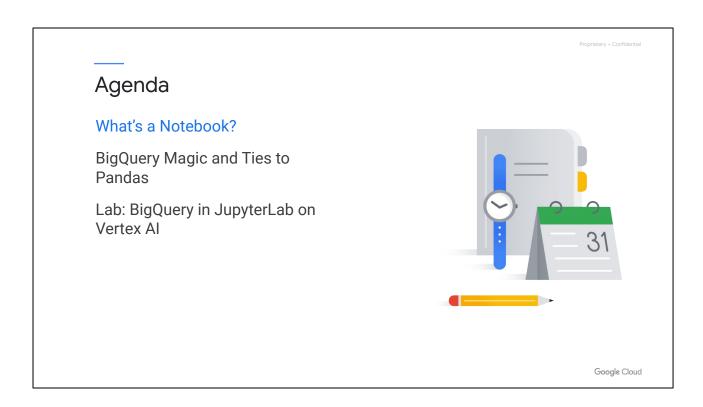


In this module, we are going to introduce Notebooks, an extremely useful tool for prototyping machine learning solutions.

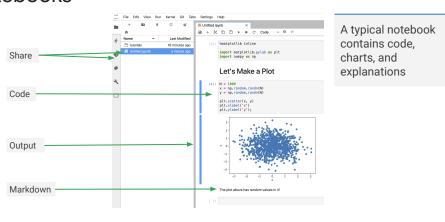


We will start by describing in detail some of the benefits of notebooks. We will then discuss how notebooks can be tied into other Google Cloud services.



Google Cloud

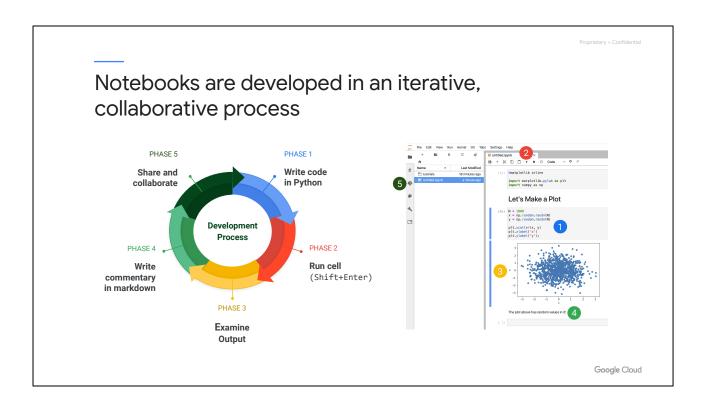
Increasingly, data analysis and machine learning are carried out in self-descriptive, shareable, executable notebooks



Standard software development tools are not very efficient for writing code for data analysis and machine learning.

Data analysis and machine learning coding often involve looking at plots, repeatedly executing small chunks of code with minor changes, and frequently having to print output. Iteratively, running whole scripts for this task is burdensome.

These were some of the issues that motivated the development of notebooks. Notebook environments seamlessly integrate commentary, plots, and code. Rather than having a script that performs a piece of analysis, notebooks chunk individually executable pieces of code in cells.



Have you used Google Docs? How is it different from documents edited in a desktop editor?

Have you filed taxes online? How is the experience different from doing your taxes in a desktop program?

There are lots of benefits, but one key aspect is collaboration. You don't have to email documents back and forth.

When I first started doing scientific research, collaborating on a single result was painful. I'd write some code and create a graph. Then, I would snapshot, create an image file, put into a doc, create a PDF, and send it to my collaborator. A few hours later, my colleague would say, "Looks great, but could you add one more year's data? It looks kinda sparse." And I'd go through the process all over again. Why? Because the PDF I'd sent was not editable. Round-trips took a loooong time.

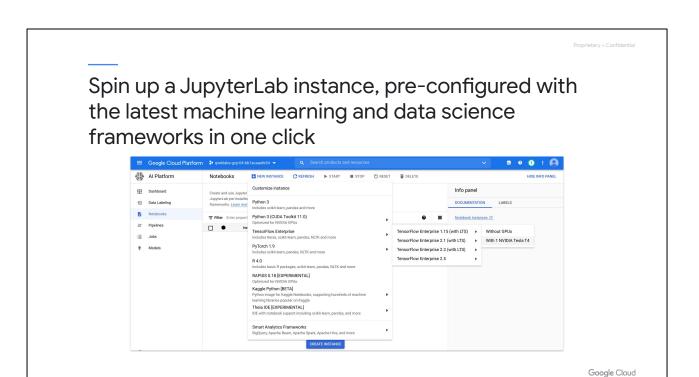
Enter Python notebooks. I'd write the code, create the graph, write some commentary, and send the notebook link to my colleague. This way, when my colleague wanted to add one more year of data, she would simply edit the cell, look at the new graph, and say, "See, it looks a lot better." And that was great; we now had a better notebook for the next step.

One problem with traditional notebooks: Who runs the server that hosts these pages? Whose machine? If it's mine, and my machine goes to sleep, then my colleague can't

work!

When your Notebooks are hosted in the cloud, you can develop together quite easily. And just as Google Docs are available even when your computer isn't on, so too are Notebooks, when you run them in the Cloud.

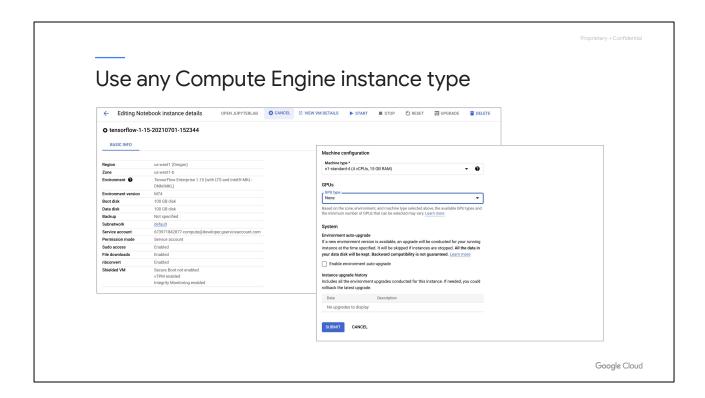
To share a notebook *within* a project, other users can simply "connect" to the VM and work using the URL. Another way to share notebooks is through revision control systems (for example, git).



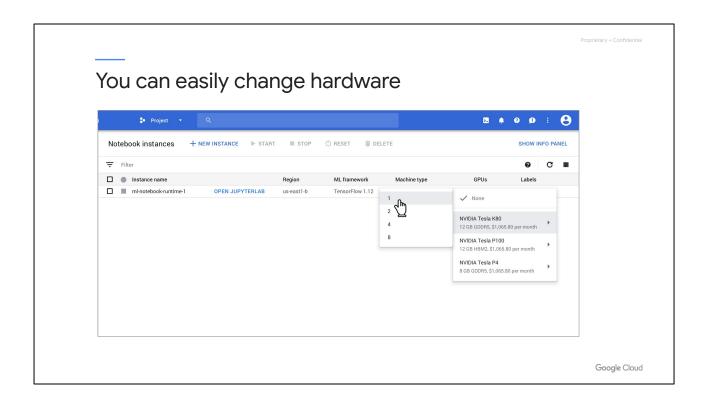
Spinning up a notebook can be done in one click. You may have heard of Jupyter Notebooks. Jupyter Notebooks are basically synonymous to Notebooks on Google Cloud (Vertex AI and AI Platform). The provided Python environment has a standard machine learning libraries pre-installed.



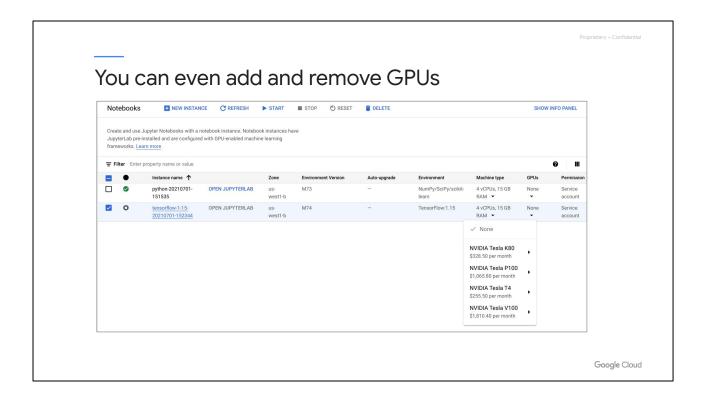
Notebooks uses the latest open source version of the industry standard JupyterLab.



When you initially set your Notebooks hardware, you can use any Compute Engine instance type.



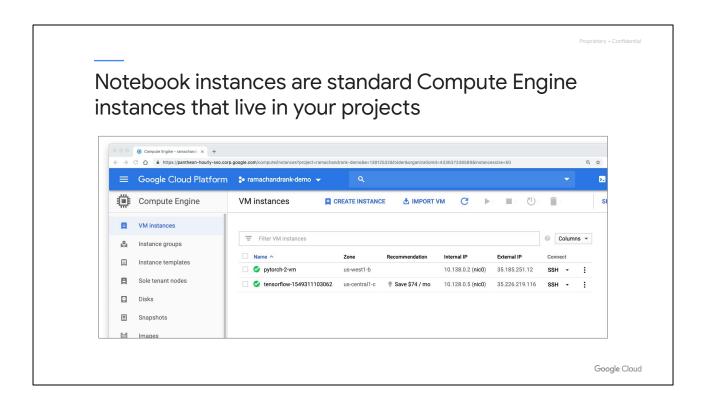
You can easily change hardware, including machine types.



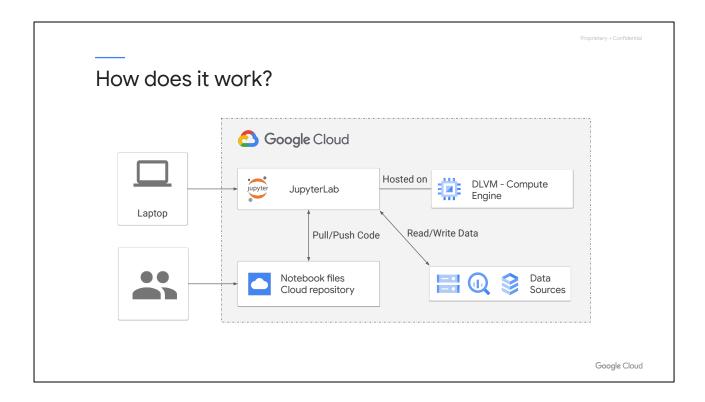
Compute Engine provides graphics processing units (GPUs) that you can add to your virtual machine instances (VMs). You can use these GPUs to accelerate specific workloads on your VMs such as machine learning and data processing.

If you did not attach GPUs during VM creation, you can add GPUs to your existing VMs to suit your application needs as they arise.

If you attached GPUs during or after VM creation, you can detach these GPUs from these VMs when you no longer need them.

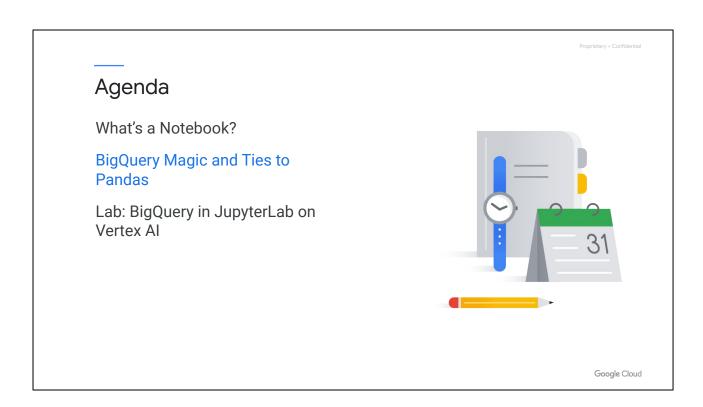


Note that, Notebook instances are treated in the same way as standard Compute Engine instances living in your projects. If you start a Notebook and then in the Cloud console, you navigate to VM instances, you will see your Notebook instances under Compute Engine.

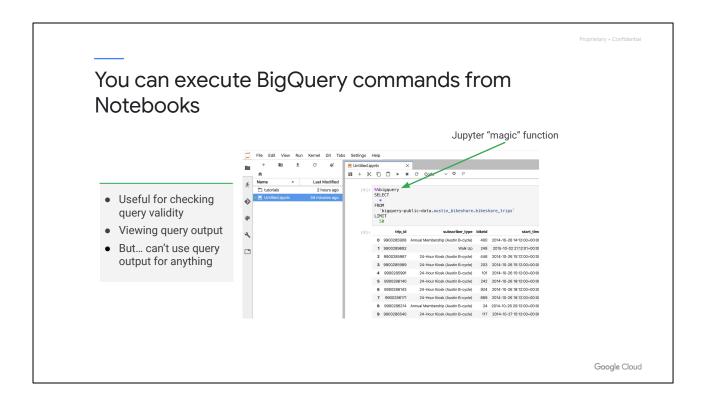


As we mentioned before, Notebooks run the latest version of JupyterLab, which in this case is hosted on Compute Engine. That accounts for the hardware and libraries. For collaboration, the notebooks are integrated with Git, so you can version your notebooks.

Notebooks also provide connectors to and from BigQuery so that you can easily pull data into your notebook.



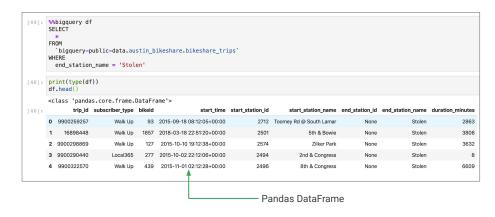
Let's describe a convenient functionality within Notebooks that allows you to pull data from BigQuery straight into your notebook.



You may be familiar with magic functions in Jupyter labs. Magic functions allow you to execute system commands from within notebook cells. There are magic functions to check the contents of your current directory. You can also define custom magic functions. The BigQuery magic function shown in this slide allows you to execute BigQuery queries. This is useful for checking query correctness and output.



Can use the BigQuery API in Notebooks to return query results as a Pandas DataFrame

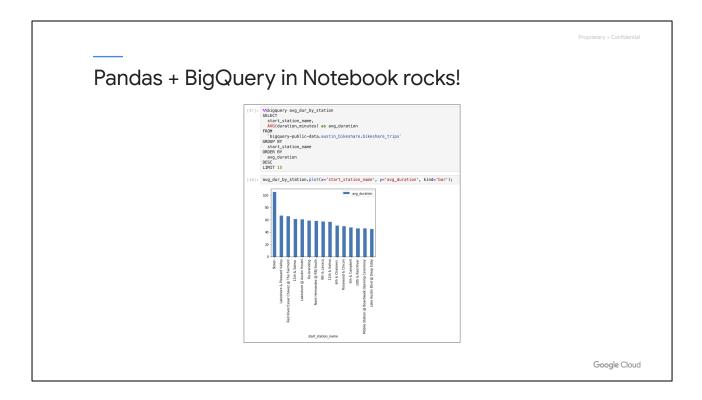


Google Cloud

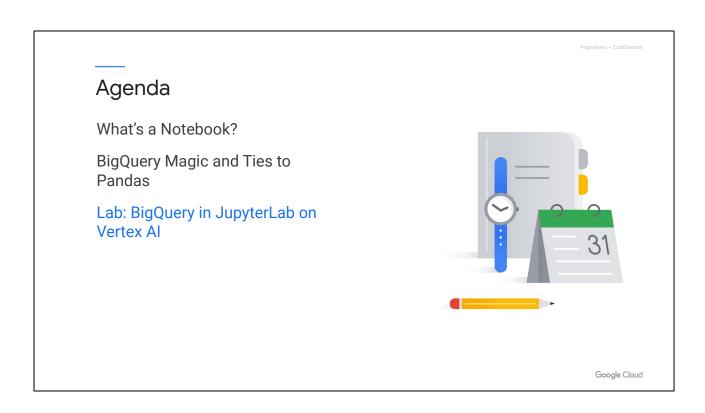
The BigQuery magic function allows you to save the query output to a Pandas DataFrame, so that you can manipulate it further.

In this example we are saving the output of a query to a Pandas DataFrame named df. Pandas is a numeric library for Python, it displays data in a tabular structure. It also shows you metadata so that you can do things like describe data frames, object types, and generate summary statistics on the columns.

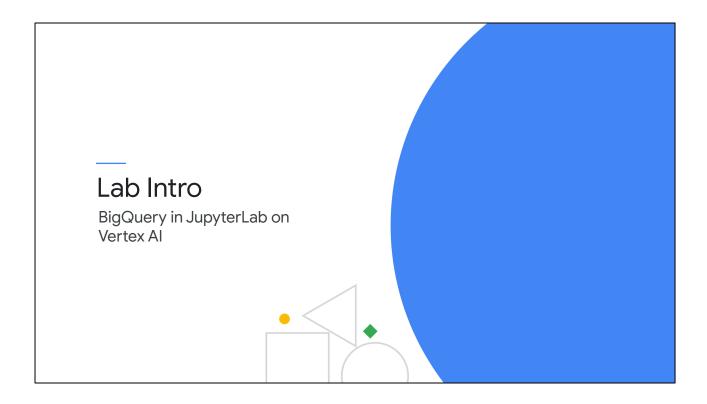
This is really powerful to be able to just pull query results directly into a DataFrame into two lines of code. Keep in mind you are working in a notebook and there will be a limited amount of memory. So you wouldn't want to go to BigQuery and pull up Boolean line dataset. Instead use a sampling technique to pull a subset of the data.



Here is an example how you can execute a BigQuery query to pull data into two Pandas data frame object. A simple bar plot is then generated from the data frame.



This lab will give you the opportunity to check out Vertex AI Notebooks for yourself.



The objectives of this lab are to:

- Instantiate a Jupyter notebook on Vertex AI.
- Execute a BigQuery query from within a Jupyter notebook and process the output using Pandas.

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Module summary

- Notebooks are ideal for prototyping machine learning pipelines and models.
- Notebooks integrate nicely with BigQuery and other Google Cloud services.

Google Cloud

In this module, we learned about Notebooks and explored some advantages of using them, including its collaboration utilities and integration with other Google Cloud services.

