



AZURE ANNOUNCEMENTS NEWSLETTER

June 11th, 2021 – June 17th, 2021

Announcements Summary

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Announcements Details

Azure Service: Azure Regions

Region Update

We are launching our newest sustainable datacenter region in Arizona, known as “West US 3.” The new West US 3 datacenter region includes Azure Availability Zones, which offer customers additional resiliency for their applications by designing the region with unique physical datacenter locations with independent power, network, and cooling for additional tolerance to datacenter failures. For customers looking to leverage the new region and Availability Zones, Azure offers region portability for multiple resources with Azure Resource Mover.

Announcement: [Microsoft Azure available from new cloud regions in Arizona | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Expanding cloud services: Microsoft launches its sustainable datacenter region in Arizona | Azure Blog and Updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Azure Service: Backup

General Availability

Azure Backup cross-region restore (CRR) is now generally available for SQL Server and SAP HANA databases running in Azure VMs. CRR was already generally available for Azure VMs. When using Azure Backup, you can now use your geo-replicated backup data to restore SQL and SAP HANA databases running in Azure VMs to the Azure paired region. This allows you to use data that is already available in a secondary region for additional protection from disaster. Once you’ve enabled CRR in your backup vaults, you can perform self-service recovery in the Azure paired region during planned or unplanned incidents.

Announcement: [General availability: Cross region Restore of SQL/SAP HANA running in Azure VM | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Create and configure Recovery Services vaults - Azure Backup | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Cost Management

Pricing Update

Start building with free amounts of Azure Database for PostgreSQL, Azure Database for MySQL, Azure Key Vault, Azure Logic Apps, and the Encoding feature of Azure Media Services, now available for eligible Azure free account users. These are offered as part of the free services provided when users sign up for an Azure free account.

Announcement: [Five more free services available with an Azure free account | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Azure Service: Data Explorer

General Availability

Azure Data Explorer (ADX) supports virtual network injection. In the past customers had challenges with the manual way of configuring the Network Security Group (NSG) rules needed to successfully deploy the service to a virtual network. Designating the subnet to "Microsoft.Kusto/clusters" automatically applies the required NSG rules. Subnet delegation enables you to designate a specific subnet for an Azure PaaS service of your choice that needs to be injected into your virtual network. When you delegate a subnet to Azure Data Explorer, you allow the service to establish some basic network configuration rules for that subnet, which helps ADX operate in a stable manner. Since the beginning of June 2021, deploying an Azure Data Explorer into a virtual network enforces subnet delegation for "Microsoft.Kusto/clusters" to be configured.

Announcement: [General availability: Support for SQL Server in data flows using Azure Data Factory & Azure Synapse | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [New Data Flow Connector: SQL Server as Source and Sink \(microsoft.com\)](#)

Azure Service: Data Factory

General Availability

Data Flows are a low-code visual data transformation tool that executes at scale with just-in-time Spark compute in Azure Data Factory and Azure Synapse. You can now connect to your on-premises and VM-based SQL Server natively within data flows.

Announcement: [General availability: Support for SQL Server in data flows using Azure Data Factory & Azure Synapse | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [New Data Flow Connector: SQL Server as Source and Sink \(microsoft.com\)](#)

Azure Service: Data Lake Storage

General Availability

Static website for Azure Data Lake Storage is now generally available. Use static website to directly host static content from Azure Data Lake Storage and view that site content from a browser by using the public URL of that website.

Announcement: [Azure Data Lake Storage static website is now generally available | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Static website hosting in Azure Storage | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Maps

General Availability

The Azure Maps Elevation Service, now in general availability, provides pole to pole coverage with <4M absolute and <2m relative accuracy. The elevation data represents a digital terrain model (DTM), man-made entities (e.g., buildings) are artificially flattened, and elevation is measured to the ground surface. The API supports both GET/POST operations and provides three modes of obtaining elevation information: Elevation for a given point or set of points. Elevation at specified intervals within a given boundary. Elevation along a given path.

Announcement: [Azure Maps Elevation API is now in general availability | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Maps Elevation API is now Generally Available \(microsoft.com\)](#)

Azure Service: Monitor

General Availability

The new generally available Azure Monitor Agent (AMA) together with the Data Collection Rules (DCR) improve on key areas of data collection including granular and flexible configuration (e.g. collect from a subset of VMs for a single workspace), collect once and send to both Log Analytics (multi-homing) and Azure Monitor Metrics, data filtration at source, improved extension management, and better performance overall. DCRs make this simple by letting you define rules defining what data to collect and where it should be sent to. It's agnostic of the data source or destination, making it independent of either and thus flexible enough to configure granular and targeted data collection, just the way you need to!

Announcement: [Azure Monitor Agent and Data Collection Rules now generally available | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [A powerful agent for Azure Monitor and a simpler world of data collection; now generally available! - Microsoft Tech Community](#)

Azure Service: Sphere

General Availability

The 21.06 Azure Sphere OS quality update is now available for evaluation in the Retail Eval feed. The retail evaluation period provides 14 days for backwards compatibility testing. During this time, please verify that your applications and devices operate properly with this release before it is deployed broadly via the Retail feed. The Retail feed will continue to deliver OS version 21.04 until we publish 21.06 in two weeks. Note: there was no 21.05 update.

Announcement: [General availability: Azure Sphere OS version 21.06 expected on June 23 | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Sphere OS feeds - Azure Sphere | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Storage

General Availability

Prior to index tags, solutions that required the ability to quickly find specific objects in a blob container would need to keep a secondary catalog. Blob index tags provides a built in capability to add tags and then quickly query for or filter using this information (for example, StoreID == "123"). This provides a simpler solution without requiring a separate query system. Today, we have made Blob index tags generally available. This includes the ability to set index tags both upon upload or after upload. You can utilize these indexes as part of lifecycle management that automates deletion and movement between tiers. An example would be a lifecycle rule to delete all blobs older than 180 days where Project == "Contoso".

Announcement: [Azure Blob index tags now generally available | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Manage and find data with Blob Index for Azure Storage—now in preview | Azure Blog and Updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Azure Service: Virtual Machines

Pricing Update

As part of our commitment to delivering the best possible value for Azure customers, we are announcing a price reduction on DCsv2-series Azure Virtual Machines by 37%. The new pricing is effective June 1st, 2021, and applies to all the regions where DCsv2-series is available. DCsv2-series protects the confidentiality and integrity of your data and code while it's processed in the public cloud.

Announcement: [General availability: Confidential Computing price reduction on DCsv2 virtual machines | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Confidential Computing – Protect Data-In-Use | Microsoft Azure](#)

Region Update

Confidential computing DCsv2-series virtual machines (VMs) are now available in Australia East, Austria Southeast will launch in the coming weeks to provide disaster recovery capabilities. The DCsv2-series virtual machines can help protect the confidentiality and integrity of your data and code while it's processed in the public cloud. These machines are backed by 3.7GHz Intel® Xeon E-2288G (Coffee Lake) with SGX technology. With the Intel® Turbo Boost Technology these machines can go up to 5.0GHz. DC series instances enable customers to build secure enclave-based applications to protect their code and data while it's in use.

Announcement: [Azure Virtual Machines DCsv2-series are now available in Australia | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

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

Azure Service: Virtual Network

Preview Feature

An evolution of Private Edge Zones, Azure private multi-access edge compute (MEC) expands the scope of possibilities from a single platform and service to a combination of edge compute, multi-access networking stacks, and the application services that run together at the edge. These capabilities help simplify integration complexity and securely manage services from the cloud for high-performance networking and applications. In addition to the Azure private MEC solution, we are announcing the following Microsoft and partner services and solutions: New Azure Network Function Manager (public preview) service Metaswitch Fusion Core third-party services on Azure Stack Edge Affirmed Private Network Service third-party service on Azure Stage Edge New Azure Marketplace solutions from our partners'

Announcement: [New Azure private MEC solution announced | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Unlocking the enterprise opportunity with 5G, edge compute, and cloud | Azure Blog and Updates | Microsoft Azure](#)