Run and exec command

Docker run

The docker run command first creates a writeable container layer over the specified image, and then starts it using the specified command. That is, docker run is equivalent to the API /containers/create then /containers/(id)/start. A stopped container can be restarted with all its previous changes intact using docker start. See docker ps -a to view a list of all containers. The docker run command can be used in combination with docker commit to change the command that a container runs.

Docker exec

The docker exec command runs a new command in a running container. The command started using docker exec only runs while the container's primary process (PID 1) is running, and it is not restarted if the container is restarted. COMMAND will run in the default directory of the container. If the underlying image has a custom directory specified with the WORKDIR directive in its Dockerfile, this will be used instead.