Full Setup: SSH Between Two Docker Containers

1 Create Two Ubuntu Containers

docker run -dit --name containerA ubuntu # SSH client

docker run -dit --name containerB ubuntu #SSH server

Install and Configure SSH Server in containerB

docker exec -it containerB bash

apt update && apt install -y openssh-server

mkdir /var/run/sshd

mkdir -p /root/.ssh

service ssh start

Install SSH Client and Generate Key in containerA

docker exec -it containerA bash

apt update && apt install -y openssh-client

ssh-keygen -t rsa -b 2048 -f ~/.ssh/id_rsa -q -N ""

cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub

🚹 Paste Public Key into containerB

In a new terminal, run:

docker exec -it containerB bash

nano /root/.ssh/authorized_keys # Paste the public key here

chmod 600 /root/.ssh/authorized_keys

Get containerB's Internal IP

docker inspect -f '{{range .NetworkSettings.Networks}}{{.IPAddress}}{{end}}' containerB

Example output: 172.17.0.3 — use this as the SSH target

SSH from containerA to containerB

docker exec -it containerA bash

ssh root@172.17.0.3

Type yes to continue when prompted.

✓ You're now logged into containerB from containerA via SSH!

Optional: Clean Up

docker stop containerA containerB

docker rm containerA containerB