Installing Ansible on Azure through Hands-On Practice

# Guidance

The following handout provides step-by-step instructions for **beginner-friendly Azure exercises**.

## Objective:

Install and configure Ansible on an Azure VM without using the Azure CLI, using only the Azure Portal and a terminal (after connecting via SSH).

## Step 1: Create a Virtual Machine in the Azure Portal

1. Go to the [Azure Portal](https://portal.azure.com/).
2. Click **"Create a resource"** → choose **Virtual Machine**.
3. Fill in the basic info:
   1. Resource group: ansible-lab (or create a new one)
   2. VM name: ansibleVM
   3. Region: East US (or your nearest location)
   4. Image: **Ubuntu 22.04 LTS**
   5. Size: A basic size like Standard\_B1s is fine for testing
   6. Authentication: Use SSH public key or a password
   7. Inbound ports: **Allow SSH (port 22)**
4. Click through the remaining tabs (Disks, Networking, etc.), leaving defaults unless needed.
5. Click **"Review + create"**, then **Create**.

## Step 2: Access the VM

Once the VM is created:

1. Go to the **Virtual Machine blade**.
2. Under **"Overview"**, copy the **Public IP address**.
3. In your local terminal, connect via SSH:

*ssh azureuser@<public-ip>*

## Step 3: Install Ansible on the VM

Once connected to the VM:

*sudo apt update*

*sudo apt install -y software-properties-common*

*sudo add-apt-repository --yes --update ppa:ansible/ansible*

*sudo apt install -y ansible*

This installs the latest stable Ansible version via the official PPA.

## Step 4: Verify Installation

Run:

*ansible --version*

You should see the Ansible version, configuration file path, and default module locations.

## (Optional) Step 5: Set Up a Hosts Inventory

To create a basic Ansible inventory file:

*sudo nano /etc/ansible/hosts*

Add:

*[webservers]*

*192.168.0.5*

*192.168.0.6*

Test connectivity:

*ansible all -m ping*