

GCP Certification Series: 1.2, Managing billing configuration



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Managing and configuring billing accounts and associating projects with billing account is another important thing you should be careful while using GCP.

Most importantly you cannot even start to use google cloud platform even in free account or trial without giving billing information.

How you pay



Monthly automatic payments

You pay for this service on a regular monthly basis, via an automatic charge when your payment is due.

This service can only be used for business or commercial reasons. You are responsible for assessing and reporting VAT.

Payment method ⓘ



Card details



☒ Credit or debit card address is same as above

The personal information you provide here will be added to your payments profile. It will be stored securely and treated in accordance with the [Google Privacy Policy](#).

[START MY FREE TRIAL](#)

However, you can change the billing method in How you pay. The method of payment depends on the presence of the google in that country. For some country like the USA, there are several methods including bank transfer and invoice whereas for some just card payments are possible.

Google says: Available payment methods are determined by country and the type of payment selected in “How you pay”

Here it would be relevant to mention the free account features. The free account requires Gmail address and the user must have credit card info with them before setting up the free account. The free account has the following features.

Access to all Cloud Platform Products

Get everything you need to build and run your apps, websites and services, including Firebase and the Google Maps API.

\$300 credit for free

Sign up and get \$300 to spend on Google Cloud Platform over the next 12 months.

No autocharge after free trial ends

We ask you for your credit card to make sure you are not a robot. You won't be charged unless you manually upgrade to a paid account.

For GCP Certification in Associate level, you must know the following things

- Creating one or more billing accounts.
- Linking projects to a billing account.
- Establishing billing budgets and alerts.
- Setting up billing exports to estimate daily/monthly charges.

So, we check each point one by one.

Creating one or more billing accounts

By default when you start using GCP you will have one billing account as without it you cannot use GCP. You may also add another billing

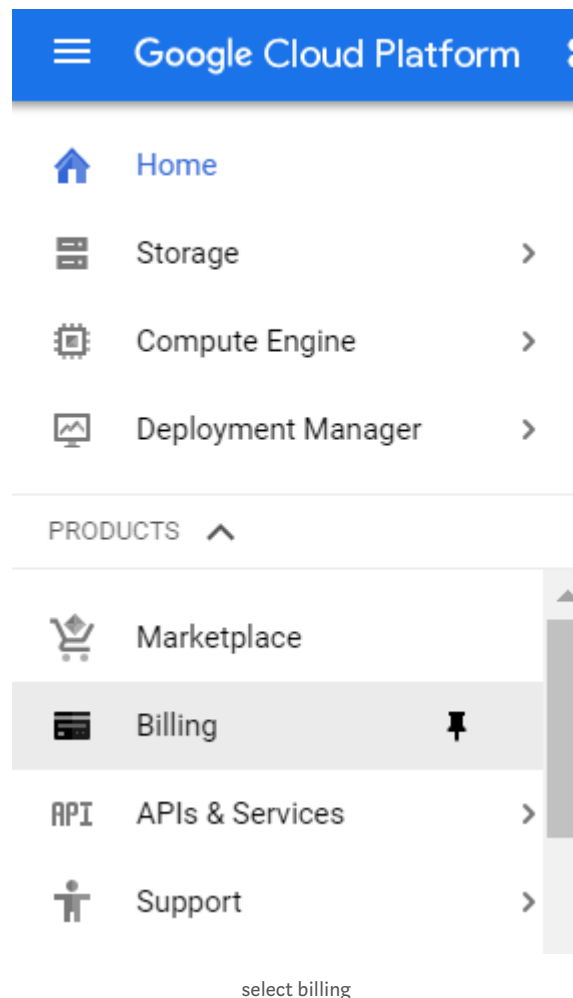
account if you want to manage it in a way that a certain instance is billed separately.

For example, if your company have three projects running simultaneously then having three billing account will give flexibility for identifying cost and managing account and expenses.

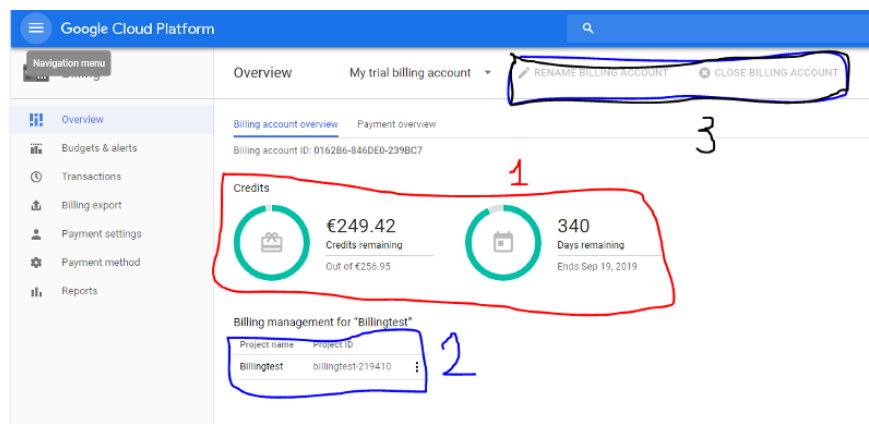
To create a billing account you must be a billing administrator. By default owner of the project has billing administrator rights.

To create another billing account

1. Open the console and click on the main menu and select billing from the sliding menu.



You will be presented with a Dashboard that consists of billing information



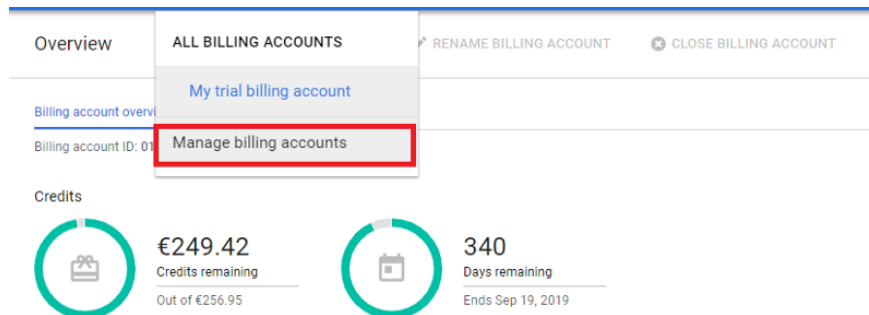
dashboard

If you are running in trial phase you will see amount and days remaining in your trial period as shown in 1

You must always be careful for which project the information is shown as in 2

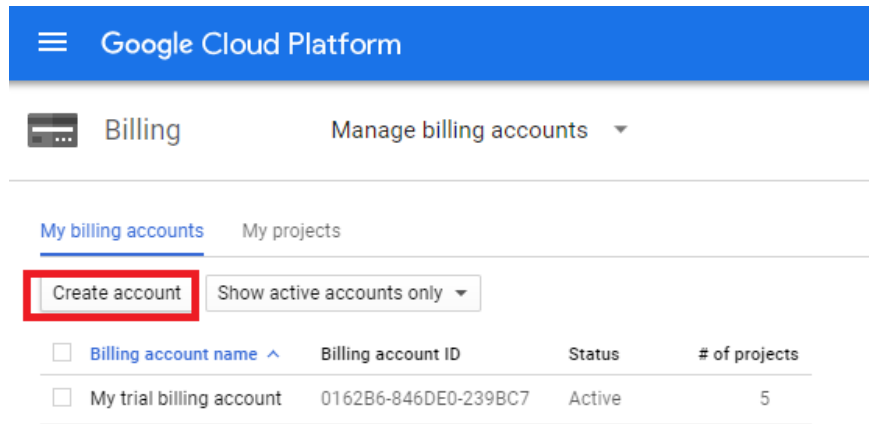
We can easily modify and delete billing account from options in 3

Now to add a new billing account click My billing account drop-down menu and click on manage billing accounts



manage billing accounts

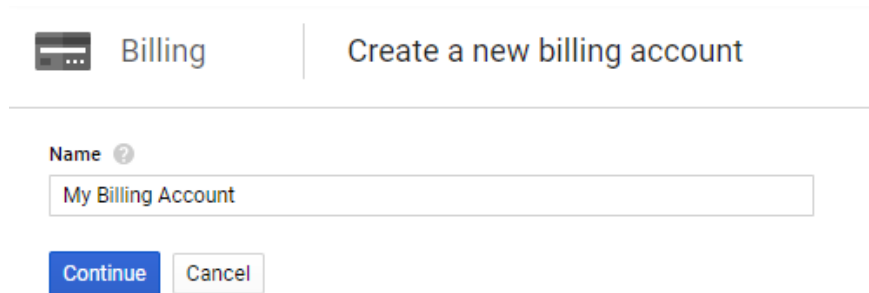
You will see the list of billing account in the page shown



The screenshot shows the Google Cloud Platform Billing interface. At the top, there's a blue header with the Google Cloud Platform logo. Below it, the 'Billing' section is active, with a 'Manage billing accounts' dropdown. Under 'My billing accounts', there's a 'Create account' button (highlighted with a red box) and a 'Show active accounts only' dropdown. Below this is a table with columns: Billing account name, Billing account ID, Status, and # of projects. The table contains one entry: 'My trial billing account' with ID '0162B6-846DE0-239BC7', Status 'Active', and 5 projects.


| Billing account name ^ | Billing account ID | Status | # of projects |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------|---------------|
| My trial billing account | 0162B6-846DE0-239BC7 | Active | 5 |

Click on “Create account” button then you will start creating a new billing account. The first step consists of giving the name to the billing account



The screenshot shows the 'Create a new billing account' form. It has a 'Name' field with a question mark icon, containing the text 'My Billing Account'. Below the field are two buttons: 'Continue' (blue) and 'Cancel' (white).


Then you will be asked to state your country and currency will be selected automatically


 Billing

Set up your billing profile

My Billing Account ▾

Now you need to set up a billing profile with all the information like account type, Tax information, Name and address, Primary Contact, How you pay and Payment method.

 Google Cloud Platform

 Billing

Set up your billing profile

My Billing Account ▾

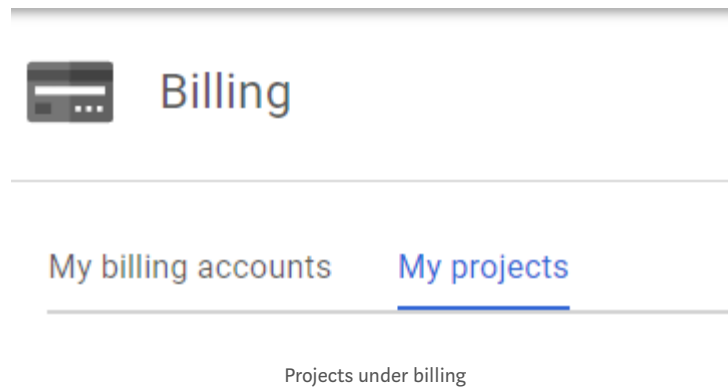
After filling all the information your billing account will be ready to be associated with project or instances.

Remember, creating new billing account only doesn't finish the setup you need to associate the project with it.

You need to verify your email address to receive billing related emails to your address.

You can modify the billing address by going to

You can see the projects under the billing account by going to My projects in billing dashboard



You cannot manage all aspects of billing until you have billing administrator rights.

As a user, you can associate projects with the billing account. To add a user as billing administrator goto IAM & Services and then select the account you want to authorize then select project billing administrator.

Edit permissions

Member

@gmail.com

Project

Billingtest

Role

Project Billing Manager

Can assign a project's billing account or disable its billing.



Role

Owner

Full access to all resources.



[+ ADD ANOTHER ROLE](#)

SAVE

CANCEL

Linking projects to a billing account

First goto Billing dashboard, then go to My projects.

Here you will see the list of projects in your account. click on three dots at the appropriate project and click on Change billing account. Now you can change the billing account if you have multiple billing accounts associated in your GCP.

| Google Cloud Platform | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Billing | | | | |
| My billing accounts My projects | | | | |
| Project name | Project ID | Billing account ^ | Billing account ID | Actions |
| | | My trial billing account | | <div>⋮</div> <div>Disable billing</div> <div>Change billing account</div> |
| | 410 | My trial billing account | | |
| | | My trial billing account | | |

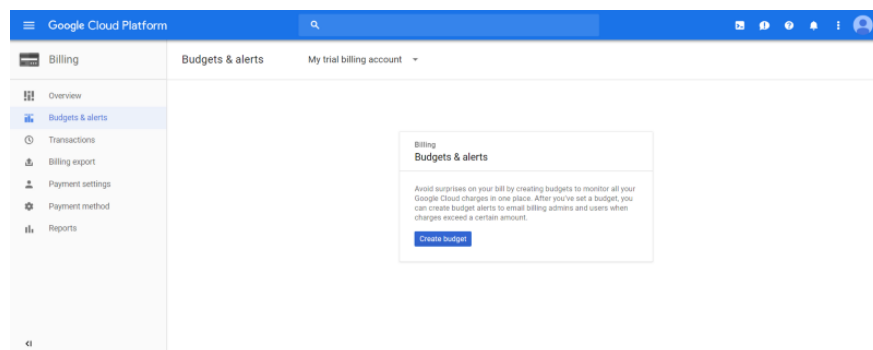
change billing account

Establishing billing budgets and alerts

To set up billing budget and alerts go to the main menu, then to Billing Dashboard

Click on Budget and alerts at the left side of the screen.

You will see the screen like below



budgets and alerts

Click on “Create budget”

Create budget

Budget name

Project or billing account
 Select a project or billing account for your budget to track

Budget amount
 Set a budget by entering a specified amount or by selecting last month's spend

☐ Cost after credit

Set budget alerts
 Send email alerts to billing admins and users after spend exceeds a percent of the budget or a specified amount. Alerts are based on estimated expenses, so actual expenses may be greater.

| Percent of budget | Amount | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <input type="text" value="50"/> | <input type="text" value="€"/> | × |
| <input type="text" value="90"/> | <input type="text" value="€"/> | × |
| <input type="text" value="100"/> | <input type="text" value="€"/> | × |

[+ Add item](#)

Manage notifications
 You can use Pub/Sub notifications to programmatically receive spend updates on this budget.
☐ Connect a Pub/Sub topic to this budget

Enter the name of the Budget, it can be anything which you can remember and relate easily.

Now select the Budget associated with the project. Then select the budget amount. Remember you have the option to select billing account and project but billing accounts are associated with the project so selecting billing account will be easier to manage.

Projects -> billing account -> Budget -> Alerts

Checking Cost after credit will disable alerts before your credit i.e free trial credit run out.

Now you can select on how much percentage of the budget spent you want a notification to appear.

You can also use pub/sub for the alert based on other preferences. select it if you have more idea on pub/sub, otherwise, leave as it is.

After clicking Save, you will see the budget and alert currently active in GCP.

| Budget name | Budget type | Applies to | Trigger alerts at | Spend and budget amount |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Test budget | Specified amount | This billing account | 50%, 90%, and 75% | €2.49 / €5.00 Includes €2.49 in credit usage |

Here I have set a budget of 5 euro and it is spent about 50%.

Setting up billing exports to estimate daily/monthly charges

Billing data can be a very important aspect in project management and for finance officers to determine the costs of various instances.

Billing can be exported from GCP in two ways.

1. File export
2. Big Query Export

File Export will store the automatically generated billing into the bucket in CSV or JSON format. It will use a service account to authenticate traffic for reading/write access.

Billing export My trial billing account ▼

BIGQUERY EXPORT **FILE EXPORT**

Enable billing export to automatically publish daily billing data in a CSV or JSON file. The file will be stored in a Cloud Storage bucket that you specify. To allow this, a Google-owned service account will automatically be granted write access to the bucket when you enable billing export. [Learn more](#)

Bucket name *
billingbucket12345

Report prefix *
billing

Format
CSV ▼

SAVE CANCEL

file export

For this to work you must have created bucket beforehand.

When you clicked SAVE, the billing process will automatically be saved in the bucket.

Another option is Big Query Export. Big Query export will send the billing data directly to Big Query dataset.

First, you need to select the project in which billing account and Big Query is enabled. Then go to big query and create an empty dataset, select the same dataset in Billing Export dataset. Finally, click Save.

After you finish configuring you will see Enabled icon in Billing Export

In this way, we finished 1.2 of Course related to Billing activities.

