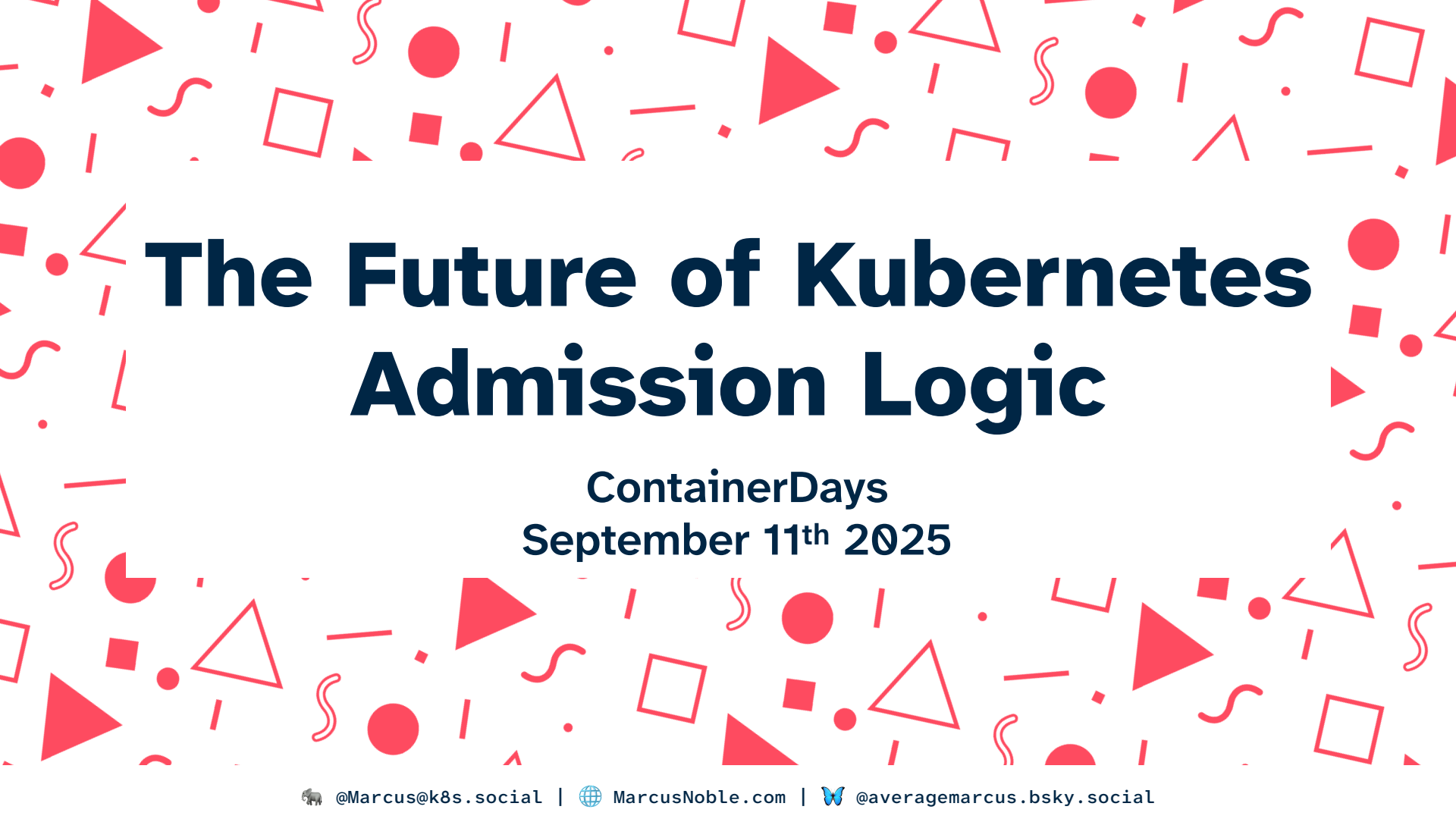


The background of the slide is a white canvas covered with a dense, scattered pattern of red geometric shapes. These shapes include various sizes of squares, triangles, circles, and wavy lines, some of which are solid red while others are red outlines. The pattern is more concentrated at the top and bottom edges, framing the central text.

The Future of Kubernetes Admission Logic

ContainerDays
September 11th 2025



@Marcus@k8s.social



MarcusNoble.com



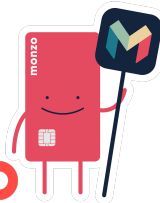
@averagemarcus.bsky.social



Hi 🙋,

I'm Marcus Noble!

I'm a platform engineer at **monzo**



I run a monthly newsletter - [CloudNative.Now](https://cloudbnative.com)

7+ years experience running Kubernetes in production environments.



Dynamic Admission Control

**Validating Admission
Webhook**

**Mutating Admission
Webhook**



Purpose / Use Cases

Defaulting

- Injecting `imagePullSecrets` dynamically when pods are created
- Injecting sidecars into pods
- Injecting proxy environment variables into pods

- Require a `PodDisruptionBudget`
- Enforce a standard set of labels / annotations on all resources
- Replace all image registries with an in-house container image proxy / cache

Best Practices

Policy Enforcement

- Prevent using `latest` image tag
- Require all pods to have resource limits set
- Block the use of deprecated Kubernetes APIs (e.g. `batch/v1beta1`)

- Block nodes joining the cluster with known CVEs based on the kernel version (e.g. CVE-2022-0185)
- Inject Log4Shell mitigation env var into all pods (CVE-2021-44228)
- Block binding to the cluster-admin role

Problem Mitigation



Webhooks in Kubernetes are



POWERFUL



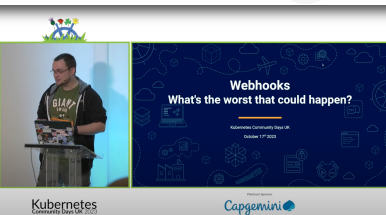
But with that power comes



RISK



*Taken from my talk
about this at KCD UK*



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Wouldn't it be great if we had a safer alternative?

- Yes! *Yes, it would!*



Introducing Validating Admission Policies

Status: Alpha in v1.26, Beta in v1.28, GA in v1.30

Introduced in: [KEP-3488](#)

A declarative, in-process alternative to validating admission webhooks.



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Kubernetes manifests 

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 *api-server*

A declarative, in-process alternative to validating admission webhooks.

Kubernetes manifests 



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Introducing Validating Admission Policies

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 *api-server*

A declarative, in-process alternative to validating admission webhooks.

Kubernetes manifests 

 *More on this shortly*

Uses the Common Expression Language (CEL) for the policy language.



Introducing ValidatingAdmissionPolicies

Status: Alpha in v1.26, Beta in v1.28, GA in v1.30

Introduced in: [KEP-3488](#)

 *api-server*

A declarative, in-process alternative to validating admission webhooks.

Kubernetes manifests 

 *More on this shortly*

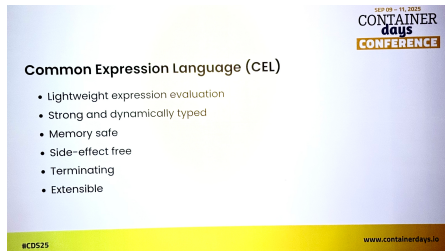
Uses the Common Expression Language (CEL) for the policy language.

Consists of two main resources:

- `ValidatingAdmissionPolicy` describes the policy logic
- `ValidatingAdmissionPolicyBinding` links the above policy to the resources it applies to



Brief introduction to CEL



 *Victor gave a great introduction to CEL on Tuesday*

References:

- <https://kubernetes.io/docs/reference/using-api/cel/>
- <https://github.com/google/cel-go>
- <https://playcel.undistro.io/> (CEL playground)

- Uses a similar syntax to the expressions in C-based languages, e.g.

```
self.minReplicas <= self.replicas &&  
self.replicas <= self.maxReplicas
```
- Designed to be embedded into other applications with a focus on “one-liners” of code.
- Small number of built in functions (e.g. `split`, `has`)
- Functions expanded through custom libraries (Kubernetes includes several of these)
- Already used by [Kyverno](#), [Tekton](#), [Kubewarden](#), etc.



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: ["apps"]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE", "UPDATE"]
        resources: ["deployments", "daemonsets", "statefulsets"]
  validations:
    - message: "The use of the 'latest' tag is not allowed"
      expression: |
        object.spec.template.spec.containers.all(container,
          !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
        ) &&
        (
          !has(object.spec.template.spec.initContainers) ||
          object.spec.template.spec.initContainers.all(container,
            !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
          )
        )
    )
```

More examples:

[github.com/AverageMarcus/
common-admission-policies](https://github.com/AverageMarcus/common-admission-policies)



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: ["apps"]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE", "UPDATE"]
        resources: ["deployments", "daemonsets", "statefulsets"]
  validations:
    - message: "The use of the 'latest' tag is not allowed"
      expression: |
        object.spec.template.spec.containers.all(container,
          !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
        ) &&
        (
          !has(object.spec.template.spec.initContainers) ||
          object.spec.template.spec.initContainers.all(container,
            !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
          )
        )
    )
```

The name of our policy.
We'll reference this in
our

ValidatingAdmission
PolicyBinding



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: ["apps"]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE", "UPDATE"]
        resources: ["deployments", "daemonsets", "statefulsets"]
  validations:
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        object.spec.template.spec.containers.all(container,
          !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
        ) &&
        (
          !has(object.spec.template.spec.initContainers) ||
          object.spec.template.spec.initContainers.all(container,
            !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
          )
        )
    )
```

How we should handle mistakes / runtime errors in our CEL expressions. By default it will block the request.

The alternative is `Ignore` if you want to allow requests on error.

Note: This is when something errors, not when the validations fail.

E.g. typo in CEL expression



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: ["apps"]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE", "UPDATE"]
        resources: ["deployments", "daemonsets", "statefulsets"]
  validations:
    - message: "The use of the 'latest' tag is not allowed"
      expression: |
        object.spec.template.spec.containers.all(container,
          !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
        ) &&
        (
          !has(object.spec.template.spec.initContainers) ||
          object.spec.template.spec.initContainers.all(container,
            !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
          )
        )
    )
```

We define what resources this policy applies to.

Multiple resource types can be defined here but if they don't have the same general API the CEL expression will quickly become very complex.

Supported operations are:

- CREATE
- UPDATE
- DELETE
- CONNECT
- * (meaning all the previous)



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: ["apps"]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE", "UPDATE"]
        resources: ["deployments", "daemonsets", "statefulsets"]
  validations:
    - message: "The use of the 'latest' tag is not allowed"
      expression: |
        object.spec.template.spec.containers.all(container,
          !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
        ) &&
        (
          !has(object.spec.template.spec.initContainers) ||
          object.spec.template.spec.initContainers.all(container,
            !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
          )
        )
```

Validations define one or more conditions that must be met for the request to be allowed.

The array is AND'd together and all must pass.



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: ["apps"]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE", "UPDATE"]
        resources: ["deployments", "daemonsets", "statefulsets"]
  validations:
    - message: "The use of the 'latest' tag is not allowed"
      expression: |
        object.spec.template.spec.containers.all(container,
          !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
        ) &&
        (
          !has(object.spec.template.spec.initContainers) ||
          object.spec.template.spec.initContainers.all(container,
            !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
          )
        )
```

We'll add a human-friendly message to be shown when the API request has been blocked by this policy.

If we don't include this, a generic message that include the whole expression is shown instead.



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: ["apps"]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE", "UPDATE"]
        resources: ["deployments", "daemonsets", "statefulsets"]
  validations:
    - message: "The use of the 'latest' tag is not allowed"
      expression: |
        object.spec.template.spec.containers.all(container,
          !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
        ) &&
        (
          !has(object.spec.template.spec.initContainers) ||
          object.spec.template.spec.initContainers.all(container,
            !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
          )
        )
      )
```

Finally we have our expression.

This is the expression of ***allowed*** resources, not those to block.

(I keep getting caught out by this 🤔)



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: ["apps"]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE", "UPDATE"]
        resources: ["deployments", "daemonsets", "statefulsets"]
  validations:
    - message: "The use of the 'latest' tag is not allowed"
      expression: |
        object.spec.template.spec.containers.all(container,
          !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
        ) &&
        (
          !has(object.spec.template.spec.initContainers) ||
          object.spec.template.spec.initContainers.all(container,
            !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
          )
        )
    )
```

object is the incoming resource from the API call.



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: ["apps"]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
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        resources: ["deployments", "daemonsets", "statefulsets"]
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          !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
        ) &&
        (
          !has(object.spec.template.spec.initContainers) ||
          object.spec.template.spec.initContainers.all(container,
            !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
          )
        )
    )
```

First we check all containers don't have the latest tag (or no tag specified).



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: ["apps"]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE", "UPDATE"]
        resources: ["deployments", "daemonsets", "statefulsets"]
  validations:
    - message: "The use of the 'latest' tag is not allowed"
      expression: |
        object.spec.template.spec.containers.all(container,
          !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
        ) &&
        (
          !has(object.spec.template.spec.initContainers) ||
          object.spec.template.spec.initContainers.all(container,
            !container.image.endsWith(":latest") && container.image.contains(":")
          )
        )
      )
```

Then we check if this resource defines initContainers and if so we check they also don't use latest.



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

Our policy does nothing until we bind it to some conditions.

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicyBinding
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  policyName: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
  validationActions: [Deny]
  matchResources: {}
```



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

The name of the policy
we have just created.

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicyBinding
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  policyName: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
  validationActions: [Deny]
  matchResources: {}
```



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

The action to take when a policy conditions aren't met.

Available options are:

Deny, Warn & Audit

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicyBinding
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  policyName: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
  validationActions: [Deny]
  matchResources: {}
```

Note: This is an array as you can specify both warn and audit together



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

We're not defining any filtering so this policy applies cluster-wide.

We could limit our policy to specific namespaces or labels, for example.

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicyBinding
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  policyName: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
  validationActions: [Deny]
  matchResources: {}
```



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

We're not defining any filtering so this policy applies cluster-wide.

We could limit our policy to specific namespaces or labels, for example.

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicyBinding
metadata:
  name: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
spec:
  policyName: "prevent-latest-image-tag"
  validationActions: [Deny]
  matchResources:
    namespaceSelector:
      matchLabels:
        environment: prod
```



Example

Blocking the use of the 'latest' image tag

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: nginx-blocked
  labels:
    app: nginx
spec:
  replicas: 1
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: nginx
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: nginx
    spec:
      containers:
        - name: nginx
          image: nginx:latest
```

```
# kubectl apply -f deployment.yaml
```

```
The deployments "nginx-blocked" is invalid: :
ValidatingAdmissionPolicy 'prevent-latest-image-tag'
with binding 'prevent-latest-image-tag' denied
request: The use of the 'latest' tag is not allowed
```

Our friendly message ↩



Blocked!



More advanced features

More advanced features

- **More context values** - Along with `object` you also have `oldObject`, `namespaceObject` & `request` you can use in your expressions

```
matchConditions:  
  - name: "exclude-kubelet-requests"  
    expression: "!(\"system:nodes\" in request.userInfo.groups)"
```



More advanced features

- **More context values** - Along with `object` you also have `oldObject`, `namespaceObject` & `request` you can use in your expressions
- **Parameters** - make your policies configurable by allowing parameter resources to be applied by the binding (can use any resource type, even a CRD)

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "param-example"
spec:
  paramKind:
    apiVersion: v1
    kind: ConfigMap
  validations:
    - expression: object.spec.replicas
      <= params.data.maxReplicas
```

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.v1
kind: ValidatingAdmissionPolicyBinding
metadata:
  name: "param-example"
spec:
  policyName: "param-example"
  paramRef:
    name: "my-parameters"
    namespace: "default"
```

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: ConfigMap
metadata:
  name: "my-parameters"
  namespace: "default"
data:
  maxReplicas: 3
```



More advanced features

- **More context values** - Along with `object` you also have `oldObject`, `namespaceObject` & `request` you can use in your expressions
- **Parameters** - make your policies configurable by allowing parameter resources to be applied by the binding (can use any resource type, even a CRD)
- **Variables** - reusable CEL expressions to simplify your validation expressions

```
spec:
  variables:
    - name: teamLabel
      expression: "'team' in object.spec.metadata.labels ? object.spec.metadata.labels['team'] : 'no-team'"
  validations:
    - expression: variables.teamLabel == 'rel-eng'
```



More advanced features

- **More context values** - Along with `object` you also have `oldObject`, `namespaceObject` & `request` you can use in your expressions
- **Parameters** - make your policies configurable by allowing parameter resources to be applied by the binding (can use any resource type, even a CRD)
- **Variables** - reusable CEL expressions to simplify your validation expressions
- **Audit annotations** - Add extra metadata to the audit logs, dynamic values using CEL

```
auditAnnotations:  
- key: "replica-count"  
  valueExpression: |  
    'Deployment spec.replicas set to ' +  
    string(object.spec.replicas)"
```

```
{  
  "kind": "Event",  
  "apiVersion": "audit.k8s.io/v1",  
  "annotations": {  
    "demo-policy.example.com/replica-count": "Deployment  
spec.replicas set to 128"  
    ...  
  }  
}
```



More advanced features

- **More context values** - Along with `object` you also have `oldObject`, `namespaceObject` & `request` you can use in your expressions
- **Parameters** - make your policies configurable by allowing parameter resources to be applied by the binding (can use any resource type, even a CRD)
- **Variables** - reusable CEL expressions to simplify your validation expressions
- **Audit annotations** - Add extra metadata to the audit logs, dynamic values using CEL
- **Message expressions** - Leverage some CEL in your message to have dynamic validation messages

```
messageExpression: "'object.spec.replicas must be no greater than ' + string(params.maxReplicas)"
```



**So that's validation covered,
what about mutating?
Well...**



Mutating Admission Policies

Status: Alpha in v1.32, Beta in v1.34

Introduced in: [KEP-3962](#)

- Follows the same idea as Validating Admission Policies.
- Introduces `MutatingAdmissionPolicy` and `MutatingAdmissionPolicyBinding`
- Supports two patch strategies: `ApplyConfiguration` and `JSONPatch`
- Not yet enabled by default, you must enable the following:
 - `MutatingAdmissionPolicy` feature gate
 - `admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1` API

 Previously `v1alpha1` in `<= v1.33`

```
kind: Cluster
apiVersion: kind.x-k8s.io/v1alpha4
name: kind-cluster
featureGates:
  "MutatingAdmissionPolicy": true
runtimeConfig:
  "admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1": true
```

Create a Kind cluster with:

```
kind create cluster --config kind-config.yaml
```



Example

Injecting proxy values as env vars

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: MutatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "proxy-values"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  reinvocationPolicy: IfNeeded
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: [""]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE"]
        resources: ["pods"]
  mutations:
    - patchType: "ApplyConfiguration"
      applyConfiguration:
        expression: >
          Object{
            spec: Object.spec{
              containers: object.spec.containers.map(c,
                Object.spec.containers.item{
                  name: c.name,
                  env: [
                    Object.spec.containers.env{
                      name: "HTTP_PROXY",
                      value: "http://proxy.proxy.svc:3128"
                    }
                  ]
                }
              )
            }
          }
        }
```



Example

Injecting proxy values as env vars

Same as

ValidatingAdmissionPolicies

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: MutatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "proxy-values"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  reinvoicationPolicy: IfNeeded
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: [""]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE"]
        resources: ["pods"]
  mutations:
    - patchType: "ApplyConfiguration"
      applyConfiguration:
        expression: >
          Object{
            spec: Object.spec{
              containers: object.spec.containers.map(c,
                Object.spec.containers.item{
                  name: c.name,
                  env: [
                    Object.spec.containers.env{
                      name: "HTTP_PROXY",
                      value: "http://proxy.proxy.svc:3128"
                    }
                  ]
                }
              )
            }
          }
        }
```



Example

Injecting proxy values as env vars

Should the policy be re-applied
if other mutations are made to
the resource?

Allowed values are **Never** and
IfNeeded

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: MutatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "proxy-values"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  reinvoicationPolicy: IfNeeded
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: [""]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE"]
        resources: ["pods"]
  mutations:
    - patchType: "ApplyConfiguration"
      applyConfiguration:
        expression: >
          Object{
            spec: Object.spec{
              containers: object.spec.containers.map(c,
                Object.spec.containers.item{
                  name: c.name,
                  env: [
                    Object.spec.containers.env{
                      name: "HTTP_PROXY",
                      value: "http://proxy.proxy.svc:3128"
                    }
                  ]
                }
              )
            }
          }
        }
```



Example

Injecting proxy values as env vars

Replace validations with mutations

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: MutatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "proxy-values"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  reinvocationPolicy: IfNeeded
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: [""]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE"]
        resources: ["pods"]
  mutations:
    - patchType: "ApplyConfiguration"
      applyConfiguration:
        expression: >
          Object{
            spec: Object.spec{
              containers: object.spec.containers.map(c,
                Object.spec.containers.item{
                  name: c.name,
                  env: [
                    Object.spec.containers.env{
                      name: "HTTP_PROXY",
                      value: "http://proxy.proxy.svc:3128"
                    }
                  ]
                }
              )
            }
          }
```



Example

Injecting proxy values as env vars

Indicates the patch strategy

Possible values:

- ApplyConfiguration
- JSONPatch

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: MutatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "proxy-values"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  reinvocationPolicy: IfNeeded
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: [""]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE"]
        resources: ["pods"]
  mutations:
    - patchType: "ApplyConfiguration"
      applyConfiguration:
        expression: >
          Object{
            spec: Object.spec{
              containers: object.spec.containers.map(c,
                Object.spec.containers.item{
                  name: c.name,
                  env: [
                    Object.spec.containers.env{
                      name: "HTTP_PROXY",
                      value: "http://proxy.proxy.svc:3128"
                    }
                  ]
                }
              )
            }
          }
        }
```



Example

Injecting proxy values as env vars

Either `applyConfiguration`
or `jsonPatch` depending on
the `patchType`.



```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: MutatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "proxy-values"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  reinvocationPolicy: IfNeeded
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: [""]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE"]
        resources: ["pods"]
  mutations:
    - patchType: "ApplyConfiguration"
      applyConfiguration:
        expression: >
          Object{
            spec: Object.spec{
              containers: object.spec.containers.map(c,
                Object.spec.containers.item{
                  name: c.name,
                  env: [
                    Object.spec.containers.env{
                      name: "HTTP_PROXY",
                      value: "http://proxy.proxy.svc:3128"
                    }
                  ]
                }
              )
            }
          }
        }
```



Example

Injecting proxy values as env vars

Introduction of named types

The `Object` refers to the type of the incoming resource (Pod in this example).

Child fields can be used by using `Object.[fieldname]` and can go multiple levels down as see here with the `Object.spec.containers.env`

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: MutatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "proxy-values"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  reinvocationPolicy: IfNeeded
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: [""]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE"]
        resources: ["pods"]
  mutations:
    - patchType: "ApplyConfiguration"
      applyConfiguration:
        expression: >
          Object{
            spec: Object.spec{
              containers: object.spec.containers.map(c,
                Object.spec.containers.item{
                  name: c.name,
                  env: [
                    Object.spec.containers.env{
                      name: "HTTP_PROXY",
                      value: "http://proxy.proxy.svc:3128"
                    }
                  ]
                }
              )
            }
          }
```



Example

Injecting proxy values as env vars

Merge our proxy vars with any existing vars in all containers.

As this is an ApplyConfiguration patch type the existing env vars on the object remain untouched unless the same name (HTTP_PROXY) is used, which will be *overwritten*.

Note: We're missing `initContainers` and `ephemeralContainers` here due to limited space.

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: MutatingAdmissionPolicy
metadata:
  name: "proxy-values"
spec:
  failurePolicy: Fail
  reinvocationPolicy: IfNeeded
  matchConstraints:
    resourceRules:
      - apiGroups: [""]
        apiVersions: ["v1"]
        operations: ["CREATE"]
        resources: ["pods"]
  mutations:
    - patchType: "ApplyConfiguration"
      applyConfiguration:
        expression: >
          Object{
            spec: Object.spec{
              containers: object.spec.containers.map(c,
                Object.spec.containers.item{
                  name: c.name,
                  env: [
                    Object.spec.containers.env{
                      name: "HTTP_PROXY",
                      value: "http://proxy.proxy.svc:3128"
                    }
                  ]
                }
              )
            }
          }
        }
```



Example

Injecting proxy values as env vars

```
apiVersion: admissionregistration.k8s.io/v1beta1
kind: MutatingAdmissionPolicyBinding
metadata:
  name: "proxy-values"
spec:
  policyName: "proxy-values"
  matchResources: {}
  paramRef: null
```

Nothing too surprising about our binding resource. All properties are the same as Validating except for the lack of a `validationActions` property.



Advanced features

- **More context values** - Along with `object` you also have `oldObject`, `namespaceObject` & `request` you can use in your expressions
- **Parameters** - make your policies configurable by allowing parameter resources to be applied by the binding (can use any resource type, even a CRD)
- **Variables** - reusable CEL expressions to simplify your validation expressions
- ~~Audit annotations~~ - ~~Add extra metadata to the audit logs, dynamic values using CEL~~
- ~~Message expressions~~ - ~~Leverage some CEL in your message to have dynamic validation messages~~



What about the future beyond that?



- **Generative policies** - create new resources based on API requests
- **Resource lookup** - get the current state of other resources within the cluster
- **Policy exceptions** - disable policies under certain circumstances
- **Policy reports** - user friendly view of validation failures, etc. (Maybe [OpenReports](#))
- **More abstractions** - e.g. Kyverno already has this with [ValidatingPolicy](#) that extends `ValidatingAdmissionPolicy` and [MutatingPolicy](#) that extends `MutatingAdmissionPolicy`

Alpha in Kyverno v1.15 



Summary

- Time to start replacing those risky webhooks with in-process policies.
- **v1.30** for GA release of `ValidatingAdmissionPolicies` for safe validation logic.
- **v1.32** for alpha release of `MutatingAdmissionPolicies`. (Must be enabled)
- **v1.34** for beta release of `MutatingAdmissionPolicies`. (Must be enabled)
- More abstractions, generative policies and API lookups hopefully coming in the future.
- Examples of common use-case policies:

github.com/AverageMarcus/common-admission-policies

WIP, Contributions welcome 





Slides and resources available at:
<https://go-get.link/containerdays25>



Thoughts, comments and feedback:
<https://go-get.link/containerdays25-feedback>

***Thank
You!***



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