CASE STUDY · KINEXYS BY J.P. MORGAN

How Kinexys by J.P. Morgan Makes the Right Way the Easy Way with Kyverno

Kinexys by J.P. Morgan runs Kyverno as the policy layer of its EKS-based Kubernetes platform. A small platform team uses it to validate common misconfigurations, set safe defaults, restart workloads when certificates rotate, block risky RBAC and gate Argo CD syncs to approved change windows.

CUSTOMER	TEAM	PLATFORM	DELIVERY	PRESENTED
Kinexys by J.P. Morgan (JPMorganChase)	Small cloud platform team	EKS-based Kubernetes	Git and Argo CD, with a standardized paved path	KubeCon + CloudNativeCon North America 2026

§01 CHALLENGE

Where the platform team started

A small cloud platform team runs an EKS-based Kubernetes platform. It owns the clusters and their add-ons, platform configuration, networking, security and the Kubernetes-related infrastructure as code. Delivery is Git-driven, and workloads follow standardized patterns, a paved path.

- Consistent security, compliance and resiliency standards across teams and clusters.
- The biggest risk: disruption when moving from observation to enforcement.
- Policies must be understandable and maintainable by generalist engineers.

The goals: make the right way the easy way, enforce what must be enforced and automate what can be automated, with a repeatable, scalable baseline footprint.

§02 SOLUTION

Four use cases, one policy engine

USE CASE	WHAT KYVERNO DOES	MAIN BENEFICIARY
Namespace baseline and hygiene	Catches common misconfigurations, sets safe defaults, and sets a baseline RBAC and network posture	Operators
Certificate rotation	Triggers a rolling restart when a certificate is renewed	Developers
nodes/proxy hardening	Denies risky RBAC and verifies existing roles	Security
Change management gate	Allows Argo CD syncs only inside an approved window	Security and operators

Certificate rotation. When a certificate is renewed, its Secret is updated in place. If the Secret is annotated for restart and names its workload, Kyverno's background controller patches the pod template's `restartedAt` annotation, and a rolling restart picks up the new certificate. No manual restart, and no expired certificate.

nodes/proxy hardening. A `get` permission on `nodes/proxy` looks read-only but reaches further than expected, by design upstream, so there is no CVE to wait for. One CEL ValidatingPolicy denies Roles and ClusterRoles that grant it, after Audit mode and a background scan verified existing roles. The denial message points to `nodes/metrics` or `nodes/stats`.

Change management gate. An approved change record opens a time-boxed window that closes itself. Every Argo CD sync is an update through the Kubernetes API, so Kyverno checks for an open, verified window at admission: inside it, the sync proceeds; outside it, the sync is denied with the reason. Force and replace syncs are blocked outright.

Every use case ships through Git and Argo CD, and starts in Audit.

§03 RESULTS

The adoption journey

STAGE	FOCUS
1. Pilot	Standards turned into policy, in Audit
2. Standardize	A policy library, PR reviews and CI tests
3. Scale	Enforce by tier, with scoped exceptions
4. Modernize	New policies written in CEL

The team's new policies are already in CEL, and the rest are moving. Kyverno 1.19 is the last release that processes legacy ClusterPolicy resources, and 1.20 runs every policy on the CEL engine.

§04 LESSONS

What to do on day one

01. **Start in Audit.** Reports show who would be affected before anything is enforced.

02. **The denial message is the user interface.** Developers meet policy through its message, so say what to change and why.

03. **Make the paved path compliant by default.** If the common Helm chart already passes every policy, most teams never see a denial.

04. **Ship policies like everything else.** The same Git reviews, CI tests and Argo CD sync as any app change.

nirmata

Nirmata created Kyverno, the CNCF graduated policy engine for Kubernetes. We help platform and security teams govern clusters, workloads, and AI agents with policy as code.

READ THE FULL STORY

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nirmata.com/2026/11/18/how-kinexys-by-jp-morgan-makes-the-right-way-the-easy-way-with-kyverno

SOURCE

Kyverno: migrating to CEL

kyverno.io/docs/guides/migration-to-cel

TALK TO THE KYVERNO MAINTAINERS

nirmata.com/request-a-demo

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