Infrastructure Automation with Google Cloud Platform APIs

Elastic Cloud Infrastructure: Scaling and Automation

COMPUTE ENGINE, CLOUD APIS

GOOGLE CLOUD PLATFORM API INFRASTRUCTURE AUTOMATION

Last modified 2018-01-29

Agenda

- **Infrastructure Automation**
- Images
- Metadata
- Scripts
- Google Cloud API
- Lab
- Quiz

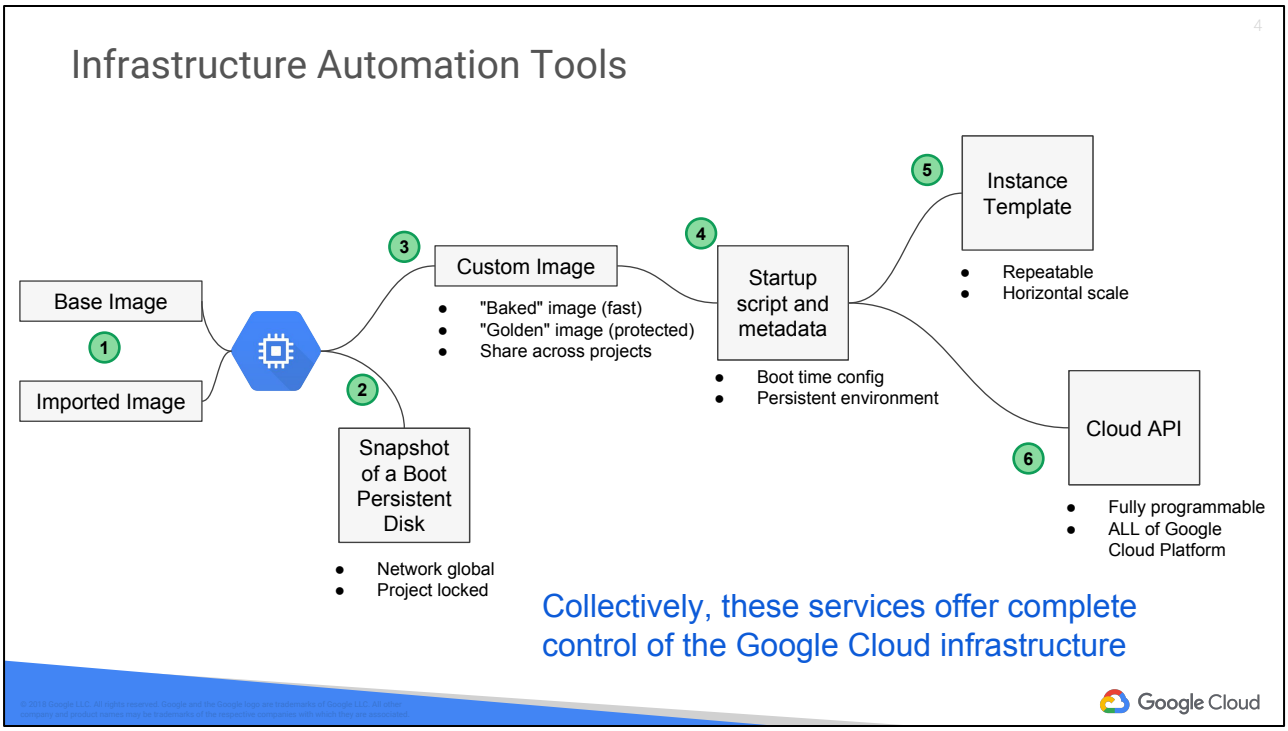
Reasons for Automating Infrastructure

- Repeatable re-deployable infrastructure
- Documented maintainable infrastructure
- Scalable solutions
- Huge architectures
- Complex systems

Google Cloud

You know how to build infrastructure "by hand" with Console and Cloud Shell. This module and the next explore methods for automating the building of infrastructure, which is sometimes called "orchestration". The technologies covered are "force multipliers" for the methods you've already learned.

Listed above are some reasons for Automation. Other reasons include standards and policy compliance, support for internal or external audits, risk abatement, disaster recovery, survivability of the system due to loss of expertise, and many other reasons.



(1) You can start with a standard base image or you can import an image from another domain (on prem or another cloud). Google base images are maintained, updated, and patched. Imported images are useful for synchronizing with an existing system.
You can use the image to create a running VM. And you can connect to the VM and change its configuration, install software, and so forth.
(2) After the VM is tailored to your liking, you can create a Snapshot of its boot disk. Snapshots are global resources. You can use them to reconstitute a boot disk in any region in any network in your project. However, you can't share them between projects.
(3) A custom image can be shared between projects. And there are tools for managing those shared images with your image users. When we say "custom image" we generally mean that the OS and system settings are customized. A "baked" image is one with pre-installed and preconfigured software. Baked images are generally faster to become operational than other methods of installing software during or soon after boot. A "Golden image" is one with all the settings "just right", ready for sharing. Another reason to bake an application into an image is to lock the application so it is harder to make changes to its configuration.
(4) A startup script and metadata is one method to implement boot time customization and software installation. The benefit is being able to change configurations (including which software to install) on the fly. It is ideal for passing parameters that can only be known when the VM is being created and not before. The metadata provides a persistent environment that survives the termination of any individual VM. So you can use metadata to maintain system-level infrastructure data and state information.

(5) Any kind of image, startup scripts, and metadata can be used in an Instance Template. Instance Templates give you a system-documented repeatable way to make identical VMs. When used with a Managed Instance Group and an Autoscale they provide horizontal scaling.
(6) All of these tools and methods get you consistent, reliable, and automatic VM creation. But what they don't do is provide automation over the rest of the GCP infrastructure; they don't create load balancers, vpn connections, or networks. One solution is to install the Cloud SDK on a VM, authorize the VM to use parts of the Google Cloud APIs, and write programs that automate infrastructure creation. Remember that everything you've learned to do with the Console and the gcloud and gsutil commands was implemented by calling the Cloud API. You could write programs that call the Cloud API to programmatically create and manage infrastructure.

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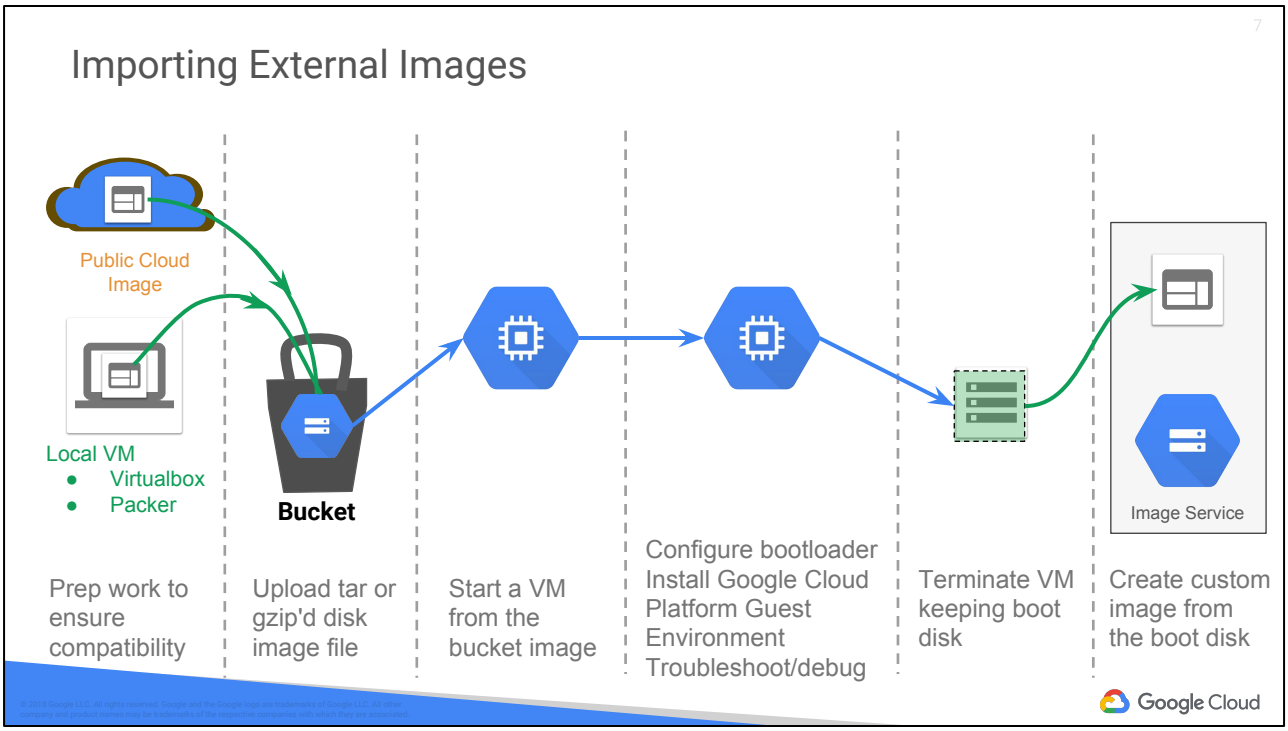


Importing an external image:
"There is significant work involved. You might not want to do it every day."

Required prep work:
https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/images/import-existing-image

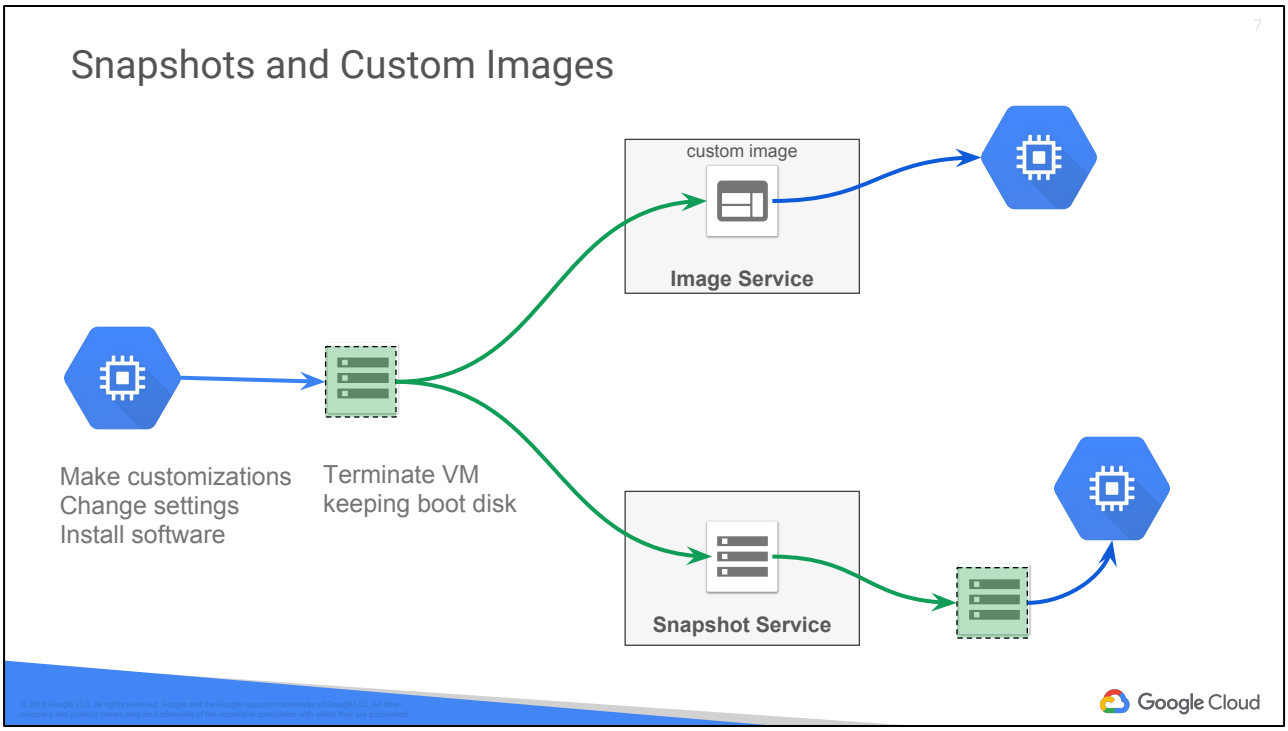
GCP Guest Environment (Linux example)

- Accounts daemon to setup and manage user accounts, and to enable SSH key based authentication.
- Clock skew daemon to keep the system clock in sync after VM start and stop events.
- Disk expand scripts to expand the VM root partition for boot disks with CentOS/RHEL 6 and 7 operating systems.
- Instance setup scripts to execute VM configuration scripts during boot.
- IP forwarding daemon that integrates network load balancing with forwarding rule changes into the guest.
- Metadata scripts to run user provided scripts at VM startup and shutdown.
- Network setup service to enable multiple network interfaces on boot.

https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/images/import-existing-image

Migrating VMs to GCP: https://cloud.google.com/migrate/

Developing Packer images for GCP:
https://www.packer.io/docs/builders/googlecompute.html



To create a VM from a Snapshot backup of a Persistent Boot Disk, you need to first create a new disk from the snapshot. Then you can use that disk to boot a new VM instance. Persistent Disks are Zonal resources. However, Snapshots are Global resources. So you can use a snapshot to create a copy of the boot disk in any region, and also, in any network in your project. However, you cannot share the snapshot outside of your project. Note that when you create a new disk in a different region or network that egress charges apply to the data.

There are many benefits to creating an image from a VM's Persistent Boot Disk.

- A VM can be generated directly from the custom image without first manually restoring to a disk.
- The custom image can be used in Instance Templates
- The custom image can be shared across projects

https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/instances/windows/creating-windows-os-image
On some versions of Windows you need to run a preparation program that updates drivers and some system services: GCESysprep

Managing custom images

- Share custom images
  - Share between projects using IAM roles: `--image-project` tag
  - Export to Cloud Storage bucket as tar file: `gcimagebundle`
- Image family
  - Points at latest version of an image
  - Reduces script/automation updates as versions change
- Deprecated -> Obsolete -> Deleted
  - Deprecated - warning that image is not supported and may end
  - Obsolete - existing users can continue to use it, but no new users
  - You can only delete custom images in projects you own

Google Cloud

https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/images/create-delete-deprecate-private-images

Alternatively to using native Google Cloud Platform image, you could deploy Docker Containers to VMs. This feature is in Beta and more information can be found here: https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/containers/deploying-containers

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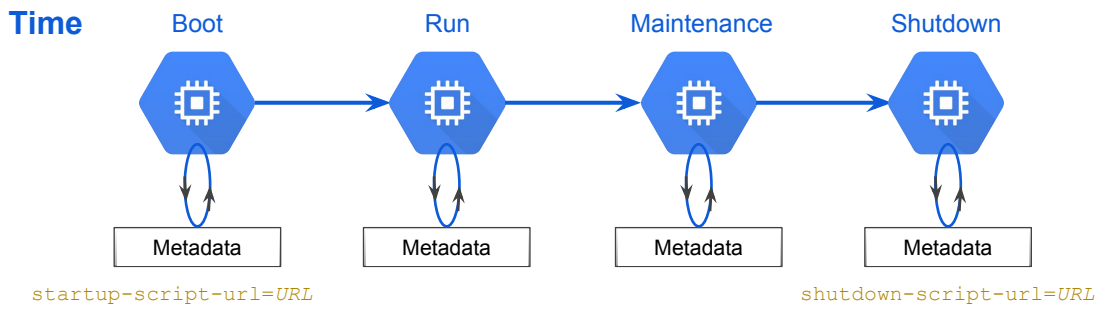
Metadata and Scripts



Google Cloud

VMs have a special relationship with metadata, because the metadata is the standard place for persistent state information that survives the creation and termination of a VM.

During Boot, the Metadata tells the VM where to find the startup script.
When that Startup script is running, it can access additional metadata and get current information about its environment.

Also, scripts and applications can access metadata while the VM is running. And an application can watch a metadata object and receive notification when that object changes. So it can be used to coordinate actions between VMs in a system. (Note that Cloud Pub/Sub might be the better tool for this).

When a maintenance event is about to occur, such as a live migration, there is a (not guaranteed) 30 to 60 second warning. An application can register to watch a special value to get notification when the VM that the application is running on is about to undergo a live migration event. Then the application can take appropriate action.

Finally, when a VM is shutting down, it uses Metadata to find the shutdown script. In Managed Instance Groups the shutdown script might drain the connection from the Load Balancer to the VM to minimize user impact to the loss of the VM. Other shutdown activities: write logs, save state.

Metadata

- Project metadata - visible to all VMs in project
- VM metadata - private to the VM
  - Instance hostname
  - External IP address
  - SSH keys
  - Project ID
  - Service account information and token
- key:value pairs
  - Directories containing key:value pairs
  - Can return: specific value for a key, all keys in a directory, or a recursive list of keys

Google Cloud

https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/storing-retrieving-metadata#default

Query metadata

- Console, CloudShell, or API
- From VM, use wget or curl:
  - http://metadata.google.internal/computeMetadata/v1/
  - http://metadata/computeMetadata/v1/
  - http://<ip-address>/computeMetadata/v1/
- Using `gcloud`
  - Project: `gcloud compute project-info describe`
  - Instance: `gcloud compute instances describe <INSTANCE>`

Google Cloud

https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/storing-retrieving-metadata#querying

Detect when metadata has changed

- Detect using `wait_for_change` parameter

```
curl \
"http://metadata/computeMetadata/v1/instance/\
tags?wait_for_change=true" \
-H "Metadata-Flavor: Google"
```

`timeout_sec` - returns if value changed after n seconds

- Entity tags - HTTP ETag *(used for webcache validation)*
  - If metadata ETag differs from local version then the latest value is returned immediately
  - Instances can use ETags to validate if they have the latest value

Google Cloud

Use hanging GET request to wait for metadata changes and programmatically react by including the `wait_for_chage` parameter.

ETags do not work on directory listings or service account tokens.

Handle maintenance event

- Retrieve scheduling options (availability policies)
  - `/scheduling` directory
  - `maintenance-event` attribute
  - Notifies when a maintenance event is *about* to occur
  - Value changes 60 seconds before a transparent maintenance event starts
- Query periodically to trigger application code prior to a transparent maintenance event
  - Example: backup, logging, save state

Google Cloud

https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/storing-retrieving-metadata#maintenanceevents

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Startup and shutdown scripts

- Startup scripts
  - Linux
    - Runs during VM boot, last step in the boot process
    - Any language valid on the VM, but bash is most common
  - Windows
    - Runs before boot or after boot
    - cmd or bat, but Powershell is most common
- Shutdown scripts
  - Best effort run triggered by terminate or restart
- Both startup and shutdown scripts are commonly specified when the VM is created, but can also be added after

Google Cloud

https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/startupscript

Linux startup scripts

- Script typically specified at instance creation
  - Runs at boot time; can be rerun after boot
  - `gcloud compute instances create <instance> --metadata startup-script-url=<url>`
  - `startup-script-url` metadata key for script in Cloud Storage bucket
    - Service account needs permission and scope to read
  - Upload directly to metadata using `startup-script` key
  - Upload a script from a local file
- Logs accessible on instance, can be used for troubleshooting:
  - Debian: `/var/log/daemon.log`

Google Cloud

https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/startupscript#rerunthescript

Windows startup scripts

- Scripts can be hosted in metadata
- Windows Server requires scripts in GCS to be public

	Runs during sysprep, before boot	Runs after sysprep completes and on every subsequent boot
url	sysprep-specialize-script-url	windows-startup-script-url
cmd	sysprep-specialize-script-cmd	windows-startup-script-cmd
bat	sysprep-specialize-script-bat	windows-startup-script-bat
Powershell	sysprep-specialize-script-ps1	windows-startup-script-ps1

Startup Scripts

- Startup scripts
  - Can be rerun after boot
- Common use cases include:
  - Software installation
  - Operating system updates
  - Turn on services

Google Cloud

For more information on startup scripts, see:
https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/startupscript

Shutdown scripts

- Best effort run on terminate or restart

  ~90 seconds on most machine-types

  ~30 seconds on preemptible VMs

  ```
  gcloud compute instances create <instance> --metadata
  shutdown-script-url=<url>
  ```


Google Cloud

https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/shutdownscript

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Cloud SDK

- Cloud Client Libraries
  - Go, Java, Python, Node.js, PHP, Ruby, C#
- Installation
  - Download: https://cloud.google.com/sdk/downloads
  - Extract
  - Setup paths and reporting: `./google-cloud-sdk/install.sh (or .bat)`
  - Initialize the SDK: `gcloud init`
- Authorization
  - `gcloud auth activate-service-account --key-file [KEY_FILE]`

Google Cloud

Google API Libraries: https://developers.google.com/products/
Technically, the Cloud SDK is one library among the *many* libraries associated with Google products, including Maps, gMail, Drive, and so forth.

https://cloud.google.com/sdk/docs/initializing

Cloud SDK Components

- List components
  - `gcloud components list`
- Add components
  - `gcloud components install [COMPONENT]`
    - Developers: Cloud Pub/Sub and Cloud Datastore Emulators
- Update components
  - `gcloud components update`
- Remove components
  - `gcloud components remove [COMPONENT]`
    - Command line tools - you may want to remove them for security

Google Cloud

The command line tools are components. So are all the Beta commands. For developers, there is a Cloud Pub/Sub Emulator and a Cloud Datastore Emulator.

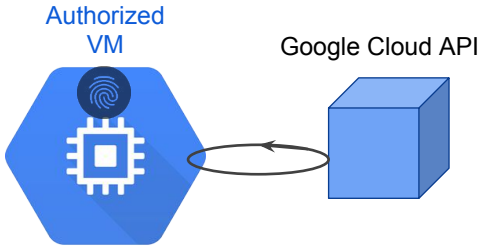
Command line tool integration

gcloud	gsutil	bq	kubectl
Compute Engine	Cloud Storage	Cloud Logging	
Container Engine	Big Query	Deployment Manager	
Cloud DNS	Cloud SQL	Resource Manager	
Cloud IAM	Cloud Dataproc	Source Repositories	

Windows Powershell `cmdlets`

This is the top of the gcloud reference documentation. Most functions are in the gcloud tool. Only, storage (gsutil), Big Query (bq), and Kubernetes (kubectl) are separate.
https://cloud.google.com/sdk/gcloud/reference/

VM as an Automation Engine



- A VM is authorized with a service account to use the Google Cloud API
- Software on the VM uses the API to create infrastructure on your behalf

Google Cloud

This isn't a coding class. Developer Track classes cover application development including interaction with the Cloud API.

However, using a VM to create infrastructure is a very powerful tool.

So… without having you code… you will be learning how to setup and operate such an infrastructure automation tool in the lab.

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Google Cloud

Lab: Google Cloud Platform API Infrastructure Automation

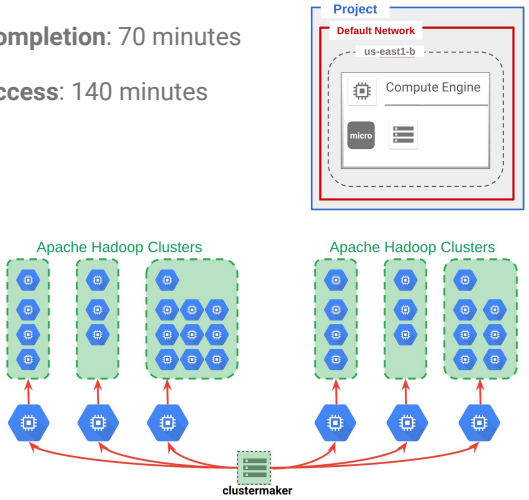
Objectives

In this lab, you learn how to perform the following tasks:

- Create an IAM Service Account.
- Create a VM.
- Authorize it to use GCP API using the Service Account.
- Install open source software on the VM, configure the software and test it by deploying a Hadoop cluster.
- Create a snapshot of the boot disk with the Service Account authority "baked in".
- Recreate the clustermaker VM in a different region and test it by deploying another Hadoop cluster in the new region.

Completion: 70 minutes

Access: 140 minutes



Google Cloud

Lab Review

In this lab you:

- Created an IAM Service Account.
- Created a VM.
- Authorized a VM to use GCP API using the Service Account.
- Installed open source software on the VM.
- Configured and tested the VM by deploying a Hadoop cluster.
- Created a global solution by generating a snapshot of the boot disk with the service account authority "baked in".
- Recreated the clustermaker VM in a different region and tested it by deploying another Hadoop cluster in the new region.

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More...

Startup scripts

- https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/startupscript

Shutdown scripts

- https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/shutdownscript

Storing and retrieving metadata

- https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/storing-retrieving-metadata