How to determine if a process runs inside lxc/Docker?

Ask Question

Asked 10 years, 11 months ago Modified 5 months ago Viewed 118k times

263

Is there any way to determine if a process (script) runs inside an lxc container (~ Docker runtime)? I know that some programs are able to detect whether they run inside a virtual machine, is something similar available for lxc/docker?

linux bash docker

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edited Apr 7, 2018 at 22:40
Ciro Santilli OurBigBook.com
378k 115 1.3k 1.1k

asked Nov 15, 2013 at 20:42
Mate Varga
3,386 2 16 18

It might seem pedantic, but it would be best to rephrase your question …e having and ask how to solve it -- without …gher chance of being closed. In many …at change but in yours it wouldn't be hard …h. – mah Nov 15, 2013 at 21:04

…nse when issuing this command while … Scott Stensland Feb 19, 2017 at 1:16

…by: Highest score (default)

…v file at the root of the directory tree …seen by performing an `ls -la` …is created on container startup.

…fy:

```
…then
…atrix ;(";
…n real world!";
```

…bash script: `/bin/running-in-` …the type of container it has been …Don't know about other major distros

…ow

edited May 15, 2022 at 6:09
Archimedes Trajano
40.5k 24 201 327

answered Aug 27, 2014 at 3:09
at0S
4,846 2 15 10

`…-in-container` is provided by …on to systemd it might go away. I hope not …rphy Sep 1, 2016 at 9:12

…checking `.dockerenv` is not …5, 2018 at 10:53

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Linked

0 Detect whether script running inside docker container

2 It's Aug 2020 and `/.dockerenv` is available on ubuntu:20.04 and alpine:3.12, so I'd say that's definitely the best answer – Meir Gabay Aug 6, 2020 at 11:12

3 Ubuntu 18.0.4 doesn't have `/bin/running-in-container`. – Daniel Griscom Oct 19, 2020 at 12:58

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210

The most reliable way is to check `/proc/1/cgroup`. It will tell you the control groups of the init process, and when you are *not* in a container, that will be `/` for all hierarchies. When you are *inside* a container, you will see the name of the anchor point. With LXC/Docker containers, it will be something like `/lxc/<containerid>` or `/docker/<containerid>` respectively.

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edited Jul 2, 2019 at 2:44
tshepang
12.4k • 24 • 95 • 139

answered Nov 15, 2013 at 23:36
jpetazzo
15.5k • 3 • 44 • 46

instead of `lxc` in those paths – Andy

ntainers, but
26/170230 does. – Draco Ater Jun 8, 2016

d it looks like you can't rely on process 1
my Debian 9 system (systemd 232) only
`:cpuset`, `4:perf_event` and
he rest are under `/init.scope`. That
at file for `:/docker/` is probably the
moment. – cjs Feb 28, 2018 at 7:40

buntu 19.04, guest Ubuntu 18.04 using LXC
/cgroup does NOT contain the lxc string.

roc/1/cgroup 0::/ so doesn't work.
at 10:54

m, new systemd & lxc 2.0

```
r=lxc /proc/1/environ
```

ow

answered Mar 2, 2016 at 15:12
larss
301 • 3 • 2

focal 20.04. None of the answers above
rtley Apr 23, 2020 at 15:18

you please explain why '-a' is needed?
`=lxc /proc/1/environ` enough?

rates environment variables with null
sage from the man page applies: > By
rep suppresses output after null input
dam Azarchs Sep 22, 2021 at 20:56

`oc/1/environ` contained
ad. So I used `grep -qa`
fstamour Oct 28, 2022 at 18:14

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-1 Agnostic bash check that detects is running inside containers or not

1 While return si_addr with offset from sigwaitinfo function causing segmentation fault

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Something Unnecessary but Required by Agency

21

```
#!/bin/bash
if grep -sq 'docker\|lxc' /proc/1/cgroup; then
   echo "I am running on Docker."
fi
```

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edited Jun 15, 2022 at 17:14
Ömer An
654 • 6 • 17

answered Jan 10, 2017 at 1:40
oNaiPs
651 • 7 • 15

Thanks @DanielGriscom that looks way better. – oNaiPs Mar 29, 2021 at 20:53

This didn't work when my container was running within kubernetes. – erik Jun 22, 2021 at 15:02

FYI the echo command should use double quotes due to the single quote in "I'm" – TommyD Feb 14, 2022 at 14:56

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Handy Python function to check if running in Docker:

```
if running in a Docker container
/cgroup', 'rt') as ifh:
' in ifh.read()
```

ow

edited Jan 31 at 21:22
Josh Correia
4,279 • 3 • 40 • 61

answered Mar 8, 2017 at 15:09
JJC
9,983 • 8 • 50 • 55

ot appear to work when the container is
d, replace the last line with 'kubepod' in
an "or" statement that checks for both ;))

ookie099 Aug 29, 2019 at 7:53

_hha Mar 29 at 17:07

ne of the answers so far work for both

sn't work for non-docker containers.

nies in `/proc/1/cgroup` are `/` kinda
some hierarchies on non-containers
ntu 20.04 cgroup 0 and 1). So also not

=lxc` in `/proc/1/environ` works for
it requires root rights.

r that works reliably on both CentOS
tainers and Docker, and *also* doesn't
k PID 2.

`kthreadd`:

```
  PID TTY          TIME CMD
```

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In containers, this PID either doesn't exist, or isn't kthreadd. Both docker and lxc show:

```
root@85396f8bce58:/# ps -p 2
    PID TTY          TIME CMD
root@85396f8bce58:/#
```

The best way seems to be to check `/proc/2/status`:

```
$ head -n1 /proc/2/status
Name:   kthreadd
```

So something like this seems to work:

```
if [ -n "$(grep 'kthreadd' /proc/2/status 2>/dev/null)"
    echo "Not in container"
else
    echo "In container";
fi
```

Share Improve this answer Follow

answered May 6, 2022 at 6:08

Ferry Boender
768 ● 1 ● 7 ● 14

ave no pid 2 normally. – Daniel Widdis Jul

with pid 2 – Prem Anand Dec 6, 2022 at

tribution Ubuntu 22.04.1, it does not have nly is not docker environment. – zerox

ent to `if ! grep -q kthreadd /null; then; echo "In` enrie Feb 5 at 22:30

oc/$PID/sched) to extract the PID of 0 inside the container will differ then ntainer system).

proc/1/sched on a container will return:

```
at /proc/1/sched | head -n 1
1)
```

st:

```
head -n 1
```

ou are in a container or not.

ow

answered May 4, 2016 at 0:00

Founder
619 ● 6 ● 6

might need to be replaced by "systemd". d here. – BrianV Jun 23, 2017 at 1:50

name of the init process, the point was the k May 2, 2018 at 14:31

Docker. In an LXC container It's returning May 2, 2018 at 14:32

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5 Under docker, this is no longer the case - `bash-5.0# cat /proc/1/sched bash (1, #threads: 1)` – shalomb Jun 4, 2020 at 10:57

Add a comment

9

The easiest way would be to check the environment. If you have the `container=lxc` variable, you are within a container.

Otherwise, if you are root, you can try to perform `mknod` or `mount` operation, if it fails, you are most likely in a container with dropped capabilities.

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answered Nov 15, 2013 at 21:09

creack
121k ● 12 ● 100 ● 73

This one works not only for docker (I didn't check that), but more importantly for lxd/lxc containers (checked), where `/proc/1/cgroup` does not allow you to detect that. – Draco Ater Jun 8, 2016 at 6:37

5 can you edit the answer with code instead of pseudocode? "container=lxc" ?is not proper anything. do you mean something like if [["lxc" = "$container"]] ? – Alexander Mills Dec 20, 2016 at 10:20

…v variables are in all caps, so looking for …nder Mills Dec 20, 2016 at 10:22

…v does not give anything that looks like …rajano Mar 10, 2019 at 16:01

…REALLY good one. :)

… scripts that we run on baremetal, VM …th logic branching based on which …ng on. In my case I have the privilege …r and the docker image, so this … are in control of the entire stack:

… the value of `$PLATFORM` for desired

```
…pecification in environment

…cker, do this stuff
…ainerized, proceeding..."

…VM, do different stuff
… VM, loading VM stuff..."
…el-module

…utor specified! Exiting..."
```

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answered Nov 26, 2020 at 5:17

mainmachine
307 ● 5 ● 10

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4

Check for all the solutions above in Python:

```
import os

def in_container():
    proc_1 = r'/proc/1/sched'

    if os.path.exists(proc_1):
        with open(proc_1, 'r') as fp:
            out = fp.read()
    else:
        out = ''

    checks = [
        'docker' in out,
        '/lxc/' in out,
        out.split(' ')[0] not in ('systemd', 'init',),
        os.path.exists('./dockerenv'),
        os.path.exists('/.dockerenv'),
        os.path.exists('/.dockerinit'),
        os.getenv('container') is not None
    ]
```

```
--mount type=bind,source=${PWD}/
```

ow edited Jun 1, 2023 at 22:39

answered Sep 26, 2017 at 22:54

blakev
4,419 ● 2 ● 37 ● 52

lac based docker container. Returns
l (37199). – splintercell Nov 26, 2019 at

_docker(): return
/1/cgroup') as per the accepted
om/questions/20010199/... – splintercell

t Award. And Useless Use Of Subprocess
0 at 15:00

l of unnecessary `cat` ! Nice one :-D
:14

answer even though it's still not all-
- blakev May 7, 2020 at 17:32

OS is running in a virtual
e same as the OP's question, it does
s of finding which container you're in

the code of this bash script which

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```
sudo apt install virt-what
```

Share Improve this answer Follow

edited Apr 13, 2017 at 12:36
Community Bot
1 • 1

answered Apr 1, 2017 at 3:08

kaiwan
2,144 • 1 • 18 • 25

Doesn't work with `virt-what` version 1.14-1 on Ubuntu 16.04. Needs patch. – Lucas Jan 4, 2018 at 22:23

Interestingly, inside docker on windows, `virt-what` reports `hyperv`, just as my WSL2 bash shell does. – Peter V. Mørch Mar 3, 2021 at 6:44

This does work in Ubuntu 20.04, it greps for "lxc" in /proc/1/environ – teknopaul Jun 22, 2021 at 21:05

Add a comment

3

In a docker container, entries `/proc/self/cgroup` are mounted to cgroups on the host.

e.g. in a container

```
proc/self/cgroup
c154fb4e0d1b6c748faf1f1a12116acc
```

st

```
proc/self/cgroup
```

for a low profile test

```
() {
 $3 ~ /^\/$/ { c=1 } END{ exit c

iner; then
 container"

in a container"
```

ow edited Oct 7, 2022 at 19:50

answered Jul 15, 2018 at 21:13

shalomb
3,635 • 2 • 24 • 19

b 1, 2020 at 14:37

tually returns 1 only on host-level, but . – Dmitry Shevkoplyas Oct 5, 2022 at

ode.js processes but may be relevant e to this question looking for a

relying on `/proc/self/cgroup` I solely this purpose — to detect whether a Node.js process runs inside a Docker container or not.

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answered Sep 23, 2015 at 23:05

Martin Tajur
6,140 ● 1 ● 22 ● 15

Thanks for this module, seems to be a couple of open fixes pending - are you still maintaining this? – stevokk Aug 2, 2018 at 8:51

This module is no longer maintained. Additionally, a Node.js module that detects non-Docker container environments is needed. – Jeff Apr 29, 2022 at 14:12

Add a comment

I have translated JJC's answer into ruby

2

```
def in_docker
  File.open('/proc/1/cgroup', 'rt') do |f|
    return contents =~ /docker/i || contents =~ /kubep
  end
rescue StandardError => e
  p 'Local development'
  p e
  false
end
```

ow edited Jun 26, 2019 at 4:09

answered Jun 26, 2019 at 3:26

Souradeep Nanda
3,256 ● 2 ● 33 ● 48

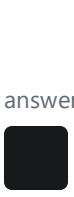
an check **if you're in a container or**

`tr "\0" "\n"|grep container` :
variable if you're in a container.

you will see nothing but only the grep
container, which means there's no
an see (e.g. `[kthreadd]`). Caution:
t show kernel processes.

e

ow answered Dec 24, 2022 at 13:58



Roeniss
406 ● 7 ● 16

```
running_in_docker?

r?
c/1/cgroup") =~ %r[^\d+:\w+:/docl
```

e, here's a spec in the gist.

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1

The golang code get pid container_id and you can get map container_id get docker image

```
func GetContainerID(pid int32) string {
    cgroupPath := fmt.Sprintf("/proc/%s/cgroup", strcor
    return getContainerID(cgroupPath)
}

func GetImage(containerId string) string {
    if containerId == "" {
        return ""
    }
    image, ok := containerImage[containerId]
    if ok {
        return image
    } else {
        return ""
    }
}
func getContainerID(cgroupPath string) string {
    containerID := ""
    content, err := ioutil.ReadFile(cgroupPath)
    if err != nil {
        return containerID
    }
    lines := strings.Split(string(content), "\n")
    ge lines {
    gs.Split(line, ":")
    < 3 {

    field[2]
    ath) < 64 {

    Docker
    t_cls:/docker/de630f22746b9c06c
    bepods/burstable/pod5f399c1a-f9
```

answered Dec 15, 2020 at 9:45

wcc526
4,055 ● 2 ● 33 ● 29

y, so we can't say for sure if they are
`.dockerinit` in the future.

`init` is the first process to start. But
ot true.

```
;then
```

answered May 11, 2016 at 3:36

Govind Kailas
2,894 ● 6 ● 23 ● 25

er doesn't either. What a funny comment.
7:41

as well. When I run in my host machine it
md is running as process id 1
2018 at 5:02

ust be run inside the container. The intent
e a docker container or not.
at 4:43

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3 @SamThomas: launchd, upstart, Solaris SMF, systemd, Sys V style init, BSD style init (these two and some others might call their PID 1 `init` though), OpenRC, initng, runit. See here. Most modern Linux-based systems would use `systemd`, some older ones, upstart.... All modern OS X systems would use `launchd` – Gert van den Berg May 23, 2018 at 8:16

Show **1** more comment

-7

Maybe this do the trick:

```
if [ -z $(docker ps -q) ]; then
    echo "There is not process currently running"
else
    echo "There are processes running"
fi
```

Is that what you want? Hope it helps =)

Share Improve this answer Follow edited Apr 16, 2020 at 18:53

answered Jun 11, 2018 at 15:15

Leonardo Da Vinci
65 ● 2 ● 9

able from inside of container, obviously.
:02

ions (e.g. gitlab docker-in-docker) where `docker` and access to the hosts' docker
8 at 21:02

there isn't ^^. I got the wrong
stion back at the time when I read it. Thank
a Vinci Apr 16, 2020 at 18:51

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