

How to rotate the Google's Service Account Key

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What is Google's Service Account Key?

Google's Service Account Key is a private key (user-managed key pairs for a service account) to be used to authenticate with Google APIs. This key is a credential for the Service Account created within GCP. *(Please be aware that this service account is not the service account managed by the Solvay's Active Directory team and it is only used for Google's usage)*

Visit the link below for detail explanation.

<https://cloud.google.com/iam/docs/service-accounts#user-managed-keys>

Why do I need to rotate the Service Account keys regularly?

Because the private key lets you authenticate as the service account, having access to the private key is similar to knowing a user's password. The private key is known as a service account key.

Service account keys can become a security risk if not managed carefully.

Visit the link below for detail explanation.

<https://cloud.google.com/iam/docs/best-practices-for-managing-service-account-keys>

Who is responsible of the rotation of Service Account Key?

The team of rotating of service account key are defined as the following:

- The team who request and install the service account key into the application. (Responsible)
- The team who generate and provide the service account key.
 - For **Landing Zone** GCP projects:
 - **CloudOps.**
 - For **non-Landing Zone** GCP projects:
 - the team with Owner/Editor permission (primary)
 - If no one, CloudOps.

How often do I need to rotate my service account key?

With alignment with Group Security, service account key will need to be rotated every **365 days (starting from the creation date of the key)**.

IMPORTANT: The mechanism of the service account key rotation can be seen in this [slide](#). Only available on Landing Zone projects.

How to request for the new service account key from CloudOps?

1. Refer to this page on [Process to request for Google Cloud Platform support](#)
2. Provide the following as subject title for the request, "GCP - Rotation of Service Account Key"
3. Provide the following information (the following information can be obtained from the original service account key file):
 - a. GCP project ID
 - b. Service account name or email

Service Account Key will be provided in the following file format:

`<GCP-Project id>_<Service-Account name>_<Created Date in yyyyymmdd>.json`

How to check the expiry date of my existing GSA keys ?

To know what is the expiry date of your existing GSA keys, you need to:

1. Go to the Service Accounts listing page within the console for your GCP project.
<https://console.cloud.google.com/iam-admin/serviceaccounts?project=<Your gcp project's ID>>
2. Locate your GSA within the listing page, and identify the "Key creation date" column.
3. Your key's expiration date will be 365 days after your key's creation date.