**Introduction**

Completed100 XP

* 1 minute

Access to Azure resources and services is obtained through Azure subscriptions. Payment for services is done through Microsoft Cost Management and Billing. Azure Administrators must understand how to choose the Azure subscriptions that support the company's business needs. Financial controllers for the company need to know how to manage the costs of the subscription services for the organization.

In this module, your company is moving to the Azure cloud platform. As a first step, you need to identify which Azure subscriptions are needed to support the work scenarios in the organization. You're responsible for obtaining the Azure subscriptions, and for providing input about how to effectively manage the service costs.

**Learning objectives**

In this module, you learn how to:

* Determine the correct region to locate Azure services.
* Review features and use cases for Azure subscriptions.
* Obtain an Azure subscription.
* Understand billing and features for different Azure subscriptions.
* Use Microsoft Cost Management and Billing for cost analysis.
* Discover when to use Azure resource tagging.
* Identify ways to reduce costs.

**Skills measured**

The content in the module helps you prepare for [Exam AZ-104: Microsoft Azure Administrator](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/certifications/exams/az-104). The module concepts are covered in:

Manage identities and governance in Azure (15-20%)

* Manage subscriptions and governance
  + Apply resource tags
  + Manage subscriptions
  + Configure costs with Microsoft Cost Management

**Prerequisites**

None.

**Next unit: Identify Azure regions**

# Identify Azure regions

Completed100 XP

* 4 minutes

Microsoft Azure is made up of datacenters located around the globe. These datacenters are organized and made available to end users by region. A [region](https://azure.microsoft.com/global-infrastructure/regions/) is a geographical area on the planet containing at least one, but potentially multiple datacenters. The datacenters are in close proximity and networked together with a low-latency network. A few examples of regions are West US, Canada Central, West Europe, Australia East, and Japan West.

### Things to know about regions

Here are some points to consider about regions:

* Azure is generally available in more than 60 regions in 140 countries.
* Azure has more global regions than any other cloud provider.
* Regions provide you with the flexibility and scale needed to bring applications closer to your users.
* Regions preserve data residency and offer comprehensive compliance and resiliency options for customers.

### Things to know about regional pairs

Most Azure regions are paired with another region within the same geography to make a regional pair (or paired regions). Regional pairs help to support always-on availability of Azure resources used by your infrastructure. The following table describes some prominent characteristics of paired regions:

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

### Things to consider when using regions and regional pairs

You've reviewed the important considerations about regions and regional pairs. Now think about how you might implement regions in your organization.

* **Consider resource and region deployment**. Plan the regions where you want to deploy your resources. For most Azure services, when you deploy a resource in Azure, you choose the region where you want your resource to be deployed.
* **Consider service support by region**. Research region and service availability. Some services or Azure Virtual Machines features are available only in certain regions, such as specific Virtual Machines sizes or storage types.
* **Consider services that don't require regions**. Identify services that don't need region support. Some global Azure services that don't require you to select a region. These services include Azure Active Directory, Microsoft Azure Traffic Manager, and Azure DNS.
* **Consider exceptions to region pairing**. Check the Azure website for current region availability and exceptions. If you plan to support the Brazil South region, note this region is paired with a region outside its geography. The Singapore region also has an exception to standard regional pairing.
* **Consider benefits of data residency**. Take advantage of the benefits of data residency offered by regional pairs. This feature can help you meet requirements for tax and law enforcement jurisdiction purposes.

## Find regions for your business geography

Visit the Azure global infrastructure website to find supported regions for your business geography. You can search by country name or by Microsoft product. A list of supported region pairs and exceptions is also available.

| **By geography** | **By product** | **Paired regions** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Search [Azure regions](https://azure.microsoft.com/global-infrastructure/geographies/#geographies) by geography. | Search [Azure products](https://azure.microsoft.com/global-infrastructure/services/) by region or geography. | Search for [paired regions](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/best-practices-availability-paired-regions#azure-cross-region-replication-pairings-for-all-geographies) and exceptions. |
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## Next unit: Implement Azure subscriptions