FIT5032 CI/CD of .NET 5.0 application GitHub Actions and Azure App Service

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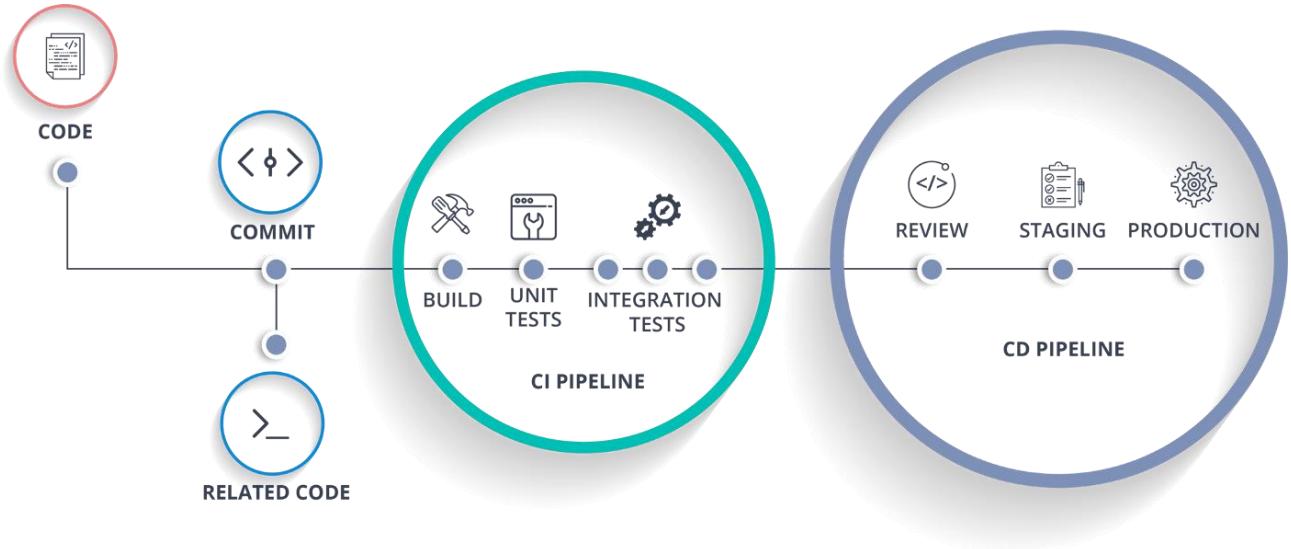
POST-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Introduction

Continuous Integration (**CI**) is the practice where developers regularly merge their code changes into a central repository, after which automated builds and tests are run. When a team of developers are working on a shared repository, frequent code updates make it easier to merge changes from other team members. CI helps to identify bugs quicker, improves quality, and reduce the time it takes to validate and release new software updates.

Continuous Deployment (**CD**) refers to the practice of using automation to publish and deploy software updates. Continuous Integration along with Continuous Deployment process helps us to build, test, and publish software updates as soon as code changes are made.

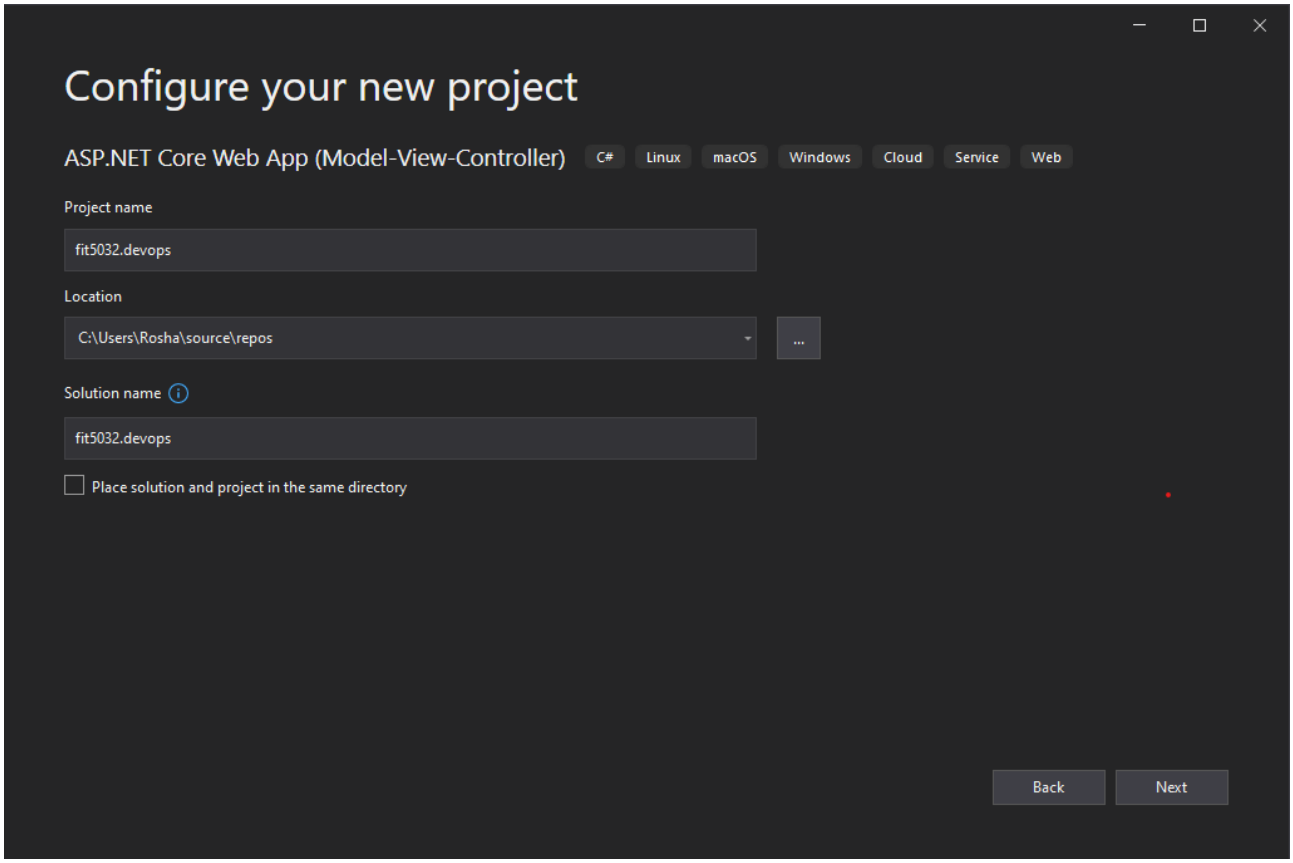


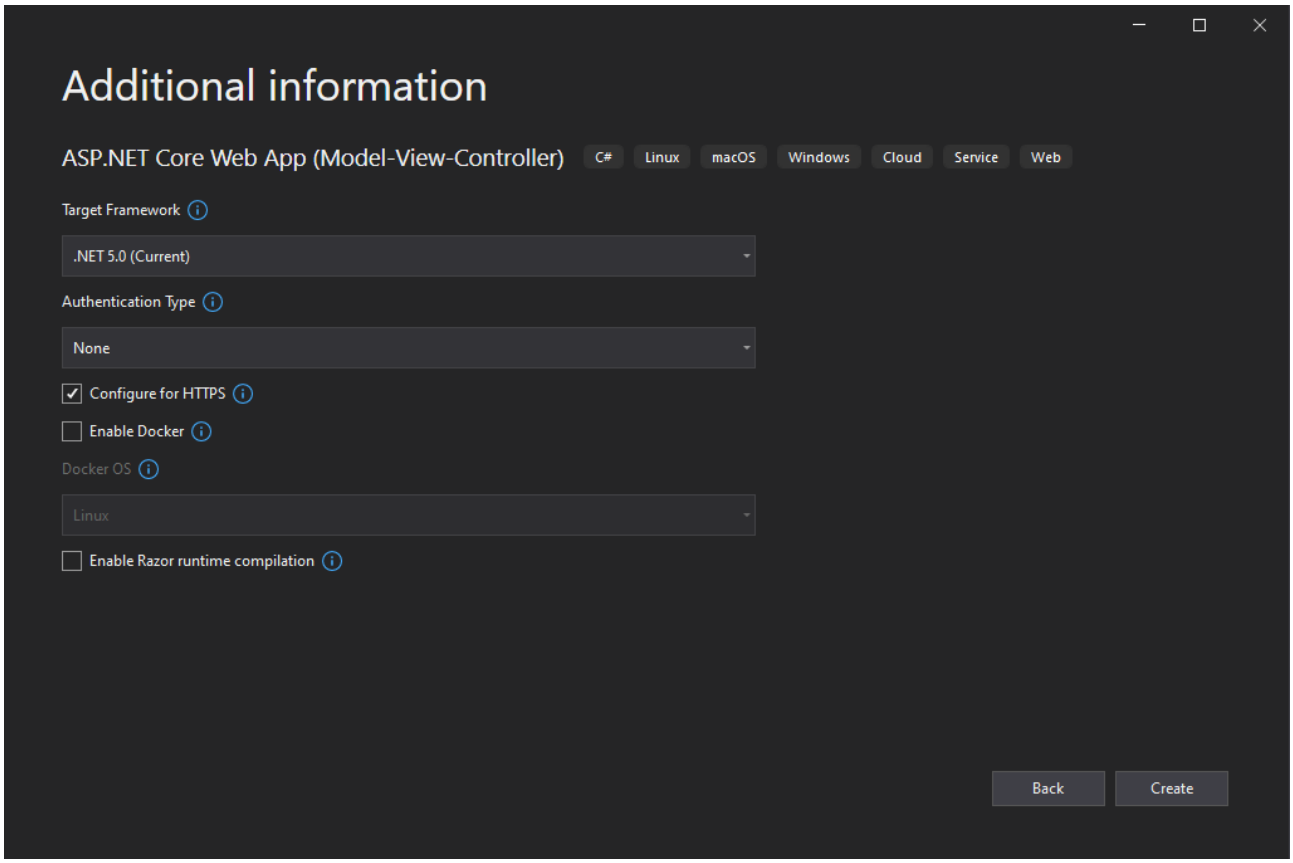
GitHub Actions

GitHub Actions by Github is used to automate software workflows. GitHub actions comes with integrated CI/CD. Using GitHub triggers like merging or commiting code changes to your GitHub repo, we can leverage CI/CD pipelines from GitHub Actions to continously build, test and deploy our code.

Step 1:

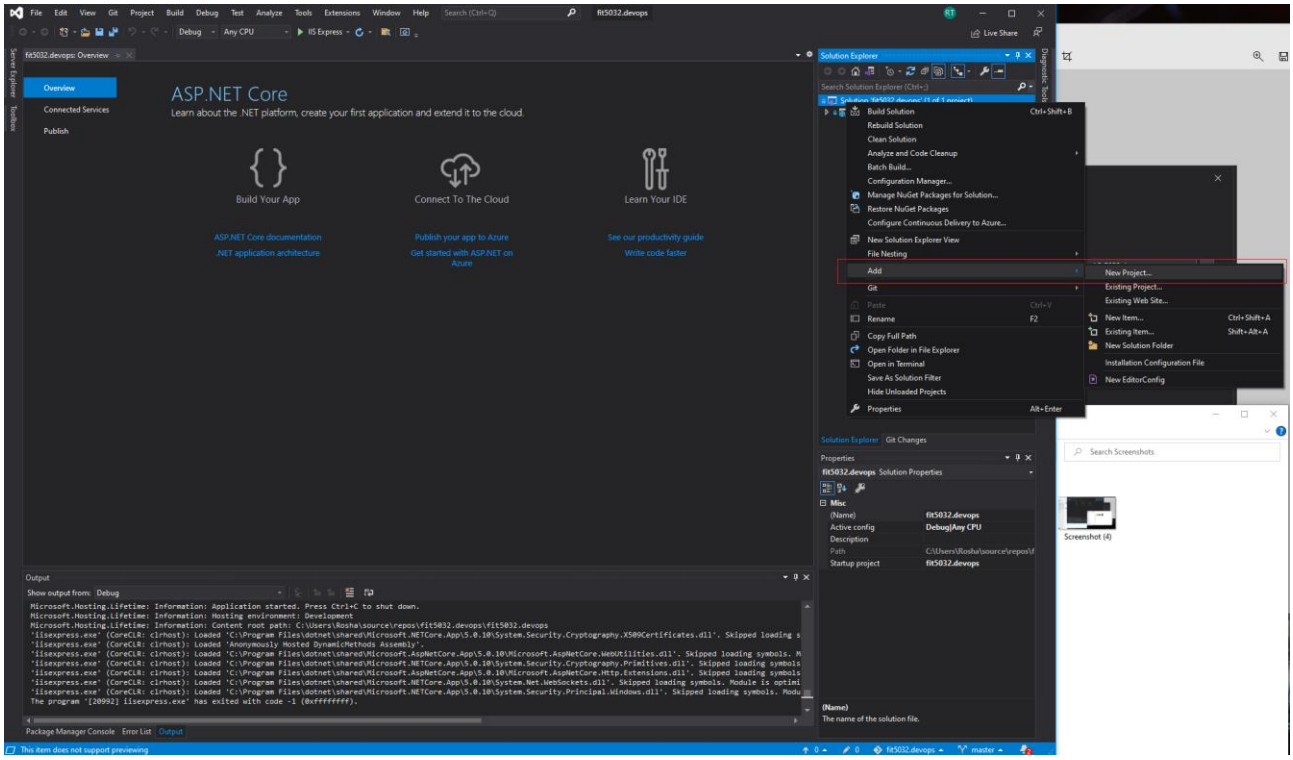
Create a new .NET Core (.NET 5.0) web application. You can use any Web API or MVC or other .NET core web application templates. Here we will be using a .NET 5.0 MVC application.



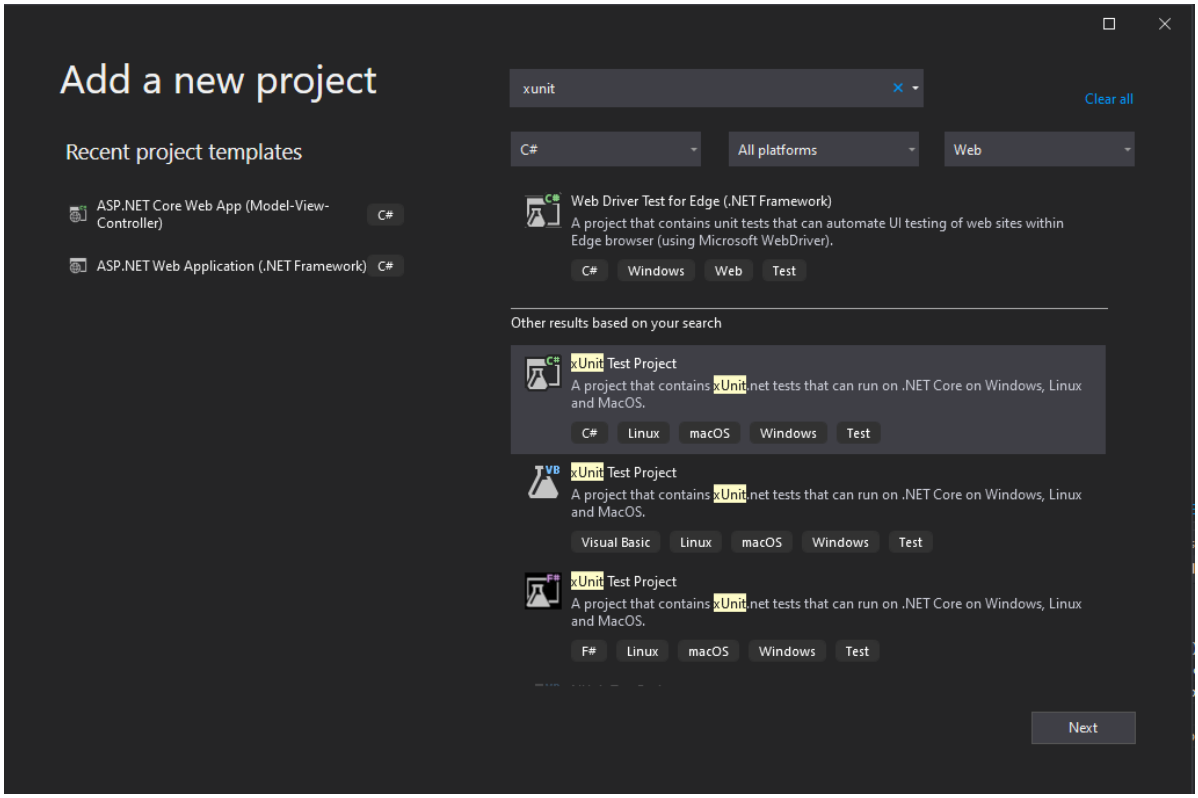


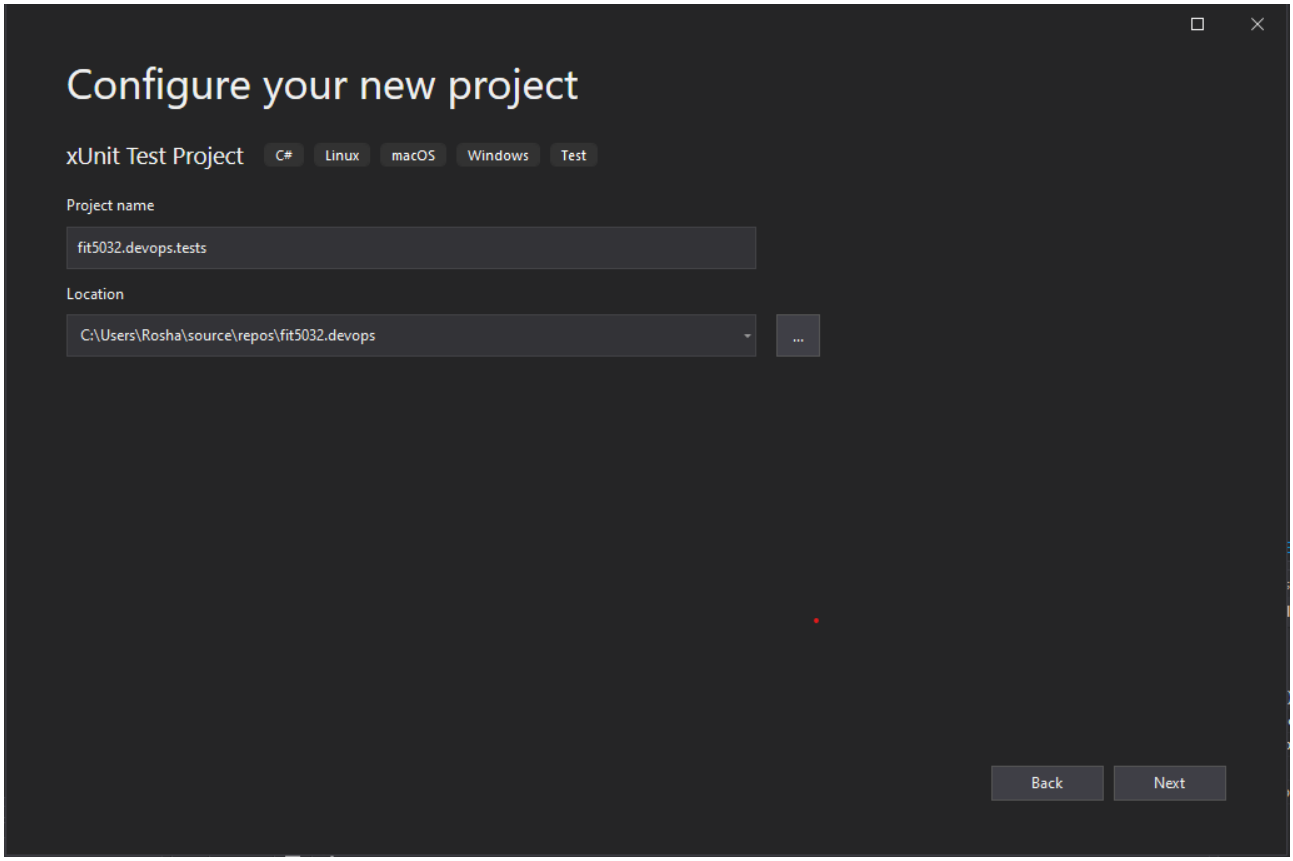
Step 2:

Let us also add a Unit Test project for running the Tests for the Web App that we have created. Right click on the solution and add a new project(Add → New Project).

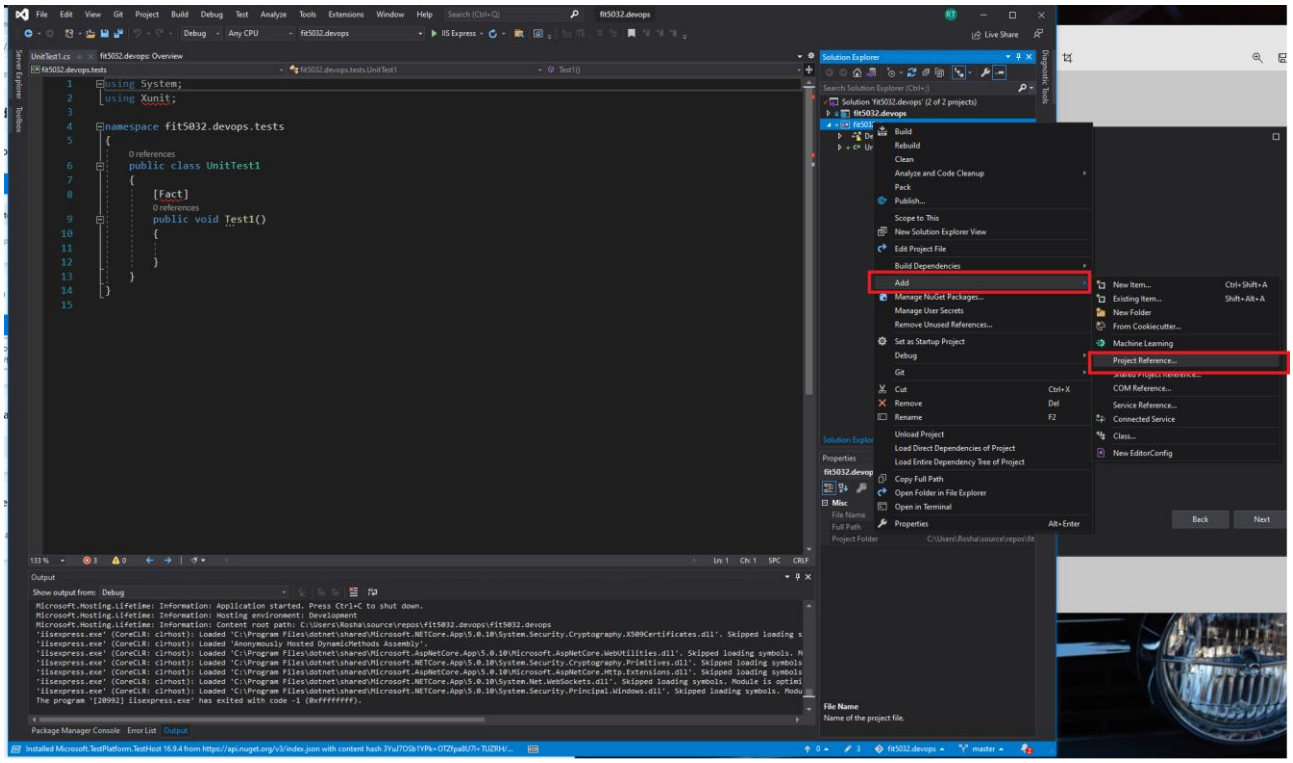


Select xUnit Test project for .NET Core

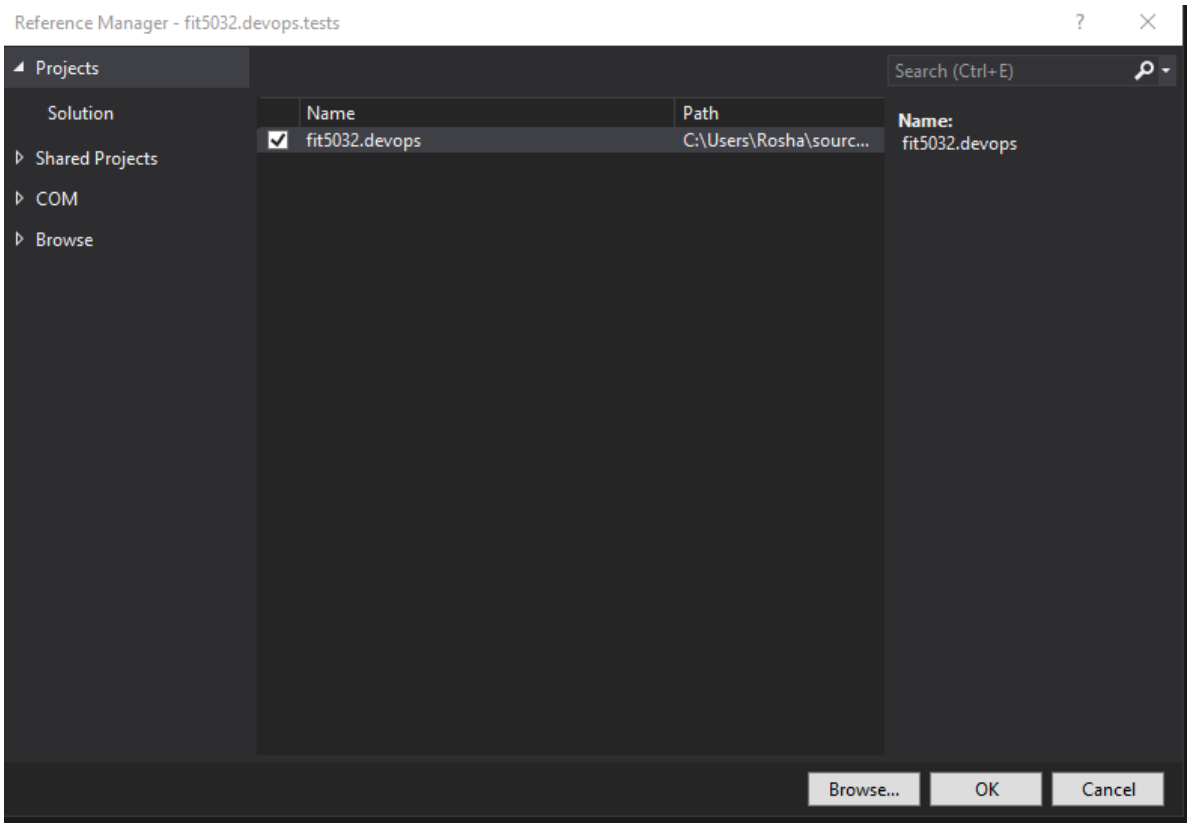




Once the xUnit Test project is created let's add the reference to the WebApp we created in Step 1 to the Unit Test project. To do this, right click on the Unit Test project and add project reference (Add → Project Reference)

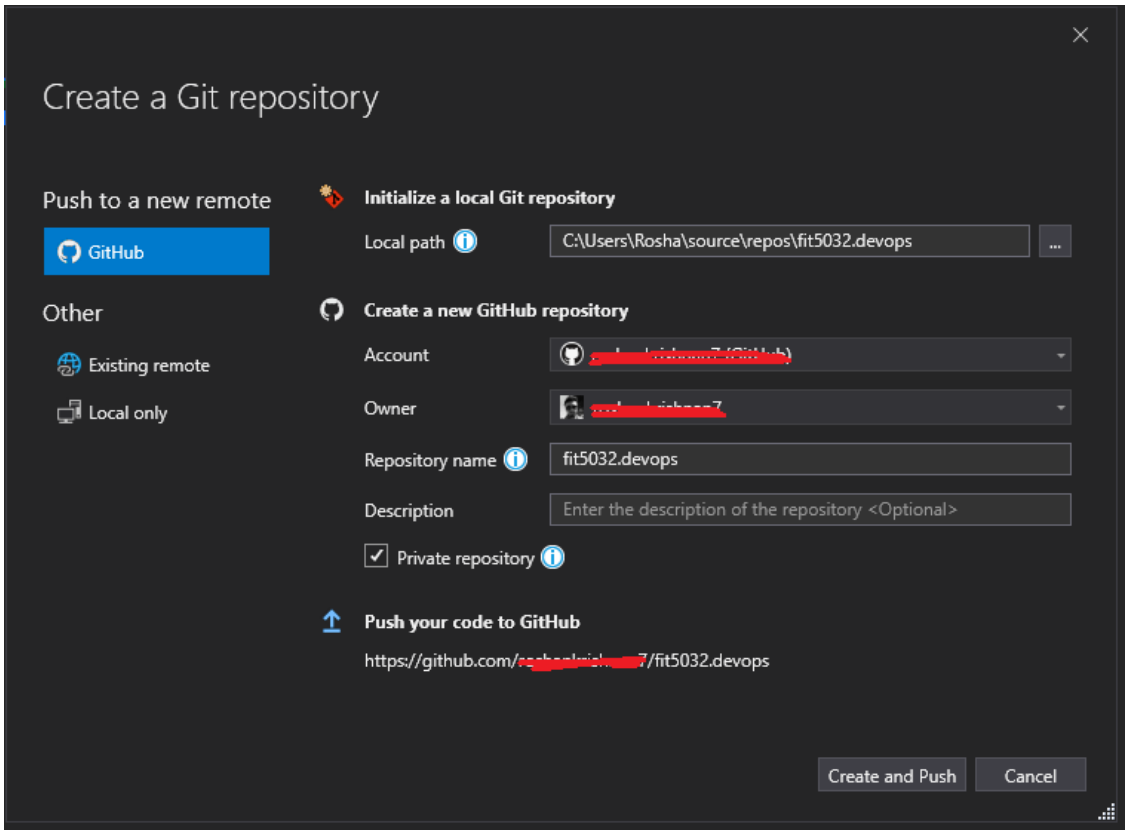


Add reference to the MVC web app we created in Step 1 by ticking the select box.



Step 3:

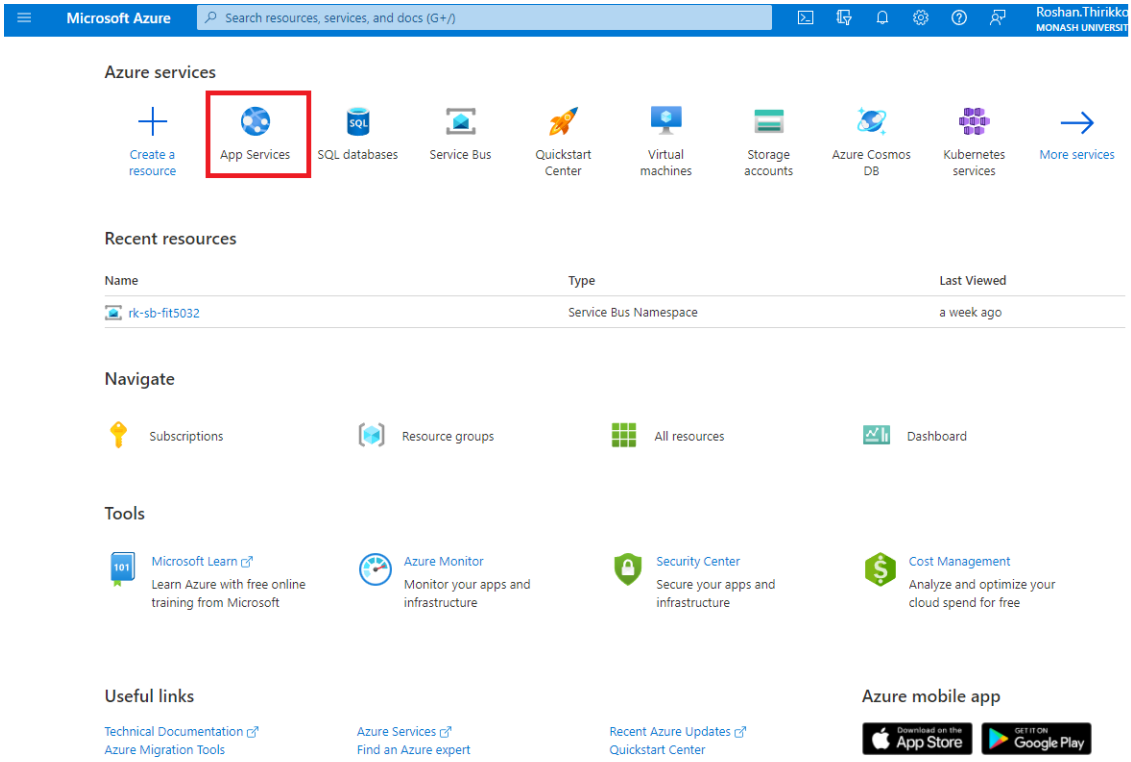
Create a Git repository and push your code changes to GitHub



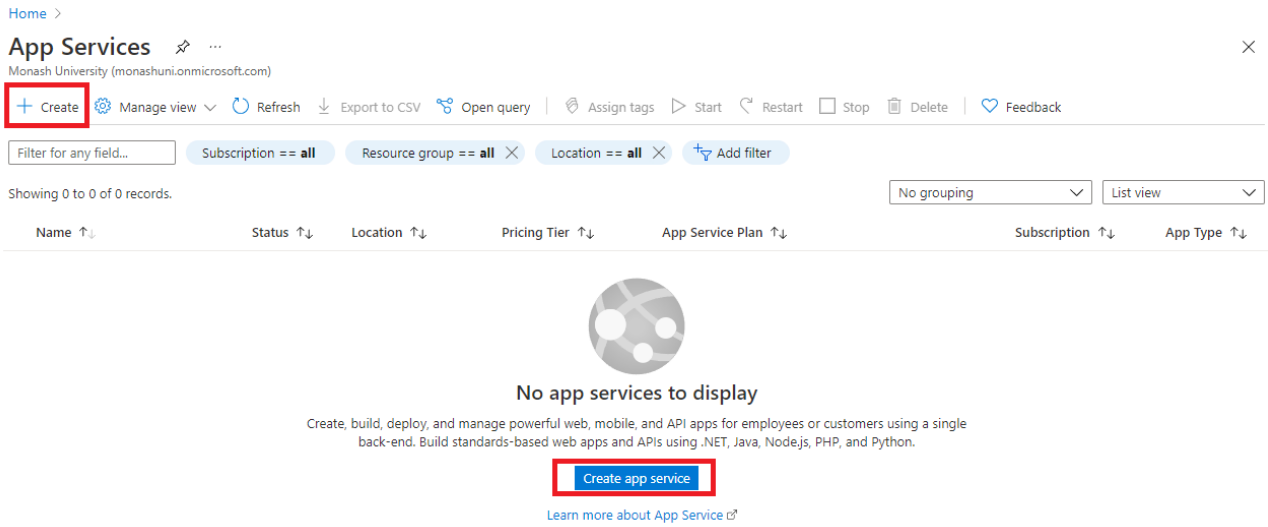
Step 3 –

We will be using Azure App Service to host our Web application. If you do not have an Azure account, please go to Azure Portal and sign up using your Student Account. Monash student account enables you to $200 worth of free credits that you can use on various Azure resources.

Once you account is setup, let us go ahead and create an App Service. You can use the search bar on top to find out App Services.



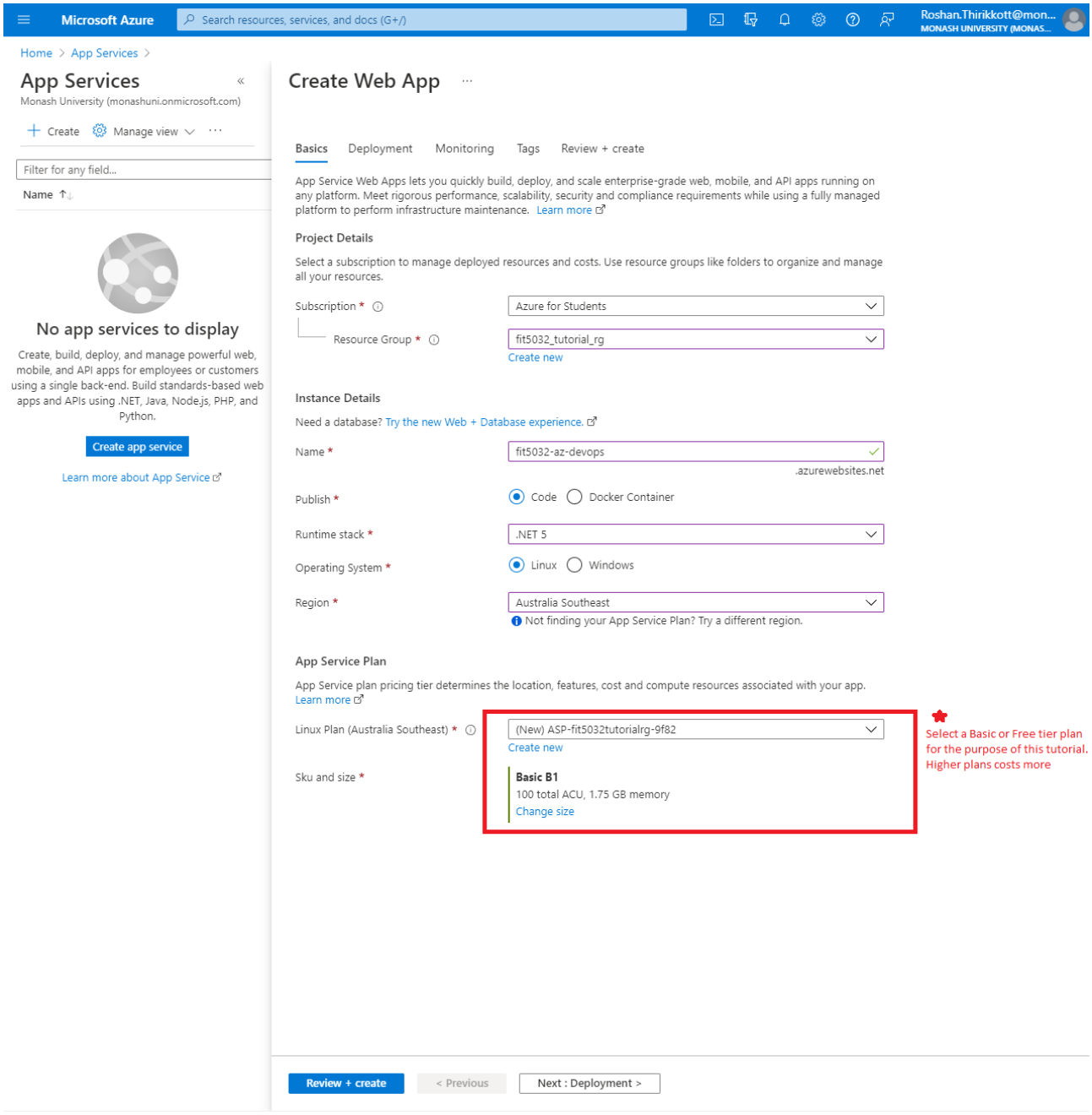
Create a new App Service by using either the Create button or the Create app service button.

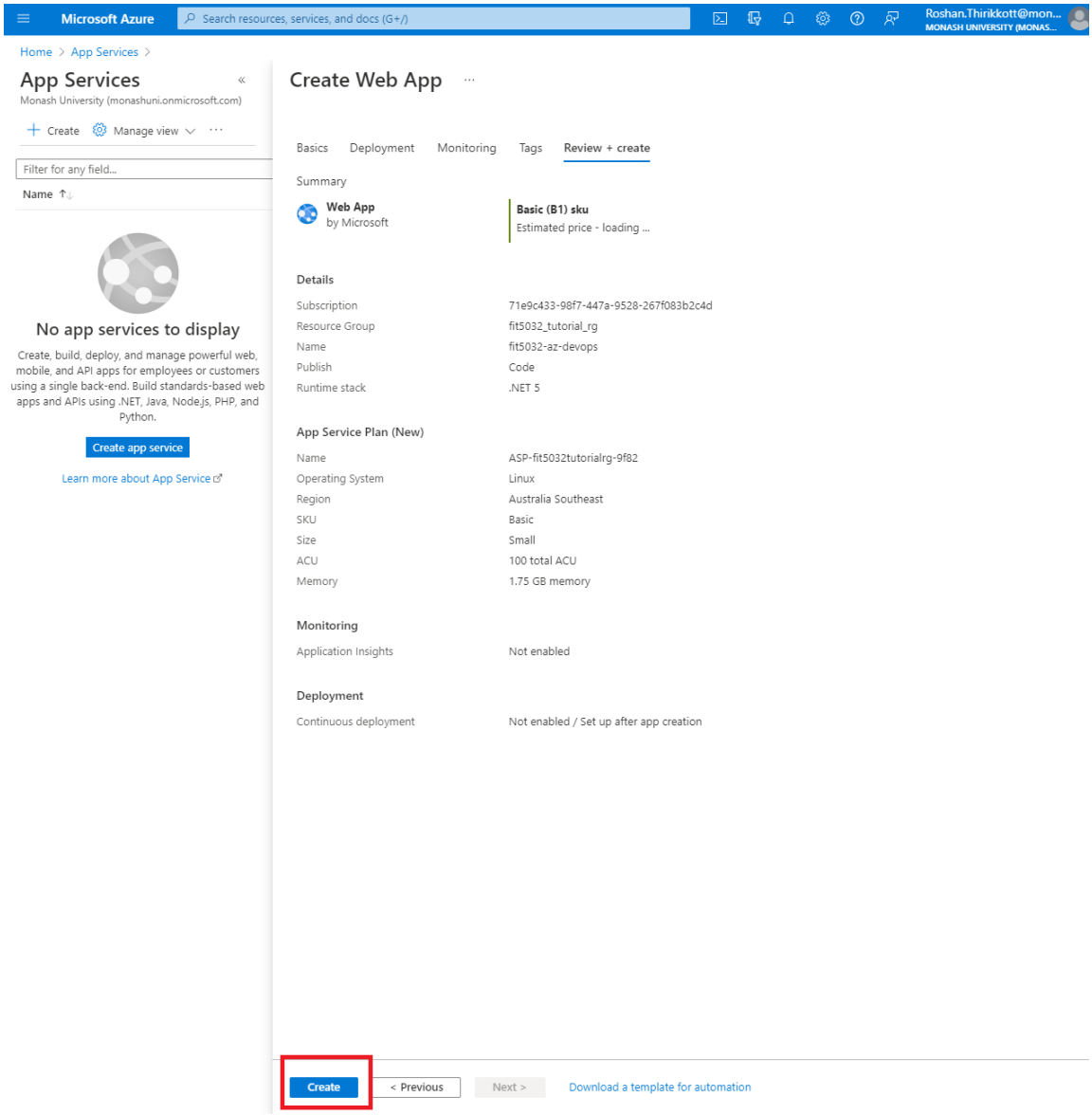


Fill out the details in the new popup window.

Note: You can use the Create New under the Resource Group to create a new Resource Group if you do not already have one. (A resource group is a container that holds related resources for an Azure solution). You might need to provide a unique name for your web app instance. Make sure to select the appropriate run time stack (Here we will be using .NET 5). Since .NET 5.0 is cross platform compatible, we can choose either Linux or Windows as the Operating System for the App Service. Choose the appropriate App Service Plan. (Try to select one of the Basic or Free tier App service plan for the purpose of this task, as the other App Service plans will charge more, and you will end up exhausting your free credits sooner).

Once all the input details are filled in Click on Review + Create
Note down the name of the app service that you have created as you will be able to view your web apps using that url (https://**<name you have chosen>**.azurewebsites.net)




Microsoft Azure
Search resources, services, and docs (G+/)
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Create, build, deploy, and manage powerful web, mobile, and API apps for employees or customers using a single back-end. Build standards-based web apps and APIs using .NET, Java, Node.js, PHP, and Python.
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Name fit5032-az-devops
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Runtime stack .NET 5
App Service Plan (New)
Name ASP-fit5032tutorialrg-9f82
Operating System Linux
Region Australia Southeast
SKU Basic
Size Small
ACU 100 total ACU
Memory 1.75 GB memory
Monitoring
Application Insights Not enabled
Deployment
Continuous deployment Not enabled / Set up after app creation
Create
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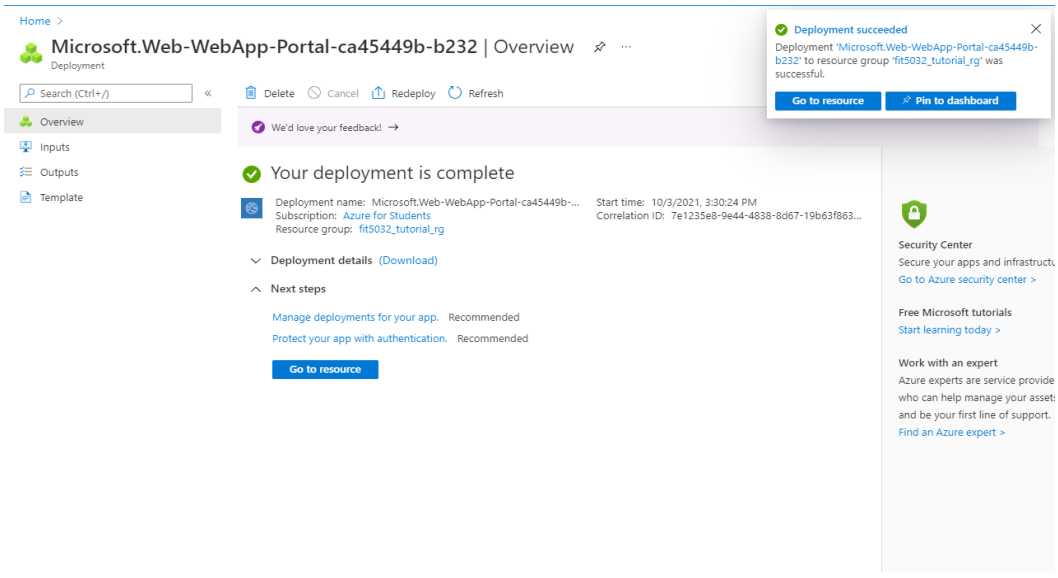
Download a template for automation


Home >
Microsoft.Web-WebApp-Portal-ca45449b-b232 | Overview
Deployment
Search (Ctrl+/)
Overview
Inputs
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Cancel
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We'd love your feedback!
Deployment succeeded
Deployment 'Microsoft.Web-WebApp-Portal-ca45449b-b232' to resource group 'fit5032_tutorial_rg' was successful.
Go to resource
Pin to dashboard
Your deployment is complete
Deployment name: Microsoft.Web-WebApp-Portal-ca45449b-...
Subscription: Azure for Students
Resource group: fit5032_tutorial_rg
Start time: 10/3/2021, 3:30:24 PM
Correlation ID: 7e1235e8-9e44-4838-8d67-19b63f863...
Deployment details (Download)
Next steps
Manage deployments for your app. Recommended
Protect your app with authentication. Recommended
Go to resource
Security Center
Secure your apps and infrastructu
Go to Azure security center >
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Work with an expert
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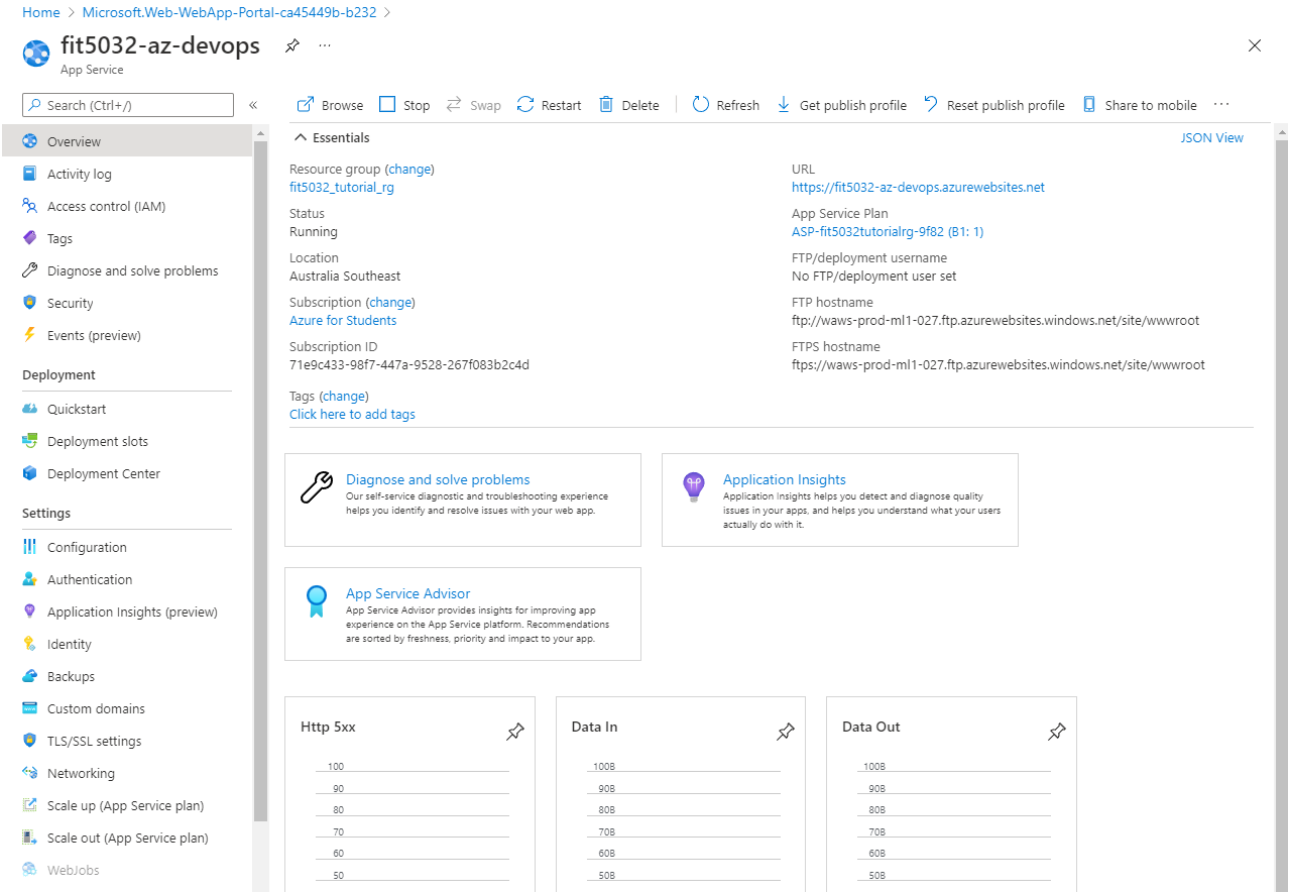
who can help manage your asset
and be your first line of support.
Find an Azure expert >

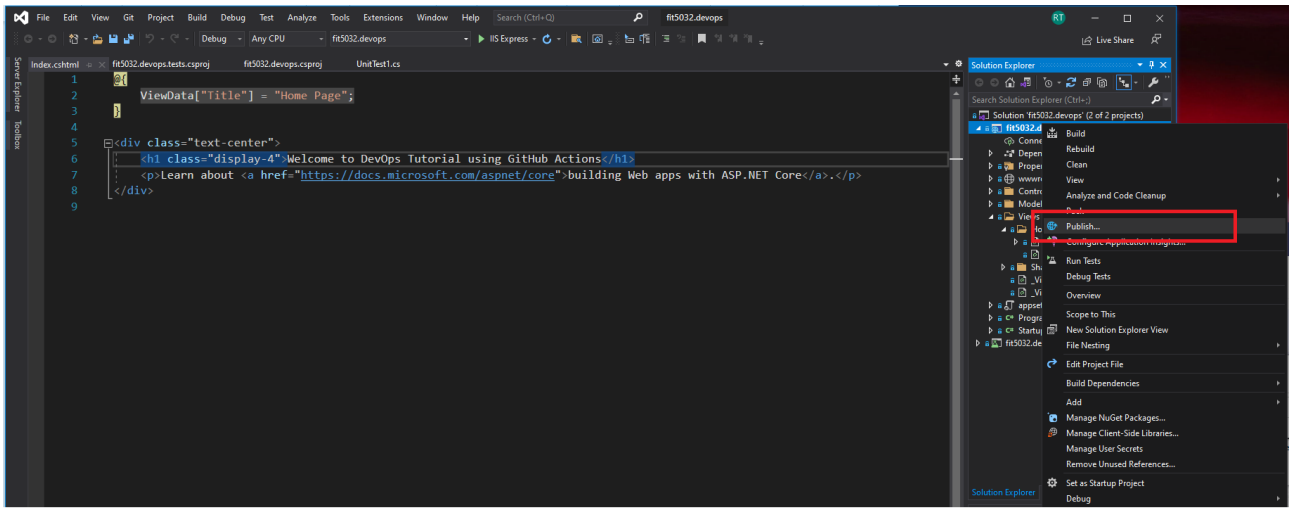
Once the deployment is completed, click on Go to resource to view the App Service that we created



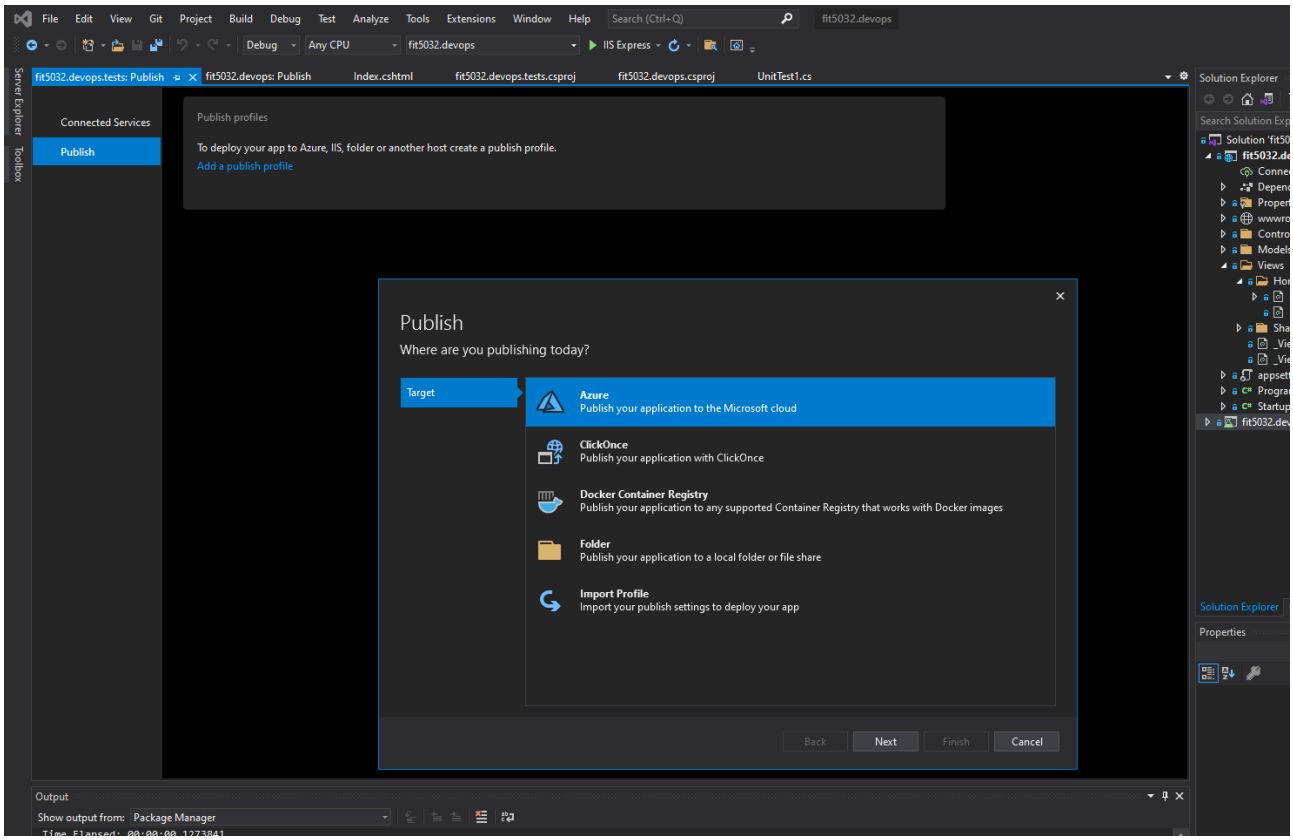
Step 4:

Set up CI/CD using GitHub Actions

Visual Studio helps us to set up the CI/CD pipeline using GitHub Actions in few steps. Right click on the web app project and select Publish option.

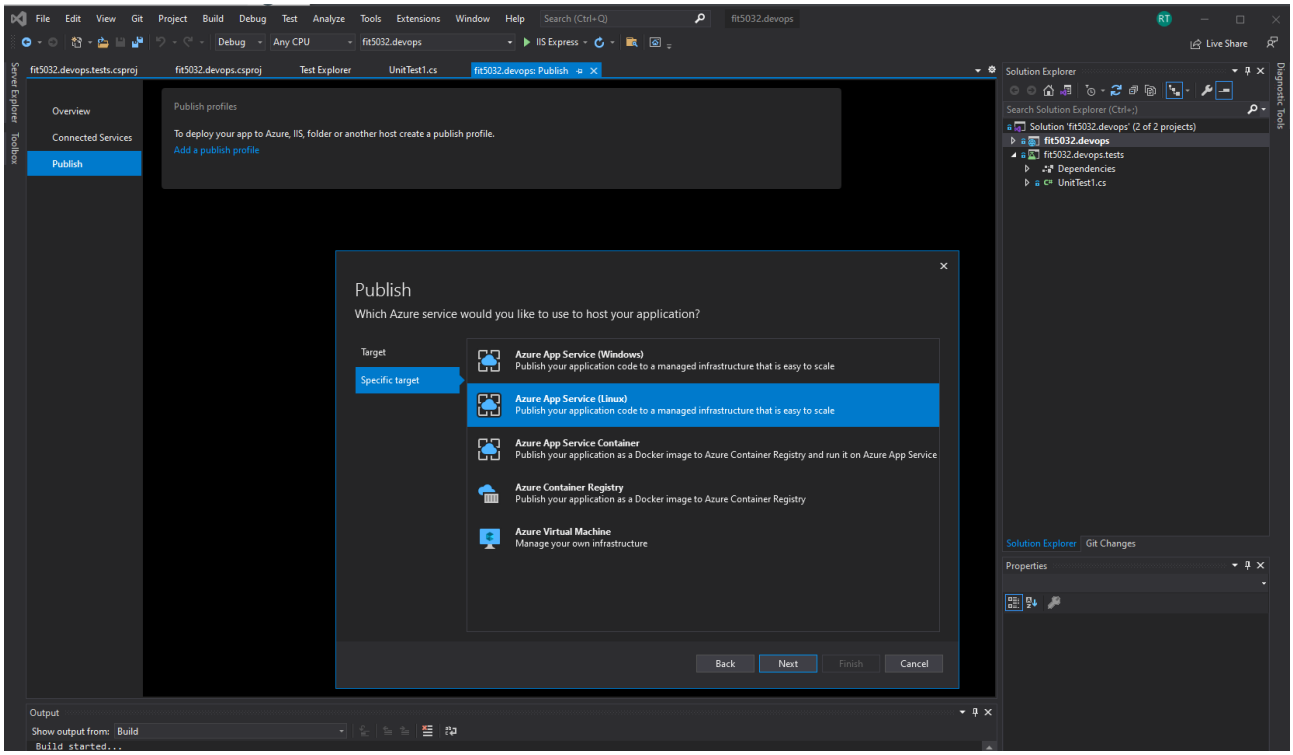


Select Azure as the Target

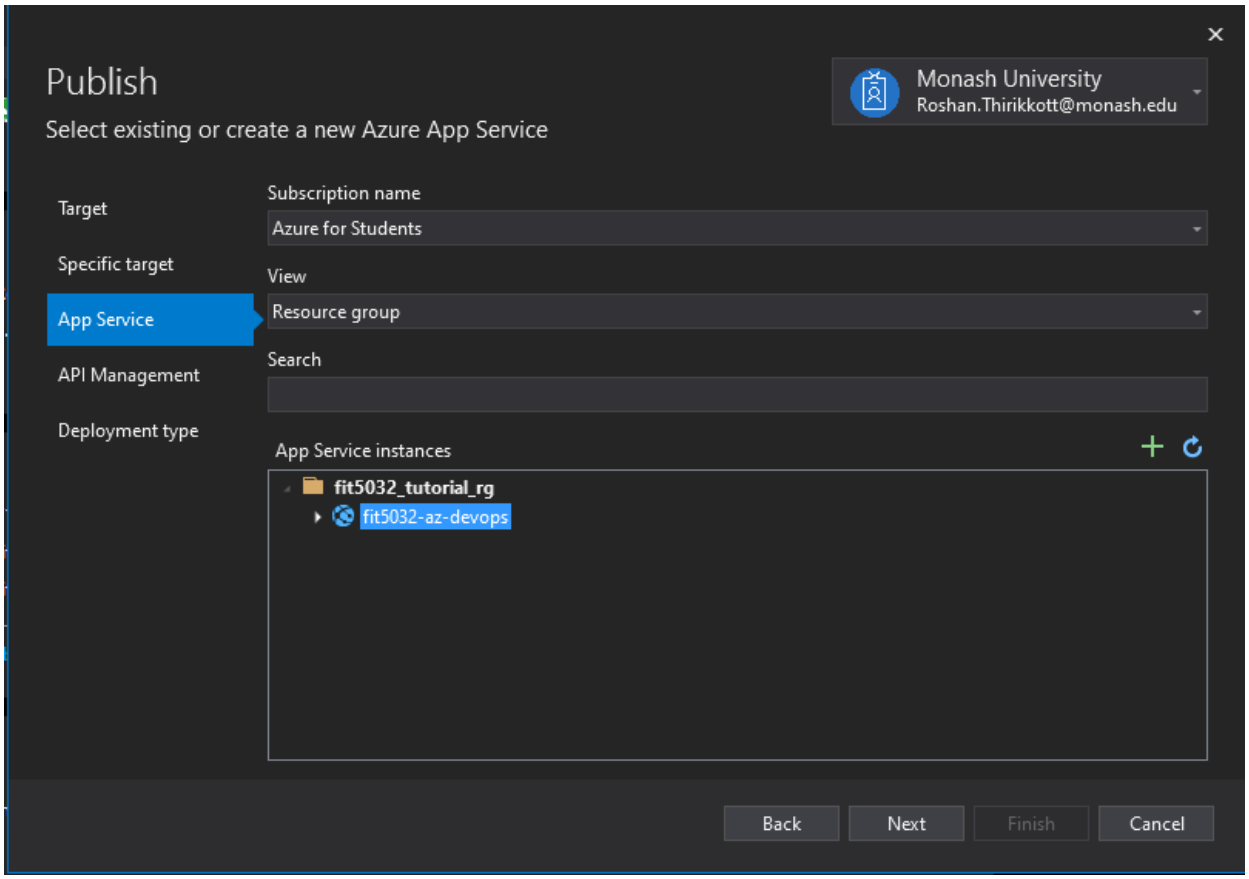


Select the option Specific Target and choose the option Azure App Service (Linux).

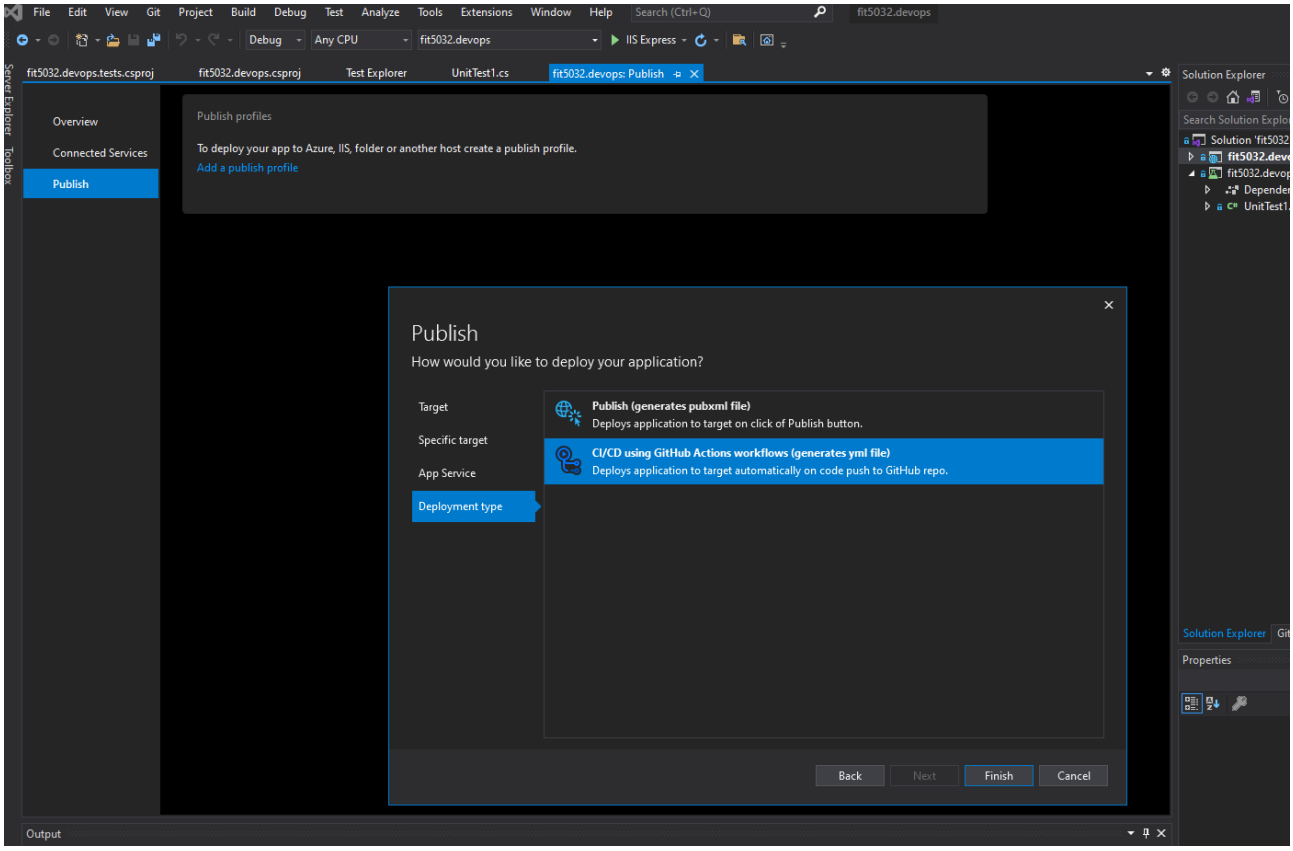
Note: Choose Azure App Service (Windows) if you had created the App Service to run on Windows



Select the App Service that you had created in the previous step.

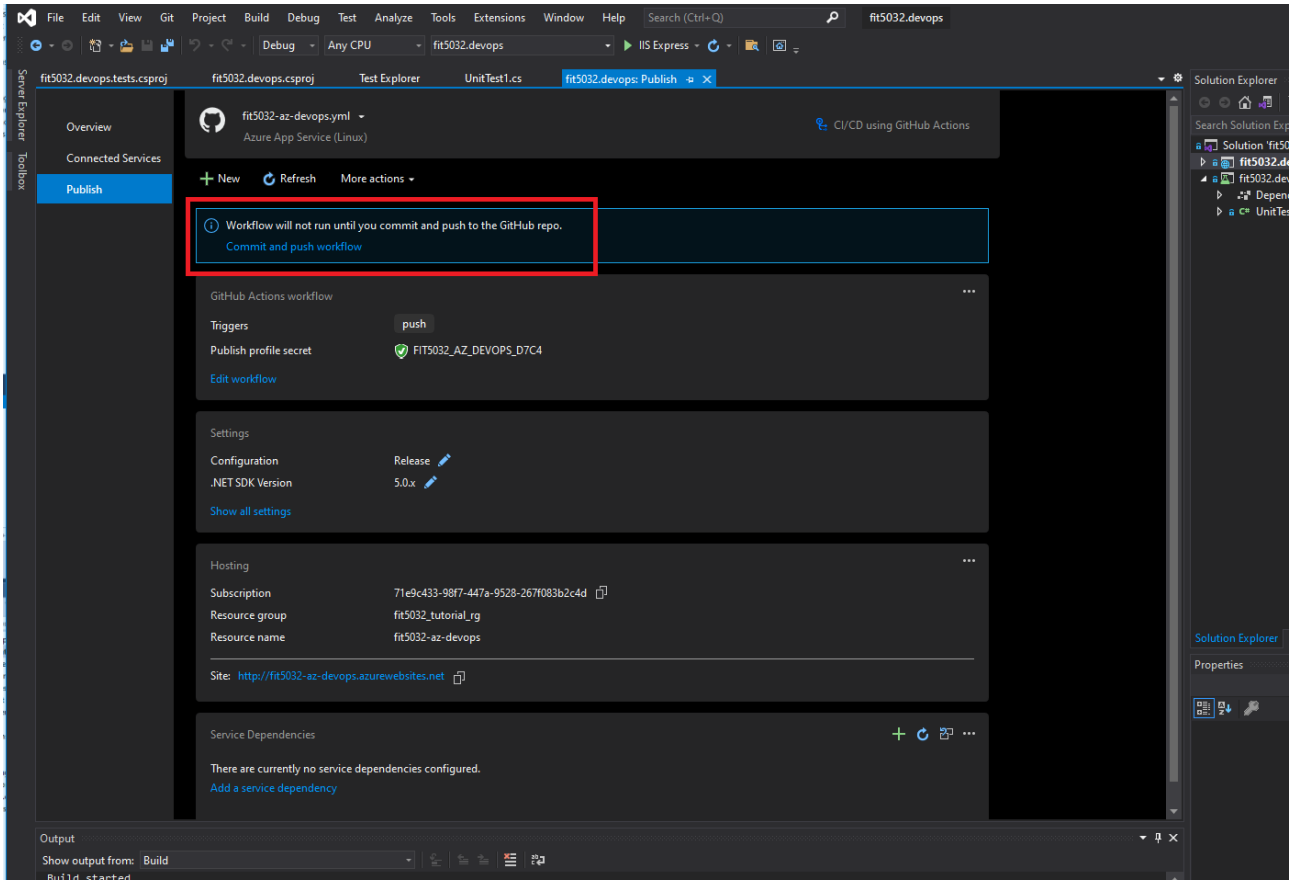


Deployment Type -> Choose option CI/CD using GitHub Actions workflows



The previous steps will build your deployment template for you. The triggers we select here will determine how the workflow runs. Here the default trigger is push, which means that as soon as you push changes to your master branch in your GitHub repo, it will trigger a GitHub Actions CI/CD pipeline run. You can setup more triggers by clicking on Edit Workflow. For now, let us go with the default workflow.

Now we need to commit the changes that were created.

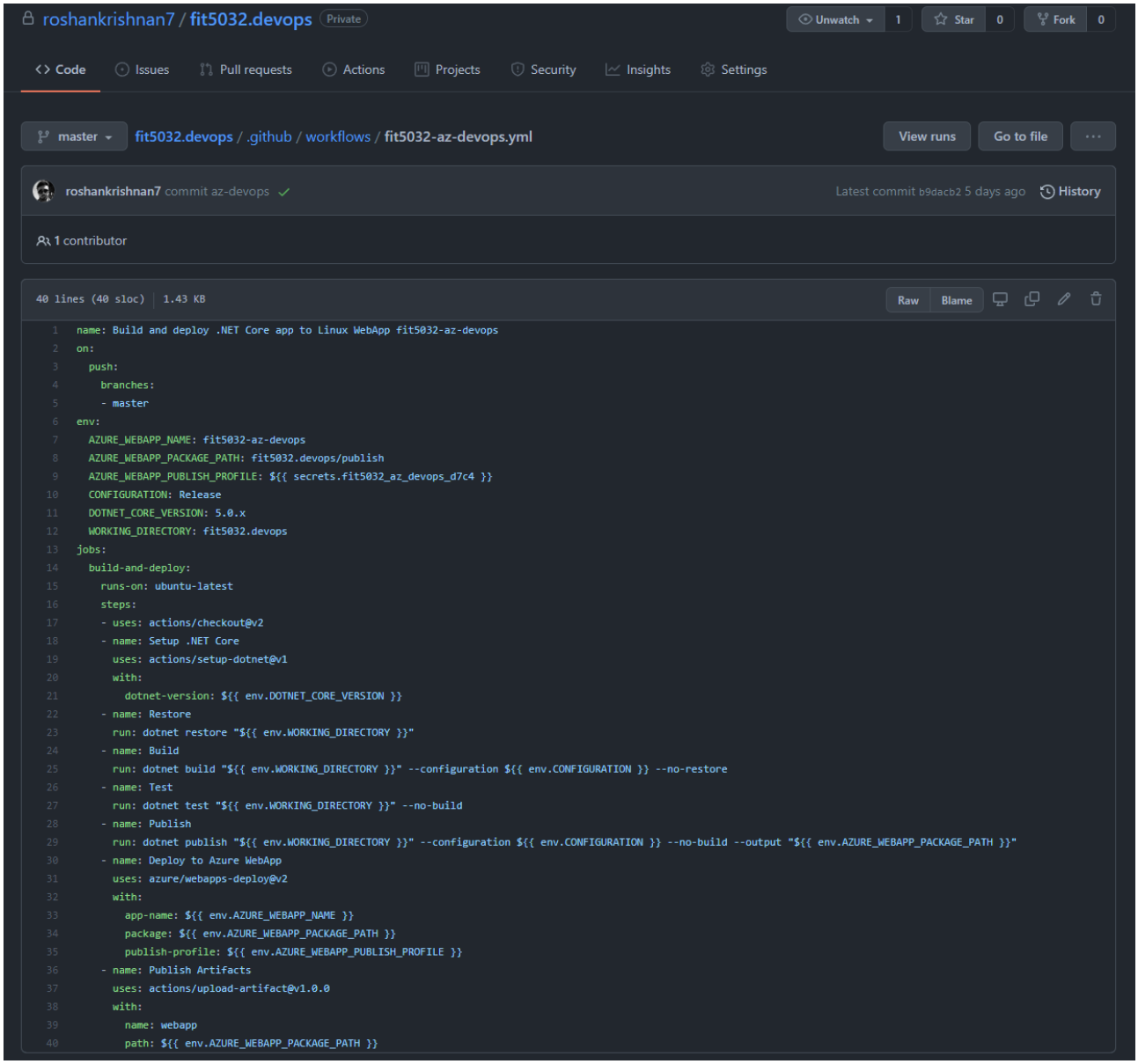


The template file used for deployment that was generated in your previous steps is located inside your repository as follows:

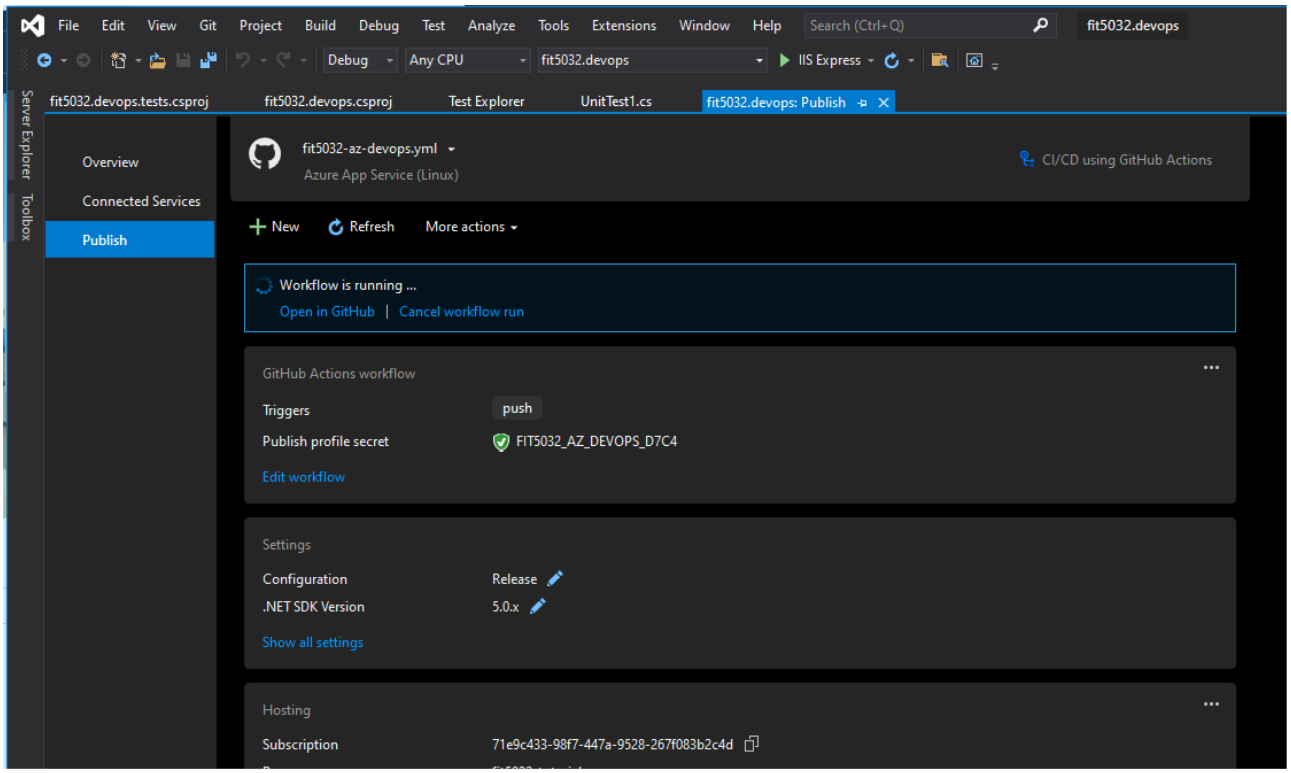
.github.workflows/<name of your project>.yml

Note: This is a YAML file. YAML is a serialization language that is used often for configuration files.

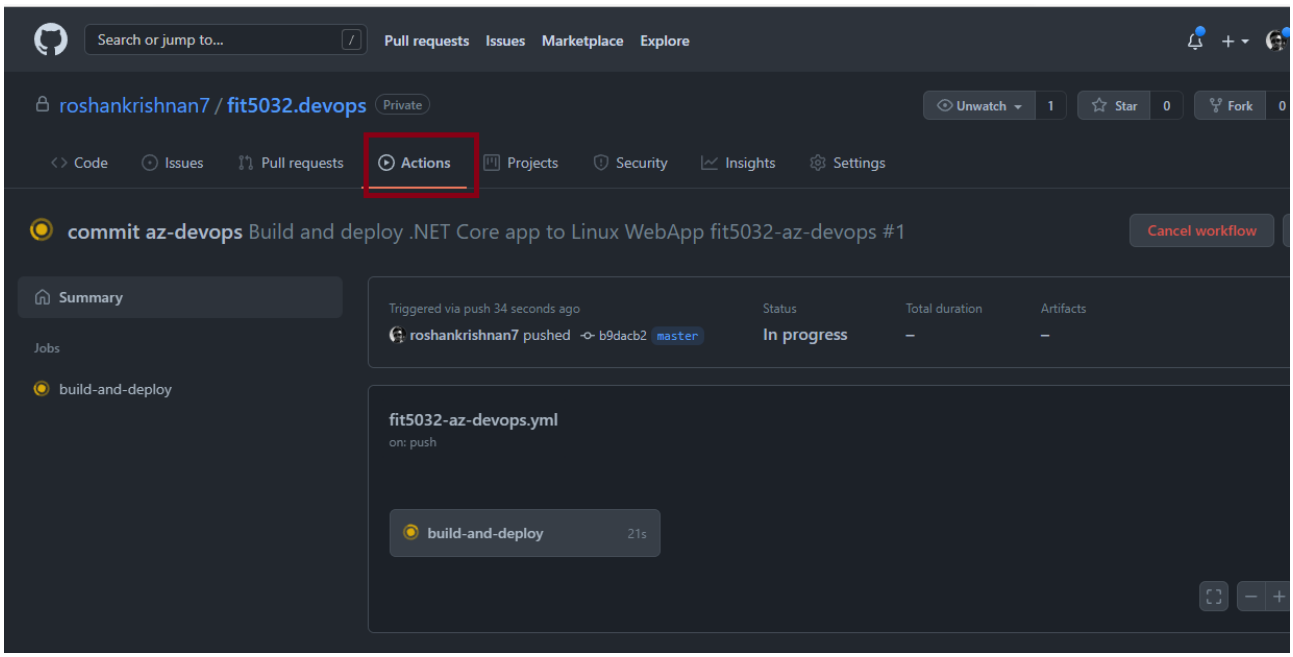
This file contains all the steps that are involved in the CI/CD pipeline



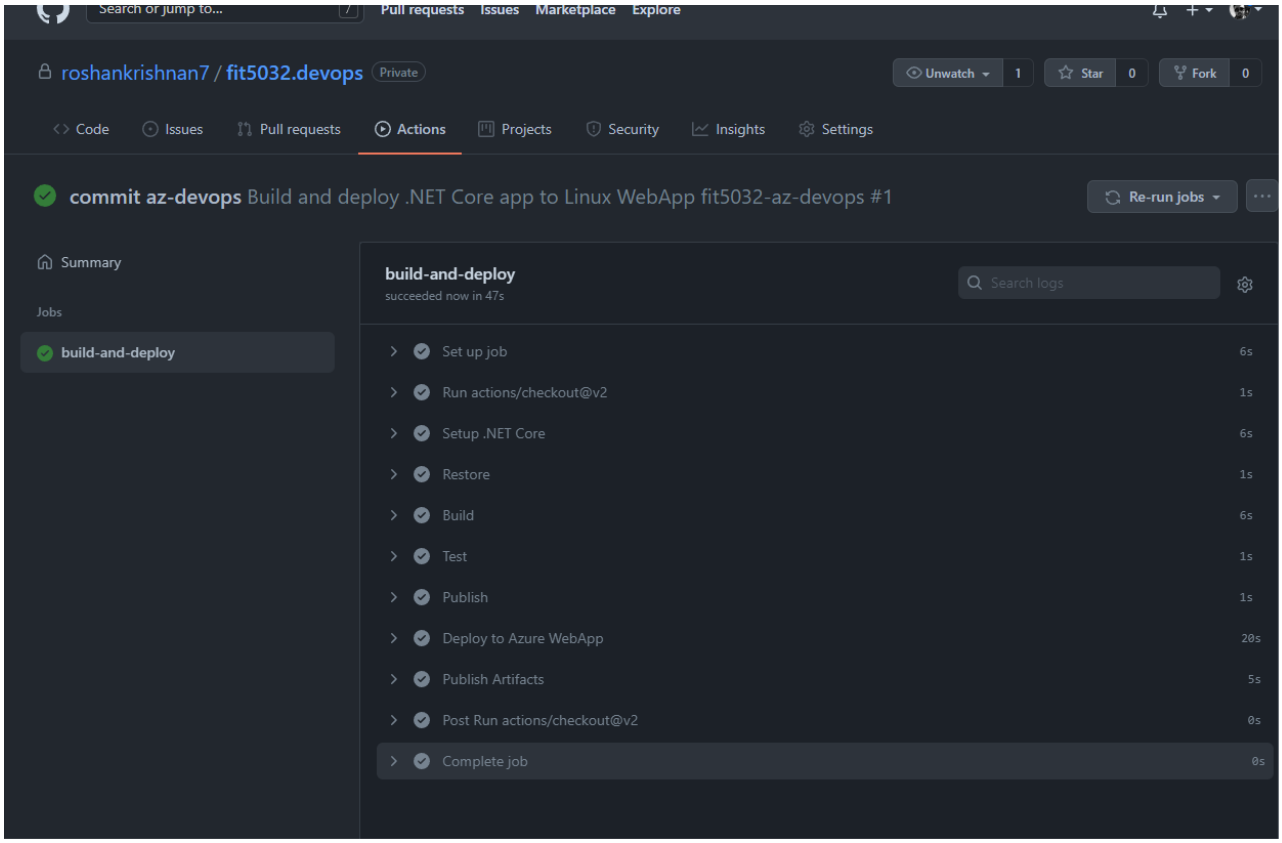
In Visual Studio, it would show that the workflow is running



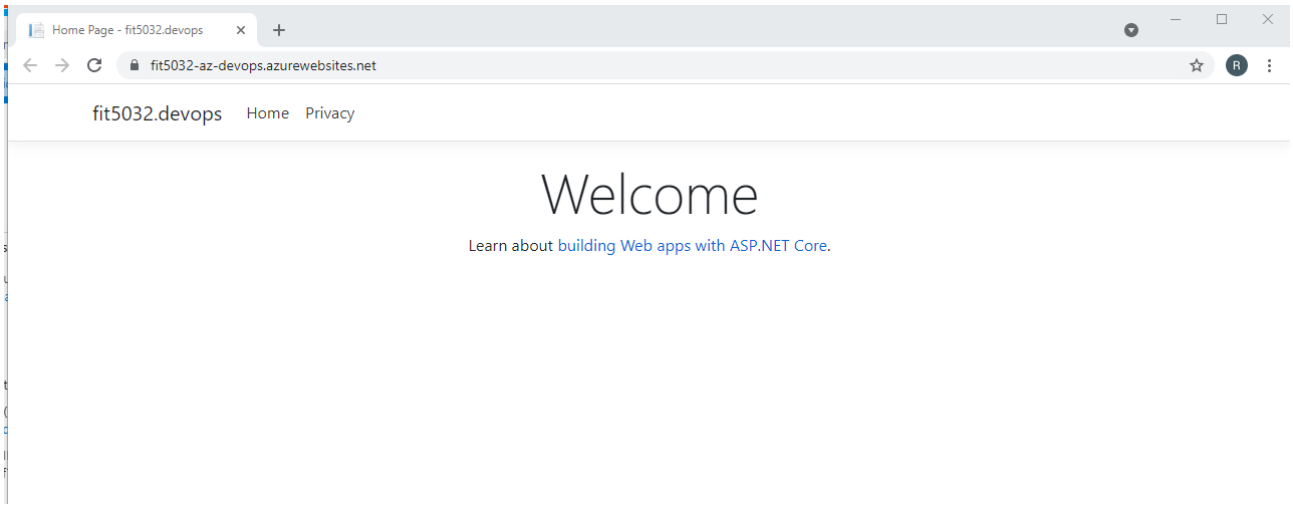
Go to your GitHub repo and Look under the Actions tab, you should see that the CI/CD pipeline is now running



Once the run is successfully completed, you should see the various steps that the CI/CD pipeline executed, including Build, Test and Deploy to Azure Web App.



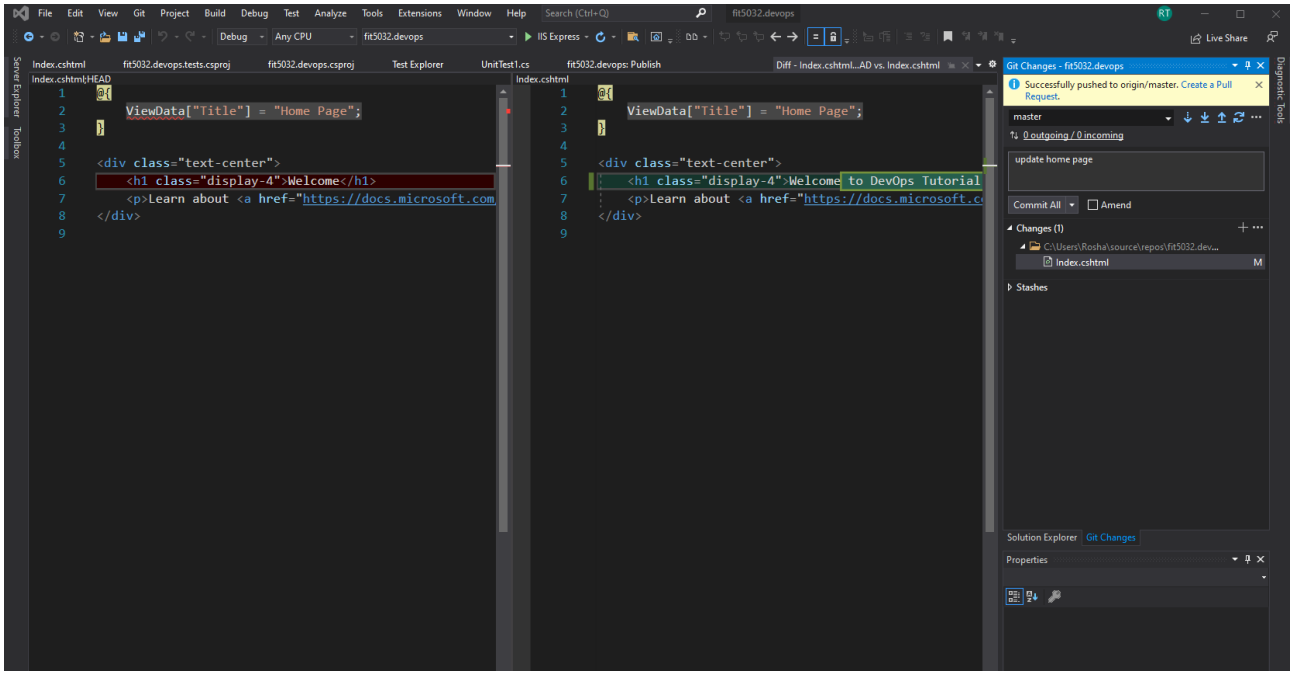
Go to the URL for the app service that you have created (https://**<name of app service>**.azurewebsites.net). You should see your MVC web application hosted there.



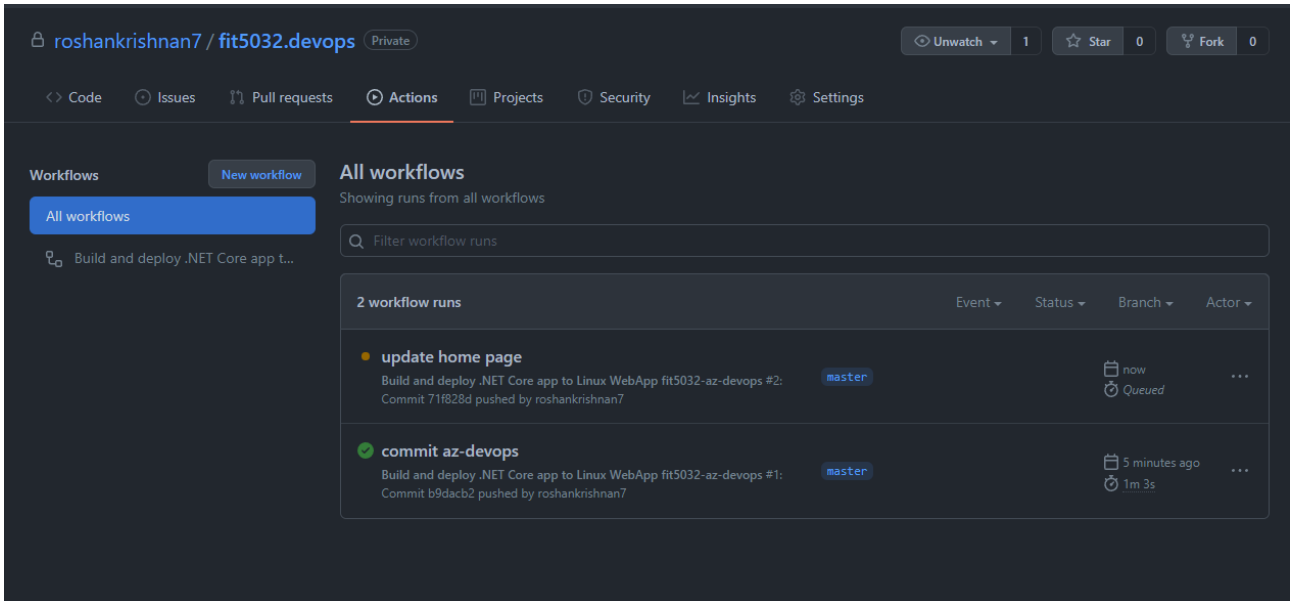
Step 5:

CI/CD in Action

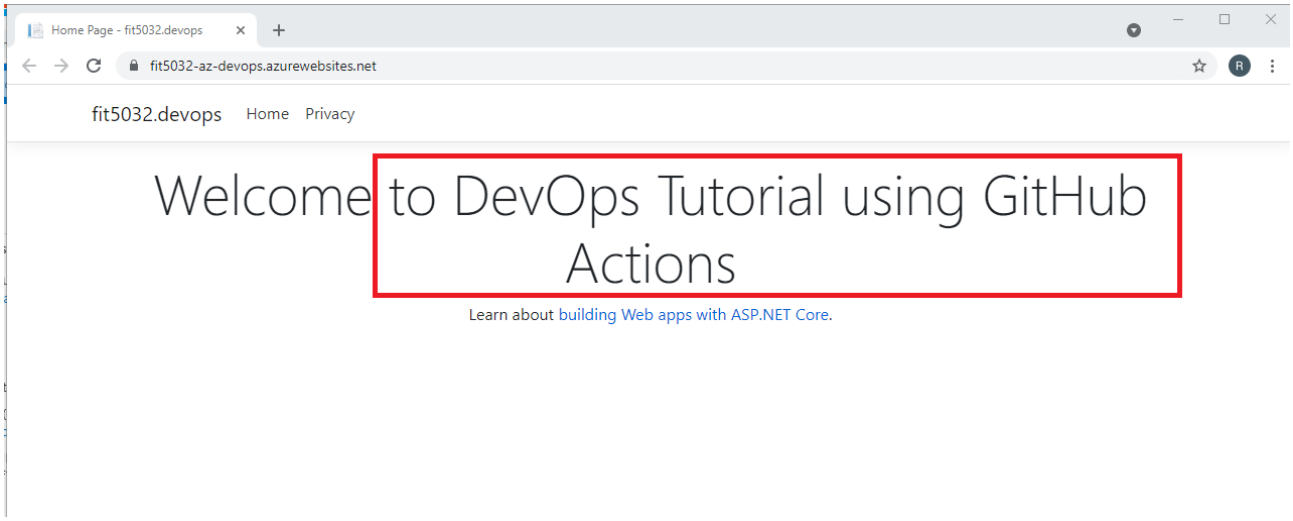
Now let us see how automated CI/CD pipeline works as soon as you make code changes to your repository. Let us go ahead and make some changes to your code. Let us modify the text displayed in our Default landing page. Commit and push the changes to GitHub repository.



Go to GitHub and look under Actions tab. You should now see a new workflow running. This was triggered by our commit and push to the repository.



Visit the web page again once the new workflow finishes executing. You should see the changes that you made



By now, you would have setup a CI/CD pipeline using GitHub actions to continuously build, test and deploy your code changes to your web application hosted in Azure App Service.

REFERENCES:

https://docs.github.com/en/actions

https://azure.microsoft.com/en-au/services/app-service/#overview

https://www.c-sharpcorner.com/article/github-actions-azu-continuous-deployment-of-asp-net-core-with-dotvvm-applic/