Snipe-IT Manual Deployment on GCE Ubuntu VM

This document outlines the full manual process of deploying the open-source Snipe-IT application on a Google Cloud Compute Engine (GCE) VM running Ubuntu. This is a non-Docker lift-and-shift style migration, assuming you've already set up a MySQL database (either on the same VM or elsewhere).

# Shell Script (Automated Setup)

Use the following script to automate the installation and configuration process for next time.

#!/bin/bash  
  
# Update and install required packages  
sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y  
sudo apt install -y apache2 mariadb-client php php-cli php-mbstring php-xml php-bcmath php-curl php-mysql php-zip php-gd unzip curl git composer  
  
# Clone Snipe-IT source code  
cd /var/www/  
sudo git clone https://github.com/snipe/snipe-it.git  
cd snipe-it  
sudo cp .env.example .env  
  
# Set file permissions  
sudo chown -R www-data:www-data /var/www/snipe-it  
sudo chmod -R 755 /var/www/snipe-it  
  
# Create Apache Virtual Host file  
sudo bash -c 'cat > /etc/apache2/sites-available/snipeit.conf <<EOF  
<VirtualHost \*:80>  
 ServerAdmin admin@example.com  
 DocumentRoot /var/www/snipe-it/public  
 ServerName YOUR\_VM\_EXTERNAL\_IP  
  
 <Directory /var/www/snipe-it/public>  
 Options Indexes FollowSymLinks  
 AllowOverride All  
 Require all granted  
 </Directory>  
  
 ErrorLog \${APACHE\_LOG\_DIR}/snipeit\_error.log  
 CustomLog \${APACHE\_LOG\_DIR}/snipeit\_access.log combined  
</VirtualHost>  
EOF'  
  
# Enable Apache settings  
sudo a2enmod rewrite  
sudo a2ensite snipeit.conf  
sudo a2dissite 000-default.conf  
sudo systemctl reload apache2  
sudo systemctl restart apache2  
  
# Install composer dependencies  
cd /var/www/snipe-it  
composer install --no-dev --prefer-source  
  
# Manual: Edit .env file and provide DB\_HOST, DB\_DATABASE, DB\_USERNAME, DB\_PASSWORD  
  
# Generate app key  
php artisan key:generate  
  
# Set correct permissions again  
sudo chown -R www-data:www-data /var/www/snipe-it  
  
echo "Done! Now open your browser and visit http://YOUR\_VM\_EXTERNAL\_IP"

## Manual Steps Required

1. Edit the `.env` file to enter your database connection details.  
 - DB\_HOST: IP or hostname of your MySQL server  
 - DB\_DATABASE: Database name you created (e.g., snipeit)  
 - DB\_USERNAME: MySQL user (e.g., root or snipe\_user)  
 - DB\_PASSWORD: Password  
  
2. After saving the `.env`, run:  
 php artisan key:generate  
  
3. Visit your GCE VM external IP in the browser and complete the web-based setup.