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Immich on Proxmox: LXC, Docker or VM Decision Guide

What broke in one homelabber's Immich LXC, what the community reported, and which setup to pick for irreplaceable photos.

Updated **2026-10-29** · Full guide: www.mrplanb.com/blog/immich-proxmox-lxc-stability-gamble

> Immich can run in a Proxmox LXC, but the most consistent stability reports come from a dedicated Debian VM running Docker. LXC installs were reported to fail after host reboots, often because of network-mounted databases, changed IPs, services not enabled or mounts coming up in the wrong order. If the photos matter, pick the VM. If you try LXC, follow the five practices below.

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setups compared: LXC, Docker in LXC, VM with Docker

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common post-reboot suspects

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best practices if you still use LXC

VM
the most stable option in community reports

Three setups compared

	LXC	Docker in LXC	VM + Docker
Stability	Can work, risk of unexpected downtime	Better than raw LXC	Most stable and predictable
Setup	Needs careful setup	Adds container-in-container complexity	Standard Linux
Troubleshooting	Can be tricky	More tooling and logs	Standard Linux tooling
Reboots	Reported failures	Easier restarts and updates	Reliable across reboots
Resource use	Lightest	Light	Slightly more

What went wrong after reboots

Database on a network share

PostgreSQL does not play nicely with SMB or NFS mounts, even through a symlink. Corruption or unresponsive behavior becomes more likely.

IP addresses changed

A container that comes back on a new address looks like a dead web interface.

Services not enabled

Services that were not marked to start at boot stay down after a restart.

Mount order

Mounts not remounted in the same order can break the media folder.

Helper scripts
Community-supported and convenient, but not part of Proxmox core. Edge cases appear when updates roll through.

If you still want Immich in LXC

- [ ] Use an unprivileged container.
- [ ] Keep data directories out of the container root. Bind-mount or link only specific folders, not entire shares.
- [ ] Check systemd enabling and networking after every reboot.
- [ ] Test full power cycles, not only restarts, to expose mount order issues.
- [ ] Snapshot before updates, including helper-script updates.
- [ ] Keep the container small and lean, with data on linked storage.

The original setup

One homelabber's plan, and where it failed.

1. Create an LXC container in Proxmox.
2. Install Immich inside it using the Proxmox VE Helper-Scripts.
3. Mount an SMB share through a symbolic link so Immich can see photo storage.
4. It worked at first: the container started, the web UI served, the media folder mounted.
5. After routine host reboots, the container and IP were fine but the Immich interface was dead.
6. No obvious errors, and it could not be recovered without starting again.

What the community reported

- Many users saw Immich become unreachable after a few days or after a host reboot.
- Restoring a backup fixed it temporarily for some.
- Some ran Immich in an unprivileged LXC for long periods without issue, with the tweaks listed above.
- VM users reported no unexplained outages, automatic Docker start and predictable networking.
- A VM can keep the database and filesystem on local VM disks for better performance.

Sources and notes: Community reports on Immich in Proxmox LXC, as summarized on the page · Proxmox VE Helper-Scripts