Create and Restore File Share Snapshots in Azure

Hello!

I'm Andrew Ikuesan, an entry-level cloud professional focused on hands-on Azure projects that deliver dependable results

Experience

✅Microsoft Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900)

🛠️Working towards the Microsoft Azure Administration (AZ-104)

Skills Set

st Azure Storage Management

re Resource Group & VM Navigation

wi Remote Administration

pc PowerShell Scripting

🛡️ Security & Network Awareness

📷 Snapshot & Backup Management

fil File Synchronization & Validation

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Scenario

Your company needs to ensure that backups are in place for all Azure file shares. Because employees are often modifying files within the file share, file versioning is also important. To test functionality, you are tasked with taking a snapshot of a file share and restoring it to your Windows machine.

The lab work

The s**torage accounts** section of the Azure Portal was opened to set up cloud storage for the project. Then initiated the process for a new storage account. The existing subscription and resource group were selected to link the account correctly. A globally unique name was entered to prevent conflicts with other storage accounts. The location was set to match the resource group for consistency and compliance. Standard performance was chosen to support general-purpose storage needs.

All settings were reviewed in the **review + create** screen before deployment. The account was deployed by clicking **create**, deployment was monitored until completion.
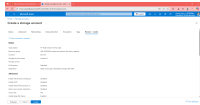
Creation of the **storage account**
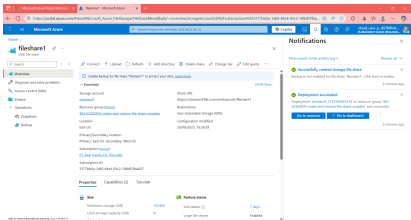

Creation of **fileshare1**

The storage account was opened to begin creating a file share. **File shares** was selected from the storage account menu to manage shared storage. The **+ File share** option initiated the creation of a new share within the account.

The file share was named **fileshare1** for easy identification. Configuration settings were reviewed, and **review + create** was clicked to confirm them. The file share was finalized by clicking **create**, making it immediately available for use.

The resource group was opened to locate the **winVM** virtual machine for storage connection. The VM's public IP address was copied to establish a remote session. A connection was made to the VM using Remote Desktop and the provided lab credentials.

Windows Firewall was temporarily disabled to allow the connection script to run without interruption. PowerShell was launched as an administrator to execute the required commands.

Back in the Azure portal, **fileshare1** was selected and the **connect** option was chosen. The generated PowerShell script was copied from the portal and executed in the VM session. The script completed successfully, connecting the file share and making it accessible from the virtual machine.
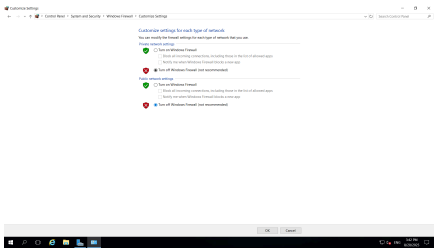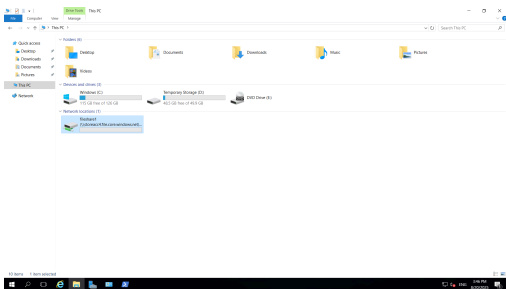

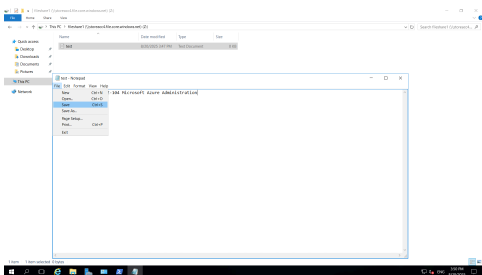Windows Firewall within the VM that was deployed
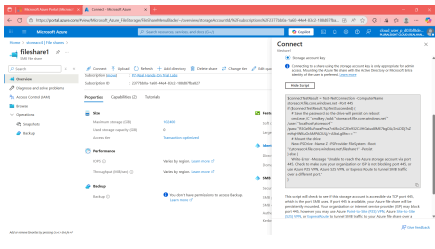
Found the **fileshare script** and copied to paste within the installed VMs PowerShell
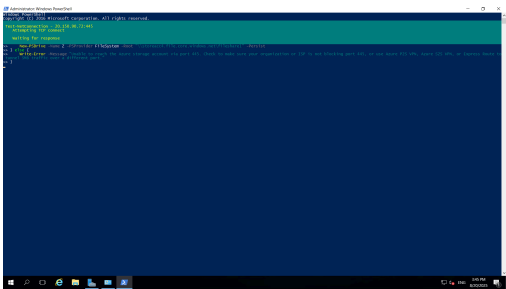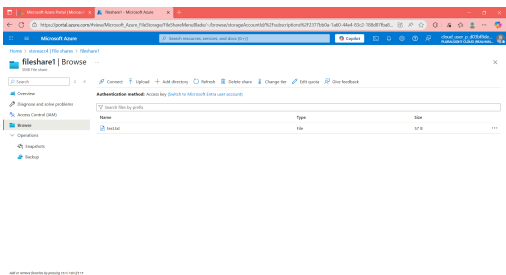

Pasted the script and pressed enter for the script to run

Fileshare1's location within the VMs File Explorer

Created the **test.txt** filling it with text to save in the **fileshare**


**Test.txt** saved also in the portal

Within the VM, **fileshare1** was opened in File Explorer to manage files directly. A new text document named **test.txt** was created and filled with the text 'working towards the AZ-104 Microsoft Azure Administration'. The file was saved to confirm that it was stored correctly in the file share. Its presence was verified in the Azure portal to ensure proper synchronization.

A snapshot named **TestSnapshot** was created to capture the current state of the file share. The **test.txt** file was then modified by adding additional text. The updated file was saved to confirm that changes had been applied.

Back in Azure, the snapshot was opened to access the earlier version of the file. The **test.txt** entry was selected, and the **restore** option was chosen. **Overwrite original file** was selected to revert the document to its original version. The file reverted successfully, demonstrating that the snapshot and restore functionality worked as expected
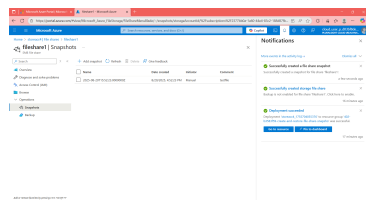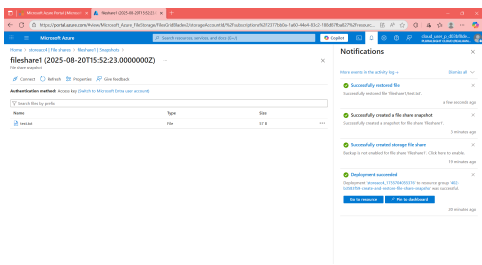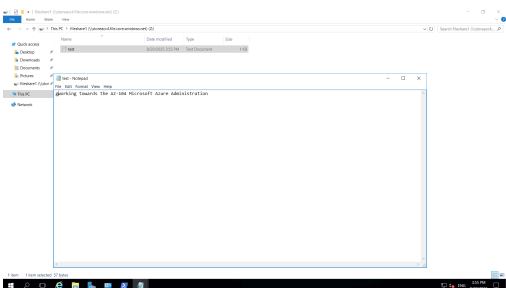

Snapshot Created
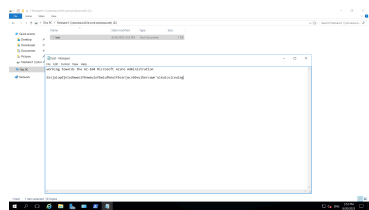
Modified **test.txt** file
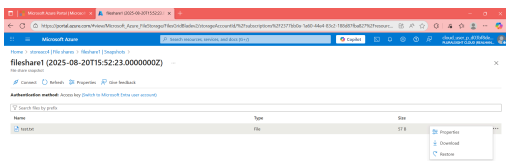
Restoration of the original **test.txt** file that was saved initially

Confirmation that the restoration happened

Proof that the restoration actually happened

💡 Key Takeaway

- Demonstrated the ability to create and manage **Azure storage accounts**.
- Set up and configured **file shares** within Azure for practical use.
- Connected Azure file shares to a **Windows virtual machine** using PowerShell scripts.
- Implemented **Windows Firewall adjustments** to enable resource connectivity.
- Created and managed **snapshots** to back up and restore files reliably.
- Verified **data integrity** by testing file changes and restoring from snapshots.
- Showcased **hands-on cloud administration skills** and problem-solving in a real-world scenario.