Embedded-Matt's Upstream Image Mode Lab Exercises

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Technical Requirements

You will need two bare metal or virtual machines that you can modify or reinstall the operating system upon. Root access, Internet access, and DHCP IP addressing are a must-have. You will also need the ability to download ISO images and have a 16GB (or greater) USB thumb drive. Finally, you will need a free Red Hat Developer account and access to your own Quay registry (also free). The requirements are greater for these exercises as the outcomes are more significant. I am hopeful you'll even have fun along the way, which in my opinion is also a requirement.
For these exercises. We will use CentOS Streams 9 as our build machine's OS, and we'll be creating a CentOS Streams 9 bootable container image.

Exercise 1: Prepare Environment

In this first exercise, we will install necessary tools along with some optional tools to create our minimal bootable container image build chain.

1. First, we will setup a build environment, configure our registry, and create a container that will become the basis for not just our application but our operating system as well.

(command)
**$ sudo dnf install -y containers-common crun iptables netavark **
**nftables slirp4netns composer-cli cockpit cockpit-composer **
skopeo buildah runc podman
(output suppressed to save space)

2. Now we'll ensure that the web console is enabled.

(command)
$ sudo systemctl enable cockpit.socket
(no output)

3. And here, we'll start the socket for the web console.

(command)
$ sudo systemctl start cockpit.socket
(no output)

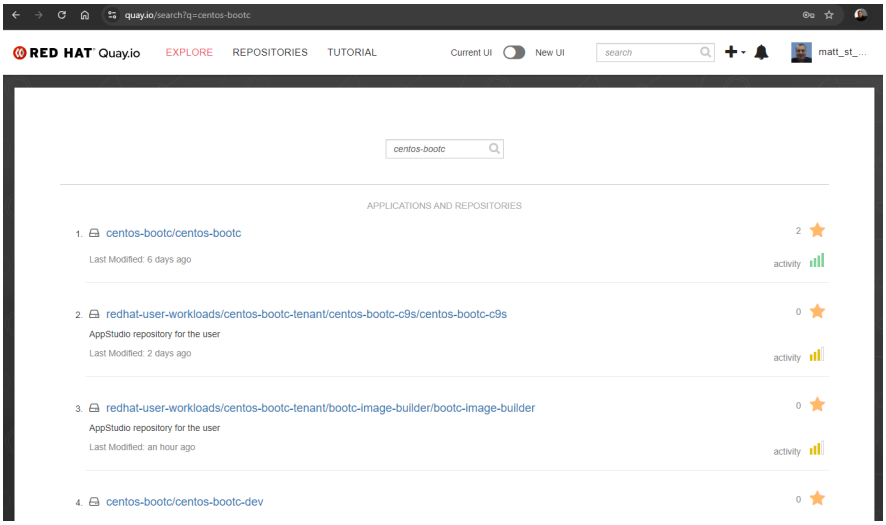
4. Confirm the web console is active.

(command)
$ sudo systemctl status cockpit.socket
(output)
● cockpit.socket - Cockpit Web Service Socket
Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/cockpit.socket; enabled; preset: disabled)
Active: active (listening) since Fri 2024-08-09 12:39:24 EDT; 1 month 13 days ago
Triggers: ● cockpit.service
Docs: man:cockpit-ws(8)
Listen: [::]:9090 (Stream)
Tasks: 0 (limit: 38320)
Memory: 648.0K (peak: 2.5M)
CPU: 26ms
CGroup: /system.slice/cockpit.socket

Aug 09 12:39:24 bm03.local systemd[1]: Starting cockpit.socket - Cockpit Web Service Socket...
Aug 09 12:39:24 bm03.local systemd[1]: Listening on cockpit.socket - Cockpit Web Service Socket.

(end output)

5. Next we'll take a look at our free registry and make some configuration changes.
    a. In a browser window log into https://quay.io/
    b. Navigate to Account>>Settings>>CLI Password
    c. Set a CLI password if you have not already done so. (you may be asked to create an encrypted password - these are better) Make note of this information we will need it very soon.
    d. Search for repository "centos-bootc"
    e. Click on the link for **centos-bootc/centos-bootc**.
    f. Make note of the URL, as we'll be using it soon. Consider bookmarking the page too.



Searching for CentOS Stream's boot_c base image

6. Back in your terminal, configure your non-root user account to be able to search the registry.

(command)

$ cd ~

(no output)

7. Create the requisite directories to store your container configuration so podman will know where to seek information.

(command)

$ mkdir -p ~/.config/containers

(no output)

8. Let's change directories to the one we just created.

(command)

$ cd ~/.config/containers

(no output)

9. Let's now create a registries.conf file to contain the defined contents below.

(command)

$ vi registries.conf

Set the file's contents to match the following and save the file

```
# we will use these registries only

[registries.search]
registries = ['registry.redhat.io','quay.io']
```

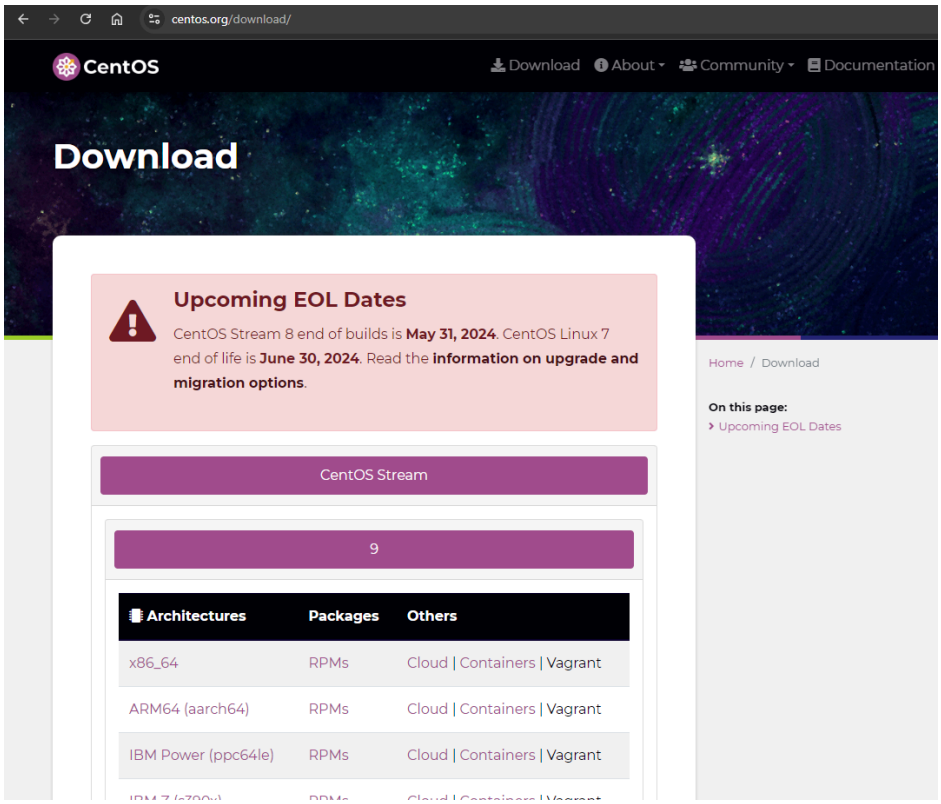
10. Now, we'll go back to our home directory.

(command)

$ cd ~

(no output)

11. Let's download Centos Streams 9 DVD ISO image to be used later in the process when we create our custom installer. Use your web browser to go to https://centos.org/download/ and then click on the **x86_64** button.



CentOS Streams 9 Download

12. Let's verify the file size and that it's fully downloaded.

(command)

$ ls -lh | grep *.iso

(output)

-rw-r--r--. 1 mstonge mstonge 11G Sep 25 01:01 CentOS-Stream-9-latest-x86_64-dvd1.iso

(end output)

13. Back in your terminal, login to quay.io via command line. Use your own user account and password you have previously set in order to access the Quay.io registry.

(command)
$ podman login quay.io
(output)

Login Succeeded!

(end output)

NOTE: If you opted to generate the encrypted CLI password the login command should look a little different. Replace your own username where ***[your username]*** is called out and your long encrypted password where the ***[encrypted pass]*** is called out below.

$ podman login -u='*[your username]*' -p='*[encrypted pass]*' quay.io

14. Let's pull down our base container image

(command)
$ podman pull quay.io/centos-bootc/centos-bootc:stream9
(output)

(((output truncated)))

Copying blob 775d29f76a39 done |
Copying blob 7eff373befa3 done |
Copying blob 8c789e616763 done |
Copying blob fd730fb4a24b done |
Copying blob 54246c915569 done |
Copying blob 232fb94490b0 done |
Copying blob ad312c5c40cc done |
Copying blob bd9ddc54bea9 done |
Copying config a1163a9d15 done |
Writing manifest to image destination
a1163a9d15d2f9a3f7f81748baf8fbcfc69690ed38030e770fe2006c090b0f83

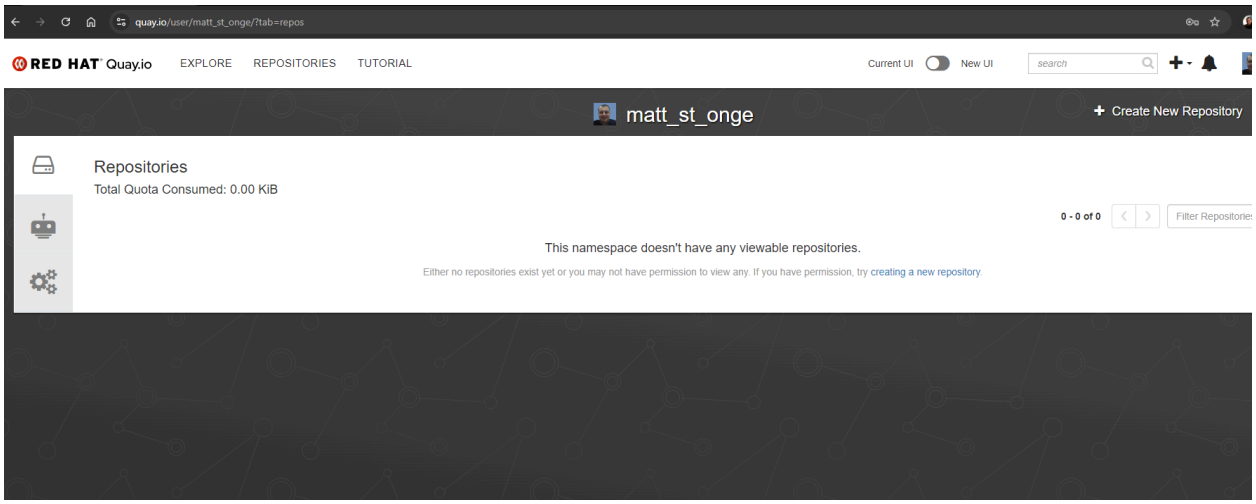
(end output)

15. Let's check our local container inventory and verify we have the intended CentOS Stream 9 boot_c image amongst our inventory.

(command)
$ podman images
(output)

```
REPOSITORY                    TAG       IMAGE ID      CREATED       SIZE
quay.io/centos-bootc/centos-bootc  stream9   a1163a9d15d2  43 hours ago  1.52 GB
```
(end output)

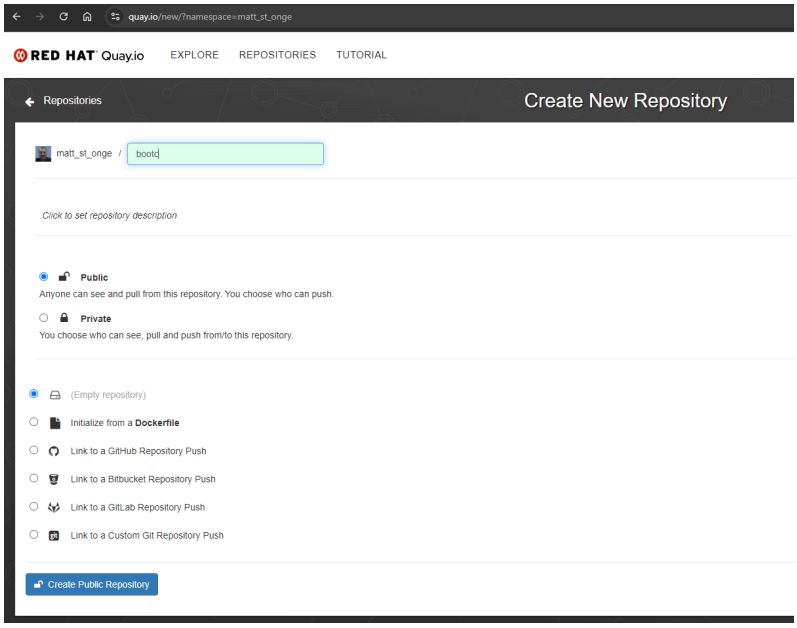
16. Now in the Quay.io web interface we will create our own public repository for our container image project. We'll start on the Repositories tab.
NOTE: As a simple reminder, this is not exactly how one should ever do this in production. We'll be using a public configuration for lab purposes only. Private, secure registries are the only way I would recommend doing this deployment method whilst being connected to the internet.



Quay - Repositories main page

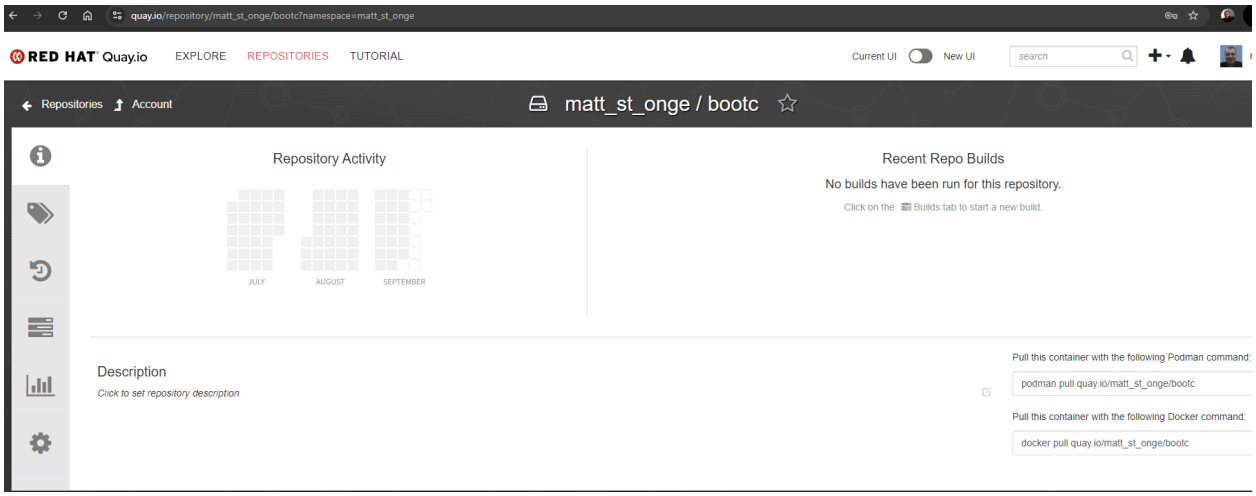
17. Next we'll click on the "**+ Create New Repository**" button in the top right hand side of the screen.

Name your repository "bootc" , ensure that the **Public** radio button is selected along with the "**empty repository**" radio button also being selected. Then click the "**Create Repository**" button at the bottom.



Creating a new repository in Quay

Make note of the URL for your repository, we'll be using it soon. I also recommend bookmarking it in your web browser too.



Your custom Quay repository

Now we have configured a baseline build environment on your system. By configuring how we leverage registries, installed container tools, and staged a container base image and a Linux installer ISO image, we have all we need to be successful. We additionally setup the web

console on our build system that can come in handy later on. Let's move onto building our initial container which will be the basis for our future immutable image.

Exercise 2: Create a Container File

In this exercise, we'll create a container file that we will build using the base image we downloaded in the previous exercise. The results of this exercise will give us a container that can run a simple LAMP (Linux Apache mySQL and PHP) stack. If you decide not to type this file, there will be a prebuilt one in the book's GitHub for reference.

1. Let's create the containerfile and name it **mycontainerfile.cf** .
   (command)
   $ vi mycontainerfile.cf
   (end command)

   Set the contents to look like the following:

```
FROM quay.io/centos-bootc/centos-bootc:stream9

#install the lamp components

RUN dnf install -y httpd mariadb mariadb-server php-fpm php-mysqlnd && dnf clean all

#start the services automatically on boot

RUN systemctl enable httpd mariadb php-fpm

#create an awe inspiring home page (all one command line)

RUN echo '<h1 style="text-align:center;">Welcome to My Appliance</h1> <?php phpinfo(); ?>' >>
/var/www/html/index.php
```

2. Let's build our container image.
   NOTE: Replace your own Quay.io username where *[my_account]* appears in the command line.

   (command)
   **$ podman build -f mycontainerfile.cf **
   -t quay.io/*[my_account]*/bootc/lamp-bootc:latest
   (begin output)

   STEP 1/4: FROM quay.io/centos-bootc/centos-bootc:stream9

STEP 2/4: RUN dnf install -y httpd mariadb mariadb-server php-fpm php-mysqlnd && dnf clean all
--> Using cache
a525b1bb126820c8522199f6d42b292210f06e4d178efbc148d97a92b94a64ed
--> a525b1bb1268
STEP 3/4: RUN systemctl enable httpd mariadb php-fpm
--> Using cache
9400a8bbc0287454ae0db9f42f9b49e518daf2b410fd3c3d0bb91a8b58e0a2a3
--> 9400a8bbc028
STEP 4/4: RUN echo '<h1 style="text-align:center;">Welcome to My Appliance</h1>
<?php phpinfo(); ?>' >> /var/www/html/index.php
--> Using cache
4bcb220e3de6429f9f83264e84f064f2101c715c78e1104e388d11f6007b560e
COMMIT quay.io/matt_st_onge/bootc/lamp-bootc:latest
--> 4bcb220e3de6
Successfully tagged quay.io/matt_st_onge/bootc/lamp-bootc:latest
4bcb220e3de6429f9f83264e84f064f2101c715c78e1104e388d11f6007b560e

(end output)

3. Great! We now have our container image. Let's do a quick test to see how well it works. **NOTE: Replace your own Quay.io username where *[my_account]* appears in the command line.**
(command)
**$ podman run -d –-rm —name lamp -p 8080:80 **
quay.io/*[my_account]*/bootc/lamp-bootc:latest

Your output will resemble something like this following line.
(begin output)
7d9c474d9dd4e6ab32d910c72775cdb111adfed764f29887c110461ca67c54a6

(end output)

4. With the container started, let's open a browser window and verify that you can view the served content. http://[your_ip_address]:8080 If the page doesn't load, double check your firewall settings. If you are on the same system where you are running the container, your loopback address should also work.

Testing your container

5. We should now also be able to shell into the container while it's running.
   (command)
   $ podman exec -it lamp /bin/bash

6. When given the prompt feel free to test some commands but remember to EXIT.
   (command)
   bash-5.1# exit

   You will then be returned to your regular shell prompt on your system.

7. Stop the running container since we know that the image works.
   (command)
   $ podman stop lamp
   (begin output)

lamp

(end output)

8. Our final step will be the saving of our functional container image to your own repository within Quay.io
   NOTE: Log back into quay.io via command line if you are not logged in already.
   NOTE: Replace your own Quay.io username where *[my_account]* appears in the command line.
   (command)
   $ podman push quay.io/*[my_account]*/bootc/lamp-bootc:latest
   (begin output)

   (((output truncated)))

   Copying blob 7685af3680f8 skipped: already exists
   Copying blob 9046686a9227 skipped: already exists
   Copying blob d1c1676ee4e9 skipped: already exists
   Copying blob 7a1c4a9ce068 skipped: already exists
   Copying blob 0811ec9b544a done |
   Copying blob abef090ec865 done |
   Copying blob 6394663daed5 done |
   Copying blob 2daf40f13a19 skipped: already exists
   Copying blob 9dad063a624b skipped: already exists
   Copying config 8a4585ebc8 done |
   Writing manifest to image destination

   (end output)

Excellent! You've created the basis of your future operating system via the base image and layered on the applications stack all by creating a working container image. In our next exercise we'll create an installer so we can deploy it as a bootable image.

Exercise 3: Create an Installer

In this exercise we will create a kickstart file and then take that kickstart along with a standard vendor provided ISO install image and create our own custom ISO installer image for our amazing new system. This method of installation is great when you're working in your lab or datacenter. Alternative methods will be necessary if you are deploying in a cloud services provider. For a great reference on how to build kickstart files, you can check out this guide:

https://docs.fedoraproject.org/en-US/fedora/f36/install-guide/appendixes/Kickstart_Syntax_Reference/ …

1. In this first step you will create a kickstart file (**mykickstart.ks**). Within this file you will substitute your own account username where I state **[you]** and you'll also be setting basic configuration for the operating system's filesystem layout and root password. Save and exit the file when you are done. Should you choose not to type the file in its entirety, there's an example in the book's GitHub repository.
   NOTE: Replace your own Quay.io username where *[my_account]* appears in the file's contents.
   (command)
   $ vi mykickstart.ks

Ensure the contents of **mykickstart.ks** look similar (with your substitutions) to this… I've added myself as a user, you should replace that line with your own user account information.

```
# mykickstart.ks
# version 1

# anaconda installer type
text

# ensure that you connect your device to a Ethernet network with active DHCP
network —-bootproto=dhcp —-device=link —-activate

# basic partitioning
clearpart —-all —-initlabel —-disklabel=gpt

reqpart --add-boot

part / --grow --fstype xfs

# here's where we reference the container image
# notice this kickstart has no packages section
ostreecontainer —-url quay.io/matt_st_onge/bootc/lamp-bootc:latest \
 —-no-signature-verification

# additional settings for demonstration purposes
# in production use better settings
# the purpose of this exercise is not to tech you kickstart
# but to show how to leverage it in custom installers

firewall —-disabled
services —-enabled=sshd

# add your own user account to the system
user —-name=mstonge —-groups=wheel —-plaintext —-password=embedded

# set root password
rootpw —-plaintext —-password=embedded
```

2. Now we will install the software which will enable us to create a custom installer ISO image.
(command)
$ sudo dnf install -y lorax
(begin output)

(((output truncated)))

Complete!

(end output)

3. Now we'll utilize the **mkksiso** command which is part of the lorax RPM package we just installed. This will create a custom installer for us.
NOTE: you will need to substitute exact paths of your own here.
***Example: sudo mkksiso --ks /home/mstonge/mykickstart.ks ***
***/home/mstonge/CentOS-Stream-9-latest-x86_64-dvd1.iso ***
/home/mstonge/mycustominstaller.iso
(command)
**$ sudo mkksiso –ks [absolute path to mykickstart.ks] **
**[absolute path to the CentOS Stream 9 ISO] **
[absolute path to the new ISO you want created]
(begin output)

xorriso 1.5.6 : RockRidge filesystem manipulator, libburnia project.

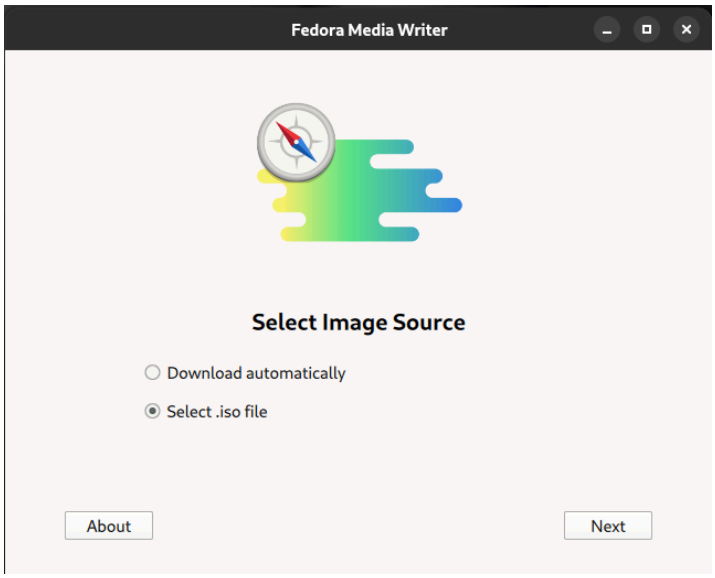
(((output truncated)))

xorriso : UPDATE : Writing: 344064s 30.7% fifo 13% buf 50% 127.5xD
xorriso : UPDATE : Writing: 442368s 39.5% fifo 19% buf 50% 145.1xD
xorriso : UPDATE : Writing: 548864s 49.0% fifo 22% buf 50% 157.3xD
xorriso : UPDATE : Writing: 644416s 57.5% fifo 0% buf 50% 141.1xD
xorriso : UPDATE : Writing: 737280s 65.8% fifo 10% buf 50% 137.1xD
xorriso : UPDATE : Writing: 830548s 74.1% fifo 0% buf 50% 137.6xD
xorriso : UPDATE : Writing: 932628s 83.2% fifo 0% buf 50% 150.7xD
xorriso : UPDATE : Writing: 1007616s 89.9% fifo 29% buf 50% 110.7xD
xorriso : UPDATE : Writing: 1097728s 97.9% fifo 10% buf 50% 133.0xD
ISO image produced: 1120832 sectors

```
Written to medium : 1121008 sectors at LBA 48
Writing to '/home/mstonge/mycustominstaller.iso' completed successfully.
(end output)
```

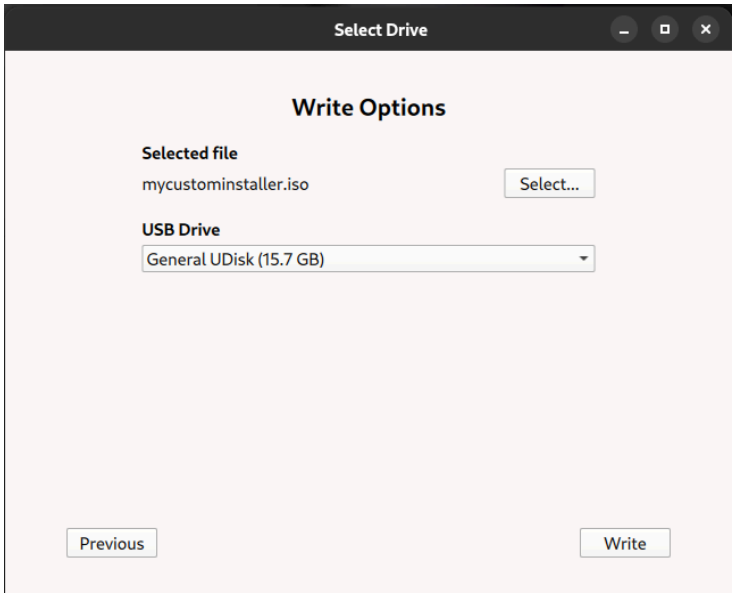
4. Now that we have our own custom installer ISO image, so let's create boot media. For this step, you will need to use Fedora Media Writer. It should already be on your system, if not, download it first.
   NOTE: this step may be optional if you are working with virtual machines - you might be able just to boot from the ISO file itself within the hypervisor.

Let's look at how the Fedora Media Writer can simplify the creation of boot media.



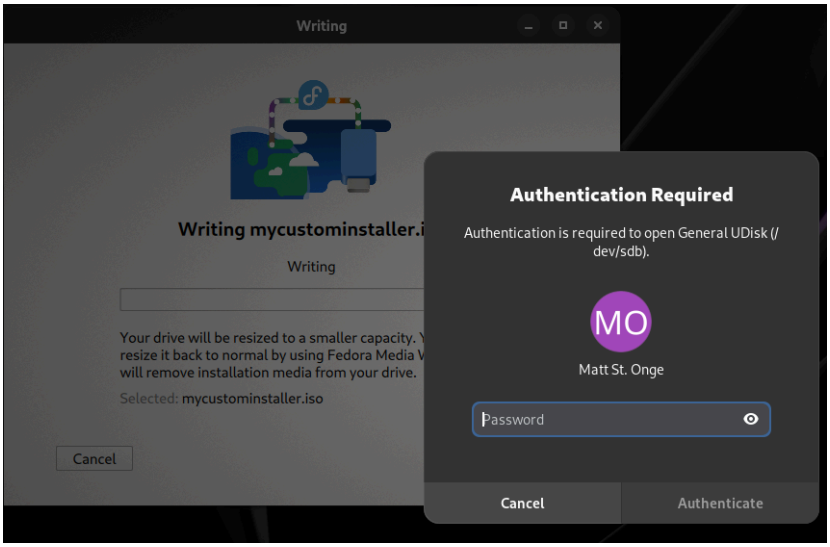
Fedora Media Writer

Here, you select the ISO image and the USB thumb drive that you want to commit the bootable image to.



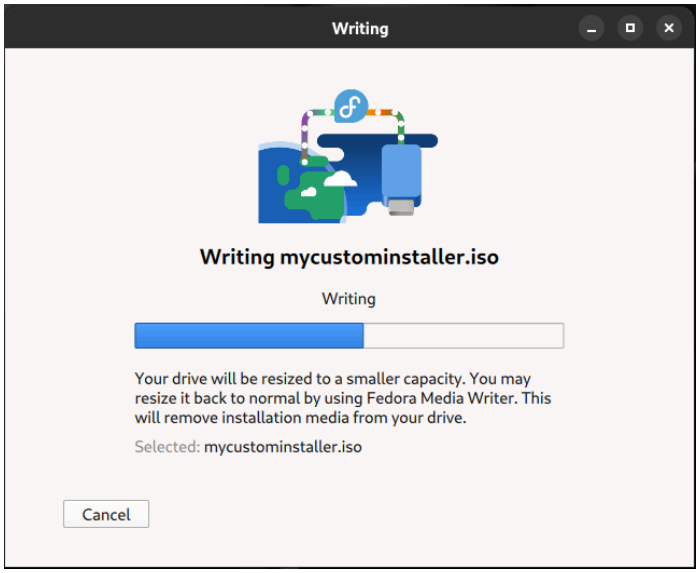
Choosing ISO Images

As the Fedora Media Writer requires elevated access, you'll be prompted for authentication to achieve "sudo" status.



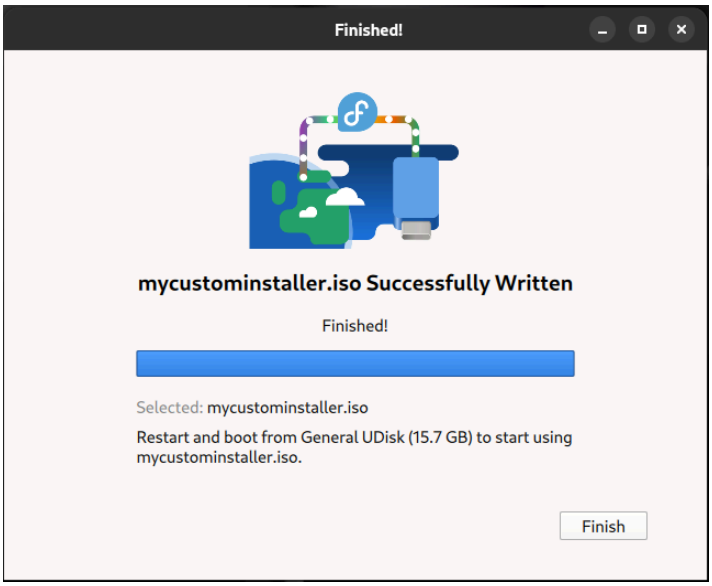
Elevated permissions - authentication

It will definitely take a few minutes to render the ISO image to the physical media. Have patience, grab a beverage, and enjoy the break.



ISO build in progress

Once completed, you'll be greeted by this screen.



ISO Image create completed

You can now remove the thumb drive from the USB port. We're just moments away from installation. You've successfully created your own custom installer. Let's move on and put it to good use.

Exercise 4: Initial Installation

Embedded-Matt's Upstream Image Mode Lab Exercises

V1.0 October 4, 2024

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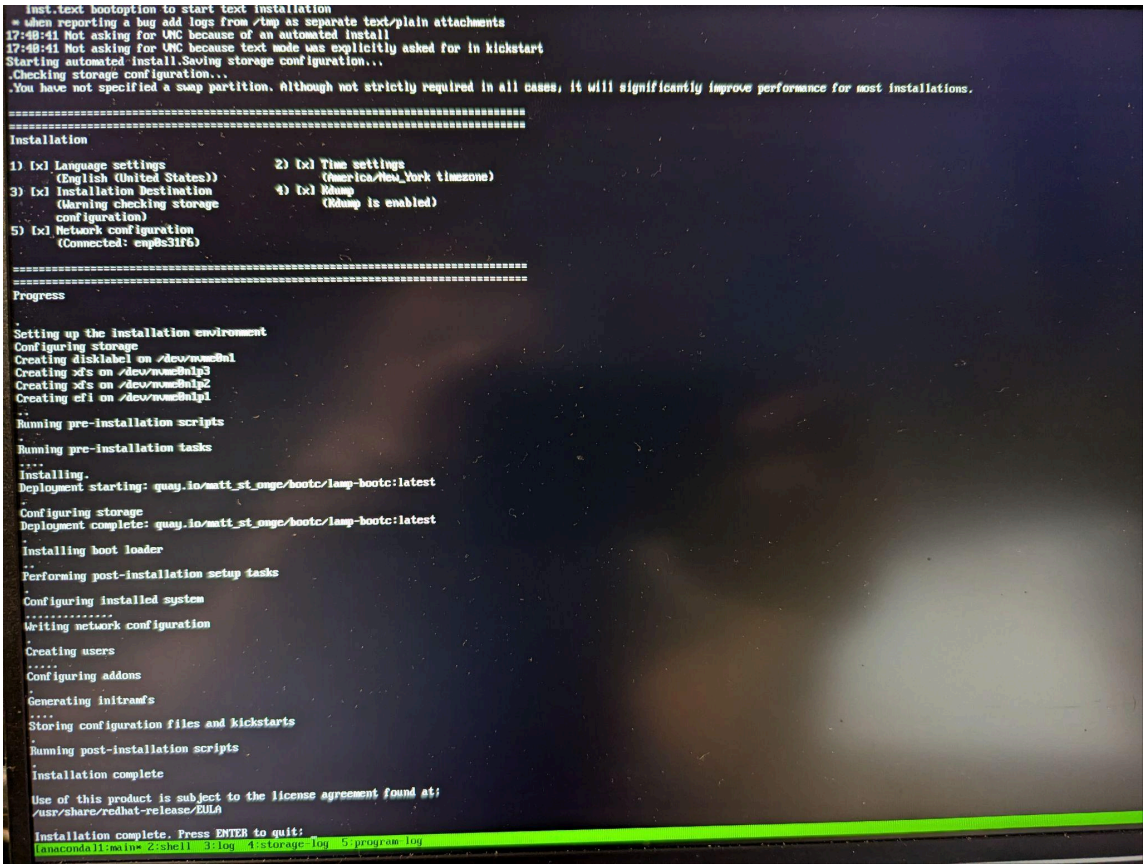
In this exercise we will install our first Image Mode system with our newly created custom installer. You will boot the test system from the newly created thumbdrive (or from the ISO file we just created in the case of a virtual machine). You may need to interrupt your system's normal boot process to get it to boot from the USB thumb drive.
Sit back, relax, and watch the magic happen…

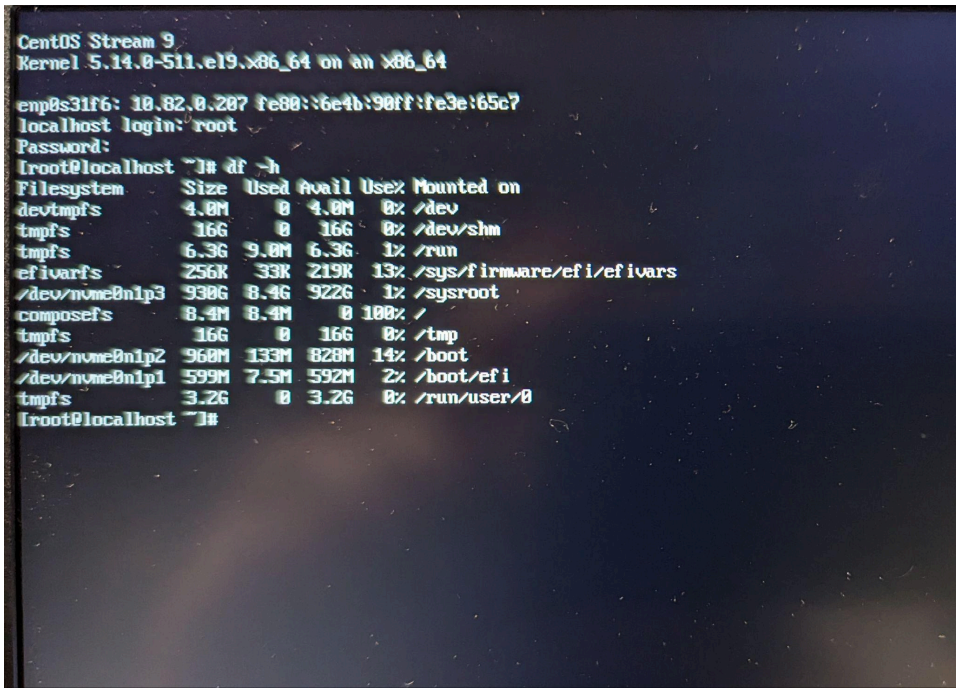
1. With your newly created boot media, use it to boot (or create a new VM). If booting onto physical hardware, some things to be aware of before your installation:
    a. Ensure all previous partitions are removed from the drive (especially the UEFI partition) before the installation process
    b. Ensure that within your UEFI BIOS any previous entries for Secure Boot are removed (RESET) and that Secure Boot is set to DISABLED before the installation
    c. Boot your system from the USB media (physical hardware) or directly from the ISO image (VM). This is an automated install and it will notify you upon completion (or failure)...

Here's what a successful text-based unattended installation looks like.



Installation Success!

2. Once the installation has completed, test your login credentials at the console.

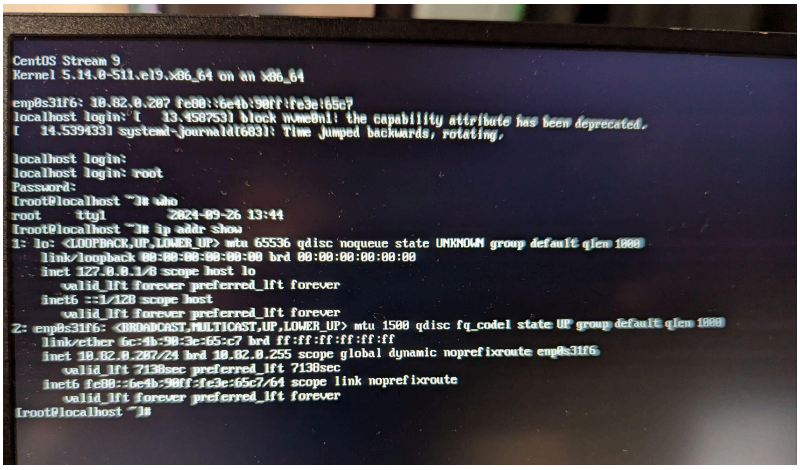


First login to our new appliance

3. Next, let's determine the IP address of our new system.

(command)
$ ip addr show

Your output should look something like this - make note of your IP address.

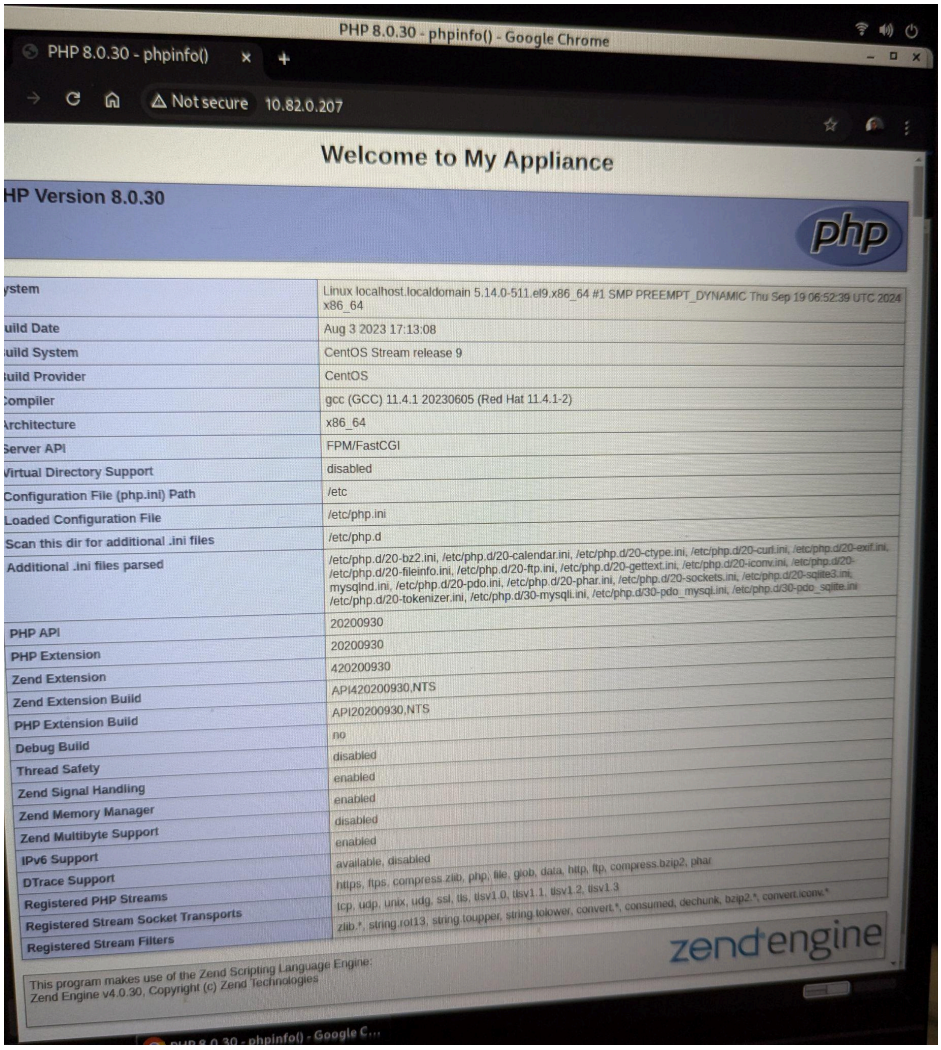


Getting your appliance's IP Address

4. Now let's open a web browser on another machine and test the LAMP stack.

Go to the IP address that you found in the previous step.

Your result should look like this.



Viewing your appliance's application from another machine

Welcome to the new world where if you can create a container, you can build a whole system. Let's now move onto how we update these awesome beasts.

Exercise 5: Create an Updated Container

In this exercise, we will make updates to our previously built container image, which will in turn provide updates to our Image Mode machine.

1. Your new appliance is defined by its container image. To create up update for your appliance, all we need to do is create a new container (then publish it to our registry). In this step, We will start by creating a new container file called **mycontainerfile2.cf**.
   (command)
   $ vi mycontainerfile2.cf

The contents of your file should look like this. Don't forget to save the file.

```
FROM quay.io/centos-bootc/centos-bootc:stream9

RUN dnf install -y httpd mariadb mariadb-server php-fpm php-mysqlnd && dnf clean all

RUN systemctl enable httpd mariadb php-fpm

#this next command is all one line although looks like two

RUN echo '<h1 style="Text-align:center;">Welcome to My Appliance</h1><?php phpinfo(); ?>' >>
/var/www/html/index.php

# new stuff

RUN dnf install -y cockpit

RUN systemctl enable cockpit.socket
```

2. Build the new version of your container image.
   NOTE: Replace your own Quay.io username where *[my_account]* appears in the command line. You may also have to login to quay before running this command (see exercise 1 - step 13).
   (command)
   $ podman build -f mycontainerfile2.cf -t quay.io/[my_account]/lamp-bootc:latest

   (begin output)

   (((output truncated)))

   Installed products updated.

   Installed:
   PackageKit-1.2.6-1.el9.x86_64
   PackageKit-glib-1.2.6-1.el9.x86_64
   abattis-cantarell-fonts-0.301-4.el9.noarch
   adobe-source-code-pro-fonts-2.030.1.050-12.el9.1.noarch
   audit-3.1.5-1.el9.x86_64
   centos-logos-90.8-1.el9.x86_64
   clevis-20-200.el9.x86_64
   clevis-luks-20-200.el9.x86_64

```
  cockpit-323.1-1.el9.x86_64
  cockpit-bridge-323.1-1.el9.x86_64
  cockpit-packagekit-323.1-1.el9.noarch
  cockpit-storaged-323.1-1.el9.noarch
  cockpit-system-323.1-1.el9.noarch
  cockpit-ws-323.1-1.el9.x86_64
  device-mapper-multipath-0.8.7-32.el9.x86_64
  device-mapper-multipath-libs-0.8.7-32.el9.x86_64
  fonts-filesystem-1:2.0.5-7.el9.1.noarch
  gdk-pixbuf2-2.42.6-4.el9.x86_64
  glib-networking-2.68.3-3.el9.x86_64
  gsettings-desktop-schemas-40.0-6.el9.x86_64
  initscripts-service-10.11.8-4.el9.noarch
  iscsi-initiator-utils-6.2.1.9-1.gita65a472.el9.x86_64
  iscsi-initiator-utils-iscsiuio-6.2.1.9-1.gita65a472.el9.x86_64
  isns-utils-libs-0.101-4.el9.x86_64
  jose-14-1.el9.x86_64
  libappstream-glib-0.7.18-5.el9.x86_64
  libatomic-11.5.0-2.el9.x86_64
  libblockdev-lvm-2.28-10.el9.x86_64
  libjose-14-1.el9.x86_64
  libjpeg-turbo-2.0.90-7.el9.x86_64
  libluksmeta-9-12.el9.x86_64
  libpng-2:1.6.37-12.el9.x86_64
  libproxy-0.4.15-35.el9.x86_64
  libproxy-webkitgtk4-0.4.15-35.el9.x86_64
  libsoup-2.72.0-8.el9.x86_64
  libstemmer-0-18.585svn.el9.x86_64
  luksmeta-9-12.el9.x86_64
  python3-dasbus-1.4-5.el9.noarch
  python3-libxml2-2.9.13-6.el9.x86_64
  python3-psutil-5.8.0-12.el9.x86_64
  python3-tracer-1.1-2.el9.noarch
  setroubleshoot-plugins-3.3.14-4.el9.noarch
  setroubleshoot-server-3.3.32-1.el9.x86_64
  sscg-3.0.0-7.el9.x86_64
  tracer-common-1.1-2.el9.noarch
  udisks2-iscsi-2.9.4-11.el9.x86_64
  udisks2-lvm2-2.9.4-11.el9.x86_64
  webkit2gtk3-jsc-2.44.3-2.el9.x86_64

Complete!
```

--> 6ab95e317a3c
STEP 6/6: RUN systemctl enable cockpit.socket
Created symlink /etc/systemd/system/sockets.target.wants/cockpit.socket → /usr/lib/systemd/system/cockpit.socket.
COMMIT quay.io/matt_st_onge/bootc/lamp-bootc:latest
--> fe247cf7e89d
Successfully tagged quay.io/matt_st_onge/bootc/lamp-bootc:latest
fe247cf7e89d97d5832d889718750d63cc5f2f24dcfd5ed4cce39dfafd150778

(end output)

3. Now that you've rebuilt your container image. Feel free to test it if you like the same way we did in a previous exercise or don't (it's optional). We do, however, have to push this new image to our registry and set it as the latest version.
NOTE: Replace your own Quay.io username where *[my_account]* appears in the command line.
(command)
$ podman push quay.io/[my_account]/bootc/lamp-bootc:latest

(begin output)

(((output truncated)))

Copying blob 8c789e616763 skipped: already exists
Copying blob fd730fb4a24b skipped: already exists
Copying blob 232fb94490b0 skipped: already exists
Copying blob 54246c915569 skipped: already exists
Copying blob ad312c5c40cc skipped: already exists
Copying blob bd9ddc54bea9 skipped: already exists
Copying blob 386e8ecea514 done |
Copying blob 2463de35bc3e skipped: already exists
Copying blob d4cfe3c3d422 skipped: already exists
Copying blob eedcea4f81f6 done |
Copying blob 2bca4ceb08f4 skipped: already exists
Copying config fe247cf7e8 done |
Writing manifest to image destination

(end output)

Wow! This is all that you have to do if you want your system to pick up an update automatically. As we are impatient creatures, let's move onto the next exercise and force the update manually.

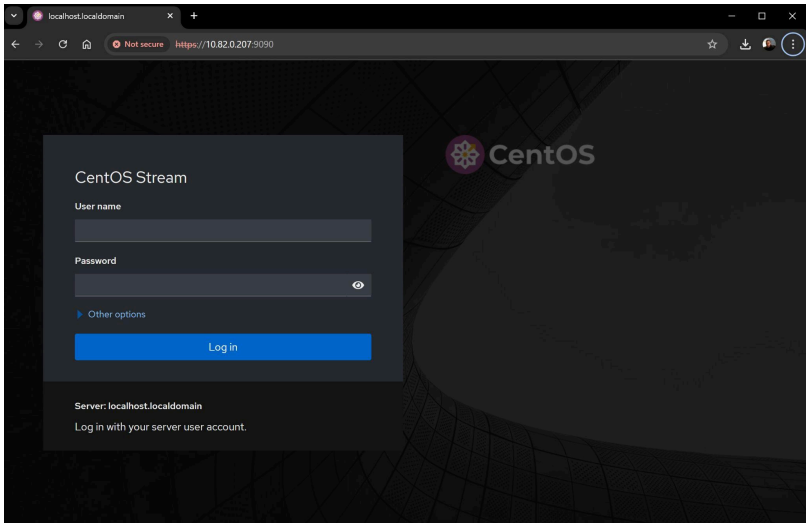
Exercise 6: Update Your System

In this exercise, we will leverage the latest updates to the container you have created to improve and update our bootable container (boot_c) machine.
NOTE: your machine will check for updates automatically every few hours. The default time check period can be modified.

1. Log back into the console of your appliance machine. Run the following as root. (command)
   # /usr/bin/bootc update –apply –quiet

Your machine will pull down its updates and reboot itself automatically.
Well done! You have not only created your first boot_c machine, but you have established an update mechanism and successfully updated your new machine. Congratulations.

You added the web console to your image based appliance. Although you cannot log in as root, I hope you know that you can add additional users in the kickstart if you want to rebuild or you can add a user in your console now. Here we only wanted to show just how easy it is to create an update. It works… Gorgeously.



Appliance is updated with new functionality

I hope that you have enjoyed walking through these exercises and that they have inspired thought as to how you could leverage this technology to build a better appliance.