Preparation

There are some things we need to do in preparation to install this service.

Volumes

Persistent Data

This is where the service will store its own application data and ensures we can quickly update the service image.

> Ensure your user has permissions to access the folder.

Environment

DB_USER

This is the user account that will be used behind-the-scenes for logging into the database.

> *For example:* monica_admin

APP_URL

This is the URL that will be used as primary access point for this service.

> *For example:* monica.example.com

Passwords

> Keep these securely stored in a password manager, such as VaultWarden.

DB_PASS

This is the password that will be used for root access to the database.

> It is important to use secure, randomly generated password.

You can use a random alphanumeric string from a password manager, or open the terminal and run the command:

```
tr -dc 'A-Za-z0-9!"#$%&'\''()*+,-./:;<=>?@[\]^_`{|}~' </dev/urandom | head -c 32; echo
```

This pulls a random string from the 'urandom' device, removes unwanted characters and trim it to an appropriate length.

APP_KEY

This is the key that will be used for encrypting data within the services database.

> It is important to use secure, randomly generated password.

You can use a random alphanumeric string from a password manager, or open the terminal and run the command:

```
tr -dc 'A-Za-z0-9!"#$%&'\''()*+,-./:;<=>?@[\]^_`{|}~' </dev/urandom | head -c 32; echo
```

This pulls a random string from the 'urandom' device, removes unwanted characters and trim it to an appropriate length.

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