**Metadata**

Metadata is "data that provides information about other data", but not the content of the data, such as the text of a message or the image itself. There are many distinct types of metadata.

**What is metadata in GCE ?**

Google Cloud Platform provides a metadata server that knows details about your App Engine instance, such as its containing project ID, service accounts, and tokens used by the service accounts. You can access this data using simple HTTP requests: no client libraries are required.

**Why is metadata used in GCE ?**

The metadata server provides information about a VMs scheduling option through the scheduling/ metadata directory entry and the maintenance-event attribute. You can use these metadata values to notify you when a maintenance event is about to happen so that you can prepare your environment for the event.

**What is a start-up script ?**

A start up script is a file that performs tasks during the start-up process of a virtual machine (VM) instance. Start-up scripts can apply to all VMs in a project or to a single VM. start-up scripts specified by VM-level metadata override start-up scripts specified by project-level metadata, and start-up scripts only run when a network is available. This document describes how to use start-up scripts on Linux VM instances.

**#! /bin/bash**

**apt-get update**

**apt install apache2 –y**

**cat <<EOF > /var/www/html/index.html**

**<html><body><p>nginx start-up script added successfully..</p></body></html>**

We have added this start-up script which is for setting up the apache server on the GCE instance.