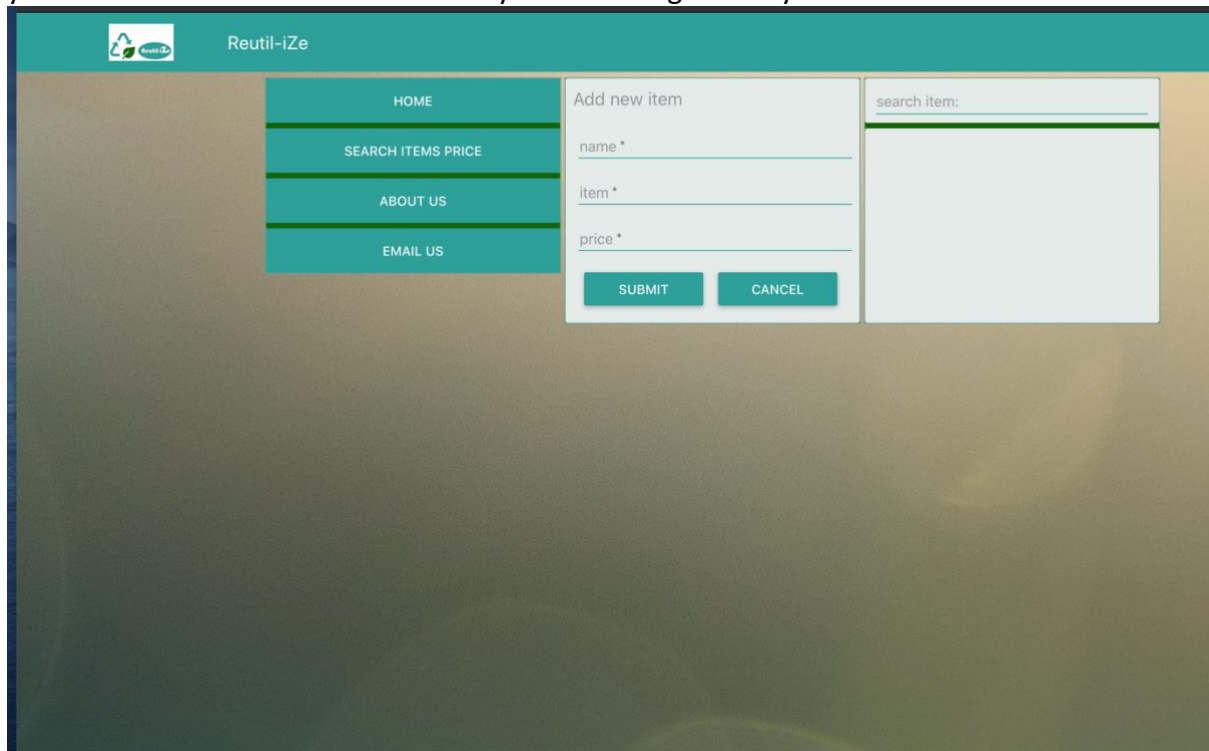


Building your own website with Node-Red

I have created a website which you can use to change to your own company. In this exercise you will learn how it is build and how you can change the layout. The website looks like this.



On the top you see the horizontal bar with the name and logo of our company.

Below on the main site there are 3 sections.

Section 1: vertical menu buttons

Section 2: input form

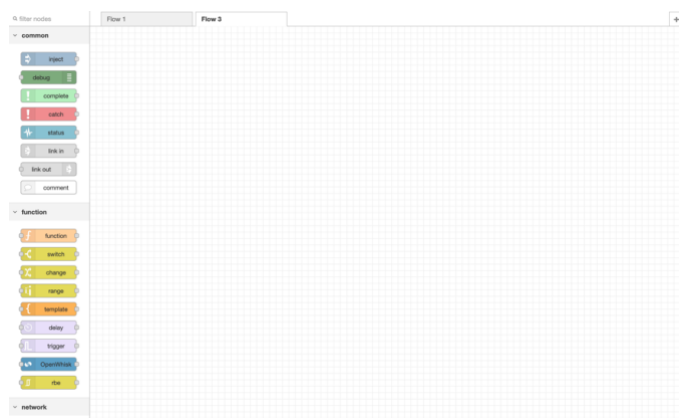
Section 3: A search form with the output screen.

I am going to take you step by step to create this website yourself. Just follow the actions below.

1- Creating the Node-Red Cloud instance.

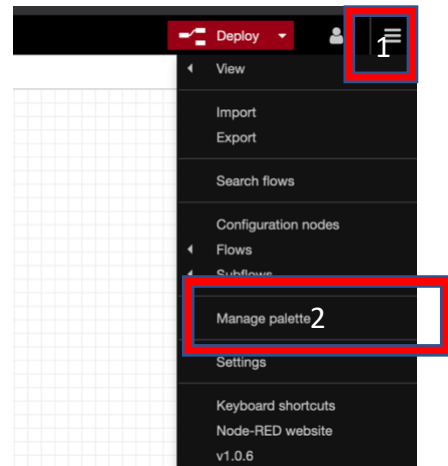
Watch the video **installing Node-red** and follow the steps yourself.

You will end with a Node-Red instance which looks like this. If you look at the screen you will see the building blocks, called “nodes” on the left side. In the middle you have the area where you can drag and drop your building blocks to and connect them together. Feel free to play around a bit. You can delete a Node by hitting the “delete” button after selecting it.

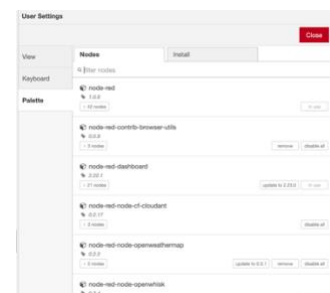


2- Install additional Nodes

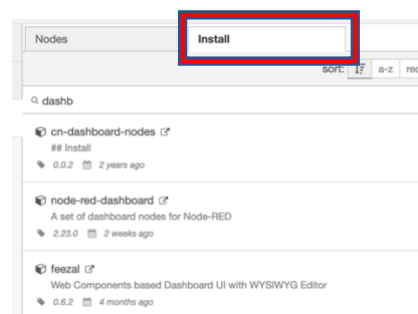
Open the hamburger menu on the upper right corner(1). This opens a menu like this.
Choose the option “manage palette” (2).



The “Manage Palette” opens a screen where you can find all the Nodes which are installed, and an option to search and install additional Nodes.



- 3- Select the “install” tab and in the search field type the word “dashboard”. This gives you all the nodes and node collections for the Dashboard usage.
Select the one called “Node-Red-Dashboard” and hit install.



Now some additional Nodes are being installed. This may take up to one minute.
Please note that in some occasions a red error will occur saying that the installation has failed. You need to try again until you get a large green message that the installation was successful. This is a bug which can happen sometimes depending on your location.

- 4- Close the field and return to the main screen. Inspect the left side of the screen and look for the nodes installed under “dashboard”.

The Dashboard Nodes are being used to build a Graphical screen which you can use to interact. This will be our website. I have created the example website for you which uses these Nodes.



The next step is to import the example website so you do not have to build it yourself from scratch... lets go.

Import an existing flow

Open the file website.txt. The file is provided in the Github repository

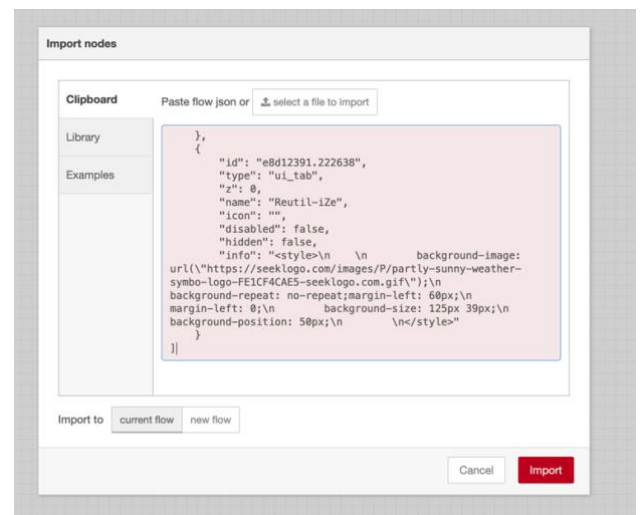
You can open it with any text editor installed on your computer. When opening it, it will look most probably weird and not understandable. don't worry. This is why we use Node-Red, so we don't need to understand the coding language.

```
{
  {
    "id": "269b39a3.096916",
    "type": "tab",
    "label": "Flow 1",
    "disabled": false,
    "info": ""
  },
  {
    "id": "75cce778.71f111",
    "type": "comment",
    "z": "269b39a3.096916",
    "name": "Logo & background image",
    "info": "",
    "x": 290,
    "y": 20,
    "wires": []
  },
  {
    "id": "64cef032.cb276",
    "type": "comment",
    "z": "269b39a3.096916",
    "name": "button section",
    "info": "",
    "x": 250,
    "y": 200,
    "wires": []
  }
}
```

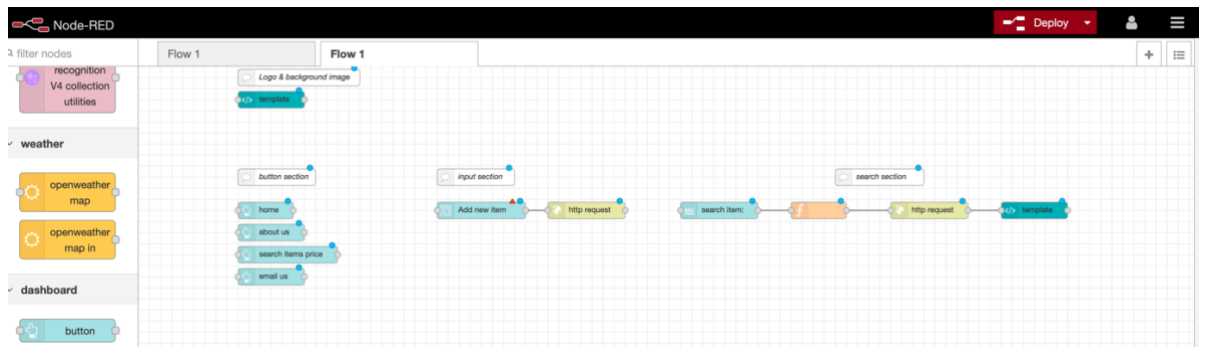
- 5- Please open the file and select all the text (pressing ctrl +a) and then copy (ctrl + c).
- 6- R to your Node-Red environment and select the hamburger menu on the upper right corner. This opens the menu we already used.
- 7- Select **“Import”**.
This opens a screen where you can “paste” the code from the website.txt.

Paste the code with ctrl + v. Now you will see the code appearing in the pink colored middle section.

- 8- Press **“Import”**.



If you look at your Node-Red screen you will see that a new tab has appeared on the top. You can click on it and this will open a new page with nodes already connected.



- 9- Press the **“deploy”** button to save and activate the flow.

The Nodes are used to build the website which I have showed at the beginning. The white blocks are text fields to explain what the nodes below do. Take a moment to see how it is related to the website.

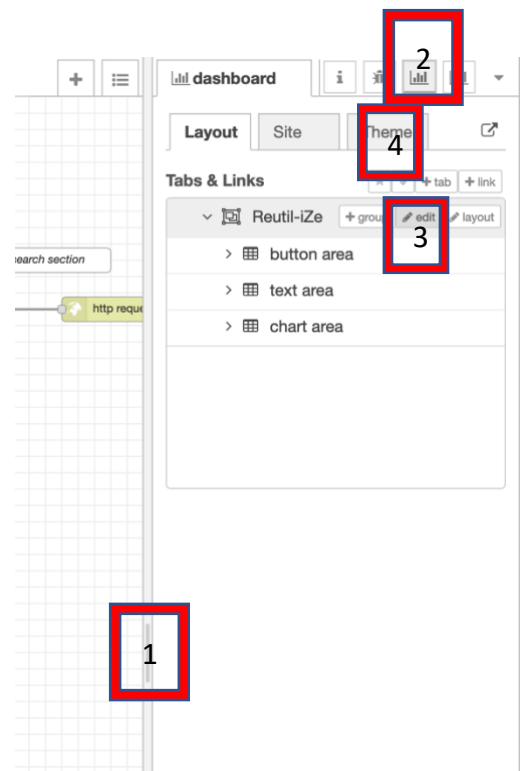
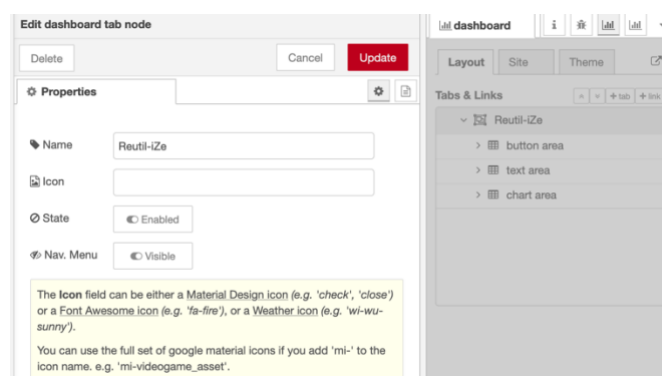
Tip: In order to see the webpage you need the same internet address as used for your Node-Red environment **BUT** instead of having the **/red/** at the end use **/ui/**. UI means User Interface. The URL should look something like this:

Node-Red environment-	https://node-red-xxxxxxx.mybluemix.net/red/
Node-Red website-	https://node-red-xxxxxxx.mybluemix.net/ui/

Changing the website

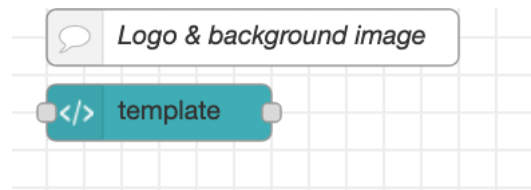
It is now easy to change the website look and name by double clicking on the nodes and change the codes.

- 10- Click on the right side on the small thick line which you can drag to the left and open an option menu(1).
- 11- On the third button with the little bar Graph you will see the options for the website(2).
- 12- Select the **“edit”** button and change the name to your company
- 13- look at the tab called **“Theme”** and change the colors of the website.



Bonus

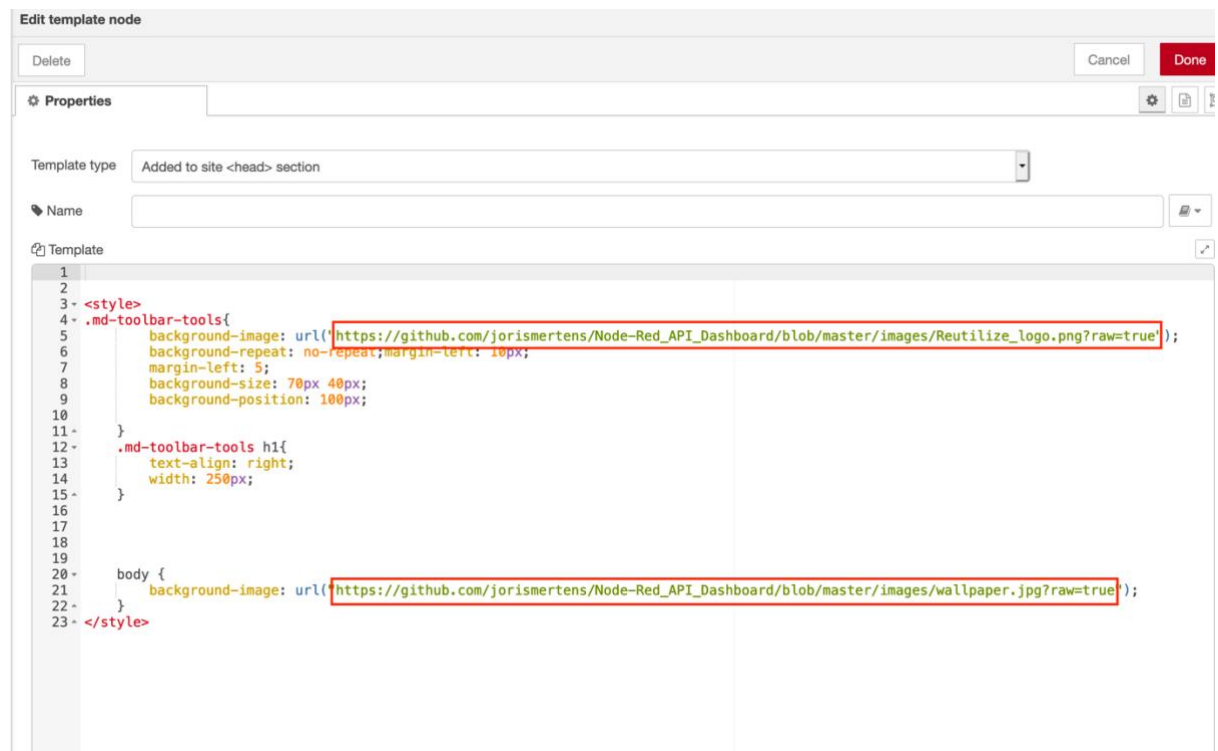
If you look at the Nodes there is a Node called "template". If you click on the node you will see coding which controls the little logo of the website and the background picture. You can change the website URL to anything else as long as it is pointing to a picture on the internet.



In my case the links will direct to the logo image and background image. Try to click on the link and you will see:

https://github.com/jorismertens/Node-Red_API_Dashboard/blob/master/images/Reutilize_logo.png?raw=true

https://github.com/jorismertens/Node-Red_API_Dashboard/blob/master/images/wallpaper.jpg?raw=true



Now try to change URL address to a different picture. For example another background image.

Tip: Do not forget to close and deploy the Node-Red flow after every change!