

Docker Desktop Installation Guide

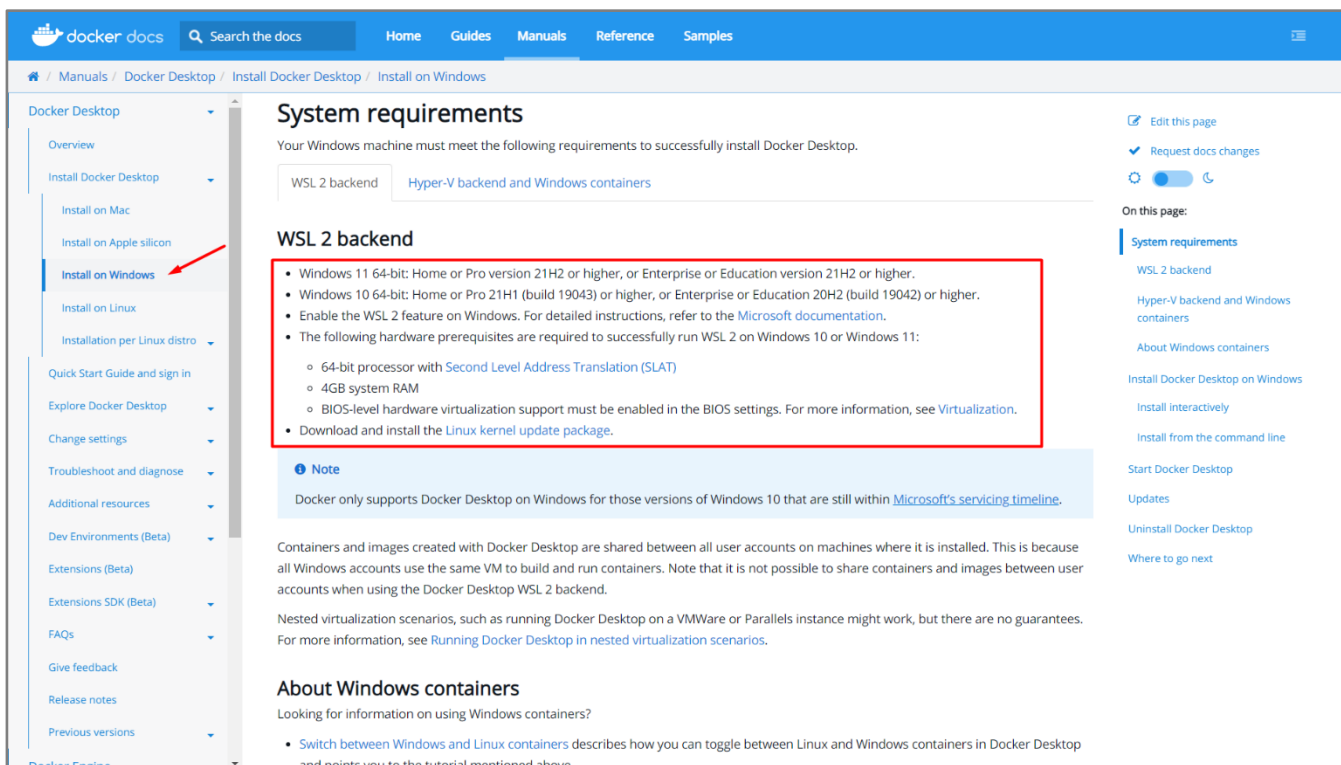
Guide for downloading and installing Docker Desktop on Windows, Mac, and Linux
for the "Containers and Clouds" course @ SoftUni

Download Docker Desktop on Windows

First, you will need to open the Docker documentation <https://docs.docker.com/desktop/>.

Choose **"Windows"** from the menu on the left side of the screen. Before installing make sure that your machine **matches the needed requirements** to use Docker Desktop.

For example, if you use Windows 10+ you could **directly** download and install Docker Desktop because the platform runs natively on Windows 10+:



The screenshot shows the Docker Desktop installation guide on the Docker documentation website. The page is titled "System requirements" and lists requirements for WSL 2 backend and Hyper-V backend. A red box highlights the WSL 2 backend requirements, which include Windows 11 64-bit, Windows 10 64-bit, and hardware prerequisites like SLAT and 4GB RAM. The left sidebar shows the navigation menu with "Install on Windows" highlighted. The right sidebar shows a list of links related to Docker Desktop installation.

System requirements

Your Windows machine must meet the following requirements to successfully install Docker Desktop.

WSL 2 backend Hyper-V backend and Windows containers

WSL 2 backend

- Windows 11 64-bit: Home or Pro version 21H2 or higher, or Enterprise or Education version 21H2 or higher.
- Windows 10 64-bit: Home or Pro 21H1 (build 19043) or higher, or Enterprise or Education 20H2 (build 19042) or higher.
- Enable the WSL 2 feature on Windows. For detailed instructions, refer to the [Microsoft documentation](#).
- The following hardware prerequisites are required to successfully run WSL 2 on Windows 10 or Windows 11:
 - 64-bit processor with Second Level Address Translation (SLAT)
 - 4GB system RAM
 - BIOS-level hardware virtualization support must be enabled in the BIOS settings. For more information, see [Virtualization](#).
- Download and install the [Linux kernel update package](#).

Note

Docker only supports Docker Desktop on Windows for those versions of Windows 10 that are still within [Microsoft's servicing timeline](#).

Containers and images created with Docker Desktop are shared between all user accounts on machines where it is installed. This is because all Windows accounts use the same VM to build and run containers. Note that it is not possible to share containers and images between user accounts when using the Docker Desktop WSL 2 backend.

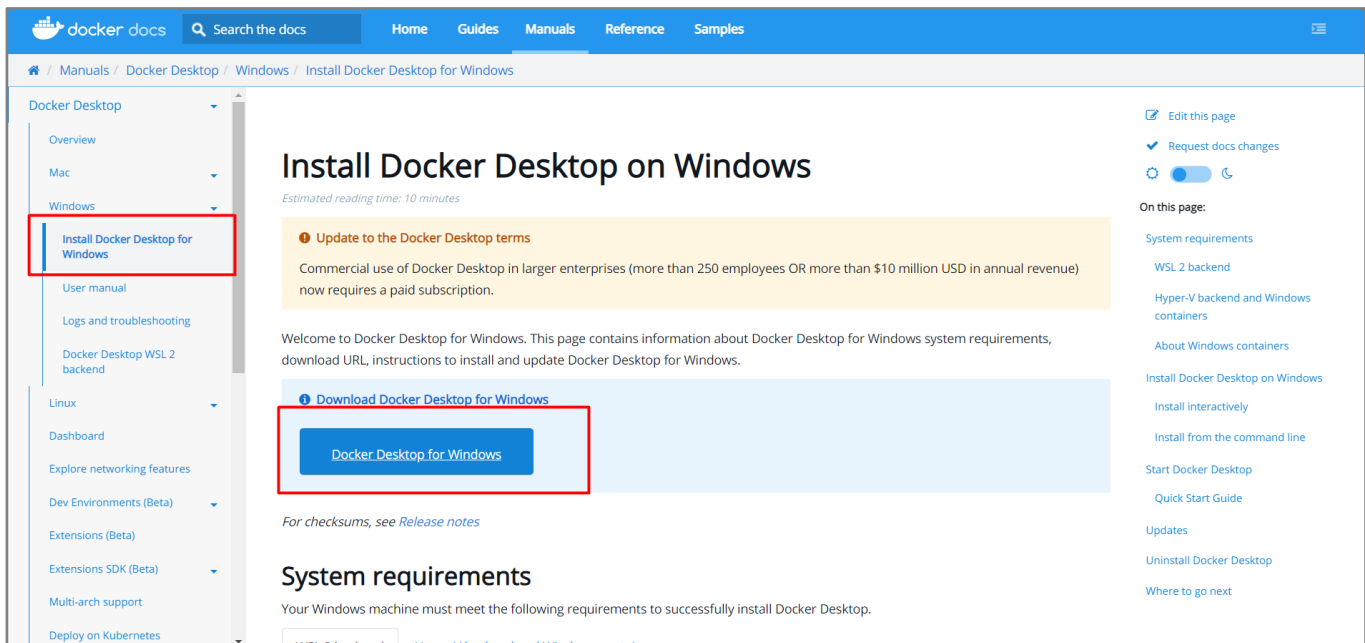
Nested virtualization scenarios, such as running Docker Desktop on a VMWare or Parallels instance might work, but there are no guarantees. For more information, see [Running Docker Desktop in nested virtualization scenarios](#).

About Windows containers

Looking for information on using Windows containers?

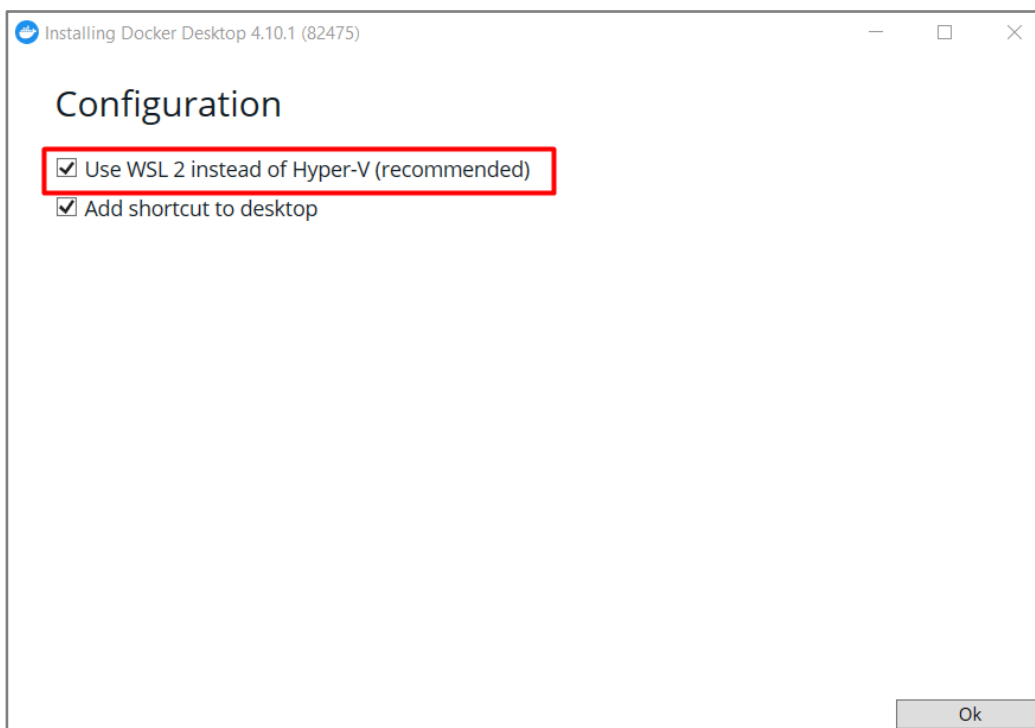
- [Switch between Windows and Linux containers](#) describes how you can toggle between Linux and Windows containers in Docker Desktop and points you to the tutorial mentioned above.

Download the **Docker Desktop Installer**:

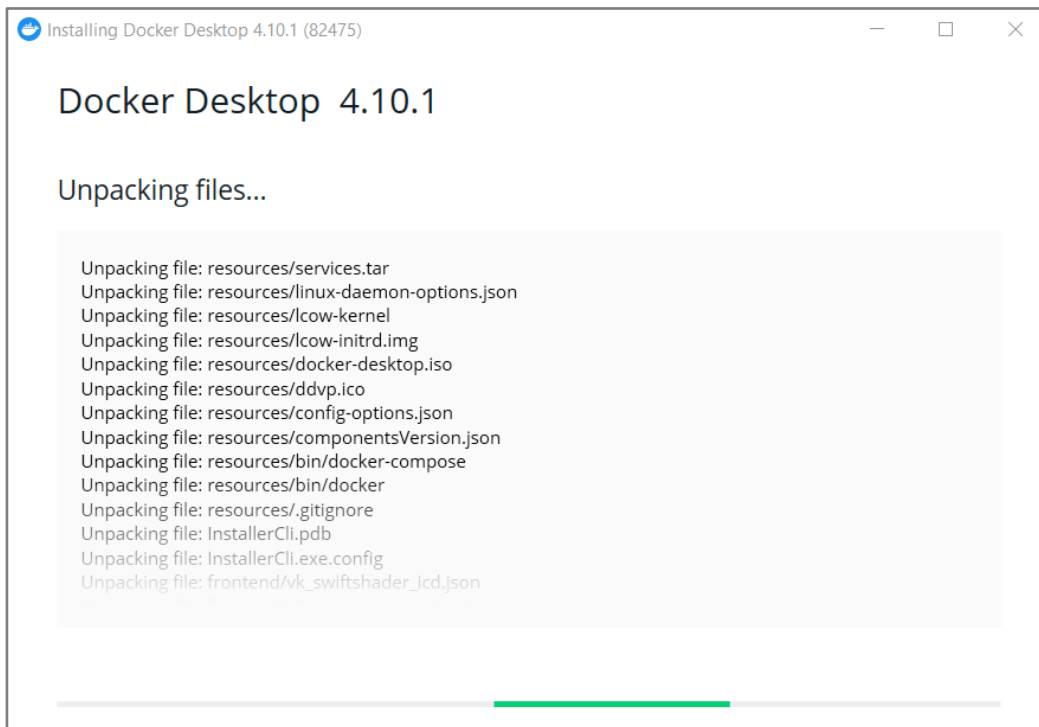


Double-click Docker Desktop Installer.exe to run it (for this example, Docker Desktop 4.10.1 will be installed; you do **NOT** need to download the same version of the software - it would be best to download the newest one).

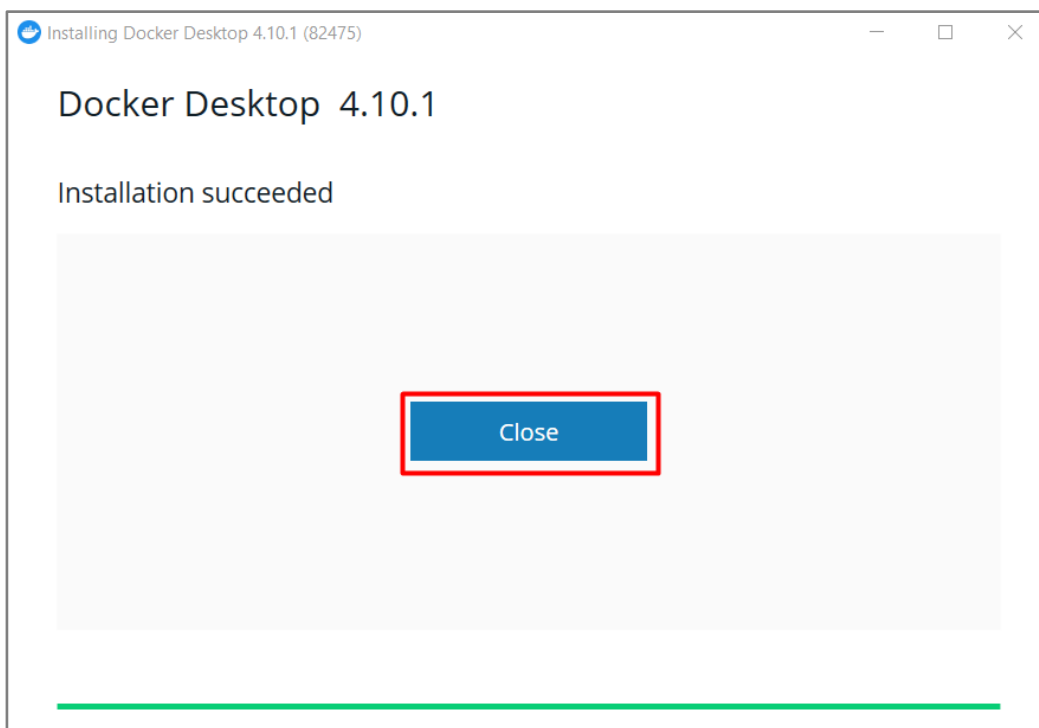
When prompted, ensure the **"Use WSL 2 instead of Hyper-V"** option on the Configuration page **is selected** or not depending on your choice of backend. If your system only supports one of the two options, you will **NOT** be able to select which backend to use:



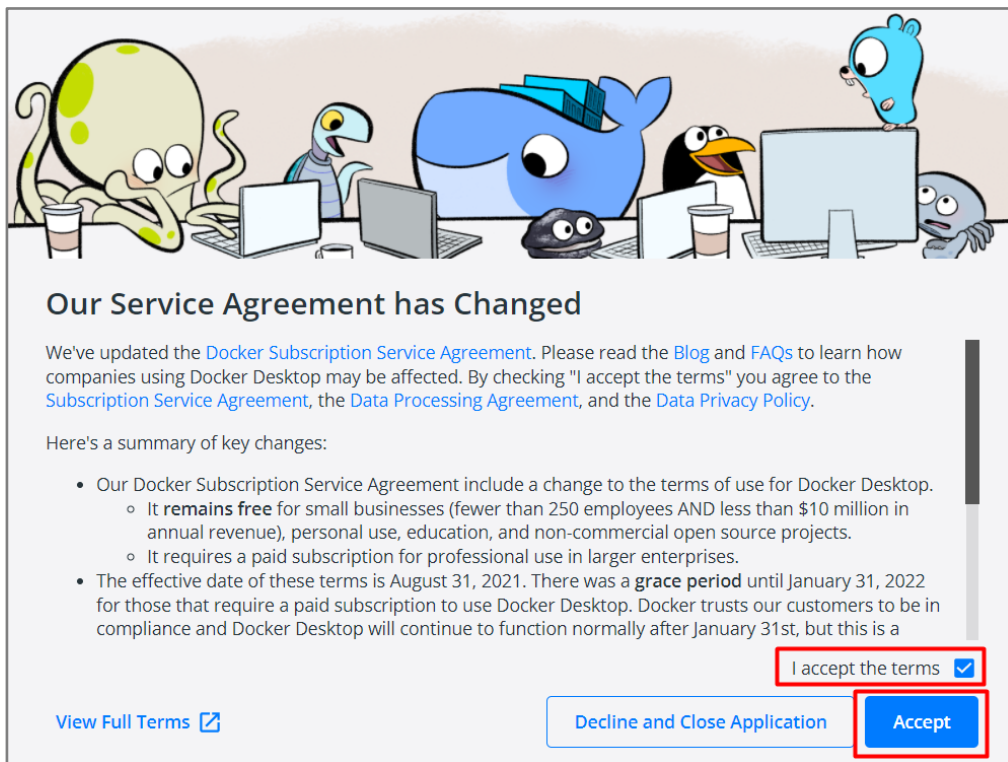
The installation could take couple of minutes:



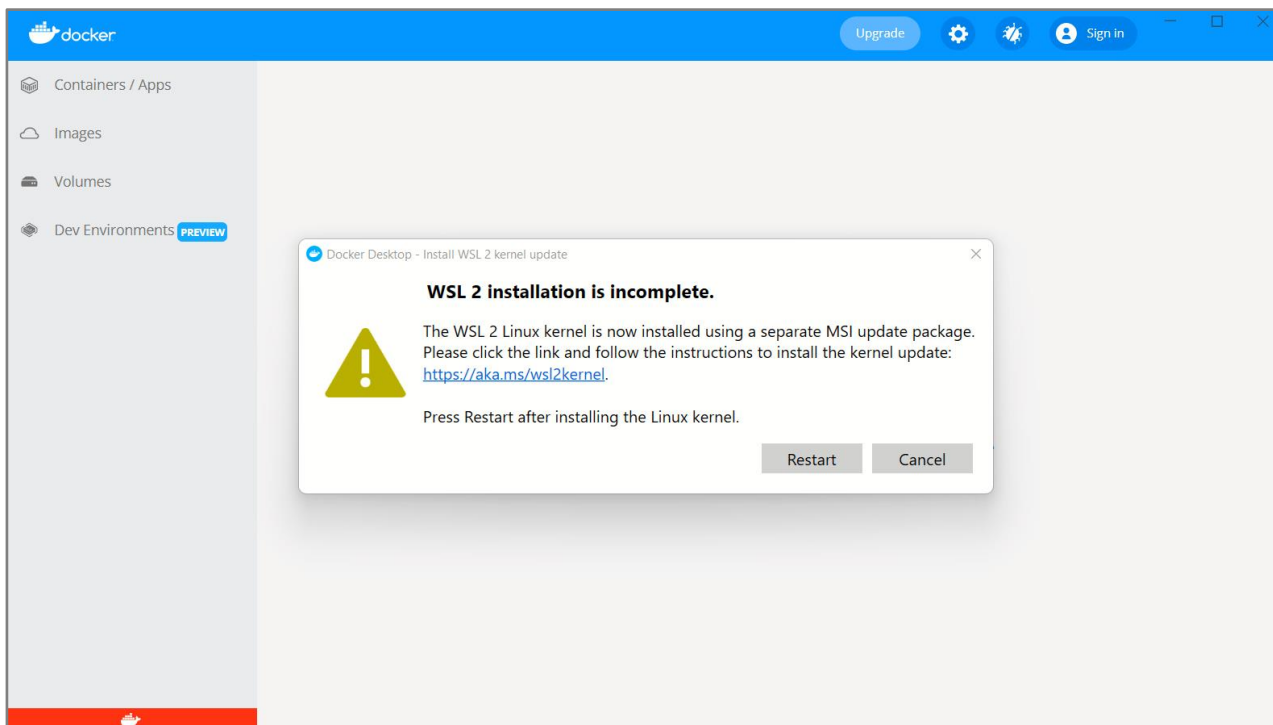
When the installation is successful, click **[Close]** to complete the installation process:



Docker Desktop does **NOT** start automatically after installation. To start Docker Desktop **double-click on the "Docker Desktop" icon**. First, it will display the **Docker Subscription Service Agreement** window. Read the terms and click the checkbox to indicate that you accept the updated terms and then click **Accept** to continue:



Docker Desktop starts after you accept the terms. You may see **the following pop-up message**:



If you do - **click on the link**, do **NOT close** the pop-up message, and install the **Subsystem for Linux update**:

Filter by title

WSL Documentation

> Overview

> Install

Install WSL

Manual install steps for older versions

Install on Windows Server

> Tutorials

> Concepts

> How-to

Frequently Asked Questions

Troubleshooting

Release Notes

Step 4 - Download the Linux kernel update package

1. Download the latest package:

- WSL2 Linux kernel update package for x64 machines

Note

If you're using an ARM64 machine, please download the [ARM64 package](#) instead. If you're not sure what kind of machine you have, open Command Prompt or PowerShell and enter: `systeminfo | find "System Type"`. **Caveat:** On non-English Windows versions, you might have to modify the search text, translating the "System Type" string. You may also need to escape the quotations for the find command. For example, in German `systeminfo | find "Systemtyp"`.

In this article

[Step 1 - Enable the Windows Subsystem for Linux](#)

[Step 2 - Check requirements for running WSL 2](#)

[Step 3 - Enable Virtual Machine feature](#)

[Step 4 - Download the Linux kernel update package](#)

[Step 5 - Set WSL 2 as your default version](#)

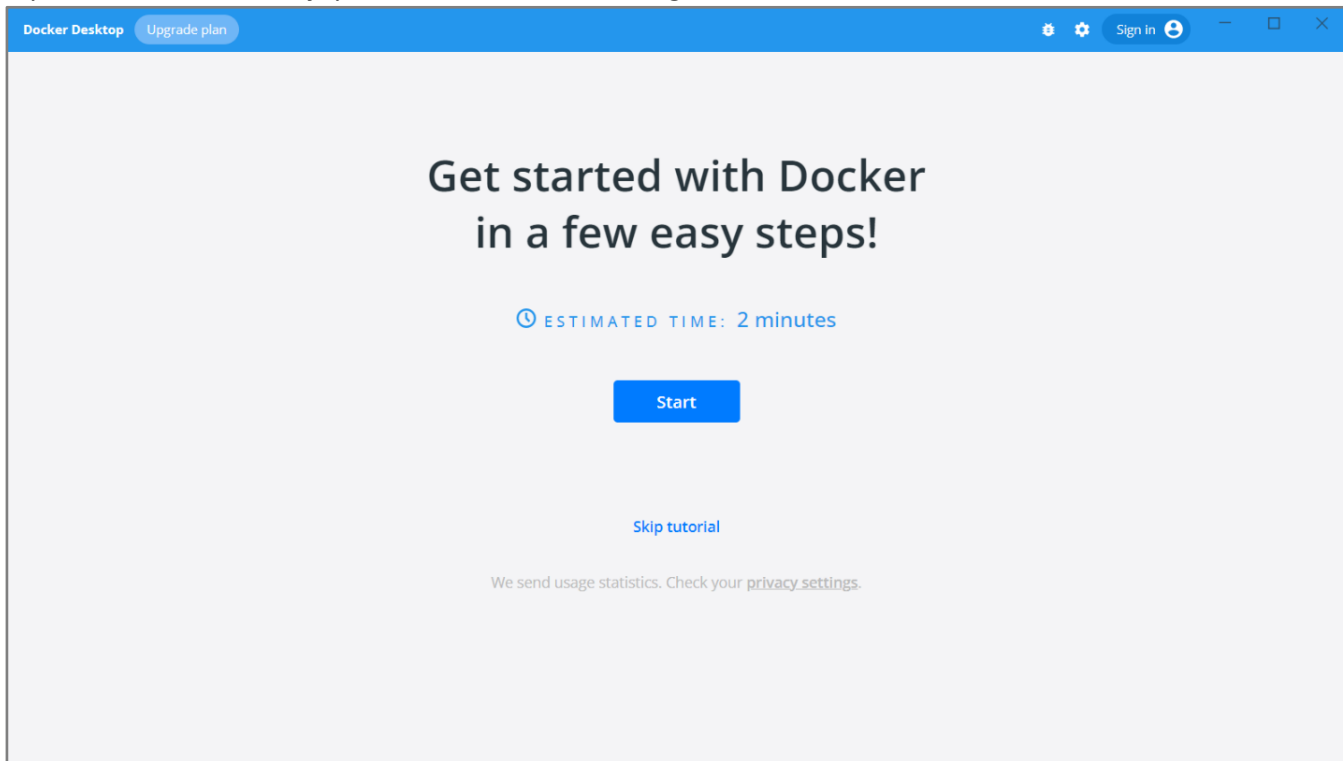
[Step 6 - Install your Linux distribution of choice](#)

[Troubleshooting installation](#)

[Downloading distributions](#)

[Install Windows Terminal \(optional\)](#)

If you installed it **correctly**, you should see the following window:



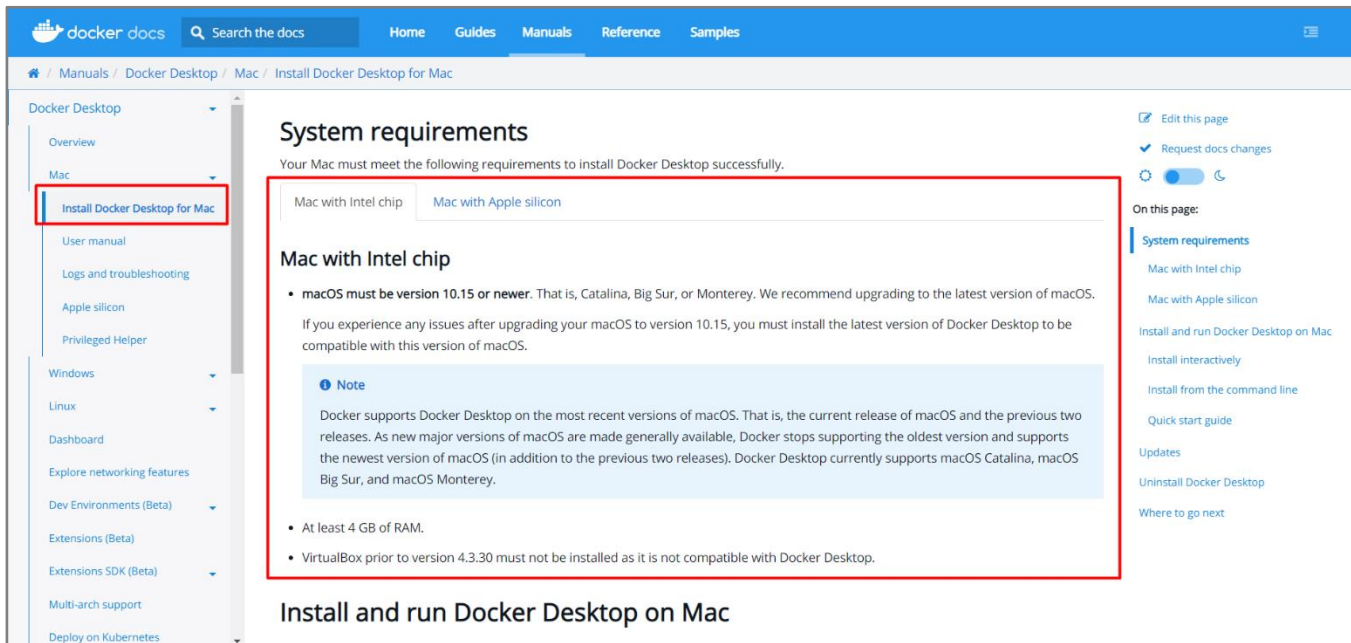
Congratulations! You are now successfully running Docker Desktop on Windows.

Download Docker Desktop on Mac

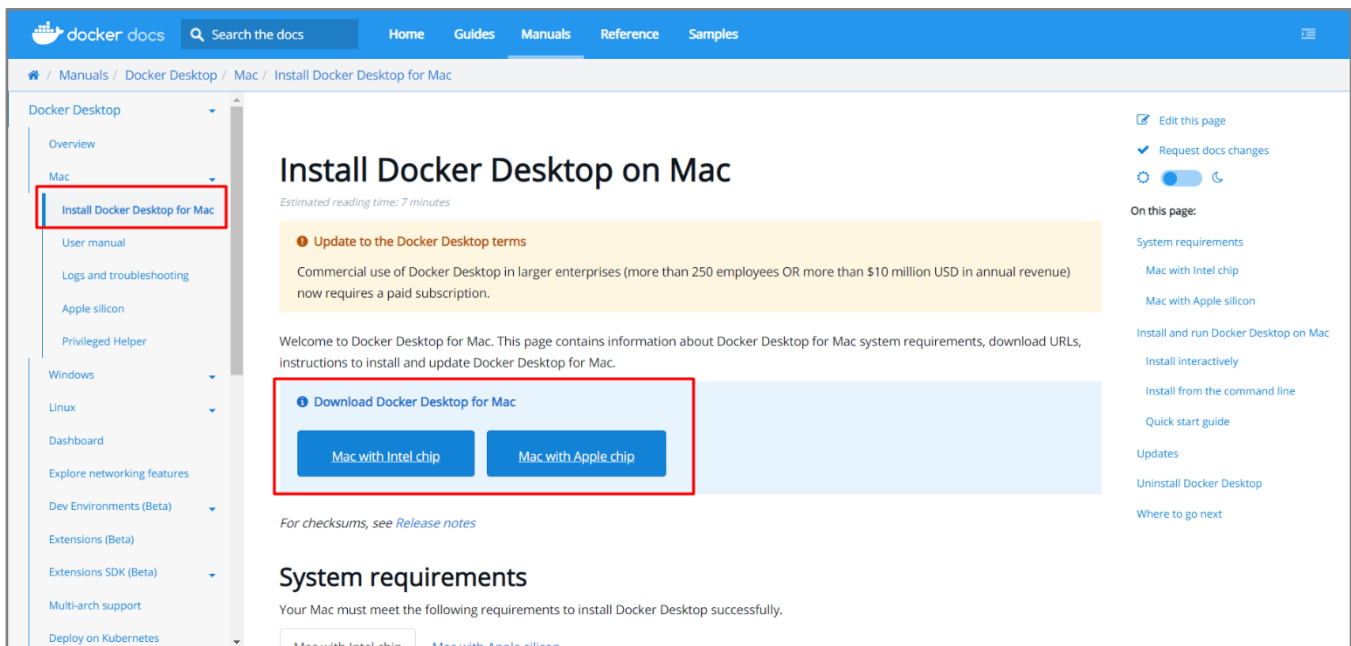
First, you will need to open the Docker documentation <https://docs.docker.com/desktop/>.

Choose **"Mac"** from the menu on the left side of the screen. Before installing make sure that your machine **matches the needed requirements** to use Docker Desktop.

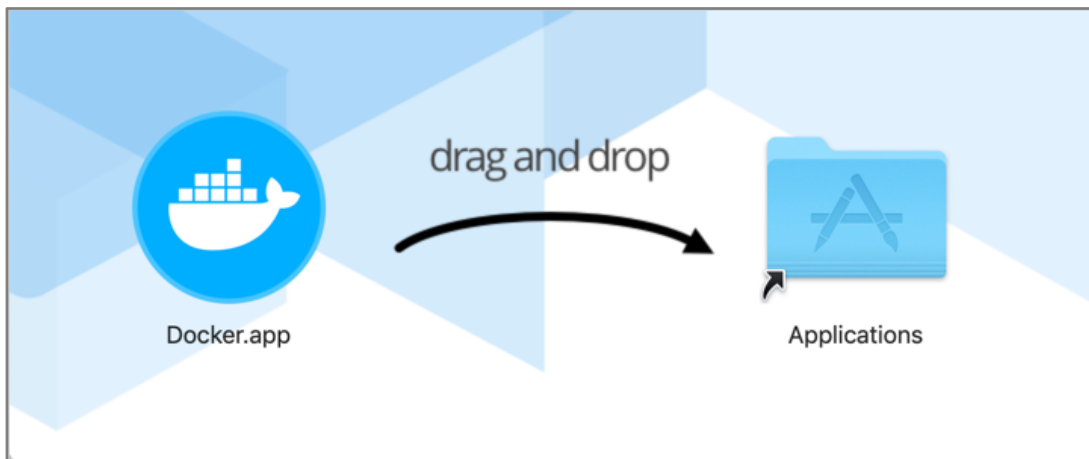
For example, if you use MacOS 10.15+ you could **directly** download and install Docker Desktop:



Download the **Docker Desktop Installer**:

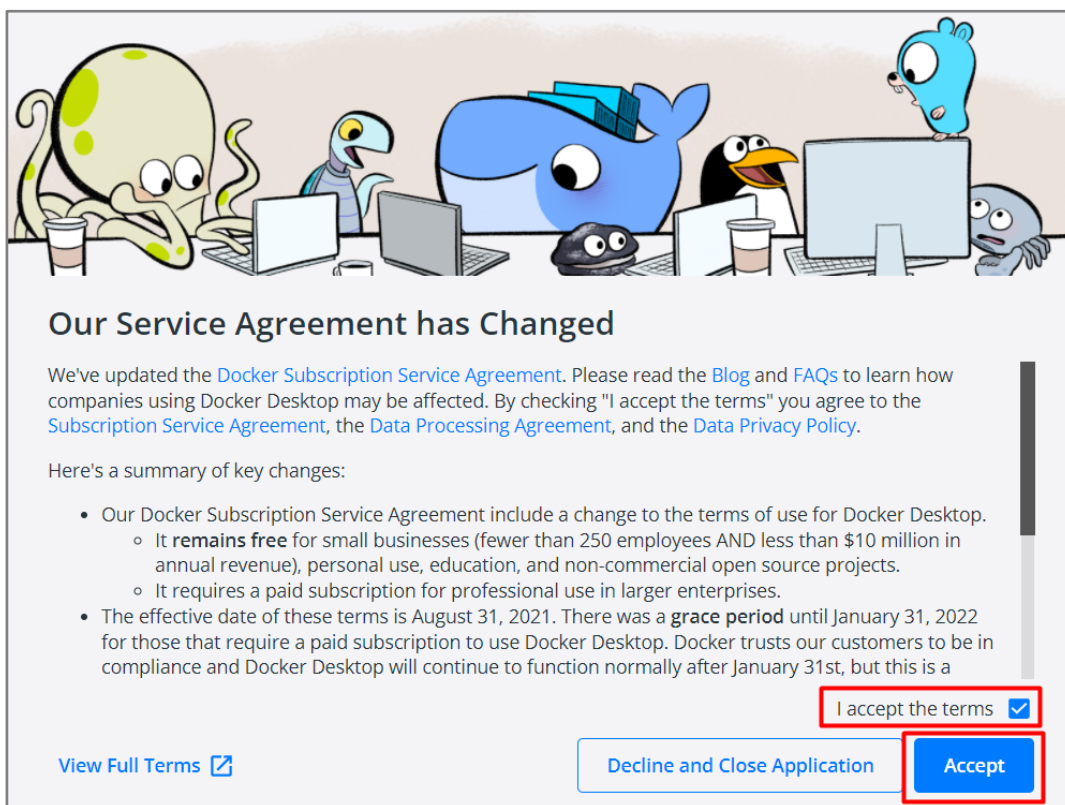


Double-click Docker.dmg to open the installer, then **drag the Docker icon to the Applications folder**:

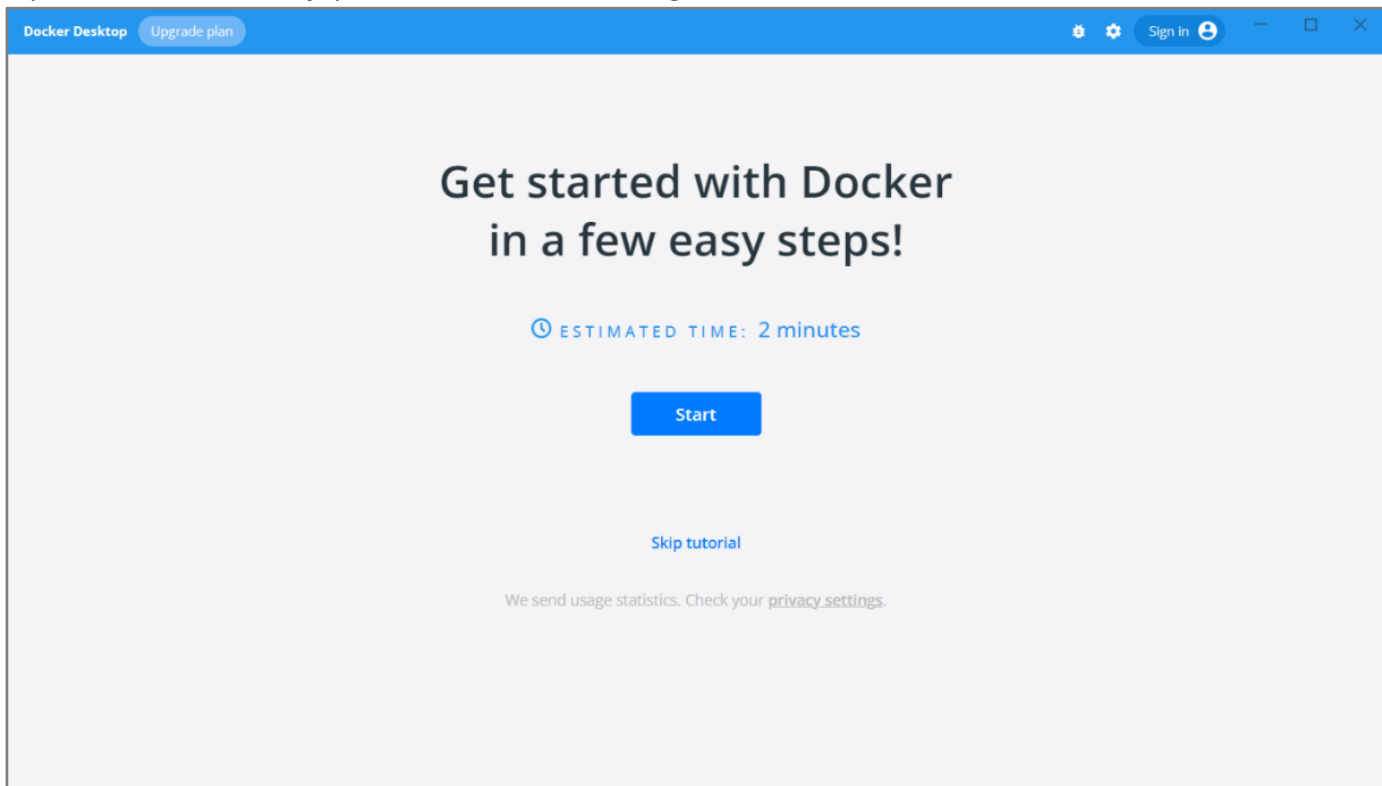


Double-click Docker.app in the Applications folder to start Docker.

First, it will display the **Docker Subscription Service Agreement** window. Read the terms and click the checkbox to indicate that you accept the updated terms and then click **Accept** to continue:



If you installed it **correctly**, you should see the following window:



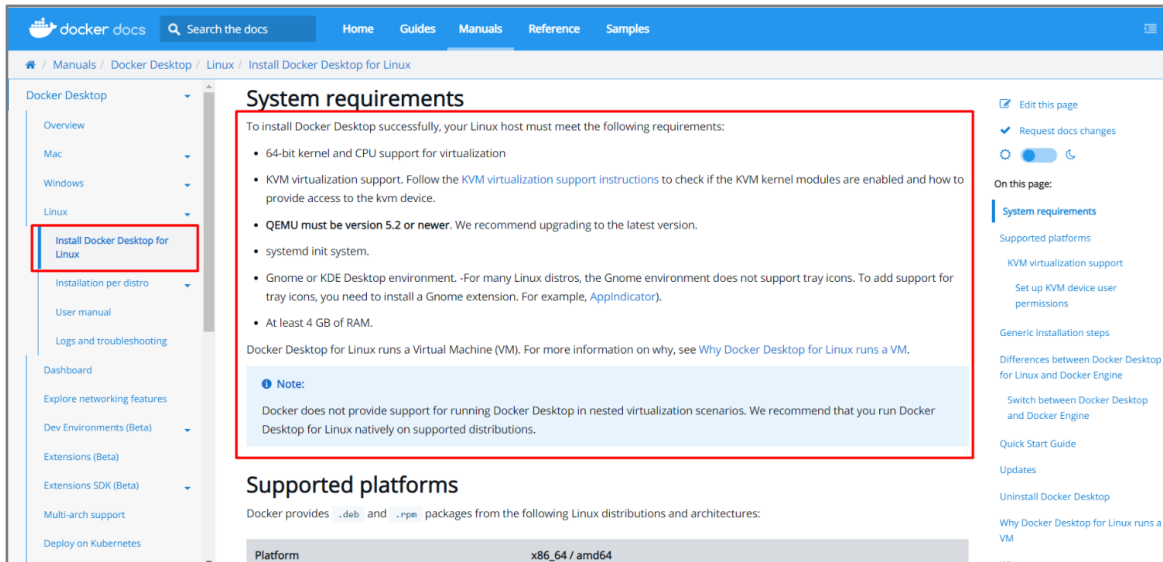
Congratulations! You are now successfully running Docker Desktop on Mac.

Download Docker Desktop on Linux

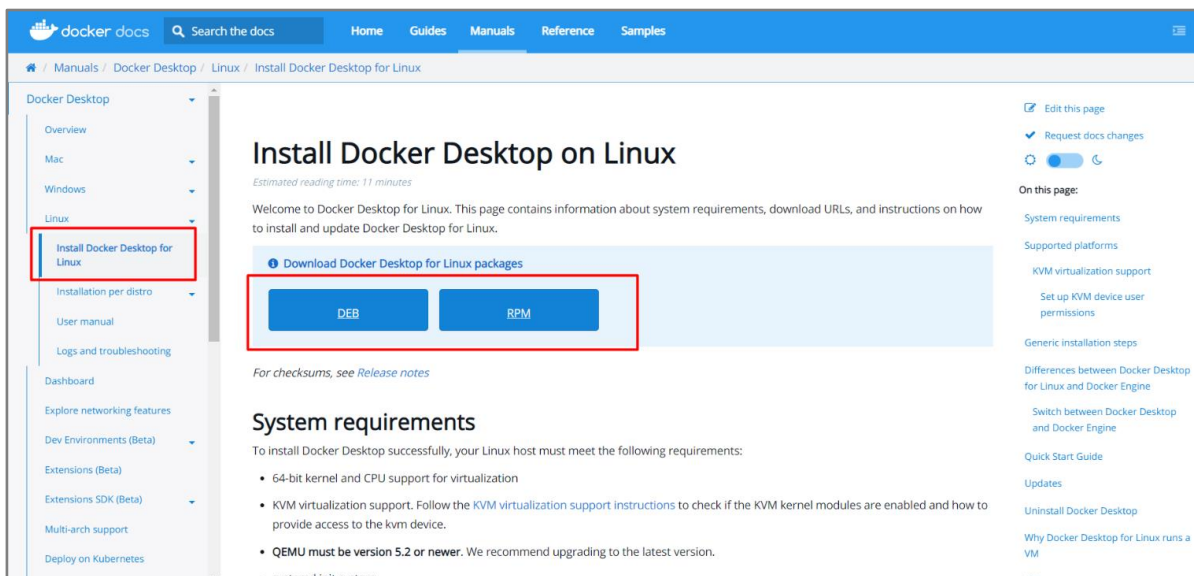
First, you will need to open the Docker documentation <https://docs.docker.com/desktop/>.

Choose "**Linux**" from the menu on the left side of the screen. Before installing make sure that your machine **matches the needed requirements** to use Docker Desktop.

For example, your Linux distribution should have 64-bit kernel and CPU support for virtualization, KVM virtualization support, and QEMU must be version 5.2 or newer:



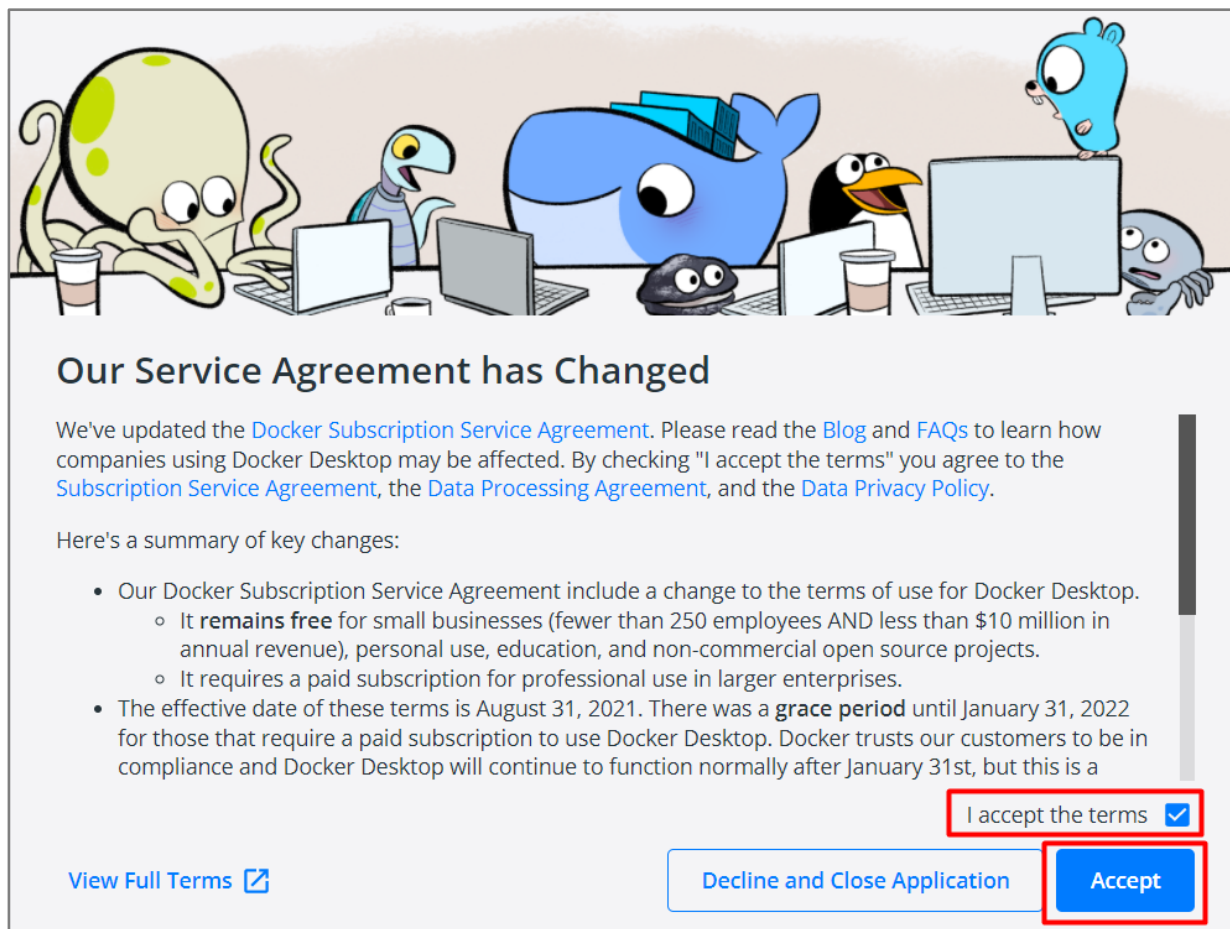
Download the correct package for your Linux distribution and install it with the corresponding package manager:



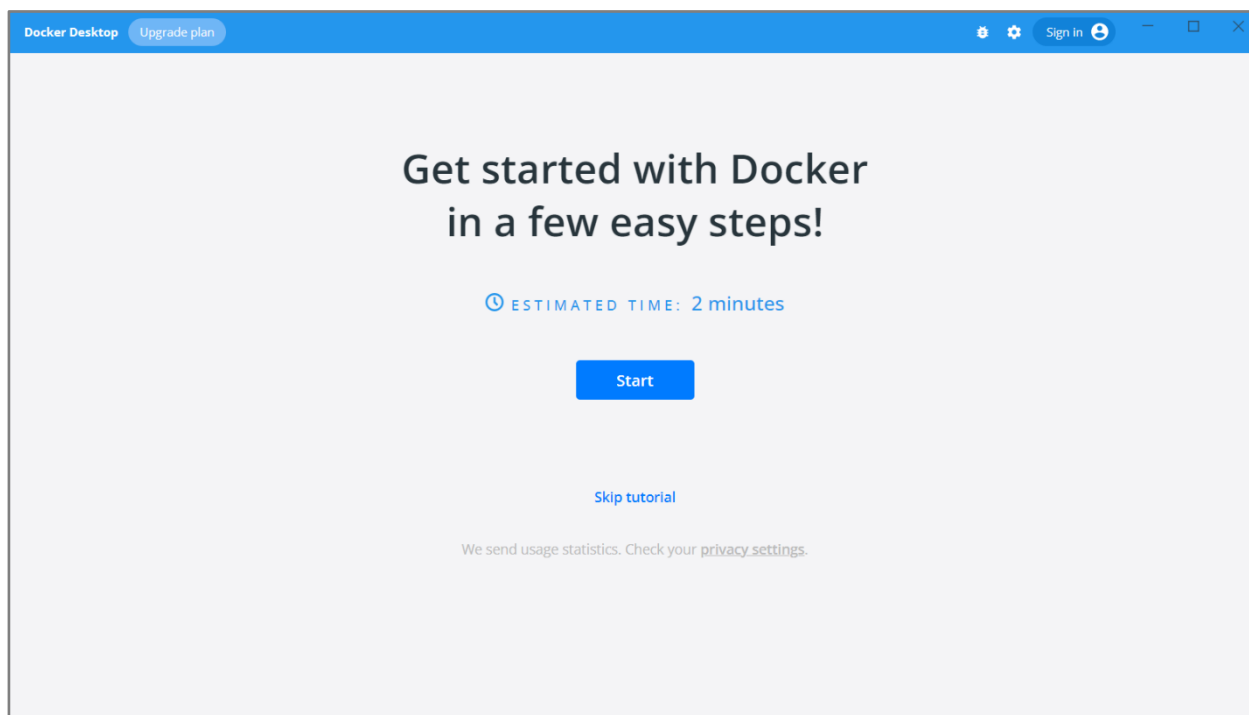
- More on how to install Docker Desktop on **Debian**: <https://docs.docker.com/desktop/linux/install/debian/>
- More on how to install Docker Desktop on **Fedora**: <https://docs.docker.com/desktop/linux/install/fedora/>
- More on how to install Docker Desktop on **Ubuntu**: <https://docs.docker.com/desktop/linux/install/ubuntu/>
- More on how to install Docker Desktop on **Arch**: <https://docs.docker.com/desktop/linux/install/archlinux/>

Open your Applications menu in Gnome/KDE Desktop and search for Docker Desktop. Then, select Docker Desktop to start Docker.

First, it will display the **Docker Subscription Service Agreement** window. Read the terms and click the checkbox to indicate that you accept the updated terms and then click **Accept** to continue:



If you installed it **correctly**, you should see the following window:



Congratulations! You are now successfully running Docker Desktop on Linux.