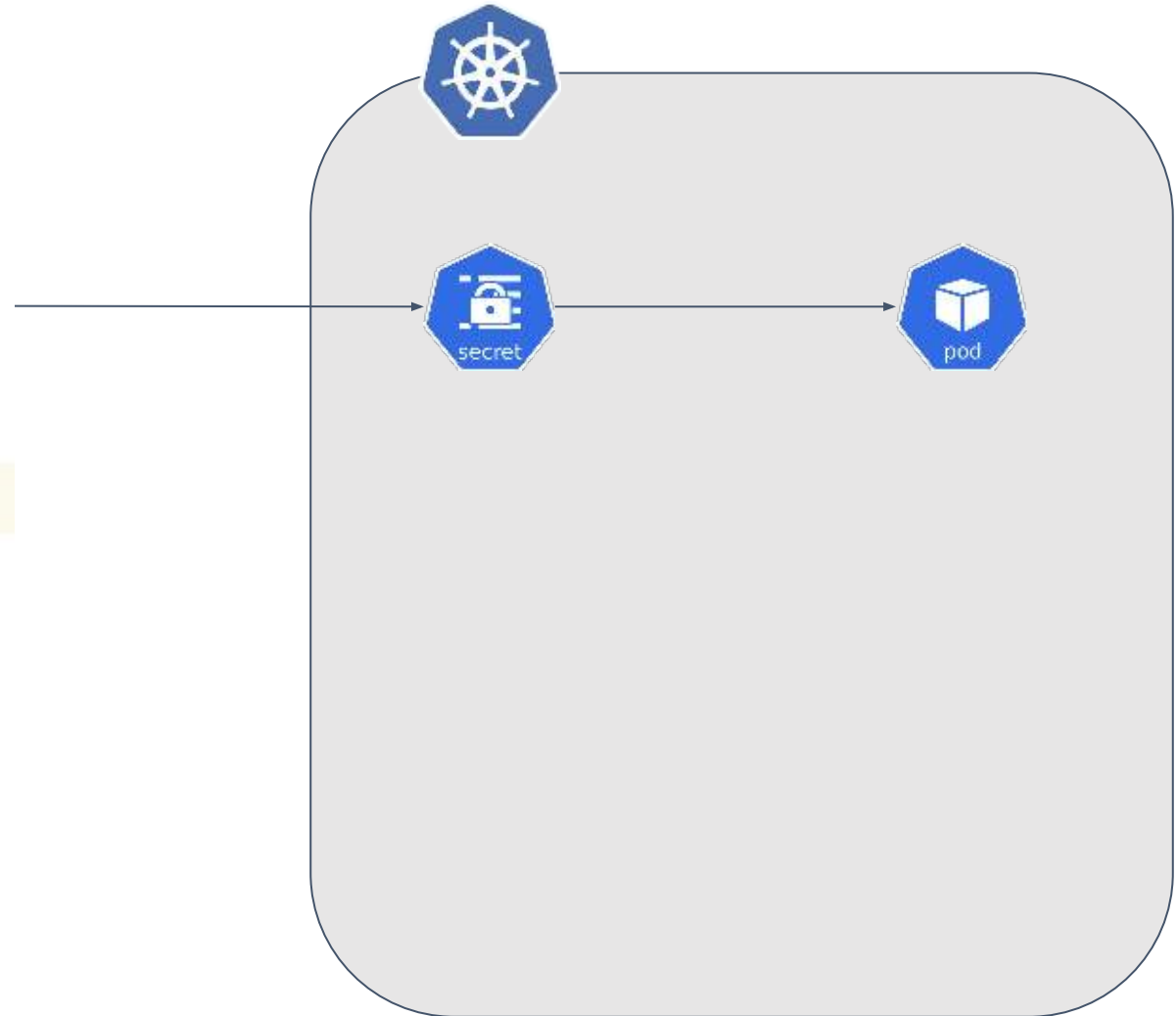
Applications 3



Secret Management in Kubernetes




```
1  apiVersion: v1
2  kind: Secret
3  metadata:
4    name: database-config
5  stringData:
6    root-password: not-very-secret
```





Secret Management Challenges

- Secrets sprawl
- Secrets rotation
- X.509 certificates, SSH and Cloud access
- Encryption
- Multi-platform and multi-cloud
- Central control and management
- Auditing
- Compliance & Hardware Security Module (HSM) integration
- Costs, scalability & productivity



HashiCorp Vault

Provides the foundation for cloud security that leverages trusted sources of identity to keep secrets and application data secure

- **Secrets management** to centrally store and protect secrets across clouds and applications
- **Data encryption** to keep application data secure across environments and workloads
- **Advanced Data Protection** to secure workloads and data across traditional systems, clouds, and infrastructure.



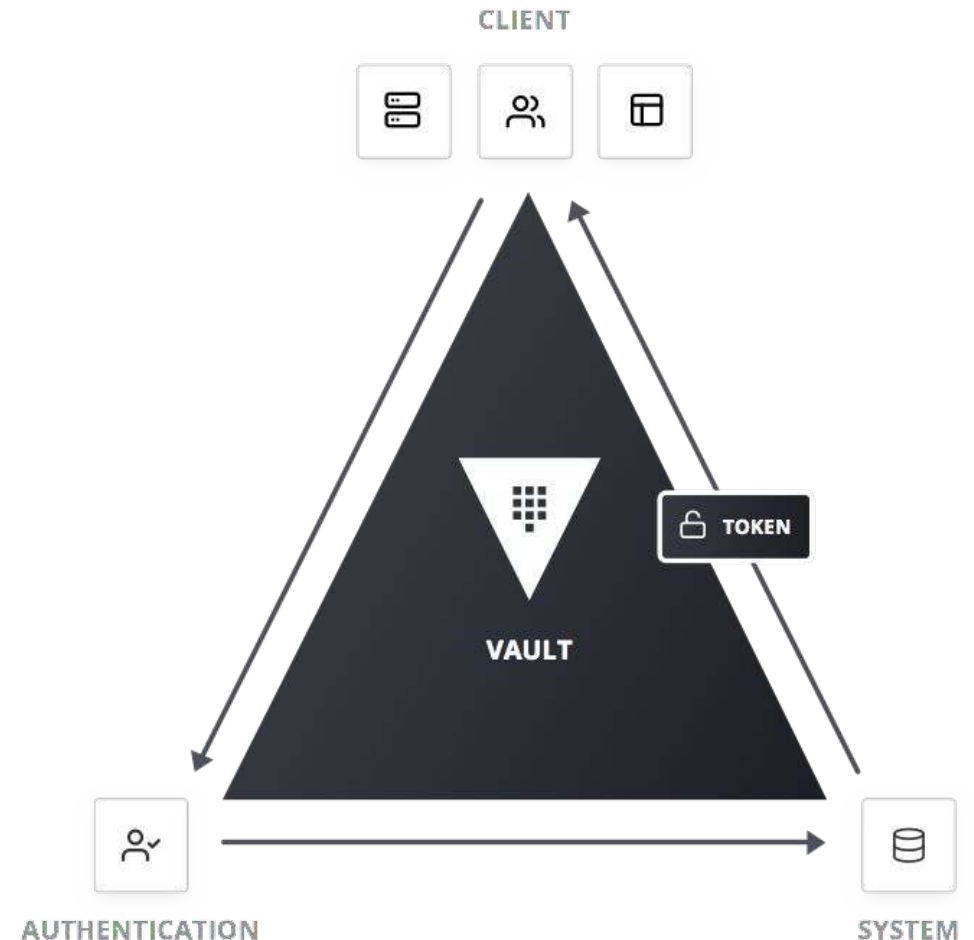
2T+
Transactions
Weekly



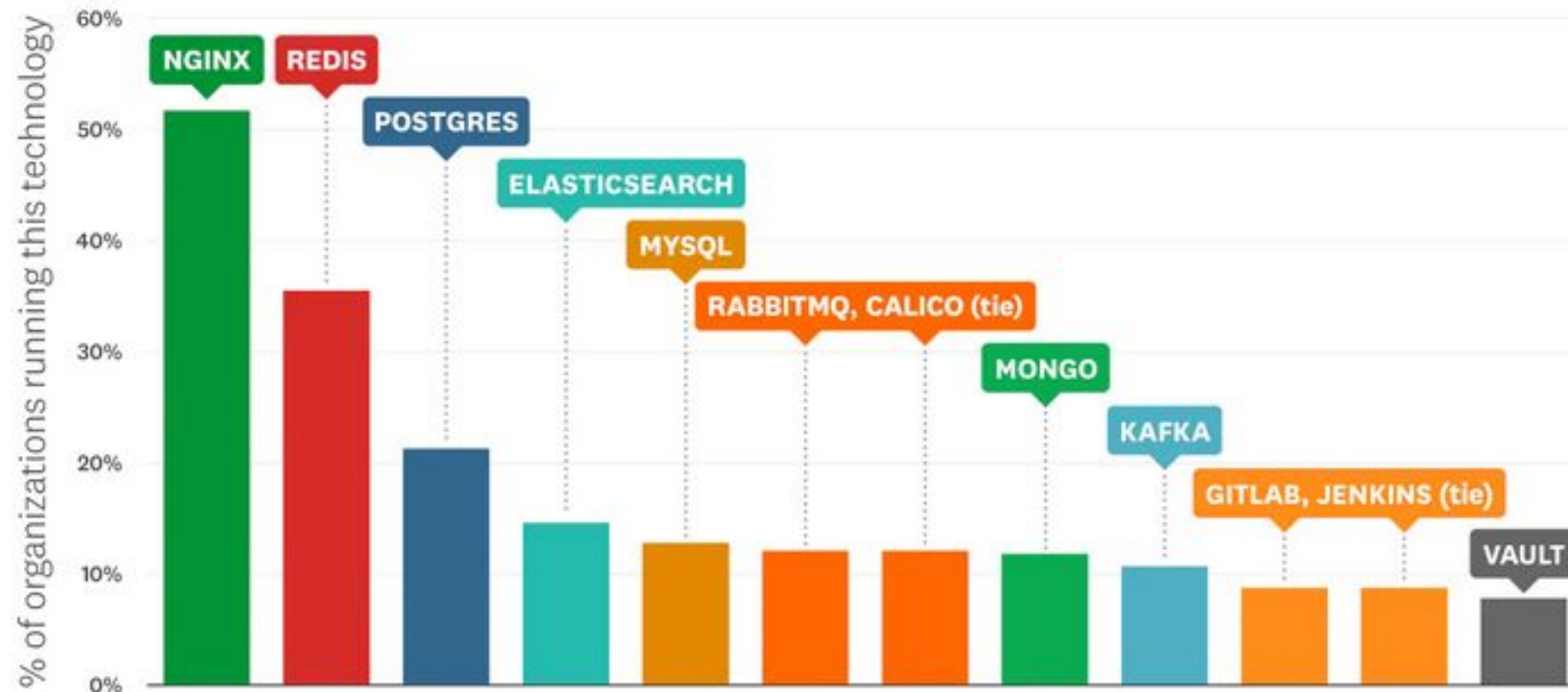
1M+
Monthly D/Ls



475+
Enterprise
Customers



Top Technologies Running on Docker



Source: Datadog

Source: <https://www.datadoghq.com/container-report/>



Secrets Management

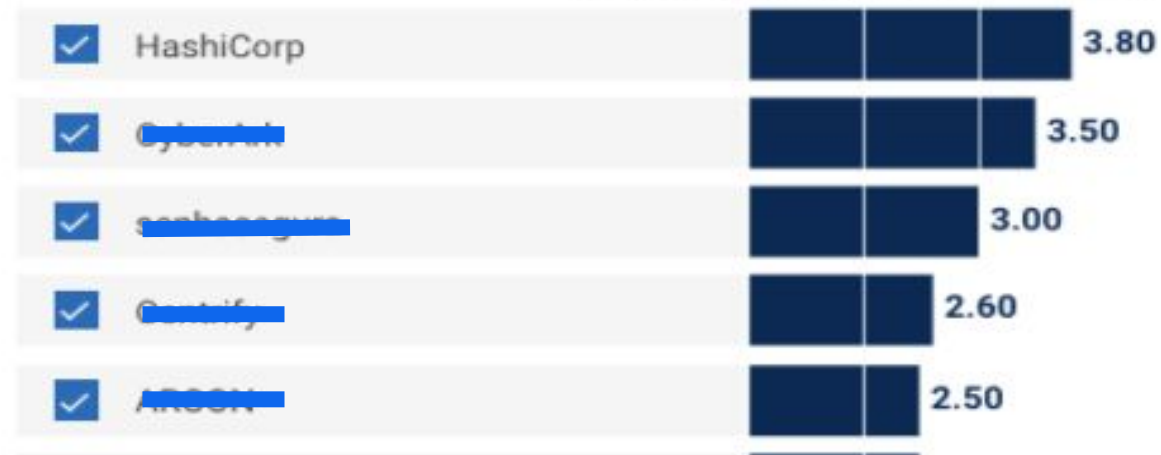
As of 3 August 2020

This is a specialized use case for privileged access, consisting of the need to programmatically manage, store and retrieve credentials and secrets for software and machines.

Product Scores

Sort by score ▼

FIT TO USE CASE (Scale 1-5) — Best

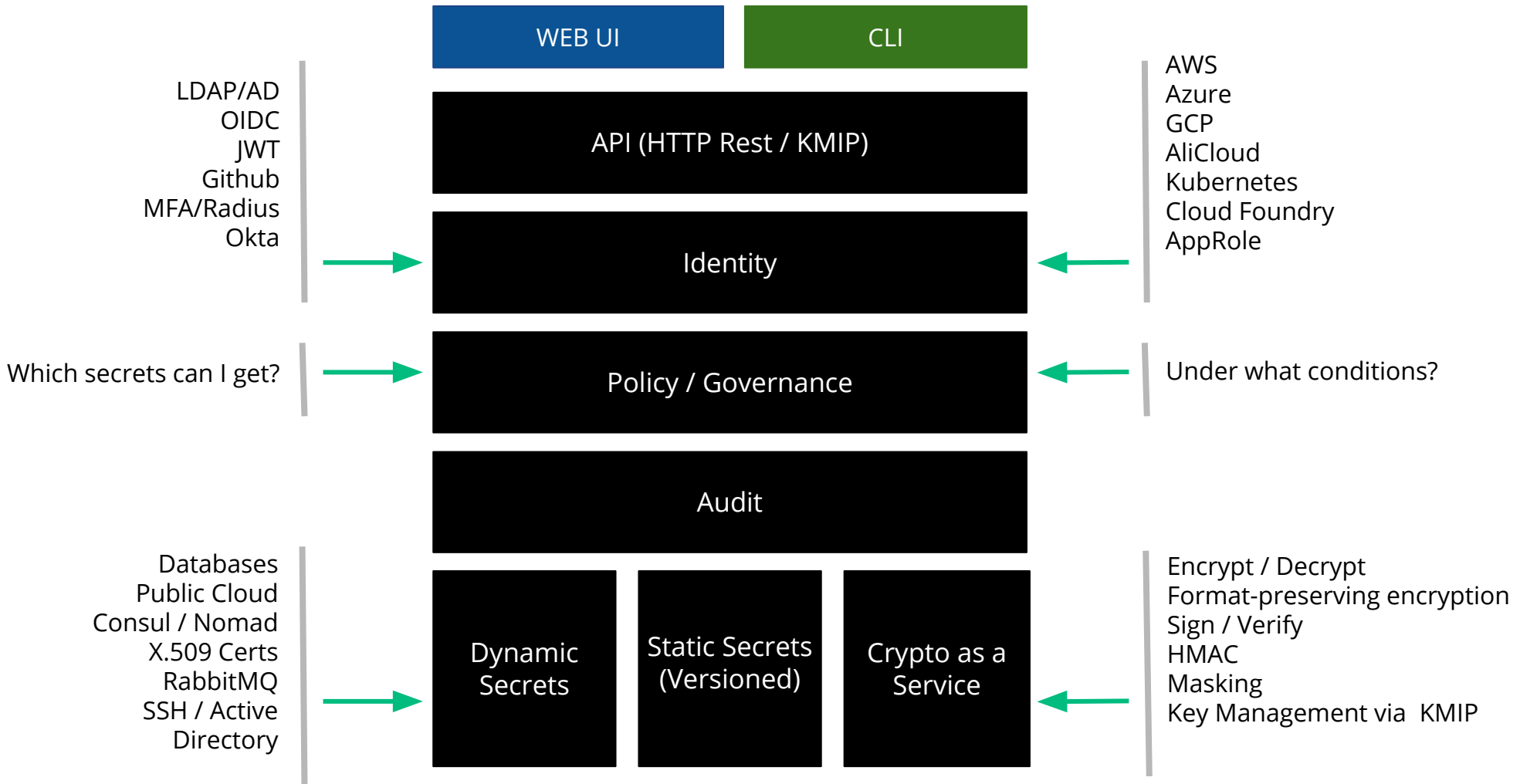


Source: <https://www.gartner.com/en/documents/3988410/critical-capabilities-for-privileged-access-management>

Vault Workflow Overview



Vault Principles

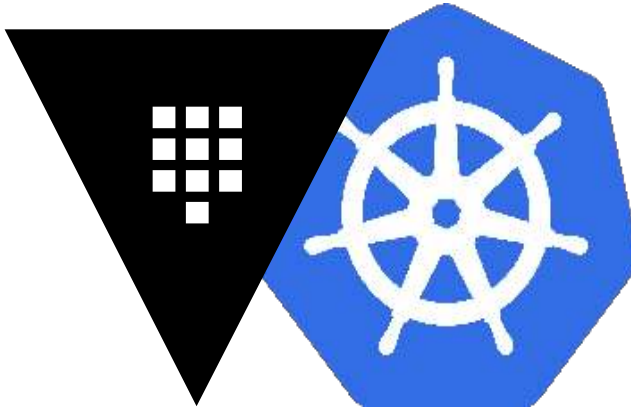


Combining Vault and Rancher



Vault & Rancher - Why?

- Automation: both products have a strong API.
- The combination prevents vendor lock-in.
- With Rancher and K8s a secrets engine becomes important.



Deploy Vault on Ranchers K8s clusters

```
$ helm repo add hashicorp https://helm.releases.hashicorp.com  
"hashicorp" has been added to your repositories
```

```
$ helm install vault hashicorp/vault
```

Stolen from <https://www.vaultproject.io/docs/platform/k8s/helm>



Demo deploying Vault

If demo-gods are angry: <https://youtu.be/k9lpsnXQv-I>



Use Ranchers K8s authentication for Vault

Vault typically uses an authentication provider, like *Active Directory* or *GitHub*.

K8s is also an authentication provider.

This makes Vault quite easy to integrate.

Let's review <https://www.vaultproject.io/docs/auth/kubernetes>



Use Secrets in Rancher Kubernetes Containers

Multiple Methods



Vault Agent

spec:

template:

metadata:

annotations:

vault.hashicorp.com/agent-inject: "true"

vault.hashicorp.com/role: "internal-app"

vault.hashicorp.com/agent-inject-secret-database-config.txt:
"internal/data/database/config"

<https://learn.hashicorp.com/tutorials/vault/kubernetes-sidecar>



Vault CSI (Container Storage Interface)

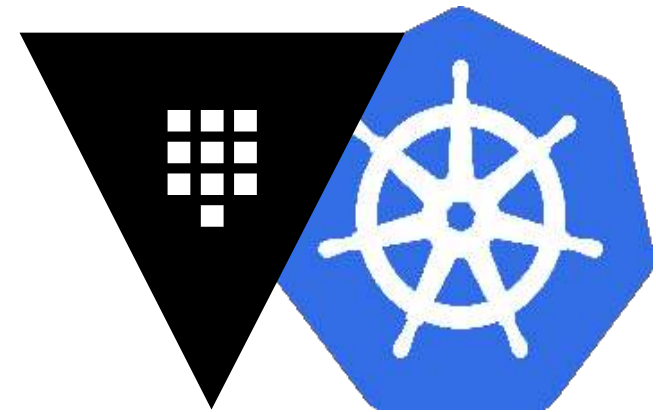
A Vault secret shows as a file in a mount.

<https://www.vaultproject.io/docs/platform/k8s/csi>



Vault & Kubernetes Summary

- Vault can be installed on Kubernetes using a **Helm Chart**
- Vault supports Kubernetes authentication. Applications can use a **K8S Service Account** to authenticate and fetch secrets
- Vault can leverage Kubernetes mutating admission webhook to intercept pods that define specific **annotations** and **inject** a **Vault Agent** container to manage these secrets
- Mount Vault secrets as volume using secrets store **CSI** driver



Conclusion

- Vault is a logical component in Ranchers K8s clusters.
- It's easy to install Vault in K8s.
- There are sufficient methods to consume secrets.



Resources

- SUSE Rancher
 - <https://www.suse.com/de-de/products/suse-rancher/>
 - <https://rancher.com/docs/rancher/v2.5/en/>
- HashiCorp Vault
 - <https://www.vaultproject.io/docs/platform/k8s>
 - <https://learn.hashicorp.com/collections/vault/kubernetes>



Q&A

Thank You

hello@hashicorp.com

www.hashicorp.com

www.adfinis.com

www.suse.com

