PREPARING TO USE CONTAINERS

Getting Started Guide
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Chapter 1.
INTRODUCTION TO DOCKER AND CONTAINERS

DGX-2™, DGX-1™, and DGX Station™ are designed to run containers. Containers hold the application as well as any libraries or code that are needed to run the application. Containers are portable within an operating system family. For example, you can create a container using Red Hat Enterprise Linux and run it on an Ubuntu system, or vice versa. The only common thread between the two operating systems is that they each need to have the container software so they can run containers.

Using containers allows you to create the software on whatever OS you are comfortable with and then run the application where ever you want. It also allows you to share the application with other users without having to rebuild the application on the OS they are using.

Containers are different than a virtual machine (VM) such as VMware. A VM has a complete operating system and possibly applications and data files. Containers do not contain a complete operating system. They only contain the software needed to run the application. The container relies on the host OS for things such as file system services, networking, and an OS kernel. The application in the container will always run the same anywhere, regardless of the OS/compute environment.

DGX-2, DGX-1, and DGX Station uses Docker. Docker is one of the most popular container services available and is very commonly used by developers in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) space. There is a public Docker repository that holds pre-built Docker containers. These containers can be a simple base OS such as CentOS, or they may be a complete application such as TensorFlow™. You can use these Docker containers for running the applications that they contain. You can use them as the basis for creating other containers, for example for extending a container.

To enable portability in Docker images that leverage GPUs, NVIDIA developed the NVIDIA Container Runtime for Docker, also known as nvidia-docker. We will refer to the NVIDIA Container Runtime for Docker simply as nvidia-docker for the remainder of this guide.
nvidia-docker is an open-source project that provides a command line tool to mount the user-mode components of the NVIDIA driver and the GPUs into the Docker container at launch.

These containers ensure the best performance for your applications and should provide the best single-GPU performance and multi-GPU scaling.
Chapter 2.
PREPARING YOUR DGX SYSTEM FOR USE WITH NVIDIA-DOCKER

Some initial setup is required to be able to access nvidia-docker containers from the Docker command line for use on DGX-2, DGX-1, or on DGX Station, or NGC. As a result of differences between the releases of the DGX™ OS and DGX hardware, the initial setup workflow depends on the DGX system and DGX OS version that you are using. Also, the setup and capabilities are a bit different for the NGC.

To determine the DGX OS software version on either the DGX-2, DGX-1, or on DGX Station enter the following command.

```bash
$ grep VERSION /etc/dgx-release
DGX_SWBUILD_VERSION="3.1.1"
```

Based on the output from the command, choose from below which workflow best reflects your environment. Select the topics and perform the steps within that workflow (see Preparing Your DGX System For Use With nvidia-docker).

Choose from below which workflow best reflects your environment. Select the topics and perform the steps within that workflow.

**DGX-2 or DGX-1 with DGX OS Server 3.1.1 or Later Workflow**

1. Version 3.1.1 And Later: Preventing IP Address Conflicts With Docker
2. Configuring The Use Of Proxies
3. Enabling Users To Run Docker Containers

**DGX-1 with DGX OS Server 2.x or Earlier**

1. Version 2.x Or Earlier: Installing Docker And nvidia-docker
2. Version 2.x Or Earlier: Preventing IP Address Conflicts With Docker
3. Configuring The Use Of Proxies
4. Enabling Users To Run Docker Containers
Preparing Your DGX System For Use With nvidia-docker

DGX Station Workflow

1. **Version 3.1.1 And Later: Preventing IP Address Conflicts With Docker**
2. **Configuring The Use Of Proxies**
3. **Enabling Users To Run Docker Containers**

### 2.1. Version 2.x Or Earlier: Installing Docker And nvidia-docker

Docker and nvidia-docker are **not** included in DGX OS Server version 2.x or earlier. If DGX OS Server version 2.x or earlier is installed on your DGX-1, you must install Docker and nvidia-docker on the system.

However, Docker and nvidia-docker are included in DGX OS Server version 3.1.1 and later. Therefore, if DGX OS Server version 3.1.1 or later is installed, you can skip this task.

1. **Install Docker.**

   ```
   $ sudo apt-key adv --keyserver hkp://p80.pool.sks-keyservers.net:80 --recv-keys 58118E89F3A912897C070ADBF76221572C52609D
   $ echo deb https://apt.dockerproject.org/repo ubuntu-trusty main | sudo tee /etc/apt/sources.list.d/docker.list
   $ sudo apt-get update
   $ sudo apt-get -y install docker-engine=1.12.6-0~ubuntu-trusty
   ```

2. **Download and install `nvidia-docker` and `nvidia-docker-plugin`**.
   a) Download the .deb file that contains v1.0.1 of `nvidia-docker` and `nvidia-docker-plugin` from GitHub.

   ```
   $ wget -P /tmp https://github.com/NVIDIA/nvidia-docker/releases/download/v1.0.1/nvidia-docker_1.0.1-1_amd64.deb
   ```

   b) Install `nvidia-docker` and `nvidia-docker-plugin` and then delete the .deb file you just downloaded.

   ```
   $ sudo dpkg -i /tmp/nvidia-docker*.deb && rm /tmp/nvidia-docker*.deb
   ```

### 2.2. Preventing IP Address Conflicts With DGX

To ensure that your DGX system can access the network interfaces for nvidia-docker containers, ensure that the containers are configured to use a subnet distinct from other network resources used by your DGX system.

By default, Docker uses the 172.17.0.0/16 subnet. If addresses within this range are already used on your DGX system’s network, change the nvidia-docker network to specify the IP address of the DNS server, bridge IP address range, and container IP...
address range to be used by your nvidia-docker containers. Consult your network administrator to find out which IP addresses are used by your network.

If your network does not use addresses in the default Docker IP address range, no changes are needed and you can omit this task.

This task requires sudo privileges.

2.2.1. Version 3.1.1 And Later: Preventing IP Address Conflicts With Docker

DGX OS versions 3.1.1 and later include a version of the Ubuntu operating system that uses systemd for managing services. Therefore, the dockerd daemon is configured through the dockeroverride.conf file and managed through the systemctl command.

This task requires sudo privileges.

1. Open the /etc/systemd/system/docker.service.d/docker-override.conf file in a plain-text editor, such as vi.

```
$ sudo vi /etc/systemd/system/docker.service.d/docker-override.conf
```

2. Append the following options to the line that begins ExecStart=/usr/bin/dockerd, which specifies the command to start the dockerd daemon:

   ▶ --bip=bridge-ip-address-range
   ▶ --fixed-cidr=container-ip-address-range

   **bridge-ip-address-range**
   The bridge IP address range to be used by nvidia-docker containers, for example, 192.168.127.1/24.

   **container-ip-address-range**
   The container IP address range to be used by nvidia-docker containers, for example, 192.168.127.128/25.

This example shows a complete /etc/systemd/system/docker.service.d/docker-override.conf file that has been edited to specify the bridge IP address range and container IP address range to be used by nvidia-docker containers.

```
[Service]
LimitMEMLOCK=infinity
LimitSTACK=67108864
```

3. Save and close the /etc/systemd/system/docker.service.d/docker-override.conf file.

4. Reload the Docker settings for the systemd daemon.

```
$ sudo systemctl daemon-reload
```

5. Restart the docker service.
$ sudo systemctl restart docker

2.2.2. Version 2.x Or Earlier: Preventing IP Address Conflicts With Docker

DGX OS versions 2.x and earlier include a version of the Ubuntu operating system that uses Upstart for managing services. Therefore, the `dockerd` daemon is configured through the `/etc/default/docker` file and managed through the service command.

1. Open the `/etc/default/docker` file for editing.

   $ sudo vi /etc/default/docker

2. Modify the `/etc/default/docker` file, specifying the correct bridge IP address and IP address ranges for your network. Consult your IT administrator for the correct addresses.

   For example, if your DNS server exists at IP address 10.10.254.254, and the 192.168.0.0/24 subnet is not otherwise needed by the DGX-1, you can add the following line to the `/etc/default/docker` file:

   ```
   DOCKER_OPTS="--dns 10.10.254.254 --bip=192.168.0.1/24 --fixedcidr=192.168.0.0/24"
   ```

   If there is already a `DOCKER_OPTS` line, then add the parameters (text between the quote marks) to the `DOCKER_OPTS` environment variable.

3. Save and close the `/etc/default/docker` file when done.

4. Restart Docker with the new configuration.

   $ sudo service docker restart

2.3. Configuring The Use Of Proxies

If your network requires the use of a proxy, you must ensure that APT is configured to download Debian packages through HTTP, HTTPS, and FTP proxies. Docker will then be able to access the NVIDIA® GPU Cloud™ (NGC) container registry through these proxies.

1. Open the `/etc/apt/apt.conf.d/proxy.conf` file for editing and ensure that the following lines are present:

   ```
   Acquire::http::proxy "http://<username>:<password>@<host>:<port>/";
   Acquire::ftp::proxy "ftp://<username>:<password>@<host>:<port>/";
   Acquire::https::proxy "https://<username>:<password>@<host>:<port>/";
   ```

   Where:
   - `<username>` is your host username
   - `<password>` is your host password
   - `<host>` is the address of the proxy server
2. **port** is the proxy server port
3. Save the `/etc/apt/apt.conf.d/proxy.conf` file.
4. Restart Docker with the new configuration.

   $ sudo service docker restart

### 2.4. Enabling Users To Run Docker Containers

To prevent the `docker` daemon from running without protection against escalation of privileges, the nvidia-docker software requires `sudo` privileges to run containers. Meeting this requirement involves enabling users who will run nvidia-docker containers to run commands with `sudo` privileges. Therefore, you should ensure that only users whom you trust and who are aware of the potential risks to the DGX system of running commands with `sudo` privileges are able to run nvidia-docker containers.

Before allowing multiple users to run commands with `sudo` privileges, consult your IT department to determine whether you would be violating your organization's security policies. For the security implications of enabling users to run nvidia-docker containers, see Docker security.

You can enable users to run the nvidia-docker containers in one of the following ways:

- Add each user as an administrator user with `sudo` privileges.
- Add each user as a standard user without `sudo` privileges and then add the user to the `docker` group. This approach is inherently insecure because any user who can send commands to the docker engine can escalate privilege and run root-user operations.

To add an existing user to the `docker` group, run this command:

   $ sudo usermod -aG docker user-login-id

   *user-login-id*

   The user login ID of the existing user that you are adding to the `docker` group.
After you've set up your DGX-2, DGX-1, or DGX Station, you next need to obtain access to the NGC container registry where you can then pull containers and run neural networks, deploy deep learning models, and perform AI analytics in these containers on your DGX system.

For DGX-2, DGX-1, and DGX Station users, for step-by-step instructions on getting setup with the NGC container registry see the NGC Container Registry For DGX User Guide.
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