# Developing Container Applications with VMware vSphere Integrated Containers Engine

vSphere Integrated Containers Engine 0.8



## **Table of Contents**

Version 0.8	0
Overview of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine For Container Application Developers	1
Supported Docker Commands	2
Use and Limitations of Containers in vSphere Integrated Containers Engine	3
Obtain a VCH	4
Using Volumes with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine	5
Using Private Registry Servers with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine	6
Using vSphere Integrated Containers Engine with vSphere Integrated Containers Registry (Harbor)	7
Container Networking with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine	8
Creating a Containerized Application	9
Constraints of Using vSphere Integrated Containers Engine to Build Applications	9.1
Example of Building an Application with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine	9.2
Docker Commands Fail with a Docker API Version Error	10
Default Volume Store Error	11
Bridge Pool Mask Error	12
Send Documentation Feedback	13

## Developing Container Applications with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine

Developing Container Applications with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine provides information about how to use VMware vSphere® Integrated Containers ™ Engine as the endpoint for Docker container application development.

For the full vSphere Integrated Containers Engine documentation set, go to https://vmware.github.io/vic-product/#getting-started.

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#### **Intended Audience**

This information is intended for container application developers whose Docker environment uses vSphere Integrated Containers Engine as its endpoint. Knowledge of container technology and Docker is assumed.

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## Overview of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine For Container Application Developers

vSphere Integrated Containers Engine is container engine that is designed to integrate of all the packaging and runtime benefits of containers with the enterprise capabilities of a vSphere environment. As a container developer, you can deploy, test, and run container processes in the same way as you would normally perform container operations.

The information in this topic is intended for container developers. For an extended version of this information, see Overview of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine for vSphere Administrators in vSphere Integrated Containers Engine Installation.

## Differences Between vSphere Integrated Containers Engine and a Classic Container Environment

The main differences between vSphere Integrated Containers Engine and a classic container environment are the following:

- vSphere, not Linux, is the container host:
  - o Containers are spun up as VMs, not in VMs.
  - Every container is fully isolated from the host and from the other containers.
  - vSphere provides per-tenant dynamic resource limits within a vCenter Server cluster
- · vSphere, not Linux, is the infrastructure:
  - You can select vSphere networks that appear in the Docker client as container networks.
  - Images, volumes, and container state are provisioned directly to VMFS.
- vSphere is the control plane:
  - Use the Docker client to directly control selected elements of vSphere infrastructure.
  - · Acontainer endpoint Service-as-a-Service presents as a service abstraction, not as laaS

## What Does vSphere Integrated Containers Engine Do?

vSphere Integrated Containers Engine allows the vSphere administrator to easily make the vSphere infrastructure accessible to you, the container application developer, so that you can provision container workloads into production.

#### Scenario 1: A Classic Container Environment

In a classic container environment:

- You raise a ticket and say, "I need Docker".
- The vSphere administrator provisions a large Linux VM and sends you the IP address.
- You install Docker, patch the OS, configure in-guest network and storage virtualization, secure the guest, isolate the containers, package the containers efficiently, and manage upgrades and downtime.

In this scenario, what the vSphere administrator has given you is similar to a nested hypervisor that you have to manage and which is opaque to them.

#### Scenario 2: vSphere Integrated Containers Engine

With vSphere Integrated Containers Engine:

- You raise a ticket and say, "I need Docker".
- The vSphere administrator identifies datastores, networking, and compute on a cluster that you can use in your Docker environment.
- The vSphere administrator uses a utility called vic-machine to install a small appliance. The appliance represents an
  authorization for you to use the infrastructure that the vSphere administrator has identified, into which you can self-provision
  container workloads.
- The appliance runs a secure remote Docker API, that is the only access that you have to the vSphere infrastructure.
- Instead of sending you a Linux VM, the vSphere administrator sends you the IP address of the appliance, the port of the remote Docker API, and a certificate for secure access.

In this scenario, the vSphere administrator has provided you with a service portal. This is better for you because you do not have to worry about isolation, patching, security, backup, and so on. It is better for the vSphere administrator because every container that you deploy is a container VM, that they can manage just like all of their other VMs.

If you discover that you need more compute capacity, in Scenario 1, the vSphere administrator has to power down the VM and reconfigure it, or give you a new VM and let you deal with the clustering implications. Both of these solutions are disruptive to you. With vSphere Integrated Containers Engine in Scenario 2, the vSphere administrator can reconfigure the VCH in vSphere, or redeploy it with a new configuration in a way that is completely transparent to you.

#### vSphere Integrated Containers Engine Concepts

The objective of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine is to take as much of vSphere as possible and layer whatever Docker capabilities are missing on top, reusing as much of Docker's own code as possible. The result should not sacrifice the portability of the Docker image format and should be completely transparent to a Docker client. The following sections describe key concepts and components that make this possible.

#### **Container VMs**

The container VMs that vSphere Integrated Containers Engine creates have all of the characteristics of software containers:

- An ephemeral storage layer with optionally attached persistent volumes.
- Acustom Linux guest OS that is designed to be "just a kernel" and that needs images to be functional.
- Amechanism for persisting and attaching read-only binary image layers.
- APID 1 guest agent tether extends the control plane into the container VM.
- Various well-defined methods of configuration and state ingress and egress
- Automatically configured to various network topologies.

The provisioned container VM does not contain any OS container abstraction.

- The container VM boots from an ISO that contains the Photon Linux kernel. Note that container VMs do not run the full Photon OS.
- The container VM is configured with a container image that is mounted as a disk.
- Container image layers are represented as a read-only VMDK snapshot hierarchy on a vSphere datastore. At the top of this hierarchy is a read-write snapshot that stores ephemeral state.
- Container volumes are formatted VMDKs that are attached as disks and indexed on a datastore.
- Networks are distributed port groups that are attached as vNICs.

#### **Virtual Container Hosts**

A virtual container host (VCH) is the functional equivalent of a Linux VM that runs Docker, but with some significant benefits. A VCH represents the following elements:

- Aclustered pool of resource into which to provision container VMs.
- Asingle-tenant container names pace.
- Asecure API endpoint.
- Authorization to use and configure pre-approved virtual infrastructure.

AVCH is functionally distinct from a traditional container host in the following ways:

- It naturally encapsulates clustering and dynamic scheduling by provisioning to vSphere targets.
- The resource constraints are dynamically configurable with no impact on the containers.
- Containers do not share a kernel.
- There is no local image cache. This is kept on a datastore in the cluster that the vSphere administrator specified when they
  deployed a VCH.
- There is no read-write shared storage

## **Supported Docker Commands**

vSphere Integrated Containers Engine 0.8 supports Docker 1.11.2. The supported version of the Docker API is 1.23. If you are using a more recent version of the Docker client, see Docker Commands Fail with a Docker API Version Error.

- Docker Management Commands
- Image Commands
- Container Commands
- Hub and Registry Commands
- Network and Connectivity Commands
- Shared Data Volume Commands
- Docker Compose Commands
- Swarm Commands

## **Docker Management Commands**

Command	Docker Reference	Supported
dockerd	Launch the Docker daemon	No
info	Docker system information	Yes, docker-specific data, basic capacity information, list of configured volume stores, virtual container host information. Does not reveal vSphere datastore paths that might contain sensitive vSphere information.
inspect	Inspect a container or image	Yes. Includes information about the container network.
version	Docker version information	Yes. vSphere Integrated Containers Engine version provided.

## **Image Commands**

Command	Docker Reference	Supported
build	Build an image from a Dockerfile	No
commit	Create a new image from a container's changes	No
history	Show the history of an image	No
images	Images	Yes. vSphere Integrated Container Engine currently supports no-trunc and -q/quiet
import	Import the contents from a tarball to create a filesystem image	No
load	Load an image from a tar archive or STDIN	No
rmi	Remove a Docker image	Yes. vSphere Integrated Container Engine does not yet support tag or untag operations, or any options.
save	Save images	No
tag	Tag an image into a repository	No

## **Container Commands**

Command	Docker Reference	Supported	
attach	Attach to a container	Yes	
container list	List Containers	Yes	
container resize	Resize a container	Yes	
ср	Copyfiles or folders between a container and the local filesystem	No	
create	Create a container	Yes. cpuset-cpus in Docker specifies CPUs the container is allowed to use during execution (0-3, 0,1). In vSphere Integrated Containers Engine, this parameter specifies the number of virtual CPUs to allocate to the container VM. Minimum CPU count is 1, maximum is unlimited. Default is 2. ip allows you to set a static IP on the container. By default, the virtual container host manages the container IP. mmemory Minimum memory is 512MB, maximum unlimited. If unspecified, default is 2GB. vSphere Integrated Container Engine supports these options: -a,attach,cpuset-cpus, -e,env,ip, -m,memory, -i,interactive,link, -1,label,network,tty, -v,volume	
diff	Inspect changes on a container's filesystem	No	
events	Get real time events from the server	No	
exec	Run a command in a running container	No	
export	Export a container	No	
kill	Kill a running container	Yes. Docker must wait for the container to shut down.	
logs	Get container logs	Yes, vSphere Integrated Container Engine does not yet support docker logstimestamps ( - t ) andsince options.	
pause	Pause processes in a container	No	
port	Obtain port data	Yes. Displays port mapping data. vSphere Integrated Container Engine supports mapping a random host port to the container when the host port is not specified.	

ps	Show running containers	Yes. Only supports the -a/all,no-trunc, and -q/quiet options.	
rename	Rename a container	No	
restart	Restart a container	Yes	
rm	Remove a container	Yes, vSphere Integrated Containers Engine also removes associated anonymous and regular volumes, supports -f/force option and the name parameter. docker rm -v and docker rm -f are not supported. To view volumes attached to a container that is removed, use docker volume 1s and docker volume inspect <id>. If you continually invoke docker create to make more anonymous volumes, those volumes are left behind after each subsequent removal of that container.</id>	
run	Run a command in a new container	Yes. vSphere Integrated Container Engine supports container search using prettyname-ID docker runname and these options: -d,detachdetach-keys ,dns vSphere Integrated Container Engine supports mapping a random host port to the container when the host port is not specified. vSphere Integrated Container Engine supports running images from private and custom registries.  docker runnet=host is not supported. You can specify a container network by using thecontainer-network option when you deploy a virtual container host.	
start	Start a container	Yes	
stats	Get container stats based on resource usage	No	
stop	Stop a container	Yes. vSphere Integrated Containers Engine attempts to politely stop the container. If that fails, it powers down the VM.	
top	Display the running processes of a container	No	
unpause	Unpause processes within a container	No	
update	Update a container	No	
wait	Wait for a container	Yes	

## **Hub and Registry Commands**

Command	Docker Reference	Supported
login	Log into a registry	Yes
logout	Log out from a registry	Yes
pull	Pull an image or repository from a registry	Yes, vSphere Integrated Container Engine supports pulling from public and private registries, secure or insecure.
push	Push an image or a repository to a registry	No
	Search the Docker hub for	

images

## **Network and Connectivity Commands**

For more information about network operations with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine, see Container Networking with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine.

Command	Docker Reference	Supported	
network connect	Connect to a network	Yes, However, this is not supported for running containers.	
network create	Create a network	Yes. See the use case to connect to an external network in Container Networking with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine. Bridge is also supported.  Thelabel,internal, andipam options are currently not supported.	
network disconnect	Disconnect a network	No	
network inspect	Inspect a network	Yes	
network ls	List networks/	Yes	
network rm	Remove a network	Yes. Network name and network ID are supported.	

### **Shared Data Volume Commands**

For more information about volume operations with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine, see Using Volumes with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine.

Command	Docker Reference	Supported
volume create	Create a volume	Yes
volume inspect	Information about a volume	Yes, use with docker compose.
volume 1s	List volumes	Yesfilter is not supported.
volume rm	Remove or delete a volume	Yes

## **Docker Compose Commands**

vSphere Integrated Containers Engine 0.8 supports Docker Compose version 1.10.

For more information about using Docker Compose with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine, see Creating a Containerized Application with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine.

Command	Docker Reference	Supported
build	Build or rebuild service	No. Depends on docker build .
bundle	Generate a Distributed Application Bundle (DAB) from the Compose file	No
config	Validate and view the compose file	Yes
create	Create services	Yes
down	Stop and remove containers, networks, images, and volumes	Yes

	networks, images, and volumes	Yes
events	Receive real time events from containers	No. Depends on docker events .
exec	Run commands in services	No. Depends on docker exec .
help	Get help on a command	yes
kill	Kill containers	No, but docker kill works.
logs	View output from containers	Yes
pause	Pause services	No. Depends on docker pause .
port	Print the public port for a port binding	Yes
ps	List containers	No. Depends on docker psfilter.
pull	Pulls service images	Yes
push	Pushes images for service	No. Depends on docker push
restart	Restart services	Yes
rm	Remove stopped containers	Yes
run	Run a one-off command	Yes
scale	Set number of containers for a service	No.Depends on docker psfilter.
start	Start services	Yes
stop	Stop services	Yes
unpause	Unpause services	No. Depends on docker unpause .
up	Create and start containers	Conditionally supported. Does not work if there are orphaned containers. Depends on docker rename and docker psfilter.
version	Show the Docker-Compose version information	Yes

## **Swarm Commands**

This version of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine does not support Docker Swarm.

## Use and Limitations of Containers in vSphere Integrated Containers Engine

vSphere Integrated Containers Engine currently includes the following capabilities and limitations:

## **Supported Docker Features**

This version of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine supports these features:

- Docker Compose (basic)
- · Registry pull from docker hub and private registry
- Named Data Volumes
- Anonymous Data Volumes
- Bridged Networks
- External Networks
- Port Mapping
- Network Links/Alias

#### Limitations

vSphere Integrated Containers Engine includes these limitations:

- Container VMs only support root user.
- When you do not configure a PATH environment variable, or create a container from an image that does not supply a PATH, vSphere Integrated Containers Engine provides a default PATH.
- You can resolve the symbolic names of a container from within another container, except in the following cases:
  - Aliases
  - o IPv6
  - · Service discovery
- Containers can acquire DHCP addresses only if they are on a network that has DHCP.

## **Unsupported Docker Features**

This version of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine does not support these features:

- Pulling images via image digest
- · Pushing a registry
- Sharing concurrent data volume between containers
- Mapping a local host folder to a container volume
- · Mapping a local host file to a container
- Docker build
- Docker copy files into a container, both running and stopped
- Docker container inspect does not return all container network for a container

For limitations of using vSphere Integrated Containers with volumes, see Using Volumes with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine.

#### Obtain a VCH

vSphere Integrated Containers Engine does not currently provide an automated means of obtaining virtual container hosts (VCHs).

When you or the vSphere administrator use vic-machine create to deploy a VCH, the VCH endpoint VM obtains an IP address. The IP address can either be static or be obtained from DHCP. As a container developer, you require the IP address of the VCH endpoint VM when you run Docker commands.

Depending on the nature of your organization, you might deploy VCHs yourself, or you might request a VCH from a different person or team. If you do not run vic-machine create yourself, your organization must define the process by which you obtain VCH addresses. This process can be as simple as an exchange of emails with a vSphere administrator, or as advanced as a custom self-provisioning portal or API end-point. For example, your organization could use VMware vRealize® Automation™ to provide a self-provisioning service, by using the vRealize Automation interface or APIs to request VCHs. At the end of the provisioning process, vRealize Automation would communicate the VCH endpoint VM address to you.

#### **Using Docker Environment Variables**

If you or the vSphere administrator deploy VCHs with TLS authentication, vic-machine create generates a file named vch\_address.env . The env file contains Docker environment variables that are specific to the VCH. You can use the contents of the env file to set environment variables in your Docker client. Aself-provisioning service such as vRealize Automation could potentially provide the env file at the end of the provisioning process for VCHs.

### Connecting to the VCH

How you connect to your VCH depends on the security options with which you or the vSphere administrator deployed the VCH.

- If the VCH uses TLS authentication, either by using server certificates or by using mutual authentication with client and server certificates, you connect to the VCH at *vch address*:2376.
- If the VCH uses mutual authentication with client and server certificates, you must configure the Docker client appropriately with one of the following options:
  - By using the following --tlsverify, --tlscert, and --tlskey Docker options, adding tlscacert if a custom CAwas used to sign the server certificate.
  - By setting DOCKER\_CERT\_PATH=/path/to/client/cert.pem and DOCKER\_TLS\_VERIFY=1.
- If the VCH uses server certificates without client authentication, you run Docker commands with the --tls option. The DOCKER\_TLS\_VERIFY environment variable must not be set. Note that setting DOCKER\_TLS\_VERIFY to 0 or false has no effect.
- If TLS is completely disabled on the VCH, you connect to the VCH at vch\_address:2375 and do not need to specify any
  additional Docker options.

## Using Volumes with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine

vSphere Integrated Containers Engine supports the use of container volumes.

**IMPORTANT**: To use container volume capabilities with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine, you or the vSphere administrator must configure the virtual container host (VCH) appropriately at the moment of deployment of the VCH. When you create or the vSphere administrator creates a VCH, you or the administrator must specify the datastore to use to store container volumes in the vic-machine create --volume-store option. You cannot currently add volume stores, and therefore volume capabilities, to a VCH after its initial deployment. For information about how to use the vic-machine create --volume-store option, see the section on volume-store in VCH Deployment Options in vSphere Integrated Containers Engine Installation.

- Obtain the List of Available Volume Stores
- · Obtain the List of Available Volumes
- Create a Volume in a Volume Store
- Creating Volumes from Images
- Create a Container with a New Anonymous or Named Volume
- Mount an Existing Volume on a Container
- Obtain Information About a Volume
- Delete a Named Volume from a Volume Store

For simplicity, the examples in this topic assume that the VCHs implement TLS authentication with self-signed untrusted certificates, with no client verification.

#### Obtain the List of Available Volume Stores

To obtain the list of volume stores that are available on a VCH, run docker info .

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls info
```

The list of available volume stores for this VCH appears in the <code>docker info</code> output under <code>volumeStores</code> .

```
[...]
Storage Driver: vSphere Integrated Containers Backend Engine
VolumeStores: volume_store_1 volume_store_2 ... volume_store_n
vSphere Integrated Containers Backend Engine: RUNNING
[...]
```

#### Obtain the List of Available Volumes

To obtain a list of volumes that are available on a VCH, run docker volume 1s.

#### Create a Volume in a Volume Store

When you use the docker volume create command to create a volume, you can optionally provide a name for the volume by specifying the --name option. If you do not specify --name, docker volume create assigns a random UUID to the volume.

• If you or the vSphere administrator created the VCH with one or more volume stores, but none of the volume stores are named default, you must specify the name of an existing volume store in the --opt volumeStore option. If you do not specify --opt volumeStore, docker volume create searches for a volume store named default, and returns an error if no such volume store exists.

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls volume create
--opt VolumeStore=volume_store_label
--name volume_name
```

• If you or the vSphere administrator created the VCH with a volume store named default, you do not need to specify --opt volumeStore in the docker volume create command. If you do not specify a volume store name, the docker volume create command automatically uses the default volume store if it exists.

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls volume create
--name volume_name
```

• You can optionally set the capacity of a volume by specifying the --opt capacity option when you run docker volume create. If you do not specify the --opt capacity option, the volume is created with the default capacity of 1024MB.

If you do not specify a unit for the capacity, the default unit will be in Megabytes.

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls volume create
--opt VolumeStore=volume_store_label
--opt Capacity=2048
--name volume_name
```

• To create a volume with a capacity in megabytes, gigabytes, or terabytes, include MB, GB, or TB in the value that you pass to --opt capacity. The unit is case insensitive.

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls volume create
--opt VolumeStore=volume_store_label
--opt Capacity=10GB
--name volume_name
```

After you create a volume by using docker volume create, you can mount that volume in a container by running either of the following commands:

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls
create -v volume_name:/folder busybox
```

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls
run -v volume_name:/folder busybox
```

In the examples above, Docker mounts the volume  $\mbox{\em volume\_name}$  to  $\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\textit{folder}}}$  in the container.

**NOTE**: When using a vSphere Integrated Containers Engine VCH as your Docker endpoint, the storage driver is always the vSphere Integrated Containers Engine Backend Engine. If you specify the docker volume create --driver option an error stating that a bad driver has been selected will occur.

## **Creating Volumes from Images**

Some images, for example, mongo or redis:alpine, contain volume bind information in their metadata. vSphere Integrated Containers Engine creates such volumes with the default parameters and treats them as anonymous volumes. vSphere Integrated Containers Engine treats all volume mount paths as unique, in the same way that Docker does. This should be kept in mind if you attempt to bind other volumes to the same location as anonymous or image volumes. Aspecified volume always takes priority over an anonymous volume.

If you require an image volume with a different volume capacity to the default, create a named volume with the required capacity. You can mount that named volume to the location that the image metadata specifies. You can find the location by running docker inspect image\_name and consulting the volumes section of the output. The resulting container has the required storage capacity and the endpoint.

### Create a Container with a New Anonymous or Named Volume

If you intend to create named or anonymous volumes by using docker create -v when creating containers, a volume store named default must exist in the VCH.

#### NOTES:

- vSphere Integrated Containers Engine does not support mounting folders as data volumes. Acommand such as docker create -v /folder\_name:/folder\_name busybox is not supported.
- If you use docker create -v to create containers and mount new volumes on them, vSphere Integrated Containers Engine only supports the -r and -rw options.

#### Create a Container with a New Anonymous Volume

To create an anonymous volume, you include the path to the destination at which you want to mount the anonymous volume in the docker create -v command. Docker creates the anonymous volume in the default volume store, if it exists. The VCH mounts the anonymous volume on the container.

The docker create -v example below performs the following actions:

- Creates a busybox container that uses an anonymous volume in the default volume store.
- Mounts the volume to /volumes in the container.

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls
create -v /volumes busybox
```

#### Create a Container with a Named Volume

To create a container with a new named volume, you specify a volume name in the docker create -v command. When you create containers that with named volumes, the VCH checks whether the volume exists in the volume store, and if it does not, creates it. The VCH mounts the existing or new volume on the container.

The docker create -v example below performs the following actions:

- Creates a busybox container
- Creates volume named volume 1 in the default volume store.
- Mounts the volume to the /volumes folder in the container.

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls
create -v volume_1:/volumes busybox
```

## Mount an Existing Volume on a Container

Mounting existing volumes on containers is subject to the following limitations:

- vSphere Integrated Containers Engine currently supports mounting a volume on only one container at a time.
- Docker does not support unmounting a volume from a container, whether that container is running or not. When you mount

- a volume on a container by using docker create -v , that volume remains mounted on the container until you remove the container. When you have removed the container you can mount the volume onto a new container.
- If you intend to create and mount a volume on one container, remove that container, and then mount the same volume on another container, use a named volume. It is possible to mount an anonymous volume on one container, remove that container, and then mount the anonymous volume on another container, but it is not recommended to do so.

The docker create -v example below performs the following operations:

- Creates a container named container1 from the busybox image.
- Mounts the named volume volume1 to the myData folder on that container, starts the container, and attaches to it.
- After performing operations in volume1:/myData, stops and removes container1.
- Creates a container named container2 from the Ubuntu image.
- Mounts volume1 to the myData folder on container2.

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls
create --name container1 -v volume1:/myData busybox
docker start container1
docker attach container1

[Perform container operations and detach]

docker stop container1
docker rm container1
docker create -it --name container2 -v volume1:/myData ubuntu
docker start container2
docker attach container2
[Perform container operations with the same volume that was
previously mounted to container1]
```

#### **Obtain Information About a Volume**

To get information about a volume, run docker volume inspect and specify the name of the volume.

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls
volume inspect volume_name
```

#### Delete a Named Volume from a Volume Store

To delete a volume, run docker volume rm and specify the name of the volume to delete.

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls
volume rm volume_name
```

NOTE: vSphere Integrated Containers does not support running docker rm -v to remove volumes that are associated with a container.

## Using Private Registry Servers with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine

If your development environment includes private registry servers for container images, you or the vSphere administrator must correctly configure virtual container hosts (VCHs) to allow them to connect to the private registry servers.

You can use vSphere Integrated Containers Engine with either secure or insecure private registry servers.

#### **Secure Private Registry Servers**

If the private registry server is configured with TLS, the VCH must be able to validate the registry's certificate. If the registry's server certificate was signed by a custom CA, you must provide that CA to the VCH by using the --registry-ca option. If the registry server has a certificate signed by a public CA then it should function without any additional configuration.

For information about how to configure a VCH to use private registry server CAcertificates, see the section on --registry-ca in VCH Deployment Options in vSphere Integrated Containers Engine Installation.

### **Insecure Private Registry Servers**

If you set up a private registry that does not use certificates, you or the vSphere administrator must deploy the VCH with the vic-machine create --insecure-registry option. Setting the insecure-registry option on a VCH informs that VCH that it is authorized to pull images from the designated insecure private registry server.

If you authorize a VCH to connect to an insecure private registry server, the VCH attempts to access the registry server via HTTP if access via HTTPS fails. VCHs always use HTTPS when connecting to registry servers for which you have not authorized insecure access. Insecure private registries are not recommended in production environments.

For information about how to use the vic-machine create --insecure-registry option, see the section on insecure-registry in VCH Deployment Options in vSphere Integrated Containers Engine Installation.

## Pull a Container Image from a Private Registry Server

To pull a container image from a private registry server, run the following Docker command.

```
docker -H vch_address:2376 --tls
pull registry_server_address/path/to/image/image_name:image_version
```

If the private registry server listens for connections on a specific port, include the port number in the registry server URL.

```
docker -H vch_address:2376 --tls
pull registry_server_address:port_number/path/to/image/image_name:image_version
```

These commands will only work in the following circumstances:

- The private registry server at *registry\_server\_address* is secured by CAcertificates, and you or the vSphere administrator passed the appropriate certificates to the VCH during deployment by using the --registry-ca option.
- The private registry server at *registry\_server\_address* is not secured by certificates, and you or the vSphere administrator authorized access to this registry server by using the --insecure-registry option during VCH deployment.

**NOTE**: In the examples, the Docker commands specify --tls. This is to specify that the connection between the Docker client and the VCH is secured by TLS. The level of security of the connection between the Docker client and the VCH is completely independent from the level of security of the connection between the VCH and the private registry server. The connection to the private registry server can be insecure when the connection between the client and the VCH is secure, and the reverse.

## Using vSphere Integrated Containers Engine with vSphere Integrated Containers Registry (Harbor)

This example illustrates using a deployed Virtual Container Host (VCH) with Harbor as a private registry with the assumption that a VCH has been set up using either static IP or FQDN. It also assumes there is access to standard Docker that has been updated with the CAcertificate used to sign the Harbor instance's server certificate and server private key.

#### Workflow

- 1. Develop or obtain a docker container image on a computer or terminal using standard docker. Tag the image for Harbor and push the image to the server.
- 2. Pull down the image from Harbor to a deployed VCH and use it.

#### Push a Container Image to Harbor Using Standard Docker

- Pull the busybox container image from the docker hub to your machine, which you have updated with the CAcertificate earlier. See Deploy a VCH with vSphere Integrated Containers Registry (Harbor) for more information on updating certificates
- 2. Tag the image for uploading to your Harbor registry and push the image up to it.

Important You must log onto the Harbor server before pushing the image up to it.

```
user@Devbox:~/mycerts$ docker pull busybox
Using default tag: latest
latest: Pulling from library/busybox
56bec22e3559: Pull complete
Digest: sha256:digest
Status: Downloaded newer image for busybox:latest
user@Devbox:~/mycerts$
user@Devbox:~/mycerts$ docker tag busybox <Harbor FODN or static
user@Devbox:~/mycerts$ docker login <Harbor FQDN or static IP>
Username: user
Password:
Login Succeeded
user@Devbox:~/mycerts$ docker push <Harbor FQDN or static IP>/test/busybox
The push refers to a repository [<Harbor FQDN or static IP>/test/busybox]
e88b3f82283b: Pushed
latest: digest: sha256:digest size: 527
```

## Pull the Image from Harbor to the VCH

In another terminal, pull the image from Harbor to the VCH.

```
user@Devbox:~$ export DOCKER_HOST=tcp://<Deployed VCH IP>:2375
user@Devbox:~$ export DOCKER_API_VERSION=1.23
user@Devbox:~$ docker images
REPOSITORY TAG IMAGE ID CREATED SIZE

user@Devbox:~$ docker pull <Harbor FQDN or static IP>/test/busybox
Using default tag: latest
Pulling from test/busybox
Error: image test/busybox not found

user@Devbox:~$ docker login <Harbor FQDN or static IP>
Username: user
Password:
```

Login Succeeded

user@Devbox:~\$ docker pull <Harbor FQDN or static IP>/test/busybox

Using default tag: latest
Pulling from test/busybox
56bec22e3559: Pull complete
a3ed95caeb02: Pull complete
Digest: sha256:digest
Status: Downloaded newer image for test/busybox:latest

user@Devbox:~\$ docker images

REPOSITORY TAG IMAGE ID CREATED SIZE
<Harbor FQDN or static IP>/test/busybox latest e292aa76ad3b 5 weeks ago 1.093 MB
user@Devbox:~\$

Note that the first attempt to pull the image fails with a 'not found' error message. After you log into the Harbor server, the pull attempt succeeds.

## Container Networking with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine

This section presents some examples of how to perform container networking operations when using vSphere Integrated Containers Engine as your Docker endpoint.

- For information about the default Docker networks, see https://docs.docker.com/engine/userguide/networking/.
- For an overview of the networks that vSphere Integrated Containers Engine uses, see Networks Used by vSphere Integrated Containers Engine in vSphere Integrated Containers Engine Installation.

#### **Publish a Container Port**

Connect a container to an external mapped port on the public network of the virtual container host (VCH):

```
$ docker run -p 8080:80 --name test1 my_container my_app
```

#### Result

You can access Port 80 on test1 from the public network interface on the VCH at port 8080.

### Add Containers to a New Bridge Network

Create a new non-default bridge network and set up two containers on the network. Verify that the containers can locate and communicate with each other:

#### Result

The server and client containers can ping each other by name.

## **Bridged Containers with Exposed Port**

Connect two containers on a bridge network and set up one of the containers to publish a port via the VCH. Assume that server\_app binds to port 5000.

```
/ # ping -c 3 server
PING server (172.18.0.2): 56 data bytes
64 bytes from 172.18.0.2: seq=0 ttl=64 time=0.073 ms
64 bytes from 172.18.0.2: seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.092 ms
64 bytes from 172.18.0.2: seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.088 ms
/ # telnet server 5000
GET /

Hello world!Connection closed by foreign host
$ telnet vch_public_interface 5000
Trying 192.168.218.137...
Connected to 192.168.218.137.
Escape character is '^]'.
GET /

Hello world!Connection closed by foreign host.
```

#### Result

The server and client containers can ping each other by name. You can connect to server on port 5000 from the client container and to port 5000 on the VCH public network.

## **Deploy Containers on Multiple Bridge Networks**

Create containers on multiple bridge networks by mapping ports through the VCH. The VCH must have an IP address on the relevant bridge networks. To create bridge networks, use <code>network</code> create.

Run a container that is connected to two networks:

```
docker run -it --net net1 --net net2 busybox
```

Run containers that can each only reach one of the networks:

```
docker run -it --net net1 --name n1 busybox
docker run -it --net net2 --name n2 busybox
```

Run a container that can reach both networks:

```
docker run -it --net net1 --net net2 --name n12 busybox
```

#### Result

- n1 and n2 cannot communicate with each other
- n12 can communicate with both n1 and n2

## **Connect Containers to External Networks**

Configure two external networks in vSphere:

- default-external is 10.2.0.0/16 with gateway 10.2.0.1
- vic-production is 208.91.3.0/24 with gateway 208.91.3.1

Deploy a VCH that uses the default network at 208.91.3.2 as its public network.

docker network 1s shows:

```
$ docker network ls

NETWORK ID NAME DRIVER
e2113b821ead none null
37470ed9992f default-external bridge
ea96a6b919de vic-production bridge
b7e91524f3e2 bridge bridge
```

You have a container that provides a Web service to expose outside of the vSphere Integrated Containers Engine environment.

 $Output\ of\ docker\ network\ inspect\ default-external$  :

```
{
       "Name": "default-external",
       "Id": "id",
       "Scope": "external",
       "Driver": "bridge",
       "IPAM": {
           "Driver": "default",
           "Options": {},
           "Config": [
              {
                   "Subnet": "10.2.0.0/16",
                   "Gateway": "10.2.0.1"
           ]
       },
        "Containers": {},
        "Options": {}
]
```

Output of docker network inspect vic-production:

```
[
   {
       "Name": "vic-production",
       "Id": "id",
       "Scope": "external",
       "Driver": "bridge",
       "IPAM": {
           "Driver": "default",
           "Options": {},
           "Config": [
              {
                   "Subnet": "208.91.3.0/24",
                   "Gateway": "208.91.3.1"
               }
           ]
       },
        "Containers": {},
       "Options": {}
   }
]
```

Set up a server on the vic-production network:

```
$ docker run -d --expose=80 --net=vic-production --name server my_webapp
$ docker inspect
    --format='{{range .NetworkSettings.Networks}}{{.IPAddress}}{{end}}'
    server
208.91.3.2
$ telnet 208.91.3.2 80
Trying 208.91.3.2...
Connected to 208.91.3.2.
Escape character is '^]'.
GET /
Hello world!Connection closed by foreign host.
```

**NOTE:** You can also use  $_{-p}$  80 or  $_{-p}$  80:80 instead of  $_{--expose=80}$ . If you try to map to different ports with  $_{-p}$ , you get a configuration error.

#### Result

The server container port is exposed on the external vic-production network.

24 - Last updated 2017-02-23

## **Deploy Containers That Use Multiple Container Networks**

Create multiple container networks by using vic-machine create --container-network .

**NOTE**: The networks known as container networks in vSphere Integrated Containers Engine terminology correspond to external networks in Docker terminology.

#### Example:

```
./vic-machine-darwin create --target 172.16.252.131 --image-store datastore1 --name vic-demo --user root --password 'Vmware!23' --compute

pg1-3 are port groups on the ESX Server that are now mapped into docker network 1s .

$ docker -H 172.16.252.150:2376 --tls network ls

NETWORK ID NAME DRIVER
903b61edec66 bridge bridge
95a91e11b1a8 pg1 external
ab84ba2a326b pg2 external
2df4101caac2 pg3 external
```

If a container is connected to a container network, the traffic to and from that network does not go through the VCH.

You also can create more bridge networks via the Docker API. These are all backed by the same port group as the default bridge, but those networks are isolated via IP address management.

```
Example:

$ docker -H 172.16.252.150:2376 --tls network create mike

0848ee433797c746b466ffeb57581c301d8e96b7e82a4d524e0fa0222860ba44

$ docker -H 172.16.252.150:2376 --tls network create bob

316e34ff3b7b19501fe14982791ee139ce98e62d060203125c5dbdc8543ff641

$ docker -H 172.16.252.150:2376 --tls network ls

NETWORK ID NAME DRIVER

316e34ff3b7b bob bridge

903b61edec66 bridge bridge

0848ee433797 mike bridge

95a91e11b1a8 pg1 external

ab84ba2a326b pg2 external

2df4101caac2 pg3 external
```

#### Result

You can create containers with --net mike or --net pg1 and be on the correct network. With Docker you can combine them and attach multiple networks.

## **Creating a Containerized Application with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine**

The topics in this section provides guidelines for container developers who want to use vSphere Integrated Containers Engine to develop and deploy a containerized application. They include an example of using Docker Compose with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine.

- Constraints of Using vSphere Integrated Containers Engine to Build Applications
- Example of Building an Application with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine

## Constraints of Using vSphere Integrated Containers Engine to Build Applications

There are some constraints on the types of containerized applications that you can deploy with this release of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine. For the lists of Docker features that this release of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine supports and does not support, see Use and Limitations of Containers in vSphere Integrated Containers Engine.

## **Building Container Images**

This release of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine does not support the docker build or push commands. As a consequence, you must use regular Docker without vSphere Integrated Containers Engine to build a container image and to push it to the global hub or to your private registry server.

#### **Sharing Configuration**

This release of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine does not support data volume sharing or docker copy. As a consequence, providing configuration to a containerized application has some constraints.

An example of a configuration is the configuration files for a Web server. To pass configuration to a container when using vSphere Integrated Containers Engine, you can use the following workaround:

- Use command line arguments or environment variables.
- Add a script to the container image that ingests the command line argument or environment variable and passes the configuration to the contained application.

Abenefit of using environment variables to transfer configuration is the containerized application closely follows the popular 12-factor application model.

Since vSphere Integrated Containers Engine does not support sharing volumes between containers, you have the following options for processes that must share files:

- Build the files into the same image and run them in the same container.
- . When containers are on the same network, add a script to the container that mounts an NFS share:
  - Run the container with an NFS server that shares a data volume.
  - Mount the NFS share on the containers that need to share files.

## Example of Building an Application with vSphere Integrated Containers Engine

The example in this topic modifies the voting app by Docker to illustrate how to work around the constraints that the current version of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine imposes. For information about the constraints, see Constraints of Using vSphere Integrated Containers Engine to Build Applications.

This example focuses on how to modify the Docker Compose YML file from the voting app to make it work with vSphere Integrated Containers. It does not describe the general function or makeup of the voting app.

## **Getting Started**

- 1. Clone the Docker voting app repository from https://github.com/docker/example-voting-app.
- 2. Open the YML file for the simple Docker voting app,  $_{\tt docker-compose-simple.yml}$  .

```
version: "2"
services:
  vote:
    build: ./vote
    command: python app.py
   volumes:
     - ./vote:/app
   ports:
      - "5000:80"
  redis:
    image: redis:alpine
    ports: ["6379"]
  worker:
    build: ./worker
  db:
    image: postgres:9.4
  result:
   build: ./result
   command: nodemon --debug server.js
      - ./result:/app
    ports:
      - "5001:80"
      - "5858:5858"
```

This compose file uses two features that this version of vSphere Integrated Containers does not support:

- The docker build command
- Mapping of local folders to container volumes

To allow the voting app to work with vSphere Integrated Containers, you must modify it to work around these constraints.

## **Modify the Application**

This version of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine does not support the docker build, tag, push commands. Use regular Docker without vSphere Integrated Containers Engine to perform the steps in this section.

NOTE: It is possible to build and tag an image in one step. In this example, building and tagging are in separate steps.

1. Build images for the different components of the application.

```
cd example-voting-app
docker build -t vote ./vote
docker build -t vote-worker ./worker
docker build -t vote-result ./result
```

2. Tag the the images to upload them to your private registry or to your personal account on Docker Hub.

This example uses a Docker Hub account. Replace *dockerhub\_username* with your own account name in the commands below.

```
docker tag vote dockerhub_username/vote
docker tag vote-worker dockerhub_username/vote-worker
docker tag vote-result dockerhub_username/vote-result
```

3. Push the images to the registry.

```
docker login
[Provide credentials]
docker push dockerhub_username/vote
docker push dockerhub_username/vote-worker
docker push dockerhub_username/vote-result
```

- 4. Open the docker-compose-simple.yml file in an editor and modify it to remove the operations that vSphere Integrated Containers does not support.
  - Remove local folder mapping
  - Remove all of the build directives
  - Update dockerhub\_username to your Docker Hub account name
  - $\bullet$   $\,$  Save the modified file with the name  $\,$   $_{\text{docker-compose.yml}}$  .

The example below shows the YML file after the modifications:

```
version: "2"

services:
  vote:
    image: dockerhub_username/vote
    command: python app.py
  ports:
        - "5000:80"

redis:
    image: redis:alpine
    ports: ["6379"]

worker:
    image: dockerhub_username/vote-worker

db:
    image: postgres:9.4
```

```
result:
image: dockerhub_username/vote-result
command: nodemon --debug server.js
ports:
- "5001:80"
- "5858:5858"
```

You can download the modified YML file from the vSphere Integrated Containers Engine repository on Github from https://github.com/vmware/vic/blob/master/demos/compose/voting-app.

### **Deploy the Application to a VCH**

The steps in this section make the following assumptions:

- You have deployed a virtual container host (VCH).
- You deployed the VCH with a volume store named default by specifying --volume-store datastore\_name/path:default .
- You deployed the VCH with the --no-tls option, to disable TLS authentication between the Docker client and the VCH.
- You are using Docker Compose 1.8.1.

In the procedure below, run the commands from the example-voting-app folder that contains the modified docker-compose.yml file.

1. Run the docker-compose command.

```
docker-compose -H vch_address:2375 up -d
```

2. In a browser, go to http://\*vch\_address\*:5000 and http://\*vch\_address\*:5001 to verify that the Docker voting application is running.

You can vote on port 5000 and see the results on port 5001.

### Docker Commands Fail with a Docker API Version Error

After a successful deployment of a vSphere Integrated Containers Engine virtual container host (VCH), attempting to run a Docker command fails with a Docker version error.

#### **Problem**

When you attempt to run a Docker command from a Docker client that is connecting to a VCH, the command fails with the following error:

```
Error response from daemon: client is newer than server (client API version: x.xx, server API version: 1.23)
```

#### Cause

This version of vSphere Integrated Containers Engine supports Docker 1.11, that includes version 1.23 of the Docker API. You are using a more recent version of the Docker client, that includes a version of the Docker API that is incompatible.

#### Solution

- 1. Open a terminal on the system on which you run the Docker client.
- 2. Set the Docker client API to the same version as the one that is used by vSphere Integrated Containers Engine.

```
export DOCKER_API_VERSION=1.23
```

- ${\it 3. \ Check\ that\ your\ Docker\ client\ can\ now\ connect\ to\ the\ VCH\ by\ running\ a\ Docker\ command.}$ 
  - With TLS authentication:

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2376 --tls info
```

Without TLS authentication:

```
docker -H virtual_container_host_address:2375 info
```

The  $_{\scriptsize exttt{docker info}}$  command should succeed and you should see information about the VCH.

### **Default Volume Store Error**

When you create or run a container, the Docker operation fails with an error about a missing volume store.

#### **Problem**

Running the container fails with error:

docker: Error response from daemon: No volume store named (default) exists.

#### Cause

By default, vic-machine create does not create a volume store when you or the vSphere administrator deploy a VCH. To run containers from images that use volumes, you or the vSphere administrator must specify a volume store named default when deploying the VCH.

#### **Solution**

Deploy a VCH by using the vic-machine create --volume-store option to create a VCH with a volume store named default. See --volume-store in VCH Deployment Options and Specify One or More Volume Stores in Advanced Examples of Deploying a VCH in vSphere Integrated Containers Installation.

Use docker volume inspect to get information about the volume.

## **Bridge Pool Mask Error**

When you create new bridge networks and specify an IP range, you might encounter an error in the log.

### **Problem**

The error in the log states:

```
could not initialize port layer:
bridge mask is not compatible with bridge pool mask
```

#### Cause

You specified a --bridge-network-range that cannot accommodate a /16 network. By default, the range is 172.16.0.0/12, which can accept 16 /16 networks.

## **Solution**

Use a bridge network of at least /16 or larger. See Other Advanced Options in the VCH Deployment Options section of *vSphere Integrated Containers Installation*.

## **Send Documentation Feedback**

Help us to improve the vSphere Integrated Containers documentation.

- Send doc feedback to VMware by email
- Submit an issue in Github
- Send us a message on https://vmwarecode.slack.com/messages/vic-doc