

# epics-containers

A workshop to look at containerizing EPICS IOCs

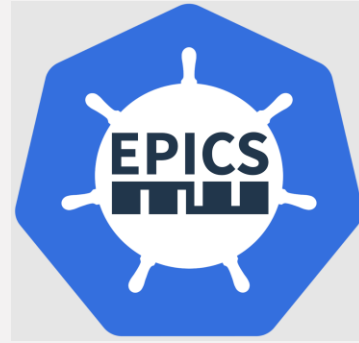
**EPICS Collaboration Meeting @ ORNL**

**Sept 16th, 2024**

giles knap & Marcell Nagy

Beamline Controls – Diamond Light Source

# epics-containers workshop ORNL



- 13:40 – Presentation: an overview of epics-containers
- 14:20 – Questions
- 14:30 – Hands On Tutorials: Create an IOC in a container
- 15:00 – Break
- 15:30 – Demo: Kubernetes and ArgoCD on a DLS test beamline
- 16:10 – Questions and discussion
- 16:30 – Hands On Tutorials continued
- 17:10 - End

# Preamble

- This presentation is about how DLS will be building and managing IOCs using containers.
- However, we have applied the following principals to make this work useful to other facilities:
  - **Open source first.** All source, re-usable containers, example beamlines and documentation is available at <https://github.com/epics-containers>.
  - **Modular.** All parts of the framework are as far as practical independent – you may adopt just the features you find useful.
  - **Standard EPICS only.** We use the default EPICS build system, upstream versions of EPICS base and support modules.
  - **Standard Tools only.** The tools used in the framework are widely adopted FOSS only.
- The SPARC beamline at INFN-LNF in Rome is already using epics-containers in production.

# What?



## Applying modern industry practices for software delivery to EPICS IOCs



**Containers:** Package IOC software and execute it in a lightweight virtual environment



**Kubernetes:** Orchestrates all IOCs at a facility



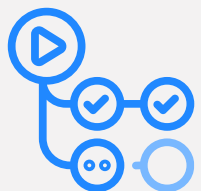
**Helm Charts:** Deploy IOCs into Kubernetes with version management

**Repositories:** Source and container repositories manage all the above assets

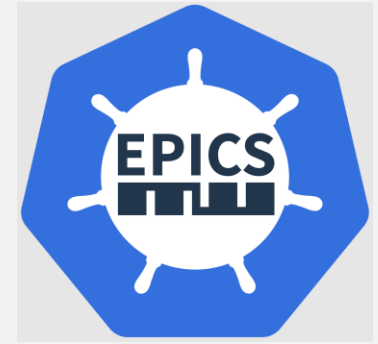


**CI:** Source repositories automatically build assets from source when updated

**CD:** Deployment repositories are automatically synced with the cluster



# Why?



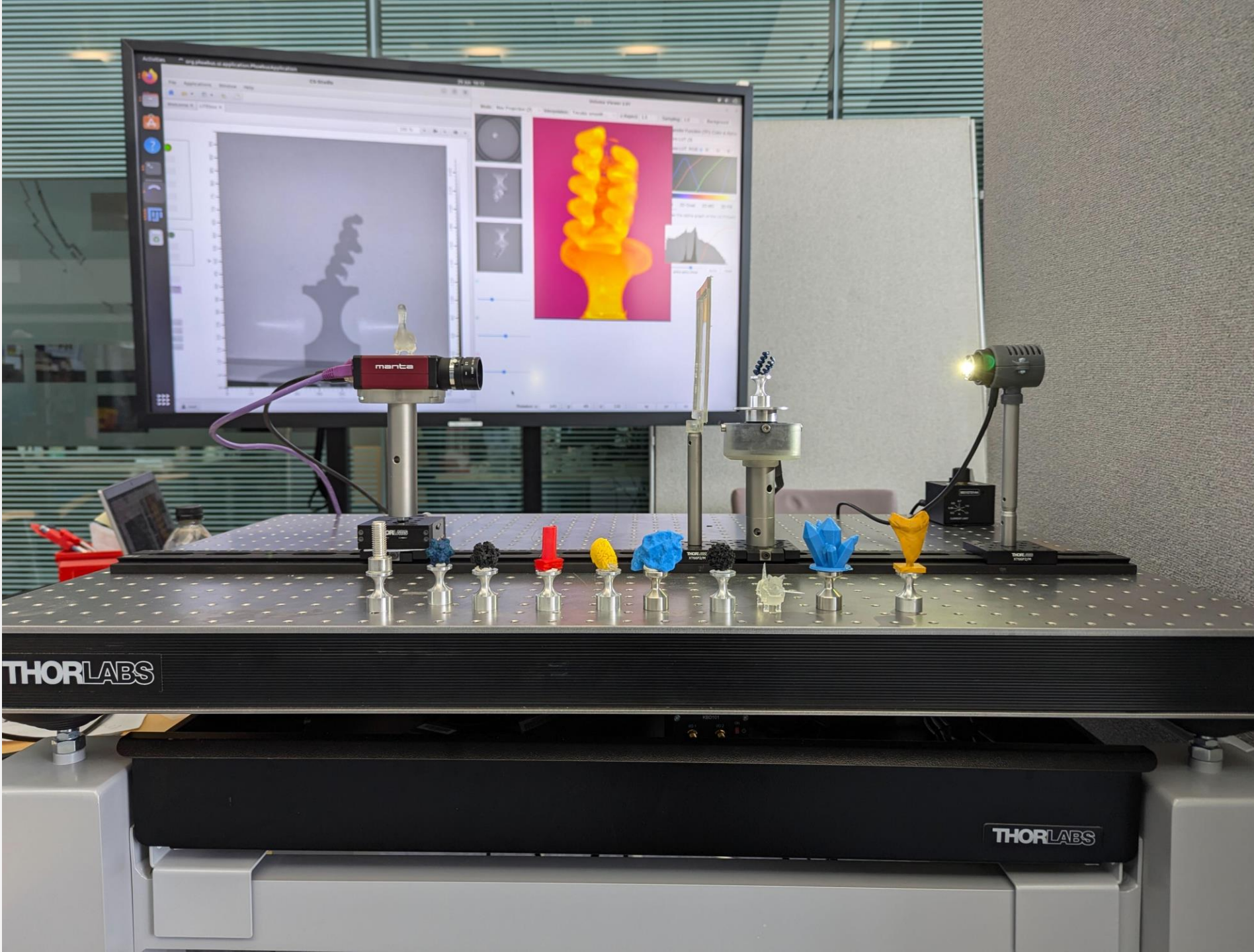
- IOCs are decoupled from the OS
  - No modifying support modules to suit facility infrastructure
  - Allows us to use upstream support modules with no need for local forks
  - Protection from many security vulnerabilities
- Simple server setup: any Linux + container runtime only.
  - Very easy server OS upgrades
- Remove maintenance of internal management tools
- Kubernetes provides (not just for IOCs!):
  - Shared software deployment and management
  - Shared Logging, monitoring, alerting
  - Shared resource management: Disk / CPU / Memory
  - Skills required are transferrable
  - A huge range of supporting tools and applications both FOSS and licensed
  - Just Google it when things go wrong

# Why?

Portability:

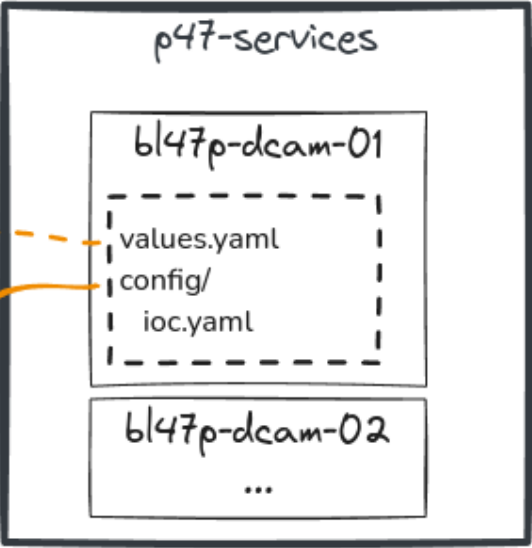
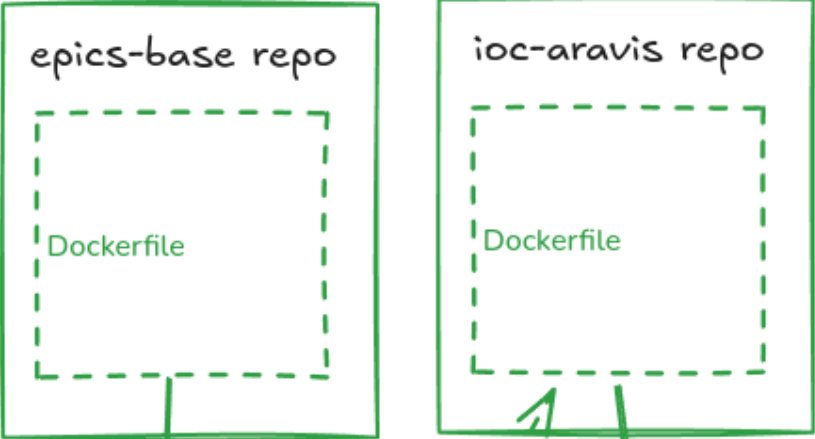
Develop anywhere.  
Execute anywhere.

e.g.  
DIAD's portable  
tomography demo made  
for the RAL public open  
day.



# How?

## GitHub Repositories



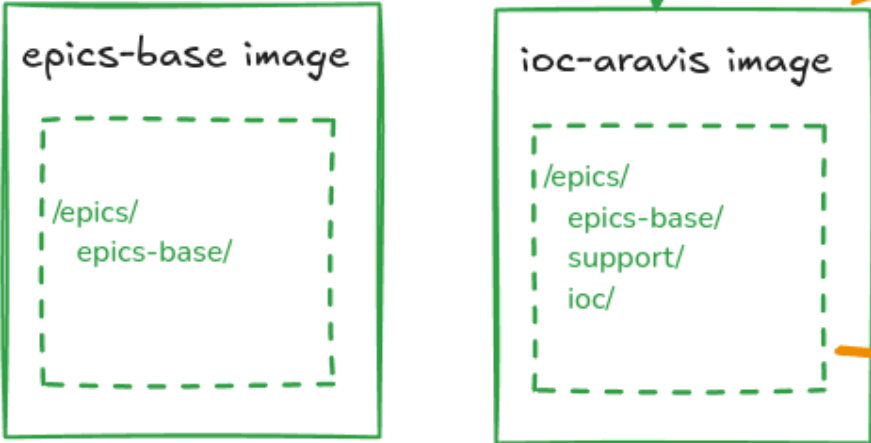
CI

FROM

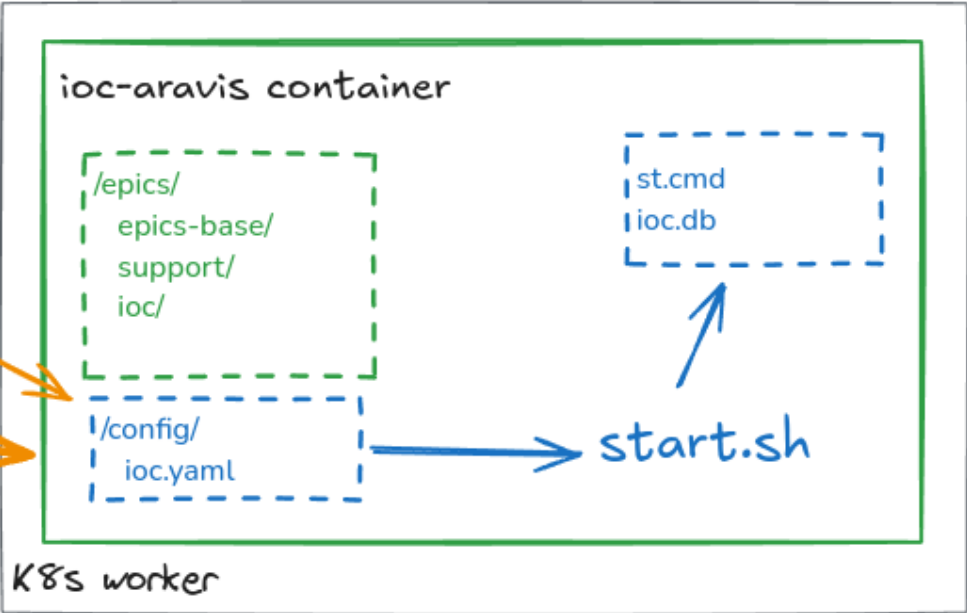
CI

ec deploy bl47p-dcam-01 2024.9.1

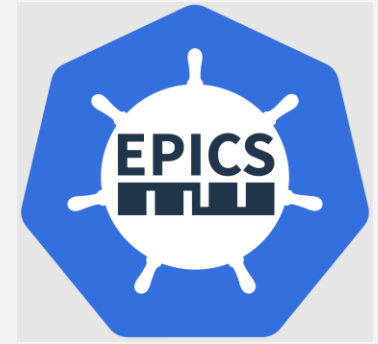
## GitHub Container Registry



## GitHub Container Registry



# Supporting Tools



- **ibek** – IOC builder for EPICS and Kubernetes
  - Runs inside the container at build time
    - Helpers for building Support and Generic IOC in the container environment
  - Runs inside the container at runtime startup
    - Makes IOC instance startup script and database from a YAML description
    - Extracts IOC instance engineering screens from the container



- **ec** – the epics containers CLI for developers
  - Runs outside the container
    - Helpers for building and deploy IOC Instances
    - Helpers for local debugging and testing of Generic IOCs
    - Thin wrapper around the tools git, helm, kubectl and argocd – can be used to learn these tools too



- **PVI** - Process Variables Interface
  - Provides structure for the PV interface to a device
  - Auto generates engineering screens for the device (bob/edm/adl)
  - Supplies DB metadata for use with Bluesky

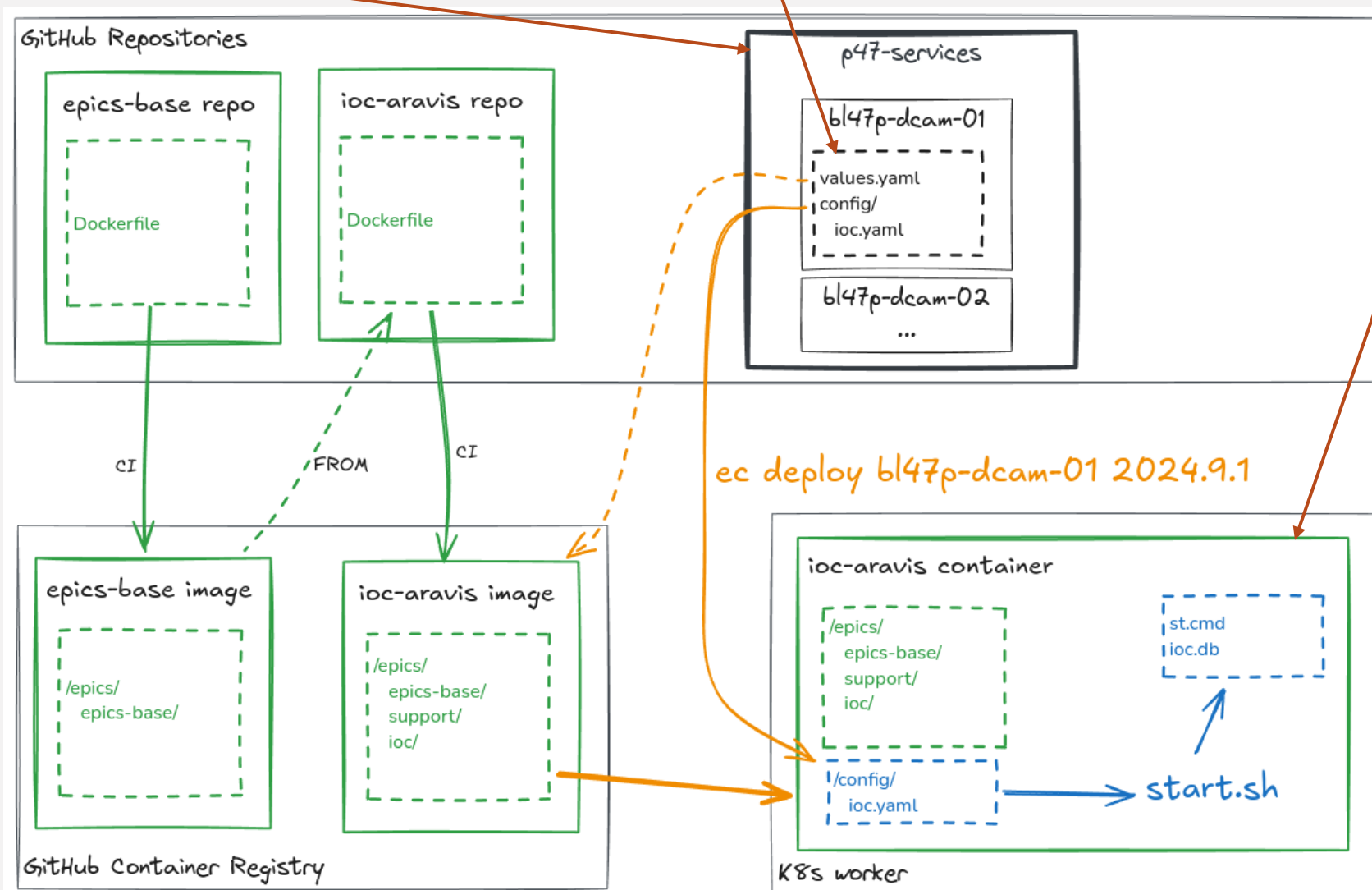


# How to make an IOC Instance?

1. Create a services repository

2. Edit the new IOC Instance config

3. Deploy the IOC instance



# How to make an IOC Instance?

## 1. Create a services repository

- `copier copy gh:epics-containers/services-template-helm .`
- `cp -r services/.ioc-template services/my-new-ioc`

## 2. Edit the new IOC Instance config

**2b.** An *ibek* IOC YAML file listing the support 'entities' that we want to instantiate for this IOC instance.

**2a.** A helm chart values override file. The only required field is the URL of the Generic IOC to use.

```
p47-services > services > bl47p-ea-dcam-01 > ! values.yaml > {} ioc-instance > image
1 ioc-instance:
2 | image: ghcr.io/epics-containers/ioc-adaravis-runtime:2024.8.1
3
```

```
p47-services > services > bl47p-ea-dcam-01 > config > ! ioc.yaml > [ ] entities
1 # yaml-language-server: $schema=https://github.com/epics-containers
2 ioc_name: bl47p-ea-dcam-01
3 description: GigE Sample camera for beamline p47
4
5 entities:
6 - type: epics.EpicsCaMaxArrayBytes
7   max_bytes: 3000000
8
9 - type: ADAravis.aravisCamera
10 CLASS: AVT_Mako_G234B
11 ID: 192.168.250.3
12 P: BL47P-EA-DET-01
13 PORT: DET.CAM
14 R: ":DET:"
```

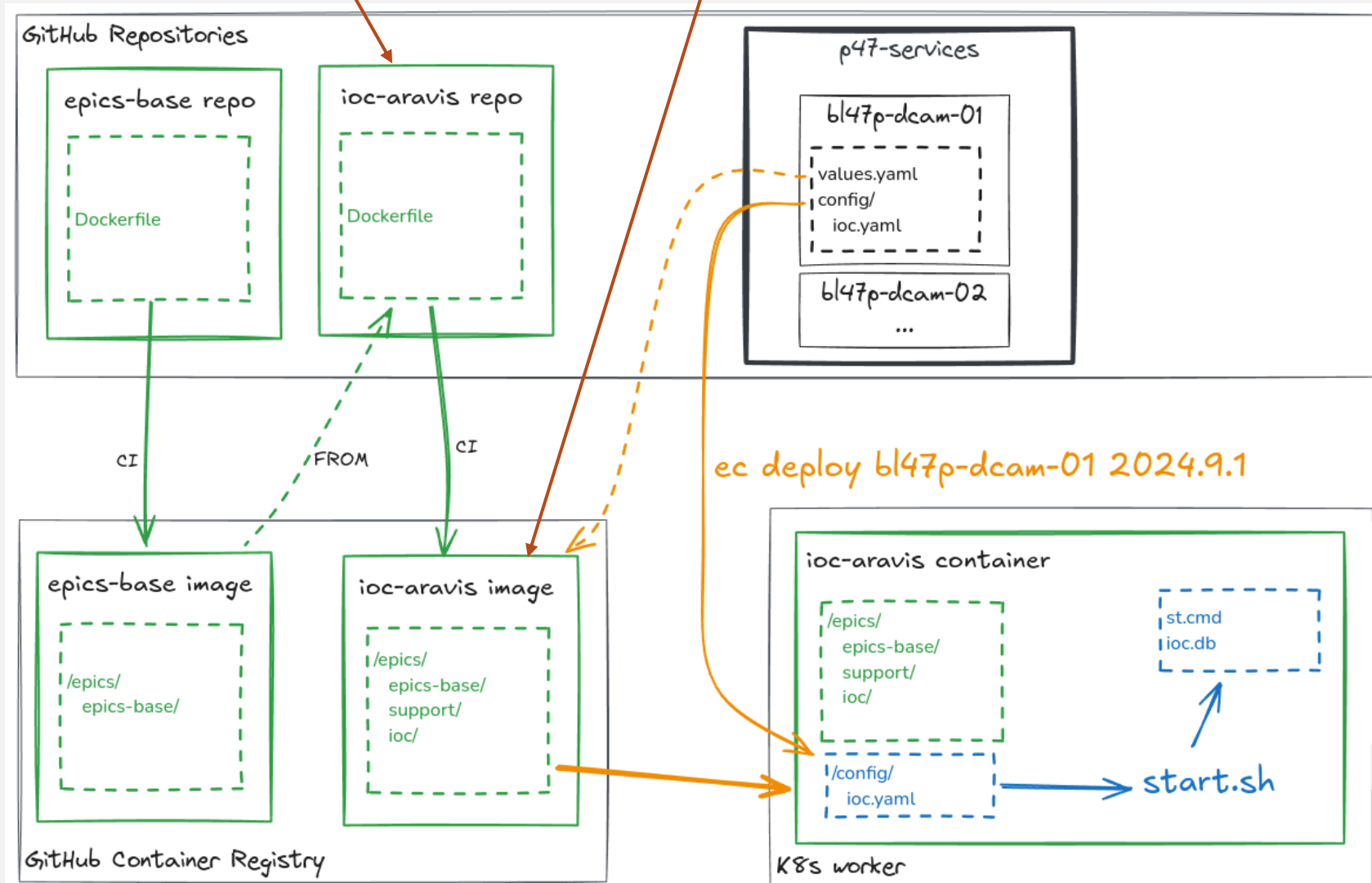
## 3. Deploy the IOC instance:

- Tag and push the beamline repo
- `ec deploy bl45p-ea-ioc-01 2024.9.1`

# How to make a Generic IOC?

1. Create a Generic IOC repo

2. Deploy Generic IOC to your container registry



# How to make a Generic IOC?

## 1. Create a Generic IOC repo:

- copier copy gh:epics-containers/ioc-template
- edit Readme.md
- edit Dockerfile: add COPY and RUN for each support module using ibek-support recipies

## 2. Deploy Generic IOC to your container registry:

- Tag and push the generic IOC repo
- CI then:
  - Builds the container image
  - Publishes it to GHCR
  - Publishes a JSON schema for the ibek 'entities' provided inside the container

*Dockerfile: iocStats serves as an example for how to add additional support modules*

```
3 ARG BASE=7.0.8ec2
4 ARG REGISTRY=ghcr.io/epics-containers
5 ARG RUNTIME=${REGISTRY}/epics-base${IMAGE_EXT}-runtime:${BASE}
6 ARG DEVELOPER=${REGISTRY}/epics-base${IMAGE_EXT}-developer:${BASE}
7
8 ##### build stage #####
9 FROM ${DEVELOPER} AS developer
10
11 # The devcontainer mounts the project root to /epics/generic-source
12 # Using the same location here makes devcontainer/runtime differences transparent
13 ENV SOURCE_FOLDER=/epics/generic-source
14 # connect ioc source folder to its know location
15 RUN ln -s ${SOURCE_FOLDER}/ioc ${IOC}
16
17 # Get the current version of ibek
18 COPY requirements.txt requirements.txt
19 RUN pip install --upgrade -r requirements.txt
20
21 WORKDIR ${SOURCE_FOLDER}/ibek-support
22
23 # copy the global ibek files
24 COPY ibek-support/_global/ _global
25
26 COPY ibek-support/iocStats/ iocStats
27 RUN iocStats/install.sh 3.2.0
28
29 #####
30 # TODO - Add further support module installations here
31 #####
32
33 # get the ioc source and build it
34 COPY ioc ${SOURCE_FOLDER}/ioc
35 RUN cd ${IOC} && ./install.sh && make
36
37 # install runtime proxy for non-native builds
38 RUN bash ${IOC}/install_proxy.sh
39
40 ##### runtime preparation stage #####
```

# How to Add a new Support Module 1.

## 1. Add a folder in the ibek-support repo

- Shared ibek-support on GitHub
- Or private ibek-support per facility
- Public Generic IOCs should only use shared ibek-support
- Internal Generic IOCs may use both

## 2. Add a new install.sh file:

- Use the new support in your Generic IOC Dockerfile

*Install.sh example for ADSimDetector. Most install.sh would look almost identical to this but You can add custom steps as needed –it's just bash.*

```
ioc-template-example > ibek-support > ADSimDetector > $ install.sh
1  #!/bin/bash
2  #####
3  ##### install script for ADSimDetector Module #####
4  #####
5
6  # ARGUMENTS:
7  # $1 VERSION to install (must match repo tag)
8  VERSION=${1}
9  NAME=ADSimDetector
10 FOLDER=$(dirname $(readlink -f $0))
11
12 # log output and abort on failure
13 set -xe
14
15 # get the source and fix up the configure/RELEASE files
16 ibek support git-clone ${NAME} ${VERSION} --org http://github.com/areaDetector/
17 ibek support register ${NAME}
18
19 # declare the libs and DBDs that are required in ioc/iocApp/src/Makefile
20 ibek support add-libs simDetector
21 ibek support add-dbds simDetectorSupport.dbd
22
23 # global config settings
24 ${FOLDER}/../_global/install.sh ${NAME}
25
26 # compile the support module
27 ibek support compile ${NAME}
28 # prepare *.bob, *.pvi, *.ibek.support.yaml for access outside the container.
29 ibek support generate-links ${FOLDER}
30
```

# How to Add a new Support Module 2.

## 1. Add a folder in the ibek-support repo

- Shared ibek-support on GitHub
- Or private ibek-support per facility
- Public Generic IOCs should only use shared ibek-support
- Internal Generic IOCs may use both

## 2. Add a new install.sh file:

- Use the new support in your Generic IOC Dockerfile

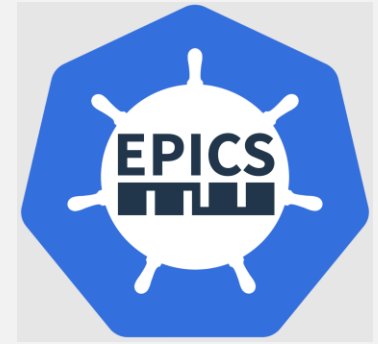
## 3. Add an ibek support YAML description:

- This allows us to describe our IOC instances as ibek IOC YAML.

*Support YAML example for ADSimDetector. Declares instance arguments, startup script lines and database template substitutions.*

```
ioc-template-example > ibek-support > ADSimDetector > ! ADSimDetector.ibek.support.yaml > [ ] entity_models > {} 0 >
1 # yaml-language-server: $schema=https://github.com/epics-containers/ibek/
2 module: ADSimDetector
3
4 entity_models:
5   - name: simDetector
6     description: Creates a simulation detector
7     parameters:
8       P:
9         type: str
10        description: Device Prefix
11      R:
12        type: str
13        description: Device Suffix
14      PORT:
15        type: id
16        description: Port name for the detector
17      # ----- Other Parameters omitted for clarity -----
18
19    pre_init:
20      - type: text
21        value: |
22          # simDetectorConfig(portName, maxSizeX, maxSizeY, dataType, maxB
23          simDetectorConfig("#{PORT}", {{WIDTH}}, {{HEIGHT}}, {{DATATYPE}}
24
25    databases:
26      - file: $(ADSIMDETECTOR)/db/simDetector.template
27        args: { P, R, PORT, TIMEOUT, ADDR }
```

# Developer Containers



epics-containers development defines 3 levels of changes:

## 1. Changing IOC instance details only

- Edit values.yaml or ioc.yaml in your beamline repository
- Push and tag the changes, re-deploy the update instance

## 2. Changing a Generic IOC

- Edit Dockerfile or ibek-support sub-module in a Generic IOC repository
- Push changes to publish a new container image
- Go to 1. to update affected instances

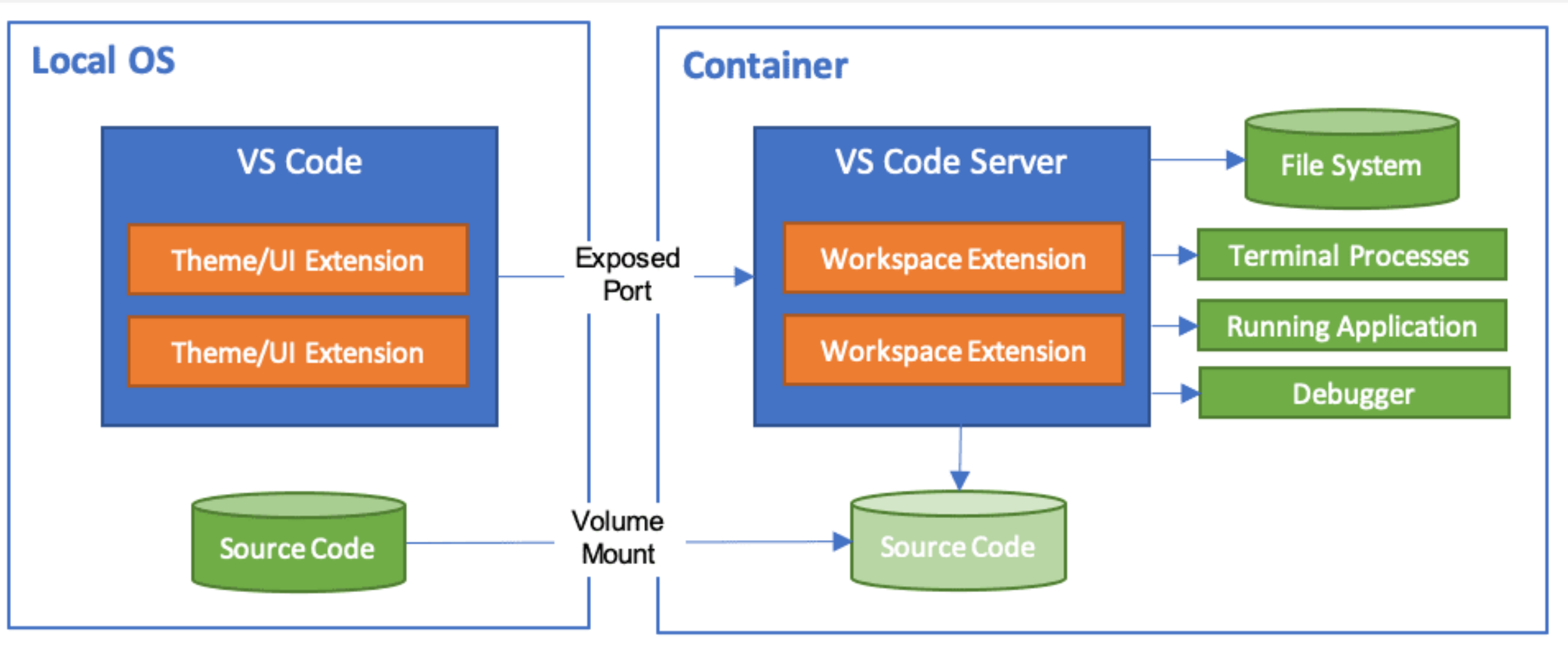
## 3. Changing Support Modules

- Edit the support module, verify and push and tag source changes.
- Go to 2. to update a Generic IOC to include the new support version

2 and 3 require rebuilding and deploying containers. For this reason, we use Developer Containers for a fast "inner loop".

For epics-containers the generic IOC container image is an ideal developer container.

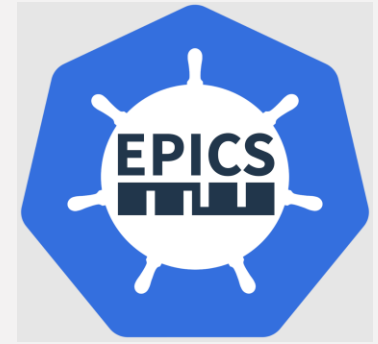
# Developer Containers



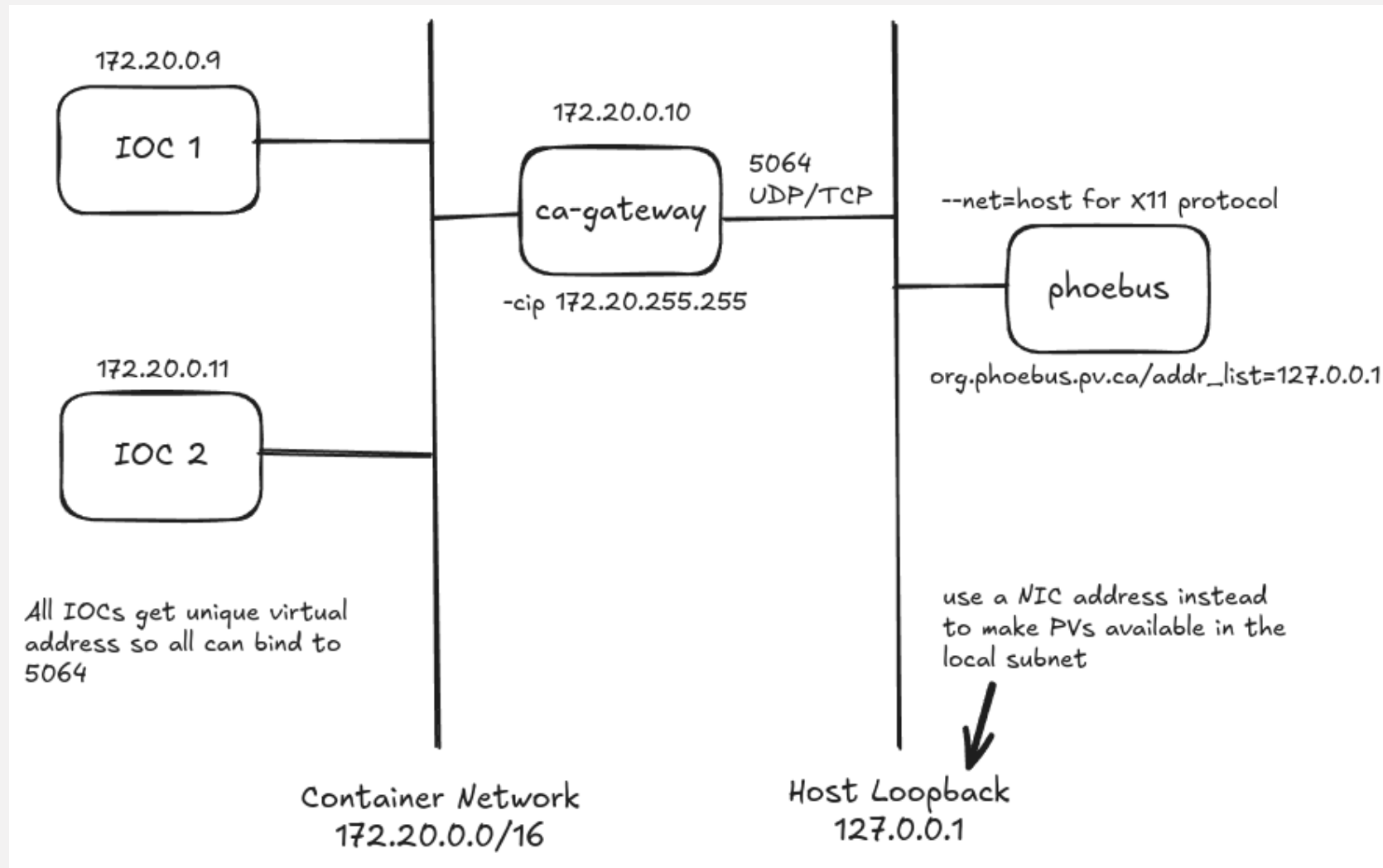
See developer target in <https://github.com/epics-containers/ioc-template/blob/main/template/Dockerfile>



# Networking

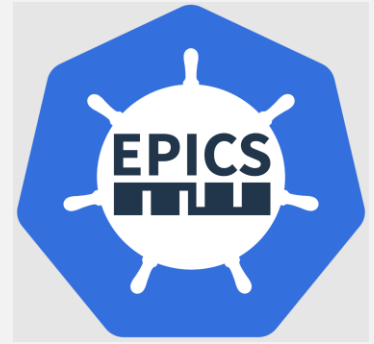


For local development and testing we configure the network like this:



# Networking

## network=host



At DLS we use network=host for Kubernetes IOCs

- This means IOCs run without network isolation and look exactly like traditional IOCs from the client's perspective

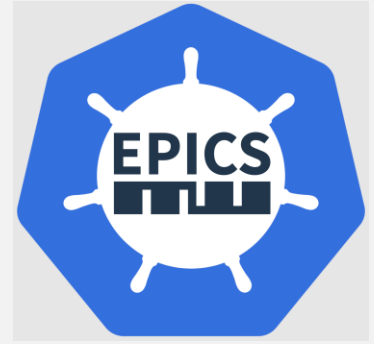
### Motivation

- Channel Access cannot route into the container network
- We did not want to pass all PVs through a ca-gateway
- Channel Access is not the only protocol that will not route into CNI
- For example, GigE streaming protocol will also fail
- Any protocol that does not like NAT will have this problem

# Current Status - Sept 2024

- The epics-containers framework is ready for wider exposure and feedback
- There are tutorials to get people started using the framework
- There are a growing number of reference generic IOCs
- Example beamline repositories are also available
- DLS has several beamline clusters running a handful of containerized IOCs in production, plus some fully containerized test beamlines.
- DLS aims to have a representative set of production beamlines fully containerized before the DII dark period 12/2027.
- And all beamlines fully containerized at the end of the dark period 06/2029.

# One Take Away



<https://github.com/epics-containers>

- Includes:
  - Tutorials
  - Documentation
  - Templates
  - Source code
  - A small but growing number of Generic IOC images
  - Example beamlines
  - A Simulation beamline

Questions ?

# Hands On: Tutorials

- <https://epics-containers.github.io/main/tutorials/intro.html>
- Work through the tutorials at your own pace
  - Try out the simulation beamline
  - Create a services repository with docker compose
  - Create an IOC instance
  - Work with developer containers (stretch goal for today!)

# Kubernetes

- Kubernetes is by far the dominant container orchestration platform today
- Open-sourced by Google in 2014
- Managed by the Cloud Native Computing Foundation, part of the Linux Foundation
- CNCF looks after a large list of open-source applications that run in Kubernetes
- At DLS we will have a Kubernetes Cluster per beamline, one for the accelerator and a large central cluster for centralized services.

# Demo: a Kubernetes Beamline at DLS

- p47 is a training beamline with 2 detectors, 2 motors, 1 pandabox
- Each Kubernetes Clusters at DLS runs standard services including:-
  - A landing page to access all user services
  - Kubernetes Dashboard – manage resources in the cluster
  - Alert Manager – sets thresholds and configures recipients of alerts
  - Prometheus – monitoring with time series Database
  - Grafana – rich visualization of the above data
  - StacksRox – monitor running containers for Common Vulnerabilities and Exploits
  - Keycloak – single sign on authorization service
  - Kynervo – policy engine
  - Argo CD – declarative GitOps continuous deployment



Questions ?

# Remaining Slides

- Images of demo screens in case I can't connect to DLS
- Some overview diagrams for discussion if needed

# Demo: a Kubernetes Beamline at DLS

## P47

**P47 Beamline Synoptic**

**X Stage**

Position: -18.000 mm

Stop: Stop

Tweak Forward: Tweak Forward

Tweak Step: 1.000 mm

Tweak Reverse: Tweak Reverse

---

**Rotation Stage**

Position: 703.998 mm

Stop: Stop

Tweak Forward: Tweak Forward

Tweak Step: 18.000 mm

Tweak Reverse: Tweak Reverse

---

**Sample Camera**

Num Queued Arrays: 0

Wait For Plugins: No

Acquire: Done Acquir

Array Counter: 0

Array Callbacks: Disable Enable

Acquire Time: 0.015

Acquire Period: 0.031

Num Images Counter: 2556

Num Images: 1

Num Exposures: 1

Image Mode: Continuous

Trigger Mode: Off

Detector State: Acquire

---

**Overview Camera**

Acquire: Done Acquir

Array Counter: 154

---


**Auto Generated Engineering Screens**

Overview Camera: BL47P-EA-DET-02


Sample Camera: BL47P-EA-DET-01

Motors: BL47P-MO-MAP-01

Panda: BL47P-MO-PANDA-01



Sample



Overview

**AD Aravis**

AR Frames Completed: 1820

AR Frame Failures: 0

AR Frame Underruns: 0

AR Missing Packets: 0

AR Resent Packets: 0

AR Packet Resend: Always

AR Packet Timeout: 20000 us

AR Frame Retention: 100000 us

AR Reset Camera: 0

AR Convert Pixel: Mono16L Mono16Low

AR Shift Dir: None

AR Shift Bits: 4

---

**arvFeature Ungrouped**

AR Connect Camera: 1

---

**AD Readout**

Array Size X: 728

Array Size Y: 544

Array Size: 396032

Data Type: UInt8

Color Mode: RGB1

Max Size X: 728

Max Size Y: 544

Bin X: 1

Bin Y: 1

Min Y: 0

Min X: 0

Reverse X: No Yes

Reverse Y: No Yes

Size X: 728

Size Y: 544

Gain: 0.000

**ADAravis Camera**

AD Shutter

Shutter Mode: None

Shutter Status: None

Shutter Control: Close Open

Shutter Open Delay: 0.000

Shutter Close Delay: 0.000

---

AD Collect

Num Queued Arrays: 0

Wait For Plugins: No Yes

Acquire: Done Acquir

Array Counter: 0

Array Callbacks: Disable Enable

Acquire Time: 0.500

Acquire Period: 0.004

Num Images Counter: 1820

Num Images: 1

Num Exposures: 1

Image Mode: Continuous

Trigger Mode: Off

Detector State: Acquire

Status Message: 0.000

---

ADDriver Ungrouped

Read Status: 0

Num Exposures: 0

String To Server: <not used by driver>

String From Server: <not used by driver>

Shutter Control EPICS: 54.1 C

Temperature Actual: 54.1 C

Frame Type: Normal

Temperature: 25.0 C

**AD Setup**

Port Name: DET2.CAM

Manufacturer: Allied Vision Technologies

Model: Mako G-040C

Serial Number: 50-0536985400

Firmware Version: 00.01.54.21000

SDK Version: 0.8.31

Driver Version: 2.3

AD Core Version: 3.12.1

---

**AD Attr File**

ND Attributes File: File not found

ND Attributes Macros: File not found

ND Attributes Status: File not found

---

**asynNDArrayDriver Ungrouped**

Empty Free List: 0

Acquire Busy CB: RGGG

Bayer Pattern: 0

Array Size Z: 0

Codec: 0

Compressed Size: 0

Unique Id: 0

Time Stamp: 0.000

Epics TS Sec: 0

Epics TS Nsec: 0

Pool Max Mem: 0.0 MB

Pool Used Mem: 9.1 MB

Pool Alloc Buffers: 24

Pool Free Buffers: 1

N Dimensions: 0

Dimensions: 0

# Cluster landing page

Welcome to the Pollux Kubernetes Cluster landing page

Pollux Grafana

Grafana instance for monitoring the Pollux cluster

Pollux  
Prometheus

Prometheus instance for monitoring the Pollux Cluster

Pollux  
Alertmanager

Prometheus altermanager instance for monitoring the Pollux cluster

Pollux K8s  
Dashboard

Kubernetes Dashboard for the Pollux cluster

Kubernetes User  
Guide

Dev Portal user guide for Kubernetes

Jupyterhub Test

Testing instance of jupyterhub

Pollux KeyCloak

Keycloak instance for the Pollux cluster

Pollux Stackrox

Stackrox security dashboard for the Pollux cluster

# Kubernetes Dashboard

kubernetes p47-beamline Search

Workloads > Pods

- Workloads
- Cron Jobs
- Daemon Sets
- Deployments
- Jobs
- Pods**
- Replica Sets
- Replication Controllers
- Stateful Sets

- Service
- Ingresses
- Ingress Classes
- Services

- Config and Storage
- Config Maps
- Persistent Volume Claims
- Secrets
- Storage Classes

- Cluster
- Cluster Role Bindings
- Cluster Roles
- Events
- Namespaces
- Network Policies

### CPU Usage

Time	CPU Usage (cores)
13:55	0.10
13:56	0.10
13:57	0.10
13:58	0.10
13:59	0.10
14:00	0.10
14:01	0.10
14:02	0.10
14:03	0.35
14:04	0.35
14:05	0.35
14:06	0.35
14:07	0.35

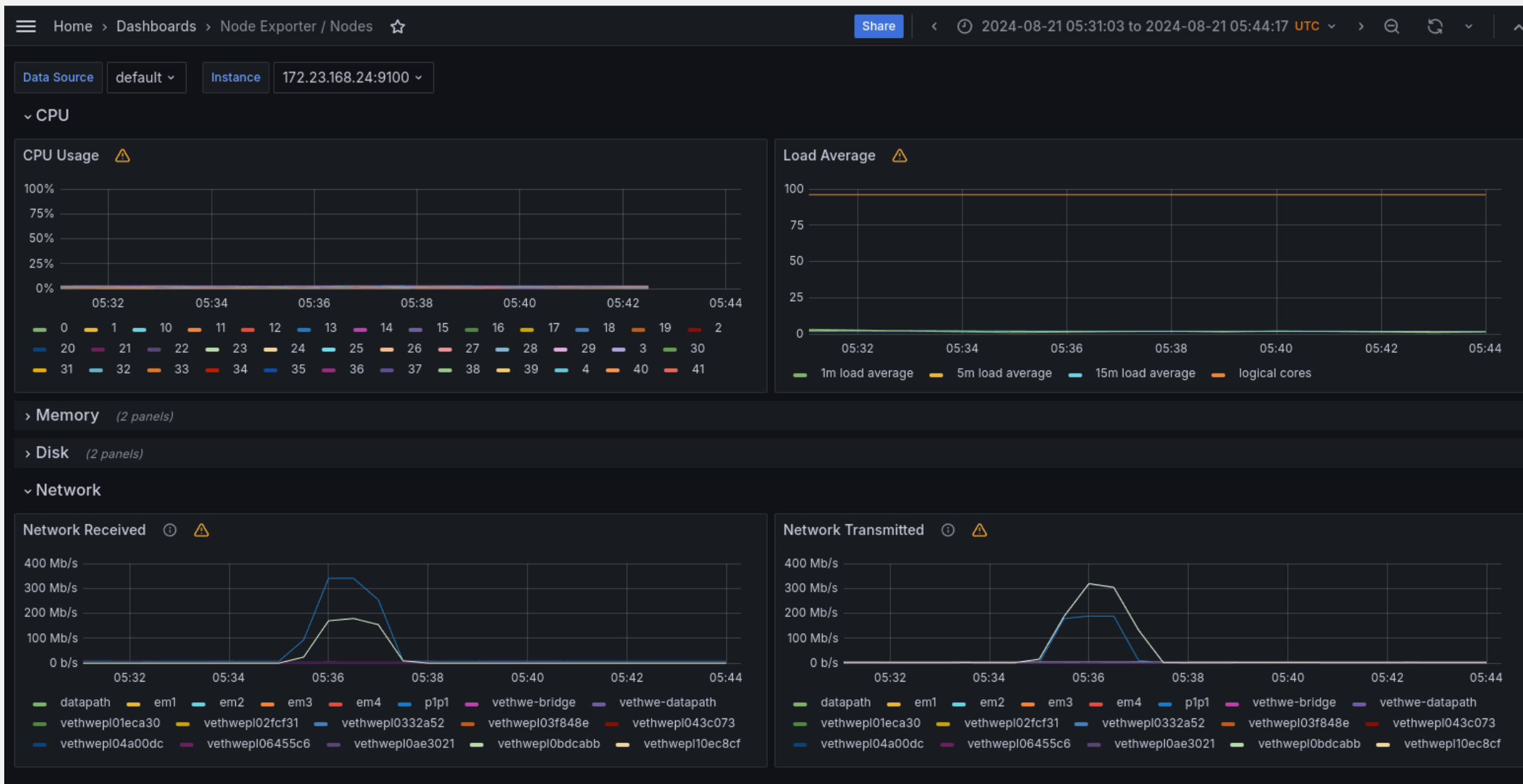
### Memory Usage

Time	Memory Usage (bytes)
13:55	150 Mi
13:56	150 Mi
13:57	150 Mi
13:58	150 Mi
13:59	150 Mi
14:00	150 Mi
14:01	150 Mi
14:02	150 Mi
14:03	200 Mi
14:04	200 Mi
14:05	200 Mi
14:06	200 Mi
14:07	200 Mi

### Pods

Name	Images	Labels	Node	Status	Restarts	CPU Usage (cores)	Memory Usage (bytes)	Created
bl47p-ea-dcam-02-0	ghcr.io/epics-containers/ioc-adaravis-runtime:2024.7.2b1	app: bl47p-ea-dcam-02 apps.kubernetes.io/pod-index: 0 controller-revision-hash: bl47p-ea-dcam-02-657c8d6db4	bl47p-ea-serv-01.diamond.ac.uk	Running	0	9.00m	18.90Mi	an hour ago
bl47p-ea-panda-01-0	ghcr.io/pandablocks/pandablocks-ioc:0.5.0	app: bl47p-ea-panda-01 apps.kubernetes.io/pod-index: 0 controller-revision-hash: bl47p-ea-panda-01-7d9bdcc567	bl47p-ea-serv-01.diamond.ac.uk	Running	0	80.00m	82.04Mi	an hour ago
bl47p-ea-dcam-01-0	ghcr.io/epics-containers/ioc-adaravis-runtime:2024.7.2b1	app: bl47p-ea-dcam-01 apps.kubernetes.io/pod-index: 0 controller-revision-hash: ...	bl47p-ea-serv-01.diamond.ac.uk	Running	0	219.00m	69.83Mi	an hour ago

# Grafana



StackRox

1 Cluster 13 Nodes 88 Violations 19 Deployments 13 Images 117 Secrets

Last updated 22/08/2024 at 14:08

## Dashboard

Review security metrics across all or select resources

Resources: All clusters All namespaces

### 88 policy violations by severity

44 Low	32 Medium	9 High	3 Critical
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[View all](#)

### Images at most risk

Images	Risk priority	Critical CVEs	Important CVEs
<a href="#">sonatype/nexus3</a>	1	7 fixable	36 fixable
<a href="#">bitnami/rabbitmq</a>	4	0 fixable	9 fixable
<a href="#">library/nginx</a>	8	1 fixable	0 fixable
<a href="#">diamond-privreg... ile-converter</a>	15	2 fixable	7 fixable
<a href="#">diamondlightsource/blueapi</a>	17	0 fixable	1 fixable
<a href="#">pandablocks/pandablocks-ioc</a>	29	0 fixable	0 fixable

[View all](#)

### Most recent violations with critical severity

<a href="#">Rapid Reset: Denial of Service...</a>	epics-opis	08/21/2024   12:15:49PM
<a href="#">Rapid Reset: Denial of Service...</a>	epics-opis	07/25/2024   8:22:20AM
<a href="#">Rapid Reset: Denial of Service...</a>	daq-rabbitmq	07/25/2024   8:22:15AM

### Deployments at most risk

Deployment	Resource location	Risk priority
<a href="#">daq-rabbitmq</a>	in "pollux / bl45p"	5
<a href="#">epics-opis</a>	in "pollux / bl45p"	16
<a href="#">epics-opis</a>	in "pollux / p47-beamline"	16
<a href="#">nrmb-sonatype-nexus...manager</a>	in "pollux / sonatype-nexus-repository-manager"	23
<a href="#">daq-blueapi</a>	in "pollux / bl45p"	45

[View all](#)

### 11 Aging images

Aging Period	Image count
30-90 days	5
90-180 days	2
180-365 days	1
>1 year	3

[View all](#)

# Argo CD for p47-beamline

The screenshot displays the Argo CD web interface for the 'p47-beamline' project. The page title is 'Applications' and it includes a search bar and navigation buttons like '+ NEW APP', 'SYNC APPS', and 'REFRESH APPS'. The top right corner shows 'APPLICATIONS TILES' and a 'Log out' button. Below the navigation, there's a sort and pagination control: 'Sort: name' and 'Items per page: 20'. The main content area contains eight application cards, each with a star icon in the top right corner. Each card displays the following information:

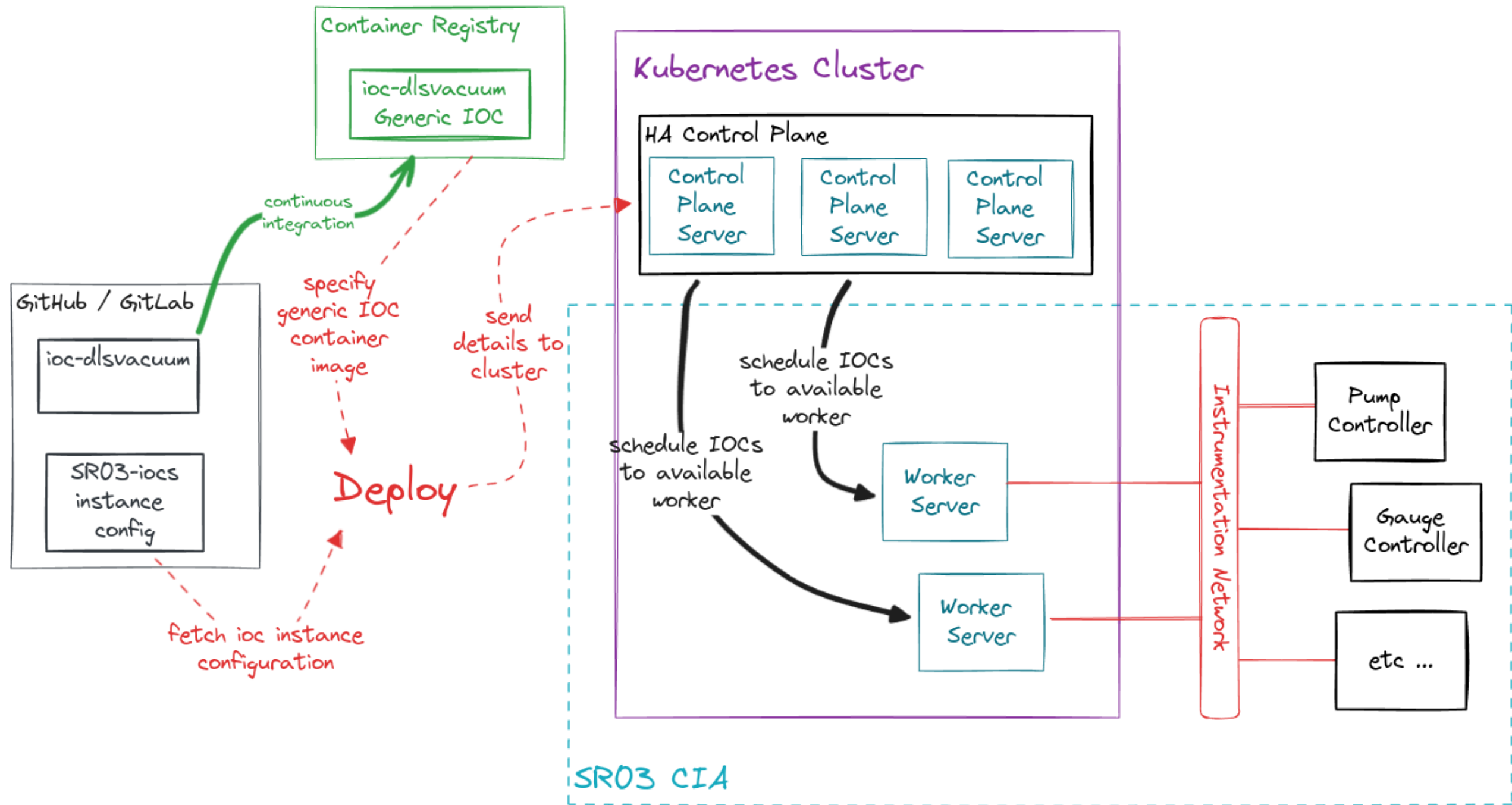
- Project:** p47-beamline
- Labels:** argocd.argoproj.io/instance=p47-beamlin...
- Status:** Healthy Synced
- Repositor...:** https://github.com/epics-containers/p47-...
- Target Re...:** 2024.8.4
- Path:** services/...
- Destinati...:** pollux
- Namespa...:** p47-beamline
- Created At:** 08/21/2024 12:15:28 (a day ago)
- Last Sync:** 08/22/2024 12:18:11 (2 hours ago)

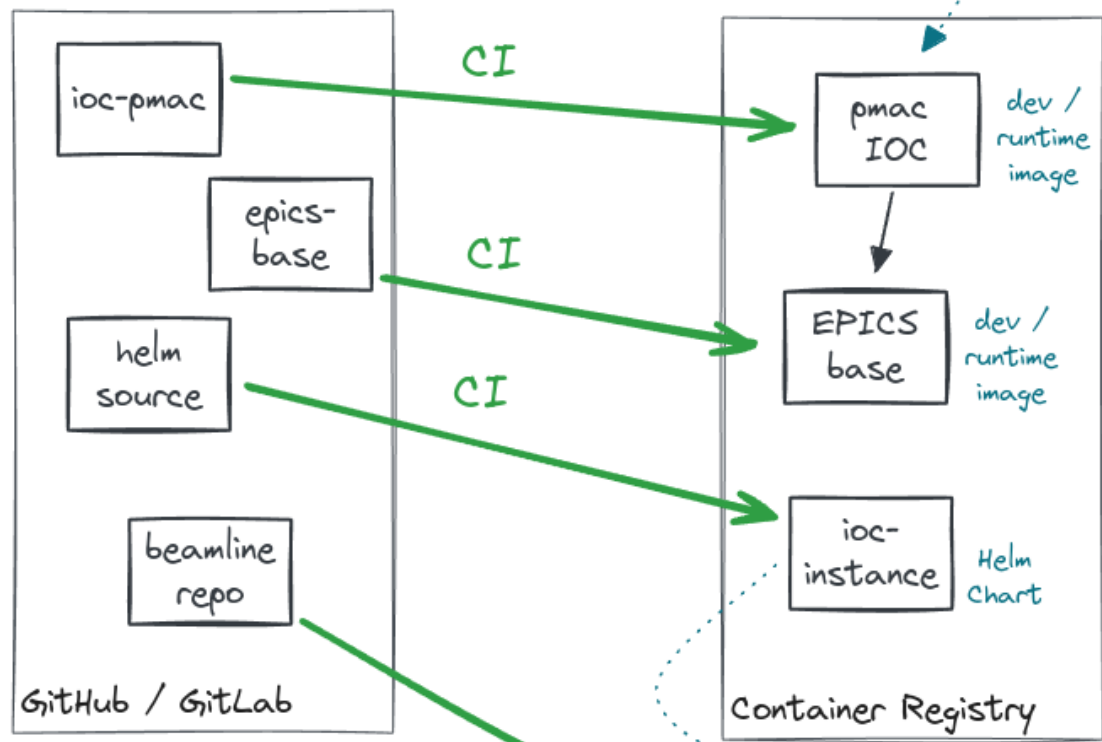
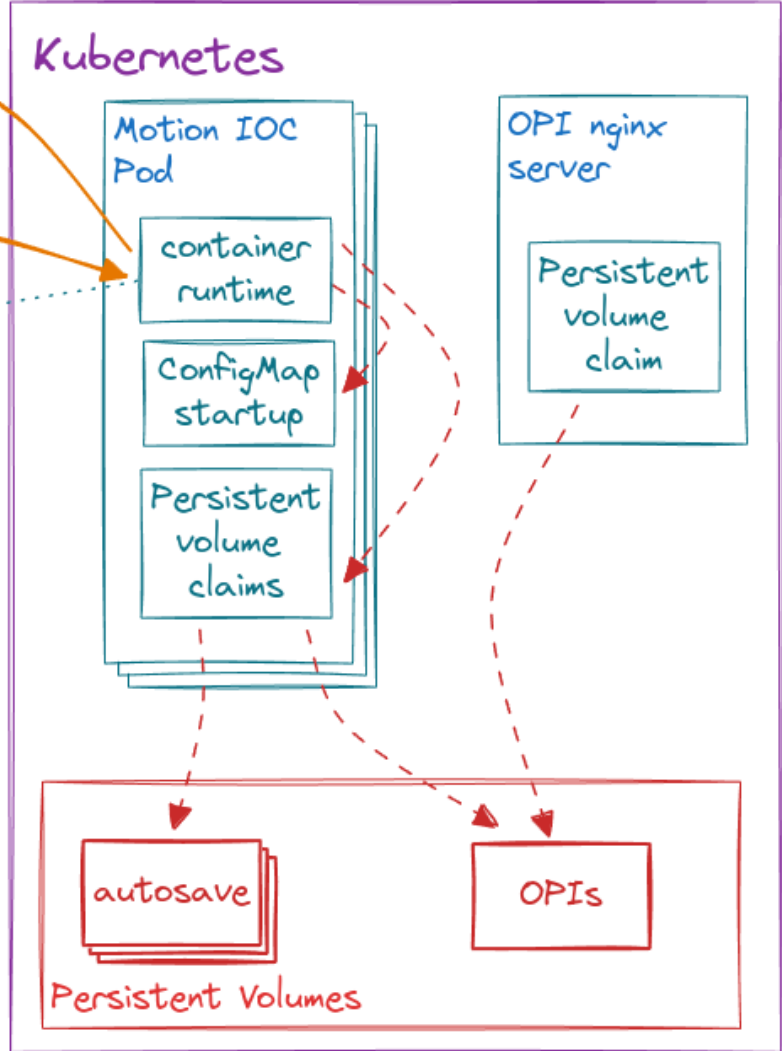
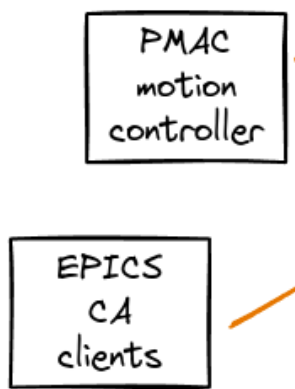
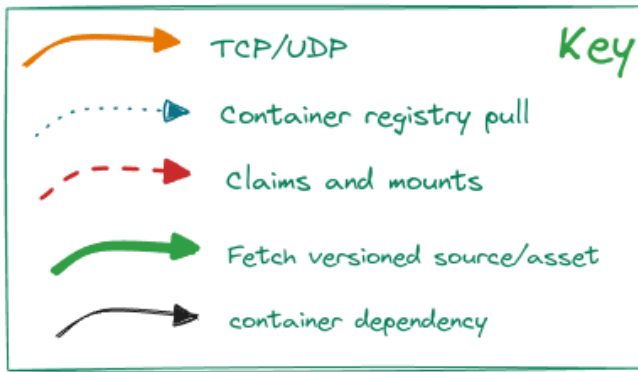
At the bottom of each card are three buttons: 'SYNC', 'REFRESH', and 'DELETE'.

The eight application cards are:

- p47-beamline/bl47p-ea-dcam-01**
- p47-beamline/bl47p-ea-dcam-02**
- p47-beamline/bl47p-ea-panda-01**
- p47-beamline/bl47p-ea-test-01**
- p47-beamline/bl47p-mo-ioc-01**
- p47-beamline/epics-opis**
- p47-beamline/epics-pvcs**
- p47-beamline/p47**







ec deploy bl45p-mo-ioc-01 2024.2.1