Microsoft Azure

AZURE ANNOUNCEMENTS NEWSLETTER

October 8th, 2021 – October 14th, 2021

Announcements Summary

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Announcements Details

Azure Service: App Service

General Availability

IP-based access restriction allows you to control access to your website based on IP address ranges. Only users who access your website from the defined IP addresses are allowed to view and access your application and its resources. In addition to IP address ranges, you can also restrict access to your application by Azure service tags. By specifying the service tag name in the application configuration, you can allow traffic for the corresponding service. For example, you can securely configure Azure Front Door as enterprise-grade edge for your Azure Static Web App by restricting access to the "AzureFrontDoor.Backend" service tag. Learn more with this tutorial. The new access restriction capabilities add to a growing list of Static Web Apps security features that also includes built-in and custom authentication, and private endpoints.

Announcement: Generally available: IP-based website protection for Azure Static Web Apps | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Configure Azure Static Web Apps | Microsoft Docs

Preview Features

You can now define a serverless function that is invoked whenever a user successfully logs in to your static web app. This function can assign custom roles to the logged in user. You can use these roles to configure route-based authorization rules; and other serverless functions in your app can also access these roles. This feature provides flexibility in how users are assigned custom roles in your application. Some scenarios this enables include: Assign custom roles to more than the 25 users supported by the existing built-in invitation system Query a database to determine which custom roles a user should be assigned Call the Microsoft Graph API to determine a user's roles based on their Active Directory group membership Use claims from the identity provider to determine a user's roles

Announcement: Public preview: Customize Azure Static Web Apps authentication with a serverless function | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Authentication and authorization for Azure Static Web Apps | Microsoft Docs

Azure Service: ARC

General Availability

Azure Monitor container insights for Azure Arc enabled Kubernetes provides a centralized location for viewing infrastructure metrics, container logs, and recommended alerting. You receive the same monitoring feature parity as our native container insights service. Key features of container insights: 1-click onboarding from the Azure portal. Receive automatic agent updates for the latest version of monitoring. Performance visibility by collecting memory and processor metrics from controllers, nodes, and containers that are available in Kubernetes. Visualizations through workbooks and in the Azure portal. Alerting and querying historical data for troubleshooting issues. Capability to scrape Prometheus metrics.

Announcement: General availability: Azure Monitor container insights for Azure Arc enabled Kubernetes | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Monitor Azure Arc-enabled Kubernetes clusters - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs

Azure Service: Cognitive Services

General Availability

With the recent addition of below 12 new languages, Translator now supports more than 100 languages and dialects. •Bashkir •Dhivehi •Georgian •Kyrgyz •Macedonian •Mongolian (Cyrillic) •Mongolian (Traditional) •Tatar •Tibetan •Turkmen •Uyghur •Uzbek (Latin)

Announcement: Azure AI empowers organizations to serve users in more than 100 languages - The AI Blog (microsoft.com)

Azure Service: Database for MySQL

Preview Features

Geo-redundant backup helps to protect your Azure Database for MySQL – Flexible Server against outages impacting backup storage in the primary region and allows you to restore your server to the geo-paired region in the event of a disaster. Currently, geo-redundancy can only be enabled/disabled at server create time. Geo-restore allows you to recover from a geographic disaster when you cannot access your database or backups in the primary region. It creates a new geo-redundant server in the primary region's geo-paired region.

Announcement: Azure Database for MySQL – Flexible Server: Geo-redundant backup and restore in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Backup and restore in Azure Database for MySQL Flexible Server | Microsoft Docs

Azure Service: Database for PostgreSQL

Preview Features

You can now connect your Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Hyperscale (Citus) nodes to the Azure Virtual Network securely and privately with Private Link. Private Link simplifies the network architecture and secures the connection between endpoints in Azure by keeping data on the Azure network, eliminating exposure to the Internet. Applications running in connected virtual networks, peered virtual networks, on premises environments, and sites securely connected to Azure using ExpressRoute can access Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Hyperscale (Citus) nodes with private endpoints via private IP addresses.

Announcement: Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Hyperscale (Citus): Azure Private Link support in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Hyperscale (Citus) documentation | Microsoft Docs

Preview Feature

The new Ddsv4 and Edsv4 compute tiers for Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Flexible Server are now supported for the general purpose and memory optimized compute tiers. These compute tiers are based on the second generation Intel Xeon Platinum 8272CL (Cascade Lake) processor for faster compute and also include larger local solid state drive (SSD) storage. This also allows you to benefit from low latency, high-speed local storage that is used for local caching. Provision your servers using DdsV4 and EdsV4 SKUs or perform the “scale compute operation” to migrate your existing Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Flexible Servers to the new compute tiers.

Announcement: Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Flexible Server: Ddsv4 and Edsv4 SKUs in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Azure Service: Firewall

Region Updates

Azure Firewall Premium is now generally available in the following new Azure Cloud regions: USGov Texas USGov Arizona USGov Virginia China North 2 China East 2.

Announcement: Azure Firewall Premium now generally available in five new Azure regions | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Azure Firewall Premium features | Microsoft Docs

Azure Service: Functions

Preview Features

Dynamic concurrency in Azure Functions is now in public preview. This feature allows you to automatically determine optimal per trigger concurrency settings for your workloads. In addition, dynamic concurrency can improve the performance of your applications by optimizing the throughput for each instance and make real-time adjustments to your concurrency settings as your load patterns change over time. The preview currently supports Service Bus triggers.

Announcement: Public preview: Dynamic concurrency in Azure Functions | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Concurrency in Azure Functions | Microsoft Docs

Azure Service: Kubernetes Service

Preview Features

We are announcing the public preview of AKS out of tree cloud provider controller manager. With the controller manager moving out of the core Kubernetes code base, the AKS team will be able to release updates outside of the Kubernetes release cadence. Customers will benefit from the AKS team being able to update the cloud controller to respond to customer requests that are specific the Azure integration of Kubernetes.

Announcement: Public preview: AKS out of tree cloud provider controller manager | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Enable Cloud Controller Manager (Preview) - Azure Kubernetes Service | Microsoft Docs

Preview Features

AKS now supports specifying HTTPS proxy configuration when creating AKS clusters and node pools. This facilitates integration with HTTPS proxies that require the node to be configured to have internet connectivity when it boots.

Announcement: Public preview: HTTPS proxy configuration support | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Configuring Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) nodes with an HTTP proxy - Azure Kubernetes Service | Microsoft Docs

Preview Features

AKS support for Kubernetes release 1.22 is now in public preview. Kubernetes 1.22 delivers a total of 53 enhancements with 13 graduating to stable, 24 moving to beta, and 16 new enhancements. Notable new features include a new PodSecurity admission feature, API server tracing feature, generic data populators, and more.

Announcement: Public preview: AKS support for Kubernetes 1.22 | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Kubernetes 1.22: Reaching New Peaks | Kubernetes

Preview Features

We are announcing the public preview of AKS support for deploying WebAssembly System Interface (WASI) workloads in Kubernetes using the CNCF Krustlet project. A WebAssembly (WASM) is a portable, open standard for a new binary format that is memory safe and runs at near-native performance. Different languages can be cross-compiled to WASM and interoperate using WASI, allowing you to run the same code across machines and shared modules across languages. A Krustlet is a Kubernetes Kubelet that can run WASM using any web assembly runtime instead of containers. This AKS preview enables the easy addition of WASI nodepools using Krustlet to schedule WASI workloads to run on Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS).

Announcement: Public preview: AKS support for WebAssembly System Interface (WASI) workloads | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Create WebAssembly System Interface(WASI) node pools in Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) to run your WebAssembly(WASM) workload (preview) - Azure Kubernetes Service | Microsoft Docs

Preview Features

We are announcing the public preview of AKS support for dual-stack IPv6 overlay networking (Kubenet). Dual-stack IPv4/IPv6 support is now available in AKS using the Kubenet overlay network plugin. Nodes, workloads, and services support IPv6 addresses alongside IPv4 addresses.

Announcement: Public preview: IPv6 for Kubenet | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: AKS Dual-stack Networking Preview (office.com)

Azure Service: Machine Learning

Region Updates

Azure Machine Learning is now available in West US 3 providing high service availability to accelerate the end-to-end machine learning lifecycle.

Announcement: Azure Machine Learning now generally available in West US 3 | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: What is Azure Machine Learning? - Azure Machine Learning | Microsoft Docs

Preview Features

You can now securely deploy a compute instance or compute cluster with No Public IP address, while simplifying network administration. Hashicorp Terraform configuration templates allow you to deploy your Azure Machine Learning resources in a repeatable and predictable manner along with other resources across Azure and other clouds. You can use AutoML for images to easily build computer vision models for scenarios like image classification, object detection and instance segmentation.

Announcement: Azure Machine Learning announcements - Oct 2021 public preview capabilities | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

General Availability

Managed identities enable enterprise users to configure Azure Machine Learning workspaces in trustworthy manner, so that workspace users have correct level of access to data and other associated resources. Dataset uploads reduces your overhead by simplifying the process of adding a dataset to an Azure Machine Learning solution. Parallel Run Step will help you save time in scenarios where you want to train a personalized model for enhanced accuracy. Managing environments through the SDK/CLI can be challenging. Now you can create environments and edit your configuration files directly from the Studio UI.

Announcement: Azure Machine Learning announcements - Oct 2021 generally available capabilities | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Azure Service: Maps

Preview Features

The Azure Maps iOS SDK is now in preview with key updates that are aligned with the core feature set in Azure Maps SDK family. Some of the key improvements added to this update include: Consistent developer experience. Align with Android SDK and support Data-driven style expressions and Vector tile. Additional rendering layers.

Announcement: Azure Maps iOS SDK is now in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Azure Maps - Microsoft Tech Community

Azure Service: Monitor

General Availability

Azure Monitor container insights is updating the portal experience and announcing the following enhancements for your container monitoring scenarios: Access container insights experience with improved accessibility on small form factors. Ability to view resource utilization as allocatable capacity. New metrics & refreshed recommended alerts with correct alert signals.

Announcement: General availability: Azure Monitor container insights portal experience update | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Metric alerts from Container insights - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs

General Availability

Application insights is a cloud native application monitoring offering which enables you to observe failures, bottlenecks, and usage patterns to resolve incidents faster and reduce downtime. With the new integration, you can now enable monitoring on your Java Spring Boot applications running in Azure Spring Cloud with a few simple steps. It requires no code changes. Unlock new views in application insights such as application map and transaction diagnostics to more quickly pinpoint issues and performance bottlenecks and ultimately drive down mean time to resolution (MTTR).

Announcement: General availability: Azure Monitor application insights in Azure Spring Cloud | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Effortlessly monitor applications and dependencies in Azure Spring Cloud! - Java at Microsoft

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Documentation: Monitor Azure Arc-enabled Kubernetes clusters - Azure Monitor | Microsoft Docs

Azure Service: Resource Manager

General Availability

The Service Tag Discovery API is now generally available. You can call the API for a list of over 60 Service Tags and their corresponding IP ranges to configure on-premises firewalls and Azure resources. You can use the API to replace downloading and parsing the weekly JSON files with Service Tag data we provide. In the past, users have had to deal with changing file names each week. Now there is a consistent way to programmatically retrieve this data.

Announcement: Generally available: Service Tag Discovery API | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Azure service tags overview | Microsoft Docs

Azure Service: Spring Cloud

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Documentation: Effortlessly monitor applications and dependencies in Azure Spring Cloud! - Java at Microsoft

Azure Service: SQL Database

Preview Features

Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server helps reduce costs by allowing existing on-premises licenses with active Software Assurance to be assigned to Azure. Now there's an easier way to manage the benefit, optimize cost savings, and sustain compliance for the entire organization. Instead of assigning the benefit to each individual Azure resource (e.g. virtual machine), billing admins can now assign and manage SQL Server licenses at an Azure subscription or entire Azure account level.

Announcement: New centralized management experience for Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server in public preview | Azure updates | Microsoft Azure

Documentation: Azure Hybrid Benefit documentation | Microsoft Docs