

Associate Cloud Engineer

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Cloud engineers are proficient in four things. Setting up cloud environments and deploying applications, configuring security access, and creating and maintaining enterprise solutions.

- You can get to this point by getting hands-on experience in these areas

Exam guide

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Section 2. Planning and configuring a cloud solution

Section 3. Deploying and implementing a cloud solution

Section 4. Ensuring successful operation of a cloud solution

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Exam guide

Section 1. Setting up a cloud solution environment

- Setting up cloud projects and accounts. Activities include:
 - Creating a resource hierarchy
 - Applying organizational policies to the resource hierarchy
 - Granting members IAM roles within the project
 - Managing users and groups in Cloud Identity

- Enabling APIs within projects
- Provision and setting up products in Google Cloud's operations suite
- Managing billing configuration. Activities include:
 - Creating one or more billing accounts
 - Linking projects to a billing account
 - Establishing billing budgets and alerts
 - Setting up billing exports
- Installing and configuring the command line interface, and the cloud SDK

Section 2. Planning and configuring a cloud solution

- Planning and estimating google cloud product use using the Pricing calculator
- Planning and configuring networking resources

Section 3. Deploying and implementing a cloud solution

Section 4. Ensuring successful operation of a cloud solution

- Managing compute engine resources
- Managing google k8s engine resources
- Manage cloud run
- Managing networking resources

Section 5. Configure access and security

Key takeaways

1. Set up a cloud solution environment
2. Must know how to plan, configure, deploy and implement a cloud solution
3. Understand how to ensure a successful operation of a cloud solution
4. Understand how to configure access and security

Introduction to Google Cloud

Understanding google cloud



Provides IaaS, SaaS, and FaaS environments for users of the platform. Designed for services built around building and maintaining applications.

- Infrastructure as a service
- Software as a service
- Functions as a service

Google Cloud Design and Structure

3 Pillar GCP Design

1. Trust and Security
2. Open Cloud
3. Analytics and Artificial Intelligence



Powered everything here are data centers that are located across the globe. They also connect with each other in the same zones for low latency. Google Cloud is a global fiber network. Data centers are built and upgraded for high availability.

Networking Basics of Google Cloud

3 Layers of Networking

- VPC: Virtual Private Cloud. A virtual version of a physical network that houses your resources.
 - PC that houses the network card, and computing power
- Subnets: Allows you to group those resources in your networking using private IP addresses
- Routers: Allows traffic to be routed to your resources within your network and subnets.

Networking explained



Networking is a relatively complex topic in computer science however in the context of Google Cloud it can be explained through a series of analogies.



Networking is the practice of connecting and exchanging information between devices and computers, typically over the internet.

It refers to the infrastructure and systems that enable communication and data exchange between different devices, both within a single organization and across the internet. It can be thought of as a post office which allows you to send and receive mail (information) between different locations (devices). Just how a post office has rules and processes for sorting and delivering mail, a network has protocols and technologies for transmitting data and ensuring it reaches its destination. Networking can involve complex infrastructure that are designed to manage traffic, ensure security and support various applications and services.

VPC



A virtual private cloud can be thought of as a private neighborhood for your resources in the cloud. It is a secure area within the cloud where you can put your resources. Within a VPC you can decide which resources to talk to each other and which ones can talk to the outside world. You can choose the resource IP addresses and control access to them with firewalls. You would create a VPC to have a secure, isolated network environment for your resources in the cloud where you can control access to them, and customize your network configuration to meet your needs.

Subnets



A subnet is a smaller part of a large networking. It can be thought of, as a house within this neighborhood. Where services are logically grouped together in a smaller part of the larger network. This allows you to further organize and segment your networking into smaller, more manageable parts. The advantages of subnets is primarily regarding granular access to resources, through IP address management, network traffic control and resource organization. A subnet can have its own firewall rules.



In the example of a stock market app, you might choose to divide the resources into different subnets based on the function of each resource and the security requirements of the application. A web server subnet will contain resources relating to the front end users of the application to users. It would allow incoming traffic from HTTP and HTTPS ports. A database subnet, would contain database resources which store information and stock market data. Firewall rules in this subnet would allow access from the backend application server subnet. **The idea is logically grouping resources based on their networking needs and security.**

Firewall



The firewall can be thought of as a bouncer. There can be many bouncers. The one at the gate of the neighborhood. One at the step of the house, and one right in front of the resources. Which ensures granular access to resources, however the modularity of the network architecture allows us to have bouncers which can ensure access to similar types of resources.

Routers

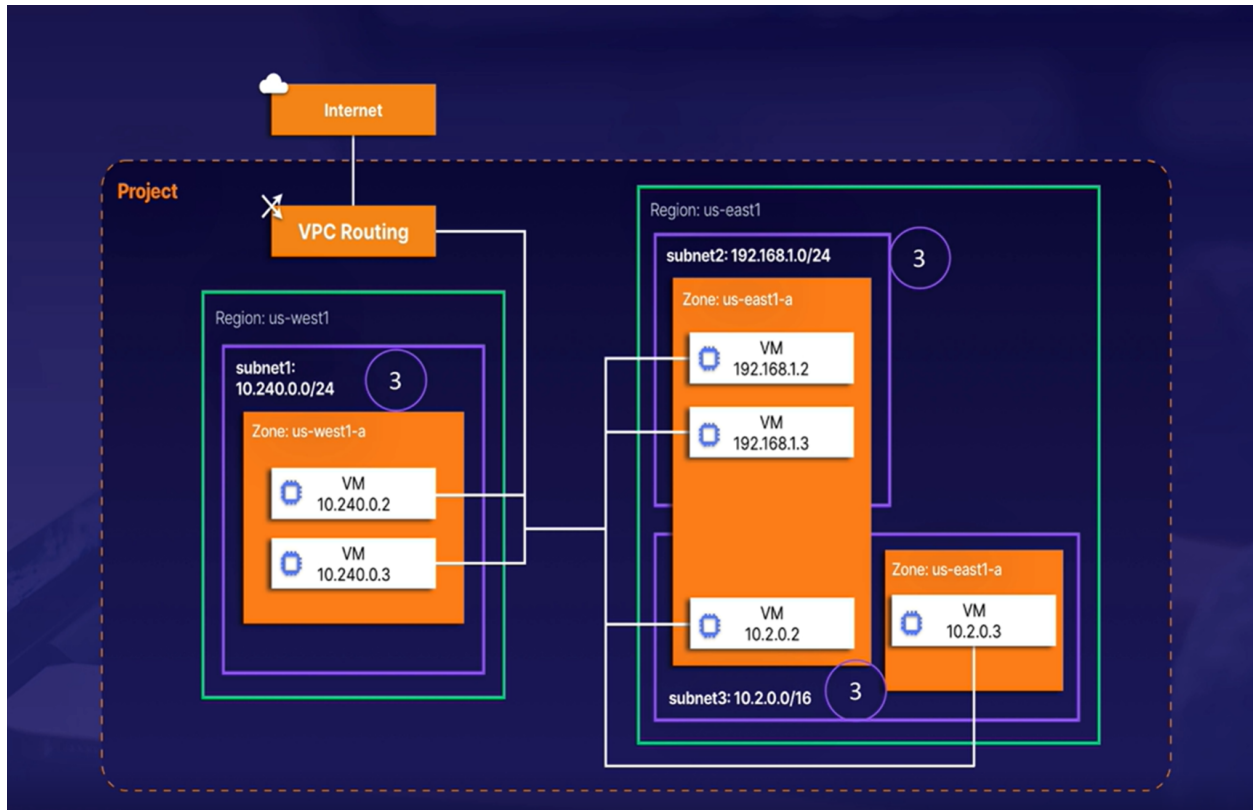


Routers serve as a traffic director, forwarding networking traffic from one part of the network to another.

IAM and Firewall rules



IAM and firewall rules allow traffic to flow in and out the VPC. IAM allows you to set granular policies to practice the principle of least privilege. Allows complete control over your network architecture.



Review



Projects, network and subnets build the 3-layer networks of Google Cloud. IAM permissions and firewall rules allow ingress and egress traffic inside of your network. Controlling for ingress and egress ensures the security and performance of your network.



Egress refers to the flow of data leaving a network. It is the process of transmitting data from one network to another networking or the internet



Ingress refers to the flow of data entering a network. It is the process of receiving data from another network or the internet.

Security in google cloud



Google cloud focuses on two things with trust and security. Trusted cloud infrastructure and security at rest.

Trusted cloud infrastructure

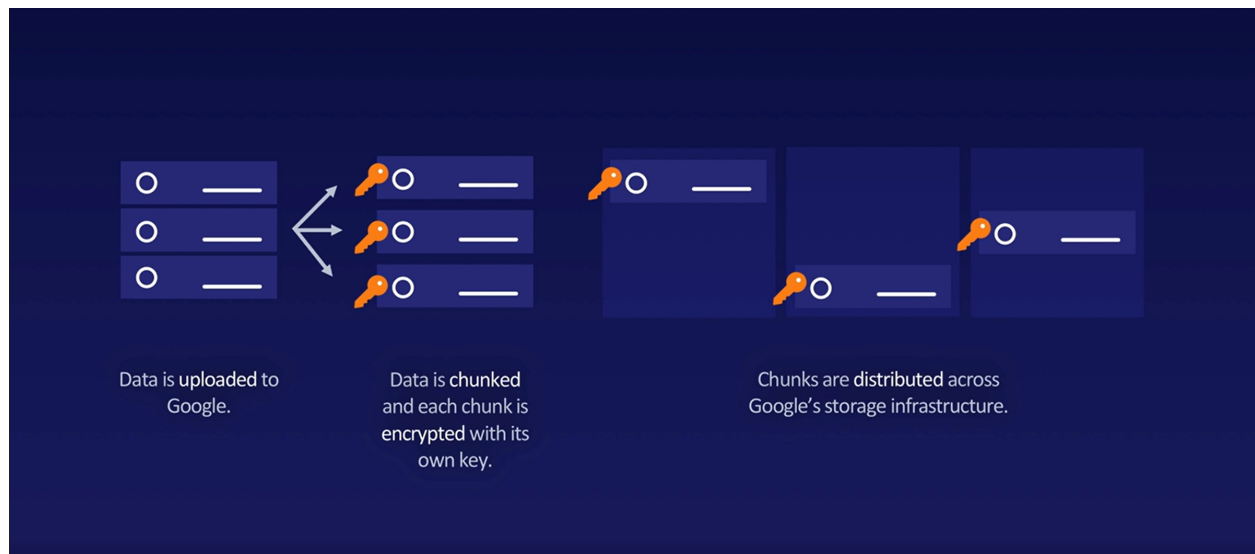


Google cloud provides security at every layer across the infrastructure. Device, internet, identity, storage, deployment and hardware

Encryption at rest



Data is chunked and each chunk is encrypted with its own key using the SHA 256 algorithm.



Google Cloud APIs



APIs are interfaces that allow you to interact with Google Cloud services programmatically. Allows you to automate your workflow using google cloud SDK. The API management console allows you to monitor the requests, traffic, error and latency on any enable API. Create API credentials, meaning you can help GCP to identify users of an API.

Database overview of google cloud



Google cloud offers two types of databases. There is relational and non-relational databases. In NoSQL databases it provides data in a non tabular form.

Relational databases

- Cloud SQL
- Cloud Spanner

NoSQL databases

- Cloud Bigtable
- Firestore
- Firebase
- Memorystore

Google cloud shell



Container for operations and development that can access from anywhere that has 5gb of storage. It is powered by linux, and provides access to the GCP CLI.

Set up your GCP organization Lab

Set up compute engine servers

Cost calculation

Preemptible machine type: It is cost effective but has limitations, can be shut off at any time by GCP

Machine family: General purpose, will provide relatively good performance in all areas



Machine family: A curated set of processor and hardware configurations optimized for specific workloads. When you create a VM instance, you choose a predefined or custom machine type from your preferred machine family.

Machine family series: <https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/machine-resource> Choose E2 for cost purposes



Series: Machine families are further classified by series and generation. For example, the N1 series within the general-purpose machine family is the older version of the N2 series. Generally, generations of a machine series use a higher number to describe the newer generation. For example, the N2 series is the newer generation of the N1 series.

Machine Type: e2-micro for cost effectiveness



Machine type: Every machine series has predefined machine types that provide a set of resources for your VM. If a predefined machine type does not meet your needs, you can also create a custom machine type.

Deploy

We can deploy these instances through the google cloud CLI

```
gcloud compute instances create t1 t2 t3 --project=name --zone=est-east1-b --machine-type=e2-micro --preemptible
```

Cloud storage



We have three types of storage on GCP. Object storage that manages data as objects, file storage that is used to organize and store data on a computer hard drive or on network attached storage and block storage which is used to store data files on storage area network usually in a sequence of bytes or bits.

Cloud storage



Cloud storage provides object storage. The objects are stored in containers called Buckets, allows you to choose a geographical location of where your data lives.

Cloud filestore



Cloud filestore is a managed filesystem interface and a shared filesystem for data.

Persistent disk



A durable network storage device, that your compute instance can access like physical disks. There are two types of Persistent Disks (SSD and HDD). With HDD GCP offers low cost storage when bulk throughput (bytes read or written per second) is of primary importance. With SSD GCP offers consistently high performance for both random access workloads and bulk throughput.

Types of persistent disk

- Zonal persistent disk
 - Default
- Regional persistent disk
 - Replicated between two zones in a region
- Local SSD
 - Very high IO

Using storage buckets



A bucket is a container that houses your objects in cloud storage that you can access at any time. This allows for the organization of objects.

Reasons for buckets:

- Security
 - Allow granular access for bucket usage
- Storage class and location
 - Being able to choose between storage classes can allow you to choose how available your objects are, how durable and how redundant.
- Globally unique name
 - This helps with having your buckets stand out to you
 - No overlap

Permissions



Public access to buckets can be limited. Uniform policies means that any of the principles, will limit them to bucket-level permissions (IAM). Fine-grained policies allow for object level permissions using ACLs (Access control lists).

Bucket features



Bucket locking: Allows you to configure data retention policies. This means you get too choose what data should be stored, where it should store and how long



Object lifecycle management: This is where you can set a Time To Live TTL for your objects — keeping certain versions of your objects or even changing storage class of the object to meet compliance or cost efficiency

- Delete stage: After a certain time delete the object
- SetStorageClass: This changes the storage class of the object to meet the lifecycle conditions you set

Compute engine

Introduction



A compute engine instance is a hosting and computing service that allows you to host and run VMs on GCP. This helps you run VMs you can easily scale and deliver high quality apps to users. You pay for what you use.

Types of way to use compute engine

- Pre-defined machine type
 - Default configurations
- Custom Machine types
 - Cost optimized VMs
- Spot machines
 - VMs you can use if the state of the instances are not important to you

Different Machine types

General Purpose

- These are cost optimized, balanced and scaled out optimized machine types which are great for web app service, small to medium databases, media, and virtual desktops.
- E2, N2

Memory optimized

- These are high memory optimized machine types for medium to large in memory databases, analytics and microsfot SQL database
- M2, and M1

Compute optimized

- Typically for AI/ML, high performing web computing and web serving.
- C2

Accelerator optimized

- High performance computing workloads
- Parallel computing platform
- API interfaces that allow software to use certain types of GPU
- A2 machine types

Managed instance groups



An instance group is a collection of VMs instances that you can manage as a single entity.

You can scale out to add more instances to handle the load. Scaling in means reducing instances.

- Horizontal scaling refers to adding more servers
- Vertical scaling refers to adding more power to individual servers



An instance group helps you create a base of instances that can continue running to help you deploy your app to the end users. You can scale in and out to meet your business needs. They also help you with auto healing and auto updating.



Auto healing: If your instance fails to launch, the instance group can quickly add a new instance to take its place.



Auto updating: GCP rolls out the updated configurations for your VM to the instance template.

Instance template



Without an instance template there would not be an instance group. The instance group pulls the configuration information you set on a template to launch the instances the exact way you state. You can use that template to provision the instance group to launch the minimum needed instances to handle user demand.

Instance groups

Creating templates:

- Access scopes gives your instances access to other GCP services
- You can also change firewall rules, as well as the service account the instance uses

Create instance group:

- You can create an instance group from the template
- You can choose the zones for high availability and disaster recovery
- Autoscaling: Autoscale, Don't autoscale and autoscale only out
- Autoscaling policy: Determines the percentage of CPU utilization that needs to be passed to automatically scale out. i.e. 60%
- Health checks: we can create new health checks.

☐ Look into health checks

Managing compute engine resources

- Security
 - Using SSH keys to control access to VMs
- Snapshots
 - How to capture a point in time snapshot of your instance to use for duplication or disaster recovery
- Monitoring and logging
 - How to install monitoring and logging on your instances to get key insights on health.

Security



With GCP you can create custom SSH keys and upload them to the instances details to allow you to access to the instance outside of the GCP environment.

- You can control access to it, and manage your own environment
- Or allow GCP manage SSH keys for you which would then be controlled and applied by google for any future instances



SSH: Secure Shell provides a encrypted and secured way to communicate and interact with servers and virtual machines. It has also ensures encrypted communication.

Snapshots



Snapshots allow you to take a point in time recovery of your instance to store. In case you need a faster rollback to a previous point in time recovery. You can also create a VM Image that is the exact same duplicate of the instance.

What is the difference between a snapshot and a image



A snapshot is a capture of the data on the storage, they are smaller in size and can be created and restored more quickly than duplicate images. They do not include information about the OS, or configuration, and so assume the VM has the exact same OS and configuration. An image however, includes app data, OS information and configuration and usually takes longer.

Monitoring



Cloud monitoring agents allow you to assess the health of your VMs and ensure responsiveness. Or learn more about the instance activity. You can do this by installing monitoring and logging agents

- You can install Google's cloud monitoring suite.
- It streams logs from instances and third party packages to cloud logging for your viewing
- You can also create sinks which use the logs for monitoring purposes.

Launch a compute instance VM

Objectives

1. Launch a VM
2. Look at creating SSH keys
3. Take a snapshot and create a new instance
4. Install a monitoring and logging agent

Work

☒ ~~Learn about Boot disks and operating systems~~

- ☐ Why are some operating systems better suited than others

Bootdisk

Reasons to configure boot disk:

1. Operating system: You may want to change the operating system depending on the software you are using or what you are comfortable with
2. Boot disk: You may want to change the size of the disk that will store your operating system and data files. Or you can change to a boot disk that offers increased performance for your work load.
3. Disk encryption: You can configure disk encryption to secure your data at rest, which helps against unauthorized access.
4. Image and pre-installed software: you can choose an image with a pre-installed language or database.

Security



You can create a SSH key on your local computer. Go into your console, and enter the SSH key into the VM. This will allow you to have access to the console using your Public private key combination.

- ☐ What makes an SSH key work

Logging and monitoring

- ☐ What is fluentd
- ☐ What does stackdriver do?

The logging agent is just going to collect logs and data, and create a serverless response to whatever our logs say.



You can run stackdriver scripts to install logging and monitoring agents on the VM.

Snapshots



We can create snapshots of the state from the compute engine UI. The snapshot will be a point in time recovery. If you are concerned with replication and duplication, you will have a snapshot ready to go. Quickest way to replicate an instance in another zone is to take a snapshot of it. You can then create a new instance using the snapshot.

Virtual Private Cloud Networking



GCP offers VPC that can help host an entire organization. Provides the network for your resources to use and scale with your business. You can scale your network and resources with no downtime. You are allowed to bring your own IPs to minimize downtime if you are migrating. With flow logs, you can capture traffic in and out of your network.

Major VPC components and Services

Routes: Controls where traffic is directed



VPC route: Is a set of directions within a network that determines the path a network traffic takes within a VPC. They determine how traffic is networked across different subnets and between the VPC and other networks

Firewall Rules: Controls who and what is accessed

VPN: Securely connects you to another network

VPC Peering: Connects two VPC networks together

Cloud Load Balancing: Distributes network traffic evenly within compute VPC



Cloud Load Balancing: Ensure high availability, reliability and performance by distributing traffic across different resources. There are different techniques to use for balancing load.

Subnets: Network neighborhoods. Who has what access.

VPC demo

Objectives

1. Create a custom VPC
2. Create a custom subnet

Work



You have to choose the IP range for the subnets

VPN Connection Know How



A VPN is a virtual private network to connect to another network securely. The VPN will create a secure connection which protects your IP address using the IP security protocol. For this to happen you must have gateways than connect networks privately between each other.

☐ What is a gateway

Types of VPNs

- High availability Cloud VPN (HA VPN)
 - IP address will not be preserved, GCP will create two new addresses and 2 new interfaces for high availability
- Classic VPN
 - Only uses single IP address and single interface

Shared VPC networks

A Shared Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) network in Google Cloud Platform (GCP) is a network infrastructure that can be shared by multiple projects within an organization. With a shared VPC network, multiple projects can use the same network resources, such as subnets and firewall rules, to connect their resources, enabling communication between the resources.

A shared VPC network provides a centralized and flexible way to manage network resources for multiple projects, making it easier to implement network-related policies and security

controls, as well as to optimize network performance.

In a shared VPC network, there are two types of projects: host projects and service projects. The host project is responsible for creating and managing the shared VPC network, while the service projects use the network resources provided by the host project. Service projects can be granted different levels of access to the network resources, allowing the host project to control network access and enforce network-related policies.

Shared VPC networks are useful in scenarios where multiple projects need to communicate with each other and share network resources, such as in a multi-tier application architecture or in a multi-department organization. By using a shared VPC network, administrators can simplify network management and reduce operational costs while still maintaining network security and performance.



A shared VPC network is a network infrastructure that can be shared by multiple projects within an organization. This allows multiple projects to use the same network resources, such as subnets and firewall rules to connect their resources, enabling communication. This simplifies network management and reduces operational costs while still maintaining network security and performance. There are two types of projects in a VPC shared network. Host projects and service projects. Resources from other VPCs can connect to shared VPC.

Host project

Responsible for creating and managing the shared VPC network.

Service project

Can be granted different levels of access to the VPC network, and has rules enforced on it by host project.

Create a load balancer to distribute application network traffic to an application



Your team needs you to create an environment that will serve their test pages that will be installed on two instances at all times. They want to ensure that any user that tries to access this will have their app traffic distributed to both instances. Take the IP address of the load balancer that you will create to distribute the traffic and see if they can access both instances.

Google Kubernetes Engine

Kubernetes



Google Kubernetes engine is google using the open-source Kubernetes platform and managing the way you use and scale as a customer. GKE consist of multiple GCE machines to create a cluster. The nodes are run on Google Compute engine, but can also run on premise.

Type of workloads

1. Stateless applications
 - a. Does not save data in one session for use in the next
2. Stateful applications
 - a. Allows data to be saved to be used in one session and the next. So require persistent volumes.
3. Batch jobs
 - a. Define a group of processing actions or parallel tasks that run until it is finished
4. Daemons
 - a. Runs a background process in their assigned nodes (running a monitoring and logging agent on your node)

Kubernetes Demo



Once the cluster has been deployed you must get the credentials from you cluster.

1. Launch cluster
2. Get credentials
3. Create deployment
4. Expose server
5. Service is created

Monitoring



We can configure google cloud's operation suite stackdriver. This will allow us to monitor and get logging from our system. We need to install it on our nodes. You can do when you create the cluster or do it after it is created.

Managing a GKE cluster

Objectives

1. View and update current cluster inventory
2. Manage autoscaling configs
3. Create a Node Pool



We are able to resize the cluster through the CLI. We can also manage autoscaling configs, and make nodes enable autoscaling.

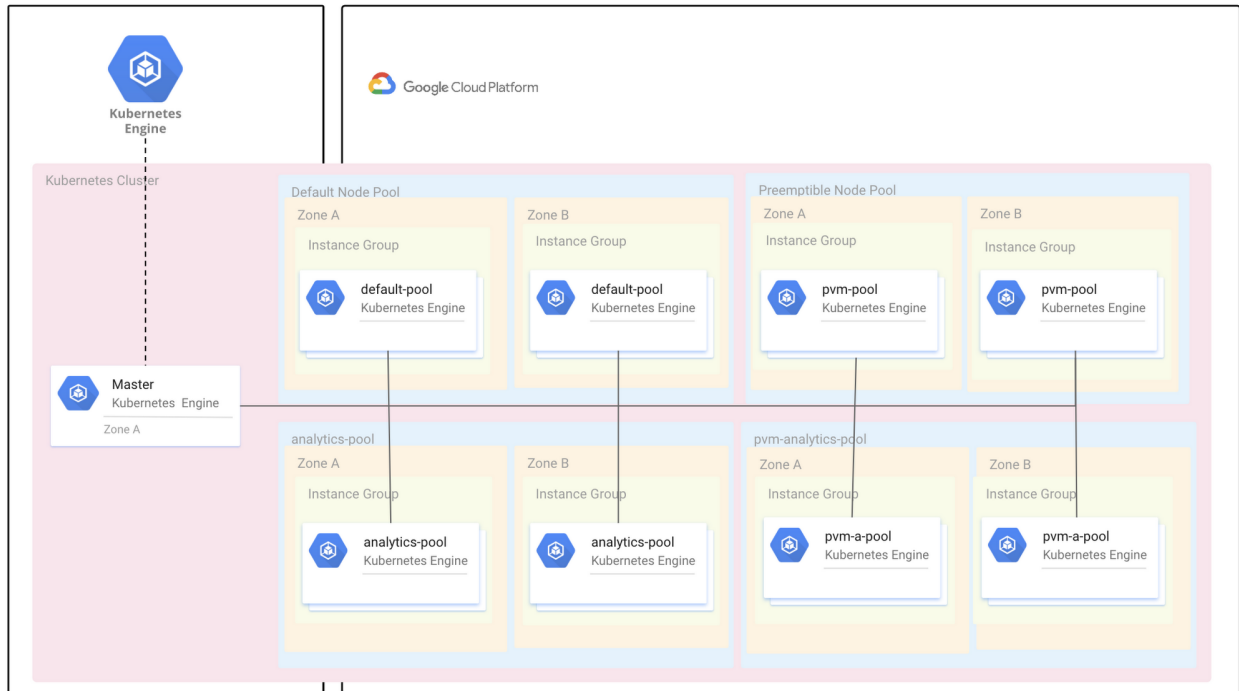
Node pools



A node pool is a way to manage several nodes that are logically grouped together based on the functionality it is providing. Nodes handling front end usage might need different configurations than ones handling backend usage so we create two node pools that have different configurations and allow us to scale them up independently of the other.



The gcloud container command can create node pools within a cluster.



Node pools in GKE

GKE Takeaways

- GKE is google's k8s platform
- Control plane and the nodes are two main components
- We can configure monitoring and logging through cloud shell
- We can deploy, manage and inspect our cluster using the k8s cli tool Kubectl

Code

```
gcloud container clusters create -- create cluster
kubectl -- is the gke cli
```

App engine



App engine is a full managed serverless platform. Provides the environment that is easy to use for developers to concentrate on their application and scale with no downtime on their end. You can focus on writing code without having to worry about deployment infrastructure



Running gcloud app deploy. App engine will deploy your code using containers. It will then use other services such as cloud load balancing, cloud storage and databases. It helps you fully use all of the services you need.



App engine allows you to have versions. This enables A/B testing.

Key features

1. Automatically scales
2. Easy deployment
3. High availability
4. Integration with other GCP services

Deploying app engine solution

```
gcloud app create
gcloud app deploy -- deploys another version
```

- You can have two versions of the same app, and split traffic between both for A/B testing using the UI.

Cloud functions



A compute solution that allows you to run server-side code without having to manage any servers at all. You can use Node.js, python, go and Java. The cloud function allows you to set a limit on the total amount of functions that the can be run at a single time. The instances will be terminated once the function is terminated. **They are used for event-driven events that require stateless operations that respond to HTTP requests, Pub/Sub requests or Cloud storage events.**

Cloud run, cloud build and cloud repos

Cloud Run



Fully managed serverless platform that can deploy scalable containerized applications. With stateless containers, you can easily scale depending on your app traffic.

- Can be used with Java, Python, Ruby, PHP and Go



Cloud run allows you to run containers in the cloud. It is a more cost effective solution than a VM because you are only billed for the resources you use. It automatically scales your services up or down. It is more maintainable and flexible.

Cloud Build



It is a CI/CD Serverless platform that execute your builds in a series a steps and those steps run as Docker containers. You can configure cloud build to listen to your repo, fetch any changes and to test the build of your code. Deploy across K8s, Vms, Serverless or Firebase

Cloud Source repository



Platform to securely manage your code, performs GIT operations, deploys and integrates well with other GCP services.

Demo

```
gcloud config set run/platform managed  
gcloud config set run/region us-east1
```



You can deploy containers from the container registry to Cloud Run. You can push your code to cloud source repo which will trigger cloud build which would create a container to the registry which would then be run by cloud run.

Monitoring and Logging

Overview



Monitoring agents can be installed on VMs where it can generate daily, weekly or monthly reports. So you can analyze it's health. It provides a dashboard to see metrics such as: Error rates, QPS, and latency. You could also use Cloud logging to keep logs and see important data. You can also create a sink to other GCP services like cloud storage or BigQuery.



The ops agent is the primary agent for collecting data from your compute engine instances. Cmmbining logging and metrics into a single agent and uses fluent Bit for logs.

Setting up cloud monitoring

Objectives

1. Create VM instances
2. Install monitoring agents

3. Setup monitoring workspace

Install monitoring agents

```
curl -- install opts agent from stackdriver  
-- paste the bash command to install ops agent
```

- You can also check the status of the monitoring

Monitoring workspace



We have alerting. This allows us to create alert policies where we can alert us to metrics that are over a pre-defined limit.

Key takeaways

1. You need to install the monitoring agent called cloud ops agent
2. You can create custom metrics

Hands on with cloud logging demo

1. Look at our log activity
2. Create a sink for our logs

Sinking logs



We can use the logs router to sink log data to google cloud storage. You can set retention policies for these logs. We can build an inclusion filter to select the types of logs we want to send over to our cloud storage bucket. You can also exclude log information.

View cloud audit logs



Cloud activity audit logs show us logs relating to user activities with GCP services. There is also Data access, policy and system event. You can reach them within Logs explorer.

- data access
- policy denied
- system event
- admin activity

Review



You can monitor your infrastructure by using Google monitoring services aka operations Suite. You can create metrics, sink data to BigQuery. You must install the monitoring and logging agent on your VM:

Deployment manager



Deployment manager is service that allows you to automate the deployment of infrastructure resources in GCP. It enables you to define your infrastructure as code, using YAML or Python and then use those templates to deploy. Deployment Manager provides a unified and repeatable way to deploy complex, multi-tier applications, including all the necessary dependencies, without the need for manual setup or configuration. By automating the deployment process, Deployment Manager helps ensure consistent and reliable deployments, and reduces the risk of errors and misconfigurations.

☐ Infrastructure as code

Cloud Marketplace



Google Cloud Marketplace is a catalog of pre-configured and ready-to-deploy applications, development stacks, and services that can be run on the Google Cloud Platform (GCP). The Marketplace provides a centralized, one-stop-shop for customers to discover, try, and buy cloud-based applications, services, and solutions. These offerings are provided by independent software vendors (ISVs), system integrators, and other partners.

The Cloud Marketplace streamlines the process of deploying and integrating new solutions into a customer's GCP environment. Customers can quickly deploy applications, such as databases, analytics tools, and content management systems, with just a few clicks, without the need to manually configure the underlying infrastructure.

Big Data Services

Cloud dataproc



Managed server that makes it easy to process data using Spark or Hadoop. It allows you to create, manage, and scale Apache Hadoop and Spark clusters on the Google Cloud Platform with a simple, easy-to-use interface.

- Hadoop, MapReduce, Spark, Pig, Hive

Cloud dataflow



Fully managed service for executing apache beam pipelines for stream and batch pipelines.

BigQuery



Fully managed serverless and scalable data warehouse

Pub/Sub



Enterprise messaging system

Datalab



Interactive Data exploration

Loading Data



You can load data into BigQuery. Avro, CSV, JSON, ORC and Parquet, and firestore exports

Types of Storage classes in Cloud storage

- Standard
- Nearline
- Coldline
- Archive

Deploying and Implementing Data Solutions

1. Initializing and deploying data proc cluster



Data proc is good for apache spark workloads. You can use dataproc with cloud storage and BigQuery to process apache spark apps.

Further learning

Check out the Google Cloud Adoption framework.

https://services.google.com/fh/files/misc/google_cloud_adoption_framework_whitepaper.pdf

Questions to answer

- ☐ Difference between instance group and GKE
- ☐ What is active directory?
- ☐ Different machine types and logic behind them

Practice exam questions