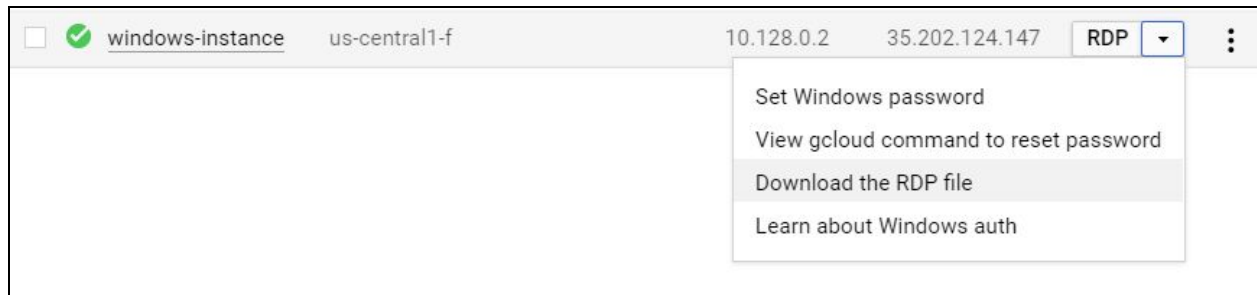# Connecting to Windows VM Using Microsoft RDP on Windows

Option 1: Download RDP File

Super conveniently, Google Cloud Console provides a file with the correct settings to connect to your Windows instance from a Windows client.

In Google Cloud Console, under VM Instances, select the option to download the RDP file for *windows-instance*:
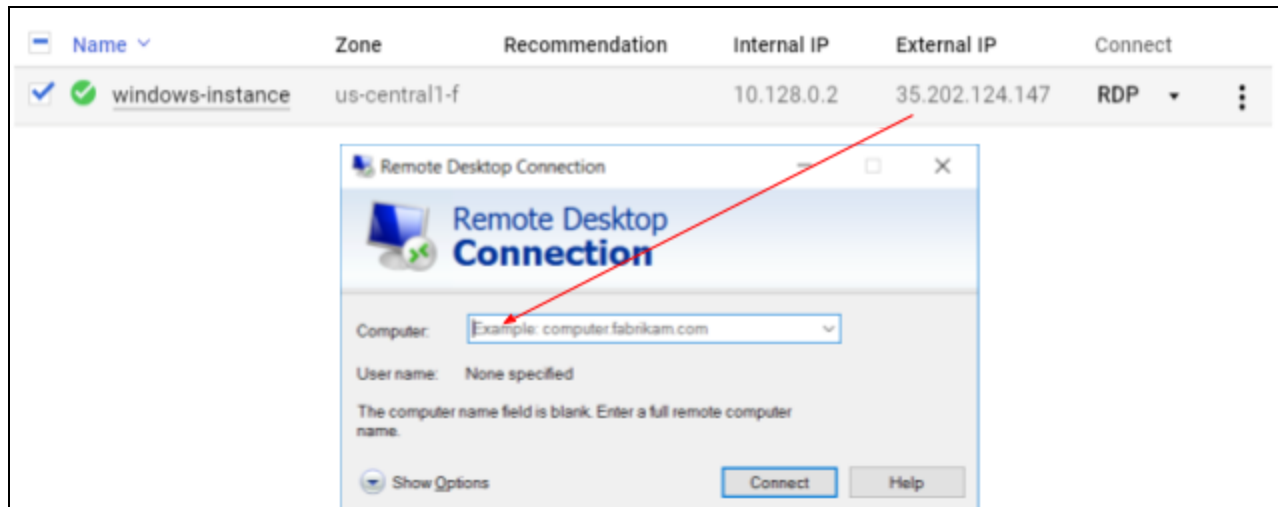

Locate the file that was downloaded on your computer. If using Google Chrome, you can just double-click the file at the bottom left of the Chrome window. Otherwise, the file will be available in your Downloads folder, or the location you selected when downloading the file. Once located, double-click the file to open Remote Desktop Connection, then click "Connect" to start the connection to your Windows instance.

When prompted, enter the password you copied earlier. If you no longer have the password copied to your clipboard, go to the VM Instances page in Google Cloud Console, and select the option for "Set Windows Password." Then, paste that password into the Remote Desktop Connection prompt. You might receive a notice that the identity of the remote computer can't be verified. In this case, click "Yes" to continue connecting.

Option 2: Create a remote desktop connection manually

Locate the "Remote Desktop Connection" application on your Windows computer. In Windows 10, it will be available in the Start Menu under "Windows Accessories." You can also just open the Start Menu and start typing "Remote Desktop," then select "Remote Desktop Connection."

After opening the Remote Desktop Application, switch back to the Google Cloud Console window. Type in the external IP that correlates to your Windows instance into the Remote Desktop Connection app, under the "Computer" field. **Head's up**: Your IP will be different than the example shown below.

Name ∨	Zone	Recommendation	Internal IP	External IP	Connect
✔ windows-instance	us-central1-f		10.128.0.2	35.202.124.147	RDP ▾ ⋮

Remote Desktop Connection

Remote Desktop Connection

Computer: Example: computer.fabrikam.com

User name: None specified

The computer name field is blank. Enter a full remote computer name.

Show Options   Connect   Help

Once you've entered the full IP address, click the "Connect" button. It will then prompt you for the username and password for *windows-instance*. To retrieve the username and password, switch back to the Google Cloud Console, and select "Set Windows Password."

☐ ✔ windows-instance	us-central1-f		10.128.0.2	35.202.124.147	RDP ▾ ⋮
				Set Windows password	
				View gcloud command to reset password	

Copy the username provided to the Remote Desktop Connection, then switch back to Google Cloud Console, and click on "Set." A new popup will appear with your Windows password. You can then copy this Windows password into the Remote Desktop Connection app field for password, then hit "OK" to continue.

You might receive a notice that the identity of the remote computer cannot be verified. In this case, click "Yes" to continue connecting. And voila! You're good to go.