Section 5 - Containers lifecycle

3 - Container Shell

Overview - Getting a Shell Inside Containers

1. `docker container run -it` => start new container interactively
2. `docker container exec -it` => run additional command in existing container
3. Default shell CMD of different Linux distributions in containers

Start new container interactively

- Use the `-it` options with the `docker run` command to get an interactive shell command prompt inside a container.
- From Docker CLI help documentation

```
$ docker run --help
Usage:  docker run [OPTIONS] IMAGE [COMMAND] [ARG...]

Run a command in a new container
...
-i, --interactive                         Keep STDIN open even if not attached
...
-t, --tty                                 Allocate a pseudo-TTY

-t pseudo-TTY => simulates a real shell terminal like SSH does.
-i interactive => keep the STDIN channel open to input commands
```

> Note that the `-it` are two separate options.

Example

- Run `bash` command in nginx container.

```
# docker container run -it --name proxy nginx bash
root@27056e1170d7:/#
```

> - The "-it" options are used to open an interactive terminal.
> - The "-name" option is used to set the name of the container.
> - After the image name, the `bash` argument is used to specify the COMMAND to execute inside the container. This will override the image default CMD.
> - The `bash` command will provide a shell prompt from which we can execute linux commands inside the container.
> - `nginx` default CMD Dockerfile

```
CMD ["nginx", "-g", "daemon off;"]
```

Example (2a)

> From the container command line prompt `root@27056e1170d7:/#` we can see:
>
> - The shell user is "root"
> - The system hostname is "27056e1170d7", which is also the container ID.
> - We can now execute commands as we could do from a regular system.

Example (2b)

- For example we can list all files inside the container:

```
root@27056e1170d7:/# ls -la
total 8
...
drwxr-xr-x   2 root root 4096 Mar 26 12:00 bin
drwxr-xr-x   2 root root    6 Feb  3 13:01 boot
drwxr-xr-x   5 root root  360 Apr  8 06:35 dev
drwxr-xr-x   1 root root   66 Apr  8 06:35 etc
drwxr-xr-x   2 root root    6 Feb  3 13:01 home
...
```

Example (3)

> From here we can perform all kind of administrative task such as:
>
> - change config files
> - download and install packages from the internet etc...

- Use the `exit` command to exit from the container shell:

```
root@27056e1170d7:/# exit
exit
[root@<docker-host>] #
```

> This will return back to the host shell prompt.

Example (4a)

- Verify if the nginx "proxy" is still running.

```
# docker container ls -a
CONTAINER ID   IMAGE   COMMAND   ... STATUS          PORTS       NAMES
27056e1170d7   nginx   "bash"    ... Exited (0)…                 proxy
515d82f84f9e   mysql   "…"       ... Up 2 minutes    3306/tcp…   mysql
1b76d91c5f77   nginx   "nginx…"  ... Up 3 minutes    80/tcp      nginx
```

> After exiting the bash shell, the container "proxy" is not running. Why ?

Example (4b)

- The default command for an nginx container is to run the nginx program itself. We changed that default program to actually be `bash`, giving us the shell prompt.
- When we exited the shell, the container stopped.
- Because the main application (PID=1 "default command") running inside the container is `bash`, exiting the bash shell will stop the main `bash` process ((PID=1).

container shell

- One of the most important operations is to access the shell of the container and execute Linux commands.
- Note that there is no need to have an ssh server running inside the container to actually access the shell prompt of the container.
- Docker CLI will provide access to the container shell.

Full linux distribution containers

- In the following example we will use a full linux distribution such as Ubuntu to run a container.

```
# docker container run -it --name ubuntu ubuntu
...
Status: Downloaded newer image for ubuntu:latest
root@1da52b3057f6:/#
```

> Note that the default CMD of the ubuntu image is bash, so we do not need to specify it.
> Ref: Dockerfile

```
...
CMD ["/bin/bash"]
```

typical operations (1)

- We will go through some typical operations performed within an ubuntu system.
- We will use the package manager to install the `curl` tool.

```
root@1da52b3057f6:/# apt-get update
Get:1 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security InRelease [88.7 kB]
...

root@1da52b3057f6:/# apt-get install -y curl
...
Setting up curl (7.58.0-2ubuntu3.6) ...
...
```

> Note that the `curl` tool is not available in the ubuntu image because to keep the image small in size a minimal number of tools have been installed

typical operations (2b)

- In this example, the ubuntu running container has a curl installed and we can use it as we would do on a local machine.

```
root@1da52b3057f6:/# curl google.com
<HTML>
...
</HTML>
root@1da52b3057f6:/#
```

typical operations (3)

- Exit the ubuntu shell:

```
root@1da52b3057f6:/# exit
exit
[root@<docker-host>] #
```

> This will **stop** the ubuntu container.

typical operations (4)

- Verify which container is running and which is stopped.

```
# docker container ls
CONTAINER ID   IMAGE   COMMAND   ... STATUS          PORTS      NAMES
515d82f84f9e   mysql   "…"       ... Up 26 minutes   3306/tcp…  mysql
1b76d91c5f77   nginx   "nginx…"  ... Up 27 minutes   80/tcp     nginx
```

> ubuntu container is not running since we exited from the bash shell **the default application**.

typical operations (5)

- Use the `docker container ls -a` command to list stopped containers.

```
# docker container ls -a
CONTAINER ID  IMAGE   COMMAND      ... STATUS          PORTS       NAMES
1da52b3057f6  ubuntu  "/bin/bash" ... Exited (0)…                 ubuntu
27056e1170d7  nginx   "bash"       ... Exited (0)…                 proxy
515d82f84f9e  mysql   "…"          ... Up 29 minutes   3306/tcp…   mysql
1b76d91c5f77  nginx   "nginx…"     ... Up 30 minutes   80/tcp      nginx
```

> If we start the specific ubuntu container (`ID="1da52b3057f6"`) again, then this container will have curl tool installed on it. But if we create a new container from the ubuntu image (docker container run ubuntu), that different container will not have the curl tool installed on.

docker container exec

- Use the `docker container exec` command to get shell prompt of a running container

- In the following examples we have two running containers mysql and nginx:

```
# docker container ls
CONTAINER ID   IMAGE   COMMAND                  CREATED              STA
515d82f84f9e   mysql   "docker-entrypoint.s…"   About an hour ago    Up
1b76d91c5f77   nginx   "nginx -g 'daemon of…"   About an hour ago    Up
```

> The "docker container exec" command can be used to execute any command inside a container.

docker container exec - example mysql (1)

- Use the "docker container exec" command to access the shell prompt of the mysql running container.

```
# docker container exec -it mysql bash
root@515d82f84f9e:/#
```

- The `-it` options are used to open an interactive terminal.
- "mysql" is the name of the container (or the ID) on which we want to execute the command.
- `bash` is the command to execute in the container.
- This will create a new process inside the container related to the `bash` command.
- The shell user of the mysql container is the "root" user.
- The system hostname of the container is the "515d82f84f9e", which is also the container ID.

docker container exec - example mysql (2)

- Use the `ps aux` command to see the processes running inside the container.

```
root@515d82f84f9e:/# ps aux
USER        PID %CPU %MEM    VSZ   RSS TTY      STAT START   TIME COMMAN
mysql         1  1.0 10.2 1345576 395896 ?      Ssl  08:01   0:45 mysqlc
root        180  0.0  0.0  18172  2100 pts/0    Ss   09:13   0:00 bash
root        496  0.0  0.0  36624  1584 pts/0    R+   09:15   0:00 ps aux
```

> Note that the "ps" command is not included any more in the official mysql image by default.
> To install the ps command:

```
# apt-get update
# apt-get install procps
```

docker container exec - example mysql (3)

- Exit the bash shell and verify the container status.

```
# exit
exit
# docker container ls
CONTAINER ID   IMAGE   COMMAND                  CREATED              STATUS
515d82f84f9e   mysql   "docker-entrypoint.s…"   About an hour ago   Up Abou
1b76d91c5f77   nginx   "nginx -g 'daemon of…"   About an hour ago   Up Abou
```

- The mysql container is still running because the exit command did not stop the default (main) application running.
- The default main application running inside a container has PID = 1.
- In this example the application with PID = 1 is actually the mysqld daemon.
- The `docker container exec` command actually runs an additional process on an existing running container.

docker container exec - example mysql (4)

- Docker use Linux namespaces to provide isolation for running processes
- A process might have the apparent PID 1 inside a container, but if we examine it from the host system, it would have an ordinary PID

```
# docker container top mysql
UID        PID    PPID    C    STIME    TTY    TIME        CMD
polkitd    3729   3713    1    12:53    ?      00:00:05    mysqld

# ps aux | grep mysql
polkitd    3729  0.9 38.9 1366564 394964 ?       Ssl  12:53   0:08 mysqld

# docker container exec mysql  ps aux
USER        PID %CPU %MEM    VSZ   RSS TTY      STAT START   TIME COMMAND
mysql         1  0.9 38.9 1366564 394964 ?      Ssl  09:53   0:07 mysqld
root        493  0.0  0.1  36624  1528 ?        Rs   10:06   0:00 ps aux
```

Alpine Linux (1)

- Alpine is a Linux distribution designed to be very small in size. It's actually only 5MB.

```
# docker pull alpine
# docker image ls
REPOSITORY  TAG         IMAGE ID       CREATED         SIZE
mysql       latest      7bb2586065cd   12 days ago     477MB
nginx       latest      2bcb04bdb83f   12 days ago     109MB
ubuntu      latest      94e814e2efa8   3 weeks ago     88.9MB
alpine      latest      5cb3aa00f899   4 weeks ago     5.53MB
```

- We used the "docker pull" command to download the latest alpine image from the docker.hub registry.
- We used the "docker image ls" to list all images available in the local cache.
- Do not worry, we will cover Docker images in depth in the next section.

Alpine Linux (2)

- The Alpine Linux distribution comes with its own package manager `apk`.
- The `bash` shell is not available in the alpine image.

```
# docker container run -it alpine bash
docker: Error response from daemon: OCI runtime create failed: container_l

Result:
\"bash\": executable file not found
```

> The alpine image is so minimal that does not contain the `bash` shell. Instead, it contains the `sh` shell, which is not fully featured as Bash is.

Alpine shell

- Use the `sh` command to get access to the alpine shell.

```
# docker container run -it alpine sh
/ #
```

Exercise

- Ref:
- D_S5_L3_Container_Shell_ex.md