Docker Tips, Tricks, and Notes

At a glance

What would be a quick start for a containerised app

Follow a 3-step process:

1. Define a `Dockerfile` for your app's environment so it can be replicated anywhere.

2. Define a Docker Compose file for the services needed in your app.

3. Run the following command in the working directory where these above mentioned files are located:

```
docker compose up
```

What is Docker Compose?

Docker Compose is a tool for running multi-container applications on Docker defined using the Compose file format.

What is a Compose file?

The Compose file is a YAML file that defines services, networks, volumes, configurations and secrets. The default name of the Compose file can be `compose.yaml`, `compose.yml`, `docker-compose.yaml`, or `docker-compose.yml`.

ADD or COPY

Although both instructions function in a similar manner, the COPY command is preferred. COPY is used to copy local files into a container while ADD has additional functionality such as remote URL support, and local tar extraction.

Decrease the size of a Docker image when using node.js

Remember to clean up any residual caches after installing the relevant packages needed in your project. This is shown in an example `Dockerfile` below.

```Dockerfile
FROM node:latest

EXPOSE 3000

WORKDIR /usr/src/app

COPY . .

RUN npm install && npm cache clean --force

CMD [ "node", "./bin/www" ]
```

npm or node when using CMD instruction in a Dockerfile

It is preferable to use node when using the CMD instruction in your Dockerfile. This is due to the following: