



Build your First Chatbot with Watson and WhatsApp

Open Lab | Digital Summit '18

Miracle Innovation Labs

Miracle Software Systems, Inc.

Build your First Chatbot with Watson and WhatsApp

Introduction

This document contains a step-by-step process of creating a Chatbot with IBM Watson Assistant NLP and will teach you how to create a chatbot with Watson Assistant and how to integrate with WhatsApp using Node JS.

This guide was prepared by [Miracle's Innovation Labs](#)

Pre-Requisites

All attendees must have their workstation (with Internet) to participate in the lab (Both PC and MAC are compatible). The following pre-requisites will help you to make the Hands-on Lab experience easier.

- Active email ID for registering with IBM Bluemix to get access for Watson Assistant
- Download and install Node JS and ngrok
- Access for WhatsApp Web
- Test Editor such as Sublime Text (or) Notepad++

Technology Involved

- IBM Bluemix (PaaS)
- NLP - IBM Watson Assistant
- Server Side - Node JS

Labs Steps

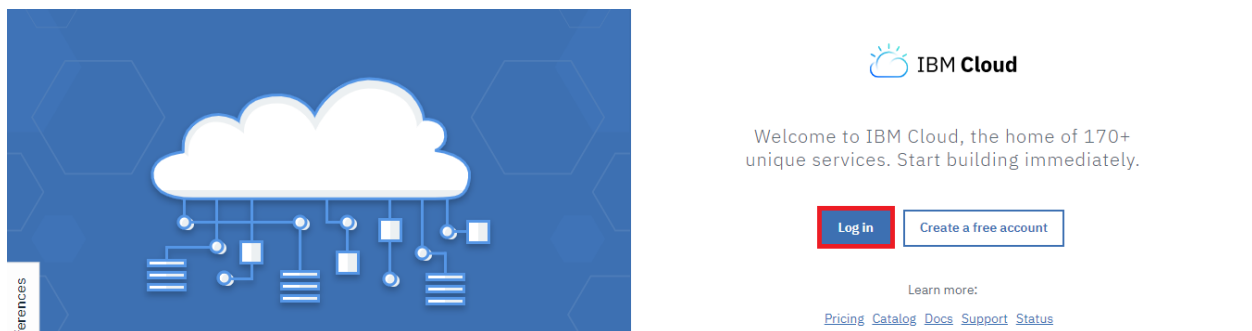
So, let us get started with the bot!

The following steps will outline creating a chatbot using Watson Assistant and integrate it with WhatsApp using Twilio. Users will be able to directly message your bot through WhatsApp to know about Miracle Software Systems, AP Cloud and Digital Summit.

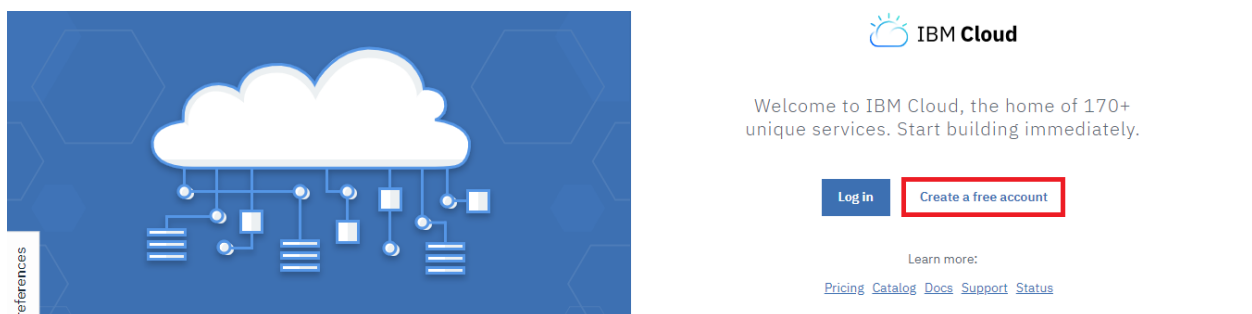
Step #1 | Create Watson Assistant Service in IBM Bluemix

The first step will be to make sure that we have access to the IBM Bluemix console with either free trial option (or) the paid subscription option.

Login to Bluemix at <http://bluemix.net> (or) Register today at, <https://console.bluemix.net/registration>



If you are a new user, click on **Create a free account**.



Now, you need to provide the details to the fields that are marked as required(*) and click on **Create Account**.

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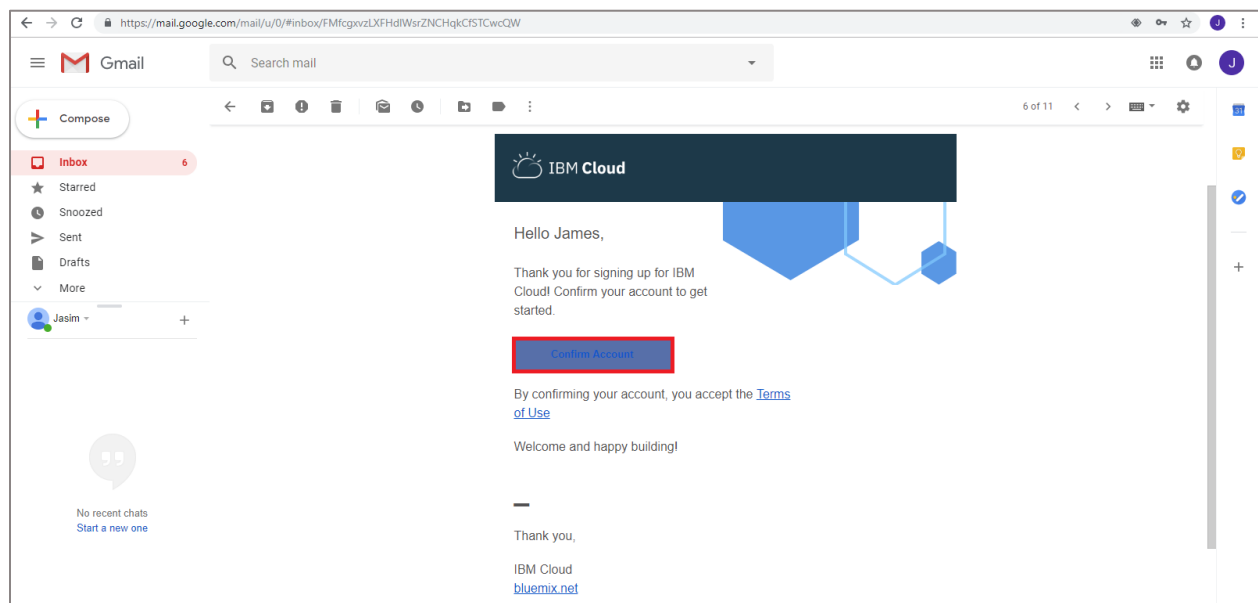
You can withdraw your marketing consent at any time by sending an email to netstupp@us.ibm.com. Also you may unsubscribe from receiving marketing emails by clicking the unsubscribe link in each such email. More information on our processing can be found in the [IBM Privacy Statement](#).

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the IBM Privacy Statement. I accept the product [Terms and Conditions](#) of this form.

Create Account

Privacy - Terms

After creating account, confirmation mail will be sent to the registered mail id.
Click on **Confirm Account**



Now, **Log in** to your Bluemix account by providing your credentials.

Log in to IBM

Don't have an IBMid?
[Create an account](#)

Log in with your company
credentials (SSO)

Need help? [Contact the IBM Help Desk](#)

IBMId

healthcarebot12345@gmail.com

Forgot IBMId?

Password

Forgot password?

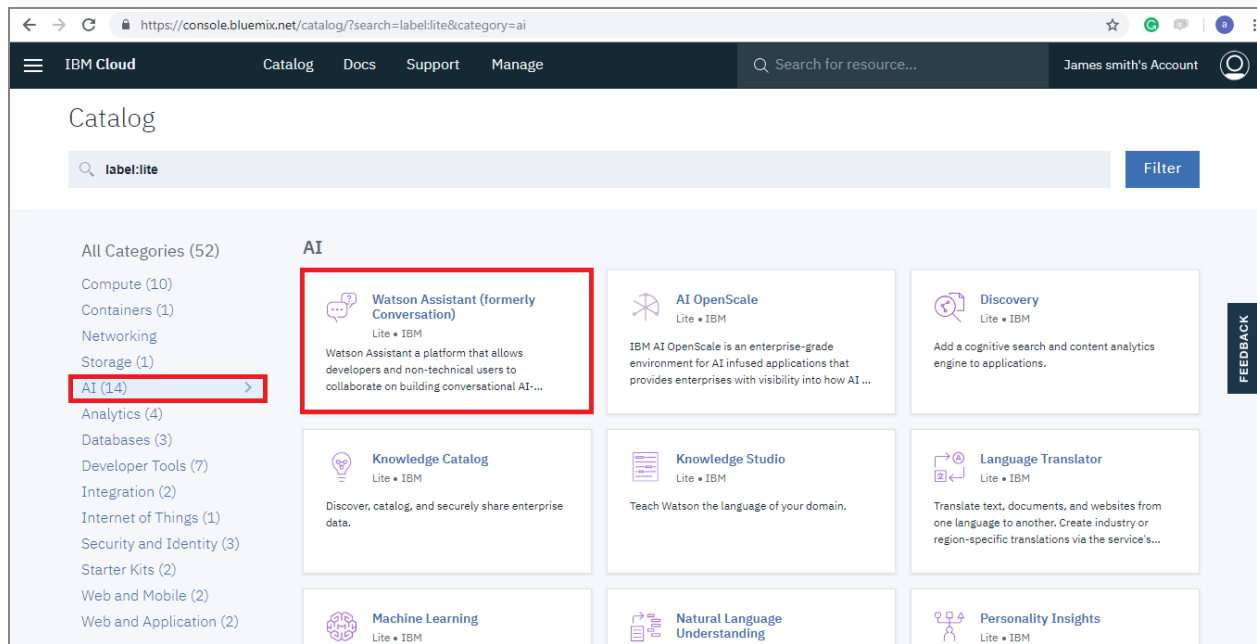
☐ Remember me [?](#)

[Log in](#)

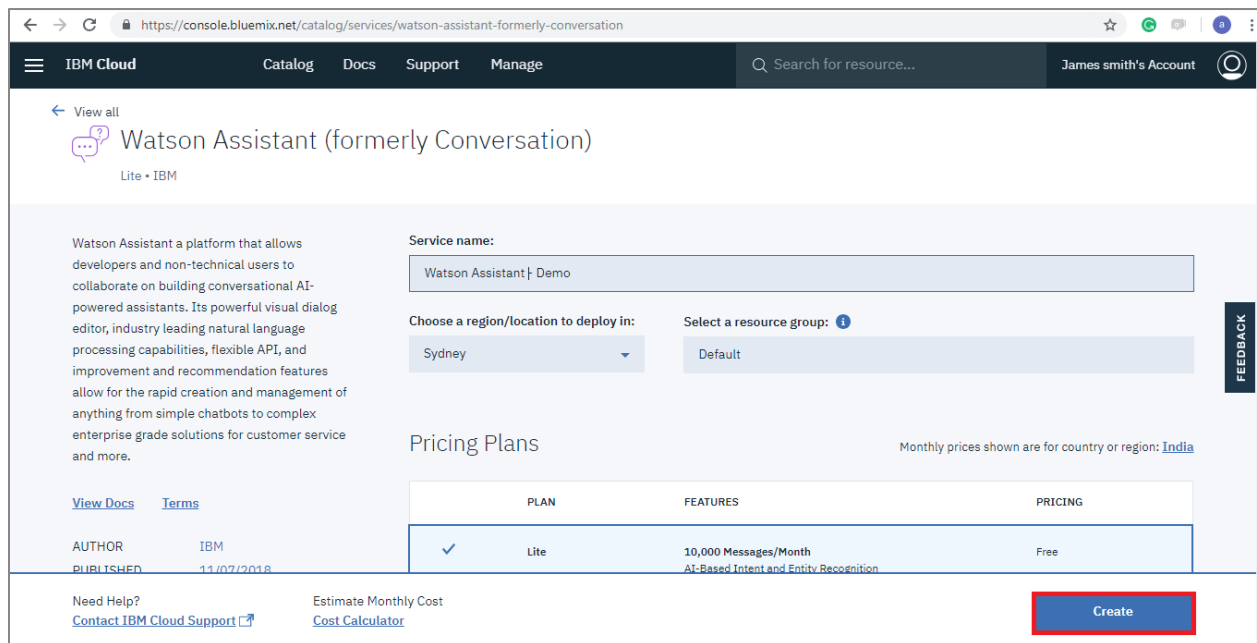
You can see the dashboard as shown below. Now, click on **Catalog**.

The screenshot shows the IBM Cloud console dashboard. The top navigation bar includes 'IBM Cloud', 'Catalog' (highlighted), 'Docs', 'Support', and 'Manage'. A search bar and 'James smith's Account' are on the right. The dashboard has filters for 'RESOURCE GROUP' (All Resources), 'CLOUD FOUNDRY ORG' (All Organizations), 'CLOUD FOUNDRY SPACE' (All Spaces), 'LOCATION' (All Locations), and 'CATEGORY' (All Categories). A 'Filter by resource name...' input and a 'Create resource' button are also present. The main content area features a 'Fast-track your app development' section with three cards: 'Build with Watson' (with a 'View Watson starter kits' button), 'Create enterprise-level web apps' (with a 'View App Service starter kits' button), and 'Learn to build, deploy, and scale' (with a 'View Solution tutorials' button). A 'FEEDBACK' button is on the right side of the dashboard.

In Catalog, under the **AI** category you can see all the Watson Services where you can find **Watson Assistant**. Click on **Watson Assistant** tile for training the chatbot.

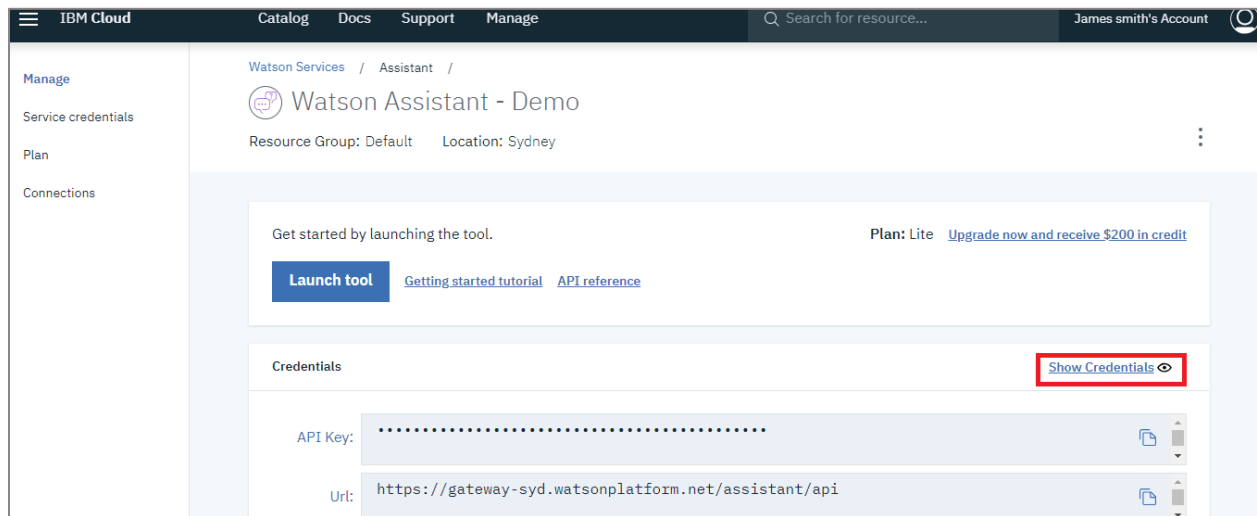


Now, type a unique name for the service instance in the **Service name** field. For example, type **my-conversation-demo**. Leave the default values for other options and click on **Create**.



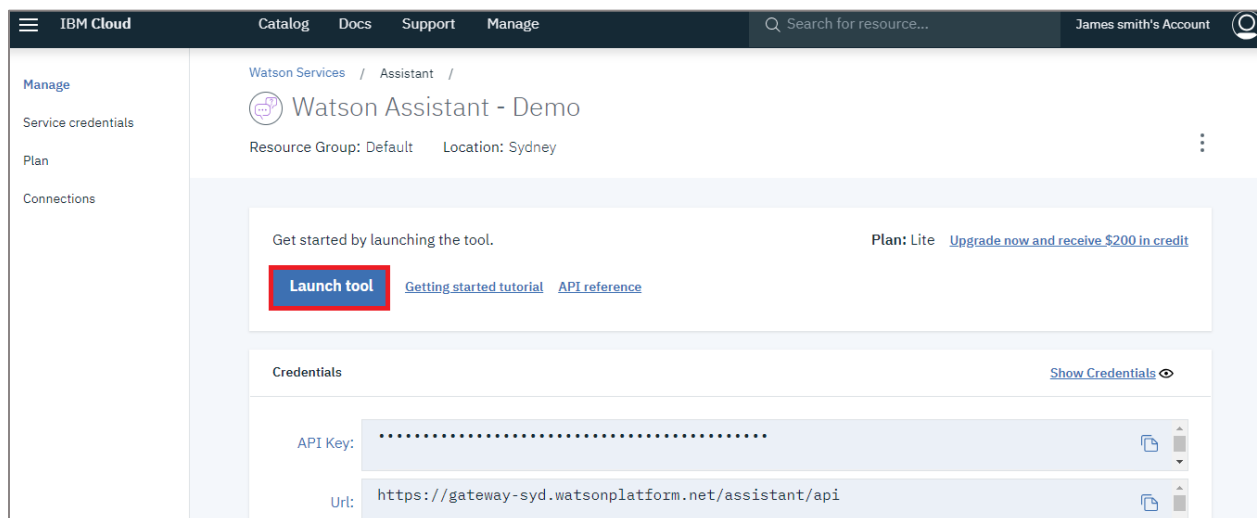
Note - Creation of service may take up to a minute or two.

You will land on the **Manage** page of the service dashboard. Click on **Show Credentials** to make use of API key.



Copy the API key and URL. Navigate to **app.js** file which you downloaded in your local drive and paste the API key in the place of **<Your-Watson-Assistant-APIKey>** and URL in place of **<Your-Watson-Assistant-URL>**

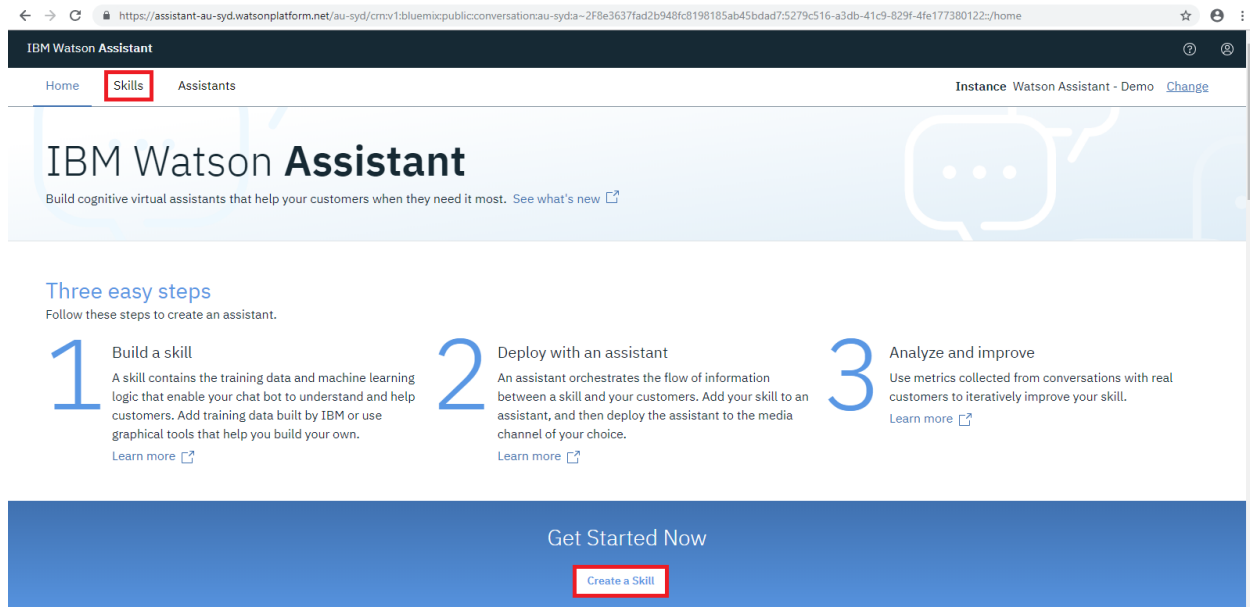
Now, go back to Watson Assistant dashboard and click on **Launch tool**. It will redirect you to the Skills page.



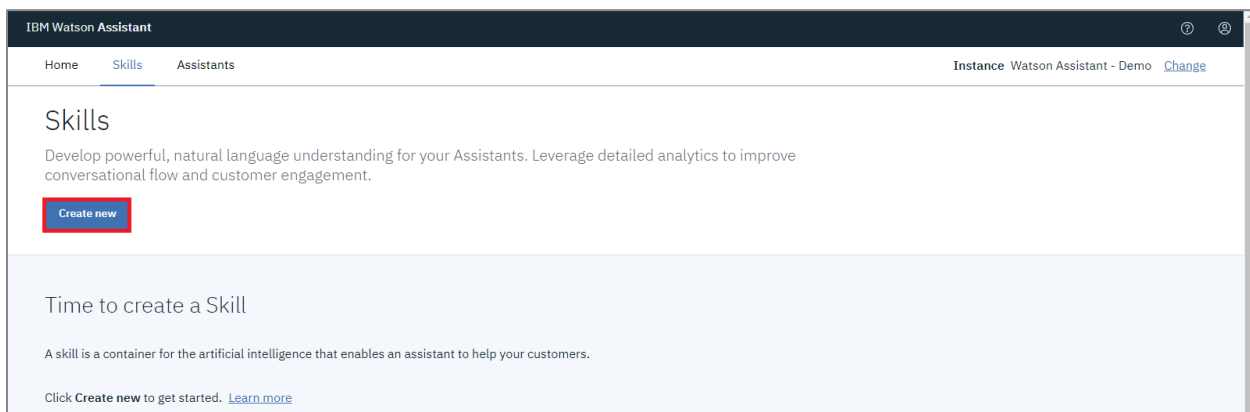
Step #2 | Create Skill in Watson Assistant Service

Your first step in the Watson Assistant tool is to create a Skill.

From the home page of the Watson Assistant tool, click on the **Skills** tab or click on the **Create a Skill** button to build your chatbot as shown below,



Then you will be navigated to **Skills** tab, where you can create a new skill. Click on **Create new** button as shown below,



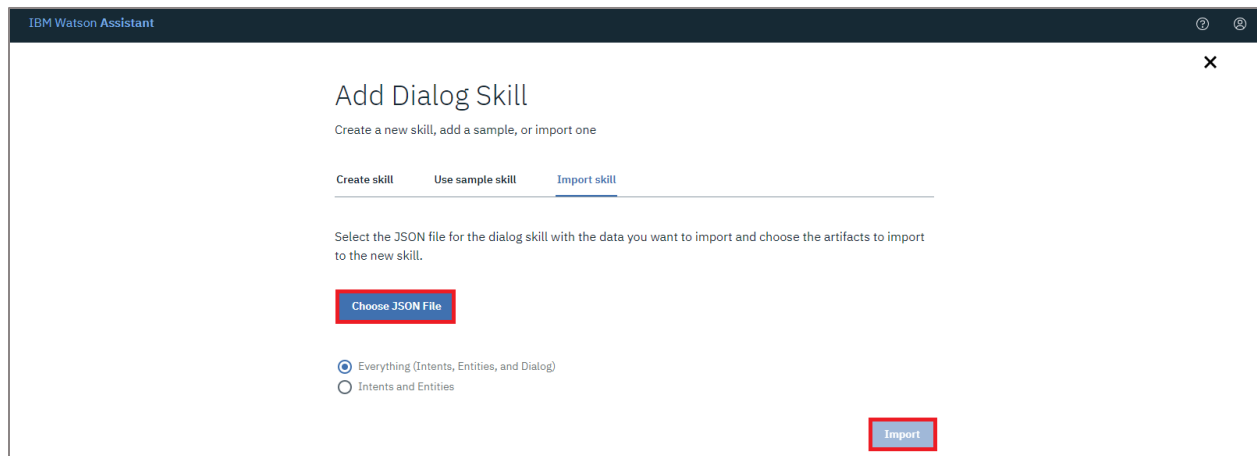
Once you click on the button in Skills tab, you will need to provide a Name and Description to your skill. After entering all details, click on **Create** button.

The screenshot shows the 'Add Dialog Skill' interface in the IBM Watson Assistant console. The 'Create skill' tab is selected. The form includes a 'Name' field with the value 'AP Cloud Demo Bot', a 'Description (optional)' text area containing 'Here is the sample dialog-model for the AP Cloud Demo Bot', and a 'Language' dropdown menu set to 'English (US)'. A red box highlights the 'Create' button at the bottom right.

If you want to import the existing skill, click on the **Import Skill** tab.

The screenshot shows the 'Add Dialog Skill' interface with the 'Import skill' tab selected. It prompts the user to 'Select the JSON file for the dialog skill with the data you want to import and choose the artifacts to import to the new skill.' There is a 'Choose JSON File' button and two radio button options: 'Everything (Intents, Entities, and Dialog)' (which is selected) and 'Intents and Entities'. A red box highlights the 'Import skill' tab. An 'Import' button is located at the bottom right.

Choose any of the existing Watson Assistant Skill which is a **JSON** file to upload and click on **Import** as shown below,

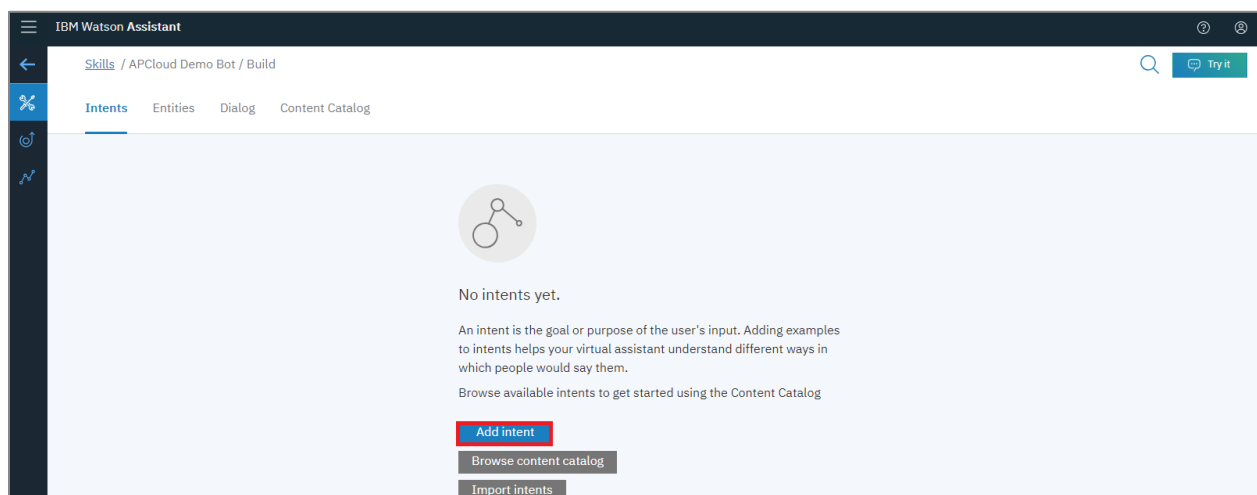


Note - You can find the sample JSON file with the name **dialog_model.json** in the example folder which you downloaded from GitHub repository.

Step #3 | Training the Skill using Intents, Entities and Dialogs

a) Intents

Now, you will land on the Intents page of your new skill. Intents are purpose or goals expressed in a user's input. Click on **Add intent** to define new Intents for your chatbot to get trained.



After clicking on **Add intent** button, you need to provide the Intent name, Description, and then click on **Create intent**.

← | Create new intent

Intent name
#Greetings

Description
Intent consists of user phrases to greet the chat bot

Create intent

No examples yet.
Train your virtual assistant with this intent by adding unique examples of what your users would say.

Now, you need to add user examples for that intent as shown below,

Note - After each example, you can click on **Add example** button or hit the enter button.

← | #Greetings

Intent name
#Greetings

Description
Intent consists of user phrases to greet the chat bot

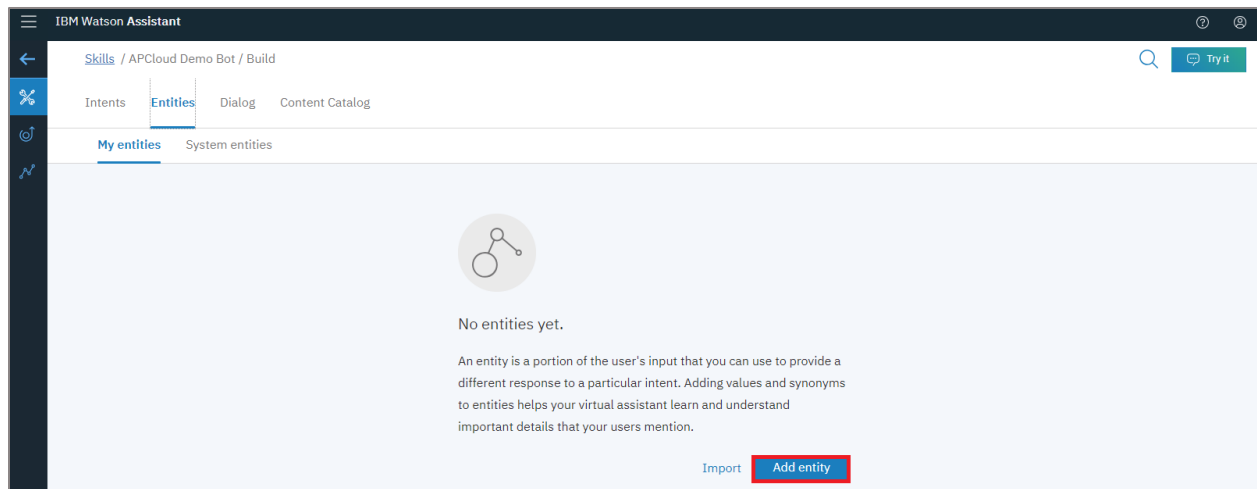
Add user examples
Good Morning

Add example

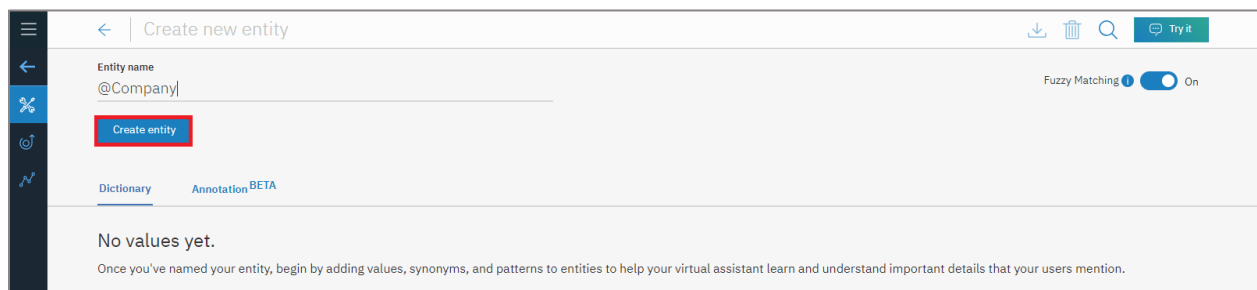
<input type="checkbox"/> User examples (3) ▾	Added	Show only conflicts ⓘ
<input type="checkbox"/> Hello ✎	in a few seconds	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hi ✎	in a few seconds	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hola ✎	in a few seconds	

b) Entities

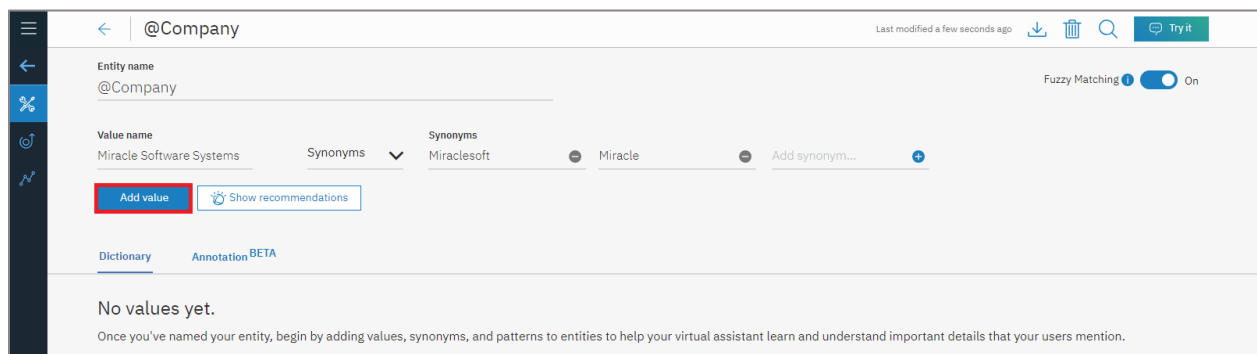
An entity represents information in the user input that is relevant to the user's purpose. To create an entity, go to **Entities** tab, under **My entities** tab click on **Add entity**.



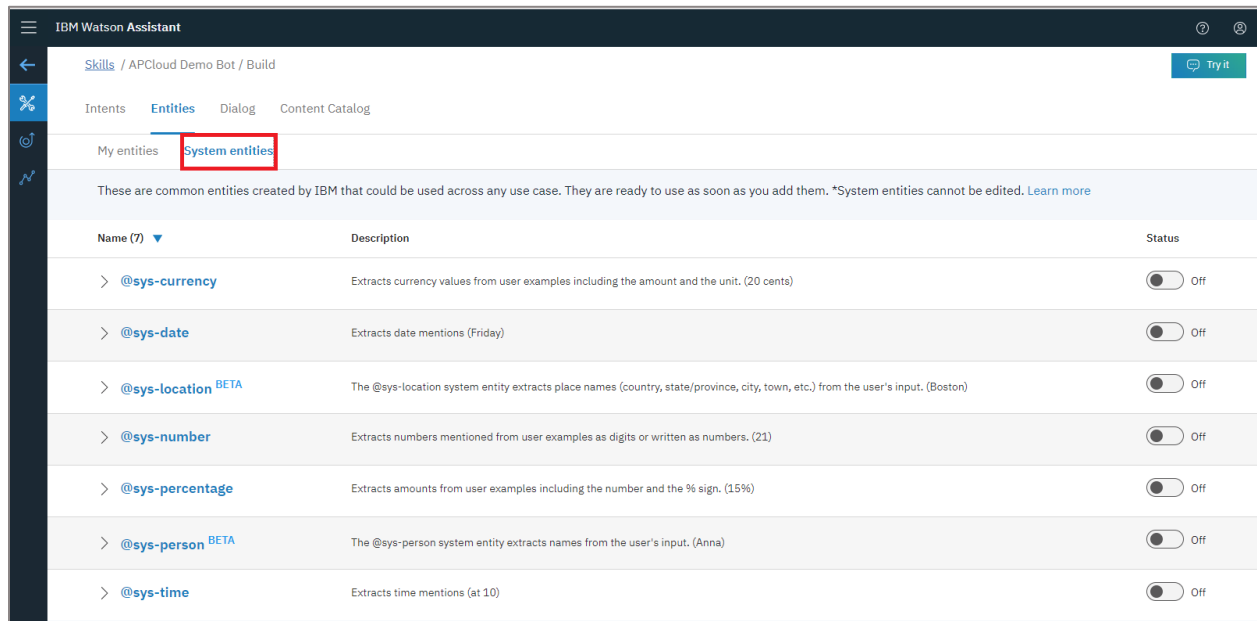
In the Entity name field, provide a name for the entity and then click on **Create entity**.



After entity creation, you need to enter a Value name for the entity, click on **Add value** and also you can add any synonyms which are based on contextual similarity for specific values as shown below,

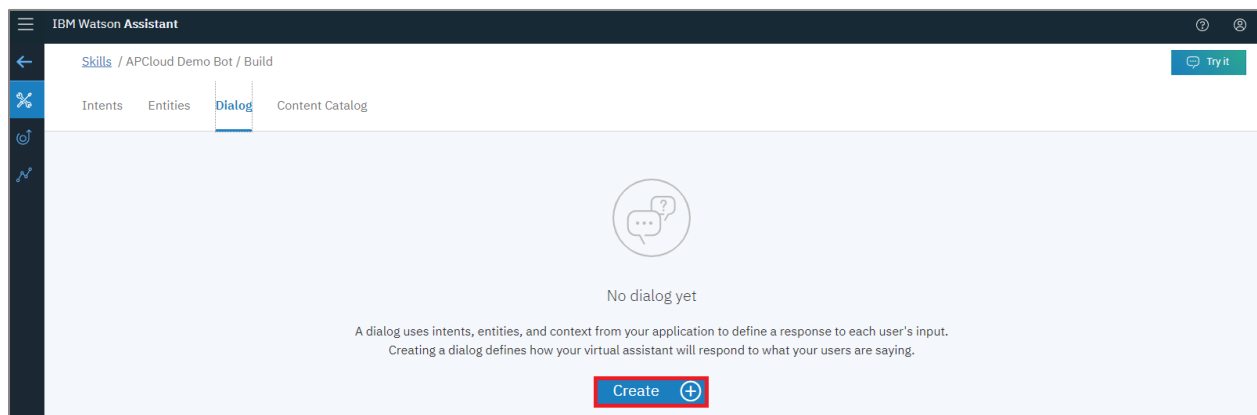


You can also use predefined entities called **System Entities**. Click on **System entities** tab to select from a list of common entities that are provided by IBM.

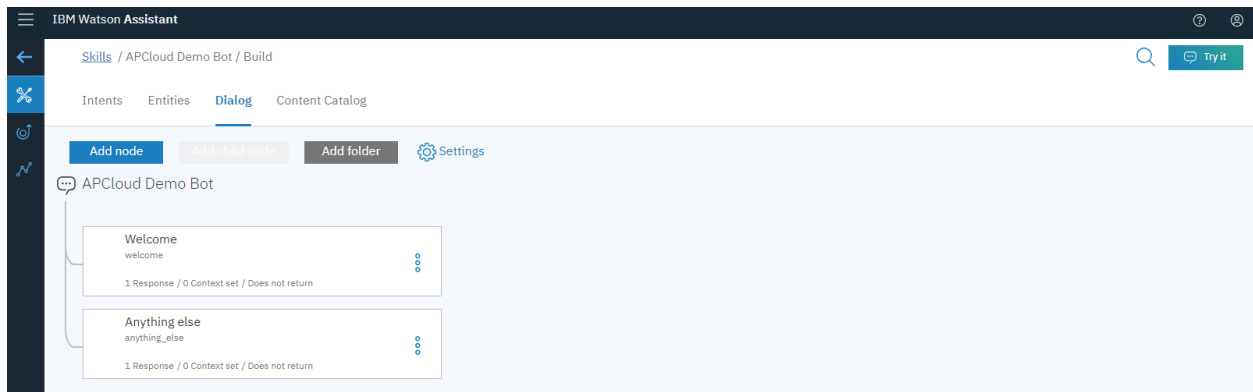


c) Dialog

Dialog uses the intents and entities together that are identified in the user's input and respond to the user based on the matched intent. To create your Dialog nodes, click on **Create** button.



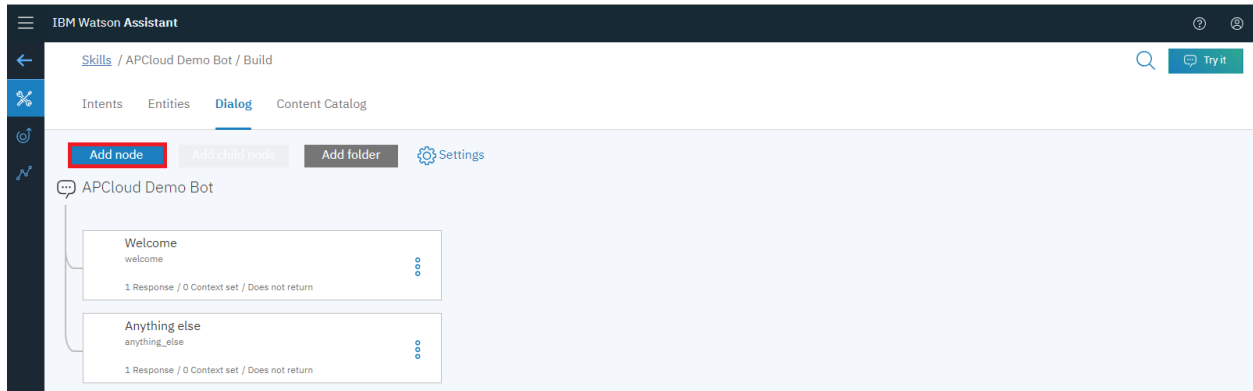
Once you click on that button under the **Dialog** tab, you will get two nodes initially.



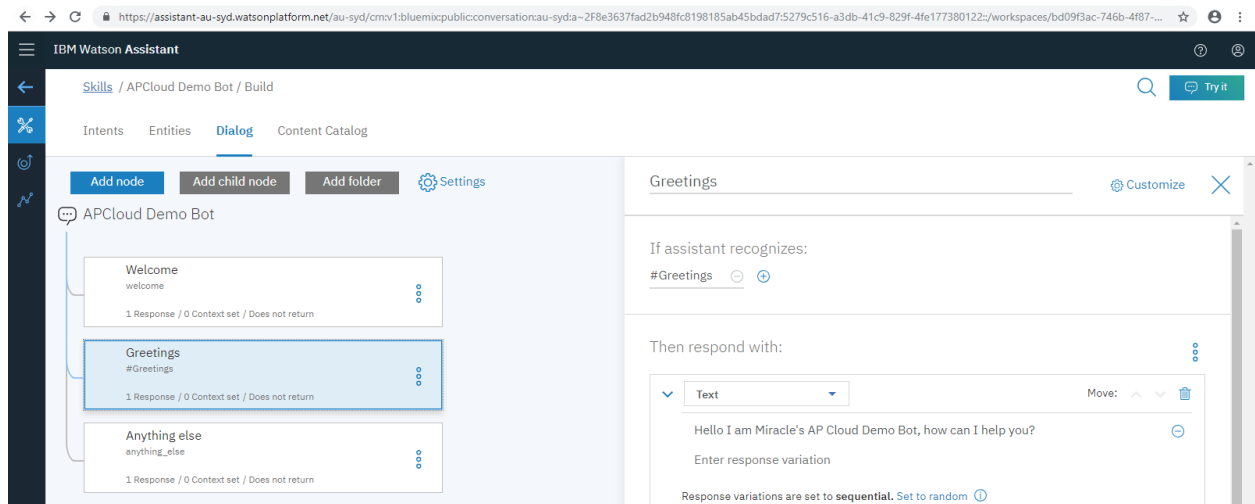
Welcome - This is the first node that contains the initial greetings when users engage with the service.

Anything else - This is the final node that contains phrases which are used to respond to the user when input is not recognized.

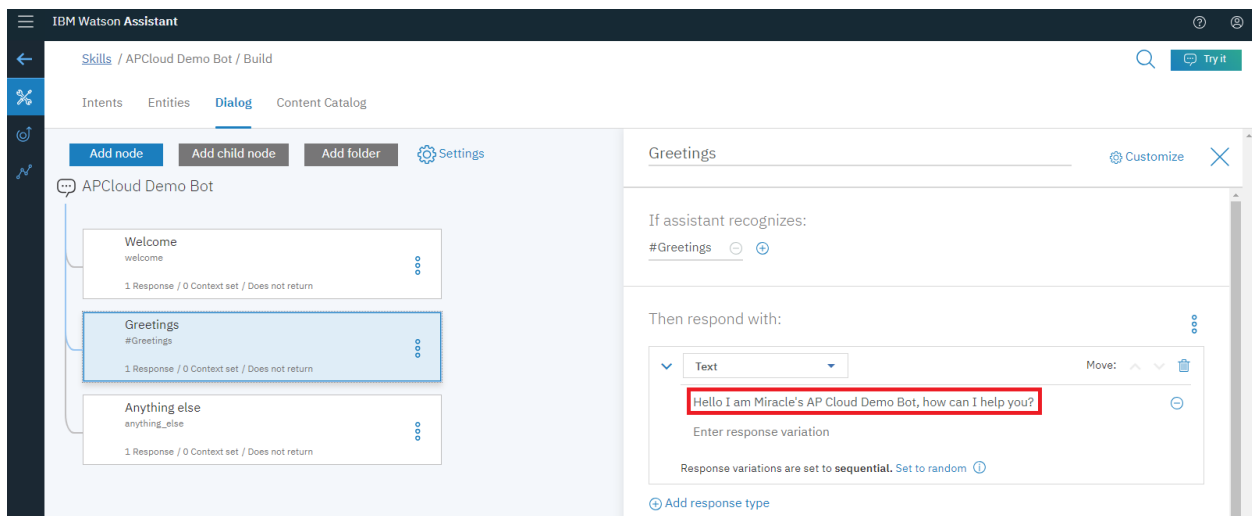
If you want to add more nodes to your dialog tree, click on **Add node** button on the top.



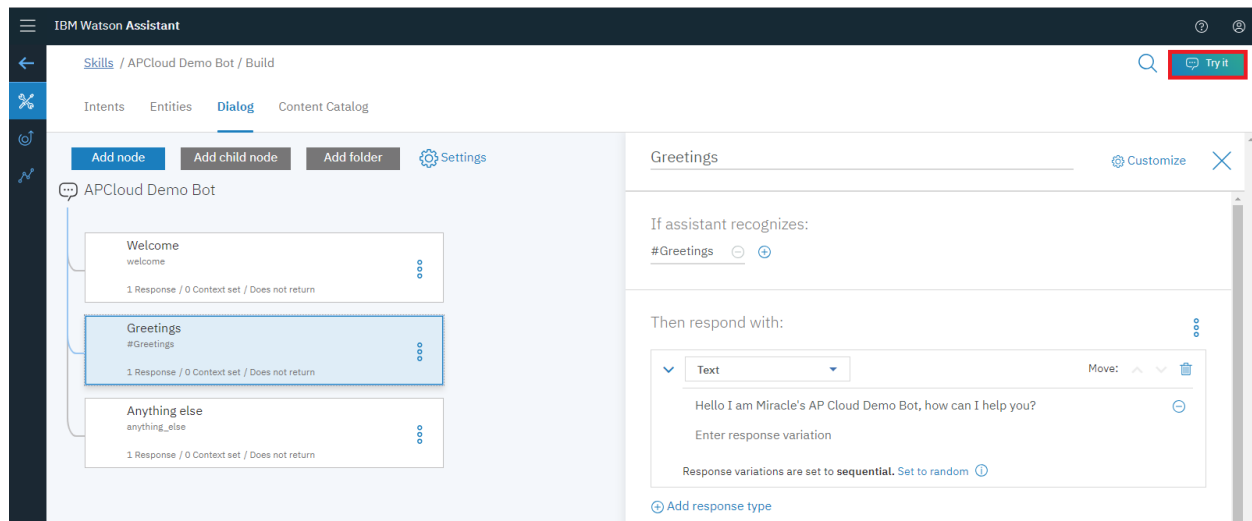
Then you will have one new node added into your dialog tree as shown below.



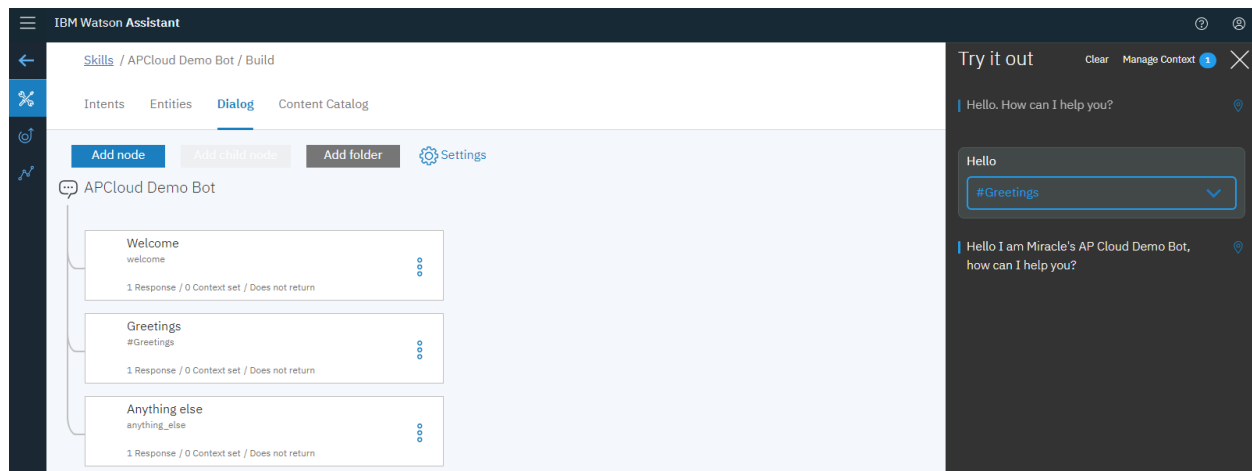
Add the text or multimedia elements that you want the service to display to the user as a response. For that, click on the node and provide response to user's request.




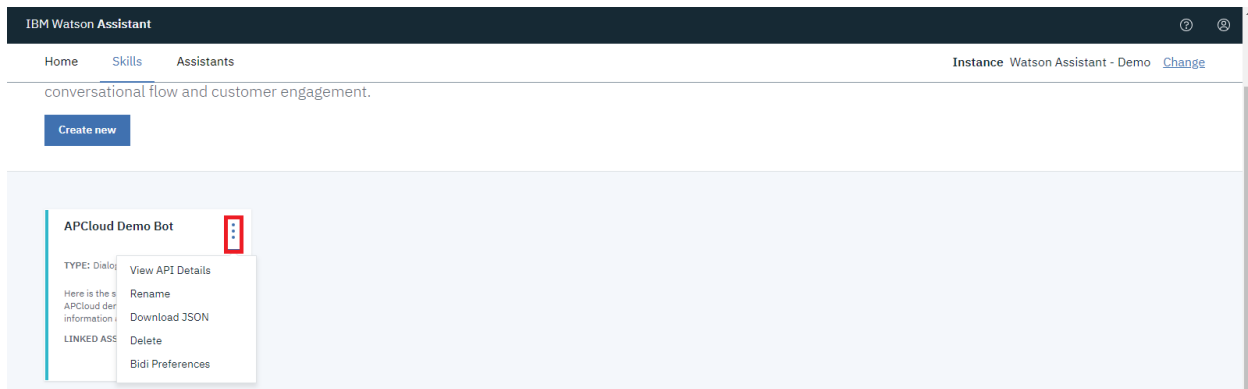
If you want to test your skill in the Watson Assistant tool itself, click on **Try it**.



Now, you are all set to test your chatbot in Watson Assistant tool.

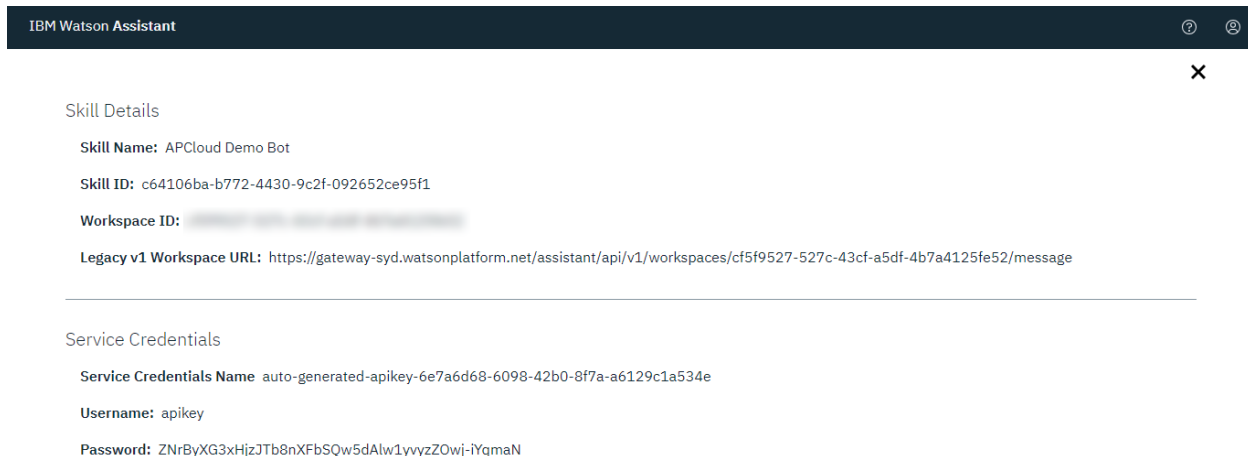


To access the skill through Node JS, you need to provide the Workspace ID in **app.js file**. For that, click on three dots (), and the below options are displayed.



Choose **View API Details** option and click on it. You will get all the API details.

From those API details, you will get the Workspace ID. Copy that ID and navigate to **app.js** file, paste the ID in the place of **<Your-Watson-Assistant-WorkspaceID>**



Step #4 | Creating Twilio Account

Initially, you need to create a Twilio account to get the WhatsApp number for the bot. Here, is the link to create free Twilio account <http://www.twilio.com/try-twilio>.

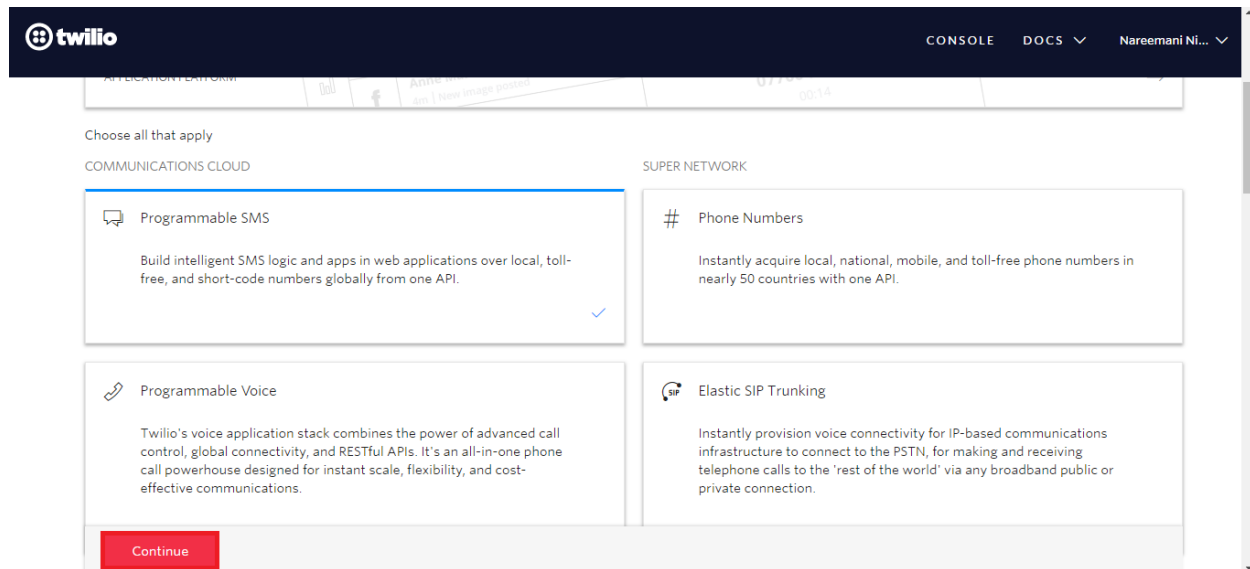
Enter your details and click on **Get Started**

The screenshot shows the Twilio 'try-twilio' page. At the top, there's a Twilio logo. Below it, the text says 'Get started with a free Twilio account. No credit card required.' The form includes fields for 'First Name' (Nareemani), 'Last Name' (Nirjogi), 'Email', and 'Password'. There's a 'CHOOSE YOUR LANGUAGE' dropdown set to 'JavaScript'. A reCAPTCHA 'I'm not a robot' checkbox is checked. A red 'Get Started' button is at the bottom, with a link to 'legal policies' and a 'Login' link for existing users.

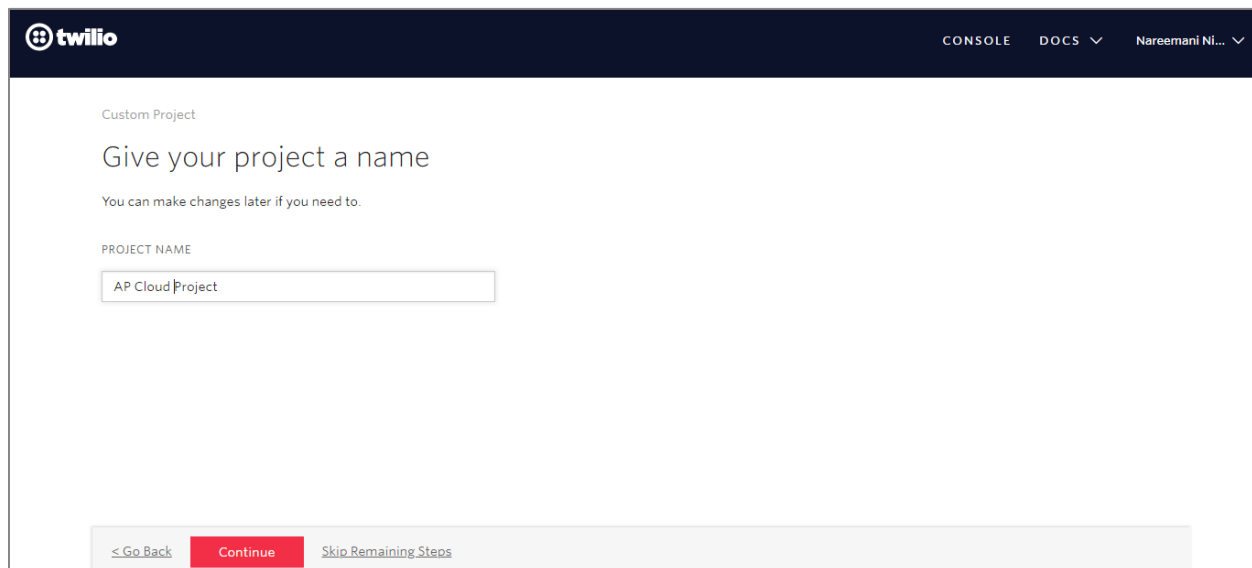
After creating a new Twilio account, you will land on the below dashboard. Select **Products** tile.

The screenshot shows the Twilio dashboard. At the top, there's a Twilio logo and navigation links for 'CONSOLE', 'DOCS', and a user profile 'Nareemani Ni...'. The main section is titled 'Create a Project'. It has two tabs: 'Templates' and 'Products'. The 'Products' tab is selected and highlighted in blue. Below the tabs, there's a card for 'Flex New' with a description: 'Deploy an omnichannel contact center within minutes and customize every element of the experience, including the agent desktop, channels, interaction routing, and reporting using common web frameworks like React.js and REST APIs.' Below this card, there's a section for 'Choose all that apply' with two options: 'COMMUNICATIONS CLOUD' and 'SUPER NETWORK'. A red 'Continue' button is at the bottom.

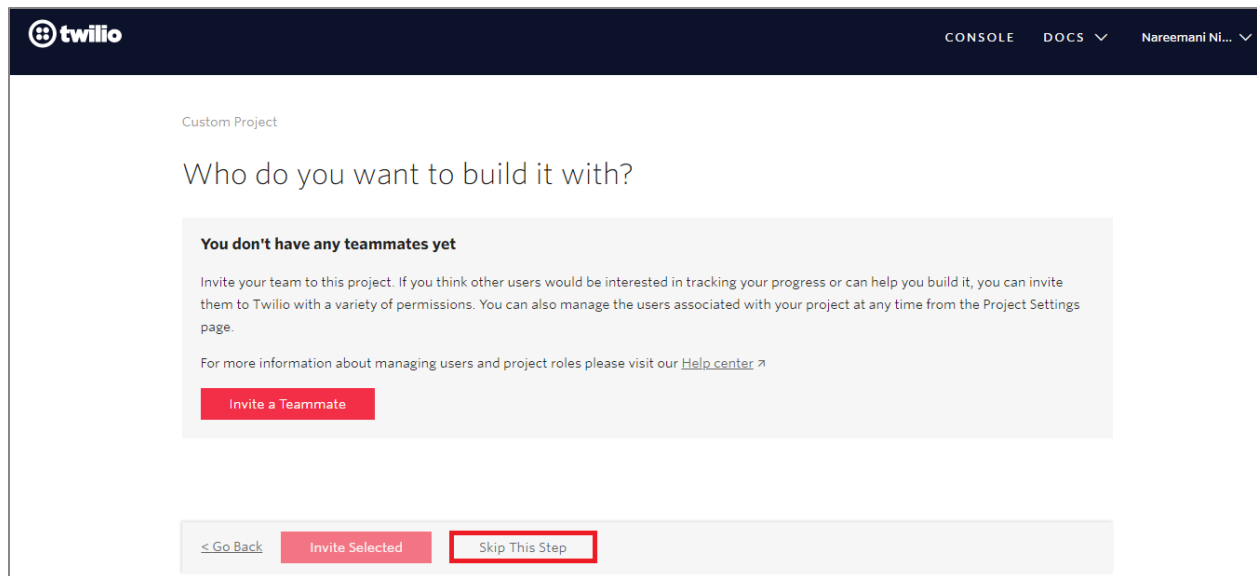
Under Products, if you scroll down you will find the following services. Select **Programmable SMS** service and then click on **Continue**.



After selecting a service give a PROJECT NAME and then click on **Continue**.

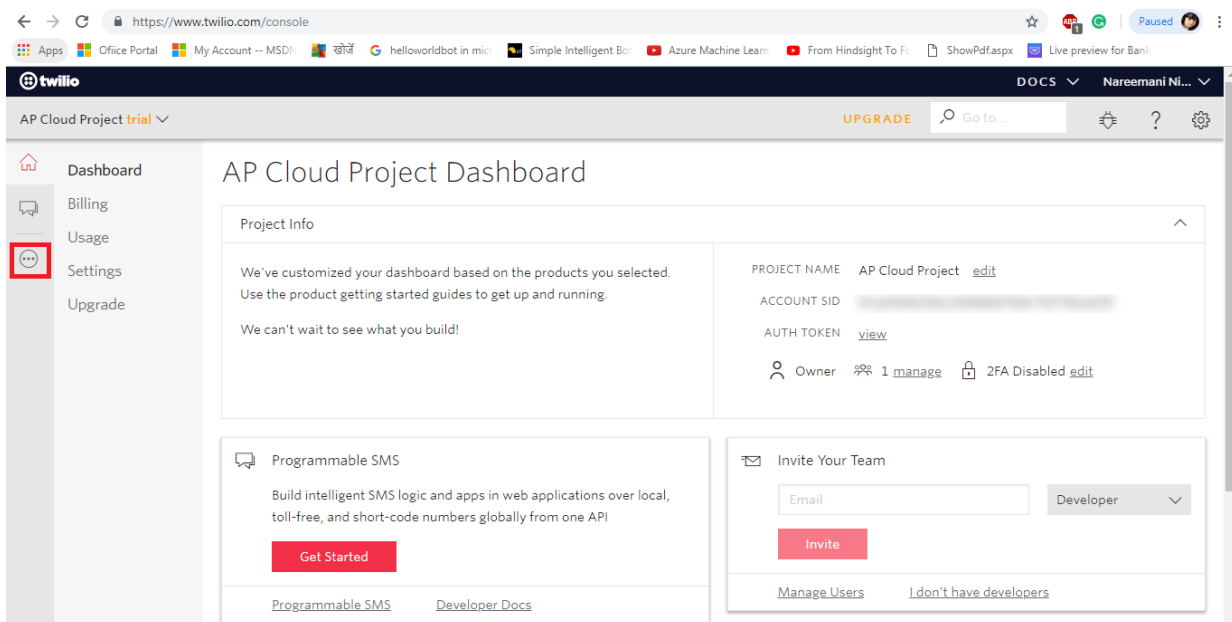


After creating a Project, it will display the below page. You can select **Skip This Step** option.

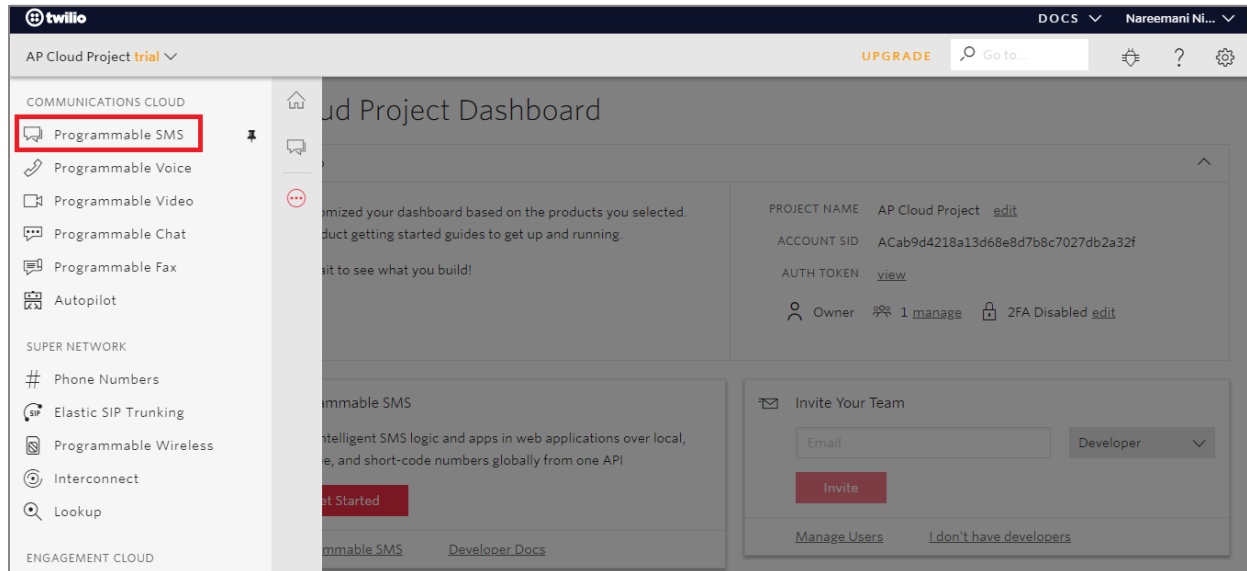


It will display the Project Dashboard with the Project Name and Account SID. By using Account SID we can connect the Twilio project to Watson Assistant using Node JS. Copy the ACCOUNT SID and AUTH TOKEN for later use.

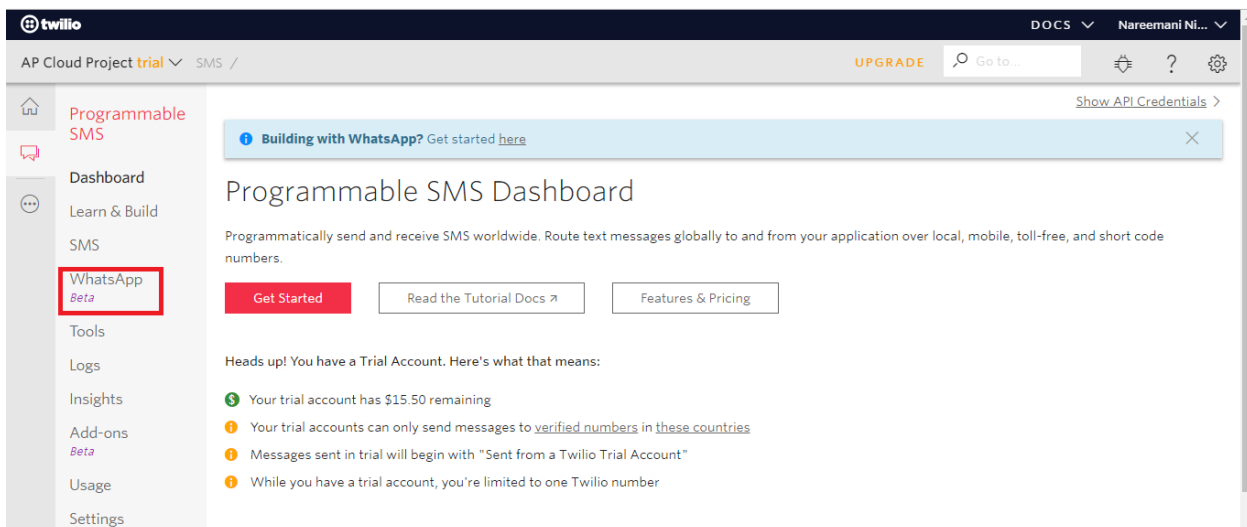
In this dashboard click on 3 horizontal dots icon (Products and Services option) as shown below.



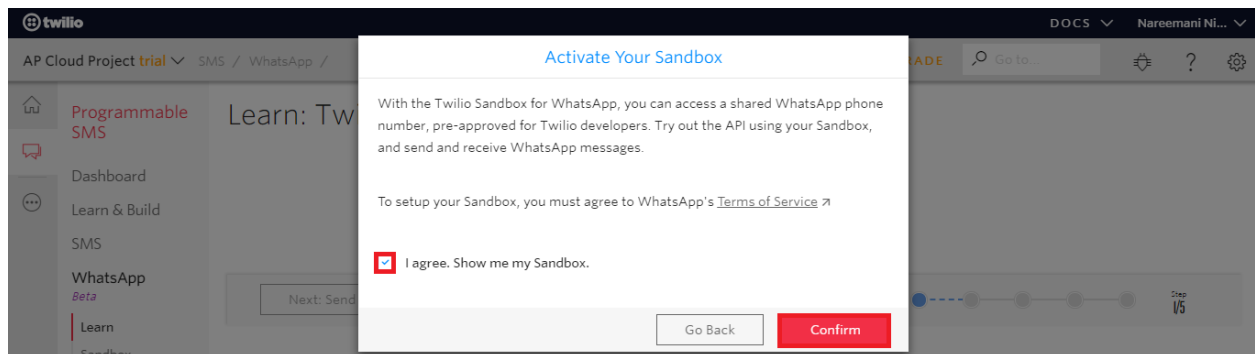
In Products and Services select **Programmable SMS** option.



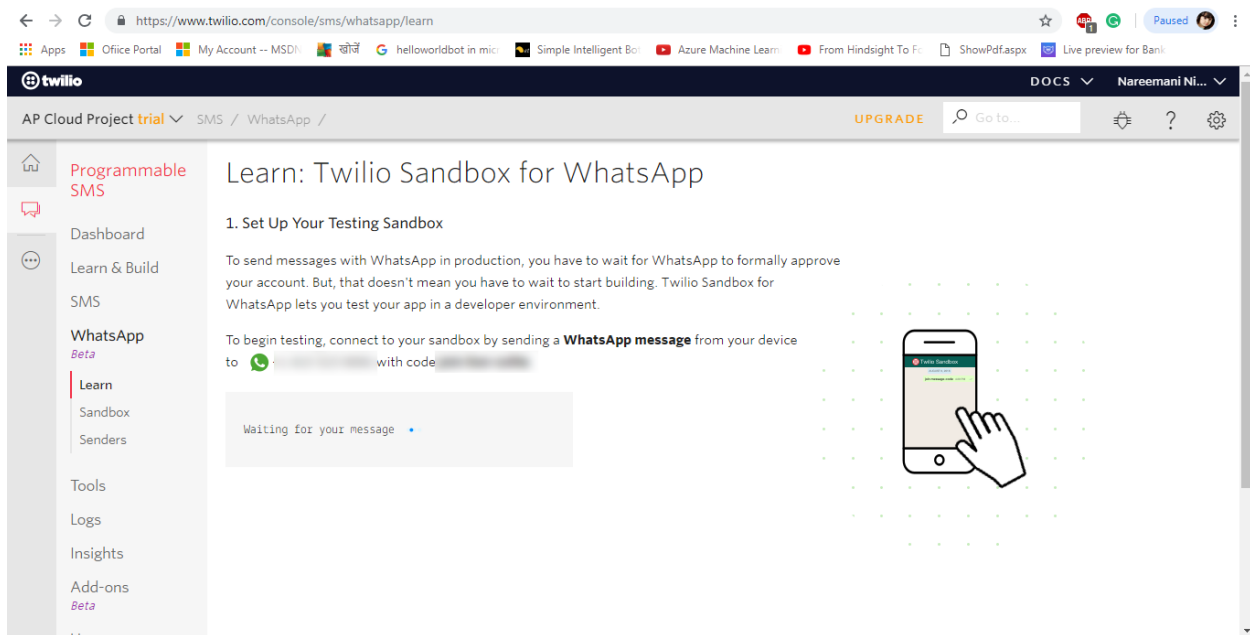
Under Programmable SMS, select **WhatsApp** which you can find as Beta.



After selecting WhatsApp, it will display **Activate your Sandbox** as shown below. Select the dialog box **I agree. Show me my Sandbox**. And then click on **Confirm** button.



After activating the Sandbox it will provide a WhatsApp contact number to the bot for testing and gives the code for connecting.



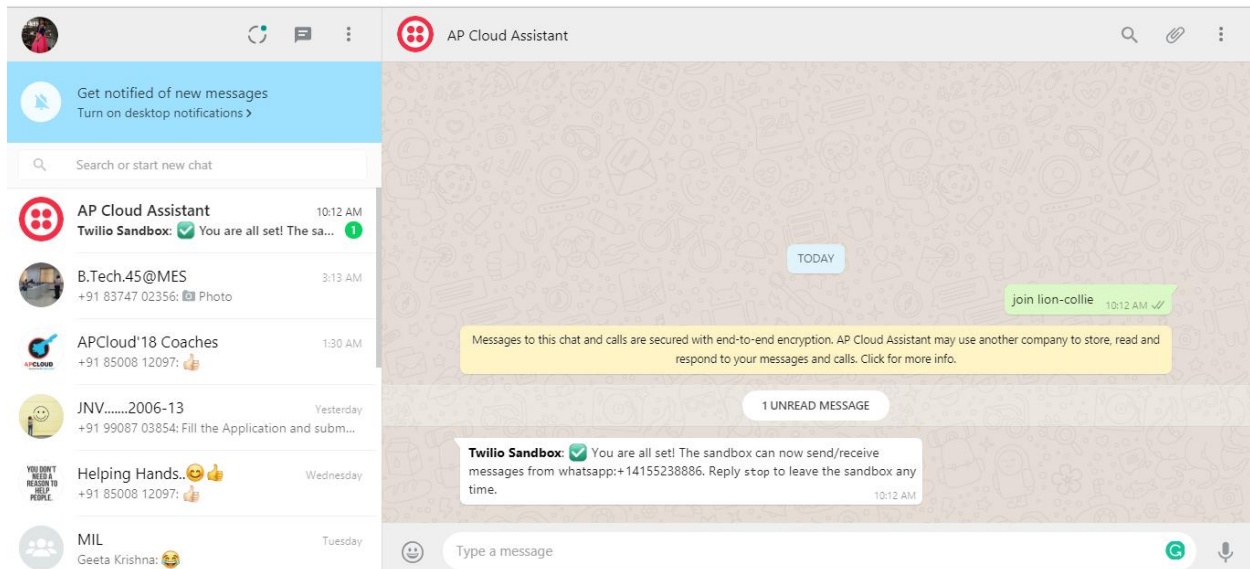
After adding the number that you received in the above step, save it to your contact list. Now, open WhatsApp in your mobile. If you don't have the WhatsApp application, download it.

Open your WhatsApp, search for your bot number or with the name you saved.

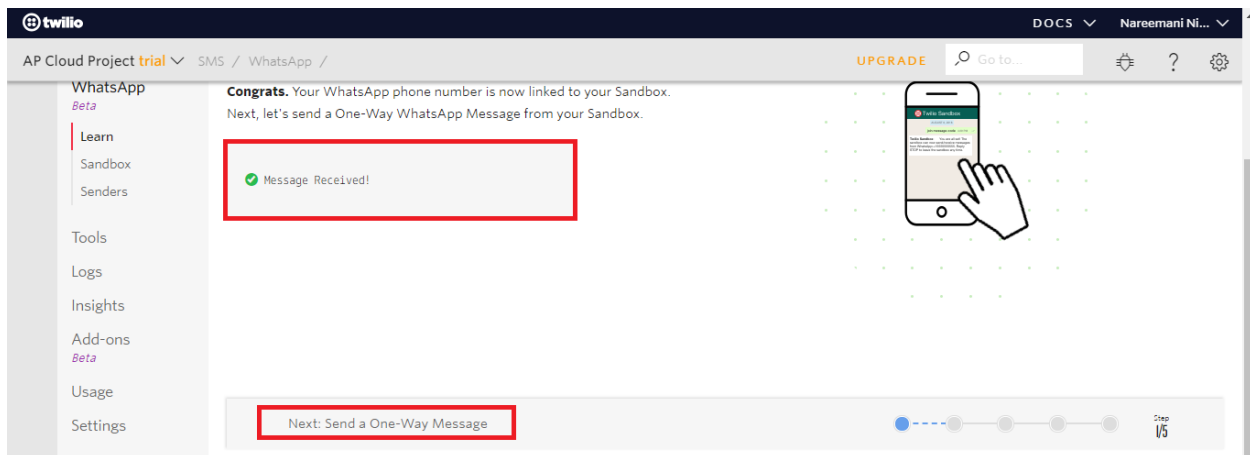
You need to send the code to the bot number to link your number with Sandbox.

Note - You can also open your WhatsApp in browser using

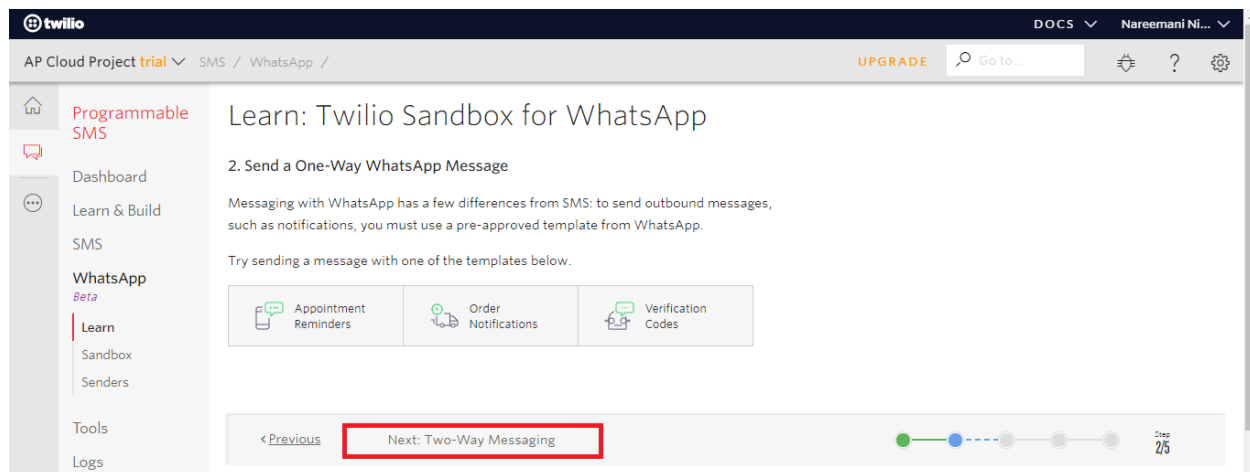
<https://web.whatsapp.com>



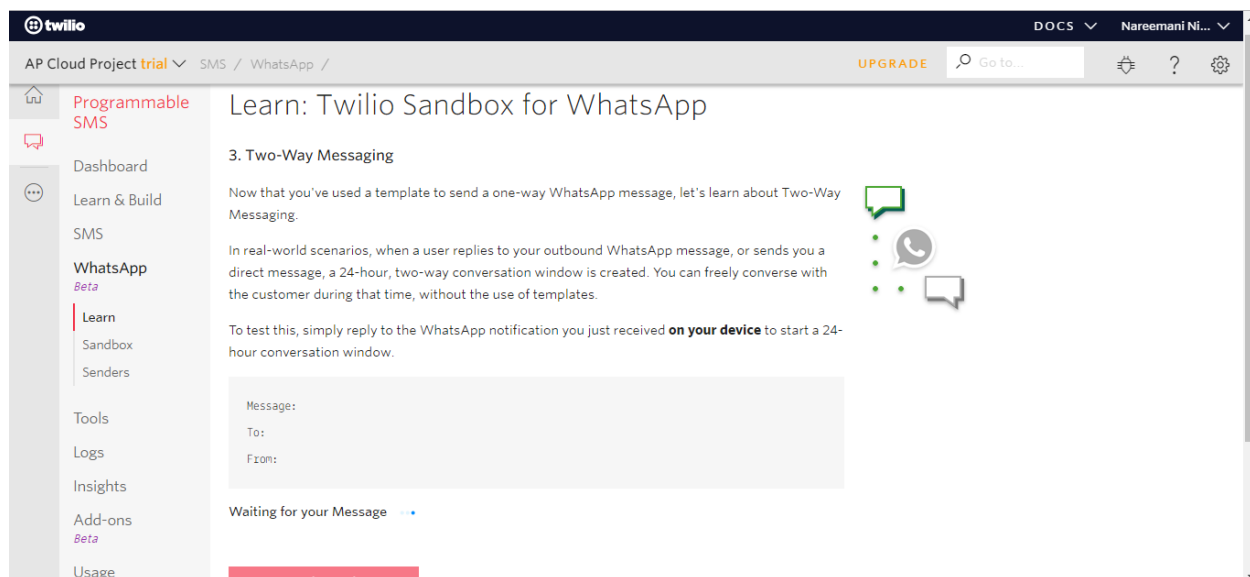
After giving the code, your WhatsApp number will be linked to the Sandbox and will receive the message from Twilio. Then in your Twilio account it displays like **Message Received** as below and then click on **Next: Send a One-Way Message**.



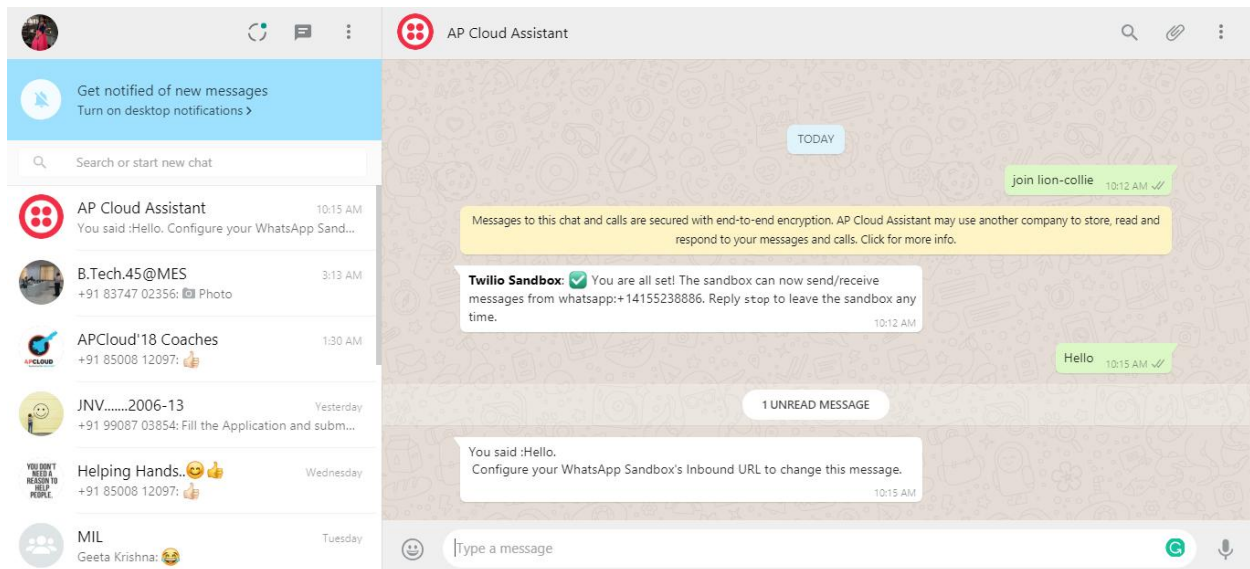
This One-Way Message is used for sending Outbounding messages and Notifications. So, once you are done with One-Way Message click on **Next: Two-Way Messaging**.



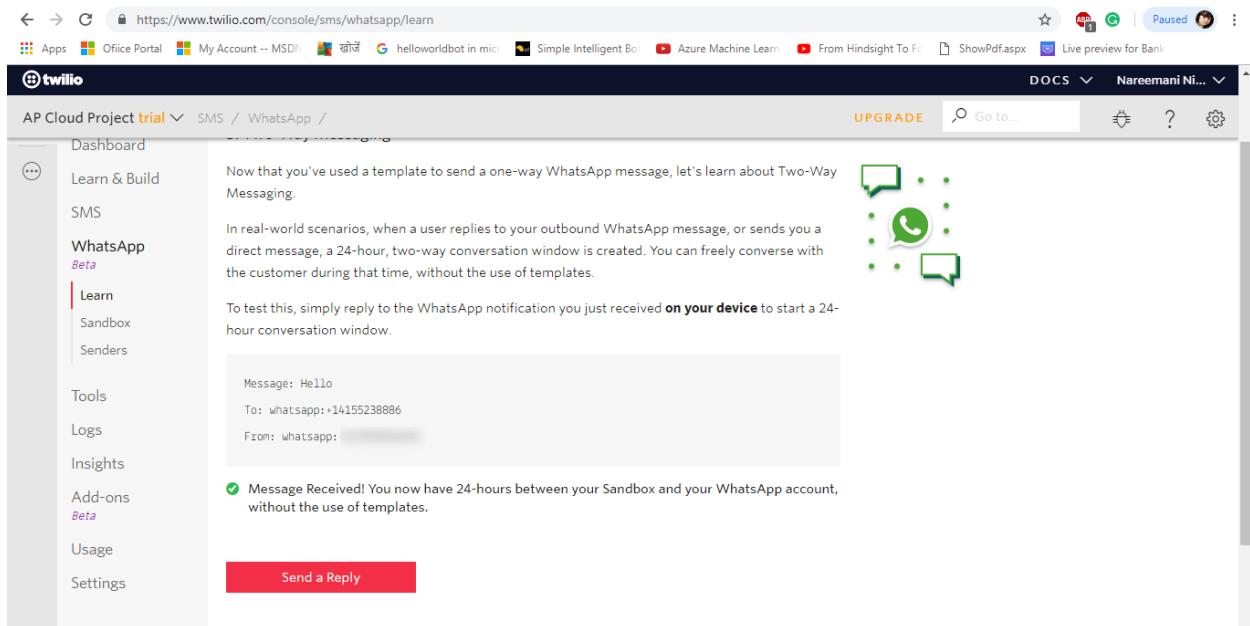
By enabling the Two-Way Messaging it creates two-way 24 hour conversation window.



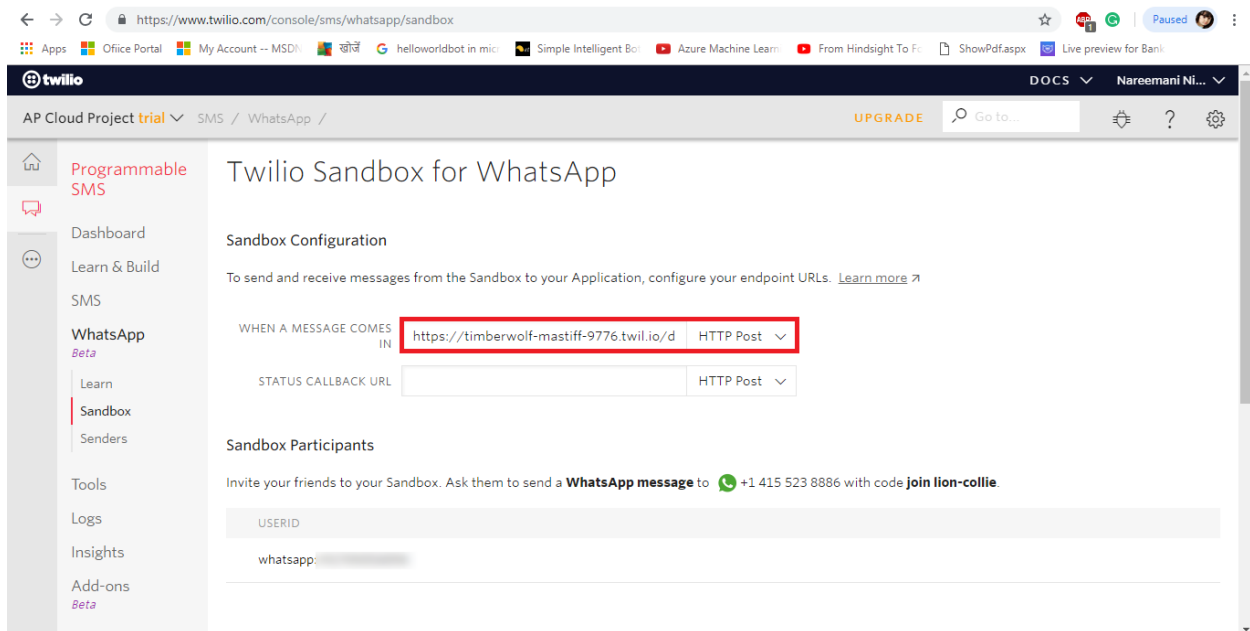
To test this, simply reply to the WhatsApp notification you received on your device to start a 24-hour conversation window. It responds back as shown below.



After receiving message in WhatsApp, the **To** number and **From** number will be updated automatically in the Two-Way messaging as shown below, and then click on **Next: Configure Your Sandbox**.



After selecting Configure Your Sandbox, it will provide a default endpoint for the WhatsApp service like from where the messages are coming in.



Here it provides the default endpoint for messages, now you need to give your bot endpoint in place of default so, that it will be connected to your bot which is built in IBM Watson.

Step #5 | Integration with WhatsApp using Node JS App

Go to **app.js** file, and place the Account SID and AUTH token which was copied previously from Twilio for authorizing the Twilio project. Now you connected Watson Conversation service with Twilio and finally you have to place the number of your Bot in **app.js** file, which was provided by Twilio in line **#49** in place of **<WhatsApp-Number>**. So, that it will receive the messages from the user and send the messages.

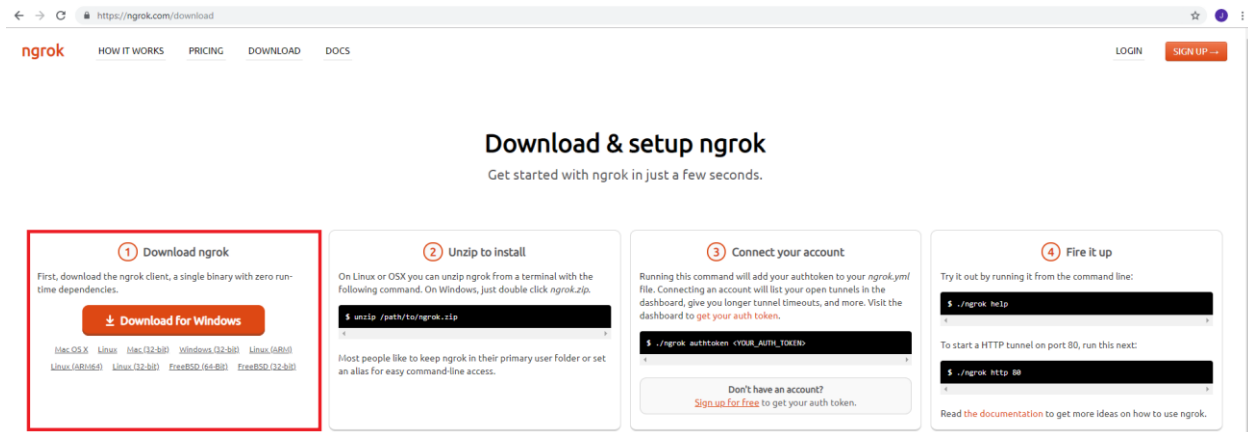
Navigate to the workspace folder where the code exists, and open command prompt. Run **node app.js**



Application is **running on 8000** port. Remember this for later use.

Open the browser and download ngrok by using the below link, <https://ngrok.com/download> (ngrok helps your app to get secure URL to your localhost server).

You need to install the ngrok based on the system requirement as provided below,



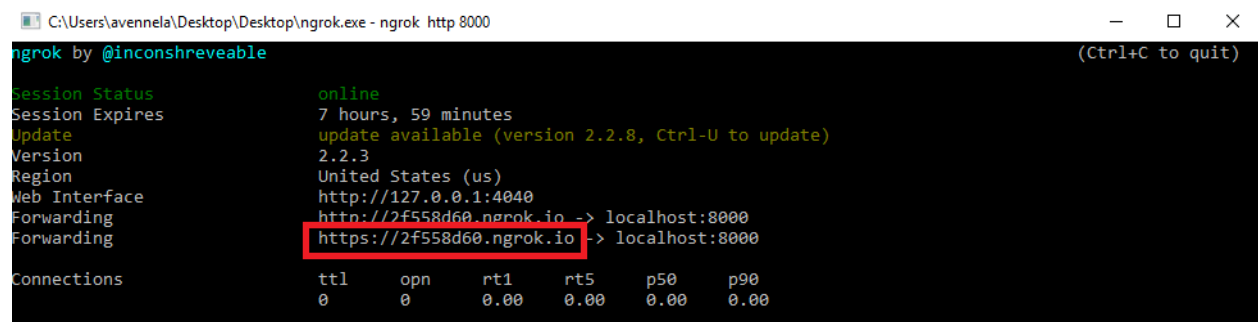
After downloading the ngrok, extract the downloaded folder and run the **ngrok.exe** file. Now, give the following command and click on the Enter button.

ngrok http <Your-Application-Port>

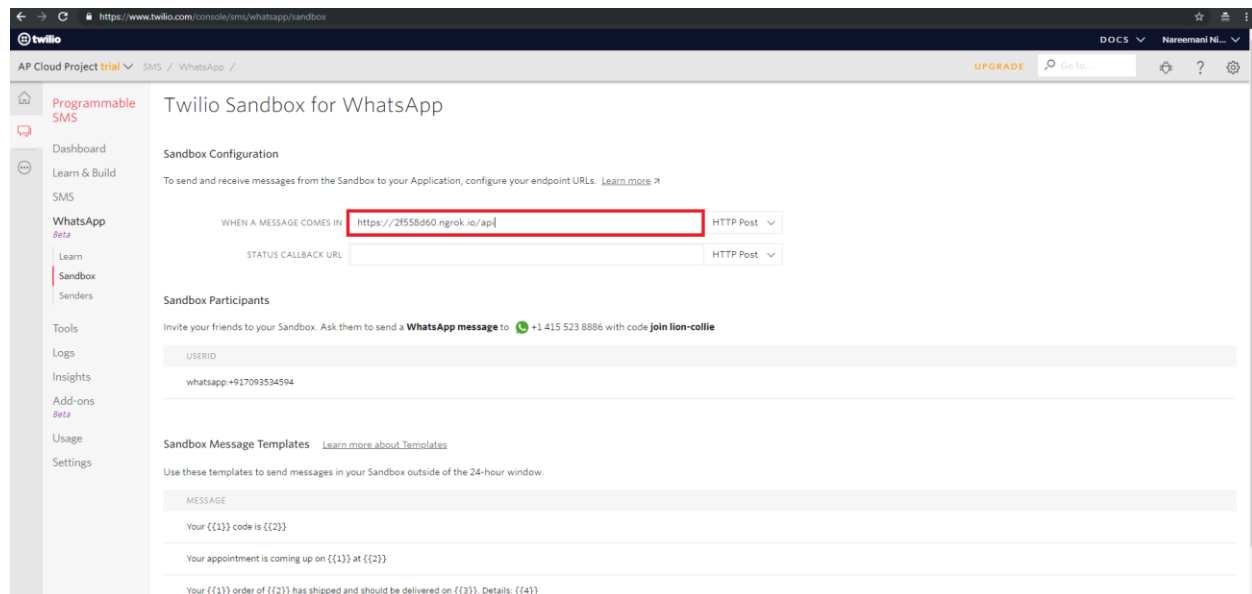
Example: ngrok http 8000

Once you run the application successfully with the above command, you will get the url as **https://<random_code>.ngrok.io** . Copy this for later use.

Note - You should not close this window until you stop running your Node JS application.

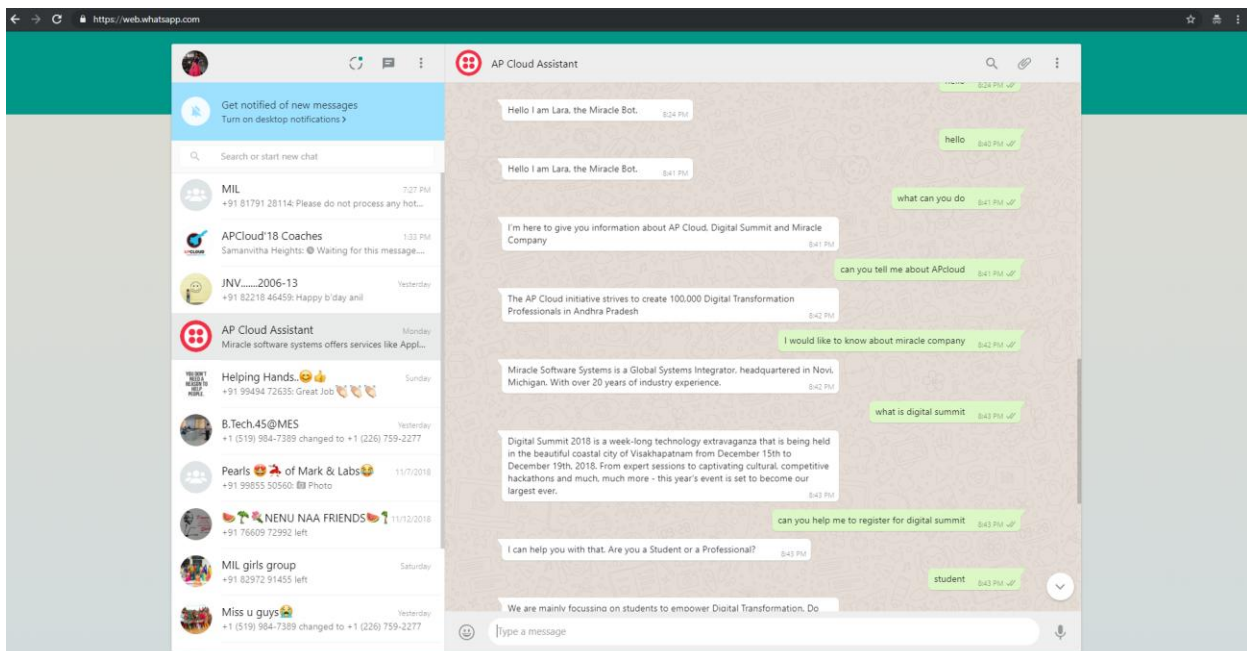


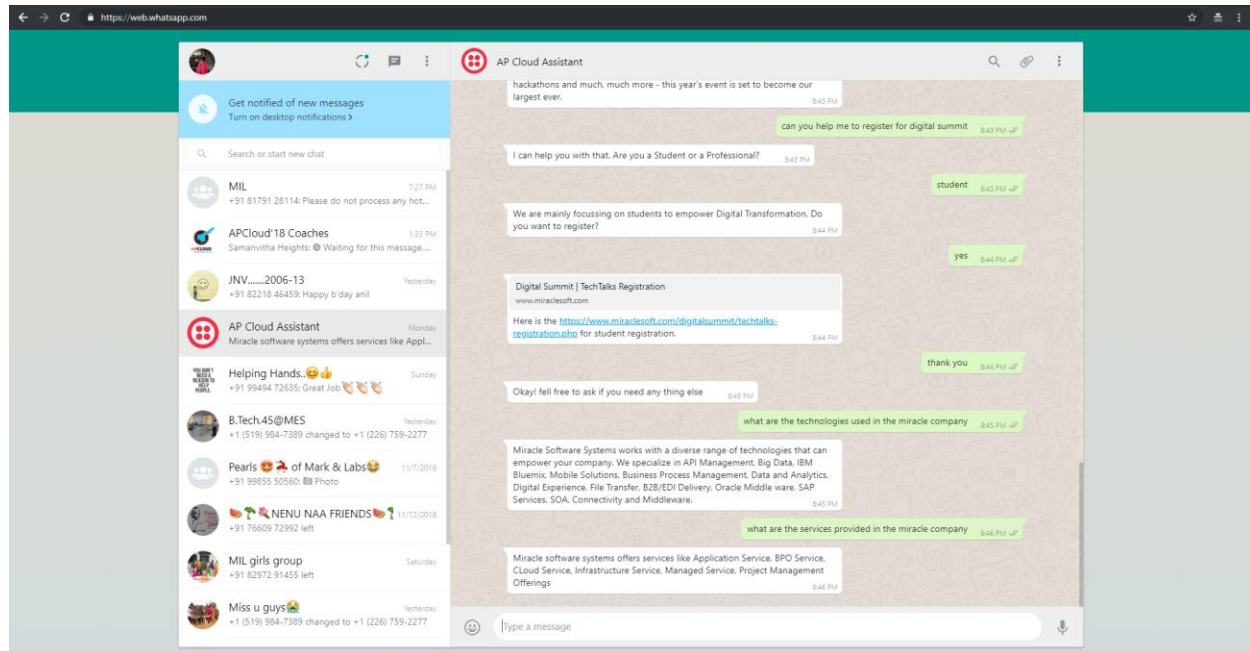
Now, navigate to the app that you created in your Twilio account and place the URL in the place of **WHEN MESSAGE COMES IN** as shown below,



Step #6 | Testing AP Cloud Bot in WhatsApp

Open your WhatsApp, search for your Bot number and start a conversation with the bot.





Hurray!! With this lab you are able to create your WhatsApp bot using **Watson Assistant** and **Twilio**.

For any questions regarding this lab please feel free to reach out to innovation@miraclesoft.com.