

Step 01: Writing a Dockerfile for our microservice

Next, we need to containerize our micro service application. For this we have to write a Dockerfile with the required commands to package and run our application.

- Create a file Dockerfile in the root directory of your workspace.
- Choose your Java base image wisely! Size does matter.
 - o openjdk:8u102-jdk
 - o openjdk:8u92-jdk-alpine
 - o gaware-oss-docker-registry.bintray.io/base/centos7-jre8
 - o qaware-oss-docker-registry.bintray.io/base/debian8-jre8
 - o qaware-oss-docker-registry.bintray.io/base/alpine-k8s-ibmjava8
- Copy the executable JAR and configuration files to the Docker image.
- Defined required environment variables and expose ports.
- Define the start command for the micro service JAR.

Tip: the Spring Boot JAR file can be enhanced with a shell script and made executable. See http://docs.spring.io/springboot/docs/current/reference/html/deployment-install.html

Step 02: Building and running the Docker image locally

In this step we will build the Docker image and run it using the CLI as well as Gradle. Building the image is pretty straight forward. In the project directory issue the following command:

```
$ docker build -t zwitscher-service:1.0.1-$USER .
$ docker images
```

You should now see the newly built Docker image in the list of available images. You should also see the base image you have used in this list.

Building the Docker image every time you change something on the application can be cumbersome. What we need instead is the tight integration with our build tool, so that we can build the Docker image as part of our CI build cycle. We will be using the Gradle Docker plugin https://github.com/bmuschko/gradle-docker-plugin

```
task buildDockerImage(type: DockerBuildImage) {
    inputDir = projectDir
    noCache = false
    remove = true
    tag = "$project.name:$version-${System.env['USER']}"
}
task removeDockerImage(type: DockerRemoveImage) {
    imageId = "$project.name:$version-${System.env['USER']}"
}
```

Once we have built the Docker image it is time to run the Zwitscher service in a container for th first time. Explore the docker run command for the various possibilities. First of all, it is possible to run the container in the foreground as well as background. For the container to run successfully, you need to pass the Twitter credentials as environment variables.

Try experimenting with some other options Docker provides:

- Add memory constraints when starting the container (do not make them too small!)
- Add CPU constraints when starting the container
- Add health checks against the Actuator health endpoint

Step 03: Push image to remote Docker registry

The final step is to tag and push the final Docker image to a remote Docker registry such as Docker Hub. First, we need to tag image with the remote registry URL and username. If you do not have an own account please use the provided hitchhikersguide account.

\$ docker tag zwitscher-service:1.0.1-\$USER hitchhikersguide/zwitscher-service:1.0.1-\$USER

Next, we need to login at the remote Docker registry and then push the image to there. Once this is done, have a look at Docker Hub. Again, if you do not have an own account please use the provided hitchhikersguide account for this.

- \$ docker login -u hitchhikersguide -p <password>
- \$ docker push hitchhikersguide/zwitscher-service

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