

Tutorial 1

- Tutorial 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EU-QaO6xTv4>
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Docker

- Allows for easy deployment of software in a loosely isolated sandbox (containers).
- Can run many containers simultaneously.
- Containers are **lightweight** and contain everything needed to run the application.
 - This fixes "but it worked on my machine" problems.
- Allows us to package an application with **all its dependencies into a standardized unit**.
- **Architecture:**
 - Client: You can use docker on the command line (terminal) or use Docker Desktop.
 - Serverside: Handles all containers and images.
 - Registry (DockerHub): Place for publicly available containers and images.
- **Images:**
 - Read-only template with instructions for creating a Docker container. (Instructions to create your sandbox with whatever software you want installed).
 - Image often based on another image. E.g., Your ROS 2 image would have an image of Ubuntu with ROS 2 added onto it.
 - You can create your own images or use images made by others.
- **Building Images:**
 - Create `DockerFile` and write the instructions syntax which define the steps needed to **create the image** and **run it**.
 - **Layer caching:** Each instruction creates a layer in the image. If you change your Dockerfile, only the changed layers will be rebuilt. Thus, Docker is lightweight and fast.
- **Containers:**
 - **Runnable instance of an image** (you can have multiple instances of the same container at once).
 - You can create, start, stop, move, or delete a container.
 - You can connect a container to one or more networks (to let them to talk to each other or talk to you separately), and attach storage to it.
 - Container is **well isolated** from other containers and host machine. You can control how much isolation between your container and other containers or host machine.
 - Container is **defined** by **its image** and the **configuration options** you give it when you **create or start** the container.

- Container removed -> Any changes to its state that are **not** stored in persistent storage disappear.

Docker Commands

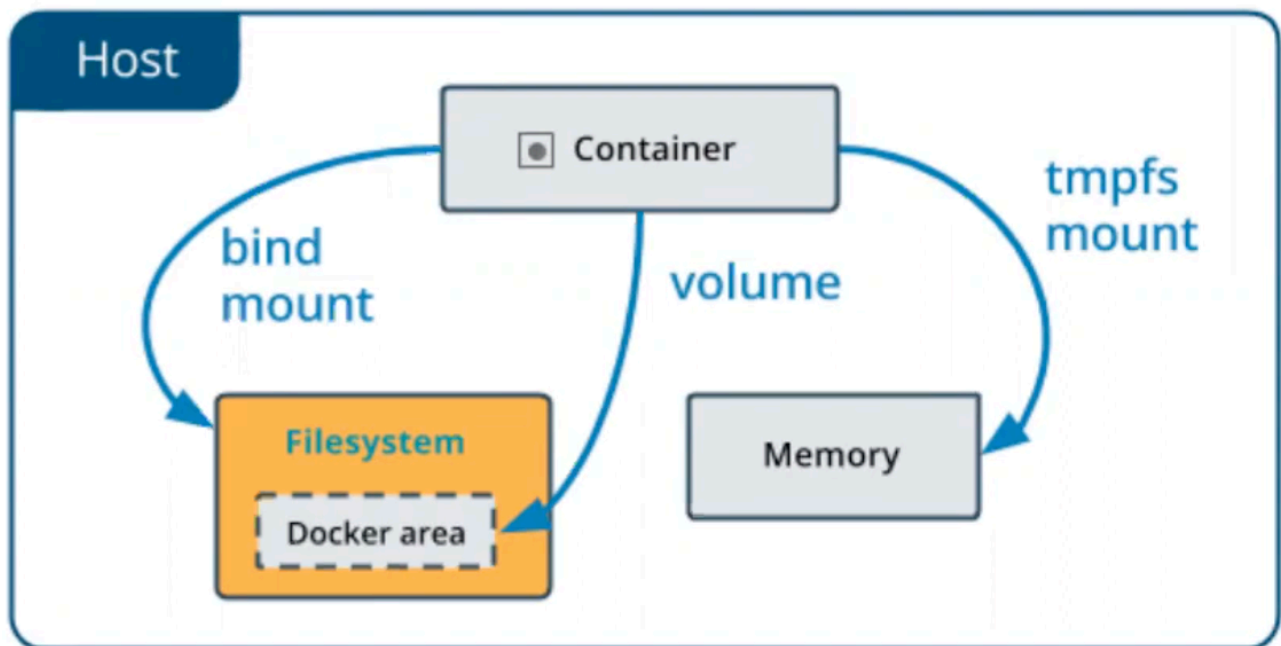
- **Download an image from a registry:** `docker image pull [OPTIONS] NAME[:TAG|@DIGEST]` .
- **Create and run a new container from image:** `docker run [OPTIONS] IMAGE [COMMAND] [ARG...]` .
 - `--name` : Assign name to container
 - `-it` : Combines `--interactive (-i)` and `--tty(-t)` : Keep STDIN open even if not attached, and allocate pseudo-TTY (interface)
 - `-v` : Bind mount a volume
 - `--rm` : Auto remove container when it exists
 - `--net/--network` : Connects a container to a network
 - `-p` : Publish a container's port(s) to the host
- **Build an image from a Dockerfile. A build's context is the set of files in the specified PATH or URL :** `docker build [OPTIONS] PATH | URL | -` .
 - `-f` : Name of the Dockerfile, default is 'Path/Dockerfile'
 - `-force-rm` : Always remove intermediate containers
 - `-no-cache` : Do not use cache when building the image.
- **List containers:** `docker ps [OPTIONS]` .
 - `-a` : Show all containers, running and stopped.
 - `-s` : Display total file size.
- **List images:** `docker images [OPTIONS] [REPOSITORY[:TAG]]` .
 - `-a` : Show all images, default hides intermediate images.
- **Remove one or more containers:** `docker rm [OPTIONS] CONTAINER [CONTAINER...]` .
 - `-f` : Force the removal of a running container (uses SIGKILL)
- **Remove one or more images:** `docker rmi [OPTIONS] IMAGE [IMAGE...]` .
 - `-f` : Force removal of the image.
- **Execute a command in a running container (usually to open an interactive bash in a running container):** `docker exec [OPTIONS] CONTAINER COMMAND [ARG...]` .
 - `-it` : Combines `--interactive (-i)` and `--tty(-t)` : Keep STDIN open even if not attached, and allocate pseudo-TTY
- **Copy folders/files between a container and the local filesystem (behaves like UNIX cp , having similar options for copying recursively, etc):**
 - `docker cp [OPTIONS] CONTAINER:SRC_PATH DEST_PATH` or
 - `docker cp [OPTIONS] SRC_PATH CONTAINER:DEST_PATH` .

Dockerfile

- **Dockerfile:** Dockerfiles are instructions for Docker to build images automatically. Using `docker build` users can create an automated build that executes several command-line instructions in succession (**in order from top to bottom**).
- General Syntax Format:
 - `#` Comment
 - INSTRUCTION arguments
- FROM : Create a new build stage from a base image:
 - Dockerfile must begin with a FROM instruction (may only be preceded by ARG instructions, which declare arguments that are used in FROM lines).
 - FROM instruction specifies the Parent Image from which you are building. E.g., `FROM ubuntu:24.04`.
- RUN : Executes build commands. Has two forms:
 1. Shell form: `RUN <command>` : command is run in shell.
 - Default shell is `/bin/sh -c` on linux, or `cmd /S /C` on windows.
 2. Exec form: `RUN ["executable", "param1", "param2"]` .
 - `git` dependencies, the directory you go into after `cd` when called by RUN **do not persist**. Only modifications to the file system will persist.
- CMD : Sets the command to be executed when running a container from an image. Has three forms:
 1. `CMD ["executable","param1","param2"]` (exec form, preferred)
 2. `CMD ["param1","param2"]` (exec form, as default parameters to ENTRYPOINT)
 3. `CMD command param1 param2` (shell form)
 - There can only be one CMD instruction in a Dockerfile. If you list more than one CMD , only the last one takes effect.
 - The purpose of a CMD is to provide defaults for an executing container. These defaults can include an executable, or they can omit the executable, in which case you must specify an ENTRYPOINT instruction as well.
- ENV <key>=<value> [<key>=<value>...] : Set environment variables.
 - Then ENV instruction sets the environment variable <key> to the value <value> . This value will be interpreted for other environment variables.
 - The environment variables set using ENV **will persist** when a container is run from the resulting image.
- ARG <key>=<value> [<key>=<value>...] : Use build-time variables.
 - Unlike ENV , ARG **will not persist** when a container is run from the resulting image.
- COPY : Copies new files or directories from <src> and adds them to the filesystem of the image at the path <dest> . Has two forms:

1. COPY [--chown=<user>:<group>] <src>... <dest>
2. COPY [--chown=<user>:<group>] ["<src>", ... "<dest>"]
 - [--chown=<user>:<group>] is an [OPTION] that is used to change the user and group ownership of files or directories.
- ENTRYPOINT : Allows you to configure a container that will run as an executable. Has 2 forms:
 1. ENTRYPOINT ["executable", "param1", "param2"] (exec form, preferred)
 2. ENTRYPOINT command param1 param2 (shell form)
- WORKDIR /path/to/workdir : Specifies the working directory.
 - Becomes the directory you'll be in when starting an interactive bash session.
 - If done before any of RUN , CMD , ENTRYPOINT , COPY and ADD instructions, the work directory for them will be the path you give instead of / by default.
- To learn more about these commands: <https://docs.docker.com/reference/dockerfile/>

Bind Mounts and Volume



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- **Bind Mount:** Mounts an **existing file or directory** on the host machine into a container. The file or directory is referenced by its absolute path on the host machine.
- **Volume:** Creates a **new directory within Docker's storage directory** on the host machine, and Docker manages that directory's content.
- **Tmpfs (Temporary file system) mount:** Shares memory between container and host system.
- **Starting a container with a bind mount.** Two ways:
 1. -v : Combines all the options together in one field, separated by : .
 - First field is the path to the file/directory on the **host machine**.
 - Second field is the path where the file/directory is mounted in the **container**.

- Third field is optional, and is comma-separated list of options.
2. `--mount` : Consists of multiple key-value pairs, separated by commas each consisting of a `<key>=<value>` tuple. Some keys include:
 - `type` , which can be `bind` , `volume` , or `tmpfs` .
 - `source` , the path to the file/directory on the **host**.
 - `destination` , the path to the file/directory mounted in the **container**.

Docker Network

- Container networking refers to the ability for containers to connect to and communicate with each other, and with non-Docker network services.
- Users can create a docker network to connect containers to them, or connect containers to non-Docker workloads.
- Create a user-defined bridge network: `$ docker network create <name>`
- Connect a container to a network: `$ docker network connect <net-name> <container>`
- Use the `--network host` option when using `docker run` to share the host's network with container.
- To learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJD7QYQtiKc>

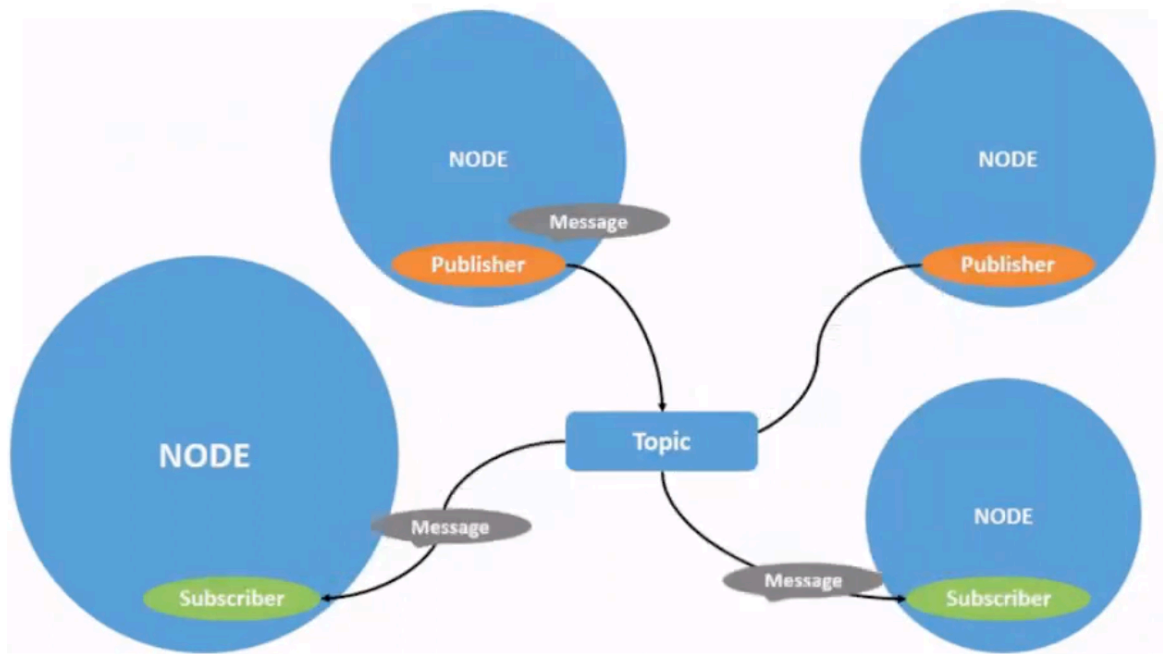
Docker Compose

- Compose is a tool for defining and running multiple containers at the same time.
- A yaml file `docker-compose.yml` is used to configure.
- Run `docker compose up` or `docker-compose up` (if you've installed the docker-compose) to start all your containers.

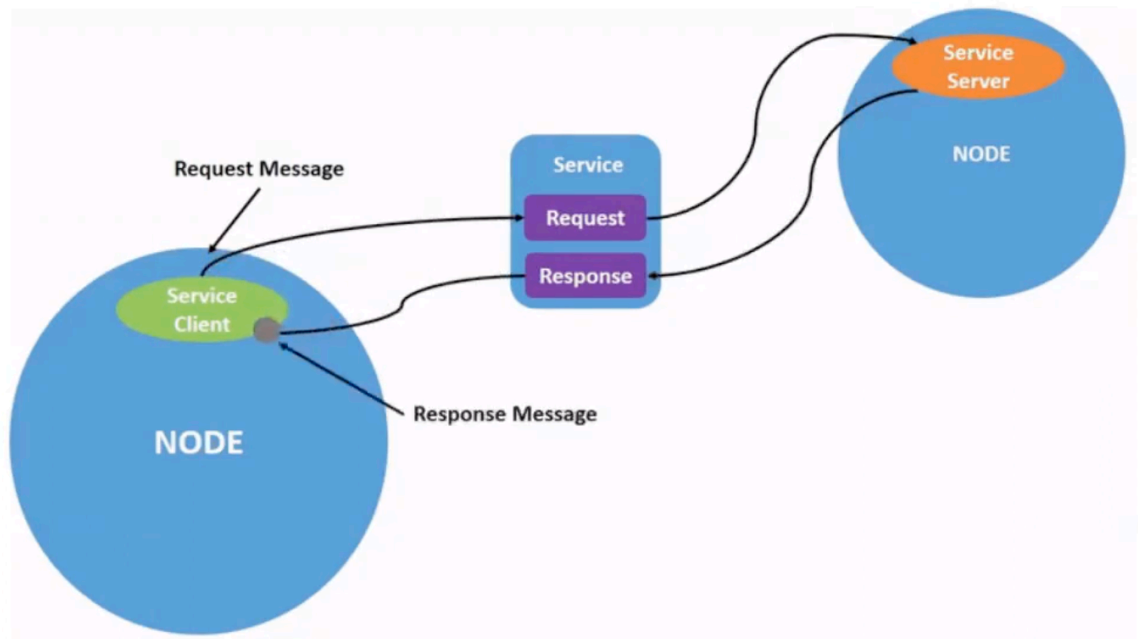
ROS 2

- **Robot Operating System (ROS) 2:**
 - **Distributed:** Utilizes a graph-like structure where nodes, which are individual software processes, communicate with each other through topics, services, and actions.
 - **Peer to peer:** Nodes communicate directly with each other
 - **Multi-lingual:** Supports C++ and Python
 - **Light-weight**
 - **Free and open-source**
- **ROS Graph:** The ROS graph is a network of ROS 2 elements processing data together at one time. It encompasses all executables and the connections between them if you were to map them all out and visualize them.
- **Nodes:**

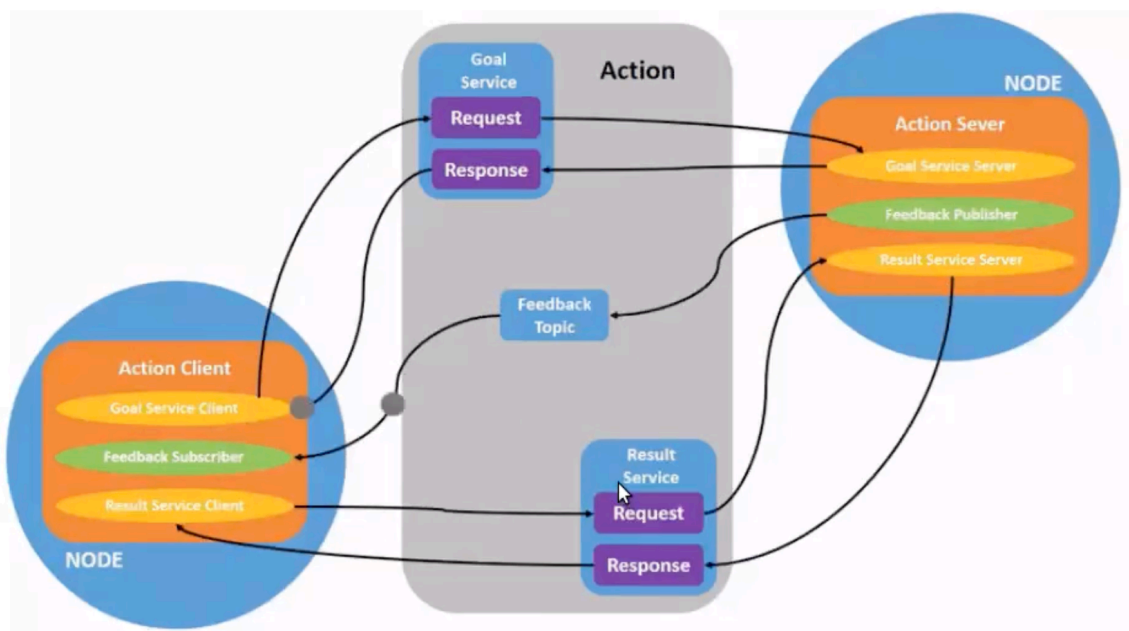
- Each node in ROS 2 should be responsible for a single, module purpose (e.g., one node for controlling wheel motors, one node for controlling a laser range-finder, etc).
- Each node can send and receive data to other nodes via topics, services, actions, or parameters.
- To run a node: `ros2 run <package_name> <executable_name>`
- To list the nodes that are currently running: `ros2 node list`
- To get information about a given node: `node info <node_name>`
- **Topics:** How nodes communicate with each other (main way data is moved between nodes). Acts as a bus for nodes to exchange messages.
 - A node **publishes** (sends) data to **topics**.
 - A node **subscribes** (receives) data from **topics**.
 - Topics don't have to only be point-to-point communication; it can be one-to-many, many-to-one, or many-to-many.
 - **Graph of how nodes and topics are communicating with each other, also shows the types of messages:** `rqt_graph`
 - **Lists all active topics:** `ros2 topic list`
 - **Lists all active topics with their message types:** `ros2 topic list -t`
 - **Displays messages being published on a topic:** `ros2 topic echo <topic_name>`
 - **Shows detailed information about a topic:** `ros2 topic info <topic_name>`
 - **Displays the structure of a message type:** `ros2 interface show <msg_type>`
 - **Publishes a message to a topic from the command line:** `ros2 topic pub <topic_name> <msg_type> '<args>'`
 - **Displays the publishing frequency of a topic:** `ros2 topic hz <topic_name>`
 - Diagram:



- **Services:** Services are another method of communication for nodes in the ROS graph. Services are based on call-and-response model, versus topics' publisher-subscriber model. While topics allow nodes to subscribe to data streams and get continual updates, **services only provide data when they are specifically called by a client.**
 - Can be many service clients using the same service. But **only one** service server for a service.
 - **Lists all active services:** `ros2 service list`
 - **Shows the type of a specific service:** `ros2 service type <service_name>`
 - **Lists all active services with their types:** `ros2 service list -t`
 - **Finds services by service type:** `ros2 service find <type_name>`
 - **Displays the structure of a service type (what type of data it needs for a request and what for response):** `ros2 interface show <type_name>.srv`
 - **Calls a service from the command line:** `ros2 service call <service_name> <service_type> '<args>'`
 - Diagram:



- **Actions:** Actions are type of communication method meant for **long running tasks**. Consist of: a goal, feedback, and a result.
 - Actions are built on topics and services.
 - Unlike services, actions are preemptable (you can cancel them while executing) and provide steady feedback.
 - An "action client" node sends a goal to an "action server" node that acknowledges the goal and returns a stream of feedback and a result.
 - Diagram:



- **Parameters:** Configuration value for nodes (node settings).

- Each node maintains its own parameters (such as `int`, `float`, `bool`, etc).
- All parameters are dynamically reconfigurable and built off ROS 2 services.
- **Lists all parameters:** `ros2 param list`
- **Gets the value of a parameter:** `ros2 param get <node_name> <parameter_name>`
- **Sets the value of a parameter:** `ros2 param set <node_name> <parameter_name> <value>`
- Can also use YAML or launch file to define parameters: Useful to have all parameters in one place while tuning & set parameters for multiple nodes.
- Set in C++: `this->declare_parameter("my_parameter", "world");`
- Get in C++: `this->get_parameter("my_parameter");`
- Learn more here: <https://roboticsbackend.com/rclcpp-params-tutorial-get-set-ros2-params-with-cpp/> & <https://docs.ros.org/en/foxy/Tutorials/Beginner-Client-Libraries/Using-Parameters-In-A-Class-CPP.html>
- **Workspace:** Directory containing all ROS 2 packages.
 - Before using ROS 2, you must source your ROS 2 installation workspace in the terminal you plan to work in to make them available for you to use in that terminal.
 - **Underlay:** Main ROS 2 environment.
 - Sourcing an **Overlay:** A secondary workspace where you can add new packages without interfering with the existing ROS 2 workspace that you are extending, or "underlay".
 - Your underlay must contain all the dependencies of all the packages in your overlay.
 - Packages in overlay override packages in underlay.
 - Possible to have several layers of underlays and overlays - where each successive overlay uses the packages of its parent underlays.
 - **Create a new workspace:** `$ mkdir -p <your_workspace>/src`. Then put desired ROS 2 packages inside `src`
 - **Resolving dependencies:** `$ cd <your_workspace> $ rosdep install -i --from-path src --rosdistro foxy -y`. This will install dependencies declared in `package.xml` from all packages in the `src` directory for ROS 2 foxy.
 - **Build workspace with colcon:** From the root of your workspace: `$ colcon build`.
 - `--packages-up-to`: Build packages you want, plus all its dependencies, but not the whole workspace. Saves time if you don't need all packages in workspace
 - Once build finishes, you should see: `build`, `install`, `log`, `src` directories in your workspace. The `install` directory is where your workspace's setup files are.
 - **Sourcing an Underlay:** Give your underlay access to your packages on top of the base ROS 2 environment.
 - Do it by writing in new terminal: `$ source /opt/ros/foxy/setup.bash`

- Then, in root of desired workspace, `$ cd <your_workspace>` and `$ source install/local_setup.bash`
- Instead of doing the above two notes you could combine them with: `$ install/setup.bash` in your workspace.
- **ROS 2 Packages:** A package can be considered a container in your ROS 2 code. To install and share your code, you'll need to organize it in a package.
 - **Package Creation:** ROS 2 uses **ament** as its build system and **colcon** as its build tool. Use CMake for your package.
 - CMake package requires:
 - File containing meta info about the package: `package.xml`
 - File describing how to build the code within the package: `CMakeLists.txt`
 - Most simple structure looks like folder named `my_package` with the above two files inside.
 - A single workspace can contain **many packages**, each in their own folder. You **cannot have nested packages**.
 - Best practice: Have `src` folder within your workspace and create all your packages in there.
 - **Create Package:** `$ cd <your_workspace>/src` and `$ ros 2 pkg create --build-type ament_cmake <package_name>`
 - **Package Contents:**
 - Contains files: `CMakeLists.txt`, and `package.xml`, and folders: `include`, `src`. Node source files (`.cpp`) are in `src`, and header files (`.hpp`) are in `include`.
 - **Customizing package.xml:** Fill in name and email on `maintainer` line, edit description to `summarize` the package, update the `license` line. Fill in your dependencies under the `_depend` tags. For more docs about what types of depend tags: <https://docs.ros.org/en/humble/Tutorials/Intermediate/Rosdep.html>
- Wow you made it all the way down here! If you need to learn more about anything covered above, you can always refer to the docs. Our club has a repository where we will continually add documentation and tutorials for you to use here: <https://github.com/sfu-racerbot/racerbot-docs/tree/main>