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Whitepaper

20 SIGNS YOUR KUBERNETES PLATFORM ISN'T LIVING UP TO EXPECTATIONS

Kubernetes promised simplicity and speed, but has become an over-engineered burden for many teams.

28.10.25

Kubernetes was meant to free us from infrastructure drudgery. Instead, for many teams, it has quietly become an art form in over-engineering. The promise was faster delivery, simpler scaling, and operational control; the reality is a platform so complex that it often needs a full-on specialist team to manage it.

This isn’t about Kubernetes itself. It’s about what happens when smart people chase the ideal of “modern” without defining what “better” means. Most platforms don’t fail dramatically; they just stop making sense, to everyone except the few who built them.

IF A FEW OF THESE SOUND FAMILIAR, YOU'VE STILL GOT TIME TO INTERVENE.

If most of them sound familiar, stop pretending it's a platform. It's a hobby with budget overruns.

THE 20 EARLY SIGNS

1

You now expect developers to understand YAML, networking, IAM, and storage classes; and if they can't, your architects ask, "Are they really developers?"

You've redefined DevOps as "everyone does everything badly."

2

You started with containers, then came Kubernetes, then came twenty more tools just to tame the chaos Kubernetes introduced.

You modernised, but somehow everything feels harder

3

No one has asked whether the platform's users (developers and ops) actually like it.

You defined "usefulness" without ever asking the people who use it.

4

Your platform engineers spend more time at Cloud Native conferences than they do with their internal users.

They're building their personal brand while your developers wait for support.

5

No one in your platform engineering team can produce a document that captures what your users actually require from the platform.

They started building before defining success, and now can't tell if they've achieved it.

6

You're terrified of losing certain engineers because the whole thing lives in their heads.

The tail doesn't just wag the dog, it wrote the dog's job description.

7

Your CIO and CISO smile and nod through Kubernetes updates they don't understand.

Governance has become theatre.

8

Your Platform Engineering team spend hours on Reddit, often complaining about burnout and the sheer drain of your on-call roster.

They have engineered their own nightmare, and are now looking for a way out.

9

Your automations take longer to fix than fixing the problem directly.

"Automated" now means "slow and expensive"

10

Developers still file tickets to deploy code.

You built self-service, then wrapped it in red tape.

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11

Every new namespace request triggers a week of policy debates.

You've mistaken process for progress.

12

The platform team's real product isn't the platform, it's the toolchain they babysit.

Kubernetes became their religion, and YAML their scripture.

13

ou collect mountains of metrics, and have an array of Grafana dashboards; problem is, no one knows what "healthy" actually looks like.

Congratulations, you now visualize everything, and yet show nothing all at the same time.

14

The platform costs more than the applications it hosts.

Your ROI lives in someone else's keynote.

15

"Day 2 operations" has become a euphemism for "next year we will get to that"

You built a hamster wheel, not a platform.

16

Every new project restarts the same arguments about ingress, service mesh, auto-scaling, and secret management.

Standardisation died somewhere around cluster number three.

17

Documentation is six months out of date, but the one guy who knows how it works is "on holiday."

Tribal knowledge is your HA strategy.

18

You thought you were using free tooling, but somehow you end up writing POs to dozens of vendors.

You fell into the Open Source trap, free does not mean free.

19

You need Grafana to tell you if your developers are happy.

Spoiler: they're not.

20

You've built a perfect Kubernetes environment, and somehow the business still isn't faster.

You didn't build a platform. You built a shrine to technical suffering.

REFLECTION

These aren't signs of failure, they're symptoms of drift. Kubernetes doesn't implode; it ossifies. The technology works, but the purpose fades. Somewhere along the way, the platform stopped being about **delivery** and became about **demonstration**.

If this sounds familiar, good. It means you've noticed. Now comes the hard part: stripping away the layers of tooling, ego, and ceremony until what's left actually serves the people it was meant to.

Because Kubernetes isn't broken.

It's just been running long enough to expose how broken our assumptions were.

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