

- 5. Click the icon of three lines in the top-left corner of the page (marked with a circle in Figure 3-3), then click Home (marked with a rectangle in Figure 3-3) to open the Google Cloud Platform dashboard (Figure 3-4).

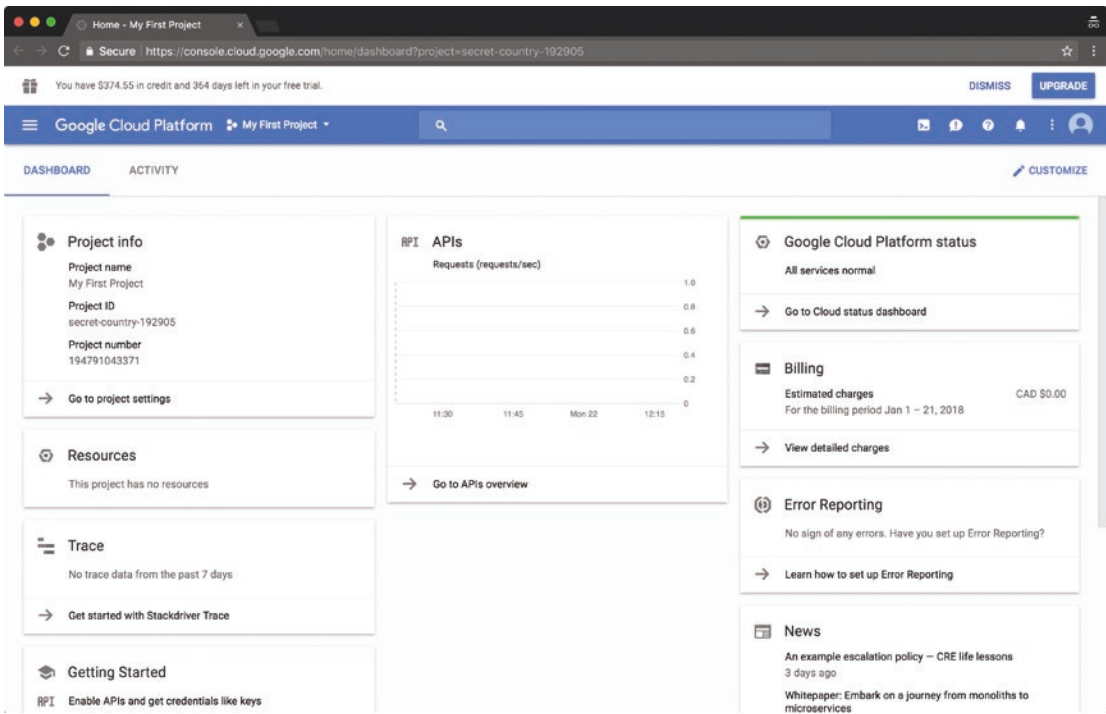


Figure 3-4. GCP dashboard

The Cloud dashboard provides a bird’s-eye summary of the project such as the current billing rate and other resource usage statistics. The activity tab to the right gives a breakdown of the resource actions performed on the account. This feature is useful when building an audit trail of events.

GCP Resources: Projects

All the services and features of the Google Cloud Platform are called resources. These resources are arranged in a hierarchical order, with the top level being the project. The project is like a container that houses all GCP resources. Billing on an account is attached to a project. Multiple projects can be created for an account. A project must be created before working with GCP.

To view the projects in the account in Figure 3-5, click the **scope picker in the cloud console** (marked with an oval in Figure 3-6).

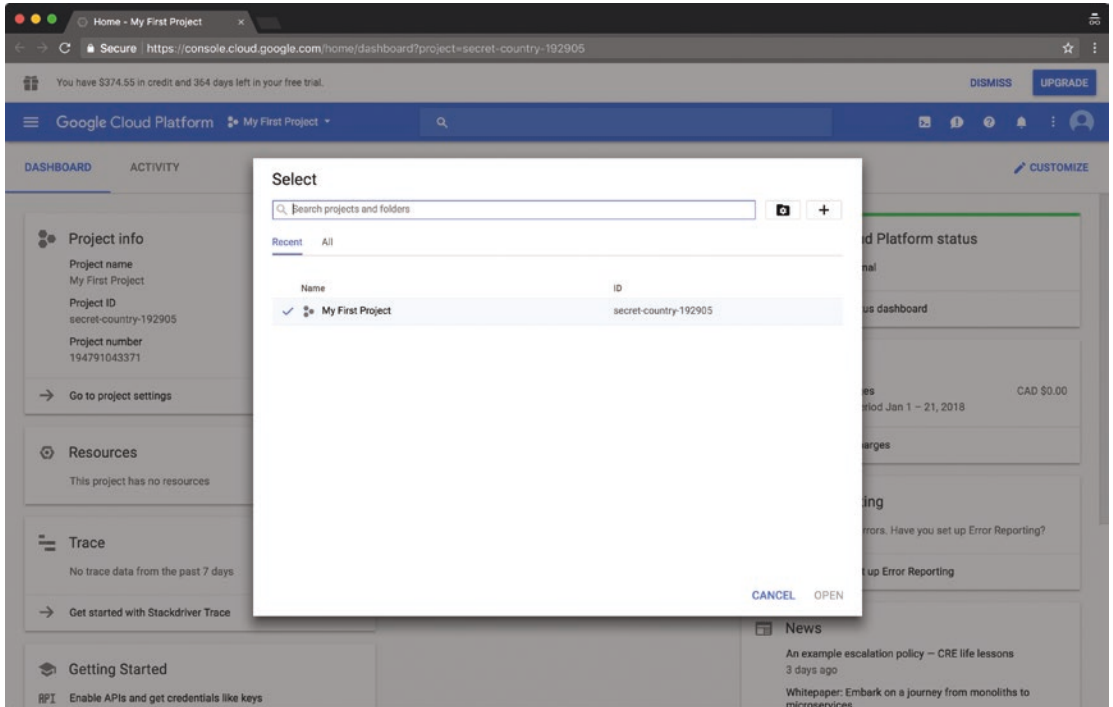


Figure 3-5. Select projects

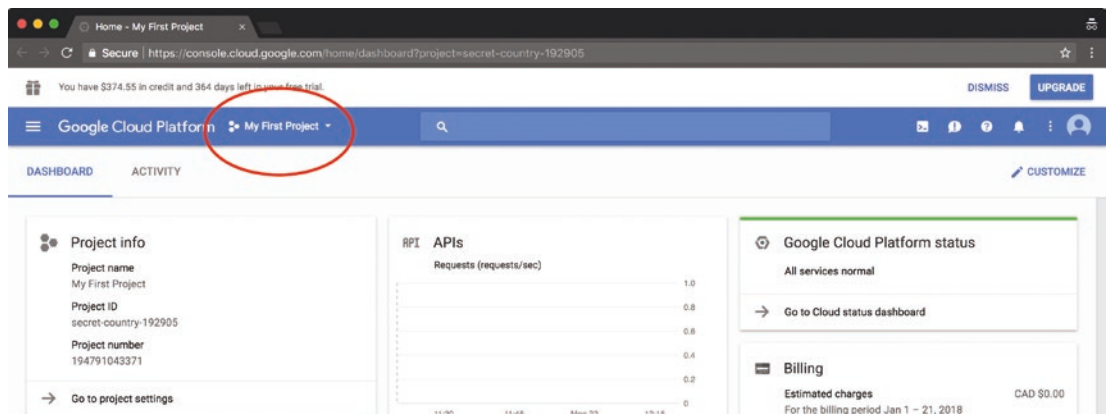


Figure 3-6. Scope picker to select projects

Accessing Cloud Platform Services

To access the resources on the cloud platform, click the triple dash in the top-right corner of the window. Grouped service offerings are used to organize the resources. For example, in Figure 3-7, we can see the products under **STORAGE**: Bigtable, Datastore, Storage, SQL, and Spanner.

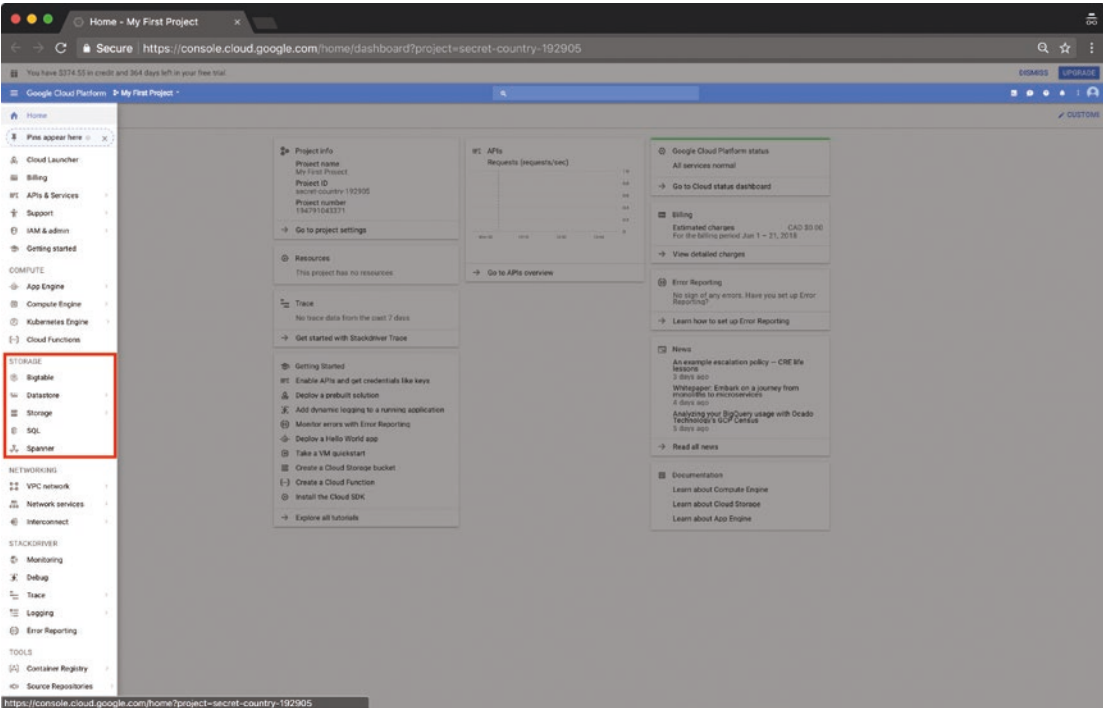


Figure 3-7. Google Cloud Platform services

Account Users and Permissions

GCP allows you to define security roles and permissions for every resource in a specific project. This feature is particularly useful when a project scales beyond one user. New roles and permissions are created for a user through the IAM & admin tab (see Figures 3-8 and 3-9).