OPENSHIFT®

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OpenShift fundamentals

Things you need to know to use OpenShift

OpenShift?

OpenShift is an all-in-one solution to orchestrate workloads based on containers. It uses **Kubernetes** (from Google) internally as well as **Docker** to perform, among other features:

- Application builds
- Deployments
- Scaling
- Health management
- Orchestration
- Self-service platform

Components of OpenShift

A minimal OpenShift installation is based on a couple of main applications running:

- **Docker engine:** This will manage the Docker container platform, as well as the Docker Registry features.
- **Kubernetes:** The core of the platform: this is the app that will handle and manage the container lifecycle inside OpenShift.
- **Docker registry:** It's separated from Docker, because Docker by itself doesn't include a registry server. OpenShift needs an internal OpenShift registry server to maintain a temporary copy of the builds.

- **Etcd:** A key-value datastore to persist certain cluster details / state across all of the OpenShift platform.
- **OpenShift router:** The OpenShift router is based on HAProxy, it's the application running on the master nodes which will take a request from an external account and route it through the OpenShift platform directly to the container that's supposed to serve it.
- **OpenShift STI / S2I:** This is an extra feature of OpenShift called *Source-to-Image*. What it does is, given a Git repo and an unknown source code, it'll take the code, detect the stack and build the project for distribution in an appropiate way. By default, no runtime is installed, but OpenShift allows an easy way to get Java, NodeJS and Ruby.

There's a video presentation here about how to use S2I to easily iterate building applications with OpenShift

- **Deployer:** The *semi-HA* feature of OpenShift is, if either a change in the codebase for an S2I project or the container / pod went down, the Deployer will redeploy a new container. This is the *stubborn* piece of the software.
- **Docker SDN:** The software-defined network based on the Docker technology. Every time a container is created, Docker will create a software-defined network which may or may not use for communication purposes between containers. By linking two containers, you're specifying that they should resolve each other by container name as the host name.
- **Authentication:** The current OpenShift authentication is based on `HTPasswd` which you can use to create development accounts in the OpenShift installation.

- **Web Console:** The Web Console is the easy-to-use way to manage the OpenShift installation. You can do any development task from the UI, like deploying new code, manage the number of pods running (upscaling / downscaling) as well as URI Endpoints for running pods.
- **The `oc` command:** The `oc` command is a CLI application to manage both the development flow as well as the administration flow of OpenShift. The `oc` command is the most complete way of OpenShift administration and automation.
- **REST API:** To extend the power of the OpenShift platform, OpenShift also has an API you can use for things like deployments, S2I and so on.

How OpenShift works

A combination of all of the previously mentioned elements makes the standard OpenShift framework. With it you can deploy Docker containers to be automatically managed by OpenShift. You'll also get some extra benefits like **if one of the OpenShift nodes goes down, the pods are going to be scheduled in a different node**.

The goal is to have Docker containers that follow the containerized mantra: **stateless applications** that use services and apps by calling their APIs.

docker

Docker requires a mindset change!

To Use Docker / OpenShift, we need a mindset change

Normal applications are based on the premise of single, monolithic apps with huge codebases and multiple entrypoints. Docker is a bit different: each Docker container **can only perform one operation at a time**. This operation can be running a web server, or running a database, **but not both**.

This doesn't mean that **you can simply create a second Docker container with the Database on it**, and link them to make them thing they're on the same SDN.

There are ways to make old monolithic apps work in Docker containers, but this is never the proper way to go: it'll make the overall process slower and painful.

Docker containers are meant to be disposable 🚮, which means you can destroy and recreate ♻️ a new one at any given time without actually affecting your workload. This also means that the application should handle shutdowns and restarts gracefully, as well as have **disposable storage** or a plan to **store data elsewhere**, and just **assume the filesystem as *read-only***.

🚨 Let's say it again...

> ... the application **should handle shutdowns and restarts gracefully**, as well as have **disposable storage** or a plan to **store data elsewhere** and just **assume the filesystem as *read-only***

... Why⁉

Thinking about this approach, it makes really easy to think about container orchestration: **by having no penalty on destroying and recreating containers** orchestration becomes easy.

Docker 101: Fundamentals

Things you need to know to use Docker

Docker philosophy

✅ **Small, lightweight Docker containers** where each container has a single responsibility.

✅ **Avoid multiple services within a single container**, avoiding a *single point of failure*.

✅ Focused on a **microservices concept**: the app must be developed based on modular components.

💻 Building Docker containers

Each Docker container starts on a basic image, which is a descriptive way to define **how the platform will look like**. Usually, this means starting from `scratch` -- which is the name of the most basic Docker image -- and add continuously the things we need, like folder structure, applications and everything else.

Every time we add something to the default, basic image, we're creating a **layer** which is commited

The Kernel for this Operating environment is provided by the **Host system**.

ℹ️ More technical details

Docker uses a filesystem technology called *copy-on-write*. This allows to **quickly spin up Docker containers**, since the files inside the container point to the actual files in the host operating system.

Due to the filesystem mentioned above, the layers are also pointers to other copies in the filesystem. A final image **is a copy of all the combined layers in a certain point in time**: this means that even when we use the last layer actively, the contents of the previous layer remain within the same image.

docker

Let's work with Docker containers

Example Docker container

Let's create a simple demo with a Docker container that **runs an Apache server in a Docker container**, using `debian` as a base OS. This should be the basic `Dockerfile`. Also create an `index.html` file in the same directory, with a `Hello, world!` inside:

```
FROM debian
MAINTAINER "Patrick D'appollonio" "dappollonio@hpe.com"

RUN apt-get update && apt-get install -y apache2 \
        && apt-get clean && rm -rf /var/lib/apt/lists/*

ENV APACHE_RUN_USER www-data
ENV APACHE_RUN_GROUP www-data
ENV APACHE_LOG_DIR /var/log/apache2

EXPOSE 80
ADD ["index.html","/var/www/html/"]

ENTRYPOINT ["/usr/sbin/apache2ctl", "-D", "FOREGROUND"]
```

When built by running `docker build`, we will see something like this...

```
$ docker build -t apache-server .
Sending build context to Docker daemon 2.048 kB
Step 1/9 : FROM debian
latest: Pulling from library/debian
c75480ad9aaf: Pull complete
Status: Downloaded newer image for debian:latest
 ---> a2ff708b7413
Step 2/9 : MAINTAINER "Patrick D'appollonio"
           "dappollonio@hpe.com"
 ---> Running in d39942078595
 ---> f61720845da6
Removing intermediate container d39942078595
Step 3/9 : RUN apt-get update && apt-get install -y apache2
           && apt-get clean && rm -rf /var/lib/apt/lists/*
 ---> Running in 4c3d349da87f
# wall of text removed for brevity
 ---> f07e09f2be55
Removing intermediate container 4c3d349da87f
```

```
Step 4/9 : ENV APACHE_RUN_USER www-data
 ---> Running in 4c0596830520
 ---> fb87ed5b4a10
Removing intermediate container 4c0596830520
Step 5/9 : ENV APACHE_RUN_GROUP www-data
 ---> Running in 4392c6e918ea
 ---> affed0ca64ad
Removing intermediate container 4392c6e918ea
Step 6/9 : ENV APACHE_LOG_DIR /var/log/apache2
 ---> Running in 3bacc24149d3
 ---> 7d386cdbacee
Removing intermediate container 3bacc24149d3
Step 7/9 : EXPOSE 80
 ---> Running in f3ae03b26805
 ---> d13c0b38acc4
Removing intermediate container f3ae03b26805
Step 8/9 : ADD index.html /var/www/html/
 ---> 187dbc08fba0
Removing intermediate container 5d8006768bc5
Step 9/9 : ENTRYPOINT /usr/sbin/apache2ctl -D FOREGROUND
 ---> Running in 7cd47dd6d8c0
 ---> 2e703f601881
Removing intermediate container 7cd47dd6d8c0
Successfully built 2e703f601881
```

Dissecting the Output:

- The first step **pulled down the Docker `debian` image from the public** Docker Registry.
- All the steps of the `Dockerfile` **are commited against a source control platform built-in in Docker**. This is the *copy-on-write* technology mentioned earlier. Each commit gets a commit SHA: the first one is `a2ff708b7413`.
- Each one of the steps generates a **temporary "Docker image"** used to create that step, merged into the master flow, and then removed from the run flow -- but **not removed from the system**, to use it as a cache later on.

What happens if we run the same `docker build` command again?

It finishes pretty quickly!

```
Step 1/9 : FROM debian
latest: Pulling from library/debian
Status: Image is up to date for debian:latest
 ---> a2ff708b7413
Step 2/9 : MAINTAINER "Patrick D'appollonio"
           "dappollonio@hpe.com"
 ---> Using cache
 ---> 26cdb0b65b3a
Step 3/9 : RUN apt-get update && apt-get install -y apache2
           && apt-get clean && rm -rf /var/lib/apt/lists/*
 ---> Using cache
 ---> 4ae3b13c68ed
Step 4/9 : ENV APACHE_RUN_USER www-data
 ---> Using cache
 ---> fb87ed5b4a10
Step 5/9 : ENV APACHE_RUN_GROUP www-data
 ---> Using cache
 ---> affed0ca64ad
```

```
Step 6/9 : ENV APACHE_LOG_DIR /var/log/apache2
 ---> Using cache
 ---> 7d386cdbacee
Step 7/9 : EXPOSE 80
 ---> Using cache
 ---> d13c0b38acc4
Step 8/9 : ADD index.html /var/www/html/
 ---> Using cache
 ---> 187dbc08fba0
Step 9/9 : ENTRYPOINT /usr/sbin/apache2ctl -D FOREGROUND
 ---> Using cache
 ---> 2e703f601881
Successfully built 2e703f601881
```

Docker is using the **cache mechanism**, that's why it builds so quickly and each step finishes with a `Using cache` message: Each step, since we already did it and it's stored in the source control platform inside Docker **can be reused by just calling it by name** (SHA).

✅ Let's run our new server:

```
docker run -p 80:80 apache-server

# "-p 80:80" defines that I want to listen on the host
# machine on port 80, and route that port to the port 80
# inside the container.

# "apache-server" is the name of the docker container
# created with "docker build"
```

Then, we can go into `http://localhost/` and see our result: the Apache2 server running in a Docker container.

We can also get a terminal inside the container

Let's explore our container, make sure it's running by executing `docker ps`. You should see a container ID, say, `ac2d34e3fbcc` and a name `apache-server` after we launched it in the previous step. Grab the ID and then run the following:

```
$ docker exec -it ac2d34e3fbcc bash
root@ac2d34e3fbcc:/#
```

We got a prompt inside the Docker container! Let's explore a couple of things...

Checking inside the container

Checking the details of the Linux distribution:

```
# uname -a
Linux ac2d34e3fbcc 4.4.0-81-generic 104-Ubuntu SMP Wed
Jun 14 08:17:06 UTC 2017 x86_64 GNU/Linux
```

Let's also check our file we passed to the Container:

```
# cat /var/www/html/index.html
<h1>Hello, world!</h1>
```

We can definitely modify the file:

```
# echo "<h1>Goodbye!</h1>" > /var/www/html/index.html
```

🚨 ... We have one problem

By modifying the contents of the containers, since their storage is ephemeral, then the moment we exit `bash` and we don't save the changes -- commit them -- then we will lose them 🚮.

🚛 Images vs Containers

To understand how to save our changes, we need to understand first the difference between a Docker *container* and a Docker *image*.

- **A Docker container** is a running environment created from a Docker image that specifies a set of dependencies, applications and folder structure to run.
- **A Docker image** is a declarative way to construct an environment based on a description on how this looks like.

Think about the **Docker Image** as the recipe to cook something, and the **Docker Container** being the cake already baked.

So, if we take our running **Docker Container** and we stop it, then we create a new one based on our **Docker Image** `apache-server` then that new container *will never have the changes we did* to the running container, **since the "recipe" doesn't include our change**.

What we need to do is:

- Exit the container gracefully with `CTRL+pq`.
- Take the current **Container ID** (in our example, `ac2d34e3fbcc`).
- Commit the changes in `ac2d34e3fbcc` **to a new Docker Image** (each change is a new image, remember?)

```
$ docker commit ac2d34e3fbcc server-changed
sha256:07fd4afe0955053a833de4a3f25fd23441222063048 4c63b49ece
```

Inspecting containers running:

```
$ docker ps
CONTAINER ID   IMAGE  COMMAND                     CREATED
ac2d34e3fbcc   demo   "/usr/sbin/apache2..."  24 minutes ago

STATUS         PORTS                 NAMES
Up 24 minutes  0.0.0.0:80->80/tcp    peaceful_dubinsky

# you can also print the containers stopped, by executing
# "docker ps -a"
```

Inspecting images created:

```
REPOSITORY       TAG     IMAGE ID      CREATED          SIZE
server-changed   latest  07fd4afe0955  14 minutes ago   206 MB
apache-server    latest  2e703f601881  39 minutes ago   206 MB
debian           latest  a2ff708b7413  6 days ago       100 MB

# you can also see intermediate images (the ones used to
# build our server) by running "docker images -a"
```