



Module Four

Docker Security

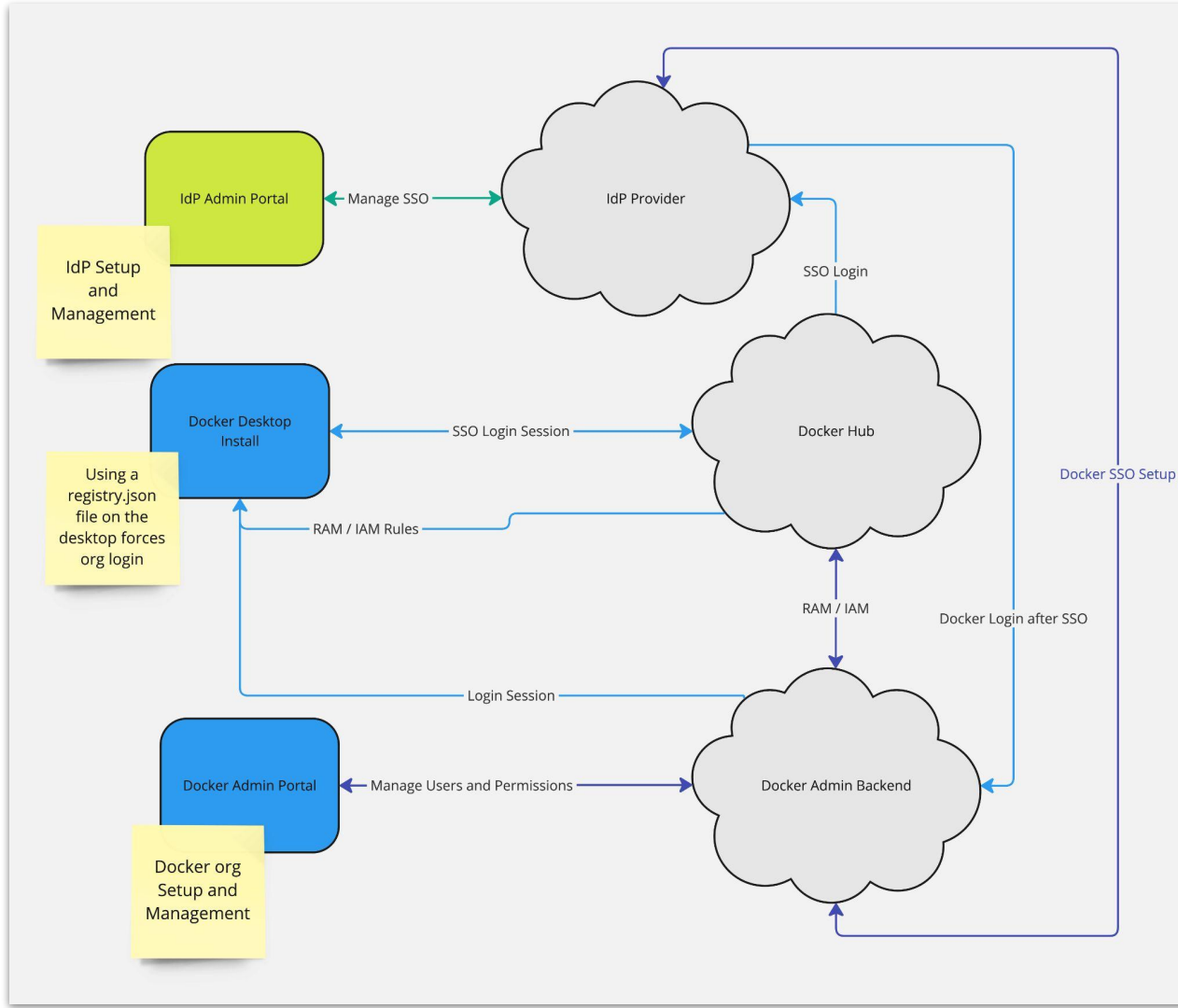


Logging In

Authentication Options

Type	Description	Usage
Username / Email	User is able to log in with either a username/password or email/password; user authenticates to an account on Docker Hub	Most common with personal accounts; can be used with organization accounts
Github	Uses Github to auth/create an account on Docker Hub	Most common with personal accounts; can be used with organization accounts
Google	Uses Google to auth/create an account on Docker Hub	Most common with personal accounts; can be used with organization accounts
Corporate Idp SSO	Uses Idp (SAML, OIDC) to authenticate user, creates account on Docker Hub if needed via JIT provisioning; does not reap inactive accounts	If enforced, prevents username / password login and requires email login via Idp
Corporate Idp SCIM	Uses Idp (SAML, OIDC) to authenticate user and keeps licensed user pools in sync between Docker Hub and the Idp	If enforced, prevents username / password login and requires email login via Idp
Allowed Orgs Key	Not an auth method, but a modifier that provides the allowed list of docker organizations that the user can authenticate to	Docker Desktop will not start until the user is logged into the allowed org

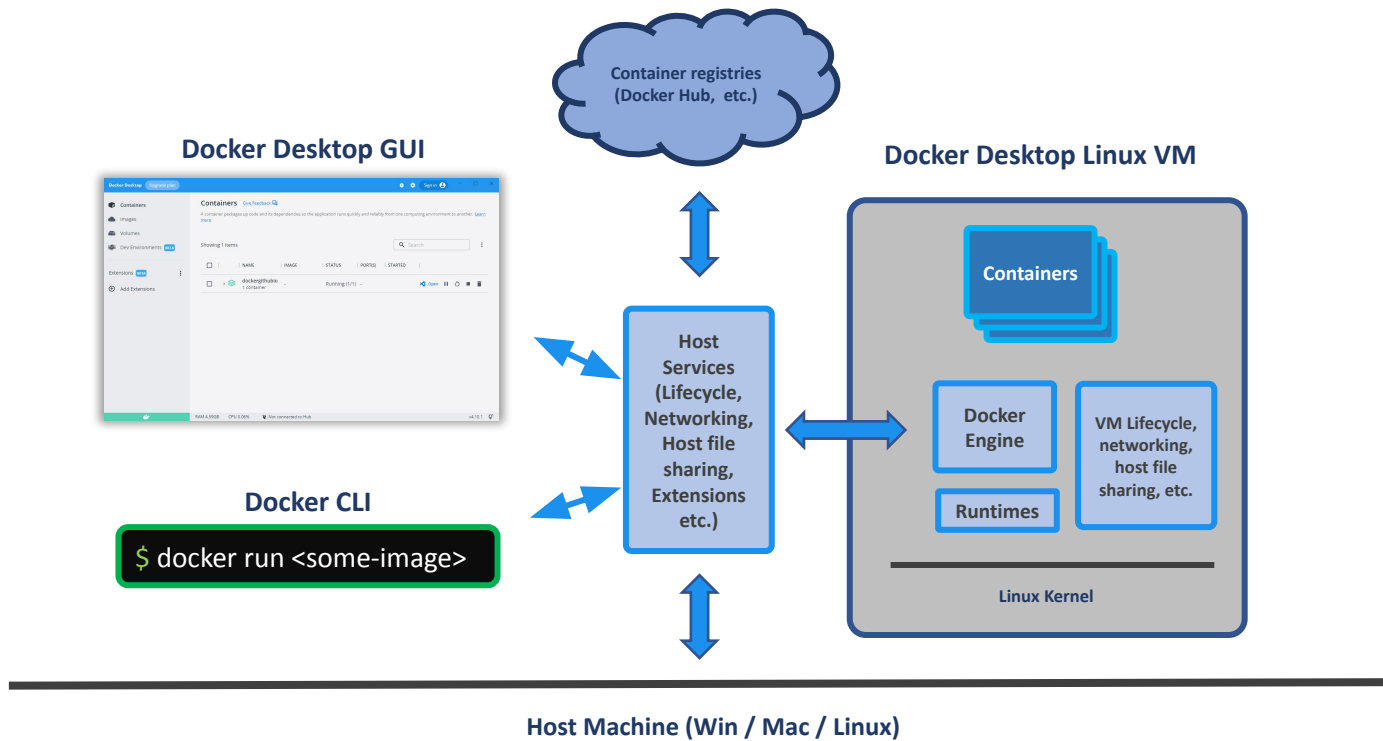
SSO/SCIM FLOW





Docker Desktop Security Architecture

Docker Desktop Architecture



Baseline Security Features

1

Regular users can run containers
(no admin rights needed)

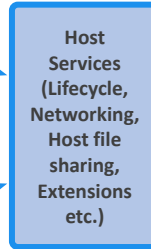


Docker CLI

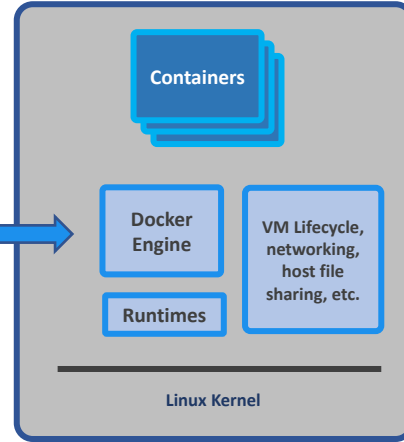
```
$ docker run <some-image>
```

2

Several security settings available
(proxy, registries, host file sharing, etc.)



Docker Desktop Linux VM



3

VM for strong container to host isolation



Host Machine (Win / Mac / Linux)

Vulnerable Areas

1

No way for IT admins to lock security settings (developers can relax them)

2

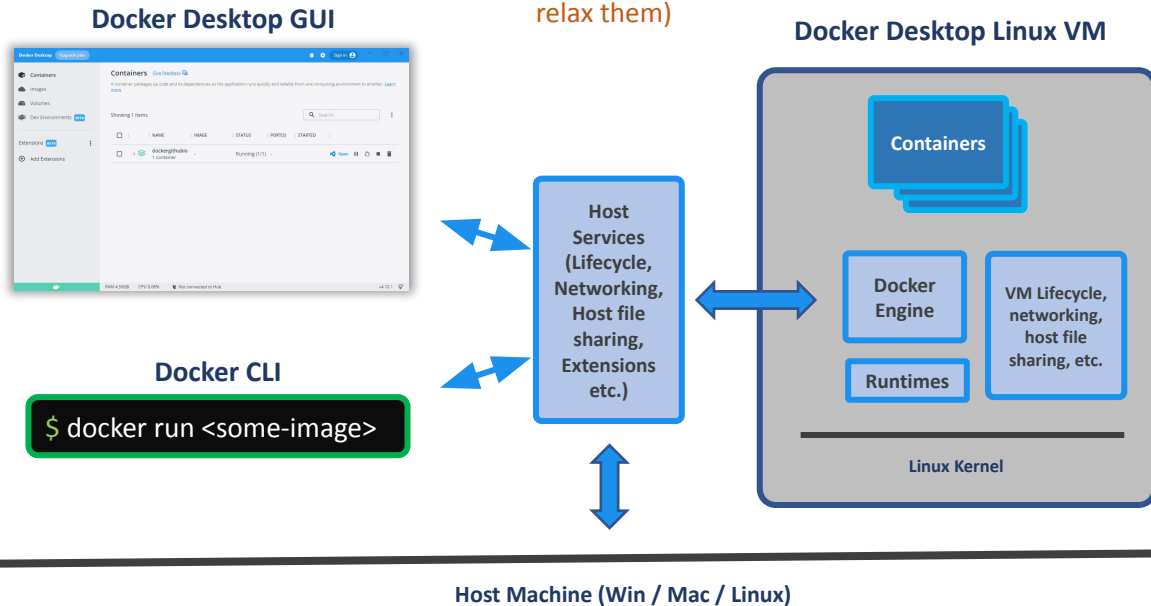
Containers run as root inside the VM.

3

Containers may access VM internals (Docker Engine, Linux kernel, VM services, etc.)

4

VM acts as a black box (host antimalware can't see inside)



Attacker Reverse Shell on Developer Laptop

1

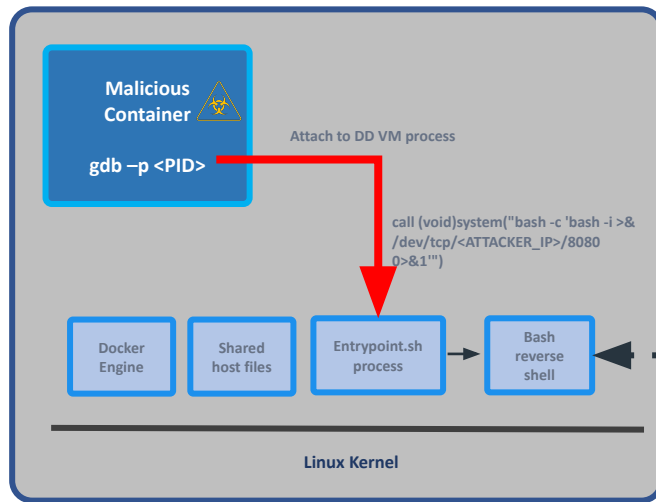
User inadvertently runs malicious container image with elevated privileges.

```
$ docker run --privileged --pid=host bad-image
```

2

Malicious container runs inside the Docker Desktop VM

Docker Desktop Linux VM



3

Attacker gets a shell with root access to the victim's Docker Desktop VM.

Host Machine (Win / Mac / Linux)





Threat Landscape

Threats & Actors

Threats

- Malware in containers
- Supply chain attacks
 - Corrupt package, corrupt image, etc.
- Misconfiguration by developers

Threat Actors

- Malicious container images
- Malicious software packages in containers
- Unaware / careless developers



Example: Malware in Containers

Malicious Images

Posing as popular images such as Alpine, OpenJDK, Golang.

Malicious Packages

Developers may inadvertently insert these into containers at buildtime

Attacker Techniques

Typo Squatting, Dependency Confusion, etc.



Other Attack Mechanisms Possible

- **Container breakout via CVE:**

CVE 2019-5736: escape from container (no “--privileged” required)

- **Container breakout via sensitive container mounts:**

`docker run -v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock`

`docker run -v /:/mnt`

`docker run -v /bin:/mnt`

- **Container breakout via elevated container privileges:**

`docker run --privileged`

`docker run --pid=host`

`docker run --cap-add=SYS_ADMIN`

`docker run --security-opt=seccomp-unconfined`



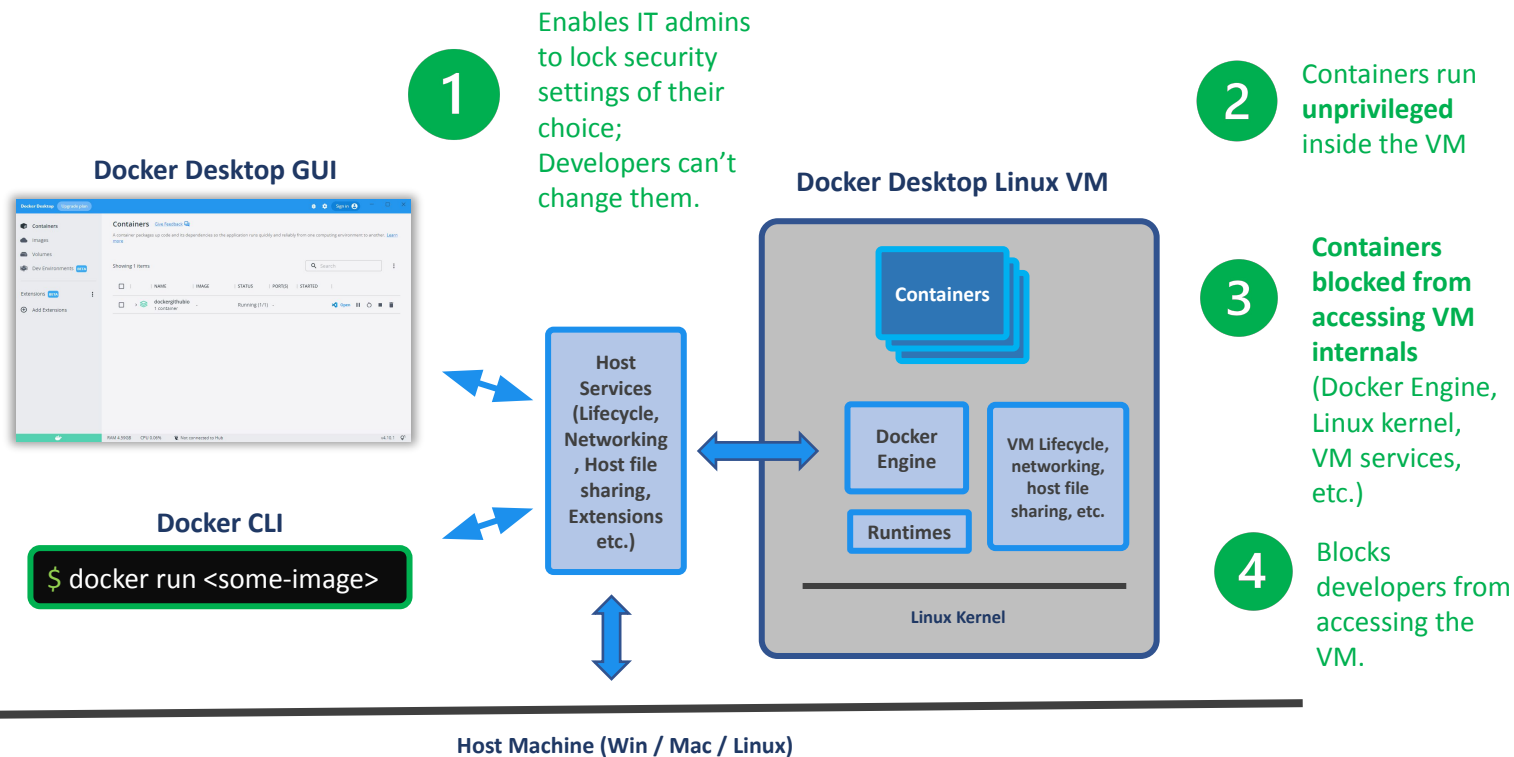


Hardened Docker Desktop

Enhance Docker security on
developer workstations,
without impacting developer
experience & productivity



Hardened Desktop Threat Mitigation



Hardened Docker Desktop Features

Feature	Description	Mitigated Threats
Settings Management	IT admins can preset & lock security settings on Docker Desktop	Misconfiguration
Enhanced Container Isolation (ECI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Runs containers unprivileged (always)• Prevents breaches to Docker Desktop Linux VM• Transparent to developers (use containers as usual)	Supply chain attacks Malware Misconfiguration
Registry Access Management	Restrict container registries accessible by developers	Supply chain attacks Malware
Image Access Management	Restricts container image types (official, verified, etc.)	
Air Gapped Containers	Restricts containers from accessing network resources (e.g., limiting where data can be uploaded to or downloaded from).	Malware Lateral movement





Settings Management

Settings Management (Admin)

Allows IT admins to preset & lock security settings on Docker Desktop.



IT Admin

- 1) Configures locked settings via **admin-settings.json** file. →
- 1) This file is in a restricted folder in the developer's machine.
- 1) Accessing it requires admin privileges on the machine (developer must not have admin privileges) ↑

Key Requirement

```
{
  "configurationFileVersion": 2,
  "exposeDockerAPIonTCP2375": {
    "locked": true,
    "value": false
  },
  "enhancedContainerIsolation": {
    "locked": true,
    "value": true
  },
  "disableUpdate": {
    "locked": true,
    "value": false
  }
}
```

Mac: /Library/Application\

Support/com.docker.docker/admin-settings.json

Windows: C:\ProgramData\DockerDesktop\admin-settings.json

Linux:

/usr/share/docker-desktop/admin-settings.json



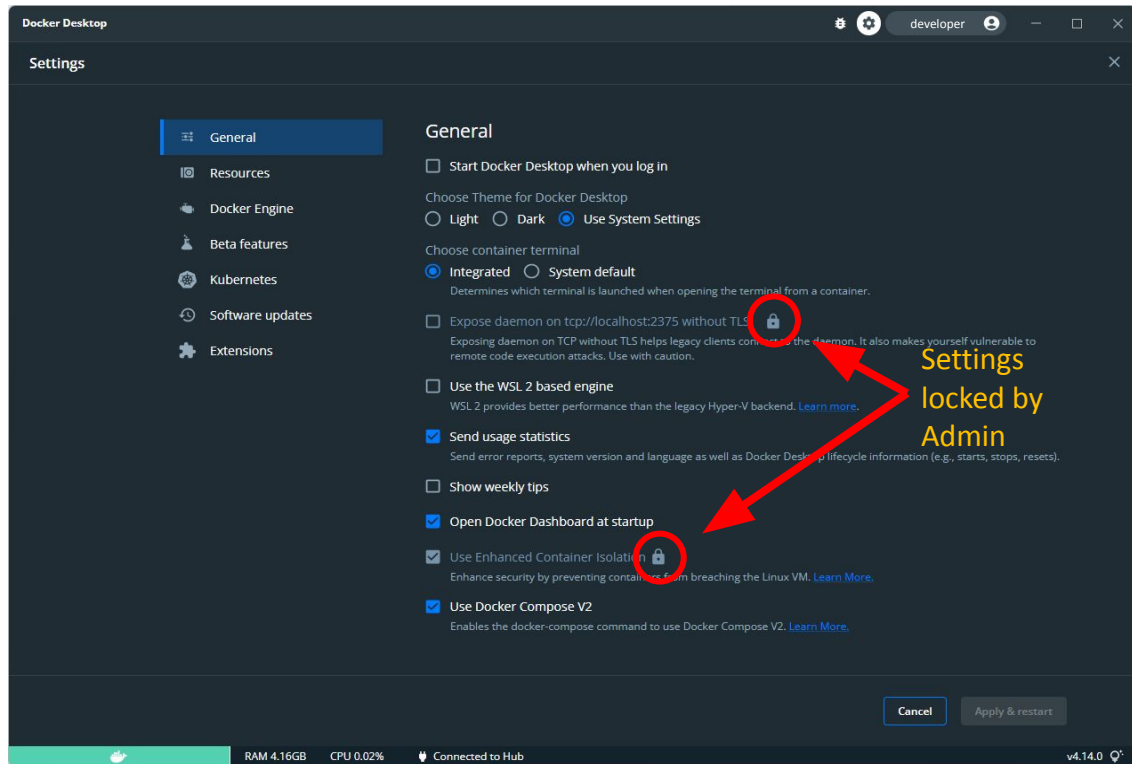
Settings Management (Developer)



Developer

Upon starting Docker Desktop, admin settings are locked and can't be changed.

(Settings not configured by admin are not affected).





Registry and Image Access Management

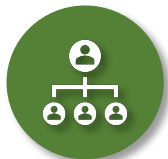
Registry and Image Access Management

- Default Registry Behavior
 - Can push/pull from any registry
- Default Image Pull Behavior
 - Can pull all images from Docker Hub
- Registry Access Management Enabled
 - Only able to access named registries
 - Can exclude Docker Hub
- Image Access Management Enabled
 - Restricted to classes of images from Docker Hub



Registry and Image Access Management

NOTE: Relies on Docker Hub as a control plane.



IT Admin

- 1) Signs-in to Docker Hub as “Org Owner”.
- 1) Configures allowed registries and image types.
- 1) Configures Docker Desktop on developer machines to force sign-in to Docker Hub (registry.json)



Developer

- 1) Starts Docker Desktop and signs-in to Docker Hub
- 1) Docker Desktop now restricted per registry & image access policy.
- 1) Developer can't change this locally or on Docker Hub.

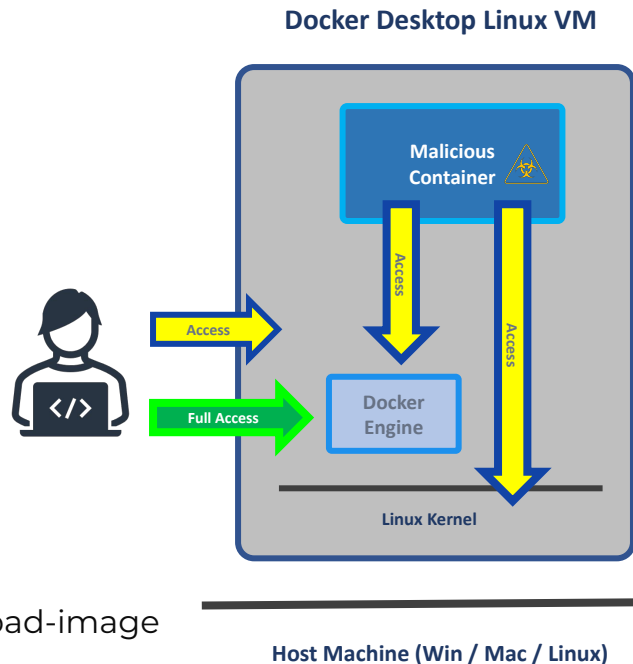




Enhanced Container Isolation (ECI)

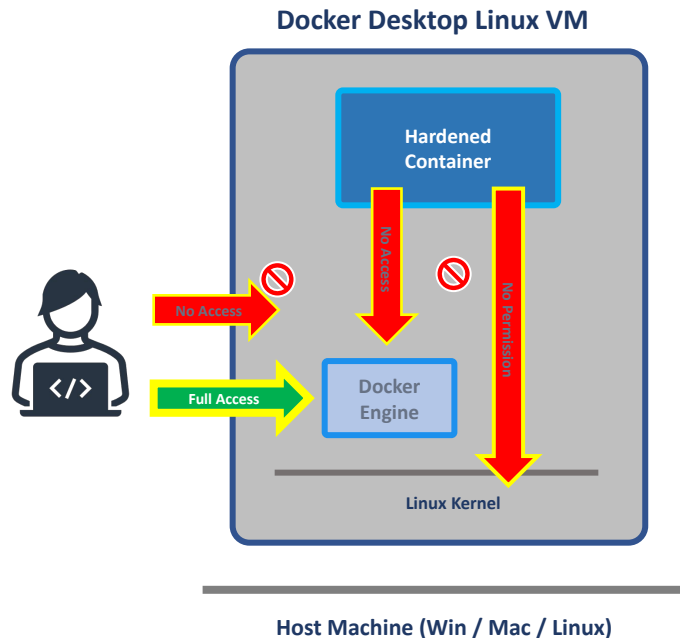
Why ECI?

- Docker Desktop uses a VM
 - Isolates Linux env from host
 - Runs Docker Engine and Containers
- Baseline security is open
 - Containers can run as root
 - Containers can access the vm
 - Kernel
 - Filesystem
 - Docker Engine
- This can cause issues:
 - `docker run --privileged bad-image`
 - `docker run -v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock bad-image`



With ECI

- Per-container Linux User Namespace
- Restricts sensitive VM mounts
 - Can “allowlist” problematic mounts
 - Such as the Docker socket
- Sensitive syscall trapping/vetting
- Filesystem ID remapping
- Emulation of sysfs and procfs in container
- All containers run “rootless”
 - Use of “sysbox” runtime
 - Can run most “privileged” workloads
- Engine runs rootful in VM
- VM is hardened
 - Console is protected
- Developers continue work as usual
 - No special commands, processes, etc



ECI at a glance



All containers run unprivileged (**Linux user-namespace**).



Even “—privileged” containers are protected.



Can't mount sensitive VM files into the container.



Can't access Docker Engine from inside a container.



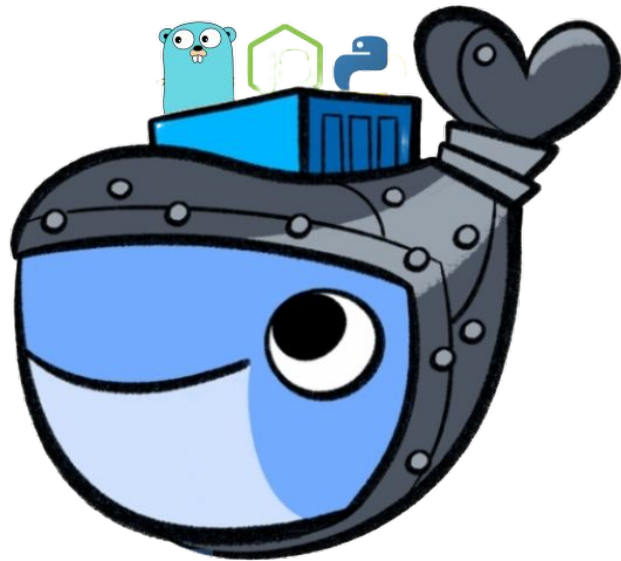
Stronger cross-container isolation (per-container user-namespace)



Sensitive syscalls by containers are trapped and vetted (e.g., mount).



/proc and /sys inside container are partially emulated for extra isolation.



ECI Limitations

Restriction / Limitation	Status
Docker “--pid=host” and “--net=host” disallowed	No plan to change.
Most privileged containers will work (even though they run rootless), but some won't (e.g., containers that change kernel configs).	No plan to change.
On Windows WSL, ECI hardens containers but does not prevent developers from accessing the Docker Desktop VM internals.	No plan to change (it's a WSL limitation).
Docker Desktop Extension containers are not yet protected.	TBD.

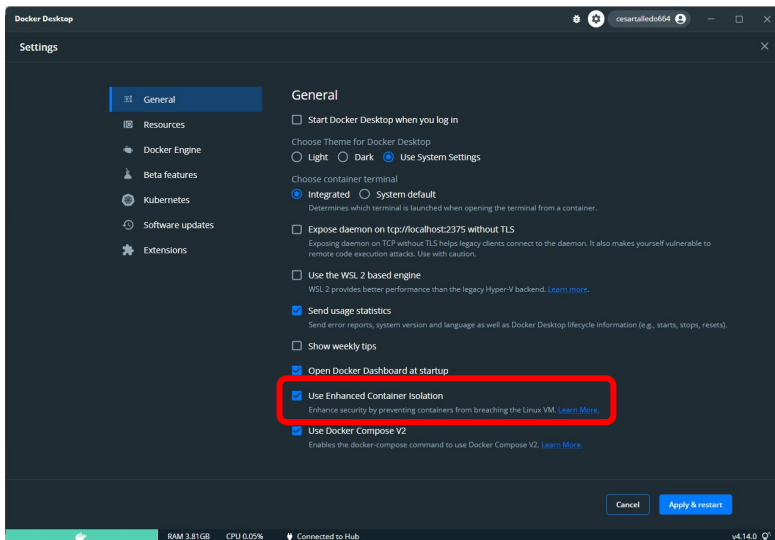


Enabling ECI

ECI can be enabled by Developers or Admins. Admins can also lock it.

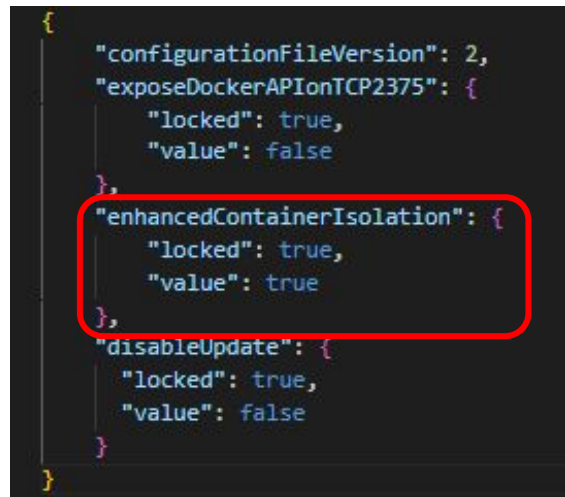


Developer



IT Admin

admin-settings.json



Docker ECI vs Other OCI Dev Tooling

Malware Threat	Feature that mitigates it	Other Container Dev Tools	Docker Desktop	Hardened Docker Desktop
Host Attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run containers in a Linux VM• Can restrict host file sharing	✓	✓	✓
Linux VM Attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linux user-namespace on all containers• /proc and /sys partial emulation• Sensitive syscalls trapping• Can't mount VM dirs into container			✓
Container Engine Attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can't mount Docker socket in container• Can't mount VM dirs into container			✓
Cross-container attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Per-container Linux User Namespace mappings			✓



Docker Desktop ECI vs Rootless Docker

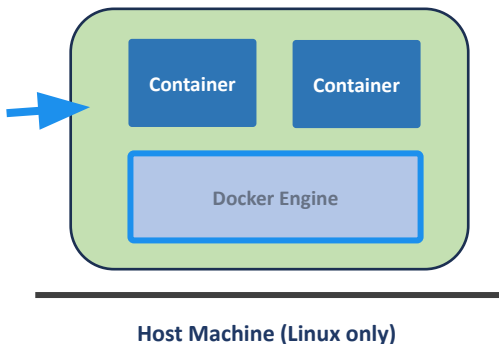
Category	Docker Engine	Rootless Docker	Docker Desktop with ECI
Supported Hosts	Linux	Linux	Mac/Win/Linux
Docker Engine isolation from host	None	User-Namespace	Virtual Machine
Container isolation from host	Namespaces (except user-ns)	User-Namespace (<u>shared with all other containers and Docker Engine</u>)	User-Namespace (per each container)
Can mount Docker Socket to container	Yes	Yes	Trusted images only.
Vets sensitive syscalls in container (e.g., mount, unmount)	No	No	Yes



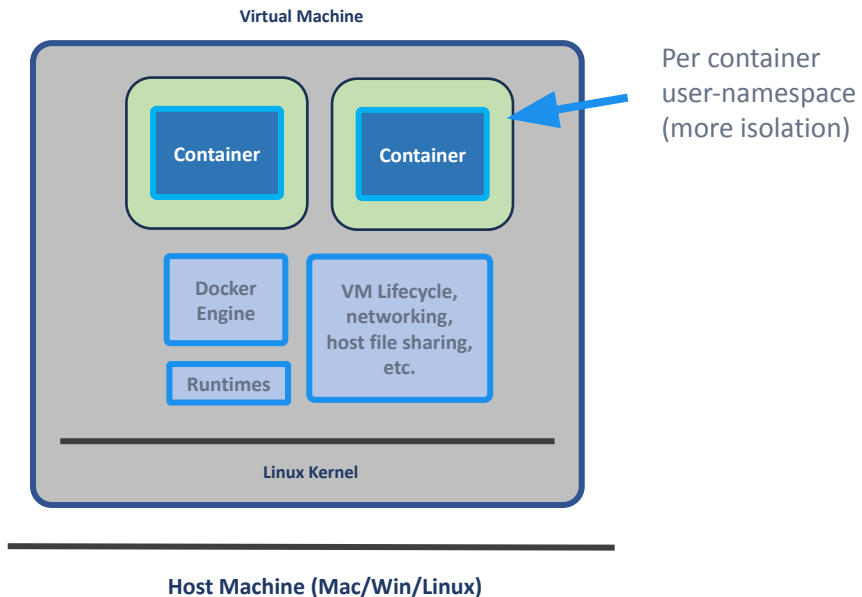
ECI and Rootless Docker

Rootless Docker

User-namespace
is shared by
containers and
engine.



Docker Desktop + ECI

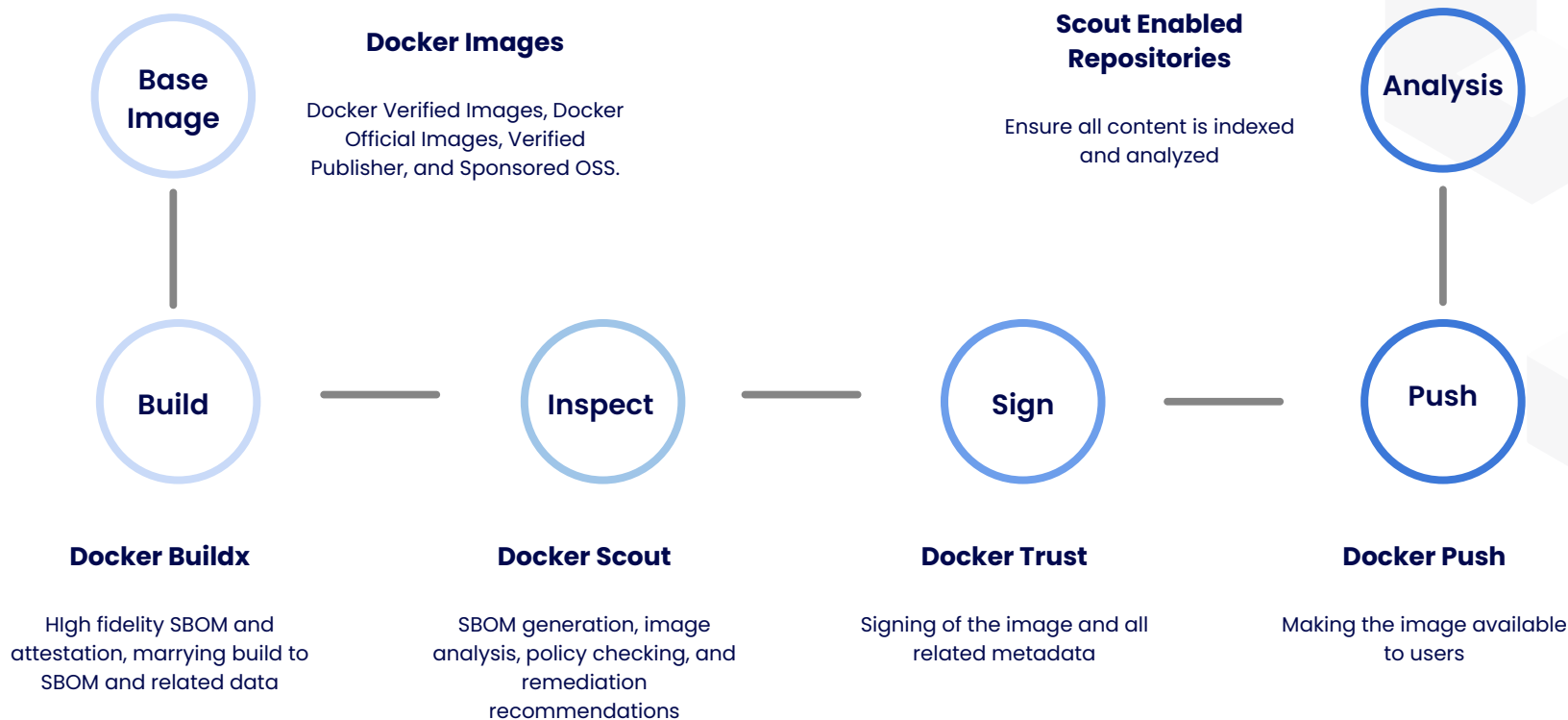




Docker Scout

“Supply chain and policies”

Docker Secure Supply Chain



What's in this software artifact?

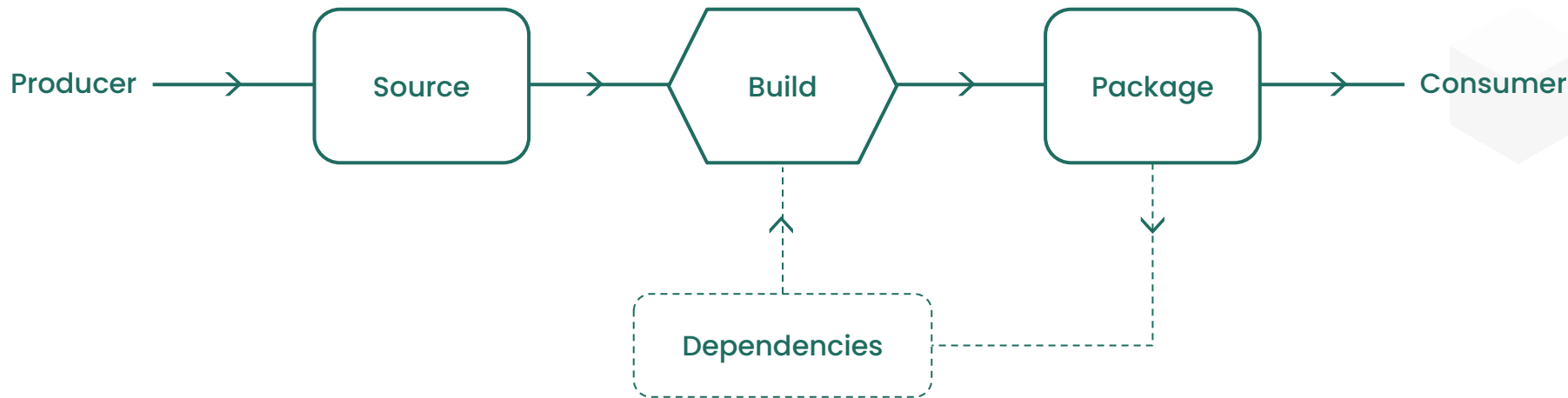
A software bill of materials – **SBOM** – is an *attestation* describing the contents of a software artifact

Where has it come from?

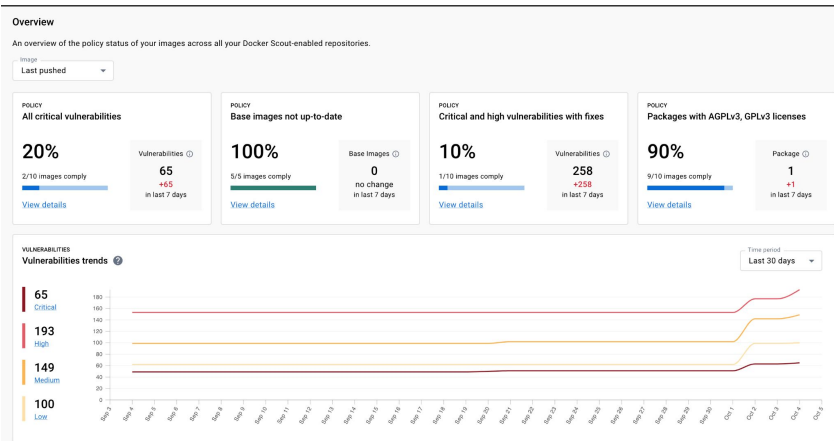
Provenance is an *attestation* about the history of an artifact – where it came from, who produced it, and how

Can I verify the attestation source?

An *attestation* that has been **signed** with a digital signature verifies the source and helps assess trustworthiness



Scout Dashboard



Scout CLI

```
> docker scout cves demonstrationorg/jayscout
✓ SBOM of image already cached, 79 packages indexed
✗ Detected 4 vulnerable packages with a total of 25 vulnerabilities

## Overview

Analyzed Image
Target: demonstrationorg/jayscout:latest
digest: 8be46dbce9a8
platform: linux/arm64
vulnerabilities: 2C 16H 7M 0L 1?
size: 19 MB
packages: 79

## Packages and Vulnerabilities

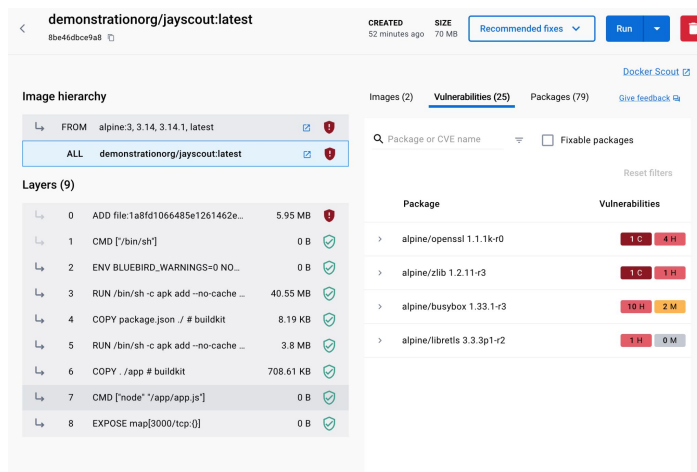
1C 4H 5M 0L openssl 1.1.1k-r0
pkg:apk/alpine/openssl@1.1.1k-r0?os_name=alpine&os_version=3.14

✗ CRITICAL CVE-2021-3711
https://scout.docker.com/v/CVE-2021-3711
Affected range : <1.1.1l-r0
Fixed version : 1.1.1l-r0

✗ HIGH CVE-2023-0464
https://scout.docker.com/v/CVE-2023-0464
Affected range : <1.1.1l-r1
Fixed version : 1.1.1l-r1

✗ HIGH CVE-2022-0778
https://scout.docker.com/v/CVE-2022-0778
```

Docker Desktop



CI/CD

Vulnerabilities of demonstrationorg/jayscout:latest

Image Reference demonstrationorg/jayscout:latest

digest	sha256:8be46dbce9a83925b651aff5a9514e6986641c1a82f4869264f728b7d2b4f494
vulnerabilities	critical 2 high 16 medium 7 low 0 unspecified 1
platform	linux/arm64
size	19 MB
packages	79

C 1 H 4 M 5 L 0	openssl 1.1.1k-r0 (apk)
C 1 H 1 M 0 L 0	zlib 1.2.11-r3 (apk)
C 0 H 10 M 2 L 0 U 1	busybox 1.33.1-r3 (apk)
C 0 H 1 M 0 L 0	libretls 3.3.3p1-r2 (apk)

What's Next? View base image update recommendations → docker scout recommendations
demonstrationorg/jayscout:latest



Airgap / Highly Regulated Considerations and Limitations

Current Limitations: Authentication

- Authentication currently requires connectivity to Docker Hub
 - Project underway to address this
 - Will decouple Docker Hub from auth process
 - License Server
 - Auth Once model
- Usage insights requires authentication and data transfer
 - Will not be available to airgapped/regulated customers
 - Potential for local data gathering in future
- Other Features Requiring Authentication
 - Docker Debug
 - Docker Compose Bridge
 - Docker Hardened Desktop



Current Limitations: Docker Build Cloud

- Docker Build Cloud Implemented as SaaS
 - Requires Auth
 - Requires External Access
- Potential Future State
 - Self-hosted model
 - GOV Cloud model
- Current Workarounds
 - Docker buildkit remote builders (self-managed)



Current Limitations: Docker Scout

- Docker Scout Implemented as SaaS
 - Requires Auth
 - Requires External Access
- Potential Future State
 - Self-hosted model
 - GOV Cloud model
- Current Workarounds
 - None



Current Limitations: Docker Harmonia

- Docker Harmonia Implemented as SaaS
 - Requires Auth
 - Requires External Access
- Potential Future State
 - Self-hosted model
 - GOV Cloud model
- Current Workarounds
 - Use remote docker contexts (self-managed)





Questions and Answers