

# Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management for Kubernetes

## Key benefits:

- ▶ Accelerate application development with self-service provisioning.
- ▶ Free IT teams from manual provisioning with self-service cluster deployment that automatically delivers applications.
- ▶ Increase application availability with the ability to deploy legacy and cloud-native applications across distributed clusters in less time.
- ▶ Enhance security compliance with centralized policy enforcement across clusters.
- ▶ Reduce operational costs with a unified management interface.

## Introduction

As you move modern applications from development to production, it often makes sense to have multiple fit-for-purpose Kubernetes clusters to support continuous integration/continuous delivery (CI/CD) of DevOps pipelines. This cluster sprawl continues as you add new clusters configured for specific purposes, such as edge deployments, faster response time, reduced latency, reduced capital expenditures (CapEx), and compliance with data residency requirements.

Whether your organization is just getting started with a single cluster or already operating in a multicluster environment, you likely face some difficult decisions, such as:

- ▶ How can you manage the life cycle of multiple clusters regardless of where they reside—on-premise or across public cloud environments, using a single control plane?
- ▶ How do you get a simplified understanding of your cluster health and the effect it may have on your application availability?
- ▶ How do you automate provisioning and deprovisioning of your clusters?
- ▶ How do you ensure that all of your clusters are compliant with standard and custom policies?
- ▶ How do you get alerted about configuration drift and remediate it?
- ▶ How can you automate the placement of workloads based on policy?

## Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management for Kubernetes

Red Hat® Advanced Cluster Management for Kubernetes offers end-to-end management, visibility, and control of your cluster and application life cycle, along with improved security and compliance of your entire Kubernetes domain—across multiple datacenters and public cloud environments.

Red Hat OpenShift® is the clear choice for container orchestration, offering a platform for deploying and managing containers in a standard, consistent control plane. Red Hat OpenShift and Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management provide the hybrid cloud management platform and capabilities that address common challenges faced by administrators and site reliability engineers (SREs) as they work across a range of environments such as multiple datacenters and private and public cloud environments that run Kubernetes clusters, including your remote edge sites. Certain industries, such as public sector environments, require strict compliance and U.S. Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) mode support, which Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management provides.

Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management lets you manage your Kubernetes clusters from one place. Provision new Red Hat OpenShift clusters across Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Microsoft Azure Government (MAG), AWS GovCloud, bare metal, Red Hat OpenStack® Platform, Red Hat Virtualization, and VMware vSphere. In addition, existing Red Hat OpenShift clusters can be imported and managed, such as Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Cloud, Microsoft Azure Red Hat OpenShift, Red Hat OpenShift Dedicated, Red Hat OpenShift on Red Hat OpenStack Platform, OpenShift on IBM Z, OpenShift on IBM Power, Red Hat OpenShift on Amazon, and OpenShift on Arm architecture.

Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management can also import and manage your existing public cloud Kubernetes clusters such as Amazon Elastic Kubernetes Service (Amazon EKS), IBM Cloud Kubernetes Service (IKS), Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS), and Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE).

Learn more, visit:  
[redhat.com/clustermanagement](https://redhat.com/clustermanagement).

## Features and benefits

### Multicluster observability for fleet health and optimization

Deliver an enhanced SRE experience with out-of-the-box multicluster dashboards that can store long-term historical data and provide an overview of fleet health and optimization.

**Table 1. Features and benefits of multicluster observability**

Feature	Benefit
Fleet health monitoring	Sort, filter, and scan individual clusters and user workloads, as well as aggregated multiclusters with Grafana. Use the open source <a href="#">Thanos</a> project for scalable metrics collection with long-term data retention. Get OpenShift cluster health metrics as well as non-OpenShift clusters such as EKS, GKE, AKS, IKS in the many out-of-the-box Grafana dashboards.
Customized metrics and dashboards	Customize Grafana dashboards based on metrics you define and predefined metrics. Define service-level objectives (SLOs) on a cluster or the platform services, measure the performance against them, and dynamically adjust for deeper collection during critical events when root cause analysis requires it.
Dynamic search	Use the graphical console to identify, isolate, and resolve issues affecting distributed workloads. Application SRE's can view application resource YAML and fetch logs from deployments in real time, assisting in mean time to resolution and problem determination. Improved controls with configurable data collection provides opportunities for high scale environments and security lockdown to limit what gets collected from the managed clusters.
Analytics through Red Hat Insights for Red Hat OpenShift	Gain intelligence on cluster health for your entire managed fleet and take proactive steps and remediation actions as needed based on the analytics provided by Red Hat OpenShift-based telemetry and Red Hat expertise.
Automatic alert forwarding from managed clusters to Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management hub	Respond and troubleshoot more easily by getting centralized alerts of cluster health metrics and all your policy violations sent into your third-party tools such as Slack and PagerDuty.

## Unified multicluster life cycle management

Create, upgrade, and destroy Kubernetes clusters reliably, consistently, and at scale, using an open source programming model that supports and encourages infrastructure as code (IaC) best practices and design principles.

**Table 2. Features and benefits of unified multicluster life cycle management**

Feature	Benefit
Cluster life cycle management	Gain Day 1 experience with cluster life cycle management using the open source <a href="#">Hive</a> application programming interface (API). Create and upgrade new Red Hat OpenShift clusters, or import existing OpenShift and managed Kubernetes clusters, using Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management console.
Cloud providers supported	Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management supports the creation of OpenShift clusters on AWS, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Microsoft Azure Government, AWS GovCloud, bare metal, Red Hat OpenStack Platform, Red Hat Virtualization, and VMware vSphere.
Enhanced cluster life cycle management	Take advantage of features such as worker pool scaling with autoscale configuration, cluster Hibernate® (tech preview), and resume via cluster pools (tech preview) to help deploy clusters in less time. Group clusters into cluster sets to more clearly define access controls.
Red Hat Ansible® Automation Platform integration	As part of the integration, supercharge your playbooks with straight-forward, security-focused, and Ansible-native access across your Kubernetes fleet powered by the robust multicluster management layer provided by Red Hat Multicluster Engine and Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management, with the <a href="#">stolostron.core Ansible Collection</a> . Invoke Ansible within Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management for cluster life cycle management using pre- and post-hooks.
Multicluster networking with Submariner	Get rich multicluster networking capabilities with Submariner for application components deployed across multiple clusters. Reduce the complexity of deploying application components and networking requirements across clusters.
Hosted control planes, tech preview (TP)	Host and provision containerized Red Hat OpenShift control planes at scale, which solves for cost, footprint, time to provision, and portability across cloud environments with strong separation of concerns between management and workloads.

Feature	Benefit
Central infrastructure management (CIM) for bare-metal deployments	Use a self-service model that allows infrastructure owners to provide developers access to bare-metal infrastructure resources to provision OpenShift clusters. Use the infrastructure environments allowing operators to readily maintain your bare metal host inventory.

### Policy-based governance, risk, and compliance

Apply a policy-based governance approach to automatically monitor and ensure desired best practices configuration state for controls related to security, resiliency, and software engineering so that these controls are operated to industry compliance standards or self-imposed corporate standards.

**Table 3. Features and benefits of policy-based governance, risk, and compliance**

Feature	Benefit
Out-of-the-box policy templates for security, resiliency, and configuration management	Use prebuilt policy templates to enforce policy on Kubernetes configuration (e.g., etcd encryption), identity and access management (IAM), certificate management, and deploy and configure operators such as Compliance Operator, Gatekeeper/Open Policy Agent (OPA), and Container Security Operator across your clusters. Implement policy-based governance via GitOps to meet internal and external standards using the open source <a href="#">policy collection repository</a> .
Governance and risk dashboard	Use the governance and risk dashboard to view and manage security risks and policy violations in all of your clusters and applications. Get details on violation history. Drill down into violation details by centrally accessing details from managed clusters from the Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management hub.
Customized policy violation views	Customize policies for various compliance standards, governance dashboard views, and views for most-affected controls for specific standards.
Open source extensible policy framework and policy collection repository	Take advantage of the collaborative upstream policy contributions, using the <a href="#">policy collection repository</a> .
Integration with Gatekeeper and Open Policy Agent (OPA)	Get a fully supported Gatekeeper and OPA operator that supports deployment of the Gatekeeper operator to your fleet using compliance policy. Initiate Gatekeeper controls across your fleet to enforce various OPA policies. Centrally view and drill down into violations for all your Gatekeeper and OPA policies.

Feature	Benefit
Integration with Kyverno PolicySets	Get enhanced admission control capabilities and mutating capabilities with Kyverno PolicySets. Generate and validate Kubernetes resources with the Kyverno integration using the Integration provided by PolicyGenerator (Kyverno is supported by the community)
Integration with OpenShift Compliance Operator	Deploy OpenShift Compliance Operator at scale across your fleet, using Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management to enforce various security profiles for compliance standards such as the E8 Essential scan. Centrally view and drill down into violations for all of these security profiles.
Ansible Automation Platform integration	Use Ansible Automation Platform integration with Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management to automate remediation of noncompliant conditions and gather audit information about the clusters for analysis to promote proactive measures against policy violations detected by Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management.
Deploy Red Hat Advanced Cluster SecurityCentral via governance, risk, and compliance (GRC) policy (TP)	Get a consolidated experience by using Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management console to deploy Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security (StackRox) Central server consistently across clusters by creating a single policy through a user-friendly interface.
Policy Generator	Allow policies to be auto-generated and deployed via OpenShift GitOps from existing Kubernetes configuration, Gatekeeper, and Kyverno policies.
Stronger security and edge scalability using templated policies	Secure delivery and enforcement of content from the Hub to managed clusters using templated policies and its underlying encryption (from secret and protect functions).
More efficient policy management through PolicySets	Group policies for specific purposes (e.g., OpenShiftPlus deployment, ACM Hardening, managed cluster-hardening, grouping Gatekeeper policies, PCIStoreFront, HIPAA backend, etc.). This ensures an enhanced user-friendly experience of organizing, managing, and enforcing policies or policy sets for clusters at scale. Preconfigured PolicySets are available via GitOps as a starting point to use this feature.

### Advanced application life cycle management

Use open standards and deploy applications using placement rules that are integrated into existing CI/CD pipelines and governance controls.

**Table 4. Features and benefits of advanced application life cycle management**

Feature	Benefit
Application topology view	Get wider visibility of the application topology and readily view the health of service endpoints and pods with all the connected dependencies like image versions, associated placement rules, Kubernetes resources, and ConfigMaps, no matter if your application was created within Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management, Red Hat OpenShift, or Flux.
Channels and subscriptions	Automatically deploy applications to specific clusters by subscribing to different workload (resource) channels such as GitHub, Helm repository, and ObjectStore types.
Placement rules	Rapidly deploy workloads across your fleet, or only to specific clusters, on the basis of placement rule definitions and time windows to control when and where your applications are being deployed.
Ansible Automation Platform integration	Automate everything outside of Kubernetes with your application deployments through pre- and post-hook Ansible job templates and workflows. For example, automate and configure networking, databases, load balancers, and firewalls with Ansible Automation Platform integration.
Application builder	Intuitive application creation experience using a form-based input with contextual help to guide you in defining your application components without dealing directly with YAML.
OpenShift GitOps/Argo CD integration	Use Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management to allow OpenShift GitOps/Argo CD to automatically deliver content as clusters come online or get imported. Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management policies work in tandem with Argo CD to make sure compliance and configuration are managed and maintained at scale for tighter CI/CD alignment. View and troubleshoot applications deployed by Argo CD in the Advanced Cluster Management application topology view. Create application set objects for your clusters that are registered within Argo, directly from Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management console.

### Edge management at scale

With single-node OpenShift clusters and Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management, continuously scale while enabling availability in high-latency, low-bandwidth edge use cases.

**Table 5. Features and benefits of edge management at scale**

Feature	Benefit
Enhanced scalability	The number of single-node OpenShift clusters managed by a single Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management hub is 3,500. Additionally, the IPV6 dual stack support simplifies the management of a scaled out edge architecture. These features ensure scalability in low-bandwidth, high-latency connections and disconnected sites.
Zero-touch provisioning	Use Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management with assisted installer on-premise and topology aware lifecycle manager for high-scale cluster deployment serving telco and edge scenarios.
Single-node OpenShift management	Get full management capabilities for your single-node OpenShift clusters essential for your edge use cases.
Hub-side policy templating	Reduce the number of policies for high-scale management scenarios by allowing them to refer to data from resources on the hub. Topology aware lifecycle manager uses Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management policies to perform changes on the target clusters.

## Business continuity

Use Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management along with the broader Red Hat portfolio to ensure the applications and stateful applications your business relies on are always up and running.

**Table 6. Features and benefits of business continuity**

Feature	Benefit
Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management Hub backup and restore	Backup your hub configuration and restore it in a different hub cluster, using a backup solution based on OpenShift API for Data Protection (OADP). This ensures the management configuration is not lost and the continuity of business is maintained while applications continue to operate across the fleet.
<a href="#">Red Hat OpenShift Data Foundation for disaster recovery (DR)</a> MetroDR GA, RegionalDR (TP)	Provide a robust multisite, multicluster disaster recovery (DR) strategy for your stateful applications using OpenShift Data Foundation and Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management. OpenShift Data Foundation ensures your application data volumes and persistent volumes (PVs) are consistently and frequently replicated. DR operators that are set up with Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management can automate the DR failover and failback processes asynchronously with RegionalDR for minimal recovery point objective (RPO) or synchronously with MetroDR to achieve zero RPO.
PV replication using volSync	Ensure resilience for the stateful applications your business relies on by providing a planned application migration strategy across your clusters. You can also use volSync to create your own DR solution when working with alternative vendors' storage or heterogeneous storage products.

## Technical specifications

### Hub cluster

- ▶ Operator-based installation
- ▶ Available on OperatorHub.io
- ▶ Requires Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform, 4.10 and above

### Managed clusters

- ▶ Full life cycle management: any version of Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform 4.8 and above:
  - ▶ Red Hat OpenShift on AWS, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud Platform, Microsoft Azure Government, AWS GovCloud, VMware vSphere, Red Hat OpenStack Platform, Red Hat Virtualization, and bare metal
- ▶ Import and manage:
  - ▶ Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform 3.11



- ▶ [Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Power](#)
- ▶ [Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Z](#)
- ▶ [Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Cloud](#)
- ▶ [Red Hat OpenShift Service on AWS](#)
- ▶ [Microsoft Azure Red Hat OpenShift](#)
- ▶ [Red Hat OpenShift Dedicated](#)
- ▶ [OpenShift on Arm Developer](#)
- ▶ Limited life cycle support for managed Kubernetes clusters:
  - ▶ Amazon Elastic Kubernetes Service (Amazon EKS)
  - ▶ Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS)
  - ▶ IBM Cloud Kubernetes Service (IKS)
  - ▶ Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE)
- ▶ Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management provides observability, application life cycle management, policy-based management and security-focused network communication of imported clusters.
- ▶ Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management provides full cluster life cycle management (create, upgrade, destroy) with additional security compliance capability for Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform clusters.

### High availability

- ▶ Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform availability zone supported




### Resource requirements

- ▶ 3 masters, 3 infrastructure nodes, 6 vCPU, and 16GB RAM



### About Red Hat

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to deliver reliable and high-performing Linux, hybrid cloud, container, and Kubernetes technologies. Red Hat helps customers develop cloud-native applications, integrate existing and new IT applications, and automate and manage complex environments. [A trusted adviser to the Fortune 500](#), Red Hat provides [award-winning](#) support, training, and consulting services that bring the benefits of open innovation to any industry. Red Hat is a connective hub in a global network of enterprises, partners, and communities, helping organizations grow, transform, and prepare for the digital future.

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