

[Management Tools](https://cloud.google.com/products/management/) (https://cloud.google.com/products/management/)

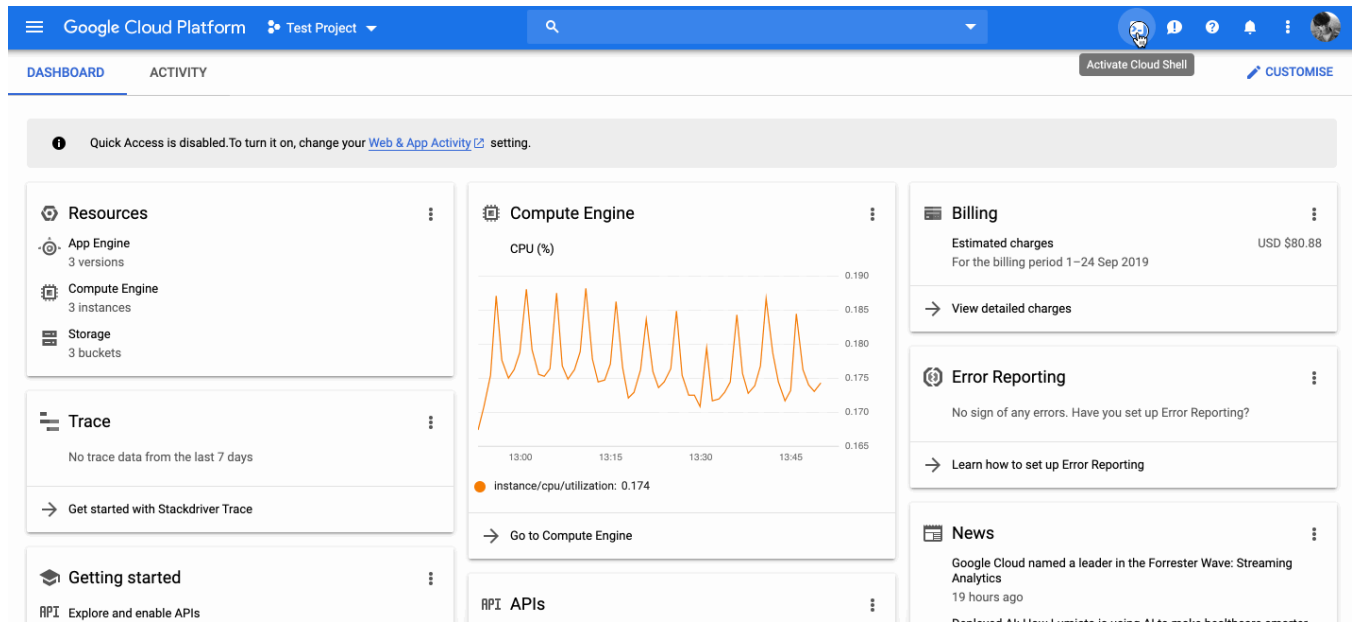
[Cloud Shell](https://cloud.google.com/shell/) (https://cloud.google.com/shell/) [Documentation](#)

# Using Cloud Shell

This page describes how to start and set up a new Google Cloud Shell session.

## Starting a new session

Click the **Activate Cloud Shell** button at the top of the [Google Cloud Console](https://console.cloud.google.com/) (https://console.cloud.google.com/).



The screenshot shows the Google Cloud Platform console dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Google Cloud Platform logo, a search bar, and user profile information. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'DASHBOARD' and 'ACTIVITY'. A notification banner at the top indicates that 'Quick Access is disabled' and provides a link to change the 'Web & App Activity' setting. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Resources:** A list of resources including App Engine (3 versions), Compute Engine (3 instances), and Storage (3 buckets).
- Trace:** A section indicating 'No trace data from the last 7 days' and a link to 'Get started with Stackdriver Trace'.
- Getting started:** A section with a link to 'Explore and enable APIs'.
- Compute Engine:** A central section displaying a 'CPU (%)' line graph over time (13:00 to 13:45). The graph shows fluctuating CPU usage between approximately 0.165 and 0.190. Below the graph, it shows 'instance/cpu/utilization: 0.174' and a link to 'Go to Compute Engine'.
- Billing:** A section showing 'Estimated charges' for the billing period 1-24 Sep 2019, totaling USD \$80.88, with a link to 'View detailed charges'.
- Error Reporting:** A section indicating 'No sign of any errors. Have you set up Error Reporting?' and a link to 'Learn how to set up Error Reporting'.
- News:** A section with a link to 'Google Cloud named a leader in the Forrester Wave: Streaming Analytics' and a link to 'Deployed AI: How Lumina is using AI to make healthcare smarter'.

A Cloud Shell session opens inside a new frame at the bottom of the Console and displays a command-line prompt. It can take a few seconds for the session to be initialized.

## Using the terminal

Cloud Shell provides command-line access to the virtual machine instance in a terminal window that opens in the Google Cloud Console. You can open multiple shell connections to the same instance. Just run `gcloud --help` to view the gcloud command-line tool commands available to you.

In addition to accessing the Cloud SDK `gcloud` (<https://cloud.google.com/sdk/gcloud/>) command-line tool and other utilities from the command line, you can use the `cloudshell` command to launch tutorials, open the code editor, and download files. Run `cloudshell help` for more information.

## Scrolling the display


In addition to using your mouse while browser focus is on a session tab, you can also scroll using **Ctrl-Shift-PageUp / Ctrl-Shift-PageDn** (Windows and Linux) or **Fn-Shift-Up / Fn-Shift-Down** (on Mac OS X).

## Copying and pasting text

To copy and paste text:






- Select some text in the session display or another window using your mouse.
- Press **Ctrl + C** (on Windows or Linux) or **Cmd + C** (on macOS) to copy the text.
- Press **Ctrl + V** (on Windows or Linux) or **Cmd + V** (on macOS) to paste at your current cursor location.

## Sending a key combination using the console

Click the **Send Key Combination** button  and select **Ctrl + V** to paste the contents of your clipboard at your current cursor location.

## Adjusting the display window

To adjust the display window:

1. Click the **Hide**  and **Restore**  buttons to hide and restore the session display.
2. Click the **Open Session in New Window**  button to detach the session as a new window.
3. Click the **Activate Cloud Shell**  button at the top of the Console window to close the detached window and re-open the session in the Console.
4. Click the **Settings** button  and then **Switch to Light Theme** or **Switch to Dark Theme** to toggle between themes.

## Opening multiple terminal sessions

Click the **Add Cloud Shell Session** + button at the top of the Cloud Shell window to open additional sessions. Each session connects to the same virtual machine instance. When you open a new session, it appears in a new tab at the bottom of the Console.

## Using the code editor

The built-in code editor provides the convenience of viewing and editing files in the same environment where projects are built and deployed.

Refer to the guide on using the [code editor](#)

(<https://cloud.google.com/shell/docs/viewing-and-editing-files>) for more details.

## What's next

Now that you're familiar with configuring Cloud Shell, you can start to use the [pre-installed tools and commands](#) (<https://cloud.google.com/shell/docs/how-cloud-shell-works#tools>) from the command line. You can also install additional tools in your [home directory](#) ([https://cloud.google.com/shell/docs/how-cloud-shell-works#persistent\\_disk\\_storage](https://cloud.google.com/shell/docs/how-cloud-shell-works#persistent_disk_storage)) in persistent disk storage as needed.

- [Learn how to use web preview](#) (<https://cloud.google.com/shell/docs/using-web-preview>)
- [Explore examples of things you can do in Cloud Shell](#) (<https://cloud.google.com/shell/docs/examples>)

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