Lab 1 – Part 1: Getting Started with Azure

Total estimation time: 45 Minutes

a. Activate your Azure account with your Microsoft Imagine Account

(Estimation of Total Time Used: 20 minutes)

Follow the below steps to activate your Azure subscription.

1. Go to the link of https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/free/students as shown in Figure 1.

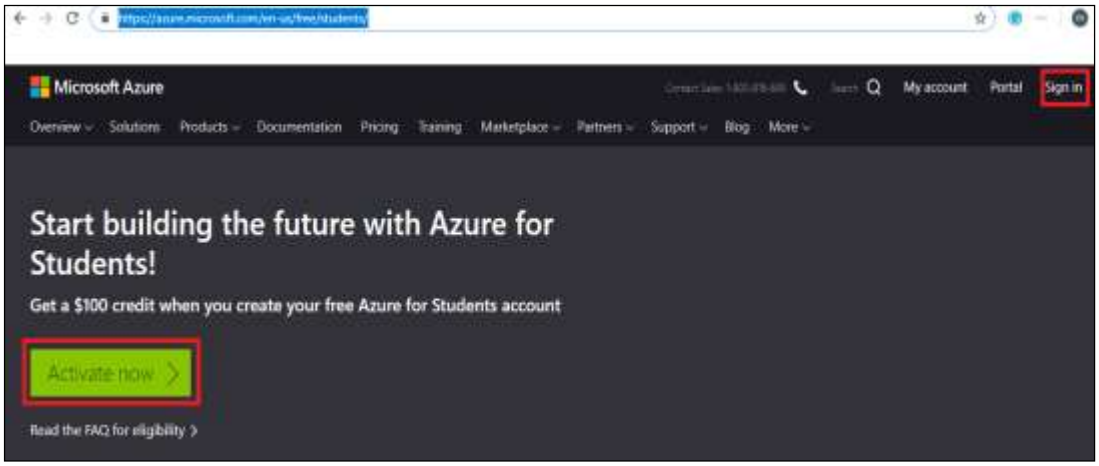


Figure 1: Registration for Azure Student Pass

2. Click on the "**Activate Now**" button and fill in the form. Use your APU Student Email Account to register the free credit from the azure portal. Fill in the given E-Form to get the Azure Student Pass from the Microsoft Company.

3. At the final stage, you will see your student azure subscription pass is in your **Cost Management + Billing** – **My Subscription section**. The steps by steps action to reach the subscription page are shown in *Figure 2 – 5.*

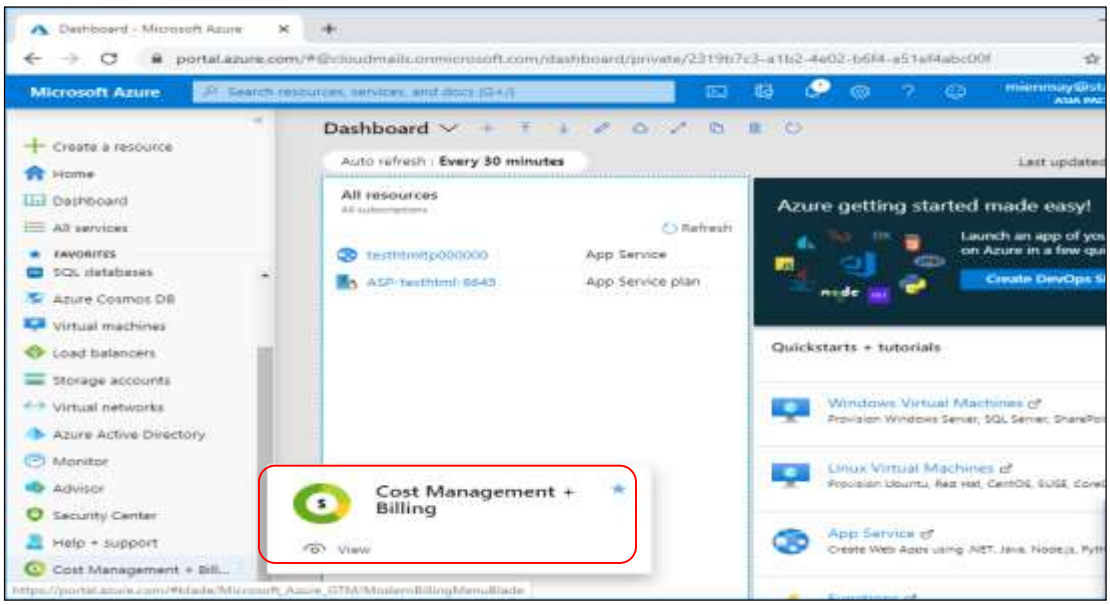


Figure 2: Select the Cost Management + Billing option

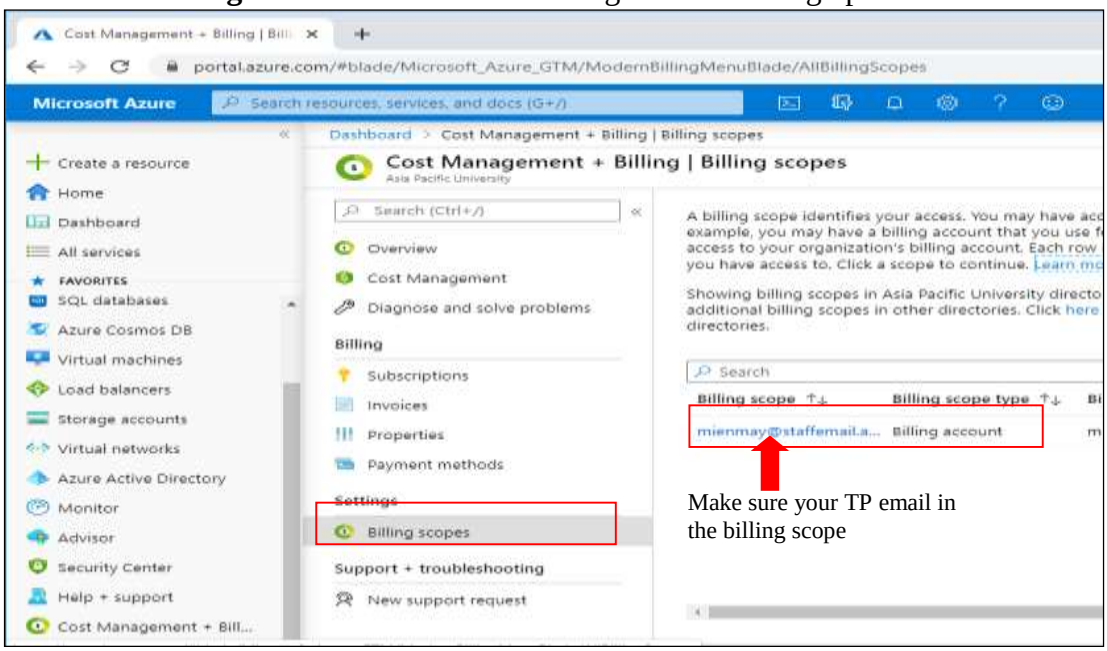


Figure 3: Billing Scope

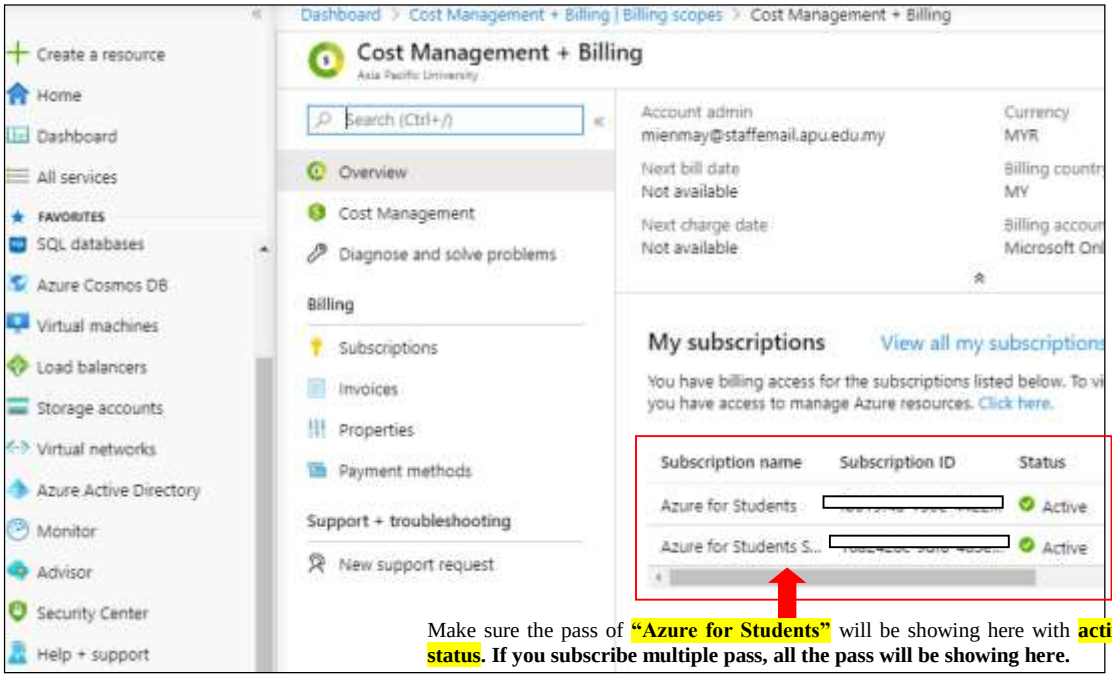


Figure 4: My subscription section

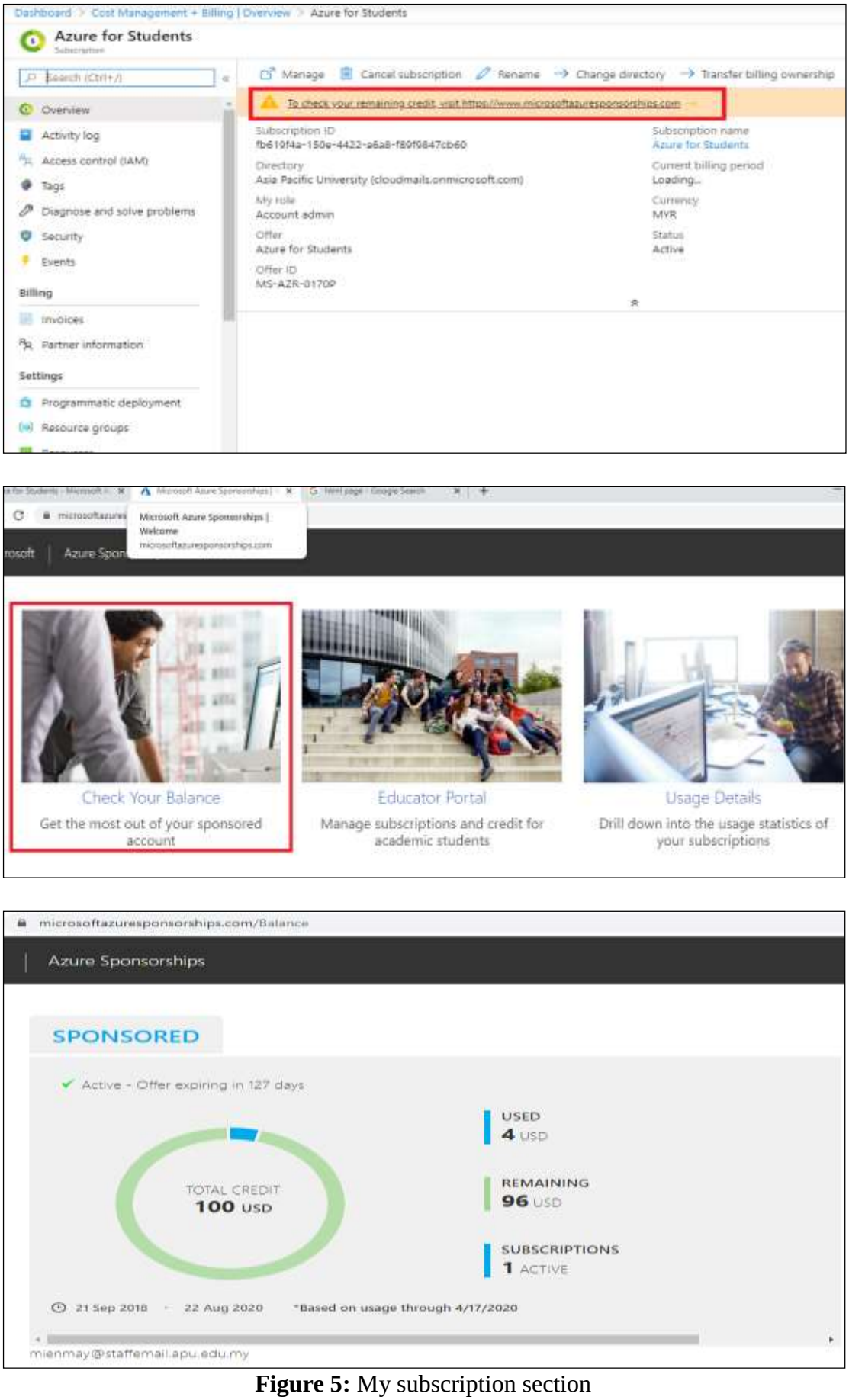


Figure 5: My subscription section

b. Introduction to Azure portals

(Estimation of Total Time Used: 25 minutes)

❖ *Azure Portal Layout*

Azure Portal *(in Figure 6)* is the primary graphical user interface (GUI) for controlling Microsoft Azure. You can carry out the majority of management actions in the portal, and it is typically the best interface for carrying out single tasks or where you want to look at the configuration options in detail.

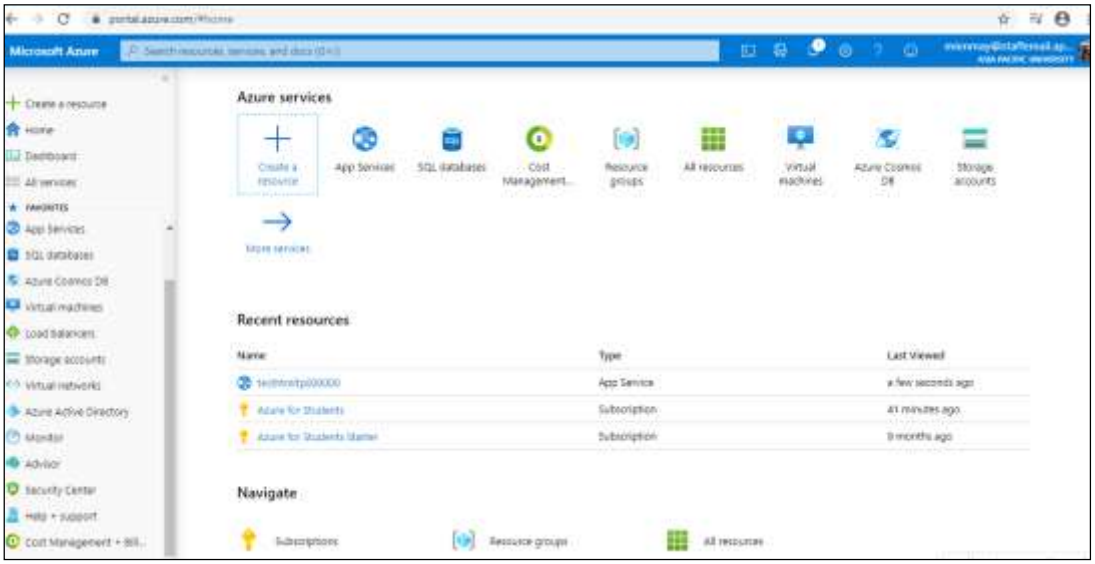


Figure 6: Azure portal layout

Task 1: Customize the Dashboard *(5 minutes)*

Dashboards *(in Figure 7)* are a focused and organized view of your cloud resources in the Azure portal. Use dashboards as a workspace where you can quickly launch tasks for day-to-day operations and monitor resources.

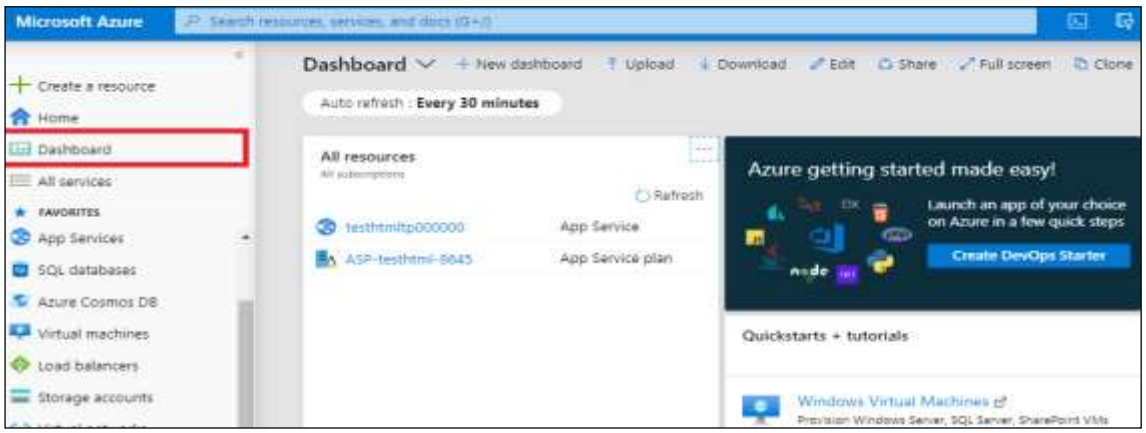
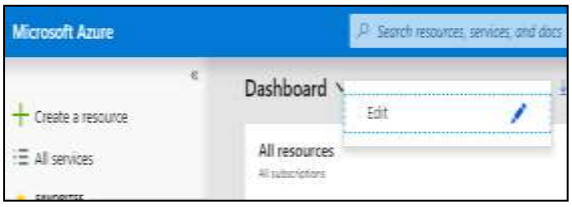


Figure 7: Dashboard page

1. Click on the dashboard button the left panel, right-click the **Dashboard on the top** (home screen), and then click **Edit**.



2. In the **Tile Gallery**, drag the *Service Health* tile onto your dashboard.
3. At the top of the tile, click the button with three ellipses *"..."*.
4. Select the **2x4** size option.
5. Click the **Done** button.
6. Right-click the **Dashboard** (home screen), and then click **Done customizing**.
7. You can reset any dashboard to the default style. To reset the dashboard, in the edit mode, right-click and select Reset to default state. A dialog box will ask you to confirm that you want to reset that dashboard. All the steps were shown in the Figure 8 and Figure 9.

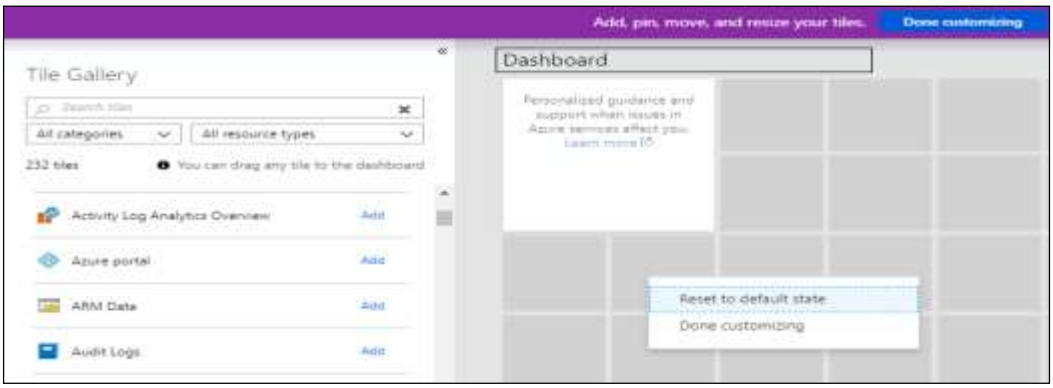


Figure 8: Reset Dashboard Design

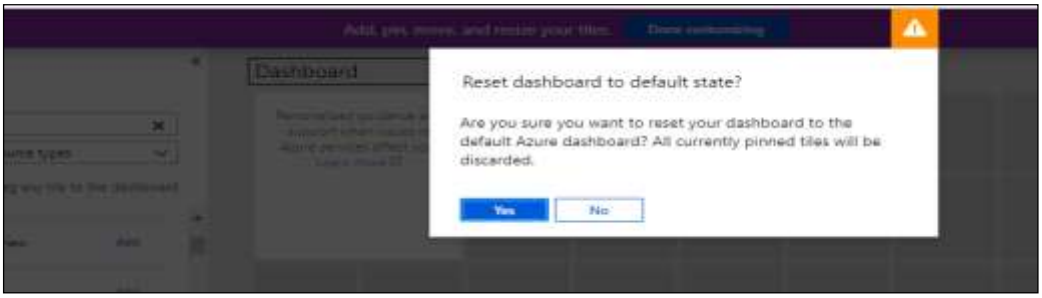
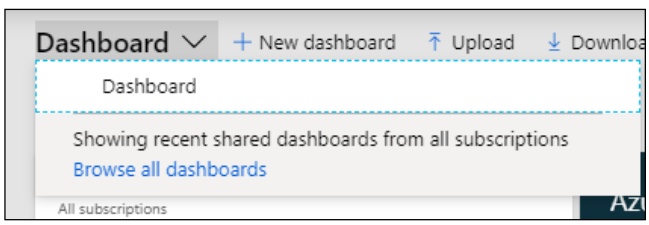


Figure 9: Reset Confirmation Dialog Box

8. If you have multiple dashboard created, right-click the **Dashboard** (home screen), and then choose the correct Dashboard.



❖ *Resource Panel*

In the left-hand sidebar of the portal is the resource pane, which lists the main resource types. Note that Azure has more resource types than just those shown. The resources listed are part of your favorites.

You can customize this with the specific resource types you tend to create or administer most often.

You can also collapse this pane; with the << caret. This will minimize it to just icons which can be convenient if you are working with limited screen real-estate.

The remainder of the portal view is for the specific elements you are working with.

The default (main) page is the dashboard. We'll cover this a bit later, but this represents a customizable birds-eye-view of your resources.

You can use it to jump into specific resources you want to manage, or search for resources with the "**All resources"** entry in the resource panel. When you are managing a resource, such as a virtual machine or a web app, you will work with a blade that presents specific information about the resource.

1. Blade

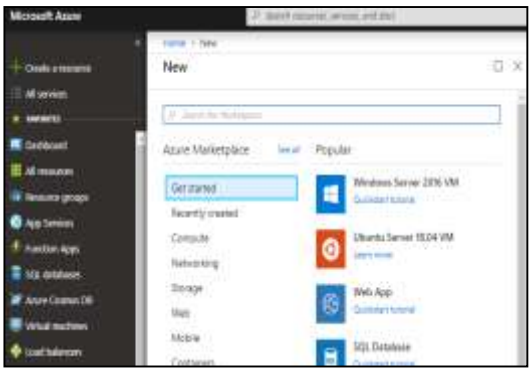
The Azure portal uses a blades model for navigation. A blade is a slide-out panel containing the UI for a single level in a navigation sequence. For example, each of these elements in this sequence would be represented by a blade:

Virtual machines > Compute > Ubuntu Server.

Each blade contains some information and configurable options. Some of these options generate another blade, which reveals itself to the right of any existing blade. On the new blade, any further configurable options will spawn another blade, and so on. Pretty soon, you can end up with several blades open at the same time. You can maximize blades as well so that they fill the entire screen.

Task 2: Working with blades *(5 minutes)*

Once you are logged into the Azure portal, we can start exploring things.



1. Let's start by touring how to create a resource. In the left-hand pane, click **Create a resource**.

2. The **New** blade displays a list of categories of items to create on the left-hand side, with the **Get started** option selected. This is like the "Favorites" menu, with some of the most common options visible.

3. Under **Get started**, you have the option to create resources such as a Windows Server 2016 VM, an Ubuntu Server VM, a web app, a SQL database, and so on. Each of these items includes a quickstart tutorial.

4. Click **Quickstart tutorial** under Windows Server 2016 VM. This lists the Windows VM tutorials. Close this new tab to return to the Azure portal.

2. Configuring settings in the Azure portal

The Azure portal displays several configuration options, mostly in the status bar at the top-right of the screen.

i. Notifications

Clicking the bell icon displays the **Notifications** pane. This pane lists the last actions that have been carried out, along with their status.

ii. Cloud Shell

If you click the **Cloud Shell** icon (>_), you will create a new Azure Cloud Shell session.

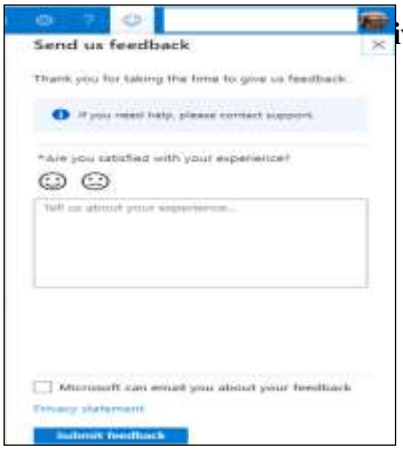
Azure Cloud Shell is an interactive, browser-accessible shell for managing Azure resources. It provides the flexibility of choosing the shell experience that best suits the way you work. Linux users can opt for a Bash experience, while Windows users can opt for PowerShell. This browser-based terminal lets you control and administer all of your Azure resources in the current subscription through a command-line interface built right into the portal.

iii. Settings

Click the **gear** icon to change the Azure portal settings. These settings include:

- Logout time
- Color and contrast themes
- Toast notifications (to a mobile device)
- Language and regional format

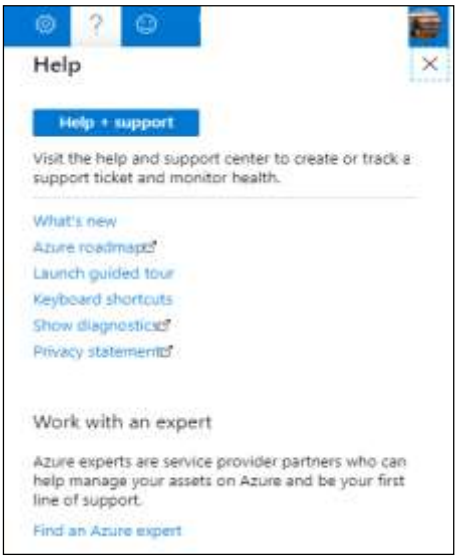
When you have changed settings, click Apply to accept your changes.



iv. Feedback blade

The **smiley face** icon opens the **Send us feedback** blade. Here you can send feedback to Microsoft about Azure. Note that you can specify whether Microsoft can respond to your feedback by email.

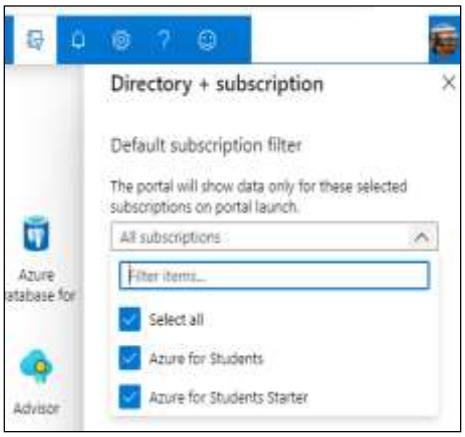
v. Help blade



Click the **question mark** icon to show the **Help** blade. Here you choose from several options, including:

- What's new
- Azure roadmap
- Launch guided tour
- Keyboard shortcuts
- Show diagnostics
- Privacy + terms

vi. Directory and subscription



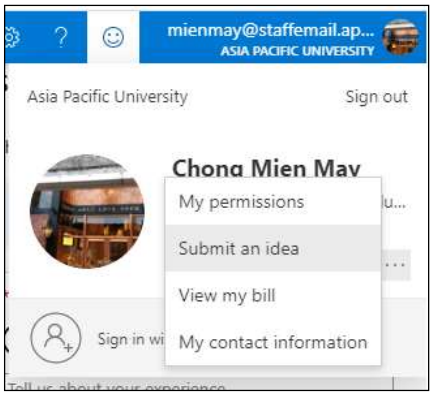
Click the **Book and Filter** icon to show the **Directory + subscription** blade.

Azure allows you to have more than one subscription associated with one directory.

On the **Directory + subscription** blade, you can change between subscriptions. Here, you can change your subscription or change to another directory.

vii. Profile settings

If you click on your name in the top right-hand corner, a menu opens with a few options:



- Sign in with another account, or sign out entirely
- My permissions
- Submit an idea
- View your bill
- My contact information

If you click "..." and then **View my bill**, Azure takes you to the **Cost Management + Billing - Invoices** page, which helps you analyze where Azure is generating costs.

Azure is a large product, and the Azure portal user interface (UI) reflects this. The sliding blade approach allows you to navigate back and forth through the various administration tasks with ease.

Summary

We have covered a lot of ground in this module.

- You have seen some of the core products in Azure across the main service pillars.
- You have learned how to create a free account for Microsoft Azure and how to sign in using that account.
- You reviewed the features of the Azure portal and its customization options.
- You created, customized, and shared a dashboard.

However, this is just the beginning. Azure has so much to offer you, no matter what role you plan in your organization. If you are a developer, Azure provides an easy way to test new platforms and build sophisticated apps. If you are an administrator, you will use the Azure portal, Azure CLI, or Azure PowerShell tools to administer your cloud-based infrastructure. If you are an architect, you can use Azure to test out new architecture ideas quickly.

Keep exploring Azure by selecting one or more paths through the content that's structured specifically for what you want to learn.