Guide to Looker Enterprise

For organizations working with high volumes of data and requiring top-notch security, robust enterprise-grade visualization tools are essential to unlock insights while safeguarding sensitive information. Looker Enterprise is a cloud-based data visualization platform that allows teams to collaborate and visualize their data. In this reading, you'll learn how to get started with Looker Enterprise and learn the key features of Looker Enterprise needed to complete the labs.

Looker Enterprise

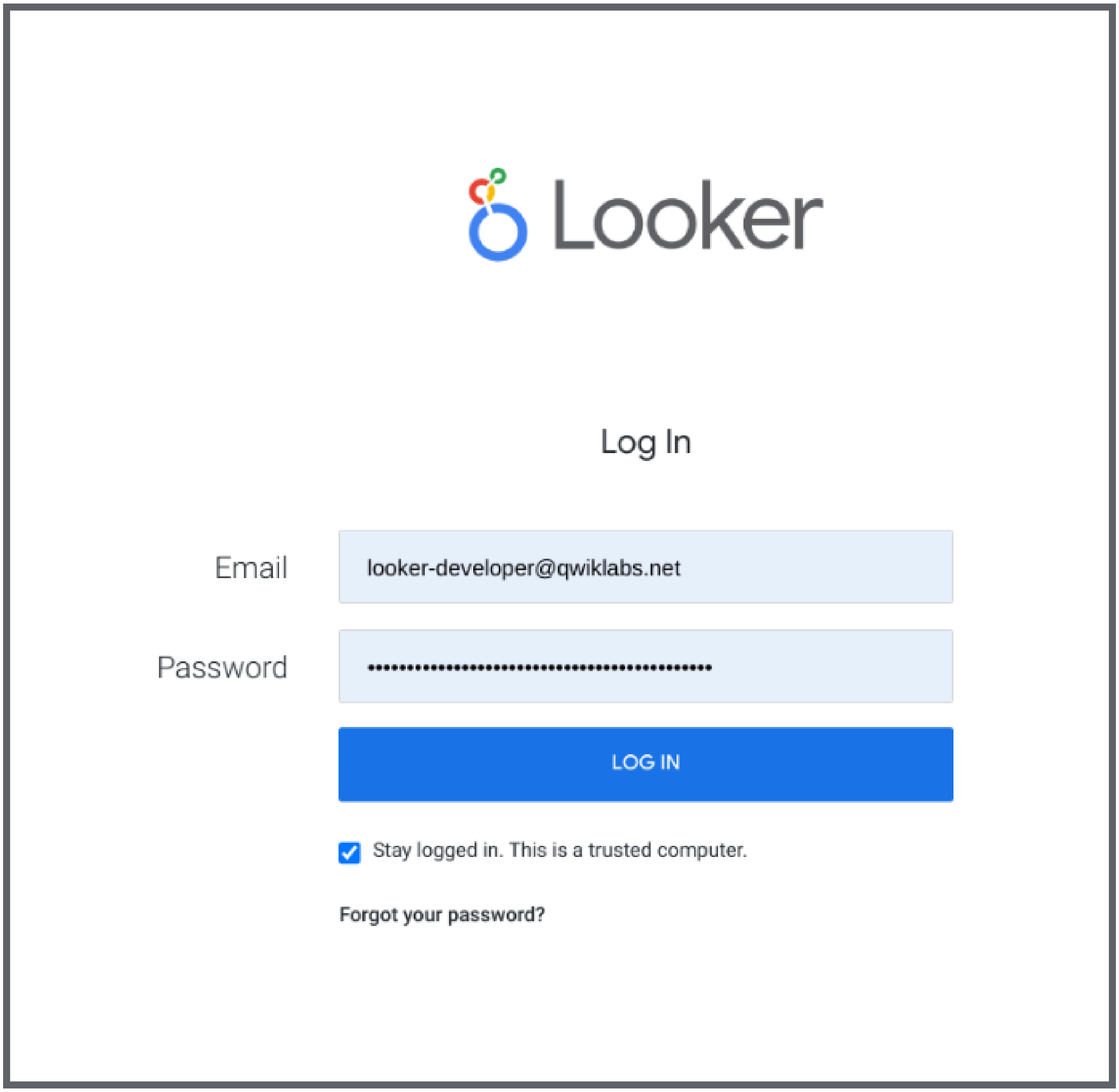
Looker Enterprise is a Business Intelligence (BI) platform that empowers organizations to explore and analyze data and collaborate in a secure and governed environment. While Looker Studio is a free tool available to anyone with a Google account, Looker Enterprise is a paid tool that offers enhanced security, rich BI capabilities, and is designed to handle high volumes of data.

Access Looker Enterprise

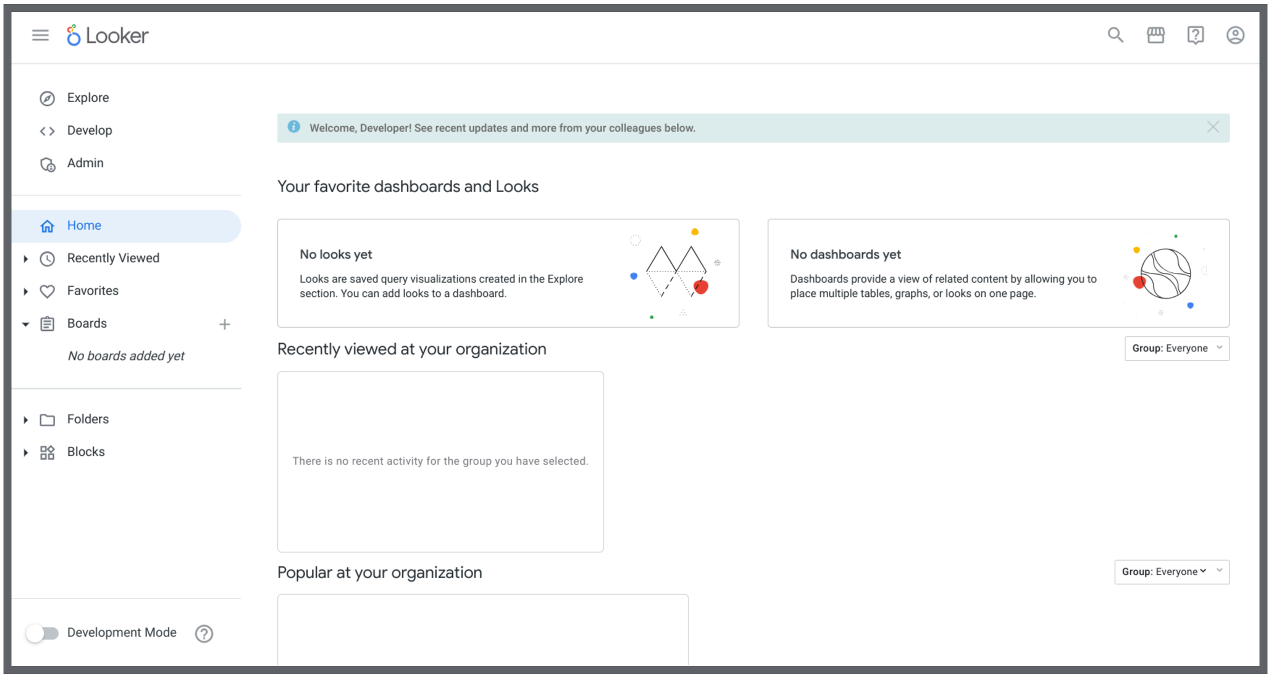
To use Looker Enterprise, you'll need an internet connection, a web browser, and access to a paid Looker Enterprise instance. Since exact access instructions will vary depending on your Looker Enterprise's setup and configuration, these instructions provide a general guide. For instructions specific to your organization, consult your Looker administrator. For access to Looker Enterprise for the labs, follow the instructions to access Looker Enterprise from a browser window.

To access Looker Enterprise from a browser window:

1. Navigate to the unique URL provided by your Looker administrator. For the labs in this course, navigate to the lab and click **Open Looker.**
2. Enter your assigned credentials. For the labs in this course, these credentials will be pre-assigned for your use for the duration of the lab. For other uses, these credentials will be provided to you by your Looker administrator.
3. If working on a trusted computer, check the box to stay logged in. This will prevent you from being logged out automatically after a short period of time.



4. Once logged in, you'll have access to the Looker Enterprise interface.



Here are the other ways to access Looker Enterprise:

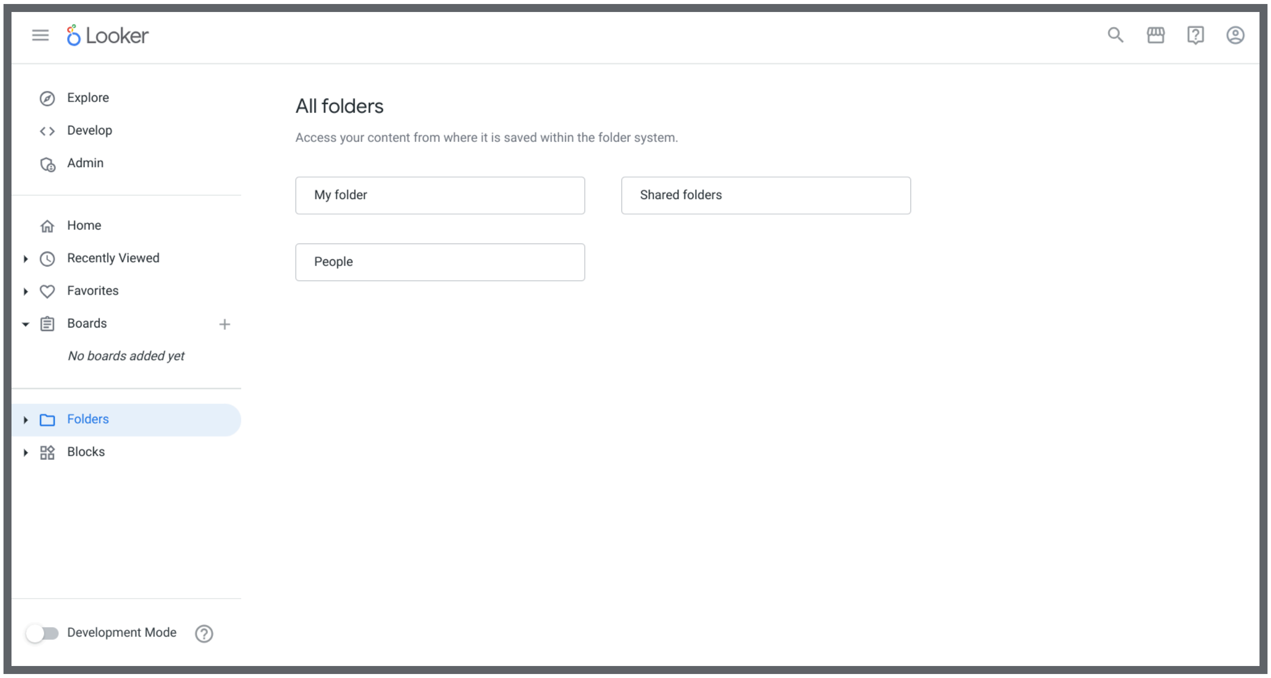
Depending on your organization's setup, you may also access Looker Enterprise using Single Sign-On (SSO) or directly through the Google Cloud Platform. For instructions on how to access your specific organization's instance, contact your Looker administrator.

View existing Looks and dashboards

There are two types of content used to view data in Looker Enterprise. A dashboard is a collection of tiles that show visualized query results and a Look is a saved snapshot of the data that results from a query. Both Looks and dashboards are organized within folders for easy access and grouping.

To open an existing folder in Looker Enterprise:

1. In the navigation panel, look for the section titled **Folders** or expand the menu that lists your content options.
2. Select the folder you want to open from the list. The list will include all the folders you have access to, based on your user permissions.



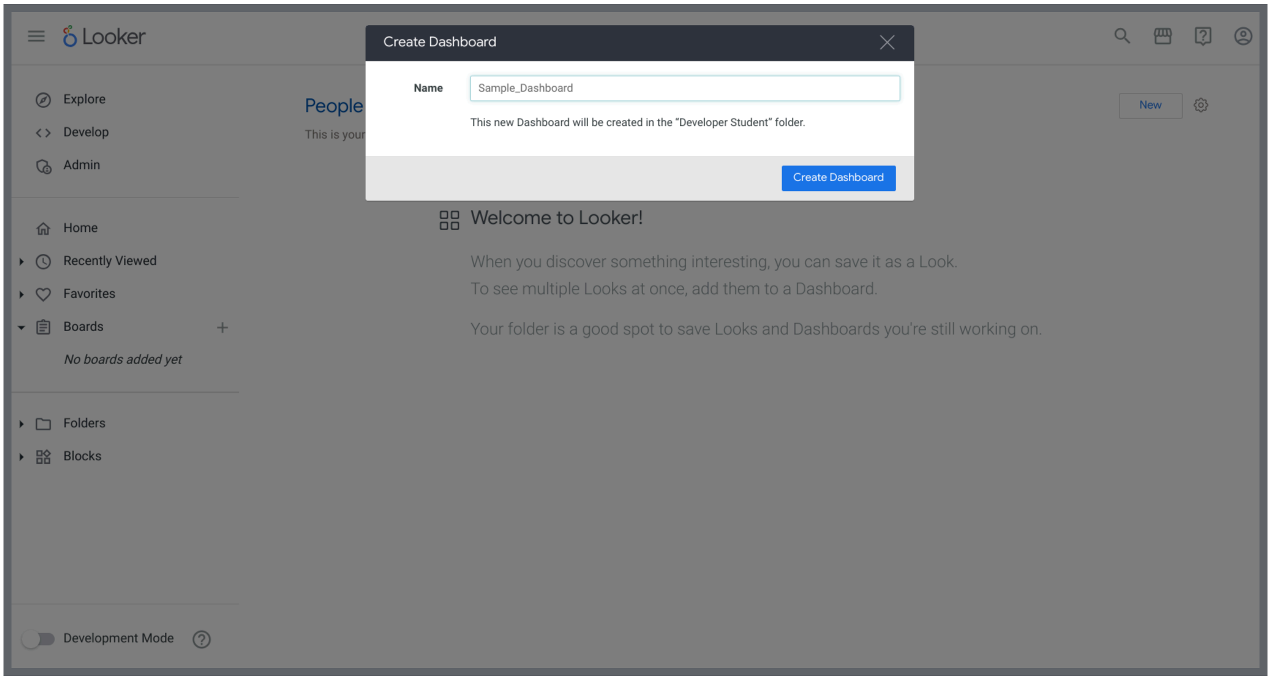
3. Folders can contain Looks, dashboards, and sub-folders. Under the Looks and dashboard header, click on the item you wish to view. For nested items, open the subfolder first.

Create a new dashboard

A dashboard in Looker is a centralized place for visualizing and interacting with your data. It lets you combine different visualizations like charts, tables, and maps onto a single view, providing a comprehensive overview of key metrics and insights from your underlying data sources.

To create a new dashboard:

1. Open the folder where you want the dashboard saved.
2. Click **New** in the top corner.
3. Select **Dashboard** from the dropdown menu.
4. Enter a title and description for your dashboard. Be sure to make the title meaningful and easily understood by others.
5. Click **Create Dashboard**.



6. Click **Edit** to add visualizations to the dashboard.
7. After updating the dashboard, make sure to save the dashboard by clicking **Save**.

Add components to a dashboard

A tile in Looker Enterprise is a fundamental building block of dashboards. It represents a single visualization or analytical element within a dashboard, like a chart, table, or map.

To add a tile to an existing dashboard:

1. Open the dashboard you want to add tiles to.
2. Click **Add Tile**. The **Add Tile** button is located on the dashboard's toolbar.
3. Use the **Explore** section to add dimensions and measures.
4. Add the visualization format that works best with your data.
5. Click **Save** and add the tile to the dashboard.
6. Make sure to save the dashboard each time you add a tile or make a change.

Filtering, sorting, and limiting data

Filtering is an important way to improve the clarity and efficiency of your results by limiting the data to only the most relevant data points. There are multiple ways to filter data in Looker Enterprise.

To use the field picker to filter a dimension:

1. Locate the dimension you want to filter from the list of available dimensions.

2. Click the **filter by field** icon next to the dimension name.
3. Choose an **Include** or **Exclude** filter.
4. Use the interface to build the filtering rule for the dimension.

To filter using the Results tab:

1. Right click the **Results** tab.
2. Select **Filter On.**
3. Build filter rules using functions, operators, and other dimensions.

Results can also be easily sorted and filtered.

To limit the number of rows returned:

1. Locate the **Data** tab in the Look or Explore.
2. Next to **Row Limit**, change the number to the number of rows you want returned. By default, 500 rows are returned.

To sort the results:

1. Locate the table visualization in a Look or Explore.
2. Click on the header of the column you want to sort.
3. Select **Ascending** or **Descending** order.

Share a dashboard

Dashboards can be easily shared with others. Some ways you can share data is through email, URLs, embedding the content into a webpage or by downloading to a PDF.

1. Open the dashboard or Look you want to share.
2. Click the **Share** icon to open the sharing menu.
3. Select the method you want to use to share.

Looker Enterprise and SQL

Looker Enterprise is fundamentally a tool that generates SQL to retrieve data from a datasource. When you build a visualization with Looker Enterprise, you describe the relationship between tables and columns in a database using dimensions and measures. Looker Enterprise then translates this information based on the underlying LookML project to build an effective SQL query to retrieve the information from the database.

To view the underlying query in a Look or Explore:

1. Locate the **Data** panel.

2. Open the **SQL** tab to review the query.

Key takeaways

Looker Enterprise is a powerful business intelligence (BI) platform designed to handle the large amount of data organizations use to drive data-driven decision making. Looker Enterprise also offers advanced security features and other capabilities that help keep data safe and accessible. To access Looker Enterprise through a web browser, single sign-in (SSO), or on the Google Cloud Platform, you'll need credentials from your Looker administrator or temporary student credentials provided in the lab environment. Once in the Looker Enterprise environment, there are two main ways to visualize and save data. Looks are saved snapshots of data created by queries. Dashboards are collections of tiles displaying various visualized query results, providing a broader overview of your data. Both Looks and dashboards can be easily shared within your organization to encourage collaboration and data-driven decision making.