

CECC FAQ

From IBM Systems Cloud for Enablement and Co-Creation

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IBM Systems Cloud for Enablement and Co-Creation Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

Q: What is the Cloud for Enablement and Co-Creation (CECC)?

Cloud for Enablement and Co-Creation (CECC) delivers a single user-friendly interface with a robust offering catalog, automated provisioning, and access to Power Systems resources for Business Partners, ISV's and IBMers. CECC provides Business Partners, ISV's and IBMers access to a test environment that is easy to request, easy to access & provide adequate capacity for their test needs to meet most common requests.

Q: What can I do with CECC?

CECC enables IaaS in the cloud. CECC's simple web portal interface allows you to obtain pre-defined/ pre-configure IaaS capacity with minimal friction. It provides you with complete control of your computing resources and lets you run on CECC's computing environment.

Q: How can I get started with CECC?

To sign up for CECC, navigate to: <http://ibm.biz/cecc-portal> You must have a Partner World IBMid or Federated IBMid account to access this service.

Q: What can ISV, BP and IBM developers now do that they could not before?

Until now, ISV, BP and IBM developers did not have the capital to acquire compute resources and ensure they had the capacity they needed to handle demonstrations, testing, proof of technologies, etc. CECC enables any ISV, BP and IBM developers to leverage CECC's own benefits of scale with no capital investment.

Q: How do I run systems in the CECC environment?

Login to the CECC Portal and you will be automatically registered if you are an IBMer or Business Partner.

Q: How quickly will systems be running?

Most resources are available the same day, but some, like bare metal or GPU, may require future scheduling or approval.

Q: How do I load and store my data with CECC?

CECC allows you to set up and configure everything up to your operating system. An CECC image is simply a pre-defined/ pre-configured environment that includes all the necessary items to set up and access your instance. You can then transfer your data to be used in the environment. Currently there is no ability to store data after the environment is deprovisioned and cleaned up. The user is responsible to save all data outside of CECC before deprovision date.

Q: How do I access my systems?

The CECC initiates execution of your environment and will provide user id's, passwords, IP and DNS names, one for each system that is being created. This information is used to access the system exactly as you would if it were in your own data center. You own that machine while your reservation time is active. You will receive email confirmation on reservation activation to know when your system is ready to be used.

Q: How can I get help in CECC?

In CECC there is a support tab that allows support requests to be submitted.

Q: What kind of technical support is available?

Support up to Operating System is available using support tab to submit support request

Q: I want to use this for a demonstration, what should I do?

CECC does not provide a pre-configured demonstration environment. Please see the IBM Garage Portal (ISCEP) for a list of available pre-configured demonstrations.

Q: Is CECC used in conjunction with IBM Cloud?

No, CECC is used independently from IBM Cloud. By using CECC, ISV, Business Partners and IBM developers have access to scalable, reliable, fast, inexpensive infrastructure.

Q: How many instances can I run in CECC?

You are limited to running one (1) pre-defined/ pre-configured IaaS system type at a time. You can schedule multiple systems of different types in a single project. The current limit of the number of systems in a project is five. If you need more instances of the same type, please see the <http://ibm.biz/cecc-pok-benchmark> offering to make a request.

Q: What operating system environments are supported?

CECC currently supports a variety of operating systems including: Ubuntu, Red Hat Enterprise Linux, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, AIX and IBM i.

Q: Does CECC have GPUs?

Yes, CECC have GPU availability with KVM and Bare metal requests

Q: How is this service different from a plain hosting service?

CECC provide a pre-configured/ pre-defined resource for a fixed amount of time. CECC differs fundamentally in the flexibility, control and significant cost savings it offers ISV, Business Partners and IBM developers. Service level agreement (SLA)

Q. What are CECC Service Level Agreement?

Currently there are no SLA's.

Instance types

General Purpose instances

Q: What are the key use cases for CECC Instances?

General Purpose instances offer a good choice for running development and test environments for a limited duration. Customers who are interested in running performance, business critical or long-term hosting may better be positioned to use one of the other IBM Garage offerings.

Q. Which operating systems are supported?

The following OS's are supported in CECC:

- IBM AIX 7.1 and 7.2
- IBM i 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 8.1 and 8.2 (on various platforms)
- Ubuntu 18.04 and 20.04
- SLES 12 and 15

More Operating systems being evaluated for future releases.

GPU instances

Q. When should I use GPU Graphics and Compute instances?

GPU instances work best for applications with massive parallelism such as workloads using thousands of threads. Graphics processing is an example with huge computational requirements, where each of the tasks is relatively small, the set of operations performed form a pipeline, and the throughput of this pipeline is more important than the latency of the individual operations. To be able build applications that exploit this level of parallelism, one needs GPU device specific knowledge by understanding how to program against various graphics APIs (DirectX, OpenGL) or GPU compute programming models (CUDA, OpenCL).

Q. What APIs and programming models are supported by GPU Graphics and Compute instances?

CECC instances support CUDA 9 and OpenCL, P2 instances support CUDA 8, OpenCL 1.2, DirectX 12, OpenGL 4.5, CUDA 8, and OpenCL 1.2.

Q. What are the storage options available in CECC?

CECC will offer the following storage options: o Baremetal servers will use internal storage o KVM servers will use Ceph storage o PowerVM servers will use SAN storage

Currently CECC does not allow any direct attached dedicated storage device attachments.

Q. What is the underlying hypervisor CECC virtual instances?

1. Ubuntu KVM for KVM virtual instances 2. IBM PowerVM for PowerVM virtual instances

Q: What is the max CPU allowed for virtual instances?

In CECC, the max CPU for an instance are set to 16 per instance.

Q: What is the max memory allowed for virtual instances?

In CECC, the max memory for an instance are set to 32GB per instance.

Storage

Q: What happens to my data when a system terminates?

The data stored on a local instance store will persist only if that instance is alive. We recommend that you use your local storage for temporary data and retention. All data left on system will be removed and unrecoverable on system termination.

Q: Where is the additional storage that I requested through "Add Storage"?

An additional disk has been mapped to your system and we let you use this disk at your convenience (raw, LVM, formatting, mount points, etc).

Here are some examples on how to discover, format and mount the disk in a traditional fashion.

Add storage to a Linux server

Add storage to an AIX server

Add storage to an IBM i server

Security

Q: How do I prevent other people from viewing my systems?

You have complete control over the visibility of your systems. The CECC will isolate each environment with separate VLAN's. Reservation Requests

Q. How many instances am I allowed to reserve?

Currently CECC allows for one (1) instance per request per system type and five (5) systems per project with different system types. Multiple instances of the same system type per project are being evaluated for future releases.

Q. Can I modify a Reservation Request after it has started?

Your reservation can be extended up to two weeks depending on the extension budget assigned (baremetal reservations will have a zero extension budget). You will receive an email when your reservation is nearing its end date and time.

Q. Can I end a Reservation Request after it has started?

Yes. You can end or extend a Committed or Active reservation at any time.

Platform

Availability Region | Hardware information

Availability Region

Q: Is CECC running in more than one region?

No. Currently CECC is hosted in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Hardware information

Q: What kind of hardware will my application stack run on?

CECC currently utilizes IBM Power 8 and Power 9 hardware. Future platforms are under investigation.

Q: How do I select the right IaaS instance type?

CECC servers and virtual instances provide two (2) types:

1. General Purpose Instances have memory to CPU ratios suitable for most general-purpose applications and come with fixed performance.
2. GPU instances have memory to CPU ratios suitable for most general-purpose applications and applications with massive parallelism. These instances come with fixed performance and access to GPUs.

When choosing instance types, you should consider the characteristics of your application with regards to resource utilization (i.e. CPU, Memory, Storage) and select the optimal instance family and instance size. Workloads

Q: What is CECC primary use case for environment?

CECC provides non-performance environment for POC, POT and Demo of product feature and function

Q: Does CECC allow production workloads?

No. CECC is only to be used for non-production environment for hands on Power hardware, POC, POT and Demo of product.

Q: Does CECC allow confidential data loaded to environments?

No. CECC does not allow for any confidential or personal information data to be loaded into the environment.

Q: Does CECC allow for long term hosting?

No. CECC provides short term usage of pre-defined and pre-configured offerings

Q: Does CECC allow installation of software from other sites?

Yes, installation of other software, IBM or open source, is allowed in the CECC environment. One example below:

- H2O: documentation is available online on the H2O website (<https://s3.amazonaws.com/artifacts.h2o.ai/releases/ai/h2o/dai/rel-1.5.4-65/docs/userguide/install/ibm-power.html>)

Additional Software Access

Registered IBM PartnerWorld Members can download IBM applications and middleware from the IBM Software Access Catalog.

Go here for details and steps required.

Thank you!

The IBM Systems Cloud for Enablement and Co-Creation

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