



# Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS) Using Windows Virtual Desktop (WVD)

## Business Continuity with Azure Site Recovery

***Prepared for:***

Service Provider Partners  
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# 1. Overview

This document is a walk-through of implementing Azure Site Recovery (ASR) within Windows Virtual Desktop (WVD) in Microsoft Azure. In this walk-through, we'll setup a 24-hour back up, with a 4-hour snapshot frequency. Additionally, we'll establish a dual-region replication policy & test fail-over.

Site Recovery helps ensure business continuity by keeping business apps and workloads running during outages. Site Recovery replicates workloads running on physical and virtual machines (VMs) from a primary site to a secondary location. When an outage occurs at your primary site, you fail over to secondary location, and access apps from there. After the primary location is running again, you can fail back to it.

Please be advised this information is provided to help understand/summarize this process and your enterprises' implementation may contain additional customizations and/or settings that ***might not*** be covered in this document.

## 1. Prerequisites

### Azure & Windows Active Directory Prerequisites

Before getting started, **all** items listed below **must** be checked/validated to ensure the most basic requirements are in place to proceed with executing the remaining steps in this guide.

- A Windows Virtual Desktop tenant.
- An account with permissions to manage that tenant (such as RDS Contributor.)
- Session host pool VMs configured and registered with the Windows Virtual Desktop service.

### General Best Practices

Since everyone's business and technical requirements vary across the board, it is always a good idea to familiarize yourselves with the standard best practices across the different Azure technologies & services.

- Please follow the guidance [here](#) to maintain a consistent naming convention across your resources, unless you are already using a naming system.
- [Azure security best practices and patterns](#)
- Azure Active Directory Hybrid Identity [best practices](#)
- [Azure identity management and access control security best practices](#)
- Azure Networking & security [Best Practices](#)
- Azure Storage security [overview](#)

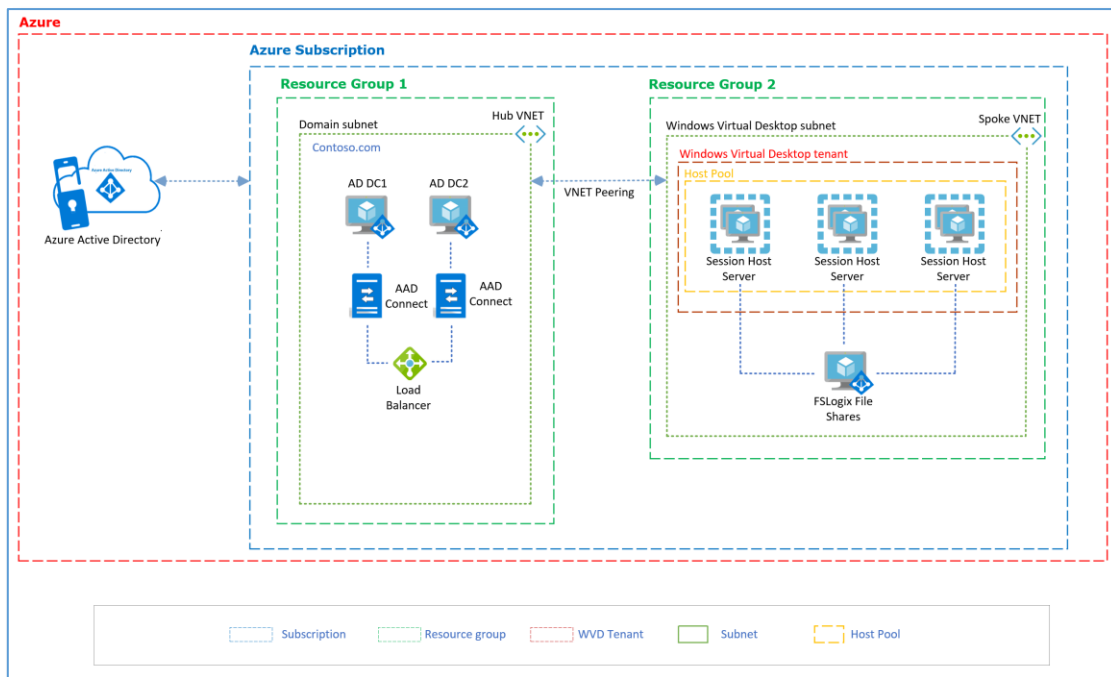
- [Best practices for Azure VM security](#)

## Azure Networking

The recommendation is to design your Azure Networking using a [Hub-Spoke topology](#). Consider the HUB like a DMZ deployed with your Virtual network Gateways and other security/edge appliances like Firewalls Etc. while the Spoke will act as the backend zone where your session hosts servers are deployed to and is peered with the HUB. This is our design for this walk-through, so you'll need this already setup before proceeding.

## Azure Architectural Diagram

Below is a diagram of the Azure environment that we'll use. It shows the objects created in Azure and their relationships within the environment. In this example, the company name will be Contoso.



## 2. Setup Disaster Recovery for Azure WVD VMs

This section is a walkthrough of setting up ASR for your WVD deployment. We will:

- Create a Recovery Services vault
- Verify target resource settings
- Set up outbound network connectivity for VMs

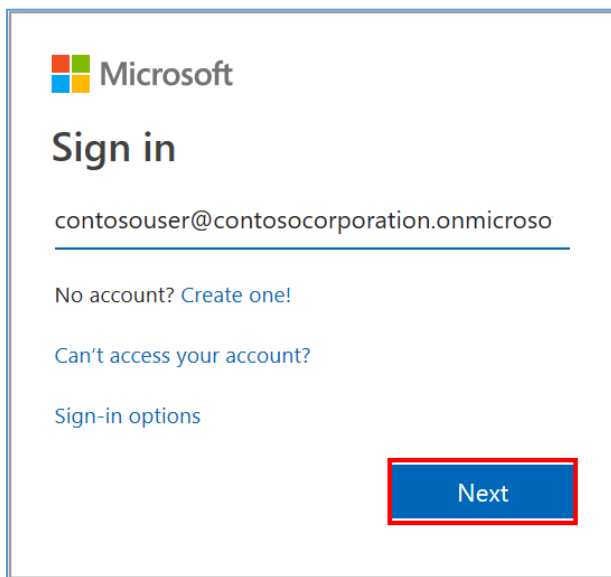
- Enable replication for a UDP file server VM

## Create a Recovery Services vault

We need to create the vault in any region, *except* the source region. In that remote region, we'll create a resource group in which to create the vault. In our example below, the new resource group is named **ContosoRSVRG** and is created in the Central US region.

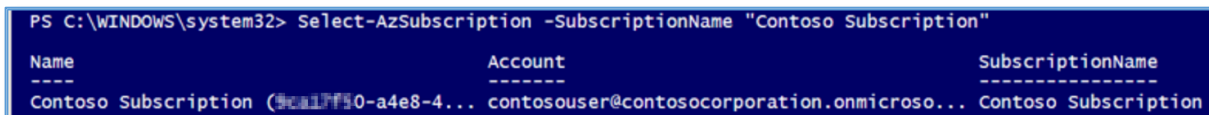
1. Log into your Azure subscription using the PowerShell Connect-AzAccount cmdlet:

`Connect-AzAccount`



2. Select the Azure subscription you want to replicate your virtual machines to. In our example, we're using the Contoso subscription for both source and target:

`Select-AzSubscription -SubscriptionName "Contoso Subscription"`



3. Create a resource group in which to create the Recovery Services vault. We're using Central US as the target region for this walk-through, while our source region is East US:

Make sure your subscription has enough resources to support VM sizes that match your source VMs. Site Recovery picks the same size, or the closest possible size, for the target VM.

`New-AzResourceGroup -Name "ContosoRSVRG" -Location "Central US"`

```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> New-AzResourceGroup -Name "ContosoRSVRG" -Location "Central US"

ResourceGroupName : ContosoRSVRG
Location           : centralus
ProvisioningState  : Succeeded
Tags               :
ResourceId         : /subscriptions/00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000/a4e8-4bab-94f7-6639ac4af7a7/resourceGroups/ContosoRSVRG
```

4. Create a Recovery services vault. We'll call ours **ContosoRSV**:

```
New-AzRecoveryServicesVault -Name "ContosoRSV" -Location "Central US" `
-ResourceGroupName "ContosoRSVRG"
```

```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> New-AzRecoveryServicesVault -Name "ContosoRSV" -Location "Central US" -ResourceGroupName "ContosoRSVRG"

Name           : ContosoRSV
ID             : /subscriptions/00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000/a4e8-4bab-94f7-6639ac4af7a7/resourceGroups/ContosoRSVRG/providers/Microsoft.RecoveryServices/vaults/ContosoRSV
Type           : Microsoft.RecoveryServices/vaults
Location       : centralus
ResourceGroupName : ContosoRSVRG
SubscriptionId  : 00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000/a4e8-4bab-94f7-6639ac4af7a7
Properties      : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.RecoveryServices.ARSVaultProperties
```

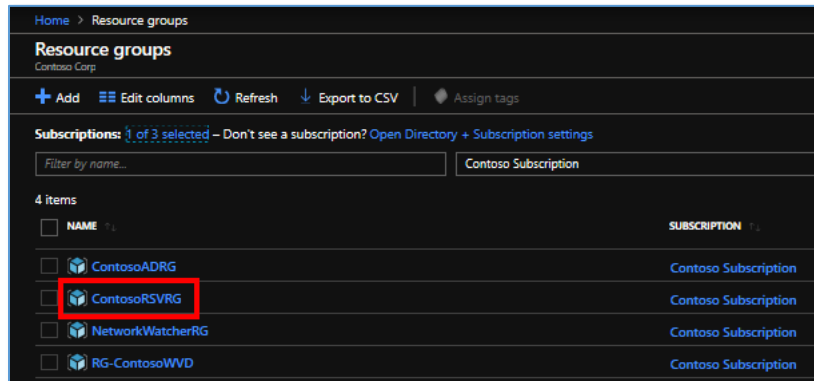
The Recovery services vault is now ready for replication configuration.

## Note

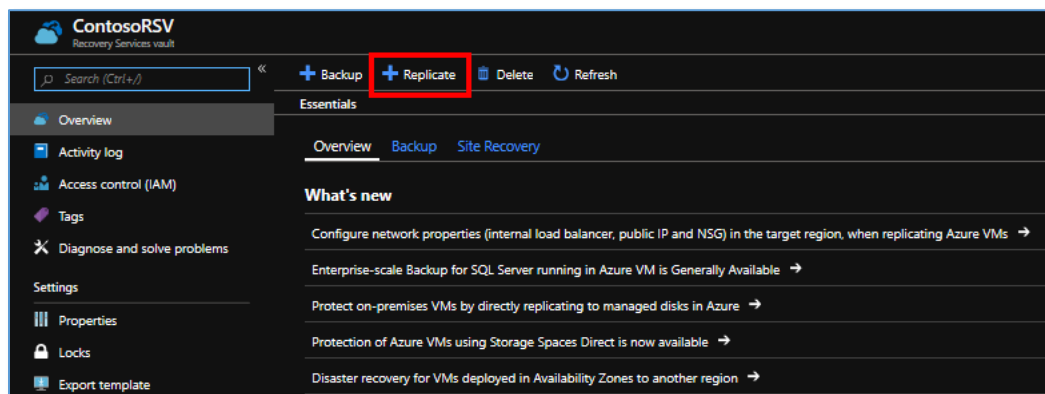
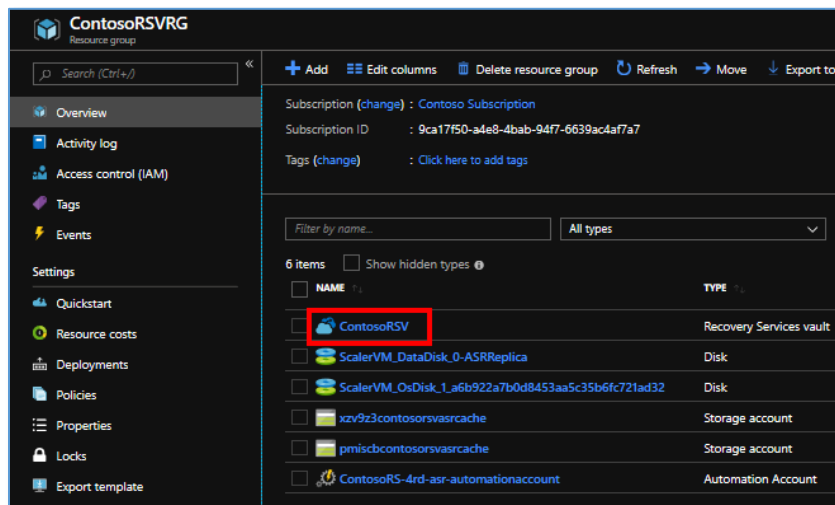
Only Azure VMs running Windows operating systems and [enabled for encryption with Azure AD app](#) are currently supported by Azure Site Recovery.

## Enable Replication

1. In the Azure Portal, click the new resource group you just made. Our is the **ContosoRSVRG** resource group:

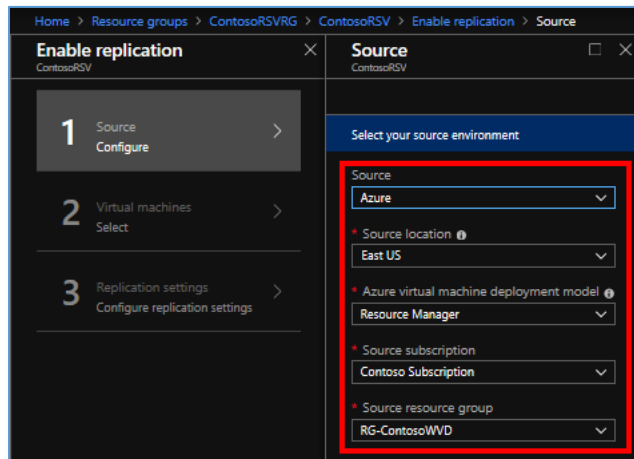


2. Click the Recovery Services vault name, then click **+Replicate**:

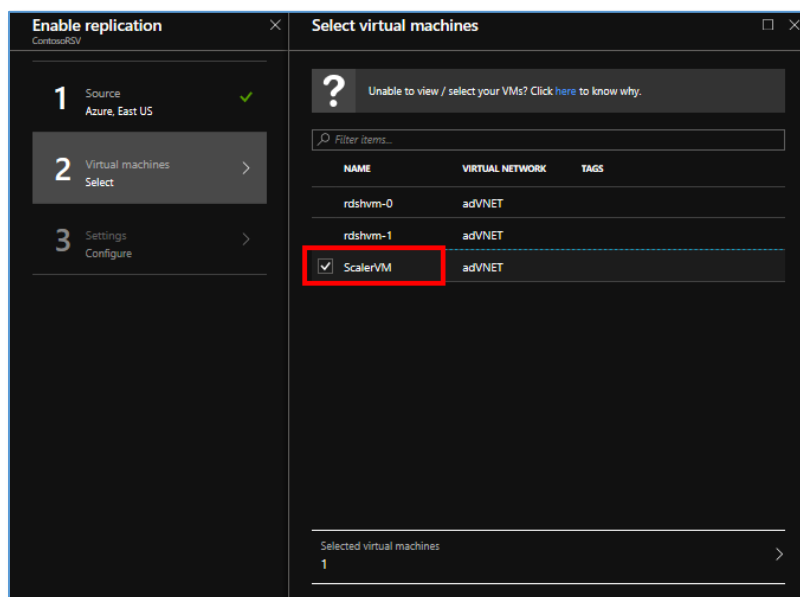




- As shown below, in **Source**, select **Azure**.
- In **Source location**, select the region where the VMs are currently running.
- Select the **Source subscription** where the virtual machines are running. This can be any subscription within the same Azure Active Directory tenant where your recovery services vault exists.
- Select the **Source resource group** and click **OK** to save the settings:



3. Site Recovery retrieves a list of the VMs associated with the subscription and resource group. In **Virtual Machines**, select any of the VMs to replicate. We'll select our ScalerVM:

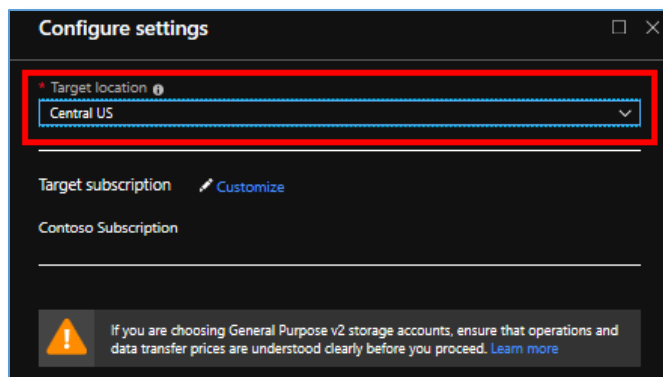


4. Click **OK**.

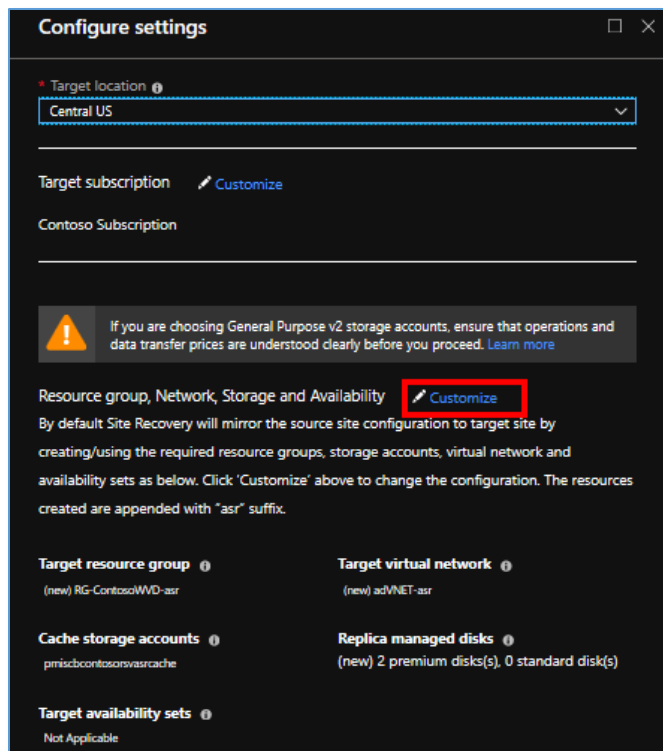
## Configure replication settings

Site Recovery creates a default settings and replication policy for the target region. You can change the settings as required.

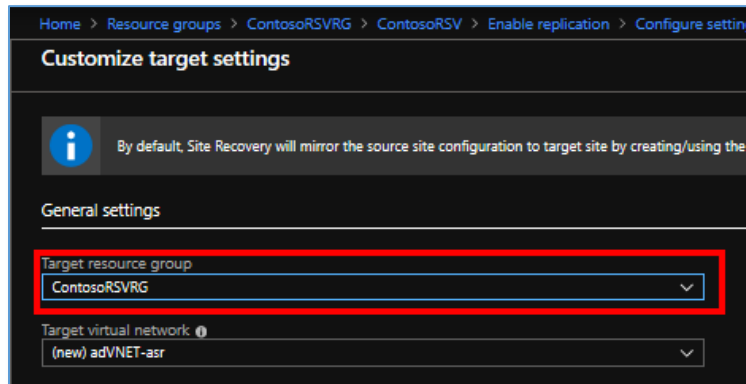
1. Click **Settings** to view the target and replication settings. Change the **Target location** to your remote region. We're using **Central US** for this walkthrough:



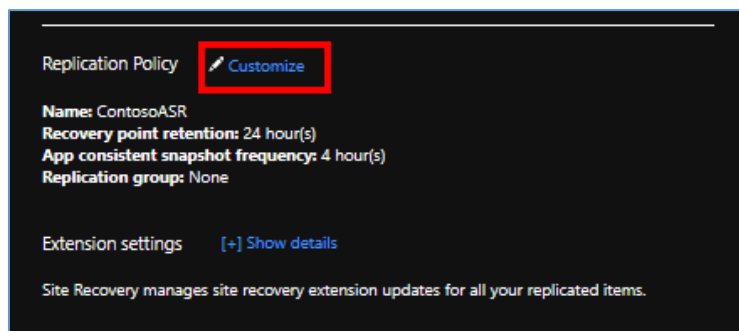
2. Click the **Customize** link shown below, to change the default settings:



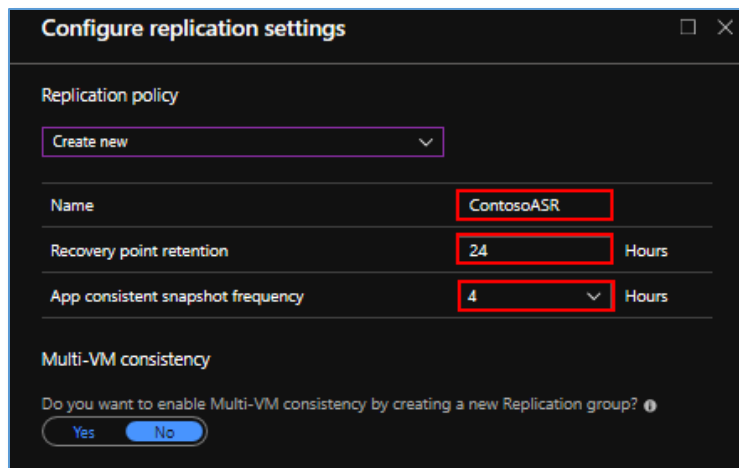
3. Change the **Target resource group** to the resource group in the target region that holds Azure VMs after failover. This is the resource group we created earlier, where we located the Recovery Services vault. We're using **ContosoRSVRG** in this walkthrough:



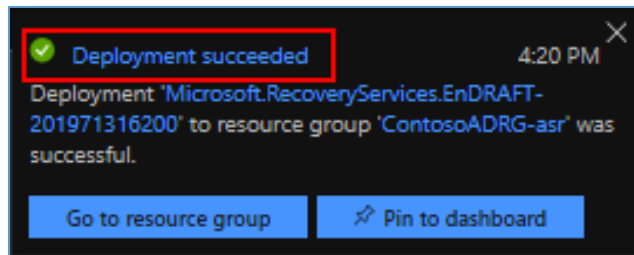
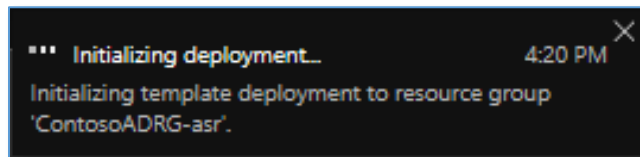
4. To customize replication policy settings, click **Customize** next to **Replication policy**:



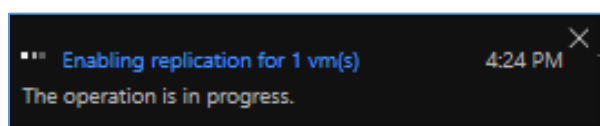
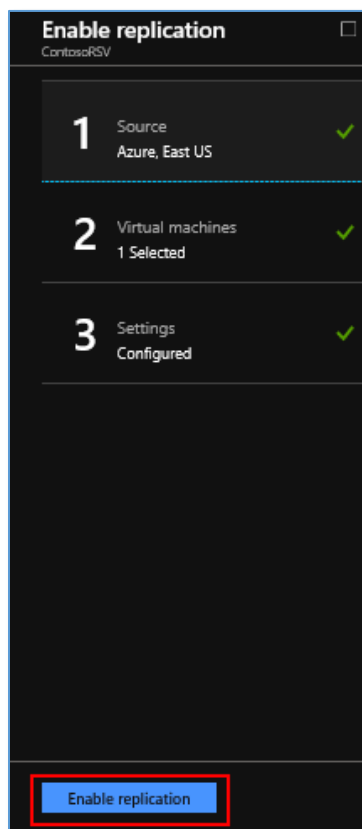
- **Name** = Replication Policy name. We're using **ContosoASR**
- **Recovery point retention & snapshot frequency**, we left at their defaults.



5. Click **OK & Create target resources** buttons, & Azure deploys any new resources required:

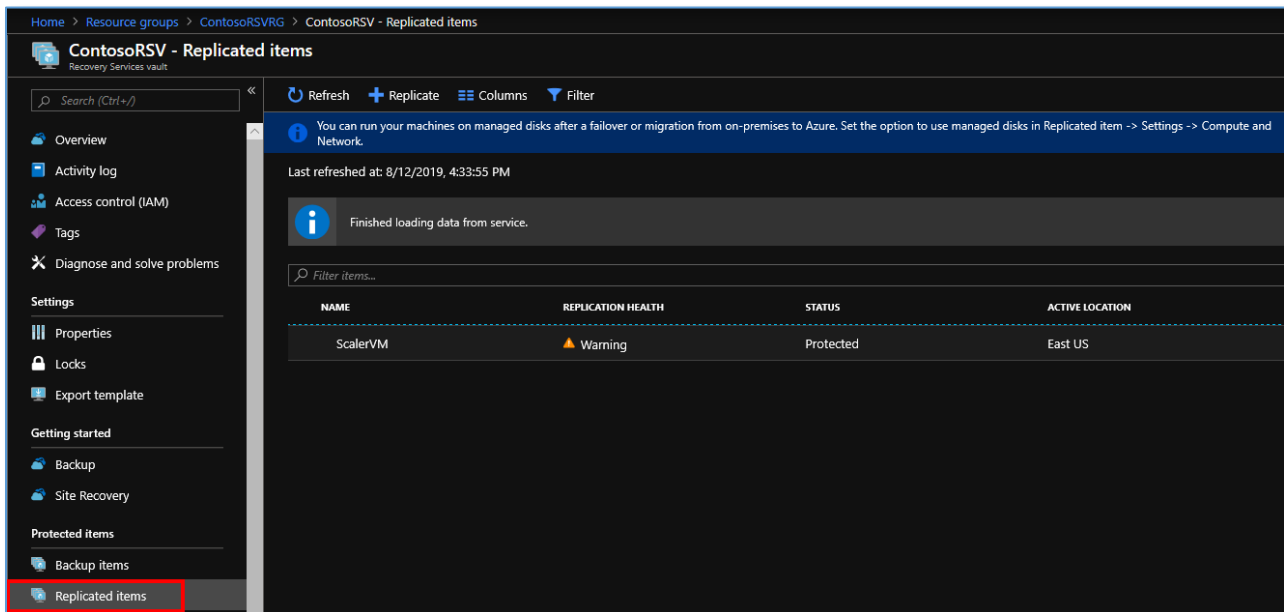


6. Finally, click the **Enable Replication** button to begin replication.

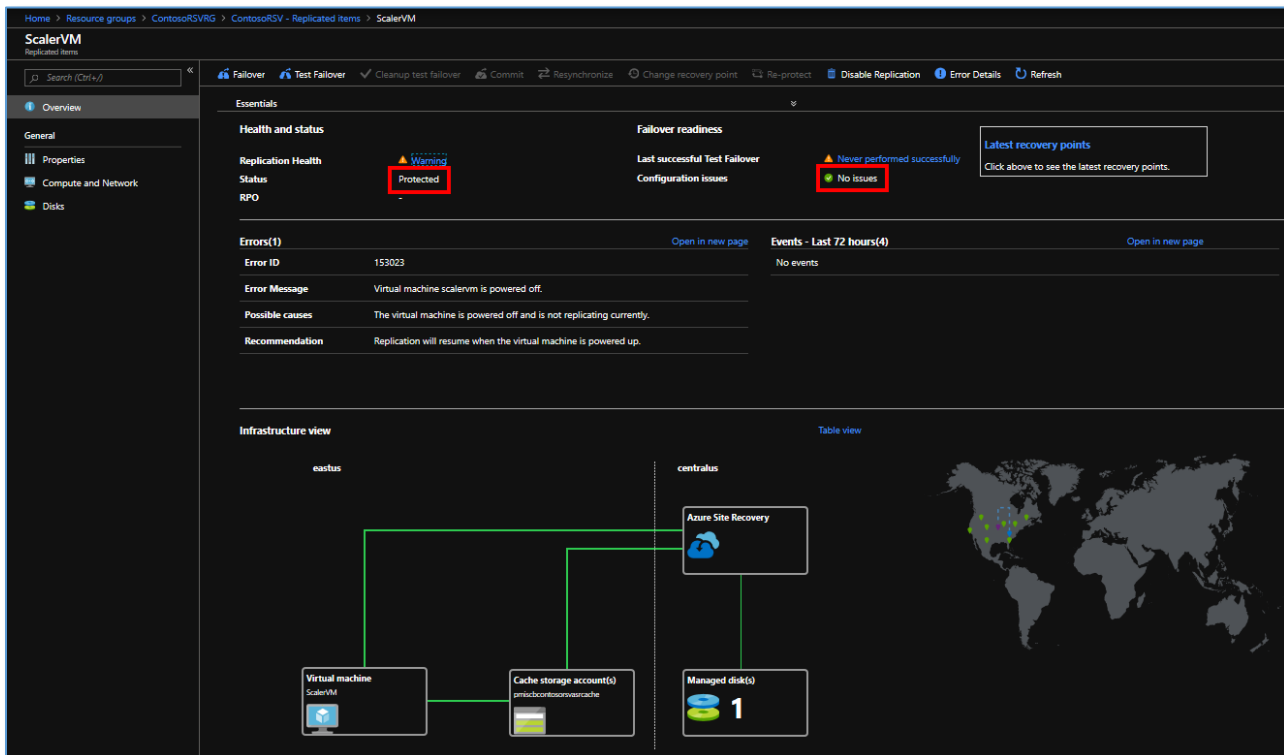


## Track replication status

1. In **Protected items**, click **Replicated items** to see the list of backed-up VMs:



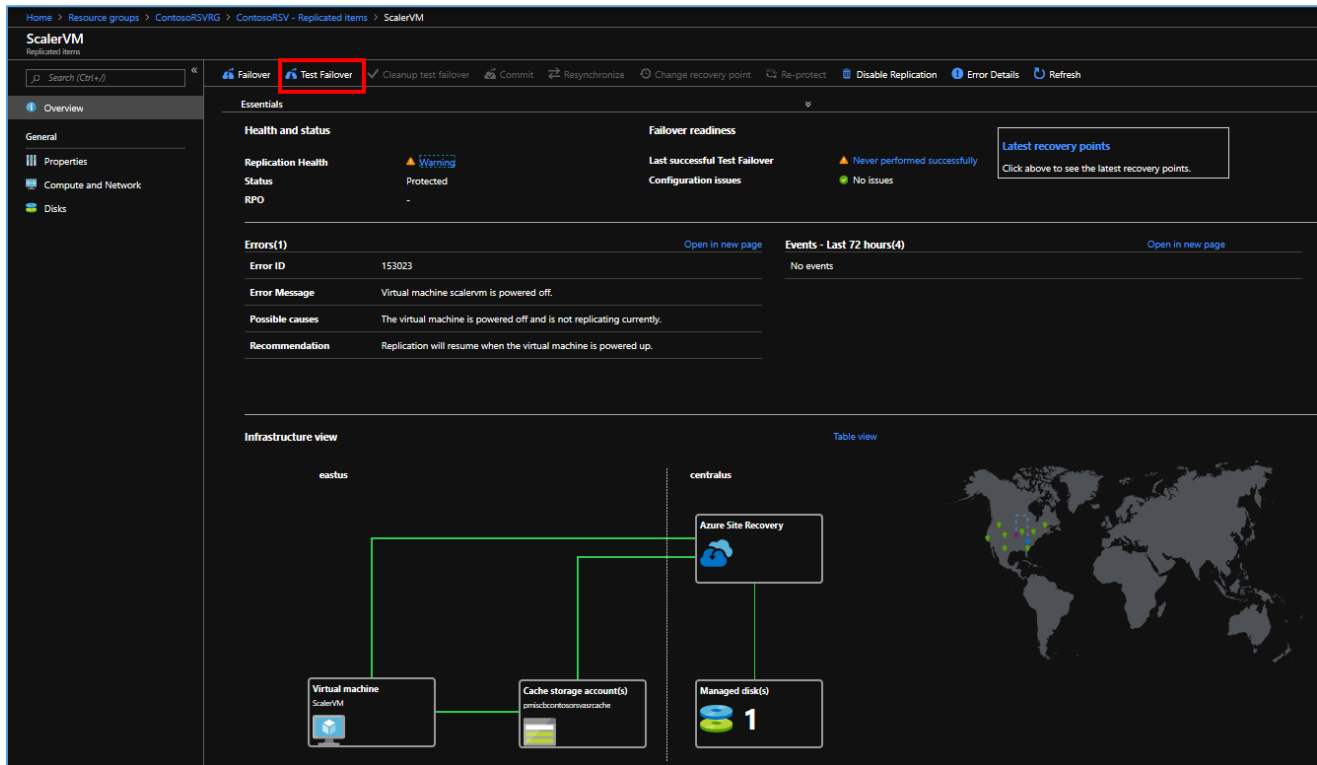
2. Click on of the VMs in the list to see current replication status:



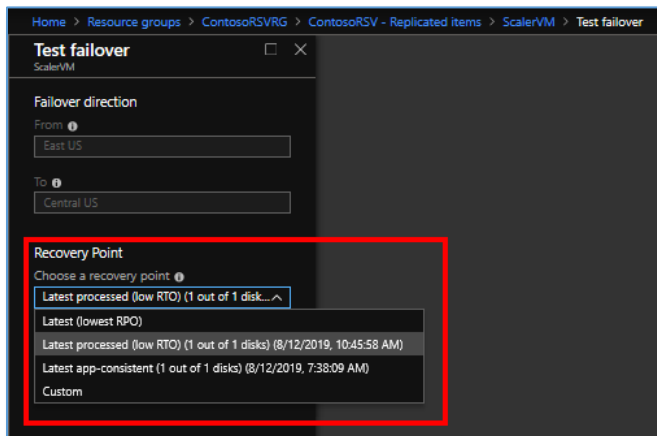
### 3. Run a Disaster Recovery Drill

This section shows you how to run a disaster recovery drill for an Azure VM, from one Azure region to another, with a test failover. A drill validates your replication strategy without data loss or downtime and doesn't affect your production environment.

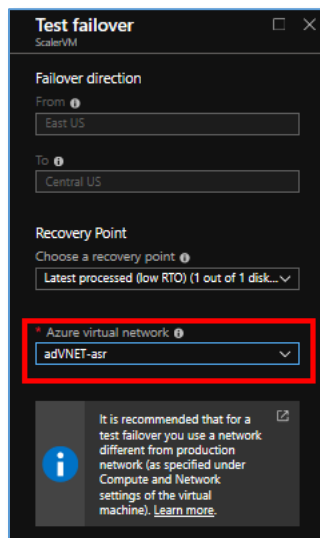
1. In **Protected items**, click **Replicated items**, then click on a VM we'll fail over *from*. We're using our **ScalerVM** for the walkthrough:



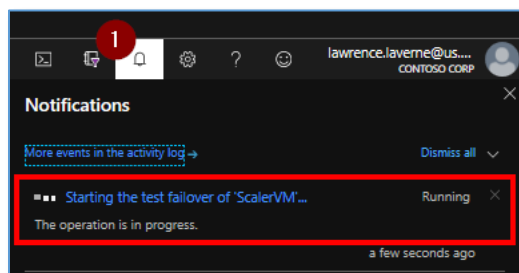
2. In **Test Failover**, Select a recovery point to use for the failover. We're selecting **Latest processed** fails the VM over to the latest successful recovery point:



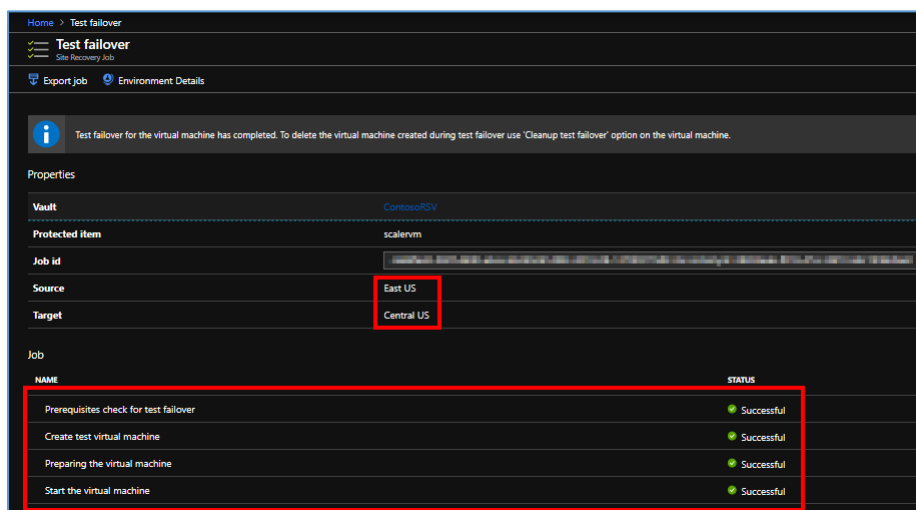
3. Select the target Azure virtual network to which Azure VMs in the secondary region will be connected, after the failover occurs:



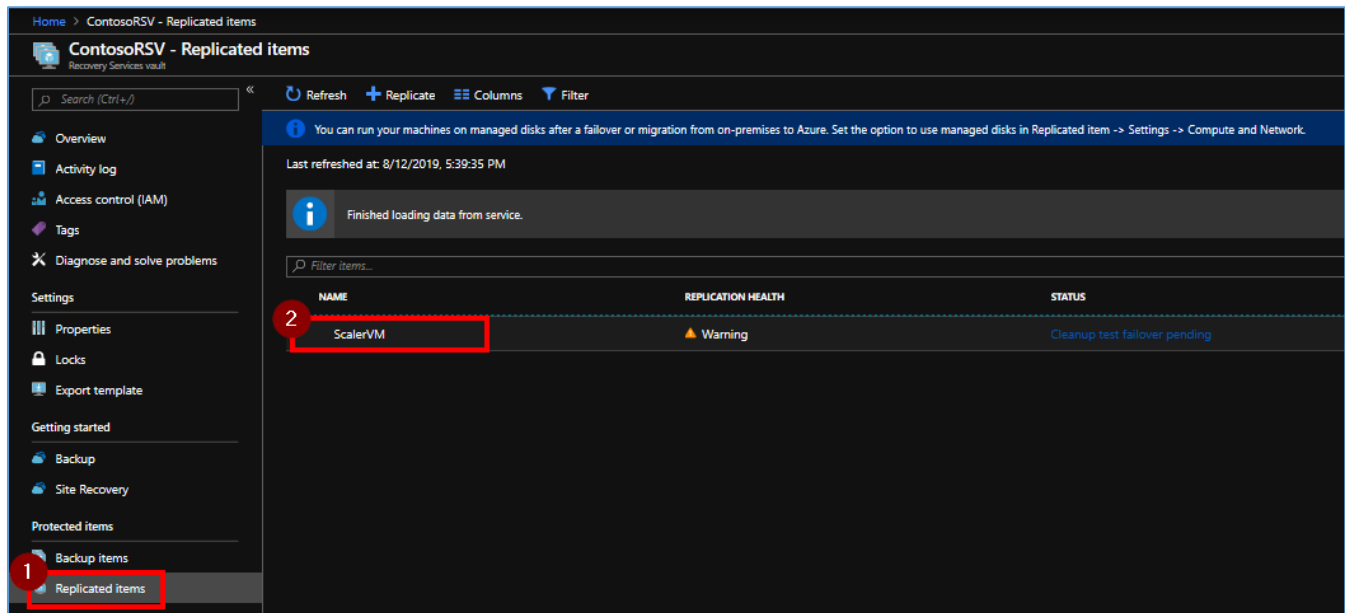
4. To start the failover, click **OK**. To track progress, click the notifications icon:



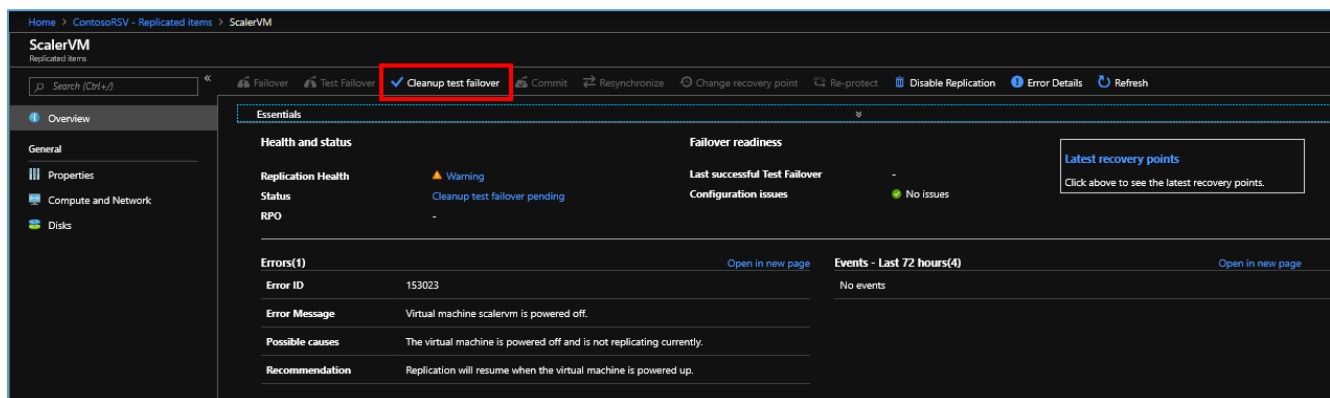
5. After the failover finishes, the replica Azure VM appears in the Azure portal > **Virtual Machines**. Click it to see the fail-over progression:



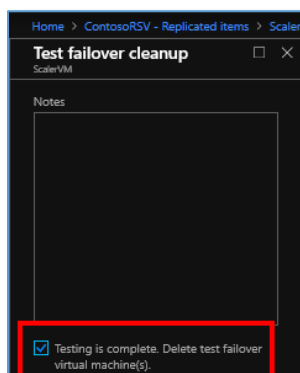
6. To delete the VM(s) that were created during the test failover, click on the replicated VM:



7. Then click on **Cleanup test failover**:

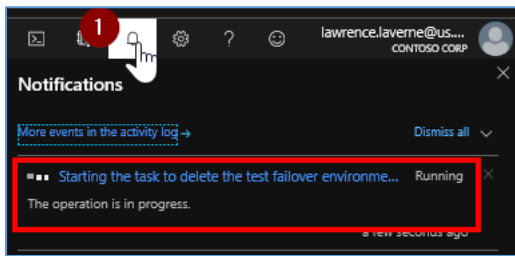


8. Check the **Testing is complete...** box, and click **OK**:





9. Verify that the deletion is in progress by clicking the Notification icon:

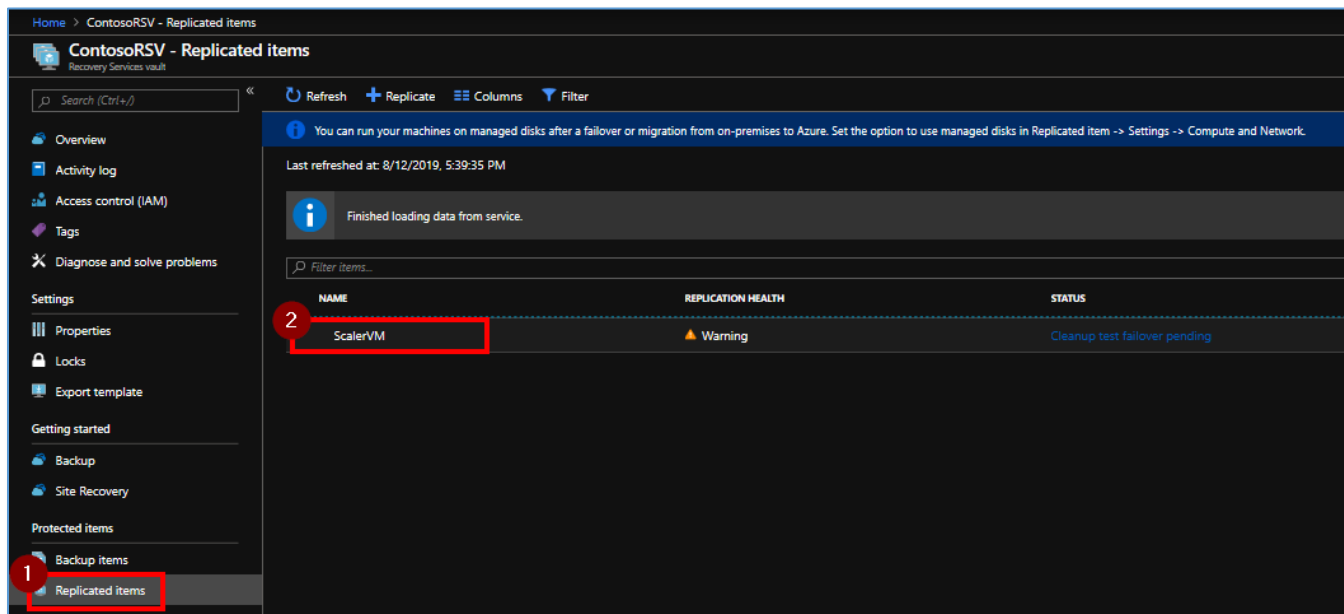


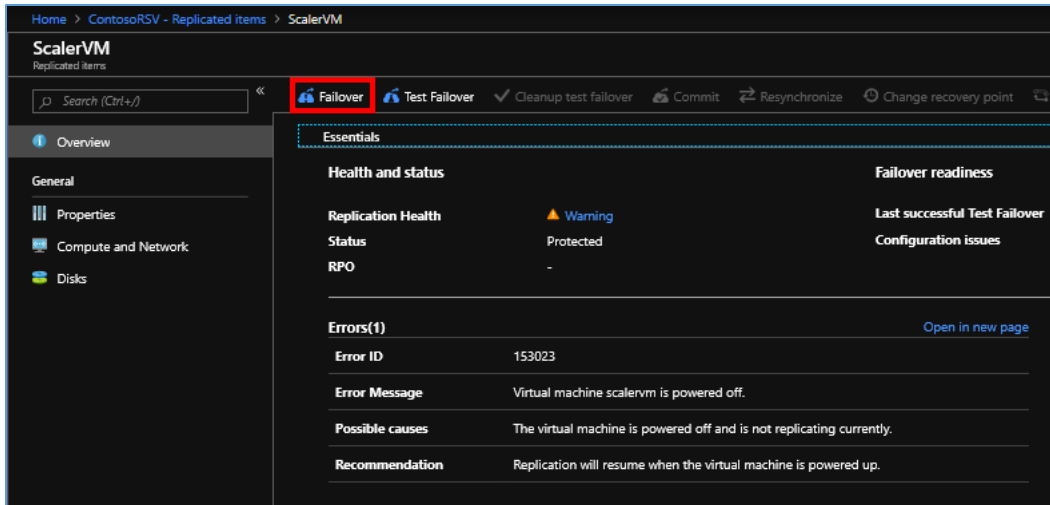
## 4. Fail-over and re-protect Azure VMs between Regions

This section describes how to fail over an Azure virtual machine (VM) to a secondary Azure region with the Azure Site Recovery service. After you've failed over, you'll re-protect the VM so that it replicates to the primary region.

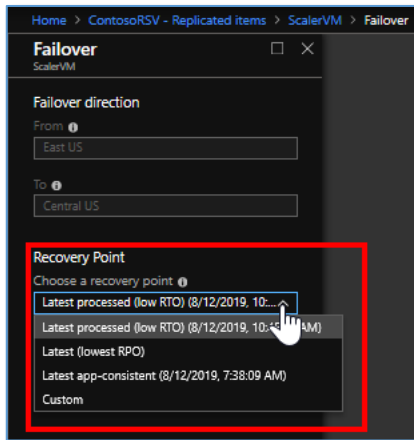
### Run a failover to the secondary region

1. In **Replicated items**, select the VM that you want to fail over & click **Failover**:

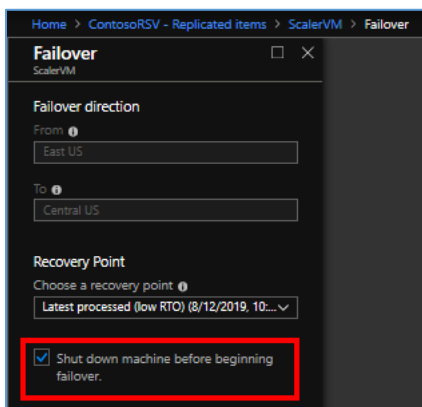




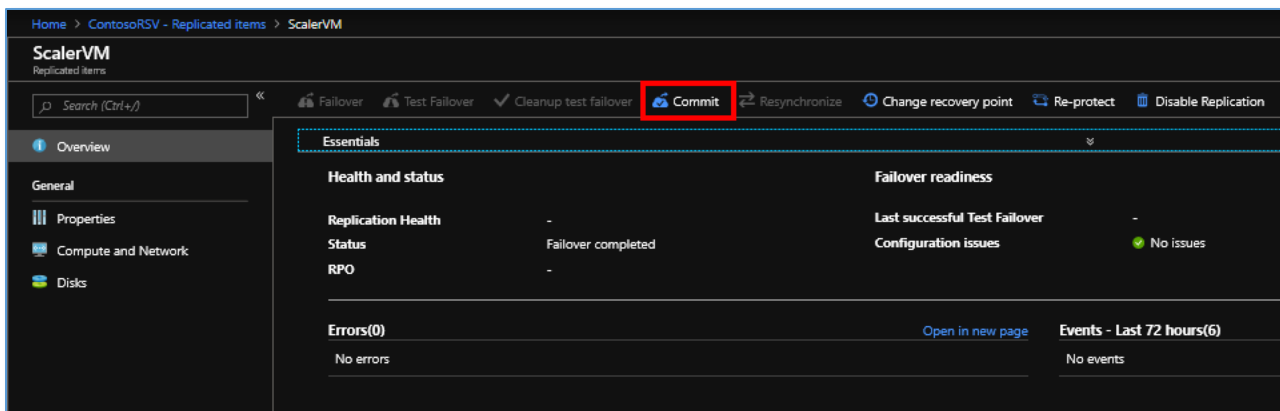
2. In **Failover**, select a **Recovery Point** to fail over to. We're selecting **Latest processed**:



3. Select **Shut down machine before beginning failover** if you want Site Recovery to attempt to do a shutdown of source VMs before triggering the failover. Failover continues even if shutdown fails. Site Recovery does not clean up the source after failover:



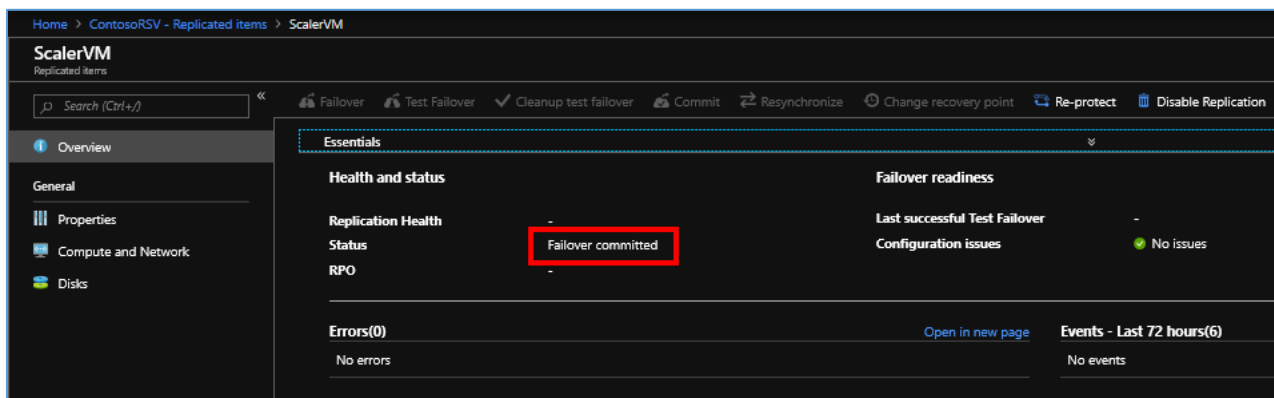
4. Click **OK**, and follow the failover progress on the **Jobs** page.
5. After the failover, you can validate the virtual machine by logging in to it. If you want to use another recovery point for the virtual machine, then you can use the **Change recovery point** option.
6. Once you are satisfied validating the failed over virtual machine, you can **Commit** the failover. Committing deletes all the recovery points available with the service. You won't be able to change the recovery point afterward.



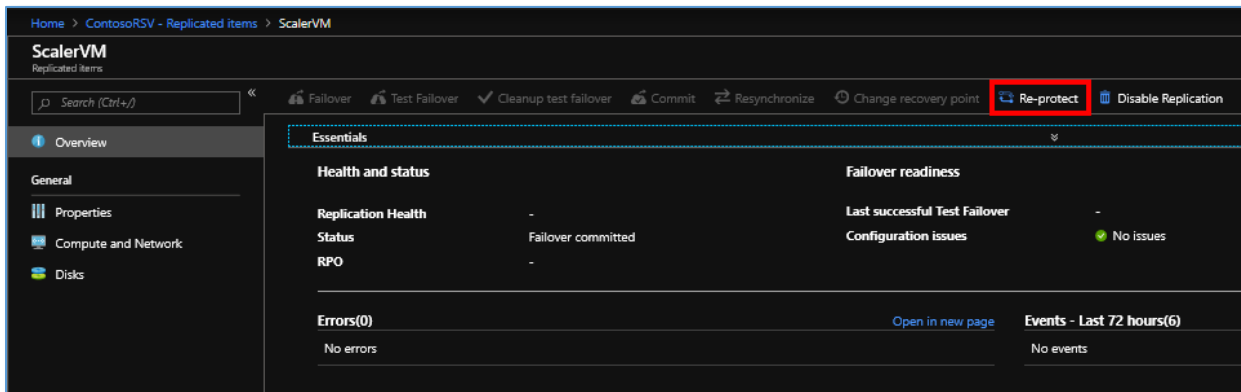
## Re-protect the Secondary VM

After failover of the VM, you need to re-protect it so that it replicates back to the primary region.

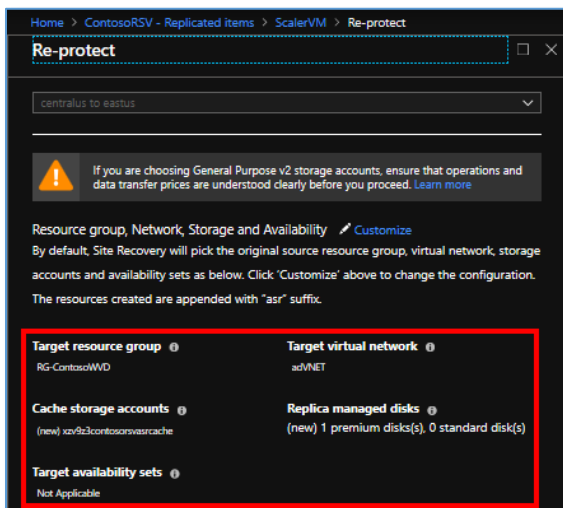
1. Make sure that the VM is in the **Failover committed** state:



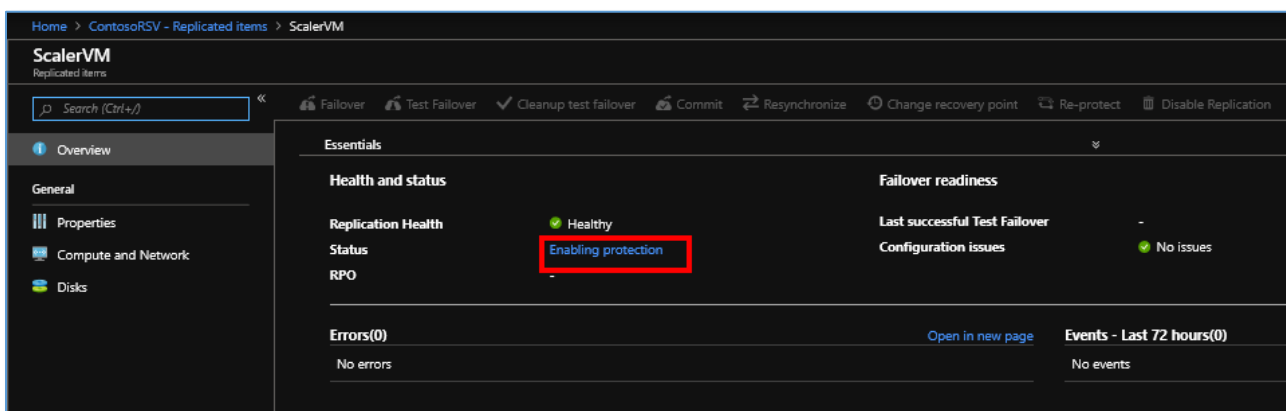
## 2. Click **Re-Protect**.



1. The direction of protection, secondary to primary region, is already selected.  
Review the **Resource group, Network, Storage, and Availability sets** information. Any resources marked as new are created as part of the re-protect operation.



2. Click **OK** to trigger a re-protect job:



## Integrating a failed-over WVD VM into a secondary host pool

When you are failing-over a WVD VM from one host pool to another, the VM must be re-tokenized. Re-tokenizing means to add a registration token of the target host pool to the VM.

1. Set the registration token for the target host pool. Our example uses the parameters below:

```
New-RdsRegistrationInfo -TenantName ContosoCorpWVD2 -HostPoolName cnpw10ms -ExpirationHours 48
```

2. Get the Registration **Token** of the target host pool:

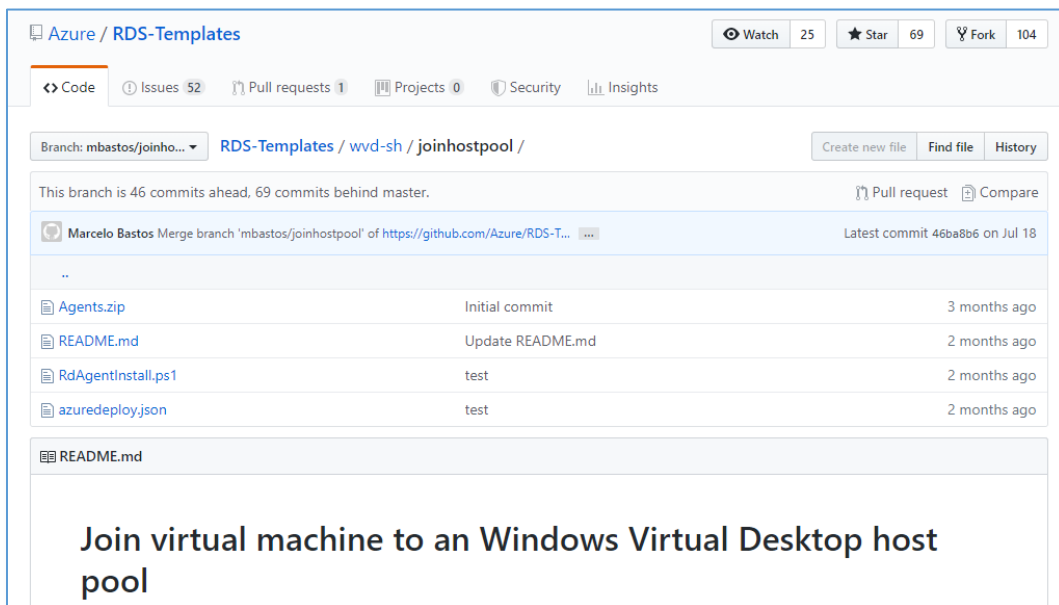
```
Export-RdsRegistrationInfo -TenantName ContosoCorpWVD2 -HostPoolName cnpw10ms
```

```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Export-RdsRegistrationInfo -TenantName ContosoCorpWVD2 -HostPoolName cnpw10ms

Token           : eyJhbGciOiJSUzI1NiIsImtpZCI6IkdFRkQ1MTcyMkM1MTE5MDI1OTFEQUY3MUY2QzY4MzZDRDIORjM4QTg1Iiw5kcG9pbmRqb29sSWQioiJmMwRkNmViMS1kN2ZiLTQ1MjAtMGQzYi0wOGQ3NDA4NzA3ZTU1LjCjUyYmYiojEiNjnpO0jiHcE-Pa7pAwIyokDSHLEB9mqxT30HntGJV0g_zvpHr3eLUyVOSj9wpMFA5A0EBk0vSj_I3feA8U29z
ExpirationTime  : 10/1/2019 4:56:03 PM
TenantGroupName : Default Tenant Group
TenantName      : ContosoCorpWVD2
HostPoolName    : cnpw10ms
```

Copy the highlighted text to Notepad, we'll need it below.

3. Browse to [this ARM Template](#) and click **Deploy to Azure** button:



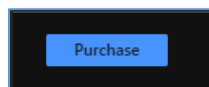
Click the button below to deploy:



4. Complete the parameters as shown below:

The screenshot shows the 'Custom deployment' page in the Azure portal. The breadcrumb navigation at the top is 'Home > Custom deployment'. The page title is 'Custom deployment' with the subtitle 'Deploy from a custom template'. Under the 'TEMPLATE' section, it shows 'Customized template' with '1 resource'. There are three links: 'Edit template', 'Edit paramet...', and 'Learn more'. The 'BASICS' section contains three dropdown menus: 'Subscription' (Contoso Subscription), 'Resource group' (RG-ContosoWVD with a 'Create new' link), and 'Location' ((US) East US 2). The 'SETTINGS' section has three fields: 'Registration Token' (a long alphanumeric string with a green checkmark), 'Vm Name' (W10Ent0365-1 with a green checkmark), and 'Timestamp' ([utcNow()]). The 'TERMS AND CONDITIONS' section shows the 'Azure Marketplace Terms' and a checkbox that is checked, with the text 'I agree to the terms and conditions stated above'.

5. Click the Purchase button:



The RDS client is deployed and the registration completes.

## Fail back an Azure VM between Azure regions

In this section we will fail back a single Azure VM to its primary region. Following the steps below, we will:

- Fail back the VM in the secondary region.

- Re-protect the primary VM back to the secondary region.

### Before starting:

- Make sure that the status of the VM is **Failover committed**.
- Verify that you're able to create and access new resources in the primary region.
- Make sure that re-protection is enabled.

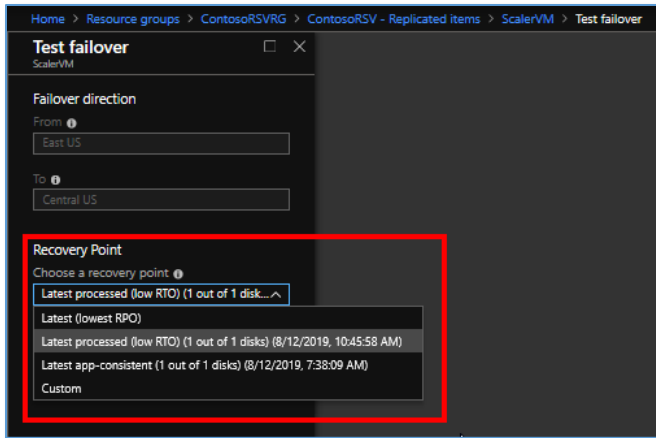
## Fail back to the primary region

After VMs are re-protected, you can fail back to the primary region as needed.

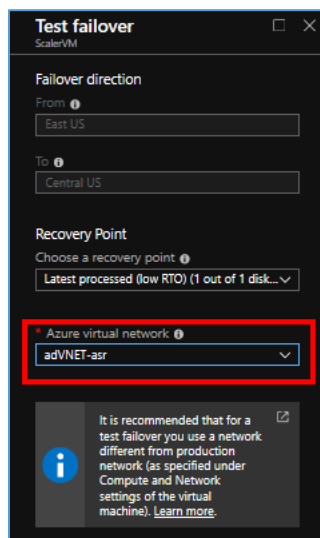
1. In the vault, select **Replicated items**, and then select the VM that was re-protected:
2. Click **Test failover** to perform a test failover back to the primary region.

The screenshot shows the Azure portal interface for a replicated item named 'ScalerVM'. The 'Test Failover' button is highlighted with a red box. The page includes sections for 'Health and status', 'Failover readiness', and 'Errors'. The 'Infrastructure view' at the bottom shows a diagram of the replication setup between 'eastus' and 'centralus' regions, involving a virtual machine, cache storage account, and managed disk(s).

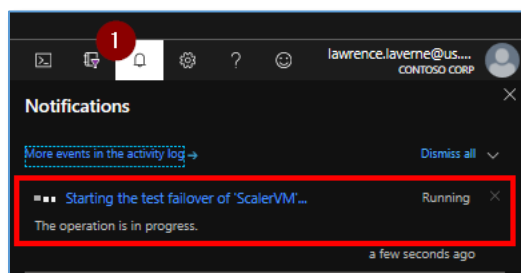
1. In **Test Failover**, Select a recovery point to use for the failover. We're selecting **Latest processed** fails the VM over to the latest successful recovery point:



2. Select the target Azure virtual network to which Azure VMs in the secondary region will be connected, after the failover occurs:



3. To start the failover, click **OK**. To track progress, click the notifications icon:



4. After the failover finishes, the replica Azure VM appears in the Azure portal > **Virtual Machines**. Click it to see the fail-over progression:



Home > Test failover

## Test failover

Site Recovery Job

Export job Environment Details

Test failover for the virtual machine has completed. To delete the virtual machine created during test failover use 'Cleanup test failover' option on the virtual machine.

**Properties**

Vault	ContosoRSV
Protected item	scalervm
Job id	10000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000
Source	East US
Target	Central US

**Job**

NAME	STATUS
Prerequisites check for test failover	Successful
Create test virtual machine	Successful
Preparing the virtual machine	Successful
Start the virtual machine	Successful

5. To delete the VM(s) that were created during the test failover, click on the replicated VM:

Home > ContosoRSV - Replicated items

## ContosoRSV - Replicated items

Recovery Services vault

Search (Ctrl+F) Refresh Replicate Columns Filter

You can run your machines on managed disks after a failover or migration from on-premises to Azure. Set the option to use managed disks in Replicated item -> Settings -> Compute and Network.

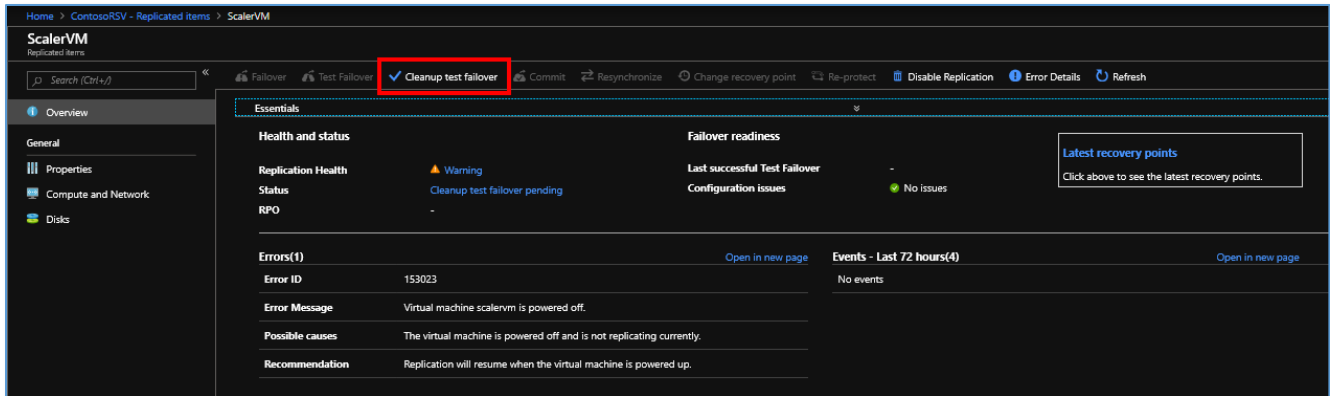
Last refreshed at: 8/12/2019, 5:39:35 PM

Finished loading data from service.

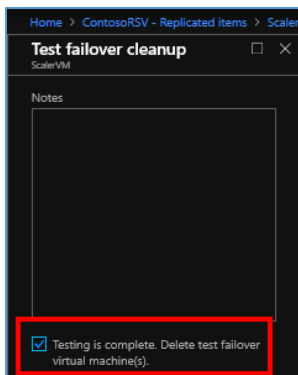
Filter items...

NAME	REPLICATION HEALTH	STATUS
ScalerVM	Warning	Cleanup test failover pending

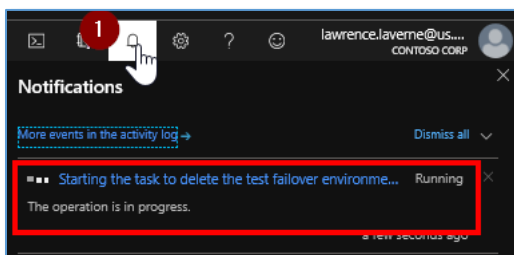
6. Then click on **Cleanup test failover**:



7. Check the **Testing is complete...** box, and click **OK**:



8. Verify that the deletion is in progress by clicking the Notification icon:



## Note

The disaster recovery VMs will remain in the shutdown/deallocated state. This is by design because Site Recovery saves the VM information, which might be useful for failover from the primary to the secondary region later. *You aren't charged for the deallocated VMs, so they should be kept as they are.*

## 5. Support

### Opening tickets

In case of an issue for Windows Virtual Desktop go to the Azure Portal and open a technical ticket based on your existing support plan at <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/support/create-ticket/>

Look for Service under **COMPUTE** and select **Windows Virtual Desktop-Preview**. You will find options to create tickets for the WVD service itself and for Office:

For Office issues you can file tickets during public preview in the Azure Portal when using Office in context of Windows Virtual Desktop.

Information you should provide for failed connection or management interactions when using the service:

- Use the diagnostics service to retrieve the **Activity ID** for failed connections or management interactions.
- Provide the approximate timeframe the issue happened

NOTE: This workflow will change post general availability.

### Other resources you can leverage

Windows Virtual Desktop contains a number of knowledge articles as well as trouble shooting guides. Pay attention to the updated diagnostics chapter that provides Error scenarios you can mitigate: <https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/virtual-desktop/overview>

Exchange on our community forum on issues important to you for Windows Virtual Desktop: <https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Windows-Virtual-Desktop/bd-p/WindowsVirtualDesktop>

When setting up your environment you will be using other Azure Services. You can watch the health dashboard here to verify health state on any Azure service you are consuming: <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/status/>