

DOCKER COMMANDS: A CHEAT SHEET



Docker's purpose is to build and manage compute images and to launch them in a container. So, the most useful commands do and expose this information.

Here's a cheat sheet on the top Docker commands to know and use.



Images and containers

The docker command line interface follows this pattern:

```
docker <COMMAND>
```

```
docker images
```

```
docker container
```

The docker images and container commands grant access to the images and containers. From here, you are permitted to do something with them, hence:

```
docker images <COMMAND>
```

```
Docker container <COMMAND>
```

There are:

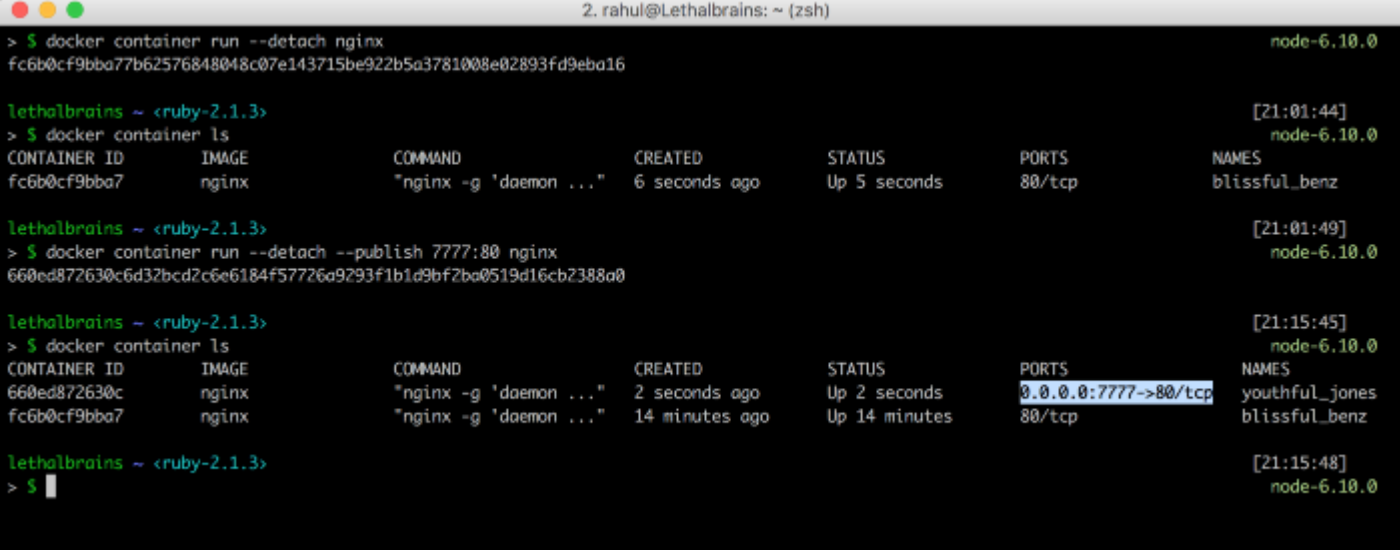
- **is** lists the resources.
- **cp** copies files/folders between the container and the local file system.
- **create** creates new container.
- **diff** inspects changes to files or directories in a running container.
- **logs** fetches the logs of a container.
- **pause** pauses all processes within one or more containers.
- **rename** renames a container.
- **run** runs a new command in a container.
- **start** starts one or more stopped containers.
- **stop** stops one or more running containers.
- **stats** displays a livestream of containers resource usage statistics.
- **top** displays the running processes of a container.

View resources with ls

```
docker images ls
```

```
docker container ls
```

From the **container ls** command, the container id can be accessed (first column).



```
2. rahul@Lethalbrains: ~ (zsh)
> $ docker container run --detach nginx
fc6b0cf9bba77b62576848048c07e143715be922b5a3781008e02893fd9eba16
node-6.10.0

l3thalbrains ~ <ruby-2.1.3> [21:01:44]
> $ docker container ls
node-6.10.0
CONTAINER ID        IMAGE               COMMAND             CREATED             STATUS              PORTS               NAMES
fc6b0cf9bba7       nginx              "nginx -g 'daemon ..." 6 seconds ago      Up 5 seconds       80/tcp             blissful_benz

l3thalbrains ~ <ruby-2.1.3> [21:01:49]
> $ docker container run --detach --publish 7777:80 nginx
660ed872630c6d32bcd2c6e6184f57726a9293f1b1d9bf2ba0519d16cb2388a0
node-6.10.0

l3thalbrains ~ <ruby-2.1.3> [21:15:45]
> $ docker container ls
node-6.10.0
CONTAINER ID        IMAGE               COMMAND             CREATED             STATUS              PORTS               NAMES
660ed872630c       nginx              "nginx -g 'daemon ..." 2 seconds ago      Up 2 seconds       0.0.0.0:7777->80/tcp youthful_jones
fc6b0cf9bba7       nginx              "nginx -g 'daemon ..." 14 minutes ago     Up 14 minutes      80/tcp             blissful_benz

l3thalbrains ~ <ruby-2.1.3> [21:15:48]
> $
node-6.10.0
```

Control timing with start, stop, restart, prune

- **start** starts one or more stopped containers.
- **stop** stops one or more running containers.
- **restart** restarts one or more containers.
- **prune** (the best one!) removes all stopped containers.

```
docker container stop <container id>
```

```
docker container start <container id>
```

```
docker container restart <container id>
```

```
docker container prune <container id>
```

Name a container

```
docker run -d -name myfirstcontainer
```

View vital information: Inspect, stats, top

```
docker container inspect <container id>
```

```
docker container top <container id>
```

```
docker container stats <container id>
```

- **stats** displays a live stream of container(s) resource usage statistics

CONTAINER ID	NAME	CPU %	MEM USAGE / LIMIT	MEM %	NET I/O	BLOCK I/O	PIDS
a736f0f5dcbd	label-studio	0.06%	61.34MiB / 1.943GiB	3.08%	2.43kB / 0B	0B / 0B	1

- **top** displays the running processes of a container:

```
1 ~ home$ docker container top a736f0f5dcbd
```

PID	USER	TIME	COMMAND
1699	root	0:05	{label-studio} /usr/local/bin/python /usr/local/bin/label-studio start my_project

- **inspect** displays detailed information on one or more containers. With inspect, a JSON is returned detailing the name and states and more of a container.

```
1 ~ home$ docker container inspect a736f0f5dcbd
```

```
{
  "Id": "a736f0f5dcbf943d381426dc515a5a767b14bf6f2c2cb476598cf06670eae74",
  "Created": "2020-05-10T22:36:14.6469835Z",
  "Path": "label-studio",
  "Args": [
    "start",
    "my_project"
  ],
  "State": {
    "Status": "running",
    "Running": true,
    "Paused": false,
    "Restarting": false,
    "OOMKilled": false,
    "Dead": false,
    "Pid": 1699,
    "ExitCode": 0,
    "Error": "",
    "StartedAt": "2020-07-17T22:16:13.991687584Z",
    "FinishedAt": "2020-07-17T22:16:12.161403085Z"
  },
  "Image": "sha256:ee47e34c82db06fbd4e65c583721baec99d5c16054c446ee716d790e5cb",
  "ResolvConfPath": "/var/lib/docker/containers/a736f0f5dcbf943d381426dc515a5",
  "HostnamePath": "/var/lib/docker/containers/a736f0f5dcbf943d381426dc515a5a7",
  "HostsPath": "/var/lib/docker/containers/a736f0f5dcbf943d381426dc515a5a767b",
  "LogPath": "/var/lib/docker/containers/a736f0f5dcbf943d381426dc515a5a767b14",
  "06670eae74-json.log",
  "Name": "/label-studio",
  "RestartCount": 0,
  "Driver": "overlay2",
  "Platform": "linux",
  "MountLabel": ""
}
```

Additional resources

For more on this topic, there's always the [Docker documentation](#), the [BMC DevOps Blog](#), and these articles:

- [Getting Started with Containers and Microservices for Enterprise Leaders](#)
- [How To Introduce Docker Containers in The Enterprise](#)
- [Docker Management Tips](#)
- [Docker Monitoring: How to Monitor Containers and Microservices](#)
- [Containers Aren't Always the Solution](#)