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r/docker • 7 yr. ago

tiredofitdotca



Starting Containers in Specific Order after Reboot?

We have approximately 100 containers per host and run into some problems during reboots because of a container that needs to start before the others.

The container in question is Tinc, a VPN service, and only then can some other containers start after that, as we expose the Private IP address generated by Tinc to our other VPN connected machines. If the containers start before Tinc, chaos ensues. Is there an easy way that we can make a container always restart in a specific order after a reboot? We use multiple docker-compose.yml files. Trying to avoid having to go and manually do it and start up a couple dozen stacks as there are bound to be things missed, or problems like miscommunication between my team on what should and shouldn't be up. Advice would be welcome!



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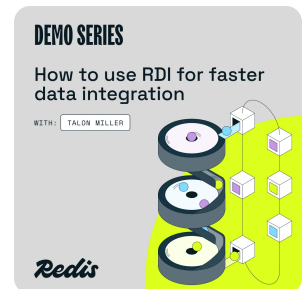
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cat5inthecradle • 7y ago

I mean there are a billion ways to do things, and the “right way” is subjective and is affected by budgets and time and skill and status quo and the current drink special at the pub, but...

Shouldn't your services be able to survive without or wait until their dependencies are ready?

I'm not at your scale, but if I were to get there, a problem like this would drive me nuts but a solution that requires orchestrating the boot order would make me feel icky.



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[Reply](#)tiredofitdotca **OP** • 7y ago

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expose). I'm certain I can put together some ridiculous 200 line bash script to capture all running containers before a reboot and then start them up in order putting that first container up before anything else but thought I'd bring this to a larger group to see if others have encountered similar situation. My Sysadmin struggled today with an hour outage trying to diagnose what went wrong (odd, after 1 year of having this infrastructure) , and I'm just the Director wanting to make their life easier.

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CaffinelsLove • 7y ago

Id imagine if usinf linux docker-compose up (name of container) && docker-compose up -d

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feverzsj • 7y ago

the restart policy seems only respect the linked container order, which is deceprated. But, in any way, you should not rely on container start order. As the container start order doesn't necessary imply the process start order inside container.

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tiredofitdotca OP • 7y ago

Our docker-compose dictates `restart:always` so they do actually restart properly, with the exception of some of the containers that have this external dependency of another container starting up before they start. I will have to test up a test box with a hundred or so containers and start the tinc container in question and give it a handful of host reboots to see if it always starts first if I start tinc before starting anymore of my containers.

There is also `external_links` which I've found works outside of the docker-compose where as `links` (deprectated only knows what's listed in that container stacks YaML. If it works, I may have answered my own question and report back.

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jlkinsel • 7y ago

Another architectural option that comes to mind - you didn't mention the type of communications happening over the VPN, but sounds like a good use case for some sort of store-and-forward message queue, instead of having containers connect to each other. Not the direct answer you're looking for, but something to consider

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me-ro • 7y ago

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container restarting to systemd.

You can skip the Ansible part or adapt to whatever automation you're using. (or just generate the systemd unit files via script)

There are probably better ways to do that right now, but this might be very straightforward from what you currently have in place.

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FruityRichard • 7y ago

If using docker-compose dependencies to determine the proper startup order is not applicable, you can try to use a little script called 'wait-for' to abort startup, if a certain host and port are not yet open.

Since you've your docker-compose policy set to 'restart: always', the container should exit and restart automatically and only succeed starting up, once your VPN container is up as well, because otherwise it would always run into a timeout when trying to connect to IP:PORT.

You can find a script for this purpose on GitHub: <https://github.com/eficode/wait-for>

Bear in mind, that this script has most likely been developed for servers that depend on a database container, at least that's what I'm using such a script for. It has been working quite okay for me, but you might run into scaling issues, because many of your containers could end up in a boot loop.

This is probably not the best way to do what you're trying to achieve, but a possible solution.

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menge101 • 7y ago

For clarity:

What happens when the VPN container dies and a new one is spun up?

Does this require all existing containers restart as well? Can they cope with the outage or is your VPN setup in a redundant way?

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