Docker - File

In the earlier chapters, we have seen the various Image files such as Centos which get downloaded from **Docker hub** from which you can spin up containers. An example is again shown below.

If we use the Docker **images** command, we can see the existing images in our system. From the above screenshot, we can see that there are two images: **centos** and **nsenter**.

But Docker also gives you the capability to create your own Docker images, and it can be done with the help of **Docker Files**. A Docker File is a simple text file with instructions on how to build your images.

The following steps explain how you should go about creating a Docker File.

Step 1 − Create a file called **Docker File** and edit it using **vim**. Please note that the name of the file has to be "Dockerfile" with "D" as capital.

Step 2 − Build your Docker File using the following instructions.

```
#This is a sample Image
FROM ubuntu
MAINTAINER demousr@gmail.com

RUN apt-get update
RUN apt-get install –y nginx
CMD [“echo”,”Image created”]
```

The following points need to be noted about the above file −

- The first line "#This is a sample Image" is a comment. You can add comments to the Docker File with the help of the **#** command
- The next line has to start with the **FROM** keyword. It tells docker, from which base image you want to base your image from. In our example, we are creating an image from the **ubuntu** image.
- The next command is the person who is going to maintain this image. Here you specify the **MAINTAINER** keyword and just mention the email ID.
- The **RUN** command is used to run instructions against the image. In our case, we first update our Ubuntu system and then install the nginx server on our **ubuntu** image.
- The last command is used to display a message to the user.

Step 3 − Save the file. In the next chapter, we will discuss how to build the image.