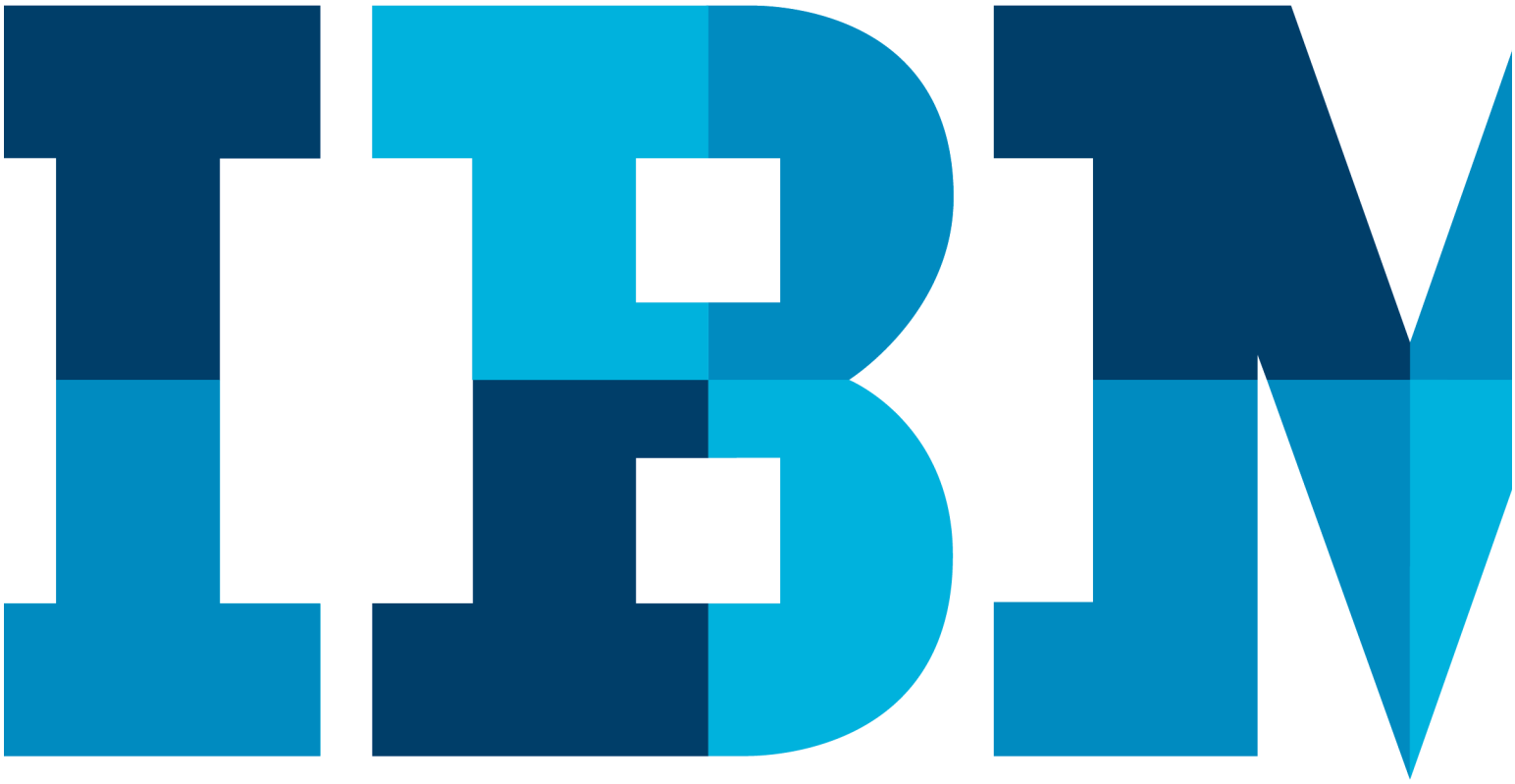
IBM Blockchain Proof of Technology Blockchain Explored

Lab Two – Bluemix - Exercises



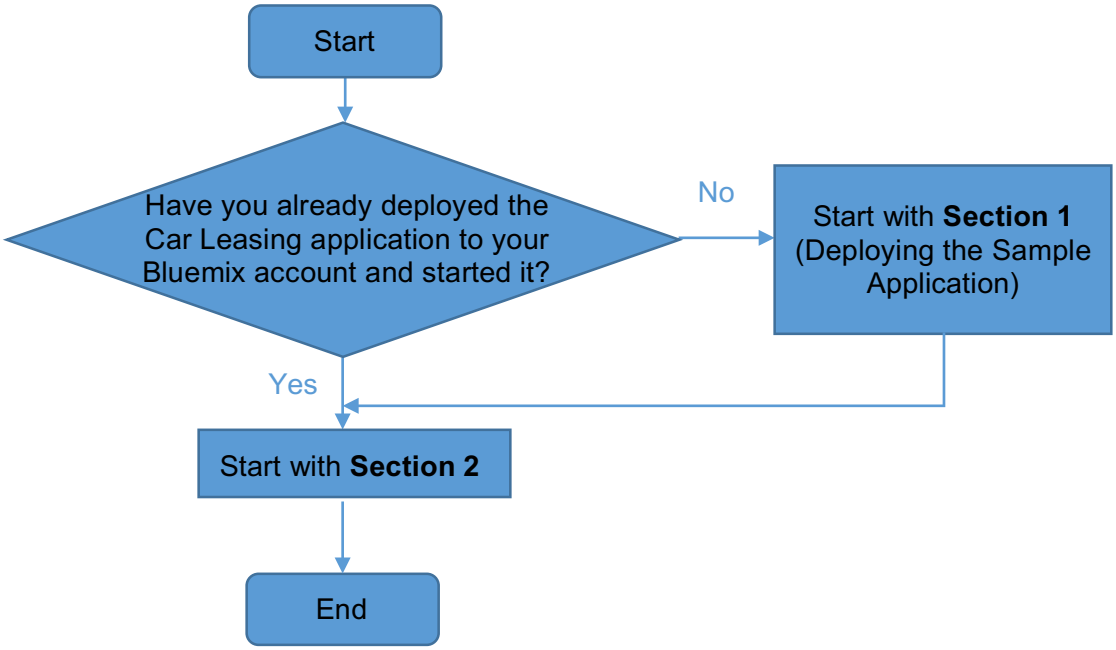
IBM

Contents

Overview Introduction to the Lab

The purpose of this lab is to introduce you to the IBM Blockchain service on Bluemix. We will build on the car leasing scenario that was introduced in the “Blockchain Explained” lab.

If you are using your own Bluemix account and have already completed the previous lab, you will have already deployed the car leasing application to your account. You can skip section 1 and re-use your existing application:



Section 1. Deploying the sample application

In this section we will use Bluemix to deploy a copy of the car leasing demo application.

1.1. Create a Blockchain Service

__1. Open a web browser and go to www.bluemix.net.

It is recommended to use Firefox or Chrome.

Problems can generally be resolved by clearing the browser's cache and cookies, or running the browser in private mode.

__2. Select 

from the top bar

__3. Scroll down to the network section and click **Blockchain**

__4. Review the service description and information about the service.

__5. Click 

and learn about the process of creating a blockchain environment.

__6. Click 'Sample Apps and Tutorials' on the right of the page to view the available apps.

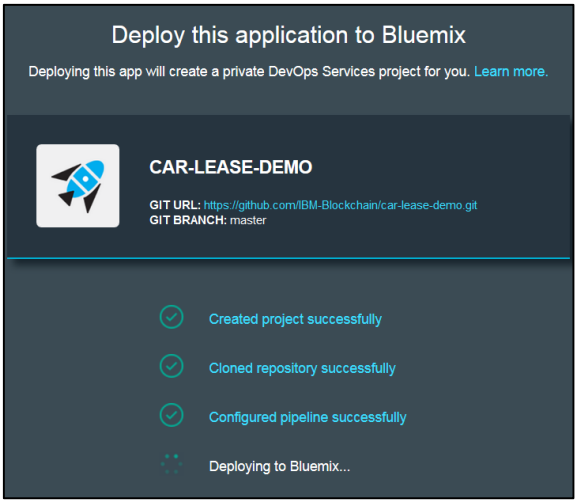
__7. Click 

against the car lease demo. Log in to Bluemix again if necessary.

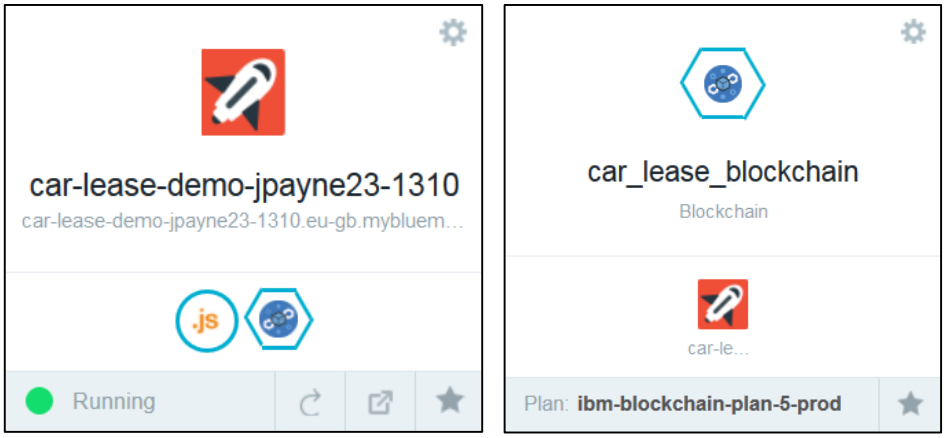
The first time a Bluemix ID creates a sample, a new DevOps alias is required. **Pick a unique ID** and click acceptance of the terms, then click create. For Proof-of-Technology workshops, use the first part of the email address, for example ibmpot000101 (without the '+' character). Then click continue on the following page.

__8. Leave the App Name, Region, Organization and Space default and click DEPLOY. (You might first need to wait a few seconds for the default field values to be populated.)

Clicking Deploy will cause the car leasing demo to be deployed into your Bluemix environment, and may take a couple of minutes to complete.

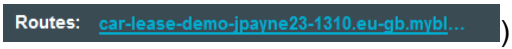


__9. Once you see the 'Success!' message click DASHBOARD to see the new car leasing application (and associated Blockchain service) you created.

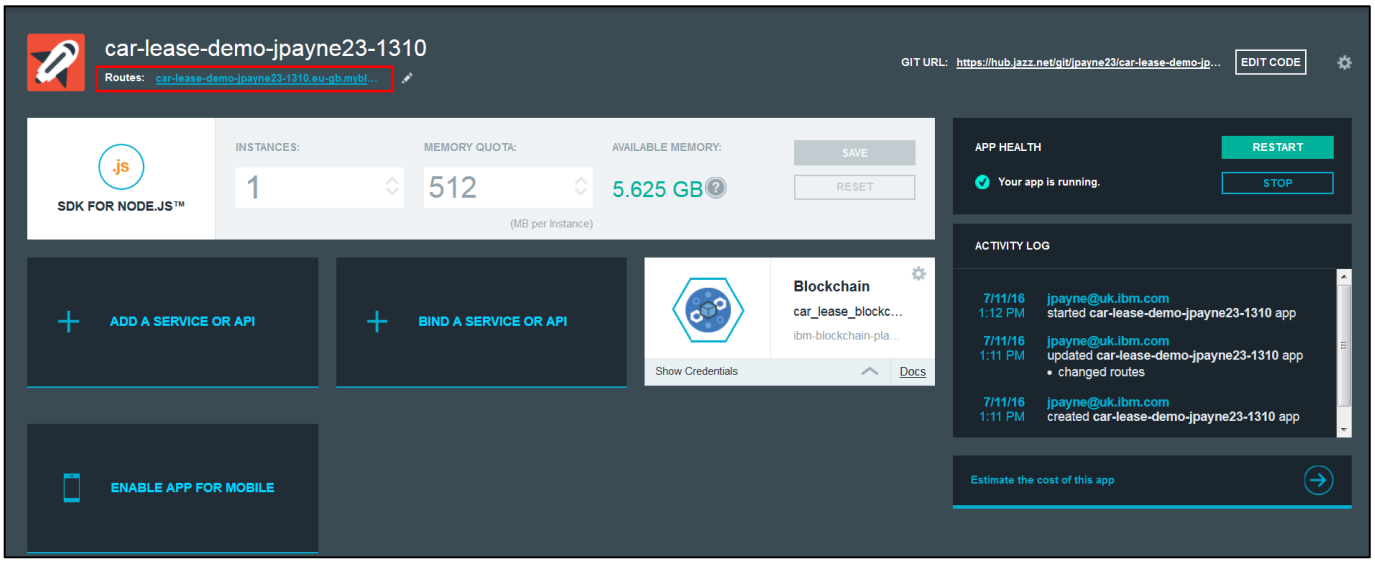


__10. Click the Node.js application's icon in the dashboard (**your icon may vary**)

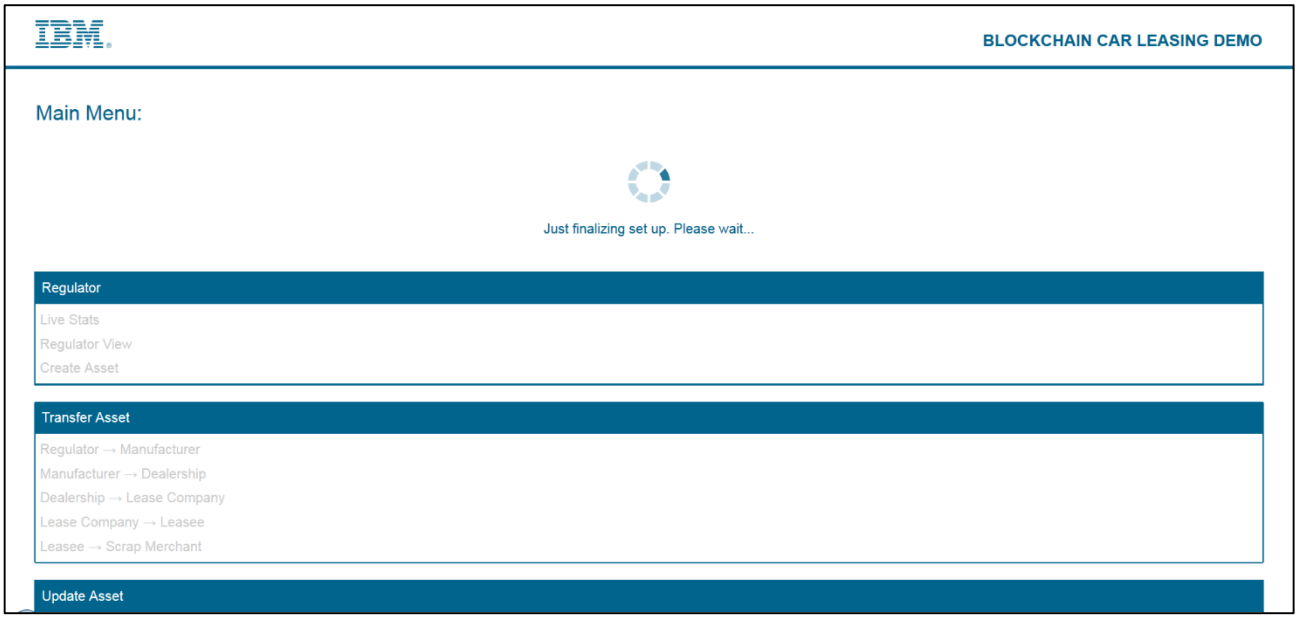
This will show you information about the application, including the memory that it is consuming and activity log.

__11. Click the 'Routes' URL (something like 

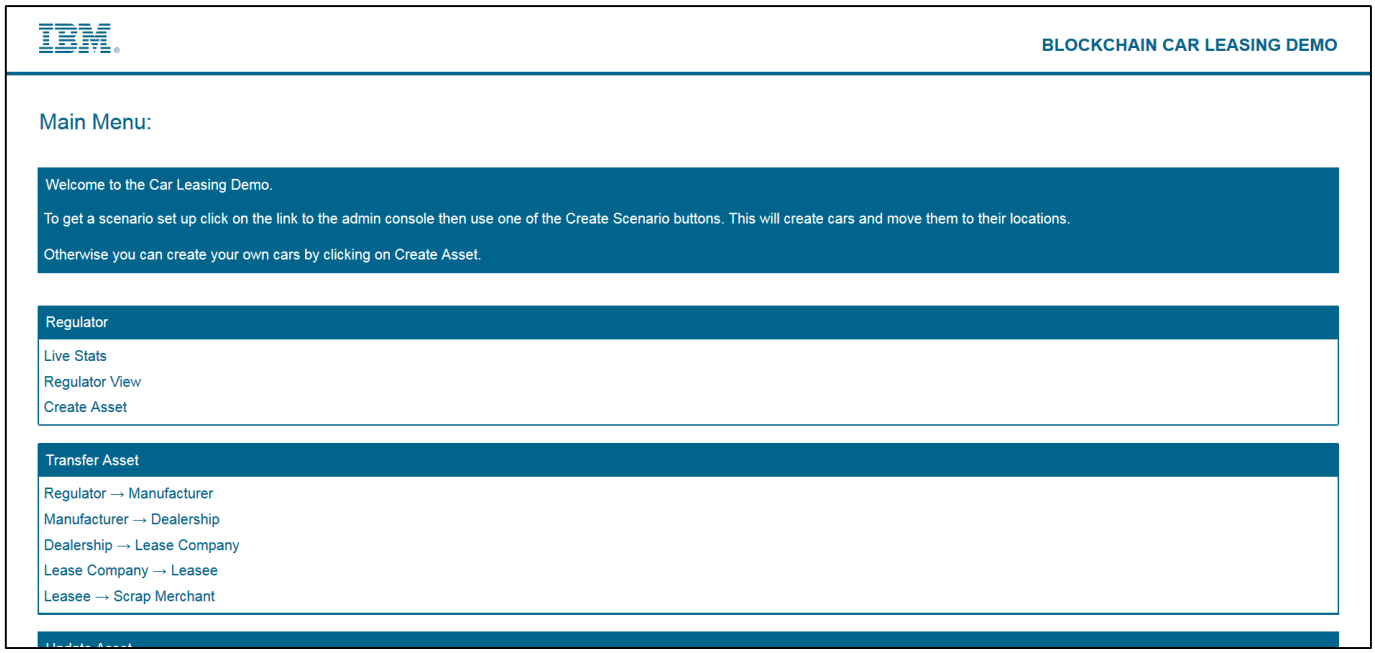
) in order to run the scenario. This will load a webpage which is served from the application.



__12. You may see the page below, this means the application isn't ready to be used yet. Just wait until you see the screen shown in the next step.

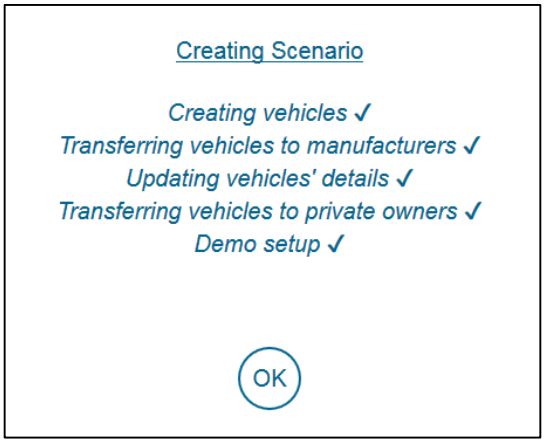


__13. A message will appear once the application is ready to be used and the home page will look the same as below.



__14. Click ‘Admin Console’ and then ‘Create Simple Scenario’ to load the initial set of assets into the Blockchain. This may take several minutes to complete.

__15. The scenario setup is complete when ‘Demo setup’ is displayed.



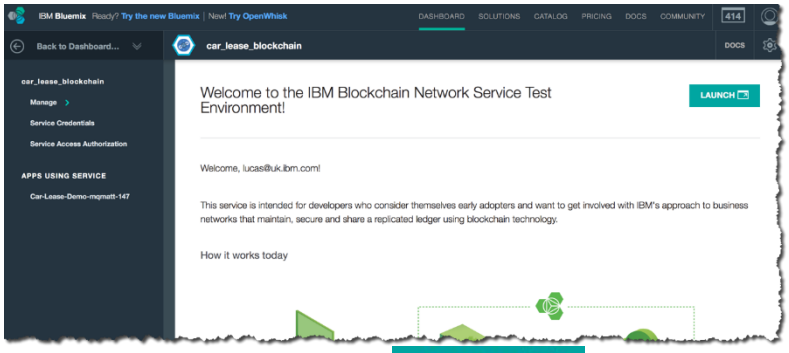
Section 2. Managing the sample application

In this section we will use the tools available inside the Bluemix environment to view and manage the Blockchain.

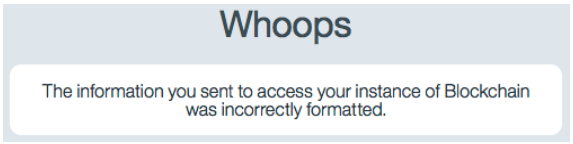
2.1. View the components of the Blockchain service

__1. In Bluemix, select DASHBOARD to view the car leasing application.

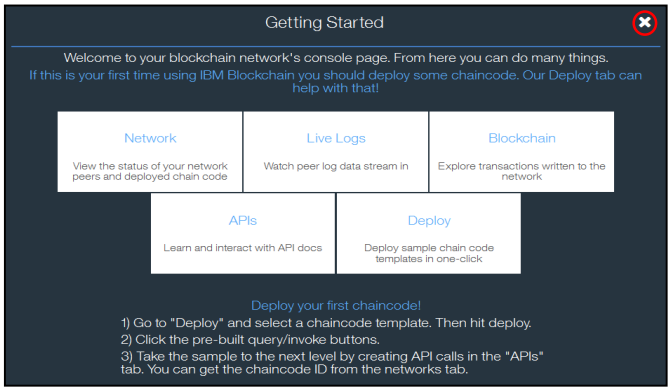
__2. Click on the service icon for your new blockchain service in the dashboard. This will take you to the service welcome screen.



__3. Review the details and select LAUNCH to launch the service console.

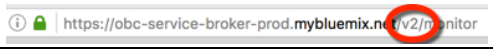
	If you see the following error, then try changing to a Firefox or Chrome browser: 

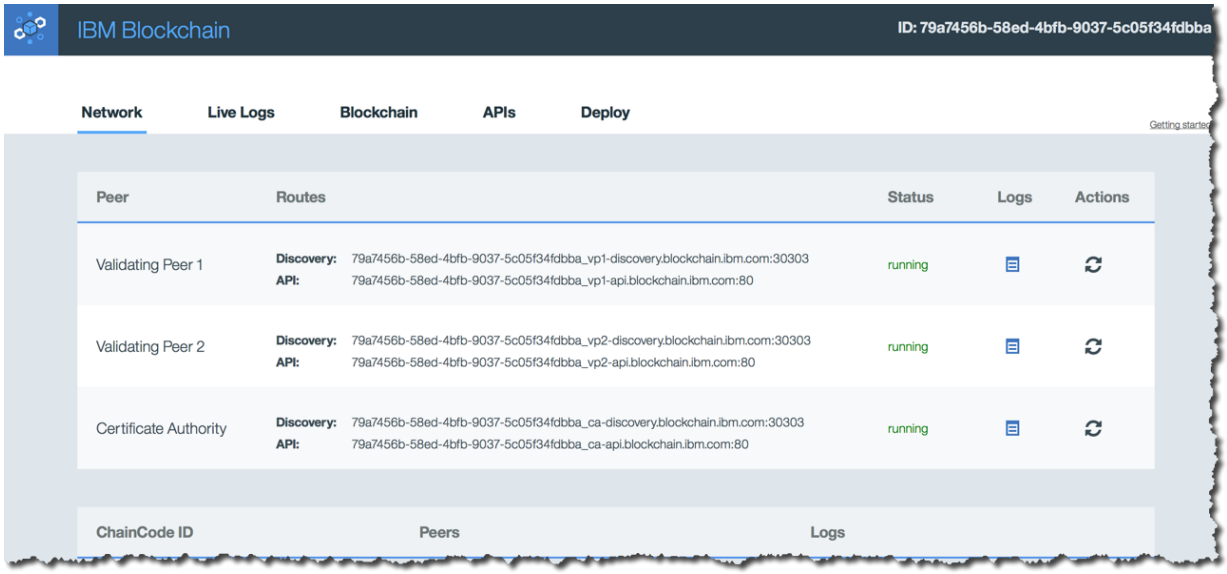
__4. Close the pop-up showing information about the sections. We'll look at these in more detail throughout this lab.



__5. This takes you to the monitor page, with the Network tab selected.

If you see fewer than five tabs on this page, try changing the version in the URL to ‘v2’ and reloading the page. For example:



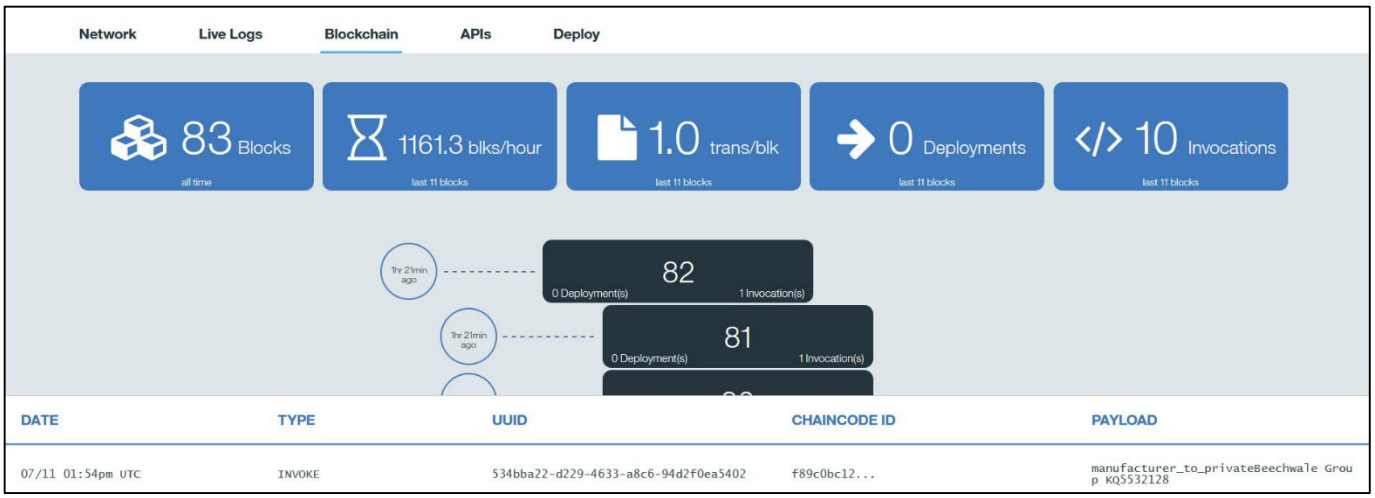


This view confirms that two validating peers and a certificate authority are running under the service you created.

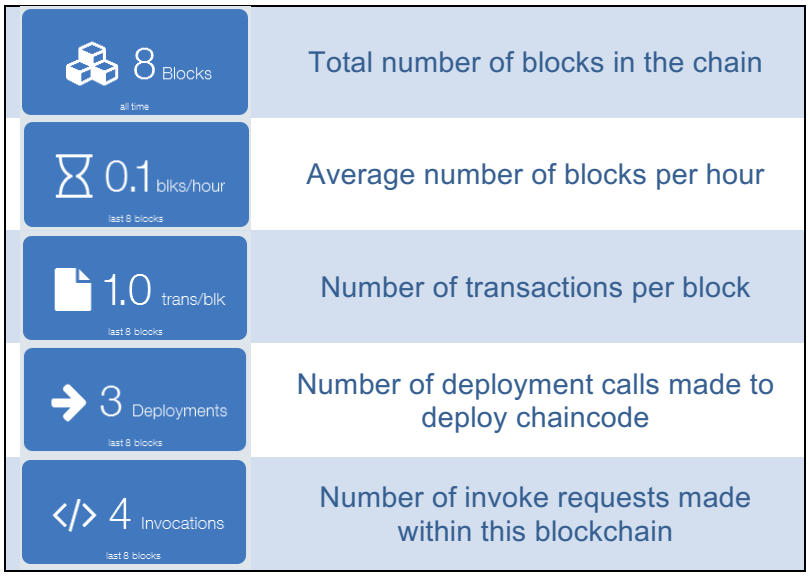
2.2. View the Blockchain Explorer

The Blockchain explorer is a visual representation of the state of the Blockchain.

__1. Click the ‘Blockchain’ tab at the top of the page.



The icons show:



Each block contains a set of transactions. In Hyperledger, a transaction is the record of the request to interact with chaincode (a smart contract). Two important transaction types are:

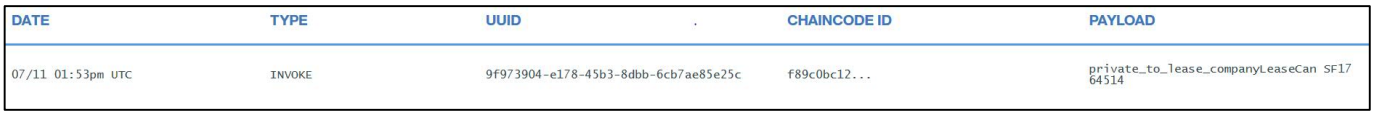
- *INVOKE*: The request to invoke a piece of chaincode (for example, invoke the chaincode to transfer the ownership of a car)
- *DEPLOY*: The request to deploy a piece of chaincode across all validating peers, so that it can be executed at a later date.

Other request types exist (e.g. query, update, terminate). Not all request types are recorded on the Blockchain.

The blocks also include when that block was committed to the Blockchain.

__2. Click on a block that contains at least one invocation request.

__3. Look through the list of transactions that are contained within the block.



Each line of information is a transaction stored within the block. A block may contain multiple transactions but in this demo there will often only be one transaction per block due to the low frequency of transactions being made. The information displayed is:

Date	The date the transaction was submitted.
Type	The type of transaction taking place (e.g. INVOKE or DEPLOY).
UUID	The unique identifier for each transaction.
Chaincode ID	Refers to the chaincode that is being invoked or deployed.
Payload	The input parameters to the chaincode.

__4. Repeat this for other blocks to understand how the transactions are stored.

	When the Blockchain is initialised for the car leasing application, the first two blocks in the chain usually contain 'Deploy' transactions, where the chaincode is deployed to the validating peers. View these blocks If you're willing to scroll down the Blockchain explorer that far!

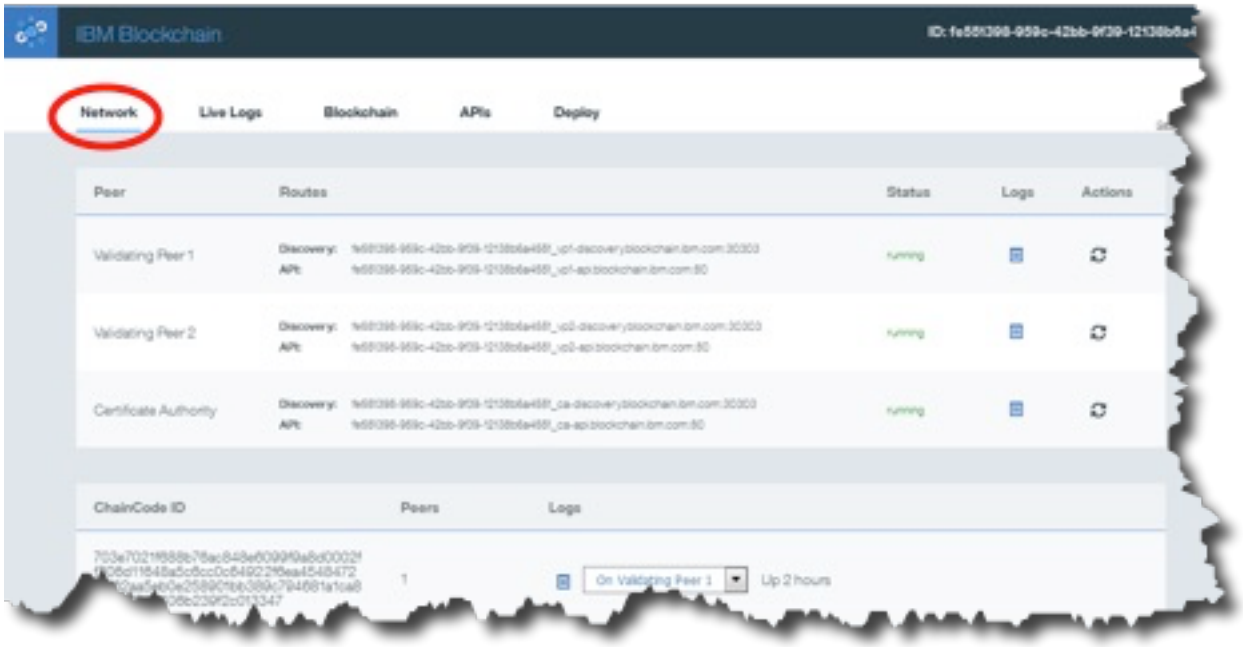
2.3. Understanding the Blockchain Peers

We are now going to review the logs associated with the peers. This is useful for understanding how the Blockchain works, and for diagnosing problems.

There are two ways of accessing the logs of the peers:

- A "Logs" button on the Network tab. This is useful for downloading log files from the peers for offline analysis
- The "Live Logs" tab that shows you what the peers are doing now.

__1. Click on the 'Network' tab at the service page.

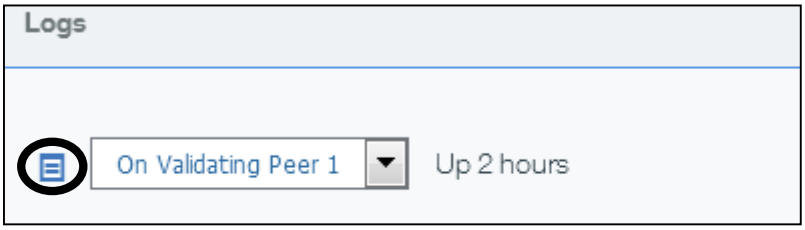


Here we can see that this Blockchain contains two validating peers and a Certificate Authority. The table underneath shows that there are two chaincode applications deployed to this network.

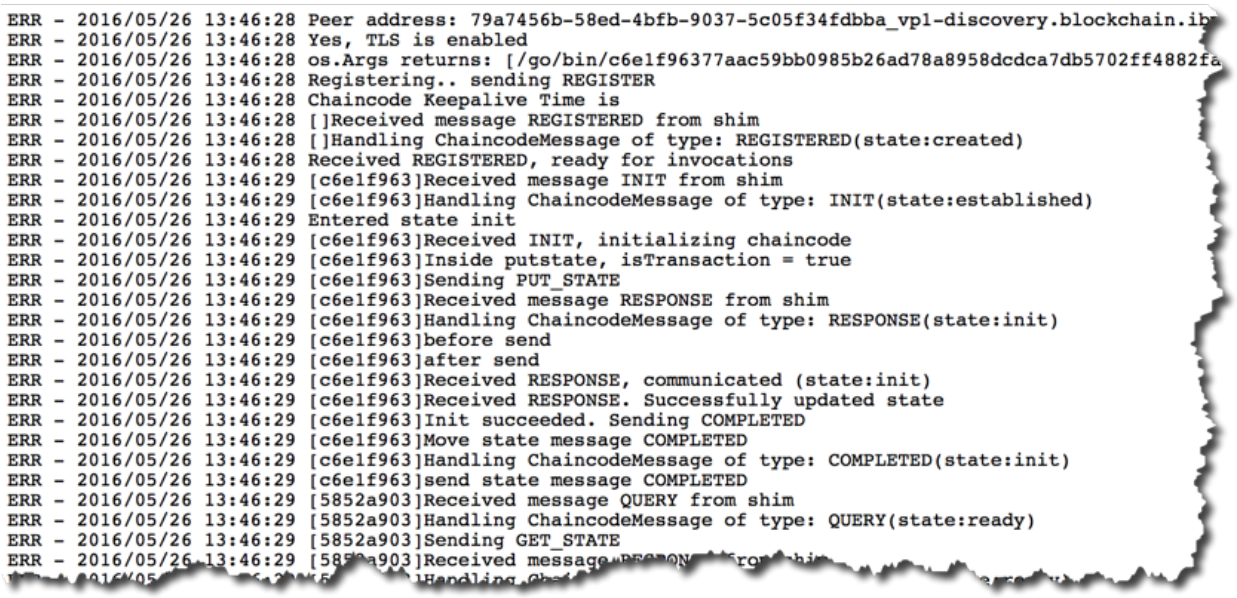
Requests to invoke chaincode (including the method name and any input parameters) are replicated onto every validating node, and when a block is created every validating node will execute the chaincode independently. (The validating peers then attempt to achieve consensus over any changes proposed to the world state as a result of running this chaincode, and as a consequence will persist or discard the changes.)

By looking at the logs for each peer you can verify that every node has executed every transaction.

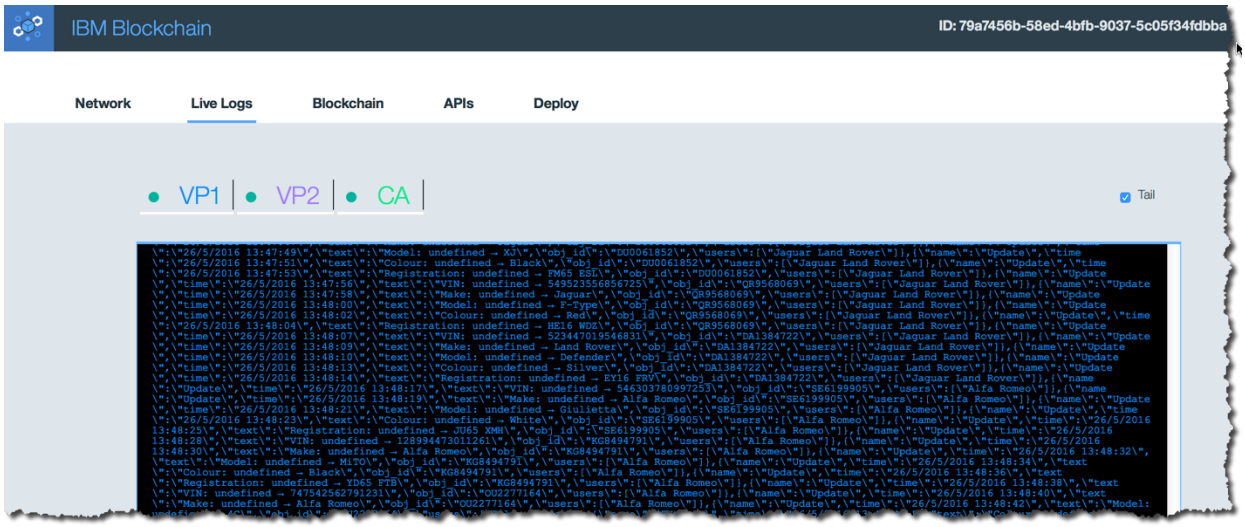
__2. Select the peer for which you wish to see the logs and click on the  icon.



__3. This will show the logs for the selected peer in a new tab.



__4. Click on the ‘Live Logs’ tab on the service page.



This page shows the same logs that were shown from the Network tab, however these are live updating (if you have ‘Tail’ selected), and you can also see a combined view of multiple validating peers and the Certificate Authority.

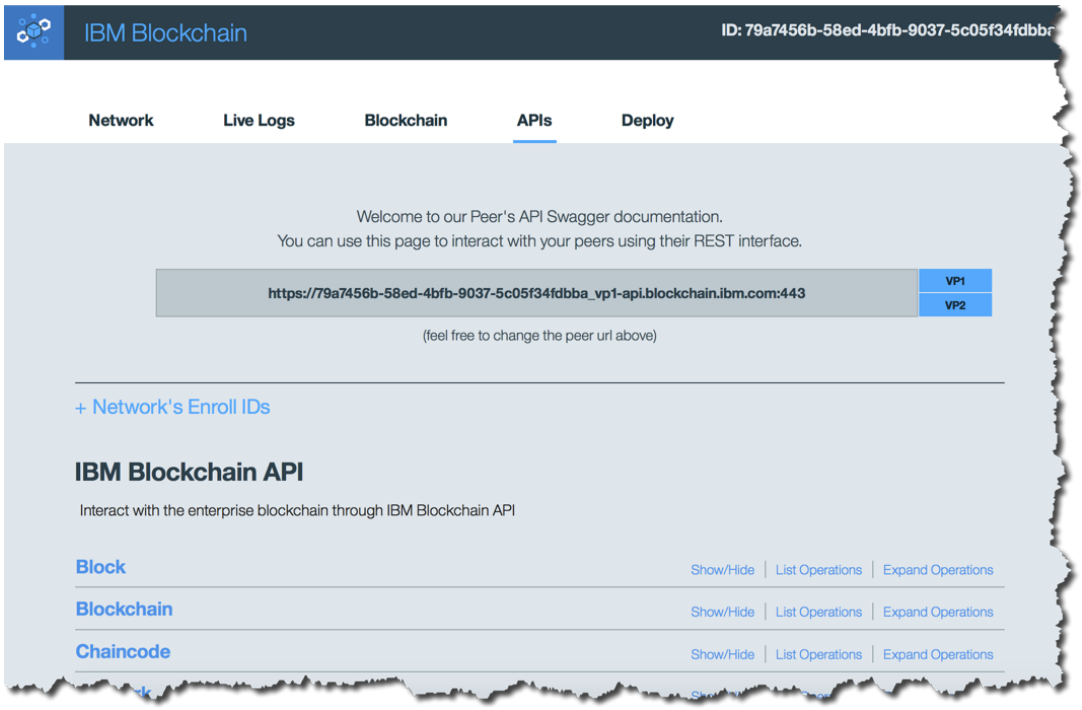
__5. Click on the ‘VP1’, ‘VP2’ and ‘CA’ buttons to toggle on/off the viewing of live logs for each peer.

2.4. Interacting with the peers

It is possible to invoke the management APIs that interact directly with the peers. In this section we will be trying out these APIs directly from the Bluemix environment.

Note that the APIs concern *operationally managing* the Blockchain – this is not the same as adding and invoking transactions through chaincode!

__1. Click on the 'APIs' tab on the service page.



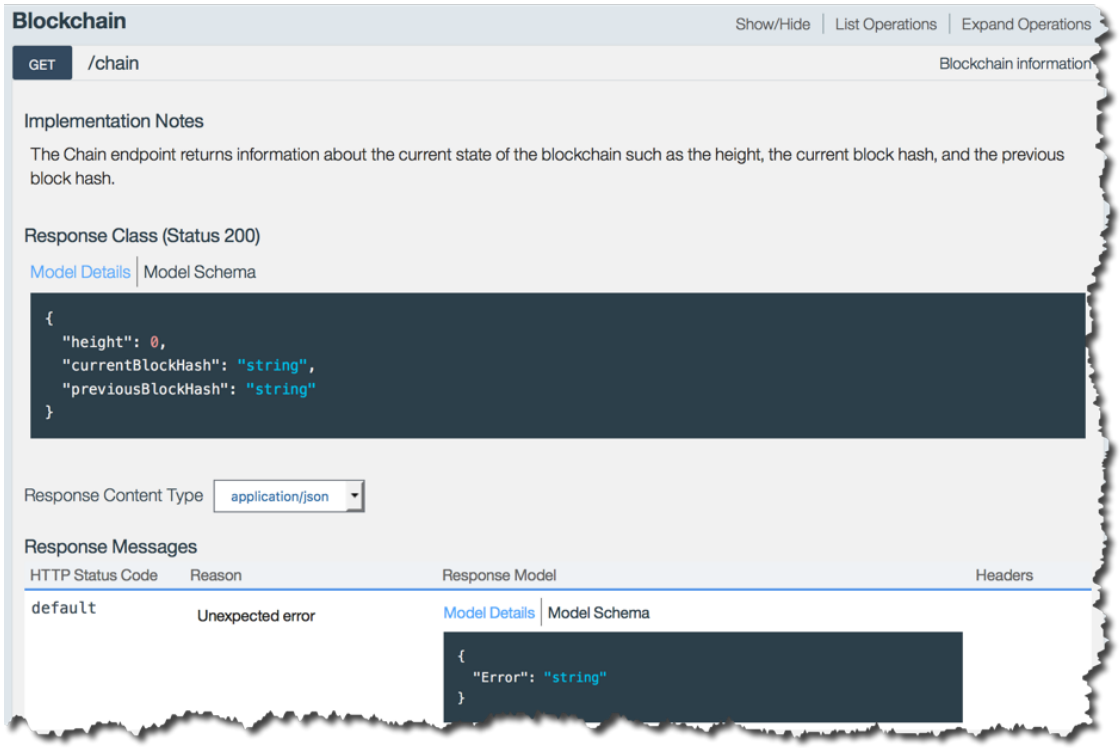
This page allows you to invoke APIs that will directly interrogate and manage the blockchain. First we will use the API interface to query the height of the Blockchain (the number of blocks).

__2. Click the 'Blockchain' section.

This reveals the **GET /chain** operation which is a valid method to call on the peer.

__3. Click 'Expand Operations' to view information about this API.

This reveals the input and output data formats.



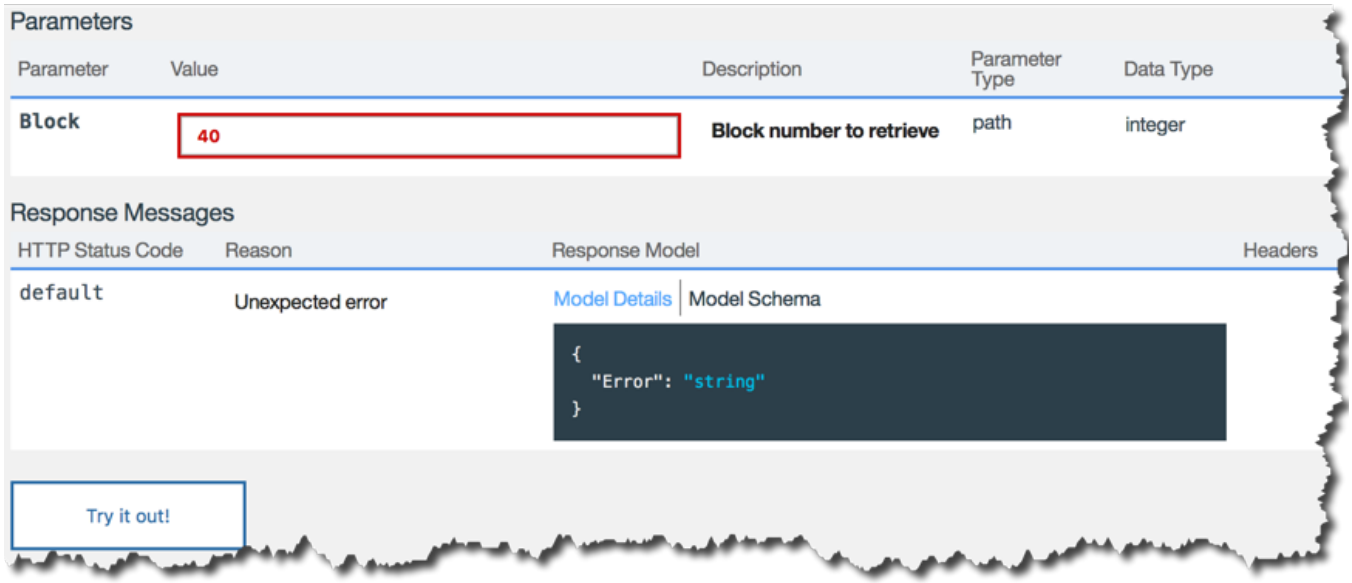
__4. Click ‘ Try It Out’ to invoke the API.

Review the displayed fields:

- The *Request URL* shows the URL that was invoked, including the endpoint information of the peer (hostname:port) and the method call (/chain).
- The *Response Body* shows the information that was returned including, importantly, the height of the blockchain.
- The *Response Code* 200 shows that the request was successful.
- The *Response Headers* confirms that the response body has been returned in a JSON data structure.

__5. Expand the ‘Block’ section and review the information on how to interrogate an individual block in the Blockchain.

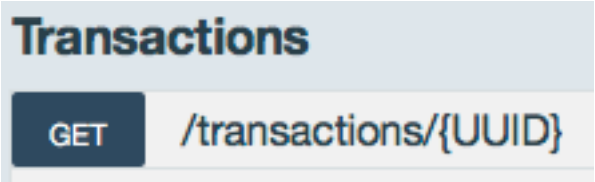
__6. Fill in the ‘Block’ parameter to be a number less than the height of the chain and click ‘Try it out!’.



__7. Review the information returned in the Response Body.

__8. Copy the UUID field of a transaction from a block; this will be of the form “a338564e-ceef-4df6-9efd-95b65fa43efc”.

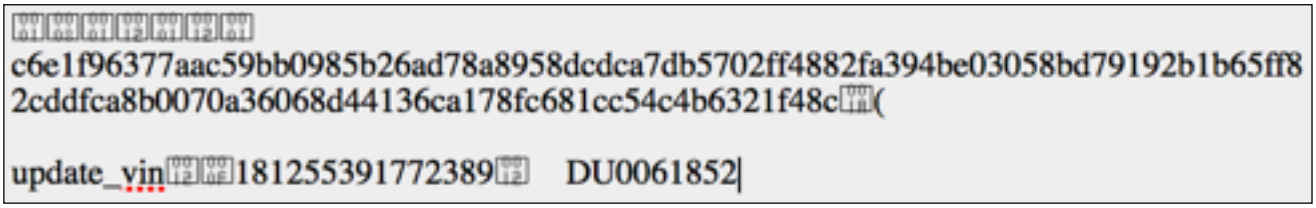
__9. Click the ‘Transactions’ section.



This reveals the **GET /transactions/{UUID}** operation which is a valid method to call on the peer.

__10. Paste the transaction UUID and click ‘Try it out!’.

The ‘payload’ field is base64 encoded (use a web tool such as http://www.base64decode.org for decoding this information); when decoded you’ll see that the payload includes the chaincode ID of the smart contract being called together with its input parameters. For example:



Note that this application does not encrypt the transactions, so the payloads are visible (albeit base64 encoded) to all.

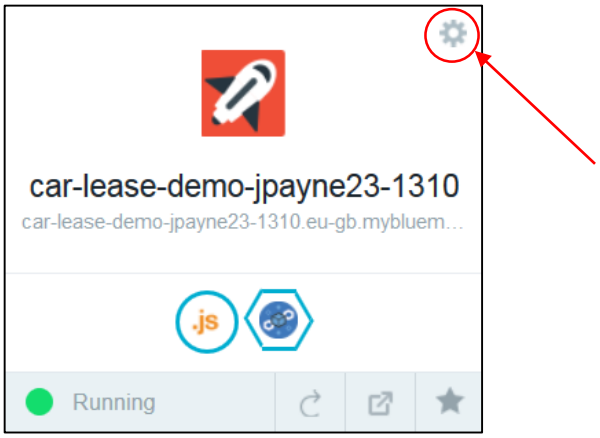
__11. Now spend some time interacting with the other APIs available to you.

Section 3. Removing the sample application

The final section of this lab aims to stop and remove the Blockchain service you created.

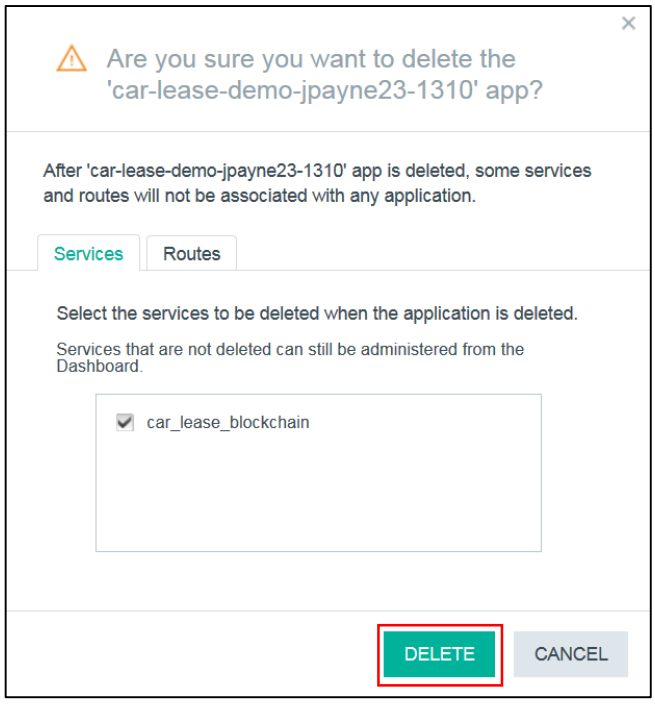
__1. Return to the Bluemix Dashboard by clicking DASHBOARD.

__2. Click the Settings icon in the car lease demo application.



__3. Select ‘Delete App’ from the menu.

__4. Ensure that the ‘car_lease_blockchain’ service is also selected for deletion and click ‘Delete’.



__5. Wait for the items to be stopped and deleted. Once this is done, both the application and the associated service will no longer be visible in the Bluemix dashboard.

Congratulations on completing Lab two – “Blockchain Explored”!

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