Creating a VM instance from an existing instance

You can create an instance from an existing instance by going to the **VM instance details** page of the Google Cloud Console (https://console.cloud.google.com/). When you create an instance by clicking **Create similar**, the Cloud Console (https://console.cloud.google.com/) creates an instance with the same configuration as the source instance but does not copy any data stored on the persistent disks or the existing instance.
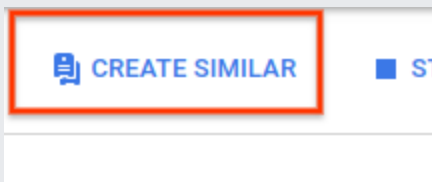
Restrictions

You can only use this feature in the Cloud Console; this feature is not supported in the `gcloud` tool or the API.

Creating a similar instance

1. Go to the VM instances page.

   Go to the VM instances page (https://console.cloud.google.com/compute/instances)

2. Click the name of the instance you want to clone. The **VM instance details** page opens.

3. In the toolbar at the top of the **VM instance details** page, click **Create similar**.

   The Cloud Console copies the configuration and opens the **Create an instance** page.

4. In the **Create an instance** page, customize your new instance. For information about the settings, see the **Console** tab in Creating an instance from an image (/compute/docs/instances/create-start-instance#startinginstancewithimage).

5. When you have finished, click **Create**.

What's next

- Add persistent disks (/compute/docs/disks/add-persistent-disk) to your new instance.

- Transfer files (/compute/docs/instances/transfer-files) to your new instance.

- Create an instance from an image
    (/compute/docs/instances/create-start-instance#startinginstancewithimage).

- Create an instance from an instance template
    (/compute/docs/instances/create-vm-from-instance-template).

- Connect to your instance (/compute/docs/instances/connecting-to-instance).