

Container-based virtualization: Docker

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Valeria Cardellini

Laurea Magistrale in Ingegneria Informatica

Case study: Docker

- Lightweight, open and secure container-based Oocker virtualization
 - Container includes an application and its dependencies, but shares OS kernel with other containers
 - Container runs as isolated process in user space on host OS
 - Container is not tied to any specific infrastructure



- Portable deployment across machines
- Versioning, i.e., git-like capabilities
- Component reuse
- Shared libraries, see **Docker Hub**
- Supports <u>Open Container Initiative</u> (OCI), a set of standards for containers

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Docker internals

- Written in Go
- Exploits Linux kernel mechanisms such as cgroups and namespaces
 - First versions were based on Linux Containers (LXC)
 - Then based on <u>libcontainer</u>, a container runtime which provides a native Go implementation for creating containers with namespaces, cgroups, capabilities, and filesystem access controls and allows you to manage the lifecycle of the container
 - libcontainer is ow included in <u>runc</u>: CLI tool for spawning and running containers according to OCI specification

Docker Engine

- Docker Engine acts a • client-server application composed by: container image - Server, called Docker manages manages daemon (dockerd), which Client docker CLI listens for Docker API network data volumes requests and manages REST API Docker objects such as manages manages server images, containers, networks, and volumes REST API which specifies interfaces that programs can use to control and interact with the daemon
 - Command line interface (CLI) client

See <u>docs.docker.com/get-started/overview/#docker-architecture</u> Valeria Cardellini - SDCC 2023/24

Docker architecture

- Docker uses a client-server architecture
 - The Docker *client* talks to the Docker *daemon*, which builds, runs, and distributes Docker containers
 - Client and daemon communicate via sockets or REST API



- Read-only template used to create a Docker container
- Build component of Docker
 - Enables apps distribution with their runtime environment
 - Incorporates all the dependencies and configuration necessary to apps to run, eliminating the need to install packages and troubleshoot
 - Target machine must be Docker-enabled
- Docker can build images automatically by reading instructions from a Dockerfile
 - A text file with simple, well-defined syntax
- Images can be pulled and pushed towards a public/private registry
- Image name: [registry/][user/]name[:tag]
 - Default for tag is latest

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Docker image: Dockerfile

- Image created from Dockerfile and context
 - Dockerfile: instructions to assemble the image
 - Context: set of files (e.g., application, libraries)
 - Often, an image is based on a parent image (e.g., alpine)
- Dockerfile syntax
 - # Comment

INSTRUCTION arguments

- Instructions in Dockerfile run in order
- Some instructions
 - FROM: to specify parent image (mandatory)

RUN: to execute any command in a new layer on top of current image and commit results

ENV: to set environment variables

EXPOSE: container listens on specified network ports at runtime

CMD: to provide defaults for executing container

• Example: Dockerfile to build the image of a container that will run as application a simple todo list manager written in Node.js

```
FROM node:18-alpine
WORKDIR /app
COPY . .
RUN yarn install --production
CMD ["node", "src/index.js"]
EXPOSE 3000
```



See docs.docker.com/get-started/02_our_app

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Docker image: build

- Build image from Dockerfile and context
 - Build's context is the set of files located in the specified PATH or URL

\$ docker build [OPTIONS] PATH | URL | -

- E.g., to build the image for Node.js app (see previous slide)
- \$ docker build -t getting-started .
- If the name of the Dockerfile is not Dockerfile use -f, e.g.,
- \$ docker build -t getting-started -f myDockerfile .

See docs.docker.com/engine/reference/commandline/build/

Docker image: layers

- Each image consists of a series of layers
- Docker uses union file systems to combine these layers into a single unified view
 - Layers are stacked on top of each other to form a base for a container's root file system
 - Based on copy-on-write (CoW) strategy



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Docker image: layers

- Layering pros
 - Enable layer sharing and reuse, installing common layers only once and saving bandwidth and storage space
 - Manage dependencies and separate concerns
 - Facilitate software specializations

See docs.docker.com/storage/storagedriver



Docker image: layers and Dockerfile

- Each layer represents an instruction in Dockerfile
 - Except CMD instruction, which specifies what command to run within container: it only modifies image's metadata, without producing an image layer
- Each layer except the very last one is read-only
- Writable layer on top (aka *container layer*) is added when container is created
 - Changes made to running container (e.g., writing a file) are written to writable layer
 - Does not persist after container is deleted
 - Suitable for storing ephemeral data generated at runtime
- · To inspect an image, including image layers
 - \$ docker inspect imageid

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Docker image: storage

- Containers are usually stateless (why? easier to scale, restart from failure, migrate)
 - Very little data written to container's writable layer
 - Data usually written on **Docker volumes**
 - Nevertheless: some workloads require to write data to container's writable layer
- Storage driver controls how *images* and *containers* are stored and managed on Docker host
- Multiple choices for storage driver
 - Including Overlay2 (at file level, preferred for all Linux distros), Device Mapper, btrfs and zfs (at block level)
 - Storage driver's choice can affect performance of containerized apps: optimized for space efficiency, but write speeds can be lower than native file system performance

Docker container and registry

- Docker container: runnable instance of Docker image
 - Run component of Docker
 - Run, start, stop, move, or delete a container using Docker API or CLI commands
 - Docker containers are stateless: when a container is deleted, any data written not stored in a data volume is deleted



- Docker registry: stateless server-side application that stores and lets you distribute Docker images
 - Distribute component of Docker
 - Open library of images
 - Docker-hosted registries: Docker Hub, Docker Store (open source and enterprise verified images)

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Docker: run command

• When you run a container whose image is not yet installed but is available on Docker Hub



Courtesy of "Docker in Action" by J. Nickoloff



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Commands: Docker info

• Obtain system-wide info on Docker installation

\$ docker info

including:

- How many images, containers and their status
- Storage driver
- Operating system, architecture, total memory
- Docker registry

Commands: image handling

List images on host (i.e., local repository)

```
$ docker images
```

alternatively, \$ docker image ls

- List every image, including intermediate image layers
 \$ docker image ls -a
- Options to list images by name and tag, to list image digests (sha256), to filter images, to format the output
 - E.g., to list untagged images (<none>) that have no relationship to any tagged images (no longer used but consume disk space)
 - \$ docker images --filter "dangling=true"
- Remove an image

\$ docker rmi imageid

can also use *imagename* instead of *imageid*

alternatively, \$ docker image rm imageid

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Command: run

\$ docker run [OPTIONS] IMAGE [COMMAND] [ARGS]

Most common options

- --name assign a name to container
- -d detached mode (run container in background)
- -i interactive (keep STDIN open even if not attached)
- -t allocate a pseudo-tty
- --expose expose a port or range of ports inside container
- -p publish container's port or range of ports to host
- -v bind and mount a volume
- -e set environment variables
- --link add link to another container

See docs.docker.com/engine/reference/commandline/run/

Commands: containers management

- List containers
 - Only running containers: \$ docker ps
 - alternatively, \$ docker container ls
 - All containers (including stopped or killed containers):
 - \$ docker ps -a
- Manage container lifecycle
 - Stop running container
 - \$ docker stop containerid
 - Start stopped container
 - \$ docker start containerid
 - Kill running container
 - \$ docker kill containerid
 - Remove container (need to stop it before attempting removal)
 \$ docker rm containerid

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can also use *containername* instead of *containerid*

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Commands: containers management

- Stop and remove a running container
- \$ docker ps
- \$ docker stop containerid
- \$ docker ps -a
- \$ docker rm containerid
- Stop all containers
- \$ for i in \$(docker ps -q); do docker stop \$i; done
- Execute command in a running container

\$ docker exec [OPTIONS] CONTAINER [COMMAND] [ARGS]

Commands: containers management

- Inspect a container
 - Most detailed view of the environment in which a container was launched
 - \$ docker inspect containerid
- Copy files from and to container
 - \$ docker cp containerid:path localpath
 - \$ docker cp Localpath containerid:path

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Docker networking

- Container networking: ability for containers to connect to and communicate with each other or to non-Docker workloads
- Published ports
 - In docker run, use --publish or -p flag to make port available to services outside of Docker
 - E.g.: -p 8080:80 map port 8080 on host to TCP port 80 in container
 - Issue: publishing container ports is insecure by default
 - Include localhost IP address so that only host can access container port, e.g.: -p 127.0.0.1:8080:80
- IP address and hostname
 - Container receives IP address out of network IP subnet
 - Docker daemon performs dynamic subnetting and IP address allocation for containers

Container hostname defaults to be container ID in Docker
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Docker networking: network drivers

- Docker's networking is pluggable using drivers
- Several network drivers, including
 - bridge: default network driver, used when application runs in a container that needs to communicate with other containers on the same host
 - Software bridge which lets containers connected to same bridge network communicate, while providing isolation from containers that are not connected to that bridge network
 - host: remove network isolation between container and host and use host networking directly

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Docker volumes

- Preferred mechanism for persisting data generated by and used by Docker containers
 - New directory is created within Docker's storage directory on host machine, and Docker manages directory's content
 - On Linux storage directory is /var/lib/docker/volumes/
 - Volume does not need to exist on host, it is created on demand if it does not yet exist



- To mount a volume to a container, use -v (or -volume) flag with docker run
 - \$ docker run ... -v source:destination:[options]
 - Use ro option to mount a read-only volume
 - If a container is started with a volume that does not yet exist,
 Docker creates the volume
- Commands to manage volumes:
 - Create volume: \$ docker volume create volumename
 - List volumes: \$ docker volume 1s
 - Inspect volume: \$ docker volume inspect volumename
 - Remove volume: \$ docker volume rm volumename
- Volume can be declared in Dockerfile using VOLUME
- How to load data into a volume? Can use docker cp

See docs.docker.com/engine/reference/commandline/

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Docker volumes: pros

- ✓ Completely managed by Docker
- ✓ Easy to back up or migrate
- ✓ Managed using Docker CLI or API
- ✓ Work on both Linux and Windows containers
- ✓ Can be shared among multiple containers
- ✓ Content can be encrypted
- ✓ Content can be pre-populated
- Better choice than persisting data in container's writable layer
 - A volume does not increase container size and its contents exist outside container lifecycle
- Tip: use volumes for write-heavy application (e.g., a write-intensive DB)

- Download and install Docker

 Available on multiple platforms
 <u>docs.docker.com/get-docker</u>
 <u>docs.docker.com/get-started</u>
- Test Docker version
 \$ docker --version
- Test Docker installation by running hello-world Docker image
 - \$ docker run hello-world

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Hands-on: hello world

- Run "Hello World" container with a command
 - \$ docker run alpine /bin/echo 'Hello world'
 - alpine: lightweight Linux distro with reduced image size
- Use commands to:
 - List containers and container images
 - Remove containers and container images

Hands-on: networking

Run nginx Web server inside a container

- Bind container port to host port

\$ docker run -dp 80:80 --name web nginx
Option -p: publish container port (80) to host port (80)
Option -d: detached mode

- 1. Send HTTP request through Web browser
 - First retrieve hostname of host machine (e.g., localhost)
- 2. Send HTTP request to nginx from interactive container using a bridge network

```
$ docker network create -d bridge my_net
```

\$ docker run -dp 80:80 --name web --network=my_net nginx

```
$ docker run -i -t --network=my_net --name web_test busybox
```

/ # wget -0 - http://web:80/

```
/ # exit
```

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Hands-on: from Dockerfile

- Running Apache web server with minimal index page
 - 1. Define container image with Dockerfile
 - Define image starting from Ubuntu, install and configure Apache
 - Incoming port set to 80 using EXPOSE instruction

```
FROM ubuntu:18.04
# Install dependencies
RUN apt-get update -y
RUN apt-get -y install apache2
# Install apache and write hello world message
RUN echo 'Hello World!' > /var/www/html/index.html
# Configure apache
RUN echo '. /etc/apache2/envvars' > /root/run_apache.sh
RUN echo 'mkdir -p /var/run/apache2' >> /root/run_apache.sh
RUN echo 'mkdir -p /var/lock/apache2' >> /root/run_apache.sh
RUN echo '/usr/sbin/apache2 -D FOREGROUND' >> /root/run_apache.sh
RUN chmod 755 /root/run_apache.sh
```

EXPOSE 80 CMD /root/run_apache.sh

Hands-on: from Dockerfile

2. Build container image from Dockerfile

\$ docker build -t hello-apache .

- 3. Run container and bind
- \$ docker run -dp 80:80 hello-apache
- 4. Execute an interactive shell in running container
- \$ docker exec --it hello-apache /bin/bash
- To reduce container's image size let's avoid adding unnecessary layers
 - E.g., in Dockerfile update and install multiple packages in a single RUN instruction
 - Use \ to type out the command in multiple lines

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Hands-on: from Dockerfile

```
FROM ubuntu:18.04
# Install dependencies
RUN apt-get update -y && \
    apt-get -y install apache2
# Install apache and write hello world message
RUN echo 'Hello World!' > /var/www/html/index.html
# Configure apache
RUN echo '. /etc/apache2/envvars' > /root/run_apache.sh && \
    echo 'mkdir -p /var/run/apache2' >> /root/run_apache.sh && \
    echo 'mkdir -p /var/lock/apache2' >> /root/run_apache.sh && \
    echo '/usr/sbin/apache2 -D FOREGROUND' >> /root/run_apache.sh && \
    chmod 755 /root/run_apache.sh
EXPOSE 80
CMD /root/run apache.sh
```

- Run nginx container with volume
 - \$ docker volume create my-vol
 - \$ docker volume ls
 - \$ docker volume inspect my-vol
 - \$ docker run -d \

```
--name devtest \
```

```
-v my-vol:/app \
```

nginx:latest

- my-vol is the source, /app is the target inside container
- \$ docker inspect devtest
- Inspect container to verify that Docker created the volume and it mounted correctly

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Docker: reduce image size

- Optimize Docker images
 - Especially important for DevOps engineers at every stage of CI/CD process
 - Not only to reduce image disk space, reduce image transfer and deploy time, but also to improve security
 - Best practice employed by Google and other tech giants
- Techniques
 - 1. Use minimal base images (e.g., <u>alpine</u>, <u>minideb</u>) or <u>distroless</u> base images
 - Distroless images contain only application and its runtime dependencies; do not contain package managers, shells or any other programs available in standard Linux distro
 - 2. Minimize number of image layers

- Techniques
 - 3. Multistage builds
 - Use intermediate images (build stages) to compile code, install dependencies, and package files; after that, only necessary files required to run app are used in another image with only the required libraries
 - 4. Exploit image layers' caching
 - Add the lines which are used for installing dependencies and packages earlier inside Dockerfile, before COPY commands
 - 5. Use .dockerignore file
 - Configuration file that describes files and directories that you want to exclude when building a Docker image
 - 6. Keep application data in a volume, not inside the container
- Tools to minimize image size, e.g., Slim

See <u>devopscube.com/reduce-docker-image-size/</u>

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Configure container memory and CPU

- By default, a container has no resource constraints
 - Can use as much resource as host's kernel scheduler allows
- Docker provides ways to control how much memory or CPU a container can use by setting runtime configuration flags of docker run

docs.docker.com/config/containers/resource_constraints

 Docker Engine implements configuration changes by modifying settings of container's cgroup

Configure container memory

- Avoid running out of memory (OOM)
 - Individual containers can be killed (Docker daemon has lower OOM priority, containers default one)
- Docker can enforce hard or soft memory limits
 - Hard limit: container cannot use more than a given amount of user or system memory; --memory flag
 - Soft limit: container can use as much memory as it needs unless certain conditions are met, such as when kernel detects contention or low memory on host machine
 - Example: limit container to use at most 500 MB of memory (hard limit) and specify also a soft limit

```
$ docker run -it --memory-reservation="300m" \
    --memory="500m" ubuntu /bin/bash
```

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Configure container CPU

- Various constraints to limit container usage of host machine's CPU cycles
- · Some options

```
--cpus=<value>: limit how many CPU resources a container can use (hard limit)
```

--cpu-quota=<value>: set CPU Completely Fair Scheduler (CFS) quota on container

--cpuset-cpus: limit specific CPUs or cores a container can use

--cpu-shares: set to value >/< 1024 to increase/reduce container's weight, and give it access to greater/less proportion of CPU cycles (soft limit)

Example: limit container to use at most 50% of CPU every second

Multi-container Docker applications

- How to run multi-container Docker apps?
- Docker Compose
 - Deployment only on single host
- Docker Swarm
 - Native orchestration tool for Docker
 - Deployment on multiple hosts
- Kubernetes
 - Deployment on multiple hosts
 - See next lesson

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Docker Compose

- A tool for defining and running multi-container Docker applications docs.docker.com/compose/
- Bundled within Docker Desktop
 <u>docs.docker.com/compose/install/</u>
- Allows to coordinate a composition of multiple containers which run on a single host (i.e., on a single Docker engine)
 - Easily express the containers to be instantiated at once and their relationships
 - Docker Compose automatically sets up a network and attaches all deployed containers to it
 - To deploy containers on multiple nodes, use either Docker Swarm or Kubernetes



Docker Compose: how to use

- To get started: specify how to compose containers in a YAML file named compose.yaml
- Then, manage the whole lifecycle of containerized application through Compose
- To start Docker composition (background -d):
 - \$ docker compose up -d
 - By default, Docker Compose looks for compose.yaml in working directory
 - Can specify a different file using -f flag
 - \$ docker compose -f composefile up -d
- To stop running containers:
 - \$ docker compose stop
- To bring composition down, removing everything
 - \$ docker compose down

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Docker Compose: Compose file

- Compose file allows to configure Docker application's services, networks, volumes, and more
 - Different versions of Compose file format docs.docker.com/compose/compose-file/
 - Latest: Compose V2 implements format defined by <u>Compose</u> <u>Specification</u> and includes legacy versions 2.x and 3.x
- What inside compose.yaml (or compose.yml or docker-compose.yml)?
- YAML file which defines: version (optional), services (required), networks, volumes, configs, secrets

See docs.docker.com/compose/compose-file/03-compose-file/

Docker Compose: Compose file

- Service: abstract definition of computing resource within application which can be scaled or replaced independently from other components
 - Services are backed by a set of containers
 - Compose file must declare a services top-level element
- Each service
 - may also include a build section, which defines how to create service image
 - may also specify container_name, startup and shutdown dependencies between services (depends_on), exposed containers ports, CPU and memory limits, volumes that are accessible to service containers
 - and many other settings, see <u>docs.docker.com/compose/compose-file/05-services/</u>

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Docker Compose: Compose file

- Example: Compose file for Apache Storm, a distributed data stream processing framework
 - Master-worker architecture (Nimbus is master) using Zookeeper
 - Let's define a Storm cluster with 3 containers: master, worker and Zookeeper

```
version: '3'
                                               zookeeper:
                                                   image: zookeeper
                                                   container name: zookeeper
   services:
                                                   ports:
       storm-nimbus:
                                                        - "2181:2181"
            image: storm
            container name: nimbus
                                               worker1:
            command: storm nimbus
                                                   image: storm
            depends_on:
                                                   command: storm supervisor
                - zookeeper
                                                   depends on:
            links:
                                                       - storm-nimbus
                - zookeeper
                                                       - zookeeper
                                                   links:
           ports:
                                                       - storm-nimbus
                - "6627:6627"
                                                       - zookeeper
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```

Docker Compose: full example

- Simple Python web app running on Docker Compose
 - 2 containers: Python web app and Redis
 - Use Flask framework and maintain hit counter in Redis
 - Redis: in-memory, key-value data store

See docs.docker.com/compose/gettingstarted/

- Steps:
 - 1. Write Python app
 - 2. Define Python container image with its Dockerfile

```
FROM python:3.7-alpine
WORKDIR /code
ENV FLASK_APP=app.py
ENV FLASK_RUN_HOST=0.0.0.0
RUN apk add --no-cache gcc musl-dev linux-headers
COPY requirements.txt requirements.txt
RUN pip install -r requirements.txt
EXPOSE 5000
COPY . .
CMD ["flask", "run"]
```

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Docker Compose: full example

- Steps (cont'd):
 - Define services in Compose file
 - Two services: web (image defined by Dockerfile) and redis (<u>official image</u> pulled from Docker Hub)

```
services:
   web:
        build: .
        ports: - 8000:5000"
   redis:
        image: "redis:alpine"
```

4. Build and run app with Compose

\$ docker compose up -d

- Send HTTP requests using curl or browser (counter is increased)
- 6. List local images \$ docker image 1s
- 7. Stop Compose, bringing everything down
 - \$ docker compose down

Docker Compose: full example

- Add volume for app code, so that code can be modified on the fly without rebuilding the image
- Specify restart policy for containers in Compose file

 Options: on-failure[:max-retries], always, unless-stopped
- Start multiple replicas of same service using deploy specification, e.g.,

```
services:
  frontend:
   image: example/webapp
   deploy:
    mode: replicated
   replicas: 6
```

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Kafka as Docker containers

- Different packages already available, e.g.,
 - bitnami.com/stack/kafka/containers
 - · Single container, Docker Compose with Zookeeper or KRaft
 - www.conduktor.io/kafka/how-to-start-kafka-using-docker
 - Docker Compose with Zookeeper, single and multiple Zookeeper and Kafka brokers



- Swarm mode: advanced feature of Docker to natively manage a cluster of Docker engines called a swarm docs.docker.com/engine/swarm/
- Tasks: containers running in a service
- Main features:
 - Cluster management integrated with Docker
 - Declarative service model
 - **Scaling**: number of tasks for each service (no auto-scaling)
 - State reconciliation: Swarm monitors cluster state and reconciles any difference wrt desired state
 - Multi-host networking: can specify overlay network for services
 - Load balancing: can expose service ports to an external load balancer; internally, the swarm lets you specify how to distribute containers among nodes
 - **Secure**: TLS authentication and encryption

Docker Swarm: architecture

- A swarm consists of multiple Docker engines which run in swarm mode
- Node: instance of Docker engine
 - Manager node(s): handles cluster management, including scheduling tasks to worker nodes
 - · Multiple managers to improve fault tolerance
 - Raft as consensus algorithm to manage global cluster state
 - Worker nodes execute tasks



 Create swarm: start with manager node 							
<pre>\$ docker swarm initadvertise-addr <manager-ip> Swarm initialized: current node (<nodeid>) is now a manager. To add a worker to this swarm, run the following command: docker swarm jointoken <token> <manager-ip>:port</manager-ip></token></nodeid></manager-ip></pre>							
• Croate swarm: add worker pada(c)							
· Create Swarm. aud worker noue(S)							
<pre>\$ docker swarm jointoke</pre>	n <token> <manager-ip>:port</manager-ip></token>						
Inspect swarm status							
<pre>\$ docker info</pre>							
<pre>\$ docker node ls</pre>							
ID HOSTNAME STATUS <node.id1> * manager1 Ready <node.id2> worker1 Ready</node.id2></node.id1>	AVAILABILITY MANAGER STATUS Active Leader Active						

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Docker Swarm: Swarm cluster

- Leave swarm
 - If the node is a manager node, warning about maintaining the quorum (to override warning, --force flag)

```
$ docker swarm leave
```

 After a node leaves the swarm, you can run docker node rm on a manager node to remove the node from the node list

\$ docker node rm <node-id>

Docker Swarm: manage services

• Deploy a service to swarm (from manager node)

 Deploy service helloworld with 2 replicas; arguments alpine ping docker.com define service as an Alpine Linux container that executes ping docker.com

• List running services



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Docker Swarm: manage services

• Inspect service

```
$ docker service inspect --pretty <service-id>
$ docker service ps <service-id>
```

ID	NAME	IMAGE	NODE	DESIRED ST	CURRENT ST	ERROR	PORTS
<cont.id1></cont.id1>	helloworld.1	alpine:latest	manager1	Running	Running …		
<cont.id2></cont.id2>	helloworld.2	alpine:latest	worker1	Running	Running …		

• Inspect container

\$ docker ps <cont-id>

Manager node

CONTAINER ID	IMAGE	COMMAND	CREATED	STATUS	<pre> NAMES helloworld.1.iuk1sj</pre>
<cont.id1></cont.id1>	alpine:latest	"ping docker.com"	2 min ago	Up 2 min	
<pre># Worker node CONTAINER ID <cont.id2></cont.id2></pre>	IMAGE	COMMAND	CREATED	STATUS	NAMES
	alpine:latest	"ping docker.com"	2 min ago	Up 2 min	helloworld.2.skfos4…

Docker Swarm: manage services

• Scale number of containers in service

\$ docker service scale <service-id>=<number-of-tasks>

- Swarm manager will enact the updates
- Apply rolling updates (i.e., update without downtime) to service

```
$ docker service update --limit-cpu 2 redis
```

- \$ docker service update --replicas 3 helloworld
 - Roll back an update to previous version of service

```
$ docker service rollback [options] <service-id>
```

Remove service

\$ docker service rm <service-id>

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References

- Docker Docs
- Nickoloff and Kuenzli, Docker in Action 2nd Edition, 2019