VM-Series for GCP



Two-tiered Application Environment on Google Cloud

Using GCP Deployment Manager to deploy a two-tiered application environment secured by the VM-Series next generation firewall

https://www.paloaltonetworks.com

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Version History

Version number	Comments Initial Draft			
1.0				
1.1	Update links			
1.2	Update topology diagram Minor updates			
1.3				

1. About Deployment Manager Templates

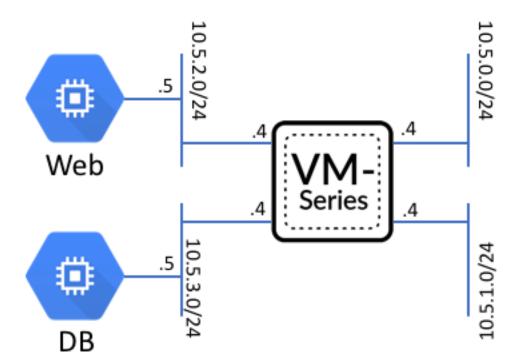
GCP Deployment Manager Templates, are Python (or Jinja) files that can launch nearly all GCP resources including VPCs, subnets, security groups, route tables, plus many more. Templates are used to simplify deployments and are key to fully automating security in the cloud.

For more information on Templates refer to Google's documentation

https://cloud.google.com/deployment-manager/docs/how-to#adding-templates

There are also many sample templates available here https://github.com/GoogleCloudPlatform/deploymentmanager-samples/tree /master/templates

This document will explain how to deploy a sample template that launches a WordPress server, a MySQL server, a VM-Series firewall and the subnets, as shown in the diagram below. The VM-Series uses a native bootstrapping feature that allows for additional configuration of the firewall (such as routes, security policies, etc.)



2. Support Policy

This template is released under an as-is, best effort, support policy. These scripts should be seen as community supported and Palo Alto Networks will contribute our expertise as and when possible. We do not provide technical support or help in using or troubleshooting the components of the project through our normal support options such as Palo Alto Networks support teams, or ASC (Authorized Support Centers) partners and backline support options. The underlying product used (the VM-Series firewall) by the scripts or templates are still supported, but the support is only for the product functionality and not for help in deploying or using the template or script itself.

Unless explicitly tagged, all projects or work posted in our GitHub repository (at https://github.com/PaloAltoNetworks/googlecloud) or sites other than our official Downloads page on https://support.paloaltonetworks.com are provided under the best effort policy.

3. Instances used

When using this sample template the following machine types are used:

Instance name	Machine Type		
WordPress Web Server	f1-micro		
WordPress DB Server	f1-micro		
VM Series Firewall	n1-standard-4		

Note: There are costs associated with each machine type launched, please refer to the Google instance pricing page https://cloud.google.com/compute/pricing

4. Prerequisites

The prerequisites required to successfully launch this template are listed below:

4.1 Create GCP account

If you do not have a GCP account already, go to https://cloud.google.com/free/ and create an account.

4.2 Install the Google Cloud SDK

Template installations in GCP are performed from the CLI. Install the SDK/CLI by selecting the relevant platform from the following link and following the installation instructions:

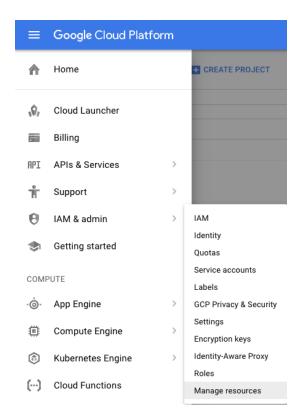
https://cloud.google.com/sdk/

4.3 Accept the EULA

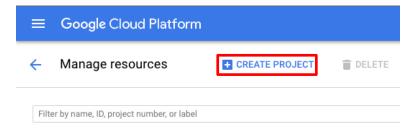
Accept the VM-Series EULA if required.

4.4 Create a Project

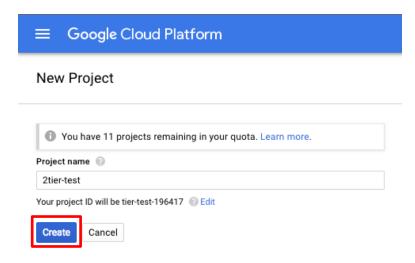
All GCP resources are deployed to a project, which is an organizational boundary that separates users, resources, billing information, etc. It is similar to an AWS VPC or an Azure Resource Group. By default, GCP will create a project upon creation of an account. If that is not the case or to create a dedicated project, use the drop-down on the left and select IAM & admin > Manage Resources:



Click Create Project:



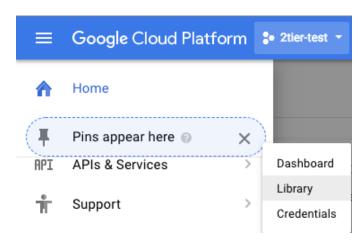
Specify a name for the project and click **Create**:



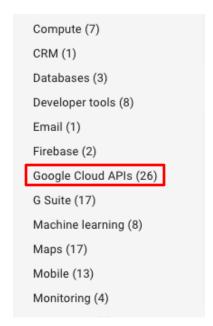
Note that project creation will take a few minutes.

4.5 Enable the API

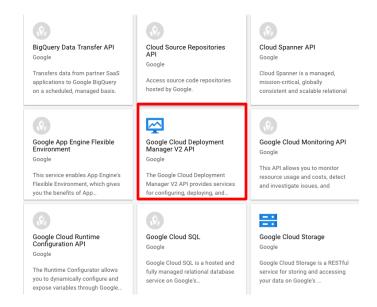
Deploying a template requires the API be enable on the project. Navigate to **APIs & Services > Library**:



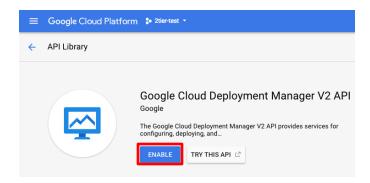
Select Google Cloud APIs on the left-hand-side:



Select Google Cloud Deployment Manager V2 API:



Select Enable:

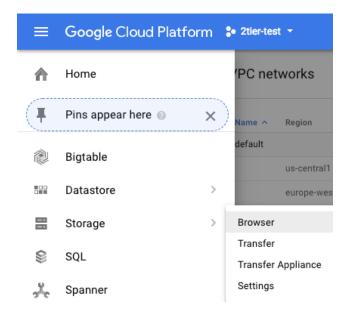


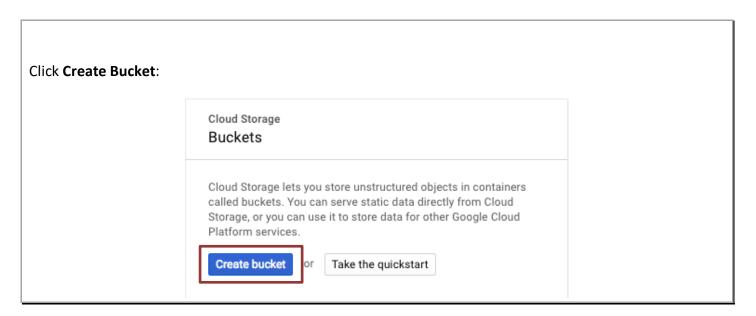
Enabling the API for the project will take a few minutes to complete.

4.6 Create a Bootstrap Bucket

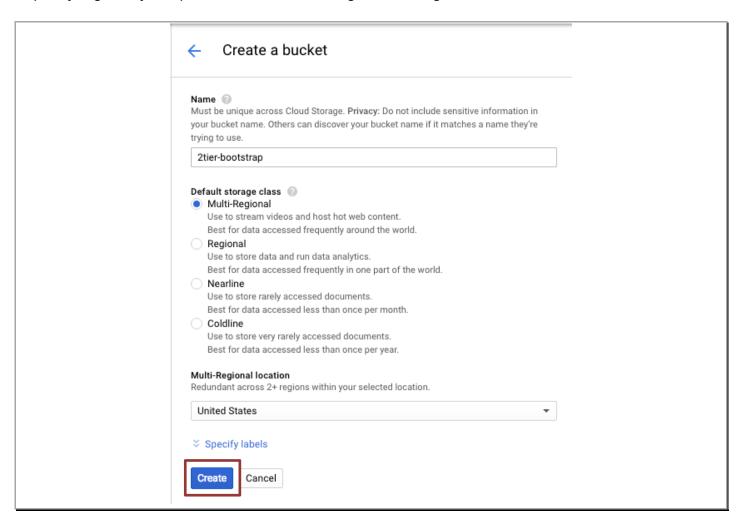
Bootstrapping is a feature of the VM-Series firewall that allows you to create and store a predefined configuration that can then be used by the firewall during boot-up. This ensures that the firewall is fully configured at initial boot-up, thereby removing the need for manual configuration. Bootstrapping also enables VM-Series deployments to be fully automated.

To create a Bootstrap bucket, navigate to **Storage > Browser**:

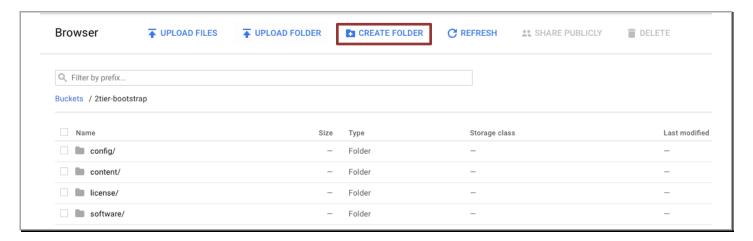




Specify a globally-unique bucket name and regional settings and click **Create**:



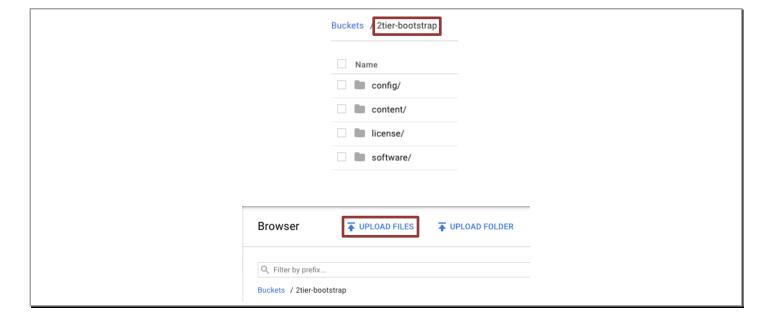
You will need to enter a globally unique bucket name. GCP will warn you if the name is not unique. Once the bucket is created, click on the newly created bucket and add four folders called **config, license, software** and **content** by clicking on **Create Folder**:



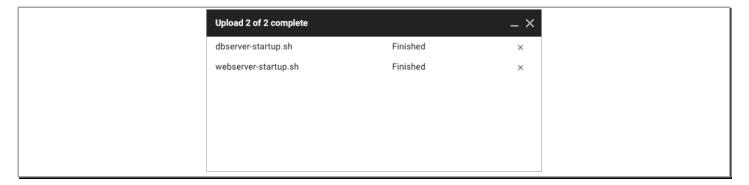
Download the following files and save them in a known location:

https://raw.githubusercontent.com/PaloAltoNetworks/googlecloud/master/two-tier-template/bootstrap.xml
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/PaloAltoNetworks/googlecloud/master/two-tier-template/init-cfg.txt
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/PaloAltoNetworks/googlecloud/master/two-tier-template/dbserver-startup.sh
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/PaloAltoNetworks/googlecloud/master/two-tier-template/webserver-startup.sh

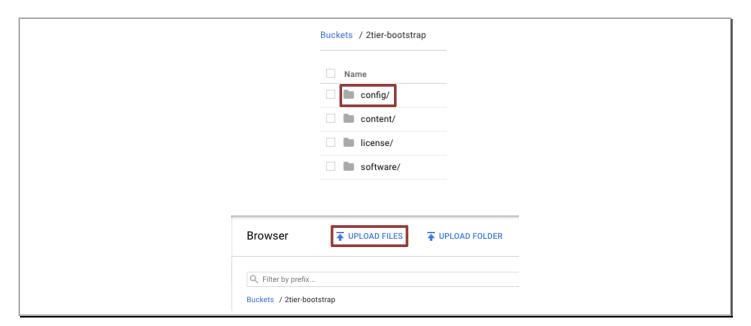
Now click on the root folder in the console and click **UPLOAD FILES**:



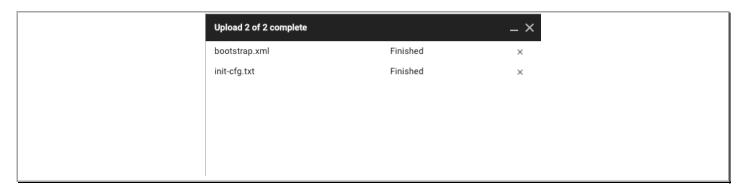
Select the two files (dbserver-startup.sh and dbserver-startup.sh) downloaded previously and click **Open**:



Now click on the config folder in the console and click UPLOAD FILES:



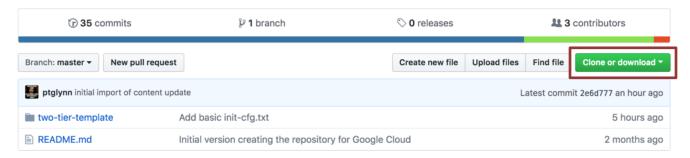
Select the two files (bootstrap.xml and init-cft.txt) downloaded previously and click **Open**:



NOTE: Please create the folders using the console. Creating folders locally on your machine and uploading them may not work as expected.

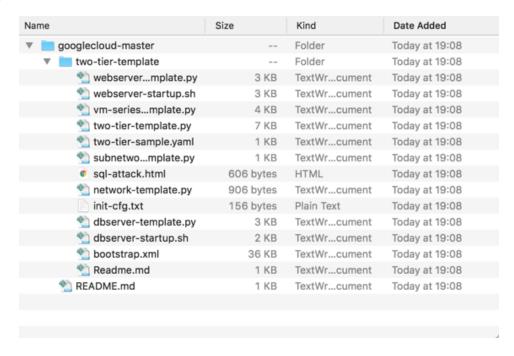
4.7 **Download the Template Files**

Download and save all of the template files to a known location by selecting **Clone or download**:



4.8 Extract the Files

Unzip the template files:



4.9 Gather Information and Update the Template File

Deploying the template in GCP requires modification of the template files to include deployment-specific information. The required information is:

```
zone = ###ZONE (e.g. us-central1-a, us-east4-b, etc.)
region = ###Region (e.g. us-central1, us-east4, etc.)
sshkey = ## ssh key PUBLIC
    Format: <USERNAME>:<KEY FORMAT> <PUBLIC KEY> <USERNAME>
bootstrap_bucket = ###bootstrap bucket
scripts_bucket = ###bucket with web and db startup scripts
serviceaccount = ###GCP service account (Retrieve from IAM & admin > IAM)
    Format: <PROJECT NUMBER>-compute@developer.gserviceaccount.com
```

Once the information has been gathered, update the file "two-tier-template.py" with the information.

NOTE: All variables MUST be enclosed in quotes. Failure to do so will result in a deployment failure.

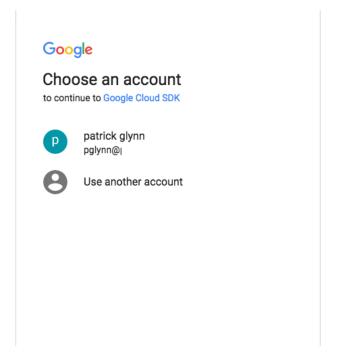
5. Launch the Template

Navigate to the directory containing the downloaded template files:

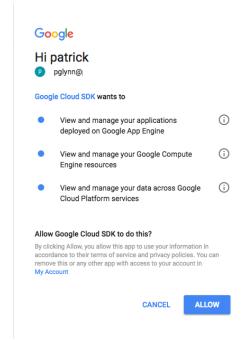
```
root @2ccf 4d39089e: ~/Devel opment / GCP / googlecloud-master / two-tier-template # ls
Readme.md subnetwork-template.py
bootstrap.xml two-tier-sample.yaml
dbserver-startup.sh two-tier-template.py
dbserver-template.py vm-series-template.py
init-cfg.txt webserver-startup.sh
network-template.py webserver-template.py
sql-attack.html
root @2ccf 4d39089e: ~/Development / GCP / googlecloud-master / two-tier-temp
plate #
```

Authenticate to the GCP environment:

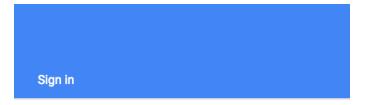
Copy/paste the link into a browser and select the account to authenticate:



Review the requested permissions and click **Allow**:



Copy the one-time verification code:



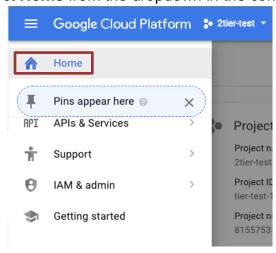
Please copy this code, switch to your application and paste it there: 4/AAC2EoRH6UAJWLhKHk7oYp8CWzQzZf7miebTJQxhRcw7EiSCEIE8ELo

Paste it into the window to complete the authentication request (ignore the warning):

```
root@2ccf4d39089e:~/Development/GCP/googlecloud-master/two-tier-template# gcloud auth login pglynn@]
Go to the following link in your browser:

https://accounts.google.com/o/oauth2/auth?redirect_uri=urn%3Aietf
%3Awg%3Aoauth%3A2.0%3Aoob&prompt=select_account&response_type=code&cl
ient_id=32555940559.apps.googleusercontent.com&scope=https%3A%2F%2Fww
%googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fuserinfo.email+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis
.com%2Fauth%2Fcloud-platform+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2
2Fappengine.admin+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2
2Fappengine.admin+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2
2Foompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcompute+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleap
```

Select **Home** from the dropdown in the console:



Note the Project ID:



Set the target project for template deployment:

```
root@2ccf4d39089e: ~/Development/GCP/googlecloud-master/two-tier-templ ate# gcloud config set project tier-test-196417
Updated property [core/project].
root@2ccf4d39089e: ~/Development/GCP/googlecloud-master/two-tier-templ ate#
```

Initiate template deployment using the file "two-tier-template.yaml" as the configuration file using the command "gcloud deployment-manager deployments create <deployment name> --config two-tier-template.yaml --automatic-rollback-on-error" where <deployment name> is the tag used to identify the deployment ("deployment1" in this example):

```
root@2ccf4d39089e:~/Development/GCP/googlecloud-master/two-tier-template*gcloud deployment-manager deployments create deployment1 --config two-tier-sample.yaml --automatic-rollback-on-error
```

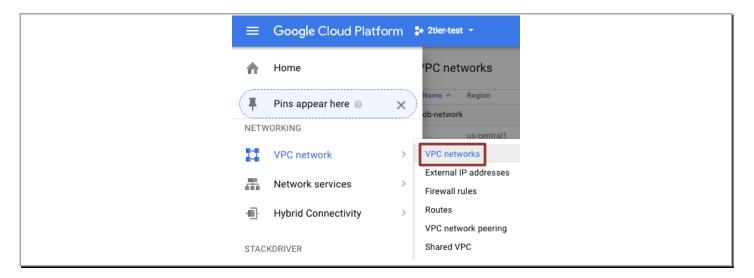
Note: The "--automatic-rollback-on-error" flag instructs deployment manager to automatically roll back all changes in the event of a failure to deploy. For troubleshooting purposes, it may be desirable to omit this flag.

If all goes well, Deployment Manager will report success (state "COMPLETED" and no errors):

```
root @2ccf 4d39089e: ~/Development/GCP/googlecloud-master/two-tier-template # gcloud deployment-manager deployments create deployment1 --config two-tier-sample.yaml --automatic-rollback-on-error
The fingerprint of the deployment is GL54qACJ7Av8Yyjp_oWKyA==
Waiting for create [operation-1519750942493-5663497130948-c29c8c79-2093fbc2]...done.
Create operation operation-1519750942493-5663497130948-c29c8c79-2093fbc2 completed successfully.
                                                                                               STATE
COMPLETED
                                                                                                                      ERRORS
                                                                                                                                       INTENT
db-firewall
db-network
                                             compute.v1.firewall
                                                                                               COMPLETED
                                                              v 1 .
                                             comput
                                                                     net work
                                                                                              COMPLETED
COMPLETED
COMPLETED
COMPLETED
   b-route
                                                                    route
   b-subnet
                                                          e.v1.subnetwork
                                                                    instance
firewall
d b - v m
                                             c o mp u t
                                                          e. v1.
management-firewall mg mt-net work
                                             compute.v1.
                                                                                              COMPLETED
COMPLETED
COMPLETED
                                                                     net work
                                             c o mp u t
mg mt - subnet
untrust - firewall
                                                                    subnet work
firewall
                                             c o mp u t
                                                          e. v1.
                                             c o mp u t
                                             compute.v1.network
compute.v1.subnetwork
compute.v1.instance
compute.v1.firewall
                                                                                              COMPLETED
COMPLETED
untrust-network
untrust-networ
untrust-subnet
vm-series
web-firewall
                                                                                              COMPLETED
COMPLETED
COMPLETED
 web-network
                                             compute.v1.network
                                                                                              COMPLETED
COMPLETED
                                             compute. v1. route
 web-route
web-subnet
web-vm
                                             compute. v1. subnet work
                                                                                               COMPLETED
```

6. Review what was created

Let's review what the template has launched. The newly created networks can be viewed via **VPC Network**:

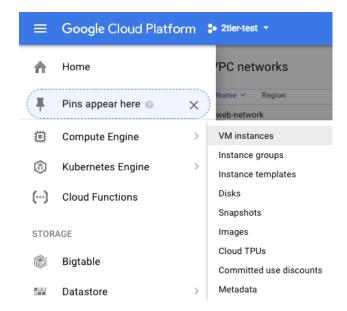


The template creates four networks: db-network, mgmt-network, untrust-network, and web-network:

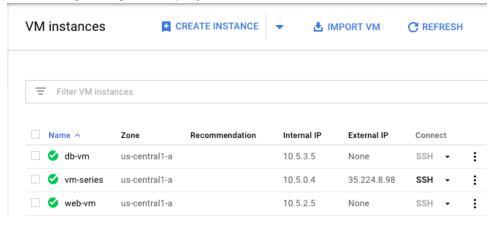
Name ∨	Region	Subnets	Mode	IP addresses ranges	Gateways	Firewall Rules	Global dynamic routing
web-networ	'k	1	Custom			1	Off
	us-central1	web-subnet		10.5.2.0/24	10.5.2.1		
untrust-net	work	1	Custom			1	Off
	us-central1	untrust-subnet		10.5.1.0/24	10.5.1.1		
mgmt-network		1	Custom			1	Off
	us-central1	mgmt-subnet		10.5.0.0/24	10.5.0.1		
default		15	Auto 🕶			4	Off
	us-central1	default		10.128.0.0/20	10.128.0.1		
	europe-west1	default		10.132.0.0/20	10.132.0.1		
	us-west1	default		10.138.0.0/20	10.138.0.1		
	asia-east1	default		10.140.0.0/20	10.140.0.1		
	us-east1	default		10.142.0.0/20	10.142.0.1		
	asia-northeast1	default		10.146.0.0/20	10.146.0.1		
	asia-southeast1	default		10.148.0.0/20	10.148.0.1		
	us-east4	default		10.150.0.0/20	10.150.0.1		
	australia-southeast1	default		10.152.0.0/20	10.152.0.1		
	europe-west2	default		10.154.0.0/20	10.154.0.1		
	europe-west3	default		10.156.0.0/20	10.156.0.1		
	southamerica-east1	default		10.158.0.0/20	10.158.0.1		
	asia-south1	default		10.160.0.0/20	10.160.0.1		
	northamerica-northeast1	default		10.162.0.0/20	10.162.0.1		
	europe-west4	default		10.164.0.0/20	10.164.0.1		
db-network		1	Custom			1	Off

Note: The default network was automatically created when the project was instantiated. It can be ignored or deleted.

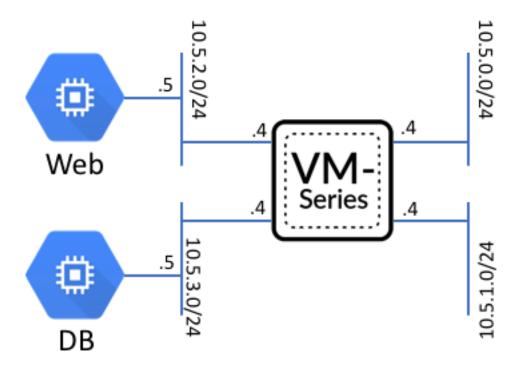
Deployed hosts can be viewed by navigating to **Compute Engine > VM Instances**:



High-level information regarding the deployed instances are available with the default view:



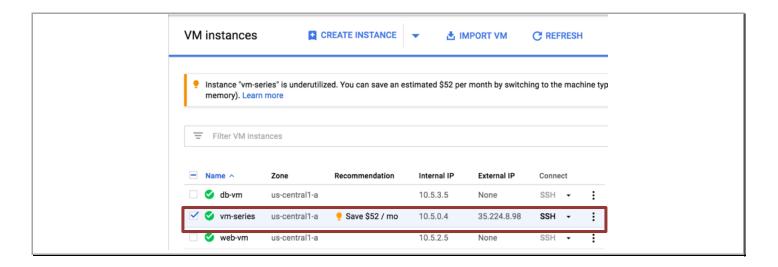
All of this matches the topology shown previously:



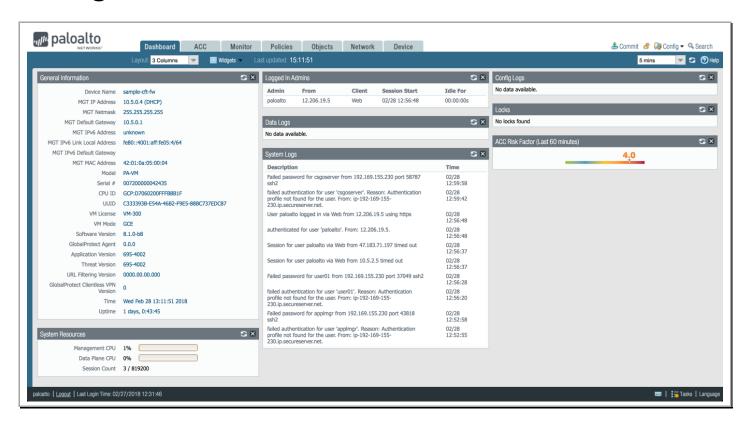
7. Access the firewall

NOTE: Bootstrapping a VM-Series firewall takes approximately 9 minutes. So once the template has been deployed successfully, it may take a few minutes before the firewall is up and you are able to log in. .

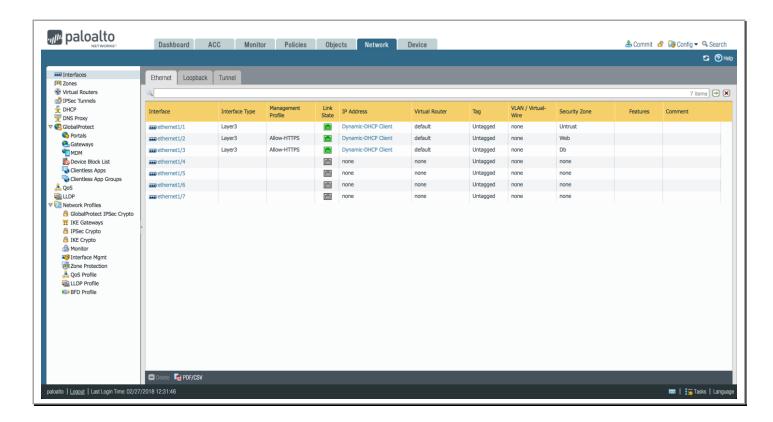
Once the template deployment is complete, the firewall will show a green checkmark indicating it is running. On the right side is the management IP address of the firewall:



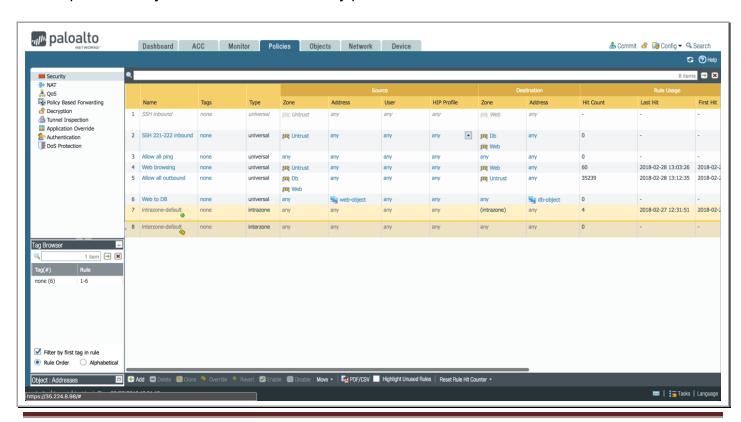
You should now be able to login to the firewall using the **username: paloalto** and password: **PaloAlto@123**



Here are the interfaces to zone mappings:

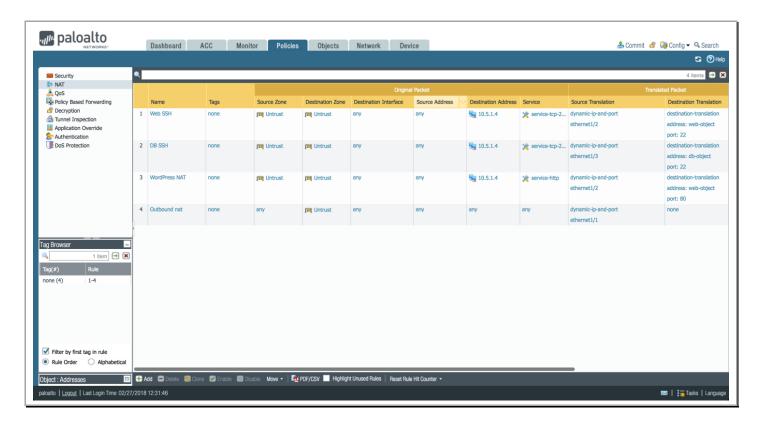


In the policies tab you can review the security policies:



These policies are defined to allow ssh access on ports 221 and 222 to the web and db server respectively (for troubleshooting purposes), secures N/S traffic and E/W traffic between zones.

And the NAT policies allow for ssh access to the web and db servers as well as directing web traffic to the web server only. There is also a rule for source NAT from web and db servers to the outside world.



8. Access the Webserver

Navigate to the list of VM instances and click on the firewall. Locate the public IP address of the untrust-network interface:



Open a new browser tab and type http://<untrust-network-IP>/ and you should see:



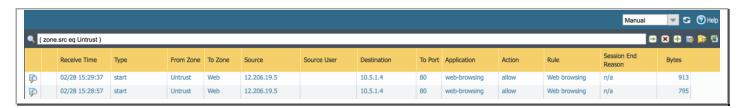
Apache2 Ubuntu Default Page

It works!

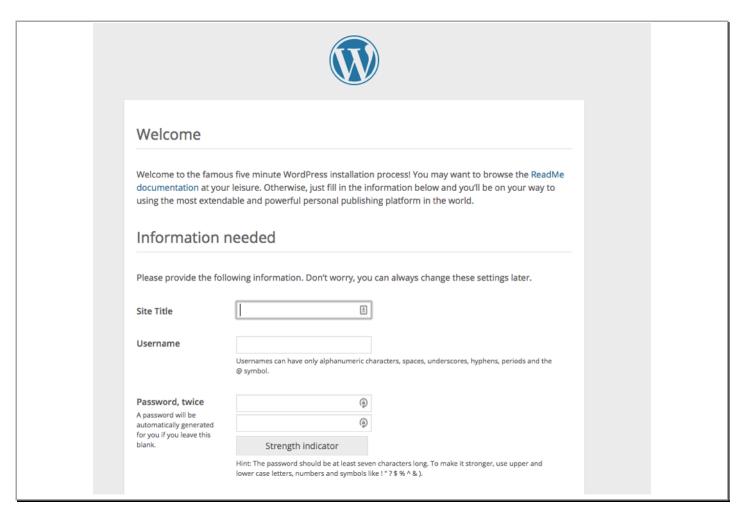
This is the default welcome page used to test the correct operation of the Apache2 server after installation on Ubuntu systems. It is based on the equivalent page on Debian, from which the Ubuntu Apache packaging is derived. If you can read this page, it means that the Apache HTTP server installed at this site is working properly. You should **replace this file** (located at /var/www/html/index.html) before continuing to operate your HTTP server.

If you are a normal user of this web site and don't know what this page is about, this probably means that the site is currently unavailable due to maintenance. If the problem persists, please contact the site's administrator.

Check firewall logs to verify that the traffic is passing through the firewall:



The next step is to verify that East-West traffic can pass through the firewall. In the browser, head to the WordPress server (http://<untrust-network-IP>/wordpress>). You should see the WordPress welcome screen:



Note: You don't need to configure the new WordPress server for the purpose of this deplkoyment. In its initial, un-configured state, it will generate the traffic we need to test the VM-Series firewall.

Now, head back to the firewall and verify that the traffic did indeed go through the firewall from web to db:



You have now successfully deployed the VM-Series firewall in GCP.

9. Launch some attacks

9.1 SSH from Web Server to DB Server

Let's simulate a compromised web server that is being used to attack the database. This is a common attack strategy of getting a foothold on the web front-end server and then expanding to the other application tiers with the ultimate goal of accessing all data in the database.

Go to http://<untrust-network-IP>/sql-attack.html and simulate a web to db ssh attempt by clicking on the **LAUNCH WEB TO DB SSH ATTEMPT**.

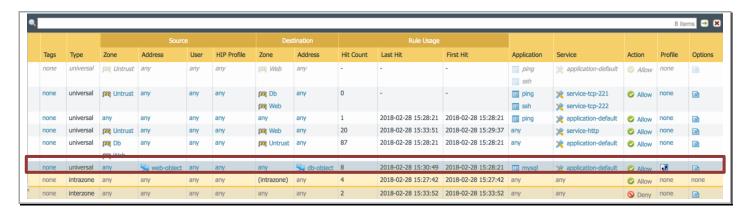
LAUNCH WEB TO DB SSH ATTEMPT

This launches a CGI script that attempts to ssh as root to the db server from the web server. Now return to the firewall's monitor tab to note the failed traffic:

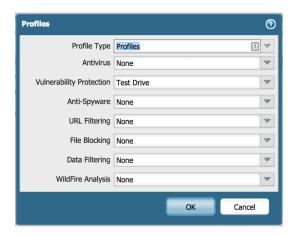


9.2 SQL Brute force attack

On the firewall's security policies tab, under Security, Rule 6, you will notice that the web to db traffic is protected further by a vulnerability profile:



Now click on the icon in the Profile column and you will see all the threat protection profiles



Note the Vulnerability Protection profile. This is a custom profile created just for this lab. It is part of the default vulnerability protection profile but is called out separately for the purpose of this demo environment.

Let's finally trigger the attack. Head back to the sql-attack.html page at http://<untrust-network-IP>/sql-attack.html

Click on Launch Brute Force Attack to start a script that will generate multiple failed MySQL authentication attempts.

LAUNCH BRUTE FORCE SQL ROOT PASSWORD GUESSING

This will launch some scripted attacks on the SQL server and use the pre-configured threat protection to show and block those attacks on the VM-Series firewall. Now return to the firewall and click the Monitor tab and then click on Threats in the left hand pane under Logs and notice the new vulnerability log message regarding the failed MySQL events:



The CGI script you launched above attempted to login to the MySQL database multiple times with an incorrect password. The VM-Series firewall saw this activity and using the vulnerability profile, reset the connection and logged the activity.

10. Cleanup

10.1 Delete the deployment

Once done with the template, feel free to play around with various thins. If done, cleanup as follows. From the CLI, issue the command "gcloud deployment-manager deployments delete <deployment name>" where <deployment name> is the tag used to identify the deployment ("deployment1" in this example):

```
root@2ccf4d39089e: /# gcloud deployment-manager deployments delete deployment1
The following deployments will be deleted:
- deployment1

Do you want to continue (y/N)? y

done.

Delete operation operation-1519861499988-5664e54d08821-676e434e-cb6fceb2 completed successfully.

root@2ccf4d39089e: /#
```

This should delete all the resources created via the template.

11. Conclusion

You have successfully deployed a sample template in GCP and demonstrated how the next generation VM-Series firewall can not only secure traffic inbound into your project, but within the project itself.

Appendix A

Troubleshooting tips

1. <u>Unable to access the webserver or web page not visible</u>

If the VM-Series firewall is up and accessible but you are unable to access the webserver (or the web page is not visible), then chances are that the startup scripts did not get downloaded from the

bootstrap bucket or were corrupted during (or prior to) the upload. Ensure that the files webserver-startup.sh and dbserver-startup.sh are in the bootstrap bucket. If they are extant, replace them with new copies downloaded from the GitHub repository.

2. <u>Bootstrapping not working</u>

If the VM-Series firewall is up and you are able to access the login page, but unable to login using the username/password: paloalto/Pal0Alt0@123, then chances are bootstrapping has failed. There could be several reasons:

a. Corrupt configuration files

Please ensure that the bootstrap.xml and init-cft.txt files mentioned in <u>Section 4.6</u> are not corrupted.

b. Incorrect bootstrap bucket-name

Another reason for bootstrapping to fail is that the bootstrap bucket name was incorrectly entered in the template file. Please make sure the bucket name created in <u>Section 4.6</u> is mentioned when launching the template.