Containerization, Orchestration and CI / CD

Understand and Implement Production-Grade Machine Learning Operations

Containerization

Containerization is the process of packaging software code, dependencies, and configurations into a single unit called a container.

Containers are isolated environments that run the same regardless of where they're deployed (your laptop, a server, the cloud).

Containerization

Containerized Applications

Container A

Application A

Libraries, Dependencies, Bins **Container B**

Application B

Libraries, Dependencies, Bins **Container C**

Application C

Libraries, Dependencies, Bins

Docker Engine

Host Operating System(OS)

Infrastructure

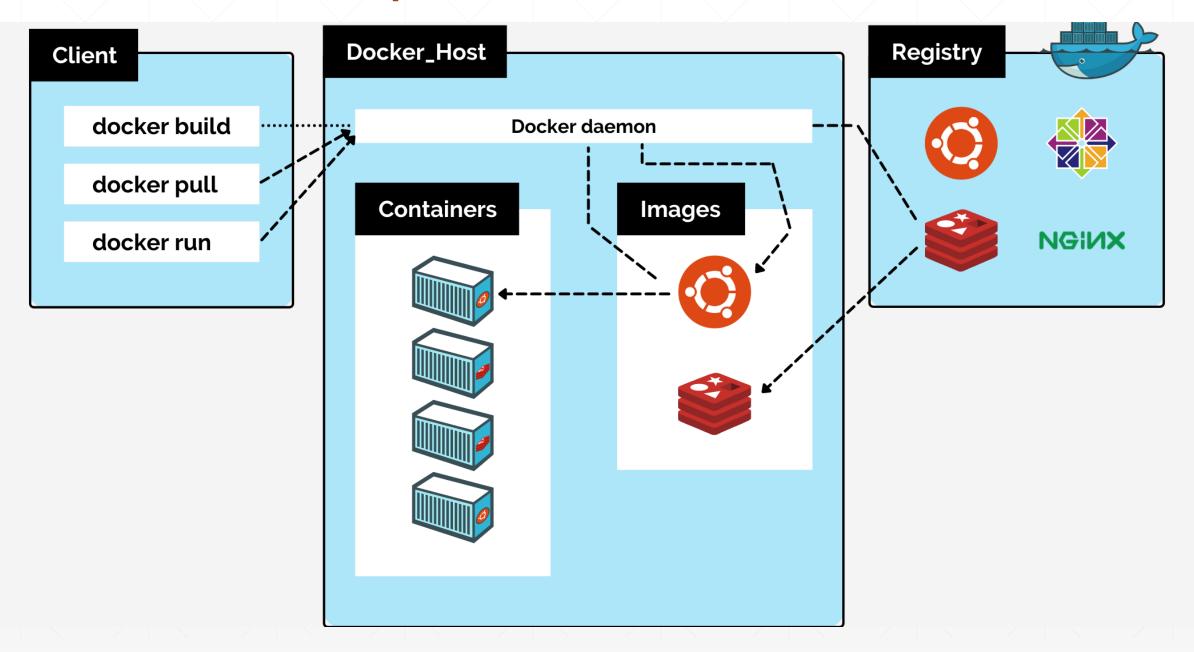
Cloud VM/Local Machine

Containerization

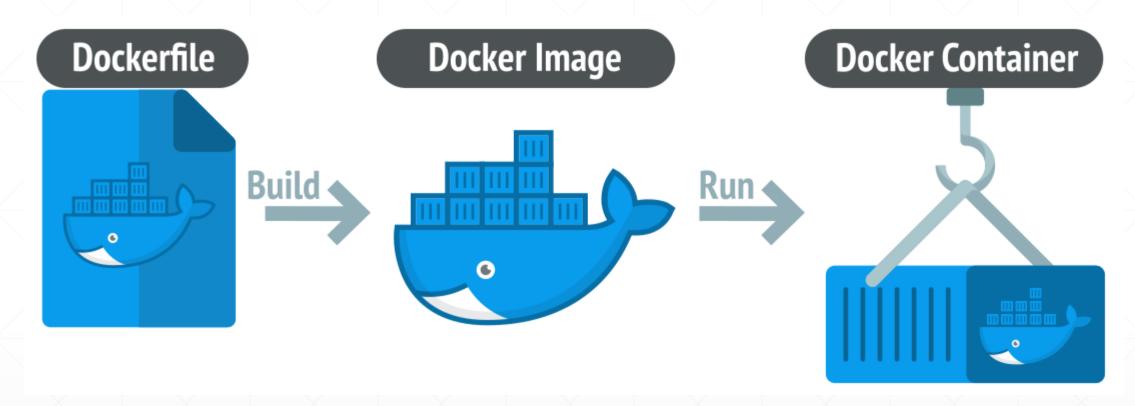
Docker is the most popular containerization platform.



Docker – Core Components



Docker – Key Concepts



Dockerfile: A script to build Docker images.

Image: A snapshot of a container (think: template).

Container: A running instance of an image.

Docker – Key Concepts

Example: Simple Dockerfile for a Python ML app

```
நி Copy
 dockerfile
# Use an official Python runtime as a parent image
FROM python:3.10
# Set the working directory
WORKDIR /app
# Copy requirements and install dependencies
COPY requirements.txt .
RUN pip install --no-cache-dir -r requirements.txt
# Copy the rest of your application code
COPY . .
# Command to run your ML app
CMD ["python", "main.py"]
```

Docker – Key Concepts

How to build and run

```
bash

docker build -t my-ml-app .

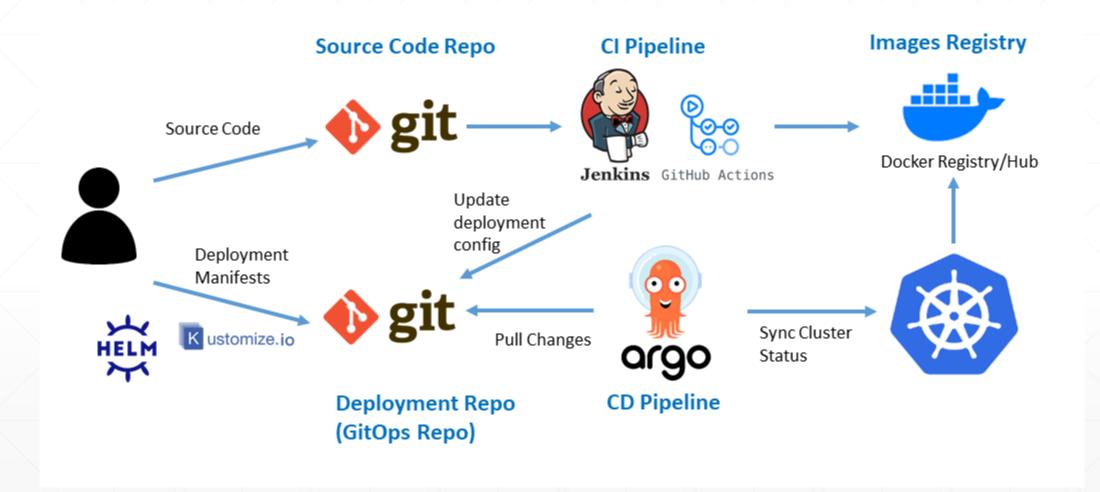
docker run -p 5000:5000 my-ml-app
```



Docker – Practice

- Create a simple FastAPI application
- Create a Dockerfile
- Build Docker image
- Run Docker container
- Login Docker Hub
- Push the Docker Image

Continuous Integration & Continuous Deployment





CI/CD Setup

- Setup CI/CD pipeline using Github Action that includes:
 - CI: Build, lint check, unit test
 - CD: Build and deploy image to Docker Hub

Container Orchestration

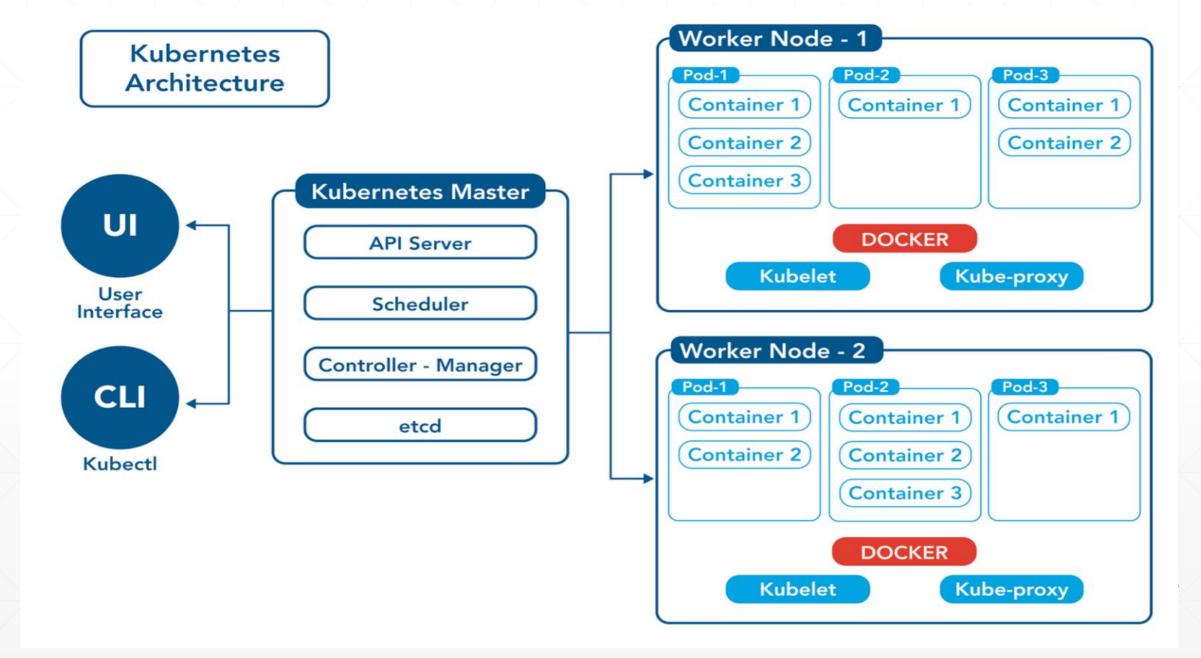
Orchestration tools manage the lifecycle and scaling of containers.

They automate deployment, scaling, networking, and management of containerized apps.

Kubernetes is the leading orchestration platform.



Kubernetes – Architecture



Kubernetes – Architecture Explained

Control Plane: This manages the overall cluster state and makes global decisions such as scheduling and responding to cluster events. Key components include:

- **API Server**: The central management interface that exposes the Kubernetes API, serving as the gateway for all interactions with the cluster.
- Scheduler: Assigns pods (groups of containers) to worker nodes based on resource availability and policies.
- **Controller Manager**: Runs controller processes that monitor the cluster's desired state and take corrective actions to maintain it.
- etcd: A distributed key-value store that persistently stores all cluster data and configuration, ensuring consistency and availability

Kubernetes – Architecture Explained

Worker Nodes: These are the machines (physical or virtual) where application containers run. Each node runs:

- kubelet: An agent that ensures containers are running as expected and communicates node status to the control plane.
- kube-proxy: Manages network routing and load balancing to enable communication between pods and services.
- Container runtime: Software responsible for running containers (e.g., Docker, containerd)

Kubernetes – Key Concepts

Pods: The smallest deployable units in Kubernetes, pods are groups of one or more containers that share storage, network, and specifications on how to run the containers. Containers in a pod share the same network namespace, allowing them to communicate via localhost.

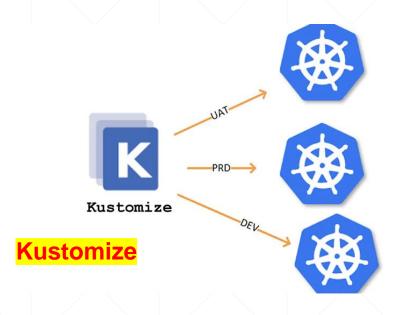
Clusters: A set of nodes (worker machines) managed by the control plane. Clusters can span physical or virtual machines and can be deployed on-premises or in cloud environments.

Namespaces: Logical partitions within a cluster that allow for resource isolation and organization. Namespaces enable multiple teams or projects to coexist in the same cluster without resource conflicts.

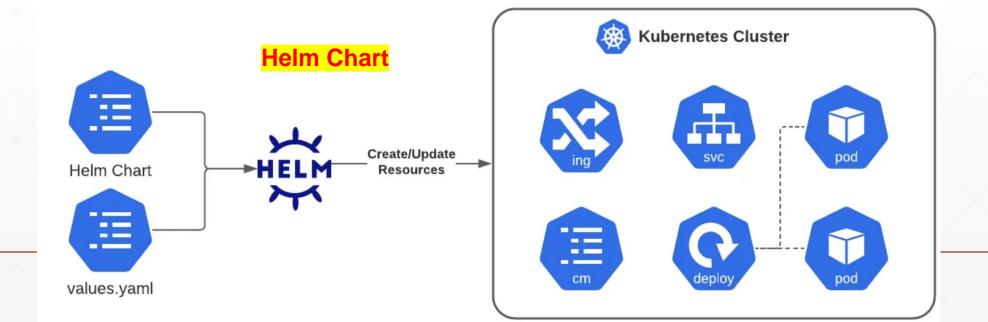
Services: Abstractions that define a logical set of pods and a policy by which to access them. Services enable stable networking endpoints and load balancing for pods that may be ephemeral.

Kubernetes – Architecture Master Node (Control Plane) Worker Nodes (Data Plane) Kubelet Container Runtime (pods) Cloud Controller Manager* etcd (key value store) **K8S Objects Kube-proxy** Worker Node 1 Developer kubectl **API Server Kubelet** Container Runtime (pods) **K8S Objects Kube-proxy** cm **Worker Node 2** Scheduler **Controller Manager**

Over To You - Research







Kustomize – What is Kustomize?

Kustomize is a Kubernetes-native configuration management tool that helps you customize Kubernetes YAML manifests without using templates. It works by layering configurations using a concept of bases and overlays, allowing you to maintain a single source of truth while adapting deployments for different environments like development, testing, and production.

Kustomize – Key Concepts?

Base: A set of common Kubernetes resource files (Deployments, Services, ConfigMaps) that represent the core application configuration.

Overlay: Environment-specific customizations that modify or extend the base configuration (e.g., changing replica counts, resource limits).

kustomization.yaml: The main configuration file where you declare resources, patches, and transformations.

Patches: Changes applied to base resources using strategic merge or JSON patches.

Transformers: Add or modify metadata like labels or namespaces across all resources.

Secret and ConfigMap Generators: Automatically generate Kubernetes Secrets and ConfigMaps from literals or files.

Kustomize – Why use Kustomize?

- Avoids duplication of YAML files for different environments.
- No templating language, so YAML stays clean and readable.
- Integrated with kubectl (e.g., kubectl apply -k <dir>).
- Supports layering and modularity for complex deployments.
- Helps prevent configuration drift by managing overlays declaratively.

Example use case:

 You have a base deployment manifest for your app. For production, you want 5 replicas and a rolling update strategy, but for development only 1 replica without rolling updates. Using Kustomize, you keep the base manifest and create overlays for dev and prod that override just the necessary fields

Helm Chart - What is Helm?

 Helm is a package manager for Kubernetes that uses templated YAML files to define, install, and upgrade Kubernetes applications. Helm packages are called charts. A Helm chart contains all the resource definitions needed to run an application, configurable via parameters[no direct search result but common knowledge].

Helm Chart - Key Concepts?

- Chart: A collection of files that describe a related set of Kubernetes resources.
- Templates: YAML files with Go templating syntax to allow dynamic content based on input values.
- Values.yaml: A file where you specify configuration values that customize the templates.
- Releases: Instances of a chart deployed in a Kubernetes cluster.

Helm Chart - Why is Helm?

- Simplifies deployment of complex applications with many Kubernetes resources.
- Supports parameterization and reuse via templates.
- Easy upgrades and rollbacks of applications.
- Large ecosystem of pre-built charts for common software.

Difference from Kustomize:

- Helm uses templating, which can be powerful but adds complexity.
- Kustomize is template-free and focuses on layering and patching YAML.
- Helm is more like a package manager, while Kustomize is a configuration customization tool.

ArgoCD – What is ArgoCD?

ArgoCD is a declarative, GitOps continuous delivery tool for Kubernetes. It continuously monitors your
Git repositories containing Kubernetes manifests (or Helm charts, Kustomize directories) and
automatically syncs the desired state to your Kubernetes cluster.

ArgoCD – Key Features?

- GitOps-based: Uses Git as the single source of truth for Kubernetes manifests.
- **Declarative**: Desired state is defined in Git; ArgoCD applies and maintains it on the cluster.
- Supports multiple config formats: Plain YAML, Kustomize, Helm charts, Jsonnet.
- Automated sync: Automatically deploy changes when manifests in Git are updated.
- Visual dashboard: Web UI to monitor application status, sync history, and health.
- Rollbacks and manual sync: Supports manual interventions and rollbacks.

ArgoCD – How ArgoCD fits in CI/CD?

- Your CI pipeline (e.g., GitHub Actions) builds and pushes Docker images and updates manifests in Git.
- ArgoCD detects manifest changes and deploys them to Kubernetes automatically.
- This separation of concerns improves reliability and auditability.