

Docker Desktop CLI

By Docker Inc

Published: 2026-02-21 · Archived: 2026-04-05 18:16:38 UTC

[Home](#) / [Manuals](#) / [Docker Desktop](#) / [Features and capabilities](#) / Docker Desktop CLI

Use the Docker Desktop CLI

Table of contents

- [Usage](#)
- [Commands](#)



Requires: Docker Desktop [4.37](#) and later

The Docker Desktop CLI lets you perform key operations such as starting, stopping, restarting, and updating Docker Desktop directly from the command line.

The Docker Desktop CLI provides:

- Simplified automation for local development: Execute Docker Desktop operations more efficiently in scripts and tests.
- An improved developer experience: Restart, quit, or reset Docker Desktop from the command line, reducing dependency on the Docker Desktop Dashboard and improving flexibility and efficiency.

[Usage](#)

```
docker desktop COMMAND [OPTIONS]
```

[Commands](#)

Command	Description
<code>start</code>	Starts Docker Desktop
<code>stop</code>	Stops Docker Desktop
<code>restart</code>	Restarts Docker Desktop
<code>status</code>	Displays whether Docker Desktop is running or stopped.

Command	Description
<code>engine ls</code>	Lists available engines (Windows only)
<code>engine use</code>	Switch between Linux and Windows containers (Windows only)
<code>update</code>	Manage Docker Desktop updates. Available for Mac only with Docker Desktop version 4.38, or all OSs with Docker Desktop version 4.39 and later.
<code>logs</code>	Print log entries
<code>disable</code>	Disable a feature
<code>enable</code>	Enable a feature
<code>version</code>	Show the Docker Desktop CLI plugin version information
<code>kubernetes</code>	List Kubernetes images used by Docker Desktop or restart the cluster. Available with Docker Desktop version 4.44 and later.
<code>diagnose</code>	Diagnose Docker Desktop and upload the diagnostics. Available with Docker Desktop 4.60 and later.

For more details on each command, see the [Docker Desktop CLI reference](#).

Source: <https://docs.docker.com/desktop/features/desktop-cli/>