In Azure DevOps, "plugins" typically refer to extensions that enhance the functionality of the platform. These plugins, or extensions, can integrate with Azure DevOps to provide additional features and capabilities, such as build and release tasks, dashboard widgets, and more.

### Key Aspects of Plugins (Extensions) in Azure DevOps

1. \*\*Marketplace Extensions\*\*:

- Azure DevOps has a marketplace where you can find a wide variety of extensions that add functionality to your Azure DevOps services. These can be browsed and installed from the [Azure DevOps Marketplace] (https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/azuredevops).

2. \*\*Types of Extensions\*\*:

- \*\*Build and Release Tasks\*\*: Extensions can provide additional tasks for your pipelines, such as integrations with third-party services, deployment tasks, code quality tools, etc.

- \*\*Dashboard Widgets\*\*: Custom widgets can be added to dashboards to provide visual insights, such as charts, metrics, or status indicators.

- \*\*Service Hooks\*\*: Extensions can integrate with external systems using service hooks, enabling real-time notifications or actions based on events in Azure DevOps.

- \*\*Custom Controls\*\*: Extensions can add custom controls to work item forms to capture additional data or integrate with other systems.

3. \*\*Installing Extensions\*\*:

- You can install extensions from the marketplace by navigating to the "Organization settings" in Azure DevOps, selecting "Extensions," and then "Browse marketplace."

4. \*\*Creating Custom Extensions\*\*:

- Azure DevOps supports custom extension development. You can create your own extensions to meet specific needs or integrate with internal tools. The [Azure DevOps Extension Documentation](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/devops/extend/overview?view=azure-devops) provides detailed guidance on how to develop, package, and publish your own extensions.

5. \*\*Examples of Popular Extensions\*\*:

- \*\*SonarQube\*\*: Integrates SonarQube for static code analysis.

- \*\*Slack Integration\*\*: Allows Azure DevOps to send notifications to Slack channels.

- \*\*Terraform\*\*: Provides tasks for managing infrastructure as code using Terraform.

- \*\*WhiteSource Bolt\*\*: Adds open source security and management capabilities.

### Using Extensions in Pipelines

- \*\*Pipeline Task Extensions\*\*: These extensions add tasks that you can use in your YAML or classic build/release pipelines. For example, a Docker extension might add tasks to build and push Docker images.

```yaml

steps:

- task: Docker@2

inputs:

command: build

repository: $(dockerImageId)

Dockerfile: \*\*/Dockerfile

tags: |

$(build.buildId)

```

