

Using Docker and Apptainer

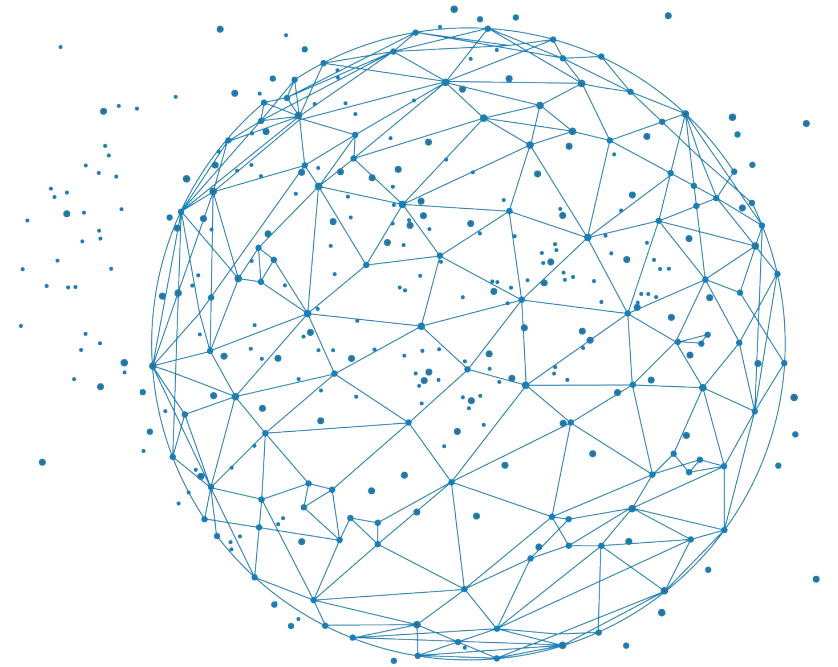
J. Seiler

BiGEst

Based on Céline Hernandez training for FAIR Bioinfo 2023



Let's do an exercise first





- Create a Git repository for your pipeline folder
- Index and commit the following files
 - All Jupyter Notebooks
 - All R files
 - environment.yml
 - environment-linux-64.lock
- Push on Github in a new public repository



- Create a Git repository for your pipeline folder

```
$ cd pipeline  
$ git init
```




- Index and commit the following files
 - All Jupyter Notebooks
 - All R files
 - environment.yml
 - environment-linux-64.lock

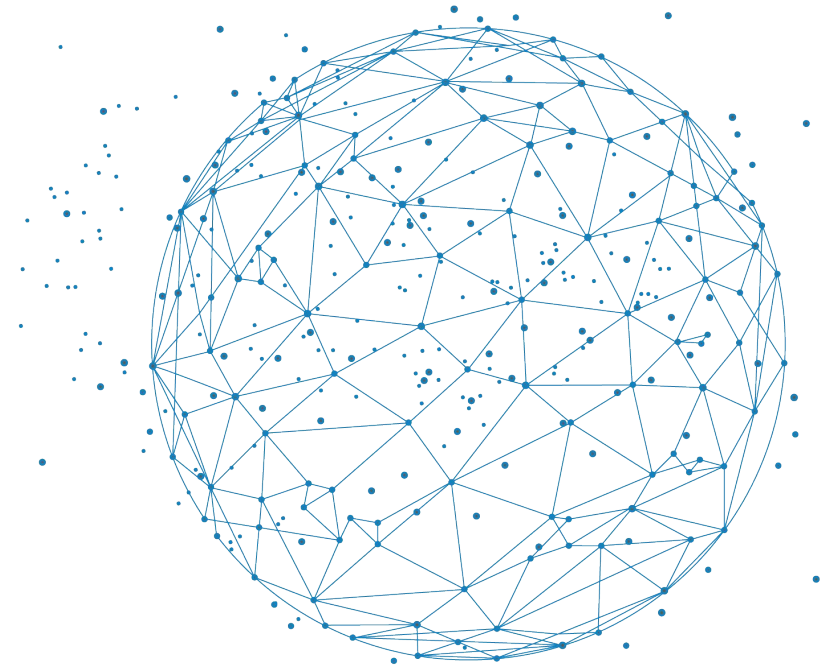
```
$ git add *.ipynb *.R environment.yml environment-linux-64.lock  
$ git commit -m "Initial commit"
```



- Push on Github in a new public repository




```
$ git remote add origin <repo ssh url>  
$ git push origin main
```

About encapsulation





Goal : capture the system environment of applications (OS, packages, libraries,...) to control their execution.

- Hardware virtualisation (virtual machines) 
- OS virtualisation (images and containers) 
- Environment management  **CONDA**



Let's say we want to install RStudio...

Install Rstudio ?



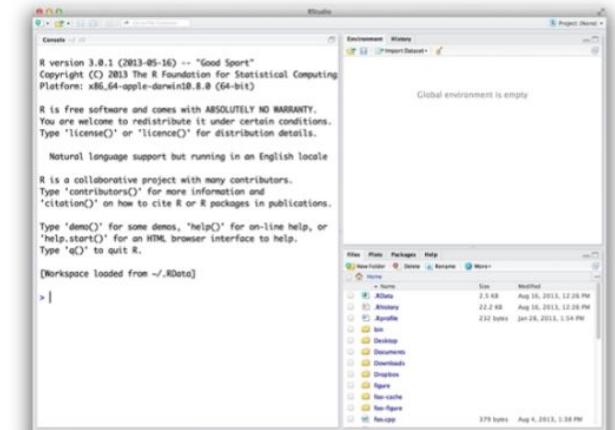
MacOS



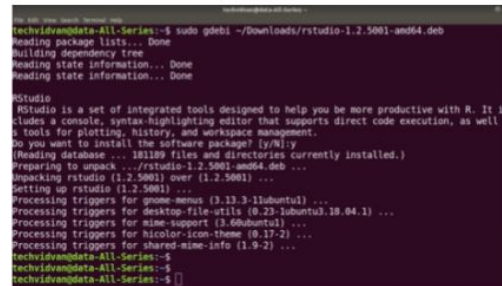
Windows



Use Rstudio

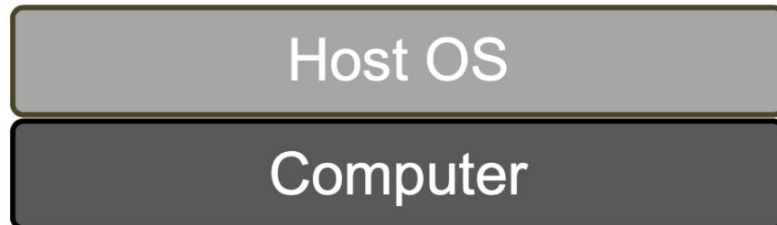


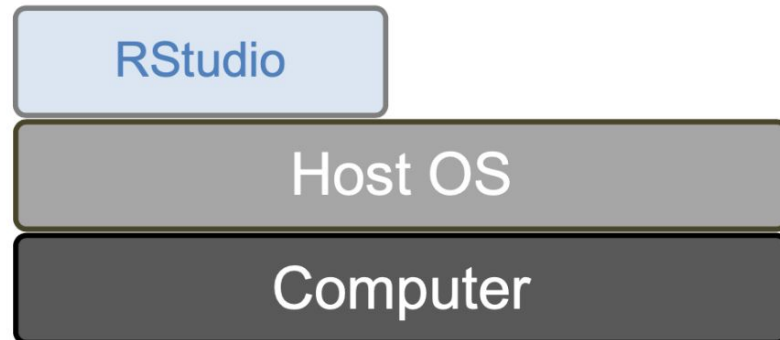
Unix-based





We started with a computer using a specific OS...





We started with a computer using a specific OS...

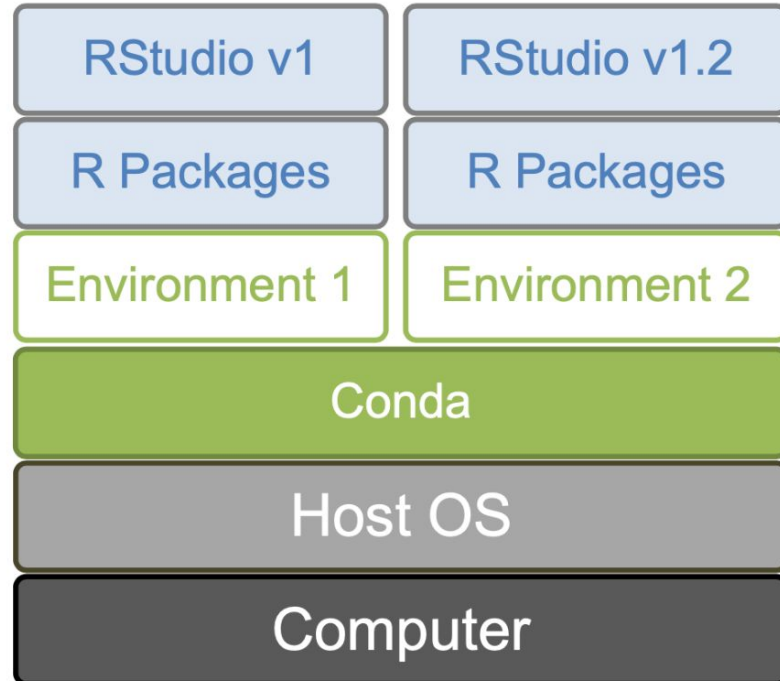
And inside this environment, we installed a new application.



Usually dependencies of different applications don't interfere. But what if we want to test the latest version of our favourite tool? There might be conflicts...

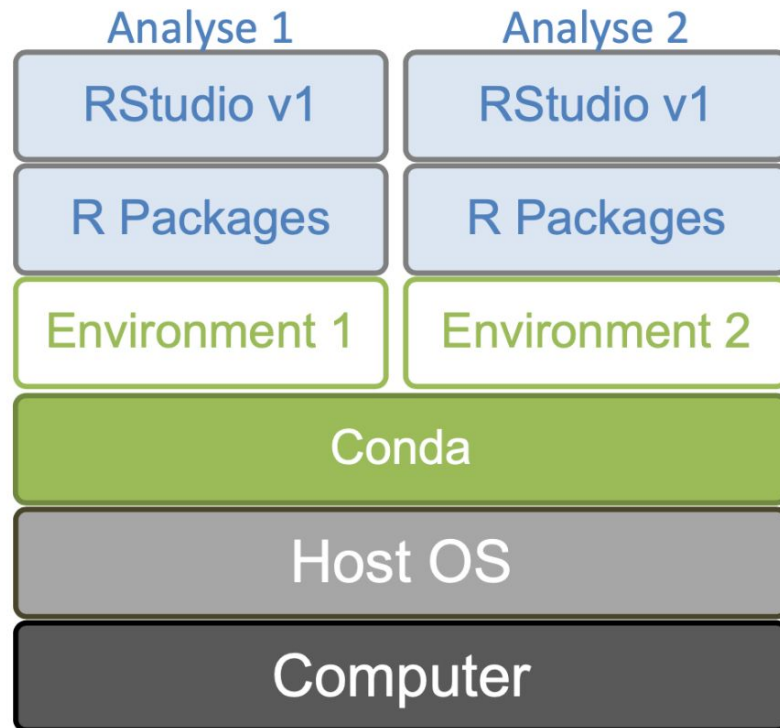


Usually dependencies of different applications don't interfere. But what if we want to test the latest version of our favourite tool? There might be conflicts...



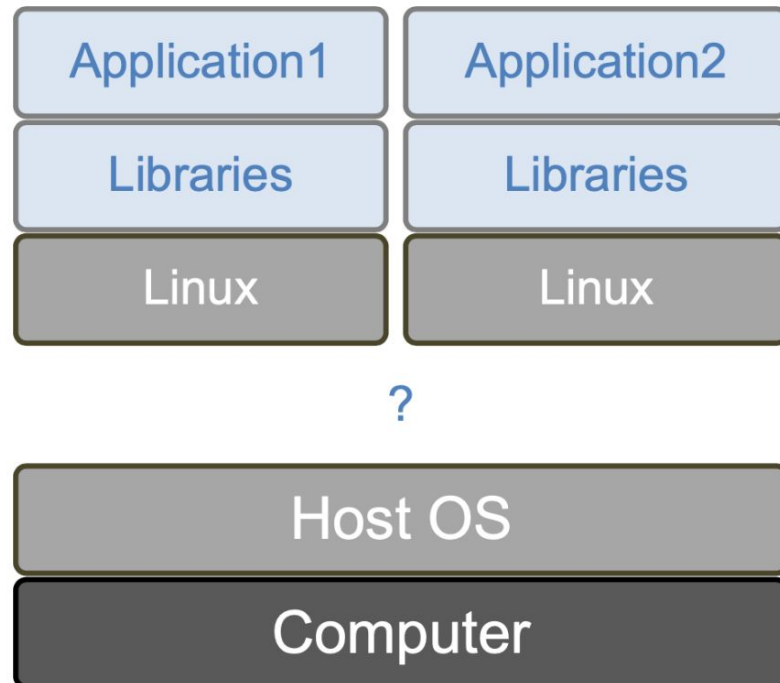
Idea : create separated environments for each application.

The logo for Conda, featuring a green snake head icon to the left of the word "CONDA" in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

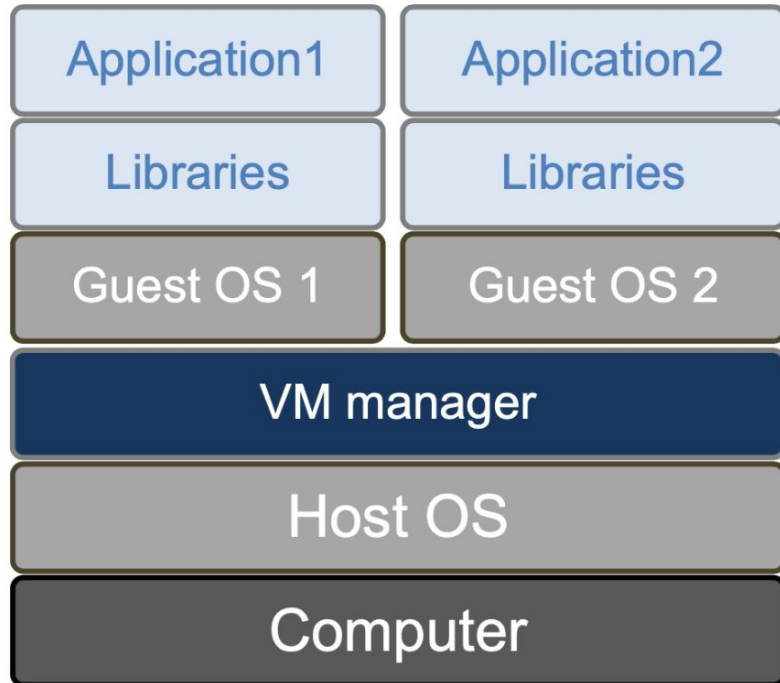


Idea : create separated environments for each application.

More versatile: create a new environment per analysis.



But what if we want to install a software from a different OS?

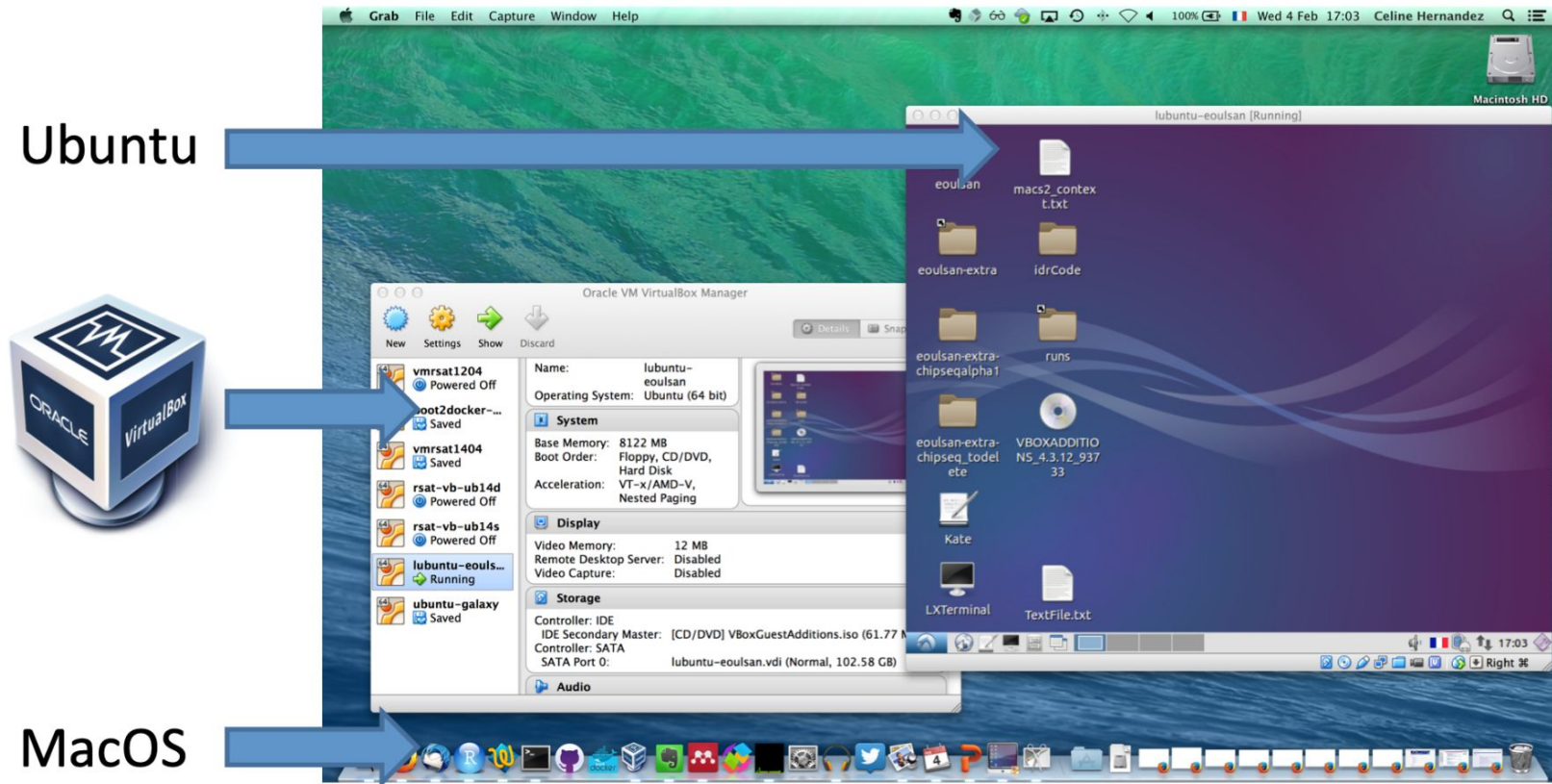


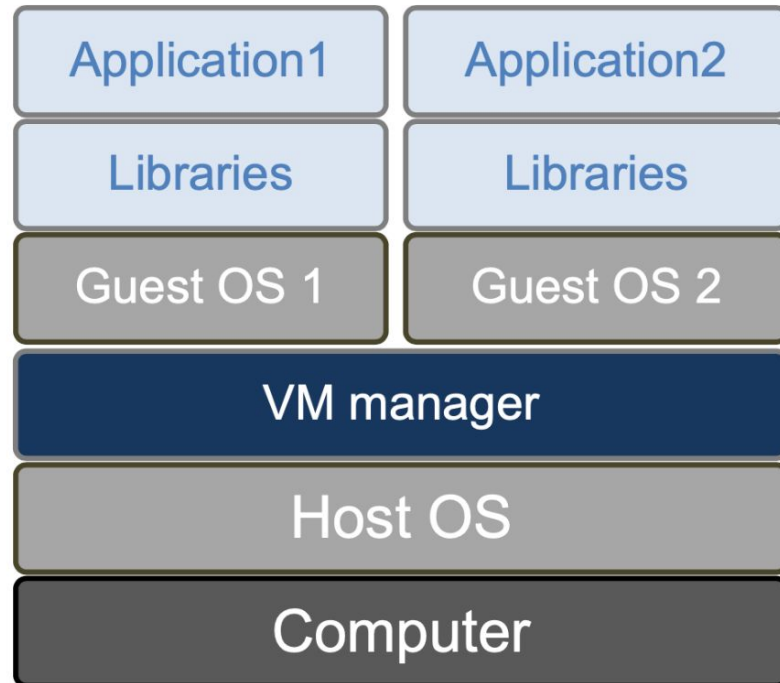
Idea: use virtual machines

Pros:

- Each application gets a completely different and independent environment
- Virtual machines can be transferred to another computer (using the same manager)

Encapsulation : hardware virtualization



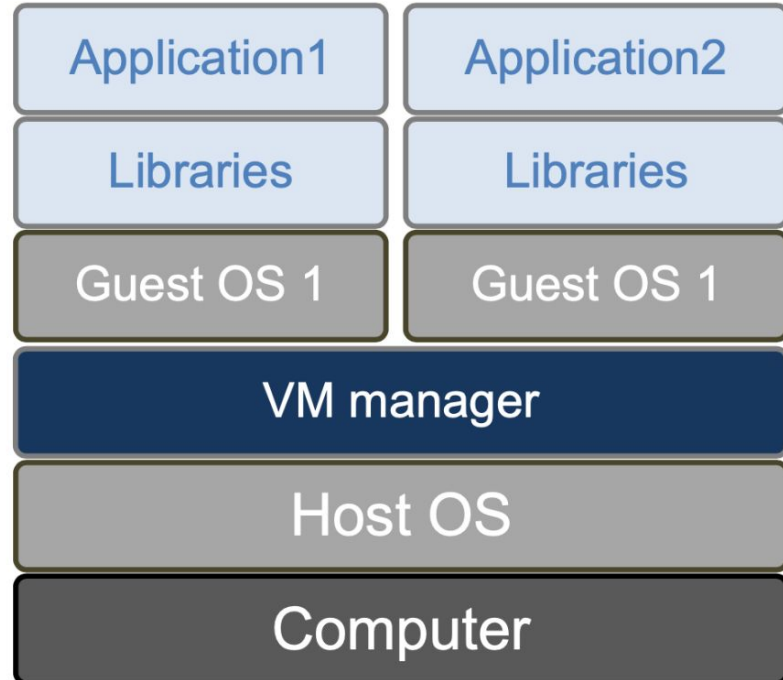


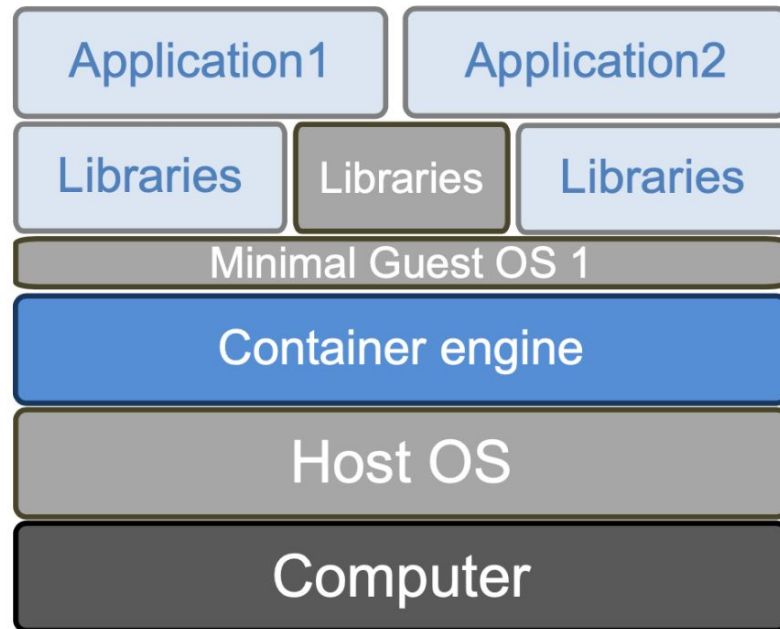
Idea: use virtual machines

Pros: transferable independent environments

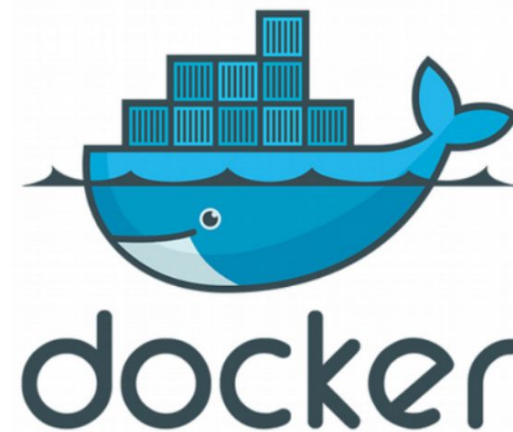
Cons:

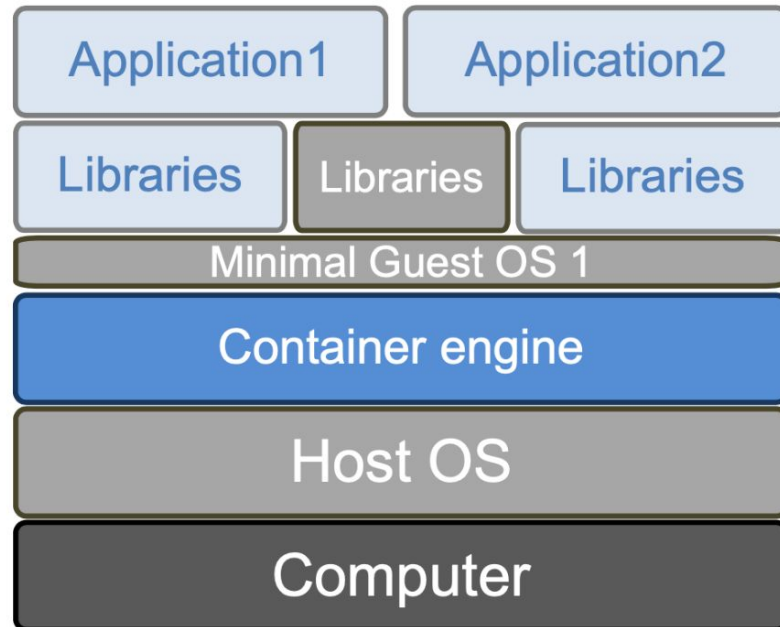
- Redundancy between VMs
- Heavy to set up
- No automation





Idea: "trick" applications into believing that they are in a different OS than the host's
Avoid redundancy.

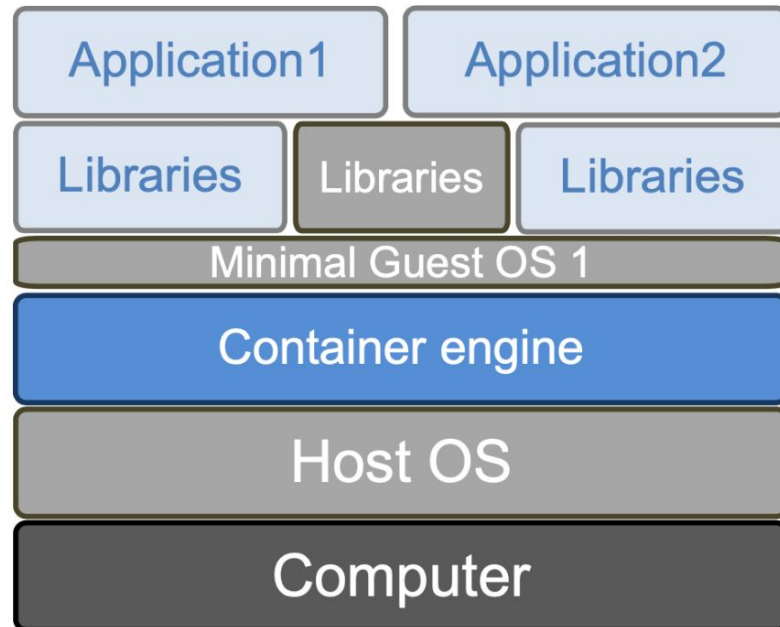




OS virtualisation vs hardware virtualisation

Pros:

- Speed
 - ▶ Installation is faster
 - ▶ No boot time
- Lightweight
 - ▶ Minimal base OS
 - ▶ Minimal libraries and application set
- Easy sharing of applications



Cons:

- Singularity to use images on a cluster
- Changes of policies of the Docker company



Update of the Docker Image retention policy (13/08/2020)

What is a container image retention limit and how does it affect my account?

Image retention is based on the activity of each individual image stored within a user account. If an image has not either been pulled or pushed in the amount of time specified in your subscription plan, the image will be tagged “inactive.” Any images that are tagged as “inactive” will be scheduled for deletion. Only accounts that are on the **Free** individual or organization plans will be subject to image retention limits. A new dashboard will also be available in Docker Hub that offers the ability to view the status of all of your container images.

What are the new container image retention limits?

Docker is introducing a container image retention policy which will be enforced starting November 1, 2020. The container image retention policy will apply to the following plans:


- Free plans will have a 6 month image retention limit
- Pro and Team plans will have unlimited image retention


<https://www.docker.com/pricing/retentionfaq>



← [Icons] 21 of 92 < >

We're no longer sunsetting Free Team organizations _Science_news/Bioinfo/SFBI_events x 🖨️ 📄


 **Docker** <no-reply@docker.com> Mar 24, 2023, 10:48 PM ★ ↩️ ⋮
to me ▾




On March 14, 2023, we emailed you about your Free Team subscription, outlining our intention to sunset that plan. After listening to the concerns of the community, we've decided to reverse course, and are no longer sunsetting the Free Team plan.

If you're currently on the Free Team plan, you no longer have to migrate to another plan by April 14. All customers who upgraded to a paid subscription will automatically receive a full refund for the transaction in the next 30 days, allowing them to use their new paid subscription for free for the duration of the term they purchased.

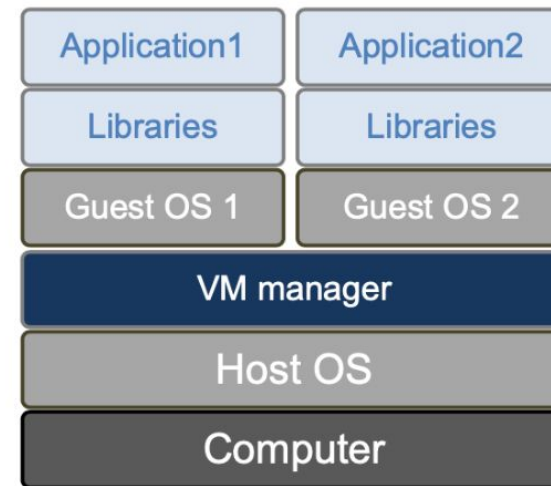
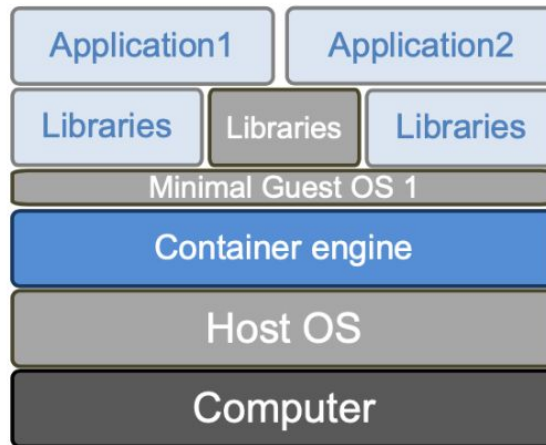
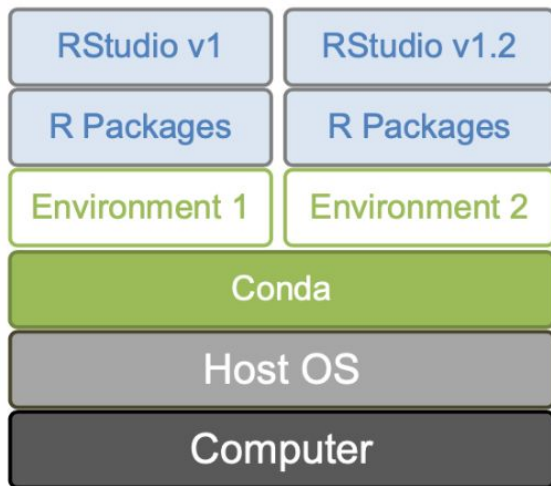
We apologize for the alarm our decision caused. For more details, please [visit our FAQ](#).



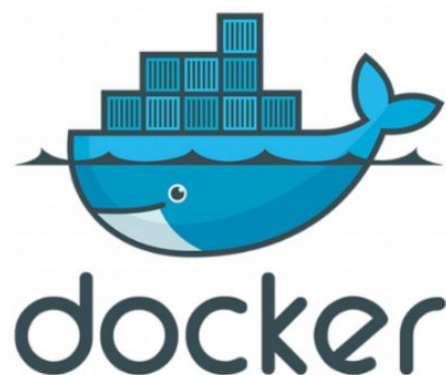


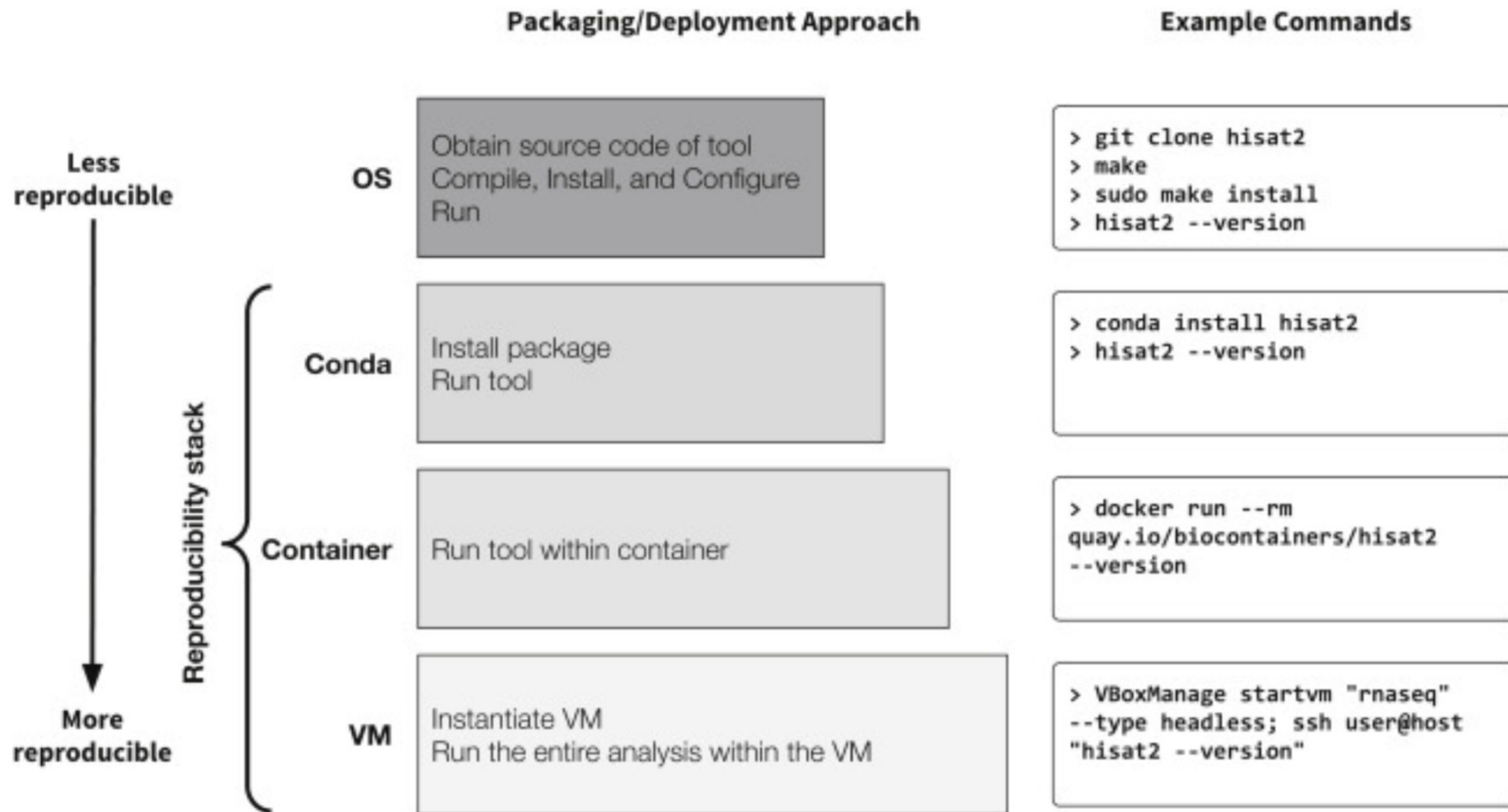
© 2023 Docker Inc. | [Privacy Policy](#)
3790 El Camino Real #1052. Palo Alto. CA 94306

Encapsulation



 **CONDA**

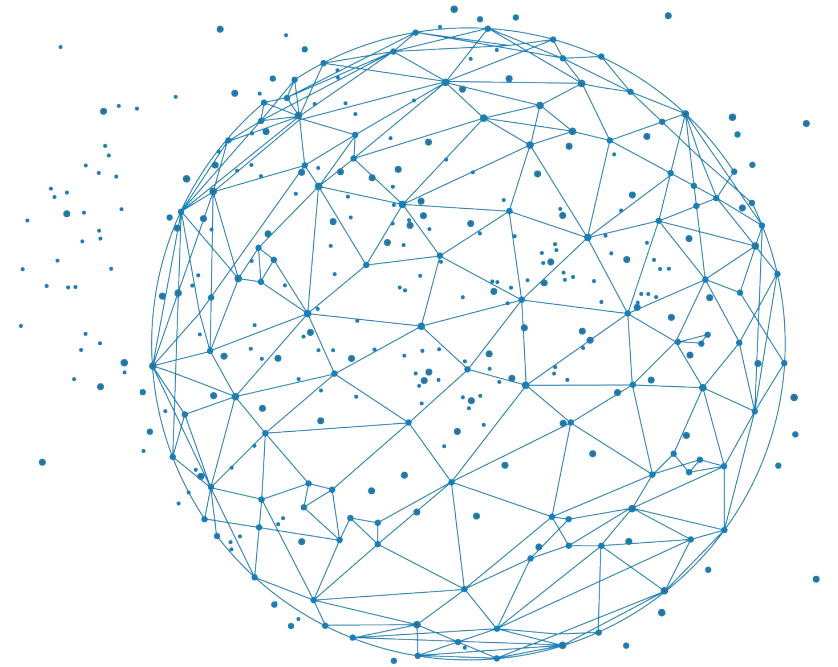




Practical Computational Reproducibility in the Life Sciences - Björn Grüning et al (2018)



About Docker





Docker is not very “old”

- First commit January 2013
- First version March 2013
- Version 1.0 in June 2014

But its adoption was fast

- Officially packaged in Ubuntu since 2014 (v14.04)



Image



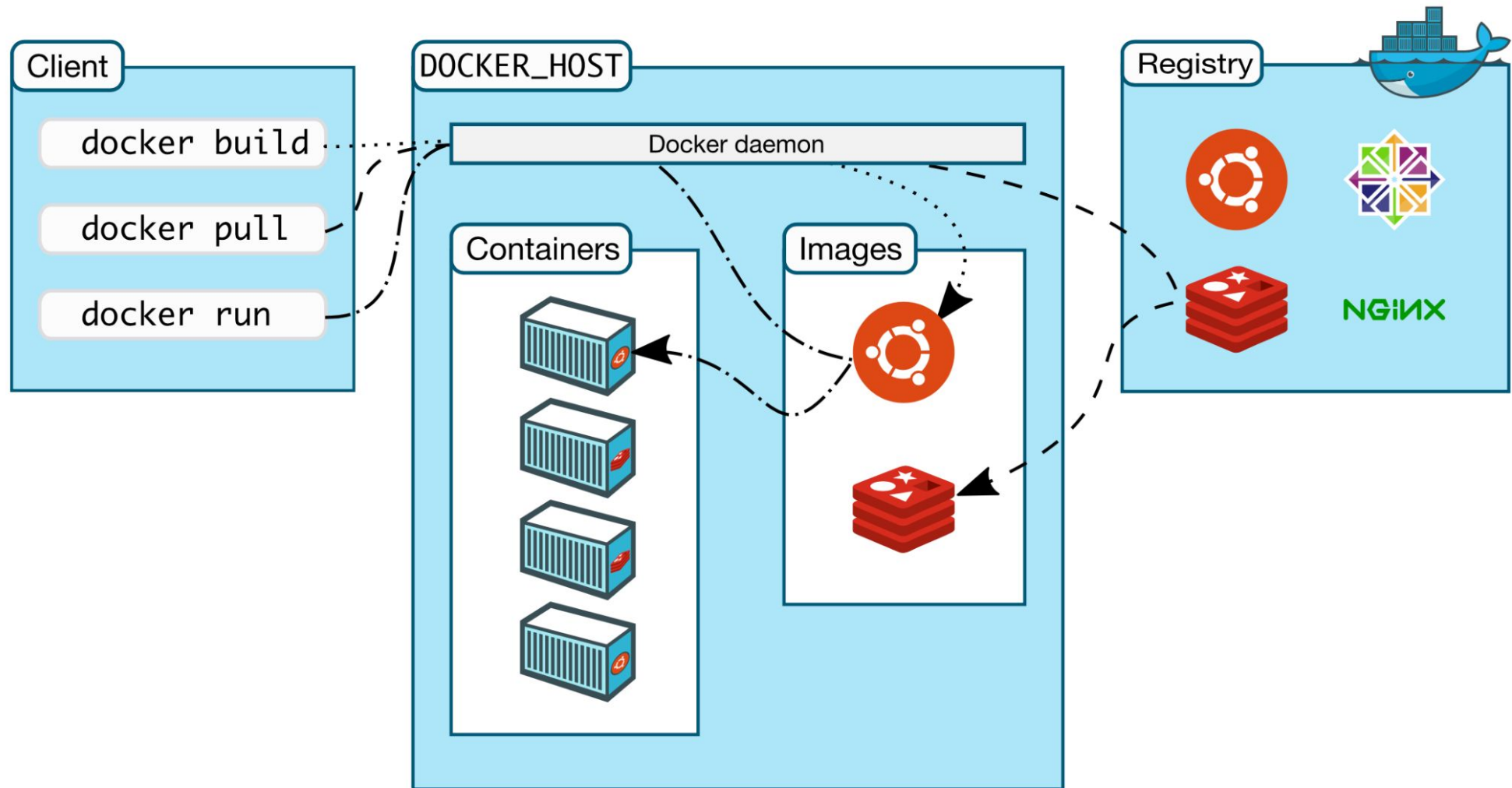
- Set of libraries and functions
- Fixed. Cannot be modified
- Can be stored/shared online
- Can be automatically built

Container



- "Active image"
- Can be modified (interactive)
- Can be turned into an image
- One image, many containers

What is Docker?



(<https://docs.docker.com/get-started/overview/>)






What is Docker?



Docker Store is the new place to discover public Docker content. [Check it out →](#)

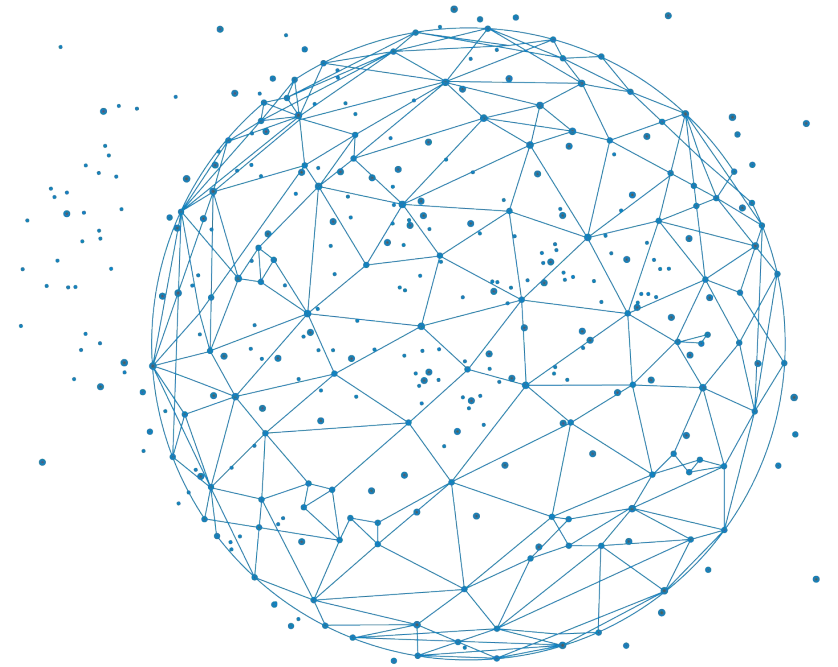
Explore Help [Sign up](#) [Sign in](#)

Explore Official Repositories

 nginx official	5.3K STARS	10M+ PULLS	> DETAILS
 redis official	3.4K STARS	10M+ PULLS	> DETAILS
 busybox official	924 STARS	10M+ PULLS	> DETAILS
 ubuntu official	5.5K STARS	10M+ PULLS	> DETAILS
 registry official	1.3K STARS	10M+ PULLS	> DETAILS

(<https://hub.docker.com/>)

Encapsulating our pipeline tools into Docker





What we have now ?

- A Git repository with our Notebook
- A environment lock file to recreate quickly a conda environment and get all dependencies

But

- Notebooks require a JupyterLab server...



What if we could shared a runnable JupyterLab environment including our Notebook and all its dependencies ?

Introducing...



<https://mybinder.org>



Binder is an online service that lets you share your notebook(s) in a interactive environment.

How does it work ?

BinderHub (the backend of Binder) do the following operation:

- Fetch your repo from GitHub
- Analyse the contents
- Build a Docker image based on your repo
- Launch that Docker image in the cloud
- Connect you to it via your browser



Get the HTTPS url of your repository on Github

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'fairbioinfo2024'. The repository is public and has 1 branch and 0 tags. The main branch is selected. A search bar for files is present, along with 'Add file' and 'Code' buttons. The file list shows several files, all from the initial commit by user 'julози'. A 'Code' dropdown menu is open, showing options for cloning the repository. The 'Local' tab is selected, and the 'Clone' option is highlighted. The HTTPS URL is displayed as `https://github.com/julozi/fairbioinfo2024.0` with a copy icon. Other options include 'SSH', 'GitHub CLI', 'Open with GitHub Desktop', and 'Download ZIP'.

fairbioinfo2024 Public

Pin Unwatch 1

main 1 Branch 0 Tags

Go to file t Add file Code

Local Codespaces

Clone ?

HTTPS SSH GitHub CLI

`https://github.com/julozi/fairbioinfo2024.0`

Clone using the web URL.

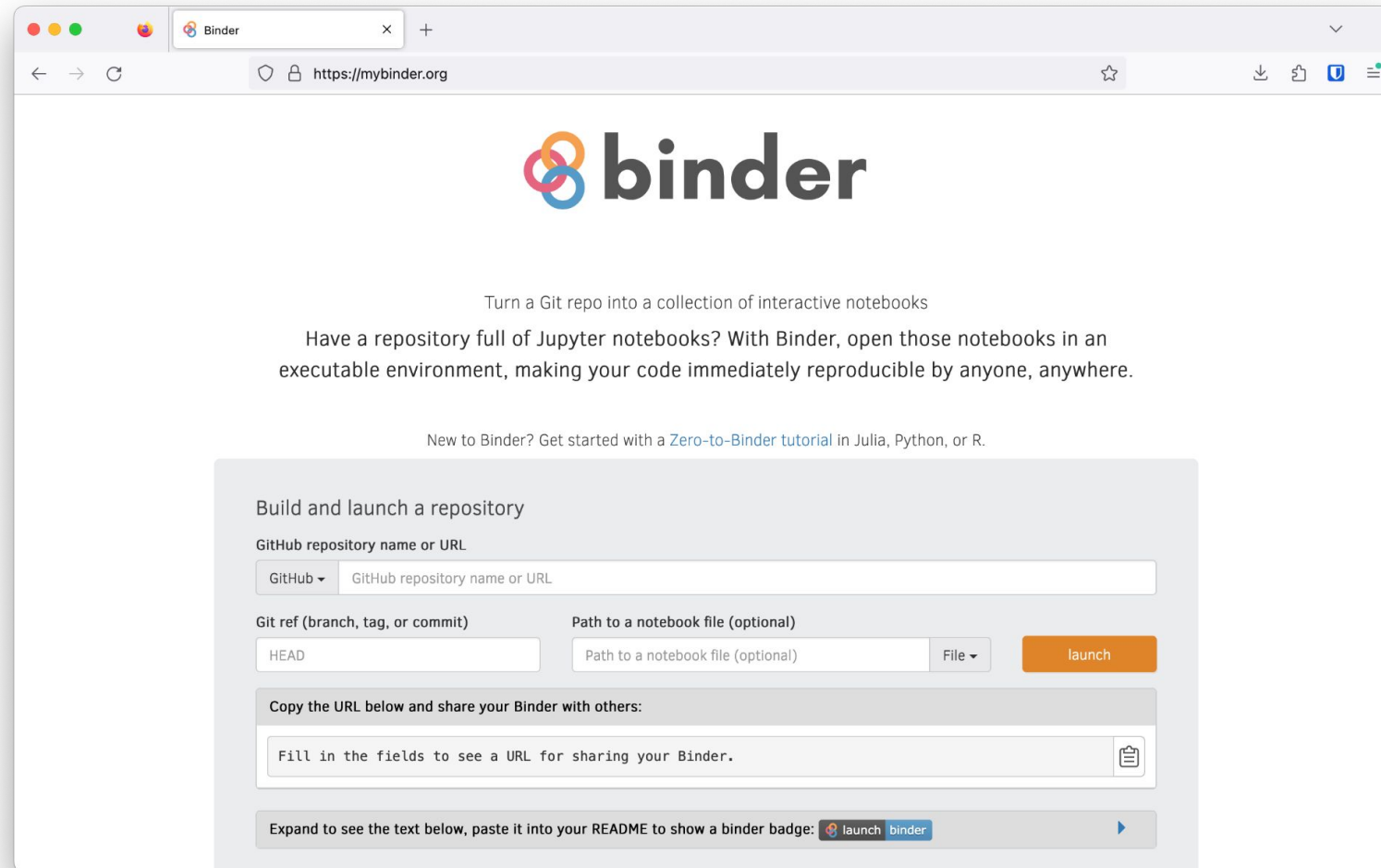
Open with GitHub Desktop

Download ZIP

File Name	Commit
.gitignore	Initial commit
Deseq2.r	Initial commit
deseq2_demo.png	Initial commit
environment-linux-64.lock	Initial commit
environment.yml	Initial commit
my_first_notebook.ipynb	Initial commit



Go to <https://mybinder.org>





Paste your Github repository URL and click **Launch**

The screenshot shows the Binder website interface in a browser window. The browser address bar shows `https://mybinder.org`. The main heading is "binder" with its logo. Below the heading, there is a sub-heading "Turn a Git repo into a collection of interactive notebooks" and a paragraph: "Have a repository full of Jupyter notebooks? With Binder, open those notebooks in an executable environment, making your code immediately reproducible by anyone, anywhere." Below this, there is a link: "New to Binder? Get started with a [Zero-to-Binder tutorial](#) in Julia, Python, or R."

The main form is titled "Build and launch a repository". It contains the following fields and buttons:

- GitHub repository name or URL:** A dropdown menu set to "GitHub" and a text input field containing `https://github.com/julozi/fairbioinfo2024.git`.
- Git ref (branch, tag, or commit):** A text input field containing "HEAD".
- Path to a notebook file (optional):** A text input field containing "Path to a notebook file (optional)".
- File:** A dropdown menu.
- launch:** An orange button.

Below the form, there is a section titled "Copy the URL below and share your Binder with others:" with a text input field containing `https://mybinder.org/v2/gh/julozi/fairbioinfo2024.git/HEAD` and a copy icon.

At the bottom, there is a section titled "Expand to see the text below, paste it into your README to show a binder badge:" followed by a badge that says "launch binder" and a right-pointing arrow.



The build process is running...

Binder is picking up our environment.yml file automatically !

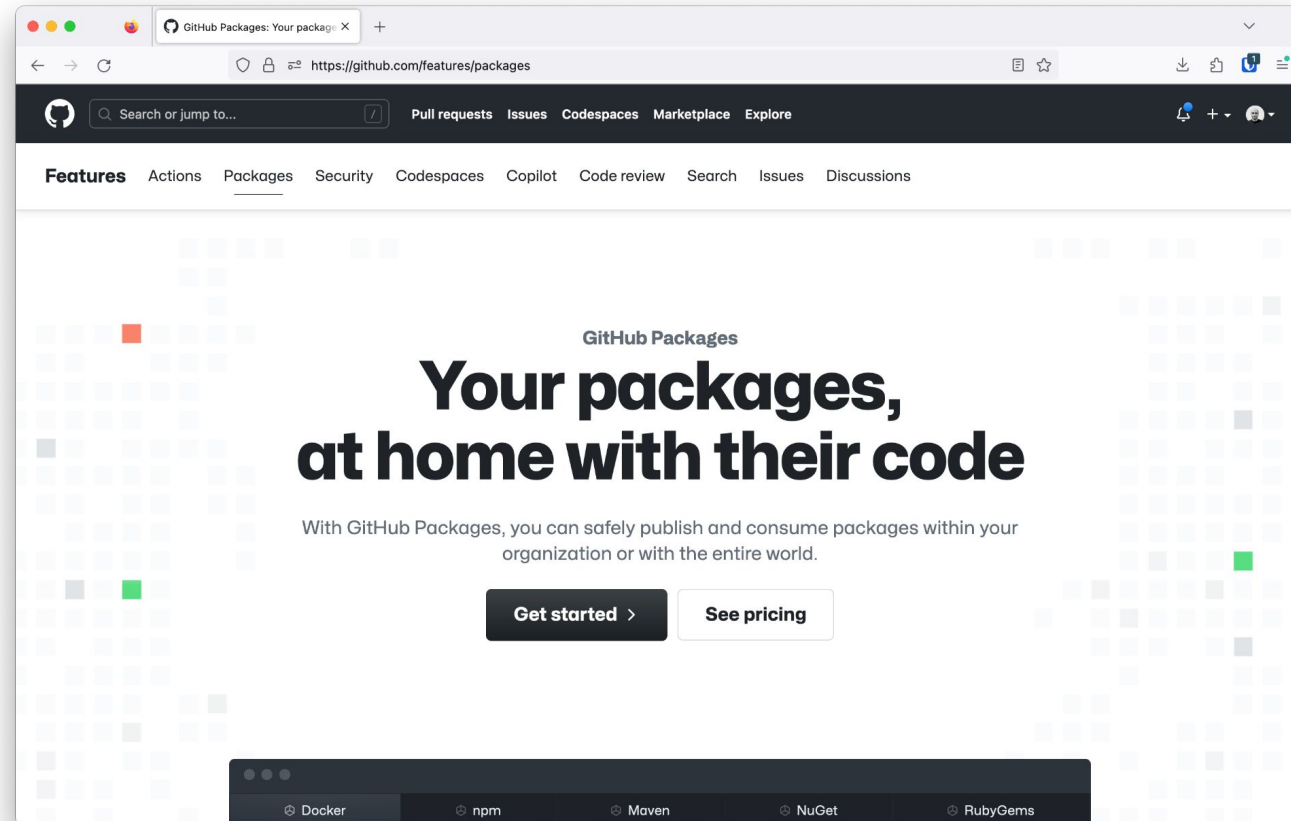
The screenshot shows a web browser window at <https://mybinder.org>. The URL bar contains the address. Below the address bar, there is a text box with the URL `https://mybinder.org/v2/gh/julozi/fairbioinfo2024.git/HEAD` and a copy icon. Below that, there is a button labeled "launch binder". A progress bar shows the current status as "Building". Below the progress bar, there is a "Build logs" section with a "view raw" link and a "hide" button. The build logs are displayed in a dark background with white text:

```
---> 73a9e704073f
Step 35/60 : ENV PATH=${HOME}/.local/bin:${REPO_DIR}/.local/bin:${PATH}
---> Using cache
---> 1480da334807
Step 36/60 : ENV CONDA_DEFAULT_ENV=${KERNEL_PYTHON_PREFIX}
---> Using cache
---> 16451e18d962
Step 37/60 : COPY --chown=1000:1000 src/environment.yml ${REPO_DIR}/environment.
yml
---> fcb91693c387
Step 38/60 : USER ${NB_USER}
---> Running in a7e04c23be15
---> Removed intermediate container a7e04c23be15
---> 00424ada3d4c
Step 39/60 : RUN TIMEFORMAT='time: %3R' bash -c 'time ${MAMBA_EXE} env update -p
${NB_PYTHON_PREFIX} --file "environment.yml" && time ${MAMBA_EXE} clean --all -
f -y && ${MAMBA_EXE} list -p ${NB_PYTHON_PREFIX} '
---> Running in 4d35560428bd
Channels:
- conda-forge
- bioconda
- defaults
Platform: linux-64
Collecting package metadata (repodata.json): ...working... []
```

What if I don't have a Notebook. Can I still share my work as a Docker image ?

Introducing...

Github Container Registry





Let's create a shell version of our Notebook

```
$ jupyter nbconvert my_first_notebook.ipynb --to script  
[NbConvertApp] Converting notebook my_first_notebook.ipynb to script  
[NbConvertApp] Writing 990 bytes to my_first_notebook.sh
```



We need to **customize our script** to make it **more portable**

Add the **bash shebang** at the beginning of the `my_first_notebook.sh` script :

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
```

Set a variable to retrieve the directory containing the script (we need this to call the R script)

```
SCRIPT_DIR=$( cd -- "$( dirname -- "${BASH_SOURCE[0]}" )" &> /dev/null && pwd )
```

Use the variable in the R script call

```
R < $SCRIPT_DIR/Deseq2.r --no-save
```



Add the new shell script to your repository

```
$ git add my_first_notebook.sh  
$ git commit -m "add bash version of the pipeline"
```


Github can help us create automatically a Docker image based on a Dockerfile located in our repository.

The steps to do this are :

- Create a Dockerfile and push it Github
- Enable the Publish Docker Container Github action



Create a new docker folder in your pipeline folder

```
$ mkdir docker
```



Create a new file named **Dockerfile** in the **docker** folder

```
FROM mambaorg/micromamba:1.5.6
ADD ../environment.yml .
RUN micromamba install -y -n base -f environment.yml && \
    micromamba clean --all --yes

USER root
RUN mkdir /opt/pipeline
ENV PATH="/opt/pipeline:$PATH"
ADD ../my_first_notebook.sh /opt/pipeline/
ADD ../Deseq2.r /opt/pipeline
RUN chmod +x /opt/pipeline/my_first_notebook.sh

USER $MAMBA_USER
```

Create an image based on micromamba distribution

Add the environment.yml file

Install packages listed in the environment.yml in the base environment and cleanup everything to make the image as light as possible

Switch to root user

Create a /opt/pipeline folder

Add the /opt/pipeline folder to the image \$PATH

Add the pipeline script to the /opt/pipeline folder

Also add the Deseq2.r file

Make sure the script is executable

Switch back to mamba user

Add the docker folder to the repository

```
$ git add docker
$ git commit -m "add support for docker"
```



Push the last commits to Github

```
$ git push origin main
```

Github let you define actions that will be triggered automatically when your repository changes.

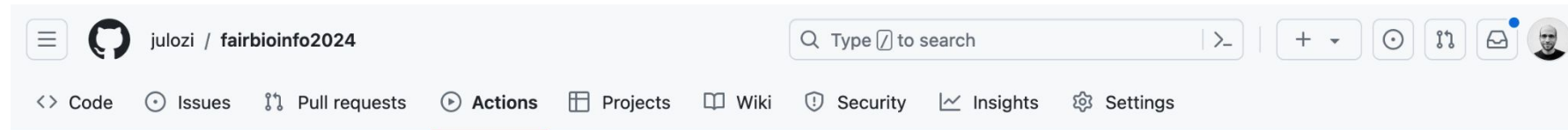
Actions are configure through **YAML files** called workflow.

Github proposes a set of pre-defined actions ready to use.

The **Publish Docker Container** action is a workflow that will build a Docker image based on a Dockerfile found at the root of your repository. It will then publish it in the Docker registry provided by Github.



Go to your repository on Github and move to the **Actions** tab
You should see the **Publish Docker Container** action suggested
Click its **Configure** button



Get started with GitHub Actions

Build, test, and deploy your code. Make code reviews, branch management, and issue triaging work the way you want. Select a workflow to get started.

Skip this and [set up a workflow yourself](#) →

Suggested for this repository

<p>Docker image By GitHub Actions</p> <p>Build a Docker image to deploy, run, or push to a registry.</p> <p>Configure</p> <p>Dockerfile ●</p>	<p>R package By GitHub Actions</p> <p>Create and test an R package on multiple R versions.</p> <p>Configure</p> <p>R ●</p>	<p>Publish Docker Container By GitHub Actions</p> <p>Build, test and push Docker image to GitHub Packages.</p> <p>Configure</p> <p>Dockerfile ●</p>
--	---	--



Github gives us a `publish-docker.yml` workflow ready to be pushed on our repository.

We need to make **two changes** in this file :

First, the image signing tool proposed by Github is outdated (this is a bug).

We need to upgrade it :

```
# Install the cosign tool except on PR
# https://github.com/sigstore/cosign-installer
- name: Install cosign
  if: github.event_name != 'pull_request'
  # uses: sigstore/cosign-installer@6e04d228eb30da1757ee4e1dd75a0ec73a653e06 #v3.1.1
  uses: sigstore/cosign-installer@e1523de7571e31dbe865fd2e80c5c7c23ae71eb4 #v3.4.0
  with:
    # cosign-release: 'v2.1.1'
    cosign-release: 'v2.2.3'
```



By default, the workflow is looking for a Dockerfile at the root of the repository. However we have created our Dockerfile in a docker folder.

We fix the job to use the docker/Dockerfile :

```
- name: Build and push Docker image
  id: build-and-push
  uses: docker/build-push-action@0565240e2d4ab88bba5387d719585280857ece09 # v5.0.0
  with:
    context: .
    file: ./docker/Dockerfile
    push: ${{ github.event_name != 'pull_request' }}
    tags: ${{ steps.meta.outputs.tags }}
    labels: ${{ steps.meta.outputs.labels }}
    cache-from: type=gha
    cache-to: type=gha,mode=max
```




Click the green **Commit changes...** button and validate the commit in the modal window.

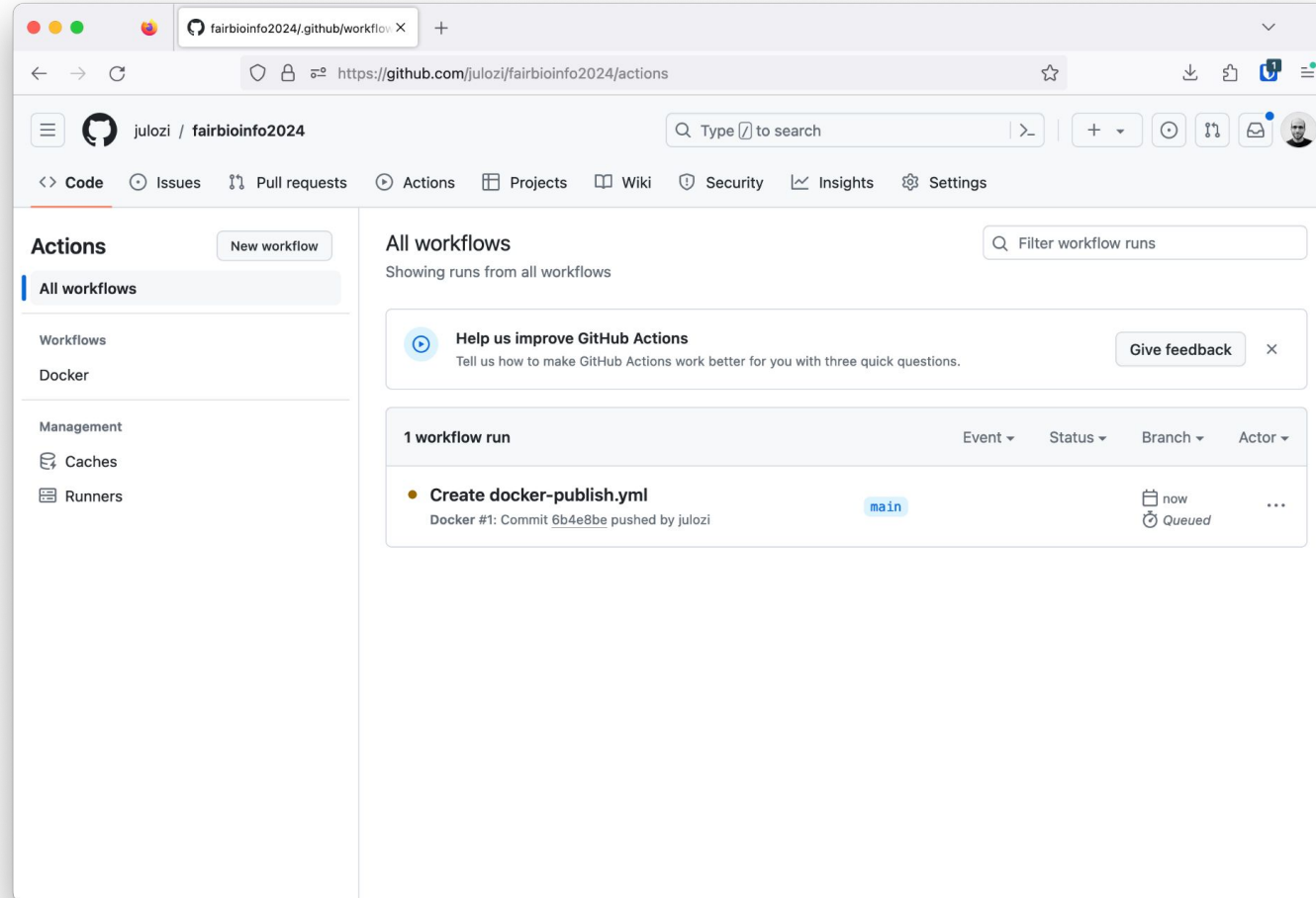
The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'julози / fairbioinfo2024'. A modal window titled 'Commit changes' is open, allowing the user to commit their changes. The modal contains the following fields and options:

- Commit message:** A text input field containing 'Create docker-publish.yml'.
- Extended description:** A text area with the placeholder text 'Add an optional extended description..'
- Commit Email:** A dropdown menu showing 'seilerj@igbmc.fr'.
- Commit options:** Two radio buttons: 'Commit directly to the main branch' (selected) and 'Create a new branch for this commit and start a pull request'.

The background shows the 'docker-publish.yml' workflow file with the following content:

```
1 name: Docker
2
3 # This workflow uses actions that are not
4 # provided by a third-party action
5 # separate terms of service, privacy policy
6 # documentation.
7
8 on:
9   schedule:
10     - cron: '37 5 * * *'
11   push:
12     branches: [ "main" ]
13     # Publish semver tags as releases.
14     tags: [ 'v*.*.*' ]
15   pull_request:
16     branches: [ "main" ]
17
18 env:
19   # Use docker.io for Docker Hub if empty
20   REGISTRY: ghcr.io
21   # github.repository as <account>/<repository>
22   IMAGE_NAME: ${ github.repository }
```

Github will automatically trigger the new action workflow.
You can find it back in the **Actions** tab.





When the build is finished successfully, the Docker image can be found in Packages section of the repository.

File	Commit Message	Time
.github/workflows	Create docker-publish.yml	5 hours ago
docker	Fix PATH	5 hours ago
.gitignore	Initial commit	11 hours ago
Deseq2.r	Initial commit	11 hours ago
deseq2_demo.png	Initial commit	11 hours ago
environment-linux-64.lock	Initial commit	11 hours ago
environment.yml	Initial commit	11 hours ago
my_first_notebook.ipynb	Initial commit	11 hours ago
my_first_notebook.sh	add portable fix	1 hour ago

Package: fairbioinfo2024

Languages:

- Jupyter Notebook 96.0%
- Shell 1.8%
- R 1.5%
- Dockerfile 0.7%

Click on the main branch link to get the image URL



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'fairbioinfo2024'. The URL is `https://github.com/julozi/fairbioinfo2024/pkgs/container/fairbioinfo2024`. The page displays the package name 'fairbioinfo2024' and provides instructions on how to install it from the command line. A blue arrow points to the 'main' branch link in the 'Recent tagged images' section. A handwritten note 'don't use this' points to the command line code block.

```
$ docker pull ghcr.io/julozi/fairbioinfo2024:sha256-a3d1f7972823a702955812844ccf38181dd332ff5622edd83f08473258252188.sig
```

Recent tagged images:

Image	Downloads
sha256-a3d1f7972823a702955812844ccf38181dd332ff5622edd83f08473258252188.sig	0
main	1

Click on the main branch link to get the image URL



You can now run the pipeline on any Docker enabled computer :

```
docker run -t -i \
  ghcr.io/julozi/fairbioinfo2024:main \
  my_first_notebook.sh
```

Use the `--platform linux/amd64` option if you are working on Apple Silicon

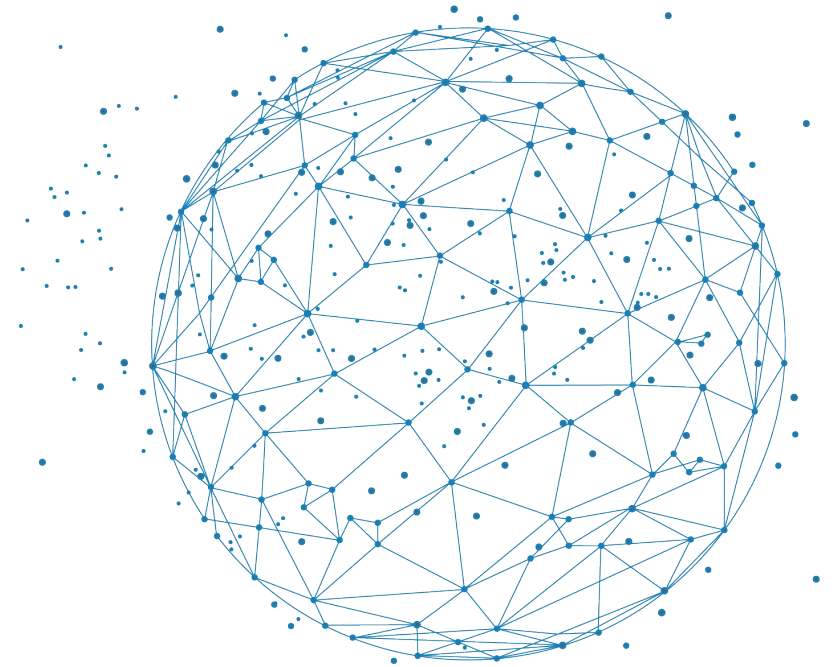
The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'julozi / fairbioinfo2024'. The main branch is selected, and the installation instructions are displayed. The instructions include a command to pull the Docker image from the container registry and a Dockerfile snippet to use the image as a base.

```
$ docker pull ghcr.io/julozi/fairbioinfo2024:main
```

```
FROM ghcr.io/julozi/fairbioinfo2024:main
```

The page also shows details about the package, including the repository name, the user 'julozi', and the package name 'julozi/fairbioinfo2024'. The download activity is also visible, showing 1 total download and 1 download in the last 30 days, last week, and today.

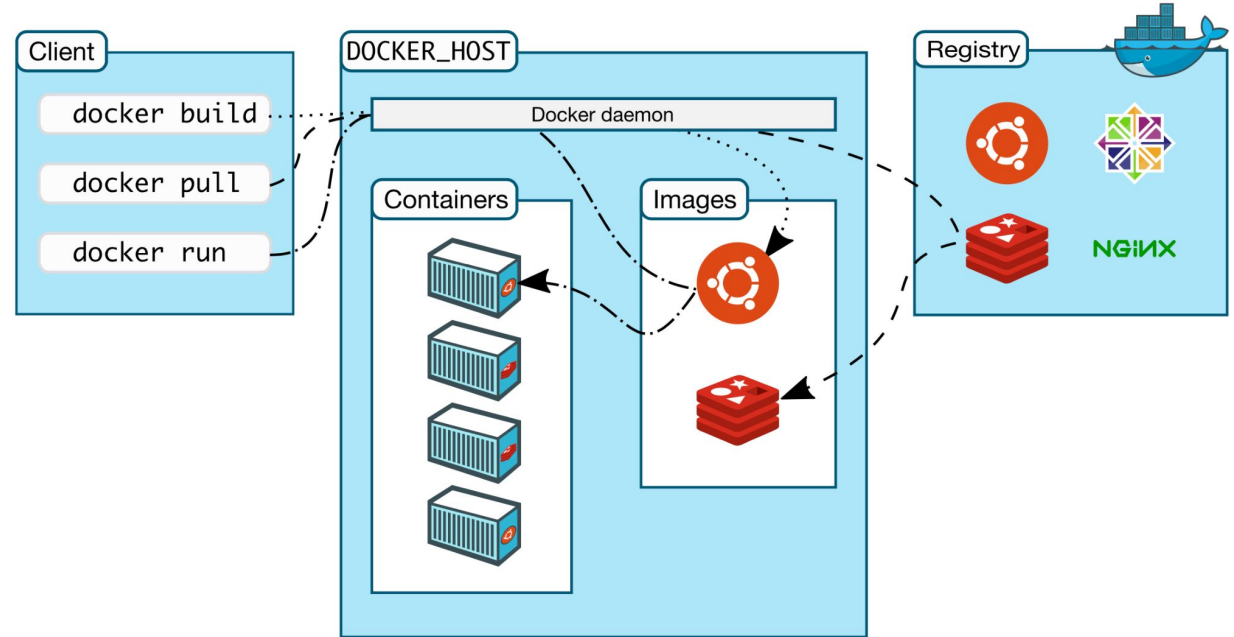
Apptainer : container on HPC cluster



Docker requires a **Docker Host** to run containers.

The Docker Host is a system daemon that run as root and can access to a reserved part of the hardware resources.

This is not compatible with an HPC cluster where hardware resources are already managed by a job scheduler (SLURM)



(<https://docs.docker.com/get-started/overview/>)



Apptainer is an open source container platform designed to run complex applications on high-performance computing (HPC) clusters in a simple, portable, and reproducible way.

An Apptainer container image is a file
An Apptainer running container is a user process





Apptainer has its own image definition format which is different than Dockerfile.

However, it is possible to build an Apptainer image directly from a Docker image URL.

Let's create an Apptainer image file from our pipeline Docker image :

```
$ mkdir apptainer
$ cd apptainer
$ apptainer build pipeline.sif docker://<your docker image URL>
```

This will create a pipeline.sif file ready to be used.

You can now run the pipeline script contained in the image :

```
$ apptainer run pipeline.sif my_first_notebook.sh
```