Saving and Loading Images

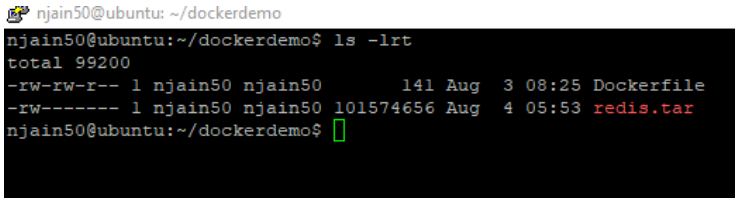
Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:09 PM

The Docker CLI allows us to export and import Docker images and container layers using export/import or save/load Docker commands

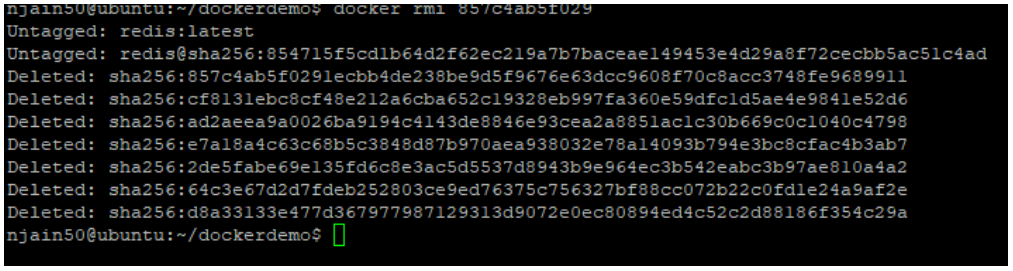
The difference between save/load and export/import is that the first one works with images including metadata, but the export/import combination uses only container layers and doesn't include any image metadata information such as name, tags, and so on. In most cases, the save/load combination is more relevant and works properly for images without special needs

The docker save command packs the layers and metadata of all the chains required to build the image. You can then load this *saved* images chain into another Docker instance and create containers from these images.

```
njain50@ubuntu:~/dockerdemo$ docker pull redis
Using default tag: latest
latest: Pulling from library/redis
f5d23c7fed46: Pull complete
831c20fd50cb: Pull complete
bc2a0f25caa5: Pull complete
745ac314a007: Pull complete
6deeca231441: Pull complete
6291e84f5373: Pull complete
Digest: sha256:854715f5cd1b64d2f62ec219a7b7baceae149453e4d29a8f72cecbb5ac51c4ad
Status: Downloaded newer image for redis:latest
njain50@ubuntu:~/dockerdemo$ docker save redis -o redis.tar
```



Now delete image in cache first:



Now when we load image from tar, we can again generate same image from it: