

# CS231n Convolutional Neural Networks for Visual Recognition

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## Google Cloud Tutorial

Google Cloud Tutorial

## BEFORE WE BEGIN

### BIG REMINDER: Make sure you stop your instances!

(We know you won't read until the very bottom once your assignment is running, so we are printing this at the top too since it is ***super important***)

Don't forget to ***stop your instance*** when you are done (by clicking on the stop button at the top of the page showing your instances), otherwise you will ***run out of credits*** and that will be very sad. :(

If you follow our instructions below correctly, you should be able to restart your instance and the downloaded software will still be available.

**Left my instance running  
for no reason**



**No more Google Cloud credits**

---

Create and Configure Your Account

For the class project and assignments, we offer an option to use Google Compute Engine for developing and testing your implementations. This tutorial lists the necessary steps of working on the assignments using Google Cloud. **We expect this tutorial to take about an hour. Don't get intimidated by the steps, we tried to make the tutorial detailed so that you are less likely to get stuck on a particular step. Please tag all questions related to Google Cloud with google\_cloud on Piazza.**


This tutorial goes through how to set up your own Google Compute Engine (GCE) instance to work on the assignments. Each student will have \$100 in credit throughout the quarter. When you sign up for the first time, you also receive \$300 credits from Google by default. Please try to use the resources judiciously. But if \$100 ends up not being enough, we will try to adjust this number as the quarter goes on. **Note: for assignment 1, we are only supporting python version 2.7 (the default installation from the script) and 3.5.3.**

First, if you don't have a Google Cloud account already, create one by going to the [Google Cloud homepage](#) and clicking on **Compute**. When you get to the next page, click on the blue **TRY IT FREE** button. If you are not logged into gmail, you will see a page that looks like the one below. Sign into your gmail account or create a new one if you do not already have an account.




# One account. All of Google.

Sign in to continue to Docs



[Next](#)

[Find my account](#)

**New look for sign-in coming soon**  
We're making it faster & easier to sign in to your Google Account  
[LEARN MORE](#)

[Create account](#)

One Google Account for everything Google



If you already have a gmail account, it will direct you to a signup page which looks like the following.



Try Cloud Platform for free

Google

Country

United States

Acceptances

Please email me updates regarding feature announcements, performance suggestions, feedback surveys and special offers.

☐ Yes ☐ No

I have read and agree to the [Google Play Android Developer API Terms of Service](#).  
Required to continue

☐ Yes ☐ No

I have read and agree to the [Google Cloud Platform Free Trial Terms of Service](#).  
Required to continue

☐ Yes ☒ No

Agree and continue

**Access to all Cloud Platform Products**  
Get everything you need to build and run your apps, websites, and services, including Firebase and the Google Maps API.

**\$300 credit for free**  
Sign up and get \$300 to spend on Google Cloud Platform over the next 12 months.

**No autocharge after free trial ends**  
We ask you for your credit card to make sure you are not a robot. You won't be charged during or after your free trial ends.

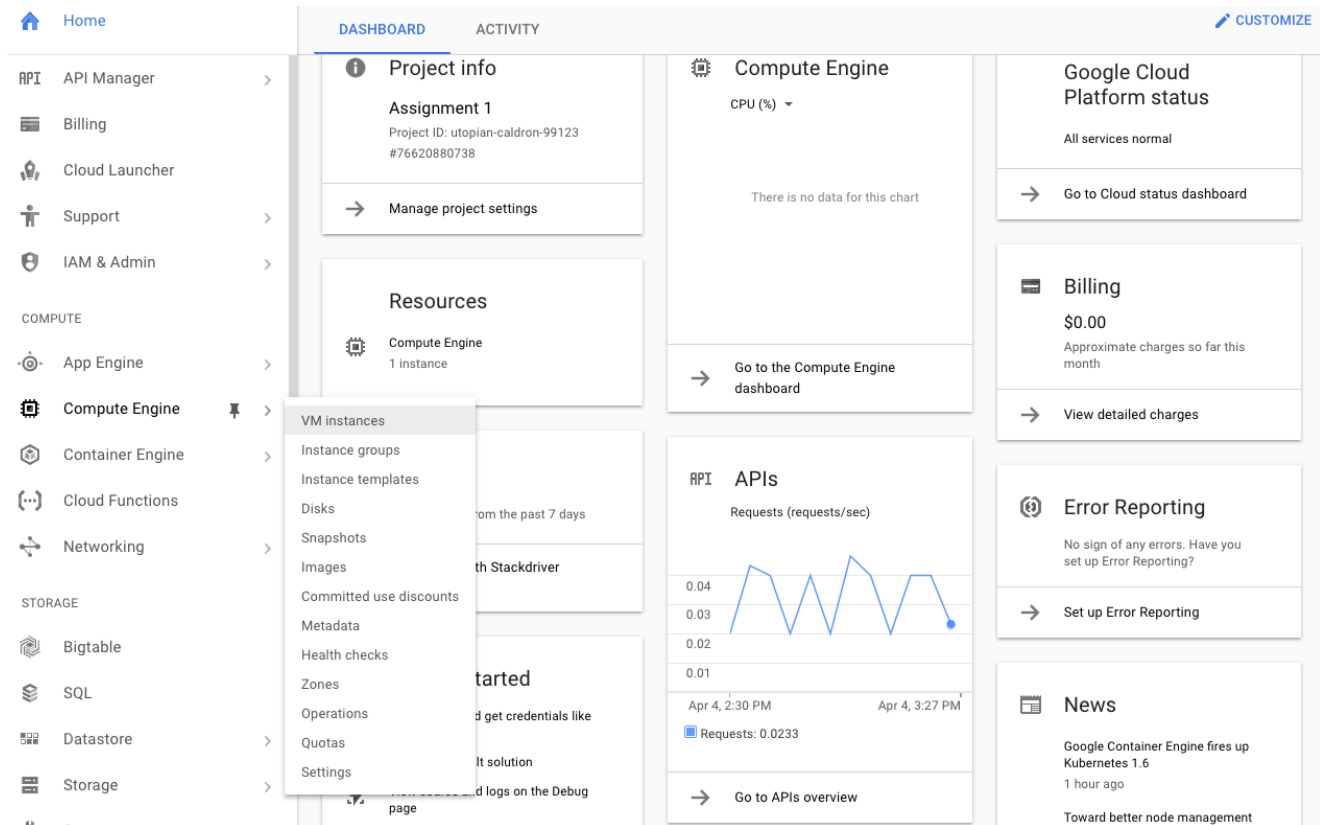
Click the appropriate **yes** or **no** button for the first option, and check **yes** for the latter two options after you have read the required agreements. Press the blue **Agree and continue** button to continue to the next page to enter the requested information (your name, billing address and credit card information). Once you have entered the required information, press the blue **Start my free trial** button. You will be greeted by a page like this:

The screenshot displays the Google Cloud Platform (GCP) Dashboard. On the left is a navigation sidebar with categories: API (API Manager, Billing, Cloud Launcher, Support, IAM & Admin), COMPUTE (App Engine, Compute Engine, Container Engine, Cloud Functions, Networking), STORAGE (Bigtable, SQL, Datastore, Storage, Spanner), STACKDRIVER (Monitoring, Debug, Trace, Logging, Error Reporting), and a CUSTOMIZE button at the top right.

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Project info:** Displays "My Project" with ID "utopian-caldron-99123" and number "76620880738". It includes a "Manage project settings" link.
- Resources:** A section for managing resources.
- Trace:** Shows "No trace data from the past 7 days" and a link to "Get started with Stackdriver Trace".
- Getting Started:** A list of tasks for new users, including "Enable APIs and get credentials like keys", "Deploy a prebuilt solution", "View source and logs on the Debug page", "Monitor errors with Error Reporting", "Deploy a Hello World app", "Take a VM quickstart", "Create a Cloud Storage bucket", and "Install the Cloud SDK". It also has a link to "Explore all tutorials".
- APIs:** A section for managing APIs, showing "Requests (requests/sec)" and a "Go to APIs overview" link.
- Google Cloud Platform status:** Shows "All services normal" and a link to "Go to Cloud status dashboard".
- Error Reporting:** Shows "No sign of any errors. Have you set up Error Reporting?" and a link to "Set up Error Reporting".
- News:** A list of recent news items, including "Google Cloud IAM for AWS users", "Google Cloud Platform expands to Mars", and "How release canaries can save your bacon - CRE life lessons". It includes a link to "Read all news".
- Documentation:** A section with links to "Learn about Compute Engine", "Learn about Cloud Storage", and "Learn about App Engine".

To change the name of your project, click on **Manage project settings** on the **Project info** button and save your changes.



## Launch a Virtual Instance

To launch a virtual instance, go to the **Compute Engine** menu on the left column of your dashboard and click on **VM instances**. Then click on the blue **CREATE** button on the next page. This will take you to a page that looks like the screenshot below. (**NOTE: Please carefully read the instructions in addition to looking at the screenshots. The instructions tell you exactly what values to fill in**).

Compute Engine
 

VM instances

Instance groups
Instance templates
Disks
Snapshots
Images
Committed use discounts
Metadata
Health checks
Zones
Operations
Quotas
Settings

← Create an instance

Name

instance-2

Zone

us-west1-b

Machine type

8 vCPUs

52 GB memory

Customize

Boot disk

New 10 GB standard persistent disk  
Image  
Ubuntu 16.04 LTS

Change

Identity and API access

Service account

Compute Engine default service account

Access scopes

☒ Allow default access
☐ Allow full access to all Cloud APIs
☐ Set access for each API

Firewall

Add tags and firewall rules to allow specific network traffic from the Internet

☒ Allow HTTP traffic
☒ Allow HTTPS traffic

Management
Disks
Networking
SSH Keys

Deletion rule

☐ Delete boot disk when instance is deleted

Encryption

Automatic (recommended)

Additional disks (Optional)

+ Add item

Less

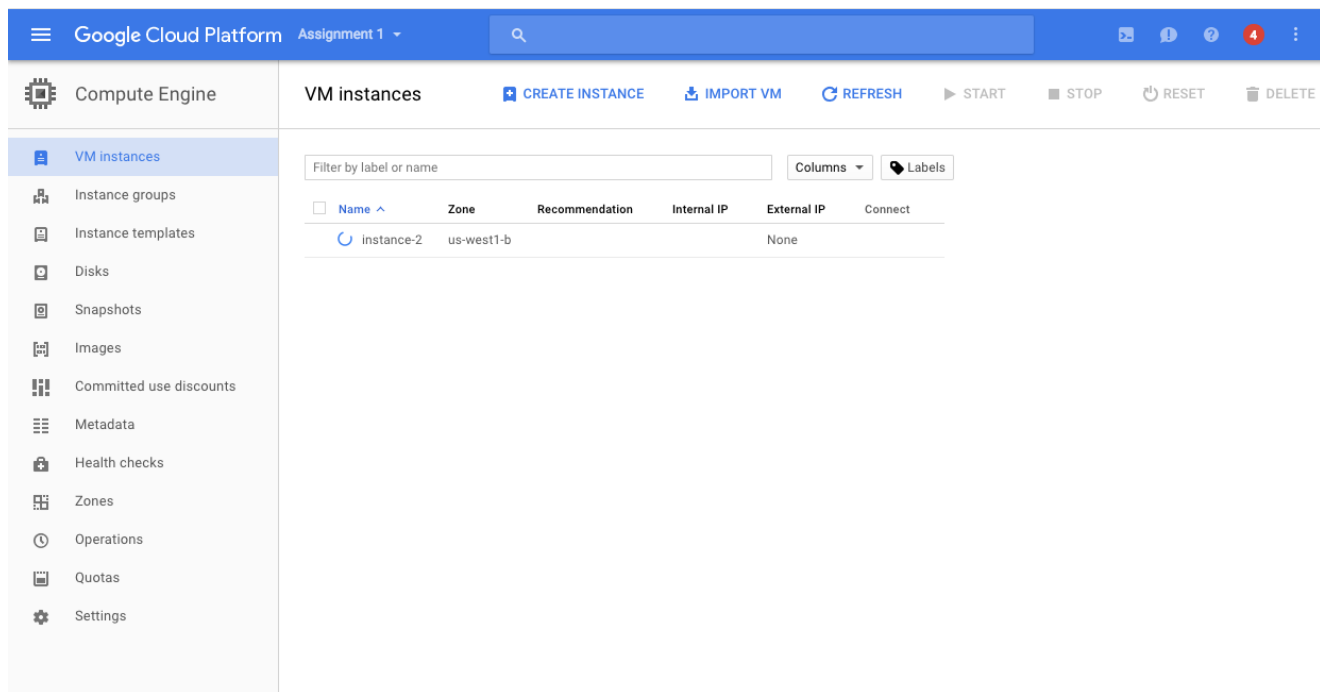
\$242.41 per month estimated

Effective hourly rate \$0.332 (730 hours per month)

Details

Make sure that the Zone is set to be **us-west1-b** (especially for assignments where you need to use GPU instances). Under **Machine type** pick the **8 vCPUs** option. Click on the **customize** button under **Machine type** and make sure that the number of cores is set to 8 and the number of GPUs is set to **None** (we will not be using GPUs in assignment 1 and this tutorial will be updated with instructions for GPU usage). Click on the **Change** button under **Boot disk**, choose **OS images**, check **Ubuntu 16.04 LTS** and click on the blue **select** button. Check **Allow HTTP traffic** and **Allow HTTPS traffic**. Click on **disk** and then **Disks** and uncheck **Delete boot disk when instance is deleted** (Note that the “Disks” option may be hiding under an expandable URL at the bottom of that webform). Click on the blue **Create** button at the bottom of the page. You should have now successfully created a Google Compute Instance, it might take a few minutes to start running. Your screen should look something like the one below. When you want to stop running the instance, click on the blue stop button above.





The screenshot shows the Google Cloud Platform console interface. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with options like Compute Engine, VM instances, Instance groups, Instance templates, Disks, Snapshots, Images, Committed use discounts, Metadata, Health checks, Zones, Operations, Quotas, and Settings. The main panel is titled 'VM instances' and includes buttons for 'CREATE INSTANCE', 'IMPORT VM', 'REFRESH', 'START', 'STOP', 'RESET', and 'DELETE'. Below these buttons is a table of VM instances. The table has columns for Name, Zone, Recommendation, Internal IP, External IP, and Connect. One instance is listed: 'instance-2' in the 'us-west1-b' zone. Above the table is a search bar labeled 'Filter by label or name' and buttons for 'Columns' and 'Labels'.

Name	Zone	Recommendation	Internal IP	External IP	Connect
instance-2	us-west1-b			None	

Take note of your <YOUR-INSTANCE-NAME>, in this case, my instance name is instance-2.

## Connect to Your Virtual Instance and Download the Assignment

Now that you have created your virtual GCE, you want to be able to connect to it from your computer. The rest of this tutorial goes over how to do that using the command line. First, download the Google Cloud SDK that is appropriate for your platform from [here](#) and follow their installation instructions. **NOTE: this tutorial assumes that you have performed step #4 on the website which they list as optional.** When prompted, make sure you select us-west1-b as the time zone. The easiest way to connect is using the gcloud compute command below. The tool takes care of authentication for you. On OS X, run:

```
./<DIRECTORY-WHERE-GOOGLE-CLOUD-IS-INSTALLED>/bin/gcloud compute ssh --zone=us-west1-b
```

See [this page](#) for more detailed instructions. You are now ready to work on the assignments on Google Cloud.

Run the following command to download the current assignment onto your GCE:

```
wget http://cs231n.stanford.edu/assignments/2017/spring1617_assignment1.zip
```

Then run:

```
sudo apt-get install unzip
```

and

```
unzip spring1617_assignment1.zip
```

to get the contents. You should now see a folder titled assignmentX. To install the necessary dependencies for assignment 1 (**NOTE:** you only need to do this for assignment 1), cd into the assignment directory and run the provided shell script: (**Note: you will need to hit the [enter] key at all the "[Y/n]" prompts**)

```
cd assignment1  
./setup_googlecloud.sh
```

You will be prompted to enter Y/N at various times during the download. Press enter for every prompt. You should now have all the software you need for assignmentX. If you had no errors, you can proceed to work with your virtualenv as normal.

I.e. run

```
source .env/bin/activate
```

in your assignment directory to load the venv, and run

```
deactivate
```

to exit the venv. See assignment handout for details.

**NOTE:** The instructions above will run everything needed using Python 2.7. If you would like to use Python 3.5 instead, edit setup\_googlecloud.sh to replace the line

```
virtualenv .env
```

with

```
virtualenv -p python3 .env
```

before running

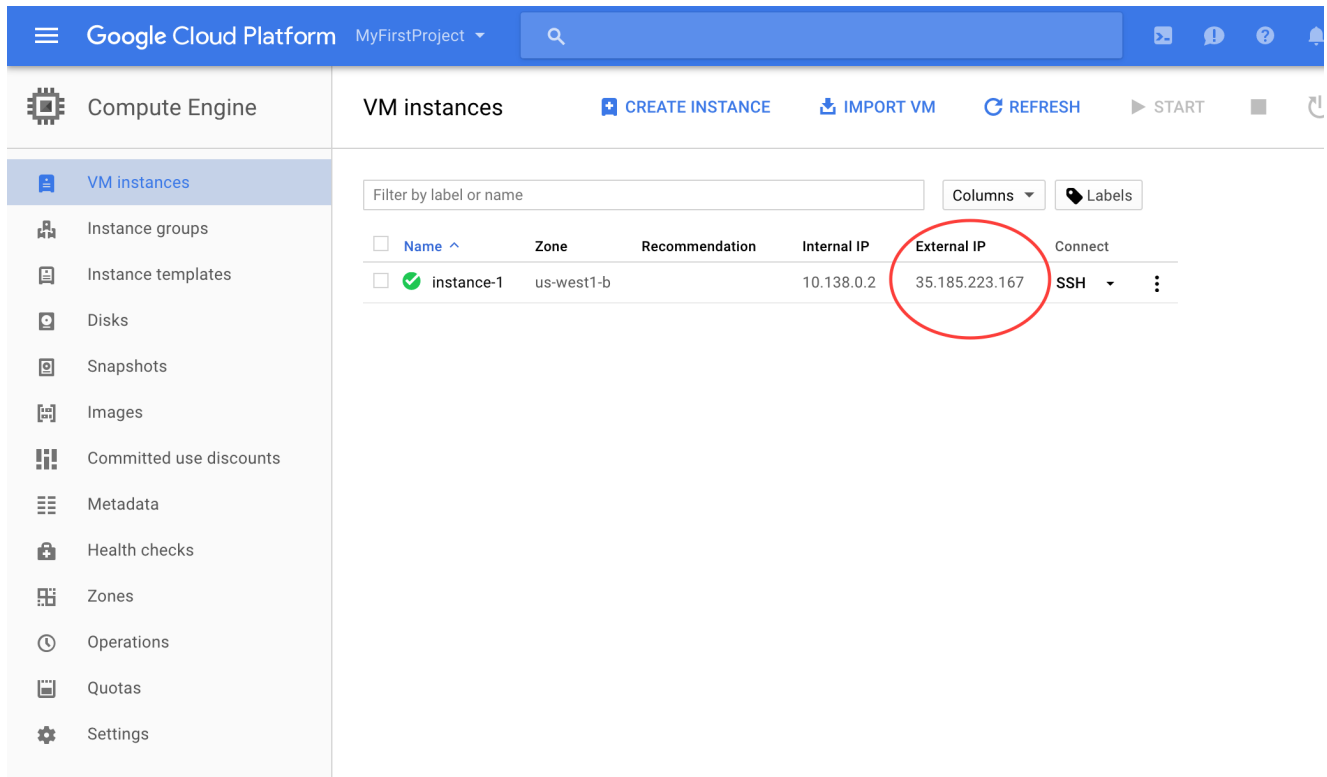
```
./setup_googlecloud.sh
```

## Using Jupyter Notebook with Google Compute Engine

Many of the assignments will involve using Jupyter Notebook. Below, we discuss how to run Jupyter Notebook from your GCE instance and use it on your local browser.

### Getting a Static IP Address

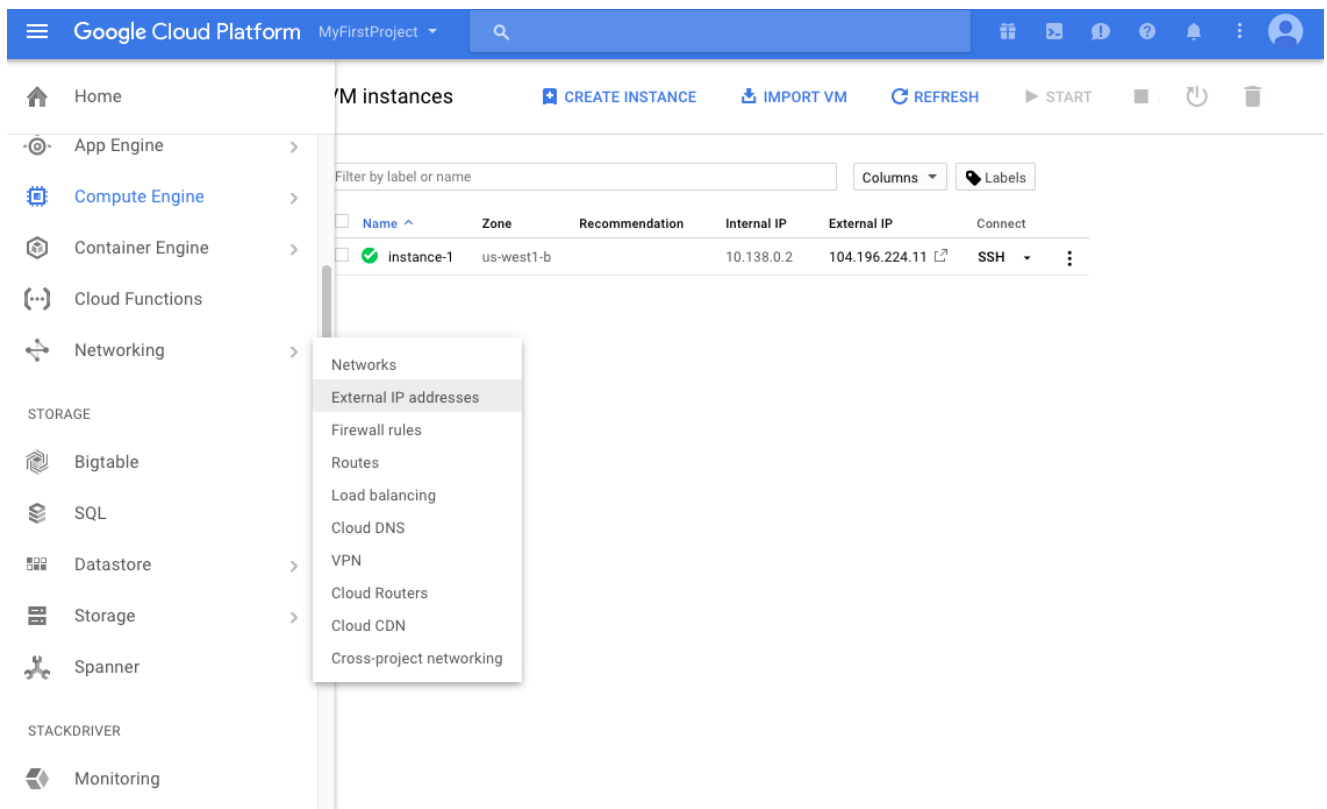
Change the External IP address of your GCE instance to be static (see screenshot below).



The screenshot shows the Google Cloud Platform interface for the 'MyFirstProject'. The left sidebar lists various services under 'Compute Engine', with 'VM instances' selected. The main panel displays a table of VM instances. The table has columns: Name, Zone, Recommendation, Internal IP, External IP, and Connect. A red circle highlights the 'External IP' column for the instance 'instance-1', which has the value '35.185.223.167'. The 'Connect' column shows an 'SSH' button.

Name	Zone	Recommendation	Internal IP	External IP	Connect
instance-1	us-west1-b		10.138.0.2	35.185.223.167	SSH

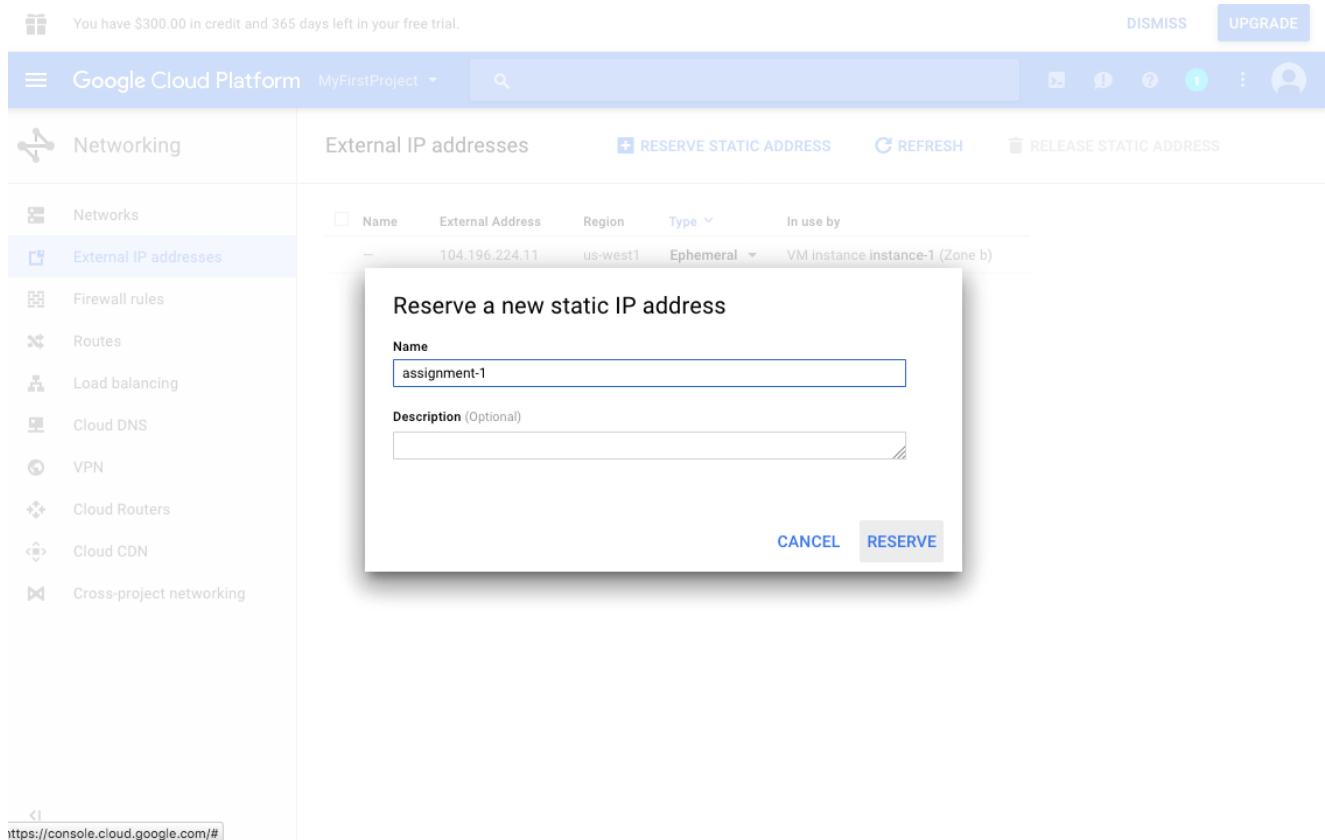
To Do this, click on the 3 line icon next to the **Google Cloud Platform** button on the top left corner of your screen, go to **Networking** and **External IP addresses** (see screenshot below).



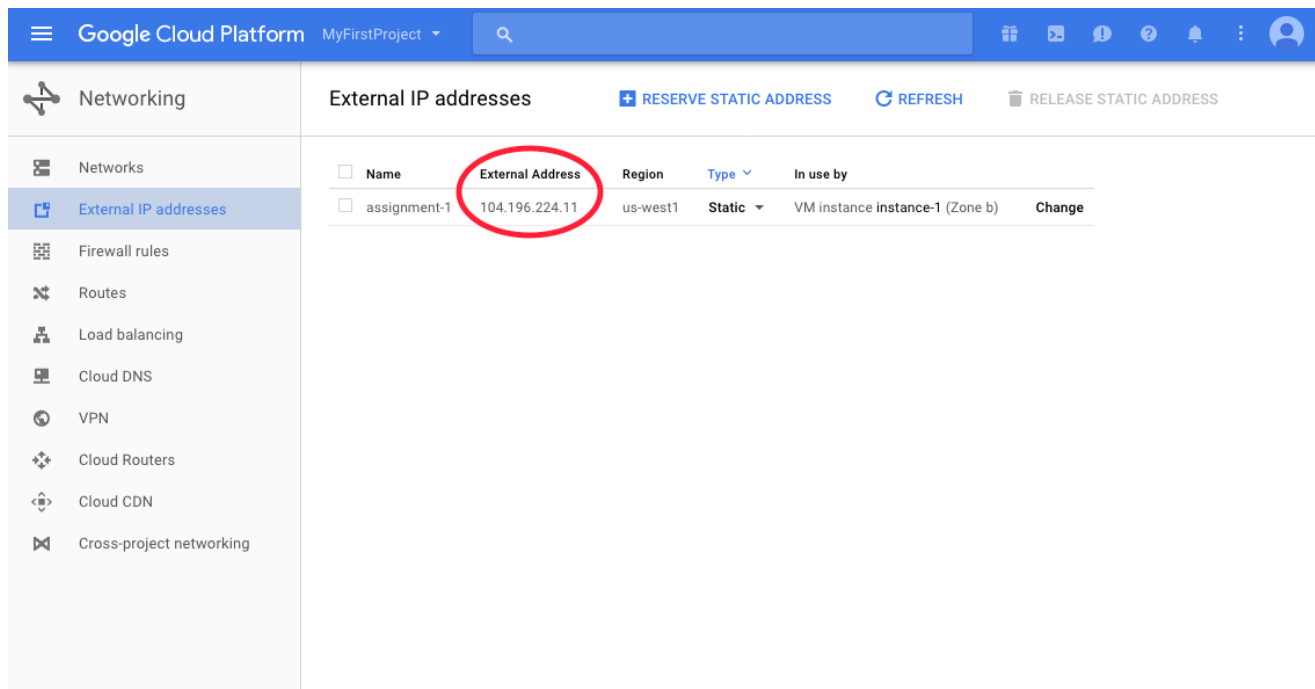
The screenshot shows the Google Cloud Platform interface with the 'Networking' menu open. The menu lists various networking services: Networks, External IP addresses, Firewall rules, Routes, Load balancing, Cloud DNS, VPN, Cloud Routers, Cloud CDN, and Cross-project networking. The 'External IP addresses' option is highlighted. The background shows the same VM instances table as the previous screenshot.

Name	Zone	Recommendation	Internal IP	External IP	Connect
instance-1	us-west1-b		10.138.0.2	104.196.224.11	SSH

To have a static IP address, change **Type** from **Ephemeral** to **Static**. Enter your preferred name for your static IP, mine is assignment-1 (see screenshot below). And click on Reserve. Remember to release the static IP address when you are done because according to [this page](#) Google charges a small fee for unused static IPs. **Type** should now be set to **Static**.



Take note of your Static IP address (circled on the screenshot below). I used 104.196.224.11 for this tutorial.



The screenshot shows the Google Cloud Platform console interface. The top navigation bar includes the Google Cloud Platform logo, the project name 'MyFirstProject', and a search bar. The left sidebar lists various networking services: Networks, External IP addresses (selected), Firewall rules, Routes, Load balancing, Cloud DNS, VPN, Cloud Routers, Cloud CDN, and Cross-project networking. The main content area displays the 'External IP addresses' table. The table has columns for Name, External Address, Region, Type, and In use by. A single entry is listed: 'assignment-1' with the external address '104.196.224.11', region 'us-west1', type 'Static', and is in use by 'VM instance instance-1 (Zone b)'. The 'External Address' column is circled in red.

Name	External Address	Region	Type	In use by
assignment-1	104.196.224.11	us-west1	Static	VM instance instance-1 (Zone b)

## Adding a Firewall rule

One last thing you have to do is adding a new firewall rule allowing TCP access to a particular <PORT-NUMBER>. I usually use 7000 or 8000 for <PORT-NUMBER>. Click on the 3 line icon at the top of the page next to **Google Cloud Platform**. On the menu that pops up on the left column, go to **Networking** and **Firewall rules** (see the screenshot below).

You have \$300.00 in credit and 365 days left in your free trial. [DISMISS](#) [UPGRADE](#)

Google Cloud Platform MyFirstProject

Home VM instances [CREATE INSTANCE](#) [IMPORT VM](#) [REFRESH](#)

COMPUTE

- App Engine
- Compute Engine
- Container Engine
- Cloud Functions
- Networking

STORAGE

- Bigtable
- SQL
- Datastore
- Storage

Filter by label or name Columns Labels

Name	Zone	Recommendation	Internal IP	External IP	Connect
instance-1	us-west1-b		10.138.0.2	104.196.224.11	SSH

Networks  
External IP addresses  
Firewall rules  
Routes  
Load balancing  
Cloud DNS  
VPN  
Cloud Routers  
Cloud CDN  
Cross-project networking

<https://console.cloud.google.com/networking/firewalls/list?project=august-list-163803>

Click on the blue **CREATE FIREWALL RULE** button. Enter whatever name you want: I used assignment1-rules. Enter 0.0.0.0/0 for **Source IP ranges** and tcp:<PORT-NUMBER> for **Allowed protocols and ports** where <PORT-NUMBER> is the number you used above. Click on the blue **Create** button. See the screen shot below.

Networking

Networks

External IP addresses

Firewall rules

Routes

Load balancing

Cloud DNS

VPN

Cloud Routers

Cloud CDN

Cross-project networking

← Create a firewall rule

By default, incoming traffic from outside your network is blocked. To allow incoming traffic, set up a firewall rule. Firewall rules regulate only incoming traffic to an instance. When a connection is established with an instance, traffic is permitted in both directions over that connection. [Learn more](#)

Name ?

assignment1-rules

Description (Optional)

Network ?

default

Source filter ?

IP ranges

Source IP ranges ?

0.0.0.0/0

Allowed protocols and ports ?

tcp:7000

Target tags (Optional) ?

Create

Cancel

**NOTE:** Some people are seeing a different screen where instead of **Allowed protocols and ports** there is a field titled **Specified protocols and ports**. You should enter `tcp:<PORT-NUMBER>` for this field if this is the page you see. Also, if you see a field titled **Targets** select **All instances in the network**.

## Configuring Jupyter Notebook

The following instructions are excerpts from [this page](#) that has more detailed instructions.

On your GCE instance check where the Jupyter configuration file is located:

```
ls ~/.jupyter/jupyter_notebook_config.py
```

Mine was in `/home/timnitgebru/.jupyter/jupyter_notebook_config.py`

If it doesn't exist, create one:



```
# Remember to activate your virtualenv ('source .env/bin/activate') so you can actually
jupyter notebook --generate-config
```

Using your favorite editor (vim, emacs etc...) add the following lines to the config file, (e.g.: /home/timnitgebru/.jupyter/jupyter\_notebook\_config.py):

```
c = get_config()

c.NotebookApp.ip = '*'

c.NotebookApp.open_browser = False

c.NotebookApp.port = <PORT-NUMBER>
```

Where <PORT-NUMBER> is the same number you used in the prior section. Save your changes and close the file.

## Launching and connecting to Jupyter Notebook

The instructions below assume that you have SSH'd into your GCE instance using the prior instructions, have already downloaded and unzipped the current assignment folder into assignmentX (where X is the assignment number), and have successfully configured Jupyter Notebook.

If you are not already in the assignment directory, cd into it by running the following command:

```
cd assignment1
```

If you haven't already done so, activate your virtualenv by running:

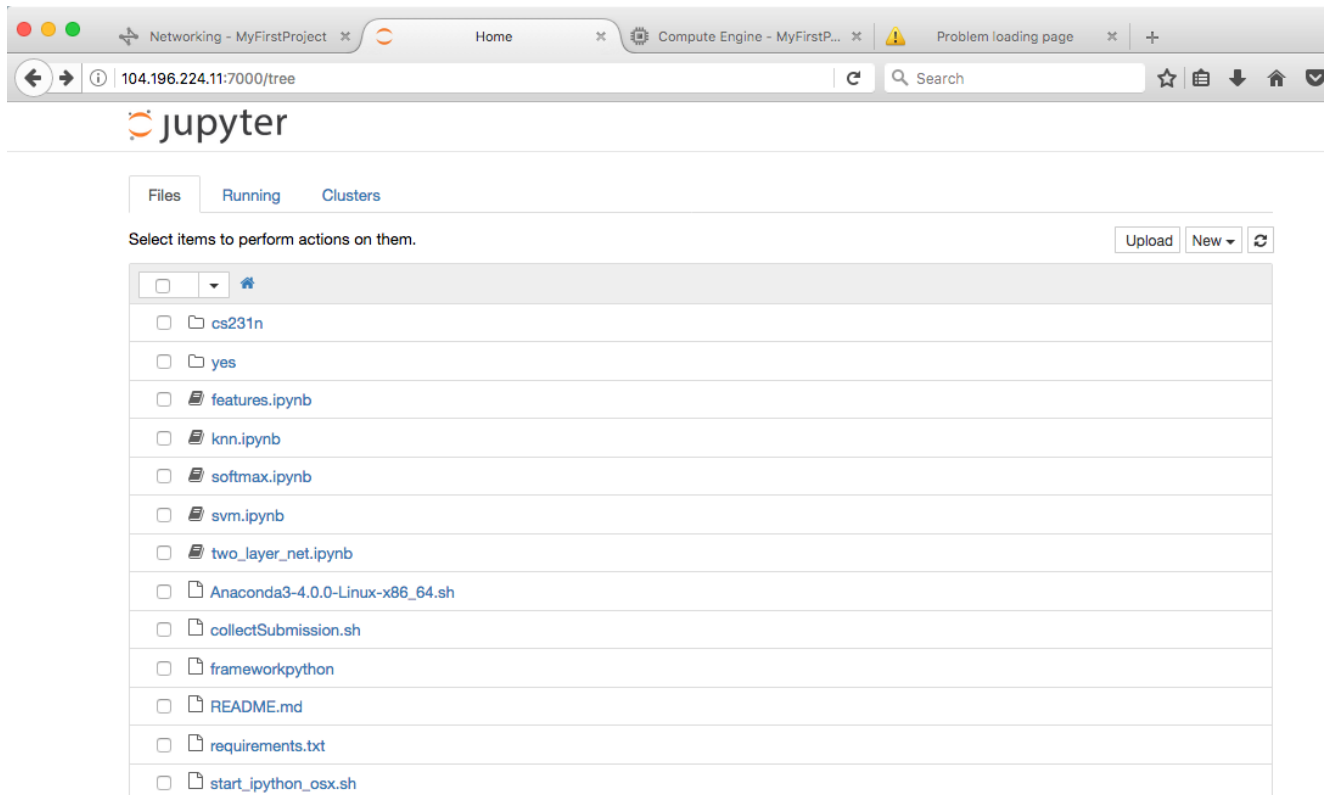
```
source .env/bin/activate
```

Launch Jupyter notebook using:

```
jupyter-notebook --no-browser --port=<PORT-NUMBER>
```

Where <PORT-NUMBER> is what you wrote in the prior section.

On your local browser, if you go to `http://<YOUR-EXTERNAL-IP-ADDRESS>:<PORT-NUMBER>`, you should see something like the screen below. My value for <YOUR-EXTERNAL-IP-ADDRESS> was 104.196.224.11 as mentioned above. You should now be able to start working on your assignments.



## Submission: Transferring Files From Your Instance To Your Computer

Once you are done with your assignments, run the submission script in your assignment folder. For assignment1, this will create a zip file called `assignment1.zip` containing the files you need to upload to Canvas. If you're not in the assignment1 directory already, CD into it by running

```
cd assignment1
```

install **zip** by running

```
sudo apt-get install zip
```

and then run

```
bash collectSubmission.sh
```

to create the zip file that you need to upload to canvas. Then copy the file to your local computer using the `gcloud compute copy-file` command as shown below. **NOTE: run this command on your local computer:**

```
gcloud compute copy-files [INSTANCE_NAME]:[REMOTE_FILE_PATH] [LOCAL_FILE_PATH]
```

For example, to copy my files to my desktop I ran:

```
gcloud compute copy-files instance-2:~/assignment1/assignment1.zip ~/Desktop
```

Another (perhaps easier) option proposed by a student is to directly download the zip file from Jupyter. After running the submission script and creating `assignment1.zip`, you can download that file directly from Jupyter. To do this, go to Jupyter Notebook and click on the zip file (in this case `assignment1.zip`). The file will be downloaded to your local computer.

Finally, remember to upload the zip file containing your submission to [Canvas](#). (You can unzip the file locally if you want to double check your ipython notebooks and other code files are correctly inside).

You can refer to [this page](#) for more details on transferring files to/from Google Cloud.

**BIG REMINDER:** Make sure you stop your instances!

Don't forget to stop your instance when you are done (by clicking on the stop button at the top of the page showing your instances). You can restart your instance and the downloaded software will still be available.

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