

ually, if you're working with just one project, you shouldn't need more than one configuration; the default configuration `default`, should be sufficient in this case. To learn more about setting properties in a configuration to define per-project service settings such as the authorization account to use, prompt preferences, and verbosity levels, read [Managing configurations \(/sdk/docs/properties\)](#) instead.

A configuration is a named set of SDK [properties \(/sdk/docs/properties\)](#). These properties are key-value pairs that govern the behavior of the `gcloud` command-line tool and other SDK tools.

Properties that are commonly stored in configurations include default Google Compute Engine zone, verbosity level, usage reporting, project ID, and an active user or service account. Configurations allow you to define and enable these and other settings together as a group.

If you have multiple configurations, you can choose to switch between them or run commands using a specific configuration (with the help of the `--configuration` flag). For more about switching configurations, refer to the section below on [Activating configurations \(#activating_a_configuration\)](#).

To read about configurations from the command-line (along with a complete list of available properties), run `gcloud topic configurations`.

The SDK starts you off with a single configuration named `default`. You can set properties in your configuration by running the `gcloud init (/sdk/gcloud/reference/init)` command or by running `gcloud config set (/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/set)` directly.

For example, to disable prompting for scripting, run:

The single `default` configuration is suitable for many use cases. However, you can also [create additional configurations](#) (`/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/configurations/create`) and switch between them as required using `gcloud config configurations activate` (`/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/configurations/activate`). There is nothing special about the initial `default` configuration; it is created as a convenience. You can name this and any additional configurations however you'd like.

Multiple configurations are useful if you want to:

- **Use multiple projects:** You can create a separate configuration for each project and switch between them as required.
- **Use multiple authorization accounts**
- **Perform generally independent tasks:** For example, you can use one configuration to work on a Google App Engine application in one project and manage an unrelated Compute Engine instances in another project.

To create a configuration, run `gcloud config configurations create` (`/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/configurations/create`):

You must [activate](#) (`#activating_a_configuration`) the new configuration after creation in order to use it.

Only one of your multiple configurations can be active at a given time. The active configuration is the configuration whose properties will govern the behavior of the SDK tools.

To activate a new configuration or switch to a new active configuration, run: `gcloud config configurations activate` (/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/configurations/activate):

`gcloud config list` (/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/list) will always show you the properties in your active configuration.

To change the active configuration for a single command invocation, you can use the `--configuration` flag on any gcloud CLI command:

To change the active configuration for all commands in your current terminal, you can set the environment variable `CLOUDSDK_ACTIVE_CONFIG_NAME` to the name of the configuration you'd like to use.

To help make changing configurations seamless, you can leverage tools such as `direnv` (<https://direnv.net/>) and `onDIR` (<https://swapoff.org/onDIR.html>) to automatically switch between configurations when you switch working directories. One way of accomplishing this would be to set the necessary environment variables (like `CLOUDSDK_ACTIVE_CONFIG_NAME`) in the `.envrc` file in the root directory of your project.

To list the configurations in your Cloud SDK installation, run `gcloud config configurations list` (/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/configurations/list):

The gcloud CLI lists the configurations and shows which configuration is currently active:

To set and unset the properties in the active configuration, run `gcloud config set` (/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/set) and `gcloud config unset` (/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/unset):

To view the properties in a configuration, run: `gcloud config configurations describe` (/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/configurations/describe):

Or, to view properties in the active configuration:

The gcloud CLI prints the configuration properties:

To delete a configuration, run: **gcloud config configurations delete**
(/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/configurations/delete):

You cannot delete the active configuration. Use `gcloud config configurations activate` if required to switch to another configuration before deleting.

- Read [SDK Properties \(/sdk/docs/properties\)](/sdk/docs/properties/) to learn more about properties.