IT-PS. Data Science

From Docker to OpenShift

What we have learned while deploying our first application

IT-Power Services GmbH

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Contents

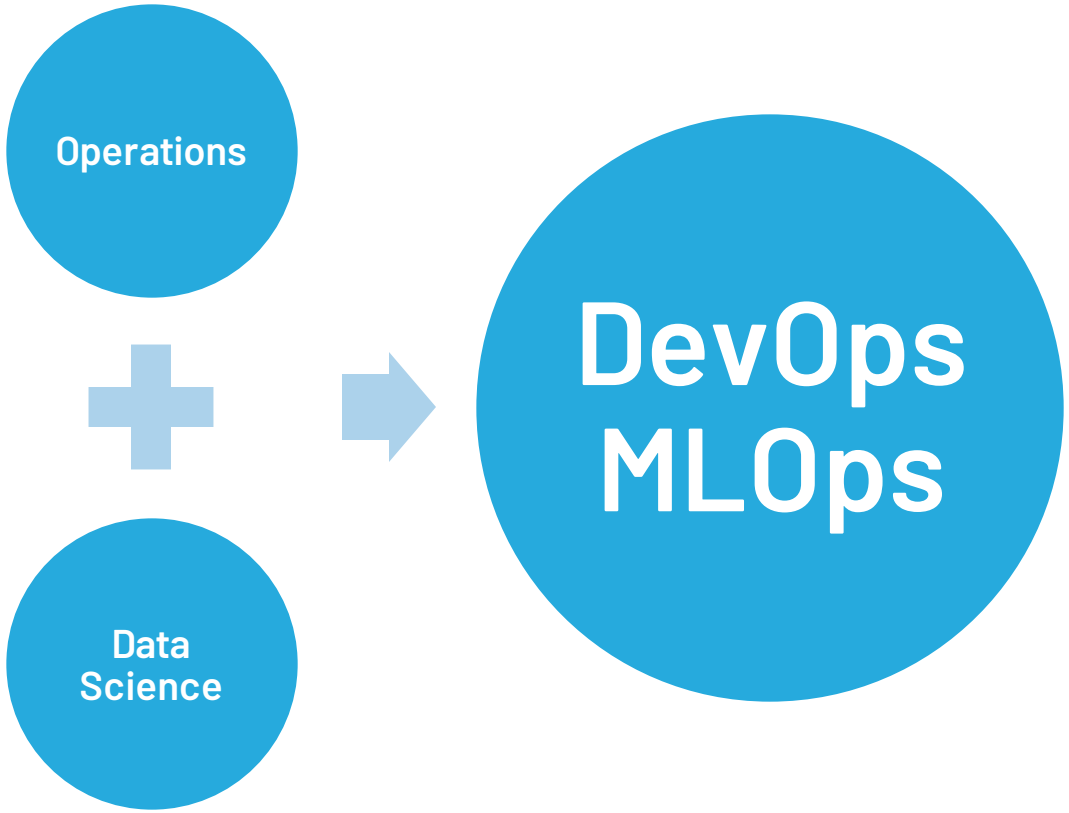
What you can expect from this talk

- What did we deploy?
- How does the deployment look like using Docker Compose / Swarm?
- How did we move from Docker to OpenShift?
- What were the main challenges and how did we deal with them?

IT-Power Services

Bridging the gap between operations and applications

- Operations experts
  - Power-house with high expertise IBM i and Linux systems
  - Private cloud provider with multiple data centres in Austria
  - Services around public cloud
- Data Science and Software Engineering
- DevOps / MLOps
  - CI/CD pipelines
  - Docker, Podman, OpenShift

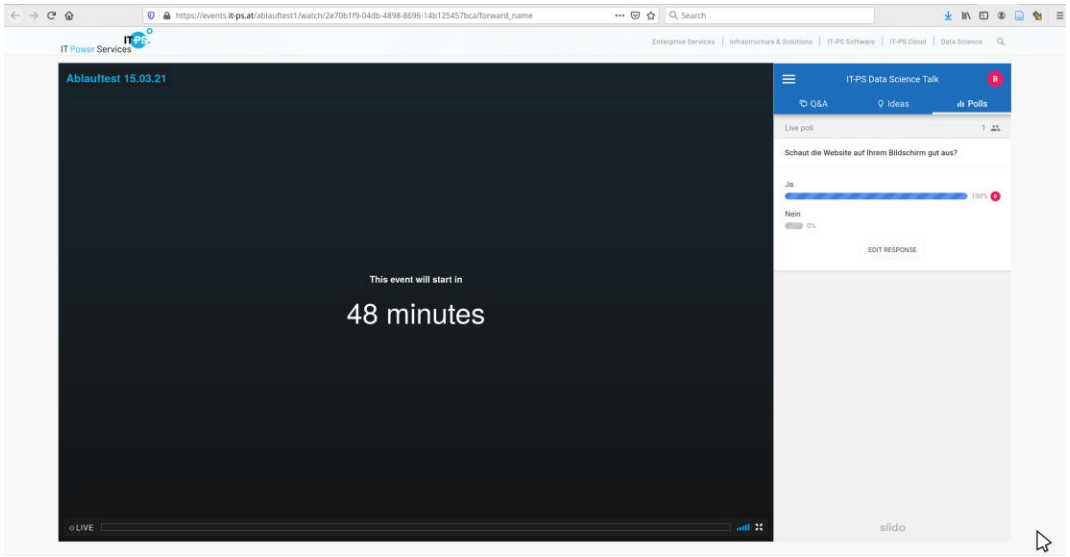


Background

Background: manage an online event

IT-PS Data Science Talk 2021

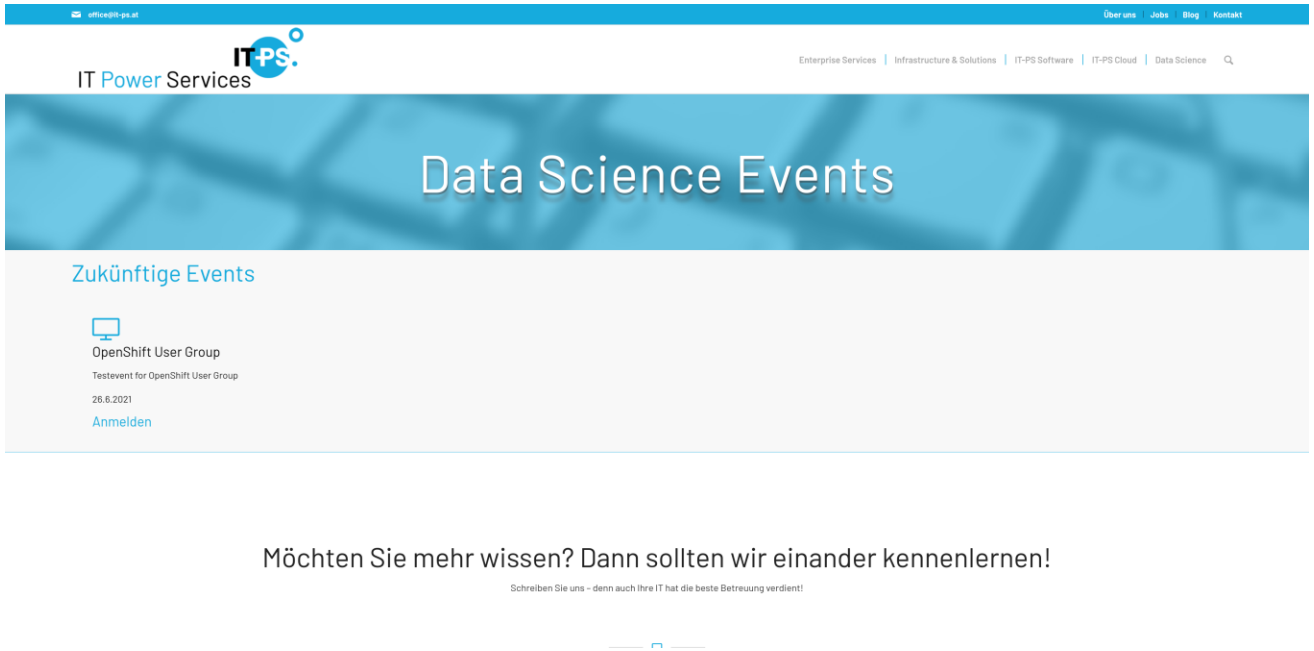
- Manage invitations and participants
  - Including email templates
- Create a virtual "stage"
  - Show video and Q&A side by side



Demo: online event application

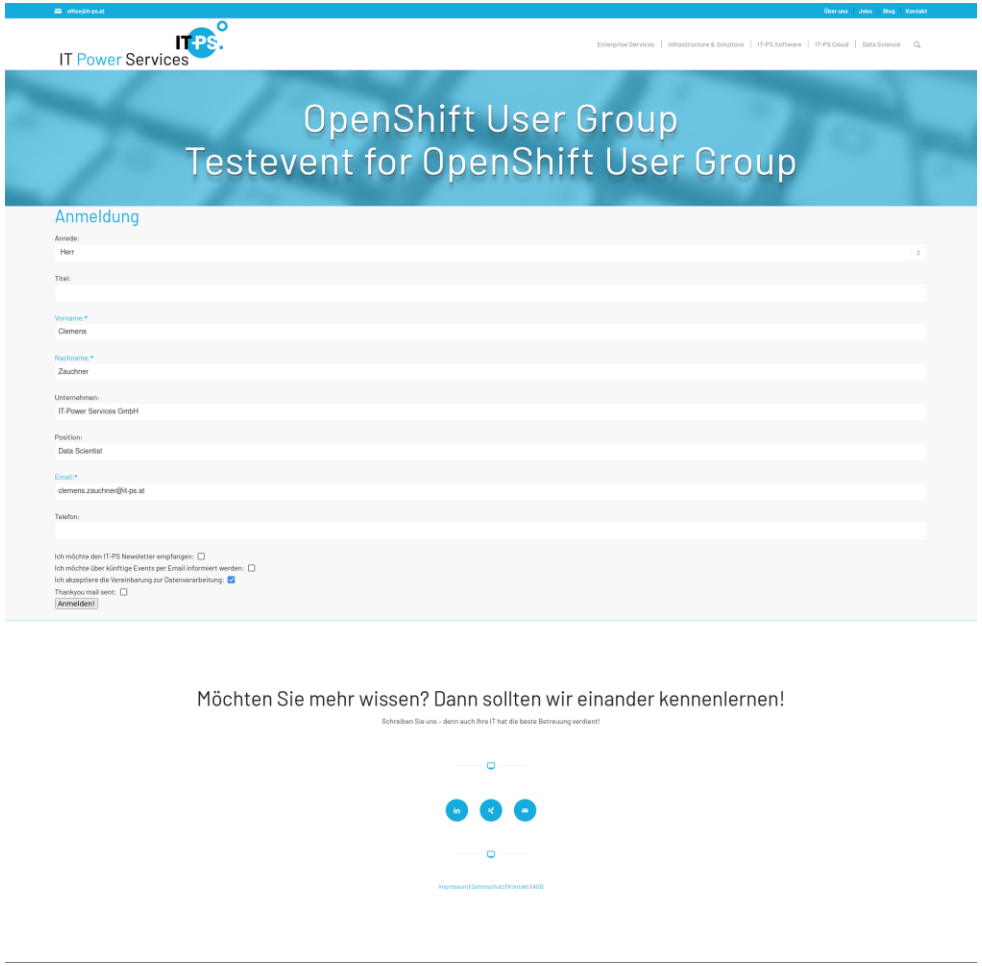
Landing page

- The landing page lists past, current and upcoming events



Demo: online event application

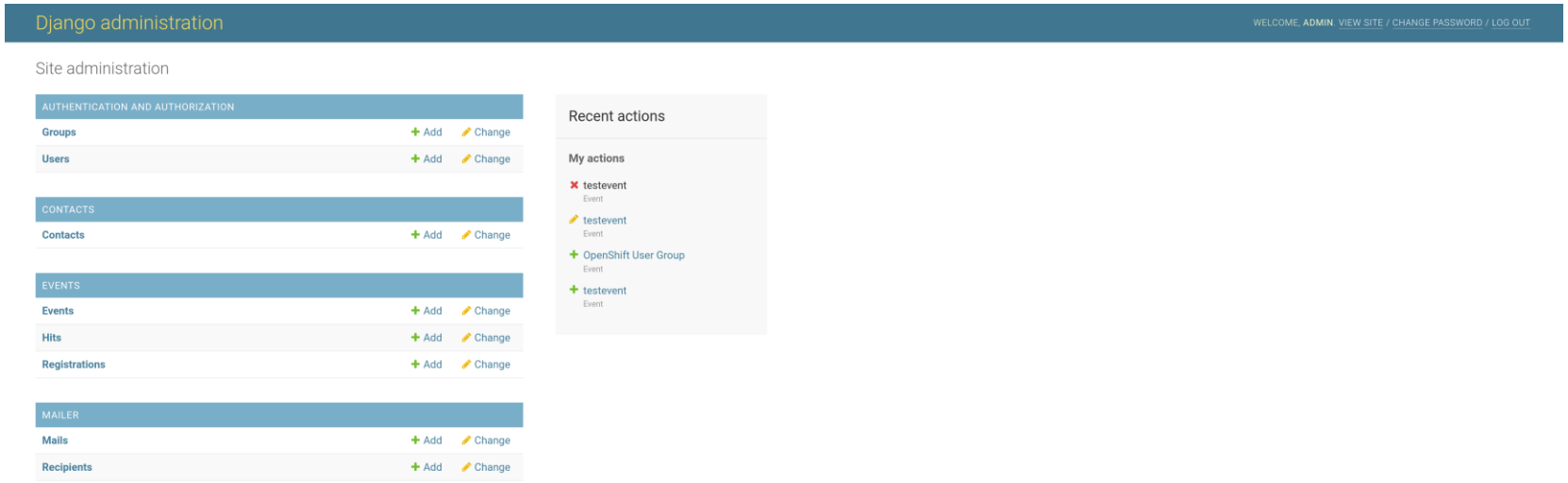
Registration form



Demo: online event application

Django admin area

- Django offers an admin page
  - Manage event details
  - Manage registrations
  - Send mails



Demo: online event application

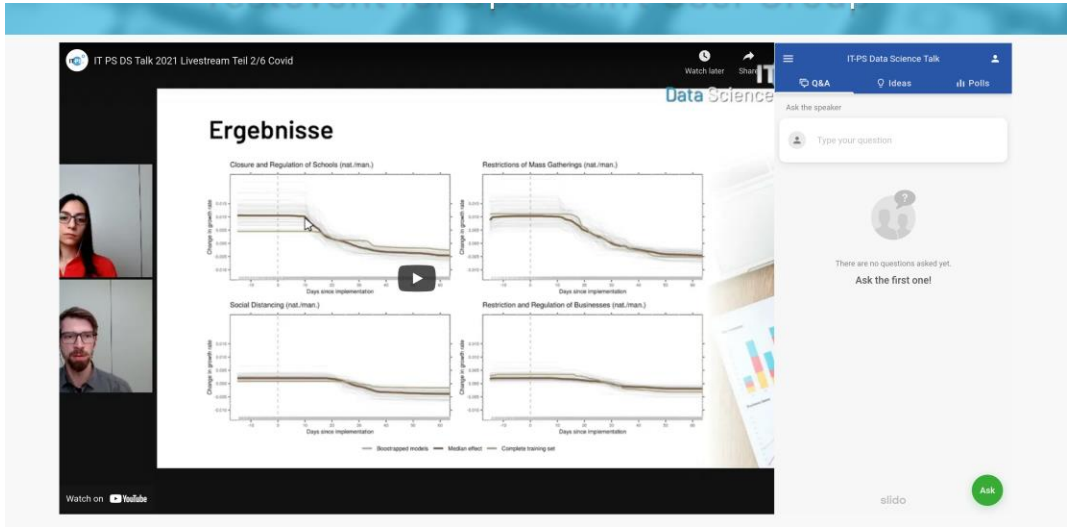
Mailer: create and send emails

- HTML email templates
- Customisation via admin page
- Distribution via admin page
- Unsubscribe action via embedded link

Demo: online event application

Watch page

- The "watch page" is available for registered users only
- Embeds
  - YouTube / Vimeo iframe
  - Slido Q&A



Tech stack: high level overview

Django application with PosgreSQL database behind Nginx

- Django
  - Python based web framework
  - Model-template-view pattern
- PosgreSQL DB
  - Stores all relevant information for event
  - Managed by Django
- Nginx
  - Webserver
- UWSGI
  - Web Server Gateway Interface
  - Link between webserver and python

Containerisation and Orchestration

Docker Compose / Swarm

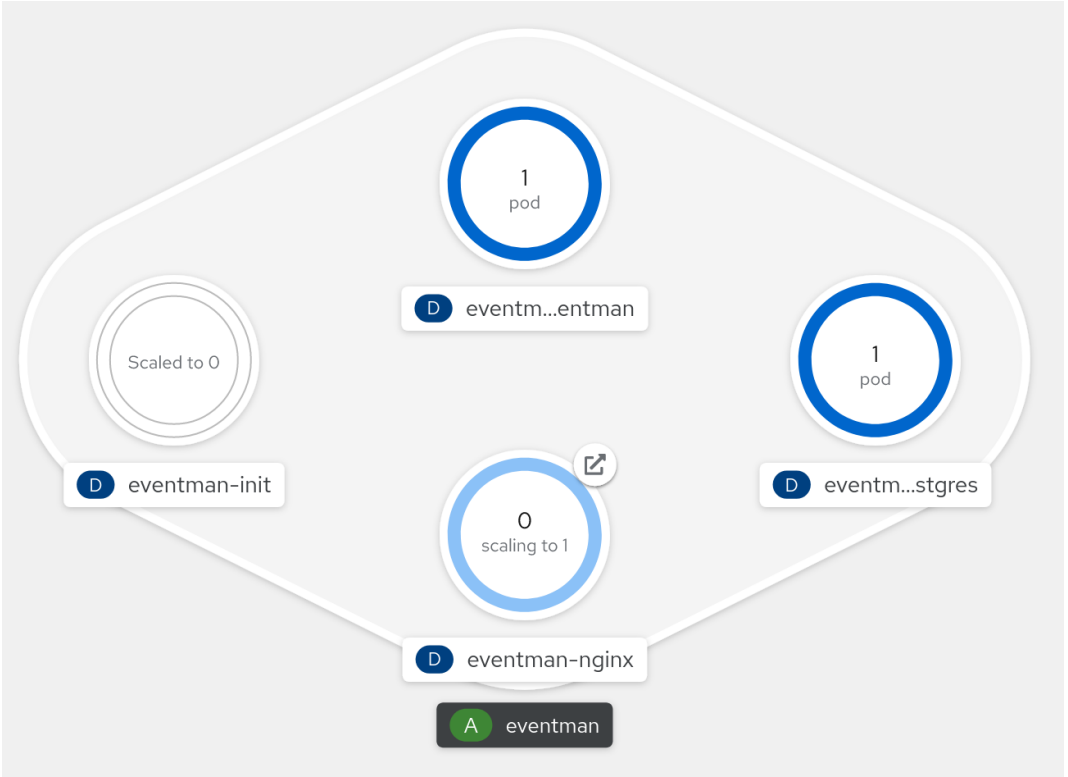
- 4 Services
  - Application init
  - Postgres
  - Eventman (Python Django Application)
  - Nginx
- 1 Network
- Some services expose ports on the host
- Some services read / write data on disk

```yaml
version: '3.6'

services:

  eventman:
    depends_on:
      postgres:
        condition: service_started
    environment:
      EVENTMAN_DJANGO_DEBUG: "false"
      EVENTMAN_DJANGO_SECRET_KEY: agddsaj;l
      EVENTMAN_DJANGO_SITE_URL: 127.0.0.1
      EVENTMAN_EMAIL_HOST_PASSWORD: dsalkjgads;ldsa
      EVENTMAN_EMAIL_HOST_USER: ds-talk@it-ps.at
      EVENTMAN_MAIL_FROM: ds-talk@it-ps.at
      EVENTMAN_PORT: '8000'
      EVENTMAN_POSTGRES_DB: eventman
      EVENTMAN_POSTGRES_HOST: postgres
      EVENTMAN_POSTGRES_PASSWORD: datascience
      EVENTMAN_POSTGRES_PORT: '5432'
      EVENTMAN_POSTGRES_USER: postgres
      EVENTMAN_PROJECT_BASE: /project
      PYTHONPATH: /project/code:/project/code/eventman
    image: registry.antgit.local:5005/ds/eventman/eventman-eventman.intel:latest
    networks:
      default: {}
    ports:
    - published: 8000
      target: 8000

  nginx:
    depends_on:
      eventman:
        condition: service_started
    environment:
      EVENTMAN_CERTBOT_DOMAINS: events.it-ps.at
      EVENTMAN_CERTBOT_EMAIL: datascience@it-ps.at
      EVENTMAN_HOST: eventman
      EVENTMAN_PORT: '8000'
    image: registry.antgit.local:5005/ds/eventman/eventman-nginx.intel:latest
    networks:
      default: {}
    ports:
    - published: 80
      target: 80
    - published: 443
      target: 443
    volumes:
    - /eventman/data/letsencrypt:/etc/letsencrypt:rw

  postgres:
    environment:
      EVENTMAN_DB: eventman
      PGDATA: /var/lib/postgresql/data/pgdata
      POSTGRES_NONROOT_USER: eventman
      POSTGRES_NONROOT_USER_PASSWORD: eventman
      POSTGRES_PASSWORD: datascience
      POSTGRES_USER: postgres
    image: registry.antgit.local:5005/ds/eventman/eventman-postgres.intel:latest
    networks:
      default: {}
    ports:
    - 127.0.0.1:5432:5432/tcp
    volumes:
    - /eventman/data/postgres/data:/var/lib/postgresql/data/pgdata:rw

networks:
  default:
    name: eventman
```

The deployment in OpenShift

Topology view from OpenShift

- 3 deployments
- Init deployment
  - Should have been a pod
  - See details later
- NGINX exposes service via route



Moving from Docker to OpenShift

Kompose

Moving from yml to yml

- Kompose is a tool to help users who are familiar with docker-compose move to Kubernetes
  - OpenShift can be selected as provider
- Provides a great starting point to generate yml for all components

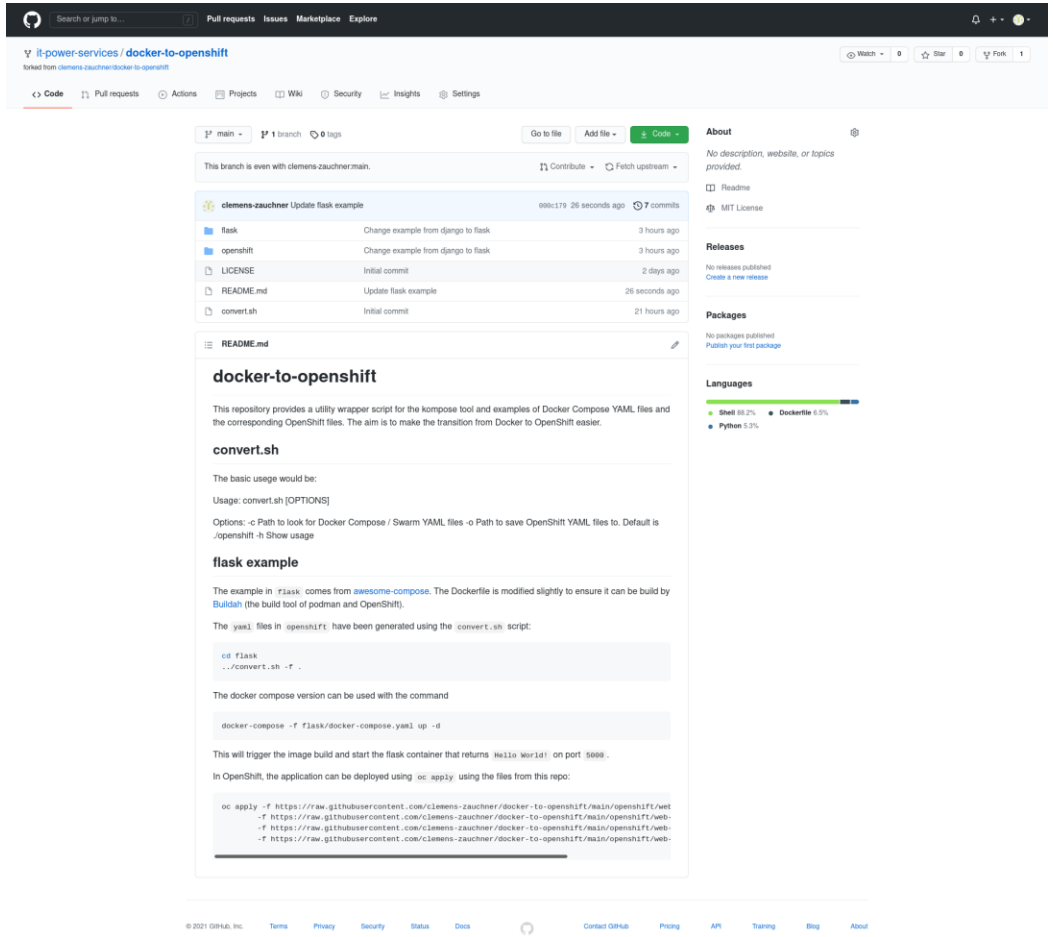
Basic usage:

```
kompose convert \
--out=path/to/out/dir \
--provider=openshift \
-f=docker-compose.yml
```

Single service example

Code samples

- All code samples can be found in our GitHub
- https://github.com/it-power-services/docker-to-openshift



Single service example

Python Flask API

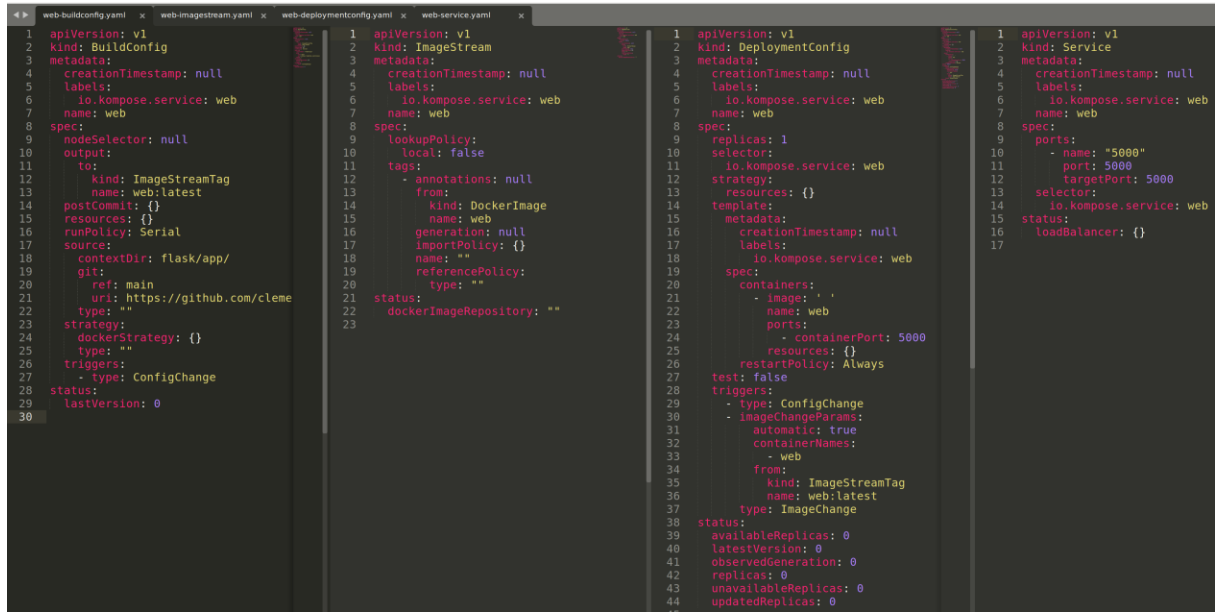
- Docker Compose includes instructions to
  - Create a service called "web"
  - Image is built from "app" context
  - Exposes port 5000
- The Flask API exposes one Endpoint that returns the string "Hello World!"

```
version: '3'
services:
  web:
    build: app
    ports:
      - '5000:5000'
```

Single service example

Python Flask API

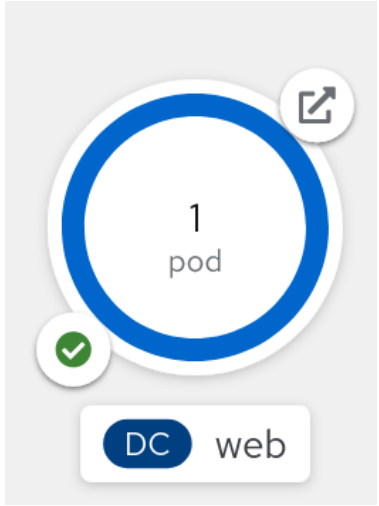
- Kompose translates that to
  - Build config
  - Imagestream
  - Deployment config
  - Service
- If you want to expose the service outside the cluster this has to be configured manually by creating a route
- The application can be deployed using oc apply

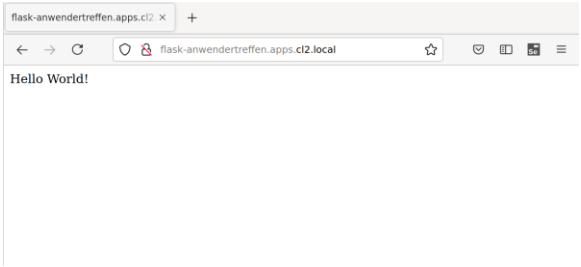


Single service example

Python Flask API

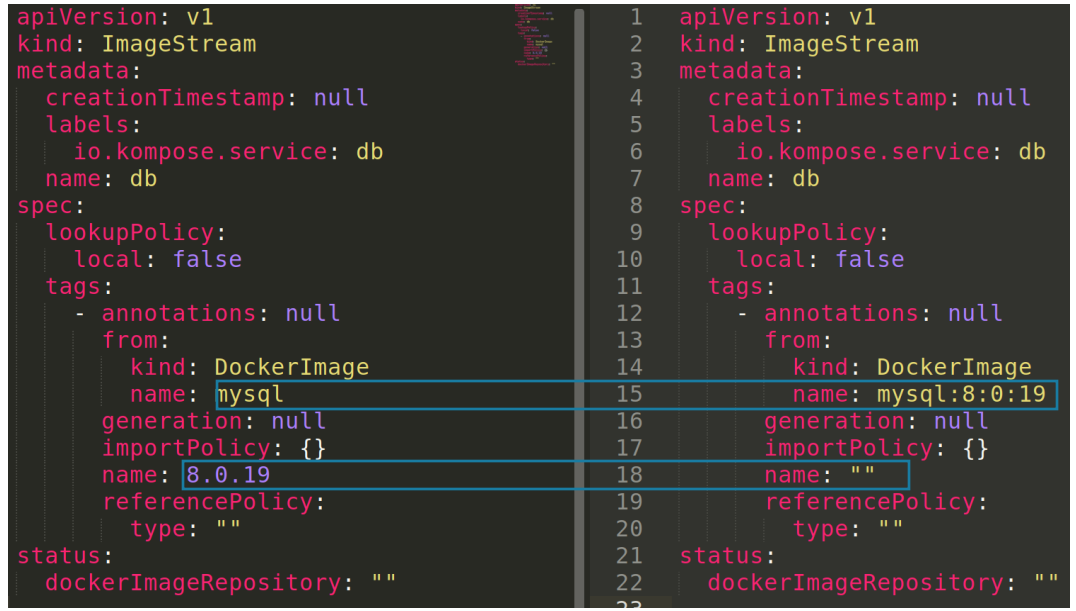
- The topology of the application is very simple
- The example returns the expected "Hello World!" string





Disadvantages of using Kompose

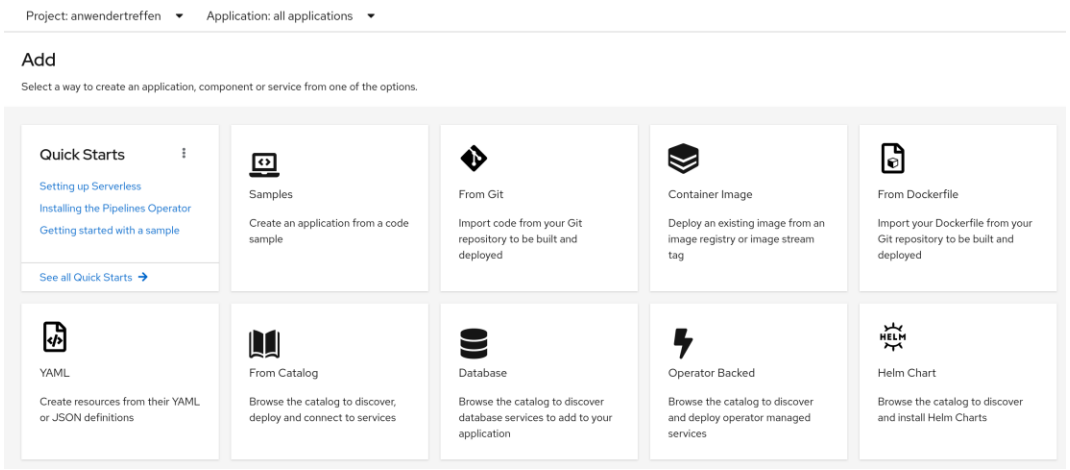
- K8s or minikube required
- Translation is tricky, especially when concepts don't map 1:1
- Kubernetes not opinionated, many ways to do one thing
- Docker Compose files have to be very explicit
  - e.g. restart policy determines type
- The way image streams are created leads to unresolved images



Using the OpenShift GUI

A very good starting point

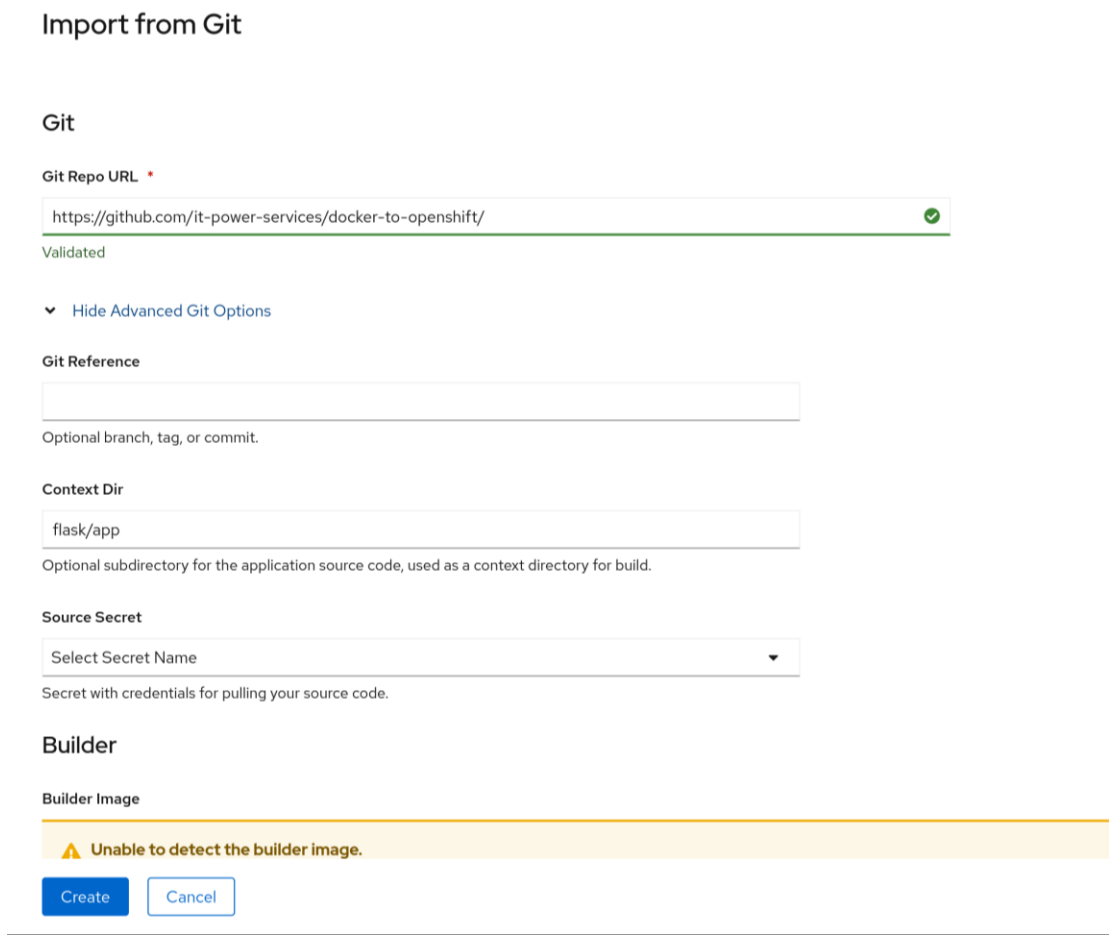
- Many options
  - Deploy an image from a registry
  - Import repo, build and deploy
  - ...



Using the OpenShift GUI

Import from Git

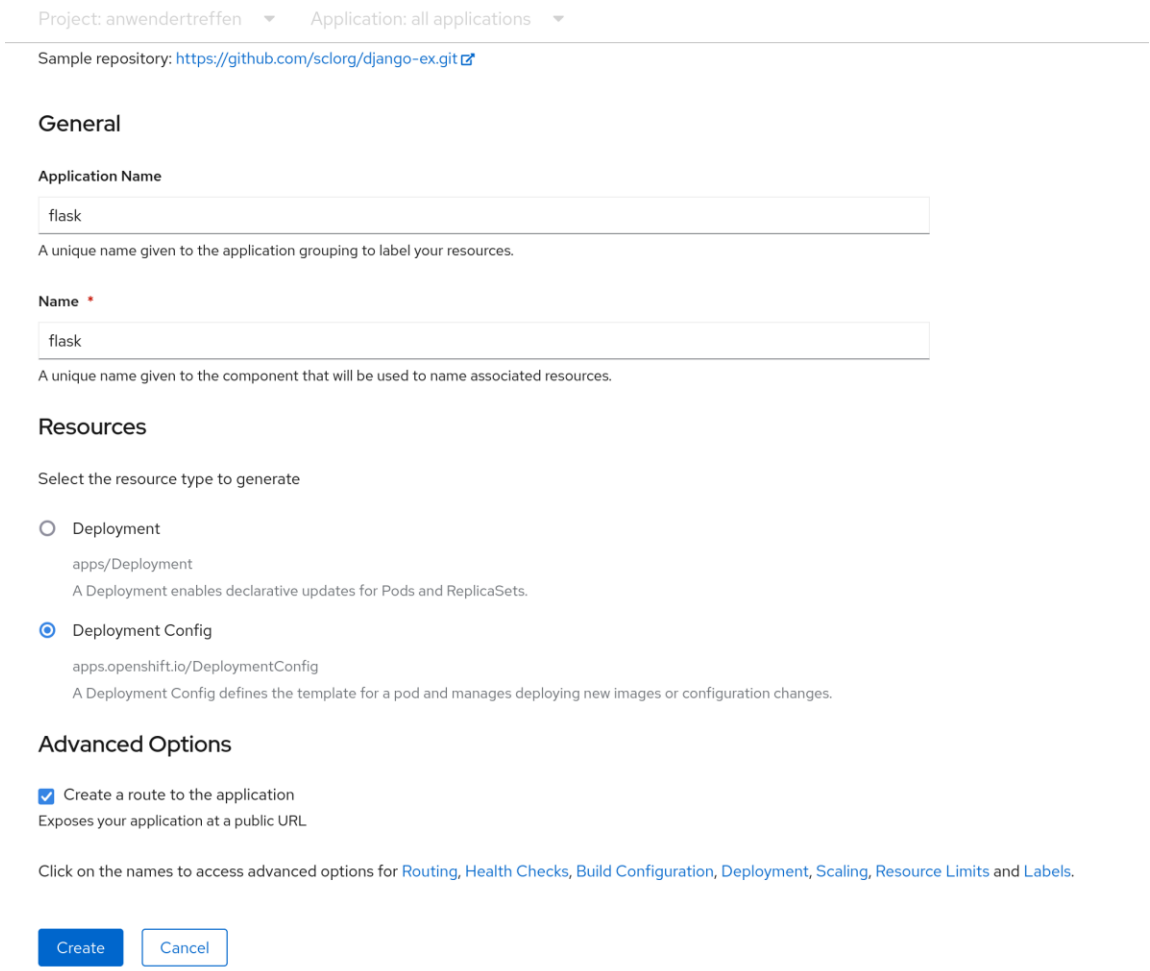
- Select the repo url
- Specify the build context
- Select a build image



Using the OpenShift GUI

Import from Git

- Provide names for the application
- Choose deployment of deployment config
- Optionally create route to service



Using the OpenShift GUI

Resulting topology

- Results are similar
- But: service and route needed to be configured to change the port from 8080 to 5000

Using the OpenShift GUI

Advantages and disadvantages

Advantages

- Easier to get familiar with concepts
- Easier to get overview of where things go wrong
- Many obstacles more ironed out
  - e.g. insecure registries

Disadvantages

- Hard to reproduce

Challenges and possible solutions

Challenges in the process

New concepts in Kubernetes

- In Docker: Services and containers (tasks)
- In OpenShift more concepts and they don't map 1:1 to Docker concepts
- Getting the head around not straight forward

- Tools like kompose or the OpenShift GUI can help to get familiar with them

Challenges in the process

Image build using Buildah

- Images in OpenShift are built using Buildah
- Not all Dockerfiles can be built

```
FROM python:3.7-alpine
EXPOSE 8000
WORKDIR /app
COPY requirements.txt /app
RUN pip3 install -r requirements.txt --no-cache-dir
COPY . /app
ENTRYPOINT ["python3"]
CMD ["manage.py", "runserver", "0.0.0.0:8000"]
```

```
FROM python:3.7-alpine
EXPOSE 8000
RUN mkdir -p /app
WORKDIR /app
COPY requirements.txt /app
RUN pip3 install -r requirements.txt --no-cache-dir
COPY . /app
ENTRYPOINT ["python3"]
CMD ["manage.py", "runserver", "0.0.0.0:8000"]
```

- Podman build can help to debug the build process locally

```
STEP 1: FROM python:3.7-alpine
STEP 2: EXPOSE 8000
--> Using cache 0d82aac68f42f2ea9562dd95fba3de949a339679240b935fa15cd0d8af9374af
--> 0d82aac68f4
STEP 3: WORKDIR /app
--> Using cache 24e7cd957407c069f09d9569b1346a30fd0f8c76c7328c34f306cdcf956b7234
--> 24e7cd95740
STEP 4: COPY requirements.txt /app
--> Using cache d833dcdcb7e7709c7e721ef26a95498eccdc052c1c66fd36ea4013ae2c9b274a
--> d833dcdcb7e
STEP 5: RUN pip3 install -r requirements.txt --no-cache-dir
error running container: error creating container for [/bin/sh -c pip3 install -r requirements.txt --no-cache-dir]: chdir: Not a directory
: exit status 1
Error: error building at STEP "RUN pip3 install -r requirements.txt --no-cache-dir": error while running runtime: exit status 1
```

Challenges in the process

File permissions

- In Docker, usually everything is run as root
- In entrypoints of DB containers, often there is a chown of the data directory
- The OpenShift user will not have permissions to do so
- Solution: with PostgreSQL, specify env variable `PGDATA` to not point to `/var/lib/postgresql/data`

- Using official OpenShift images is the better option

Challenges in the process

Exposing port(s) in container

- Ports below 1024 are privileged ports
- Many Docker images (e.g. wordpress, apache, nginx) use port 80 by default
- Since the container is running with the OpenShift user, this will lead to a permission denied error
- Adapting the image / config is necessary to run them

- Using official OpenShift images is the better option

Challenges in the process

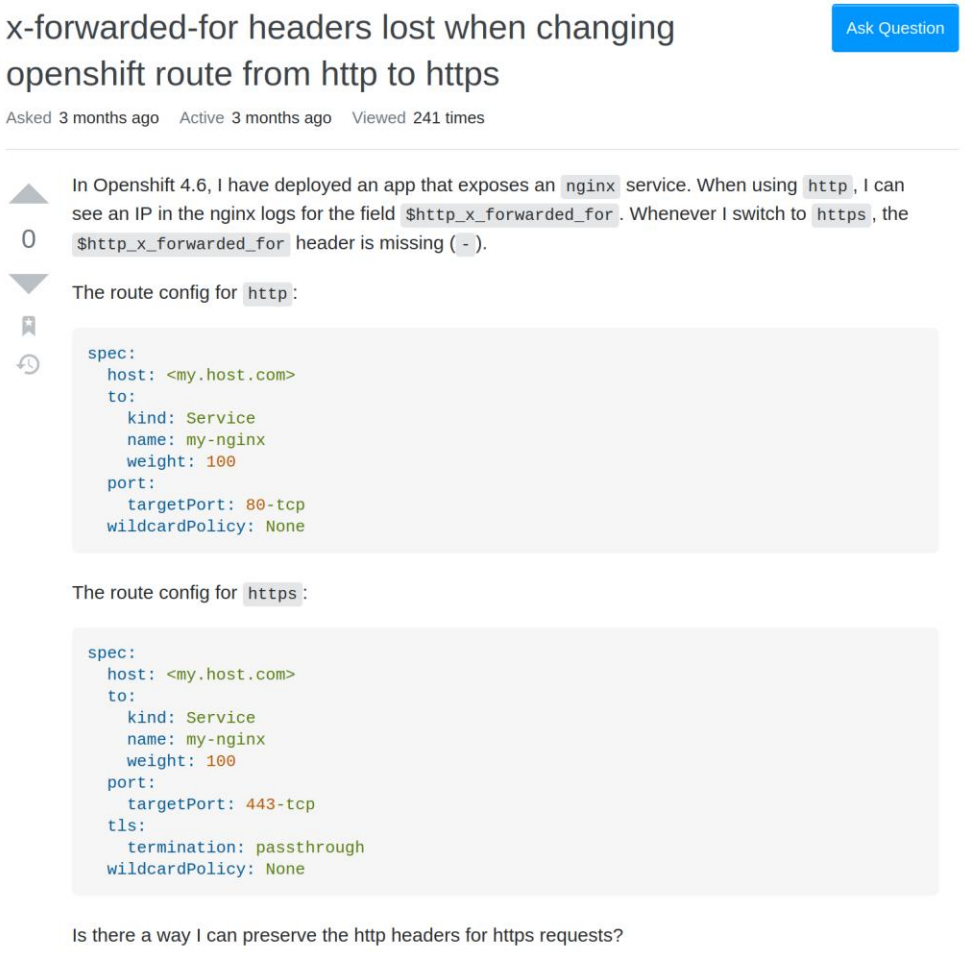
TLS termination and SSL certificates

- 3 ways of serving a certificate to clients
  - Re-encrypt: ingress serves certificate and re-encrypts traffic to pod
  - Edge: ingress serves certificate but does not re-encrypt
  - Passthrough: traffic is passed to pod which handles certificates
- Our NGINX deployment handles letsencrypt certificates automatically
- Requirement: make `/admin` page accessible only via VPN
- Problem: x-forwarded-for headers do not get passed on to nodes, nginx sees IP of ingress controller
- Workaround: edge termination without automatic certificate renewal

Challenges in the process

TLS termination and SSL certificates

- My question on stackoverflow is still not fully answered
- https://stackoverflow.com/questions/66473285/x-forwarded-for-headers-lost-when-changing-openshift-route-from-http-to-https



x-forwarded-for headers lost when changing openshift route from http to https

Ask Question

Asked 3 months ago Active 3 months ago Viewed 241 times

0

In Openshift 4.6, I have deployed an app that exposes an `nginx` service. When using `http`, I can see an IP in the nginx logs for the field `$http_x_forwarded_for`. Whenever I switch to `https`, the `$http_x_forwarded_for` header is missing (`-`).

The route config for `http`:

```
spec:
  host: <my.host.com>
  to:
    kind: Service
    name: my-nginx
    weight: 100
  port:
    targetPort: 80-tcp
  wildcardPolicy: None
```

The route config for `https`:

```
spec:
  host: <my.host.com>
  to:
    kind: Service
    name: my-nginx
    weight: 100
  port:
    targetPort: 443-tcp
  tls:
    termination: passthrough
  wildcardPolicy: None
```

Is there a way I can preserve the http headers for https requests?

Summary

- Getting started can feel overwhelming
- There are tools that make the transition easier
- Using the GUI first and trying the same at the CLI afterwards is a good way to learn
- Creating a minimal, reproducible example helps to iron out bugs

Photo by Valentín Betancur from Unsplash

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