

Docker Init: Initialize Dockerfiles and Compose files with a single CLI command

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Docker has revolutionized the way developers build, package, and deploy their applications. Docker containers provide a lightweight, portable, and consistent runtime environment that can run on any infrastructure. And now, the Docker team has developed `docker init`, a new command-line interface (CLI) command introduced as a beta feature that simplifies the process of adding Docker to a project (Figure 1).



Docker Init

Note: Docker Init should not be confused with the internally -used `docker -init` executable, which is invoked by Docker when utilizing the `-init` flag with the `docker run` command.

```
Command Prompt
C:\Users\Marc\Containers\example>dir
Volume in drive C is Windows
Volume Serial Number is EA1E-04EA

Directory of C:\Users\Marc\Containers\example

2023-04-06  03:19 PM    <DIR>          .
2023-04-06  03:06 PM    <DIR>          ..
2023-04-06  03:06 PM    <DIR>          appengine-hello
2023-04-06  03:06 PM                105 go.mod
2023-04-06  03:06 PM             2,476 go.sum
2023-04-06  03:06 PM    <DIR>          gotypes
2023-04-06  03:06 PM    <DIR>          hello
2023-04-06  03:06 PM             11,560 LICENSE
2023-04-06  03:06 PM    <DIR>          outyet
2023-04-06  03:06 PM             2,675 README.md
2023-04-06  03:06 PM    <DIR>          stringutil
2023-04-06  03:06 PM    <DIR>          template
                4 File(s)      16,816 bytes
                8 Dir(s)  361,213,669,376 bytes free

C:\Users\Marc\Containers\example>
```

```
Command Prompt
C:\Users\Marc\Containers\example>dir
Volume in drive C is Windows
Volume Serial Number is EA1E-04EA

Directory of C:\Users\Marc\Containers\example

2023-04-06 03:21 PM <DIR>      .
2023-04-06 03:06 PM <DIR>      ..
2023-04-06 03:21 PM             614 .dockerignore
2023-04-06 03:06 PM <DIR>      appengine-hello
2023-04-06 03:21 PM             1,657 docker-compose.yaml
2023-04-06 03:21 PM             2,869 Dockerfile
2023-04-06 03:06 PM             105 go.mod
2023-04-06 03:06 PM             2,476 go.sum
2023-04-06 03:06 PM <DIR>      gotypes
2023-04-06 03:06 PM <DIR>      hello
2023-04-06 03:06 PM             11,560 LICENSE
2023-04-06 03:06 PM <DIR>      outyet
2023-04-06 03:06 PM             2,675 README.md
2023-04-06 03:06 PM <DIR>      stringutil
2023-04-06 03:06 PM <DIR>      template
                7 File(s)      21,956 bytes
                8 Dir(s)  361,198,370,816 bytes free

C:\Users\Marc\Containers\example>
```

Figure 1: With one command, all required Docker files are created and added to your project.

Create assets automatically

The new `docker init` command automates the creation of necessary Docker assets, such as Dockerfiles, Compose files, and `.dockerignore` files, based on the characteristics of the project. By executing the `docker init` command, developers can quickly containerize their projects. Docker init is a valuable tool for developers who want to experiment with Docker, learn about containerization, or integrate Docker into their existing projects.

To use `docker init`, developers need to upgrade to the version 4.19.0 or later of Docker Desktop and execute the command in the target project folder. Docker init will detect the project definitions, and it will automatically generate the necessary files to run the project in Docker.

The current Beta release of `docker init` supports Go, Node, and Python, and our development team is actively working to extend support for additional languages and frameworks, including Java, Rust, and .NET. If there is a language or stack that you would like to see added or if you have other feedback about `docker init`, let us know [through our Google form](#).

In conclusion, `docker init` is a valuable tool for developers who want to simplify the process of adding Docker support to their projects. It automates the creation of necessary Docker assets and can help standardize the creation of Docker assets across different projects. By enabling developers to focus on developing their applications and reducing the risk of errors and inconsistencies, Docker init can help accelerate the adoption of Docker and containerization.

See Docker Init in action

To see `docker init` in action, check out the following overview video by [Francesco Ciulla](#), which demonstrates building the required Docker assets to your project.

Check out [the documentation](#) to learn more.