CISCO Academy

Lab - Build a Sample Web App in a Docker Container (Instructor Version)

Instructor Note: Red font color or gray highlights indicate text that appears in the instructor copy only.

Answers: 6.2.7 Lab - Build a Sample Web App in a Docker Container

Objectives

- Part 1: Launch the DEVASC VM
- Part 2: Create a Simple Bash Script
- Part 3: Create a Sample Web App
- Part 4: Configure the Web App to Use Website Files
- Part 5: Create a Bash Script to Build and Run a Docker Container

Part 6: Build, Run, and Verify the Docker Container

Background / Scenario

In this lab, you will review basic bash scripting techniques because bash scripting is a prerequisite for the rest of the lab. You will then build and modify a Python script for a simple web application. Next, you will create a bash script to automate the process for creating a Dockerfile, building the Docker container, and running the Docker container. Finally, you will use **docker** commands to investigate the intricacies of the Docker container instance.

Required Resources

- 1 PC with operating system of your choice
- Virtual Box or VMWare
- DEVASC Virtual Machine

Instructions

Part 1: Launch the DEVASC VM

If you have not already completed the **Lab** - **Install the Virtual Machine Lab Environment**, do so now. If you have already completed that lab, launch the DEVASC VM now.

Part 2: Create a Simple Bash Script

Bash knowledge is crucial for working with continuous integration, continuous deployment, containers, and with your development environment. Bash scripts help programmers automate a variety of tasks in one script file. In this part, you will briefly review how to create a bash script. Later in the lab, you will use a bash script to automate the creation of a web app inside of a Docker container.

Step 1: Create an empty bash script file.

Change your working directory to ~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app and add a new file called user-input.sh.

```
devasc@labvm:~$ cd labs/devnet-src/sample-app/
```

devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app\$ touch user-input.sh

Step 2: Open the file in the nano text editor.

Use the **nano** command to open the nano text editor.

devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app\$ nano user-input.sh

Step 3: Add the 'she-bang' to the top of the script.

From here you can enter commands for your bash script. Use the arrow keys to navigate in **nano**. Notice the commands at the bottom (not shown here) for managing the file. The carat symbol (^) indicates that you use the CTRL or Command key on your keyboard. For example, to exit **nano**, type CTRL+X.

Add the 'she-bang' which tells the system that this file includes commands that need to be run in the bash shell.

#!/bin/bash

Note: You can use a graphical text editor or open the file with VS Code. However, you should be familiar with command-line text editors like **nano** and **vim**. Search the internet for tutorials to refresh your skill or learn more about them.

Step 4: Add simple bash commands to the script.

Enter some simple bash commands for your script. The following commands will ask the user for a name, set the name to a variable called **userName**, and display a string of text with the user's name.

```
echo -n "Enter Your Name: "
read userName
echo "Your name is $userName."
```

Step 5: Exit nano and save your script.

Press CTRL+X, then Y, then ENTER to exit nano and save your script.

Step 6: Run your script from the command line.

You can run it directly from the command line using the following command.

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ bash user-input.sh
Enter Your Name: Bob
Your name is Bob.
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$
```

Step 7: Change the mode of the script to an executable file for all users.

Change the mode of the script to an executable using the **chmod** command. Set the options to **a+x** to make the script executable (x) by all users (a). After using **chmod**, notice permissions have been modified for users, groups, and others to include the "x" (executable).

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ ls -l user-input.sh
-rw-rw-r-- 1 devasc devasc 84 Jun 7 16:43 user-input.sh
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ chmod a+x user-input.sh
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ ls -l user-input.sh
-rwxrwxr-x 1 devasc devasc 84 Jun 7 16:43 user-input.sh
```

Step 8: Rename the file to remove the .sh extension.

You can rename the file to remove the extension so that users do not have to add .sh to the command to execute the script.

devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app\$ mv user-input.sh user-input

Step 9: Execute the script from the command line.

Now the script can be run from the command line without the **source** command or an extension. To run a bash script without the source command, you must preface the script with "./".

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ ./user-input
Enter Your Name: Bob
Your name is Bob.
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$
```

Step 10: Investigate other bash scripts.

If you have little or no experience creating bash scripts, take some time to search the internet for bash tutorials, bash examples, and bash games.

Part 3: Create a Sample Web App

Before we can launch an application in a Docker container, we first need to have the app. In this part, you will create a very simple Python script that will display the IP address of the client when the client visits the web page.

Step 1: Install Flask and open a port on the DEVASC VM firewall.

Web application developers using Python typically leverage a framework. A framework is a code library to make it easier for developers to create reliable, scalable and maintainable web applications. Flask is a web application framework written in Python. Other frameworks include Tornado and Pyramid.

You will use this framework to create the sample web app. Flask receives requests and then provides a response to the user in the web app. This is useful for dynamic web applications because it allows user interaction and dynamic content. What makes your sample web app dynamic is that it will be displaying the IP address of the client.

Note: Understanding Flask functions, methods, and libraries are beyond the scope of this course. It is used in this lab to show how quickly you can get a web application up and running. If you want to learn more, search the internet for more information and tutorials on the Flask framework.

Open a terminal window and import flask.

devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app\$ pip3 install flask

Step 2: Open the sample_app.py file.

Open the **sample_app.py** file located in the **/sample-app** directory. You can do this inside VS Code or you can use a command-line text editor like **nano** or **vim**.

Step 3: Add the commands to import methods from flask.

Add the following commands to import the required methods from the flask library.

from flask import Flask
from flask import request

Step 4: Create an instance of the Flask class.

Create an instance of the Flask class and name it **sample**. Be sure to use two underscores before and after the "name".

sample = Flask(___name___)

Step 5: Define a method to display the client IP address.

Next, configure Flask so that when a user visits the default page (root directory), it displays a message with the IP address of the client.

```
@sample.route("/")
def main():
    return "You are calling me from " + request.remote addr + "\n"
```

Notice the @sample.route("/") Flask statement. Frameworks such as Flask use a routing technique (.route) to refer to an application URL (this not to be confused with network routing). Here the "/" (root directory) is bound to the main() function. So, when the user goes to http://localhost:8080/ (root directory) URL, the output of the return statement will be displayed in the browser.

Step 6: Configure the app to run locally.

Finally, configure Flask to run the app locally at http://0.0.0.0:8080, which is also http://localhost:8080. Be sure to use two underscores before and after "name", and before and after "main".

```
if __name__ == "__main__":
    sample.run(host="0.0.0.0", port=8080)
```

Step 7: Save and run your sample web app.

Save your script and run it from the command line. You should see the following output which indicates that your "sample-app" server is running. If you do not see the following output or if you receive an error message, check your sample_app.py script carefully.

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ python3 sample_app.py
```

- * Serving Flask app "sample-app" (lazy loading)
- * Environment: production WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production deployment.
- Use a production WSGI server instead.
- * Debug mode: off
- * Running on http://0.0.0.0:8080/ (Press CTRL+C to quit)

Step 8: Verify the server is running.

You can verify the server is running in one of two ways.

a. Open the Chromium web browser and enter 0.0.0.0:8080 in the URL field. You should get the following output:

You are calling me from 127.0.0.1

If you receive an "HTTP 400 Bad Request" response, check your sample_app.py script carefully.

b. Open another terminal window and use the command-line URL tool (cURL) to verify the server's response.

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ curl http://0.0.0.0:8080
You are calling me from 127.0.0.1
```

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$
```

Step 9: Stop the server.

Return to the terminal window where the server is running and press CTRL+C to stop the server.

Part 4: Configure the Web App to use Website Files

In this part, build out the sample web app to include an **index.html** page and **style.css** specification. The **index.html** is typically the first page loaded in a client's web browser when visiting your website. The **style.css** is a style sheet used to customize the look of the web page.

Step 1: Explore the directories that will be used by the web app.

The directories **templates** and **static** are already in the **sample-app** directory. Open the **index.html** and **style.css** to view their contents. If you are familiar with HTML and CSS, feel free to customize these directories and files as much as you like. However, be sure you keep the embedded {{request.remote_addr}} Python code in the **index.html** file as this is the dynamic aspect of the sample web app.

Step 2: Update the Python code for the sample web app.

Now that you have explored the basic website files, you need to update the **sample_app.py** file so that it renders the **index.html** file instead of just returning data. Generating HTML content using Python code can be cumbersome, especially when using conditional statements or repeating structures. The HTML file can be rendered in Flask automatically using the render_template function. This requires importing the **render_template** method from the flask library and editing to the **return** function. Make the highlighted edits to your script.

```
from flask import Flask
from flask import request
from flask import render_template
sample = Flask(__name__)
@sample.route("/")
def main():
    return render_template("index.html")
```

```
if __name__ == "__main__":
```

```
sample.run(host="0.0.0.0", port=8080)
```

Step 3: Save and run your script.

Save and run your **sampe-app.py** script. You should get output like the following:

devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app\$ python3 sample_app.py

- * Serving Flask app "sample-app" (lazy loading)
- * Environment: production WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production deployment.
 - Use a production WSGI server instead.
- * Debug mode: off
- * Running on http://0.0.0.0:8080/ (Press CTRL+C to quit)

Note: If you got Traceback output and an error with the message with something like **OSError:** [Errno 98] **Address already in use**, then you did not shutdown your previous server. Return to the terminal window where that server is running and press CTRL+C to end the server process. Re-run your script.

Step 4: Verify your program is running.

Again, you can verify your program is running in one of two ways.

a. Open the Chromium web browser and enter 0.0.0.0:8080 in the URL field. You should get the same output as before. However, your background will be light steel blue and the text will be formatted as H1.

You are calling me from 127.0.0.1

b. Open another terminal window and use the curl command to verify the server's response. This is where you will see the result of the HTML code rendered automatically using the render_template function. In this case, you will get all the HTML content. However, the dynamic Python code will be replaced with the value for {{request.remote_addr}}. Also, notice your prompt will be on the same line as the last line of HMTL output. Press ENTER to get a new line.

Step 5: Stop the server.

Return to the terminal window where the server is running and press CTRL+C to stop the server.

Part 5: Create a Bash Script to Build and Run a Docker Container

An application can be deployed on a bare metal server (physical server dedicated to a single-tenant environment) or in a virtual machine, like you just did in the previous Part. It can also be deployed in a containerized solution like Docker. In this part, you will create a bash script and add commands to it that complete the following tasks to build and run a Docker container:

- Create temporary directories to store the website files.
- Copy the website directories and sample_app.py to the temporary directory.

• Build a Dockerfile.

#!/bin/bash

- Build the Docker container.
- Start the container and verify it is running.

Step 1: Create temporary directories to store the website files.

Open the **sample-app.sh** bash script file in the ~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app directory. Add the 'she-bang' and the commands to create a directory structure with **tempdir** as the parent folder.

```
mkdir tempdir
mkdir tempdir/templates
mkdir tempdir/static
```

Step 2: Copy the website directories and sample_app.py to the temporary directory.

in the **sample-app.sh** file, add the commands to copy the website directory and script to **tempdir**.

```
cp sample_app.py tempdir/.
cp -r templates/* tempdir/templates/.
cp -r static/* tempdir/static/.
```

Step 3: Create a Dockerfile.

In this step, you enter the necessary bash **echo** commands to the **sample-app.sh** file to create a Dockerfile in the **tempdir**. This Dockerfile will be used to build the container.

a. You need Python running in the container, so add the Docker **FROM** command to install Python in the container.

echo "FROM python" >> tempdir/Dockerfile

b. Your **sample_app.py** script needs Flask, so add the Docker **RUN** command to install Flask in the container.

echo "RUN pip install flask" >> tempdir/Dockerfile

c. Your container will need the website folders and the sample_app.py script to run the app, so add the Docker COPY commands to add them to a directory in the Docker container. In this example, you will create /home/myapp as the parent directory inside the Docker container. Besides copying the sample_app.py file to the Dockerfile, you will also be copying the index.html file from the templates directory and the style.css file from the static directory.

echo "COPY ./static /home/myapp/static/" >> tempdir/Dockerfile
echo "COPY ./templates /home/myapp/templates/" >> tempdir/Dockerfile
echo "COPY sample app.py /home/myapp/" >> tempdir/Dockerfile

d. Use the Docker EXPOSE command to expose port 8080 for use by the webserver.

echo "EXPOSE 8080" >> tempdir/Dockerfile

e. Finally, add the Docker CMD command to execute the Python script.

echo "CMD python3 /home/myapp/sample app.py" >> tempdir/Dockerfile

Step 4: Build the Docker container.

Add the commands to the **sample-app.sh** file to switch to the **tempdir** directory and build the Docker container. The **docker build** command **-t** option allows you to specify the name of the container and the trailing period (.) indicates that you want the container built in the current directory.

```
cd tempdir
docker build -t sampleapp .
```

Step 5: Start the container and verify it is running.

a. Add the docker run command to the sample-app.sh file to start the container.

```
docker run -t -d -p 8080:8080 --name samplerunning sampleapp
```

The docker run options indicate the following:

- **-t** specifies that you want a terminal created for the container so the you can access it at the command line.
- -d indicates that you want the container to run in the background and print the container ID when executing the docker ps -a command.
- -p specifies that you want to publish the container's internal port to the host. The first "8080" references the port for the app running in the docker container (our sampleapp). the second "8080" tells docker to use this port on the host. These values do not have to be the same. For example, an internal port 80 to external 800 (80:800).
- --name specifies first what you want to call the instance of the container (samplerunning) and then the container image that the instance will be based on (sampleapp). The instance name can be anything you want. However, the image name needs to match the container name you specified in the docker build command (sampleapp).
- b. Add the **docker ps -a** command to display all currently running Docker containers. This command will be the last one executed by the bash script.

docker ps -a

Step 6: Save your bash script.

Part 6: Build, Run, and Verify the Docker Container

In this part, you will execute bash script which will make the directories, copy over the files, create a Dockerfile, build the Docker container, run an instance of the Docker container, and display output from the **docker ps -a** command showing details of the container currently running. Then you will investigate the Docker container, stop the container from running, and remove the container.

Note: Be sure you stopped any other web server processes you may still have running from the previous parts of this lab.

Step 1: Execute the bash script.

Execute the bash script from the command line. You should see output similar to the following. After creating the **tempdir** directories, the script executes the commands to build the Docker container. Notice that Step 7/7 in the output executes the **sample_app.py** that creates the web server. Also, notice the container ID. You will see this in the Docker command prompt later in the lab.

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ bash ./sample-app.sh
Sending build context to Docker daemon 6.144kB
Step 1/7 : FROM python
latest: Pulling from library/python
90fe46dd8199: Pulling fs layer
```

```
35a4f1977689: Pulling fs layer
bbc37f14aded: Pull complete
74e27dc593d4: Pull complete
4352dcff7819: Pull complete
deb569b08de6: Pull complete
98fd06fa8c53: Pull complete
7b9cc4fdefe6: Pull complete
512732f32795: Pull complete
Digest: sha256:ad7fb5bb4770e08bf10a895ef64a300b288696a1557a6d02c8b6fba98984b86a
Status: Downloaded newer image for python:latest
---> 4f7cd4269fa9
Step 2/7 : RUN pip install flask
 ---> Running in 32d28026afea
Collecting flask
  Downloading Flask-1.1.2-py2.py3-none-any.whl (94 kB)
Collecting click>=5.1
  Downloading click-7.1.2-py2.py3-none-any.whl (82 kB)
Collecting Jinja2>=2.10.1
  Downloading Jinja2-2.11.2-py2.py3-none-any.whl (125 kB)
Collecting Werkzeug>=0.15
  Downloading Werkzeug-1.0.1-py2.py3-none-any.whl (298 kB)
Collecting itsdangerous>=0.24
  Downloading itsdangerous-1.1.0-py2.py3-none-any.whl (16 kB)
Collecting MarkupSafe>=0.23
  Downloading MarkupSafe-1.1.1-cp38-cp38-manylinux1 x86 64.whl (32 kB)
Installing collected packages: click, MarkupSafe, Jinja2, Werkzeug, itsdangerous,
flask
Successfully installed Jinja2-2.11.2 MarkupSafe-1.1.1 Werkzeug-1.0.1 click-7.1.2
flask-1.1.2 itsdangerous-1.1.0
Removing intermediate container 32d28026afea
---> 619aee23fd2a
Step 3/7 : COPY ./static /home/myapp/static/
 ---> 15fac1237eec
Step 4/7 : COPY ./templates /home/myapp/templates/
 ---> dc807b5cf615
Step 5/7 : COPY sample app.py /home/myapp/
---> d4035a63ae14
Step 6/7 : EXPOSE 8080
---> Running in 40c2d35aa29a
Removing intermediate container 40c2d35aa29a
 ---> eb789099a678
Step 7/7 : CMD python3 /home/myapp/sample_app.py
 ---> Running in 41982e2c6209
Removing intermediate container 41982e2c6209
---> a2588e9b0593
Successfully built a2588e9b0593
Successfully tagged sampleapp:latest
8953a95374ff8ebc203059897774465312acc8f0ed6abd98c4c2b04448a56ba5
CONTAINER ID
                    TMAGE
                                       COMMAND
                                                                 CREATED
STATUS
                        PORTS
                                                 NAMES
```

8953a95374ff sampleapp "/bin/sh -c 'python ..." 1 second ago Up Less than a second 0.0.0.0:8080->8080/tcp samplerunning devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app\$

Step 2: Investigate the running Docker container and the web app.

a. The creation of the **tempdir** directories is not shown in the output for the script. You could add **echo** commands to print out messages when they are successfully created. You can also verify they are there with the **Is** command. Remember, this directory has the files and folders used to build the container and launch the web app. It is not the container that was built.

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ ls tempdir/
Dockerfile sample_app.py static templates
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$
```

b. Notice the Dockerfile created by your bash script. Open this file to see how it looks in its final form without the **echo** commands.

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ cat tempdir/Dockerfile
FROM python
RUN pip install flask
COPY ./static /home/myapp/static/
COPY ./templates /home/myapp/templates/
COPY sample_app.py /home/myapp/
EXPOSE 8080
CMD python3 /home/myapp/sample app.py
```

c. The output for the **docker ps -a** command may be hard to read depending on the width of your terminal display. You can redirect it to a text file where you can view it better without word wrapping.

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ docker ps -a >> running.txt
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$
```

d. The Docker container creates its own IP address from a private network address space. Verify the web app is running and reporting the IP address. In a web browser at http://localhost:8080, you should see the message You are calling me from 172.17.0.1 formatted as H1 on a light steel blue background. You can also use the curl command, if you like.

e. By default, Docker uses the IPv4 172.17.0.0/16 subnet for container networking. (This address can be changed if necessary.) Enter the command **ip address** to display all the IP addresses used by your instance of the DEVASC VM. You should see the loopback address 127.0.0.1 that the web app used earlier in the lab and the new Docker interface with the IP address 172.17.0.1.

devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app\$ ip address

```
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group default qlen
1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
       valid lft forever preferred lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host
       valid lft forever preferred lft forever
<output omitted>
4: docker0: <BROADCAST, MULTICAST, UP, LOWER UP> mtu 1500 qdisc noqueue state UP group
default
    link/ether 02:42:c2:d1:8a:2d brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 172.17.0.1/16 brd 172.17.255.255 scope global docker0
       valid lft forever preferred lft forever
    inet6 fe80::42:c2ff:fed1:8a2d/64 scope link
       valid lft forever preferred lft forever
<output omitted>
```

Step 3: Access and explore the running container.

Remember that a Docker container is a way of encapsulating everything you need to run your application so that it can easily be deployed in a variety of environments--not just in your DEVASC VM.

a. To access the running container, enter the **docker exec -it** command specifying the name of the running container (samplerunning) and that you want a bash shell (/bin/bash). The -i option specifies that you want it to be interactive and the -t option specifies that you want terminal access. The prompt changes to root@containerID. Your container ID will be different than the one shown below. Notice the container ID matches the ID shown in the output from **docker ps -a**.

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ docker exec -it samplerunning
/bin/bash
```

root@8953a95374ff:/#

b. You are now in root access for the **samplerunning** Docker container. From here, you can use Linux commands to explore the Docker container. Enter **Is** to see the directory structure at the root level.

```
root@8953a95374ff:/# ls
bin dev home lib64 mnt proc run srv tmp var
boot etc lib media opt root sbin sys usr
root@8953a95374ff:/#
```

c. Recall that in your bash script, you added commands in the Dockerfile that copied your app directories and files to the **home/myapp** directory. Enter the **Is** command again for that folder to see your **sample_app.py** script and directories. To get a better understanding of what is included in your Docker container, you may wish to use the **Is** command to examine other directories such as /etc and /bin.

```
root@8953a95374ff:/# ls home/myapp/
sample_app.py static templates
root@8953a95374ff:/#
```

d. Exit the Docker container to return to the DEVASC VM command line.

```
root@8953a95374ff:/# exit
exit
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$
```

Step 4: Stop and remove the Docker container.

a. You can stop the Docker container with the **docker stop** command specifying the name of the running container. It will take a few seconds to clean up and cache the container. You can see that it still exists by entering the **docker ps -a** command. However, if you refresh the web page for http://localhost:8080, you will see the web app is no longer running.

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ docker stop samplerunning
samplerunning
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ docker ps -a
CONTAINER ID IMAGE COMMAND CREATED
STATUS PORTS NAMES
df034cb53e72 sampleapp "/bin/sh -c 'python ..." 49 minutes ago
Exited (137) 20 seconds ago samplerunning
```

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$
```

b. You can restart a stopped container with the **docker start** command. The container will immediately spin up.

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ docker start samplerunning
samplerunning
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$
```

c. To permanently remove the container, first stop it and then remove it with the **docker rm** command. You can always rebuild it again executing the **sample-app** program. Use the **docker ps -a** command to verify the container has been removed.

```
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ docker stop samplerunning
samplerunning
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ docker rm samplerunning
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$ docker ps -a
CONTAINER ID IMAGE COMMAND CREATED
STATUS PORTS NAMES
devasc@labvm:~/labs/devnet-src/sample-app$
```