

[Data Analytics Products](https://cloud.google.com/products/big-data/) (https://cloud.google.com/products/big-data/)

[Cloud Pub/Sub](https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/) (https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/)

[Documentation](https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/) (https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/) [Guides](#)

Cloud Pub/Sub authentication

This topic describes authentication information for Cloud Pub/Sub.

Supported authentication methods

Cloud Pub/Sub supports the following authentication methods.

Service accounts

Service accounts are recommended for almost all use cases, whether you are developing locally or in a production application. For an example of how to set up authentication with a service account, see [Pub/Sub client libraries](#)

(https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/reference/libraries).

For more information about setting up authentication with a production application, see [setting up authentication for server to server production applications](#)

(https://cloud.google.com/docs/authentication/production).

User accounts

You can authenticate users directly to your application, when the application needs to access resources on behalf of an end user. For most use cases, we recommend [using a service account instead](#) (#service-accounts).

Examples of why to use user accounts with Cloud Pub/Sub include:

- Administrative actions

Note that identity information is captured in [audit logs](#)

(https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/audit-logging).

If your application uses end user authentication, you need to specify OAuth scopes when making a method call. See [Pub/Sub reference](#) (https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/apis/) for

per-method OAuth scopes.

For more information about setting up authentication with user accounts, see [authenticating as an end user](https://cloud.google.com/docs/authentication/end-user) (<https://cloud.google.com/docs/authentication/end-user>).

Access control

Roles limit an authenticated identity's ability to access resources. When building a production application, only grant an identity the permissions it needs in order to interact with applicable GCP APIs, features, or resources.

For more information about these roles, see [Cloud Pub/Sub access control](https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/access-control) (<https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/access-control>).

More information

- To learn more about GCP authentication, see the [authentication guide](https://cloud.google.com/docs/authentication/) (<https://cloud.google.com/docs/authentication/>).

★ **Note:** Pub/Sub does not support API keys as an authentication method.

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