



// GITOPS - IS THIS SOMETHING FOR ME?

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Agenda

- Basics
- Tools
- Challenges
- Demo

The background is a dark grey surface covered with numerous 3D question marks. Some are black and some are orange. A white rectangular box with rounded corners is centered on the page, containing the text 'GitOps basics'.

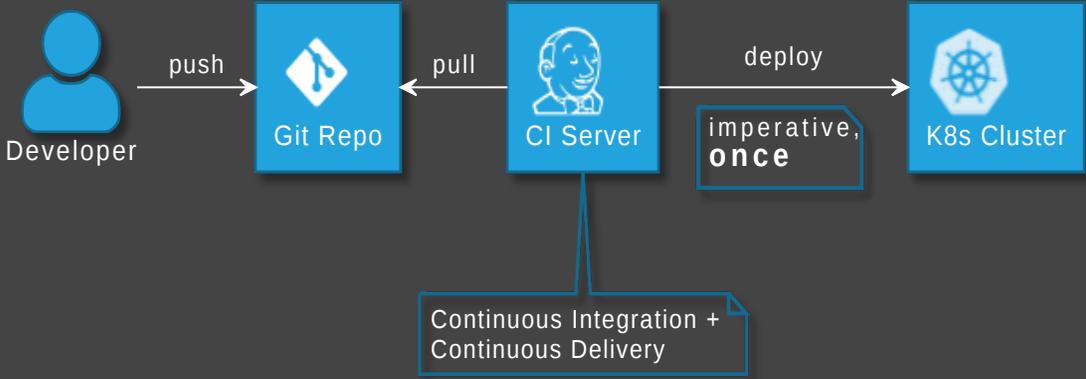
GitOps basics

Origin: blog post by Weaveworks, August 2017

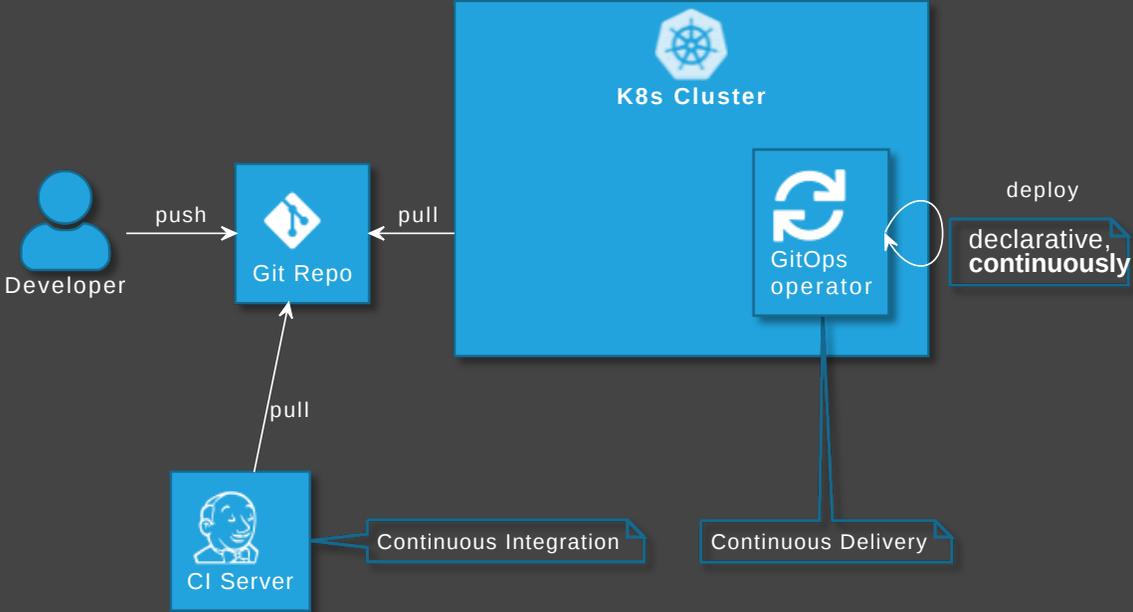
Use developer tooling to drive operations

 weave.works/blog/gitops-operations-by-pull-request

"Classic" Continuous Delivery ("CDOps")



GitOps



GitOps Principles

The desired state of a GitOps managed system must be:

- 1 **Declarative**
- 2 **Versioned and Immutable**
- 3 **Pulled Automatically**
- 4 **Continuously Reconciled**



 github.com/open-gitops/documents/blob/main/PRINCIPLES.md

GitOps vs DevOps

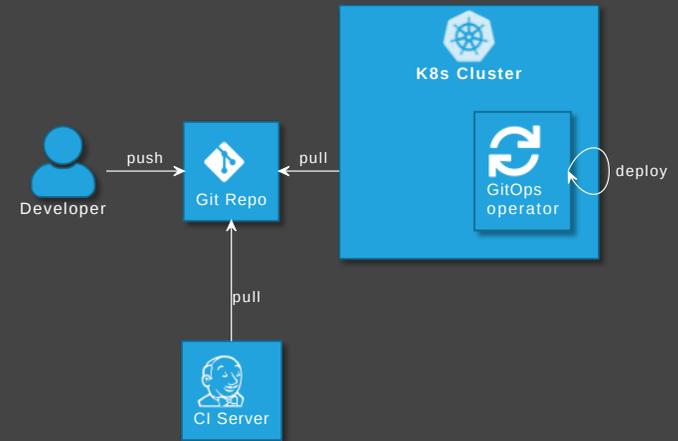
- DevOps is about collaboration of formerly separate groups (mindset)
- GitOps focuses on ops (operating model)
- GitOps could be used with or without DevOps and vice versa
- Still, GitOps might be...

The right way to do DevOps

 Alexis Richardson

Advantages of GitOps

- No access to cluster from outside (might also solve firewall/zone issues)
- No credentials on CI server (neither cluster access nor for apps)
- Forces declarative description
- IaC is auditable
- Self-healing
- Scalability - one repo many applications





GitOps tools

GitOps tool categories

- GitOps operators/controllers
- Supplementary GitOps tools
- (Tools for operating cloud infra)

GitOps operators/controllers



Supplementary GitOps tools

- Secrets
 - KMS, e.g.    ▼ ...
 - + K8s Integration
 - Operator
 - Container Storage Interface (CSI) driver
 - Side car (injector)
 - Helm/Kustomize plugin
 - GitOps Operator: native support or plugin
- Backup / **restore**
- Deployment Strategies - Progressive Delivery



• ...

See also

-  cloudogu.com/blog/gitops-tools (iX 4/2021)
 - General tool comparison,
 - tips on criteria for tool selection,
 - comparison of ArgoCD and Flux
-  community.cloudogu.com/t/flux-or-argocd-the-great-controversy
ArgoCD vs Flux (10/2022)

Challenges with GitOps

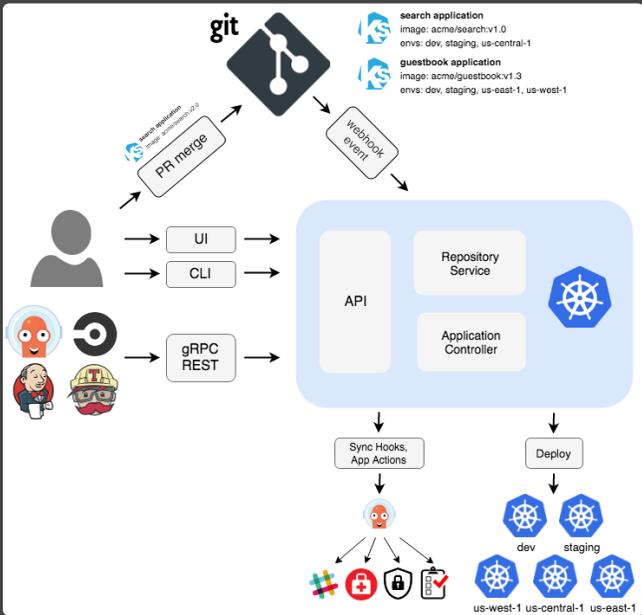


Downsides

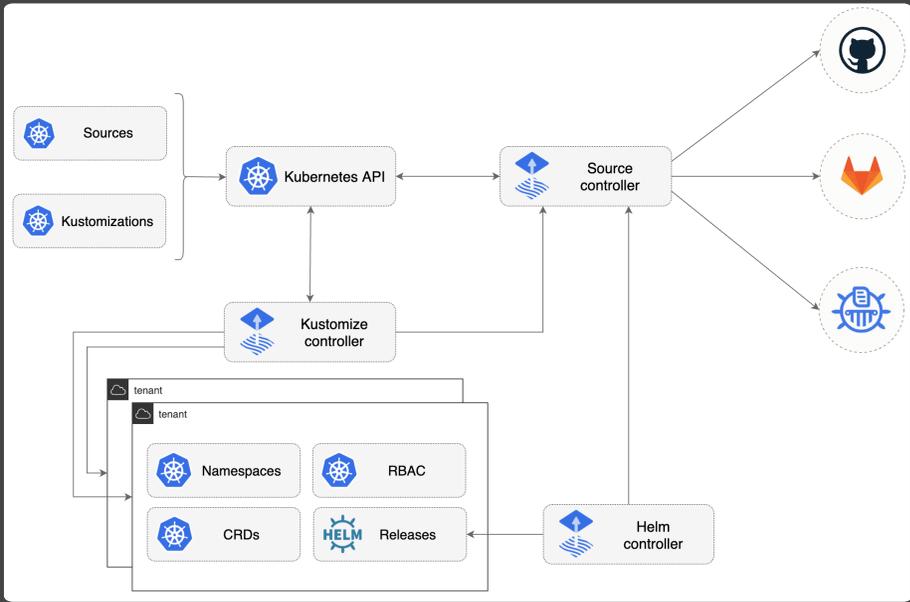
- More infra necessary
- Steep learning curve

GitOps infra

- GitOps Operator comprises several applications
- Cause ops efforts: maintenance, alerts



argocd.readthedocs.io/en/stable/assets/argocd_architecture.png



fluxcd.io/img/diagrams/gitops-toolkit.png

Learning curve

- New concepts and tools for developers and platform teams
- Adapt deployment process
- Migrate applications
- Adapt error handling and alerting
 - avoid failing late and silently
 - accustom to new notification mechanism
 - still, reason might be difficult to pinpoint

Day two questions

- How to realize local dev env?
- How to delete resources?
- How to structure repos and folders?
- How to realize different stages/environments?
- Role of CI server?
- ...

Local development

- Option 1: Deploy GitOps operator and Git server on local cluster
 - ➔ complicated
- Option 2: Just carry on without GitOps.

How to delete resources?

-  garbage collection /  resource pruning
disabled by default
-  Enable from beginning  avoid manual interaction
- Unfortunately, still often unreliable / too defensive (?) 

Repo and folder structure

- No standard for structures (intentionally) → Conway's law
- Repo patterns: Monorepo vs Polyrepo (per app, team, stage) 🗂️
- Within repo: folder/~~branch~~ structure for stage, team, app
community.cloudogu.com/t/gitops-patterns-for-repository-and-folder-directory-structure
- More options:
 - Topology: GitOps controller (s) ↔ Cluster(s) / Namespaces
 - GitOps controller-specific config

GitOps Chasm

Infra

- repos
- folders
- branches
- clusters
- namespaces
- controller instances
- controller-specific config



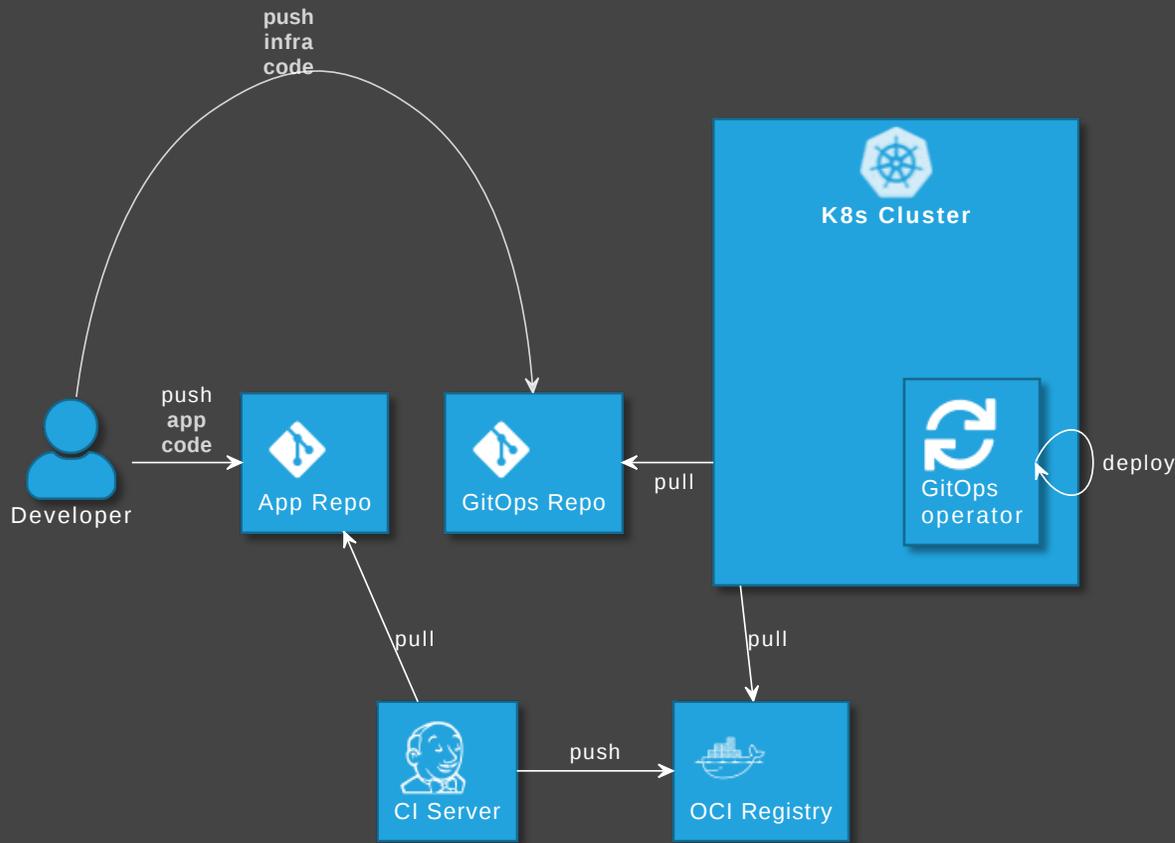
Mapping?



Real-world

- company/departments
- teams
- projects
- applications
- microservices
- stages/environments
- customers
- tenants
- etc.

App repo vs GitOps repo



GitOps tools: Put infra in separate repo! See

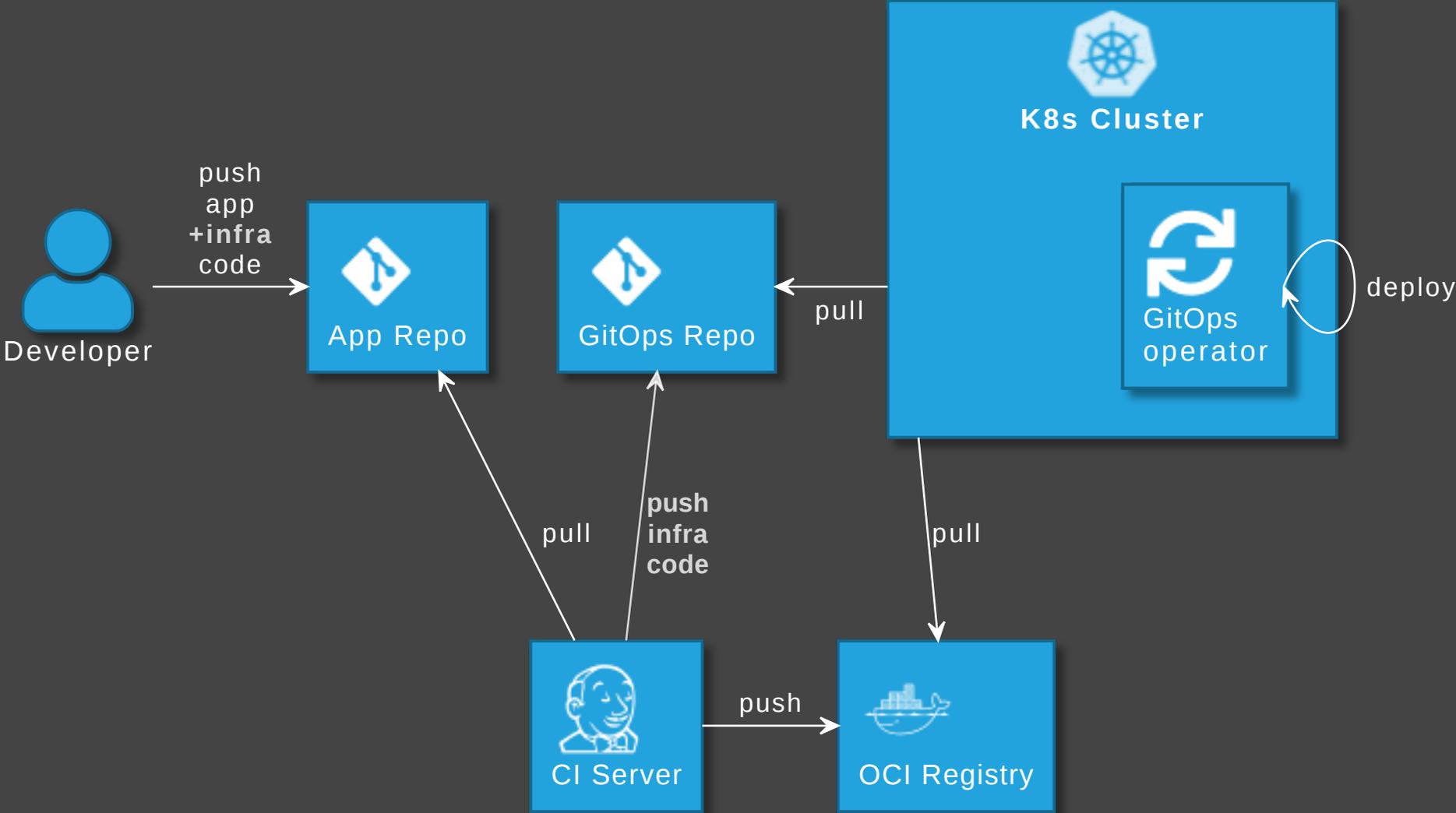
 argo-cd.readthedocs.io/en/release-2.5/user-guide/best_practices

Disadvantages

- Separated maintenance & versioning of app and infra code
- Review spans across multiple repos
- Local dev more difficult
- Static code analysis for IaC code not possible

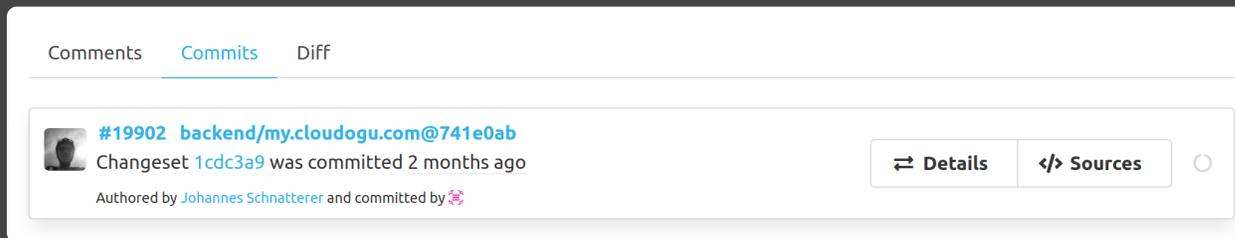
How to avoid those?

Using CI-Server with GitOps part 1



Advantages

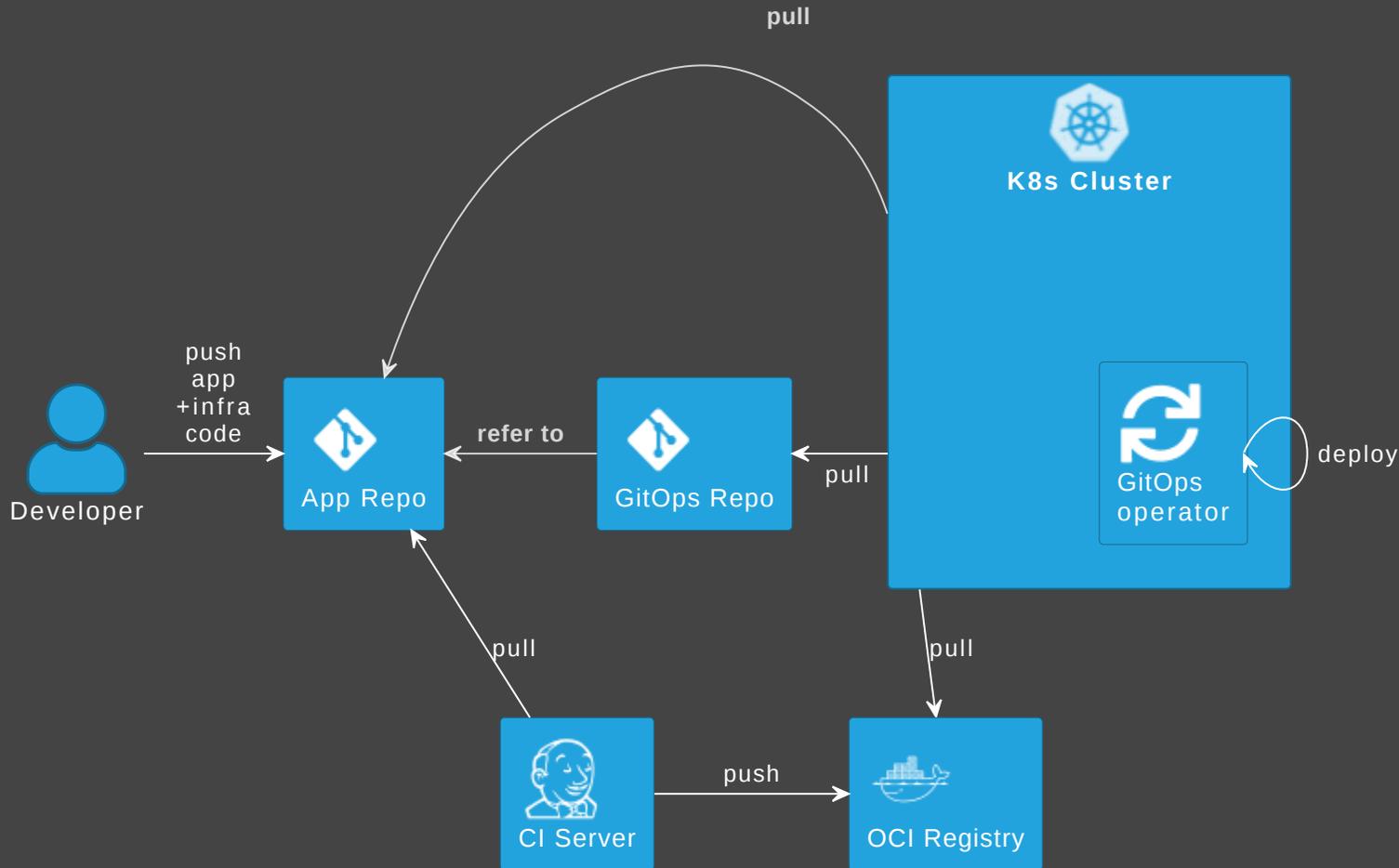
- Single repo for development: higher efficiency
- Shift left: static code analysis + policy check on CI server, e.g. yamllint, kubeval, helm lint, conftest
- Automated staging (e.g. PR creation, namespaces) 🕒
- Simplify review by adding info to PRs



Disadvantages

- Complexity in CI pipelines
 - ➔ Recommendation: Use a plugin or library, e.g.
 [cloudogu/gitops-build-lib](https://github.com/cloudogu/gitops-build-lib) 
- Redundant code

Alternative: Refer to app repo



e.g.  fluxcd.io/flux/guides/repository-structure

Stage promotion

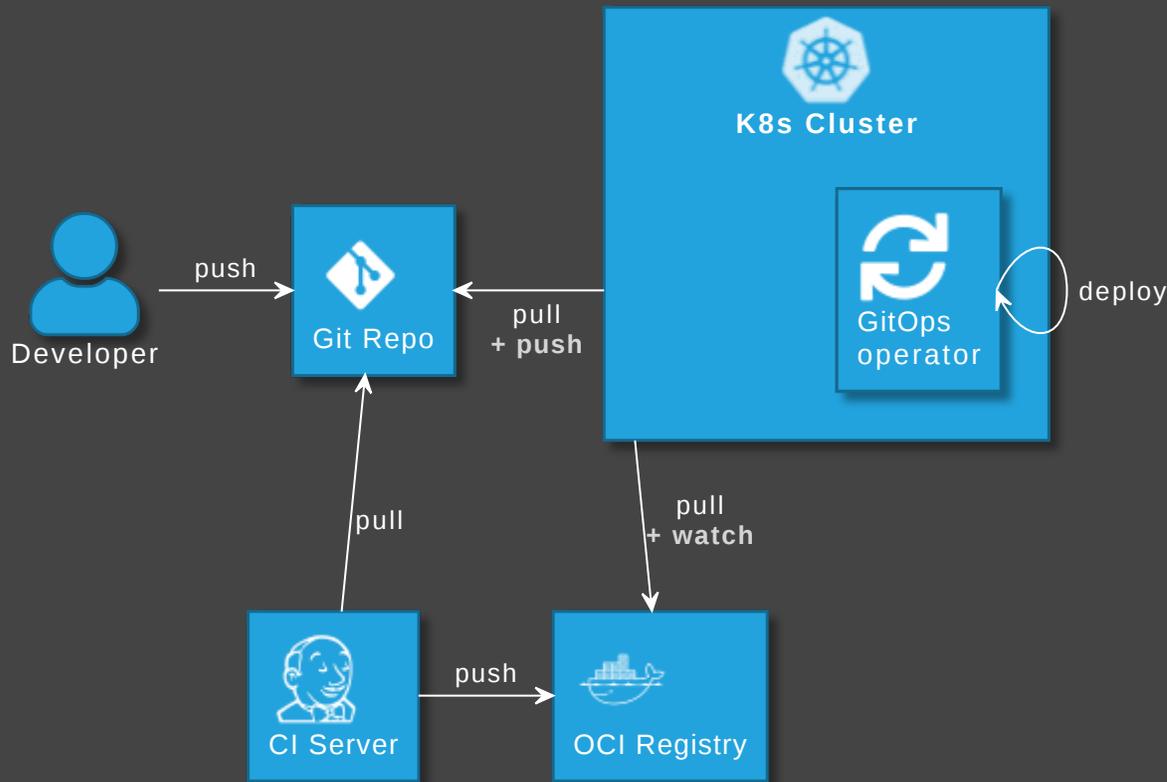
- "GitOps - Operations by Pull Request"
- Repo structure: Use folders not branches
- But: create *short-lived* branches and PR
- Merge is promotion/deployment

Implementing stage promotion

Who bumps versions in GitOps repo, creates branch and PR?

- **Manual:** Human pushes branch and create PR
- **Image Updater:** Operator pushes branch, create PR manually
- **CI Server:** Build job pushes branch, creates PR
- **Renovate Bot:** Bot pushes branch, creates PR

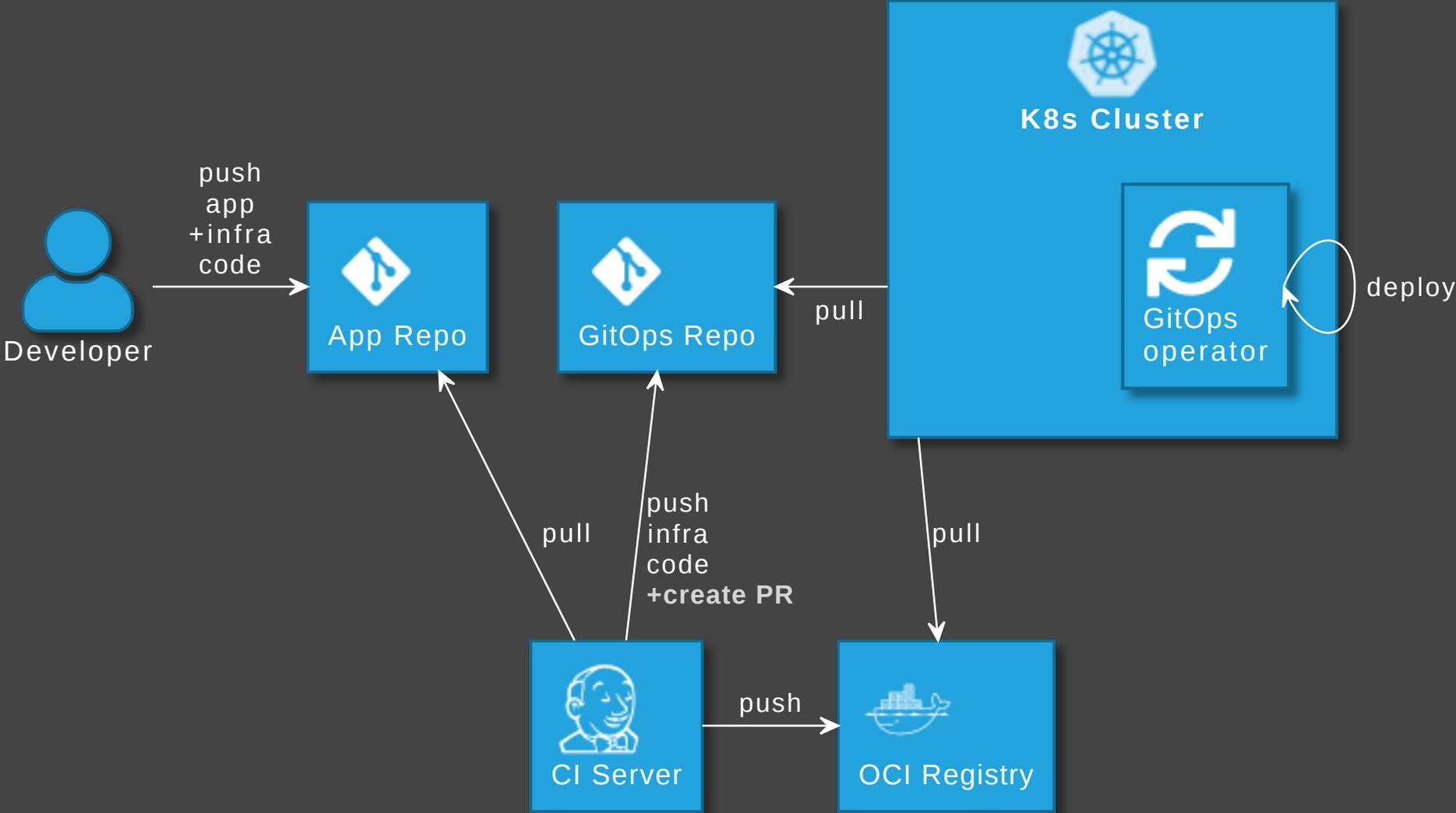
Image updater



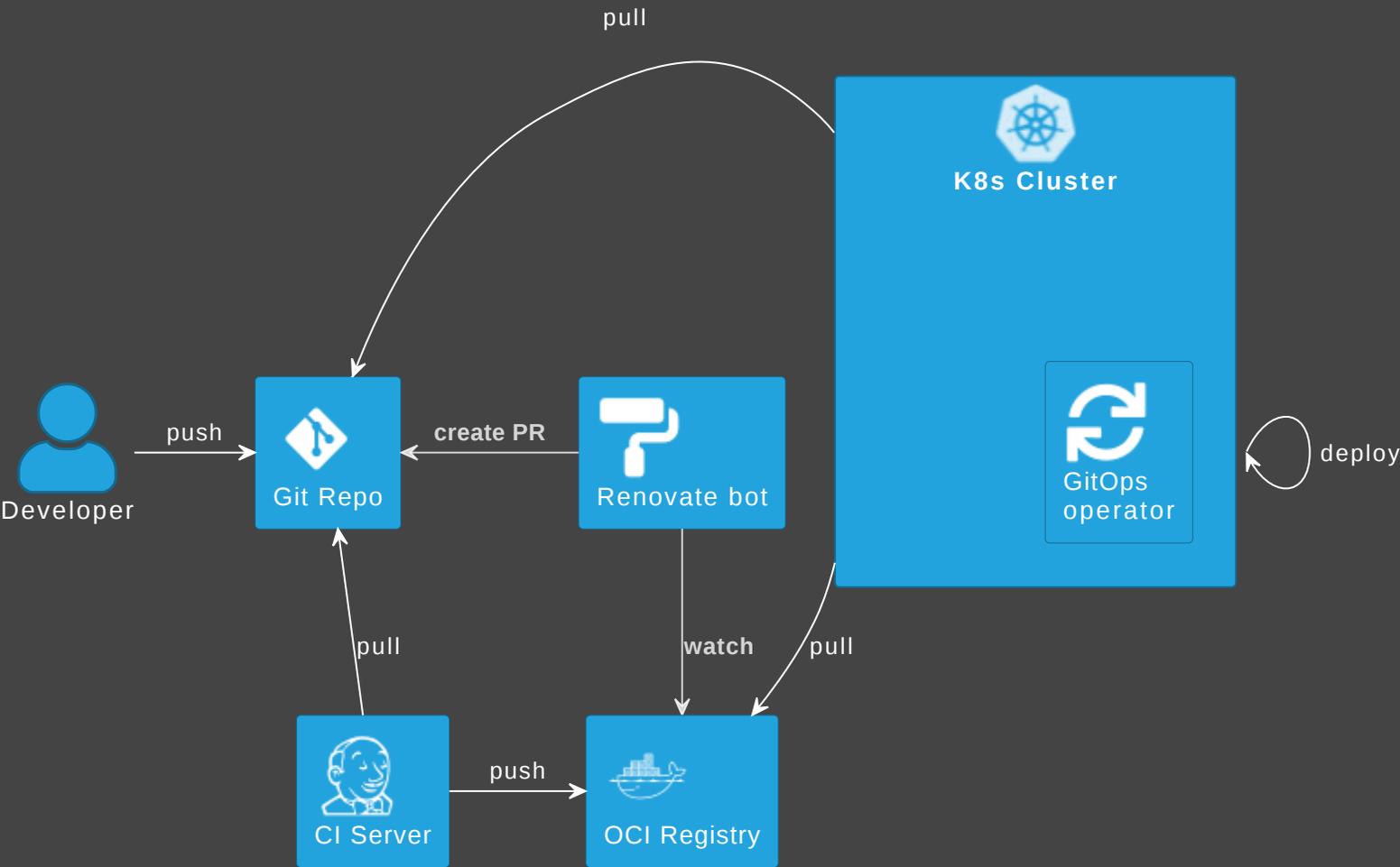
GitOps operator can update image version in Git

-  github.com/argoproj-labs/argocd-image-updater
-  fluxcd.io/docs/guides/image-update

Using CI-Server with GitOps part 2



Stage promotion using renovate bot



As example: Our approach

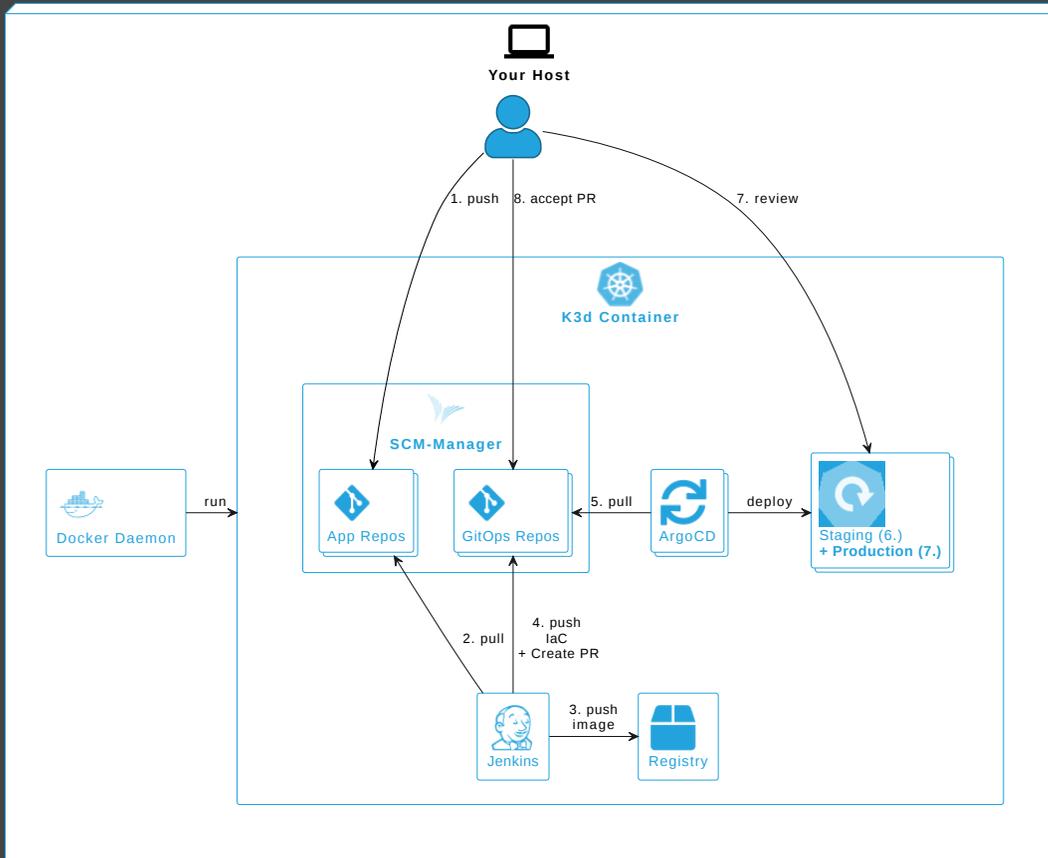
- Repo pattern:

Trunk-based repo per team, folder per stage+app
(mixed with repo per app)

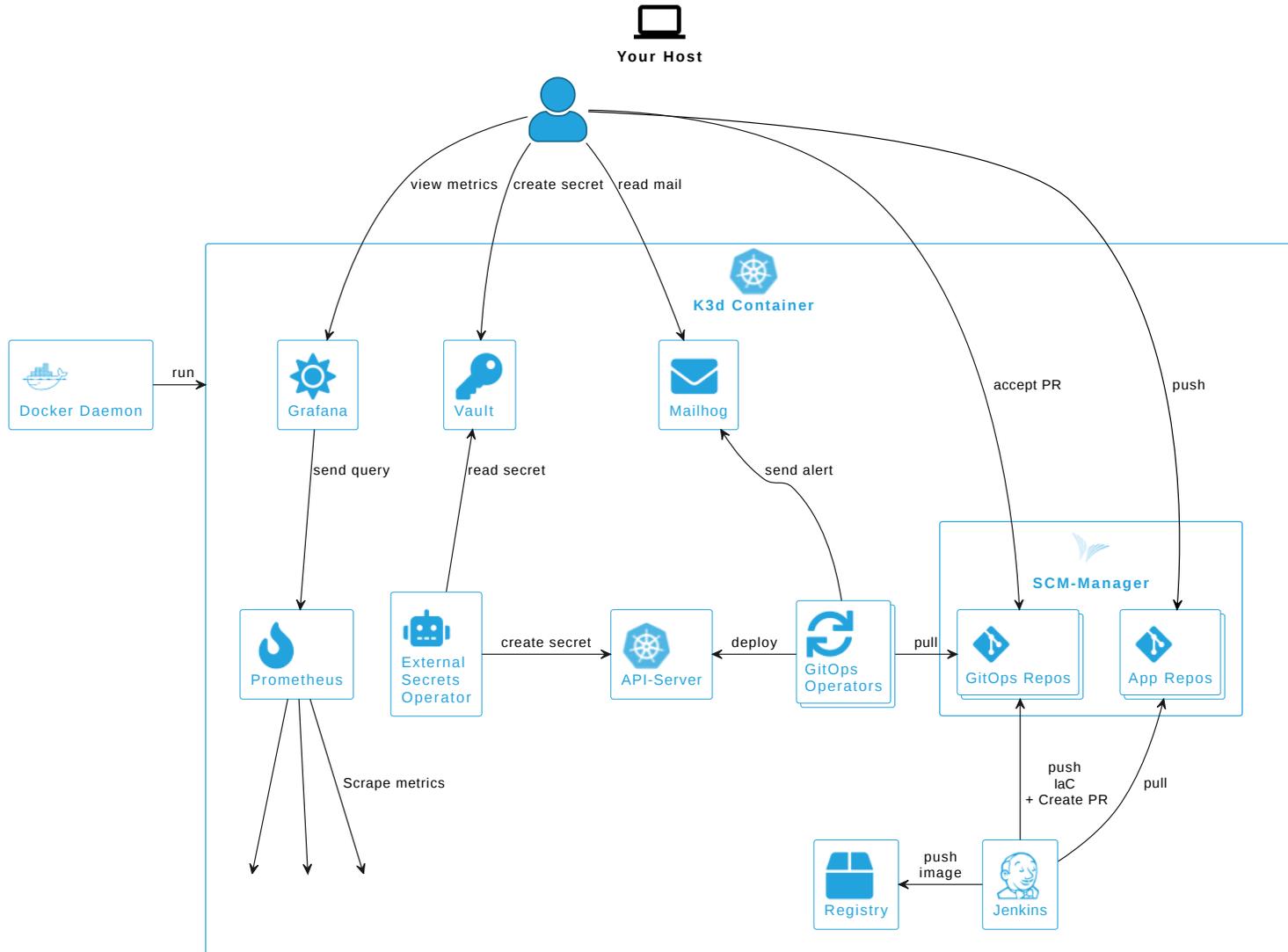
```
├── staging
│   └── application
│       └── deployment.yaml
└── production
    ├── application
    └── deployment.yaml
```

- IaC either
 - lives in app repo and is pushed by CI-Server or
 - in GitOps repo (3rd party apps).
- Promotion between stages:
 - commit to staging folder only (💡 protect production),
 - create short lived branches and pull requests for prod

Demo



BTW: More Features to explore





Is GitOps something for me?

- + Has advantages, once established
- Don't underestimate learning curve and migrations

Johannes Schnatterer, Cloudogu GmbH

 cloudogu.com/gitops

- GitOps Resources
- Community
- Trainings
- Consulting



Slides

 Join my team: cloudogu.com/join/cloud-engineer

 [@schnatterer@floss.social](https://floss.social/@schnatterer)

 [@jschnatterer](https://twitter.com/jschnatterer)

Image sources

- Basics:

<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/question-mark-important-sign-1872665/>

- Tools:

<https://pixabay.com/photos/tools-knives-wrenches-drills-1845426/>

- Challenges:

https://unsplash.com/photos/bJhT_8nbUA0

- Is GitOps something for me?

<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/question-mark-question-response-1020165/>