Docker Scout SBOMs

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Image analysis uses image SBOMs to understand what packages and versions an image contains. Docker Scout uses SBOM attestations if available on the image (recommended). If no SBOM attestation is available, Docker Scout creates one by indexing the image contents.

View from CLI

To view the contents of the SBOM that Docker Scout generates, you can use the `docker scout sbom` command.

```
$ docker scout sbom [IMAGE]
```

By default, this prints the SBOM in a JSON format to stdout. The default JSON format produced by `docker scout sbom` isn't SPDX-JSON. To output SPDX, use the `--format spdx` flag:

```
$ docker scout sbom --format spdx [IMAGE]
```

To generate a human-readable list, use the `--format list` flag:

```
$ docker scout sbom --format list alpine

                Name                Version       Type
──────────────────────────────────────────────────────
  alpine-baselayout          3.4.3-r1        apk
  alpine-baselayout-data     3.4.3-r1        apk
  alpine-keys                2.4-r1          apk
```

```
apk-tools               2.14.0-r2    apk
busybox                 1.36.1-r2    apk
busybox-binsh           1.36.1-r2    apk
ca-certificates         20230506-r0  apk
ca-certificates-bundle  20230506-r0  apk
libc-dev                0.7.2-r5     apk
libc-utils              0.7.2-r5     apk
libcrypto3              3.1.2-r0     apk
libssl3                 3.1.2-r0     apk
musl                    1.2.4-r1     apk
musl-utils              1.2.4-r1     apk
openssl                 3.1.2-r0     apk
pax-utils               1.3.7-r1     apk
scanelf                 1.3.7-r1     apk
ssl_client              1.36.1-r2    apk
zlib                    1.2.13-r1    apk
```

For more information about the `docker scout sbom` command, refer to the CLI reference.

Attach as build attestation {#attest}

You can generate the SBOM and attach it to the image at build-time as an attestation. BuildKit provides a default SBOM generator which is different from what Docker Scout uses. You can configure BuildKit to use the Docker Scout SBOM generator using the `--attest` flag for the `docker build` command. The Docker Scout SBOM indexer provides richer results and ensures better compatibility with the Docker Scout image analysis.

```
$ docker build --tag <org>/<image> \
  --attest type=sbom,generator=docker/scout-sbom-indexer:latest \
  --push .
```

To build images with SBOM attestations, you must use either the containerd image store feature, or use a `docker-container` builder together with the `--push` flag to push the image (with attestations) directly to a registry. The classic image store doesn't support manifest lists or image indices, which is required for adding attestations to an image.

Extract to file

The command for extracting the SBOM of an image to an SPDX JSON file is different depending on whether the image has been pushed to a registry or if it's a local image.

Remote image

To extract the SBOM of an image and save it to a file, you can use the `docker buildx imagetools inspect` command. This command only works for images in a registry.

```
$ docker buildx imagetools inspect <image> --format "{{ json .SBOM }}" > sbom.spdx.json
```

Local image

To extract the SPDX file for a local image, build the image with the `local` exporter and use the `scout-sbom-indexer` SBOM generator plugin.

The following command saves the SBOM to a file at `build/sbom.spdx.json`.

```
$ docker build --attest type=sbom,generator=docker/scout-sbom-indexer:latest \
  --output build .
```

□□□ #2
□ □□□ □□□ 2026-10-31 19:36:46 UTC
□ □□□ □□□ 2026-10-31 19:36:47 UTC