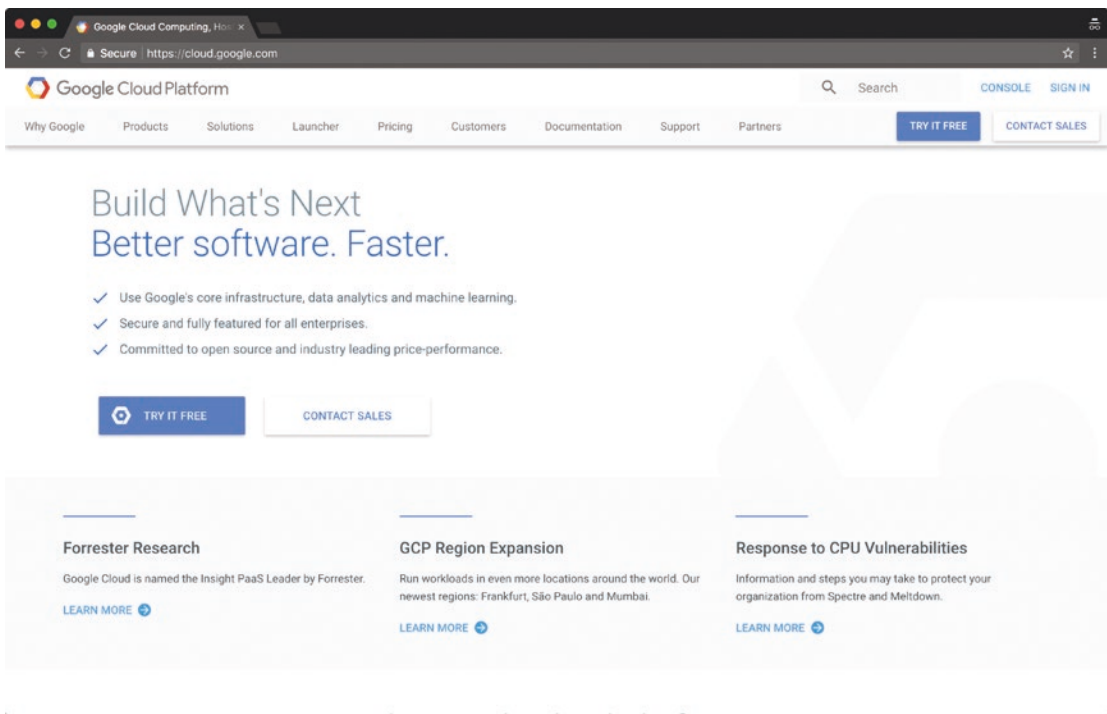


# Setting Up an Account on Google Cloud Platform

This section shows how to set up an account on Google Cloud Platform. A GCP account gives access to all of the platform’s products and services. For a new account, a \$300 credit is awarded to be spent over a period of 12 months. This offer is great as it gives ample time to explore the different features and services of Google’s cloud offering.

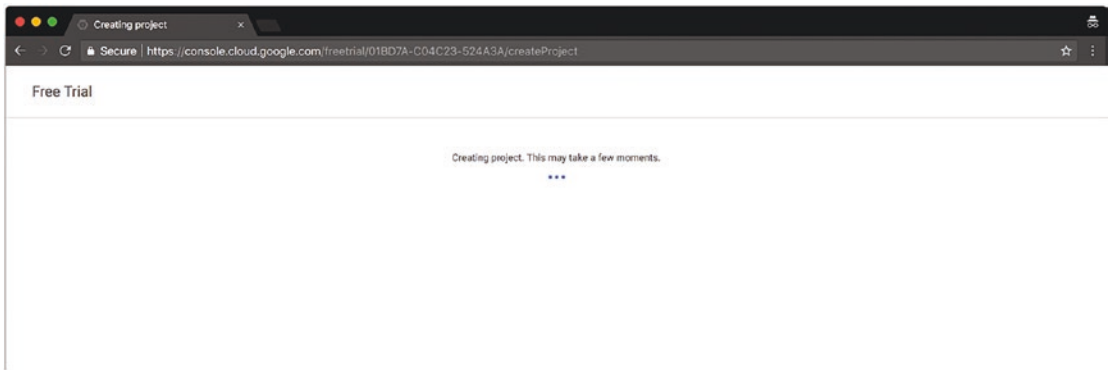
Note that a valid credit card is required to register an account to validate that it is an authentic user, as opposed to a robot. However, the credit card won’t be charged after the trial ends, except Google is authorized to do so:

1. Go to <https://cloud.google.com/> to open an account (see Figure 3-1).



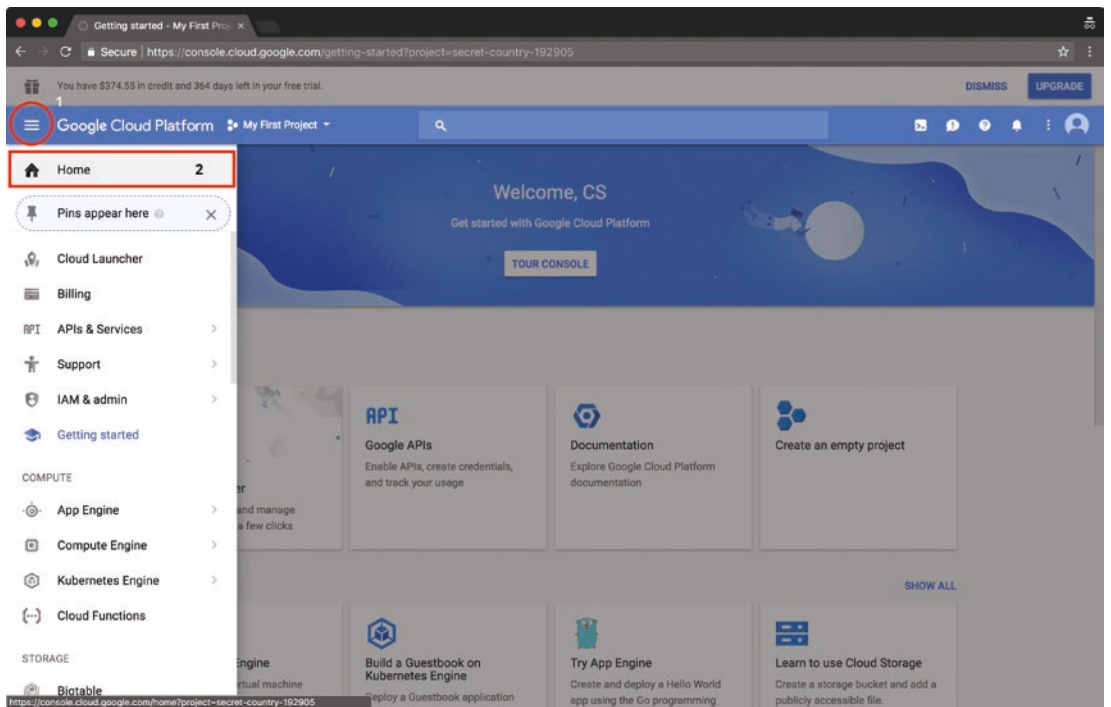
**Figure 3-1.** Google Cloud Platform login page

2. Fill in the necessary identity, address, and credit card details.
3. Wait a moment while an account is created on the platform (see Figure 3-2).



**Figure 3-2.** *Creating account*

4. After account creation, we're presented with the Welcome to GCP page (see Figure 3-3).



**Figure 3-3.** *Welcome to GCP*

- 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).

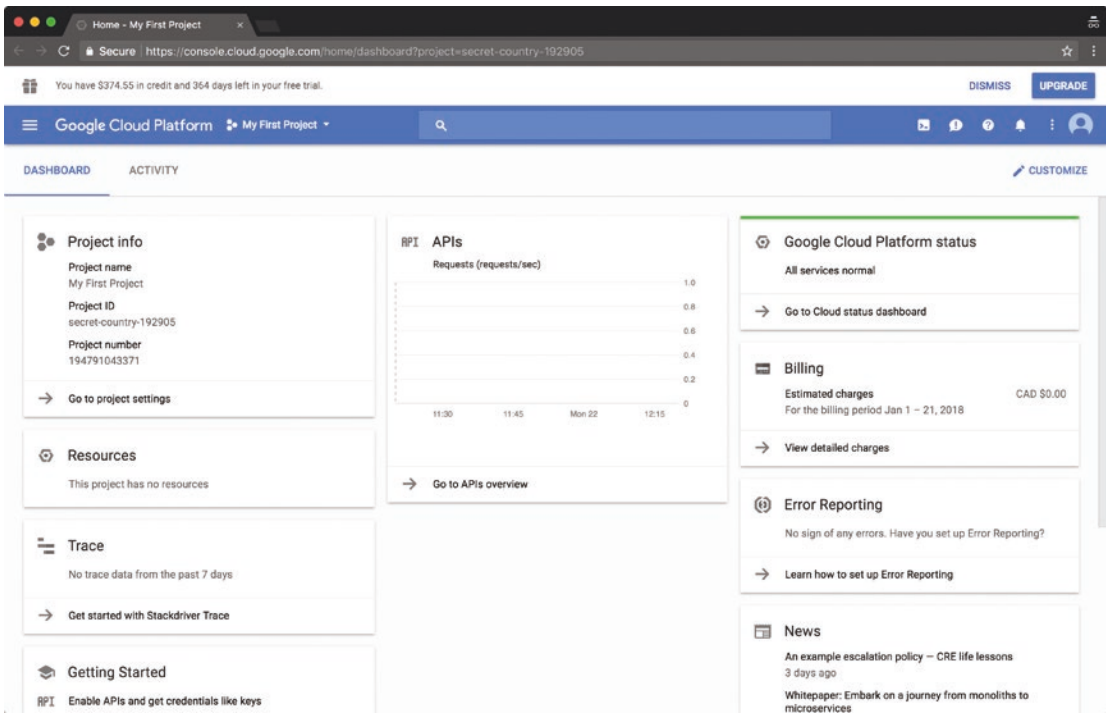


Figure 3-4. GCP dashboard

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.