

# Lab technical tips

As you complete the lab items in each course, keep the following technical tips in mind to help you succeed and troubleshoot technical issues that you may encounter.

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## Access and completion time

Each lab has a Google Skills landing page that contains all the information required to complete the lab including an activity overview, scenario, startup instructions, as well as instructions that you'll follow to complete each task. A timer will begin once you click the **Start Lab** button. You must complete all tasks within the allotted 90 minutes, as you can't pause the timer. Since labs may rely on preconfigured virtual machines and / or provisioned resources, you'll only be able to complete the lab a total of 5 times. However, you may access the landing page to refer to the information and tasks as many times as you'd like.

**Note:** Google Skills labs are designed for you to complete on a desktop computer or a laptop, not a mobile device.

## Progress checks and multiple choice questions

Each lab has a series of progress checks and multiple choice questions to ensure you're advancing through each lab and completing each task correctly. It's common for learners to not get every question correct on their first try, and to need to redo a task. This is part of the learning process. You have unlimited attempts for progress checks and multiple choice questions within the allotted time.

## Tips

As you prepare to complete the labs for each course, consider the following tips to help you succeed:

- Review the corresponding Guide readings, videos, and associated course materials prior to starting the lab timer so that you don't spend time locating and reviewing these materials during the allotted 90 minutes for the labs.
- Make any necessary preparations to ensure you will not be interrupted as you complete each lab.
- Use an Incognito or private browser window to complete the lab in order to prevent any conflicts between your personal account and the student account.
- Arrange the lab instructions and lab environment in separate, side-by-side browser windows to easily switch between them.
- If you already have your own personal Google Cloud account or project, do not use it for the labs to avoid extra charges to your personal account.

- Be advised that a lab may take some time to load and/or provision the necessary resources for you to get started; if this happens, do not navigate away from the browser.
- As a reminder – it is common to not get every question in the lab correct on your first try, and even to need to redo a task; this is part of the learning process.

## Key takeaways

The labs in this certificate program provide a guided practice environment where you'll apply the tools and concepts you've learned throughout the program. Each lab is designed to simulate a practical on-the-job experience where you'll complete challenges and build confidence in your abilities. If you encounter any technical issues with the labs, be sure to review this reading to help you work through them. Good luck!