IBM Blockchain Hands-On  
Blockchain Explored

Lab Two – Bluemix – Exercises

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# Overview Introduction to the Lab

The purpose of this lab is to introduce you to the Blockchain service on Bluemix. We will build on the car leasing scenario that was introduced in the “Blockchain Explained” lab.

If you are using your own Bluemix account and have already completed the previous lab, you will have already deployed the car leasing application to your account. You can skip section 1 and re-use your existing application:

End

Start

No

Have you already deployed the Car Leasing application to your Bluemix account and started it?

Start with **Section 1** (Deploying the Sample Application)

Start with **Section 2**

Yes

For V0.61 of Hyperledger in Bluemix

# Deploying the sample application

In this section we will use Bluemix to deploy a copy of the car leasing demo application.

## Creating a Blockchain Service

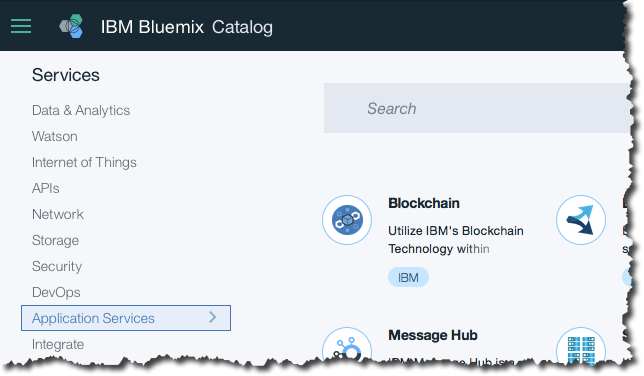
1. Open a web browser and go to [www.bluemix.net](http://www.bluemix.net).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| sign-troubleshooting | It is recommended to use Firefox or Chrome.  Problems can generally be resolved by clearing the browser’s cache and cookies, or running the browser in private mode. |

1. Click ‘**Sign Up**’ or ‘**Log In**’ to create a new Bluemix account or log into your existing account.

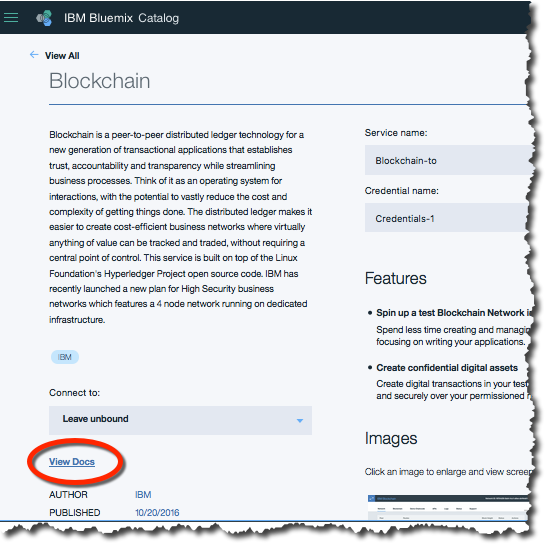
Once you have successfully signed up and logged into Bluemix, select  from the top bar.

In the ‘Services’ section of the sidebar, click ‘**Application Services**’ and select **Blockchain**.



Review the service description and information about the service.

Click ‘**View Docs**’ and learn about the process of creating a blockchain environment.



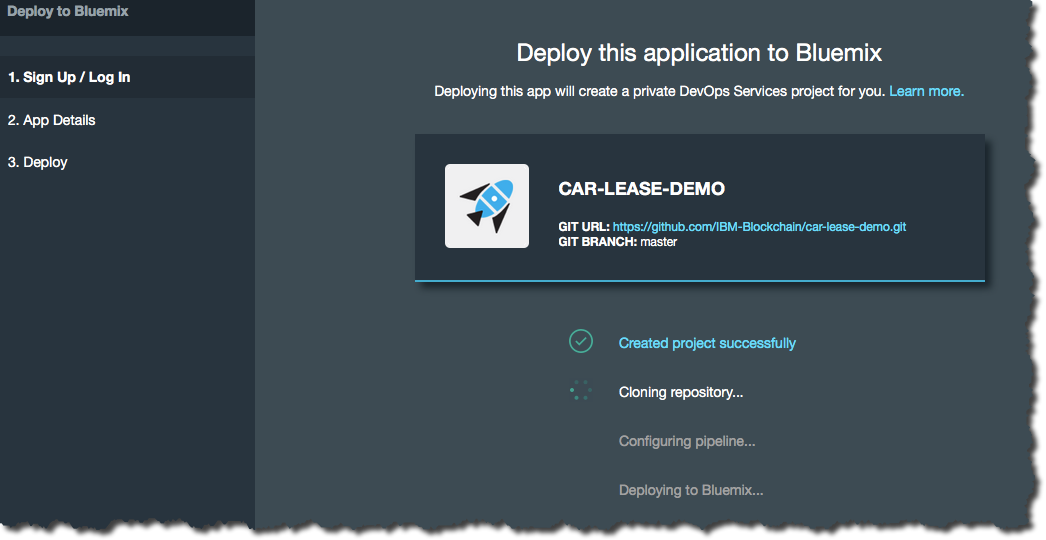
Click ‘**Samples and Tutorials**’ on the right of the page.

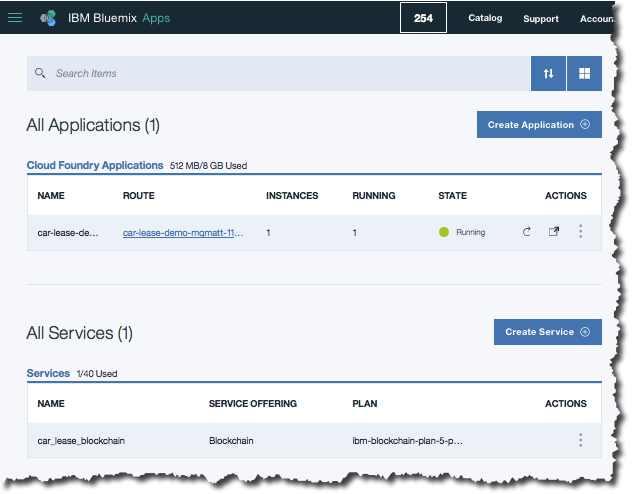
Click  against the Car Lease demo. Log in to Bluemix again if necessary.

If you are asked to pick an alias (usually the first time a given Bluemix ID deploys a sample), come up with a unique username and review and accept the terms of use. Click Create and then Continue on the subsequent page.



Wait a few seconds for the default field values to be populated. Then leave the App Name, Region, Organization and Space default (unless told otherwise) and click .  
  
This will cause the car leasing demo to be deployed into your Bluemix environment, and will probably take a few minutes to complete.

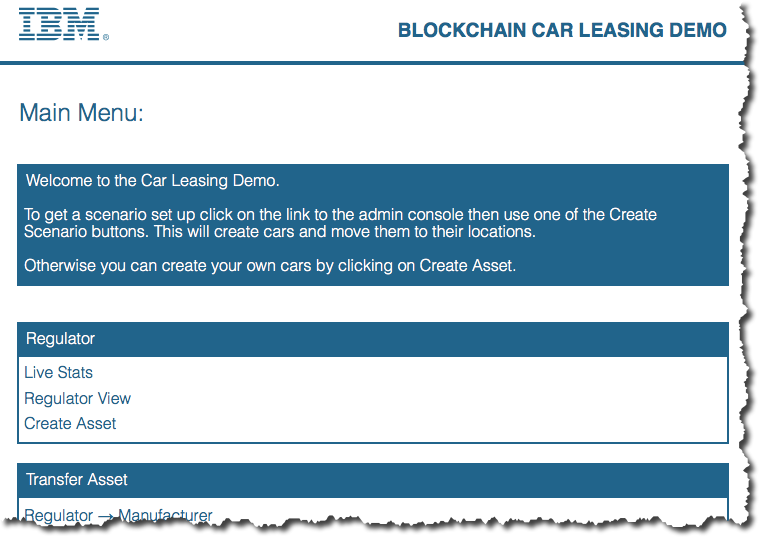


Once you see the ‘Success!’ message click  to see a description of the new car leasing application (and associated Blockchain service) you created.  
  
 

## Initializing the Car Leasing Demo

Click the blue hyperlink under the ‘Route’ column of your application, and this will load the Car Leasing demo webpage. (Do not click elsewhere on this line, as this will load the administration interface for the application, which we will look at later).

You will now see the front page of the car leasing demo.



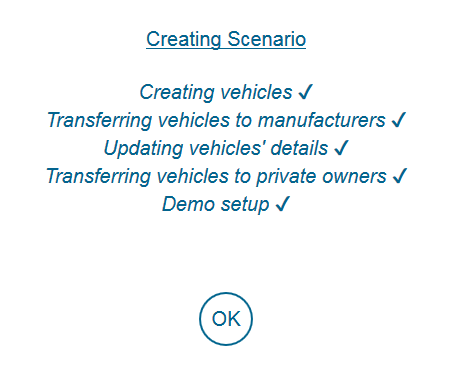
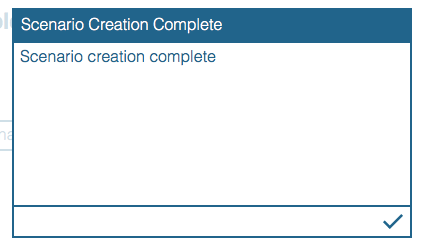
1. From the Car Leasing demo front page, click ‘**Admin Console**’ and ‘**Create Simple Scenario**’.



This will preload the blockchain with a set of transactions. (The Full Scenario works fine too; the difference between the Simple Scenario and the Full Scenario is that in the Full Scenario more assets are initially loaded onto the blockchain; this takes longer to initialize, however.)

Wait a few moments for the initialization to complete.

Click ‘**OK**’ to close the Creating Scenario log, and then dismiss the ‘Scenario Creation complete’ by clicking the check mark.

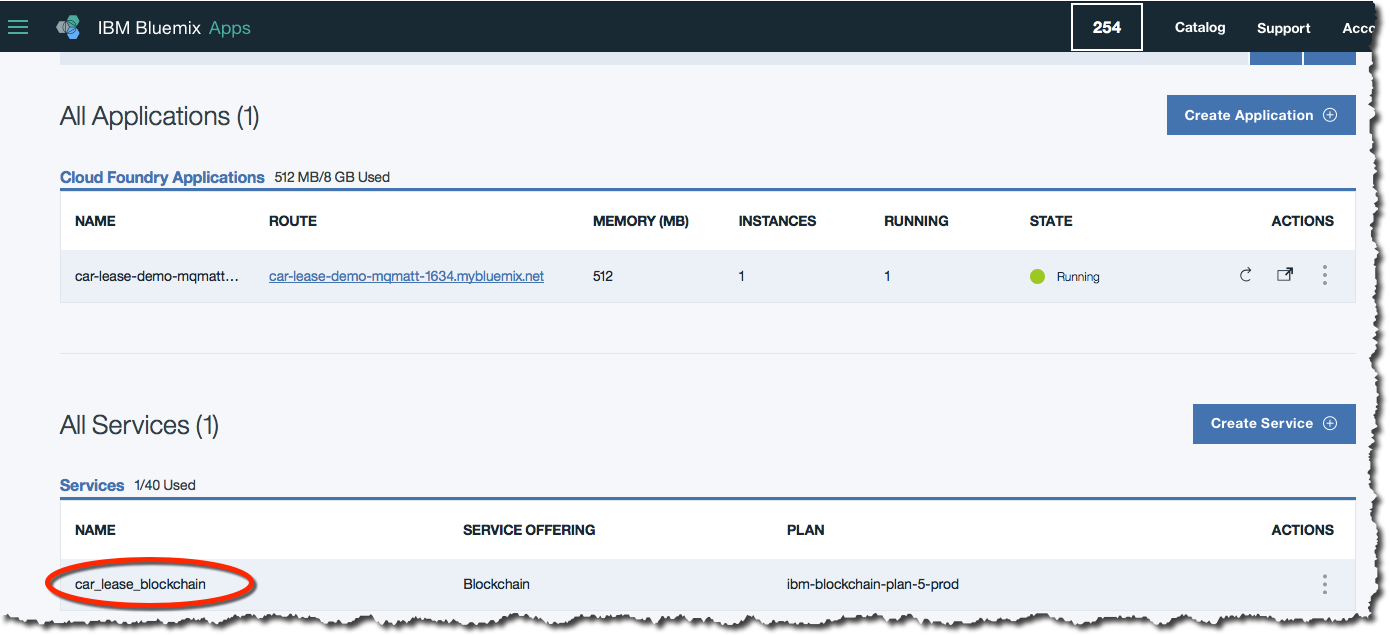
 

# Managing the sample application

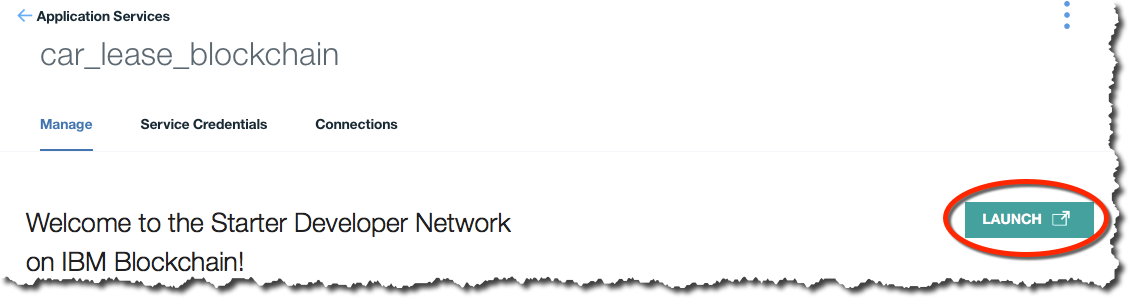
In this section we will use the monitoring tools available inside the Bluemix environment to view and manage the blockchain.

## Viewing the components of the Blockchain service

1. Return to the Bluemix dashboard, either by selecting the  icon in the top left of Bluemix and selecting ‘**Dashboard**’ or by going directly to <https://console.ng.bluemix.net/dashboard/applications>.
2. Click on the **car\_lease\_blockchain** service in the Services section of the dashboard.

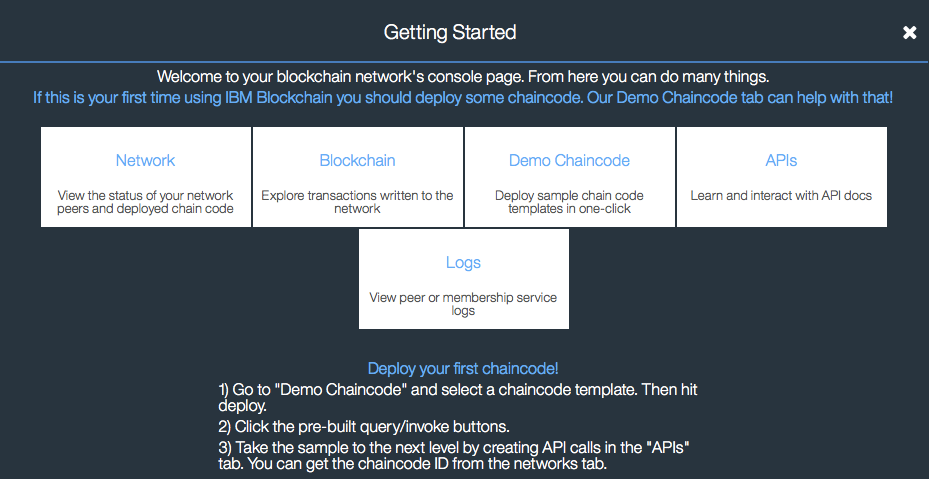


Review the details and select  to launch the blockchain adminstration console.

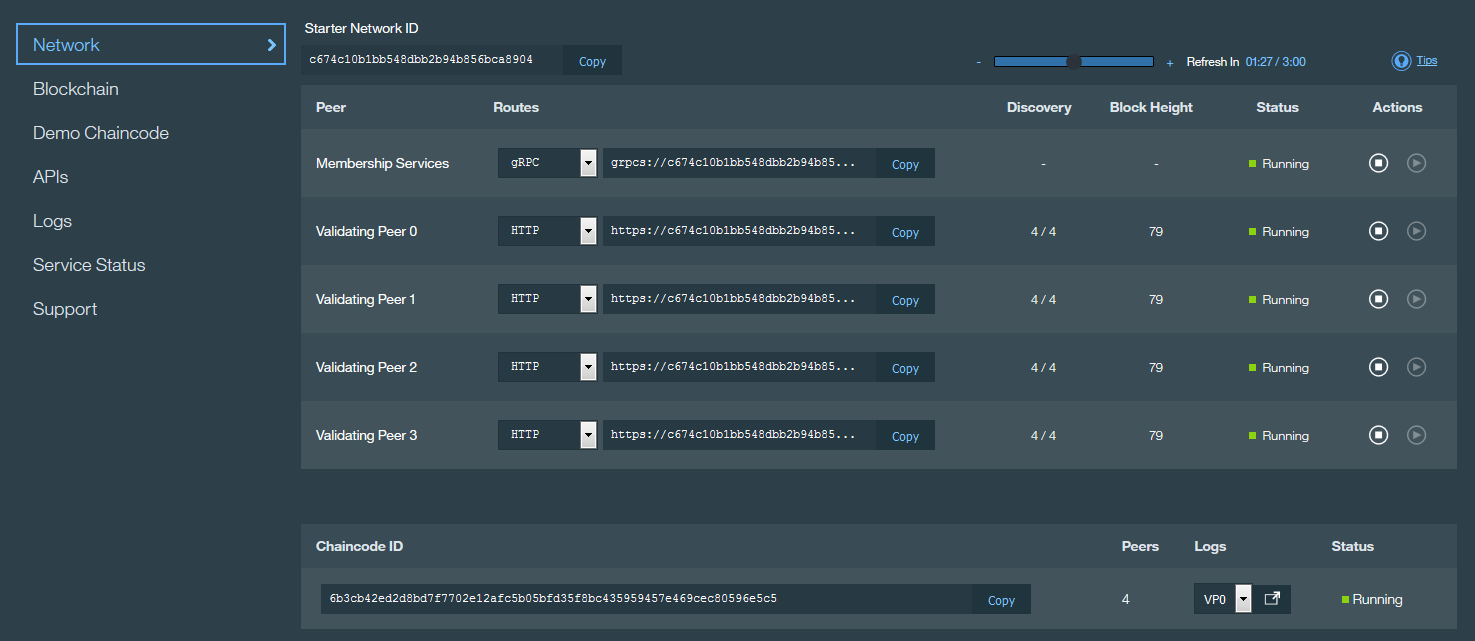


|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| sign-troubleshooting | If you see the following error, then try changing to a Firefox or Chrome browser: |

Close the pop-up showing information about the sections. We’ll look at these sections in more detail throughout this lab.



You should now see the administration page with seven tabs along the top. The ‘**Network**’ tab will be selected.

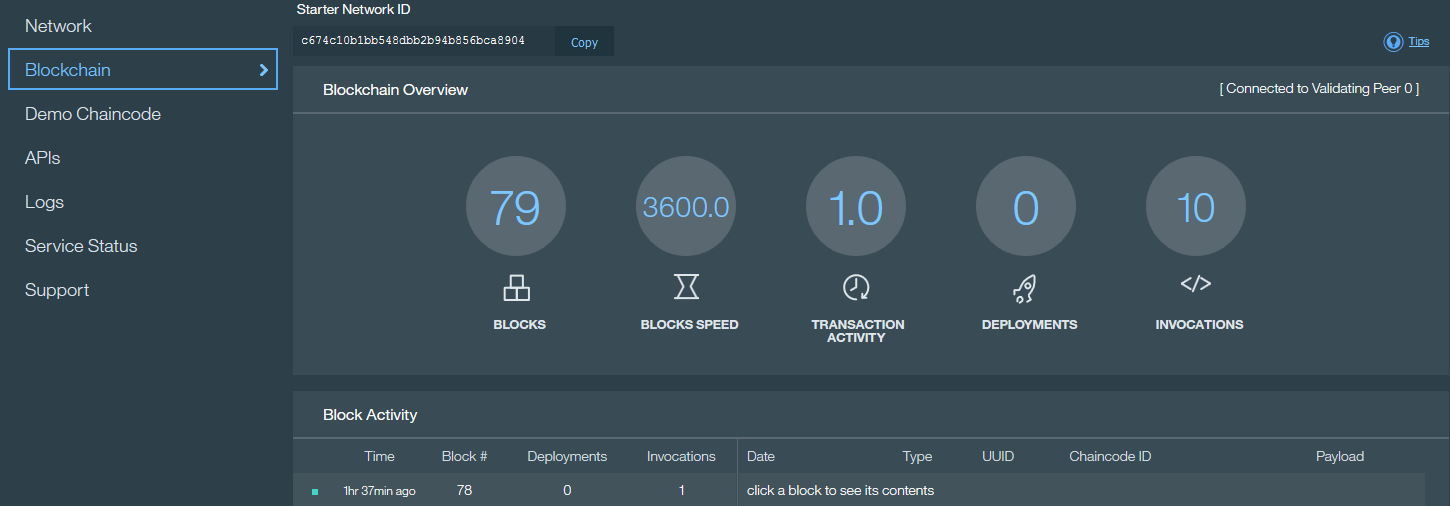


This view confirms that four validating peers and a certificate authority (Membership Services) are running under your Blockchain service. The block height should be the same for each of the validating peers.

## Viewing the Blockchain Explorer

The Blockchain tab shows a visual representation of the state of the Blockchain.

1. Click the ‘**Blockchain**’ tab at the top of the page.

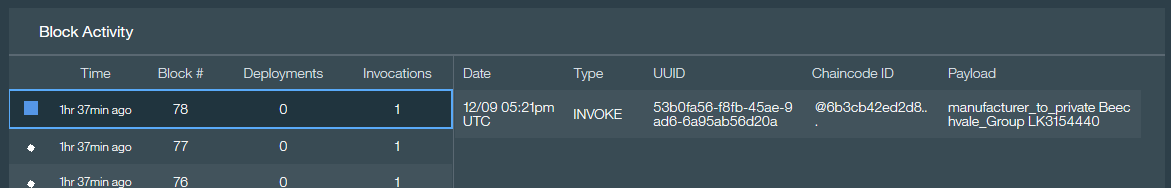


The icons show:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Total number of blocks in the chain |
|  | Average number of blocks per hour |
|  | Average number of transactions per block |
|  | Number of deployment calls made to deploy chaincode |
|  | Number of invoke requests made within this blockchain |

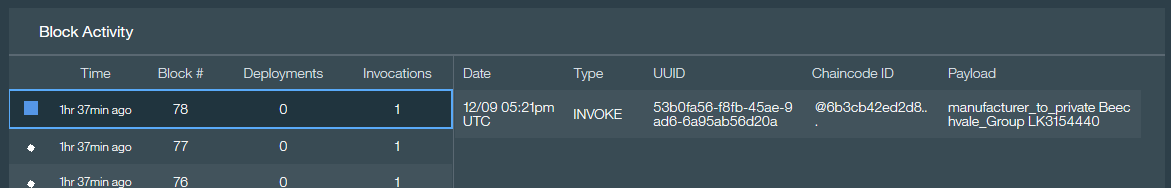
Each block contains a set of transactions. In Hyperledger, a transaction is the record of the request to interact with chaincode (a smart contract). Two important transaction types are:

* *DEPLOY*: The request to deploy a piece of chaincode across all validating peers, so that it can be executed at a later date.
* *INVOKE*: The request to invoke a piece of chaincode (for example, invoke the chaincode to transfer the ownership of a car)

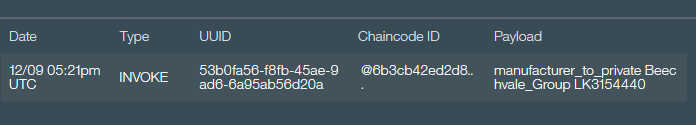
Other request types exist (e.g. query, update, terminate). Not all request types are recorded on the blockchain.

The blocks also include when that block was committed to the blockchain.

Click on a block that contains at least one invocation request.

x

Look through the list of transactions that are contained within the block.



Each line of information is a transaction stored within the block. A block may contain multiple transactions but in this demo there will often only be one transaction per block due to the low frequency of transactions being made. The information displayed is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | The date the transaction was submitted. |
| **Type** | The type of transaction taking place (e.g. INVOKE or DEPLOY). |
| **UUID** | The unique identifier for each transaction. |
| **Chaincode ID** | Refers to the chaincode that is being invoked or deployed. |
| **Payload** | The input parameters to the chaincode. |

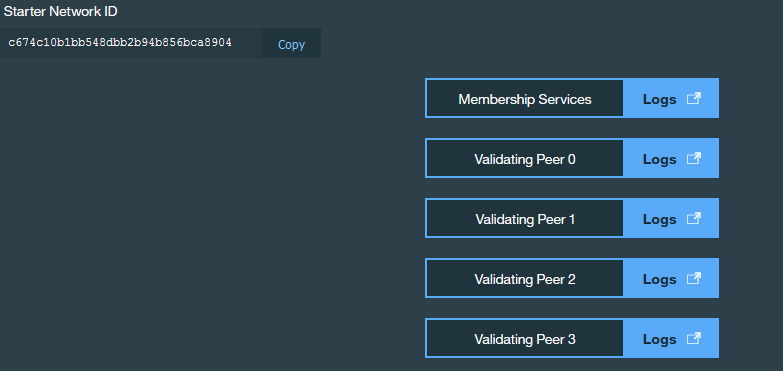
Repeat this for other blocks to understand how the transactions are stored.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| sign-info | When the Blockchain service is initialized for the car leasing application, the first two blocks in the chain usually contain ‘Deploy’ transactions, where the chaincode is deployed to the validating peers.  View these blocks If you’re willing to scroll down the Blockchain explorer that far! |

## Understanding the Blockchain Peers

We are now going to review the logs associated with the peers. This is useful for understanding how the blockchain works, and for diagnosing problems.

1. Click on the ‘**Logs**’ tab at the top of the service page.



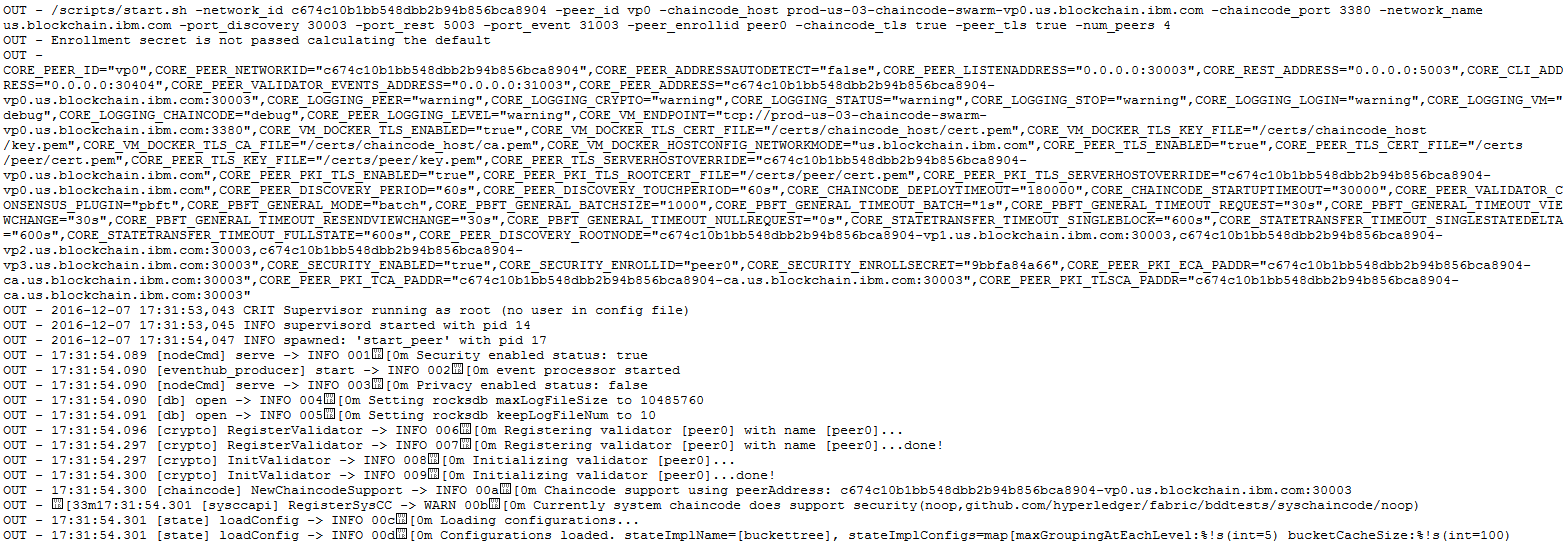
Here we can see that this Blockchain service contains four validating peers and a Certificate Authority.

By looking at the logs for each peer you can verify that every node has executed every transaction.

Click the Logs button against one of the validating peers.



This will show the logs for the selected peer in a new window.

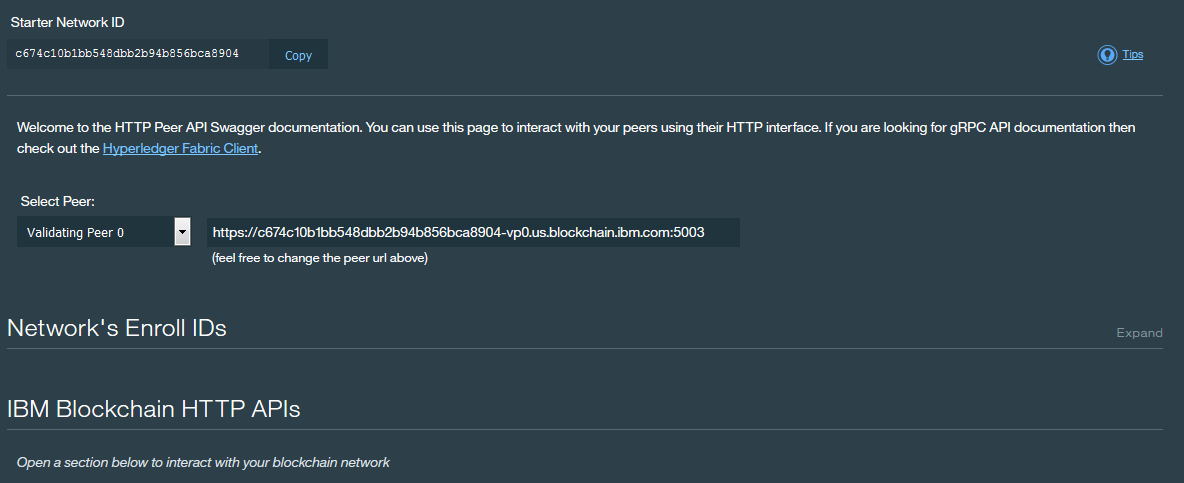


## Interacting with the peers

It is possible to invoke the management APIs that interact directly with the peers. In this section we will be trying out these APIs directly from the Bluemix environment.

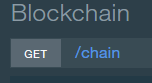
Note that the APIs concern *operationally managing* the Blockchain service – this is not the same as adding and invoking transactions through chaincode!

1. Click on the ‘**APIs**’ tab on the service page.



This page allows you to invoke APIs that will directly interrogate and manage the blockchain. First we will use the API interface to query the height of the Blockchain (the number of blocks).

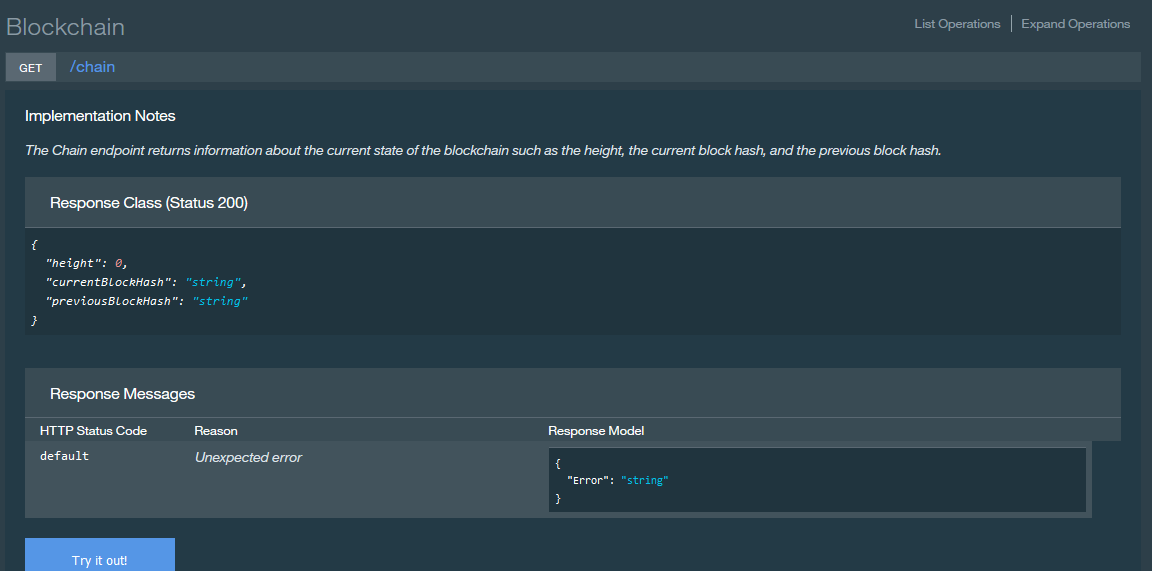
1. Click the ‘**Blockchain**’ section.



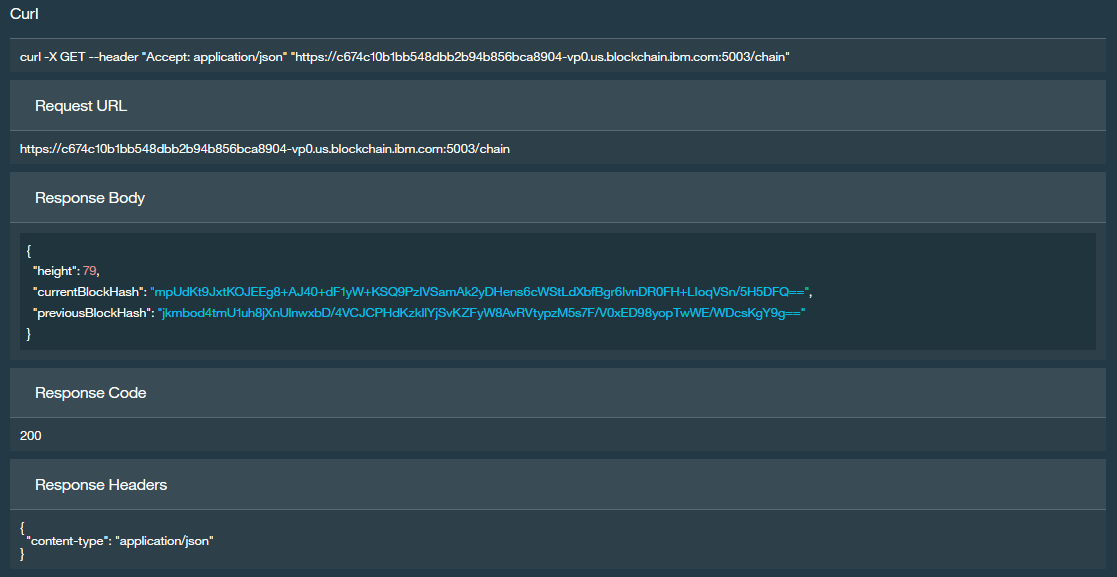
This reveals the **GET /chain** operation which is a valid method to call on the peer.

1. Click ‘**Expand Operation**’ to view information about this API.

This reveals the input and output data formats.



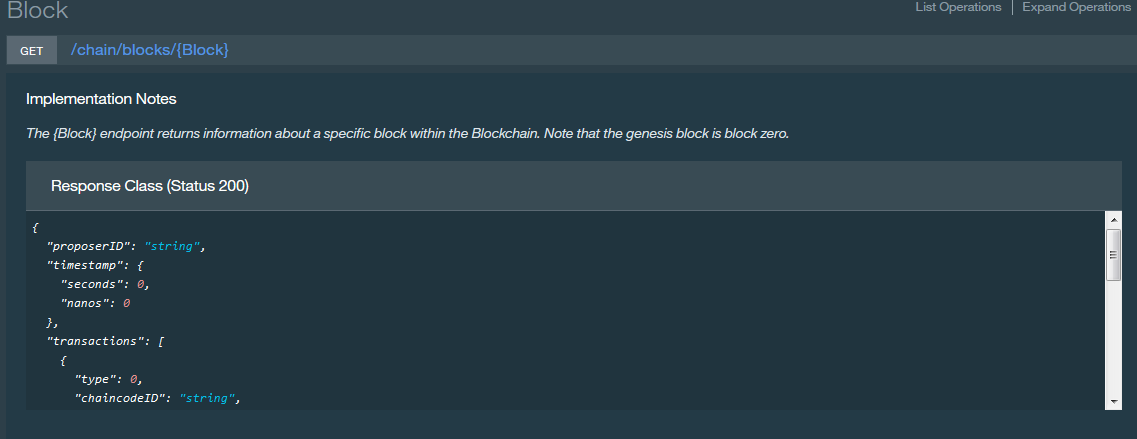
1. Click ‘**Try It Out**’ to invoke the API.



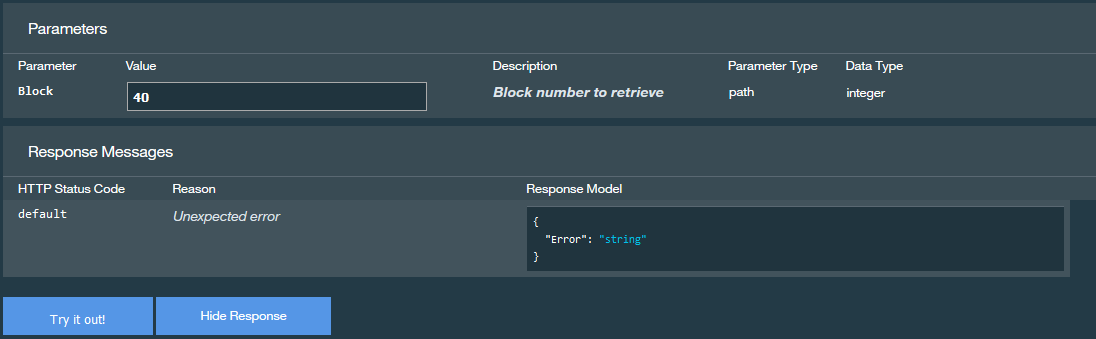
Review the displayed fields:

* The *Request URL* shows the URL that was invoked, including the endpoint information of the peer (hostname:port) and the method call (/chain).
* The *Response Body* shows the information that was returned including, importantly, the height of the blockchain.
* The *Response Code* 200 shows that the request was successful.
* The *Response Headers* confirms that the response body has been returned in a JSON data structure.

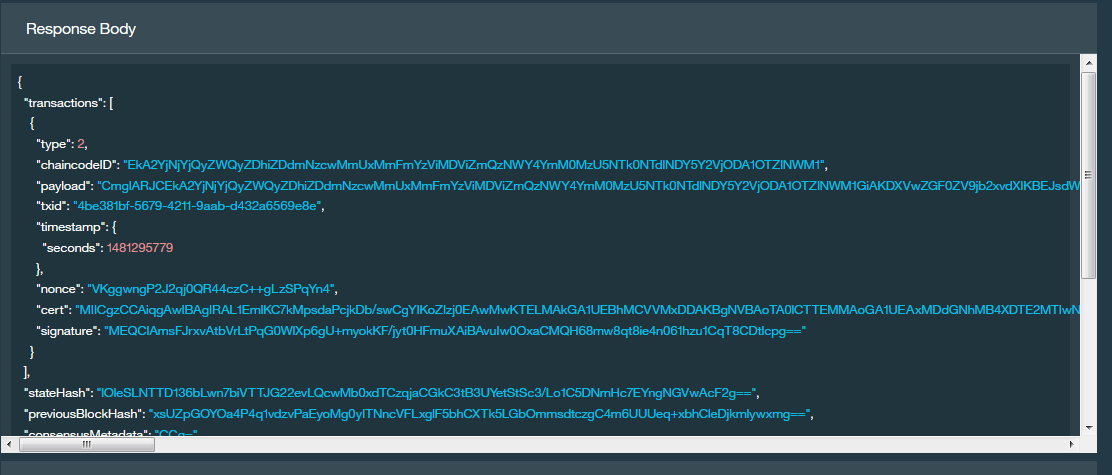
1. Expand the ‘**Block**’ section and review the information on how to interrogate an individual block in the Blockchain.



1. Fill in the ‘**Block**’ parameter to be a number less than the height of the chain and click ‘**Try it out!**’.



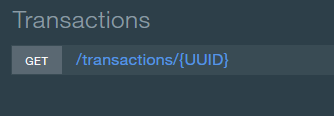
1. Review the information returned in the Response Body.



Block content description:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **transactions** | An array of transactions stored in the block. |
| **type** | This shows the possible values:   1. Undefined 2. Deployment 3. Invoke 4. Query |
| **chaincodeID** | ID of the chaincode that was invoked or deployed. |
| **payload** | Input parameters to the chaincode. |
| **uuid** | Unique identifier of this transaction. |
| **timestamp** | Time at which the block or transaction order was proposed. |
| **cert** | Certificate of the participant submitting the transaction. |
| **signature** | Signature of the participant submitting the transaction. |
| **stateHash** | Hash of the world state changes. |
| **previousBlockHash** | Hash of the previous block in the chain. |
| **nonHashData** | Data stored with the block, but not included in the block’s hash. This allows data to be different per peer or discarded without affecting the blockchain. |
| **localLedgerCommitTimestamp** | Time the block was added to the ledger on the local peer. |

1. Copy the UUID field of a transaction from a block; this will be of the form “a338564e-ceef-4df6-9efd-95b65fa43efc” // It can be find @Blockchain Session, as written in step \_21
2. Click the ‘**Transactions**’ section.



This reveals the **GET /transactions/{UUID}** operation which is a valid method to call on the peer.

1. Paste the transaction UUID and click ‘**Try it out!**’.

The ‘payload’ field is base64 encoded (use a web tool such as <http://www.base64decode.org> for decoding this information); when decoded you’ll see that the payload includes the chaincode ID of the smart contract being called together with its input parameters. For example:



Note that this application does not encrypt the transactions, so the payloads are visible (albeit base64 encoded) to all.

1. Now spend some time interacting with the other APIs available to you.

## Viewing the Service Status, Support Contacts and Samples

1. Click on the ‘**Status**’ tab at the top of the service page.

This page shows you the recent availability of the Blockchain service on Bluemix, and also the version of Hyperledger Fabric that is being used by your network.

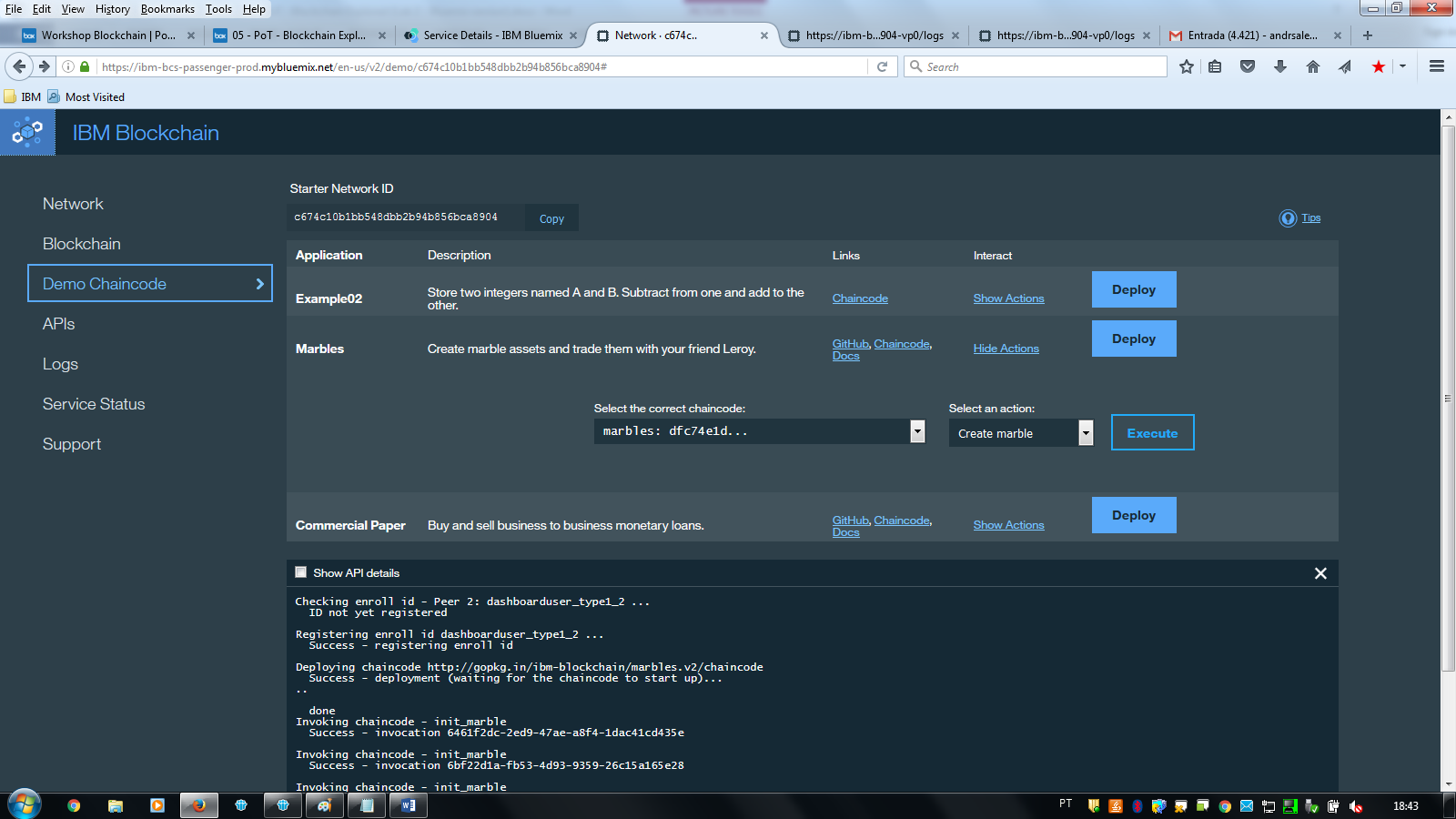
1. Click on the ‘**Support**’ tab at the top of the service page.

This page shows you how to get more help with IBM Bluemix and the Blockchain service.

1. Click on the ‘**Demo Chaincode**’ tab at the top of the service page.

This page gives the opportunity to deploy more samples to the Blockchain service, and also some how to get started with writing your own blockchain applications and chaincode.

Blockchain Trading Marbles, for example.

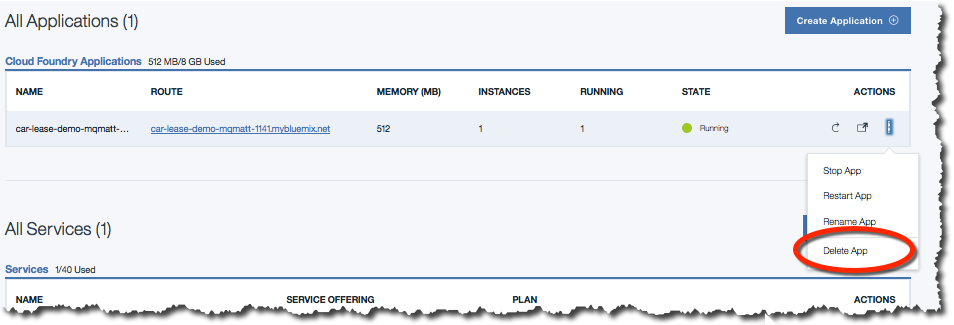


We will look at chaincode development in more detail in the follow-on lab “Blockchain Unchained”.

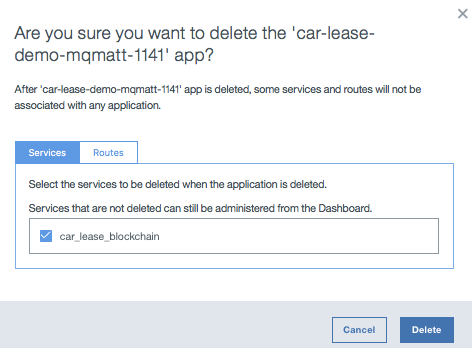
# Removing the sample application

The final section of this lab aims to stop and remove the Blockchain service you created.

1. Return to the Bluemix Dashboard (<https://console.ng.bluemix.net/dashboard/applications)>.
2. Click the three vertical dots at the right of the Car Leasing application Settings icon in the car lease demo application and select ‘**Delete App**’ from the menu.



1. Ensure that the ‘car\_lease\_blockchain’ service is selected for deletion and click ‘**Delete**’.



1. Wait for the items to be stopped and deleted. Once this is done, both the application and the associated service will no longer be visible in the Bluemix dashboard.

**Congratulations on completing Lab two – “Blockchain Explored”!**

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