# Handling duplicates in Dockerfiles families: Learning from experts

**Mohamed A. Oumaziz**, Jean-Rémy Falleri, Xavier Blanc, Tegawendé F. Bissyandé and Jacques Klein

University of Bordeaux, France University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

#### Context

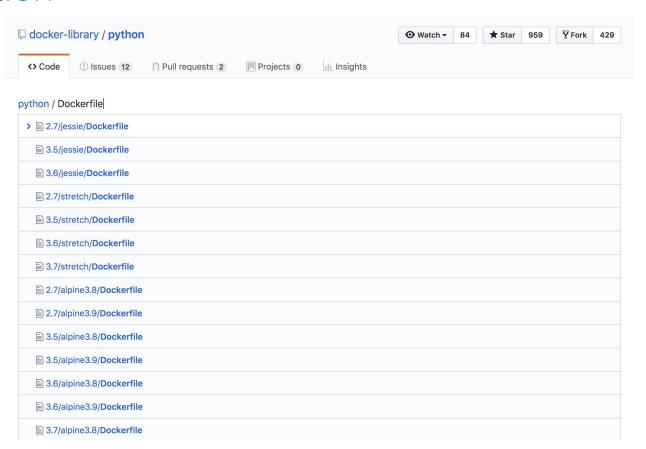


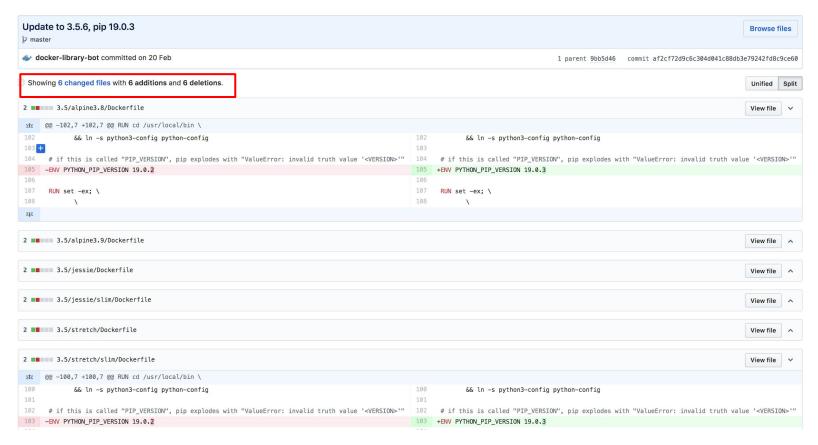
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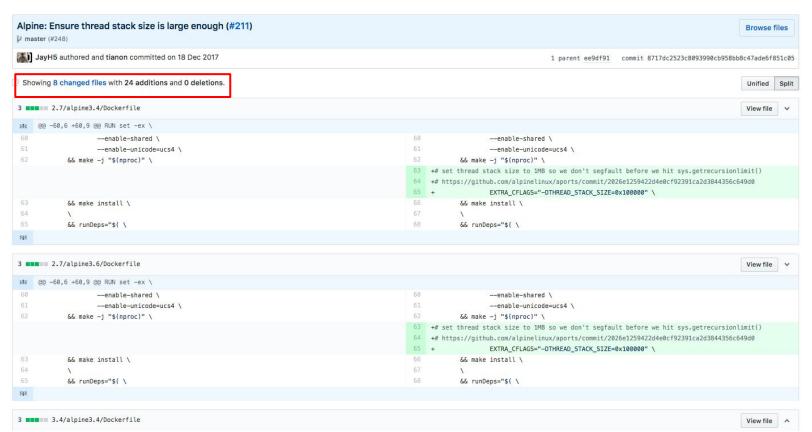
```
# Use an official Python runtime as a parent image
FROM python:2.7-slim
# Set the working directory to /app
WORKDIR /app
# Copy the current directory contents into the container at /app
COPY . /app
# Install any needed packages specified in requirements.txt
RUN pip install -r requirements.txt
# Make port 80 available to the world outside this container
EXPOSE 80
# Run app.py when the container launches
CMD ["python", "app.py"]
```

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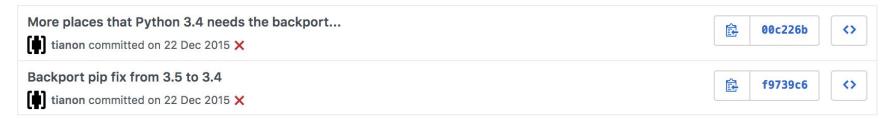
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Commits on Dec 22, 2015

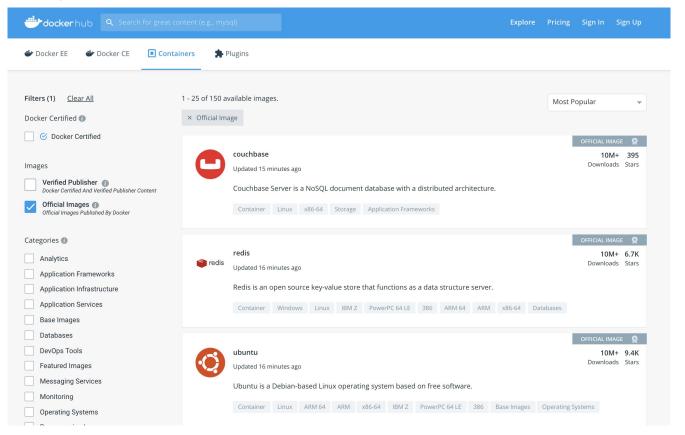




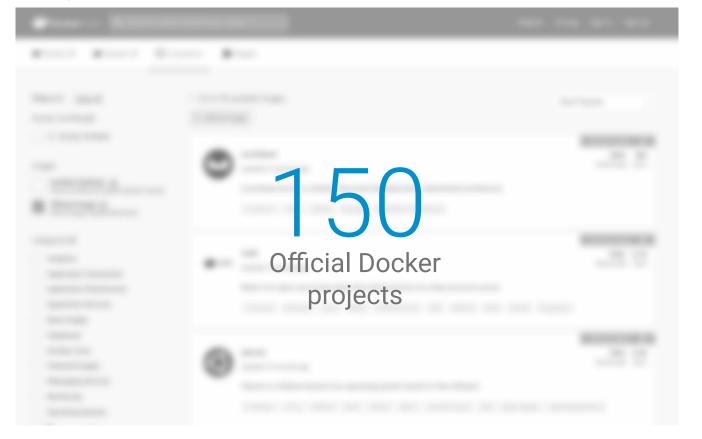
## Research question

"Do official projects maintain families of Dockerfiles, and why?"

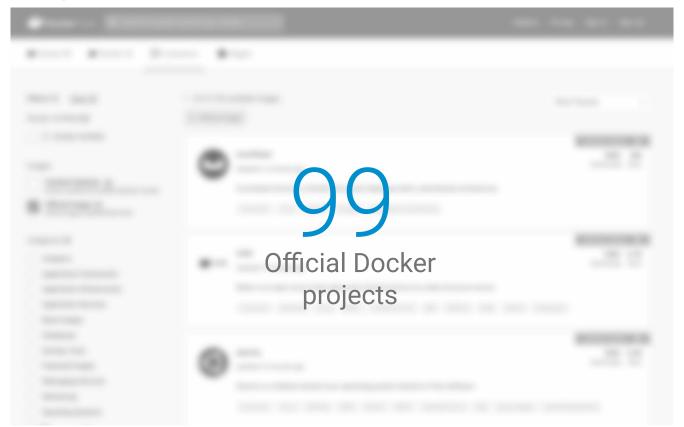
#### RQ1 - Corpus



## RQ1 - Corpus



# RQ1 - Corpus

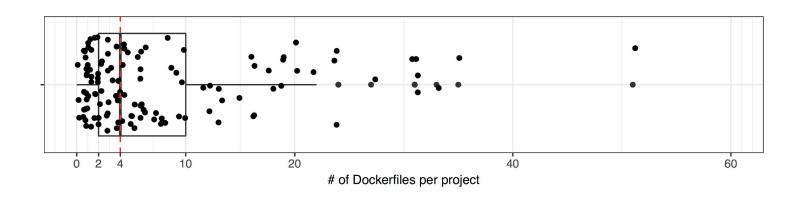


# RQ1 - Results

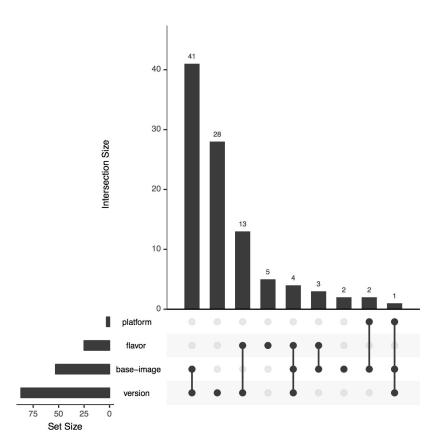


## RQ1 - Results





# RQ1 - Results



#### Research question

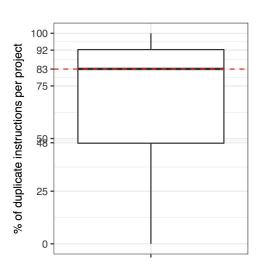
"Do duplicates arise in Dockerfiles families and why?"

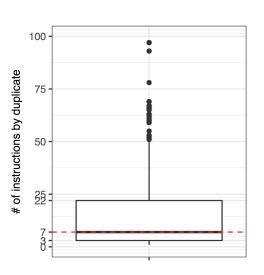
#### RQ2 - Results



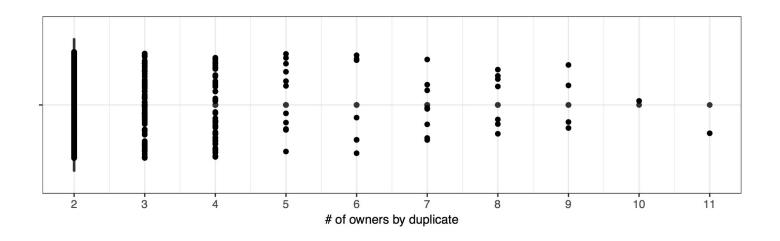
# RQ2 - Results

# 877 Duplicates





# RQ2 - Results



#### RQ2 - Reasons

```
ENV XWIKI VERSION=8.4.5
   ENV XWIKI_URL_PREFIX "http://maven.xwiki.org/.../
       ${XWIKI VERSION}"
   ENV XWIKI DOWNLOAD SHA256 52ed122c44984748a729a78
  4c94cb70ccf0d2fa34c2340d0fd45c75deb3b0bc9
  RUN rm -rf /usr/local/tomcat/webapps/* && \
6 mkdir -p /usr/local/tomcat/temp && \
  mkdir -p /usr/local/xwiki/data && \
   curl -fSL "${XWIKI_URL_PREFIX}/xwiki-ent-web-${
        XWIKI_VERSION \ . war" - o xwiki.war \ && \
   echo "$XWIKI_DOWNLOAD_SHA256 xwiki.war" |
        sha256sum -c - && \
10 unzip -d /usr/local/tomcat/webapps/ROOT xwiki.war
        8.8
11 rm -f xwiki war
```

# Software installation and configuration

#### RQ2 - Reasons

# Dependency management

#### RQ2 - Reasons

```
1  VOLUME /spiped
2  WORKDIR /spiped
3  COPY *.sh /usr/local/bin/
4  ENTRYPOINT ["docker-entrypoint.sh"]
5  CMD ["spiped"]
```

# Runtime configuration

#### RQ2 - Experts survey

- " 68% of experts have faced duplicates in the past."
  - " 64% of experts who encountered duplicates don't need a tool to detect duplicates."
- "94,1% of experts who encountered duplicates performed identical changes in a single commit in the past."
- "75% of experts qualify duplicates as annoying or error-prone."

#### Research question

"What are the tools used by official Docker projects for managing duplicates?"

#### RQ3

# Find and replace

#### RQ3

```
RUN apt-get update && \
    apt-get --no-install-recommends -y install \
     curl \
     libreoffice \
     unzip \
6
     procps \
     <% if (db == 'mysql') print 'libmysql-java'</pre>
8
     if (db == 'postgres') print 'libpostgresql-jdbc
         -java' %> && \
9
    rm -rf /var/lib/apt/lists/*
```

#### Template processors

#### RQ3

#### Generators

#### RQ3 - Experts survey

" 56% of experts don't use tools because it's too much time consuming or difficult to implement."

" 57% of experts not using tools would love to have a tool built for avoiding duplicates."

" 63% of experts who are using tools are satisfied."

#### Wrapping up

- Docker official projects maintain multiple Dockerfiles at the same time.
- The reasons for maintaining several Dockerfiles are to support multiple: versions, base-images, flavours and platforms
- Copy-paste of Dockerfile instructions is frequent.
- Three main reasons behind duplicates (Software installation and configuration, dependency management, runtime configuration).
- Three main tools are used to avoid duplicates (Find and replace, template processors and generators).
- Survey performed on 25 experts maintaining projects in our corpus.