

## Watson IoT Platform – T4 - NodeRed – Subscriber Client

### Commissioning task 4

#### 1. Introduction

In the earlier commissioning task we have created a connection between a real device and the IBM Cloud Watson IoT Platform. We have created a connection between a simulated client device and as well a real client device and the NodeRED server application running on IBM Cloud Watson.

In the earlier commissioning tasks the client acted as a Publisher according to the mqtt protocol. In this commissioning task we will configure a client which will act as a Subscriber according to the mqtt protocol.

Both the Publisher and the Subscriber devices will authenticate themselves in the IBM Cloud with the Client ID user name and Authentication Token password. The Client ID and the Authentication Token have been created in the Watson IoT Platform. In addition to this authentication method both the publisher topic and the subscriber topic needs to be defined according to certain rules.

#### 2. A client will be created both for publishing information and for subscribing to information

Please search with a browser for “IBM Cloud” . Select from proposed sites the <https://www.ibm.com/cloud/> . Log in here with your IBMid credentials and further on top of the page select the “Catalog” . You can browse directly to address <https://console.bluemix.net/catalog/> if your IoT Platform instance is in the older cloud platform. The relevant addresses can have been changed already when you are completing this task. These addresses are based on the situation in the summer 2019.

To be able to configure the client devices you need to have an IBM Cloud user account. This user account is the so called IBMid. You will need the academic user status to be able to complete the tasks in the NodeRED. The NodeRED will be installed in the IBM Cloud platform. Some other status higher than the free user id available for everyone will work as well. Instructions on how to upgrade the status from free to academic can be found in the earlier commissioning tasks. If you will try to complete the assignments built with NodeRED using the free account you might run out of resources.

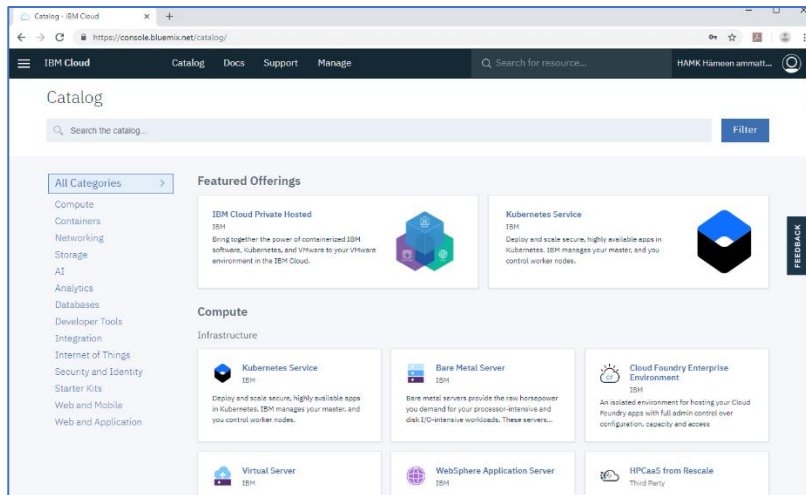


Fig 2.1 Register in the IBM Cloud service. Please select on top of the page the Catalog to browse to page IBM Cloud Catalog. The address for the Catalog page might be <https://cloud.ibm.com/catalog>.

If you haven't already established the Internet of Things Platform service for your user account please do it now. Please select out of available packages the "Internet of Things Platform Starter". This is under subtitle Starter Kits.

If you already in the earlier assignments and tasks established the Internet of Things Platform service please browse to it by selecting in the left drop down menu the Dashboard.

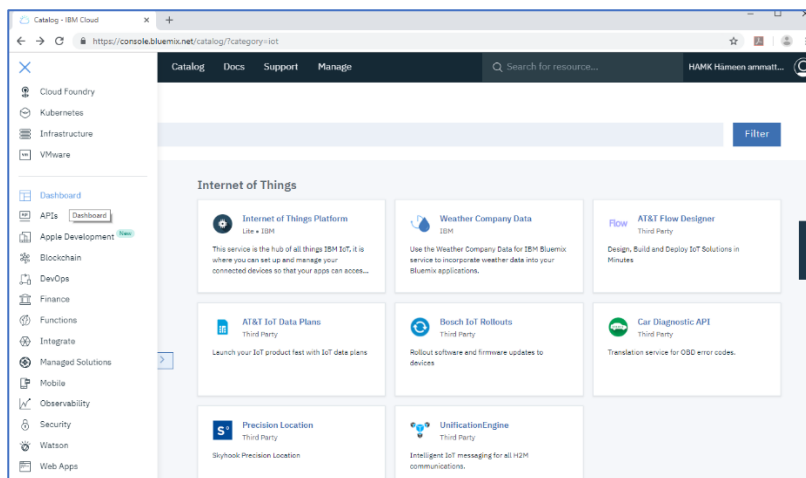


Fig 2.2 Please select the Dashboard on the drop down menu.

The Dashboard will show you all the services and applications created earlier.

The latest version of the Cloud page might bring you to the page Dashboard.

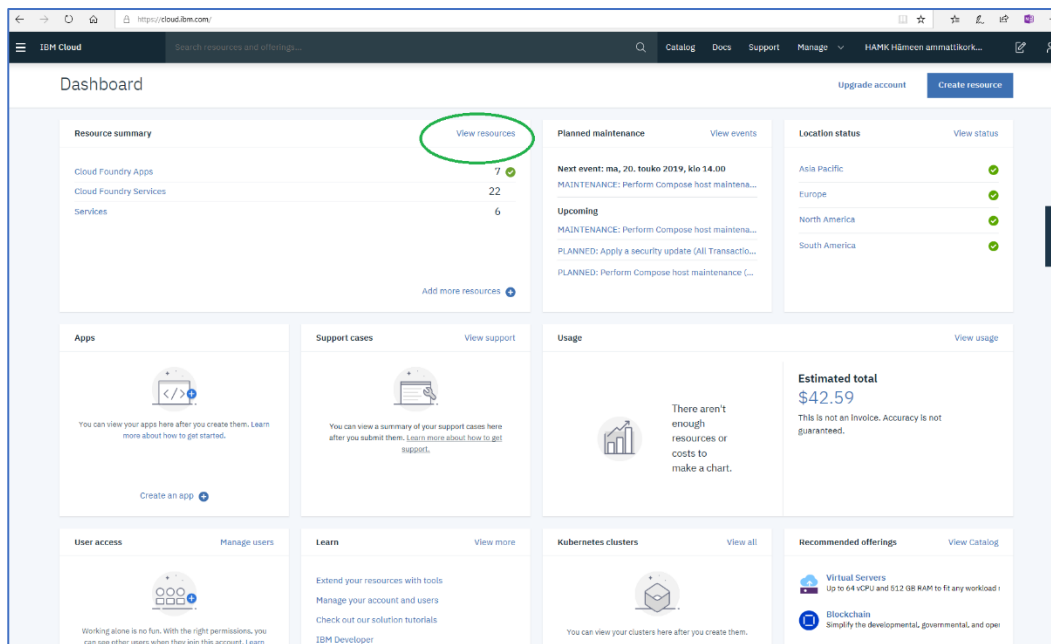


Fig. 2.3 Dashboard. Please select Resource Summary and View resources.

Please select from this Dashboard page the View Resources.

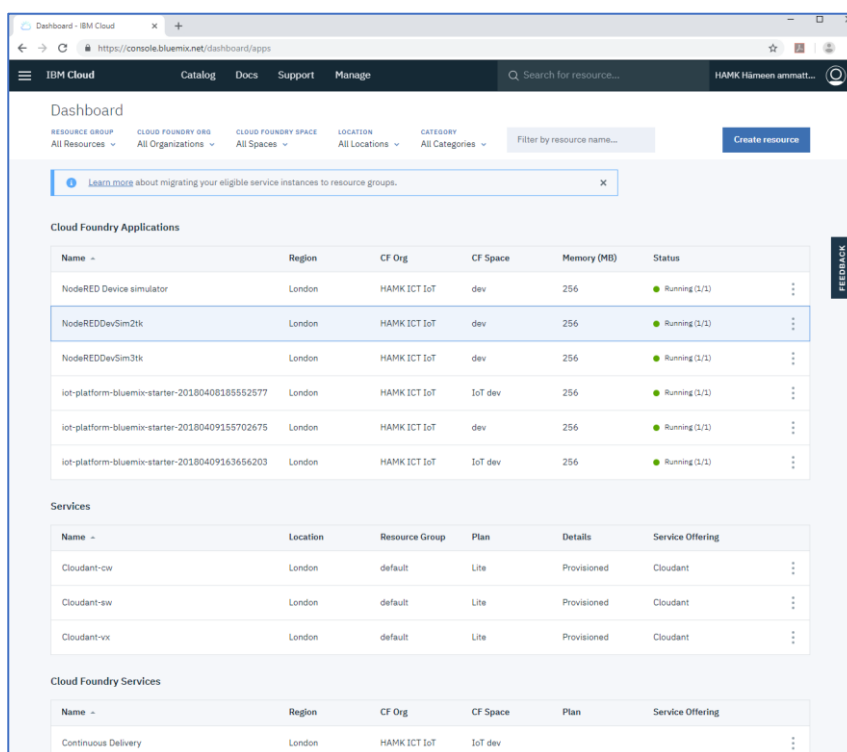


Fig. 2.4 All the service instances from the earlier assignments and tasks.

Depending on whether you are looking at your services in the old Bluemix cloud or in the new Cloud cloud the services will be visible either on address

<https://console.bluemix.net/dashboard/apps> or on address <https://cloud.ibm.com/resources>.

A Client device can be created by opening the application created in the earlier Device – NodeRED assignment. That can be found under the subtitle Cloud Foundry Applications. In that application please open the ...-iotf-service resource.

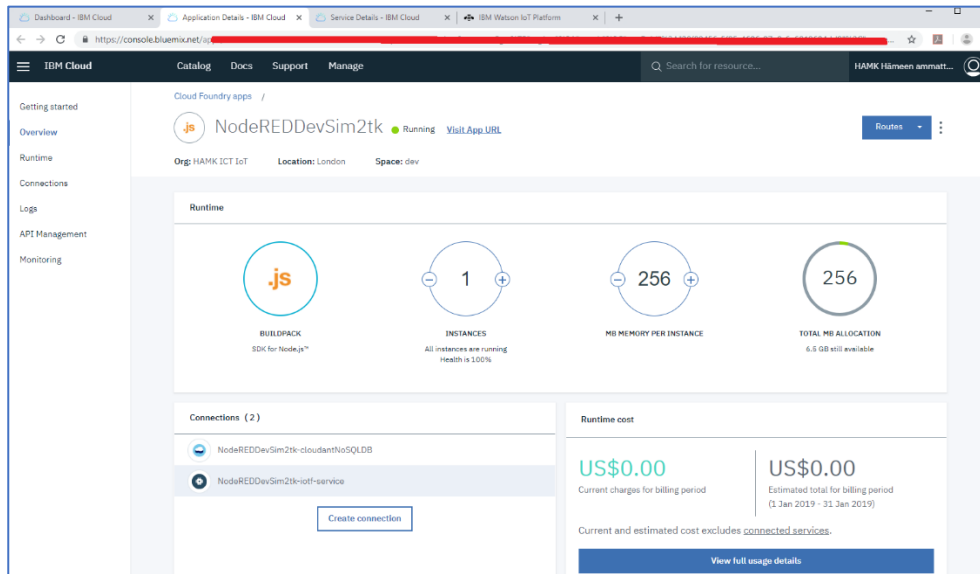


Fig. 2.5 IoT Service

The same resource can be reached by selecting in the Dashboard the subtitle Cloud Foundry Services and the same ....-iotf-service resource.

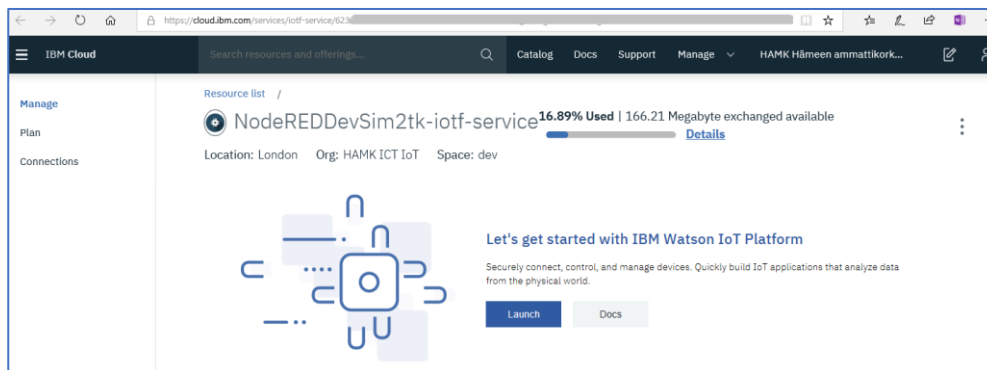


Fig. 2.6 Please click the Launch button.

When the .... iotf-service opens please select the button Launch. You get into Browse Devices list. For this commissioning task you need to create two new device definitions. Click the Add Device and answer the questions. You can use similar names for the new devices as in this instruction text. Please let the service create automatically the Authentication Token.

The definitions for the two new devices:

Organization ID: 8yyyynp  
 Device Type: MonitoringClient  
 Device ID: MonitorC01  
 Authentication Method: use-token-auth

Authentication Token: BgF?xxxxxxxxQfLvfe

Organization ID: 8yyyyyp

Device Type: MonitoringClient

Device ID: MonitorC02

Authentication Method: use-token-auth

Authentication Token: olh8xxxxxxxxN!oJ\*W

The yyyy is hiding part of the organisation ID and xxxx is hiding part of the Authentication Token. Please copy and save the device specification and Authentication Token into a separate text file. We will need those later!

3. The testing will be done with Client App communicating according to mqtt protocol

This time we will not use a real device reading the sensor data. We will do the commissioning tests with a MQTT Client App running on a normal Windows computer. The app is the MQTTbox. Other similar apps can be used. MQTT Client apps can be found for Android and iOS smart phones, too.

If you are in the HAMK network in a local computer you can install the app from the Software Center. On your own computer it can be installed from <http://workswithweb.com/mqttbox.html>. For the installation the administrator rights will not be needed.

Whatever mqtt client app you are using the client needs to be configured with the following parameters:

MQTT Client Name: anything goes  
MQTT Client Id: d:8yyyyyp:MonitoringClient:MonitorC01  
Protocol: mqtt/tcp  
Host: 8zzzp.messaging.internetofthings.ibmcloud.com  
Username: use-token-auth  
Password: BgF?xxxxxxxxQfLvfe  
Append timestamp to MQTT client id: No

Topic to publish: iot-2/evt/Mon01/fmt/json  
Payload Type: String/JSON/XML/Character  
Payload: { "Opening": "This is Mon01", "fromNetwork": "Home",  
"fromLogicNetwork": "Home", "AttempNumber": 1 }

MQTT Client Name: anything goes  
MQTT Client Id: d:8yyyyyp:MonitoringClient:MonitorC02  
Protocol: mqtt/tcp  
Host: 8zzzp.messaging.internetofthings.ibmcloud.com  
Username: use-token-auth  
Password: olh8xxxxxxxxN!oJ\*W

Append timestamp to MQTT client id: No

Topic to subscribe: `iot-2/cmd/monitoringResponse/fmt/json`

The `xxxx`, `yyyy`, `zzzz` are hiding part of the ids and tokens.

In the app you can give almost any name to the client. The Client ID must be exactly like described on the details above. In the Client ID you will type the Organization ID and the Device ID you have created earlier.

First part of the host address is again the Organisation ID you have created earlier for your organizations IoT Service.

Please remember to remove the selection to add a time stamp in the client ID. Typically a time stamp is added. This prevents the mistakes of accidentally creating two clients with exactly the same name.

In the Topic to Publish field there needs to be a text similar to the one given in the details above. In the details above there is a word `Mon01`. This one you can replace with an other name to the event.

In the Topic to Subscribe field please add a text similar to the one given in the details above. The word `MonitoringResponse` you will be using later when creating the answering service. Of course you can use an other name here if you like.

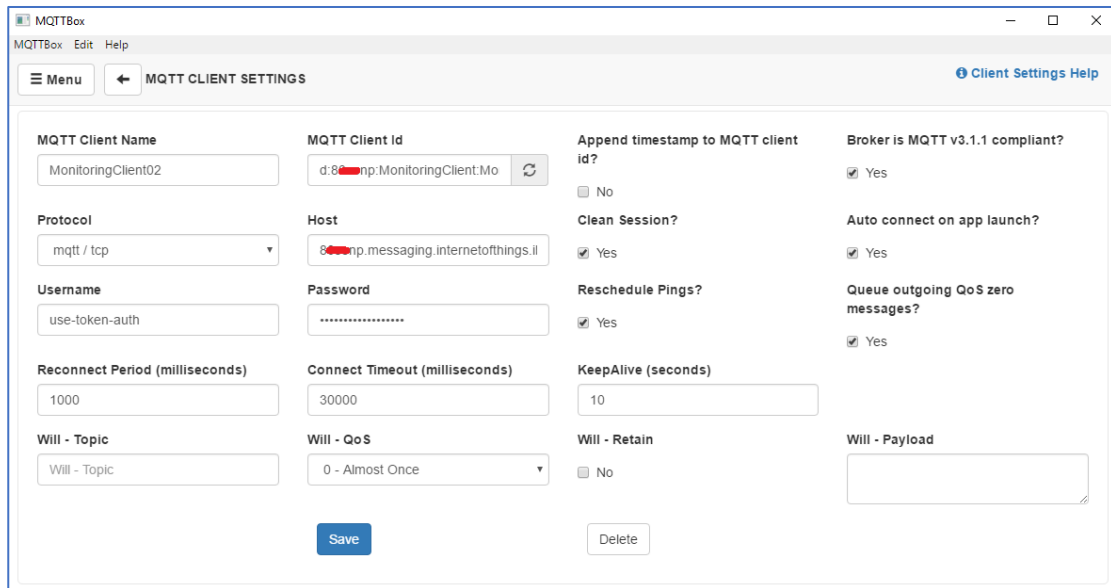
In the picture below the parameters can be seen filled in into the text boxes on the client app MQTTBox.

The screenshot shows the MQTTBox application window with the title bar 'MQTTBox' and menu items 'MQTTBox Edit Help'. The main window is titled 'MQTT CLIENT SETTINGS' and has a 'Client Settings Help' link. The settings are organized into a grid:

- MQTT Client Name:** MonitoringClient01
- MQTT Client Id:** d:8[redacted]np:MonitoringClient:Mo
- Append timestamp to MQTT client id?:** ☐ No
- Broker is MQTT v3.1.1 compliant?:** ☒ Yes
- Protocol:** mqtt / tcp
- Host:** 8[redacted]np.messaging.internetofthings.it
- Clean Session?:** ☒ Yes
- Auto connect on app launch?:** ☐ No
- Username:** use-token-auth
- Password:** [masked]
- Reschedule Pings?:** ☒ Yes
- Queue outgoing QoS zero messages?:** ☒ Yes
- Reconnect Period (milliseconds):** 5000
- Connect Timeout (milliseconds):** 30000
- KeepAlive (seconds):** 10
- Will - Topic:** Will - Topic
- Will - QoS:** 0 - Almost Once
- Will - Retain:** ☐ No
- Will - Payload:** [empty text box]

At the bottom, there are 'Save' and 'Delete' buttons.

Fig 3.1 The parameters for the first mqtt client.



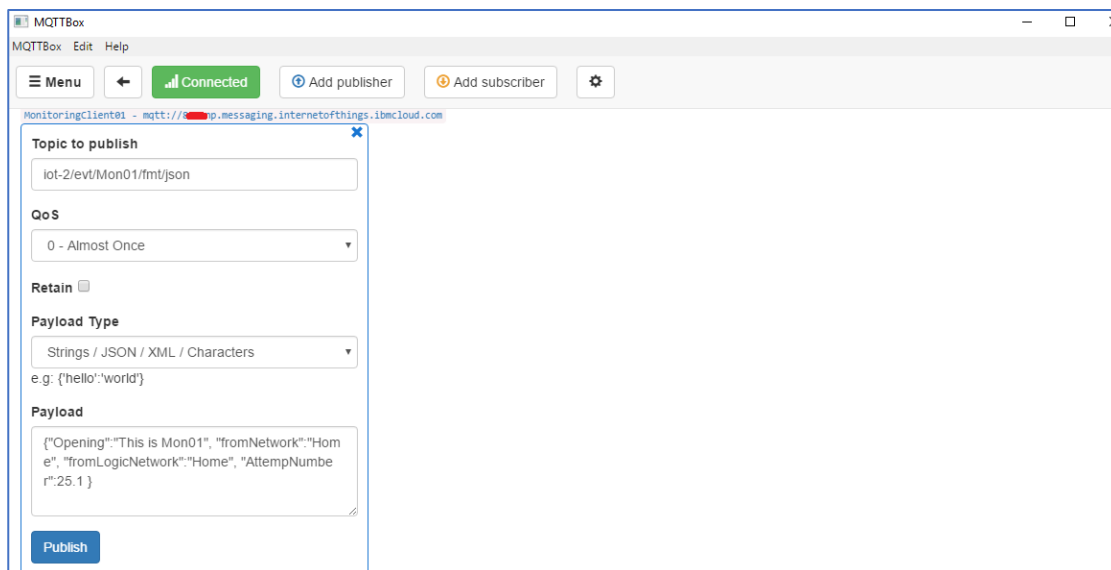
The image shows the 'MQTT CLIENT SETTINGS' window in the MQTTBox application. The window has a menu bar with 'Menu', 'MQTT CLIENT SETTINGS', and 'Client Settings Help'. The settings are organized into several sections:

- MQTT Client Name:** MonitoringClient02
- MQTT Client Id:** d:8[redacted]np:MonitoringClient:Mo
- Protocol:** mqtt / tcp
- Host:** 8[redacted]np.messaging.internetofthings.ibmcloud.com
- Username:** use-token-auth
- Password:** [redacted]
- Reconnect Period (milliseconds):** 1000
- Connect Timeout (milliseconds):** 30000
- KeepAlive (seconds):** 10
- Will - Topic:** Will - Topic
- Will - QoS:** 0 - Almost Once
- Will - Retain:** ☐ No
- Will - Payload:** [empty text area]
- Append timestamp to MQTT client id?:** ☐ No
- Clean Session?:** ☒ Yes
- Reschedule Pings?:** ☒ Yes
- Broker is MQTT v3.1.1 compliant?:** ☒ Yes
- Auto connect on app launch?:** ☒ Yes
- Queue outgoing QoS zero messages?:** ☒ Yes

At the bottom, there are 'Save' and 'Delete' buttons.

Fig 3.2 The parameters for the second mqtt client

With the first client a message according to mqtt protocol will be sent to the Watson IoT platform. As a content of the message the payload field can be filled in with almost anything as long as it is in the JSON format.



The image shows the 'Publish' dialog in the MQTTBox application. The dialog is titled 'MonitoringClient01 - mqtt://8[redacted]np.messaging.internetofthings.ibmcloud.com'. It contains the following fields:

- Topic to publish:** iot-2/evt/Mon01/fmt/json
- QoS:** 0 - Almost Once
- Retain:** ☐
- Payload Type:** Strings / JSON / XML / Characters
- Payload:** {"Opening": "This is Mon01", "fromNetwork": "Home", "fromLogicNetwork": "Home", "AttemptNumber": 25.1 }

At the bottom, there is a 'Publish' button.

Fig 3.3 The payload of the message will be written in the JSON format.

In the IBM Cloud Watson IoT in the Device View the corresponding device will be opened and the State view opened.

Please send a message from the MQTTBox application by clicking the button Publish.

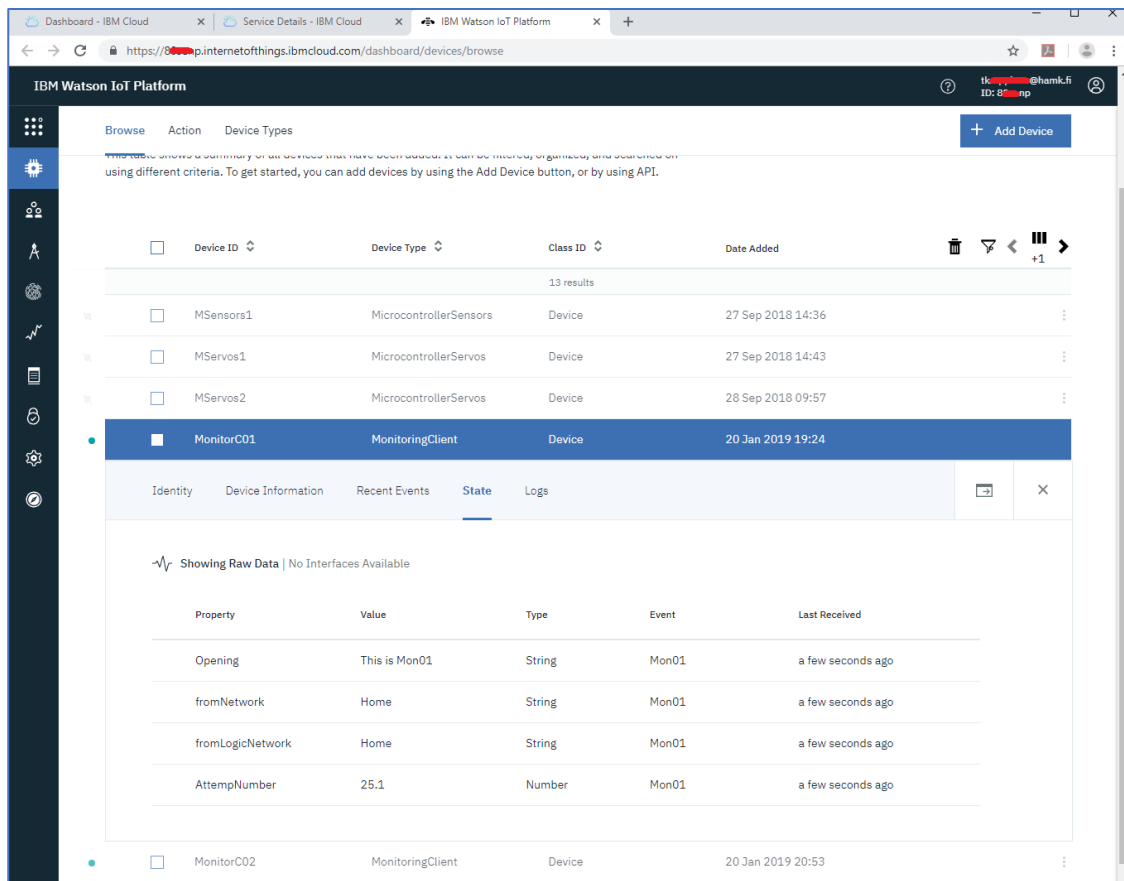


Fig 3.4 In the Watson Dashboard Devices view it is possible to see the JSON formatted payload opened as an object.

**Assignment 1.** Please write in the mqtt client in the payload field in the JSON format a number in the following formats: integer number 25, decimal number 25.1, a number in a quote "25.1". Please try as well some special characters. What are the capabilities in Watson IoT in opening the JSON formatted message?

4. Sending a message from the Watson IoT to the mqtt client; settings for the NodeRED flow

The message data analysis and the answering function will be created in the NodeRED.

The NodeRED editing environment was created already in the earlier commissioning task.

You will be opening the already existing NodeRED flow. In the IBM Cloud Watson Dashboard please open the same Cloud Foundry Application which was used in the previous chapter.



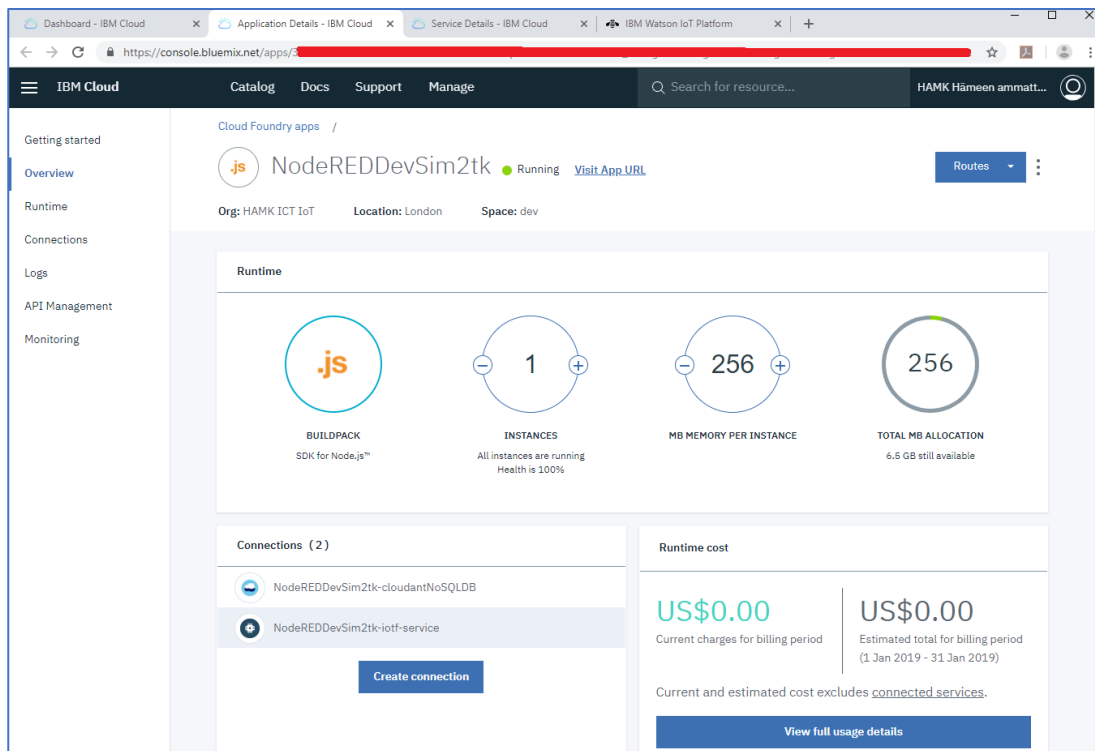


Fig 4.1 The Cloud Foundry Application includes a CloudantNoSQLDB database and an iotf-service IoT platform..

The CloudantNoSQLDB includes the NodeRED environment created in the earlier commissioning tasks. If you haven't got this please go back to the commissioning task "IBM Watson IoT – T2 – Platform – NodeRED flow". With that set of instructions you will be able to create a suitable NodeRED flow.

Please open in the connections view the ....cloudantNoSQLDB and in the next view your application and in the opening window you will be giving the credentials for your NodeRED editor.

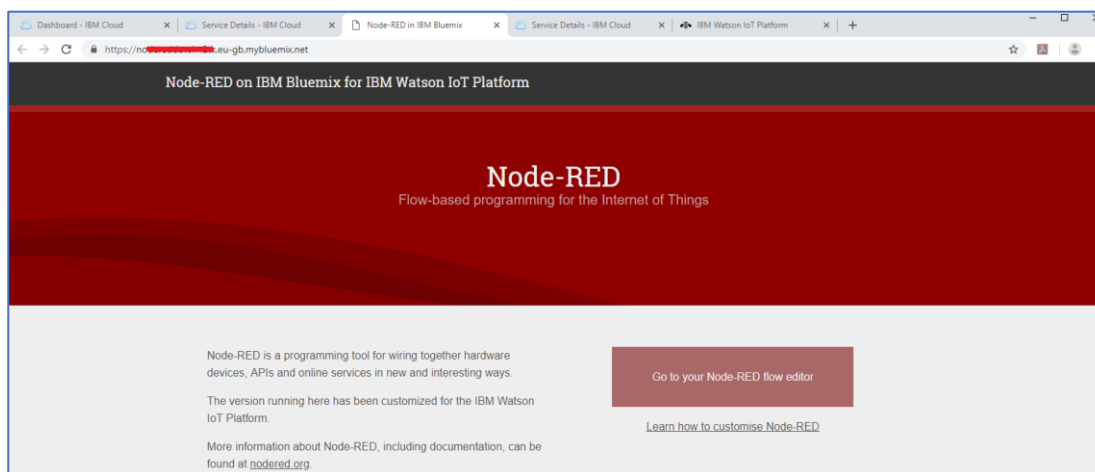


Fig 4.2 Please fill in your username and the password for the NodeRED editor.

Please create a flow similar to the one seen in the picture below. The necessary nodes you will recognize in the menu left by the colour and the small symbol of the node. To make it easier to follow these instructions please use the same names for the nodes as seen in the picture.

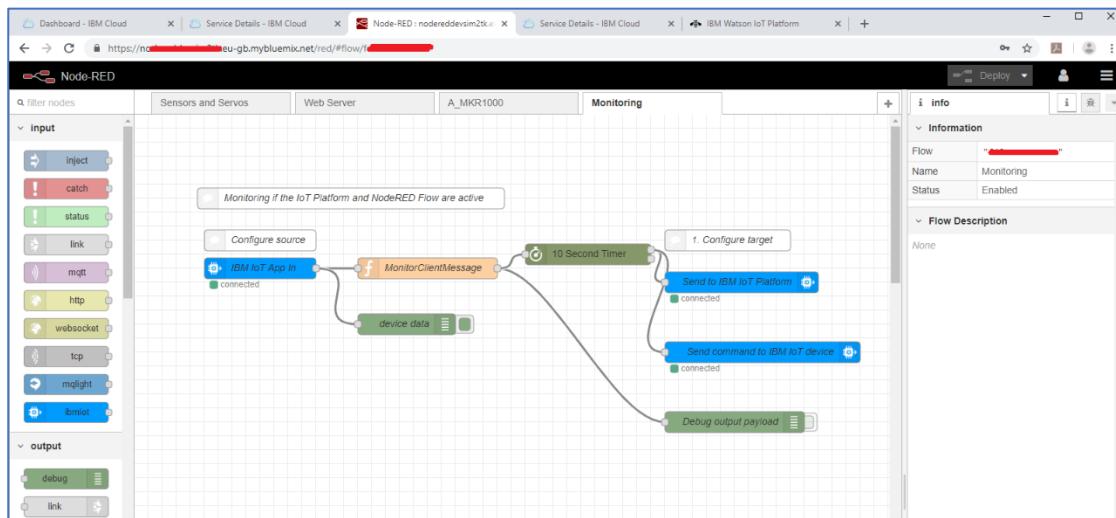


Fig 4.3 A NodeRED flow creating an answer message to the device as a mqtt message.

The leftmost node is the one used for connecting to the IoT Device or to another mqtt client.

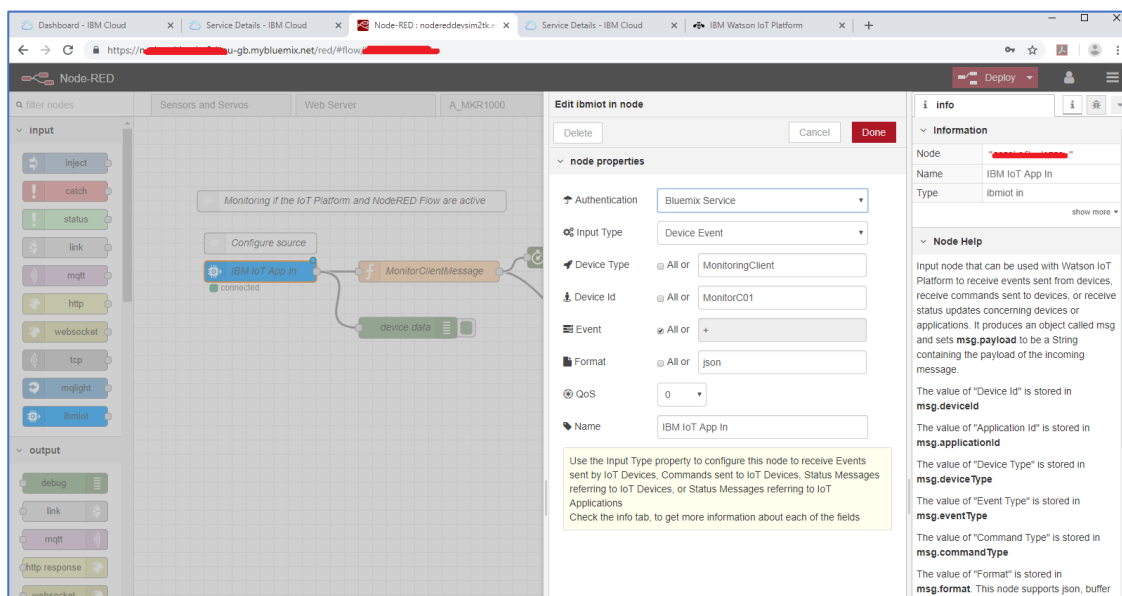


Fig 4.4 The IBM IoT App In node and the parameters.

Opening the node you will see the info frame and the Help text. In the parameter fields all the same information must be filled as earlier in defining the device in the IoT platform:

Authentication: Bluemix Service

Input Type: Device Event

Device Type: MonitorinClient .... Your previously defined Device Type

Device Id: MonitorC01 ..... Your previously defined Device Id

Event: select All

Format: json

QoS: 0

Name: ..... a new name can be given

Similarly please open the function node.

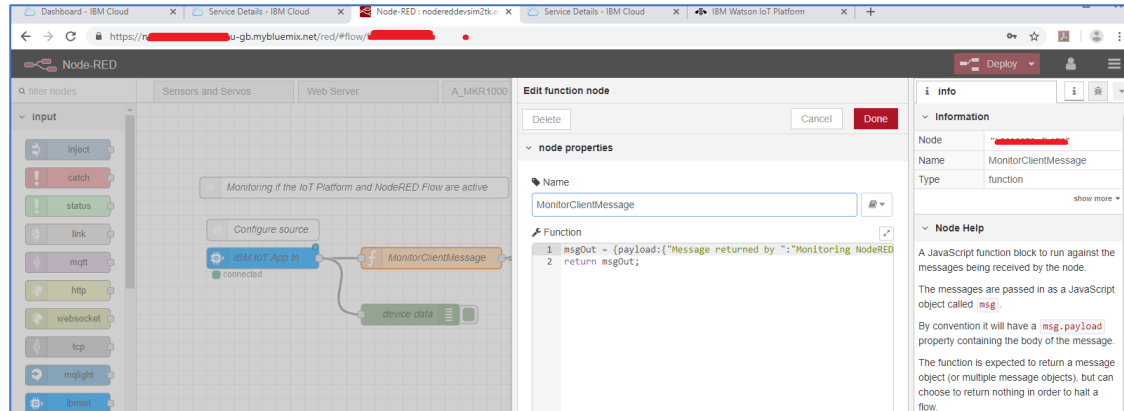


Fig 4.5 Function node seen opened

As a function you can write:

```
msgOut = {payload:{"Message returned by ":"Monitoring NodeRED flow","received from device of type ":"msg.deviceType," of ID ":"msg.deviceId," payload ":"msg.payload"}};
return msgOut;
```

For the msgOut a JSON formatted payload will be created.

The object msg consists of the values from the incoming message: msg.deviceType, msg.deviceId, msg.payload.

The node Send to IBM IoT Platform will be opened from top right. Parameters will be given as:

Authentication: Bluemix Service

Output Type: Device Event

Device Type: MonitoringClient .... Your previously defined Device Type

Device Id: MonitorC02 .... Your previously defined Device Id

Event Type: update

Format: json

Data: temp:10 .... this will be replaced by a value created in the function

QoS: 0

Name: Send to IBM IoT Platform ... or a new name can be given

And further the node Send command to IBM IoT Device will be opened from top right. Parameters will be given as:

Authentication: Bluemix Service  
Output Type: Device Command  
Device Type: MonitoringClient .... Your previously defined Device Type  
Device Id: MonitorC02 .... Your previously defined Device Id  
Command Type: monitoringResponse ... In here a type of your own can be written  
Format: json  
Data: {"data":"data"} .... this will be replaced by a message created in the function  
QoS: 0  
Name: Send command to IBM IoT device ... or a new name can be given

The timer 10 seconds will be add. With this it will be easier to recognize which one is the original message and which one is the command sent as a response.

The nodes and parameters in the NodeRED flow editor are done now.

5. Sending a message from the Watson IoT to the mqtt client; settings for the MQTTBox client application

The operation will be tested with a MQTTBox client application.

Parameters for the subscriber will be written in the second client you created earlier in the MQTTBox. .

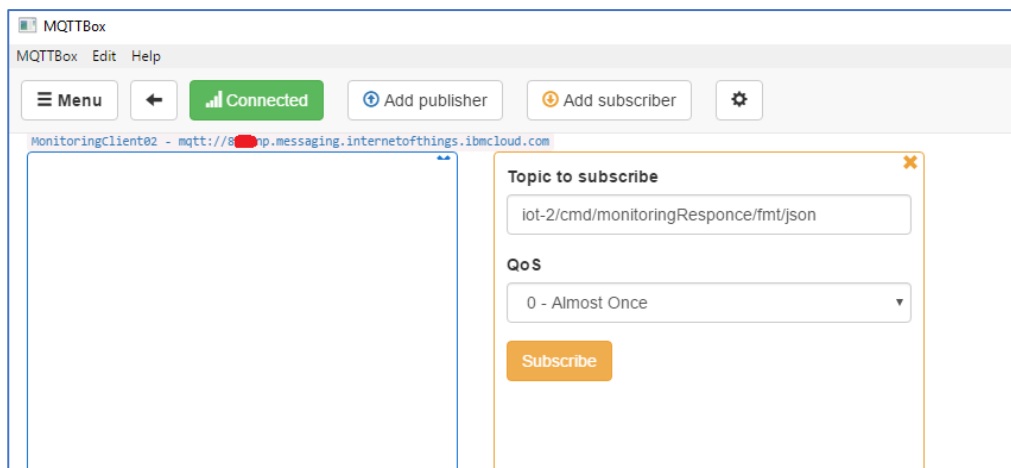


Fig. 5.1 Parameters for the subscriber will be written

In the subscribe settings:

Topic to subscribe: iot-2/cmd/monitoringResponse/fmt/json  
QoS: 0

Please open the sending client and send a message by clicking the publish button.

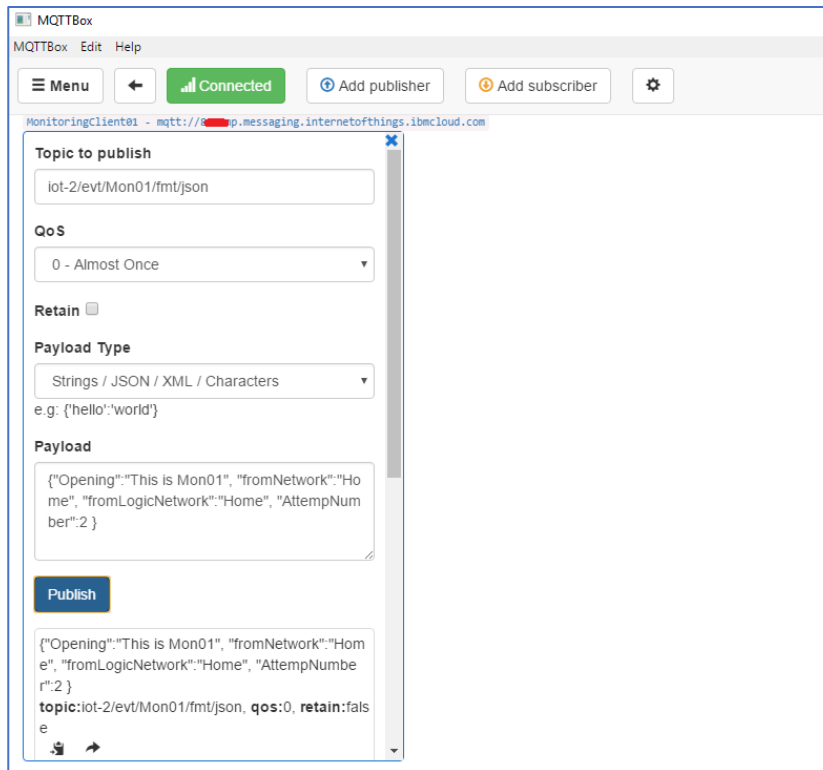


Fig 5.2 A message will be sent .

A delay was defined in the NodeRED flow. You should receive a response after the defined delay.

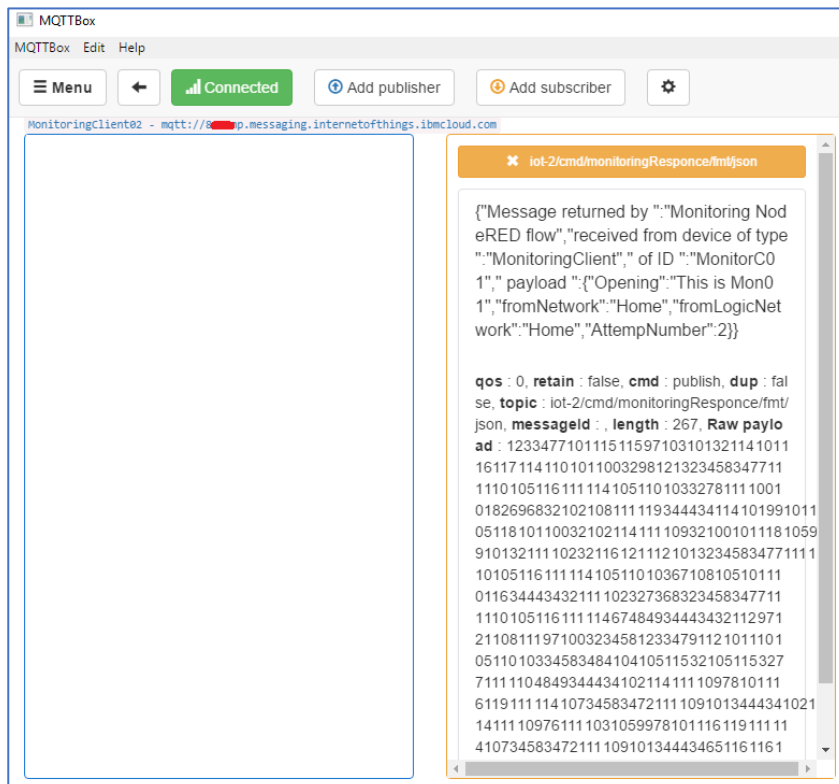


Fig. 5.3 A device command is received.

## 6. The assignments

Please note the number of symbols in the received message. In our command message the number of symbols is 267.

The length of the message can be a limiting factor when receiving commands with some micro controller and a mqtt subscriber client.

In the Arduino pubsubclient: 90 bytes / <https://pubsubclient.knolleary.net/>

In the Arduino mqttclient by Joël Gähviler: 128 bytes / <https://github.com/256dpi/arduino-mqtt>

It is possible to increase the number of characters received. This is done in the above mentioned class libraries by changing a parameter value. Please have a look in the class library documentation.

**Assignment 2. Please modify the content of the command message to make the length of the message less than 90 bytes. You need to try a few times. The number of symbols giving certain number of bytes is not that easy to count.**

**Assignment 3. Please modify the subscriber client settings and the topic definition. The message should be received only from exactly this device type and this device id device. It should receive all command types.**