

Creating New Instances

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This guide explains how to create a virtual machine (VM) using Radiant's [OpenStack Dashboard \(Horizon\)](#). There is also a description of how to access your new VM and how to mount persistent storage volumes.

Quick highlights:

- If your VM uses a volume (default) it will count against your flash quota
- You need to select Configuration Drive in the configuration tab

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VM Creation

Defaults

Name your instance

The screenshot shows the 'Launch Instance' dialog box in the OpenStack Horizon dashboard. The dialog has a sidebar with tabs: Details, Source, Flavor, Networks, Network Ports, Security Groups, Key Pair, Configuration, Server Groups, Scheduler Hints, and Metadata. The 'Details' tab is selected. The main area contains the following fields and information:

- Instance Name ***: A text input field containing 'my-first-machine'.
- Description**: A text input field.
- Availability Zone**: A dropdown menu showing 'nova'.
- Count ***: A text input field containing '1'.
- Total Instances (20 Max)**: A circular progress indicator showing 5% completion. Below it, a legend indicates: 0 Current Usage, 1 Added, and 19 Remaining.

At the bottom of the dialog, there are three buttons: 'Cancel', '< Back', and 'Next >', and a blue 'Launch Instance' button.

Source

Select base OS and where to run. The default is to create a new volume. This will count against your flash storage quota as well as take up one of your volumes. This is good if you want your data to persist after you tell openstack to delete your instance. If you want to create an instance that can be rebooted (maybe migrated), you can select "No" for this. If you create a new volume you can pick the size of the volume, if you selected no, it will use the default size for the Flavor (see point 3). You will also need to select the base image you start with. This list might change over time.

Launch Instance

Details

Source

Flavor *

Networks *

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Instance source is the template used to create an instance. You can use an image, a snapshot of an instance (image snapshot), a volume or a volume snapshot (if enabled). You can also choose to use persistent storage by creating a new volume.

Select Boot Source

Image

Create New Volume

Yes

No

Allocated

Name	Updated	Size	Type	Visibility
> CentOS-7-GenericCloud-Latest	5/8/20 12:30 PM	8.00 GB	raw	Public

Available

Select one

Q

Click here for filters or full text search.

X

Name	Updated	Size	Type	Visibility
> cirros-0.5.1-x86_64	5/8/20 12:30 PM	112.00 MB	raw	Public
> Ubuntu 18.04 LTS cloud	5/8/20 1:56 PM	1.06 GB	raw	Public

Cancel

< Back

Next >

Launch Instance

Flavor

Next you select the flavor (again this list might change over time). If you select a flavor that would use too many resources you will see a yellow exclamation sign next to it. If you selected No for the volume create in the source screen, the volume will be the same size as the root disk.

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Flavors manage the sizing for the compute, memory and storage capacity of the instance.

Allocated

Name	VCPUS	RAM	Total Disk	Root Disk	Ephemeral Disk	Public
> m1.medium	2	4 GB	40 GB	40 GB	0 GB	Yes

Available

Select one

Q

Click here for filters or full text search.

X

Name	VCPUS	RAM	Total Disk	Root Disk	Ephemeral Disk	Public
> m1.tiny	1	512 MB	1 GB	1 GB	0 GB	Yes
> m1.small	1	2 GB	20 GB	20 GB	0 GB	Yes
> m1.large	4	8 GB	80 GB	80 GB	0 GB	Yes
> p1.large	10	62.5 GB	64 GB	64 GB	0 GB	Yes
> p1.xlarge	10	117.19 GB	64 GB	64 GB	0 GB	Yes

Cancel

< Back

Next >

Launch Instance

Networks

Next we select the network. You may see a few network options to choose from here. Look for a network that is `<projectname>-net`, for example `bbdf-net`, where `bbdf` is the name of your project. Do NOT pick `ext-net` on this page, if you do your instance will fail to be created. By default the `<projectname>-net` network does not allow for external connections. Only other hosts on that same network will be able to reach this machine. This is fine for a host that only needs to be reachable from other hosts within your network. If you need to setup a host that is reachable from outside your network, you will need to associate a floating IP address to your instance. This is setup after an instance is created ([see below](#)).

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Networks provide the communication channels for instances in the cloud.

▼ Allocated 1

Select networks from those listed below.

Network	Subnets Associated	Shared	Admin State	Status	
1	bbdf-net	bbdf-subnet	No	Up	Active

▼ Available 1

Select at least one network

Click here for filters or full text search.

Network	Subnets Associated	Shared	Admin State	Status
ext-net	ext-net-subnet	Yes	Up	Active

Cancel

< Back

Next >

Launch Instance

Network Ports

Can be ignored

Security Groups

Security Groups will allow you to add additional security groups. It is good to add remote SSH to allow you to ssh to the host. If a port is not opened in the security group, you will not be able to reach that host on that port. This is basically a firewall that blocks all incoming traffic by default.

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Select the security groups to launch the instance in.

▼ Allocated 2

Name	Description
default	Default security group
remote SSH	Allow ssh traffic from the internet

▼ Available 1

Select one or more

Click here for filters or full text search.

Name	Description
remote HTTP/HTTPS	Allow web traffic from the internet

Cancel

< Back

Next >

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Key Pair

Next you need to either select an existing key pair or create a new one. If you do not select a key pair, you will not be able to SSH into this machine. The default behavior is for most base images to not have a user with a password. See the end for some common usernames for each image. If you create a new key, make sure to copy the private key and save it to disk. It's best to save it as **.pem** file on your workstation/laptop, as your OS won't attempt to be helpful and add extra formatting if you give it a different extension. Save it in a path where you will have easy access for your later ssh sessions. **DO NOT lose this file, or you will have to start your VM instance again from scratch!**

Create Key Pair

×

Key Pairs are how you login to your instance after it is launched. Choose a key pair name you will recognize. Names may only include alphanumeric characters, spaces, or dashes.

Key Pair Name *

test

Key Type *

SSH Key

Create Keypair

Copy Private Key to Clipboard

Done

Launch Instance

×

?

Details

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A key pair allows you to SSH into your newly created instance. You may select an existing key pair, import a key pair, or generate a new key pair.

+ Create Key Pair

Import Key Pair

Allocated

Displaying 1 item

Name	Type
test	ssh

Displaying 1 item

Available

Select one

Click here for filters or full text search.

Displaying 0 items

Name	Type
No items to display.	

Displaying 0 items

Cancel

< Back

Next >

Launch Instance

Configuration

The next screen allows you to configure the new machine on boot. You can use this to install programs, or do anything else on first boot. **YOU NEED TO SELECT CONFIGURATION DRIVE HERE.** The default is for it to be unchecked. If you leave it unchecked your key, and/or startup script will not work!

Launch Instance

×

?

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You can customize your instance after it has launched using the options available here. "Customization Script" is analogous to "User Data" in other systems.

Load Customization Script from a file

Choose File

No file chosen

Customization Script (Modified)

Content size: 31 bytes of 16.00 KB

```
#!/bin/bash
echo "HELLO WORLD"
```

Disk Partition

Automatic

☒ Configuration Drive

Cancel

< Back

Next >

Launch Instance

Server Groups / Scheduler Hints / Metadata

You can leave these 3 sections as is. And you can now launch your instance. It should be ready in a few minutes, you can see it listed in the dashboard under Instances.

Assigning a Floating IP to your Instance (Optional)

If your instance needs to be reachable from the internet, you need to assign a floating IP address to it. If that is not needed on your instance you can skip this section.

Locate your instance in the list and click the down arrow button in the 'actions' column. From the drop down list select 'Associate Floating IP'. From the 'IP Address' selection box, pick an available IP from the list, this will be the floating IP for your instance. For 'Port to be associated' you can usually leave the default, but if you have multiple interfaces you can select the appropriate port. Then click the 'Associate' button.

Accessing your instance

Once the instance is Active and Running you should be able to SSH to it. You'll just need the IP address, the username, and the key (you did save it right?)

You would ssh to your instance using: `ssh -i test.pem centos@IP_ADDRESS`, where

- IP_ADDRESS is the IP address assigned to your instance. If you assigned a floating IP you'd want to use that address when SSHing from an external host, if you are SSHing from a host on your project's own network you can use the IP assigned on the project interface
- test.pem is the key you saved
- centos is the username, depending on the OS you picked this may be different, see that table in the 'Troubleshooting' section below for some common alternatives

If you might get an error that the permissions are too open you can change them using `chmod 600` key.

Running in the system

First thing to do is make sure you mount in Taiga bulk storage if you want to use more disk space. Each instance only has a little storage (40GB) that is primarily used for the OS. You can mount additional Taiga Bulk storage via NFS using:

```
mount -t nfs taiga-nfs.ncsa.illinois.edu:/taiga/ncsa/radiant/bbXX /mnt/point
Where bbXX is your unique Radiant project code and /mnt/point is the target mount path.
```

This will make your bulk storage space available on your machine. It will take a few minutes from when your machine boots, until the space can be mounted.

Change your root password

Once you're able to log in remotely as root, be sure to change the root password on your instance. This allows you to access your instance's console via the web interface if you can't ssh in later for some reason.

```
# Ensure that you create a secure password and that you save it in an appropriate password manager
sudo passwd
```

Troubleshooting

Trouble accessing systems.

- **Did you add Remote SSH as a security group?** If not you can edit the security groups and add the group to the instance.
- **Does the ssh attempt claim that the key is an "invalid format"?** the .pem file must contain no extra characters or line breaks in a text editor, it should look like this:

```
-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
MIIEowIBAAKCAQEAmN7qws0+gxKKczyFkknz+uoAzmcHm5HTLvUOz8OatQhAlG1
EzqjI9IDKTZtM7lhvj+6lwCeieLqn8J6Y5/T25k8nLb8pufJvXgtf18b4gv/Y/KX
ULfHhVNE+qz195FmkaJwxe5TftWvlpDRxdOgCfKrLvgaWI+vrUXfhfmsl6YRHHLb
UrnH/vyo3/m6TlrspNdFgCWxy4elLBEVUAqj4uxqkBNDKGeeAuBJ5dBxMJAD+aWZ
dz3GejoXWJ1MvGAjmZ/oQghgvmz18grpW6OeVx1CTlQ2KoRyaOUW8cCum5BYQv9v
zX2KDw1PCHdZKZeAZq9Qia98mlvEPdpan+0dIQIDAQABAOIBAQCCKOg62hBWBOTod
TV1N0KWJ/ADYoa/ryDWKSeF5BGRJ7nPGgBEmSQAYtJ4NFtyZR4f9Gezi+zlfXqJe
QOCf0nYje6TV45QCa1X8j307Zk51D/om6sUtxG+Ru6CEte/e8kd3ahVks8HHxQJX
N62mnl4g0eMWeSgrZPhLmwV3ZPVLntCUIqiEVYmfSMamuSruNXKt3JEYCy7wbo
e0+HBHem161lv+Adf8vKs3wfQ6L7jSXX9ihN4EFFbb+MxQXZCFCWMZMfWkpV7qZw
UiYjJnLz97f1d38IJCGZJ/qJTHuIoAxbA2pckXQCT+ttrFdjMo6lsKC5iZ7xcBO
ryHN97ZtAoGBAMiPWLUMWfn9+kXKTYXBmm8gRqRQSHB0KIgQmoloZW1lQMRsc4Ys
WiWRRYfkup8x+cp+S8TUXfe7LWsJwa718q9QE8g9wLvLypm16WkxnQsCTz/yW7QG
HP33G8zq+FLrncdXN7/77gYNAQJ56ZksOjM19NQgHP4roOazmQ1ltWrHAoGBAMGg
lsmbuOri/8M+vT4EJx5oXYgz/eun+/lpv9xE7oZmubw5wzuGY5sjREWVnxnNFkIV
rfHNorI0jc6JeeG4WivcJ7fDE3bTiNKz8JJbcavAIxNpjNQO9QkxCWjtt6k0TE8K
gvasYxrQb8pSR3nSqis3lWY2mg+W/u5nTeHW/BDXAoGAA15fB9R5RqCPQh+/hqLg
tgtFik9BpjJZADJiAOWIvSADAc7eFmmTrvn1XEObSLwIXTHcpzh0Fhbp1GgYeQ6C
jTt+4FCKZC1l+Sbc2PEzD5w5X2H3X0rrMLyoYWUtBZ2uwVnwWJ4bE4s3xdW2wo5Z
KZ17JL40WXQedFsOpa/b0qUCgYAVtH9v6ayFayW8GCyAy4F2dnGBBxeFsSfsNIet
BVXrCV47u8klw+sshJ3Bh8Us341MSJESxqcEX6gug0hVfWY6XsDkRgTSQPgFTpLC
FP3t9u9v51wM8uT64sODMn4tii261RaATeiwQONOhByDRpW7PPi15/j3JvqwljKp
l/pt/QKBgFTlbV9jkl7Pke4NC+yCrhe79qTvJrLJ8hFJwnw+zGdrlG2tyWK6J7Ar
lSPGPMYLo7ExA2J4JxsNes1PVHpXiXiElHUsiQQDaz/RBzMJgpdS3M1MU5N10HtW
r9M2paxYkiUqsM5ojDktjB0IpxNG4mWzL07D4MW4YzxCbRWU/kA6
-----END RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
```

- **Did you use the right username?** The following is a list of known usernames:

OS	username
CentOS	centos
Ubuntu	ubuntu
CoreOS	core
RedHat	cloud-user
Rocky	rocky/cloud-user

Trouble in the system

- **I'm out of diskspace.** Make sure to mount storage condo for all your data. You only have a small amount of root storage.