

# Exercising your curiosity about Containers

## IN720 Virtualisation

### Introduction

Throughout this paper, we're going to take a tour of different kinds of virtualisation. To begin, we'll look at "Containers," a form of *lightweight* virtualisation where isolated applications all share the same operating system kernel.

Your lecturer for this paper does not arrive in Dunedin until Week Two of the semester. By then, I want us to be able to have fun trying stuff out! All things going well, we will have a new virtualisation environment that we can use to test out Linux Containers and the Docker system.

Until then...

### Preparing for a Conversation about Containers

IT professionals should be able to explain things *succinctly and coherently* when asked. So here's a question for you:

*I understand why you might want a virtual machine. Maybe you sell web servers as a service, and you want to run lots of servers on one physical machine. Or maybe you need to develop under several operating systems at once—you can avoid installing them on multiple machines, or avoid rebooting to access each OS. But I hear there are these things called Containers, and people are even talking about Containerisation... What's a Container for? What's the typical use case? Is there anybody I've heard of who's using them and what are they doing?*

- To start getting a handle on Containers, check out my new favourite site [sysadmincasts.com](http://sysadmincasts.com). Episode 24 explains LXC: <http://bit.ly/2v6ksnt>. (Read/watch/listen to all their other stuff too; it's pretty good.)
- InfoWorld has a short, up-to-date article on Docker at <http://bit.ly/2sthXcF>.
- You may also like to read freecodecamp's introduction to containers: <http://bit.ly/2tYeZyX>.

Come to Week Two's session ready for some class discussion on Containers, and what you can do with them.