Docker Startup Guide for Meeting\_AI Project

This guide explains how to correctly start Docker and PostgreSQL when reopening the Meeting\_AI project. It covers normal workflow and common edge cases.

# 1. Prerequisites

- Docker Desktop installed on Windows.  
- Meeting\_AI PostgreSQL container already created (e.g., named `meetingai-postgres`).  
- Backend project setup with Alembic migrations already initialized.  
- PowerShell access to run commands.

# 2. Steps for a Fresh Startup

## Step 1: Start Docker Desktop

Open Docker Desktop from the Start menu. Wait until the whale icon in the system tray stops animating and indicates Docker is running.  
  
Verify Docker is available:

docker info

## Step 2: Start PostgreSQL Container

If you are using docker-compose, run this from your backend folder:

docker compose up -d

If you are running a standalone container created manually:

docker start meetingai-postgres

Check container status:

docker ps

## Step 3: Verify Database is Alive

Run the following to confirm database is accessible:

docker exec -it meetingai-postgres psql -U app -d meeting\_ai -c "\dt public.\*"

If you see your tables (meetings, utterances, alembic\_version), the database is ready.

## Step 4: Run Backend

Activate your virtual environment and start the backend:

.\run\_dev.ps1

# 3. Edge Cases & Troubleshooting

1. \*\*Docker command fails with pipe error\*\*:  
 - Ensure Docker Desktop is open and running.  
 - Run `docker info` to confirm.  
  
2. \*\*Container missing after restart\*\*:  
 - Check with `docker ps -a`.  
 - If not present, recreate container using your original `docker run` or docker-compose.  
  
3. \*\*Database schema missing\*\*:  
 - Run Alembic migrations again: `alembic upgrade head`.  
  
4. \*\*Persistent restart\*\*:  
 - To auto-start the container after reboot, use `--restart unless-stopped` when creating it:  
 docker run -d --name meetingai-postgres --restart unless-stopped ...  
  
5. \*\*Multiple Postgres containers\*\*:  
 - Ensure you are connecting to the correct one (`meetingai-postgres`).  
 - Stop extras with `docker stop <container\_id>`.

# 4. Optional: Automate Startup

You can create a PowerShell script `start\_project.ps1` with the following content:

docker start meetingai-postgres  
.\run\_dev.ps1

This will start your container and immediately launch the backend.

**Fix the Docker side**

1. Start/restart Docker Desktop
   * Launch “Docker Desktop” from Start menu, or
   * If it’s open, quit it and start again.
2. (If it still flakes) reset WSL backend:
3. wsl --status

wsl --shutdown