

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' wizard in the Azure portal. The 'Basics' tab is selected. Key fields include:

- Subscription:** Azure subscription 1
- Resource group:** AD_Lab (selected)
- Virtual machine name:** DC01
- Region:** Deploy to an Azure Extended Zone
- Availability options:** Availability zone
- Zone options:** Self-selected zone (radio button selected)

At the bottom, there are navigation 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

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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)

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Virtual network  (New) vnet-centralus (AD_Lab) 

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

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Connect interface for a Native RDP session. At the top, there is a message bar: "Now view, configure, and even save your connection settings — all in one place. Have comments or suggestions for our new Connect experience? [Provide feedback](#)". Below the message bar are several navigation links: Refresh, Reset password or keys, Manage JIT, Troubleshoot, and Feedback.

The main content area is titled "Native RDP". It contains the following sections:

- 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 | [Reset password](#)
 - Forgot password? [Reset password](#)

At the bottom left is a "Edit settings" button, and at the bottom right is a "Print" icon.

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.