IBM MobileFirst Platform Foundation on IBM Containers

Overview

Before talking about IBM MobileFirst Platform Foundation and IBM Containers, lets talk Bluemix.

IBM Bluemix is an implementation of IBM's Open Cloud Architecture. It leverages **Cloud Foundry** to enable developers to rapidly build, deploy, and manage their cloud applications, while tapping a growing ecosystem of available services and runtime frameworks.

> Learn more about the Bluemix architecture and Bluemix concepts on the Bluemix website (https://www.ng.bluemix.net/docs/overview/overview.html).

In the context of IBM MobileFirst Platform Foundation, it is possible to take an existing Foundation-based project and run it on top of Bluemix: no need to maintain IT infrastructure and other traditional hurdles any more. This feature opens up the ability to implement and use various Bluemix-provided services to complete and enhance the feature set of a given application.

How does it work?

In a nutshell: to run IBM MobileFirst Platform Foundation on IBM Containers, several components must interact with one another: the first component is an **image** that contains a **Linux distribution with a WebSphere Liberty installation**, with a **MobileFirst Server instance** deployed to it. The image is then stored inside an **IBM Container**, and the IBM Container is managed by **Bluemix**.

IBM Containers

IBM Containers are objects that are used to run images in a hosted cloud environment. IBM Containers hold everything that an app needs to run.

The IBM Container infrastructure includes a private registry for your images, so that you can upload, store, and retrieve them. You can make those images available for Bluemix to manage them. A command line interface is then used to manage your containers on Bluemix - More on this in the following tutorials.

Learn more about IBM Containers (https://www.ng.bluemix.net/docs/containers/container_index.html).

> To learn more about IBM MobileFirst Platform Foundation on IBM Containers, see the "IBM MobileFirst Platform Foundation 7.1.0.0 Evaluation on IBM Containers" topics, in the user documentation.

What to follow next

The available tutorials provide two choices:

- Evaluate (evaluate/): Experience the ease of creating a new IBM Container in Bluemix, launch a preconfigured IBM Container (with a MobileFirst Server instance) in it, and use an application that connects to the MobileFirst Server instance.
- Run (run/): Learn how to set up a development environment for working with IBM Containers, create and update an image with changes done in your local Foundation development environment, and

how to run it on Bluemix.