

Sign up for IBM Cloud, Create Db2 service instance and Get started with the Db2 console

From now on, the hands-on labs for this course require an environment for working with a relational database. To get you up and running quickly we will do so on the Cloud, so you don't have to worry about downloading or installing anything, rather, simply access your database from your web browser. IBM Cloud provides a large number of Data and Analytics services, including IBM Db2, a next generation SQL database. And best of all you can create a Lite account on IBM Cloud and provision an instance of Db2 (Lite Plan) at no charge, and without providing any credit card information.

Objectives

- Signing up for IBM Cloud
- Creating an instance of a Db2 service
- Locating and explore the Db2 console

Exercise 1: Sign up for IBM Cloud

First, let us introduce you to the IBM Cloud. IBM Cloud is IBM's innovative cloud computing platform which combines platform as a service (PaaS) with infrastructure as a service (IaaS). It includes a rich catalog of cloud services that can be easily integrated with PaaS and IaaS to build business applications rapidly. It lets you quickly create, deploy, and manage your applications in the cloud. You don't have to deal with any of the underlying infrastructure. And you don't have to deal with the hosting and the managing of your cloud-based applications. You can use the tools and languages of your choice. IBM Cloud comes with a catalog full of awesome services, or APIs, from IBM and from third parties that you can use in your applications. You can scale your applications with literally a couple of clicks.

Please follow the steps given below to create an IBM Cloud account.

1. Sign up for IBM Cloud at: cloud.ibm.com/registration
 - **Note:** If you already have an IBM Cloud account (perhaps you created it for another course), you can skip this step and simply log in. If your older IBM Cloud account trial has expired and is asking for a credit card to upgrade, you can instead create a new IBM Cloud account with a different email address.
 -

2. As part of the sign-up process, you will receive an email with a verification code in your inbox. Enter this verification code on the IBM Cloud registration page where you requested the code, to activate your account.
3. If needed, or if you have already signed up for IBM Cloud, login to IBM Cloud at: cloud.ibm.com/login

Exercise 2: Create an instance of IBM Db2 Lite plan

Now let us introduce you to Db2 on IBM Cloud. IBM Db2 is a next generation SQL database provisioned for you in the cloud. You can use Db2 on IBM Cloud just as you would use any database software (RDBMS), but without the overhead and expense of hardware setup or software installation and maintenance. Among the service plans offered for Db2 on IBM Cloud is the Lite plan, which is free to use. You can use your database instance to store relational data, analyze data using a built-in SQL editor, or by connecting your own apps.

Note that IBM Cloud also provides other variants of Db2 such as Db2 Hosted and Db2 Warehouse on Cloud, which is also referred to in this course. However, for the labs in this course, we will utilize the Db2 service since it comes with a Lite plan which is free to use.

Please follow the steps given below to provision an instance of Db2 on IBM Cloud.

1. Ensure you are logged in to IBM Cloud and go to: cloud.ibm.com/catalog/services/db2
 - o **Note:** Depending on the Country of your IBM Cloud account a region/location to deploy will be pre-selected. For example, if you are in the US, the default Datacenter location will be Dallas. Users from the UK will see London and so on. It is best to go with the default location that is closest to you.

2. Scroll down to the Pricing Plans section and select the **Lite plan** (it's a free plan and does not require a credit card).
3. Then click on the **Create** button towards the lower-right of the page. It will spin for a few seconds (typically less than 30s) and then you should see a Service Created message indicating that your instance of Db2 was created successfully.

Exercise 3: Locate and Explore the Db2 console

Now that you have created your database instance, you need to know how to get to it, explore the console and start working with it.

- **NOTE:** You are not required to compose and run any SQL query on this exercise.
1. To access your database instance, go to your IBM Cloud Resource List (you may need to log into IBM Cloud in the process) directly at: cloud.ibm.com/resources
 - **Alternative:** Go to your IBM Cloud dashboard (you may need to login to IBM Cloud in the process) at: cloud.ibm.com and click **Services**.
 2. In the Resource list, expand the **Services** and locate and click on your instance of Db2 you provisioned in exercise 2 (the name typically starts with Db2-xx for example Db2-fk, Db2-50, etc.)
 3. Click on the **Go to UI** button.
 4. The Db2 console will open in a new tab in your web browser. Click on the 3-bar menu icon in the top left corner and then click on **RUN SQL**.
 5. On the next screen click on **Blank**.
 6. The SQL editor will open where you can start typing and running queries.

7. The SQL editor has several areas for performing different tasks.
8. Click on the **Add New Script +** icon if you want to add a new script for composing queries.
9. Click on **Blank**.
10. When you are asked in the upcoming labs, compose the appropriate SQL query for each problem and run by clicking **Run all**.
11. When you will run the script, looking at the Result section of the executed queries you will know whether the SQL statements ran successfully or not.
12. By clicking the Result section of the executed queries, you can see the query error details or result set to check and ensure the output is what you expected.
 - **NOTE:** You may find that some results don't appear in the result set pane; in this case, click the highlighted **diagonal arrow (View More)** and it will open the full Result Set window containing the results.