

Docker vs Docker Compose vs Dockerfile

Docker vs Docker Compose vs Dockerfile

Docker

- Core containerization engine
- Runs single containers manually
- CLI commands: docker build, docker run, docker ps, docker stop

Docker Compose

- Defines and manages multi-container applications
- Uses a docker-compose.yml file
- CLI commands: docker-compose up, docker-compose down, docker-compose logs

Dockerfile

- Blueprint for building Docker images
- Contains set of instructions (FROM, RUN, COPY, CMD)
- Used with: docker build -t imagename .

Quick Analogy:

- Dockerfile = Recipe (how to build a dish)
- Docker = Cooking the dish manually
- Docker Compose = Cooking multiple dishes automatically using a full meal plan
