

Docker Desktop Installation Guide

Guide for downloading and installing Docker Desktop on Windows, Mac, and Linux
for the ["PostgreSQL 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, ensure your machine matches the **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 Docs website. The left sidebar has a menu with 'Install on Windows' highlighted. The main content area is titled 'System requirements' and lists the prerequisites for WSL 2 backend. A red box highlights the hardware prerequisites: Windows 11 64-bit or higher, Windows 10 64-bit or higher, enabling WSL 2, and hardware prerequisites (64-bit processor with SLAT, 4GB RAM, BIOS-level virtualization support). A note mentions that Docker only supports Windows 10 versions within Microsoft's servicing timeline. The right sidebar shows a list of links related to the page.

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.

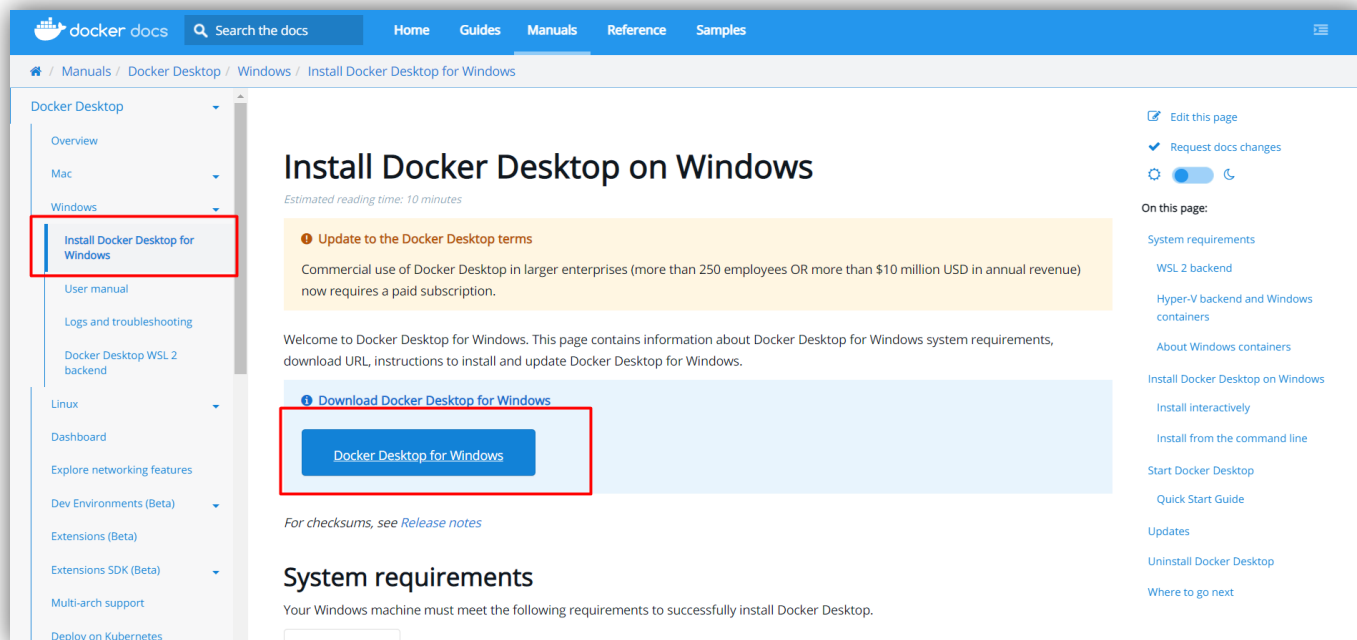
Nested virtualization scenarios, such as running Docker Desktop on a VMWare or Parallels instance might work, but there are no guarantees. For more information, see [Running Docker Desktop in nested virtualization scenarios](#).

About Windows containers

Looking for information on using Windows containers?

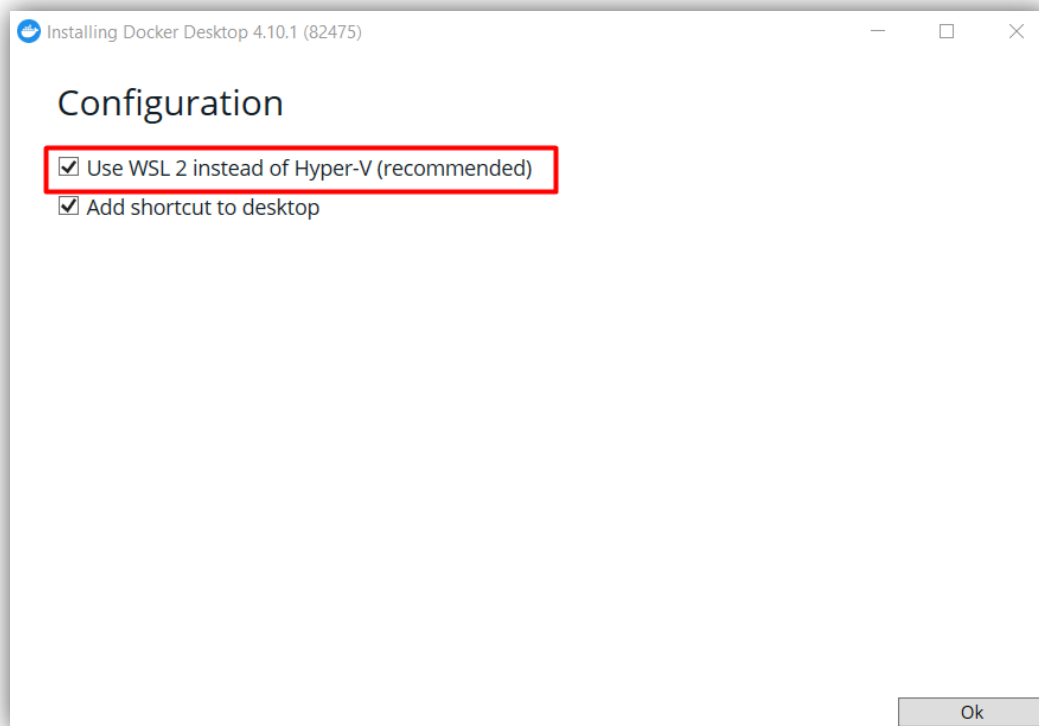
- [Switch between Windows and Linux containers](#) describes how you can toggle between Linux and Windows containers in Docker Desktop and points you to the tutorial mentioned above.

Download the **Docker Desktop Installer**:

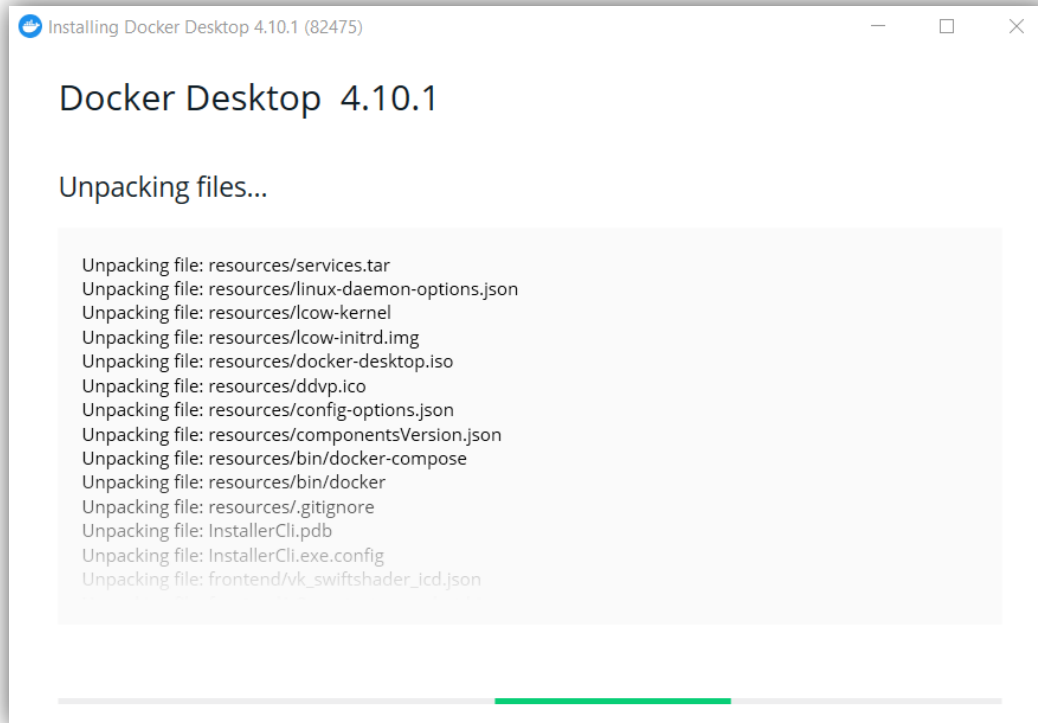


Double-click Docker Desktop Installer.exe to run it (for this example, Docker Desktop 4.10.1 will be installed; you do **NOT** need to download the same version of the software - it would be best to download the newest one).

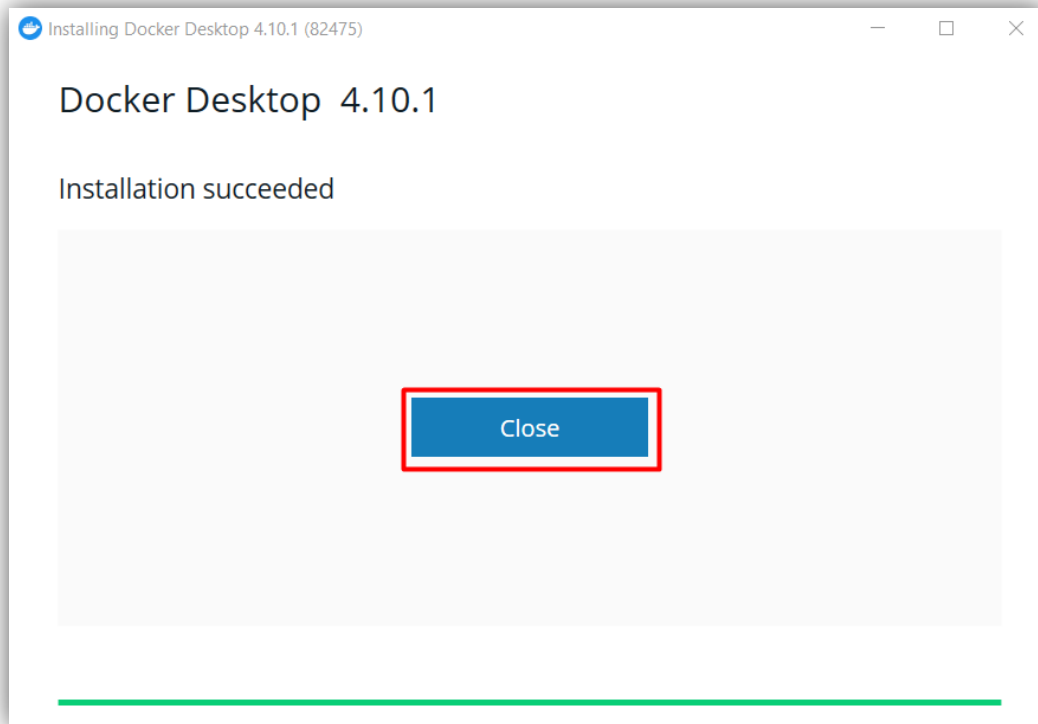
When prompted, ensure the **"Use WSL 2 instead of Hyper-V"** option on the Configuration page is **selected** or not depending on your choice of backend. If your system only supports one of the two options, you will **NOT** be able to select which backend to use:



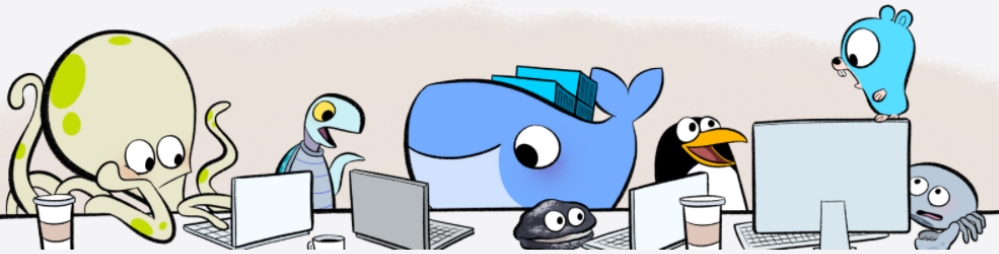
The installation could take couple of minutes:



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:




Our Service Agreement has Changed

We've updated the [Docker Subscription Service Agreement](#). Please read the [Blog](#) and [FAQs](#) to learn how companies using Docker Desktop may be affected. By checking "I accept the terms" you agree to the [Subscription Service Agreement](#), the [Data Processing Agreement](#), and the [Data Privacy Policy](#).

Here's a summary of key changes:

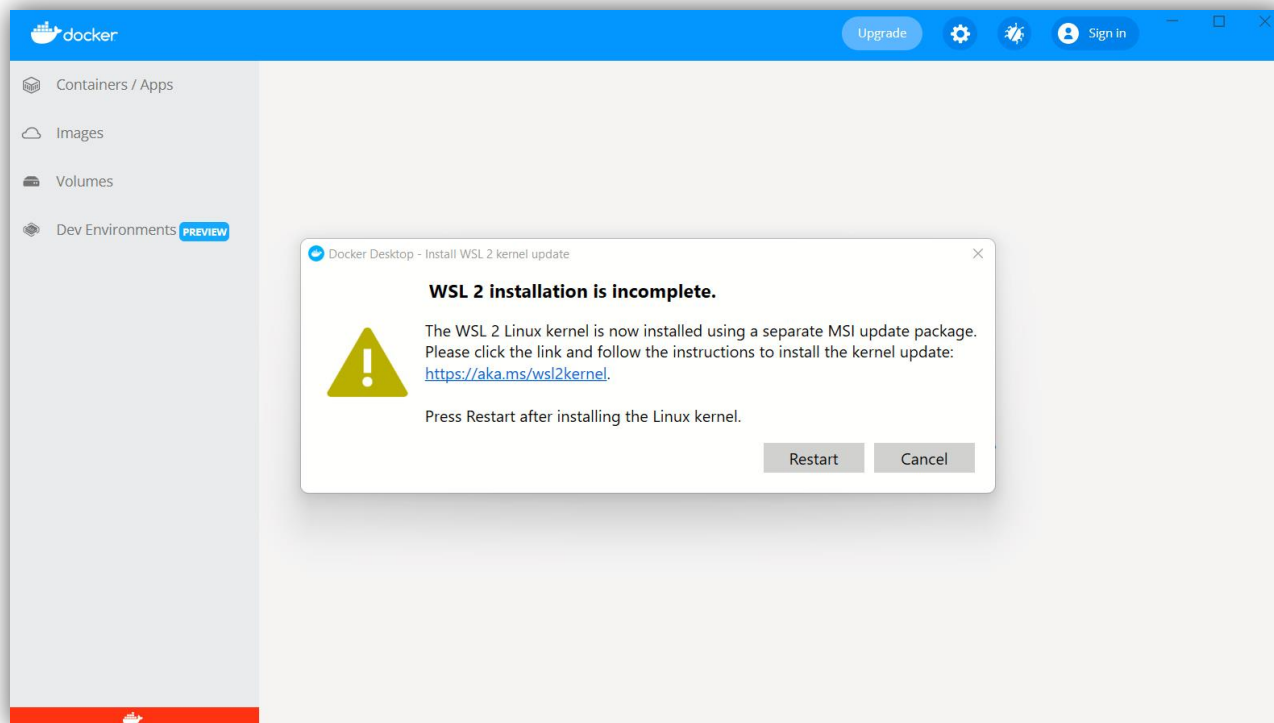
- Our Docker Subscription Service Agreement include a change to the terms of use for Docker Desktop.
 - It **remains free** for small businesses (fewer than 250 employees AND less than \$10 million in annual revenue), personal use, education, and non-commercial open source projects.
 - It requires a paid subscription for professional use in larger enterprises.
- The effective date of these terms is August 31, 2021. There was a **grace period** until January 31, 2022 for those that require a paid subscription to use Docker Desktop. Docker trusts our customers to be in compliance and Docker Desktop will continue to function normally after January 31st, but this is a

☒ I accept the terms

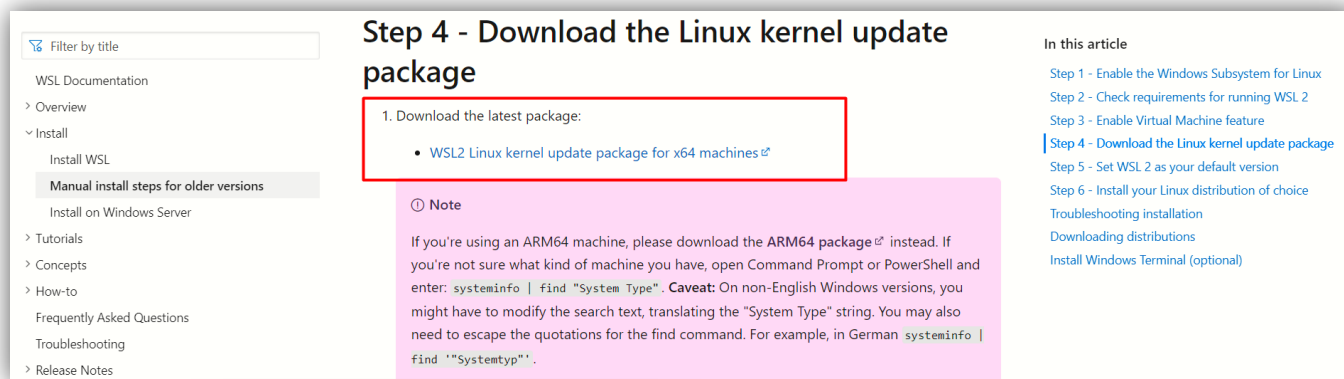
[View Full Terms](#) 

[Decline and Close Application](#) [Accept](#)

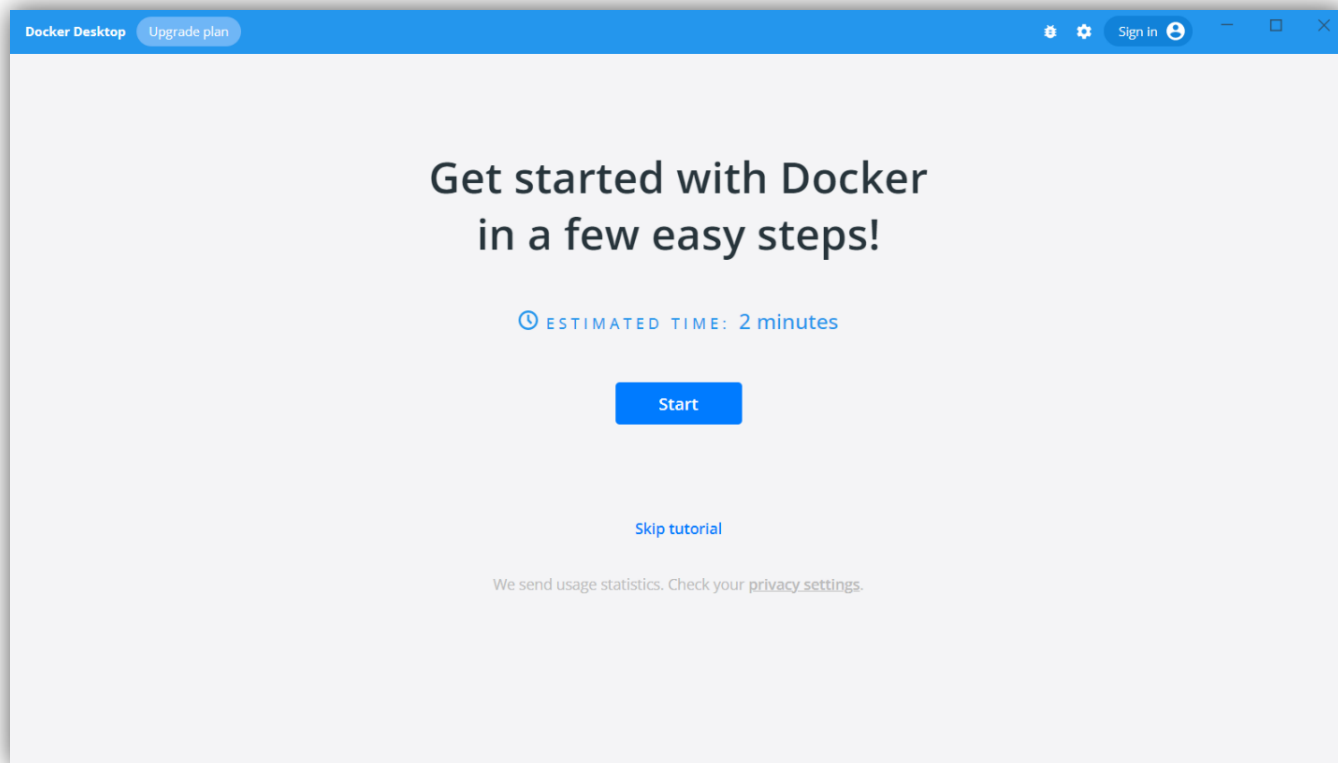
Docker Desktop starts after you accept the terms. You may see the following pop-up message:



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



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



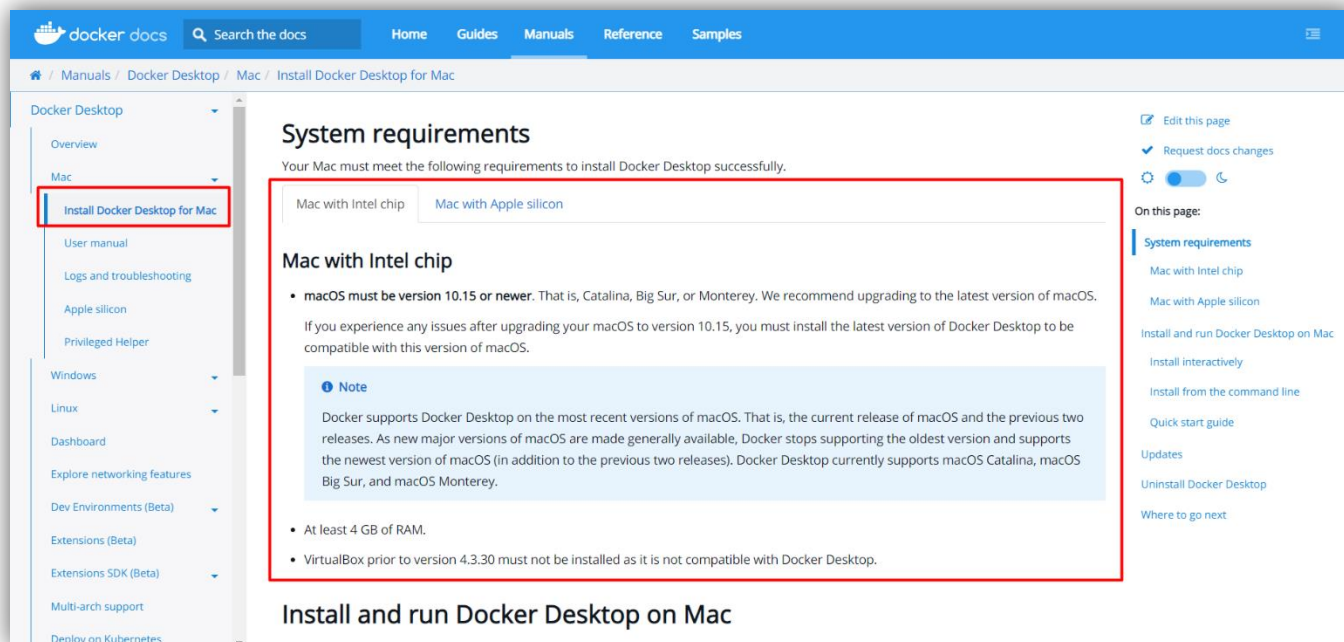
Congratulations! You are now successfully running Docker Desktop on Windows.

Download Docker Desktop on Mac

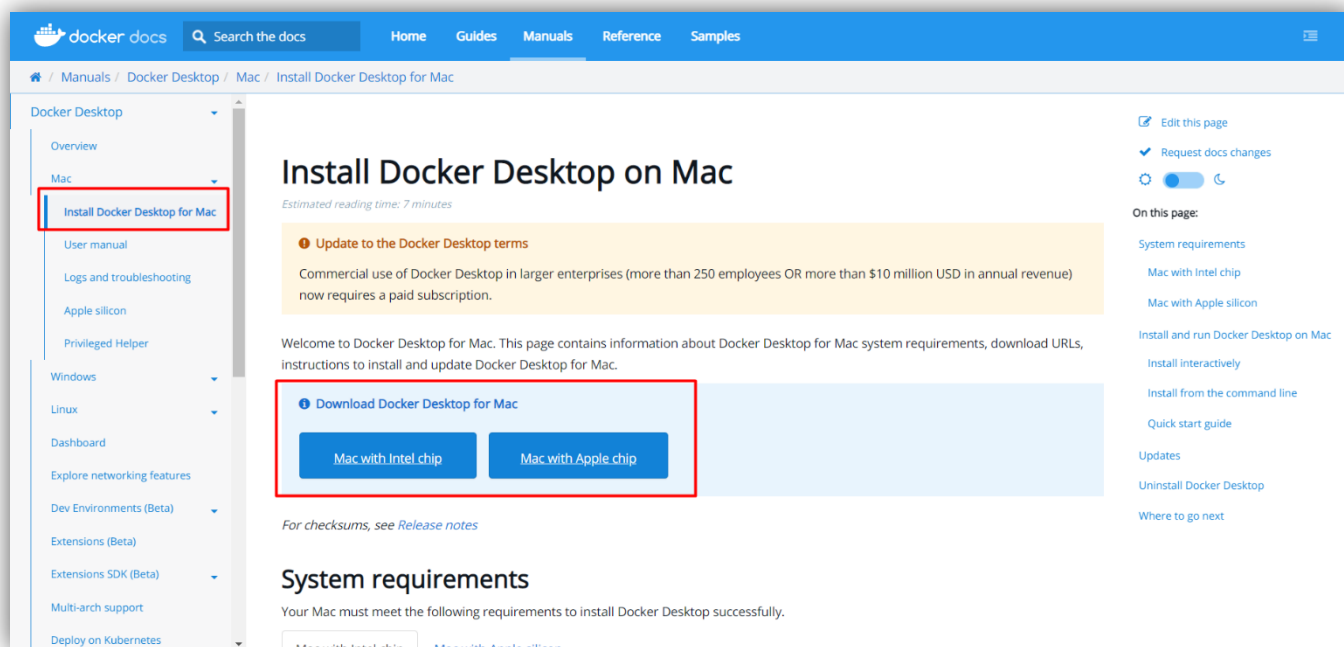
First, you will need to open the docker documentation <https://docs.docker.com/desktop/>.

Choose "**Mac**" from the menu on the left side of the screen. Before installing, ensure your machine matches the **requirements** to use Docker Desktop.

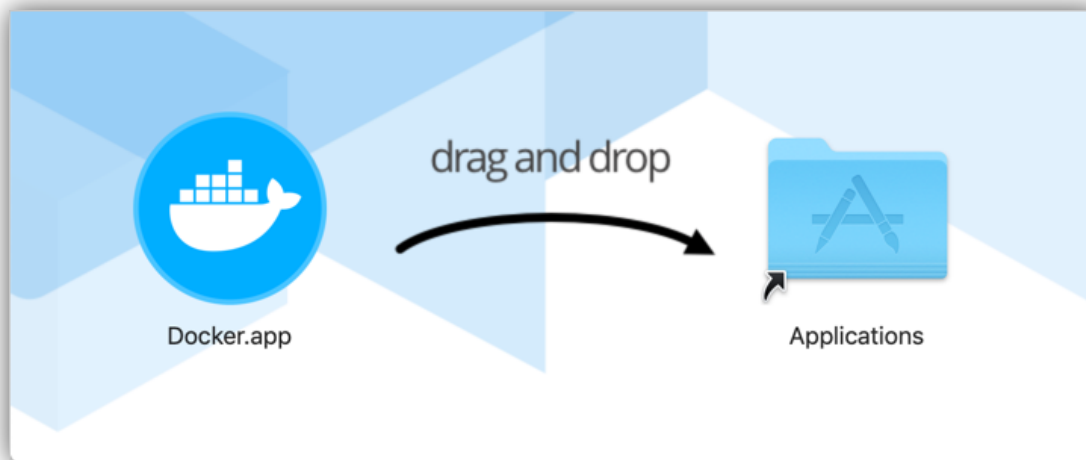
For example, if you use MacOS 10.15+ you could **directly** download and install Docker Desktop:



Download the **Docker Desktop Installer**:

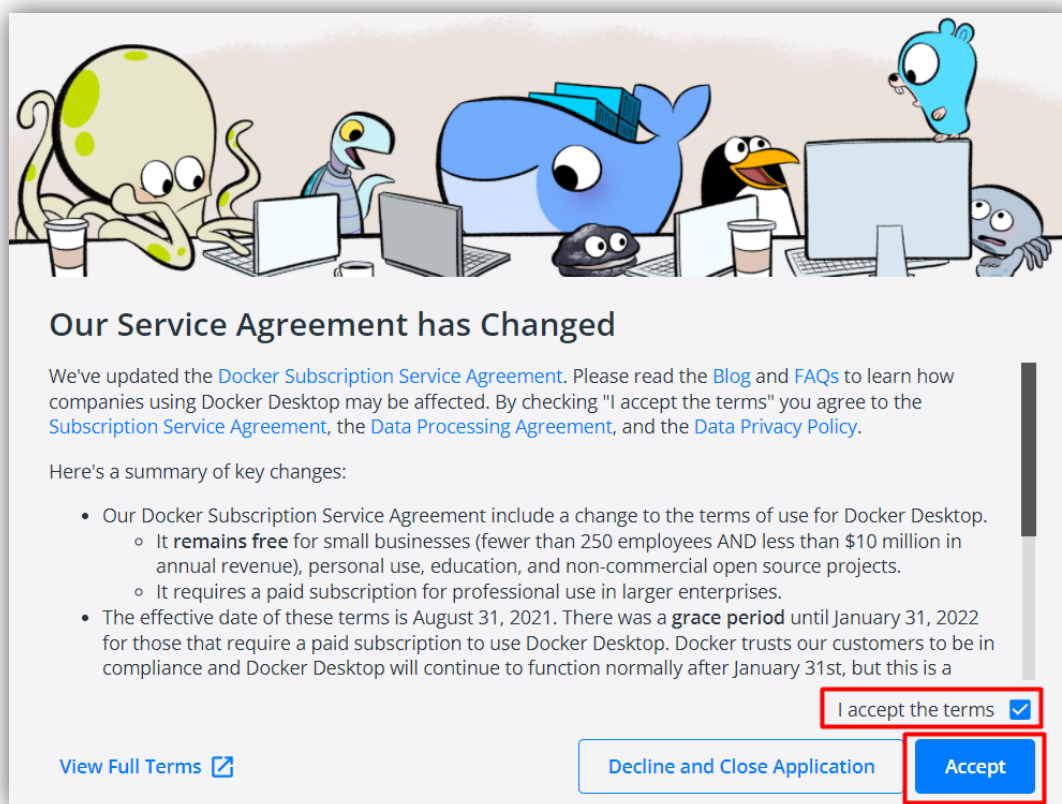


Double-click Docker.dmg to open the installer, then **drag the Docker icon to the Applications folder**:

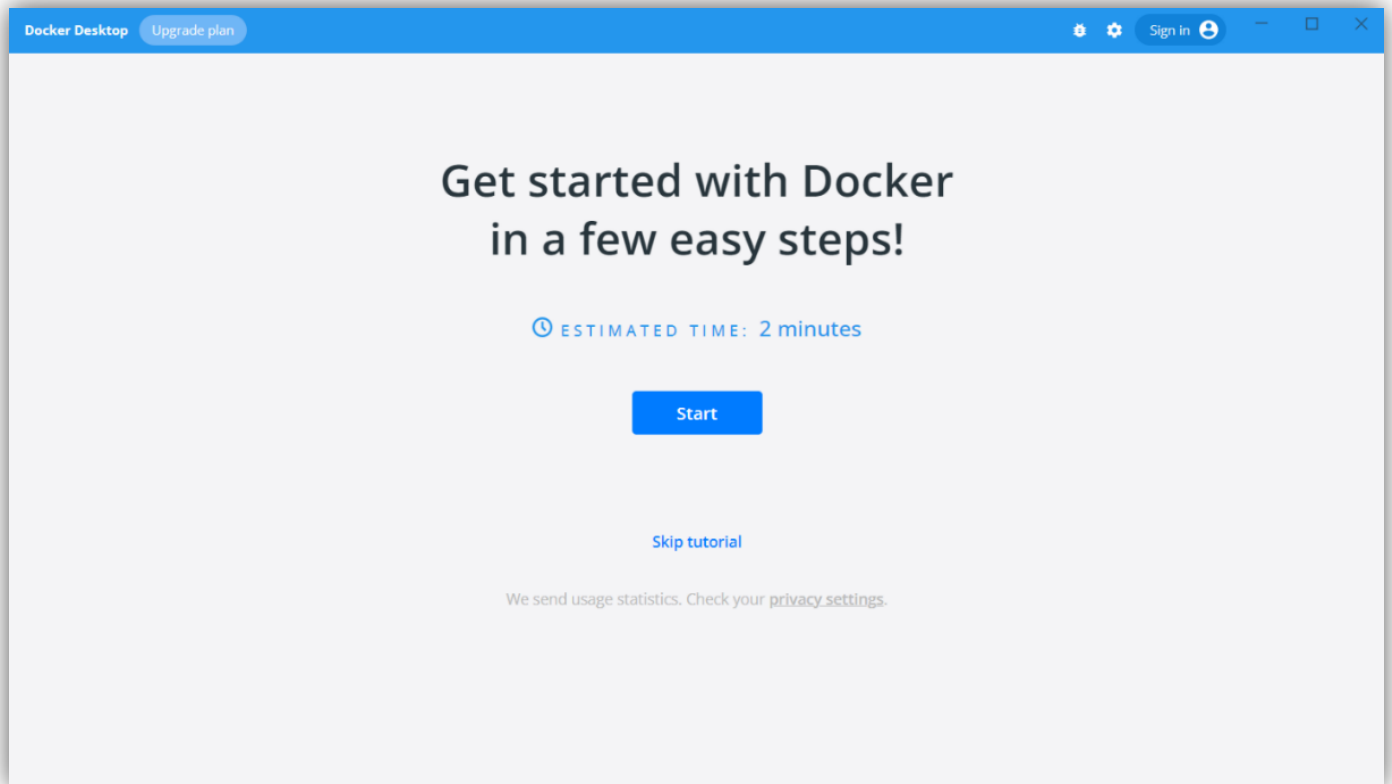


Double-click Docker.app in the Applications folder to start Docker.

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:



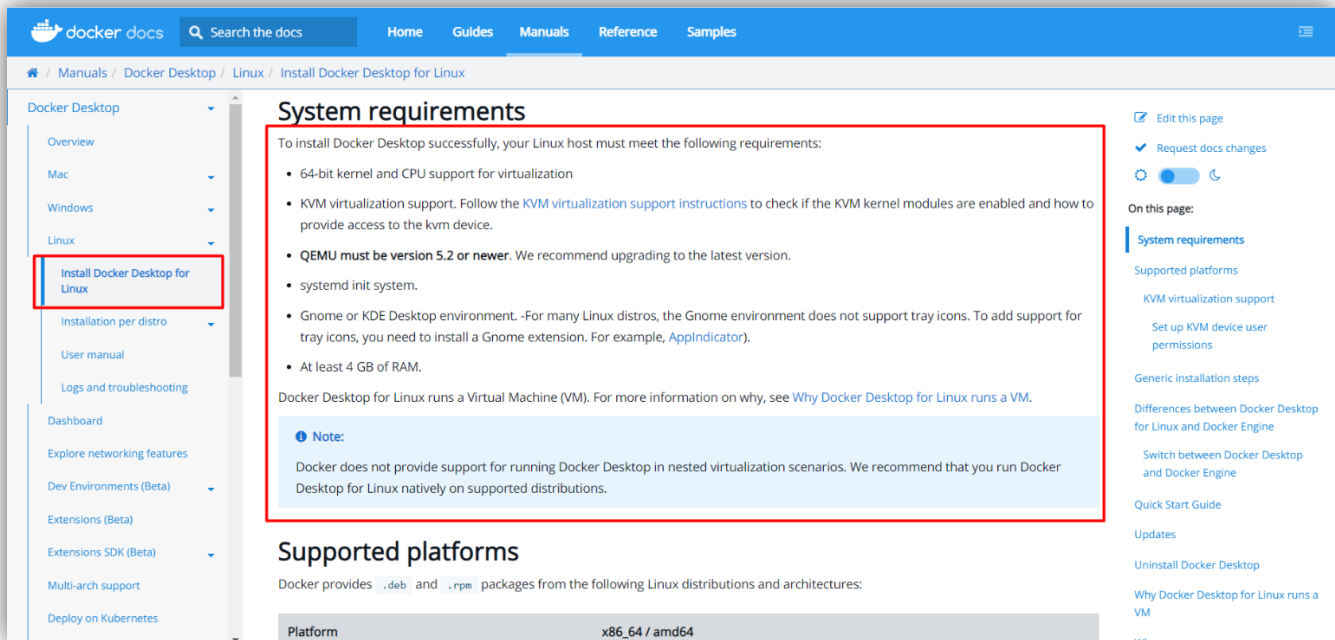
Congratulations! You are now successfully running Docker Desktop on Mac.

Download Docker Desktop on Linux

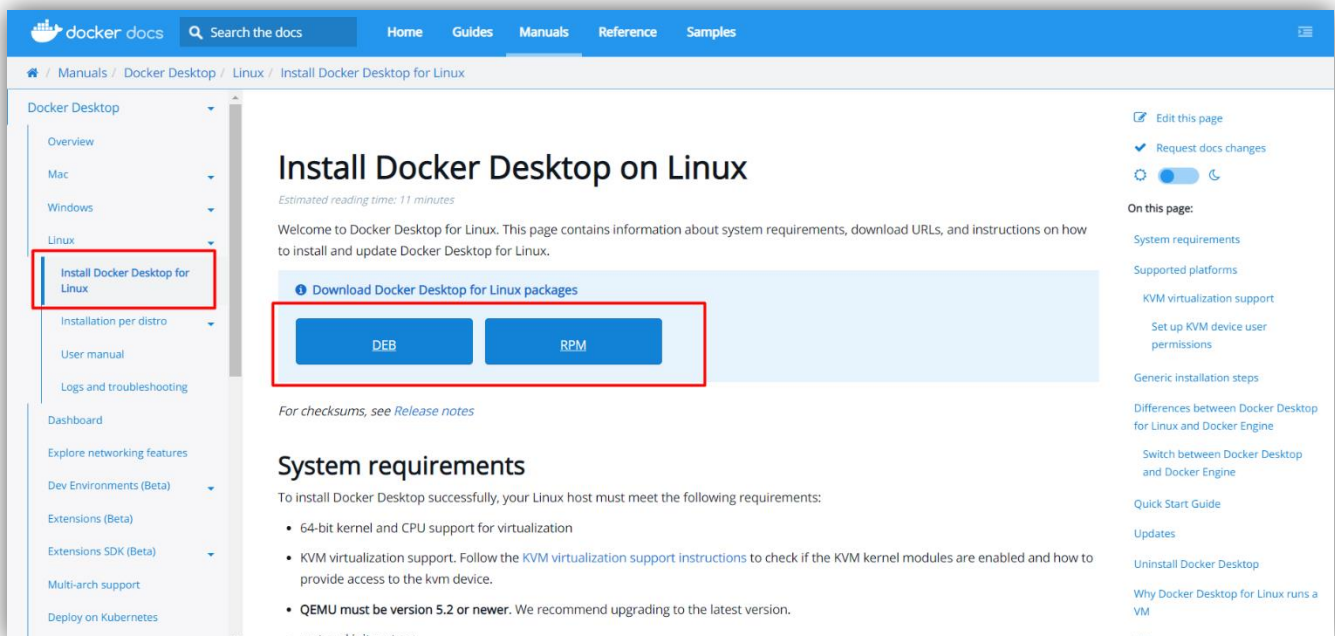
First, you will need to open the docker documentation <https://docs.docker.com/desktop/>.

Choose "**Linux**" from the menu on the left side of the screen. Before installing, ensure your machine matches the **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.

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Here's a summary of key changes:

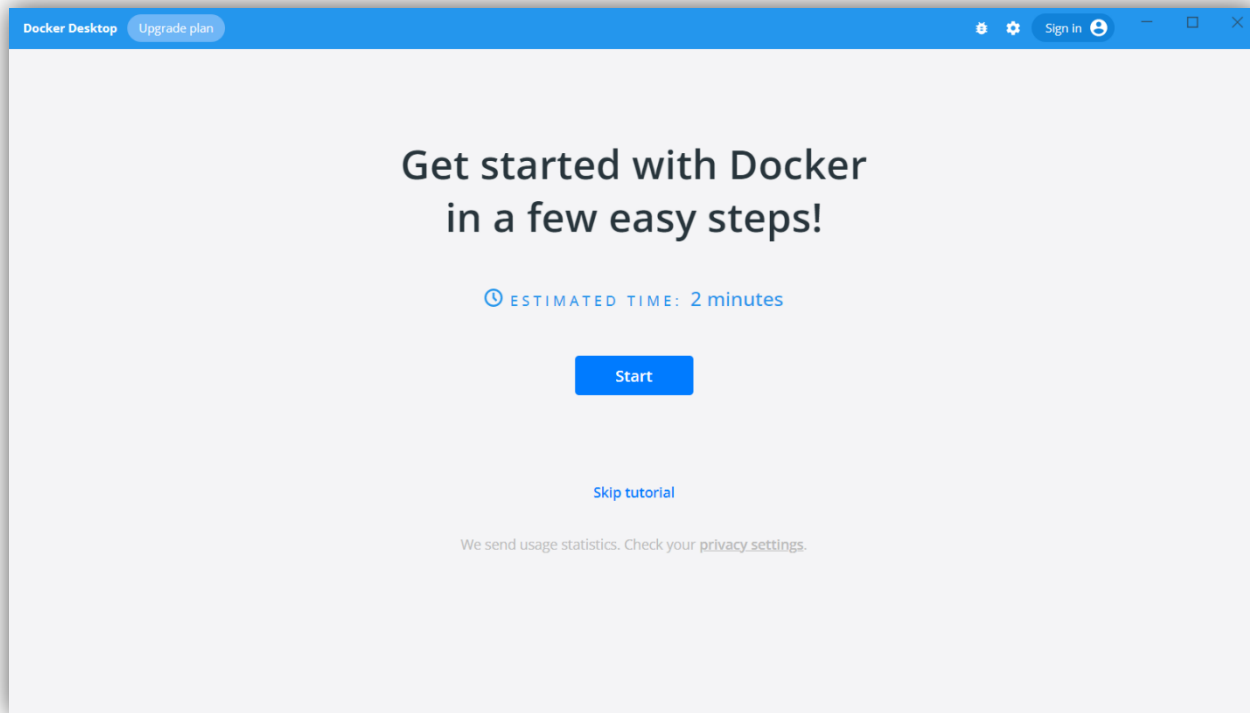
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I accept the terms ☒

[View Full Terms](#) 

[Decline and Close Application](#) [Accept](#)

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



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