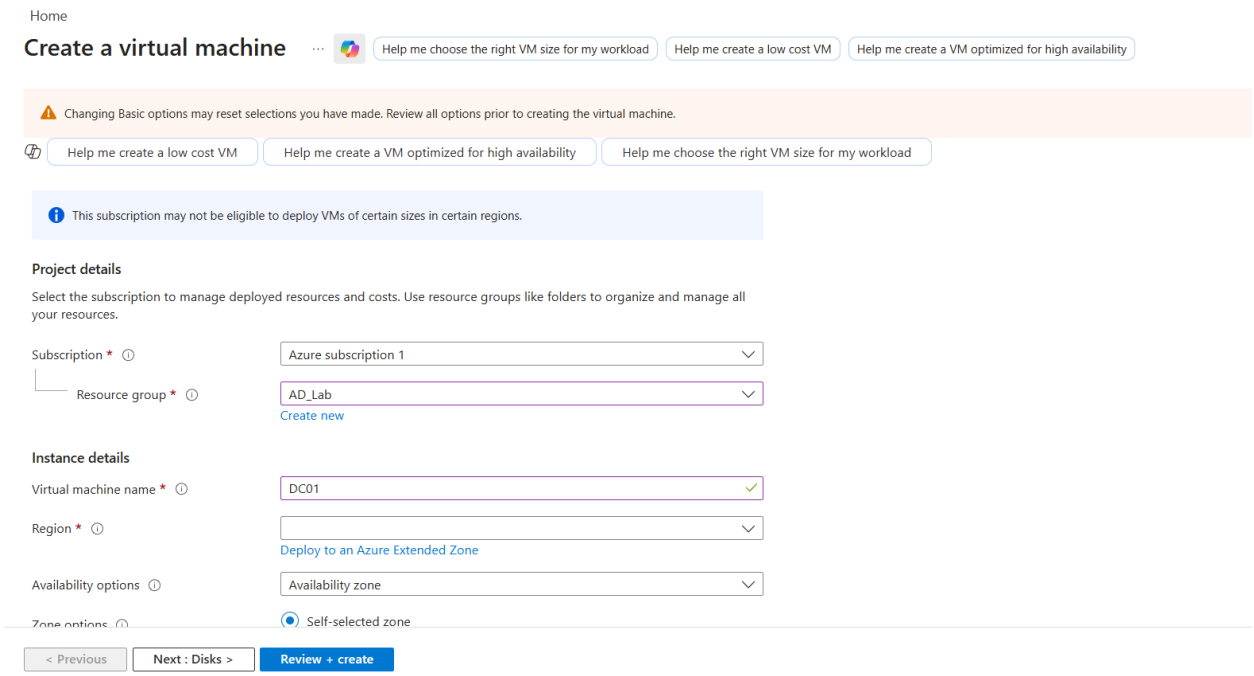
Step 1 — Create the Windows Server VM in Azure

1. Create the Virtual Machine

1. Log into the Azure Portal
2. Navigate to Virtual Machines
3. Select Create → Azure virtual machine

2. Basics Tab (Important)

- Subscription: Leave default
- Resource Group: Create a new one (e.g. `AD_Lab`)
- Virtual Machine Name: `DC01`
- Image: Windows Server 2022 Datacenter



3. Administrator Account

- Username: Any name
- Password: Strong password — save this

This local administrator account will later become your first domain administrator.

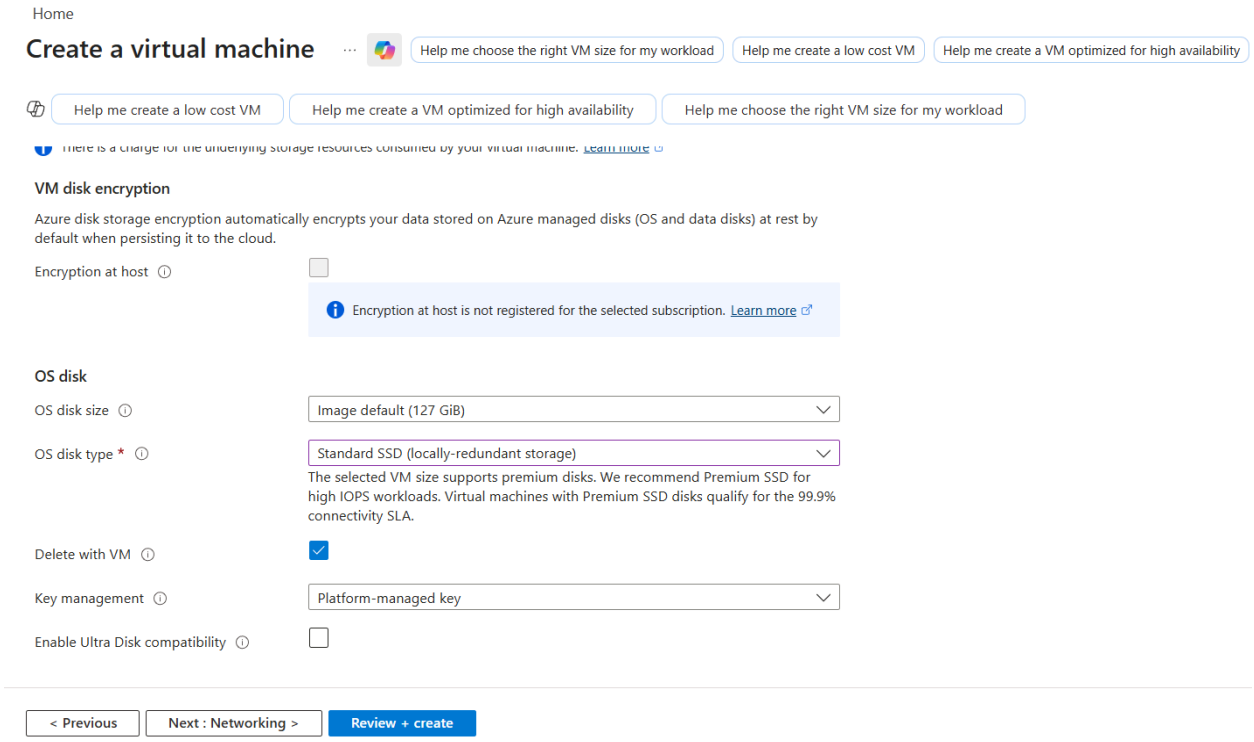
4. Inbound Port Rules

- Public inbound ports: Allow selected ports

- Inbound ports: RDP (3389)

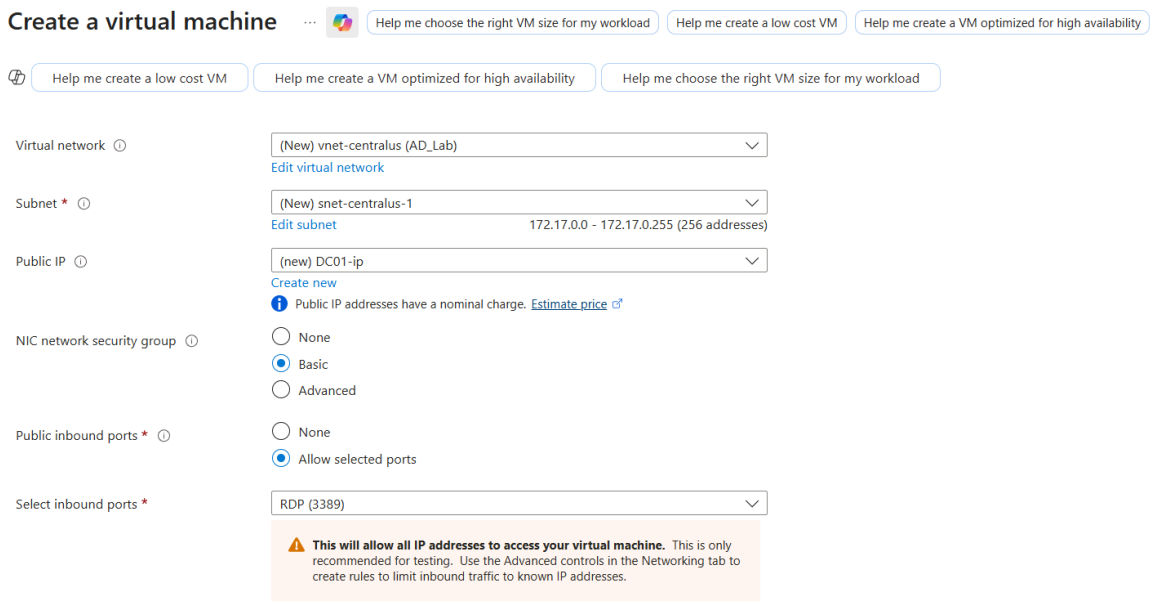
5. Disks Tab

- OS disk type: Standard SSD
- Leave all other settings at their defaults



6. Networking Tab (Do Not Skip)

- Virtual network: Create new
- Subnet: Default
- Public IP: Create new
- NIC network security group: Basic
- Inbound ports: RDP (3389)



Why this matters

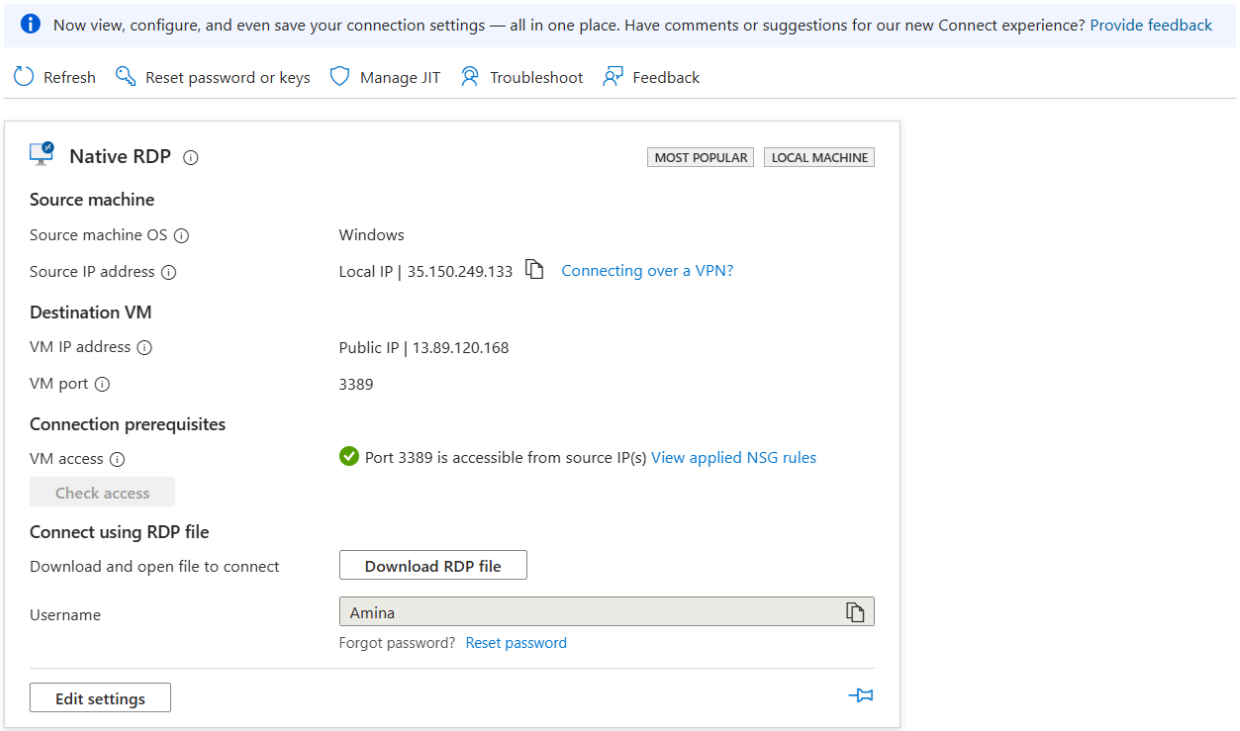
The Domain Controller and future client VM must be on the same virtual network. Fixing this later causes DNS and authentication issues.

7. Management, Monitoring, Advanced, Tags

- Leave all settings at their defaults

8. Review + Create

- Review the settings
- Select Create
- Wait for deployment to complete



9. Set a Static Private IP (Recommended)

1. Open the VM → Networking
2. Select the Network Interface (NIC)
3. Go to IP configurations
4. Change Private IP assignment from Dynamic to Static
5. Save your changes

This prevents IP changes that can break DNS and Active Directory later.