



Docker vs. Podman Decision Card

The real differences between Docker and Podman, and when each is the better default.

Daemon -> Rootless -> CLI -> Decide

DOCKER

- Daemon-based (dockerd)
- Daemon often runs as root
- Largest ecosystem and tutorials
- Rootless mode is opt-in

PODMAN

- No daemon at all
- Rootless by default
- Pods group related containers
- CLI matches docker closely

PICK PODMAN WHEN

- Shared or sensitive machines
- CI runners
- Already thinking in pods
- No background daemon allowed

PICK DOCKER WHEN

- Solo laptop use
- You want the biggest ecosystem
- Team already standardized on it
- Switching later is still cheap