**Dockerfile**

[](https://i.stack.imgur.com/jc2IW.jpg)

A Dockerfile is a simple text file that contains the commands a user could call to assemble an image.

Example, **Dockerfile**

FROM ubuntu:latest

MAINTAINER john doe

RUN apt-get update

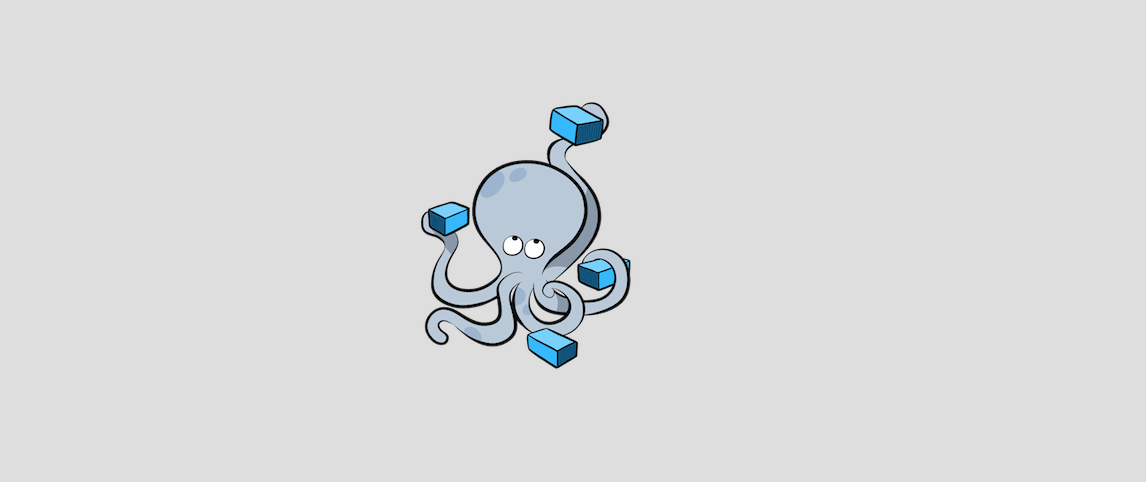
RUN apt-get install -y python python-pip wget

RUN pip install Flask

ADD hello.py /home/hello.py

WORKDIR /home

**Docker Compose**

[](https://i.stack.imgur.com/56AtK.png)

**Docker Compose**

* is a tool for defining and running multi-container Docker applications.
* define the services that make up your app in docker-compose.yml so they can be run together in an isolated environment.
* get an app running in one command by just running docker-compose up

Example, **docker-compose.yml**

version: "3"

services:

web:

build: .

ports:

- '5000:5000'

volumes:

- .:/code

- logvolume01:/var/log

links:

- redis

redis:

image: redis

volumes:

logvolume01: {}

I have no idea why this exact breakdown isn't sitting on Docker's home page. Thanks. – [codykochmann](https://stackoverflow.com/users/3670556/codykochmann) [Mar 11 '18 at 11:33](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/29480099/docker-compose-vs-dockerfile-which-is-better#comment85442654_45549372)

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I see this kind of docs missing in most recently released tools/solutions/frameworks on the web. I guess it is hard to see why someone needs it in case you already know/invented the solution yourself. – [Peter Branforn](https://stackoverflow.com/users/1170045/peter-branforn) [Mar 18 '18 at 12:13](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/29480099/docker-compose-vs-dockerfile-which-is-better#comment85695102_45549372)

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What's missing from this answer is more info about compose. Does the compose script call the dockerfile? How does it know what to compose? The example shows image: redis but is that from dockerhub? local directory? etc... this makes it confusing for a newb like me to understand what's really going on – [Joe Phillips](https://stackoverflow.com/users/20471/joe-phillips) [Mar 21 '18 at 15:47](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/29480099/docker-compose-vs-dockerfile-which-is-better#comment85823236_45549372)

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@JoePhillips yes exactly! Is the image: redis, the same as the from: redis in the docker file? – [Chopnut](https://stackoverflow.com/users/245904/chopnut) [Jul 13 '18 at 2:01](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/29480099/docker-compose-vs-dockerfile-which-is-better#comment89609634_45549372)

The **Compose** file describes **the container in its running state**, leaving the details on how to **build the container** to **Dockerfiles**. <http://deninet.com/blog/1587/docker-scratch-part-4-compose-and-volumes>

When you define your app **with Compose** in development, **you can use this definition to run your application in** different environments such as **CI, staging, and production**. <https://docs.docker.com/compose/production/>