

# Containers & Orchestration

CSC 410/510

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# Last Time

- Overview of Containers
  - Container concept
  - Docker
  - Dockerfile
  - Mentioned idea of orchestration

# Today

- Installing Docker on EC2
- Some web stuff
  - curl
  - reverse proxies
- Docker commands
- Assignment 2

# Installing Docker on EC2

# Update system and install prerequisites

```
$ sudo apt update  
$ sudo apt install -y ca-certificates curl gnupg
```

# Add Docker's official GPG key

```
$ sudo install -m 0755 -d /etc/apt/keyrings  
$ curl -fSSL https://download.docker.com/linux/ubuntu/gpg | \  
  sudo gpg --dearmor -o /etc/apt/keyrings/docker.gpg  
  
$ sudo chmod a+r /etc/apt/keyrings/docker.gpg
```

# Add the Docker apt repository

```
$ echo \  
  "deb [arch=$(dpkg --print-architecture) \  
  signed-by=/etc/apt/keyrings/docker.gpg] \  
  https://download.docker.com/linux/ubuntu \  
  $(. /etc/os-release && echo "$VERSION_CODENAME") stable" | \  
  sudo tee /etc/apt/sources.list.d/docker.list > /dev/null  
  
$ sudo apt update
```

# Install Docker Engine + CLI

```
$ sudo apt install -y docker-ce docker-ce-cli containerd.io
```

# Verify it works

```
$ sudo docker run hello-world
```

# (Optional) Allow your user to run docker without sudo

```
$ sudo usermod -aG docker $USER
```

**After this command, you have to log out and then log back in for the command to take effect!!**

curl

# HTTP

# HTTP Request Methods

- **GET**
- **PUT**
- **POST**
- **DELETE**

# HTTP GET

# HTTP POST

# Curl: Testing HTTP Interfaces

# Curl for GET requests

```
curl -i http://localhost/api/health
```

# Curl for POST requests

```
curl -i -X POST http://localhost/api/items \  
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \  
-d '{"name":"alpha"}'
```

# Reverse Proxies

# Reverse Proxy — Core Concept

- A **reverse proxy** is a server that sits **in front of one or more backend servers**
- It receives client requests on behalf of those servers
- It forwards the request to an internal server
- It returns the backend server's response to the client
- To the client, it appears as though it *is* the origin server

# Forward Proxy vs Reverse Proxy (Clarification)

- **Forward proxy**
  - Sits between client and internet
  - Clients explicitly connect to it
  - Often used for filtering, caching, anonymity
- **Reverse proxy**
  - Sits between internet and servers
  - Clients are unaware it exists
  - Used for infrastructure control and scaling

# Basic Request Flow

- Client sends HTTP request to example.com
- DNS resolves to reverse proxy IP
- Reverse proxy receives request
- Reverse proxy forwards request to backend server
- Backend responds to reverse proxy
- Reverse proxy returns response to client

# Why Use a Reverse Proxy?

- **1. Load Balancing**
- Distributes traffic across multiple backend servers
- Enables horizontal scaling
- Can use:
  - Round-robin
  - Least connections
  - Weighted routing
  - Health checks

# Why Use a Reverse Proxy?

- **TLS Termination**
  - Reverse proxy handles HTTPS encryption/decryption
  - Backend servers can communicate over plain HTTP internally
  - Centralizes certificate management
  - Reduces cryptographic overhead on app servers

# Why Use a Reverse Proxy?

- **Security Isolation**
  - Backend servers are not directly exposed to the internet
  - Internal IP addresses remain hidden
  - Can enforce:
    - IP allow/deny lists
    - Rate limiting
    - Web Application Firewall (WAF) rules

# Why Use a Reverse Proxy?

- **Caching**
  - Frequently requested content can be cached at proxy
  - Reduces load on backend
  - Improves latency

# Why Use a Reverse Proxy?

- **URL Routing / Path-Based Routing**
  - Route different paths to different services:
    - /api → API server
    - /app → Web frontend
    - /static → CDN or static server
  - Enables microservice architectures

- **Centralized Logging & Observability**

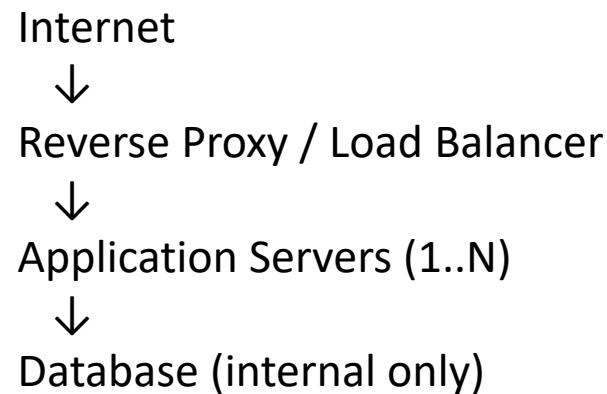
- All traffic passes through one point
- Easier to monitor:
  - Request rates
  - Errors
  - Latency
- Supports distributed tracing headers

# Common Reverse Proxy Software

- Nginx
- Apache HTTP Server
- HAProxy
- Traefik
- Envoy
- Caddy

# Architectural Placement

- Cloud deployment



# Conceptual Summary

- Reverse proxy = **traffic controller in front of your servers**
- Hides backend servers
- Improves scalability
- Improves security
- Centralizes TLS and routing
- Essential building block in modern cloud architectures

# Dockerfile Commands

# FROM

- **FROM specifies the base image for the build**
  - Every Docker image starts from an existing image layer.
- Example
  - FROM python:3.12-slim

# ENV

- **ENV sets environment variables inside the container image**
  - These values apply at runtime to all processes in the container.
- example
  - ENV PYTHONDONTWRITEBYTECODE=1 \  
PYTHONUNBUFFERED=1
- PYTHONDONTWRITEBYTECODE=1
  - Prevents Python from creating .pyc bytecode files (keeps container filesystem cleaner).
- PYTHONUNBUFFERED=1
  - Forces stdout/stderr to flush immediately (logs appear in real time in docker logs).

# RUN

- **RUN executes a command at build time**
  - Modifies the image filesystem and creates a new layer.
- example:
  - RUN useradd --create-home --shell /usr/sbin/nologin appuser
  -

# WORKDIR

- **WORKDIR sets the working directory for subsequent instructions**
  - All following COPY, RUN, and CMD commands execute relative to this path.
- example:
  - WORKDIR /app
  - Creates (if necessary) and switches into /app inside the container filesystem.

# COPY

- **COPY copies files from the build context into the image**
  - Source is on the host; destination is inside the container filesystem.

# USER

- **USER sets the user for subsequent instructions and at container runtime**
  - The container will no longer run as root.
- example
  - USER appuser

# EXPOSE

- **EXPOSE documents which port the container listens on**
  - Indicates the intended network port for the application.
- example
  - EXPOSE 8000
  - FastAPI (via unicorn) listens on port 8000 inside the container.

# CMD

- CMD ["uvicorn", "main:app", "--host", "0.0.0.0", "--port", "8000"]

# Assignment 2

- [https://github.com/RichardKelley-CUA/DA510\\_assignment\\_2](https://github.com/RichardKelley-CUA/DA510_assignment_2)