

# Migrating Dockerfiles from Debian apt to Alpine apk

## Purpose

This is a guide to migrate Debian's apt package management commands to Alpine's apk commands.

Software packages for [Alpine Linux](#) are digitally signed tar.gz archives that contain binaries, configuration files and dependency metadata. Packages, sometimes called "a-packs" use the extension .apk.

## How to use this guide

Use this guide to translate Debian apt-get commands to Alpine apk commands used within a Dockerfile.

Because this guide focuses on Dockerfiles, it only covers a selected subset of all apk commands. Readers interested in learning more about apk should read [Alpine's package management guide](#).

The following table contains the mapping from apt commands to apk commands.

Action	apt command	apk command
Update package database	apt-get update	apk update
Install packages	apt-get install package1 package2	apk add package1 package2
Remove packages	apt-get remove package1 package2	apk del package1 package2
Download packages	apt-get install --download-only package1 package2	apk fetch package1 package2
Clean up downloaded packages	apt-get clean	Alpine cleans up packages automatically.

## Learning more about apk

The fastest to learn about apk is to use it within a Docker container.

```
$ docker pull alpine
```

```
$ docker run -ti alpine
```

You will get Alpine's shell prompt. To get detailed information on options and sub-commands, execute:

```
#apk --help --verbose
```