NAME

docker-container-exec - Run 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 ⟨http://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 `chroot` 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

-h, **--help**[=false] help for exec

-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)