

— PLATFORM · TEMPLATE

Argo CD vs. Flux: *Choosing* a GitOps Controller for Regulated Kubernetes

KAANSYSTEMS.COM/LIBRARY/ARGO-CD-VS-FLUX · SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

— ABOUT THIS TEMPLATE

Argo CD and Flux both give a git audit trail and auto-heal drift. Pick Argo CD for the UI and multi-team RBAC, Flux for a lightweight toolkit.

— THE TEMPLATE

A selection scorecard. Score each row for your situation, tally the lean column, and let the weight of evidence, not the loudest opinion in the room, make the call. Then write the ADR.

Team and workflow

- ☐ Non-platform engineers need self-serve deploy visibility → Argo CD
- ☐ A single platform team owns all deploys, CLI-first → Flux
- ☐ Multiple teams share clusters and need scoped access → Argo CD
- ☐ "Fewer components to operate and patch" is a stated goal → Flux

Access control and audit

- ☐ You need SSO (OIDC/SAML) wired into the controller itself → Argo CD
- ☐ Kubernetes-native RBAC is sufficient for your tenancy model → Flux
- ☐ Auditors should be walked through a live console, not logs → Argo CD
- ☐ Evidence assembled from git log + CLI is acceptable → Flux

Delivery and automation

- ☐ Progressive delivery is planned → confirm Argo Rollouts (Argo CD) vs Flagger (Flux)
- ☐ Registry-driven image automation must be built in → Flux

- ☐ A visual manual-sync gate for prod deploy windows is wanted → Argo CD
- ☐ Native in-cluster SOPS decryption is a requirement → Flux

Guardrails that apply either way

- ☐ Git is the only write path; CI holds no cluster-admin credentials
- ☐ Drift is flagged and (once trusted) auto-corrected via self-heal / reconcile
- ☐ Secrets are referenced, never committed (SOPS / Sealed Secrets / ESO)
- ☐ Prune is understood and enabled deliberately, not cargo-culted
- ☐ The decision is captured in an ADR with a revisit trigger

If your scorecard lands split, default to Argo CD for a multi-team regulated org and Flux for a lean platform-owned one. The split itself is the signal that either tool would serve you.