

Creating passwords for Windows VMs

WINDOWS VMS

Windows Server instances use password authentication instead of SSH authentication. To prevent unauthorized access to new Windows instances, Compute Engine requires that you generate a new Windows password for that instance before you connect to it. If you forget your password, you can generate a new one using this same process.

Before you begin

- If you want to use the command-line examples in this guide:
 1. Install or update to the latest version of the [gcloud command-line tool](/compute/docs/gcloud-compute) (</compute/docs/gcloud-compute>).
 2. [Set a default region and zone](/compute/docs/gcloud-compute#set_default_zone_and_region_in_your_local_client) (/compute/docs/gcloud-compute#set_default_zone_and_region_in_your_local_client).
- [Create a Windows instance](/compute/docs/instances/windows/creating-managing-windows-instances) (</compute/docs/instances/windows/creating-managing-windows-instances>).

Generating a password

You can generate Windows passwords using either the Google Cloud Console or the `gcloud` command-line tool. Alternatively, you can [generate passwords programmatically](/compute/docs/instances/windows/automate-pw-generation) (</compute/docs/instances/windows/automate-pw-generation>) with API commands. If you forget your password, you can also use this procedure to reset it.

⚠: Resetting a password for an existing user can cause the loss of data that is encrypted with the current `Word`, such as encrypted files or stored passwords.

Permissions required for this task

To perform this task, you must have the following [permissions](/iam/docs/overview#permissions) (/iam/docs/overview#permissions):

- `compute.instances.admin` role on the project
- `iam.serviceAccountUser` role on the service account

Consolegcloud (#gcloud)

1. Go to the **VM instances** page.

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

2. Click the Windows VM to change the password on.

3. On the **VM instance details** page, click **Set Windows password**.

4. In the **Username** field, enter the username to change the password for, or enter a new username to create a new user.

5. Click **Set**.

Changing a password

Compute Engine generates a random password, but you should change the password to a custom password that is meaningful to you. To set a custom password, [connect to your Windows VM instance](/compute/docs/instances/connecting-to-instance#windows) (/compute/docs/instances/connecting-to-instance#windows) using the generated password, and then do the following:

Command promptWindows Server 2012 R2 (#... Windows Server 2016 (#win... Windows Server 2019

1. Use the `net user`

(https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-server-2012-r2-and-2012/cc771865(v=ws.11))

command to change the password.

What's next

- [Connecting to a Windows instance](#)
(/compute/docs/instances/connecting-to-instance#windows)
- [Automating Windows password generation](#)
(/compute/docs/instances/windows/automate-pw-generation)

Except as otherwise noted, the content of this page is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), and code samples are licensed under the [Apache 2.0 License](https://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0) (https://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0). For details, see the [Google Developers Site Policies](https://developers.google.com/site-policies) (https://developers.google.com/site-policies). Java is a registered trademark of Oracle and/or its affiliates.

Last updated 2020-08-17 UTC.