***What is*** [***Docker***](https://www.docker.com/)***?***

[Docker](https://www.docker.com/) is a new way to containerize applications that is becoming increasingly popular. It allows you to package a microservice in a standardized portable format that’s independent of the technology used to implement the service. At runtime it provides a high degree of isolation between different services. However, unlike virtual machines, Docker containers are extremely lightweight and as a result can be built and started extremely quickly. A container can typically be built in just a few seconds and starting a container simply consists of starting the service’s process(es).

Docker runs on a variety of platforms. It **runs natively on Linux**. You can also run Docker on Windows and Mac OSX using [Boot2Docker](https://github.com/boot2docker/boot2docker), which runs the Docker daemon in a VirtualBox VM. Some clouds also have added extra support for Docker. For example, not only can you run Docker inside your EC2 instances but you can also use Elastic Beanstalk to run Docker containers. Amazon also recently announced the [Amazon EC2 Container Service](https://aws.amazon.com/ecs/), which is a hosted Docker container management service.  Google Cloud also has [support for Docker](https://cloud.google.com/container-engine/).

The two main Docker concepts are image, which is a portable application packaging format, and container, which is a running image and consists of one or more sandboxed processes.