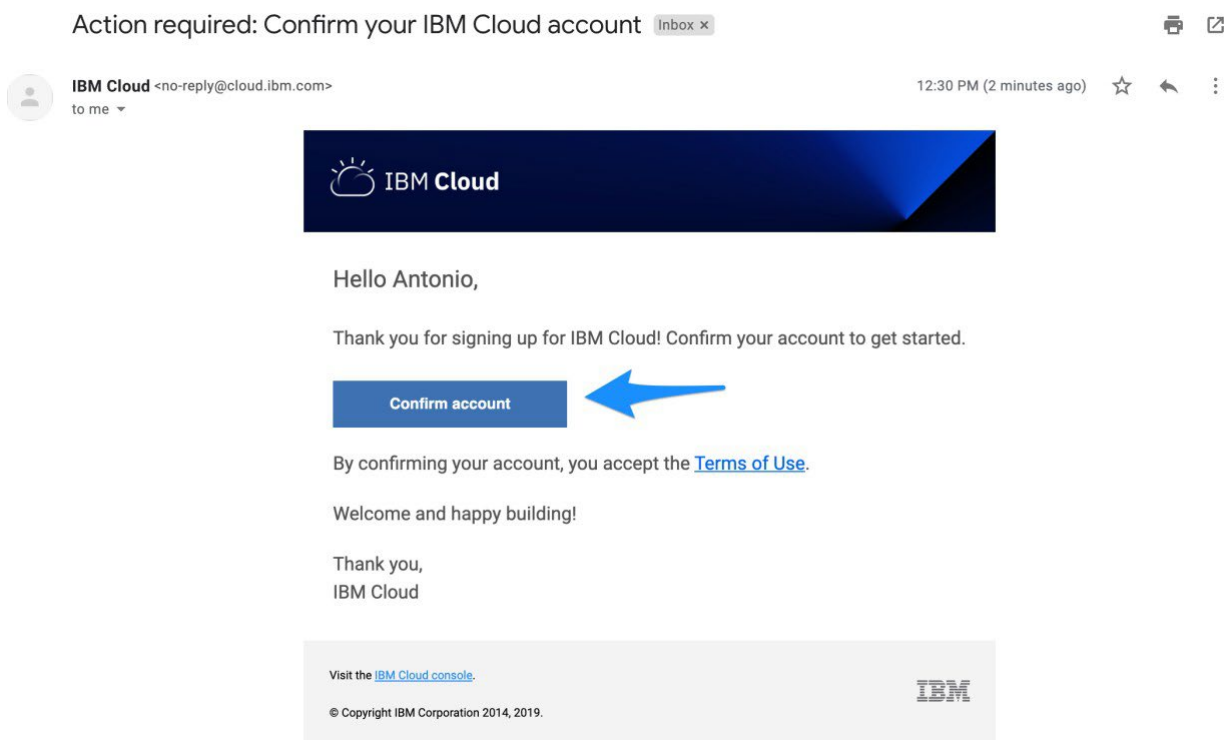Lab 1: Create an instance of Watson Assistant

In this course, we'll use the Watson Assistant service hosted on the IBM Cloud platform. As a result, before we progress further, we'll need to ensure that you are set up with an account. Follow the instructions below to get your own instance of Watson Assistant and start building chatbots.

Note: If you already have an IBM Cloud account, simply login and skip to Exercise 2.

Exercise 1: Register with IBM Cloud

1. **Register** on IBM Cloud by clicking on this link. Start by entering your professional or student email. (If you don't have access to a business email, feel free to use your personal email, however.)
2. You'll be asked to log in if you already have an account with IBM.com. If you do, log in and skip to Exercise 2. If you don't, provide the rest of the information requested (e.g., your name, country, etc.) and **click on *Create an account*** to proceed with the creation of an account.
3. If you create an account in step 2, you'll be asked to **verify your email**. Check your inbox for the verification email (and for good measure, be sure to check your spam folder as well). **Click on the confirmation button,** as illustrated in the image below.

4. Upon successful verification of your email, you'll see a *Log In* button. **Click on it, log in, and accept the privacy notices**. At this point, you'll be logged in with your IBM ID and ready to work with the IBM Cloud platform.

   You'll either be redirected to a Watson Assistant creation page (as shown in the image below) or to your IBM Cloud dashboard. In either case, close your browser tab and proceed to Exercise 2 below.


Exercise 2: Create a Watson Assistant service

Now that you have an IBM Cloud account, it's time to create an instance of IBM Watson Assistant. **Visit your IBM Cloud dashboard** or simply type cloud.ibm.com in your browser's address bar. Next, follow these simple steps.

> Note that you can always create new services (Watson Assistant or any other service available in the IBM Cloud catalog) by clicking on the *Create resource* button on your dashboard.

1. **Click on the *Create resource* button** on your dashboard.

2. **Search for Watson Assistant** in the search field or find it in the AI category of the catalog and then **click on that tile**.

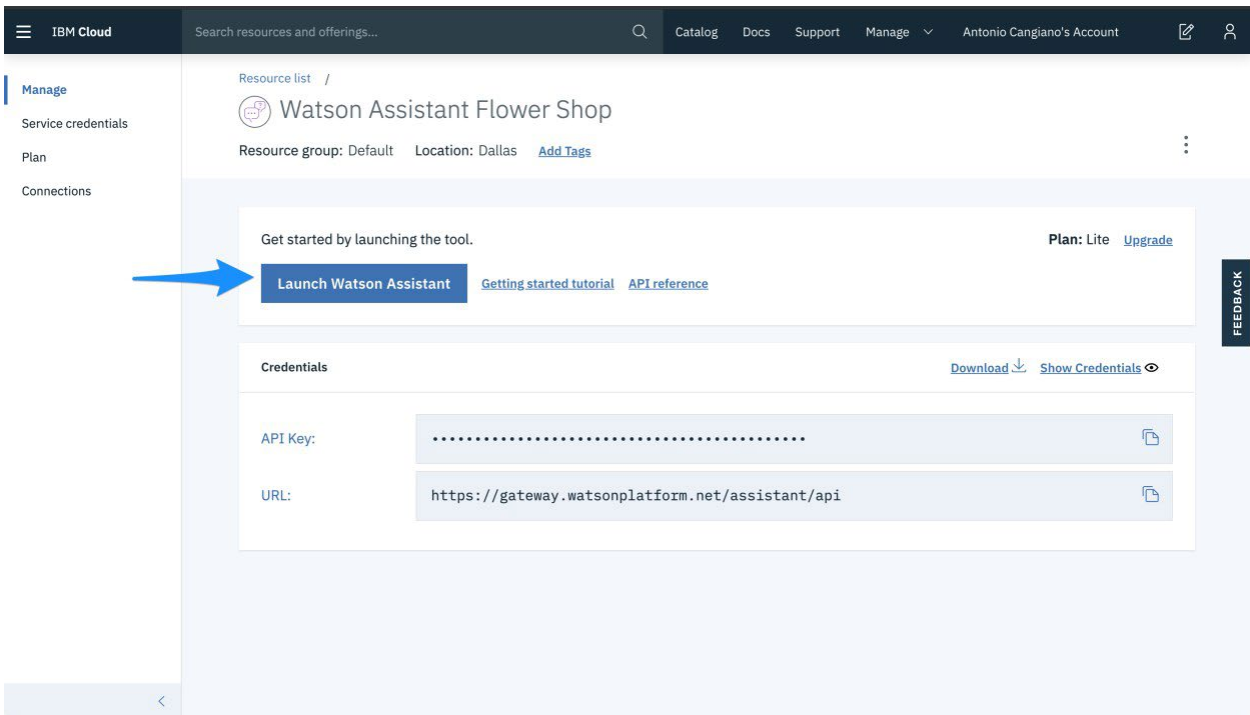## Lab 1: Create an instance of Watson Assistant
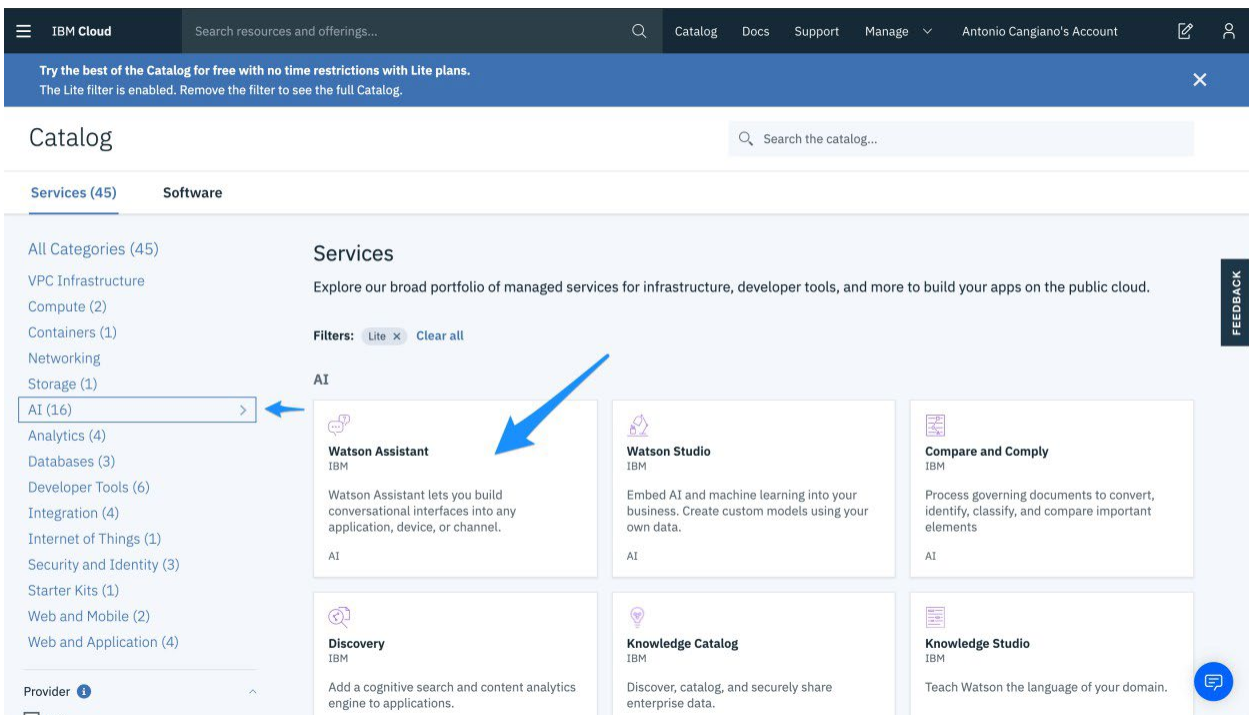
3. You should see a Watson Assistant creation page similar to the image below.
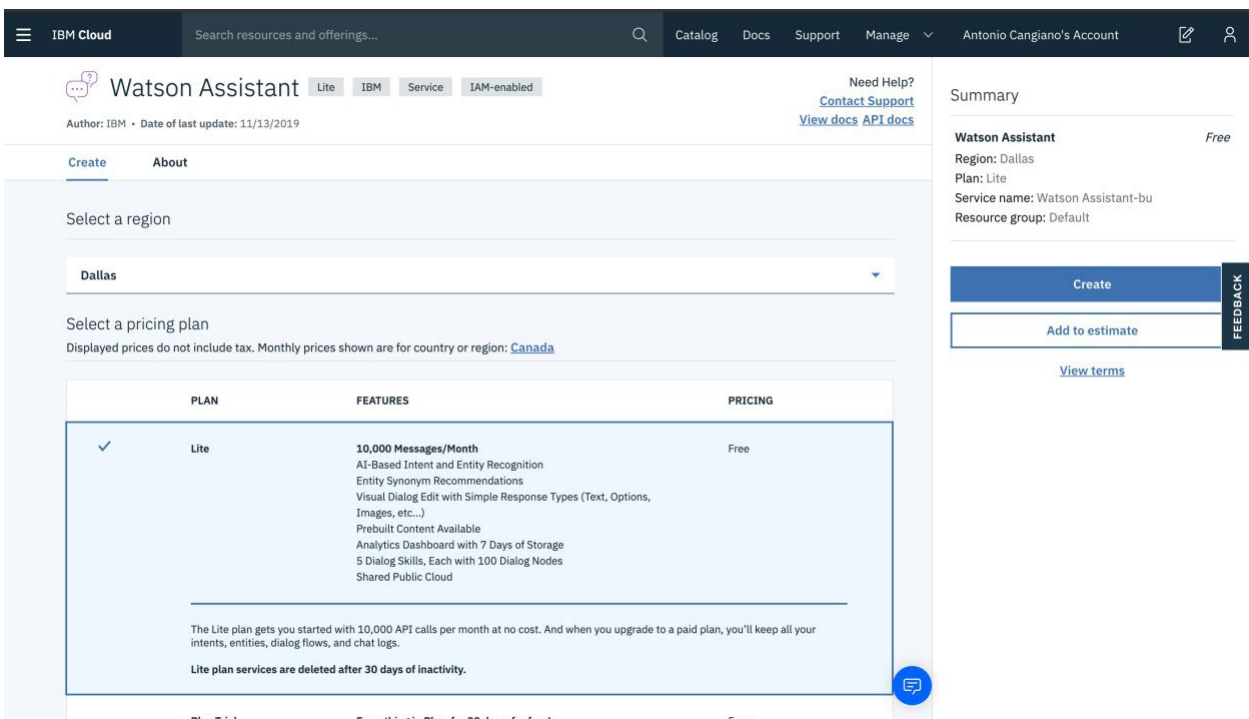
You can leave everything to default or customize the service instance name to your liking (e.g., Watson Assistant Flower Shop). If you are not in the USA or Canada, you might want to switch the region/location for optimal performance. It may take up to a minute before the UI will allow you to select a different data center. Give it a moment to finish loading the page if you don't see the option.

Lab 1: Create an instance of Watson Assistant

4. Take note of the differences between the free Lite plan (which you'll be using) and the other plans available towards the end of the page.

5. With the Lite plan selected, **click the *Create* button** at the bottom to create your instance.

6. You'll be redirected to the launch page for the service you just created. **Click on the *Launch Watson Assistant* button** to access the web application, which will allow you to create chatbots.

Lab 1: Create an instance of Watson Assistant

7. A default Assistant and Skill will be created for you, as shown in the image below.
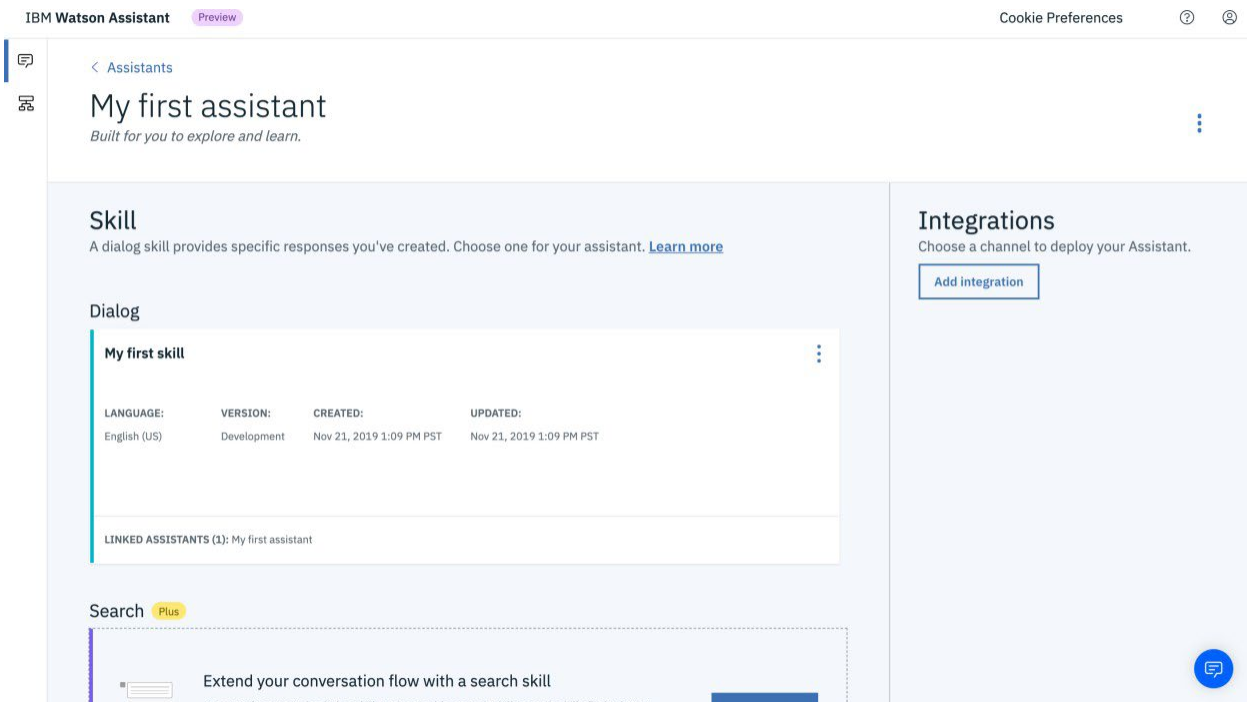
You can think of the assistant as the actual chatbot. A chatbot will have one or more skills. Typically, a chatbot will have at least one dialog skill. In our case, *My first assistant* is our chatbot, and *My first skill* is its dialog skill, which enables it to hold conversations.

If *My first assistant* and *My first skill* were not created for you, and instead you see an error pop up on the screen, clear your browser cache and log back in on cloud.ibm.com. From your dashboard, click on *Services*, and then on the Watson Assistant instance you created (e.g., *Watson Assistant Flower Shop*). Then repeat step 6.

8. Let's rename our assistant. **Click on the three vertical dot icon** to the right of the page above *Integrations* and then **click on *Settings***.

Lab 1: Create an instance of Watson Assistant
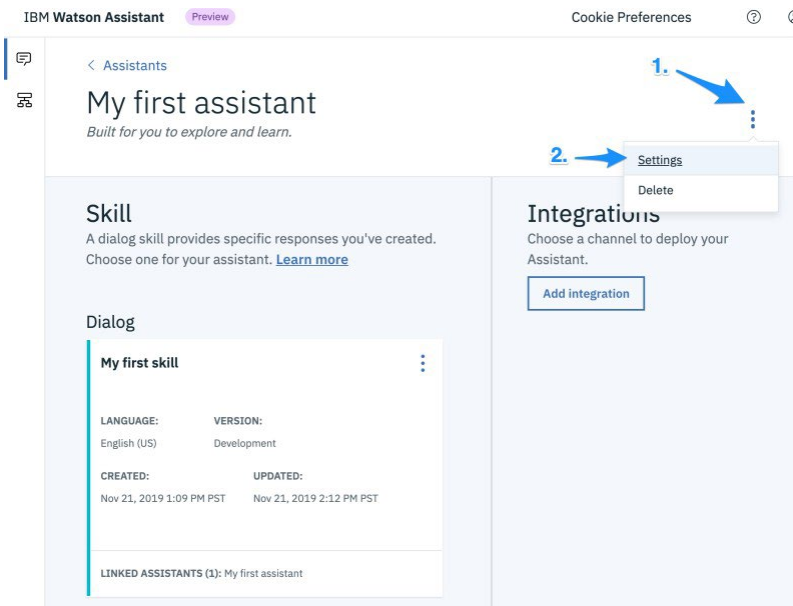
Here, **change the name of our assistant to Flower Shop Chatbot** and optionally change the description too.
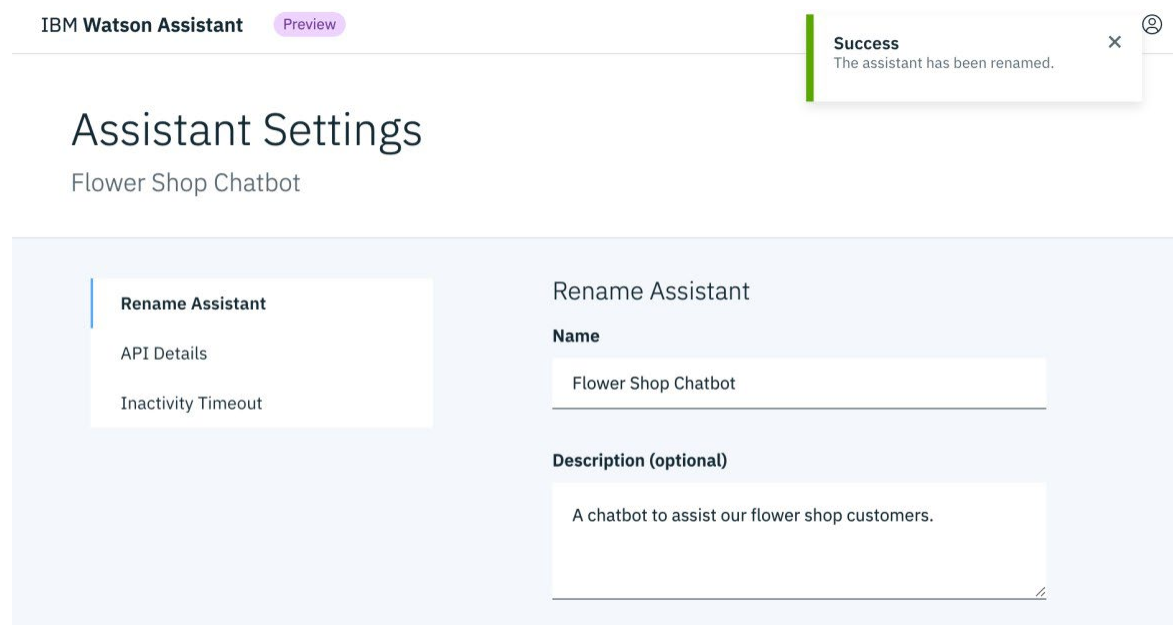
Once you're done, click on the X at the top to return to our assistant.

9. While we are here, let's rename its dialog skill as well. To do so, click the Skills tab on the top left, as shown below.

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Click on the vertical three-dot icon next to My First Skill, then click on Rename, as shown below.

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Change the name of this dialog skill to Flower Shop Skill and click *Rename*. Optionally, add a description if you wish.

✕

Rename My first skill

**Name**

Flower Shop Skill

Description (optional)

Rename

Watson doesn't really care about these labels and descriptions, but they help humans working on the chatbot to better understand how things are organized and why.

10. Now that you have renamed the skill, we can return to the assistant by clicking on the Assistants tab, as shown in the figure below.

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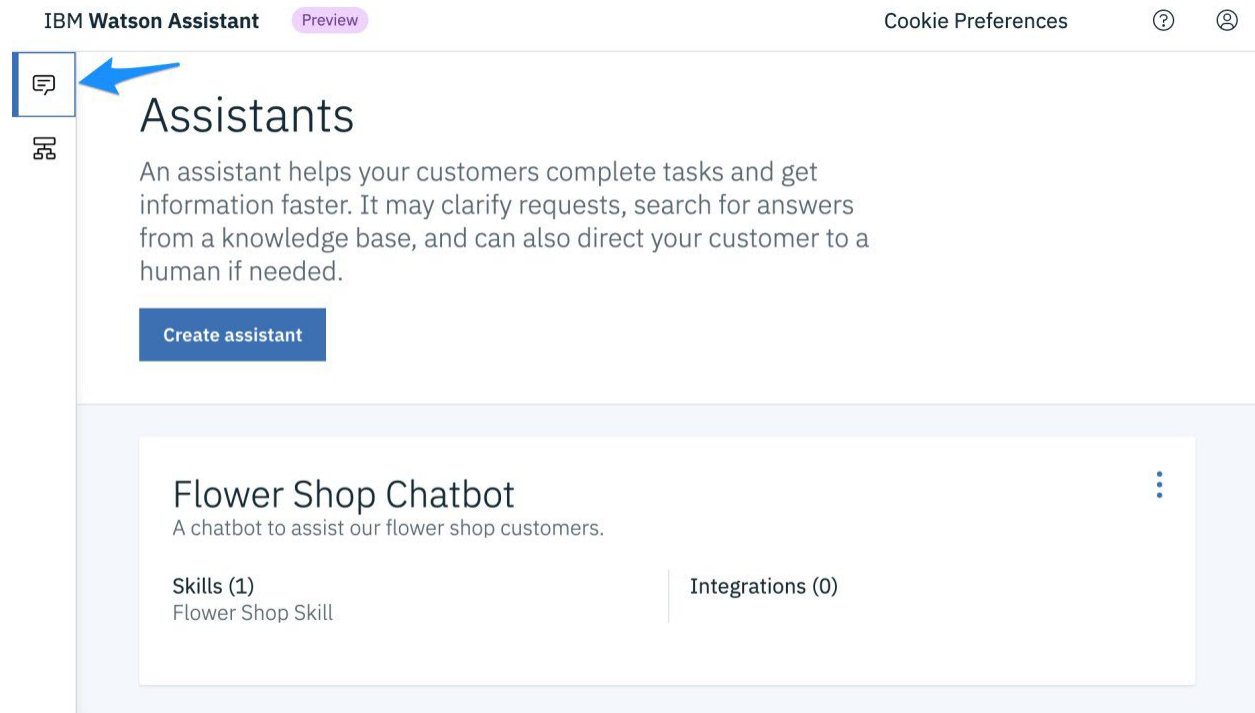
Notice how a list of assistants is shown. In our case, there is only one, our *Flower Shop Chatbot*. If you look closely, you'll see that it includes our *Flower Shop Skill* under its Skills section.

Click on the tile containing our chatbot (i.e., *Flower Shop Chatbot*). You'll be sent back to the familiar view we've encountered before, but this time with a properly named assistant.

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If this is what you see, we are all set for now.

Lab 1: Create an instance of Watson Assistant
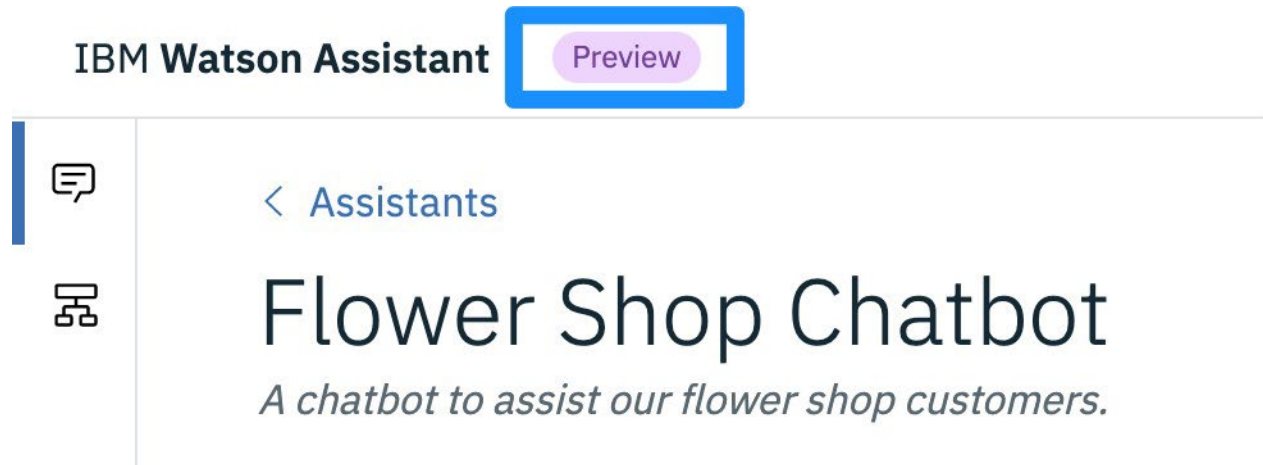
If you don't see the *Preview* icon as shown in the figure above, you're all done with this lab and can proceed to the next section of this course.

If you see the *Preview* icon, please follow these instructions to revert to the standard interface:

1. **Click on the account icon** in the top right of the page.

2. click the revert icon next to your Watson Assistant instance from the menu that appears, as shown in the figure below.
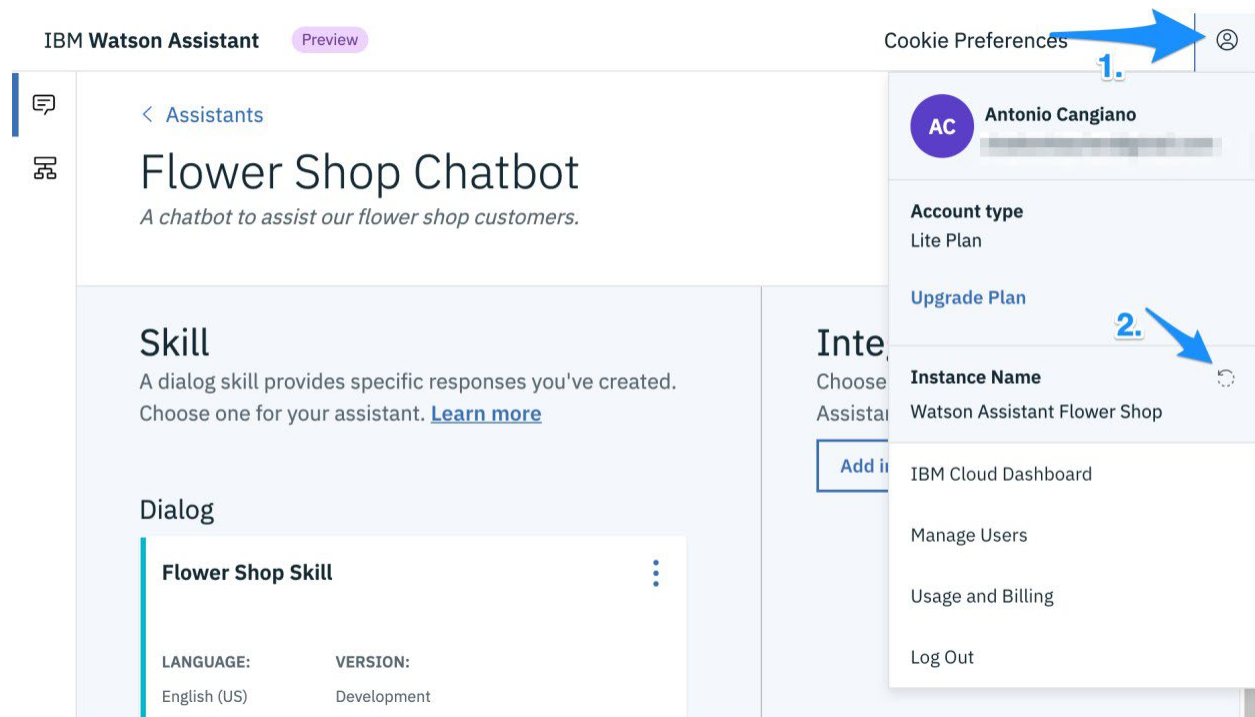
Lab 1: Create an instance of Watson Assistant

3. Next, **click the Revert to standard button in the pop-up dialog**.
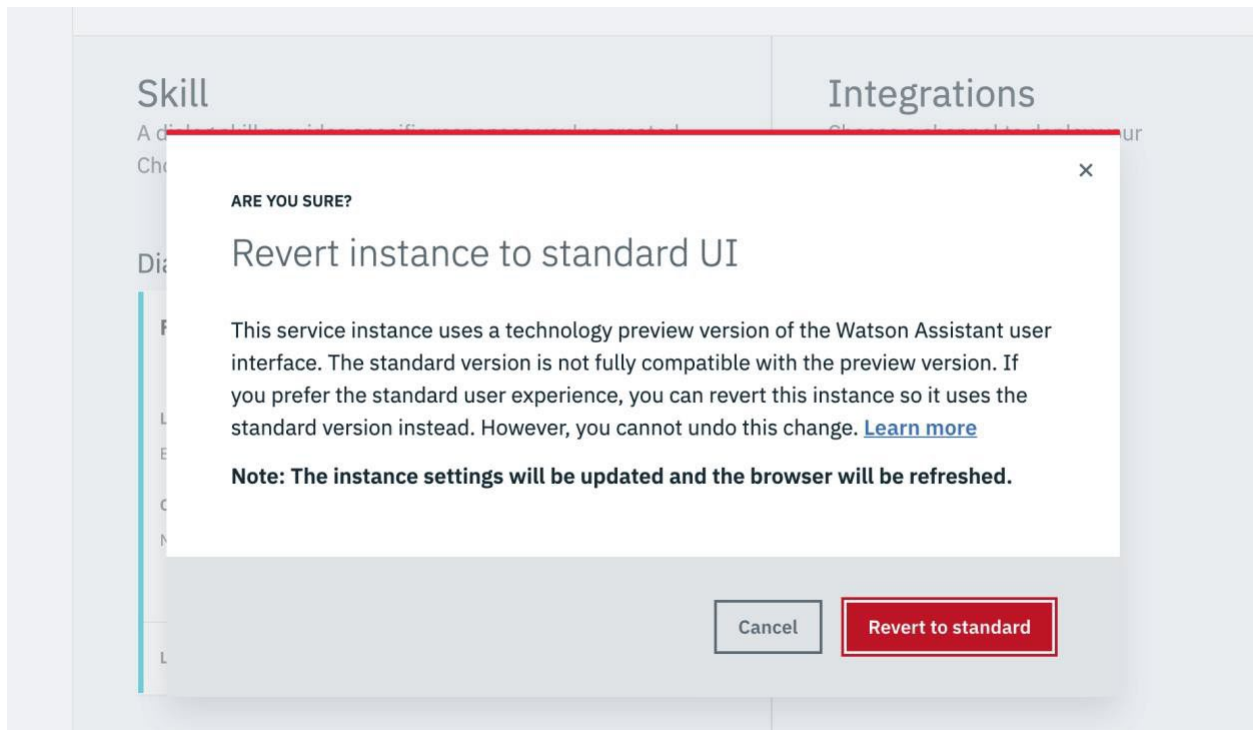
This will revert your instance to a standard UI, which will make your life a lot easier as you follow my course.