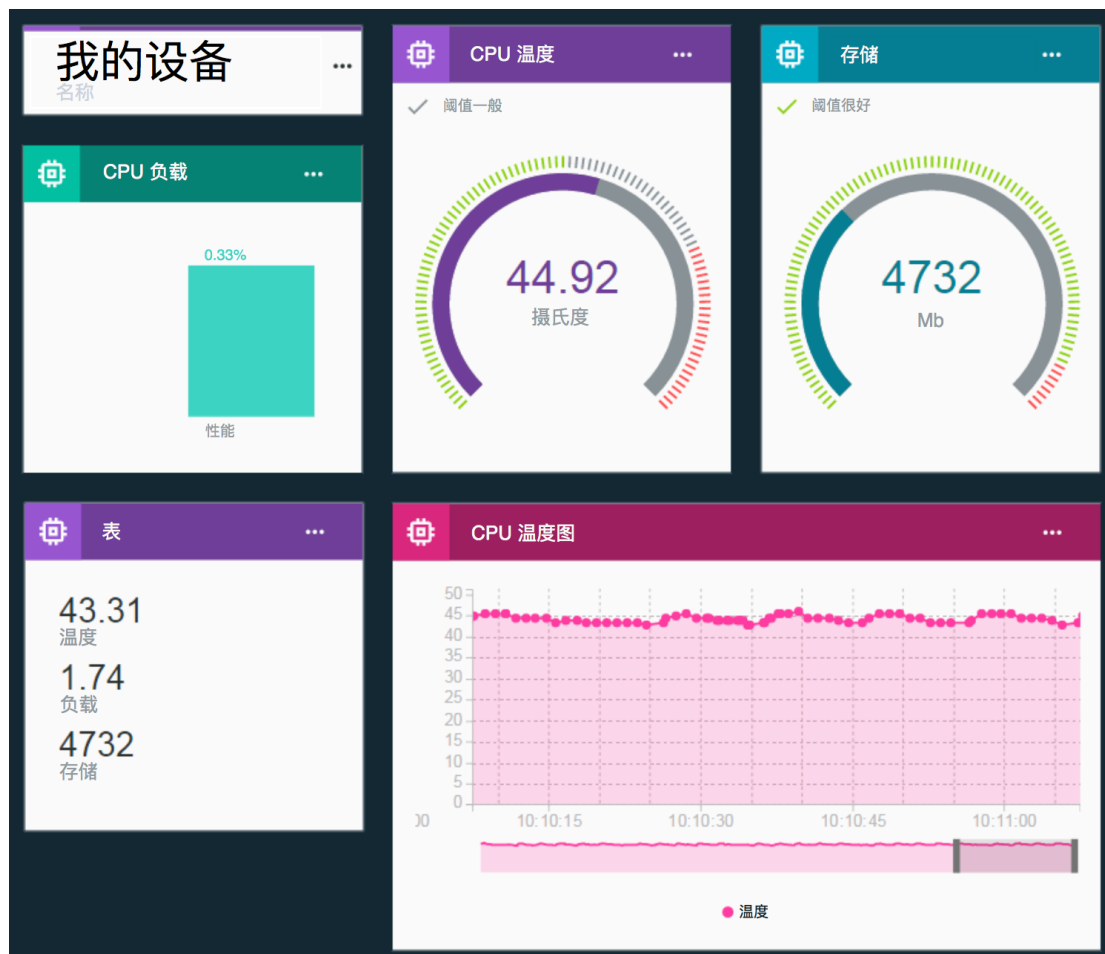# Watson Platform

Ming YUE

Watson IoT platform is especially designed for the developments related to sensors and data. I signed in and try to use it. During my experience, the interface is not very user-friendly and many guidelines given by the website need update. Meanwhile, it is a little bit strange that although I am in China, I can only pick Sydney, the United Kingdom, Germany and southern American. However, the functions work fine for now as I haven't connected any sensor to it.

Virtualize data

One thing that makes this platform jumps out is that the devices can be virtualized, which is quite useful in my point of view. It can show the state of your board and the latest data transported to the cloud.

This is the example of the dash board of the cloud platform.

Database

The data storage of Bluemix is NoSQL, which the data in it looks like this.

```
{
  "_id": "78bf4380-3311-11e6-a747-d7b140d1a70a",
  "_rev": "2-d13912b7c089f060a4ba7369fa86e46f",
  "typeId": "t",
  "deviceType": "0",
  "eventType": "json_payload",
  "format": "json",
  "timestamp": "2016-06-15T16:54:41.464+01",
  "data": {
    "a": 22
  }
}
```

As the timestamp record the time and the format represents whether the data is real or not.

Cloud Analytics

The platform provides rules and triggers for the data that draws attention with also actions such as sending emails available. At the same time, some simple analysis can be done on the cloud like taking the average.

Price

The Lite plan, which is now I am using, is free, allows 500 devices at most and each 200MB storage at most. This suits us as we are considering tens of sensors and the storage seems fine. However, I am not sure that whether we will use edge analysis as the limitation is also 200MB. The standard one contains the free part as Lite plan and the charges the remaining for $0.00115 every MB data transmitting and $0.00315 for every MB to analysis. If we are only looking for small amount of data storage, I'd say IBM is a good choice.