



AZURE ANNOUNCEMENTS NEWSLETTER

September 16, 2022 – September 22, 2022

Announcements Summary

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Announcements Details

Azure Service: Data Lake Storage

General Availability

Immutable storage for Azure Data Lake Storage is now generally available. Immutable storage provides the capability to store data in a write once, read many (WORM) state. Once data is written, the data becomes non-erasable and non-modifiable and you can set a retention period so that files can't be deleted until after that period has elapsed. Additionally, legal holds can be placed on data to make that data non-erasable and non-modifiable until the hold is removed.

This release includes the new “allow append writes for block and append blobs” flag, which allows users to set up immutable policies for block and append blobs to keep already written data in a WORM state and continue to add new data.

If you are using NFS 3.0 protocol or SFTP support on an account, immutable storage is not supported.

Immutable storage will be available in all public regions.

Announcement: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/immutable-storage-for-azure-data-lake-storage-is-now-generally-available/>

Documentation: <https://learn.microsoft.com/azure/storage/blobs/immutable-storage-overview>

Azure Service: NetApp Files

Region Updates

Feature regional coverage continues to expand for Azure NetApp Files backup. The following regions are backup additions: Southeast Asia, UK South.

Announcement: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/public-preview-expanded-feature-regional-availability-for-azure-netapp-files-backup/>

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/public-preview-expanded-feature-regional-availability-for-azure-netapp-files-backup/>

Azure Service: Storage

Preview Features

Today Azure Storage is announcing the public preview of a self-service option to convert storage accounts from non-zonal redundancy (LRS/GRS) to zonal redundancy (ZRS/GZRS). This allows you to initiate the conversion of storage accounts via the Azure portal without the necessity of creating a support ticket.

Announcement: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/public-preview-customer-initiated-storage-account-redundancy-conversion/>

Documentation: <https://learn.microsoft.com/azure/storage/common/redundancy-migration?tabs=portal>

Preview Features

Encryption scopes introduce the option to provision multiple encryption keys in a storage account with hierarchical namespace. Using encryption scopes, you now can provision multiple encryption keys and choose to apply the encryption scope either at the container level (as the default scope for blobs in that container) or at the blob level. The preview is available for REST, HDFS, NFSv3, and SFTP protocols in an Azure Blob / Data Lake Gen2 storage account.

The key that protects an encryption scope may be either a Microsoft-managed key or a customer-managed key in Azure Key Vault. You can choose to enable automatic rotation of a customer-managed key that protects an encryption scope. When you generate a new version of the key in your Key Vault, Azure Storage will automatically update the version of the key that is protecting the encryption scope, within a day.

Announcement: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/public-preview-encryption-scopes-on-hierarchical-namespace-enabled-storage-accounts/>

Documentation: <https://learn.microsoft.com/azure/storage/blobs/encryption-scope-overview>

Updated Features

Immutable storage for Blob Storage on containers (which has been generally available since September 2018) now includes a new append capability. This capability, titled “Allow Protected Appends for Block and Append Blobs,” allows you to set up immutable policies for block and append blobs to keep already written data in a WORM state and continue to add new data. This capability is available for both legal holds and time-based retention policies.

This capability is supported in all public regions and it is available to new and existing accounts.

Announcement: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/immutable-storage-for-blob-storage-now-includes-allow-appends-for-block-and-append-blobs-capability/>

Documentation: <https://learn.microsoft.com/azure/storage/blobs/immutable-storage-overview>

Azure Service: Virtual Machines

Region Updates

Azure Ultra Disk Storage is now available in the Qatar Central Azure region. Azure Ultra Disk Storage offers high throughput, high input/output operations per second (IOPS), and consistent low latency disk storage for Azure Virtual Machines. Ultra Disk Storage is well-suited for data-intensive workloads such as SAP HANA, top-tier databases, and transaction-heavy workloads.

Announcement: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/generally-available-azure-ultra-disk-storage-in-qatar-central/>

Documentation: <https://learn.microsoft.com/azure/virtual-machines/disks-types#ultra-disk>

Updated Features

After December 15, 2022, a new KMS DNS, azkms.core.chinacloudapi.cn, will be rolled out to improve Azure Windows activation experience in Azure China Cloud. Specifically, after December 15, 2022, all Azure Windows VMs provisioned in Azure China Cloud will be activated via azkms.core.chinacloudapi.cn; and most Azure Windows VMs provisioned in Azure China Cloud before December 15, 2022 remain activated via existing KMS DNS, kms.core.chinacloudapi.cn.

To most Azure China Cloud customers, the transition to new KMS DNS is transparent. However, Azure China Cloud customers who have followed trouble-shooting guides, like the ones listed below, need to include new KMS DNS, azkms.core.chinacloudapi.cn, and two new KMS IP addresses, 159.27.28.100 and 163.228.64.161:

<https://docs.microsoft.com/troubleshoot/azure/virtual-machines/custom-routes-enable-kms-activation>

<https://docs.microsoft.com/troubleshoot/azure/virtual-machines/troubleshoot-activation-problems>

<https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/firewall/protect-azure-virtual-desktop>

After March 1, 2023, kms.core.chinacloudapi.cn will point to 159.27.28.100 and 163.228.64.161 instead of 42.159.7.249. This change will have no impact to Azure China Cloud customers who have followed trouble-shooting guides to include two new KMS IP addresses.

Announcement: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/generally-available-new-kms-dns-in-azure-china-cloud/>

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/generally-available-new-kms-dns-in-azure-china-cloud/>

Azure Service: Web Application Firewall

Updated Features

Azure regional Web Application Firewall (WAF) with Application Gateway now supports creating custom rules using the operators "Any" and "GreaterThanOrEqualTo". Custom rules allow you to create your own rules to customize how each request is evaluated as it passes through the WAF engine.

Azure global Web Application Firewall (WAF) with Azure Front Door now supports custom geo-match filtering rules using socket addresses. Filtering by socket address allows you to restrict access to your web application by country/region using the source IP that the WAF sees. If your user is behind a proxy, socket address is often the proxy server address.

Announcement: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/general-availability-improvements-to-web-application-firewall-waf-custom-rules/>

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/general-availability-improvements-to-web-application-firewall-waf-custom-rules/>