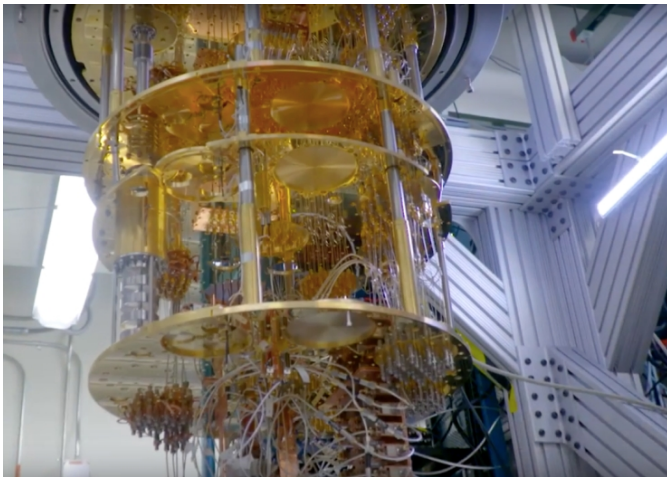# IBM Launches Quantum Computing as a Service

Written by Marco Attard
06 May 2016

Anyone interested in testing a quantum computer can now do so through the IBM Quantum Experience-- a currently free Big Blue offering one can simply describe as a quantum computer-as-a-service.

The quantum computer in question is a 5 qubit number found at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, New York. Researchers can run algorithms and check tutorials and simulations through a colourful programming interface allowing users to drag quantum objects on a timeline in order to write a program.

As IBM puts it, the machine represents a first step towards the creation of a universal quantum computer-- one that can be programmed to perform any computing task. Such a machine would require 50-100 qubits, and surpass the capabilities of the fastest super computers available today.

"This moment represents the birth of quantum cloud computing," Big Blue adds. "By giving hands-on access to IBM's experimental quantum systems, the IBM Quantum Experience will make it easier for researchers and the scientific community to accelerate innovations in the quantum field, and help discover new applications for this technology."

Individuals interested in testing quantum computing-as-a-service can register for the honour to do so via the link below. However one has to keep in mind IBM will choose who will access the service based on what they want to do and their skills with quantum system programming.

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