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September 25 - 27, 2018
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Automating Your Network Starts with A Continuous Deployment Pipeline

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An Analogy

Automating a complex interconnected network bears some similarity to colonizing Mars, you begin first with a **delivery vehicle** that you can *Launch, Land, Repeat reliably and cheaply.*

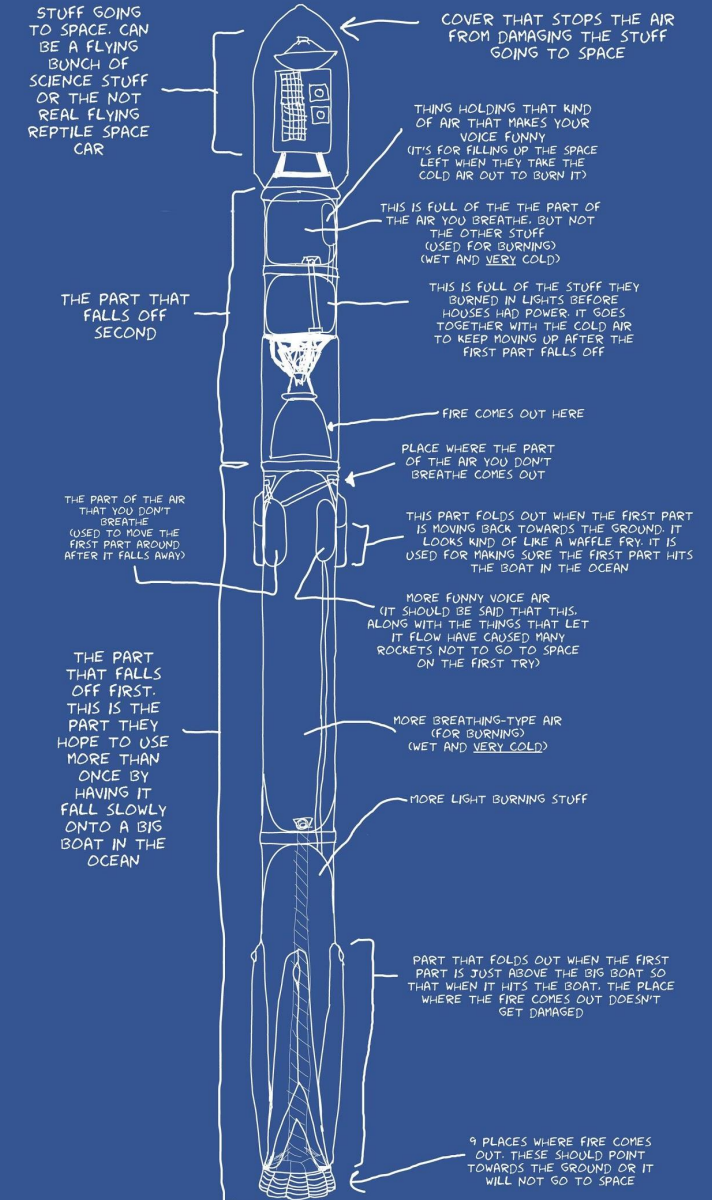
Payload:
containerized
software
package.

Fuel: the
non-reusable
cost of each
deployment.

Vehicle: the
Continuous
Deployment
system.

BIRD 9

THE FIRST FLYING SPACE TRUCK THAT MAY BE ABLE TO BE USED MORE THAN ONCE
(EXPLAINED USING ONLY THE TEN HUNDRED WORDS PEOPLE USE MOST OFTEN)



“The Falcon 9 explained using the 1000 words people use most regularly”

Image credit: <https://imgur.com/nCqs3EQ>



The Comparison between CI and CD

- CI focuses primarily on automating the **development process**
- It manages code, test cases, bugs etc.
- At the end of CI pipeline, you get a package ready for deployment (Delivery)
- CD focuses primarily on automating the **operation process** of maintaining services
- It manages services, resources, upgrades, data etc.
- CI and CD are closely related



Continuous Deployment is a Strategic Capability

- CD is the modern link between a Service Provider's services, operational processes, and resources (networks), with Vendors' software products (outputs of CIs).
- As the rocket analogy suggests, it is a lever that can result in sustained competitive advantage.



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A Few Quick Words about Clover

- Clover is a Cloud Native for Networking open source project
 - under Linux Foundation Networking's OPNFV
- Clover focuses on software stack that help Networking to adopt Micro-services via Service Mesh, achieve Visibility, Operability, and **Continuous Deployment**
- For further interests:
 - Wiki: <https://wiki.opnfv.org/display/CLOV>
 - Slack: #clover-project, or follow the join link in the above wiki page.



Core Capabilities to Look For in a CD tool

- Take **Deployment** as the first priority
- Focus squarely on **Services, and Frequent Updates as Normal Operations**
- Support Multi-Cloud as a principle
- Can easily integrate into the rest of your operation process
- Support best practices such as A/B, Green/Blue, Canary, by default
- Reproducibility: Pipeline as code
- *In Clover, we have adopted Spinnaker for helping implement CD*



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The CD Pipeline is Much More than a Toolchain

- The software needs be architected with Cloud Native methodology (See also ONS EU Tutorial on Tuesday morning)
- Automated test tools can sufficiently validate a live system
- Real time data points can be collected, analyzed, to reach statistically valid conclusions
- Software and services are designed in a way that if we make a mistake, damage is controlled and can be reversed automatically
- ... *you see the point*



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... But if We Do Accomplish the Feat,

We get Zero Touch, the real deal.

Or

Low Touch, and a known path to reduce the degree of Touch further and further iteratively.



Some Experiences from Communities

- OPNFV
 - Initially, CI has long time lag, deploy (by installers) is day-1 only and very complicated and slow
 - XCI (cross project CI) helps to address the source lag problem
 - Clover-CD, together with CNWG, is to help address the deployment problem
 - Many testing projects can be containerized and used for automated validation in the CD pipeline.
- ONAP
 - ONAP has a large number of containers covering orchestration and management.
 - Targets Kubernetes and packaged with Helm charts
 - CD is a great fit for ONAP
 - Easier system test
 - Upgradability of individual parts
 - Multi-cloud, multi-provider
 - Focus on operation and zero touch
 - Had several discussions - we hope to report more in the future.

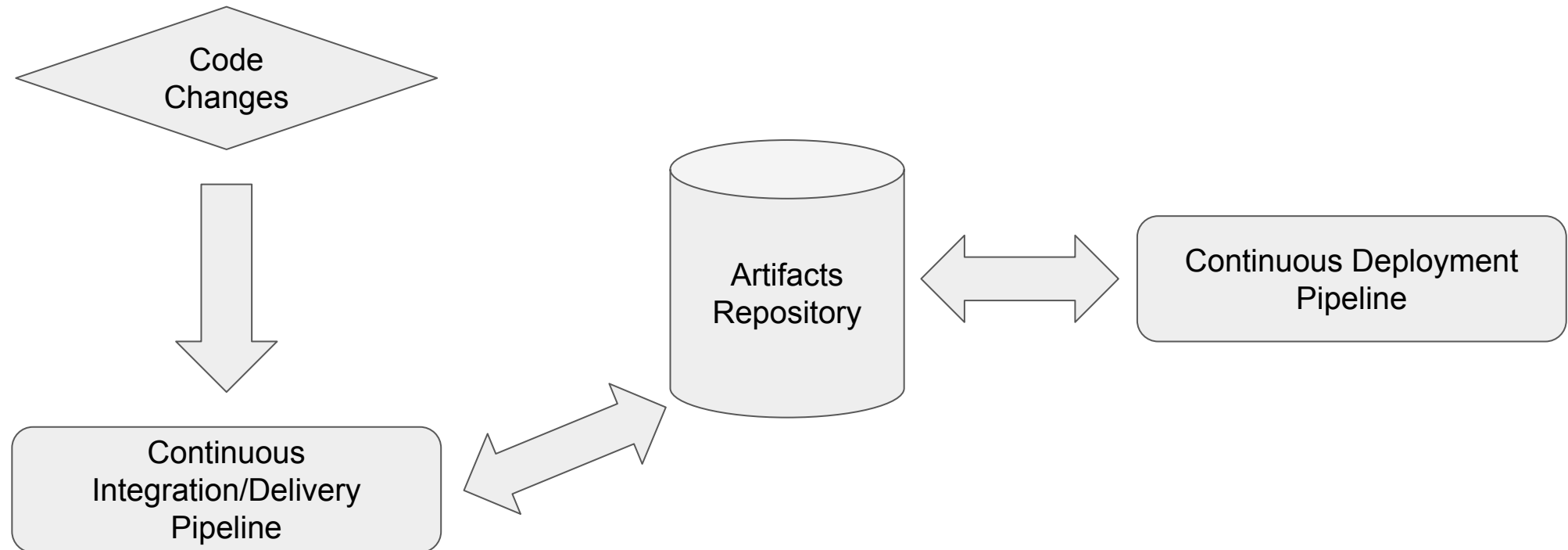


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A Demo to Walk Through the Concepts

- We will use an example originated from Kubernetes and adopted by the Clover project for training purposes.
- Clover uses Spinnaker as part of the toolchain to implement CD, and that's what we will show in the demo.

Application Delivery Pipeline



Agents and Resources



Developer



GitHub



Jenkins



DockerHub



Spinnaker



Kubernetes

Kubernetes

- A GKE cluster provided by Linux Foundation
- 1.10.6

Spinnaker

- A high level continuously delivery and release platform
- Deployed via Halyard
- 1.8.6



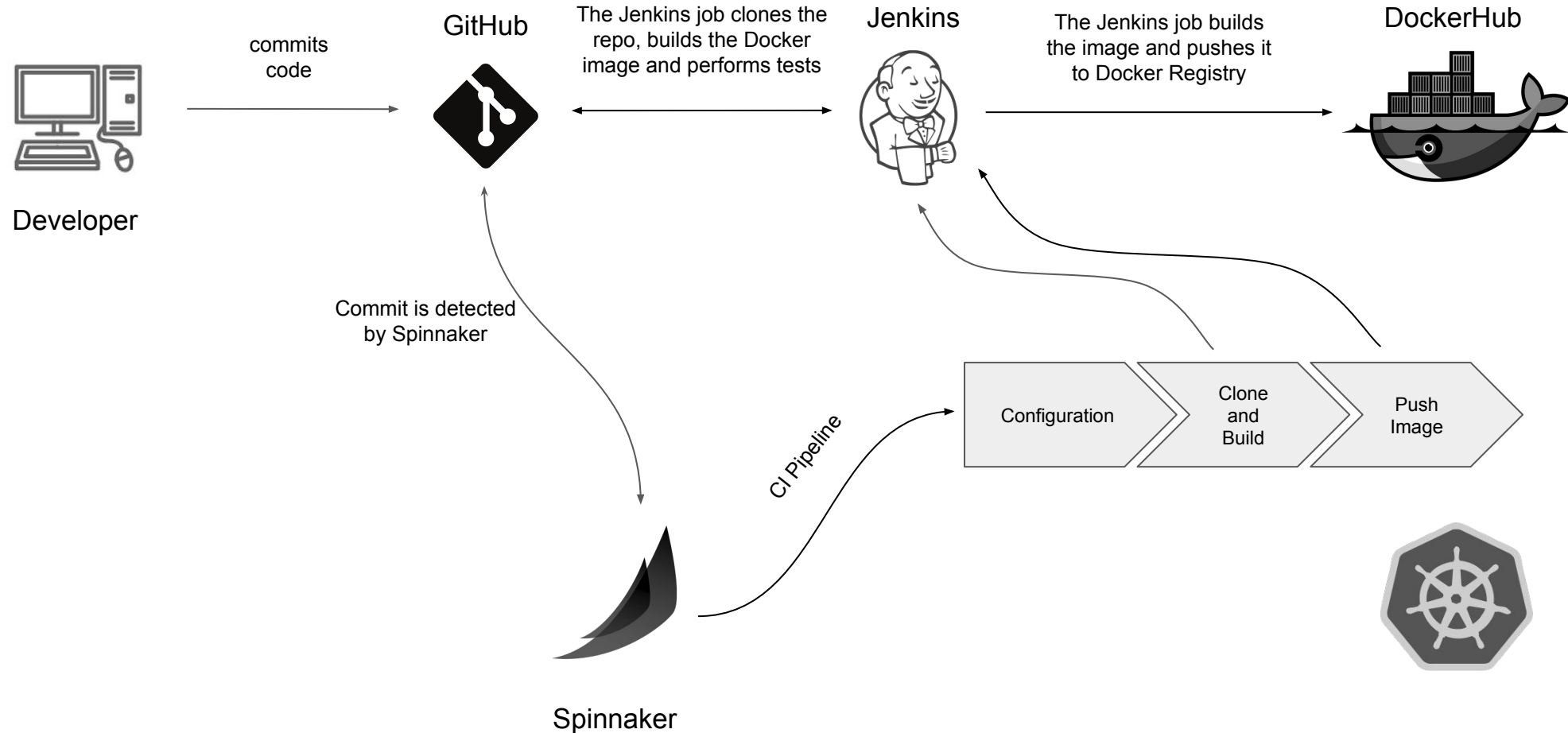
← CI Pipeline

Permalink 



 Add stage

 Copy an existing stage

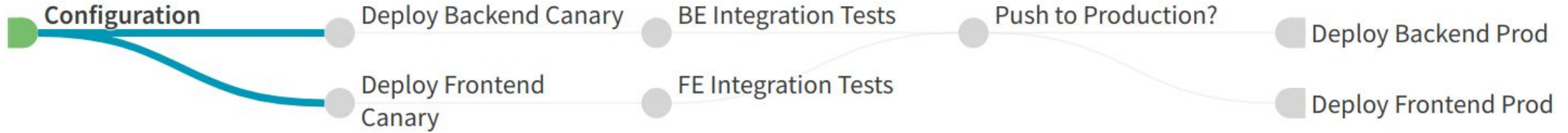


[+](#) C-Deployment Pipeline

Permalink 

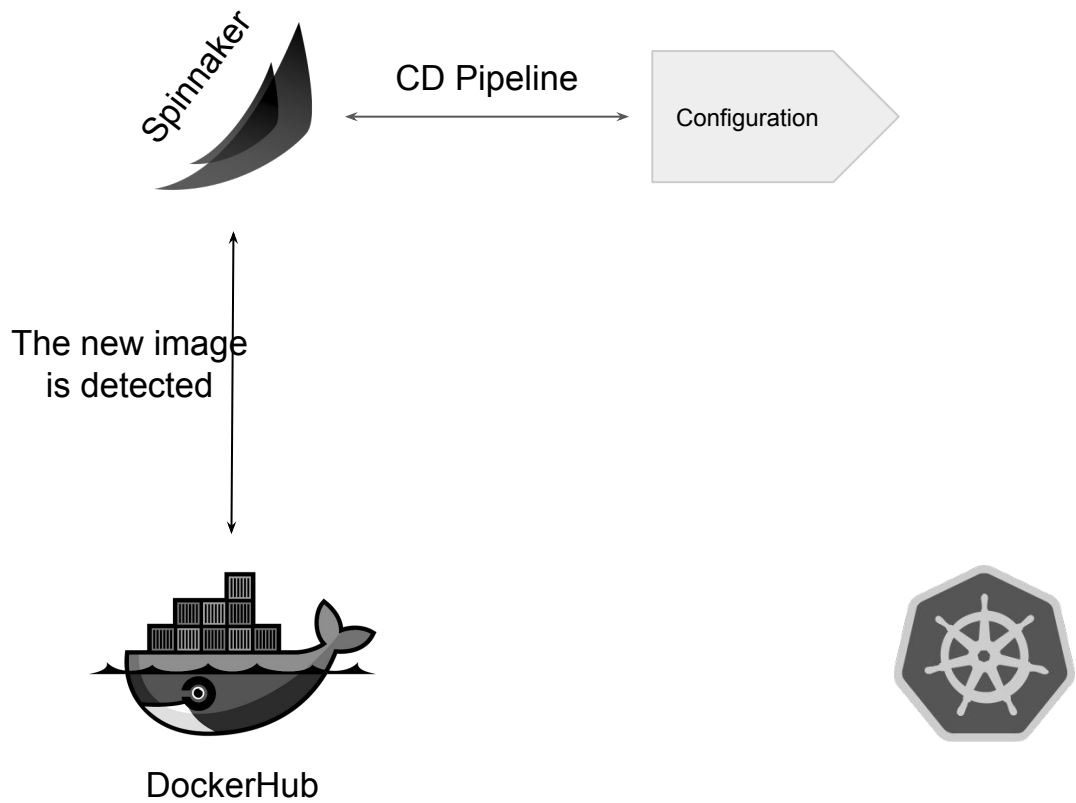


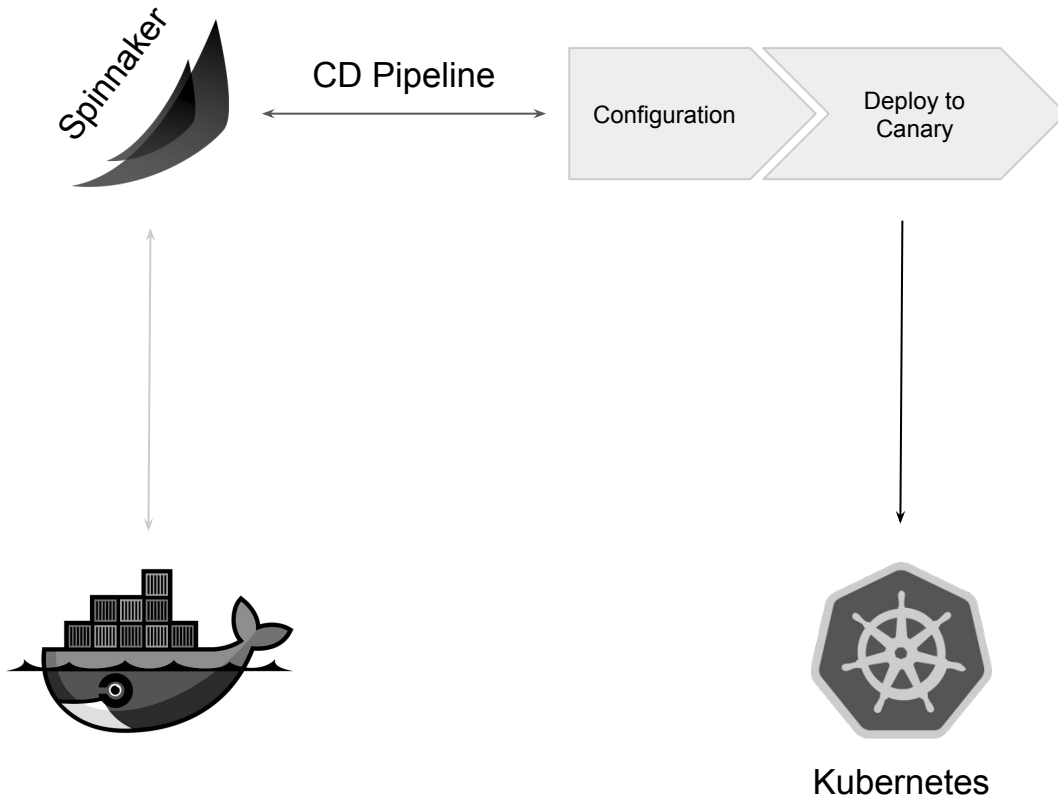
Pipeline Actions 

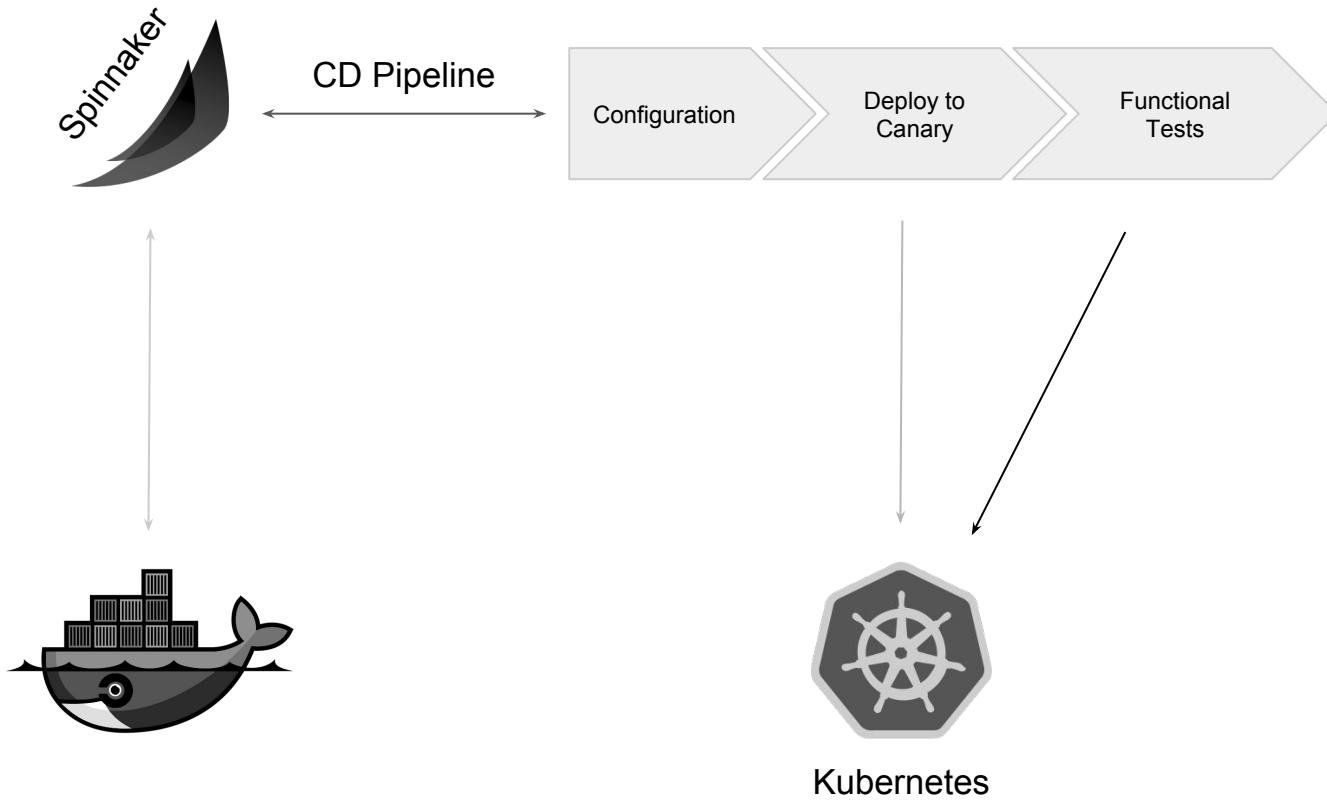


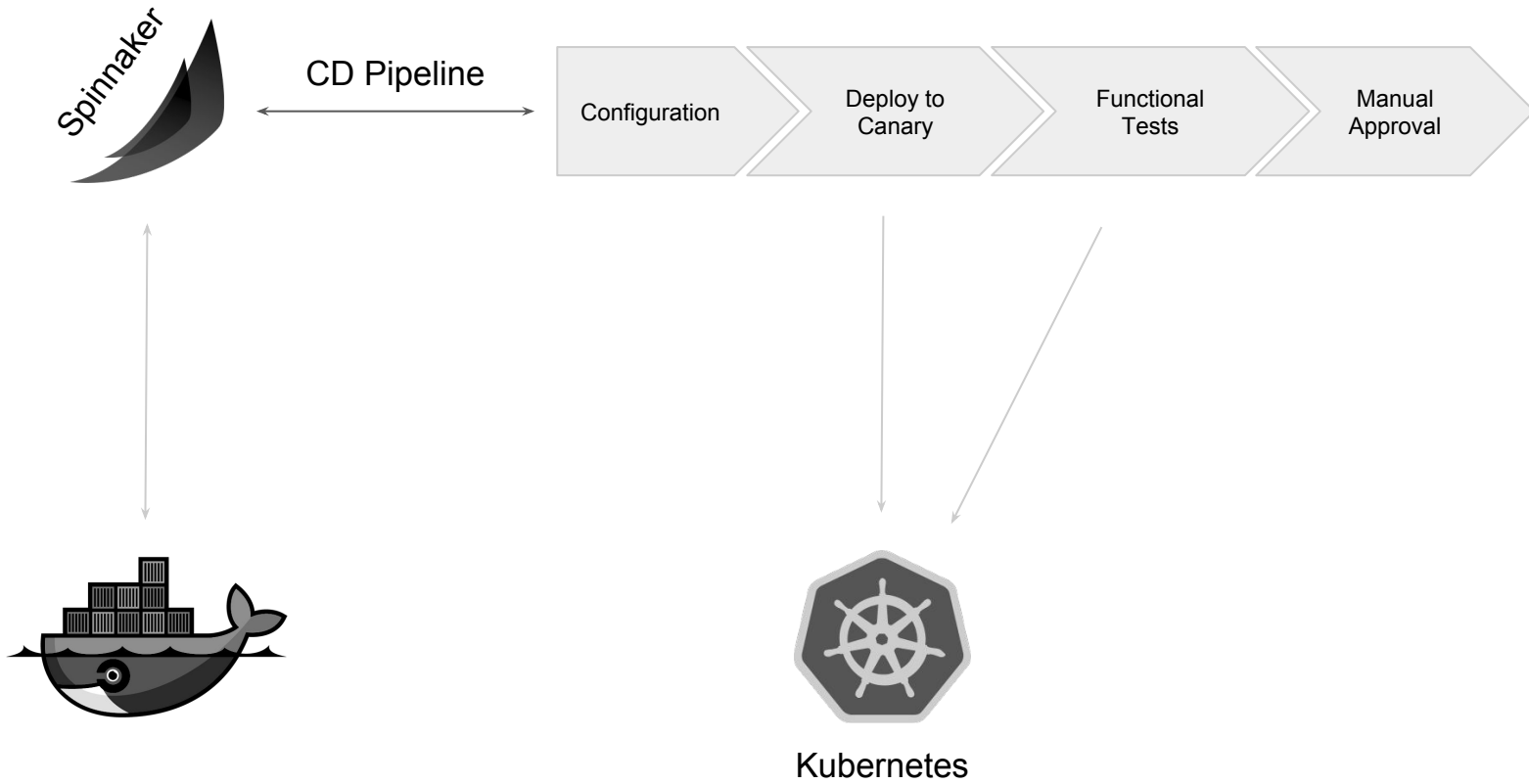
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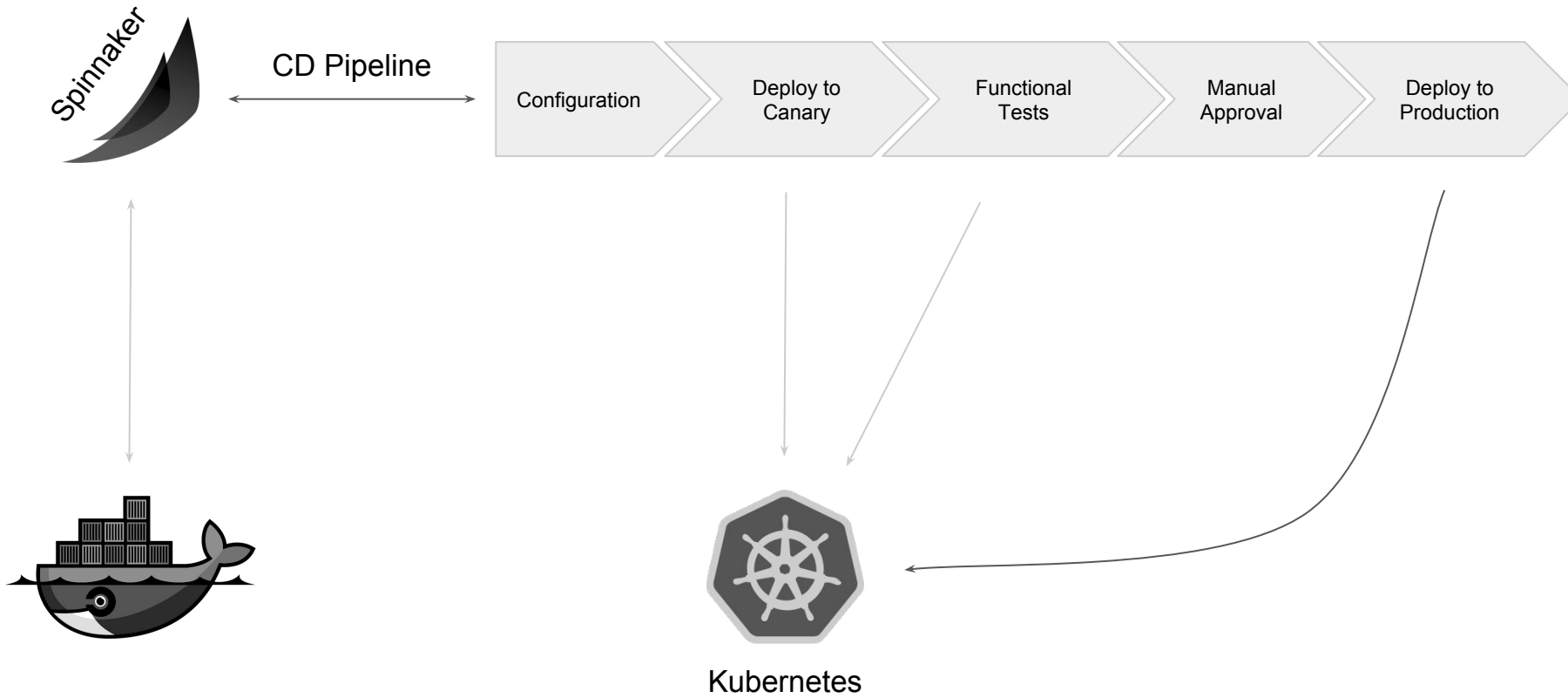
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Key Takeaways

- If you are a service provider
 - Start thinking about Continuous Deployment at the beginning goal setting stage of your network automation initiative
- If you are vendors/developers
 - Think about Continuous Deployment at product definition stage (i.e. with Customers and Product Owners), before designing software
- Find more at Clover: <https://wiki.opnfv.org/display/CLOV>



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Questions?

- Junaid's work is supported by an Linux Foundation Networking internship in the OPNFV Clover project.
- Clover: <https://wiki.opnfv.org/display/CLOV>