

# Week 1: Introduction to cloud services

In this week we are going to have a brief introduction to cloud services and their benefits. Especially you will learn about [Microsoft Azure](#), which is the main cloud service we are going to use within this course.

Throughout this week we will be mostly using [Microsoft learn](#), which contains efficient modules for learning cloud concepts and also modules for learning Azure fundamentals and how to use different services within Microsoft Azure.

## Introduction to cloud concepts

In this part you are going to learn about some concepts in cloud computing. Open the “Cloud Concepts - Principles of cloud computing” module in Microsoft learn, you will see that there are several short courses within this module. These courses explain different aspects of cloud services and in fact all of them are interesting to read. However, regarding the scope of this course we would recommend you to read the following courses in this Module. However if you have time feel free to read all of the courses :)

- Introduction
- What is cloud computing
- Benefits of cloud computing
- Types of cloud services

## Sign up for Azure

The first step to use Microsoft Azure to create an account. Azure has a one year offer for students which contains CHF 100 credit. You won't need a credit card to sign up for this plan. Check out: <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/free/students/>

## Introduction to Azure

In Microsoft learn, go to the “Core Cloud Services - Introduction to Azure” Module. This module introduces Azure and the services it offers. It also gives you a tutorial to make your first Wordpress website with Azure. Since creating a website is not in the scope of this week, just go through the first 3 courses of this module:

- Introduction to Azure
- What is Azure?
- Tour of Azure services

## Trying the Face service in Azure

As you might have seen in the previous section, one of the main products Azure offers is AI and Machine Learning. This product offers several services like cognitive services, bot services, etc. In this section we are going to try the Face service which is one of the cognitive services Azure offers. Using this service you can not only identify faces within a picture, but also you can identify several face landmarks and face gestures. You can also compare two human faces and this service tells you if they belong to the same person or not.

Go to <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/cognitive-services/face/> and try this service yourself. You can also give url of the images from the web.

In the next weeks you will see that Azure enables you to use this service (and many other powerful services) through the API that you can create in your Azure account. This means that you can use this service for your application or website which is very COOL.