

GCP Learning Series: Cloud Console and Cloud Shell



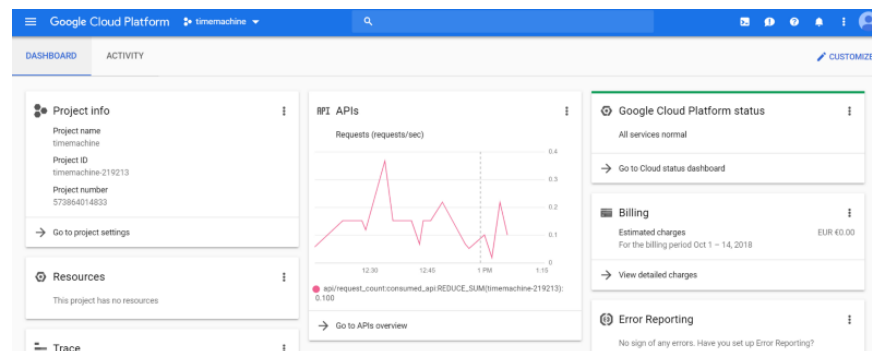
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Google cloud platform can be used in various ways through API, cloud shell and cloud console. Most common method of getting your hands dirty while learning the Google cloud platform is Cloud Console while someone with scripting or programming knowledge may wish to use through the shell.

Cloud console

Cloud Console is the visual way of working with the cloud. It has almost all the features that cloud SDK as a virtual machine gives to the admin. Console is the gateway to all the features of Google cloud and is very handy in a way it is organized visually.



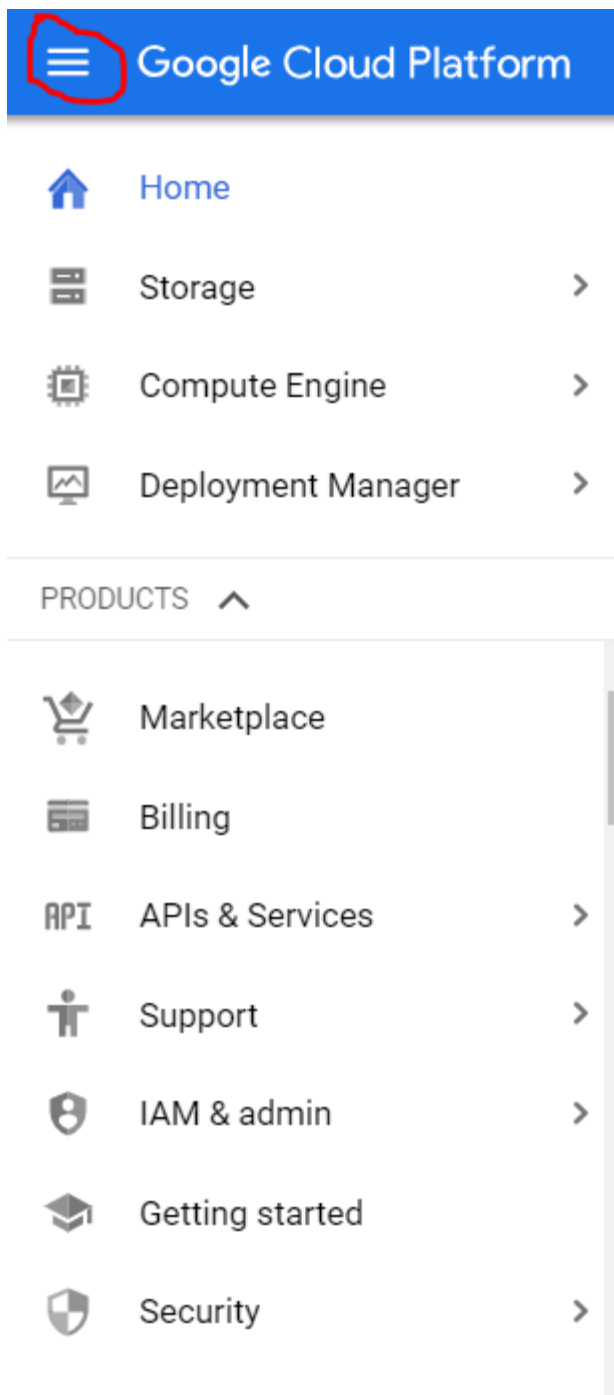
GCP Console

The top left portion of the console has a menu icon which when clicked will slide a list of menus from left. Even though the interface of GCP has been changing frequently the place for menu icon and personal profile, notifications, cloud shell has more or less remained in some spots.

When you click on the menu icon(three small lines), you will get a list of sub-menus. by default, you will have a home button and products. Home button will show the dashboard of your GCP project selected besides Top menu.



project selector

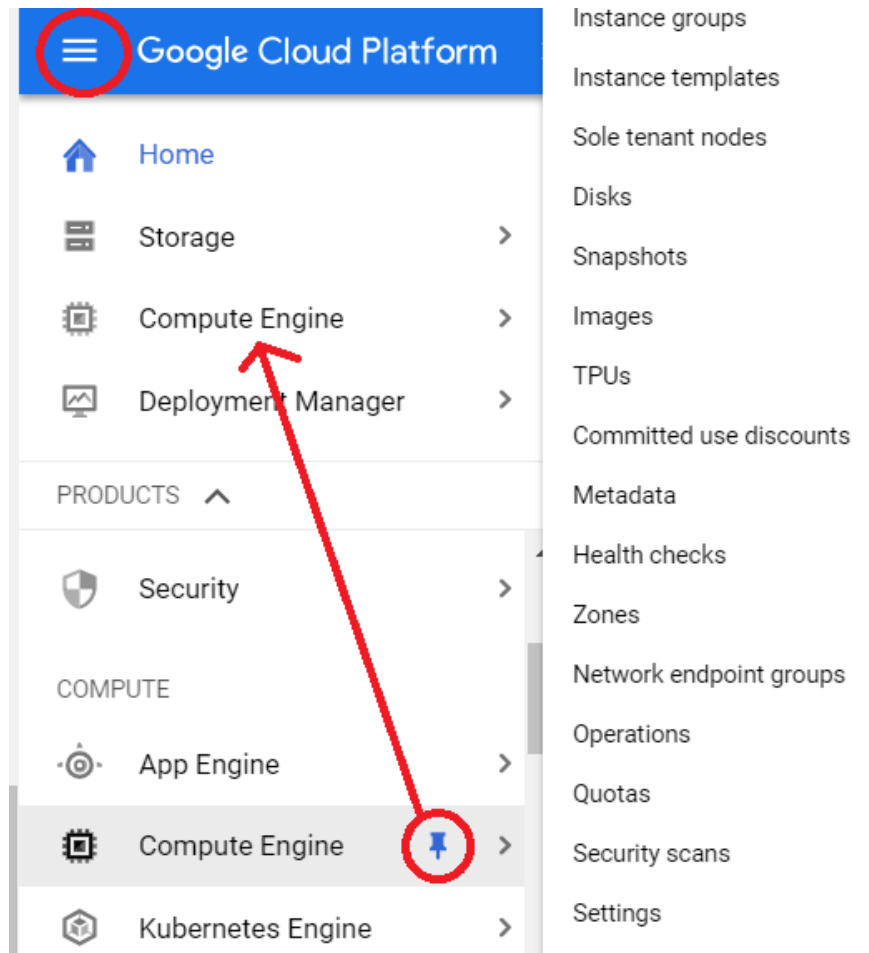


submenus

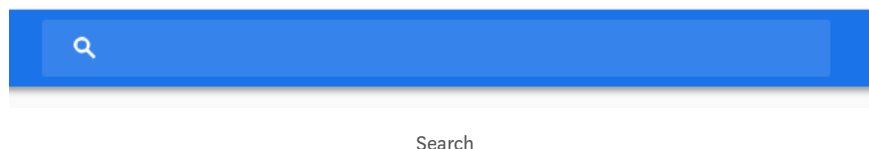
Sub-menu consists of all the features in GCP. This list is the most changing list on the whole console page. Some of the features are in

beta phase and some merged in another menu while some appear in the main list.

In the main list, there is an option to pin the menu below home so that you don't need to scroll down all the time.



Search option in the middle of the top menu bar gives easy access to the search function for the users. You can search for any project, deployment, marketplace etc from this place. If you are fast typer then this could be much easier than going through the main menu.



The top right items are profile, settings, notification, help, feedback and cloud console.



Top-right menu

All other buttons are general except notification and cloud shell.

Notification is like the log of the activities you perform in GCP. It will change its appearance when GCP is doing something.



creating a project notification

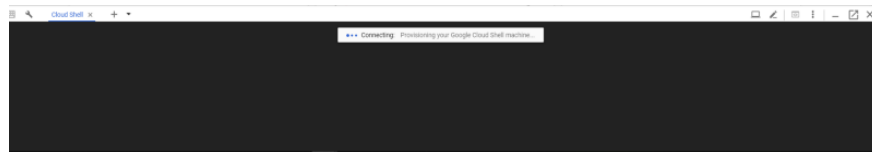
Cloud shell

It is another way of using GCP. The important thing to note while using the shell is that you must have prior experience working with the shell. Although shell has help and manuals for understanding its commands, it is time-consuming to go through all the options and to apply properly structured command if the same thing can be carried out from GUI easily.

You can access cloud shell from the top menu bar by clicking the command prompt like icon.



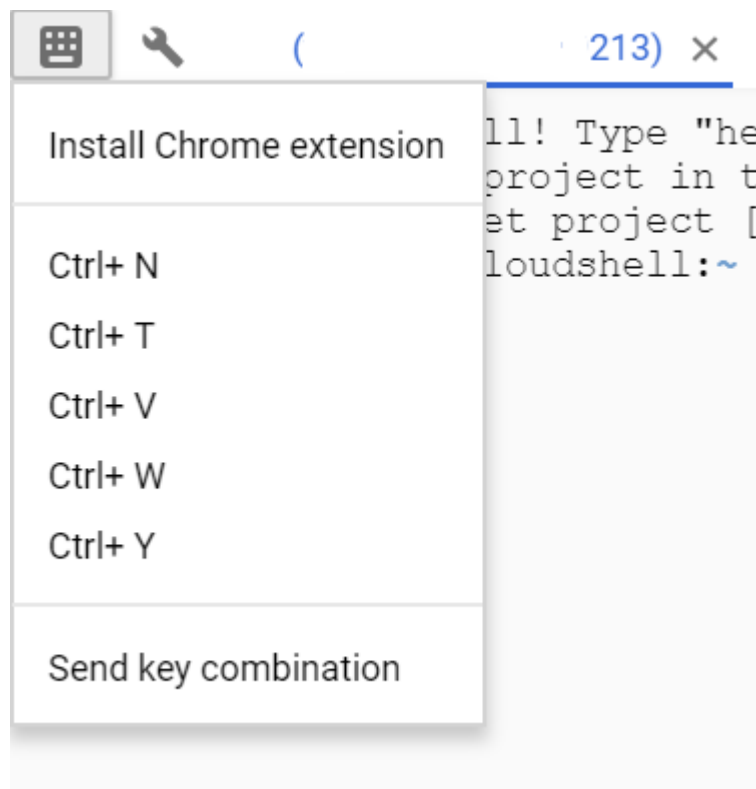
After clicking the icon a new virtual machine with cloud SDK will be initialized and loaded into the platform.



Cloud shell provides command line environment to access cloud resources directly from the browser. It is equivalent to downloading, installing and connecting to Google Cloud SDK in your computer.

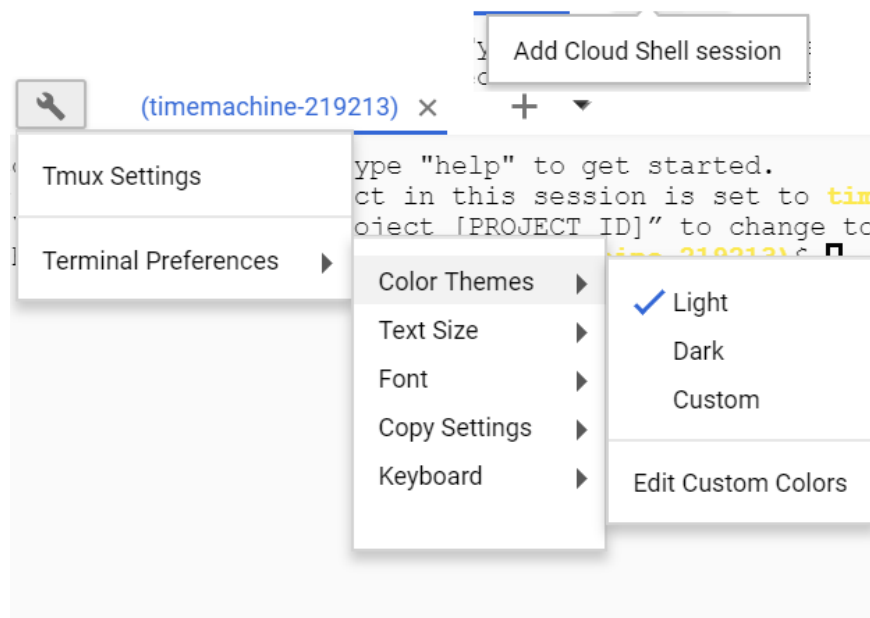
Cloud shell also has options at the top menu bar.

The first option will let you install chrome extension for sending the key combination



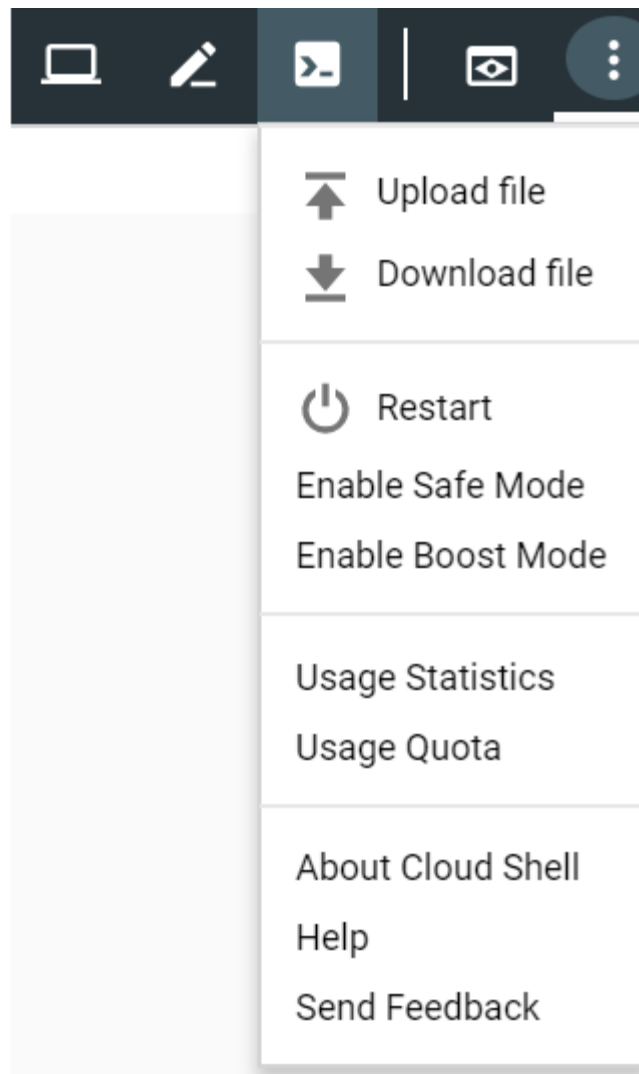
First option

The second icon will give an option for changing the appearance of the shell as well as copy and keyboard settings



The third option will let you add another session to the shell.

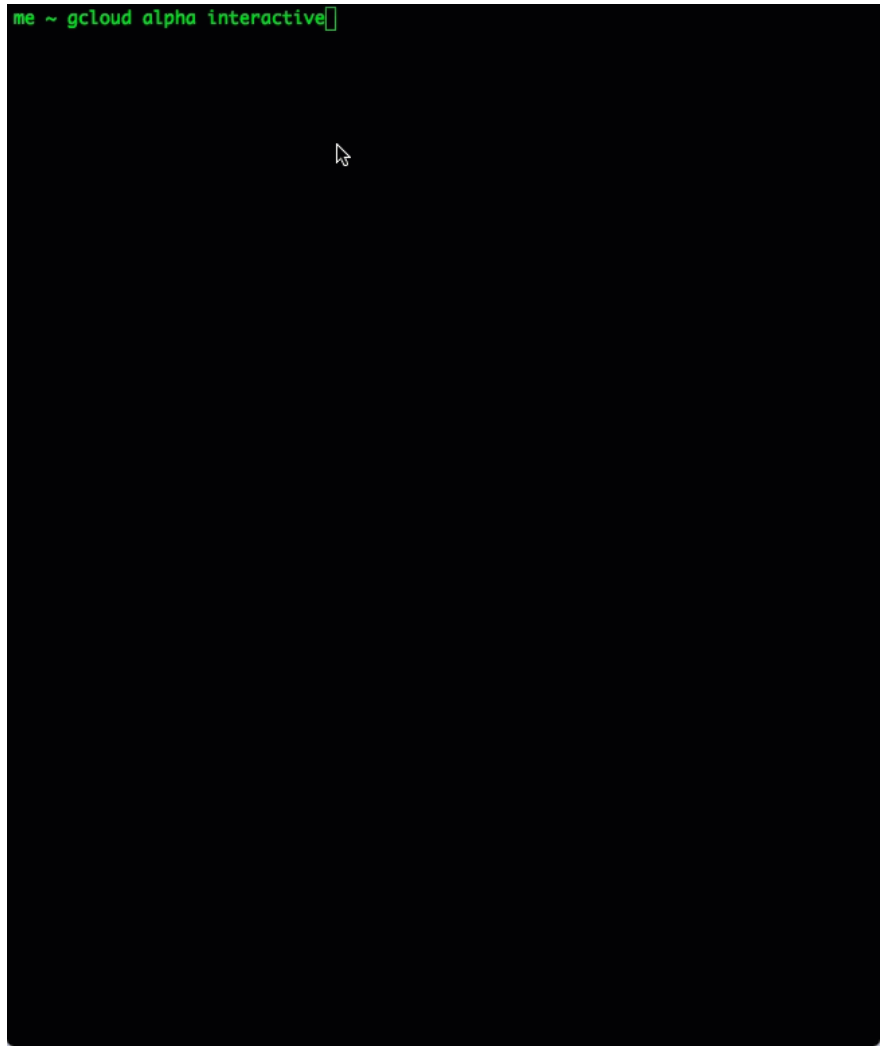
The last icon with three dots when pressed has several functions like uploading the files, restarting shell, checking statistics etc.



last option

If you want to use the interactive shell for your project then you can use it using the command

```
#gcloud beta interactive
```



```
me ~ gcloud alpha interactive
```

Things to be careful

Cloud Shell gives 5GB of persistent disk storage in your home directory.

You must load the project in the cloud shell to start using resources in it. We do it using the command

```
$ gcloud config set project Project_ID
```

if we apply commands for different project things may really go wrong.

If you use root privileges the project selection should be confirmed again.

Always check which project are you working on by seeing the project ID after `username@cloudshell~(PROJECT_ID)$`.

