Running Docker images using Shifter

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When you want to run Docker containers on the Fidis/Gacrux cluster

⚠️ Warning
We are still in beta phase. The installation will soon be improved with:
- automatic account creation on the registry

The present documentation will be updated once the registry has been modified.

Running a Docker image with Shifter - Step by step

ℹ️ Prerequisite
You need to have Docker installed on your machine

1. Get a docker image from dockerhub for instance

   ```
   $ docker pull alpine:latest
   $ docker images
   ```

2. Account on the c4science registry
   - Request an account
   - Change your password on https://registry.c4science.ch

3. Set up your machine
   - Login on the registry from your local Docker installation

   ```
   $ docker login registry.c4science.ch
   Username (username): username
   Password: 
   Login Succeeded
   ```

4. Upload a Docker image to the registry
   - On the web interface, create a Project on the registry (private or public)
   - Tag the image you want to upload on your local machine and push it to the registry

   ```
   $ docker tag alpine:latest registry.c4science.ch/yourproject/alpine:latest
   $ docker push registry.c4science.ch/yourproject/alpine:lates
   ```

5. Pull an image on Shifter and specify a user or group ACL
   - From a cluster frontend (i.e.: fidis.epfl.ch), login to the registry, pull the image and check it's was pulled OK

   ```
   $ shifterimg login
   default username: <username>
   default password:
   $ shifterimg pull yourproject/alpine:latest
   $ shifterimg images
   tcm   docker     READY   9797e5e798   2018-03-15T16:00:59 yourproject/alpine:latest
   ```

   - You can specify one or multiple (separated by a comma) LDAP username and/or group so the image is only available to those people
$ id
$ shifterimg --group scitas-ge --user aubort,user2 pull yourproject/alpin

- To update the user/group ACL you can re-run the pull command
- To view the full info about the images (warning: JSON):

$ shifterimg -v images
Message: {
    "list": [
        {
            "ENTRY": null,
            "ENV": [
                "PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin"
            ],
            "WORKDIR": "MISSING",
            "groupACL": [],
            "id": "9797e5e798a034d53525968de25bd25c913e7bb17c6d068ebc778cb33e3ff6e5",
            "itype": "docker",
            "last_pull": 1536842228.15727,
            "status": "READY",
            "status_message": "",
            "system": "fdata2-int.fidis",
            "tag": [
                "scitas/alpine:latest"
            ],
            "userACL": []
        }
    ]
}

6. Run the image

You can submit the following Slurm script with the `sbatch` command

```bash
#!/bin/bash -l
#SBATCH --nodes 1
#SBATCH --ntasks 1
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task 1
#SBATCH --mem 1024

srun shifter --image yourproject/alpine ls /etc
```

Interactive Shell (Bash)

To have an interactive shell within your image, simply use this:

```bash
$ srun --pty shifter --image yourproject/alpine bash
```

Using GPUs

On Deneb shifter runtime is installed on the GPU nodes. You need prior access to the GPUs nodes, see FAQ
[aubort@deneb1 ~]$ srun --gres gpu:1 --partition gpu --qos gpu shifter --image library/debian:stable-slim
nvidia-smi -L
GPU 0: Tesla K40m (UUID: GPU-21730043-7144-85e7-d251-7834adb2d1ee)

[aubort@deneb1 ~]$ srun --gres gpu:1 --partition gpu --qos gpu shifter --image library/nvidia-cuda:9.1-runtime
/home/aubort/gpu/cuda-samples/bin/x86_64/linux/release/simpleCUFFT
[simpleCUFFT] is starting...
GPU Device 0: "Tesla K40m" with compute capability 3.5

Temporary buffer size 448 bytes
Transforming signal cufftExecC2C
Launching ComplexPointwiseMulAndScale<<< >>>
Transforming signal back cufftExecC2C

FEEDBACK is welcome as this feature is experimental.

Related articles

- Running Docker images using Shifter
- FAQ
- Using the clusters
- How to use Tensorflow on the GPU nodes
- Running R on SCITAS machines