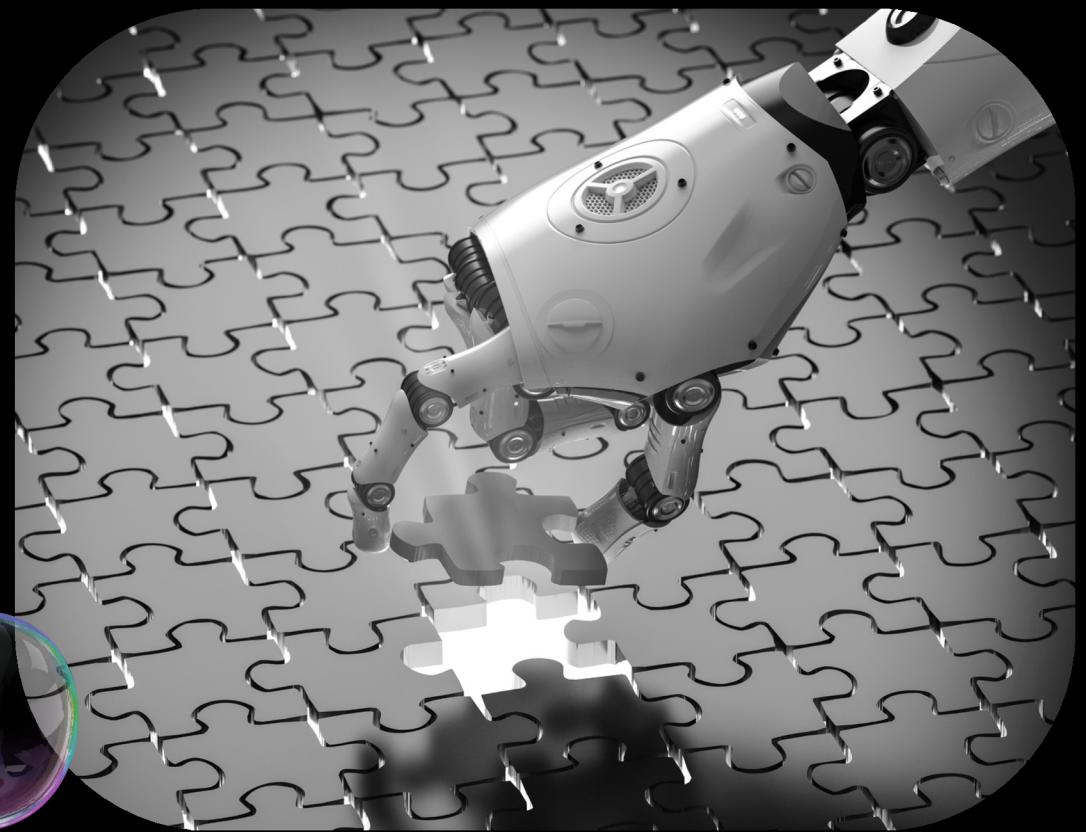


Azure Mastery: Building Smarter Bots

Data source



Created by
Katerina Chernevskaya





Data source

Definition

In simple words, a data source is where all your information lives - it's the starting point for feeding data into AI models to create searchable and interactive systems



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Katerina Chernevskaya





Data sources

In Azure AI Search

Azure AI Search supports a variety of data sources including Azure Blob Storage, Cosmos DB, SQL databases, and Azure Data Lake Storage Gen2, all of which are generally available.

It also accommodates partner-created connectors, extending compatibility to a broad range of data sources. Each option is designed to meet different data types and application needs, offering specific advantages to enhance your search capabilities.



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Katerina Chernevskaya





Azure Blob Storage

Definition

Azure Blob Storage is an online storage space where you can keep large amounts of unstructured data, like text files, images, and videos, making it ideal for big data and cloud applications.

Blob Storage is optimized for storing massive amounts of unstructured data. Unstructured data is data that doesn't adhere to a particular data model or definition, such as text or binary data.



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Azure Blob Storage

Blobs and Containers

In Azure Blob Storage, a **blob** refers to a digital file of any type or size, whether it's a document, image, or video. These blobs are organized within **containers**, similar to folders, which help you manage and structure your files efficiently.

Containers make it easier to organize blobs in a way that suits your project or system architecture, enhancing accessibility and management.



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Katerina Chernevskaya





Azure Blob Storage

SAS Token

A **Shared Access Signature** (SAS) token grants limited access to your blobs and containers in Azure Blob Storage without revealing your full account details. It works like giving someone a temporary key to access specific items.

For instance, if a chatbot needs to provide users with links to reference documents stored in Blob Storage, a SAS token allows secure and direct access to those documents only, ensuring your broader storage remains protected.



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Azure Blob Storage

Redundancy

Redundancy in Azure Blob Storage refers to the duplication of data to ensure its availability and durability in case of hardware failures or other disruptions. It's a key strategy for protecting your data and ensuring it is always accessible when needed.

Several redundancy options are available:

- **Locally Redundant Storage (LRS)**: Keeps multiple copies of your data in one data center.
- **Zone-Redundant Storage (ZRS)**: Spreads your data across multiple data centers within the same region.
- **Geo-Redundant Storage (GRS)**: Stores your data in multiple geographic locations for enhanced disaster recovery.



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Azure Blob Storage

Benefits

- **High Scalability:** Easily scales up to accommodate growing data needs without compromising performance.
- **Seamless Integration:** Works effortlessly with other Azure services, enhancing workflows and data processing.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Offers a flexible pricing model that allows you to pay only for what you use, reducing overhead costs.
- **Global Reach:** Data can be stored and accessed globally, ensuring high availability and redundancy options that suit various compliance and business continuity needs.



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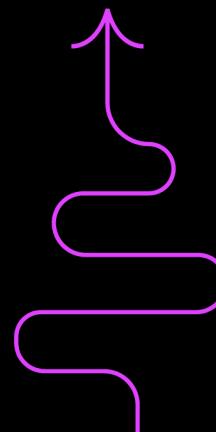
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Key Terms

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