

# DevOps for Blockchain Smart Contracts—Implementation Guide

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## Introduction

Microsoft and Truffle co-published a paper named “DevOps for Blockchain Smart Contracts” which covered a number of key considerations and patterns for establishing a DevOps process on Blockchain. This document is a companion piece that looks at implementing those patterns for the Ethereum blockchain using a mix of the Truffle Suite, VS Code, and Azure DevOps.

## Smart Contract Business Scenario

The code we'll be using in this guide is a set of smart contracts for a vehicle registry, similar to what you might have at the department of motor vehicles.

The scope of this project is to deliver an attestable registry of vehicles. Vehicles are created in individual `Item` contracts and then associated with a `BasicItemRegistry` contract.

Each `Item` contract contains property values that represent attributes of a car, e.g. `make`, `model`, etc.

In addition to being a widely applicable scenario, it is also a scenario that involves multiple connected contracts which forces additional consideration. One contract represents a registry and then multiple contracts will be deployed of a contract that represents an item that is included in that registry.

For those less familiar with blockchain, a registry is a common multi-party scenario that is applicable to multiple industries. For public sector, there are registries for land and vehicles. For manufacturers there may be registries of certifications. For video games, there may be registries of “in game” items that you’ve purchased.

The files for this application have been posted in Github [at this location](#).

## Pre-Requisites

To prepare for the implementation, you will first want to install and configure the tools, extensions and infrastructure required.

### Installing VS Code and Extensions

Install [Visual Studio Code](#), a free download that provides an integrated development environment on Windows, Mac, and Linux.

Visual Studio Code provides out of the box support for Git. It also has a wide assortment of extensions that can be downloaded for additional language support, extended integration with your source code repository, in tool management of pull requests, monitoring of builds, etc.

Install the VS Code extensions for your target smart contract language

- [Solidity](#) for Ethereum

- [Java](#) and [Kotlin](#) for Corda
- [Go](#) for Hyperledger Fabric

In this paper we will be demonstrating the patterns on the Ethereum blockchain, so the smart contracts will be focused on Solidity. Within VS Code, click on the Extensions icon in the left hand side and then download the Solidity extension by Juan Blanco.

For source code control, this paper focuses on code stored in Github or Azure Repos. For GitHub, you'll want to install the [extension for GitHub Pull Requests for Visual Studio Code](#). There is also an extension for [Azure Repos](#) that will allow you to monitor builds and manage pull requests. You can find both of these within VS Code as well.

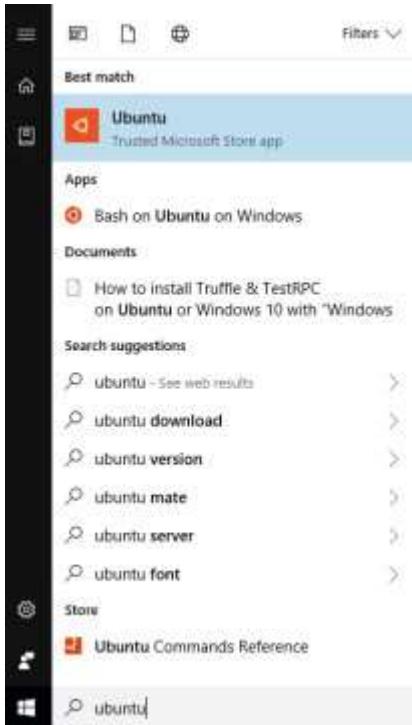
## Install Truffle Suite

Truffle Suite, specifically Truffle and Ganache, will be used for compiling, testing, debugging, and deploying smart contracts. This will include usage in different ways, e.g. a desktop usage for an individual developer and pipeline usage within Azure DevOps. Within Azure DevOps, Ganache will also be hosted in a function for consortium and consortium member testing.

## Install Windows Subsystem for Linux

While not required, we recommend installing the Windows Subsystem for Linux. This will provide you the bash shell which many other online samples assume.

- Install [Windows Subsystem for Linux](#).
- Once installed, start the Ubuntu bash shell



Install Truffle on a machine that does not have node installed

If installing on a machine that does not have node already installed, use the following script –

```
# Make sure Ubuntu is up to date
sudo apt-get update -y && sudo apt-get upgrade -y

# Install build essentials & python. lots of NPM libraries require these
sudo apt install build-essential python -y

# install nvm https://github.com/creationix/nvm#install-script (the below command is a single line)
curl -o- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/creationix/nvm/v0.33.11/install.sh | bash

# restart bash to enable nvm (saves you restarting your terminal)
exec bash

# install latest nodejs and tell NVM to make it active on your system
nvm install node
nvm use node

# install beta release of Truffle 5 and latest ganache-cli
# note, once Truffle v5 is released you no longer need the @beta below
npm install -g truffle@beta ganache-cli
```

Install Truffle on a machine that already has node installed

If installing on a machine that already has node installed, use the following script –

```
# Install the dist-upgrade package and run it to update to the latest node version
sudo npm -g install dist-upgrade
sudo dist-upgrade

# install beta release of Truffle 5 and latest ganache-cli
# note, once Truffle v5 is released you no longer need the @beta below
npm install -g truffle@beta ganache-cli
```

## Install Ganache

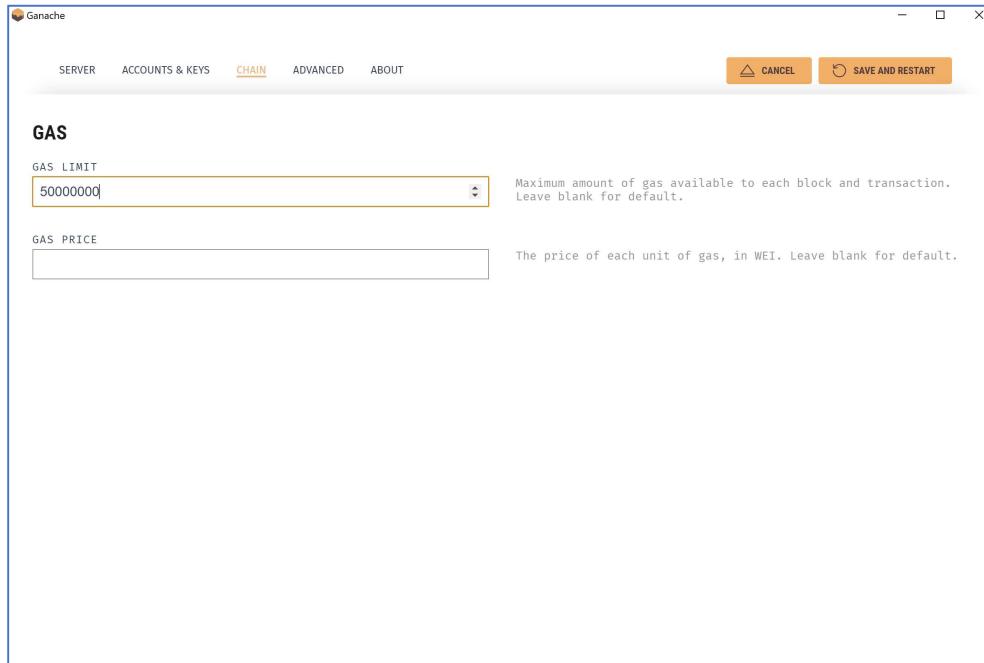
In the previous section we installed the truffle and ganache-cli command line tools. The ganache-cli tool is useful for automated testing, but the graphical version of Ganache is a great tool to use when you're first starting out. This version of the tool shows you the state of the Ganache blockchain in real time, so you can see exactly what is changing as you develop and test your code. Like the rest of the Truffle tools, Ganache runs on Windows, macOS, and Linux. To get it, just visit the [Ganache page of Truffle's website](#), and click the orange download button in the middle of the page. This will automatically download the correct installer for your OS.

### *Increase the Gas Limit on Ganache for Private Chain Development*

If you are developing for a private chain, one consideration is the appropriate gas limit for your needs. In our experience, many private chain developers apply object oriented programming which can exceed the defaults for a blockchain deployment. Enterprise customers typically increase the gas amount substantially. For Azure Blockchain Workbench, we increase this amount to 50,000,000 and that is what we will change the configuration to in Ganache.

To make this change, click on the gear icon in the upper left to get to the settings screen. Click on the “CHAIN” menu item, set the value to 50,000,000 (without commas), and then click the “Save and Restart” button.

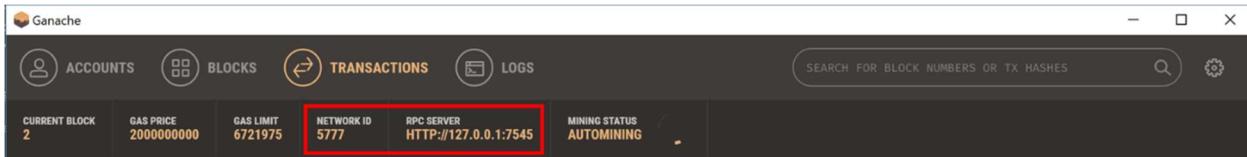
If developing for the public chain, it is not advised to change this limit as you will want to account for these limits early in the development process vs. having to refactor later when deploying the public chain.



#### *Record Information Needed for Testing*

The next step is to retrieve RPC endpoint information and network ID from Ganache that will be needed for development and testing. We will refer back to this information in the [Create a new project in Truffle](#) section below.

On the main screen within Ganache, copy the RPC Server and Network ID.



## Set up Azure DevOps

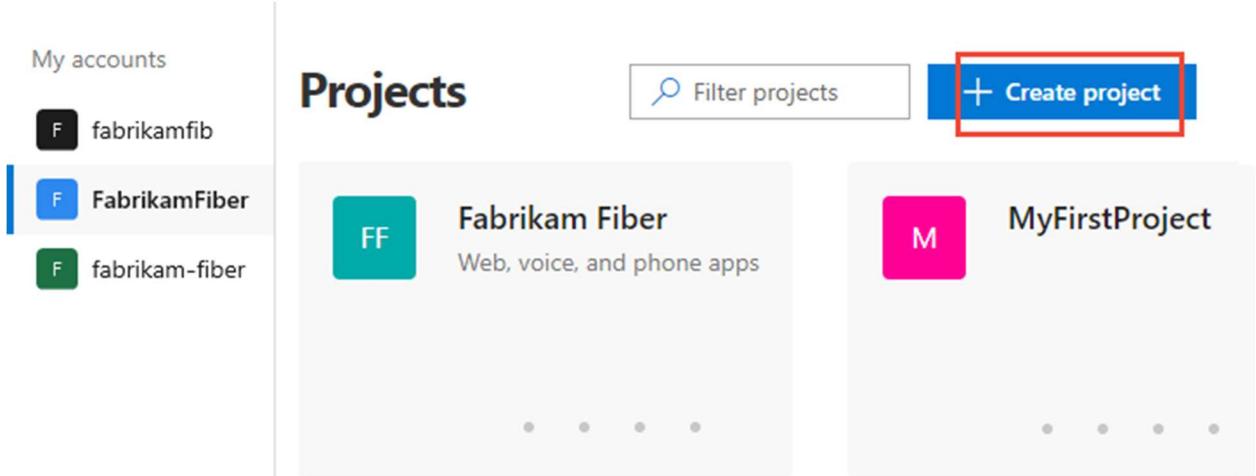
Within Azure DevOps, your first steps will be to set up a project and specify your source code control.

### Creating a Project

The approach reflected in this whitepaper will use Azure DevOps Pipelines to continuously build, test, and deploy the smart contracts. It will optionally use Azure DevOps Repos or connect to other github services such as GitHub.

Begin by navigating to Azure DevOps at <https://dev.azure.com/>.

Choose the  Azure DevOps logo to open the **Projects** page, and then choose **Create Project**.



The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps 'Projects' page. On the left, there's a sidebar titled 'My accounts' with three items: 'fabrikamfib' (dark blue icon), 'FabrikamFiber' (light blue icon, currently selected), and 'fabrikam-fiber' (green icon). The main area is titled 'Projects' and contains a search bar 'Filter projects' and a 'Create project' button with a plus sign, which is highlighted with a red box. Below these are two project cards: 'Fabrikam Fiber' (Web, voice, and phone apps) and 'MyFirstProject'. Each card has a large letter icon (FF for Fabrikam Fiber, M for MyFirstProject) and a small ellipsis below it.

Enter information into the form provided. Provide a name for your project, and choose the visibility, initial source control type, work item process. For details on public projects, see [Create a public project](#). If the **Public** option is grayed out, you need to change the policy.

Create new project X

Project name \*  
Blockchain DevOps Implementation Guide ✓

Description

Visibility

Public  
Anyone on the internet can view the project. Certain features like TFVC are not supported.

Private  
Only people you give access to will be able to view this project.

Advanced

Version control ? Work item process ?

Create Cancel

Click the Create button to finish creating your project.

## Source Code

Once the project is created, the next step will be to determine where your source code will reside.

### Starting a New Repo in Azure Repos

Azure DevOps Repos provides free hosting of private repos and can connect to existing local or git, or VSTS source code repositories.

If you will be starting a new project and will be using a new repository in Azure Repos, the next step would be to right click on the Repos icon on the left of the screen.

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps interface for the 'Blockchain DevOps Implementation Guide' repository. The top navigation bar includes 'BlockchainEngExternalCollaboration', 'Blockchain DevOps Implementation Guide', 'Repos', 'Files', and a search bar. On the left, there's a sidebar with various icons and a list of recent repositories. The main content area displays the repository details with the message 'Blockchain DevOps Implementation Guide is empty. Add some code!'. It provides three cloning methods: 'Clone to your computer' via HTTPS or SSH, 'or push an existing repository from command line' with a copy-to-clipboard button, and 'or import a repository' via an 'Import' button. A note at the bottom of the cloning section says: 'Having problems authenticating in Git? Be sure to get the latest version of [Git for Windows](#) or our plugins for [IntelliJ](#), [Eclipse](#), [Android Studio](#) or [Windows command line](#).'. Below the cloning options, there's a section titled 'or initialize with a README or gitignore'.

Once selected, you will see options to push an existing repository from the command line, import a repository, or initialize a new repo.

Selecting an existing source code repository

An alternate option is to specify an existing repo from GitHub or Azure DevOps.

Once created, navigate to the Repos section in the UI. This is where you can clone code to VS Code, push an existing repository, or import an existing repository.

If starting a new project, you can also initialize the project with a README or gitignore.

In this walkthrough, you'll be creating a new repo so click the "Initialize" button next to the section titled "or initialize with a README or gitignore"

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps interface for a repository named 'BasicItemRegistry'. The top navigation bar includes 'Search', a magnifying glass icon, and a user profile icon. The main content area displays a message: 'BasicItemRegistry is empty. Add some code!'. Below this, there are several cloning options:

- Clone to your computer**: Options for HTTPS and SSH, with URLs provided: `https://BlockchainEngExternalCollaboration@dev.azure.com/BlockchainEngExternalCollaboration/BasicItemRegistry/_git/BasicItemRegistry` and `git clone https://BlockchainEngExternalCollaboration@dev.azure.com/BlockchainEngExternalCollaboration/BasicItemRegistry/_git/BasicItemRegistry`. A link to 'Generate Git credentials' is also present.
- or push an existing repository from command line**: Shows a terminal window with the command: `git remote add origin https://BlockchainEngExternalCollaboration@dev.azure.com/BlockchainEngExternalCollaboration/BasicItemRegistry/_git/BasicItemRegistry` and `git push -u origin --all`.
- or import a repository**: A 'Import' button is shown.
- or initialize with a README or gitignore**: Buttons for 'Add a README' (checked) and 'Add a .gitignore: None'.

The URL in the browser address bar is `https://dev.azure.com/BlockchainEngExternalCollaboration/BasicItemRegistry`.

Note – There is an alternate path to do this directly from within GitHub. Within GitHub, there is an [app in the GitHub Marketplace](#) and offers [unlimited CI/CD minutes and 10 parallel jobs](#) for open source projects.

## Configure a build pipeline in Azure DevOps

To create a build pipeline, you will take the following two steps -

1. In your project, navigate to the **Pipelines** page and then choose **New pipeline**.
2. Walk through the steps of the wizard by first selecting **GitHub** or **Azure Repos** as the location of your source code.

The screenshot shows the 'New pipeline' wizard in Azure DevOps. The left sidebar lists steps: 1. Location, 2. Repository, 3. Template, 4. Save and run. The right panel is titled 'Where is your code?' and contains two options:

- GitHub**: Home to the world's largest community of developers.
- Azure Repos**: Free private Git repositories, pull requests, and code search.

If you selected Github, do the following -

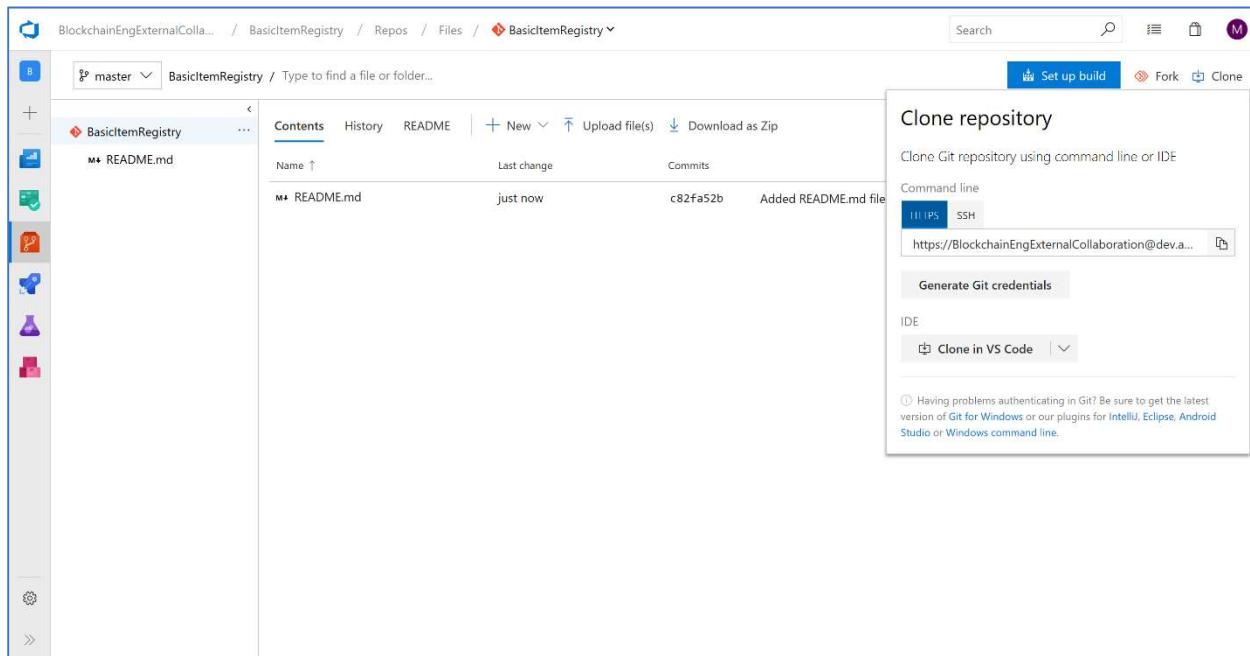
1. Choose to **Authorize with OAuth** by selecting **Authorize**. You might be redirected to GitHub to sign in. Enter your GitHub credentials.
2. When you're redirected back to Azure Pipelines, select the **sample app** repository.
3. For the next step, Azure Pipelines analyzes the code in your repository. If your repository already contains an `azure-pipelines.yml` file, which is the case for all sample repositories, then this step is skipped. Or else, Azure Pipelines recommends a starter template based on the code in your repository.
4. In the final step, you're shown the YAML file that will be used.
5. Select **Save and run**. Choose the option to **Commit directly to the master branch**.
6. The YAML file is now pushed to your GitHub repository, and a new build is automatically started.
7. Wait for the build to finish.

If you selected Azure Repos, you'll be asked to select an existing Repo.

Opening the Project in VS Code

Within the Repos section, click the “Clone” button in the upper right.

Select the “Clone in VSCode” to get a local copy and have it within the VS Code IDE.



Create a new project in Truffle

Open the terminal in VS Code and navigate to the root directory for your cloned repo and type –

```
truffle init
```

Once the command completes, edit the truffle-config.js file that was created.

Under ‘networks’, uncomment the ‘development’ section and rename it to ‘ganache’ Next, populate it with the values previously recorded for the host and port.

```
networks: {
  // Useful for testing. The `development` name is special - truffle uses it by default
  // if it's defined here and no other network is specified at the command line.
  // You should run a client (like ganache-cli, geth or parity) in a separate terminal
  // tab if you use this network and you must also set the `host`, `port` and `network_id`
  // options below to some value.
  //
  ganache: {
    host: "127.0.0.1",      // Localhost (default: none)
    port: 7545,              // Standard Ethereum port (default: none)
    network_id: "*",        // Any network (default: none)
  },
}
```

Note - Tests can be run without pointing Truffle at Ganache, but it is done here to ensure you can see the details of your transactions in the Ganache UI.

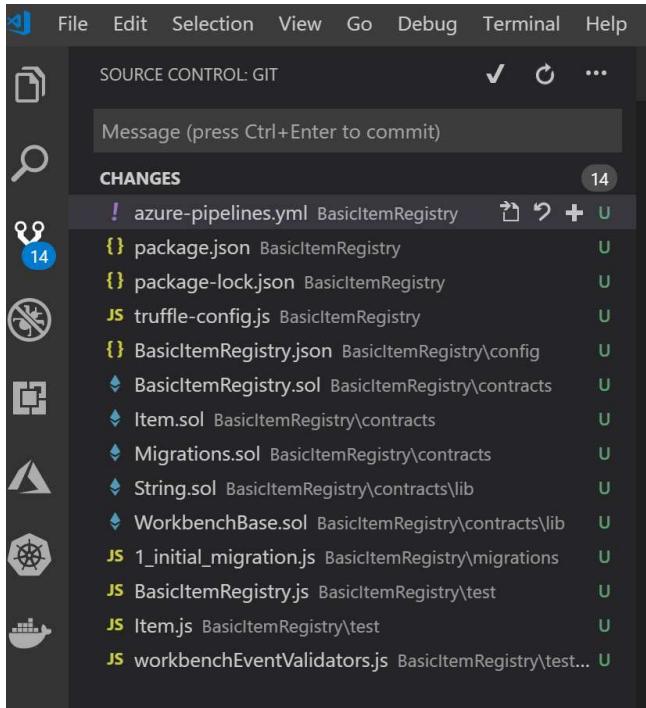
Associate sample files

Copy existing contracts into the contracts folder.

The Vehicle Registry records details for the Item contracts, including the contract location on the blockchain. The Vehicle Registry also contains look ups on unique values within the contracts. For vehicles there are two unique values the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and the vehicle registration number.

These contracts, tests, and other files can be downloaded [here](#).

When overlaid into the directory for the project, the git icon in VS Code should identify the number of changes and the list of files will be shown to the right.



Note – this sample focuses on a vehicle registry, but the [blockchain accelerator for registries](#) can be used to easily create similar contracts specific to your scenario.

#### *A Closer Look at the Tests*

On their website, Truffle provides details and considerations on how to write tests for smart contacts in both [Solidity](#) and [Javascript](#).

Double click on the file Item.js to see how the tests are written for the sample project.

You can see that the name of the two contracts are assigned to constants, the workbench specific validators are referenced, and an array is created that maps to the enum within the contract.

```
const BasicItemRegistry = artifacts.require("BasicItemRegistry");
const Item = artifacts.require("Item");

// Grab truffle-contract's decodeLogs helper function. It expects to be bound
// to the contract constructor, so we do that here as well
const decodeLogs = require('truffle-
contract/lib/utils').decodeLogs.bind(BasicItemRegistry);

// augment assert with workbench event validators
require("./helpers/workbenchEventValidators.js")(assert);

// helper enum description object, as enums aren't included in a contract's
```

```
// ABI, so we can't decode them from the compiler output... yet.
const StateType = {
  0: "Active",
  1: "Retired",
  Active: 0,
  Retired: 1,
}
```

The test then describes the constructor, passes values into it, and then validates a set of assertions based on expectations related to state.

It checks both the properties that are assigned inside of the constructor as well as the Azure Blockchain Workbench event that tracks contract creation was fired.

```
contract("Item", function (accounts) {
  describe("constructor", function () {
    let item;
    before("deploy fresh contract", async function () {
      item = await Item.new(
        accounts[0],
        "item0",
        "microsoft",
        "windows",
        "blue",
        "1985-11-20",
        "redmond"
      );
    });

    it("should have a manufacturer address", async function () {
      const manufacturer = await item.Manufacturer();
      assert.strictEqual(manufacturer, accounts[0]);
    });

    it("should have an itemId", async function () {
      const itemId = await item.ItemId();
      assert.strictEqual(itemId, "item0");
    });

    it("should have a make", async function () {
      const make = await item.Make();
      assert.strictEqual(make, "microsoft");
    });
  });
});
```

```

it("should have a model", async function () {
  const model = await item.Model();
  assert.strictEqual(model, "windows");
});

it("should have a color", async function () {
  const color = await item.Color();
  assert.strictEqual(color, "blue");
});

it("should have a manufactureDate", async function () {
  const manufactureDate = await item.ManufactureDate();
  assert.strictEqual(manufactureDate, "1985-11-20");
});

it("should have a factoryId", async function () {
  const factoryId = await item.FactoryId();
  assert.strictEqual(factoryId, "redmond");
});

it("should be created in the Active state", async function () {
  const state = await item.State();
  assert.strictEqual(StateType[state], "Active");
});

it("should emit a WorkbenchContractCreated event", async function () {
  const receipt = await web3.eth.getTransactionReceipt(item.transactionHash);
  const logs = decodeLogs(receipt.logs);
  assert.eventIsWorkbenchContractCreated(logs[0], "BasicItemRegistry",
  "Item", accounts[0]);
});
});

```

That is then followed by descriptions and tests of other functions in the contract, as can be seen below.

```

describe("RegisterItem", function () {
  let item;
  beforeEach("deploy fresh contract", async function () {
    item = await Item.new(
      accounts[0],
      "item0",
      "microsoft",

```

```
"windows",
"blue",
"1985-11-20",
"redmond"
);
});

it ("should register itself successfully", async function() {
  const basicItemRegistry = await BasicItemRegistry.new("MyRegistry",
"Description goes here.");
  await basicItemRegistry.OpenRegistry();

  // assert precondition: Item address not registered
  let isRegisteredItemContractAddress = await
basicItemRegistry.IsRegisteredItemContractAddress(item.address);
  assert (!isRegisteredItemContractAddress)

  // assert precondition: Item Id not registered
  let isRegisteredItemId = await
basicItemRegistry.IsRegisteredItemId("item0");
  assert (!isRegisteredItemId)

  await item.RegisterItem(basicItemRegistry.address);

  // assert postcondition: Item address is registered
  isRegisteredItemContractAddress = await
basicItemRegistry.IsRegisteredItemContractAddress(item.address);
  assert (isRegisteredItemContractAddress)

  // assert postcondition: Item Id is registered
  isRegisteredItemId = await basicItemRegistry.IsRegisteredItemId("item0");
  assert (isRegisteredItemId)
});

it("should emit a WorkbenchContractUpdated event", async function () {
  const basicItemRegistry = await BasicItemRegistry.new("MyRegistry",
"Description goes here.");
  await basicItemRegistry.OpenRegistry();

  // assert precondition: Item address not registered
  let isRegisteredItemContractAddress = await
basicItemRegistry.IsRegisteredItemContractAddress(item.address);
  assert (!isRegisteredItemContractAddress)

  // assert precondition: Item Id not registered
```

```

let isRegisteredItemId = await
basicItemRegistry.IsRegisteredItemId("item0");
assert (!isRegisteredItemId)

const { logs } = await item.RegisterItem(basicItemRegistry.address);
assert.eventIsWorkbenchContractUpdated(logs[logs.length - 1],
"BasicItemRegistry", "Item", "RegisterItem", accounts[0]);
});

it("should not change Item state", async function () {
  const basicItemRegistry = await BasicItemRegistry.new("MyRegistry",
"Description goes here.");
  await basicItemRegistry.OpenRegistry();

  // assert precondition: Item address not registered
  let isRegisteredItemContractAddress = await
basicItemRegistry.IsRegisteredItemContractAddress(item.address);
  assert (!isRegisteredItemContractAddress)

  // assert precondition: Item Id not registered
  let isRegisteredItemId = await
basicItemRegistry.IsRegisteredItemId("item0");
  assert (!isRegisteredItemId)

  // assert precondition: Item state is Active
  let state = await item.State();
  assert.strictEqual(StateType[state], "Active");

  await item.RegisterItem(basicItemRegistry.address);

  // assert postcondition: Item state is still Active
  state = await item.State();
  assert.strictEqual(StateType[state], "Active");
});

it("should revert if item is retired", async function () {
  const basicItemRegistry = await BasicItemRegistry.new("MyRegistry",
"Description goes here.");
  await basicItemRegistry.OpenRegistry();

  // assert precondition: Item address not registered
  let isRegisteredItemContractAddress = await
basicItemRegistry.IsRegisteredItemContractAddress(item.address);
  assert (!isRegisteredItemContractAddress)
}

```

```

// assert precondition: Item Id not registered
let isRegisteredItemId = await
basicItemRegistry.IsRegisteredItemId("item0");
assert (!isRegisteredItemId)

// set up precondition: retire item
await item.Retire();

// assert precondition: Item state is Retired
let state = await item.State();
assert.strictEqual(StateType[state], "Retired");

try {
  await item.RegisterItem(basicItemRegistry.address);
  assert.fail("previous line should have thrown!");
} catch (err) {
  assert(
    /revert/.test(err.message),
    `Expected revert error. Got '${err.message}', instead.`);
}
});

describe("Retire", function () {
  beforeEach("deploy fresh contract", async function () {
    item = await Item.new(
      accounts[0],
      "item0",
      "microsoft",
      "windows",
      "blue",
      "1985-11-20",
      "redmond"
    );
  });
}

it("should change state to Retired", async function () {
  // assert precondition: Item state is Active
  state = await item.State();
  assert.strictEqual(StateType[state], "Active");

  // retire item
  await item.Retire();
}

```

```
// assert postcondition: Item state is Retired
state = await item.State();
assert.strictEqual(StateType[state], "Retired");
});

it("should emit a WorkbenchContractUpdated event", async function () {
  const { logs } = await item.Retire();
  assert.eventIsWorkbenchContractUpdated(logs[0], "BasicItemRegistry",
"Item", "Retire", accounts[0]);
});
});
```

### *Local Testing*

Within the Terminal in VS Code, type the following commands –

```
truffle -compile
```

```
truffle -test
```

This will execute the tests in the “\tests” folder of sample project provided. These tests create instances of the contracts, provide sample values to the constructors of the contracts and validate that the state and outputs of functions on the contract returns what’s expected.

### *Truffle Deploy to Ganache*

Truffle refers to deployments as migrations. The initial deployment is a migration that effectively migrates from a “null state” to a first time deployment. Subsequent migrations can be used to both deploy new contract versions and migrate state, similar to how many data developers are familiar with from SQL migrations.

Open the terminal in VS Code and navigate to the root directory for your cloned repo and type –

```
truffle migrate --network=ganache
```

### *Test Against Production Blockchain Data Locally with Forking*

Good DevOps processes attempt to eliminate or minimize the difference between test environments and production. Blockchains facilitate this goal in a way that other software cannot via the ability to fork a chain. Forking a chain is a process where a new blockchain network is created from the state of an existing chain, but blocks added to the new chain do not get appended back to the original. With tools like ganache-cli, instantaneous forking can be achieved by deferring back to the original network for reads of old state information.

Setting up a forked network is easy using the ganache-cli that we installed previously.

Point ganache-cli at the RPC endpoint of the node you wish to fork by running it with the `--fork` flag. If you are using a private chain for a consortium or the public Ethereum network, the approach is the same.

An example command line would be the following -

```
ganache-cli --fork https://mynode.mynetwork.local:8545
```

Once the above command is executed, the ganache-cli will expose its own local network on port 8545 which will refer back to the original chain for reads of state that existed prior to the fork. There is no delay for this to happen, Ganache will be available immediately.

If you wish to fork from a previous block, you can specify the block number by appending `@BlockNumber` to the end of the node URL.

An example command line would be the following -

```
ganache-cli --fork https://mynode.mynetwork.local:8545@12345
```

Note - This is especially useful for testing migrations, especially complex migrations which move state from an old contract version to a new one.

## Using Truffle in Build Pipelines

The build pipeline in this document focuses on the compilation and testing of smart contracts.

Often, at the consortium and consortium member levels, where there will also be custom code that interacts with the smart contract(s). This can be code running in compute (VM, Logic Apps, Flow, Functions, etc.) or a web app communicating directly using the native blockchain API endpoints or client libraries, e.g. Nethereum, that wrap them.

This is consortium specific code that impacts all members of the consortium and may manifest itself in the communication of data and events to and from the smart contract from backend systems, web or mobile clients for end users, etc.

While not a focus of this document, build pipelines should incorporate this additional code as appropriate. The approach for doing this follows the [standard approach](#) for setting up build pipelines in Azure DevOps.

The build pipeline definition for Azure DevOps is contained within the `azure-pipelines.yaml` file.

```
# Node.js
# Build a general Node.js project with npm.
# Add steps that analyze code, save build artifacts, deploy, and more:
# https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/devops/pipelines/languages/javascript

pool:
  vmImage: 'Ubuntu 16.04'

steps:
- task: NodeTool@0
  inputs:
    versionSpec: '8.x'
    displayName: 'Install Node.js'

- script: |
  npm install
```

```

cd function-app/GanacheFunction
npm install
displayName: 'Install project dependencies'

- script: |
  npx truffle compile
  npx truffle test
displayName: 'Truffle Compile & Test'

# azure-pipelines.js - Publish Test Results in
- task: PublishTestResults@2
  condition: always()
  inputs:
    testResultsFormat: 'JUnit'
    testResultsFiles: '**/TEST-*.xml'

- task: ArchiveFiles@2
  inputs:
    rootFolderOrFile: '$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)'
    includeRootFolder: false
    archiveType: 'zip'
    archiveFile: '$(Build.ArtifactStagingDirectory)/full-$(Build.BuildId).zip'

- task: ArchiveFiles@2
  inputs:
    rootFolderOrFile: '$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)/function-app'
    includeRootFolder: false
    archiveType: 'zip'
    archiveFile: '$(Build.ArtifactStagingDirectory)/function-app-$(Build.BuildId).zip'

- task: PublishBuildArtifacts@1
  inputs:
    pathToPublish: '$(Build.ArtifactStagingDirectory)'

```

As can be seen in the yaml file, the following activities are executed. -

- Installs Node.js
- Installs NPM
- Runs truffle compile
- Runs truffle test
- Installs Node.js dependencies
- Installs Mocha
- Publishes test results
- Places the files in a uniquely named zip file
- Places the function app in a uniquely named zip file
- Copies files (post build)
- Publishes build artifacts

## Automated Tests

The tests executed by the consortium and consortium member organizations will include the same tests run locally. These organizations should additionally determine what tests should be written to validate

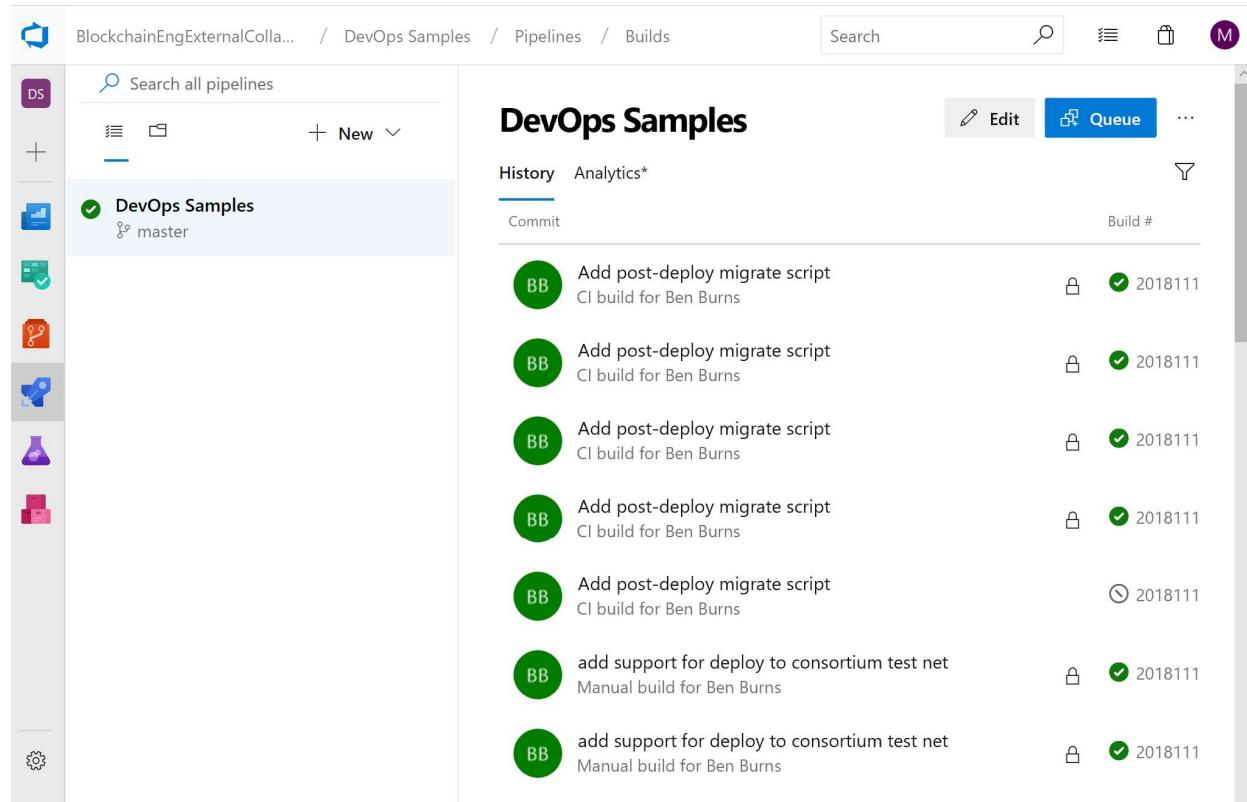
that the smart contracts have not changed in a way that will break compatibility with their existing integration points.

If build pipelines for these dependent applications do not already exist, then these additional tests should then be incorporated in build pipelines.

When defining your release pipeline(s), you should also incorporate the dependent applications so that the resulting test environment represents production for the consortium member. If manual testing is required for that, Azure DevOps has capabilities to support that as well, as defined [here](#).

Upgrade requirements and scenarios, if any, should also be reflected in testing.

The same unit tests that were performed locally are performed automatically when code is checked into the repo.



The screenshot shows the Azure Pipelines interface for the 'DevOps Samples' pipeline. On the left, there's a sidebar with various icons for different project types. The main area displays the pipeline history under the heading 'DevOps Samples'. It shows seven build logs, each with a green circular icon containing 'BB' (representing Ben Burns), the commit message, the build status (all successful with green checkmarks), and the build number '2018111'. The logs are:

- Add post-deploy migrate script CI build for Ben Burns
- Add post-deploy migrate script CI build for Ben Burns
- Add post-deploy migrate script CI build for Ben Burns
- Add post-deploy migrate script CI build for Ben Burns
- Add post-deploy migrate script CI build for Ben Burns
- add support for deploy to consortium test net Manual build for Ben Burns
- add support for deploy to consortium test net Manual build for Ben Burns

After a build pipeline is executed, select the build in the Builds section of Azure Pipelines to show the outcome of the tests. Azure Pipelines will identify –

- What changes were incorporated in the build
- Whether the build was successful (identifying any errors that may have occurred)
- Whether the tests were successful (identifying any failed tests that may have occurred)
- What deployments were triggered as a result of these tests.

The Summary and Test pages for a build of the sample project can be found below.

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps Pipeline build summary for a build triggered on Tuesday at 4:13 pm. The pipeline stage 'Item contract tests' has passed. The 'Progression' section details the build steps: Deployments (0), Tests succeeded (100% passed), Build pipeline succeeded (0 errors / 0 warnings), and Associated changes (3 commits). A summary bar indicates the build was queued on Tuesday, started after 3s in queue, and completed after 2m 32s. A histogram shows builds since November 2 at 2:15 pm.

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps Test run summary for the same build. It displays 37 total tests, with 37 Passed, 0 Failed, and 0 Others, resulting in 100% pass percentage and a run duration of 5s 103ms. A trophy icon is prominently displayed in the center of the summary area.

At the consortium member level, there will be custom code that interacts with the smart contract. This can be code running in compute (VM, Logic Apps, Flow, Functions, etc.) or a web app communicating directly using the native blockchain API endpoints or client libraries, e.g. Nethereum, that wrap them.

## Configure a Release Pipeline in Azure DevOps

Release Pipelines will be used to deploy the smart contracts into test and production environments. For testing, deployment can be to Ganache or a full deployment of an Ethereum ledger done as infrastructure as code.

As with the deployment pipeline for the consortium member, in this paper we will focus on using Ganache in a function as it is a lower cost option that still represents a production chain. For public chains, this is the most appropriate option. For private chains, whether you use Ganache or a deployment of a blockchain, e.g. Ethereum, is a decision to be made by the consortium member.

Note – some chains, e.g. Quorum, are based on Ethereum but have extended the functionality of it. Ganache does not yet support this extended functionality and infrastructure as code should be used to represent the chain in these cases.

In addition to the smart contracts and the ledger, there are often consortium specific applications that must be tested to ensure compatibility and identify any breaking changes. In the previous section, this was done for applications specific to a consortium member, e.g. Contoso's back end applications. In this instance, what will be deployed are the applications provided for the entire consortium that have a dependency on this smart contract, if any.

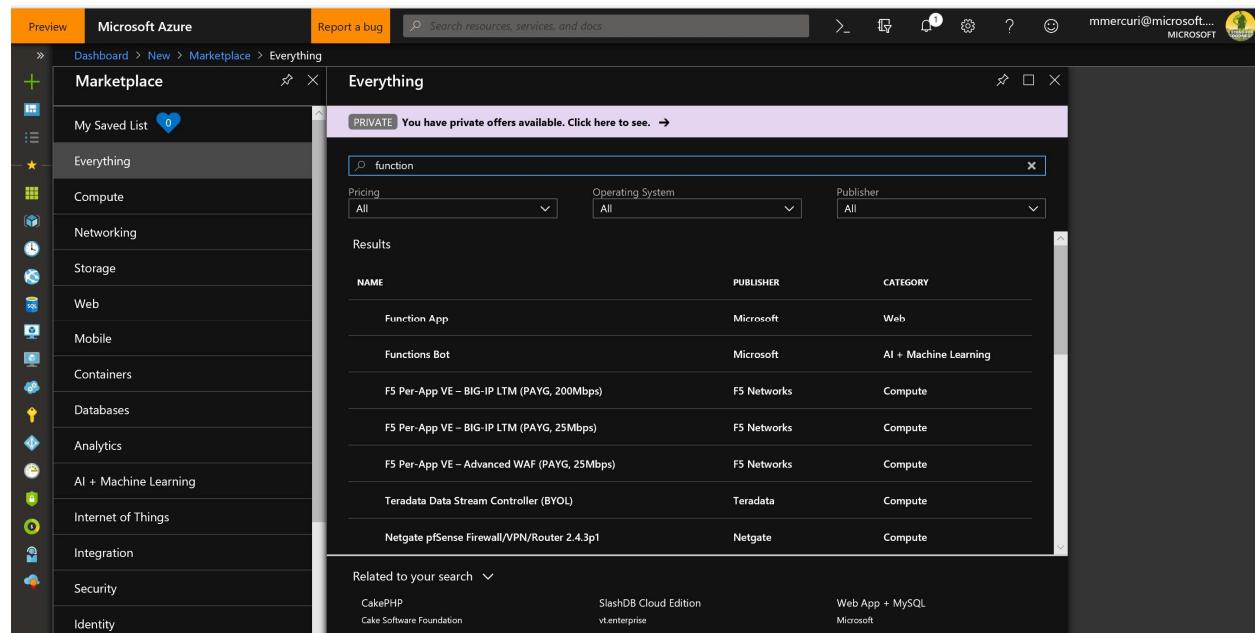
Upgrade requirements and scenarios reflected in testing, if any, should also be incorporated into the release pipeline

## Creating an Azure Function

As mentioned previously, the testing will utilize Ganache running in an Azure function.

In this section, we'll walk through creating a new Function within the Azure Portal.

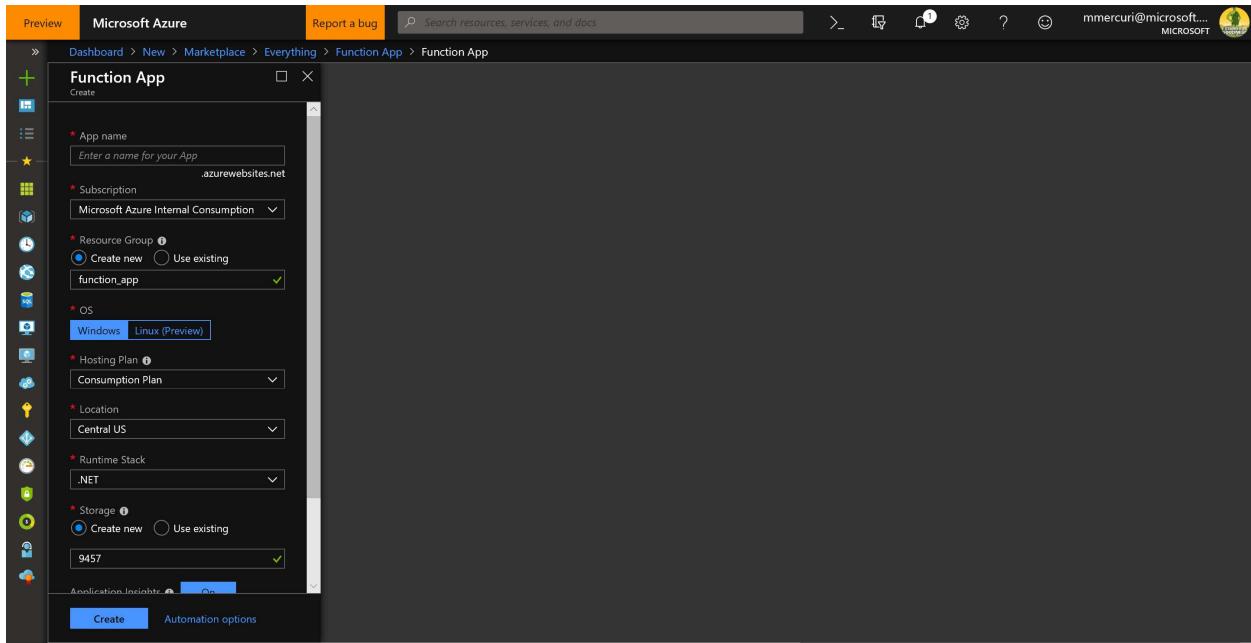
Navigate to the [Azure Portal](#), click the plus sign in the upper left corner of the portal and search for the Function App resource type.



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Azure Marketplace search results for 'function'. The search bar at the top contains 'function'. Below the search bar, there are filters for Pricing (All), Operating System (All), and Publisher (All). The results table has columns for NAME, PUBLISHER, and CATEGORY. The results listed are:

NAME	PUBLISHER	CATEGORY
Function App	Microsoft	Web
Functions Bot	Microsoft	AI + Machine Learning
F5 Per-App VE – BIG-IP LTM (PAYG, 200Mbps)	F5 Networks	Compute
F5 Per-App VE – BIG-IP LTM (PAYG, 25Mbps)	F5 Networks	Compute
F5 Per-App VE – Advanced WAF (PAYG, 25Mbps)	F5 Networks	Compute
Teradata Data Stream Controller (BYOL)	Teradata	Compute
Netgate pfSense Firewall/VPN/Router 2.4.3p1	Netgate	Compute

Populate the values for function app and select Javascript as the runtime stack.

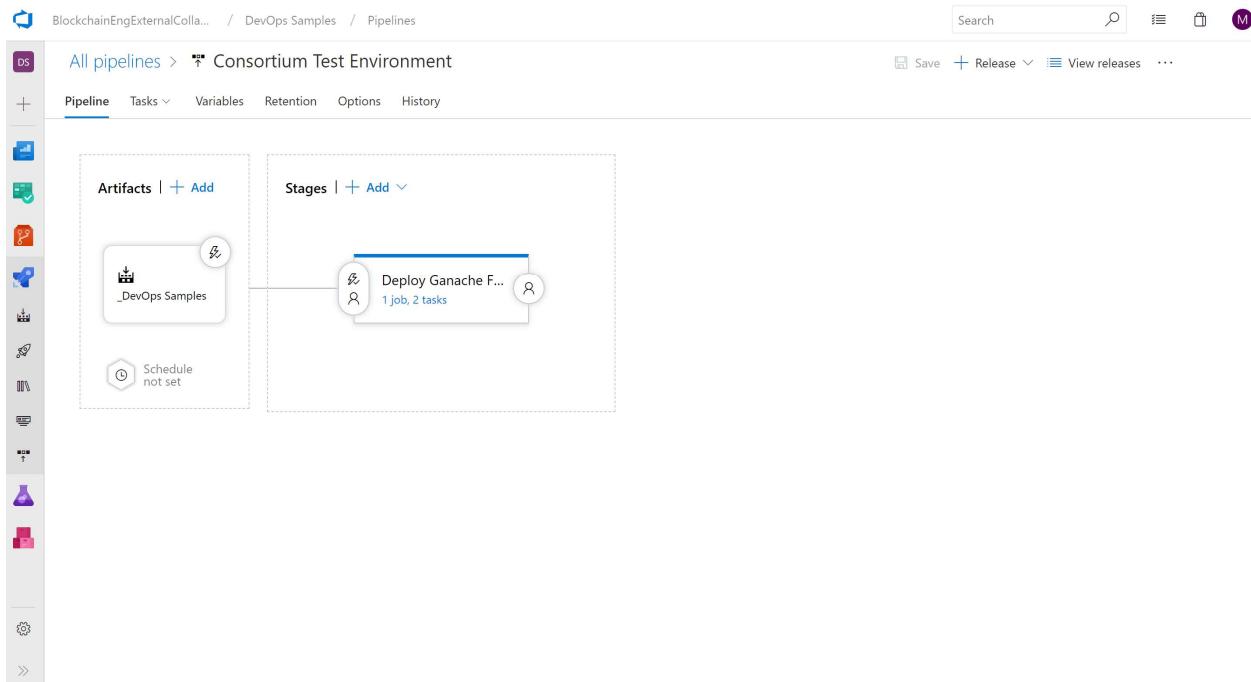


Click the Create button and wait for the notification from the portal that the resource was created.

## Creating the Release Pipeline

Right click on the Pipelines icon and select Releases

From the menu select New.



In this paper we will focus on using Ganache in a function as it is a lower cost option that still represents a production chain. For public chains, this is the most appropriate option. For private chains, whether

you use Ganache or a deployment of a ledger, e.g. Quorum, is a decision to be made by the consortium member.

The deployment pipeline will have three tasks – one will deploy the function with Ganache.

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps Pipeline editor. A pipeline named 'Consortium Test Environment' is displayed. The 'Tasks' tab is selected. The pipeline consists of four tasks: 'Deploy Ganache Function' (Deployment process), 'Run on agent' (Run on agent), 'Deploy Azure App Service' (Azure App Service Deploy), and 'PowerShell Script'. The 'Deploy Azure App Service' task is currently selected, showing its configuration details. The configuration includes:

- Version: 3.\*
- Display name: Deploy Azure App Service
- Azure subscription: Microsoft Azure Internal Consumption (b64c55d8-ba65-4a19-94c1-a1c1b1469dce)
- App type: Function App
- App Service name: adcfunctiontest

The screenshot shows the same pipeline configuration as the previous screenshot, but the 'Deploy Azure App Service' task is now expanded to show its detailed settings. The expanded view includes:

- Package or folder: \$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)/\*\*/function-app\*.zip
- File Transforms & Variable Substitution Options
- Additional Deployment Options
- Post Deployment Action
- Application and Configuration Settings
- Output:
  - App Service URL: AppServiceURL
- Control Options
- Output Variables

The second will unzip the files using the Extract Files task.

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps Pipelines interface. The pipeline name is 'Consortium Test Environment'. The 'Extract files' task is currently selected. The configuration pane on the right shows the following settings:

- Display name: Extract files
- Archive file patterns: \_DevOps Samples/drop/full-\*.\*
- Destination folder: \$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)/project
- Clean destination folder before extracting: checked

The last will use a Powershell script to deploy the smart contracts that were compiled and tested in the build pipeline.

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps Pipelines interface. The pipeline name is 'Consortium Test Environment'. The 'PowerShell Script' task is currently selected. The configuration pane on the right shows the following settings:

- Type: File Path
- Script Path: \$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)/project/scripts/consortium-migrate.ps1
- Arguments: \$(AppServiceURL)/api/GanacheFunction?code=\$(MASTER\_FUNCTION\_KEY)

*Add Artifacts.*

The next step is to add an Artifact for your pipeline.

Add an artifact in the visual designer and accept all of the default values.

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps Pipeline Visual Designer. On the left, there's a sidebar with various icons. The main area has tabs for 'Pipeline' (selected), 'Tasks', 'Variables', 'Retention', 'Options', and 'History'. Under 'Pipeline', there are two sections: 'Artifacts' (with a '+ Add' button) and 'Stages' (with a '+ Add' dropdown). The 'Stages' section contains a single stage named 'Deploy Ganache F...' which includes '1 job, 2 tasks'. To the right, a modal window titled 'Artifact' is open, showing details for 'Build - \_DevOps Samples'. It includes fields for 'Project' (set to 'DevOps Samples'), 'Source (build pipeline)' (set to 'DevOps Samples'), 'Default version' (set to 'Specify at the time of release creation'), and 'Source alias' (set to '\_DevOps Samples'). A note at the bottom states: 'The artifacts published by each version will be available for deployment in release pipelines. Select the version when you create a release. For automatically triggered releases, the latest version will be chosen.'

Next click on the Stage that is provided by default and named “Stage 1.”

Rename the stage to “Deploy Ganache Function”, select “Function App”, and then select the App Service name specified earlier when creating the Azure Function.

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps Pipeline Visual Designer with the 'Tasks' tab selected. A stage named 'Deploy Ganache Function' is currently selected. On the left, there's a list of tasks: 'Run on agent' (selected), 'Deploy Azure App Service' (with a note 'Azure App Service Deploy'), 'Extract files', and 'PowerShell Script'. On the right, the configuration pane for 'Deploy Ganache Function' shows the following settings: 'Stage name' is 'Deploy Ganache Function'; 'Parameters' are set to 'Unlink all'; 'Azure subscription' is 'Microsoft Azure Internal Consumption (b64c55d8-ba65-4a19-94c1-a1c1b1469d)'; 'App type' is 'Function App'; and 'App service name' is 'adosfunctiontest'. There are also notes about the subscription and app type.

Click the “+” to the right of “Run on Agent” to add a task.

Select “Azure App Service Deploy.”

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps Marketplace search results for "Deploy Azure App Service". The search bar at the top contains the query. Below it, a card for the "Azure App Service Deploy" task is displayed, showing its icon (a blue square with a white gear), name, and a brief description: "Update Azure App Services on Windows, Web App on Linux with built-in images or Docker containers, ASP.NET, .NET Core, PHP, Python or Node.js based Web applications, Function Apps, Mobile Apps, API applications, Web Jobs using Web Deploy / Kudu REST APIs". Below this card, there is a section titled "Marketplace" with several other tasks listed:

- Azure App Service: Set App settings**: Adds settings to the App Settings of an Azure App Service.
- Azure App Service: Add or remove IP Restrictions**: Adds or removes IP Restrictions, uses custom address or adds the IP of the build agent.
- Octopus Deploy Integration**: Builds and releases tasks and other features for integrating with Octopus Deploy. It's great for deploying ASP.NET or Core apps to IIS or Azure, SQL databases, Windows services and much more.
- Kudu ZipDeploy**: Deploys a Zip package to the Azure App Service using the Kudu zipdeploy api.

Select authorize the subscription, “Function App”, and specify the App Service Name.

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps Pipeline editor for the "Consortium Test Environment" pipeline. The left sidebar shows the pipeline structure with tasks: "Deploy Ganache Function", "Run on agent", "Deploy Azure App Service" (which is currently selected and highlighted in blue), and "Deploy Contracts to Ganache". The right pane shows the configuration for the selected "Deploy Azure App Service" task. The task type is "Azure App Service Deploy". The configuration fields include:

- Version**: Set to 3.\*
- Display name**: Deploy Azure App Service
- Azure subscription**: Microsoft Azure Internal Consumption (b64c55d8-ba65-4a19-94c1-a1c1b1469dce) - Scoped to subscription 'Microsoft Azure Internal Consumption'
- App type**: Function App
- App Service name**: adosfunctiontest
- Deploy to slot**: Unchecked
- Virtual application**: An empty input field
- Package or folder**: \$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)/\_DevOps Samples/drop/function-app

Next, add another task and select “Extract files” as the task type.

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps Pipelines interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with icons for different pipeline components like Deploy, Run on agent, Deploy Azure App Service, Extract files, and PowerShell Script. The main area shows a pipeline named 'Consortium Test Environment' with several tasks listed: 'Deploy Ganache Function', 'Run on agent', 'Deploy Azure App Service', 'Extract files' (which is currently selected), and 'PowerShell Script'. To the right of the selected task, there's a detailed configuration panel for the 'Extract Files' task. It includes fields for 'Version' (set to 1.\*), 'Display name' (set to 'Extract files'), 'Archive file patterns' (set to '\_DevOps Samples/drop/full-\* .zip'), and 'Destination folder' (set to '\$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)/project'). A checked checkbox at the bottom says 'Clean destination folder before extracting'.

Change the “Display name” for the task to “Extract files.”

Next, insert the following text into the text box for “Archive file patterns.”

`_DevOps Samples/drop/full-* .zip`

Insert the following text into the text box for “Destination folder”

`$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)/project`

Next, click the check box named “Clean destination folder before extracting.”

For the function created earlier, navigate to the “Function app settings” tab and click the Copy link under Actions for the “\_master” key.

This screenshot shows the 'Host Keys (All functions)' section of the Azure Functions settings. It lists two host keys: '\_master' and 'default'. For each, there is a 'VALUE' column with a 'Click to show' link, and an 'ACTIONS' column with 'Copy', 'Renew', and 'Revoke' buttons. Below the table is a blue button labeled 'Add new host key'.

Host Keys (All functions)		
NAME	VALUE	ACTIONS
_master	<a href="#">Click to show</a>	<a href="#">Copy</a> <a href="#">Renew</a>
default	<a href="#">Click to show</a>	<a href="#">Copy</a> <a href="#">Renew</a> <a href="#">Revoke</a>

Add new host key

Next, go back to Azure DevOps and click the Variables tab.

All pipelines > Consortium Test Environment

Pipeline Tasks Variables Retention Options History

Pipeline variables

Variable groups

Predefined variables

Filter by keywords

Name Value Scope

MASTER_FUNCTION_KEY	*****	Deploy Ganache I
---------------------	-------	------------------

Add

List Grid

Scope

Create a new variable named “MASTER\_FUNCTION\_KEY” and populate it with the key for the function captured earlier.

Next, go back to the Pipeline and add another task.

Select the Powershell task.

Add tasks | Refresh

Powershell

- PowerShell**  
Run a PowerShell script on Windows, macOS, or Linux.
- Service Fabric PowerShell**  
Run a PowerShell script within the context of an Azure Service Fabric cluster connection.
- PowerShell on Target Machines**  
Execute PowerShell scripts on remote machine(s)
- Azure PowerShell**  
Run a PowerShell script within an Azure environment

This task will execute the Powershell script named consortium-migrate.ps1 that can be found in the /scripts directory.

The script, displayed below, compiles and migrates the contracts.

```
param (
    [Parameter(Position=0)]
    [string]$url
```

```

)
$env:APP_SVC_URL="$url"
echo "migrating to $env:APP_SVC_URL"
npm install
node_modules/.bin/truffle compile
node_modules/.bin/truffle migrate --network=consortiumTest

```

Within the task, specify the following value in the Script Path.

`$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)/project/scripts/consortium-migrate.ps1`

Provide the following text in the Arguments field -

`$(AppServiceURL)/api/GanacheFunction?code=$(MASTER_FUNCTION_KEY)`

The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps Pipeline editor interface. The pipeline is named 'Consortium Test Environment'. The 'Tasks' tab is selected. A 'PowerShell Script' task is currently being configured. The 'Type' is set to 'File Path' and the 'Script Path' is set to `$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)/project/scripts/consortium-migrate.ps1`. The 'Arguments' field contains `$(AppServiceURL)/api/GanacheFunction?code=$(MASTER_FUNCTION_KEY)`.

## Infrastructure as Code

Ganache has been used to provide a forked version of a production chain.

For some consortiums, there is a desire to deploy infrastructure as code that represents the topology and specific ledger stack that they will deploy in production. For the very first deployment, there is no notion yet of production, and it may also be desirable to deploy a full node or network.

In these cases, the deployments should be consistent, predictable and with an infrastructure as code approach.

The recommended approach is to use an automation template. On Azure, this is done using an Azure Resource Manager (ARM) template.

### [Adding an ARM Template to a Release Pipeline](#)

In the Blockchain DevOps paper, one of the topics covered the need to deploy full blockchain infrastructure vs. Ganache in a function.

Typically, this is done via an Azure Resource Manager template. The below detail specifies how to include an arm template to deploy your blockchain network using infrastructure as code.

- In the release pipeline, select + **Add tasks** and add an **Azure Resource Group Deployment** task. Optionally edit the name to help identify the task, such as **Provision Blockchain Node**.
- Configure the **Azure Resource Group Deployment** task as follows:



[Deploy: Azure Resource Group Deployment](#) - Deploy files to an Azure Resource Group.

**Azure Subscription:** Select a connection from the list under **Available Azure Service Connections** or create a more restricted permissions connection to your Azure subscription. For more details, see [Azure Resource Manager service connection](#).

**Action:** Create or Update Resource Group

**Resource Group:** The name for a new resource group, or an existing resource group name.

**Template location:** The path of the Resource Manager template; for example:

`$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)\Templates\BlockchainNetwork.json`

**Template Parameters:** The path of the Resource Manager template parameters file; for example:

`$(System.DefaultWorkingDirectory)\Templates\BlockchainNetwork.parameters.json`

**Override Template Parameters:** A list of values for the parameters in the template; for example:

`-adminUsername $(vmuser) -adminPassword (ConvertTo-SecureString -String $(vmpassword) -AsPlainText -Force) -dnsNameForPublicIP $(dns)`

Use the ... button to open the parameters editor dialog.

**Enable Deployment Prerequisites:** Checked.

**Output - Resource Group:** The name of the Resource Group output from the task as a value that can be used as an input to further deployment tasks.

Checking the **Enable Deployment Prerequisites** checkbox configures an agent on the virtual machine, e.g. Win RM on Windows, and enables execution of remote PowerShell scripts, which may be required to deploy an application. Also notice the use of **ConvertTo-SecureString** to specify the value for **adminPassword**. You must do this because **adminPassword** is defined as a **SecureString** type in the Resource Manager template file.

If you used [variables](#) in the parameters of the **Azure Resource Group Deployment** task, such as **vmuser**, **vmpassword**, and **dns**, set the values for them in the stage configuration variables. Encrypt the value of **vmpassword** by selecting the "padlock" icon.

## Branch Policies and Security

Not discussed up to this point was how to handle the realities of a blockchain network involving multiple participants.

This section looks at the creation of branch policies and branch security. For consortiums, policies can help enforce how many members of the consortium should have to sign off on changes and if specific members need to review changes to specific files.

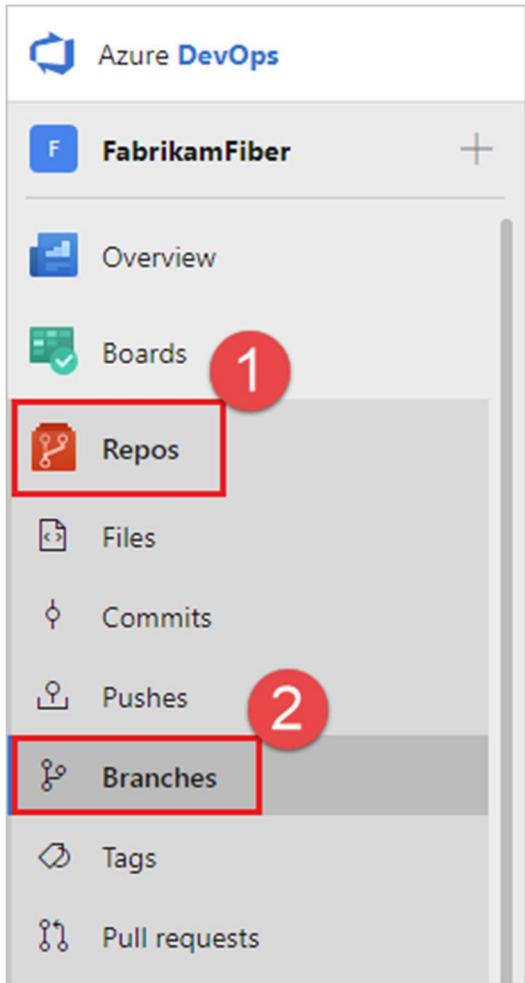
Also contained below are details on how to assign users to roles, configure the project to require that changes be tied to work items, limiting the ability for members to delete a branch, etc.

### Branch Policies

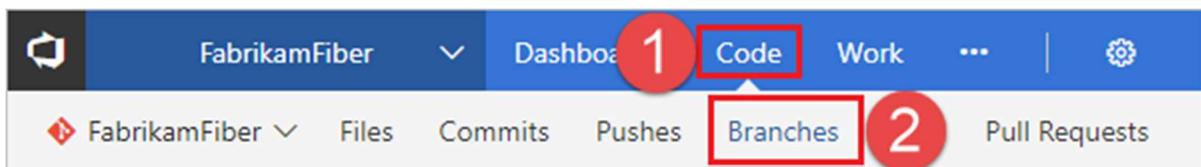
Branch policies help teams protect their important [branches](#) of development. Policies enforce your team's code quality and change management standards.

Configure branch policies

1. Open the **Branches** page by navigating to your project in the web portal and selecting **Repos**, **Branches**.



If you're not using the new navigation preview, select **Code, Branches**.



1. Locate your branch in the page. You can browse the list or you can search for your branch using the **Search all branches** box in the upper right.

Branches		Search all branches		New branch		
Mine	All	Stale				
Branch	Commit	Author	Authored Date	Behind   Ahead	Build	Pull Request
users/jamal	star					
	bptest	ce63eda0	Johnnie McLeod	7/3/2018	0   2	8   21
	branch-from-demo	b9650f9c	Jamal Hartnett	1/8/2018	0   0	✓
	date-fix	b9650f9c	Jamal Hartnett	1/8/2018	0   0	✓
	international-address-support	64515222	Jamal Hartnett	1/11/2018	2   1	8   8
	reademe-updates	36d09ed8	Jamal Hartnett	1/23/2018	2   2	8   9
	develop	90bdd18e	Jamal Hartnett	10/27/2017	3   0	
master	Default Compare	star	b9650f9c	Jamal Hartnett	1/8/2018	✓

2. Open the context menu for the branch by selecting the ... icon. Select **Branch policies** from the context menu

Branches

Mine All Stale

Branch	Commit	Author
users/jamal		
international-address-support	4162b62f	Jamal Hartnett
readme-fix	e3b6ea83	Jamal Hartnett
develop	9bdd18e	Jamal Hartnett
master	4162b62f	Jamal Hartnett

Default Compare ⚙

1

2

Configure your desired policies in the **Policies** page. See the following sections in this article for descriptions for each policy type. Once your policies are configured, select **Save changes** to apply your new policy configuration.

Policies for: FabrikamFiber > FabrikamFiber > master

**Protect this branch**

- Setting a Required policy will enforce the use of pull requests when updating the branch
- Setting a Required policy will prevent branch deletion
- Manage permissions for this branch on the [Security page](#)

## Require a minimum number of reviewers

Code reviews are a best practice for most software development projects. To require teams to review their changes before completing a pull request, check **Require a minimum number of reviewers**.

The basic policy requires that a certain number of reviewers approve the code with no rejections.

**Require a minimum number of reviewers**

Require approval from a specified number of reviewers on pull requests.

Minimum number of reviewers

Allow users to approve their own changes.

Allow completion even if some reviewers vote "Waiting" or "Reject".

Reset code reviewer votes when there are new changes.

- If **Allow users to approve their own changes** is not selected, the creator of the pull request can still vote **Approve** on their pull request, but their vote won't count toward the **Require a minimum number of reviewers** policy.
- If any reviewer rejects the changes, the pull request cannot be completed unless the **Allow completion even if some reviewers vote "Waiting" or "Reject"** is selected.
- To reset code reviewer votes when new changes are pushed to the source branch, check **Reset code reviewer votes when there are new changes**.

When the required number of reviewers approve the pull request, it can be completed.

### Note

The **Allow users to approve their own changes** setting only applies to the **Require a minimum number of reviewers** policy, and doesn't affect other policies such as [Automatically include code reviewers](#). For example, Jamal Hartnett creates a pull request with the following policies configured:

- **Require a minimum number of reviewers** is configured with two required reviewers.
- **Allow users to approve their own changes** is not set.
- The **Fabrikam Team** group is a required reviewer, and Jamal is a member of that group.

In this example, since Jamal is part of the **Fabrikam Team** group, his **Approve** vote satisfies the required reviewer policy, but the pull request still requires two additional **Approve** votes to satisfy the **Require a**

**minimum number of reviewers** policy, since his vote doesn't count toward that policy because **Allow users to approve their own changes** is not set.

## Check for linked work items

Require associations between pull requests and a work item to ensure that changes to your branch have work item management tracking. Linking work items provides additional context for your changes and ensures that updates go through your work item tracking process.

For consortiums which can span tens of companies and multiple individuals engaged across companies, forcing linked work items can ensure that the work being done by partner organizations is legitimate work that has been discussed and is part of the overall consortium plan.



### Check for linked work items

Encourage traceability by checking for linked work items on pull requests.

Policy requirement



Required

Block pull requests from being completed unless they have at least one linked work item.



Optional

Warn if there are no linked work items, but allow pull requests to be completed.

## Check for comment resolution

Configure a comment resolution policy for your branch by selecting **Check for comment resolution**.



### Check for comment resolution

Check to see that all comments have been resolved on pull requests.

Policy requirement



Required

Block pull requests from being completed while any comments are active.



Optional

Warn if any comments are active, but allow pull requests to be completed.

For more information on working with pull request comments, see [Pull requests - leave comments](#).

## Enforce a merge strategy

Maintain a consistent branch history by enforcing a merge strategy when a pull request is completed. Select **Enforce a merge strategy** and pick an option to require that pull requests merge using that strategy.

### Enforce a merge strategy

Require a specific type of merge when pull requests are completed.

#### No-fast-forward merge

The source branch and all its commits will appear as a second parent to the merge commit.

#### Squash merge

Condense all the changes in a pull request into one commit with one parent. [Learn more](#)

- **No fast-forward merge** - This merges the commit history of the source branch when the pull request closes and creates a merge commit in the target branch.
- **Squash merge** - Complete all pull requests with a squash merge, creating a single commit in the target branch with the changes from the source branch. [Learn more about squash merging](#) and how it affects your branch history.

## Build validation

Set a policy requiring changes in a pull request to build successfully with the protected branch before the pull request can be completed. Even if you're using [continuous integration](#) (CI) on your development branches to catch problems early, build policies reduce build breaks and keep your tests results passing.

When a build validation policy is enabled, a new build is queued when a new pull request is created or when changes are pushed to an existing pull request targeting this branch. The build policy then evaluates the results of the build to determine whether the pull request can be completed.

### Important

Before specifying a build validation policy, you must have a build definition. If you don't have one, see [Create a build definition](#) and choose the type of build that matches your project type.

### Build validation

Validate code by pre-merging and building pull request changes

[+ Add build policy](#)

Choose **Add build policy** and configure the desired options in the **Add build policy** window.

## Add build policy

Build definition \*

FabrikamFiber-CI

Trigger

Automatic (whenever the source branch is updated)

Manual

Policy requirement

Required  
Build must succeed in order to complete pull requests.

Optional  
Build failure will not block completion of pull requests.

Build expiration

Immediately when master is updated

After  hours if master has been updated

Never

Display name

FabrikamFiber-CI build

**Save** **Cancel**

- Select the build definition from the **Build definition** drop-down.
- Choose the type of **Trigger** - either **Automatic (whenever the source branch is updated)** or **Manual**.
- Configure the **Policy requirement**. If set to **Required**, builds must complete successfully in order to complete pull requests. Choose **Optional** to provide a notification of the build failure but still allow pull requests to complete.
- Set a build expiration to make sure that updates to your protected branch don't break changes in open pull requests.

3. **Immediately when branch name is updated:** This option sets the build policy status in a pull request to failed when the protected branch is updated. You must requeue a build to refresh the build status. This setting ensures that the changes in pull requests build successfully even as the protected branch changes. This option is best for teams that have important branches with a lower volume of changes. Teams working in busy development branches may find it disruptive to wait for a build to complete every time the protected branch is updated.

**After n hours if branch name has been updated:** This option expires the current policy status when the protected branch updates if the passing build is older than the threshold entered. This option is a compromise between always requiring a build when the protected branch updates and never requiring one. This choice is excellent for reducing the number of builds when your protected branch has frequent updates.

**Never:** Updates to the protected branch do not change the policy status. This reduces the number of builds for your branch, but can cause problems when closing pull requests that haven't been updated recently.

Choose an optional **Display name** for this build policy which is used to identify the policy on the **Branch policies** page. If you don't specify a display name, the build definition name is used.

When the owner pushes changes that build successfully, the policy status is updated. If you have an **Immediately when branch name is updated** or **After n hours if branch name has been updated** build policy chosen, the policy status updates when the protected branch is updated if the most recent build is no longer valid.

## Require approval from external services

External services can use the PR [Status API](#) to post detailed status to your PRs. The branch policy for external services brings the ability for those 3rd party services to participate in the PR workflow and establish policy requirements.

**Require approval from external services**

Require third party services to post successful status to complete pull requests.

[+ Add service](#)

[Post a status on a Pull Request to create a policy. Learn more](#)

For instructions on configuring this policy, see [Configure a branch policy for an external service](#).

## Automatically include code reviewers

Designate reviewers for specific directories and files in your repo.

## Automatically include code reviewers

Include specific users or groups in the code review based on which files changed.

[+ Add automatic reviewers](#)

Reviewer(s)	Requirement	Paths	
 Johnnie McLeod	Required	*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled

These reviewers are automatically added to pull requests that change files along those paths.

## Add automatic reviewers

Reviewer(s) \*

Search users and groups

Paths \*

[Learn more](#)

Policy requirement

Required

All reviewers must approve to complete pull requests.

Optional

Reviewers will be added automatically for configured paths, but approvals are not required to complete pull requests.

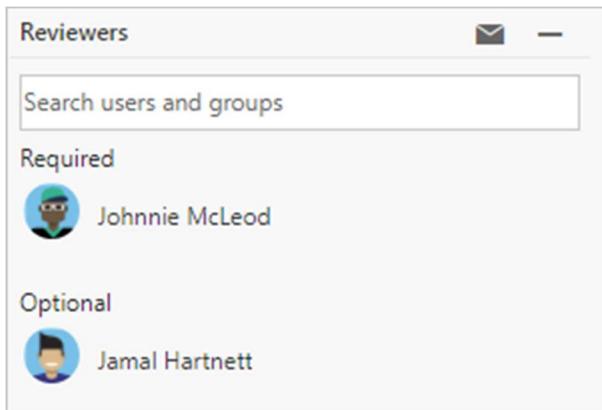
Custom message

[Save](#)

[Cancel](#)

If you select **Required** next to a path entry, then the pull request cannot be completed until:

- Every user added as a reviewer for the path approves the changes.
- At least one person in every group added to the path approves the changes.



Select **Optional** if you want to add reviewers automatically, but not require their approval to complete the pull request.

When the required reviewers approve the code, you can complete the pull request.

**Policies**

**Required**

- ✓ 1 reviewer approved
- ✓ Required reviewers have approved
- ✓ Work items linked

**Work Items** X +

3 ReadMe.txt missing from project

**Reviewers** ✉ +

**Required**

Johnnie McLeod  
Approved

**Optional**

Jamal Hartnett

## Bypass branch policies

### Note

There are several permissions that allow users to bypass branch policy. In TFS 2015 through TFS 2018 Update 2, the **Exempt from policy enforcement** permission allows users with this permission to perform the following actions:

- When completing a pull request, opt-in to override policies and complete a pull request even if the current set of branch policies is not satisfied.
- Push directly to a branch even if that branch has branch policies set. Note that when a user with this permission makes a push that would override branch policy, the push automatically bypasses branch policy with no opt-in step or warning.

In Azure DevOps Services, the **Exempt from policy enforcement** permission is removed and its functionality divided into the following two new permissions:

- Bypass policies when completing pull requests
- Bypass policies when pushing

Users that previously had **Exempt from policy enforcement** enabled now have the two new permissions enabled instead.

In some cases, you need to bypass policy requirements so you can push changes to the branch directly or complete a pull request even if branch policies are not satisfied. For these situations, grant the the desired permission from the previous list to a user or group. You can scope this permission to an entire project, a repo, or a single branch. Manage this permission along the with other [Git permissions](#).

The screenshot shows the 'Security for master branch in FabrikamFiber' dialog box. On the left, there's a sidebar with 'Add...', 'Inheritance', and a search bar. Below that is a tree view of 'VSTS Groups' and 'Users'. Under 'VSTS Groups', 'Project Administrators' is selected and highlighted in blue. Under 'Users', three entries are listed: 'FabrikamFiber Build Service (fabrikam-fiber)', 'Jamal Hartnett', and 'Project Collection Build Service (fabrikam-fiber)'. On the right, the 'ACCESS CONTROL SUMMARY' section displays various permissions with their current status:

Permission	Status
Bypass policies when completing pull requests	Not set
Bypass policies when pushing	Not set
Contribute	Allow (inherited)
Edit policies	Allow (inherited)
Force push (rewrite history, delete branches and tags)	Deny (inherited)
Manage permissions	Allow (inherited)
Remove others' locks	Allow (inherited)

Below the summary is a 'Clear explicit permissions' link and a row of buttons: 'Remove', 'Save changes', and 'Undo changes'. At the bottom right is a 'Close' button.

## Important

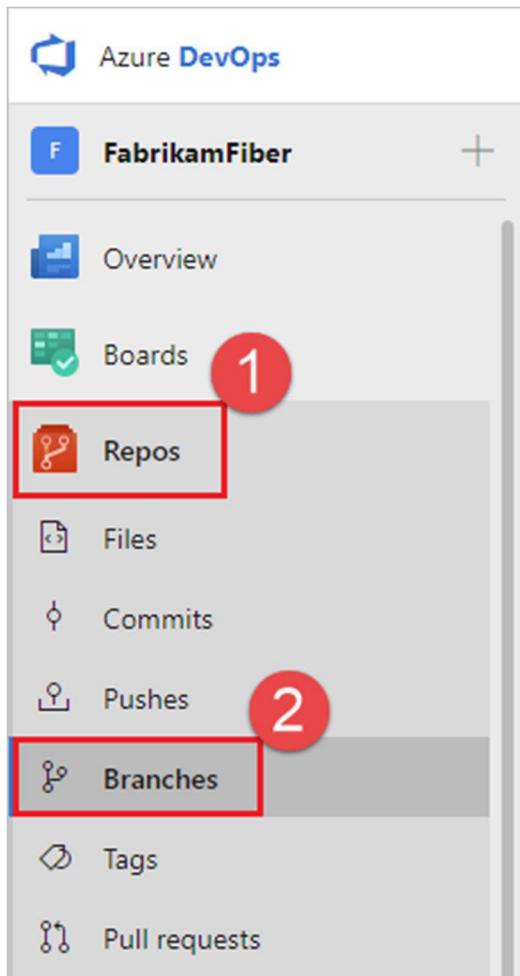
Use caution when granting these permissions, especially at the repo and project level.

## Branch Security

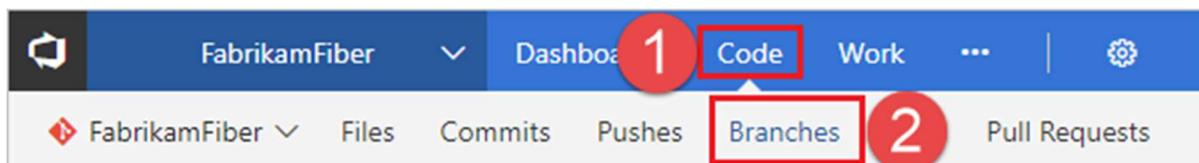
Set up permissions to control who can read and update the code in a branch on your Git repo. You can set permissions for individual users and groups, and inherit and override permissions as needed from your [repo permissions](#).

## Use the branches view to configure security

Open the **Branches** page by navigating to your project in the web portal and selecting **Repos**, **Branches**.



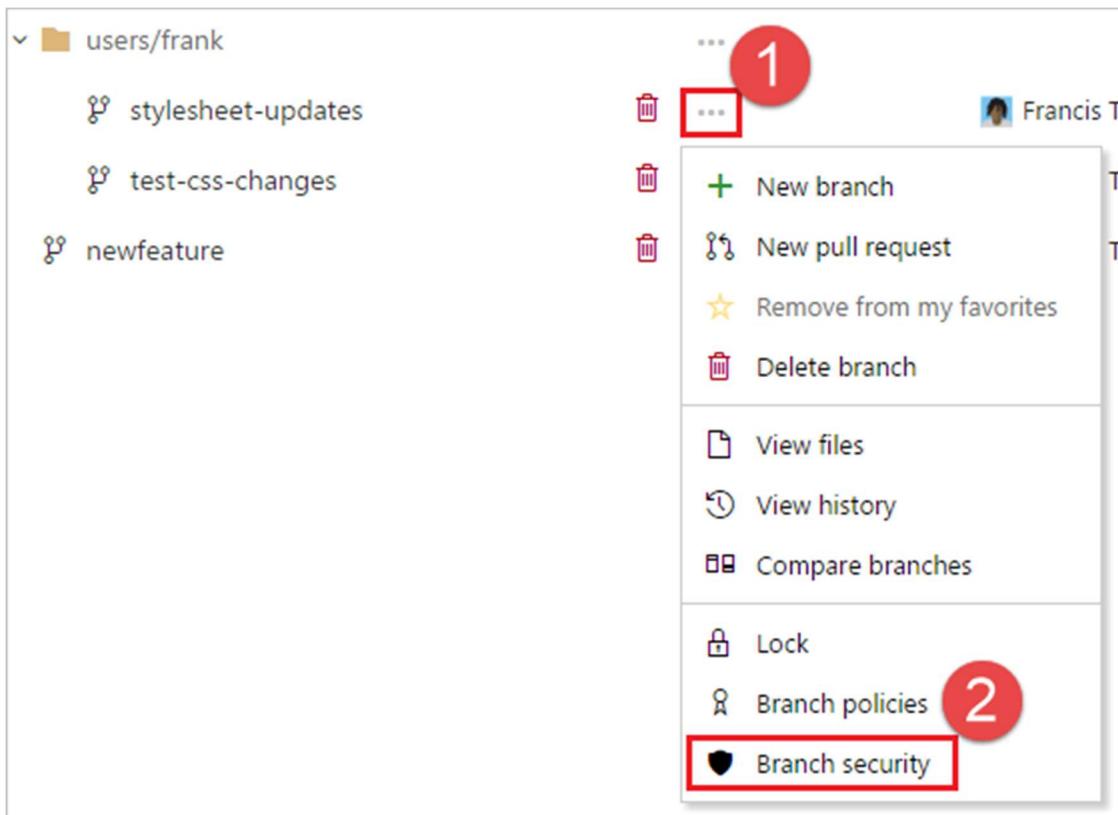
If you're not using the new navigation preview, select **Code**, **Branches**.



Locate your branch in the page. You can browse the list or you can search for your branch using the **Search all branches** box in the upper right.

Branches							<input type="button" value="New branch"/>	
Mine	All	Stale	Commit	Author	Authored Date	Behind   Ahead	Build	Pull Request
Branch								
<b>users/jamal</b>			ce63eda0	Johnnie McLeod	7/3/2018	0   2		8% 21
bptest			b9650f9c	Jamal Hartnett	1/8/2018	0   0	✓	
branch-from-demo			b9650f9c	Jamal Hartnett	1/8/2018	0   0	✓	
date-fix			b9650f9c	Jamal Hartnett	1/8/2018	0   0	✓	
international-address-support			64515222	Jamal Hartnett	1/11/2018	2   1		8% 8
reademe-updates			36d09ed8	Jamal Hartnett	1/23/2018	2   2		8% 9
develop			90bdd18e	Jamal Hartnett	10/27/2017	3   0		
master	Default	Compare	b9650f9c	Jamal Hartnett	1/8/2018		✓	

1. Open the context menu by selecting the ... icon next to the branch name. Select **Branch security** from the menu.



### Add users or groups

Avoid trouble: You can only add permissions for users and groups already in your Project. Add new users and groups to your Project before setting branch permissions.

Add users or groups to your branch permissions by selecting **Add**. Enter the sign-in address or group alias, then select **Save Changes**.

## Remove users or groups

Remove permissions for a user or group by selecting the user or Azure DevOps group, then selecting **Remove**. The user or group will still exist in your Project and this change will not affect other permissions for the user or group.

Security for users/frank/fix-rendering branch in FabrikamProject

**Security** Branch Policies

Add... ▾ Inheritance ▾

Search

▼ VSTS Groups

- Project Collection Administrators
- Project Collection Build Service Accounts
- Project Collection Service Accounts
- Build Administrators
- Contributors
- Project Administrators
- Readers

▼ Users

- Francis Totten
- Project Collection Build Service (fabrikops2)

**ACCESS CONTROL SUMMARY**  
Shows information about the permissions being granted to this identity

Permission	Status
Bypass policies when completing pull requests	Not set
Bypass policies when pushing	Not set
Contribute	Allow
Edit policies	Allow
Force push (rewrite history, delete branches and tags)	Deny
Manage permissions	Allow
Remove others' locks	Allow

[Clear explicit permissions](#)

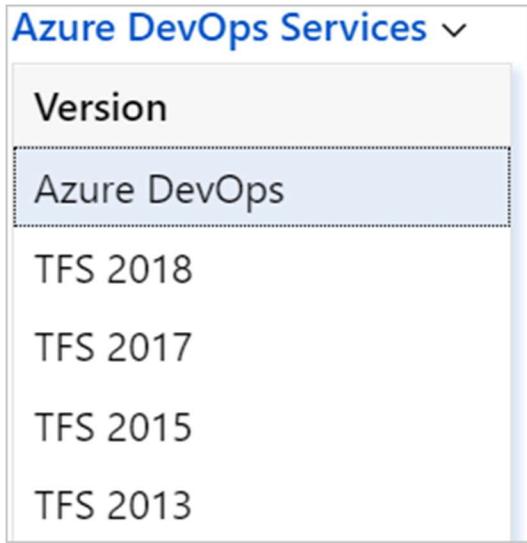
**Remove** Save changes Undo changes

## Set permissions

Control branch permission settings from the branch permission view. Users and groups with permissions set at the repo level will [inherit those permissions](#) by default.

### Note

These permissions have changed in TFS 2017 Update 1 and Azure DevOps Services. Ensure you are viewing the correct version of this documentation for permissions by choosing your product version in the upper left corner of the window.



#### Permissions in Azure DevOps Services

In **Azure DevOps Services**, the **Exempt from policy enforcement** permission (which is still available in TFS 2015 through TFS 2018 Update 2) was removed and its functionality divided into the following two new permissions:

- **Bypass policies when completing pull requests**
- **Bypass policies when pushing**

Users that previously had **Exempt from policy enforcement** enabled now have the two new permissions enabled instead. See the following table for more details on these two new permissions.

Permission	Description
Contribute	Users with this permission can push new commits to the branch and lock the branch.
Edit Policies	Can edit <a href="#">branch policies</a> .
Bypass policies when completing pull requests	Users with this permission are exempt from the <a href="#">branch policy</a> set for the branch when completing pull requests and can opt-in to override the policies by checking <b>Override branch policies and enable merge</b> when completing a PR.
Bypass policies when pushing	Users with this permission can push to a branch that has branch policies enabled. Note that when a user with this permission makes a push that would override branch policy, the push automatically bypasses branch policy with no opt-in step or warning.

Permission	Description
Force Push (Rewrite History and Delete Branches)	Can force push to a branch, which can rewrite history. This permission is also required to delete a branch.
Manage Permissions	Can set permissions for the branch.
Remove Others' Locks	Can remove <a href="#">locks</a> set on branches by other users.