Hands-on Lab: Using the CQL Shell (cqlsh)

Estimated time needed: **20** minutes

Objectives

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Access the Cassandra server with cqlsh, the command-line interface for using the Cassandra Query Language (CQL)
- Run commands to learn more about the server and session, such as server version and host details
- Determine the available keyspaces, which are objects similar to databases, on the server

This SN Labs Cloud IDE

This Skills Network Labs Cloud IDE provides a hands-on environment for course and project-related labs. It utilizes Theia, an open-source IDE platform that can run on a desktop or the cloud. To complete this lab, you will use the Cloud IDE based on Theia and Cassandra provided by Skills Network.

Important notice about this lab environment

Please be aware that sessions for this lab environment do not persist. You will see a new environment every time you connect to this lab. Any data you may have saved in the earlier session would get lost. Plan to complete these labs in a single session to avoid losing your data.

Set-up: Start Cassandra

Open the Cassandra database page by clicking the button below:

Open Cassandra Page in IDE

On that page, click the `Create` button to create a Cassandra database.

After creation has finished, click the `Cassandra CLI` button (below the `Create` button from the previous step) to connect to the database using the cqlsh CLI.

Exercise 1: Find host details

On the cqlsh, run the following command.

```
show host
```

This command will show the details of the server you have connected to.

Exercise 2: Find server version

On the cqlsh, run the following command.

```
show version
```

This command will show the version of the Cassandra server.

Exercise 3: List keyspaces

Use the following command to list keyspaces in cqlsh.

A keyspace is an outermost object in a Cassandra cluster that controls how data replicates on nodes.

```
describe keyspaces
```

This command will print a list of the keyspaces present on the server.

Exercise 4: Clear the screen

On the cqlsh, run the below command.

```
cls
```

This command will clear the cqlsh screen.

Exercise 5: Disconnect from Cassandra server

On the cqlsh run the below command.

```
exit
```

Practice exercises

1. Problem: Find the version of the server.

   ▶ Click here for hint
   ▼ Click here for solution

   ```
   show version
   ```

2. Problem: Find the host details.

   ▶ Click here for hint
   ▼ Click here for solution

   ```
   show host
   ```

3. Problem: Show keyspaces.

▶ Click here for hint
▼ Click here for solution

```
describe keyspaces
```

4. Problem: Disconnect from the server.

▼ Click here for solution

```
exit
```

Summary

In this lab, you have gained an understanding of basic CQLSH syntax and usage.

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