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Unit 1 / Lesson 1 / Assignment 1

# Setting Up Cloud9

Estimated Time: 1-2 hours

The first stage of our journey will be setting up a development environment which you can work in – your Cloud9 workspace.

## What is Cloud9?



Cloud9 is a service which gives you web based access to a configurable development environment. The environment is run on a remote virtual linux box which has Ubuntu Linux preinstalled. The free version of Cloud9, which you'll be using in this course, gives you a single private workspace, but you can develop multiple apps from this box. When you log in to a Cloud9 workspace, you get access to command line console windows and a built in text editor, amongst other tools. It also easily integrates with Git and Heroku, and you can run PostgreSQL, which we'll be using for database storage later in this course.

## Setting up Cloud9

1. **Create a Cloud9 Account:** First you'll need to head over to [Cloud9 \(c9.io\)](#) to create a new account. After you submit your username, email, and password, you will get a page telling you that you've been sent an email to confirm your account. It may take a minute or two; if you

haven't received it, check your spam folder. Click on the link in the confirmation email, and you'll be taken to the Cloud9 dashboard.

2. **Create a New Workspace:** In the menu on the left side is a green button "Create a New Workspace". Click it and a small menu opens up beneath it with entries for "Create a New Workspace" and "Clone from URL". Click "Create a New Workspace".
3. **Name the workspace and choose a template:** a dialogue to let you complete creating the workspace will pop up. At this time, you can name your workspace, which we recommend doing; write the name in lower-case ASCII letters, separated by hyphens, such as `pig-and-pepper` . This ensures you get a tidy preview URL later on. Leave most of the options at their defaults - the "Hosted" tab, a "Public" workspace, and don't clone anything - and then choose the "Blank" template. Now you're ready to click "Create".
4. **The Cloud9 Dashboard:** Now that you've created a workspace, you see the Cloud9 Dashboard. In the left-most column, you can see your projects -- we've already used this column to create your workspace -- and the workspace you created should be selected. In the remainder of the window, you see the dashboard page for that workspace. For now, just click the "Start Editing" button.
5. **Take a tour of your workspace:** Great! You've now got a powerful cloud-based environment that comes pre-installed with Python, Git, PostgreSQL, and Heroku, all tools we will use later in the course. Let's take a quick tour:
  1. In the left-most panel, you'll see the File Browser, where you can navigate the files in your home folder. At this point, Cloud9 has created a nearly-empty workspace, containing only one file, `README.md` .

2. The middle panel is the workspace panel itself. Right now, it's showing a preview of your `README.md` file. This is also where you will write and edit code.
3. The bottom panel is for your consoles. By default, your console will open when you open your workspace, but you can add new consoles by clicking the plus button. This includes a `bash` console, showing the bash command line. It also includes a JavaScript REPL (Read-Eval-Print-Loop) in a window named `Immediate (JavaScript)`. This console is running in the JavaScript interpreter for your browser. We aren't using Javascript in this course, so to avoid confusion, close this console for now.



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