



## AZURE ANNOUNCEMENTS NEWSLETTER

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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## Announcements Details

### Azure Service: API for FHIR

#### New Features

Today we're expanding our health data services to enable the exchange of multiple data types in the FHIR format. For that reason, we're renaming our services to the Azure Healthcare APIs. Purpose-built for the unique requirements of Protected Health Information (PHI), the Azure Healthcare APIs enable customers to ingest, manage, and persist data in the Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare. Anyone working with health data can leverage the Healthcare APIs to bring disparate sets of PHI together and connect it end-to-end with tools for machine learning, analytics, and AI.

Announcement: [Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare expands portfolio with Azure Healthcare APIs | Azure Blog and Updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare | Microsoft](#)

### Azure Service: Application Gateway

#### New Features

We are announcing the general availability of the Web Application Firewall (WAF) bot protection feature on Application Gateway. This feature allows users to enable a managed bot protection rule set for their WAF to block or log requests from known malicious IP addresses. The IP addresses are sourced from the Microsoft Threat Intelligence feed. This rule set can be used alongside the OWASP core rule sets (CRS) to provide additional protection.

Announcement: [General availability: Web Application Firewall \(WAF\) bot protection on Application Gateway | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [WAF on Azure Application Gateway bot protection overview - Azure Web Application Firewall | Microsoft Docs](#)

#### Updated Features

We are announcing the general availability of the Web Application Firewall (WAF) geomatch custom rule feature on Application Gateway. This feature allows users to restrict access to their web applications by country/region. As with all custom rules, this logic can be compounded with other rules to suit the needs of your application.

Announcement: [General availability: Web Application Firewall \(WAF\) geomatch custom rules on Application Gateway | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Web Application Firewall \(WAF\) Geomatch custom rules | Microsoft Docs](#)

## Azure Service: Database for MySQL

### Preview Features

With the integration of private DNS zone configuration within Azure Database for MySQL – Flexible Server, you can easily establish connectivity between two Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Servers or from customer applications using a flexible server name (fully qualified domain name) within locally and globally peered virtual networks. When creating a new Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server in a virtual network, you can now use an existing private DNS zone or create a new one. This allows you to leverage existing secure Azure infrastructure to connect to an Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server.

Announcement: [Private DNS integration zone integration for Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

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

### Preview Features

Azure Database for MySQL - Flexible Server can now help you save money by prepaying for compute resources compared to pay-as-you-go pricing. With Azure Database for MySQL – Flexible Server reserved capacity, you can make an upfront commitment on MySQL server for a one- or three-year period to get a significant discount on the compute costs. To purchase Azure Database for MySQL – Flexible Server reserved capacity, you simply need to specify the Azure region, deployment type, performance tier, and term.

Announcement: [Public preview of Azure Database for MySQL – Flexible Server now offers reserved instance pricing | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Prepay for compute with reserved capacity - Azure Database for MySQL | Microsoft Docs](#)

### Preview Features

Azure Database for MySQL – Flexible Server gives you the ability to choose your high availability server zone location. The same-zone high availability feature can place your standby server in the same zone as the primary server to reduce replication lag between primary and standby. This also allows lower latencies between the application server and database server if placed in the same Azure zone.

Announcement: [Azure Database for MySQL – Flexible Server: Same-zone high availability in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

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

## Azure Service: Database for MySQL

### Region Updates

Azure Database for MySQL – Flexible Server public preview is now available in the West US and Germany West Central regions.

Announcement: [Public preview of Azure Database – Flexible Server now available in new regions | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

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

## Azure Service: Database for PostgreSQL

### Preview Features

With the integration of private DNS zone configuration within Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Flexible Server, you can easily establish connectivity between two Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Flexible Servers or from customer applications using a flexible server name (fully qualified domain name) within locally and globally peered virtual networks. While creating a new Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Flexible Server in a virtual network, you can also use an existing private DNS zone or create a new one. This allows you to leverage existing secure Azure infrastructure to connect to an Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Flexible Server.

Announcement: [Private DNS zone integration for Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Flexible Server in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

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

### Preview Features

Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Hyperscale (Citius) now supports the latest PostgreSQL minor versions 13.3 and 12.7 in preview. These PostgreSQL versions deliver various bug fixes and security updates. Please note that your servers will be automatically updated to these new minor versions as a part of regular maintenance.

Announcement: [Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Hyperscale \(Citius\) support for PostgreSQL versions 13.3 and 12.7 in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Scheduled maintenance - Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Hyperscale \(Citius\) | Microsoft Docs](#)

### Pricing Updates

Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Flexible Server can now help you save money by prepaying for compute resources compared to pay-as-you-go pricing. With Azure Database for PostgreSQL reserved capacity, you can make an upfront commitment on Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Flexible Server for a one- or three-year period to receive a significant discount on compute costs. To purchase Azure Database for PostgreSQL reserved capacity, you simply need to specify the Azure region, deployment type, performance tier, and term.

Announcement: [Public preview of Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Flexible Server now offers reserved instance pricing | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Reserved compute pricing - Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Single Server | Microsoft Docs](#)

## Azure Service: Express Route

### Region Updates

We are announcing 2 new locations for ExpressRoute Global Reach: South Africa (Johannesburg only) Taiwan

Announcement: [General availability: Azure ExpressRoute Global Reach: 2 new locations](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure ExpressRoute: Connect to Microsoft Cloud using Global Reach](#) | [Microsoft Docs](#)

## Azure Service: HDInsight

### Region Updates

HDInsight is now generally available in Australia Central.

Announcement: [General availability: New Australia Central region added to Azure HDInsight](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

## Azure Service: Key Vault

### New Features

Today, we're announcing the GA of another important feature, Private Link for Azure Managed HSM. Azure Private Link provides private connectivity from a virtual network to Azure platform as a service (PaaS), customer-owned, or Microsoft partner services. Use Private Link to bring Azure Managed HSM into your private virtual network by mapping it to a private endpoint. All traffic to the service can be routed through the private endpoint, so no gateways, NAT devices, ExpressRoute or VPN connections, or public IP addresses are needed. Private Link keeps traffic on the Microsoft global network. Benefits include: Private connectivity to services on Azure—traffic remains on the Microsoft network, with no public internet access Integration with on-premises and peered networks Protection against key exfiltration for keys stored inside Managed Azure HSM

Announcement: [General availability: Azure Managed HSM Private Link](#) | [Azure updates](#) | [Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Configure Azure Key Vault Managed HSM with private endpoints](#) | [Microsoft Docs](#)

## Azure Service: Migrate

### General Availability

Azure Migrate's at-scale, software inventory and agentless dependency analysis is now generally available for VMware virtual machines. You can inventory installed applications, roles and features and perform dependency analysis on discovered Windows & Linux servers without installing any agents. Agentless dependency analysis helps you identify and understand dependencies across servers and supports dependency data collection for up to 1000 servers concurrently.

Announcement: [Software inventory and agentless dependency analysis generally available with Azure Migrate | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Migration planning using Azure Migrate's software inventory and agentless dependency analysis - Microsoft Tech Community](#)

### Preview Features

Azure Migrate's App Containerization tool helps you modernize existing ASP.NET and Java web applications using a guided point and containerize approach that requires minimal to no changes to the application. The tool packages existing applications running on servers into a container image and helps you deploy the containerized application to Azure Kubernetes Service or to containers on Azure App Service. As part of the migration process, the tool helps you parameterize application configurations, externalize file system dependencies using persistent volumes, and configure application monitoring for the containerized application with Application Insights.

Announcement: [Public preview: Containerize apps and migrate to AKS and Azure App Service with Azure Migrate | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Accelerate application modernization with Azure Migrate: App Containerization | Azure Blog and Updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

### Preview Features

Azure Migrate's unified discovery and assessment capabilities for servers, databases, and web apps now allows you to discover and assess your on-premises ASP.NET web apps running on IIS web servers at scale for migration to Azure App Service. Until now, you could do agentless discovery and assessment of your virtual machines and bare metal servers with Azure migrate, but you would use integrations with tools like App Service Migration Assistant to assess your web apps individually. With this preview capability, you can now discover .NET web apps running in your VMware environment and create assessments or migration recommendations at-scale for Azure IaaS or Azure App Service.

Announcement: [Public preview: Discovery and assessment for ASP.NET web apps with Azure Migrate | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Blog and Updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

## Azure Service: Monitor

### General Availability

The IT Service Management (ITSM) Connector from Azure Monitor is now certified on the Quebec version of ServiceNow. An ITSM Connector provides a bi-directional connection between Azure and ITSM tools to help you manage incidents and resolve issues faster. You can create work items in your ITSM tool, based on your Azure alerts (Metric Alerts, Activity Log Alerts, and Log Analytics alerts). Optionally, you can also sync your incident and change request data from your ITSM tool to an Azure Log Analytics workspace.

Announcement: [General availability: Azure Monitor IT Service Management Connector is now certified with ServiceNow Quebec version | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [IT Service Management Connector overview - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)

### Pricing Updates

We have lowered the minimum capacity reservation required for Azure Monitor dedicated clusters to 500 GB per day to allow those of you with lower ingestion volume to leverage advanced features like customer-managed key, lockbox, and infrastructure encryption. Previous minimum capacity reservation requirement was 1,000 GB per day and might have been a barrier if you had lower daily ingestion. If you committed for 1000 GB per day but ingest less volume in practice, you can update the capacity reservation in cluster to 500 GB and save cost. Why do we have minimum capacity reservation for dedicated cluster? When you provision dedicated cluster resource, a managed Azure Data Explorer cluster (ADX) is provisioned in backend to support your ingestion and queries for linked workspaces. Azure Data Explorer cluster is an expensive resource and it's billed at provisioning time regardless usage.

Announcement: [General availability: Lower capacity reservation tier for Azure Monitor dedicated clusters | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Monitor Logs Dedicated Clusters - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs](#)



## Azure Service: Percept

### Preview Features

Azure Percept DK July (2107) SW update is available. Release Notes: [Important] Due to a code signing change OTA (Over-The-Air) package for this release is only compatible with Azure Percept DK running the 2106 release. For Azure Percept DK users who are currently running older SW release version, Microsoft recommends to perform an update over USB cable or perform an OTA update first to release 2106 before updating to 2107. Wi-Fi: Security hardening to ensure the Devkit's Access Point is shut down after Setup completes. Fixed the issue that pushing the 'Setup' button on the devkit could cause the Devkit's Access Point to be out of sync with the Setup Experience web service. Enhanced the Access Points iptables rules to be more resilient and removed unnecessary rules. Fixed an issue where multiple connected Wi-Fi networks would not be properly prioritized. OOB: Added language localization for all valid shipping regions and updated the text on some pages for better readability. Fixed an issue where the Setup Experience would sometimes be stuck on a loading page. General Networking: Resolved issues with IPv6 not being able to obtain a valid DHCP lease. Mariner: Latest security fixes.

Announcement: [Public preview: Azure Percept DK July \(2107\) software update is available | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Select your Azure Percept DK update package | Microsoft Docs](#)

## Azure Service: Site Recovery

### General Availability

Azure's native platform capabilities for high availability and disaster recovery continue to ensure the highest levels of resilience from big and small. To further support your high availability and disaster recovery posture, you can leverage Azure Site Recovery. In 2018, Azure became the first large public cloud provider to launch a first-class cloud native disaster recovery solution with Azure to Azure Disaster Recovery. This offering allowed you to replicate and failover your applications from one Azure region to another, on the same continent. In 2020, we extended support to include within-region disaster recovery with Zone to Zone Disaster Recovery. This allowed you to constrain the replication of your applications within national boundaries and therefore adhere to legal requirements, if any. We know that many of you run large, global businesses. You host applications across continents and have teams spread out globally. If your business is global, there is no reason why application hosting and application disaster recovery should be regional. With the general availability of global disaster recovery via Azure Site Recovery, you can cross continental boundaries while replicating your applications. Supported by our powerful global networking backbone, you can failover to any Azure region of your choice around the globe. This offering completes the native-public cloud disaster recovery portfolio of zone to zone disaster recovery, within-continent disaster recovery, and global disaster recovery. With a few simple clicks, you can replicate your application to anywhere in the world.

Announcement: [General availability: Introducing global disaster recovery via Azure Site Recovery | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure to Azure disaster recovery architecture in Azure Site Recovery - Azure Site Recovery | Microsoft Docs](#)

## Azure Service: SQL Database

### New Features

As we work on adding more features to SQL Server IaaS Agent extension and the SQL Virtual Machine blade, we are excited to bring the Azure Defender for SQL Virtual Machine experience right from the SQL Virtual Machine blade. Previously, you went through multiple steps to access Azure Security Center to view and manage the best practices of security for your databases on SQL Server Virtual Machines. This experience is now easier if you are registered to an SQL IaaS Agent extension. Access the entire Azure Defender suite from the same place you manage other SQL Virtual Machine features such as automated backup, licensing, and security configurations like Azure Key Vault integration.

Announcement: [Azure Defender for SQL now in general availability on the Azure SQL Virtual Machine blade | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Azure Defender for SQL is now available on the SQL Virtual Machine blade. - Microsoft Tech Community](#)

## Azure Service: Virtual Machines

### General Availability

The ability to automatically upgrade VM extensions is now available for Azure Virtual Machines and Virtual Machine Scale Sets. If the automatic extension upgrade feature is enabled for an extension on a VM or a VM scale set, the extension is upgraded automatically whenever the extension publisher releases a new version. Azure manages the upgrade rollout and the upgrades are safely applied following availability-first principles, keeping your environments more secure and up to date.

Announcement: [Automatic Azure VM extension upgrade capabilities now generally available | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Automatic Extension Upgrade for VMs and Scale Sets in Azure - Azure Virtual Machines | Microsoft Docs](#)

### General Availability

Azure Red Hat OpenShift support for OpenShift 4.7 is now generally available. This release uses Kubernetes 1.20 with CRI-O runtime.

Announcement: [General availability: Azure Red Hat OpenShift support for OpenShift 4.7 | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [OpenShift Container Platform 4.7 release notes | Release notes | OpenShift Container Platform 4.7](#)

## Azure Service: Virtual Network

### General Availability

We are announcing general availability (GA) of Azure VPN Client for macOS with support for native Azure AD, certificate-based, and RADIUS authentication for OpenVPN protocol. Native Azure AD authentication support is highly desired by organizations as it enables user-based policies, conditional access, and multi-factor authentication (MFA) for P2S VPN. Native Azure AD authentication requires both Azure VPN gateway integration and the Azure VPN Client to obtain and validate Azure AD tokens. With the Azure VPN Client for macOS, you can use user-based policies, Conditional Access, as well as Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) for your Mac devices.

Announcement: [General availability: Azure VPN Client for macOS | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure](#)

Documentation: [Configure VPN clients for P2S OpenVPN protocol connections: Azure AD authentication: macOS - Azure VPN Gateway | Microsoft Docs](#)