**Install Gitlab Runner**

**1st step: Update the VM and install dependencies**

**sudo apt-get update:** refreshes the package lists so your system knows what packages are available.

**sudo apt-get install -y curl:** installs the curl tool, which you’ll use later (for example, to download the GitLab Runner GPG key).

**2nd step: Add the GitLab Runner repository**

Download the official GitLab Runner repository GPG key

Add the repository to your sources list

**3rd step: Install GitLab Runner**

Run these commands on the ubuntu vm:

sudo apt-get update

sudo apt-get install -y gitlab-runner

**4th step: Register GitLab Runner**

You need your GitLab project’s registration token to register this runner.

Run the registration command:

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sudo gitlab-runner register

You will be prompted to enter:

* GitLab instance URL (e.g., https://gitlab.com or your self-hosted URL)
* Registration token (found in your project’s Settings > CI/CD > Runners)
* A description for your runner (e.g., ubuntu-vm-runner)
* Tags for the runner (e.g., ubuntu, vm, docker - helps in selecting runners in .gitlab-ci.yml)
* Executor type (choose based on your needs, e.g., shell, docker, etc.)
* If Docker executor, specify the default Docker image (e.g., docker:latest)

**5th step: Start and enable GitLab Runner service**

Run these 2 commands on your runner:

sudo systemctl start gitlab-runner

sudo systemctl enable gitlab-runner

**6th step: Verify GitLab Runner status**

sudo systemctl status gitlab-runner

the output of the command is covered in another document for the confirmation of the gitlab runner taking on jobs

**7th step: Confirm runner is active in GitLab**

Go to your GitLab project.

Navigate to Settings > CI/CD > Runners.

Under Specific Runners, check if your newly registered runner is listed and active.