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Get started with Ignite CLI and then run your own chain

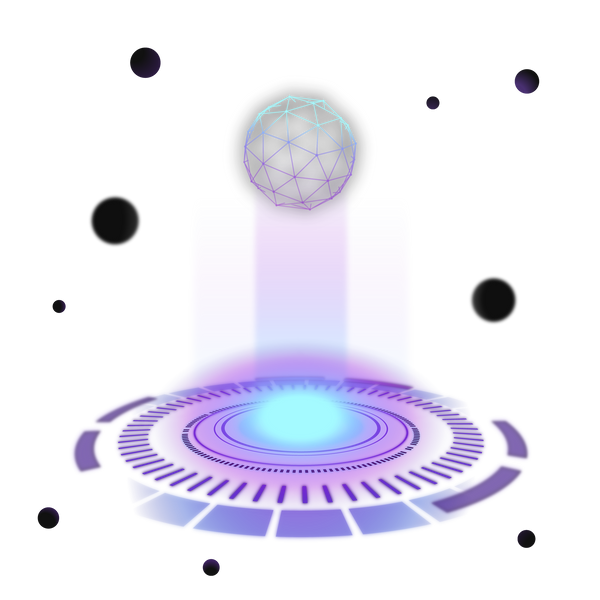
**First Steps**

Do you want to find out how to interact with Cosmos chains? Let's take it step-by-step.

Make sure to set up your Work Environment. We have put together some useful information to get everything ready before you start.

Begin by interacting with a chain using simapp. By the end, you will know how to run a node, create blocks, and send transactions.

Then discover the first steps to building an application-specific blockchain from scratch, using Ignite to implement a checkers game and to interact with a running local blockchain from the command line.



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In this chapter, you will:

* Find instructions on how to set up your work environment.
* Learn how to run a node and interact with a Cosmos SDK chain.
* Work with Ignite CLI.
* Begin implementing a blockchain for a checkers game using Ignite CLI, including the creation of unit tests.

**This week, make sure to submit your exercise once you feel ready to test your knowledge.**

The exercise will be available until the Final Exam is launched on July 6th.

Do not worry if you do not pass the exercise: it is simply meant to be an opportunity to practice and demonstrate your engagement with the program.



This is a **recording** of the live session *Introduction to app.go* with Julien Robert, Developer Relations Engineer for the Cosmos SDK:

[#Copy link](https://ida.interchain.io/ida-course/LPs/week-2/#next-up) Next up

Before you begin [running a node](https://ida.interchain.io/tutorials/3-run-node/) and exploring [Ignite CLI](https://ida.interchain.io/hands-on-exercise/1-ignite-cli/1-ignitecli.html), prep everything for the running exercise - *creating a checkers blockchain* - by going through the section [Setup Your Work Environment](https://ida.interchain.io/tutorials/2-setup/).



But before you dive in, ask yourself: *what kind of a learner are you?*

* **Do you like to learn the theory first, then build on that foundation?** If that sounds like you, then we recommend you begin with the Week 1 content and continue through the program chronologically.
* **Do you like to get your hands dirty right away, then work back to fill in the conceptual gaps?** If this is your *modus operandi*, then we suggest you start with the Week 2 material now, then go back to read through Week 1 before you continue.

Whichever way you decide to approach the program, we **highly recommend** that you complete both Week 1 and Week 2!

[#Copy link](https://ida.interchain.io/ida-course/LPs/week-2/#developer-resources) Developer Resources

Cosmos SDK

**Cosmos SDK**

A framework to build application-specific blockchains

[Documentation↗](https://docs.cosmos.network/)

CometBFT

**CometBFT**

Blockchain consensus engine and application interface

[Documentation↗](https://docs.cometbft.com/)

Cosmos Hub

**Cosmos Hub**

First interconnected public blockchain in the Interchain network

[Documentation↗](https://hub.cosmos.network/)

IBC

**IBC**

Industry standard protocol for inter-blockchain communication

[Documentation↗](https://ibc.cosmos.network/)

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Community

[Interchain blog](https://blog.cosmos.network/)[Forum](https://forum.cosmos.network/)[Discord](https://discord.gg/cosmosnetwork)

Contributing

[Source code on GitHub](https://github.com/cosmos/sdk-tutorials)

[](https://ida.interchain.io/)

[Interchain Developer Academy](https://ida.interchain.io/)

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