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Setting your own password to a newly launched Windows Instance

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NB: Avoid directly doing copy/paste from this document since it could include hidden characters resulting into command lines failures.

1. Introduction

Initial passwords for Windows Instances launched using OCI provided images are generated when you create an instance. The password is available on the details screen for the newly launched instance and must be changed when you sign in to the instance for the first time. Although the Console offers a copy option, the paste option is typically not available when you are prompted to enter the password, so you need to be prepared to enter it manually. Typing the password can be challenging because of its length and the fact that it contains several special characters. In this manual I will show how to change the password of a newly created Windows Instance during the initial launch using Windows Custom startup script.

The Windows Cloudbase-Init experience is available for bare metal and virtual machine Windows Server compute instances, across all regions. There is no additional cost for this feature and all Windows Server OS images come with Cloudbase-Init installed by default. See Windows Cloudbase-Init for more information.

Cloudbase-Init also comes with a feature that fully automates the Windows Remote Management (WinRM) configuration, without any manual user setup.

2. Prepare the script

I will use a Powershell script to change the initial password of "opc" user.

The Sysnative parameter is required and must be on the first line. I will use " Set-LocalUser" command to change the user's password. So the script to be used for cloud-init is:
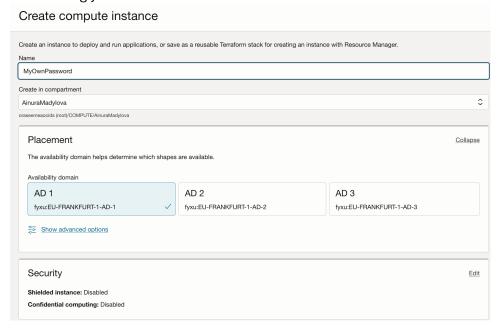
```
#ps1_sysnative


$Pass = ConvertTo-SecureString -String "MyOwnPassword123!" -AsPlainText -Force

Set-LocalUser -Name opc -Password $Pass
```
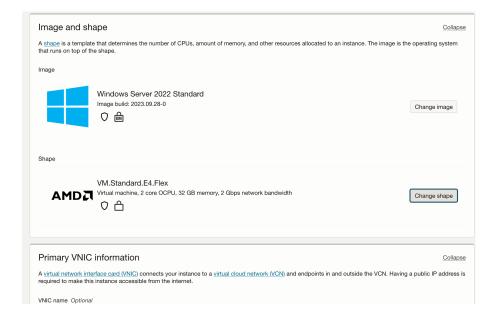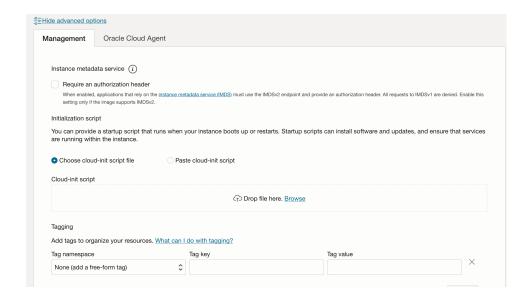
3. Using the script

a) Start creating you Windows Instance as normal.

Create compute instance

Create an instance to deploy and run applications, or save as a reusable Terraform stack for creating an instance with Resource Manager.

Name

MyOwnPassword

Create in compartment

AinuraMadylova

oraseemeaocids (root)/COMPUTE/AinuraMadylova

Placement   Collapse

The availability domain helps determine which shapes are available.

Availability domain

AD 1	AD 2	AD 3
fyxu:EU-FRANKFURT-1-AD-1 ✓	fyxu:EU-FRANKFURT-1-AD-2	fyxu:EU-FRANKFURT-1-AD-3

Show advanced options

Security   Edit

Shielded instance: Disabled
Confidential computing: Disabled

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b) Scroll down and click on "Show advanced options"

c) Choose " Paste cloud-init script" and paste the script from previous section with your own password.
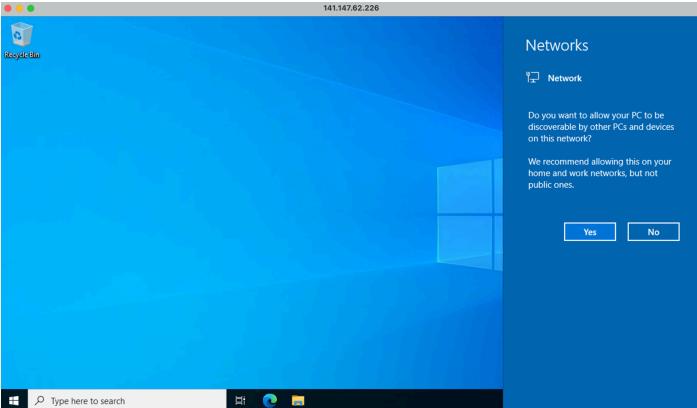

Click on Create and wait until the instance is created. Please give it 1-2 more minutes to execute the script.

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When connecting to the instance use the password from the script, not the one from the console. The user is still "opc".

4. Using a Secret from OCI Vault as a password for a Windows Instance.

You can also use a Secret stored in a Vault as an initial password for you Windows Instances. This option gives you better automation and more secure. Please refer to the following github pages for details:

https://github.com/Olygo/CloudInit_WinPwd_Update

☰ README.md

OCI Cloud-Init WinPwd Update 🔗

Overview 🔗

This OCI Cloud-Init script :

- Automates the installation of PowerShell 7.3.8 and OCI PowerShell modules on a Windows-based OCI compute instance.
- Retrieves a secret from OCI Vault to update the Windows password for the OPC account
- Configures certain instance parameters.
- Sends you an OCI Email Notification once the instance is running .

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