

☐☐ How to update your Docker containers safely

Purpose

Learn how to update your Docker containers safely, minimizing downtime and preventing accidental data loss.

1. Check Running Containers

List all currently running containers to know what services are active:

bash

```
docker ps
```

2. Pull the Latest Images

For each image you want to update, pull the latest version from the registry:

bash

```
docker pull imagename:tag
```

Replace `imagename:tag` with your actual image name and tag.

3. Stop and Remove Old Containers

Stop the container without deleting its data volumes:

bash

```
docker stop containername  
docker rm containername
```

Replace `containername` with your actual container name.

4. Start New Containers with Updated Images

Use your original `docker run` command or your `docker-compose` file to launch the updated containers.

bash

```
docker run -d --name containername imagename:tag
```

5. Verify Everything is Working

After starting the new containers, check that everything is healthy:

bash

```
docker ps  
docker logs containername
```

□ Summary

- **Always backup your data volumes** before updating if possible.
- **Use versioned tags** (e.g., `nginx:1.25`) instead of `latest` to avoid unexpected changes.
- **Use compose files** to automate container recreation safely.

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