

This page shows you how to initialize the Google Cloud SDK.

After you install Cloud SDK, the next step is typically run the `gcloud init` (/sdk/gcloud/reference/init) command to perform initial setup tasks. You can also run `gcloud init` at a later time to change your settings or create a new configuration.

`gcloud init` performs the following setup steps:

- [Authorizes](/sdk/docs/authorizing) (/sdk/docs/authorizing) Cloud SDK tools to use your user account credentials to access Google Cloud Platform, or lets you select an account if you have previously authorized access
- Sets up a Cloud SDK [configuration](/sdk/docs/configurations) (/sdk/docs/configurations) and sets a base set of [properties](/sdk/docs/properties) (/sdk/docs/properties), including the active account from the step above, the current project, and if applicable, the default Google Compute Engine region and zone

You can run the following as alternatives to `gcloud init`:

#### Command

`gcloud auth login` (/sdk/gcloud/reference/auth/login)

`gcloud auth activate-service-account` (/sdk/gcloud/reference/auth/activate-service-account)

## Command

```
gcloud config [COMMAND]  
(/sdk/gcloud/reference/config)gcloud config configurations [COMMAND] (/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/c
```

To initialize Cloud SDK:

1. Run `gcloud init`:

If you are in a remote terminal session, you can use the `--console-only` flag to prevent the command from launching a browser-based authorization flow, if required:

2. Create or select a configuration if prompted.

If you are initializing a new Cloud SDK installation, `gcloud init` creates a new one named `default` for you and sets it as the active configuration. If you have existing configurations, `gcloud init` prompts you to choose between three options — re-initialize the active one, switch to another one and re-initialize it, or create a new one.

3. Complete the authorization step when prompted.

Depending on whether you have previously authorized access to the Cloud Platform, you may be prompted to log in and grant access in a web browser, or to select an existing account.

If you used the `--console-only` flag and login is required, you must then cut and paste the provided authorization URL into another browser window and follow the prompts provided.

When this step is completed, `gcloud init` sets the `account` property in the configuration to the specified account.

#### 4. Choose a current Cloud Platform project if prompted.

If you only have access to one project, including the default project for your user account, `gcloud init` selects it for you. Otherwise, you can select a project from a list of projects for which you have **Owner**, **Editor** or **Viewer** permissions. `gcloud init` sets the `project` property in the configuration to the property you choose.

#### 5. Choose a default Google Compute Engine zone if prompted.

If you do not have the Compute Engine API enabled or you already have a default zone in your [project-level metadata](/compute/docs/metadata/) (`/compute/docs/metadata/`), you will not see this step. `gcloud init` sets the `region` and `zone` properties in the configuration using the zone you choose.

When `gcloud init` finishes, it prints the properties in the active configuration to the terminal:

You can view these properties at any other time using the `gcloud config list` (`/sdk/gcloud/reference/config/list`) command.

- Read [Authorizing Cloud SDK tools](/sdk/docs/authorizing/) (`/sdk/docs/authorizing/`) to learn more about tool authorization.
- Read [Cloud SDK Configurations](/sdk/docs/configurations/) (`/sdk/docs/configurations/`) to learn more about configurations.
- Read [Cloud SDK Properties](/sdk/docs/properties/) (`/sdk/docs/properties/`) to learn more about configurations.