



Docker Hardened Images

The standard for building securely

Minimal, hardened, near-zero CVE open source images you can trust. Free to use, ready for enterprise, and protected long past end-of-life.

Build on a stronger foundation from day one

Docker Hardened Images (DHI) provide access to 4,000+ hardened, minimal images that give every team a safer starting point for modern software. Built from source, continuously patched, and stripped of everything your workloads never use, they cut inherited vulnerabilities to near-zero and drop into the workflows you already have. Teams build securely from the first line of code.

DHI is free and fully open-source under the Apache 2.0 license. Every image gives you:

 Near-zero CVEs out of the box	 Drop-in compatibility with Alpine and Debian	 Signed SBOMs and VEX on every image	 SLSA Build Level 3 provenance	 Full CVE visibility, nothing suppressed
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DHI goes further for production workloads. A 7-day SLA on critical and high CVEs makes remediation predictable and auditable. FIPS/STIG variants meet the requirements of federal and regulated environments, and customizations rebuild with every guarantee intact, so your images never drift out of compliance. The Extended Lifecycle Support (ELS) keeps end-of-life software patched for up to 5 years. You migrate on your schedule, not upstream's.

Why it's the standard

Minimal attack surface

Each image carries only what your workload actually needs. Attack surface reduces by up to 95 percent. Inherited vulnerabilities drop to near zero.

Transparent by default

Every image ships with complete SBOMs, VEX, signatures, SLSA Build Level 3 provenance, and full CVE visibility. Verify everything we claim.

No vendor lock-in

DHI is compatible with the open distros you already use. It works everywhere Alpine or Debian works.

Secure customization

Add certificates, packages, and runtime configurations without forking. Every customized image rebuilds through Docker's hardened pipeline on each upstream patch. Your SLA and attestations travel with it.

Drop-in adoption

With a one-line change to your Dockerfile, the security gains land immediately. Your builds, tools, and pipelines stay untouched.

Adopt as code

Mirror, customize, and manage DHI programmatically. A CLI, an API, and a Terraform provider roll DHI across your fleet as infrastructure-as-code.

Apache 2.0 freedom

Use, modify, and ship the images with no restrictions. Open source flexibility, hardened security guarantees.

Beyond base images

Helm charts and hardened MCP servers ship in the same catalog with the same provenance, and 40,000+ hardened system packages pull with standard apt and apk. Your Kubernetes deployments, your AI toolchain, and even the images you build yourself start from the trusted baseline.



What's included across Community, Select, and Enterprise

You pay per repository, never per developer. No user caps, on any tier.

DHI Community

Secure, transparent, and no-cost for everyone.

INCLUDES:

- ✓ Hardened, minimal images with near-zero CVEs
- ✓ 4,000+ images, plus Helm charts and hardened MCP servers
- ✓ Verifiable SBOMs, VEX, and SLSA Build Level 3 provenance
- ✓ Full, unsuppressed CVE visibility
- ✓ Drop-in adoption, no workflow changes
- ✓ Open source under Apache 2.0

DHI Select

Everything in Community, plus SLA-backed security for production.

INCLUDES:

- ✓ 7-day SLA on critical/high CVE fixes, 14-day on medium/low
- ✓ FIPS/STIG variants for federal and regulated environments, at no extra cost
- ✓ Speed up compliance with FedRAMP, PCI DSS, CMMC, CIS, EU CRA, and more
- ✓ Secure customization on up to 5 repositories
- ✓ 40,000+ hardened system packages across Alpine and Debian via standard apt and apk

(starts at \$5K/repo)

DHI Enterprise

Everything in Select, built for enterprise-wide deployment.

INCLUDES:

- ✓ Unlimited customizations, with apt and apk access to 40,000+ hardened system packages
- ✓ Full-catalog access available on request
- ✓ Premium support options
- ✓ Option to add DHI ELS (below)

DHI ELS: Extended Lifecycle Support (Add-on)

Security and compliance support for end-of-life software.

- ✓ Up to 5 additional years of hardened updates past end-of-life
- ✓ Updated SBOMs and provenance
- ✓ Maintains compliance post-EOL
- ✓ Protects long-lived workloads

Trusted across the ecosystem

DHI is the industry baseline for hardened container images. Cloud providers, security vendors, open source communities, and platform teams build on DHI and wire it into their scanners, CI/CD pipelines, and security platforms. Below are a few of them.





Trusted across the ecosystem continued

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Security shouldn't be a premium feature. By making hardened images free, Docker is letting every developer—not just big enterprises—**start with a safer foundation**. We love seeing tools that reduce noise and toil, and we're ready to run these secure workloads on Google Cloud from day one.”

Ryan J Salva, Senior Director of Product, Developer Experiences



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Docker's move to make its hardened images freely available under Apache 2.0 underscores its strong commitment to the open source ecosystem. Many CNCF projects can already be found in the DHI catalog, and giving the broader community access to secure, well maintained building blocks **helps us strengthen the software supply chain together**. It's exciting to see Docker continue to invest in open collaboration and secure container infrastructure.”

Jonathan Bryce, Executive Director



Proven in production



"We evaluated multiple options for hardened base images and chose Docker Hardened Images (DHI) for its alignment with our supply chain security posture, developer tooling compatibility, Docker's maturity in this space, and integration with our existing infrastructure. Our focus was on balancing trust, maintainability, and ecosystem compatibility.”

Vikram Seth
Principal Scientist



"For the first time, I don't have to worry about what's hiding in our base images. That mental overhead is gone, and we can finally focus on the security challenges that are unique to Attentive.”

Jacob Rickerd
Principal Security Engineer

Start free today.

Get Started.

