

# Networking

Virtual Network Basics  
Connectivity  
Controlling Traffic

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# VIRTUAL NETWORK BASICS

- A virtual network consists of one or more IP ranges
- Typically from RFC 1918 but not exclusively
- A virtual network exists
  - Within a specific subscription
  - Within a specific region
  - It cannot span subscriptions nor regions
- The address space is broken up into subnets with the smallest subnet possible being a /29 which will give 3 usable IP addresses
- Subnet are regional and span Availability Zones

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# VM NIC

- IP always comes via fabric (OS using DHCP)
- IP can be reserved in ARM
- VMs can be configured with multiple NICs
- Each NIC can be in different virtual subnet in same virtual network or different subnets
- Multiple IP configurations per NIC
- IP configuration has private IP and optional public IP

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# SUPPORTED TYPES OF IP TRAFFIC

- Standard IP-based protocols supported including:
  - TCP
  - UDP
  - ICMP
- Multicast, broadcast, IP-in-IP encapsulated packets and Generic Routing Encapsulation (GRE) blocked
- You cannot ping the Azure gateway or use tools such as tracer
- Traditional Layer 2 VLANs are not supported

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# IPV6?

- Virtual Networks are dual stack enabling IPv4 and IPv6 address ranges assigned
- IPv6 support in NSG, UDR, LB, peering etc.
- NIC CANNOT be IPv6 only
- Can enable IPv6 for existing resources (may require reboot)
- No ExpressRoute IPv6 (yet!)
- Public IPs can be IPv4 or IPv6

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# EXTERNAL ACCESS

- There is no special "DMZ" subnet where resources get a public IP
- By default Azure provides outbound SNAT/PAT enabling resources to access the Internet and receive responses
- To provide services to the Internet either
  - Give the IP configuration an instance level public IP (not a good idea)
  - Place the instances behind an Azure load balancer, gateway or NVA which has a public IP in the front-end configuration
  - Use a network virtual appliance with a public IP
- Care should be taken to only expose the ports required, e.g. 443

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Don't enable RDP, SSH etc.  
to the Internet unless  
you really want to test  
your passwords!

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CONNECTING VIRTUAL NETWORKS

- If you wish to have multiple subscriptions and/or use multiple regions you will have multiple virtual networks
- In the past we could connect virtual networks using S2S VPN or by connecting to the same ExpressRoute circuit but both approaches have problems
- VNet peering enables virtual networks to be connected via the Microsoft backbone in the same or different regions (global peering)
- There is a small ingress and egress charge for traffic via network peering
- IP address spaces CANNOT overlap
- Can span subscriptions and even AAD tenants
- Peers are not transitive, but they can be!

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CONNECTING TO on-PREMISES

- Many Azure services have external, Internet facing endpoints however often private connectivity is required
- There are a number of options to connect to virtual networks
  - P2S VPN – Connects a specific device to a virtual network
  - S2S VPN – Connects a network to a virtual network
    - S2S VPN gateways enable multiple VPN connections to different networks if route not policy based
  - ExpressRoute Private Peering – Connects a network to a virtual network via ExpressRoute Gateway
    - ExpressRoute circuits enable multiple virtual networks to be connected to a single circuit but vnet to vnet better via peering!
- Most enterprises will leverage ExpressRoute which has the benefit of not going over the Internet, consistent latency and can also provides optional Microsoft peering via route filter

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CONTROLLING TRAFFIC FLOWS

- By default traffic can freely flow within a virtual network and to any connected network
- To segment and control traffic within a virtual network, between networks and/or external a number of approaches can be utilized
  - Azure Firewall or an NVA with traffic routed to it via UDR
  - Network Security Groups, Application Security Groups and Service Tags
- NSGs can be applied at the subnet or NIC level but are always enforced at the NIC
- NSGs are made up of rules based on IP ranges/tags, ports and actions
- ASGs are tags applied to NICs which can be used instead of IP ranges in rules which may be easier to utilize

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SERVICE ENDPOINTS AND SERVICE ENDPOINT POLICIES

- NSGs are focused on traffic into and out of the virtual network
- Many Azure PaaS offerings have their own firewall capabilities to lock down access
- It is often required to restrict a service to only specific subnets of specific virtual networks
- Service endpoints make a specific subnet known to a specific Azure service and add optimal path to service
- The virtual firewall on the service can then be configured to allow only that specific subnet
- Service Endpoint Policies allow specific instances of services to be allowed from a virtual network which is not possible with NSG service tags

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DNS IN AZURE

- Virtual networks can use Azure DNS or custom DNS
- Azure DNS can provide public and private zones
- Private Zone you pick name and full management
- VNets can be linked to Private DNS Zones in addition to the built-in internal.cloudapp.net which is always there
  - 1 private zone for auto-registration
  - 1000 private zone for resolution

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**Azure Private Link**

- When an externally facing Azure PaaS service is accessed from a resource in a VNet the traffic stays on the Azure network
- The PaaS service still has an external facing endpoint that some companies do not want even with firewall/authentication lockdown
- Azure Private Link enables PaaS services to have a private endpoint for a service instance created in a virtual network that is an avatar for that service instance
- Can also project custom services that are behind a standard load balancer
- Resources in the VNet can interact via the private endpoint directly to the service using the most efficient path
- Because it is instance specific helps stop data exfiltration
- Removes the need to peer VNets which can be important where VNets may have overlapping IP ranges

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**QUESTIONS?**

**ASK IN THE COMMENTS**

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