**1. Buy/Register a Domain**

You can buy a domain from any domain registrar like **GoDaddy, Namecheap, or Azure’s own domain provider**. For this guide, let’s assume you already have a domain name (e.g., example.com).

**2. Create a Virtual Machine (VM) in Azure**

**Step 2.1: Login to Azure Portal**

* Go to [portal.azure.com](https://portal.azure.com)
* Sign in with your Microsoft account.

**Step 2.2: Create a Virtual Machine**

* Click **Create a resource** → Search for **Virtual Machine** → Click **Create**.
* Fill in details:
  + **Subscription**: Choose your subscription.
  + **Resource group**: Create new or use existing.
  + **Virtual machine name**: e.g., myVM.
  + **Region**: Choose a region close to your users.
  + **Image**: Choose OS (Ubuntu, Windows Server, etc.).
  + **Size**: Pick a VM size.
* Configure admin username and password/SSH key.
* In **Inbound port rules**, allow:
  + **HTTP (80)** and **HTTPS (443)** if hosting a website.
  + **SSH (22)** for Linux or **RDP (3389)** for Windows.
* Click **Review + create**, then **Create**.

**3. Setup Your VM Server (Web Server Example)**

**Step 3.1: Connect to VM**

* For **Linux**: Use SSH

bash

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ssh username@public-ip-of-vm

* For **Windows**: Use RDP.

**Step 3.2: Install a Web Server (Example: Nginx on Ubuntu)**

bash

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sudo apt update

sudo apt install nginx -y

sudo systemctl start nginx

sudo systemctl enable nginx

* Now your VM serves the default Nginx web page on port 80.

**4. Set Up Azure DNS Zone to Manage Your Domain**

**Step 4.1: Create a DNS Zone**

* In Azure Portal, search for **DNS Zones** → Click **Create**.
* Choose your **Resource group** and enter your **Domain name** (e.g., example.com).
* Click **Review + create** → **Create**.

**Step 4.2: Add DNS Records**

* After creation, go to your DNS Zone.
* Add **A record** pointing to your VM’s public IP:
  + Click **+ Record set**
  + Name: @ (means root domain)
  + Type: A
  + TTL: default 3600 seconds
  + IP Address: your VM’s public IP
  + Click **OK**.
* (Optional) Add **CNAME records** for www or other subdomains.

**5. Update Domain Registrar with Azure DNS Name Servers**

**Step 5.1: Find Azure DNS Name Servers**

* In your Azure DNS Zone overview, note the **Name Servers (NS)** listed (e.g., ns1-xx.azure-dns.com etc.).

**Step 5.2: Update NS records at your domain registrar**

* Login to your domain registrar (GoDaddy, Namecheap, etc.).
* Find DNS management or Nameserver settings.
* Replace existing nameservers with Azure DNS name servers.
* Save changes.

Note: DNS propagation can take from minutes up to 48 hours.

**6. Test Your Setup**

* After DNS propagates, open a browser.
* Navigate to http://example.com (your domain).
* You should see the default Nginx web page served by your Azure VM.