Examine Azure App Service

3 minutes

Azure App Service is an HTTP-based service for hosting web applications, REST APIs, and mobile back ends. You can develop in your favorite language, be it .NET, .NET Core, Java, Ruby, Node.js, PHP, or Python. Applications run and scale with ease on both Windows and Linux-based environments.

Built-in auto scale support

Baked into Azure App Service is the ability to scale up/down or scale out/in. Depending on the usage of the web app, you can scale your app up/down the resources of the underlying machine that is hosting your web app. Resources include the number of cores or the amount of RAM available. Scaling out/in is the ability to increase, or decrease, the number of machine instances that are running your web app.

Continuous integration/deployment support

The Azure portal provides out-of-the-box continuous integration and deployment with Azure DevOps, GitHub, Bitbucket, FTP, or a local Git repository on your development machine. Connect your web app with any of the above sources and App Service will do the rest for you by auto-syncing code and any future changes on the code into the web app.

Deployment slots

Using the Azure portal, or command-line tools, you can easily add deployment slots to an App Service web app. For instance, you can create a staging deployment slot where you can push your code to test on Azure. Once you are happy with your code, you can easily swap the staging deployment slot with the production slot. You do all this with a few simple mouse clicks in the Azure portal.

Note

Deployment slots are only available in the Standard and Premium plan tiers.

App Service on Linux

App Service can also host web apps natively on Linux for supported application stacks. It can also run custom Linux containers (also known as Web App for Containers). App Service on Linux supports a number of language specific built-in images. Just deploy your code. Supported languages include: Node.js, Java (JRE 8 & JRE 11), PHP, Python, .NET Core, and Ruby. If the runtime your application requires is not supported in the built-in images, you can deploy it with a custom container.

The languages, and their supported versions, are updated on a regular basis. You can retrieve the current list by using the following command in the Cloud Shell.

```
az webapp list-runtimes --linux
```

Limitations

App Service on Linux does have some limitations:

- App Service on Linux is not supported on Shared pricing tier.
- You can't mix Windows and Linux apps in the same App Service plan.
- Historically, you could not mix Windows and Linux apps in the same resource group. However, all resource groups created on or after January 21, 2021 do support this scenario. Support for resource groups created before January 21, 2021 will be rolled out across Azure regions (including National cloud regions) soon.
- The Azure portal shows only features that currently work for Linux apps. As features are enabled, they're activated on the portal.

Next unit: Examine Azure App Service plans

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