

# What We've Learned from Scanning 10K+ Kubernetes Clusters



```
1 ---
2 apiVersion: apps /V1
3 kind: Deployment
4 metadata:
5   name: front-end
6   namespace: sock-shop
7 spec:
8   replicas: 1
9   selector:
10    matchLabels:
11     name: front-end
12   template:
13    metadata:
```

Scan

kubescape scan framework  
nsa --exclude-namespaces kube...

Run

Risk Analysis

Resources Failed	Resources Passed	Risk Score
28	33	35

Scanning...

**ARMO**

Rotem Refael  
Director of Engineering



# Who am I?



Developer in  
heart and soul



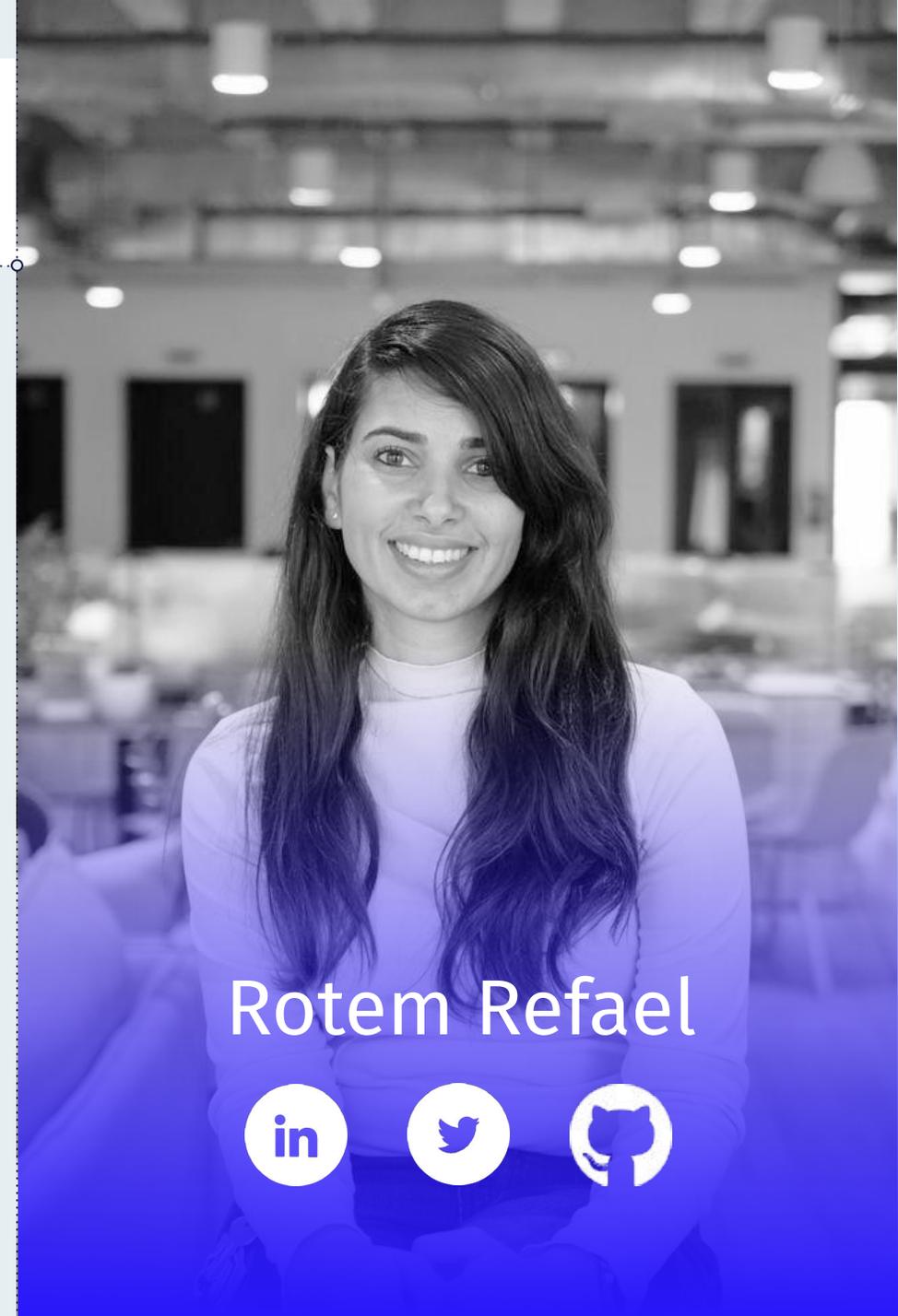
Devops  
enthusiast



Yoga lover



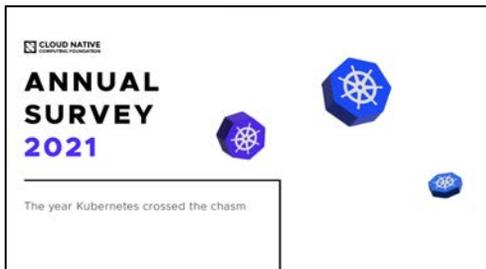
Basketball fan



Rotem Refael



Kubernetes is the new **cloud native operating system**

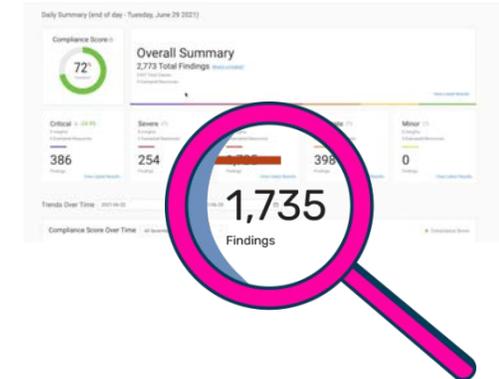


- **96%** of organizations are either using or evaluating Kubernetes
- **5.6 million** developers are using Kubernetes worldwide. That's **31%** of all backend developers
- Kubernetes is increasingly being used in production by companies leveraging managed services and packaged platforms

Kubernetes is no longer “off the radar” for attackers



**Current security solutions fail** to provide “devops” experience

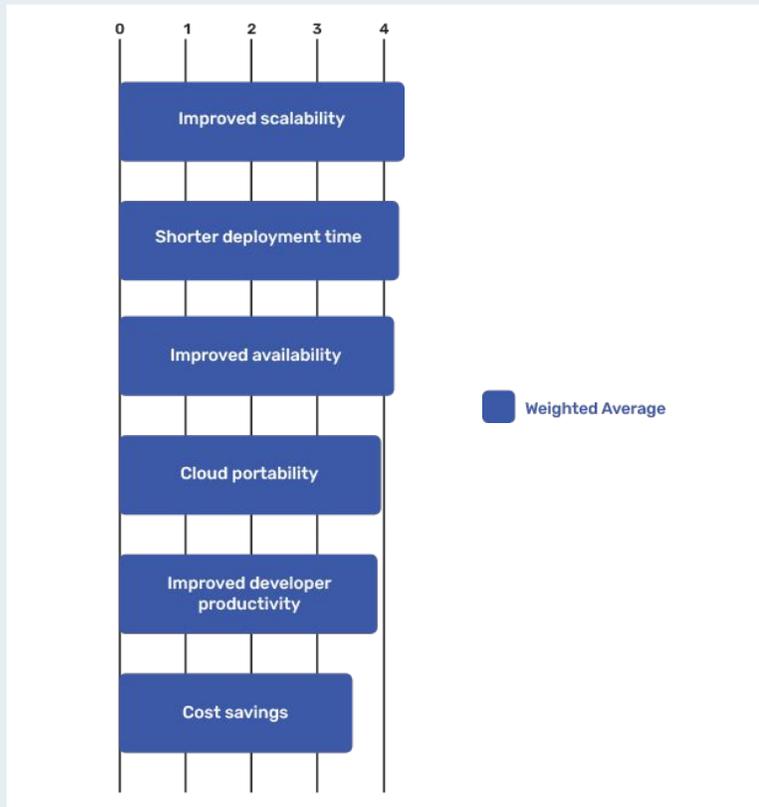


Too many alerts, too much complexity, **diminished security value**

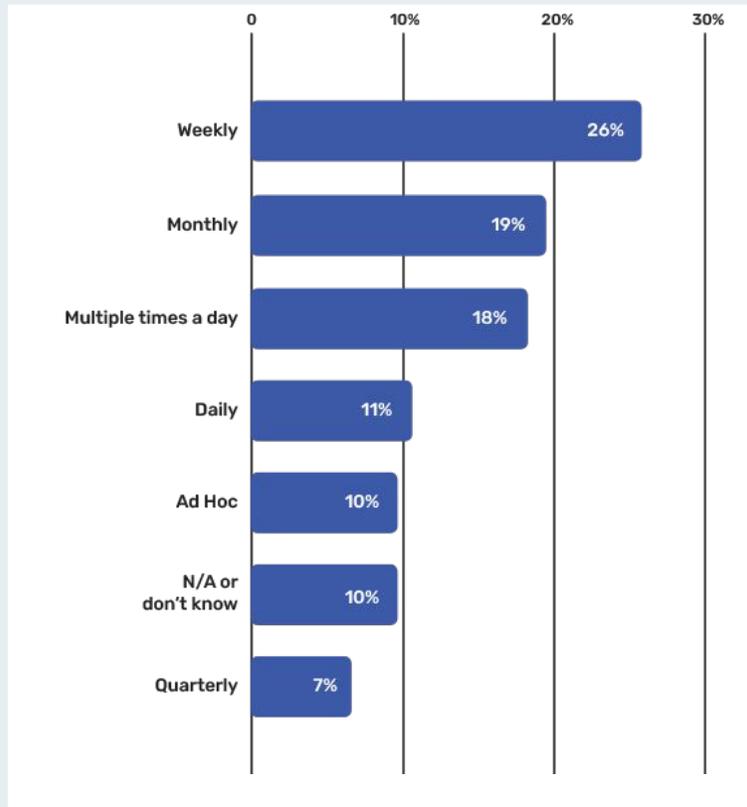


# K8s Who, Why and How?

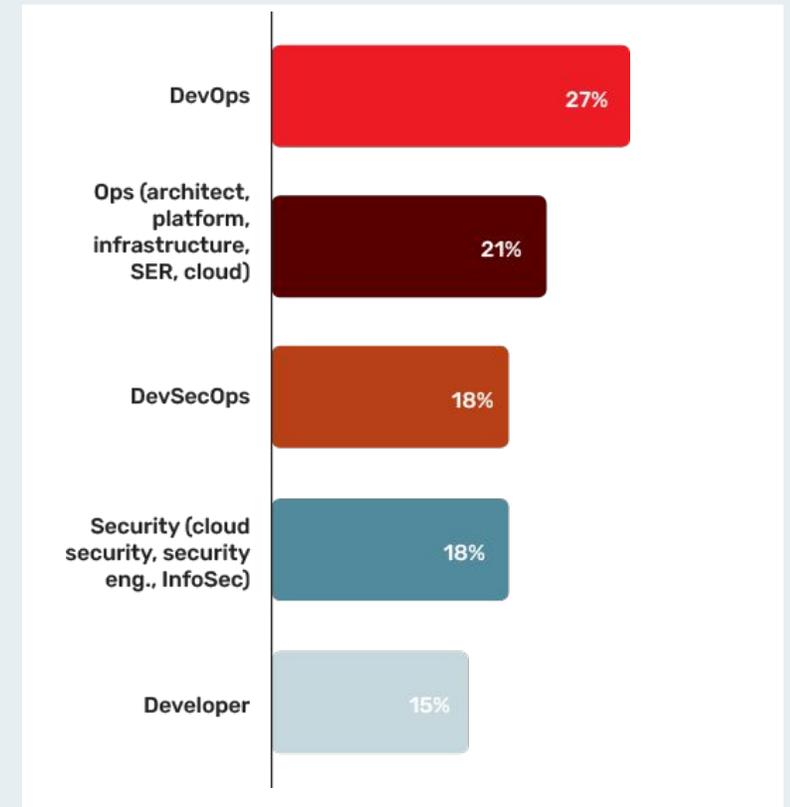
Why are you using K8s?



How often are you release cycles?



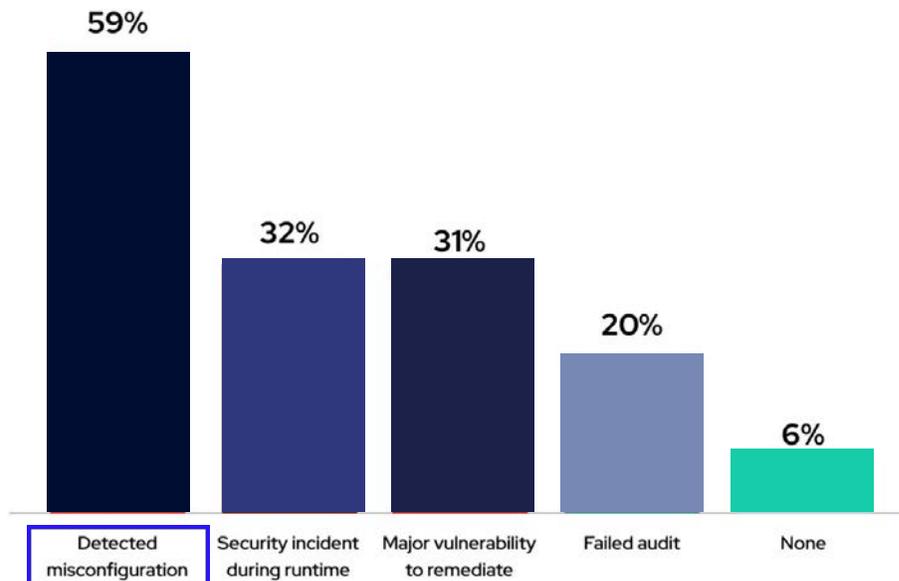
What role at your organization is most responsible for container and Kubernetes security?



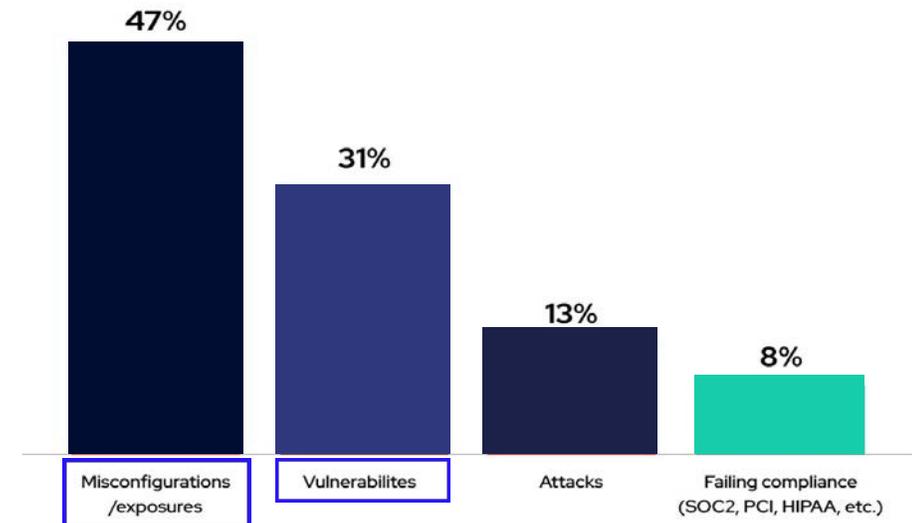
## Why do we need **K8s security**?

Through 2025, more than 99% of cloud breaches will have a root cause of customer misconfigurations or mistakes

In the past 12 months, **what security incidents or issues** related to containers and/or Kubernetes have you experienced?



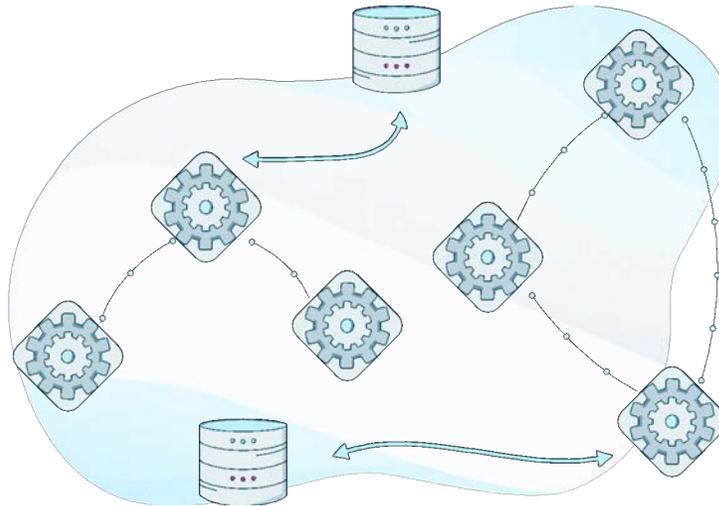
Of the following risks, **which one are you most worried about** for your container and Kubernetes environments?



# Protecting Kubernetes – two main paradigms to apply

## K8S POSTURE MANAGEMENT

Find known Vulnerabilities  
& Misconfigurations



## K8S RUN TIME PROTECTION

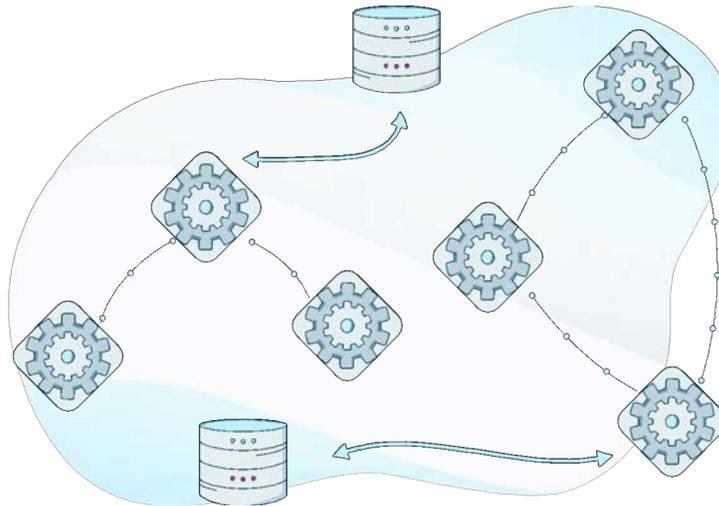
Anomaly Behavioral Analysis  
and Network Segmentation

# Protecting Kubernetes – two main paradigms to apply

## K8S POSTURE MANAGEMENT

Find known Vulnerabilities & Misconfigurations

Focused on shrinking the attack surface, can be done early in the CI/CD



## K8S RUN TIME PROTECTION

Anomaly Behavioral Analysis and Network Segmentation

Focused on assuring detection/prevention of attacks when they happen

# ΔRMO

PLATFORM



Configuration  
issues



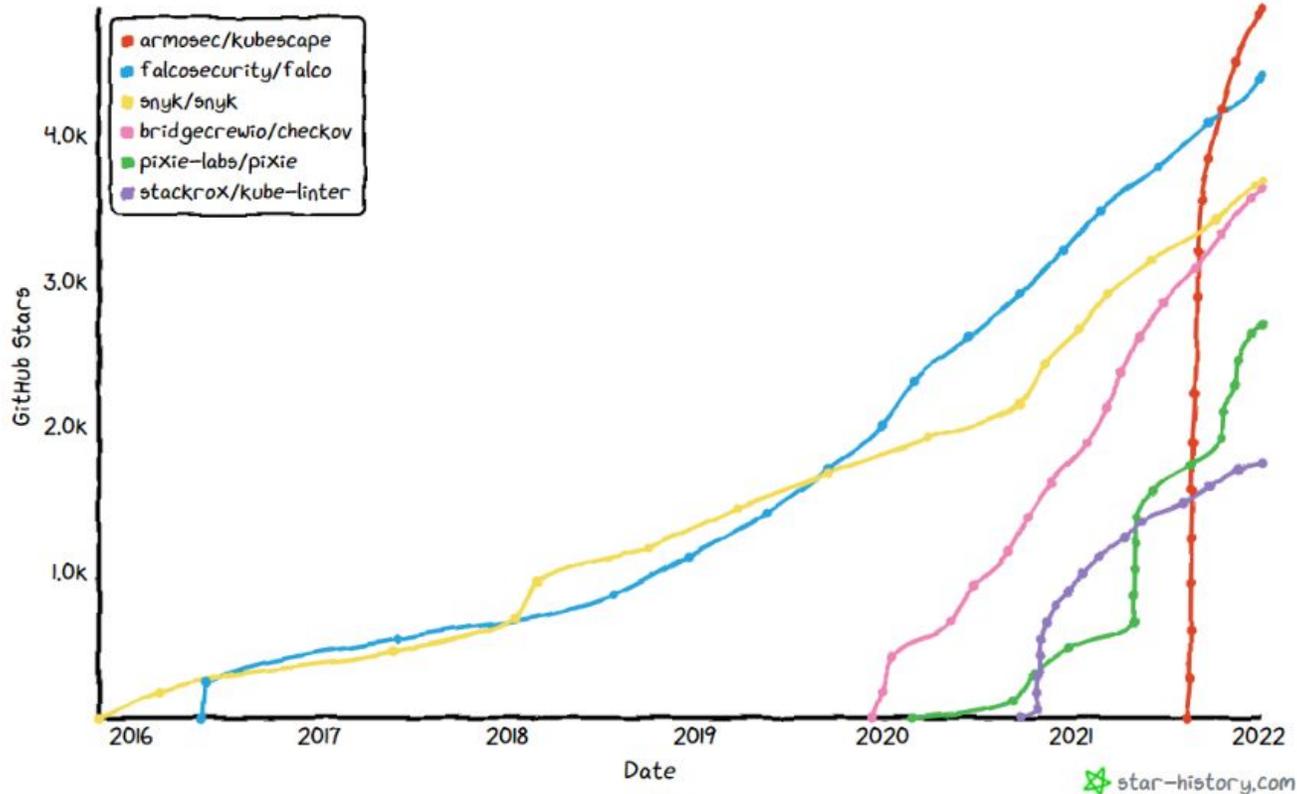
Vulnerabilities



# Kubescape Is Becoming The Most Popular K8s Security Open-Source tool on Github

## ▲ KubeScape ●

Star history



Ross Foard  
@FoardRoss

This is pure gold!!! NSA and CISA K8s h  
guidelines using OPA (Open Policy Agent



Marcel Horner · 3rd+  
Site Reliability Engineer at CI&T

1h ...

That's great Jonathan! Kubescape is an awesome  
project and a valuable tool for anyone engaged on  
improving cluster security, especially for teams



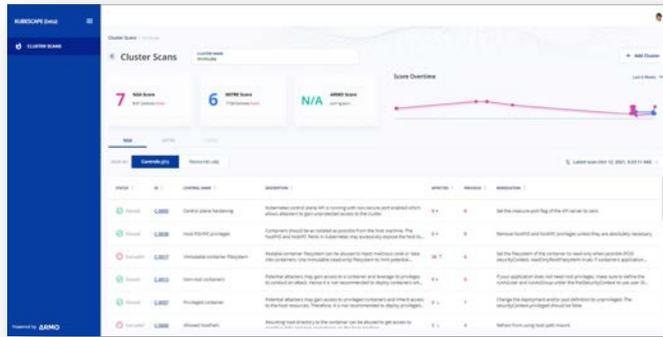
▲ j03b 11 hours ago [-]

This tool is great! Ran through all these checks and deployed them  
Immutable fs & non-root is easier than I thought to deploy with k8

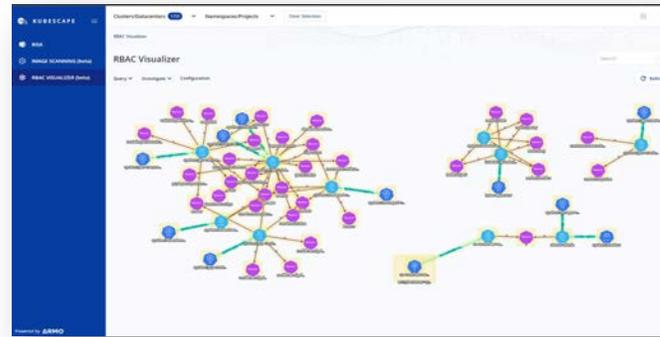


# A Multidimensional Kubernetes **single pane of glass**

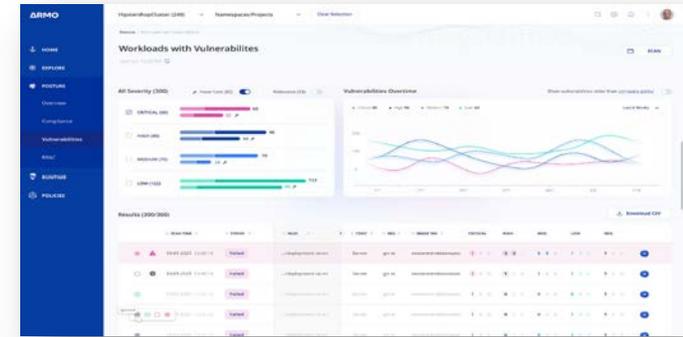
## Risk analysis & Compliance



## RBAC Visualizer



## Image scanning



# Building **Kubernetes Security** Single Pane of Glass

- **Define and Enforce Best Practices**

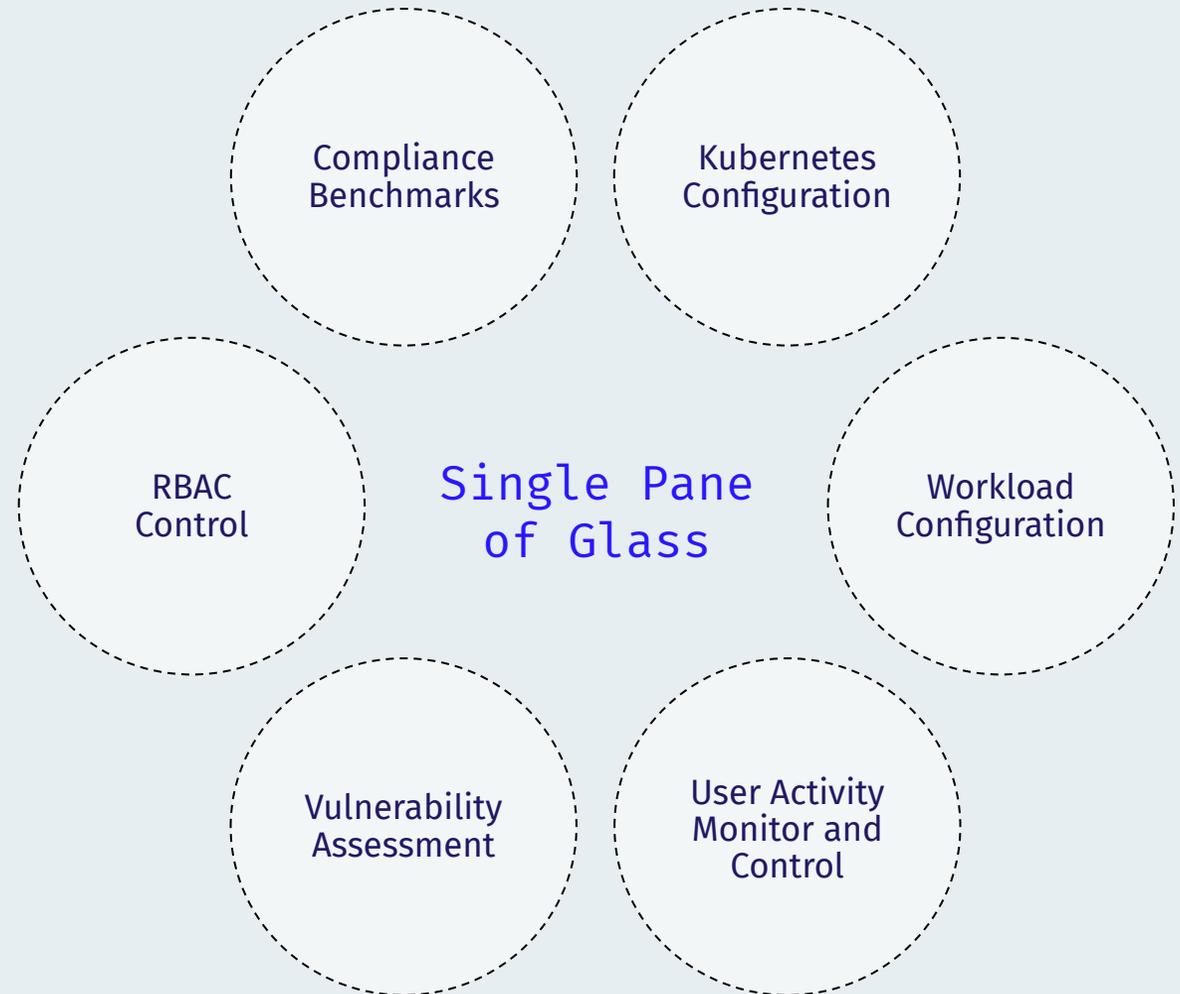
NSA, MITRE, K8s Best Practices, or create your own custom one

- **Identify and Prevent Drifts**

Continuously, from CI/CD to Production

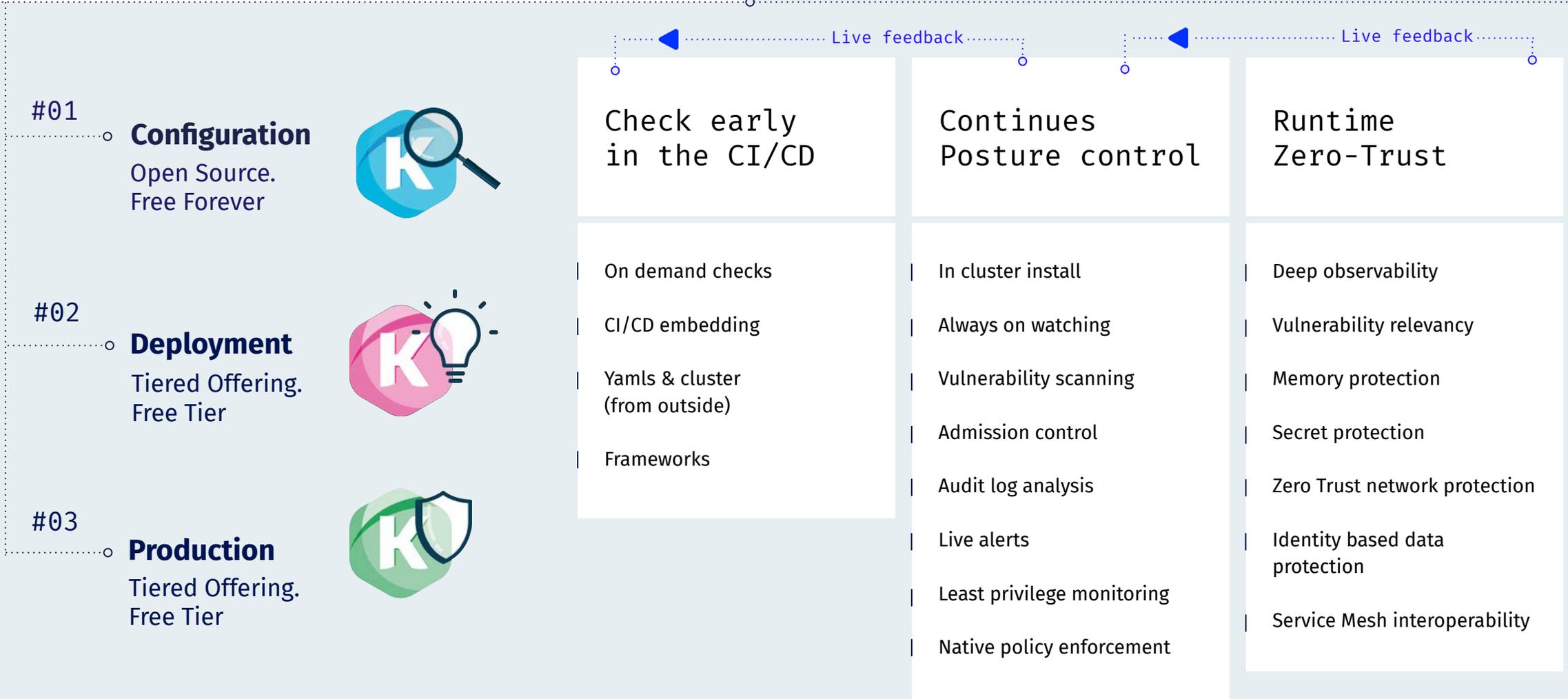
- **Continuous Env Tightening and attack surface reduction**

Quick remediation, automatic recommendations, contextual insights



# Dev To Production Kubernetes Platform

Checkout our Roadmap on GitHub:  
<https://github.com/kubescape/kubescape/blob/master/docs/roadmap.md>





3 Min to get your first scan, no in-cluster installation, read only privileges

CONTROL NAME	FAILED RESOURCES	ALL RESOURCES	% SUCCESS
Automatic mapping of service account	8	8	0%
Allow privilege escalation	0	11	100%
Insecure capabilities	0	11	100%
Dangerous capabilities	0	11	100%
Resource policies	1	11	90%
Cluster-admin binding	21	106	80%
Allowed hostPath	2	11	81%
Immutable container filesystem	10	11	9%
Non-root containers	0	11	100%
hostNetwork access	0	11	100%
Applications credentials in configuration files	1	15	93%
Exposed dashboard	0	26	100%
Privileged container	0	11	100%
Host PID/IPC privileges	0	11	100%
Exec into container	9	106	91%
Control plane hardening	0	11	100%
16	52	382	86%

Less than 3 Min to get your first scan

API Based with read-only Privileges

Get Started:  **GitHub** <https://github.com/armosec/kubescape>



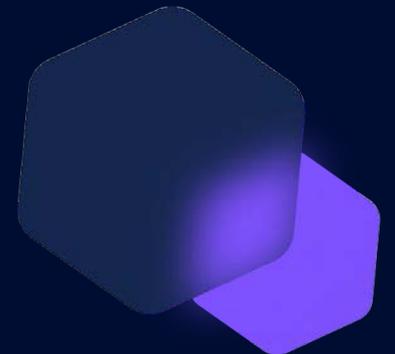


**Kubescape**

by **ARMO**

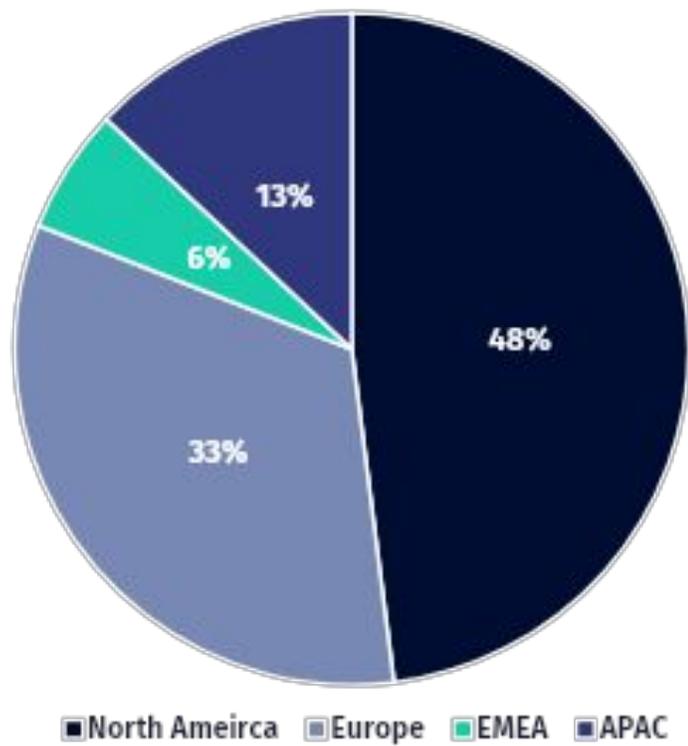
## Research Results:

What have we learned  
from scanning over  
{10,000 K8s clusters}

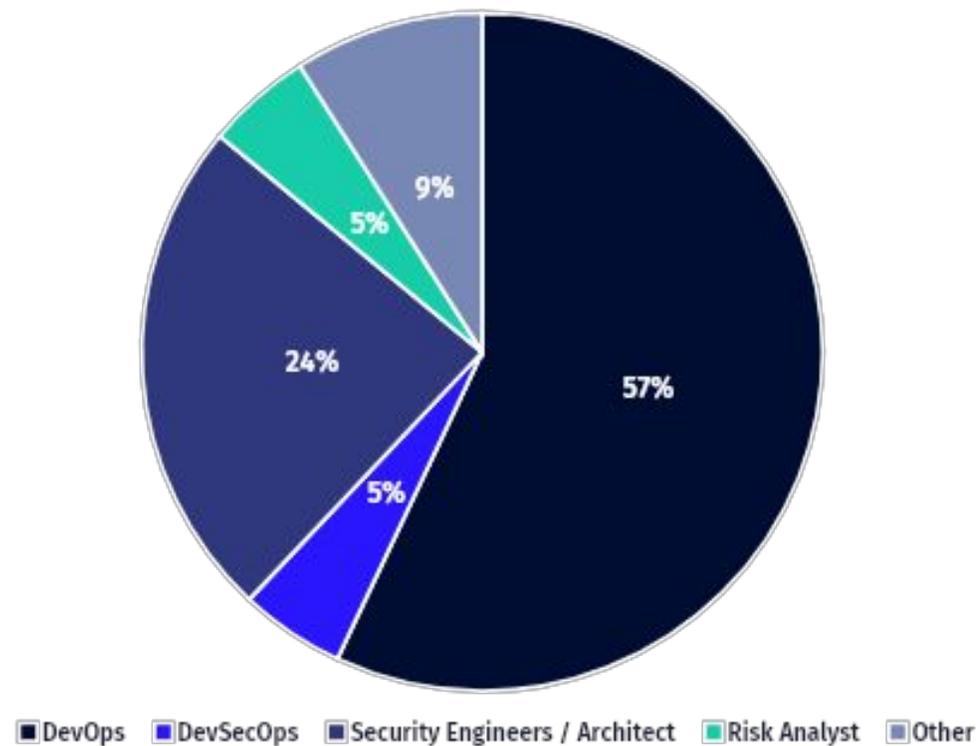


# Data-Set Overview

## Region

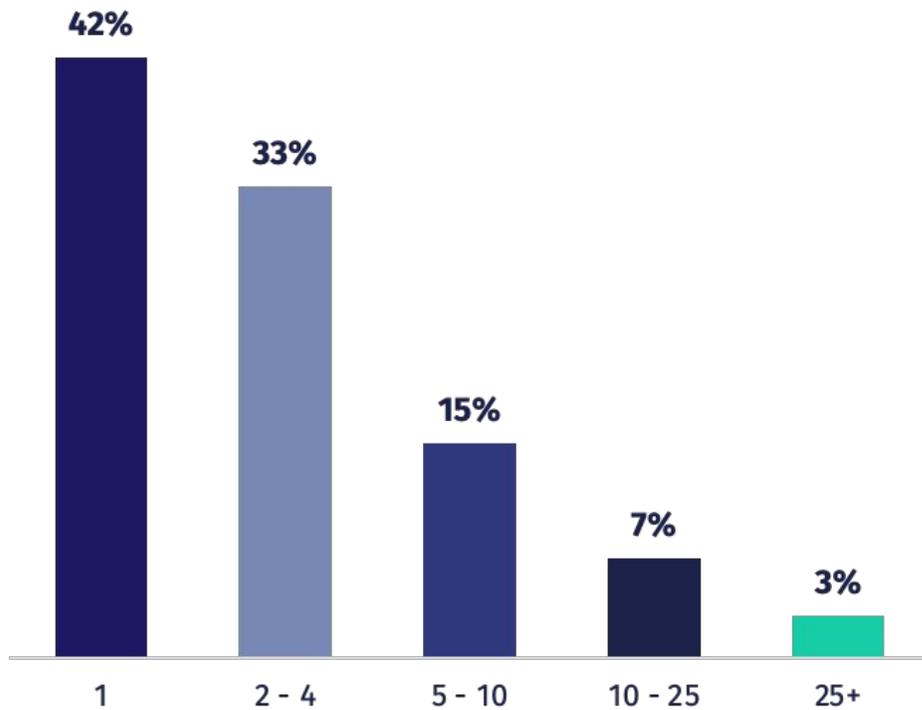


## User Title

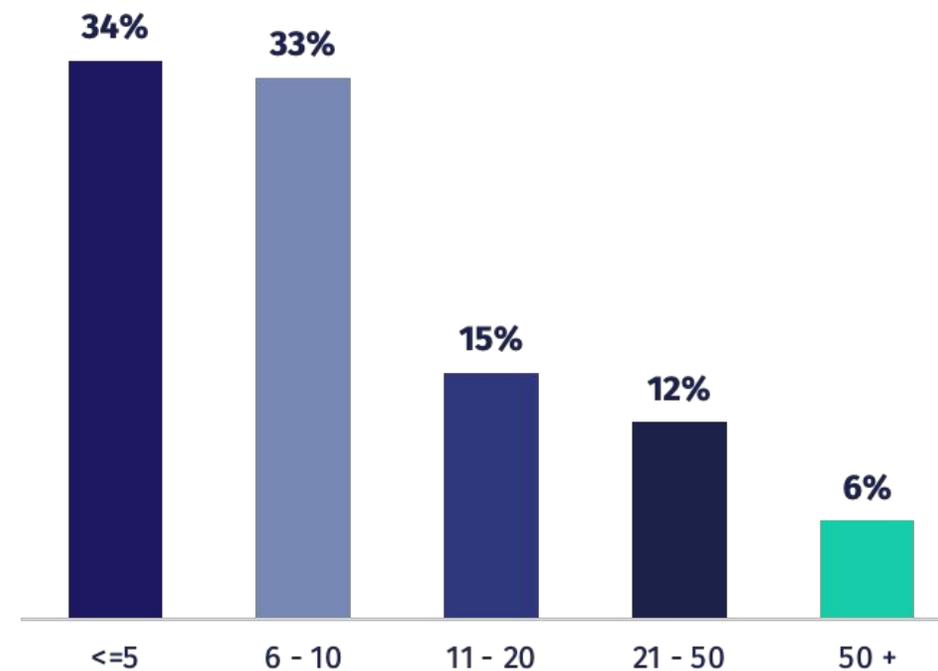


# Data-Set Overview

### Number of Clusters

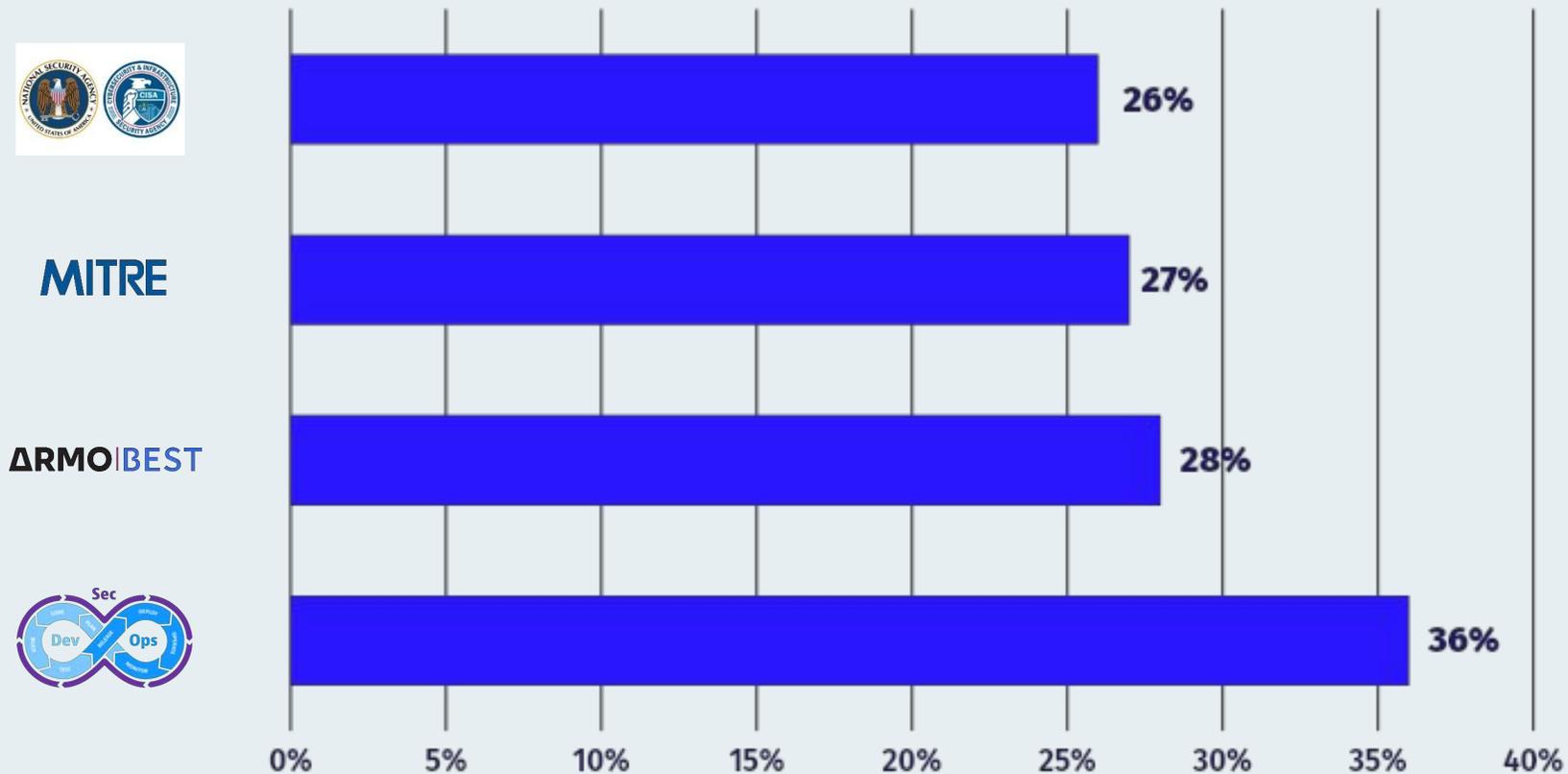


### Cluster Size (# of Nodes)



# What have we learned from scanning over 10,000 clusters?

## Average risk score per framework



BEST PRACTICE

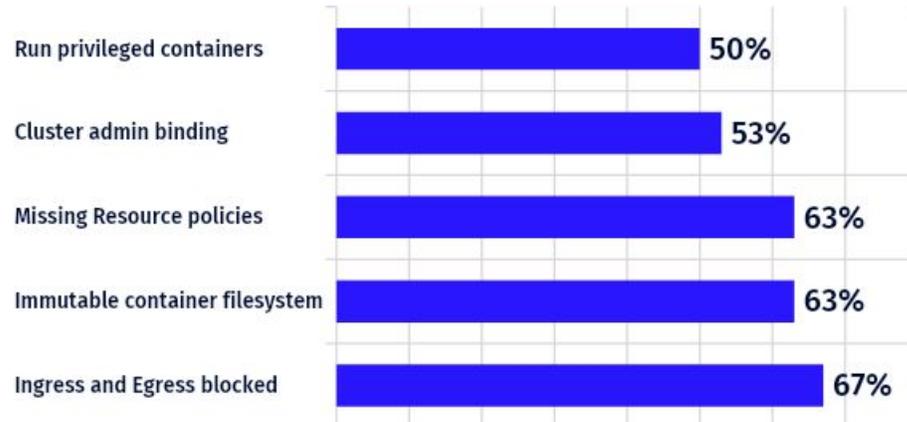
KEEP YOUR  
SCORE BELOW **30**

Risk Score above 60+ puts  
you in the worsts 5%

Risk Score below 10 puts you  
in the best 10%

# What have we learned from scanning over **10,000 clusters**?

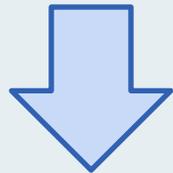
The top 5 Security Misconfigurations found



- 100% of clusters had misconfiguration in them
- 65% of cluster had at least one high severity misconfiguration
- 50% of clusters had 14 or more failed controls

# Stop running Privileged Containers...

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  name: privileged
spec:
  containers:
  - name: pause
    image: k8s.gcr.io/pause
    securityContext:
      privileged: true # This field triggers failure!
```



Basically cancels the entire container isolation concept

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  name: security-context-demo
spec:
  securityContext:
    runAsUser: 1000 # we make sure this is greater than 999 and
    runAsGroup: 3000 # This value is greater than 999
    fsGroup: 2000
  containers:
  - name: sec-ctx-demo
    image: busybox
    command: [ "sh", "-c", "sleep 1h" ]
    securityContext:
      allowPrivilegeEscalation: false #lastly, we check this is set to false
```



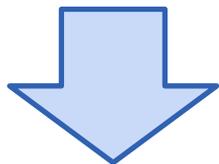
Leaves you exposed to kernel vulnerabilities

# Stop running Privileged Containers...

## <<POP QUIZ>>

RunAsUser = 0

Privileged: False

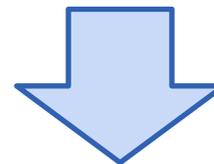


A Root process in the container,  
without capabilities on the host

container isolation concept

RunAsUser = 1000

Privileged: True



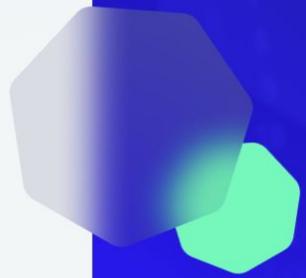
vulnerabilities

api  
kin  
met  
n  
spe  
c

set to false



Stop running **Privileged Containers...**



kubernetes



Linux

# CVE-2022-0492 – Privilege Escalation and Container Escape Vulnerability and its impact on Kubernetes

Mar 8, 2022



**Ben Hirschberg**  
CTO & Co-founder



What does the newest kernel exploit mean for kubernetes users?

What have we learned from scanning  
over **10,000 clusters?**

63%

of clusters had workloads  
exposed outside the cluster  
without proper ingress blocked

```
spec:
  podSelector:
    matchLabels:
      app=adservice    #we match it to the workload labels
  policyTypes:
  - Ingress
  - Egress
  ingress:             #we look for this
  - from:
    - ipBlock:
      cidr: 172.17.0.0/16
      except:
      - 172.17.1.0/24
    - namespaceSelector:
      matchLabels:
        project: myproject
    - podSelector:
      matchLabels:
        role: frontend
  ports:
```

What have we learned from scanning  
over **10,000 clusters?**

63%

of clusters had workloads  
without proper resource  
limitations

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  name: frontend
spec:
  containers:
  - name: app
    image: images.my-company.example/app:v4
    resources:
      requests:
        memory: "64Mi"
        cpu: "250m"
      limits:
        memory: "128Mi"
        cpu: "500m"
#we make sure this is set
#we make sure this is set
```

# What have we learned from scanning over **10,000 clusters?**

37%

of clusters had applications  
with credentials in  
configuration files

- aws\_access\_key\_id
- aws\_secret\_access\_key
- azure\_batchai\_storage\_account
- azure\_batchai\_storage\_key
- azure\_batch\_account
- azure\_batch\_key
- secret
- key
- password
- pwd
- token
- jwt
- bearer
- credential
- BEGIN \w+ PRIVATE KEY
- PRIVATE KEY
- eyJhbGciOi
- JWT
- Bearer

# What have we learned from scanning over 10,000 clusters?

23%

of clusters had applications running with dangerous Linux capabilities

35%

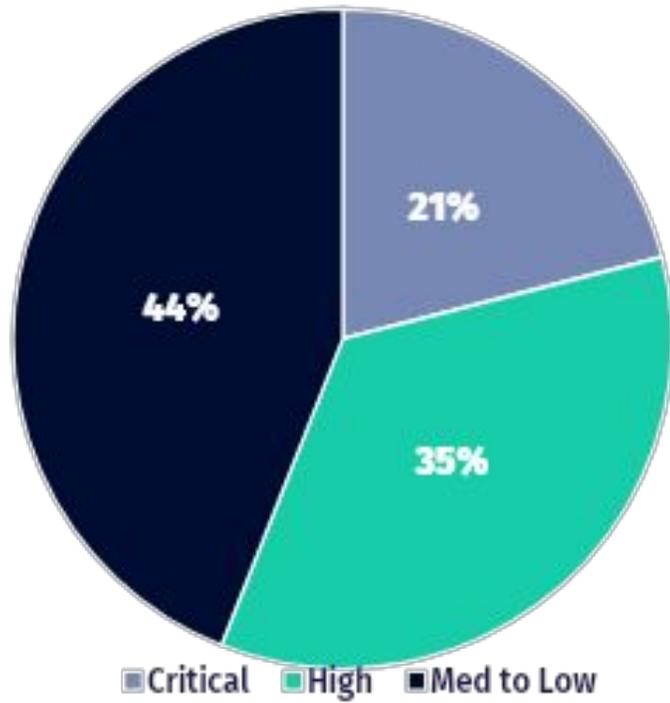
of clusters had workloads running with insecure capabilities

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  name: security-context-demo-4
spec:
  containers:
    - name: sec-ctx-4
      image: gcr.io/google-samples/node-hello:1.0
      securityContext:
        capabilities:
          add: ["NET_ADMIN", "SYS_TIME"]
```

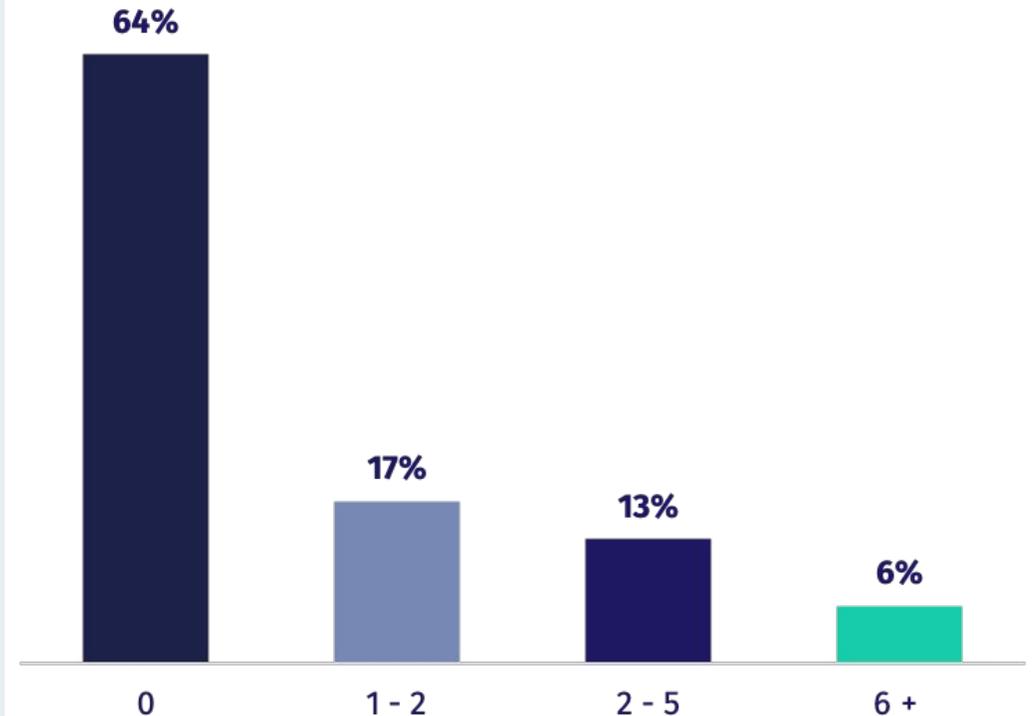
- SETPCAP
- NET\_ADMIN
- NET\_RAW
- SYS\_MODULE
- SYS\_RAWIO
- SYS\_PTRACE
- SYS\_ADMIN
- SYS\_BOOT
- MAC\_OVERRIDE
- MAC\_ADMIN
- PERFMON
- ALL
- BPF

# What have we learned from scanning over **10,000 clusters**?

### Vulnerabilities by Severity

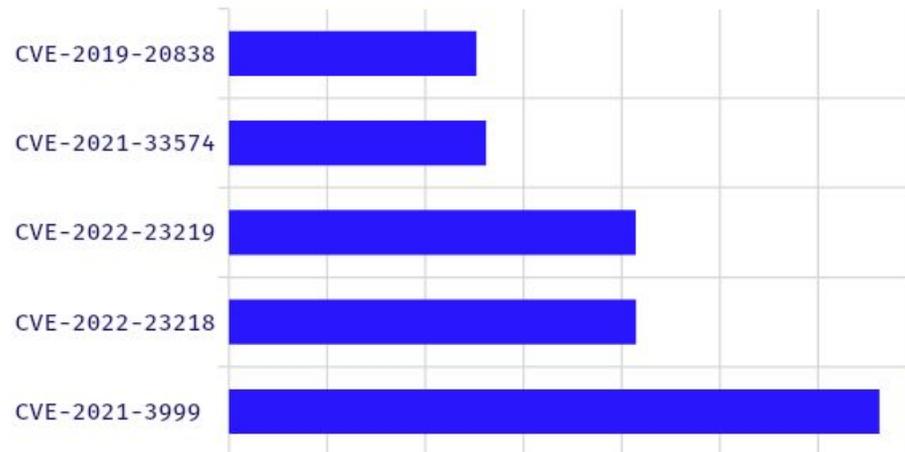


### Number of Critical Vulnerabilities



# What have we learned from scanning over **10,000** clusters?

The top 5 vulnerabilities found



- 63% of the containers had one or more vulnerabilities
- 46% of containers had one or more critical vulnerabilities
- 53% of containers had one or more RCE vulnerabilities

# What have we learned from scanning over **10,000 clusters**?

The top 5 vulnerabilities found



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What have we learned from scanning over **10,000 clusters?**



Mar 8, 2022

## CVE-2022-0492 – Privilege Escalation and Container Escape Vulnerability and its impact on Kubernetes

On March 4th, a new privilege escalation vulnerability (CVE-2022-0492) in the Linux kernel was published....



Leonid Sandler  
CTO & Co-founder



Control – Allow Privileged escalation - 0016  
Control – Deny run as root – 0013  
Control – Insecure capabilities - (CAP\_DAC\_OVERRIDE)  
But . . . We also added a specific control . . .

## Closing thoughts



- Most of companies already running on k8s clusters
- **Security** perspective seems like a big “pain” that no-one wants/can handle
- **DevOps** are the new security **personas** in k8s based organizations
- we are **overwhelmed** with vulnerabilities (to be continued... )



Thank you\_

**ARMO**