Course 4_Lab 3: Analyzing Audit logs using BigQuery

Scenario

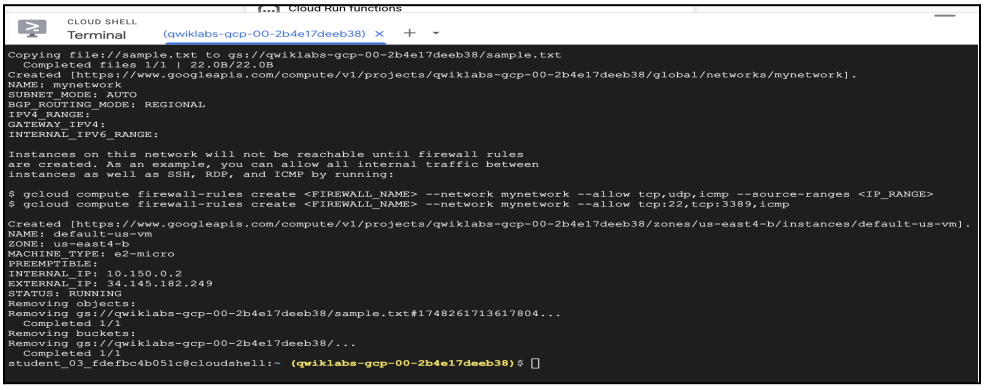
Cymbal Bank has officially migrated to its hybrid cloud solution and successfully deployed its workflows on the new cloud environment. Unfortunately, the Security Engineering team has been notified of a high severity alert involving unauthorized access to several of its cloud resources. This is alarming since malicious actors can use compromised cloud resources to exfiltrate data and launch attacks on other systems. It is your first time experiencing a security incident. Your team lead, Chloe, recognizes this as a valuable opportunity for you to learn the processes and procedures involved with incident response. You've been assigned to shadow and observe Hannah, an incident responder on the Incident Response Team which is a unit of the Security Engineering department. Hannah has provided you with access to the alert's logs which you'll use to investigate the malicious activity. You want to get a better understanding of the security incident so you have set up a test environment to recreate the incident and analyze the artifacts. You will use two separate user accounts: one account will generate the malicious activity, and the other account will be used to investigate the activity.

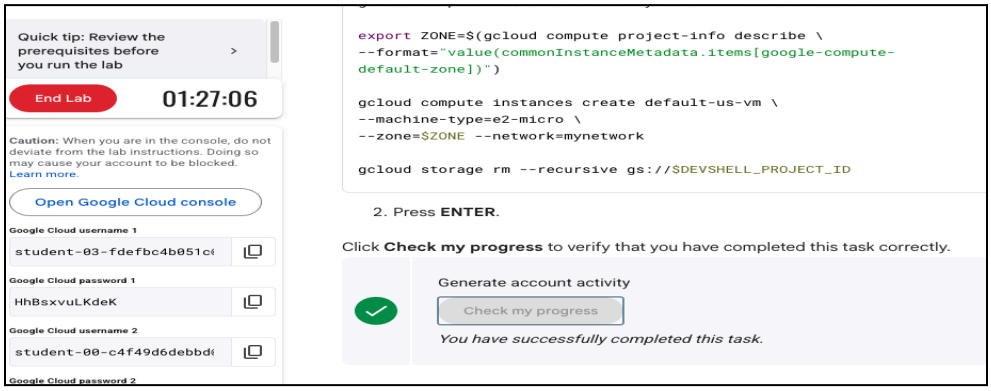
Here's how you'll do this task. **First**, you'll recreate the security incident by generating activity from the first user account. **Next**, you'll export the logs for further analysis. **Then**, you'll continue recreating the incident and generate additional user activity. **Finally**, you'll utilize BigQuery to analyze the logs.

MY WORK:

Task 1: Generate account activity

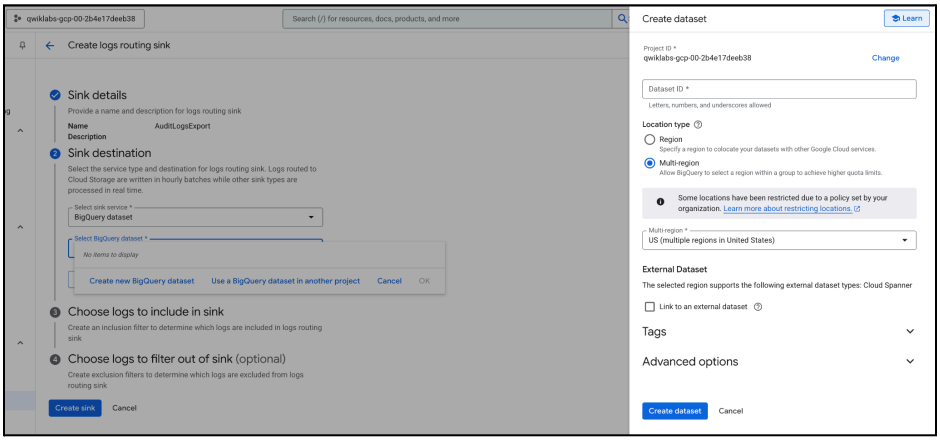
In this task, a command provided by Google was added to Cloud Shell to generate account activity.

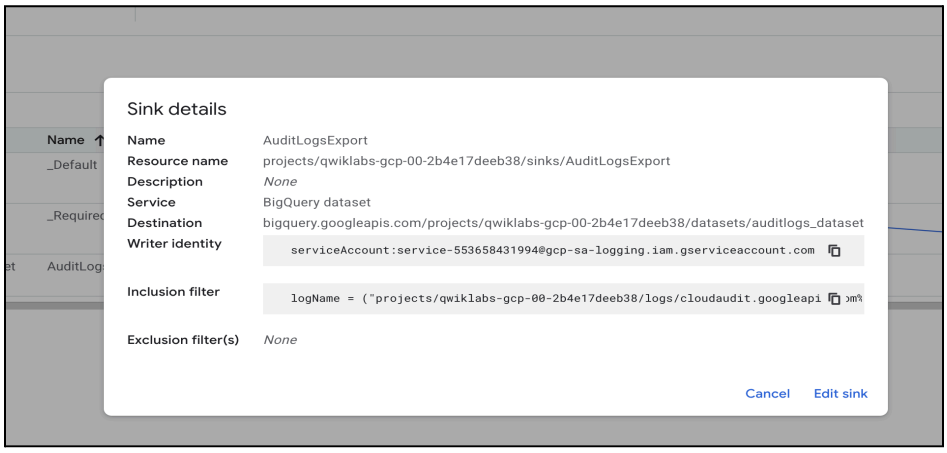


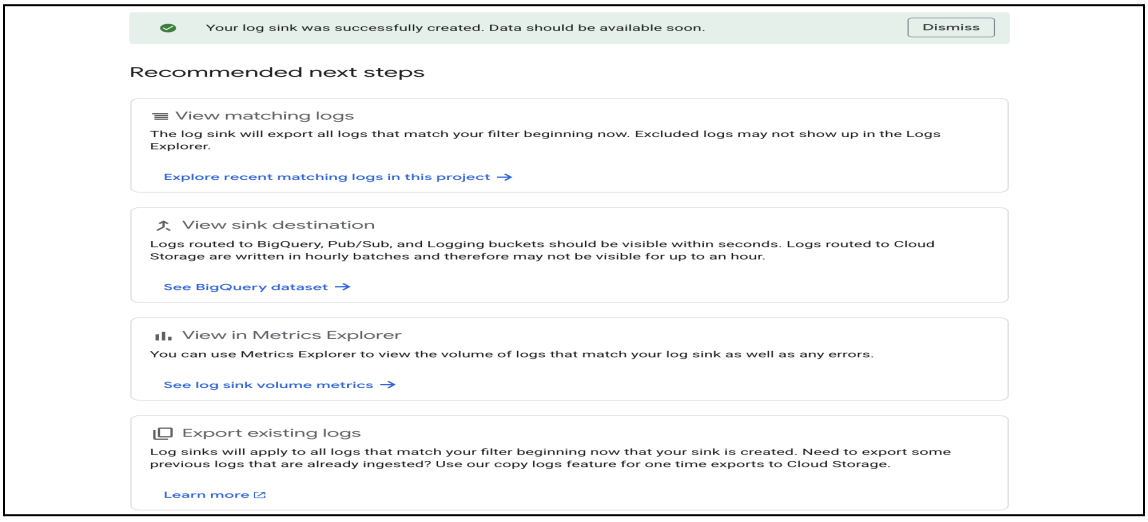


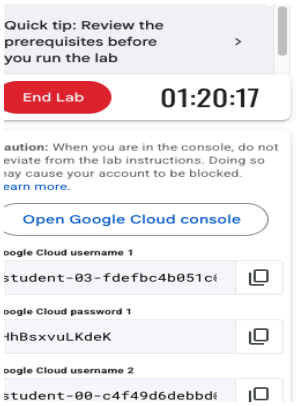
Task 2: Export the audit logs

This task focused on exporting the cloud logs. I used Logs Explorer to run a query and create a sink to export the logs based on details provided by Google. Specifically a sink is a configuration that specifies how and where log entries are exported. Future logs will be exported to Big Query, per this lab.









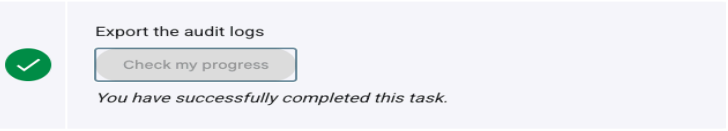
sink in the **Log Router Sinks** list.

7. Inline with the **AuditLogsExport** sink, click **More actions** (⋮) > **View sink details** to view information about the **AuditLogsExport** sink you created. The **Sink details** dialog opens.

8. Click **Cancel** to close the **Sink details** dialog when you're done viewing the sink information.

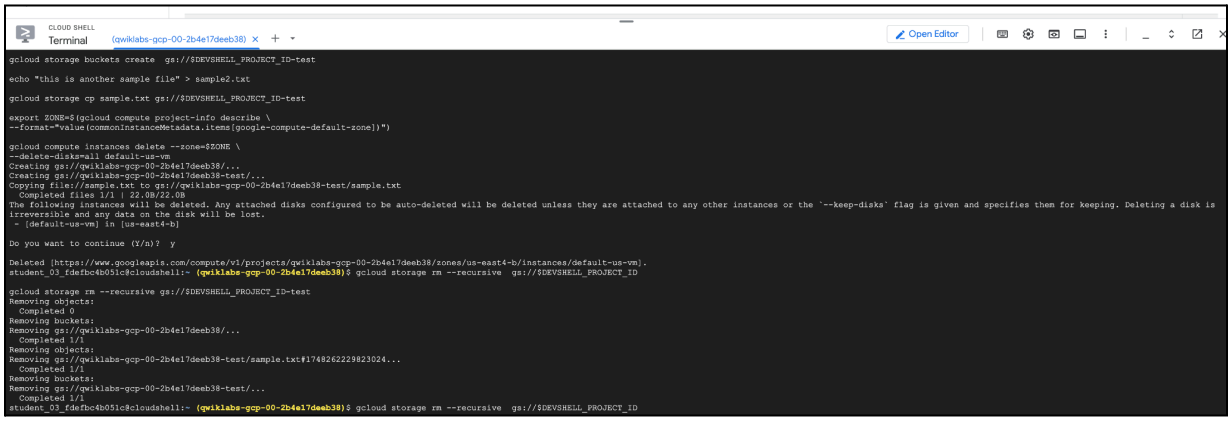
All future logs will now be exported to BigQuery, and the BigQuery tools can be used to perform analysis on the audit log data. The export does not export existing log entries.

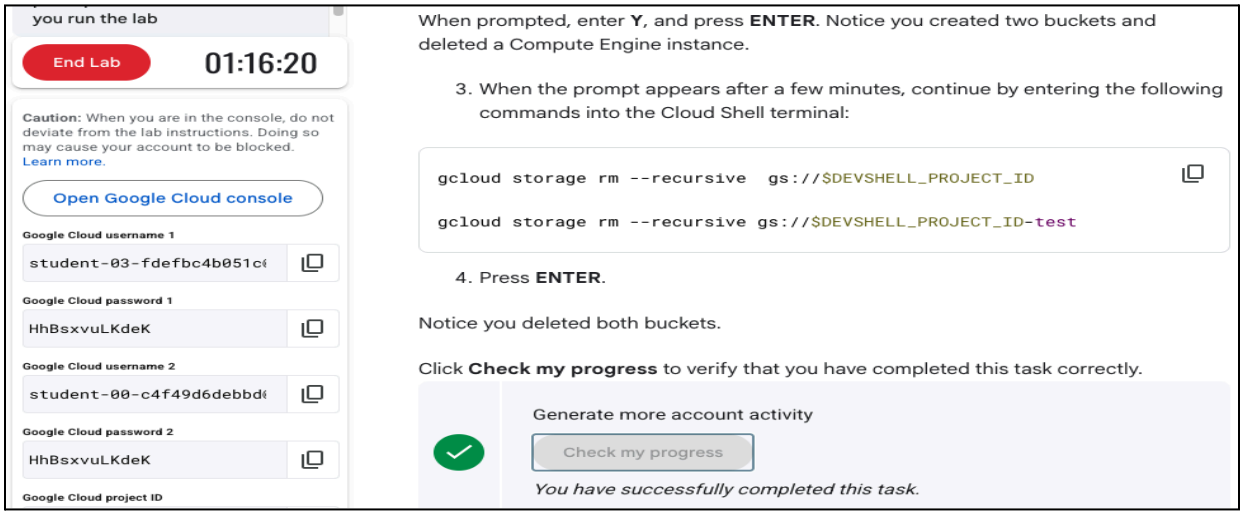
Click **Check my progress** to verify that you have completed this task correctly.



Task 3: Generate more account activity

For this task more account activity was generated. A Google command was input into the Cloud Shell terminal to create two storage buckets and delete a Compute Engine instance. Within this task, the buckets were also deleted.





When prompted, enter **Y**, and press **ENTER**. Notice you created two buckets and deleted a Compute Engine instance.

3. When the prompt appears after a few minutes, continue by entering the following commands into the Cloud Shell terminal:

```
gcloud storage rm --recursive  gs://$DEVSHELL_PROJECT_ID

gcloud storage rm --recursive gs://$DEVSHELL_PROJECT_ID-test
```

4. Press **ENTER**.

Notice you deleted both buckets.

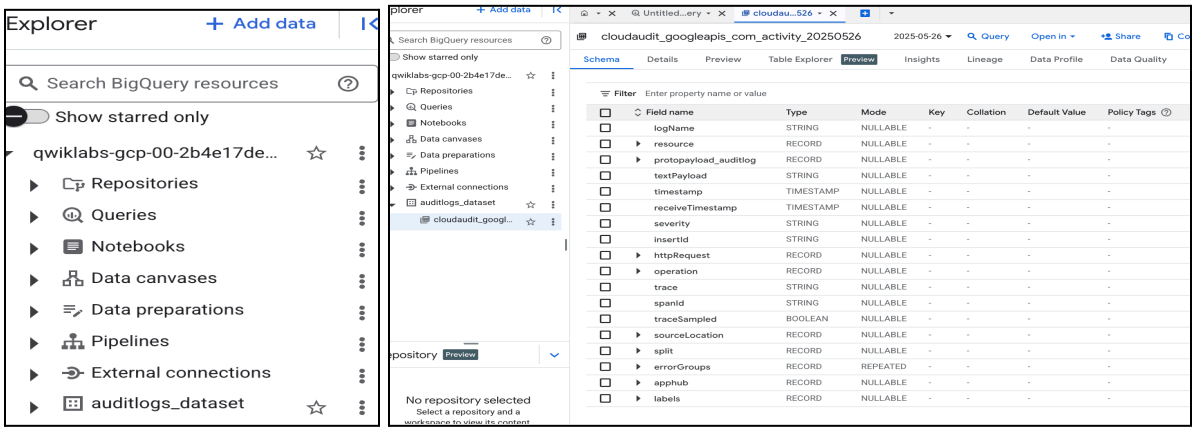
Click **Check my progress** to verify that you have completed this task correctly.

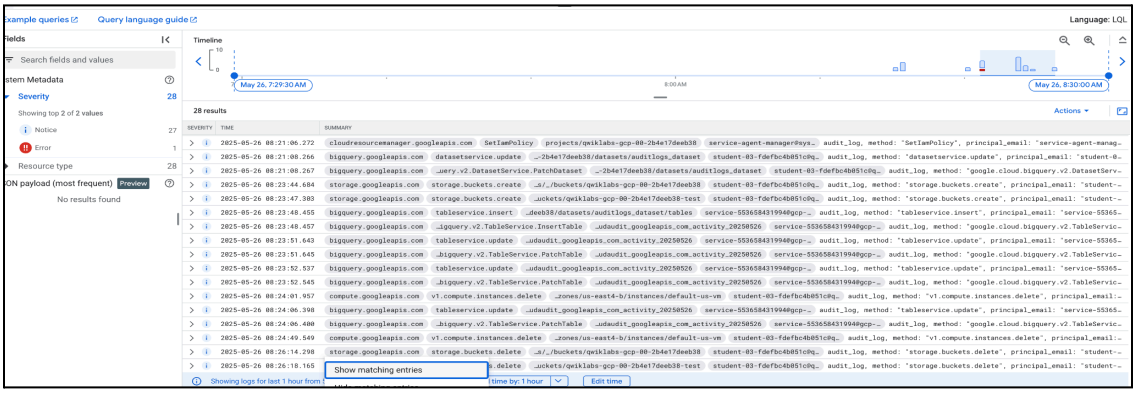
Task 4: Sign in as the second user

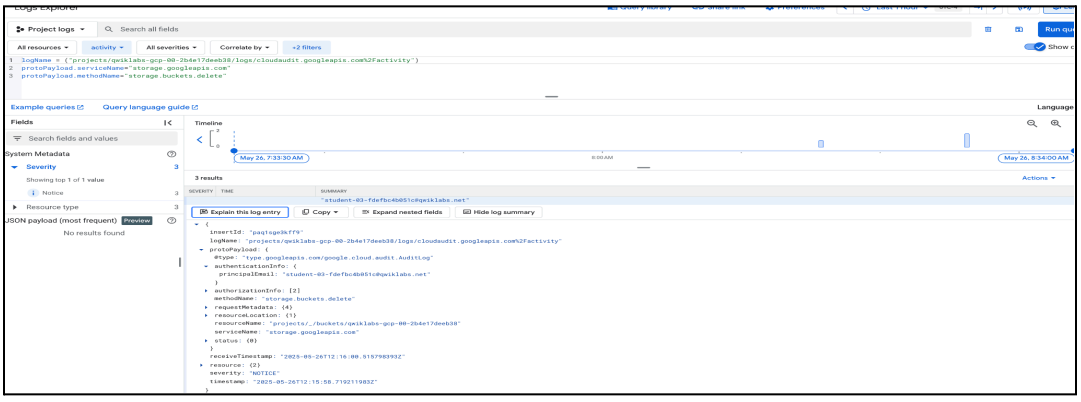
For this task, no screenshots were taken as I simply signed into a second account user.

Task 5: Analyze the Admin Activity logs

In this task, I reviewed the Admin activity logs generated in Task 3. In the screenshots below, it shows the different stages to complete the task as well as the logs that were reviewed. Running the queries for the deleted storage buckets allowed for more information to analyze within the logs.

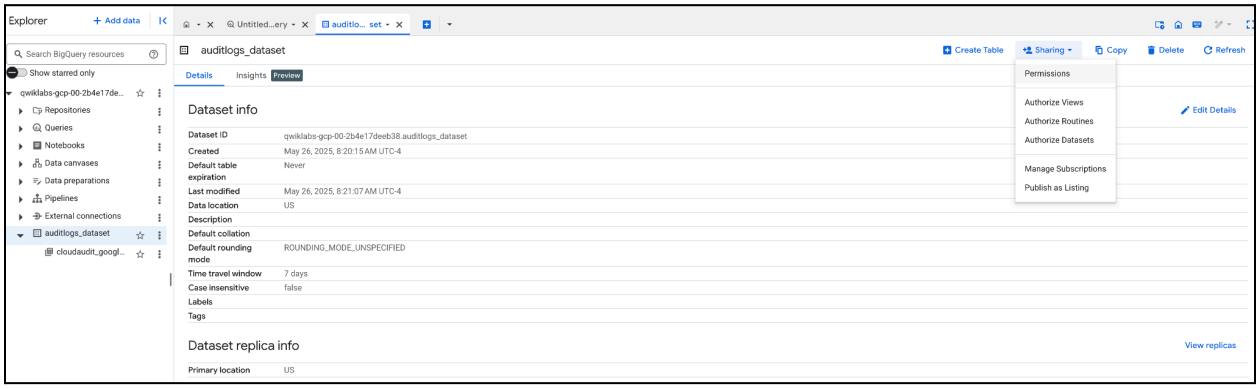


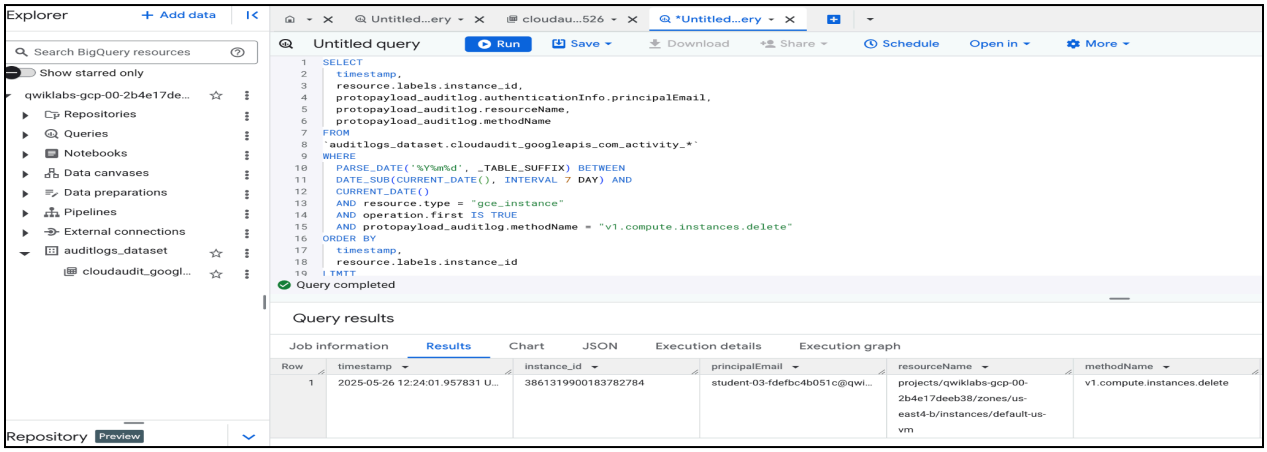


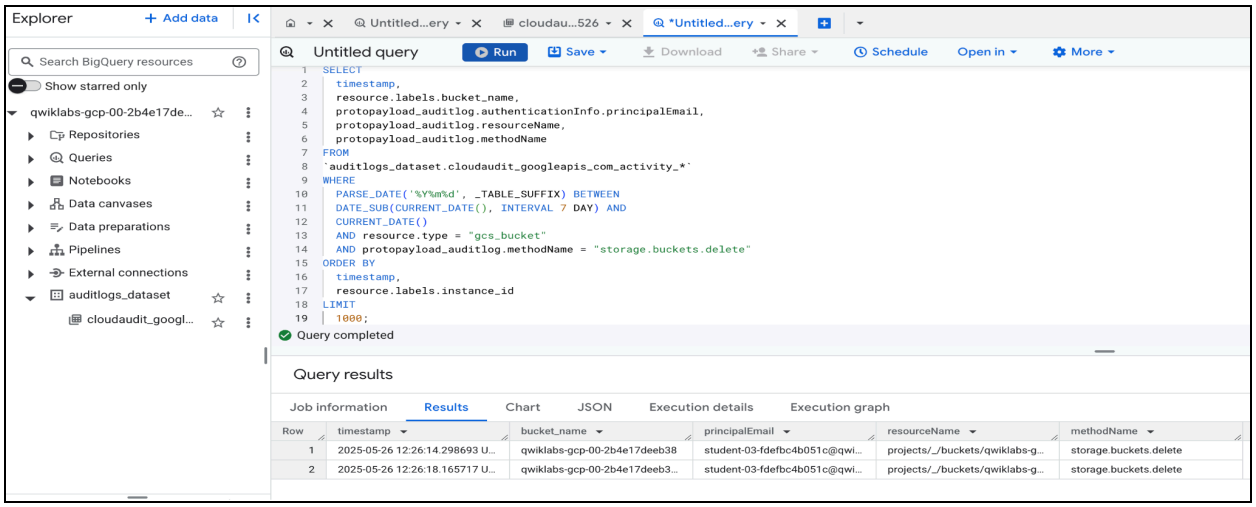


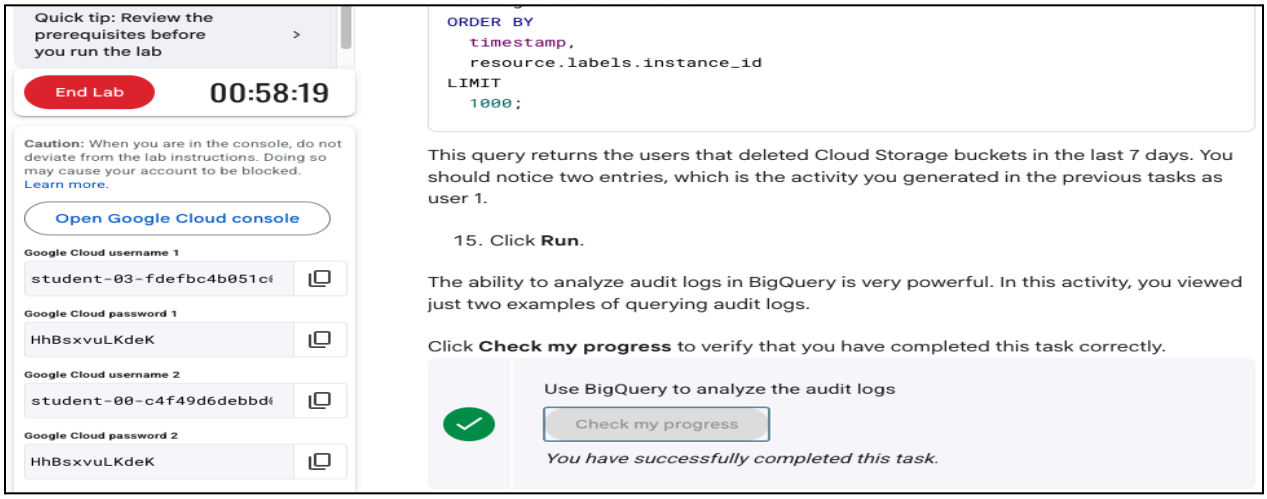
Task 6: Use BigQuery to analyze the audit logs

This task focused on analyzing the logs in Big Query that were generated in the previous tasks.









My Assessment

This lab focused on analyzing logs in Big Query after using Cloud Shell to generate account activity. This lab, specifically, provided a lot of insight as I was seeking a way to learn how to review and analyze logs.