STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR BUILDING A DEEP LEARNING MODEL TO DETECT TABLES FROM IMAGES

INTRODUCTION

This how to guide is inspired by the blog post written by Christian Beckmann (https://blog.goodaudience.com/table-detection-using-deep-learning-7182918d778). This is an excellent blog post which explains how to implement a table detection system

From the comments section of the above blog post and by receiving several requests from data science beginners, I realised many beginners are having trouble with building this system because of some minor environment or version issues.
So I decided to write this guide which will provide step by step instructions on how to build a deep learning Model to detect tables from images.

At the end of this article I have also provided a small program that can be used to predict the tables using the model we have built. You can refer to this if you would like to integrate this model into your own python applications.

If you follow all the 84 steps as specified here you will end up with a deep learning system that can identify a table from an image and give you X,Y coordinates for the same.

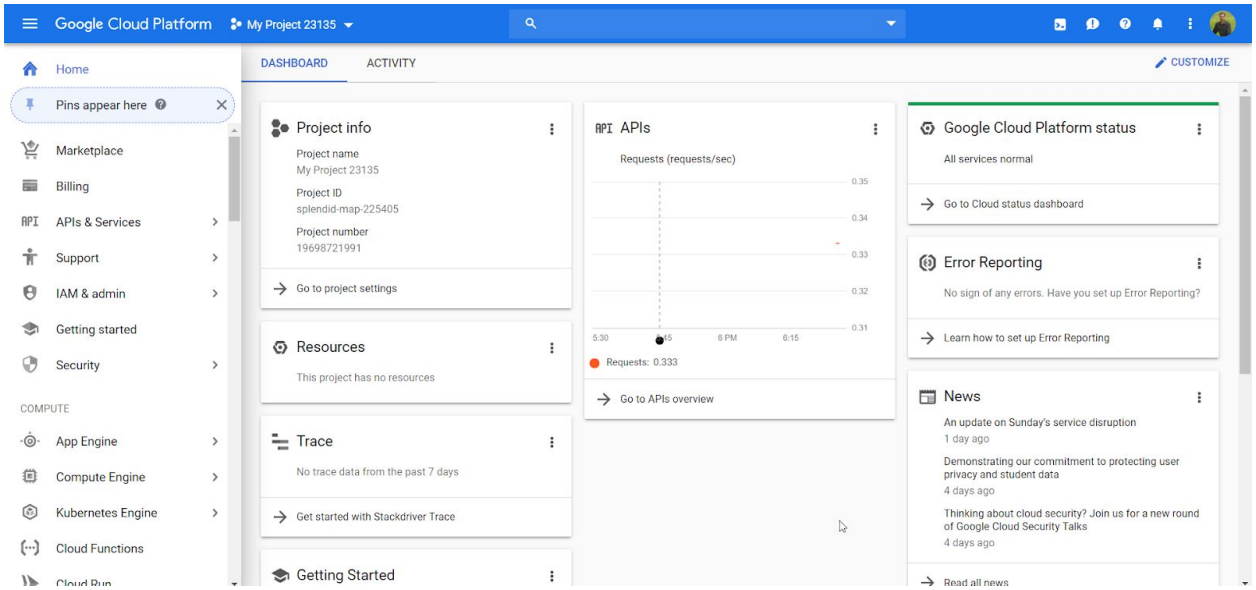
SETTING UP ENVIRONMENT

SInce we are going to build a deep learning model, we need a system with GPU support. I have chosen Google Cloud for the same.

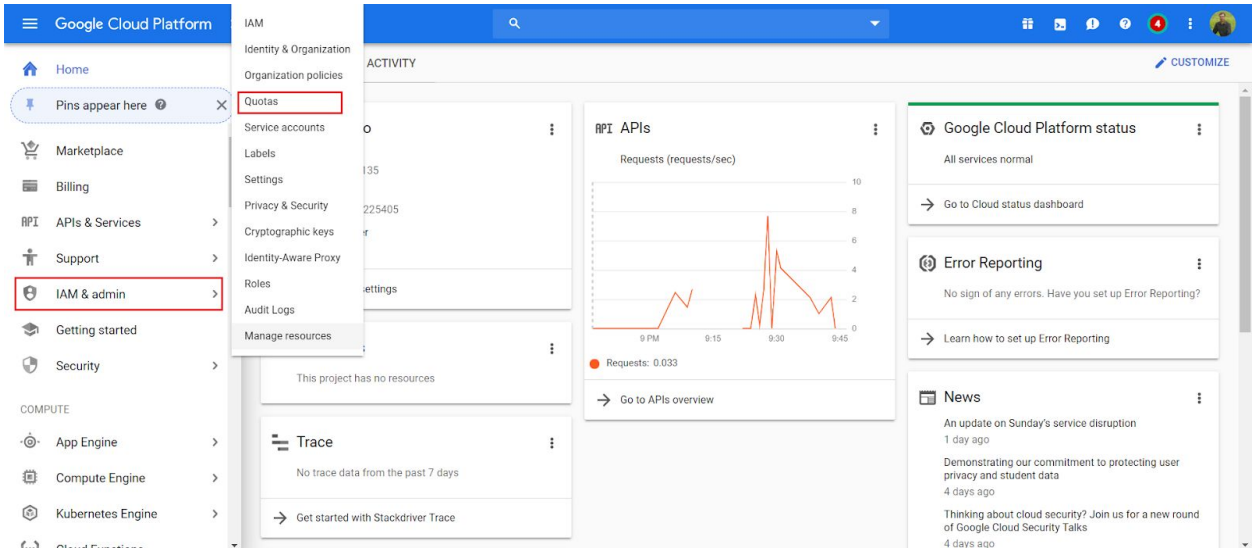
CAUTION : As of today, writing this blog, Google Cloud has been providing $300 free credit for 12 months. You still need to provide your payment details. **Please make sure to read the complete details of this free tier program to understand how it works and the costs involved. (https://cloud.google.com/free/docs/gcp-free-tier)**

1) Visit http://cloud.google.com

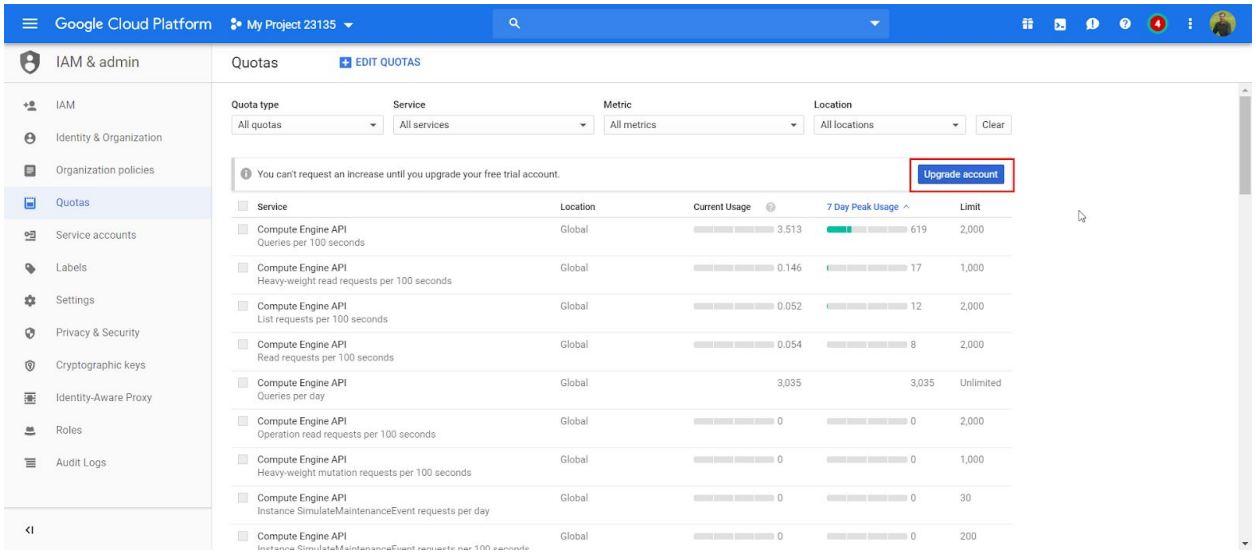
2) Click on the "Get started for free” button
3) Sign in with your gmail credentials
4) You need to provide your payment details
5) Once done, will be redirected to your Google Cloud console,

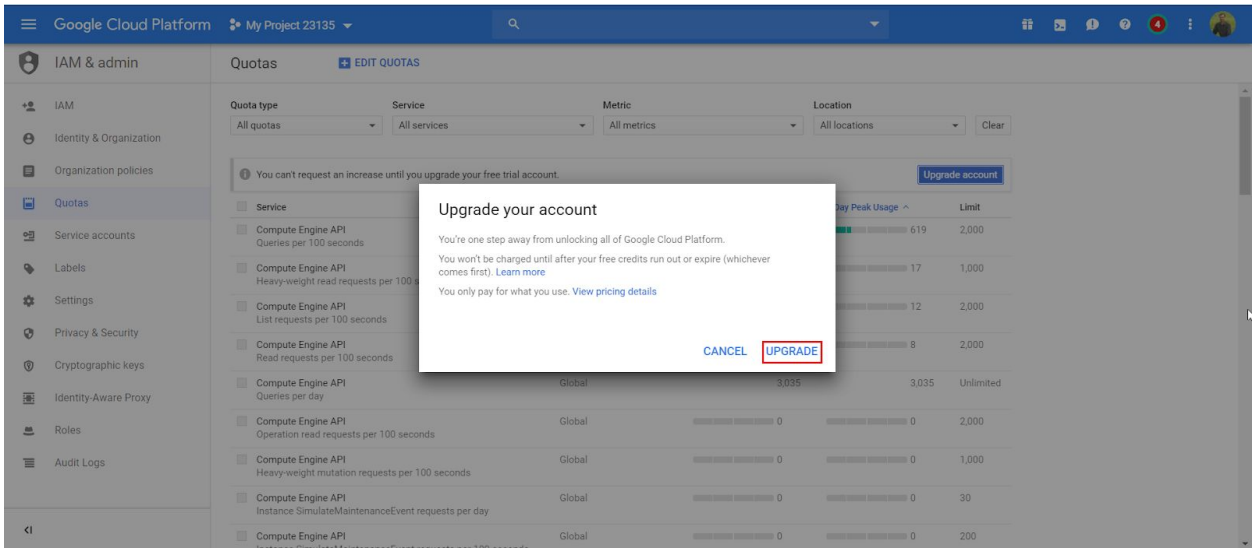


6) Select “IAM & admin” and then “Quotas” from the menu.



7) Click on the “Upgrade account” button and the “UPGRADE”



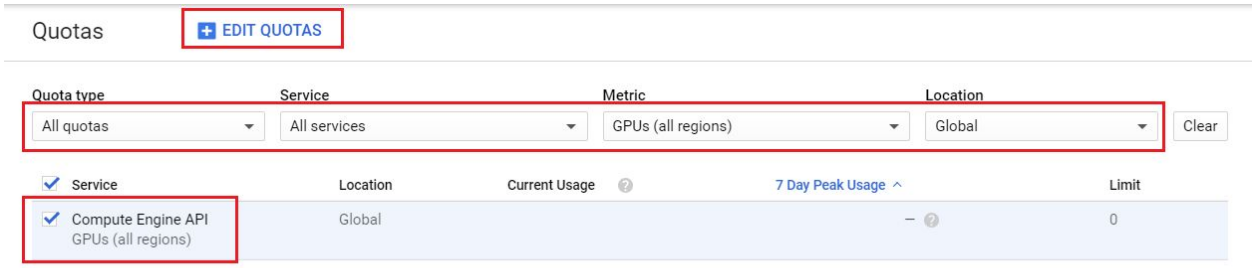


8) After upgrading your account again, select “IAM & admin” and then “Quotas” from the menu.

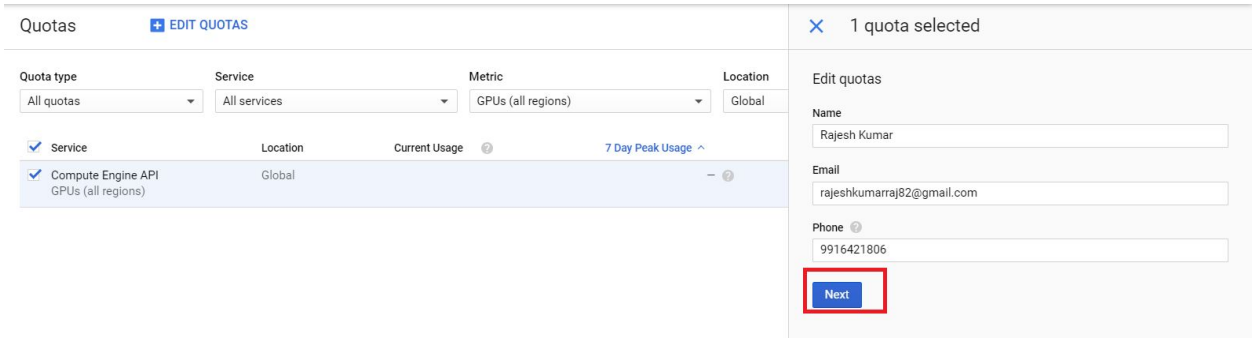
9) Filter the quota with below parameters (as shown in below image)

Quota type = All quotas
Service = All services
Metric = GPUs (all regions)
Location = Global

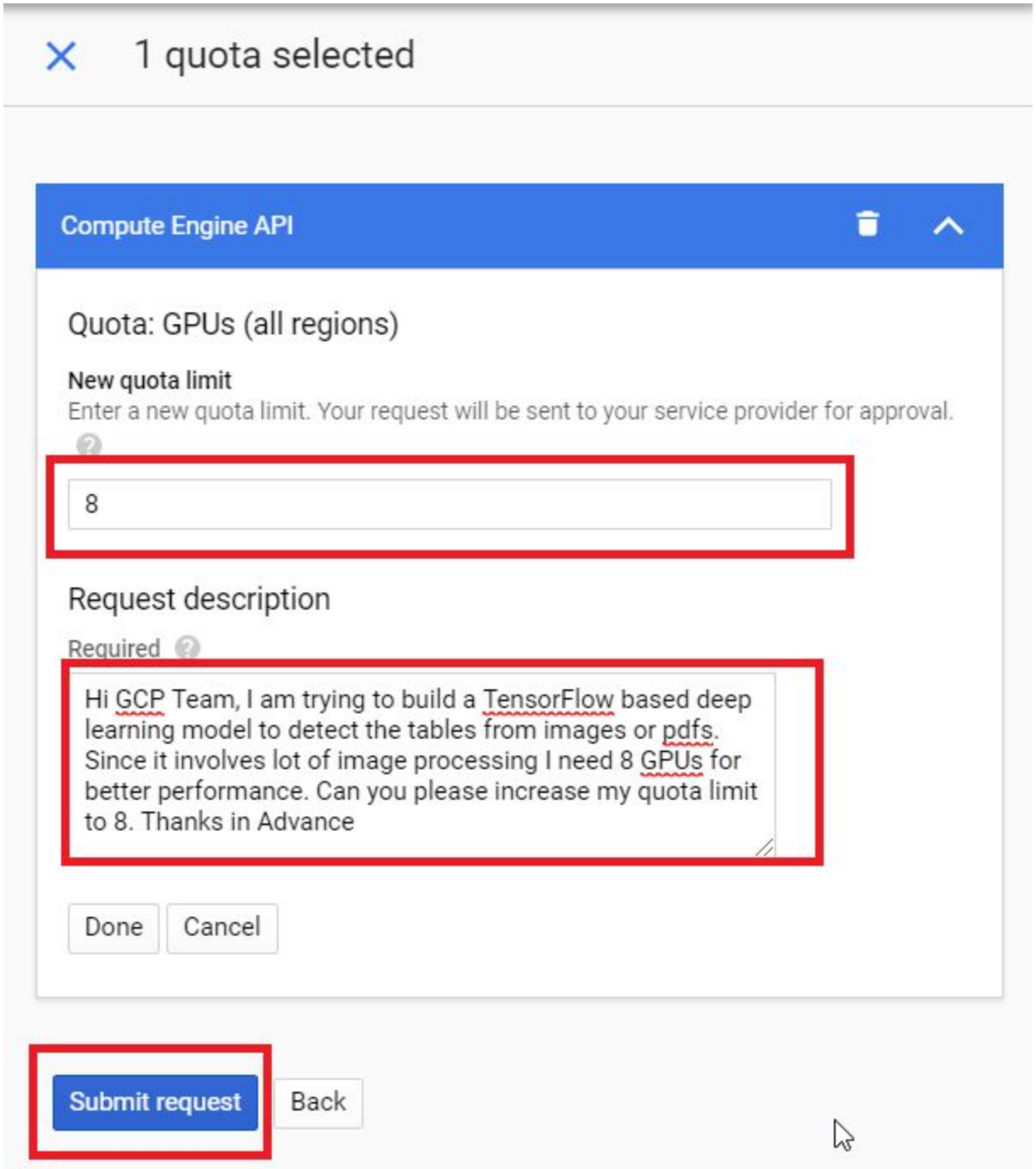
10) Select the quota by clicking on the checkbox and click on the "EDIT QUOTAS” link



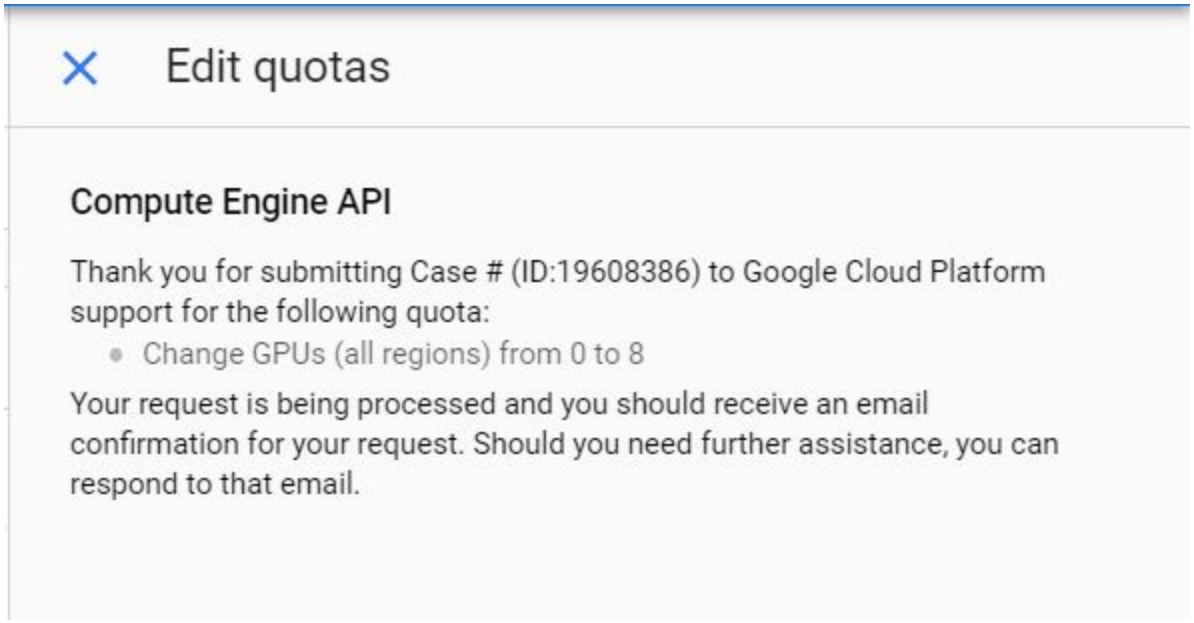
11) Fill the details as shown below and click on the "Next" button,



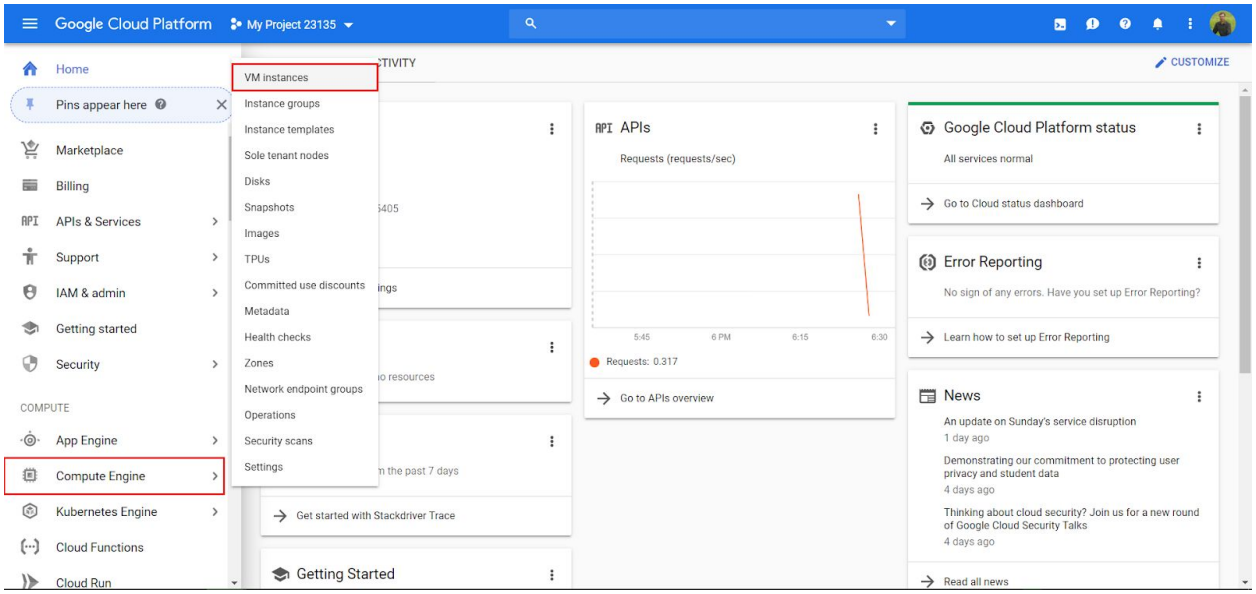
12) Specify the “New quota limit” as 8 and specify a “Request description” as shown below. Click on “Submit request” button.



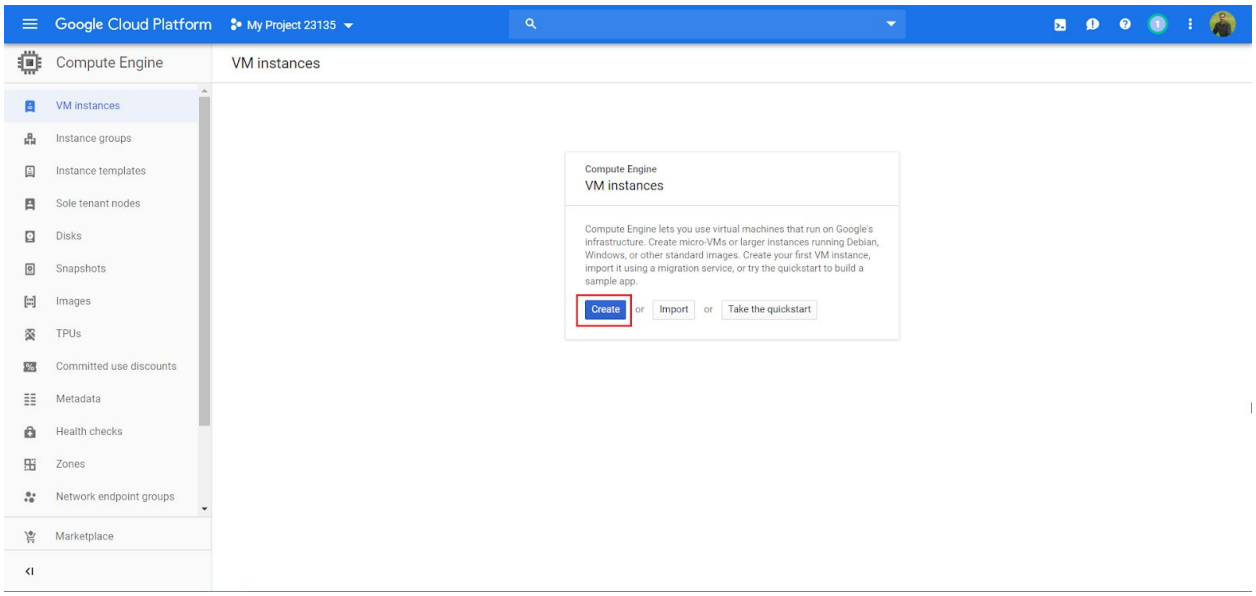
13) You will get a confirmation as below. Now wait for the email for the confirmation. (Google says it may take 2 business days to process. I got it in about two hours)



14) Once you receive the approval email from google then proceed with the next steps. Select “Compute Engine” and then “VM instances” from the menu.



15) Click on “Create” button



16) “Create an instance” form will be opened.
17) Enter “Name” as “table-detection-deep-learning-system”
18) Click on “Customize” link under “Machine type”
19) Select 4 Core CPUs and 16GB Memory.
20) Specify “Number of GPUs” as 4 and “GPU type” as “NVIDIA Tesla K80”
21) Select “Boot disk” as “Ubuntu 16.04 LTS” specify disk size as 20 GB
22) Click on “Create” button.

Note: Sometimes Google may ask you to try a different zone or try later if there are no resources available. So you can try selecting a different zone.

Name

table-detection-deep-learning-system

Region

us-central1 (Iowa)

Zone

us-central1-a

Machine type

Customize to select cores, memory and GPUs.

Basic view

Cores

4 vCPU 1 - 96

Memory

16 GB 3.6 - 26

Extend memory

CPU platform

Automatic

GPUs

The number of GPU dies is linked to the number of CPU cores and memory selected for this instance. For the current configuration, you can select no fewer than 1 GPU die of this type. Learn more

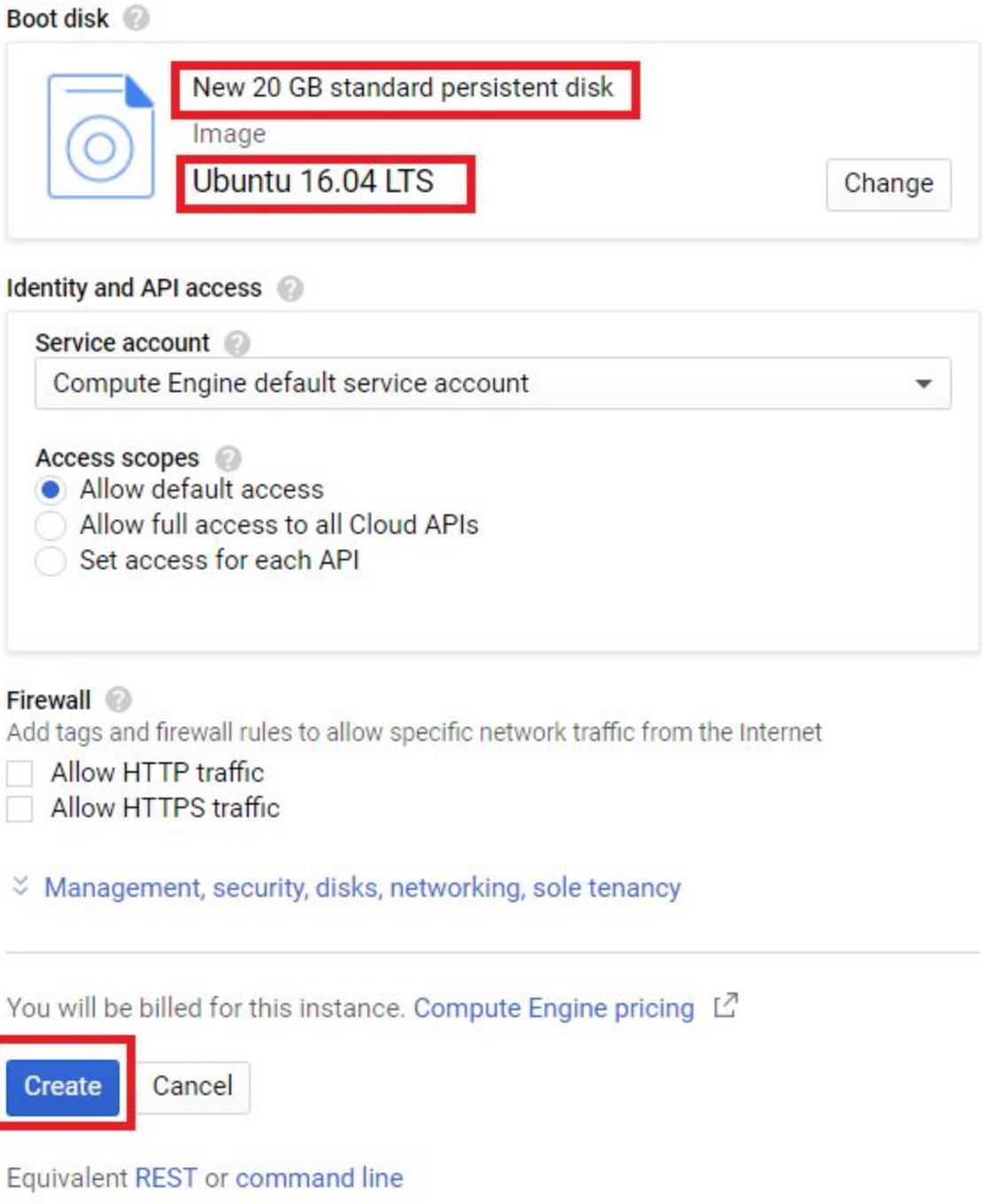
Number of GPUs

4

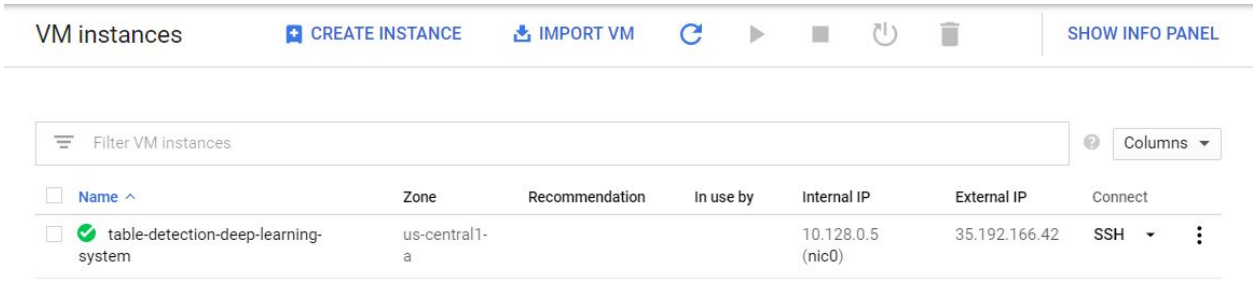
GPU type

NVIDIA Tesla K80

Machines with GPUs can't migrate on host maintenance



23) The VM instance will be created as shown below,

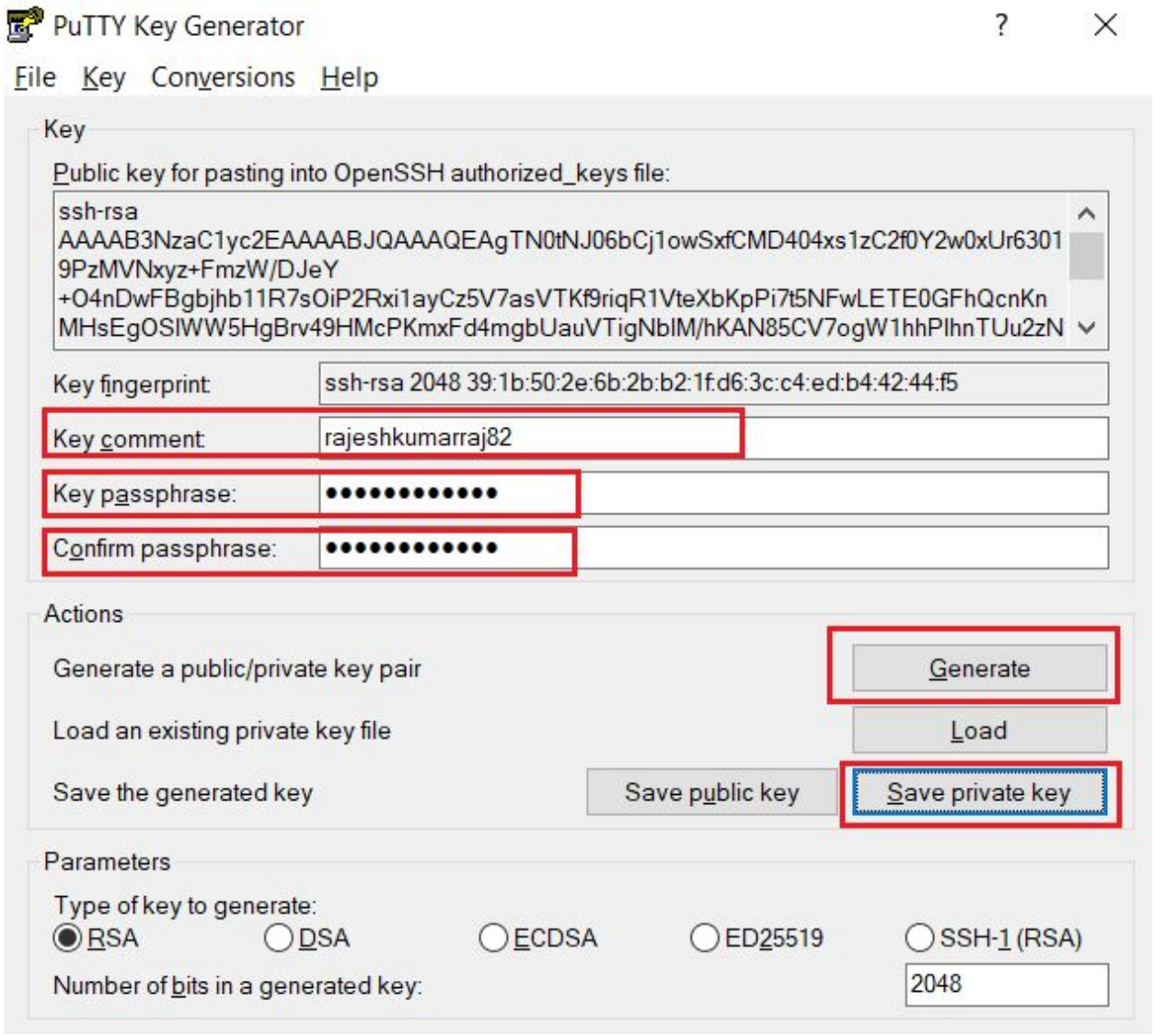


CONNECTING TO THE GOOGLE CLOUD VM USING PUTTY

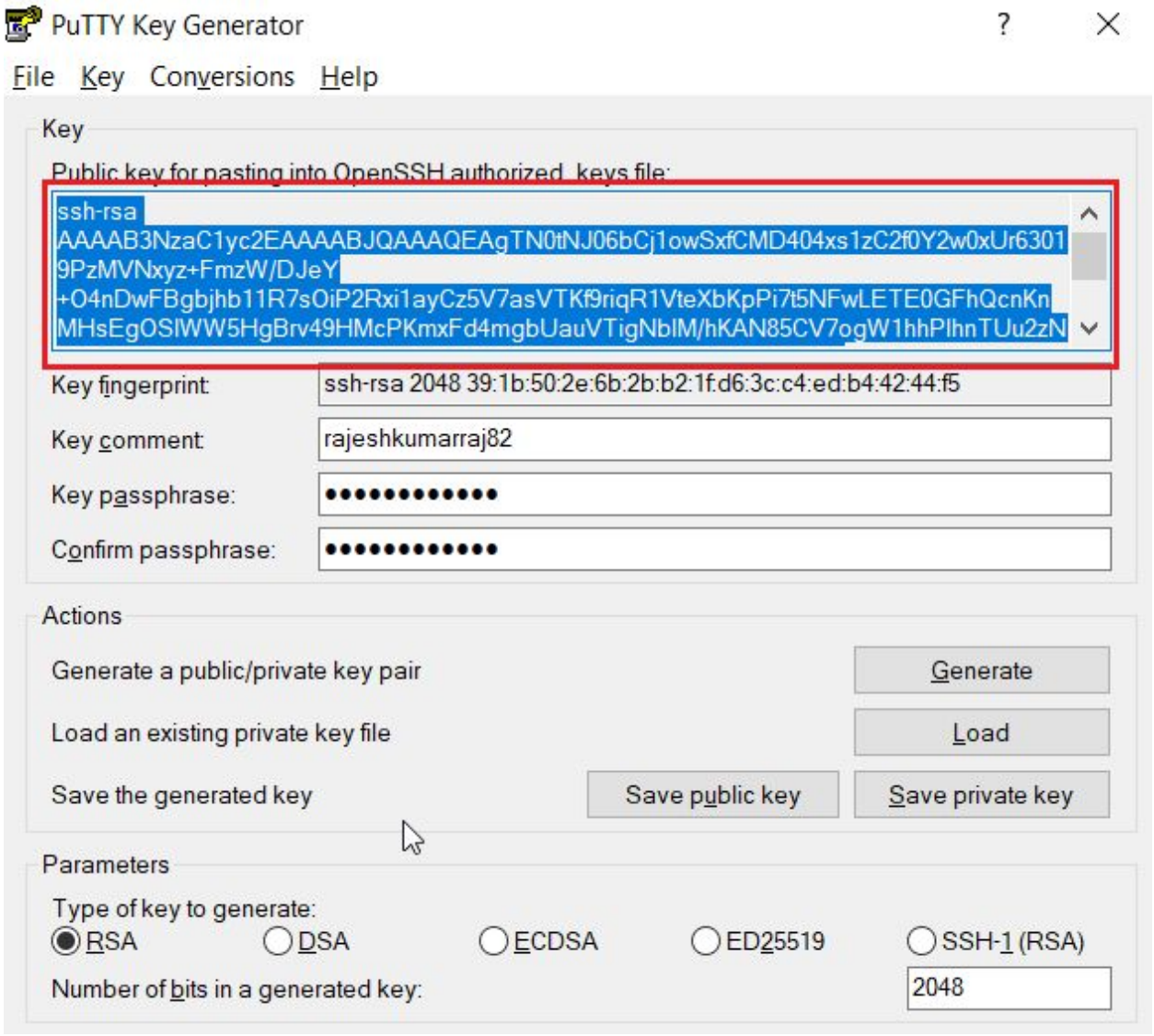
Please follow the instructions below to connect to the VM instance we created above.

24) Download putty.exe and puttygen.exe from the below URLs,
http://the.earth.li/~sgtatham/putty/latest/x86/putty.exe
http://the.earth.li/~sgtatham/putty/latest/x86/puttygen.exe

25) Execute puttygen.exe
26) Click on “Generate” button and keep moving the cursor as instructed.
27) Enter your desired username under “Key comment”
28) Enter your desired password under “Key passphrase”
29) Click on “Save private key” button and save the private key file as “private_key.ppk” in your desired location

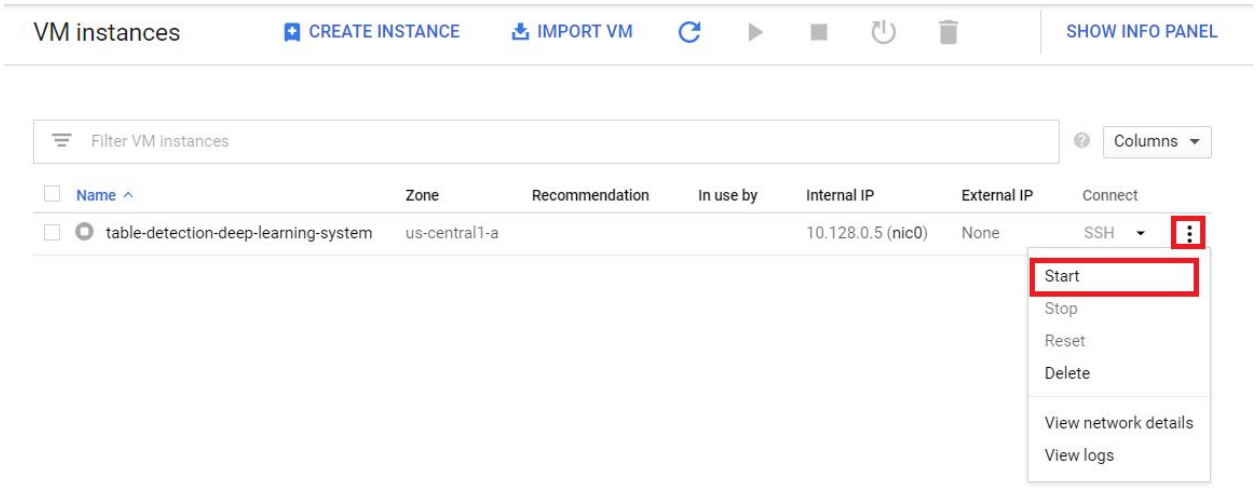


30) Copy all the public key text highlighted below (You should copy the whole text as it is)

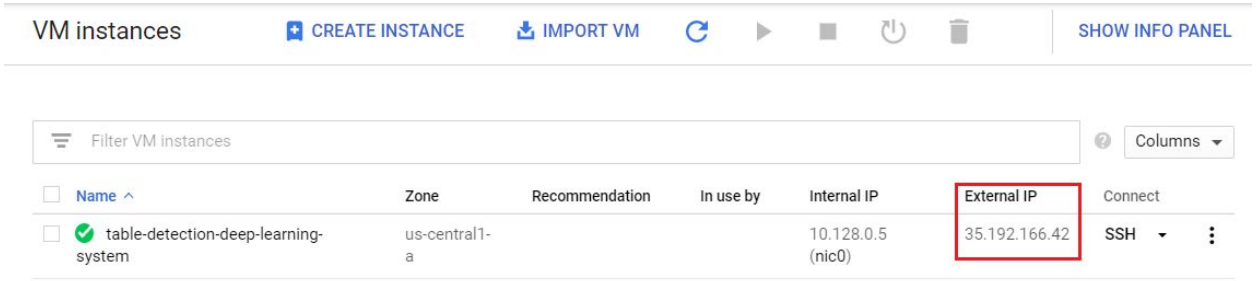


31) Go to Google Cloud console and click on “Compute Engine” -> “VM instances” from the menu

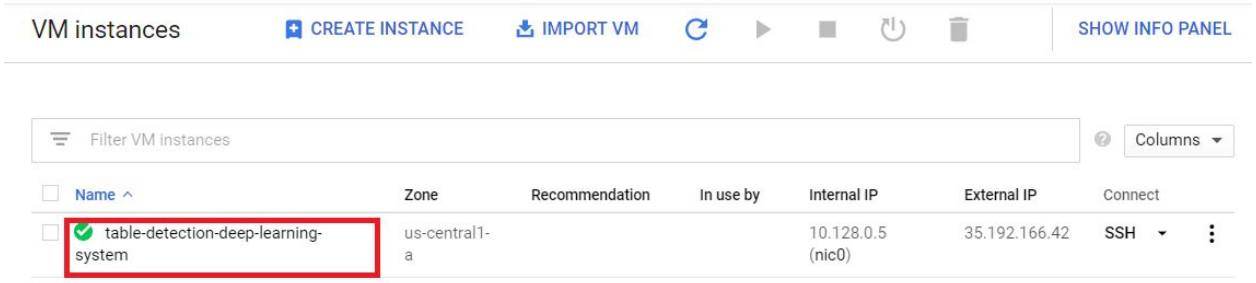
32) Start your VM instance if it's not running.



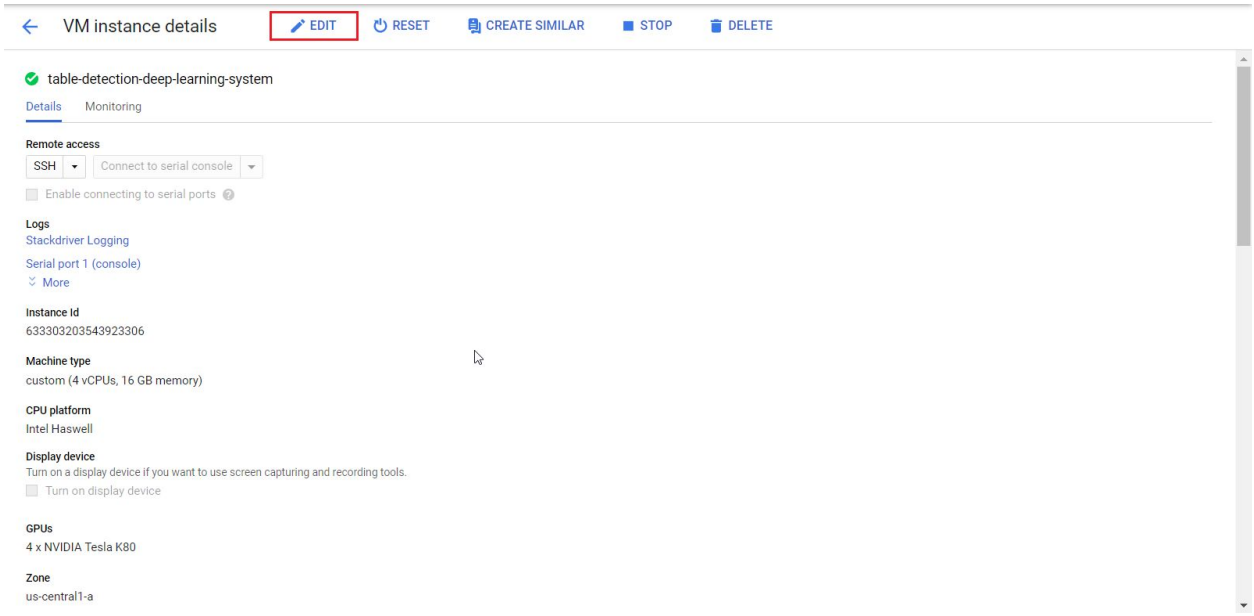
33) Copy the IP Address of the VM instance from below (External IP),



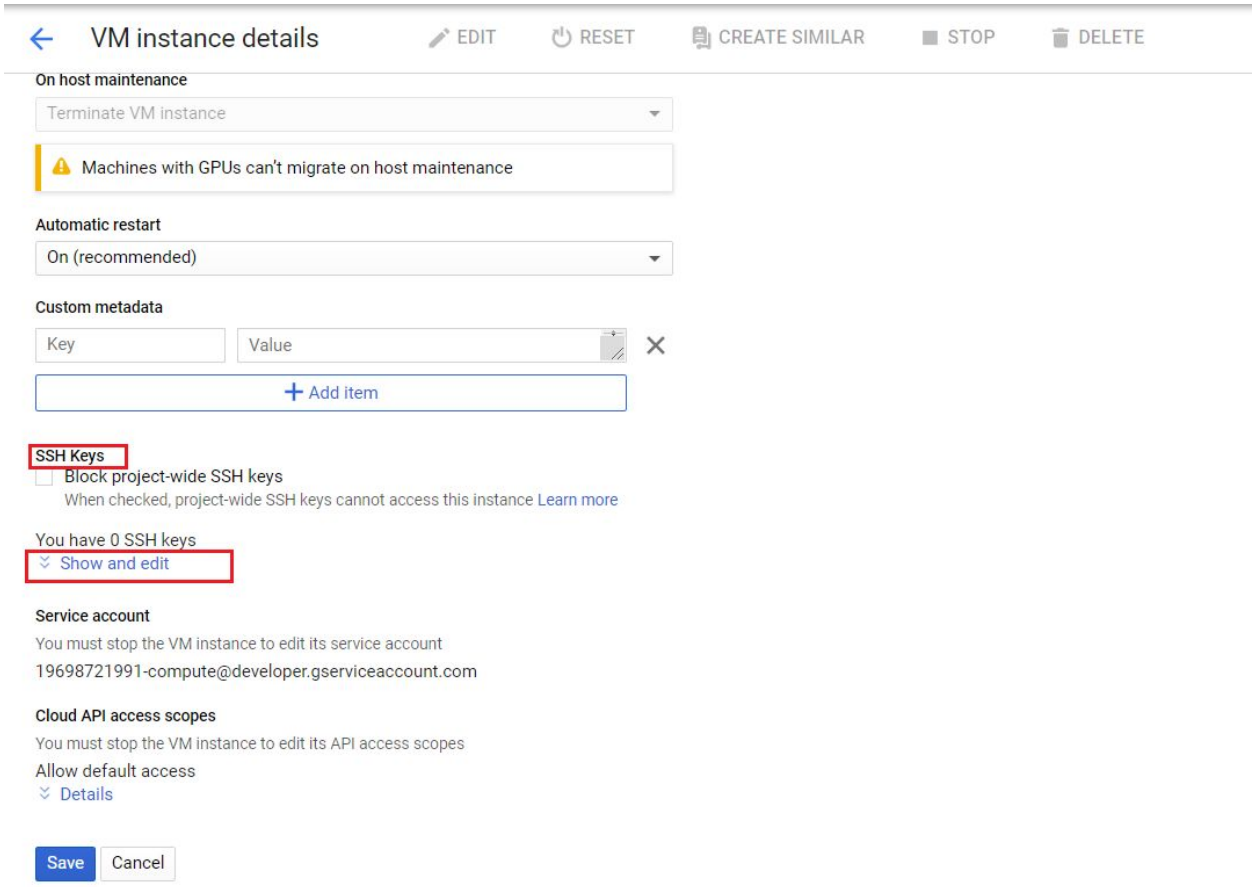
34) Click on the VM instance name,



35) Click on “EDIT” link,

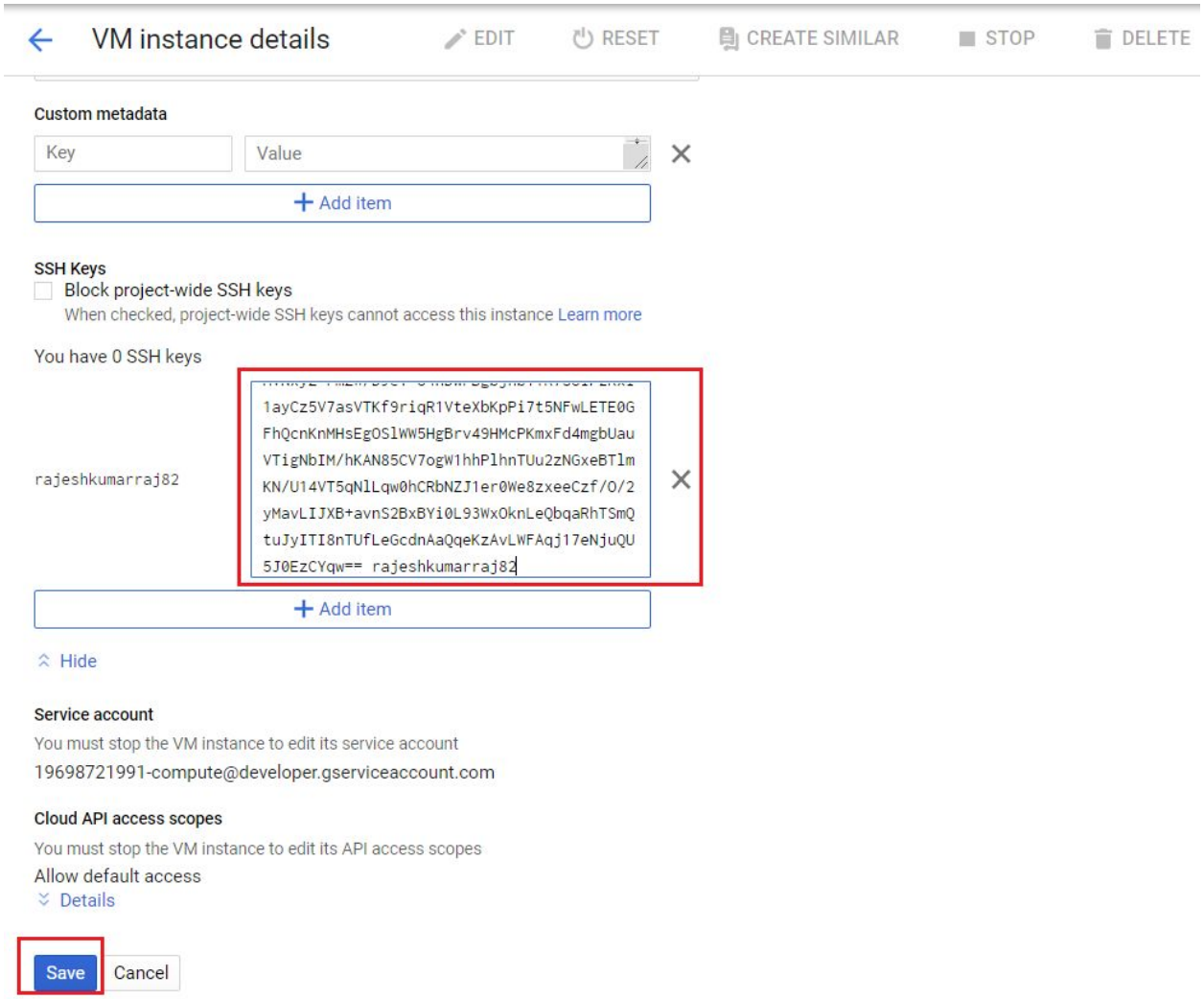


36) Under the "SSH Keys" section click on the “Show and edit” link,

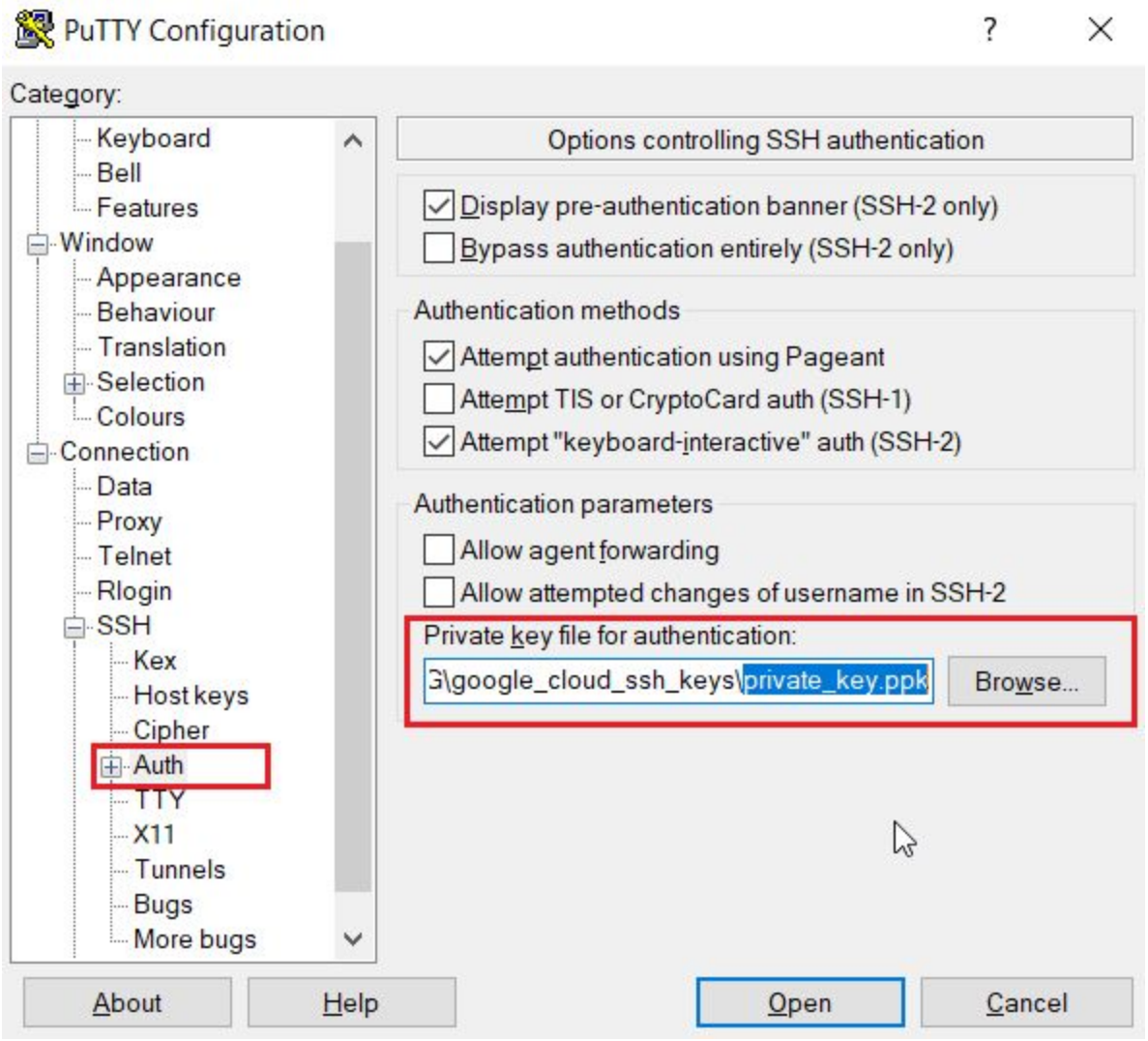


37) Paste the public key we copied above as shown below,

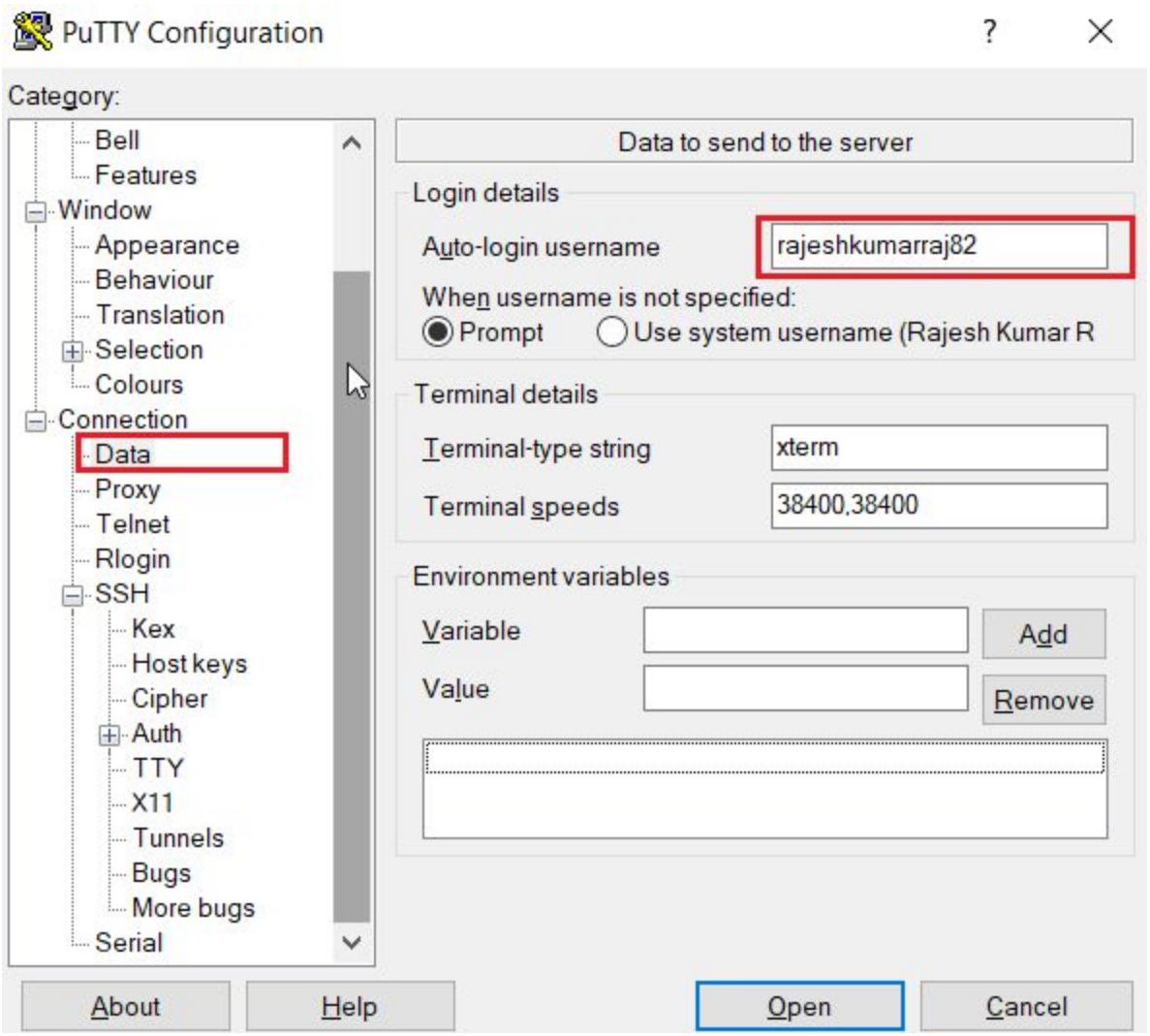
38) Click on the "Save" button



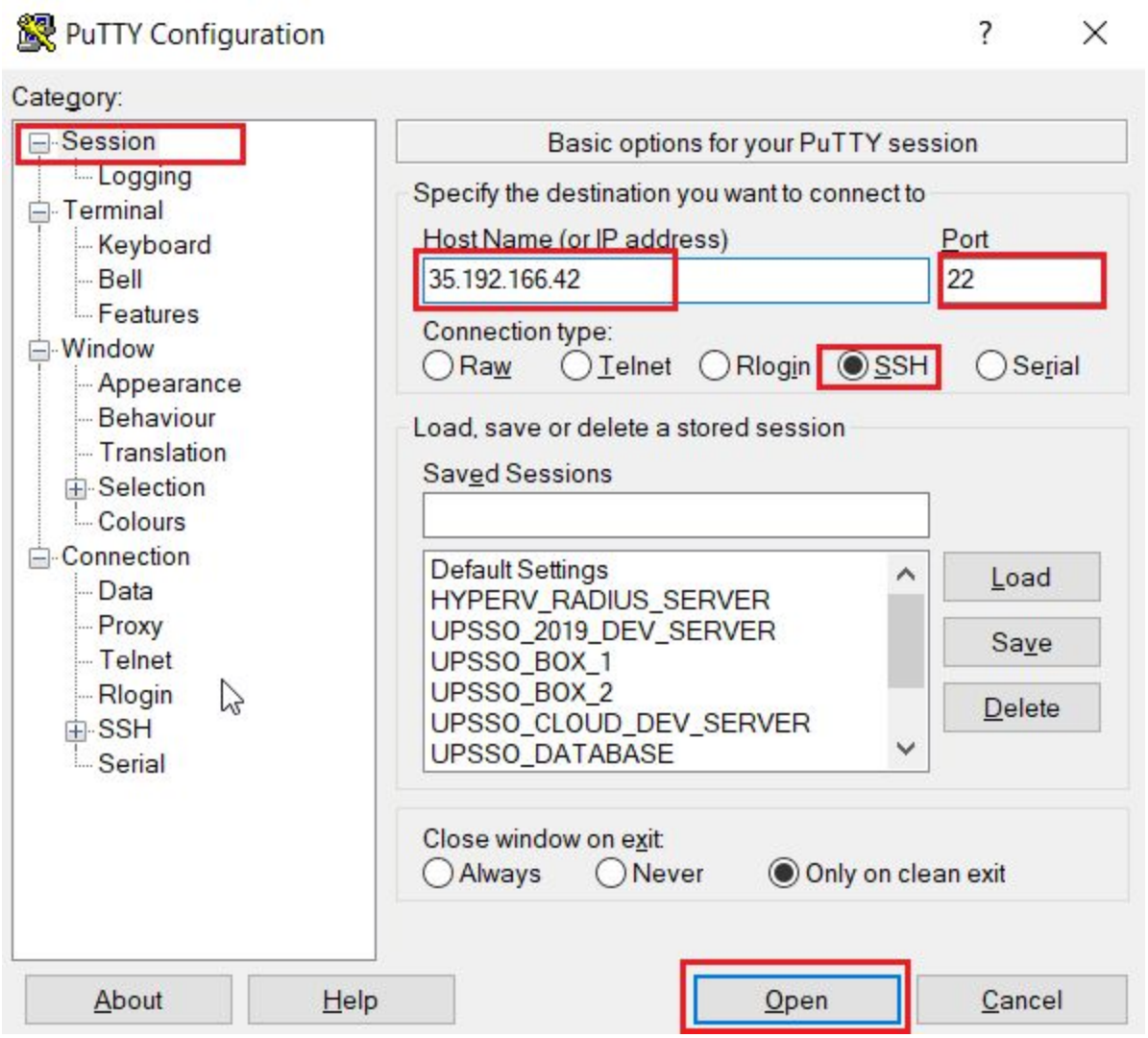
39) Execute “putty.exe”
40) Click on the "Connection" -> “SSH” -> “Auth” option.
41) Select the “private_key.ppk” saved from above.



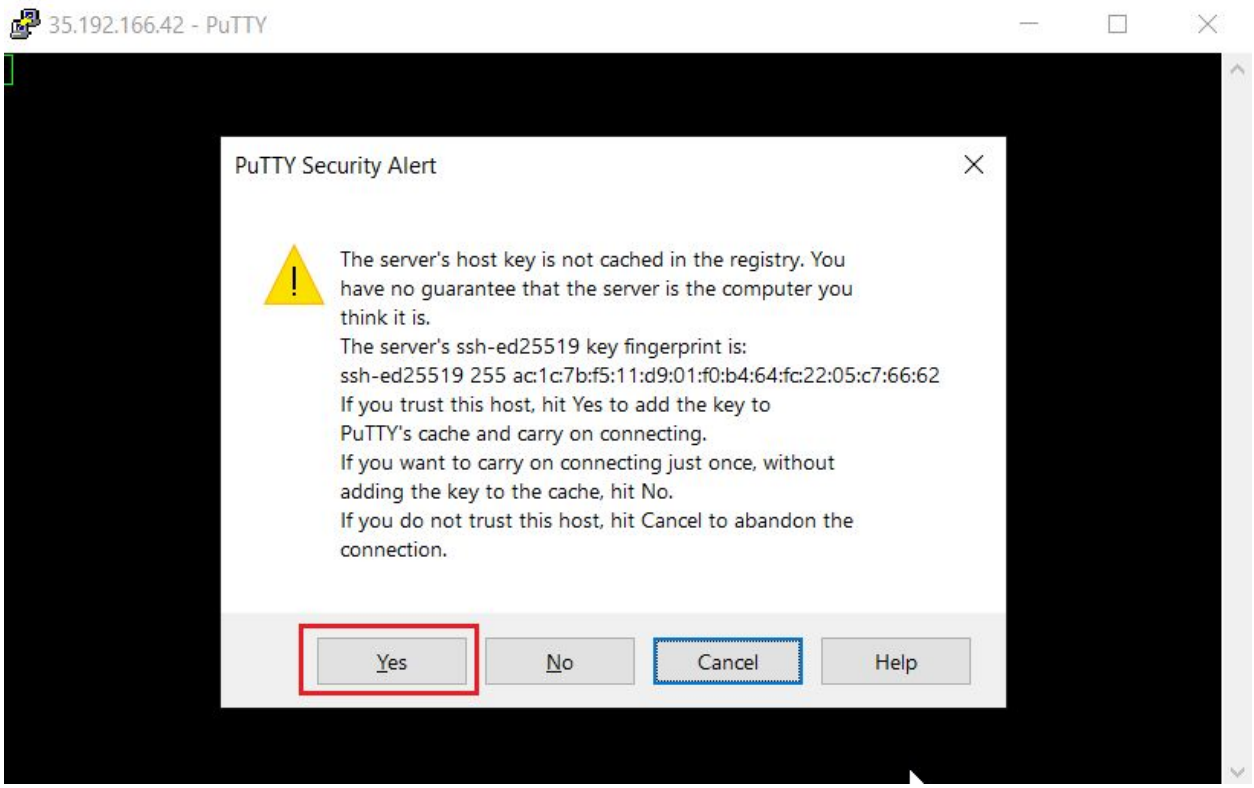
42) Click on “Connection” -> “Data” option.
43) Enter the username specified above under “Auto-login username”



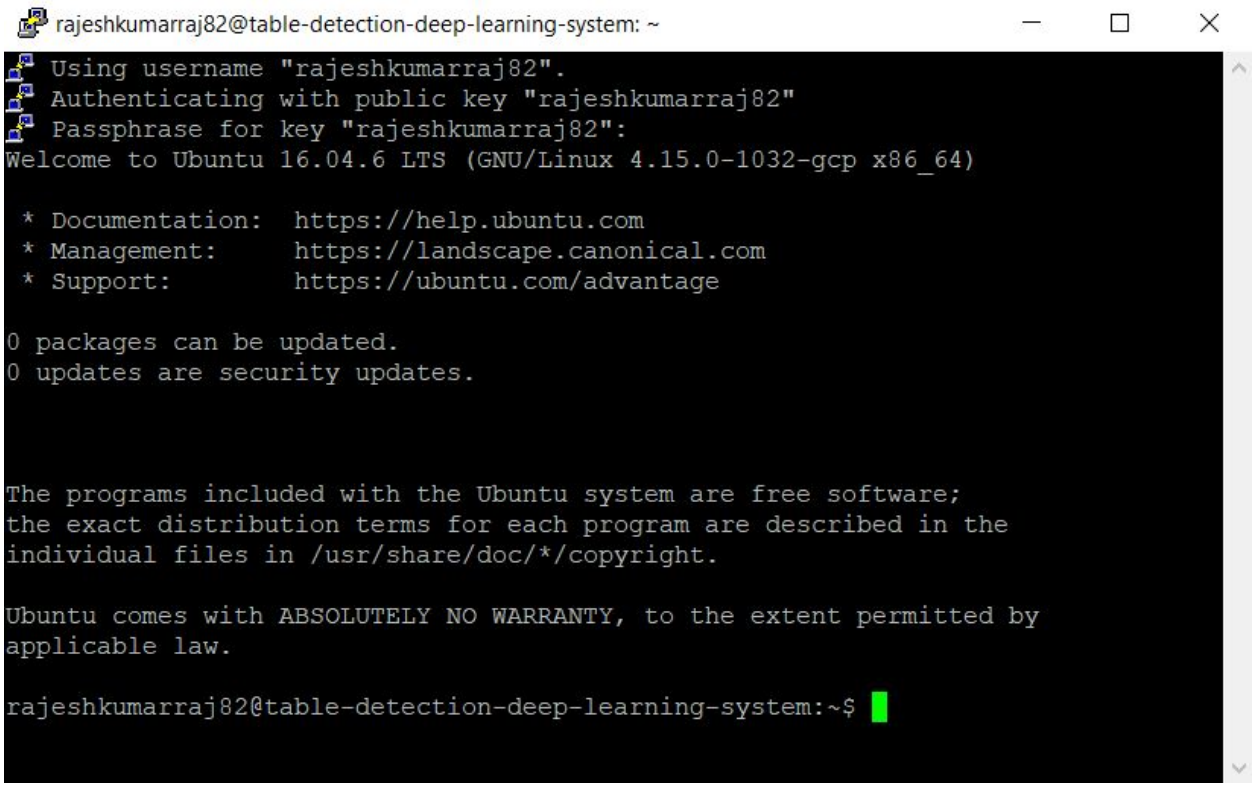
44) Goto “Session” option
45) Enter the IP Address of the VM instance under “Host Name”
46) Enter Port as 22
47) Select “Connection type” as “SSH”
48) Click on “Open” button



49) The warning below will be displayed. Click on “Yes” button.



50) Enter the passphrase specified above, you will be logged into the system,



51) Switch to root user by typing the following command,

sudo su -

Note : Make sure you always switch to root user when executing commands in this article.

INSTALLING NVIDIA CUDA

Login into the Ubuntu Instance using putty and switch to root user,

sudo su -

52) Install Nvidia drivers by executing the following commands,

add-apt-repository ppa:graphics-drivers/ppa
apt-get update
apt-get install nvidia-396 nvidia-modprobe

53) Verify that everything is working by running,

nvidia-smi

54) Install CUDA 9.0 by executing the following commands,

cd /tmp

wget https://developer.nvidia.com/compute/cuda/9.0/Prod/local_installers/cuda_9.0.176_384.81_linux-run

chmod +x cuda_9.0.176_384.81_linux-run

./cuda_9.0.176_384.81_linux-run --extract=/tmp

rm NVIDIA-Linux-x86_64-384.81.run

./cuda-linux.9.0.176-22781540.run

This command will be prompted the following: Respond as mentioned below,

Do you accept the previously read EULA?
accept

Enter install path
Press Enter

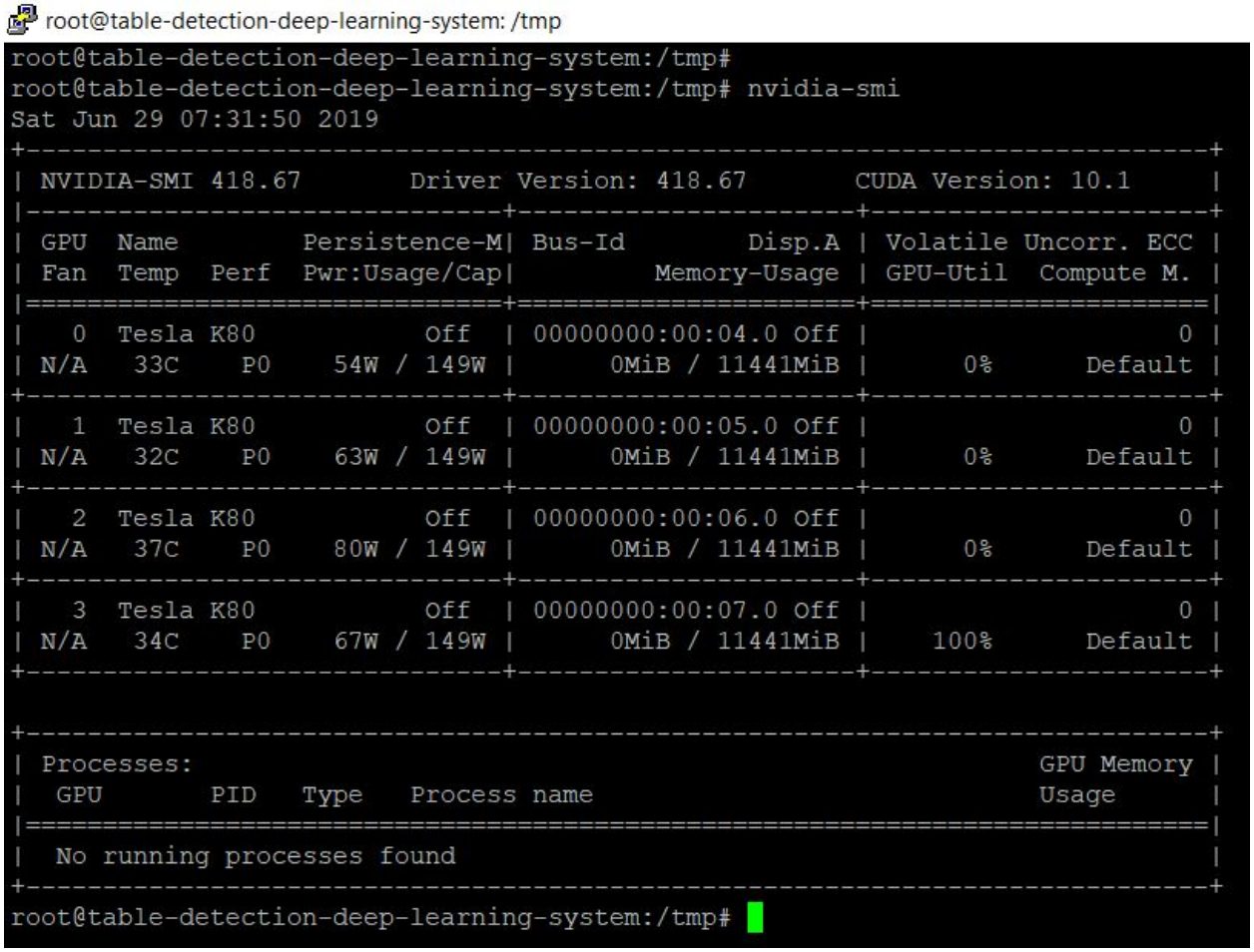
Would you like to create a symbolic link /usr/local/cuda pointing to /usr/local/cuda-9.0?
y

55) Execute the following commands to set the environment variables,

```
echo 'export CUDA_HOME=/usr/local/cuda' >> ~/.bashrc
echo 'export PATH=$PATH:$CUDA_HOME/bin' >> ~/.bashrc
echo 'export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=$CUDA_HOME/lib64' >> ~/.bashrc
source ~/.bashrc
```

56) Execute the following command to make sure the setup is successful. The below command will display the GPU's available,

```
nvidia-smi
```



INSTALLING cnDNN LIBRARIES

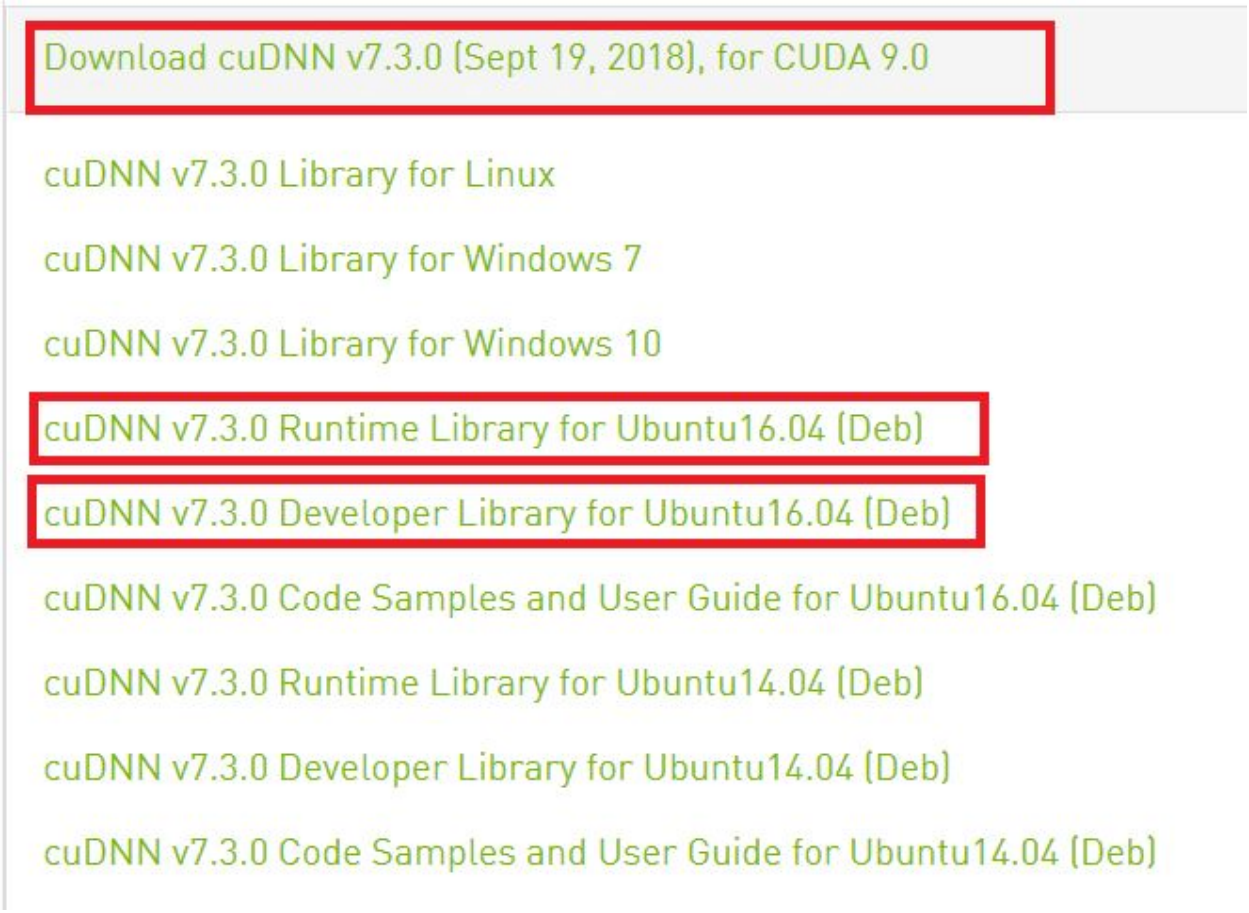
57) Register yourself at https://developer.nvidia.com/cudnn

58) Click on “Download cuDNN” button

59) Accept the “cuDNN Software License Agreement”

60) Click on “Download cuDNN v7.3.0 (Sept 19, 2018), for CUDA 9.0” link

61) Download the following:
cuDNN v7.3.0 Runtime Library for Ubuntu16.04 (Deb)
cuDNN v7.3.0 Developer Library for Ubuntu16.04 (Deb)



62) The following files will be downloaded.

libcudnn7_7.3.0.29-1+cuda9.0_amd64.deb
libcudnn7-dev_7.3.0.29-1+cuda9.0_amd64.deb

63) To add cuDNN libraries transfer the above 2 files to the /tmp directory of Ubuntu server (Using some FTP software like FileZilla or WinSCP)

64) Execute the following commands to install the cuDNN libraries,

dpkg -i libcudnn7_7.3.0.29-1+cuda9.0_amd64.deb
dpkg -i libcudnn7-dev_7.3.0.29-1+cuda9.0_amd64.deb

65) Set environment variables by executing the commands,

echo 'export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=${LD_LIBRARY_PATH}:/usr/local/cuda-9.0/lib64' >> ~/.bashrc

echo 'export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=$LD_LIBRARY_PATH:/usr/local/cuda/extras/CUPTI/lib64' >> ~/.bashrc

source ~/.bashrc

UPGRADING PYTHON FROM VERSION 2.7 TO 3.5

66) Execute the following commands to upgrade python,

add-apt-repository ppa:jonathonf/python-3.6

apt update

apt install python3.6

rm /usr/bin/python

ln -s /usr/bin/python3 /usr/bin/python

python -V

INSTALLING THE REQUIRED PYTHON PACKAGES

67) Execute the following commands to install the required python packages,

apt install unzip

apt install python3-pip

pip3 install pillow

pip3 install pandas

pip3 install opencv-python

pip3 install tensorflow-gpu==1.8.0

pip3 install luminoth

SETTING UP DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT & GETTING DATA

I have shared the training data and code publicly so it can be directly downloaded inside the VM instance.

68) Execute the following commands,

cd /usr/local

wget https://github.com/rajeshkumarraj82/table-detection-from-images-using-deep-learning/archive/master.zip

unzip master.zip

PREPROCESSING THE IMAGES

69) Create the following directories,

mkdir /usr/local/table-detection-from-images-using-deep-learning-master/data/train

mkdir /usr/local/table-detection-from-images-using-deep-learning-master/data/val

70) Execute the following command to preprocess the images,

cd /usr/local/table-detection-from-images-using-deep-learning-master/

python preprocess.py

GENERATING TENSORFLOW DATA

71) Open the “/usr/local/table-detection-from-images-using-deep-learning-master/data/train.csv” file and add the following header to the first line.

image_id,xmin,ymin,xmax,ymax,label

72) Save and close the editor.

73) Open the “/usr/local/table-detection-from-images-using-deep-learning-master/data/val.csv” file and add the following header to the first line.

image_id,xmin,ymin,xmax,ymax,label

74) Save and close the editor

75) Execute the following command to generate TensorFlow data,

cd /usr/local/table-detection-from-images-using-deep-learning-master/

lumi dataset transform --type csv --data-dir data/ --output-dir tfdata/ --split train --split val --only-classes=table

76) Start the training process,

sudo su -

cd /usr/local/table-detection-from-images-using-deep-learning-master/

*chmod -R 777 **

lumi train -c config.yml

77) If the loss gets close to 1.0 you can stop training with <ctrl + c>.

```
INFO:tensorflow:Saving checkpoints for 43519 into jobs/table-area-detection-0.1/model.ckpt.
INFO:tensorflow:step: 43518, file: b'2117_344.png', train_loss: 1.766040325164795, in 2.52s
INFO:tensorflow:step: 43519, file: b'5649_076.png', train_loss: 1.7533490657806396, in 1.25s
INFO:tensorflow:step: 43520, file: b'9525_037.png', train_loss: 1.7412152290344238, in 1.25s
INFO:tensorflow:step: 43521, file: b'1063_086.png', train_loss: 1.7615808248519897, in 1.22s
INFO:tensorflow:step: 43522, file: b'1742_157.png', train_loss: 1.7509922981262207, in 1.23s
INFO:tensorflow:step: 43523, file: b'9504_025.png', train_loss: 1.7493228912353516, in 1.25s
INFO:tensorflow:step: 43524, file: b'1580_295.png', train_loss: 1.7610329389572144, in 1.24s
INFO:tensorflow:step: 43525, file: b'5140_040.png', train_loss: 1.7480363845825195, in 1.24s
^C
Aborted!
root@table-detection-deep-learning-system:/usr/local/table-detection-from-images-using-deep-learning-master#
```

CREATE CHECKPOINT

78) Execute the below command to create check point,

lumi checkpoint create config.yml

The response will be like,

Creating checkpoint for given configuration...
Checkpoint c2df81db49e0 created successfully.

79) Take a note of the Checkpoint number above.

TESTING PREDICTING TABLE LOCATION IN A SAMPLE IMAGE

80) Execute the below command to predict the location of the table in a random image (Use the Checkpoint number noted in the above section)

lumi predict --checkpoint c2df81db49e0 data/val/9541_023.png

81) The response will be having the coordinates of the tables identified,

Predicting data/val/9541_023.png... done.
{"file": "data/val/9541_023.png", "objects": [{"label": "table", "prob": 1.0, "bbox": [121, 613, 2398, 2148]}]}

PREDICTING TABLE LOCATION USING A PYTHON PROGRAM

82) Here's the python code that will call Luminoth API to predict the table location from an image, (Please note you need to specify the Checkpoint number & image file in this code)

File Name : predict_table_location_from_image.py

```
from luminoth.tools.checkpoint import get_checkpoint_config
from luminoth.utils.predicting import PredictorNetwork
from PIL import Image as pilimage

# This program  will predict the location of the tables in an image
# It outputs the coordinates of the tables. Using these coordinates we can cut the table portion of the image and use it for further processing
```

```
input_file =
'/usr/local/table-detection-from-images-using-deep-learning-master/test_image_with_tabl
e.png'
# Specify the luminoth checkpoint here
checkpoint = 'c2df81db49e0'

config = get_checkpoint_config(checkpoint)
network = PredictorNetwork(config)
image = pilimage.open(input_file).convert('RGB')
objects = network.predict_image(image)

print("NO OF TABLES IDENTIFIED BY LUMINOTH = " + str(len(objects)))
print('-' * 100)

table_counter = 1

for i in range(len(objects)):
    table_idctionary = objects[i]
    coordinate_list = table_idctionary["bbox"]
    xminn = coordinate_list[0]
    yminn = coordinate_list[1]
    xmaxx = coordinate_list[2]
    ymaxx = coordinate_list[3]
    print('TABLE ' + str(table_counter) + ':')
    print('-' * 100)
    print("xminn = " + str(xminn))
    print("yminn = " + str(yminn))
    print("xmaxx = " + str(xmaxx))
    print("ymaxx = " + str(ymaxx))
    table_counter += 1
```

83) Execute the above python program by,

python predict_table_location_from_image.py

84) The output of the above program will be like,

```
NO OF TABLES IDENTIFIED BY LUMINOTH = 1
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
TABLE 1:
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
xminn = 254
yminn = 436
xmaxx = 1058
ymaxx = 549
```

CONCLUSION

So using the coordinates of the tables we are able to crop table portions from the images. These cropped images can be further processed with APIs like Tabula to extract table text. Cropping the table portions from images will greatly improve the accuracy of table data.