Uploading Data to Azure Storage (Gen2) Using Azure Storage Explorer

This guide explains how to connect Azure Storage Explorer to your Azure Storage account using a SAS (Shared Access Signature) URL, and upload files to a Data Lake Gen2 container.

Prerequisites

- Azure subscription with **Storage Account (Gen2)** already created.

- **Azure Storage Explorer** installed on your local system.

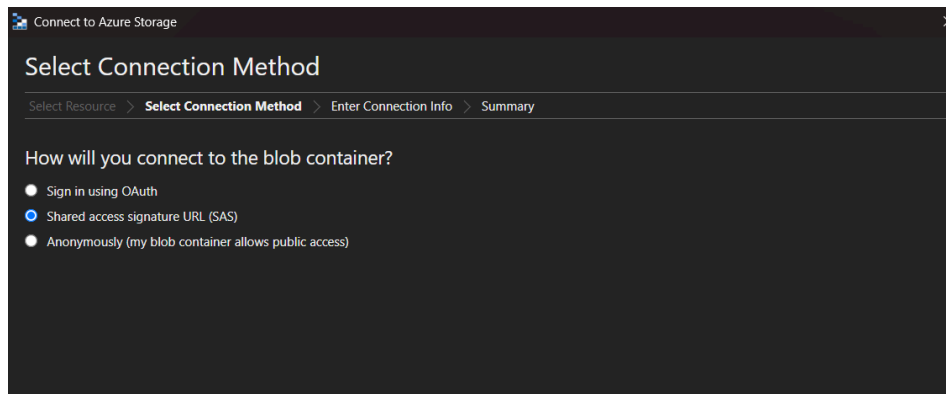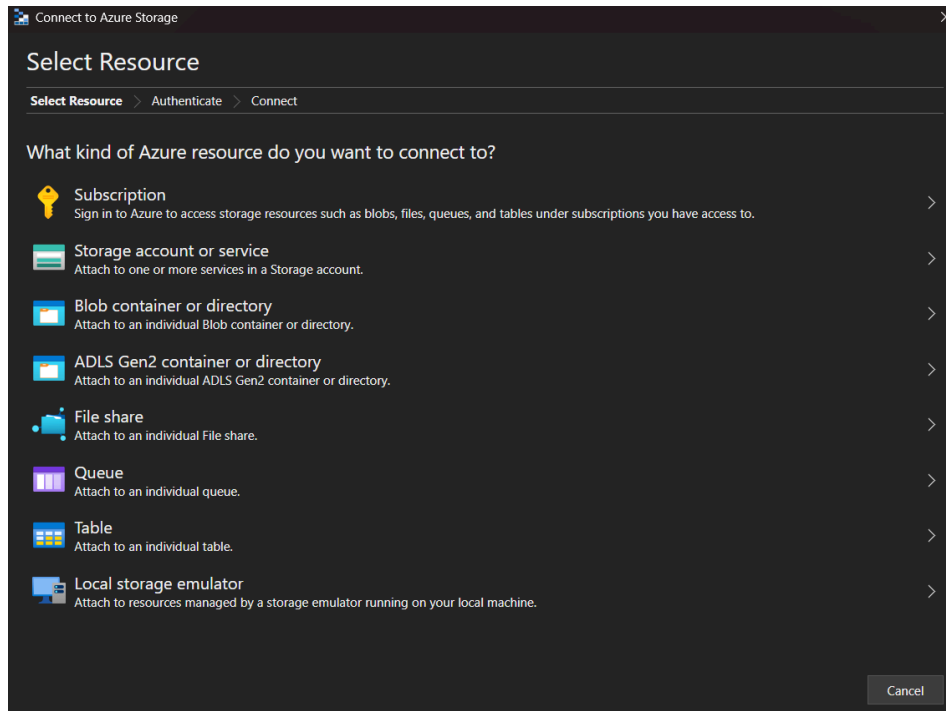- Storage account container access (via **SAS URL**).

Step 1: Launch Azure Storage Explorer and Connect to Azure Resources

1. Open Azure Storage Explorer.

2. On the left sidebar, click the Account Management button.

3. Click "Connect to Azure resources".
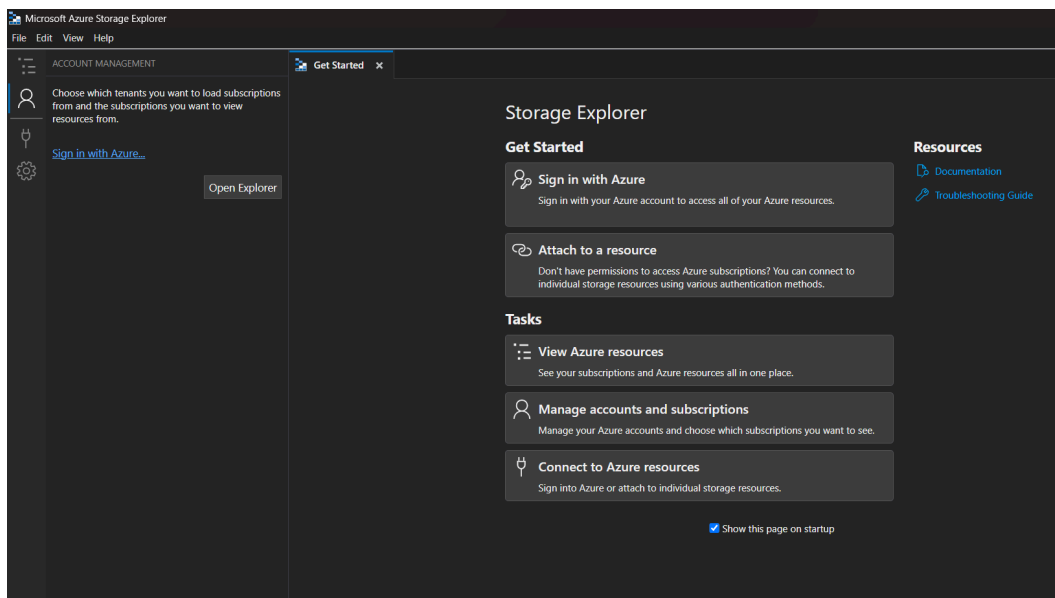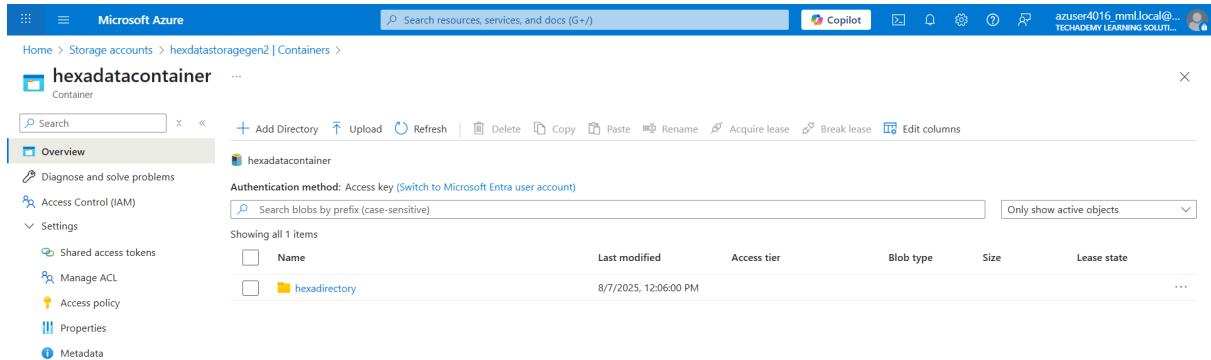
4. In the connection options, choose:

   ○ "Blob container or directory"
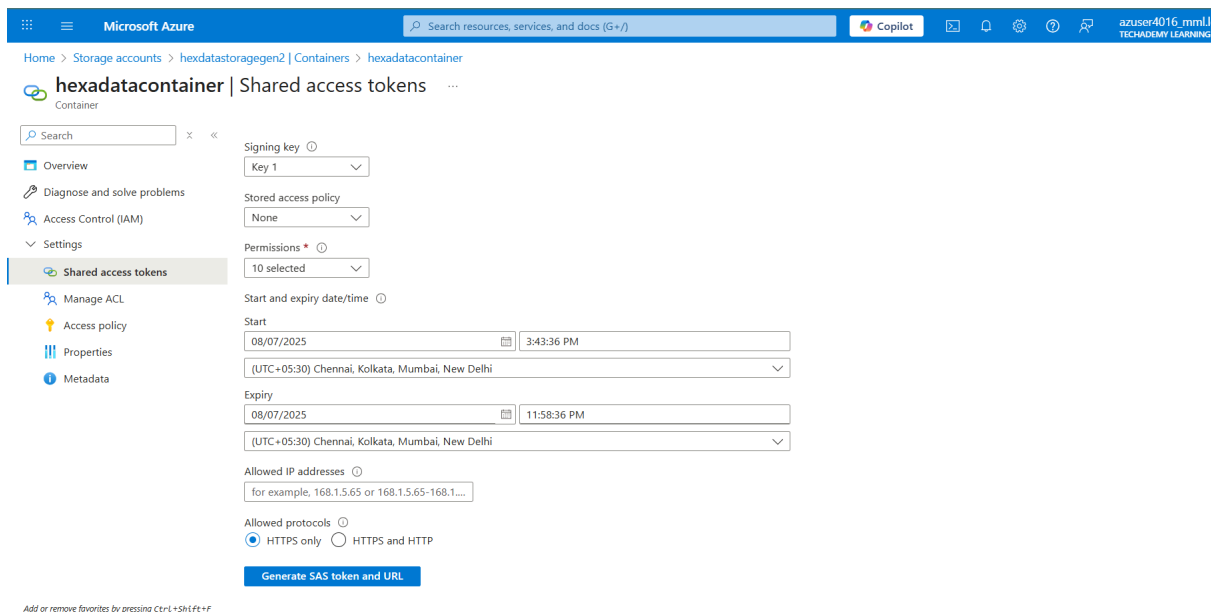
   ○ Then select "Shared access signature (SAS) URL"

5. Click Next.

Step 2: Generate a SAS URL from Azure Portal

1. Go to https://portal.azure.com and log in.

2. Navigate to:

    ○ Storage Account → Containers

3. Select the target container where you want to upload files.

4. In the left panel, click "Shared access tokens" under Settings.

5. Under Permissions, check all options (Read, Write, Delete, etc.).

6. Click "Generate SAS token and URL".

7. Copy the Blob SAS URL.

Step 3: Connect to the Container in Storage Explorer

1. Return to Azure Storage Explorer.

2. Paste the Blob SAS URL into the field.

3. Click Next, then Connect.

4. The container will now appear in the Explorer panel on the left.
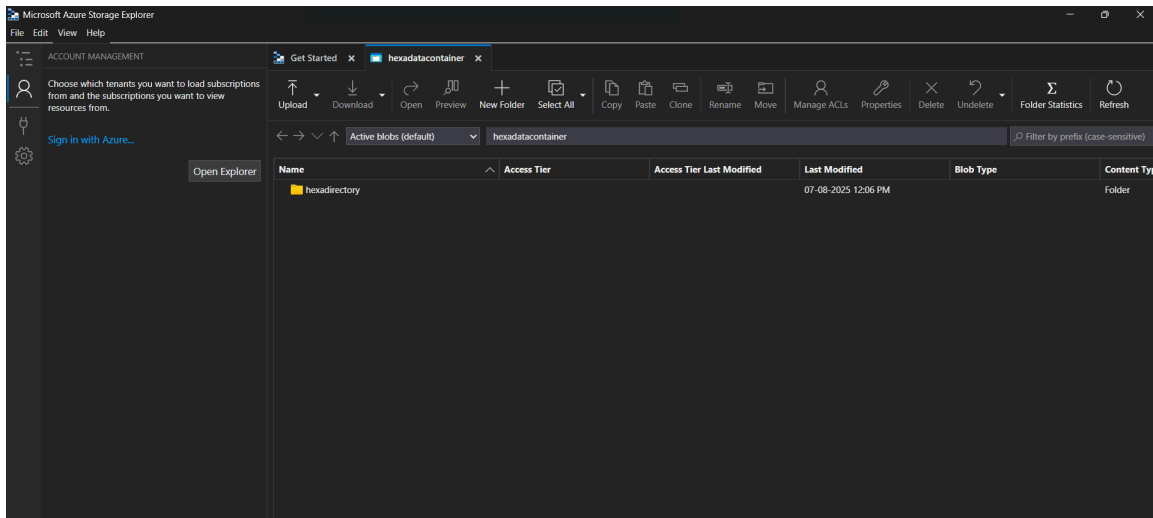
Step 4: Create a Folder and Upload Files

1. Right-click the container or directory where you want to upload.

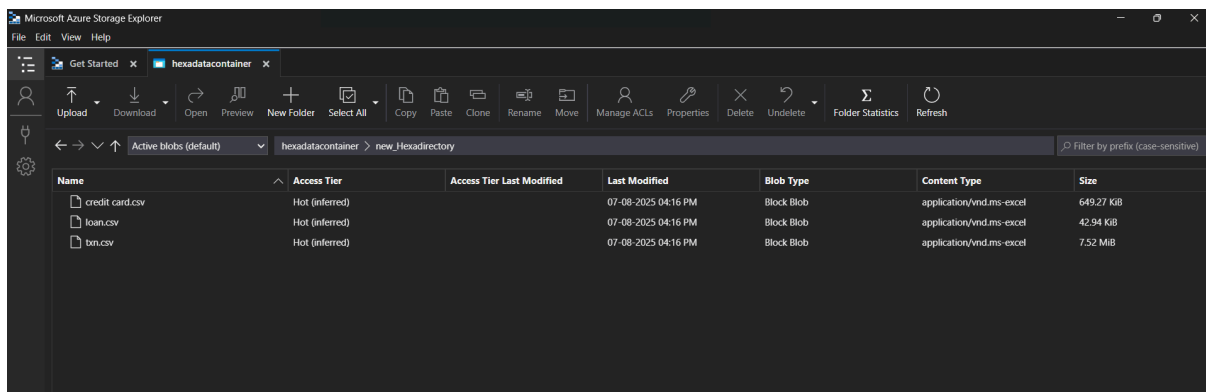2. Select "New Folder", name it appropriately.
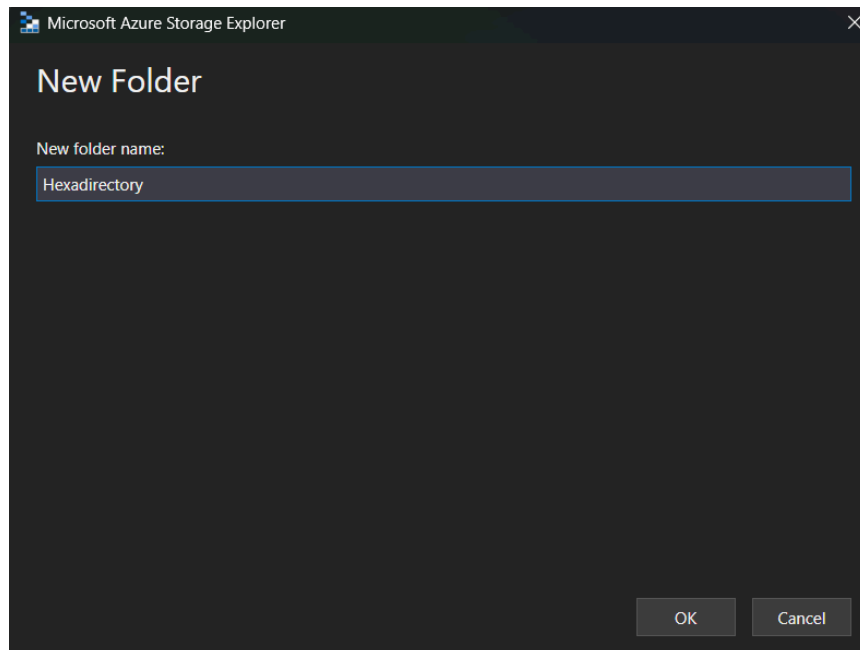
3. Open the folder and click the "Upload" button (top bar or right-click).

4. Choose "Upload Files" or "Upload Folder".

5. Select files from your local machine and click Upload.
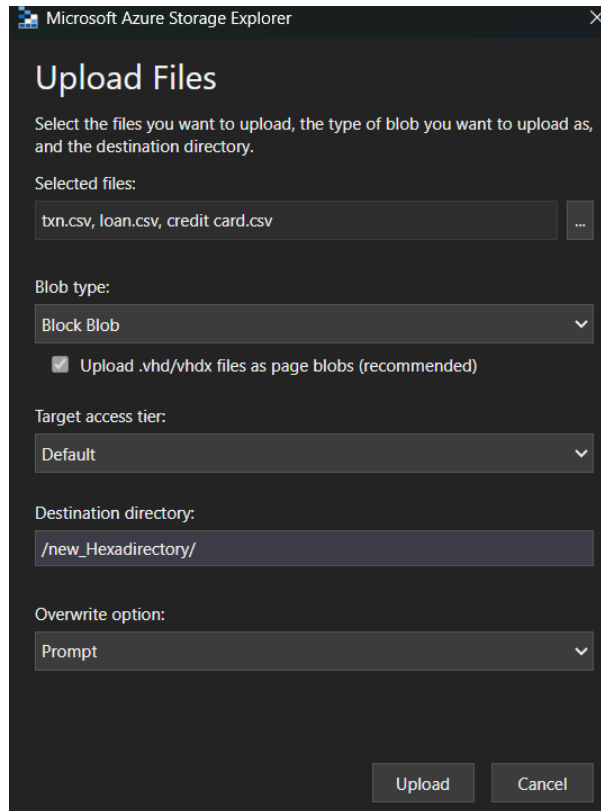
Step 5: Verify Upload

● The files will appear inside the new folder in Storage Explorer.

- To cross-check, go back to the Azure Portal → Containers, refresh, and you'll see the uploaded files there as well.

Notes

- **SAS tokens** allow secure access to containers without giving full account keys.

- Make sure the **token is not expired** and includes necessary permissions (read, write, list, etc.).

- Uploaded files will be stored in Azure Data Lake Gen2 and can be accessed by Azure Databricks or other Azure services.