# What is Docker and what is it used for?

Docker is a virtual environment used to run programs.

Docker vs Virtual Machine

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| Criteria | Virtual Machine | Docker |
| OS Support | Occupies a lot of memory space | Docker Containers occupy less space |
| Boot-up time | Long boot-up time | Short boot-up time |
| Performance | Running multiple virtual machines leads to unstable performance | Containers have a better performance as they are hosted in a single Docker engine |
| Scaling | Difficult to scale up | Easy to scale up |
| Efficiency | Low efficiency | High efficiency |
| Portability | Compatibility issues while porting across different platforms | Easily portable across different platforms |
| Space allocation | Data volumes cannot be shared | Data volumes can be shared and reused among multiple containers |