

Containershare: Open Source Registry to build, test, deploy with CircleCl

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Software

■ Review 🗗

Repository 2

■ Archive 🗗

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Summary

Containershare is an open source library of containers, both providing itself as a template, a library, and production application programming interface (API) for interested users. Specifically, it is a complete metadata registry that can be freely deployed directly from a Github repository to validate and serve tested, tagged, and version controlled containers, each maintained from independent Github repositories. The registry uses several open source and free to use solutions to accomplish this, and brings them together programatically with steps that are easy for the user to set up. Specifically, the user must connect the repository to the continuous integration service CircleCI ("Continuous Integration and Deployment," n.d.) and then turn on Github Pages ("GitHub Pages," n.d.) from the repository web interface. After these steps, adding text files to describe other container repositories via pull requests will test the submissions, and programatically add them to all components of the library.

Container Repository Templates

The individual container repository is responsible for serving its own metadata that the containershare can discover, validate, and provide for the user. It is also driven by a simple definition of a general CircleCI workflow, including building of a container, extraction of metadata, and then deployment of the container to Docker Hub and metadata files and user interface back to Github Pages. The workflow definitions to accomplish this are provided by containershare, and include:

- A table of version controlled containers, where each commit is associated with a tagged container for the user to interact with
- A complete list of tags for a program to discover and consistently query for the associated container metadata



Figure 1: https://vsoch.github.io/assets/images/posts/containershare/table.png



		Table of my containers and associ	ciated tags available on Docker Hub	
ID	Tag	Link	Manifest	Inspect
1	latest	vanessa/repo2docker-share:latest	manifest-latest.json	inspect-latest.json
2	7c75bdca9b	vanessa/repo2docker-share:7c75bdca9b	manifest-7c75bdca9b.json	inspect-7c75bdca9b.json
3	a40aab7022	vanessa/repo2docker-share:a40aab7022	manifest-a40aab7022.json	inspect-a40aab7022,json
4	7c80aad753	vanessa/repo2docker-share:7c80aad753	manifest-7c80aad753.json	inspect-7c80aad753.json
5	c4b8a7c093	vanessa/repo2docker-share:c4b8a7c093	manifest-c4b8a7c093.json	inspect-c4b8a7c093.json
6	55d0ec9099	vanessa/repo2docker-share:55d0ec9099	manifest-55d0ec9099.json	inspect-55d0ec9099.json
7	7048785e6d	vanessa/repo2docker-share:7048785e6d	manifest-7048785e6d.json	inspect-7048785e6d.json
8	7dc04b02e7	vanessa/repo2docker-share:7dc04b02e7	manifest-7dc04b02e7.json	inspect-7dc04b02e7.json
9	a11d57bb3b	vanessa/repo2docker-share:a11d57bb3b	manifest-a11d57bb3b,json	inspect-a11d57bb3b,json
10	64f93ab1d7	vanessa/repo2docker-share:64f93ab1d7	manifest-64f93ab1d7,json	inspect-64f93ab1d7.json
11	48bebba8cd	vanessa/repo2docker-share:48bebba8cd	manifest-48bebba8cd.json	inspect-48bebba8cd.json
12	547b0f6298	vanessa/repo2docker-share:547b0f6298	manifest-547b0f6298.json	inspect-547b0f6298.json
13	138c6c221f	vanessa/repo2docker-share:138c6c221f	manifest-138c6c221f.json	inspect-138c6c221f.json
14	e0f971788b	vanessa/repo2docker-share:e0f971788b	manifest-e0f971788b.json	inspect-e0f971788b.json
Support			Description	

 $\textbf{Figure 2:} \ \, \texttt{https://vsoch.github.io/assets/images/posts/containershare/share.png}$

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Figure 3: https://vsoch.github.io/assets/images/posts/containershare/inspect.png

- The traditional image manifests that are provided by Docker Hub
- An "inspection" of the container that includes package manager packages and versions, along with a listing of files and sizes inside of the container, extracted during the build step using the open source Container Diff ("Container-Diff," n.d.) tool provided by Google Open Source.

Containershare serves as a general skeleton that can be extended to several use cases and themes, including sharing of containers for behavioral paradigms, open source publications, or components to scientific workflows. The use of open source tools like Github and CircleCI means that the implementation is completely transparent and customizable for an individual or institutional needs. For a research scientist, submission of a container repository to a containershare gives confidence that the container can be discovered. For a service provider, deployment of a container share (and subsequent provision of containers using it) gives confidence that the service users have a central location to discover containers, and API to discover them programmatically. Containershare and links to container repository templates are provided for use from the containershare repository, contributions in the way of code or issues are encouraged, and for interested readers, a more descriptive writeup is available.

References

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"Container-Diff." n.d. Github.
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[&]quot;Continuous Integration and Deployment." n.d. https://circleci.com/dashboard.

[&]quot;GitHub Pages." n.d. Github.