

cloudera[®]

Cloudera Enterprise Reference Architecture for Google Cloud Platform Deployments



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Cloudera, Inc.
1001 Page Mill Road, Building 2
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1008
info@cloudera.com
US: 1-888-789-1488
Intl: 1-650-843-0595
www.cloudera.com

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Abstract

An organization's requirements for a big-data solution are simple: Acquire and combine any amount or type of data in its original fidelity, in one place, for as long as necessary, and deliver insights to all kinds of users, as quickly as possible.

Cloudera, an enterprise data management company, introduced the concept of the enterprise data hub (EDH): a central system to store and work with all data. The EDH has the flexibility to run a variety of enterprise workloads (for example, batch processing, interactive SQL, enterprise search, and advanced analytics) while meeting enterprise requirements such as integration to existing systems, robust security, governance, data protection, and management. The EDH is the emerging center of enterprise data management. The EDH builds on [Cloudera Enterprise](#), which consists of the open-source Cloudera Distribution including Apache Hadoop (CDH), a suite of management software and enterprise-class support.

In addition to needing an enterprise data hub, enterprises are looking to move or add this powerful data-management infrastructure to the cloud for operational efficiency, cost reduction, compute and capacity flexibility, and speed and agility.

As organizations embrace Hadoop-powered big-data deployments in cloud environments, they also want enterprise-grade security, management tools, and technical support--all of which are part of Cloudera Enterprise.

Customers of Cloudera and Google Cloud Platform can now run the EDH in the Google cloud, leveraging the power of the Cloudera Enterprise platform and the flexibility of the Google cloud.

[Cloudera Reference Architecture documents](#) illustrate example cluster configurations and certified partner products. The Cloud RAs are not replacements for [official statements of supportability](#), rather they're guides to assist with deployment and sizing options. Statements regarding supported configurations in the RA are informational and should be cross-referenced with the [latest documentation](#).

Cloudera on Google Cloud Platform

Cloudera and Google make it possible for organizations to deploy the Cloudera solution as an EDH on Google Cloud Platform. This joint solution combines Cloudera's expertise in large-scale data management and analytics with Google's expertise in cloud computing.

In this white paper, we provide an overview of best practices for running Cloudera Enterprise on Google Cloud Platform and leveraging different Google Cloud Platform services such as Compute Engine, Cloud Storage, and Cloud Interconnect.

Google Cloud Platform Overview

Run your application on [Google's infrastructure](#), the same infrastructure that provides fast query results, serves video, and provides email services to millions. Their offerings consists of several different services, ranging from storage to compute, to higher up the stack for automated scaling, messaging, queuing, and other services. Cloudera Enterprise deployments can use the following service offerings.

Compute Engine

With [Google Compute Engine](#), users can utilize high-performance virtual machines powered by Google’s global network, paying only for what they use. For this deployment, Compute Engine instances are the equivalent of servers that run Hadoop. Compute Engine offers several different [types of instances with different pricing options](#). For Cloudera Enterprise deployments, each individual node in the cluster conceptually maps to an individual server. A list of supported instance types and their roles in a Cloudera Enterprise deployment are described later in this document.

Cloud Storage

[Google Cloud Storage](#) allows users to store and retrieve various sized data objects using simple API calls. Several product options are available, depending on the performance needs of the organization; all options provide a high degree of durability.

Interconnect

[Google Cloud Interconnect](#) provides several means to establish connectivity between your data center and Compute Engine networks, ranging from Cloud VPN to direct peering to carrier interconnect.

Deployment Architecture

Workloads, Roles, and Machine Types

In this reference architecture, we consider different kinds of workloads that run on top of an enterprise data hub and make recommendations on the Google Compute Engine machine types that are suitable for each of these workload types. The recommendations consider machine types with various storage options, including magnetic disks and SSDs. You choose machine types based on the workload you run on the cluster. You should also do a cost-performance analysis, specifically for SSD storage.

The following matrix shows workload categories and services that are typically combined for the workload type:

Workload Type	Typical Services	Description
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MapReduce• YARN• Spark• Hive• Pig	Suitable for workloads that are predominantly batch oriented and involve MapReduce or Spark.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HBase• Solr• Impala	Suitable for higher resource-consuming services and production workloads, but limited to only one of these running at any time.
High/Full EDH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All CDH services	Full-scale production workloads with multiple services running in parallel on a multi-tenant cluster.

Master Class Nodes

Master class nodes for a Cloudera Enterprise deployment run administrative, management, and master cluster services, which include:

- Cloudera Manager
- YARN ResourceManager
- HDFS NameNode
- HDFS Quorum JournalNodes
- HBase Master
- ZooKeeper
- Oozie
- Impala StateStore
- Impala Catalog Service

Worker Class Nodes

Worker class nodes for a Cloudera Enterprise deployment run worker services, which include:

- HDFS DataNode
- YARN NodeManager
- HBase RegionServer
- Impala Daemons
- Solr Servers

Edge Nodes

Hadoop client services run on edge nodes and are the primary mechanism for user access to cluster resources.

They are also known as gateway services and include:

- Third-party tools
- Hadoop command-line client
- Hive command-line client
- Impala command-line client
- Flume agents
- Hue Server

Machine Types

The following matrix show the different workload categories, machine types, and roles they are suited for in a cluster.

Workload Type	Typical Services	Machine Types for Master Class Nodes	Machine Types for Worker Class Nodes
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MapReduce● YARN● Spark● Hive● Pig	n1-highmem-2	n1-standard-8

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crunch 		
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HBase Solr Impala 	n1-highmem-8	n1-highmem-16 n1-highmem-32 n1-highmem-64
High/Full EDH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All CDH services 	n1-highmem-16	n1-highmem-16 n1-highmem-32 n1-highmem-64

Any machine type can be used for an edge node.

For dedicated Kafka brokers we recommend n1-standard-4 instances.

A detailed list of configurations and pricing for the different machine types is available on the [Google Compute Engine pricing](#) page.

Regions and Zones

[Regions](#) are collections of zones, which are isolated locations in a general geographic location. Some regions have more zones than others. Zones maintain high-bandwidth, low-latency network connections to other zones in the same region. Zones can provide unique features such as specific processor types or high-core machines. When provisioning, you can choose a specific availability zone.

When planning a deployment, make sure to review the [pricing](#) for data transfer in and out of zones. Consider the ingress, transfer between, and egress out of zones.

Cloudera EDH deployments are restricted to single zones. Clusters spanning zones and regions are not supported.

Networking, Connectivity, and Security

Each VM instance is assigned to a single network, which controls how the instance can communicate with other instances and systems outside the network. The default network allows inbound SSH connections (port 22) and disallows all other inbound connectivity. Outbound connectivity is not restricted, nor is connectivity between instances on the same network.

When provisioned, each VM instance is assigned an internal IP and an ephemeral external IP. Cloudera recommends that you use the internal instance IP addresses when configuring the cluster.

More information about [instances and network](#) is available in the Google Compute Engine documentation.

Recommended Images

Google Compute Engine is compatible with numerous [operating systems](#) and provides support for many prebuilt images. Cloudera Enterprise deployments on Google Compute Engine are only supported when installed on operating systems supported by both [Cloudera](#) and [Compute Engine](#), such as modern CentOS, Red Hat, Ubuntu.

RHEL is considered a [premium operating system](#); VMs launched with premium images incur additional hourly fees based in part on the machine type being launched.

Storage Options and Configuration

Google Cloud Platform offers different storage options that vary in performance, durability, and cost.

Google Compute Engine

Persistent Disks

Persistent disks are used as primary storage for VM instances. These disks provide durable network storage that can be attached to VM instances. If the VM instance fails or is terminated, the disk can simply be reattached to another instance. Depending on performance requirements, persistent storage can be backed by either standard hard disks or SSDs.

Cloudera recommends using standard persistent disks as DataNode storage, no more than two per VM instance. Because a persistent disk volume's throughput increases linearly with volume size, the recommended minimum volume size is 1.5 TB.

Local SSD

Local SSD provides local-attached storage to VM instances, providing increased performance at the cost of availability, durability, and flexibility. The lifetime of the storage is the same as the lifetime of the VM instance. If you stop or terminate the VM instance, the storage is lost. Local SSD cannot be used as a root disk. Users of local SSD should take extra precautions to back up their data.

Google Cloud Storage

Google Cloud Storage can be used to ingest or export data to or from your HDFS cluster. In addition, it can provide disaster recovery or backup during system upgrades. The durability and availability guarantees make it ideal for a cold backup that you can restore in case the primary HDFS cluster goes down. For a hot backup, you need a second HDFS cluster holding a copy of your data.

Root Device

When instantiating the VM instances, you can define the root device size. The root device size for Cloudera Enterprise clusters should be at least 500 GB to allow parcels and logs to be stored. By default, the root device is partitioned only with enough space for its source image or snapshot; [repartitioning the root persistent disk](#) may require manual intervention, depending on the operating system used.

Capacity Planning

Using Google Compute Engine allows you to scale your Cloudera Enterprise cluster up and down easily. If your storage or compute requirements change, you can provision and deprovision instances and meet your requirements quickly, without buying physical servers. However, some advance planning makes operations easier. You must plan for whether your workloads need a high amount of memory or compute. The available VM instances have different amounts of memory and compute, and deciding which instance type and generation make up your initial deployment depends on the storage and workload requirement. The operational cost of your cluster depends on the type and number of instances you choose, combined with the amount and type of storage provisioned.

Relational Databases

Cloudera Enterprise deployments require relational databases for the following components:

- Cloudera Manager databases
- Hive and Impala metastore
- Hue database
- Oozie database
- Sqoop 2 Server database
- Sentry Server database

For operating relational databases in Google Compute Platform, Cloudera requires you to provision VM instances and install and manage your own database instance. For more information, see to the list of [supported database types and versions](#).

Installation and Software Configuration

Preparation

Provisioning Instances

To provision Google Compute Engine instances, you can use the [Google Cloud SDK](#), the [Google Developers Console](#), or [Cloudera Director](#). When provisioning instances, make sure to specify the following:

- A [recommended image](#)
- A [root disk of the proper size](#)
- For DataNodes, one or two [properly sized persistent disks](#)

You must also provision [relational databases](#). The database credentials are required during Cloudera Enterprise installation.

Setting Up Instances

Once the instances are provisioned, perform the following to prepare them for deploying Cloudera Enterprise:

- Disable iptables
- Disable SELinux
- Format and mount the instance storage, if not done during provisioning
- Resize the [root volume](#) if it does not show full capacity

For more information on operating system preparation and configuration, see the [Cloudera Manager installation instructions](#).

Deploying Cloudera Enterprise

If you are using Cloudera Manager, log into the instance that you have elected to host Cloudera Manager and follow the [Cloudera Manager installation instructions](#).

Cloudera Director is another deployment option that is tailored for the cloud. Cloudera Director allows you to easily deploy, monitor and modify clusters in Google Cloud Platform and other cloud providers. Detailed information regarding environment setup and prerequisites are provided in Director's [Getting Started on Google Cloud Platform](#) documentation. Cloudera Director provides additional capabilities to grow or shrink your cluster to match changing needs in your workload.

Cloudera Enterprise Configuration Considerations

HDFS

Durability

For Cloudera Enterprise deployments in Google Compute Engine, the recommended storage option is standard persistent storage. HDFS on SSD persistent storage or local SSD are not recommended configurations. Guarantee data durability in HDFS by keeping replication at three. Cloudera does not recommend lowering the replication factor.

Availability

Ensure HDFS availability by deploying the NameNode with high availability with at least three JournalNodes.

ZooKeeper

Cloudera recommends running at least three ZooKeeper servers for availability and durability.

Flume

For durability in Flume agents, use file channel. Flume's memory channel offers increased performance at the cost of no data durability guarantees. File channels offer a higher level of durability guarantee because the data is persisted on disk in the form of files. For guaranteed data delivery, use persistent disk-backed storage for the Flume file channel.

Summary

Cloudera and Google Cloud Platform allow users to deploy and use Cloudera Enterprise on Google Cloud Platform infrastructure, combining the scalability and functionality of the Cloudera Enterprise suite of products with the flexibility and economics of the Google cloud. This whitepaper provided reference configurations for Cloudera Enterprise deployments in Google Cloud Platform. These configurations leverage different Google Cloud services such as Compute Engine, Cloud Storage, and Cloud Interconnect.

References

Cloudera Enterprise

[Cloudera Homepage](#)

[Cloudera Enterprise Documentation](#)

[Cloudera Enterprise Support](#)

Google Cloud Platform

[Google Cloud Platform](#)

[Google Compute Engine](#)

[Google Cloud Storage](#)

[Google Interconnect](#)

[Google Cloud SDK](#)

[Google Developers Console](#)

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