

# **Containerized HPCC Systems® Platform**

**Boca Raton Documentation Team**



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Boca Raton Documentation Team

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# Containerized HPCC Overview

Starting with version 8.0, the HPCC Systems® Platform is focusing on containerized deployments. This is useful for cloud-based deployments (large or small) or local testing/development deployments.

Docker containers managed by Kubernetes (K8s) is a new target operating environment, alongside continued support for traditional “bare metal” installations using .deb or .rpm installer files. Support for traditional installers continues and that type of deployment is viable for bare metal deployments or manual setups in the Cloud.

This is not a *lift and shift* type change, where the platform runs its legacy structure unchanged and treat the containers as just a way of providing *virtual machines* on which to run, but a significant change in how components are configured, how and when they start up, and where they store their data.

This book focuses on containerized deployments. The first section is about using Docker containers and Helm charts locally. Docker and Helm do a lot of the work for you. The second part uses the same techniques in the cloud.

For local small deployments (for development and testing), we suggest using Docker Desktop and Helm. This is useful for learning, development, and testing.

For Cloud deployments, you can use any flavor of Cloud services, if it supports Docker, Kubernetes, and Helm. This book, however, will focus on Microsoft Azure for Cloud Services. Future versions may include specifics for other Cloud providers.

If you want to manually manage your local or Cloud deployment, you can still use the traditional installers and Configuration Manager, but that removes many of the benefits that Docker, Kubernetes, and Helm provide, such as, instrumentation, monitoring, scaling, and cost control.

HPCC Systems adheres to standard conventions regarding how Kubernetes deployments are normally configured and managed, so it should be easy for someone familiar with Kubernetes and Helm to install and manage the HPCC Systems platform.

**Note:** The traditional bare-metal version of the HPCC Systems platform is mature and has been heavily used in commercial applications for almost two decades and is fully intended for production use. The containerized version is new and is not yet 100% ready for production. In addition, aspects of that version could change without notice. We encourage you to use it and provide feedback so we can make this version as robust as a bare-metal installation.

# Bare-metal vs Containers

If you are familiar with the HPCC Systems platform, there are a few fundamental changes to note.

## Processes and pods, not machines

Anyone familiar with the existing configuration system will know that part of the configuration involves creating instances of each process and specifying on which physical machines they should run.

In a Kubernetes world, this is managed dynamically by the K8s system itself (and can be changed dynamically as the system runs).

Additionally, a containerized system is much simpler to manage if you stick to a one process per container paradigm, where the decisions about which containers need grouping into a pod and which pods can run on which physical nodes, can be made automatically.

## Helm charts

In the containerized world, the information that the operator needs to supply to configure an HPCC Systems environment is greatly reduced. There is no need to specify any information about what machines are in use by what process, as mentioned above, and there is also no need to change a lot of options that might be dependent on the operating environment, since much of that was standardized at the time the container images were built.

Therefore, in most cases, most settings should be left to use the default. As such, the new configuration paradigm requires only the bare minimum of information be specified and any parameters not specified use the appropriate defaults.

The default **environment.xml** that we include in our bare-metal packages to describe the default single-node system contains approximately 1300 lines and it is complex enough that we recommend using a special tool for editing it.

The **values.yaml** from the default helm chart is relatively small and can be opened in any editor, and/or modified via helm's command-line overrides. It also is self-documented with extensive comments.

## Static vs On-Demand Services

In order to realize the potential cost savings of a cloud environment while at the same time taking advantage of the ability to scale up when needed, some services which are always-on in traditional bare-metal installations are launched on-demand in containerized installations.

For example, an `ecccserver` component launches a stub requiring minimal resources, where the sole task is to watch for workunits submitted for compilation and launch an independent K8s job to perform the actual compile.

Similarly, the `ecagent` component is also a stub that launches a K8s job when a workunit is submitted and the Thor stub starts up a Thor cluster only when required. Using this design, not only does the capacity of the system automatically scale up to use as many pods as needed to handle the submitted load, it scales down to use minimal resources (as little as a fraction of a single node) during idle times when waiting for jobs to be submitted.

ESP and Dali components are always-on as long as the K8s cluster is started--it isn't feasible to start and stop them on demand without excessive latency. However, ESP can be scaled up and down dynamically to run as many instances needed to handle the current load.

## Topology settings – Clusters vs queues

In bare-metal deployments, there is a section called **Topology** where the various queues that workunits can be submitted to are set up. It is the responsibility of the person editing the environment to ensure that each named target has the

appropriate eclccserver, hThor (or ROXIE) and Thor (if desired) instances set up, to handle workunits submitted to that target queue.

This setup has been greatly simplified when using Helm charts to set up a containerized system. Each named Thor or eclagent component creates a corresponding queue (with the same name) and each eclccserver listens on all queues by default (but you can restrict to certain queues only if you really want to). Defining a Thor component automatically ensures that the required agent components are provisioned.

# Local Deployment (Development and Testing)

While there are many ways to install a local single node HPCC Systems Platform, this section focuses on using Docker Desktop locally.

## Prerequisites

Windows 10	Mac	Linux
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Docker Desktop &amp; WSL 2</li><li>• Helm</li></ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Docker Desktop &amp; Hyper-V</li><li>• Helm</li></ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Docker</li><li>• <u>Kubectl</u></li><li>• Helm</li><li>• <u>Minikube</u></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Docker Desktop</li><li>• Helm</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Docker</li><li>• Helm</li><li>• <u>Minikube</u></li></ul>

All third-party tools should be 64-bit versions.

## Add a Repository

To use the HPCC Systems helm chart, you must add it to the helm repository list, as shown below:

```
helm repo add hpcc https://hpcc-systems.github.io/helm-chart/
```

Expected response:

```
"hpcc" has been added to your repositories
```

To update to the latest charts:

```
helm repo update
```

You should update your local repo before any deployment to ensure you have the latest code available.

Expected response:

```
Hang tight while we grab the latest from your chart repositories...  
...Successfully got an update from the "hpcc" chart repository  
Update Complete. Happy Helming!
```

# Start a Default System

The default helm chart starts a simple test system with Dali, ESP, ECL CC Server, two ECL Agent queues (ROXIE and hThor mode), and one Thor queue.

## To start this simple system:

```
helm install mycluster hpcc/hpcc --version=8.6.14
```

**Note:** The --version argument is optional, but recommended. It ensures that you know which version you are installing. If omitted, the latest non-development version is installed. This example uses 8.6.14, but you should use the version you want.

Expected response:

```
NAME: mycluster
LAST DEPLOYED: Tue Apr 5 14:45:08 2022
NAMESPACE: default
STATUS: deployed
REVISION: 1
TEST SUITE: None
NOTES:
Thank you for installing the HPCC chart version 8.6.14 using image "hpccsystems/platform-core:8.6.14"
**** WARNING: The configuration contains ephemeral planes: [dali sasha dll data mydropzone debug] ****
This chart has defined the following HPCC components:
dali.mydali
dfuserver.dfuserver
eclagent.hthor
eclagent.roxie-workunit
eclccserver.myeclccserver
eclscheduler.eclscheduler
esp.eclwatch
esp.eclservices
esp.eclqueries
esp.esdl-sandbox
esp.sql2ecl
esp.dfs
roxie.roxie
thor.thor
dali.sasha.coalescer
sasha.dfurecovery-archiver
sasha.dfuwu-archiver
sasha.file-expiry
sasha.wu-archiver
```

Notice the warning about ephemeral planes. This is because this deployment has created temporary, ephemeral storage to use. When the cluster is uninstalled, the storage will no longer exist. This is useful for a quick test, but for more involved work, you will want more persistent storage. This is covered in a later section.

## To check status:

```
kubectl get pods
```

Expected response:

NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
eclqueries-7fd94d77cb-m7lmb	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
eclservices-b57f9b7cc-bhwtm	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
eclwatch-599fb7845-2hq54	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
esdl-sandbox-848b865d46-9bv9r	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
hthor-745f598795-q19dl	1/1	Running	0	2m6s



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---

mydali-6b844bfcfb-jv7f6	2/2	Running	0	2m6s
myeclccserver-75bcc4d4d-gflfs	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
roxie-agent-1-77f696466f-tl7bb	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
roxie-agent-1-77f696466f-xzrtf	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
roxie-agent-2-6dd45b7f9d-m22wl	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
roxie-agent-2-6dd45b7f9d-xmlmk	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
roxie-toposerver-695fb9c5c7-9lnp5	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
roxie-workunit-d7446699f-rvf2z	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
sasha-dfurecovery-archiver-78c47c4db7-k9mdz	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
sasha-dfuwu-archiver-576b978cc7-b47v7	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
sasha-file-expiry-8496d87879-xct7f	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
sasha-wu-archiver-5f64594948-xjblh	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
sql2ecl-5c8c94d55-tj4td	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
dfs-4a9f12621-jabc1	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
thor-eclagent-6b8f564f9c-qnczz	1/1	Running	0	2m6s
thor-thoragent-56d788869f-7trxk	1/1	Running	0	2m6s

**Note:** It may take a while before all components are running, especially the first time as the container images need to be downloaded from Docker Hub.

# Access the Default System

Your system is now ready to use. The usual first step is to open ECL Watch.

**Note:** Some pages in ECL Watch, such as those displaying topology information, are not yet fully functional in containerized mode.

Use this command to get a list running services and IP addresses:

```
kubectl get svc
```

Expected response:

NAME	TYPE	CLUSTER-IP	EXTERNAL-IP	PORT(S)	AGE
eclqueries	LoadBalancer	10.108.171.35	localhost	8002:31615/TCP	2m6s
eclservices	ClusterIP	10.107.121.158	<none>	8010/TCP	2m6s
<b>eclwatch</b>	LoadBalancer	10.100.81.69	<b>localhost</b>	<b>8010:30173/TCP</b>	2m6s
esdl-sandbox	LoadBalancer	10.100.194.33	localhost	8899:30705/TCP	2m6s
kubernetes	ClusterIP	10.96.0.1	<none>	443/TCP	2m6s
mydali	ClusterIP	10.102.80.158	<none>	7070/TCP	2m6s
roxie	LoadBalancer	10.100.134.125	localhost	9876:30480/TCP	2m6s
roxie-toposerver	ClusterIP	None	<none>	9004/TCP	2m6s
sasha-dfuwu-archiver	ClusterIP	10.110.200.110	<none>	8877/TCP	2m6s
sasha-wu-archiver	ClusterIP	10.111.34.240	<none>	8877/TCP	2m6s
sql2ecl	LoadBalancer	10.107.177.180	localhost	8510:30054/TCP	2m6s
dfs	LoadBalancer	10.100.52.9	localhost	8520:30184/TCP	2m6s

Locate the ECL Watch service and identify the EXTERNAL-IP and PORT(S) for eclwatch. In this case, it is localhost:8010.

Open a browser and access ECLWatch, press the ECL button, and select the Playground tab.

From here you can use the example ECL or enter other test queries and pick from the available clusters available to submit your workunits.

# Terminate (Decommission) the System

To check which Helm charts are currently installed, run this command:

```
helm list
```

This displays the installed charts and their names. In this example, mycluster.

To stop the HPCC Systems pods, use helm to uninstall:

```
helm uninstall mycluster
```

This stops the cluster, deletes the pods, and with the default settings and persistent volumes, it also deletes the storage used.

# Persistent Storage for a Local Deployment

When running on a single-node test system such as Docker Desktop, the default storage class normally means that all persistent volume claims (PVCs) map to temporary local directories on the host machine. These are typically removed when the cluster is stopped. This is fine for simple testing but for any real application, you want persistent storage.

To persist data with a Docker Desktop deployment, the first step is to make sure the relevant directories exist:

1. Create data directories using a terminal interface:

For Windows, use this command:

```
mkdir c:\hpccdata
mkdir c:\hpccdata\dalistorage
mkdir c:\hpccdata\hpcc-data
mkdir c:\hpccdata\debug
mkdir c:\hpccdata\queries
mkdir c:\hpccdata\sasha
mkdir c:\hpccdata\dropzone
```

For macOS, use this command:

```
mkdir -p /Users/myUser/hpccdata/{dalistorage, hpcc-data, debug, queries, sasha, dropzone}
```

For Linux, use this command:

```
mkdir -p ~/hpccdata/{dalistorage, hpcc-data, debug, queries, sasha, dropzone}
```

**Note:** If all of these directories do not exist, your pods may not start.

2. Install the hpcc-localfile Helm chart.

This chart creates persistent volumes based on host directories you created earlier.

```
# for a WSL2 deployment:
helm install hpcc-localfile hpcc/hpcc-localfile --set common.hostpath=/run/desktop/mnt/host/c/hpccdata

# for a Hyper-V deployment:
helm install hpcc-localfile hpcc/hpcc-localfile --set common.hostpath=/c/hpccdata

# for a macOS deployment:
helm install hpcc-localfile hpcc/hpcc-localfile --set common.hostpath=/Users/myUser/hpccdata

# for a Linux deployment:
helm install hpcc-localfile hpcc/hpcc-localfile --set common.hostpath=~/hpccdata
```

The **--set common.hostpath=** option specifies the base directory:

The path **/run/desktop/mnt/host/c/hpccdata** provides access to the host file system for WSL2.

The path **/c/hpccdata** provides access to the host file system for Hyper-V.

The path **/Users/myUser/hpccdata** provides access to the host file system for Mac OSX.

The path **~/hpccdata** provides access to the host file system for Linux.

**Note:** The value passed to **--set common-hostpath** is case sensitive.

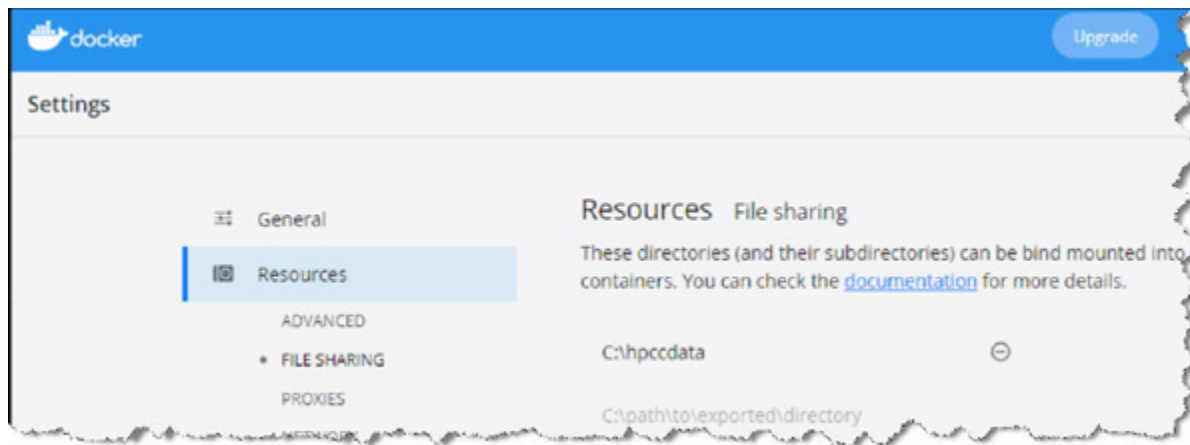
3. Copy the output from the helm install command in the previous step from the word **storage:** to the end, and save it to a text file.

In this example, we will call the file *mystorage.yaml*. The file should look similar to this:

```
storage:
  planes:
    - name: dali
      pvc: dali-hpcc-localfile-pvc
      prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/dalistorage"
      category: dali
    - name: dll
      pvc: dll-hpcc-localfile-pvc
      prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/queries"
      category: dll
    - name: sasha
      pvc: sasha-hpcc-localfile-pvc
      prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/sasha"
      category: sasha
    - name: debug
      pvc: debug-hpcc-localfile-pvc
      prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/debug"
      category: debug
    - name: data
      pvc: data-hpcc-localfile-pvc
      prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/hpcc-data"
      category: data
    - name: mydropzone
      pvc: mydropzone-hpcc-localfile-pvc
      prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/dropzone"
      category: lz
sasha:
  wu-archiver:
    plane: sasha
  dfuwu-archiver:
    plane: sasha
```

4. If you are using Docker Desktop with Hyper-V, add the shared data folder (in this example, C:\hpccdata) in Docker Desktop's settings by pressing the Add button and typing c:\hpccdata.

This is **not** needed in a MacOS or WSL 2 environment.



5. Finally, install the hpcc Helm chart, and provide a yaml file that provides the storage information created by the previous step.

```
helm install mycluster hpcc/hpcc --version=8.6.14 -f mystorage.yaml
```

**Note:** The --version argument is optional, but recommended. It ensures that you know which version you are installing. If omitted, the latest non-development version is installed. This example uses 8.6.14, but you should use the version you want.

6. To test, open a browser and access ECLWatch, press the ECL button, and select the Playground tab, then create some data files and workunits by submitting to Thor some ECL code like the following:

```
LayoutPerson := RECORD
  UNSIGNED1 ID;
  STRING15  FirstName;
  STRING25  LastName;
END;
allPeople := DATASET([ {1,'Fred','Smith'},
                      {2,'Joe','Jones'},
                      {3,'Jane','Smith'}],LayoutPerson);
OUTPUT(allPeople, 'MyData::allPeople',THOR,OVERWRITE);
```

7. Use the helm uninstall command to terminate your cluster, then restart your deployment.
8. Open ECL Watch and notice your workunits and logical files are still there.

# Import: Storage Planes and How To Use Them

Storage planes provide the flexibility to configure where the data is stored within a deployed HPCC Systems platform, but it doesn't directly address the question of how to get data onto the platform in the first place.

Containerized platforms support importing data in two ways:

- Upload a file to a Landing Zone and Import (Spray)
- Copy a file to a Storage Plane and access it directly

Beginning with version 7.12.0, new ECL syntax was added to access files directly from a storage plane. This is similar to the **file::** syntax used to directly read files from a physical machine, typically a landing zone.

The new syntax is:

```
~plane::<storage-plane-name>::<path>::<filename>
```

Where the syntax of the path and filename are the same as used with the **file::** syntax. This includes requiring uppercase letters to be quoted with a ^ symbol. For more details, see the Landing Zone Files section of the *ECL Language Reference*.

If you have storage planes configured as in the previous section, and you copy the **originalperson** file to **C:\hpccdata\hpcc-data\tutorial**, you can then reference the file using this syntax:

```
'~plane::data::tutorial::originalperson'
```

**Note:** The **originalperson** file is available from the HPCC Systems Web site ([https://cdn.hpccsystems.com/install/docs/3\\_8\\_0\\_8rc\\_CE/OriginalPerson](https://cdn.hpccsystems.com/install/docs/3_8_0_8rc_CE/OriginalPerson)).

# Azure Deployment (Development, Testing, and Production)

This section should apply for most Azure subscriptions. You may need to adjust some commands or instructions according to your subscription's requirements.

## Using Azure

Though there are many ways to interact with Azure, this section will use the Azure cloud shell command line interface.

The major advantage to using the cloud shell is that it will also have the other prerequisites installed for you.

## Azure Prerequisites

To deploy an HPCC Systems containerized platform instance to Azure, you should have:

- A working computer that supports Linux, MacOS, or Windows OS.
- A web browser, such as Chrome or Firefox.
- An Azure account with sufficient permissions, rights, and credentials. To obtain this, please go to [www.azure.com](https://www.azure.com) or talk to your manager if you believe that your employer might have a corporate account.
- A text editor. You can use one of the editors available in the Azure cloud shell (code, vi, or nano) or any other text editor of your preference.
- At minimum using the 64-bit Helm 3.5 or higher - even if using the Azure cloud shell.

Assuming you have an Azure account with adequate credits, you can make use of Azure's browser-based shell, known as the Azure cloud shell, to deploy and manage your resources. The Azure cloud shell comes with pre-installed tools, such as Helm, Kubectl, Python, Terraform, etc.

<https://portal.azure.com/>

If this is your first time accessing the cloud shell, Azure will likely notify you about the need for storage in order to save your virtual machine settings and files.

- Click through the prompts to create your account storage.

You should now be presented with an Azure cloud shell which is ready to use. You can now proceed to the next section.

## Third Party Tools

Should you decide not to use the Azure cloud shell, you will need to install and configure the Azure CLI on your host machine in order to deploy and manage Azure resources. In addition, you will also need to install Helm and Kubectl to manage your Kubernetes packages and clusters respectively.

- Azure Client Interface (CLI)
- Kubectl
- Helm 3.5 or greater

All third-party tools listed above should use the 64-bit architecture.



The documentation and instructions for how to install and set up the third party tools are available from the respective vendors on their websites.

## Azure Resource Group

An Azure resource group is similar to a folder where a group of related resources are stored. Generally, you should only use one resource group per deployment. For instance, deploying two Kubernetes clusters in one resource group can cause confusion and difficulties to manage. Unless you or someone in your organization has already created a resource group and specified to work in that pre-existing resource group, you will need to create one.

To create a new resource group, you must choose a name and an Azure location. Additionally, you may choose to use tags for ease of management of your resource groups. Some of the details around this may be subject to you or your organization's subscriptions, quotas, restrictions or policies. Please ensure that you have a properly configured Azure subscription with a sufficient access level and credits for a successful deployment.

Run the following command to create a new resource group called rg-hpcc in Azure location eastus:

```
az group create --name rg-hpcc --location eastus
```

The following message indicates that the resource group has been successfully created.

```
{
  "id": "/subscriptions/<my_subscription_id>/resourceGroups/rsg-hpcc",
  "location": "eastus",
  "managedBy": null,
  "name": "rg-hpcc",
  "properties": {
    "provisioningState": "Succeeded"
  },
  "tags": null,
  "type": "Microsoft.Resources/resourceGroups"
}
```

Please note that the list of regions available to you might vary based on your company's policies and/or location.

## Azure Kubernetes Service Cluster

Next we will create an Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) cluster. AKS stands for Azure Kubernetes Service. It is a service provided by Azure that offers serverless Kubernetes, which promotes rapid delivery, scaling, etc.

You can choose any name for your Kubernetes cluster, we will use aks-hpcc. To create a Kubernetes cluster, run the following command:

```
az aks create --resource-group rg-hpcc --name aks-hpcc --location <location>
```

**NOTE** There are some optional parameters including `--node-vm-size` and `--node-count`. Node size refers to the specs of your VM of choice while node count refers to the number of VMs you wish to use. In Azure the names VM and node are used interchangeably. For more on node sizes, please visit <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-machines/sizes>

This step can take a few minutes. The time it takes for Azure to create and provision the requested resources can vary. While you wait, for your deployment to complete, you can view the progress in the Azure portal. To view the progress, open another browser tab to:

```
https://portal.azure.com/#blade/HubsExtension/BrowseAll
```

## Azure Node Pools

The Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) automatically creates one node pool. It is a system node pool, by default. There are two node pool types: *system node pools* and *user node pools*. The system node pool is reserved for core Kubernetes

services and workloads, such as kubelets, kube-proxies, etc. A user node pool should be used to host your application services and workloads. Additional node pools can be added after the deployment of the AKS cluster.

To follow the recommendations for reserving the system node pool only for the core AKS services and workloads. You will need to use a node taint on the newly created system node pool. Since you can't add taints to any pre-existing node pool, swap the default system node pool for the newly created one.

In order to do this, enter the following command (all on one line, if possible, and remove the connectors "\" as they are only included here for the code to fit on a single page):

```
az aks nodepool add \  
--name sysnodepool \  
--cluster-name aks-hpcc \  
--resource-group rg-hpcc \  
--mode System \  
--enable-cluster-autoscaler \  
--node-count=2 \  
--min-count=1 \  
--max-count=2 \  
--node-vm-size \  
--node-taints CriticalAddonsOnly=true:NoSchedule
```

Delete the automatically created default pool, which we called "nodepool1" as an example, the actual name may vary.

Once again enter the following command on one line, (without connectors "\" if possible).

```
az aks nodepool delete \  
--name nodepool1 \  
--cluster-name aks-hpcc \  
--resource-group rg-hpcc
```

Having at least one user node pool is recommended.

Next add a *user node pool* which will schedule the HPCC Systems pods. Also remember to do so on a single line without the connectors, if possible:

```
az aks nodepool add \  
--name usrnodelpool1 \  
--cluster-name aks-hpcc \  
--resource-group rg-hpcc \  
--enable-cluster-autoscaler \  
--node-count=2 \  
--min-count=1 \  
--max-count=2 \  
--mode User
```

For more information about Azure virtual machine pricing and types, please visit <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/pricing/details/virtual-machines/linux/>

## Configure Credentials

To manage your AKS cluster from your host machine and use *kubectl*, you need to authenticate against the cluster. In addition, this will also allow you to deploy your HPCC Systems instance using Helm. To configure the Kubernetes client credentials enter the following command:

```
az aks get-credentials --resource-group rg-hpcc --name aks-hpcc --admin
```

## Installing the Helm charts

This section will demonstrate how to fetch, modify, and deploy the HPCC Systems charts. First we will need to access the HPCC Systems repository.

Add, or update if already installed, the HPCC Systems Helm chart repository:

```
helm repo add hpcc https://hpcc-systems.github.io/helm-chart/
```

To update the repository:

```
helm repo update
```

You should always update the repository before deploying. That allows you to get the latest versions of the chart dependencies.

## Installing the HPCC Systems components

In order for a even a basic installation to succeed, it must have some type of storage enabled. The following steps will create ephemeral storage using the *azstorage* utility that will allow the HPCC Systems to start and run but will not persist. To do this we will deploy the *hpcc-azurefile* chart which will set up Azure's ephemeral storage for the HPCC Systems deployment.

To Install the *hpcc-azurefile* chart:

```
helm install azstorage hpcc/hpcc-azurefile
```

The goal here is to get the default values from this *azstorage* chart and create a customization file that will pass in the appropriate values to the HPCC Systems instance.

Copy the output from the *helm install* command that you issued in the previous step, from the **storage:** parameter through the end of the file and save the file as *mystorage.yaml*. The *mystorage.yaml* file should look very similar to the following:

```
storage:
  planes:
    - name: dali
      pvc: dali-azstorage-hpcc-azurefile-pvc
      prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/dalistorage"
      category: dali
    - name: dll
      pvc: dll-azstorage-hpcc-azurefile-pvc
      prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/queries"
      category: dll
    - name: sasha
      pvc: sasha-azstorage-hpcc-azurefile-pvc
      prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/sasha"
      category: sasha
    - name: data
      pvc: data-azstorage-hpcc-azurefile-pvc
      prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/hpcc-data"
      category: data
    - name: mydropzone
      pvc: mydropzone-azstorage-hpcc-azurefile-pvc
      prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/dropzone"
      category: lz

sasha:
  wu-archiver:
    plane: sasha
  dfuwu-archiver:
    plane: sasha
```

**Note:** The indentation, syntax, and characters are very critical, please be sure those are an exact match to the above sample. A single extra space in this file can cause unnecessary headaches.

We can now use this *mystorage.yaml* file to pass in these values when we start up our HPCC Systems cluster.

## Enable Access the ESP Services

To access your HPCC Systems cloud instance you must enable the visibility of the ESP services. As delivered the ESP services are private with only local visibility. In order to enable global visibility, we will be installing the HPCC Systems cluster using a customization file to override the ESP dictionary. There is more information about customizing your deployment in the *Containerized HPCC Systems* documentation.

The goal here is to get the values from this delivered chart and create a customization file that will pass in the values you want to the HPCC Systems instance. To get the values from that chart, enter the following command:

```
helm show values hpcc/hpcc > defaultvalues.yaml
```



**IMPORTANT:** The indentation, syntax, characters, as well as every single key-value pair are very critical. Please be sure these are an exact match to the sample below. A single extra space, or missing character in this file can cause unnecessary headaches.

Using the text editor, open the *defaultvalues.yaml* file and copy the **esp:** portion from that file, as illustrated below:

```
esp:
- name: eclwatch
  ## Pre-configured esp applications include eclwatch, eclservices, and eclqueries
  application: eclwatch
  auth: none
  replicas: 1
# Add remote clients to generated client certificates and make the ESP require that one of
# r to connect
# When setting up remote clients make sure that certificates.issuers.remote.enabled is set
# remoteClients:
# - name: myclient
#   organization: mycompany
  service:
    ## port can be used to change the local port used by the pod. If omitted, the default port
    port: 8888
    ## servicePort controls the port that this service will be exposed on, either internally
    servicePort: 8010
    ## Specify visibility: local (or global) if you want the service available from outside
    ## externally, while eclservices is designed for internal use.
    visibility: local
    ## Annotations can be specified on a service - for example to specify provider-specific i
    -balancer-internal-subnet
    #annotations:
    #  service.beta.kubernetes.io/azure-load-balancer-internal-subnet: "mysubnet"
    # The service.annotations prefixed with hpcc.eclwatch.io should not be declared here. T
    # in other services in order to be exposed in the ECLWatch interface. Similar function c
    # applications. For other applications, the "eclwatch" inside the service.annotations sh
    # their application names.
    # hpcc.eclwatch.io/enabled: "true"
    # hpcc.eclwatch.io/description: "some description"
    ## You can also specify labels on a service
    #labels:
    #  mylabel: "3"
    ## Links specify the web links for a service. The web links may be shown on ECLWatch.
    #links:
    #- name: linkname
    #  description: "some description"
    #  url: "http://abc.com/def?g=1"
    ## CIDRS allowed to access this service.
    #loadBalancerSourceRanges: [1.2.3.4/32, 5.6.7.8/32]
  #resources:
  #  cpu: "1"
  #  memory: "2G"
```

```
- name: eclservices
  application: eclservices
  auth: none
  replicas: 1
  service:
    servicePort: 8010
    visibility: cluster
  #resources:
  #  cpu: "250m"
  #  memory: "1G"
- name: eclqueries
  application: eclqueries
  auth: none
  replicas: 1
  service:
    visibility: local
    servicePort: 8002
    #annotations:
    #  hpcc.eclwatch.io/enabled: "true"
    #  hpcc.eclwatch.io/description: "Roxie Test page"
    #  hpcc.eclwatch.io/port: "8002"
  #resources:
  #  cpu: "250m"
  #  memory: "1G"
- name: esdl-sandbox
  application: esdl-sandbox
  auth: none
  replicas: 1
  service:
    visibility: local
    servicePort: 8899
  #resources:
  #  cpu: "250m"
  #  memory: "1G"
- name: sql2ecl
  application: sql2ecl
  auth: none
  replicas: 1
# remoteClients:
# - name: sqlclient111
  service:
    visibility: local
    servicePort: 8510
  #domain: hpccsql.com
  #resources:
  #  cpu: "250m"
  #  memory: "1G"
- name: dfs
  application: dfs
  auth: none
  replicas: 1
  service:
    visibility: local
    servicePort: 8520
  #resources:
  #  cpu: "250m"
  #  memory: "1G"
```

Save that ESP portion off into a new file called *myesp.yaml*. You need to modify that file then use it to override those default values into your deployment.

In order to access the HPCC Systems services you must override these default settings to make them visible. We will now set the visibility for eclwatch and eclqueries from local to global as in the below example. Edit the *myesp.yaml* file and change the two sections highlighted in the code examples below:

```
esp:
- name: eclwatch
  ## Pre-configured esp applications include eclwatch, eclservices, and eclqueries
  application: eclwatch
  auth: none
  replicas: 1
  service:
    ## port can be used to change the local port used by the pod. If omitted, the default port is 8888
    port: 8888
    ## servicePort controls the port that this service will be exposed on, either internally or externally
    servicePort: 8010
    ## Specify visibility: local (or global) if you want the service available from outside the cluster, while eclservices is designed for internal use.
    visibility: global
    ## Annotations can be specified on a service - for example to specify provider-specific information

- name: eclqueries
  application: eclqueries
  auth: none
  replicas: 1
  service:
    visibility: global
    servicePort: 8002
```

Save that modified *myesp.yaml* customization file.

We can now use this *myesp.yaml* file to pass in these values when we start up our HPCC Systems cluster.

## Install the customized HPCC Systems chart

This section will install the delivered HPCC Systems chart where we supply the *myesp.yaml* and *mystorage.yaml* customization files created in the previous section. You should create or add your own additional customizations in one of these or even another customization *yaml* file specific to your requirements. Creating and using customized versions of the HPCC Systems *values.yaml* file are described in the *Customizing Configurations* section of the *Containerized HPCC Systems* docs. To install your customized HPCC Systems charts:

```
helm install myhpcccluster hpcc/hpcc -f myesp.yaml -f mystorage.yaml
```

Where the *-f* option forces the system to merge in the values set in the *myesp.yaml* and *mystorage.yaml* files.

**Note:** You can also use the *--values* option as a substitute for *-f*

If successful, your output will be similar to this:

```
NAME: myhpcccluster
LAST DEPLOYED: Wed Dec 15 09:41:38 2021
NAMESPACE: default
STATUS: deployed
REVISION: 1
TEST SUITE: None
```

At this point, Kubernetes should start provisioning the HPCC Systems pods. To check their status run:

```
kubectl get pods
```

**Note:** If this is the first time helm install has been run, it will take some time for the pods to get to a Running state, since Azure will need to pull the container images from Docker. Once all the pods are running, the HPCC Systems Cluster is ready to be used.

## Accessing ECLWatch

To access ECLWatch, an external IP to the ESP service running ECLWatch is required. If you successfully deployed your cluster with the proper visibility settings, then this will be listed as the *eclwatch* service. The IP address can be obtained by running the following command:

```
kubectl get svc
```

Your output should be similar to:

NAME	TYPE	CLUSTER-IP	EXTERNAL-IP	PORT(S)	AGE
eclservices	ClusterIP	10.0.44.11	<none>	8010/TCP	11m
<b>eclwatch</b>	<b>LoadBalancer</b>	<b>10.0.21.16</b>	<b>12.87.156.228</b>	<b>8010:30190/TCP</b>	<b>11m</b>
kubernetes	ClusterIP	10.0.0.1	<none>	443/TCP	4h28m
mydali	ClusterIP	10.0.195.229	<none>	7070/TCP	11m

Use the EXTERNAL-IP address listed for the ECLWatch service. Open a browser and go to <http://<external-ip>:8010/>. For example in this case, go to <http://12.87.156.228:8010>. If everything is working as expected, the ECLWatch landing page will be displayed.

## Uninstall Your Cluster

When you are done using your HPCC Systems cluster, you may destroy it to avoid incurring charges for unused resources. A storage account is recommended to save your HPCC Systems data outside of the Azure Kubernetes Service. That allows you to destroy the service without losing your data.

The various storage options and strategies are discussed elsewhere in addition to the HPCC Systems documentation.

## Stopping Your HPCC Systems Cluster

This will simply stop your HPCC Systems instance. If you are deleting the resource group, as detailed in the following section, that will destroy everything in it, including your HPCC Systems cluster. Uninstalling the HPCC Systems deployment in that case, is redundant. You will still be charged for the AKS. If, for whatever reason, you can't destroy the resource group, then you may follow the steps in this section to shut down your HPCC Systems cluster.

To shut down your HPCC Systems cluster, you would issue the helm uninstall command.

Using the Azure cloud shell, enter:

```
helm list
```

Enter the helm uninstall command using your clusters name as the argument, for example:

```
helm uninstall myhpcccluster
```

This will remove the HPCC Systems cluster named <myhpcccluster> you had previously deployed.

## Removing the Resource Group

Removing the resource group will irreversibly destroy any pods, clusters, contents, or any other work stored on there. Please carefully consider these actions, before removing the resource group. Once removed it can not be undone.

To remove the entire resource group *rg-hpcc* which we created earlier, and all the entirety of its contents, issue the following command:

```
az group delete --name rg-hpcc
```

It will prompt you if you are sure you want to do this, and if you confirm it will delete the entire resource group.

# Deploying HPCC Systems® with Terraform

Manual deployments can be error-prone and inconsistent. As your deployments become more customized and your need for additional resources grows it can become exponentially more difficult and time consuming.

Fortunately, there are multiple IaC (infrastructure as code) orchestration tools available that can simplify the deployment process. One of those orchestration tools is Terraform. This chapter provides instructions on using Terraform modules to deploy an HPCC Systems instance specifically on the Azure Cloud.

These modules were developed by the HPCC Systems platform team for general open-source community usage. You may require specific customizations for your particular needs. For example, your organization may require opinionated modules for production systems. You can develop your own customized modules, per your requirements and utilize them in the same manner outlined here.

## Interactive Terraform Deployment

This section details deploying the containerized HPCC Systems platform onto Azure using Terraform. Using the open source and additional modules from the HPCC Systems Terraform open-source repository. No previous knowledge of Terraform, Kubernetes, or Azure is required.

The steps to deploy an HPCC Systems instance using our provided Terraform modules are detailed in the subsequent sections. A short summary of these steps is as follows.

1. Clone the HPCC Systems Terraform module repository
2. Copy the configuration files (admin.tfvars) from the /examples directory to the corresponding module directory
3. Modify the configuration files for each module
4. Initialize the modules
5. Apply the initialized modules

The strength of using Terraform modules to deploy your system, you only need to set them up once. After they are in place and configured, you can reuse them to stand up an identical instance of your system. You can do so by initializing and then applying them.

## Requirements

What you will need in order to deploy an HPCC Systems instance with Terraform:

- A Linux, MacOS, or Windows OS computer system.
- A browser. Such as Chrome or Firefox.
- Git and a Github account that you can access and clone the repository.
- An Azure account with sufficient permissions, rights, credits, and credentials. To obtain one, go to [www.azure.com](https://www.azure.com) or talk to your manager if you believe that your employer might have a corporate account.
- A code editor of your choice. There are a few editors integrated with Azure such as VS Code, vi the Visual Editor, Nano, or you can choose to use any another.



The easiest option which also ensures you have all the tools required is to use Azure is the command portal. Assuming you have an Azure account with all the appropriate credentials you can just go to the Azure command portal

```
https://portal.azure.com/
```

If this is the first time you have accessed the cloud shell, Azure will prompt you that storage is required for the cloud shell to persist account settings and files. Click through the prompts to create the storage. You should be presented with a shell. At this point, the cloud shell should already be logged into to your Azure account. The major advantage to using the cloud shell is that It will also have other prerequisites installed for you, namely, git, kubectl, helm, and even an editor. Otherwise in addition to installing the Azure CLI you would also need to install the other prerequisites.

## Terraform Repository

The HPCC Systems Terraform Repository, *terraform-azurerm-hpcc* is a code repository where the HPCC Systems Terraform modules are stored. The Terraform repository contains three independent modules required to instantiate an HPCC Systems cluster. These are the network, storage, and AKS (Azure Kubernetes Service) modules. The network module must be deployed first, followed by the storage module. Only then can the AKS or root module, be deployed. These modules automatically call other dependent modules upon initialization. There are dependencies which must be in place in order for all the modules to work appropriately.

## Cloning the Terraform Repository

Clone the Terraform Repository, *terraform-azurerm-hpcc* hosted on the HPCC Systems GitHub account.

<https://github.com/hpcc-systems/terraform-azurerm-hpcc.git>

To clone the repository:

1. Open your command line or terminal
2. Determine where to store the repository. Choose a location that is easy to find and remember. This will become the Terraform root directory.
3. Change directory to your chosen location.
4. Run the following command :

```
git clone https://github.com/hpcc-systems/terraform-azurerm-hpcc.git
```

Once the repository is cloned, you will traverse into each module's directory, and configure/modify the admin.tfvars file there, and then apply it.

## The Modules to Modify

Once in place these modules can be reused to stand up an exact copy of the instance.

The order of deployment for these Terraform modules is in fact important.

The order of deployment that you must follow is:

1. Virtual network
2. Storage accounts
3. Root module (AKS)

Modules	Location
Virtual network	terraform-azurerm-hpcc/modules/virtual_network
Storage accounts	terraform-azurerm-hpcc/modules/storage_accounts
AKS	terraform-azurerm-hpcc

These modules must be applied in that order since they build on the resources raised by the previous module.

After you clone the terraform-azurerm-hpcc repository you have access to the modules in that repository.

## Modify the Modules

First you will copy the configuration file, *admin.tfvars* from the examples subdirectory into that modules directory. Then you will modify that file you just copied. You must repeat this step for each module.

1. Change directory to the virtual network directory first.

```
cd terraform-azurerm-hpcc/modules/virtual_network
```

2. Copy the admin.tfvars files from ./examples to ./virtual\_network.

```
cp examples/admin.tfvars ./admin.tfvars
```

To modify the module you can enter the following command (**Note** using the code editor in the example, if you prefer you can use nano, vi, or any text editor):

```
code terraform-azurerm-hpcc/modules/virtual_network/examples/admin.tfvars
```

With the admin.tfvars file open, you can go through each object block or argument and set it to your preferred values. More information about the module files available in the *README.md* in HPCC Systems terraform-azurerm-hpcc repository.

```
admin = {
  name = "YourName"
  email = "YourEmail@example.com"
}

metadata = {
  project           = "hpccdemo"
  product_name      = "vnet"
  business_unit     = "commercial"
  environment       = "sandbox"
  market            = "us"
  product_group     = "contoso"
  resource_group_type = "app"
  sre_team          = "hpccplatform"
  subscription_type = "dev"
}

tags = { "justification" = "testing" }

resource_group = {
  unique_name = true
  location    = "eastus2"
}
```

1. Modify this file and replace the values for the **name** and **email** fields with your user name and your email address.
2. Save the File as admin.tfvars in the module's directory.

## Modifying the AKS Module

The AKS Module is a little different from the other modules. It is not in the modules subdirectory, it is in the base root directory where you previously cloned the Terraform repository. You still need to copy the admin.tfvars file from the examples directory into that root directory, just as you did for the other modules. However, there are a few additional modifications you need to make to this file.

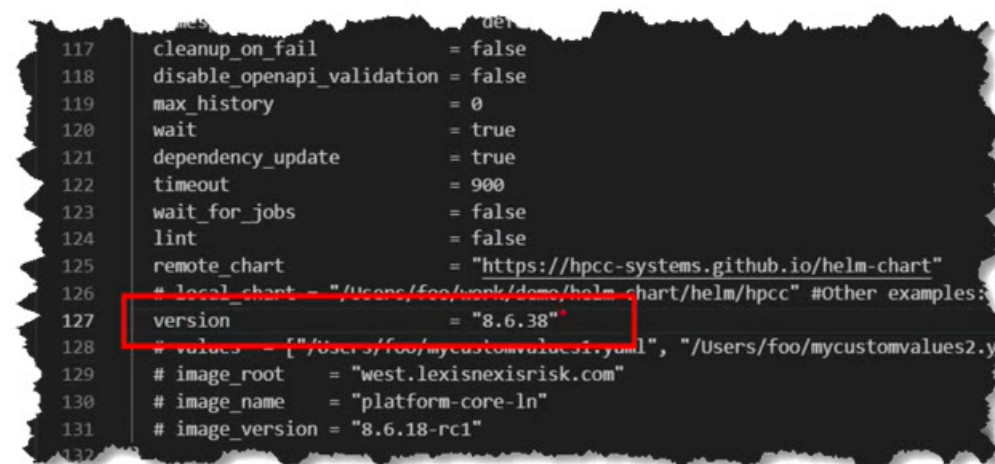
1. Copy the admin.tfvars files from ./examples to the AKS directory.

```
cp examples/admin.tfvars ./admin.tfvars
```

2. Modify the admin.tfvars file, once again add your user name and your email.
3. If you are using the Azure Cloud Shell, find the setting for **auto\_launch\_eclwatch** and set it to false as follows:

```
auto_launch_eclwatch = false
```

4. Additionally there is a setting for **version** which by default is commented out. Optionally, uncomment the version setting and set to a specific version.



```
117 cleanup_on_fail = false
118 disable_openapi_validation = false
119 max_history = 0
120 wait = true
121 dependency_update = true
122 timeout = 900
123 wait_for_jobs = false
124 lint = false
125 remote_chart = "https://hpcc-systems.github.io/helm-chart"
126 # local_chart = "/Users/foo/work/demos/helm-chart/helm/hpcc" #Other examples:
127 version = "8.6.38"
128 # values = ["/Users/foo/mycustomvalues1.yaml", "/Users/foo/mycustomvalues2.y
129 # image_root = "west.lexisnexisrisk.com"
130 # image_name = "platform-core-ln"
131 # image_version = "8.6.18-rc1"
132
```

5. Make any other configuration changes and save the admin.tfvars file.

**Note:** You can create multiple configuration files for different deployments. Such as the multiple versions which we just described. In that case you may want to save each configuration with a different name.

## Initializing the Terraform Modules

After configuring the modules, the next step is to initialize. The *Terraform init* command declares the current working directory as the root or the calling module. During this operation, Terraform downloads all the child modules from their sources and place them in the appropriate relative directories.

Once again, the order is important. Initialize the modules in the same order of precedence, virtual network first, the storage account second, and then the AKS, or root.

**Note:** Whilst the order the files are applied is important, you can perform the initialization and apply steps after you modify the files while already in the respective directory.

To Initialize the Modules

1. Change directory to the modules directory.

2. Run terraform init in that directory:

```
terraform init
```

3. Confirm the module has been successfully initialized.
4. Apply the Module

## Applying the Terraform Modules

This step generates a Terraform Plan to confirm your configuration choices. A Terraform plan displays exactly what it is going to do so you can review it before applying it. You can review and either approve to implement the plan or abort the plan and review your configuration modules for further changes.

When you issue the Terraform apply command it will validate the Terraform code and generate the plan, which you will then accept or reject to proceed. As with the previous steps, the order the modules are applied is important. You must apply the virtual network first, then the storage, and finally the root.

**Note:** Whilst the order the files are applied is important, you can perform the initialization and apply steps after you modify the files while already in the respective directory.

To Generate a Plan and Apply the Modules:

1. Change directory to that modules directory.
2. Run Terraform apply, specifying to use the admin.tfvars file you configured previously.

```
terraform apply -var-file=admin.tfvars
```

**Note:** If you created multiple configuration files as described in the previous section (for the AKS module) you can specify to use that specific var-file.

3. The Terraform plan displays, review the plan and if it aligns with what you expected, approve the plan and enter yes.

**Note:** If something does not look correct, do not enter yes. Anything other than yes will abort the application. You can then go and re-examine the admin.tfvars files from the previous steps and make any necessary changes.

4. Terraform initializes all the declared resources until they are all in a ready state. This can take a little time, as it is initializing several resources.

Successful completion displays a message similar to the following:

```
Apply complete! Resources: 11 added, 0 changed, 0 destroyed.
```

**Note:** The number of resources added, changed, or destroyed should match what the plan indicated in the previous step.

5. Repeat these steps for the storage\_accounts directory and then for the root module directory.

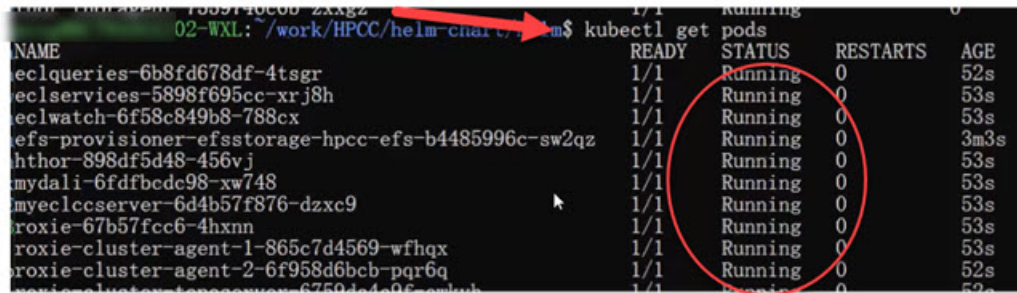
Once Terraform successfully applies all the modules in the correct sequence, and they all initialize and enter a ready state, your HPCC Systems cluster is up and running.

## Verify the Installation

With your successful Terraform deployment Kubernetes has provisioned all the required HPCC Systems pods. To check their status run:

```
kubectl get pods
```

**Note:** If this is the first time helm install has been run, it may take some time for the pods to all get into a *Running* state. Azure needs to pull container images from Docker, bring each component online, etc.



A terminal screenshot showing the output of the command `kubectl get pods`. The output is a table with columns: NAME, READY, STATUS, RESTARTS, and AGE. A red circle is drawn around the STATUS column, highlighting that all pods are in the 'Running' state. A red arrow points to the command prompt.

NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
eclqueries-6b8fd678df-4tsgr	1/1	Running	0	52s
eclservices-5898f695cc-xrj8h	1/1	Running	0	53s
eclwatch-6f58c849b8-788cx	1/1	Running	0	53s
efs-provisioner-efsstorage-hpcc-efs-b4485996c-sw2qz	1/1	Running	0	3m3s
hthor-898df5d48-456vj	1/1	Running	0	53s
mydali-6fdfbdc98-xw748	1/1	Running	0	53s
myeclccserver-6d4b57f876-dzxc9	1/1	Running	0	53s
proxie-67b57fcc6-4hxn	1/1	Running	0	53s
proxie-cluster-agent-1-865c7d4569-wfhqx	1/1	Running	0	53s
proxie-cluster-agent-2-6f958d6bcb-pqr6q	1/1	Running	0	52s
proxie-cluster-agent-3-6759d4-9f-ckub	1/1	Running	0	52s

Once all the pods STATUS is Running, the HPCC Systems cluster is ready to be use.

## Accessing ECLWatch

To access ECLWatch, an external IP for the ESP running ECLWatch is required. This will be listed as the *eclwatch* service, and can be obtained by running the following command:

```
kubectl get svc
```

Your output should be similar to:

NAME	TYPE	CLUSTER-IP	EXTERNAL-IP	PORT(S)	AGE
eclservices	ClusterIP	10.0.44.11	<none>	8010/TCP	11m
eclwatch	LoadBalancer	10.0.21.16	12.87.156.228	8010:30190/TCP	11m
kubernetes	ClusterIP	10.0.0.1	<none>	443/TCP	4h28m
mydali	ClusterIP	10.0.195.229	<none>	7070/TCP	11m

Use the EXTERNAL-IP listed for the ECLWatch service. Open a browser and go to <http://<external-ip>:8010/>, for example in this case, <http://12.87.156.228:8010/>. If everything is working as expected, the ECLWatch landing page displays.

## Taking Down The AKS Cluster

Destroying the AKS Cluster will do just that - completely destroy it. That is the Terraform term for taking down and removing all resources and processes Terraform deployed.

Just as with the installation, the order that modules are destroyed is also important. Keep in mind that **the AKS module must be destroyed before the Virtual network module**. Attempting to destroy resources in the wrong order could leave your deployment in an odd state and may incur unnecessary costs. To help reduce your total costs, always destroy your AKS when you do not intend on using it further.

Once configured the persisting Terraform modules can easily bring your deployment back up. An exact copy of the instance, can be raised simply by issuing the Terraform apply step you did earlier. This is the real beauty of the Terraform modules, once created they can be reused to generate an exact copy of your deployment. You could also have other configuration options readily available for deployment.

To destroy the Modules

1. Change directory to the root AKS directory: `terraform-azurerm-hpcc`
2. Run Terraform destroy

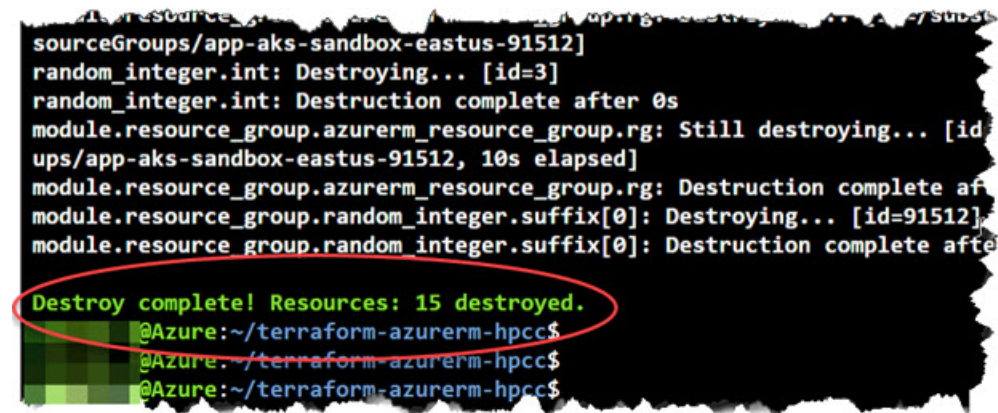
```
terraform destroy -var-file=admin.tfvars
```

3. The Terraform plan displays, review the plan and if it looks correct approve the plan by entering yes.

Entering anything other than yes aborts.

4. Repeat as necessary for the other modules. However ensure that the virtual network module is the last one to destroy, if you even choose to destroy it. (Apparently the cost for leaving the virtual network running is minimal, but check with your provider or manager for confirmation)

Terraform, much like the apply step, may take a few minutes to complete the destruction of all the resources. It will confirm the results once completed.



```
sourceGroups/app-aks-sandbox-eastus-91512]
random_integer.int: Destroying... [id=3]
random_integer.int: Destruction complete after 0s
module.resource_group.azure_rm_resource_group.rg: Still destroying... [id=
ups/app-aks-sandbox-eastus-91512, 10s elapsed]
module.resource_group.azure_rm_resource_group.rg: Destruction complete af
module.resource_group.random_integer.suffix[0]: Destroying... [id=91512]
module.resource_group.random_integer.suffix[0]: Destruction complete afte
Destroy complete! Resources: 15 destroyed.
@Azure:~/terraform-azurerm-hpcc$
@Azure:~/terraform-azurerm-hpcc$
@Azure:~/terraform-azurerm-hpcc$
```

# Customizing Configurations

## Customization Techniques

In this section, we will walk through creating a custom configuration YAML file and deploying an HPCC Systems® platform using the default configuration plus the customizations. Once you understand the concepts in this chapter, you can refer to the next chapter for a reference to all configuration value settings.

There are several ways to customize a platform deployment. We recommend using methods that allow you to best take advantage of the configuration as code (CaC) practices. Configuration as code is the standard of managing configuration files in a version control system or repository.

The following is a list of common customization techniques:

- The first way to override a setting in the default configuration is via the command line using the **--set** parameter.

This is the easiest, but the least compliant with CaC guidelines. It is also harder to keep track of overrides this way.

- The second way is to modify the default values saved using a command like:

```
helm show values hpcc/hpcc > myvalues.yaml
```

This could comply with CaC guidelines if you place that file under version control, but it makes it harder to utilize a newer default configuration when one becomes available.

- The third way, is the one we typically use. Use the default configuration plus a customization YAML file and use the **-f** parameter (or **--values** parameter) to the helm command. This uses the default configuration and only overrides the settings specified in the customization YAML. In addition, you can pass multiple YAML files in the same command, if desired.

For this tutorial, we will use the third method to stand up a platform with all the default settings but add some customizations. In the first example, instead of one Roxie, it will have two. In the second example, it will add a second 10-way Thor.

## Create a Custom Configuration Chart for Two Roxies

1. If you have not already added the HPCC Systems repository to the helm repository list, add it now.

```
helm repo add hpcc https://hpcc-systems.github.io/helm-chart/
```

If you have added it, update to the latest charts:

```
helm repo update
```

2. Create a new text file and name it **tworoxies.yaml** and open it in a text editor.

You can use any text editor.

3. Save the default values to a text file:

```
helm show values hpcc/hpcc > myvalues.yaml
```

4. Open the saved file (myvalues.yaml) in a text editor.
5. Copy the entire **roxie:** section and paste it into the new **tworoxies.yaml** file.
6. Copy the entire contents of the new **tworoxies.yaml** file, except the first line (roxie:), and paste it at the end of the file.
7. In the second block, edit the value for **name:** and change it to **roxie2**.
8. In the second block, edit the value for **prefix:** and change it to **roxie2**.
9. In the second block, edit the value for **name:** under **services:** and change it to **roxie2**.
10. Save the file and close the text editor.

The resulting **tworoxies.yaml** file should look like this

**Note:** The comments have been removed to simplify the example:

```
roxie:
- name: roxie
  disabled: false
  prefix: roxie
  services:
    - name: roxie
      servicePort: 9876
      listenQueue: 200
      numThreads: 30
      visibility: local
  replicas: 2
  numChannels: 2
  serverReplicas: 0
  localAgent: false
  traceLevel: 1
  topoServer:
    replicas: 1
- name: roxie2
  disabled: false
  prefix: roxie2
  services:
    - name: roxie2
      servicePort: 9876
      listenQueue: 200
```



```
numThreads: 30
visibility: local
replicas: 2
numChannels: 2
serverReplicas: 0
localAgent: false
traceLevel: 1
topoServer:
  replicas: 1
```

#### Deploy using the new custom configuration chart.

1. Open a terminal and navigate to the folder where you saved the `tworoxies.yaml` file.
2. Deploy your HPCC Systems Platform, adding the new configuration to your command:

```
helm install mycluster hpcc/hpcc -f tworoxies.yaml
```

3. After you confirm that your deployment is running, open ECL Watch.

You should see two Roxie clusters available as Targets -- roxie and roxie2.

## Create a Custom Configuration Chart for Two Thors

You can specify more than one custom configuration by repeating the `-f` parameter.

For example:

```
helm install mycluster hpcc/hpcc -f tworoxies.yaml -f twothors.yaml
```

In this section, we will add a second 10-way Thor.

1. If you have not already added the HPCC Systems repository to the helm repository list, add it now.

```
helm repo add hpcc https://hpcc-systems.github.io/helm-chart/
```

If you have added it, update to the latest charts:

```
helm repo update
```

2. Create a new text file and name it **twothors.yaml** and open it in a text editor.

You can use any text editor.

3. Open the default values file that you saved earlier (`myvalues.yaml`) in a text editor.
4. Copy the entire **thor:** section and paste it into the new `twothors.yaml` file.
5. Copy the entire contents of the new `twothors.yaml` file, except the first line (`thor:`), and paste it at the end of the file.
6. In the second block, edit the value for **name:** and change it to **thor10**.
7. In the second block, edit the value for **prefix:** and change it to **thor10**.
8. In the second block, edit the value for **numWorkers:** and change it to **10**.
9. Save the file and close the text editor.

The resulting `twothors.yaml` file should look like this

**Note:** The comments have been removed to simplify the example:

```
thor:
- name: thor
  prefix: thor
  numWorkers: 2
  maxJobs: 4
  maxGraphs: 2
- name: thor10
  prefix: thor10
  numWorkers: 10
  maxJobs: 4
  maxGraphs: 2
```

#### Deploy using the new custom configuration chart.

1. Open a terminal and navigate to the folder where you saved the twothors.yaml file.
2. Deploy your HPCC Systems Platform, adding the new configuration to your command:

```
# If you have previously stopped your cluster

helm install mycluster hpcc/hpcc -f tworoxies.yaml -f twothors.yaml

# To upgrade without stopping

helm upgrade mycluster hpcc/hpcc -f tworoxies.yaml -f twothors.yaml
```

3. After you confirm that your deployment is running, open ECL Watch.

You should see two Thor clusters available as Targets -- thor and thor10.

## Create a Custom Configuration Chart for No Thor

In this section, we will create a YAML file to specify a platform deployment with no Thor.

1. If you have not already added the HPCC Systems repository to the helm repository list, add it now.

```
helm repo add hpcc https://hpcc-systems.github.io/helm-chart/
```

If you have added it, update to the latest charts:

```
helm repo update
```

2. Create a new text file and name it **nothor.yaml** and open it in a text editor.

You can use any text editor.

3. Edit the file so it disables Thor as follows:

```
thor: []
```

4. Save the file and close the text editor.

#### Deploy using the new custom configuration chart.

1. Open a terminal and navigate to the folder where you saved the nothor.yaml file.
2. Deploy your HPCC Systems Platform, adding the new configuration to your command:

```
# If you have previously stopped your cluster  
helm install mycluster hpcc/hpcc -f nothor.yaml  
  
# To upgrade without stopping  
helm upgrade mycluster hpcc/hpcc -f nothor.yaml
```

3. After you confirm that your deployment is running, open ECL Watch.

You should not see any Thor cluster available as a Target.

## Create a Custom Configuration Chart for No Roxie

In this section, we will create a YAML file to specify a platform deployment with no Roxie. While the outcome is similar to what we did in the previous section for no Thor, the technique is different.

1. If you have not already added the HPCC Systems repository to the helm repository list, add it now.

```
helm repo add hpcc https://hpcc-systems.github.io/helm-chart/
```

If you have added it, update to the latest charts:

```
helm repo update
```

2. Create a new text file and name it **noroxie.yaml** and open it in a text editor.

You can use any text editor.

3. Save the default values to a text file:

```
helm show values hpcc/hpcc > myvalues.yaml
```

4. Open the saved file (myvalues.yaml) in a text editor.
5. Copy the entire **roxie:** section and paste it into the new noroxie.yaml file.
6. Copy the entire **eclagent:** section and paste it into the new noroxie.yaml file.
7. In the **roxie** block, edit the value for **disabled:** and change it to **true**
8. In the **eclagent** block, delete the entire **name: roxie-workunit** block.

You can remove everything else from the roxie: block except name.

This removes the instance of a Roxie acting as an ECL Agent.

9. Save the file and close the text editor.

The resulting noroxie.yaml file should look like this:

**Note:** The comments have been removed to simplify the example:

```
roxie:
- name: roxie
  disabled: true

eclagent:
- name: hthor
  replicas: 1
  maxActive: 4
  prefix: hthor
  useChildProcesses: false
  type: hthor
```

### Deploy using the new custom configuration chart.

1. Open a terminal and navigate to the folder where you saved the noroxie.yaml file.
2. Deploy your HPCC Systems Platform, adding the new configuration to your command:

```
helm install mycluster hpcc/hpcc -f noroxie.yaml
```

3. After you confirm that your deployment is running, open ECL Watch.

You should not see any Roxie cluster available as a Target.

# Container Cost Tracking

With the advent of the containerized HPCC Systems platform, we have introduced cost tracking information. This is particularly useful when using cloud native HPCC Systems platform instances in a cloud setting where some planning and configuration can help reduce expenses.

Two new columns have been added to the workunits page in ECL Watch. The columns may be sorted by either cost column, just like the other columns in ECL Watch, by clicking at the top of the column.

## Types of Costs

There are three types of costs that are tracked.

- Execution Cost
- Storage Cost
- File Access Cost

**NOTE:** All cost values calculated and displayed are approximate. There are many variables that can result in inaccuracies. These cost values are only intended to be used as a guide.

## Execution Cost

Execution Cost is the cost of executing the workunit, graph, and subgraphs on the Thor cluster. It includes the cost of all the nodes directly required to execute the job and includes the cost of:

- Worker nodes
- Compiler nodes
- Agent nodes and the manager node

A workunit's execution cost value is displayed in ECL Watch on its summary page and is broken down at the graph, subgraph, and activity level. The graph and subgraph cost values are available in the metrics and graph viewer.

**Note:** The execution cost of ROXIE workunits is not currently implemented.

## Job Guillotine

The risk of runaway costs is a concern for potentially uncapped usage-based charging. Thus the job guillotine feature is provided to manage this risk by setting limits on the costs using the *limit* and *hardlimit* values. When a jobs cost reaches a set amount, the job can be terminated and limit the costs that job may incur.

**Note:** This feature is only supported for Thor jobs currently.

Refresh Copy WUID Save Delete Restore Reschedule Deschedule Set To Fail

W20220218-154420

WUID W20220218-154420

Action compile

State failed

Owner

Job Name writesuper

Description

2 Error(s) 0 Warning(s) 0 Info(s) 0 Other(s)

Severity	Source	Code	Message
Error	eclagent	10142	System error: 10142: Job cost exceeds limit

System error: 10142: Job cost exceeds limit

## Storage Cost

This is the cost of hosting the data in the storage plane. It does not include the costs of data operations such as read or write costs.

**Note:** Costs are not recorded for temporary or spill files, because the local storage is included in the price of the VM used to calculate the execution costs.

The storage costs cannot be viewed as a separate value in ECL Watch. They can only be viewed as part of a cost field in a logical file's summary page. That cost field includes other file related costs.

## File Access Cost

File access costs are the costs of reading and writing to the files. Many storage planes do have a separate charge for data operations. The cost of reading and writing to the file will be included in the file access cost value. Any other cost associated with file operations (such as delete or copy) will not be tracked or included as part of file access cost at this time.

The file access cost displays as part of the cost field on the Logical File's summary page in ECL Watch.

The costs incurred by a workunit for accessing logical files is also recorded in the workunit's statistics and attributes. The read/write cost is recorded at the activity record and cumulated at the graph, the subgraph and the workflow scope level. The total file access cost for a workunit is recorded with the workunit and displayed in the summary page.

The new cost field is shown in the Logical File summary page. It is the combined cost of storing and accessing the data.

The cost information is currently only generated for Thor and hThor jobs.

## Costs Configuration

This section details setting the job costs configuration parameters. Job costs configuration on a cloud native HPCC Systems instance is done using the helm chart. By default the delivered *values.yaml* file contains a section for configuring costs. The costs are calculated using the default delivered values. Any desired changes can be done as a custom configuration similar to the customizations in the previous sections.

For example:

1. Create a new text file and name it **mycosts.yaml** and open it in a text editor.

You can use any text editor.

2. Save the default values to a text file:

```
helm show values hpcc/hpcc > myvalues.yaml
```

3. Open the saved file (myvalues.yaml) in a text editor.
4. Copy the entire **cost:** section and paste it into the new mycosts.yaml file.
5. Change any desired cost related values as appropriate.
6. Save the file and close the text editor.
7. Deploy your HPCC Systems Platform, adding the new configuration to your command:

```
helm install mycluster hpcc/hpcc -f mycosts.yaml
```

The configuration values provide the pricing information and currency formatting information. The following cost configuration parameters are supported:

<i>currencyCode</i>	Used for currency formatting of cost values.
<i>perCpu</i>	Cost per hour of a single cpu.
<i>storageAtRest</i>	Storage cost per gigabyte per month.
<i>storageReads</i>	Cost per 10,000 read operations.
<i>storageWrites</i>	Cost per 10,000 write operations.

## Configuring Cloud Costs

The default *values.yaml* configuration file is configured with the following cost parameters in the global/cost section:

```
cost:
  currencyCode: USD
  perCpu: 0.126
  storageAtRest: 0.0135
  storageReads: 0.0485
  storageWrites: 0.0038
```

The **currencyCode** attribute should be configured with the ISO 4217 country code. (HPCC Systems platform defaults to USD if the currency code is missing).

The **perCpu** from the global/cost section applies to every component that has not been configured with its own perCpu value.

A perCpu value specific to a component may be set by adding a cost/perCPU attribute under that component section.



For example Dali:

```
dali:
- name: mydali
  cost:
    perCpu: 0.24
```

## Thor Cost Configurations

The Thor components support additional cost parameters which are used for the job guillotine feature:

<i>limit</i>	Sets the “soft” cost limit that a workunit may incur. The limit is “soft” in that it may be overridden by the <b>maxCost</b> ECL option. A node will be terminated if it exceeds its <b>maxCost</b> value (if set) or the limit attribute value (if the <b>maxCost</b> not set).
<i>hardlimit</i>	Sets the absolute maximum cost limit, a limit that may not be overridden by setting the ECL option. The <b>maxCost</b> value exceeding the hardlimit will be ignored.

The following example sets the jobs cost limits, by adding the attributes to the Thor section of the configuration yaml.

```
thor:
- name: thor
  prefix: thor
  numWorkers: 2
  maxJobs: 4
  maxGraphs: 2
  cost:
    limit: 10.00      # maximum cost is $10, overridable with maxCost option
    hardlimit: 20.00  # maximum cost is $20, cannot be overridden
```

## Storage Cost Parameters

The storage cost parameters (**storageAtRest**, **storageReads** and **storageWrites**) may be added under the storage plane cost section to set cost parameters specific to the storage plane.

For example:

```
storage:
  planes:
  - name: dali
    storageClass: ""
    storageSize: 1Gi
    prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/dalistorage"
    pvc: mycluster-hpcc-dalistorage-pvc
    category: dali
    cost:
      storageAtRest: 0.01
      storageReads: 0.001
      storageWrites: 0.04
```

The storage cost parameters under the global section are only used if no cost parameters are specified on the storage plane.

# Configuration Values

This chapter describes the configuration of HPCC Systems for a Kubernetes Containerized deployment. The following sections detail how configurations are supplied to helm charts, how to find out what options are available and some details of the configuration file structure. Subsequent sections will also provide a brief walk through of some of the contents of the default *values.yaml* file used in configuring the HPCC Systems for a containerized deployment.

## The Container Environment

One of the ideas behind our move to the cloud was to try and simplify the system configuration while also delivering a solution flexible enough to meet the demands of our community while taking advantage of container features without sacrificing performance.

The entire HPCC Systems configuration in the container space, is governed by a single file, a *values.yaml* file, and its associated schema (*values-schema.json*) file.

## The *values.yaml* and how it is used

The supplied stock *values.yaml* file provided in the HPCC Systems repository is the delivered configuration values for the "hpcc" Helm chart. The *values.yaml* file is used by the Helm chart to control how HPCC Systems is deployed to the cloud. This *values.yaml* file is a single file used to configure and get an HPCC Systems instance up and running on Kubernetes. The *values.yaml* file defines everything that happens to configure and/or define your system for a containerized deployment. You should use the values file provided as a basis for modeling customizations for your deployment specific to your requirements.

The HPCC Systems *values.yaml* file can be found in the HPCC Systems github repository. To use the HPCC Systems Helm chart, first add the hpcc chart repository using Helm, then access the Helm chart values from the charts in that repository.

For example, when you add the "hpcc" repository, as recommended prior to installing the Helm chart with the following command:

```
helm repo add hpcc https://hpcc-systems.github.io/helm-chart
```

You can now view the HPCC Systems delivered charts and see the values there by issuing:

```
helm show values hpcc/hpcc
```

You can capture the output of this command, look at how the defaults are configured and use it as a basis for your customization.

## The values-schema.json

The *values-schema.json* is a JSON file that declares what is valid and what is not within the sum total of the merged values that are passed into Helm at install time. It defines what values are allowed, and validates the values file against them. All the core items are declared in the schema file, which contains comments and descriptions. While the default *values.yaml* file also contains comments on the most important elements.

If you wanted to know what options are available for any particular component then the schema is a good place to start. If the value exists and is allowed per the schema it can then be added when you install.

The schema file typically contains (for a property) a name and a description. It will often include details of the type, and items it can contain, or if it is a list or dictionary. For instance:

```
"roxie": {
  "description": "roxie process",
  "type": "array"
  "items": { "$ref": "#/definitions/roxie" }
},
```

Each plane, in the schema file has a list of properties generally containing a prefix (path), a subpath (subpath), and additional properties. For example, for a storage plane the schema file has a list of properties including the prefix. The "planes" in this case are a reference (\$ref) to another section. The schema file is complete, and contains everything required including descriptions which should be relatively self-explanatory.

```
"storage": {
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "hostGroups": {
      "$ref": "#/definitions/hostGroups"
    },
    "planes": {
      "$ref": "#/definitions/storagePlanes"
    }
  },
  "additionalProperties": false
```

Note the *additionalProperties* value typically at the end of each section in the schema. It specifies whether the values allow for additional properties or not. If that *additionalProperties* value is present and set to false, then no other properties are allowed and the property list is complete.

In working with the HPCC Systems *values.yaml*, the values file must validate against this schema. If there is a value that is not allowed as defined in the schema file it will not start and instead generate an ERROR.

## HPCC Systems Components and the values.yaml File

The HPCC Systems Helm charts all ship with stock/default values. These Helm charts have a set of default values ideally to be used as a guide in configuring your deployment. Generally, every HPCC Systems component is a list. That list defines the properties for each instance of the component.

This section will provide additional details and any noteworthy insight for the HPCC Systems components defined in the *values.yaml* file.

## The HPCC Systems Components

One of the key differences between the bare metal and container/cloud is that in bare metal storage is directly tied to the Thor or the Thor worker nodes, and the Roxie worker nodes, or even in the case of the ECLCC Server the DLLs. In containers these are completely separate and anything having to do with files is defined in the *values.yaml*.

In containers component instances run dynamically. For instance, if you have configured your system to use a 50-way Thor, then a 50-way Thor will be spawned when a job is queued to it. When that job is finished that Thor instance will disappear. This is the same pattern for the other components as well.

Every component should have a resources entry, in the delivered *values.yaml* file the resources are present but commented out as indicated here.

```
#resources:
#  cpu: "1"
#  memory: "4G"
```

The stock values file will work and allow you to stand up a functional system, however you should define the component resources in a manner that corresponds best to your operational strategy.

## The Systems services

Most of the HPCC Systems components have a service definition entry, similar to the resources entry. All the components that have service definitions follow this same pattern.

Any service related info needs to be under a service object, for example:

```
service:
  servicePort: 7200
  visibility: local
```

This applies to most all of the HPCC Systems components, ESP, Dali, dafilesrv, and Sasha. Roxie's specification is slightly different, in that it has its service defined under "roxieservice". Each Roxie can then have multiple "roxieservice" definitions. (see schema).

## Dali

When configuring Dali, which also has a resources section, it is going to want plenty of memory and a good amount of CPU as well. It is very important to define these carefully. Otherwise Kubernetes could assign all the pods to the same virtual machine and components fighting for memory will crush them. Therefore more memory assigned the better. If you define these wrong and a process uses more memory than configured, Kubernetes will kill the pod.

## Components: dafilesvrs, dfuserver

The HPCC Systems components of dafilesvrs, eclccservers, dfuserver, are declared as lists in the YAML file, as is the ECL Agent.

Consider the dfuserver which is in the delivered HPCC Systems *values.yaml* as:

```
dfuserver:
- name: dfuserver
  maxJobs: 1
```

If you were to add a mydfuserver as follows

```
dfuserver:
- name: dfuserver
  maxJobs: 1
- name: mydfuserver
  maxJobs: 1
```

In this scenario you would have another item here named mydfuserver and it would show up in ECLWatch and you can submit items to that.

If you wanted to add another dfuserver, you can add that to the list similarly. You can likewise instantiate other components by adding them to their respective lists.

## ECL Agent and ECLCC Server

Values of note for the ECL Agent and ECLCC Server.

**useChildProcess** -- As defined in the schema, launches each workunit compile as a child process rather than in its own container. When you submit a job or query to compile it gets queued and processed, with this option set to true it will spawn a child process utilizing almost no additional overhead in starting. Ideal for sending many small jobs to compile. However, because each compile job is no longer executed as an independent pod with it's own resource specifications, but instead runs as a child process within the ECLCC Server pod itself, the ECLCC Server pod must be defined with adequate resources for itself (minimal for listening to the queue etc.) and all the jobs it may have to run in parallel.

For example, imagine *maxJobs* is set to 4, and 4 large queries are queued rapidly, that will mean 4 child processes are launched each consuming cpu and memory within the ECLCC Server pod. With the component configured with *useChildProcesses* set to true, each job will run in the same pod (up to the value of *maxJobs* in parallel). Therefore with *useChildProcesses* enabled, the component resources must be defined such that the pod has enough resources to handle the resource demands of all those jobs to be able to run in parallel.

With *useChildProcess* enabled it could be rather expensive in most cloud pricing models, and rather wasteful if there aren't any jobs running. Instead you can set this *useChildprocess* to false (the default) to start a pod to compile each query with only the required memory for the job which will be disposed of when done. Now this model also has overheard, perhaps 20 seconds to a minute to spawn the Kubernetes cluster to process the job. Which may not be ideal for an environment which is sending several small jobs, but rather larger jobs which would minimize the effect of the overhead in starting the Kubernetes cluster.

Setting *useChildProcess* to false better allows for the possibility of dynamic scaling. For jobs which would take a long while to compile, the extra (start up) overhead is minimal, and that would be the ideal case to have the *useChildProcess*

as false. Setting *useChildProcess* to false only allows 1 pod per compile, though there is an attribute for putting a time limit on that compilation.

**ChildProcessTimeLimit** is the time limit (in seconds) for child process compilation before aborting and using a separate container, when the *useChildProcesses* is false.

**maxActive** -- The maximum number of jobs that can be run in parallel. Again use caution because each job will need enough memory to run. For instance, if *maxActive* is set to 2000, you could submit a very big job and in that case spawn some 2000 jobs using a considerable amount of resources, which could potentially run up a rather expensive compilation bill, again depending on your cloud provider and your billing plan.

## Sasha

The configuration for Sasha is an outlier as it is a dictionary type structure and not a list. You can't have more than one archiver or dfuwu-archiver as that is a value limitation, you can choose to either have the service or not (set the 'disabled' value to true).

## Thor

Thor instances run dynamically, as do the other components in containers. The configuration for Thor also consists of a list of Thor instances. Each instance dynamically spawns a collection of pods (manager + N workers) when jobs are queued to it. When idle there are no worker (or manager) pods running.

If you wanted a 50-way Thor you set the number of workers, the **numWorkers** value to 50 and you would have a 50-way Thor. As indicated in the following example:

```
thor:
- name: thor
  prefix: thor
  numWorkers: 50
```

In doing so, ideally you should rename the resource to something which clearly describes it, such as *thor\_50* as in the following example.

```
-name: thor_50
```

Updating the *numWorkers* value will restart the Thor agent listening to the queue, causing all new jobs to use the new configuration.

**maxJobs** -- Controls the number of jobs, specifically *maxJobs* sets the maximum number of jobs.

**maxGraphs** -- Limits the maximum amount of graphs. It generally makes sense to keep this value below or at the same number as *maxJobs*, since not all jobs submit graphs and when they do the Thor jobs are not executing graphs all the time. If there are more than 2 submitted (Thor) graphs, the second would be blocked until the next Thor instance becomes available.

The idea here is that jobs may spend significant amount of time outside of graphs, such as waiting on a workflow state (outside of the Thor engine itself), blocked on a persist, or updating super files, etc. Then it makes sense for Thor to have a higher limit of concurrent jobs (*maxJobs*) than graphs (*maxGraphs* / Thor instances). Since Thor instances (graphs) are relatively expensive (lots of pods/higher resource use), while workflow pods (jobs) are comparatively cheap.

Thus, the delivered (example) chart values defines *maxJobs* to be greater than *maxGraphs*. Jobs queued to a Thor aren't always running graphs. Therefore it can make sense to have more of these jobs, which are not consuming a large Thor and all its resources, but restrict the max number of Thor instances running.

Thor has 3 components (that correspond to the resource sections).

### 1. Workflow

## 2. Manager

## 3. Workers

The Manager and Workers are launched together and consume quite a bit of resources (and nodes) typically. While the Workflow is inexpensive and usually doesn't require as many resources. You might expect in a Kubernetes world, many of them would co-exist on the same node (and therefore be inexpensive). So it makes sense for *maxJobs* to be higher, and *maxGraphs* to be lower

In Kubernetes, jobs run independently in their own pods. While in bare metal we can have jobs that could effect other jobs because they are running in the same process space.

## Thor and hThor Memory

The Thor and hThor *memory* sections allow the resource memory of the component to be refined into different areas.

For example, the "workerMemory" for a Thor defined as:

```
thor:
- name: thor
  prefix: thor
  numWorkers: 2
  maxJobs: 4
  maxGraphs: 2
  managerResources:
    cpu: "1"
    memory: "2G"
  workerResources:
    cpu: "4"
    memory: "4G"
  workerMemory:
    query: "3G"
    thirdParty: "500M"
  eclAgentResources:
    cpu: "1"
    memory: "2G"
```

The "*workerResources*" section will tell Kubernetes to resource 4G per worker pod. By default Thor will reserve 90% of this memory to use for HPCC query memory (roxiemem). The remaining 10% is left for all other non-row based (roxiemem) usage, such as general heap, OS overheads, etc. There is no allowance for any 3rd party library, plugins, or embedded language usage within this default. In other words, if for example embedded Python allocates 4G, the process will soon fail with an out of memory error, when it starts to use any memory, since it was expecting 90% of that 4G to be freely available to use for itself.

These defaults can be overridden by the memory sections. In this example, *workerMemory.query* defines that 3G of the available resourced memory should be assigned to query memory, and 500M to "thirdParty" uses.

This limits the HPCC Systems memory *roxiemem* usage to exactly 3G, leaving 1G free other purposes. The "thirdParty" is not actually allocated, but is used solely as part of the running total, to ensure that the configuration doesn't specify a total in this section larger than the resources section, e.g., if "thirdParty" was set to "2G" in the above section, there would be a runtime complaint when Thor ran that the definition exceeded the resource limit.

It is also possible to override the default recommended percentage (90% by default), by setting *maxMemPercentage*. If "query" is not defined, then it is calculated to be the recommended max memory minus the defined memory (e.g., "thirdParty").

In Thor there are 3 resource areas, *eclAgent*, *ThorManager*, and *ThorWorker(s)*. Each has a \*Resource area that defines their Kubernetes resource needs, and a corresponding \*Memory section that can be used to override default memory allocation requirements.

These settings can also be overridden on a per query basis, via workunit options following the pattern: <memory-section-name>.<property>. For example: #option('workerMemory.thirdParty', "1G");

**Note:** Currently there is only "query" (HPCC roxiemem usage) and "thirdParty" for all/any 3rd party usage. It's possible that further categories will be added in future, like "python" or "java" - that specifically define memory uses for those targets.



# The HPCC Systems *values.yaml* file

The delivered HPCC systems *values.yaml* file is more of an example providing a basic type configuration which should be customized for your specific needs. One of the main ideas behind the values file is to be able to relatively easily customize it to your specific scenario. The delivered chart is set up to be sensible enough to understand, while also allowing for relatively easy customization to configure a system to your specific requirements. This section will take a closer look at some aspects of the delivered *values.yaml*.

The delivered HPCC Systems Values file primarily consists of the following areas:

global	storage	visibilities
data planes	certificates	security
secrets	components	

The subsequent sections will examine some of these more closely and why each of them is there.

## Storage

Containerized Storage is another key concept that differs from bare metal. There are a few differences between container and bare metal storage. The Storage section is fairly well defined between the schema file, and the *values.yaml*. A good approach towards storage is to clearly understand your storage needs, and to outline them, and once you have that basic structure in mind the schema can help to fill in the details. The schema should have a decent description for each attribute. All storage should be defined via planes. There is a relevant comment in the *values.yaml* further describing storage.

```
## storage:
##
## 1. If an engine component has the dataPlane property set,
#     then that plane will be the default data location for that component.
## 2. If there is a plane definition with a category of "data"
#     then the first matching plane will be the default data location
##
## If a data plane contains the storageClass property then an implicit pvc
#     will be created for that data plane.
##
## If plane.pvc is defined, a Persistent Volume Claim must exist with that name,
#     storageClass and storageSize are not used.
##
## If plane.storageClass is defined, storageClassName: <storageClass>
## If set to "-", storageClassName: "", which disables dynamic provisioning
## If set to "", choosing the default provisioner.
#     (gp2 on AWS, standard on GKE, AWS & OpenStack)
##
## plane.forcePermissions=true is required by some types of provisioned
## storage, where the mounted filing system has insufficient permissions to be
## read by the hpcc pods. Examples include using hostpath storage (e.g. on
## minikube and docker for desktop), or using NFS mounted storage.
```

There are different categories of storage, for an HPCC Systems deployment you must have at a minimum a dali category, a dll category, and at least 1 data category. These types are generally applicable for every configuration in addition to other optional categories of data.

All storage should be in a storage plane definition. This is best described in the comment in the storage definition in the values file.

```
planes:
#   name: <required>
```

## Containerized HPCC Systems® Platform Configuration Values

```
# prefix: <path> # Root directory for accessing the plane
# # (if pvc defined),
# # or url to access plane.
# category: data|dali|lz|dll|spill|temp # What category of data is stored on this plane?
#
# For dynamic pvc creation:
# storageClass: ''
# storageSize: 1Gi
#
# For persistent storage:
# pvc: <name> # The name of the persistent volume claim
# forcePermissions: false
# hosts: [ <host-list> ] # Inline list of hosts
# hostGroup: <name> # Name of the host group for bare metal
# # must match the name of the storage plane..
#
# Other options:
# subPath: <relative-path> # Optional sub directory within <prefix>
# # to use as the root directory
# numDevices: 1 # number of devices that are part of the plane
# secret: <secret-id> # what secret is required to access the files.
# # This could optionally become a list if required
# # (or add secrets:).
#
# defaultSprayParts: 4 # The number of partitions created when spraying
# # (default: 1)
#
# cost: # The storage cost
# storageAtRest: 0.0135 # Storage at rest cost: cost per GiB/month
```

Each plane has 3 required fields: The name, the category and the prefix.

When the system is installed, using the stock supplied values it will create a storage volume which has 1 GB capacity via the following properties.

For example:

```
- name: dali
  storageClass: ""
  storageSize: 1Gi
  prefix: "/var/lib/HPCCSystems/dalistorage"
  category: dali
```

Most commonly the prefix: defines the path within the container where the storage is mounted. The prefix can be a URL for blob storage. All pods will use the (prefix: ) path to access the storage.

For the above example, when you look at the storage list, the *storageSize* will create a volume with 1 GB capacity. The prefix will be the path, the category is used to limit access to the data, and to minimize the number of volumes accessible from each component.

The dynamic storage lists in the *values.yaml* file are characterized by the *storageClass*: and *storageSize*: values.

**storageClass**: defines which storage provisioner should be used to allocate the storage. A blank storage class indicates it should use the default cloud providers storage class.

**storageSize**: As indicated in the example, defines the capacity of the volume.

## Storage Category

Storage category is used to indicate the kind of data that is being stored in that location. Different planes are used for the different categories to isolate the different types of data from each other, but also because they often require

different performance characteristics. A named plane may only store one category of data. The following sections look at the currently supported categories of data used in our containerized deployment.

```
category: data|dali|lz|dll|spill|temp # What category of data is stored on this plane?
```

The system itself can write out to any data plane. This is how the data category can help to improve performance. For example, if you have an index, Roxie would want rapid access to data, versus other components.

Some components may use only 1 category, some can use several. The values file can contain more than one storage plane definition for each category. The first storage plane in the list for each category is used as the default location to store that category of data. These categories minimize the exposure of plane data to components that don't need them. For example the ECLCC Server component does not need to know about landing zones, or where Dali stores its data, so it only mounts the plane categories it needs.

## Ephemeral Storage

Ephemeral storage is allocated when the HPCC Systems cluster is installed and deleted when the chart is uninstalled. This is helpful in keeping cloud costs down but may not be appropriate for your data.

In your system, you would want to override the delivered stock value(s) with storage appropriate for your specific needs. The supplied values create ephemeral or temporary persistent volumes that get automatically deleted when the chart is uninstalled. You probably want the storage to be persistent. You should customize the storage to a more suitable configuration for your needs.

## Persistent Storage

Kubernetes uses persistent volume claims (pvc's) to provide access to data storage. HPCC Systems supports cloud storage through the cloud provider that can be exposed through these persistent volume claims.

Persistent Volume Claims can be created by overriding the storage values in the delivered Helm chart. The values in the *examples/local/values-localfile.yaml* provided override the corresponding entries in the original delivered stock HPCC Systems helm chart. The localfile chart creates persistent storage volumes. You can use the *values-localfile.yaml* directly (as demonstrated in separate docs/tutorials) or you can use it as a basis for creating your own override chart.

To define a storage plane that utilizes a PVC, you must decide on where that data will reside. You create the storage directories, with the appropriate names and then you can install the localfiles Helm chart to create the volumes to use the local storage option, such as in the following example:

```
helm install mycluster hpcc/hpcc -f examples/local/values-localfile.yaml
```

**Note:** The settings for the PVC's must be ReadWriteMany, except for Dali which can be ReadWriteOnce.

There are a number of resources, blogs, tutorials, even developer videos that provide step-by-step detail for creating persistent storage volumes.

## Bare Metal Storage

There are two aspects to using bare metal storage in the Kubernetes system. The first is the *hostGroups* entry in the storage section which provides named lists of hosts. The *hostGroups* entries can take one of two forms. This is the most common form, and directly associates a list of host names with a name:

```
storage:
  hostGroups:
    - name: <name> "The name of the host group"
      hosts: [ "a list of host names" ]
```

The second form allows one host group to be derived from another:

```
storage:
  hostGroups:
    - name: "The name of the host group process"
      hostGroup: "Name of the hostgroup to create a subset of"
      count: <Number of hosts in the subset>
      offset: <the first host to include in the subset>
      delta: <Cycle offset to apply to the hosts>
```

Some typical examples with bare-metal clusters are smaller subsets of the host, or the same hosts, but storing different parts on different nodes, for example:

```
storage:
  hostGroups:
    - name: groupABCDE # Explicit list of hosts
      hosts: [A, B, C, D, E]
    - name: groupCDE # Subset of the group last 3 hosts
      hostGroup: groupABCDE
      count: 3
      offset: 2
    - name: groupDEC # Same set of hosts, but different part->host mapping
      hostGroup: groupCDE
      delta: 1
```

The second aspect is to add a property to the storage plane definition to indicate which hosts are associated with it. There are two options:

- **hostGroup:** <name> The name of the host group for bare metal. The name of the hostGroup must match the name of the storage plane.
- **hosts:** <list-of-namesname> An inline list of hosts. Primarily useful for defining one-off external landing zones.

For Example:

```
storage:
  planes:
    - name: demoOne
      category: data
      prefix: "/home/demo/temp"
      hostGroup: groupABCD # The name of the hostGroup
    - name: myDropZone
      category: lz
      prefix: "/home/demo/mydropzone"
      hosts: [ 'mylandingzone.com' ] # Inline reference to an external host.
```

## Storage Items for HPCC Systems Components

### General Data Storage

General data files generated by HPCC are stored in data. For Thor, data storage costs could likely be significant. Sequential access speed is important, but random access is much less so. For ROXIE, speed of random access is likely to be most important.

### LZ

LZ or lz, utilized for landing zone data. This is where we would put raw data coming into the system. A landing zone where external users can read and write files. HPCC Systems can import from or export files to a landing zone. Typically performance is less of an issue, it could be blob/s3 bucket storage, accessed either directly or via an NFS mount.

## dali

The location of the dali metadata store, which needs to support fast random access.

## dll

Where the compiled ECL queries are stored. The storage needs to allow shared objects to be directly loaded from it efficiently.

If you wanted both Dali and dll data on the same plane, it is possible to use the same prefix for both subpath properties. Both would use the same prefix, but should have different subpaths.

## sasha

This is the location where archived workunits, etc are stored and it is typically less speed critical, requiring lower storage costs.

## spill

An optional category where the spill files are written out to. Local NVMe disks are potentially a good choice for this.

## temp

An optional category where temp files can be written to.

## The Security Values

This section will look at the *values.yaml* sections dealing with the system security components.

### Certificates

The certificates section can be used to enable the cert-manager to generate TLS certificates for each component in the HPCC Systems deployment.

```
certificates:
  enabled: false
  issuers:
    local:
      name: hpcc-local-issuer
```

In the delivered YAML file certificates are not enabled, as illustrated above. You must first install the cert-manager to use this feature.

### Secrets

The Secrets section contains a set of categories, each of which contain a list of secrets. The Secrets section is where to get info into the system if you don't want it in the source. Such as code with embedded code, you can have that defined in the code sign sections. If you have information that you don't want public but need to run it you could use secrets. There is a category named "eclUser" which is where you would put secrets that you want to be readable directly from ECL code. Other secret categories, including the "ecl" category, are read internally by system components and not exposed directly to ECL code.

### Vaults

Vaults is another way to do Secrets. The vaults section mirrors the secret section but leverages *HashiCorp Vault* for the storage of secrets. There is a category for vaults named "eclUser". The intent of the eclUser vault category is to be

readable directly from ECL code. Only add vault configurations to the "eclUser" category that you want ECL users to be able to access. Other vault categories, including the "ecl" category, are read internally by system components and not exposed directly to ECL code.

## Visibilities

The visibilities section can be used to set labels, annotations, and service types for any service with the specified visibility.

## Replicas and Resources

Other noteworthy values in the charts that have bearing on HPCC Systems set up and configuration.

### Replicas

replicas: defines how many replica nodes come up, how many pods run to balance a load. To illustrate, if you have a 1-way Roxie and set replicas to 2 you would have 2, 1-way Roxies.

### Resources

Most all components have a resources section which defines how many resources are assigned to that component. In the stock delivered values files, the resources: sections are there for illustration purposes only, and are commented out. Any cloud deployment that will be performing any non-trivial function, these values should be properly defined with adequate resources for each component, in the same way you would allocate adequate physical resources in a data center. Resources should be set up in accordance with your specific system requirements and the environment you would be running them in. Improper resource definition can result in running out of memory and/or Kubernetes eviction, since the system could use unbound amounts of resources, such as memory, and nodes will get overwhelmed, at which point Kubernetes will started evicting pods. Therefore if your deployment is seeing frequent evictions, you may want to adjust your resource allocation.

```
#resources:  
#  cpu: "1"  
#  memory: "4G"
```

Every component should have a resources entry, but some components such as Thor have multiple resources. The manager, worker, eclagent components all have different resource requirements.

## Taints, Tolerations, and Placements

This is an important consideration for containerized systems. Taints and Tolerations are types of Kubernetes node constraints also referred to by **Node Affinity**. Node affinity is a way to constrain pods to nodes. Only one "affinity" can be applied to a pod. If a pod matches multiple placement 'pods' lists, then only the last "affinity" definition will apply.

Taints and tolerations work together to ensure that pods are not scheduled onto inappropriate nodes. Tolerations are applied to pods, and allow (but do not require) the pods to schedule onto nodes with matching taints. Taints are the opposite -- they allow a node to repel a set of pods.

For example, Thor workers should all be on the appropriate type of VM. If a big Thor job comes along -- then the taints level comes into play.

For more information and examples of our Taints, Tolerations, and Placements please review our developer documentation:

<https://github.com/hpcc-systems/HPCC-Platform/blob/master/helm/hpcc/docs/placements.md>

## Placements

The Placement is responsible for finding the best node for a pod. Most often placement is handled automatically by Kubernetes. You can constrain a Pod so that it can only run on particular set of Nodes. Using placements you can configure the Kubernetes scheduler to use a "pods" list to apply settings to pods. For example:

```
placements:
  - pods: [list]
    placement:
      <supported configurations>
```

The pods: [list] can contain a variety of items.

1. HPCC Systems component types, using the prefix *type*: this can be: dali, esp, eclagent, eclccserver, roxie, thor. For example "type:esp"
2. Target; the name of an array item from the above types using prefix "target:" For example "target:roxie" or "target:thor".
3. Pod, "Deployment" metadata name from the name of the array item of a type. For example, "eclwatch", "mydali", "thor-thoragent"
4. Job name regular expression: For example "compile-" or "compile-." or exact match "^compile-.\$"
5. All: to apply for all HPCC Systems components. The default placements for pods we deliver is [all]

**Placements** – in Kubernetes the Placement concept allows you to spread your pods across types of nodes with particular characteristics. Placements would be used to ensure that pods or jobs that want nodes with specific characteristics are placed on them.

For instance a Thor cluster could be targeted for machine learning using nodes with a GPU. Another job may want nodes with a good amount more memory or another for more CPU. You can use placements to ensure that pods with specific requirements are placed on appropriate nodes.

## Environment Values

You can define environment variables in a YAML file. The environment values are defined under the *global.env* portion of the provided HPCC Systems values.yaml file. These values are specified as a list of name value pairs as illustrated below.

```
global:
  env:
    - name: SMTPserver
      value: mysmtplibserver
```

The global.env section of the supplied values.yaml file adds default environment variables for all components. You can also specify environment variables for the individual components. Refer to the schema for setting this value for individual components.

To add environment values you can insert them into your customization configuration YAML file when you deploy your containerized HPCC Systems.

# Helm and Yaml Basics

This section is intended to provide some basic information to help you in getting started with your HPCC Systems containerized deployment. There are numerous resources available for learning about Kubernetes, Helm, and YAML files. For more information about using these tools, or for cloud or container deployments, please refer to the respective documentation.

In the previous section, we touched on the *values.yaml* file and the *values-schema.json* file. This section expands on some of those concepts and how they might be applied when using the containerized version of the HPCC Systems platform.

## The *values.yaml* file structure

The *values.yaml* file is a YAML file which is a format frequently used for configuration files. The construct that makes up the bulk of a YAML file is the key-value pair, sometimes referred to as a dictionary. The key-value pair construct consists of a key that points to some value(s). These values are defined by the schema.

In these configuration files the indentation used to represent document structure relationship is quite important. Leading spaces are significant and tabs are not allowed.

YAML files are made up mainly of two types of elements: dictionaries and lists.

## Dictionary

Dictionaries are collections of key-value mappings. All keys are case-sensitive and the indentation is also crucial. These keys must be followed by a colon (:) and a space. Dictionaries can also be nested.

For example:

```
logging:
  detail: 80
```

This is an example of a dictionary for logging.

Dictionaries in values files, such as in the *myoverrides.yaml* file in the example below, will be merged into the corresponding dictionaries in the existing values, starting with the default values from the delivered hpcc helm chart.

```
helm install myhpcc hpcc/hpcc -f myoverrides.yaml
```

Any pre-existing values in a dictionary that are not overridden will continue to be present in the merged result. However, you can override the contents of a dictionary by setting it to null.

## Lists

Lists are groups of elements beginning at the same indentation level starting with a - (a hyphen and a space). Every element of the list is indented at the same level and starts with a hyphen and a space. Lists can also be nested, and they can even be lists of dictionaries.

An example of a list of dictionaries, with placement.tolerations as a nested list.:

```
placements:
- pods: ["all"]
  placement:
    tolerations:
      - key: "kubernetes.azure.com/scalesetpriority"
```



The list entry here is denoted using the hyphen, which is an entry item in the list, which itself is a dictionary with nested attributes. Then the next hyphen (at that same indentation level) is the next entry in that list. A list can be a list of simple value elements, or the elements can themselves be lists or dictionaries.

## Sections of the HPCC Systems Values.yaml

The first section of the *values.yaml* file describes global values. Global applies generally to everything.

```
# Default values for hpcc.
global:
  # Settings in the global section apply to all HPCC components in all subcharts
```

In the delivered HPCC Systems *values.yaml* file excerpt (above) *global:* is the top level dictionary. As noted in the comments, the settings in the global section apply to all HPCC Systems components. Note from the indentation level that the other values are nested in that global dictionary.

Items defined in the global section are shared between all components.

Some examples of global values in the delivered *values.yaml* file are the storage and security sections.

```
storage:
  planes:
```

and also

```
security:
  eclSecurity:
    # Possible values:
    # allow - functionality is permitted
    # deny - functionality is not permitted
    # allowSigned - functionality permitted only if code signed
    embedded: "allow"
    pipe: "allow"
    extern: "allow"
    datafile: "allow"
```

In the above examples, *storage:* and *security:* are global chart values.

## HPCC Systems Values.yaml File Usage

The HPCC Systems *values.yaml* file is used by the Helm chart to control how HPCC Systems is deployed. The stock delivered HPCC Systems *values.yaml* is intended as a quick start type installation guide which is not appropriate for non-trivial practical usage. You should customize your deployment to one more suited towards your specific needs.

Further information about customized deployments is covered in previous sections, as well as the Kubernetes and Helm documentation.

## Merging and Overriding

Having multiple YAML files, such as one for logging, another for storage, yet another for secrets and so forth, allows granular configuration. These configuration files can all be under version control. There they can be versioned, checked in, etc. and have the benefit of only defining/changing the specific area required, while ensuring any non-changing areas are left untouched.

The rule here to keep in mind where multiple YAML files are applied, the later ones will always overwrite the values in the earlier ones. They are always merged in in sequence. The values are always merged in the order they are given on the helm command line.

Another point to consider, where there is a global dictionary such as `root:` and its value is redefined in a 2nd file (as a dictionary) it would not be overwritten. You simply cannot overwrite a dictionary. You can redefine a dictionary and set it to null, which will effectively wipe out the first.

**WARNING:** If you had a global definition (such as `storage.planes`) and merge it where that becomes redefined it would wipe out every definition in that list.

Another means to wipe out every value in a list is to pass in an empty set denoted by a `[ ]` such as this example:

```
bundles: [ ]
```

This would wipe out any properties defined for bundles.

## Generally applicable

These items are generally applicable for our HPCC Systems Helm YAML files.

- All names should be unique.
- All prefixes should be unique.
- Services should be unique.
- YAML files are merged in sequence.

Regarding the HPCC Systems components, primarily the components are lists. If you have an empty value list denoted by `[ ]`, it would invalidate that list elsewhere.

## Additional Usage

HPCC Systems components are added or modified by passing in override values. The Helm chart values are overridden, either by passing in override values file(s) using `-f`, (for override file) or via `--set` where you can override a single value. Those passed in values are always merged in the same order they are given on the helm command line.

For example:

```
helm install myhpcc hpcc/hpcc -f myoverrides.yaml
```

Overrides any values in the delivered *values.yaml* by passing in values defined in *myoverrides.yaml*

You can also use `--set` as in the following example:

```
helm install myhpcc hpcc/hpcc --set storage.daliStorage.plane=dali-plane
```

To override only that one specified value.

It is even possible to combine file and single value overrides, for instance:

```
helm install myhpcc hpcc/hpcc -f myoverrides.yaml --set storage.daliStorage.plane=dali-plane
```

In the preceding example, the `--set` flag overrides the value for the `storage.daliStorage.plane` (if) set in the *myoverrides.yaml*, which would override any *values.yaml* file settings and results in setting its value to *dali-plane*.

If the `--set` flag is used on `helm install` or `helm upgrade`, those values are simply converted to YAML on the client side.

You can specify the override flags multiple times. The priority will be given to the last (right-most) file specified.

# Containerized Logging

## Logging Background

Bare-metal HPCC Systems component logs are written to persistent files on local file system. In contrast, containerized HPCC logs are ephemeral, and their location is not always well defined. HPCC Systems components provide informative application level logs for the purpose of debugging problems, auditing actions, and progress monitoring.

Following the most widely accepted containerized methodologies, HPCC Systems component log information is routed to the standard output streams rather than local files. In containerized deployments there aren't any component logs written to files as in previous editions.

These logs are written to the standard error (stderr) stream. At the node level, the contents of the standard error and out streams are redirected to a target location by a container engine. In a Kubernetes environment, the Docker container engine redirects the streams to a logging driver, which Kubernetes configures to write to a file in JSON format. The logs are exposed by Kubernetes via the aptly named "logs" command.

For example:

```
>kubectll logs myesp-6476c6659b-vqckq
>0000CF0F PRG INF 2020-05-12 17:10:34.910 1 10690 "HTTP First Line: GET / HTTP/1.1"
>0000CF10 PRG INF 2020-05-12 17:10:34.911 1 10690 "GET /, from 10.240.0.4"
>0000CF11 PRG INF 2020-05-12 17:10:34.911 1 10690 "TxSummary[activeReqs=22; rcv=5ms;total=6ms;]"
```

It is important to understand that these logs are ephemeral in nature, and may be lost if the pod is evicted, the container crashes, the node dies, etc. Due to the nature of containerized systems, related logs are likely to originate from various locations and need to be collected and processed. It is highly recommended to develop a retention and processing strategy based on your needs.

Many tools are available to help create an appropriate solution based on either a do-it-yourself approach, or managed features available from cloud providers.

For the simplest of environments, it might be acceptable to rely on the standard Kubernetes process which forwards all contents of stdout/stderr to file. However, as the complexity of the cluster grows or the importance of retaining the logs' content grows, a cluster-level logging architecture should be employed.

Cluster-level logging for the containerized HPCC Systems cluster can be accomplished by including a logging agent on each node. The task of each of agent is to expose the logs or push them to a log processing back-end. Logging agents are generally not provided out of the box, but there are several available such as Elasticsearch and Stackdriver Logging. Various cloud providers offer built-in solutions which automatically harvest all stdout/err streams and provide dynamic storage and powerful analytic tools, and the ability to create custom alerts based on log data.

It is your responsibility to determine the appropriate solution to process the streaming log data.

## Log Processing Solutions

There are multiple log processing solutions available. You could choose to integrate HPCC Systems logging data with any existing logging solutions, or to implement another one specifically for HPCC Systems data. Starting with HPCC Systems version 8.4, we provide a lightweight, yet complete log-processing solution for your convenience. The following sections will look at a couple of the possible solutions.

# Managed Elastic Stack Solution

HPCC Systems provides a managed Helm chart, *elastic4hpcclogs* which utilizes the Elastic Stack Helm charts for Elastic Search, Filebeats, and Kibana. This chart describes a local, minimal Elastic Stack instance for HPCC Systems component log processing. Once successfully deployed, HPCC component logs produced within the same namespace should be automatically indexed on the Elastic Search end-point. Users can query those logs by issuing Elastic Search RESTful API queries, or via the Kibana UI (after creating a simple index pattern).

Out of the box, the Filebeat forwards the HPCC component log entries to a generically named index: 'hpcc-logs'-<DATE\_STAMP> and writes the log data into 'hpcc.log.\*' prefixed fields. It also aggregates k8s, Docker, and system metadata to help the user query the log entries of their interest.

A Kibana index pattern is created automatically based on the default filebeat index layout.

## Installing the elastic4hpcclogs chart

Installing the provided simple solution is as the name implies, simple and a convenient way to gather and filter log data. It is installed via our helm charts from the HPCC Systems repository. In the HPCC-platform/helm directory, the *elastic4hpcclogs* chart is delivered along with the other HPCC System platform components. The next sections will show you how to install and set up the Elastic stack logging solution for HPCC Systems.

## Add the HPCC Systems Repository

The delivered Elastic for HPCC Systems chart can be found in the HPCC Systems Helm repository. To fetch and deploy the HPCC Systems managed charts, add the HPCC Systems Helm repository if you haven't done so already:

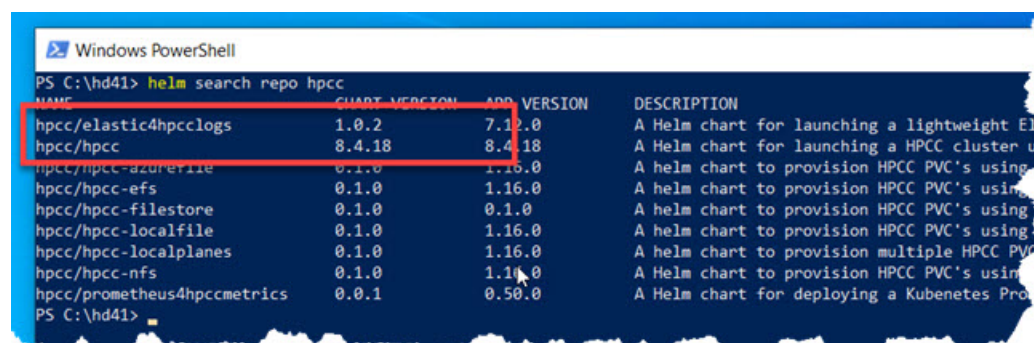
```
helm repo add hpcc https://hpcc-systems.github.io/helm-chart/
```

Once this command has completed successfully, the *elastic4hpcclogs* chart will be accessible.

Confirm the appropriate chart was pulled down.

```
helm list
```

Issuing the helm list command will display the available HPCC Systems charts and repositories. The *elastic4hpcclogs* chart is among them.



## Install the elastic4hpcc chart

Install the *elastic4hpcclogs* chart using the following command:

```
helm install <Instance_Name> hpcc/elastic4hpcclogs
```

Provide the name you wish to call your Elastic Search instance for the <Instance\_Name> parameter. For example, you could call your instance "myelk" in which case you would issue the install command as follows:

```
helm install myelk hpcc/elastic4hpcclogs
```

Upon successful completion, the following message is displayed:

```
Thank you for installing elastic4hpcclogs.
```

```
A lightweight Elastic Search instance for HPCC component log processing.
```

```
This deployment varies slightly from defaults set by Elastic, please review the effective values.
```

```
PLEASE NOTE: Elastic Search declares PVC(s) which might require explicit manual removal  
when no longer needed.
```



**IMPORTANT:** PLEASE NOTE: Elastic Search declares PVC(s) which might require explicit manual removal when no longer needed. This can be particularly important for some cloud providers which could accrue costs even after no longer using your instance. You should ensure no components (such as PVCs) persist and continue to accrue costs.

NOTE: Depending on the version of Kubernetes, users might be warned about deprecated APIs in the Elastic charts (ClusterRole and ClusterRoleBinding are deprecated in v1.17+). Deployments based on Kubernetes < v1.22 should not be impacted.

## Confirm Your Pods are Ready

Confirm the Elastic pods are ready. Sometimes after installing, pods can take a few seconds to come up. Confirming the pods are in a ready state is a good idea before proceeding. To do this, use the following command:

```
kubectl get pods
```

This command returns the following information, displaying the status of the of the pods.

elasticsearch-master-0	1/1	Running	0
myelk-filebeat-6wd2g	1/1	Running	0
myelk-kibana-68688b4d4d-d489b	1/1	Running	0

```
Windows PowerShell
PS C:\hd41> kubectl get pods
NAME                                READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
dfuserver-7d5456576c-swdxv          1/1     Running   0           18m
elasticsearch-master-0              1/1     Running   0           17m
esdl-sandbox-76fcd544b-vr6of        1/1     Running   0           18m
hthor-7db5d4cb5b-4hpkx              1/1     Running   0           18m
mydali-576d474c6-hzdqv              2/2     Running   0           18m
myelk-ee-server-7f855f8e-p2f6m      1/1     Running   0           18m
myelk-filebeat-tjrsx                1/1     Running   0           17m
myelk-kibana-65cfcfb99c-wrtvf       1/1     Running   0           17m
roxie-agent-1-5c9dd5fd56-qpv28     1/1     Running   0           18m
roxie-agent-1-5c9dd5fd56-tsbth      1/1     Running   0           18m
roxie-agent-2-859bd57c8f-6vjxz      1/1     Running   0           18m
roxie-agent-2-859bd57c8f-95tfd      1/1     Running   0           18m
roxie-toposerver-7658ddc4-2lbg2      1/1     Running   0           18m
roxie-workunit-5cf7996b54-z4qc4      1/1     Running   0           18m
sasha-dfurecovery-archiver-8574c9d68c-shkjq 1/1     Running   0           18m
sasha-dfuwu-archiver-5f49b549bf-bxmn9 1/1     Running   0           18m
sasha-file-expiry-dc6f8df7-f2wwk    1/1     Running   0           18m
sasha-wu-archiver-7f48cc5c78-fkwf4   1/1     Running   0           18m
sqldm-agent-1-5c9dd5fd56-qpv28     1/1     Running   0           18m
```

Once all the pods are indicating a 'ready' state and 'Running', including the three components for filebeats, Elastic Search, and Kibana (highlighted above) you can proceed.

## Confirming the Elastic Services

To confirm the Elastic services are running, issue the following command:

```
$ kubectl get svc
```

This displays the following confirmation information:

```
...
elasticsearch-master ClusterIP 10.109.50.54 <none> 9200/TCP,9300/TCP 68m
elasticsearch-master-headless ClusterIP None <none> 9200/TCP,9300/TCP 68m
myelk-kibana LoadBalancer 10.110.129.199 localhost 5601:31465/TCP 68m
...
```

Note: The myelk-kibana service is declared as LoadBalancer for convenience.

## Configuring of Elastic Stack Components

You may need or want to customise the Elastic stack components. The Elastic component charts values can be overridden as part of the HPCC System deployment command.

For example:

```
helm install myelk hpcc/elastic4hpcclogs --set elasticsearch.replicas=2
```

Please see the Elastic Stack GitHub repository for the complete list of all Filebeat, Elastic Search, LogStash and Kibana options with descriptions.

## Use of HPCC Systems Component Logs in Kibana

Once enabled and running, you can explore and query HPCC Systems component logs from the Kibana user interface. Kibana index patterns are required to explore Elastic Search data from the Kibana user interface. For more information about using the Elastic-Kibana interface please refer to the corresponding documentation:

<https://www.elastic.co/>

and

<https://www.elastic.co/elastic-stack/>

## Configuring logAccess for Elasticstack

The *logAccess* feature allows HPCC Systems to query and package relevant logs for various features such as the ZAP report, WorkUnit helper logs, ECLWatch log viewer, etc.

Once the logs are migrated or routed to the elastic stack instance. The HPCC Systems platform needs to be able to access those logs. The way you direct HPCC Systems to do so is by providing a values file that includes the log mappings. We have provided a default values file and we provide an example command line that inserts that values file into your deployment.

These are the Elastic4HPCCLogs values:

```
# Configures HPCC logAccess to target elastic4hpcclogs deployment
global:
  logAccess:
    name: "Elastic4HPCCLogs"
    type: "elasticstack"
    connection:
```

```
protocol: "http"
host: "elasticsearch-master.default.svc.cluster.local"
port: 9200
logMaps:
- type: "global"                                #These settings apply to all log mappings
  storeName: "hpcc-logs*"                        #Logs are expected to be housed in ES index
  searchColumn: "message"                       #The 'message' field is to be targeted for
  timeStampColumn: "@timestamp"                 #The '@timestamp' field contains time log
- type: "workunits"                             #Search by workunits specific log mapping
  storeName: "hpcc-logs*"                       # Only needed if differs from global.store
  searchColumn: "hpcc.log.jobid"                # Field containing WU information
- type: "components"                           #Search by components specific log mapping
  searchColumn: "kubernetes.container.name"     # Field containing container information
- type: "audience"                             #Search by audience specific log mapping
  searchColumn: "hpcc.log.audience"            # Field containing audience information
- type: "class"                                #Search by log class specific log mapping
  searchColumn: "hpcc.log.class"               # Field containing log class information
- type: "instance"                             #Search by log source instance specific mapping
  searchColumn: "kubernetes.pod.name"          # Field containing source instance information
- type: "host"                                 #Search by log source host specific mapping
  searchColumn: "kubernetes.node.hostname"     # Field containing source host information
```

You can use the delivered Elastic4HPCCLogs chart, provided on <https://github.com/hpcc-systems/HPCC-Platform/tree/master/helm/managed/logging/elastic> or you can add the values there to your customized configuration values yaml file. You can then install it using a command such as:

```
helm install mycluster hpcc/hpcc -f elastic4hpcclogs-hpcc-logaccess.yaml
```

# Azure Log Analytics Solution

Azure Kubernetes Services (AKS) Azure Log Analytics (ALA) is an optional feature designed to help monitor performance and health of Kubernetes based clusters. Once enabled and associated a given AKS with an active HPCC System cluster, the HPCC component logs are automatically captured by Log Analytics. All STDERR/STDOUT data is captured and made available for monitoring and/or querying purposes. As is usually the case with cloud provider features, cost is a significant consideration and should be well understood before implementation. Log content is written to the logs store associated with your Log Analytics workspace.

## Enabling Azure Log Analytics

Enable Azure's Log Analytics (ALA) on the target AKS cluster using one of the following options: Direct command line, Scripted command line, or from the Azure portal.

For more detailed information refer to the Azure documentation:

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-monitor/containers/container-insights-onboard>

### Direct Command Line

To enable the Azure Log Analytics insights from the command line:

You can create a dedicated log analytics workspace manually, or you can skip this step and utilize the default workspace instead.

To create a dedicated workspace enter this command:

```
az monitor log-analytics workspace create -g myresourcegroup -n myworkspace --query-access Enabled
```

To enable Log Analytics feature on a target AKS cluster, reference the *workspace resource id* created in the previous step:

```
az aks enable-addons -g myresourcegroup -n myaks -a monitoring --workspace-resource-id \
"/subscriptions/xyz/resourcegroups/myresourcegroup/providers/ \
microsoft.operationalinsights/workspaces/myworkspace"
```

### Scripted Command Line

As a convenience, HPCC Systems provides a script to enable ALA (with a dedicated log analytics workspace) on the target AKS cluster.

The *enable-loganalytics.sh* script is located at:

<https://github.com/hpcc-systems/HPCC-Platform/tree/master/helm/examples/azure/log-analytics>

The script requires populating the following values in the env-loganalytics environment file.

Provide these values in the *env-loganalytics* environment file order to create a new Azure Log Analytics workspace, associate it with a target AKS cluster, and enable the processing of logs:

- **LOGANALYTICS\_WORKSPACE\_NAME** The desired name for the Azure Log Analytics workspace to be associated with target AKS cluster. A new workspace is created if this value does not exist
- **LOGANALYTICS\_RESOURCE\_GROUP** The Azure resource group associated with the target AKS cluster. A new workspace will be associated with this resource group.



- **AKS\_CLUSTER\_NAME** The name of the target AKS cluster to associate the log analytics workspace.
- **TAGS** The tags associated with the new workspace.

For example: "admin=MyName email=my.email@mycompany.com environment=myenv justification=testing"

- **AZURE\_SUBSCRIPTION** [Optional] Ensures this subscription is set before creating the new workspace

Once these values are populated, the *enable-loganalytics.sh* script can be executed and it will create the log analytics workspace and associate it with the target AKS cluster.

## Azure Portal

To enable the Azure Log Analytics on the Azure portal:

1. Select Target AKS cluster
2. Select Monitoring
3. Select Insights
4. Enable - choose default workspace

## Configure HPCC logAccess for Azure

The *logAccess* feature allows HPCC Systems to query and package relevant logs for various features such as the ZAP report, WorkUnit helper logs, ECLWatch log viewer, etc.

## Procure Service Principal

Azure requires an Azure Active Directory (AAD) registered application in order to grant Log Analytics API access. Procure an AAD registered application.

For more information about registering an Azure Active Directory see the Azure official documentation:

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/power-apps/developer/data-platform/walkthrough-register-app-azure-active-directory>

Depending on your Azure subscription structure, it might be necessary to request this from a subscription administrator.

## Provide AAD registered application information

HPCC Systems logAccess requires access to the AAD tenant, client, token, and target workspace ID via secure secret object. The secret is expected to be in the 'esp' category, and named '*azure-logaccess*'.

The following key value pairs are supported

- aad-tenant-id
- aad-client-id
- aad-client-secret
- ala-workspace-id

The 'create-azure-logaccess-secret.sh' script provided at:

<https://github.com/hpcc-systems/HPCC-Platform/tree/master/helm/examples/azure/log-analytics>

The script can be used to create the necessary secret.

Example manual secret creation command (assuming ./secrets-templates contains a file named exactly as the above keys):

```
create-azure-logaccess-secret.sh .HPCC-Platform/helm/examples/azure/log-analytics/secrets-templates/
```

Otherwise, create the secret manually.

Example manual secret creation command (assuming ./secrets-templates contains a file named exactly as the above keys):

```
kubectl create secret generic azure-logaccess \
  --from-file=HPCC-Platform/helm/examples/azure/log-analytics/secrets-templates/
```

## Configure HPCC logAccess

The target HPCC Systems deployment should be configured to target the above Azure Log Analytics workspace by providing appropriate logAccess values (such as ./loganalytics-hpcc-logaccess.yaml). The previously created azure-logaccess secret must be declared and associated with the esp category, this can be accomplished via secrets value yaml (such as ./loganalytics-logaccess-secrets.yaml).

Example use:

```
helm install myhpcc hpcc/hpcc \
  -f HPCC-Platform/helm/examples/azure/log-analytics/loganalytics-hpcc-logaccess.yaml \
  -f HPCC-Platform/helm/examples/az
```

## Accessing HPCC Systems Logs

The AKS Log Analytics interface on Azure provides Kubernetes-centric cluster/node/container-level health metrics visualizations, and direct links to container logs via "log analytics" interfaces. The logs can be queried via "Kusto" query language (KQL).

See the Azure documentation for specifics on how to query the logs.

Example KQL query for fetching "Transaction summary" log entries from an ECLWatch container:

```
let ContainerIdList = KubePodInventory
| where ContainerName =~ 'xyz/myesp'
| where ClusterId =~ '/subscriptions/xyz/resourceGroups/xyz/providers/Microsoft.ContainerService/managedClusters/aks-clusterxyz'
| distinct ContainerID;
ContainerLog
| where LogEntry contains "TxSummary["
| where ContainerID in (ContainerIdList)
| project LogEntrySource, LogEntry, TimeGenerated, Computer, Image, Name, ContainerID
| order by TimeGenerated desc
| render table
```

Sample output

```
11/5/2021, 9:02:00.000 PM    prometheus    esp_requests_active    0    [{"app":"eclservices","namespace":"default","pod_name":"eclservices-778477d679-vgpj2"}]
11/5/2021, 9:02:00.000 PM    prometheus    esp_requests_active    3    [{"app":"eclservices","namespace":"default","pod_name":"eclservices-778477d679-vgpj2"}]
```

More complex queries can be formulated to fetch specific information provided in any of the log columns including unformatted data in the log message. The Log Analytics interface facilitates creation of alerts based on those queries, which can be used to trigger emails, SMS, Logic App execution, and many other actions.

# Controlling HPCC Systems Logging Output

The HPCC Systems logs provide a wealth of information which can be used for benchmarking, auditing, debugging, monitoring, etc. The type of information provided in the logs and its format is trivially controlled via standard Helm configuration. Keep in mind in container mode, every line of logging output is liable to incur a cost depending on the provider and plan you have and the verbosity should be carefully controlled using the following options.

By default, the component logs are not filtered, and contain the following columns:

```
MessageID TargetAudience LogEntryClass JobID DateStamp TimeStamp ProcessId ThreadID QuotedLogMessage
```

The logs can be filtered by TargetAudience, Category, or Detail Level. Further, the output columns can be configured. Logging configuration settings can be applied at the global, or component level.

## Target Audience Filtering

The available target audiences include operator(OPR), user(USR), programmer(PRO), audit(ADT), or all. The filter is controlled by the <section>.logging.audiences value. The string value is comprised of 3 letter codes delimited by the aggregation operator (+) or the removal operator (-).

For example, all component log output to include Programmer and User messages only:

```
helm install myhpcc ./hpcc --set global.logging.audiences="PRO+USR"
```

## Target Category Filtering

The available target categories include disaster(DIS), error(ERR), information(INF), warning(WRN), progress(PRO), metrics(MET). The category (or class) filter is controlled by the <section>.logging.classes value, comprised of 3 letter codes delimited by the aggregation operator (+) or the removal operator (-).

For example, the mydali instance's log output to include all classes except for progress:

```
helm install myhpcc ./hpcc --set dali[0].logging.classes="ALL-PRO" --set dali[0].name="mydali"
```

## Log Detail Level Configuration

Log output verbosity can be adjusted from "critical messages only" (1) up to "report all messages" (100). The default log level is rather high (80) and should be adjusted accordingly.

For example, verbosity should be medium for all components:

```
helm install myhpcc ./hpcc --set global.logging.detail="50"
```

## Log Data Column Configuration

The available log data columns include messageid(MID), audience(AUD), class(CLS), date(DAT), time(TIM), node(NOD), millitime(MLT), microtime(MCT), nanotime(NNT), processid(PID), threadid(TID), job(JOB), use(USE), session(SES), code(COD), component(COM), quotedmessage(QUO), prefix(PFX), all(ALL), and standard(STD). The log data columns (or fields) configuration is controlled by the <section>.logging.fields value, comprised of 3 letter codes delimited by the aggregation operator (+) or the removal operator (-).

For example, all component log output should include the standard columns except the job ID column:

```
helm install myhpcc ./hpcc --set global.logging.fields="STD-JOB"
```

Adjustment of per-component logging values can require assertion of multiple component specific values, which can be inconvenient to do via the `--set` command line parameter. In these cases, a custom values file could be used to set all required fields.

For example, the ESP component instance 'eclwatch' should output minimal log:

```
helm install myhpcc ./hpcc --set -f ./examples/logging/esp-eclwatch-low-logging-values.yaml
```

## Asynchronous logging configuration

By default log entries will be created and logged asynchronously, so as not to block the client that is logging. Log entries will be held in a queue and output on a background thread. This queue has a maximum depth, once hit, the client will block waiting for capacity. Alternatively, the behaviour can be configured such that when this limit is hit, logging entries are dropped and lost to avoid any potential blocking.

NB: normally it is expected that the logging stack will keep up and the default queue limit will be sufficient to avoid any blocking.

The defaults can be configured by setting `<section>.logging.queueLen` and/or `<section>.logging.queueDrop`.

Setting `<section>.logging.queueLen` to 0, will disabled asynchronous logging, i.e. each log will block until completed.

Setting `<section>.logging.queueDrop` to a non-zero (N) value will cause N logging entries from the queue to be discarded if the `queueLen` is reached.