Docker is a platform to develop, deploy, and run applications inside containers.

Virtual machines also isolate an application and its dependencies. However, Docker containers are superior to virtual machines because they take fewer resources, are very portable, and are faster to spin up.

Docker images are more like blueprints, cookie cutters, or molds. Images are the immutable master template that is used to pump out containers that are all exactly alike.

An image contains the Dockerfile, libraries, and code your application needs to run, all bundled together.

A [Dockerfile](https://docs.docker.com/engine/reference/builder/" \t "_blank) is a file with instructions for how Docker should build your image.

A Docker image plus the command docker run image\_name creates and starts a container from an image.

If you want other people to be able to make containers from your image, you send the image to a container registry.