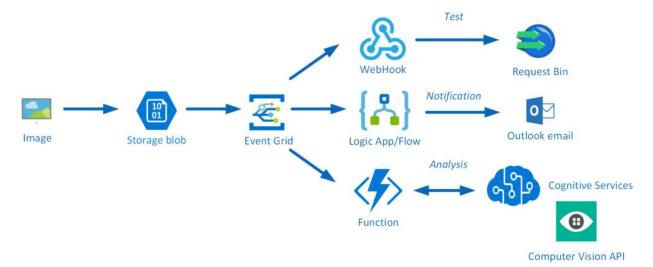
Lab - Building a Smart solution with Azure Storage, Event Grid, Functions, Logic Apps and the Computer Vision API

Author: Steef-Jan Wiggers

Objective

In this lab, we will build solutions with Event Grid, Azure Storage, and Functions. A picture (jpg) will be uploaded using the Azure Storage Explorer, an event BlobCreated will be raised and sent to Event Grid Topic within a Storage Account (Blob), and an Azure Function and WebHook (RequestBin) will subscribe to this event. The Azure Function will handle the event by calling a Cognitive Service API (Computer Vision API). The WebHook (Request Bin) will receive the event too, and you can inspect the raw event format. The objective is to learn the capability of leveraging cognitive services through messaging/event mechanism, which Integration Pro's are familiar with.



Prerequisites

- Azure Subscription
- Azure Storage Explorer: https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/features/storage-explorer/

Steps

To build the solution in this lab you have to follow the steps described in this section. From a high level view the steps are:

- Create a resource group
- Provision a Storage Account
- Create a container
- Provision Cognitive Service Computer Vision API
- Provision a Function App

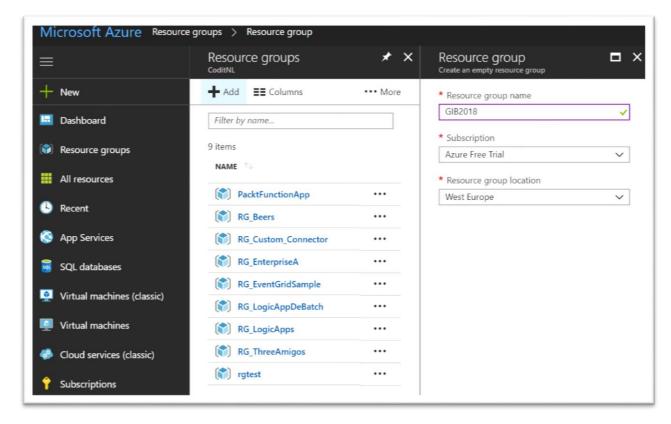
- Create a Function
- Create a RequestBin
- Provision a Logic App
- Create Logic App definition
- Configure Event Grid Topic
- Test the solution

Lab duration: 60 minutes.

Step 1 - Create a resource group

The very first step in this lab is creating a resource group in your Azure subscription. A resource group is a logical container that groups all your resources together. After the lab is finished and you do not want to keep the resources you can simply delete the resource group and the Azure Resource Manage will remove all the resources for you.

- 1. In the Azure Portal navigate to Resource Groups in the left menu pane.
- 2. Click the + Add.
- 3. Provide a name for the resource group, specify a Subscription, and a location. Note that the Event Grid Service will we use is globally available in the following regions: West US, East US, West US 2, East US 2, West Central US, Central US, West Europe, North Europe, Southeast Asia, and East Asia. The best option is to choose **West Central US** (see also Step 9 Provisioning a Logic App).

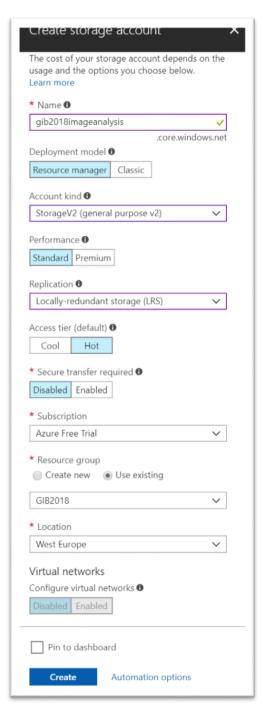


- 4. Finally, click **Create** and a resource group will be created for you.
- 5. In the top right corner, a pop-up will appear, which you can click to go to your resource group.

Step 2 – Provision a Storage Account

Within the resource group you can easily add various types of Azure Resources. For this lab we will need a storage account (blob) to upload an image to a container.

- 1. Go to the resource group you created earlier (Step 1).
- 2. Click + Add.
- 3. A new pane will appear, where you can search for a resource (service).
- 4. Enter: Storage Account.
- 5. Storage account blob, file, table, queue will appear.
- 6. Click the icon named Storage account blob, file, table, queue.
- 7. A new pane will appear, where you can click **Create**.
- 8. Again a new pane will appear, and here you can start specifying a few properties for your Storage Account.
- 9. In screenshot below you will see the details you need to specify.

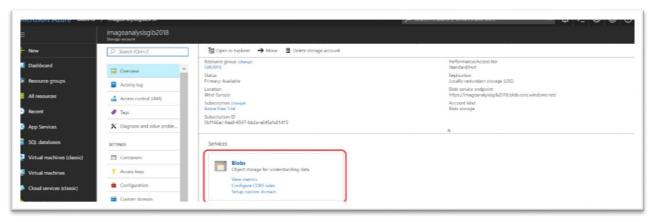


- 10. Choose a useful unique name.
- 11. Click **Create** once finishing specifying. Note that the location needs to be same as the resource group. Keep every Azure resource in the same location.

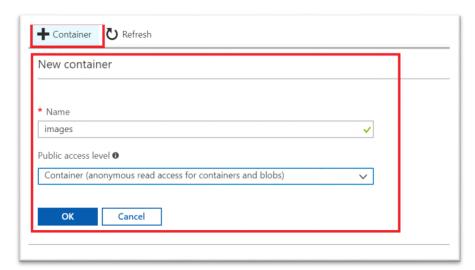
Step 3 – Create a container

Once the Storage Account (blob) is available the next step is to add a container.

- 1. Go to the resource group you created earlier (Step 1).
- 2. Click the Storage Account you created in step 2.
- 3. Click Blobs.



- 4. Click on + Container.
- 5. Specify a name for the container in the window that will appear.

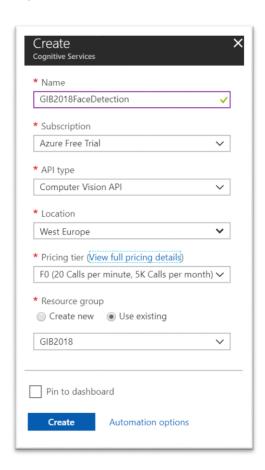


- 6. Change the public access level to read access for containers and blobs only.
- 7. Click OK.

Step 4 - Provision Cognitive Service Computer Vision API

In this lab we will leverage the pre-built AI capability of Computer Vision API. This API provides image processing functionality such as Optical Character Recognition (OCR), image analysis, and celebrity and landmark recognition.

- 1. Go to the resource group you created earlier (Step 1).
- 2. Click + Add.
- 3. A new pane will appear, where you can search for a resource (service).
- 4. Enter: Computer Vision.
- 5. Click the icon of Computer Vision API.
- 6. A new pane will appear, where you can click **Create**.
- 7. Again a new pane will appear, and here you can start specifying a few properties for your Cognitive Services.
- 8. Specify the details for the Cognitive Service like in the screenshot below. Choose a unique name, select Computer Vision API in API Type, the location, the cheapest pricing tier, and the correct resource group (Step 1).

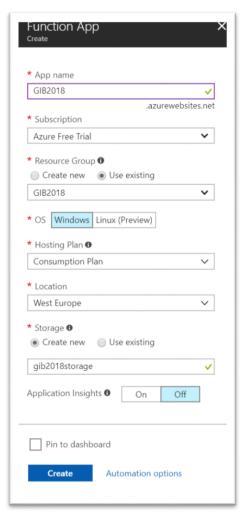


9. Click **Create** after you have specified the details.

Step 5 – Provision a Function App

A Function App is a logical container that can have one or multiple functions. A Function App can be tied to an App Service Plan, to share resource over various applications hosted in App Services including functions or to a consumption plan, which basically comes down to a pay-as-you model. You pay for each execution. The benefit here is you do not have to manage anything. The service scales automatically and is highly available. In this lab, we choose to create a Function App bound to a consumption plan.

- 1. Go to the resource group you created earlier (Step 1).
- 2. Click + Add.
- 3. A new pane will appear, where you can search for a resource (service).
- 4. Enter: Function App.
- 5. Click the icon of Function App.
- 6. A new pane will appear, where you can click **Create**.
- Specify the details for the Function App like in the screenshot below. Choose a unique name, select resource group, the location, Consumption Plan, and provide a name for a new Storage Account.

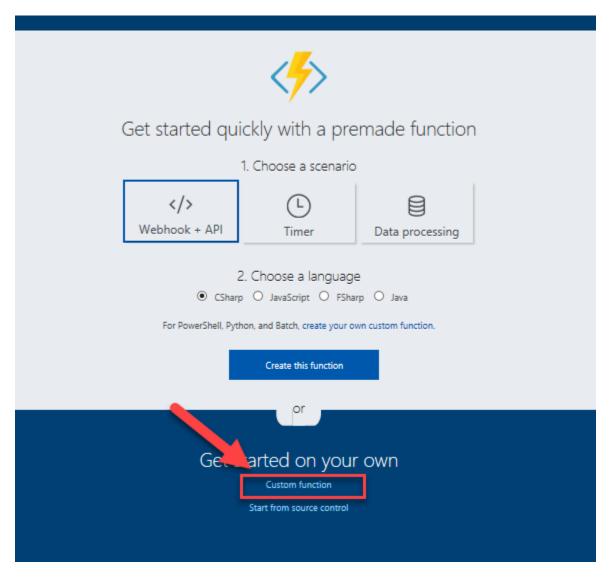


8. Click **Create** after you have specified the details.

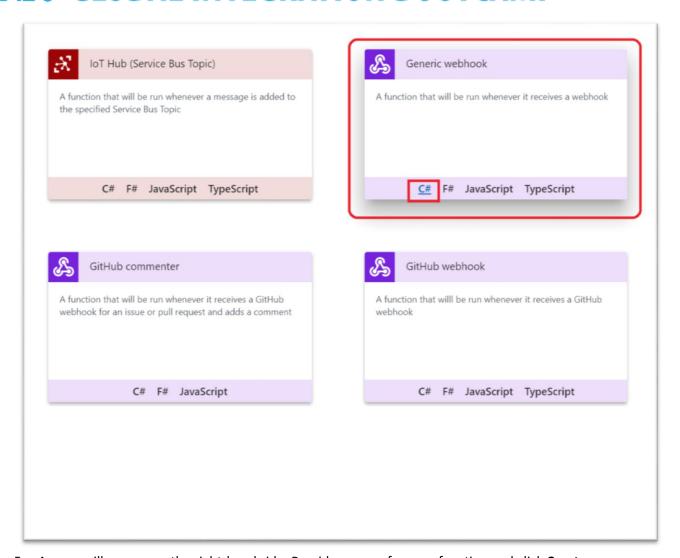
Step 6 - Create a Function

Once the Function App is available you can create a function and code. The code we will use in the function receives an event from Event Grid topic belonging to the Storage Account (Step 2).

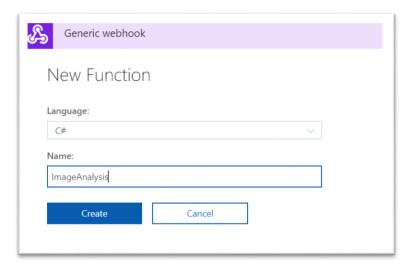
- 1. Go to the resource group you created earlier (Step 1).
- 2. Select the created App Service (Step 5).
- 3. A pane will appear Function Apps --> Name of your Function App. If you select Functions you can click the plus sign. This is adding a function. Select Custom Function in the windows that will appear.



4. Select the Generic WebHook and click language C#.



5. A pane will appear on the right-hand side. Provide a name for your function and click **Create**.



- 6. A new pane will appear with some default code.
- 7. Click **Run** to examine the behavior. We will change this code for our objective in this lab.
- 8. Replace the code with the code below.

```
#r "Newtonsoft.Json"
#r "System.Web"
using System;
using System.Net;
using Newtonsoft.Json;
using Newtonsoft.Json.Ling;
using System.IO;
using System.Net.Http;
using System.Net.Http.Headers;
using System.Web;
public static async Task<object> Run(HttpRequestMessage req, TraceWriter log)
{
   log.Info($"Webhook was triggered!");
   //intiliaze
   string imageInfo = string.Empty;
   //get content
   string jsonContent = await req.Content.ReadAsStringAsync();
   log.Info($"Event : {jsonContent}");
   //event data is an Json Array
   JArray data = JArray.Parse(jsonContent);
   //get url from event data
   foreach (JObject item in data)
   {
        var blobEventData = item.GetValue("data");
        log.Info($"blobEventData : {blobEventData}");
        var imageUrl = blobEventData.Value<string>("url");
        log.Info($"imageUrl : {imageUrl}");
        //read image
        var webClient = new WebClient();
        byte[] image = webClient.DownloadData(imageUrl);
        //analyze image
        imageInfo = AnalyzeImage(image);
        //write to the console window
        log.Info(imageInfo);
```

```
var response = req.CreateResponse(HttpStatusCode.OK);
   response.Content = new StringContent(imageInfo, System.Text.Encoding.UTF8,
"application/json");
   return response;
}
private static string AnalyzeImage(byte[] fileLocation) {
   var client = new HttpClient();
   var queryString = HttpUtility.ParseQueryString(string.Empty);
   client.DefaultRequestHeaders.Add("Ocp-Apim-Subscription-Key", "your key");
   queryString["maxCandidates"] = "1";
   var uri =
"https://westeurope.api.cognitive.microsoft.com/vision/v1.0/describe?" +
queryString;
   HttpResponseMessage response;
   using (var content = new ByteArrayContent(fileLocation)) {
        content.Headers.ContentType = new
MediaTypeHeaderValue("application/octet-stream");
        response = client.PostAsync(uri, content).Result;
        string imageInfo = response.Content.ReadAsStringAsync().Result;
        return imageInfo;
   }
}
```

- 9. Click Save.
- 10. Note that the uri needs to contain the location name of your Cognitive Service. Moreover, you need to place the key in the section "your key". The key can be obtained by navigating to your Cognitive Service (Step 4).
- 11. In Cognitive Service select **Keys** is the pane.
- 12. Copy Key1 and go to back to your function.
- 13. Paste it in the "your key" section and Save.
- 14. Click Get Function URL.



15. Save the URL in a notepad.

Step 7 - Create a Request Bin

In this lab we will use Request Bin, which will enable us to see what your HTTP client is sending or to inspect and debug WebHook requests. We will use this to see the raw event pushed from Azure Storage once a image has been uploaded to a container through Storage Explorer.

- 1. Go to https://requestb.in/
- 2. Click Create a Request Bin.
- 3. A new window will appear with a Bin URL.

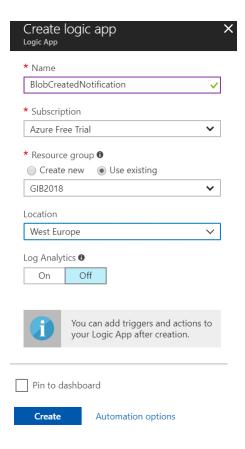


4. Copy the url in a notepad.

Step 8 – Provision a Logic App

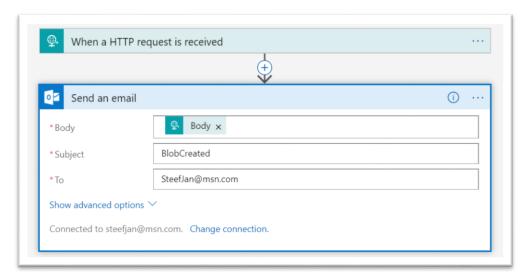
The final part of our solution is a Logic App. A Logic App is a service in Azure that enable you to build a flow definition based on actions. The flow starts with an action trigger followed with one or more actions. We will provision a Logic App and build a definition to handle the BlobCreated event by sending an email notification.

- 1. Go to the resource group you created earlier (Step 1).
- 2. Click + Add.
- 3. A new pane will appear, where you can search for a resource (service).
- 4. Enter: Logic App.
- 5. Click the icon of Logic App.
- 6. Specify a name in the Create Logic App pane, the subscription, resource group, and location.

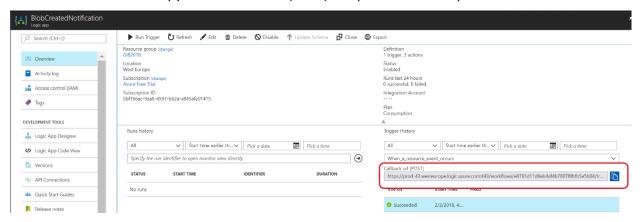


- 7. Click Create.
- 8. Open the Logic App once it is created.
- 9. Click **Blank Logic App**. We will build a Logic App definition from scratch and not choosing any of the pre-built ones.
- 10. In the first action (trigger) enter: Http
- 11. Choose **Request**.
- 12. Choose "Request When a HTTP request is received"
- 13. Next add an action. In the second and final action enter: Outlook
- 14. Select Outlook.com.

- 15. Select Outlook.com Send an email.
- 16. Sign into your Outlook.com (with your Live/Microsoft account).
- 17. Next specify To, Subject, and Body. You sent an email to yourself, Subject is from Event Grid, and Body (see screenshot below).



- 18. Save the Logic App.
- 19. In the overview copy the Callback URL (POST) and paste it in a notepad.



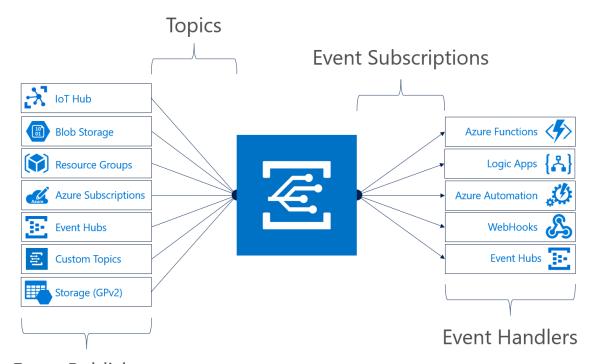
NOTE: If you don't see this callback URL on the Overview screen, you can get it from the trigger shape of the Logic App designer instead:



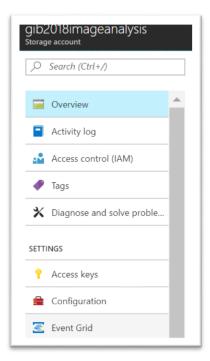
Step 9 – Configure the Event Grid Topic in the Azure Storage Account

The resources for this lab have been setup and now it's time to configure Event Grid Topic inside the Azure Storage Account (V2). With Azure Event grid developers can build reactive applications that handle events. These events can be **storage blob events**, provisioning notifications in an Azure subscription, IoT device signals, or even custom events. The benefit of this service is that developers no longer to have continuously poll an application or service for a change. Now it can receive an event and continue.

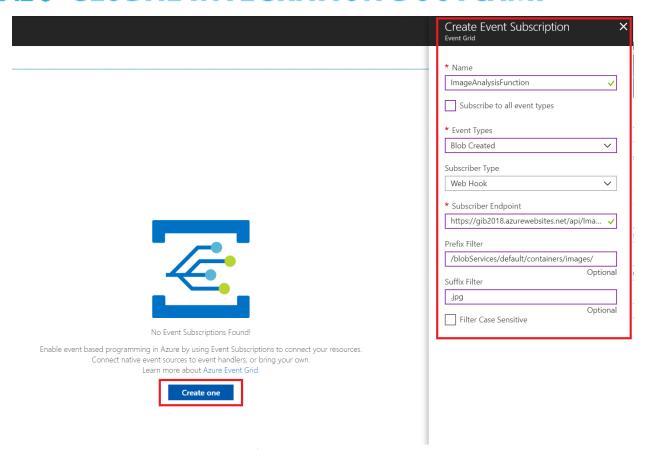
The concept of Event Grid evolves around events emitted from a source (publisher), which can be an Azure service or a third party source that adheres to the event schema. The event publishers in Azure include IoT Hub, Storage, and the recently added Event Hubs. Subsequently, the events are sent to a topic in Event Grid, and each topic can be one or multiple subscribers (event handlers). A topic can be configured with the event publisher or can be a custom topic for custom events. Finally, the event handlers react to the events and process them. The event handlers in Azure include Functions, WebHook, and Event Hubs.



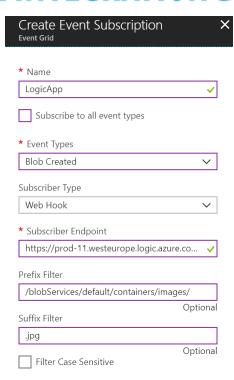
- **Event Publishers**
- 1. Open the Storage Account created in Step 2.
- 2. Select the Event Grid in the blade.



- 3. A new pane will appear. Click **Create one**. We will now add subscriptions to the Event Grid Topic.
- 4. Provide a name for the subscription, select the Event Type, Subscriber Type, pre- and post fix filter like the screenshot below. This is a subscription of the Function that will handle the **BlobCreated** event. Here you will need the URL of your Function (Step 6).



- 5. Click Create in bottom right corner of the pane.
- 6. Hit **Refresh** and the subscription should appear.
- 7. Click + Event Subscription for the next subscription we will configure.
- 8. A pane will appear and here you specify the details for Request Bin (Step 7), which will subscribe to all the events.
- 9. Click Create.
- 10. Hit **Refresh** and the subscription should appear.
- 11. Click + Event Subscription for the last subscription we will configure.
- 12. This will be subscription of the Logic App endpoint.



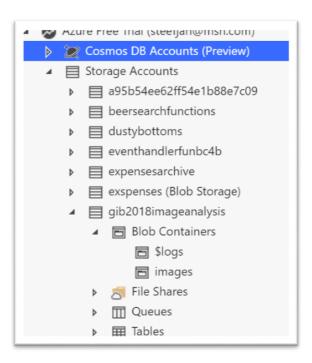
13. You should now have three subscriptions like the screenshot below.



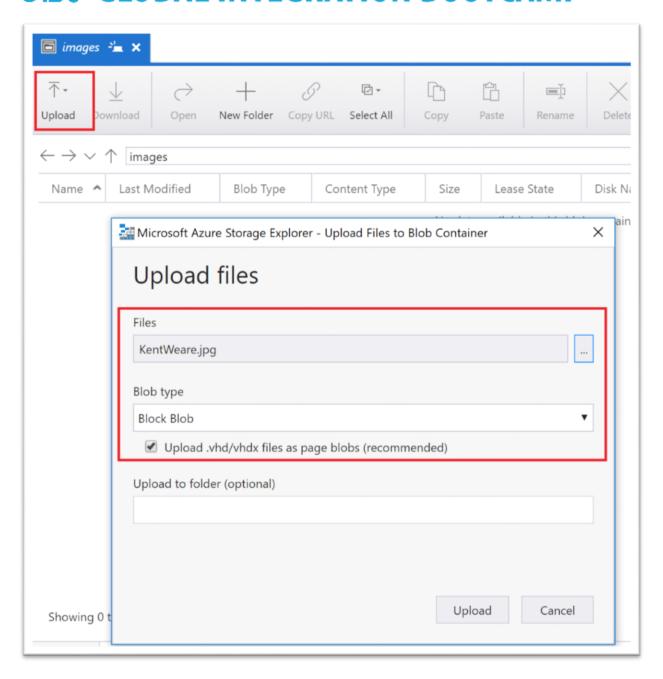
Step 10 – Test the solution

With the previous steps all completed, we can now test the solution you have built by uploading a .jpg file using the Azure Storage Explorer.

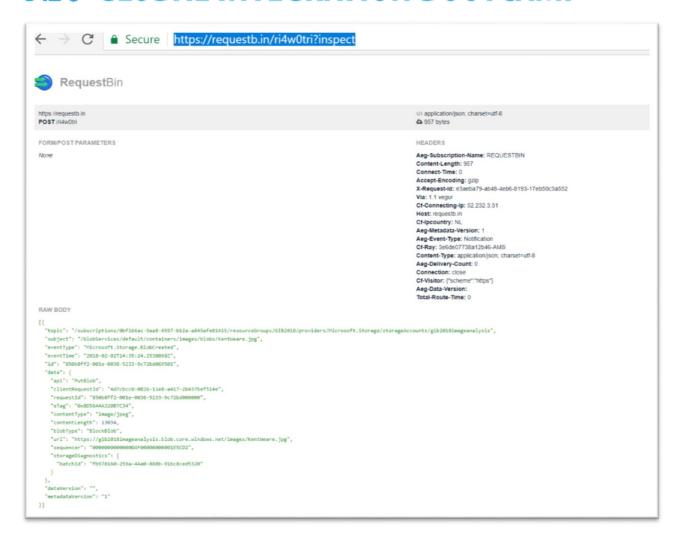
- 1. Start the Azure Storage Explorer.
- 2. Note that you have to login to your subscription in this tool through manage accounts.
- 3. Once that is complete or you have already done so, you should be able to navigate to your storage account and container (Step 2/3).



4. Click Upload and navigate to .jpg picture on your machine that is a picture of yourself or someone else.



- 5. Click Upload.
- 6. Go to your Request Bin and inspect.



- 7. You should see the event in it's raw format.
- 8. Next go to your function.
- 9. And in the function navigate to the monitor feature.
- Click Monitor.
- 11. Examine the logs of the latest execution.
- 12. You should see something like below.

```
Webhook was triggered!

Event: [{

"topic": "/subscriptions/0bf166ac-9aa8-4597-bb2a-
a845afe01415/resourceGroups/GIB2018/providers/Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/gib2018imag
eanalysis",

"subject": "/blobServices/default/containers/images/blobs/KentWeare.jpg",

"eventType": "Microsoft.Storage.BlobCreated",

"eventTime": "2018-02-02T14:52:35.8131381Z",

"id": "5f905981-001e-0062-0635-9c145a0674f0",

"data": {

"api": "PutBlob",

"clientRequestId": "b41af620-0828-11e8-a417-2b437bef514e",
```

```
"requestId": "5f905981-001e-0062-0635-9c145a000000",
  "eTag": "0x8D56A4C98E6E7A8",
  "contentType": "image/jpeg",
  "contentLength": 13034,
  "blobType": "BlockBlob",
  "url": "https://gib2018imageanalysis.blob.core.windows.net/images/KentWeare.jpg",
  "sequencer": "0000000000000AF00000000001E8E0F",
  "storageDiagnostics": {
   "batchId": "1b9ae595-1561-431f-be3c-bfd840e81b33"
 }
},
 "dataVersion": ""
"metadataVersion": "1"
}]
blobEventData: {
"api": "PutBlob",
"clientRequestId": "b41af620-0828-11e8-a417-2b437bef514e",
"requestId": "5f905981-001e-0062-0635-9c145a000000",
"eTag": "0x8D56A4C98E6E7A8",
"contentType": "image/jpeg",
"contentLength": 13034,
"blobType": "BlockBlob",
"url": "https://gib2018imageanalysis.blob.core.windows.net/images/KentWeare.jpg",
"sequencer": "0000000000000AF0000000001E8E0F",
"storageDiagnostics": {
 "batchId": "1b9ae595-1561-431f-be3c-bfd840e81b33"
}
}
imageUrl: https://gib2018imageanalysis.blob.core.windows.net/images/KentWeare.jpg
{"description":{"tags":["person","man","indoor","smiling","holding","posing","photo","front","camera
","standing","food","table","glasses","shirt","wearing","large","young","phone","sign","red","plate","
white", "blue"], "captions": [{"text": "a man smiling for the
camera", "confidence": 0.9801141977309823}]}, "requestId": "102095c8-6bc2-471c-9eb6-
7b95c38c0f22","metadata":{"height":200,"width":200,"format":"Jpeg"}}
```

13. Finally you should also receive an email.

BlobCreated





To: Steef-Jan Wiggers

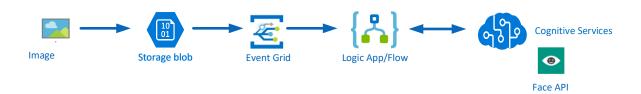
[{"topic":"/subscriptions/0bf166ac-9aa8-4597-bb2a-

a845 a fe 01415/re source Groups/GIB2018/providers/Microsoft. Storage/storage Accounts/gib2018 image analysis", "subject": "/blobServices/default/containers/images/blobs/KentWeare.jpg", "eventType": "Microsoft. Storage. BlobCreated", "eventTime": "2018-02-02T16:36:40.1742479Z", "id": "6772e6cc-001e-00ac-5e44-9cc5d4069a70", "data": "putBlob", "clientRequestId": "3e64d860-0837-11e8-a417-2b437bef514e", "requestId": "6772e6cc-001e-00ac-5e44-

 $9cc5d4000000", "eTag": "0x8D56A5B22D4F28F", "contentType": "image/jpeg", "contentLength": 13034, "blobType": "BlockBlob", "url": "https://gib2018imageanalysis.blob.core.windows.net/images/KentWeare.jpg", "sequencer": "0000000000000000000000001FB453", "storageDiagnostics": {"batchId": "81b60cfe-dacc-4ff9-b392-55d032013be4"}}, "dataVersion": "", "metadataVersion": "1"}]$

Explanation of the Lab (What have we done)

With this lab so far you have built a solution using Event Grid, Functions, Cognitive Service and Azure Storage. With Event Grid, GA since end of January 2018, you can build a sophisticated serverless solution, where Event Grid has its role and value. For instance, you can run image analysis on let's say a picture of someone is being added to blob storage. The event, a picture added to blob storage can be pushed as an event to Event Grid, where a function or Logic App can handle the event by picking up the image from the blob storage and sent it to a Cognitive Service API face API. See the diagram below.

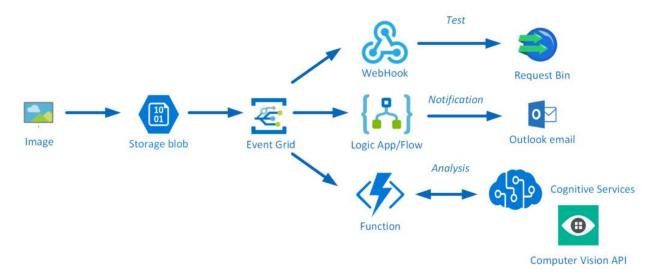


We have done something similar yet we also used a Function as event handler and included Request Bin to see the actual raw event.

Azure Event Grid

Azure Event Grid can be described as an event broker that has one or more event publishers and subscribers as we have learned from the introduction. Event publishers are currently Azure blob storage, resource groups, subscriptions, event hubs and custom events. More will be added in the coming months like IoT Hub, Service Bus, and Azure Active Directory. Subsequently, there are consumers of events (subscribers) like Azure Functions, Logic Apps, and WebHooks. And more will be added on the subscriber side too with Azure Data Factory, Service Bus and Storage Queues for instance.

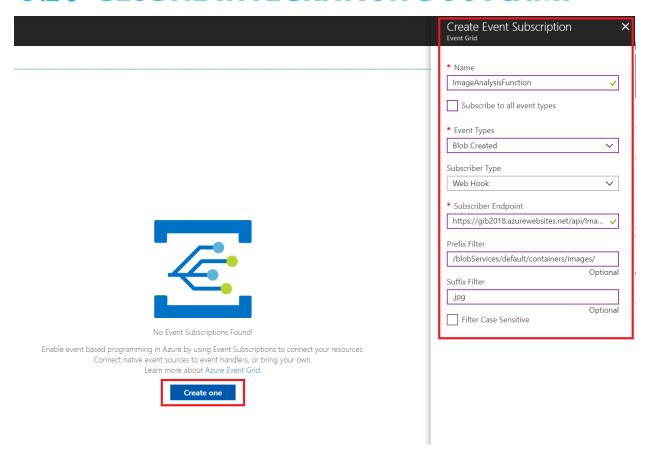
We have uploaded an image to a Storage blob container, which will be the event source (publisher). Subsequently, the Storage blob container belongs to a Storage Account containing the Event Grid capability. And the Event Grid has three subscribers, a WebHook (Request Bin) to capture the output of the event, a Logic App to notify me a blob has been created and an Azure Function that will analyze the image created in the blob storage, by extracting the URL from the event and use it to analyze the actual image.



The screenshot below depicts the subscriptions on the events on the Blob Storage account. The WebHook will subscribe to each event, while the Logic App and Azure Function are only interested in the **BlobCreated** event, in a particular container (prefix filter) and type (suffix filter).



Besides being centrally managed Event Grid offers intelligent routing, which is the core feature of Event Grid. And you can use filters for event type, or subject pattern (pre- and suffix). Moreover, the filters are intended for the subscribers to indicate what type of event and/or subject they are interested in. You have configured the filters in Step 8.



Event Type : Blob Created

Prefix: /blobServices/default/containers/images/

Suffix : .jpg

The prefix, a filter object, looks for the **beginsWith** in the subject field in the event. And the suffix looks for the **subjectEndsWith** in again the subject. In the event above you see that the subject has the specified **Prefix** and **Suffix**. See also **Event Grid subscription schema** in the documentation as it will explain the properties of the subscription schema. The subscription schema of the function is as follows:

```
{
  "properties": {
    "destination": {
        "endpointType": "webhook",
        "properties": {
            "endpointUrl":
  "https://imageanalysisfunctions.azurewebsites.net/api/AnalyseImage?code=Nf301gnvyHy4J44JAKssv23
578D5D492f7KbRCaAhcEKkWw/vEM/9Q=="
        }
    },
    "filter": {
        "includedEventTypes": [ "blobCreated"],
        "subjectBeginsWith": "/blobServices/default/containers/testcontainer/",
        "subjectEndsWith": ".jpg",
        "subjectIsCaseSensitive": "true"
    }
}
```

The Azure Function is only interested in a Blob Created event with a particular subject and content type (image .jpg). And this will be apparent once you inspect the incoming event to the function.

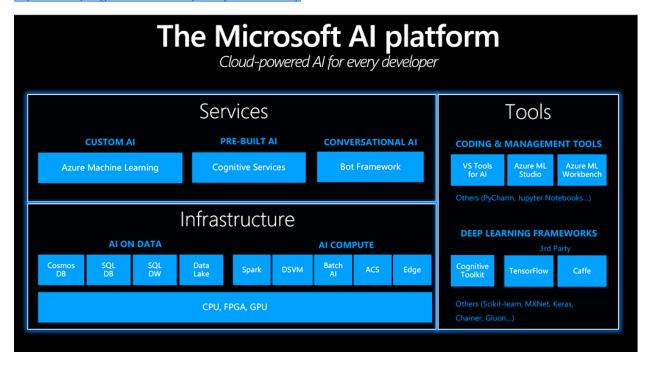
```
"topic": "/subscriptions/0bf166ac-9aa8-4597-bb2a-
a845afe01415/resourceGroups/GIB2018/providers/Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/gib2018imag
eanalysis",
"subject": "/blobServices/default/containers/images/blobs/KentWeare.jpg",
"eventType": "Microsoft.Storage.BlobCreated",
"eventTime": "2018-02-02T14:35:24.2530868Z",
"id": "850b8ff2-001e-0038-5233-9c72bd069501",
"data": {
 "api": "PutBlob",
  "clientRequestId": "4d7cbcc0-0826-11e8-a417-2b437bef514e",
  "requestId": "850b8ff2-001e-0038-5233-9c72bd000000",
  "eTag": "0x8D56A4A320B7C34",
  "contentType": "image/jpeg",
  "contentLength": 13034,
  "blobType": "BlockBlob",
  "url": "https://gib2018imageanalysis.blob.core.windows.net/images/KentWeare.jpg",
  "sequencer": "00000000000000AF0000000001E5CD2",
  "storageDiagnostics": {
  "batchId": "fb978160-259a-44a0-888b-91bc8ced5320"
 }
"dataVersion": "",
"metadataVersion": "1"
}]
```

If you like to learn more about Azure Event Grid you go to the following resources:

- Azure Event Grid: https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/event-grid/
- InfoQ: https://www.infoq.com/news/2018/02/microsoft-azure-event-grid-ga
- White paper: https://www.biztalk360.com/understanding-microsoft-azure-event-grid/

Cognitive Services

Microsoft Cognitive Services are a part of the <u>Microsoft AI Platform</u>. This service has several pre-built AI capabilities including speech, text, and images. The Cognitive Services Computer Vision API is one of the services, which you observe its behavior through the following URL: https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/cognitive-services/computer-vision/



In this lab we have used the Computer Vision API through an Azure Function by calling its REST Endpoint for describing an image.

Logic Apps and Functions

The Logic App and Function we have used in this lab were event handlers. Both handle the **BlobCreated** event in a different manner. The function called the Computer Vision API, and the Logic App send out a notification through email. If you like to learn more about both these serverless capabilities visit:

- Logic App: https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/logic-apps/
- Azure Function: https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/functions/

Contact SteefJan@msn.com or twitter @steefJan