

# Customise Containers used by ESS

How to change an image used by a container deployed by ESS.

In specific use cases you might want to change the image used for a specific pod, for example, to add additional contents, change web clients features, etc. In general the steps to do this involve:

- Creating a new ConfigMap definition with the overrides you need to configure, then injecting it into the cluster.
- Configuring the installer to use the new Images Digests Config Map.
- Generating a secret for the registry (if it requires authentication) and adding it to ESS.

We strongly advise against customising any pods. Customised containers are not supported and may break your setup so we encourage you to first raise your requirements to Support where we can best advise on them.

The built-in Synapse container image uses a Synapse build with our proprietary modules included, if you choose to replace this, you will no longer have access to these modules.

## Non-Airgapped Environments

### Creating the new Images Digests Config Map

In order to override images used by ESS during the install, you will need to inject a new ConfigMap which specifies the image to use for each component. To do that, you will need to inject a ConfigMap. It's structure maps the components of the ESS, all of them can be overridden :

#### Config Example

```
data:
  images_digests: |# Copyright 2023 New Vector Ltd
  adminbot:
  access_element_web:
```

haproxy:

pipe:

auditbot:

access\_element\_web:

haproxy:

pipe:

element\_call:

element\_call:

sfu:

jwt:

redis:

element\_web:

element\_web:

groupsync:

groupsync:

hookshot:

hookshot:

hydrogen:

hydrogen:

integrator:

integrator:

modular\_widgets:

appstore:

irc\_bridges:

irc\_bridges:

jitsi:

jicofo:

jvb:

prosody:

web:

sysctl:

prometheus\_exporter:

haproxy:

user\_verification\_service:

matrix\_authentication\_service:

init:

matrix\_authentication\_service:

secure\_border\_gateway:

secure\_border\_gateway:

```

sip_bridge:
  sip_bridge:
skype_for_business_bridge:
  skype_for_business_bridge:
sliding_sync:
  api:
  poller:
sydent:
  sydent:
sygnal:
  sygnal:
synapse:
  haproxy:
  redis:
  synapse:
synapse_admin:
  synapse_admin:
telegram_bridge:
  telegram_bridge:
well_known_delegation:
  well_known_delegation:
xmpp_bridge:
  xmpp_bridge:
```

Each container on this tree needs at least the following properties to override the source of download :

```

image_repository_path: elementdeployment/vectorim/element-web
image_repository_server: localregistry.local
```

You can also override the image tag and the image digest if you want to enforce using digests in your deployment :

```

image_digest: sha256:ee01604ac0ec8ed4b56d96589976bd84b6eaca52e7a506de0444b15a363a6967
image_tag: v0.2.2
```

For example, the required ConfigMap manifest (e.g. `images_digest_configmap.yml` ) format would be, to override the `element_web/element_web` container source path :

### Config Example

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: ConfigMap
metadata:
  name: config_map_name
  namespace: namespace_of_your_deployment
data:
  images_digests: |
    element_web:
      element_web:
        image_repository_path: mycompany/custom-element-web
        image_repository_server: docker.io
        image_tag: v2.1.1-patched
```

#### Notes:

- the `image_digest:` may need to be regenerated, or it can be removed.
- The `image_repository_path` needs to reflect the path in your local repository.
- The `image_repository_server` should be replaced with your local repository URL










The new ConfigMap can then be injected into the cluster with:

```
kubectl apply -f images_digest_configmap.yml -n <namespace of your deployment>
```

## Configuring the installer

You will also need to configure the ESS Installer to use the new Images Digests Config Map by adding the `<config map name>` into the Cluster advanced section.

## SECTIONS

-  Host
-  Domains
-  Certificates
-  **Cluster**
-  Synapse
-  Element Web
-  Homesever Admin
-  Integrator
-  Integrations

# Cluster

Your Element Deployment runs on top of Kubernetes, a clustering software that isolates and manages your services.

Advanced ^

Secrets / Global v

Show Values v

## Config

Images Digests Config Map

A configmap containing images digests metadata to override

☐ Support DNS Federation Delegation

Enable DNS Record delegation. In this mode, WellKnownDelegation is not deployed, and the domain name is served under Synapse ingress.

## Supplying registry credentials

If your registry requires authentication, you will need to create a new secret. So for example, if your registry is called `myregistry` and the URL of the registry is `myregistry.tld`, the command would be:

```
kubectrl create secret docker-registry myregistry --docker-username=<registry user> --docker-password=<registry password> --docker-server=myregistry.tld -n <your namespace>
```

The new secret can then be added into the ESS Installer GUI advanced cluster Docker Secrets:

## Docker Secrets

Name \*

localregistry

Edited

Docker secret to use for ems image store

URL \*

localregistry.local

Edited

The docker registry url for this secret

Add more Docker Secrets

# Airgapped Environments

To perform these actions, you will need the airgapped archive extracted onto a host **with** an internet connection:

1. Open a terminal, you will be using the `crane` binary found within the airgapped directory extracted. Firstly make sure to authenticate with any of the registries you will be downloading from using:

```
airgapped/utils/crane auth login REGISTRY.DOMAIN -u EMS_USERNAME -p EMS_TOKEN
```

You will need to do this for both `gchr.io` and `gitlab-registry`:

```
airgapped/utils/crane auth login gitlab-registry.matrix.org -u EMS_USERNAME -p EMS_TOKEN
```

```
airgapped/utils/crane auth login ghcr.io -u EMS_USERNAME -p EMS_TOKEN
```

2. Use the following to download the required image:

```
airgapped/utils/crane pull --format tarball <imagename> image.tar
```

Note: `<imagename>` should be formatted like so `registry/organisation/repo:version`, for example, to download the Element Call Version 0.5.12 image, the `<imagename>` would be `ghcr.io/vector-im/element-call:v0.5.12`

```
airgapped/utils/crane pull --format tarball ghcr.io/vector-im/element-call:v0.5.12 image.tar
```

- For `registry.element.io` you will need to use `skopeo` instead i.e.:

```
skopeo copy docker://registry.element.io/group-sync:v0.13.7-dbg docker-  
archive://$(pwd)/gsync-dbg.tar
```

3. The generate the image digest (used in the next step). Continuing the Element Call Version 0.5.12 example, use the below command to return the image digest string:

```
airgapped/utils/crane --platform amd64 digest --tarball image.tar
```

Returns:

```
sha256:f16c6ef5954135fb4e4e0af6b3cb174e641cd2cbee901b1262b2fdf05ddcedfc
```

4. Copy `image.tar` into the `airgapped/images` folder, renaming it to the digest string generated in step 3, `<digest>.tar` excluding the `sha256:` prefix. For our Element Call Version 0.5.12 example, the filename would be:

```
f16c6ef5954135fb4e4e0af6b3cb174e641cd2cbee901b1262b2fdf05ddcedfc.tar
```

5. Edit the `images_digests.yml` file also found in the `airgapped/images` folder, like so:

```
<component_name>:  
  <component_image>:  
    image_digest: sha256:<digest>  
    image_repository_path: <organisation>/<repo>  
    image_repository_server: <registry>  
    image_tag: <new version>
```

For our Element Call Version 0.5.12 example, you would update like so:

```
element_call:  
  element_call:  
    image_digest: sha256:f16c6ef5954135fb4e4e0af6b3cb174e641cd2cbee901b1262b2fdf05ddcedfc  
    image_repository_path: vector-im/element-call  
    image_repository_server: ghcr.io  
    image_tag: v0.5.12
```

## Handling new releases of ESS

If you are overriding image, you will need to make sure that your images are compatible with the new releases of ESS. You can use a staging environment to tests the upgrades for example.

---

Revision #1

Created 4 June 2025 09:18:24 by Kieran Mitchell Lane

Updated 4 June 2025 09:18:24 by Kieran Mitchell Lane