

There are many variations, some simple and some complex, on how to install GKE on-prem and create your user clusters.

To keep your initial installation straightforward, this documentation takes you through an installation journey that chooses the simpler options. At the end of the journey, you have an admin cluster and a small user cluster that you can use to deploy Kubernetes workloads.

After you've had some experience with your small cluster, you can read the advanced topics on setup and installation. At that point, you have the option of doing a second installation that includes some of the advanced features. And you have the option of creating a larger user cluster.

Here are the steps for installing GKE on-prem and creating your first user cluster:

- Get an [Anthos subscription](/anthos/docs/getting-started/) (/anthos/docs/getting-started).
- Prepare your vSphere environment.
- Set up networking and load balancing.
- Configure your Google Cloud project.
- Create an admin workstation.
- Create an admin cluster and a user cluster.

The initial installation journey makes these choices:

- Use the F5 BIG-IP load balancer. This way, the initial installation topics do not have to discuss the several [load balancing options](/gke-on-prem/docs/how-to/setup-load-balance/) (/gke-on-prem/docs/how-to/setup-load-balance).
- Use static IP addresses for cluster nodes and the admin workstation.
- Use [Container Registry](/container-registry/docs/) (/container-registry/docs/) to host GKE on-prem's container images instead of a private Docker registry.
- Create a user cluster that has three worker nodes and one control plane node.

After you have your Anthos subscription, the first step is to [prepare your vSphere environment](/gke-on-prem/docs/how-to/vsphere-requirements-basic/) (/gke-on-prem/docs/how-to/vsphere-requirements-basic).

[Next > \(/gke-on-prem/docs/how-to/vsphere-requirements-basic\)](/gke-on-prem/docs/how-to/vsphere-requirements-basic)