Viz Now User Guide

Version 1.3

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Vizrt does not recommend or test antivirus systems in combination with Vizrt products, as the use of such systems can potentially lead to performance losses. The decision for the use of antivirus software and thus the risk of impairments of the system is solely at the customer's own risk.

There are general best-practice solutions, these include setting the antivirus software to not scan the systems during operating hours and that the Vizrt components, as well as drives on which clips and data are stored, are excluded from their scans (as previously stated, these measures cannot be guaranteed).

Technical Support

For technical support and the latest news of upgrades, documentation, and related products, visit the Vizrt web site at www.vizrt.com.

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Contents

1   Introduction To Viz Now

Viz Now is a powerful tool for automating deployment and configuration of Cloud production workflows.

This guide presents the following topics:

- Working with Deployed Apps
- Working with Users
- Working with Spaces

1.1   Related Documents

See the Vizrt documentation center for documentation for related products, including:

- Viz Vectar Plus
- Media Service
- Graphic Hub
- Viz Trio
- Media Sequencer
- Viz Engine
- Pilot Data Server*
- Viz Libero*
- Viz Arena*

> ⚠️ **Note**: Documentation marked * is available to customers with a valid Support Agreement, from Vizrt Support. Please contact your Account Manager.

2 Working With Deployed Apps

Any user can access the Apps within a Space that they created or are assigned to. There are different ways to interact with an App depending on the defined App properties.

- Allowed IP
- Virtual Windows Instance Apps
- Web Apps

2.1 Allowed IP

To be able to access any app your public IP must be whitelisted. This should happen automatically when clicking the buttons on the App.

- If you have Editor rights to a Space, the IPs that have been allowed, can be viewed and edited by selecting the **Allowed IP** menu from the Space.
- If an IP is removed, the user behind the IP will no longer have access.

2.2 Virtual Windows Instance Apps

Apps that are installed on virtual windows instances (for example, Viz Vectar Plus), require the user to log into the App session, using a third party remote desktop client.

- For AWS, this is NICE DCV.
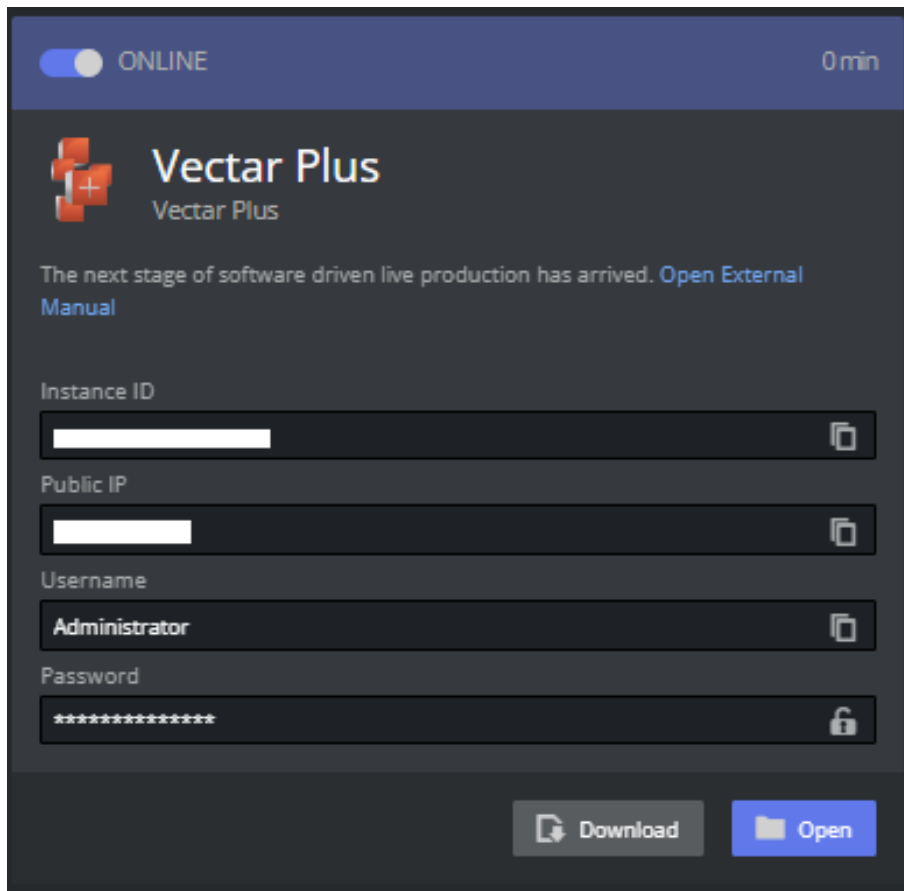
2.2.1   NICE DCV Client Software

The NICE DCV client software has to be installed on the local machine before the user is able to access the instance. If the software is installed the user can download a small shortcut script that opens the remote session.

1. Click the download button. This will download a *.dcv* shortcut file that can be saved (for example, onto your desktop). If the NICE DCV client application is installed on your machine, this automatically logs you in. You may rename it to something that makes sense to you.

> ⚠️ **Note**: Keep the .dcv file *secure*, it contains the credentials needed to log into the App.

2. Click **Open file** in the browser (usually upper right corner).

Web Browser-based NICE DCV

NICE DCV can also be opened in a browser window. You will not get the same low latency benefit with this approach but works well when inspecting Apps.

1. Click the **Open** button
2. Viz Now will copy the password to your clipboard (you might need to allow this)

3. A new browser will be opened
4. Paste the password into the Log in menu and connect

2.3   Web Apps

For apps that are accessible via a browser, a corresponding link is displayed.

See Also

- NICE DCV | Download (nice-dcv.com)

3 Working With Users
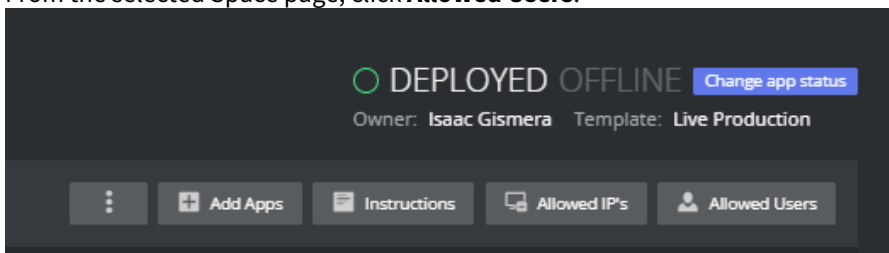
3.1 Assigning Users

When you create a Space it is by default only visible to you and the Administrators, but it is possible to assign other users to your Space.

3.1.1 To assign a User to your Space

1. From the selected Space page, click **Allowed Users**.

2. You can add and remove other users to let them see and access your installed Apps.
   If the user is an *Operator*, they can only access the Apps and can not change your Space.
3. If the App is marked as *Public Space* , anyone within the organization can see it.
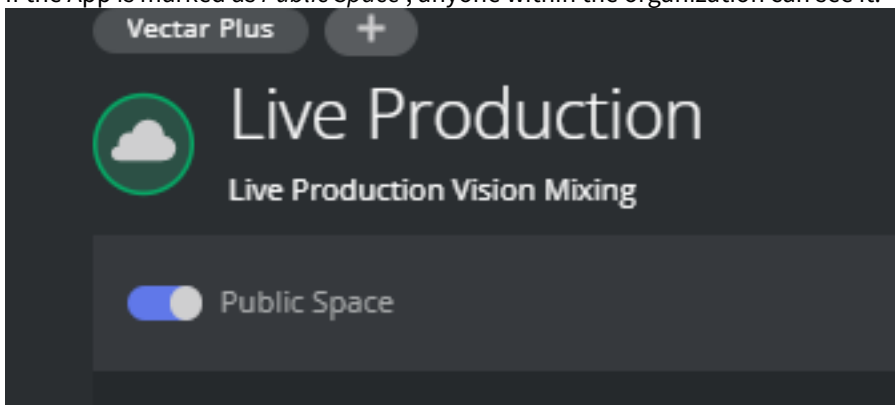
4   Working With Spaces
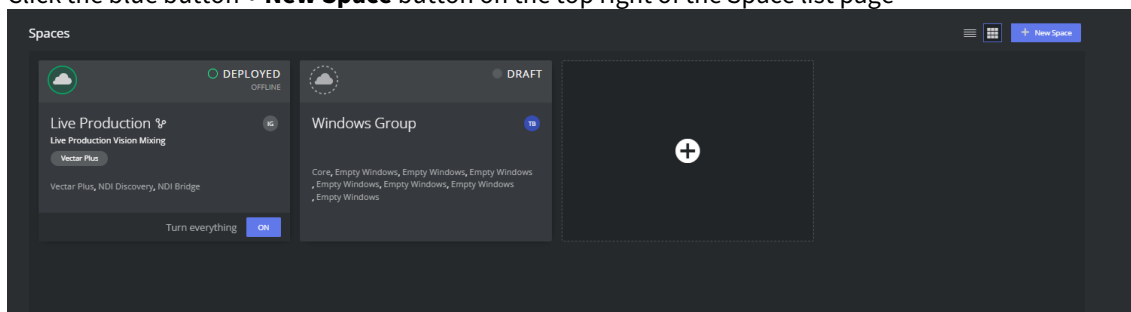
4.1   Creating And Deleting A Space

4.1.1   Creating a Space

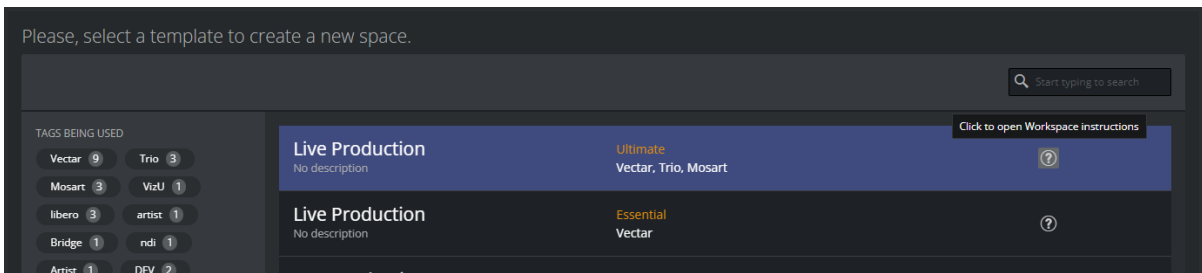To create a new Space

1. Either
   a. Click the blue button **+ New Space** button on the top right of the Space list page

   or
   b. Click on the big **+** (**Plus sign**) within a box if you are using the *box* view.
2. Choose your template.
   The template determines which apps can be deployed.

> ⚠️ **Note**: Refer to the *Viz Now Administrator Guide* for more details about *Templates*.

3. Click the **Question mark** ⓘ to open instructions for the template.
4. When the Space is created select which apps should be part of the Space by clicking the **Add Apps** menu.
5. From the popup menu the available apps can be selected.

6. When the all required apps are selected, click **Deploy**.
    This starts the building the application on your account.
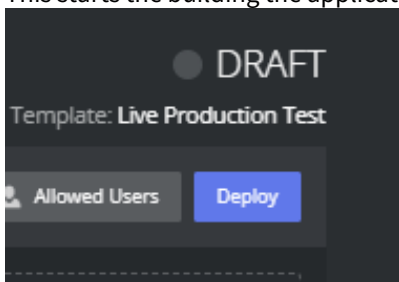
7. The operation takes 10-15 minutes.

4.1.2   Deleting a Space

A space that has been created and deployed incurs costs. Instances that are *running* are much more costly than when they are off. However there are *still* charges for instances that are off, especially if they have large disks.

It is therefore recommended that instances are destroyed when they are no longer in use.

> ⚠ **Note**: You must first perform a **Delete all** before a deployed space can be deleted.

-   **Delete all:** All virtual instances that Viz Now has deployed are deleted from the Cloud Account.
    All configurations are lost but the space itself is not yet deleted from Viz Now database.
-   **Delete:** The space is deleted from the Viz Now database.

To delete all content deployed in a Space

This removes all virtual machines and storage. Make sure you have saved any work elsewhere before doing this.

1. Open the space you want to delete (must be *Deployed*).
2. From the **Three dots** menu, select *Delete all*.
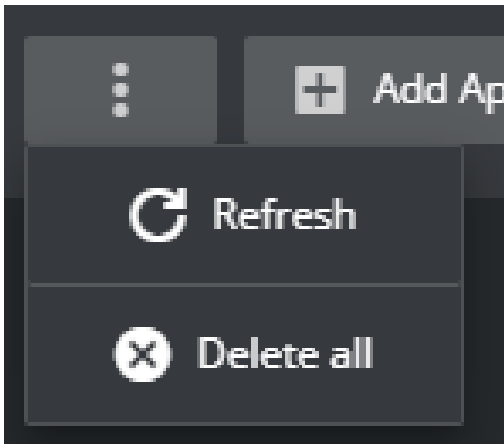
3. A popup box warns about permanent actions.
Type in the requested keywords to confirm the action.
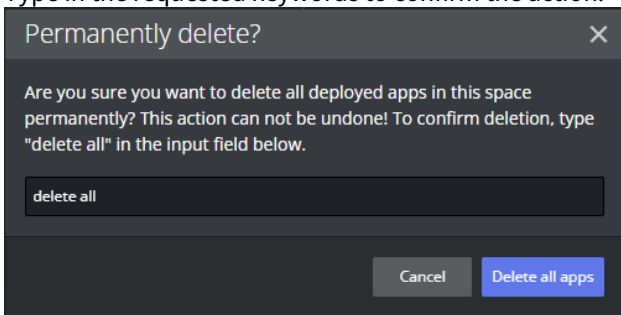
To delete a Space

1. To completely delete the Space references from Viz Now, select **Delete** (available if the Space is in *Draft* mode).

2. Confirm the deletion, in the popup

4.2   Session Scheduling

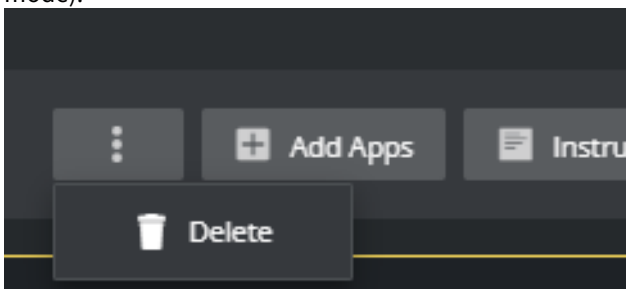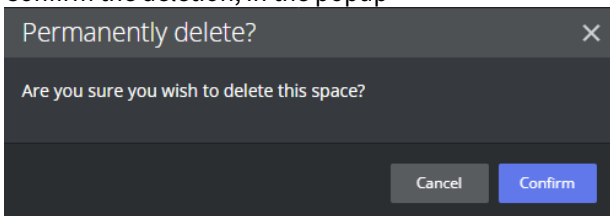Viz Now users with *Editor* or *Administrator* roles can define their spaces' up-time. This feature ensures that the apps are accessible during specific hours on designated days and helps prevent unexpected costs that may arise from users forgetting to turn off their apps.

This feature covers *all* apps within a space, it does address the individual apps in a space.

Both assigned users and the space owner receive a notification 30 minutes prior to Viz Now forcibly shutting down the apps.
This advance notice is intended to provide users with ample time to manually shut down their systems, the recommended course of action.

4.2.1   Start and End Times

By predetermining the activation and deactivation time of a space, users can plan in advance exactly when the space should be operational or not available.

To schedule space start time and end time

1. Navigate to the target Viz Now Space for scheduling.
2. From the **Scheduler settings** menu, fill-in the checkbox **Schedule session**.
   Select **Start time** and **End time** by clicking the **Calendar** icon.
   The estimated shutdown time is displayed.
3. Click **Confirm** to apply your settings.

4.2.2   Auto-Shutdown

An unused space that is still running, generates unnecessary operating costs on the users' AWS account. Auto-shutdown provides an optional safeguard to autonomously place unused resources offline.

Users can:

- Specify the duration that a Space is expected to remain active.
- Optionally enable the advanced auto-detect feature *Shutdown only when inactivity is detected over 30 minutes*, for added security.
 When this feature is activated, the instance remains operational until there is no outgoing data detected for 30 minutes.
  - If there are no active streams or remote connections to the app within this timeframe, the system will automatically shut down.
  - This helps ensure that the instance does not power-off while still in use.

To schedule auto-shutdown

Users that will only run Apps for a certain amount of hours, can configure the Auto-shutdown feature. This feature initiates a stopwatch after the last App is turned on and then turns off everything after the chosen time elapses.

1. Navigate to the target Viz Now space.
2. From the **Scheduler settings** menu, fill-in the checkbox **Enable auto-shutdown**.
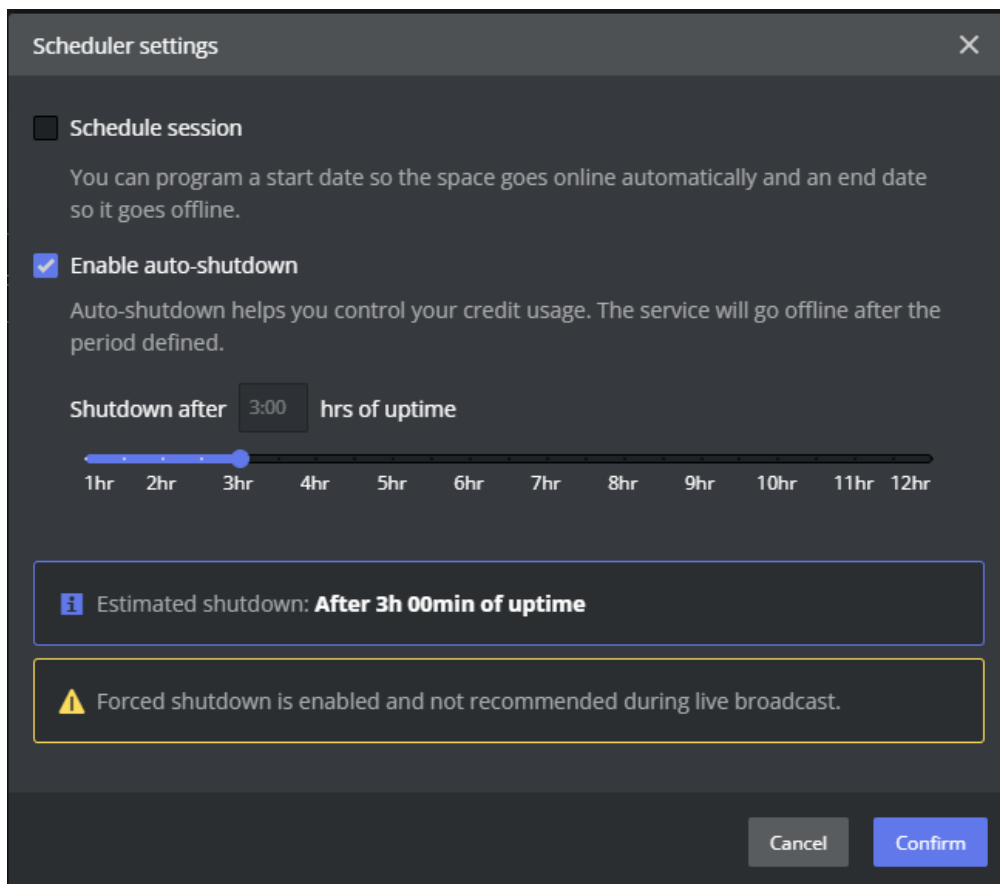
3. In section **Shutdown after *n:nn* hrs of uptime**, use the slider to specify how many hours your space is expected to run.
The estimated shutdown time is displayed.
4. Optionally enable the **Shutdown only when inactivity is detected over 30 minutes** safeguard option mentioned above.
5. Click **Confirm** to apply your settings.

⚠ **Note**: It is advised to avoid using this option during a live broadcast, to prevent unexpected shutdowns if the show runs longer than anticipated.

4.3   AWS Tags

For each Space, it is possible assist Space management by adding *tags*. The various types of tag are described below:

- Custom Tags
- Mandatory Tags
- Organization Tags
- Cost Allocation Tags.

All tags are applied as AWS Tags on all resources deployed by Viz Now.

- AWS Tags are key-value pairs that can be attached to AWS resources, providing a flexible way to manage, organize, and track costs.
- AWS Tags facilitate efficient resource filtering and discovery, enhancing operational efficiency.
- In AWS, *tag policies* enforce consistent tagging across resources, which is crucial for regulatory compliance and effective resource management and cost tracking.

⚠ **Note**: The Organization Administrator can define *mandatory* Tags to comply with AWS Tag Policies and ensure that specific tags are always included.
See the Viz Now Administrator Guide, section *Organization*.

4.3.1   Custom Tags

Adding custom tags to a Space enables distinguishing a particular Space from other resources. It also clarifies what the Space is used for.

To add a custom tag

1. In the required Space, click the **Plus** sign above the heading for the Space.
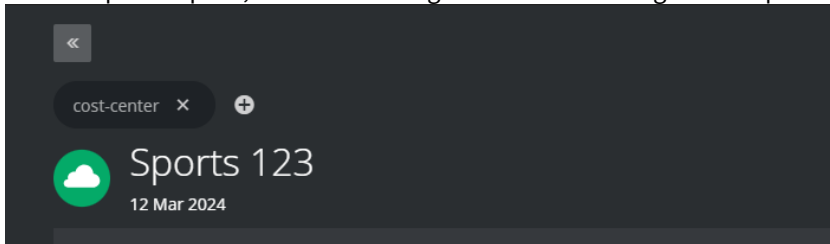
2. Enter the Tag name and click ☑ or press **Enter**.
3. (Optional) Provide a value if required.
4. To add the new tag, click ☑ .
5. Once the Tag is added, a *redeploy* is required to add the Tag to any existing AWS resources.
   The Tag is highlighted until this is done.

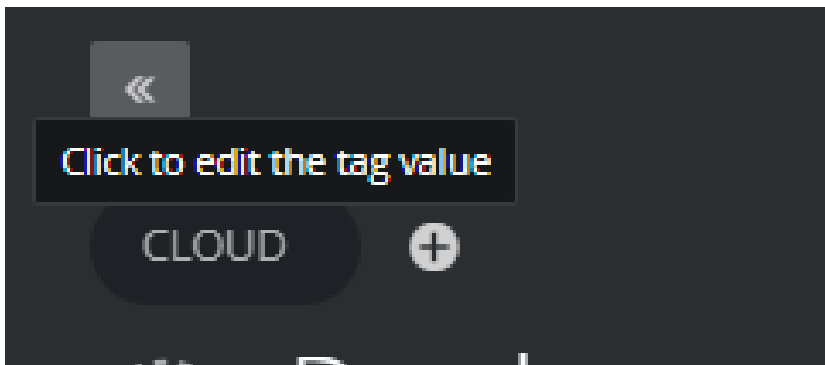⚠ The deployed version of the Space has not been updated and needs to be redeployed.
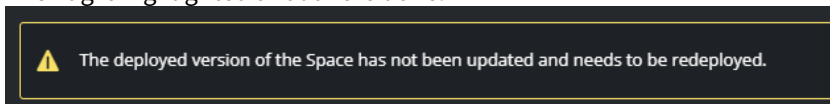
4.3.2   Mandatory Tags

If your administrator has marked an Organization Tag as mandatory, it will appear in all new Spaces. It is not possible to remove this tag and there is no '**X**' button to remove it. However, you add *values* to it.

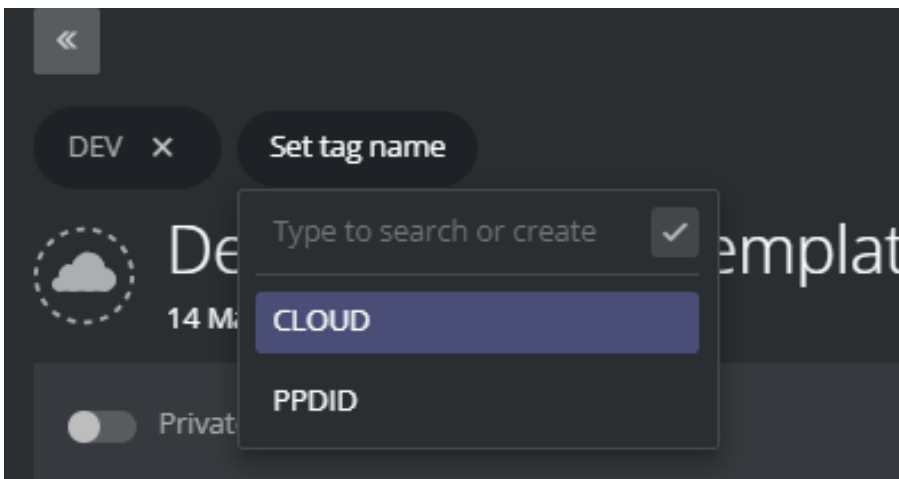### To select values for a mandatory Tag

1. Click on the required tag.

2. Enter a value and save by clicking ✅ or pressing **Enter**.

4.3.3   Organization Tags

Organization tags that have been created by an Administrator, appear as selectable suggestions.

To add organization tags to a Space

- Simply select them from the list to add.

4.3.4   Cost Allocation Tags

- Cost allocation tags are labels that you or AWS assign to an AWS resource. Each tag consists of a *key* and a *value*.
- These tags enable you to organize your resources and track costs on a detailed level.

There are two types of cost allocation tags:

AWS-generated tags: These are created by AWS or AWS Marketplace ISVs for you and are prefixed with "*aws:*".

User-defined tags: You can add these tags yourself through Viz Now, as described above.

Why use Cost Allocation Tags?

Accountability: Allocate costs to those responsible for the resource usage.
Financial transparency: Provide clear visibility into cash allocations toward IT spending.
Informed IT investments: Track ROI based on projects, applications, or business lines.

How Do Cost Allocation Tags Work?

- After activating cost allocation tags, AWS organizes your resource costs on a *cost allocation report*. This report groups your usage and costs based on your active tags.
- You can apply tags that represent business categories (for example, cost centers, application names) to organize costs across services.

Example Scenario:

- You tag two Amazon EC2 instances:
    - **Cost Center**: Engineering
    - **Stack**: Production
- You have an AWS-generated tag: **createdBy** (that tracks who created the resource)

The c*ost allocation report* will show costs associated with these tags.

> ⚠️ **Note**: *Cost allocation tags* enhance cloud accountability and empower better decision making.
> - Activate them to gain insights into your AWS costs.
>
> Read more about this topic here: Using AWS cost allocation tags - AWS Billing (amazon.com)