

## Twitter Thread by [Daniele Polencic](#)

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### THREAD

Nginx has a service mesh too. Is it any good?

Let's find out.



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Most service meshes use Envoy as a proxy and for good reasons:

1. It's fully open-source
2. It can be customised on-the-fly via an API
3. It can be extended



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Why not Nginx or HAProxy or `<insert proxy here>` as a proxy? Well, you could. But if you want to expose metrics (num of reqs, latency, etc.) you have to subscribe to the enterprise version.

2/

Is there a service mesh without Envoy? Of course!

The best example is [@Linkerd](#) that uses a custom proxy written in Rust.

Linkerd is smaller and more focussed but it is also slower to add features.

And now there's a new entry: [@nginx](#)

3/

But isn't Nginx one of those products not fully open-source proxies?

Yes it is, but they made an exception.

When you run the Nginx Service Mesh you can use Nginx Plus (the paid product) as a proxy for free.

Great isn't it?

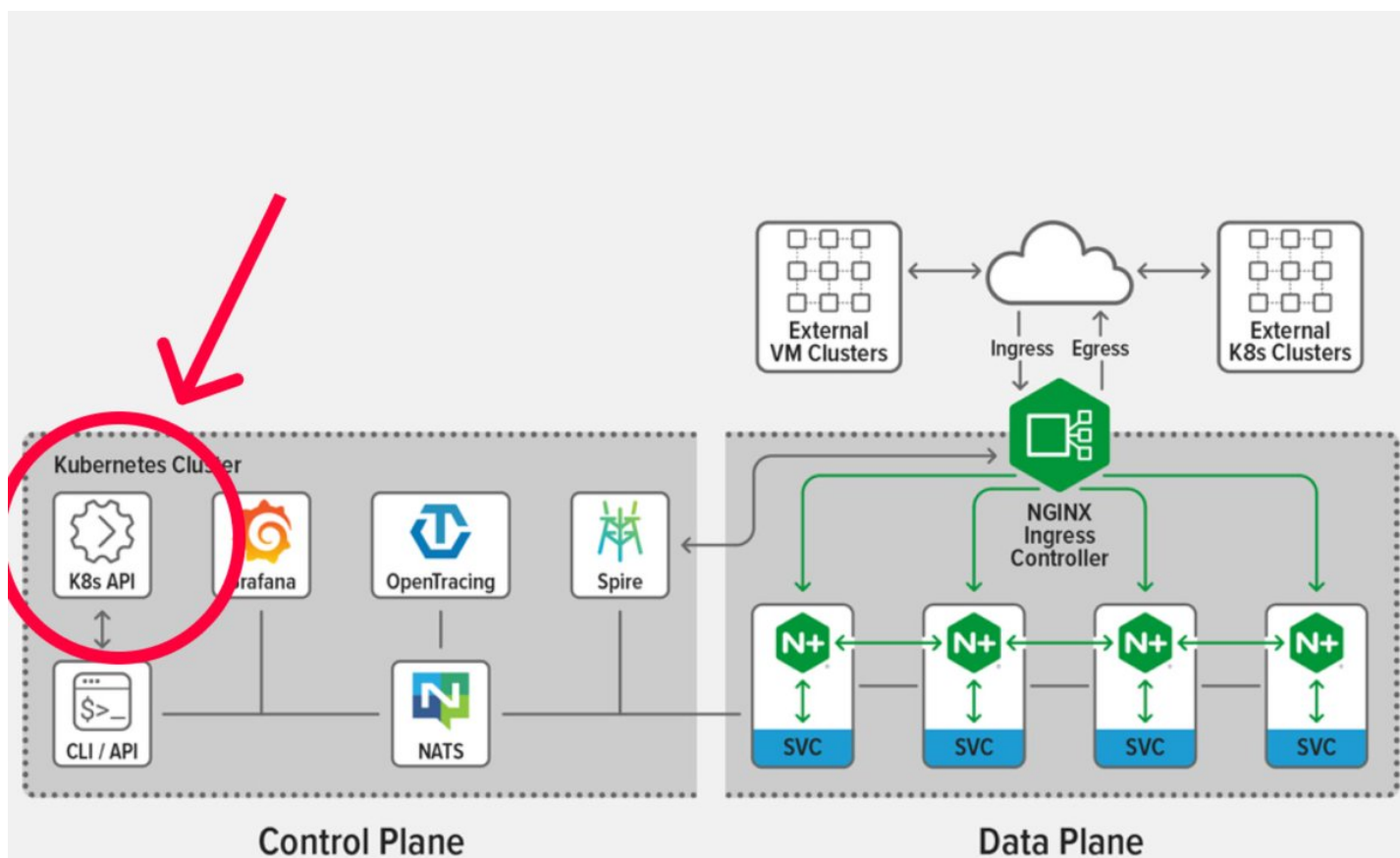
4/

How does the meshwork?

There are four main components:

- The API
- SPIRE (cert authority)
- NATS (message broker)
- Nginx Plus as a proxy

Grafana, Prometheus and Zipkin are automatically installed too.



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This is where you submit requests such as "send 10% of the traffic to service A and 90% to B" and distribute the instructions to the proxies.

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Ok, but how do you run it?

You can find my step-by-step instructions on how to get the mesh running locally on minikube.

<https://t.co/xlISn2Uy1e>

If you install the bookshop demo apps, you can inspect the mesh metrics in grafana, Prometheus, and jaeger.


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Now the real question, is it good?

Short answer: I don't know. More testing is required.

However, I collected some pros and cons.

Let's start with the "not so good" parts.



NGINX  
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NGINX Service Mesh/ Setup

Setup

Prepare your Kubernetes platform for use with NGINX

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Supported Platforms

Find out which Kubernetes platforms are supported for use with NGINX Service Mesh.

Azure Kubernetes Service

Learn how to set up Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) for use with NGINX Service Mesh.

Kubeadm

Learn how to set up Kubeadm for use with NGINX Service Mesh.

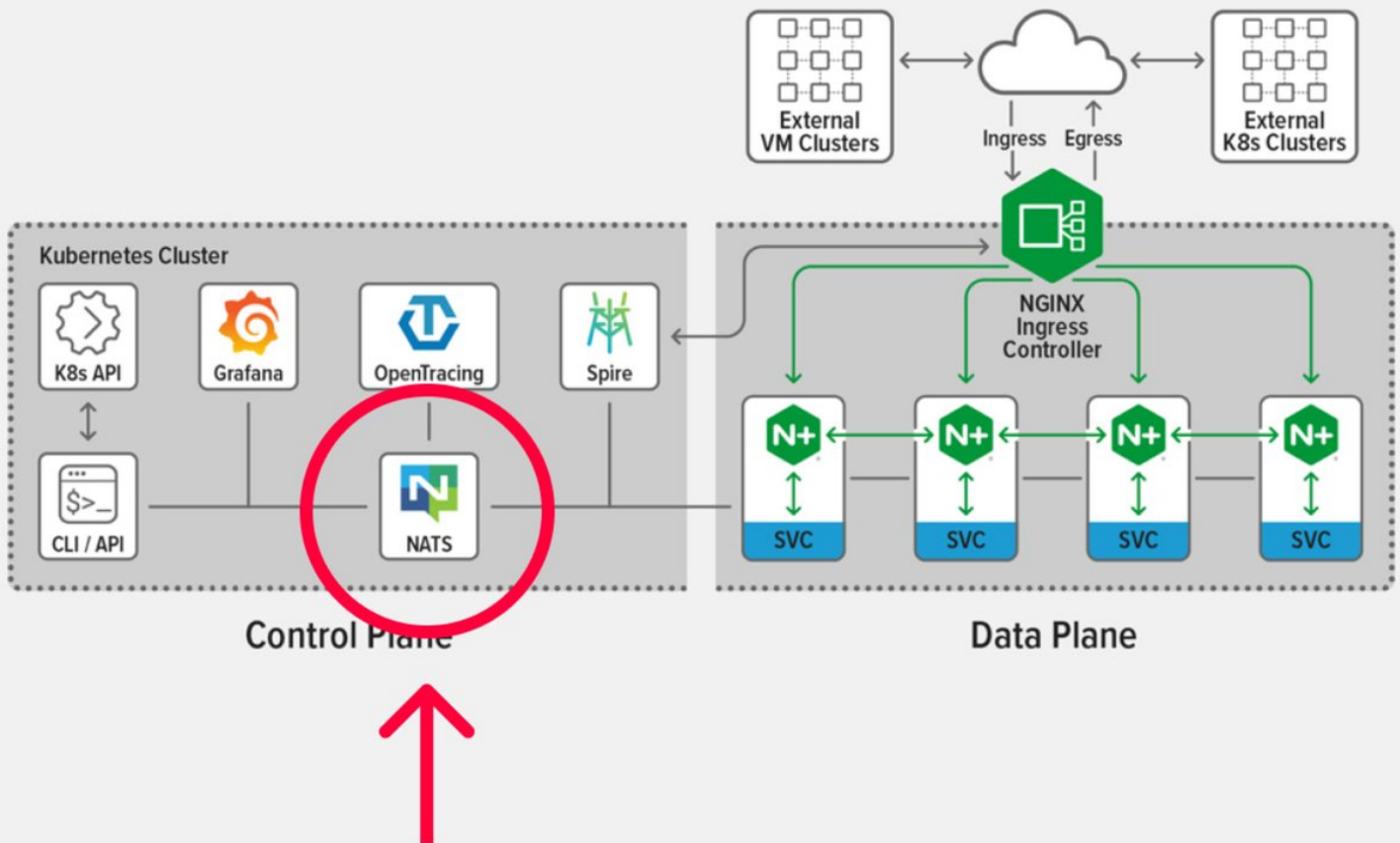
Kubespray

Learn how to set up Kubespray for use with NGINX Service Mesh.

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The documentation is lacking. The docs are disconnected and hard to navigate. Docs are missing such as a deep dive in the technical choice and architecture.

And now the PROs.



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NSM is the first mesh that I've encountered that uses a message bus instead of the gRPC protocol. This is an interesting choice. I wonder what advantages it has. More reliable? Quicker? Nonetheless, an interesting choice.

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Here are some links that might be useful:

- <https://t.co/OYwNPabcea>
- <https://t.co/Pv93RTtpkh>
- <https://t.co/xlISn2Uy1e>

9/

How does Nginx Service Mesh compare with the other meshes?

F5 reached us [@Learnk8s](#) to help you answer that question.

You can find the comparison here <https://t.co/o3mSjdQica>

10/

That's it!

Did you like this thread?

You might want to check out my mega thread on Kubernetes → <https://t.co/ru6oWe5KKn>

## MEGATHREAD

Learn Kubernetes one Twitter thread at the time!

Below you can find a collection of threads about Kubernetes and Kubernetes-related tech!

I regularly add more, so you can follow me or [@learnk8s](#) for more updates! [pic.twitter.com/0ingxHn9vx](https://pic.twitter.com/0ingxHn9vx)

— Daniele Polencic (@danielepolencic) [August 26, 2020](#)