

Getting Started (Kubernetes)

Container FortiOS 7.2.1



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FEEDBACK

Email: techdoc@fortinet.com



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Change Log

Date	Change Description
2024-07-17	Initial release.
2025-06-13	Updated Getting the container image on page 6 .

Introduction

Container FortiOS provides NGFW firewall features, including security policies, IPS inspection, application control, URL filtering, and antivirus in a container-deployed format.

It supports Linux Containers (LXC), Docker, and Kubernetes.

This guide provides information about the installation and configuration of Container FortiOS version 7.2.1, build 0255 on Kubernetes.

When Container FortiOS is deployed in a Kubernetes cluster, you can use [Configmap](#) and [Secrets](#) to manage its license and configuration.

Deploying Container FortiOS

This section provides an overview of the procedures for deployment of Container FortiOS.

As container environments vary widely, this document provides basic instructions for deployment to Kubernetes and does not provide in-depth information about configuration of Kubernetes itself.

The basic steps for deployment are as follows:

1. [Ensure that all prerequisites are met.](#)
2. [Get the container image.](#)
3. [Add the image to a container registry.](#)
4. [Create role bindings.](#)
5. [Deploy the license.](#)
6. [Deploy the container.](#)

Prerequisites

Before deploying Container FortiOS into a Kubernetes cluster, ensure that you have met the following requirements:

- A working Kubernetes cluster.
- Install Multus CNI if multiple network interfaces are needed.
See <https://github.com/k8snetworkplumbingwg/multus-cni>.
- Kubernetes `kubectl` command line tool installed.
See <https://kubernetes.io/docs/reference/kubectl/>.

Getting the container image

After purchasing a Container FortiOS license, submit a ticket through the [Customer Service & Support](#) site. The Technical Assistance center (TAC) team will then provide you with the appropriate image file.

For more information about submitting a ticket, see [Technical Tip: How to create a ticket for Fortinet TAC](#).

Typically, if your container engine is based on `docker` or `containerd`, download the Docker image which will have the following naming convention:

```
FOS_<CPU Arch>_<Container Type>-v<Major Version>-build<build number>-<Company>.tar.gz
```

For example, image `FOS_X64_DOCKER-v7-build0255-FORTINET.tar.gz` was built for Docker running on an 64 bit Intel CPU device. The major version is 7 and build number is 0255.

Add the image to a container registry

After you have download the container image, add it to your container registry.

Creating role bindings

Container FortiOS needs to read `ConfigMaps` and `Secrets` and watch for changes.

Give proper permissions to the service account running Container FortiOS with `RoleBindings`.

The following example `rolebindings.yaml` file shows the use of role bindings to allow the service account to get, watch, and list `ConfigMaps` and `Secrets`:

```
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: ClusterRole
metadata:
  namespace: default
  name: configmap-reader
rules:
  - apiGroups: [""]
    resources: ["configmaps"]
    verbs: ["get", "watch", "list"]
---

apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: RoleBinding
metadata:
  name: read-configmaps
  namespace: default
subjects:
  - kind: ServiceAccount
    name: default
    apiGroup: ""
roleRef:
  kind: ClusterRole
  name: configmap-reader
  apiGroup: ""
---

apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: ClusterRole
metadata:
  namespace: default
  name: secrets-reader
rules:
  - apiGroups: [""] # "" indicates the core API group
    resources: ["secrets"]
    verbs: ["get", "watch", "list"]
---
```

```
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: RoleBinding
metadata:
  name: read-secrets
  namespace: default
subjects:
- kind: ServiceAccount
  name: default
  apiGroup: ""
roleRef:
  kind: ClusterRole
  name: secrets-reader
  apiGroup: ""
```

In this example, the `RoleBinding` is applied for the `ServiceAccount` named `default`. Change this to an appropriate value for your system.

For more information about role binding, see <https://kubernetes.io/docs/reference/access-authn-authz/rbac/>.

To apply the role binding configuration, enter the following command:

```
kubectl apply -f rolebindings.yaml
```

Deploying a license

1. Use `ConfigMap` to deploy the Container FortiOS license file.

The below example `license-configmap.yaml` file shows this configuration:

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: ConfigMap
metadata:
  name: fos-license
  labels:
    app: fos
    category: license
data:
  license: |
    -----BEGIN FGT VM LICENSE-----
    QAAAAMWKpwAVtdp+7DxYWGkQUv5N05GWx292S+/gMhYGkK0b/prV3GRDA8umTdd3
    PhW40EGSupYYV2Lg2+bE6VGID33gQAAbR9yMHkcF6E3aCToGZ5i90DeGdvnGjfr
    VZ+6izjyg9h9Cg/T11+1BMZOAhkyKspod6WcEfQG/jhT0cCV8NXf9dbUKpo/3Rt2
    .....
    -----END FGT VM LICENSE-----
```

The labels `app: fos` and `category: license` are required.

2. Replace the license data with the full contents of your license file.
3. Deploy the license with the following command:

```
kubectl apply -f license-configmap.yaml
```

Deploying the container

1. Prepare a deployment YAML file.

The below `cfos.yaml` file provides an example:

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: fos-deployment
  labels:
    app: fos
spec:
  replicas: 1
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: fos
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: fos
    spec:
      containers:
        - name: fos
          image: <image_URL>
          securityContext:
            capabilities:
              add: ["NET_ADMIN"]
          ports:
            - name: isakmp
              containerPort: 500
              protocol: UDP
            - name: ipsec-nat-t
              containerPort: 4500
              protocol: UDP
          volumeMounts:
            - mountPath: /data
              name: data-volume
      volumes:
        - name: data-volume
          emptyDir: {}
```

2. Update the values according to the following guidelines:

- **Labels:** All resources used by Container FortiOS should be labeled `app: fos`.
- **Capabilities:** Container FortiOS requires `NET_ADMIN` capability added as it uses `iptables` rules.
- **Ports:** This example exposes ports `500` and `4500` for IPsec.
- **Volumes:** Container FortiOS needs a volume mounted to `/data/` as persistent storage for configurations and logs. In this example, a ramdisk is used to simplify the installation. When Container FortiOS boots, it imports configurations stored in the `ConfigMap` so configurations are not lost when the Container FortiOS pod is replaced.

3. Deploy Container FortiOS with the following command:

```
kubectl apply -f cfos.yaml
```

Troubleshooting

When Container FortiOS receives the `ConfigMap` object and applies the configuration, it generates logs. Use the `kubectl logs` command to view them.

For example, the following is a command to view the logs for a container with label `app=fos`.

```
kubectl logs --tail=200 -l app=fos
```

For more information, see <https://kubernetes.io/docs/reference/generated/kubectl/kubectl-commands#logs>.

Container FortiOS also supports `syslogd` for sending logs to an `syslogd` server, such as FortiAnalyzer.

Using Container FortiOS

This section provides an overview of the initial steps for connecting to and configuring the running Container FortiOS container.

Connecting to the Container FortiOS CLI

Container FortiOS provides access to the FortiOS shell for CLI usage as well as the underlying Linux shell.

The Container FortiOS CLI is based on the FortiOS CLI, but has fewer available options.

To connect to the running Container FortiOS container:

In the host shell, enter the following command:

```
kubectl exec --stdin --tty <container_name> -- /bin/cli
```

The initial username is `admin` with an empty password. Use `config system admin` to set a password.



To enter the Linux shell, use the following command:

```
sysctl sh
```

Deploying configurations to Kubernetes

In Kubernetes, configurations can be applied to Container FortiOS using a `ConfigMap`.

The two types of configuration are as follows:

- **Partial configuration:** A partial configuration is applied on top of a current configuration in Container FortiOS. A configuration can be split into multiple smaller configurations and applied separately.
- **Full configuration:** The active configuration will be replaced with the new configuration.

Deploying a partial configuration

The following example `ipsec-configmap.yml` file shows a partial configuration:

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: ConfigMap
metadata:
  name: foscfg-ipsec
  labels:
    app: fos
    category: config
```

```

data:
  type: partial
  config: |-
    config vpn certificate ca
      edit "ipsec-ca"
        set ca "-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
MIIDJDCCAgygAwIBAgIJAK6dHv+qKBjJMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBCwUAMBExDzANBgNV
BAMMBnRlc3RjYTAeFw0yMjAxMTMxODIxMThaFw0zMjAxMTEwODIxMThaMBExDzAN
BgNVBAMMBnRlc3RjYTCASiWdQYJKoZIhvcNAQEBBQADggEPADCCAQoCggEBAXE
ct+WmzZ8YT+rJEQKDGfgqiJu9kzNz+Na0smwPvFEOfc6XYHqy/li+CdyIGCtlQX
hDbABD7uQiVBObzO4VzPn3Ik7PMR+hBr0sULqOQ8SkGU/H/pgm5WjSO0oiiPoQon
LWDQXs294aF0EouNp0KfI9vXkAvzv57RUGeuPfr9tvoLyIggBB1nqWbK98GfMyX1K
sHB0mp0PCxq1S6hQK9pny3/wvsq3YxggpJAFpCABDXI97jkk9atMaIRjGErUZNsO
.....
.....
.....
-----END CERTIFICATE-----"
        next
      end
    config vpn certificate local
      edit "ipsec-cert"
        set password "{{ipsec-certs:ipsec-cert-pass}}"
        set private-key "{{ipsec-certs:ipsec-cert-key}}"
        set certificate "-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
MIIDYDCCAkigAwIBAgIQAx0NCLIRx9Q5lWcGmS2U+DANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQsFADAR
MQ8wDQYDVQQDDAZ0ZXN0Y2EwHhcNMjIwMTEzMTkxMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIy
WjAYMRYwFAYDVQDDA1pCHN1Yy1jbGllbnQyMlBIjANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAAOCC
AQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEAYXXh8OiuEf5Drh+df3FJm2f/ZKNvRONEQba/77cHVRT2pjOV
071lYQyelmg0JBedUM0SFEkmWkafyYE+KzYzse2r7NSX1bkFizW/TwrNk/VCuLMt
+HUgClrcmrPAdbDUZYyIKWKN4Fw1OyZz0YNA14NuM/gNE+fY1kaaaojxqfpneJCW
nYcfCTuNgADnyHjzXZMLulj+4Cy1OylKSKX7cAVt9pS2SwzGF4fGnlDKhfAtxzR
.....
.....
.....
-----END CERTIFICATE-----"
        next
      end
    config vpn ipsec phase1-interface
      edit "test-p1"
        set interface "eth0"
        set peertype any
        set proposal aes128-sha256 aes256-sha256 aes128gcm-prfsha256 aes256gcm-
prfsha384 chacha20poly1305-prfsha256
        set psksecret {{ipsec-psks:psk1}}
        set auto-negotiate disable
        next
      end
    config vpn ipsec phase2-interface
      edit "test-p2"
        set phase1name "test-p1"
        set proposal aes128-sha1 aes256-sha1 aes128-sha256 aes256-sha256 aes128gcm
aes256gcm chacha20poly1305
        set dhgrp 14 15 5
        set src-subnet 10.4.96.0 255.255.240.0
        set dst-subnet 10.0.4.0 255.255.255.0
        next

```

end

Configuration should be created with the following guidelines:

- Labels `app: fos` and `category: config` are required.
- `type: partial` indicates that this is a partial configuration.
- The `config` section holds the actual configuration data as a series of CLI commands.
- In the configuration, there are variables (for example, `{{ipsec-certs:ipsec-cert-pass}}` and `{{ipsec-certs:ipsec-cert-key}}`) that are references to the keys in Secrets. Kubernetes use Secrets to store sensitive data.

In this example, we save an IPSEC pre-shared key in a Secret called `ipsec-certs` with key `ipsec-cert-pass`. In the configuration we can use `{{ipsec-certs:ipsec-cert-pass}}` to refer it.

The format is `{{<Secret name>:<Key name>}}`.

The following example command creates this secret:

```
kubectl create secret generic ipsec-certs --from-literal=ipsec-cert-pass=12345678
```

For more information about Kubernetes Secrets, see <https://kubernetes.io/docs/concepts/configuration/secret/>.

Deploying a full configuration

Full configuration has the same format with partial configuration except `type` is `full` instead of `partial`.

The following is an example of the commands used to create a `ConfigMap` for a full configuration:

```
kubectl create configmap fos-config --from-file=config=<path to config file> --from-literal=type=full"
kubectl label configmap fos-config app=fos
kubectl label configmap fos-config category=config
```

Ensure the configuration file contains all required dependencies. For example, if a firewall policy references a web filter profile `block-category-11`, the web filter profile and all of its dependencies must be included in the configuration.

More information

Additional Container FortiOS documentation is available in the [Fortinet Documentation Library](#).

FortiOS documentation

Configuration and administration of Container FortiOS is very similar to FortiOS.

The following FortiOS documentation may be helpful:

- [FortiOS Administration Guide](#)
- [FortiOS CLI Reference](#)
- [FortiOS REST API Reference on FNDN](#)



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