**Exercise 4**

*Using Docker*

**Prior Knowledge**

Unix command-line  
Apt package manager  
Amazon AWS / EC2 Console

**Learning Objectives**

Be able to instantiate docker containers  
Be able to modify docker containers and save them

Interacting with the docker hub  
Creating a dockerfile

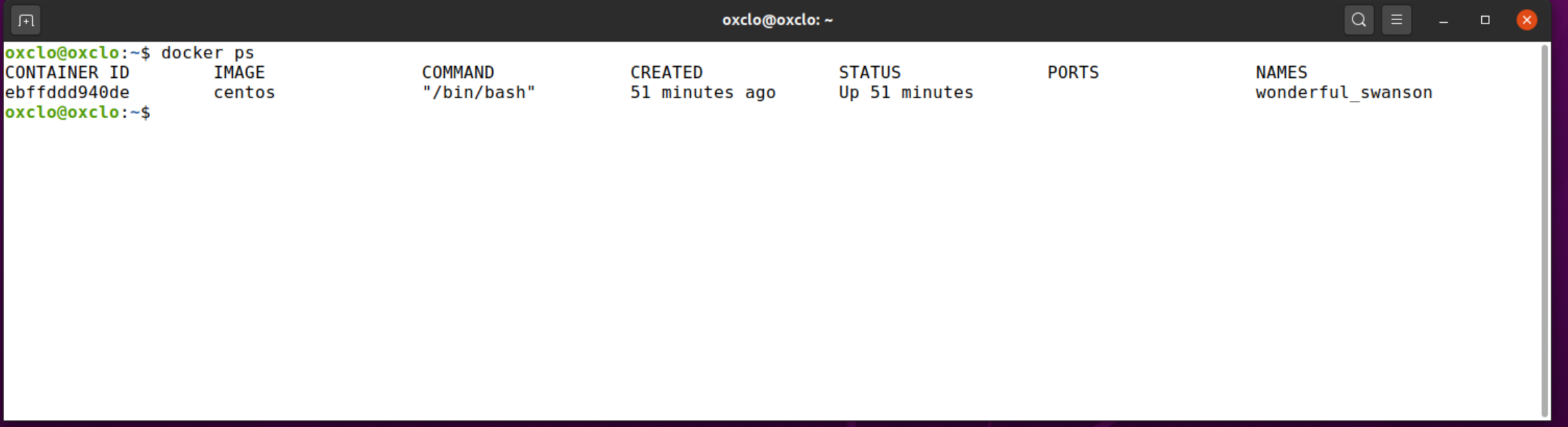
Using Docker Compose

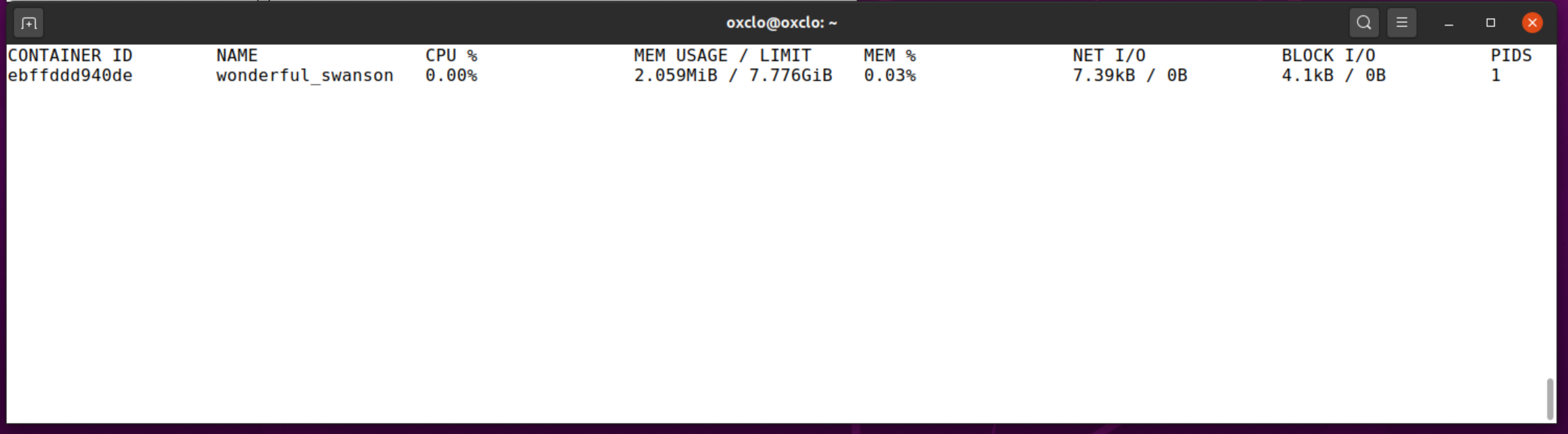
Running a docker container on EC2

**Software Requirements**

* AWS
* Docker
* Docker-Machine
* Docker-Compose
* Ubuntu
* vscode editor

**PART A – understanding the Docker model**

1. Let’s start by running a CentOs image inside our Ubuntu VM.
2. From the Ubuntu command-line, type:  
   docker pull centos
3. You should see something like:  
   
4. We will take a look at what this means shortly, but first let's try it out.  
   docker run -ti centos /bin/bash  
     
   You should see:  
   [root@c22c9c908236 /]#  
     
   Did you notice how fast it started?! This is not your usual VM.  
     
   Let’s refer to this window as the *docker window.*
5. Now type   
   ls /home/oxclo  
     
   This will fail, because we are now in a mini virtual machine. Now try   
     
   apt-get  
     
   Again it fails. But what about yum?  
     
   Why does yum succeed? Because yum is the package manager for CentOS and now we are in a CentOS world. (Actually we won’t use yum or apt-get *within* the docker… we’ll come to how that works shortly).
6. Start a separate window. Let’s refer to this as the *control window.* Now type  
     
   docker ps
7. You will see something like:  
   
8. Docker has given your container instance a random name (in my case drunk\_engelbart). You can now see how this instance is doing:  
     
   docker stats wonderful\_swanson  
   Obviously change *drunk\_engelbart* to the name of your container!



1. Notice how little memory each container takes. This means you can run hundreds of containers on a single low cost machine.
2. Now **Ctrl-C** to exit that command.
3. Now go onto <http://hub.docker.com> and signup. You need a valid email address to complete signup. I think you might want to do this in your own name because it’s a useful system.
4. Once you have signed up, then do a docker login:  
   docker login -u *yourdockerhubuserid*
5. Back in the control window, type   
     
   docker commit <your\_container\_name> <yr\_docker\_id>/mycentos  
   e.g.  
     
   docker commit drunk\_engelbart pizak/mycentos
6. Now list the images you have locally  
     
   docker images
7. You will see something like:  
   REPOSITORY TAG IMAGE ID CREATED VIRTUAL SIZE  
   pizak/mycentos latest 9f154062124f 21 minutes ago 172.3 MB  
   centos latest ce20c473cd8a 5 weeks ago 172.3 MB
8. Actually it would be useful to give that image a version name:  
     
   docker tag <yourdocker>/mycentos <yourdocker>/mycentos:1
9. Repeat the “docker images” command.
10. Now let’s push that image up to the docker hub:

docker push <yourdocker>/mycentos:1  
  
*Enter your docker hub credentials if prompted.*

1. The system will whirr away and upload some stuff. Eventually you will see something like:  
   
2. Now let’s go back to the original docker window, where your image is still running. Make a new file in home like this:  
   
3. Now in your control terminal you can commit this change:  
     
   docker commit drunk\_engelbart pizak/mycentos:2
4. Let’s push that image you’ve just made up to the Docker hub:  
     
   docker push pizak/mycentos:2
5. Notice how this time only a few bytes were uploaded. This is because of the layered file-system that docker uses to only save incremental changes. It is one of the major benefits of the docker system.
6. Go to the docker website <http://hub.docker.com> and view your repositories. In particular look at the tags tab:  
   
7. You can now pull this docker image and create a container anywhere you like. Let’s try some stuff out. From your *docker window* first exit the container by typing exit or Ctrl-D.
8. Now let’s start v1 of your container:  
     
   docker run -ti pizak/mycentos:1 /bin/bash

Try looking at the home directory:  
ls /home

Now exit and load version 2  
  
docker run -ti pizak/mycentos:2 /bin/bash  
ls /home

1. Exit that container as well.
2. To prove that this is saved in the docker repo, do the following:  
     
   First delete all the images locally that were tagged with your userid:  
   *(Replace pizak with your userid)*   
   docker rmi -f $(docker images -q <yrdocker>/\*)
3. Now try to start v2 again. You will see that docker automatically re-downloads this and then runs it. Check that your file exists in the /home directory. Notice how fast the start up is when we already have the centos image but not the layers on top of it.
4. The one thing we haven’t yet seen is how to get a docker image to do something vaguely useful.
5. First check you have nothing running locally on port 80. Browse to <http://localhost:80> It should fail.
6. Now in your docker window, type:  
     
   docker run -d -p 80:80 httpd
7. You should see a bunch of stuff like this:  
   
8. Now browse <http://localhost:80> again and you should see. 
9. *Are you wondering what –p 80:80 means?*It means expose port 80 from within the container as port 80 in the host system.
10. Now kill that container (Ctrl-C) and start it again in detached mode.   
    This is how you would normally run a docker workload.  
      
    docker run –d –p 80:80 httpd
11. Test <http://localhost> again
12. To find your docker runtime try   
      
    docker ps  
      
    CONTAINER ID IMAGE COMMAND CREATED STATUS PORTS NAMES

f9ed00d6c251 httpd:latest "httpd-foreground" 5 seconds ago Up 4 seconds 0.0.0.0:80->80/tcp reverent\_lalande

and finally to stop it  
  
docker kill reverent\_lalande



**PART B – Building a container using a Dockerfile**

1. While I can imagine it might be possible to create docker images by modifying them like we have and then saving them, this is not a repeatable easy to use approach. Instead we want to build a dockerfile in a repeatable way.   
     
   A key aspect of this approach is **immutability.**   
   We never change machines via imperative commands - instead we rebuild a new version using a repeatable process and then deploy the new version instead.
2. Clone the git repository:  
   git clone https://github.com/pzfreo/node-docker.git

1. Then

cd node-docker

1. Take a look at the Dockerfile  
   code Dockerfile  
     
   It should look like:

FROM node:14.4

RUN mkdir -p /usr/src/app

WORKDIR /usr/src/app

COPY . .

RUN npm install

EXPOSE 8080

CMD ["npm", "run", "simple"]

What this does is as follows:  
a) Start with existing Docker image called node:14.4 (which is the official release of node.js as a Docker image).

b) Make a directory for our code

c) Set that as the working directory  
  
d) Copy the source code over  
  
e) Install the dependencies needed to run the node app

f) Tell docker that this listens on port 8080  
  
g) Use “npm run simple” as the executable command for the container

1. Now  
   docker build -t *<your\_docker\_id>*/nodeapp:1 .

(notice the ‘ . ’!)

1. While it is building, take a look at the docker file and also the reference guide:  
   <https://docs.docker.com/engine/reference/builder/>
2. Once it has built, try running it:  
     
   docker run --name nodeapp -d -p 80:8080 <yrdockerid>/nodeapp:1
3. Use a command-line HTTP tool:  
   curl -v <http://localhost>

You should see:  
\* Trying 127.0.0.1:80...

\* TCP\_NODELAY set

\* Connected to localhost (127.0.0.1) port 80 (#0)

> GET / HTTP/1.1

> Host: localhost

> User-Agent: curl/7.68.0

> Accept: \*/\*

>

\* Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse

< HTTP/1.1 200 OK

< X-Powered-By: Express

< Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8

< Content-Length: 17

< ETag: W/"11-bDqgrL9BMdXEel/cuhi4kqHYo8U"

< Date: Sun, 28 Jun 2020 18:09:10 GMT

< Connection: keep-alive

<

\* Connection #0 to host localhost left intact

{"a":"1","b":"2"}

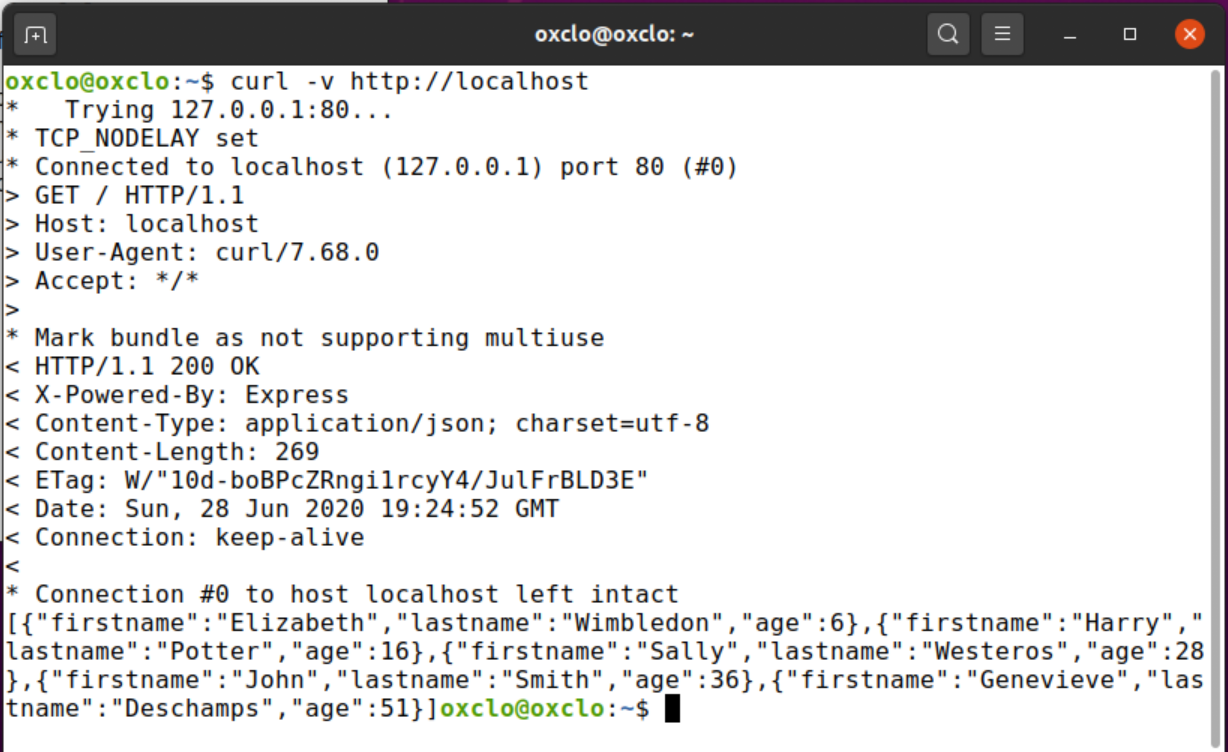
1. Kill that container:  
    docker rm --force nodeapp
2. Ok. We have successfully run a simple server. However, we really would like to run our complete server that queries data including the database.   
     
   You might think we would create a docker container containing both the server AND the mysql database. No! In Docker we basically have a process per container.
3. So to make our app work, we need to run two containers:
   1. node and
   2. mysql
4. Docker has a way of doing just that called docker-compose. In the lectures we will look at Kubernetes that does a LOT more than this.
5. Before we start, let’s upgrade docker-compose to the latest version:  
     
   wget -q -O - https://freo.me/upgrade-dc | bash
6. Look at docker-compose.yaml  
   code docker-compose.yaml  
     
   

I won’t explain everything, but here are some key points:

* 1. We have two “services” which will be container runtimes: “web” and “db”
  2. Web depends on db, so won’t start until the other container is started
  3. However, mysql takes some time to start up, so we need a little utility called “wait-for-it.sh” which waits until port 3306 is ready on the db container before letting the node app start.
  4. We configure everything through environment variables, especially the links between the containers
  5. There is a “virtual” bridge network that the two container runtimes use to communicate. Notice that we are binding the web container’s ports to the outside world (mapping 80 to 8080) but we are not exposing port 3306. Therefore the database is only accessible by the web container.
  6. Rather than use the default container image for mysql, we have extended it using Dockerfile.mysql - take a look at that file and the directory sql\_scripts as well

1. Now let’s start the “composition”  
   docker-compose up --build
2. You should see lots of logging go by until finally you see:  
     
   
3. In another window try:   
   curl -v <http://localhost>

You should see successful query of the database



You can clear up by typing (in the node-docker directory!)

docker-compose down

**Congratulations, you have completed part B.**

**PART C – Running your docker in the cloud**

1. There is an Amazon Elastic Container Service for running containers. This provides their own container orchestration model, alternative to Docker Swarm and Kubernetes. However, we are going to use Docker Machine and Docker to start our systems instead, giving us a portable approach.
2. If you already did Exercise 1, then your AWS credentials should be stored in ~/.aws/credentials. Docker Machine uses those so you don’t need to set any environment variables.
3. Type (or copy and edit):  
     
   docker-machine create \

--engine-install-url=\

"<https://releases.rancher.com/install-docker/19.03.9.sh>" \

-d amazonec2 \  
--amazonec2-region eu-west-1 \  
--amazonec2-security-group web-server-sg \  
oxcloXX-docker

This ensures our server will run in Ireland, and use our security group.The instance will be called oxcloXX-docker.

You should see:

Running pre-create checks…

Creating machine…

(oxclo01-docker) Launching instance…

Waiting for machine to be running, this may take a few minutes…

Detecting operating system of created instance…

Waiting for SSH to be available…

Detecting the provisioner…

Provisioning with ubuntu(systemd)...

Installing Docker…

Copying certs to the local machine directory…

Copying certs to the remote machine…

Setting Docker configuration on the remote daemon…

Checking connection to Docker…

Docker is up and running!

To see how to connect your Docker Client to the Docker Engine running on this virtual machine, run: docker-machine env oxclo01-docker

1. Go to the AWS Console and you should see an EC2 instance now running.
2. Follow that last suggested command:  
     
   docker-machine env oxcloXX-docker

You should see:

1. Once again, do as asked:

eval $(docker-machine env oxcloXX-docker)

1. Now when you run docker commands, they will no longer act locally on your Ubuntu VM, but instead on the AWS instance you’ve just started.
2. Now run the docker container again:

cd ~/node-docker  
docker-compose up --build

While it builds you can think about two things:

* Why is it pulling all those image layers when you’ve already done that when you ran docker-compose last time?
* Why is it pulling them much faster than before?

The answer to both questions is the same: this time docker is running on the AWS instance (which probably has better internet bandwidth than you do).

1. You can find the address of the AWS instance using:  
   docker-machine ip oxcloXX-docker  
     
   or by looking in the AWS console
2. Open a browser window and check you can access the app (running on port 80)

Alternatively this command will open a browser from the command line pointing at your instance:

xdg-open http://$(docker-machine ip oxcloXX-docker)

1. You can also SSH into the server using:  
   docker-machine ssh oxcloXX-docker
2. Try docker ps from there.

You will need to type sudo docker ps   
  
That is because the VM has been configured so you don’t need sudo, but the newly created AWS instance hasn’t been. (In the VM I added the oxclo user into the docker group).

1. Try that. When you are finished type   
   logout
2. To terminate the instance, type:  
   docker-machine rm -f oxcloXX-docker
3. Check that the instance is now terminating in the AWS console.
4. Docker Machine will have automatically created a new key pair for this server (which is not ideal…. ). To tidy up, lets remove that:  
     
   aws ec2 delete-key-pair --key-name oxcloXX-docker
5. We have now seen how we can containerise not just single processes but complex networked apps using multiple components. In the lectures we will address how to cluster and run these across multiple servers (using “cloud orchestration” and Kubernetes.
6. What we have done is to take the container-ised application we built on our local machine and then deploy it automatically to EC2. While this looks a bit similar to using userdata (which we did in a previous exercise), in fact this is much more replicable because we can test and deploy our docker image on many different systems. For example, if you sign up to the Github Student deal, you get free credit on DigitalOcean, and with a very similar model you could run the same docker code on there.

**Extension**

If you have a github account, you can put the Dockerfile into the repository and automatically build it. Have a go.   
  
Some rough hints:

Fork my node-docker repo into your github

In <http://hub.docker.com> go to Settings (click on your username)  
Choose Linked Accounts and Services  
Link to your Github account. Choose the “Public and Private”

Now click on Create (next to search) and Create Automated Build.

Select your github repository.

Enter a description. Click Create.  
Now check the build status in the Build details tab. It takes about 3 minutes to build. If it is not building you can manually trigger it from the build settings.  
Try doing an update to the dockerfile (maybe a spare comment) and then git push.