

Setting your own password to a newly launched Windows Instance

Oct 2023, Version 1.1

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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 fyxu:EU-FRANKFURT-1-AD-1 ✓
AD 2 fyxu:EU-FRANKFURT-1-AD-2
AD 3 fyxu:EU-FRANKFURT-1-AD-3
[Show advanced options](#)


Security Edit
Shielded instance: Disabled
Confidential computing: Disabled

Image and shape

[Collapse](#)

A [shape](#) is a template that determines the number of CPUs, amount of memory, and other resources allocated to an instance. The image is the operating system that runs on top of the shape.

Image




Windows Server 2022 Standard

Image build: 2023.09.28-0

Change image

Shape



VM.Standard.E4.Flex

Virtual machine, 2 core OCPU, 32 GB memory, 2 Gbps network bandwidth

Change shape

Primary VNIC information

[Collapse](#)

A [virtual network interface card \(VNIC\)](#) connects your instance to a [virtual cloud network \(VCN\)](#) and endpoints in and outside the VCN. Having a public IP address is required to make this instance accessible from the internet.

VNIC name *Optional*

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

[Hide advanced options](#)

Management Oracle Cloud Agent

Instance metadata service ⓘ

☐ Require an authorization header

When enabled, applications that rely on the [instance metadata service \(IMDS\)](#) must use the IMDSv2 endpoint and provide an authorization header. All requests to IMDSv1 are denied. Enable this setting only if the image supports IMDSv2.

Initialization script

You can provide a startup script that runs when your instance boots up or restarts. Startup scripts can install software and updates, and ensure that services are running within the instance.

☒ Choose cloud-init script file
 ☐ Paste cloud-init script

Cloud-init script

Drop file here. [Browse](#)

Tagging

Add tags to organize your resources. [What can I do with tagging?](#)

Tag namespace	Tag key	Tag value
None (add a free-form tag)		

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

☐ Choose cloud-init script file

☒ Paste cloud-init script

Cloud-init script

```
#ps1_sysnative

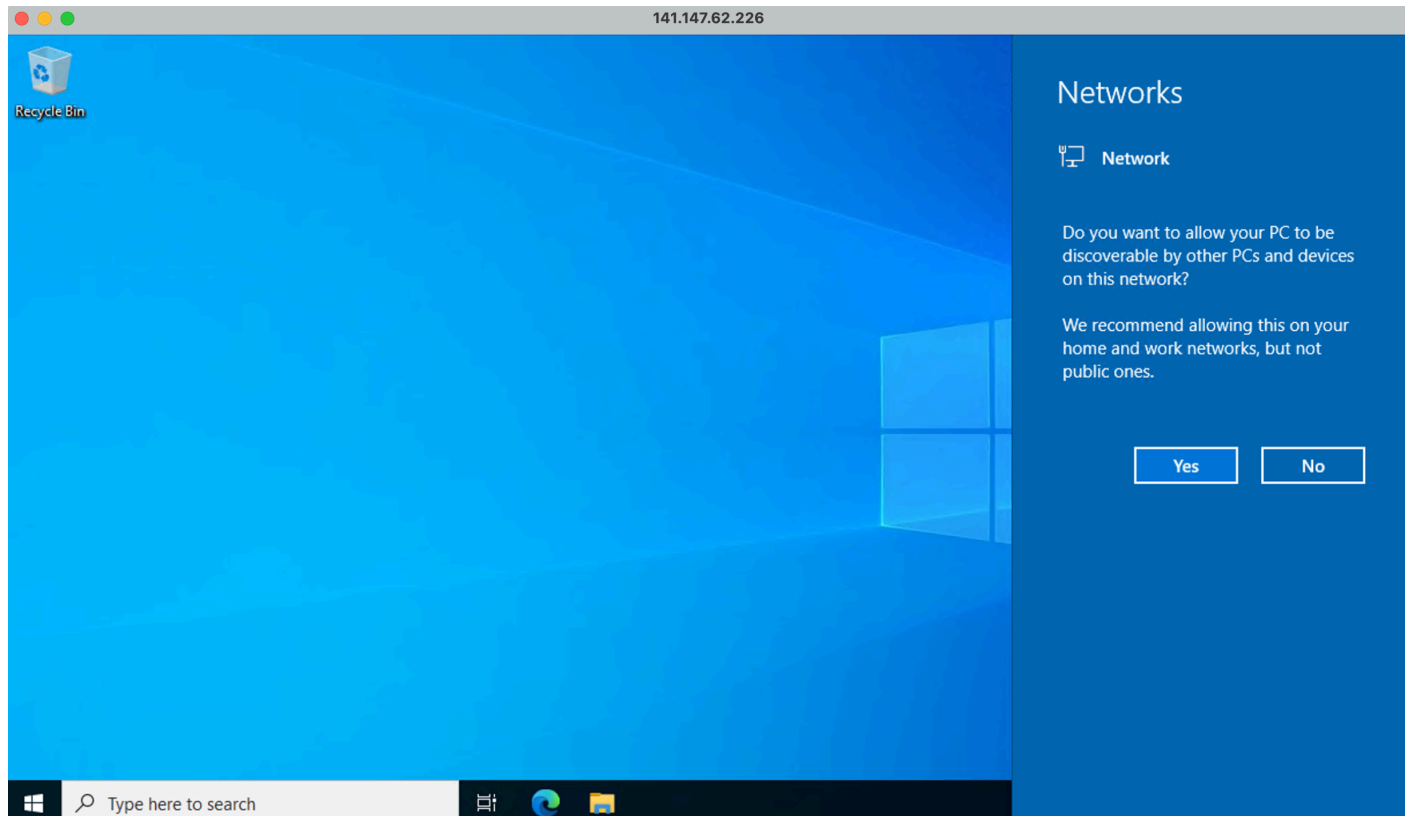
$Pass = ConvertTo-SecureString -String "MyOwnPassword123!" -AsPlainText -Force
Set-LocalUser -Name opc -Password $Pass
```

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

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

Enter Your User Account
This user account will be used to connect to 141.147.62.226 (remote PC).

Username:
Password:
☒ Show password



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 .