

Tips & Tricks

Simplify docker compose files

When working with a larger app-stack, that uses multiple different services, a lot of times different settings get reused. To simplify we can use yaml anchors and aliases.

Imagine we have the following servies:

```
version: "3.4"
services:
  app1:
    image: app1
    networks:
      - net1
      - net2
    restart: unless-stopped
  app2:
    image: app3
    networks:
      - net1
      - net2
    restart: unless-stopped
  app3:
    image: app3
    networks:
      - net1
      - net2
    restart: unless-stopped
```

We can see, that the restart policy and the networks are repeated for every single service. We could simplify like this:

```
version: "3.4"
x-app_default: &app_default
  networks:
```

```
- net1
- net2

restart: unless-stopped

services:
  app1:
    <<: *app_default
    image: app1
  app2:
    <<: *app_default
    image: app3
  app3:
    <<: *app_default
    image: app3
```

Starting from compose version 3.4 docker ignores top-level keys that start with `x-`. In the example above, wherever we write `<<: *app_default`, everything given after `x-app_default: &app_default` gets inserted.

If a key-value pair is specified in `app_default` and also in one of the services, the `app_default` values get overwritten entirely.

For more information see [here](#).

Docker aliases

The following are examples for aliases, that can be used to start or stop apps.

```
alias dcup='docker compose up -d'
alias dcdn='docker compose down'
alias dcl='docker compose logs -f'
```

To use these, simply add them to your `~/.bashrc` and log out and back in or alternatively use `source ~/.bashrc`.

See also

- <https://medium.com/@kinghuang/docker-compose-anchors-aliases-extensions-a1e4105d70bd>

