

How to Move a File/Folder From the Server to the Container And Vice Versa?

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[The previous article](#) explained how to access a container in Docker. Now, I need to move a file/folder from the server to the container and vice versa.

Problem

How to move a file/folder from the server to the container and vice versa?

Solution

These are how to move a file/folder from the server to the container and vice versa:

A. Move from the server to the container

To move a file from the server to the container, use the format below:

```
docker cp src_path container:dest_path
```

For example, I want to move the nginx.tgz file from the server to the webapp1 container in the folder /home, so I use the command below:

```
docker cp nginx.tgz webapp1:/home
```

And the file will move to the /home folder in the container, like in the image below:

```

sysadmin@docker:~$ ls
all_images.tar  all_images.tgz  get-docker.sh  mysql.env  nginx.tar  nginx.tgz
sysadmin@docker:~$
sysadmin@docker:~$ docker ps
CONTAINER ID   IMAGE      COMMAND                  CREATED        STATUS        PORTS                               NAMES
2a4eadaffcd   nginx     "/docker-entrypoint...." 9 hours ago   Up 4 hours   0.0.0.0:8080->80/tcp, [::]:8080->80/tcp  webapp1
e6d61413d2af   nginx     "/docker-entrypoint...." 10 hours ago   Up 10 hours   80/tcp                               nginx
sysadmin@docker:~$
sysadmin@docker:~$ docker cp nginx.tgz webapp1:/home
Successfully copied 70.8MB to webapp1:/home
sysadmin@docker:~$
sysadmin@docker:~$ docker exec webapp1 ls /home
nginx.tgz
sysadmin@docker:~$

```

Move the file from the server to the container

B. Move from the container to the server

To move a file from the server to the container, use the format below:

```
docker cp container:src_path dest_path
```

For example, you want to move the docker-entrypoint.sh file in the container to the server in the folder /tmp, use the command below to move the file:

```
docker cp webapp1:docker-entrypoint.sh /tmp
```

And the file should be transferred to the folder /tmp on the server as shown below:

```

sysadmin@docker:~$ docker cp webapp1:docker-entrypoint.sh /tmp
Successfully copied 3.58kB to /tmp
sysadmin@docker:~$
sysadmin@docker:~$ ls /tmp/
docker-entrypoint.sh
snap-private-tmp
systemd-private-90daf0a2835c40f4ab88a0e704616579-fwupd.service-ucY5vF
systemd-private-90daf0a2835c40f4ab88a0e704616579-ModemManager.service-7Tcd3J
systemd-private-90daf0a2835c40f4ab88a0e704616579-polkit.service-DFuXcx
systemd-private-90daf0a2835c40f4ab88a0e704616579-systemd-logind.service-Tm3bjn
systemd-private-90daf0a2835c40f4ab88a0e704616579-systemd-resolved.service-YiaR6x
systemd-private-90daf0a2835c40f4ab88a0e704616579-systemd-timesyncd.service-xp4K0I
systemd-private-90daf0a2835c40f4ab88a0e704616579-upower.service-HtlJcl
sysadmin@docker:~$

```

Move the file from the container to the server

Note

You can move the folder and its contents from the server to the container and vice versa by using the format above without the need to add the `-r` option, as shown in the image below:

```
sysadmin@docker:~$ ls
all_images.tar  all_images.tgz  get-docker.sh  mysql.env  nginx.tar  nginx.tgz  test
sysadmin@docker:~$
sysadmin@docker:~$ docker cp test/ webapp1:/
Successfully copied 24.6kB to webapp1:/
sysadmin@docker:~$
sysadmin@docker:~$ docker exec webapp1 ls
bin
boot
dev
docker-entrypoint.d
docker-entrypoint.sh
etc
home
lib
lib64
media
mnt
opt
proc
root
run
sbin
srv
sys
test
tmp
usr
var
sysadmin@docker:~$
sysadmin@docker:~$ docker exec webapp1 ls /test
get-docker.sh
sysadmin@docker:~$
```



Move the folder into and out of the container

WARNING

You cannot move more than one file or folder from the server to the container or vice versa.

References

youtube.dimas-maryanto.com
docs.docker.com
mkyong.com