Using the Installer in an Air-Gapped Environment

Defining Air-Gapped Environments

An air-gapped environment is any environment in which the running hosts will not have access to the greater internet. This proposes a situation in which these hosts are unable to get access to various needed bits of software from Element and also are unable to share telemetry data back with Element.

For some of these environments, they can be connected to the internet from time to time and updated during those connection periods. In other environments, the hosts are never connected to the internet and everything must be moved over sneaker net.

This guide will cover running the microk8s installer when only sneaker net is available as that is the most restrictive of these environments.

Preparing the media to sneaker net into the air gapped environment

You will need our airgapped dependencies .tar.gz file which you can get from Element:

- element-enterprise-installer-airgapped-<version>-gui.tar.gz

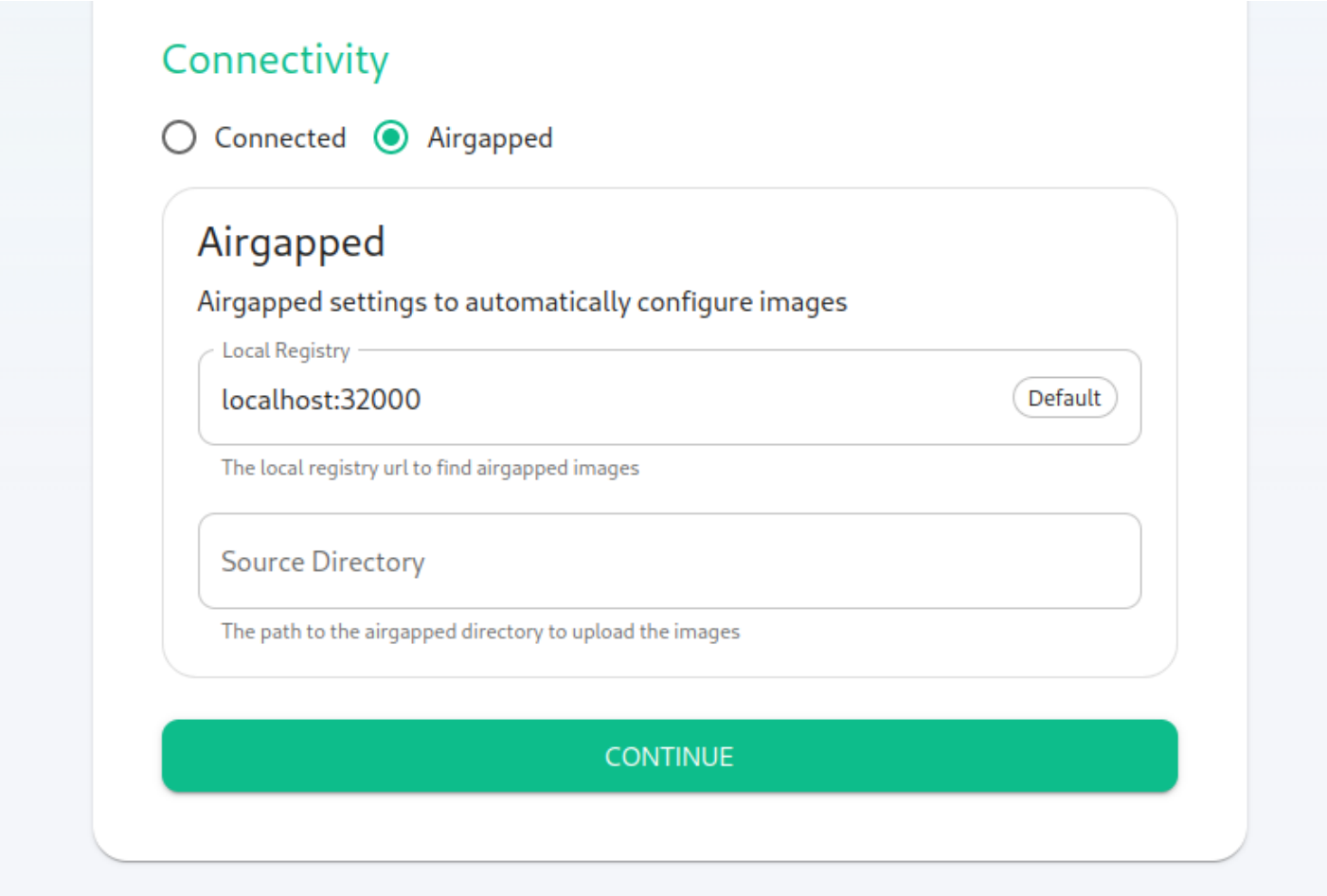
Running the installer in the air gapped environment

Extract the airgapped dependencies to a directory on the machine you are installing from. You obtain the following directories :

- `airgapped/pip`
- `airgapped/galaxy`

- `airgapped/snaps`
- `airgapped/containerd`
- `airgapped/images`

Your airgapped machine will still require access to airgapped linux repositories depending on your OS. If using Red Hat Enterprise Linux, you will also need access to the EPEL repository in your airgapped environment.



When using the installer, select "Airgapped" on the first hosts screen.

The Local Registry parameter should be left alone unless you have a separate custom registry that you would like to use.

For the Source directory, you need to specify the absolute path to the `airgapped` directory that was extracted from the tarball.

The installer will upload the images automatically to your local registry, and use these references to start the workloads.

If you are doing a kubernetes installation (instead of a single node installation), please note that once the image upload has been done, you will need to copy the `airgapped/images/images_digests.yml` file to the same path on the machine which will be used to render or deploy element services. Doing this, the new image digests will be used correctly in the kubernetes manifests used for deployment.

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