

SNAP



SHOT

MAY

2023

This month snapshot

PROVISION- ING CLOUD RESOURCES

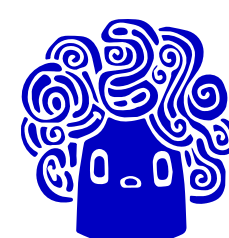
Crossplane (the project) has matured fast and is ready for its prime time. The Open Source project is a safe bet today. The company behind the project (Upbound) had created amazing momentum bringing collaborations from large companies in the Cloud-Native space to contribute back. The future looks bright for Crossplane (the project), but what about the company? Monetizing an Open Source project is hard, but Upbound is betting on a managed service around the Open Source project and establishing partnerships with other software and service providers.

KubeCon Europe was a great chance to see how vibrant the Cloud-Native space is. In this monthly report, I wanted to highlight a company and a project close to my heart: Crossplane and Upbound, which were very active at this year's conference.

I've been contributing where I can to the Crossplane project for a while and interacting with Upbound

engineers, Crossplane maintainers, and some of the companies associated with the project.

I know the project well, I've been following Upbound for a while now, so I thought about using my personal experience, the data that I've collected during KubeCon, and some external feedback to shape up these reports.



PROBLEM SPACE

Creating Cloud-Native applications require teams to provision cloud resources such as databases, clusters, networks, VMs, brokers, buckets, etc.

Creating and configuring these cloud resources is challenging and Cloud Provider specific. Teams have learned to use tools like HashiCorp's Terraform to describe and provision complex infrastructure across cloud providers. Terraform uses its own language (HCL) to describe what needs to be provisioned then the operator can run a terraform command to apply these configurations to your Cloud Provider of choice. This approach (infrastructure as code) is well-known and widely used in the industry.

THE OPEN SOURCE PROJECT

The Crossplane logo is a teal-colored badge with a scalloped border. It contains a small icon of a blue and white striped umbrella on the left and the word "Crossplane" in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font on the right.

Crossplane was created to make the process of defining and configuring infrastructure Kubernetes-native. What does this mean? Or why is this important? First, Crossplane allows users to define the infrastructure needed as Kubernetes resources.


It doesn't introduce a new language. If you are a Kubernetes user, using Crossplane feels natural. This also allows you to reuse all your Kubernetes tooling to manage and use Crossplane. No new tools are needed. For teams that are heavily invested in Kubernetes, Crossplane makes a lot of sense.

PRODUCT SPACE

After almost 3 years after Crossplane's inception (donated to the CNCF on June 25, 2020) into the Kubernetes space, I can say that the tool is solid, production-ready, and has support from a very healthy community. Recently VMware added support for Crossplane in their Kubernetes offering, Tanzu, which is a good sign of trust from third-party product providers. Upbound the company behind the project, offers Upbound, a Crossplane Managed Service. In other words, you offload the responsibility of running Crossplane itself to Upbound. Check their company's one pager released after KubeCon [here](#).

PREVIEW

This is just a preview, the full report includes:

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In the Platform Engineering on Kubernetes book, you can find hands-on examples of Cloud-Native technologies companies use to build their Internal Development Platforms. The book covers the most common challenges you will face when adopting Kubernetes and the tools from the Cloud-Native space.

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