The Ingress controller is a specialized load balancer that manages Layer 4 and 7 ingress and egress (“north-south”) traffic.

It can also be used for:
• Traffic control
• Traffic shaping
• Monitoring and visibility
• As an API gateway
• Authentication and SSO
• WAF integration

Monitoring and Visibility
The Ingress controller can give you insight into issues impacting app and infrastructure performance and help you predict when traffic surges will strike.

Security
The Ingress controller can protect your environment from unauthorized or malicious traffic via centralized authentication, single-sign on (SSO), and as the ideal point for a web application firewall (WAF).

What Does An Ingress Controller Do?

Click here to learn more at nginx.com

East-West traffic

A service mesh routes and secures east-west traffic.
It is used to implement:
• End-to-end encryption and mTLS
• Orchestration
• Managing service traffic
• Monitoring and visibility

East-West (service-to-service) traffic is traffic moving among services within a Kubernetes cluster.
An Ingress controller cannot manage east-west traffic.
When your app and infrastructure reach a level of maturity where this traffic needs to be managed, you need a service mesh.