

NAME

podman - Simple management tool for pods, containers and images

SYNOPSIS

podman [*options*] *command*

DESCRIPTION

Podman (Pod Manager) is a fully featured container engine that is a simple daemonless tool. Podman provides a Docker-CLI comparable command line that eases the transition from other container engines and allows the management of pods, containers and images. Simply put: **alias docker=podman**. Most Podman commands can be run as a regular user, without requiring additional privileges.

Podman uses Buildah(1) internally to create container images. Both tools share image (not container) storage, hence each can use or manipulate images (but not containers) created by the other.

Default settings for flags are defined in **containers.conf**. Most settings for Remote connections use the server's containers.conf, except when documented in man pages.

podman [GLOBAL OPTIONS]

GLOBAL OPTIONS

--cgroup-manager=manager

The CGroup manager to use for container cgroups. Supported values are **cgroupfs** or **systemd**. Default is **systemd** unless overridden in the containers.conf file.

Note: Setting this flag can cause certain commands to break when called on containers previously created by the other CGroup manager type. Note: CGroup manager is not supported in rootless mode when using CGroups Version V1.

--common

Path of the common binary (Default path is configured in **containers.conf**)

--connection, -c

Connection to use for remote podman, including Mac and Windows (excluding WSL2) machines, (Default connection is configured in **containers.conf**) Setting this option switches the **--remote** option to true. Remote connections use local containers.conf for default.

--events-backend=type

Backend to use for storing events. Allowed values are **file**, **journald**, and **none**. When **file** is specified, the events are stored under **<tmpdir>/events/events.log** (see **--tmpdir** below).

--help, -h

Print usage statement

--hooks-dir=path

Each *.json file in the path configures a hook for Podman containers. For more details on the syntax of the JSON files and the semantics of hook injection, see **oci-hooks(5)**. Podman and libpod currently support both the 1.0.0 and 0.1.0 hook schemas, although the 0.1.0 schema is deprecated.

This option may be set multiple times; paths from later options have higher precedence (**oci-hooks(5)** discusses directory precedence).

For the annotation conditions, libpod uses any annotations set in the generated OCI configuration.

For the bind-mount conditions, only mounts explicitly requested by the caller via **--volume** are considered. Bind mounts that libpod inserts by default (e.g. **/dev/shm**) are not considered.

If **--hooks-dir** is unset for root callers, Podman and libpod currently default to **/usr/share/containers/oci/hooks.d** and **/etc/containers/oci/hooks.d** in order of increasing precedence. Using these defaults is deprecated. Migrate to explicitly setting **--hooks-dir**.

Podman and libpod currently support an additional **precreate** state which is called before the runtime's **create** operation. Unlike the other stages, which receive the container state on their standard input, **precreate** hooks receive the proposed runtime configuration on their standard input. They may alter that configuration as they see fit, and write the altered form to their standard output.

WARNING: the **precreate** hook allows powerful changes to occur, such as adding additional mounts to the runtime configuration. That power also makes it easy to break things. Before reporting libpod errors, try running a container with **precreate** hooks disabled to see if the problem is due to one of the hooks.

--identity=path

Path to ssh identity file. If the identity file has been encrypted, podman prompts the user for the passphrase. If no identity file is provided and no user is given, podman defaults to the user running the podman command. Podman prompts for the login password on the remote server.

Identity value resolution precedence:

- command line value
- environment variable **CONTAINER_SSHKEY**, if **CONTAINER_HOST** is found
- **containers.conf** Remote connections use local containers.conf for default.

--imagestore=path

Path of the imagestore where images are stored. By default, the storage library stores all the images in the graphroot but if an imagestore is provided, then the storage library will store newly pulled images in the provided imagestore and keep using the graphroot for everything else. If the user is using the overlay driver, then the images which were already part of the graphroot will still be accessible.

This will override *imagestore* option in **containers-storage.conf(5)**, refer to **containers-storage.conf(5)** for more details.

--log-level=level

Log messages at and above specified level: **debug**, **info**, **warn**, **error**, **fatal** or **panic** (default: *warn*)

--module=path

Load the specified **containers.conf(5)** module. Can be an absolute or relative path. Please refer to **containers.conf(5)** for details.

This flag is not supported on the remote client, including Mac and Windows (excluding WSL2) machines. Further note that the flag is a root-level flag and must be specified before any Podman sub-command.

--network-cmd-path=path

Path to the **slirp4netns(1)** command binary to use for setting up a slirp4netns network. If "" is used, then the binary will first be searched using the **helper_binaries_dir** option in **containers.conf**, and second using the **\$PATH** environment variable. **Note:** This option is deprecated and will be removed with Podman 5.0. Use the **helper_binaries_dir** option in **containers.conf** instead.

--network-config-dir=directory

Path to the directory where network configuration files are located. For the netavark backend "/etc/containers/networks" is used as root and "\$graphroot/networks" as rootless. For the CNI backend the default is "/etc/cni/net.d" as root and "\$HOME/.config/cni/net.d" as rootless. CNI is deprecated and will be removed in the next major Podman version 5.0 in preference of Netavark.

--out=path

Redirect the output of podman to the specified path without affecting the container output or its logs. This parameter can be used to capture the output from any of podman's commands directly into a file and enable suppression of podman's output by specifying /dev/null as the path. To explicitly disable the container logging, the **--log-driver** option should be used.

--remote, -r

When true, access to the Podman service is remote. Defaults to false. Settings can be modified in the **containers.conf** file. If the **CONTAINER_HOST** environment variable is set, the **--remote** option defaults to true.

--root=value

Storage root dir in which data, including images, is stored (default: "/var/lib/containers/storage" for UID 0, "\$HOME/.local/share/containers/storage" for other users). Default root dir configured in **containers-storage.conf(5)**.

Overriding this option causes the *storage-opt* settings in **containers-storage.conf(5)** to be ignored. The user must specify additional options via the **--storage-opt** flag.

--runroot=value

Storage state directory where all state information is stored (default: "/run/containers/storage" for UID 0, "/run/user/\$UID/run" for other users). Default state dir configured in **containers-storage.conf(5)**.

--runtime=value

Name of the OCI runtime as specified in **containers.conf** or absolute path to the OCI compatible binary used to run containers.

--runtime-flag=flag

Adds global flags for the container runtime. To list the supported flags, please consult the manpages of the selected container runtime (**runc** is the default runtime, the manpage to consult is **runc(8)**). When the machine is configured for cgroup V2, the default runtime is **crun**, the manpage to consult is **crun(8)**).

Note: Do not pass the leading -- to the flag. To pass the runc flag **--log-format json** to podman build, the option given can be **--runtime-flag log-format=json**.

--ssh=value

This option allows the user to change the ssh mode, meaning that rather than using the default **golang** mode, one can instead use **--ssh=native** to use the installed ssh binary and config file declared in

containers.conf.

--storage-driver=*value*

Storage driver. The default storage driver for UID 0 is configured in **containers-storage.conf(5)** in rootless mode), and is *vfs* for non-root users when *fuse-overlayfs* is not available. The **STORAGE_DRIVER** environment variable overrides the default. The **--storage-driver** specified driver overrides all.

Overriding this option causes the *storage-opt* settings in **containers-storage.conf(5)** to be ignored. The user must specify additional options via the **--storage-opt** flag.

--storage-opt=*value*

Specify a storage driver option. Default storage driver options are configured in **containers-storage.conf(5)**. The **STORAGE_OPTS** environment variable overrides the default. The **--storage-opt** specified options override all. Specify **--storage-opt=""** so no storage options is used.

--syslog

Output logging information to syslog as well as the console (default *false*).

On remote clients, including Mac and Windows (excluding WSL2) machines, logging is directed to the file `$HOME/.config/containers/podman.log`.

--tmpdir=*path*

Path to the tmp directory, for libpod runtime content. Defaults to **\$XDG_RUNTIME_DIR/libpod/tmp** as rootless and **/run/libpod/tmp** as rootful.

NOTE **--tmpdir** is not used for the temporary storage of downloaded images. Use the environment variable **TMPDIR** to change the temporary storage location of downloaded container images. Podman defaults to use **/var/tmp**.

--transient-store

Enables a global transient storage mode where all container metadata is stored on non-persistent media (i.e. in the location specified by **--runroot**). This mode allows starting containers faster, as well as guaranteeing a fresh state on boot in case of unclean shutdowns or other problems. However it is not compatible with a traditional model where containers persist across reboots.

Default value for this is configured in **containers-storage.conf(5)**.

--url=*value*

URL to access Podman service (default from **containers.conf**, rootless **unix:///run/user/\$UID/podman/podman.sock** or as root **unix:///run/podman/podman.sock**). Setting this option switches the **--remote** option to true.

- **CONTAINER_HOST** is of the format **<schema>://[<user>[:<password>]@]<host>[:<port>][<path>]**

Details:

- **schema** is one of:
 - * **ssh** (default): a local unix(7) socket on the named **host** and **port**, reachable via SSH
 - * **tcp**: an unencrypted, unauthenticated TCP connection to the named **host** and **port**

- * **unix**: a local unix(7) socket at the specified **path**, or the default for the user
- **user** defaults to either **root** or the current running user (**ssh** only)
- **password** has no default (**ssh** only)
- **host** must be provided and is either the IP or name of the machine hosting the Podman service (**ssh** and **tcp**)
- **port** defaults to 22 (**ssh** and **tcp**)
- **path** defaults to either **/run/podman/podman.sock**, or **/run/user/\$UID/podman/podman.sock** if running rootless (**unix**), or must be explicitly specified (**ssh**)

URL value resolution precedence:

- command line value
- environment variable **CONTAINER_HOST**
- **engine.service_destinations** table in containers.conf, excluding the /usr/share/containers directory
- **unix:///run/podman/podman.sock**

Remote connections use local containers.conf for default.

Some example URL values in valid formats:

- **unix:///run/podman/podman.sock**
- **unix:///run/user/\$UID/podman/podman.sock**
- **ssh://notroot@localhost:22/run/user/\$UID/podman/podman.sock**
- **ssh://root@localhost:22/run/podman/podman.sock**
- **tcp://localhost:34451**
- **tcp://127.0.0.1:34451**

--version, -v

Print the version

--volume-path=value

Volume directory where builtin volume information is stored (default: "/var/lib/containers/storage/volumes" for UID 0, "\$HOME/.local/share/containers/storage/volumes" for other users). Default volume path can be overridden in **containers.conf**.

Environment Variables

Podman can set up environment variables from env of [engine] table in containers.conf. These variables can be overridden by passing environment variables before the **podman** commands.

CONTAINERS_CONF

Set default locations of containers.conf file

CONTAINERS_REGISTRIES_CONF

Set default location of the registries.conf file.

CONTAINERS_STORAGE_CONF

Set default location of the storage.conf file.

CONTAINER_CONNECTION

Override default **--connection** value to access Podman service. Also enabled **--remote** option.

CONTAINER_HOST

Set default **--url** value to access Podman service. Also enabled **--remote** option.

CONTAINER_SSHKEY

Set default **--identity** path to ssh key file value used to access Podman service.

STORAGE_DRIVER

Set default **--storage-driver** value.

STORAGE_OPTS

Set default **--storage-opts** value.

TMPDIR

Set the temporary storage location of downloaded container images. Podman defaults to use **/var/tmp**.

XDG_CONFIG_HOME

In Rootless mode configuration files are read from **XDG_CONFIG_HOME** when specified, otherwise in the home directory of the user under **\$HOME/.config/containers**.

XDG_DATA_HOME

In Rootless mode images are pulled under **XDG_DATA_HOME** when specified, otherwise in the home directory of the user under **\$HOME/.local/share/containers/storage**.

XDG_RUNTIME_DIR

In Rootless mode temporary configuration data is stored in **\${XDG_RUNTIME_DIR}/containers**.

Remote Access

The Podman command can be used with remote services using the **--remote** flag. Connections can be made using local unix domain sockets, ssh or directly to tcp sockets. When specifying the podman **--remote** flag, only the global options **--url**, **--identity**, **--log-level**, **--connection** are used.

Connection information can also be managed using the containers.conf file.

Exit Codes

The exit code from **podman** gives information about why the container failed to run or why it exited. When **podman** commands exit with a non-zero code, the exit codes follow the **chroot** standard, see below:

125 The error is with podman *itself*

```
$ podman run --foo busybox; echo $?
Error: unknown flag: --foo
125
```

126 Executing a *container command* and the *command* cannot be invoked

```
$ podman run busybox /etc; echo $?
Error: container_linux.go:346: starting container process caused "exec: \"/etc\": pe
126
```

127 Executing a *container command* and the *command* cannot be found

```
$ podman run busybox foo; echo $?  
Error: container_linux.go:346: starting container process caused "exec: \"foo\": exe  
127
```

Exit code otherwise, **podman** returns the exit code of the *container command*

```
$ podman run busybox /bin/sh -c 'exit 3'; echo $?  
3
```

COMMANDS

CONFIGURATION FILES

containers.conf (/usr/share/containers/containers.conf, /etc/containers/containers.conf, \$HOME/.config/containers/containers.conf)

Podman has builtin defaults for command line options. These defaults can be overridden using the containers.conf configuration files.

Distributions ship the /usr/share/containers/containers.conf file with their default settings. Administrators can override fields in this file by creating the /etc/containers/containers.conf file. Users can further modify defaults by creating the \$HOME/.config/containers/containers.conf file. Podman merges its builtin defaults with the specified fields from these files, if they exist. Fields specified in the users file override the administrator's file, which overrides the distribution's file, which override the built-in defaults.

Podman uses builtin defaults if no containers.conf file is found.

If the **CONTAINERS_CONF** environment variable is set, then its value is used for the containers.conf file rather than the default.

mounts.conf (/usr/share/containers/mounts.conf)

The mounts.conf file specifies volume mount directories that are automatically mounted inside containers when executing the **podman run** or **podman start** commands. Administrators can override the defaults file by creating /etc/containers/mounts.conf.

When Podman runs in rootless mode, the file \$HOME/.config/containers/mounts.conf overrides the default if it exists. For details, see containers-mounts.conf(5).

policy.json (/etc/containers/policy.json)

Signature verification policy files are used to specify policy, e.g. trusted keys, applicable when deciding whether to accept an image, or individual signatures of that image, as valid.

registries.conf (/etc/containers/registries.conf, \$HOME/.config/containers/registries.conf)

registries.conf is the configuration file which specifies which container registries is consulted when completing image names which do not include a registry or domain portion.

Non root users of Podman can create the \$HOME/.config/containers/registries.conf file to be used instead of the system defaults.

If the **CONTAINERS_REGISTRIES_CONF** environment variable is set, then its value is used for the registries.conf file rather than the default.

storage.conf (/etc/containers/storage.conf, \$HOME/.config/containers/storage.conf)

storage.conf is the storage configuration file for all tools using containers/storage

The storage configuration file specifies all of the available container storage options for tools using shared

container storage.

When Podman runs in rootless mode, the file **\$HOME/.config/containers/storage.conf** is used instead of the system defaults.

If the **CONTAINERS_STORAGE_CONF** environment variable is set, then its value is used for the storage.conf file rather than the default.

Rootless mode

Podman can also be used as non-root user. When podman runs in rootless mode, a user namespace is automatically created for the user, defined in **/etc/subuid** and **/etc/subgid**.

Containers created by a non-root user are not visible to other users and are not seen or managed by Podman running as root.

It is required to have multiple UIDS/GIDS set for a user. Be sure the user is present in the files **/etc/subuid** and **/etc/subgid**.

Execute the following commands to add the ranges to the files

```
$ sudo usermod --add-subuids 10000-75535 USERNAME
$ sudo usermod --add-subgids 10000-75535 USERNAME
```

Or just add the content manually.

```
$ echo USERNAME:10000:65536 >> /etc/subuid
$ echo USERNAME:10000:65536 >> /etc/subgid
```

See the **subuid(5)** and **subgid(5)** man pages for more information.

Images are pulled under **XDG_DATA_HOME** when specified, otherwise in the home directory of the user under **.local/share/containers/storage**.

Currently slirp4netns or pasta is required to be installed to create a network device, otherwise rootless containers need to run in the network namespace of the host.

In certain environments like HPC (High Performance Computing), users cannot take advantage of the additional UIDs and GIDs from the **/etc/subuid** and **/etc/subgid** systems. However, in this environment, rootless Podman can operate with a single UID. To make this work, set the **ignore_chown_errors** option in the **containers-storage.conf(5)** file. This option tells Podman when pulling an image to ignore chown errors when attempting to change a file in a container image to match the non-root UID in the image. This means all files get saved as the user's UID. Note this can cause issues when running the container.

NOTE: Unsupported file systems in rootless mode

The Overlay file system (OverlayFS) is not supported with kernels prior to 5.12.9 in rootless mode. The fuse-overlayfs package is a tool that provides the functionality of OverlayFS in user namespace that allows mounting file systems in rootless environments. It is recommended to install the fuse-overlayfs package. In rootless mode, Podman automatically uses the fuse-overlayfs program as the mount_program if installed,

as long as the `$HOME/.config/containers/storage.conf` file was not previously created. If `storage.conf` exists in the homedir, add **`mount_program = "/usr/bin/fuse-overlayfs"`** under **`[storage.options.overlay]`** to enable this feature.

The Network File System (NFS) and other distributed file systems (for example: Lustre, Spectrum Scale, the General Parallel File System (GPFS)) are not supported when running in rootless mode as these file systems do not understand user namespace. However, rootless Podman can make use of an NFS Homedir by modifying the `$HOME/.config/containers/storage.conf` to have the **`graphroot`** option point to a directory stored on local (Non NFS) storage.

For more information, see the Podman Troubleshooting Page.

SEE ALSO

`containers-mounts.conf(5)`, **`containers.conf(5)`**, **`containers-registries.conf(5)`**, **`containers-storage.conf(5)`**, **`buildah(1)`**, **`oci-hooks(5)`**, **`containers-policy.json(5)`**, **`crun(1)`**, **`runc(8)`**, **`subuid(5)`**, **`subgid(5)`**, **`slirp4netns(1)`**, **`pasta(1)`**, **`common(8)`**

HISTORY

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