

11 Years of Docker: Shaping the Next Decade of Development



Scott Johnston

Eleven years ago, Solomon Hykes walked onto the stage at PyCon 2013 and revealed Docker to the world for the first time. The problem Docker was looking to solve? "Shipping code to the server is hard."

And the world of application software development changed forever.



Docker was built on the shoulders of giants of the Linux kernel, copy-on-write file systems, and developer-friendly git semantics. The result? Docker has fundamentally transformed how developers build, share, and run applications. By "dockerizing" an app and its dependencies into a standardized, open format, Docker dramatically lowered the friction between devs and ops, enabling devs to focus on their apps — what's inside the container — and ops to focus on deploying any app, anywhere — what's outside the container, in a standardized format. Furthermore, this standardized "unit of work" that abstracts the app from the underlying infrastructure enables an "inner loop" for developers of code, build, test, verify, and debug, which results in 13X more frequent releases of higher-quality, more secure updates.

The subsequent energy over the past 11 years from the ecosystem of developers, community, open source maintainers, partners, and customers cannot be understated, and we are so thankful and appreciative of your support. This has shown up in many ways, including the following:

- Ranked #1 "most-wanted" tool/platform by Stack Overflow's developer community for the past four years
- 26 million monthly active IPs accessing 15 million repos on Docker Hub, pulling them 25 billion times per month
- 17 million registered developers
- [Moby project](#) has 67.5k stars, 18.5k forks, and more than 2,200 contributors; [Docker Compose](#) has 32.1k stars and 5k forks
- A vibrant network of 70 Docker Captains across 25 countries serving 167 community meetup groups with more than 200k members and 4800 total meetups
- 79,000+ customers

The next decade

In our first decade, we changed how developers build, share, and run any app, anywhere — and we're only accelerating in our second!

Specifically, you'll see us double down on meeting development teams where they are to enable them to rapidly ship high-quality, secure apps via the following focus areas:

- **Dev Team Productivity.** First, we'll continue to help teams take advantage of the right

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tech for the right job — whether that’s Linux containers, Windows containers, serverless functions, and/or Wasm (Web Assembly) — with the tools they love and the skills they already possess. Second, by bringing together the best of local and the best of cloud, we’ll enable teams to discover and address issues even faster in the “inner loop,” as you’re already seeing today with our early efforts with Docker Scout, Docker Build Cloud, and Testcontainers Cloud.

- **GenAI.** This tech is ushering in a “golden age” for development teams, and we’re investing to help in two areas: First, our [GenAI Stack](#) — built through collaboration with partners Ollama, LangChain, and Neo4j — enables dev teams to quickly stand up secure, local GenAI-powered apps. Second, our [Docker AI](#) is uniquely informed by anonymized data from dev teams using Docker, which enables us to deliver automations that eliminate toil and reduce security risks.
- **Software Supply Chain.** The software supply chain is heterogeneous, extensive, and complex for dev teams to navigate and secure, and Docker will continue to help simplify, make more visible, and manage it end-to-end. Whether it’s the trusted content “building blocks” of Docker Official Images (DOI) in Docker Hub, the transformation of ingredients into runnable images via BuildKit, verifying and securing the dev environment with digital signatures and enhanced container isolation, consuming metadata feedback from running containers in production, or making the entire end-to-end supply chain visible and issues actionable in Docker Scout, Docker has it covered and helps make a more secure internet!

Dialing it past 11

While our first decade was fantastic, there’s so much more we can do together as a community to serve app development teams, and we couldn’t be more excited as our second decade together gets underway and we dial it past 11! If you haven’t already, won’t you join us today?!

How has Docker influenced your approach to software development? Share your experiences with the community and [join the conversation on LinkedIn](#).

Let’s build, share, and run — together!

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