AZURE FOUNDATIONS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

OVERVIEW

Welcome to Azure Foundations for Infrastructure. This design pattern represents the culmination of hundreds of customer cloud deployments throughout the past few years. From these deployments, several key patterns emerged, and many best practices were created. The design patterns described here includes all these elements in a simple to understand manner and includes an application to help you get started. The application is named *Foundations Editor* and is available here: https://github.com/csajeflan/FoundationsEditor/blob/master/FoundationsEditor.zip

The application is designed to gather the minimum amount of information to create and deploy your base network infrastructure for laaS deployments in Microsoft Azure. A key design goal of this pattern is to allow for a modular approach to creating your cloud environment. It begins small and can be expanded as your cloud usage increases. The basic pattern begins with two subscriptions in your Server Cloud Enrollment: One for production services and one for pre-production services.

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AZURE ENROLLMENT AND SUBSCRIPTION MANAGEMENT

An Azure Server Cloud Enrollment is the highest level of abstraction and is the primary container for all Azure components. An enrollment always contains at least one subscription but can contain many more if required. There are also departments and accounts that are managed at the enrollment level. Governance is a key concept for determining your specific best practice in organizing and implementing your Azure environment. There are many other links and documents that describe governance in greater detail. A good place to start is this link: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-resource-manager/resource-manager-subscription-governance.

Using service accounts to administer enrollments and subscriptions is a recommended best practice. A single user account should not be assigned as the primary account owner. Instead, create a dedicated service account for this purpose, as well as using a distribution group for the email address. This ensures that you will always have the ability to access these within your organization as it is not tied to one particular individual.

The following graphic depicts the hierarchy of an Azure enrollment. A short article that describes the relationships between enrollments, departments, and accounts is available here: https://marckean.com/2016/06/03/azure-enterprise-enrollment-hierarchy/. Thanks to Marc Kean for providing this information.

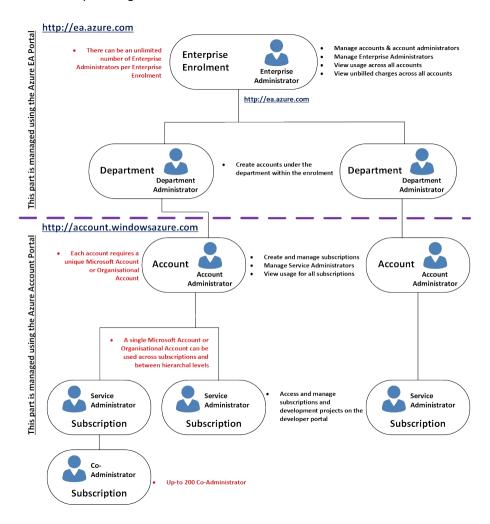


Figure 1 - Enrollment Hierarchy

SUBSCRIPTION MANAGEMENT PATTERNS

The organization and determination of your specific subscription needs will ultimately be based on the governance that you decide. We will discuss three common patterns here for your consideration.

SERVICES BASED HUB AND SPOKE PATTERN

This pattern consists of five (5) subscriptions:

1. SERVICES Central services such as networking, identity, etc.

2. HBI High Business Impact. Workloads that require specific compliance or security separation.

3. STORAGE Archival or Historical storage that requires additional security or separation.

4. PRODUCTION Production workloads.

PRE-PRODUCTION Development and testing workloads.

All centralized or shared IT services are contained in the SERVICES subscription. Other workloads are deployed depending on their specific requirements. Networking between all subscriptions and on-premises is contained in the SERVICES subscription.

The diagram below depicts a fully H/A environment for all five subscriptions deployed in two separate Azure regions.

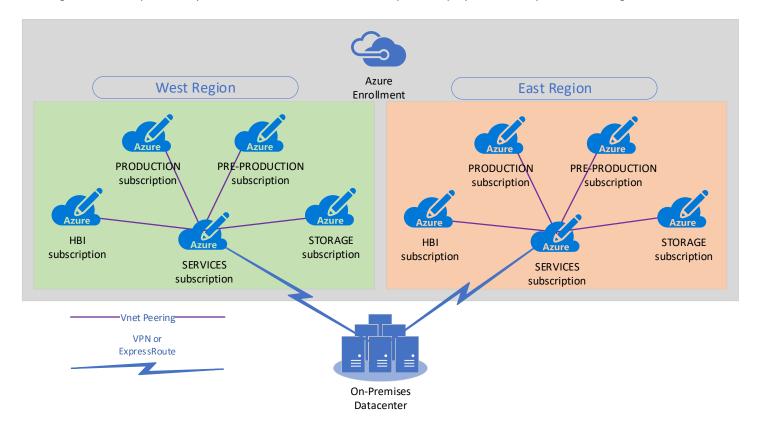


Figure 2 - Services Based Hub and Spoke Pattern

PRODUCTION PRE-PRODUCTION PATTERN

This pattern consists of only two (2) subscriptions. One for production workloads and one for non-production workloads. This allows for separation of duties and permissions between IT staff and development staff. With this pattern, only IT staff would have administrative rights in the production subscription, while development staff would be free to do what they need autonomously in the pre-production subscription. However, many administrative functions such as networking can be locked down with this pattern so that the development staff could deploy services that they needed, but they could not change the networking configuration.

The diagram below depicts this pattern. Only the production subscription is highly available (H/A) in this model, although the preproduction subscription can also be added to the secondary region if desired.

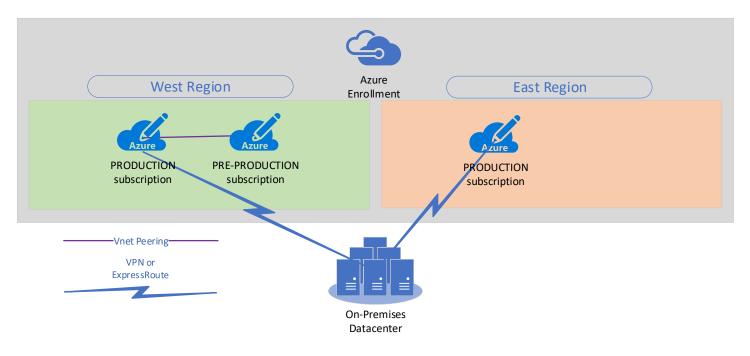


Figure 3 - Production Pre-Production Pattern

DEPARTMENTAL SUBSCRIPTION PATTERN

The departmental subscription pattern is not unlike that of the services hub and spoke pattern. However, it is designed to give flexibility to individual departments—especially those departments that have their own IT staff. This is typically seen in larger enterprise or government organizations. One benefit to this pattern is that an individual subscription can be moved out of the enrollment into another enrollment if that is desired or necessary. This is a combination of the production pre-production and services patterns in that each department would typically have two subscriptions: one for production workloads and one for development and testing workloads.

The diagram on the next page depicts what a typical departmental subscription pattern looks like. Initially, all departments are created in a central Corporate, State, County or City enrollment. If it is determined later that the Department of Public Safety workloads must be separated and administered independently from the larger organization because of budgetary or compliance requirements, these individual subscriptions can be easily moved from one enrollment to another.

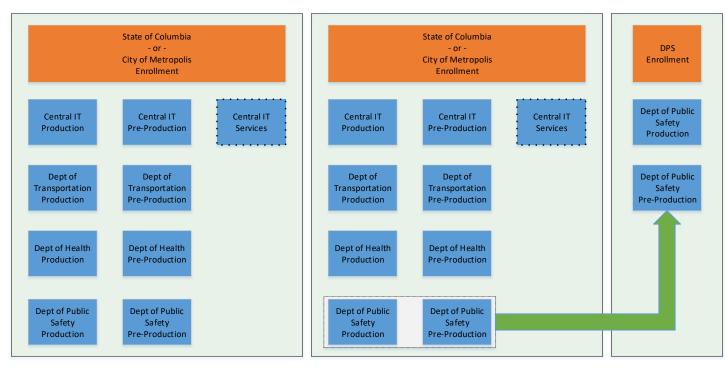
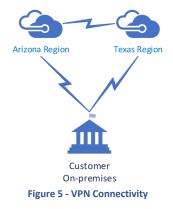


Figure 4 - Departmental Subscription Pattern

NETWORK CONNECTIVITY AND HYBRID NETWORKING

The Production Pre-Production pattern is the simplest one to start with. As previously mentioned, it is easy to add more subscriptions to your environment if it is desired to do so. With that in mind, all the networking configurations described in this section will be using that pattern.

The pattern creates Site-to-Site VPNs between the on-premises location and one or two Azure regions. A third Azure-to-Azure VPN is created between the two regions if both a primary and secondary region is defined. Connections between the Production and Pre-Production subscription virtual networks is provided by virtual network peering so that the number of VPNs is kept to a minimum. It is recommended to start with VPN and then move to ExpressRoute once it is available—especially since it typically takes several weeks to procure and implement an ExpressRoute circuit.



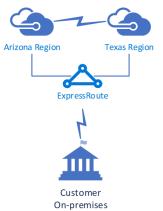


Figure 6 - ExpressRoute Connectivity

NETWORK ADDRESS SPACE AND SUBNETTING

The virtual network address space is initially created as a /20 or /21 which is adequate for most small to medium sized enterprises. This can be increased to a larger size as required. The virtual networks are further divided into subnets--each with a specific purpose. It is highly recommended that the minimum number of subnets you should create is eight (8). This section will address why that is necessary.

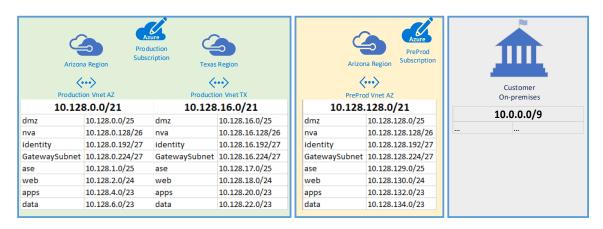


Figure 7 - Subnet Definitions

SUBNET DEFINITIONS

DMZ

The DMZ subnet is designed for all Internet facing front-ends. It can be secured independently from other subnets by using a Network Security Group (NSG). If it is desired to use a Network Virtual Appliance (NVA) instead of NSGs, a User Defined Route (UDR) would be applied to route all traffic to the NVA subnet. Direct inbound Internet access is allowed for this subnet.

NVA

The NVA subnet is designed for use by Network Virtual Appliances. In most cases, this will be a third-party NVA to provide a firewall and specific routing configurations. This subnet can also be utilized for an Application Gateway if desired. Direct inbound Internet access is allowed for this subnet.

IDENTITY

The Identity subnet is designed for use by active directory domain controllers, ADFS, MIM, and other identity related servers. ADFS web proxy servers would be deployed in the DMZ subnet as they are Internet facing. Direct inbound Internet access is blocked for this subnet (NSG or NVA).

GATEWAYSUBNET

The gateway subnet is required for both VPN and ExpressRoute gateways. This subnet must be a /27 or larger and is typically created at the end of the first /24 segment.

ASE

The ASE subnet is designed to hold the App Services Environment (ASE). This is a dedicated subnet for an internally facing or Vnet connected ASE. It can also contain a Public IP (PIP) in Azure if desired. This subnet must be at least a /25 in size.

WEB

The web subnet is designed to hold the private internal only facing front-end servers. Direct inbound Internet access is blocked for this subnet (NSG or NVA).

APPS

The apps subnet is designed for middle-tier application servers. These are typically accessed from either the DMZ or Web subnets. These servers generally handle the communication to the database or backend servers as well, so both inbound and outbound connectivity to the data subnet is enabled. Direct inbound Internet access is blocked for this subnet (NSG or NVA).

DATA

The data subnet contains database and other backend process servers. Direct inbound Internet access is blocked for this subnet (NSG or NVA).

SUBNET ALLOCATION TABLE

SUBNET ALLOCA	ATION TABLE	5 1 .
10.128.0.0/21		Production Vnet AZ
dmz	10.128.0.0/25	Public facing web servers
nva	10.128.0.128/26	Network Virtual Appliances
identity	10.128.0.192/27	Identity layer servers
GatewaySubnet	10.128.0.224/27	VPN E/R Gateway
ase	10.182.1.0/25	App Services Environment
web	10.128.2.0/23	Internal facing web servers
apps	10.128.4.0/23	Application (middle tier) servers
data	10.128.6.0/23	Database and backend servers
10.128.16.0/21		Production Vnet TX
dmz	10.128.16.0/25	Public facing web servers
nva	10.128.16.128/26	Network Virtual Appliances
identity	10.128.16.192/27	Identity layer servers
GatewaySubnet	10.128.16.224/27	VPN E/R Gateway
ase	10.128.17.0/25	App Services Environment
web	10.128.18.0/23	Internal facing web servers
apps	10.128.20.0/23	Application (middle tier) servers
data	10.128.22.0/23	Database and backend servers
10.128.128.0/21		Pre-production Vnet AZ
dmz	10.128.128.0/25	Public facing web servers
nva	10.128.128.128/26	Network Virtual Appliances
identity	10.128.128.192/27	Identity layer servers
GatewaySubnet	10.128.128.224/27	VPN E/R Gateway
ase	10.128.129.0/25	App Services Environment
web	10.128.130.0/23	Internal facing web servers
apps	10.128.132.0/23	Application (middle tier) servers

STANDARD NAMING CONVENTIONS

The naming conventions utilized in this pattern are based on the blog post here:

https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/azuregov/2017/03/29/microsoft-azure-iaas-architecture-best-practices-for-arm/. The portions highlighted indicate components that are automatically generated with the use of the *Foundations Editor*. For instance, the application prompts for the name of the virtual networks in each region. You would enter only wnet-prod-az as the name for the primary virtual network, and the PowerShell script that it generates would automatically append the name with the additional elements.

NETWORK NAMING CONVENTION

TYPE-SUBTYPE-LOCATION-ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS

vnet-prod-usgovarizona Denotes Virtual Network, Production, USGovArizona

vnet-prod- usgovarizona<mark>-gw</mark> Denotes Virtual Network Gateway

vnet-prod- usgovarizona-gw-ip Denotes Virtual Network Gateway Public IP Address

gw-local-usgovarizona Denotes the local gateway for the AZ region gw-local-usgovtexas Denotes the local gateway for the TX region

cn-local-usgovarizona Denotes the connection between on-premises and the AZ region

cn-vnet-prod-usgovarizona-vnet-prod-usgovtexas Denotes the connection between the Azure regions

RESOURCE GROUP NAMING CONVENTION

RESOURCE GROUP IDENTIFIER-TYPE-SUBTYPE-LOCATION

rg-vnet-prod-usgovarizona Denotes all the networking components for the USGovArizona region rg-vnet-prod-usgovtx Denotes all the networking components for the USGovTexas region

CUSTOMIZATION AND DEPLOYMENT

Customizing a deployment for you to use is designed to be a simple and straight forward exercise that requires very little effort. The *Foundations Editor* application has been designed to gather the specific required information and can then be used to automatically generate the necessary PowerShell script and ARM templates to deploy the pattern to your subscription(s). The *Foundations Editor* will automatically calculate the subnetting for a /21 or /20 address space. As such, you need only enter the base IP address space in the PRIMARY IP Segment text field (such as 10.128.0.0/21), and it will fill in the rest after you check the Automatic IP Range checkbox.

The application only automatically calculates the CIDR segmentation for a /21 or /20 size because using a size smaller than /21 is not recommended, and using a size larger than /20 results in too many possibilities for splitting out the subnets. Larger address spaces can still be entered, however they must be calculated and entered manually, which creates the segmentation you desire. The ASE subnet is created as a /25, which leaves another /25 available for a second ASE, or another function as desired. There will be a gap of the same size as configured between the primary and secondary locations. For instance, if you specify a /21, the primary region will use 10.xxx.0.0 - 10.xxx.7.255, and the secondary region will use 10.xxx.16.0 - 10.xxx.23.255. This leaves another /21 between the two unused for future expansion if required.

There are only eight fields for subnets, which is the minimum recommended. If more than eight subnets are desired, they can be added via the portal or PowerShell after the initial creation. The order of the subnets in the application is important: this is how the NSGs are automatically created and applied. It is assumed that the GatewaySubnet is the first field, followed by the DMZ and NVA. The rest of the CIDR calculations are determined by the workloads intended to be deployed to the subnets. You can change the

actual names if desired (except for the GatewaySubnet), but the functionality of the workloads remain the same. You may also manually edit the CIDR ranges after automatic calculation if you want them to be different.

Foundations Editor generates a PowerShell script to deploy the virtual network(s), gateway(s), and connection(s) as desired. If you only want to deploy the virtual network and not the gateway(s) or connection(s), you simply leaves those checkboxes unchecked. If further customization is desired, both the PowerShell script and the ARM templates can be manually edited prior to deployment. To deploy the configuration, open up the PowerShell script in PowerShell ISE or Visual Studio Code, and run it.

The Foundations Editor application is modular by design, and works at the individual subscription level. You have the option of deploying a highly available pattern to two separate Azure regions, or to just a single region (such as for a pre-production only subscription). If you utilize more than one subscription in your final environment design, you will run the application once for each subscription. Connections between subscriptions are not in the scope of the application, and those must be completed manually via the portal or PowerShell after all of the individual subscription virtual networks have been deployed.

USING THE FOUNDATIONS EDITOR

The Editor is distributed in zip file that contains a folder with several files in it. You need only double-click on the FoundationsEditor.exe file to open it. The two JSON files in the folder contain the predefined subnet names and Azure locations. The locations included in this file only contain the US based regions for both MAC and MAG. The DoD regions are not included but could be added if desired. The same is true for regions located outside of the US.

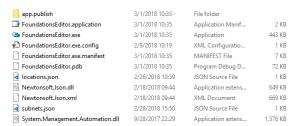


Figure 8 - Foundations Editor Files

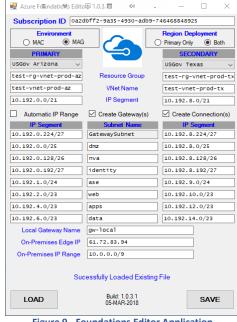


Figure 9 - Foundations Editor Application

FIELD ENTRIES AND SELECTIONS

- Enter the desired Azure Subscription ID. This field expects a valid GUID.
- Select either MAC or MAG in the Environment panel. MAC=Microsoft Azure Commercial, MAG=Microsoft Azure Government
- Select either Primary Only or Both in the Region Deployment panel. Primary Only-deploy only a single region, Both-deploy to both a Primary and Secondary region.
- 4. Choose the desired primary location from the dropdown list in the PRIMARY column. These values change depending on the Environment selection.
- If Both is selected, choose the desired secondary location from the dropdown list in the SECONDARY column. These values change depending on the Environment selection. Choose a location that is different from the Primary.
- Enter the desired Resource Group name for the PRIMARY column. Follow the desired naming convention (e.g. rg-vnet-prodaz).

- 7. Enter the desired Resource Group name for the SECONDARY column. Follow the desired naming convention (e.g. rg-vnet-prod-tx).
- 8. Enter the desired Virtual Network name for the PRIMARY column. Follow the desired naming convention (e.g. vnet-prodaz).
- 9. Enter the desired Virtual Network name for the SECONDARY column. Follow the desired naming convention (e.g. vnet-prodtx).
- 10. Enter the desired IP range for the PRIMARY column. This range must not overlap with the SECONDARY or On-Premises IP ranges.

NOTE: Skip to step **12** if this range is a /21 or /20 in size

- 11. Enter the desired IP range for the SECONDARY column. This range must not overlap with the PRIMARY IP range.

 NOTE: Skip to step 13 if your IP range is not a /21 or /20 in size
- 12. Click on the Automatic IP Range checkbox. All other subnets are automatically calculated and filled in—including the SECONDARY IP range if Both is selected in the Region Deployment panel.
- 13. If desired, you can change the subnet names except for the *GatewaySubnet* in the first subnet row.
- 14. If desired or if your IP range is not a /21 or /20 in size, you can manually change the subnet IP ranges and sizes, however no error checking is provided for this. You will need to ensure that your ranges are valid and do not overlap.
- 15. If you want the local and VPN gateways to be automatically created in this deployment, click on the Create Gateway(s) checkbox. This will add the gateway creation to the generated PowerShell scripts.
- 16. If you want the VPN connections to be automatically created, click on the Create Connection(s) checkbox. This will add the S2S and Vnet-to-Vnet connections to the generated PowerShell scripts.

NOTE: The following text fields are only available if you select the Create Connection(s) checkbox

- 17. Enter the desired local gateway name. Follow the desired naming convention (e.g. gw-local).
- 18. Enter the on-premises edge IP. This is the public IP address of your VPN endpoint that the Azure gateways will connect to.
- 19. Enter your on-premises IP range. This range cannot overlap with any of the Azure IP ranges. An example would be 10.0.0.0/9. Only enter a single range here. Additional ranges can be added via the Azure Portal after the initial deployment of the Foundations pattern.
- 20. Verify all fields. If everything looks good, click on SAVE. This will save a JSON file with the configuration settings of this deployment, as well as two separate PowerShell scripts.
- 21. Enter the desired filename for this deployment. Do NOT add an extension to this filename! The proper file extensions will be automatically added to this filename by the Foundations Editor application.
- 22. Close the application. If you want to later edit this deployment, the JSON file that is created when you saved the configuration is what you would LOAD.

FOUNDATIONS EDITOR GENERATED FILES

Example: The filename entered during the SAVE process was 'deployment'.

deployment-foundationseditor.json	The configuration file that contains all settings and options selected
deployment-deployARM.ps1	The PowerShell script to deploy the virtual network(s)
deployment-primarynsg.json	The ARM template for the primary region NSGs
deployment-primaryvnet.json	The ARM template for the primary region Vnet
deployment-secondarynsg.json	The ARM template for the secondary region NSGs
deployment-secondaryvnet.json	The ARM template for the secondary region Vnet

SAMPLE POWERSHELL SCRIPT GENERATED OUTPUT

This is only a small snippet of the actual PowerShell script that is generated automatically.

Figure 10 - PowerShell Script Snippet

SAMPLE ARM TEMPLATE GENERATED OUTPUT

```
"$schema": "http://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#"
"parameters": { },
"variables": {
    "vnetID": "[resourceId('Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks','test-vnet-prod-az')]",
    "gatewaySubnetRef": "[concat(variables('vnetID'),'/subnets/','GatewaySubnet')]"
       "name": "gw-local-usgovarizona",
"type": "Microsoft.Network/localNetworkGateways",
       "apiVersion": "2017-10-01",
"location": "[resourceGroup().location]",
        "properties": {
             .
'localNetworkAddressSpace": {
                "addressPrefixes": [
                     "10.0.0.0/9"
            "gatewayIpAddress": "61.72.83.94"
       "name": "test-vnet-prod-az",
"type": "Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks",
       "apiVersion": "2017-10-01",
"location": "[resourceGroup().location]",
        "properties": {
                "addressPrefixes": [
                   "name": "GatewaySubnet",
"properties": {
                          'addressPrefix": "10.192.0.224/27"
                    "name": "dmz",
"properties": {
                          'addressPrefix": "10.192.0.0/25"
```

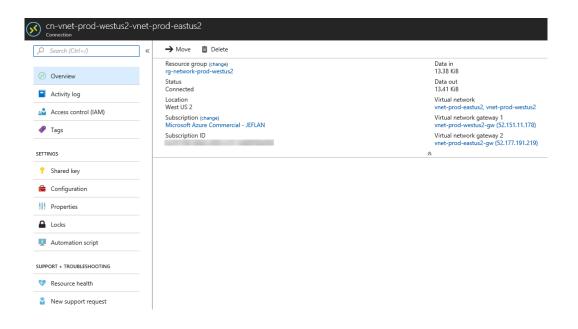
Figure 11 - ARM Template Snippet

POST DEPLOYMENT OBJECTS - AZURE PORTAL

After running the script that was generated by the *Foundations Editor*, a look into the Azure portal will show you everything that has been deployed. NOTE: the objects shown here are from a deployment to Azure Commercial rather than the previous section which was created for Azure Government using a /21 virtual network size. The deployment shown in this section was created using a /20 virtual network size which allows for larger subnets.

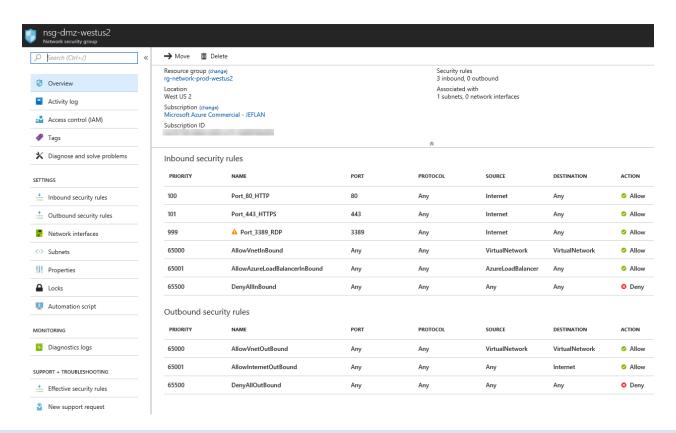
CONNECTIONS AND LOCAL GATEWAYS cn-local-eastus2 East US 2 Connection rg-network-prod-eastus2 Microsoft.Network/connections cn-local-westus2 Connection rg-network-prod-westus2 Microsoft.Network/connections West US 2 cn-vnet-prod-eastus2-vnet-prod-westus2 Connection Microsoft.Network/connections East US 2 rg-network-prod-eastus2 cn-vnet-prod-westus2-vnet-prod-eastus2 rg-network-prod-westus2 Microsoft.Network/connections West US 2 gw-local-eastus2 Local network gateway gw-local-westus2 Local network gateway Microsoft.Network/localNetworkGateways West US 2 rg-network-prod-westus2

VNET-TO-VNET CONNECTION



NETWORK SECURITY GROUPS nsg-apps-eastus2 Network security group rg-network-prod-eastus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups East US 2 nsg-apps-westus2 Network security group rg-network-prod-westus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups West US 2 nsg-ase-eastus2 Network security group rg-network-prod-eastus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups East US 2 nsg-ase-westus2 Network security group rg-network-prod-westus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups West US 2 nsq-data-eastus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups Network security group rg-network-prod-eastus2 East US 2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups Network security group rg-network-prod-westus2 nsg-dmz-eastus2 rg-network-prod-eastus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups East US 2 Network security group nsg-dmz-westus2 Network security group rg-network-prod-westus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups West US 2 nsg-identity-eastus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups Network security group rg-network-prod-eastus2 East US 2 nsg-identity-westus2 Network security group rg-network-prod-westus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups West US 2 nsg-nva-eastus2 Network security group rg-network-prod-eastus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups East US 2 nsg-nva-westus2 West US 2 Network security group rg-network-prod-westus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups nsg-web-eastus2 rg-network-prod-eastus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups Network security group nsg-web-westus2 Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups West US 2 Network security group rg-network-prod-westus2

DMZ NSG



VIRTUAL NETWORKS

<→ vnet-prod-eastus2	Virtual network	rg-network-prod-eastus2	Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks	East US 2
	Virtual network gateway	rg-network-prod-eastus2	Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworkGateways	East US 2
vnet-prod-eastus2-gw-ip	Public IP address	rg-network-prod-eastus2	Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses	East US 2
⟨⋯⟩ vnet-prod-westus2	Virtual network	rg-network-prod-westus2	Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks	West US 2
	Virtual network gateway	rg-network-prod-westus2	Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworkGateways	West US 2
vnet-prod-westus2-gw-ip	Public IP address	rg-network-prod-westus2	Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses	West US 2

SUBNETS

