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# Cloud-native Server Management: Unleashing the Power of Azure Everywhere

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Microsoft Azure MVP

## Focus Areas

Cloud Adoption, Strategy and Architecture  
Cloud Platform engineering and governance  
DevOps & Developer Enablement  
Hybrid Cloud

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Configuration  
Management

Security

Backup

Patch  
Management

Monitoring

Inventory

# Azure Arc

Innovation anywhere with Azure



Single control plane with Azure Arc



Bring **Azure services**  
to any infrastructure



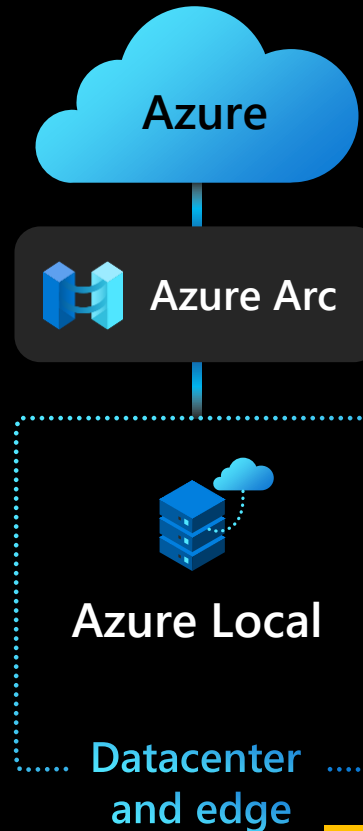
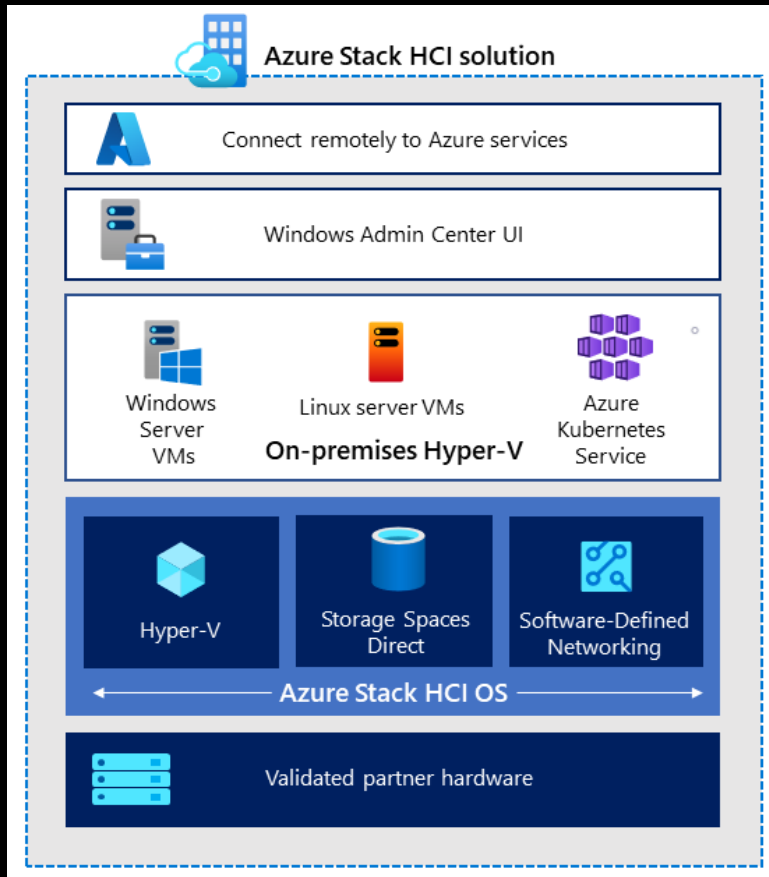
Modernize datacenters  
with **Azure Local**



Extend to the edge  
with Azure IoT

**twoday**

# End-to-end hybrid solution with Azure Local



Hybrid by design with Azure Arc

Enterprise scale and great price-performance

Flexible for VMs and cloud-native with AKS

Familiar management and deployment











## **Cost:**

Hardware starting at: ~180.000 NOK  
Software: 10\$ (+ 23\$ for Windows) per/pCore OR WS  
Datacenter /w SA

# Configuration Management

- Azure Policies
  - GPOs for the cloud, just better
  - **Audit, Deny or Deploy/Configure ANY** setting in the Azure control plane
  - And inside Guest OS
  - Machine configurations powered by PowerShell DSC V2
- VM Applications – only for Azure VMs.. For now

Showing 11 to 15 of 15 records.

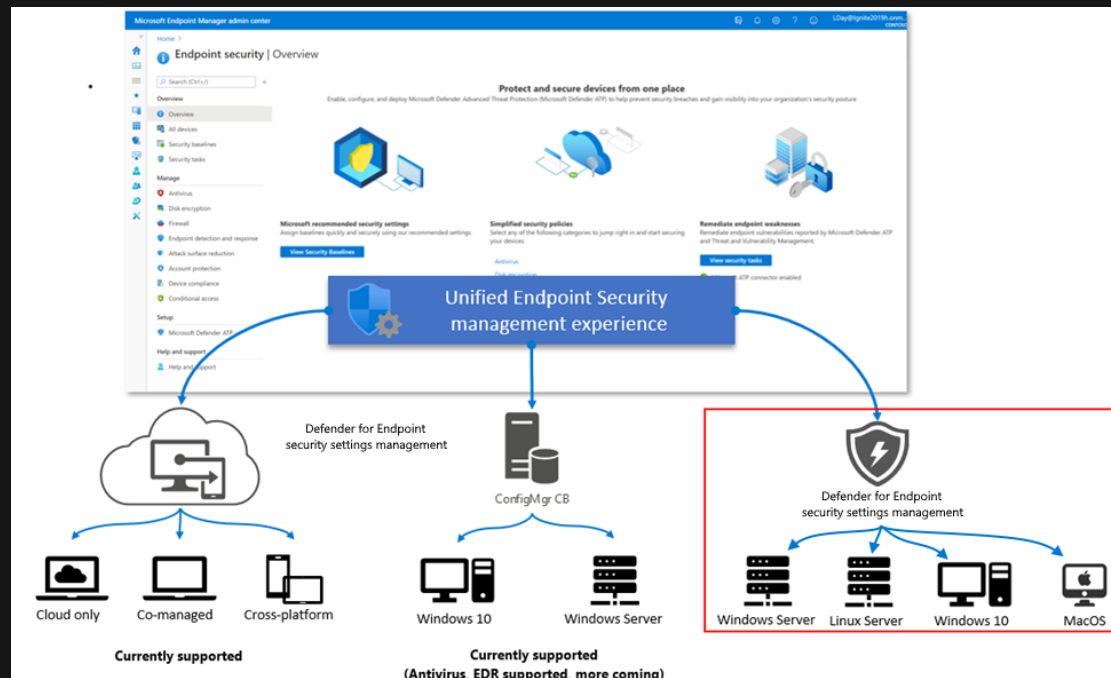
<input type="checkbox"/>	Configuration name <span>↑↓</span>	Version <span>↑↓</span>	Status <span>↑↓</span>	Rules <span>↑↓</span>	Type <span>①</span> <span>↑↓</span>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 SetWindowsTimeZone (ctadds10/Set...	1.*	 Compliant	100% (1 out of 1)	ApplyAndAutoCorrect
<input type="checkbox"/>	 SetWindowsUpdateSettings_1_1_0\$pi...	1.0.0	 Non-compliant	0% (0 out of 1)	ApplyAndAutoCorrect
<input type="checkbox"/>	 StorePasswordsUsingReversibleEncry...	1.*	 Compliant	100% (1 out of 1)	Audit
<input type="checkbox"/>	 WindowsDefenderExploitGuard (ctad...	1.*	 Non-compliant	0% (0 out of 1)	Audit
<input type="checkbox"/>	 WindowsLogAnalyticsAgentConnecti...	1.*	 Compliant	100% (1 out of 1)	Audit

## Create a VM Application Version

Subscription <span>①</span> *	Visual Studio Enterprise Subscription <span>▼</span>
Resource group <span>①</span> *	lab-rg <span>▼</span>
<b>VM application version details</b>	
Version number <span>①</span> *	1.0000.1
Region <span>①</span>	(Asia Pacific) Australia East <span>▼</span>
Source application package <span>①</span> *	<a href="https://msixappattachddcloud.blob.core.windows.net/app/draw.io-14.9.6-win...">https://msixappattachddcloud.blob.core.windows.net/app/draw.io-14.9.6-win...</a> <a href="#">Browse</a>
Install script <span>①</span> *	draw.io-14.9.6-windows-installer.exe /silent
Uninstall script <span>①</span> *	draw.io-14.9.6-windows-installer.exe /uninstall
Update script <span>①</span>	<input type="text"/>
Default configuration <span>①</span>	<input type="text"/> <a href="#">Browse</a>
Exclude from latest <span>①</span>	<input type="checkbox"/>
End of life date <span>①</span>	<input type="text"/>

# Security

- Defender for Cloud
  - Defender for Endpoint with vulnerability assessment
    - Deploy and audit with Azure policies
    - Central control from Defender with Intune
- Azure Policy – Security baseline



## Azure Policies:

- Deploy Microsoft Defender for Endpoint agent
- Audit Defender for Endpoint Onboarding (custom)

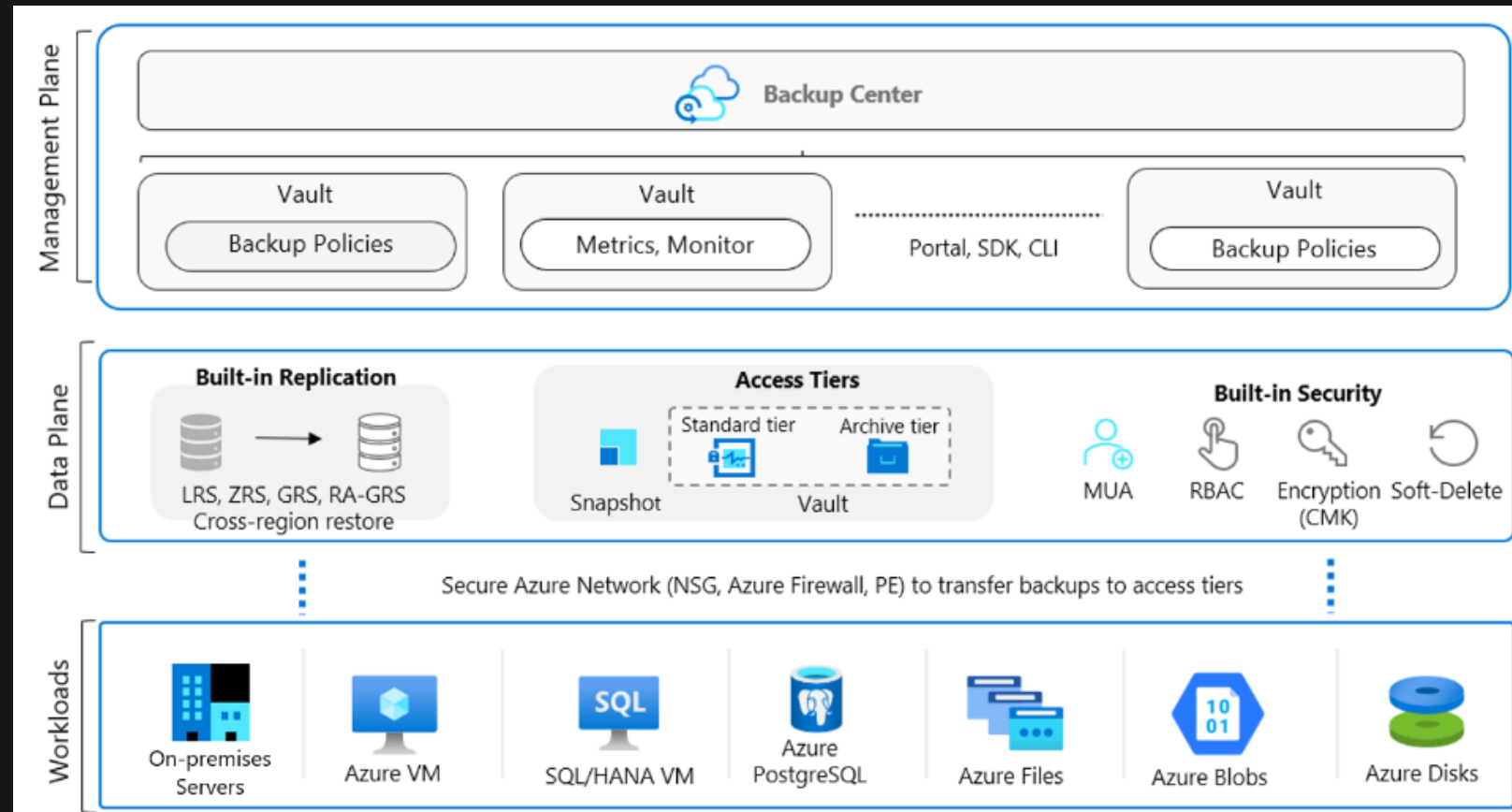
The screenshot displays the Microsoft Defender for Endpoint console for a virtual machine. The left sidebar shows 'Resource information' with details like Subscription (PRD/PRE - Core Services), Environment (Azure), Operating System (Windows), and Tags. The main area is titled 'Recommendations' and shows 11 active recommendations. A table lists these recommendations with columns for Severity, Description, and Status. The recommendations are all 'High' severity and include items like 'Management ports of virtual machines should be protected', 'Allowlist rules in your adaptive application control policy', 'Log Analytics agent should be installed on virtual machines', 'Virtual machines should be migrated to new Azure Resource Group', 'System updates should be installed on your machines', 'Endpoint protection should be installed on machines', 'Adaptive network hardening recommendations should be enabled', 'Install endpoint protection solution on virtual machines', 'File integrity monitoring should be enabled on machines', 'System updates should be installed on your machines (p)', 'All network ports should be restricted on network security', 'Virtual machines should encrypt temp disks, caches, and', 'Windows virtual machines should enable Azure Disk Encryption', 'Windows servers should be configured to use secure connections', and 'Container hosts should be configured securely'. The bottom of the console shows the 'Security value' as 'On'.

Severity	Description	Status
High	Management ports of virtual machines should be protected	Healthy
High	Allowlist rules in your adaptive application control policy	N/A - Unhealthy
High	Log Analytics agent should be installed on virtual machines	N/A - Unhealthy
High	Virtual machines should be migrated to new Azure Resource Group	Healthy
High	System updates should be installed on your machines	Healthy
High	Endpoint protection should be installed on machines	Healthy
High	Adaptive network hardening recommendations should be enabled	Healthy
High	Install endpoint protection solution on virtual machines	Healthy
High	File integrity monitoring should be enabled on machines	Unhealthy
High	System updates should be installed on your machines (p)	Healthy
High	All network ports should be restricted on network security	N/A - Unhealthy
High	Virtual machines should encrypt temp disks, caches, and	N/A - Unhealthy
High	Windows virtual machines should enable Azure Disk Encryption	Unhealthy
High	Windows servers should be configured to use secure connections	Healthy
High	Container hosts should be configured securely	N/A - Unhealthy



# Backup – Azure Backup Services

- Zero Maintenance
- Highly Secure
- Policy-driven
- Central Management





# Backup – Recovery Vaults

- Vaults
  - Subscriptions x Regions x Redundancy Type
  - Tiering to Archive
- Backup Policies
  - VMs - Instant recovery
  - SQL Backup for Azure VMs
- Security
  - Soft delete - Always-on
  - Resource Guard – protect critical operations
  - Disable Cross Subscription Restore
  - Immutable
    - Lock

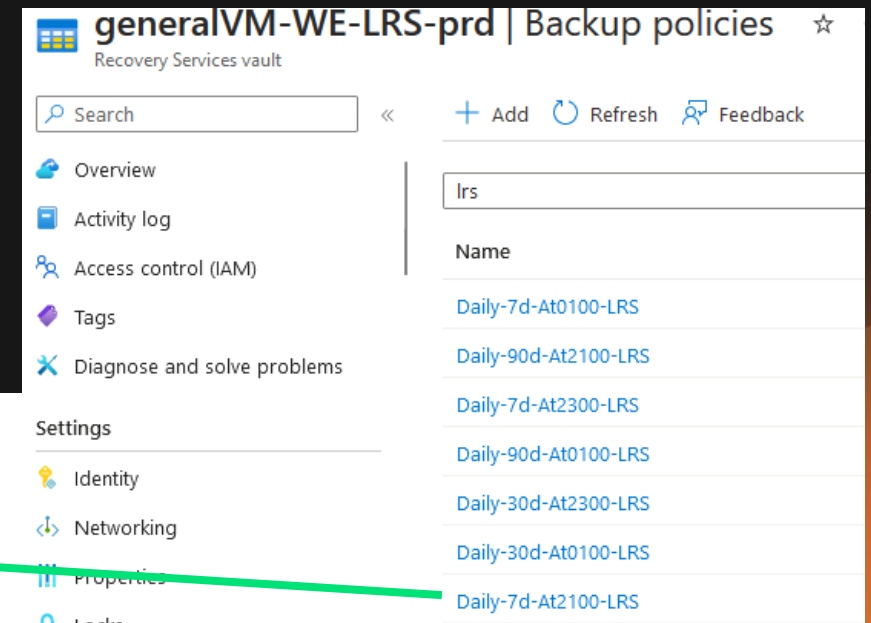
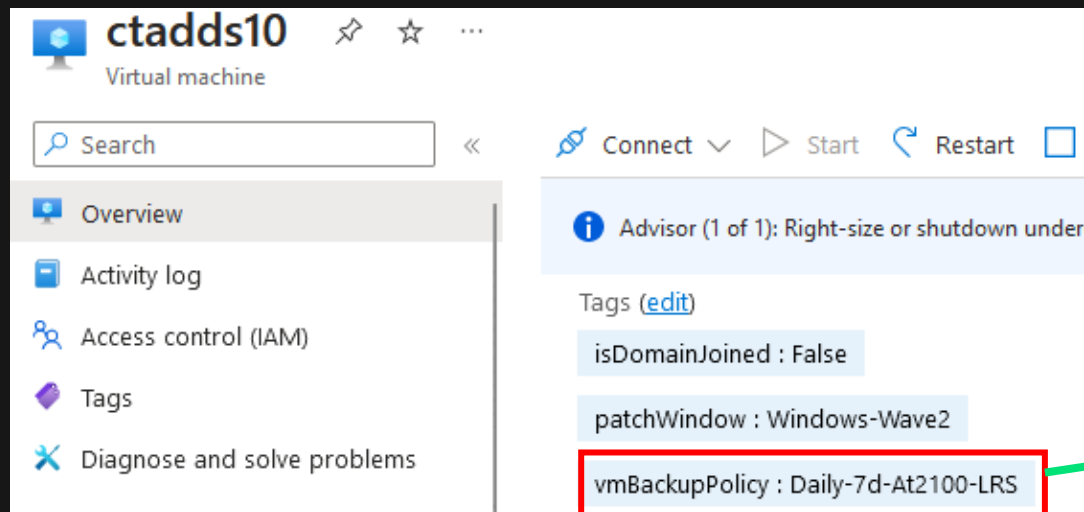


# Onboarding and Auditing

- Use tags to define backup policy for a VM
- Azure policies to apply backup policy job
  - Deploy & Audit

## Azure Policies:

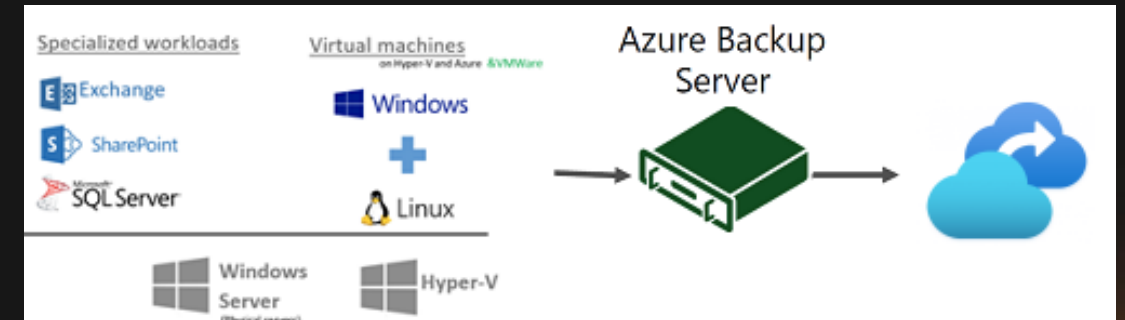
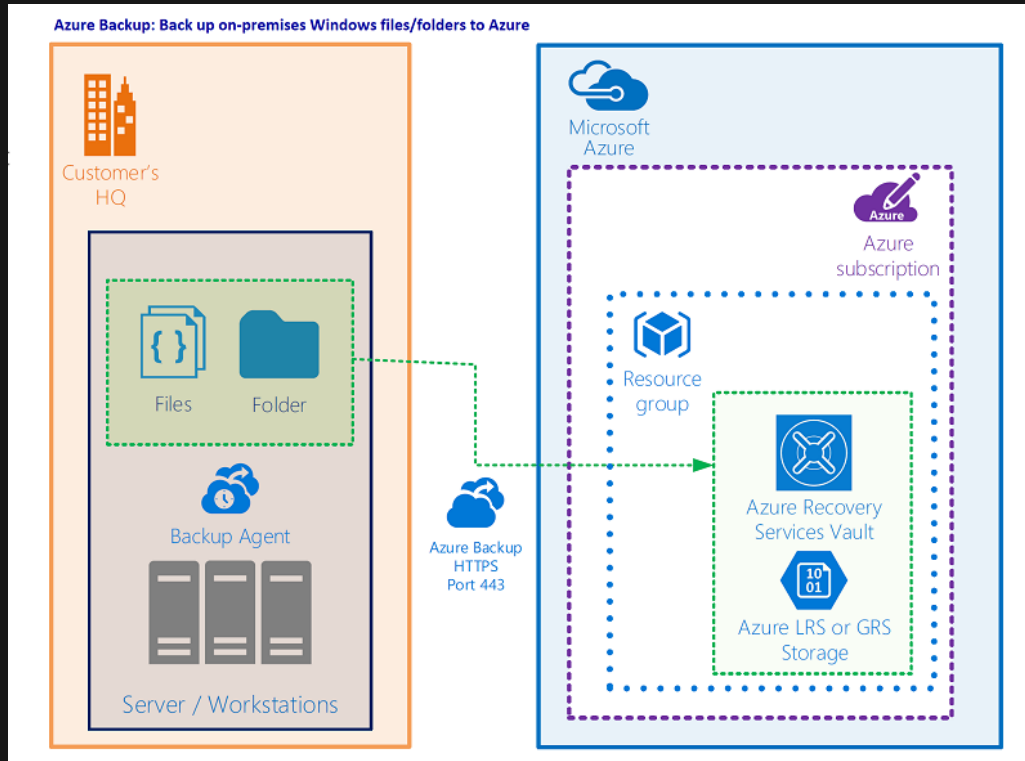
- Azure Backup should be enabled for Virtual Machines
- Configure backup on virtual machines with a given tag to.....
- Audit Backup Policy tag (custom)
- Enable Azure Backup on VMs based on tag value (custom)



# Backup On-premises

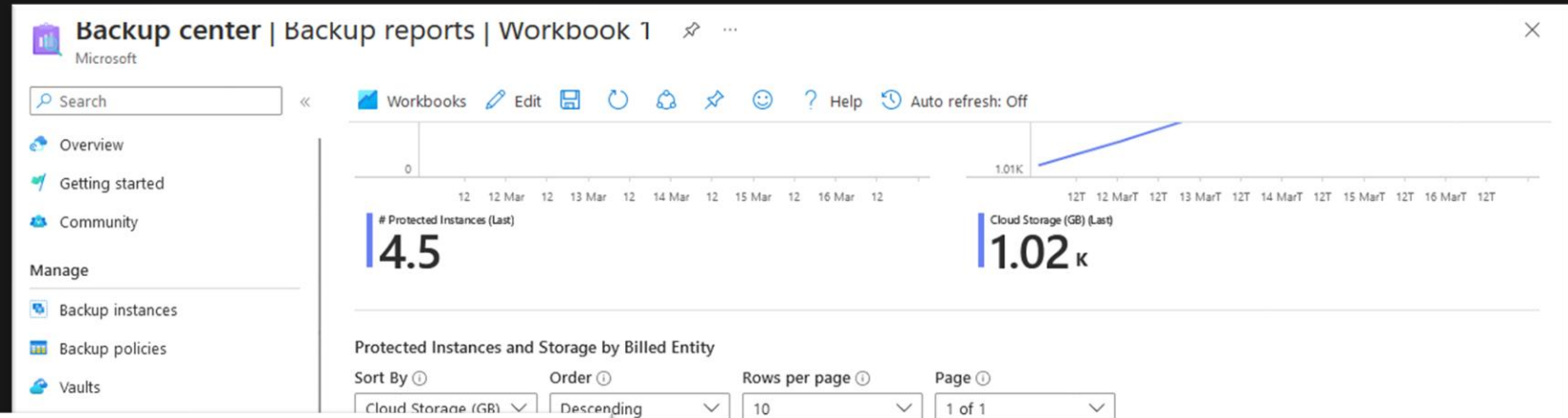
Microsoft Azure Recovery Services (MARS) – Agent per machine

Microsoft Azure Backup Server (MABS) – Central server, local storage, tier to cloud



# Backup – Monitoring and reporting

- Backup center
  - Reporting
- Alerts



datasource type: Azure virtual machines

0 Security alerts 3 Configured alerts 0 Sev0 3 Sev1 0 Sev2 0 Sev3 0 Sev4

☐ Only show information about datasources which I have access to [Learn more](#).

Filter by Name

-3 of 3 items

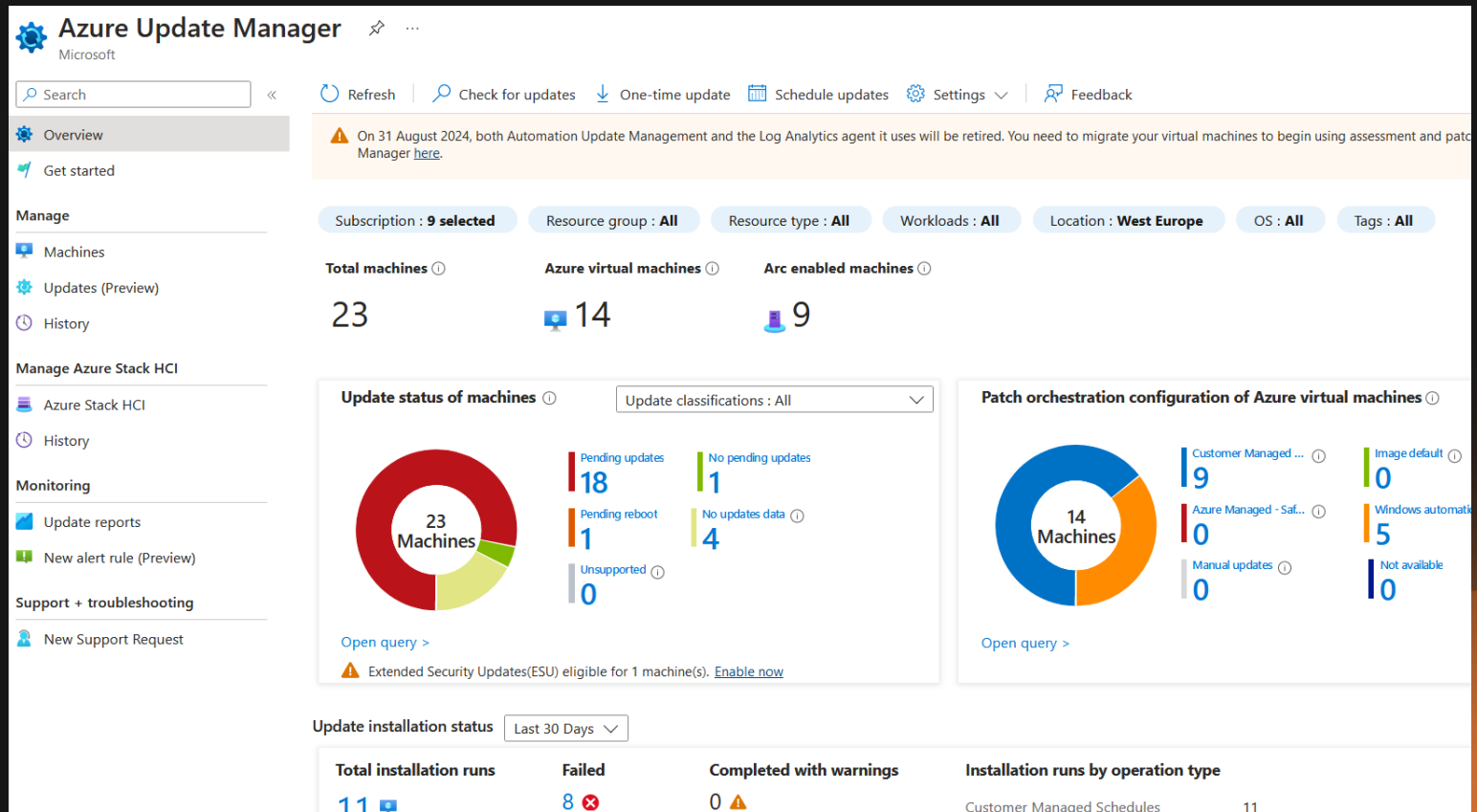
Name	↑↓	Datasource sub...	Datasource res...	Datasource loca...	Vault name	Alert name
az-gisapp01		PRD/PRE - Connecte...	gisApp-prd	westeurope	generalvm-we-zrs-prd	Backup Failure
az-gisapp01		PRD/PRE - Connecte...	gisApp-prd	westeurope	generalvm-we-zrs-prd	Backup Failure
az-gisapp01		PRD/PRE - Connecte...	gisApp-prd	westeurope	generalvm-we-zrs-prd	Backup Failure

disks where vault tier is not yet supported, the storage redundancy column will show up as empty by design.

Resource Group	↑↓	Billed Entity Type	↑↓	BackupSolution	↑↓	# Protect...	↑↓	Cloud St...	↑↓
		DatasourceSet		Azure Virtual Machine Backup		1		373.12	
		DatasourceSet		Azure Virtual Machine Backup		1		296.54	
		DatasourceSet		Azure Virtual Machine Backup		1		204.16	
		DatasourceSet		Azure Virtual Machine Backup		0.500		67.49	
		DatasourceSet		Azure Virtual Machine Backup		0.500		41.52	
		DatasourceSet		Azure Virtual Machine Backup		0.500		38.67	

















# Patch Management

- No special agents
- Cross Platform
- Schedule Update
- On-demand Update



# Assessment & Schedules

## Periodic Assessment

<input type="checkbox"/> Name ↑↓	Update status ↑↓	Patch orchestration ↑↓	Periodic asses
<input type="checkbox"/>  ctaa01	 1 pending update	Customer Managed Sche...	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>  CTAADCon01	 3 pending updates	Customer Managed Sche...	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>  ctadds01	 1 pending update	Customer Managed Sche...	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>  ctadds03	 No updates data	Customer Managed Sche...	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>  CTADDS04	 No pending updates	N/A	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>  ctadds10	 1 pending update	Customer Managed Sche...	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>  ctadds11	 2 pending updates	Customer Managed Sche...	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>  CTAOVPN01	 1 pending update	N/A	Yes

### **Azure Policy:**

Configure periodic checking for missing system updates on azure virtual machines / Arc-enabled servers

## Maintenance Schedule

### Maintenance Configurations

twoday CTGlobal (ctglobalservices.com)







[+ Create](#) [Manage view](#) [Refresh](#) [Export to CSV](#) [Open query](#) [Assign](#)

Filter for any field...

Subscription equals **10 of 27 selected**

Resource group equals up

Showing 1 to 10 of 10 records.

<input type="checkbox"/> Name ↑↓	Maintenance scope ↑↓	Resource group ↑
<input type="checkbox"/>  Linux-MW01	Guest (Azure VM, Arc-enabled VMs/servers)	updatemgmt-prd
<input type="checkbox"/>  Linux-MW02	Guest (Azure VM, Arc-enabled VMs/servers)	updatemgmt-prd
<input type="checkbox"/>  Linux-MW03	Guest (Azure VM, Arc-enabled VMs/servers)	updatemgmt-prd
<input type="checkbox"/>  Windows-Wave1	Guest (Azure VM, Arc-enabled VMs/servers)	updatemgmt-prd
<input type="checkbox"/>  Windows-Wave2	Guest (Azure VM, Arc-enabled VMs/servers)	updatemgmt-prd
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>  Windows-Wave7	Guest (Azure VM, Arc-enabled VMs/servers)	updatemgmt-prd

### **Azure Policy:**

Schedule recurring updates using Azure Update Manager







# Windows Update settings

- Control Windows update behavior with Azure Policies
  - AUOptions – Update/Download setting
  - NoAutoUpdate – OS Installation
  - WUServer – WSUS Server
  - EnableMicrosoftUpdate – Other Microsoft Updates, SQL etc...

**Set Windows Update Settings** ...

Policy definition

 Assign policy  Edit definition  Duplicate definition  Delete definition

^ Essentials

Name : Set Windows Update Settings

Description : Set Windows Update behaviour.

Available Effects : DeployIfNotExists

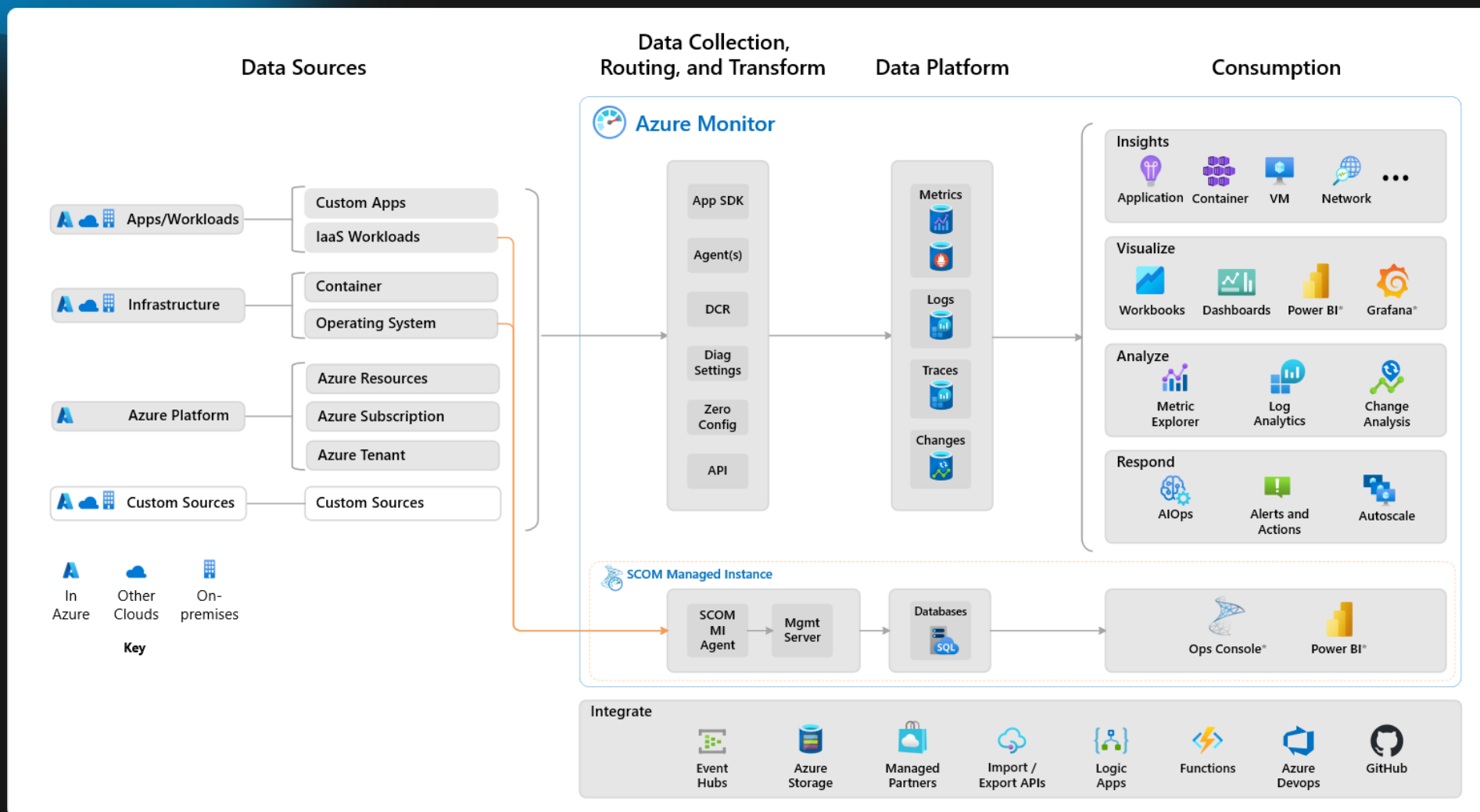
Category : Guest Configuration

**Definition**    Assignments (1)    Parameters (5)

```
1 {
2   "properties": {
3     "displayName": "Set Windows Update Settings",
4     "policyType": "Custom",
5     "mode": "Indexed",
6     "description": "Set Windows Update behaviour.",
7     "metadata": {
8       "category": "Guest Configuration",
9       "version": "1.1.0",
10      "requiredProviders": [
11        "Microsoft.GuestConfiguration"
12      ],
13      "guestConfiguration": {
14        "name": "SetWindowsUpdateSettings_1_1_0",
15        "version": "1.0.0",
16        "contentType": "Custom",
17        "contentUri": "https://ecoolheomgvk2kukracdvke.blob.core.window
```



# Monitoring

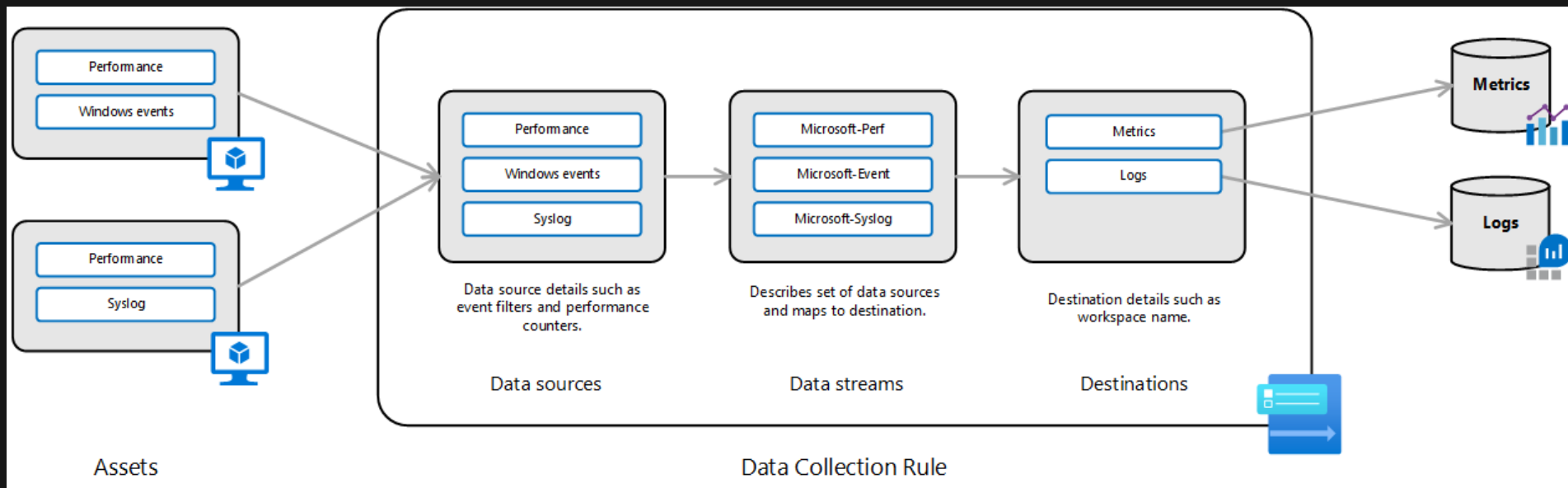


# Monitoring – Data Collection

- Azure Monitor Agent
  - Replacement for MMA
- Data collection rules
  - Granular control event and performance data
  - Events logs and Syslogs for Sentinel and Defender for Cloud

## **Azure Policy:**

- Configure xxOS machines to run Azure Monitor Agent and associate them to a Data Collection Rule
- Configure xxOS Machines to be associated with a Data Collection Rule



# Monitoring – VM Insights

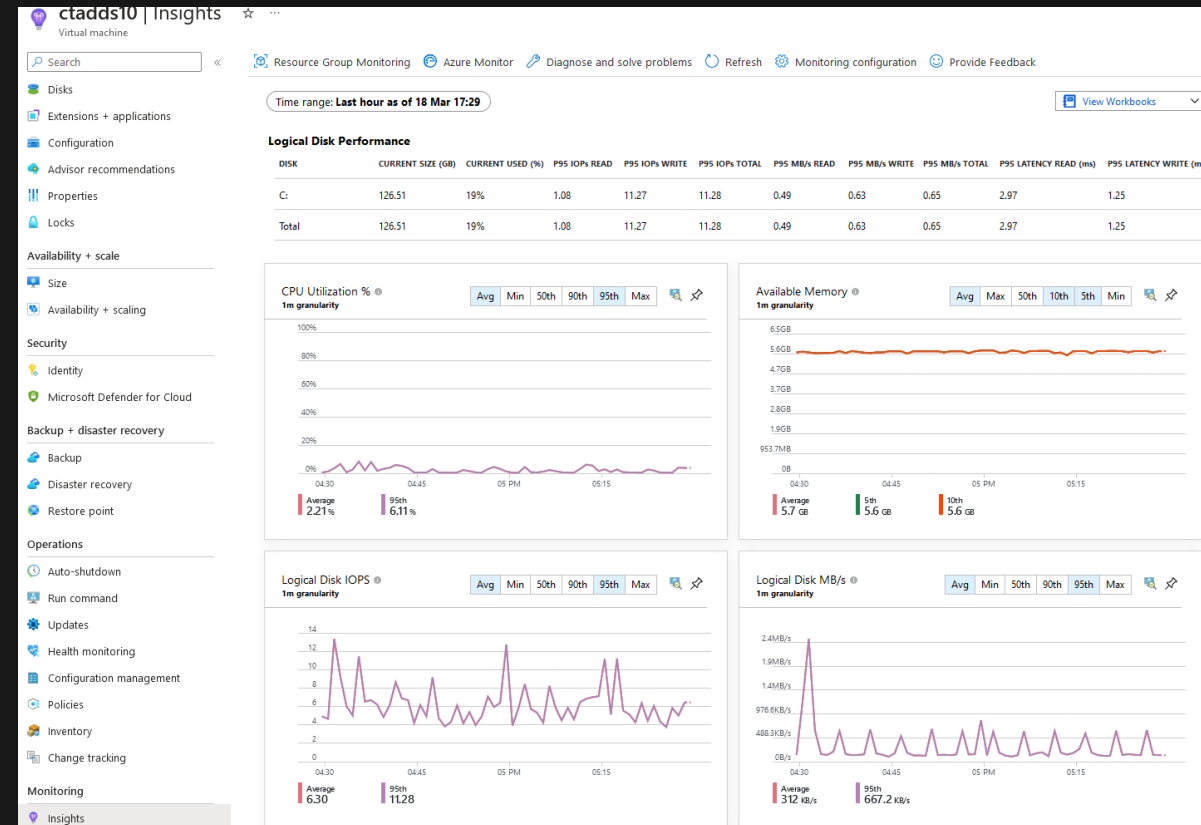
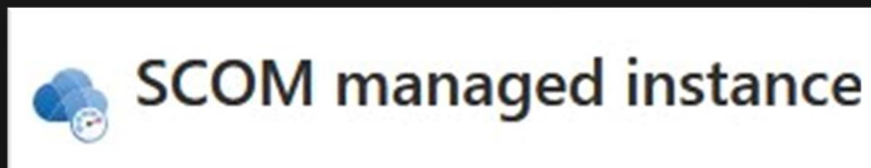
- Basic Guest OS monitoring, CPU, Disk, Memory, Network
  - Configure with DCRs
- Alert in data collected
- SCOM MI for Advanced

### Alert rules

+ Create | Columns | Refresh | Export to CSV | Open query | Delete | Enable

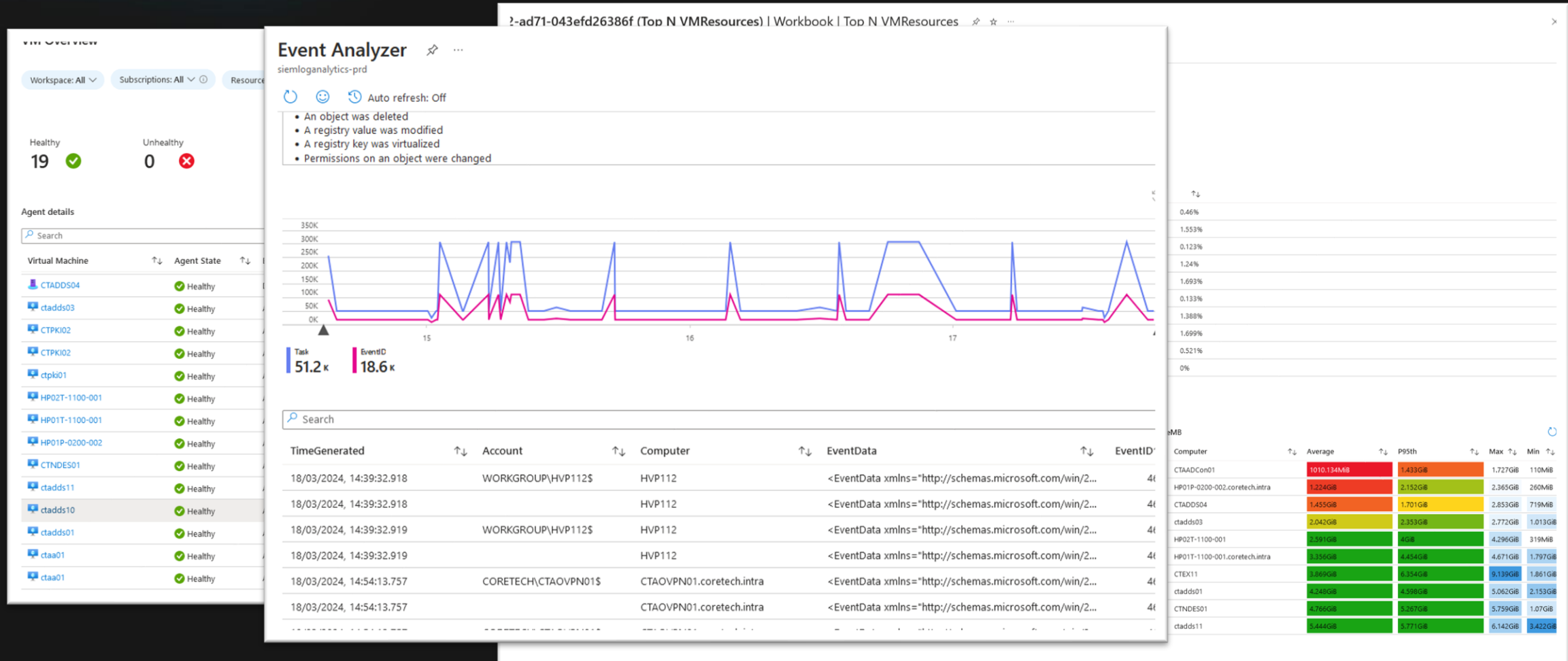
Search | Subscription : 27 selected | Add tag filter

Name ↑↓	Condition	Severity ↑↓
<input type="checkbox"/> Memory - Used Percentage too high	AggregatedValue > 90 In selected ...	1 - Error
<input type="checkbox"/> Processor - UtilizationPercentage too high	AggregatedValue > 90 In selected ...	1 - Error
<input type="checkbox"/> Logical Disk - Free space in MB is low	AggregatedValue < 4000 In select...	1 - Error
<input type="checkbox"/> Logical Disk - Free space in MB is low	AggregatedValue < 6000 In select...	2 - Warning



# Monitoring – Visualization

- Workbooks - Dashboards for everything in Azure



# Inventory and Change Tracking

- Based on AMA & Data Collection Rules
- Track
  - Windows registry
  - Windows file
  - Linux file
  - Windows services
  - Windows software
  - Linux software
  - Linux Daemons

The screenshot displays the 'Inventory' section of the Azure portal for a virtual machine. The left sidebar contains navigation options: Search, Extensions + applications, Configuration, Advisor recommendations, Properties, Locks, Availability + scale, Size, Availability + scaling, Security, Identity, Microsoft Defender for Cloud, Backup + disaster recovery, Backup, Disaster recovery, and Restore point. The main content area is titled 'Changes tracking with AMA' and includes a description: 'Tracks changes in virtual machines hosted in Azure, on-premises, and other cloud environments to help you pinpoint operational and environmental issues. [Learn](#)'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Software(1175)', 'Files(0)', 'Windows Registry(0)', and 'Windows Services(246)'. The 'Software' tab is active, showing a search bar and a table of installed software. A 'New software' badge indicates 0 new items. The table lists various updates and applications, including .NET Framework updates, Windows updates, and Microsoft Edge.

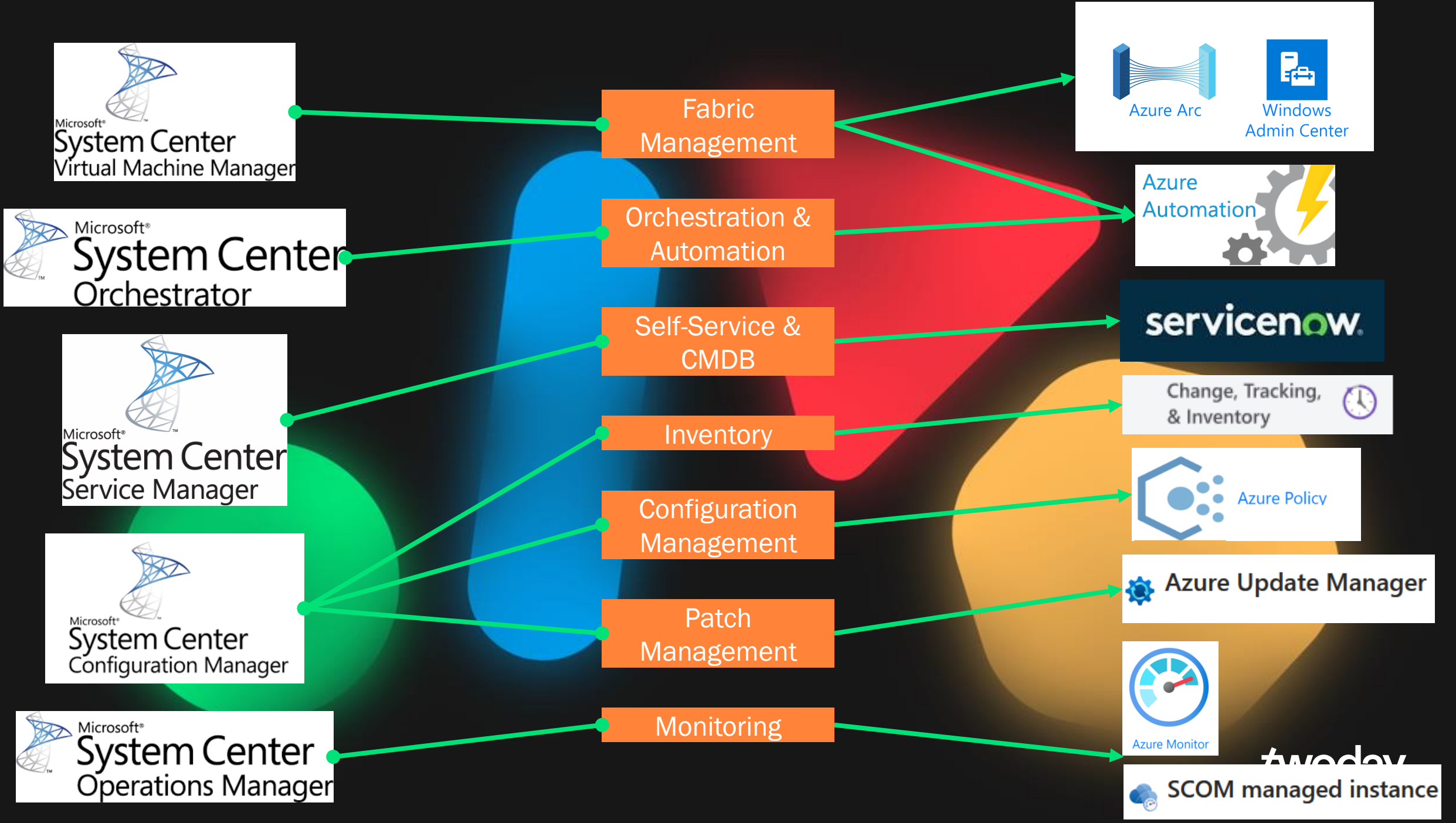
Name	Version	Publisher	Last Refreshed
2023-07 Cumulative Update for .NET Framework 3.5 4.8 and 4.8.1 for Windows 11 for x64 (KB5028938)	Installed	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
2023-07 Cumulative Update for Windows 11 for x64-based Systems (KB5028182)	Installed	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
2023-08 Cumulative Update for .NET Framework 3.5 4.8 and 4.8.1 for Windows 11 for x64 (KB5029650)	Installed	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
2023-08 Cumulative Update for Windows 11 for x64-based Systems (KB5029253)	Installed	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
2023-08 Update for Windows 11 for x64-based Systems (KB4023057)	Installed	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
2023-09 Cumulative Update for .NET Framework 3.5 4.8 and 4.8.1 for Windows 11 for x64 (KB5030181)	Installed	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
2023-09 Cumulative Update for Windows 11 for x64-based Systems (KB5030217)	Installed	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
2023-10 Cumulative Update for .NET Framework 3.5 4.8 and 4.8.1 for Windows 11 for x64 (KB5031225)	Installed	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
2023-10 Cumulative Update for Windows 11 for x64-based Systems (KB5031358)	Installed	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
2023-10 Update for Windows 11 for x64-based Systems (KB4023057)	Installed	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
CIMUTIL	1.0.2	Ryanmangansitblog ltd	18/03/2024, 17>
Microsoft .NET Framework 4.8.1 for Windows 11 for x64 (KB5011048)	Installed	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
Microsoft Edge	122.0.2365.92	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>
Microsoft Edge Update	1.3.185.21		18/03/2024, 17>
Microsoft Edge WebView2 Runtime	122.0.2365.92	Microsoft Corporation	18/03/2024, 17>



Bringing everything  
together  
Demo demo demo



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# But... what's the price?

	Azure / Azure HCI VMs / With SA	Other
Guest Policies	Free	5\$
Security, Defender P2 Including 500 mb/day logs	15\$	15\$
Backup	~8\$	~8\$
Update Manager	Free	Free with P2 or 5\$
Inventory	~0\$	~0\$
Monitoring - Perf	~0,6\$	~0,6\$
<u>Total</u>	<u>~23\$ / 160DKK per/VM</u>	<u>~28-33\$ / 225DKK per/VM</u>