



AZURE STORAGE EXPLORER

(USING ACCESS KEYS)

Access keys for Azure Storage Explorer are credentials used to authenticate and access Azure Storage resources such as blobs, files, queues, and tables. These keys consist of a primary key and a secondary key, each providing full access to the associated storage account.

Access keys serve as a form of authentication when connecting Azure Storage Explorer to Azure Storage accounts. When you add a storage account to Azure Storage Explorer, you typically provide one of the access keys (either the primary or secondary) to establish the connection.

Here's how access keys are used in Azure Storage Explorer:

1. **Obtaining Access Keys:** Access keys can be obtained from the Azure portal by navigating to the specific storage account and accessing the "Access keys" section. From there, you can copy either the primary or secondary access key.
2. **Connecting Azure Storage Explorer:** When adding a storage account to Azure Storage Explorer, you are prompted to provide the storage account name and one of the access keys (either the primary or secondary). This establishes the connection between Azure Storage Explorer and the storage account.
3. **Authentication:** Azure Storage Explorer uses the provided access key to authenticate with the Azure Storage account. Once authenticated, you can access and manage the storage resources within Azure Storage Explorer.

Access keys are sensitive credentials that grant full access to the associated storage account. It's important to keep them secure and avoid sharing them unnecessarily. Additionally, if access keys are compromised or need to be rotated for security reasons, you can regenerate them from the Azure portal. Regenerating access keys will invalidate the existing keys, so be sure to update any applications or services that use them for authentication.

In this lab activity, we're setting up Azure Storage Explorer to interact with an Azure Storage Account. The end goal is to enable users to efficiently manage their storage resources, including blobs, files, queues, and tables, using a user-friendly graphical interface. By connecting Azure Storage Explorer to the Azure Storage Account and performing various operations such as uploading files and managing containers, users can streamline their storage management tasks and improve productivity.

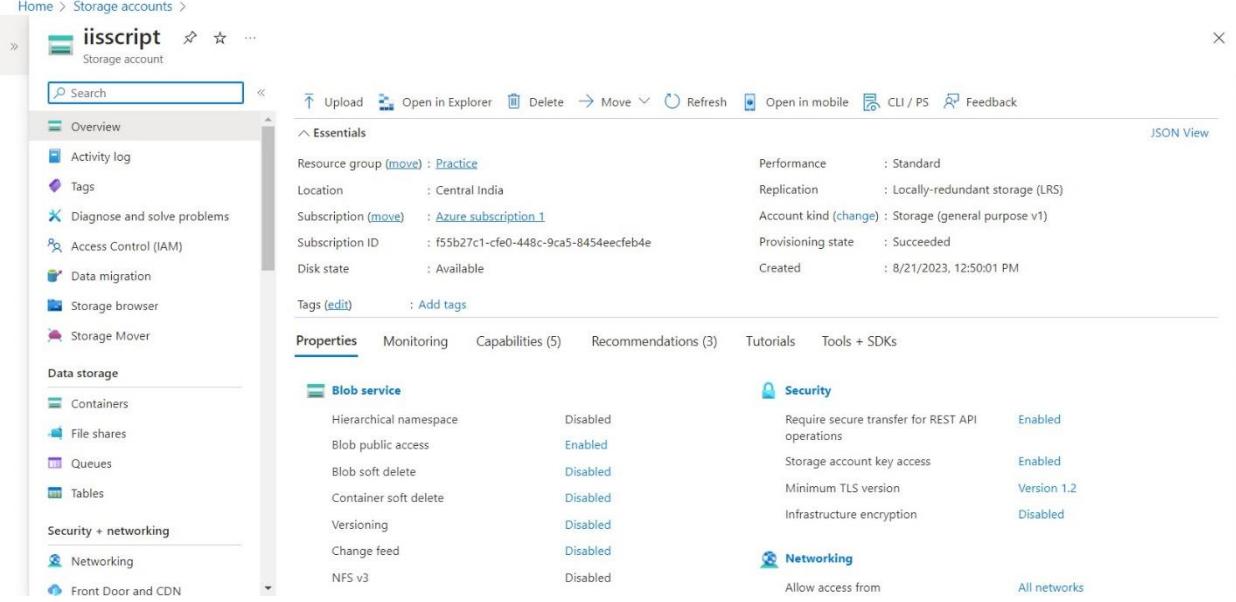


To begin with the Lab:

Login to Azure Portal and create a Storage Account.

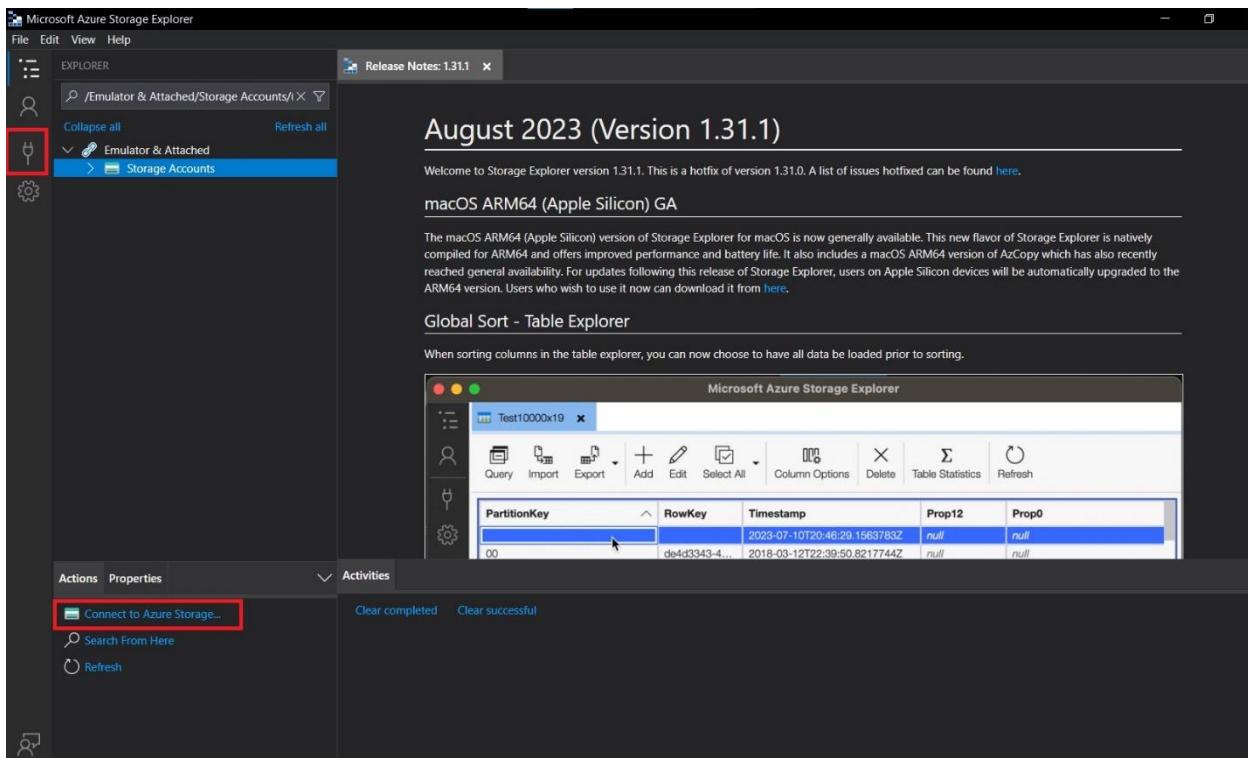
 **Step 1:** For this Activity it's mandatory to have an Azure Storage Account.

- Upload some Temporary files in your Blob Storage.

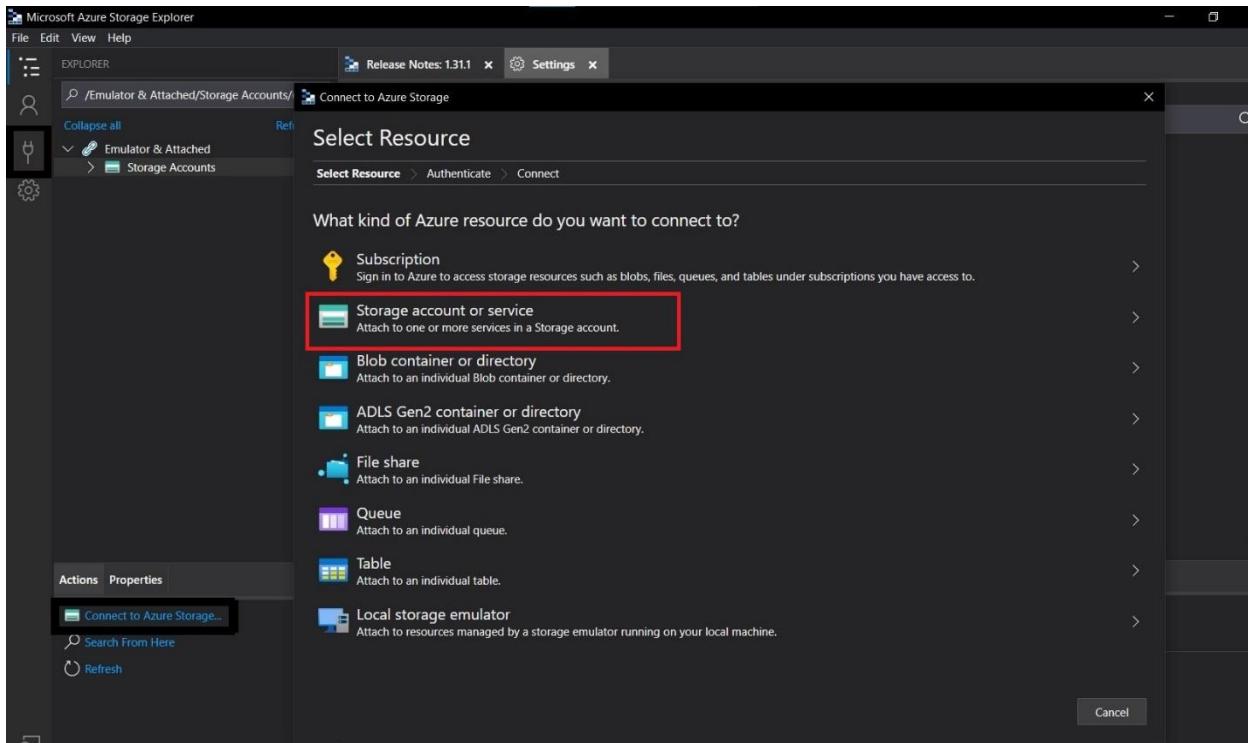


The screenshot shows the Azure Storage Accounts blade. The account 'iisscript' is selected. The 'Essentials' section displays basic account information: Resource group (move) : Practice, Location : Central India, Subscription (move) : Azure subscription 1, Subscription ID : f55b27c1-cfe0-448c-9ca5-8454eefeb4e, Disk state : Available, and Tags (edit) : Add tags. The 'Properties' tab is selected, showing Blob service settings like Hierarchical namespace (Disabled), Blob public access (Enabled), Blob soft delete (Disabled), Container soft delete (Disabled), Versioning (Disabled), Change feed (Disabled), and NFS v3 (Disabled). The Security section includes Require secure transfer for REST API operations (Enabled), Storage account key access (Enabled), Minimum TLS version (Version 1.2), and Infrastructure encryption (Disabled). The Networking section shows Allow access from All networks.

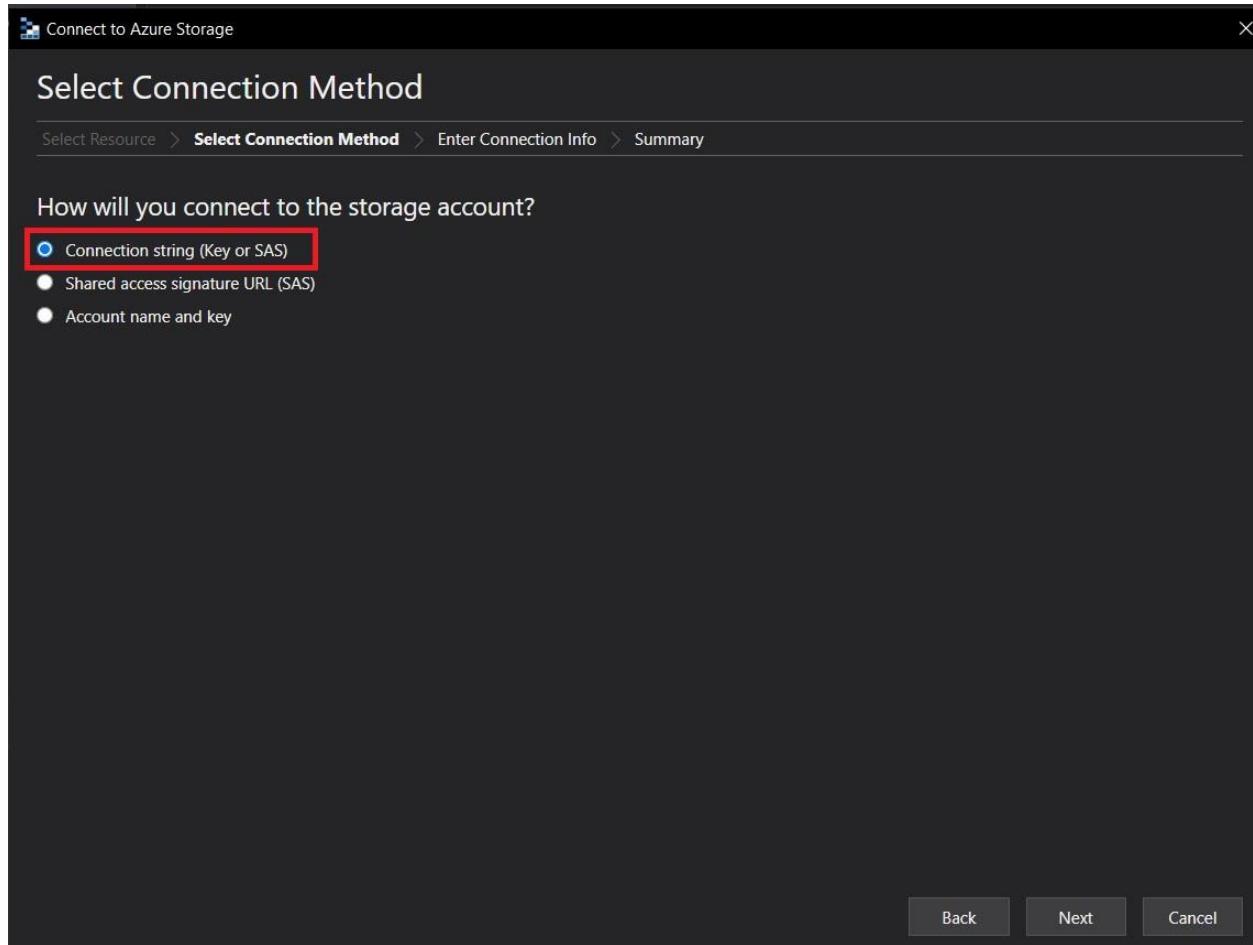
 **Step 2:** Open Azure Storage Explorer, open Explorer, and Click on Switch Logo/ Connect to Azure Storage.



- Select Storage account or Service.



- As of now, we will connect using the key. Choose the Connection string and Click on Next.
- The same thing will work for the Account name and key Connection method.



👉 **Step 3:** On your Azure Storage Account page, scroll down on left-hand side pane and click on Access Keys. Copy the Storage Account name and Connection String.

- Here you have two options Key 1 & Key 2. You can go with any one of them.

The screenshot shows the 'Access keys' section of the Azure Storage account 'iisscript'. The 'Storage account name' is 'iisscript'. There are two keys: 'key1' and 'key2'. The 'key1' key has a connection string: 'DefaultEndpointsProtocol=https;AccountName=iisscript;...'. Both the account name and the connection string are highlighted with red boxes.

Step 4: Paste on the Text Box and Click on Next.

The screenshot shows the 'Enter Connection Info' dialog in the Microsoft Azure Storage Explorer. The 'Display name' is 'iisscript' and the 'Connection string' is 'DefaultEndpointsProtocol=https;AccountName=iisscript;...'. Both the display name and the connection string are highlighted with red boxes.

- Confirm the Account Name and Key, Click on Continue.

Connect to Azure Storage

Summary

Select Resource > Select Connection Method > Enter Connection Info > **Summary**

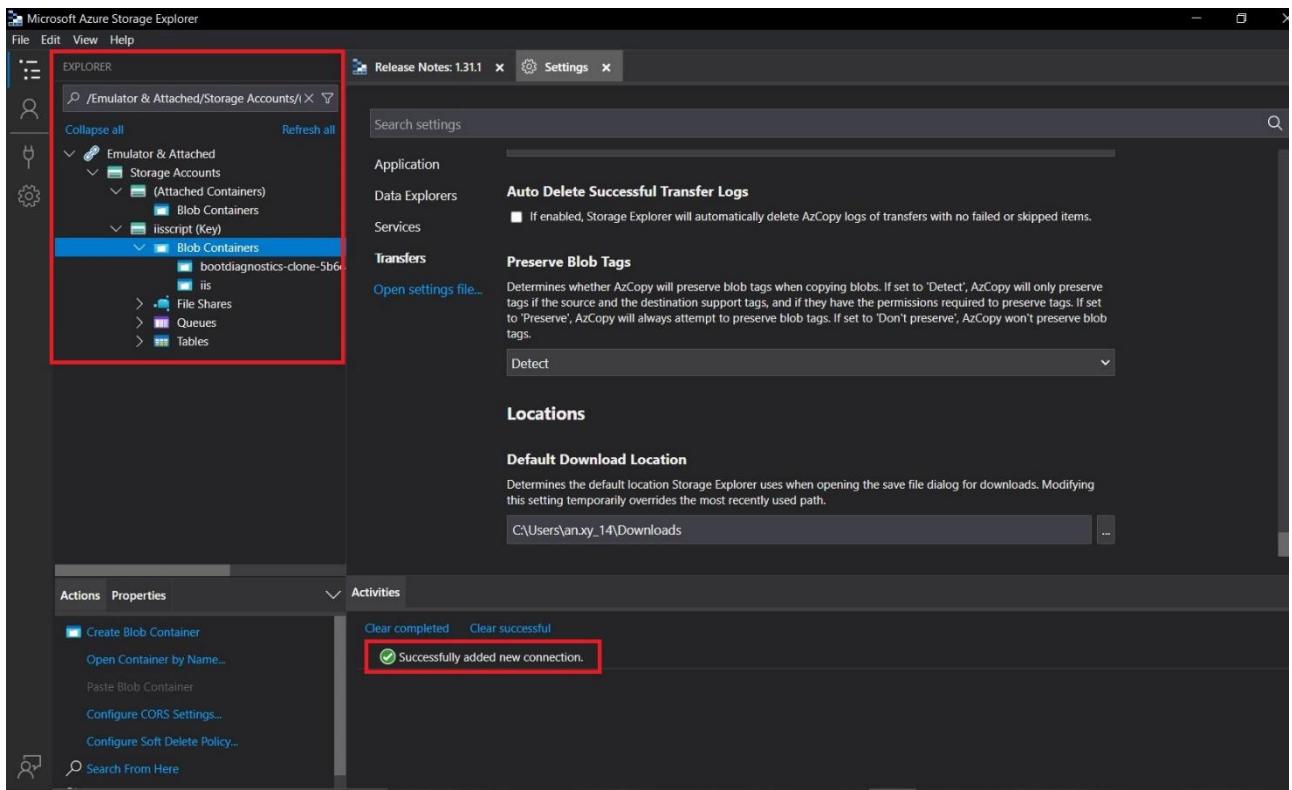
The following settings will be used to connect to your resource:

Display name:	iisscript
Account name:	iisscript
Account key:	+eZoTCKTiLxJ6dYs3v8wfKO: eGbNdum8uUNfsm+pYwltn+AStBiCHzA==
Default endpoints protocol:	https

 Make sure you only connect to resources you trust.

Back **Connect** **Cancel**

 **Step 5:** Soon after connecting, See the status at the bottom. Now, you have full access to your Storage Account.



- You can now Perform any operations in your storage account using Storage Explorer and the changes will also be reflected in your azure storage account too.