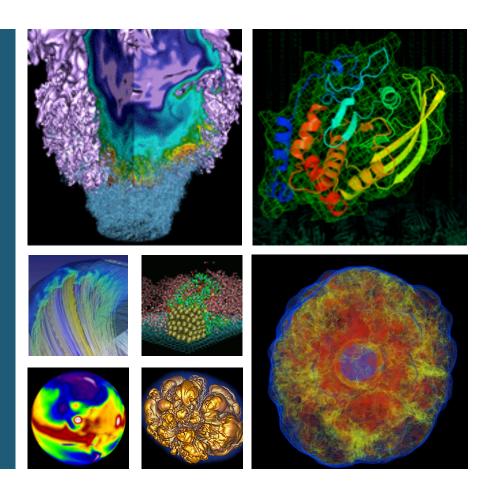
Into to Containers





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Problem Statement



Need a way to run isolated processes

- Resources
- File system view
- Process space
- Network space

But should be lighter-weigh than a virtual machine

- Avoid a separate kernel
- Avoid a full running OS "stack" (e.g. system daemons)





Solution - Containers



- Uses a combination of Kernel "cgroups" and "namespaces" to create isolated containers
- Software to help define and manage containers
 - 1979 chroot introduced
 - 2000/2001 FreeBSD Jails and Linux Vserver
 - 2006 Process Containers (later became cgroups)
 - 2008 LXC (cgroups and namespaces, no patches needed)
 - 2013 LMCTFY (Google)
 - 2013 Docker

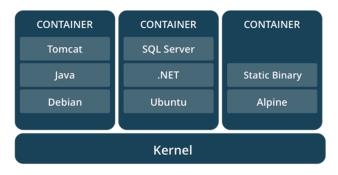




Why Containers?



- Light weight, executable piece of software that contains everything you need to run it
 - Code, system libraries and tools, environment, settings
- All software and processes are isolated from their surroundings
- Portable
- Typically used for single instance programs

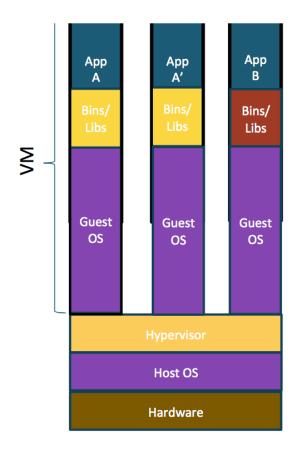


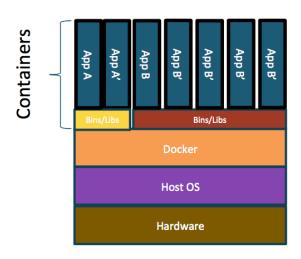




Containers and System Administration











Docker Basics





Build



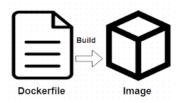
Ship



Run

- Build images that captures applications requirements.
- Manually commit or use a recipe file.
- Push an image to DockerCloud, a hosted registry, or a private Docker Registry.
- Share Images

Use Docker Engine to pull images down and execute a container from the image.











Docker: Container Orchestration



docker





swarm

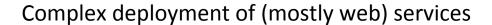


compose



Now offering a product that will handle complex multi-container deployments across multiple nodes (swarms).

Open source version Moby also available









Containers and Science



Reproducibility

- Everything you need to redo a scientific analysis
- Image manifest contains all information about environment
 - Scripts, portable input files can be managed with version controller for greater control

Portability

Runs on every system

Reduction of Effort

- Compile takes 10 hours? Just do it once and share it with everyone
- System doesn't have the right library version? Yum install it yourself in the container





What's in an Image



Directory tree

- Base Linux OS
- Libraries, binaries, tools, scripts, etc
- User code
- Data

Run-time Settings

- Environment variables
- Working Directory
- Default execution and parameters

Other things

- Network-related (e.g. ports)
- Run User







National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center





Focus on Science



- NERSC supports the broad mission needs of the six DOE Office of Science program offices
- 6,000 users and 750 projects
- 2,078 referred publications in 2015
- 2015 Nobel prize in physics supported by NERSC systems and archive





