

Polidea ✨

Airflow Summit 2020 - 14.07.2020

Production Docker Image



**for
Apache
Airflow**



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Airflow Summit 2020 - 14.07.2020

Production Container Image



for
**Apache
Airflow**

Hi!



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Apache Airflow:
PMC Member and Committer

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Airflow Summit:
Co-Organizer: Content (Lead)

@higrys



Intro



Intro

What questions will be answered?

- Context
 - What container images are and why there are important ?
- Status
 - How it looked like so far ?
 - How it is going to look like now ?
- Internals
 - What is in the image?
 - How we test the image?
- Usage
 - How to extend Airflow Image?
 - How to customize Airflow Image?
 - How you can use the Image?
- Future
 - What's next?



Intro

What this talk is NOT about?

- Basic container image knowledge
 - <https://docker-curriculum.com/>
- Details of CI container image of Airflow
 - <https://github.com/apache/airflow/blob/master/IMAGES.rst>
- Details of how Kubernetes Airflow integrate
 - “Airflow on Kubernetes” by Michael Hewitt
<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/airflowsummit/6>
- Details on deploying Airflow with the image



Intro

Who is the talk for?

- You want to deploy Airflow using container images
- You want to contribute to Airflow in Devops area
- You want to learn about best practices of using Airflow Containers
- You are a curious person that want to learn something new



Container Images

Context



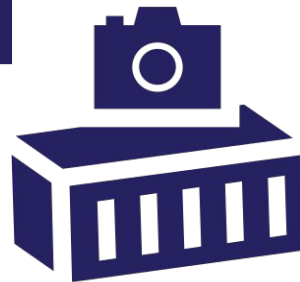
Context

What is a container ?

- **Standard** unit of software.
 - OCI: <https://opencontainers.org/>
- Packages code and its dependencies
- Lightweight execution package of software
- Container images - binary packages



Container



Container image

Container \neq Docker

- Docker is a command line tool
 - Building, Running, Sharing containers
- Docker Engine runs containers
- Alternatives: **rkt**, **containerd**, **runc**, **podman**, **lxc**, ...
- DockerHub.com is popular container registry
- Alternatives: GitHub, GCR, ECR, ACR



Container management CLI



Container execution engine



Container registry

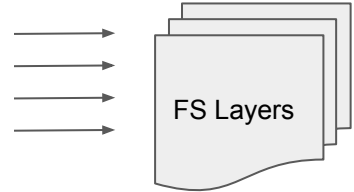




Context: What is Container file

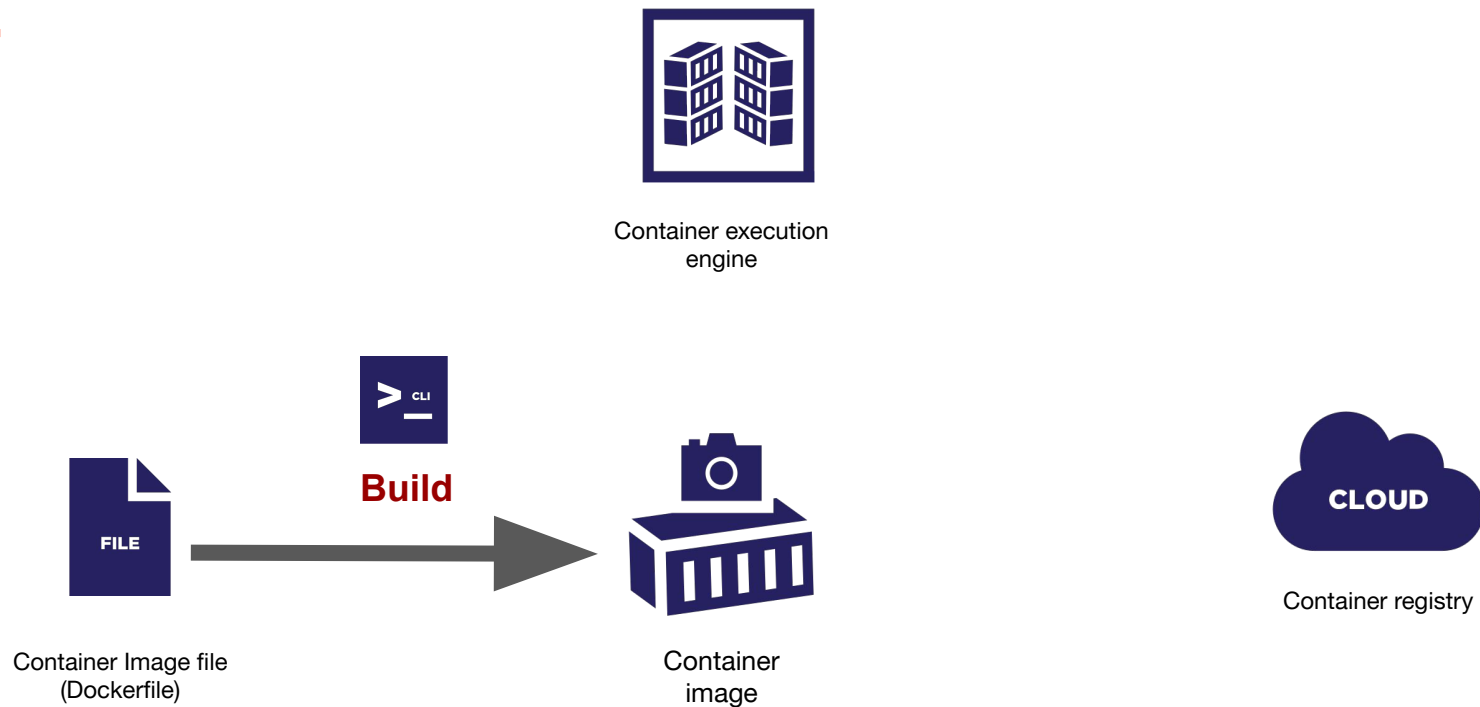
- Specify base image
- Run commands
- Copy files
- Set working directory
- Define entrypoint
- Define default command

```
FROM ubuntu:18.04
COPY . /app
RUN make /app && make install
WORKDIR /bin/project
ENTRYPOINT ["/bin/project"]
CMD ["--help"]
```



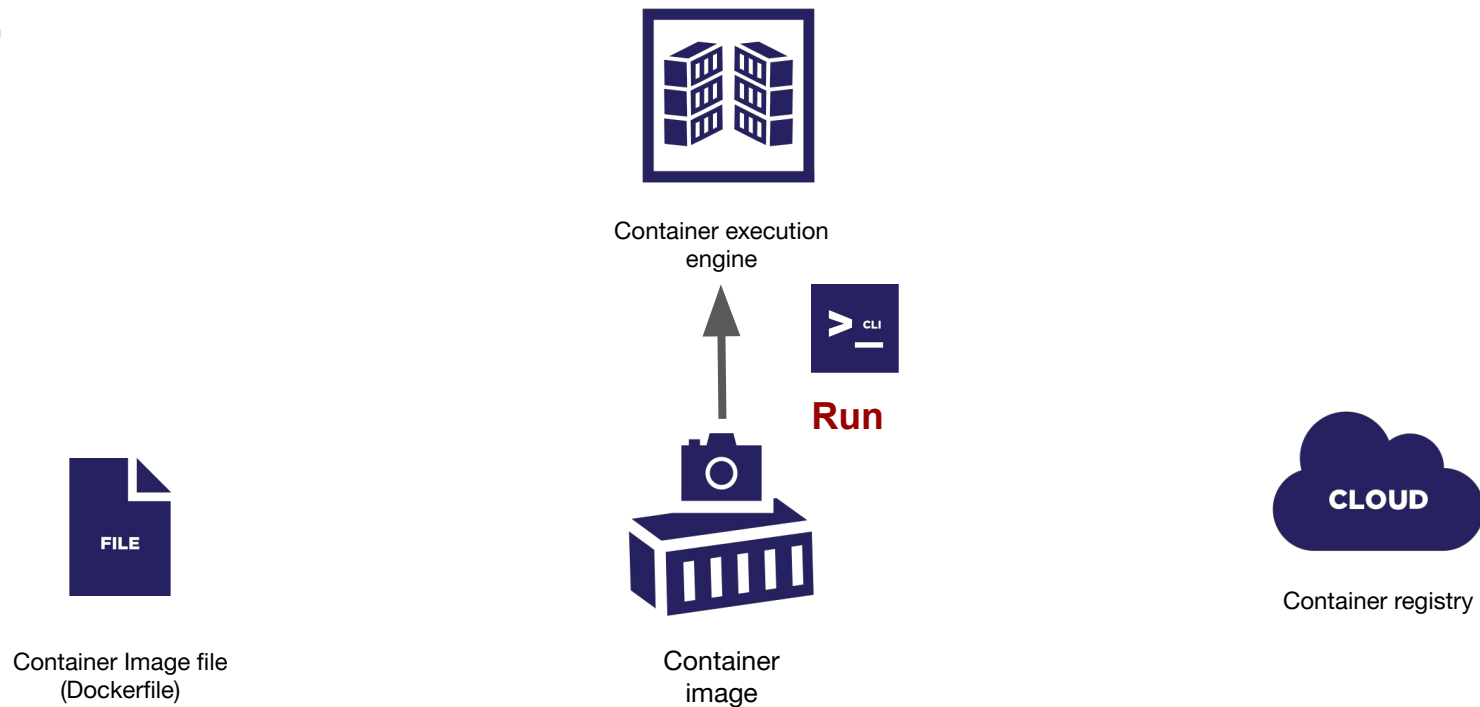


Context: Container Lifecycle: Build



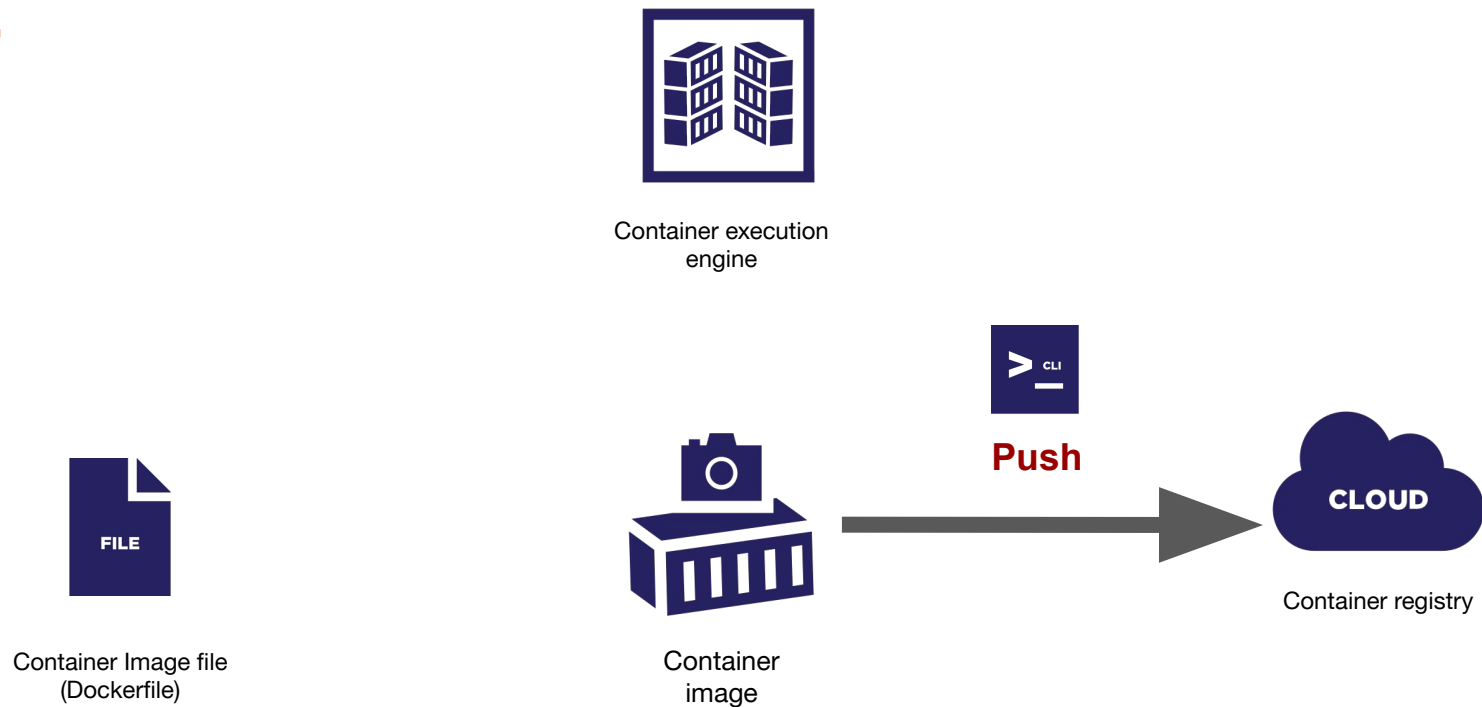


Context: Container Lifecycle: Run



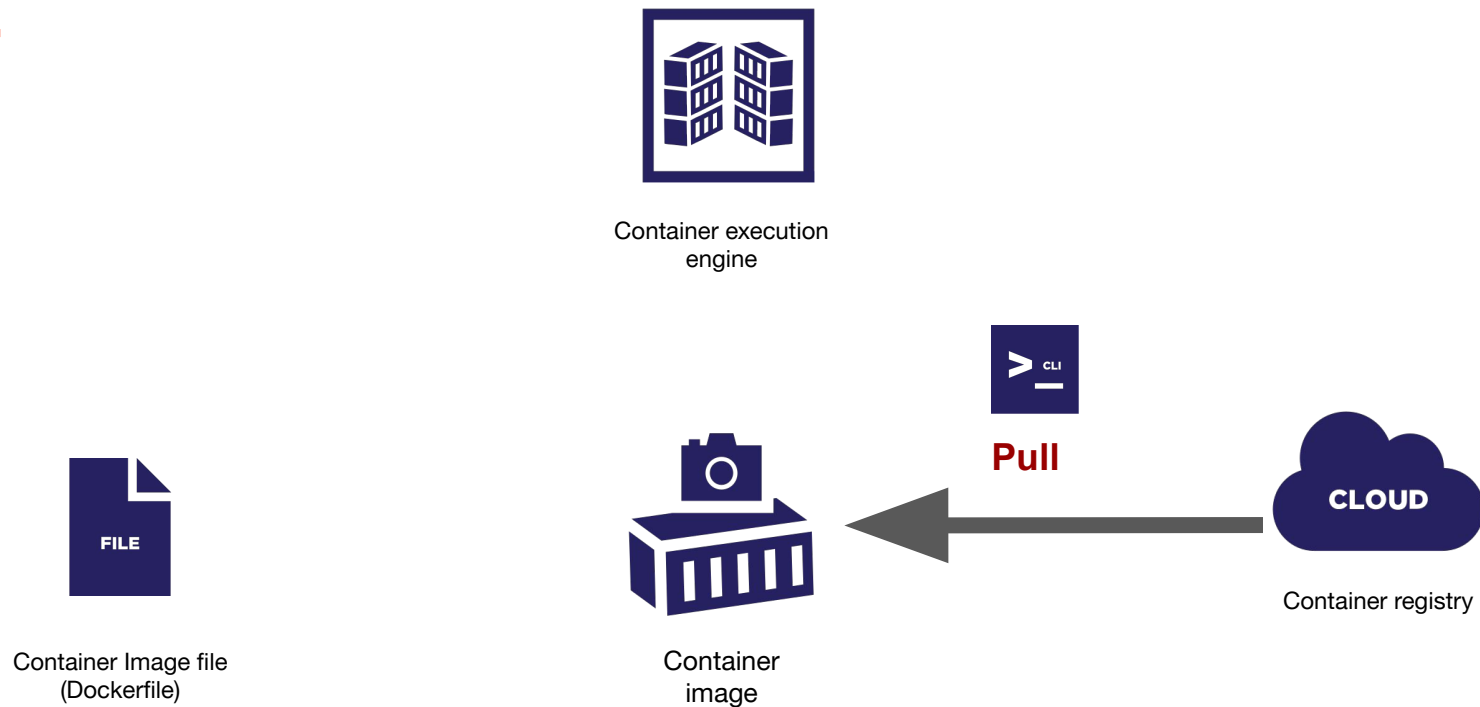


Context: Container Lifecycle: Push





Context: Container Lifecycle: Pull





Context

Why containers are important?

- Predictable, consistent development & test environment
- Predictable, consistent execution environment
- Lightweight but isolated: sandboxed view of the OS isolated from others
- Build once: run anywhere
- Kubernetes runs containers natively
- Bridge: “Development -> Operations”



Container Images

Status



Status

History of Containers in Airflow: CI

- Used for CI for > 2 years: Gerardo Curiel
- Optimized and incorporated by Breeze 1.5 years ago or so
- Docker Compose as execution engine
- Slimmed down recently (Thanks Ash!)
- Optimized for development use



Status

History of Containers in Airflow: Prod

- Puckel image created by Matthieu "Puckel_" Roisil (Thanks Matthieu!)
 - Used by many users in production
 - Used by the publicly available Helm Chart (not managed by community)
- Official Production Image (managed by community)
 - Alpha Quality community image in 1.10.10
 - Beta Quality community image in 1.10.11 (now!)



Status

State of the Official Production image

- Beta Quality - usable for production
- Most important feedback incorporated
- Already used in production
- Public Helm Chart switched to the Official Production Image
- Community Helm Chart (donated by Astronomer!) uses it for testing
- Stable version in v1-10-stable, development in master



Container Images

Internals

Internals: DockerHub releases

Released image

- ~ 210 MB compressed size
- Python: 2.7, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
- 1.10.11 = Python 3.6
- manually released
- using “1.10.11” tag
- latest = 1.10.11
- docker pull apache/airflow

The screenshot shows the DockerHub repository for `apache/airflow`. The `Tags` tab is selected, displaying a list of image tags. The first tag, `1.10.11`, is highlighted with a red box. Below it, the image details are shown, including the digest `5b43a4b820eb` and the compressed size `208.86 MB`. A red line connects this digest to the `latest` tag in the right-hand panel, indicating that `latest` points to `1.10.11`. Other tags like `1.10.11-python2.7`, `1.10.11-python3.5`, `1.10.11-python3.7`, and `1.10.11-python3.6` are also visible, each with their respective digests and sizes.

Image	Digest	OS/ARCH	Compressed Size
1.10.11	5b43a4b820eb	linux/amd64	208.86 MB
1.10.11-python2.7	015eaac4f0de	linux/amd64	213.38 MB
1.10.11-python3.5	d30b4d7a7020	linux/amd64	213.65 MB
1.10.11-python3.7	a0032be900db	linux/amd64	210.01 MB
1.10.11-python3.6	5b43a4b820eb	linux/amd64	208.86 MB

This screenshot shows the `latest` tag for the `apache/airflow` repository. The `latest` tag is highlighted with a red box, and its digest is `5b43a4b820eb`. The compressed size is `208.86 MB`. A red line connects this digest to the `1.10.11` tag in the left-hand panel, confirming that `latest` points to `1.10.11`.

Image	Digest	OS/ARCH	Compressed Size
latest	5b43a4b820eb	linux/amd64	208.86 MB



Container Image or Container File ?

- Apache Software Foundation releases sources, not binaries
- Binaries can only be released for convenience of users
- Binaries must be rebuildable from released sources (PyPI, for example)
- Users should be able to build the software they need
- Should we release Container Image, Container File, or both?



Features of the production image

- Optimised for size (Compressed: ~230MB, ~800 MB on disk)
- Python 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 (2.0 and 1.10.*) , 2.7, 3.5 (1.10.*)
- Extras installed:
 - `async`, `aws`, `azure`, `celery`, `dask`, `elasticsearch`, `gcp`, `kubernetes`,
`mysql`, `postgres`, `redis`, `slack`, `ssh`, `statsd`, `virtualenv`
- OpenShift compatible (dynamic uid allocation)
- Gunicorn using shared memory (optimised parallelism)



Features of the production image file

- Builds optimised image
- Highly customizable (ARGs)
- Multi segmented (build + main)



Internals: build image

Build image

- Pass arguments
- Define variables
- Install apt dependencies (with dev ones)
- Install airflow (sources, pip, github): --user
- Include constraints
- Transpile website (yarn)
- ~700 MB compressed, ~2GB on disk
- Root user

IMAGE

master-python3.6-build

Last updated 2 hours ago by apache

docker pull apache/airflow:master-python

DIGEST

175dc07099d3

OS/ARCH

linux/amd64

COMPRESSED SIZE

662.04 MB

```
ARG AIRFLOW_VERSION="2.0.0.dev0"
ARG AIRFLOW_EXTRAS="async,aws,azure,celery,dask,elasticsearch,gcp,kubernetes,mysql,postgres,redis,slack"
# ...
#####
# This is the build image where we build all dependencies
#####
FROM ${PYTHON_BASE_IMAGE} as airflow-build-image
ARG PYTHON_BASE_IMAGE
ENV PYTHON_BASE_IMAGE=${PYTHON_BASE_IMAGE}
# ...
RUN apt-get update \
    && apt-get install -y --no-install-recommends \
        apt-transport-https \
        apt-utils \
        build-essential \
        freetds-bin \
        freetds-dev \
# ...
    && apt-get autoremove -yqq --purge \
    && apt-get clean \
    && rm -rf "/var/lib/apt/lists/*"
# ...
RUN pip install --user \
    "https://github.com/${AIRFLOW_REPO}/archive/${AIRFLOW_BRANCH}.tar.gz#egg=apache-airflow[${AIRFLOW_EXTRAS}]" \
    --constraint \
    "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/${AIRFLOW_REPO}/${AIRFLOW_BRANCH}/requirements/requirements-python${PYTHON_MAJOR_MINOR_VERSION}.txt"
    && pip uninstall --yes apache-airflow;

ARG CONSTRAINT_REQUIREMENTS="requirements/requirements-python${PYTHON_MAJOR_MINOR_VERSION}.txt"
ENV CONSTRAINT_REQUIREMENTS=${CONSTRAINT_REQUIREMENTS}

WORKDIR /opt/airflow

# hadolint ignore=DL3020
ADD "${CONSTRAINT_REQUIREMENTS}" /requirements.txt

RUN pip install --user "${AIRFLOW_INSTALL_SOURCES}[${AIRFLOW_EXTRAS}][${AIRFLOW_INSTALL_VERSION}]" \
    --constraint /requirements.txt
# ...

RUN AIRFLOW_SITE_PACKAGE="/root/.local/lib/python${PYTHON_MAJOR_MINOR_VERSION}/site-packages/airflow"; \
    if [[ -f "${AIRFLOW_SITE_PACKAGE}/www_rbac/package.json" ]]; then \
        WWW_DIR="${AIRFLOW_SITE_PACKAGE}/www_rbac"; \
    elif [[ -f "${AIRFLOW_SITE_PACKAGE}/www/package.json" ]]; then \
        WWW_DIR="${AIRFLOW_SITE_PACKAGE}/www"; \
    fi; \
    if [[ ${WWW_DIR} != "" ]]; then \
        yarn --cwd "${WWW_DIR}" install --frozen-lockfile --no-cache; \
        yarn --cwd "${WWW_DIR}" run prod; \
        rm -rf "${WWW_DIR}/node_modules"; \
    fi
```

(side comment)

~ 730 modules
~ 360 MB

Internals: main image

Main image

- Pass arguments/ define variables
- Install apt dependencies (without dev!)
- Add user
- Uses root group (OpenShift)
- Copy(!) Airflow
- Copy DAGs (optionally)
- Copy entrypoint and clean-logs
- Access to /etc/passwd
- Embed dags (for tests)
- Optimized Gunicorn parallelism
- Set working dir
- Exposes port
- Set user
- Entrypoint and command
- ~230 MB compressed, ~800MB on disk

IMAGE

master-python3.6

Last updated 2 hours ago by apache

docker pull apache/airflow:master-python3

DIGEST

ba50cd9e3d4e

OS/ARCH

linux/amd64

COMPRESSED SIZE

231.56 MB

```
#####
# This is the actual Airflow image - much smaller than the build one. We copy
# installed Airflow and all it's dependencies from the build image to make it smaller.
#####

FROM ${PYTHON_BASE_IMAGE} as main
SHELL ["/bin/bash", "-o", "pipefail", "-e", "-u", "-x", "-c"]
# ...
ARG PYTHON_BASE_IMAGE
ENV PYTHON_BASE_IMAGE=${PYTHON_BASE_IMAGE}

#
RUN apt-get update \
    && apt-get install -y --no-install-recommends \
    apt-transport-https \
    apt-utils \
    ca-certificates \
    curl \

# ...
RUN addgroup --gid "${AIRFLOW_GID}" "airflow" && \
    adduser --quiet "airflow" --uid "${AIRFLOW_UID}" \
    --gid "${AIRFLOW_GID}" \
    --home "${AIRFLOW_USER_HOME_DIR}"

#
COPY --chown=airflow:root --from=airflow-build-image /root/.local "${AIRFLOW_USER_HOME_DIR}/.local"
#
COPY scripts/prod/entrypoint_prod.sh /entrypoint
COPY scripts/prod/clean-logs.sh /clean-logs

ARG EMBEDDED_DAGS="empty"
COPY --chown=airflow:root ${EMBEDDED_DAGS}/${AIRFLOW_HOME}/dags/

# Make /etc/passwd root-group-writeable so that user can be dynamically added by OpenShift
# See https://github.com/apache/airflow/issues/9248
RUN chmod g=u /etc/passwd

ENV PATH="${AIRFLOW_USER_HOME_DIR}/.local/bin:${PATH}"
ENV GUNICORN_CMD_ARGS="--worker-tmp-dir /dev/shm"

WORKDIR ${AIRFLOW_HOME}

EXPOSE 8080

USER ${AIRFLOW_UID}

ENTRYPOINT ["/usr/bin/dumb-init", "--", "/entrypoint"]
CMD ["--help"]
```



Internals: entryptoint

- Creates user dynamically if missing (OpenShift)
- Falls back to sqlite metadata
- Waits until metadata DB is up
- Waits until broker DB is up
- If “bash” or “python” -> runs command
- Else execute airflow command

```
# In case the user is not locally created we automatically create it in /etc/passwd
# This is to handle OpenShift case where random UIDs are used
if ! whoami &> /dev/null; then
  if [[ -w /etc/passwd ]]; then
    echo "${USER_NAME:-default}:x:${id -u}:0:${USER_NAME:-default} user:${AIRFLOW_USER_HOME_DIR}:/sbin/nologin" \
      >> /etc/passwd
  fi
  export HOME="${AIRFLOW_USER_HOME_DIR}"
fi

# if no DB configured - use sqlite db by default
AIRFLOW__CORE__SQL_ALCHEMY_CONN="${AIRFLOW__CORE__SQL_ALCHEMY_CONN:=sqlite:///${AIRFLOW_HOME}/airflow.db}"

verify_db_connection "${AIRFLOW__CORE__SQL_ALCHEMY_CONN}"

AIRFLOW__CELERY__BROKER_URL=${AIRFLOW__CELERY__BROKER_URL:=}

if [[ -n ${AIRFLOW__CELERY__BROKER_URL} ]] && \
  [[ ${AIRFLOW_COMMAND} =~ ^(scheduler|worker|flower)$ ]]; then
  verify_db_connection "${AIRFLOW__CELERY__BROKER_URL}"
fi

if [[ ${AIRFLOW_COMMAND} == "bash" ]]; then
  shift
  exec "/bin/bash" "$@"
elif [[ ${AIRFLOW_COMMAND} == "python" ]]; then
  shift
  exec "python" "$@"
fi

# Run the command
exec airflow "$@"
```



Internals: .dockerignore

- Ignores everything by default
- You must explicitly include what you want by “!”
- You can further exclude specific subdirectories/patterns
- We generate a lot of stuff in airflow sources
- Sending big context to Docker engine takes time
- You avoid accidental inclusion of unneeded artifacts

```
# NOTE! This docker ignore uses recommended technique
# Where everything is excluded by default and you deliberately
# Add only those directories/files you need. This is very useful
# To make sure that Docker context is always the same on any machine
# So that generated files are not accidentally added to the context
# This allows Docker's 'COPY .' to behave in predictable way
```

```
# Ignore everything
**
```

```
# Allow only these directories
!airflow
!common
!dags
!dev
!docs
!licenses
!metastore_browser
!scripts
!tests
```

```
#...
```

```
# Now - ignore unnecessary files inside allowed directories
# This goes after the allowed directories

# Git version is dynamically generated
airflow/git_version

# Exclude static www files generated by NPM
airflow/www/static/coverage
airflow/www/static/dist
airflow/www/node_modules
# Exclude static www_rbac files generated by NPM in v1-10-test
airflow/www_rbac/static/coverage
airflow/www_rbac/static/dist
airflow/www_rbac/node_modules

# Exclude link to docs
airflow/www/static/docs

# Exclude python generated files
**/_pycache_*/
**/*.py[cod]
**/*$Py.class
**/.pytest_cache/
**/env/
```



How we test the image ?

- The image and chart are part of Apache Airflow monorepo
- We build the image with every PR (dependencies)
- We use it in the Kubernetes tests for master (Helm Chart integration)
- We will use released images in the Helm Chart (backward compatibility)
- We will add more tests for various Helm configurations



Container Images

Usage



Usage: Extending Airflow image - use released image

```
docker build . -t yourcompany/airflow:1.10.11-BUILD_ID
```

FILE

```
FROM apache/airflow:1.10.11
```

```
# change to root user temporarily
```

```
USER root
```

```
# Optionally install your own apt dependencies
```

```
RUN apt-get update \
```

```
&& apt-get install -y --no-install-recommends \
```

```
emacs \
```

```
&& apt-get autoremove -yqq --purge \
```

```
&& apt-get clean \
```

```
&& rm -rf "/var/lib/apt/lists/*"
```

```
# Change back to the airflow user
```

```
USER airflow
```

```
# Add extra dependencies
```

```
RUN pip install --user numpy
```

```
# Embed DAGs (Optionally) - DAGs can be baked in but also
```

```
# they can be git-synced or mounted from shared volume
```

```
COPY --chown=airflow:root dags-folder ${AIRFLOW_HOME}/dags/
```

apache/airflow:1.10.11



Container registry



Container image

yourcompany/airflow:1.10.11-BUILD_ID



Extending image - Pros & Cons

Pros

- Use released images
- Simple build command
- Own Dockerfile
- No need for Airflow sources

Cons

- Potentially bigger size
- Predefined extras only
- Installs limited set of python dependencies



Usage: Customising Airflow image - default docker build

```
git clone git@github.com:apache/airflow.git  
  
cd airflow  
  
git checkout v1-10-stable
```



```
docker build .
```



Container
image

Same as apache/airflow:1.10.11

- Python 3.6
- Default extras
- No additional dependencies



Usage: Customising Airflow image - use build args

- Installs from PyPi ==1.10.11
- Additional airflow extras, dev, runtime deps ...
- Does not use local sources (can be run from master including entrypoint!)

```
docker build . \
  --build-arg PYTHON_BASE_IMAGE="python:3.7-slim-buster" \
  --build-arg PYTHON_MAJOR_MINOR_VERSION=3.7 \
  --build-arg AIRFLOW_INSTALL_SOURCES="apache-airflow" \
  --build-arg AIRFLOW_INSTALL_VERSION=="1.10.11" \
  --build-arg CONSTRAINT_REQUIREMENTS=\
  "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/apache/airflow/1.10.11/requirements/requirements-python3.7.txt" \
  --build-arg AIRFLOW_SOURCES_FROM="empty" \
  --build-arg AIRFLOW_SOURCES_TO="/empty" \
  --build-arg ADDITIONAL_AIRFLOW_EXTRAS="jdbc" \
  --build-arg ADDITIONAL_DEV_DEPS="gcc g++" \
  --build-arg ADDITIONAL_RUNTIME_DEPS="default-jre-headless"
```



Usage: Image Customization options

- Choose Base image (python)
- Install Airflow from PyPI
- Install from GitHub branch/tag
- Install additional extras
- Install additional python deps
- Install additional apt dev deps
- Install additional apt runtime deps
- Choose different UID/GID
- Choose different AIRFLOW_HOME
- Choose different HOME dir
- Build Cassandra driver concurrently

See IMAGES.rst in the Airflow repo.

The following build arguments (`--build-arg` in docker build command) can be used for production images:

Build argument	Default value	Description
<code>PYTHON_BASE_IMAGE</code>	<code>python:3.6-slim-buster</code>	Base python image
<code>PYTHON_MAJOR_MINOR_VERSION</code>	<code>3.6</code>	major/minor version of Python (should match base image)
<code>AIRFLOW_VERSION</code>	<code>2.0.0.dev0</code>	version of Airflow
<code>AIRFLOW_ORG</code>	<code>apache</code>	Github organisation from which Airflow is installed (when installed from repo)
<code>AIRFLOW_REPO</code>	<code>apache/airflow</code>	the repository from which PIP dependencies are pre-installed
<code>AIRFLOW_BRANCH</code>	<code>master</code>	the branch from which PIP dependencies are pre-installed
<code>AIRFLOW_GIT_REFERENCE</code>	<code>master</code>	reference (branch or tag) from Github repository from which Airflow is installed (when installed from repo)
<code>REQUIREMENTS_GIT_REFERENCE</code>	<code>master</code>	reference (branch or tag) from Github repository from which requirements are downloaded for constraints (when installed from repo).
<code>AIRFLOW_EXTRAS</code>	(see Dockerfile)	Default extras with which airflow is installed
<code>ADDITIONAL_AIRFLOW_EXTRAS</code>		Optional additional extras with which airflow is installed
<code>ADDITIONAL_PYTHON_DEPS</code>		Optional python packages to extend the image with some extra dependencies
<code>ADDITIONAL_DEV_DEPS</code>		additional apt dev dependencies to install
<code>ADDITIONAL_RUNTIME_DEPS</code>		additional apt runtime dependencies to install
<code>EMBEDDED_DAGS</code>	<code>empty</code>	Folder containing dags embedded into the image in the <code>\$(AIRFLOW_HOME)/dags</code> dir
<code>AIRFLOW_HOME</code>	<code>/opt/airflow</code>	Airflow's HOME (that's where logs and sqlite databases are stored)
<code>AIRFLOW_UID</code>	<code>50000</code>	Airflow user UID
<code>AIRFLOW_GID</code>	<code>50000</code>	Airflow group GID. Note that most files created on behalf of airflow user belong to the <code>root</code> group (0) to keep OpenShift Guidelines compatibility
<code>AIRFLOW_USER_HOME_DIR</code>	<code>/home/airflow</code>	Home directory of the Airflow user
<code>PIP_VERSION</code>	<code>19.0.2</code>	version of PIP to use
<code>CASS_DRIVER_BUILD_CONCURRENCY</code>	<code>8</code>	Number of processors to use for cassandra PIP install (speeds up installing in case cassandra extra is used).



Usage: It's a Breeze to build images

- Breeze - development and test environment
- Supports building production image
- Auto-complete of options
- New Breeze video showing building production images:
<https://s.apache.org/airflow-breeze>
- `./breeze build-image --help`

See BREEZE.rst in the Airflow repo

```
./breeze build-image --production-image --additional-extras "jira"
```

```
./breeze build-image --production-image --python 3.7 \  
--additional-extras "jira"
```

```
./breeze build-image --production-image \  
--additional-python-deps "torchio==0.17.10"
```

```
./breeze build-image --production-image \  
--additional-dev-deps "libasound2-dev" \  
--additional-runtime-deps "libasound2"
```

```
./breeze build-image --production-image \  
--additional-extras "jira" --install-airflow-version="1.10.11"
```



Customising image - Pros & Cons

Pros

- Highly optimized for size
- Build image from sources
(security reviews!)
- Can add any extras
- Can add any dependency
- Breeze build commands
- Works from master and 1.10.*

Cons

- Need access to airflow sources
- Complex build command
- Need to understand internals



Why not eat and have cake ?

```
git clone git@github.com:apache/airflow.git  
  
cd airflow  
  
git checkout v1-10-stable
```



```
./breze build-image --production-image --additional-extras "jira" \  
--install-airflow-version "1.10.11"
```



When dependencies
change

base-image-for-your-company:1.10.11-2020-07-14



Base
Container
image

```
FROM base-image-for-your-company:1.10.11-2020-07-14  
  
COPY --chown airflow:root dags-folder "${AIRFLOW_HOME}/dags"
```



When DAGs
change



Runtime
Container
image



Usage

How to deploy the images ?

- Docker and Docker-Compose - not recommended for production
- Managed Container Services
 - Managed: Amazon ECS, Google Container on VMs, Azure Container Instances
- Kubernetes on-Prem:
 - Helm Chart
 - Airflow Operator (not recommended yet)
- Managed Kubernetes: Amazon EKS, Google GKE, Azure AKS
- OpenShift (also Kubernetes)



Container Images

Future

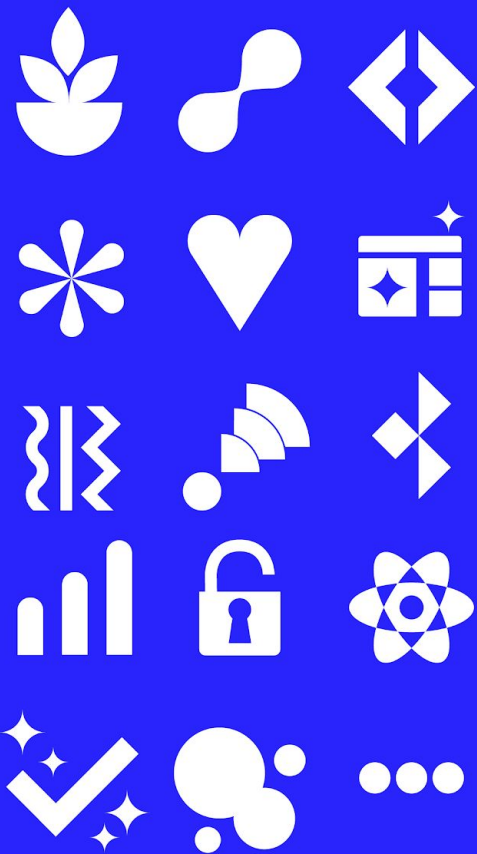


Future

What is the future for Airflow images?

- It won't change too much !
- Better automated testing via Helm Chart
- Automated releases for 2.0
- ARM support might be the big one. (Apple Mac OS)
- Official Docker Compose
- Smaller features (depends on feedback and expectations):
 - ON BUILD support ?
 - AIRFLOW__CORE__SQL_ALCHEMY_CONN_CMD, AIRFLOW__CELERY__BROKER_URL_CMD support ?
 - Automated user creation ?

Q&A



Thanks!

Polidea[★]

hello@polidea.com

Be     