Practical 9: Docker

Docker is a container management system. One use a Docker Image to build a software/application with the same setup as the original developer, similar to Vagrant's Vagrantfile. Docker image unlike Vagrantfile contains all setups in different layers, e.g.;

- 1. Base layer: e.g. Ubuntu
- 2. Layer 2: e.g. Software files
- 3. Layer 3: e.g. Dependencies
- 4. Layer 4: e.g. Configurations

Subsequent to building a Docker image, a container is built. A container is a running instance of a Docker image. A container contains everything that is needed to run the project files.

Q: What is the difference between Docker and Virtual Machines? Answer at the end of this practical exploration of Docker.

Preliminaries.

Firstly, download Docker Desktoip from https://www.docker.com/products/docker-desktop as shown in Figure 1. Follow through default installation instructions to ensure complete Docker installation.

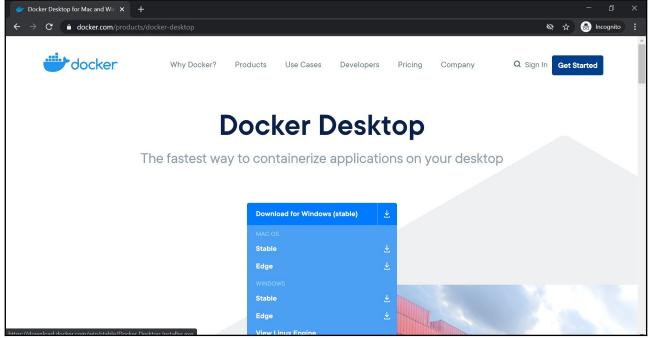


Figure 1: Download and install Docker Desktop.

If installation is shows an error of ""Installation failed: one prerequisite is not fullfilled" Docker Desktop requires Windows 10 Pro/Enterprise (15063+) or Windows 10 Home (19018+)." install the Docker Toolbox from https://docs.docker.com/toolbox/toolbox_install_windows/ instead as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Download and install Docker Toolbox (if pre-requisite fails).

Verify the installation by running Docker Quickstart Terminal. Choose "Yes" for User Account Control prompt to allow VirtualBox to make changes to your computer. The installation is completed when the bash mode of Docker CLI is displayed as shown in Figure 3.

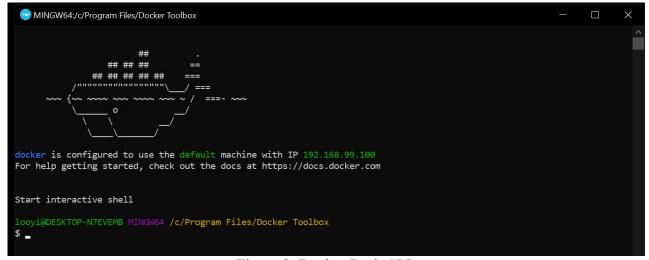


Figure 3: Docker Bash CLI.

Try to execute docker run hello-world command and press "Enter". If the installation is successful, Docker Bash CLI will show as Figure 4.

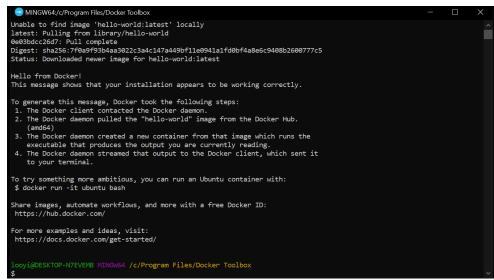


Figure 4: Successful Docker installation message.

Go to Docker Hub at https://hub.docker.com/ for all the official generic Docker images for different build ups. This is similar to generic vagrant boxes that one could find in Vagrant Cloud. Do signup for a Docker account as we're going to push our application/software to Docker Hub for deployment as shown in Figure 5.

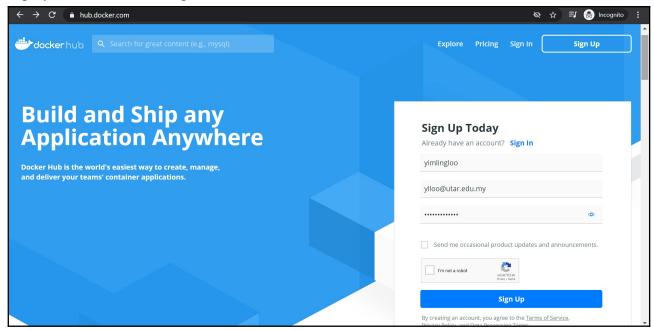


Figure 5: Signup for a Docker Hub account.

Similar to Github, one may create Docker Repository to maintain the project deployment by storing Docker image in the repositories.

Getting Started.

Let's build a React App image and run the image in a Docker container. Clone the example React App from https://github.com/rodgtr1/youtube-stats and open the folder using VS Code as shown in

Figure 6. Note: Install Docker extension in VS Code for Dockerfile editing.

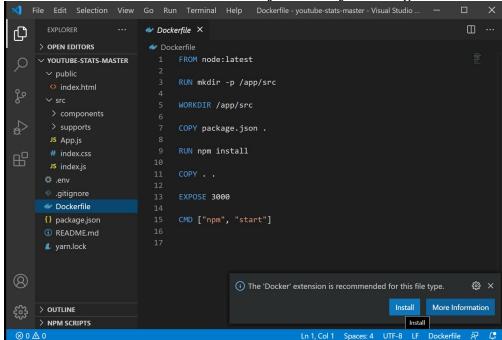


Figure 6: Open cloned React App folder.

Dockerfile.

Dockerfile contains all the configurations needed to launch the example React App. The codes lists a set of instructions for Docker to launch the project files.

// The following line in Dockerfile initiate that the project files are to be launched on the latest node.js environment.

FROM node: latest

// The following line in Dockerfile initiate that the project files that are in "src" are to be placed inside the current folder in the new directory called "app".

RUN mkdir -p /app/src

// The following line in Dockerfile initiate that the working directory is the directory where the project files are

WORKDIR /app/src

// The following line in Dockerfile initiate the packages of json (dependencies) to the current working directory

COPY package.json .

// The following line in Dockerfile initiate installation of the packages installation RUN npm install

// The following line in Dockerfile initiate copies all the sources into the working directory.

// The following line in Dockerfile initiate that the project files are to be launched on port 3000. EXPOSE 3000

// The following line in Dockerfile initiate the launch of npm and start of CLI. CMD ["npm", "start"]

Figure 7: Explanations on React App Dockerfile.

As the example React application uses fetches data from Youtube using API for the stats data, the instructions of getting API key need to be followed, which is provided in the Github repository's Readme.md "Instructions to Build and Run Docker Image." section. Series of how the trainer get the API key are shared in the Figures below (all followed the Instructions from Github repository).

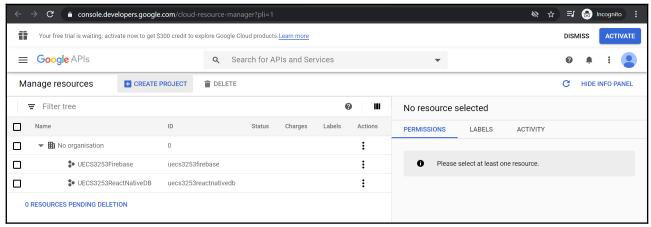


Figure 8: Click "CREATE PROJECT".

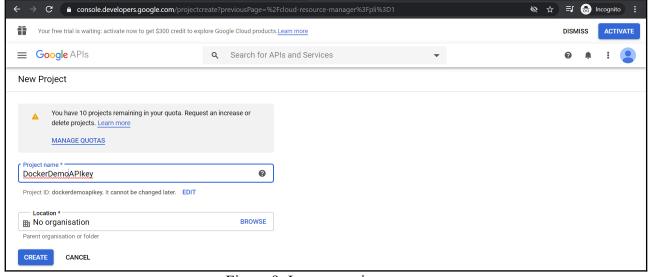


Figure 9: Insert a project name.

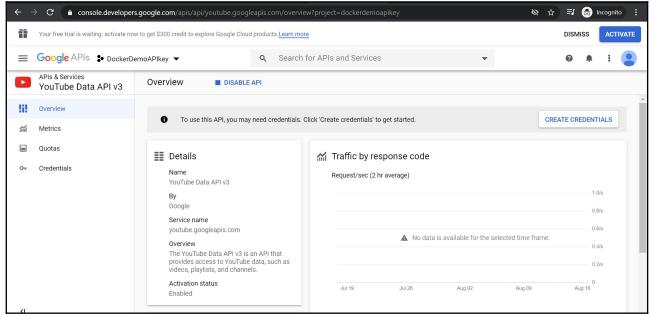


Figure 10: Enable YouTube Data API in Library of Google APIs.

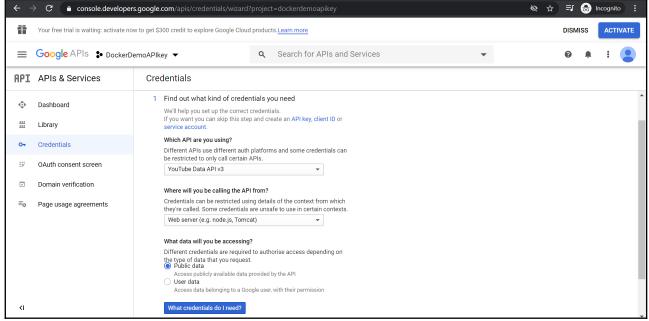


Figure 11: Setup the credentials for the API.

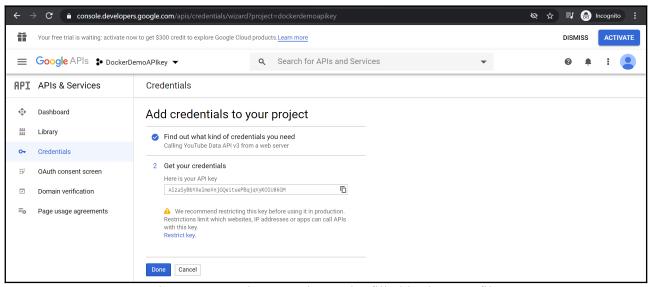


Figure 12: Retrieve API key to be filled in the .env file.

Docker Image.

Docker images are built in Docker bash CLI. Execute docker images command to see the images in your workstation and execute docker ps command to show which container is running. Docker image can be built by executing docker build command. The command is accompanied with the directory that the Dockerfile is in and best to be named using a tag -t command. For this example, build the Docker image through Docker bash CLI by executing docker build . -t youtubereactapp:latest command in the directory of the project folder as shown in Figure 13.

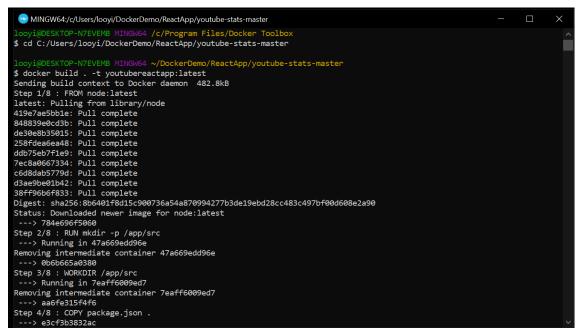


Figure 13: Build Docker Image.

The steps detail out the layers that this Docker image have. In order to run the image, docker run command have to be executed. Take note that this can actually be executed in VS Code as well as illustrated in Figure 14.

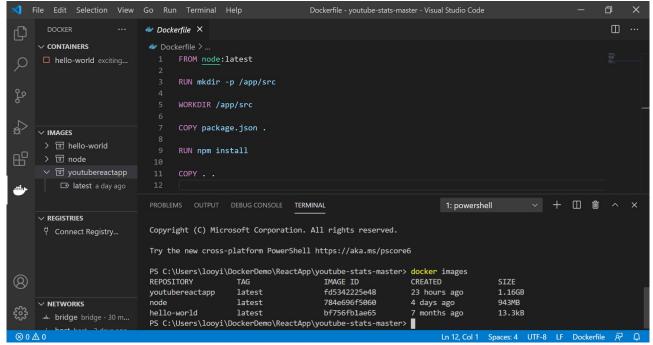


Figure 14: Build or Run Docker Image in VS Code.

In VS Code, subsequent to installing the Docker extension, there will be a Docker logo on the left pane where developer may choose to view current containers and images that are available. Adding the terminal in VS Code will enable the execution of commands without the need to execute everything in Docker bash CLI.

Docker Container.

One may run the Docker Image in a container by executing docker run command. Similar to docker build command, the docker run command need to be accompanied with options such as removing intermediate containers after a successful build with --rm and adding interactive process with -it to show details of the run. Adding port flag is to map the indicated top port to the container and adding the image name is essential in order to run the intended Docker image. For this example, docker run --rm -it -p 3000:3000/tcp youtubereactapp:latest command in Docker bash CLI as well as right-clicking the image file on VS Code and select "Run" / "Run Interactively". After doing so, you will be able to view the application on a browser following URL given in the CLI as shown in Figure 15.

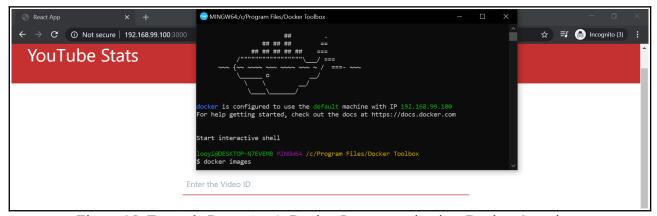


Figure 15: Example React App's Docker Image running in a Docker Container.

Take note that if there are any error of connecting to localhost or by entering localhost:3000 returns a refused connection error, that means Docker is running on a different IP from localhost. Check the IP in Docker bash CLI and replace localhost with the default IP that Docker is running on. Once the exampler react app is up running, you may check the YouTube Statistics about a video that you would like to check on as illustrated in Figure 16.

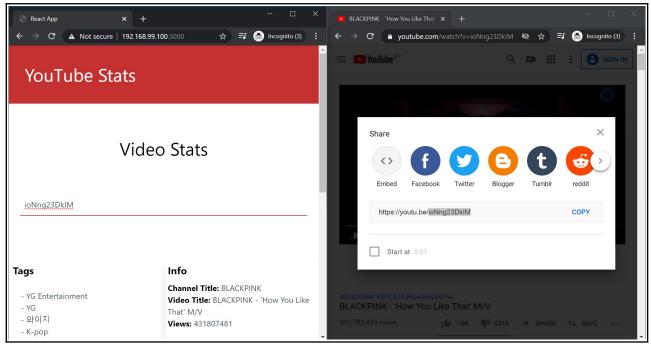


Figure 16: React App running in a Docker Container without react native/expo CLI.

In VS Code, the container panel will have the container indicated as "running" mode. Similarly, in Docker bash CLI, exectuing the docker ps will return the information of currently running container as shown in Figure 17.

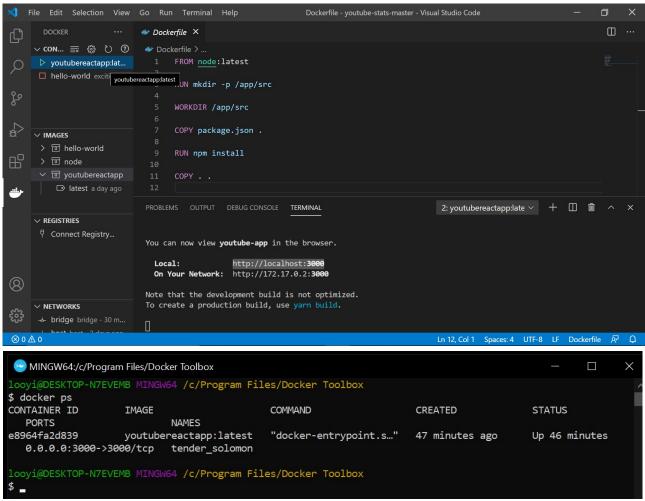


Figure 17: Docker Container indicated as "running" in VS Code and CLI.

Dockerhub.

One may choose to push the Docker image up to a repository; similar as the concept of Git. Git repository may be stored in Github, Docker images may be stored in Dockerhub. Subsequent to signing up a Dockerhub account, one will be given a free repository. Create a new repository in Dockerhub by clicking on the "Create Repository" button. Create a repository as shown in Figure 18.

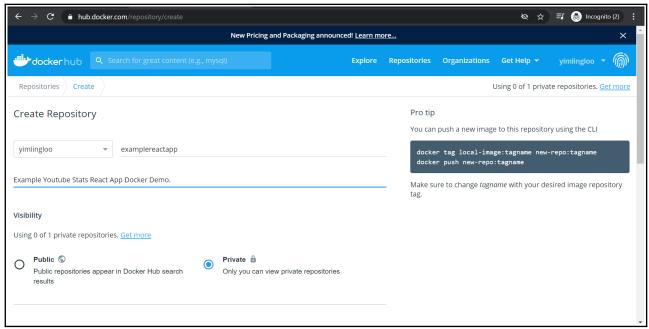


Figure 18: Create a New Docker repository.

Click on "Create" button to create the new repository. A new repository is created with the return of empty repository page as shown in Figure 19.

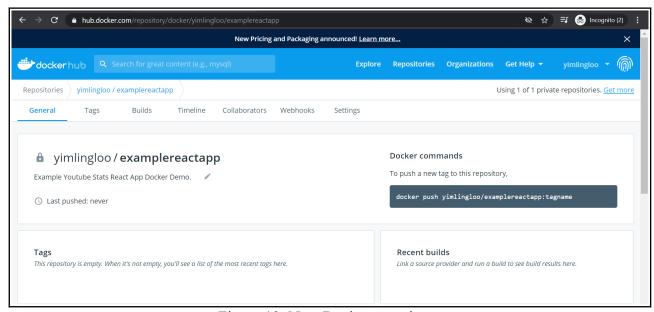


Figure 19: New Docker repository.

Note that similar to Github, Dockerhub also provide a docker push command on how to push a Docker Image to Dockerhub. In order to push the Dockerfile to Dockerhub, the local workstation need to be logged in to Dockerhub. In order to login to Dockerhub, one may do this in VS Code

terminal by executing docker login command accompanied by the detail of username -u as shown in Figure 20.

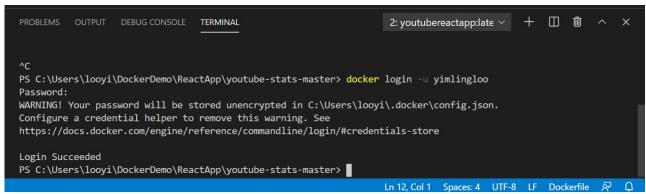


Figure 20: Docker hub login.

Upon successful login, execute the docker images command again in order to retrieve the TAG ID of the example react app. Upon retrieving the correct TAG ID, put the TAG ID inside the docker tag command in order to tag the correct Docker image to the push. After tagging to the intended Docker image, then only execture the docker push command as illustrated in Figure 21.

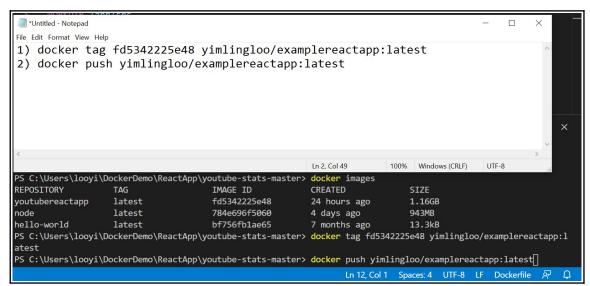


Figure 21: Tag and push Docker image to Dockerhub.

The Docker image will be pushed to Dockerhub with all the layers indicated in the terminal, similar to when the Docker image was being built. Upon successful push, the repository will have a tag available and one may click in the tag to see that now the Dockerhub suggests a docker pull command, whoever would like to have the shared Docker image as shown in Figure 22.

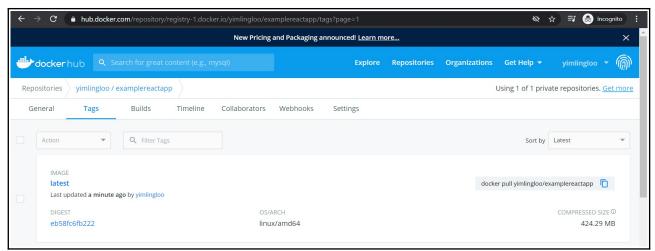


Figure 22: Docker image pushed to Dockerhub and ready for pull.

Up until this step, it shows that a collaborator does not need to preconfigure anything when project development files are passed to him/her. All that was needed was to have the project folders and Dockerfile, in order for the collaborator to run the project files and test. Back to the question asked at the beginning of this practical;

Q: What do you think is the difference between Docker and Virtual Machines?