



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'docker-container-exec.1'

\$ man docker-container-exec.1

DOCKER(1) Docker User Manuals DOCKER(1)

NAME

docker-container-exec - Execute a command in a running container

SYNOPSIS

docker container exec [OPTIONS] CONTAINER COMMAND [ARG...]

DESCRIPTION

Run a process in a running container.

The command started using docker exec will only run while the container's primary process (PID 1) is running, and will not be restarted if the container is restarted.

If the container is paused, then the docker exec command will wait until the container is unpaused, and then run

CAPABILITIES

privileged gives the process extended Linux capabilities

?<https://man7.org/linux/man-pages/man7/capabilities.7.html>? when running in a container.

Without this flag, the process run by docker exec in a running container has the same capabilities as the container, which may be limited. Set --privileged to give all capabilities to the process.

USER

user sets the username or UID used and optionally the groupname or GID for the specified command.

The followings examples are all valid:

--user [user | user:group | uid | uid:gid | user:gid | uid:group]

Without this argument the command will be run as root in the container.

Exit Status

The `exit` code from `docker exec` gives information about why the container failed to `exec` or why it exited. When `docker exec` exits with a non-zero code, the exit codes follow the `ch?` root standard, see below:

126 if the contained command cannot be invoked

```
$ docker exec busybox /etc; echo $?
```

```
# exec: "/etc": permission denied
```

docker: Error response from daemon: Contained command could not be invoked

126

127 if the contained command cannot be found

```
$ docker exec busybox foo; echo $?
```

```
# exec: "foo": executable file not found in $PATH
```

docker: Error response from daemon: Contained command not found or does not exist

127

Exit code of contained command otherwise

```
$ docker exec busybox /bin/sh -c 'exit 3'
```

```
# 3
```

OPTIONS

`-d, --detach[=false]` Detached mode: run command in the background

`--detach-keys=""` Override the key sequence for detaching a container

`-e, --env=` Set environment variables

`--env-file=` Read in a file of environment variables

`-i, --interactive[=false]` Keep STDIN open even if not attached

`--privileged[=false]` Give extended privileges to the command

`-t, --tty[=false]` Allocate a pseudo-TTY

`-u, --user=""` Username or UID (format: "[[:]")

`-w, --workdir=""` Working directory inside the container

SEE ALSO

`docker-container(1)`