

Service Account Key Overview

To use a service account from outside of Google Cloud, you must first establish the identity of the service account. Public/private key pairs provide a secure way to accomplish this.

1. Visit <https://console.cloud.google.com/apis/credentials>
2. At the top left, select the project you would like to generate keys from
 - a. If you have not created a project, please create one and see next section
3. Under service account, select a service account
 - a. If you have not created a service account, please create one and enable the APIs you would like to utilize (Ex. Google Drive/Sheet API)
4. In the KEYS tab, select ADD KEY and Create new key
5. Select JSON as the recommended format and hit CREATE
6. A file named after your project with the extension JSON will be downloaded to your computer

Once the JSON file has been downloaded, rename the file to service_account.json and place the file in a secure place directory. This file contains credentials regarding your service account and will be the key to accessing the files shared with your service account

Creating a project with google developer console

1. Go to <https://console.cloud.google.com>
2. We will now create a new project
 - a. Click Dashboard
 - b. Create New Project
 - c. Set project name
3. After our project has been created we need to
 - a. On the upper left corner, click the 3 parallel bars
 - b. Click API & Services
 - c. Click Enable APIs and Services
4. To access google sheets, enable to Google Sheets API and Google Drive API
5. Enable the APIs
 - a. Inside the search bar, look for Google Drive and click on it
 - b. Click the Enable button
 - c. Do the same for Google Sheet APIs

Creating a Service Account

A service account is a special kind of account used by an application or compute workload. A service account can be attached to a Compute Engine VM, so that applications running on that VM can authenticate as the service account. The service account's identity is used as the identity of the application.

1. Visit <https://console.cloud.google.com/apis/credentials>
2. Select CREATE CREDENTIALS
3. From the list, select Service Account
4. Enter the name that will be displayed for your service account
5. Enter in a unique ID in Service Account ID box
6. Select Owner as the role and Hit Done

References

- <https://cloud.google.com/iam/docs/creating-managing-service-accounts>
- <https://cloud.google.com/iam/docs/service-accounts#key-types>