If you want to separate your Strapi project into two containers, one for the Strapi backend and another for the MySQL database, you can use Docker Compose to manage the containers. Docker Compose allows you to define and run multiple containers as a single service.

Here's an example of how you can set up Docker Compose for your Strapi project with two containers:

1. Create a **docker-compose.yml** file in the root directory of your project:

version: '3'

services:

db:

image: mysql:5.7

restart: always

environment:

MYSQL\_ROOT\_PASSWORD: your\_mysql\_root\_password

MYSQL\_DATABASE: your\_mysql\_database

MYSQL\_USER: your\_mysql\_username

MYSQL\_PASSWORD: your\_mysql\_password

volumes:

- ./data:/var/lib/mysql

strapi:

build: .

restart: always

ports:

- 1337:1337

depends\_on:

- db

env\_file:

- .env

volumes:

- ./app:/usr/src/app

1. Replace **your\_mysql\_root\_password**, **your\_mysql\_database**, **your\_mysql\_username**, and **your\_mysql\_password** with your desired values. This defines a service called **db** using the MySQL image and sets the necessary environment variables for the database.
2. The **strapi** service is built using the Dockerfile in the current directory (**.**) and exposes port 1337. It depends on the **db** service, ensuring that the database container is running before starting the Strapi container.
3. The **env\_file** property specifies to use the **.env** file to load the environment variables for the Strapi container.
4. The **volumes** sections mount the **./data** directory on the host to the **/var/lib/mysql** directory in the MySQL container and mounts the **./app** directory on the host to the **/usr/src/app** directory in the Strapi container. This allows you to persist the database data and your Strapi project files even when the containers are stopped or restarted.
5. In your terminal, navigate to the directory containing the **docker-compose.yml** file and run the following command to start the containers:

docker-compose up -d

The **-d** flag runs the containers in detached mode.

Now, you will have two containers running: one for the MySQL database and another for your Strapi project. They will communicate with each other based on the configuration provided in the **docker-compose.yml** file.

You can access your Strapi project at **http://localhost:1337**.

Remember to update your Strapi project's configuration to use the correct MySQL host and credentials based on the environment variables provided in the **.env** file.