

Watson Lab Setup & Intro to Bluemix

Overview

The workstations, used for this lab, need to be updated with the latest code and documentation. This document tells how to do this update in preparation to begin working on the lab exercises.

As part of a brief introduction to Bluemix ecosystem we will also highlight some of the Watson services available today.

Resources

Lab code is on GitHub

<https://github.com/WatsonDevCloud/HelloWorld>

<https://github.com/WatsonDevCloud/Visualization>

<https://github.com/WatsonDevCloud/NewsAnalyst>

Bluemix web console

<https://console.ng.bluemix.net/>

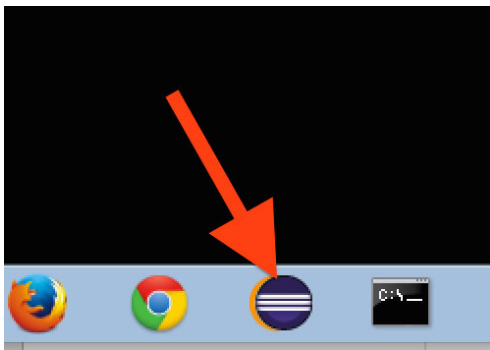
Lab Setup

Windows login

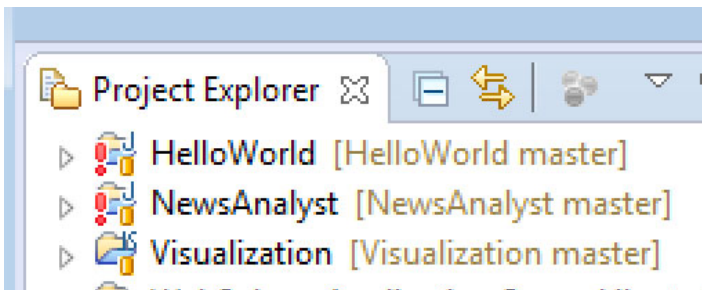
The username is **IBM** and the password is **watson1234**.

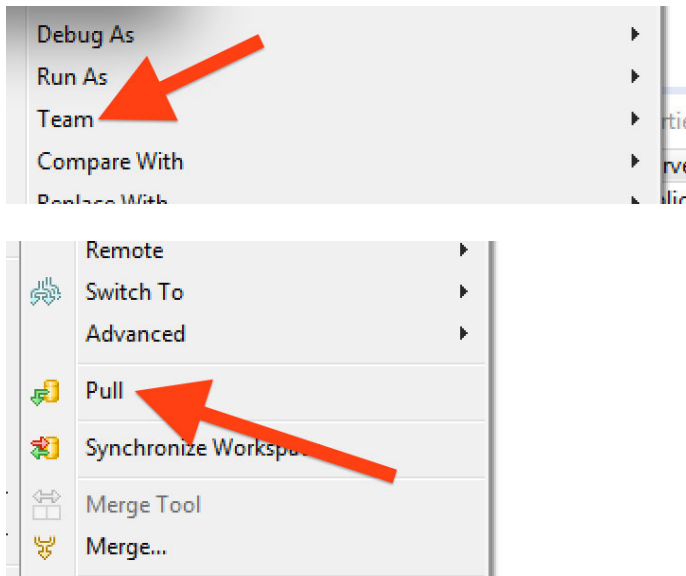
Update Eclipse Projects

We will be using Eclipse as the IDE for the labs. To start Eclipse, click on the icon in the task bar.



After Eclipse starts, Right-click on the **HelloWorld** project and select **Team>Pull**. This will pull the project from GitHub. The full lab is contained at the GitHub URL listed in the resources section of this document.





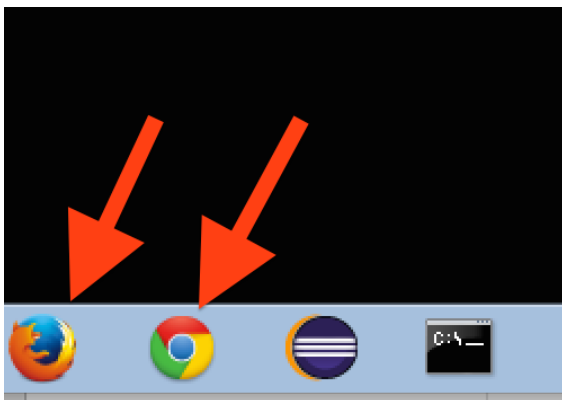
Right-click on the **NewsAnalyst** project and select **Team>Pull**.

Right-click on the **Visualization** project and select **Team>Pull**.

The lab projects are now up to date.

Start Browser

Both the Chrome and Firefox browsers are installed. Open your preferred browser using the icon in the task bar. We will be using a browser to test our apps and to access the Bluemix web console.

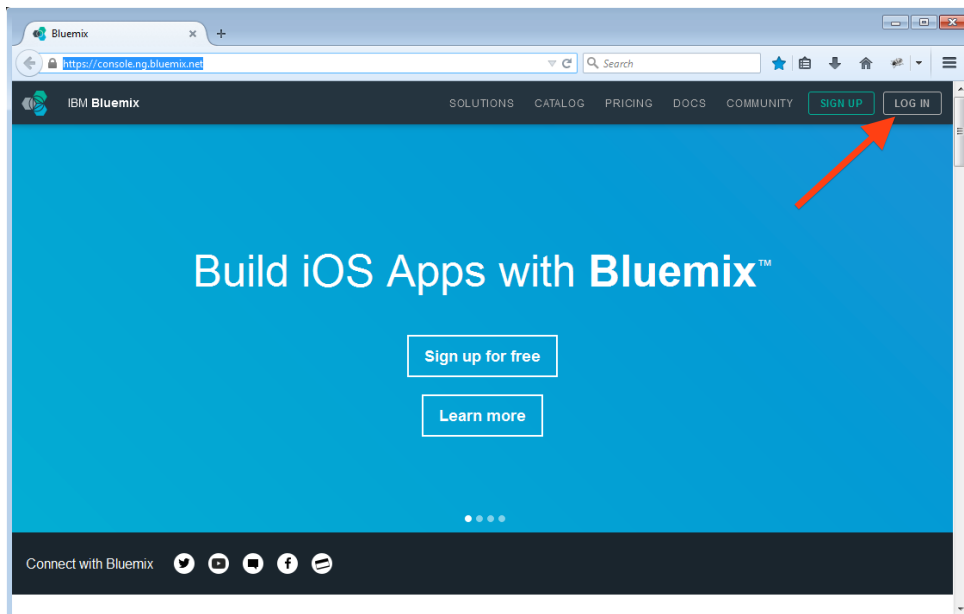


Intro to Bluemix and Watson Services

Bluemix Default App

Your browser should open to the Bluemix home page. If not, use this link

Click on the **Log In** button and use the provided username and password to authenticate. If you don't see the *Log In* button, expand the width of the browser window until you do.

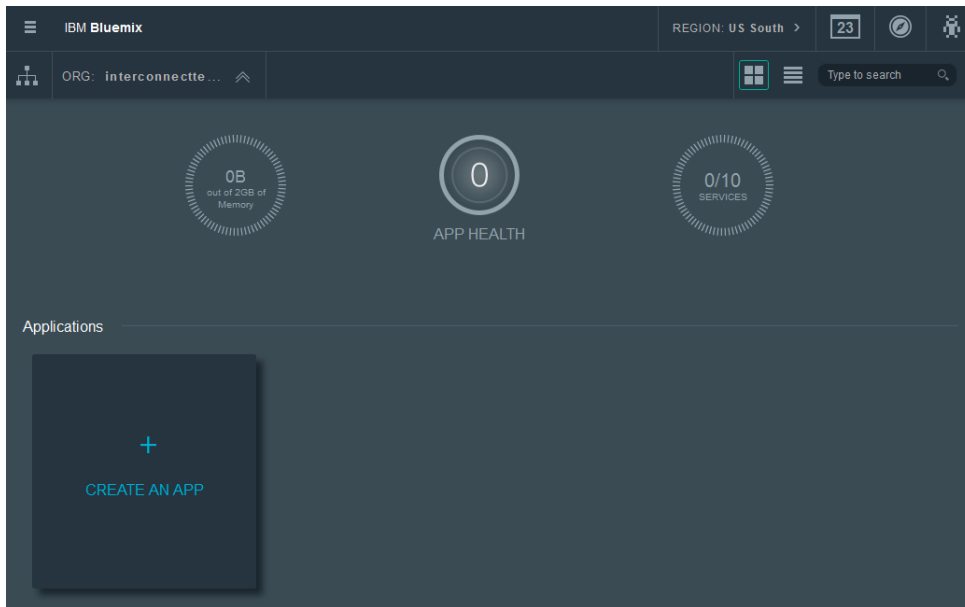


Enter the provided credentials in the *Sign In* page.

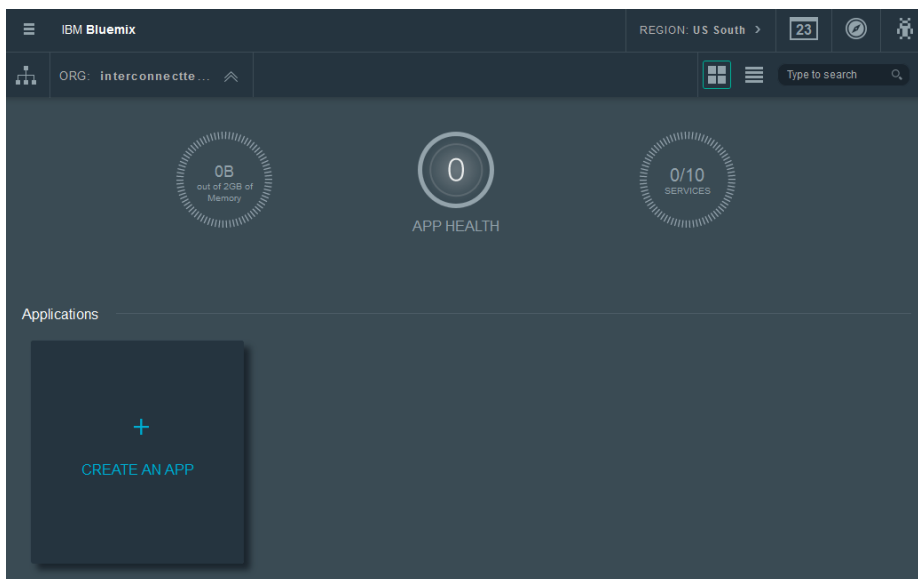
Sign in

[Forgot password?](#)

After authentication you will end up on the *Dashboard* page. The *Dashboard* provides a high level overview of the applications we have deployed and the services they are using. Since we have no apps, at this point, we are not using any memory or services.

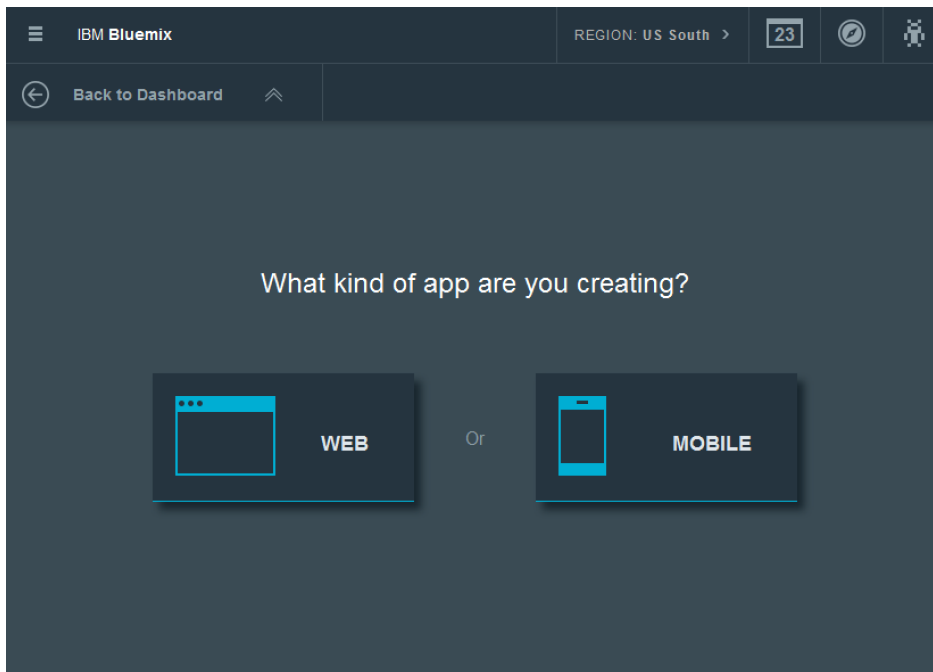


Let's create an app now. Click on **Create An App** in the *Applications* section of the *Dashboard*.



For this exercise we are going to create a web app. Click on **Web**.

For those curious, the *Mobile* apps provide a way to quickly get started with using mobile services for shared data, push, and server-side scripting. Includes SDKs for Android, iOS, and JavaScript. The scope of mobile apps is too large for this lab session.



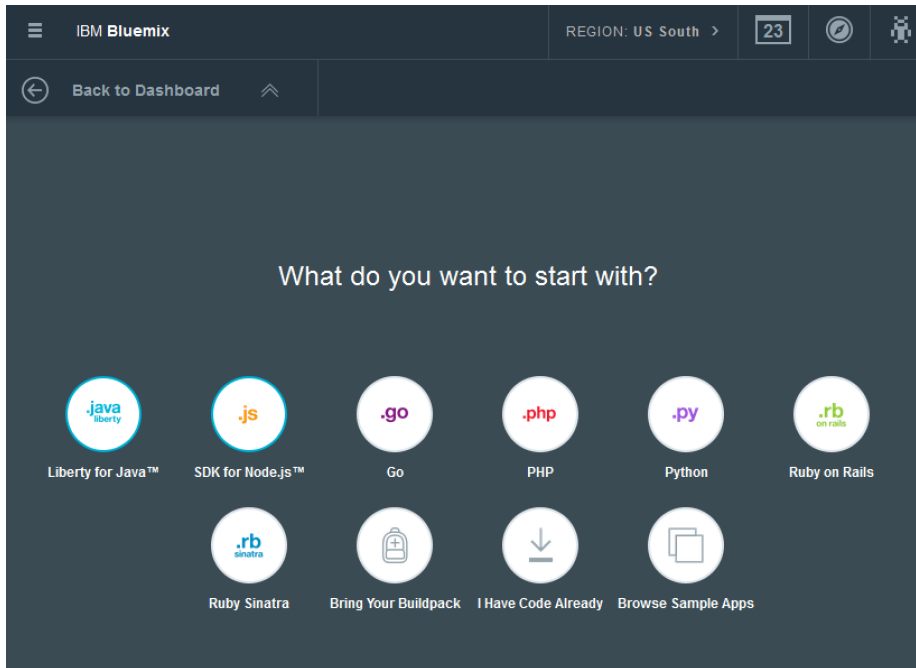
Now you are presented with a list of *Buildpacks* to select from. *Buildpacks* provide framework and runtime support for your applications. *Buildpacks* typically examine user-provided artifacts to determine what dependencies to download and how to configure applications to communicate with bound services. Essentially a *Buildpack* provides the container in which to run your app. For example, *Liberty for Java* provides a JEE container in which to deploy your war or ear files.

If you don't see a *Buildpack* you like, *Bring Your Buildpack* provides documentation on how to use one of the community provided *Buildpacks* that are available on GitHub.

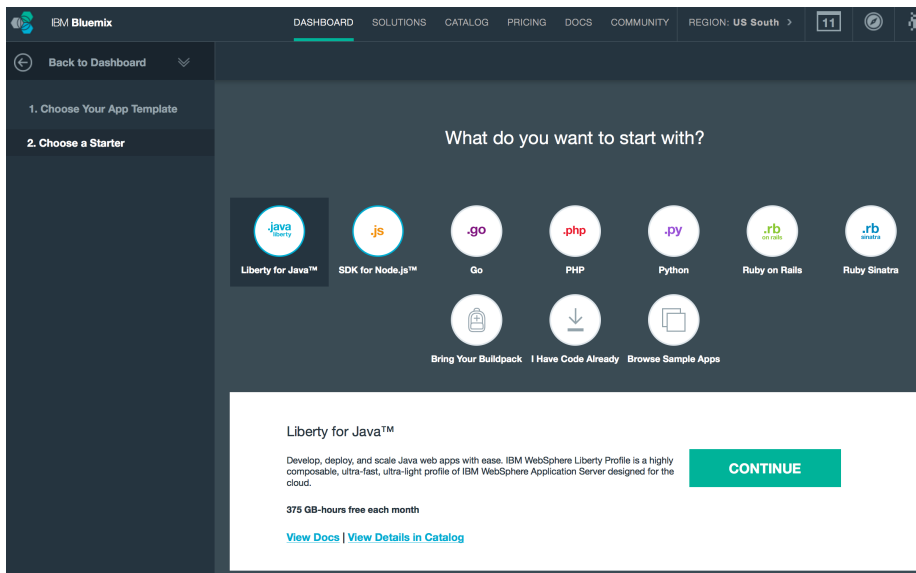
I Have Code Already provides documentation on how to install your app without creating the app in the Bluemix web console. We will be doing this in a later lab.

Browse Sample Apps provides you with a list of *Boilerplates*. A *Boilerplate* is a sample app, built on one of the standard *Buildpacks*, which comes bundled with some Bluemix services.

Click on the ***Liberty for Java Buildpack***.



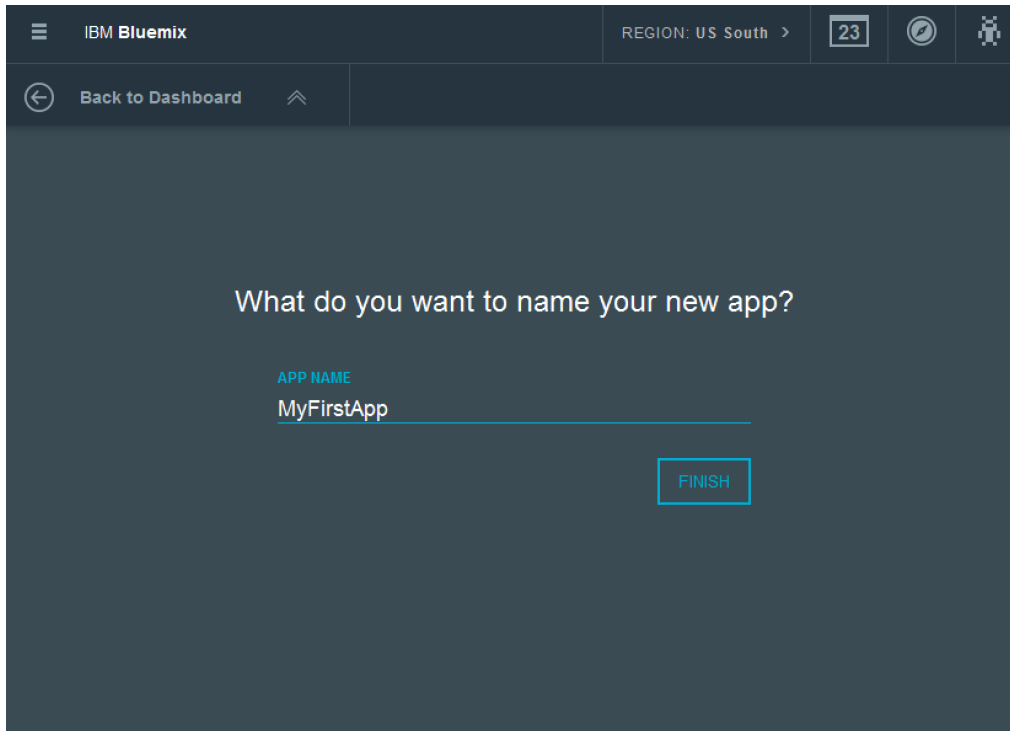
Click on ***Continue***.



Now we have to name our app. When using the web interface to create an app, the app name becomes the host name for the app. For example, an app name of

"MyFirstApp88" will be hosted at <http://myfirstapp88.mybluemix.net>. The host name needs to be unique in the mybluemix.net domain.

Enter a name for your app, in the *App Name* field, and click ***Finish***. Try to avoid spaces and apostrophes in name to make your life easier.



The screenshot shows the IBM Bluemix web interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header bar with the IBM Bluemix logo on the left, the text "REGION: US South" in the center, and a date "23" on the right. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with a "Back to Dashboard" link and an upward arrow icon. The main content area is a dark blue rectangle with the text "What do you want to name your new app?" in white. Below this text, there is a label "APP NAME" in small blue letters, followed by a text input field containing "MyFirstApp". To the right of the input field is a blue button with the text "FINISH" in white.

If your app name wasn't unique then you will see the error page. If you see this, then modify the name and click finish until it accepts the name.

IBM Bluemix

REGION: US South > 23

[Back to Dashboard](#)

What do you want to name your new app?

APP NAME

MyFirstApp

Someone already used that name. Try entering a different name.

FINISH

Once Bluemix accepts our app name, a skeleton Liberty for Java app is automatically deployed and the app overview page is displayed. This page contains a lot of information that we will go over now.

IBM Bluemix

REGION: US South > 23

[Back to Dashboard](#)

MyFirstApp88

Overview >


Liberty for Java™

Files and Logs

Environment Variables


Start Coding

SERVICES

 MyFirstApp88

Routes: [myfirstapp88.mybluemix.net](#)

ADD GIT

 LIBERTY FOR JAVA™

MEMORY QUOTA: 512 (MB per Instance)

INSTANCES: 1

AVAILABLE MEMORY: 1.500GB

SAVE

RESET

+

ADD A SERVICE

APP HEALTH

RESTART

✓ Your app is running. STOP

ACTIVITY LOG

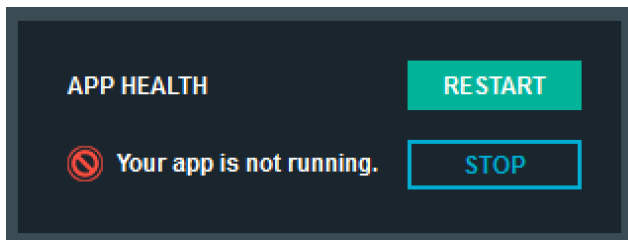
No activity available

Estimate the cost of this app

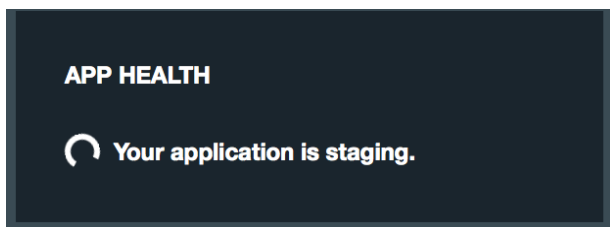
→

The App Health box tells you the current state of your app. Since we just deployed the app it probably tells us that it is not running.

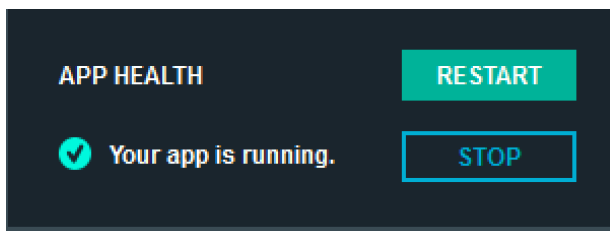
Note: If you manually stop your app, using the *Stop* button, the state changes to *Stopped*. A Stopped app releases its memory resources. This can be helpful if you are trying to deploy another app and are out of resources.



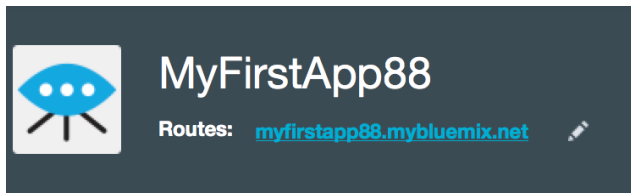
During the app deployment process it may also tell you it is staging.



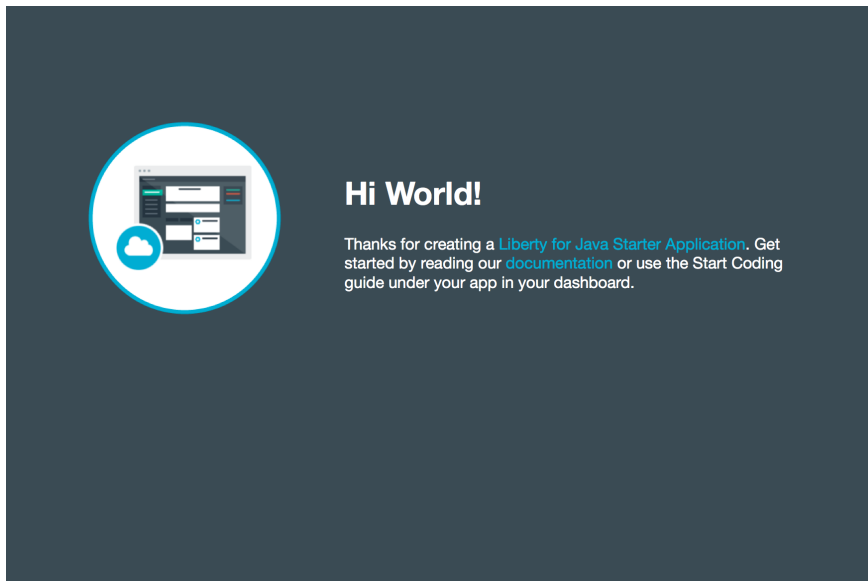
Once it is fully deployed, the state changes to running. We now have an operational app.



Now that we have a running web app, we should at least look at it. Click on the **Routes** link. It should look something like myfirstapp88.mybluemix.net.



The app will be opened and displayed in a separate browser tab.

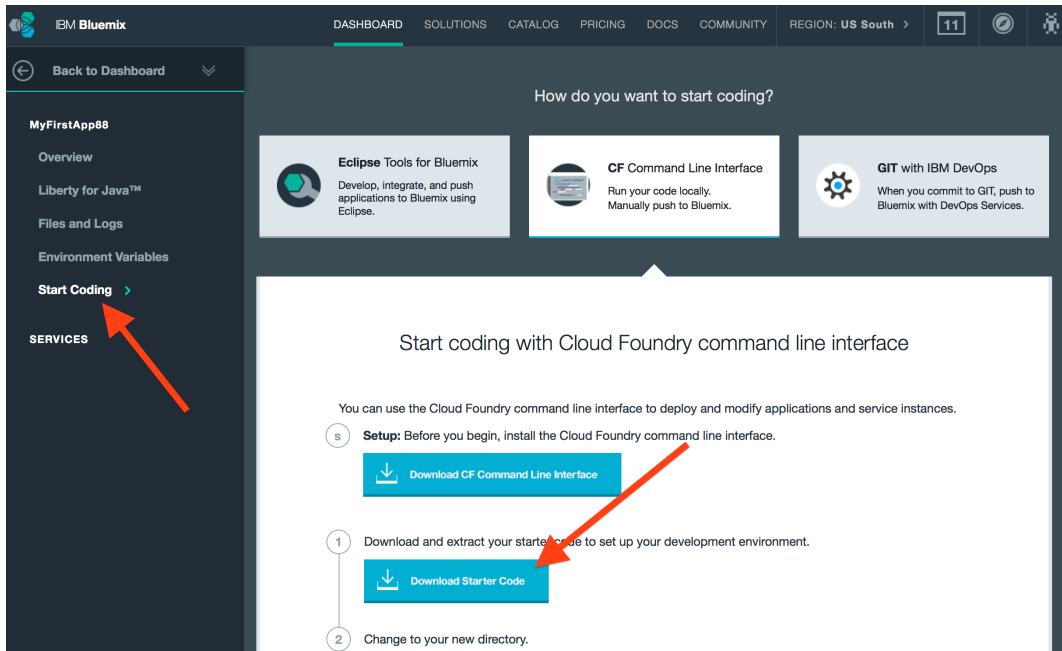


There is also a simple REST API that was deployed as part of the app.

<http://myfirstapp88.mybluemix.net/api/hello>

There is not much to our app but it serves as a skeleton that we can build upon. So what does the deployed code look like? We are going to answer that in later labs but you can download it now if you want to have a quick look.

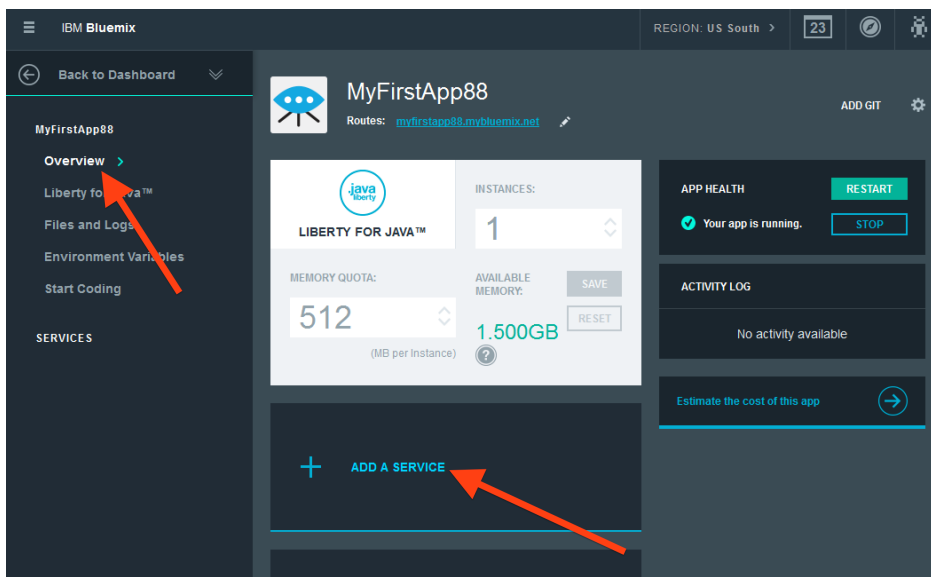
To download the skeleton code, click on **Start Coding** and then click on **Download Starter Code**.



On the above page, there are full instructions for deploying your code using the command line tools, Bluemix, plugin, and IBM DevOps. We will be covering some of these in the next labs.

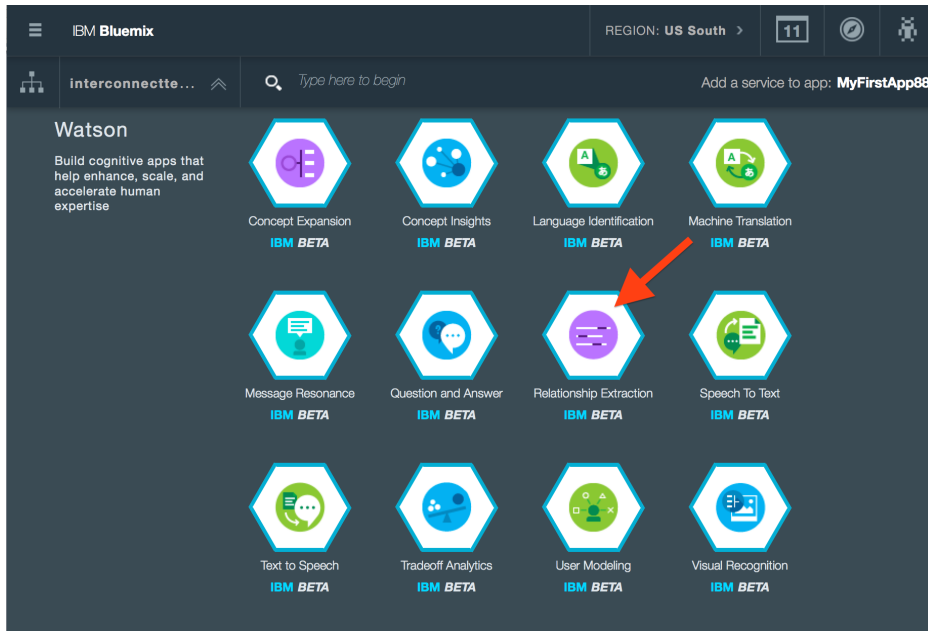
If we just wanted to run a basic app on Bluemix that would be great. Even better is to use one of the many services available on the Bluemix platform. We now want to add a service to our app.

Click on the **Overview** link on the left side of the page. Then click on **Add a Service**.



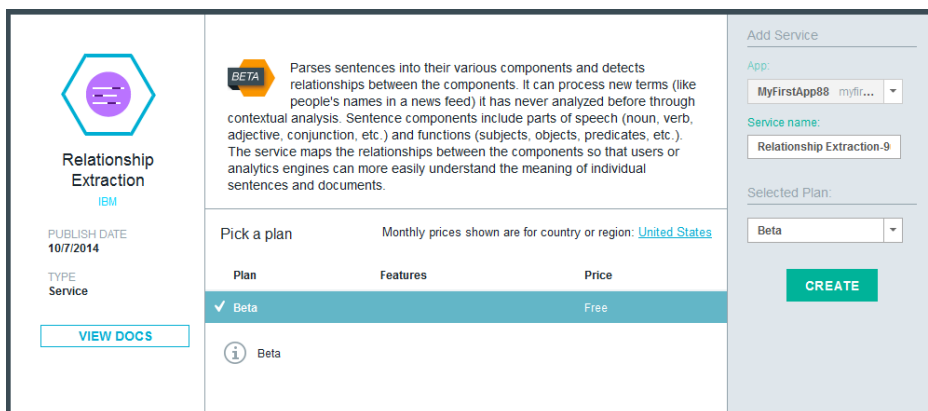
We are now presented with a list of services available through Bluemix. There are many types of services from mobile to big data. For now we are just going to look at a Watson service.

Click on ***Relationship Extraction***.

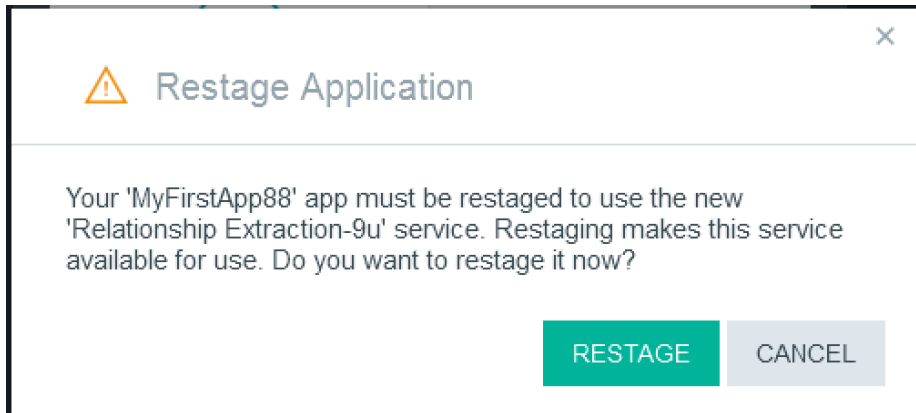


Read the brief description of the Relationship Extraction service to get an understanding as to what it does. If you want to find how to use a service, look at the *Docs* link.

Click the ***Create*** button to accept the defaults.

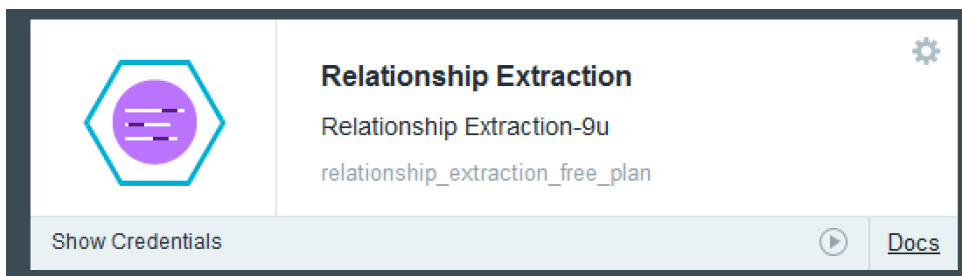


Click **Restage** to restart our app and bind the newly added service to your app space.

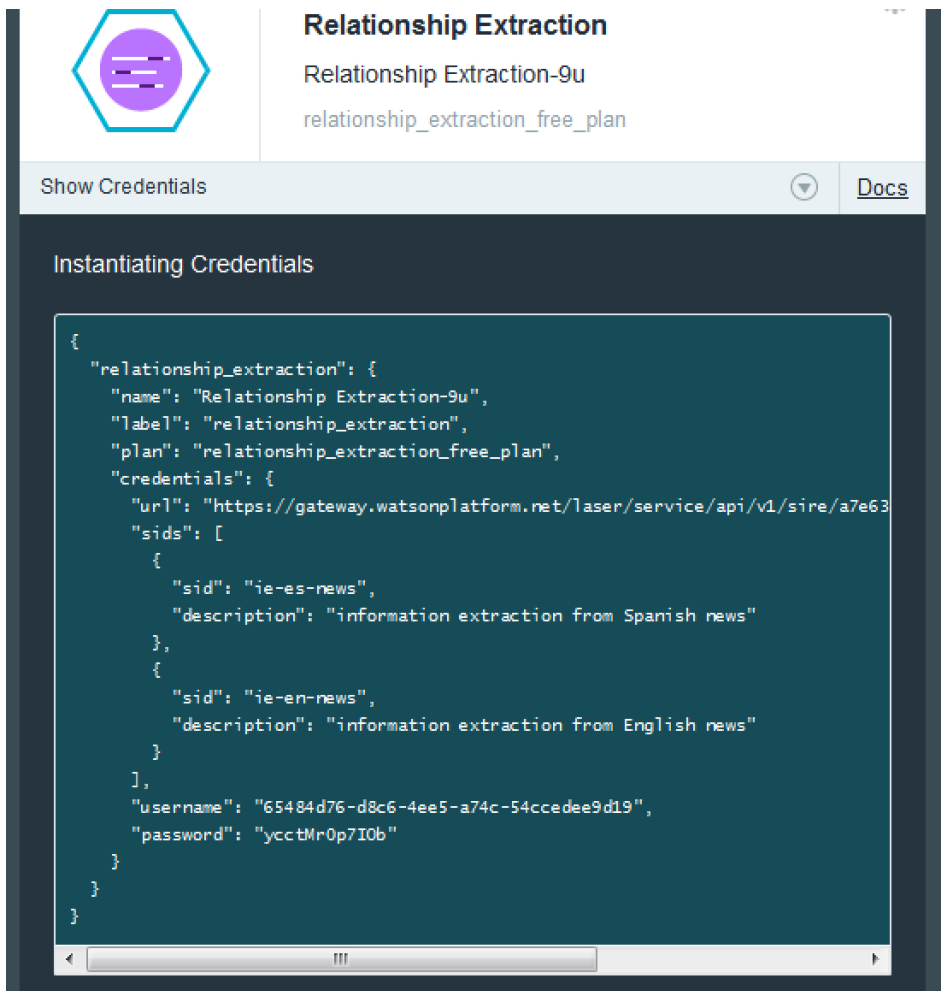


The instance of the Relationship Extraction is bound to your account and has a unique URL and credentials to access it.

Click on the **Show Credentials** to see this connection info.



Credentials are represented in JSON format. To access them programmatically, you read the environment variable `VCAP_SERVICES`. `VCAP_SERVICES` lists all services that are bound to your app.



The screenshot shows the Bluemix console interface for the 'Relationship Extraction' service. At the top, there is a header with the service icon (a purple hexagon with a white 'E' and a blue outline) and the text 'Relationship Extraction', 'Relationship Extraction-9u', and 'relationship_extraction_free_plan'. Below the header is a bar with 'Show Credentials' and a 'Docs' link. The main content area is titled 'Instantiating Credentials' and displays a JSON configuration for the service credentials.

```
{
  "relationship_extraction": {
    "name": "Relationship Extraction-9u",
    "label": "relationship_extraction",
    "plan": "relationship_extraction_free_plan",
    "credentials": {
      "url": "https://gateway.watsonplatform.net/laser/service/api/v1/sire/a7e63",
      "sids": [
        {
          "sid": "ie-es-news",
          "description": "information extraction from Spanish news"
        },
        {
          "sid": "ie-en-news",
          "description": "information extraction from English news"
        }
      ],
      "username": "65484d76-d8c6-4ee5-a74c-54ccdee9d19",
      "password": "ycctMr0p7IOb"
    }
  }
}
```

In this brief overview we only scratched the surface on what is possible with *Bluemix*. In the following labs we will dig into some code and actually use the *Relationship Extraction* service.