Loopback World is a PHP convenience container that simulates a larger set of services. The idea of Loopback World is that it can extend your production PHP Docker image to give you a local development environment with all the same services as your production environment.

Perhaps the best example is MySQL. If you have created your PHP application’s Docker container according the best practice, you will not have MySQL in your applications Docker image. But for development it is advantageous to have your own MySQL database(s) during development. You can of course connect to a remote MySQL server on the cloud, but that can be both costly and inconvenient. You could have a MySQL server on your workstation, but then how do you make sure you keep the same version(s) used in production. Using the Loopback World approach, you extend your applications base image with the Loopback World image, with Loopback World adding the MySQL server you need locally.

I want to point out that Loopback World is a technique. While you can use my existing Loopback World container, it was created for my team by me. You should fork its source and make your own, customized to your teams or application’s specific needs.

Adding a web app via git submodules:

Tools:

In addition to providing services like MySQL, Redis, and LDAP, the Loopback World technique includes tools to manage these services, like PhpMyAdmin and phpLDAPadmin. These tools are baked into the Loopback World container, so that they are always available via a browser.