



Mongolian Cyber Emergency Response Team / Coordination Center

# KUBERNETES SECURITY

NASANTOGTOKH AMARSAIKHAN  
MNCERT/CC

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## Kubernetes

What is kubernetes and  
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How you can check and  
improve your cluster?

# CONTAINER



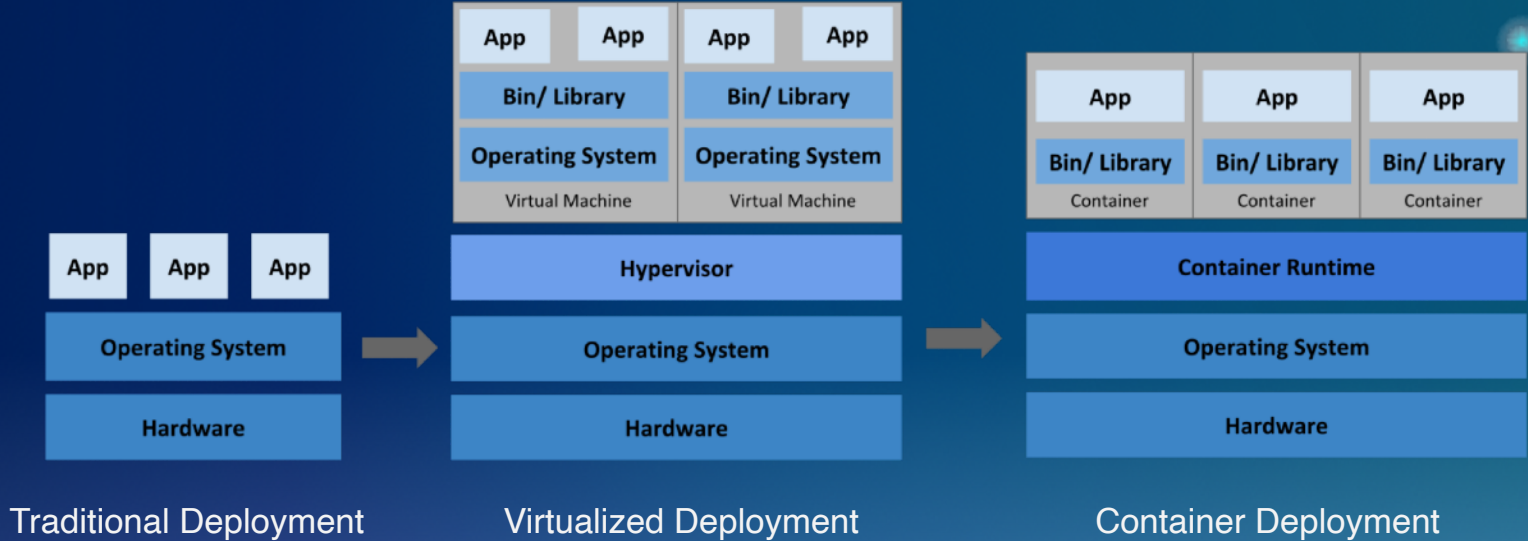
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WHAT IS IT

# CONTAINER

**All-in-one, standardised unit** - Packaged software into standardised Units for development, shipment & deployment

- Less overhead
- Increased portability
- More consistent operation
- Greater Efficiency



**How deployment evolved?**

# KUBERNETES



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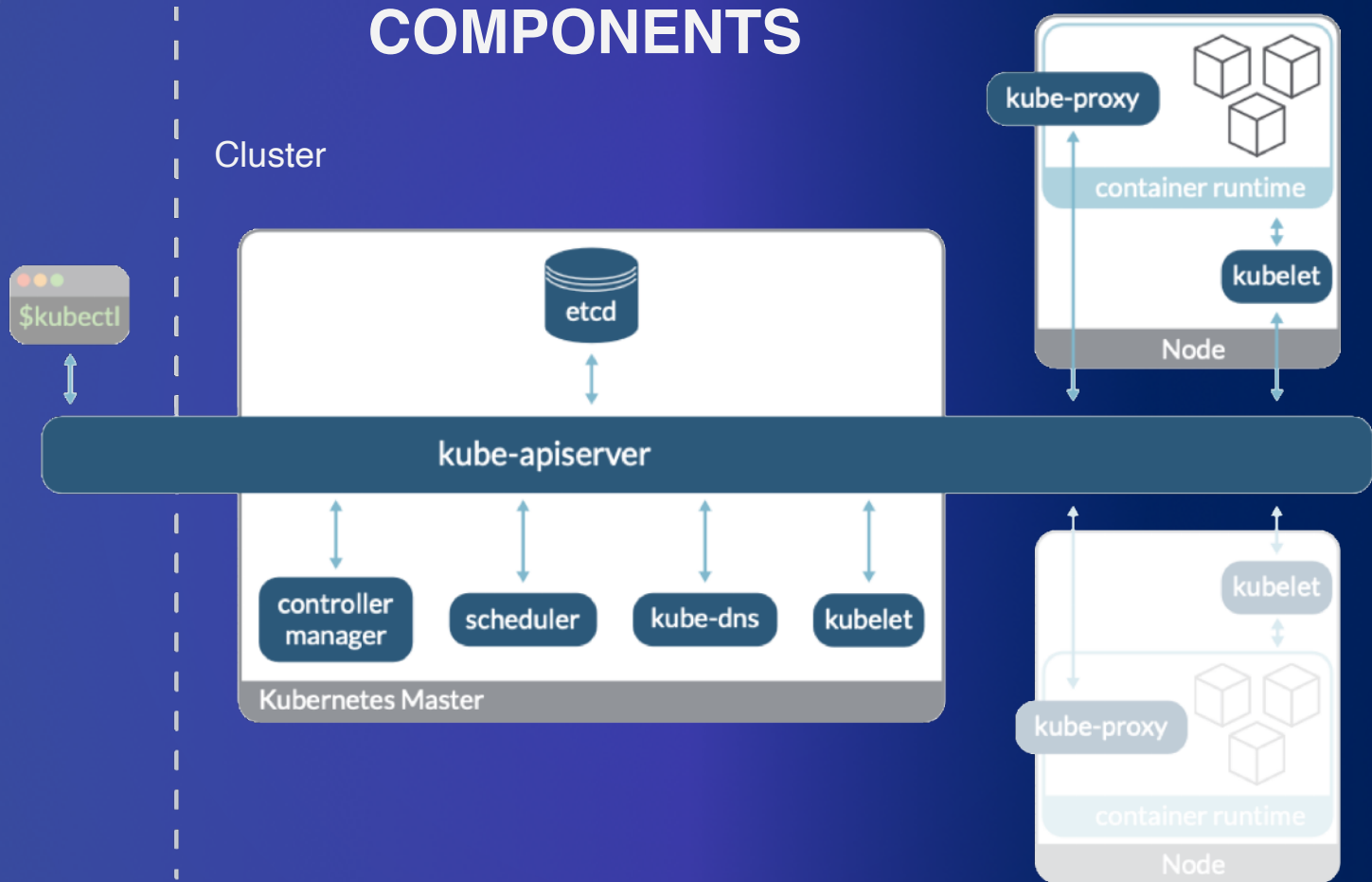
WHAT AND HOW?

Open source **Container Orchestration**  
engine for automating

- Deployment
- Scaling
- Management of containerized applications

**KUBERNETES**

# COMPONENTS





- Run distributed system resiliently
- Scaling, failover
- Service discovery & load balancing
- Storage orchestration
- Automated rollouts and rollbacks
- Automatic bin packing - Set limit to CPU & RAM and best utilization of resource
- Self-Healing - Container restart
- Secret and configuration management
- Kubernetes comprises set of independent, composable **control processes** that continuously drive the current state → desired state.

## KUBERNETES CAN DO

# KUBERNETES SECURITY

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WHAT AND HOW?

# KUBERNETES SECURITY | 4C MODEL

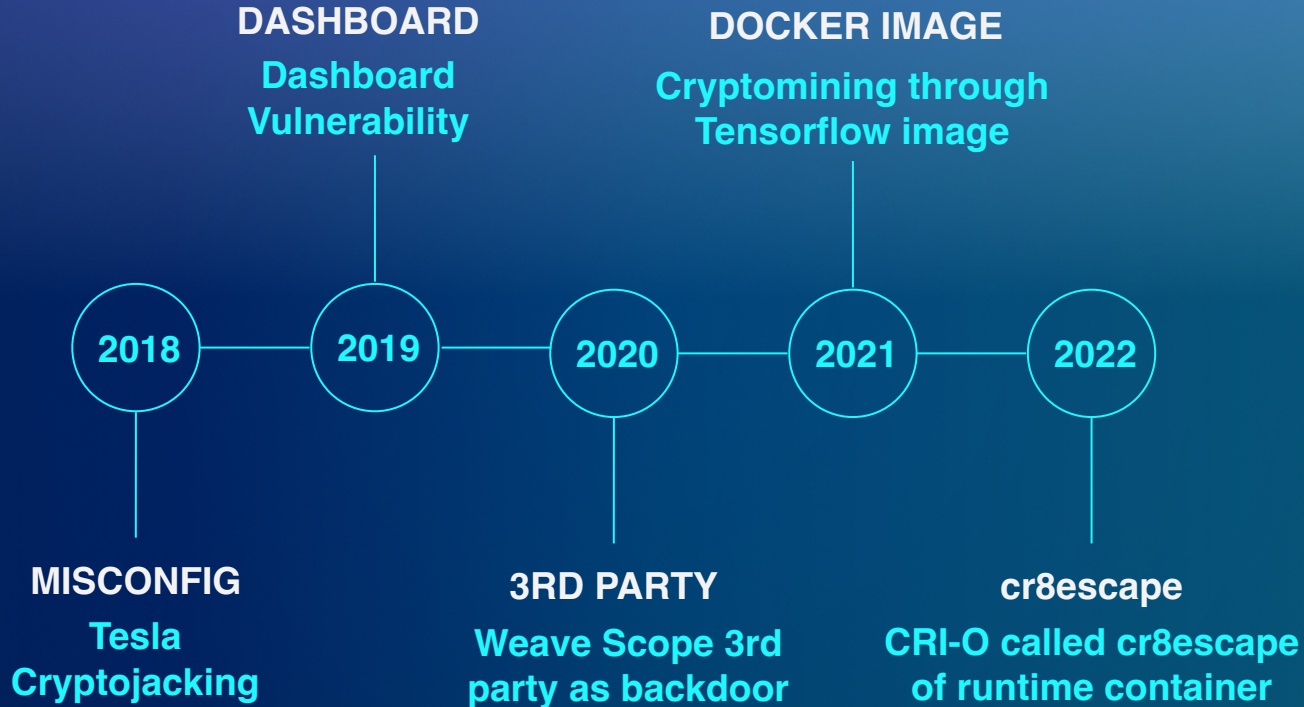


Source: Kubernetes Documentation, The 4C's of Cloud Native security

# KUBERNETES SECURITY POSTURE

- **96%** of organizations using or evaluating k8s
- **53%** detected misconfiguration in Kubernetes in last 12 months
- **51%** require to use validated **images**
- **57%** worry the most about securing workloads at runtime
- Adversaries shifted their attention Docker → K8s and CI/CD (10% increase 2020-2021)

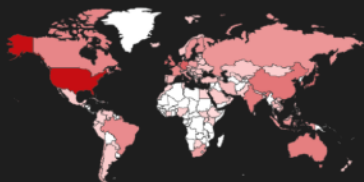
# KUBERNETES HACKS



## TOTAL RESULTS

1,040,075

## TOP COUNTRIES



United States	606,128
Germany	62,265
Ireland	46,372
Belgium	45,006
Singapore	33,371

[More...](#)

## TOP PORTS

443	973,775
6443	62,653
8443	1,206
10250	715
4443	233

[View Report](#)[Browse Images](#)[View on Map](#)**New Service:** Keep track of what you have connected to the Internet. Check out [Shodan Monitor](#)**15.188.108.149** [↗](#)

ec2-15-188-108-149.eu-west-3.compute.amazonaws.com

[Amazon Data Services France](#)

France, Paris

[cloud](#) [devops](#) **SSL Certificate**

Issued By:

|- Common Name:  
kubernetes

Issued To:

|- Common Name:  
kube-apiserver

Supported SSL

Versions:

TLSv1.2, TLSv1.3

HTTP/1.1 403 Forbidden

Audit-Id: 3fbffa9c-85e3-4ee5-b67a-3851b6392eec

Cache-Control: no-cache, private

Content-Type: application/json

X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff

X-Kubernetes-Pf-Flowschema-Uid: 1e3abc9e-b4b7-43ac-942e-af0df96e2c91

X-Kubernetes-Pf-Prioritylevel-Uid: d75b0c1d-59f3-465e-b9...

2022-10-04T13:19:09.999057

**180.184.138.224** [↗](#)[Beijing Volcano Engine Technology Co., Ltd.](#)

China, Beijing

[devops](#) **SSL Certificate**

Issued By:

|- Common Name:  
kubernetes

Issued To:

|- Common Name:  
kube-apiserver

Supported SSL

Versions:

TLSv1.2

HTTP/1.1 403 Forbidden

Cache-Control: no-cache, private

Content-Type: application/json

X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff

X-Kubernetes-Pf-Flowschema-Uid: 354940a1-f243-447f-8c64-2911fe63ab23

X-Kubernetes-Pf-Prioritylevel-Uid: b9aaeced-dccb-4d9a-8835-ecdc16fa9e3f

Date: Tue, 04 Oct 2022 13:18:48...

2022-10-04T13:18:48.875025

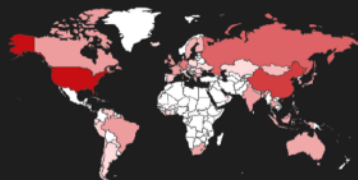
**35.193.163.201** [↗](#)

2022-10-04T13:18:46.343390

## TOTAL RESULTS

1,937

## TOP COUNTRIES



United States	866
China	348
Russian Federation	140
Germany	67
Singapore	57

[More...](#)

## TOP PORTS

6443	611
443	463
51235	228
5000	93
8001	73

View Report

View on Map

**New Service:** Keep track of what you have connected to the Internet. Check out [Shodan Monitor](#)

54.156.97.229 ↗

ec2-54-156-97-229.com  
pute-1.amazonaws.com

Amazon Technologies  
Inc.

United  
States, Ashburn

cloud

## SSL Certificate

Issued By:  
|- Common Name:  
kube-apiserver-  
service-network-signer

Issued To:  
|- Common Name:  
172.30.0.1

Supported SSL  
Versions:  
TLSv1.2

HTTP/1.1 200 OK  
Audit-Id: 9ec280d3-d5b5-426e-ba64-fb4e35969e06  
Cache-Control: no-cache, private  
Content-Type: application/json  
X-Kubernetes-Pf-Flowschema-Uid: 630e4eb9-2566-407b-a55b-022b16ae92d6  
X-Kubernetes-Pf-Prioritylevel-Uid: 4218b22c-72a2-4f0b-bdb1-945d3cdac956  
Date: Tue, 04 Oct 2022 ...

2022-10-04T13:21:44.775768

178.154.207.252 ↗

test-y8068.skyengschool.link

test-y8068.skysmart.link  
api.content.vimbox.test-y8068.skyeng.link

test-y8068.skypro.link  
api.content.vimbox.test-y8068.skyengschool.link  
YANDEX LLC

Russian  
Federation, Moscow

cloud

## SSL Certificate

Issued By:  
|- Common Name:  
R3

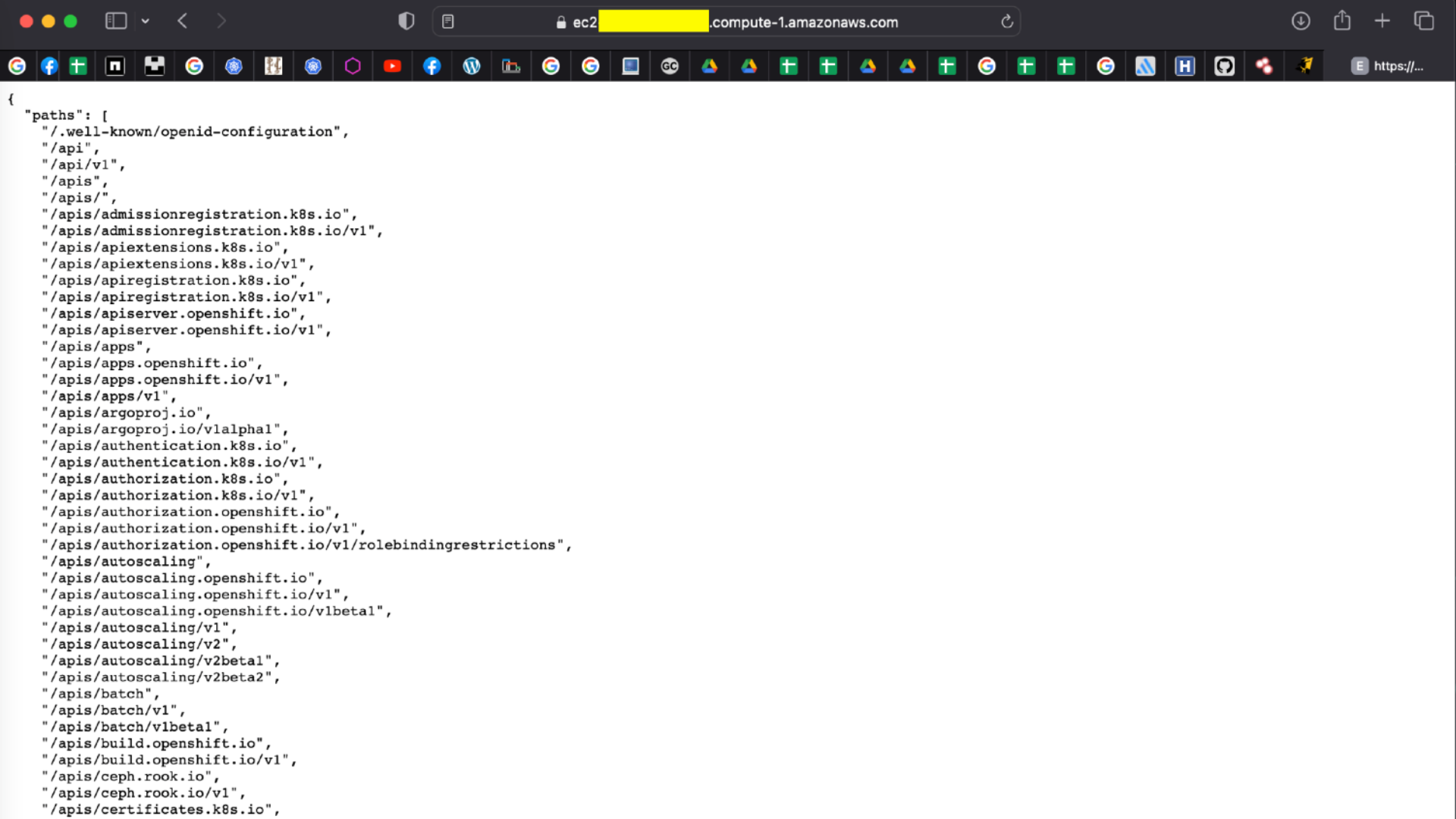
|- Organization:  
Let's Encrypt

Issued To:  
|- Common Name:  
test-y8068.skyeng.link

Supported SSL  
Versions:  
TLSv1, TLSv1.1,  
TLSv1.2

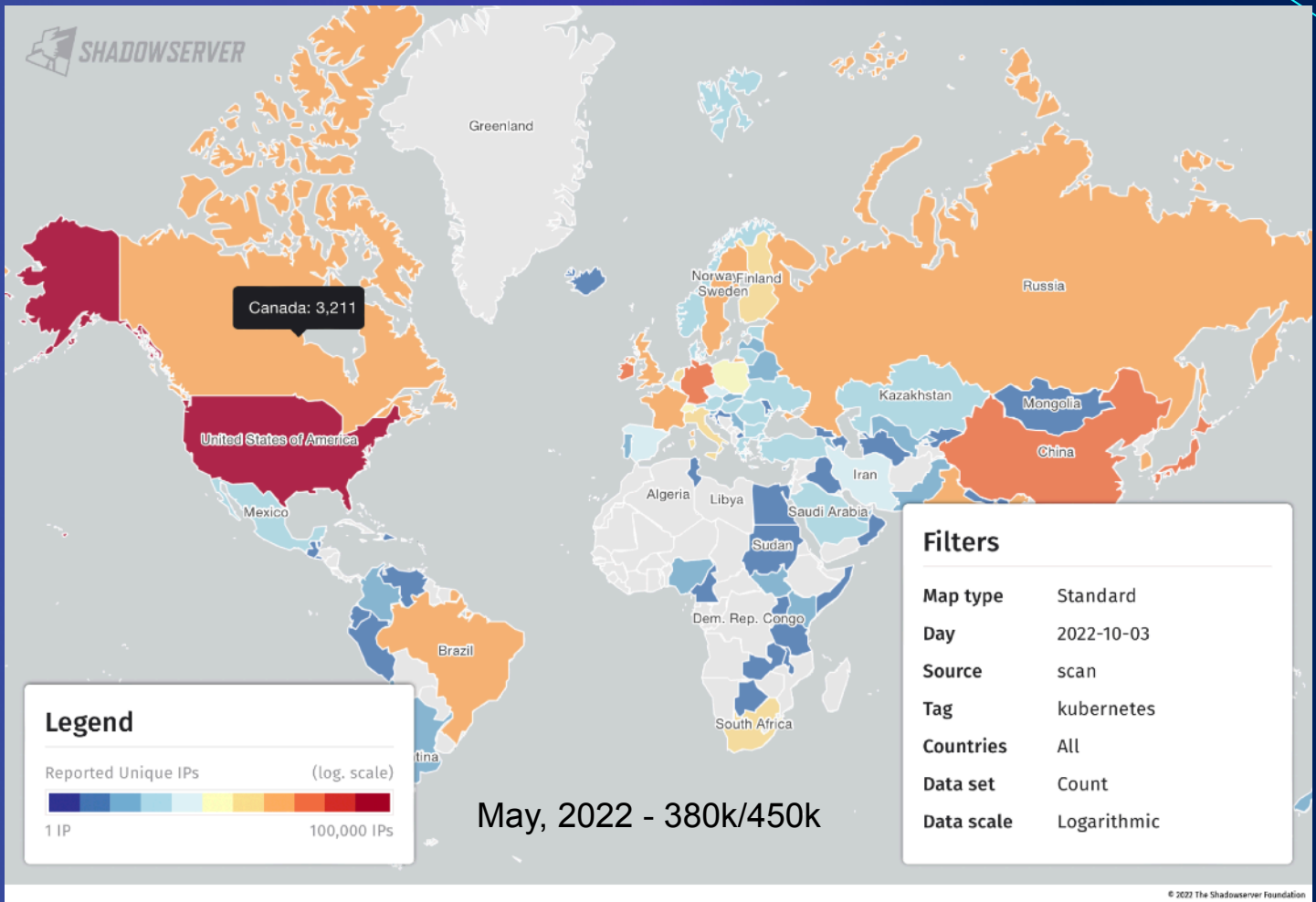
HTTP/1.1 200 OK  
Server: openresty  
Date: Tue, 04 Oct 2022 13:11:08 GMT  
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8  
Transfer-Encoding: chunked  
Connection: keep-alive  
Vary: Accept-Encoding  
Vary: Accept-Encoding  
Cache-Control: no-cache, private  
Request-Id: c78818783b33c27e34e803c4316e9f97  
Reques...

2022-10-04T13:11:08.286507



```
{
  "paths": [
    "/.well-known/openid-configuration",
    "/api",
    "/api/v1",
    "/apis",
    "/apis/",
    "/apis/admissionregistration.k8s.io",
    "/apis/admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1",
    "/apis/apiextensions.k8s.io",
    "/apis/apiextensions.k8s.io/v1",
    "/apis/apiregistration.k8s.io",
    "/apis/apiregistration.k8s.io/v1",
    "/apis/apiserver.openshift.io",
    "/apis/apiserver.openshift.io/v1",
    "/apis/apps",
    "/apis/apps.openshift.io",
    "/apis/apps.openshift.io/v1",
    "/apis/apps/v1",
    "/apis/argoproj.io",
    "/apis/argoproj.io/v1alpha1",
    "/apis/authentication.k8s.io",
    "/apis/authentication.k8s.io/v1",
    "/apis/authorization.k8s.io",
    "/apis/authorization.k8s.io/v1",
    "/apis/authorization.openshift.io",
    "/apis/authorization.openshift.io/v1",
    "/apis/authorization.openshift.io/v1/rolebindingrestrictions",
    "/apis/autoscaling",
    "/apis/autoscaling.openshift.io",
    "/apis/autoscaling.openshift.io/v1",
    "/apis/autoscaling.openshift.io/v1beta1",
    "/apis/autoscaling/v1",
    "/apis/autoscaling/v2",
    "/apis/autoscaling/v2beta1",
    "/apis/autoscaling/v2beta2",
    "/apis/batch",
    "/apis/batch/v1",
    "/apis/batch/v1beta1",
    "/apis/build.openshift.io",
    "/apis/build.openshift.io/v1",
    "/apis/ceph.rook.io",
    "/apis/ceph.rook.io/v1",
    "/apis/certificates.k8s.io",
```





### Filters

Map type	Standard
Day	2022-10-03
Source	scan
Tag	kubernetes
Countries	All
Data set	Count
Data scale	Logarithmic

- **Misconfigured** docker, like running on root
- Malicious **docker image**
- Unintentional cluster **misconfiguration**
- **Insider Threat**
- For more info: NIST & CISA  
Kubernetes Hardening Guide, Threat model

## KUBERNETES COMMON THREAT

# ATTACK PATTERNS

- ABUSING PUBLIC FACING KUBERNETES COMPONENTS
- SCRAPING AND ABUSING CREDENTIALS
- SPINNING UP CRYPTOMINERS
- LATERAL MOVEMENT

- Exploiting public, vulnerable Kubernetes components, like kubelet
- **PROTECTION:**
  - Scan for vulnerability in images and packages
  - Use managed Kubernetes → less susceptible

**ABUSING PUBLIC  
FACING KUBERNETES  
COMPONENTS**

## SCRAPING AND ABUSING CREDENTIALS

- Attack into Kubernetes through misconfigured Kubelet or other approach, then look for credentials
  - Cloud access key
  - Access token
  - SSH key etc
- **PROTECTION:**
  - Manage credentials securely
  - Don't inject into image or repo
  - Inject only when necessary

- Run cryptominer containers or inject it.
  - Can be injected via image file
- **PROTECTION:**
  - Monitor network traffic, IP, C&C?
  - Monitor workload of container and node

**SPIN UP  
CRYPTOMINERS**

## LATERAL MOVEMENT

- Using weak point and sits in Kubernetes until he needs it
- **PROTECTION:**
  - Microsegmentation, limit resource, privilege and service connection

- Container RAM/CPU spike
- Anomalous in/out traffic
- Attachment of Cluster-admin role
- Unexpected change in Filesystem/Dir
- Anomalous DNS req or spike
- Unusual HTTP response size
- 403/404 HTTP code spike
- Unknown binary

**INDICATOR OF  
COMPROMISE**



**4C BEST  
PRACTICE -  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Control plane should not be connected from public IP
- Nodes should be only accessible via control plane via whitelist (IP, port)
- etcd encryption at rest

- RBAC Authorization
- Authentication
- Application secret manager
- Pod security standard
- Network policy
- TLS for k8s ingress

**4C BEST PRACTICE -  
CLUSTER**

## 4C BEST PRACTICE - CONTAINER SECURITY

- Vulnerability scanning, OS dependency security
- Image signing, and validation enforcement
- Disallow privileged users
- Use container runtime with stronger isolation

- Access over TLS only
- Limit port ranges of communication
- 3rd party dependency security
- Static code analysis

**4C BEST PRACTICE -  
CODE SECURITY**

# WHAT'S NEXT?

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HOW CAN YOU SECURE YOUR  
KUBERNETES?

# What next?

- Check if control plane/node is public accessible?
- Disable anonymous access (`--anonymous-auth=false`)
- etcd encryption at rest (`etcdctl`)
- Verify docker images
- Container runtime hardening, (non-root etc)
- Scan on deploy
- Pod security standard
- RBAC
- Logging, Monitoring, and incident response
- Kubernetes hardening [NIST, CISA guide]

**QUESTION?**

The background is a deep blue gradient. Overlaid on this are several thin, glowing cyan lines that intersect to form a network of triangles and polygons. At the vertices of these lines are small, glowing cyan circles, some of which have a soft, out-of-focus halo. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and tech-oriented.

**THANKS  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**