Swarm task states

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Docker lets you create services, which can start tasks. A service is a description of a desired state, and a task does the work. Work is scheduled on swarm nodes in this sequence:

1. Create a service by using `docker service create`.
2. The request goes to a Docker manager node.
3. The Docker manager node schedules the service to run on particular nodes.
4. Each service can start multiple tasks.
5. Each task has a life cycle, with states like `NEW`, `PENDING`, and `COMPLETE`.

Tasks are execution units that run once to completion. When a task stops, it isn't executed again, but a new task may take its place.

Tasks advance through a number of states until they complete or fail. Tasks are initialized in the `NEW` state. The task progresses forward through a number of states, and its state doesn't go backward. For example, a task never goes from `COMPLETE` to `RUNNING`.

Tasks go through the states in the following order:

Task state	Description
`NEW`	The task was initialized.
`PENDING`	Resources for the task were allocated.
`ASSIGNED`	Docker assigned the task to nodes.
`ACCEPTED`	The task was accepted by a worker node. If a worker node rejects the task, the state changes to `REJECTED`.
`READY`	The worker node is ready to start the task
`PREPARING`	Docker is preparing the task.
`STARTING`	Docker is starting the task.
`RUNNING`	The task is executing.
`COMPLETE`	The task exited without an error code.

Task state	Description
`FAILED`	The task exited with an error code.
`SHUTDOWN`	Docker requested the task to shut down.
`REJECTED`	The worker node rejected the task.
`ORPHANED`	The node was down for too long.
`REMOVE`	The task is not terminal but the associated service was removed or scaled down.

View task state

Run `docker service ps <service-name>` to get the state of a task. The `CURRENT STATE` field shows the task's state and how long it's been there.

```
$ docker service ps webserver
ID             NAME              IMAGE    NODE        DESIRED STATE  CURRENT STATE
ERROR                              PORTS
owsz0yp6z375   webserver.1       nginx    UbuntuVM    Running        Running 44 seconds ago
j91iahr8s74p    \_ webserver.1   nginx    UbuntuVM    Shutdown       Failed 50 seconds ago
"No such container: webserver.…"
7dyaszg13mw2    \_ webserver.1   nginx    UbuntuVM    Shutdown       Failed 5 hours ago
"No such container: webserver.…"
```

Where to go next

- Learn about swarm tasks

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