

Do You Need a Service Mesh?

5 Questions for Considering Service Mesh

Everyone is talking about service mesh and with Kubernetes on your IT agenda, this seems like the natural next step but how do you know if it's right for your applications? These five questions will help guide the discussion with your team about your existing applications and the new applications on your horizon.

1

Do you have a mix of application languages or frameworks?

Service mesh abstracts the networking code from the application code and deploys a sidecar proxy alongside each service. Polyglot development practices can benefit from service mesh by managing the application network independently and in a language agnostic manner from their software release cycles.

2

Do you have a large deployment of microservices on cloud infrastructure?

As the application grows, so do the number of services and the number of connections between them. The dynamic nature of cloud deployments combined with the growth in services can warrant a different approach to how the application network is architected and managed. Service mesh can better offer better scale for operating the application network.

3

Do you have a lot of service-to-service communication?

The more services in an application, the more connections between those services that need to be configured and managed, the better the use case for service mesh. Additionally, for early adopters of microservices, Kubernetes and service mesh either did not exist or were just emerging resulting in homegrown orchestration and networking. With the maturity of the cloud-native toolset, organizations can benefit from using community and vendor maintained technologies like Kubernetes and service mesh.

4

Are you struggling with application network observability?

If you have implemented a mix of different languages and frameworks then you are likely unable to consistently implement observability at the application layer due to the language incompatibilities and dependencies. The network abstraction of service mesh provides the ability to implement observability through the data plane in a manner that is agnostic to the languages used by the application services.

5

Have you mastered the existing infrastructure stack?

Is the target infrastructure for the service mesh, already highly optimized and are the processes supporting it operationalized in your organization? Extract as much value from the existing infrastructure to optimize your operations before adding a new component. If you're starting on a clean slate, design the architecture and operations with service mesh in mind from the beginning.

Ready to Go?

Whether you answered **yes or no** to any of these questions regarding your existing environment, your new applications are likely being designed with microservices and cloud in mind. Integrating service mesh into your microservices strategy will enable and secure service connectivity as you scale.

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