Google Cloud

TTL policies and expiration

So far, you've learned that time-to-live (TTL) policies let you remove or revoke asset access that is no longer needed. This is accomplished by setting a time limit on how long the data will be available to specific users who were previously granted access. In this reading, you'll explore what it's like working with TTL policies.

Review TTL policy

In object lifecycle management, TTL is a policy that sets a given property as the time that access to an asset is available. Once the time period expires, the asset becomes inaccessible. A TTL value is a numerical value that represents how long assets should be available before it is made unavailable to users or entities. However, users can still use the asset for queries and look-up requests before the data becomes unavailable.

Note: TTL works differently for different services, so the function of TTL within various services may differ from the content of this reading.

Working with a TTL policy

Now, you'll explore examples of creating a TTL policy and stopping a TTL policy.

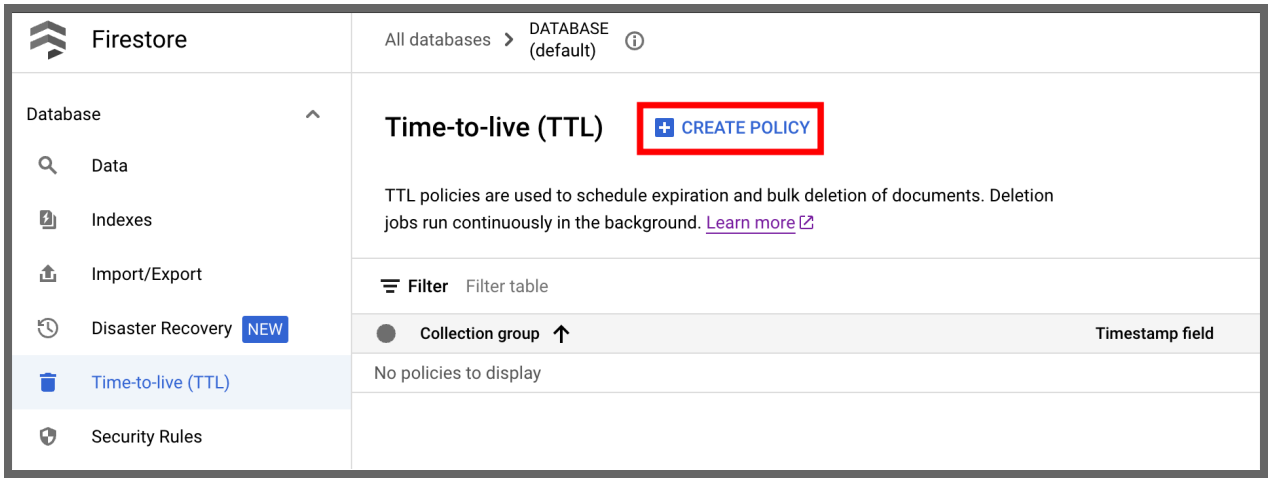
- Example of cloud TTL policy creation
- Stopping a TTL policy

Create a TTL policy

To create a TTL policy, you need to set the date and time of expiration for the data type you want. When the expiration time is reached, the data will become inaccessible.

Here's an example of creating a cloud TTL policy in Google Firestore.

The first thing you need to do to create a policy is go to your cloud service provider (CSP) time-to-live page, and click **Create policy**. Then, enter a collection group name and a timestamp field name. After that, click **Create.** This could take ten minutes or more. Even if you close the terminal, the operation will continue.

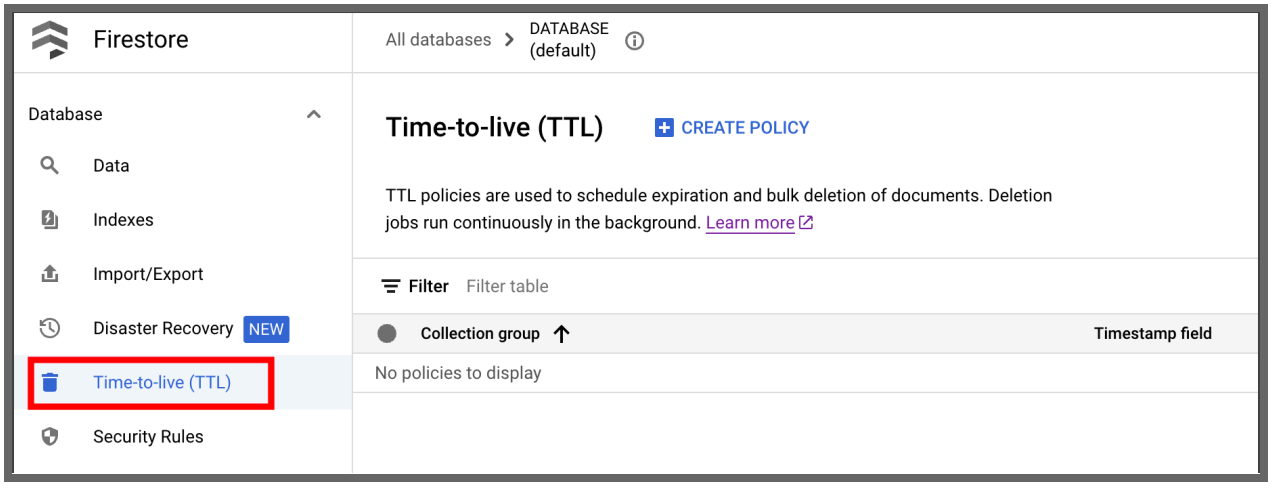


Stopping a TTL policy

If at any point you need data that is bound by a TTL policy for a bit longer, you can stop the TTL policy.

To do this in Firestore:

- Go to the Firestore time-to-live page.
- Find the row for the TTL policy you want to stop.
- Click **Delete.**
- Then click **Delete** again to confirm the deletion.



Pro tip: The **Delete** option is useful when you want to stop a TTL policy because all the data will stay available unless you manually delete it or set up another TTL policy.

Key takeaways

TTL policies let you put an expiration time on a data asset. The data becomes inaccessible once it expires. To make a TTL policy, you designate a document field's expiration date and time in your CSP for the data asset you want. If you realize you will still need data after the expiration date, you can easily stop a TTL policy.