

Quarkus - Building a Native Executable

This guide covers:

- Compiling the application to a native executable
- Packaging the native executable in a container

This guide takes as input the application developed in the [Getting Started Guide](#).

Prerequisites

To complete this guide, you need:

- less than 15 minutes
- an IDE
- JDK 8 installed with `JAVA_HOME` configured appropriately
- A [working C development environment](#)
- GraalVM version 19.3.1 installed and [configured appropriately](#)
- A working container runtime (Docker, podman)
- The code of the application developed in the [Getting Started Guide](#).

Supporting native compilation in C

What does having a working C developer environment mean?

- On Linux, you will need GCC, and the glibc and zlib headers. Examples for common distributions:



```
# dnf (rpm-based)
sudo dnf install gcc glibc-devel zlib-devel
libstdc++-static
# Debian-based distributions:
sudo apt-get install build-essential libz-dev
zlib1g-dev
```

- XCode provides the required dependencies on macOS:

```
xcode-select --install
```

- On Windows, you will need to install the [Visual Studio 2017 Visual C++ Build Tools](#)

Configuring GraalVM



If you cannot install GraalVM, you can use a multi-stage Docker build to run Maven inside a Docker container that embeds GraalVM. There is an explanation of how to do this at the end of this guide.

Version 19.3.1 is required. Using the community edition is enough.

1. Install GraalVM if you haven't already. You have a few options for this:
 - Use platform-specific install tools like [homebrew](#), [sdkman](#), or [scoop](#).
 - Download the appropriate Community Edition archive from <https://github.com/graalvm/graalvm-ce-builds/releases>, and unpack it like you would any other JDK.
2. Configure the runtime environment. Set `GRAALVM_HOME` environment variable to the GraalVM installation directory, for example:

```
export GRAALVM_HOME=$HOME/Development/graalvm/
```

On macOS, point the variable to the `Home` sub-directory:

```
export GRAALVM_HOME=$HOME/Development/graalvm/Contents/Home/
```

On Windows, you will have to go through the Control Panel to set your environment variables.



Installing via scoop will do this for you.

3. Install the `native-image` tool using `gu install`:

```
{GRAALVM_HOME}/bin/gu install native-image
```

Some previous releases of GraalVM included the `native-image` tool by default. This is no longer the case; it must be installed as a second step after GraalVM itself is installed. Note: there is an outstanding issue [using GraalVM with macOS Catalina](#).

4. (Optional) Set the `JAVA_HOME` environment variable to the GraalVM installation directory.

```
export JAVA_HOME={GRAALVM_HOME}
```

5. (Optional) Add the GraalVM `bin` directory to the path

```
export PATH={GRAALVM_HOME}/bin:$PATH
```

Issues using GraalVM with macOS Catalina

GraalVM binaries are not (yet) notarized for macOS Catalina as reported in this [GraalVM issue](#). This means that you may see the following error when using `gu`:



```
“gu” cannot be opened because the developer cannot be verified
```

Use the following command to recursively delete the `com.apple.quarantine` extended attribute on the GraalVM install directory as a workaround:

```
xattr -r -d com.apple.quarantine  
$HOME/Development/graalvm/
```

Solution

We recommend that you follow the instructions in the next sections and package the application step by step. However, you can go right to the completed example.

Clone the Git repository: `git clone https://github.com/quarkusio/quarkus-quickstarts.git`, or download an [archive](#).

The solution is located in the `getting-started` directory.

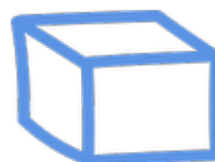
Producing a native executable

The native executable for our application will contain the application code, required libraries, Java APIs, and a reduced version of a VM. The smaller VM base improves the startup time of the application and produces a minimal disk footprint.

(1) TAKE YOUR APPLICATION



(3) RUN IT!



(2) PRODUCE A NATIVE
EXECUTABLE



(4) USE IT!

If you have generated the application from the previous tutorial, you can find in the `pom.xml` the following *profile*:

```
<profiles>
  <profile>
    <id>native</id>
    <properties>
      <quarkus.package.type>native</quarkus.package.type>
    </properties>
  </profile>
</profiles>
```



You can provide custom options for the `native-image` command using the `<quarkus.native.additional-build-args>` property. Multiple options may be separated by a comma.

Another possibility is to include the `quarkus.native.additional-build-args` configuration property in your `application.properties`.

You can find more information about how to configure the native image building process in the [Configuring the Native Image](#) section below.

We use a profile because, you will see very soon, packaging the native executable takes a *few* minutes.

You could just pass `-Dquarkus.package.type=native` as a property on the command line, however it is better to use a profile as this allows native image tests to also be run.

Create a native executable using: `./mvnw package -Pnative`.

Issues with packaging on Windows

The Microsoft Native Tools for Visual Studio must first be initialized before packaging. You can do this by starting the `x64 Native Tools Command Prompt` that was installed with the Visual Studio Build Tools.



Another solution is to write a script to do this for you:

```
cmd /c 'call "C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual
Studio\2017\BuildTools\VC\Auxiliary\Build\vcvars64.bat"
&& mvn package -Pnative'
```

In addition to the regular files, the build also produces `target/getting-started-1.0-SNAPSHOT-runner`. You can run it using: `./target/getting-started-1.0-SNAPSHOT-runner`.

Testing the native executable

Producing a native executable can lead to a few issues, and so it's also a good idea to run some tests against the application running in the native file.

In the `pom.xml` file, the `native` profile contains:

```

<plugin>
  <groupId>org.apache.maven.plugins</groupId>
  <artifactId>maven-failsafe-plugin</artifactId>
  <version>${surefire-plugin.version}</version>
  <executions>
    <execution>
      <goals>
        <goal>integration-test</goal>
        <goal>verify</goal>
      </goals>
      <configuration>
        <systemProperties>

<native.image.path>${project.build.directory}/${project.build.final
Name}-runner</native.image.path>
        </systemProperties>
      </configuration>
    </execution>
  </executions>
</plugin>

```

This instructs the failsafe-maven-plugin to run integration-test and indicates the location of the produced native executable.

Then, `open` the `src/test/java/org/acme/quickstart/NativeGreetingResourceIT.java`. It contains:

```

package org.acme.quickstart;

import io.quarkus.test.junit.NativeImageTest;

@NativeImageTest ①
public class NativeGreetingResourceIT extends GreetingResourceTest
{ ②

    // Run the same tests

}

```

① Use another test runner that starts the application from the native file before the tests. The executable is retrieved using the `native.image.path` system property configured in the *Failsafe Maven Plugin*.

② We extend our previous tests, but you can also implement your tests

To see the `NativeGreetingResourceIT` run against the native executable, use `./mvnw verify -Pnative`:

```

./mvnw verify -Pnative
...
[getting-started-1.0-SNAPSHOT-runner:18820]    universe:
587.26 ms
[getting-started-1.0-SNAPSHOT-runner:18820]    (parse):
2,247.59 ms
[getting-started-1.0-SNAPSHOT-runner:18820]    (inline):
1,985.70 ms
[getting-started-1.0-SNAPSHOT-runner:18820]    (compile):
14,922.77 ms
[getting-started-1.0-SNAPSHOT-runner:18820]    compile:
20,361.28 ms
[getting-started-1.0-SNAPSHOT-runner:18820]    image:
2,228.30 ms
[getting-started-1.0-SNAPSHOT-runner:18820]    write:
364.35 ms
[getting-started-1.0-SNAPSHOT-runner:18820]    [total]:
52,777.76 ms
[INFO]
[INFO] --- maven-failsafe-plugin:2.22.1:integration-test (default)
@ getting-started ---
[INFO]
[INFO] -----
[INFO]  T E S T S
[INFO] -----
[INFO] Running org.acme.quickstart.NativeGreetingResourceIT
Executing [/data/home/gsmet/git/quarkus-quickstarts/getting-
started/target/getting-started-1.0-SNAPSHOT-runner,
-Dquarkus.http.port=8081, -Dtest.url=http://localhost:8081,
-Dquarkus.log.file.path=build/quarkus.log]
2019-04-15 11:33:20,348 INFO  [io.quarkus] (main) Quarkus 999-
SNAPSHOT started in 0.002s. Listening on: http://[::]:8081
2019-04-15 11:33:20,348 INFO  [io.quarkus] (main) Installed
features: [cdi, resteasy]
[INFO] Tests run: 2, Failures: 0, Errors: 0, Skipped: 0, Time
elapsed: 1.387 s - in org.acme.quickstart.NativeGreetingResourceIT
...

```



By default, Quarkus waits for 60 seconds for the native image to start before automatically failing the native tests. This duration can be changed using the `quarkus.test.native-image-wait-time` system property. For example, to increase the duration to 300 seconds, use: `./mvnw verify -Pnative -Dquarkus.test.native-image-wait-time=300`.

By default, native tests runs using the `prod` profile. This can be overridden using the `quarkus.test.native-image-profile` property. For example, in your `application.properties` file, add: `quarkus.test.native-image-profile=test`.

Alternatively, you can run your tests with: `./mvnw verify -Pnative -Dquarkus.test.native-image-profile=test`. However, don't forget that when the native executable is built the `prod` profile is enabled. So, the profile you enable this way must be compatible with the produced executable.

Excluding tests when running as a native executable

When running tests this way, the only things that actually run natively are your application endpoints, which you can only test via HTTP calls. Your test code does not actually run natively, so if you are testing code that does not call your HTTP endpoints, it's probably not a good idea to run them as part of native tests.

If you share your test class between JVM and native executions like we advise above, you can mark certain tests with the `@DisabledOnNativeImage` annotation in order to only run them on the JVM.

Testing an existing native executable

It is also possible to re-run the tests against a native executable that has already been built. To do this run `./mvnw test-compile failsafe:integration-test`. This will discover the existing native image and run the tests against it using failsafe.

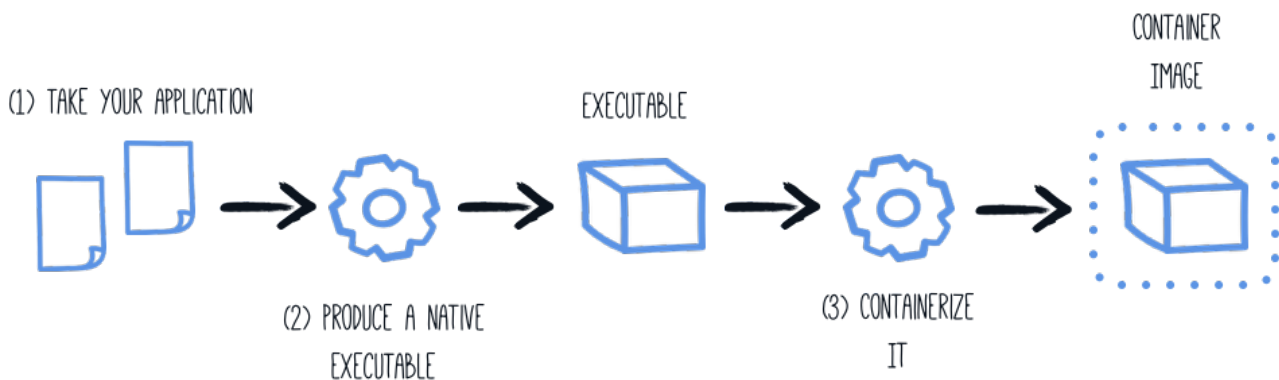
If the process cannot find the native image for some reason, or you want to test a native image that is no longer in the target directory you can specify the executable with the `-Dnative.image.path=` system property.

Creating a container



Before going further, be sure to have a working container runtime (Docker, podman) environment.

You can run the application in a container using the JAR produced by the Quarkus Maven Plugin. However, in this guide we focus on creating a container image using the produced native executable.



By default, the native executable is tailored for your operating system (Linux, macOS, Windows etc). Because the container may not use the same *executable* format as the one produced by your operating system, we will instruct the Maven build to produce an executable from inside a container:


```
./mvnw package -Pnative -Dquarkus.native.container-build=true
```



You can also select the container runtime to use with:

```
# Docker
./mvnw package -Pnative -Dquarkus.native.container
-runtime=docker
# Podman
./mvnw package -Pnative -Dquarkus.native.container
-runtime=podman
```

These are normal Quarkus config properties, so if you always want to build in a container it is recommended you add these to your `application.properties` so you do not need to specify them every time.

The produced executable will be a 64 bit Linux executable, so depending on your operating system it may no longer be runnable. However, it's not an issue as we are going to copy it to a container. The project generation has provided a `Dockerfile.native` in the `src/main/docker` directory with the following content:

```
FROM registry.access.redhat.com/ubi8/ubi-minimal
WORKDIR /work/
COPY target/*-runner /work/application
RUN chmod 775 /work
EXPOSE 8080
CMD ["/application", "-Dquarkus.http.host=0.0.0.0"]
```

Ubi?

The provided `Dockerfiles` use `UBI` (Universal Base Image) as parent image. This base image has been tailored to work perfectly in containers. The `Dockerfiles` use the `minimal version` of the base image to reduce the size of the produced image.



You can read more about UBI on:

- [the UBI image page](#)
- [the UBI-minimal image page](#)
- [the list of UBI-minimal tags](#)

Then, if you didn't delete the generated native executable, you can build the docker image with:

```
docker build -f src/main/docker/Dockerfile.native -t quarkus-
quickstart/getting-started .
```

And finally, run it with:

```
docker run -i --rm -p 8080:8080 quarkus-quickstart/getting-started
```



Interested by tiny Docker images, check the [distroless](#) version.

Creating a container with a multi-stage Docker build

The previous section showed you how to build a native executable using Maven, but implicitly required that the proper GraalVM version be installed on the building machine (be it your local machine or your CI/CD infrastructure).

In cases where the GraalVM requirement cannot be met, you can use Docker to perform the Maven build by using a multi-stage Docker build. A multi-stage Docker build is like two Dockerfile files combined in one, the first is used to build the artifact used by the second.

In this guide we will use the first stage to generate the native executable using Maven and the second stage to create our runtime image.

```
## Stage 1 : build with maven builder image with native
capabilities
FROM quay.io/quarkus/centos-quarkus-maven:19.3.1-java11 AS build
COPY src /usr/src/app/src
COPY pom.xml /usr/src/app
USER root
RUN chown -R quarkus /usr/src/app
USER quarkus
RUN mvn -f /usr/src/app/pom.xml -Pnative clean package

## Stage 2 : create the docker final image
FROM registry.access.redhat.com/ubi8/ubi-minimal
WORKDIR /work/
COPY --from=build /usr/src/app/target/*-runner /work/application
RUN chmod 775 /work
EXPOSE 8080
CMD ["/application", "-Dquarkus.http.host=0.0.0.0"]
```

Save this file in `src/main/docker/Dockerfile.multistage` as it is not included in the getting started quickstart.



Before launching our Docker build, we need to update the default `.dockerignore` file as it filters everything except the `target` directory and as we plan to build inside a container we need to be able to copy the `src` directory. So edit your `.dockerignore` and remove or comment its content.

```
docker build -f src/main/docker/Dockerfile.multistage -t quarkus-quickstart/getting-started .
```

And finally, run it with:

```
docker run -i --rm -p 8080:8080 quarkus-quickstart/getting-started
```




If you need SSL support in your native executable, you can easily include the necessary libraries in your Docker image.





Please see [our Using SSL With Native Executables guide](#) for more information.


Configuring the Native Image









There are a lot of different configuration options that can affect how the native image is generated. These are provided in `application.properties` the same as any other config property.






The properties are shown below:

 Configuration property fixed at build time - All other configuration properties are overridable at runtime

Configuration property	Type	Default
 <code>quarkus.native.additional-build-args</code> Additional arguments to pass to the build process	list of string	
 <code>quarkus.native.enable-http-url-handler</code> If the HTTP url handler should be enabled, allowing you to do <code>URL.openConnection()</code> for HTTP URLs	boolean	<code>true</code>
 <code>quarkus.native.enable-https-url-handler</code> If the HTTPS url handler should be enabled, allowing you to do <code>URL.openConnection()</code> for HTTPS URLs	boolean	<code>false</code>
 <code>quarkus.native.enable-all-security-services</code> If all security services should be added to the native image	boolean	<code>false</code>

 <code>quarkus.native.add-all-charsets</code> If all character sets should be added to the native image. This increases image size	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.include-all-time-zones</code> If all time zones should be added to the native image. This increases image size	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.graalvm-home</code> The location of the Graal distribution	string	<code>\${GRAALVM_HOME:}</code>
 <code>quarkus.native.java-home</code> The location of the JDK	File	<code>\${java.home}</code>
 <code>quarkus.native.native-image-xmx</code> The maximum Java heap to be used during the native image generation	string	
 <code>quarkus.native.debug-symbols</code> If debug symbols should be included	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.debug-build-process</code> If the native image build should wait for a debugger to be attached before running. This is an advanced option and is generally only intended for those familiar with GraalVM internals	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.publish-debug-build-process-port</code> If the debug port should be published when building with docker and debug-build-process is true	boolean	true
 <code>quarkus.native.cleanup-server</code> If the native image server should be restarted	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.enable-isolates</code> If isolates should be enabled	boolean	true

 <code>quarkus.native.enable-fallback-images</code> If a JVM based 'fallback image' should be created if native image fails. This is not recommended, as this is functionally the same as just running the application in a JVM	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.enable-server</code> If the native image server should be used. This can speed up compilation but can result in changes not always being picked up due to cache invalidation not working 100%	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.auto-service-loader-registration</code> If all META-INF/services entries should be automatically registered	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.dump-proxies</code> If the bytecode of all proxies should be dumped for inspection	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.container-build</code> If this build should be done using a container runtime. If this is set docker will be used by default, unless container-runtime is also set.	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.builder-image</code> The docker image to use to do the image build	string	quay.io/quarkus/ubi-quarkus-native-image:19.3.1-java11
 <code>quarkus.native.container-runtime</code> The container runtime (e.g. docker) that is used to do an image based build. If this is set then a container build is always done.	string	
 <code>quarkus.native.container-runtime-options</code> Options to pass to the container runtime	list of string	

 <code>quarkus.native.enable-vm-inspection</code> If the resulting image should allow VM introspection	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.full-stack-traces</code> If full stack traces are enabled in the resulting image	boolean	true
 <code>quarkus.native.enable-reports</code> If the reports on call paths and included packages/classes/methods should be generated	boolean	false
 <code>quarkus.native.report-exception-stack-traces</code> If exceptions should be reported with a full stack trace	boolean	true
 <code>quarkus.native.report-errors-at-runtime</code> If errors should be reported at runtime. This is a more relaxed setting, however it is not recommended as it means your application may fail at runtime if an unsupported feature is used by accident.	boolean	false

What's next?

This guide covered the creation of a native (binary) executable for your application. It provides an application exhibiting a swift startup time and consuming less memory. However, there is much more.

We recommend continuing the journey with the [deployment to Kubernetes and OpenShift](#).