This page shows how to create and manage Compute Engine instances from within Cloud Tools for PowerShell. Read the Cloud Tools for PowerShell cmdlet reference (http://googlecloudplatform.github.io/gcloud-powershell) to learn more about Compute Engine cmdlets.

Before creating an instance, you must first create an instance configuration. At a minimum, this requires a name, a machine type, and a boot disk image or preexisting boot disk:

See the Cloud Tools for PowerShell cmdlet reference (http://googlecloudplatform.github.io/gcloud-powershell) for the other configuration options offered by the `New-GceInstanceConfig` cmdlet.

Use the `Add-GceInstance` cmdlet to create a new machine instance. You can specify parameters, such as **project**, **zone**, or **region**. If you omit a parameter, then the cmdlet uses the values set in your Cloud SDK configuration (https://cloud.google.com/sdk/docs/configurations):

Use the `Get-GceInstance` cmdlet to retrieve a project's virtual machine instances. Since the instance name may not be unique across projects or zones, you can specify a **project** or **zone** parameter to narrow the search. By default the cmdlet uses whatever values you set in the active Cloud SDK configuration:

You can start, stop, or restart an instance using various cmdlets. You can refer to an instance by using the name or the strongly-typed object returned from the `Get-GceInstance` cmdlet:

You can set instance tags, disks, access configs, and other metadata after creating your instance with the `Set-GceInstance` cmdlet:

Finally, when you are finished with an instance, you can remove it from Compute Engine by using the `Remove-GceInstance` cmdlet: