Working with Firewalls and VPCs



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Overview

Every VPC acts as a distributed firewall

All VPCs have two implied firewall rules

Auto mode VPCs have additional rules that are pre-created

Users can add and configure firewall rules and routes

Firewall Rules

A VPC network, often just called a network, is a global, private, isolated virtual network partition that provides managed network functionality on the GCP

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Firewall rules restrict and regulate network traffic flows in a VPC

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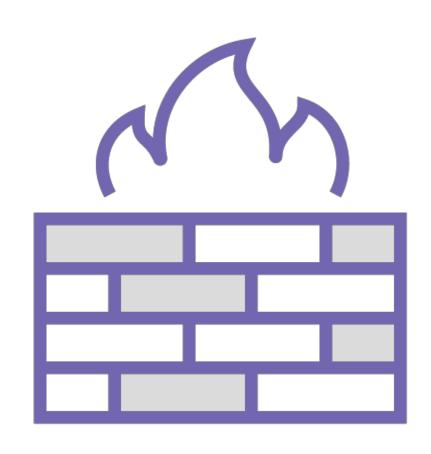
Under the hood, Google is routing traffic - that's how VPCs can be global

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Routes, firewall rules, tags, IP addresses are all managed by the platform

Firewall Rules

Every VPC is a distributed firewall Firewall rules defined in VPC
Are applied on per-instance basis
Can also regulate internal traffic



Firewall Rules

Every VPC has two permanent rules

- Implied allow egress
- Implied deny ingress

Can be overridden by more specific rules In addition, default VPC has several rules

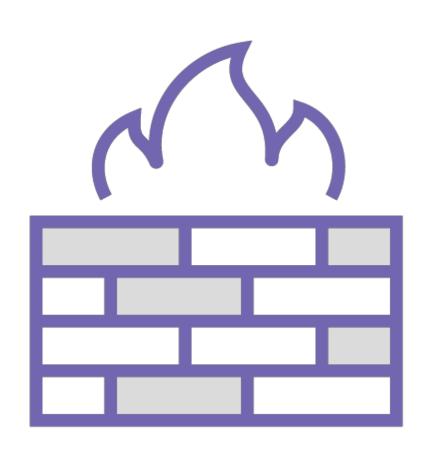


Always-blocked Traffic

Protocols other than TCP, UDP, ICMP and IPIP

Egress traffic on TCP port 25 (SMTP)

Can not be unblocked by firewall rule



Firewall Rules

Every firewall rule has several components

- Priority (0 highest, 65535 lowest)
- Direction (ingress/egress)
- Action (allow/deny)
- Target
- Source or destination
- Protocol and port
- Enforcement status (enabled/disabled)

Priority

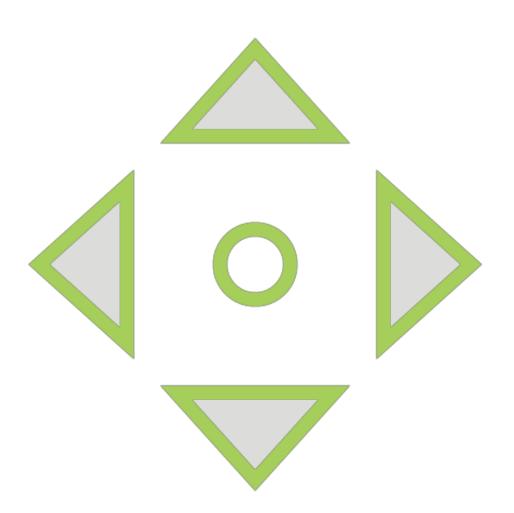
Integer from 0 to 65535 (inclusive)

Lower integer ~ higher priority

Used to resolve rule conflicts

Highest priority rule applicable to target wins

Specificity does not matter



Direction

Always defined from perspective of target

- Ingress: Traffic coming into target from some source
- Egress: Traffic sent out by target to some destination



Action

Action to be taken when match found

- Allow: Permit connection
- Deny: Block connection

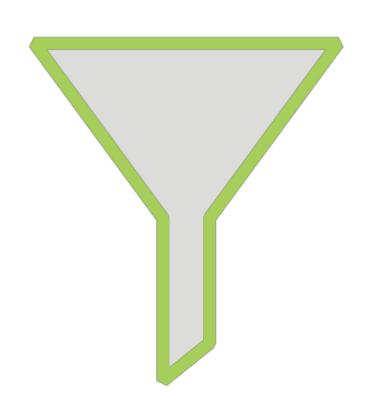
Rule can only specify one action



Target

Three possible specifications

- All instances in network
- Instances by target tag
- Instances by target service account



Source or Destination Filter

Can specify exactly one (not both)

For ingress rules: specify source

For egress rules: specify destination

Sources

Any IP (0.0.0.0/0)

Source IP ranges

Source tags

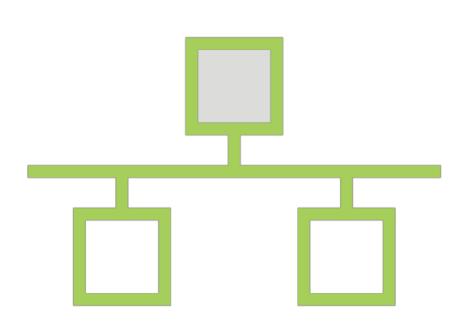
Source service accounts

Some combinations

Destination

Any IP (0.0.0.0/0)

Destination IP ranges



Protocol and Port

If both omitted - rule applies to all traffic
Protocol can be name or decimal number
If port omitted, applies to all ports
Can specify combinations

- tcp:80
- tcp:20-22
- tcp:80; tcp:443

Routes

Networking Must-haves

Objective

Resources within a project need to communicate

Resources on GCP need to communicate with outside world

Traffic sent to an IP address needs to reach that address

Platform users need to be able to restrict traffic flows

GCP Solution

Internal IP addresses

External IP addresses

Routes

Firewall rules

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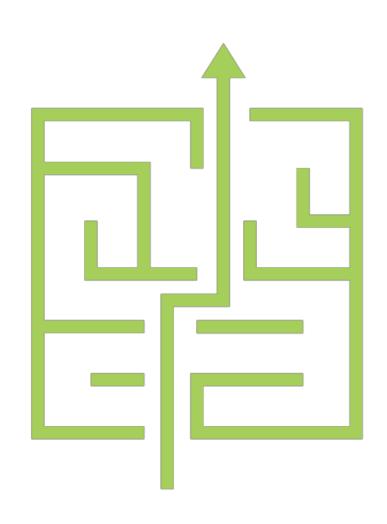
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Routes

Firewall rules



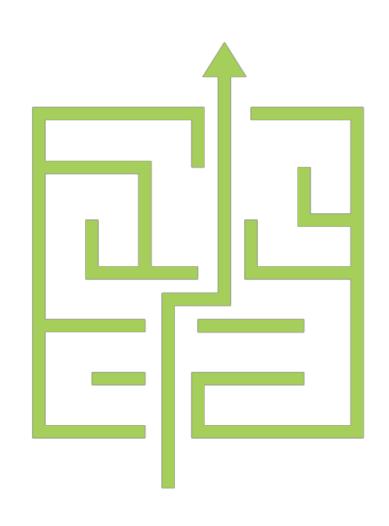
Routes

Route: Path for network traffic

Can be blocked by firewall rule

Each VM instance has route controller

So knows all applicable routes



Routes

Four types of routes

- Default
- Subnet
- Static
- Dynamic

Creating firewall rules using the web console and the gcloud command line utility

Testing the ICMP and SSH firewall rules

Deleting firewall rules

Using network tags to apply firewall rules to specific VM instances

Adding and deleting subnets in custom mode networks

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