Crystal in the Cloud: A Cloud Native Journey



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Crystal in the Cloud: A cloud-native journey

Abstract: As part of an initiative to build a testing framework and suite of tests that help end-users to check usage of cloud native practices we chose Crystal as the language for the project. In this talk we will give an overview of the project and the networking+telecommunication domain we are working in. We will review the implementation of the CNF Test Suite. We will also discuss how we see Crystal has good alignment with cloud native and K8s development, such speeding up development velocity, reducing risk, and life-cycle dependency management and why we chose it.



Today's journey (25 minutes)

- Intro to team & CNF Test Suite project
- Going with Crystal
- Wins and obstacles with crystalizing CNF Test Suite
- Get involved
- Q&A



About us



Vulk Coop

- Worker-owned software cooperative
- Since 2013 in Austin, Texas USA
- Austin Software Co-operative
 Meetup
- Twitter: @vulkcoop
- Email: howl@vulk.coop



About us



Taylor Carpenter

- CNF Working Group Co-Chair
- Member, Vulk Coop in Austin, TX
- 20+ years of devops + development experience
 - o Telecom, Finance, Healthcare
- Open Source advocate, using Linux since 1994
- Helping CNCF with CI/CD and Cloud Native Telecom initiatives since 2017
- Twitter: @ixx
- GitHub: @taylor



About us



Will Harris

- CNF Test Suite Maintainer
- Owner https://will.vc/ based in Miami, Fl
- 10+ years of experience building software at scale for Tech Giants (ex-LinkedIn), Venture backed startups, and Open Source Projects
- Helping CNCF with Cloud Native Telecom initiatives since 2019
- Twitter: @boujeehacker
- GitHub: @williscool





CNCF's Telecom Industry Initiatives



What is CNCF?

The Cloud Native Computing Foundation (aka CNCF) is an organization under Linux Foundation focused on making cloud native computing ubiquitous for everyone.





What is cloud native?

Set of practices, principles, and technology

- Loosely coupled
- Service discovery
- Microservices
- Coarse-grained packaging
- Designed for automation
- Declarative consumption model
- Immutable infrastructure



Cloud native benefits

Adopt cloud native technologies and practices to gain:

- Better resource efficiency to run the same number of services on fewer servers
- Improved resiliency and availability despite failures of individual CNFs, machines, or even data centers
- Higher development velocity with reduced risk
- Interoperability improvements to help with disaggregation and multi-vendor compatibility



Who are the end users?

Telecommunication and networking community

- Telecom service providers
- Network equipment manufacturers
- Application and platform developers



What's different about Telco software?

There is networking software everywhere

- Existing standards
- Long development cycle
- Low risk tolerance
- Works on my machine



CNF Test Suite

What is the CNF Test Suite?

An open source **test suite** for CNF developers and network operators to evaluate how well a network application, aka **Cloud Native Network Function (CNF)**, follows <u>cloud native principles</u> and best practices.



Features

- Is self-contained with minimal requirements and necessary configuration
- Provides suggestions on how to improve a network application to better follow cloud native best practices
- Offers CLI help documentation
- Supports self-hosted and protected image repositories
- Supports multiple K8s workload resources and services
- Gives fair assessment with a flexible scoring system
 - Tests fail gracefully
 - Tests are skipped when prerequisites are not met
- Facilitates **integration of test results** into upstream systems



Implementation overview

- The test framework and tests are written in <u>Crystal</u>
- CNF Test Suite leverages upstream tools where possible such as LitmusChaos, Chaos Mesh, kubectl, dockerd, and Helm linter for testing CNFs
- The upstream tool installation, configuration, and versioning has been made repeatable
- Support any vanilla upstream Kubernetes



Test categories

Categories help organize the tests for discussion. Tests may exist in more than one category. **Cloud native principles** and capabilities (such as resilience) may apply to more than one category.

- Installable and Upgradeable
- Configuration and Lifecycle
- Hardware support
- Microservice
- Compatible
- State
- Security
- Scaling
- Observability
- Resilience



Current tests

Installable	Configuration	Microservice	Compatibility	State	Security	Scalability	Observability	Resilience
Published Helm chart	Liveness	Startup time	N/A	Volume HostPath Not Found	Privileged mode	Increase capacity	Traffic to Prom- etheus	CNF back up when container killed/dies
Valid Helm chart	Rolling version upgrade/ downgrade	Image Size		No Local Volume Config- uration		Decrease capacity		LitmusChaos Pod Network Loss
Helm Deploy	No nodePort Secrets Used					ClusterAPI enabled		LitmusChaos Pod Network Latency
Install Script Helm	Static: Hardcoded IPs in source code							LitmusChaos Pod CPU Hog
Rolling Update	Immutable Config Maps							LitmusChaos Disk Fill LitmusChaos Pod Delete

Contributors



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@michaels pedersen



@petorre



@electro



@sishbi



@clementnuss



@uditgaurav



@saksham gurbhele





Going with Crystal -Why we chose Crystal over other languages



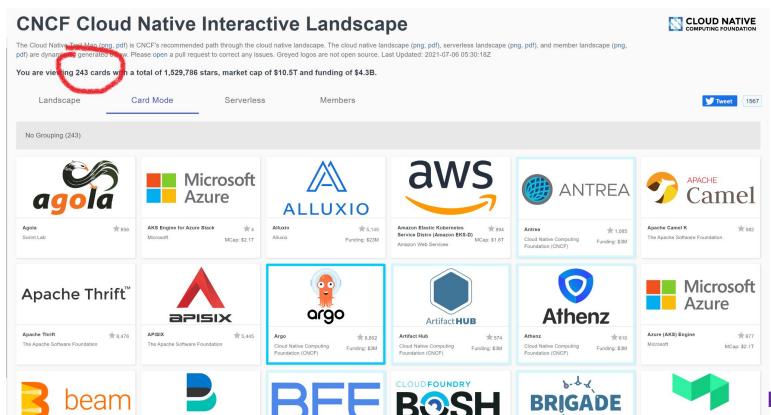
What are our language needs?

Why use Crystal in the infrastructure space?

- Compiled = Binary distribution
- Wiring JSON APIs together
- Wiring CLI output together



Default / common language choices in CNCF + K8s



beats

grouping=no&language=Go

landscape.cncf.io

Buildkite

Go vs Crystal error messaging. (Go version)

Here are the logs I'm getting. It appears to be an issue with the request being passed down to the interceptor.

```
{"level":"info", "caller":"logging/config.go:100", "msg": "Successfully created the logger.", "knative.dev/jsonconfig":
{"level":"info", "caller": "logging/config.go:101", "msg": "Logging level set to info"}
{"level":"info","caller":"logging/config.go:69","msg":"Fetch GitHub commit ID from kodata failed: open /var/run/ko/
{"level":"info","logger":"eventlistener","caller":"logging/logging.go:46","msg":"Starting the Configuration eventli
{"level":"info", "logger": "eventlistener", "caller": "eventlistenersink/main.go:71", "msg": "EventListener pod started",
{"level":"info","logger":"eventlistener","caller":"eventlistenersink/main.go:97","msg":"Listen and serve on port 80
panic: runtime error: invalid memory address or nil pointer dereference
[signal SIGSEGV: segmentation violation code=0x1 addr=0x0 pc=0x128e438]
goroutine 35 [running]:
github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/interceptors/github.(*Interceptor).ExecuteTrigger(0xc00031e360, 0xc00047a300, 0x0,
        /workspace/go/src/github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/interceptors/github/github.go:56 +0x3c8
github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink.Sink.executeInterceptors(0x18685c0, 0xc00009e120, 0x180dc20, 0xc0005a4160, 0x
        /workspace/go/src/github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink/sink.go:179 +0x171
github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink.Sink.processTrigger(0x18685c0, 0xc00009e120, 0x180dc20, 0xc0005a4160, 0x7f904
        /workspace/go/src/github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink/sink.go:129 +0x1f9
github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink.Sink.HandleEvent.func1(0x18685c0, 0xc00009e120, 0x180dc20, 0xc00005a4160, 0x7f
        /workspace/go/src/github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink/sink.go:93 +0xd2
created by github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink.Sink.HandleEvent
        /workspace/go/src/github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink/sink.go:92 +0x79d
```



Go vs Crystal error messaging. (Go version)

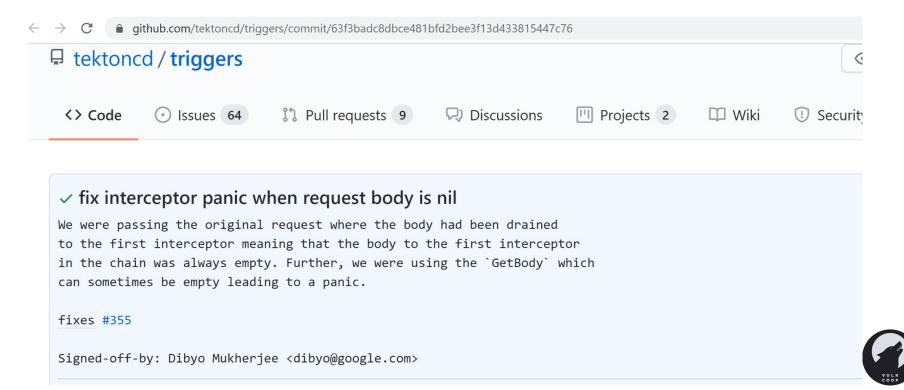
Here are the logs I'm getting. It appears to be an issue with the request being passed down to the interceptor.

```
{"level":"info", "caller": "logging/config.go:100", "msg": "Successfully created the logger.", "knative.dev/jsonconfig":
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{"level":"info", "caller": "logging/config.go:69", "msg": "Fetch GitHub commit ID from kodata failed: open /var/run/ko/
{"level":"info","logger":"eventlistener","caller":"logging/logging.go:46","msg":"Starting the Configuration eventli
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{"level":"info","logger":"eventlistener","caller":"eventlistenersink/main.go:97","msg":"Listen and serve on port 80
panic: runtime error: invalid memory address or nil pointer dereference
[signal SIGSEGV: segmentation violation code=0x1 addr=0x0 pc=0x128e438]
goroutine 35 [running]:
github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/interceptors/github.(*Interceptor).ExecuteTrigger(0xc00031e360, 0xc00047a300, 0x0,
        /workspace/go/src/github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/interceptors/github/github.go:56 +0x3c8
github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink.Sink.executeInterceptors(0x18685c0, 0xc00009e120, 0x180dc20, 0xc0005a4160, 0x
        /workspace/go/src/github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink/sink.go:179 +0x171
github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink.Sink.processTrigger(0x18685c0, 0xc00009e120, 0x180dc20, 0xc0005a4160, 0x7f904
        /workspace/go/src/github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink/sink.go:129 +0x1f9
github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink.Sink.HandleEvent.func1(0x18685c0, 0xc00009e120, 0x180dc20, 0xc00005a4160, 0x7f
        /workspace/go/src/github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink/sink.go:93 +0xd2
created by github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink.Sink.HandleEvent
        /workspace/go/src/github.com/tektoncd/triggers/pkg/sink/sink.go:92 +0x79d
```



Actual problem:

it's JSON... tektoncd/triggers#63f3badc



Documentation on unhelpful error message

"Invalid memory address or nil pointer derefer

Description

"Invalid memory address or nil pointer dereference" error

Cause

V

V

^

^

There are a number of reasons, most commonly, an API may have been configured incommonly.



Task management (Go)

https://taskfile.dev

```
Getting started
Create a file called Taskfile.yml in the root of your project. The cmds attribute should contain the
commands of a task. The example below allows compiling a Go app and uses Minify to concat and minify
multiple CSS files into a single one.
   version: '3'
   tasks:
     build:
       cmds:
         - go build -v -i main.go
     assets:
       cmds:
         - minify -o public/style.css src/css
Running the tasks is as simple as running:
   task assets build
```



```
version: '3'
  tasks:
    main-task:
      cmds:
        - task: task-to-be-called
        - task: another-task
        - echo "Both done"
    task-to-be-called:
      cmds:
        - echo "Task to be called"
    another-task:
      cmds:
        - echo "Another task"
Overriding variables in the called task is as simple as informing vars attribute:
  version: '3'
  tasks:
    greet:
      vars:
        RECIPIENT: '{{default "World" .RECIPIENT}}'
      cmds:
        - echo "Hello, {{.RECIPIENT}}!"
```

greet-pessimistically:

- task: greet

vars: {RECIPIENT: "Cruel World"}

cmds:



Enter Crystal

Wins (and a few obstacles) with crystalizing CNF Test Suite



Choosing Crystal

Idioms are more human friendly

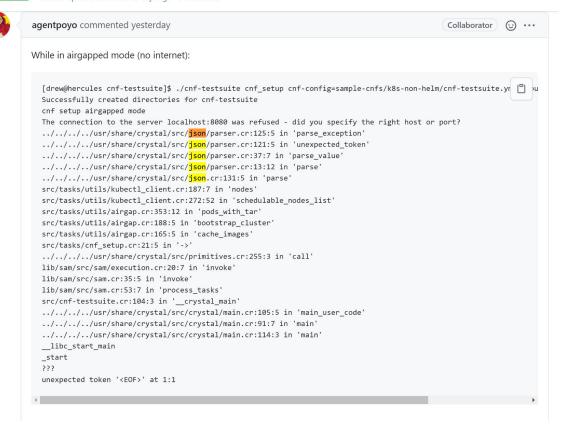
 You can "have your cake and eat it too" especially for those that are familiar with Ruby from working the DevOps community



Go vs Crystal error messaging. (Crystal version)



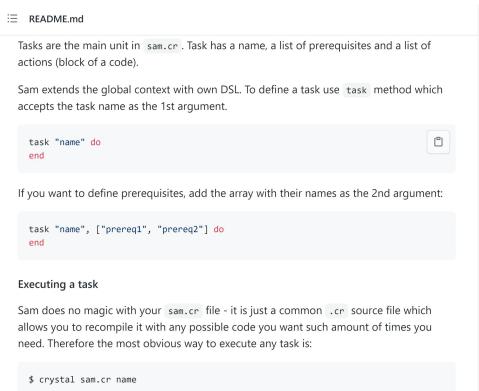
[Feature] cnf_setup should install cnfs that use a manifest directory in airgapped mode #808 wavell opened this issue 15 days ago · 6 comments





Task management (Crystal)

https://github.com/imdrasil/sam.cr





Package management (Crystal)

```
desc "The CNF Test Suite program enables interoperability of CNFs from multiple vendors running on top of Kubernetes supplied by differ
27
                task "workload", ["automatic cnf install", "ensure cnf installed", "configuration file setup", "compatibility", "state", "security", "secu
28
                     VERBOSE LOGGING.info "workload" if check verbose(args)
29
                     total = CNFManager::Points.total points("workload")
                     if total > 0
31
                            stdout success "Final workload score: #{total} of #{CNFManager::Points.total max points("workload")}"
                     else
34
                            stdout failure "Final workload score: #{total} of #{CNFManager::Points.total max points("workload")}"
                      end
                     if CNFManager::Points.failed required tasks.size > 0
                            stdout failure "Test Suite failed!"
38
                            stdout failure "Failed required tasks: #{CNFManager::Points.failed required tasks.inspect}"
40
                      end
                      stdout info "CNFManager::Points::Results.have been saved to #{CNFManager::Points::Results.file}".colorize(:green)
41
                end
```



Successes

57 stars and counting on GitHub

https://github.com/cncf/cnf-testsuite

Crystal helped bigtime

- Leverage Ruby experience
- Crystal is better at doing DSL because of Ruby heritage



CNF Test Suite in action

- https://asciinema.org/a/DUI1Xg
 A45N4OJ8sKZQ2hinCfn
- Example CNF based on <u>CoreDNS</u> (a CNCF graduated project)
 - Modified to demonstrate passed, skipped and failed test results
- Run Workload Tests
 - Duration: 5-6 minutes

```
✓ PASSED: No privileged containers <a>a</a>
  PASSED: Replicas increased to 3 🍓 🗾
  PASSED: Replicas decreased to 1 m
  PASSED: Helm liveness probe found #-
  ecret Volumes or Container secretKeyRefs found for resource: {kind: "Deployment", name: "coredns-coredns"}
 address this issue please see the USAGE.md documentation
 PASSED: Helm Chart exported chart Lint Passed # 7
FAILED: Published Helm Chart Not Found
KIPPED: Helm Deploy
  PASSED: Image size is good 🐎 🐺 😘
  PASSED: CNF had a reasonable startup time &
  PASSED: pod network latency chaos test passed X 💀 🚵
  PASSED: Application pod is healthy after high CPU consumption 📦 🗆 😿 🗸
  PASSED: Replicas available match desired count after container kill test 🔧 💀 👶
```

Successes

Accessible code base

https://github.com/cncf/cnf-testsuite/blob/main/src/cnf-testsuite.cr

Better developer experience

- https://github.com/imdrasil/sam.cr
 https://taskfile.dev/#/usage?id=getting-started
- https://nicedoc.io/oxequa/realize#user-content-quickstart

Shorter onboarding time for contributors

 An end-user went from reporting an issue to being a contributor and created their first PR in under 2 weeks



Multi-platform support

Support all major operating systems

- Linux
- Windows(wsl)
- MacOS (from source)



Experience w/ upgrading process

Upgrading was (mostly) a breeze

https://github.com/cncf/cnf-testsuite/pull/325

```
# Download and install Crystal
                                                                                                      # Download and install Crystal
               - sudo apt update && sudo apt install -y libevent-dev
                                                                                                      - sudo apt update && sudo apt install -y libevent-dev
33 -
               - wget https://github.com/crystal-
                                                                                      33 +
                                                                                                      - wget https://github.com/crystal-
    lang/crystal/releases/download/0.33.0/crystal-0.33.0-1-linux-x86 64.tar.gz
                                                                                           lang/crystal/releases/download/0.35.1/crystal-0.35.1-1-linux-x86 64.tar.gz
                                                                                       34
34
               - tar -xvf crvstal-*.tar.gz
                                                                                                      - tar -xvf crvstal-*.tar.gz
               - export PATH=$(pwd)/crystal-0.33.0-1/bin:$PATH
                                                                                                      - export PATH=$(pwd)/crystal-0.35.1-1/bin:$PATH
               - crystal version
                                                                                                      - crystal version
               # Download and install kubectl
                                                                                                      # Download and install kubectl
38
                                                                                       38
               - curl -LO https://storage.googleapis.com/kubernetes-
                                                                                                      - curl -LO https://storage.googleapis.com/kubernetes-
     release/release/$(curl -s https://storage.googleapis.com/kubernetes-
                                                                                            release/release/$(curl -s https://storage.googleapis.com/kubernetes-
     release/release/stable.txt)/bin/linux/amd64/kubectl && chmod +x kubectl &&
                                                                                            release/release/stable.txt)/bin/linux/amd64/kubectl && chmod +x kubectl &&
     sudo mv kubectl /usr/local/bin/
                                                                                            sudo mv kubectl /usr/local/bin/
    @@ -43,6 +43,6 @@ jobs:
             script:
                                                                                                    script:
               - shards install
                                                                                                      - shards install
               - crystal spec -v || travis terminate 1;
                                                                                                      - crystal spec -v || travis terminate 1;
                                                                                       46 +

    docker pull crystallang/crystal:0.32.1-alpine

                                                                                                      - docker pull crystallang/crystal:0.35.1-alpine
               - docker run --rm -it -v $PWD:/workspace -w /workspace
                                                                                                      - docker run --rm -it -v $PWD:/workspace -w /workspace
     crystallang/crystal:0.32.1-alpine crystal build src/cnf-conformance.cr --
                                                                                            crystallang/crystal:0.35.1-alpine crystal build src/cnf-conformance.cr --
     release --static --link-flags "-lxml2 -llzma"
                                                                                            release --static --link-flags "-lxml2 -llzma"
```



Warts and things we would like to see in the future

Not all fun and games

- Static types and JSON
- unless vs if in Crystal

Future

- Better Arm architecture support?
- gRPC in Crystal?
- Crystal protobufs?



Crystal dev help wanted

- Refactor code based on Crystal best practices
- Wrap upstream tools
- Help with static types and JSON



Get involved!



Ready to get started?

How you can get involved with the CNF Test Suite:

- Watch, star and/or fork the CNF Test Suite <u>GitHub repo</u>
- Documentation updates
- Suggest enhancements
- Report bugs
- Request/add new tests
- Request/add CNFs to be validated



Join the conversation

CNF Test Suite Contributor Meeting

- Thursdays at 14:15 15:00 UTC
- CNF Test Suite <u>Meeting Details</u>
- Mailing List: https://lists.cncf.io/g/cnf-test-suite

CNCF Slack Channels

- slack.cncf.io
 - #cnf-testsuite-dev
 - #cnf-testbed-dev
 - #cnf-wg

Connect with Vulk Coop

Stay connected

- Contact: https://vulk.coop/contact/
- Email: <u>howl@vulk.coop</u>
- Twitter: @vulkcoop

Learn more about software cooperatives

- RSVP to Vulk Coop's monthly meetup
 - https://www.meetup.com/Austin-Software-Co-operatives



Contact us



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Q&A Discussion Feedback



Q&A



Thank You!