Leveraging the Serverless Architecture for Securing Linux Containers

*Nilton Bila, Paolo Dettori, **Ali Kanso**, Yuji Watanabe*, Alaa Youssef*

IBM T.J. Watson Research Center – New York

**IBM Research – Tokyo, IBM Japan Ltd.*

Ali Kanso, PhD
Senior Cloud SW Engineer
IBM T.J. Watson, NY

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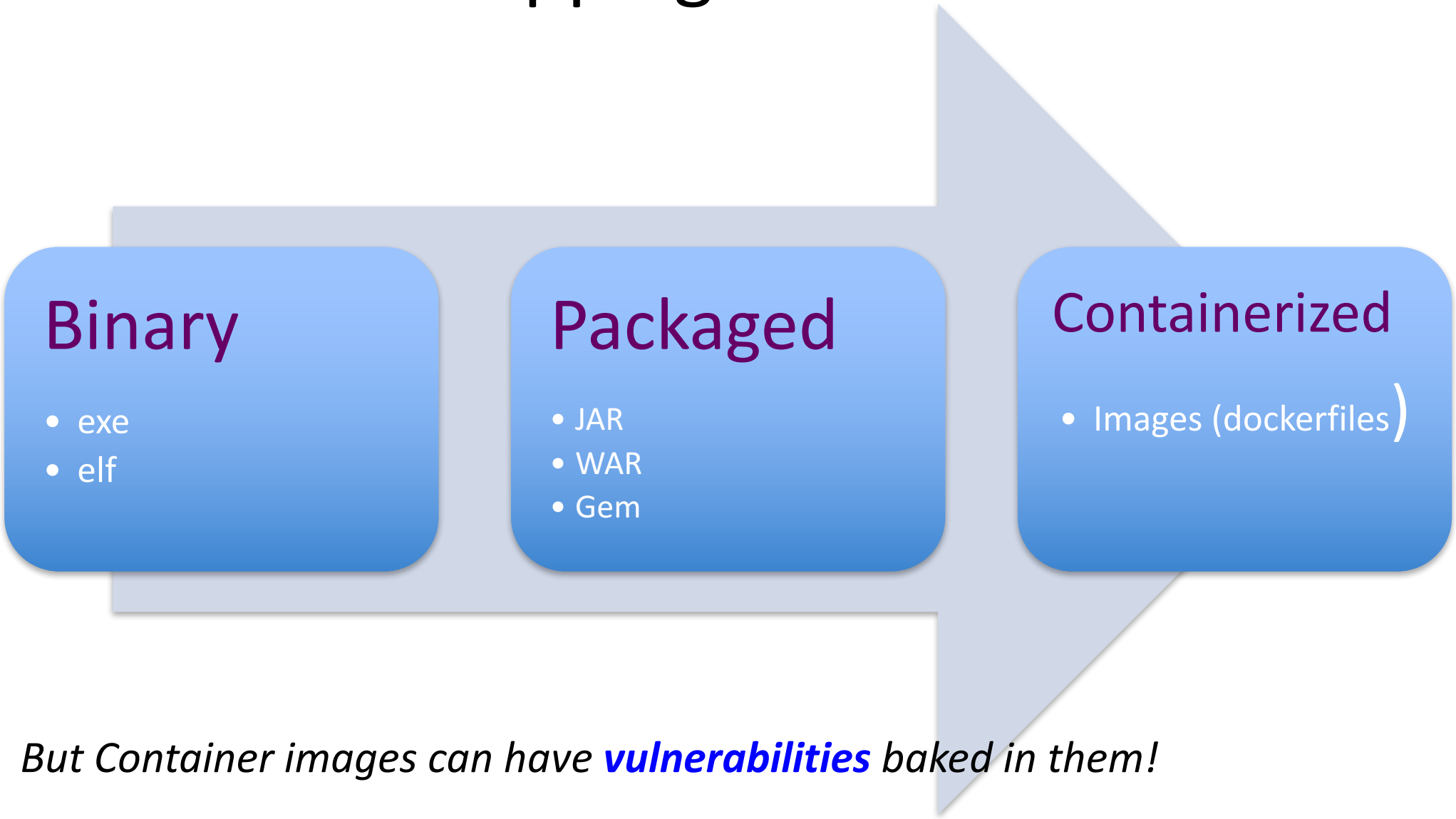
Shipping Code

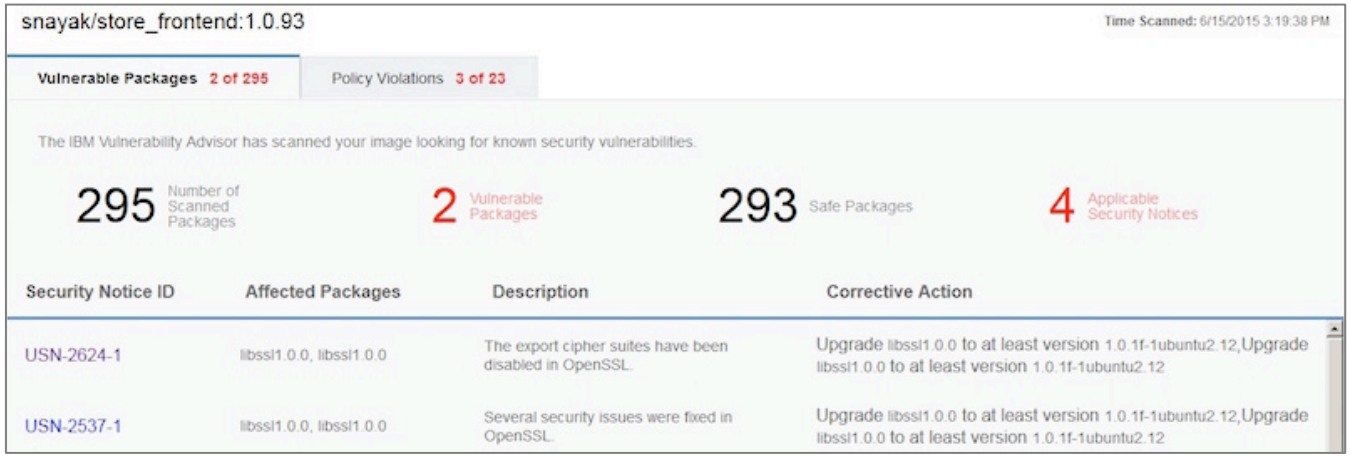


*But Container images can have **vulnerabilities** baked in them!*

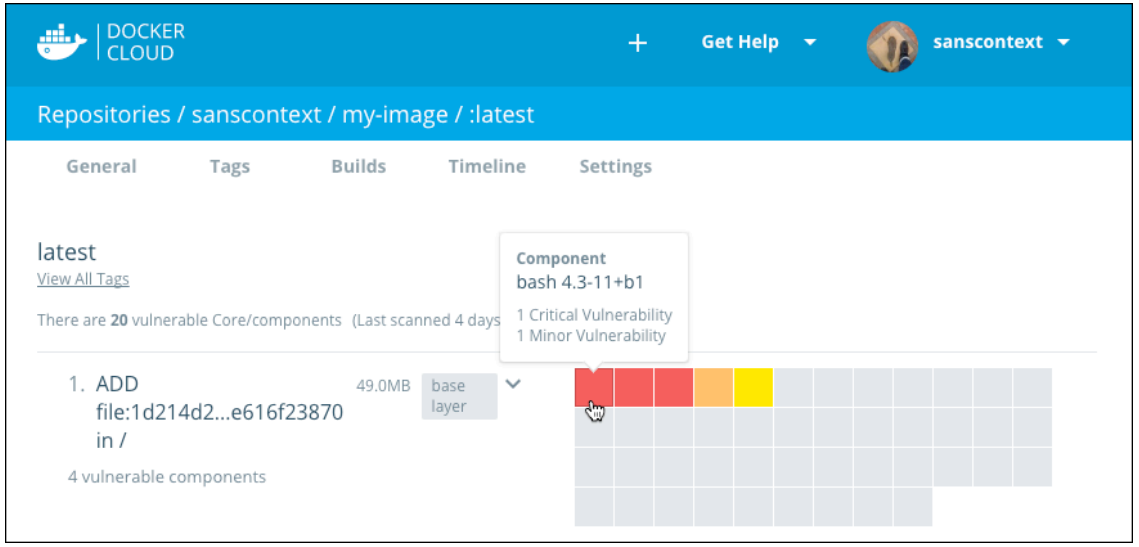
Software Vulnerabilities

Scanning for Vulnerabilities

- ✓ Scan images and deployed containers
- ✓ Vulnerabilities in installed software packages
- ✓ Security configuration checks
- ✓ Malware signature detection



IBM Vulnerability Advisor



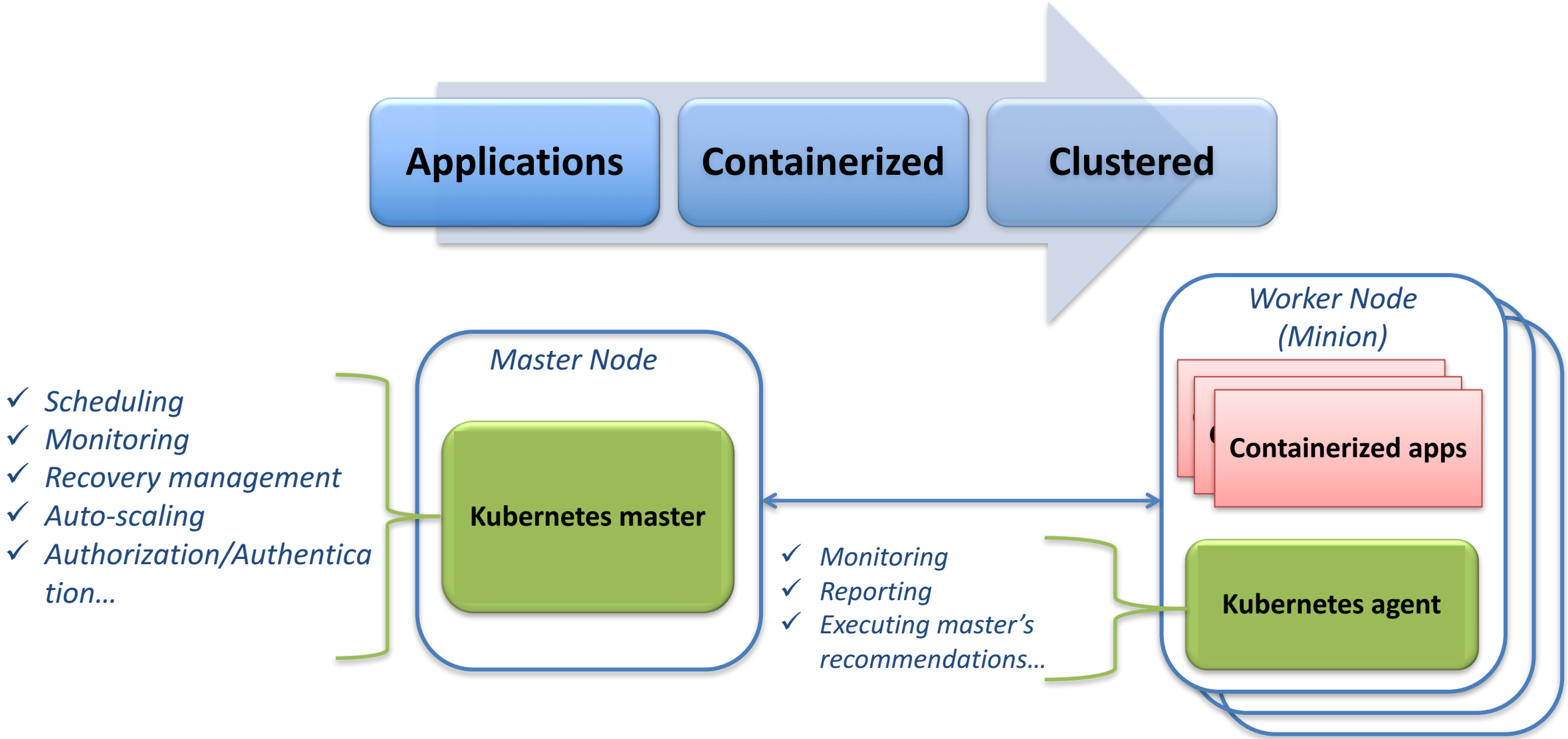
Docker Security Scanning

Clustering Containers

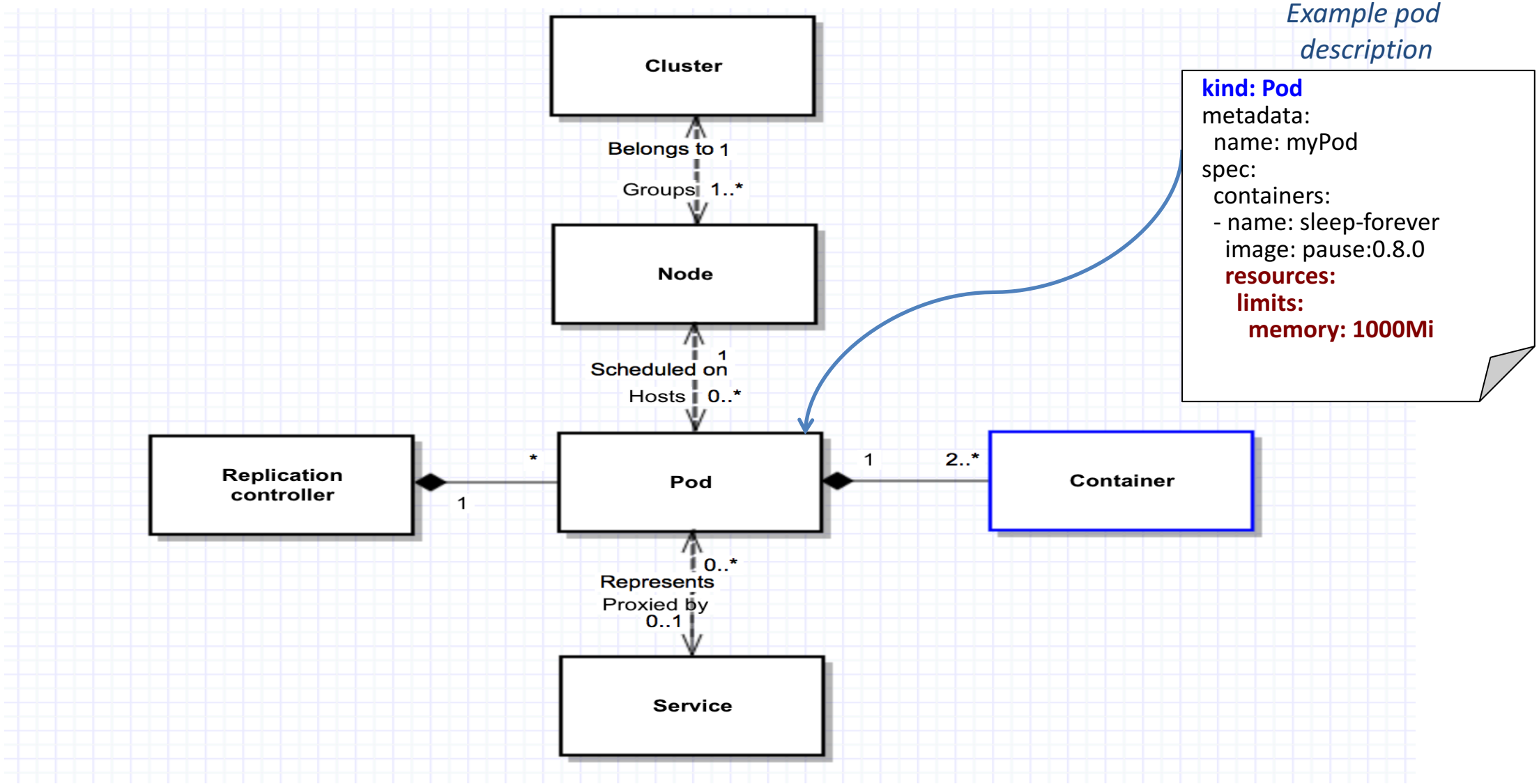
Clustering can be overwhelming

Kubernetes can help

What is Kubernetes?



Kubernetes Resource Organization



Example pod description

```
kind: Pod
metadata:
  name: myPod
spec:
  containers:
  - name: sleep-forever
    image: pause:0.8.0
    resources:
      limits:
        memory: 1000Mi
```

K8s APIs

REST path /api/v1

- ✓ Pods
- ✓ Services
- ✓ Replication controllers
- ✓ Resource quotas
- ✓ Nodes
- ✓ Endpoints
- ✓ …

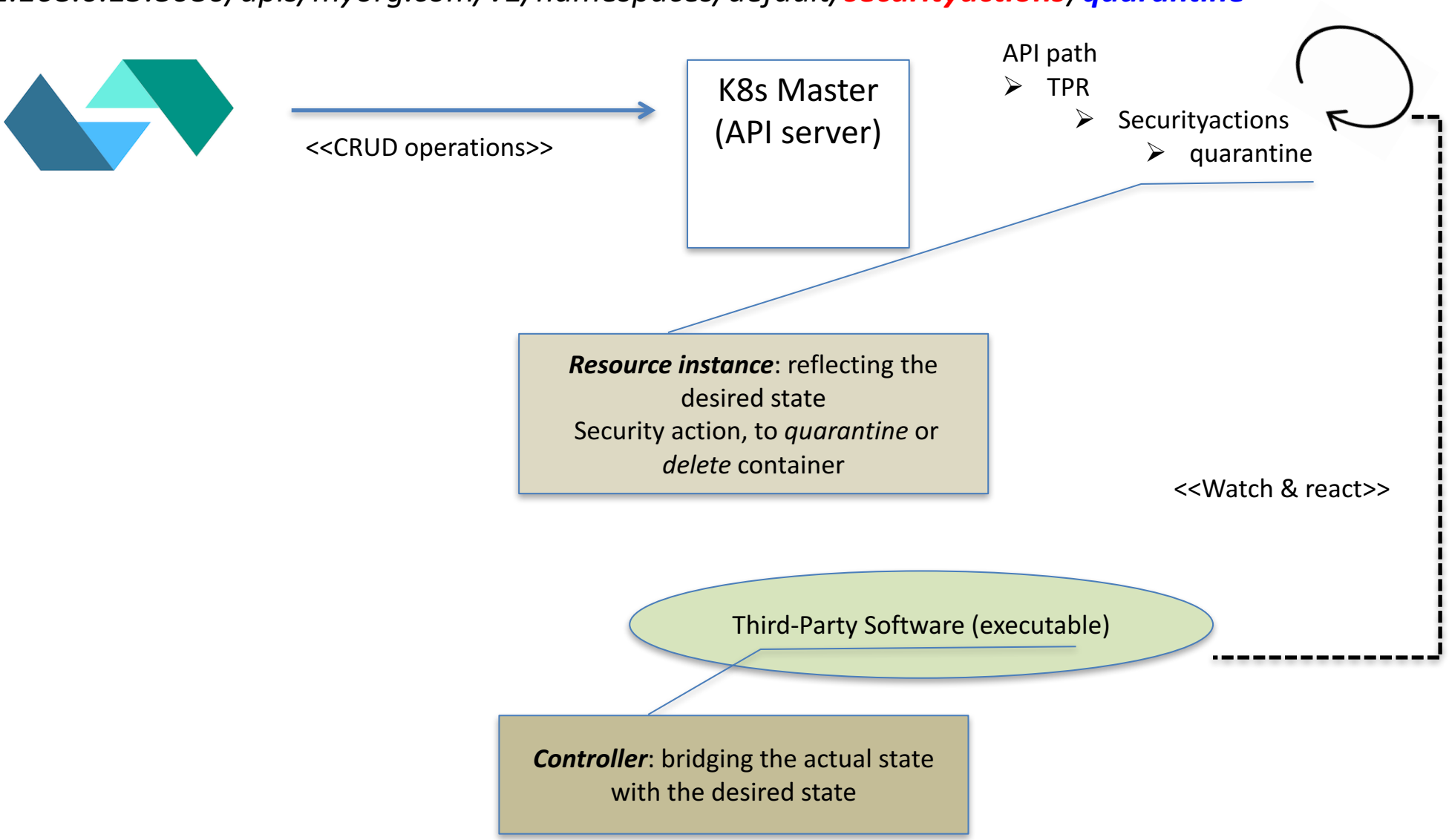
REST path /apis/extensions/$VERSION

- ✓ Deployments
- ✓ HorizontalPodAutoscalers
- ✓ Ingress
- ✓ Jobs
- ✓ DaemonSets
- ✓ Third party resources
- ✓ …

K8s Operators

K8s Third Party Resource (TPR)

*http://192.168.0.15:8080/apis/myorg.com/v1/namespaces/default/**securityactions**/**quarantine***

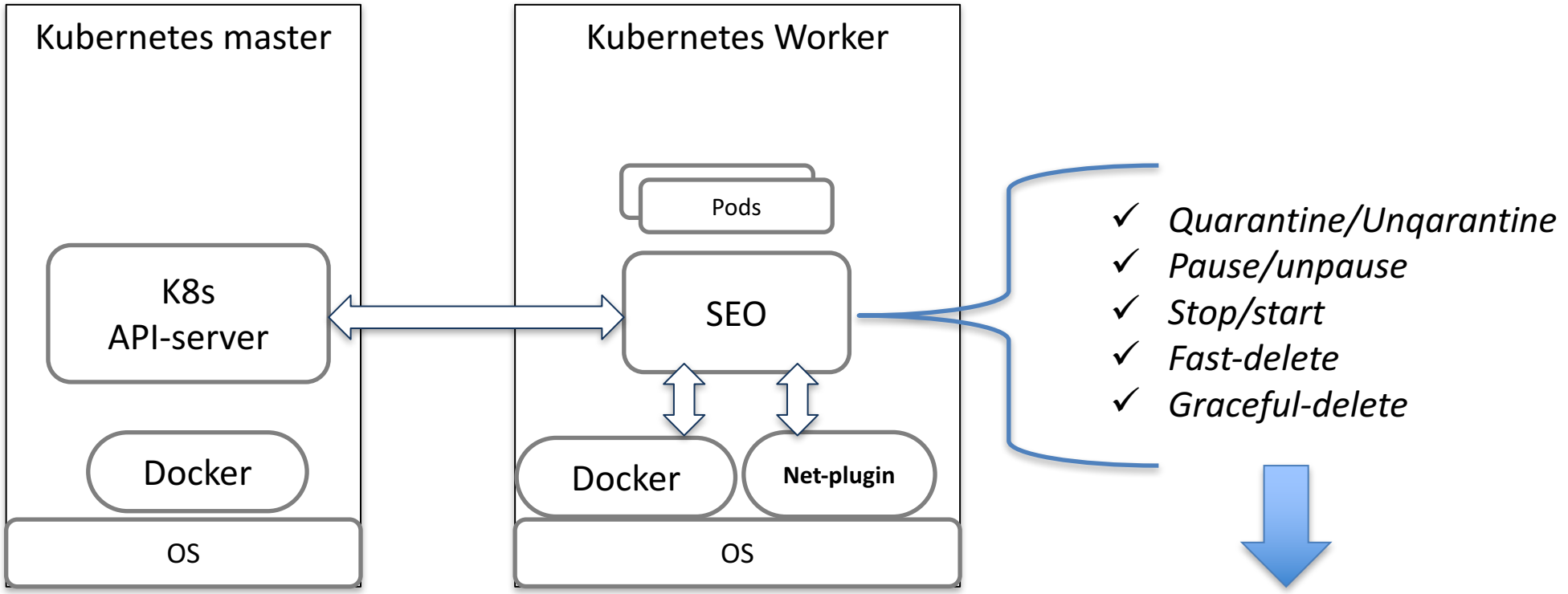


Kubernetes Limitation

- K8s does not implement the needed range of actions to contain a threat
  - Limited to: Kill pod, Rolling-Upgrade (involves killing)

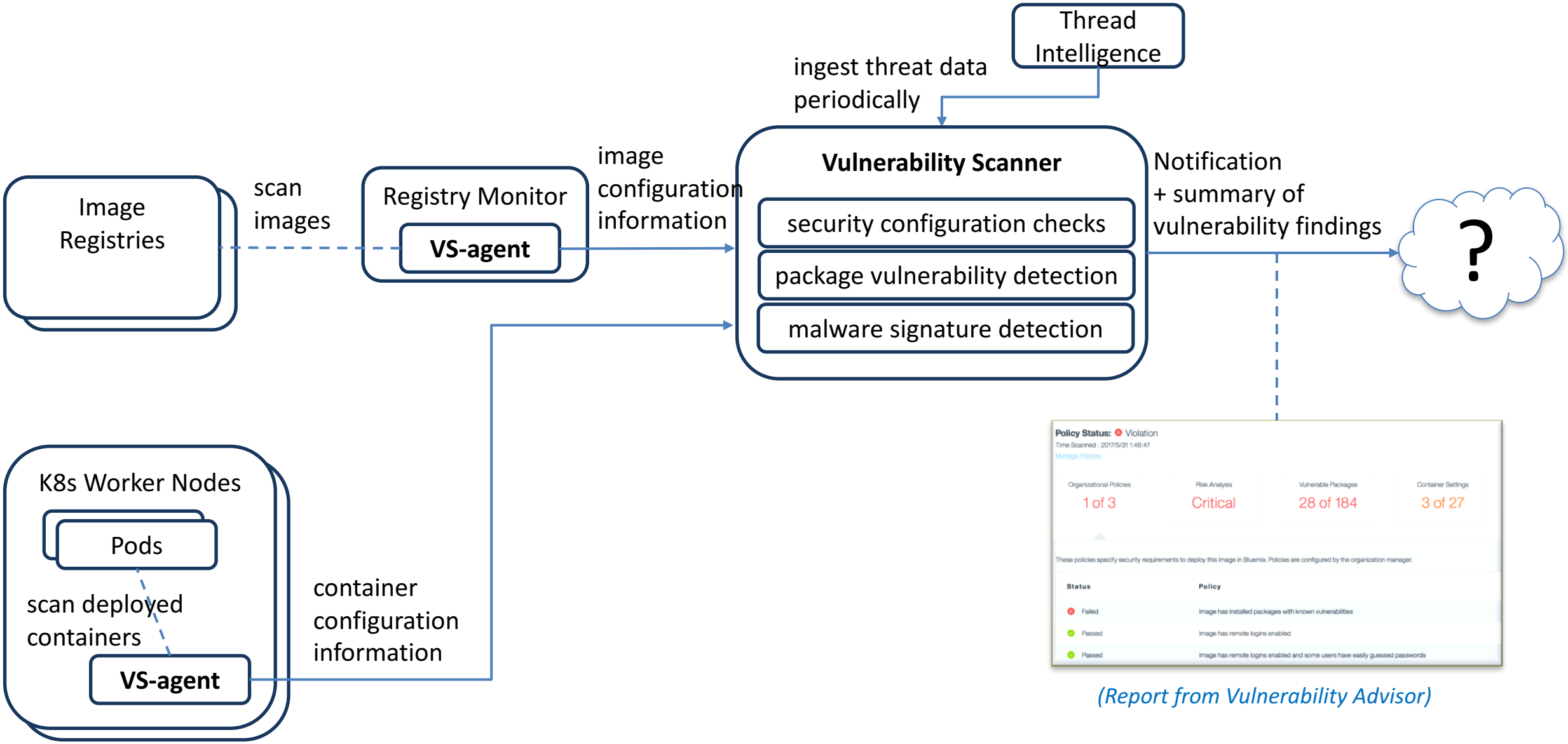
We need to have severity-based actions!

Introducing the Security Enforcement Operator



Based on scanning results

Vulnerability Scanner



(Report from Vulnerability Advisor)

VS Report Example

- Identify specific software package versions in the container with disclosed vulnerabilities

Affected Packages	Security Notice	Description	Corrective Action
eject	3246-1	Eject could be made to run programs as an administrator.	Upgrade eject to at least version 2.1.5+deb1+cvs20081104-13.1ubuntu0.14.04.1
libdbus-1-3	3116-1	Several security issues were fixed in DBus.	Upgrade libdbus-1-3 to at least version 1.6.18-0ubuntu4.4
libgcrypt11	3065-1	Libgcrypt incorrectly generated random numbers.	Upgrade libgcrypt11 to at least version 1.5.3-2ubuntu4.4
libgcrypt11	2896-1	Libgcrypt could be made to expose sensitive information.	Upgrade libgcrypt11 to at least version 1.5.3-2ubuntu4.4
tar	3132-1	tar could be made to overwrite files.	Upgrade tar to at least version 1.27.1-1ubuntu0.1

- Identify specific issues with the container configurations

Status	Description	Corrective Action
Improvement Needed	PASS_MIN_DAYS must be set to 1	Minimum days that must elapse between user-initiated password changes should be 1.
Improvement Needed	PASS_MAX_DAYS must be set to 90 days	Maximum password age must be set to 90 days.
Improvement Needed	Minimum password length not specified in /etc/pam.d/common-password	Minimum password length must be 8.
No Improvement Needed	No found malware	Remove malware from container/image.

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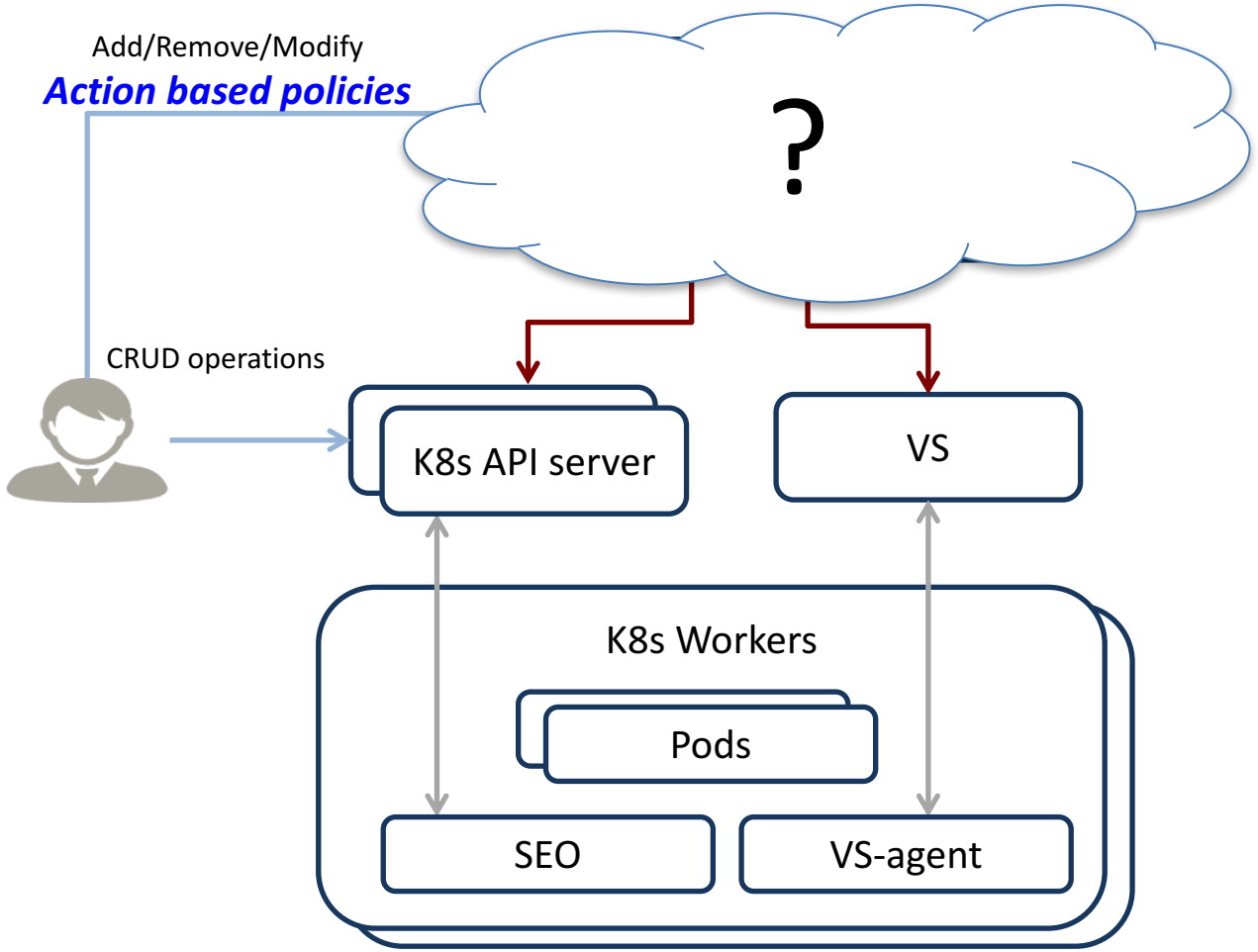
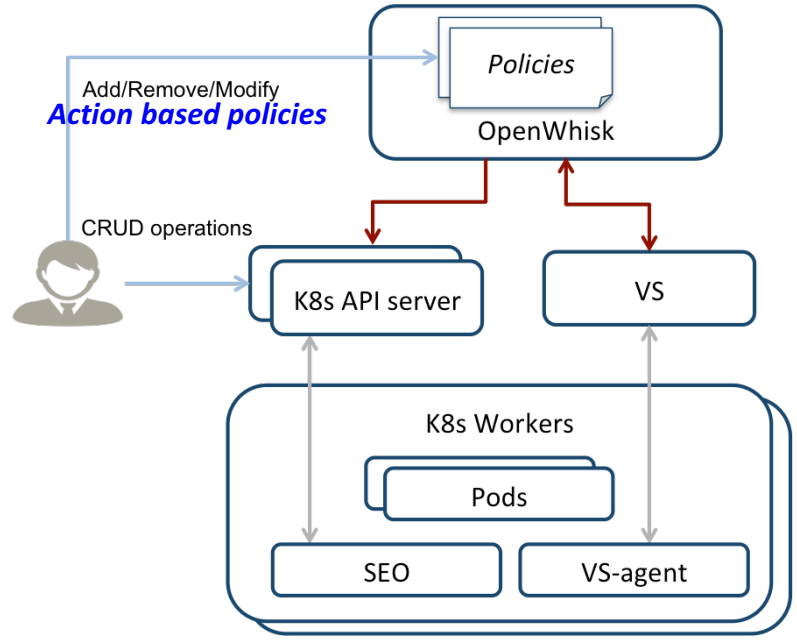
Introducing OpenWhisk



Why OpenWhisk?

- OpenWhisk is the Glue between VS and K8s, it enables:
  - Different policies for different users
  - Multiple Clusters register to the same OpenWhisk deployment
  - Central point of policy management across clusters



Report API and Notifications on Vulnerability Scanner

- Supports scans for **multiple registered Kubernetes** clusters.
- Provide **RESTful APIs** for access to Vulnerability reports for each container
- Use authentication token to **restrict access** to cluster data at the granularity of Kubernetes namespaces.
- **Notify events** with new **vulnerability findings** to registered OpenWhisk API endpoints.
- Trigger **action invocations** to the **OpenWhisk API endpoints** registered for the Kubernetes cluster.

Notifications

Per User Policy!

- User creates action with known URL endpoint:
  - https://openwhisk.ng.bluemix.net/api/v1/web/<USER>/policy
- Vulnerability Scanner posts vulnerability notification to **policy endpoint**

```
{
 "clusterid": "xyz",
 "podid": "nginx- 3382653011-3p4p0",
 "vulnerability_type": "package",
 "vulnerability_status": "vulnerable"
}
```

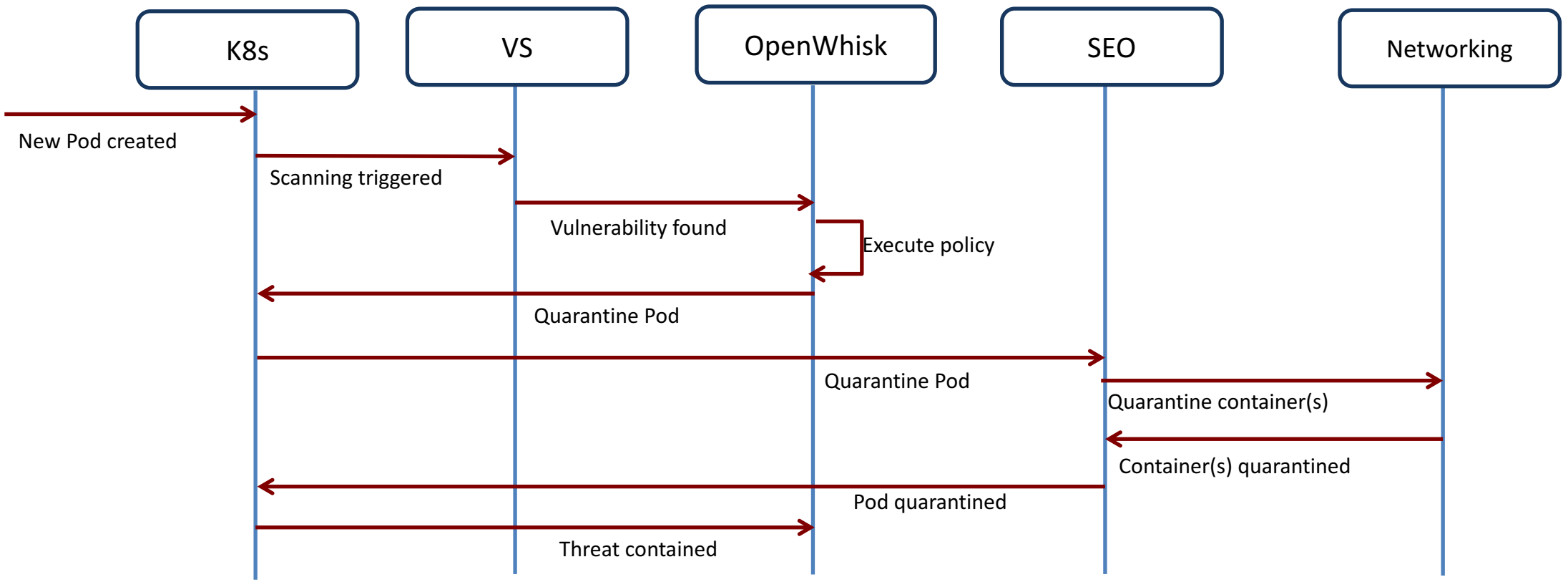
Serverless Policy

User1: marketing

```
import vs
import kubernetes

def main(params):
    findings = vs.get_findings(pod_id, timestamp)
    vulnerable_packages = findings['vulnerable_packages']
    insecure_configs = findings['insecure_configurations']

    if len(vulnerable_packages) > 0:
        kubernetes.snapshot(pod_id) kubernetes.terminate_graceful(pod_id)
        return {'text': 'Deleted pod ' + pod_id }

    if 'remote_shell_installed' in insecure_configs:
        kubernetes.quarantine(pod_id)Terminate_faste(pod_id)
        return {'text': 'Quarantined pod ' + pod_id}
                        Terminated pod
    return {'text': 'Container was not modified ' + pod_id}
```

User2: accounting

Interaction Summary



Related Work

Securing Containers

Starlight implements a kernel module that intercepts local operations on each host and passes them to a local agent which in turn passes them to an event processor that analyzes the event and determines whether or not to alert the admin.

LiCShield generates AppArmor profiles by tracing the container engine (Docker daemon) during the build and the execution of the containers.

Using Serverless in the Cloud

Lambdefy framework to demonstrate the differing requirements between applications deployed to IaaS and applications deployed as a cloud event, and Media Management System for showing high scalability of image resizing tasks on Lambda.

Container Scanners

OpenSCAP (Security Content Automation Protocol) searches for an appropriate fix element, resolves it, prepares the environment, and executes the fix script.

Docker Security Scanning can scan images in private repositories to verify that they are free from known security vulnerabilities or exposures, and report the results of the scan for each image tag

That's it! Questions?