

Comparison with Docker Swarm

In this lesson, we will compare Kubernetes ConfigMaps with Docker Swarm Configs.

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING ^

- The Similarities
- The Differences
 - Docker
 - Kubernetes
 - Conclusion

The Similarities

The mechanisms behind Kubernetes ConfigMaps and Docker Swarm Configs are almost the same. At least, from the functional perspective.

- Both allow us to store some literal texts in the scheduler's internal data store, and both enable us to add them to containers.
- The syntax is equally simple and straightforward in both cases. Still, there are a few differences.



The Differences

Docker

Docker is good at preventing people from doing silly things (the politically correct version of the word *stupid*). An example would be an attempt to delete a configuration. It cannot be deleted if there are Docker services that reference the configuration. Only after all the services that reference it are removed, are we allowed to remove the configuration source. Kubernetes, on the other hand, will let us delete a ConfigMap object without even a hint about the consequences.

Kubernetes

Kubernetes ConfigMap, on the other hand, provides a wider variety of options. While a Docker Swarm configuration can be created only from a file or `stdin`, the Kubernetes equivalent can be generated from a file, from a directory, from a literal value, and from files with environment variables. Each of those sources can be used multiple times. We can even combine them. Further on, Kubernetes ConfigMaps can be converted not only to files, but also to environment variables. Flexibility and extra functionalities are available both at the source and the destination end-points.

Conclusion

Docker Swarm **wins** a user experience point. Kubernetes **gains a star** for providing more choices. Neither has a significant difference that would warrant a win, so we're proclaiming it a *tie*.

There are many more features worthwhile comparing. We're not yet finished. Stay tuned for more.

Let's move to the next chapter and learn about the Secrets.