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Using Redis in Docker containers

Learn how to deploy Redis (using [technical-matters/what-is-redis/](#)) in a Docker container. Redis is a key-value store which allows data to be stored and accessed at lightning fast speeds. These qualities make it a natural choice for use with Docker containers. Redis is one of the top three most popular Docker images.

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Requirements

- A Cloud Server running Linux (Ubuntu 14.04 or CentOS 7)
- Docker installed and running
- Familiarity with basic Docker functionality and commands

For more information on installing and using Redis, see our article on [Installing Redis on a Linux Server](#). For more information on installing Docker, see our article on [Installing and Running Docker on a Linux Server](#) (server/know-how/installing-and-running-docker-on-a-linux-server/).

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Running Redis in a Docker container

The official Redis image (https://hub.docker.com/_/redis/) is one of the top three most popular Docker images. It contains the command **EXPOSE 6379** (the default Redis port) which makes it automatically available to any linked containers.

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To run a Redis instance in a Docker container named **my-redis-container**, use the command:

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```
1 | sudo docker run --name my-redis-container -d redis
```

Connecting to Redis running in a Docker container

To connect to a Redis instance from another Docker container, add **--link [Redis container name or ID]:redis** to that container's **docker run** command.

For example, to launch a container named **my-redis-application** from the official CentOS 7 image and link it to the **my-redis-container** container, use the command:

```
1 | sudo docker run --name my-redis-application --link my-redis-container:redis -d c
```

To connect to a Redis instance from another Docker container with a command-line interface, link the container and specify the host and port with **-h redis -p 6379**.

For example:

```
t --name my-redis-cli --link my-redis-container:redis --rm redis redis-cli -h redis -p 637
```

This will connect you to the new container **my-redis-cli** with a **redis-cli** connection to the **my-redis-container** container. Use **ctrl-P + ctrl-Q** to exit this container and return to the command line.

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Connect to a Redis container from a remote server

If you wish to connect to a Docker container running Redis from a remote server, you can use Docker's port forwarding to access the container with the host server's IP address or domain name.

To use Docker's port forwarding for Redis, add the flag `-p [host port]:6379` to the docker run command.

For example, to set up port forwarding so that you can connect to the container using port 7001, the docker run command is:

```
1 | sudo docker run --name my-redis-container -p 7001:6379 -d redis
```

You can then switch to another server and access the my-redis-container container with the command:

```
1 | sudo redis-cli -h [host IP or domain name] -p 7001
```

For example, if the host server running the Redis container is IP address 192.168.0.1, you can access the Redis container from any server with the command:

```
1 | sudo redis-cli -h 192.168.0.1 -p 7001
```

! Note

If you are using a firewall, you will need to allow external access to the relevant port(s).



Loading a Custom redis.conf File

If you have a custom redis.conf file, you can load it at container launch by adding the -v flag to the docker run command:

```
1 | -v [path to custom redis.conf file]:/usr/local/etc/redis/redis.conf
```

For example, to load the customized file /data/myredis/redis.conf file, the command is:

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```
1 | sudo docker run --name my-redis-container -v /data/myredis/redis.conf:/usr/local
```



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Once you have learned the basics of working with Docker, the next step is to learn how to create and save your own images. There are two ways to create a Docker image: manually using the ``docker commit`` command, or automatically using a Dockerfile.



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Learn how to install Docker, start the service, set it to start on boot, and learn how to work with Docker containers and images. In this article we will cover basic Docker commands and information.



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