

Docker Compose Default Environment Variables

Use the `environment` section to set an environment variable in a container via `docker-compose`:

```
environment:  
  - DB_HOST=${DB_HOST}
```

After `docker-compose up` the value of `DB_HOST` inside the container will be empty. To set the default value if the environment variable is empty or not set, use the following syntax:

```
environment:  
  - DB_HOST=${DB_HOST:-localhost}
```

To provide values for `DB_HOST`, either set it in the `.env` file or pass it on the command line:

```
DB_HOST=staging docker-compose up
```

For more details see the [Variable substitution](#) section of the compose file documentation.