

# Introduction to AutoAI, Data Refinery and Watson Studio Deploy (WML): Hands-on Lab

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#### **Pre-work**

To complete the Introduction to AutoAI, Data Refinery and Watson Studio Deploy (WML) Hands-on Lab, you will be using IBM Cloud Pak for Data as-a-Service (CPDaaS).

Pre-requisites: IBM ID, IBM Cloud Account, CPDaaS account – provisioned services: Watson Studio, Watson Machine Learning, Cloud Object Storage.

Please refer to the Pre-work lab companion guide and complete the required set up steps before attempting the lab.

#### **Overview**



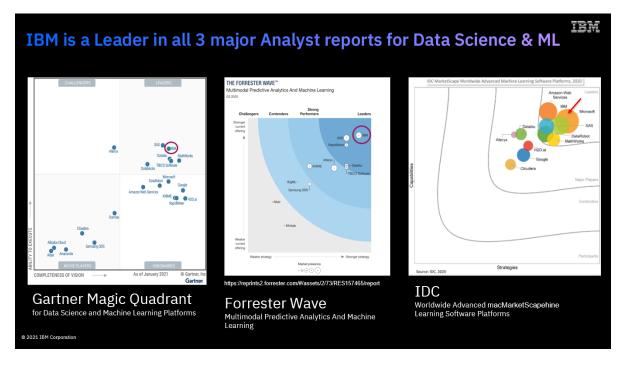
#### **USE CASE**

You are a data scientist employed by ABCOnlineRetailXYZ Ltd. The online retailer has not been doing that great lately and has been losing customers to competition. While it is clear that its customer churn rates have been growing, figuring out which customers are more likely to churn is proving hard.

Your manager came by your desk today, gave you a couple of files containing some customer-related data and asked you to build a model helping the business understand which of its customers may churn in the near future, so that Marketing could proactively target them with personalized incentives and discount vouchers.

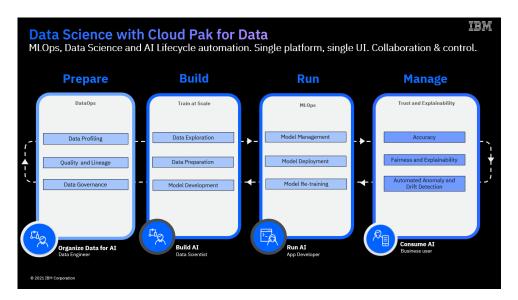
You have a lot of other work to do and are a short on time, and are in need of inspiration – your Python skills are a bit rusty.

You are aware that IBM provides market-leading data science tooling and decide to use IBM's Watson Studio running on CPDaaS to build and test your model.

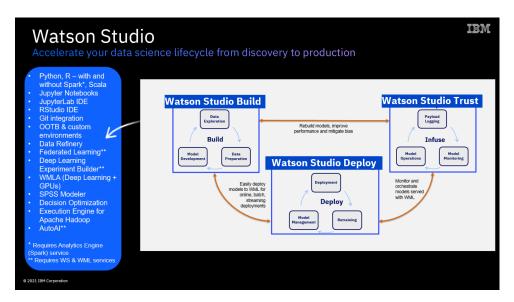




IBM's Cloud Pak for Data provides a range of capabilities catering for the whole data science life cycle – from data preparation, to model build, deployment, training and monitoring.



The platform's Data Science and ML component(s) sit under the Watson Studio branding umbrella. Cloud Pak for Data's Watson Studio services (Watson Studio / Watson Studio Build, Watson Machine Learning / Watson Studio Deploy, Watson Openscale / Watson Studio Trust) enable the Build, Run and Manage capabilities of the MLOps lifecycle.



#### In this lab, you will:

- <u>Use Watson Studio's Data Refinery tooling to explore, prepare and shape the data</u> you were given
- <u>Use AutoAI to automatically build the most optimal customer churn prediction</u> model based on your data sets
- And, finally, deploy and test that model with Watson Machine Learning (Watson Studio Deploy capabilities).

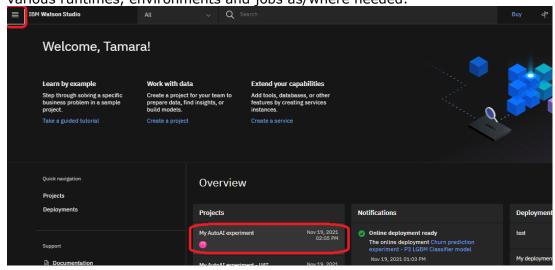
... and, your model will be built (for you!) and deployed in minutes - not hours or days!



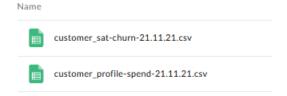
### **Exploring and preparing data with Data Refinery**

Log in to your CPDaaS account: <a href="https://eu-de.dataplatform.cloud.ibm.com/">https://eu-de.dataplatform.cloud.ibm.com/</a> Navigate to your My AutoAI Experiment project you created as part of the pre-work – you can do that from the home page tile, or, alternatively – by going through the main menu (top left of the screen).

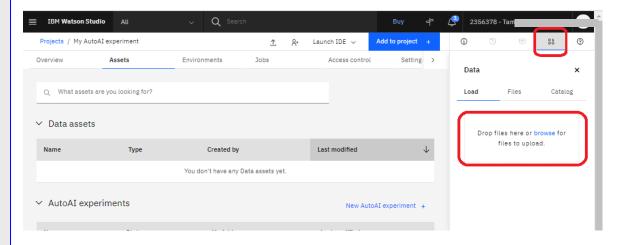
A <u>Project</u> is a collaborative workspace where you work with data and other assets to achieve a particular goal. Your project resources can include data, collaborators, tools, and operational assets that run code, like notebooks and models. Projects allow you to work with different analytical tools and IDEs built into the platform, and will spin up and run various runtimes, environments and jobs as/where needed.



Download both files from the following folder: https://ibm.box.com/v/autoai-lab-2021-files

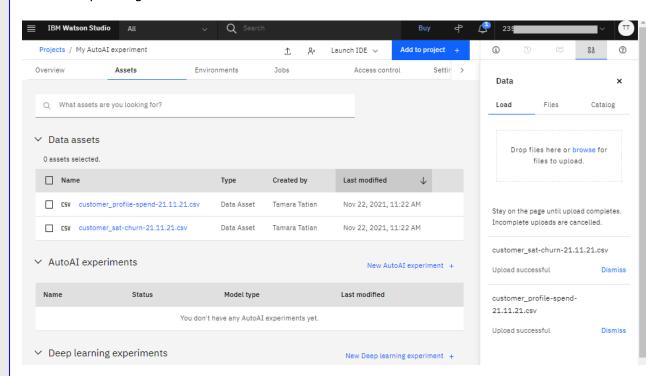


Drag and drop both the csv files into the "Drop files here" box under Data - Load



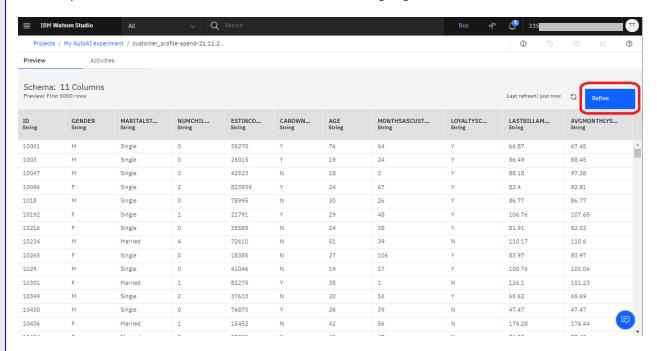


Once the upload finishes, navigate to the customer\_profile-spend-21.11.21.csv by clicking the corresponding link in the Data Assets section



Cloud Pak for Data allows you to preview the data in your data asset. This applies to both files that you physically load to projects and catalogues, and to "Connected assets" – files and tables residing in remote data sources (that you can connect to Cloud Pak for Data using a wide range of standard connectors through "Connections"). In this lab, we will be working with uploaded project files only.

Let's explore the data further and do some data wrangling. Click the Refine button

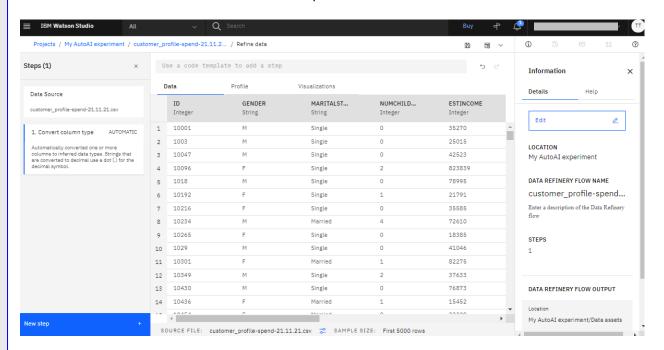




The platform will fire up a Data Refinery instance (sandbox) for your file.

<u>Data Refinery</u> is a built-in data wrangling and data preparation tool available in Watson Studio. It helps reduce the amount of time it takes to prepare data for analysis and data science and allows you to cleanse and shape tabular data with a graphical flow editor. You can also use interactive templates to code operations, functions, and logical operators (R code is used). With Data Refinery, you can:

- Interactively discover, cleanse, and transform your data with over 100 built-in operations. No coding is required.
- Understand the quality and distribution of your data using dozens of built-in charts, graphs, and statistics.
- Automatically detect data types and business classifications.
- Schedule data flow executions for repeatable outcomes.



In your Data Refinery sandbox you can explore your data, design data wrangling and cleansing 'recipes' (flows) that you can further save and execute as jobs. While you are building your data wrangling recipes, all the transformations and changes are effectively performed in-memory and actual data is not touched at that point. It is only once you choose to execute your flow by running a Data Refinery job that the actual data will be transformed and changed.

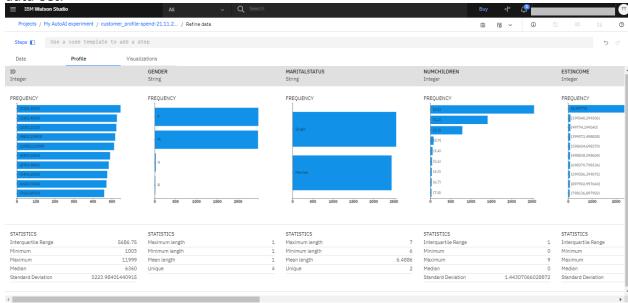
On first load, the system may offer you to take a Tour – please feel free to explore or skip it.





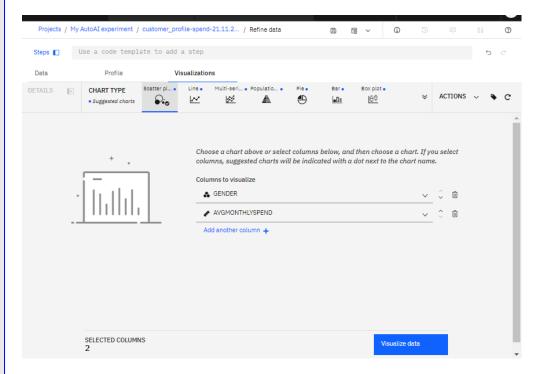
First, let's explore our data. Minimise the Information and Steps panes on the screen (click X in those sections). Click on the Profile tab above the Gender column title.

The Profile tab shows you statistics and frequency analysis for each of the columns in your data set.



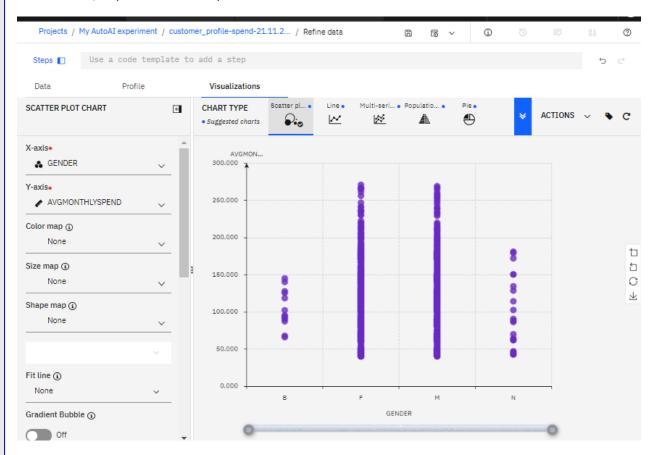
Next, let's visualize the data to try to explore and understand it a bit more. Navigate to the Visualizations tab above the Gender column title. Select GENDER as your first column, and add AVGMONTHLYSPEND as your second one, then click the Visualize Data button.

Refinery will automatically suggest the best fit type of visualization based on the data and number of columns that you choose.



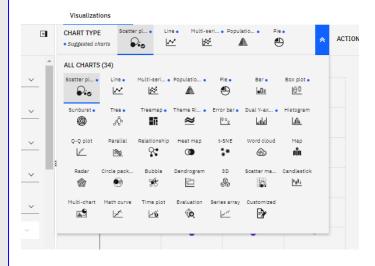


In our case, it picked Scatter plot.



Note that the visualization highlighted to us that in our data set, our customers' gender data contains not only the more typical F and M values, but also B and N. This may warrant further investigation – there may be issue with data quality, or those could be legitimately valid values, depending on our company's data governance and capture policies and rules.

Expand the Chart Type menu by clicking on the chevron button. Note that the most suitable chart types are marked with a blue dot next to them. Feel free to switch between them and explore.

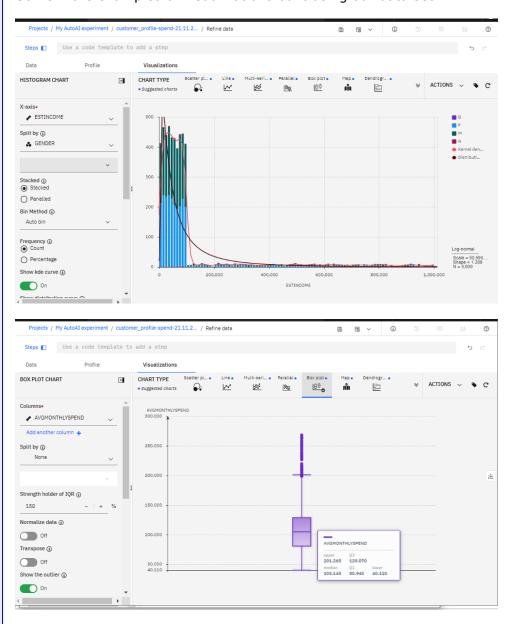




If you wanted to reset the visualization and start over, reset the chart by clicking the Start Over button. Note that you can also save your visualizations as an image.



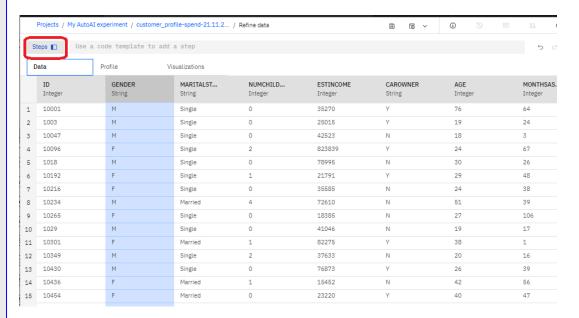
Some more examples of visualizations built using our data set:



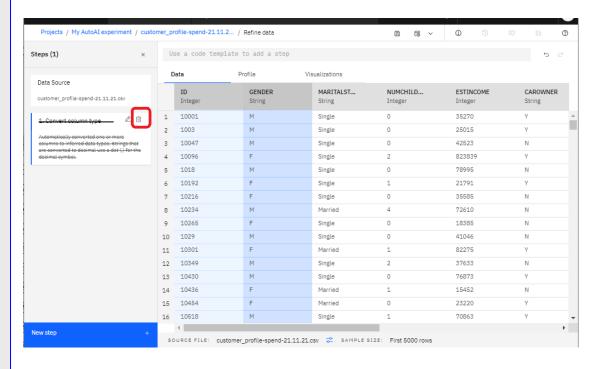


Switch back to the Data tab. We are going to address the GENDER data quality issue, data type/quality issues with some of the columns, create a new feature in our data called TOTALSPEND, and join our data set to the other csv from our project.

#### Expand the Steps pane.

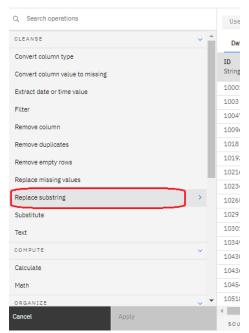


First, let's get rid of the automated transformation step the tool did for us – Data Refinery can autoconvert column types to the best fit/most suitable ones based on the data they contain. It can prove useful, but because in our case we wanted to join the data set to another one by the ID feature later on, we need to make sure the data types of the ID column match in both of our CSVs – so the original type String would work best for us. Click on the Bin icon next to step – this will remove it. Please note that you can remove any steps we build later on the same way – e.g. if you make a mistake or decide you no longer need them.



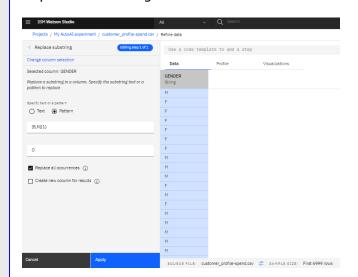


Select Replace Substring from the menu – we are going to replace our B and N entries in the GENDER column with a single new gender type of O, as we happen to know that our company's data capture rules allow for "Other/Prefer Not to Say" option in addition to F (female) and M (male).



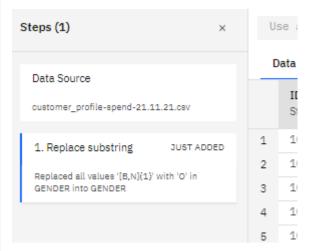
Select GENDER, click Next, switch to Pattern recognition on the next screen and enter the following values:

Regular expression: [B,N]{1} Replacement string: O

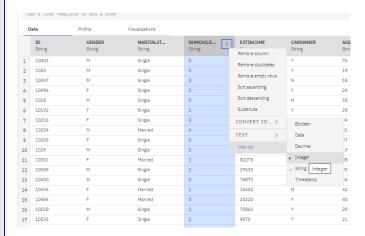


Click Apply – you now have a new step in your data preparation flow.





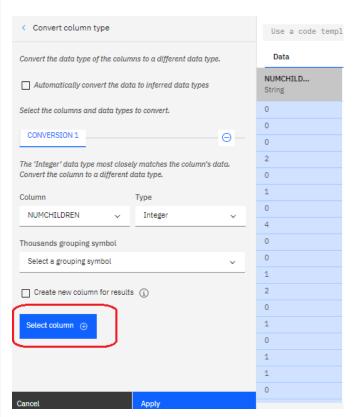
Next, we are going to convert several columns with numerical data to more appropriate data formats. Click on the three dots icon next to NUMCHILDREN column's title, select Convert Column Type > Integer.



Add more columns on the next screen - click Select Column and add the following conversions:

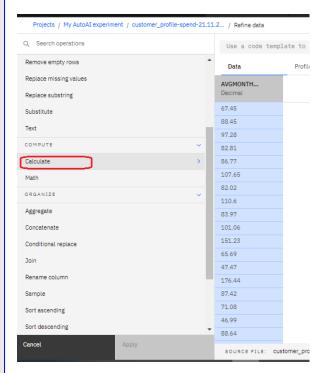
- ESTINCOME Integer
- AGE Integer
- MONTHSASCUSTOMER Integer
- LASTBILLAMOUNT Decimal
- AVGMONTHLYSPEND Decimal





Click Apply. Note how you can immediately see the changes in the preview, based on the transformation steps you are performing.

Next, we are going to create a new feature. Select the AVGMONTHLYSPEND column by clicking on it, then select Next Step – Calculate  $\,$ 

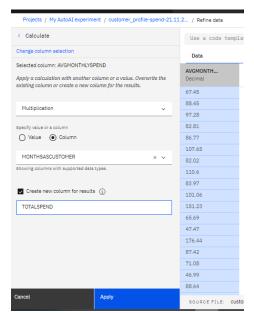




Enter the following on the next screen:

- Calculation type: Multiplication
- By: Column MONTHSASCUSTOMER
- Create new column for results checkbox ticked (yes)
- Column name: TOTALSPEND

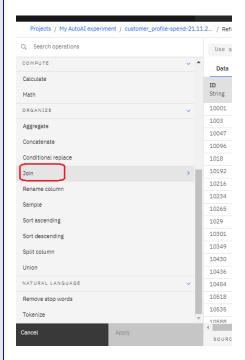
#### Click Apply.





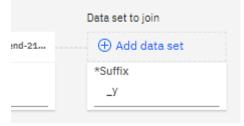
Preview now shows:

Finally, let's join our two csvs. We are going to be predicting customer CHURN and building a model for it later on – at the moment, our current data set does not include CHURN data. However, the other csv file we loaded does have it – so let's join them together. Click Next Step – select Join from the menu.

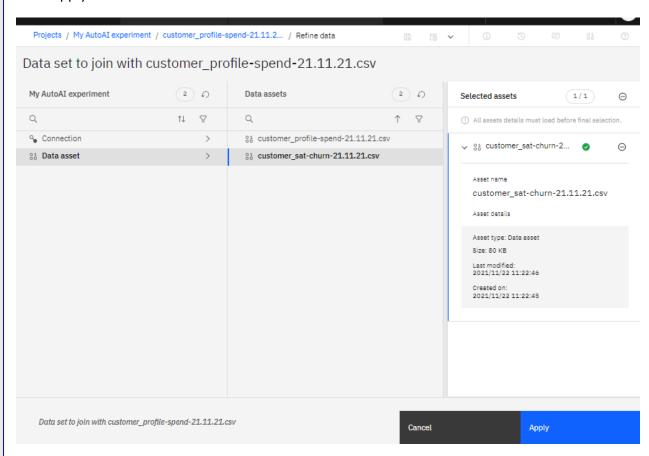




On the next screen, click the Add Data Set link

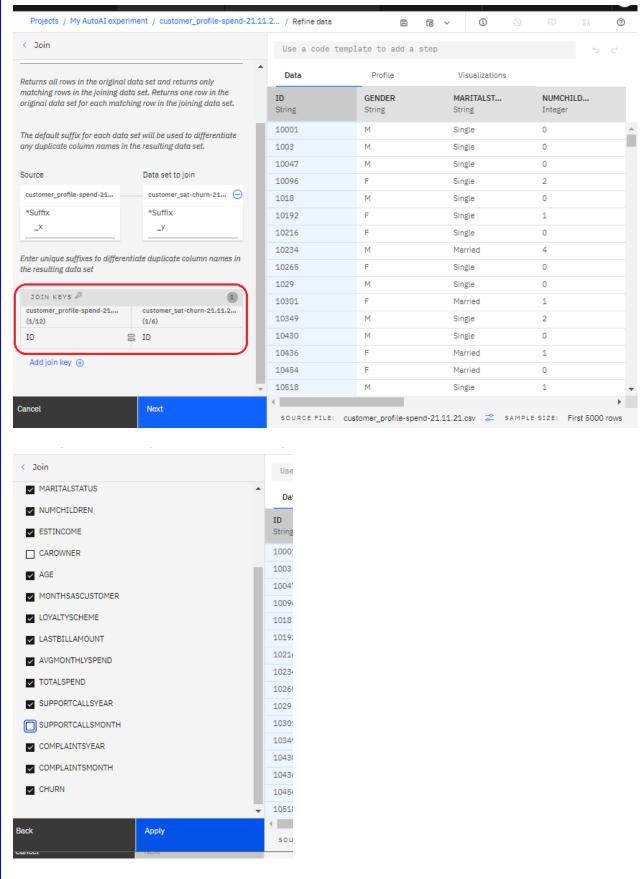


Select customer\_sat-churn-21.11.21.csv (Data asset > customer\_sat-churn-21.11.21.csv), then Apply.



Select ID as join keys for both the files (note that for the join to work both the columns you are using as join keys need to be of the same type – e.g. String and String, or Integer and Integer etc. – the tool will only let you pick columns of the same type once you specify your join key for the first data set). Click Next. On the next screen exclude CAROWNER and SUPPORTCALLSMONTH columns, then click Apply.

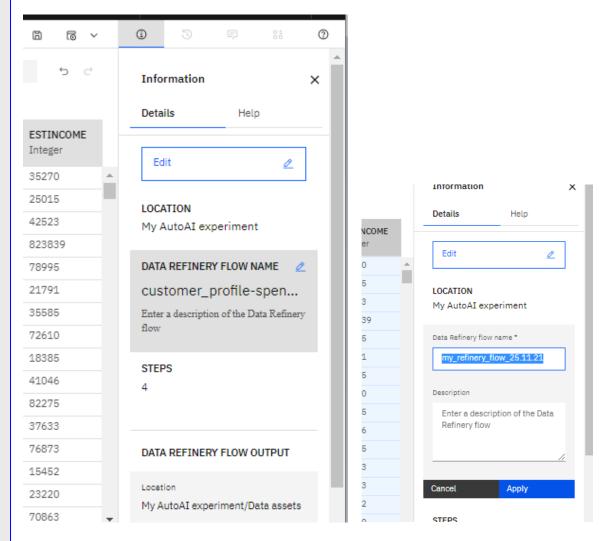




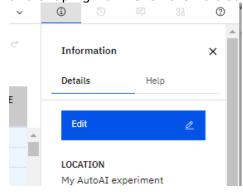


We finished building the data preparation and cleansing flow – let's now save it and run our shaping job.

First, let's give it a name and decide how and where we would want to save the output of our shaping flow. Click the i icon to expand the Information pane, then click on the pencil icon next to the data refinery flow name to edit it. Name your flow my refinery flow 25.11.21, then click Apply.



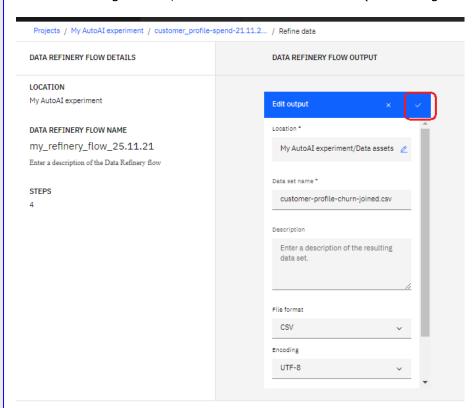
Next, let's check where and how Refinery is going to output the results of our data cleansing and shaping flow. Click the Edit button, then Edit Output on the next screen



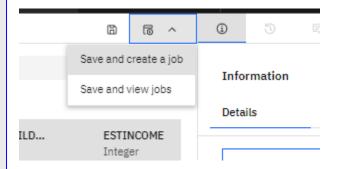


Name your data set customer-profile-churn-joined.csv

By default, Refinery will create a new csv file within your project (a new local data asset in the project). Please note that you can choose other file and format types if/where relevant, and choose to write the results to a connection (remote data source) as well – if you have any defined in the project. We are going to go with defaults - click the tickbox icon once you finish renaming the file, then click the Done button (bottom right of the screen)



Now, let's create and run a job that will execute our flow. From the menu on the top right hand side, select Save and create a job.

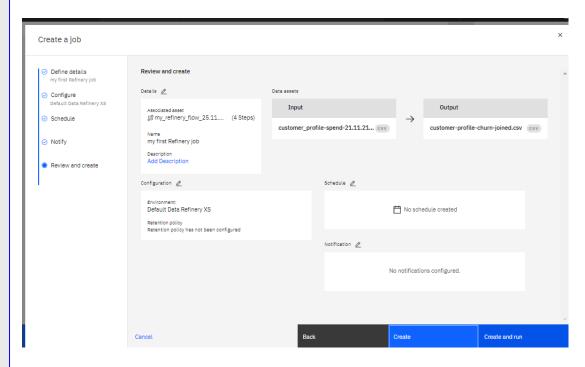


Give your job a name – e.g. "my first Refinery job", click Next. Review and go with the defaults on the next screen. Note that if you have the Analytics Engine for Spark service

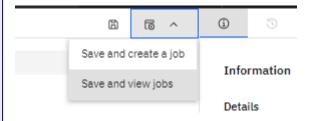


deployed as part of your CPDaaS, you can select different environment / runtime configurations and sizes for your Refinery jobs (e.g. create and use larger specs for more complex and data/compute intensive jobs).

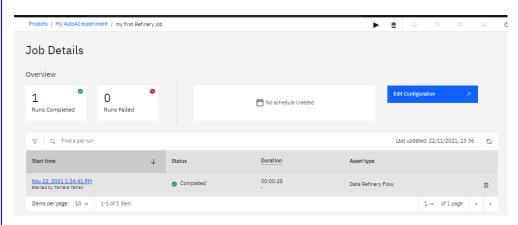
Next screen allows you to specify a schedule for your job. We are going to run it as a oneoff, but feel free to explore the scheduling options. Disable the schedule before you move to the next screen. On the Notifications screen click next, and then Create and Run on the last screen.



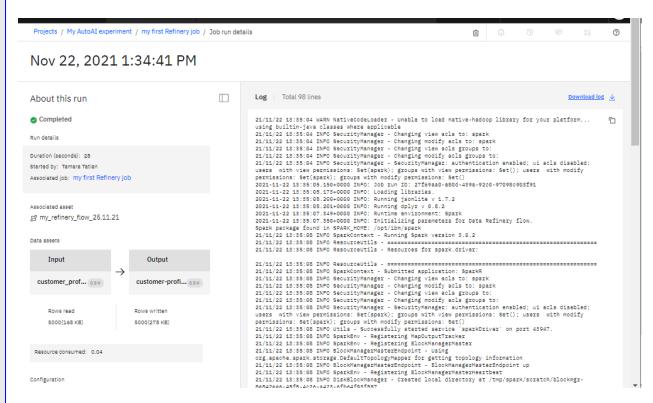
Select save and view jobs - then navigate to your newly created job



You can monitor its progress, as well as see the logs and execution details.





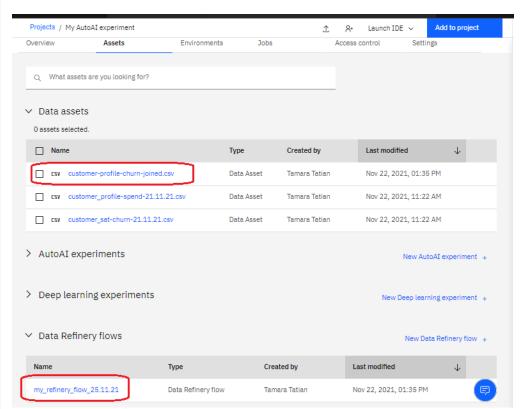


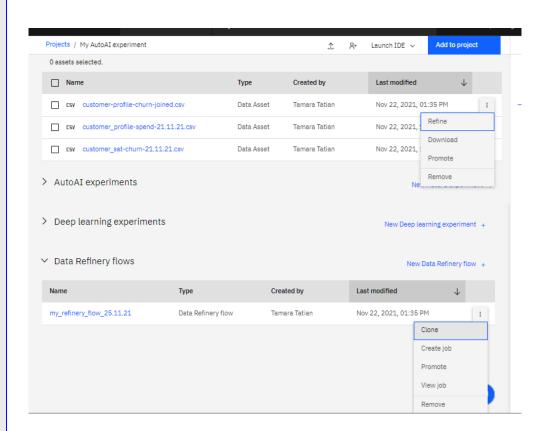
Navigate back to your project Assets view by clicking on the project name



You new data set and flow are now available – please feel free to preview the joined data set.





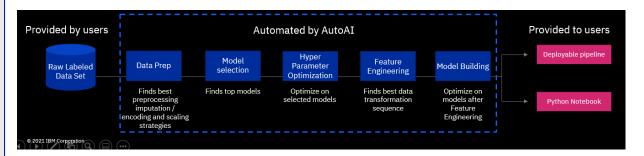




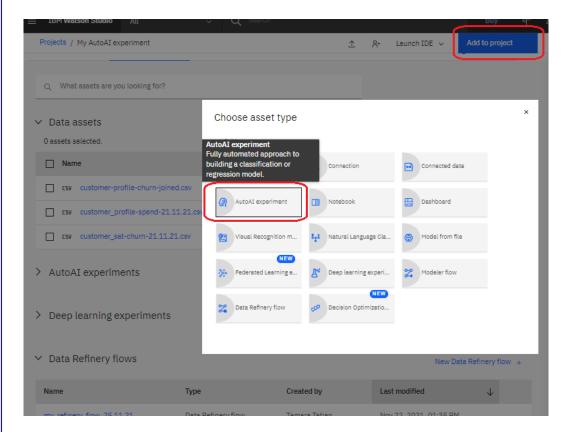
## **Building models with AutoAl**

Next, we are going to build a model using AutoAI.

The <u>AutoAI</u> graphical tool in Watson Studio automatically analyses your data and generates candidate model pipelines customized for your predictive modelling problem. These model pipelines are created iteratively as AutoAI analyses your dataset and discovers data transformations, algorithms, and parameter settings that work best for your problem setting. Results are displayed on a leaderboard, showing the automatically generated model pipelines ranked according to your problem optimisation objective.

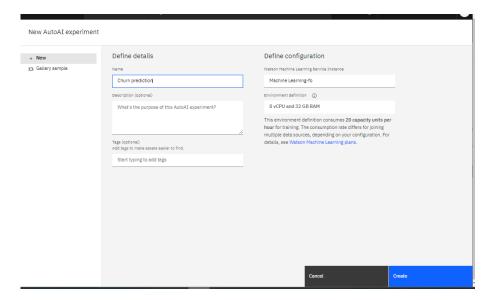


Click the Add to Project button and add a new AutoAI experiment

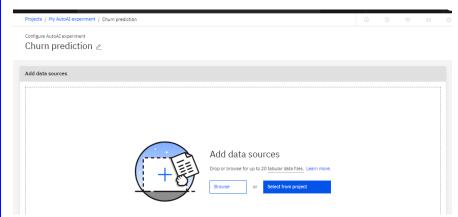


Give it a name – e.g. Churn prediction, click Create to move to the next step

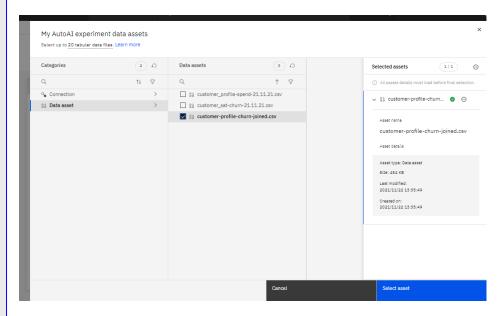




#### Choose Select from Project on the next screen



AutoAI allows you to join multiple data sets as part of the experiment set up, but since we have prepared our data already we are not going to explore that feature today. Select your newly joined data set only.

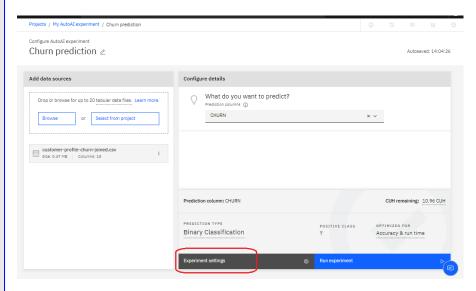




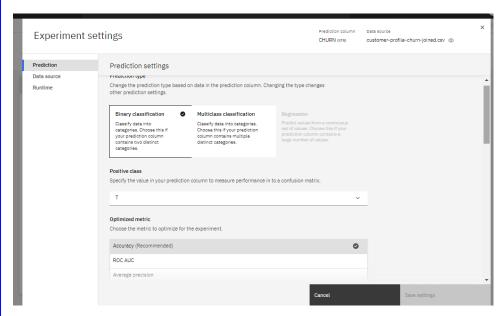
On the next screen we will need to let AutoAI know what we would like to predict (our target). In data science terminology the columns that we use to predict churn are called features, and the column that we are trying to predict is called target.

First, choose TOTALSPEND – note how the tool automatically picks Regression as the most appropriate prediction type, based on the type of data in that column (Decimal number). Next, replace your TOTALSPEND selection with GENDER (click X to clear the selection). The column has 3 possible values (we know that from our Data Refinery explorations and shaping/cleansing activities). Note how AutoAI switches prediction type to Multiclass Classification, which makes perfect sense. Finally, replace GENDER with CHURN – which we are actually looking to predict in our case.

AutoAI will switch to Binary Classification (CHURN is a yes/no choice – or, more precisely True/False – customer will either leave us or will not). Let's explore additional settings – click Explore Settings

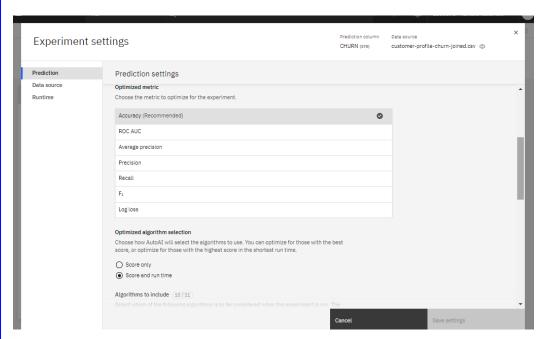


Positive class T (True) makes sense in our case as we are looking to predict which customers will actually churn.



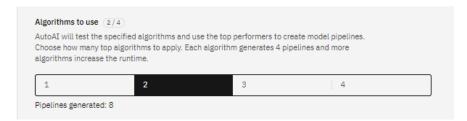


Explore settings on the screen.



Feel free to change default selections but please keep the Algorithms to use setting at 2 for your first AutoAI experiment run to keep to time.

AutoAI set up allows you to specify how many pipelines (models) you would like to build. By default, 2 top performers out of the 7 available algorithms will be used to build a total of 8 pipelines (4 for each algorithm).



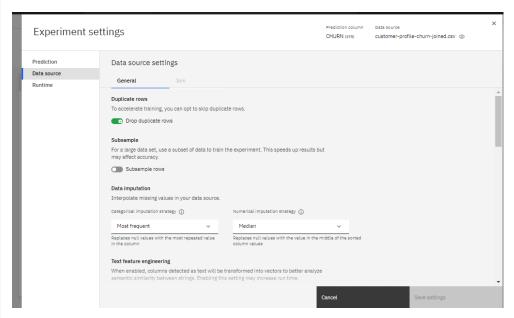
Next, switch to the Data Source tab from the menu on the left. Explore the settings.

When creating a model, the data is split into training and testing data. Testing data is also called "holdout data". By default, 10% of data is used for testing. Let's leave the default value.

Folds are parts of the input dataset that will alternatively be used for training and testing. By specifying 3 folds, we are creating 3 parts in the dataset. We will use the default value of folds in this lab.

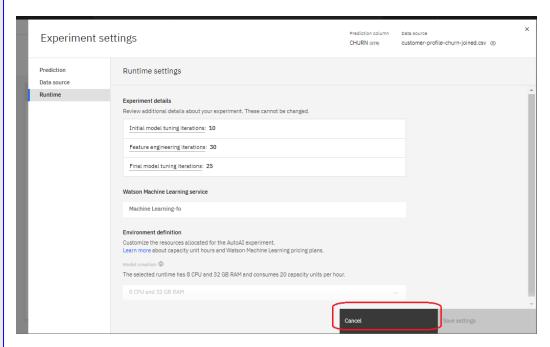
When needed, we can also deselect fields to be used for training. In our case, let's keep all of the fields.





Finally, switch to the Runtime tab and review the screen.

If you made any changes on the previous screens – click Save settings, if you did not – click Cancel.

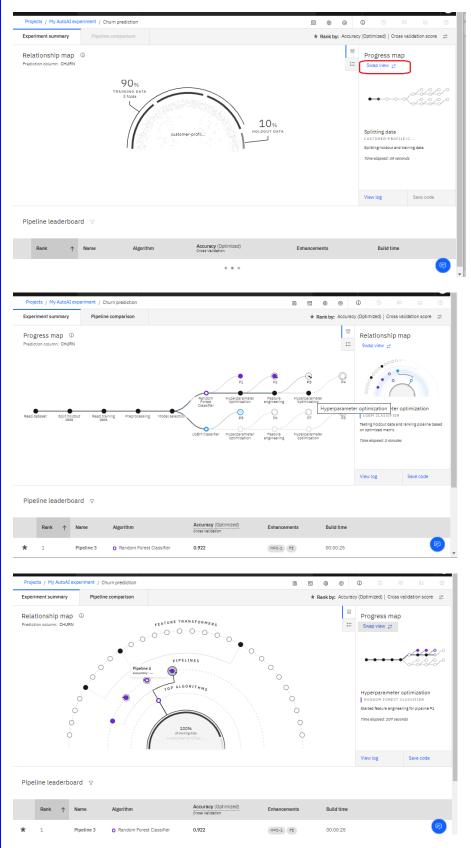


Finally, click Run Experiment



Watch AutoAI do its magic - Swap views as needed.







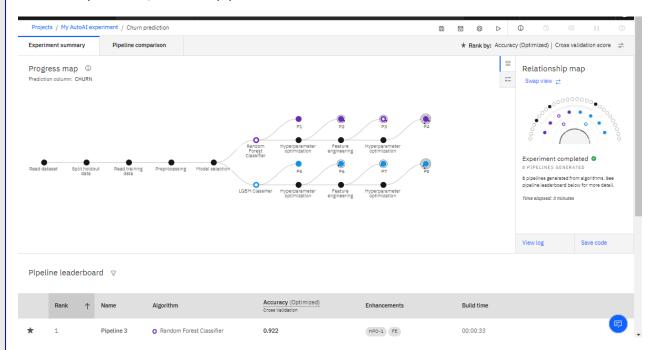
A *pipeline* is a term used to describe various steps in creating a model. A pipeline always contains the generated model. It can also contain steps to generate new columns of data to use as input variables (*features*) and steps to tune the model (*hyperparameter optimization*).

- As we can see in the graph, P1 and P5 build a pipeline using the estimators
   (algorithms) which AutoAI has determined to be the best fit for the data, in this case
   LGBM classifier and Random Forest
- *P2* and *P6* perform hyperparameter optimization (HPO). Hyperparameters are "settings" (parameters) that are specific to each algorithm. Hyperparameter optimization means that we are building the model using different settings in the algorithm. *AutoAI* tries several combinations and determines the combination which will produce the best result.
- P3 and P7 perform feature engineering (derives new features) and build a model with these features.
- P4 and P8 perform hyperparameter optimization for the model that uses the derived features.

In summary, for each algorithm AutoAI creates 4 pipelines:

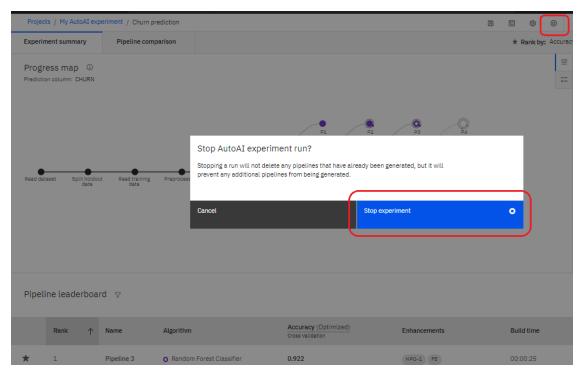
- Pipeline 1 contains just the model
- Pipeline 2 contains the algorithm and performs HPO
- Pipeline 3 generates additional features and builds a model that includes these features
- Pipeline 4 generates the same features as pipeline 3 and performs HPO.

For our experiment, all the 8 pipelines should be finished in about 3-5 minutes.

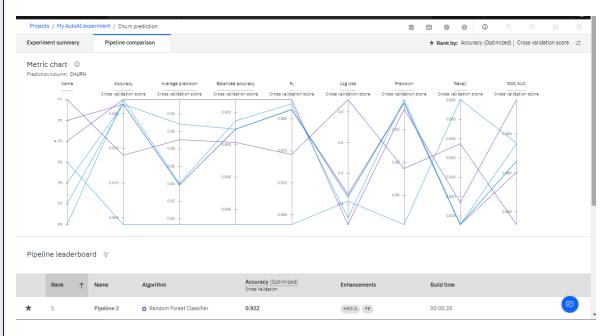


If the experiment is taking more than 5 minutes to complete, in the interest of time, please stop the experiment manually. It will keep all the already built pipelines but will not generate any new ones.

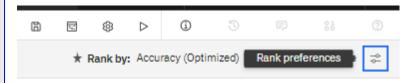




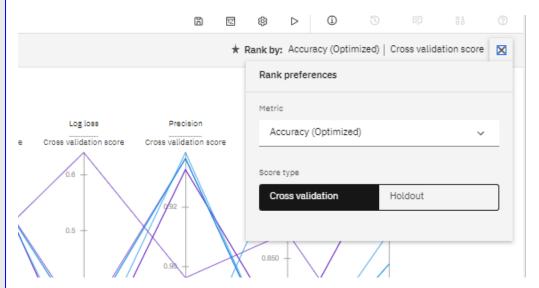
Once the experiment has finished or has been stopped, review the built pipelines and explore the metrics the platform generated. Switch to the Pipeline comparison tab.



Use the Rank preference button to switch between different evaluations metrics that are used by data scientists.







Score types: The *Holdout Score* is the score for the *test* dataset that was not used for modeling (by default, 10 percent of the data was left out for testing). The *Cross Validation Score* is the score when the cross validation technique was used. Cross validation uses different parts of the same dataset first for training, then for testing.

An experienced data scientist may look at a combination of evaluation metrics before determining if the model is ready for production, as these measures provide information on how the model performs in difference areas of "good-ness".

#### For example:

- Precision tells you: "Out of all the records in the hold-out sample that the model predicted to be Churners (T), what percentage actually churned...". For Pipeline 1, from all the records that the model predicted were churners, 0.896 (89.6%) were actual churners.
- Recall tells you: "Out of all the churners in the hold-out sample, what percentage can your model actually find?". For Pipeline 1, the model managed to correctly identify 0.853 (85.3%) of the total churners in the hold-out sample.

Many data scientists use *Area Under ROC Curve*. As a rough guide, you can use the following guidelines for *Area Under ROC Curve*:

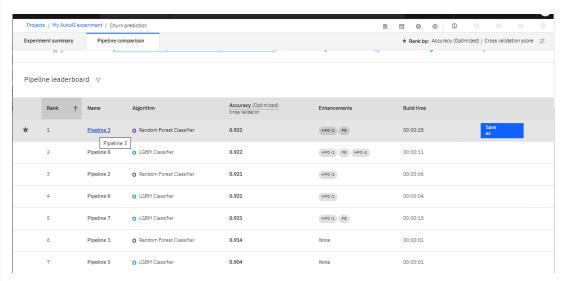
```
.90-1 = excellent (A)
.80-.90 = good (B)
.70-.80 = fair (C)
.60-.70 = poor (D)
.50-.60 = fail (F)
```

Now, scroll down and review individual pipelines.

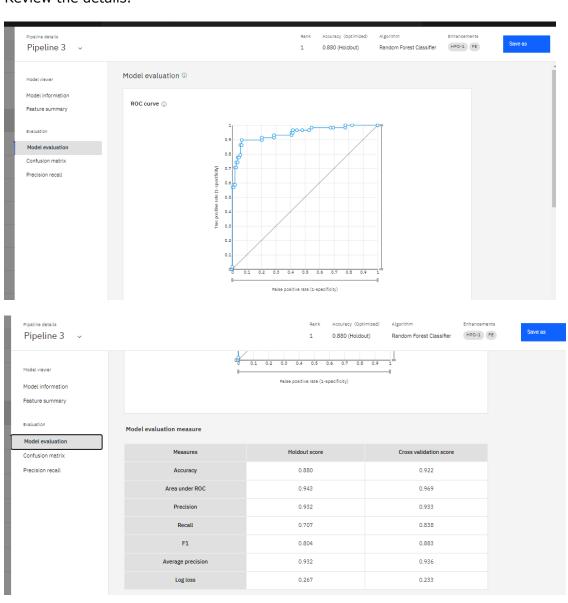
AutoAI flagged Pipeline 3 as the best performing based on Accuracy (Optimized).

Click on the name of the pipeline to see further detail.

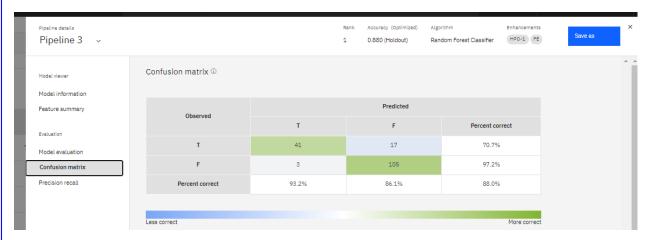




#### Review the details.





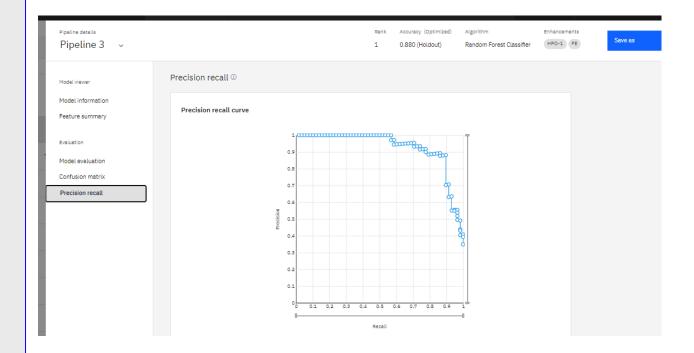


Confusion matrix is another typical metric for model evaluation. It shows *true positives, false positives, true negatives, and false negatives*.

For example, the model predicted 105 of F (False – customer did not churn) records as F (correct prediction). At the same time, it predicted 3 records as T (the customer will churn), but the actual value was F (false positives). Overall, for the False prediction the accuracy is 97.2%. The accuracy for True prediction is only 70.7 percent.

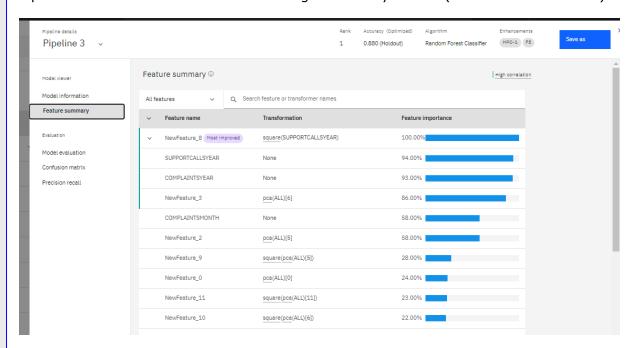
If we accept that very few models are 100% accurate, and therefore will have errors in their predictions, often the goal of the confusion matrix is to help the business user under the "cost" of a misclassification (the 17 and 3 in the blue and grey cells) as there is often a "preferred" type of error for your specific use-case.

It's usually a business decision to determine what's more important – better accuracy in identifying true positives or reducing the number of false positives. For example, in a customer churn scenario identifying a false positive may mean that a customer will receive a promotion when they should not have received it. If there is no business impact of this prediction, then the model with the highest accuracy of true positives should be selected.

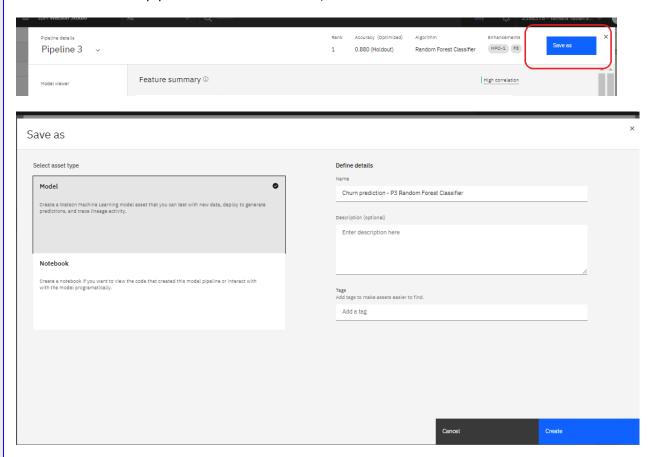




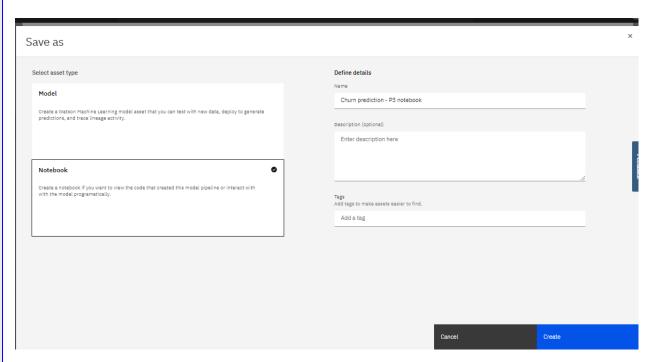
Switch to the Feature importance tab. Here we can see which features make the most impact on prediction. Notice that the model uses both features that were provided with the input data set and the features that were generated by AutoAI (start with *NewFeature*)



Let's now save the pipeline – first as a model, then as a notebook.



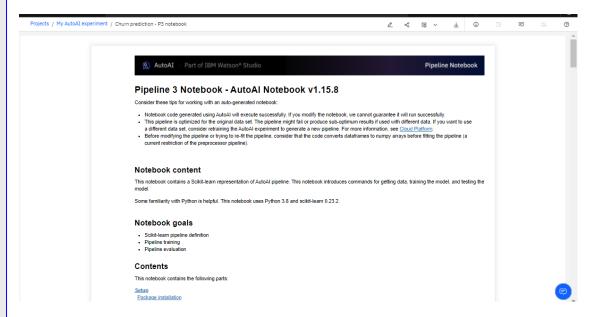




Click View in Project link for the notebook you just saved.



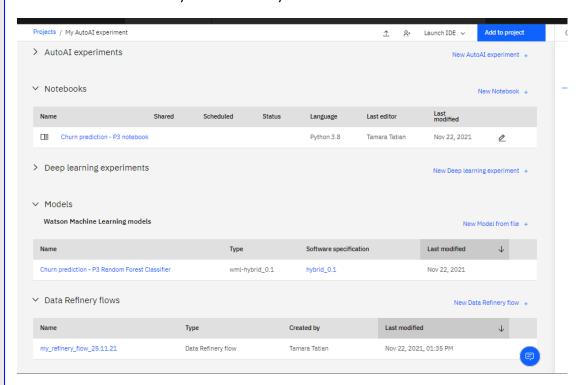
Review the notebook – AutoAI is not a black box, it produces well annotated code that you can take as-is or choose to develop further. You can save individual pipelines or the whole experiment as code (create a notebook of the full experiment to train all pipelines programatically)





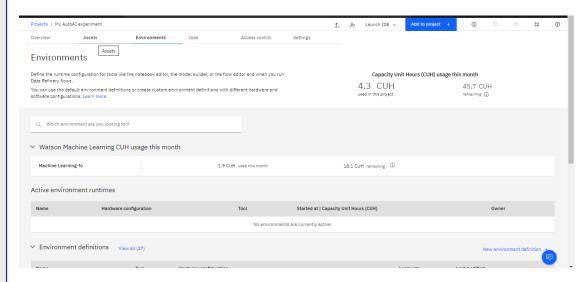
Next, navigate back to the project Assets view by clicking the breadcrumb with your project name (top left of the screen)

Scroll down - note that you now have your saved model and notebook listed.



Before moving to model deployment, let's ensure 'good housekeeping' practices are followed and clean up any environments that may still be running against your project and account as they are no longer needed (this will also help minimize any potential charges and ensure you stay within the allotted CUH limits for your account type).

Switch to the Environments tab. If there are any active runtimes still running there – please stop them at this point. You can also monitor your per-project and overall CUH spend on this screen. CUH (capacity unit hours) is a resource consumption and utilization metric used by Watson Studio on CPDaaS. Once done, please switch back to the Assets tab.





# Deploying your model with Watson Machine Learning (Watson Studio Deploy)

Next, we are going to deploy our saved model.

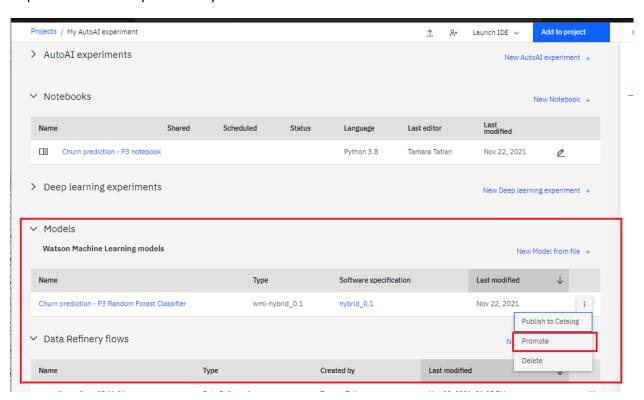
First, we will need to <u>promote the model to a deployment space</u>. Deployment spaces (another project/collaborative workspace type provided in CPDaaS) allow you to create deployments for machine learning models and functions and view and manage all of the activity and assets for the deployments, including data connections and connected data assets.

You can deploy assets from multiple projects to a space, and you can deploy assets to more than one space. For example, you might have a test space for evaluating deployments, and a production space for deployments you want to deploy in business applications.

Separate development and deployment environments provide better security and governance. Deployments are often configured by ModelOps team, and only authorized users are given access to *Deployment Spaces*.

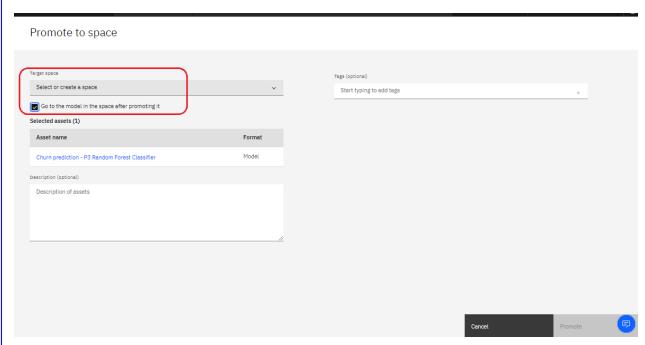
In the lab environment you have the necessary permissions to deploy models to a deployment space.

Expand the menu options for your model and select Promote.

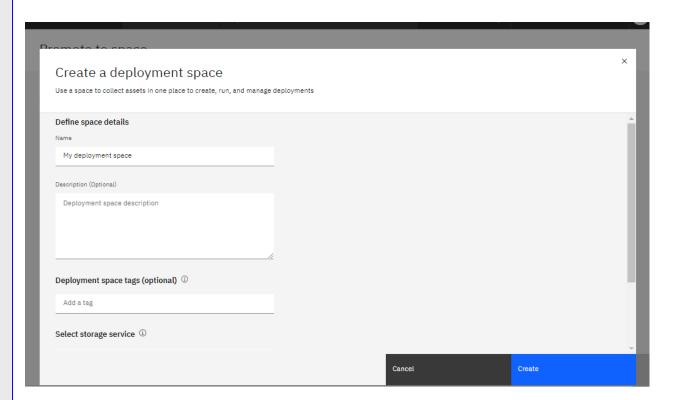


Check the box saying "Go to Model" on the next screen.



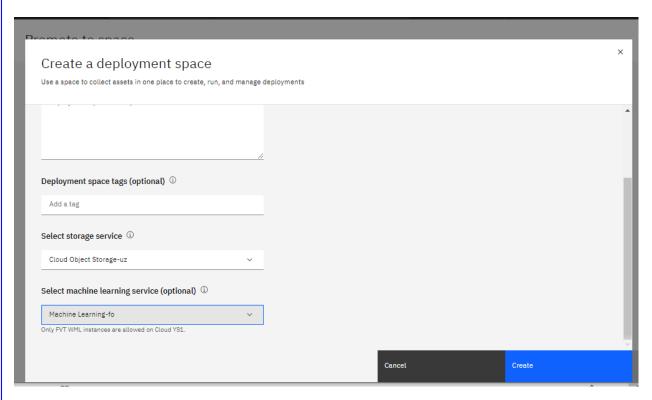


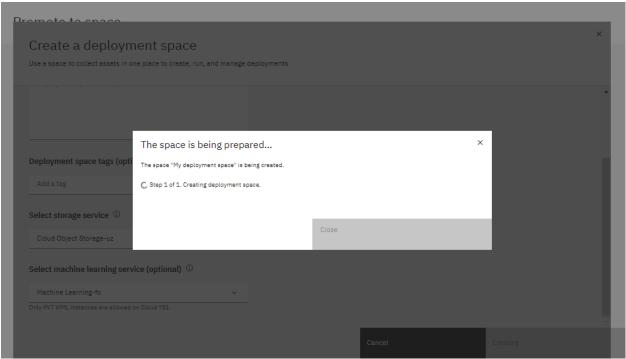
Create a new deployment space.



Make sure your Machine Learning instance is associated correctly

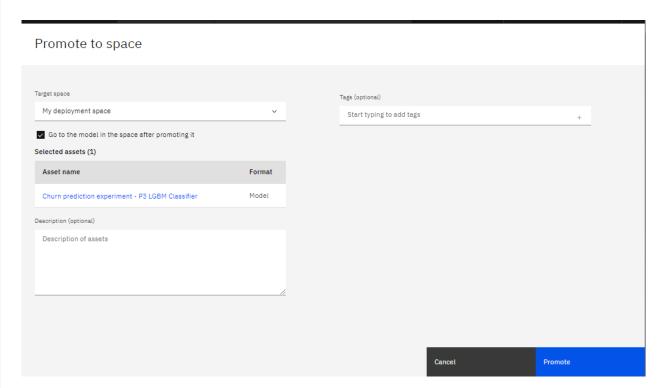






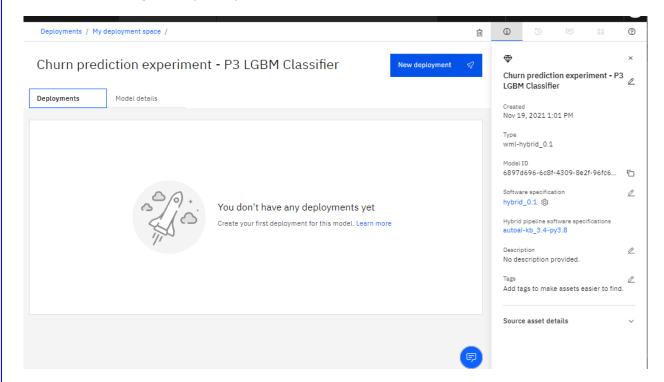
Finally, once the space has been created and picked up, click Promote





Because we ticked the checkbox, the platform will take us straight to the promoted model.

You can also navigate to your space from the main menu.



Next, we will deploy the model. Click the New Deployment button.

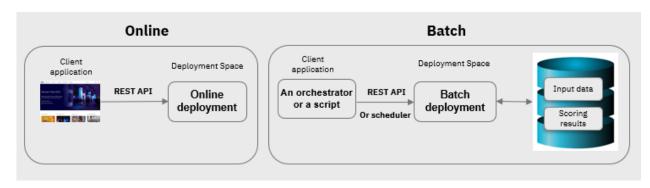
The types of deployment available for a model and the type of input supported depends on the model framework.



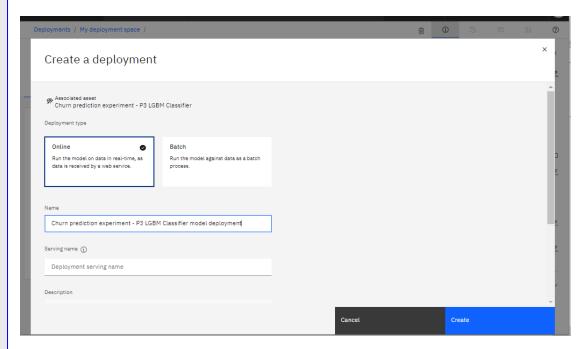
The types of deployments supported by Watson Studio are:

- Online also called Web service, this deployment loads the model or Python code
  when the deployment is created to generate predictions online, in real time.
  Online scoring is used when the use case requires immediate scoring results. For
  example, a call center agent needs to know if a customer is likely to churn when
  answering a call. Online scoring is integrated with line of business applications
  using REST APIs.
- Batch to process batches of input submitted from a data file, a connection to a
  data repository such as a database, or connected data in a storage repository such
  as a Cloud Object Storage bucket. Batch deployments can be run on demand or on
  a schedule.
  - Batch scoring is used for a repeatable business process for all customers. For example, creating a weekly marketing campaign for customers who are likely to churn. Batch scoring is integrated via data layer: scoring results are written to a data source that's used by the line of business application.
- Core ML downloads the code required to deploy on an iOS device.
- App to make R Shiny apps available for use by users with a link to the endpoint.

We can deploy our model for online or batch scoring.

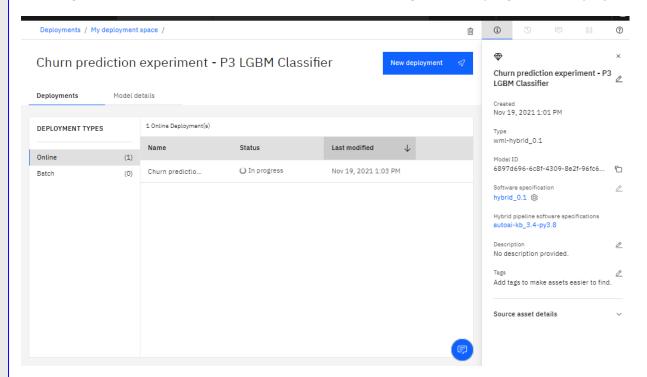


In this lab we will configure online scoring. Give your deployment a name, make sure Online mode is selected, then click Create.

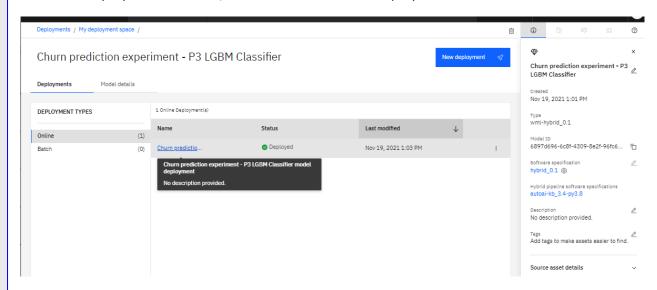




The model is now being deployed into a highly available container in Watson Machine Learning service. After a few minutes the *Status* will change from *In progress* to *Deployed*.



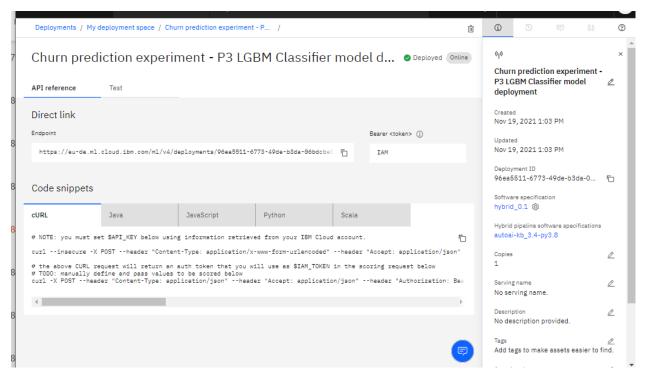
Once the deployment finishes, click the name of the deployed model to see further detail



Note that you can scale the deployment and make it even more highly available by increasing the number of its copies (settings on the i tab).

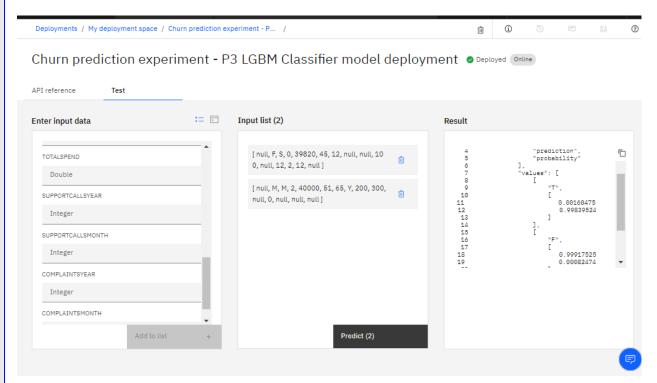
Review the code snippets, and note that the system automatically generated a REST API endpoint for us.





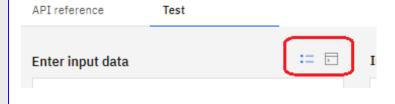
Navigate to the Test tab.

Enter some values into the input data fields on the left hand side – note that you can add more than one test item. Click Predict – the API will return its prediction, along with the probability of a True outcome for the predicted CHURN metric.



Note that you can also provide test data in JSON format – you can switch between user-friendly fields view and JSON code entry through these buttons





Feel free to test the model using JSON with these sample values:

```
{
      "input_data": [
             {
                   "fields": [
                          "ID",
                          "GENDER",
                          "MARITALSTATUS",
                          "NUMCHILDREN",
                          "ESTINCOME",
                          "AGE",
                          "MONTHSASCUSTOMER",
                          "LOYALTYSCHEME",
                          "LASTBILLAMOUNT"
                          "AVGMONTHLYSPEND",
                          "TOTALSPEND",
                          "SUPPORTCALLSYEAR",
                          "SUPPORTCALLSMONTH",
                          "COMPLAINTSYEAR",
                          "COMPLAINTSMONTH"
                   "values": [
                                 null,
                                 "F",
                                 "S",
                                 null,
                                 39820,
                                 45,
                                 12,
                                 null,
                                 null,
                                 100,
                                 null,
                                 12,
                                2,
                                 12,
                                 null
                          ],
                                 null,
                                 "M",
                                "M",
```

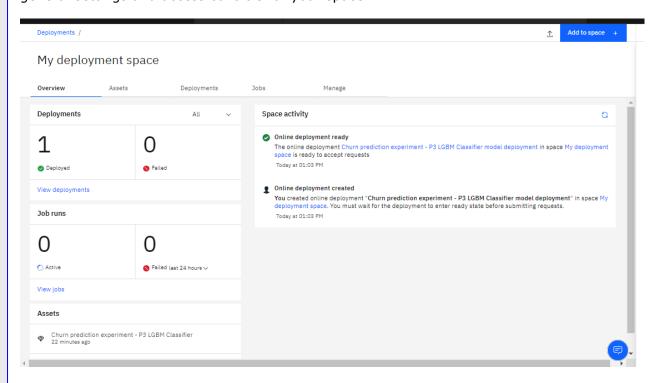
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2,



```
40000,
                                         51,
                                         65,
                                         "Y"
                                         200,
                                         300,
                                         null,
                                         null,
                                         null,
                                         null,
                                         null
                                 ]
                         ]
                }
        1
}
```

Navigate to the deployment space using the main menu or the on-screen breadcrumbs (click the name of your space on the top left) to check metrics and statistics as well as general settings and access controls for your space.



This concludes the lab.

You have finished developing, deploying, and testing an AutoAI model. The model can now be integrated with other applications using REST API.

#### Optional tasks:

- Run another AutoAI experiment and build a regression model predicting customer TOTALSPEND. Deploy the model in Online mode and test it.
- Create and run an AutoAI experiment based on a Gallery sample