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TestContainers in
Node

TestContainers is a
library for management
of Docker-containers
from code.

V TestContainers → What is it?

Test with real dependencies

Provides throwaway, lightweight instances of databases, message brokers, and other services you typically use.

Runs locally and on CI/CD – all you need is Docker.

Supports many languages, Java, .NET, Go, Node.js and the list goes on.

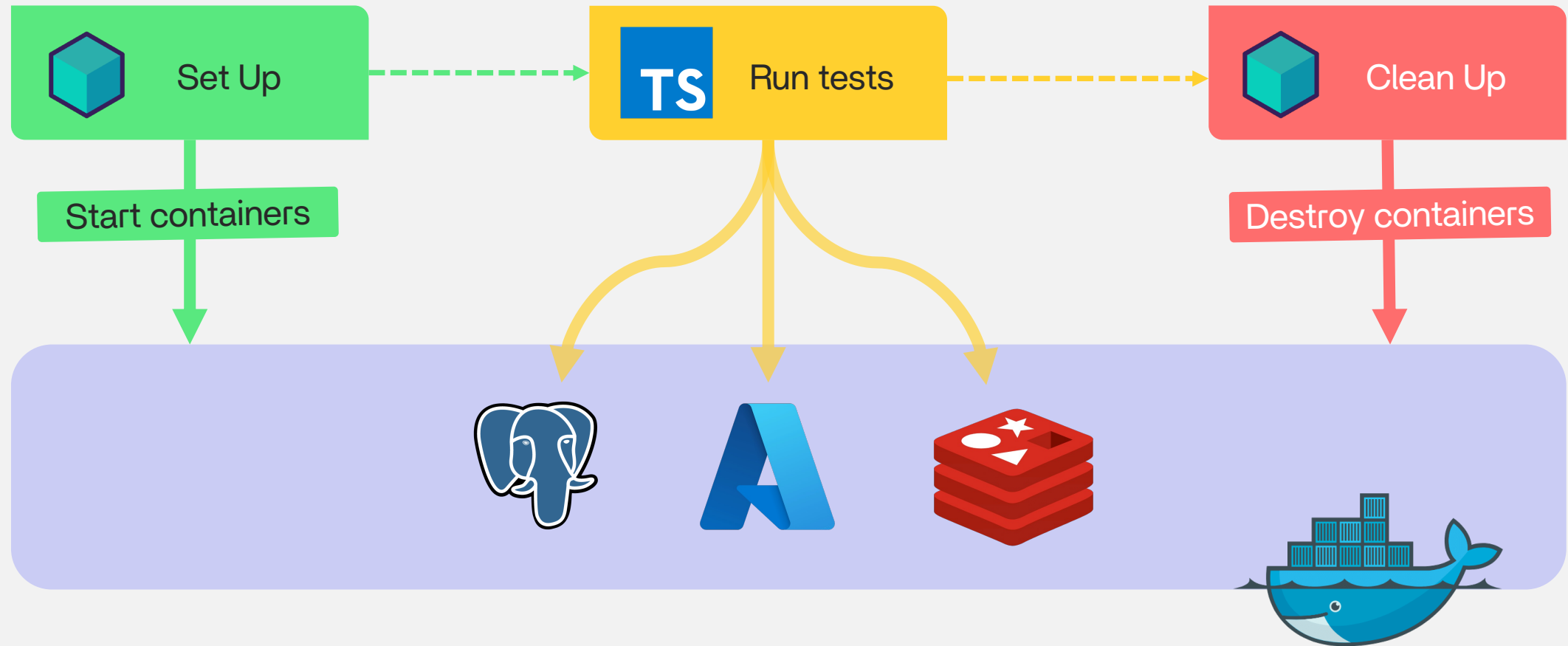
Can be used for more than just tests!

V TestContainers → What is it?



And many more

V TestContainers → How does it work?



V TestContainers → How does it work?

Demo-time



V TestContainers → Why should you use it?



Why can't I just start my
Docker-containers
manually?

✓ TestContainers → Why should you use it?



Because humans are
bad at automation.

V TestContainers → Why should you use it?

Automate your test infrastructure

Reproducible environments

Should be able to test equivalent infrastructure on all developer machines and CI/CD.

Isolated environments

Should not depend on shared infrastructure that makes parallel test runs flaky.

Deterministic tests

Aim for deterministic test runs, which means long-lived infrastructure or datasets should be avoided.



Why can't I just mock
the database?

V TestContainers → Why should you use it?



Oh boy, here we go...

V TestContainers → Test Doubles

Mock

Used in a test to replace specific code or modules.

Fake

A relatively fully functional implementation which can be used across tests.

V TestContainers → Test Doubles

Mock

Has no internal state

Used in a test to replace specific code or modules.

Makes tests specific and brittle

Fake

Usually has internal state

A relatively fully functional implementation which can be used across tests.

A lot of work to match the behaviour of real services

Test with **production**
equivalent dependencies



V TestContainers → More advanced use-case

Extended demo-time



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