

AZURE ANNOUNCEMENTS NEWSLETTER

March 19th, 2021 – March 25th, 2021

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Announcements Details

Azure Service: API Management

General Availability

API Management support for request and response validation enables you to block or log API requests and responses that don't adhere to the specified API schema - without utilizing an add-on solution. This offers you protection for your APIs, without additional complexity or cost associated with an add-on. Requests and responses can be blocked or logged if they contain: Missing required query parameters. JSON bodies that don't comply to the declared JSON schema. Excessive body size. Query parameters that don't match specified regex pattern or data type. Headers not specified in the API schema. This capability will be rolled out over the next several weeks.

Announcement: [Azure API Management support for request and response validation policies has reached general availability.](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure API Management validation policies](#) | [Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Automation

Region Update

Azure Automation is now available in UK West.

Announcement: [Azure Automation is now available in UK West](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [An introduction to Azure Automation](#) | [Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Azure Regions

Region Update

Brazil South Availability Zones now generally available.

Announcement: [Brazil South Availability Zones now generally available](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Microsoft anuncia Zonas de Disponibilidade do Azure na região de datacenter Brazil South para aplicativos de alta disponibilidade – Microsoft News Center Brasil](#)

Azure Service: Container Registry

Region Update

Azure Container Registry is now generally available in the Norway East region. Azure Container Registry allows you to build, store, and manage images and artifacts for all types of container deployments.

Announcement: [Azure Container Registry now available in Norway East region](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Products by Region](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Azure Service: Cost Management

General Availability

Manage your cloud spending with confidence by using forecasted cost alerts. Now generally available, with the Azure Cost Management and Billing you can prevent cost overruns with Azure budget alerts on forecasted costs.

Announcement: [Generally available: Monitor your spending through forecasted cost alerts with Azure Cost Management and Billing](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Prevent exceeding Azure budget with forecasted cost alerts](#) | [Azure Blog and Updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Azure Service: Data Explorer

General Availability

The next version of Azure Data Explorer (ADX) with performance updates provides enhancements that enable new workload scenarios and performance improvements over the previous version.

Announcement: [General availability: Azure Data Explorer \(ADX\) Performance Updates](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Data Explorer - Analytics Service](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Azure Service: Data Lake Storage

General Availability

Directory scoped shared access signatures (SAS) generally available. Directory scoped SAS provides constrained access to a single directory when using ADLS Gen2. This can be used to provide access to a directory and the files it contains.

Announcement: [Directory scoped shared access signatures \(SAS\) generally available](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Grant limited access to data with shared access signatures \(SAS\) - Azure Storage](#) | [Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: IoT Central

Updated Feature

Reuse of interfaces IoT Central now supports reuse of interfaces within a device model. This enables device developers to build complex device models with components that use the same interface. For example, you can now model a device such as a temperature controller that has two thermostat components that both reference the same interface. API updates You can now use the IoT Central APIs to partially update entities such as devices, properties, and users with PATCH operations. Learn more from our REST API docs, where you can find details of PATCH operations such as Devices - Update (Azure IoT Central) | Microsoft Docs. Dashboard updates We've refreshed the experience for creating a new dashboard as well as moved dashboard settings to a separate panel. You can now access settings such as Dashboard name and Dashboard type by selecting the Dashboard settings button in the top right hand corner of the dashboard. We made this update to improve usability and create more clarity between the create and edit dashboard workflows. IoT Central documentation improvements In February, we updated the screenshots of IoT Central in the tour of the UI to reflect all the exciting new changes in our product over the past few months. We also included alt text to make our content more accessible.

Announcement: [Azure IoT Central new and updated features—February 2021 | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [How to move a device to Azure IoT Central from IoT Hub | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: IoT Hub

General Availability

Starting today, IoT Hub's Azure portal API calls are made directly by your browser with your credentials. This means these API calls are no longer proxied through a backend service, which improves security, stability, and consistency with other Azure services.

Announcement: [General availability: IoT Hub Azure portal extension update | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure IoT Hub IP filters | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Kubernetes Service

General Availability

Azure Monitor for containers now support access to pod & replica-set Live Logs of Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) pods & replica-sets. You can view real-time live logs of your Kubernetes deployments. You can search, filter, and view historic deployment pod logs in Log analytics, as well as troubleshoot and diagnose all your pod & replica-set issues.

Announcement: [General availability: Azure monitor for containers now supports Pods & Replica set live logs in AKS resource view | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [View Live Data with Container insights - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Media Services

General Availability

Media Services introduces new security features available in the 2020-05-01 version of the Azure Media Services API allowing you to now bring their own encryption keys and use managed identities. The latest features include: Customer Managed Keys: Content Keys and other data stored in accounts created with the "2020-05-01" version API are encrypted with an account key. You can now manage your own keys to adhere to industry compliance regulations and improves tenant isolation of a service. Giving you better control of encryption keys is a way to minimize unnecessary access and build confidence in Microsoft services. Trusted Storage: Media Services can be configured to access Azure Storage using a Managed Identity associated with the Media Services account. When storage accounts are accessed using a Managed Identity, you can configure more restrictive network ACLs on the storage account without blocking Media Services use case scenarios like streaming or encoding. Managed Identities: Customers can now enable a System Assigned Managed Identity for a Media Services account to provide access to Key Vaults (for Customer Managed Keys) and storage accounts (for Trusted Storage).

Announcement: [General availability: Media Services introduces new security features | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Bring your own key \(customer managed keys\) - Azure Media Services v3 | Microsoft Docs](#)

General Availability

General availability: Media Services adds new "StandBy" mode for Live Events to speed up start times from warm state. Live Events now support a lower-cost billing mode for "StandBy" state. This new capability enables you to pre-allocate Live Events at a lower cost. When building a service that requires fast start up of live events, it is often valuable to hold a number of Live Events that are allocated and ready to transition to "Running" state within seconds. This reduces the time to start the event significantly and reduces costs by operating in a lower priced metering mode.

Announcement: [General availability: Media Services adds new "StandBy" mode for Live Events to speed up start times from warm state | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Live event states and billing in Azure Media Services - Azure Media Services v3 | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Monitor

General Availability

Azure dashboards are a quick and easy way to create a single pane of glass to monitor your Azure estate. Log Analytics allows pinning of query results and visualizations to an Azure Dashboard for easy monitoring.

Announcement: [General availability: Enhanced Azure Dashboards experience for pinned Log Analytics parts | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Enhanced Dashboard experiences for Azure Monitor Log Analytics \(microsoft.com\)](#)

General Availability

Azure Monitor for containers now support access to pod & replica-set Live Logs of Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) pods & replica-sets. You can view real-time live logs of your Kubernetes deployments. You can search, filter, and view historic deployment pod logs in Log analytics, as well as troubleshoot and diagnose all your pod & replica-set issues.

Announcement: [General availability: Azure monitor for containers now supports Pods & Replica set live logs in AKS resource view | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [View Live Data with Container insights - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

Preview Feature

Azure Monitor SQL insights offers you a flexible canvas for telemetry collection, analysis, and rich custom visualization. The new interactive experiences with SQL insights let you customize telemetry collection and frequency, and also combine data from multiple sources into a single monitoring experience for your entire SQL estate. SQL insights is built on top of the Azure Monitor platform, giving customers access to the native alerting and visualization functionality. SQL insights is enterprise-ready and easily scales to meet your resource requirements. This feature is available in preview for SQL Database, SQL Managed Instance and SQL Server on Azure Virtual Machines.

Announcement: [Azure Monitor SQL insights for Azure SQL in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Monitor your SQL deployments with SQL insights \(preview\) - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Power BI Embedded

Preview Feature

The new Power BI embedded analytics playground is now live, in public preview. The new playground is the home for Power BI embedded analytics, where you can get hands-on coding experience, embed your own reports, and interact with our client APIs to see instant results. In addition, you'll find there our interactive showcases to get inspiration regarding how you can apply these features in your applications. Lastly, we've created a new learning center to help you find all the relevant samples, tutorials, and documentation you'll need for a successful integration.

Announcement: [Public preview: Announcing the new Power BI embedded analytics playground | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Power BI Playground](#)

Azure Service: Site Recovery

New Feature

While Availability Zones are traditionally used by customers for high availability, they can also be leveraged for Disaster Recovery under specific scenarios. The capability adds disaster recovery options for scenarios that may require maintaining data residency and local compliance, reducing the complexity of configuring a DR strategy in a secondary region, and improving the recovery point objective (RPO).

Announcement: [Expanding our DR scenarios to new zonal capabilities with Azure Site Recovery | Azure Blog and Updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Microsoft Azure Well-Architected Framework - Microsoft Azure Well-Architected Framework introduction | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: SQL Database

General Availability

Now in general availability, dynamic data masking (DDM) granular permissions for Azure SQL Database, Azure Synapse Analytics, and Azure SQL Managed Instance allows you to grant and deny UNMASK permission at the schema-level, the table-level, and the column-level. This enhancement provides a more granular way to control and limit unauthorized access to SQL assets on Azure and improve data security management.

Announcement: [General availability: Dynamic data masking granular permissions for Azure SQL and Azure Synapse Analytics | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure SQL - Microsoft Tech Community](#)

Azure Service: SQL Managed Instance

General Availability

Now in general availability, machine learning capabilities are enabled to operate your own R or Python runtime with increased performance on a preconfigured SQL Managed Instance.

Announcement: [Machine Learning Services on Azure SQL Managed Instance now generally available | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Machine Learning Services in Azure SQL Managed Instance - Azure SQL Managed Instance | Microsoft Docs](#)

General Availability

Now in general availability, dynamic data masking (DDM) granular permissions for Azure SQL Database, Azure Synapse Analytics, and Azure SQL Managed Instance allows you to grant and deny UNMASK permission at the schema-level, the table-level, and the column-level. This enhancement provides a more granular way to control and limit unauthorized access to SQL assets on Azure and improve data security management.

Announcement: [General availability: Dynamic data masking granular permissions for Azure SQL and Azure Synapse Analytics | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure SQL - Microsoft Tech Community](#)

Preview Feature

Service Broker message exchange for Azure SQL Managed Instance in public preview. The Service Broker component of Azure SQL Managed Instance allows you to compose your applications from independent, self-contained services, by providing native support for reliable and secure message exchange between the databases attached to the services. With preview support for cross-instance message exchange, Azure SQL Managed Instance can host a data tier of applications that distribute work across multiple instances. Instances can be hosted in different Azure regions and belong to different Azure subscriptions and Azure AD tenants, thanks to establishing certificate-based trust.

Announcement: [Service Broker message exchange for Azure SQL Managed Instance in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Cross-instance Service Broker message exchange for Azure SQL Managed Instance - Microsoft Tech Community](#)

Azure Service: SQL Managed Instance

Preview Feature

Azure Monitor SQL insights offers you a flexible canvas for telemetry collection, analysis, and rich custom visualization. The new interactive experiences with SQL insights let you customize telemetry collection and frequency, and also combine data from multiple sources into a single monitoring experience for your entire SQL estate. SQL insights is built on top of the Azure Monitor platform, giving customers access to the native alerting and visualization functionality. SQL insights is enterprise-ready and easily scales to meet your resource requirements. This feature is available in preview for SQL Database, SQL Managed Instance and SQL Server on Azure Virtual Machines.

Announcement: [Azure Monitor SQL insights for Azure SQL in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Monitor your SQL deployments with SQL insights \(preview\) - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

Preview Feature

Many applications have regulatory, compliance, or other business purposes that require you to retain database backups beyond the 35 days provided by Azure SQL Managed Instance automatic backups. When using the LTR feature, you can automatically retain specified SQL Managed Instance full backups in separate Azure Blob storage with configured redundancy for up to 10 years. You can then restore any backups as a new database. LTR may be configured on both single and pooled instances.

Announcement: [Long-term backup retention \(LTR\) for Azure SQL Managed Instance in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Automatic, geo-redundant backups - Azure SQL Database & Azure SQL Managed Instance | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: SQL Migrate

New Feature

You can now discover your SQL Server instances and databases running in a VMware environment and analyze their configuration, performance, and application dependencies for migration to Azure SQL Database and Azure SQL Managed Instance. Assessments will include Azure SQL readiness, right-sizing, and cost projections. You now have an easy way to discover your entire SQL estate and one unified experience for IaaS and PaaS migration assessments.

Announcement: [Perform at-scale, agentless SQL Server discovery and assessment with Azure Migrate | Azure Blog and Updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Discover SQL Server instances in an existing Azure Migrate project - Azure Migrate | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Storage

General Availability

Azure Storage Explorer helps you upload, download, and manage the data you store in Azure Storage. This month we released version v1.18.0 which includes the following new capabilities: Decrease startup and load time of Storage Explorer. New connection flow to make it easier to specify the type of resource. For faster data transfer, Storage Explorer now uses AzCopy v10.8.0. Log files now have more descriptive names and, easier way to clean up old logs. Authorizing via shared access signatures (SAS) is now enabled for ADLS Gen2 accounts. You can now attach to an ADLS Gen2 Storage account, container, or folder via SAS using Storage Explorer.

Announcement: [Azure Storage Explorer v1.18.0 is now generally available | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Release v1.18.0 · microsoft/AzureStorageExplorer · GitHub](#)

Preview Feature

AzCopy v10.9.0 now in preview supports importing from Google Cloud Platform (GCP) Storage to Microsoft Azure Storage Block Blob. This version will also have support for scanning logs that can have low or high output based on debugging needs. Tags will be preserved when copying blobs and the list command will include Last Modified Time information.

Announcement: [AzCopy v10.9.0 now in public preview: import from GCP to Azure Block Blobs | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Release AzCopy V10.9.0 Release · Azure/azure-storage-azcopy · GitHub](#)

Azure Service: Synapse Analytics

General Availability

Now in general availability, dynamic data masking (DDM) granular permissions for Azure SQL Database, Azure Synapse Analytics, and Azure SQL Managed Instance allows you to grant and deny UNMASK permission at the schema-level, the table-level, and the column-level. This enhancement provides a more granular way to control and limit unauthorized access to SQL assets on Azure and improve data security management.

Announcement: [General availability: Dynamic data masking granular permissions for Azure SQL and Azure Synapse Analytics | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure SQL - Microsoft Tech Community](#)

Azure Service: Virtual Machines

General Availability

HBv3 VMs are now generally available in the Azure East US, South Central US, and West Europe regions. HBv3 Virtual Machines feature AMD EPYC™ 7003-series (Milan) CPU cores, 448 GB of RAM, 480 MB of L3 cache, and no simultaneous multithreading (SMT). HBv2 Virtual Machines provide up to 340 GB/sec of memory bandwidth. HBv3 VMs can be deployed with a range of CPU core counts to support a diverse set of HPC workload needs. To drive optimal at-scale message passing interface (MPI) performance, HBv2 Virtual Machines feature 200 Gb/s HDR InfiniBand from our technology partners at NVIDIA Networking.

Announcement: [HBv3-Series VMs now generally available in East US, South Central US, and West Europe | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [More performance and choice with new Azure HBv3 virtual machines for HPC | Azure Blog and Updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

General Availability

You can now publish a VM Image in Shared Image Gallery (SIG) to Azure Marketplace. This capability simplifies your image preparation, testing, and submission process as you no longer have to extract vhds, upload them, and generate SAS URIs. With this capability, you can now manage the full image lifecycle within Azure. You can simply create your image from the VM or a vhd into Shared Image Gallery, then select the SIG Image to publish it in Partner Center.

Announcement: [General availability: Publishing VM Images from Shared Image Gallery to Azure Marketplace | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Create an Azure virtual machine offer \(VM\) from an approved base, Azure Marketplace | Microsoft Docs](#)

Preview Feature

Announcing the limited preview of AMD-backed Azure confidential computing virtual machines. Microsoft is further broadening the confidential computing options available to Azure customers through our technology partnership with AMD, specifically by being the first major cloud provider to offer confidential virtual machines on the new AMD EPYC™ 7003 series processors. This new approach complements existing Azure confidential computing solutions such as confidential containers for Azure Kubernetes Service and opens the possibility to create new confidential applications without requiring code modifications which in turn substantially simplifies the process of creating confidential applications.

Announcement: [Limited preview: Make workloads on AMD-backed virtual machines confidential without recompiling code | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Sign up for Private Preview of Azure Confidential VMs \(office.com\)](#)

Azure Service: Virtual Network

Preview Feature

IPv6 support for ExpressRoute Private Peering is now available for public preview with ExpressRoute circuits globally and Azure environments in regions with Availability zones. IPv6 support will unlock hybrid connectivity for you as you look to expand into mobile and IoT markets with Azure, or to address IPv4 exhaustion in your on-premise networks.

Announcement: [Public preview: IPv6 Support for ExpressRoute Private Peering | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure ExpressRoute: Add IPv6 support using the Azure portal | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: VMWare Solution

Region Update

The new Azure VMware Solution went to general availability at Microsoft Ignite, 2020. Since announcing initial availability in US East, US West, West Europe and Australia, we have made the solution available in the Japan East, UK South, Canada Central, North US, and North Europe (Dublin) Azure regions. We are sharing that today we have launched availability for Azure VMware Solution in the Southeast Asia (Singapore) region.

Announcement: [Azure VMware Solution now generally available in the Southeast Asia region | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Microsoft Azure VMware Solution \(social27.com\)](#)