

How to Manage Any Layer-7 Traffic in an Istio Service Mesh?

Huabing Zhao@Tencent Cloud, Yang Tang@Zhihu



Huabing Zhao

Software Engineer @ Tencent Cloud

 @zhaohuabing

 @zhaohuabing

 @zhaohuabing

 @zhaohuabing

 <https://zhaohuabing.com>



Agenda

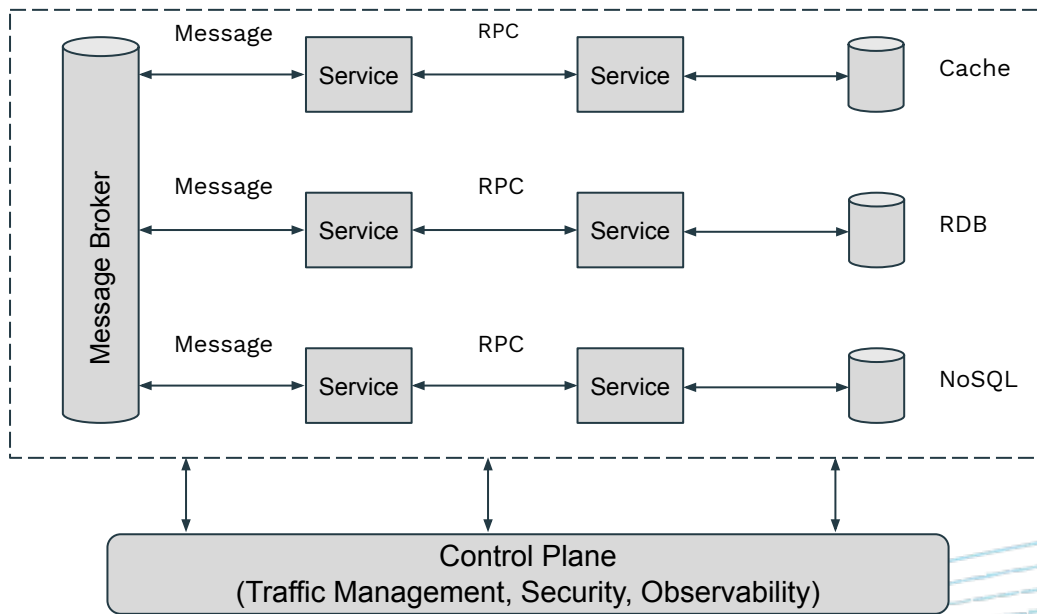
- ❑ The Status Quo of Istio Traffic Management
- ❑ Possible Ways to Extend Istio's Traffic Management Capability
- ❑ Aeraki - Manage Any Layer-7 Traffic in an Istio Service Mesh
- ❑ Demo - Thrift Traffic Splitting
- ❑ Aeraki Use Cases
 - ❑ Dev/Prod parity
 - ❑ More Security
 - ❑ Testing heterogeneous databases
 - ❑ Fault injection for other traffic



Protocols in a Typical Microservice Application

We need to manage multiple types of layer-7 traffic in a service mesh, not just HTTP and gRPC

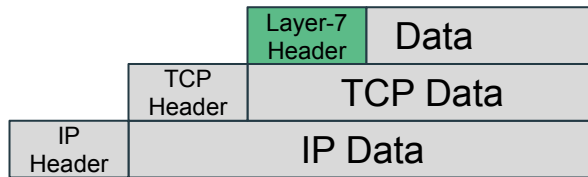
- **RPC:** HTTP, gRPC, Thrift, Dubbo, Proprietary RPC Protocol ...
- **Messaging:** Kafka, RabbitMQ ...
- **Cache:** Redis, Memcached ...
- **Database:** MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB ...
- **Other Layer-7 Protocols:** ...



What Do We Expect From a Service Mesh?

Layer-7 Traffic Management

- Routing based on layer-7 header
 - Load balancing at request level
 - HTTP host/header/url/method,
 - Thrift service name/method name
 - ...
- Fault Injection with application layer error codes
 - HTTP status code
 - Redis Get error
 - ...
- Observability with application layer metrics
 - HTTP status code
 - Thrift request latency
 - ...
- Application layer security
 - HTTP JWT Auth
 - Redis Auth
 - ...



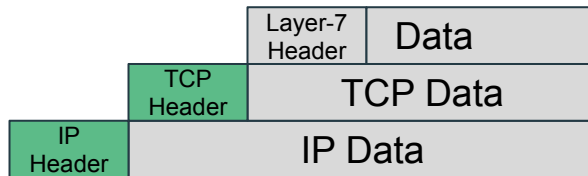
What Do We Get From Istio?

Traffic Management for HTTP/gRPC - all good

- We get all the capabilities we mentioned on the previous slide

Traffic Management for non-HTTP/gRPC - only layer-3 to layer-6

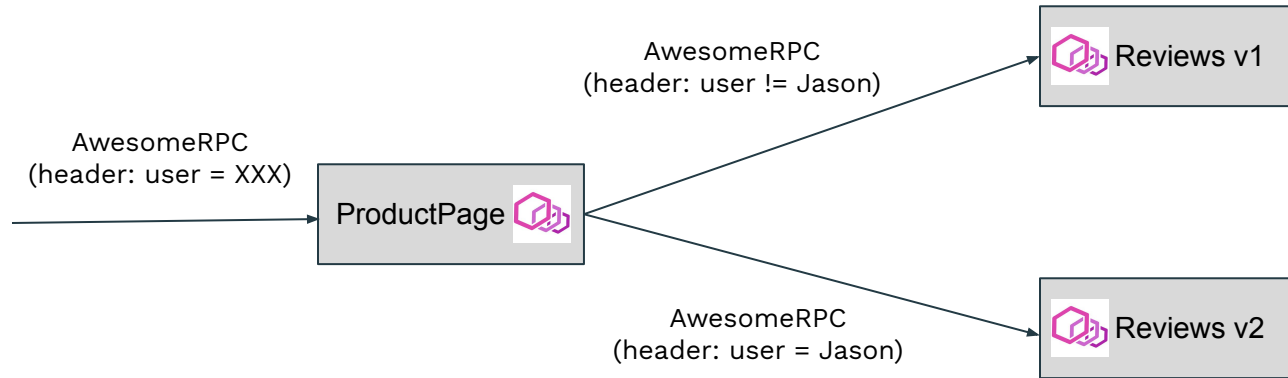
- Routing based on headers under layer-7
 - IP address
 - TCP Port
 - SNI
- Observability - only TCP metrics
 - TCP sent/received bytes
 - TCP opened/closed connections
- Security
 - Connection level authentication: mTLS
 - Connection level authorization: Identity/Source IP/ Dest Port
 - Request level auth is impossible



BookInfo Application - AwesomeRPC

Let's say that we're running a bookinfo application in an Istio service mesh, but the inter-services communication are done by AwesomeRPC, our own RPC protocol, instead of HTTP.

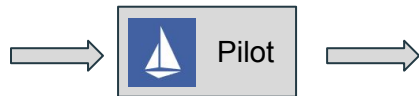
So, how could we achieve layer-7 traffic management for AwesomeRPC in Istio?



How to Manage AwesomeRPC Traffic in Istio?

Istio Config

```
apiVersion: networking.istio.io/v1alpha3
kind: VirtualService
metadata:
  name: reviews-route
spec:
  hosts:
  - reviews.prod.svc.cluster.local
  awesomeRPC:
  - name: "canary-route"
    match:
    - headers:
      user:
        exact: Jason
    route:
    - destination:
        host: reviews.prod.svc.cluster.local
        subset: v2
  - name: "default"
    route:
    - destination:
        host: reviews.prod.svc.cluster.local
        subset: v1
```

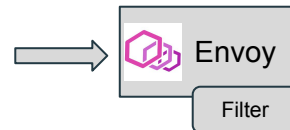


Code changes at the Pilot side:

- Add AwesomeRPC support in VirtualService API
- Generate xDS for Envoy

Envoy Config

```
{
  "virtual_hosts": [
    {
      "name": "reviews.default.svc.cluster.local:9080",
      "services": [
        "reviews.default.svc.cluster.local",
        "reviews"
      ],
      "routes": [
        {
          "name": "canary-route"
          "match": {
            "headers": [
              {
                "name": ":user",
                "exact_match": "Jason"
              }
            ]
          },
          "route": {
            "cluster": "outbound|9080||reviews.default.svc.cluster.local | v2",
          },
        },
        {
          "name": "default"
          "route": {
            "cluster": "outbound|9080||reviews.default.svc.cluster.local | v1",
          },
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```



AwesomeRPC Filter

- Decoding/Encoding
- Parsing header
- Routing
- Load balancing
- Circuit breaker
- Fault injection
- Stats
- ...

Pros:

- It's relatively easy to add support for a new protocol to the control plane, if envoy filter is already there

Cons:

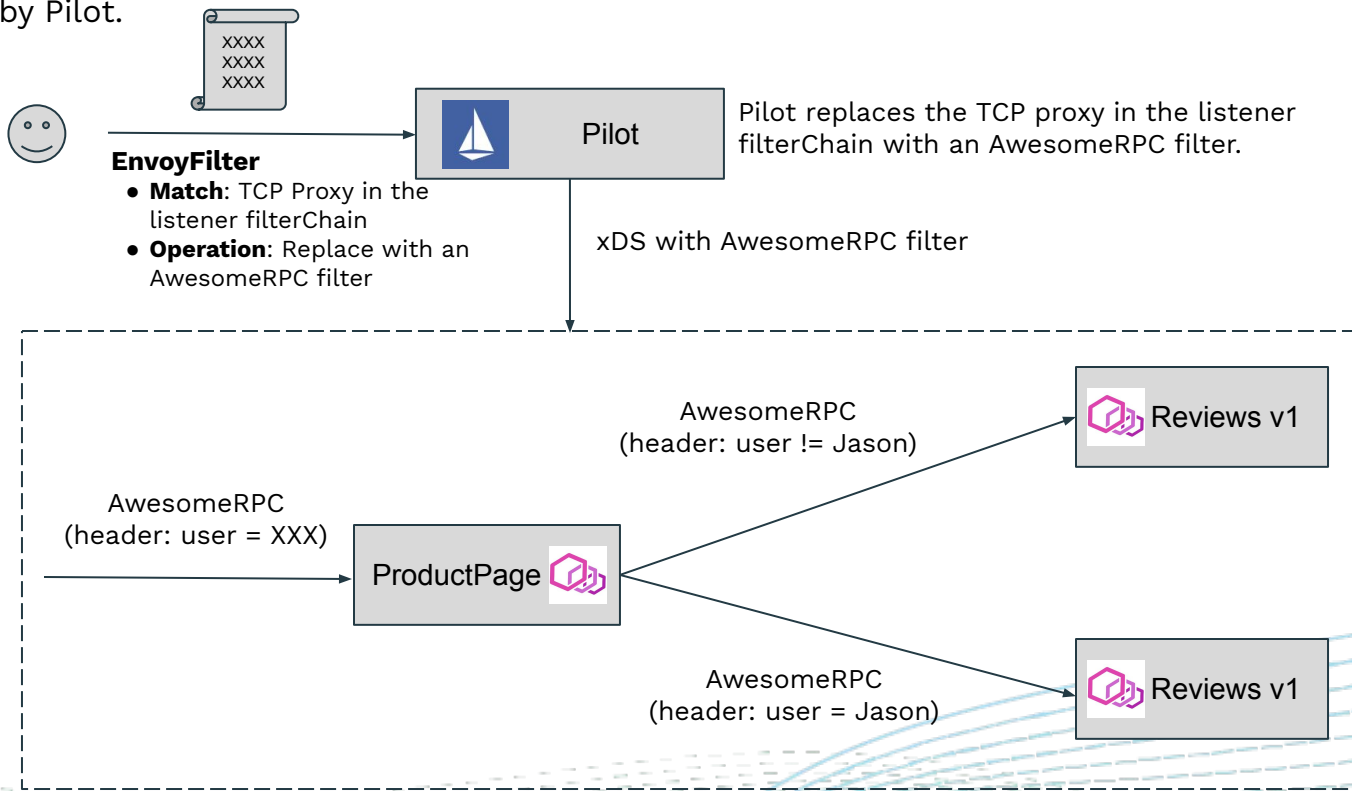
- You have to maintain a fork of Istio, which makes upgrade painful

#IstioCon



Manage AwesomeRPC Traffic in Istio With EnvoyFilter

EnvoyFilter is an Istio configuration CRD, by which we can apply a “patch” to the Envoy configuration generated by Pilot.



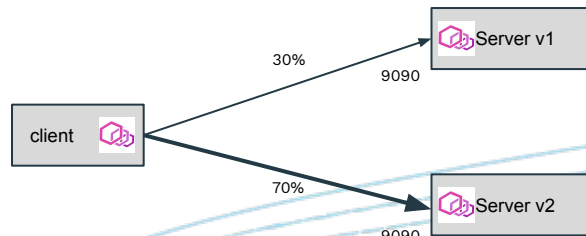
EnvoyFilter Example - Thrift Traffic Splitting

Replace TCP proxy in the outbound listener

```
apiVersion: networking.istio.io/v1alpha3
kind: EnvoyFilter
metadata:
  name: thrift-sample-server
spec:
  configPatches:
  - applyTo: NETWORK_FILTER
    match:
      listener:
        name: ${thrift-sample-server-vip}_9090
      filterChain:
        filter:
          name: "envoy.filters.network.tcp_proxy"
    patch:
      operation: REPLACE
      value:
        name: envoy.filters.network.thrift_proxy
        typed_config:
          "@type": type.googleapis.com/envoy.extensions.filters.network.thrift_proxy.v3.ThriftProxy
          stat_prefix: "outbound|9090||thrift-sample-server.thrift.svc.cluster.local"
          transport: AUTO_TRANSPORT
          protocol: AUTO_PROTOCOL
          thrift_filters:
            - name: envoy.filters.thrift.router
              route_config:
                routes:
                  - match:
                      # empty string matches any request method name
                      method_name: ""
                    route:
                      weighted_clusters:
                        clusters:
                          - name: "outbound|9090|v1|thrift-sample-server.thrift.svc.cluster.local"
                            weight: 30
                          - name: "outbound|9090|v2|thrift-sample-server.thrift.svc.cluster.local"
                            weight: 70
```

Replace TCP proxy in the inbound listener

```
applyTo: NETWORK_FILTER
match:
  listener:
    name: virtualInbound
  filterChain:
    destination_port: 9090
  filter:
    name: "envoy.filters.network.tcp_proxy"
patch:
  operation: REPLACE
  value:
    name: envoy.filters.network.thrift_proxy
    typed_config:
      "@type": type.googleapis.com/envoy.extensions.filters.network.thrift_proxy.v3.ThriftProxy
      stat_prefix: inbound|9090||
      transport: AUTO_TRANSPORT
      protocol: AUTO_PROTOCOL
      thrift_filters:
        - name: envoy.filters.thrift.router
          route_config:
            routes:
              - match:
                  # empty string matches any request method name
                  method_name: ""
                route:
                  cluster: inbound|9090||
```



EnvoyFilter is Powerful, But ...

It's very difficult if not possible to manually create and maintain these EnvoyFilters, especially in a large service mesh:

- It exposes low-level Envoy configurations to operation
- It depends on the structure/name convention of the generated xDS by Pilot
- It depends on some cluster-specific information such as service cluster IP
- We need to manually create tons of EnvoyFilter, one for each of the services

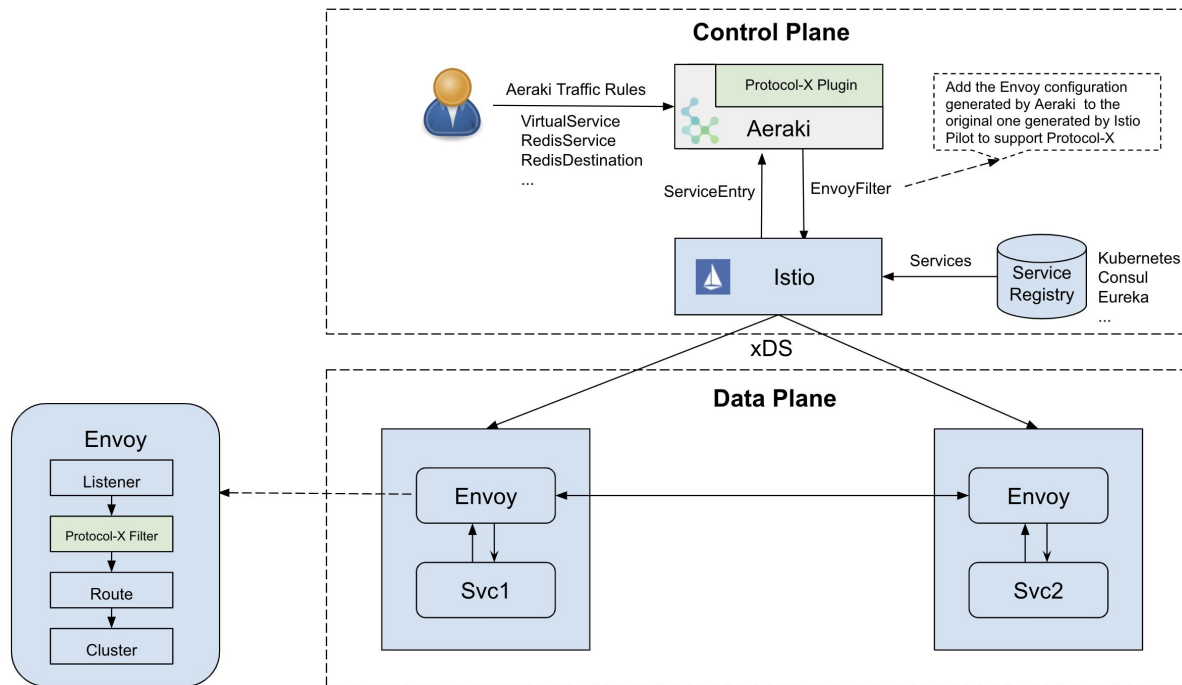
```
apiVersion: networking.istio.io/v1alpha3
kind: EnvoyFilter
metadata:
  name: thrift-sample-server
spec:
  configPatches:
    - applyTo: NETWORK_FILTER
      match:
        listener:
          name: ${thrift-sample-server-vip}_9090
          filterChain:
            filter:
              name: "envoy.filters.network.tcp_proxy"
      patch:
        operation: REPLACE
        value:
          name: envoy.filters.network.thrift_proxy
          typed_config:
            "@type": type.googleapis.com/envoy.extensions.filters.network.thrift_proxy.v3.ThriftProxy
            stat_prefix: "outbound|9090||thrift-sample-server.thrift.svc.cluster.local"
            transport: AUTO_TRANSPORT
            protocol: AUTO_PROTOCOL
            thrift_filters:
              - name: envoy.filters.thrift.router
            route_config:
              routes:
                - match:
                    # empty string matches any request method name
                    method_name: ""
                route:
                  weighted_clusters:
                    clusters:
                      - name: "outbound|9090|v1|thrift-sample-server.thrift.svc.cluster.local"
                        weight: 30
                      - name: "outbound|9090|v2|thrift-sample-server.thrift.svc.cluster.local"
                        weight: 70
```



Aeraki: Manage any layer-7 traffic in an Istio service mesh

Aeraki [Air-rah-ki] is the Greek word for 'breeze'. We hope that this breeze can help Istio sail a little further - to manage any layer-7 protocols other than just HTTP and gRPC.

You can think of Aeraki as the “Controller” to automate the creation of envoy configuration for layer-7 protocols



Aeraki: Manage any layer-7 traffic in an Istio service mesh

Aeraki has the following advantages compared with current approaches:

- Zero-touch to Istio codes, you don't have to maintain a fork of Istio
- Easy to integrate with Istio, deployed as a stand-alone component
- Provides an abstract layer with Aeraki CRDs, hiding the trivial details of the low-level envoy configuration from operation
- Protocol-related envoy configurations are now generated by Aeraki, significantly reducing the effort to manage those protocols in a service mesh
- Easy to control traffic with Aeraki CRDs (Aeraki reuses VR and DR for most of the RPC protocols, and defines some new CRDs for other protocols)



Istio

+



aeraki

Supported Protocols:

- PRC: Thrift, Dubbo, tRPC
- Others: Redis, Kafka, Zookeeper,
- More protocols are on the way ...

Similar to Istio, protocols are identified by service port prefix in this pattern: tcp-protocol-xxxx. For example, a Thrift service port is named as "tcp-thrift-service". Please keep "tcp" at the beginning of the port name because it's a TCP service from the standpoint of Istio.

Visit Github to get more information <https://github.com/aeraki-framework/aeraki>

#IstioCon



Aeraki Configuration Example: Thrift

Service definition

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
  name: thrift-sample-server
spec:
  selector:
    app: thrift-sample-server
  ports:
    - name: tcp-thrift-hello-server
      protocol: TCP
      port: 9090
      targetPort: 9090
```

Traffic rules

```
apiVersion: networking.istio.io/v1alpha3
kind: VirtualService
metadata:
  name: test-thrift-route
spec:
  hosts:
    - thrift-sample-server.thrift.svc.cluster.local
  http:
    - name: "thrift-traffic-splitting"
      route:
        - destination:
            host: thrift-sample-server.thrift.svc.cluster.local
            subset: v1
            weight: 30
        - destination:
            host: thrift-sample-server.thrift.svc.cluster.local
            subset: v2
            weight: 70
```



Aeraki Configuration Example: Redis

RedisServie

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Secret
metadata:
  name: redis-service-secret
type: Opaque
data:
  password: dGVzdHJlZGlzCg==
---
apiVersion: redis.aeraki.io/v1alpha1
kind: RedisService
metadata:
  name: redis-cluster
spec:
  host:
    - redis-cluster.redis.svc.cluster.local
  settings:
    auth:
      secret:
        name: redis-service-secret
  redis:
    - match:
        key:
          prefix: cluster
        route:
          host: redis-cluster.redis.svc.cluster.local
    - route:
        host: redis-single.redis.svc.cluster.local
```

RedisDestination

```
apiVersion: redis.aeraki.io/v1alpha1
kind: RedisDestination
metadata:
  name: redis-cluster
spec:
  host: redis-cluster.redis.svc.cluster.local
  trafficPolicy:
    connectionPool:
      redis:
        mode: CLUSTER
---
apiVersion: redis.aeraki.io/v1alpha1
kind: RedisDestination
metadata:
  name: redis-single
spec:
  host: redis-single.redis.svc.cluster.local
  trafficPolicy:
    connectionPool:
      redis:
        auth:
          plain:
            password: testredis
```



Aeraki Demo: Thrift Traffic Management

Live Demo: kiali Dashboard

Live Demo: Service Metrics: Grafana

Live Demo: Service Metrics: Prometheus

Would like to give it a try? It's just as simple as two commands:

```
git clone https://github.com/aeraki-framework/aeraki.git  
aeraki/demo/install-demo.sh
```

#IstioCon



Yang Tang

Software Engineer @ zhihu

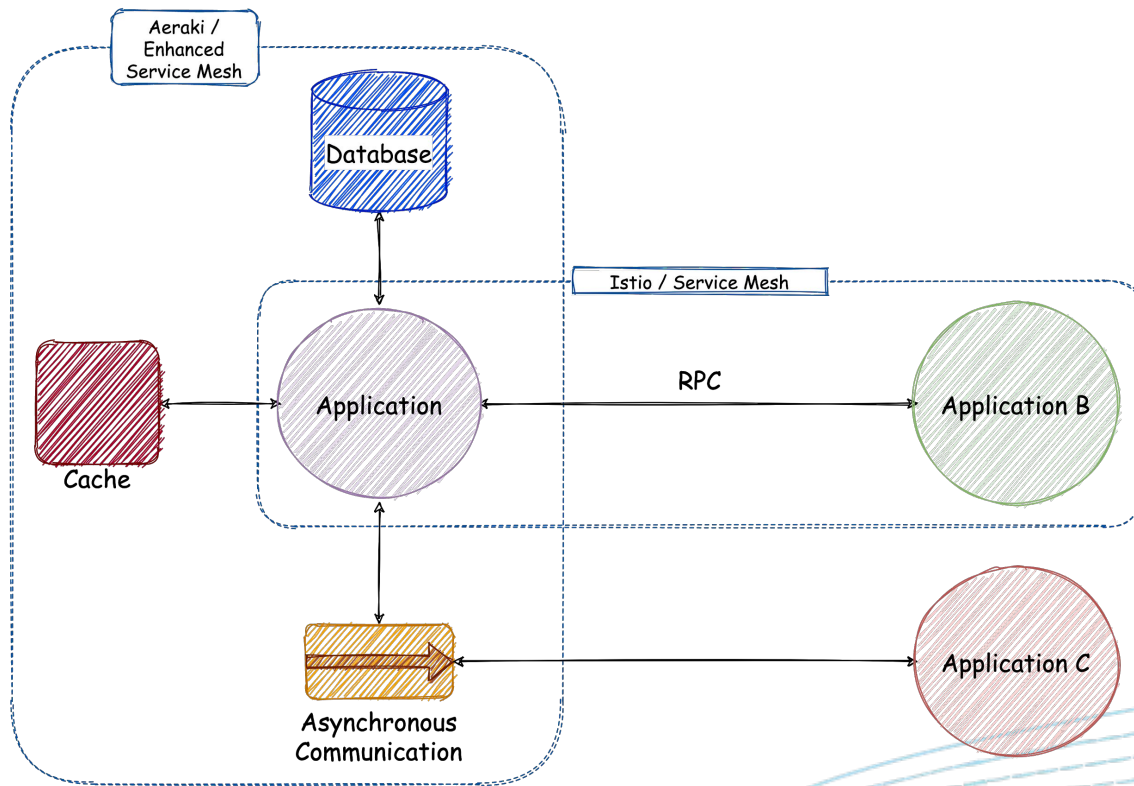
 @cocotyty



#IstioCon



Use Aeraki to enhance the Service Mesh



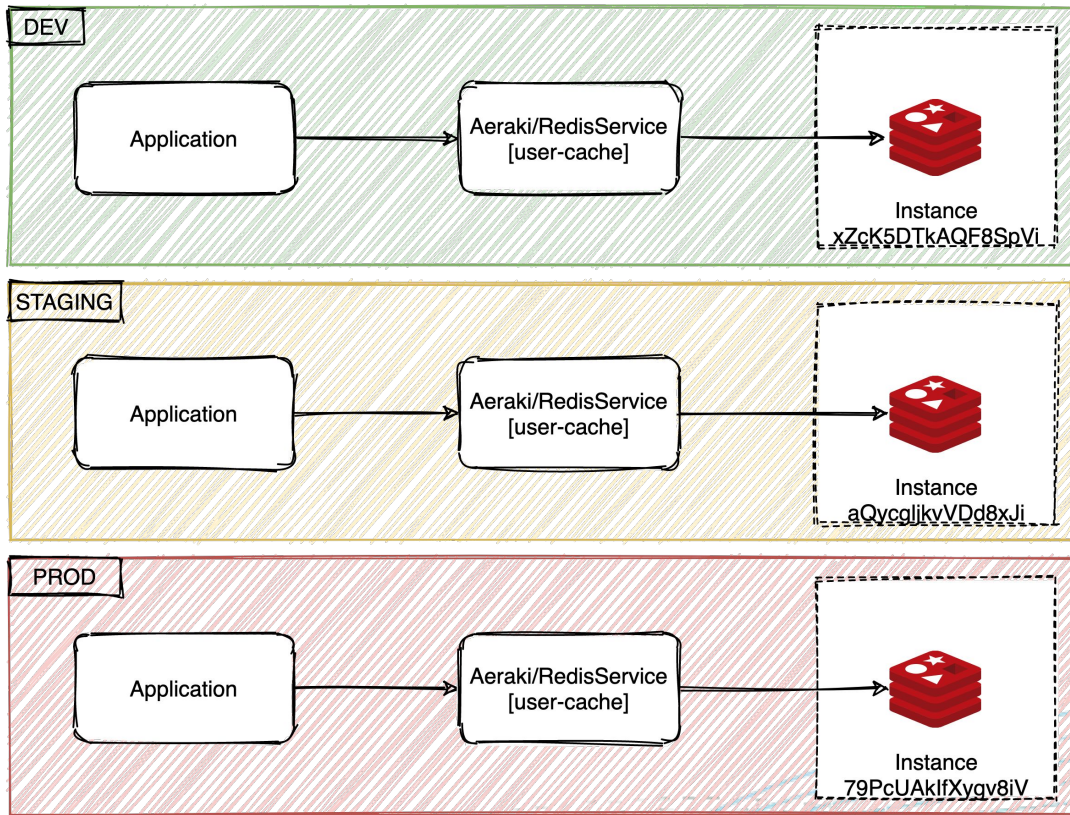
DEV/PROD Parity

Continuous integration / deploy your software without changing any code or configuration.

- Use the same DSN to access database between different environments.
- Use the same URL to access cache between different environments.
- Use the same X to access Y between different environments.

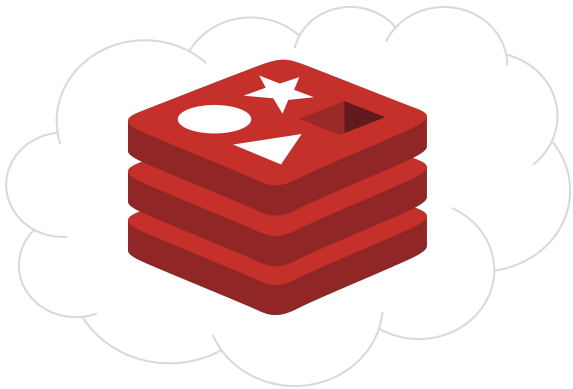


Example: Redis



Example: Redis

Eliminate the differences Redis hosts used in different environments by creating a no-selector service.

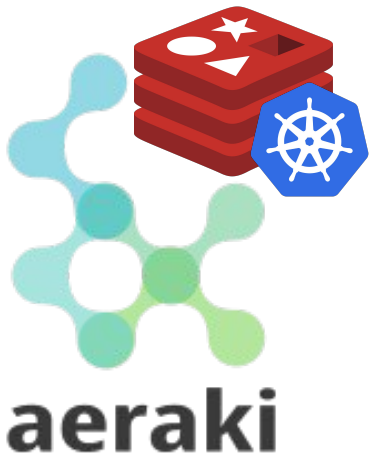


```
# this is a redis outside the cluster
# define a service without selectors
---
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
  name: user-cache
spec:
  ports:
    - protocol: TCP
      port: 6379
      targetPort: 6379
---
apiVersion: v1
kind: Endpoints
metadata:
  name: user-cache
subsets:
  - addresses:
      - ip: 10.1.1.2 # redis addr
    ports:
      - port: 6379
```



Example: Redis

Use `RedisService` and `RedisDestination` to eliminate the difference between usernames or passwords.



#IstioCon

```
apiVersion: redis.aeraki.io/v1alpha1
kind: RedisService
metadata:
  name: user-cache
spec:
  host:
    - user-cache.default.svc.cluster.local
  redis:
    - route:
        host: user-cache.default.svc.cluster.local
---
apiVersion: redis.aeraki.io/v1alpha1
kind: RedisDestination
metadata:
  name: user-cache
spec:
  host: user-cache.default.svc.cluster.local
  trafficPolicy:
    connectionPool:
      redis:
        auth:
          # secret:
          #   name: user-cache-token
        plain:
          password: cIsAmJ7pu5izEb21 # redis password
```



Example: Redis

```
# Dev Configuration
[[user-cache]]
addr="172.16.2.74"
password="tR3TxrCZPhvpEvDg"
```

```
# Staging Configuration
[[user-cache]]
addr="10.16.1.38"
password="pG3QCY2twvAZYsC4"
```

```
# Prod Configuration
[[user-cache]]
addr="10.22.3.99"
password="cIsAmJ7pu5izEb21"
```

```
func ExampleClient(ctx context.Context) {
    rdb := redis.NewClient(&redis.Options{
        Addr:      cfg.UserCache.Addr,
        Password:  cfg.UserCache.Password,
    })
    // ...
    fmt.Println(rdb.Get(ctx, "key").Result())
}
```

BEFORE

```
func ExampleClient(ctx context.Context) {
    rdb := redis.NewClient(&redis.Options{
        Addr:      "user-cache:6379",
    })
    // ...
    fmt.Println(rdb.Get(ctx, "key").Result())
}
```

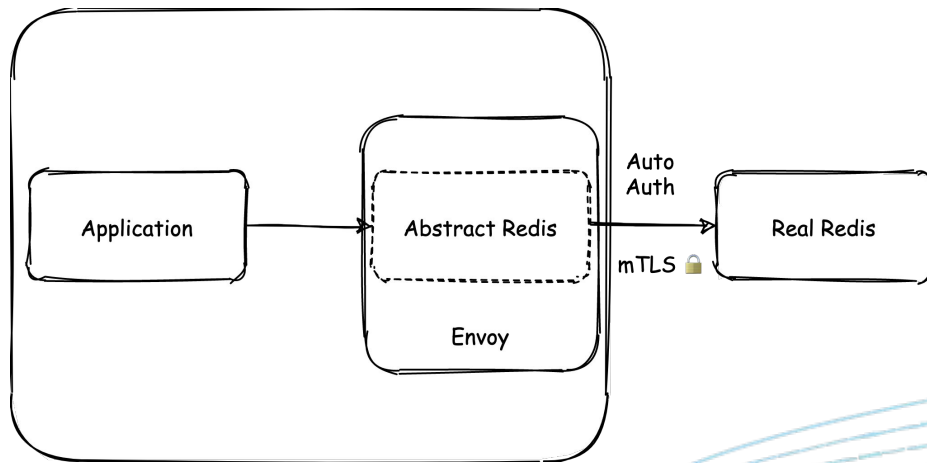
AFTER



More security

Aeraki gives your application these protections:

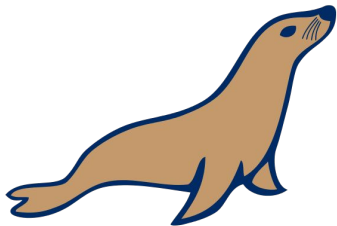
1. Manage authorization for other system, like databases.
2. Upgrade other traffic to mTLS
3. Avoid authentication in your code



Helpful for using heterogeneous databases

MySQL Protocol compatible:

- MariaDB
- TiDB
- Oceanbase
- Amazon Aurora
- KingShard
- ...



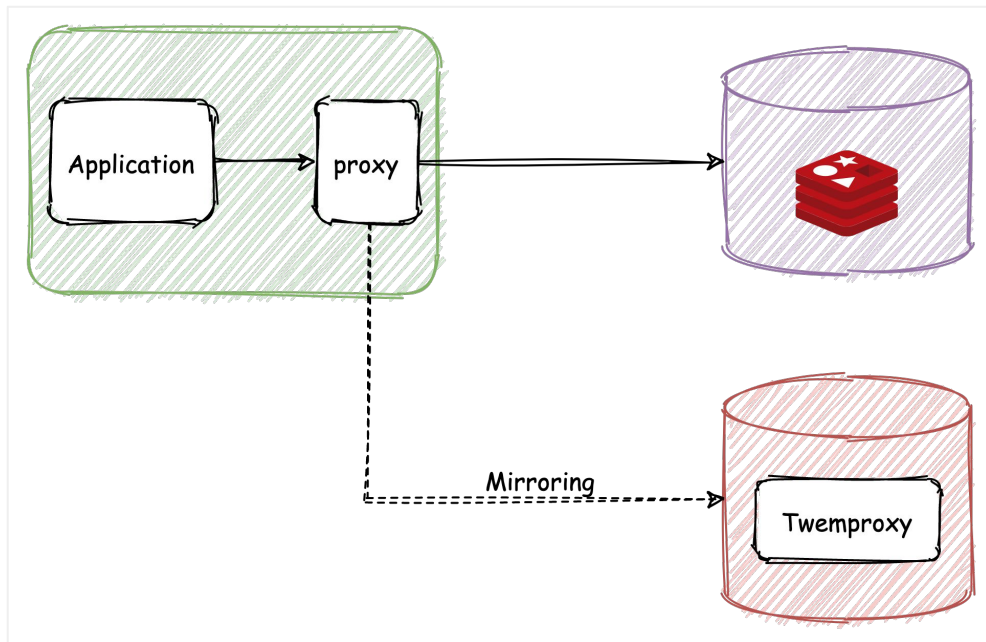
Redis Protocol compatible:

- Codis
- Tendis
- Pika
- Twemproxy
- ...

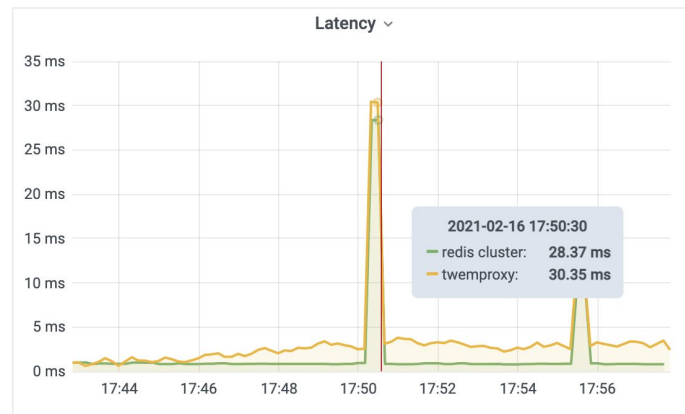
Performance
Compatibility
Easy Migration



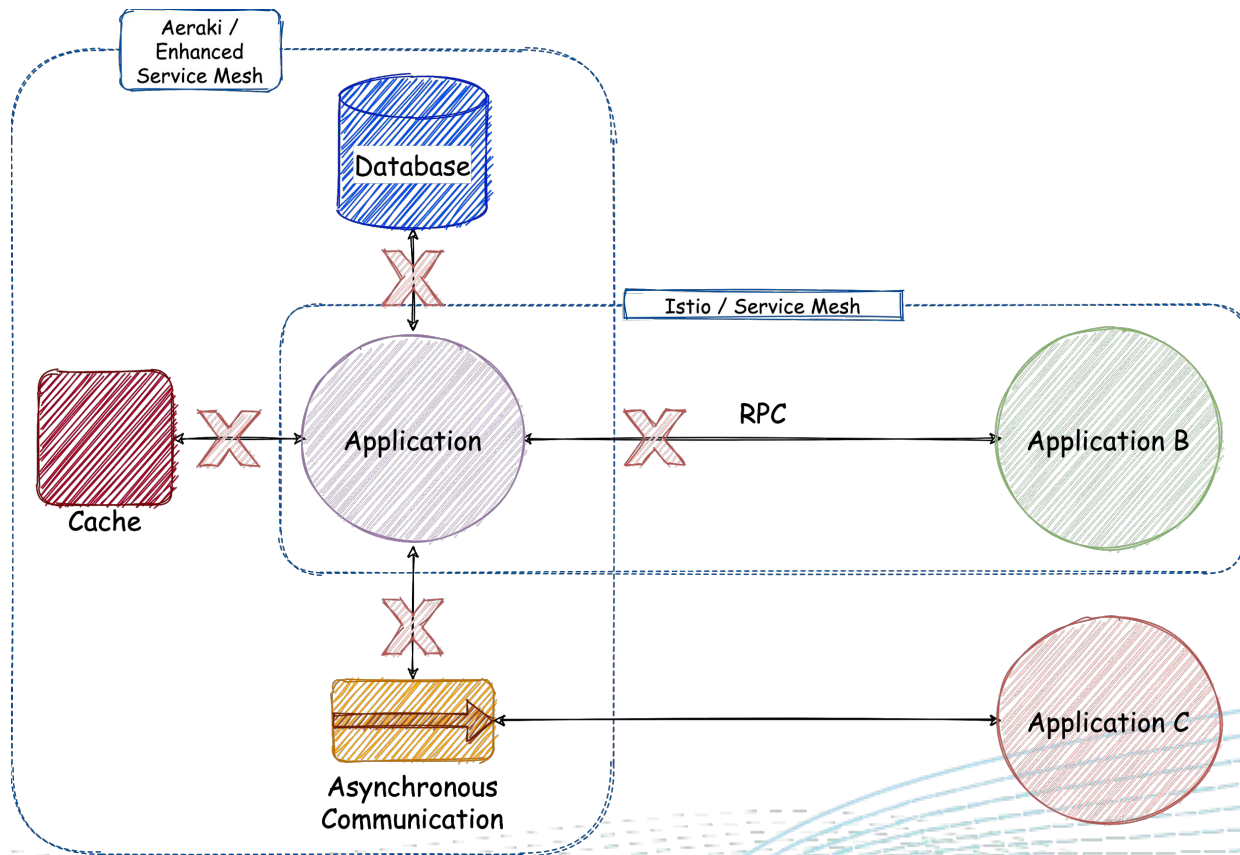
Helpful for using heterogeneous databases



Compare latency between
Redis Cluster and
Twemproxy



Fault injection for other traffic



Aeraki



Istio

+



aeraki

#IstioCon



Thank you!

#IstioCon

