

# Attacking and Defending Kubernetes

Linux Stammtisch



# kubernetes

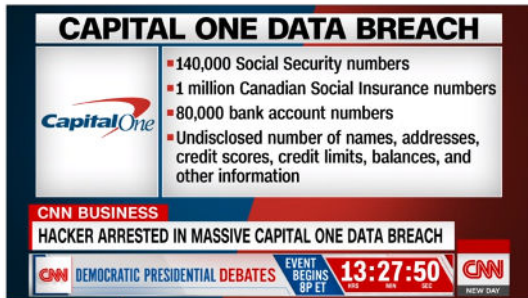
Andy Wirtz, ATIX AG

June 22nd, 2021

## A hacker gained access to 100 million Capital One credit card applications and accounts

By Rob McLean, *CNN Business*

Updated 2117 GMT (0517 HKT) July 30, 2019



**CAPITAL ONE DATA BREACH**

- 140,000 Social Security numbers
- 1 million Canadian Social Insurance numbers
- 80,000 bank account numbers
- Undisclosed number of names, addresses, credit scores, credit limits, balances, and other information

**CNN BUSINESS**

**HACKER ARRESTED IN MASSIVE CAPITAL ONE DATA BREACH**

**CNN** DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES **EVENT BEGINS 8P ET** **13:27:50** **CNN** NEW DAY

[https:](https://edition.cnn.com/2019/07/29/business/capital-one-data-breach/index.html)

[//edition.cnn.com/2019/07/29/business/capital-one-data-breach/index.html](https://edition.cnn.com/2019/07/29/business/capital-one-data-breach/index.html)

## Docker Images Containing Cryptojacking Malware Distributed via Docker Hub

June 25, 2020 · Revie Lekshmanan



With Docker gaining popularity as a service to package and deploy software applications, malicious actors are taking advantage of the opportunity to target exposed API endpoints and craft malware-infested images to facilitate distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks and mine cryptocurrencies.

<https://thehackernews.com/2020/06/cryptocurrency-docker-image.html>

### Popular This Week



New Chrome 0-day Bug Under Active Attacks – Update Your Browser ASAP!



Extortion Gang Breaches Cybersecurity Firm Qualys Using Aircelion Exploit



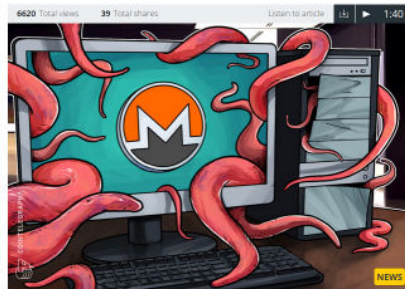
Mazafaka – Elite Hacking

JACK MARTIN

JUN 12, 2020

## Microsoft Azure Machine Learning Clusters Cryptojacked to Mine Monero

Hackers have attacked badly configured machine learning clusters on Microsoft's Azure cloud computing network, and hijacked them to mine Monero.



Microsoft announced on June 10 that it had discovered a number of cryptojacking attacks on powerful machine-learning clusters on its Azure cloud computing network.

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/microsoft-azure-machine-learning-clusters-cryptojacked-to-mine-monero>



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Research

## Lessons from the Cryptojacking Attack at Tesla

by RedLock CSI Team | 02.20.18, 6:00 AM

### The Cryptojacking Epidemic

A few months ago, the RedLock Cloud Security Intelligence (CSI) team found hundreds of Kubernetes administration consoles accessible over the internet without any password protection.

<https://redlock.io/blog/cryptojacking-tesla>

NEWS

## Hackers exploit Jenkins servers, make \$3 million by mining Monero

Hackers exploiting Jenkins servers made \$3 million in one of the biggest malicious cryptocurrency mining operations ever.



WHITE PAPERS

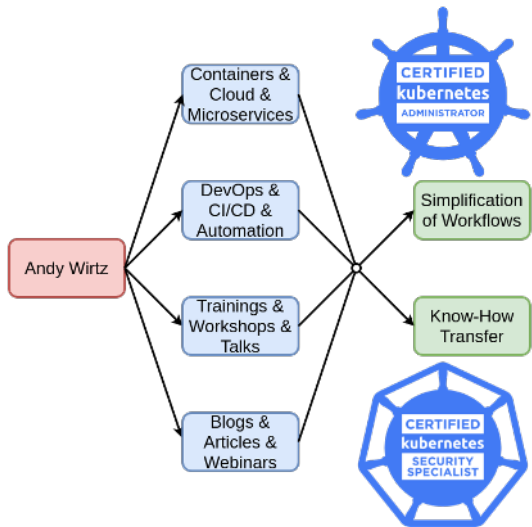
How to Choose a Cloud Provider When Choosing a Cloud Provider

5 Ways to Make Your Cloud Migration Easier

Cloud Supplier Collaboration Model

If you run a Jenkins server, you might want to make sure it is fully patched, since researchers found "one of the biggest malicious mining operations ever discovered." The cyber crooks have already made more than \$3 million by installing malware that mines for Monero on vulnerable Windows machines. And now they are honing in on vulnerable, yet powerful, Jenkins servers.

<https://www.csoonline.com/article/3256314/hackers-exploit-jenkins-servers-make-3-million-by-mining-monero.html>



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# Agenda



- 1 Attack Kubernetes
- 2 Demo of an Attack Path
- 3 Defend Kubernetes
- 4 Mitigate the Attack Path
- 5 Security Checklist

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## Virtual data center

- ▶ for container apps
- ▶ manages compute resources

## Wide spread use

- ▶ interesting for attackers
- ▶ various attack surfaces



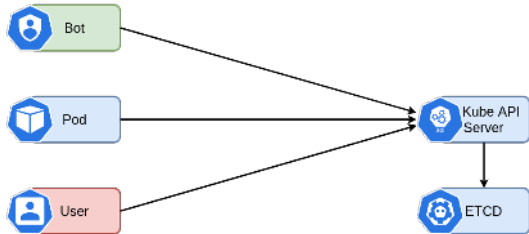


## Access control

- ▶ to Kubernetes objects
- ▶ can be annulled

## Unwarranted access

- ▶ read secrets, write workloads
- ▶ administer cluster

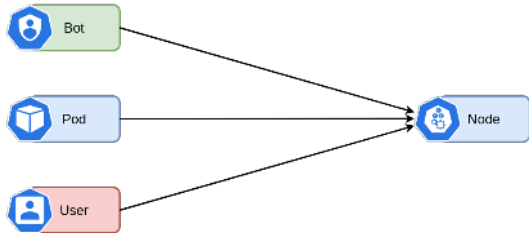


## Container isolation

- ▶ of process, network, filesystem
- ▶ can be softened

## Container outbreak

- ▶ access host file system
- ▶ root in container = root on host

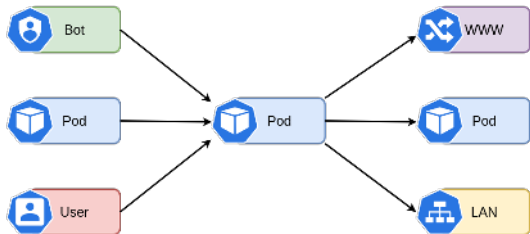


## Container communication

- ▶ in a flat network
- ▶ can be unlimited

## Unwanted communication

- ▶ download malware
- ▶ talk to other apps

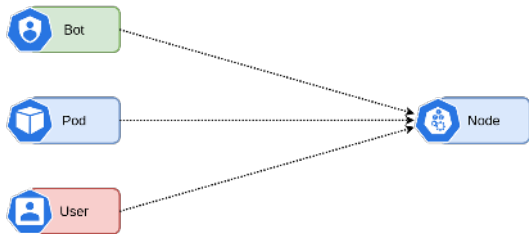


## Allocatable resources

- ▶ are CPU, memory, storage
- ▶ can be misused

## Consume resources

- ▶ crypto mining
- ▶ fork bombs



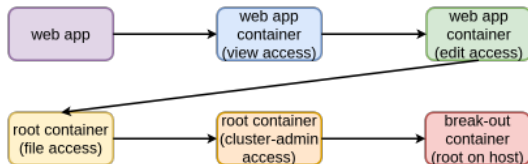
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## Privilege escalation to control

- ▶ Kubernetes
- ▶ container hosts

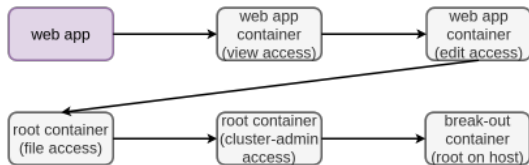


## Crypto Mining without detection

- ▶ divert compute resources
- ▶ share over network

## Command injection

- ▶ ping servers
- ▶ execute additional commands



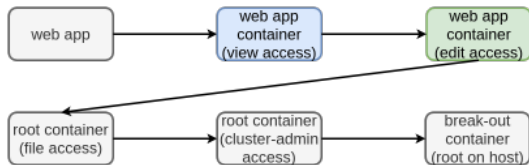
## Access via reverse shell

- ▶ target machine initiates connection
- ▶ user's computer listens

# Web application container

## View access to Kubernetes

- ▶ read ServiceAccounts
- ▶ read Secrets



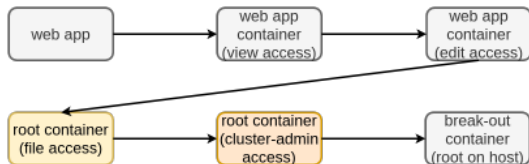
## Edit access to Kubernetes

- ▶ create root container on master
- ▶ log into new container



## Root user in container on master

- ▶ use hostPath
- ▶ read admin.conf



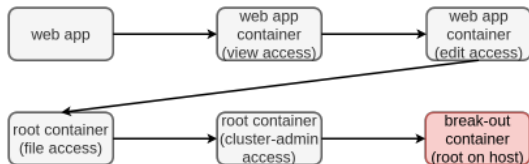
## Cluster-admin access to Kubernetes

- ▶ create break-out container
- ▶ log into new container

# Break-out container

## Root user on host

- ▶ create mining container
- ▶ use docker



## Cleanup

- ▶ delete root container
- ▶ delete break-out container

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## Defence in depth

- ▶ attackers pick their targets
- ▶ layered security needed

## Best practices

- ▶ limit attack surface
- ▶ principle of least privilege



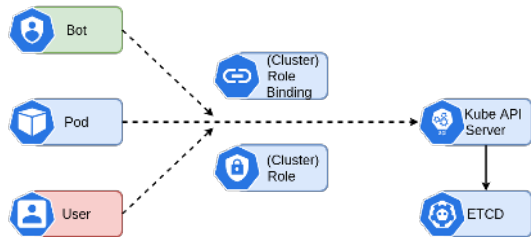
# Role-Based Access Control

## Kubernetes bouncer

- ▶ for Kubernetes resources and others
- ▶ namespace- or cluster-wide

## Least privilege access

- ▶ no access for apps and humans
- ▶ access for tools (CD, monitoring)



## Container prison

- ▶ drop capabilities
- ▶ ensure separation



## Prevent outbreak

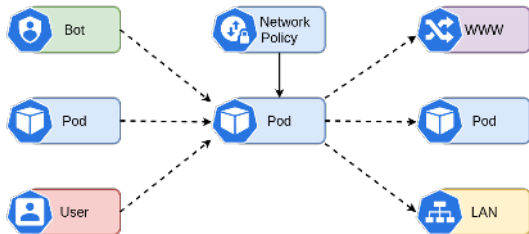
- ▶ deny privileged/root/privilege escalation
- ▶ ensure isolation & RO root filesystem

## Container firewall

- ▶ for ingress and egress
- ▶ with labels, namespaces, ip-blocks

## Restrict communication

- ▶ default deny all
- ▶ allow-list specific traffic

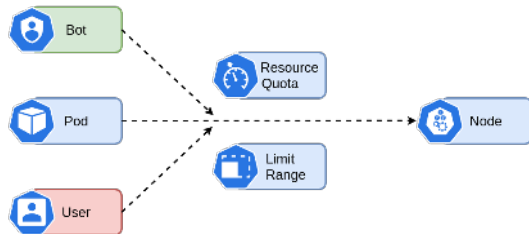


## Kubernetes limiter

- ▶ quotas for namespaces
- ▶ limits for containers, pods, pvcs

## Assign resources

- ▶ split resources for tenants
- ▶ define min, max, default resources





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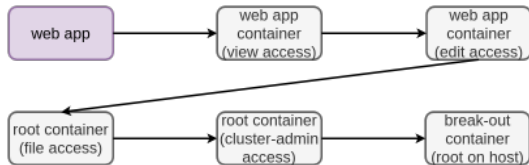
- ▶ limit attack surface
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# Mitigate 1

## Mitigate reverse shell for container

- ▶ scan container images for vulnerabilities
- ▶ remove unnecessary software
- ▶ restrict traffic with NetworkPolicies



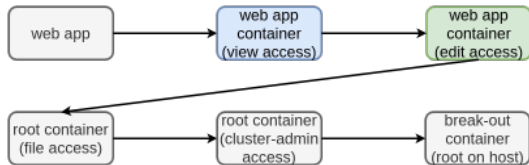
## Mitigate installation of new software

- ▶ scan container images for vulnerabilities
- ▶ remove unnecessary software
- ▶ restrict traffic with NetworkPolicies

# Mitigate 2

## Mitigate privilege escalation to edit access

- ▶ avoid existence of unnecessary secrets
- ▶ restrict traffic with NetworkPolicies
- ▶ restrict access to API server with RBAC



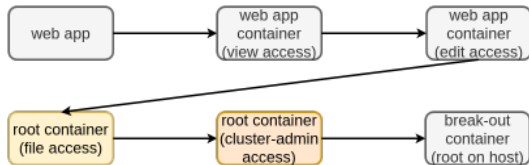
## Mitigate root container on master

- ▶ restrict with NetPol and RBAC
- ▶ don't tolerate container on master
- ▶ forbid root container with PSP

# Mitigate 3

## Mitigate shell for root container

- ▶ forbid root container with PSP
- ▶ restrict traffic with NetworkPolicies
- ▶ restrict access to API server with RBAC



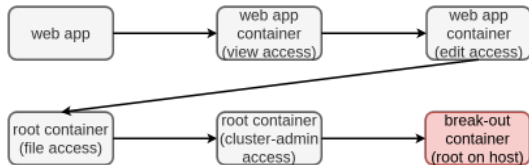
## Mitigate privilege escalation to cluster-admin

- ▶ don't tolerate container on master
- ▶ forbid root container with PSP
- ▶ forbid hostPath with PSP

# Mitigate 4

## Mitigate break-out container

- ▶ restrict with NetPol and RBAC
- ▶ forbid privileged container with PSP
- ▶ forbid hostPID with PSP



## Mitigate docker run

- ▶ restrict with NetPol and RBAC
- ▶ forbid privileged container with PSP
- ▶ forbid hostPID with PSP

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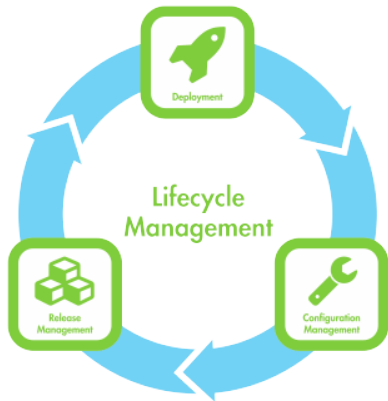
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## Server Lifecycle Management

- ▶ dedicated container hosts
- ▶ reduction of the attack surface
- ▶ runtime security tools
- ▶ restriction of access to the container hosts







## Kubernetes Lifecycle Management

- ▶ protection of the kubernetes components
- ▶ restriction of access to the kubernetes API
- ▶ usage of authentication and authorization
- ▶ usage of admission control
- ▶ enabling of audit logs
- ▶ checking via security benchmarking

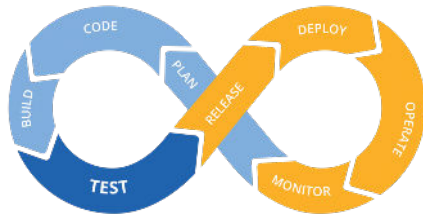


# Ecosystem



## Application Lifecycle Management

- ▶ separation of code and data
- ▶ restriction of access to the kubernetes API
- ▶ container sandboxing
- ▶ container hardening
- ▶ vulnerability scanning of container images
- ▶ mutual TLS



## Defence in depth

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- ▶ layered security needed

## Best practices

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# Outlook



## Secure applications

- ▶ container image scanning and signing
- ▶ sandbox technologies



## Use agents

- ▶ policy agent for compliance
- ▶ RT security agent for anomaly detection





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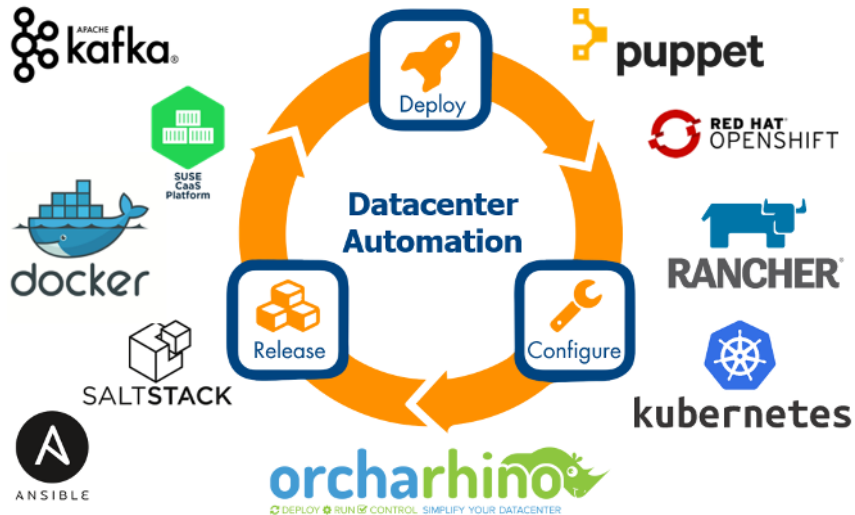
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