

Writing a docker file

First we have to know about what are arguments or the instructions used in a docker file.

The Dockerfile supports the following instructions : -

Instruction	Description
ADD	Add local or remote files and directories.
ARG	Use build-time variables.
CMD	Specify default commands.
COPY	Copy files and directories.
ENTRYPOINT	Specify default executable.
ENV	Set environment variables.
EXPOSE	Describe which ports your application is listening on.
FROM	Create a new build stage from a base image.
HEALTHCHECK	Check a container's health on startup.
LABEL	Add metadata to an image.
MAINTAINER	Specify the author of an image.
ONBUILD	Specify instructions for when the image is used in a build.
RUN	Execute build commands.
SHELL	Set the default shell of an image.
STOPSIGNAL	Specify the system call signal for exiting a container.
USER	Set user and group ID.
VOLUME	Create volume mounts.
WORKDIR	Change working directory.

Example :- 1)Nginx , 2)Tomcat, 3)Apache(httpd)

1)Nginx :-

First we will write docker file using arguments and instruction

```
FROM ubuntu:20.04
```

```
LABEL first_dockerfile_by="Ganraj"
```

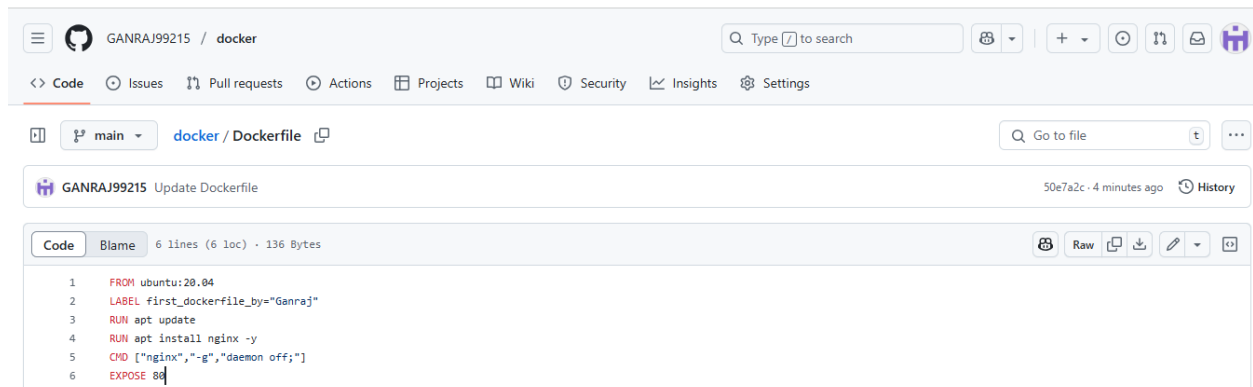
```
RUN apt update
```

```
RUN apt install nginx -y
```

```
CMD ["nginx","-g","daemon off;"]
```

```
EXPOSE 80
```

Will save as a **Dockerfile** in a repo it is extension of a docker file

A screenshot of a GitHub repository interface. The repository is named 'GANRAJ99215 / docker'. The file 'docker / Dockerfile' is selected, showing its content in a code editor. The code is as follows:

```
1 FROM ubuntu:20.04
2 LABEL first_dockerfile_by="Ganraj"
3 RUN apt update
4 RUN apt install nginx -y
5 CMD ["nginx","-g","daemon off;"]
6 EXPOSE 80
```

The interface includes a search bar, navigation tabs (Code, Issues, Pull requests, Actions, Projects, Wiki, Security, Insights, Settings), and a file explorer on the left. The code editor shows line numbers and syntax highlighting.

Explanation:-

FROM ubuntu:20.04

- This sets the base image for the container.
- You're starting from a clean Ubuntu 20.04 operating system (no packages, no services).

Think of it as:

"Give me a blank Ubuntu machine to build on."

LABEL first_dockerfile_by="Ganraj"

- Adds metadata to the image.
- Helps identify who created the Dockerfile.

Not required, but useful for documentation.

RUN apt update

- Updates the list of available packages from Ubuntu's servers.
- It's like running this on a real Linux machine:

```
bash
```

```
sudo apt update
```

RUN apt install nginx -y

- Installs the NGINX web server in the container.
- `-y` auto-confirms the installation.

Adds the program that will serve your web content.

CMD ["nginx", "-g", "daemon off;"]

- CMD tells Docker what command to run when the container starts.
- This runs NGINX in the foreground (so the container stays alive).

```
nginx -g 'daemon off;' =
```

"Start nginx and don't run it in background mode."

If you don't use `daemon off`, the container exits after starting nginx because there's no foreground process.

EXPOSE 80

- Tells Docker that your app **listens on port 80** (default HTTP port).
- It's a **documentation hint**, not an actual port mapping.

To make it accessible, you still need to run:

```
bash
```

```
docker run -p 8080:80 <image-name>
```

Instruction	Meaning
FROM	Start from Ubuntu OS
LABEL	Add creator info
RUN apt update	Get latest package list
RUN apt install nginx -y	Install nginx web server
CMD	Start nginx and keep it running
EXPOSE	Let Docker know we'll use port 80

How to Use This Dockerfile

```
bash
```

```
docker build -t ganraj-nginx .  
docker run -p 8080:80 ganraj-nginx
```

Then visit:

<http://localhost:8080>

Using **docker build -t nginx .** we are creating image from a dockerfile and **-t** mentions image name

aws

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Ganraj

root@ip-172-31-30-73:~/docker# docker images

REPOSITORY	TAG	IMAGE ID	CREATED	SIZE
<none>	<none>	8f33b9a4594b	5 minutes ago	190MB

root@ip-172-31-30-73:~/docker# docker build -t nginx .

[+] Building 0.2s (7/7) FINISHED

	docker:default
=> [internal] load build definition from Dockerfile	0.0s
=> => transferring dockerfile: 175B	0.0s
=> [internal] load metadata for docker.io/library/ubuntu:20.04	0.1s
=> [internal] load .dockerignore	0.0s
=> => transferring context: 2B	0.0s
=> [1/3] FROM docker.io/library/ubuntu:20.04@sha256:8feb4d8ca5354def3d8fce243717141ce31e2c428701f6682bd2fafe15388214	0.0s
=> CACHED [2/3] RUN apt update	0.0s
=> CACHED [3/3] RUN apt install nginx -y	0.0s
=> exporting to image	0.0s
=> => exporting layers	0.0s
=> => writing image sha256:8f33b9a4594b52237967cc15685afeaaf9f5ac7899ad91ff8fbd24a78647dea	0.0s
=> => naming to docker.io/library/nginx	0.0s

root@ip-172-31-30-73:~/docker# docker images

REPOSITORY	TAG	IMAGE ID	CREATED	SIZE
nginx	latest	8f33b9a4594b	6 minutes ago	190MB

root@ip-172-31-30-73:~/docker#

i-0d88cc9b3f6acd9f0 (Docker)

PublicIPs: 13.220.56.102 PrivateIPs: 172.31.30.73

Now we will create a docker container using our image file

`docker run -d -P 8f33b`

using `docker rename oldname newname` u can change container name also

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Ganraj

root@ip-172-31-30-73:~/docker# docker ps -a

CONTAINER ID	IMAGE	COMMAND	CREATED	STATUS	PORTS	NAMES
21b675100e0a	8f33b	"nginx -g 'daemon of..."	7 minutes ago	Up 7 minutes	0.0.0.0:32768->80/tcp, [::]:32768->80/tcp	pedantic_johnson

root@ip-172-31-30-73:~/docker# docker rename pedantic_johnson nginx

root@ip-172-31-30-73:~/docker# docker ps -a

CONTAINER ID	IMAGE	COMMAND	CREATED	STATUS	PORTS	NAMES
21b675100e0a	8f33b	"nginx -g 'daemon of..."	7 minutes ago	Up 7 minutes	0.0.0.0:32768->80/tcp, [::]:32768->80/tcp	nginx

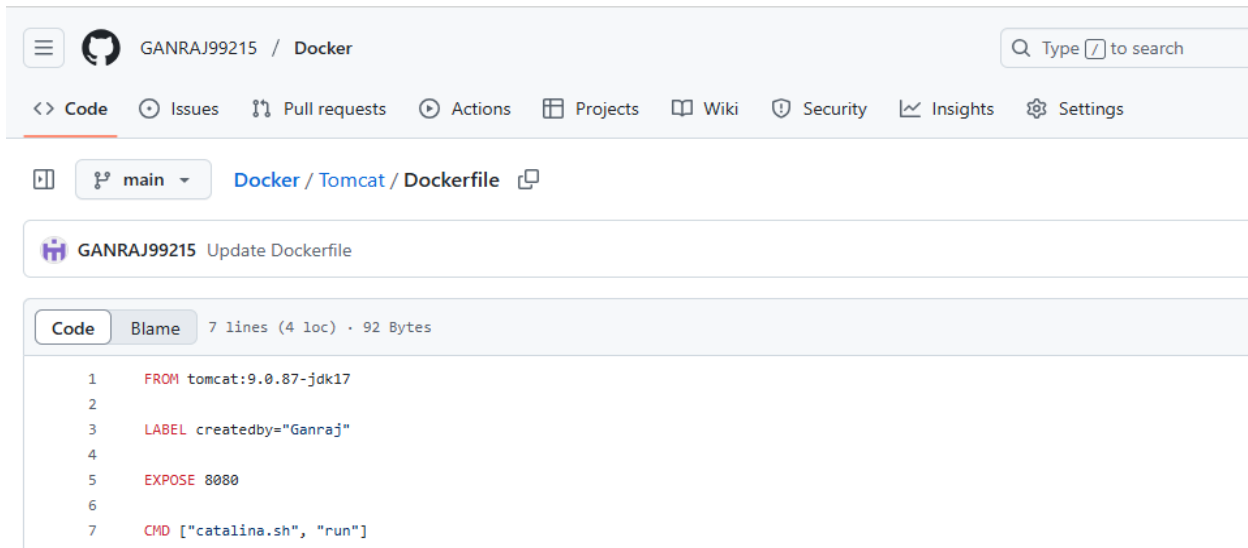
root@ip-172-31-30-73:~/docker#

i-0d88cc9b3f6acd9f0 (Docker)

PublicIPs: 13.220.56.102 PrivateIPs: 172.31.30.73

2)Tomcat:-

Now we will create same for tomcat



```
1 FROM tomcat:9.0.87-jdk17
2
3 LABEL createdby="Ganraj"
4
5 EXPOSE 8080
6
7 CMD ["catalina.sh", "run"]
```

Line

FROM tomcat:9.0.87-jdk17

LABEL createdby="Ganraj"

COPY myapp.war ...

EXPOSE 8080

CMD ["catalina.sh", "run"]

What it Does

Uses the official Tomcat image with Java 17 pre-installed. No need to install Java, Tomcat manually.

Adds author metadata (optional, good practice).

(Optional) If you have a WAR file, copy it into the Tomcat webapps/ folder.

Exposes the Tomcat port so it can be accessed from outside the container.

Starts the Tomcat server in foreground mode (default behavior).

docker build -t tomcat .

Using this command we have created one image of tomcat.

```
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root@ip-172-31-89-53:~/Docker/Tomcat# docker build -t tomcat .
+ Building 10.3s (5/5) FINISHED
=> [internal] load build definition from Dockerfile
=> [internal] load metadata for docker.io/library/tomcat:9.0.87-jdk17
=> [internal] load .dockerignore
=> [internal] load context: 2B
=> [1/1] FROM docker.io/library/tomcat:9.0.87-jdk17@sha256:874b384fa55790154103ad9185553473c37ffe0c8a0665bf030546b012ce19
=> resolve docker.io/library/tomcat:9.0.87-jdk17@sha256:874b384fa55790154103ad9185553473c37ffe0c8a0665bf030546b012ce19
=> sha256:874b384fa55790154103ad9185553473c37ffe0c8a0665bf030546b012ce19 1.21kB / 1.21kB
=> sha256:c30b3aab767780946d788f6376c0b0b767125305e64d1070406320461e5198e 2.00kB / 2.00kB
=> sha256:7c071f2de618b882faccd096059ea60e5730b2c056f4d5cde6a72387cedff310 13.54kB / 13.54kB
=> sha256:7021d1b70935851c95c45ed18156980b5024ada29b99564429025ea04f5ec109 30.44MB / 30.44MB
=> sha256:023220e4e2ae41973a279e46eae67a49750691a7d5baabde5b47c635660f 17.46MB / 17.46MB
=> sha256:82def96855b3c92e2586a6498c5c2b10fc0ec053a0ab3f1c57451e1b45e7f5a0 144.90MB / 144.90MB
=> extracting sha256:7021d1b70935851c95c45ed18156980b5024ada29b99564429025ea04f5ec109
=> sha256:643e7d1b70050a8ce798dd3e13997617b1e1bfa20ea27e091160fa08b3f867d3 174B / 174B
=> sha256:606fc2c07a735a019f9c1f9a7e1f2b0e252b1db97d5aa5e8a7c2438faa25e814 734B / 734B
=> sha256:0c2b0d1a4e265924d77d69df744babff10cd4524916e8411f909499c55f82d31 173B / 173B
=> sha256:5bad8dc204806fc2976ef4355ec2c8b35cc55b47295e91330d75b5f6031bffa 12.89MB / 12.89MB
=> sha256:4a68068f1c6496f80891b458f9c10f8913b43914254aa8e267ffb8c20baa9b38 131B / 131B
=> extracting sha256:0f3320e4e2ae41973a279e46eae67a49750691a7d5baabde5b47c635660f
i-071943f52aea17695 (Docker)
```

Now we will create a container using tomcat image

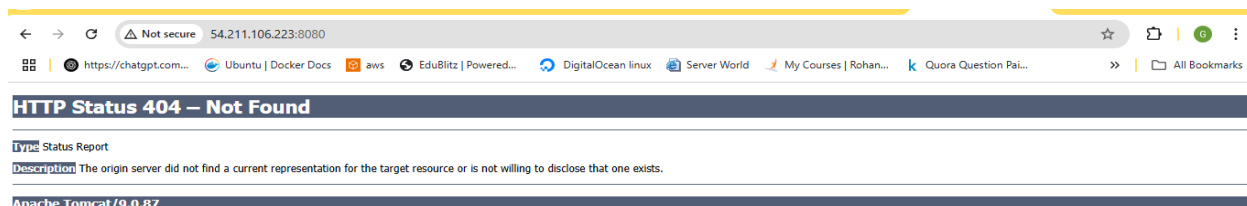
`docker run -d -p 8080:8080 --name tomcat-server tomcat`

using this command we have created one container named as tomcat-server as you can see snap below.

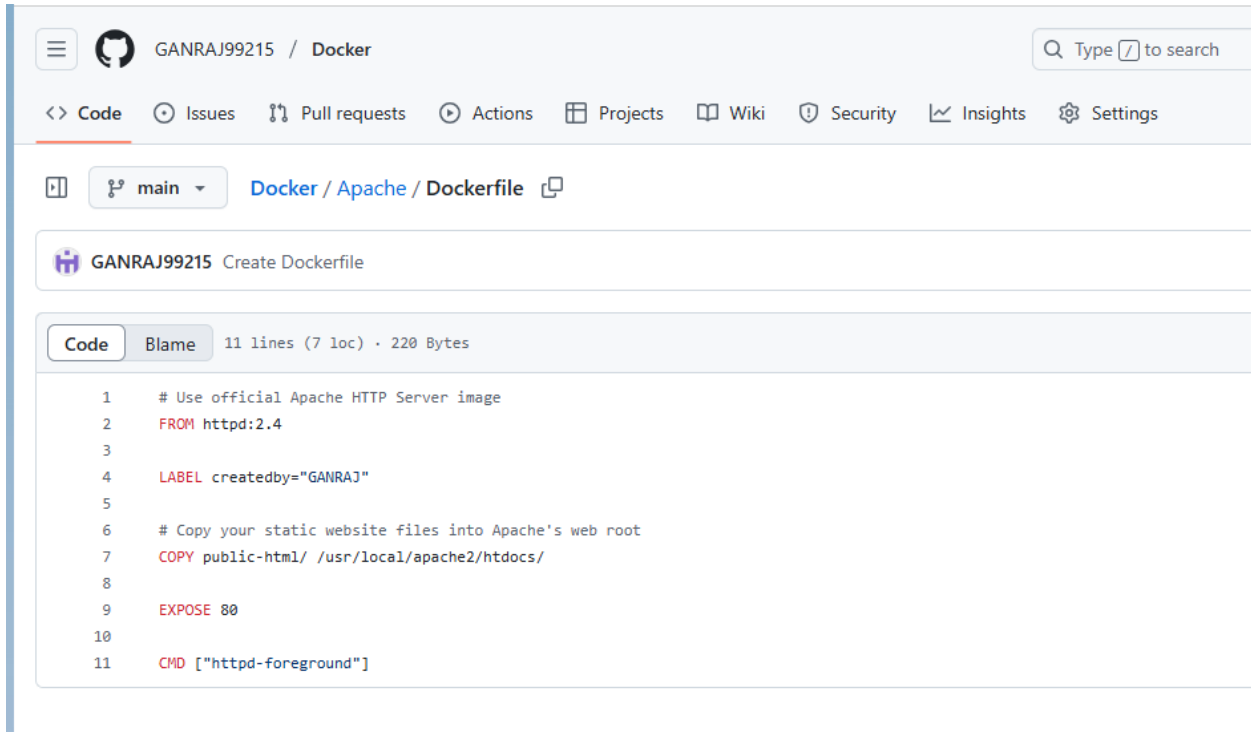
```
aws
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=> sha256:5bad8dc204806fc2976ef4355ec2c8b35cc55b47295e91330d75b5f6031bffa 12.89MB / 12.89MB
=> sha256:4a68068f1c6496f80891b458f9c10f8913b43914254aa8e267ffb8c20baa9b38 131B / 131B
=> extracting sha256:0f3320e4e2ae41973a279e46eae67a49750691a7d5baabde5b47c635660f
=> extracting sha256:82def96855b3c92e2586a6498c5c2b10fc0ec053a0ab3f1c57451e1b45e7f5a0 144.90MB / 144.90MB
=> extracting sha256:643e7d1b70050a8ce798dd3e13997617b1e1bfa20ea27e091160fa08b3f867d3 174B / 174B
=> extracting sha256:606fc2c07a735a019f9c1f9a7e1f2b0e252b1db97d5aa5e8a7c2438faa25e814 734B / 734B
=> extracting sha256:0c2b0d1a4e265924d77d69df744babff10cd4524916e8411f909499c55f82d31 173B / 173B
=> extracting sha256:5bad8dc204806fc2976ef4355ec2c8b35cc55b47295e91330d75b5f6031bffa 12.89MB / 12.89MB
=> extracting sha256:4a68068f1c6496f80891b458f9c10f8913b43914254aa8e267ffb8c20baa9b38 131B / 131B
=> exporting image
=> exporting layers
=> writing image sha256:4c2ce608d775d30efc572021c8d9c1d1db78c9d5a1045da88cf85b7f9b3696c5
=> naming to docker.io/library/tomcat
root@ip-172-31-89-53:~/Docker/Tomcat# docker images
REPOSITORY TAG IMAGE ID CREATED SIZE
tomcat latest 4c2ce608d775 14 months ago 428MB
root@ip-172-31-89-53:~/Docker/Tomcat# docker run -d -p 8080:8080 --name tomcat-server tomcat
647c8ac814f565a1572be59e8924a477440b04ff9c05f5385204b246600cbf25
root@ip-172-31-89-53:~/Docker/Tomcat# docker ps
CONTAINER ID IMAGE COMMAND CREATED STATUS PORTS NAMES
647c8ac814f5 tomcat "catalina.sh run" 7 seconds ago Up 7 seconds 0.0.0.0:8080->8080/tcp, [::]:8080->8080/tcp tomcat-server
root@ip-172-31-89-53:~/Docker/Tomcat#
```

But as you viewed the dockerfile for tomcat we have used base image as its own (official) image which is already generated. because the tomcat base image because it saves time, reduces complexity, and follows best practices for containerized apps.



3)Apache2(httpd) :-



```
1  # Use official Apache HTTP Server image
2  FROM httpd:2.4
3
4  LABEL createdby="GANRAJ"
5
6  # Copy your static website files into Apache's web root
7  COPY public-html/ /usr/local/apache2/htdocs/
8
9  EXPOSE 80
10
11 CMD ["httpd-foreground"]
```

Line	What It Does
FROM httpd:2.4	Uses the official Apache server image (2.4 is the version).
LABEL createdby="GANRAJ"	Optional info about who created/maintains the image.
COPY public-html/ /usr/local/apache2/htdocs/	Puts your HTML files into Apache's default root folder.
EXPOSE 80	Declares port 80 as open (you still need -p during docker run).
CMD ["httpd-foreground"]	Keeps Apache running in the foreground — required for containers to stay alive.

Now we will build image from this docker file

```
docker build -t apache .
```



```
aws | Search [Alt+S]
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=> => sha256:be5c5a616c3a73491bf32479c1f5980343f3a961c6d7df457b5df1288d68f5ec 4.20MB / 4.20MB
=> => sha256:5a13bdf17fef82b06cf3e8edb833399a0b6544cac83c3675d1e9d27b6dbb2702 2.10kB / 2.10kB
=> => sha256:b07fec943ec23054f3b81c0e65926a1c83dc82c50933dc6372c60e09fdb2d4f 7.88kB / 7.88kB
=> => sha256:d0a755bf09a1983a38699ce82daaa9e545066a02344c7a0ace13c37726ace7d8 145B / 145B
=> => sha256:d1042d58e186e4b8d7c5b6123cc78b7cbc0ff4582e836917faccdf612ad7d733 26.06MB / 26.06MB
=> => extracting sha256:dad67da3f26bce15939543965e09c4059533b025f707aad72ed3d3f3a09c66f8
=> => sha256:c06cec1379c2af92237e1693aac2ba409d4a54411877443c48538c269be5a05d 292B / 292B
=> => extracting sha256:d0a755bf09a1983a38699ce82daaa9e545066a02344c7a0ace13c37726ace7d8
=> => extracting sha256:4f4fb700ef54461cfa02571ae0db9a0dc1e0cdb5577484a6d75e68dc38e8acc1
=> => extracting sha256:be5c5a616c3a73491bf32479c1f5980343f3a961c6d7df457b5df1288d68f5ec
=> => extracting sha256:d1042d58e186e4b8d7c5b6123cc78b7cbc0ff4582e836917faccdf612ad7d733
=> => extracting sha256:c06cec1379c2af92237e1693aac2ba409d4a54411877443c48538c269be5a05d
=> [2/2] COPY public-html/ /usr/local/apache2/htdocs/
=> exporting to image
=> => exporting layers
=> => writing image sha256:af96e5e966a642e0bdbbfff9b2bb3864c77640b7f41122972c304fde889828972
=> => naming to docker.io/library/apache
root@ip-172-31-89-53:~/Docker/Apache# docker images
REPOSITORY TAG IMAGE ID CREATED SIZE
apache latest af96e5e966a6 58 seconds ago 148MB
tomcat latest 4c2ce608d775 14 months ago 428MB
root@ip-172-31-89-53:~/Docker/Apache#
```

Using this docker image we will create a container httpd

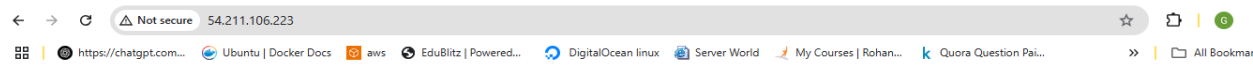
`docker run -d -p 80:80 --name httpd apache`

```
aws | Search [Alt+S]
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root@ip-172-31-89-53:~/Docker/Apache# docker run -d -p 80:80 --name httpd apache
04d96499697a536b946aa7b532ab9d5e45532735b66e730f1e80a9d076da4a
root@ip-172-31-89-53:~/Docker/Apache# docker ps
CONTAINER ID IMAGE COMMAND CREATED STATUS PORTS NAMES
04d96499697a apache "httpd-foreground" 5 seconds ago Up 5 seconds 0.0.0.0:80->80/tcp, [::]:80->80/tcp httpd
647c8ac814f5 tomcat "catalina.sh run" 46 minutes ago Up 46 minutes 0.0.0.0:8080->8080/tcp, [::]:8080->8080/tcp tomcat-server

i-071943f52aea17695 (Docker)
PublicIPs: 54.211.106.223 PrivateIPs: 172.31.89.53
```

When you access your server using **host: port** you will see your server is running using container



Welcome to my simple Apache Server in Docker!

Deployed using a clean Dockerfile from GitHub.

BY GANRAJ.

