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Containers on Elastic Beanstalk

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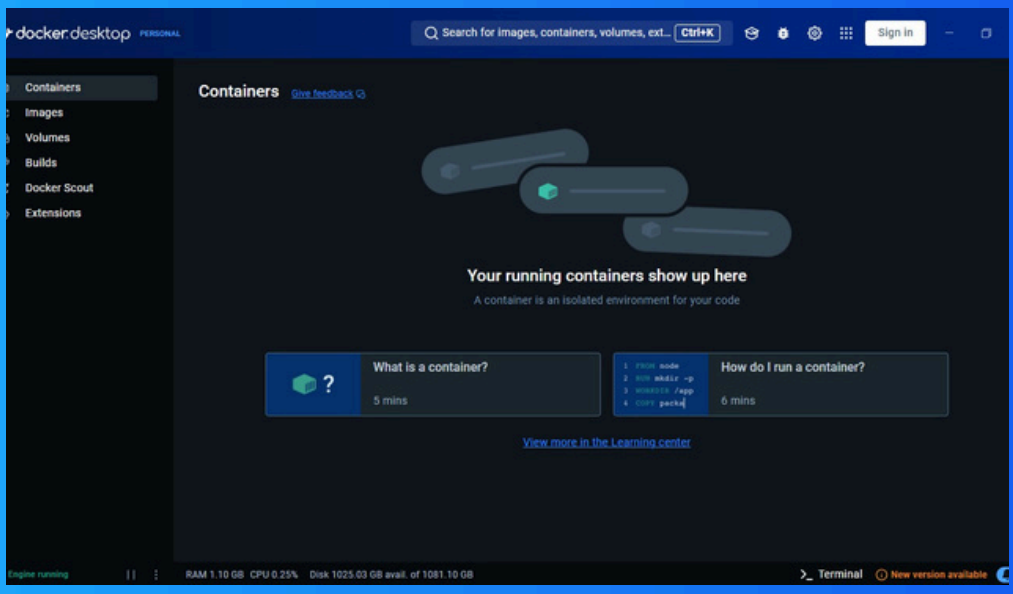

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Introducing Today's Project!

What is Docker?

Docker is a platform for creating, running, and managing containers, which package applications with everything they need to run. In today's project, I used Docker to build a custom container image for my app and deployed it with Elastic Beanstalk.

One thing I didn't expect...

One thing I didn’t expect in this project was how straightforward deploying Docker applications on Elastic Beanstalk is. It simplifies managing infrastructure, letting me focus on building and packaging my app!

This project took me...

This project took me 2 hours to set up Docker with app code, created a container image, uploaded it to Elastic Beanstalk, configured the environment, deployed the app, tested it live, and confirmed it worked seamlessly online.

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Understanding Containers and Docker

Containers

Containers are portable packages that bundle an app and its dependencies. They are useful because they ensure the app runs consistently across different environments, solving the "it works on my machine" problem.

A container image is a blueprint for containers, containing all the code, libraries, dependencies, and files needed to run an application. It ensures consistency and allows identical containers to be created across environments.

Docker

Docker is a tool that helps create, manage, and deploy containers efficiently. Docker Desktop is an app that makes using Docker easier, providing a user-friendly way to build, test, and manage containers directly from your computer.

The Docker daemon is a background process that manages Docker containers. It runs commands, builds, and deploys containers, acting as the engine behind Dockers' operations to ensure everything works smoothly.

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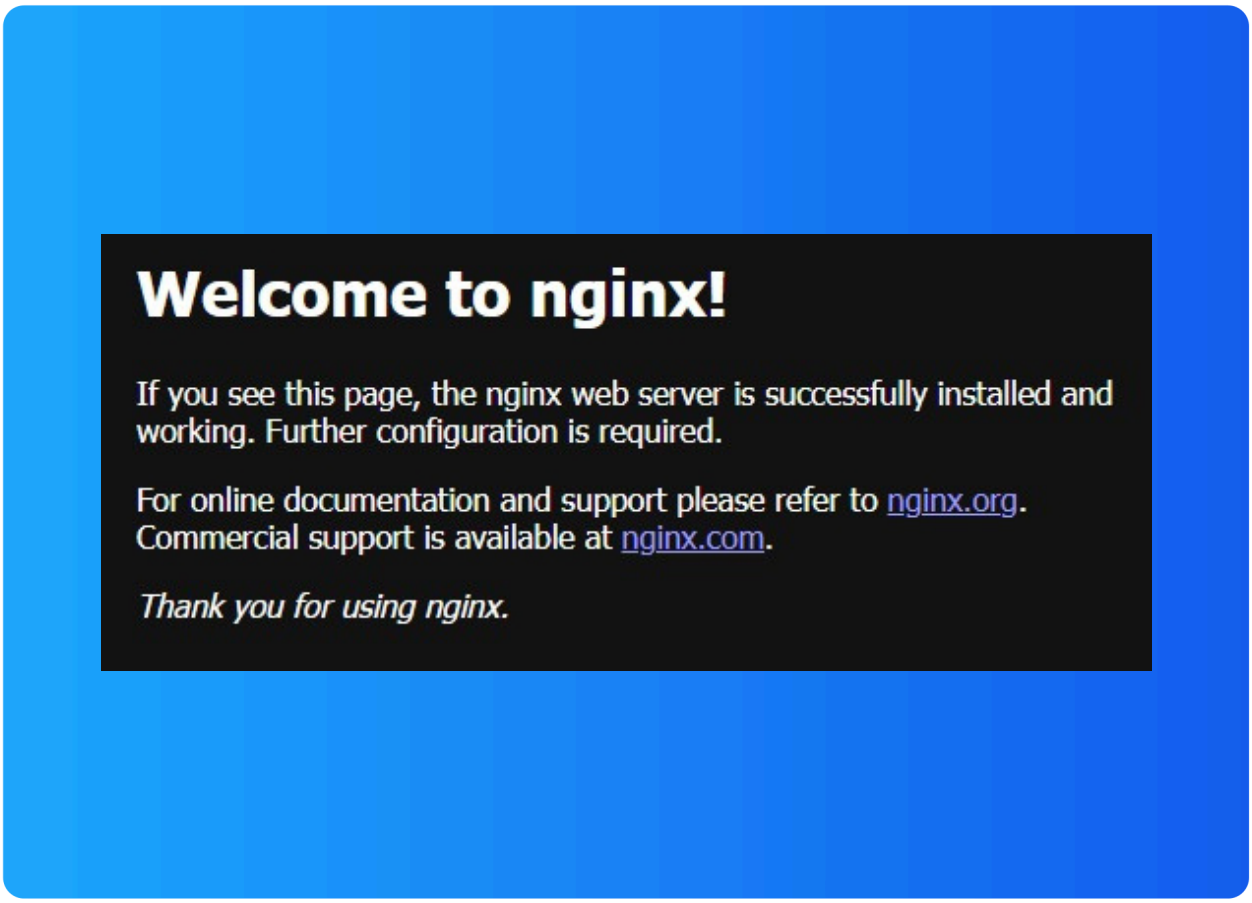
Running an Nginx Image

Nginx is a powerful web server used to serve websites and handle high volumes of traffic efficiently. It can also act as a proxy server to balance loads and forward requests, making it a favorite for scalable applications.

The command I ran to start a new container was docker run -d -p 80:80 nginx, which started an Nginx container in detached mode and mapped port 80 of my machine to port 80 in the container.



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Creating a Custom Image

The Dockerfile is a text file containing instructions for building a Docker image. It tells Docker what base image to use, what files to include, and how to configure the environment for the container.

My Dockerfile tells Docker three things: FROM nginx:latest starts with the latest Nginx image as the base. COPY index.html /usr/share/nginx/html/ replaces the default web page with my custom HTML. EXPOSE 80 opens port 80 to receive web traffic.

The command I used to build a custom image with my Dockerfile was docker build -t my-web-app . The . at the end of the command means Docker should look for the Dockerfile in the current directory.

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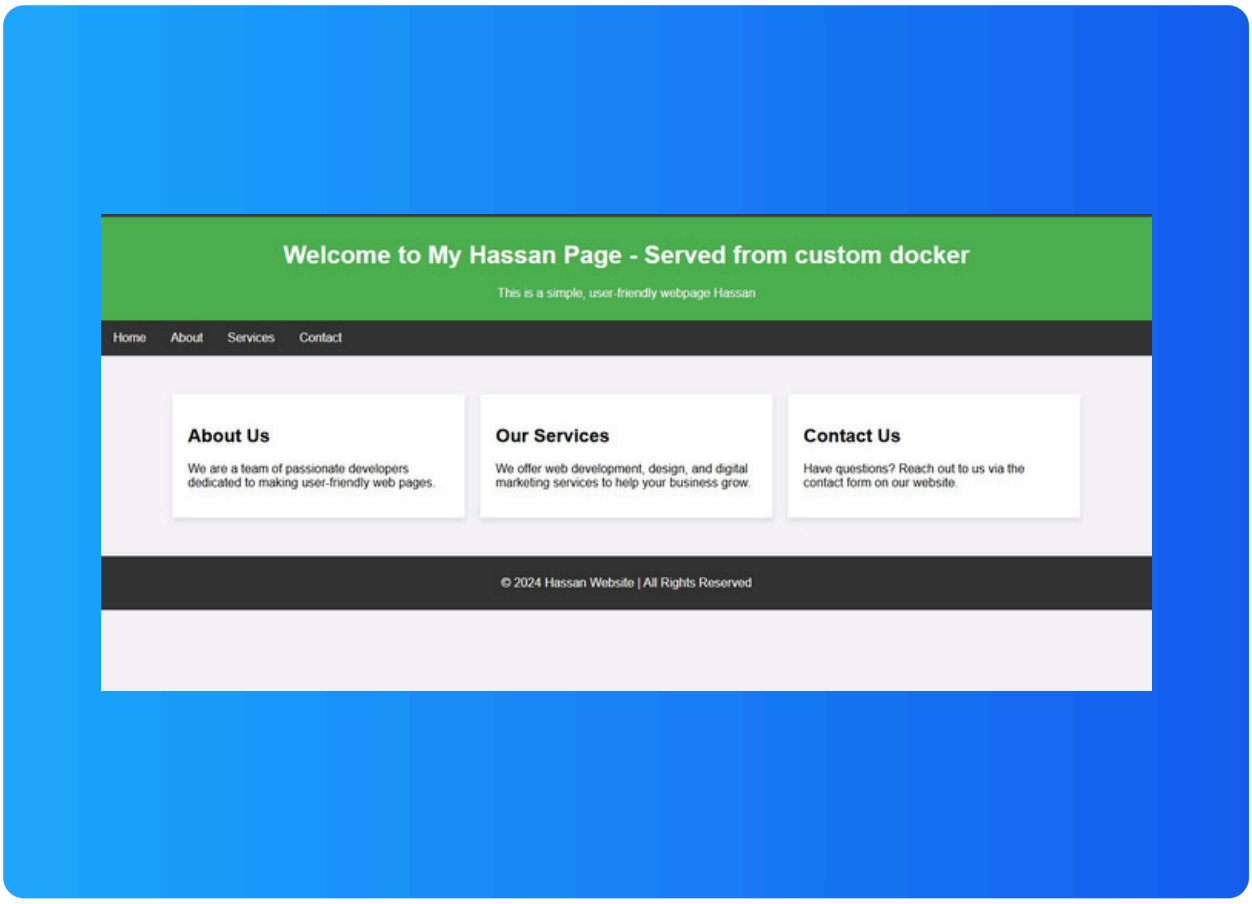
Running My Custom Image

There was an error when I ran my custom image because port 80 was already in use by another container. I resolved this by stopping the existing container using Docker Desktop or the docker stop {container_id} command.

In this example, the container image is the my-web-app image that we built using the Dockerfile. The container is the running instance created from that image, which serves the custom webpage through port 80 on your local machine.



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Elastic Beanstalk

Elastic Beanstalk is an AWS service that simplifies deploying and managing web applications. It automatically handles infrastructure tasks like server provisioning, load balancing, scaling, and monitoring, allowing developers to focus on writing code

Deploying my custom image with Elastic Beanstalk took me about 10 minutes. The process included setting up the environment, uploading the Docker image, and waiting for Elastic Beanstalk to configure and launch the application.