

The Dockerfile explosion

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The Dockerfile explosion and the need for higher level tools

ntroductions

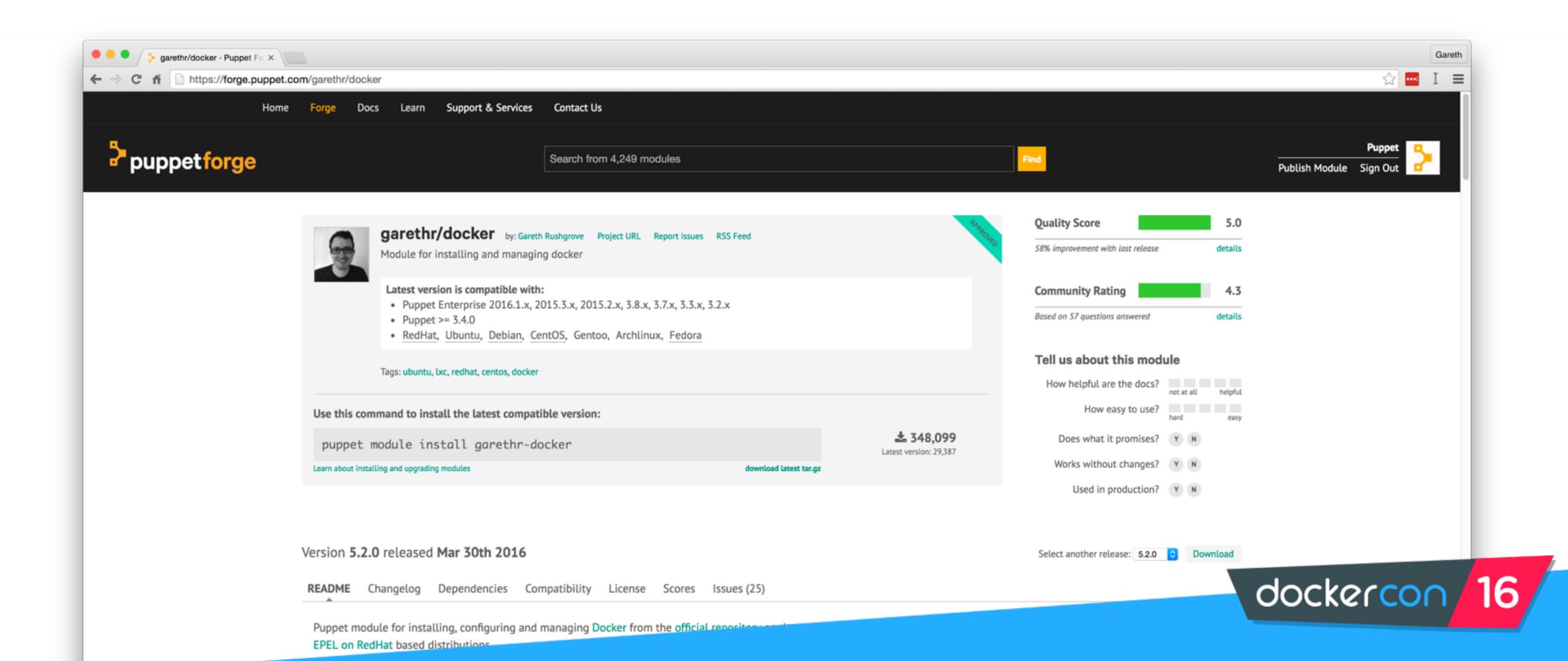
Who am I and what am I doing here

@garethr ____ dockercon 16

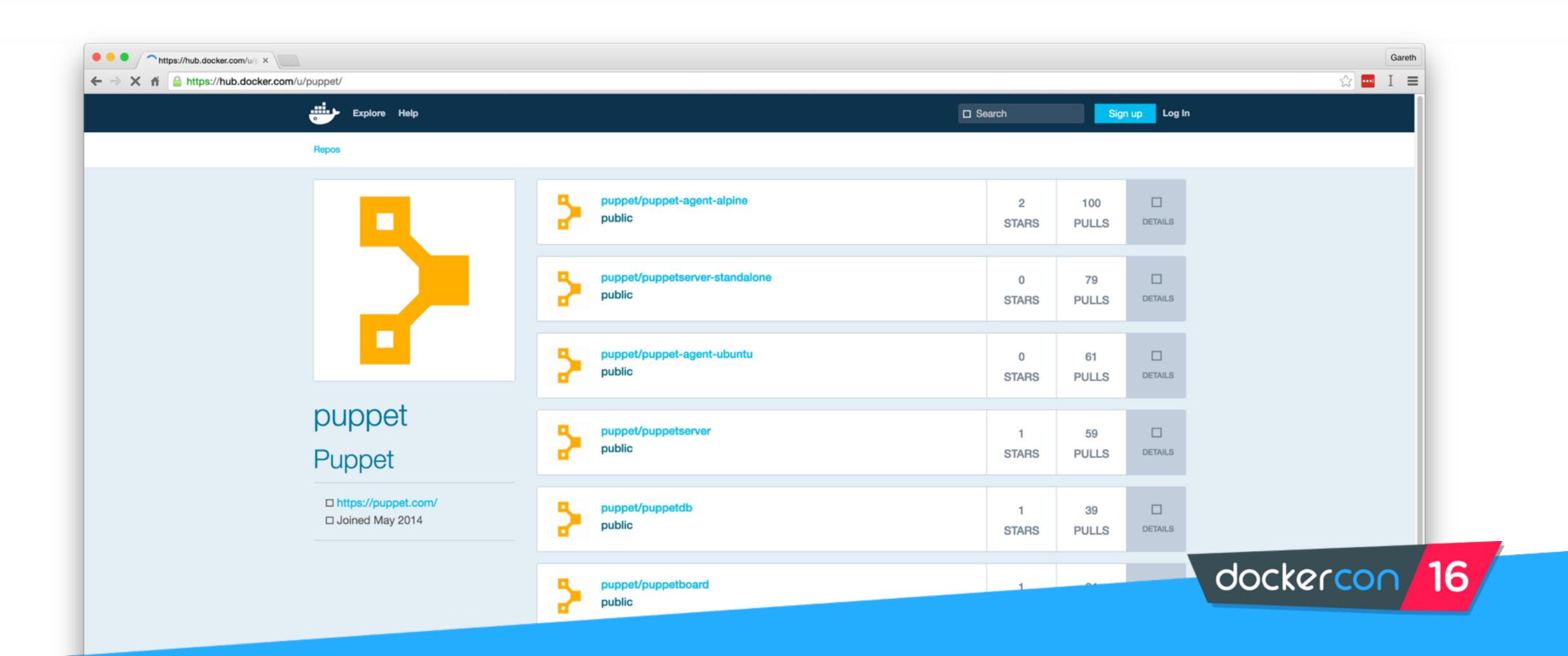


The shortest path to better software.

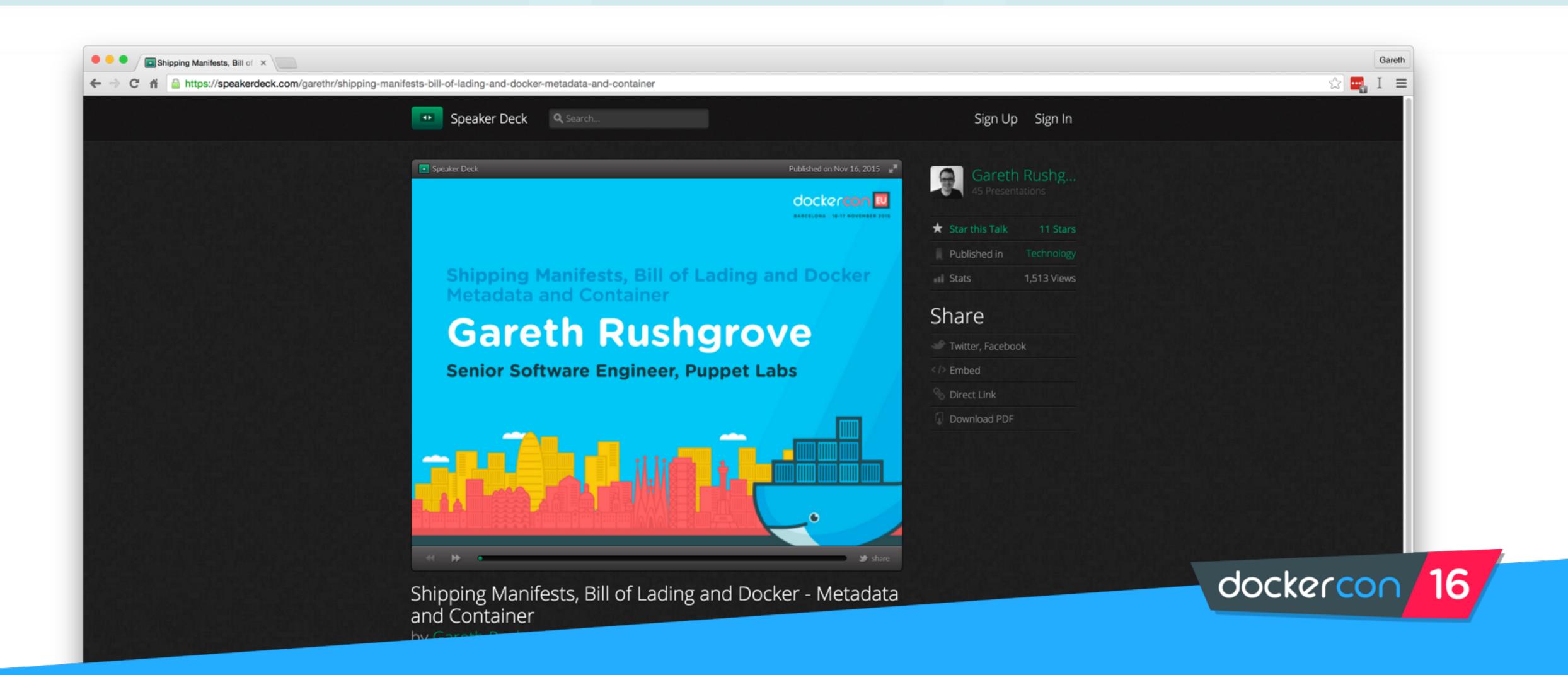
Built the Puppet Docker module



Maintain the Puppet images



Obsessed with metadata



A brief history of Dockerfile

Docker can build images automatically by reading the instructions from a **Dockerfile**

From the official docs at https://docs.docker.com/engine/reference/builder/

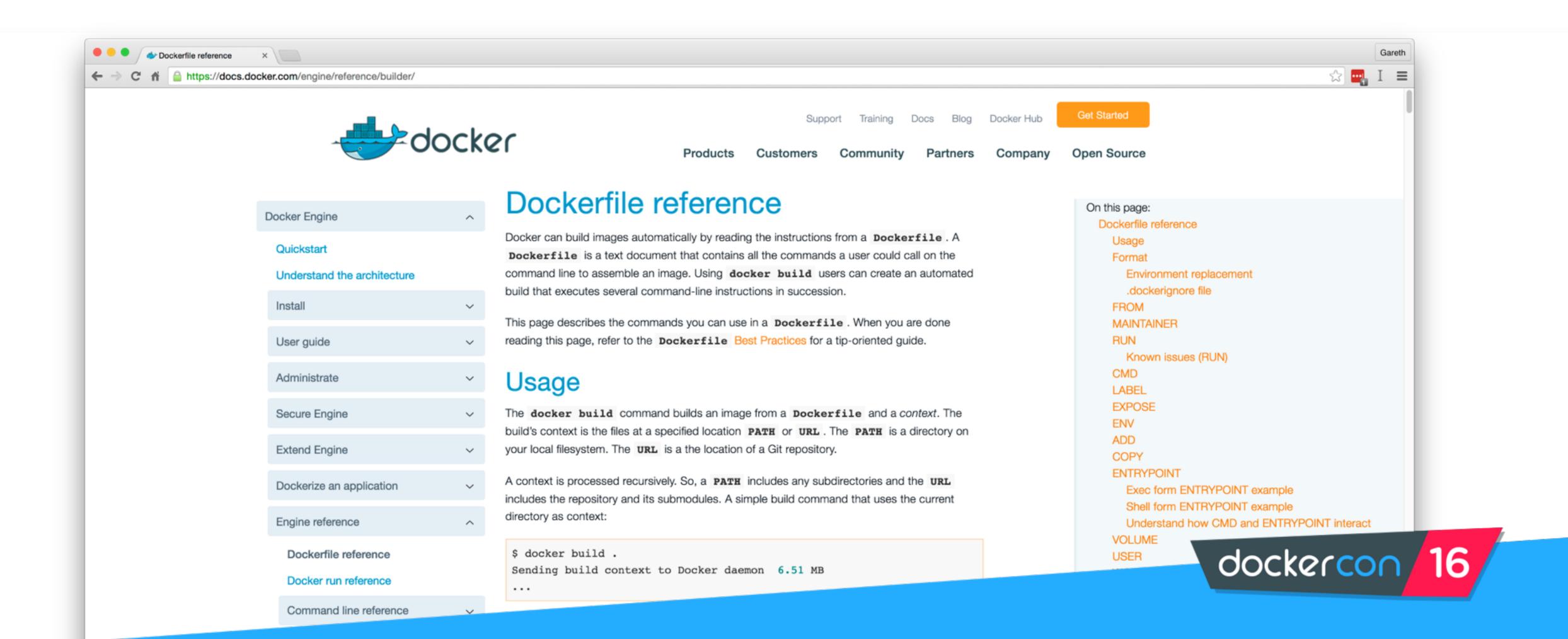
A **Dockerfile** is a text document that contains all the commands a user could call on the command line to assemble an image.

From the official docs at https://docs.docker.com/engine/reference/builder/

A simple Dockerfile

```
FROM ubuntu
# Install vnc, xvfb in order to create a 'fake' display and fire
RUN apt-get update && apt-get install -y x11vnc xvfb firefox
RUN mkdir ~/.vnc
# Setup a password
RUN x11vnc -storepasswd 1234 ~/.vnc/passwd
# Autostart firefox (might not be the best way, but it does the
RUN bash -c 'echo "firefox" >> /.bashrc'
EXPOSE 5900
       ["x11vnc", "-forever", "-usepw" "-croated dockercon/16
CMD
```

Dockerfile reference



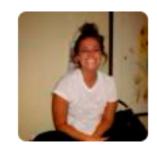
Commands you know

```
MAINTAINER < name >
RUN <command>
CMD ["executable", "param1", "param2"]
EXPOSE <port> [<port>...]
ADD <src>... <dest>
ENV <key> <value>
WORKDIR /path/to/workdir
USER daemon
VOLUME ["/data"]
ENTRYPOINT ["executable", "param1", "param2"]
COPY <src>
```

Commands you don't know

```
ONBUILD [INSTRUCTION]
STOPSIGNAL signal
ARG <name>[=<default value>]
LABEL <key>=<value> <key>=<value> <key>=<value> ...
HEALTHCHECK [OPTIONS] CMD command
SHELL ["executable", "parameters"]
```

Close ALL the issues



jfrazelle commented on Jul 10, 2015



Hello!

We are no longer accepting patches to the Dockerfile syntax as you can read about here: https://github.com/docker/docker/blob/master/ROADMAP.md#22-dockerfile-syntax

Mainly:

Allowing the Builder to be implemented as a separate utility consuming the Engine's API will open the door for many possibilities, such as offering alternate syntaxes or DSL for existing languages without cluttering the Engine's codebase

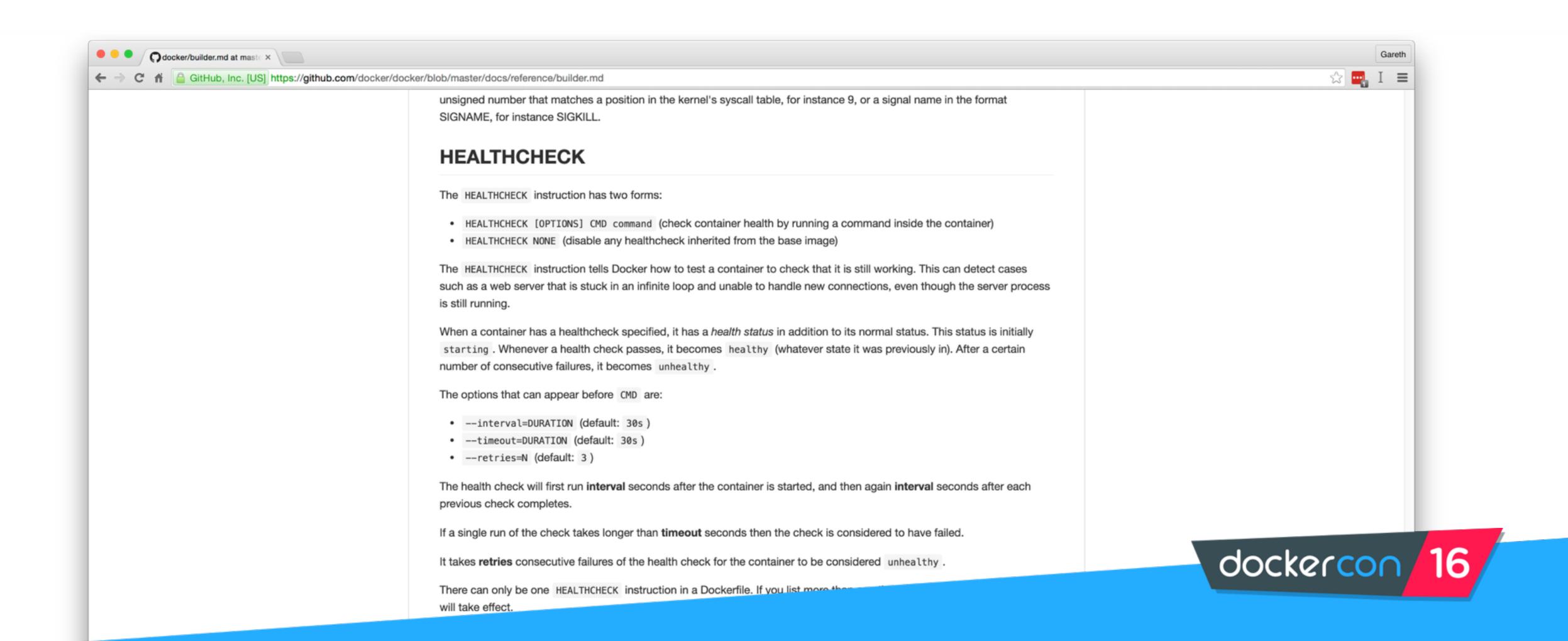
Then from there, patches/features like this can be re-thought. Hope you can understand.



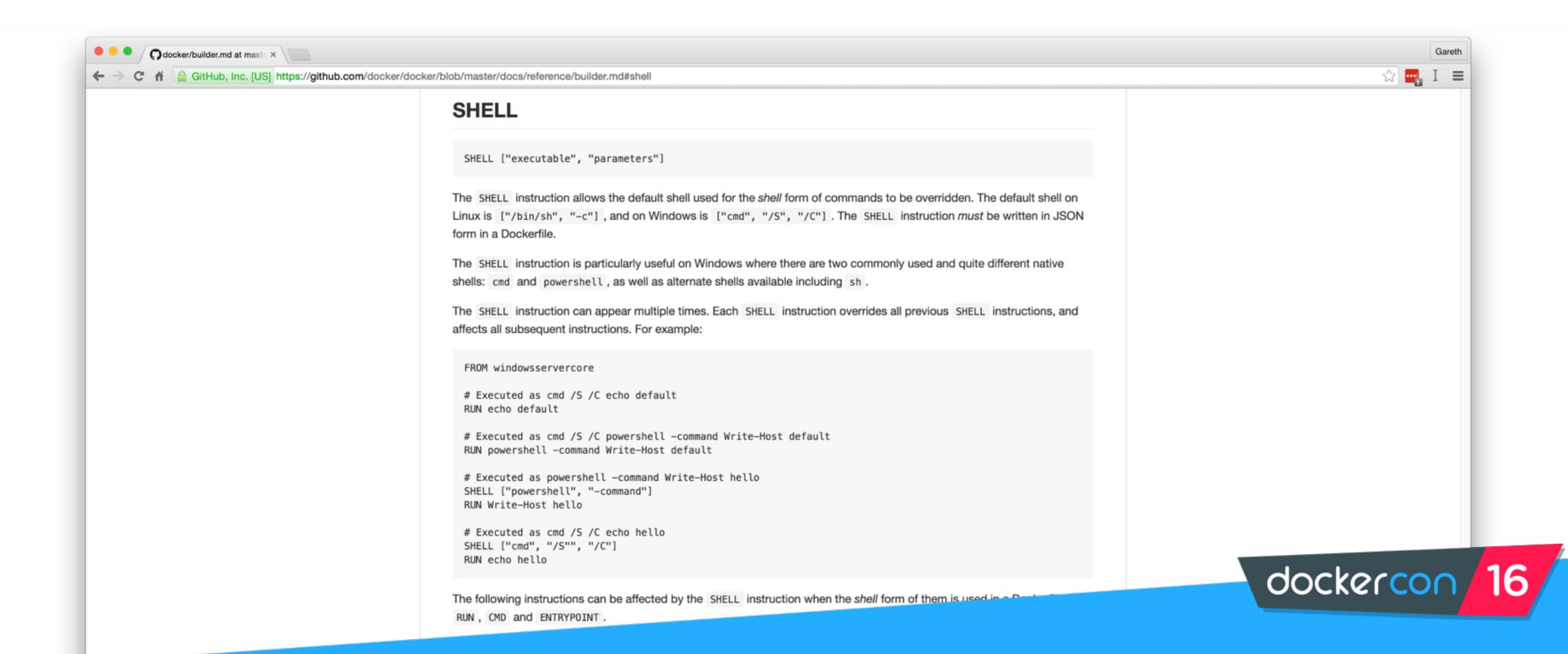


Although this is not a definitive move, we temporarily won't accept more patches to the Dockerfile syntax for several reasons

HEALTHCHECK coming in 1.12



SHELL coming in 1.12



Why Dockerfiles are great

Simplicity

```
FROM scratch
COPY hello /
CMD ["/hello"]
```

Multi-platform support

```
PS> Install-PackageProvider ContainerImage -Force
```

- PS> Install-ContainerImage -Name WindowsServerCore
- PS> docker images

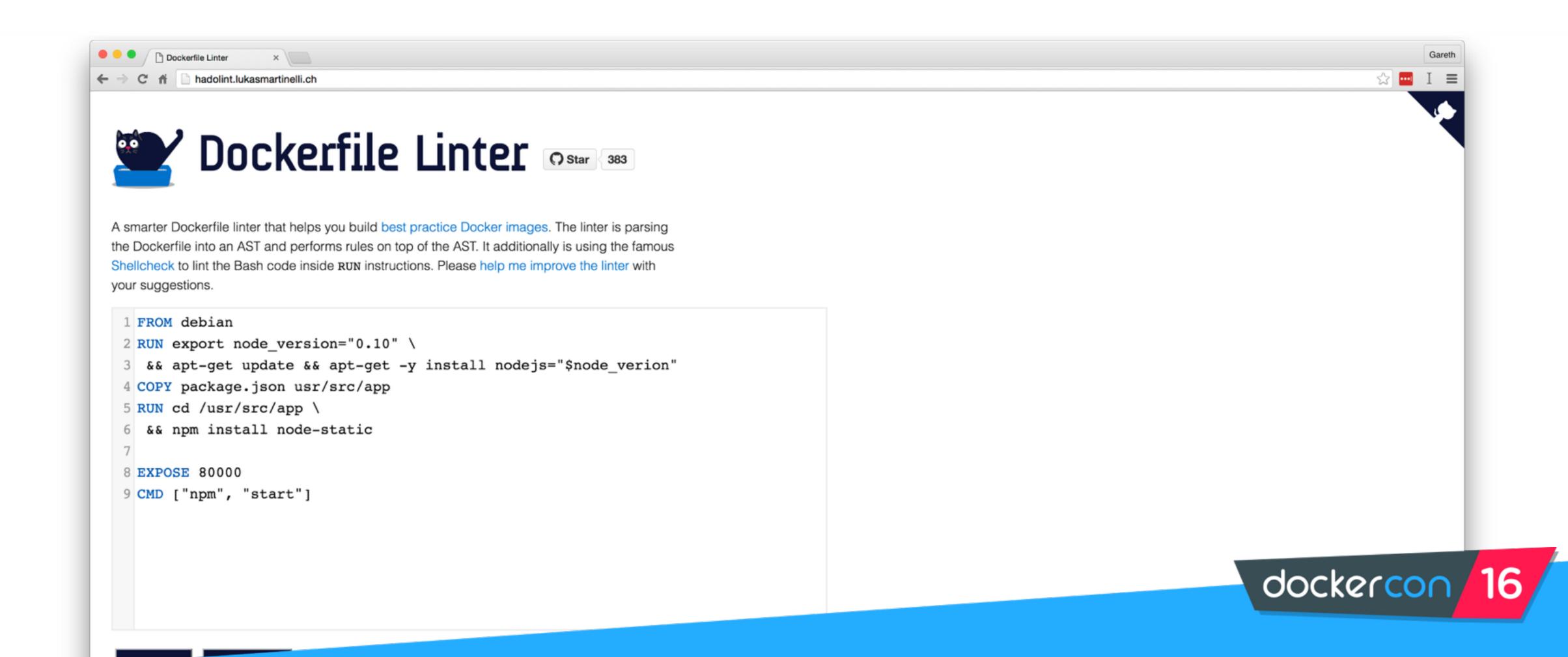
REPOSITORY TAG IMAGE ID windowsservercore 10.0.14300.1000 dbfee88ee9fd

CREA

WE

Emerging tooling

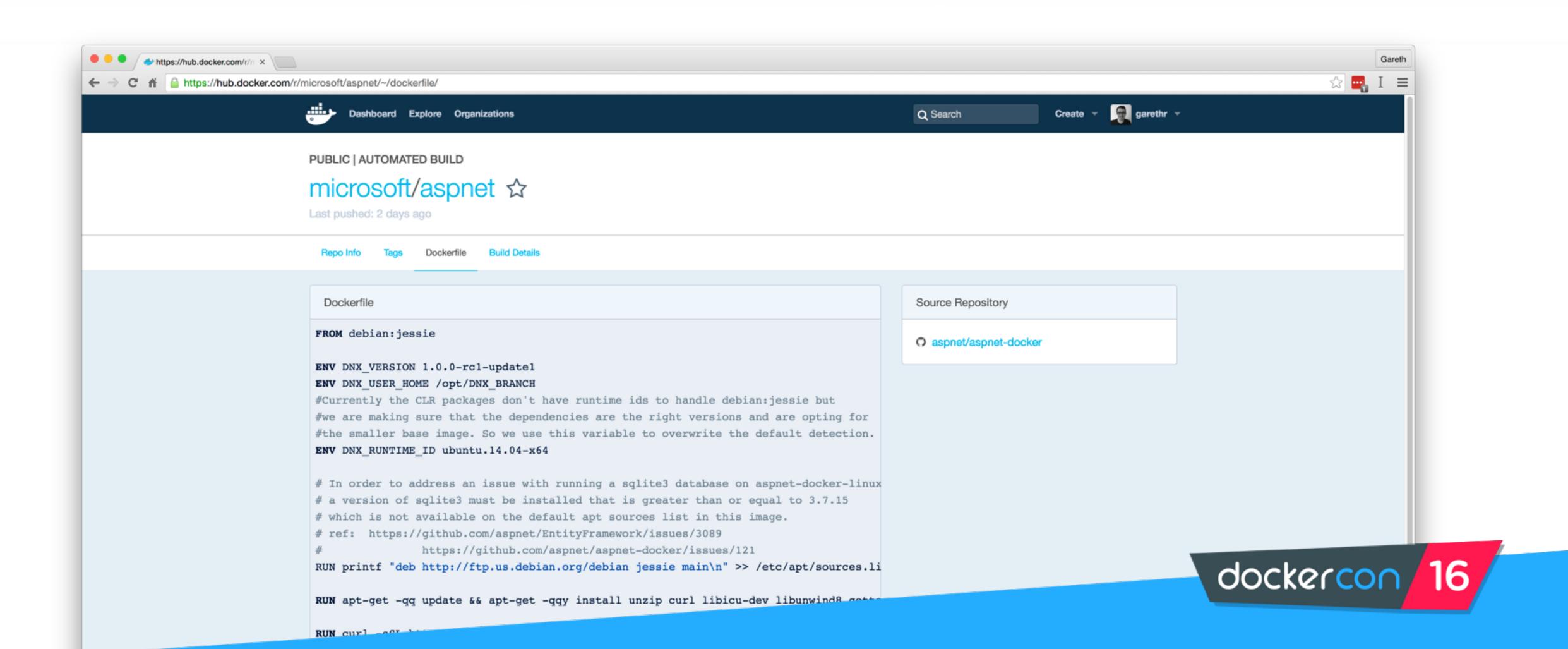
Linting



Editor support

```
1 FROM alpine:3.3
 2 MAINTAINER Gareth Rushgrove "gareth@puppet.com"
 4 ENV PUPPET_EXPLORER_VERSION="2.0.0"
 6 LABEL com.puppet.version=$PUPPET_EXPLORER_VERSION com.puppet.git.repo="https://github.com/puppetlabs/dockerfiles" com.puppet.git.sha="ca4b5726dd0e244b04ed7f84d6568f799>
 8 RUN apk add --no-cache --update ca-certificates && \
      rm -rf /var/cache/apk/*
11 RUN wget "https://caddyserver.com/download/build?os=linux&arch=amd64&features=cors,jsonp,prometheus,realip" -0 - | tar -xz --no-same-owner -C /usr/bin/ caddy
13 RUN wget https://github.com/spotify/puppetexplorer/releases/download/"$PUPPET_EXPLORER_VERSION"/puppetexplorer-"$PUPPET_EXPLORER_VERSION".tar.gz -0 - | tar -xz && \
       ln -s puppetexplorer-"$PUPPET_EXPLORER_VERSION" /puppetexplorer
16 # This patch fixes https://github.com/spotify/puppetexplorer/issues/56 until a new release of puppetexplorer is made
17 RUN sed -i -e 's/puppetlabs\.puppetdb\.query\.population/puppetlabs\.puppetdb\.population/g' -e 's/type=default,//g' /puppetexplorer/app.js
19 COPY Caddyfile /etc/caddy/Caddyfile
20 COPY config.js /puppetexplorer
22 EXPOSE 80
24 WORKDIR /etc/caddy
26 CMD ["/usr/bin/caddy"]
                                                                                                                                              dockercon 16
28 COPY Dockerfile /
```

Cross platform



Why Dockerfiles are problematic

Complexity

```
RUN apt-get update && \
    apt-get install -y wget=1.17.1-1ubuntu1 && \
    wget https://apt.example.com/release-"$UBUNTU CODENAME".deb
    dpkg -i release-"$UBUNTU CODENAME".deb && \
    rm release-"$UBUNTU CODENAME".deb && \
    apt-get update && \
    apt-get install --no-install-recommends -y package=0.1.2 &&
    apt-get clean && \
    rm -rf /var/lib/apt/lists/*
                                                  dockercon 16
```

Dockerfile proliferation

language:Dockerfile maintainer

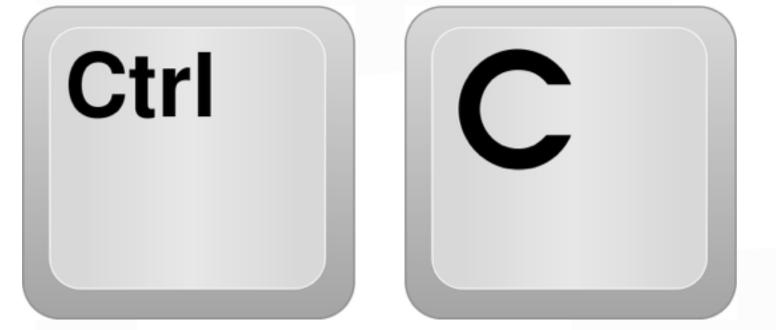
Search

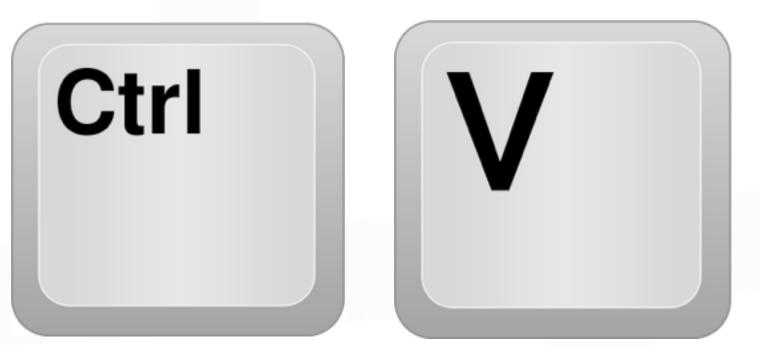
138,062

Only two approaches to reuse

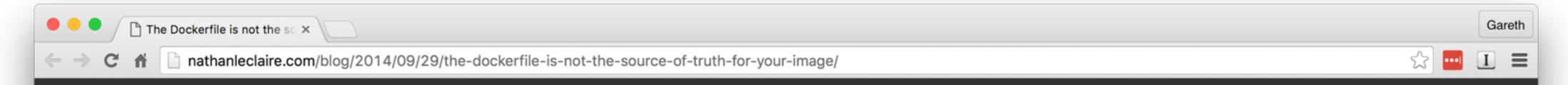
Inheritance

FROM debian: jessie





Dockerfile is not the source of truth for your image





nathan leclaire

I care, I share, I'm Nathan LeClaire.

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email@domain.com

Go

The Dockerfile is not the source of truth for your image

29 Sep 2014

As Docker grows in popularity we at Docker Inc. are very pleased and one of the things we are trying to encourage the most is the clearing up of misconceptions in the community. Things move rapidly in the open source world, so we do our best to educate those who are willing to listen. On that note, there's a few thoughts about Dockerfiles that I want to share.

The Dockerfile is a wonderful creation - it allows you to automate the otherwise tedious process of creating Docker images. A bit of review for those of you who might be scratching your heads right now:

- Docker provides process, network, etc. isolation and a "chroot on steroids" from a given filesystem state.
- You have to get that initial filesystem state somehow.
- You could either roll your own (any Docker on ARM people out there?) from scratch, or use the images provided by a registry. Docker Hub is
 one such registry.
- You can also create images interactively using a base image and docker commit.

docker commit is the operation which creates a new image layer in Docker's layered union filesystem (AUFS by default on Debian-based systems). You can actually see the changes which will be committed with docker diff:

```
$ docker run -it ubuntu bash
root@b3a195b117aa:/# mkdir /data
root@b3a195b117aa:/# cd /data
root@b3a195b117aa:/data# touch a.java b.java
root@b3a195b117aa:/data# exit
exit
$ docker diff $(docker ps -lq)
A /data
A /data/a.java
A /data/b.java
C /root
A /root/.bash_history
```

dockercon 16

The Dockerfile generally works beautifully for the class of problem for which it was designed

Nathan Leclair, Docker Inc

The Dockerfile is a tool for creating images, but it is not the only weapon in your arsenal

Nathan Leclair, Docker Inc

Putting the problems in context

If we dockerize all of our applications how many **Dockerfiles** is that?



If we build a complex hierarchy of **Dockerfiles**, how quickly can we trace/rebuild a specific image?

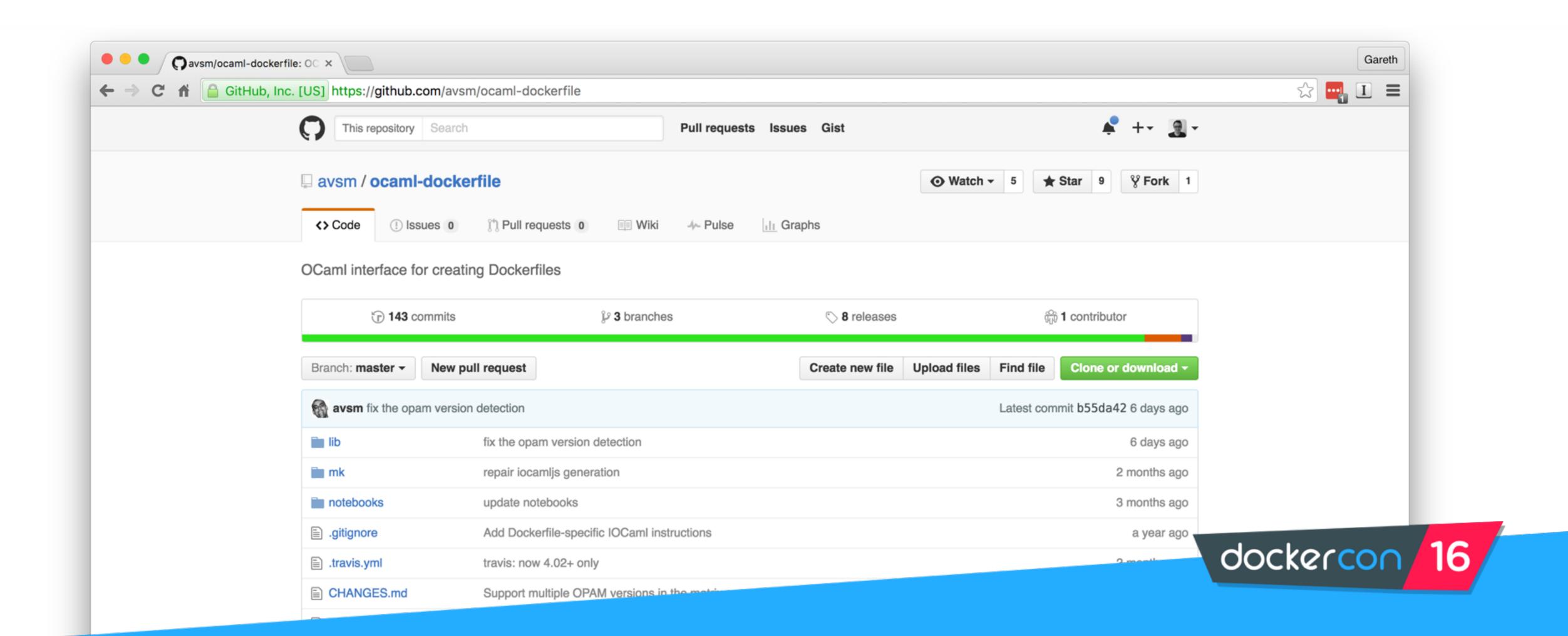
As best-practices develops how can we refactor our **Dockefiles** with confidence?

Are **Dockerfiles** best managed centrally or on a team-by-team basis?

Some community ideas

Generate Dockerfiles

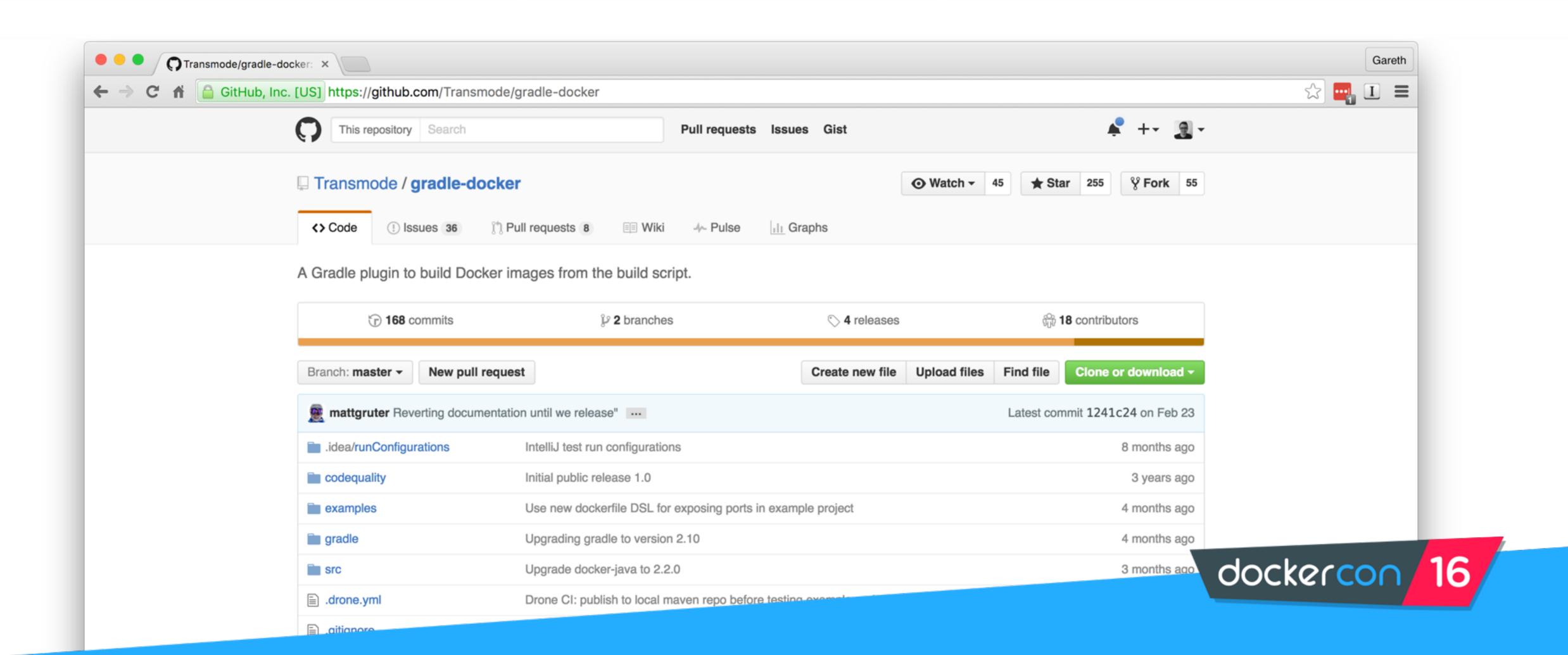
Build Dockerfiles with OCAML



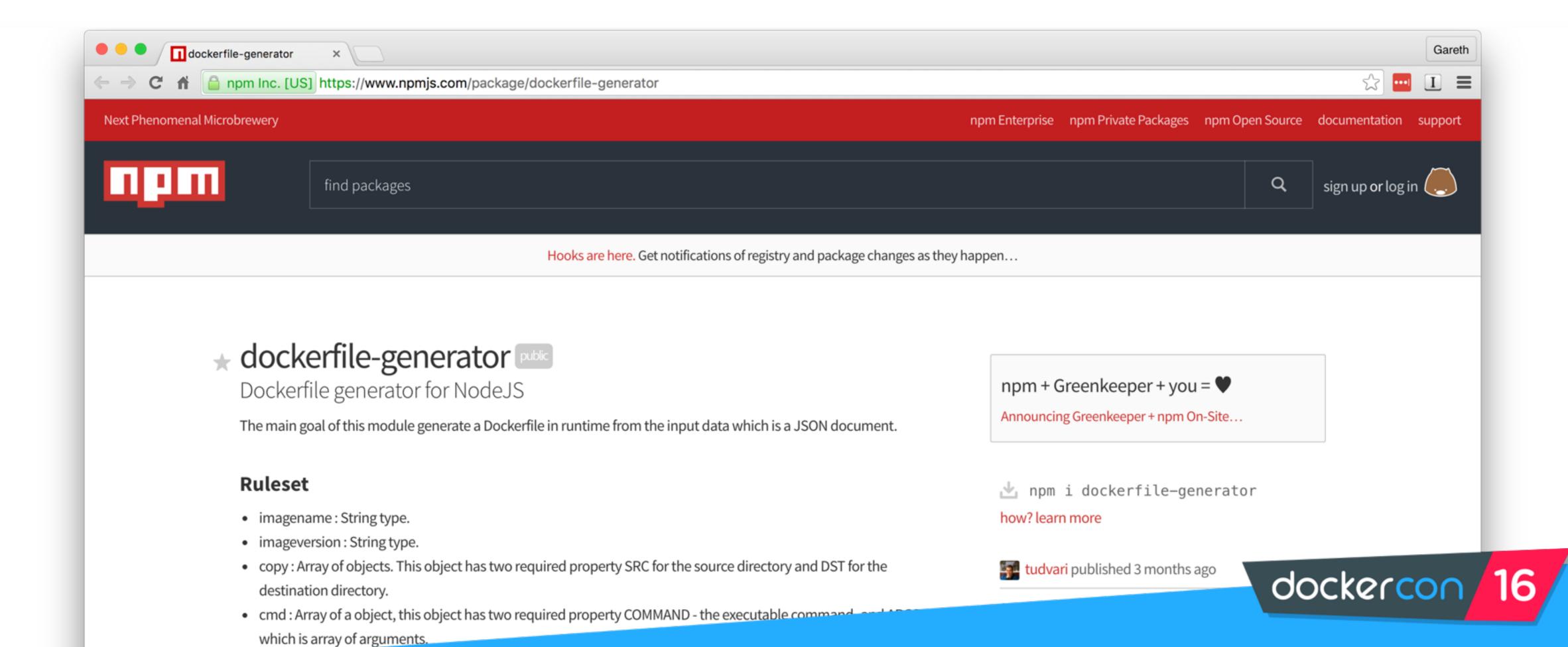
OCAML example

```
let base =
  let email = "anil@recoil.org" in
 comment "Generated by OCaml Dockerfile" @@
 from "ubuntu" ~tag: "trusty" @@
 maintainer "Anil Madhavapeddy <%s>" email
let ocaml ubuntu image =
  base @@
  run "apt-get -y -qq update" @@
  run "apt-get -y install ocaml ocaml-native-compilate dockercon 16
 onbuild (run "apt-get -v -ag undata")
```

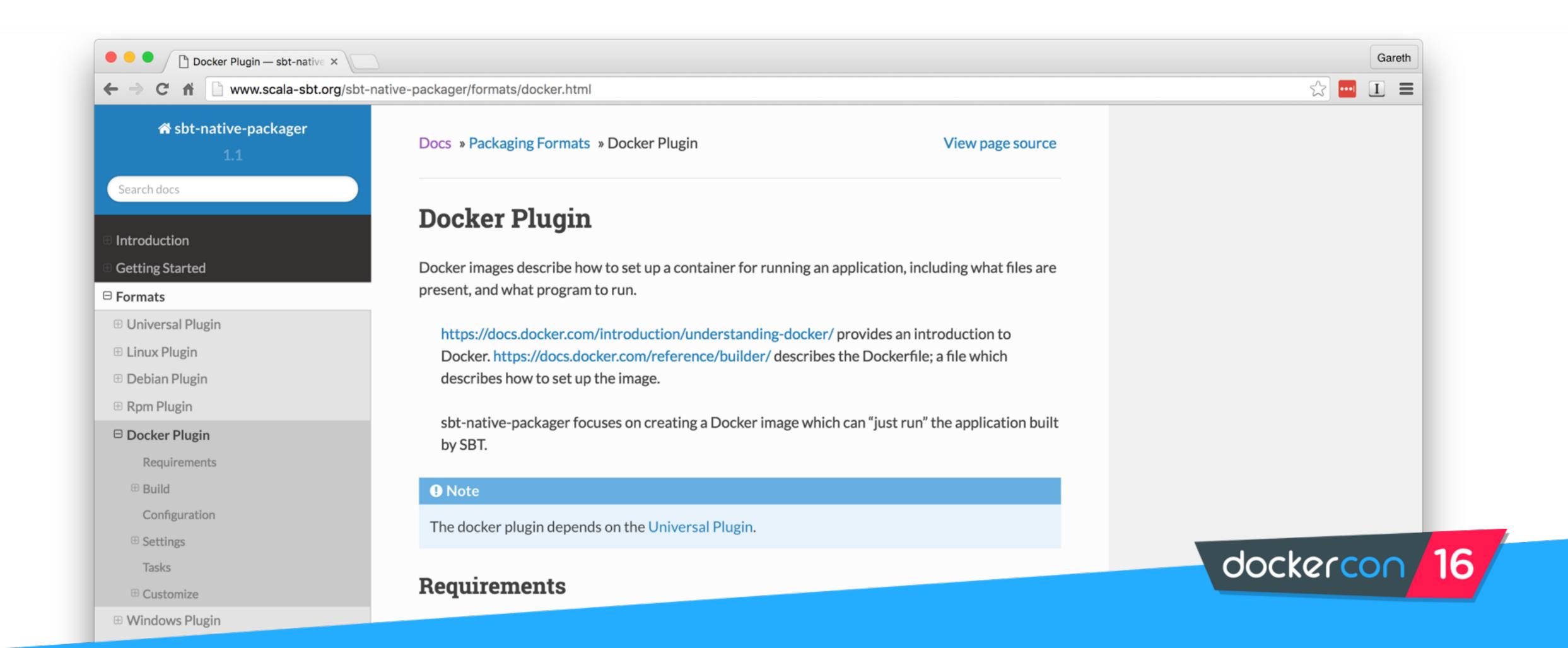
With Gradle



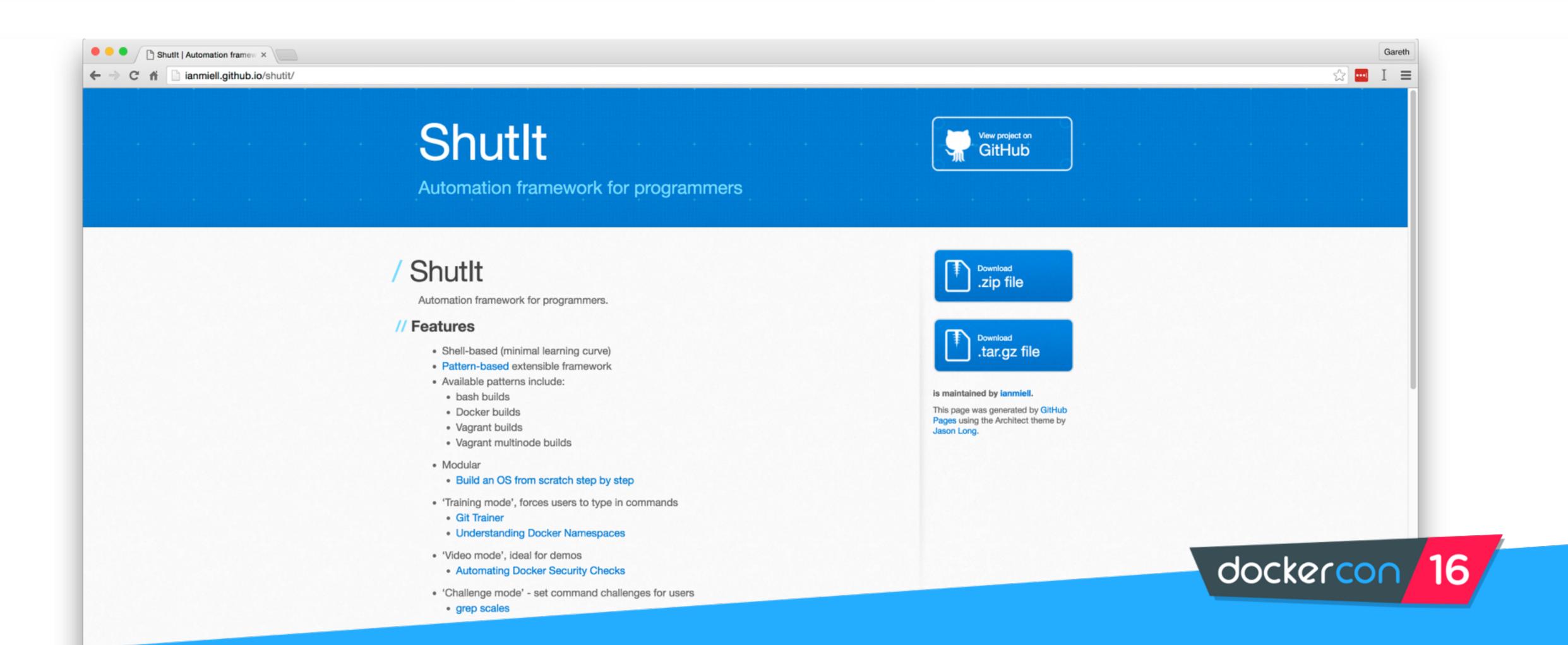
Or Javascript



Or Scala and SBT

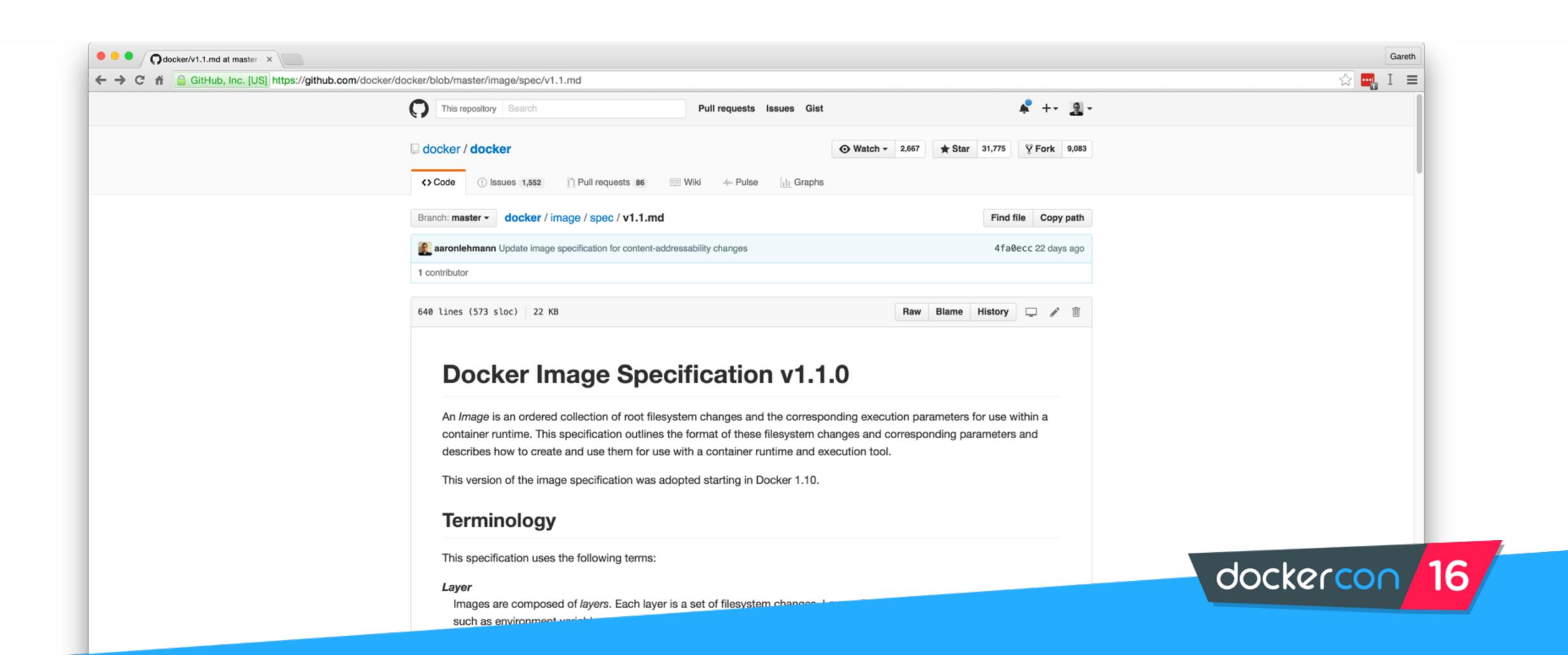


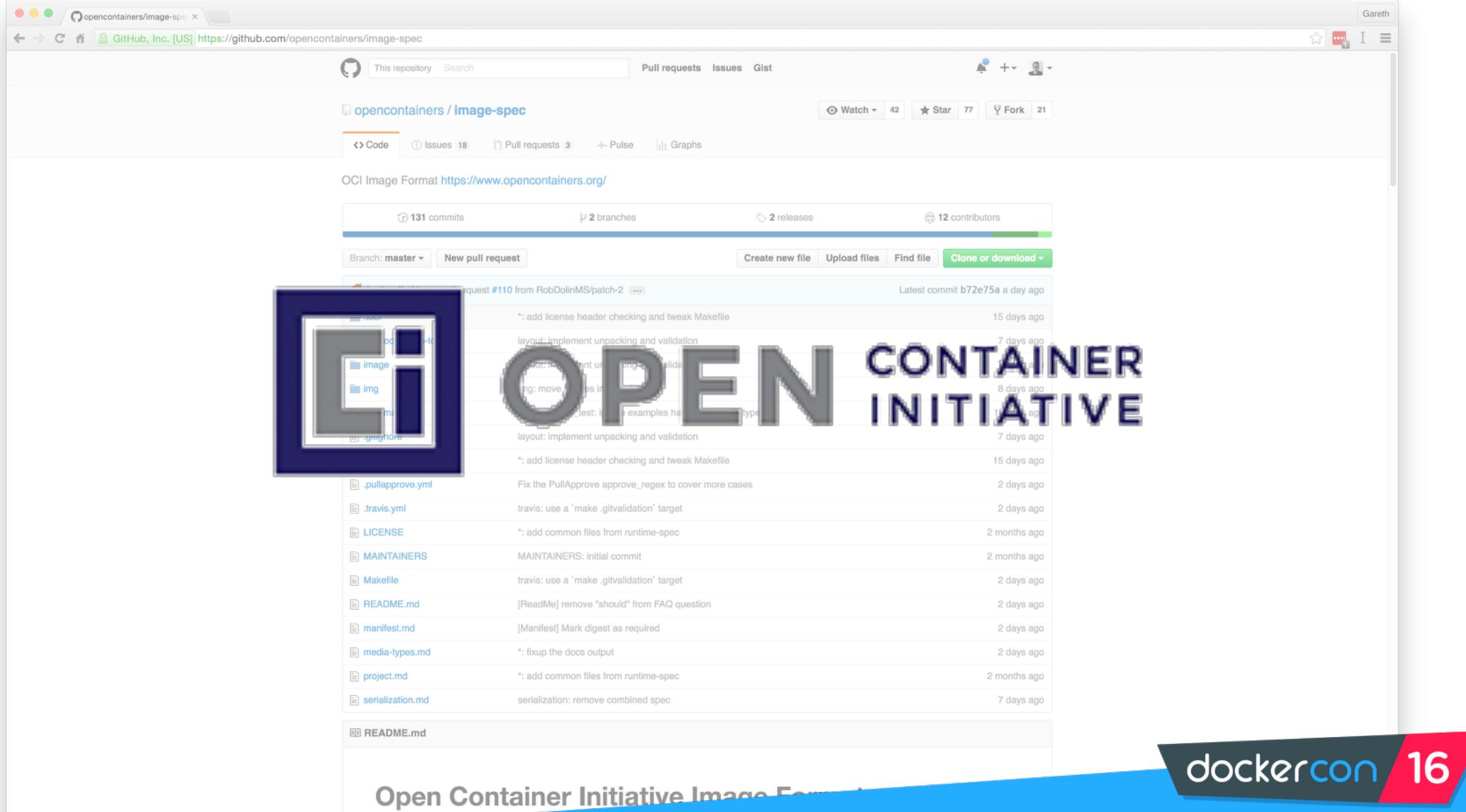
Or with Python



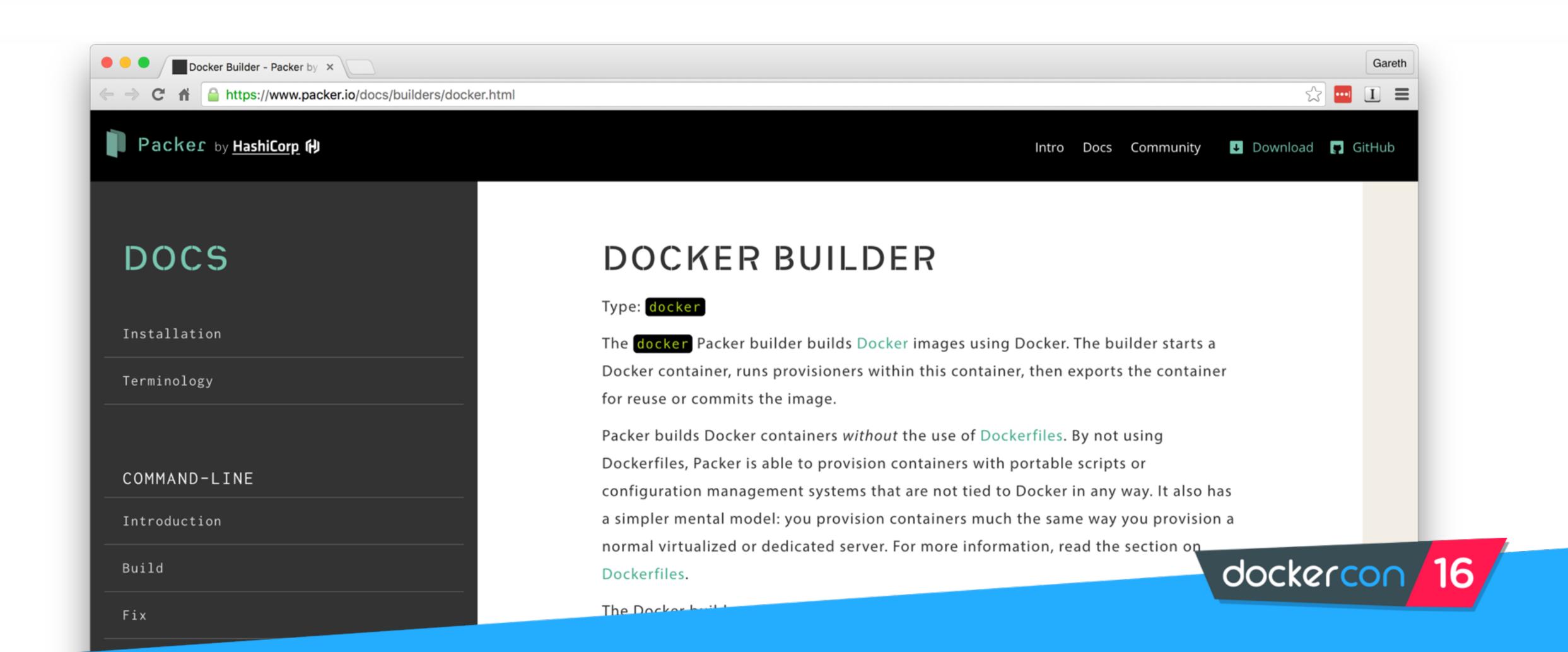
No Dockerfile to be seen

Docker Image Specification





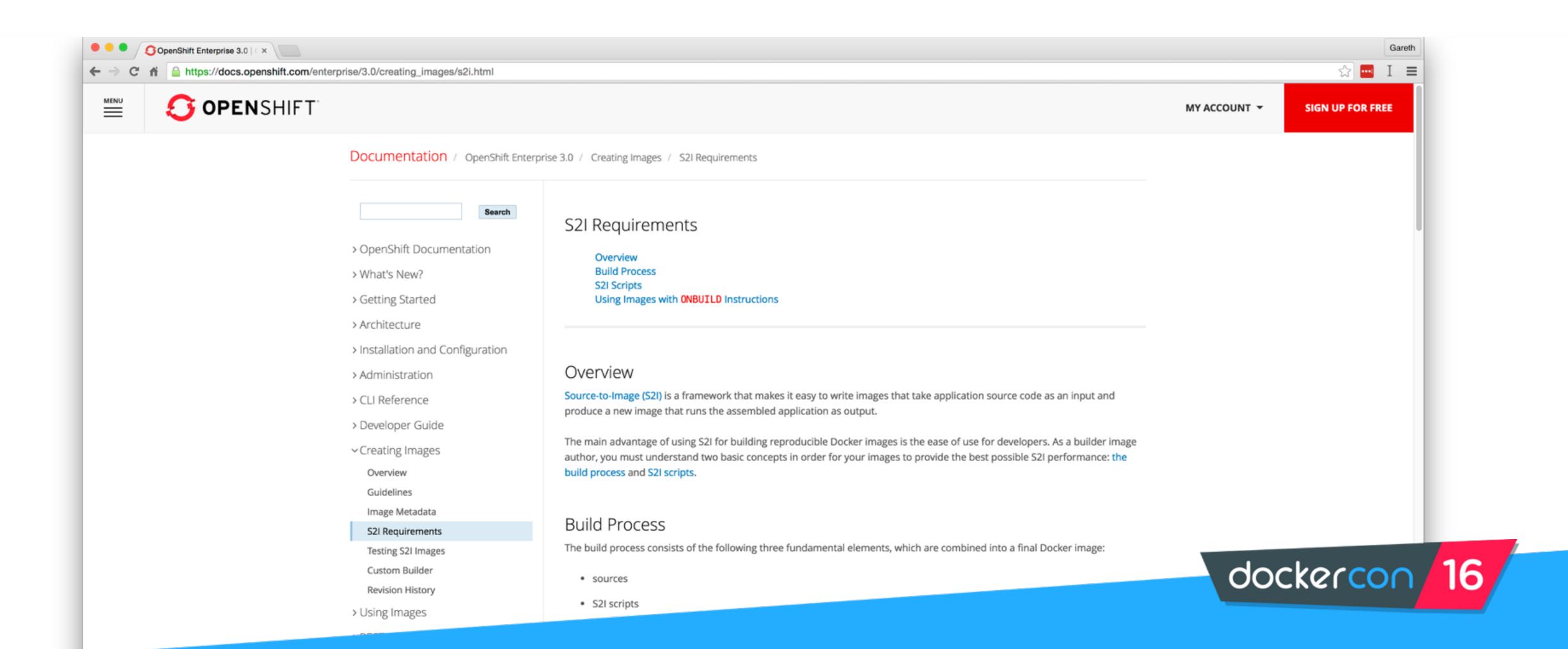
Packer



Packer example

```
"builders":[{
 "type": "docker",
 "image": "ubuntu",
 "export path": "image.tar"
}],
"provisioners":[
    "type": "shell",
    "inline": ["apt-get -y update; apt-get install dockercon 16
```

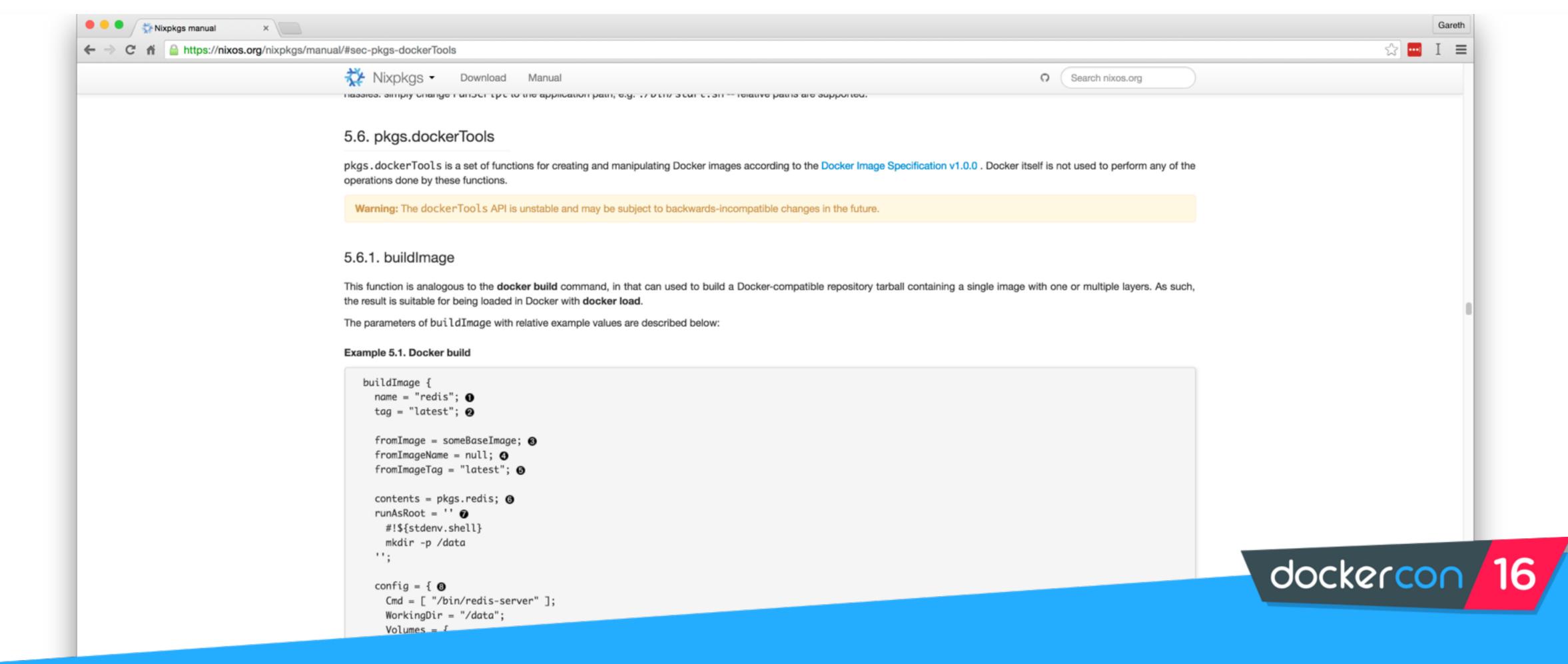
Source-to-Image



s2i example

```
$ s2i create <image name> <destination directory>
$ s2i build <source location> <builder image> [<tag>] [flags]
$ s2i rebuild <image name> [<new-tag-name>]
$ s2i usage <builder image> [flags]
$ s2i build ./sinatra-app openshift/ruby-20-centos7 ruby-app
```

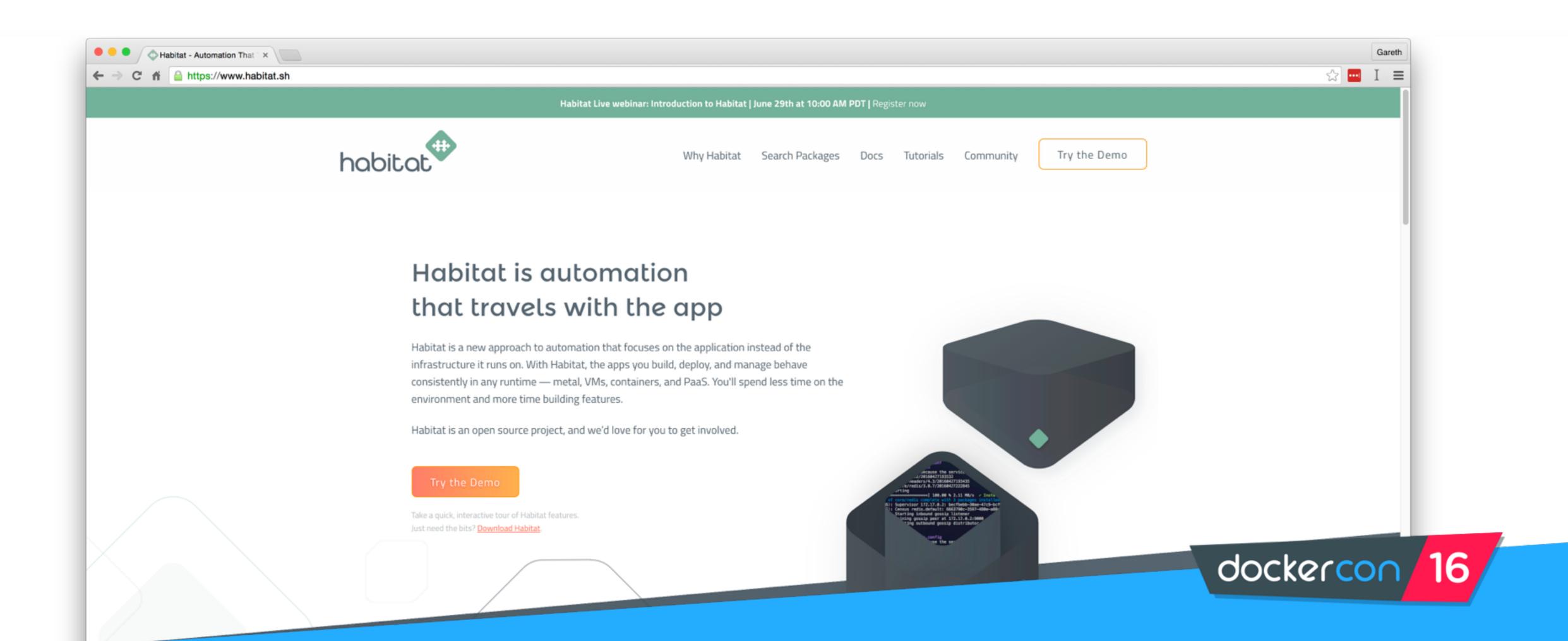
Nix



Nix example

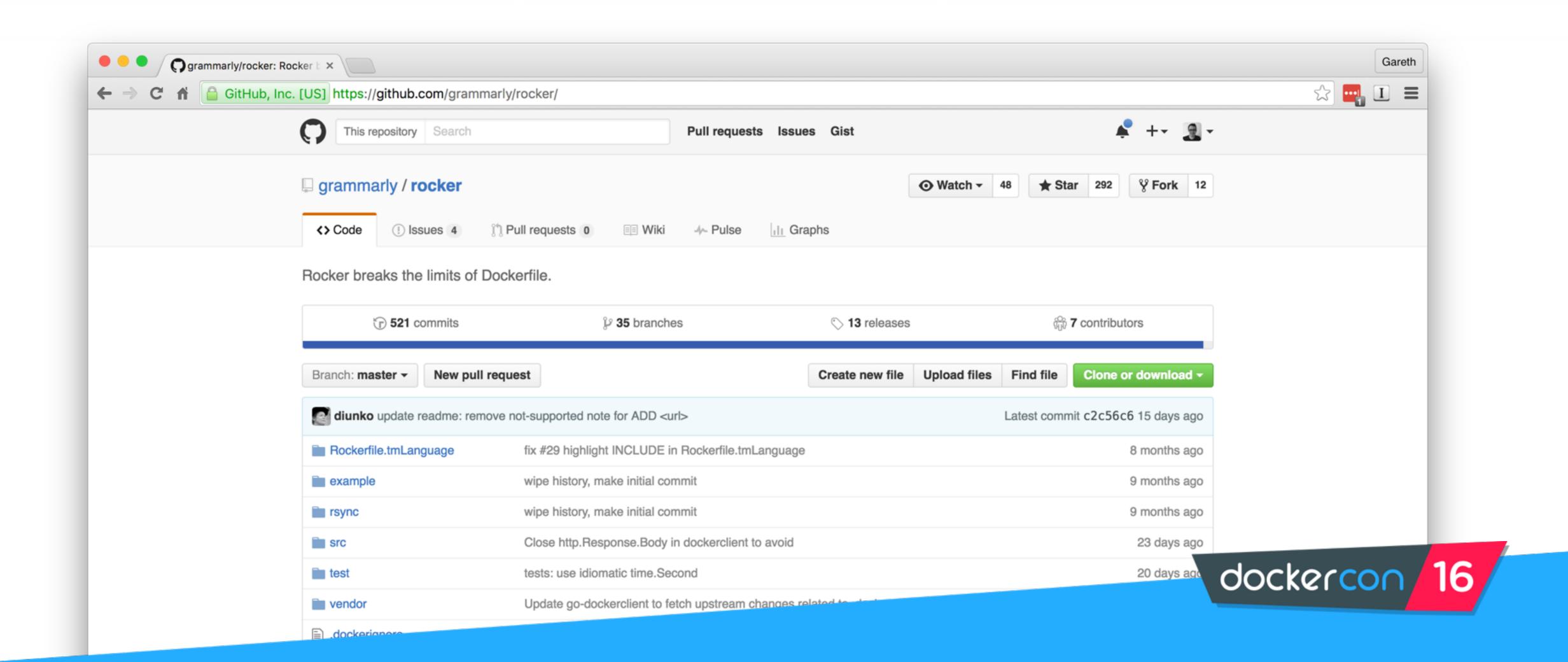
```
dockerTools.buildImage {
  name = "redis";
  runAsRoot = ''
   #!${stdenv.shell}
    ${dockerTools.shadowSetup}
    groupadd -r redis
    useradd -r -g redis -d /data -M redis
    mkdir /data
    chown redis:redis /data
  11.
```

Habitat



Expand on Dockerfile

Rocker



Rocker adds some crucial features that are missing from Dockerfile while keeping Docker's original design

Rockerfile example

apt-get inctall

```
FROM ubuntu:16.04
MAINTAINER Gareth Rushgrove "gareth@puppet.com"
ENV PUPPET AGENT VERSION="1.5.0" UBUNTU CODENAME="xenial" PATH=/
LABEL com.puppet.version="0.1.0" com.puppet.dockerfile="/Dockerf
MOUNT /opt/puppetlabs /etc/puppetlabs /root/.gem
                                                  dockercon
RUN apt-get update && \
```

Includes new instructions

RUN apt-get update && \

apt-get inctal

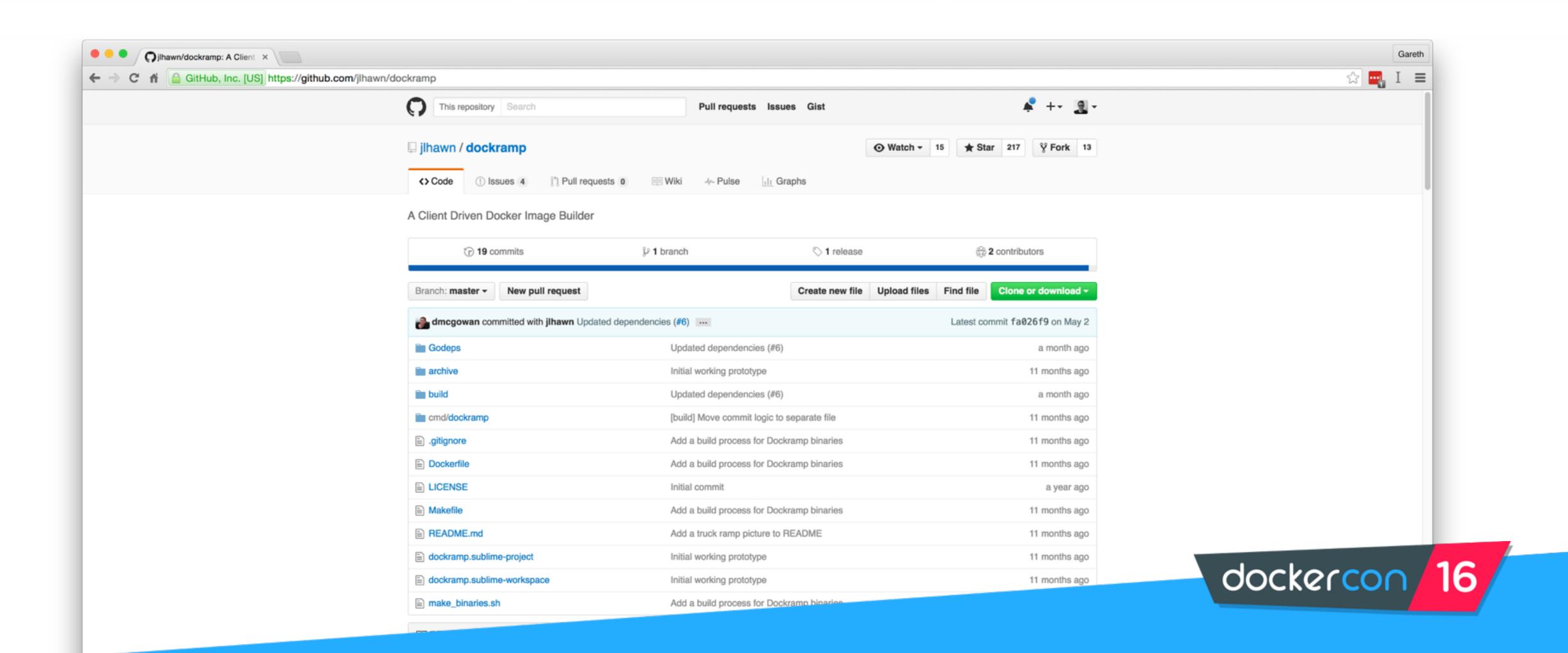
```
FROM ubuntu:16.04
MAINTAINER Gareth Rushgrove "gareth@puppet.com"
ENV PUPPET AGENT VERSION="1.5.0" UBUNTU CODENAME="xenial" PATH=/
LABEL com.puppet.version="0.1.0" com.puppet.dockerfile="/Dockerf
MOUNT /opt/puppetlabs /etc/puppetlabs /root/.gem
```

dockercon 16

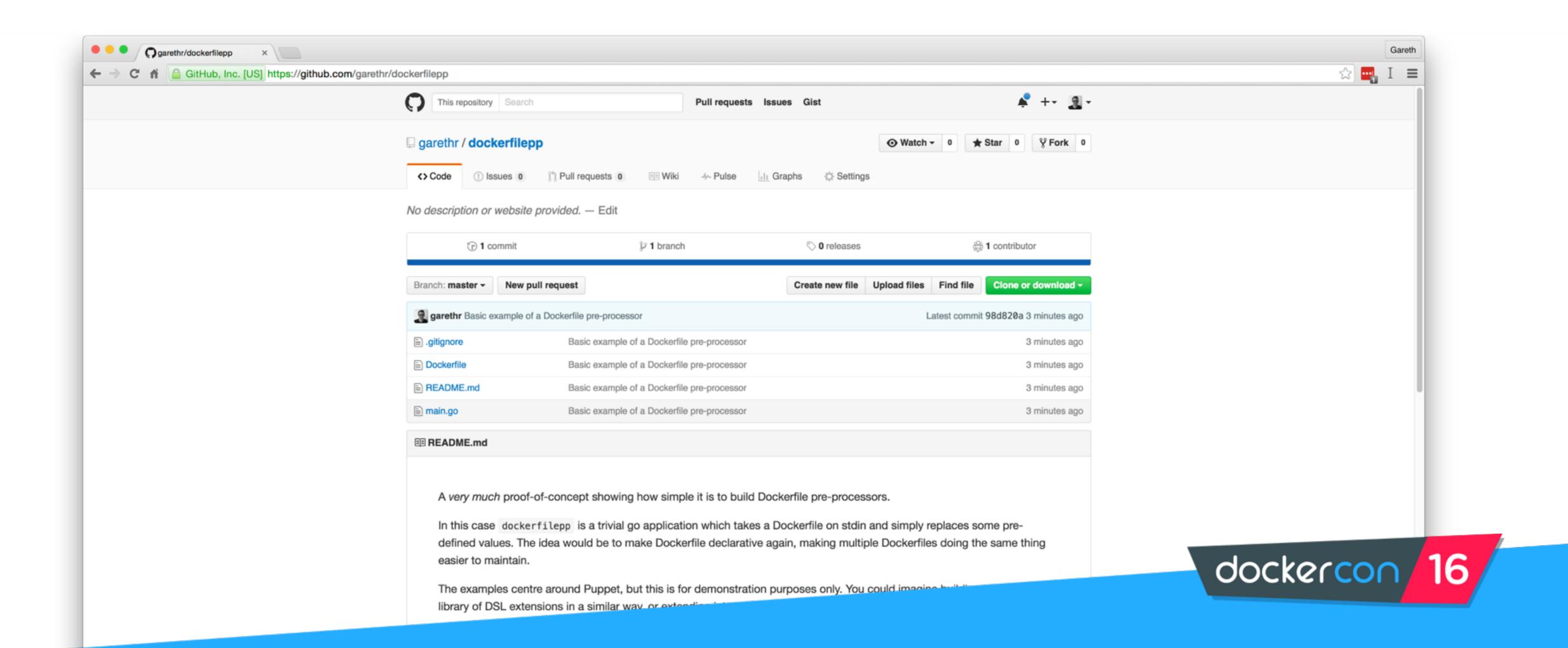
More new instructions

```
rm -rf /var/lib/apt/lists/*
EXPOSE 80
CMD ["nginx"]
COPY Rockerfile /Dockerfile
TAG puppet/puppet-rocker-example
```

Dockramp



Dockerfile pre-processors



Domain-specific extensions

```
FROM ubuntu:16.04
MAINTAINER Gareth Rushgrove "gareth@puppet.com"

ENV PUPPET_AGENT_VERSION="1.5.0" R10K_VERSION="2.2.2" \ UBUNTU_C

PUPPET_INSTALL
PUPPET_COPY_PUPPETFILE
```

PUPPET RUN

PUPPET COPY MANIFESTS

Simple expansion

```
$ cat Dockerfile | dockerfilepp
FROM ubuntu:16.04
MAINTAINER Gareth Rushgrove "gareth@puppet.com"
ENV PUPPET AGENT VERSION="1.5.0" R10K VERSION="2.2.2" UBUNTU COD
RUN apt-get update && \
    apt-get install -y wget=1.17.1-1ubuntu1 && \
    wget https://apt.puppetlabs.com/puppetlabs-release-pc1-"$UBU
    dpkg -i puppetlabs-release-pc1-"$UBUNTU CODEN dockercon 16
    rm puppetlahe ral
```

The future

Speculation and things I'd like to see

Formal specification for Dockerfile

RUN, FROM, COPY, etc. as first class API primitives

Opinionated workflow tooling around image build

Shared libraries and support for pre-processors

Complementary tools that take an organizational view of image building

Conclusions

If all you take away is...

Dockerfile is a great starting point for many use cases

But we will need better tools for managing many Dockerfiles

And Dockerfile is just one interface to building images

We'll need different types of tools for different use cases

Questions?

And thanks for listening

nank you!