Create and configure IBM Cloud service

Connect Device to IBM Watson IoT Platform

IBM Watson IoT Platform is a complete end-to-end solution for IoT needs. It integrates a

bundled set of services to connect, capture, register, analyze, and archive your IoT devices and

data.

For more information and documentation on IBM Watson IoT Platform please see the following -

https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SSQP8H/iot/kc\_welcome.htm

This is part two of a two-part series. This document is a simple, easy to follow process to

connect a device to IBM Watson IoT Platform. It will go through connecting via an MQTT

connection.

In part one, see part 1 - Configure IBM Watson IoT Platform to Connect a Device, IBM Watson

IoT Platform account was created and configured, a device type was created, and a device was

added.

The process is:

I. Connect Device to IBM Watson IoT Platform using MQTT

II. Login to IBM Watson IoT Platform to Verify Connection

III. Example Device Configuration and Python Connection (Optional)

IV. Connecting to Quickstart (Optional)

V. Example Device Configuration and Quickstart Connection (Optional)

VI. Additional Information

I. Connect Device to IBM Watson IoT Platform using MQTT

The main means to connect devices to IBM Watson IoT Platform is via MQTT. The

device will need a MQTT client software to connect and publish events. To add

MQTT capability to devices, IBM provides reference implementations

Please see the following. https://github.com/mqtt/mqtt.github.io/wiki/libraries

The device must satisfy the requirements for the connection to be able to publish an

event. On the device add a username, and password/authentication token and

connect. Use the registration information to connect the device and start receiving

device data. Set up the device for MQTT messaging and authenticate by using the

organization ID, device type, device ID, and authentication token that was created in

part one of this series. How to setup a specific device will vary by device.

The following information is required when connecting your device

URL

<orgid>.messaging.internetofthings.ibmcloud.com

where orgid is the ID of the IBM Watson IoT Platform organization

created in part one.

Port

8883

This is a secure encrypted connection

Device ID

d: <orgid>:<device type>:<device id>

where:

orgid in the ID of the IBM Watson IoT Platform organization

created in part one

device type is the device type created in IBM Watson IoT

Platform in part one

device id is the device created in IBM Watson IoT Platform in

part one

Username

use-token-auth

Username is the same value for all devices - use-token-auth

This tells IBM Watson IoT Platform to use the devices authentication

token which is the password.

Password

Authentication token

Password is the device’s unique authentication token that was generated

when the device was created in part one.

Event topic format

iot-2/evt/<eventid>/fmt/<formatstring>

where:

eventid specifies the event name that is shown in IBM Watson IoT

Platform

formatstring is the format of the event, such as JSON.

Message format

JSON

Certificate (optional)

when you use secure MQTT messaging, newer client libraries

automatically trust the default certificate that is presented by IBM Watson IoT

Platform service. If this is not the case for your client environment, you will need

a full certificate chain and specify that in the connection.

Once connected you will see the device connected in IBM Watson IoT Platform and

the device can send data.

II. Login to IBM Watson IoT Platform to Verify Connection

Go to URL - https://internetofthings.ibmcloud.com/

Click Sign in

Enter an IBMid and click Continue

(Click Remember Me if you want)

Enter the Password and click Login

(Click Remember Me if you want)

You are now logged into IBM Watson IoT Platform

Click select org

Select the org

Click Devices option and see that the device is Connected.

Click the device and Logs and see that the connection was made

Click Recent Events and see the data that was sent from the device to IBM Watson

IoT Platform

III. Example Device Configuration and Python Connection (Optional)

Test done with a Raspberry PI with Python

Install Python

sudo apt-get install python-dev python-pip

Install the wiotp-sdk and psutil python modules

sudo pip install wiotp-sdk psutil

Define environmental variables for the org, device type, device id, and

authentication token. These values are the ones created and/or generated in IBM

Watson IoT Platform in part one.

These variables correspond to the device parameters for the registered device

WIOTP\_IDENTITY\_ORGID

WIOTP\_IDENTITY\_TYPEID

WIOTP\_IDENTITY\_DEVICEID

WIOTP\_AUTH\_TOKEN

Commands

export WIOTP\_IDENTITY\_ORGID=<orgid>

export WIOTP\_IDENTITY\_TYPEID=<devicetype>

export WIOTP\_IDENTITY\_DEVICEID=<deviceid>

export WIOTP\_AUTH\_TOKEN=<authtoken>

Run python

python iotpsutil.py

IV. Connecting to Quickstart (Optional)

If you have issues connecting the device, you can use Quickstart to troubleshoot with

a ‘simple’ connection. To make a quick connection of the device to IBM Watson IoT

Platform you can use Quickstart. Connecting to Quickstart allows you to quickly

verify your installation and connectivity to IBM Watson IoT Platform. It is not required

to test via Quickstart. When you connect to the Quickstart service, authentication or

registration is not required, and the orgId must be set to quickstart.

Quickstart does not require any IBM Watson IoT Platform configuration. It is a quick

way to test connectivity from a device to IBM Watson IoT Platform in a unsecure

connection.

Go to URL - https://internetofthings.ibmcloud.com/

Scroll down and click Launch Quickstart

Click the box to accept the terms and enter the device id. Click Go

Device id will be a value from the device. See example below of a Raspberry Pi test.

Data will start appearing for the device

V. Example Device Configuration and Quickstart Connection (Optional)

Test done with a Raspberry PI with Python

Install Python

sudo apt-get install python-dev python-pip

Install the wiotp-sdk and psutil python modules

sudo pip install wiotp-sdk psutil

Download the sample code from GitHub

sudo apt-get update

sudo apt-get install python-dev python-pip

sudo pip install wiotp-sdk psutil

wget https://github.com/ibm-watson-iot/iot-python/archive/master.zip

unzip master.zip

cd iot-python-master/samples/psutil/src

Connect to quickstart

python iotpsutil.py --quickstart

The –quickstart command line argument will configure the device client to

connect to quickstart using a generated deviceId based on the Pi’s MAC address.

Output

<DateTime Stamp> wiotp.sdk.device.client.DeviceClient INFO

Connected successfully: d:quickstart:sample-iotpsutil:b827ebda3192L

Welcome to IBM Watson IoT Platform Quickstart, view a vizualization of

live data from this device at the URL below:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-XXXX

(Press Ctrl+C to disconnect)

Where XXXX is the rest of the specific URL

VI. Additional Information

• For more information and documentation on MQTT please see the following –

https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/SSQP8H/iot/platform/referenc

e/mqtt/index.html

• https://developer.ibm.com/blogs/open-source-ibm-mqtt-the-messagingprotocol-for-iot/

• For more information and documentation on MQTT connectivity please see

the following -

https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SSQP8H/iot/platform/devic

es/mqtt.html

• If you’re not using MQTT, there are other ways to get data from devices to

the Watson IoT Platform. Please see the IBM Watson IoT Platform

Knowledge Center for information -

https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SSQP8H/iot/platform/iotpla

tform\_task.html#iotplatform\_task

* • IBM Watson IoT Github repositories - https://github.com/ibm-watson-iot/ cc