

Building a Tekton Pipeline using JavaScript

Estimated time needed: 40 minutes

Welcome to the hands-on lab for **Building a Tekton Pipeline**. In this lab, you will create a simple Tekton pipeline with one task in Step 1 and then add a parameter to it in Step 4. You will learn best practices for structuring a Tekton pipeline project and how to author Tekton pipelines and tasks so that they are easy to use and parameterize. You will see that Tekton allows you to reuse your pipeline-as-code artifacts, and you will look at practical approaches to publishing your pipeline and task definitions to a Git repository.

Learning objectives

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Create a base pipeline and task to echo a message
- Apply parameters to the task and pipeline
- Apply additional parameters to a pipeline to clone a Git repository

Prerequisites

You will need the following to complete the exercises in this lab:

- A basic understanding of YAML
- A GitHub account
- An intermediate-level knowledge of CLIs

Set up the lab environment

You have a little preparation to do before you can start the lab.

Open a terminal

Open a terminal window by using the menu in the editor: Terminal > New Terminal

In the terminal, if you are not already in the /home/project folder, change to your project folder now.

```
cd /home/project
```

Clone the code repo

Now, get the code that you need to test. To do this, use the `git clone` command to clone the Git repository:

```
git clone https://github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/ttwst-jhxyb-ci-cd-pipeline_js.git
```

Your output should look similar to the image below:

Change to the labs directory

Once you have cloned the repository, change to the labs directory.

```
cd ttwst-jhxyb-ci-cd-pipeline_js/labs/01_base_pipeline/
```

Navigate to the labs folder

Navigate to the `labs/01_base_pipeline` folder in left explorer panel. All of your work will be completed with the files in this folder.

You are now ready to start the lab.

Optional

If working in the terminal becomes difficult because the command prompt is very long, you can shorten the prompt using the following command:

```
export PS1="\[\033[01;32m\]\u\[033[00m\]: \[\033[01;34m\]\W\[033[00m\]]\$ "
```

Step 1: Create an echo task

In true computer programming tradition, the first task you create will echo "Hello World!" to the console.

There is starter code in the `labs/01_base_pipeline` folder for a task and a pipeline. Navigate to this folder in left explorer panel, and open the `tasks.yaml` file to edit it:

[Open `tasks.yaml` in IDE](#)

It should look like this:

```
apiVersion: tekton.dev/v1beta1
kind: Task
metadata:
  name: <place-name-here>
spec:
  steps:
```

You will now create a **hello-world** task.

Your task

1. The first thing you want to do is give the task a good name. Change `<place-name-here>` to `hello-world`.
2. The next thing is to add a step that runs a single command to include `name`, `image`, `command`, and `args`. Make the name `echo`, use the image `alpine:3`, have the command be `[/bin/echo]`, and the args be `["Hello World"]`.

Hint

▼ Click here for a hint.

Add a step under the `'steps'` tag. Since there can be multiple steps, each one starts with a dash `'-'` to identify it as an item in a `'yaml'` list.

```
spec:
  steps:
    - name: {name here}
      image: {image here}
```

```
command: {command here}
args: {args here}
```

Double-check that your work matches the solution below

Solution

▼ Click here for the answer.

```
apiVersion: tekton.dev/v1beta1
kind: Task
metadata:
  name: hello-world
spec:
  steps:
    - name: echo
      image: alpine:3
      command: [/bin/echo]
      args: ["Hello World!"]
```

Apply it to the cluster:

```
kubectl apply -f tasks.yaml
```

Step 2: Create a hello-pipeline pipeline

Next, you will create a very simple pipeline that only calls the `hello-world` task that you just created. Navigate to this folder in left explorer panel, and open `pipeline.yaml` file to edit it:

[Open `pipeline.yaml` in IDE](#)

It should look like this:

```
apiVersion: tekton.dev/v1beta1
kind: Pipeline
metadata:
  name: <place-name-here>
spec:
  tasks:
```

You will now create a **hello-pipeline** pipeline.

Your task

1. The first thing you want to do is give the pipeline a good name. Change <place-name-here> to `hello-pipeline`.
2. The next thing is to add a reference to the `hello-world` task you just created, which needs a `name:` for the pipeline task, and a `taskRef:`, with a `name:` tag under it set to the name of the task you are referencing. Set the name of the pipeline task to `hello` and the name of the task you are referencing to as `hello-world`.

Hint

▼ Click here for a hint.

Add a task under the `'tasks:'` tag. Since there can be multiple tasks, each one starts with a dash `'-'` to identify it as an item in a `'yaml'` list.

```
spec:  
  tasks:  
    - name: {name here}  
      taskRef:  
        name: {task name here}
```

Double-check that your work matches the solution below

Solution

▼ Click here for the answer.

```
apiVersion: tekton.dev/v1beta1  
kind: Pipeline  
metadata:  
  name: hello-pipeline  
spec:  
  tasks:  
    - name: hello  
      taskRef:  
        name: hello-world
```

Apply it to the cluster:

```
kubectl apply -f pipeline.yaml
```

You are now ready to run your pipeline and see if it works.

Step 3: Run the `hello-pipeline`

Run the pipeline using the Tekton CLI:

```
tkn pipeline start --showlog hello-pipeline
```

You should see the output:

```
PipelineRun started: hello-pipeline-run-9vkbb
Waiting for logs to be available...
[hello : echo] Hello World!
```

Congratulations! You just ran your first pipeline from a pipeline and a task that you created.

Step 4: Add a parameter to the task

Hopefully, the `hello-world` task has given you a sense for how pipelines call tasks. Now, it is time to make that task a little more useful by making it print any message that you want, not just "Hello World".

To do this, you will add a parameter called `message` to the task and use that parameter as the message that it echoes. You will also rename the task to `echo`.

Edit the `tasks.yaml` file to add the parameter to both the input and the echo command:

[Open `tasks.yaml` in IDE](#)

Your task

1. Change the name of the task from `hello-world` to `echo` to more accurately reflect its new functionality, by changing the `name:` in the `metadata:` section
2. Add a `params:` section to the task with a parameter that has a `name:` of "message", a `type:` of "string", and a `description` of "The message to echo"
3. Change the name of the step from `echo` to `echo-message` to better describe its new functionality
4. Modify the `args:` tag to use the `message` parameter you just created

Hint

▼ Click here for a hint.

Add a `'params:'` section under the `'spec:'` tag. Since there can be multiple parameters, each one starts with a dash '-' to identify it as an item in a `'yaml'` list.

The reference to the `message` parameter should be `$(params.message)`.

```
metadata:
  name: {change the task name}
spec:
  params:
    - name: {name here}
      description: {description here}
      type: {type here}
  steps:
    - name: echo-message
      image: alpine:3
      command: [/bin/echo]
      args: {place parameter reference here}
```

Double-check that your work matches the solution below

Solution

▼ Click here for the answer.

```
apiVersion: tekton.dev/v1beta1
kind: Task
metadata:
  name: echo
spec:
```

```
params:
  - name: message
    description: The message to echo
    type: string
steps:
  - name: echo-message
    image: alpine:3
    command: [/bin/echo]
    args: ["$(params.message)"]
```

Apply the new task definition to the cluster:

```
kubectl apply -f tasks.yaml
```

Step 5: Update the hello-pipeline

You now need to update the pipeline to pass the message that you want to send to the echo task so that it can echo the message to the console.

Edit the `pipeline.yaml` file to add the parameter:

[Open `pipeline.yaml` in IDE](#)

Your task

1. Add a `params:` section to the pipeline under `spec:`, with a parameter that has a `name:` of "message"
2. Change the `name:` of `taskRef:` from `hello-world` to the new echo task
3. Add a `params:` section to the task, with a parameter that has a `name:` of "message" and a `value:` that is a reference to the pipeline parameter for `params.message`

Hint

▼ Click here for a hint.

Specify the value of message params in tasks as `"$(params.message)"`

```
spec:
  params:
    - name: {parameter name here}
  tasks:
    - name: hello
      taskRef:
        name: {change parameter value here}
    params:
      - name: {task parameter name here}
        value: "$(params.message)"
```

Double-check that your work matches the solution below

Solution

▼ Click here for the answer.

```
apiVersion: tekton.dev/v1beta1
```

```
kind: Pipeline
metadata:
  name: hello-pipeline
spec:
  params:
    - name: message
  tasks:
    - name: hello
      taskRef:
        name: echo
    params:
      - name: message
        value: "${params.message}"
```

Apply it to the cluster:

```
kubectl apply -f pipeline.yaml
```

Step 6: Run the message-pipeline

Run the pipeline using the Tekton CLI:

```
tkn pipeline start hello-pipeline \
  --showlog \
  -p message="Hello Tekton!"
```

You should see the output:

```
PipelineRun started: hello-pipeline-run-9qf42
Waiting for logs to be available...
[hello : echo-message] Hello Tekton!
```

Congratulations! You just created and ran a pipeline that requires a parameter.

Step 7: Create a checkout task

In this step, you will combine your knowledge of running a command in a container with your knowledge of passing parameters, to create a task that checks out your code from GitHub as the first step in a CD pipeline.

Create a checkout task

You can have multiple definitions in a single YAML file by separating them with three dashes --- on a single line. In this step, you will add a new task to tasks.yaml that uses the bitnami/git:latest image to run the git command passing in the branch name and URL of the repo you want to clone.

Open the tasks.yaml file to create a new task:

[Open tasks.yaml in IDE](#)

Add three dashes on a separate line:

```
---
```

You are now ready to add your new task.

Your task

Your new task will create a Tekton task that accepts a repository URL and a branch name and calls git clone to clone your source code.

1. Create a new task and name it checkout
2. Add a parameter named repo-url with a type: of string and a description: of "The URL of the git repo to clone"
3. Add a second parameter named branch with a type: of string and a description: of "The branch to clone"
4. Add a step with the name: "checkout" that uses the bitnami/git:latest image to run the git command by specifying clone and --branch parameters and passing both the params created in spec as the arguments

Hint

▼ Click here for a hint.

Pass arguments to the checkout task as ["clone", "--branch", "\${params.branch}", "\${params.repo-url}"]

```
apiVersion: tekton.dev/v1beta1
kind: Task
metadata:
  name: {name of task here}
spec:
  params:
    - name: {1st parameter name here}
      description: {1st parameter name here}
      type: string
    - name: {2nd parameter name here}
      description: {2nd parameter name here}
      type: string
  steps:
    - name: {step name here}
      image: {image name here}
      command: [{command name here}]
      args: [{arguments here}]
```

Double-check that your work matches the solution below

Solution

▼ Click here for the answer.

```
---
apiVersion: tekton.dev/v1beta1
kind: Task
metadata:
  name: checkout
spec:
  params:
    - name: repo-url
      description: The URL of the git repo to clone
      type: string
    - name: branch
      description: The branch to clone
      type: string
  steps:
```

```
- name: checkout
  image: bitnami/git:latest
  command: [git]
  args: ["clone", "--branch", "${params.branch}", "${params.repo-url}"]
```

Apply it to the cluster:

```
kubectl apply -f tasks.yaml
```

Your output should look like this:

```
task.tekton.dev/echo configured
task.tekton.dev/checkout created
```

The echo task was unchanged and the checkout task has been created.

Step 8: Create the cd-pipeline pipeline

Finally, you will create a pipeline called `cd-pipeline` to be the starting point of your Continuous Delivery pipeline.

Open the `pipeline.yaml` file to create a new pipeline called `cd-pipeline`:

[Open `pipeline.yaml` in IDE](#)

You can use `---` on a separate line to separate your new pipeline, or you can modify the existing pipeline to look like the new one.

Your task

1. Create a new pipeline and name it `cd-pipeline`
2. Add two parameters named `repo-url` and `branch`
3. Set the `default:` for `branch` to "master"
4. Add a task with the `name: "clone"` that has a `taskRef:` to the `checkout` task that you just created
5. Add the two parameters `repo-url` and `branch` to the task, mapping them back to the pipeline parameters of the same name

Hint

▼ Click here for a hint.

Add params of name `repo-url` and `branch` with values as `"${params.repo-url}"` and `"${params.branch}"` to the `clone` task

```
spec:
  params:
    - name: {1st parameter name here}
    - name: {2nd parameter name here}
      default: {default value here}
  tasks:
    - name: {pipeline task name here}
      taskRef:
        name: {Task name here}
  params:
```

```
- name: {1st parameter name here}
  value: "${params.repo-url}"
- name: {2nd parameter name here}
  value: "${params.branch}"
```

Double-check that your work matches the solution below

Solution

▼ Click here for the answer.

```
---
apiVersion: tekton.dev/v1beta1
kind: Pipeline
metadata:
  name: cd-pipeline
spec:
  params:
    - name: repo-url
    - name: branch
      default: "master"
  tasks:
    - name: clone
      taskRef:
        name: checkout
      params:
        - name: repo-url
          value: "${params.repo-url}"
        - name: branch
          value: "${params.branch}"
```

Apply it to the cluster:

```
kubectl apply -f pipeline.yaml
```

Step 9: Run the cd-pipeline

Run the pipeline using the Tekton CLI:

```
tkn pipeline start cd-pipeline \
  --showlog \
  -p repo-url="https://github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/ttwst-jhxyb-ci-cd-pipeline_js.git" \
  -p branch="main"
```

The output should look like this:

```
PipelineRun started: cd-pipeline-run-rf6zp
Waiting for logs to be available...
[clone : checkout] Cloning into 'ttwst-jhxyb-ci-cd-pipeline_js'...
```

Step 10: Fill out cd-pipeline with placeholders

In this final step, you will fill out the rest of the pipeline with calls to the echo task to simply display a message for now. You will replace these "placeholder" tasks with real ones in future labs.

Update the pipeline.yaml file to include four placeholder tasks.

[Open pipeline.yaml in IDE](#)

Now, you will add four tasks to the pipeline to lint, unit test, build, and deploy. All of these pipeline tasks will reference the echo task for now.

Your task

Create a pipeline task for each of these:

Task name	Build after	Message
lint	clone	Calling ESLint linter...
tests	lint	Running unit tests with Jest...
build	tests	Building image for \${params.repo-url} ...
deploy	build	Deploying \${params.branch} branch of \${params.repo-url} ...

Hint

▼ Click here for a hint.

Add params of name `repo-url` and `branch` with values as "\${params.repo-url}" and "\${params.branch}" to the `clone` task

```
spec:
  tasks:
    - name: {pipeline task name here}
      taskRef:
        name: echo
      params:
        - name: message
          value: {message to display here}
      runAfter:
        - {name of previous task}
...
```

You now have a base pipeline to build the rest of your tasks into.

Double-check that your work matches the solution below

Solution

▼ Click here for the answer.

```
---
apiVersion: tekton.dev/v1beta1
kind: Pipeline
metadata:
  name: cd-pipeline
spec:
  params:
    - name: repo-url
```

```

- name: branch
  default: "master"
tasks:
- name: clone
  taskRef:
    name: checkout
  params:
    - name: repo-url
      value: "${params.repo-url}"
    - name: branch
      value: "${params.branch}"
- name: lint
  taskRef:
    name: echo
  params:
    - name: message
      value: "Calling ESLint linter..."
runAfter:
  - clone
- name: tests
  taskRef:
    name: echo
  params:
    - name: message
      value: "Running unit tests with Jest..."
runAfter:
  - lint
- name: build
  taskRef:
    name: echo
  params:
    - name: message
      value: "Building image for ${params.repo-url} ..."
runAfter:
  - tests
- name: deploy
  taskRef:
    name: echo
  params:
    - name: message
      value: "Deploying ${params.branch} branch of ${params.repo-url} ..."
runAfter:
  - build

```

Apply it to the cluster:

```
kubectl apply -f pipeline.yaml
```

Step 11: Run the cd-pipeline

Run the pipeline using the Tekton CLI:

```
tkn pipeline start cd-pipeline \
--showlog \
-p repo-url="https://github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/ttwst-jhxyb-ci-cd-pipeline_js.git" \
-p branch="main"
```

The output will look like this:

```
PipelineRun started: cd-pipeline-run-x8zjx
Waiting for logs to be available...
[clone : checkout] Cloning into 'CI-CD_Actions'...
[lint : echo-message] Calling ESLint linter...
[tests : echo-message] Running unit tests with Jest...
[build : echo-message] Building image for https://github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/ttwst-jhxyb-ci-cd-pipeline_js.git ...
[deploy : echo-message] Deploying main branch of https://github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/ttwst-jhxyb-ci-cd-pipeline_js.git...
```

Conclusion

Congratulations! You are now able to create a Tekton pipeline and pass parameters to a pipeline.

In this lab, you learned how to create a base pipeline, and specify and pass parameters to a task and a pipeline. You learned how to modify your pipeline to reference the task and configure its parameters. You also learned how to pass additional parameters to a pipeline and how to run it to echo and clone a Git repository.

Next steps

You will learn and use GitHub Triggers in the next lab.

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