

LS Lab 1: Containerization and application layer load balancing

In this lab, we will focus mainly on Docker engine and L7 load balancer, which will be covering the below topics:

- Docker images
- Docker containers
- Docker volumes
- Docker network
- Docker-compose
- Nginx Application Layer Load balancing

Task 1: Get familiar with Docker Engine

1. Pull *Nginx v1.23.3* image from *dockerhub* registry and confirm it is listed in local images
2. Run the pulled *Nginx* as a container with the below properties
 - a. Map the port to 8080.
 - b. Name the container as *nginx:<stX>*.
 - c. Run it as daemon .
 - d. Access the page from your browser.
3. Confirm port mapping.
 - a. List open ports in host machine.
 - b. List open ports inside the running container.
4. Create Dockerfile similar with below properties (let's call it container A).
 - a. Image tag should be *Nginx v1.23.3*.
 - b. Create a custom *index.html* file and copy it to your docker image to replace Nginx default web page.
 - c. Build the image from the *Dockerfile*, tag it during build as *nginx:<stX>*, check/validate local images, and run your custom made docker image.
 - d. Access via browser and validate your custom page is hosted.

Task 2: Work with multi-container environment

1. Create another Dockerfile similar to step 1.4 (Let's call it container B), and an *index.html* with different content.
2. Write a docker-compose file with below properties
 - a. Multi-build: Builds both Dockerfiles and run both images.
 - b. Port mapping: Container A should listen to port 8080 and container B should listen to port 9090. (They host two different web pages)
 - c. Volumes: Mount (bind) a directory from the host file system to Nginx containers to replace the default Nginx web page with the two *index.html* files created in Steps 1.4.b and 2.1 .
3. Run the docker compose file and validate you have access to both Nginx web pages in your browser via their respective ports.

4. Configure L7 Loadbalancer

- a. Install Nginx in the host machine, and configure it in front of two containers in a manner that it should distribute the load in RR approach.

5. Automate everything in a Bash script (Optional)

- Automate all of the process in a bash script
- Push your code to Version Control Systems (VCS)