



AZURE ANNOUNCEMENTS NEWSLETTER

July 9th, 2021 – July 15th, 2021

Announcements Summary

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Total Announcements: 34

Announcements Details

Azure Service: API Management

New Features

You can now emit custom metrics to Azure Application Insights with the new emit-metric policy. Policy expressions now support System.Net.IPAddress. The policy expressions' context object now includes the context.Deployment.GatewayId property. For managed gateways, its value is managed. You can now export your APIs for consumption in the Power Platform through the dedicated Power Platform page in the Azure portal.

Announcement: [General availability: Azure API Management updates - July 2021 | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Release Release - API Management service: July, 2021 · Azure/API-Management · GitHub](#)

Preview Features

We are announcing the preview capabilities of integration of Azure API Management with Azure Event Grid. With this, you can configure API Management to publish events to Event Grid to send event notifications to other services and trigger downstream processes. For example, you can publish events to Event Grid whenever a new user is created, or a new subscription is created on an API Management resource.

Announcement: [Public preview: API Management and Event Grid integration | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Send events from Azure API Management to Event Grid | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: App Services

General Availability

Azure Monitor application insights is a native to Azure 'application performance management' solution. Application insights for Java & Node.js App Services is now generally available through Azure portal, with no code changes required. With one click of a button, you can enable application insights for your Java apps running on App Services Linux or code-based Windows; and similarly for your Node.js apps on App Services Windows (managed-services). Windows. In a few minutes, the telemetry will appear in the portal and will give insights into the request, dependencies, performance, and allow for a deep root cause analysis.

Announcement: [General availability: Application Insights integration with App Services for Java & Node.js apps | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Monitor Azure app services performance - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

General Availability

App Service Environments (ASE) v3, available through Isolated v2 App Service plans, are now generally available. The updates to ASE v3 include a simplified deployment experience enabling a highly secure, isolated app hosting environment for you to run your most sensitive web workloads. This is a single tenant system, with no public internet dependencies, that deploys in your azure virtual network. You can secure your workloads without affecting the ASE. The minimal set of networking endpoints that need to be secured is now just what the applications in the ASE require. Availability zone support is available with ASE v3 in some regions. You can deploy an ASE v3 on a dedicated host group. This allows you to have a dedicated system all the way down to the hardware. This new ASE v3 allows you to customize your application security while Azure secures the infrastructure dedicated to that workload. By removing the per instance stamp fee and we've reduced the cost of deploying your web apps on the Isolated v2 offering by up to 75% versus Isolated v1. Additional savings are now available through Reserved Instance pricing on Isolated v2.

Announcement: [App Service Environment v3 now generally available | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [App Service Environment overview - Azure App Service Environment | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Application Gateway

Preview Features

We are announcing the public preview of the Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) ModSecurity Core Rule Set 3.2 (CRS 3.2) for Azure Web Application Firewall (WAF) deployments running on Application Gateway. This release offers improved security from web vulnerabilities, reduced false positives, and improvements to performance. We are also announcing an increase in the file upload limit and request body size limit to 4GB and 2MB respectively.

Announcement: [Public preview of OWASP ModSecurity Core Rule Set 3.2 for Azure Web Application Firewall | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [CRS rule groups and rules - Azure Web Application Firewall | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: ARC

General Availability

Azure SQL enabled by Azure Arc will be generally available on July 30, 2021. This includes Arc-enabled SQL Managed Instance (originated from Azure SQL Managed Instance) as well as SQL Server on Arc-enabled servers (originated from SQL Server on Azure virtual machines). Azure Arc-enabled PostgreSQL Hyperscale remains in preview and will become generally available soon.

Announcement: [Azure SQL enabled by Azure Arc generally available on July 30, 2021 | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Arc-Enabled Data Services & Management | Microsoft Azure](#)

Azure Service: Automation

General Availability

Announcing the general availability of customer managed keys in Azure Automation. Secure assets in Azure Automation include credentials, certificates, connections, and encrypted variables. These assets are protected in Azure Automation, by default, using Microsoft-managed keys. Now using customer-managed keys, you can manage encryption of these assets with your own keys.

Announcement: [General availability: Azure Automation Customer Managed Keys | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Encryption of secure assets in Azure Automation | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Bastion

Preview Features

With the new Azure Bastion Standard SKU, you can now perform/configure the following: Manually scale Bastion host Virtual Machine instances: Azure Bastion supports manual scaling of the Virtual Machine (VM) instances facilitating Bastion connectivity. You can configure 2-50 instances to manage the number of concurrent SSH and RDP sessions Azure Bastion can support. Azure Bastion admin panel: Azure Bastion supports enabling/disabling features accessed by the Bastion host.

Announcement: [Azure Bastion Standard SKU public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Bastion documentation | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Cloud Services

General Availability

The new in-place migration tool provides seamless and platform-orchestrated migration of existing Cloud Services (classic) deployments to Cloud Services (extended support) for most scenarios. Learn more about supported scenarios. Key Features: The migration is fully orchestrated by Azure and moves the entire deployment with all its associated resources to Azure Resource Manager (ARM). Migrates existing cloud services in three simple steps: validate, prepare, commit (or abort). Provides the ability to test migrated deployment using Azure Resource Manager before finalizing migration. Commit operation finalizes the migration while abort operation rolls back the migration. Existing deployments and related deployment files can be reused with minor changes. Retains Cloud Services IP Address and domain name system (DNS) label as part of migration.

Documentation: [Migrate Azure Cloud Services \(classic\) to Azure Cloud Services \(extended support\) | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Communications Services

Preview Features

Call recording for Azure Communication Services is available in preview. As a built-in platform feature, call recording for Azure Communication Services helps to simplify and improve the recording process by providing secure, server-side runtime control APIs that allow for mixed audio and video output with built-in temporary storage for up to 48 hours. Recorded media output is in MP4 audio+video format, just like in Teams, with more formats like audio-only MP3 planned.

Announcement: [Call recording in public preview for Azure Communication Services | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Communication Services Call Recording overview - An Azure Communication Services concept document | Microsoft Docs](#)

Preview Features

Direct routing for Azure Communication Services is now available in public preview. Direct routing is a virtual connection between a developer application and the legacy on-premise telephony or carrier used for calls on the public switched telephone network (PSTN). Developers will be able to build calling through PSTN almost anywhere and allow for connections into third-party equipment through a certified session border controller (SBC). Consumption billing for direct routing begins August 1st, 2021.

Announcement: [Direct routing for Azure Communication Services now available in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Microsoft Build 2021: What's new with Azure Communication Services? - Microsoft Tech Community](#)

Azure Service: Cosmos DB

General Availability

Now you can use Azure Cosmos DB as a session state provider and distributed cache. The provider leverages the Azure Cosmos DB .NET SDK as a performant and distributed session state provider for use within your web applications to store session state (non-personal identifiable) data. Additionally, the Azure Cosmos DB provider can be used for any application that requires a distributed cache to improve the performance and scalability of your app.

Announcement: [Session and cache provider using Azure Cosmos DB in general availability | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Use Azure Cosmos DB as an ASP.NET session state and caching provider | Microsoft Docs](#)

General Availability

With the new Azure Monitor insights and Azure Monitor workbooks features, you can quickly access insights on usage and dynamically monitor your Azure Cosmos DB resources. Workbooks are a flexible platform for data analysis and visualizations that allows cross-referencing multiple sources including logs, metrics, alerts, resource health, and more to provide a comprehensive view of your Azure Cosmos DB environment. Insights is a ready-to-use pre-defined experience featuring the most sought-after analytics for monitoring your Azure Cosmos DB environment including throughput, request details, storage, availability, latency, and more.

Announcement: [Insights and workbooks for Azure Cosmos DB now in general availability | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Monitor Workbooks Overview - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Data Storage Lake

Preview Features

Azure Data Lake Storage Gen1 will be retired on 29 February 2024. We recommend you migrate your data lake to Azure Data Lake Storage Gen2 to take advantage of the improvements in Gen2 today. To lower the barrier for this migration, we are now offering a simple and intuitive user experience in the Azure portal. You can provide your consent in the Azure portal and migrate your data from Azure Data Lake Storage Gen1 to Azure Data Lake Storage Gen2.

Announcement: [Limited preview: Migrate your Azure Data Lake Storage from Gen1 to Gen2 using the Azure Portal | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Migrate using Azure portal \(Data Lake Storage Gen1 to Gen2\) | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Event Grid

Preview Features

We are announcing the public preview of AKS as an event source for Azure Event Grid. Azure Event Grid allows you to easily build applications with event-based architectures. After selecting an Azure resource to subscribe to, you simply provide an event handler or WebHook endpoint to send the event to and take action when you receive a subscribed event. With the public preview release of AKS integration with Azure Event Grid, you can now subscribe to the following events to automate AKS operations: AKS event for a new Kubernetes version upgrade availability AKS event for a new node Image version upgrade availability

Announcement: [Public preview: Event Grid integration with AKS | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Subscribe to Azure Kubernetes Service events with Azure Event Grid \(Preview\) - Azure Kubernetes Service | Microsoft Docs](#)

Preview Features

We are announcing the preview capabilities of integration of Azure API Management with Azure Event Grid. With this, you can configure API Management to publish events to Event Grid to send event notifications to other services and trigger downstream processes. For example, you can publish events to Event Grid whenever a new user is created, or a new subscription is created on an API Management resource.

Announcement: [Public preview: API Management and Event Grid integration | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Send events from Azure API Management to Event Grid | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Functions

Updated Features

Key Vault references now offer expanded networking support on both Windows and Linux, as well the ability to designate a user-assigned identity. We are also enabling apps to access their content package from blob storage using the app identity. Key Vault references allow the app to use a managed identity to resolve secrets from Azure Key Vault and expose them as environment variables. This allows teams to easily move secrets into management without code changes. A previous announcement added the ability for Windows apps to use virtual network integrations when resolving secrets from Key Vault. The same support is now available to Linux apps, and the restrictions have been lifted for using networking integration and autorotation together. Key Vault references have historically relied on the app's system-assigned identity. With today's update, apps can specify a user-assigned identity to instead be used for accessing their secrets. This greatly simplifies certain automation workflows, as the identity can be created and assigned permission to the vault before the app itself is created. While these features make secrets management much simpler, it is often preferable to remove the secrets entirely from your workflow, instead relying on identity directly. Apps using run-from-package support have been able to leverage a shared access signature (SAS), which offers many advantages over a secret but still requires some management. Today, we are enabling apps to instead simply use a managed identity, providing that the app has been granted access to the storage account. Along similar lines, apps should look to leverage the latest Azure SDK client libraries, which will help you connect to Azure services using an identity from your application code. For Azure Functions, we recently announced preview identity-based connection support, which allows system-assigned or user-assigned identities to be used the Functions runtime, triggers, and bindings.

Announcement: [General availability: Updates to secrets configuration options in App Service and Azure Functions | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Public preview: Identity-based connections in Azure Functions with latest Azure SDK triggers and bindings | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Azure Service: HPC Cache

General Availability

HPC Cache has released read-only support of NVMe-based SKUs. You can now enable NVMe storage using Lsv2 virtual machines – Azure VMs optimized for storage-intensive workloads. Leveraging these high-throughput, low-latency machines permit higher performance at lower prices for read-only workloads. Learn more about storage-optimized VMs in Azure and HPC Cache. HPC Cache will be available for three NVMe SKUs: 4.5 GB/s, 9 GB/sec, and 16 GB/s. HPC Cache is now HIPAA compliant. In addition, the July 2021 release included many new features: Multiple Network Time Protocol (NTP) Servers for Hybrid Clouds Metrics per storage target Storage target operations Network isolation documentation Multiple IPs per NFS Storage Target Customer Managed Keys – User assigned identity and default auto key rotation

Announcement: [General availability: HPC Cache for NVME-based Storage, Storage Target Management, and HIPAA Compliance | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [HPC Cache Release Update Blob NFS Support \(microsoft.com\)](#)

General Availability

The Azure Blob team recently announced that Blob NFS 3.0 protocol support is generally available and now, Azure HPC Cache will follow suit with general availability using E-Series VMs. HPC Cache in front of the container will provide sub-millisecond latencies and improved client scalability. HPC Cache also responds to client NLM (network lock manager) traffic and manages lock requests as the NLM service. The addition of HPC Cache (caching of NFS data) matches workloads that run across many virtual machines and require lower latency than the NFS endpoint provides. Blob NFS 3.0 is also coming to support NVMe-based SKUs (currently in preview). These high-throughput, low latency machines can be used for even great more performance at lower costs, perfect for media rendering and genomic secondary analysis workloads.

Announcement: [HPC Cache on E-Series VMs Support of Blob NFS 3.0 now generally available | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [HPC Cache Release Update Blob NFS Support \(microsoft.com\)](#)

Azure Service: Kubernetes Service

Preview Features

Azure Kubernetes is the foundational platform that runs any workload. Sometimes you just need a bit of guidance for configurations specific to your scenarios to avoid common pitfalls in setup and operations. We are excited to introduce the public preview of AKS smart defaults, a set of scenario-specific cluster configurations that can be applied in a single click. Picking from Dev/Test, cost-optimized, batch processing, and hardened cluster access scenarios, you can quickly apply preset configurations for node pool size, auto-scaling, availability zones, Azure Monitor, and Azure Policy specific to these scenarios and save your time navigating through documentations and testing different settings. You can further customize the settings as needed to meet your unique needs.

Announcement: [Public preview: Azure Kubernetes Service \(AKS\) smart defaults | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Limits for resources, SKUs, regions - Azure Kubernetes Service | Microsoft Docs](#)

Preview Features

Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) now allows for Azure Active Directory (AAD) integrated clusters to be created without any local admin user account. By default, when you create a Kubernetes cluster, access to the cluster is through a local admin account. This is not desirable for security reasons as anyone can use a local account. It is also harder to manage such local accounts. With AAD integration, there is no need for local accounts. This feature, now in public preview, allows you to disable local accounts when you setup AAD with your AKS cluster.

Announcement: [Public preview: Create AKS clusters without local user accounts | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Use Azure AD in Azure Kubernetes Service - Azure Kubernetes Service | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Lighthouse

Preview Features

Azure AD PIM integration with Azure Lighthouse promotes a Zero Trust model, mitigating risk for service providers in multi-tenant management and enabling industry standard security best practices for you with just-enough and just-in-time access controls. Partners will create eligible authorizations to obtain privileged just-in-time access in your environments through ARM templates and Partner Center. Approval-based workflows notify you of the request and once granted, all actions are made available directly in ARM activity logs. The integration also allows a you to require Multi-Factor authentication before a partner's elevated access request is granted. Licensing is only required on the managing tenant, including all users who are activating a role in the managing tenant. There are no license requirements for customers.

Documentation: [Use Azure Lighthouse with your managed service business - Learn | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Machine Learning

Preview Features

With Custom Containers in Managed Online Endpoints, you can deploy a custom docker container as a managed online endpoint, leverage all the scalability, monitoring, and alerting capabilities of online endpoints but use a custom inferencing stack like TorchServe, TensorFlow Serving, R, or ML.NET. Simply specify the port and path to use for liveness, readiness, and scoring, and we will take care of deploying your custom container as a managed online endpoint. Job Creation UI on Azure Machine Learning Studio provides a new and consistent job creation experience. You can now use the Studio UI to create and manage training jobs. Using an easy-to-follow wizard, specify your compute, environment, code, data configurations and Azure ML will create the training jobs. If you see a failed job and want to change some parameters, you would also be able to make some changes to a previous job setting and resubmit your job from the creation flow.

Announcement: [Azure Machine Learning public preview announcements July 2021 | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Deploy a custom container as a managed online endpoint - Azure Machine Learning | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Maps

Retiring Features

Azure Maps Creator version 2.0 is now generally available (GA), version 1.0 will retire on 6 September 2021. Please transition to using version 2.0 by that date. This retirement will affect version 1.0 of Conversion, Dataset, Tileset, Feature State, and Web Feature APIs. We encourage you to make the switch sooner to gain the richer benefits of Azure Maps Creator version 2.0. Azure Maps Creator v1 will be retired on 6 September 2021.

Announcement: [Azure Maps Creator v1 preview will be retired on 6 September 2021 | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Conversion - REST API \(Azure Maps Creator\) | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Monitor

General Availability

Azure Monitor application insights is a native to Azure 'application performance management' solution. Application insights for Java & Node.js App Services is now generally available through Azure portal, with no code changes required. With one click of a button, you can enable application insights for your Java apps running on App Services Linux or code-based Windows; and similarly for your Node.js apps on App Services Windows (managed-services). Windows. In a few minutes, the telemetry will appear in the portal and will give insights into the request, dependencies, performance, and allow for a deep root cause analysis.

Announcement: [General availability: Application Insights integration with App Services for Java & Node.js apps | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Monitor Azure app services performance - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

Preview Features

URL ping test in Azure Monitor Application Insights has long been a simple way for you to monitor your endpoints. We are now enhancing its capability with a new type of availability test "standard test" to meet most of your single request test needs. The standard test can run any single request test required and is a major upgrade on the existing URL ping test. It has the reactive SSL check but also a proactive SSL certificate check. You can set a time period before a certificate expires to be alerted that it will need to be updated. The standard test also has a dedicated configuration section for more advanced tests, can be deployed up to 16 locations. This test will have an associated cost per configured test execution, once it becomes generally available.

Announcement: [Public preview: New Application Insights standard test for synthetic monitoring | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Application Insights availability overview - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

Preview Features

Azure Monitor application insights now supports Azure Active Directory (Azure AD) authentication. By using Azure AD, you can now ensure that only authenticated telemetry is ingested in your Application Insights resources.

Announcement: [Azure AD authentication for Application Insights | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure AD authentication for Application Insights \(Preview\) - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Purview

New Features

The Azure Purview product glossary is now live. Our team is building out a comprehensive glossary defining the product terms and concepts customers encounter in the user interface (UI). As we approach Azure Purview general availability, we're continuing to add terms, but we need your help to make the glossary even better.

Announcement: [Now available: Azure Purview product glossary | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Purview product glossary - Azure Purview | Microsoft Docs](#)

Azure Service: Sphere

Updated Features

Azure Sphere OS version 21.07 Update 1 is now available via the Retail Eval feed. This update fixes a bug in which an application memory usage statistic was not resetting properly. The bug represented a regression from the 21.06 release.

Announcement: [Azure Sphere version 21.07 Update 1 is now available for evaluation | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Sphere version 21.07 Update 1 is now available for evaluation - Microsoft Tech Community](#)

Azure Service: Spring Cloud

Preview Features

As of July 2021, the following updates and new features are now available in Azure Spring Cloud: Monitor apps with New Relic One (public preview). As developers move to the cloud, they want to instrument applications for application performance monitoring (APM) using familiar tools. With the integration of New Relic One in Azure Spring Cloud, Spring Boot applications can easily be monitored with New Relic One for faster troubleshooting. Reduced minimum app instance size. App instance size now starts at 0.5 vCPU and 512 MB (reduced from 1 vCPU and 1GB), allowing to you pack more apps in each app instance and achieve greater resource utilization. Automate app deployments with Terraform and Azure Pipeline Task. When you deploy Spring Boot apps to Azure Spring Cloud, you can build end-to-end automation from idea to provisioning Azure resources to deploying those apps to production with Terraform and Azure Pipeline Tasks Azure Virtual Network (VNet) support in Azure China. Azure Virtual Network enables Azure resources to securely communicate with each other, the internet, and on-premises networks. VNet has been one of the most critical components in customers' cloud adoption journey, and is now available in Azure China.

Announcement: [Public preview: Azure Spring Cloud New Relic One integration and additional feature updates | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Spring Cloud | Microsoft Docs](#)

Pricing Updates

We are announcing a pricing model change for Azure Spring Cloud effective 08/01/2021. For each app instance, Azure Spring Cloud charges for one base price (“vCPU and memory group duration”), which includes vCPUs and memory. When you exceed any of the capacities included in the base price, you will be billed for the actual additional overage based on the total “Overage Memory Duration” and “Overage vCPU Duration.” Starting from 08/01/2021 12:00 AM UTC we will reduce the base price and capacities by 50% in Standard and by 60% in Basic. Overage costs are unchanged.

Announcement: [General availability: Azure Spring Cloud Pricing Model Change | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Pricing - Azure Spring Cloud | Microsoft Azure](#)

Azure Service: SQL Database

General Availability

We are now announcing the general availability of the Apache Spark 3.0 compatible Apache Spark Connector for SQL Server and Azure SQL, accessible through Maven.

Announcement: [Accelerate big data analytics with the Spark 3.0 connector for SQL Server—now generally available | Azure Blog and Updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [GitHub - microsoft/sql-spark-connector: Apache Spark Connector for SQL Server and Azure SQL](#)

General Availability

Secure enclaves expand the confidential computing capabilities of Always Encrypted with rich confidential queries and in-place encryption. Rich confidential queries, including pattern matching, range comparisons, and sorting, bring you the security benefits of Always Encrypted to your applications that process personally identifiable information and other data that requires rich computations inside your database system. In-place encryption makes Always Encrypted a practical solution for protecting sensitive data in large tables, where the performance of cryptographic operations is critical.

Announcement: [Confidential computing using Always Encrypted with secure enclaves for Azure SQL Database in general availability | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Always Encrypted with secure enclaves now generally available in Azure SQL Database \(microsoft.com\)](#)

Azure Service: Storage

General Availability

Providing robust data protection and recovery capabilities is a key pillar of Blob storage. Container soft delete extends existing capabilities such as soft delete for blobs, account delete locking, and immutable blobs, making our data protection and restore capabilities even better. Using the Azure Portal, any new storage account includes container soft delete enabled with a 7 day retention period by default. This allows you to recover from accidental container deletion up to the retention period specified without contacting Microsoft. Container soft delete is available in all public regions, applies to ADLS Gen2 enabled accounts, and has no additional charge to enable. Data retained in a deleted container is billed at the same rate as active data.

Announcement: [Azure Blob storage - Container Soft Delete generally available | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Soft delete for containers - Azure Storage | Microsoft Docs](#)