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Organize policy with initiatives

5 minutes

Managing a few policy definitions is easy, but once you have more than a few, you will want to organize them. That's where *initiatives* come in.

Initiatives work alongside policies in Azure Policy. An *initiative definition* is a set or group of policy definitions to help track your compliance state for a larger goal. Even if you have a single policy, we recommend using initiatives if you anticipate increasing the number of policies over time.

Like a policy assignment, an *initiative assignment* is an initiative definition assigned to a specific scope. Initiative assignments reduce the need to make several initiative definitions for each scope. This scope could also range from a management group to a resource group.

Once defined, initiatives can be assigned just as policies can - and they apply all the associated policy definitions.

Defining initiatives

Initiative definitions simplify the process of managing and assigning policy definitions by grouping a set of policies into a single item. For example, you could create an initiative named *Enable Monitoring in Azure Security Center*, with a goal to monitor all the available security recommendations in your Azure Security Center.

Under this initiative, you would have the following policy definitions:

Policy definition	Purpose
Monitor unencrypted SQL Database in Security Center	For monitoring unencrypted SQL databases and servers.
Monitor OS vulnerabilities in Security	For monitoring servers that do not satisfy the

Center

configured baseline.

Monitor missing Endpoint Protection in Security Center

For monitoring servers without an installed endpoint protection agent.

You can define initiatives using the Azure portal, or command-line tools. In the portal, you use the "Authoring" section.

Microsoft Azure

Search resources, services, and docs (G+/I)

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Name	Definition locati...	Policies	Type
azuresecuritypack...	Non Production	3	Custom
azuresecuritypack...	Non Production	3	Custom
audit ssh auth_1.3	Non Production	4	Custom
audit ssh auth_1.1	Non Production	2	Custom
azuresecuritypack...	5e116433-8b65-49e...	3	Custom
azuresecuritypack...	5e116433-8b65-49e...	3	Custom
audit ssh auth_1.1	5e116433-8b65-49e...	2	Custom
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