

resolv.conf seems to always be wrong when building Docker container

Asked 3 years, 7 months ago Modified 3 years, 7 months ago Viewed 12k times



I am attempting to write `Dockerfile` instructions to use `yum` and install a few packages. When I run my build command, I will always get an error...

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```
(28, 'Resolving timed out after 5000 milliseconds')
```

... due to the lack of network access. I have compared my host and container `/etc/resolv.conf`, and noticed they were different.



Example (Host)

```
# Generated by expressvpn  
search expressvpn  
nameserver 10.53.0.1
```

Example (Container)

```
search expressvpn  
nameserver 10.1.2.3  
nameserver 8.8.8.8
```

I attempted copying the host `/etc/resolv.conf` and overwriting the container `/etc/resolv.conf` as follows

```
$ echo "# Generated by expressvpn  
> search expressvpn  
> nameserver 10.53.0.1" > "/etc/resolv.conf"
```

Then immediately gained network access again and was able to use `yum`. However, if I try reading the `Dockerfile` with a build command, it does not seem to work anymore. How do I make docker use the host `resolv.conf` on build or resolve this issue correctly? It seemed to not have an issue with my VPN before. Is that the issue now?

`docker` `dockerfile` `network-programming` `vpn` `yum`

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asked Feb 23, 2022 at 23:17



VolksRat71

Have you tried restarting the docker engine after connecting the VPN? – [BMitch](#) Feb 24, 2022 at 0:14

The VPN connection command is built into the host startup sequence. Then I run the command to start the docker engine manually. – [VolksRat71](#) Feb 24, 2022 at 0:19

Have you configured DNS settings on the docker engine. Either in `/etc/docker/daemon.json` or with CLI flags? – [BMitch](#) Feb 24, 2022 at 0:37

You pointed me in the right direction. I will have to manually configure my `/etc/docker/daemon.json` when I restart my host or change any VPN settings, but I am back in business with at least testing!
– [VolksRat71](#) Feb 24, 2022 at 21:29

2 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default) ▾



3

I was able to at least get my docker to build the containers by taking the same naming conventions used in the [Docker Daemon CLI options](#) and applying them to a `/etc/docker/daemon.json` manually, then restarting the Docker Daemon.



1. Read the host `/etc/resolv.conf` (Yours will **likely** be different)

```
$ cat /etc/resolv.conf
# Generated by expressvpn
search expressvpn
nameserver 10.53.0.1
```



2. Make a new, or use the `/etc/docker/daemon.json` (I had to use Super User to write the file)

```
$ sudo touch /etc/docker/daemon.json
```

3. Use the Daemon file to manually set the Virtual Network to the host `/etc/resolv.conf` output as described in #1 (Again yours is **likely** to be different). You can find the different options [here](#) just use the CLI options as keys and arrays with strings as values.

```
{
  "dns": [
    "10.53.0.1"
  ],
  "dns-search": [
    "expressvpn"
  ]
}
```

4. Hard stop **all** docker processing

```
$ sudo ps axf | grep docker | grep -v grep | awk '{print "kill -9 " $1}' | sudo sh
```

5. Restart Docker Daemon

```
$ sudo dockerd
```

This is not the most elegant solution, but I was able to at least get my Docker to build the Container and continue on with my work.

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edited Feb 24, 2022 at 21:52



Dharman ♦

33.9k ● 27 ● 103 ● 153

answered Feb 24, 2022 at 21:47



VolksRat71

125 ● 1 ● 4 ● 14

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2

Docker overrides the `resolve.conf` file so it matches the virtual network it is setting up. You may have an atypical network setup for your container that is screwing up Docker. There are two ways to automate the fix you came up with above:



1. The `--dns` [option](#) in the command line should tell Docker how to properly create the resolve file how you want it.
2. [You can overwrite the resolve file at start.](#)



You can also try to figure out why Docker is getting screwed up, but that is a potentially much more complicated problem.

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answered Feb 24, 2022 at 14:24



Liam Kelly

3,724 ● 2 ● 24 ● 53

2 Comments ▾

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VolksRat71

Over a year ago ✎

I configured the `--dns` when I start dockerd with a `/etc/docker/daemon.json`, you helped quite a lot! Thank you!



Liam Kelly

10/9/25 at 7:54

@VolksRat71 no problem, click the checkmark next to this answer to mark it as correct.

▲ 0

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