Fairwinds

Fairwinds Kubernetes Migration-as-a-Service

Seamless, Secure Migration to Modern Kubernetes Platforms

Fairwinds delivers expert-led Kubernetes migration services, enabling organizations to move from legacy or self-managed Kubernetes environments, such as Kubernetes Operations (kOps), to modern, fully managed platforms, such as Amazon Elastic Kubernetes Service (EKS). The Fairwinds approach ensures your migration is secure, reliable, and tailored to meet your unique business needs, so your team can focus on innovation, not infrastructure.

KEY MIGRATION FEATURES

Comprehensive Assessment & Planning

In-depth analysis of existing infrastructure, workflows, and business objectives. Collaborative planning to identify migration risks and create a seamless transition strategy.

Zero-Downtime Migration Execution

Parallel cluster build-out to ensure consistency across environments. Maintenance windows and rollback plans to guarantee minimal or zero downtime during cutover.

Managed Add-Ons & Tooling

Deployment and maintenance of essential Kubernetes add-ons and operator tools for stability and security.

Expert-Led Implementation

Fairwinds SREs manage the end-to-end migration process, including architecture, deployment, and troubleshooting. Use of proven open source tooling (for example, Rok8s-Scripts for building GitOps workflows with Docker and Kubernetes) to streamline application deployment and cluster management.

Security & Compliance

Implementation of security best practices, vulnerability scanning, and policy enforcement throughout the migration. Support for compliance standards, including SOC 2, HIPAA, and ISO 27001.

Ongoing Support & Collaboration

Regular meetings, Q&A, and Slack/ticketing support to address technical needs and track progress on migration activities.

Infrastructure as Code (IaC)

All resources and clusters managed via IaC for repeatability and consistency.

Performance & Cost Optimization

Use of open source tools, including Goldilocks for resource right-sizing and Polaris for automated policy enforcement. Ongoing cost monitoring and optimization post-migration.

"Fairwinds' Kubernetes expertise allowed us to accelerate our infrastructure modernization while **ensuring our systems are secure, efficient, and scalable.** The transition to EKS has significantly improved our upgrade processes and overall system reliability. With Fairwinds, we don't need to worry about what version of Kubernetes we are running on or what add-ons we need to update, they just handle all of that for us so we can focus on improving our product."

Brock Wilcox, VP Engineering at Framebridge

FAIRWINDS OPS - SHARED RESPONSIBILITY MODEL

Customer
responsibility for application layer

Data storage and messaging - Includes services such as RDS, Redis, Kafka and RabbitMQ

CI/CD Tools - Includes Jenkins, GitLab Runners, Azure DevOps, Concourse and other CI/CD tools

Shared Responsibility

DNS

- Customer manages DNS strategy
- Fairwinds manages DNS for K8s zones

MONITORING

- Customer is responsible for any other components they would like to monitor and be alerted on
- Fairwinds monitors the control plane, worker nodes and managed K8s add-ons

Fairwinds
responsibility for Kubernetes layer

- Managed K8s add-ons agreed upon with the customer
- Cluster networking
- The control plane and worker nodes

Typical engagements follow the above shared responsibility model; the model can be adjusted to meet individual customer needs.

USE CASES FOR KUBERNETES MIGRATION

Migrating to Kubernetes is a strategic move for many organizations aiming to modernize their infrastructure, improve scalability, and reduce operational overhead. Here are some of the most common use cases:

Moving from On-Premises to Cloud or Hybrid Cloud

Organizations running legacy or on-premises environments migrate to Kubernetes in the cloud (AWS EKS, Azure AKS, Google GKE) to leverage automated scaling, managed infrastructure, and integration with cloud-native services. Organizations adopt Kubernetes to enable hybrid or multi-cloud strategies, improving flexibility and reducing vendor lock-in.

Migrating from Self-Managed to Managed Kubernetes

Teams move from self-managed clusters (such as kOps or other custom K8s setups) to managed services (EKS, AKS, GKE) to offload cluster management, upgrades, and security patching to cloud providers. Managed Kubernetes services streamline K8s version upgrades and reduce downtime, which is essential for production workloads.

Replatforming from Other Orchestration or PaaS Solutions

Organizations migrate to Kubernetes from Pivotal Cloud Foundry or Heroku for greater control, cost efficiency, and to avoid the limitations of proprietary PaaS platforms. Companies move to Kubernetes from VMware Tanzu and similar solutions to consolidate platforms, standardize operations, and simplify management.

Compliance, Security, and Governance

Kubernetes migration can enable organizations to implement security best practices, compliance controls, and governance frameworks to meet stringent regulatory requirements.

Application Modernization and Microservices Adoption

Migrating to Kubernetes enables organizations to break down monolithic applications into scalable, independent microservices, improving agility and deployment speed. Kubernetes supports robust CI/CD pipelines, automated rollouts, and rollbacks, making it easier to deliver new features and capabilities quickly and reliably.

Scalability, Performance, and Cost Optimization

Applications with variable workloads benefit from Kubernetes' auto-scaling capabilities, ensuring resources are used efficiently and costs are optimized. Kubernetes allows for better resource utilization, reducing infrastructure waste and operational costs.

Disaster Recovery and High Availability

Migrating to Kubernetes improves application availability and resiliency through self-healing, automated failover, and multi-region deployments. Kubernetes supports cross-region backups and rapid failover, improving business continuity strategies and disaster recovery capabilities.

Vendor Independence and Portability

Kubernetes' open standards enable organizations to choose where to deploy workloads based on their needs and the capabilities of different cloud providers, reducing dependency on any single vendor. Organizations have the ability to deploy where and how works best for their business needs.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- **Accelerated Time-to-Market**
  Offload migration and management to experts, so your team can deliver innovations faster.
- **Cost Efficiency**
  Access a team of Kubernetes experts for less than the cost of a full-time engineer.
- **Increased Reliability**
  Minimize downtime and ensure deployment on resilient, modern infrastructure.
- **Improved Security**
  Continuous monitoring and adherence to best practices protect your workloads from vulnerabilities, misconfigurations, and cost overruns.

READY TO MODERNIZE YOUR INFRASTRUCTURE?

Contact Fairwinds to learn how our team of Kubernetes experts can help your organization achieve a seamless, secure transition to managed Kubernetes.

"You want to work with Fairwinds **because you get a single pane of glass for your clusters and full turnkey service** for your DevOps without having to expend unnecessary effort or think too hard about it."

Wilson Yan, Senior Software Engineer at Fathom