
Portainer Documentation

Release 1.11.2

Portainer.io

January 26, 2017

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Portainer is a simple management solution for Docker.

It consists of a web UI that allows you to easily manage your Docker containers, images, networks and volumes.

Contents:

Deployment

Portainer is built to run on Docker and is really simple to deploy.

Portainer deployment scenarios can be executed on any platform unless specified.

1.1 Quick start

Deploying Portainer is as simple as:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 portainer/portainer
```

Voilà, you can now access Portainer by pointing your web browser at `http://DOCKER_HOST:9000`

Ensure you replace `DOCKER_HOST` with address of your Docker host where Portainer is running.

You'll then be prompted to specify a new password for the `admin` account. After specifying your password, you'll then be able to connect to the Portainer UI.

1.2 Manage a new endpoint

After your first authentication, Portainer will ask you information about the Docker endpoint you want to manage.

You'll have the following choices:

- **Not available for Windows Containers (Windows Server 2016)** - Manage the local engine where Portainer is running (you'll need to bind mount the Docker socket via `-v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock` on the Docker CLI when running Portainer)
- Manage a remote Docker engine, you'll just have to specify the url to your Docker endpoint, give it a name and TLS info if needed

1.3 Declare initial endpoint via CLI

You can specify the initial endpoint you want Portainer to manage via the CLI, use the `-H` flag and the `tcp://` protocol to connect to a remote Docker endpoint:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 portainer/portainer -H tcp://<REMOTE_HOST>:<REMOTE_PORT>
```

Ensure you replace `REMOTE_HOST` and `REMOTE_PORT` with the address/port of the Docker engine you want to manage.

You can also bind mount the Docker socket to manage a local Docker engine (**not available for Windows Containers (Windows Server 2016)**):

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 -v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock portainer/portainer
```

Note: If your host is using SELinux, you'll need to pass the `--privileged` flag to the Docker run command:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 --privileged -v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock portainer/portainer
```

1.4 Connect to a Swarm cluster

Portainer will automatically detect if your endpoint is part of a Swarm cluster (either Docker Swarm or Swarm mode).

Note: Ensure you connect to either a *primary* node when connecting to a Docker Swarm cluster or a *manager* node when connecting to a cluster created with Docker swarm mode.

As simple as:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 portainer/portainer -H tcp://<SWARM_MANAGER_IP>:2375
```

Alternatively, if you're using swarm mode, you can also deploy it as a service in your cluster:

```
$ docker service create \
  --name portainer \
  --publish 9000:9000 \
  --constraint 'node.role == manager' \
  --mount type=bind,src=/var/run/docker.sock,dst=/var/run/docker.sock \
  portainer/portainer \
  -H unix:///var/run/docker.sock
```

1.5 Connect to a Docker engine with TLS enabled

If your Docker engine is protected using TLS, you'll need to ensure that you have access to CA, the certificate and the public key used to access your Docker engine.

You can upload the required files via the Portainer UI or use the `--tlsverify` flag on the CLI.

Portainer will try to use the following paths to the files specified previously (on Linux, see the configuration section for details about Windows):

- CA: `/certs/ca.pem`
- certificate: `/certs/cert.pem`
- public key: `/certs/key.pem`

You must ensure these files are present in the container using a bind mount:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 -v /path/to/certs:/certs portainer/portainer -H tcp://<DOCKER_HOST>:<DO
```

You can also use the `--tlscacert`, `--tlscert` and `--tlskey` flags if you want to change the default path to the CA, certificate and key file respectively:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 -v /path/to/certs:/certs portainer/portainer -H tcp://<DOCKER_HOST>:<DO
```


1.6 Persist Portainer data

By default, Portainer will store its data inside the container in the `/data` folder on Linux (`C:data` on Windows, this can be changed via CLI, see configuration).

You'll need to persist Portainer data to keep your changes after restart/upgrade of the Portainer container. You can use a bind mount to persist the data on the Docker host folder:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 -v /path/on/host/data:/data portainer/portainer
```

On Windows:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 -v C:\ProgramData\Portainer:C:\data portainer/portainer:windows
```

1.7 Without Docker

Portainer binaries are available on each release page: [Portainer releases](#)

Download and extract the binary to a location on disk:

```
$ cd /opt
$ wget https://github.com/portainer/portainer/releases/download/1.11.2/portainer-1.11.2-linux-amd64.tgz
$ tar xvpfz portainer-1.11.2-linux-amd64.tar.gz
```

Then just use the portainer binary as you would use CLI flags with Docker.

```
$ cd /opt/portainer
$ ./portainer -H tcp://DOCKER_HOST:DOCKER_PORT
```

You can use the `-p` flag to serve Portainer on another port:

```
$ ./portainer -H tcp://DOCKER_HOST:DOCKER_PORT -p 8080
```

Configuration

Portainer can be easily tuned using CLI flags.

2.1 Hiding specific containers

Portainer allows you to hide containers with a specific label by using the `-l` flag.

For example, take a container started with the label `owner=acme` (note that this is an example label, you can define your own labels):

```
$ docker run -d --label owner=acme nginx
```

To hide this container, simply add the `-l owner=acme` option on the CLI when starting Portainer:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 -v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock portainer/portainer -l owner=acme
```

Note that the `-l` flag can be repeated multiple times to specify multiple labels:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 -v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock portainer/portainer -l owner=acme -l owner=nginx
```

2.2 Use your own logo

You do not like our logo? Want to make Portainer more corporate? Don't worry, you can easily switch for an external logo using the `--logo` flag:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 -v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock portainer/portainer --logo /path/to/logo.png
```

2.3 Use your own templates

Portainer allows you to rapidly deploy containers using App Templates.

By default [Portainer templates](#) will be used but you can also define your own templates.

Add the `--templates` flag and specify the external location of your templates when starting Portainer:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 -v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock portainer/portainer --templates /path/to/templates
```

For more information about hosting your own template definitions see [Templates](#)

2.4 Available flags

The following CLI flags are available:

- `--host, -H`: Docker daemon endpoint
- `--bind, -p`: Address and port to serve Portainer (default: `:9000`)
- `--data, -d`: Directory where Portainer data will be stored (default: `/data` on Linux, `C:\ProgramData\Portainer` on Windows)
- `--tlsverify`: TLS support (default: `false`)
- `--tlscacert`: Path to the CA (default: `/certs/ca.pem` on Linux, `C:\ProgramData\Portainer\certs\ca.pem` on Windows)
- `--tlscert`: Path to the TLS certificate file (default: `/certs/cert.pem`, `C:\ProgramData\Portainer\certs\cert.pem` on Windows)
- `--tlskey`: Path to the TLS key (default: `/certs/key.pem`, `C:\ProgramData\Portainer\certs\key.pem` on Windows)
- `--hide-label, -l`: Hide containers with a specific label in the UI
- `--logo`: URL to a picture to be displayed as a logo in the UI, use Portainer logo if not specified
- `--templates, -t`: URL to templates (apps) definitions (default: `https://raw.githubusercontent.com/portainer/templates/master/templates.json`)

Templates

Template definitions are written in JSON.

It must consist of an array with every template definition consisting of one element.

3.1 Template definition format

A template element must be a valid *JSON* object.

Example:

```
{
  "title": "Nginx",
  "description": "High performance web server",
  "logo": "https://cloudinovasi.id/assets/img/logos/nginx.png",
  "image": "nginx:latest",
  "ports": [
    "80/tcp",
    "443/tcp"
  ]
}
```

It is composed of multiple fields, some mandatory and some optionals.

3.1.1 title

Title of the template.

This field is **mandatory**.

3.1.2 description

Description of the template.

This field is **mandatory**.

3.1.3 logo

URL of the template's logo.

This field is **mandatory**.

3.1.4 image

The Docker image associated to the template. The image tag **must** be included.

This field is **mandatory**.

3.1.5 registry

The registry where the Docker image is stored. If not specified, Portainer will use the Dockerhub as the default registry.

This field is **optional**.

3.1.6 env

A JSON array describing the environment variables required by the template. Each element in the array must be a valid JSON object.

An input will be generated in the templates view for each element in the array.

This field is **optional**.

Element format:

```
{
  "name": "the name of the environment variable, as supported in the container image (mandatory)",
  "label": "label for the input in the UI (mandatory)",
  "set": "pre-defined value for the variable, will not generate an input in the UI (optional)"
}
```

Example:

```
{
  "env": [
    {
      "name": "MYSQL_ROOT_PASSWORD",
      "label": "Root password"
    },
    {
      "name": "MYSQL_USER",
      "label": "MySQL user",
      "set": "myuser"
    },
    {
      "name": "MYSQL_PASSWORD",
      "label": "MySQL password",
      "set": "mypassword"
    }
  ]
}
```

3.1.7 volumes

A JSON array describing the associated volumes of the template. Each element in the array must be a valid JSON string.

For each element in the array, a Docker volume will be created and associated when starting the container.

This field is **optional**.

Example:

```
{
  "volumes": ["/var/lib/mysql", "/var/log/mysql"]
}
```

3.1.8 ports

A JSON array describing the ports exposed by template. Each element in the array must be a valid JSON string specifying the port number in the container and the protocol.

Each port will be automatically bound on the host by Docker when starting the container.

This field is **optional**.

Example:

```
{
  "ports": ["80/tcp", "443/tcp"]
}
```

3.2 Build and host your own templates

You can build your own container that will use [Nginx](#) to serve the templates definitions.

Clone the [Portainer templates repository](#), edit the templates file, build and run the container:

```
$ git clone https://github.com/portainer/templates.git portainer-templates
$ cd portainer-templates
# Edit the file templates.json
$ docker build -t portainer-templates .
$ docker run -d -p "8080:80" portainer-templates
```

Now you can access your templates definitions at `http://docker-host:8080/templates.json`.

You can also mount the `templates.json` file inside the container, so you can edit the file and see live changes:

```
$ docker run -d -p "8080:80" -v "${PWD}/templates.json:/usr/share/nginx/html/templates.json" portainer-templates
```


Use the following instructions and guidelines to contribute to the Portainer project.

4.1 Build Portainer locally

4.1.1 Requirements

Ensure you have [Docker](#), [Node.js](#) $\geq 0.8.4$ and [npm](#) installed locally.

4.1.2 Build

Checkout the project and go inside the root directory:

```
$ git checkout https://github.com/portainer/portainer.git
$ cd portainer
```

Install the dependencies using `npm`:

```
$ npm install
```

Note for CentOS users, you'll need to create a symlink to the `shasum` binary:

```
$ ln -s /usr/bin/shasum /usr/bin/shasum
```

Build the app locally:

```
$ grunt build
```

Start a live-reload process, the local application will be updated when you save your changes:

```
$ grunt run-dev
```

Access Portainer at <http://localhost:9000>

Do not forget to [lint](#) your code:

```
$ grunt lint
```

4.2 Contribution guidelines

Please follow the contribution guidelines on [the repository](#).

5.1 How can I configure my reverse proxy to serve Portainer?

Here is a working configuration for Nginx (tested on 1.11) to serve Portainer at *myhost.mydomain/portainer*:

```
upstream portainer {
    server ADDRESS:PORT;
}

server {
    listen 80;

    location /portainer/ {
        proxy_http_version 1.1;
        proxy_set_header Connection "";
        proxy_pass http://portainer/;
    }
    location /portainer/api/websocket/ {
        proxy_set_header Upgrade $http_upgrade;
        proxy_set_header Connection "upgrade";
        proxy_http_version 1.1;
        proxy_pass http://portainer/api/websocket/;
    }
}
```

Replace `ADDRESS:PORT` with the Portainer server/container details.

5.2 How can I configure my reverse proxy to serve Portainer using HAProxy?

Here is a working configuration for HAProxy to serve Portainer at *portainer.127.0.0.1.xip.io*:

```
global
    maxconn          10000
    daemon
    ssl-server-verify none
    tune.ssl.default-dh-param 2048

defaults
    mode http
```

```
log      global
option  httplog
option  dontlognull
option  http-server-close
option  forwardfor      except 127.0.0.0/8
option  redispatch
retries 30
timeout http-request    300s
timeout queue           1m
timeout connect         10s
timeout client          1m
timeout server          1m
timeout http-keep-alive 10s
timeout check           10s
maxconn 10000

userlist users
  group all
  group demo
  group haproxy

listen stats
  bind      *:2100
  mode      http
  stats     enable
  maxconn   10
  timeout  client 10s
  timeout  server 10s
  timeout  connect 10s
  timeout  queue 10s
  stats    hide-version
  stats    refresh 30s
  stats    show-node
  stats    realm Haproxy\ Statistics
  stats    uri /
  stats    admin if TRUE

frontend www-http
  bind      *:80
  stats     enable
  mode      http
  option    http-keep-alive

  acl portainer  hdr_end(host)  -i portainer.127.0.0.1.xip.io

  use_backend portainer      if portainer

backend portainer
  stats enable
  option forwardfor
  option http-keep-alive
  server portainer 127.0.0.1:9000 check
```

Note: http-keep-alive must be set for both frontend and backend

5.3 Exposed ports in the container view redirects me to 0.0.0.0, what can I do?

In order for Portainer to be able to redirect you to your Docker host IP address and not the 0.0.0.0 address, you will have to change the configuration of your Docker daemon and add the `--ip` option.

Have a look at the [Docker documentation](#) for more details.

Note that you will have to restart your Docker daemon for the changes to be taken in effect.

5.4 I restarted Portainer and lost all my data, why?

Portainer data is stored inside the Docker container. If you want to keep the data of your Portainer instance after reboot/upgrade, you'll need to persist the data. See [Deployment](#)

5.5 How can I use a custom CSS file to customize Portainer look?

A workaround can be used to specify your own *vendor.css* and *portainer.css* files. Simply bind mount the folder of your choice to the *css* folder inside the container:

```
$ docker run -d -p 9000:9000 -v <your-absolute-path>/css:/css/ portainer/portainer
```

5.6 I am getting the error “Your session has expired” on login and cannot login. What’s wrong?

When running Portainer inside a container, it will use your Docker engine system time to calculate the authentication token expiry time. A timedrift in your Docker system time might occur when using computer/VM hibernation. You need to ensure that your Docker engine system time is the same as your machine system time and if not, restart your Docker engine.

As simple way to check your Docker system time is to use `docker info` or if the information is not available `docker run busybox date`.