

IBM Watson IoT – T2 – Platform – NodeRED flow

Commissioning task 2

1. Introduction

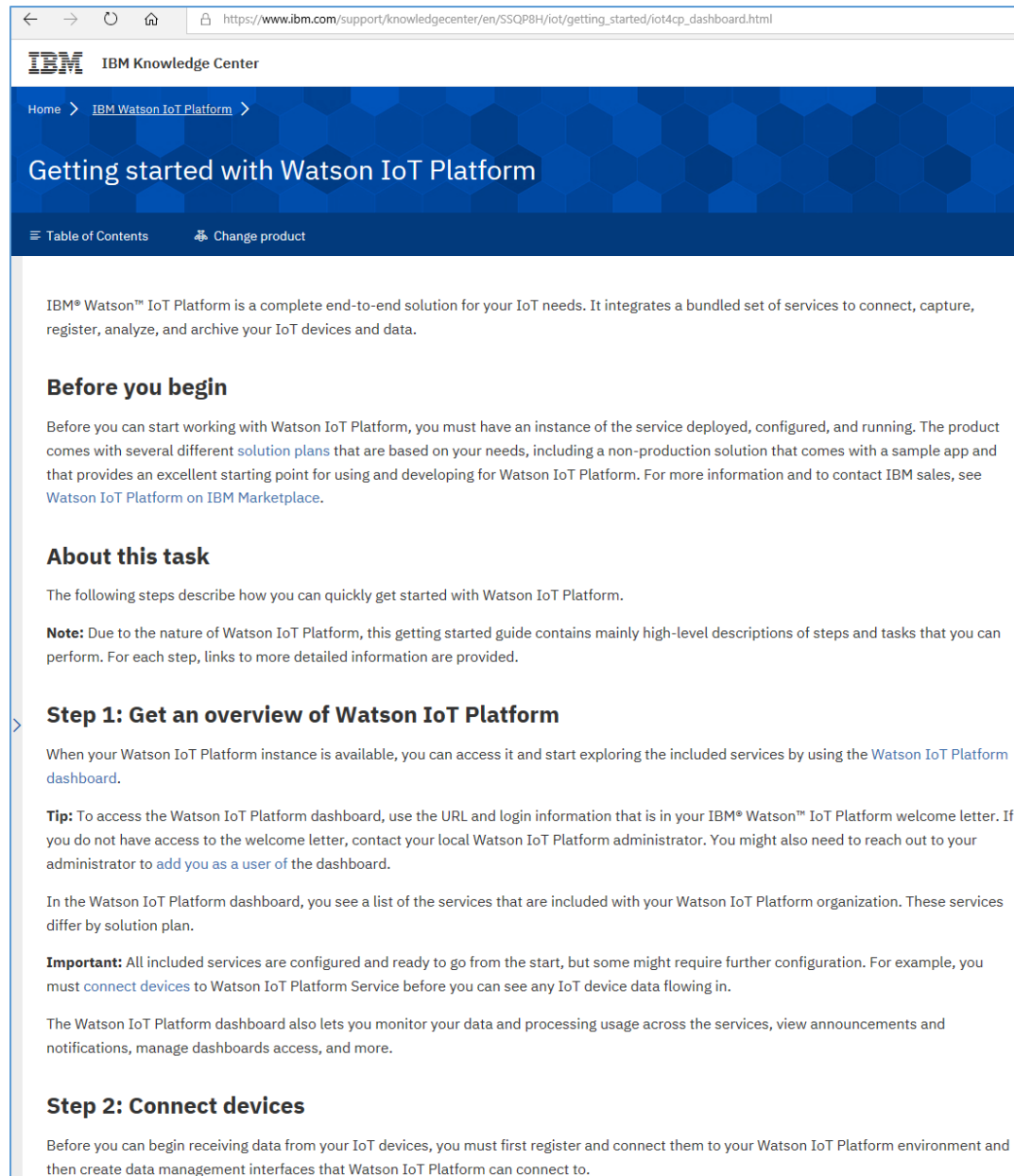
In the commissioning task 1 you signed for an user id into IBM Cloud environment, created a device authentication and wrote device data either with MQTT application or micro controller.

If you did not complete the above mentioned task according to instruction in this commissioning task series you can look for instructions in the latest instructions published by IBM. Browse to IBM Knowledge Center and further to subtitle IBM Watson IoT.

https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SSQP8H/iot/kc_welcome.html

Please select "Getting Started". Most probably you will end up to page

https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SSQP8H/iot/getting_started/iot4cp_dashboar.html



← → ↻ 🏠 https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SSQP8H/iot/getting_started/iot4cp_dashboard.html

IBM IBM Knowledge Center

Home > [IBM Watson IoT Platform](#) >

Getting started with Watson IoT Platform

☰ Table of Contents 🔄 Change product

IBM® Watson™ IoT Platform is a complete end-to-end solution for your IoT needs. It integrates a bundled set of services to connect, capture, register, analyze, and archive your IoT devices and data.

Before you begin

Before you can start working with Watson IoT Platform, you must have an instance of the service deployed, configured, and running. The product comes with several different [solution plans](#) that are based on your needs, including a non-production solution that comes with a sample app and that provides an excellent starting point for using and developing for Watson IoT Platform. For more information and to contact IBM sales, see [Watson IoT Platform on IBM Marketplace](#).

About this task

The following steps describe how you can quickly get started with Watson IoT Platform.

Note: Due to the nature of Watson IoT Platform, this getting started guide contains mainly high-level descriptions of steps and tasks that you can perform. For each step, links to more detailed information are provided.

Step 1: Get an overview of Watson IoT Platform

When your Watson IoT Platform instance is available, you can access it and start exploring the included services by using the [Watson IoT Platform dashboard](#).

Tip: To access the Watson IoT Platform dashboard, use the URL and login information that is in your IBM® Watson™ IoT Platform welcome letter. If you do not have access to the welcome letter, contact your local Watson IoT Platform administrator. You might also need to reach out to your administrator to [add you as a user](#) of the dashboard.

In the Watson IoT Platform dashboard, you see a list of the services that are included with your Watson IoT Platform organization. These services differ by solution plan.

Important: All included services are configured and ready to go from the start, but some might require further configuration. For example, you must [connect devices](#) to Watson IoT Platform Service before you can see any IoT device data flowing in.

The Watson IoT Platform dashboard also lets you monitor your data and processing usage across the services, view announcements and notifications, manage dashboards access, and more.

Step 2: Connect devices

Before you can begin receiving data from your IoT devices, you must first register and connect them to your Watson IoT Platform environment and then create data management interfaces that Watson IoT Platform can connect to.

Kuva 1. IBM Knowledge Center. Getting Started with Watson IoT Platform. / https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SSQP8H/iot/getting_started/iot4cp_dashboard.html 19.5. 2019 and 1.10. 2020

By following the instructions and the instructions behind the links in the page you need to establish a IBM Watson IoT platform and at least one device authentication in the platform.

Now you are ready to begin with this commissioning task 2.

In the commissioning task 2 we process device data in the Watson IoT platform.

Please note that the IBM is continuously updating and developing their services. When you will be reading this the operations introduced in these instructions might already look different or exist on different web addresses. Anyway, the commissioning tasks introduced in these instructions are those that you would always need to complete.

2. Processing the device data. A device simulated in the Node-RED development environment.

Node-RED is an easy to use visual tool that can be used to develop applications, connections between applications and connections to external services.

You can have a look on options on building with the Node-RED at <https://nodered.org/docs/getting-started/>

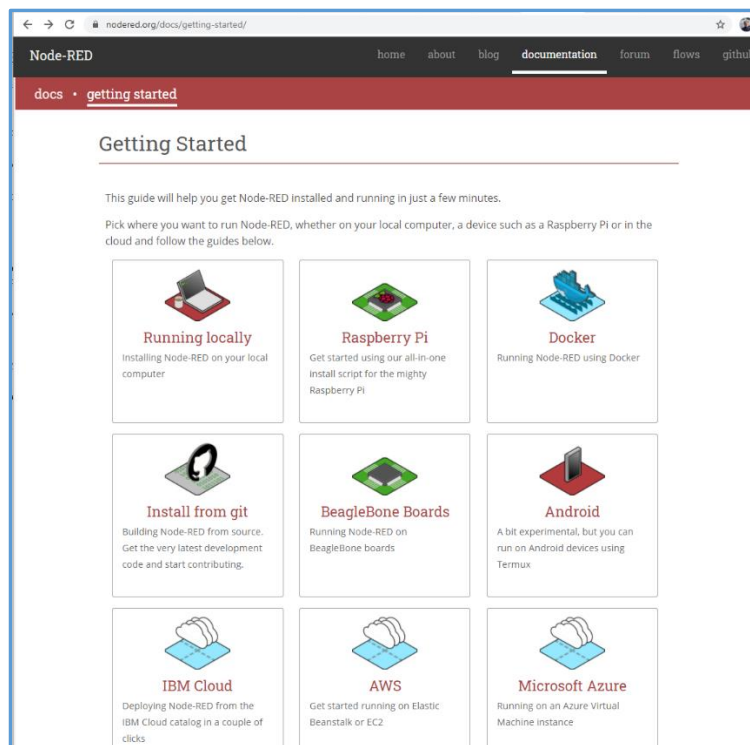


Fig. 2.1 The Node-RED / <https://nodered.org/docs/getting-started/> 1.10. 2020

In the next steps we will import into your Watson IoT platform a packet which includes the Node-RED installation, a CloudantNoSQL database used by Node-RED and a ready to use example.

A link to the installation package can be found both in the IBM Developer documentation and in the IBM Cloud Catalog.

In the IBM Developer page

<https://developer.ibm.com/recipes/tutorials/getting-started-with-watson-iot-platform-using-node-red/>

there is a link as use large button " Create toolchain ". Click the link, register with your IBM ID and follow the instructions.

OR

in navigate to the IBM Cloud Catalog

<https://cloud.ibm.com/catalog>

Look for software "Node-RED".

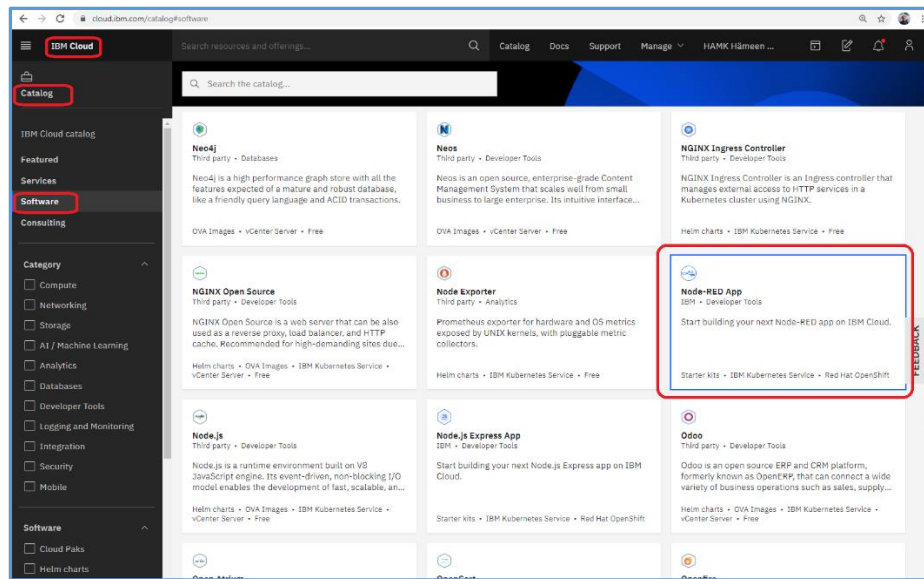


Fig. 2.2 IBM Cloud Catalog. Node-RED App. / <https://cloud.ibm.com/catalog> 1.10. 2020

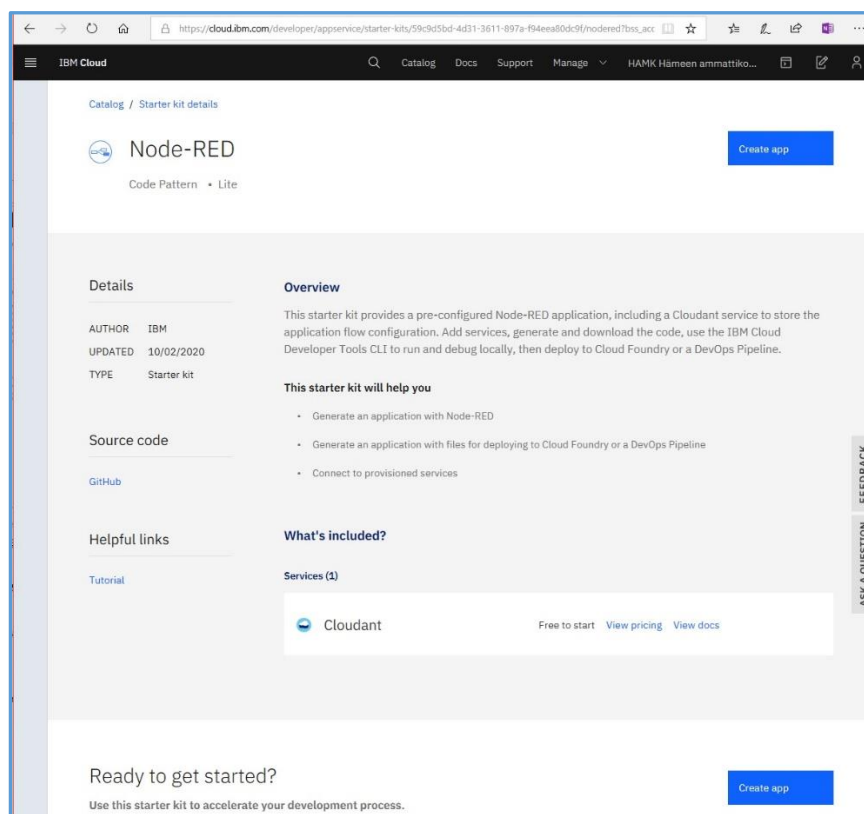


Fig 2.3 NodeRED. / 21.2.2020

Click the Create App.

In this stage there might be parameters to fill in. Please fill in the name for your application. It is preferable to write the name by using no spaces and using only common letter and number characters. Please use a name that you can later easily recognise as a name for this application.

Select the same region as you have selected in the earlier Watson IoT exercises.

The new application will be visible on your IBM Cloud Resource list.

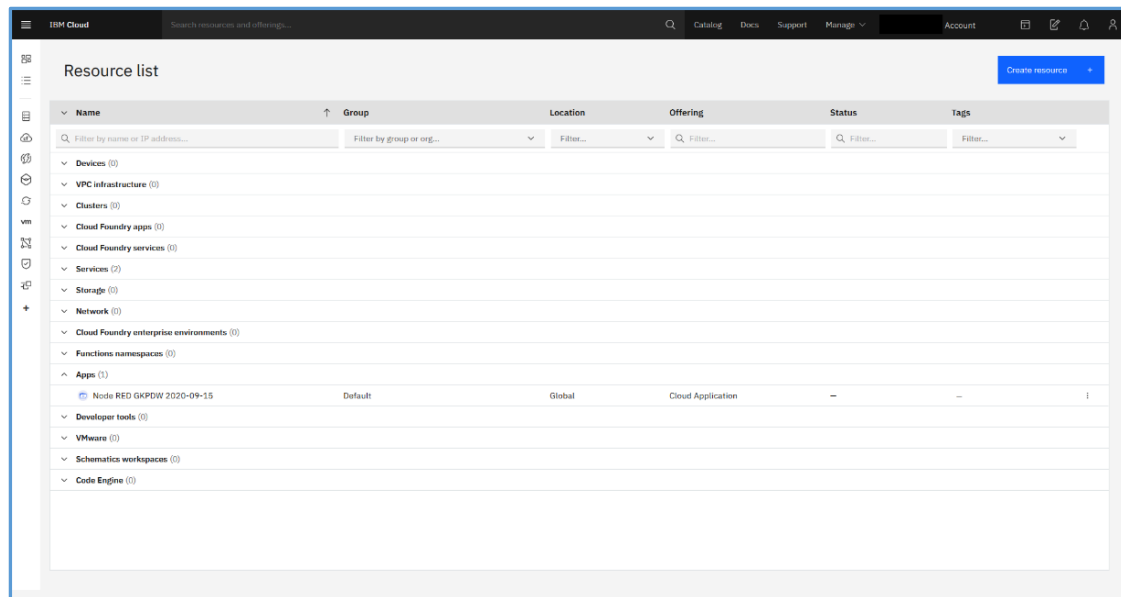


Fig. 2.4 A student's view on creating Node-RED app / student M.Y. 1.10. 2020

Open the Node RED....

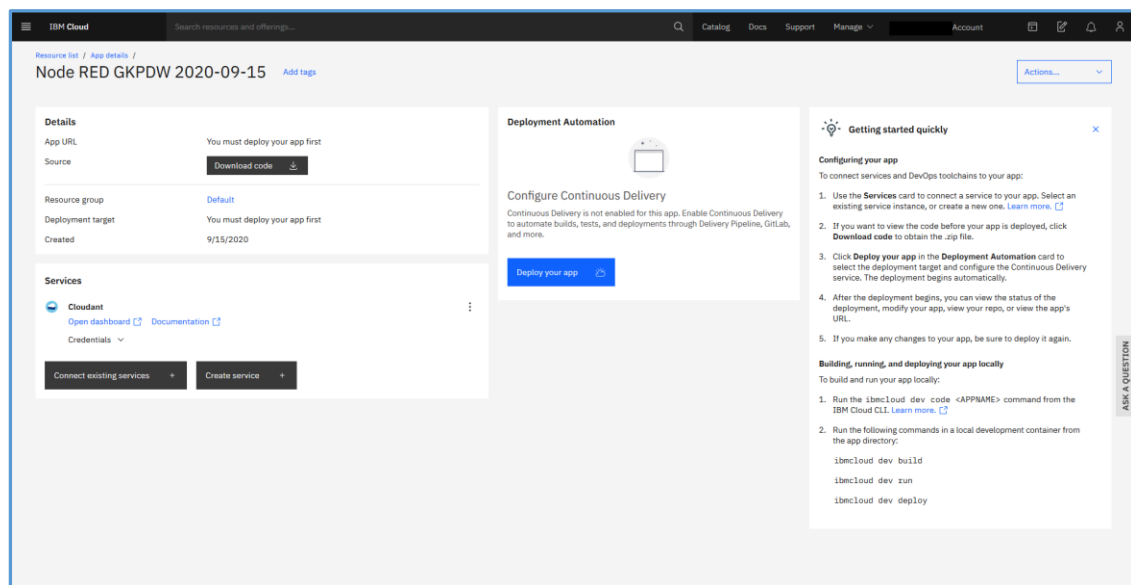


Fig. 2.5 Deploy the app / student M.Y. 1.10. 2020

Deploy the app by clicking Deploy your app.

A new view will open.

Resource list / App details / Node RED GKPDW 2020-09-15

Select the deployment target | Configure the DevOps toolchain

Deployment Automation

Select your deployment target and configure your DevOps toolchain. After you click **Create**, the toolchain is created, and the deployment process is started automatically.

Deployment target

- Kubernetes Service** (IBM)
 - Deploy, scale, and manage your containerized application workloads to highly available clusters.
- Red Hat OpenShift** (IBM)
 - Deploy your apps on highly available clusters that come installed with Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Cloud.
- Cloud Foundry** (IBM)
 - Deploy and run your applications without managing servers or clusters. A Lite plan is available for quick and easy deployment.

IBM Cloud API key

Number of instances: 1

Memory allocation per instance: 64 MB (slider: 2000 MB to 256 MB)

Region: London | Organization: m... | Space: dev

Host: node-red-gkpdw-2020-09-15 | Domain: eu-gb.mybluemix.net

Buttons: Cancel, Next

Step 1. Select the deployment target

Select your deployment target, and then provide the configuration information.

IBM Cloud Foundry

Cloud Foundry is the premier industry standard Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) that ensures fast, easy, and reliable deployment of cloud-native apps. Cloud Foundry ensures that the build and deploy aspects of coding remain carefully coordinated with any attached services – resulting in quick, consistent and reliable hosting of applications. Cloud Foundry has a Lite plan that allows quick deployments for testing purposes.

Before you begin

- If your account doesn't have a Cloud Foundry org, you must create one. [Create org](#)

Steps

- Select the number of instances, memory allocation, region, org, and space.
- Select the domain and provide a host name.

Fig. 2.6 Cloud Foundry! / student M.Y. 1.10. 2020

Select the Cloud Foundry!

Create a new API key. Copy your API key in a text file. Save it!!

The fields are filled with default values as seen on the picture. Select the same region as earlier.

Click Next. And wait..... for a long time..... you will see “in progress” or similar message.

Finally it will be in your Resource list.

Name	Group	Location	Offering	Status	Tags
Node RED GKPDW 2020-09-15	m...	London	SDK for Node.js™	Started	—
Cloud Foundry apps (1)					
Cloud Foundry services (1)					
node-red-gkpdw-2020--cloudant-1600168826815-881...	m...	London	Cloudant	Provisioned	—
Services (3)					
Continuous Delivery	Default	London	Continuous Delivery	Active	—
Internet of Things Platform-Si	Default	London	Internet of Things Platform	Active	—
node-red-gkpdw-2020--cloudant-1600168826815	Default	Frankfurt	Cloudant	Active	—
Storage (0)					
Network (0)					
Cloud Foundry enterprise environments (0)					
Functions namespaces (0)					
Apps (1)					
Node RED GKPDW 2020-09-15	Default	Global	Cloud Application	—	—
Developer tools (1)					
VMware (0)					

Fig. 2.7 The Node-RED application with it's resources in the IBM Cloud Resource list. / student M.Y. 1.10. 2020

Now you can select the Cloud Foundry apps, Node RED and start it if it is not started.

When the "starting" changes finally to "Running" the installation is ready. This can take several minutes!

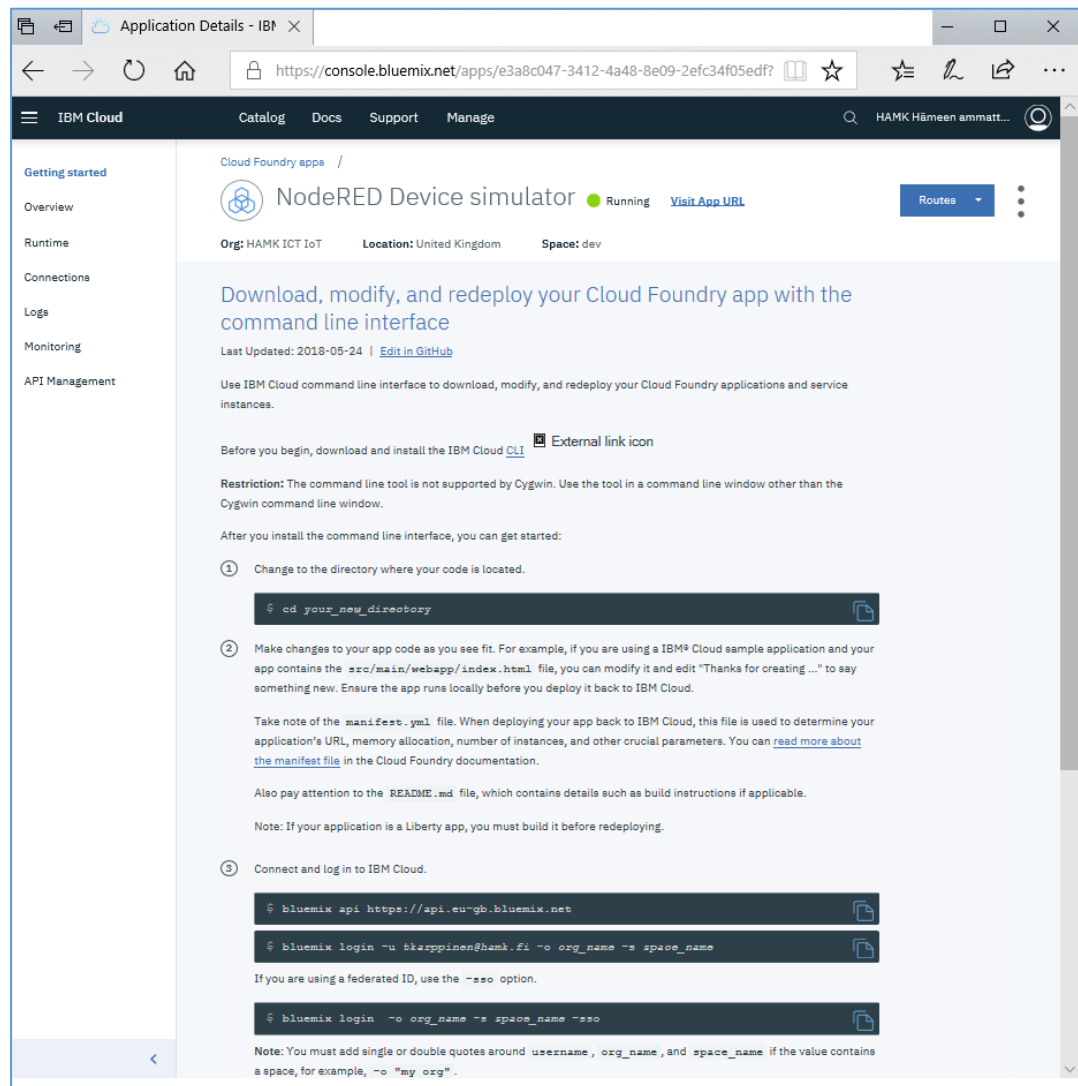


Fig. 2.8 Your own NodeRED environment has just been created.. / 2019

Click with the mouse right button "Visit App URL" tai "Routes".

By clicking you will open a Node-RED editor. That looks like the red coloured Node-RED environment. For the editor you need to create a user name and a pass word.

You might end up to a ready to use Node-RED editor page.

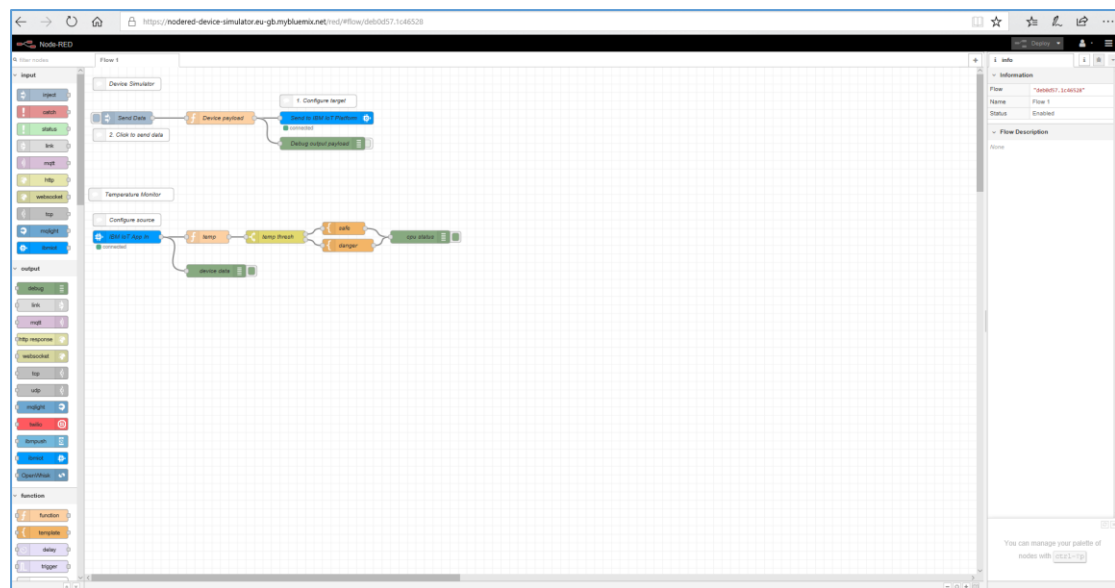


Fig. 2.9 NodeRED flow editor. / 2019

Or the page could be almost empty with just two nodes. (1.10.2020) .

When making changes to this so called flow editor you need to press the “Deploy” in the top right corner to get these changes updated.

The type of each node can be recognised by the colour and symbol. The name text is often rewritten.

The messages from the Debug nodes will be visible after you click the bug image “debug” on the top right corner.

You might have an empty flow page if you did not create the Node-RED environment by installing the “Internet of Things Platform Starter”. If this is what happened that is no problem. You can still create the same functions by creating a Node-RED flow page. Import the same nodes. Populate the nodes with the same content as seen in the next picture.

You can as well complete the flow from “Internet of Things Platform Starter” to have exactly the same nodes with the similar content.

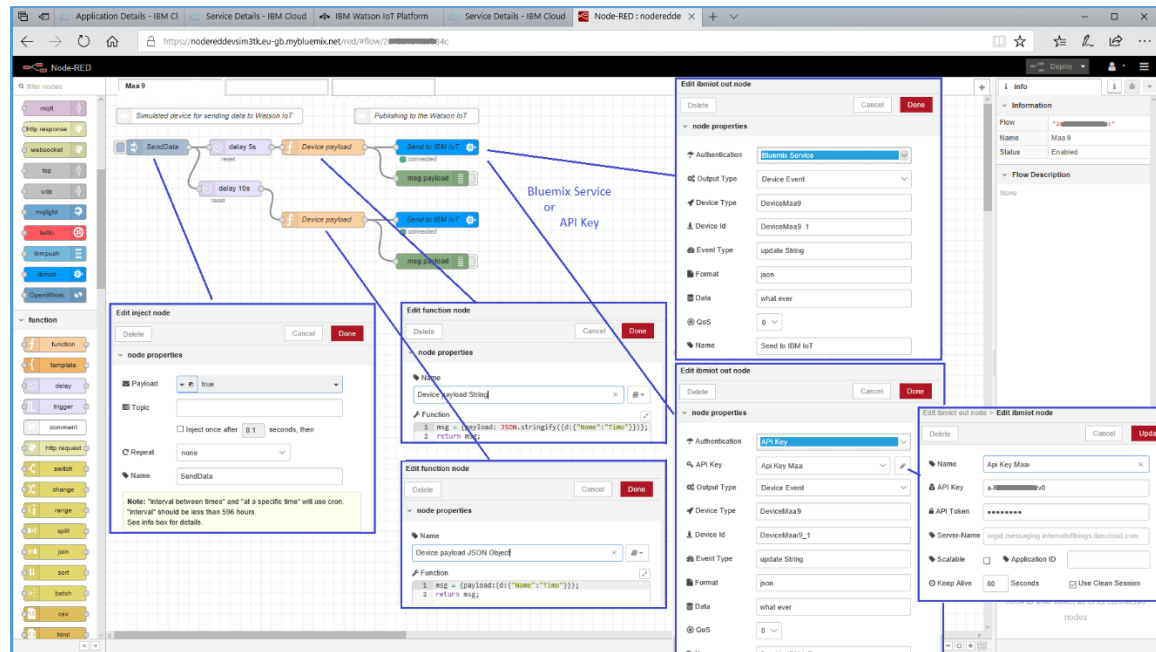


Fig. 2.10 Flow with the nodes and the node parameters.

There is a reason for sending the message payload both as string and as object to the Watson IoT mqtt broker.

In the node Send to IBM IoT you have as Authentication options Quick Start and API Key. With my user rights it was possible to select Bluemix Service as seen on the picture.

In the node Send to IBM IoT there are parameters Device Type, Device Id, API Key and API Token. The same Device Type, Device Id, API Key and API Token needs to be defined similarly at the Watson IoT platform where the node would be connecting to.

Key	Description	Role	Expires
a-f6tn1l-pmud4fhbzi	Bound to Bluemix Application	Standard Application	-
a-f6...	Maanantai 11 2 2019	Standard Application	-

Fig. 2.11 API Key

For the API Key you can select the Standard Application. Please remember to save your new Token. Later you will not be able to get it visible in the page Browse API keys.

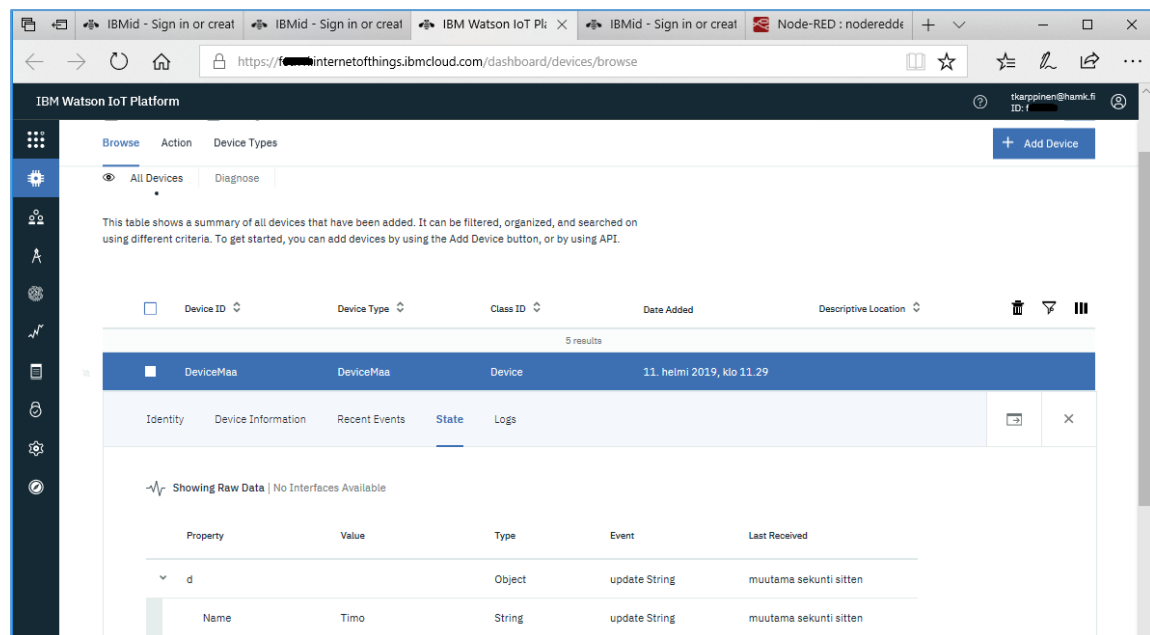


Fig. 2.12 The content of the message from the Node-RED flow visible on IoT platform.

The message and the message payload sent on the Node-RED flow will be visible on the Watson IoT platform page. In this document there is later an instruction how to create the necessary new device in the Watson IoT platform.

In the same flow editor we can still create a node which will register as a subscriber to the mqtt broker in the Watson IoT and will read the mqtt messages.

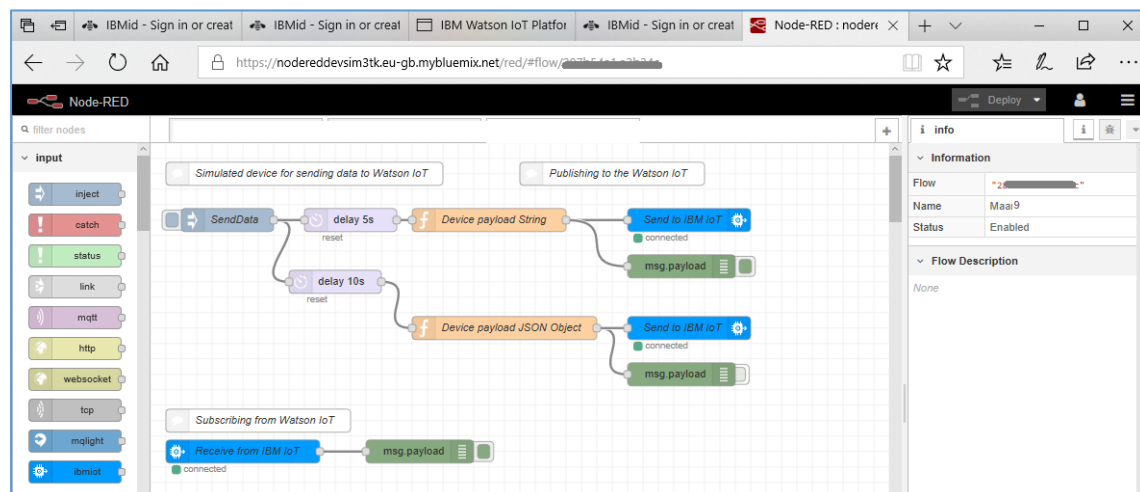


Fig. 2.13 IBM IoT Subscriber.

Please import an ibmiot node from the input group. Similar parameters will be written as was earlier written for the ibmiot node imported from the output group.

Note 1 on year 2020 !

YOU PROBABLY DID NOT GET THE **IBM IOT** NODES IN THE NODE MENU ON THE LEFT ON YOUR NodeRED – the bright blue nodes in the picture above! We will correct the situation according to instructions published by IBM. This way we will save the available memory resource for the application.

Add extra nodes to your Node-RED palette

Node-RED provides the palette manager feature that allows you to install additional nodes directly from the browser-based editor. This is convenient for trying nodes out, but it can cause issues due to the limited memory of the default Node-RED starter application.

The recommended approach is to edit your application's package.json file to include the additional node modules and then redeploy the application.

This step shows how to do that in order to add the [node-red-dashboard](#) module and [node-red-contrib-scx-ibmiotapp](#).

1. On your application's details page, click the url in the **Continuous Delivery** box. This will take you to a git repository where you can edit the application source code from your browser.

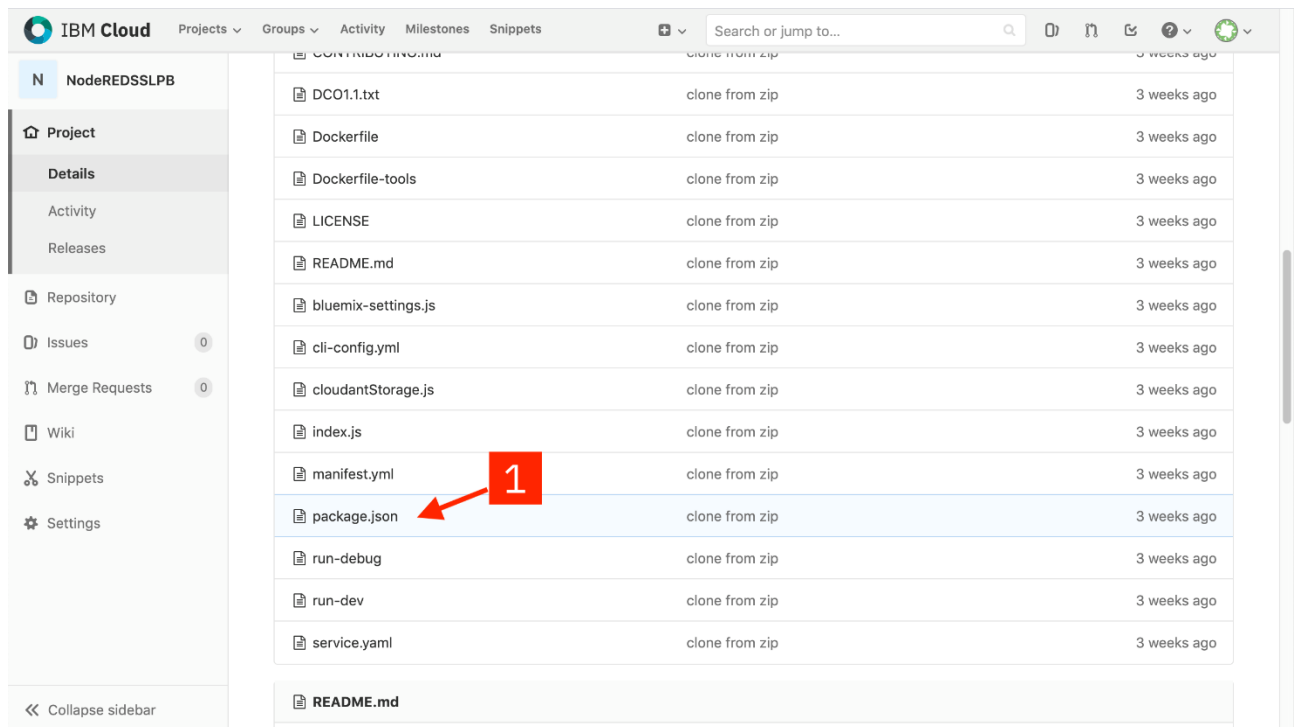
The screenshot shows the 'Continuous Delivery' section of the IBM IoT Platform console. At the top, there is a 'Remove from toolchain' link with a minus icon. Below this is a 'Toolchain' section with a red arrow pointing to the URL 'https://[redacted]/NodeREDSSLPB'. A red box with the number '1' is next to the arrow. The 'Toolchain' section lists the following details:

Toolchain	
Name	NodeREDSSLPB
Location	Dallas
Resource group	default
Tool integrations	

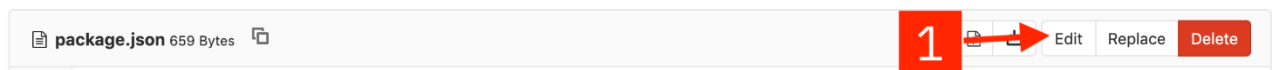
Below the 'Toolchain' section is a 'Delivery Pipelines' section. It lists the following details:

Delivery Pipelines	
Name	NodeREDSSLPB
Status	In progress
Last input	Last commit by IBM Cloud (19 seconds ago) Clone from zip

2. Scroll down the list of files and click on `package.json`. This file lists the module dependencies of your application.



3. Click the `edit` button



4. Add the following entry to the top of the dependencies section (1):

```
"node-red-dashboard": "2.x",  
"node-red-contrib-scx-ibmiotapp": "0.x",
```

Note: Do not forget the comma (,) at the end of the line to separate it from the next entry.

Add a **Commit message** (2) and click `commit changes` (3)

Edit file

Write

Preview changes

▼ master

package.json

≡ Soft wrap

text ▼

```
1- {
2-   "name": "node-red-app",
3-   "version": "1.1.1",
4-   "dependencies": {
5-     "node-red-dashboard": "2.x",
6-     "node-red-contrib-scx-ibmiotapp": "0.x",|
7-     "cloudant/cloudant": "4.2.2",
8-     "bcrypt": "3.0.7",
9-     "body-parser": "1.x",
10-    "cfenv": "1.2.2",
11-    "express": "4.x",
12-    "http-shutdown": "1.2.2",
13-    "node-red": "1.x",
14-    "node-red-node-cf-cloudant": "0.x",
15-    "node-red-node-openwhisk": "0.x",
16-    "node-red-node-watson": "0.x",
17-    "node-red-nodes-cf-sqlldb-dashdb": "0.x",
18-    "ibm-cloud-env": "1.0"
19-  },
20-   "scripts": {
21-     "start": "node --max-old-space-size=160 index.js --settings ./bluemix-settings.js -v"
22-   }
23- }
```

Commit message

Add node-red-dashboard and node-red-contrib-scx-ibmiotapp

Target Branch

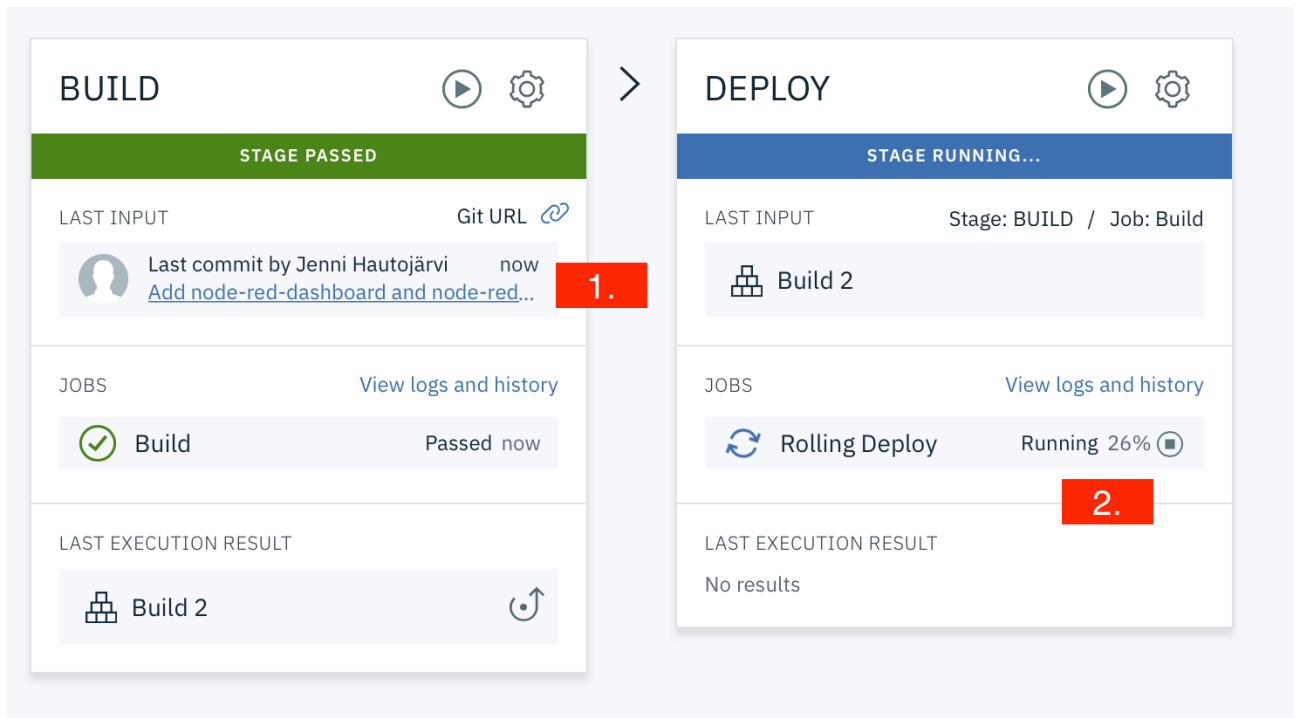
master

Commit changes

3.

Cancel

- At this point, the Continuous Delivery pipeline will automatically run to build and deploy that change into your application. If you view the Delivery Pipeline you can watch its progress. The Build section shows you the last commit made (1) and the Deploy section shows the progress of redeploying the application (2).



6. Once the Deploy stage completes, your application will have restarted and now have the node-red-dashboard nodes preinstalled.

If the nodes are not showing in Node-red. Refresh browser. You might need to login to your application.

End of NOTE 1 ! / IBM Cloud 2020

Assignment "Commissioning 1"

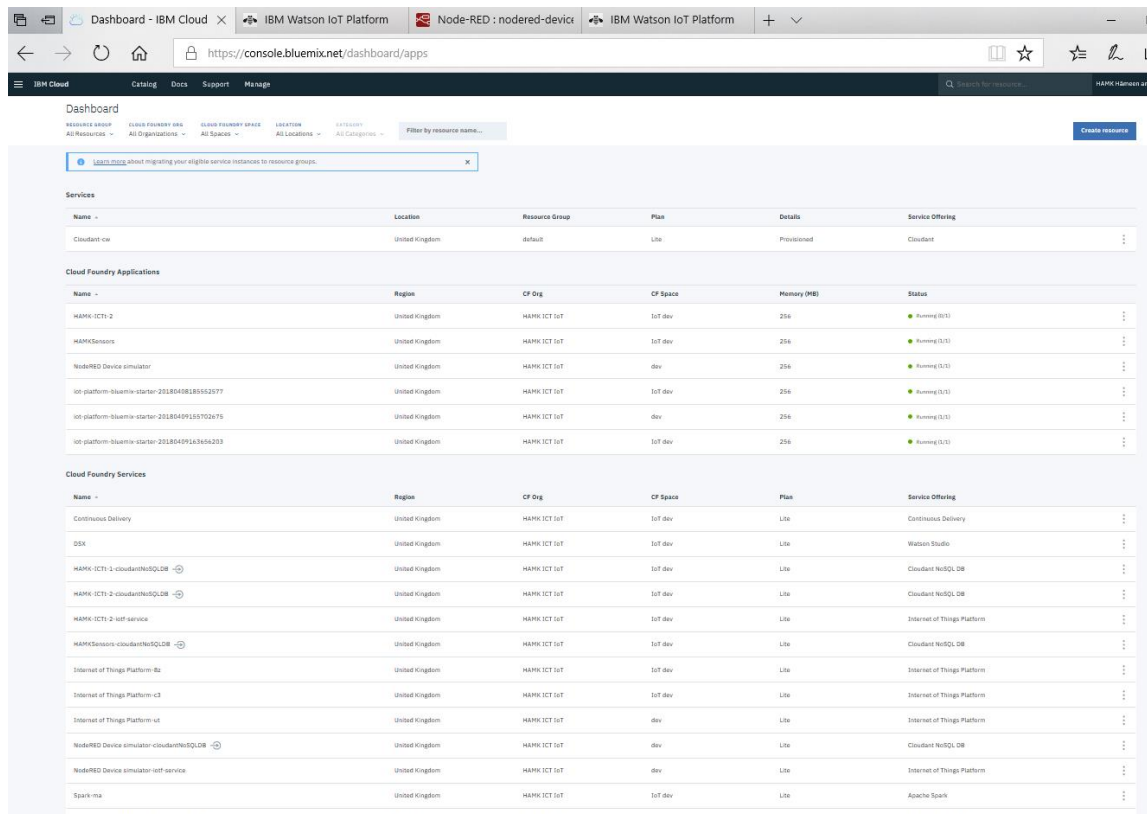
Test the operation! Which one of the messages – JSON object or JSON string – will correctly authenticate in the IBM Watson IoT and will publish the payload?

Finally – please save for yourself the address for your Node-RED flow. For example:

<https://nodered-device-simulator.eu-gb.mybluemix.net/red/#flow/deb0d57.1c46528>

Later you can access this flow editor page. But of course the access will be possible with correct user name and pass word only.

You have created a new service in the IBM Cloud platform. You will see the service instance by selecting the “three lines” in the top left corner of the IBM Cloud Dashboard page.



The screenshot shows the IBM Cloud Console Dashboard. The top navigation bar includes tabs for 'Dashboard - IBM Cloud', 'IBM Watson IoT Platform', 'Node-RED : nodered-device', and 'IBM Watson IoT Platform'. The URL bar shows 'https://console.bluemix.net/dashboard/apps'. The dashboard itself is divided into several sections:

- Services:** A table with columns: Name, Location, Resource Group, Plan, Details, and Service Offering. It lists 'Cloudant cw' in the 'United Kingdom' region, 'default' resource group, 'Lite' plan, and 'Provisioned' status.
- Cloud Foundry Applications:** A table with columns: Name, Region, CF Org, CF Space, Memory (MB), and Status. It lists several applications including 'HARK-ICT1-2', 'HARKSensors', 'NodeRED Device simulator', and various 'iot-platform-bluemix-starter' instances, all in the 'United Kingdom' region and 'HARK-ICT' org, with a 'Running (1/1)' status.
- Cloud Foundry Services:** A table with columns: Name, Region, CF Org, CF Space, Plan, and Service Offering. It lists various services like 'Continuous Delivery', 'DBA', 'HARK-ICT1-2-cloudantNoSQLDB', 'HARK-ICT1-2-cloudantNoSQLDB', 'HARK-ICT1-2-iot-service', 'HARKSensors-cloudantNoSQLDB', 'Internet of Things Platform-BU', 'Internet of Things Platform-C3', 'Internet of Things Platform-UI', 'NodeRED Device simulator-cloudantNoSQLDB', 'NodeRED Device simulator-iot-service', and 'Spark-MIA', all in the 'United Kingdom' region and 'HARK-ICT' org.

Fig 2.14 Console Dashboard.

You will recognise the service from the name you gave to it earlier in this commissioning task.

Assignment "Commissioning 2"

If you created the Node-RED environment example by installing the "Internet of Things Platform Starter" you got as an example a room thermostat application. If you did not start from the "Internet of Things Platform Starter" you can still get the same function by importing a function node and filling it with the following java script code:

```
// Microcontrollers with sensors:
var area = ["Greenhouse1","Greenhouse2","Greenhouse3"];
// Array of pseudo random temperatures
var temp1 = [15,17,17.5,20,21.5,23,24,22.2,19,17];

// Array of pseudo random relative humidities
var humidity1 = [50,55,61,68,65,60,53,49,45,47];

// Counter to select from array.
var counter2 = context.get('counter2')||0;
counter2 = counter2+1;
if(counter2 > 2) counter2 = 0;
context.set('counter2',counter2);

// Counter to select from array.
var counter1 = context.get('counter1')||0;
counter1 = counter1+1;
if(counter1 > 9) counter1 = 0;
context.set('counter1',counter1);
```

```
// Create MQTT message in JSON
msg = {
  payload: JSON.stringify(
    {
      d:{
        "Area":area[counter2],
        "Temp" : temp1[counter1],
        "Humidity" : humidity1[counter1],
      }
    }
  )
};
return msg;
```

Please make to following changes in the application.

- Make the Send Data to send a new measurement value every two minutes.
- make some changes in the node **Device payload String** in the function written in javascript. The function is creating measurement values by selecting a value from a table.

Please add in an **ibmiot** type node - which is seen as the **Receive from IBM iot** node in the flow in the pictures above - a function for receiving the messages:

```
return
{payload:{"msgArea":msg.payload.d.Area,"msgTemp":msg.payload.d.Temp,"msgHum":msg.
payload.d.Humidity}};
```

and after that an other **function** type node with a function:

```
var farea = msg.payload.msgArea;
var ftemp = msg.payload.msgTemp;
var fhum = msg.payload.msgHum;
var trigger = [false,false];
var msgOut = ["",""];

if (farea == "Greenhouse1"&&ftemp > 20)
{
  trigger[0] = true;
}
msgOut[0] = {payload:{"trcommand":trigger[0]}};

if (farea == "Greenhouse2"&&ftemp > 21)
{
  trigger[1] = true;
}
msgOut[1] = {payload:{"trcommand":trigger[1]}};

return msgOut;
```

The flow can look like following:

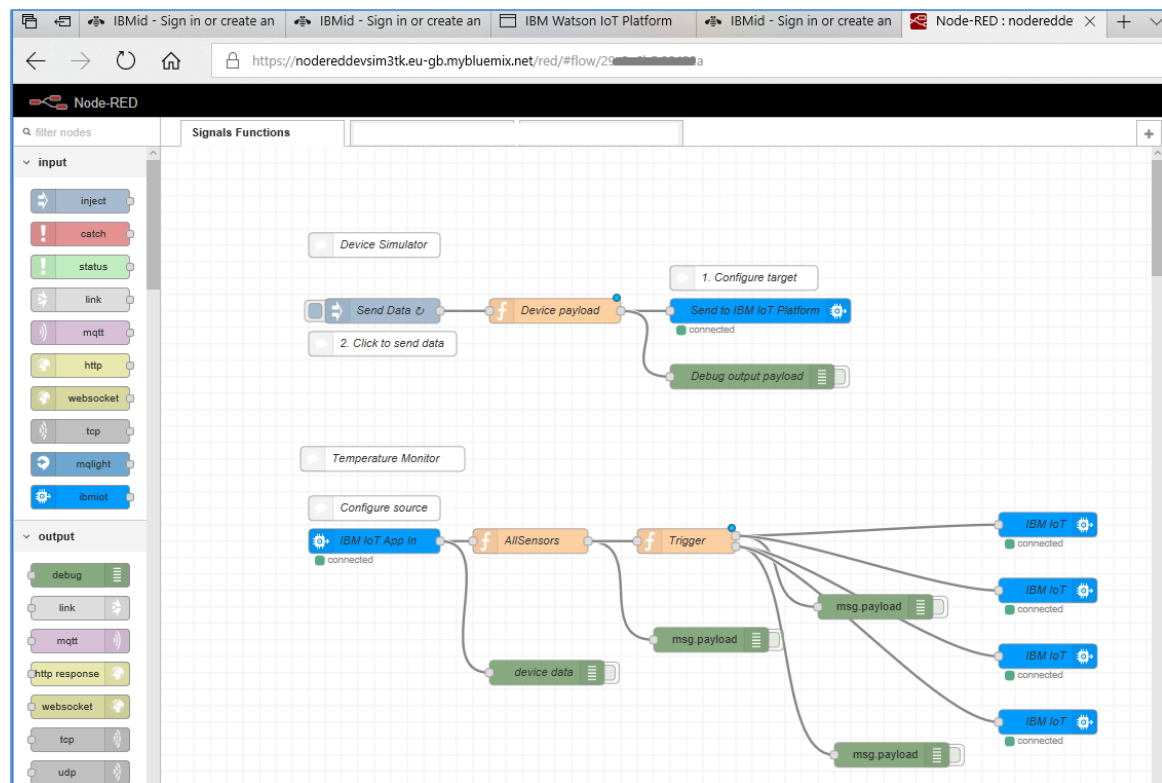


Fig. 2.15 Modified flow.

3. A device created in the Watson IoT platform

We can create a device in the Watson IoT platform to correspond the device simulated in the Node-RED flow.

Please look at the subtitle Cloud Foundry Services. You will see there the new

- Cloudfant NoSQL DB
- Internet of Things Platform

You can again recognise those from the name you gave earlier.

The database includes the NodeRED flow. The Internet of Things Platform is still an empty platform. Or if you added the NodeRED into IoT platforms from the earlier exercises you might have there already some device definitions.

Click the correct IoT platform. In the opening page please select Launch.

You will get an empty view or you might get a view with devices from earlier exercises.

Click the name of your IoT Platform. In the next page select the Launch.

You might get an empty view of devices or you might get a list of devices from earlier exercises.

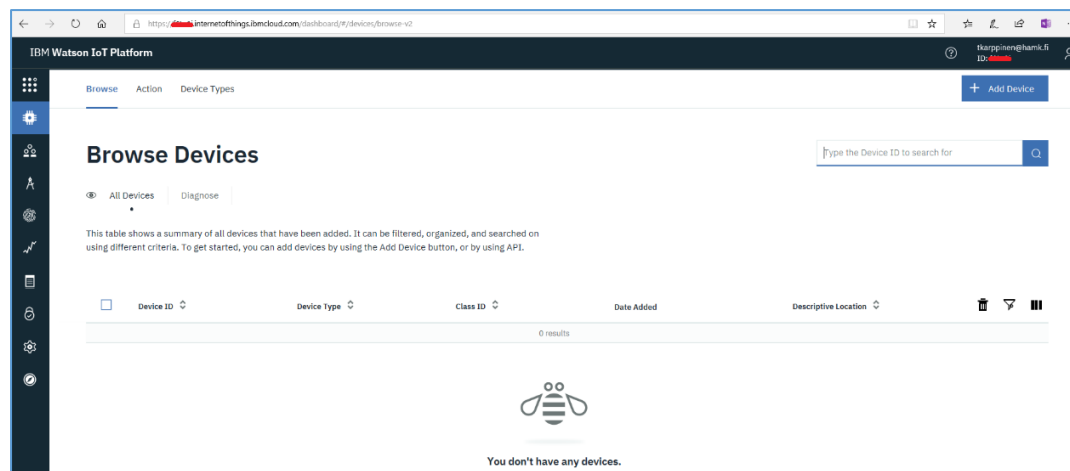


Fig 3.1 Device view. Overwritten with red the "Organization ID".

Please write down or copy with copy paste the organization ID. In the picture this is overwritten with red colour.

Please create a new device with Add Device. Fill in the Device Type and Device ID fields exactly with the same text as in the Node-RED example.

Device Type xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Device ID xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx_1

Continue with Next. You can leave the Device Information page as it is. Continue with Next. Let the Authentication Token be created automatically. Continue with Next and further with Done. Please write down in a text file the device information and the Authentication Token.

Return to device view. Click the row of your device.

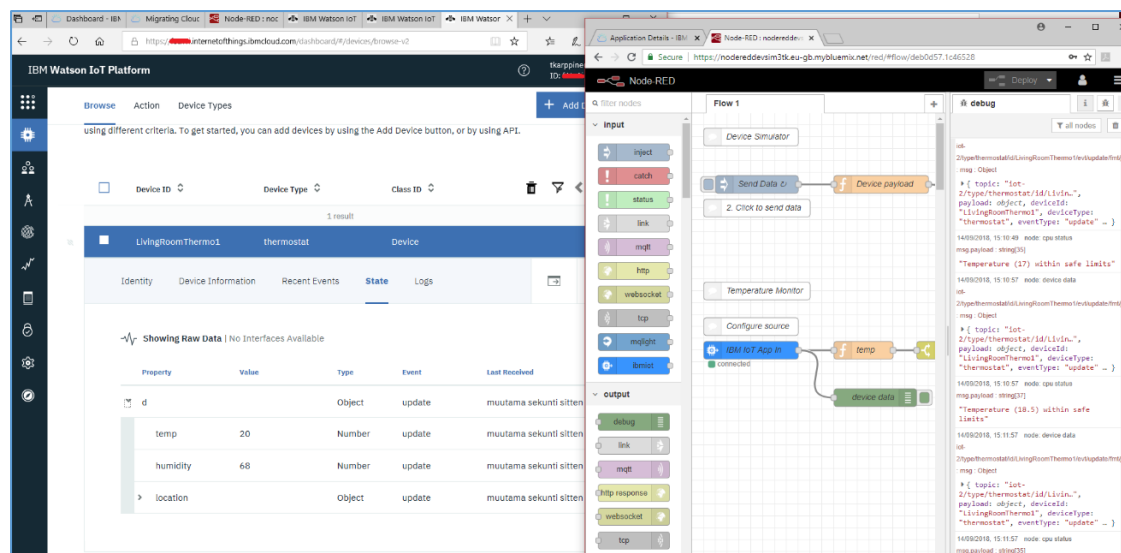


Fig. 3.2 Simulated values are transmitted to IoT platform to the device view.

Assignment "Exercise 1"

Please change the Node-RED flow:

The application field is traffic counting. The sensor device is an intelligent device with capabilities on image processing. The device can make a difference between cars, cyclists and pedestrians. Every 15 minutes it produces numbers on how many cars, cyclists and pedestrians have passed the observation point.

Every 15 minutes there will be new message with: Location, time, calculated amounts of traffic. The message has a JSON structure. JSON was used in the original example as well.

Please return: Screen capture with changes in the function in the node in the Node-RED flow. Screen capture with variables and values visible at the IoT platform device view.

4. How could you find again your Node-RED flow ?

To be able to continue the development you of course need to be able to edit again your Node-RED flow.

Please sign in into the **IBM Cloud**. There are a number of ways to find the right site to sign in. You can for example search with word **IBM Cloud Catalog**. Or you can use the link <https://cloud.ibm.com/catalog>. And please sign in with your IBM ID.

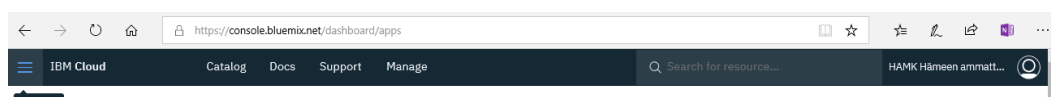


Fig. 4.1 IBM Cloud Menu.

Please click the "three lines" visible on the top left corner.

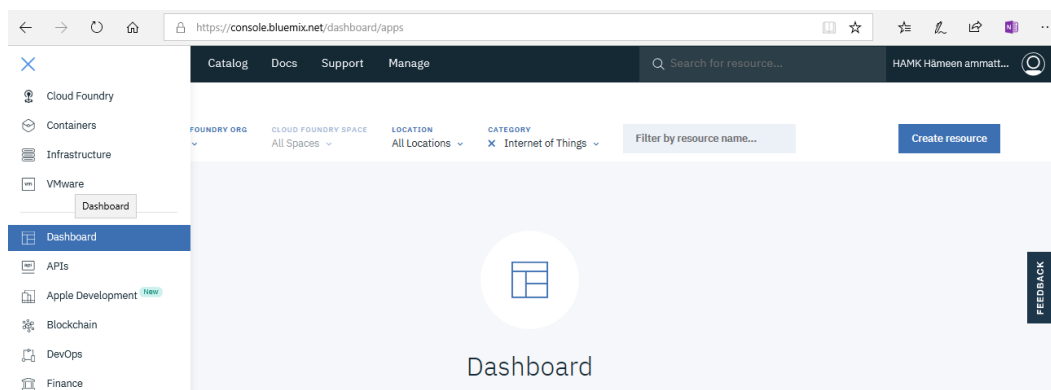


Fig. 4.2 Dashboard

Select the **Dashboard** on the menu on left.

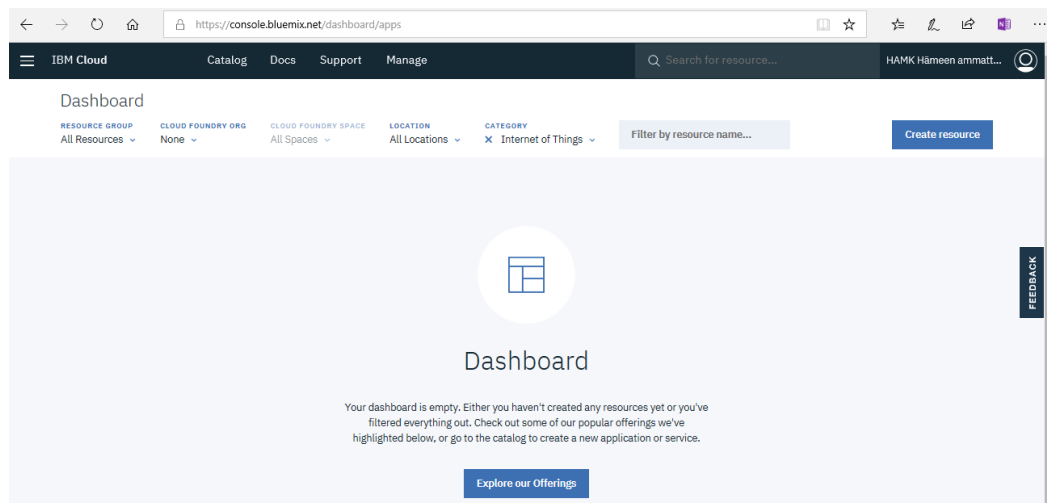


Fig. 4.3 Dashboard empty

Either you will get a full catalog of your development platforms or you might get an empty dashboard page.

If you got an empty dashboard please select on the menu on top the **CLOUD FOUNDRY ORG** and further **the organisation id** where you developed the NodeRED example.

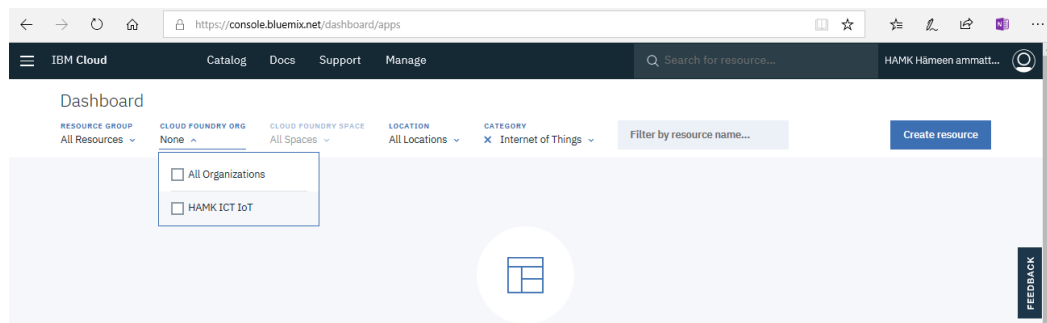
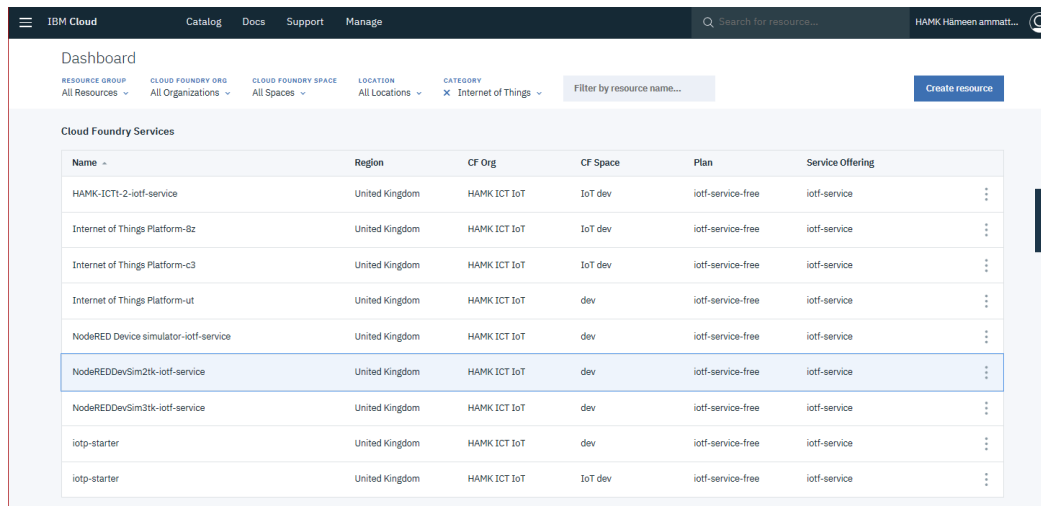


Fig. 4.4 Organization

Now you should have your instances visible .



Name	Region	CF Org	CF Space	Plan	Service Offering
HAMK-ICT1-2-iotf-service	United Kingdom	HAMK ICT IoT	IoT dev	iotf-service-free	iotf-service
Internet of Things Platform-8z	United Kingdom	HAMK ICT IoT	IoT dev	iotf-service-free	iotf-service
Internet of Things Platform-c3	United Kingdom	HAMK ICT IoT	IoT dev	iotf-service-free	iotf-service
Internet of Things Platform-ut	United Kingdom	HAMK ICT IoT	dev	iotf-service-free	iotf-service
NodeRED Device simulator-iotf-service	United Kingdom	HAMK ICT IoT	dev	iotf-service-free	iotf-service
NodeREDDevSim2tk-iotf-service	United Kingdom	HAMK ICT IoT	dev	iotf-service-free	iotf-service
NodeREDDevSim3tk-iotf-service	United Kingdom	HAMK ICT IoT	dev	iotf-service-free	iotf-service
iotp-starter	United Kingdom	HAMK ICT IoT	dev	iotf-service-free	iotf-service
iotp-starter	United Kingdom	HAMK ICT IoT	IoT dev	iotf-service-free	iotf-service

Fig. 4.5 Service instance

You can select the instance from the catalog and continue with **Launch**.

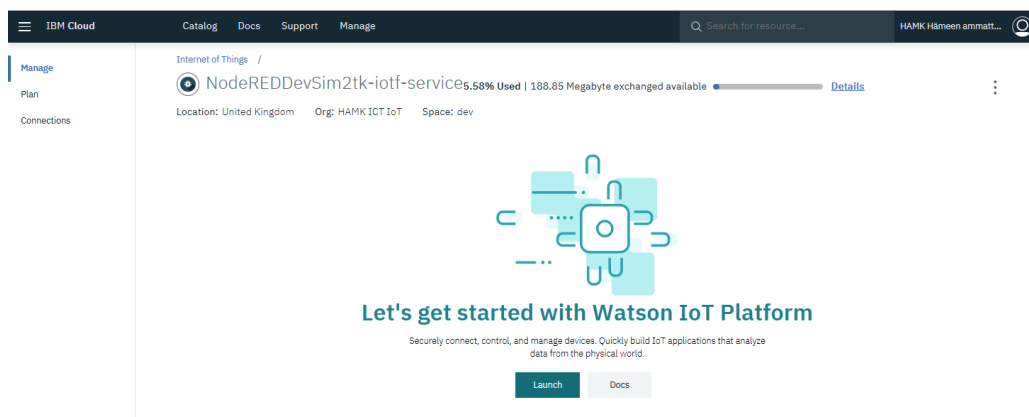
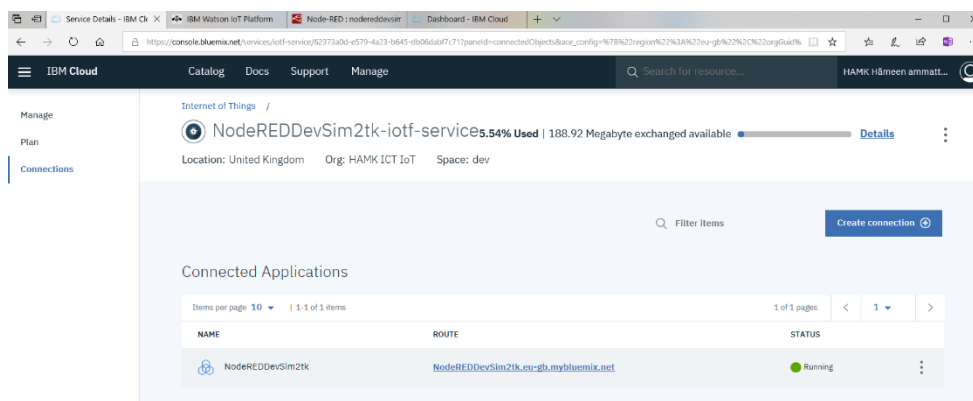


Fig. 4.6 The IoT platform is started.

On the subtitle **Connections** you can find your **NodeRED flow**.



NAME	ROUTE	STATUS
NodeREDDevSim2tk	NodeREDDevSim2tk.eu-gb.mybluemix.net	Running

Fig. 4.7 NodeRED flow

5. References in the GitHub

Good starting page for Node-RED related topics is

<https://github.com/watson-developer-cloud/node-red-labs>

There are introductions to different Node-RED nodes – Basic Examples.

https://github.com/watson-developer-cloud/node-red-labs/blob/master/basic_examples/README.md

There are exercises where nodes are combined and applications created – Advanced Labs.

https://github.com/watson-developer-cloud/node-red-labs/blob/master/advanced_examples/README.md

Application examples which you can use as starting point for your own development – Node-RED Starter Kits.

<https://github.com/watson-developer-cloud/node-red-labs/blob/master/starter-kits/README.md>

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