Docker Compose Cheat Sheet

Basic Commands

docker-compose up

  -> Build, (re)create, and start all containers

docker-compose up -d

  -> Run containers in the background (detached)

docker-compose down

  -> Stop and remove containers, networks, volumes

docker-compose stop

  -> Stop services without removing them

docker-compose start

  -> Start existing stopped containers

docker-compose restart

  -> Restart all services

Build & Images

docker-compose build

  -> Build or rebuild services

docker-compose build --no-cache

  -> Build without using the cache

docker-compose pull

  -> Pull service images from registry

docker-compose push

  -> Push built images to registry

Logs & Info

docker-compose logs

  -> Show logs from all containers

docker-compose logs -f

  -> Stream logs (follow mode)

docker-compose ps

  -> List containers managed by Compose

docker-compose top

  -> Show processes running inside containers

docker-compose config

  -> Validate and view the full config file

Run & Exec

docker-compose run <service> <cmd>

  -> Run one-off command in new container

docker-compose exec <service> <cmd>

  -> Run command in existing running container

docker-compose exec web bash

  -> Open a shell in the `web` container

Cleanup

docker-compose down -v

  -> Also remove volumes

docker-compose down --rmi all

  -> Remove images too

docker-compose down --volumes --remove-orphans

  -> Full cleanup

docker-compose rm

  -> Remove stopped containers

Scaling & Advanced

docker-compose up --scale <service>=<count>

  -> Run multiple instances of a service

docker-compose up --build

  -> Rebuild before starting services

Example Usage

docker-compose up -d

  -> Start all in background

docker-compose logs -f web

  -> Follow logs for service 'web'

docker-compose exec web bash

  -> Bash into running web container

docker-compose down -v

  -> Stop & remove everything including volumes

docker-compose up --scale web=3

  -> Run 3 instances of web