

Title: What is the difference between ports and expose in docker-compose?

Post Body:

What is the difference between ports and expose options in docker-compose.yml?

Accepted Answer: None

Highest Rated Answer:

According to the [docker-compose reference](#),

Ports is defined as:

Expose **ports**. Either specify both ports (HOST:CONTAINER), or just the container port (a random host port will be chosen).

- Ports mentioned in docker-compose.yml will be shared among different services started by the docker-compose.
- Ports will be exposed to the host machine to a random port or a given port.

My docker-compose.yml looks like:

```
mysql:  image: mysql:5.7  ports:      - "3306"
```

If I do docker-compose ps, it will look like:

Name	Command	State	Ports	-----
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Expose is defined as:

Expose ports without publishing them to the host machine - they'll only be accessible to linked services. Only the internal port can be specified.

Ports are not exposed to host machines, only exposed to other services.

```
mysql:  image: mysql:5.7  expose:    - "3306"
```

If I do docker-compose ps, it will look like:

Name	Command	State	Ports	-----	my
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Edit

In recent versions of Dockerfile, EXPOSE [typically](#) doesn't have any operational impact anymore, it is just informative. ([see also](#))