

Hands-On Objective: Hosting a Static Website Using Azure Storage

Objective

The objective of this hands-on exercise is to host a static website using Azure Storage by enabling static website hosting, uploading website files to a container, accessing the website through a public URL, enabling metrics to monitor website usage, and finally terminating all created resources.

Goals of the Hands-On

1. Enable static website hosting in Azure Storage
 2. Upload static website files to the storage container
 3. Find and access the static website URL
 4. Enable and view metrics for static website pages
 5. Delete all resources after completion
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A) Enabling Static Website Hosting

1. Logged in to the Azure portal using a valid Azure account.
2. Created a **General-purpose v2 / Block Blob Storage account** as per previous module instructions.
3. Navigated to the **Overview** tab of the storage account.
4. In the Overview pane, selected the **Capabilities** tab.
5. Selected **Static website** to open the static website configuration page.
6. Enabled **Static website hosting** by selecting **Enabled**.
7. Entered the following values:
 - **Index document name:** index.html
 - **Error document path:** 404.html
8. Clicked **Save** to apply the configuration.

A confirmation message was displayed, and the static website endpoint became available in the Overview pane.

B) Uploading Files to the Container

1. Navigated to the storage account hosting the static website.
2. Selected **Containers** from the left navigation pane.
3. Opened the **\$web** container (automatically created when static website hosting is enabled).
4. Clicked **Upload** to open the Upload blob pane.
5. Selected the website files (HTML, CSS, JavaScript, images) from the local system.
6. Enabled **Overwrite if files already exist**, if required.
7. Uploaded the files successfully.

Content Type Verification

To ensure correct browser rendering:

- Opened the uploaded blob
 - Verified that **Content-Type** was set to text/html for HTML files
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C) Finding the Website URL

1. Navigated to the storage account overview page.
2. Selected **Static website** from the left pane.
3. Copied the URL displayed in the **Primary endpoint** field.

The static website was accessed successfully by pasting the URL into a web browser.

D) Enabling Metrics on Static Website Pages

1. Navigated to the storage account menu.
2. Selected **Metrics** under the **Monitor** section.
3. Expanded the **Time range** and applied a suitable time window.

4. Selected the following configuration:

- **Namespace:** Blob
- **Metric:** Egress
- **Aggregation:** Sum

5. Clicked **Add filter:**

- **Property:** API name
- **Value:** GetWebContent

6. Applied the filter to view metrics data.

The metrics report displayed usage details for static website content access.

E) Terminating / Deleting the Resources

1. Navigated to **Resource Groups**.
 2. Selected the resource group containing the storage account.
 3. Deleted the resources in reverse order of creation.
 4. Confirmed deletion to terminate all running resources.
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Result

- Static website hosting was enabled successfully in Azure Storage
 - Website files were uploaded and rendered correctly
 - The website was accessed using a public endpoint URL
 - Metrics were enabled and monitored for website access
 - All resources were deleted after completion
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Conclusion

This hands-on exercise demonstrated how to host a static website using **Azure Storage**. The lab highlighted Azure's capability to serve static web content efficiently without requiring a web server, while also providing monitoring and cost-effective hosting.