Why Docker Business over Alternatives

docker business

docker desktop | docker hub | docker scout | docker build cloud | Testcontainers Cloud by docker

Docker Business is the right solution for your development team and engineering organization

Technology for rapidly building and updating high-quality, secure applications

Developers in technology-enabled businesses are rapidly building and updating high-quality, secure applications in order to deliver impactful business outcomes and innovative customer experiences. It's essential that applications are developed using reliable containerization technology and secure software supply chains. When considering containerization technologies, individual developers can use and maintain a wide range of tools, such as open source software (OSS) tools, in parallel with many other technologies, including Docker's. However, development teams and engineering organizations should strongly consider the Docker suite of solutions, including the Docker Business subscription plan.

Are open-source alternatives cost- free or hassle- free?

Developers using open-source containerization tools along with other technologies, are often pursuing do-it-yourself (DIY) activities. This approach can help individual developers quickly leverage containers in their software development processes. However, this approach often requires developers to engineer, integrate, update, secure, and manage multiple tools regularly, leading to high labor costs, security vulnerabilities, lost productivity, and substantial ongoing management overhead. Developers must take on this additional engineering and maintenance effort but may not acquire some core container development capabilities. Further, many DIY or OSS options do not offer sufficient enterprise administration capabilities at the team or organization scale, such as centralized management, compliance, RBAC, logs, SSO, SCIM, and automatic updates.

Development teams and engineering organizations who deploy Docker Business avoid many of these challenges and benefit from significant added value. Docker Business offers an engineered suite of software development technologies with differentiated enterprise-grade capabilities and reliable enterprise support. It empowers development teams and engineering organizations to boost productivity, enhance security, and foster innovation, enabling them to deliver competitive advantages and value to their businesses. Ultimately, Docker Business' integrated suite of products streamlines workflows, improves security, and reduces operational overhead, allowing development teams and engineering organizations to spend more time on innovation. For example, speeding up developer onboarding time; ensuring tool standardization in production; ensuring the use of secure and trusted primitives; simplifying sharing code, caches, and build; and providing access to an ecosystem of images, trusted content, and integrations. These represent only a portion of the benefits Docker Business provides to development teams.

Benefits of Docker Business over alternative approaches and tools

What are the trade-offs and benefits of using Docker Business compared to a DIY approach using OSS-based tools with other products?

Streamline enterprise administration

- Docker Business streamlines enterprise administration with centralized management, a web-based admin console for simplified deployments, and enhanced security and policy enforcement to ensure a secure development environment. It also provides holistic user adoption insights offering detailed visibility into how users leverage Docker products, enabling organizations to optimize resources and understand Docker's impact on productivity.
- Alternative approaches and tools might have a GUI interface for local workstation installations, but they do not offer centralized administration or adoption insights and lack most large scale enterprise administration capabilities.

Scale Securely

- Docker Business secures developer environments and the software being developed using robust security measures and compliance practices, ensuring security from code to build to run. It secures the software supply chain through container vulnerability analysis, container image management, and policy enforcement, while providing access to a vast library of trusted, certified application content to accelerate secure development. Docker Business also secures developer environments through features like Hardened Docker Desktop, secure multi-tenant environments, and standardized deployment processes.
- Alternative approaches and tools provide security capabilities in containerization tools, but Docker Desktop alone provides much more security through Hardened Docker Desktop. Further, alternatives lack the software supply chain security capabilities and secure trusted content offered in Docker Business. Additional tools and integration would be required to deliver additional capabilities.

Enhance the developer experience and increase developer productivity

- Docker Business increases developer productivity through the robust, streamlined functionality of its integrated suite of products. Some examples include:
  - The Docker Desktop GUI provides easy management, administration, visualization, and an industry-leading CLI for developers who work from command lines.
  - Reduced context-switching because the Docker Business suite of products includes tools that effectively work together out of the box.
  - Simplified workflows through Docker Build Cloud for multi-platform builds eliminate emulators (less context switching) and work with CI/CD tools already in use.
  - Docker Business integrates with CI/CD tools such as Jenkins, GitLab CI, and GitHub Actions, enabling developers to easily build and test images within their development workflow. Developers can automate the process of building, testing, and deploying container images to various environments, reducing manual intervention and promoting consistent deployments.
- Alternative approaches and tools do not offer capabilities that support large scale enterprise software development efforts. A lack of commercial support options, a much smaller partner ecosystem, fewer extensions, and less approved/trusted content create a slower, riskier process for development teams and engineering organizations. Finally, the countless missing enterprise features mean managing and securing a development team is much harder.

Integrated suite of products

- The Docker Business unified suite of products combines widely adopted solutions — Docker Desktop, Docker Hub, Docker Build Cloud, Docker Scout, and Testcontainers Cloud — into an engineered seamless experience, enabling developers to innovate faster and manage their workflows with greater efficiency.
- Building DIY solutions or trying to fit together many disparate alternative tools leads to higher labor costs, increased security risks, and substantial overhead in ongoing management.

Enterprise-grade support and training

- Docker Business offers 24-hour response enterprise-grade commercial support, priority case routing, proactive monitoring, and a dedicated customer success manager. Docker also provides extensive training, onboarding, and documentation through multiple channels. Additionally, because Docker products are widely used, there is an abundance of public or community-based resources available for support and training.
- Alternative approaches and tools may not offer official support with a backed SLA. Instead, they may be primarily community-supported (GitHub, Slack, Discord, etc.) with highly limited or non-existent professional-grade support options. Further, there may be limited documentation, training, and ecosystem resources in this regard.

Reduced total cost of ownership (TCO)

- When considering alternative solutions, development teams and engineering organizations must include the cost of the ongoing maintenance to run the alternative solution. In particular, open-source software and DIY approaches require that engineering teams carry out ongoing maintenance and updates. But, when it comes to Docker Business, a 100-seat annual subscription without any discounts is currently $28,800. The cost to support 100 seats with an OSS, DIY, or alternative solution can exceed this cost due to the amount of engineering resources required to continuously maintain and secure the solution. Teams and organizations considering OSS, DIY, or alternative solutions should ensure that doing so is a worthwhile use of engineering resources and budget.

The table compares Docker Business to alternatives. Both the second and third columns are alternatives that involve missing capabilities (vs. Docker Business) and require ongoing engineering or maintenance that customers must plan for in terms of engineering resources, down time, budget, and other additional costs.

Comparison of Docker Business and Alternatives

	Docker Business	DIY w/ Docker Engine	Alternatives
	Integrated product suite engineered, maintained, and supported by Docker	Docker containerization technology	Stand-alone containerization tools
Container build, run, manage (Docker Desktop)			
Container runtime	✓	✓	✓
Kubernetes integration	✓	✓	✓
OS compatibility (macOS, Linux, Win.)	✓	✓	Limited
Enhanced enterprise security	✓	Limited	Limited
Private extensions & marketplace	✓	Limited	Limited
Container management application	✓	Limited	Limited
Image registry (Docker Hub)			
Private and public repos	✓	Limited	Limited
Native integration with image registry	✓	Limited	Limited
Fully integrated vulnerability analysis	✓	—	—
Marketplace functionality	✓	Limited	Limited
Secure & trusted content	✓	—	—
Remote build (Docker Build Cloud)			
Cloud-based builder	✓	—	—
Multi-platform support (ARM /AMD)	✓	—	—
CI tool integration	✓	Limited	Limited
Parallel remote builds	✓	—	—
Shared team build cache	✓	—	—

Container vulnerability analysis (Docker Scout)			
Vulnerability analysis and reporting	✓	Limited	Limited
Security SDLC integrations	✓	Limited	Limited
External system integration w/ API	✓	—	—
Policy library and evaluation	✓	—	—
Alerting and notifications	✓	—	—
CVE suppression and exception	✓	—	—
Container testing (Testcontainers Cloud)			
Inner loop integration testing	✓	—	—
Central test dashboard	✓	—	—
Test infra. provision & cleanup	✓	—	—
Local and cloud testing	✓	—	—
Testing with real dependencies	✓	Limited	Limited
Additional capabilities (Docker Business)			
Integrated solution *(Integrated suite of products that enhance productivity, scalability, security)*	✓ Engineered & maintained by Docker for devs, teams, orgs, enterprises	Limited Easy integration with Docker products with manual intervention	— Not an integrated suite of products that work together
Enterprise administration *(Central mgmt, compliance, RBAC, logs, SSO, SCIM, Auto LCM)*	✓ Enterprise-ready for large development teams and organizations	Limited Limited enterprise admin. Requires manual intervention	Limited Limited or no enterprise admin capabilities
Enterprise / commercial support (*Enterprise-grade, 24-hour support response for all products*)	✓ Proven support processes, strong SLO/A, robust documentation	Limited Community-based support. Strong docs and knowledge base	Limited Community-based support or limited subscription support
Partner and tool ecosystem *(Tech providers, dev toolchains, registries, extensions)*	✓ Large and highly useful ecosystem for developers	Limited Can leverage the Docker ecosystem	Limited Limited, smaller, or no ecosystem

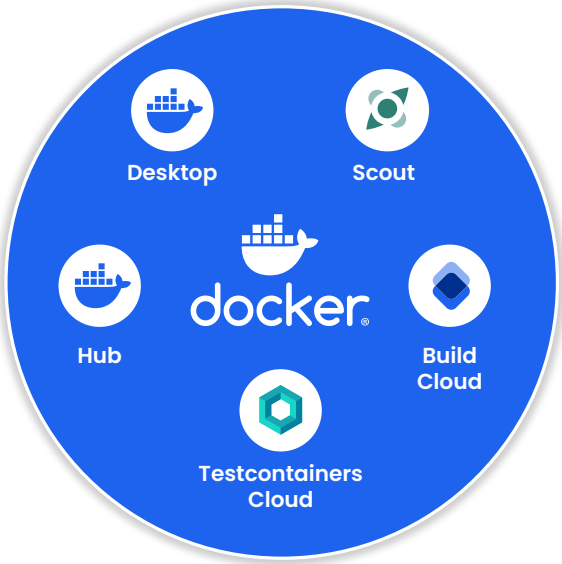
Alternative approaches and tools require additional products and ongoing engineering, maintenance, patching, security updates, and integration, making them time-consuming and resource-intensive. Also, most do not offer sufficient enterprise administration capabilities at the team or organization scale. Enterprises should choose Docker Business for its comprehensive, integrated solution (Desktop, Hub, Scout, Build Cloud, and Testcontainers Cloud), enterprise administration & management, advanced security, robust CI/CD integrations, and reliable professional support, reducing costs and enhancing developer productivity while delivering business innovation.

Asking the right questions

Making technology decisions that could impact developers across an entire enterprise technology organization is never an easy task. So, before taking action, asking relevant questions for this decision is important. Docker Business delivers an integrated, scalable, reliable, and secure developer experience. Any alternative approach or containerization tool should offer a solid yes to all the following questions, or it's simply not comparable with Docker Business.

- Does the alternative have a long-term product roadmap and a commitment to product support?
- Is the alternative growing and will it keep adding new features to make developers more productive?
- Does it offer an integrated solution reducing the need for separate tools and ensuring tool interoperability?
- Does it offer an engineered integrated suite of developer tools that go well beyond containerization?
- Does it offer enterprise-grade commercial support?
- Does it have advanced security features?
- Does it have product lifecycle management for security updates and patches?
- Does it support large-scale deployment options?
- Does it allow organizations to adapt to varying workloads and demands?
- Does it have a robust developer community and partner ecosystem?
- Does it help organizations maintain compliance with industry standards for security, audits, and compliance?
- Does the alternative enable engineering organizations to scale to large development teams, standardize tooling across the company, and implement security policies?
- Does it support the business needs of organizations of all sizes, including large enterprises?

Docker Business: Built for developer and business velocity



Enhanced Developer Productivity
Invest in high quality developer experiences to reduce costs and development cycles.

Security at Scale
Manage and secure development throughout the software supply chain.

Establish Engineering Excellence
Enable innovation through tech stack controls and structure that streamlined innovation with the newest technologies.

Get started with Docker Business today

Click here to learn more about what Docker Business can do for your developer team or engineering organization.

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