In this course, we'll be using Watson Assistant and Watson Discovery, along with other services such as IBM Cloud Functions, Speech to Text, and Text to Speech. You'll create instances of all of these services throughout the course, but to get started, let's create a Watson Assistant and a Watson Discovery instance.

Create a Watson Assistant instance

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.

If you already have a Watson Assistant service running in your IBM Cloud account, you are all set. If you don't, please follow these steps to create one. (You can check which services you already created from your *IBM Cloud Dashboard*).

Exercise 1: Register with IBM Cloud

1. **Register** for Watson Assistant 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. 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 created an account in the previous step, 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 if you don't see the email after a few minutes). Click on the confirmation button as indicated in the image below.
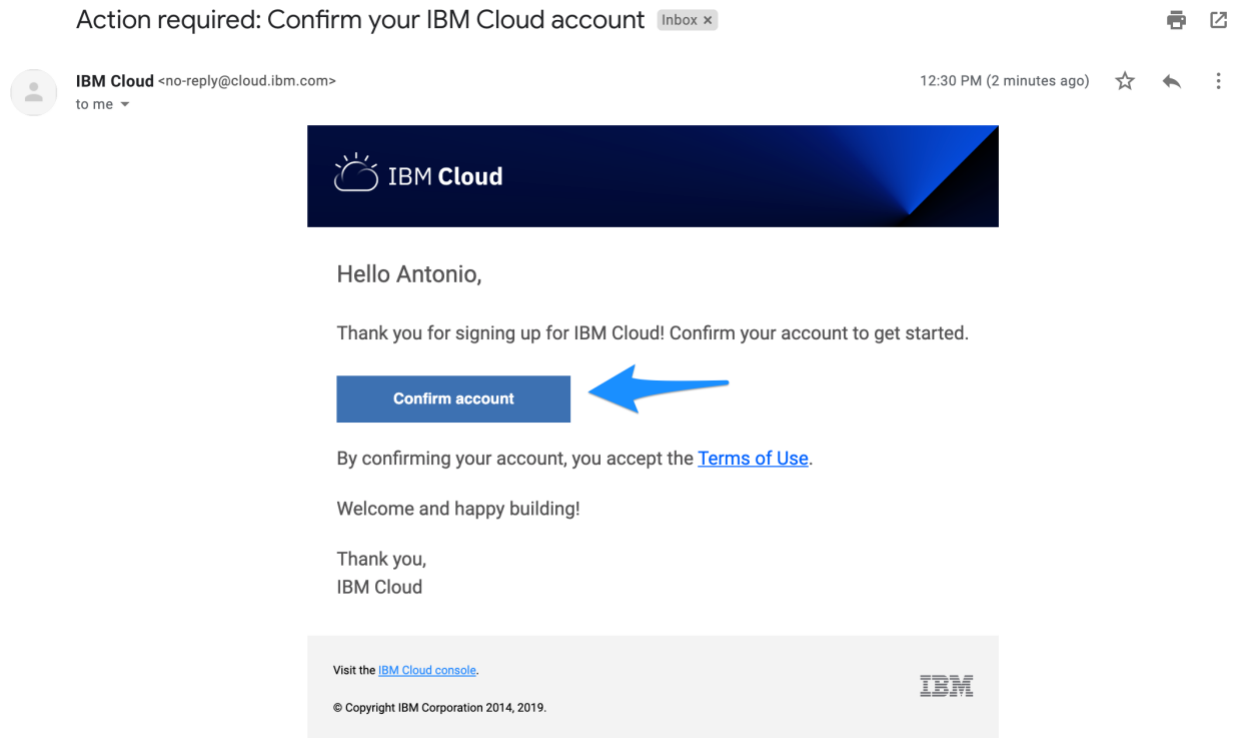
4. Upon successful verification of your email, you'll see a *Log In* button. **Click on it, log in, and accept the privacy notices**. At this point, you'll be logged in with your IBM ID and ready to work with the IBM Cloud platform.

   You'll either be redirected to a Watson Assistant creation page (as shown 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** by clicking on this link or simply type cloud.ibm.com in your browser's address bar. Next, follow these simple steps:

1. **Click on the *Create resource* button** in 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**.
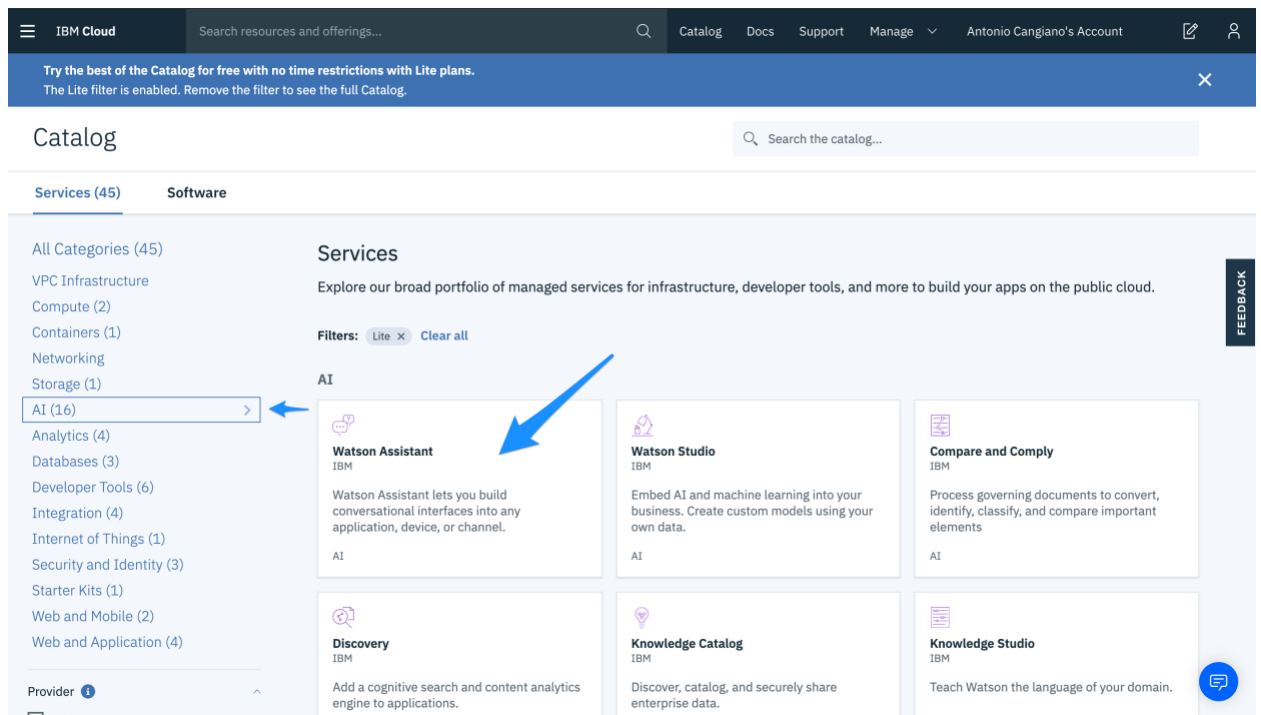
3. You should see a Watson Assistant creation page similar to the image below.
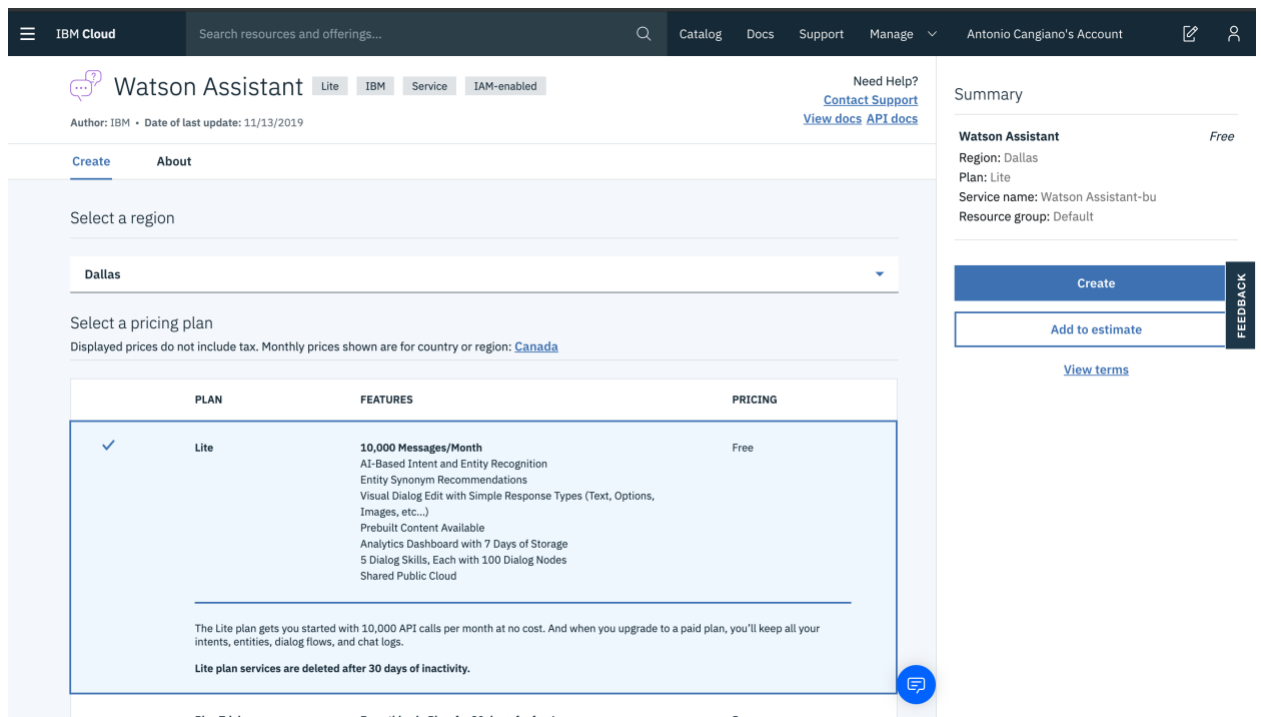

You can leave everything to default or customize the service instance name to your liking (e.g., Watson Assistant Flower Shop). This is only important for developers who plan to have multiple instances in their account, and would like to keep them organized. If you are not in the USA or Canada, you might 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.

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 on the *Create* button** 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 that will allow you to create chatbots.
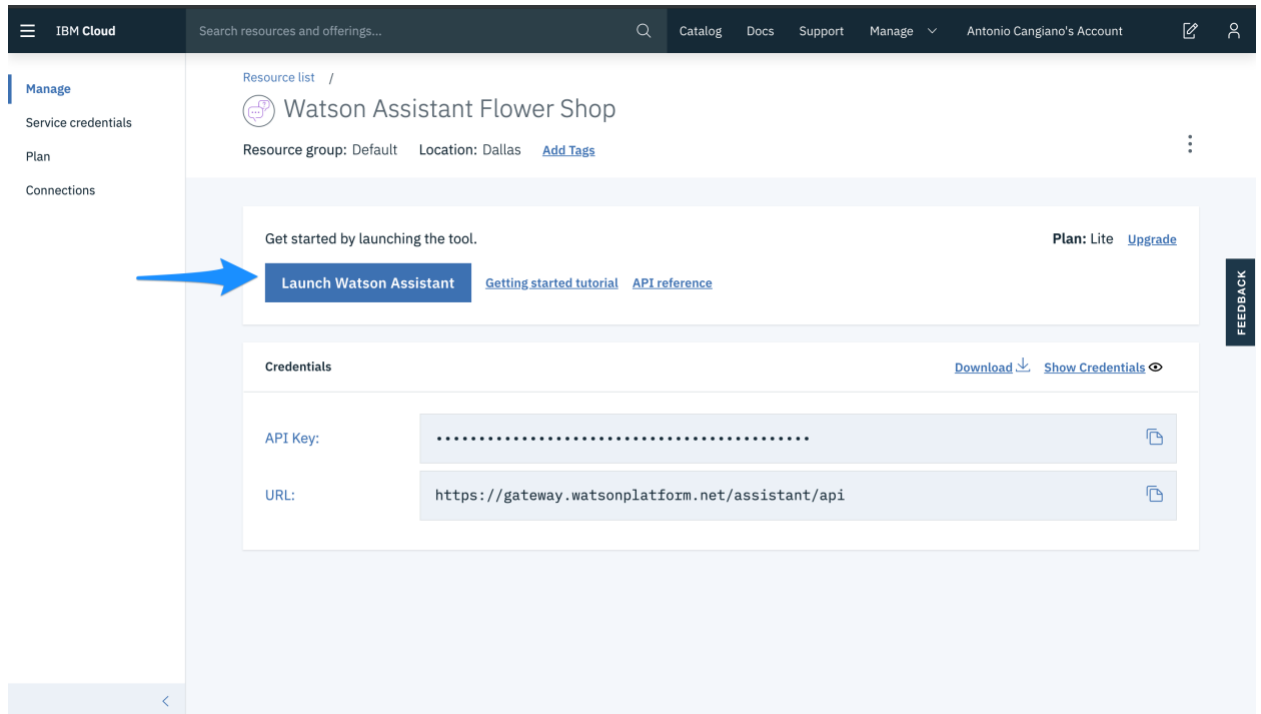
7. A default Assistant and Skill will be created for you as shown in the image below.
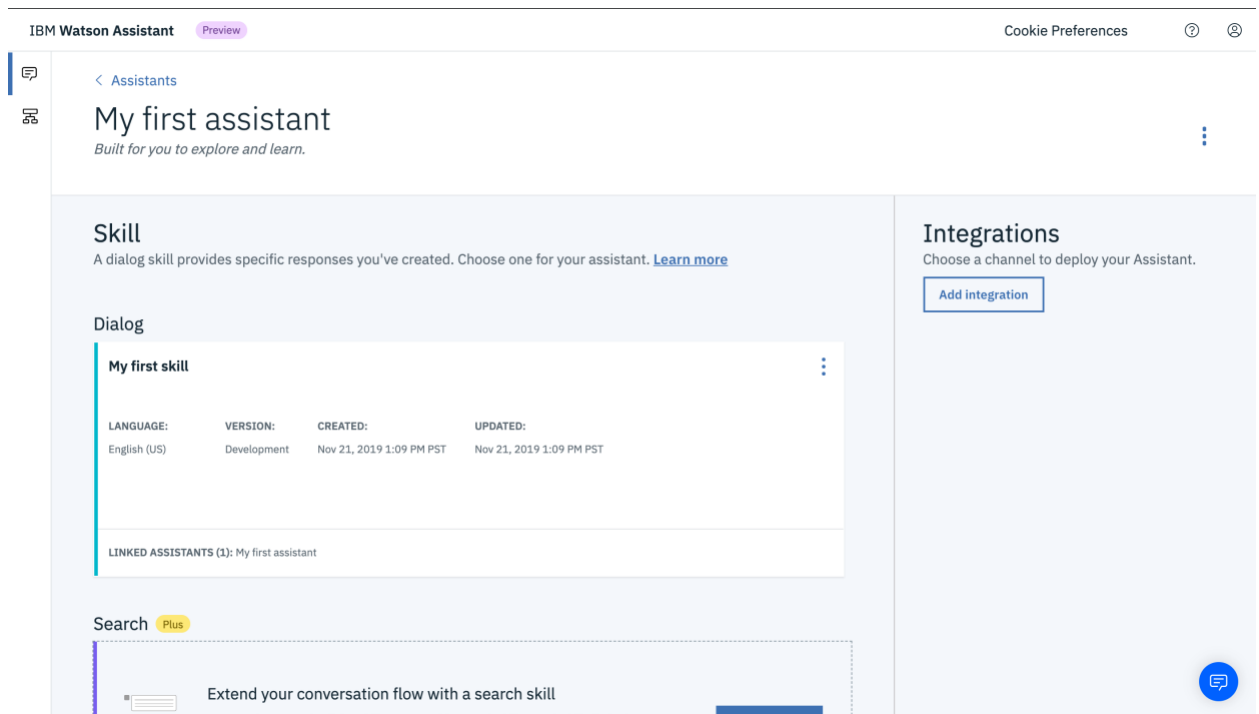
8. **Click on *My first skill***, as it's where we'll teach our chatbot how to chat in the next modules of this course. For quick access in future labs, **bookmark your skill page.**

Help! I'm getting an error…

If *My first assistant* and *My first skill* were not created for you, and instead you see an error such as the one below, 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.

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.

Create a Watson Discovery instance

Now that you have a Watson Assistant instance in your account, let's create a Watson Discovery one as well, so as to be ready for the next couple of modules of this course.

Exercise 3: Create a Watson Assistant service

1. **Click on the *Create resource* button** on your dashboard.
2. **Search for Discovery** in the search field or find it in the AI category of the catalog and then **click on that tile**.
3. A page will offer you to create the service, similarly to how you did with Watson Assistant. Change the name of the service or keep the default, if you wish.
4. Read the details of the various plans offered to you, and then, **with the free Lite plan selected, click Create.**

You're all set for now.