

Lecture 3: Containers I

AC215

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Logistics/Reminders

Please fill out survey -

<https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/136127/assignments/866239>

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Outline

1. Recap & Motivation
2. What is a Container
3. Why use Containers
4. How to use Containers

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1. **Recap & Motivation**
2. What is a Container
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Recap Virtual Machines: Pros and Cons

Pros

- **Full Autonomy:**
Complete control over the operating system and applications, similar to a physical server.
- **Very Secure:**
 - Isolated environment helps in minimizing the risk of system intrusion.
- **Lower Cost:**
 - Can be more cost-effective for applications that need full OS functionality.
- **Cloud Adoption:**
 - Offered by all major cloud providers for on-demand server instances.

Cons

- **Resource Intensive:**
 - Consumes hardware resources from the host machine.
- **Portability Issues:**
 - VMs are large in size, making them harder to move between systems.
- **Overhead:**
 - Requires additional resources to run the hypervisor and manage multiple operating systems.

Recap: Virtual Environments

Pros

- **Reproducible Research:**
 - Easy to replicate experiments and share research outcomes due to consistent environments.
- **Explicit Dependencies:**
 - Clear listing of all required packages and versions, reducing ambiguity.
- **Improved Engineering Collaboration:**
 - Team members can quickly set up the same environment, streamlining development.

Cons

- **Difficulty in Setup:**
 - Initial setup can be complex, especially for those new to the concept.
- **No Isolation from Host:**
 - Virtual environments share the host's operating system, leading to potential conflicts.
- **OS Limitations:**
 - May not be compatible across different operating systems, requiring additional configuration.

Wish List

Automated Setup:

Automatically set up (installs) OS and extra libraries and set up the python environment.

Isolation:

Complete separation from the host machine, ensuring a consistent run-time environment.

Resource Efficiency:

Minimal use of CPU, Memory, and Disk resources, optimized for performance.

Quick Startups:

Near-instantaneous initialization, reducing time to deployment.

Containers

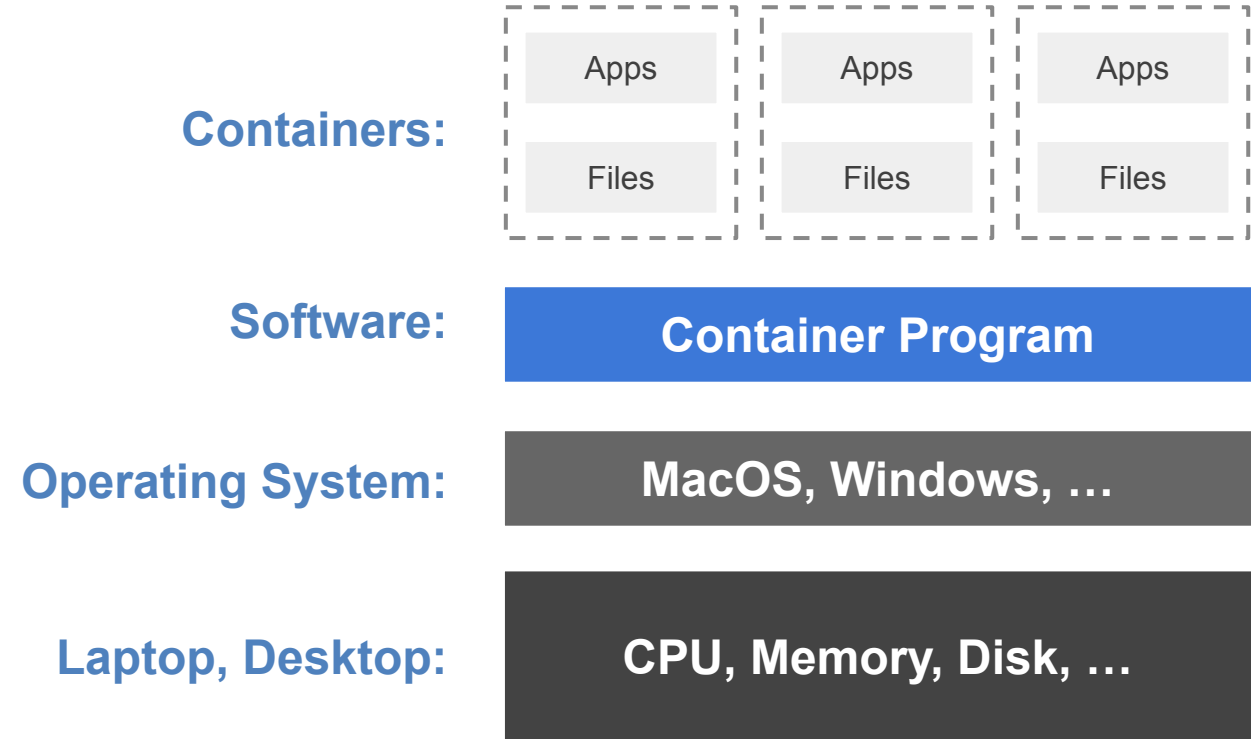
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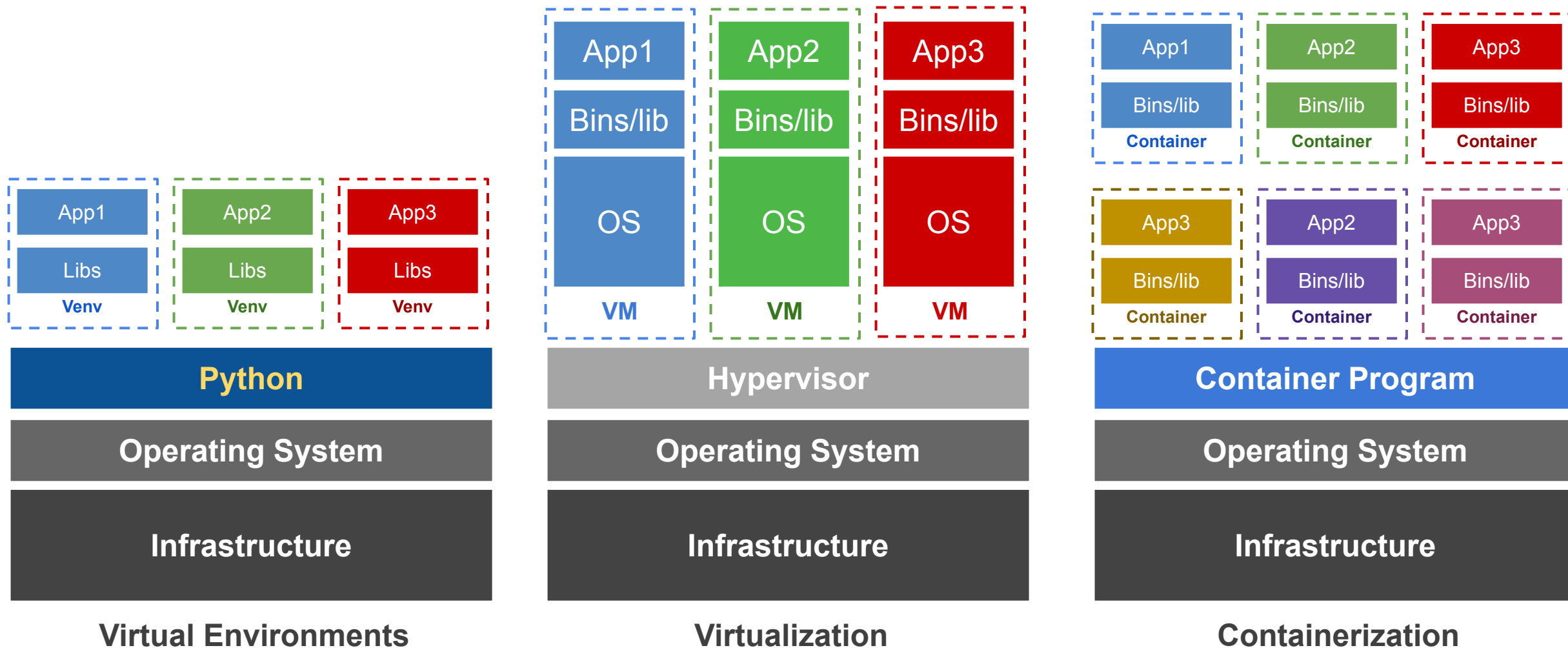
What is a CONTAINER

A container is a **program** that runs on your machine, essentially **acting** as a **miniature** computer within your main computer. It uses resources from the host machine (CPU, Memory, Disk, etc.) but behaves like its own operating system with an isolated file system and network.

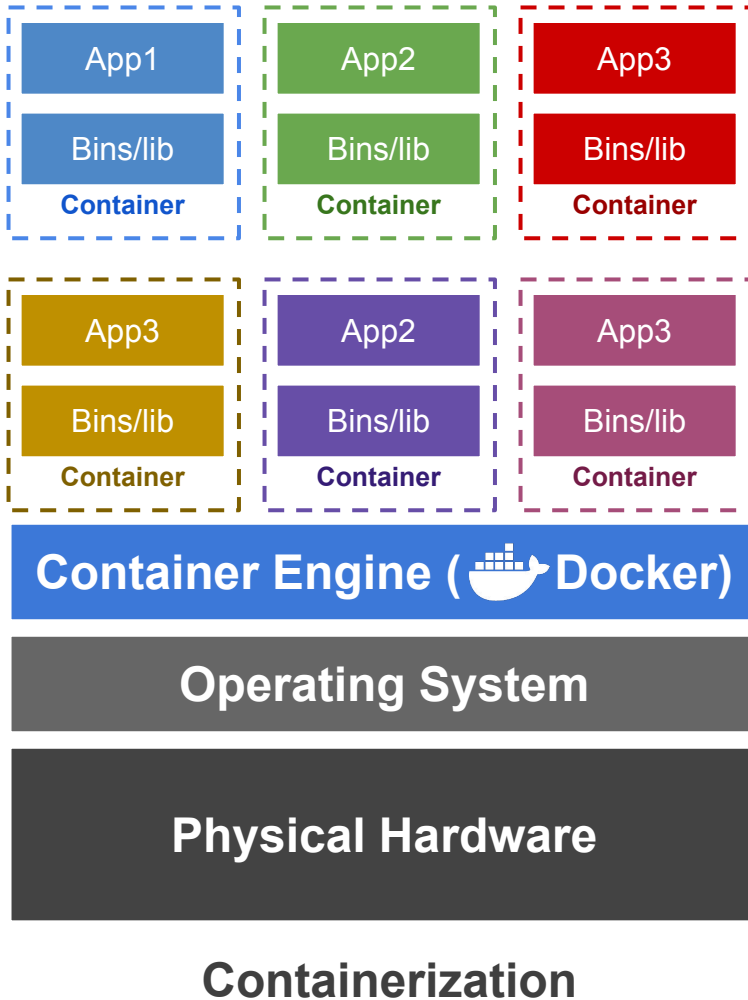
It packages code and all its dependencies to ensure that the application behaves the same way, regardless of where it's run.



Environments vs Virtualization vs Containerization

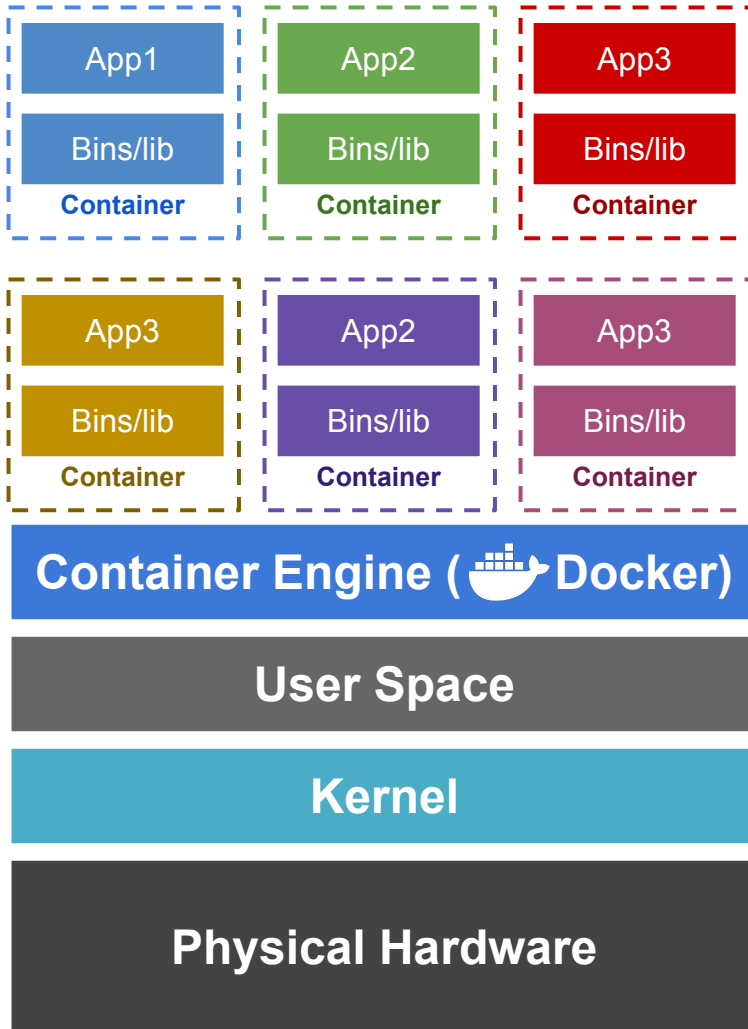


Containerization



To understand how containers work, we need to first introduce two key Linux kernel features: [namespaces](#) and [cgroups](#).

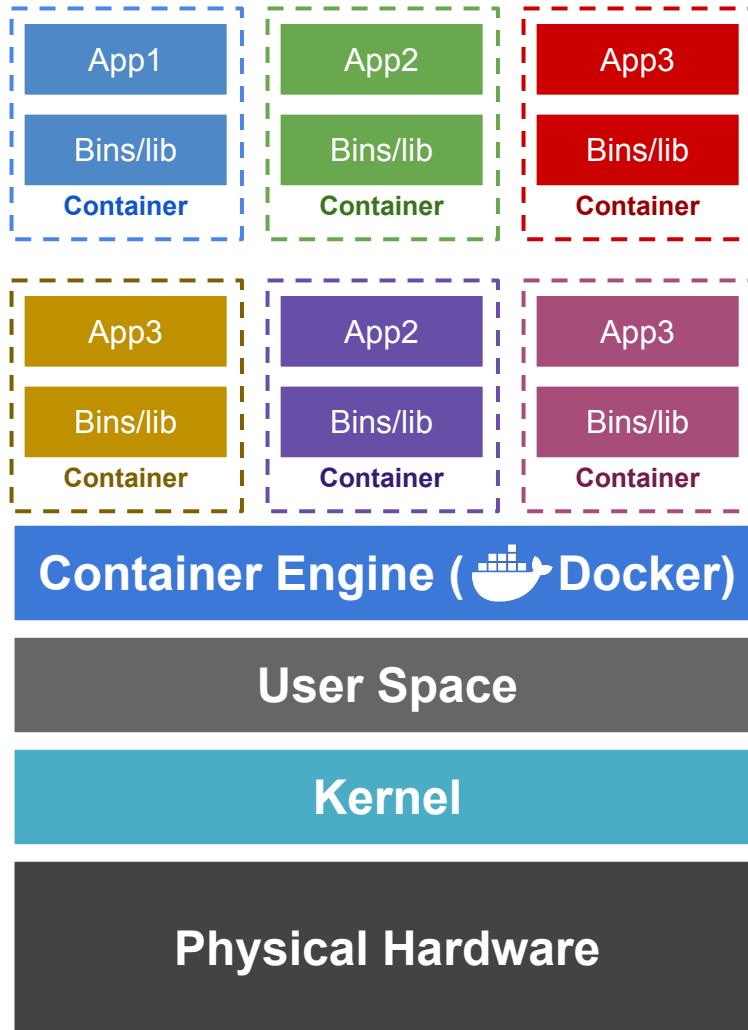
Containerization



To understand how containers work, we need to first introduce two key Linux kernel features: [namespaces](#) and [cgroups](#).

The Operating System contains the **Kernel**, which has low level access to the hardware and the **User Space** which contains programs outside the Kernel.

Containerization



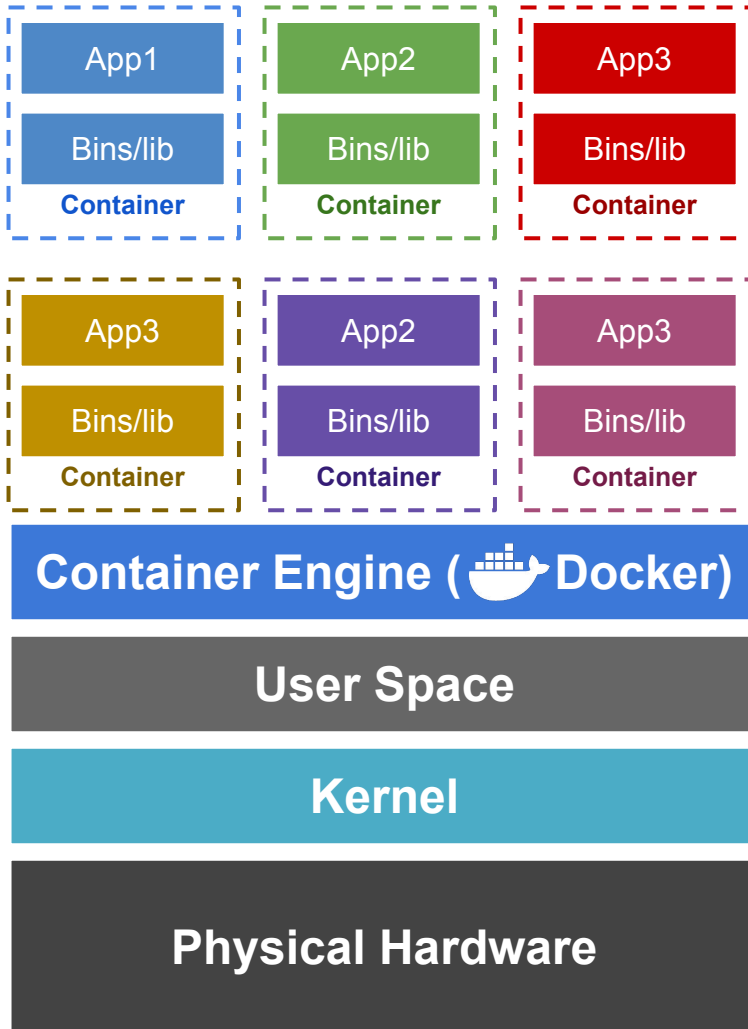
Containerization

Namespace is a feature provided by the Linux Kernel that creates an isolation between system components.

Namespaces allow different processes (or groups of processes) to have their own separate view of system resources, such as process IDs, file systems, network interfaces, and more.

When a process is placed into a namespace, it can only see and interact with the resources within that namespace.

Containerization: Namespaces

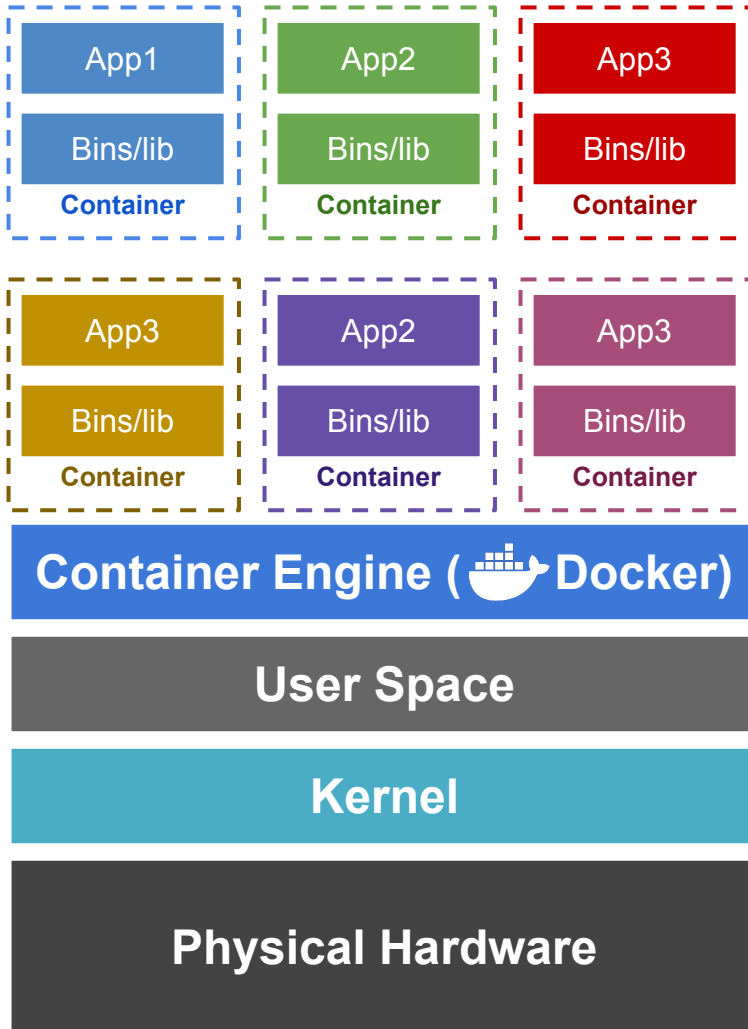


Containerization

- **PID Namespace:** processes inside different PID namespaces can have the same process ID (PID) without conflicts. The host will be able to see the different processes with a different PIDs.

Example: two containers running on the same host. In one container, a web server process (e.g., Nginx) might have a PID of 1. In another container, a database process (e.g., MySQL) could also have a PID of 1. The host might assign 345 and 678, respectively.

Containerization: Namespaces

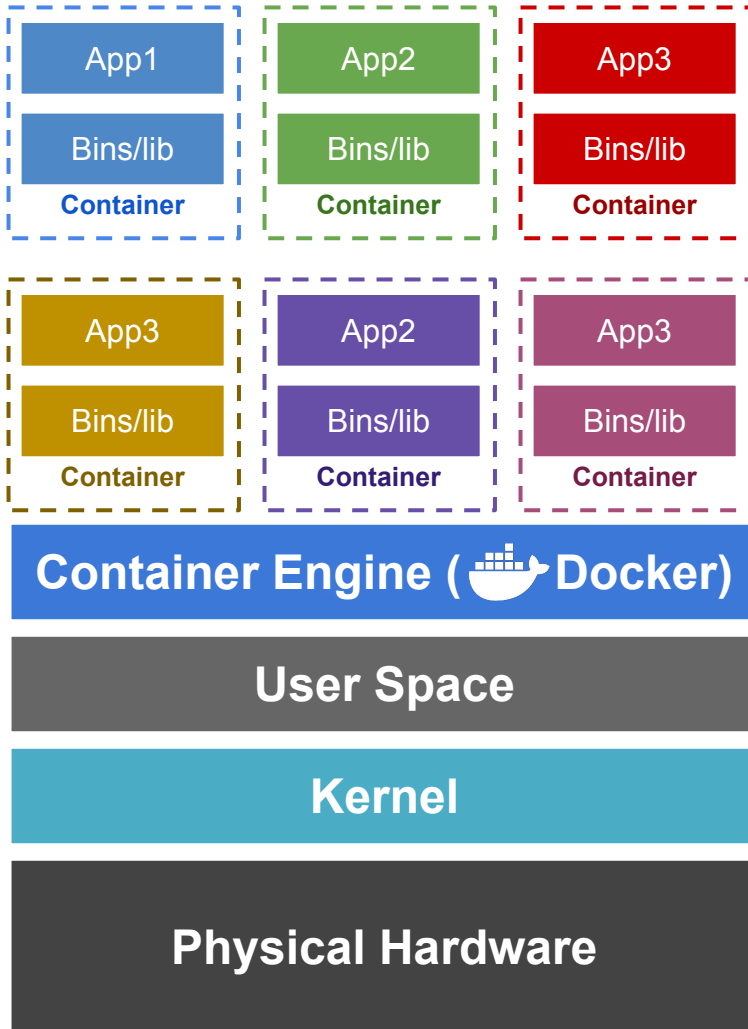


Containerization

- **Mount Namespace:** different containers will have their own view of the filesystem. This includes mounted disks, mount points or directories.

Example: Suppose you have two containers that mount to the directory `/data`, where one container mounts *Drive_A* and the other *Drive_B*. Both containers will be unaware of other mounted drives.

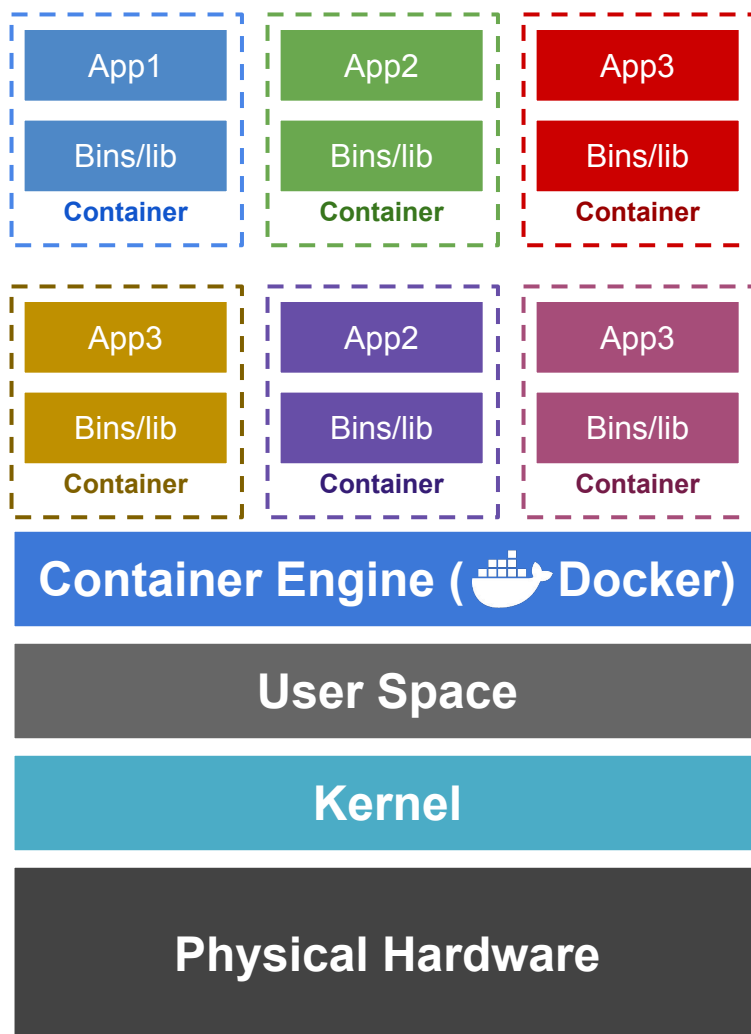
Containerization: Namespaces



- **Network Namespace:** different containers will have their own isolated sub-network to interact with. This include IP addresses, routing tables, firewall rules, etc.

Example: multiple containers can use the same IP address to perform tasks, without worrying about interfering with each other or security concerns.

Containerization: Control Groups



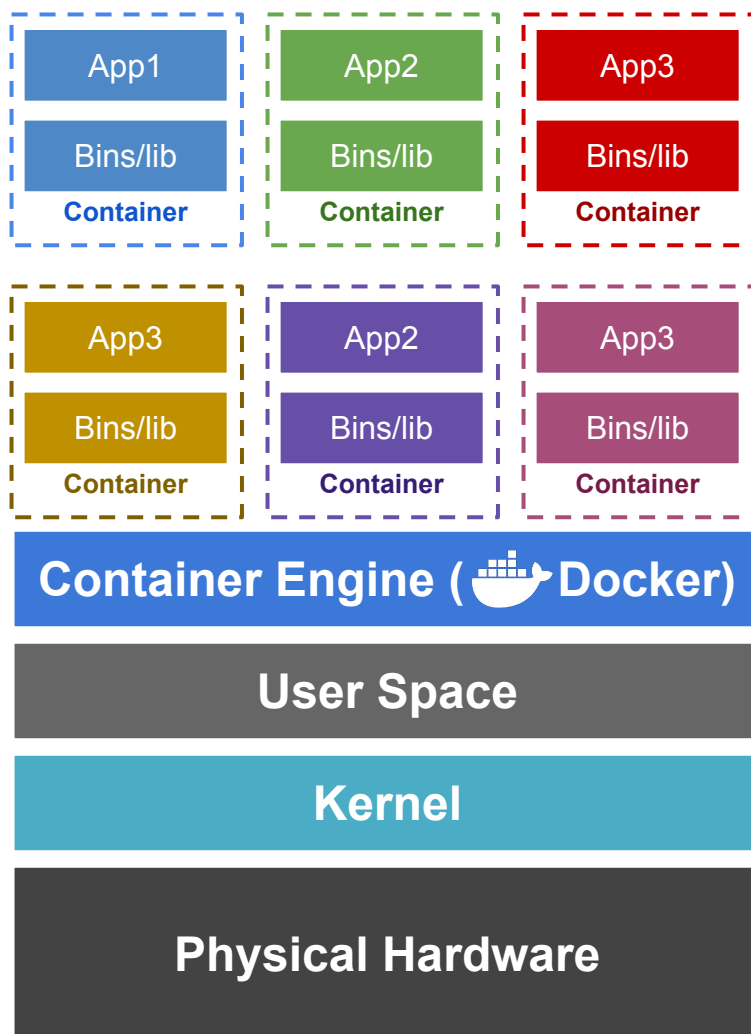
Containerization

Complementary to namespaces, [cgroups](#) (Control Groups) allow the limitation and management of system resources such as CPU, memory, disk I/O, and network bandwidth.

By controlling resource allocation, cgroups enable more efficient resource utilization and isolation within containers, making them more lightweight and flexible compared to virtual machines (VMs).

Also, they provide an additional layer of security ensuring that one container cannot bring the system down by exhausting one of those resources.

Containerization: Security Features



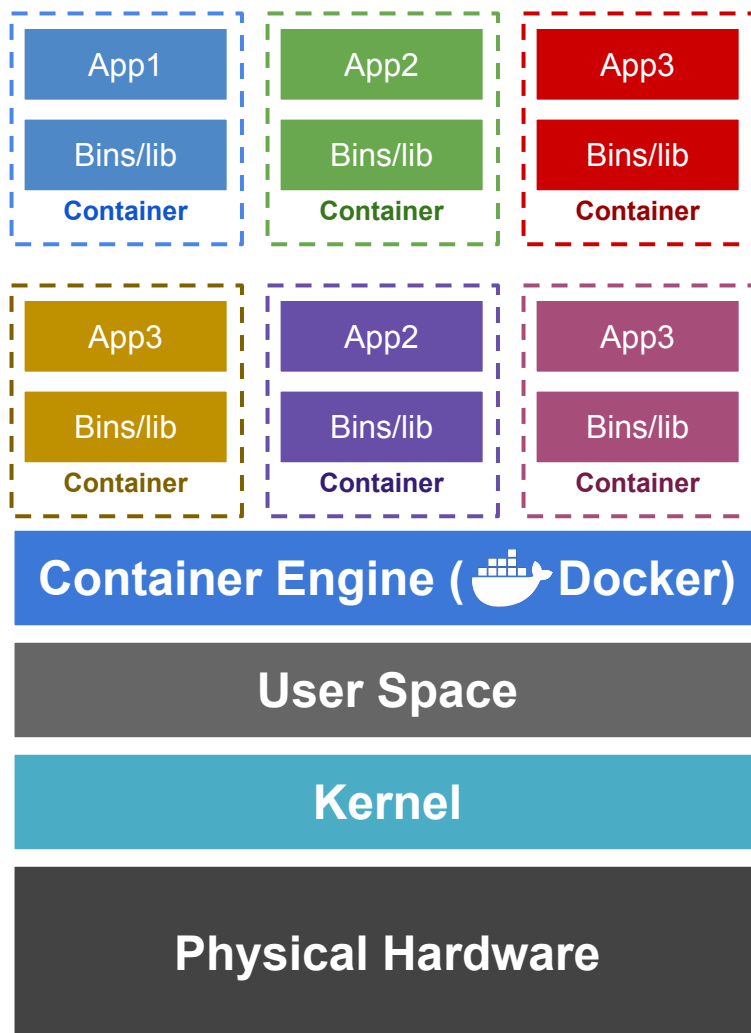
Containerization

Apart from [namespaces](#) and [cgroups](#), the Docker engine utilizes additional kernel features to increase security.

By default, containers are given a reduced set of privileges (Secure computing mode, [seccomp](#)) reducing by 44 the available system calls (300+). This ensures that containers remain isolated and cannot control the host.

A container is unlikely to require root privileges, since those tasks can be executed by the host. Only the absolutely necessary information is passed into the container.

Containerization: Security features



Example:

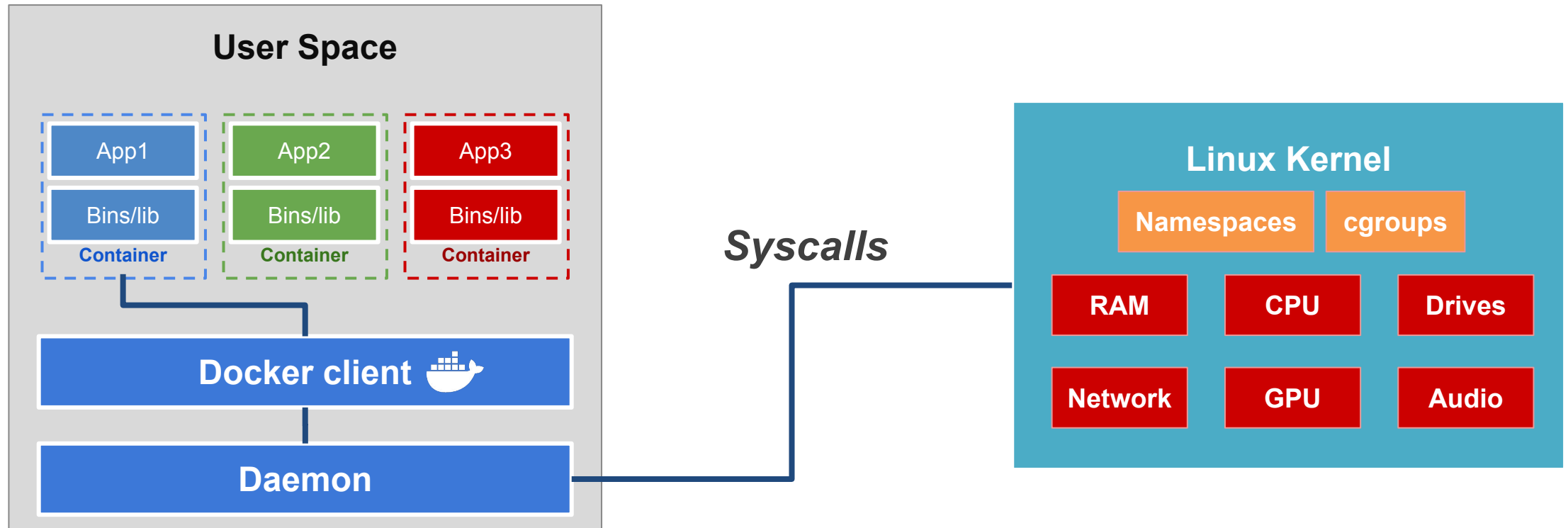
Unless configured otherwise, the containers don't have access to the *syscall reboot*. Which would allow a container to reboot the system.

If a container has access to the syscall *quotactl*, it would have the ability to change the disk quotas, affecting the rest of the host and other containers or VMs.

What Makes Containers so Small?

Container = User Space of OS

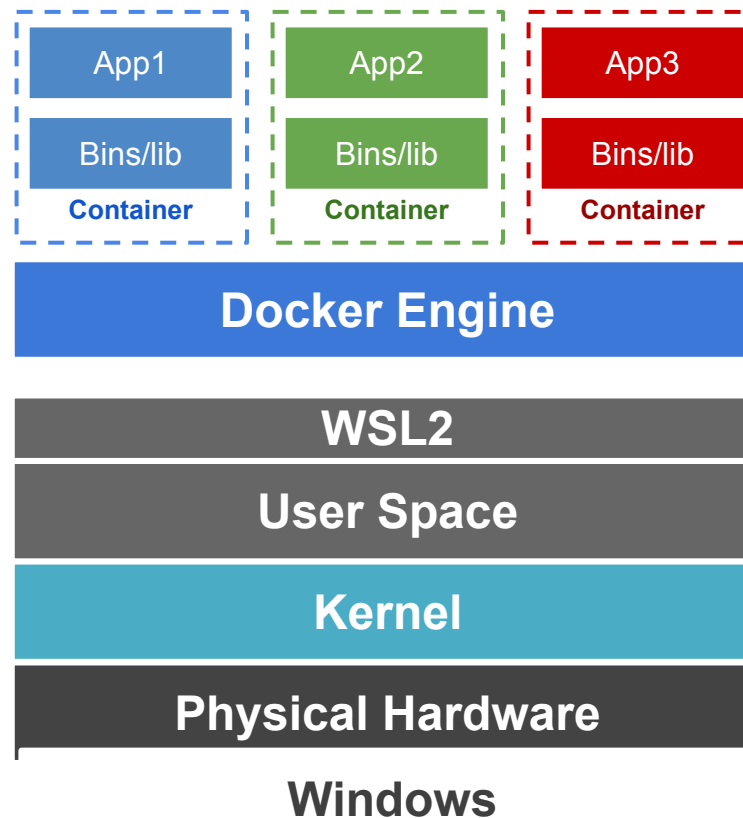
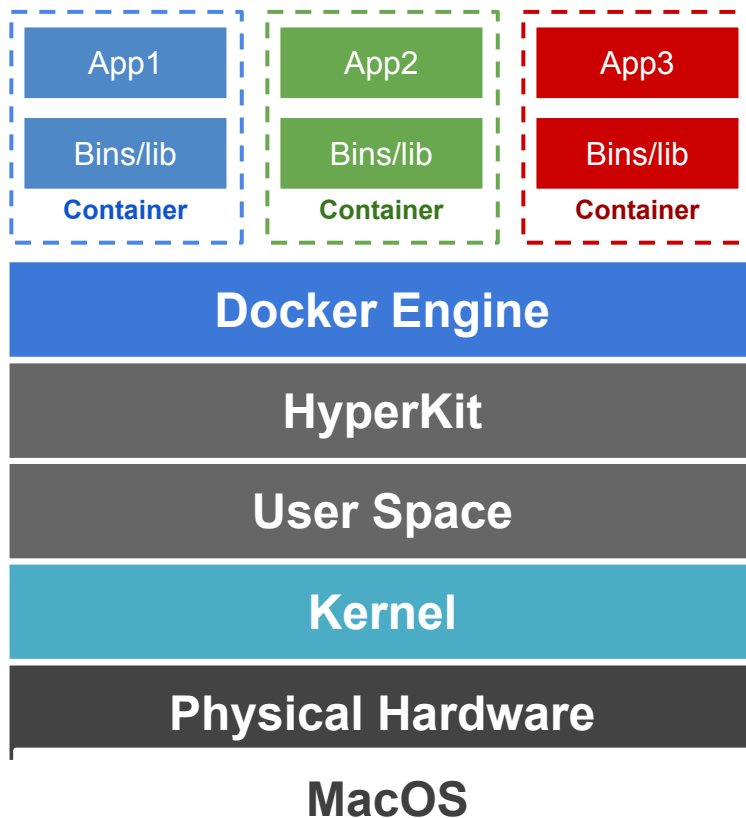
Each container has the minimum code required to run its program. It leverages the host Os (User Space and Kernel) to perform its task.



Containers compatibility

If Docker containers rely on Linux kernel features, how can we use them on MacOS and Windows?

Both OS's spin stripped down VMs that translate *syscalls* from the Daemon to the native Kernel.



HyperKit is a virtualization technology.

WSL2 is a custom built Linux kernel, integrated with Windows. It spins an even thinner Linux VM, which allows it to run native linux programs.

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Advantages of a CONTAINER

- **Portability & Lightweight:** Containers encapsulate everything needed to run an application, making them easy to move across different environments.
- **Fully Packaged:** Containers include the software and all its dependencies, ensuring a consistent environment throughout the development lifecycle.
- **Versatile Usage:** Containers can be used across various stages, from development and testing to training and production deployment

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Examples of Containerization Technologies:

LXC (Linux Containers): The original containerization technology on Linux, offering lightweight virtualization with less isolation than Docker.

Podman: A daemonless container engine that is compatible with Docker, providing more security features like running containers as non-root.

rkt (Rocket): A security-focused container runtime, designed as an alternative to Docker, with a strong emphasis on simplicity and composability.

Orbstack: A fast, lightweight container and VM platform optimized for seamless desktop development.

Docker: The most popular and widely used container platform, known for its ease of use, robust ecosystem, and extensive support.



What is docker?

Open Source: Community-driven and compatible.

Platform: Develop, ship, and run applications containers.

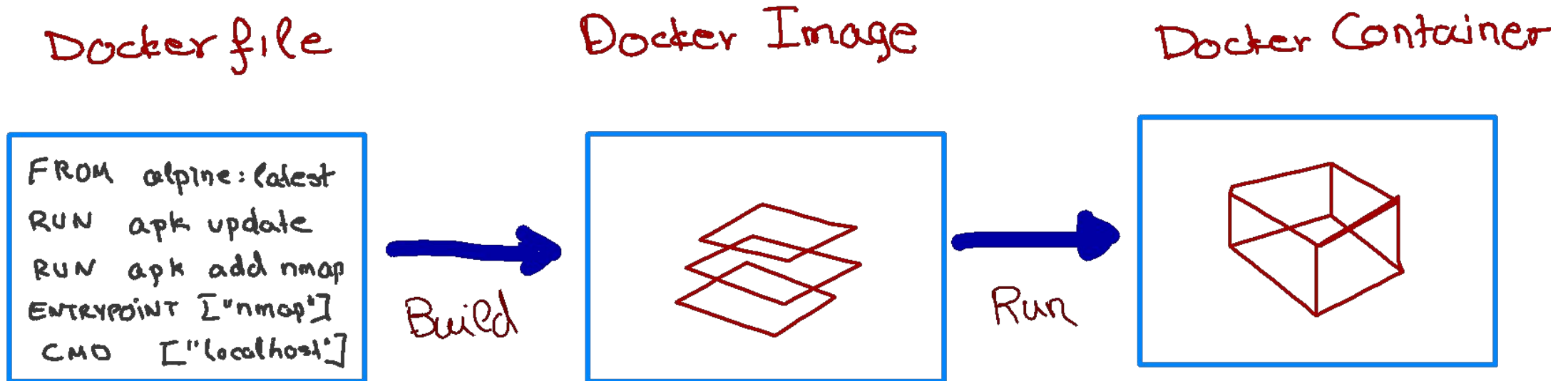
Portability: Consistent across various environments.

Ecosystem: Docker Hub, Kubernetes, and more.



How to run a docker container

- We use a simple text file, the `Dockerfile`, to build the Docker Image, which consists of an iso file and other files.
- We **run** the Docker Image to get Docker Container.



What is the difference between an image and container

Docker Image is a template aka a blueprint to create a running docker container. Docker uses the information available in the Image to create (run) a container.

Docker file is the hand written description of a recipe, Image is like the formal recipe and ingredients, container is like a dish.

Alternatively, you can think of an image as a class and a container is an instance of that class.

Anatomy of a Dockerfile

Dockerfile

```
FROM alpine:latest
RUN apk update
RUN apk add nmap
ENTRYPOINT ["nmap"]
CMD ["localhost"]
```

FROM: Specifies the base OS image (e.g., alpine, Ubuntu) for building the Docker image.

RUN: Executes commands to build the image. Each **RUN** creates a new layer.

ENTRYPOINT: Sets the default executable for the container, making it behave like a standalone application.

CMD: Sets default commands or parameters for container startup, but can be overridden by the `docker run` command.

Anatomy of a Dockerfile

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RUN: Executes commands to build the image. Each RUN creates a new layer.

ENTRYPOINT: Sets the default executable for the container, making it behave like a standalone application.

CMD: Sets default commands or parameters for container startup, but can be overridden by the `docker run` command.

ADD: Similar to **COPY**, but can also handle URLs and auto-extract compressed files.

ENV: Sets environment variables within the Docker image. These variables can be used in subsequent commands or by applications within the container.

WORKDIR: Sets the working directory for any RUN, CMD, ENTRYPOINT, COPY, and ADD instructions that follow in the Dockerfile.

Docker Image as Layers

When we execute the `build` command, the daemon reads the `Dockerfile` and creates a layer for every command.

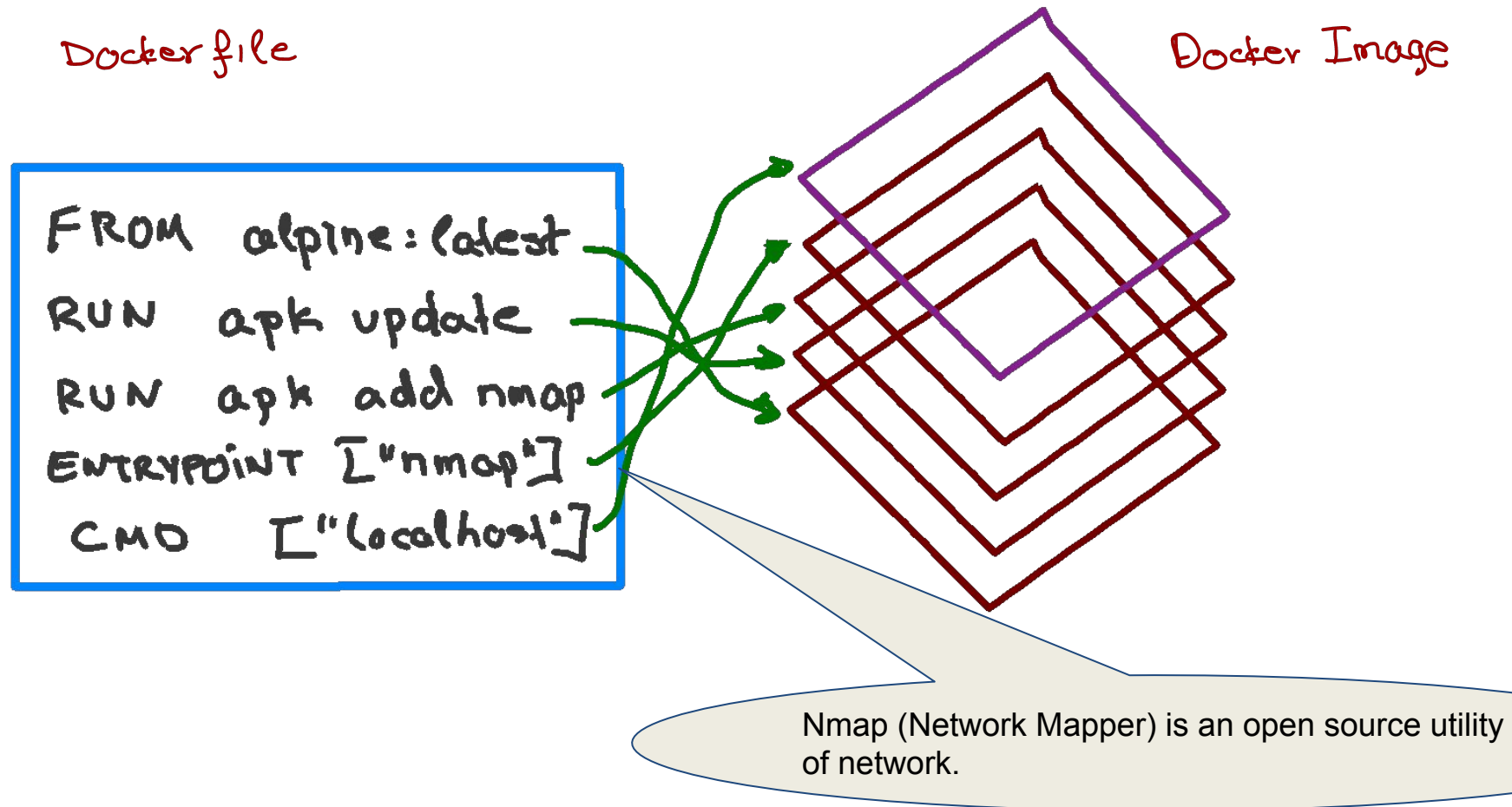
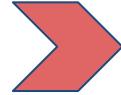
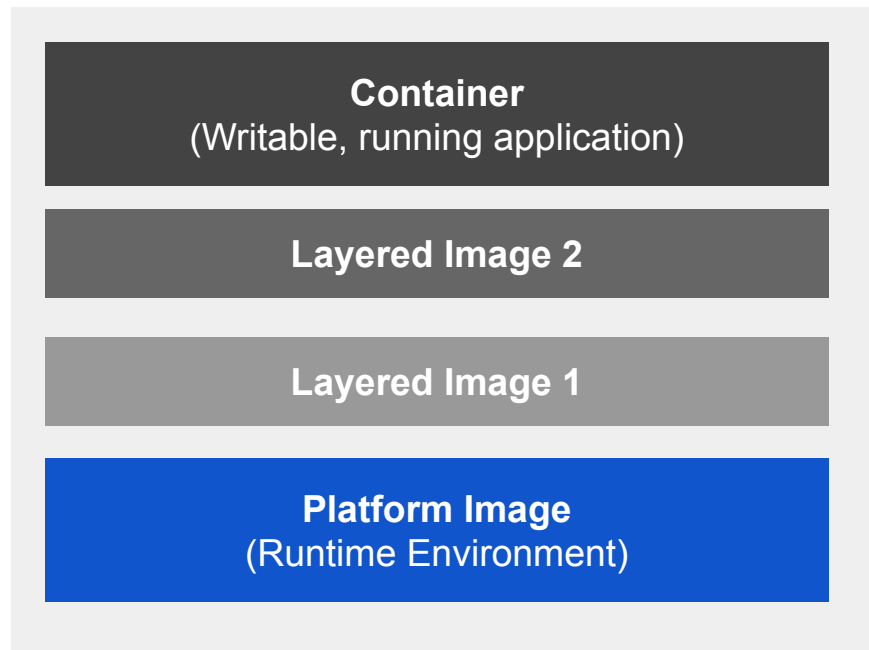


Image Layering



A [application sandbox](#)

- Each container is based on an image that holds necessary config data
- When you launch a container, a writable layer is added on top of the image



A [static snapshot](#) Images are read-only and capture the container's settings.

- Layer images are read-only
- Each image depends on one or more parent images



[Platform images](#) define the runtime environment, packages and utilities necessary for containerized application to run. It is an Image that has no parent

Why Layers

Why build an image with multiple layers when we can just build it in a single layer?

Efficiency

Reuse common layers across different images, saving storage and speeding up image creation.

Incremental Updates

Update only the changed layer, reducing the time and bandwidth needed for deployment.

Cache Utilization

Docker caches layers. If no changes are detected, subsequent builds are faster.

Modularity

Break down complex setup into manageable pieces, making debugging easier.

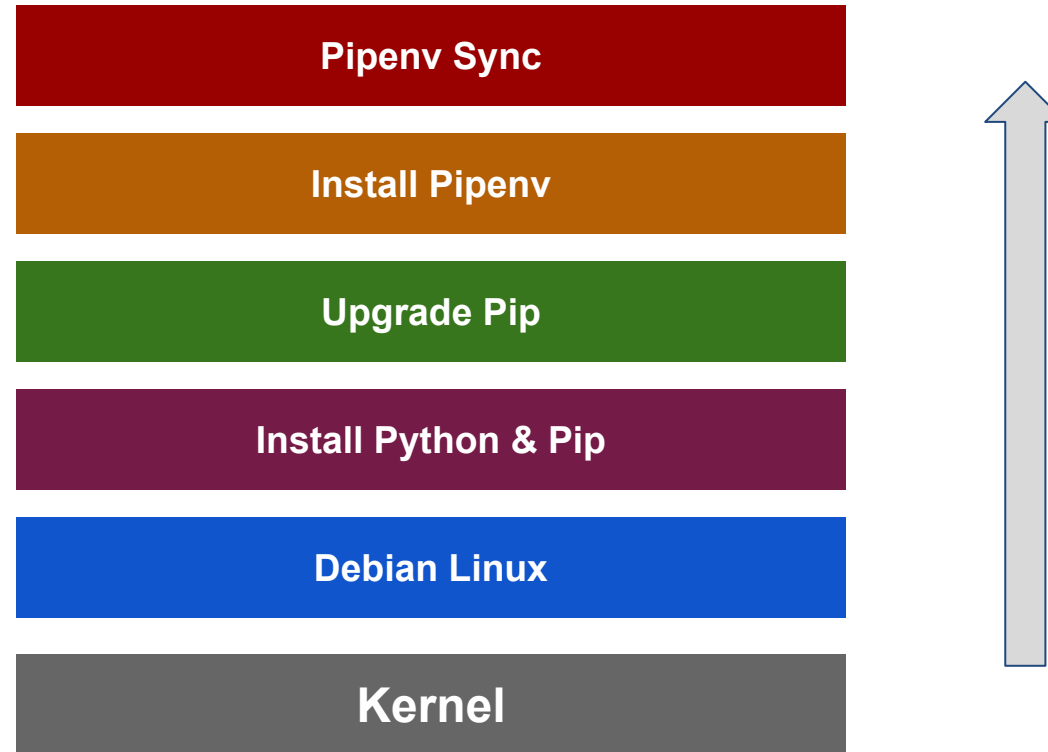
Security

Smaller attack surface per layer and easier to scan for vulnerabilities.

WE WILL SEE AN EXAMPLE LATER

Image Layering - Example

Docker layers for a container running debian and a python environment using Pipenv



Docker Vocabulary



Docker File

A text document with commands on how to create an Image



Docker Image

The basis of a Docker container. Represent a full application

Images

How you **store** your application



Docker Container

The standard unit in which the application service resides and executes

Containers

How you **run** your application



Docker Engine

Creates, ships and runs Docker containers deployable on a physical or virtual, host locally, in a datacenter or cloud service provider



Registry Service (Docker Hub or Docker Trusted Registry)

Cloud or server-based storage and distribution service for your images

FAQ: Running Multiple Containers from a Single Image

How can you run multiple containers from the same image?

Yes, you could think of an image as instating a class. You can create multiple instances (containers) from a single image.

Wouldn't all these containers be identical?

Not necessarily. Containers can be instantiated with different parameters using the CMD command, making them unique in behavior.

Dockerfile

```
FROM ubuntu:latest
RUN apt-get update
ENTRYPOINT ["/bin/echo", "Hello"]
CMD ["world"]
```

```
> docker build -t hello_world_cmd -f Dockerfile .
> docker run -it hello_world_cmd
> Hello world
> docker run -it hello_world_cmd Pavlos
> Hello Pavlos
```

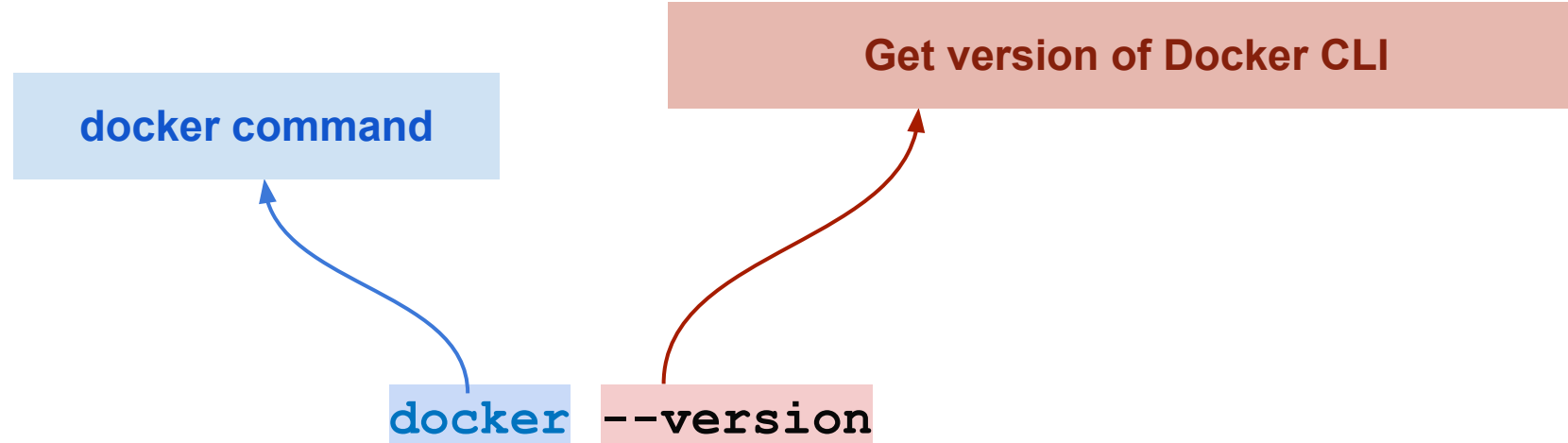
Tutorial (T3): Installing Docker Desktop

- Install **Docker Desktop**. Use one of the links below to download the proper Docker application depending on your operating system.
 - For Mac users, follow this link-
<https://docs.docker.com/docker-for-mac/install/>.
 - For Windows users, follow this link-
<https://docs.docker.com/docker-for-windows/install/> Note: You will need to install Hyper-V to get Docker to work.
 - For Linux users, follow this link-
<https://docs.docker.com/install/linux/docker-ce/ubuntu/>
- Once installed run the docker desktop.
- Open a Terminal window and type `docker run hello-world` to make sure Docker is installed properly.



Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

Check what version of Docker



Tutorial (T3): Developing App using Containers

- Let us build the simple-translate app using Docker
- For this we will do the following:
 - Clone or download [code](https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate) (<https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate>)

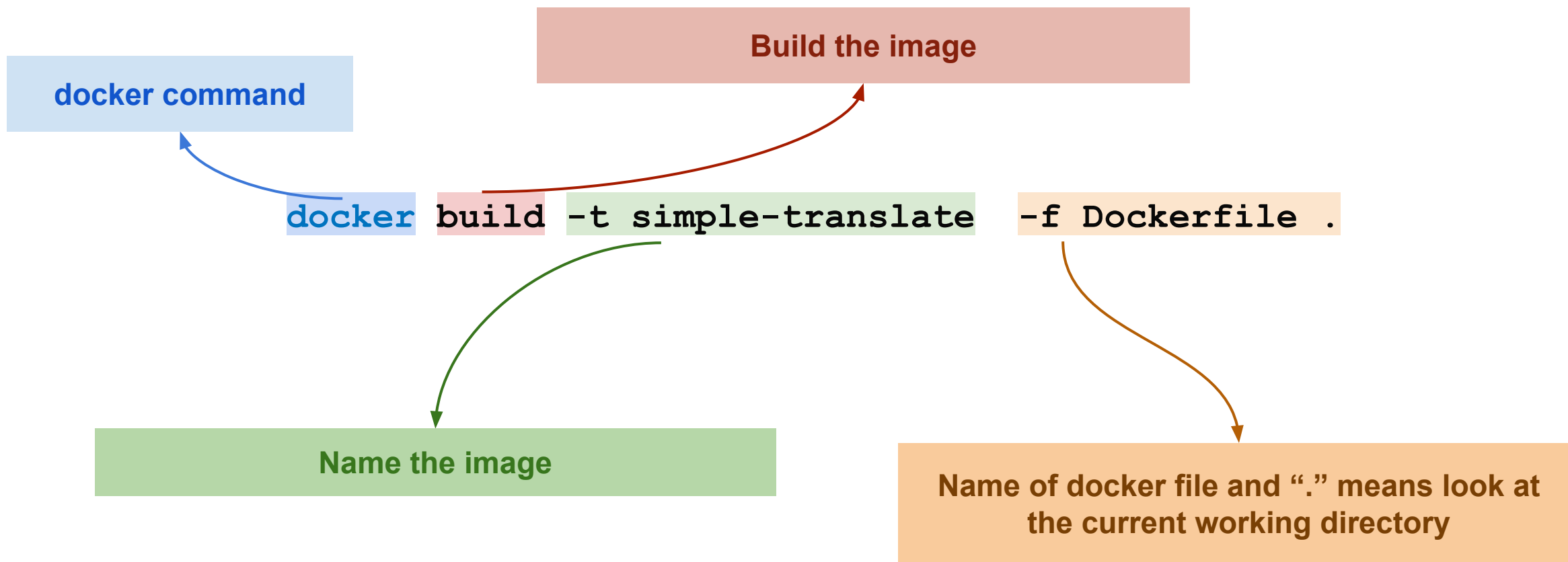
```
git clone https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate
```

Tutorial (T3): Developing App using Containers

- Let us build the simple-translate app using Docker
- For this we will do the following:
 - Clone or download [code](https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate) (https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate)
 - Build a container

Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

Build an image based on a Dockerfile



Dockerfile

```
# Use the official Debian-hosted Python image
```

```
FROM python:3.9-slim-buster
```

```
# Tell pipenv where the shell is.
```

```
# This allows us to use "pipenv shell" as a container entry point.
```

```
# ENV PYENV_SHELL=/bin/bash
```

```
# Ensure we have an up to date baseline, install dependencies
```

```
# apt-get is a command-line tool used to manage packages
```

```
RUN set -ex; \      # -e build process will stop if any command following set -ex fails. -x prints the output
```

```
    apt-get update && \    # updates the local package index
```

```
    apt-get upgrade -y && \ # upgrade all the installed packages
```

```
    apt-get install -y --no-install-recommends build-essential git && \
```

```
    pip install --no-cache-dir --upgrade pip && \
```

```
    pip install pipenv
```

```
# Add Pipfile, Pipfile.lock + python code
```

```
ADD . / # adds the content of the current directory "." into the root directory of the container
```

```
RUN pipenv sync
```

```
# Entry point
```

```
ENTRYPOINT ["/bin/bash"]
```

```
# Get into the pipenv shell
```

```
CMD ["-c", "pipenv shell"]
```

Docker Image as Layers

```
>docker build -t simple-translate -f Dockerfile .
```

```
=> [internal] load build definition from Dockerfile 0.0s
=> => transferring dockerfile: 756B 0.0s
=> [internal] load metadata for docker.io/library/python:3.11-slim-buster 1.0s
=> [internal] load .dockerignore 0.0s
=> => transferring context: 2B 0.0s
=> [1/4] FROM docker.io/library/python:3.11-slim-buster@sha256:c46b0ae5728c2247b99903098ade3176a58e274d9c7d2efeaab3e0621a53935 2.8s
=> => resolve docker.io/library/python:3.11-slim-buster@sha256:c46b0ae5728c2247b99903098ade3176a58e274d9c7d2efeaab3e0621a53935 0.0s
=> => sha256:81b2c804d9ba5014835bedfff61fb42e5d78be661b781654cda06b3d95237f0 1.37kB / 1.37kB 0.0s
=> => sha256:12cacc23b6dec78ca7b056d56e3de48252669ed49fffd95ed36adbf9dfe3cec0 6.85kB / 6.85kB 0.0s
=> => sha256:d191be7a3c9fa95847a482db8211b6f85b45096c7817fdad4d7661ee7ff1a421 25.92MB / 25.92MB 1.4s
=> => sha256:14aea17807c4c653827ca820a0526d96552bda685bf29293e8be90d1b05662f6 2.65MB / 2.65MB 0.6s
=> => sha256:67cefd826e1d4a3bce3c47a040ab445ba7ba6586dea8b8380bdad6ee3462f9c1 12.10MB / 12.10MB 1.3s
=> => sha256:c46b0ae5728c2247b99903098ade3176a58e274d9c7d2efeaab3e0621a53935 988B / 988B 0.0s
=> => sha256:195c388ea91b233c774667795edf5a47d3b02b3db8da49447d964dbafee7a786 244B / 244B 0.7s
=> => sha256:db8899040fb5395274edb3f6930ed67e7c7a4cd70adc8f6f21cfa2ab92dce912 3.38MB / 3.38MB 1.2s
=> => extracting sha256:d191be7a3c9fa95847a482db8211b6f85b45096c7817fdad4d7661ee7ff1a421 0.8s
=> => extracting sha256:14aea17807c4c653827ca820a0526d96552bda685bf29293e8be90d1b05662f6 0.1s
=> => extracting sha256:67cefd826e1d4a3bce3c47a040ab445ba7ba6586dea8b8380bdad6ee3462f9c1 0.3s
=> => extracting sha256:195c388ea91b233c774667795edf5a47d3b02b3db8da49447d964dbafee7a786 0.0s
=> => extracting sha256:db8899040fb5395274edb3f6930ed67e7c7a4cd70adc8f6f21cfa2ab92dce912 0.2s
=> [internal] load build context 0.0s
=> => transferring context: 161.76kB 0.0s
=> [2/4] RUN set -ex; apt-get update && apt-get upgrade -y && apt-get install -y --no-install-recommends build-essential git && p 24.0s
=> [3/4] ADD . / 0.0s
=> [4/4] RUN pipenv sync 7.8s
=> exporting to image 0.7s
=> => exporting layers 0.7s
=> => writing image sha256:e473d8916478a1f09ecfeba01dde5113133490541018fb34dba99947ff140ba0 0.0s
=> => naming to docker.io/library/simple-translate 0.0s
```

Step1: Instruction 1

Step2: Instruction 2

Step3: Instruction 3

Step4: Instruction 4

Docker Image as Layers

> docker images

REPOSITORY	TAG	IMAGE ID	CREATED	SIZE
hello_world_cmd	latest	e473d8916478	47 hours ago	8.83MB
simple-translate	latest	e473d8916478	22 minutes ago	483MB

> docker image history simple-translate

IMAGE	CREATED	CREATED BY	SIZE	COMMENT
e473d8916478	22 minutes ago	CMD ["-c" "pipenv shell"]	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	22 minutes ago	ENTRYPOINT ["/bin/bash"]	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	22 minutes ago	RUN /bin/sh -c pipenv sync # buildkit	40.5MB	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	22 minutes ago	ADD . / # buildkit	155kB	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	22 minutes ago	RUN /bin/sh -c set -ex; apt-get update &...	329MB	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	22 minutes ago	ENV PYENV_SHELL=/bin/bash	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	CMD ["python3"]	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	RUN /bin/sh -c set -eux; savedAptMark="\$(a...	12.2MB	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	ENV PYTHON_GET_PIP_SHA256=96461dec5c2a487d...	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	ENV PYTHON_GET_PIP_URL=https://github.com/py...	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	ENV PYTHON_SETUPTOOLS_VERSION=65.5.1	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	ENV PYTHON_PIP_VERSION=23.1.2	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	RUN /bin/sh -c set -eux; for src in idle3 p...	32B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	RUN /bin/sh -c set -eux; savedAptMark="\$(a...	31.4MB	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	ENV PYTHON_VERSION=3.11.4	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	ENV GPG_KEY=A035C8C19219BA821ECEA86B64E628F8...	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	RUN /bin/sh -c set -eux; apt-get update; a...	6.66MB	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	ENV LANG=C.UTF-8	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	ENV PATH=/usr/local/bin:/usr/local/sbin:/usr...	0B	buildkit.dockerfile.v0
<missing>	15 months ago	/bin/sh -c #(nop) CMD ["bash"]	0B	
<missing>	15 months ago	/bin/sh -c #(nop) ADD file:d4a87f28032264e15...	63.5MB	

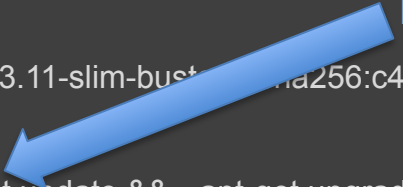
Why Layers

Why build an image with multiple layers when we can just build it in a single layer?

Let's take an example to explain this concept better, let us try to change the Dockerfile_cmd we created and rebuild a new Docker image.

```
> docker build -t hello_world_cmd -f Dockerfile_cmd .
[+] Building 0.6s (9/9) FINISHED
=> [internal] load build definition from Dockerfile                                0.0s
=> => transferring dockerfile: 756B                                              0.0s
=> [internal] load metadata for docker.io/library/python:3.11-slim-buster        0.5s
=> [internal] load .dockerignore                                                 0.0s
=> => transferring context: 2B                                                  0.0s
=> [1/4] FROM docker.io/library/python:3.11-slim-buster@sha256:c46b0ae5728c2247b99903098ade3176a58e274d9c7d2efeeaaab3e0621a53935 0.0s
=> [internal] load build context                                                0.0s
=> => transferring context: 5.91kB                                             0.0s
=> CACHED [2/4] RUN set -ex; apt-get update && apt-get upgrade -y && apt-get install -y --no-install-recommends build-essential git && 0.0s
=> CACHED [3/4] ADD . /                                                         0.0s
=> CACHED [4/4] RUN pipenv sync                                                 0.0s
=> exporting to image                                                         0.0s
=> => exporting layers                                                         0.0s
=> => writing image sha256:e473d8916478a1f09ecfeba01dde5113133490541018fb34dba99947ff140ba0 0.0s
=> => naming to docker.io/library/simple-translate                            0.0s
```

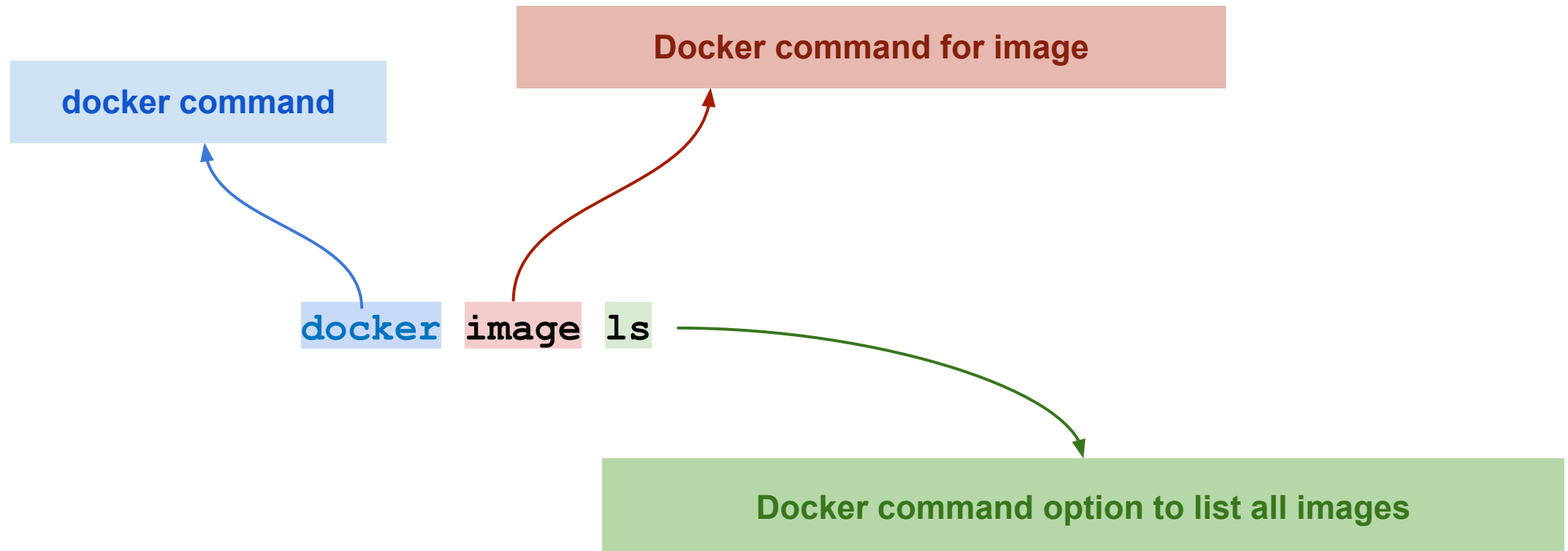
Have seen this before. Use cache



As you can see that the image was built using the **existing** layers from our previous docker image builds. If some of these layers are being used in **other containers**, they can just use the existing layer instead of recreating it from scratch.

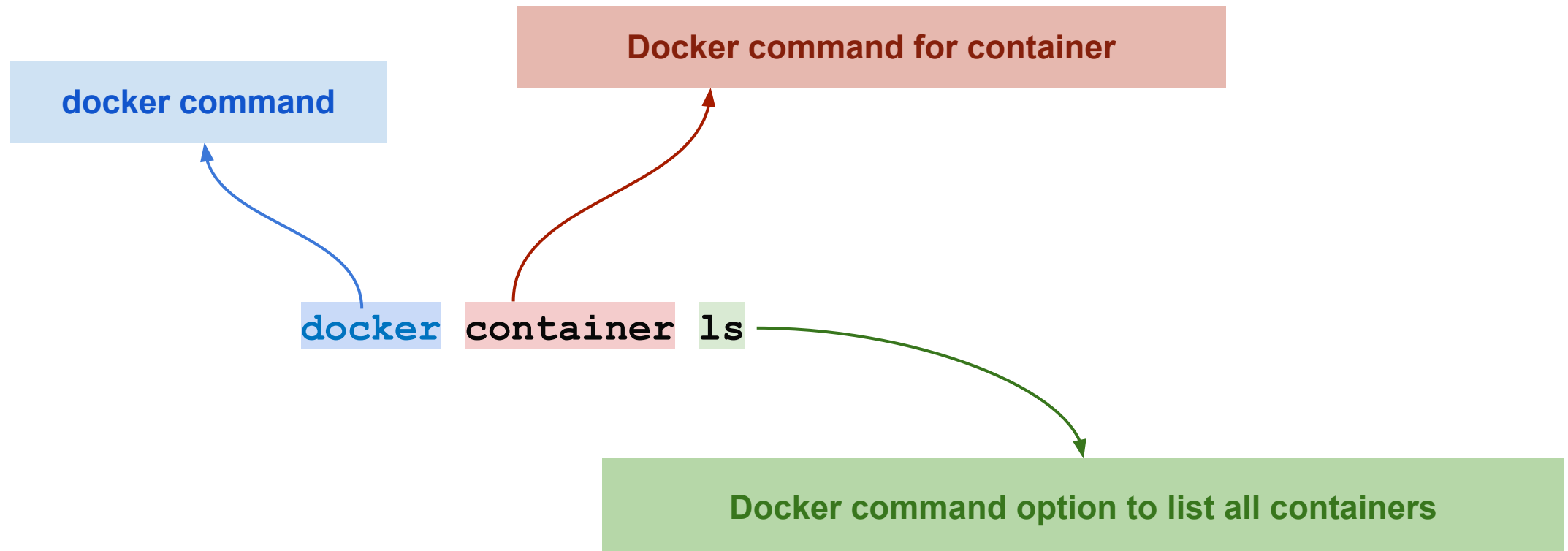
Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

List all docker images



Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

List all running docker containers

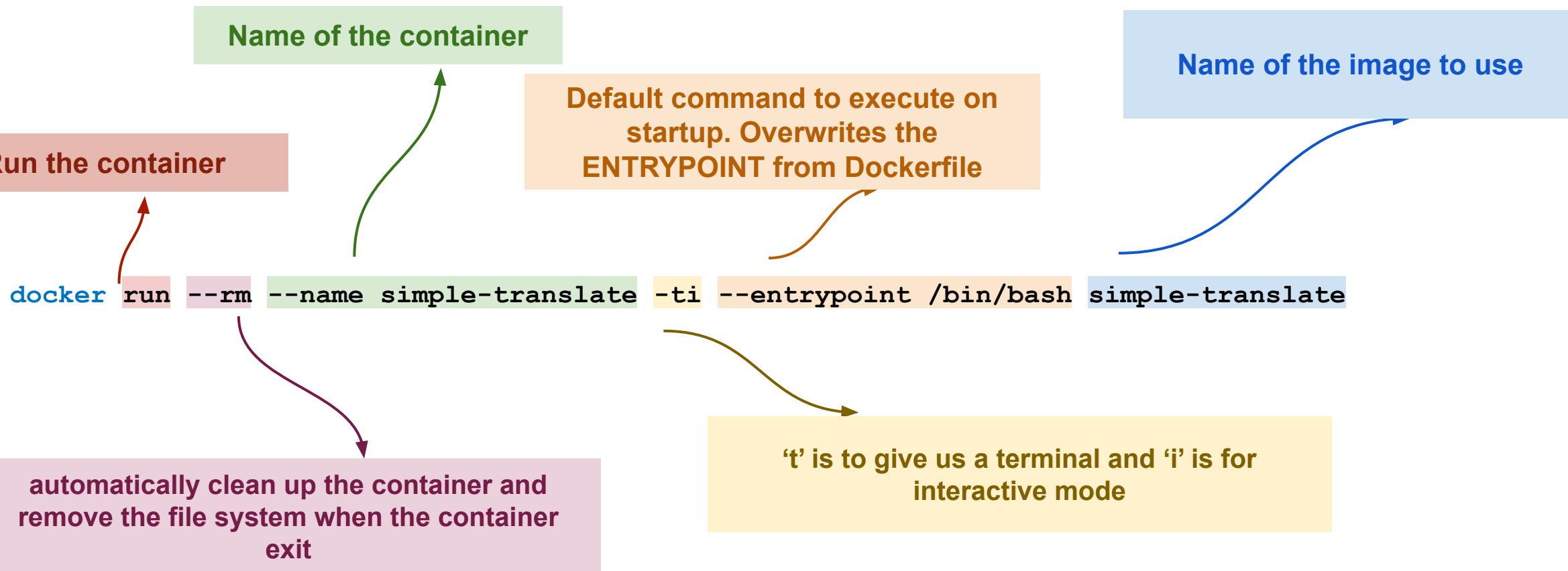


Tutorial (T3): Developing App using Containers

- Let us build the simple-translate app using Docker
- For this we will do the following:
 - Clone or download [code](https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate) (https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate)
 - Build a container
 - Run a container

Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

Run a docker container using an image



Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

Open another command prompt and check how many container and images we have

```
docker image ls
```

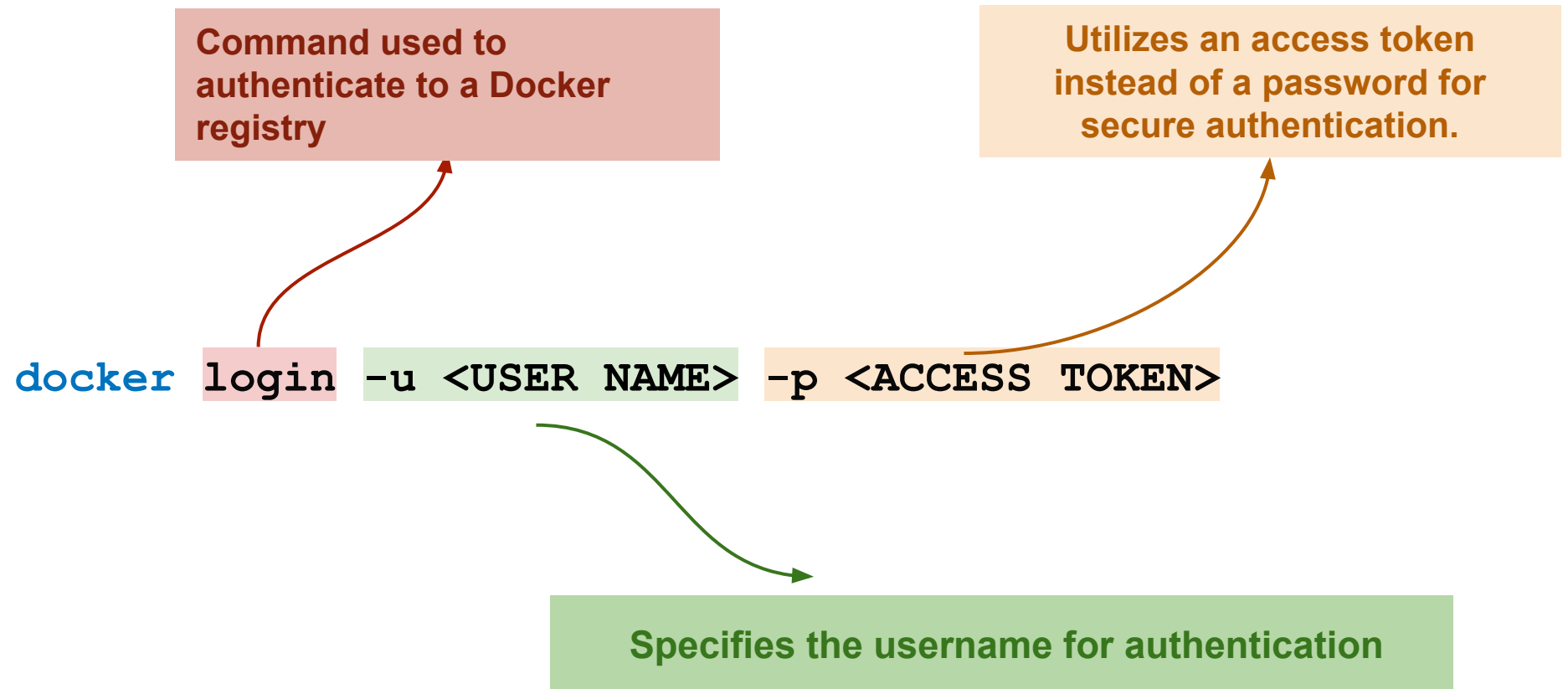
```
docker container ls
```

Tutorial (T3): Developing App using Containers

- Let us build the simple-translate app using Docker
- For this we will do the following:
 - Clone or download [code](https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate) (<https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate>)
 - Build a container
 - Run a container
 - **Push container on Docker Hub**

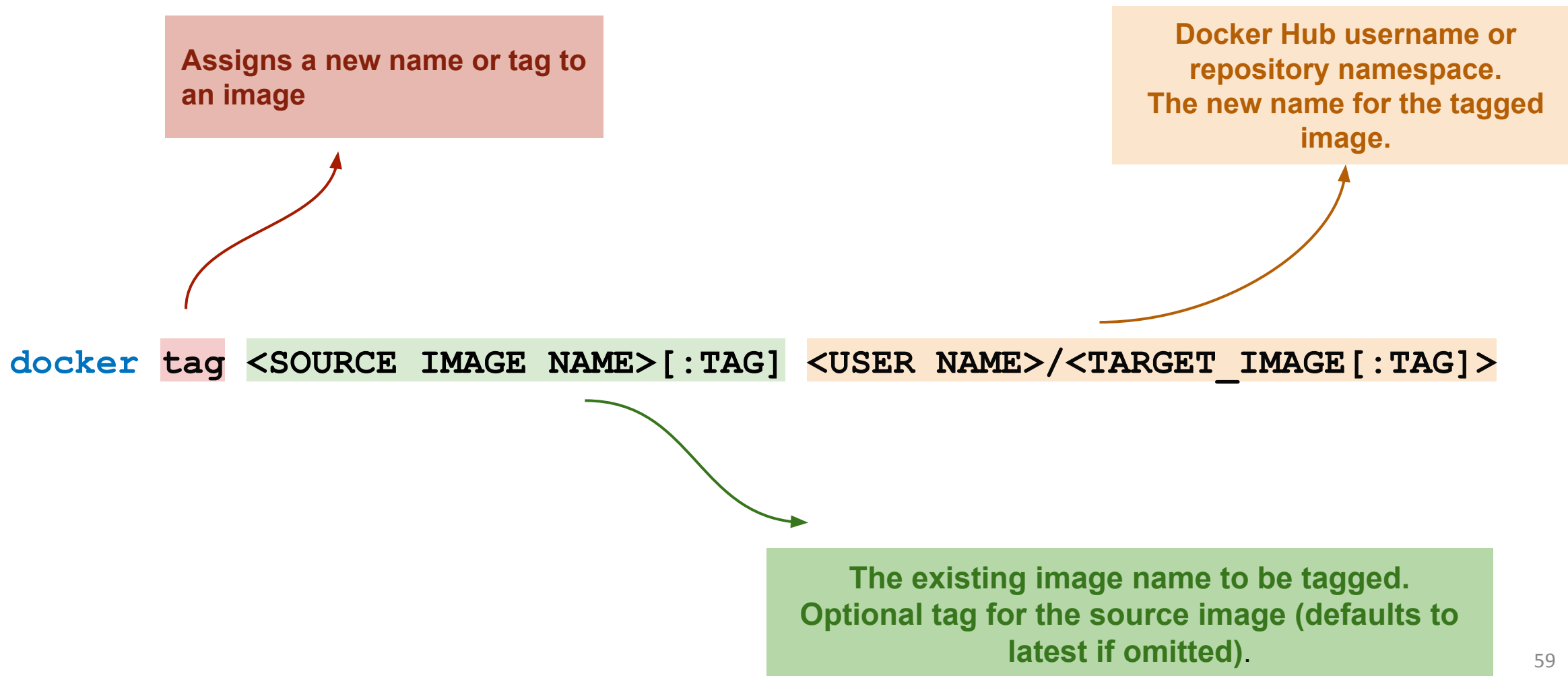
Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

Sign up in Docker Hub and create an Access Token. Use that token to authenticate with the command below



Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

Tag the Docker Image



Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

- Push to Docker Hub

Command used to upload a Docker image from your local machine to a remote registry like Docker Hub

The name of the image you want to push to the registry. User name can be included as part of the name

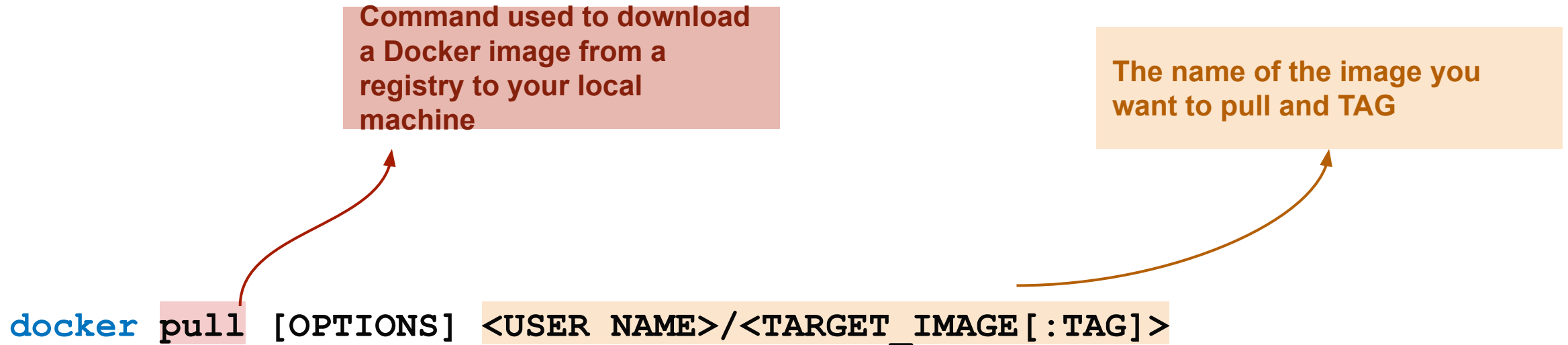
`docker push <USER NAME>/<TARGET_IMAGE[:TAG]>`

Tutorial (T3): Developing App using Containers

- Let us build the simple-translate app using Docker
- For this we will do the following:
 - Clone or download [code](https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate) (<https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate>)
 - Build a container
 - Run a container
 - Push container on Docker Hub
 - **Pull the new container and run it**

Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

- Pull from Docker Hub



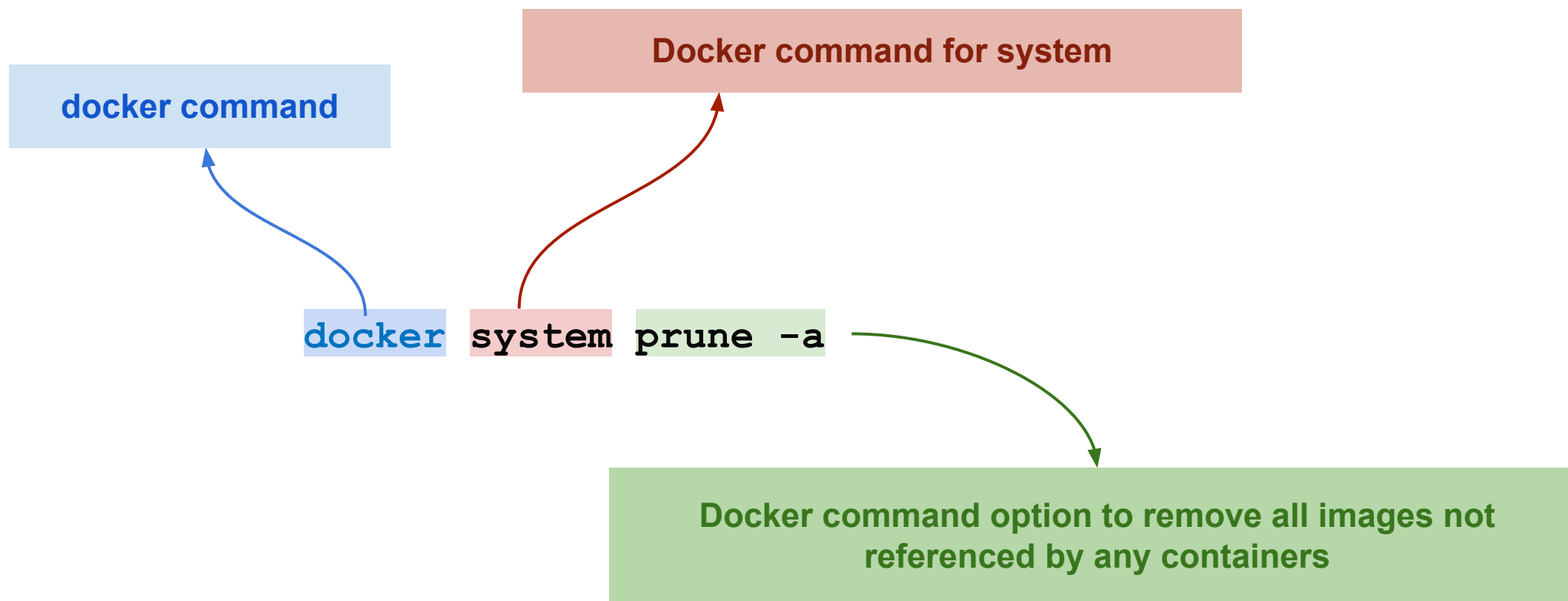
Tutorial (T3): Developing App using Containers

- Let us build the simple-translate app using Docker
- For this we will do the following:
 - Clone or download [code](https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate) (<https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate>)
 - Build a container
 - Run a container
 - Push container on Docker Hub
 - Pull the new container and run it
- For detail instruction go [here](https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate#developing-app-using-containers-t3)
(<https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate#developing-app-using-containers-t3>)



Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

Exit from all containers and let us clear of all images



Tutorial (T3): Docker commands

Check how many containers and images we have currently

```
docker container ls
```

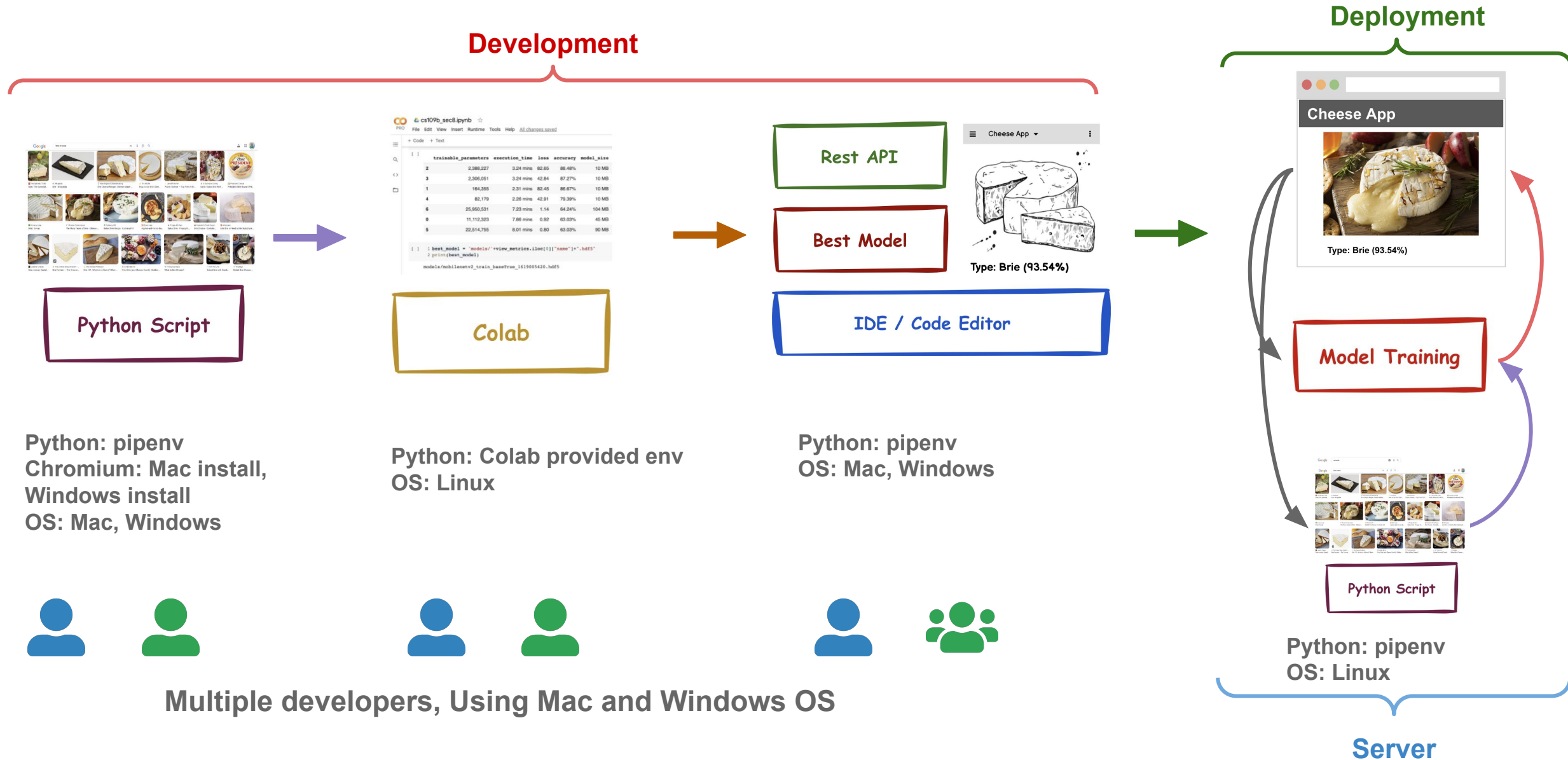
```
docker image ls
```

Tutorial (T4): Running App on **VM** using Docker

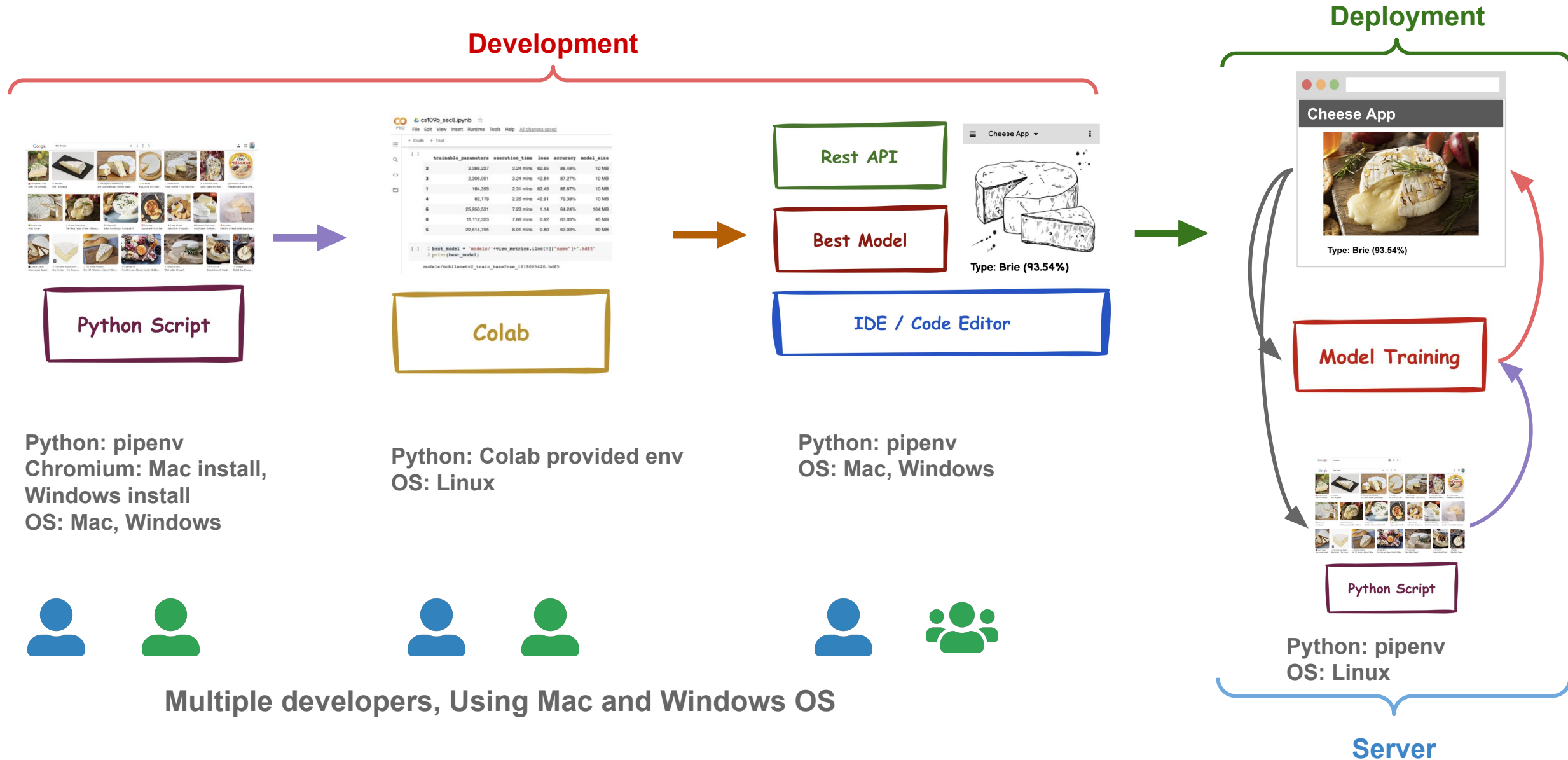
- Let us run the simple-translate app using Docker
- For this we will do the following:
 - Create a VM Instance
 - SSH into the VM
 - Install Docker inside the VM
 - Run the **containerized simple-translate** app
- Full instructions can be found [here](https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate#running-app-on-vm-using-docker-t4)
(<https://github.com/dlops-io/simple-translate#running-app-on-vm-using-docker-t4>)



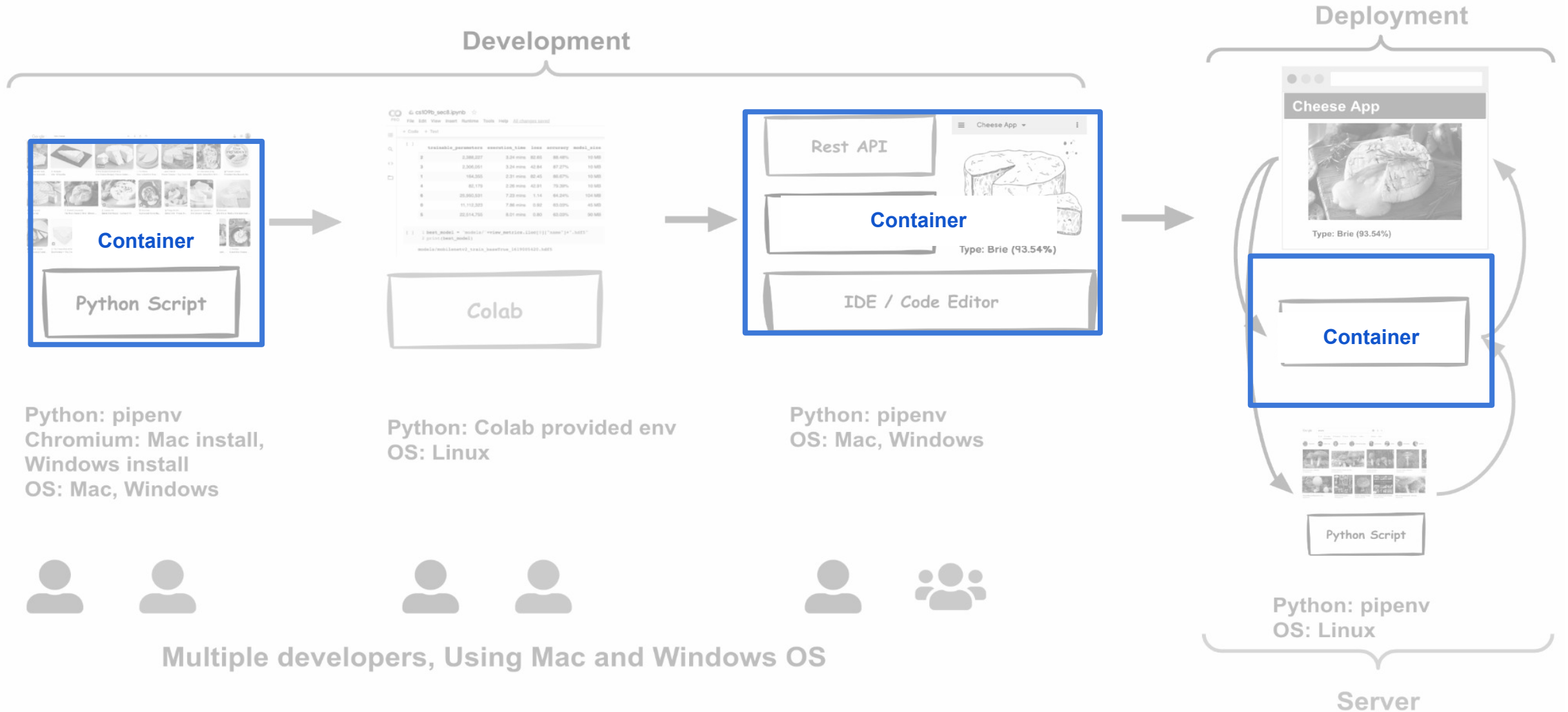
Recap: How do we build an App?



Recap: How do we build an App?



Isolate work into containers







Thank you