Virtual Private Networks (VPN)

1 hourFree

Rate Lab

**Overview**

In this lab, you establish VPN tunnels between two networks in separate regions such that a VM in one network can ping a VM in the other network over its internal IP address.

**Objectives**

In this lab, you learn how to perform the following tasks:

* Create VPN gateways in each network
* Create VPN tunnels between the gateways
* Verify VPN connectivity

**Before you click the Start Lab button**

Read these instructions. Labs are timed and you cannot pause them. The timer, which starts when you click Start Lab, shows how long Cloud resources will be made available to you.

This Qwiklabs hands-on lab lets you do the lab activities yourself in a real cloud environment, not in a simulation or demo environment. It does so by giving you new, temporary credentials that you use to sign in and access the Google Cloud Platform for the duration of the lab.

**What you need**

To complete this lab, you need:

* Access to a standard internet browser (Chrome browser recommended).
* Time to complete the lab.

***Note:*** If you already have your own personal GCP account or project, do not use it for this lab.

**Task 1: Explore the networks and instances**

Two custom networks with VM instances have been configured for you. For the purposes of the lab, both networks are VPC networks within a Google Cloud project. However, in a real-world application, one of these networks might be in a different Google Cloud project, on-premises, or in a different cloud.

**Explore the networks**

Verify that **vpn-network-1** and **vpn-network-2** have been created with subnets in separate regions.

1. In the Cloud Console, on the **Navigation menu** (Navigation menu), click **VPC network** > **VPC networks**.

* Note the **vpn-network-1** network and its **subnet-a** in **us-central1**.
* Note the **vpn-network-2** network and its **subnet-b** in **europe-west1**.

**Explore the firewall rules**

1. In the navigation pane, click **Firewall rules**.

* Note the **network-1-allow-ssh** and **network-1-allow-icmp** rules for **vpn-network-1**.
* Note the **network-2-allow-ssh** and **network-2-allow-icmp** rules for **vpn-network-2**.

These firewall rules allow **SSH** and **ICMP** traffic from anywhere.

**Explore the instances and their connectivity**

Currently, the VPN connection between the two networks is not established. Explore the connectivity options between the instances in the networks.

1. In the Cloud Console, on the **Navigation menu** (Navigation menu), click **Compute Engine** > **VM instances**.
2. Click **Columns**, and select **Network**.

From server-1, you should be able to ping the following IP addresses of server-2:



Internal IP address



External IP address

Submit

1. Note the external and internal IP addresses for **server-2**.
2. For **server-1**, click **SSH** to launch a terminal and connect.
3. To test connectivity to server-2's external IP address, run the following command, replacing server-2's external IP address with the value noted earlier:

ping -c 3 <Enter server-2's external IP address here>

This works because the VM instances can communicate over the internet.

1. To test connectivity to server-2's internal IP address, run the following command, replacing server-2's internal IP address with the value noted earlier:

ping -c 3 <Enter server-2's internal IP address here>

You should see 100% packet loss when pinging the internal IP address because you don't have VPN connectivity yet.

1. Exit the SSH terminal.

Let's try the same from **server-2**.

1. Note the external and internal IP addresses for **server-1**.
2. For **server-2**, click **SSH** to launch a terminal and connect.
3. To test connectivity to server-1's external IP address, run the following command, replacing server-1's external IP address with the value noted earlier:

ping -c 3 <Enter server-1's external IP address here>

1. To test connectivity to server-1's internal IP address, run the following command, replacing server-1's internal IP address with the value noted earlier:

ping -c 3 <Enter server-1's internal IP address here>

You should see similar results.

1. Exit the SSH terminal.

Why are we testing both **server-1** to **server-2** and **server-2** to **server-1**?

For the purposes of this lab, the path from subnet-a to subnet-b is not the same as the path from subnet-b to subnet-a. You are using one tunnel to pass traffic in each direction. And if both tunnels are not established, you won't be able to ping the remote server on its internal IP address. The ping might reach the remote server, but the response can't be returned.

This makes it much easier to debug the lab during class. In practice, a single tunnel could be used with symmetric configuration. However, it is more common to have multiple tunnels or multiple gateways and VPNs for production work, because a single tunnel could be a single point of failure.

**Task 2: Create the VPN gateways and tunnels**

Establish private communication between the two VM instances by creating VPN gateways and tunnels between the two networks.

**Reserve two static IP addresses**

Reserve one static IP address for each VPN gateway.

1. In the Cloud Console, on the **Navigation menu** (Navigation menu), click **VPC network** > **External IP addresses**.
2. Click **Reserve static address**.
3. Specify the following, and leave the remaining settings as their defaults:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Property** | **Value (type value or select option as specified)** |
| Name | vpn-1-static-ip |
| IP version | IPv4 |
| Region | us-central1 |

1. Click **Reserve**.

Repeat the same for **vpn-2-static-ip**.

1. Click **Reserve static address**.
2. Specify the following, and leave the remaining settings as their defaults:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Property** | **Value (type value or select option as specified)** |
| Name | vpn-2-static-ip |
| IP version | IPv4 |
| Region | europe-west1 |

1. Click **Reserve**.

Note both IP addresses for the next step. They will be referred to us [VPN-1-STATIC-IP] and [VPN-2-STATIC-IP].

**Create the vpn-1 gateway and tunnel1to2**

1. In the Cloud Console, on the **Navigation menu** (Navigation menu), click **Hybrid Connectivity** > **VPN**.
2. Click **Create VPN Connection**.
3. If asked, select **Classic VPN**, and then click **Continue**.
4. Specify the following in the **VPN gateway** section, and leave the remaining settings as their defaults:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Property** | **Value (type value or select option as specified)** |
| Name | vpn-1 |
| Network | vpn-network-1 |
| Region | us-central1 |
| IP address | vpn-1-static-ip |

1. Specify the following in the **Tunnels** section, and leave the remaining settings as their defaults:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Property** | **Value (type value or select option as specified)** |
| Name | tunnelt1to2 |
| Remote peer IP address | [VPN-2-STATIC-IP] |
| IKE pre-shared key | gcprocks |
| Routing options | Route-based |
| Remote network IP ranges | 10.1.3.0/24 |

Make sure to replace [VPN-2-STATIC-IP] with your reserved IP address for **europe-west1**.

1. Click **command line**.

The **gcloud command line** window shows the gcloud commands to create the **VPN gateway** and **VPN tunnels** and it illustrates that three forwarding rules are also created.

1. Click **Close**.
2. Click **Create**.

Click Check my progress to verify the objective.

Create the 'vpn-1' gateway and tunnel

Check my progress

**Create the vpn-2 gateway and tunnel2to1**

1. Click **VPN setup wizard**.
2. If asked, select **Classic VPN**, and then click **Continue**.
3. Specify the following in the **VPN gateway** section, and leave the remaining settings as their defaults:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Property** | **Value (type value or select option as specified)** |
| Name | vpn-2 |
| Network | vpn-network-2 |
| Region | europe-west1 |
| IP address | vpn-2-static-ip |

1. Specify the following in the **Tunnels** section, and leave the remaining settings as their defaults:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Property** | **Value (type value or select option as specified)** |
| Name | tunnelt2to1 |
| Remote peer IP address | [VPN-1-STATIC-IP] |
| IKE pre-shared key | gcprocks |
| Routing options | Route-based |
| Remote network IP ranges | 10.5.4.0/24 |

Make sure to replace [VPN-1-STATIC-IP] with your reserved IP address for **us-central1**.

1. Click **Create**.
2. Click **Cloud VPN Tunnels**.

Click Check my progress to verify the objective.

Create the 'vpn-2' gateway and tunnel

Check my progress

Wait for the **VPN tunnels status** to change to **Established** for both tunnels before continuing.

Click Check my progress to verify the objective.

Tunnel establishment

Check my progress

**Task 3: Verify VPN connectivity**

From server-1, you should be able to ping the following IP addresses of server-2:



External IP address



Internal IP address

Submit

**Verify server-1 to server-2 connectivity**

1. In the Cloud Console, on the **Navigation menu**, click **Compute Engine** > **VM instances**.
2. For **server-1**, click **SSH** to launch a terminal and connect.
3. To test connectivity to **server-2**'s internal IP address, run the following command:

ping -c 3 <insert server-2's internal IP address here>

1. Exit the **server-1** SSH terminal.
2. For **server-2**, click **SSH** to launch a terminal and connect.
3. To test connectivity to **server-1**'s internal IP address, run the following command:

ping -c 3 <insert server-1's internal IP address here>

**Remove the external IP addresses**

Now that you verified VPN connectivity, you can remove the instances' external IP addresses. For demonstration purposes, just do this for the **server-1** instance.

1. On the **Navigation menu**, click **Compute Engine** > **VM instances**.
2. Select the **server-1** instance and click **Stop**. Wait for the instance to stop.

Instances need to be stopped before you can make changes to their network interfaces.

1. Click on the name of the **server-1** instance to open the **VM instance details** page.
2. Click **Edit**.
3. For **Network interfaces**, click the **Edit** icon (Edit).
4. Change **External IP** to **None**.
5. Click **Done**.
6. Click **Save** and wait for the instance details to update.
7. Click **Start**.
8. Click **Start** again to confirm that you want to start the VM instance.
9. Return to the **VM instances** page and wait for the instance to start.
10. Notice that **External IP** is set to **None** for the **server-1** instance.

Feel free to SSH to **server-2** and verify that you can still ping the **server-1** instance's internal IP address. You won't be able to SSH to **server-1** from the Cloud Console but you can do so from Cloud Shell using Cloud IAP as described [here](https://cloud.google.com/solutions/building-internet-connectivity-for-private-vms#configuring_iap_tunnels_for_interacting_with_instances).

External IP addresses that don’t fall under the [Free Tier](https://cloud.google.com/free/docs/gcp-free-tier#always-free-usage-limits) will incur a [small cost](https://cloud.google.com/compute/network-pricing#ipaddress). Also, as a general security best practice, it’s a good idea to use internal IP addresses where applicable and since you configured Cloud VPN you no longer need to communicate between instances using their external IP address.

**Task 4: Review**

In this lab, you configured a VPN connection between two networks with subnets in different regions. Then you verified the VPN connection by pinging VMs in different networks using their internal IP addresses.

You configured the VPN gateways and tunnels using the Cloud Console. However, this approach obfuscated the creation of forwarding rules, which you explored with the command line button in the Console. This can help in troubleshooting a configuration.