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How to solve Error creating Service: googleapi: Error 403: Permission 'iam.serviceaccounts.actAs' denied on service account

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Asked 1 year, 5 months ago Modified 9 months ago Viewed 5k times ★ Part of [Google Cloud](#) Collective

I've been trying to create a public cloud run invoker policy and bind that to my cb_app cloud run service so that it can be exposed. I've created a custom service and assigned it cloud admin role. But getting this error

Error: Error creating Service: googleapi: Error 403: Permission 'iam.serviceaccounts.actAs' denied on service account app-worker@samuel-django-project.iam.gserviceaccount.com (or it may not exist).

Here are the configs

```
resource "google_cloud_run_service_iam_member" "domain" {
  service = google_cloud_run_service.cb_app.name
  location = google_cloud_run_service.cb_app.location
  role = "roles/run.admin"
  member = "serviceAccount:${var.service_account}"
}
#create service account to run service
resource "google_service_account" "cb_app" {
  account_id = "app-worker"
  display_name = "app worker"
}
```

And in app service, I have this

```
spec {
  # Use Locked down Service Account
  service_account_name = google_service_account.cb_app.email
}
```

Any ideas on how to solve this?

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asked Jul 29, 2021 at 16:38

Shammir
825 ● 3 ● 16 ● 30

What is the content of `$(var.service_account)?` – [Caiot](#) Jul 29, 2021 at 17:31

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3 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)

When you create a resource such as Cloud Run, you have the option to attach a service account to the resource.

2

The following error means that the identity (user or service account) that Terraform is using does not have permission to attach the service account to the resource.

Error: Error creating Service: googleapi: Error 403: Permission 'iam.serviceaccounts.actAs' denied on service account app-worker@samuel-django-project.iam.gserviceaccount.com (or it may not exist).

The solution is to add the role **roles/iam.serviceAccountUser** to the identity that Terraform is running under. You do not specify the identity in your question. The identity could be a user account or a service account. Go to the Google Cloud Console -> IAM. Find the identity and add the role.

You can also use the CLI **gcloud**. The exact command arguments depend on the identity type.

For a user account:

```
gcloud projects add-iam-policy-binding PROJECT_ID \
  --member='user:someone@gmail.com' \
  --role='roles/iam.serviceAccountUser'
```

For a service account:

```
gcloud projects add-iam-policy-binding PROJECT_ID \
  --member='serviceAccount:myserviceaccount@PROJECT_ID.iam.gserviceaccount.com' \
  --role='roles/iam.serviceAccountUser'
```

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answered Jul 30, 2021 at 6:41

[John Hanley](#)
69.5k ● 6 ● 75 ● 137

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▲ Possible solution to this issue if you're encountering it while **applying Terraform in Google Cloud Shell**.

0

▼ I also encountered a very similar error:

Error: googleapi: **Error 403:** Missing necessary permission enter code hereiam.serviceA on the service account mr-service-account-sa@mr-project.iam.gserviceaccount.com. Grant the role 'roles/iam.serviceAccountUser' to \$MEMBER on the service account mr-service-account-sa@mr-project.iam.gserviceaccount.com. You can do that by running 'gcloud iam service-accounts add-iam-policy-binding mr-service-account-sa@mr-project.iam.gserviceaccount.com --mem --role=roles/iam.serviceAccountUser'. In case the member is a service account please use the prefix 'serviceAccount:' inste

I think this error message is deceptive/misleading.

My solution:

- **was not** to give the "Service Account User" role to mr-service-account-sa@mr-project.iam.gserviceaccount.com
- **was not** to give the "Service Account User" role to the Terraform deployment service account.
- **was** to give the "Service Account User" role to my own personal GCP account.

It seems like Cloud Shell uses a mixture of authorisation accounts when applying Terraform. In some cases it uses the service account defined in the provider and at other times it uses your own GCP OAuth account.

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edited Nov 19, 2021 at 10:18

answered Nov 19, 2021 at 10:06

[FreeZey](#)
2,223 ● 3 ● 11 ● 22

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▲ I ran this code:

0

```
gcloud config set auth/impersonate_service_account [SA_FULL_EMAIL]
```

▼

and it worked for me.

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edited Apr 15, 2022 at 20:02

answered Apr 14, 2022 at 11:12

[Ethan](#)
852 ● 7 ● 18 ● 31

[Nawfal Osman](#)
1 ● 1

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