# Full Guide: Running the Real-Time Insider Trading Scraper on a Google Cloud VM

This guide contains every step required to set up a new Google Cloud VM, configure the Python environment, and run the Insider\_Tracker\_Poller.py script continuously.

### **Part 1: One-Time Server Setup**

You only need to perform these steps once for your VM.

#### **Step 1: Connect to Your VM**

1. Navigate to the [Google Cloud Console VM Instances page](https://console.cloud.google.com/compute/instances).
2. Find your VM instance in the list (e.g., sec-poller).
3. Click the **SSH** button to open a terminal in your browser.

#### **Step 2: Install Required System Packages**

Run the following commands in the SSH terminal to update the system and install the necessary Python tools.

sudo apt update  
sudo apt install python3.11-venv -y

#### **Step 3: Create a Python Virtual Environment**

This creates an isolated space for your script's dependencies.

1. **Create the environment folder:**  
   python3 -m venv scraper\_env
2. **Activate the environment:**  
   source scraper\_env/bin/activate  
     
   Your terminal prompt will now start with (scraper\_env).
3. **Install Python Libraries:**  
   pip install requests yfinance

### **Part 2: Uploading and Running the Script**

Follow these steps each time you want to update or start the script.

#### **Step 4: Create or Update the Script File**

1. **Open the file with the nano editor.** This will create the file if it doesn't exist or open it if it does.  
   nano Insider\_Tracker\_Poller.py
2. **Delete Old Content (if updating):** If the file has old code, press and hold Ctrl+K to delete every line until the file is blank.
3. **Paste the Latest Code:** Copy the full Python script from the canvas and paste it into the nano editor (right-click > Paste).
4. **Save and Exit:**
   * Press **Ctrl+X**.
   * Press **Y** to confirm saving.
   * Press **Enter** to confirm the filename.

#### **Step 5: Run the Script Continuously Using screen**

The screen utility allows the script to keep running after you close the SSH window.

1. **Start a new screen session:**  
   screen  
     
   *(If you get a message, press Enter to continue).*
2. **Activate the Virtual Environment (inside screen):**  
   source scraper\_env/bin/activate
3. **Run the script:**  
   python3 Insider\_Tracker\_Poller.py  
     
   You should see the output Starting real-time SEC Form 4 Poller... followed by other log messages.
4. **Detach from the Session:** To let the script run in the background, press the key combination **Ctrl+A**, release the keys, and then press **D**.

Your script is now running 24/7. You can safely close the SSH window.

### **Part 3: Managing the Running Script**

#### **How to Check on the Script's Output**

1. Connect to your VM via **SSH**.
2. Re-attach to the running screen session:  
   screen -r
3. You will see the live output of your script. When you are finished, detach again using **Ctrl+A** then **D**.

#### **How to Stop the Script**

1. Re-attach to the session using screen -r.
2. Press **Ctrl+C** to stop the Python script.
3. Type exit and press Enter to close the screen session.