

Instructions: Setting up a GCP Account

Account Creation

Here are step-by-step instructions for setting up an account on Google Cloud Platform (GCP) using free services and setting billing alerts:

1. Go to cloud.google.com and click on the "Try Free" button. This will take you to the account creation page.
2. Sign in with your Google account or create a new one if you don't have an existing Google account.
3. Provide the required information to complete the account creation. Make sure to provide accurate personal and payment information.
4. Once your account is created, you will be taken to the GCP console. Click on the Navigation menu at the top left and go to "Billing".
5. In the Billing page, find the section "Linked Billing Accounts" and click on "Add billing account".
6. Choose your country and currency and agree to the terms. Do not enter any credit card or payment information. This will create a free billing account.

Setting Up Billing Alerts & Monitoring

1. While still in the Billing page, go to the Budgets & Alerts section. Click on "Add budget" and create a budget of \$0 to ensure you don't spend any money.
2. Also in the Budgets & Alerts section, click on "Add alert" and set an alert for when your charges exceed \$0. This will email you if any paid services get used.
3. Now go to the Navigation menu and click on "APIs & Services". Enable any free tier services you want to use like Compute Engine, Kubernetes Engine, Cloud Storage etc.
4. Try creating free resources like small compute instances, cloud storage buckets etc to validate your free account is working. Make sure to delete resources when done to avoid charges.

That covers the basics of setting up a free GCP account with billing alerts. Let me know if you need any clarification or have additional questions!

Additional Tips

- Stay Updated with Documentation: Google regularly updates its products and services, so it's wise to consult the official GCP documentation regularly to stay up-to-date with the latest features and free tier services.
- Use Cost Management Tools: GCP provides cost management tools like Cost Explorer, which you can use to analyze your costs and usage over time. This can help you avoid unexpected charges.