

Article

[Robert Cemper](#) · Jul 15, 2021 1m read

Docker Desktop Windows - disk space consumption

I run most of my reviews using Docker Desktop on Windows 10.

According to the recommendations, I clean up docker and downloaded repositories after tests:

Repos are simple but Docker is somewhat resistant to release the consumed disk space. The steps I executed initially:

- remove pending containers `docker rm -f <container> . . .`
- delete downloaded images `docker rmi <image> . . .`
- clean caches and networks `docker system prune`

But my consumed disk space didn't shrink.

So using Google I found a useful method to shrink Docker's disk consumption.

I would like to share this experience with you.

I skip all the well explained details that you may [see here](#)

The reason behind this unfriendly behavior:

- Docker creates a virtual hard disk ext4,vhdx
- this disk image is growing and growing automatically as needed but it never shrinks.

(I didn't talk about IRISTEMP od CacheTemp 😊)

My result after facts: **~15 GB** of storage returned !!

A significant amount on my 128GB SSD Notebook

The condensed action:

- From Docker Icon on taskbar:
 - [Docker quit](#)
- From Windows CMD line. :
 - [WSL --stop](#)
- From PowerShell with Administrator rights:
 - [Optimize-VHD -Path c: /Users /<your_username> /AppData /Local /Docker /wsl /data /ext4.vhdx -Mod Full](#)
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