### Detecting if you are running in Compute Engine

curl metadata.google.internal -i

### Query a single metadata entry

curl "http://metadata.google.internal/computeMetadata/v1/instance/image" -H "Metadata-Flavor: Google"

### Query metadata directory listings

“disks/ entry is a directory of disks attached to the VM.”

curl "http://metadata.google.internal/computeMetadata/v1/instance/disks/" -H "Metadata-Flavor: Google"

For more information about disk number/

curl "http://metadata.google.internal/computeMetadata/v1/instance/disks/0/" -H "Metadata-Flavor: Google"

To query the disk type (type) for disks number/

curl "http://metadata.google.internal/computeMetadata/v1/instance/disks/0/type" -H "Metadata-Flavor: Google"

#### Setting metadata during instance creation

gcloud compute instances create myinstance --metadata bread=butter

#### Updating or setting metadata on a running instance

gcloud compute instances add-metadata INSTANCE --metadata key-1=value-1 key-2=value-2 key-n=value-n

For example

metadata:

fingerprint: \_OW8mWFLqsk=

items:

- key: bread

value: mayo

- key: cheese

value: cheddar

- key: lettuce

value: butter

To change the lettuce=butter entry to lettuce=green

gcloud compute instances add-metadata INSTANCE --metadata lettuce=green

To remove the lettuce=butter

gcloud compute instances remove-metadata INSTANCE --keys lettuce

#### Applying a startup script using custom metadata

Passing in a startup script from a local file:  
gcloud compute instances create example-instance --metadata-from-file startup-script=FILE  
  
Passing in a startup script from Google Cloud Storage:  
gcloud compute instances create example-instance --metadata startup-script-url=URL  
  
Passing in your startup script directly:  
gcloud compute instances create example-instance --metadata startup-script="#! /bin/bash  
> # Installs apache and a custom homepage  
> apt-get update  
> apt-get install -y apache2  
> cat <<EOF > /var/www/index.html  
> <html><body><h1>Hello World</h1>  
> <p>This page was created from a simple start up script!</p>  
> </body></html>  
> EOF"