

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

The screenshot shows the 'Create a virtual machine' page in the Azure Portal. At the top, there are three help buttons: 'Help me choose the right VM size for my workload', 'Help me create a low cost VM', and 'Help me create a VM optimized for high availability'. Below these is a warning banner: 'Changing Basic options may reset selections you have made. Review all options prior to creating the virtual machine.' Underneath the banner are three more help buttons: 'Help me create a low cost VM', 'Help me create a VM optimized for high availability', and 'Help me choose the right VM size for my workload'. A blue information box states: 'This subscription may not be eligible to deploy VMs of certain sizes in certain regions.' The 'Project details' section includes a dropdown for 'Subscription' (set to 'Azure subscription 1') and a dropdown for 'Resource group' (set to 'AD_Lab' with a 'Create new' link below it). The 'Instance details' section includes a dropdown for 'Virtual machine name' (set to 'DC01' with a green checkmark), a dropdown for 'Region' (empty with a 'Deploy to an Azure Extended Zone' link below it), and a dropdown for 'Availability options' (set to 'Availability zone'). At the bottom, there is a 'Zone options' section with a radio button selected for 'Self-selected zone'. At the very bottom are three buttons: '< Previous', 'Next : Disks >', and 'Review + create'.

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

Home

Create a virtual machine

Help me choose the right VM size for my workload Help me create a low cost VM Help me create a VM optimized for high availability

Help me create a low cost VM Help me create a VM optimized for high availability Help me choose the right VM size for my workload

There is a charge for the underlying storage resources consumed by your virtual machine. [Learn more](#)

VM disk encryption

Azure disk storage encryption automatically encrypts your data stored on Azure managed disks (OS and data disks) at rest by default when persisting it to the cloud.

Encryption at host ☐

Encryption at host is not registered for the selected subscription. [Learn more](#)

OS disk

OS disk size

OS disk type *

The selected VM size supports premium disks. We recommend Premium SSD for high IOPS workloads. Virtual machines with Premium SSD disks qualify for the 99.9% connectivity SLA.

Delete with VM ☒

Key management

Enable Ultra Disk compatibility ☐

< Previous Next : Networking > Review + create

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)

Create a virtual machine

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Virtual network ⓘ (New) vnet-centralus (AD_Lab) [Edit virtual network](#)

Subnet * ⓘ (New) snet-centralus-1 [Edit subnet](#) 172.17.0.0 - 172.17.0.255 (256 addresses)

Public IP ⓘ (new) DC01-ip [Create new](#)
Public IP addresses have a nominal charge. [Estimate price](#)

NIC network security group ⓘ ☐ None ☒ Basic ☐ Advanced

Public inbound ports * ⓘ ☐ None ☒ Allow selected ports

Select inbound ports * RDP (3389)

⚠ This will allow all IP addresses to access your virtual machine. This is only recommended for testing. Use the Advanced controls in the Networking tab to create rules to limit inbound traffic to known IP addresses.

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

Now view, configure, and even save your connection settings — all in one place. Have comments or suggestions for our new Connect experience? [Provide feedback](#)

[Refresh](#) [Reset password or keys](#) [Manage JIT](#) [Troubleshoot](#) [Feedback](#)

 **Native RDP** ⓘ

MOST POPULAR


LOCAL MACHINE

Source machine

Source machine OS ⓘ

Windows

Source IP address ⓘ

Local IP | 35.150.249.133  [Connecting over a VPN?](#)

Destination VM

VM IP address ⓘ

Public IP | 13.89.120.168

VM port ⓘ

3389

Connection prerequisites

VM access ⓘ

✔ Port 3389 is accessible from source IP(s) [View applied NSG rules](#)


Check access

Connect using RDP file

Download and open file to connect


Download RDP file

Username

Amina 

Forgot password? [Reset password](#)

Edit settings



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.