



Activity Overview

In this activity, you will create a Google Cloud Platform (GCP) account, which will enable you to access GCP products like Google Dataflow and BigQuery. Google Dataflow is a serverless data-processing service that reads data from the source, transforms it, and writes it to the destination location. BigQuery is a data warehouse used to query, filter large datasets, aggregate results, and perform complex operations. After creating your GCP account, you will open the Dataflow application and be guided through exploring the tool. In upcoming activities, you will work in both Dataflow and Big Query to complete BI-specific tutorials and exercises.

Please note that:

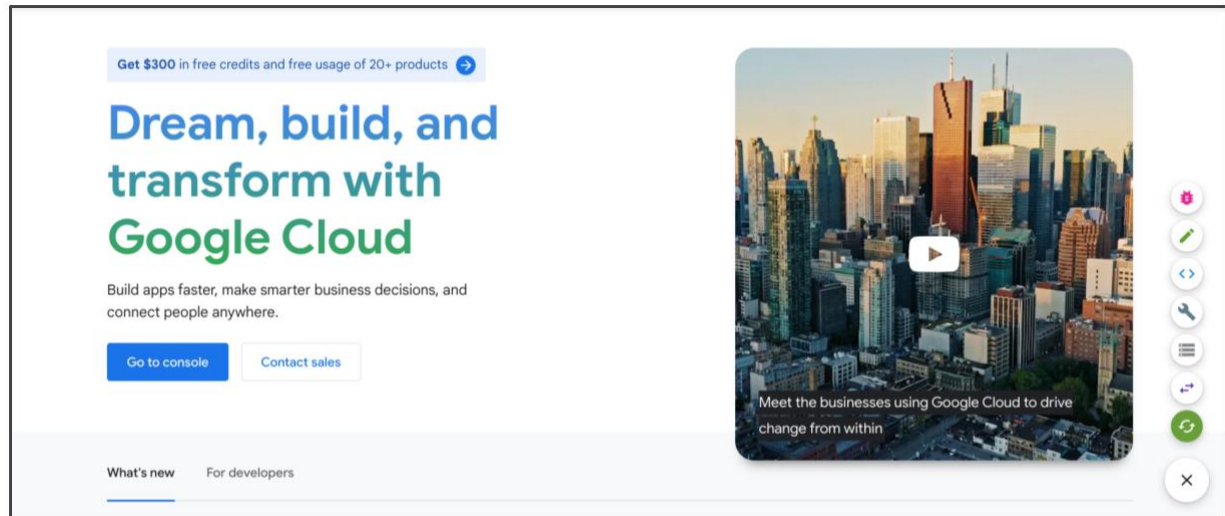
- **This activity is optional and will not prevent you from completing this course or receiving your certificate.** Google Dataflow and BigQuery are Google Cloud products that you can try at no cost. You will need to fill out your credit card information to begin your trial, but you will not be charged if you follow the free trial's terms. You will be able to complete all of the activities in this course while staying within the limits of Google Cloud free trial. For more information, review this article about [free cloud features and a trial offer](#).
- **If you already have a Google Cloud account**, skip to the next course item, a [guide to Dataflow](#).
- **If you would prefer not to create a billing account with GCP**, you can create a BigQuery sandbox account. With the sandbox, you can complete all upcoming BigQuery activities. You can learn more about the BigQuery sandbox and how to create one in the reading about [BigQuery account options](#) and the activity about [setting up a sandbox and query a public dataset in BigQuery](#).
- **If you don't create a GCP billing account**, you won't be able to complete the optional activities that use Dataflow; however, you can still learn about Dataflow in the next course item, a [guide to Dataflow](#).

Step-By-Step Instructions

Follow the instructions to complete each step of the activity. Then, answer the questions at the end of the activity before going to the next course item.

Step 1: Log into the sandbox with your Google account

Go to the [Google Cloud home page](#) and click the **Get started for free** button.



Step 2: Enter your account information

Complete the two-step process to sign up for a Google Cloud account. First, enter your account information. Select your country and select "Other" to answer the question "What best describes your organization or needs?" Then accept the terms of service and click **Continue**.

Country

United States

What best describes your organisation or needs?

Please select

Other

Terms of Service

☒ I have read and agree to the [Google Cloud Platform Terms of Service](#), [Supplemental Free Trial Terms of Service](#) and the Terms of Service of [any applicable services and APIs](#).

Required to continue

CONTINUE

Step 3: Enter your payment information for verification

To verify that you are a real person, Google Cloud requires credit card information. You will not be charged unless you manually upgrade to a paid account.

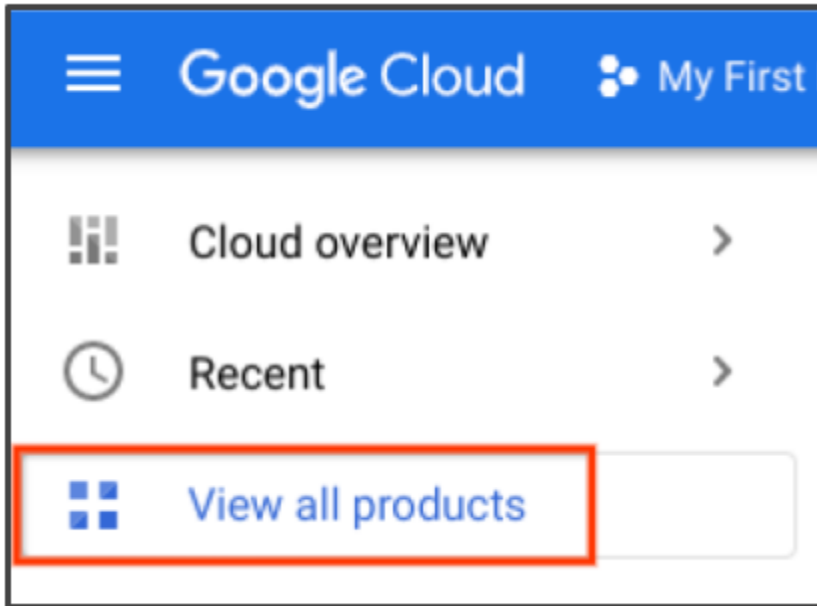
Select **Individual** for your Account type and fill in your credit card information. Then, click **START MY FREE TRIAL**.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Step 2 of 2 Payment information verification". Below the title is a note: "Your payment information helps us to reduce fraud and abuse. You won't be charged unless you turn on automatic billing." The form has two main sections. The first section, "Account type", shows "Individual" selected with a pencil icon for editing. Below this is a note: "Only Business accounts can have multiple users. You cannot change the account type after signing up. In some countries, this selection affects your tax options. [Learn more](#)". The second section, "Payment method", shows "Add credit or debit card" selected with a dropdown arrow. Below this are fields for "Card number" (with MM, YY, and CVC sub-labels), "Cardholder name", "Address line 1", "Address line 2", "Town/City", "State", and "Postcode". The "Card number" field is partially filled with a black box, showing "05 / 24" for the expiration date. The "Cardholder name" field is filled with "Jackie Johnson". The "Address line 1" field is filled with "123 Main St.". The "Address line 2" field is empty. The "Town/City" field is filled with "Anywhere". The "State" field is filled with "Arizona" and the "Postcode" field is filled with "85001". At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled "START MY FREE TRIAL".










Step 4: Open Dataflow

Complete the quick survey that pops up after you create your account and click **DONE**. Then click **SKIP FOR NOW** on the tutorials page.

Open the main menu and click **View all products**. This will take you to a page with a list of all Google Cloud products now available to you, including Dataflow and BigQuery (which you'll explore in later activities).



To access Dataflow, scroll to the **Analytics** category and select **Dataflow**.

Analytics Collect, store, process and analyse large amounts of data	Name	Description		
	 BigQuery	Data warehouse/analytics		
	 Pub/Sub	Global real-time messaging		
	 Dataflow	Streaming analytics service		

Step 5: Explore Dataflow

Open the [guide to Dataflow](#) reading that follows this course item. Follow the directions to navigate the tool and become familiar with its features and functionality.