A weekly newsletter with links to blogs and industry news for subscribers to the Architecting IT blog.

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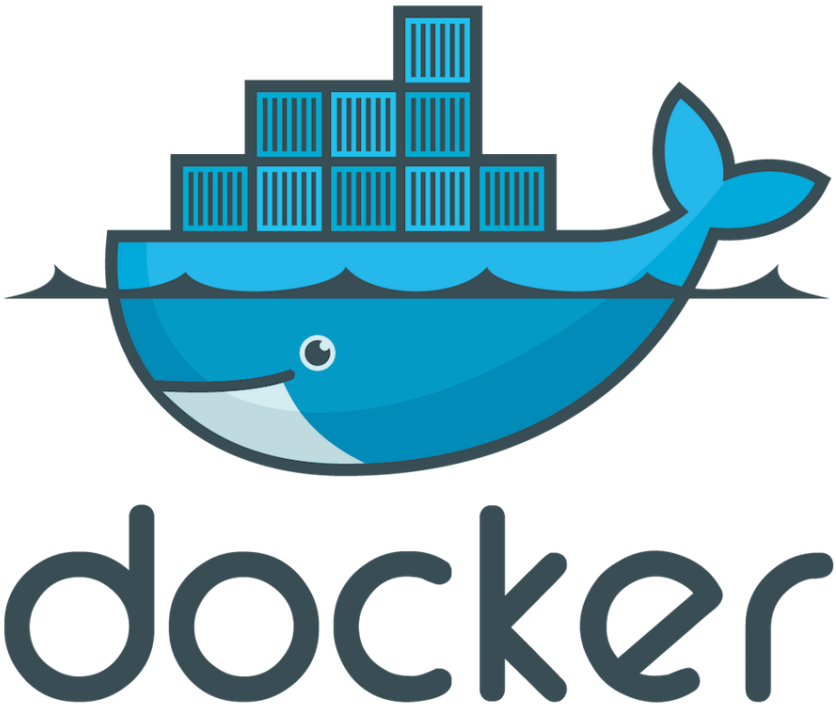
This is newsletter #51, 2018-W13 published on 31 March 2018.

New Architecting IT Blog Posts...

- Cloud Field Day 3 Preview: Druva (29 March 2018)
- Cloudian Acquires Infinity Storage (28 March 2018)
- Cloud Field Day 3 Preview: Morpheus Data (27 March 2018)

New Storage Unpacked Podcasts...

- #44 - Ultra High Capacity Flash Drives (30 March 2018)



What Next For Docker?

This week, Solomon Hykes, co-founder of Dotcloud and Docker has announced he is stepping down from the CTO role. Hykes will remain with the company in a more reduced role, staying on as a board member. What does this say for the future of the company and the technology?

Rise and Fall

Back in newsletter #24 I talked about Docker and the sense of optimism around the rise of containers as a genuine deployment model for applications. Containers are lightweight, simple and easy to deploy, thanks mainly to the ecosystem Docker, the company built. Although containers had existed before, the simplified packaging made the adoption so much easier than it had ever been.

Roll forward a year and DockerCon 2017 felt very different. There was much less advancements in the core technology and a bigger focus on "modernising" applications. The term here meaning transforming them to run in a Docker container. By DockerCon EU later in the year, Kubernetes was taking over and in many way Docker (the company) admitted defeat by supporting Kubernetes, even as they were pushing Swarm for application deployment.

By the end of 2017, there were lots of stories circulating that claimed Docker the company was finished.

Business Model

Coming up with an efficient business model and working out how to survive in the tech industry is certainly hard. Having great technology is one thing - getting people to pay for it is another. Creating a genuine business model has probably been Docker's biggest problem. The typical process of providing support for the open source platform as an "enterprise release" was the chosen option, but getting this direction to work takes years in the field. Look at Red Hat as an example of one company that has been successful, now 25 years old.

There are also issues around maturity and applicability. Look back at newsletter #24 and you'll see I mention a presentation from Joyent that claims persistent storage isn't necessary for containers. The solution was always supposed to be to protect using multiple containers.

Clearly this idea is complete nonsense and any enterprise would laugh at the idea of not being able to persist data outside of the application. Yet these kinds of missteps continue to play out, making adoption a long-term slow burn rather than fast transition.

Acquisition

I can't see Docker Inc standing alone in the future. The business model doesn't look strong enough. I expect Docker will be acquired by one of the large infrastructure vendors and their products transitioned into a wider portfolio. The question then has to be asked; how will the open source development continue? I think this area will be well supported for many years to come. The container revolution is here, just perhaps not with Docker Inc leading it.

What do you think?

Chris Evans

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Upcoming Events

The Architecting IT team will be attending the following events. Get in touch if you want to meet up!

- Cloud Field Day 3 (4-6 April 2018)
- NetApp Analysts Day (7 May 2018)
- Nutanix .Next 2018 (8-10 May 2018)
- Pure Accelerate 2018 (22-24 May 2018)
- Flash Memory Summit (7-9 August 2018)

We're interested in your feedback! Is there anything you would like to see covered in these newsletters or on the blog? Do you have an opinion on any of the content? Just hit reply to this email or continue the conversation online: @architectingit on Twitter, or via Linkedin.

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