

In this module, I'll give you an overview of the resource monitoring options in Google Cloud.

The features covered in this module rely on Google Cloud's operations suite, a service that provides monitoring, logging, and diagnostics for your applications.



In this module we are going to explore the Cloud Monitoring, Cloud Logging, Error Reporting, Cloud Trace, Cloud Debugger, and Cloud Profiler services. You will have the opportunity to apply these services in the two labs of this module.

Let me start by giving you a high-level overview of Google Cloud's operations suite and its features.



Google Cloud's Operations Suite

Google Cloud



Google Cloud's operations suite

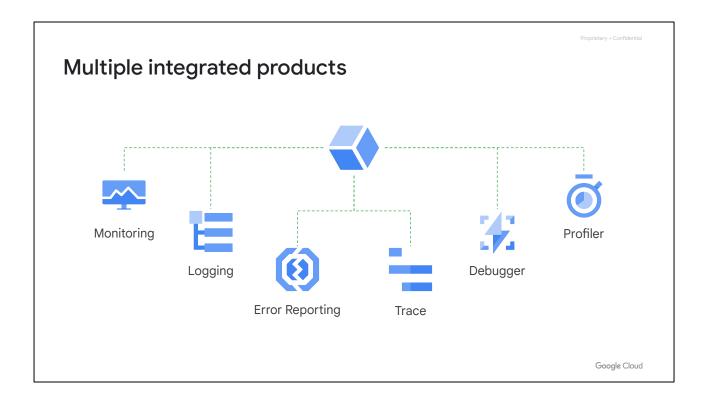
Google Cloud's operations suite overview

- Integrated monitoring, logging, diagnostics
- Manages across platforms
 - o Google Cloud and AWS
 - o Dynamic discovery of Google Cloud with smart defaults
 - o Open-source agents and integrations
- Access to powerful data and analytics tools
- Collaboration with third-party software

Google Cloud

Google Cloud's operations suite dynamically discovers cloud resources and application services based on deep integration with Google Cloud and Amazon Web Services. Because of its smart defaults, you can have core visibility into your cloud platform in minutes.

This provides you with access to powerful data and analytics tools plus collaboration with many different third-party software providers.



As we mentioned earlier, Google Cloud's operations suite has services for monitoring, logging, error reporting, fault tracing, debugging, and profiling. You only pay for what you use, and there are free usage allotments so that you can get started with no upfront fees or commitments. For more information about pricing, please refer to the documentation.

Now, in most other environments, these services are handled by completely different packages, or by a loosely integrated collection of software. When you see these functions working together in a single, comprehensive, and integrated service, you'll realize how important that is to creating reliable, stable, and maintainable applications.

Partner integrations













splunk>enterprise





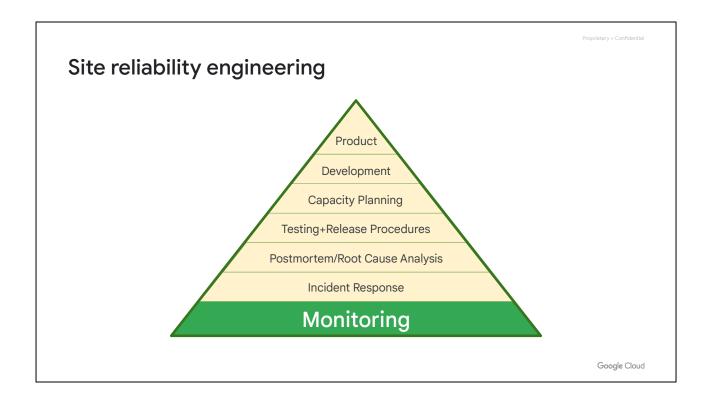


Google Cloud

Google Cloud's operations suite also supports a rich and growing ecosystem of technology partners, as shown on this slide. This helps expand the IT ops, security, and compliance capabilities available to Google Cloud customers. For more information about integrations, please refer to the <u>documentation</u>.



Now that you understand Google Cloud's operations suite from a high-level perspective, let's look at Cloud Monitoring.



Monitoring is important to Google because it is at the base of site reliability engineering, or SRE.

SRE is a discipline that applies aspects of software engineering to operations whose goals are to create ultra-scalable and highly reliable software systems. This discipline has enabled Google to build, deploy, monitor, and maintain some of the largest software systems in the world.

If you want to learn more about SRE, we recommend exploring the <u>free book written</u> by members of Google's SRE team,

Monitoring



Monitoring

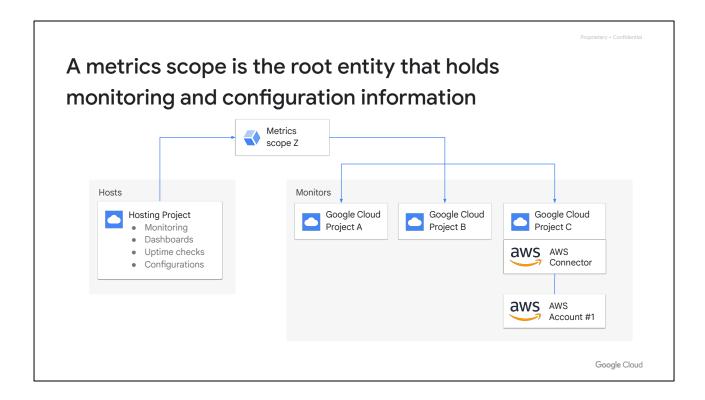
- Dynamic config and intelligent defaults
- Platform, system, and application metrics
 - o Ingests data: Metrics, events, metadata
 - o Generates insights through dashboards, charts, alerts
- Uptime/health checks
- Dashboards
- Alerts

Google Cloud

Cloud Monitoring dynamically configures monitoring after resources are deployed and has intelligent defaults that allow you to easily create charts for basic monitoring activities.

This allows you to monitor your platform, system, and application metrics by ingesting data, such as metrics, events, and metadata. You can then generate insights from this data through dashboards, charts, and alerts.

For example, you can configure and measure uptime and health checks that send alerts via email.



A metrics scope is the root entity that holds monitoring and configuration information in Cloud Monitoring. Each metrics scope can have between 1 and 100 monitored projects. You can have as many metrics scopes as you want, but Google Cloud projects and AWS accounts can't be monitored by more than one metrics scope.

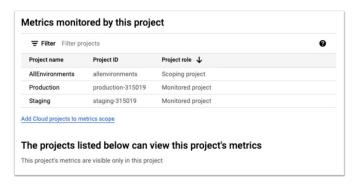
A metrics scope contains the custom dashboards, alerting policies, uptime checks, notification channels, and group definitions that you use with your monitored projects. A metrics scope can access metric data from its monitored projects, but the metrics data and log entries remain in the individual projects.

The first monitored Google Cloud project in a metrics scope is called the hosting project, and it must be specified when you create the metrics scope. The name of that project becomes the name of your metrics scope. To access an AWS account, you must configure a project in Google Cloud to hold the AWS Connector.

https://cloud.google.com/monitoring/settings#concept-scope

A metrics scope is a "single pane of glass"

- Determine your monitoring needs up front.
- Consider using separate metrics scopes for data and control isolation.

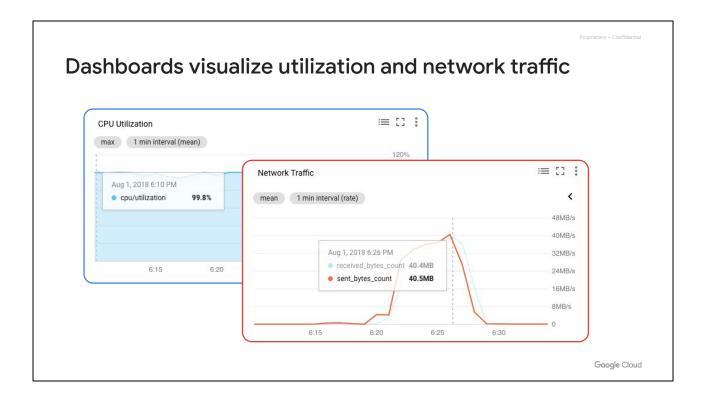


Google Cloud

Because metrics scopes can monitor all your Google Cloud projects in a single place, a metrics scope is a "single pane of glass" through which you can view resources from multiple Google Cloud projects and AWS accounts. All users of Google Cloud's operations suite with access to that metrics scope have access to all data by default.

This means that a role assigned to one person on one project applies equally to all projects monitored by that metrics scope.

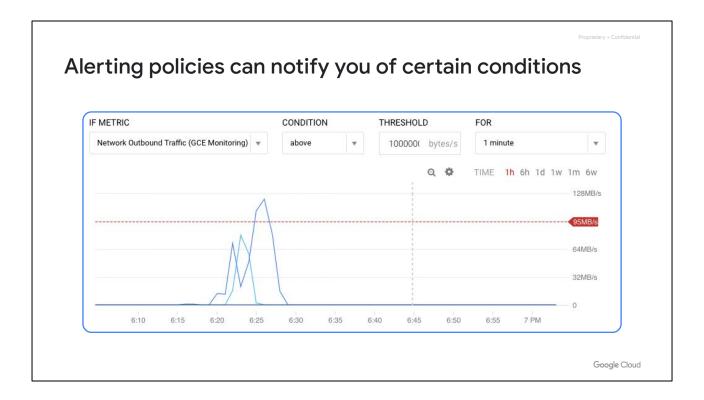
In order to give people different roles per-project and to control visibility to data, consider placing the monitoring of those projects in separate metrics scopes.



Cloud Monitoring allows you to create custom dashboards that contain charts of the metrics that you want to monitor. For example, you can create charts that display your instances' CPU utilization, the packets or bytes sent and received by those instances, and the packets or bytes dropped by the firewall of those instances.

In other words, charts provide visibility into the utilization and network traffic of your VM instances, as shown on this slide. These charts can be customized with filters to remove noise, groups to reduce the number of time series, and aggregates to group multiple time series together.

For a full list of supported metrics, please refer to the <u>documentation</u>.

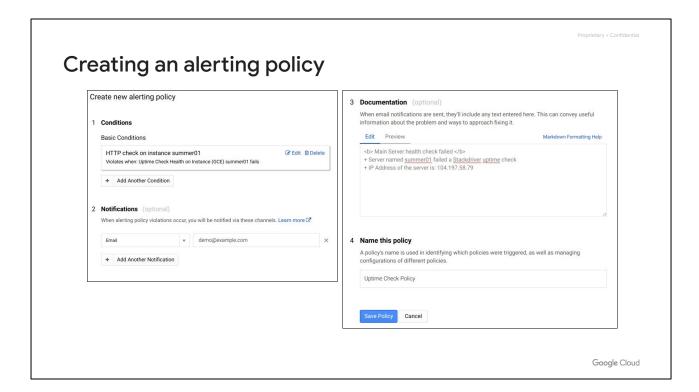


Now, although charts are extremely useful, they can only provide insight while someone is looking at them. But what if your server goes down in the middle of the night or over the weekend? Do you expect someone to always look at dashboards to determine whether your servers are available or have enough capacity or bandwidth?

If not, you want to create alerting policies that notify you when specific conditions are met.

For example, as shown on this slide, you can create an alerting policy when the network egress of your VM instance goes above a certain threshold for a specific timeframe. When this condition is met, you or someone else can be automatically notified through email, SMS, or other channels in order to troubleshoot this issue.

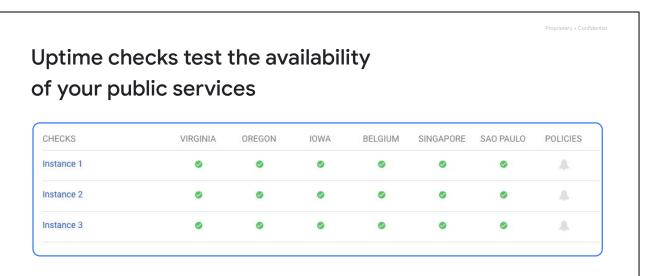
You can also create an alerting policy that monitors your usage of Google Cloud's operations suite and alerts you when you approach the threshold for billing. For more information about this, please refer to the <u>documentation</u>.



Here is an example of what creating an alerting policy looks like. On the left, you can see an HTTP check condition on the summer01 instance. This will send an email that is customized with the content of the documentation section on the right.

Let's discuss some best practices when creating alerts:

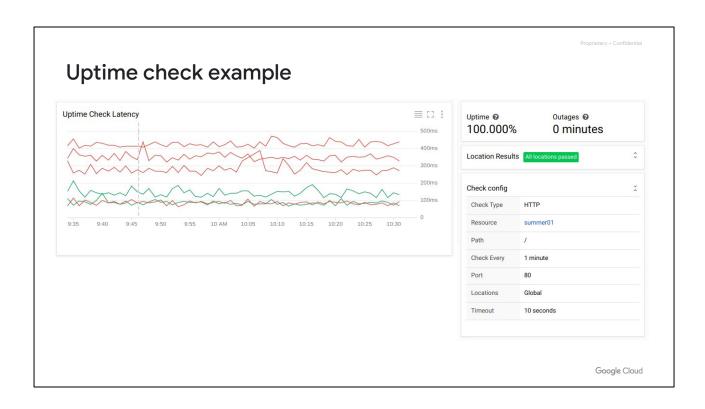
- We recommend alerting on symptoms, and not necessarily causes. For example, you want to monitor failing queries of a database and then identify whether the database is down.
- Next, make sure that you are using multiple notification channels, like email and SMS. This helps avoid a single point of failure in your alerting strategy.
- We also recommend customizing your alerts to the audience's need by describing what actions need to be taken or what resources need to be examined.
- Finally, avoid noise, because this will cause alerts to be dismissed over time.
 Specifically, adjust monitoring alerts so that they are actionable and don't just set up alerts on everything possible.



Uptime checks can be configured to test the availability of your public services from locations around the world, as you can see on this slide. The type of uptime check can be set to HTTP, HTTPS, or TCP. The resource to be checked can be an App Engine application, a Compute Engine instance, a URL of a host, or an AWS instance or load balancer.

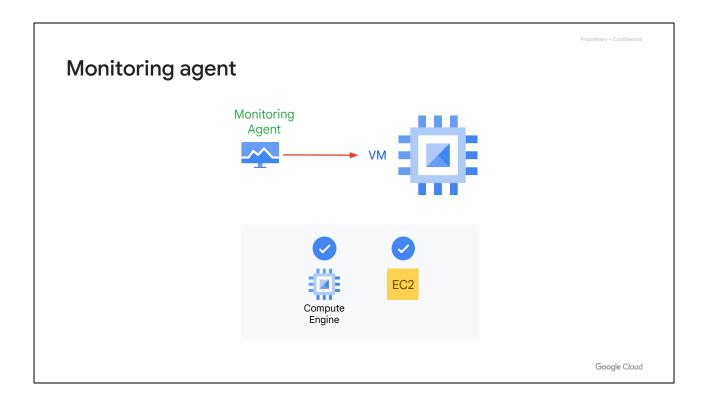
Google Cloud

For each uptime check, you can create an alerting policy and view the latency of each global location.



Here is an example of an HTTP uptime check. The resource is checked every minute with a 10-second timeout. Uptime checks that do not get a response within this timeout period are considered failures.

So far there is a 100% uptime with no outages.



Cloud Monitoring can access some metrics without the Monitoring agent, including CPU utilization, some disk traffic metrics, network traffic, and uptime information. However, to access additional system resources and application services, you should install the Monitoring agent.

The Monitoring agent is supported for Compute Engine and EC2 instances.

Installing Monitoring agent

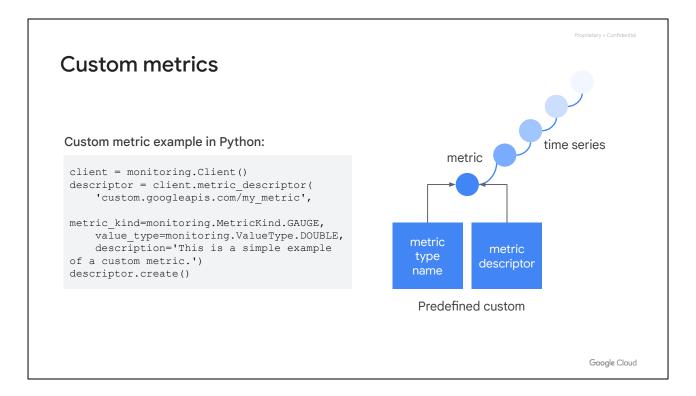
Install Monitoring agent (example)

curl -sSO https://dl.google.com/cloudagents/add-monitoring-agent-repo.sh
sudo bash add-monitoring-agent-repo.sh

Google Cloud

The Monitoring agent can be installed with these two simple commands, which you could include in your startup script.

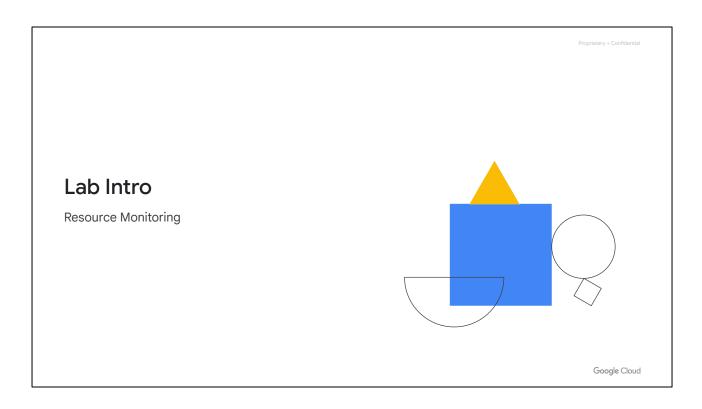
This assumes that you have a VM instance running Linux that is being monitored by a Workspace, and that your instance has the proper credentials for the agent. For up-to-date commands, refer to the <u>documentation</u>.



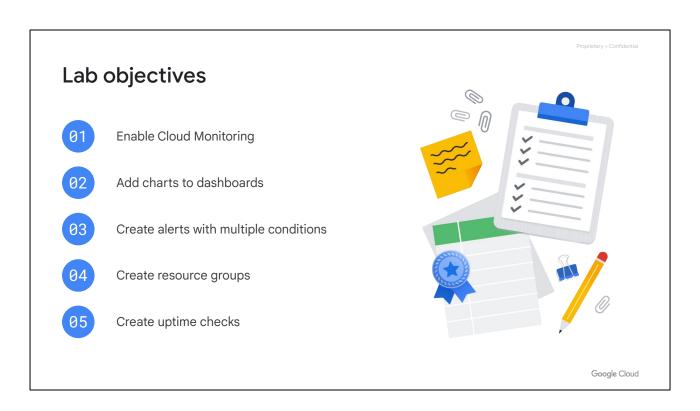
If the standard metrics provided by Cloud Monitoring do not fit your needs, you can create custom metrics.

For example, imagine a game server that has a capacity of 50 users. What metric indicator might you use to trigger scaling events? From an infrastructure perspective, you might consider using CPU load or perhaps network traffic load as values that are somewhat correlated with the number of users. But with a Custom Metric, you could actually pass the current number of users directly from your application into Cloud Monitoring.

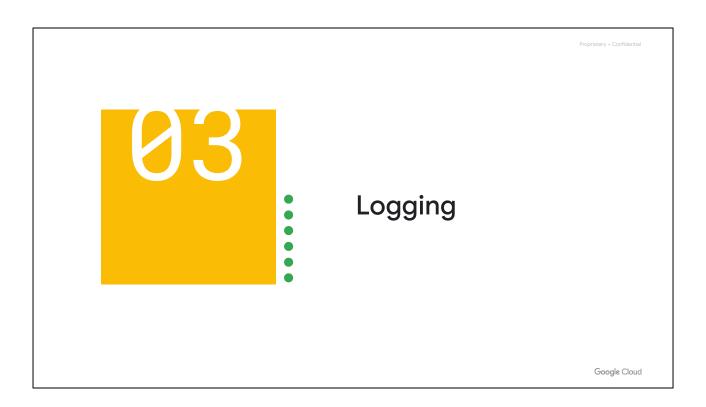
To get started with creating custom metrics, please refer to the <u>documentation</u>.



Let's take some of the monitoring concepts that we just discussed and apply them in a lab.



In this lab, you learn how to use Cloud Monitoring to gain insight into applications that run on Google Cloud. Specifically, you will enable Cloud Monitoring, add charts to dashboards and create alerts, resource groups, and uptime checks.



Monitoring is the basis of Google Cloud's operations suite, but the service also provides logging, error reporting, tracing, and debugging. Let's learn about logging.

Logging



Logging

- Platform, systems, and application logs
 - API to write to logs
 - 30-day retention
- Log search/view/filter
- Log-based metrics
- Monitoring alerts can be set on log events
- Data can be exported to Cloud Storage, BigQuery, and Pub/Sub

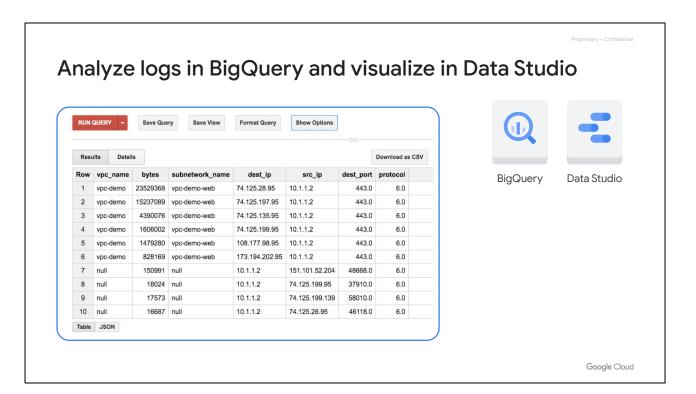
Google Cloud

Cloud Logging allows you to store, search, analyze, monitor, and alert on log data and events from Google Cloud and AWS. It is a fully managed service that performs at scale and can ingest application and system log data from thousands of VMs.

Logging includes storage for logs, a user interface called the Logs Viewer, and an API to manage logs programmatically. The service lets you read and write log entries, search and filter your logs, and create log-based metrics.

Logs are only retained for 30 days, but you can export your logs to Cloud Storage buckets, BigQuery datasets, and Pub/Sub topics.

Exporting logs to Cloud Storage makes sense for storing logs for more than 30 days, but why should you export to BigQuery or Pub/Sub?



Exporting logs to BigQuery allows you to analyze logs and even visualize them in Data Studio.

BigQuery runs extremely fast SQL queries on gigabytes to petabytes of data. This allows you to analyze logs, such as your network traffic, so that you can better understand traffic growth to forecast capacity, network usage to optimize network traffic expenses, or network forensics to analyze incidents.

For example, in this screenshot we queried my logs to identify the top IP addresses that have exchanged traffic with my web server. Depending on where these IP addresses are and who they belong to, we could relocate part of my infrastructure to save on networking costs or deny some of these IP addresses if we don't want them to access my web server.

If you want to visualize your logs, we recommend connecting your BigQuery tables to Data Studio. Data Studio transforms your raw data into the metrics and dimensions that you can use to create easy-to-understand reports and dashboards.

We mentioned that you can also export logs to Pub/Sub. This enables you to stream logs to applications or endpoints.

Installing Logging agent

Install Logging agent

curl -sSO https://dl.google.com/cloudagents/install-logging-agent.sh
sudo bash install-logging-agent.sh

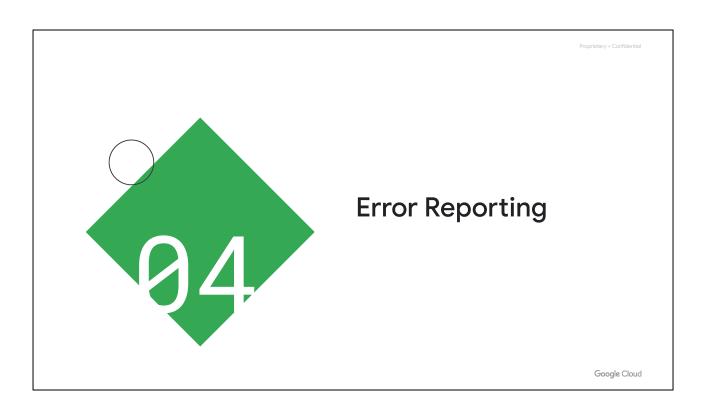




Google Cloud

Similar to the Cloud Monitoring agent, it's a best practice to install the Logging agent on all your VM instances. The Logging agent can be installed with these two simple commands, which you could include in your startup script.

This agent is supported for Compute Engine and EC2 instances.



Let's learn about another feature of Google Cloud's operations suite: Error Reporting.

Error Reporting



Error Reporting

Aggregate and display errors for running cloud services

- Error notifications
- Error dashboard
- App Engine, Apps Script, Compute Engine, Cloud Functions, Cloud Run, GKE, Amazon EC2
- Go, Java, .NET, Node.js, PHP, Python, and Ruby

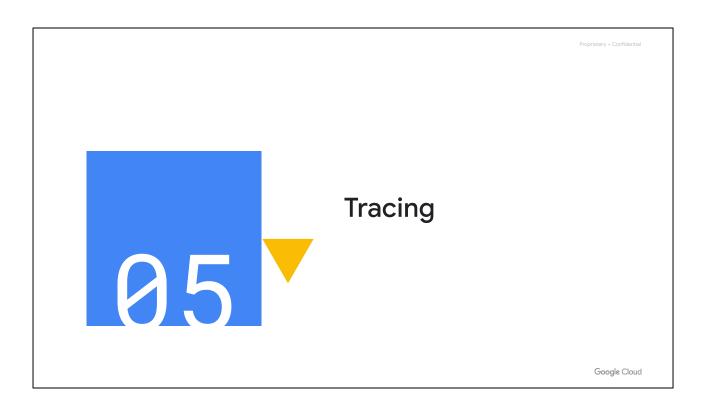
Google Cloud

Error Reporting counts, analyzes, and aggregates the errors in your running cloud services. A centralized error management interface displays the results with sorting and filtering capabilities, and you can even set up real-time notifications when new errors are detected.

Currently, Error Reporting is generally available for App Engine on both standard and flexible environments, Apps Script, Compute Engine, Cloud Functions, Cloud Run, Google Kubernetes Engine, and Amazon EC2.

In terms of programming languages, the exception stack trace parser is able to process Go, Java, .NET, Node.js, PHP, Python, and Ruby.

By the way, I'm mentioning App Engine because you will explore Error Reporting in an app deployed to App Engine in the upcoming lab.



Tracing is another Cloud Operations feature integrated into Google Cloud.

Tracing

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Trace

Tracing system

- Displays data in near real-time
- Latency reporting
- Per-URL latency sampling

Collects latency data

- App Engine
- Google HTTP(S) load balancers
- Applications instrumented with the Cloud Trace SDKs

Google Cloud

Cloud Trace is a distributed tracing system that collects latency data from your applications and displays it in the Google Cloud console. You can track how requests propagate through your application and receive detailed near real-time performance insights.

Cloud Trace automatically analyzes all of your application's traces to generate in-depth latency reports that surface performance degradations and can capture traces from App Engine, HTTP(S) load balancers, and applications instrumented with the Cloud Trace API.

Managing the amount of time it takes for your application to handle incoming requests and perform operations is an important part of managing overall application performance. Cloud Trace is actually based on the tools used at Google to keep our services running at extreme scale.



Now let's cover the next feature of Google Cloud's operation suite, which is the debugger.

Debugging



• Inspect an application without stopping it or slowing it down significantly.

Debugger

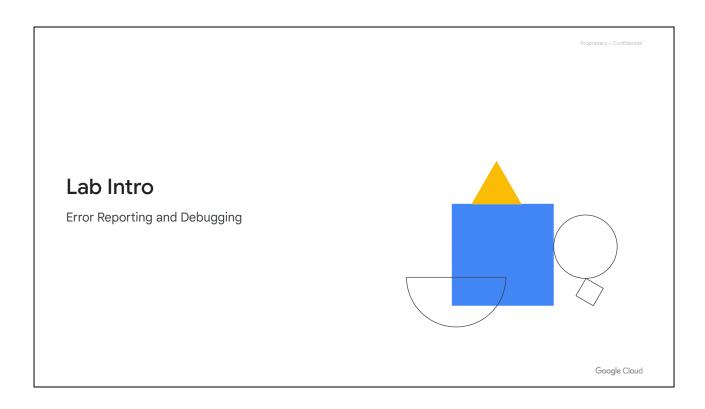
- Debug snapshots:
 - o Capture call stack and local variables of a running application.
- Debug logpoints:
 - o Inject logging into a service without stopping it.
- Java, Python, Go, Node.js, Ruby, PHP, and .NET Core

Google Cloud

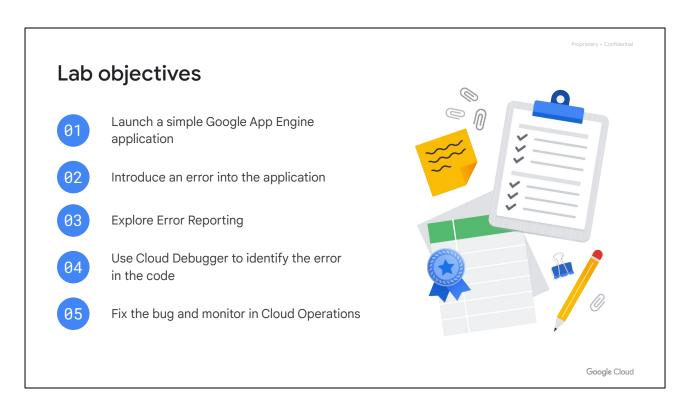
Cloud Debugger is a feature of Google Cloud that lets you inspect the state of a running application, in real time, without stopping or slowing it. Specifically, the debugger adds less than 10ms to the request latency when the application state is captured. In most cases, this is not noticeable by users.

These features allow you to understand the behavior of your code in production and analyze its state to locate those hard-to-find bugs. With just a few mouse clicks, you can take a snapshot of your running application's state or inject a new logging statement.

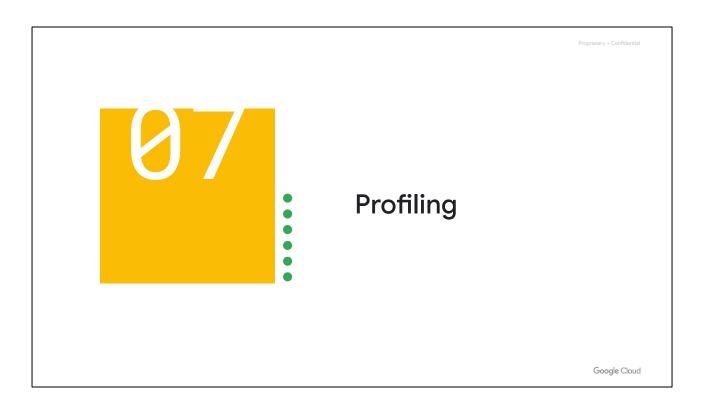
Cloud Debugger supports multiple languages, including Java, Python, Go, Node.js, Ruby, PHP, and .NET Core. For more information on language versions, including which are pre-GA and which compute environments Cloud Debugger is available for, refer to the documentation at https://cloud.google.com/debugger/docs/setup.



Let's apply what we just learned about logging, error reporting, tracing, and debugging in a lab.



In this lab, you'll deploy a small "Hello, World" application to App Engine. Then you'll plant a bug in the application, which will expose you to Cloud Operations' error reporting and debugging features.



Finally, let's cover the last feature of Google Cloud's operations suite in this module, which is the profiler.

Profiling



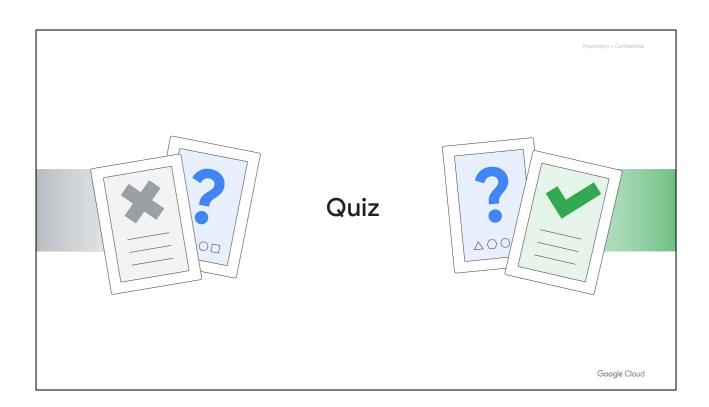
- Continuously analyze the performance of CPU or memory-intensive functions executed across an application.
- Uses statistical techniques and extremely low-impact instrumentation.
- Runs across all production instances.
- Java, Go, Node.js, and Python

Google Cloud

Poorly performing code increases the latency and cost of applications and web services every day. Cloud Profiler continuously analyzes the performance of CPU or memory-intensive functions executed across an application.

While it's possible to measure code performance in development environments, the results generally don't map well to what's happening in production. Many production profiling techniques either slow down code execution or can only inspect a small subset of a codebase. Profiler uses statistical techniques and extremely low-impact instrumentation that runs across all production application instances to provide a complete picture of an application's performance without slowing it down.

Profiler allows developers to analyze applications running anywhere, including Google Cloud, other cloud platforms, or on-premises, with support for Java, Go, Node.js, and Python.



Question #1

Question

What is the foundational process at the base of Google's Site Reliability Engineering (SRE)?

- A. Capacity planning
- B. Testing and release procedures
- C. Monitoring
- D. Root cause analysis

Google Cloud



Explanation:

Before you can take any of the other actions, you must first be monitoring the system.

Question #2

Question

What is the purpose of the Cloud Trace service?

- A. Reporting on latency as part of managing performance
- B. Reporting on Google Cloud system errors
- C. Reporting on application errors
- D. Reporting on Google Cloud resource consumption as part of managing performance

Google Cloud

Question #2

Answer

What is the purpose of the Cloud Trace service?

A. Reporting on latency as part of managing performance



- B. Reporting on Google Cloud system errors
- C. Reporting on application errors
- D. Reporting on Google Cloud resource consumption as part of managing performance

Google Cloud

Explanation:

Cloud Trace provides latency sampling and reporting for App Engine, Google HTTPS load balancers, and applications instrumented with the Cloud Trace SDKs. Reporting includes per-URL statistics and latency distributions.

Question #3

Question

Google Cloud's operations suite integrates several technologies, including monitoring, logging, error reporting, and debugging, that are commonly implemented in other environments as separate solutions using separate products. What are key benefits of integration of these services?

- A. Reduces over head, reduces noise, streamlines use, and fixes problems faster
- B. Ability to replace one tool with another from a different vendor
- C. Detailed control over the connections between the technologies
- D. Better for Google Cloud only so long as you don't need to monitor other applications or clouds

Google Cloud

Question #3

Answer

Google Cloud's operations suite integrates several technologies, including monitoring, logging, error reporting, and debugging, that are commonly implemented in other environments as separate solutions using separate products. What are key benefits of integration of these services?

A. Reduces over head, reduces noise, streamlines use, and fixes problems faster

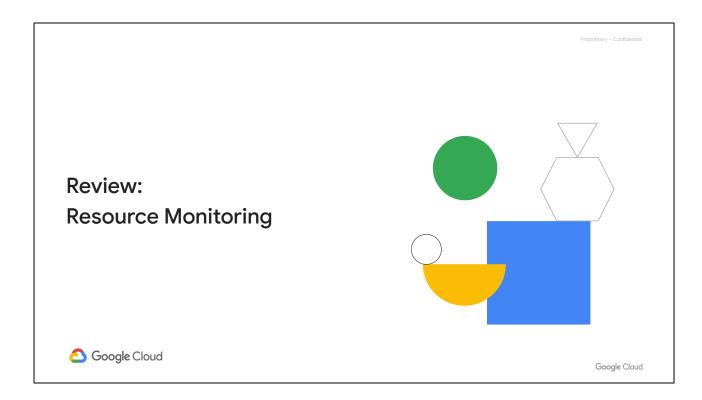


- B. Ability to replace one tool with another from a different vendor
- C. Detailed control over the connections between the technologies
- D. Better for Google Cloud only so long as you don't need to monitor other applications or clouds

Google Cloud

Explanation:

Cloud Operations integration streamlines and unifies these traditionally independent services, making it much easier to establish procedures around them and to use them in continuous ways.



In this module, we gave you an overview of Google Cloud's operations suite and its monitoring, logging, error reporting, fault tracing, and debugging features. Having all of these integrated into Google Cloud allows you to operate and maintain your applications, which is known as site reliability engineering or SRE.

If you're interested in learning more about SRE, you can explore the book or some of our SRE courses.

