

TL;DR Due to a change in our coupon system, it may be easier for students to sign up for the Free Trial and potentially charge their credit cards. Here's how to avoid that.

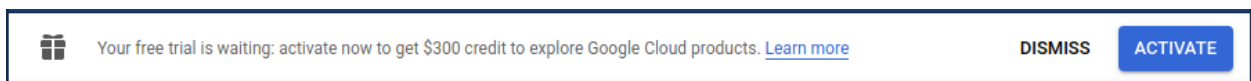
Hi Faculty,

We've recently made some changes to our coupon system to enable Google to issue credit to groups other than education. Unfortunately, this means that in some situations your students may see invitations to join the [Free Trial program](#) in the Cloud Console.

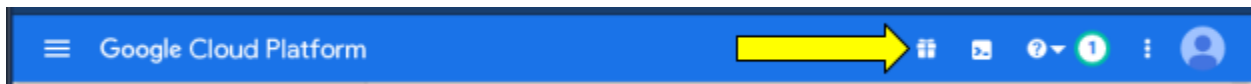
Our Free Trial program is great, but it requires a credit card to sign up and it is fairly easy to change to billing that credit card when the \$300/90 days of the Free Trial is used. We're writing to warn you about this potential problem and suggest how to keep your students from using their credit cards when using Google Cloud.

First, the grants program is not changing. Students can still use the coupon codes provided by the program without a credit card.

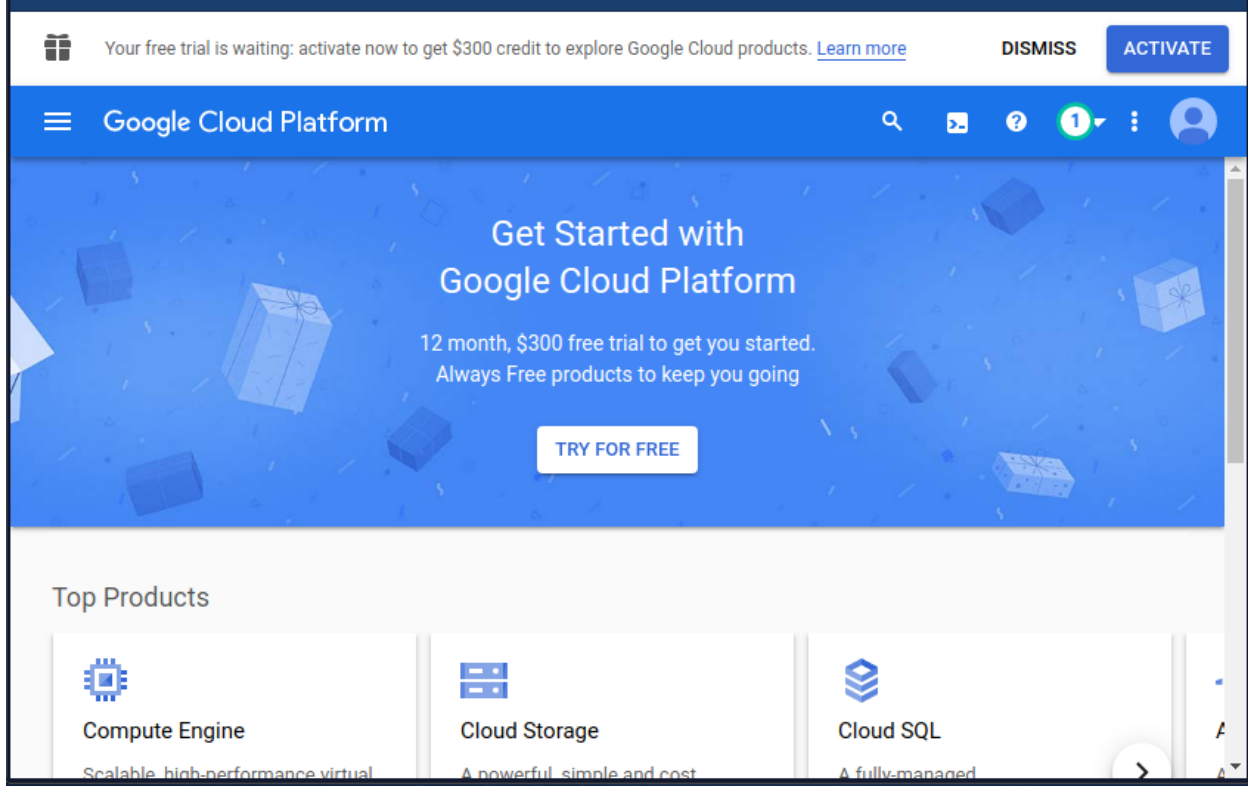
When students log into the Cloud Console (console.cloud.google.com), they may see a banner at the top of the page that looks like:



If they don't want to use the Free Trial, they should dismiss this. It will be added to the top bar as a gift icon:




Additionally, if they go to the Getting Started menu there will be an invitation to try the Free Trial.





If they activate the Free Trial using the "ACTIVATE" button in the top banner or by pressing the "Try For Free" button, they'll be taken to a page that asks for a credit card:

How you pay

 Automatic payments

You pay for this service only after you accrue costs, via an automatic charge when you reach your billing threshold or 30 days after your last automatic payment, whichever comes first.

Payment method

 Add credit or debit card 

Card details

Credit or debit card address is same as above

[START MY FREE TRIAL](#)

[Privacy policy](#) | [FAQs](#)

Access to all Cloud Platform Products

Get everything you need to build and run your apps, websites and services, including Firebase and the Google Maps API.

\$300 credit for free

Sign up and get \$300 to spend on Google Cloud Platform over the next 12 months.

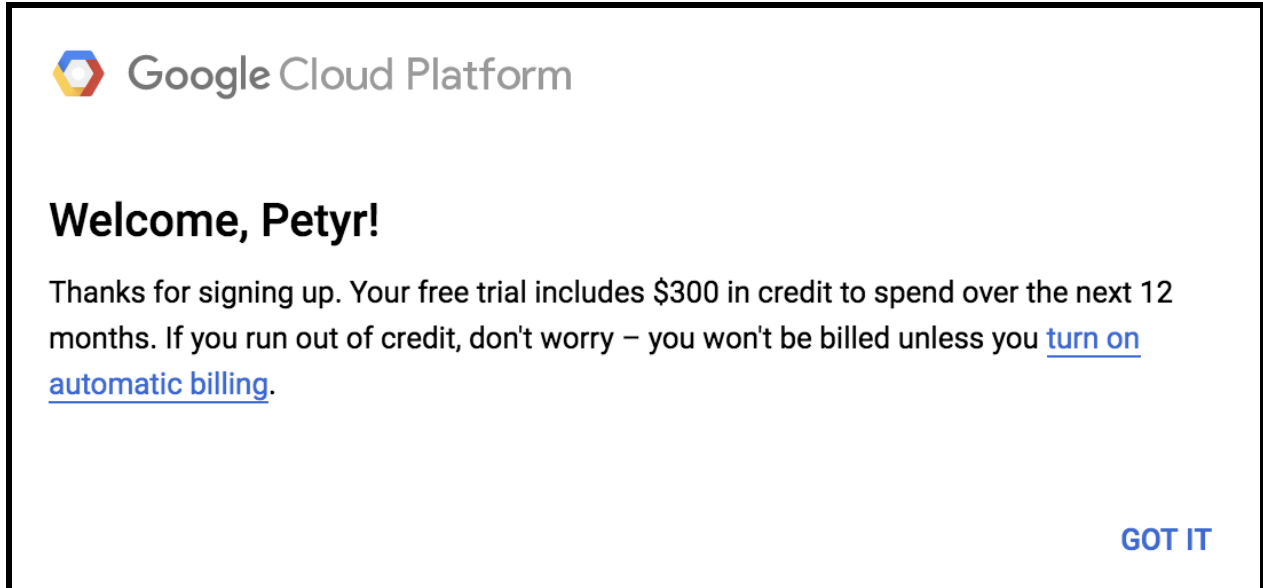
No autocharge after free trial ends

We ask you for your credit card to make sure you are not a robot. You won't be charged unless you manually upgrade to a paid account.

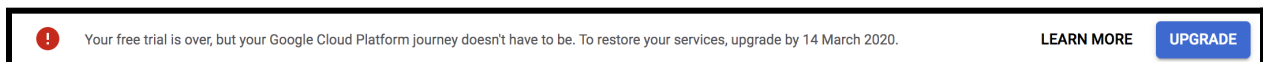
This *should* be a warning to them that their card may be charged in the future. They should not enter a credit card number unless they are sure they are willing for this to happen.

If they do sign up for the Free Trial, they will not automatically be charged, but it is fairly easy to manually upgrade to a paid account.

Here's the dialog you'll see if you do activate the free trial:



Once the free trial has expired, whether due to elapsed time or resource consumption, you'll see the following banner ad at the top of the console:



If you click on the "UPGRADE" button, you'll see the following dialog:

Upgrade your account

You're one step away from unlocking all of Google Cloud Platform.

You won't be charged until after your free credits have run out or expired (whichever comes first). [Learn more](#)

You only pay for what you use. [View pricing details](#)

CANCEL

UPGRADE

Clicking “UPGRADE” here will cause you to start accruing charges on the credit card you used to sign up for the free trial.

We want to keep your students safe despite this change, so hope this helps. Feel free to contact us if you have questions. Unfortunately, the Grants Program does not manage the Free Trial so if your students are charged, we cannot remove the charge.