Building and Deploying a .NET 9 App Using Azure, Bicep, and GitHub Actions

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Lean TECHniques
Level: Introductory













What you need

- NET 9
- An Editor that supports .NET 9 and Bicep
 - Visual Studio 2022 Latest
 - Visual Studio Code (Bicep extension)
- Fork this repo:
 - https://github.com/scottsauber/workshop-dotnet-azure-github-bicep
 - Slides in root under Slides.pdf
- Download the Azure CLI
- Azure will be provided for free
- Please let Scott know the following if you're participating:
 - Email you will use for Azure
 - Your GitHub username

What we all need

- Azure to not go down
- GitHub to not go down
- GitHub Actions to not go down
- The conference internet to not go down
- ***
- (I do have recordings if needed but that's no fun)



Audience

- Anyone interested in Azure, GitHub, or Bicep
- .NET Developers
- People interested in DevOps but never got to do it
- Already know Git
- If you have questions, ask them! If no one but me talks this is gonna be boring



Poll

- How many .NET Developers in the room?
- How many have used Azure?
- How many have used Bicep?
- How many have used GitHub Actions?
- Why are you here? What do you want to learn?



Agenda

- What is the final state of what we're building?
- What is Azure?
- What is Azure App Service? Plans?
- What is Bicep?
- What are GitHub Actions?
- Health Checks
- Azure Key Vault Integration
- Azure Application Insights Integration
- Hands on all throughout



Goals

- Learn GitHub Actions, Bicep, and Azure
- How they all integrate with a .NET app
- The feedback loop on this can be slow especially if you typo!
- Take home a few things back to work, whether beginner or expert



Who am I?

- Director of Engineering at Lean TECHniques
- Microsoft MVP
- Dometrain author
- Redgate Community Ambassador
- Co-organizer of Iowa .NET User Group











What are we building?

- .NET 9 API
- Running on Azure App Service
- Configured using Infrastructure as Code with Bicep
- Deployed using a CI/CD Pipeline via GitHub Actions



Features of what we're building

- Zero Downtime Deployments
- Infrastructure managed by code, not clicking in the Azure Portal
- Automated Build and Deploys
- Follows Azure Naming Standards
- Versioning your app so you know what's deployed
- Health Checks
- Secrets in Key Vault, not Source Control
- Observability using Application Insights



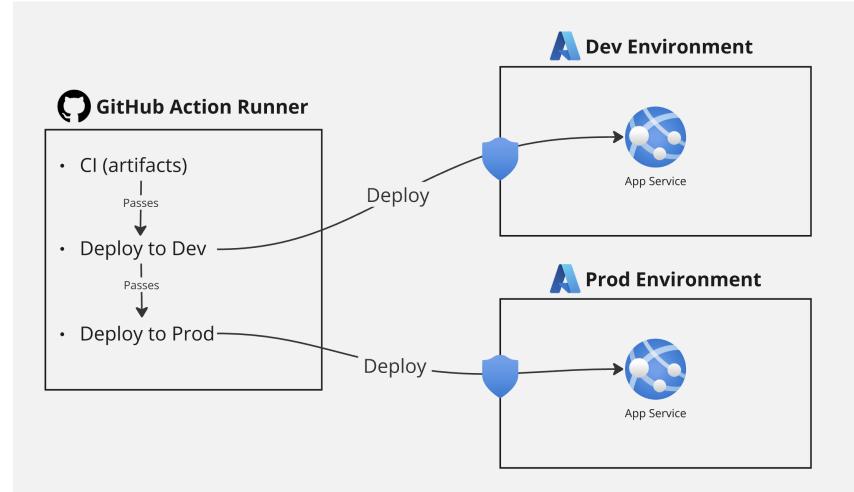
Why is this important?

- https://dora.dev/
- DORA
- Continuous Delivery, Deployment Automation, Flexible Infrastructure, Continuous Integration, Version Control, Monitoring/Observability are all listed as <u>6 of the 18</u> <u>capabilities</u> listed for high performing teams.
- We will touch on all of these today









Azure

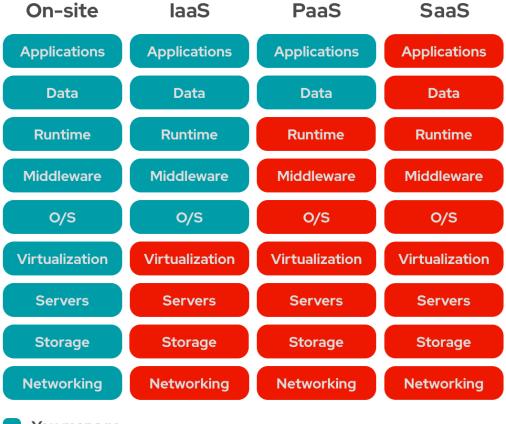




What is Azure?

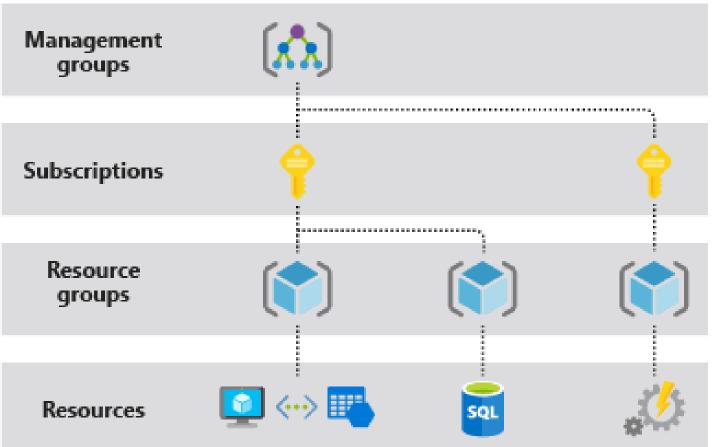
- Microsoft offering for cloud hosting
- Offers many services from hosting web apps to databases to caching to messaging to...
- You should probably be picking PaaS offerings (i.e. not VMs)





- You manage
- Service provider manages







Subscriptions

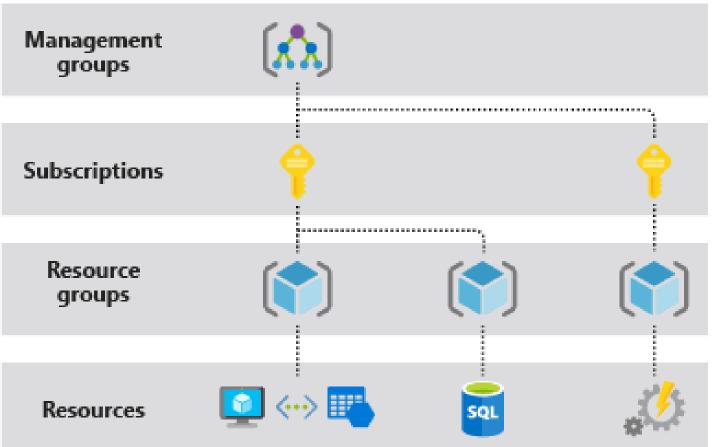
- Top-ish level organization (ignoring Tenants, Management Groups)
- Recommended per team per env
- Naming convention: sub-<team>-<env>
 - Ex: sub-accounting-dev
- Role access separation
- Billing separation



Resource Groups

- Related groups of resources (ie web, db, key vault, etc)
- Quickly view all resources related to app
- RG = folder, Resources = files
- Recommended per app per env
- Naming convention: rg-<product>-<env>
 - Example: rg-fancyapp-dev
- May have many RG's in 1 subscription
- Role access separation
- Billing separation







Questions?





Azure App Service





App Service

- PaaS offering for hosting applications
- Handles OS patches, Framework patches
- Zero downtime deployments via Slots
- SSL Certs
- Custom domains
- Autoscaling
- Very simple
- And more
- X Less control because PaaS



App Service Plan

- Kinda like VM for your App Service(s)
- Pick how much memory, storage, CPU
- Multiple app service on one ASP (should you?)
- Many apps can get away with P0V3 (\$62/mo for Linux)
- Need to be at least Standard to get Slots



\$ an issue?

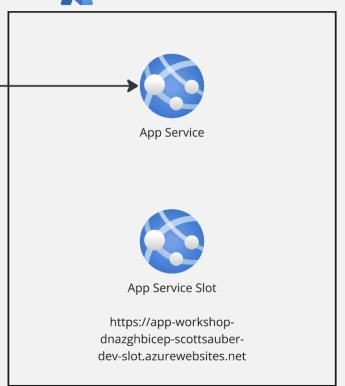
- Savings Plan commit to \$ amount
- Save 25% 1 yr, 45% 3 yrs
- Reservation commit to compute tier
- Save 35% 1 yr, 55% 3 yrs







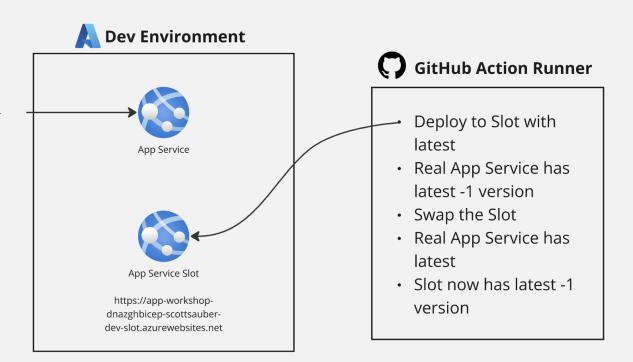
Visits https://app-workshop-dnazghbicepscottsauber-dev.azurewebsites.net







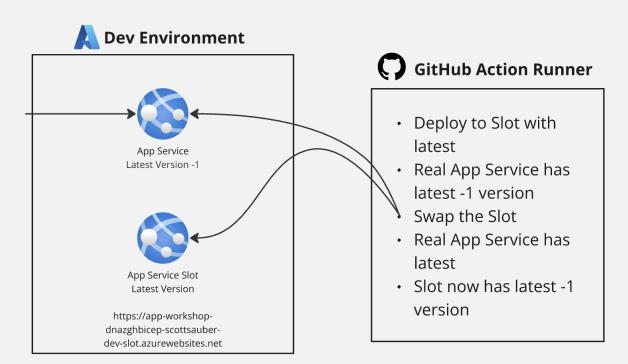
Visits https://app-workshop-dnazghbicepscottsauber-dev.azurewebsites.net



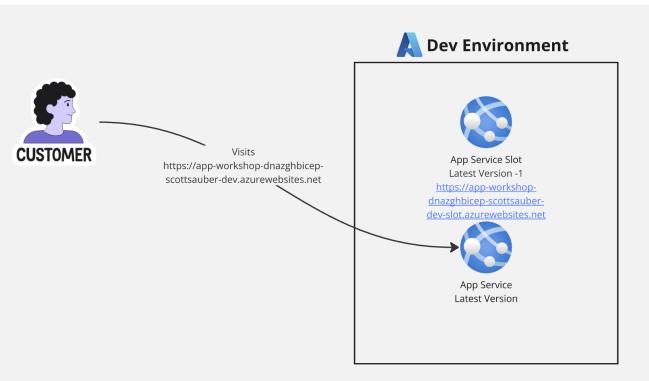




Visits https://app-workshop-dnazghbicepscottsauber-dev.azurewebsites.net





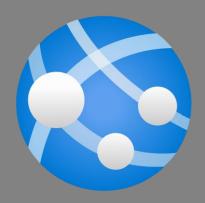




- Deploy to Slot with latest
- Real App Service has latest -1 version
- Swap the Slot
- Real App Service has latest
- Slot now has latest -1 version

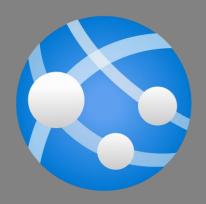


Live Demo





Questions?





Bicep





Infrastructure as Code (IAC)

- Source code defining what resources to provision
- Stored in version control
- Declarative what resources to create, not how to create them
- Deployed via pipeline
- Need a new env? Few lines of code



Without IAC

- Clickety Clack Configuration™
- Repeat yourself for each environment
- "It worked in Dev/UAT/Staging, not Prod"
- "It works on my machine"



What is Azure Bicep?

- Used to configure Azure resources
- Built and maintained by Microsoft
- Domain-specific language (fancy word for custom)



What is Azure Bicep?

- Provides intellisense, error checking, "whatif," and orders the resource creations
- Built on top of Azure Resource Manager (ARM) – don't use ARM directly
- Can compose multiple files into "modules"
- Can pass data between modules via outputs
- No state file



What is Azure Bicep?

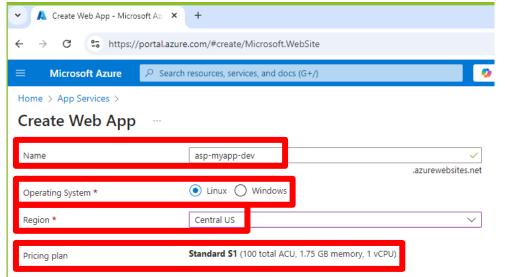
```
    appservice.bicep

           resource appServicePlan 'Microsoft.Web/serverfarms@2022-09-01'
              name: 'asp-myapp-dev'
              location: 'centralus'
              sku: {
                name: 'S1'
              kind: 'linux'
```



```
appservice.bicep

1    resource appServicePlan 'Microsoft.Web/serverfarms@2022-09-01' = {
2         name: 'asp-myapp-dev'
3         kind: 'linux'
4         location: 'centralus'
5         sku: {
6               name: 'S1'
7         }
8     }
```





```
resource appServicePlan 'Microsoft.Web/serverfarms@2022-09-01' = {
  name: 'asp-workshop-demo'
  location: 'centralus'
  sku: {
     name: 'S1'
  }
  kind: 'linux'
}
```

```
resource appService 'Microsoft.Web/sites@2022-09-01' = {
   name: 'app-workshop-demo'
   location: 'centralus'
   properties: {
       serverFarmId: appServicePlan.id
       // others
   }
}
```



```
param appName string
@allowed(['dev', 'prod'])
param environment string
param location string
resource appServicePlan 'Microsoft.Web/serverfarms@2022-09-01' = {
 name: 'asp-${appName}-${environment}'
 location: location
  sku: {
    name: 'S1'
  kind: 'linux'
```



dev.biccepparam file

```
using '../main.bicep'
param environment = 'dev'
```



But how do I deploy it?

```
az deployment group create

--name dev-deployment-1

--template-file infrastructure/main.bicep

--parameters infrastructure/environments/dev.bicepparam

--resource-group rg-some-name-here

--verbose
```



Key Concepts – Quiz time!

- Resources
- Modules
- Parameters
- .bicepparam
- Outputs
- --whatif



Benefits

- No manual work of configuring in the portal (and repeating for each env)
- Eliminate configuration drift
- Traceability of who, did what, and when
- Give Contributor access to the pipeline not to individuals
- No more "it works in Dev, not Prod" both they're the same!



Additional Resources

- Documentation for various Bicep resources:
 - https://learn.microsoft.com/enus/azure/templates/microsoft.web/sites?piv ots=deployment-language-bicep



Live Demo





Questions?





First Hands On Lab coming up....how do you want to run these?

I give you time to do alone then move on
 We "Do It Live™" together





Break then Hands On for 40 minutes

Module 4:

https://github.com/scottsauber/workshop-dotnet-azure-github-bicep





CI/CD Pipelines





Continuous Integration

- Automated verification of your application that generates artifacts
- Compiles the app
- Runs the tests
- Independent witness eliminates "works on my machine"

Continuous Delivery

- Takes the artifacts from CI and deploys them automatically
- Doesn't deploy all the way to Production
- Deploying to Production is a button click



Continuous Deployment

- Deploys all the way to Production automatically
- If the pipeline is green, it's going to Production

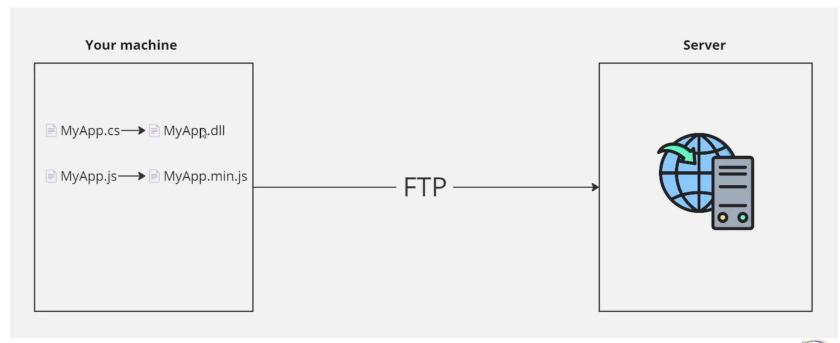


Confident Green

- If our build passes why aren't we shipping to Production?
- Likely lack of confidence
- Likely missing automated tests or zero downtime deployments, let's fix that
- Ok now why?
- Repeat

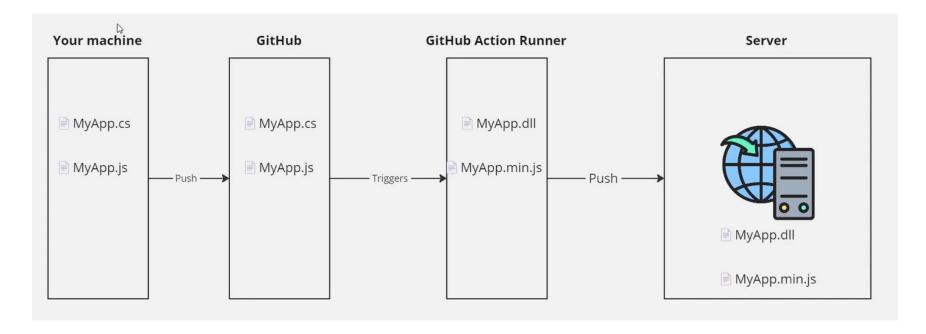


Before CI/CD





After CI/CD





What's in a Pipeline?

Continuous Integration

- Restore Packages
- Compile
- Test
- Format
- Linting
- Security Scans
- Upload Artifacts
- Alerting on Failure

Continuous Delivery/Deployment

- ✓ Download Artifacts
- Deploy Artifacts
- ✓ Zero Downtime
- Deploy IAC
- ✓ Smoke Tests
- Alerting on Failure



Questions?





GitHub Actions





What is GitHub Actions?

- Thing doer on a trigger
- Trigger could be PR, push to main branch, open an issue, etc
- Automatically build and deploys your application
- Including the infrastructure (i.e. Bicep)



GitHub Actions Concepts

- Workflows
- Triggers
- Jobs
- Steps
- Inputs
- Secrets



Example

```
name: CI - Deploy App and Bicep
   branches: [main]
 workflow_dispatch:
 build_and_test:
   runs-on: ubuntu-latest
   name: Build, Test, Upload Artifact
   steps:
      - name: Checkout repo
        uses: actions/checkout@v1
      - name: Run dotnet test
        run: |
          dotnet test -c Release
```



How do I reuse workflows?

```
name: CI - Deploy App and Bicep
   branches: [main]
 workflow_dispatch:
 build_and_test:
   runs-on: ubuntu-latest
   name: Build, Test, Upload Artifact
      - name: Checkout repo
       uses: actions/checkout@v1
      - name: Run dotnet test
       run: |
          dotnet test -c Release
      - name: Run dotnet publish
                         ./src/WorkshopDemo/WorkshopDemo.csproj
          dotnet publish
                                                                  c Release -o ./publish
```



How do I reuse workflows?

```
name: Step - Test and Publish
  workflow call:
      project_path:
        required: true
        type: string
  build_and_test:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    name: Build, Test, Upload Artifact
      - name: Checkout repo
        uses: actions/checkout@v1
      - name: Run dotnet test
        run: l
          dotnet test -c Release
      - name: Run dotnet publish
                        ${{ inputs.project_path }}
                                                     c Release -o ./publish
          dotnet publish
```



Consume reusable workflow

```
name: CI - Test and Publish
       on:
         push:
           branches: [main]
         workflow_dispatch:
       jobs:
         build_and_test:
           uses: ./.github/workflows/step-build-and-test.yml
10
           with:
11
              project_path: ./src/WorkshopDemo/WorkshopDemo.csproj
12
```



Consume from another repo

```
name: CI - Test and Publish
       on:
         push:
           branches: [main]
         workflow_dispatch:
       jobs:
         build and test:
           uses: my-org-or-username/repo-name/step-build-and-test.yml
11
           with:
              project_path: ./src/WorkshopDemo/WorkshopDemo.csproj
12
13
```



Live Demo





Questions?





Break then Hands On for 40 minutes

Module 6:

https://github.com/scottsauber/workshop-dotnet-azure-github-bicep





Health Checks



What are Health Checks?

- Health Checks check an app's status
- Might stop a rolling deployment
- Might restart the app on failure
- App Services allow configuring Health Check endpoint



What are Health Checks?

- /api/healthz
- Why z?
- Z-pages from Google



What do you check?

- Even "nothing" is useful. If it can't get to the URL – the app didn't boot
- Can I connect to dependencies? (ie DB, APIs, Secret Store, etc)
- Note: be careful here if your DB goes down/blips, do you want your app to restart?

```
C#
var builder = WebApplication.CreateBuilder(args);
builder.Services.AddHealthChecks();
var app = builder.Build();
app.MapHealthChecks("/healthz");
app.Run();
```

Questions?



Hands On for 15 minutes

Module 8:

https://github.com/scottsauber/workshop-dotnet-azure-github-bicep



Azure Key Vault





What is Azure Key Vault

- Secret Store for Azure
- Don't store secrets in Version Control
- Traceability
- Rotate Secrets
- \$0.03 per 10K requests



Best Practices

- Separate Key Vault per app per env
- 1 app * 3 envs = 3 key vaults
- 2 apps * 3 envs = 6 key vaults
- Don't leak keys across envs or apps
- Naming: kv-<appname>-<environment>
- ie kv-myapp-dev



.NET Integration

- Plugs into IConfiguration
- Loads keys on app boot (saves \$ and more performant)
- Azure.Security.KeyVault.Secrets
- builder.Configuration.AddAzureKeyVault("url");

Managed Identities

- Essentially the user (Service Principal) a service (ie App Service) runs as
- Allows you to say "this App Service can talk to this Key Vault/DB/etc"
- Microsoft handles the credentials for you behind the scenes

Access Policies for Key Vault

- Allows you to specify who can connect to Key Vault
- Could be a group (ie Developers), user, or application
- Applications usually just need Read not Write

Local Secret Management

- Local dev often requires secrets
- .NET User Secrets is incompatible with teams, especially large ones
- Everyone has their own file on their machine
- Then secrets get shared around when they're added/updated
- Recommendation: use Key Vault even for local



Key Vault for Local

- When someone adds/updates/deletes a secret, everyone gets it
- Very team friendly
- Only downside heartbeat to an Azure service
- In practice rarely a problem



Live Demo





Questions?





Hands On for 30 minutes

Module 9:

https://github.com/scottsauber/workshop-dotnet-azure-github-bicep





DefaultAzureCredential

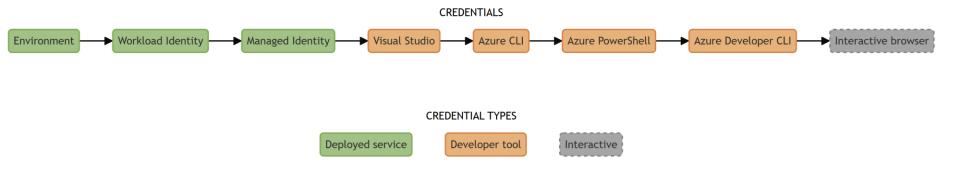




What is DefaultAzureCredential?

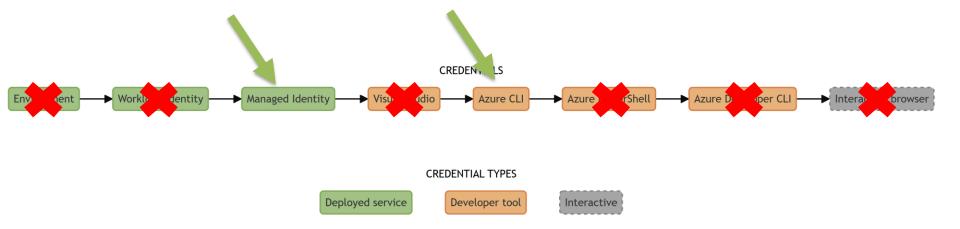
- Azure services need to be authenticated to
- There are lots of ways to do this CLI, Environment Variables, ManagedIdentity, etc
- DefaultAzureCredential tries all these for you until one works

What order does it try?





Which ones do we use?





What's the problem?

- Often need 1-2 ways of authing
- Local dev + deployed envs
- In our case, Azure CLI (Local) and Managed Identity (Dev + Prod)
- All other tries waste time
- I've seen 10+ seconds saved doing what I'm about to do

Solution

- DefaultAzureCredential has "Excludes"
- ChainedTokenCredential
- if local => CLI, else => ManagedIdentity



Live Demo





Questions?





Break?



Azure Log Analytics

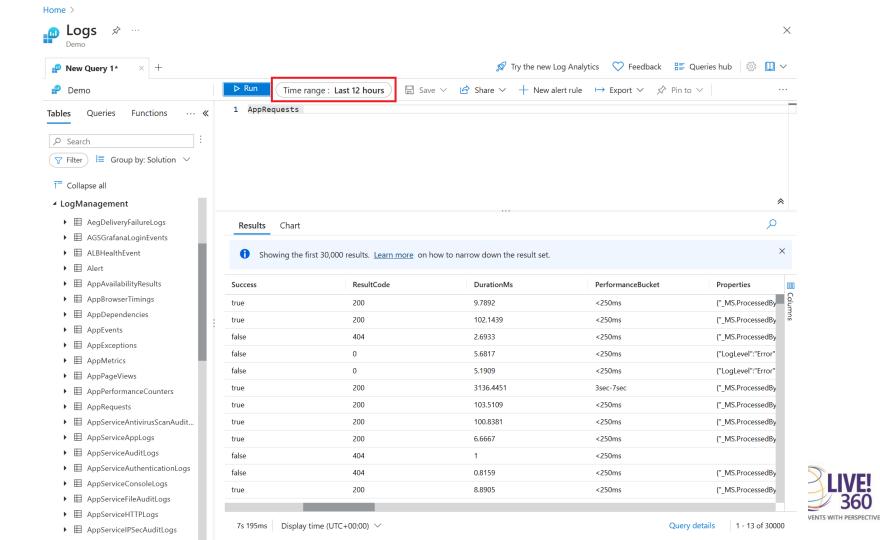


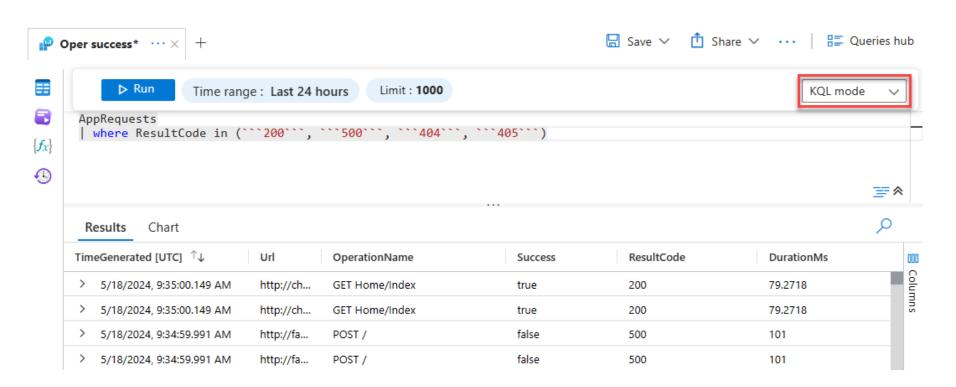


What is Log Analytics?

- Part of Azure Monitor observability platform
- Store Logs in central spot
- Not in Log Stream
- Query logs
- SQL like syntax
- Alert based on logs









Questions?



Azure App Insights

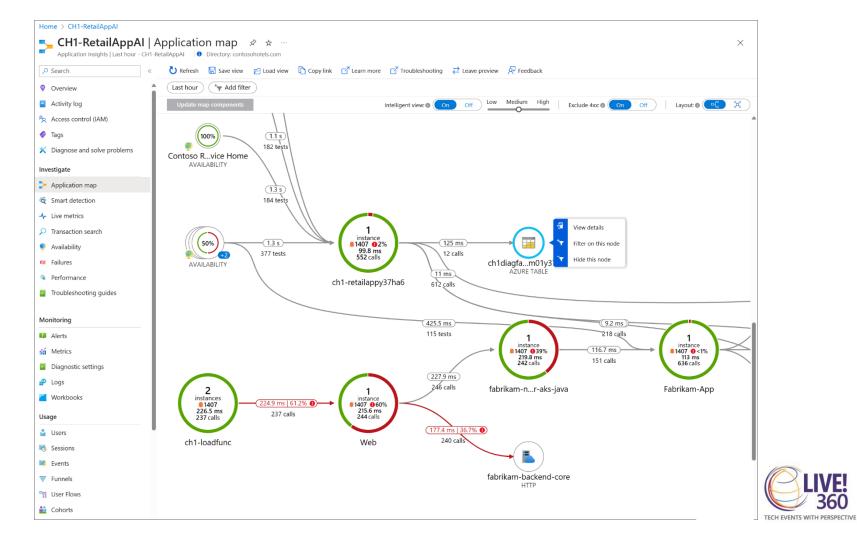


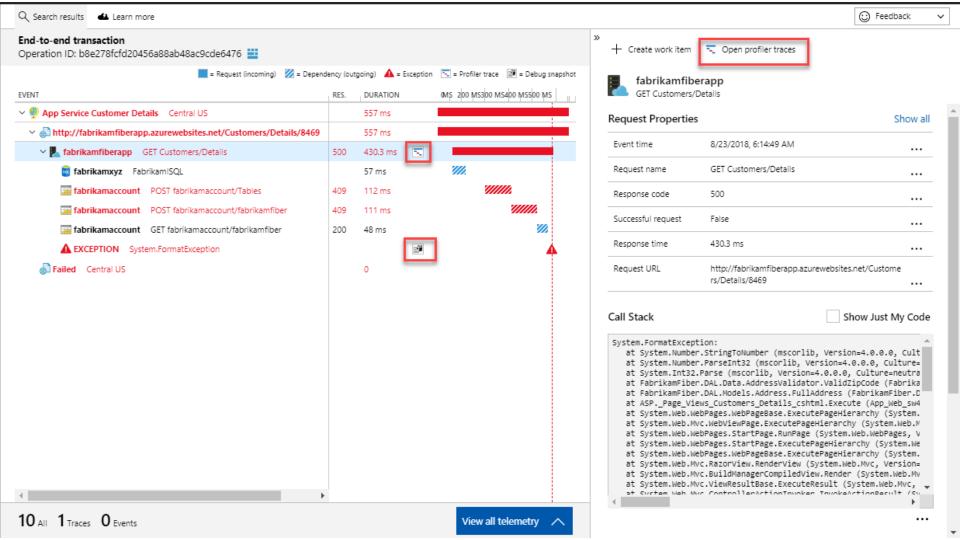


What is Application Insights?

- Part of Azure Monitor
- Metrics
- Traces
- Application Maps
- Diagnose Performance Issues



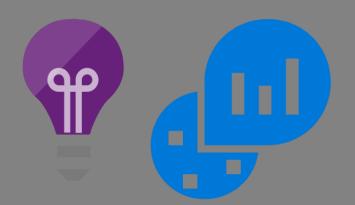




Questions?



Live Demo





Hands On for 30 minutes

Module 13:

https://github.com/scottsauber/workshop-dotnet-azure-github-bicep





Takeaways

- How to leverage Azure
- How to integrate Azure with .NET
- Why IAC is useful and how Bicep works
- How GitHub Actions fits into CI/CD Pipelines
- Some takeaway tips and tricks, even if you had prior experience with some of this



Resources

- This slide deck
- https://github.com/scottsauber/workshop-dotnetazure-github-bicep
 - "final" branch has the final state of things



Live360 things to know

- 5:45 6:15 Live360! First Timers Guide with Phil Japiske in
- 6:30 8:00 Mix + Mingle Upstairs Patio HardRock Café City Walk



Any other Questions?

ssauber@leantechniques.com@scottsauber on Twitter@scottsauber.com on Bluesky



Session Survey

- Your feedback is very important to us
- Please take a moment to complete the session survey found in the mobile app
- Use the QR code or search for "Converge360 Events" in your app store
- Find this session on the Agenda tab
- Click "Session Evaluation"
- Thank you!



THANK YOU!



If we have time...



Bonus: GitHub Environments

- GitHub natively has the concept of Environments
- These environments can have secrets
- You can also set up Protection Rules on environments
- Let's refactor our code to use Environments!



Bonus PR Checks for Infra

- When you change some Bicep it'd be nice to know what it's going to do
- --whatif for PR's
- Have the –whatif comment back on the PR what it's going to do
- Example



Bonus PR Checks for Infra

- Checkov security scanner
- Tells you if something is misconfigured
- ie TLS 1.2 is not the minimum TLS setting for an App Service
- Public Storage Accounts



```
→ bicep checkov -d /Users/maciejpoborca/Desktop/temp/bicep
[ bicep framework ]: 100%|
                                           |[1/1], Current File Scanned=main.bicep
 /_| '_\/_ \ _| |//_\\//
 | (_| | | | | __/ (_| < (_) \ V /
 \__|_| | |_|\__|\__| \__|
By bridgecrew.io | version: 2.1.75
Update available 2.1.75 -> 2.1.87
Run pip3 install -U checkov to update
bicep scan results:
Passed checks: 0, Failed checks: 6, Skipped checks: 0
Check: CKV_AZURE_132: "Ensure cosmosdb does not allow privileged escalation by restricting management plane changes"
       FAILED for resource: Microsoft.DocumentDB/databaseAccounts.cosmosAccount
       Severity: MEDIUM
       Guide: https://docs.bridgecrew.io/docs/bc_azr_storage_4
               46 | resource cosmosAccount 'Microsoft.DocumentDB/databaseAccounts@2021-04-15' = {
               47 | name: cosmosAccountName
               48 | kind: 'GlobalDocumentDB'
               49 | location: location
               50 | properties: {
               51 I
                      consistencyPolicy: {
               52 I
                         defaultConsistencyLevel: 'Session'
               53 I
               54 I
                       locations: [
               55 I
               56 I
                           locationName: location
               57 I
                           failoverPriority: 0
               58 I
                           isZoneRedundant: false
               59 I
               60 I
                       databaseAccountOfferType: 'Standard'
               61 I
               62 I }
               63 I }
Check: CKV_AZURE_15: "Ensure web app is using the latest version of TLS encryption"
```



THANK YOU!

(for real this time)

