Introduction to Containers

October 2024



Agenda

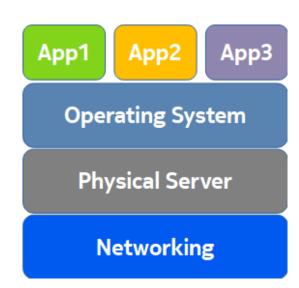
- 1. From bare metal to serverless
- 2. Container ecosystem glossary
- 3. Tools
- 4. Technology behind
- 5. Use-cases and demo





Bare metal

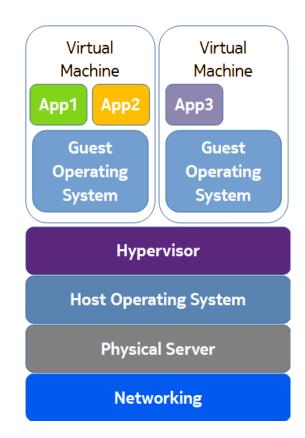
- Physical server
- Single tenant
- Maximal control
- Physical isolation
- Expensive
- Hard to manage
- Hard to scale
- Optionally bare metal as a service





Virtualized

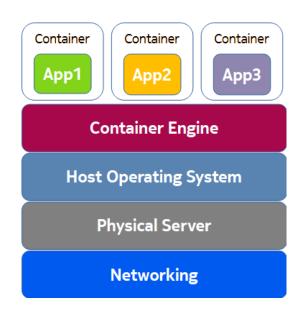
- Emulation of physical computer
 - Abstraction layer over the hardware
- We can select VM size (CPU, RAM, Storage,...)
- Cheaper to run
- Share the same hardware
- Better resource utilization
- Vertical/horizontal scaling
 - Migrate without VM shutdown
- Vulnerable to noisy neighbour problem
- Side-channel attacks like spectre and meltdown





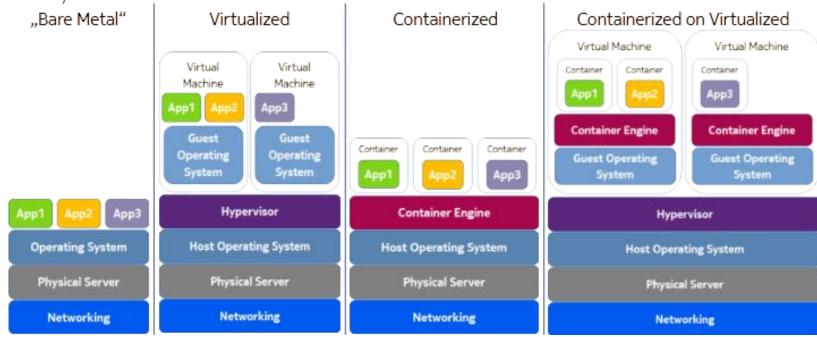
Containerized

- Lightweight and standalone package of application with all its dependencies
- Quick resource provisioning
- Scalable and portable
- Potentially less secure
 - Shared underlying OS
 - Isolation relies on the OS-level primitives





Summary





Container ecosystem glossary



Container ecosystem glossary

Basics

- Containerization a process of encapsulating an application and its dependencies into a container image for deployment
- **Container** isolate software from its environment and ensure that it works uniformly despite differences for instance between development and staging. It's a standard unit of software that packages up code and all its dependencies, so the application runs quickly and reliably from one computing environment to another
- **Image** a lightweight, standalone, executable software package that includes everything needed to run a piece of software, including the code, runtime, libraries, environment variables, and configuration files
- **Volume** a directory or file in a container that bypasses the Union File System to provide access to persistent storage.
- Namespace a Linux kernel feature which can isolate processes from each other
- **CGroups** a Linux kernel feature that limits, accounts for, and isolates the resource usage (CPU, memory, disk I/O, etc.) of a collection of processes
- **Microservices** an architectural style that structures an application as a collection of loosely coupled services, which are independently deployable and scalable
- **Docker** a platform for developing, shipping, and running applications using containerization
- Container Registry a repository for storing and managing container images, allowing for version control and sharing of images



Container ecosystem glossary

Orchestration

- · Container Orchestration refers to the automated management of containerized applications, including deployment, scaling, and scheduling
- Kubernetes an open-source platform designed to automate deploying, scaling, and operating application containers
- Deployment a resource that represents a set of multiple, identical Pods with no unique identities, all running the same application
- **Pod** a group of one or more containers that are deployed and managed together on the same host
- Node a worker machine, part of a cluster, that may be a VM or physical machine, depending on the cluster
- Replica Set ensures that a specified number of pod replicas are running at any given time, and allows for scaling up or down
- Ingress provides HTTP and HTTPS routing to services in a cluster, typically providing load balancing, SSL termination, and name-based virtual hosting
- Egress refers to the traffic that flows out of a cluster, from a pod to an external endpoint
- Secret an object that is used to store sensitive information, such as passwords, OAuth tokens, and ssh keys, in a cluster





Overview

- Docker is not a container
- Container is a technology
- Built from a few new features of the Linux kernel
- Two main kernel features are "namespaces" and "cgroups"



Namespaces

- The **PID namespace** allows us to create separate processes.
- The **networking namespace** allows us to run the program on any port without conflict with other processes running on the same computer.
- **Mount namespace** allows you to mount and unmount the filesystem without affecting the host filesystem.
- Linux kernel feature



Control Groups (CGroups)

- CGroups are used to **limit the usage of CPU and Memory** that a process or collection of processes can use
- Linux kernel feature



Docker

- Docker helps us easily create containers instead of having to do many things
- It's one of many tools helping us to control the underlying container technology





Lifecycle management

- Build image
- Push image
- Pull image
- Create container

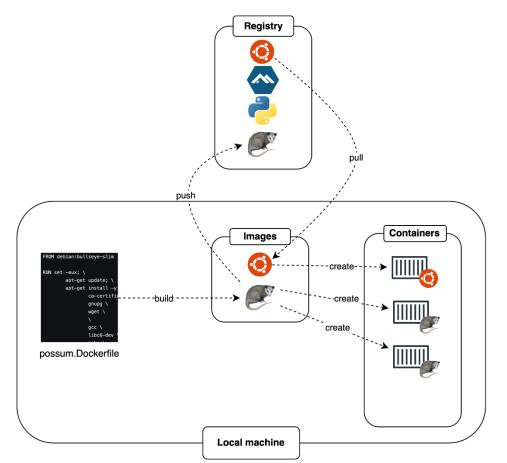














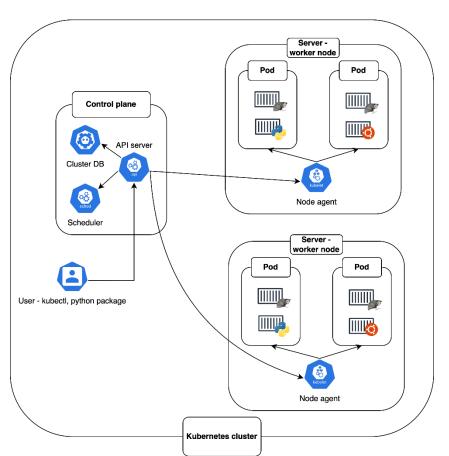
Orchestration

- Targeted at handling deployments at scale
- Exposing or hiding services
- Handling redundancy and high availability
- Rolling upgrades
- Build/Pull image
- Create container





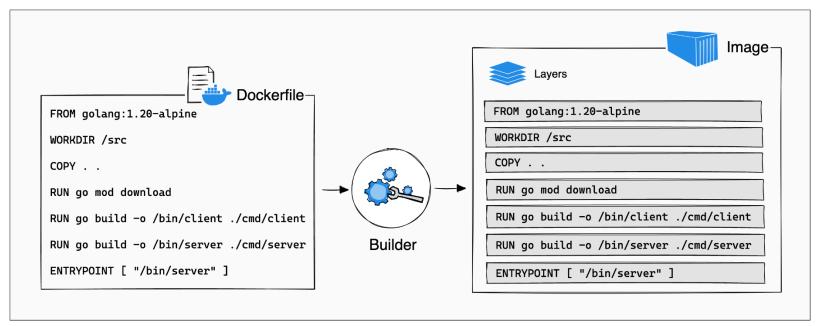






Dockerfile

· A Dockerfile is a text document in which you define the build steps for your application



Credit: https://docs.docker.com/build/guide/layers/



Use-cases and demo



Use-cases and demo

Hello world!

```
    Our application (hello-world.py):

  # echo 'print("Hello world") ' > hello-world.py
• Our Dockerfile:
 FROM python: 3.10.12-alpine
 WORKDIR /app
 COPY . .
 CMD [ "python", "hello-world.py" ]

    Build container image

  # docker build -t my-hello-world .

    Run

  # docker run my-hello-world
```

```
# docker run my-hello-world
Hello world
#
```



Use-cases and demo

Docker

```
Dockerfile Reference
https://docs.docker.com/engine/reference/builder/

Docker Compose File Reference
https://docs.docker.com/compose/compose-file/compose-file-v3/
```

```
How to spawn Apache web server with Maria DB and phpMyAdmin https://enlear.academy/stop-using-xampp-a-step-by-step-guide-to-docker-for-php-and-mysql-b424f0a7ba41
```



The good, the bad and the ugly of containers

The good, the bad and the ugly of containers

- Very easy to spawn container from existing images
- Google, Al Chat saves the day!
- Get & share reproducible build setup, keep host OS clean and lean
- Not so easy to understand how it works behind the scene when problem occurs
- Might get ugly when dealing with specifics

- Find the right image (with right tools) or build own
- Mount project into container
- Setup inner user to match host user if you want modify host files, i.e. build output, git interaction, ...
- Sometimes image doesn't expect to be run as non-root (XDG_CACHE_HOME example)
- Alias it once it works as expected

\$alias dgo='docker run -it -v \$(pwd):/go/ws -w /go/ws -u \$(id -u):\$(id -g) -e XDG_CACHE_HOME=/tmp/.cache golang go'



Questions?

More resources

https://docs.docker.com/get-started/overview

https://podman.io/get-started

https://linuxcontainers.org/lxc/introduction

https://kubernetes.io



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