

Rapidly Building Apps on the Cloud

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Exercise 6a – Your first Node.js application

Section 6, Lecture 29

In this exercise we switch from Java to Node, which uses javascript on the server.

A typical “hello world” application is :

```
var http = require('http'); http.createServer(function (req, res) {  
  res.writeHead(200, {'Content-Type': 'text/plain'}); res.end('Hello World\n');  
}).listen(3000);
```

Create this file using a text editor installed on your system^[1] in a clean directory and call it app.js. If you have a local install of Node, you could run this using `node app.js`

This will start a web server and every request will respond with Hello World. To run this on Bluemix we need to make a couple of changes. The first change is to get the application to listen on the port Bluemix has assigned for the application. Environment variables are used by Bluemix to communicate configuration to the application:

```
var http = require('http'); var appport = process.env.VCAP_APP_PORT || 3000;  
http.createServer(function (req, res) { res.writeHead(200, {'Content-Type':  
'text/plain'}); res.end('Hello World\n'); }).listen(appport);
```

The next step is to add a `package.json` – this is required to run a node application on Bluemix.

```
{  "name": "BINodeTest",  "version": "0.0.1",  "description": "Sample Node  
application" }
```

Create a new text file called `package.json` in the same directory as `app.js` and enter the content above.

To deploy the application on Bluemix we will initially use the CLI. Open a command/terminal window and change to the directory containing `app.js` and `package.json` then enter the command

```
cf push BINodeTest -c 'node app.js'
```

If you navigate to the Bluemix Web UI you should see the application running – with “Hello World” displayed in the browser when you launch the application.

^[1] notepad on windows or TextEdit on Mac – please use text mode with smart features turned off, such as smart quotes “

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Questions

1 question in this lecture



Typos

Need to use double quotes (") for the command line, not single quotes ('). Also, should pick a unique name, not `BINodeTest`.

Question Details