

Where to Save Files Inside Docker Containers for n8n

Where to Save Files Inside Docker Containers for n8n - Quick Cheatsheet

Default Writeable Location in n8n Container:

- /home/node/.n8n/

Why?

- This path is always writable inside the n8n container.
- Safe for saving temporary and permanent files.

Recommended for:

- Generated reports (HTML, Markdown, PDF)
- Temporary backup files
- Diagnostic logs

Typical Good Practice:

If you need to monitor, edit, or copy files easily:

- Mount a volume using Docker Compose:

volumes:

- ./n8n_data:/home/node/.n8n

This allows your local folder ./n8n_data to stay in sync with /home/node/.n8n inside container.

Common Mistakes:

- Trying to save directly to /data/ without mounting.
- Saving to root (/) directory which is often read-only.

- Forgetting to persist data across container restarts.

Quick Testing Tip:

To simulate a missing file alert:

- Manually create a dummy file inside n8n container:

```
docker exec -it [n8n-container-name] sh
```

```
touch /home/node/.n8n/report.html
```

Then test the workflow.

Final Note:

Always plan file locations during Docker setup to avoid accidental data loss!