

AZURE ANNOUNCEMENTS NEWSLETTER

April 23rd, 2021 – April 29th, 2021

Announcements Summary

Azure Architecture Center	Documentation Updates – 10 Updates
Backup	Preview Features – 1 Update
Cost Management	Updated Features – 1 Update
Database for MySQL	New Features – 1 Update Preview Features – 1 Update Region Updates – 2 Updates
Database for PostgreSQL	Preview Features – 2 Updates Region Updates – 1 Update
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Total Announcements: 29

Announcements Details

Azure Service: Azure Architecture Center

Documentation Update

Health data consortium on Azure - Traditional clinical trials can be complex, time consuming, and costly. To address these issues, a growing number of healthcare organizations are partnering to build data consortiums for conducting clinical trials.

Documentation: [Health data consortium on Azure - Azure Example Scenarios | Microsoft Docs](#)

Documentation Update

Multi-cloud blockchain DLT - Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) networks are multi-party systems. Each party can have its own tools, methodology, and cloud provider. Some providers' public or private blockchain networks might have limited region availability, scalability, or network segregation. The open-source Blockchain Automation Framework (BAF) is a consistent way to deploy production-ready DLTs across different public and private clouds. But while BAF can manage deployments, it doesn't provide central infrastructure management and monitoring. Although some cloud providers' blockchain services provide infrastructure management, they might require all parties to be in the same cloud or infrastructure. To join forces and build a blockchain network, parties that use different cloud providers and infrastructures need a common management platform. This platform should offer standard visibility, operations, and compliance across a wide range of resources and locations, regardless of hosting infrastructure. This article explores how the BAF and Azure Arc enabled Kubernetes can build a cross-cloud blockchain solution focusing on portability and control.

Documentation: [Multi-cloud blockchain distributed ledger technology \(DLT\) - Azure Example Scenarios | Microsoft Docs](#)

Documentation Update

Knowledge mining in contract management - This architecture demonstrates how to use knowledge mining in contract management. Many companies create products for multiple sectors, as such the business opportunities with different vendors and buyers increases exponentially. Knowledge mining can help organizations to scour thousands of pages of sources to create a competitive bid. Minor details in the bidding process can make the difference between a healthy profit or lost opportunity on a project.

Documentation: [Knowledge mining in contract management - Azure Solution Ideas | Microsoft Docs](#)

Documentation Update

Knowledge mining in business process management - This architecture demonstrates how to use knowledge mining in business process management. When organizations task employees with the review and research of technical data, it can be tedious to read page after page of dense text. Knowledge mining helps employees quickly review these materials. Knowledge mining can help avoid costly mistakes in industries where bidding competition is fierce. Or, in scenarios when the diagnosis of a problem must be quick or in near real time.

Documentation: [Knowledge mining in business process management - Azure Solution Ideas | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Azure Architecture Center

Documentation Update

Azure Automation Update Management - This reference architecture illustrates how to design a hybrid update management solution to manage updates on both Microsoft Azure and on-premises Windows and Linux computers.

Documentation: [Azure Automation Update Management - Azure Architecture Center | Microsoft Docs](#)

Documentation Update

Manage hybrid Azure workloads using Windows Admin Center - This reference architecture illustrates how to design a hybrid Windows Admin Center solution to manage workloads that are hosted on-premises and in Microsoft Azure. This architecture includes two scenarios: Windows Admin Center deployed to a virtual machine (VM) in Azure. Windows Admin Center deployed to a server (physical or virtual) on-premises.

Documentation: [Manage hybrid Azure workloads using Windows Admin Center - Azure Architecture Center | Microsoft Docs](#)

Documentation Update

Analytics end-to-end with Azure Synapse - This example scenario demonstrates how to use the extensive family of Azure Data Services to build a modern data platform capable of handling the most common data challenges in an organization.

Documentation: [Analytics end-to-end with Azure Synapse - Azure Example Scenarios | Microsoft Docs](#)

Documentation Update

Building solutions for high availability using Availability Zones.

Documentation: [Building solutions for high availability using Availability Zones - High Availability | Microsoft Docs](#)

Documentation Update

Mining equipment monitoring - Mining companies can have Azure continually monitor the performance data from their equipment or from other assets. Analysis of the data identifies anomalies and results in recommendations for maintenance and repair. Such monitoring can prevent failures and reduce operating costs.

Documentation: [Mining equipment monitoring - Azure Solution Ideas | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Azure Architecture Center

Documentation Update

Azure Automation in a Hybrid Environment - This reference architecture illustrates how to extend automation to on-premises or other cloud providers. It describes the services that must be deployed in Azure to provide automated management and configuration across on-premises or other cloud providers. The same architecture can be applied on Azure virtual machines (VMs) that reside behind a firewall, with outbound connectivity over the 443 TCP port.

Documentation: [Azure Automation in a hybrid environment - Azure Architecture Center | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Backup

Preview Feature

Azure Backup allows you to bring your own keys for encrypting the backup data in your Recovery Services vaults, thus giving you better control. Backup now provides improved capabilities (in preview) for management of encryption with customer managed keys: Backup now supports user-assigned managed identities for granting permissions on keys to the Recovery Services vault. Enable encryption with customer managed keys during creation of the Recovery Services vault. This feature is currently in limited preview, to sign up, please fill out this form and write to us at AskAzureBackupTeam@microsoft.com. Use Azure Policies to audit and enforce encryption using customer managed keys.

Announcement: [Public preview: Enhancements to encryption using customer managed keys for Azure Backup | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Registration Form: [Enable encryption using customer managed keys while creating the RS vault \(office.com\)](#)

Azure Service: Cost Management

Updated Feature

Here are a few of the latest improvements and updates based on your feedback: Get retail prices in non-USD currencies. New date picker in the cost analysis preview. What's new in Cost Management Labs. Deploy key design principles with enterprise-scale architecture. Empowering operators on their cloud migration journey. New ways to save money with Azure. New videos and learning opportunities. Documentation updates.

Announcement: [Azure Cost Management and Billing updates – April 2021 | Azure Blog and Updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Cloud Cost Management | Microsoft Azure](#)

Azure Service: Database for MySQL

New Feature

MySQL 8.0.21 is now available with Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server deployment option in all major Azure regions. MySQL 8.0.21 comes with better concurrency and optimizer improvements like support for index hints and hash outer joins. With Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server burstable compute size, you can quickly provision a low-end MySQL 8.0.21 server for development to evaluate the features and leverage stop server to save cost when the server is not in use. For production deployments, you can provision the General Purpose or Memory Optimized tier with zone redundant high availability for higher uptime.

Announcement: [Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server now supports 8.0.21](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Overview - Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server](#) | [Microsoft Docs](#)

Preview Feature

Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server offers forced failover capability in all zone redundant regions. Users may use this feature to force a manual failover from the primary to standby server to either test the high availability functionality or switch the availability zone between the primary and standby servers. Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server forced failover allows you to manually force a failover and test the functionality with your application scenarios to help you to be ready in case of any outages.

Announcement: [Public preview: Forced failover now available with zone redundant high availability for Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Overview of zone redundant high availability with Azure Database for MySQL Flexible Server](#) | [Microsoft Docs](#)

Region Update

Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server now offers zone redundant high availability in two new regions: UK South and Japan East.

Announcement: [Azure Database for MySQL – Flexible Server: Zone redundant high availability now generally available in new regions](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Overview - Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server](#) | [Microsoft Docs](#)

Region Update

The public preview for Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server deployment option is now available in the France Central and Brazil South regions.

Announcement: [The public preview of Azure Database for MySQL – Flexible Server is available in two new regions](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

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

Azure Service: Database for PostgreSQL

Preview Feature

PgBouncer, a popular Postgres connection pooling tool, is now available as a built-in option for Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Flexible Server (preview). It is supported with both public access and private access connectivity. Postgres databases use a process-based model for connections, and each connection consumes a noticeable amount of resources that could increase your costs to maintain many idle connections. PgBouncer can help with mitigating idle connections and also allows you to configure up to 10,000 connections.

Documentation: [PgBouncer - Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Flexible Server | Microsoft Docs](#)

Preview Feature

Intelligent performance features for Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Flexible Server is now in public preview. This latest release of intelligent performance features is comprised of Query Store on Postgres 11 and 12. Query Store collects and stores query execution statistics. With this functionality, you can inspect your database to understand your workloads, identify bottlenecks, and detect changes in query performance over time.

Announcement: [Public preview: Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Flexible Server intelligent performance | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Query Store - Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Single Server | Microsoft Docs](#)

Region Update

Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Hyperscale (Citus) is now available in the France Central and Switzerland North regions. With the addition of Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Hyperscale (Citus) to these regions, you can now distribute your Postgres database to horizontally scale queries across multiple machines using sharding. The query engine parallelizes incoming SQL queries across these servers for faster responses on large datasets. The query engine also serves applications that require greater scale and performance for typical workloads approaching or already exceeding 100 GB of data.

Announcement: [The public preview of Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Hyperscale \(Citus\) is available in new regions | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Configuration options – Hyperscale \(Citus\) - Azure Database for PostgreSQL | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: DevOps

General Availability

General availability: Application Insights work item integration in Azure Monitor The upgraded work item integration adds: Advanced fields like assignee or projects or milestones Repo Icons so you can differentiate between GitHub & Azure DevOps workbooks Multiple configurations for any number of repositories or work items Deployment through ARM templates Pre-Built & Customizable Keyword Query Language (KQL) queries to add Application Insights data to your work items Customizable workbook templates.

Announcement: [General availability: Application Insights work item integration in Azure Monitor | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Work Item Integration - Application Insights - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Machine Learning

Retiring Feature

Azure Machine Learning (AML) is an enterprise grade service that provides compute infrastructure for your ML needs. Azure Machine Learning's managed-compute infrastructure allows you to easily create a compute instance (CI) or a single or multi-node compute cluster. Starting 30 April 2021, Ubuntu is ending standard support for Ubuntu 16.04 LTS (read more on the Ubuntu release blog) and as a result, Microsoft will replace the Ubuntu 16.04 LTS image with an Ubuntu 18.04 LTS image for new compute instances and clusters to ensure continued security updates and support from the Ubuntu community. We have started the automatic migration of existing clusters and instances to Ubuntu 18.04 since 15 March 2021.

Announcement: [Action required: upgrade your AML cluster to Ubuntu 18.04 LTS by 30 April 2021 | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Releases - Ubuntu Wiki](#)

Azure Service: Monitor

General Availability

General availability: Application Insights work item integration in Azure Monitor The upgraded work item integration adds: Advanced fields like assignee or projects or milestones Repo Icons so you can differentiate between GitHub & Azure DevOps workbooks Multiple configurations for any number of repositories or work items Deployment through ARM templates Pre-Built & Customizable Keyword Query Language (KQL) queries to add Application Insights data to your work items Customizable workbook templates.

Announcement: [General availability: Application Insights work item integration in Azure Monitor | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Work Item Integration - Application Insights - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Monitor

Preview Feature

Log alerts are one of the alert types that are supported in Azure Monitor. Log alerts allow users to use a log analytics query to evaluate resources logs every set frequency, and fire an alert based on the results. Rules can trigger one or more actions using action groups. Two of the most requested features of log alerts are now available in public preview: Stateful log alerts - With this feature enabled, fired alerts should automatically resolve once the condition is no longer met. This is like the default behavior in metric alerts. 1-minute frequency - With this feature enabled, the alert query will be evaluated every minute to check the condition. Reducing the overall time to fire of a log alert.

Announcement: [Public preview: Stateful and 1-minute frequency log alerts in Azure Monitor | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Log alerts in Azure Monitor - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Purview

Preview Feature

Azure Purview resource set pattern rules available in public preview. At-scale data processing systems typically store a single table in a data lake as multiple files. This concept is represented in Azure Purview by using resource sets. A resource set is a single object in the data catalog that represents a large number of assets in storage.

Announcement: [Azure Purview resource set pattern rules available in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Understanding resource sets - Azure Purview | Microsoft Docs](#)

Region Update

Public preview: Azure Purview is now available in the UK South and Australia East region.

Announcement: [Public preview: Azure Purview is now available in the UK South and Australia East region | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Azure Service: Redis Cache

General Availability

Azure Cache for Redis integration with Event Grid allows you to manage routing of Redis events to your event handler. With this integration, Azure Cache for Redis events will be triggered when a client exports, imports, or scales your cache instance, and when Redis updates are performed. These events can be triggered using Event Grid to subscribers such as Azure Functions, Azure Logic Apps, or your own HTTP listener.

Announcement: [Azure Event Grid for Azure Cache for Redis now in general availability](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Cache for Redis Event Grid Overview](#) | [Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Virtual Machines

Preview Feature

The new Dv5, Dsv5, Ddv5, Ddsv5, and Ev5, Edv5 series Azure Virtual Machines, now in preview, are based on the 3rd Generation Intel® Xeon® Platinum 8370C (Ice Lake) processor in a hyper-threaded configuration. This custom processor can reach an all-core Turbo clock speed of up to 3.5GHz and features Intel® Turbo Boost Technology 2.0, Intel® Advanced Vector Extensions 512 (Intel® AVX-512) and Intel® Deep Learning Boost. These new offerings deliver a better value proposition for general-purpose, and memory intensive workloads compared to the prior generation (e.g., increased scalability and an upgraded CPU class) including better price to performance. The Dv5, Dsv5, Ddv5, Ddsv5 VM sizes offer a combination of vCPUs and memory able to meet the requirements associated with most general-purpose workloads and can scale up to 96 vCPUs. The Ddv5 and Ddsv5 VM sizes feature high performance, large local SSD storage (up to 2,400 GiB). The Dv5 and Dsv5 VM series offer a lower price of entry since they do not feature any local temporary storage. If you require temporary storage select the latest Ddv5 or Ddsv5 Azure virtual machines, which are also in Preview. The Ev5 and Edv5 VM sizes feature up to 672 GiB of RAM and are ideal for memory-intensive enterprise applications. You can attach Standard SSDs and Standard HDDs disk storage to these VMs. If you prefer to use Premium SSD or Ultra Disk storage, please select the Esv5 and Edsv5 VM series, which will be in preview in the near future. The Ev5 and Esv5 VMs offer a lower price of entry since they do not feature any local temporary storage. If you require temporary storage select the latest Edv5 VM series which are also in preview, or the Edsv5 VM series, which will be in preview in the near future.

Announcement: [New Azure VMs for general purpose and memory intensive workloads now in public preview](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Upgrade your infrastructure with the latest Dv5/Ev5 Azure VMs in preview](#) | [Azure Blog and Updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Region Update

Azure Ultra Disk is now available in North Central US. Azure Ultra Disks offer high throughput, high IOPS, and consistent low latency disk storage for Azure virtual machines (VMs).

Announcement: [Azure Ultra Disk is now generally available in North Central US](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Select a disk type for Azure IaaS VMs - managed disks - Azure Virtual Machines](#) | [Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Virtual Machines Scale Sets

Pricing Update

Today we are announcing Azure Hybrid Benefit for Linux, extending the ability to easily migrate RHEL and SLES servers to Azure beyond existing pay-as-you-go instances to include support for Azure Reserved Instance (RI) and virtual machine scale set (VMSS).

Announcement: [General availability: Azure Hybrid Benefit for Linux with RI and VMSS Support | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Hybrid Benefit and Linux VMs - Azure Virtual Machines | Microsoft Docs](#)