**The Basics of SQL**

Databases and Tables

As mentioned earlier, SQL allows you to get information from "structured datasets". Structured datasets have clear rules and formatting and often times are organized into tables, or data that's formatted in rows and columns.

An example of *unstructured data* would be an image file. Unstructured data is inoperable with SQL and cannot be stored in BigQuery datasets or tables (at least natively.) To work with image data (for instance), you would use a service like [Cloud Vision](https://google.qwiklabs.com/catalog_lab/1112), perhaps through its [API](https://google.qwiklabs.com/catalog_lab/1241) directly.

The following is an example of a structured dataset—a simple table:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **User** | **Price** | **Shipped** |
| Sean | $35 | Yes |
| Rocky | $50 | No |

If you've had experience with Google Sheets, then the above should look quite similar. As we see, the table has columns for User, Price, and Shipped and two rows that are composed of filled in column values.

A Database is essentially a *collection of one or more tables*. SQL is a structured database management tool, but quite often (and in this lab) you will be running queries on one or a few tables joined together—not on whole databases.

SELECT and FROM

SQL is phonetic by nature and before running a query, it's always helpful to first figure out what question you want to ask your data (unless you're just exploring for fun.)

SQL has predefined *keywords* which you use to translate your question into the pseudo-english SQL syntax so you can get the database engine to return the answer you want.

The most essential keywords are SELECT and FROM:

* Use SELECT to specify what fields you want to pull from your dataset.
* Use FROM to specify what table or tables we want to pull our data from.

An example may help understanding. Assume that we have the following table example\_table, which has columns USER, PRICE, and SHIPPED:



And let's say that we want to just pull the data that's found in the USER column. We can do this by running the following query that uses SELECT and FROM:

SELECT USER FROM example\_table

If we executed the above command, we would select all the names from the USER column that are found in example\_table.

You can also select multiple columns with the SQL SELECT keyword. Say that you want to pull the data that's found in the USER and SHIPPED columns. To do this, modify the previous query by adding another column value to our SELECT query (making sure it's separated by a comma!):

SELECT USER, SHIPPED FROM example\_table

Running the above retrieves the USER and the SHIPPED data from memory:



And just like that you've covered two fundamental SQL keywords! Now to make things a bit more interesting.

WHERE

The WHERE keyword is another SQL command that filters tables for specific column values. Say that you want to pull the names from example\_table whose packages were shipped. You can supplement the query with a WHERE, like the following:

SELECT USER FROM example\_table WHERE SHIPPED='YES'

Running the above returns all USERs whose packages have been SHIPPED to from memory:



Now that you have a baseline understanding of SQL's core keywords, apply what you've learned by running these types of queries in the BigQuery console.

Test your understanding

The following are some multiple choice questions to reinforce your understanding of the concepts covered so far. Answer them to the best of your abilities.

A keyword that specifies the fields (e.g. column values) that you want to pull from your dataset.



FROM



SELECT



WHERE

Submit

Specifies what table or tables we want to pull our data from.



FROM



WHERE



SELECT

Submit

Allows us to filter tables for specific column values.



FROM



WHERE



SELECT

Submit

**Exploring the BigQuery Console**

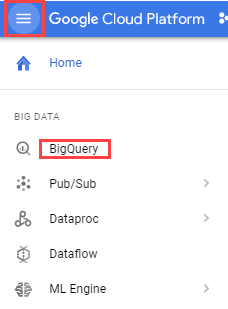
The BigQuery paradigm

[BigQuery](https://cloud.google.com/bigquery/) is a fully-managed petabyte-scale data warehouse that runs on the Google Cloud. Data analysts and data scientists can quickly query and filter large datasets, aggregate results, and perform complex operations without having to worry about setting up and managing servers. It comes in the form of a command line tool (preinstalled in cloudshell) or a web console—both ready for managing and querying data housed in Google Cloud projects.

In this lab, you use the web console to run SQL queries.

Open BigQuery Console

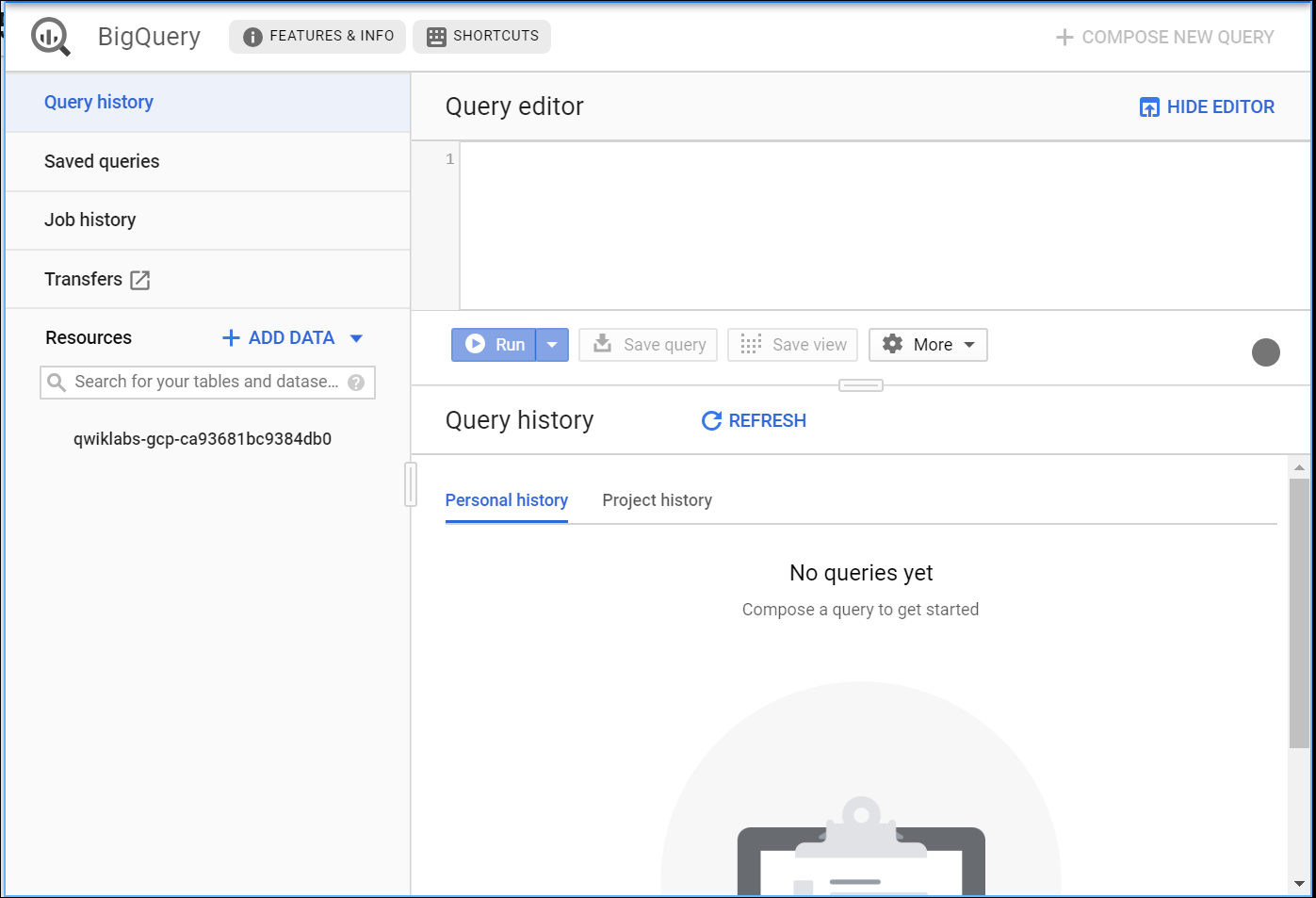
In the Google Cloud Console, select **Navigation menu** > **BigQuery**:



The **Welcome to BigQuery in the Cloud Console** message box opens. This message box provides a link to the quickstart guide and the release notes.

Click **Done**.

The BigQuery console opens.



Take a moment to note some important features of the UI. The right-hand side of the console houses the "Query editor". This is where you write and run SQL commands like the examples we covered earlier. Below that is "Query history", which is a list of queries you ran previously.

The left pane of the console is the "Navigation panel". Apart from the self-explanatory query history, saved queries, and job history, there is the *Resources* tab.

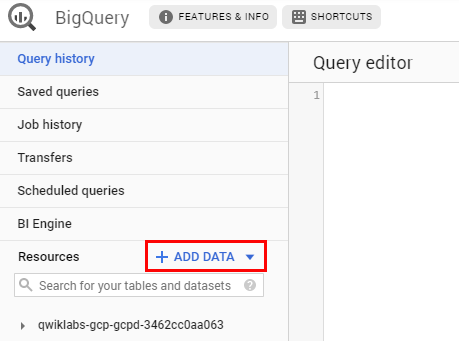
The highest level of resources contain Google Cloud projects, which are just like the temporary Google Cloud projects you sign in to and use with each Qwiklab. As you can see in your console and in the last screenshot, we only have our Qwiklabs project housed in the Resources tab. If you try clicking on the arrow next the project name, nothing will show up.

This is because your project doesn't contain any datasets or tables, you have nothing that can be queried. Earlier you learned datasets contain tables. When you add data to your project, note that in BigQuery, *projects contain datasets, and datasets contain tables*. Now that you better understand the project → dataset → table paradigm and the intricacies of the console, you can load up some queryable data.

Uploading queryable data

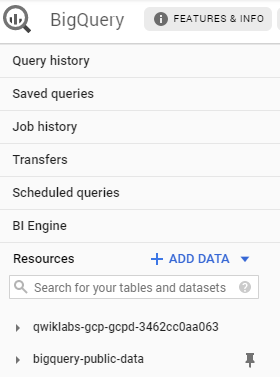
In this section you pull in some public data into your project so you can practice running SQL commands in BigQuery.

Click on the **+ ADD DATA** link then select **Explore public datasets**:

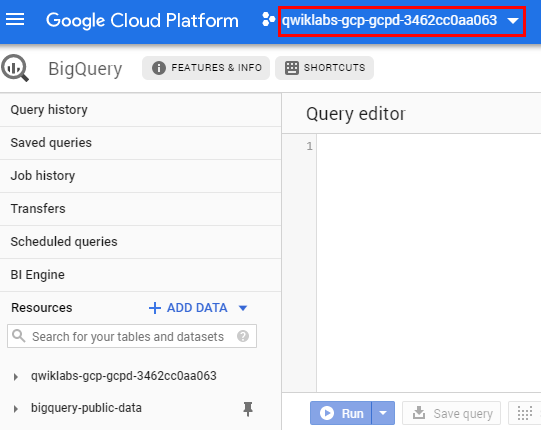


In the search bar, enter "london", then select the **London Bicycle Hires** tile, then **View Dataset**.

A new tab will open, and you will now have a new project called bigquery-public-data added to the Resources panel:



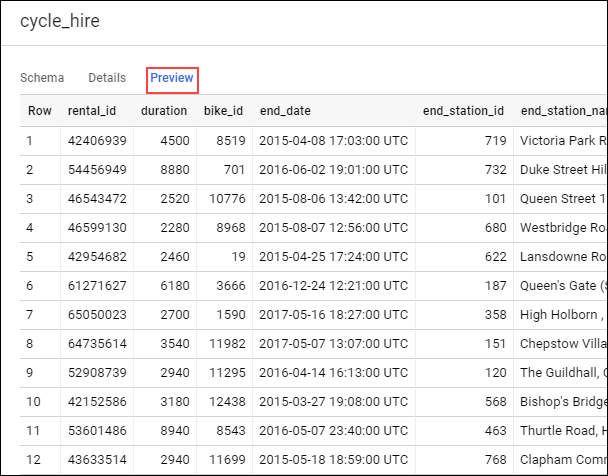
It's important to note that you are still working out of your lab project in this new tab. All you did was pull a publicly accessible project that contains datasets and tables into BigQuery for analysis — you didn't *switch over* to that project. All of your jobs and services are still tied to your Qwiklabs account. You can see this for yourself by inspecting the project field near the top of the console:



Click on **bigquery-public-data** > **london\_bicycles** > **cycle\_hire**. You now have data that follows the BigQuery paradigm:

* Google Cloud Project → bigquery-public-data
* Dataset → london\_bicycles
* Table → cycle\_hire

Now that you are in the cycle\_hire table, in the center of the console click the **Preview** tab. Your page should resemble the following:



Inspect the columns and values populated in the rows. You are now ready to run some SQL queries on the cycle\_hire table.

Running SELECT, FROM, and WHERE in BigQuery

You now have a basic understanding of SQL querying keywords and the BigQuery data paradigm and some data to work with. Run some SQL commands using this service.

If you look at the bottom right corner of the console, you will notice that there are **24,369,201** rows of data, or individual bikeshare trips taken in London between 2015 and 2017 (not a small amount by any means!)

Now take note of the seventh column key: end\_station\_name, which specifies the end destination of bikeshare rides. Before we get too deep, let's first run a simple query to isolate the end\_station\_name column. Copy and paste the following command in to the Query editor:

SELECT end\_station\_name FROM `bigquery-public-data.london\_bicycles.cycle\_hire`;

Then click **Run**.

After ~20 seconds, you should be returned with 24369201 rows that contain the single column you queried for: end\_station\_name.

Why don't you find out how many bike trips were 20 minutes or longer?

Click **COMPOSE NEW QUERY** to clear the Query editor, then run the following query that utilizes the WHERE keyword:

SELECT \* FROM `bigquery-public-data.london\_bicycles.cycle\_hire` WHERE duration>=1200;

This query may take a minute or so to run.

SELECT \* returns all column values from the table. Duration is measured in seconds, which is why you used the value 1200 (60 \* 20).

If you look in the bottom right corner you see that **7,334,890** rows were returned. As a fraction of the total (7334890/24369201), this means that ~30% of London bikeshare rides lasted 20 minutes or longer (they're in it for the long haul!)

Test your understanding

The following are some multiple choice questions to reinforce your understanding of the concepts we've covered so far. Answer them to the best of your abilities.

A fully-managed petabyte-scale data warehouse that runs on the Google Cloud.



Google Cloud



Cloud Storage bucket



Cloud SQL

checkBigQuery

Submit

Projects contain datasets, and datasets contain tables.



False

checkTrue

Submit

With BigQuery, you can access datasets shared publicly from other Google Cloud projects.

close~~False~~

checkTrue

Submit

**More SQL Keywords: GROUP BY, COUNT, AS, and ORDER BY**

GROUP BY

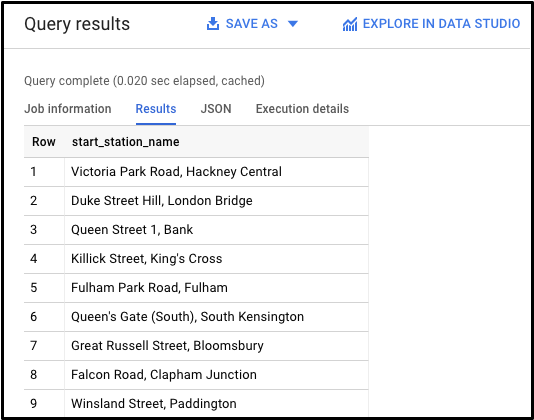
The GROUP BY keyword will aggregate result-set rows that share common criteria (e.g. a column value) and will return all of the unique entries found for such criteria.

This is a useful keyword for figuring out categorical information on tables. To get a better picture of what this keyword does, click **COMPOSE NEW QUERY**, then copy and paste the following command in the Query editor:

SELECT start\_station\_name FROM `bigquery-public-data.london\_bicycles.cycle\_hire` GROUP BY start\_station\_name;

Click **Run**.

You should receive a similar output (row values may not match the following):



Without the GROUP BY, the query would have returned the full **24,369,201** rows. GROUP BY will output the unique (non-duplicate) column values found in the table. You can see this for yourself by looking in the bottom right corner. You will see **880** rows, meaning there are 880 distinct London bikeshare starting points.

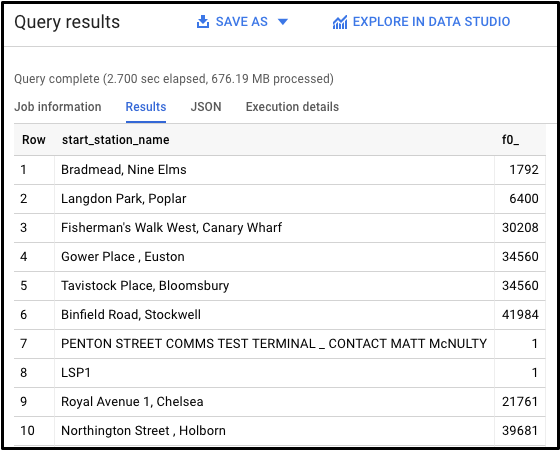
COUNT

The COUNT() function will return the number of rows that share the same criteria (e.g. column value). This can be very useful in tandem with a GROUP BY.

Add the COUNT function to our previous query to figure out how many rides begin in each starting point. Click **COMPOSE NEW QUERY**, copy and paste the following command in to the Query editor and then click **Run query**:

SELECT start\_station\_name, COUNT(\*) FROM `bigquery-public-data.london\_bicycles.cycle\_hire` GROUP BY start\_station\_name;

You should receive a similar output (row values may not match the following):



This shows how many bikeshare rides begin at each starting location.

AS

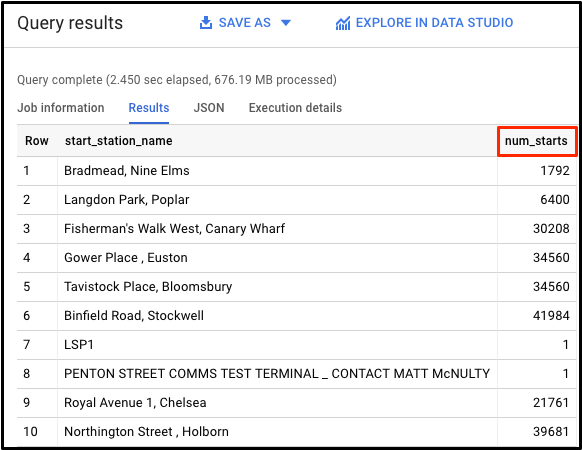
SQL also has an AS keyword, which creates an *alias* of a table or column. An alias is a new name that's given to the returned column or table—whatever AS specifies.

Add an AS keyword to the last query we ran to see this in action. Click **COMPOSE NEW QUERY**, then copy and paste the following command in to the Query editor:

SELECT start\_station\_name, COUNT(\*) AS num\_starts FROM `bigquery-public-data.london\_bicycles.cycle\_hire` GROUP BY start\_station\_name;

Click **Run**.

You should receive a similar output (be aware that the row values might not be identical):



As you see, the COUNT(\*) column in the returned table is now set to the alias name num\_starts. This is a handy keyword to use especially if you are dealing with large sets of data — forgetting that an ambiguous table or column name happens more often than you think!

ORDER BY

The ORDER BY keyword sorts the returned data from a query in ascending or descending order based on a specified criteria or column value. We will add this keyword to our previous query to do the following:

* Return a table that contains the number of bikeshare rides that begin in each starting station, organized alphabetically by the starting station.
* Return a table that contains the number of bikeshare rides that begin in each starting station, organized numerically from lowest to highest.
* Return a table that contains the number of bikeshare rides that begin in each starting station, organized numerically from highest to lowest.

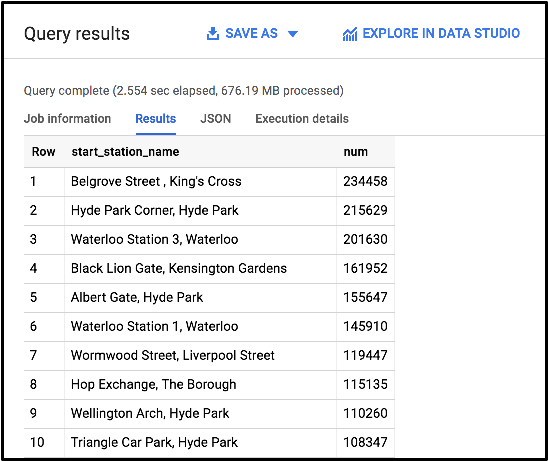
Each of the commands below is a separate query. For each command, clear the Query editor, copy and paste the command in to the Query editor, and then click **Run**. Examine the results.

SELECT start\_station\_name, COUNT(\*) AS num FROM `bigquery-public-data.london\_bicycles.cycle\_hire` GROUP BY start\_station\_name ORDER BY start\_station\_name;

SELECT start\_station\_name, COUNT(\*) AS num FROM `bigquery-public-data.london\_bicycles.cycle\_hire` GROUP BY start\_station\_name ORDER BY num;

SELECT start\_station\_name, COUNT(\*) AS num FROM `bigquery-public-data.london\_bicycles.cycle\_hire` GROUP BY start\_station\_name ORDER BY num DESC;

The last query should have returned the following:



We see that "Belgrove Street, King's Cross" has the highest number of starts. However, as a fraction of the total (234458/24369201), we see that < 1% of rides start from this station.

Test your understanding

The following are some multiple choice questions to reinforce your understanding of the concepts we've covered so far. Answer them to the best of your abilities.

Aggregates rows that share common criteria (e.g. a column value) and will return all of the unique entries found for such criteria.



AS



COUNT

checkGROUP BY



ORDER BY

Submit

A SQL function will count and return the number of rows that share common criteria.



ORDER BY

checkCOUNT



GROUP BY



AS

Submit

Creates an alias of a table or column.



COUNT



GROUP BY

checkAS



ORDER BY

Submit

Sorts the returned data from a query in ascending or descending order based on a specified criteria or column value.

checkORDER BY



COUNT



AS



GROUP BY

Submit

**Working with Cloud SQL**

Exporting queries as CSV files

[Cloud SQL](https://cloud.google.com/sql/) is a fully-managed database service that makes it easy to set up, maintain, manage, and administer your relational PostgreSQL and MySQL databases in the cloud. There are two formats of data accepted by Cloud SQL: dump files (.sql) or CSV files (.csv). You will learn how to export subsets of the cycle\_hire table into CSV files and upload them to Cloud Storage as an intermediate location.

Back in the BigQuery Console, this should have been the last command that you ran:

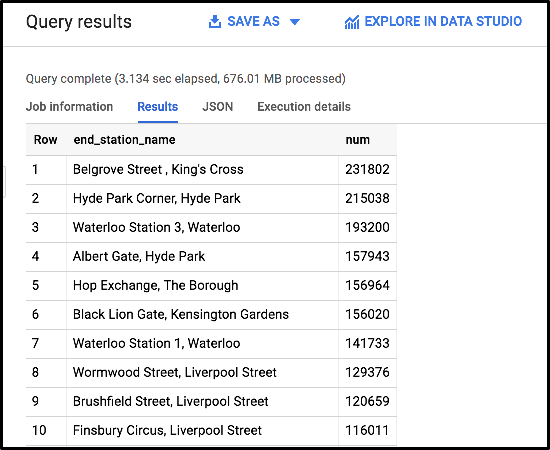
SELECT start\_station\_name, COUNT(\*) AS num FROM `bigquery-public-data.london\_bicycles.cycle\_hire` GROUP BY start\_station\_name ORDER BY num DESC;

In the Query Results section click **SAVE RESULTS** > **CSV(local file)** > **SAVE**. This initiates a download, which saves this query as a CSV file. Note the location and the name of this downloaded file—you will need it soon.

Click **COMPOSE NEW QUERY**, then copy and run the following in the query editor:

SELECT end\_station\_name, COUNT(\*) AS num FROM `bigquery-public-data.london\_bicycles.cycle\_hire` GROUP BY end\_station\_name ORDER BY num DESC;

This will return a table that contains the number of bikeshare rides that finish in each ending station and is organized numerically from highest to lowest number of rides. You should receive the following output:



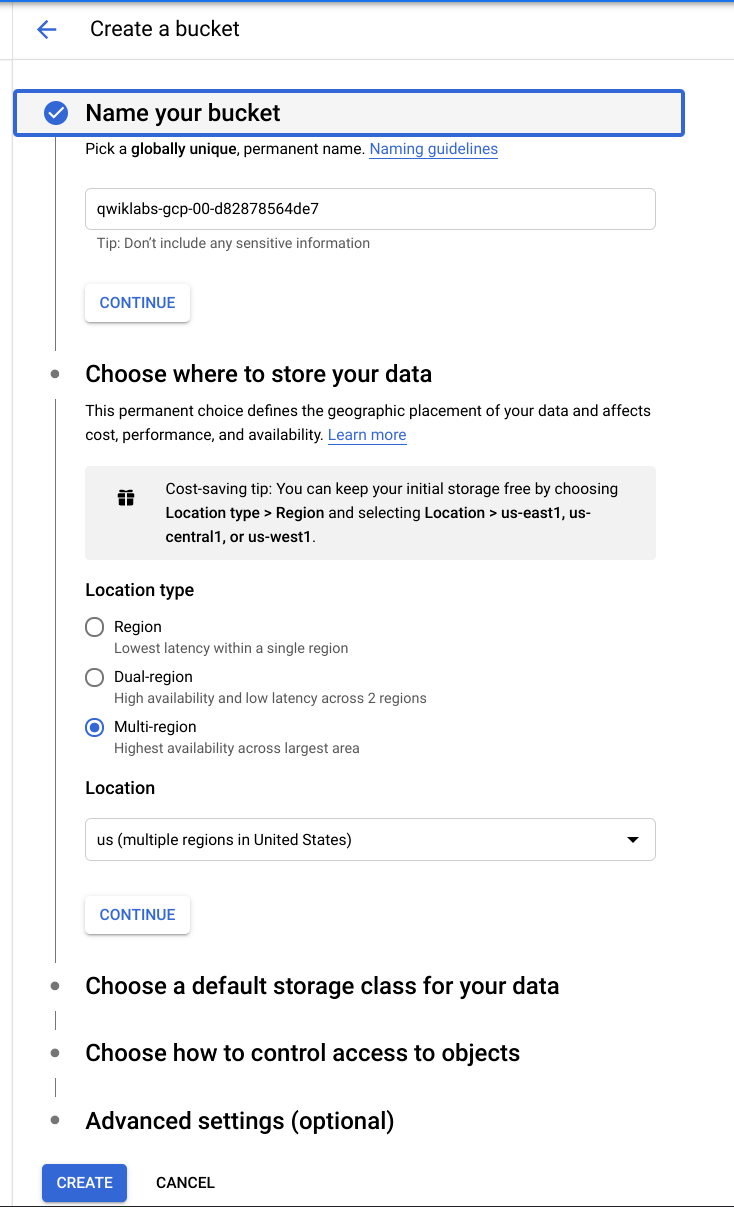
In the Query Results section click **SAVE RESULTS** > **CSV(local file)** > **SAVE**. This initiates a download, which saves this query as a CSV file. Note the location and the name of this downloaded file—you will need it in the following section.

Upload CSV files to Cloud Storage

Go to the Cloud Console where you'll create a storage bucket where you can upload the files you just created.

Select **Navigation menu** > **Storage** > **Browser**, and then click **Create bucket**.

Enter a unique name for your bucket, keep all other settings, and hit **Create**:



Test Completed Task

Click **Check my progress** below to check your lab progress. If you successfully created your bucket, you'll see an assessment score.

Create a cloud storage bucket.

Check my progress

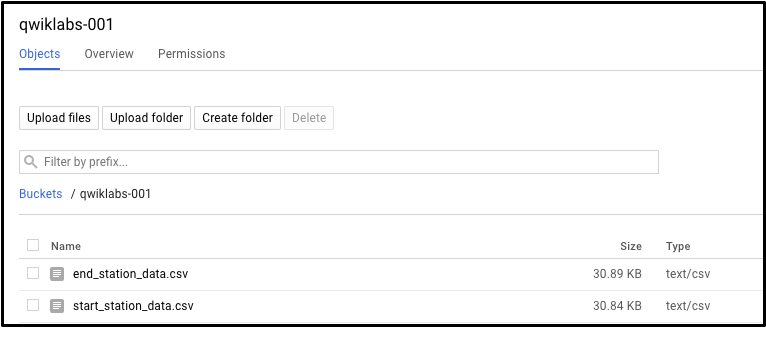
You should now be in the Cloud Console looking at your newly created Cloud Storage Bucket.

Click **Upload files** and select the CSV that contains start\_station\_name data. Then click **Open**. Repeat this for the end\_station\_name data.

Rename your start\_station\_name file by clicking on the three dots next to on the far side of the file and click **rename**. Rename the file start\_station\_data.csv.

Rename your end\_station\_name file by clicking on the three dots next to on the far side of the file and click **rename**. Rename the file end\_station\_data.csv.

Your bucket should now resemble the following:



Test Completed Task

Click **Check my progress** to verify your performed task. If you have successfully upload CSV objects to your bucket, you will see an assessment score.

Upload CSV files to Cloud Storage.

Check my progress

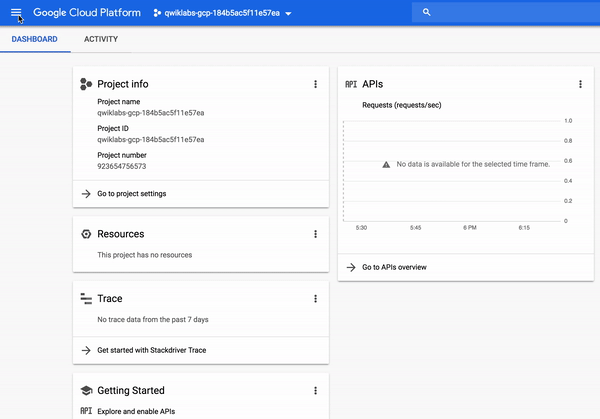
Create a Cloud SQL instance

In the console, select **Navigation menu** > **SQL**.

Click **Create Instance**.

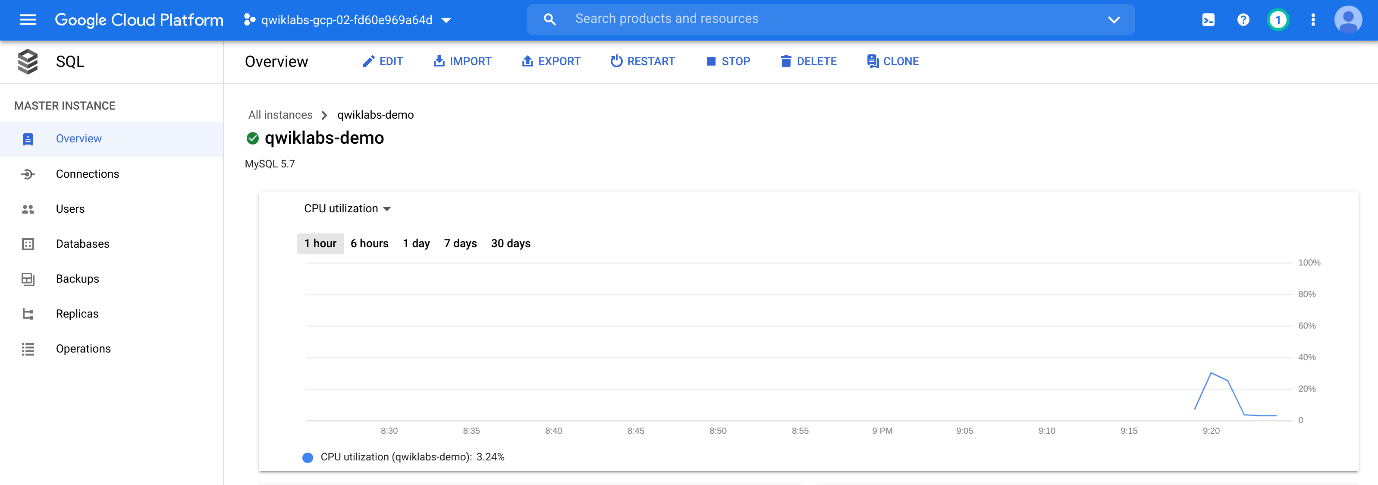
From here, you will be prompted to choose a database engine. Select **MySQL**.

Now enter in a name for your instance (like "qwiklabs-demo") and enter in a secure password in the **Root password** field (remember it!), then click **Create**:



It might take a few minutes for the instance to be created. Once it is, you will see a green checkmark next to the instance name.

Click on the Cloud SQL instance. You should now be on a page that resembles the following:



Test Completed Task

To check out your lab progress, click **Check my progress** below.If you have successfully set up your Cloud SQL instance, you will see an assessment score.

Create a CloudSQL Instance.

Check my progress

**New Queries in Cloud SQL**

CREATE keyword (databases and tables)

Now that you have a Cloud SQL instance up and running, create a database inside of it using the Cloud Shell Command Line.

Activate Cloud Shell

Cloud Shell is a virtual machine that is loaded with development tools. It offers a persistent 5GB home directory and runs on the Google Cloud. Cloud Shell provides command-line access to your Google Cloud resources.

In the Cloud Console, in the top right toolbar, click the **Activate Cloud Shell** button.



Click **Continue**.



It takes a few moments to provision and connect to the environment. When you are connected, you are already authenticated, and the project is set to your *PROJECT\_ID*. For example:



gcloud is the command-line tool for Google Cloud. It comes pre-installed on Cloud Shell and supports tab-completion.

You can list the active account name with this command:

gcloud auth list

(Output)

Credentialed accounts:

- <myaccount>@<mydomain>.com (active)

(Example output)

Credentialed accounts:

- google1623327\_student@qwiklabs.net

You can list the project ID with this command:

gcloud config list project

(Output)

[core]

project = <project\_ID>

(Example output)

[core]

project = qwiklabs-gcp-44776a13dea667a6

For full documentation of gcloud see the [gcloud command-line tool overview](https://cloud.google.com/sdk/gcloud" \t "_blank).

Run the following command in Cloud Shell to connect to your SQL instance, replacing qwiklabs-demo if you used a different name for your instance:

gcloud sql connect qwiklabs-demo --user=root

It may take a minute to connect to your instance.

When prompted, enter the root password you set for the instance.

You should now be on a similar output:

Welcome to the MariaDB monitor. Commands end with ; or \g.

Your MySQL connection id is 494

Server version: 5.7.14-google-log (Google)

Copyright (c) 2000, 2017, Oracle, MariaDB Corporation Ab and others.

Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement.

MySQL [(none)]>

A Cloud SQL instance comes with pre-configured databases, but you will create your own to store the London bikeshare data.

Run the following command at the MySQL server prompt to create a database called bike:

CREATE DATABASE bike;

You should receive the following output:

Query OK, 1 row affected (0.05 sec)

MySQL [(none)]>

Test Completed Task

Check your progress by clicking **Check my progress** to verify your performed task. If you have successfully created database in Cloud SQL instance, you will see an assessment score.

Create a database.

Check my progress

Make a table inside of the bike database by running the following command:

USE bike;

CREATE TABLE london1 (start\_station\_name VARCHAR(255), num INT);

This statement uses the CREATE keyword, but this time it uses the TABLE clause to specify that it wants to build a table instead of a database. The USE keyword specifies a database that you want to connect to. You now have a table named "london1" that contains two columns, "start\_station\_name" and "num". VARCHAR(255) specifies variable length string column that can hold up to 255 characters and INT is a column of type integer.

Create another table named "london2" by running the following command:

USE bike;

CREATE TABLE london2 (end\_station\_name VARCHAR(255), num INT);

Now confirm that your empty tables were created. Run the following commands at the MySQL server prompt:

SELECT \* FROM london1;

SELECT \* FROM london2;

You should receive the following output for both commands:

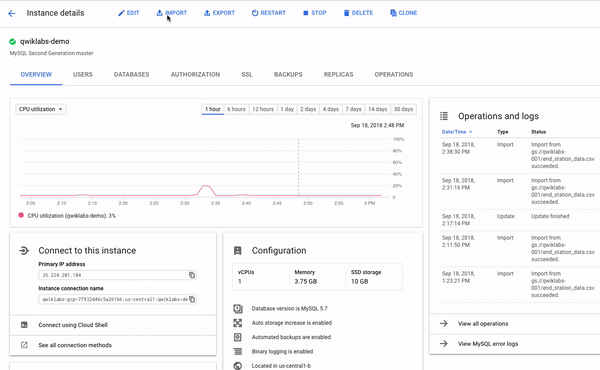
Empty set (0.04 sec)

It says "empty set" because you haven't loaded in any data yet.

Upload CSV files to tables

Return to the Cloud SQL console. You will now upload the start\_station\_name and end\_station\_name CSV files into your newly created london1 and london2 tables.

1. In your Cloud SQL instance page, click **IMPORT**.
2. In the Cloud Storage file field, click **Browse**, and then click the arrow opposite your bucket name, and then click start\_station\_data.csv. Click **Select**.
3. Select the bike database and type in "london1" as your table.
4. Click **Import**:



Do the same for the other CSV file.

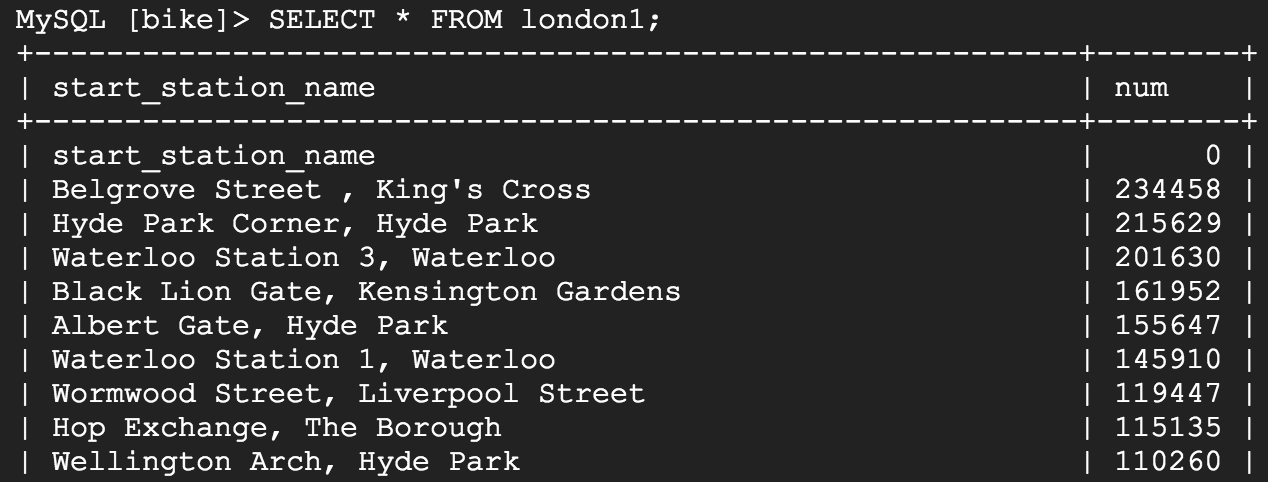
1. In your Cloud SQL instance page, click **IMPORT**.
2. In the Cloud Storage file field, click **Browse**, and then click the arrow opposite your bucket name, and then click end\_station\_data.csv Click **Select**.
3. Select the bike database and type in "london2" as your table.
4. Click **Import**:

You should now have both CSV files uploaded to tables in the bike database.

Return to your Cloud Shell session and run the following command at the MySQL server prompt to inspect the contents of london1:

SELECT \* FROM london1;

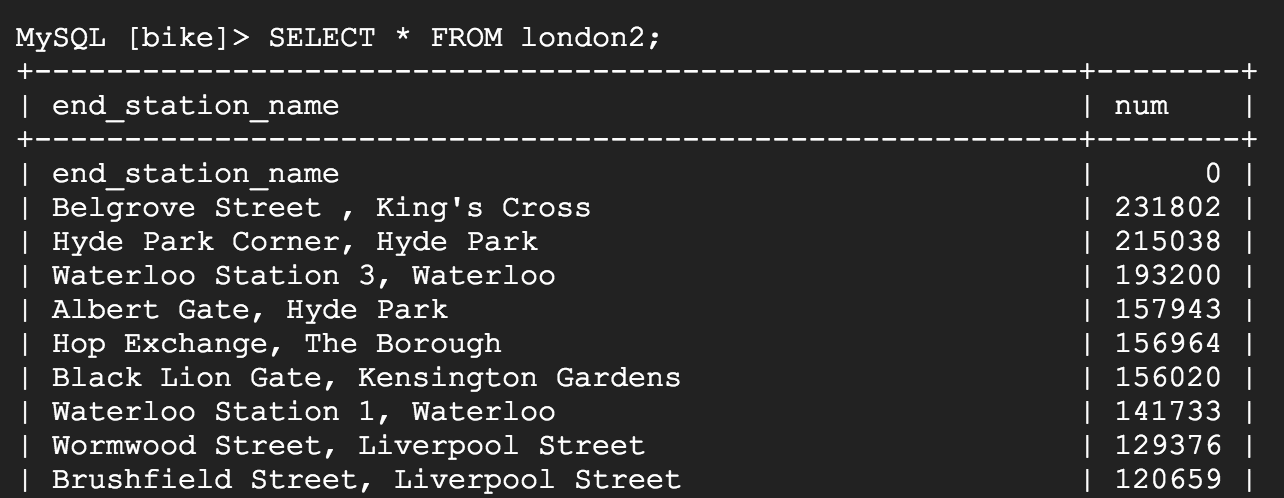
You should receive 881 lines of output, one more each unique station name. Your output be formatted like this:



Run the following command to make sure that london2 has been populated:

SELECT \* FROM london2;

You should receive 883 lines of output, one more each unique station name. Your output be formatted like this:



DELETE keyword

Here are a couple more SQL keywords that help us with data management. The first is the DELETE keyword.

Run the following commands in your MySQL session to delete the first row of the london1 and london2:

DELETE FROM london1 WHERE num=0;

DELETE FROM london2 WHERE num=0;

You should receive the following output after running both commands:

Query OK, 1 row affected (0.04 sec)

The rows deleted were the column headers from the CSV files. The DELETE keyword will not remove the first row of the file per se, but all *rows* of the table where the column name (in this case "num") contains a specified value (in this case "0"). If you run the SELECT \* FROM london1; and SELECT \* FROM london2; queries and scroll to the top of the table, you will see that those rows no longer exist.

INSERT INTO keyword

You can also insert values into tables with the INSERT INTO keyword. Run the following command to insert a new row into london1, which sets start\_station\_name to "test destination" and num to "1":

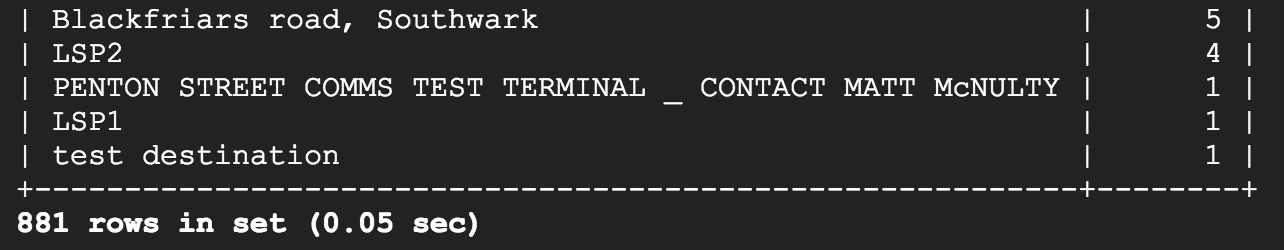
INSERT INTO london1 (start\_station\_name, num) VALUES ("test destination", 1);

The INSERT INTO keyword requires a table (london1) and will create a new row with columns specified by the terms in the first parenthesis (in this case "start\_station\_name" and "num"). Whatever comes after the "VALUES" clause will be inserted as values in the new row.

You should receive the following output:

Query OK, 1 row affected (0.05 sec)

If you run the query SELECT \* FROM london1; you will see an additional row added at the bottom of the "london1" table:



UNION keyword

The last SQL keyword that you'll learn about is UNION. This keyword combines the output of two or more SELECT queries into a result-set. You use UNION to combine subsets of the "london1" and "london2" tables.

The following chained query pulls specific data from both tables and combine them with the UNION operator.

Run the following command at the MySQL server prompt:

SELECT start\_station\_name AS top\_stations, num FROM london1 WHERE num>100000

UNION

SELECT end\_station\_name, num FROM london2 WHERE num>100000

ORDER BY top\_stations DESC;

The first SELECT query selects the two columns from the "london1" table and creates an alias for "start\_station\_name", which gets set to "top\_stations". It uses the WHERE keyword to only pull rideshare station names where over 100,000 bikes start their journey.

The second SELECT query selects the two columns from the "london2" table and uses the WHERE keyword to only pull rideshare station names where over 100,000 bikes end their journey.

The UNION keyword in between combines the output of these queries by assimilating the "london2" data with "london1". Since "london1" is being unioned with "london2", the column values that take precedent are "top\_stations" and "num".

ORDER BY will order the final, unioned table by the "top\_stations" column value alphabetically and in descending order.

You should receive the following output:



As you see, 13/14 stations share the top spots for rideshare starting and ending points. With some basic SQL keywords you were able to query a sizable dataset, which returned data points and answers to specific questions.

**Congratulations!**

In this lab you learned the fundamentals of SQL and how you can apply keywords and run queries in BigQuery and CloudSQL. You were taught the core concepts behind projects, databases, and tables. You practiced with keywords that manipulated and edited data. You learned how to load datasets into BigQuery and you practiced running queries on tables. You learned how to create instances in Cloud SQL and practiced transferring subsets of data into tables contained in databases. You chained and ran queries in Cloud SQL to arrive at some interesting conclusions about London bikesharing starting and ending stations.

Finish Your Quest

This self-paced lab is part of the Qwiklabs Quests [Data Science on Google Cloud](https://google.qwiklabs.com/quests/43), [Scientific Data Processing](https://google.qwiklabs.com/quests/28), [Cloud SQL](https://google.qwiklabs.com/quests/52), [BigQuery Basics for Data Analysts](https://google.qwiklabs.com/quests/69), [NCAA® March Madness®: Bracketology with Google Cloud](https://google.qwiklabs.com/quests/58/), [Cloud Engineering](https://google.qwiklabs.com/quests/66), [BigQuery for Data Analysis](https://google.qwiklabs.com/quests/55), and [Data Catalog Fundamentals](https://google.qwiklabs.com/quests/134). A Quest is a series of related labs that form a learning path. Completing a Quest earns you one of the badges above, to recognize your achievement. You can make your badge (or badges) public and link to them in your online resume or social media account. Enroll in a quest and get immediate completion credit if you've taken this lab. [See other available Qwiklabs Quests](http://google.qwiklabs.com/catalog).