Review: Set up your BigQuery account

Note: This reading is also in Courses 3 and 4 of this program. If you're taking the courses in order, you may either review it or move on to the next new course item, Upload the movie dataset to BigQuery ↗. If you haven't taken Courses 3 or 4 you should complete this reading before proceeding to the next course item.

As you've been learning, BigQuery is a database you can use to access, explore, and analyze data from many sources. Now, you'll begin using BigQuery, which will help you gain SQL knowledge by typing out commands and troubleshooting errors. This reading will guide you through the process of setting up your very own BigQuery account.

Note: Working with BigQuery is not a requirement of this program. Additional resources for other SQL database platforms are also provided at the end of this reading if you choose to use them instead.

BigQuery account options

BigQuery offers a variety of account tiers to cater to various user needs and has two free-of-charge entry points, a sandbox account and a free-of-charge trial account. These options allow you to explore the program before selecting the best choice to suit your needs. A sandbox account allows you to practice writing queries and to explore public datasets free of charge, but it has quotas and limits ↗, as well as some additional restrictions ↗. If you prefer to use BigQuery with the standard limits, you can set up a free-of-charge trial account instead. The free-of-charge trial is a trial period prior to paying for a subscription. In this instance, there is no automatic charge, but you will be asked for payment information when you create the account.

This reading provides instructions for setting up either account type. An effective first step is to begin with a sandbox account and switch to a free-of-charge trial account when needed to run the SQL presented upcoming courses.

Sandbox account

The sandbox account is available at no cost, and anyone with a Google account can use it. However, it does have some limitations. For instance, you are limited to a maximum of 12 projects at a time. This means that, to create a 13th project, you'll need to delete one of your existing 12 projects. Additionally, the sandbox account doesn't support all operations you'll do in this program. For example, there are limits on the amount of data you can process and you can't insert new records into a database or update the values of existing records. However, a sandbox account is perfect for