



AZURE ANNOUNCEMENTS NEWSLETTER

February 11, 2022 – February 17, 2022

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Announcements Details

Azure Service: API Management

General Availability

Use custom HTML code widget to extend developer portal's functionality when previously, you had to develop your own widget and self-host the extended developer portal to embed a custom HTML code. For example, you can use custom HTML to embed a video or to add a form. The portal renders the custom widget in an inline frame (iframe).

Announcement: https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/api-management/developer-portal-faq?WT.mc_id=wwc-aces#how-do-i-add-custom-html-to-my-developer-portal

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/general-availability-developer-portal-widget-for-embedding-custom-html-code/>

Azure Service: App Services

Preview Features

You can utilize improved hardware, enhanced performance, and cost savings associated with App Service Environment v3 by using the new migration feature to move from Internal Load Balancer (ILB) and external (internet facing with public IP) configurations in App Service Environment v2 in the following regions:

West Central US
Canada Central
UK South
Germany West Central
East Asia
Australia East
Australia Southeast

This capability can be accessed from the Azure Portal, Azure CLI, and Azure Resource Manager template.

During the migration process, App Service Plans are automatically updated to Isolated v2.

Announcement: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/public-preview-app-service-environment-v3-migration-feature/>

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/public-preview-app-service-environment-v3-migration-feature/>

Azure Service: Database for PostgreSQL

Security Updates

You can now use Azure Database for PostgreSQL – Hyperscale (Citus) for workloads that require your database to be compliant with the following certifications:

EU EN 301 549: A set of accessibility requirements published by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)

EU ENISA IAF: The European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) and the ENISA Information Assurance Framework (IAF)

EU Model Clauses: European Union (EU) data protection law regulates the transfer of EU customer personal data to countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA)

Germany C5: The Cloud Computing Compliance Controls Catalog (C5)

Japan My Number Act: The Personal Information Protection Commission (PPC) supervises and monitors compliance with the My Number Act

NEN 7510:2011 (Netherlands): NEN, the Royal Netherlands Standardization Institute

Netherlands BIR 2012: The Baseline Informatiebeveiliging Rijksdienst standard (BIR 2012)

RBI and IRDAI (India): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

TISAX: The Trusted Information Security Assessment Exchange (TISAX)

Announcement: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/generally-available-azure-database-for-postgresql-hyperscale-citus-new-certifications-2/>

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/generally-available-azure-database-for-postgresql-hyperscale-citus-new-certifications-2/>

Azure Service: Functions

Preview Features

The input and output bindings for Tables in Azure Functions have been updated to include new features, and they are now defined in their own extension.

You can now:

- Connect to Cosmos DB Tables API
- Connect to Storage Tables using identity-based connections
- .NET customers can bind to types from Azure.Data.Tables
- Use Tables alongside the V5 Storage extensions

The preview extension is available as a new NuGet package:

<https://www.nuget.org/packages/Microsoft.Azure.WebJobs.Extensions.Tables/>

Note: The extension is currently not included in extension bundles. To avoid type collisions when installing the NuGet package, you should upgrade Microsoft.Azure.WebJobs.Extensions.Storage to version 5.0.0 or later.

Announcement: <https://www.nuget.org/packages/Microsoft.Azure.WebJobs.Extensions.Tables/>

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/public-preview-azure-tables-extension-for-azure-functions/>

Azure Service: IoT Central

New Features

Explore learning resources such as architecture diagrams, documentation, and videos on the updated Azure IoT Central homepage. Information is organized by key workflows (connect, manage, analyze, secure, extend) and this structure is repeated across the navigation menu and documentation so you can focus on the part of the solution building journey that you are in. The home page also links to common questions such as “Why start with Azure IoT Central?” to make information easier to find.

Announcement: <https://apps.azureiotcentral.com/>

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/iotcentralhomepagelearningcontent/>

Azure Service: Kubernetes Service

New Features

Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) complies with SOC, ISO, PCI DSS, and HIPAA standards. We have now applied security hardening to AKS based on the Kubernetes CIS benchmark standards and documented the compliance. You can now use the Azure documentation to confirm that AKS meets specific CIS benchmark standards.

Announcement: https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/aks/cis-kubernetes?WT.mc_id=wwc-aces

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/now-available-cis-benchmarks-for-kubernetes/>

New Features

You can now apply tags to an Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) cluster and its related resources using the Azure Resource Manager, the Azure CLI, and Azure PowerShell. For some resources, you can also use Kubernetes manifests to set Azure tags. Azure tags are useful for tracking resource usage for things like charge back.

Announcement: https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/aks/use-multiple-node-pools?WT.mc_id=wwc-aces#specify-a-taint-label-or-tag-for-a-node-pool

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/general-availability-azure-tags-support-in-aks/>

Preview Features

Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) support for Kubernetes release 1.23 is now in public preview. Kubernetes 1.23 delivers a total of 47 enhancements in various stages of maturity. This release includes capabilities such as IPv4/IPv6 Dual-stack Networking going GA.

Announcement: <https://kubernetes.io/blog/2021/12/07/kubernetes-1-23-release-announcement/>

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/public-preview-kubernetes-v123-support-in-aks/>

Azure Service: Machine Learning

Preview Features

Accelerate the onboarding of team members to automatedML by eliminating manual tasks and reducing data-related errors with automatic time series ID detection.

View and customize automatedML model's training code:

Model transparency and trust for full control and customization of the model's training code.

Supports scenarios that require model training code deployed in production, as well as control and customization of the code.

Users are now able to update their AI application architecture or design by moving workspaces across Azure resource groups and subscription.

Announcement: https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/machine-learning/how-to-auto-train-forecast?WT.mc_id=wwc-aces#configure-experiment

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/public-preview-azure-machine-learning-february-2022-announcements/>

Azure Service: Monitor

General Availability

Alert processing rules (formerly action rules) provide post-processing capabilities for fired alerts in Azure Monitor, such as scheduled suppression and at-scale actions management. Following the updated public preview from December 2021, this feature is now generally available.

As part of the generally available announcement, we will be retiring the existing preview APIs of alert processing rules / action rules in June 2022, so update your environments accordingly. This includes ARM templates / PowerShell / CLI etc. We will also start to enforce a per subscription quota on the rules (1000 rules per subscription). See the limits document for more details.

Action required: Update your environments such as ARM templates / PowerShell / CLI etc. as soon as possible, as we will be retiring the existing preview APIs of alert processing rules / action rules in June 2022,

Announcement: https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/azure-monitor/service-limits?WT.mc_id=wwc-aces

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/generally-available-alert-processing-rules-in-azure-monitor/>

Preview Features

Predictive autoscale uses machine learning to help manage and scale Azure virtual machine scale sets with cyclical workload patterns. It forecasts overall CPU load to your virtual machine scale set, based on your historical CPU usage patterns. By observing and learning from historical usage, it predicts the overall CPU load ensuring scale-out occurs in time to meet demand.

Announcement: https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/azure-monitor/autoscale/autoscale-predictive?WT.mc_id=wwc-aces

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/public-preview-azure-monitor-predictive-autoscale-for-azure-virtual-machine-scale-sets/>

Azure Service: Virtual Machines

General Availability

Automatically delete disks, NICs and Public IPs associated with a VM at the same time you delete the VM. With this feature, you can specify the associated resources that should be automatically deleted when you delete a VM. This will allow you to save time and simplify the VM management process.

Announcement: https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/virtual-machines/delete?tabs=portal2?WT.mc_id=wwc-aces

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/automatically-delete-vm-and-its-associated-resources-simultaneously/>

General Availability

Memory VM families allowing your virtual machine to burst its disk IO and throughput performance for a short time, daily. This enables VMs to handle unforeseen spiky disk traffic smoothly and process batched jobs with speed. There is no additional cost associated with this new capability or adjustments on the VM pricing and it comes enabled by default.

Some example scenarios where bursting can be applied:

Improve boot times: With your virtual machine and your disks both being able to burst and coming fully stocked with bursting credits at the start, your instance will be able to boot at a much faster rate than before.

Handle batch jobs: Some application workloads are cyclical in nature, requiring a baseline performance for the majority of the time but a higher performance for a short period of time. For instance, an accounting program that processes daily transactions requiring a small amount of disk traffic but then monthly end reports which need a higher amount of disk traffic.

Prepares for traffic spikes: Web servers and their applications can get a surge of traffic from unforeseen circumstances. With bursting virtual machines and disks backing the web servers, the web servers will handle traffic spikes smoothly and improve their customer's experience by reducing load times under heavy stress.

Announcement: https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/virtual-machines/linux/disk-bursting?WT.mc_id=wwc-aces

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/generally-available-virtual-machine-level-disk-bursting-supports-additional-vm-types/>

General Availability

You can patch and install updates to your Windows Server virtual machines on Azure without requiring a reboot using hotpatch. This capability is available exclusively as part of Azure Automanage for Windows Server for Windows Server Azure Edition core virtual machines, and comes with the following benefits:

Lower workload impact with less reboots

Faster deployment of updates as the packages are smaller, install faster, and have easier patch orchestration with Azure Update Manager

Better protection, as the hotpatch update packages are scoped to Windows security updates that install faster without rebooting

Announcement: https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/automanage/automanage-hotpatch?WT.mc_id=wwc-aces

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/generally-available-hotpatch-for-windows-server-virtual-machines/>

Preview Features

Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise is now available in preview.

Announcement: https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/spring-cloud/quickstart-provision-service-instance-enterprise?WT.mc_id=wwc-aces

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/blog/azure-spring-cloud-enterprise-is-now-available-in-preview/>

Preview Features

You can now create virtual machine restore points in any region of your choice regardless of the region where your virtual machine is deployed. Protect your Azure workloads by easily copying virtual machine restore points from one region to another region.

Announcement: <https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/azure-storage-blog/protect-and-recover-your-azure-workloads-from-disasters-using/ba-p/3148732>

Documentation: <https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/public-preview-availability-of-cross-region-virtual-machine-restore-points/>