Basic Concepts in Kubernetes and Istio

 Kubernetes (aka. K8s) is an opensource system for automating deployment, scaling, and management of containerized applications.



Features

- Orchestrate containers across multiple hosts
- Make better use of hardware
- Control and automate application deployments and updates
- Mount and add storage to run stateful apps
- Scale containerized applications and their resources
- Declaratively manage services
- Reliability guarantee of applications

Core Concepts

- Kubernetes cluster: k8s system runs as a cluster, every cluster has at least one node
- Master: the machine that controls Kubernetes nodes
- Node: a node is a worker machine in k8s, that run containerized applications
 - Kubelet: an agent makes sure that containers are running in a Pod
 - kube-proxy
 - Container Runtime



Kubernetes Cluster Components

Core Concepts

- **Pod**: the basic execution unit of k8s application
 - Pod is a **group** of containers
 - Each Pod is meant to run a single instance of a given application
 - All containers in a pod share the same resources (network, storage)
 - Stateful (StatefulSets) & stateless



Core Concepts

- Service: an abstraction of a set of application runs on pods
 - Other applications can't access pods directly
 - Every pods in a service is the same, no matter where it is
 - Kubernetes service proxies automatically get service requests to the right pod



Service Mesh

- Background: Hard to maintain service-to-service communication between microservices
- Service Mesh is a way to control how different parts of an application interaction with each another
- Service Mesh's requirements can include discovery, load balancing, failure recovery, metrics, and monitoring
- Service mesh also often has more complex operational requirements, like A/B testing, canary rollouts, rate limiting, access control, and endto-end authentication



How microservices in Service Mesh communicate with each other

- Traffic management
- Security
- Observability



• Traffic management

- Relies on Envoy proxies (sidecar)
- Istio will connect to service discovery system, and detects the services and endpoints in that cluster
- Each service workload has a load balancing pool
- Envoy proxies will distribute traffic to instance in the pool

• Traffic management: Virtual Services

- Configure how requests are routed to a service within an Istio service mesh
- Each virtual service consists of a set of routing rules
- Making Istio's traffic management flexible and powerful



• Traffic management: Gateway

- Manage inbound and outbound traffic for your mesh
- Gateway configurations are applied to standalone Envoy proxies



• Traffic management: Destination Rules

- Configure what happens to traffic **for** the destination
- Define how traffic corresponds and load balance to real services or pods



• Traffic management: Service entries

- Add an entry to the service registry that Istio maintains internally
- Allows you to manage traffic for services running outside of the mesh

