Creating a VM instance from an instance template with overrides

This page explains how to use an instance template to create a VM instance. An instance template is an API resource that defines the properties of VM instances. You define properties like the machine type, OS image, persistent disk configurations, metadata, startup scripts, and so on, in an instance template and then can use the instance template to create individual VM instances or groups of managed instances.

When you create a VM instance from an instance template, the default behavior is to create a VM instance that is identical to the properties specified in the template, with the exception of the VM instance name and the zone where the instance will live. Alternatively, you can also optionally override certain fields during instance creation if you want to change certain properties of the instance template for specific uses.

This document assumes that you have an instance template ready to use. If you do not have an instance template, follow the instructions to create a new instance template.

Before you begin

What's next

▼ Creating VM instances

VM instance

▶ Using sole-tenant nodes

Creating and starting a VM instance Creating and starting a preemptible

Creating customized boot disks

Creating Windows instances

Creating SQL Server instances

Creating a VM instance with a custom machine type

Creating a VM instance from an

Creating a VM instance from an

Creating a VM instance with a

instance template

existing instance

custom hostname

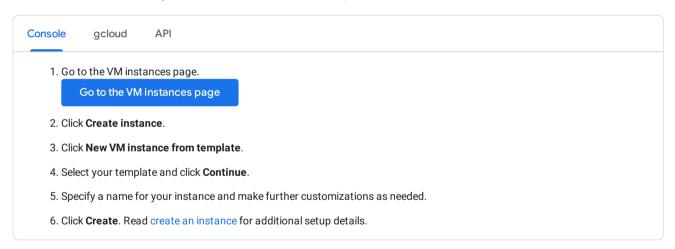
Detaching and reattaching boot disks



- If you want to use the command-line examples in this guide:
 - 1. Install or update to the latest version of the gcloud command-line tool.
 - 2. Set a default region and zone.
- If you want to use the API examples in this guide, set up API access.
- Read the Instance Template documentation.
- Create an instance template.

Creating a VM instance from an instance template

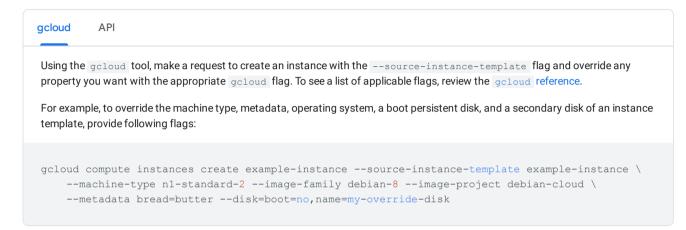
To create an instance exactly as described in the instance template, follow these instructions.



Creating a VM instance from an instance template with overrides

When you use an instance template to start a VM instance, the default behavior is to create a VM instance exactly as described in the instance template with the exception of the instance name and zone.

If you want to create an instance primarily based on an instance template but with a few changes, you can use the override behavior. To use the override behavior, you pass in attributes to override for the existing instance template when creating the instance.



What's next

- Read the Preemptible VM instances documentation.
- Read about Shutdown scripts.
- Refer to the preemptible instance pricing.
- Connect to your instance.

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