

Docker Error: Returned a Non-zero Code: 137

While running a node app with Docker, there is an error 137:

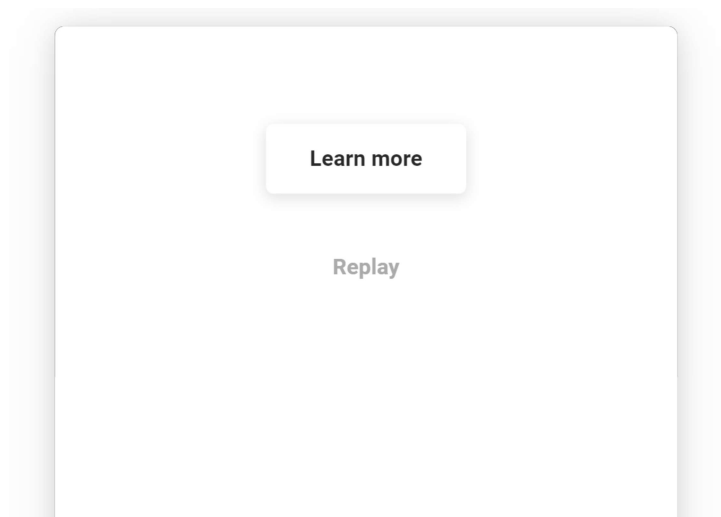
The command `'/bin/sh -c npm install'` returned a non-zero code: 137

This means a [out of memory error](#).

To fix, you can add more RAM.

Or you can add more swap memory (FREE!). Swap memory uses part of your hddisk for temporary memory.

These steps are exactly the same from a [previous guide](#):



```
# Confirm you have no swap
sudo swapon -s

# Allocate 1GB (or more if you wish) in /swapfile
sudo fallocate -l 1G /swapfile

# Make it secure
sudo chmod 600 /swapfile
ls -lh /swapfile

# Activate it
sudo mkswap /swapfile
sudo swapon /swapfile

# Confirm again there's indeed more memory now
free -m
sudo swapon -s

# Configure fstab to use swap when instance restart
sudo nano /etc/fstab

# Add this line to /etc/fstab, save and exit
/swapfile none swap sw 0 0

# Change swappiness to 10, so that swap is used only when 10% RAM is unused
# The default is too high at 60
echo 10 | sudo tee /proc/sys/vm/swappiness
echo vm.swappiness = 10 | sudo tee -a /etc/sysctl.conf
```



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5 years ago

Thank you! You're a life saver! I've got a tiny droplet on digital ocean. I thought I would need to upgrade :-)

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Oswaldo Ferreira

6 years ago edited

Hey, thanks for sharing it. I could manage to "docker build" setting a unlimited swap flag:

docker build -t x/x --memory-swap -1 .

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