Kubernetes Data Management Guide

Published 2026-10-07

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HAMMERSPACE

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About This Documentation

Hammerspace makes it easy to deploy and scale stateful applications in any Kubernetes cluster, in any cloud. Any storage can become cloud-native and accessible to containerized applications in multiple Kubernetes clusters. Additionally, persistent data is always available—with full enterprise data protection and governance, no matter where containers live.

Hammerspace makes this possible by providing an abstraction layer that virtualizes data everywhere in your environment under a single, active-active, geo-spanning namespace. Anvil instances (Hammerspace metadata services) replicate metadata across all Kubernetes clusters, allowing the platform to ensure that the data appears in the same way across any and every cluster, without the need to actually copy the data. It also ensures that whatever storage is supporting that cluster—regardless of vendor or type or location—is managed appropriately for the requirements of the containers orchestrated by that cluster.

This architecture brings together the complete set of capabilities needed to bring persistent data to multi-cluster Kubernetes. Scaling containerized workloads for databases and other stateful applications across clusters becomes simple and fully automated, even in full production environments, so that DevOps teams are empowered to do more with data.

To open a support case, use the Hammerspace Support Hub. To download Hammerspace software and licenses, use the Hammerspace Licensing and Delivery Portal.

> Do not install additional or third-party software, agents, or packages directly on Hammerspace Anvil (metadata) or DSX (data) nodes. These nodes run a managed appliance software stack; anything installed outside that stack is unsupported and is removed during a software upgrade. Such software can also interfere with node operation. If you need monitoring or integration with an external tool, contact Hammerspace Support for a supported approach.

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Chapter 1. Architecture and Concepts

Before implementing persistent storage for Kubernetes with Hammerspace, it helps to understand the architecture, why Hammerspace pairs well with Kubernetes, and how CSI volume provisioning works.

1.1. Architecture

The diagram below illustrates a single Kubernetes application with Hammerspace Parallel Global File System. Hammerspace can provision block volumes, local file volumes, as well as shared NFS volumes to Kubernetes Pods.

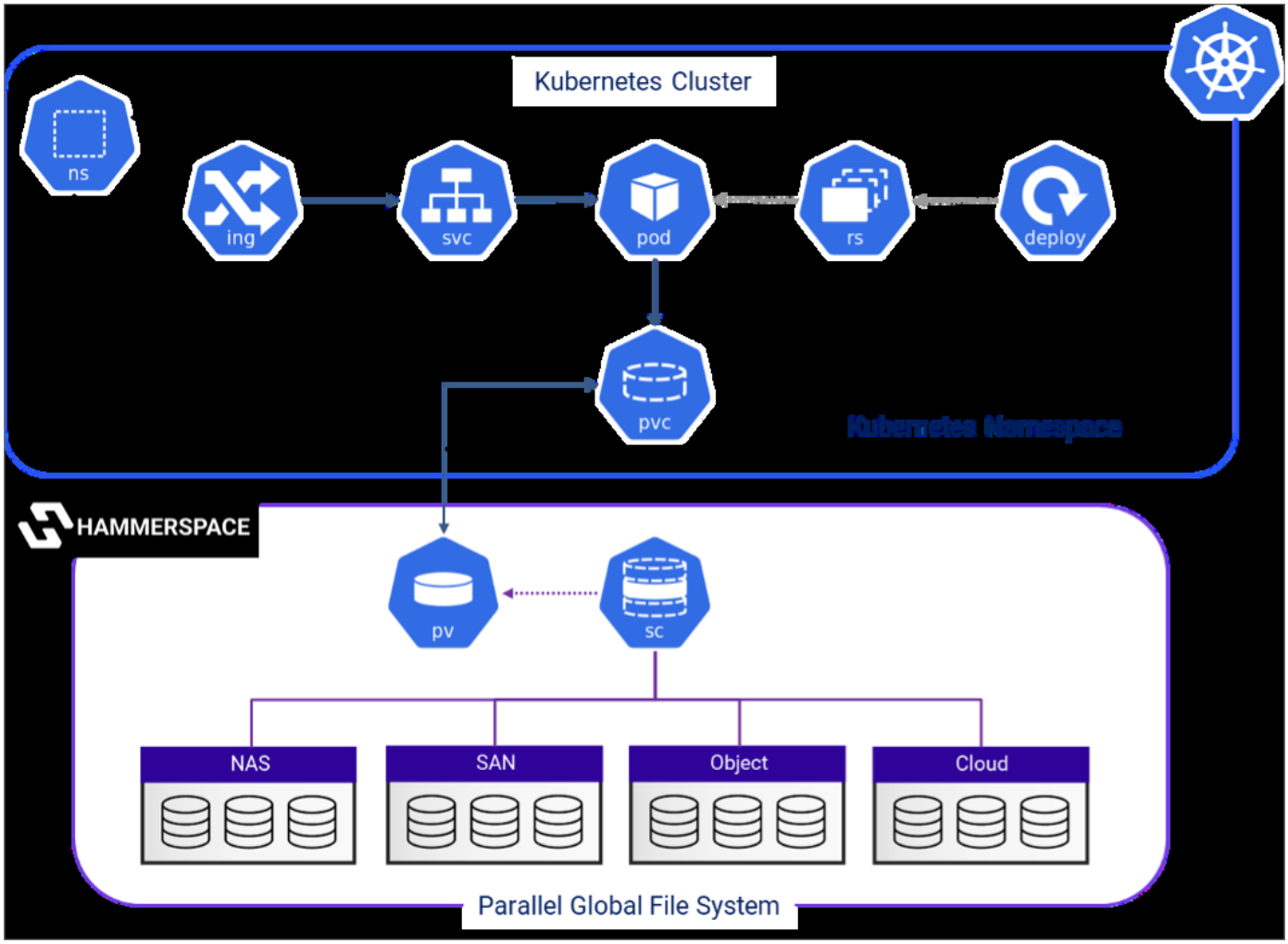

Figure 1. Kubernetes with Hammerspace data orchestration

1.2. Why Hammerspace with Kubernetes?

The Hammerspace CSI Plugin makes it easy for organizations to dynamically provision their stateful container workloads running on Kubernetes, both on-premises and in the cloud.

Administrators have the option of manually provisioning Hammerspace shares, using the community nfs-csi driver, using the power behind the Hammerspace CSI driver, or a combination of these options.

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The Hammerspace CSI driver provisions persistent container storage from the Hammerspace storage environment, extending the rich capabilities of Hammerspace Objectives, snapshots, and global filesystem.

1.3. Understanding CSI and Volume Provisioning

The first thing that we should understand is that CSI stands for Container Storage Interface. The official CSI Introduction documentation states:

> The Container Storage Interface (CSI) is a standard for exposing arbitrary block and file storage systems to containerized workloads on Container Orchestration Systems like Kubernetes. Using CSI third-party storage providers can write and deploy plugins exposing new storage systems in Kubernetes without ever having to touch the core Kubernetes code.

A CSI driver enables Kubernetes users to set up storage without the need to understand the intricacies of the underlying storage infrastructure. The storage setup is concealed, eliminating the requirement for administrator intervention during capacity provisioning. This substantially lightens administrative responsibilities, allowing Kubernetes users to concentrate on managing their Kubernetes environment. As a result, developers are no longer required to submit tickets and wait for a storage administrator to allocate a share for them.

Whenever we create files or store data in Kubernetes, all the data storage goes away once the container stops running. To ensure that the data remains persistent even if the container stops, volumes must be allocated to the Kubernetes Containers through static and dynamic volume provisioning.

Static volume provisioning refers to the manual allocation and configuration of storage volumes before they are needed by pods. It requires administrators to pre-allocate and manage storage resources in advance so that the data remains persistent after the containers stop running.

There may be a case when the PersistentVolumeClaims (request for storage) does not match with the Persistent Volume created by the administrator. In this case, the cluster dynamically provisions the volume for the PersistentVolumeClaim (PVC) using the concept of StorageClass. The administrator defines the StorageClass that contains the fields `provisioner`, `parameters`, and `reclaimPolicy`. The PVC then requests the StorageClass to dynamically provision the storage volumes to the pod.

Here are the key differences between static and dynamic provisioning.

Static provisioning	Dynamic provisioning
Administrators manually allocate and configure storage volumes.	Storage volumes are automatically provisioned based on demand.
Requires manual intervention and pre-allocation of resources.	Automates provisioning process and reduces manual effort.
May lead to the underutilization of resources if resources are allocated more or less than the requirement.	Optimizes resource usage by provisioning volumes on demand.
Ideal for environments with predictable storage requirements.	Well-suited for dynamic workloads and cloud-native environments.

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Static provisioning	Dynamic provisioning
More complex to manage and maintain at scale.	Simplifies storage management and improves cluster efficiency.

This document will explore both approaches to storage management in Kubernetes.

1.4. Understand Your Use Case

It is essential for administrators to understand their organization's intended usage of the available storage resources as well as how they wish to consume them. With this knowledge, they will be able to determine which tools are best suited to meet their specific needs and requirements.

By understanding the capabilities and purposes of each tool, administrators can make informed decisions about which ones to use in their Kubernetes environment.

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Chapter 2. Requirements

- Hammerspace cluster running 5.0.12 or later
- Hammerspace CSI Plugin 1.2.5 or greater
- Kubernetes cluster running version 1.20 or greater
  - Each participating worker node should have nfs-common 1:2.6.4 or nfs-utils 2.5.4 or greater installed
- Hammerspace administrative credentials

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Chapter 3. Managing Data with Hammerspace

Hammerspace uses objectives to manage data placement across all storage volumes under management. Data can be placed in one location, be made redundant across multiple locations, and be moved, migrated, and tiered without disruption.

Hammerspace also makes the same data available across many sites, enabling workflows that go into the cloud or across data centers.

Each storage class in Kubernetes is tied to 1 or more objectives that can be modified without requiring any changes within Kubernetes. What does this mean?

The performance, reliability, and other characteristics of existing PersistentVolumes (PVs) can be modified without having to re-create the volumes themselves. In other words, the underlying storage can be changed without migrating the PV. Simply re-defining the objectives that a Storage Class maps to will achieve the desired outcome.

3.1. Hammerspace Objectives

Hammerspace Objectives are instructions that we use to implement our data orchestration goals, and control the behavior of the filesystem.

Objectives can optionally be applied with conditions that control when they are activated. These conditions can be based on the action being performed (file being created, file being opened, etc), the file characteristics (extension, name, etc.), or even the file type (is a snapshot, is a live file, etc.).

Objectives can be broken down into three categories:

- **Storage** - The family of placement objectives controls where your data is placed (or not placed), and how many copies of that data will be created.
- **Data Protection** - The versioning, undelete, and file conflict resolution objectives complement snapshots to enhance on-cluster data protection, and enable client self-recovery capabilities.
- **Behavior** - These objectives control the behavior of the filesystem. Some examples include access-based enumeration, external antivirus integration, filesystem timestamp or ACL behavior, and various NFS/SMB protocol-specific options.

These Service Level Objectives are a new paradigm that empowers users to declare the intent of their data by coupling desired outcomes with programmable conditions. With this declarative control, data can be organized through metadata characteristics (inherent or custom) and tailored to achieve specific outcomes. Furthermore, "smart" macros objectives that include rules for when the underlying sub-objectives are in effect or not (predicated objectives) can be configured to further customize the workflow.

Declarative statements, like Hammerspace Objectives, are a far more effective and modern method of creating business outcomes from data than what historically has been available, especially when it comes to data management in Kubernetes.

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3.2. Persistent Storage

There are three different methods for Hammerspace to manage data in Kubernetes that support a wide variety of applications, from high-performance databases to unstructured data applications.

3.2.1. Block Persistent Volume

A block volume exposes a block device inside the Pod. This block device can be directly used by the application. Common examples are databases and applications that share data over block, such as clustering tools. The main difference between this and a File Backed volume is that a Block persistent volume does not have a file system and needs to be managed by your application.

Block Volumes can be concurrently shared between Kubernetes pods. Be aware that raw block sharing requires applications to be aware of each other.

> This volume should only be used with ASM or something similar. File Backed Volumes are recommended for most use cases.

3.2.2. File-Backed Persistent Volume

A file-backed mounted volume exposes a mounted, local, file system inside the Kubernetes Pod. This allows applications to use regular POSIX file system syntax to read and write data. This provisions a local non-shared file system to the Pod.

3.2.3. NFS-shared Persistent Volume

NFS persistent volumes provision a shared file-based interface to Pods and regular NFS clients. In a Hammerspace environment, external applications not running on the Kubernetes cluster can access the same volume over multiple supported protocols, including SMB. More importantly, this mode allows data to be shared concurrently between Kubernetes Clusters and Pods across multiple geographically dispersed sites and clouds.

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Chapter 4. Implementation

4.1. Create a Secret for the Hammerspace CSI Driver

To utilize the Hammerspace CSI driver, create a secret containing the Hammerspace API credentials. Before creating the secret.yaml file, convert the administrator username and password to Base64 format using the base64 command. To suppress new lines, use the -n switch.

The following is an example of how to generate the administrator and password in Base64 encoding using a Linux or Mac system.

```
~$ echo -n 'administrator' |base64
YWRtaW5pc3RyYXRvcg==

~$ echo -n 'MySecretP4ssword!' |base64
TXlTZWNyZXRQNHNzd29yZCE=
```

Create a secret.yaml with vim or any editor.

```
$ vim secret.yaml
```

Copy and Paste the contents below into the file. Update the name, namespace, username, password, and endpoint parameters to match the environment.

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Secret
metadata:
  name: com.hammerspace.csi.credentials
  namespace: kube-system
type: Opaque
data:
  username: YWRtaW5pc3RyYXRvcg==
  password: TXlTZWNyZXRQNHNzd29yZCE=
stringData:
  endpoint: "https://anvil.example.com" #this should be your cluster IP
```

Save the secret file and exit vim. Run the following to apply the credentials and add the cluster:

```
$ kubectl apply -f ./secret.yaml
secret/com.hammerspace.csi.credentials configured
```

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4.2. Select Hammerspace CSI Driver Version Plugin

Download the latest version of the plugin to the host that has kubectl and has access to your target cluster:

```
$ git clone https://github.com/hammer-space/csi-plugin.git
```

With the necessary secret created, proceed with installing the CSI plugin using the following command:

```
$ kubectl apply -f ./csi-plugin/deploy/kubernetes/kubernetes-latest/plugin.yaml
```

Once applied, check the status of the pod with the following command:

```
$ kubectl get pods -n kube-system -l 'app in (csi-node,csi-provisioner)'
NAME READY STATUS RESTARTS AGE
csi-node-srbh8 3/3 Running 0 1m
csi-provisioner-0 5/5 Running 0 1m
```

If the csi-node and csi-provisioner have a status of Running and all containers are showing under READY, verification is complete.

4.3. Install the NFS CSI Driver

There are several options to install the NFS CSI driver. Full installation instructions can be found here.

Download the latest version of the plugin, `cd` to the directory, and install the driver using the commands below.

```
$ git clone https://github.com/kubernetes-csi/csi-driver-nfs.git
$ cd csi-driver-nfs
$ ./deploy/install-driver.sh
```

Once installed, verify the services with the following commands:

```
$ kubectl -n kube-system get pod -o wide -l app=csi-nfs-controller
$ kubectl -n kube-system get pod -o wide -l app=csi-nfs-node
```

The status Running and n/n are READY indicates that all pods and containers are online.

4.4. Create a Hammerspace Share for the NFS CSI Driver

To utilize the community NFS CSI driver, a functioning Hammerspace cluster must be online and accessible. In this example, a share named `/k8sdata` has been created on Hammerspace.

To configure an NFS share on Hammerspace:

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1. Navigate to **Shares** in the left hand menu and click the **Create Share** button.

Figure 2. Create a Hammerspace share for the NFS CSI driver

2. Fill in the **Share Details** and click **Create**.

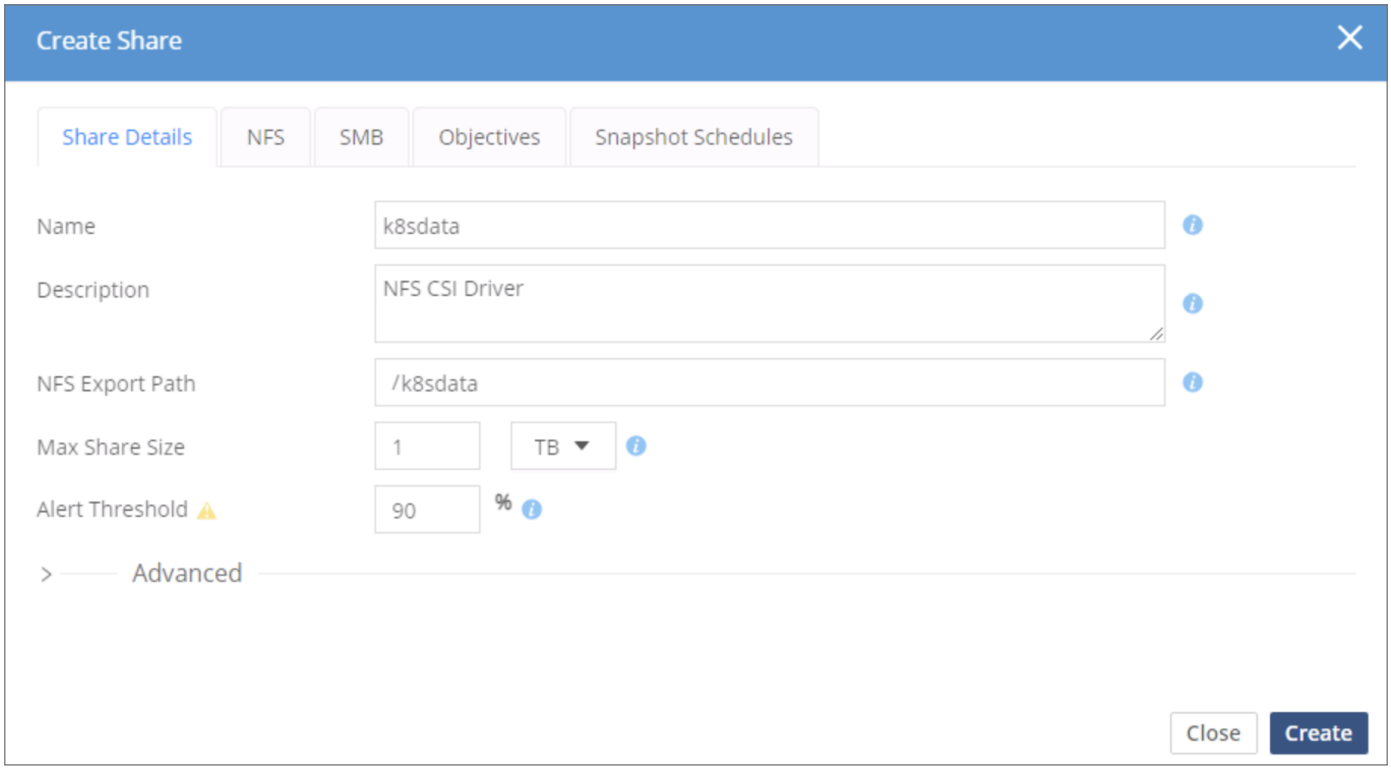

Figure 3. Create a Hammerspace share for the NFS CSI driver

3. Confirm the newly created share is now listed on the **Shares page**.

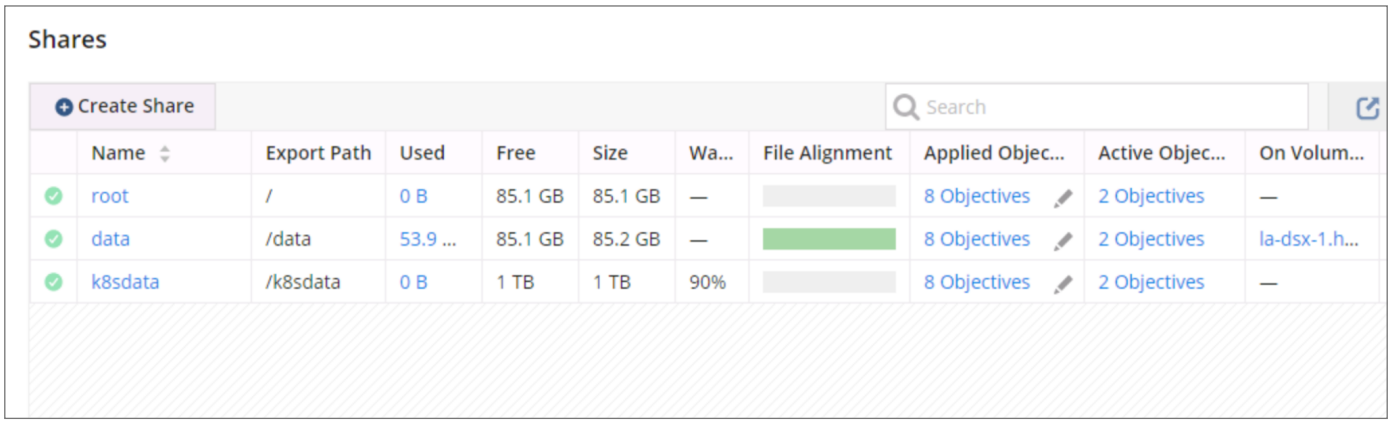

Figure 4. Create a Hammerspace share for the NFS CSI driver

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Figure 5. Create a Hammerspace share for the NFS CSI driver

4. Click the icon in the last column, **Actions**, to view additional share details.

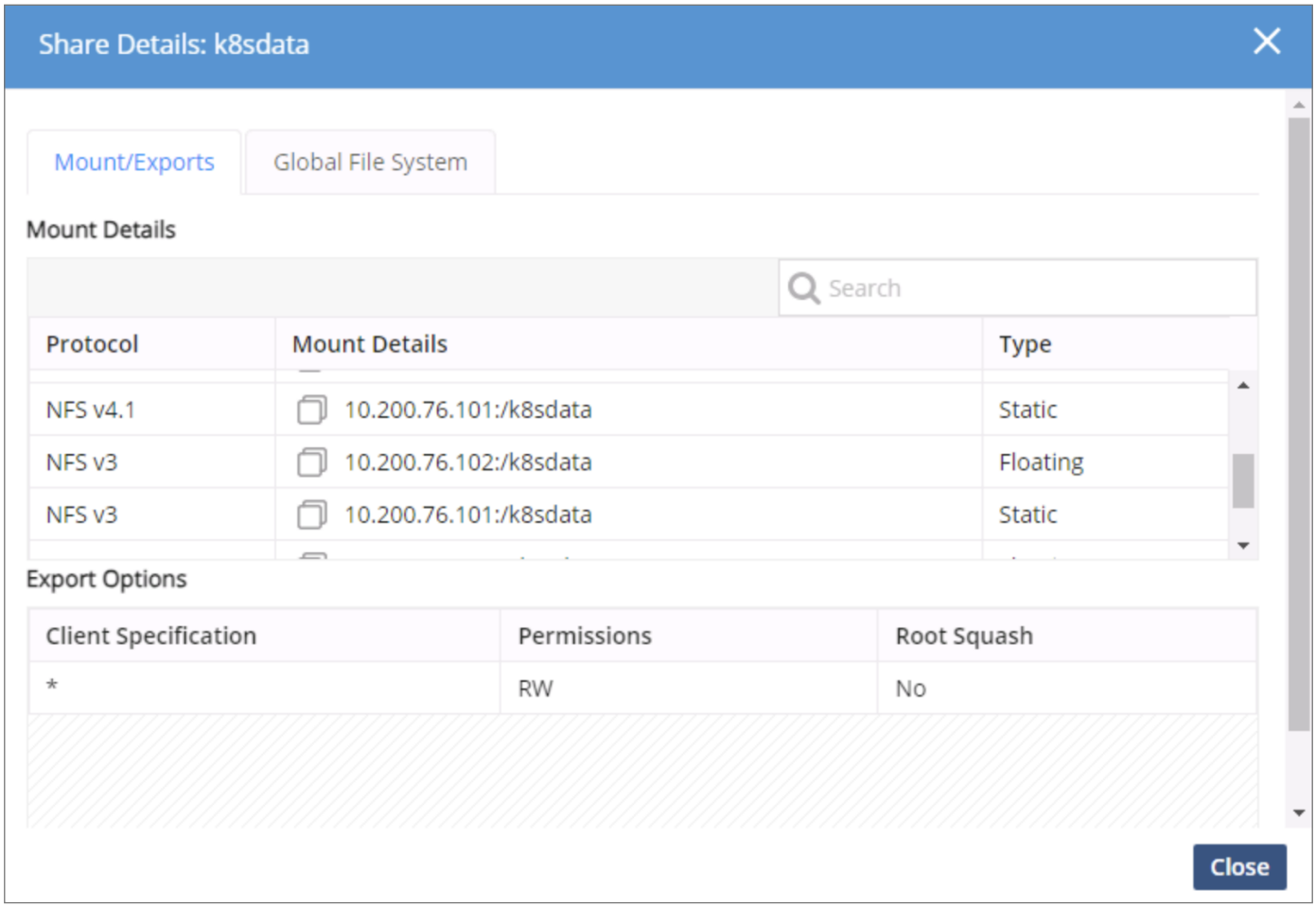

Figure 6. Create a Hammerspace share for the NFS CSI driver

Note the NFSv3 path information on the floating address. It will be utilized to create a NFS CSI Storage Class.

4.5. Confirm the Drivers Are Installed

Verify that the CSI drivers are available on the cluster:

```
$ kubectl get csidrivers
```

Make sure that all containers in your pods are READY.

```
$ kubectl get pod -n kube-system -l app=csi-provisioner
NAME READY STATUS RESTARTS AGE
csi-node-srbh8 3/3 Running 0 2d
```

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```
csi-provisioner-0 5/5 Running 0 2d
```

Inspect the installation by describing it.

```
$ kubectl describe pod -n kube-system csi-provisioner-0
Name: csi-provisioner-0
Namespace: kube-system
Priority: 0
Service Account: csi-provisioner
Node: rancher-worker/192.168.100.101
Start Time: Tue, 06 Aug 2024 20:16:32 +0000
Labels: app=csi-provisioner
controller-revision-hash=csi-provisioner-64dccb6697
statefulset.kubernetes.io/pod-name=csi-provisioner-0
Annotations: <none>
Status: Running
IP: 192.168.100.101
IPs:
...<truncated>...
QoS Class: BestEffort
Node-Selectors: <none>
Tolerations: node.kubernetes.io/not-ready:NoExecute op=Exists for 300s
node.kubernetes.io/unreachable:NoExecute op=Exists for 300s
Events: <none>
```

Verify what containers are in your pod:

```
$ kubectl get pod -n kube-system csi-provisioner-0 -o json | jq .spec.containers[].name
"csi-provisioner"
"csi-attacher"
"csi-snapshotter"
"csi-resizer"
"hs-csi-plugin-controller"
```

4.6. Dynamic Provisioning with the NFS and Hammerspace CSI

To efficiently manage storage resources within your cluster, it's essential to have one or more storage classes. A storage class serves as an abstraction over the underlying storage systems that Kubernetes uses for managing storage resources. Dynamic provisioning plays a significant role when running applications at scale and needs to be integrated into your DevOps process.

Comparing how the Hammerspace and nfs-csi drivers provision resources may aid in deciding which one to use.

Key differences between the NFS and Hammerspace CSI drivers include:

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- The NFS driver creates a new PV directory in the target for every PV that gets created
- The Hammerspace CSI can create a file backed block device
- The NFS driver is limited to NFS shares only

4.6.1. The NFS-CSI Driver

In certain scenarios, organizations might find that the nfs-csi driver aligns well with their team needs, scale of deployments, or if only NFS shares are required.

For more information on the nfs-csi driver, along with its code, check out Kubernetes NFS CSI Driver.

4.6.2. The Hammerspace CSI Driver

The Hammerspace CSI Plugin provides three volume types.

Share-backed Mounted Volume (Shared Filesystem)

- Storage is exposed to the container as a directory
- Exists as a Hammerspace share
- Mounted via NFS

File-backed Mounted Volume (Filesystem)

- Storage is exposed to the container as a formatted block device
- This is helpful for trying things like databases
- Exists as a special device file on a Hammerspace share (backing share) which contains a filesystem

File-backed Volume (Raw device)

This is a less frequently used option, but it may be required for certain applications or platforms. In this case, an unformatted block device is created which the application must format and mount with its preferred filesystem.

4.7. Create a Storage Class

To use the drivers, storage classes must be created. Once the CSI driver is installed and verification of status is complete, create at least one StorageClass to:

- Enable the administrator to specify which Hammerspace Service Level Objectives are applied to the share.
- Allow the administrator to choose whether pvcs are backed by a filesystem or a block device.
- Add custom metadata tags for the share.
- Provide administrators the ability to allow volume expansion.

To create a storage class, create a file with vim or any other editor.

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```
$ vim st-class.yaml
```

Copy and paste the basic StorageClass manifest file below into the created YAML file, edit, and save (**esc, :wq return**).

```
kind: StorageClass
apiVersion: storage.k8s.io/v1
metadata:
  name: "my-storageclass"
provisioner: "com.hammerspace.csi" or "nfs.csi.k8s.io"
```

Create the StorageClass with the **kubectl create** command.

```
$ kubectl create -f st-class.yaml
storageclass.storage.k8s.io/my-storageclass created
```

Review the details of the newly created StorageClass:

```
$ kubectl get sc my-storageclass
NAME PROVISIONER RECLAIMPOLICY AGE
my-storageclass com.hammerspace.csi Delete 9s
```

4.7.1. Hammerspace Storage Classes

As previously mentioned, each storage class in Kubernetes is tied to 1 or more objectives that can be modified without requiring any changes within Kubernetes to enable management of storage infrastructure that is independent and non-disruptive to Applications.

Here's an example of a StorageClass that uses the Hammerspace provisioner. To see a full list of options, reference the Supported Volume Parameters for CreateVolume requests table.

```
# This a general example StorageClass definition for creating volumes with the Hammerspace CSI Plugin
kind: StorageClass
apiVersion: storage.k8s.io/v1
metadata:
  name: hs-storage
provisioner: com.hammerspace.csi
parameters:
  fsType: "nfs"
  objectives: "keep-online" #Check with your Hammerspace admin for more.
  # ';' separated list of <subnet>,access,rootSquash
  exportOptions: "*,RW,false; 172.168.0.0/20,RO,true"
  # One should be careful to set this if shares are used outside of the cluster.
  # -1 means Hammerspace default which is to delete the share in 24 hours
  # 0 means now (5 minute delay)
```

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```
  # Specified in nanoseconds
  deleteDelay: "0"
  # The name format of provisioned volumes, %s is replaced with pvc-<uuid>
  volumeNameFormat: "csi-%s"
  # Metadata to set on files and shares created by the plugin.
  additionalMetadataTags: "storageClassName=hs-storage,fsType=nfs"
  # Ability to add a share description
  comment: "Created by the Hammerspace CSI Driver"
allowVolumeExpansion: true
```

The Hammerspace CSI driver can create virtual block devices, backed by a Hammerspace filesystem, typically used for databases.

```
# This an example StorageClass definition for creating file-backed Filesystem volumes with the
Hammerspace CSI Plugin
kind: StorageClass
apiVersion: storage.k8s.io/v1
metadata:
  name: hs-storage-file-backed
provisioner: com.hammerspace.csi
reclaimPolicy: Retain # default value is Delete. Setting to 'retain' will prevent the pv from being
deleted if the pvc is deleted.
parameters:
  # The filesystem to format onto the backing file. Supported filesystems depends on the file systems
being available on the node
  fsType: "xfs"
  # Optional, for use if we are supporting file-backed Mount volumes. Auto-created if it does not exist.
Never deleted by the driver
  mountBackingShareName: k8s-file-storage
  # Objectives to set on shares in addition to HS cluster defaults
  objectives: "keep-online"
  # The name format of provisioned volumes, %s is replaced with pvc-<uuid>
  volumeNameFormat: "csi-%s"
  # Metadata to set on files and shares created by the plugin.
  additionalMetadataTags: "storageClassName=hs-storage-file-backed,fsType=file"
# Resize for File and Block volumes currently require a restart of the pod.
allowVolumeExpansion: true
```

4.7.2. NFS CSI Storage Class

Create a storage class for the share following the steps in the **Create a Storage Class** section. **Note that the share must already exist on the server.**

```
apiVersion: storage.k8s.io/v1
kind: StorageClass
metadata:
  name: nfs-csi
provisioner: nfs.csi.k8s.io
```

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```
parameters:
  server: "floating IP"
  share: /k8sdata
  # csi.storage.k8s.io/provisioner-secret is only needed for providing mountOptions in DeleteVolume
  # csi.storage.k8s.io/provisioner-secret-name: "mount-options"
  # csi.storage.k8s.io/provisioner-secret-namespace: "default"
reclaimPolicy: Delete
volumeBindingMode: Immediate
mountOptions:
  - nfsvers=3
```

Once the storage classes have been created, test and validate the dynamic provisioning with NFS and Hammerspace CSI.

4.7.3. Create a Share-Backed Volume

Set up a **Share-backed pv** and create a new share on the Hammerspace cluster for use:

```
# Create the hammerspace namespace if it doesn't exist
apiVersion: v1
kind: Namespace
metadata:
  name: hammerspace
  labels:
    name: hammerspace

---
# Create a pvc named alpine dynamic. Since no pv exists for it, it will
# be created on the Hammerspace cluster.
apiVersion: v1
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
metadata:
  name: alpine-dynamic
  namespace: hammerspace
spec:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteMany
  resources:
    requests:
      storage: 1Gi
  storageClassName: hs-storage-share

---
# This will create an alpine pod and mount the share on /mnt/nfs. It will then start writing the
container name and date
# inside of the Hammerspace share.
kind: Pod
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
```

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```
  name: alpine-dynamic
  namespace: hammerspace
spec:
  containers:
    - image: alpine:latest
      name: alpine
      command:
        - "/bin/sh"
        - "-c"
        - set -euo pipefail; while true; do echo "alpine-dynamic-1 $(date)" >> /mnt/nfs/alpine-dynamic;
sleep 10; done
      volumeMounts:
        - name: vol1
          mountPath: "/mnt/nfs"
          readOnly: false
  volumes:
    - name: vol1
      persistentVolumeClaim:
        claimName: alpine-dynamic
```

To confirm that everything is working as expected, check the status of resources and verify that a **pvc** is bound to a pv in our Hammerspace share-backed volume.

> Some fields have been abbreviated for legibility.

```
$ kubectl get pods,pvc -A -l app=csi-testing
NAMESPACE NAME READY STATUS RESTARTS AGE
hammerspace pod/alpine-dynamic 1/1 Running 0 12m

NAMESPACE NAME STATUS VOLUME CAPACITY ACCESS MODES STORAGECLASS AGE
hammerspace alpine-dynamic Bound pvc-de...2b5 1Gi RWX hs-storage-share 12m
```

To review the pvc, run the following:

```
$ kubectl get pvc -n hammerspace alpine-dynamic -o yaml
apiVersion: v1
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
metadata:
  annotations:
    pv.kubernetes.io/bind-completed: "yes"
    pv.kubernetes.io/bound-by-controller: "yes"
    volume.beta.kubernetes.io/storage-provisioner: com.hammerspace.csi
    volume.kubernetes.io/storage-provisioner: com.hammerspace.csi
  finalizers:
    - kubernetes.io/pvc-protection
  labels:
    app: csi-testing
    objectset.rio.cattle.io/hash: 8d4abd1e4048484c6923540e8b6362e94785b868
```


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```
  name: alpine-dynamic
  namespace: hammerspace
  uid: deb2de41-855a-43ee-ab3d-c4df53b502b5
spec:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteMany
  resources:
    requests:
      storage: 1Gi
  storageClassName: hs-storage-share
  volumeMode: Filesystem
  volumeName: pvc-deb2de41-855a-43ee-ab3d-c4df53b502b5
status:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteMany
  capacity:
    storage: 1Gi
  phase: Bound
```

Log into the Hammerspace GUI and select **Shares** to confirm that the pvc-deb2de41-855a-43ee-ab3d-c4df53b502b5 volume name is correct for the hs-storage-share as outlined above.

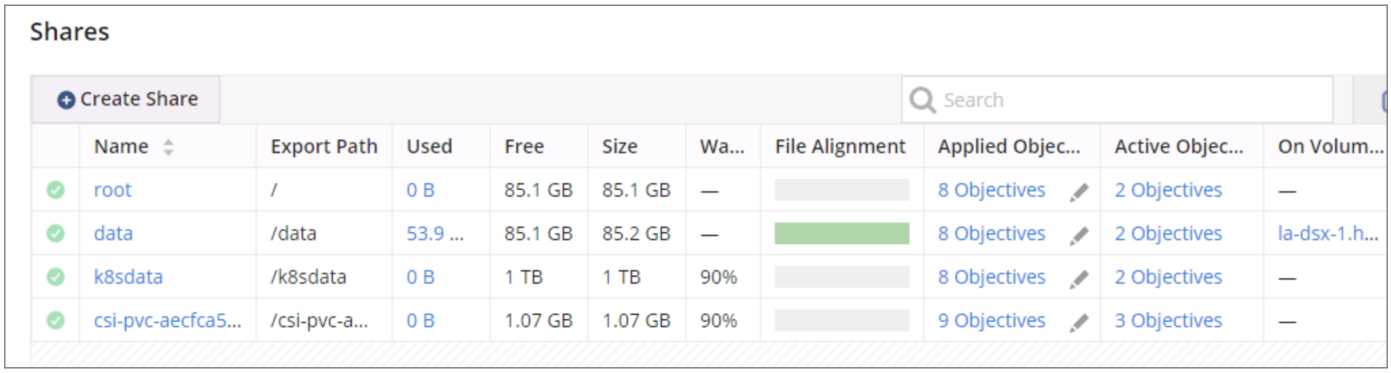

Figure 7. Create a share-backed volume

Click on the **Share Name** and select **Files** to confirm that the file created in the **pod** specification is listed.

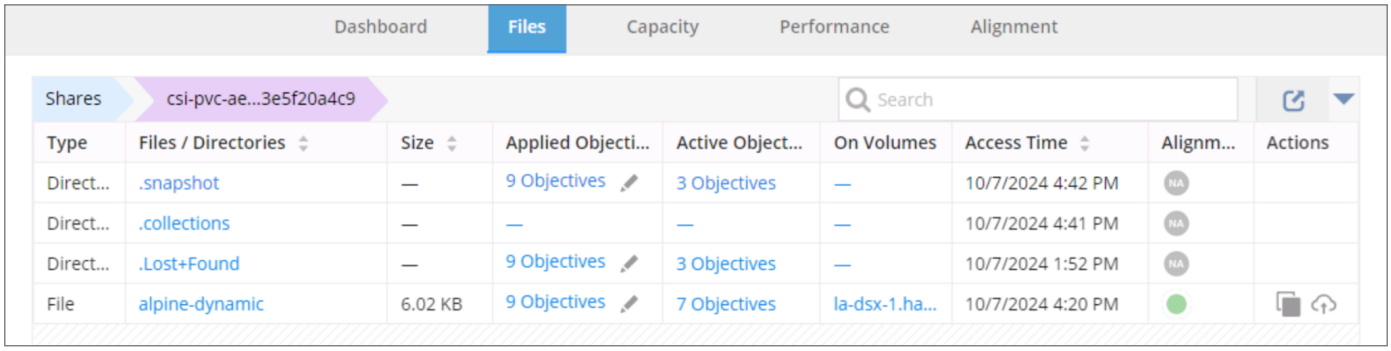

Figure 8. Create a share-backed volume

File contents can be verified by running the following:

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```
$ kubectl exec -n hammerspace alpine-dynamic -- tail -n 5 /mnt/nfs/alpine-dynamic
alpine-dynamic-1 Fri Aug 23 18:44:31 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Fri Aug 23 18:44:41 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Fri Aug 23 18:44:51 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Fri Aug 23 18:45:01 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Fri Aug 23 18:45:11 UTC 2024
```

4.8. Dynamic Provisioning with a File Backed Storage Class

First, review the example **StorageClass** created earlier in the Hammerspace Storage Classes section for file-backed Filesystem volumes with the Hammerspace CSI Plugin.

```
$ kubectl get sc hs-storage-file-backed
NAME PROVISIONER RECLAIMPOLICY AGE...
hs-storage-file-backed com.hammerspace.csi Delete 9s
```

Provision a pod that will use the **hs-storage-file-backed storageClass**.

```
---
apiVersion: v1
kind: Namespace
metadata:
  name: hs-csi-file-backed
  labels:
    name: hs-csi-file-backed

---
apiVersion: v1
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
metadata:
  name: alpine-dynamic-file-backed
  namespace: hs-csi-file-backed
  labels:
    app: csi-file-backed
spec:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteMany
  volumeMode: Filesystem
  resources:
    requests:
      storage: 1Gi
  storageClassName: hs-storage-file-backed

---
kind: Pod
```

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```
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: alpine-dynamic-file
  namespace: hs-csi-file-backed
  labels:
    app: csi-file-backed
spec:
  containers:
    - image: alpine:latest
      name: alpine
      command:
        - "/bin/sh"
        - "-c"
        - set -euo pipefail; while true; do echo "alpine-dynamic-1 $(date)" >> /mnt/blockdev/alpine-
dynamic-file-backed; sleep 10; done
      volumeMounts:
        - name: vol1
          mountPath: "/mnt/blockdev"
          readOnly: false
  volumes:
    - name: vol1
      persistentVolumeClaim:
        claimName: alpine-dynamic-file-backed
```

This will create a file in the **k8s-file-storage** for the pod to use instead of looking for a NFS share. To confirm, click on **Shares** in the Hammerspace GUI to once again confirm the new share and its contents.

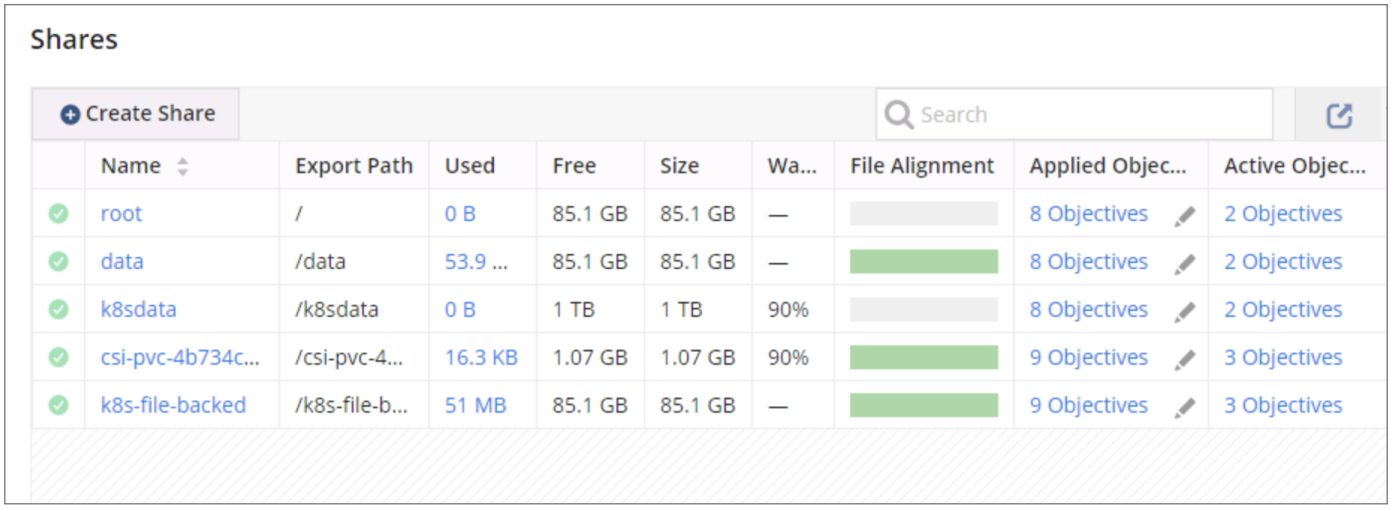

Figure 9. Dynamic provisioning with a file backed storage class

Review what's inside the **pv** that's represented by a file by running the following:

```
$ kubectl exec -it -n hs-csi-file-backed alpine-dynamic-file -- /bin/mount | grep blockdev
/dev/loop2 on /mnt/blockdev type xfs (rw,relatime)
$ kubectl exec -it -n hs-csi-file-backed alpine-dynamic-file -- ls -alh /mnt/blockdev
total 28K
drwxr-xr-x 3 root root 4.0K Aug 26 19:25 .
```

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```
drwxr-xr-x 1 root root 4.0K Aug 26 19:25 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2.7K Aug 26 19:35 alpine-dynamic-file-backed
drwx------ 2 root root 16.0K Aug 26 19:25 lost+found
$ kubectl exec -it -n hs-csi-file-backed alpine-dynamic-file -- tail -n 5 /mnt/blockdev/alpine-dynamic-
file-backed
alpine-dynamic-1 Mon Aug 26 19:35:20 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Mon Aug 26 19:35:30 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Mon Aug 26 19:35:40 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Mon Aug 26 19:35:50 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Mon Aug 26 19:36:00 UTC 2024
```

The above confirms that there is a `/dev/loop2` block device formatted **xfs** mounted at `/mnt/blockdev`.

Click on the `/k8sfilebacked` and select **Files** to confirm that the new file created in the **pod** specification is listed.

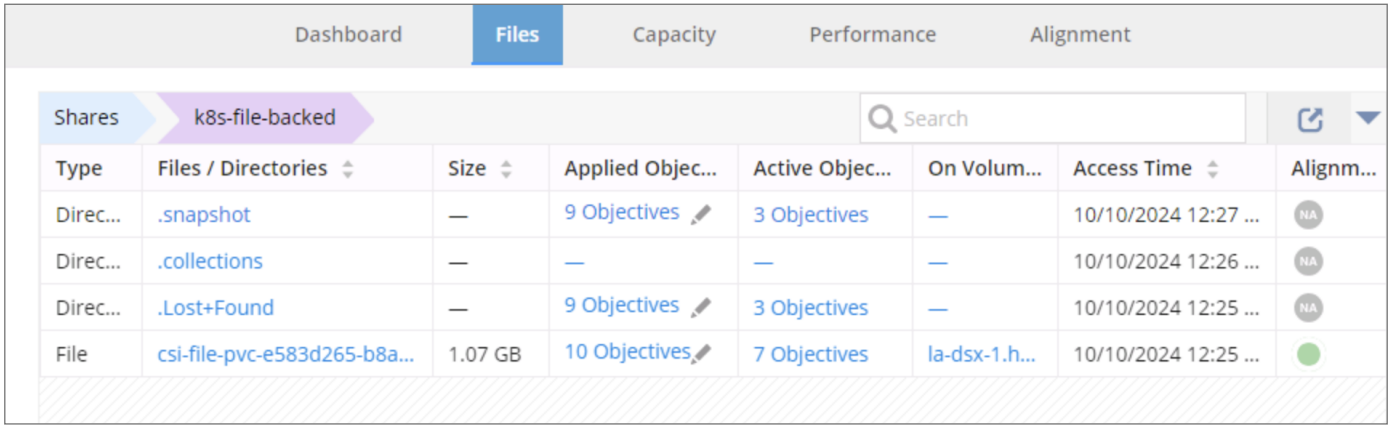

Figure 10. Dynamic provisioning with a file backed storage class

Cat out the file that the container is writing to. Confirm that the contents are being written as expected just like any other block device.

4.9. Dynamic Provisioning with the NFS CSI Driver

Run the following to create an Alpine pod that uses a share provisioned by the NFS CSI:

```
---
apiVersion: v1
kind: Namespace
metadata:
  name: nfs-csi-dynamic
  labels:
    name: nfs-csi-dynamic

---
apiVersion: v1
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
metadata:
```

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```
  name: alpine-dynamic-nfs
  namespace: nfs-csi-dynamic
  labels:
    app: csi-testing
spec:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteMany
  volumeMode: Filesystem
  resources:
    requests:
      storage: 1Gi
  storageClassName: nfs-csi # Keep in mind that it's the storage class that will point to /k8sdata

---
kind: Pod
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: alpine-dynamic-nfs
  namespace: nfs-csi-dynamic
  labels:
    app: csi-testing
spec:
  containers:
    - image: alpine:latest
      name: alpine
      command:
        - "/bin/sh"
        - "-c"
        - set -euo pipefail; while true; do echo "alpine-dynamic-1 $(date)" >> /mnt/nfs/alpine-dynamic-
nfs; sleep 10; done
      volumeMounts:
        - name: vol1
          mountPath: "/mnt/nfs"
          readOnly: false
  volumes:
    - name: vol1
      persistentVolumeClaim:
        claimName: alpine-dynamic-nfs
```

Note the path of the **alpine-dynamic-1** file. A **pvc** folder was created in the `/k8sdata` folder on the Hammerspace cluster. Every **pvc** that is created will inherit the parent directory objectives, which can prove to be extremely useful.

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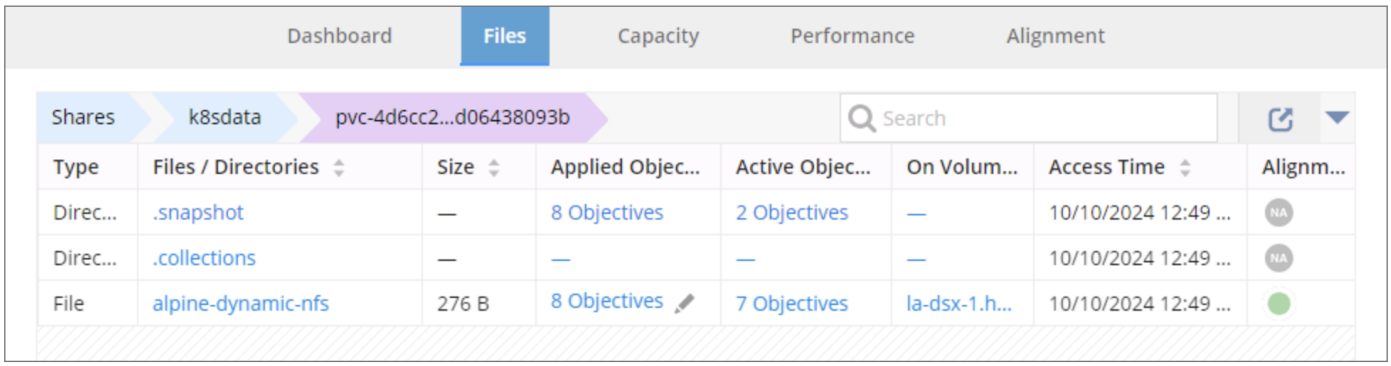

Figure 11. Dynamic provisioning with the NFS CSI driver

Validate the file:

```
$ kubectl exec -n nfs-csi-dynamic alpine-dynamic-nfs -- tail -n 5 /mnt/nfs/alpine-dynamic-nfs
alpine-dynamic-1 Fri Aug 23 19:57:13 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Fri Aug 23 19:57:23 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Fri Aug 23 19:57:33 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Fri Aug 23 19:57:43 UTC 2024
alpine-dynamic-1 Fri Aug 23 19:57:53 UTC 2024
```

4.10. Static Provisioning with the CSI Drivers

In specific circumstances, administrators might find it necessary to attach to an existing file share. Static provisioning offers a suitable solution in such cases. Furthermore, there are instances where custom storage configurations need to be implemented, and dynamic provisioning may not suffice for those situations.

Once the **k8sdata** share is available, create a **pv** that uses the nfs-csi driver, create a **pvc** that binds to it, and finally, create a pod that uses it.

```
---
apiVersion: v1
kind: Namespace
metadata:
  name: nfs-static-1
  labels:
    name: nfs-static-1

---
apiVersion: v1
kind: PersistentVolume
metadata:
  annotations:
    pv.kubernetes.io/provisioned-by: nfs.csi.k8s.io
  name: nfs-csi-static-1
spec:
  capacity:
    storage: 1Gi
```

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```
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteMany
  persistentVolumeReclaimPolicy: Retain
  storageClassName: nfs-csi
  mountOptions:
    - nfsvers=3
  csi:
    driver: nfs.csi.k8s.io
    # volumeHandle format: {nfs-server-address}#{sub-dir-name}#{share-name}
    # make sure this value is unique for every share in the cluster
    volumeHandle: 192.168.100.6/k8sdata
    volumeAttributes:
      server: 192.168.100.6
      share: /k8sdata

---
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  namespace: nfs-static-1
  name: alpine-share-attach-1
spec:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteMany
  resources:
    requests:
      storage: 1Gi
  volumeName: nfs-csi-static-1
  volumeMode: Filesystem
  storageClassName: nfs-csi

---
kind: Pod
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: alpine-static-1
  namespace: nfs-static-1
spec:
  containers:
    - image: alpine:latest
      name: alpine
      command:
        - "/bin/sh"
        - "-c"
        - set -euo pipefail; while true; do echo "alpine-static-1 $(date)" >> /mnt/nfs/alpine-static-1-
outfile; sleep 10; done
      volumeMounts:
        - name: vol1
          mountPath: "/mnt/nfs"
          readOnly: false
```

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```
  volumes:
    - name: vol1
      persistentVolumeClaim:
        claimName: alpine-share-attach-1
```

IMPORTANT: It is essential to remember that only one **PersistentVolumeClaim** can bind to a **PersistentVolume**. If pods from different namespaces require access to the same share, additional **pv** and **pvc** pairs need to be created for each namespace.

In the GUI, click on the **k8sdata share** and select **Files** to confirm the addition of **alpine-static-1-outfile**.

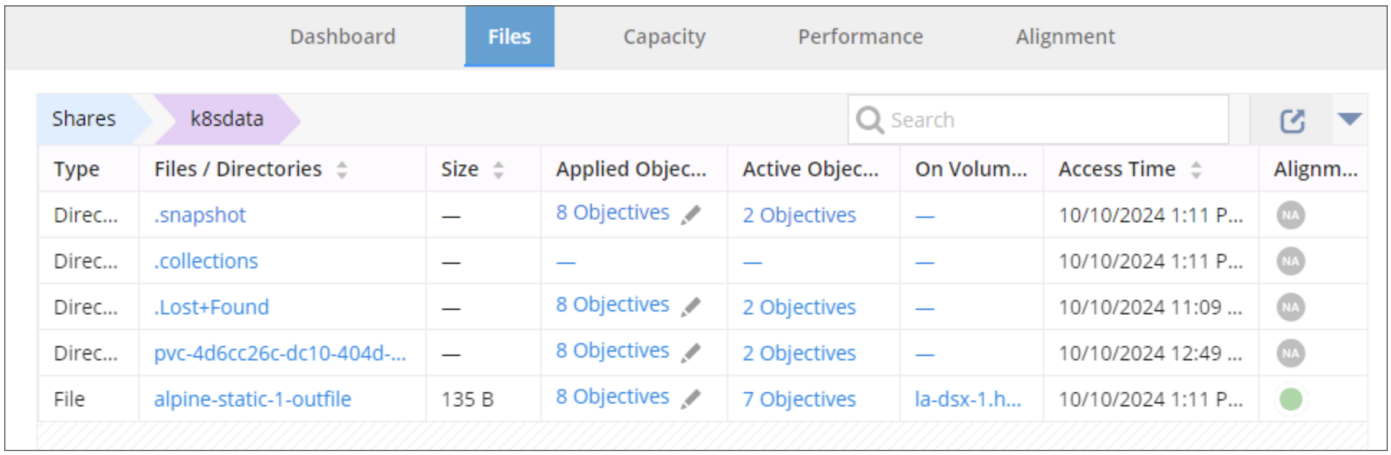

Figure 12. Static provisioning with the CSI drivers

Proceed with creating an application partner for **alpine-static-1** called **alpine-static-2**:

```
---
apiVersion: v1
kind: Namespace
metadata:
  name: nfs-static-2
  labels:
    name: nfs-static-2

---
apiVersion: v1
kind: PersistentVolume
metadata:
  annotations:
    pv.kubernetes.io/provisioned-by: nfs.csi.k8s.io
  name: nfs-csi-static-2
spec:
  capacity:
    storage: 1Gi
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteMany
  persistentVolumeReclaimPolicy: Retain
  storageClassName: nfs-csi
```

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```
  mountOptions:
    - nfsvers=3
  csi:
    driver: nfs.csi.k8s.io
    # volumeHandle format: {nfs-server-address}#{sub-dir-name}#{share-name}
    # make sure this value is unique for every share in the cluster
    volumeHandle: 192.168.100.6/k8sdata
    volumeAttributes:
      server: 192.168.100.6
      share: /k8sdata

---
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  namespace: nfs-static-2
  name: alpine-share-attach-2
spec:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteMany
  resources:
    requests:
      storage: 1Gi
  volumeName: nfs-csi-static-2
  volumeMode: Filesystem
  storageClassName: nfs-csi

---
kind: Pod
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: alpine-static-2
  namespace: nfs-static-2
spec:
  containers:
    - image: alpine:latest
      name: alpine
      command:
        - "/bin/sh"
        - "-c"
        - set -euo pipefail; while true; do echo "alpine-static-2 $(date)" >> /mnt/nfs/alpine-static-2-
outfile; sleep 10; done
      volumeMounts:
        - name: vol1
          mountPath: "/mnt/nfs"
          readOnly: false
  volumes:
    - name: vol1
      persistentVolumeClaim:
        claimName: alpine-share-attach-2
```

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Confirm that the files of both pods are listed, along with the dynamically provisioned NFS CSI dynamic share that was provisioned in `/k8sdata` share.

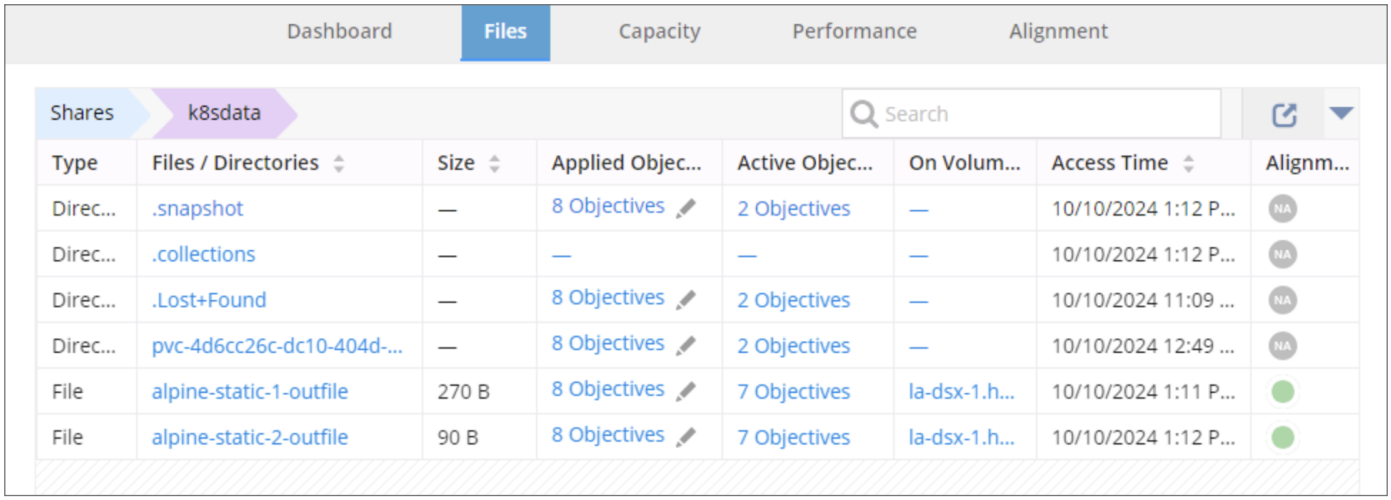

Figure 13. Static provisioning with the CSI drivers

The command below can be utilized to confirm as well.

```
$ kubectl exec -n nfs-static-1 alpine-static-1 -- ls -alh /mnt/nfs
total 119K
drwxrwxrwx 4 root root 4.0K Aug 23 20:15 .
drwxr-xr-x 1 root root 4.0K Aug 23 20:13 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 6.9K Aug 23 20:39 alpine-static-1-outfile
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 6.5K Aug 23 20:39 alpine-static-2-outfile
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4.0K Aug 23 19:52 pvc-73be916e-4339-4653-9a5d-71ac8aa73659
```


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Chapter 5. Troubleshooting

Logs are an essential first step in the troubleshooting process. To access the logs, run the following:

```
$ kubectl logs -n kube-system csi-provisioner-0 --since=10m
Defaulted container "csi-provisioner" out of: csi-provisioner, csi-attacher, csi-snapshotter, csi-resizer, hs-csi-plugin-controller
I0820 14:59:44.061877 1 reflector.go:536] k8s.io/client-go/informers/factory.go:134: Watch close - *v1.StorageClass total 7 items received
I0820 15:01:51.086764 1 reflector.go:536] sigs.k8s.io/sig-storage-lib-external-provisioner/v8/controller/controller.go:845: Watch close - *v1.PersistentVolume total 6 items received...
```

Review the Hammerspace plugin container specifically to find out more information.

```
$ kubectl logs -n kube-system csi-provisioner-0 -c hs-csi-plugin-controller --since=20m
{
"level": "error",
"msg": "Failed to set tag. Error - %!v(MISSING)exit status 1",
"time": "2024-08-20 14:50:28"
}
{
"level": "warning",
"msg": "failed to set additional metadata on share exit status 1",
"time": "2024-08-20 14:50:28"
}
{
"level": "info",
"msg": "Total time taken for create volume 13.905738725s",
"time": "2024-08-20 14:50:28"
```

Information can be correlated from these logs against a support bundle that can be sent to Hammerspace for review as needed. If there appears to be trouble mounting the share, ssh into the worker node the pod was scheduled on (if possible) and try to mount the share to that host. Mounted shares can be found in `/var/lib/kubelet/<pod-id>/volumes/`.

For a deeper dive, utilize k9s, a terminal based UI that aims to simplify the navigation, observation, and management of deployed applications. K9s continually watches Kubernetes for changes and offers subsequent commands to interact with observed resources.

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Appendices

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Appendix A: Additional Resources

Hammerspace CSI Plugin

Kubernetes NFS CSI Driver

Install NFS CSI Driver on a Kubernetes cluster

Supported volume parameters for CreateVolume Requests

Hammerspace Service Level Objectives

k9s Kubernetes CLI

Want to test it out? Check out the features and capabilities at your own pace in a virtual Hammerspace Hands-On lab.

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Appendix B: Appendix

B.1. Storage Class Examples

Variable Name	Default Value	Description
fsType	Depends on type	Value depends on the worker node being used and what local file system is available. *Examples: nfs, ext4, xfs*
mountBackingShareName	User Specified	Share name to be used in Hammerspace to store the data. If it doesn't exist, it will be automatically created.
objectives	User Specified	Must exist otherwise the creation of PV's will fail.
exportOptions	*,RW,false	Default share creation export options. Recommended to change to fit the production environment.
deleteDelay	-1	Default is to never delete the created Hammerspace shares or files. • 0 deletes shares after 24 hours • Only applies to shares, not files • *Valid input: 0, -1*
volumeNameFormat	csi-%s	Must include the %s as it acts as a unique identifier. Expands to UUID.

B.2. Volumes

Volume Type	Description
File-backed Block Volume (raw device)	• Storage is exposed to the container as a raw device, i.e. no file system. • Exists as a special device file on a Hammerspace share (backing share)
File-backed Mounted Volume (filesystem)	• Storage is exposed to the container as a directory • Exists as a special device file on a Hammerspace share (backing share) which contains a filesystem

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Volume Type	Description
Share-backed Mounted volume (shared filesystem)	• Storage is exposed to the container as a directory • Exists as a top level Hammerspace share with its own objectives • Mounted via NFS

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