

The Stackdriver Monitoring agent gathers system and application metrics from your VM instances and sends them to Monitoring. You can also configure the Monitoring agent to monitor third-party applications.

This guide explains how to install the Stackdriver Monitoring agent for Monitoring on Compute Engine and Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) VMs. Using the agent is optional but recommended. Monitoring can access some metrics from the VM's hypervisor without the agent, including CPU utilization, some disk traffic metrics, network traffic, and uptime.

On instances running Microsoft Windows, the agent records CPU utilization and memory, pagefile, and volume usage. If you are running IIS or SQL server, the agent collects metrics from those services by default.

To install the agent, ensure that you have the following:

- A [supported VM instance](#) (/monitoring/agent/#supported\_vms) in a Google Cloud project or Amazon Web Services (AWS) account.
  - A minimum of 250 MiB of resident (RSS) memory is recommended to run the Monitoring agent.
- A [Workspace](#) (/monitoring/workspaces) monitoring the AWS account containing the VM instance. For pricing information, go to [Stackdriver Pricing](#) (/stackdriver/pricing\_v2).
- Credentials on the VM instance that authorize communication with Stackdriver. Compute Engine VM instances generally have the correct credentials by default. If either of the following scenarios applies to you, then you might not have the proper credentials and must complete the [Authorizing the agent](#) (/monitoring/agent/authorization) procedures:
  - Running AWS EC2 VM instances, you must [install authorization credentials](#) (/monitoring/agent/authorization) on your VMs before installing the agent.
  - Running very old Compute Engine instances or Compute Engine instances created without the default credentials.

To check if you have the proper credentials, run the [Verifying Compute Engine credentials](#) (/monitoring/agent/troubleshooting#verify-creds) procedures.

Stackdriver documentation often refers to *the Google Cloud project associated with your VM instance*. For EC2 VM instances, this phrase refers to the **AWS connector project** linked to your AWS account.

Stackdriver creates the AWS connector project when you connect your AWS account to a Workspace. The connector project has the following attributes:

- A name that begins **AWS Link**
- An ID that begins with **aws-**

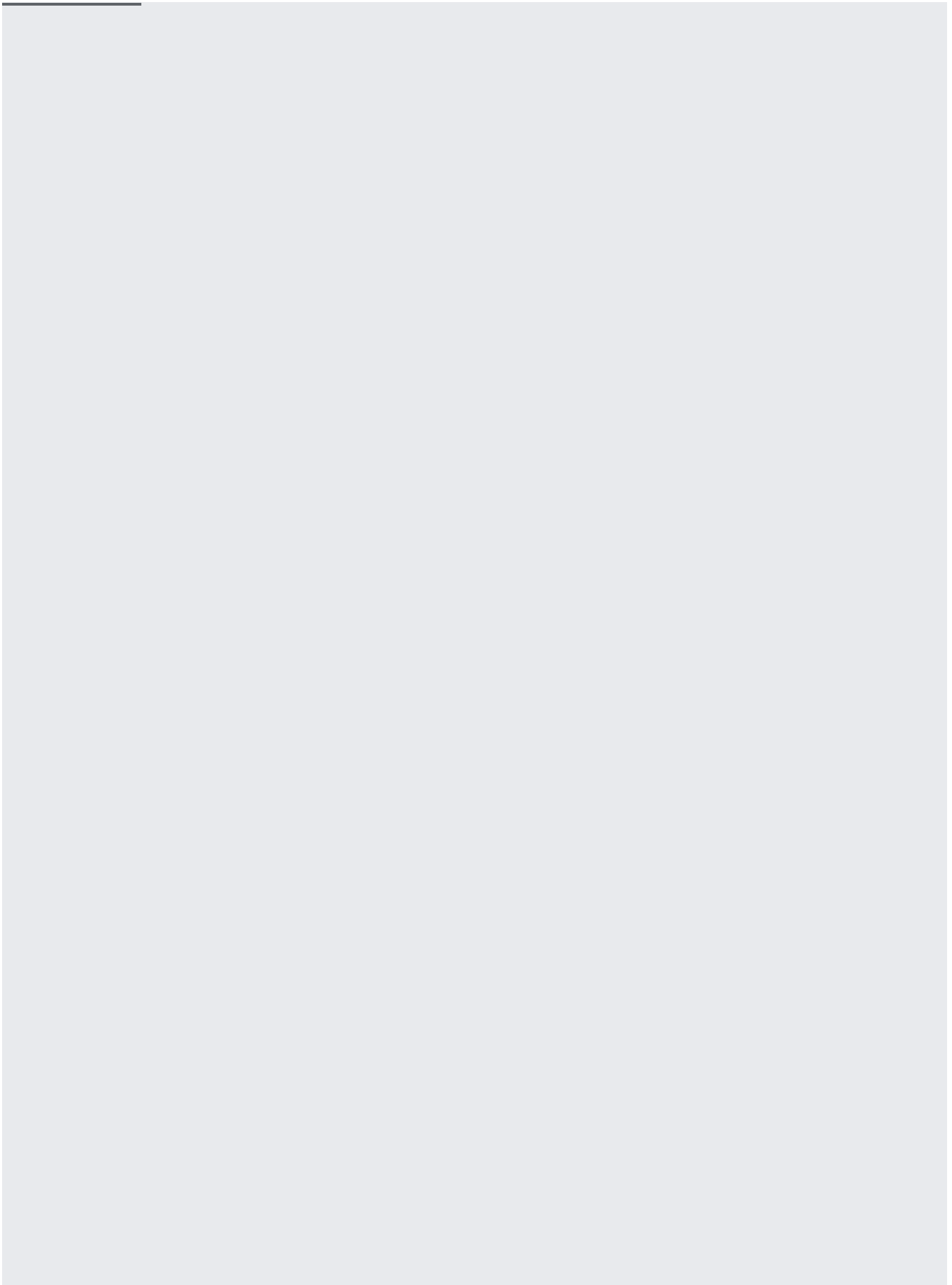
This ID is *the Google Cloud project associated with your VM instance*.

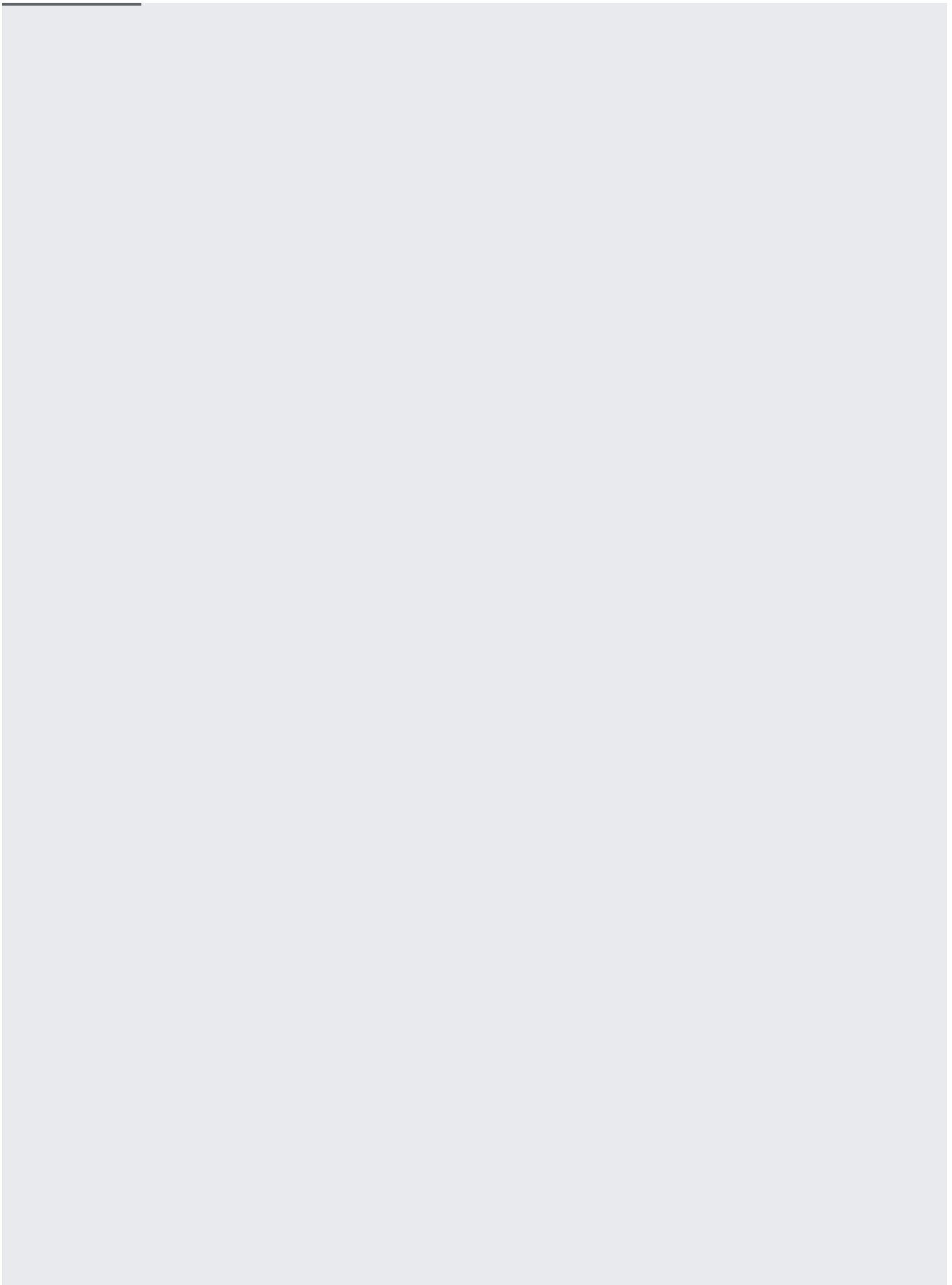
Refer to the [Workspace page](/monitoring/workspaces/#connector-project) (/monitoring/workspaces/#connector-project) for more information about AWS connector projects.

Don't install the agent on an EC2 VM instance until you have connected your AWS account to a Workspace. Until the connection is made, there is no associated Google Cloud project and therefore nowhere to send data.

Installing the Monitoring agent [requires access](/monitoring/agent#access) (/monitoring/agent#access) to remote package repositories, for both the agent package and (on Linux) its dependencies. If your VM host's security policy denies access to remote package repositories, we recommend creating a [custom VM image](/compute/docs/images/create-delete-deprecate-private-images) (/compute/docs/images/create-delete-deprecate-private-images) with the agent pre-installed and disabling package management in that image.

To install the agent on VM instances running Linux or Microsoft Windows, use the following instructions.





This section describes how to perform common maintenance tasks.

To determine the version of the Monitoring agent on your system, run the following commands on your VM instance:

You must restart the Monitoring agent to pick up changes in configuration files. To restart the agent, use the following instructions.

To upgrade the Monitoring agent to the latest release, use the following instructions:

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If you upgraded your instance's Linux operating system to a new major release, then you should first remove the agent (run `sudo systemctl stop stackdriver-monitoring-agent` and `sudo rm -rf /etc/stackdriver/monitoring-agent`) and then re-install it (`#joint-install`) using the procedures on this page, instead of completing these upgrade instructions.

To remove the Monitoring agent and its configuration files, use the following instructions.

If you have trouble with the installation, refer to the [Troubleshooting \(/monitoring/agent/troubleshooting\)](/monitoring/agent/troubleshooting) page.



