

Restart Mode

In this lesson, you will be introduced to the restart mode which ensures that containers are always running until explicitly told not to.

When creating a container, you have the choice to set a restart mode. It tells Docker what to do when a container stops. A restart mode is set with the `--restart` switch.

When running server containers like we did earlier, we want them to always be up. It is very tempting to use the *always* restart mode. For instance:

```
docker run -d -p 80 --restart always nginx
```



It works great. Should the container start, or the Docker host itself restart, the container will restart so that it has a high uptime. But it actually works too well; if you try to stop the container using the *docker stop* command, it will not stop.

That's probably not what you want. If you want your container to always be running *except* when you explicitly stop it, use the *unless_stopped* restart mode:

```
docker run -d -p 80 --restart unless-stopped nginx
```



That way, your container will almost always be up, except when you don't want it to.

Let's take a look at monitoring in the next lesson.