Disk and Container Formats

《 (statuses.html) 》 (common-image-properties.html) 🐞 (https://bugs.launchpad.net/glance/+filebug?
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UPDATED: 'THU MAR 1 07:26:57 2018, COMMIT 968F4AE'

When adding an image to Glance, you must specify what the virtual machine image's *disk format* and *container format* are. Disk and container formats are configurable
on a per-deployment basis. This document intends to establish a global convention for what specific values of *disk_format* and *container_format* mean.

Disk Format¶

The disk format of a virtual machine image is the format of the underlying disk image. Virtual appliance vendors have different formats for laying out the information
contained in a virtual machine disk image.

You can set your image's disk format to one of the following:

- **raw**

  This is an unstructured disk image format

- **vhd**

  This is the VHD disk format, a common disk format used by virtual machine monitors from VMware, Xen, Microsoft, VirtualBox, and others

- **vhdx**

  This is the VHDX disk format, an enhanced version of the vhd format which supports larger disk sizes among other features.

- **vmdk**

  Another common disk format supported by many common virtual machine monitors

- **vdi**

  A disk format supported by VirtualBox virtual machine monitor and the QEMU emulator

- **iso**

  An archive format for the data contents of an optical disc (e.g. CDROM).

- **ploop**

  A disk format supported and used by Virtuozzo to run OS Containers

- **qcow2**

  A disk format supported by the QEMU emulator that can expand dynamically and supports Copy on Write

- **aki**

  This indicates what is stored in Glance is an Amazon kernel image

- **ari**

  This indicates what is stored in Glance is an Amazon ramdisk image

- **ami**

  This indicates what is stored in Glance is an Amazon machine image

Container Format¶

The container format refers to whether the virtual machine image is in a file format that also contains metadata about the actual virtual machine.

Note that the container format string is not currently used by Glance or other OpenStack components, so it is safe to simply specify **bare** as the container format if you
are unsure.

You can set your image's container format to one of the following:

- **bare**

  This indicates there is no container or metadata envelope for the image

- **ovf**

  This is the OVF container format

- **aki**

  This indicates what is stored in Glance is an Amazon kernel image

- **ari**

This indicates what is stored in Glance is an Amazon ramdisk image

- **ami**

   This indicates what is stored in Glance is an Amazon machine image

- **ova**

   This indicates what is stored in Glance is an OVA tar archive file

- **docker**

   This indicates what is stored in Glance is a Docker tar archive of the container filesystem

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