

Azure

Data Factory: A deployment challenges



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Professional

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Speaker, blogger, data enthusiast

Group Manager at Avanade UK&I (www.avanade.com)

>20 yrs experience as DEV/BI/(DBA)

Member of the Data Community PL

Founder of blog SQLPlayer (www.SQLplayer.net)

GitHub: #adftools, SCD Merge Wizard and more...

SQL Server Certificates:

MCITP, MCP, MCTS, MCSA, MCSE Data Platform,
MCSE Data Management & Analytics, DevOps Expert

Moreover: Bicycle, Running, Digital photography
@NowinskiK, @SQLPlayer

- Technical posts
- Various skill level
- Cheat sheets
- Recommended books
- Many useful other links
- Interviews (Podcast)
- YouTube Channel:
www.SQLPlayer.net/YouTube



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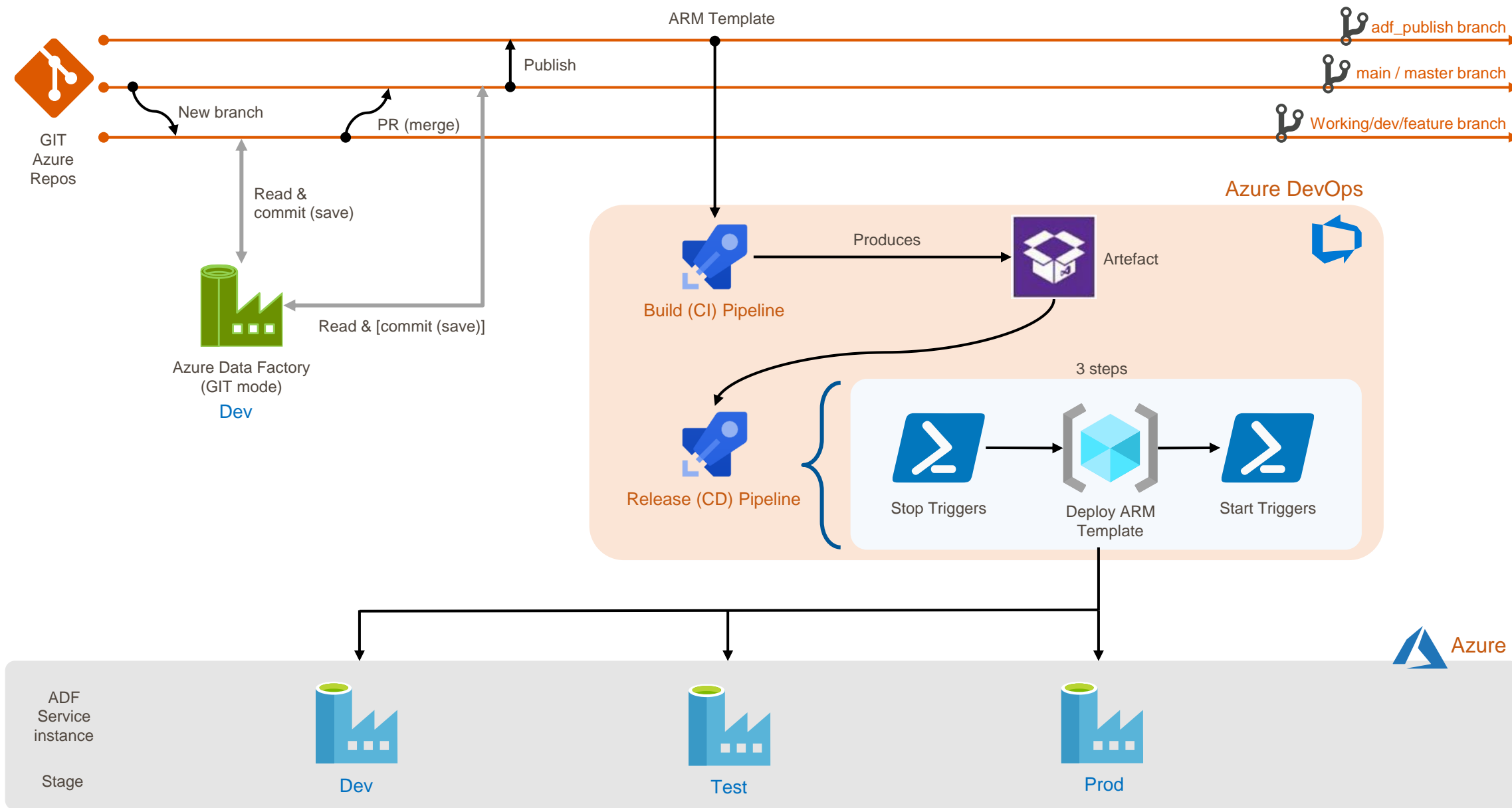
Scan me



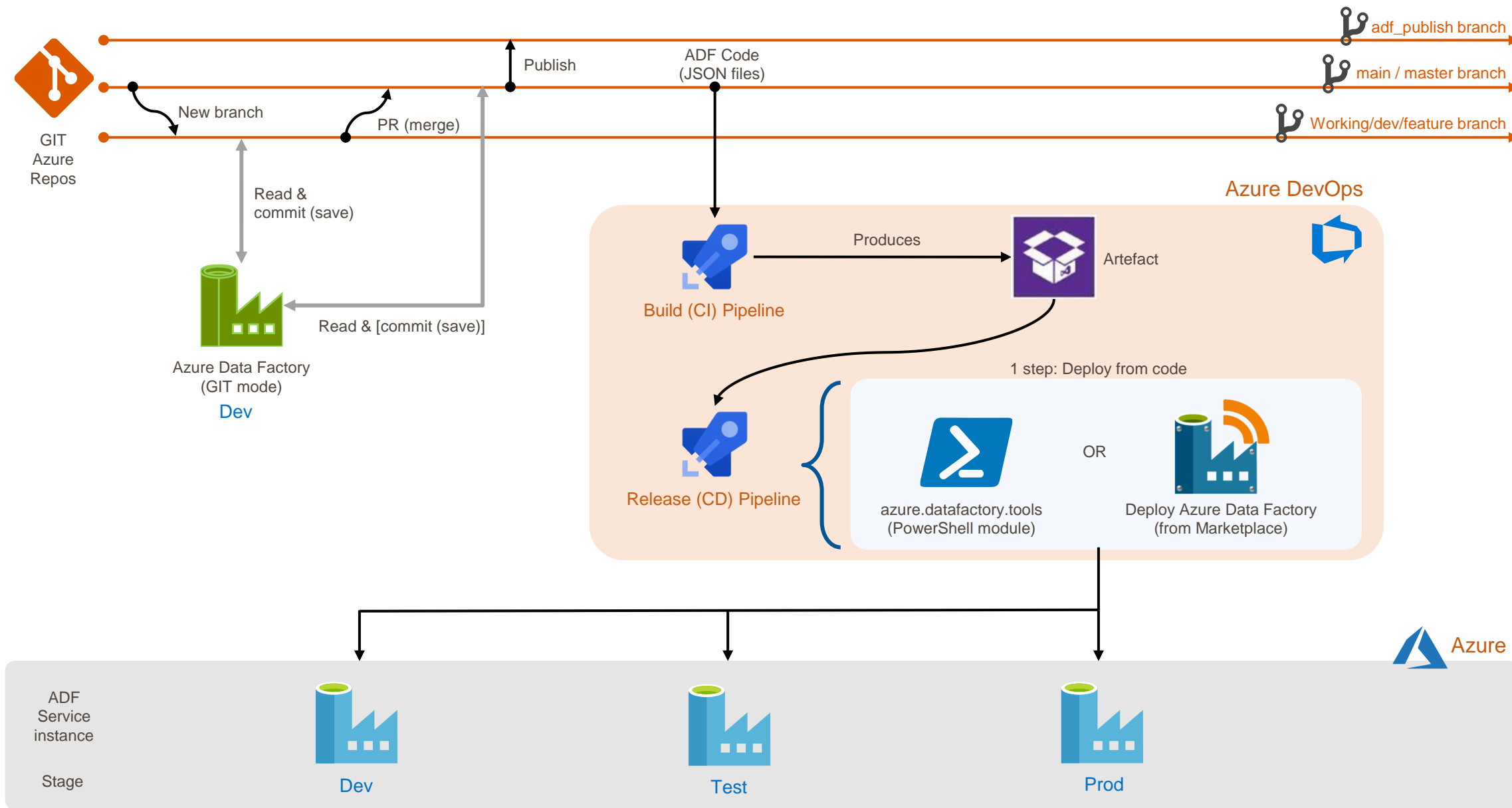
github.com
/NowinskiK/CommunityEvents

- Azure Data Factory – DEPLOYMENT only
- Two (three?) methods of ADF deployment
- How these methods work
- Differences
- npm module from Microsoft – now you can fully automate CI (build)
- #adftools – make your life easier!

Deployment (1): Microsoft's method (ARM Template)



Deployment (2): Directly from code method



ARM Template from “adf_publish” branch

- Faster, “incremental”
- Appears in „Deployments” for Resource Group
- Parametrize elements exposed within the ARM Template Parameter *
- Full ADF (all artefacts) can be deploy only
- Restriction of 256 parameters
- Limitation to one publish branch only (adf_publish)
- Manual “Publish” step

Before 2021

Rest-API/PowerShell script from code (JSON objects)

- Slower
- Doesn’t appear in „Deployments” for Resource Group
- Parameterize any artefact of the Data Factory
- Selectively deploy a subset of artefacts
- Eliminates an enforcement to use only one (adf_publish) branch if company’s branches policy is much complex

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- Full ADF (all artefacts) can be deploy only
- Restriction of 256 parameters
- ~~Limitation to one publish branch only (adf_publish)~~
- ~~Manual “Publish” step~~
- Not user-friendly npm library
- Requires adding “package” file to a repo

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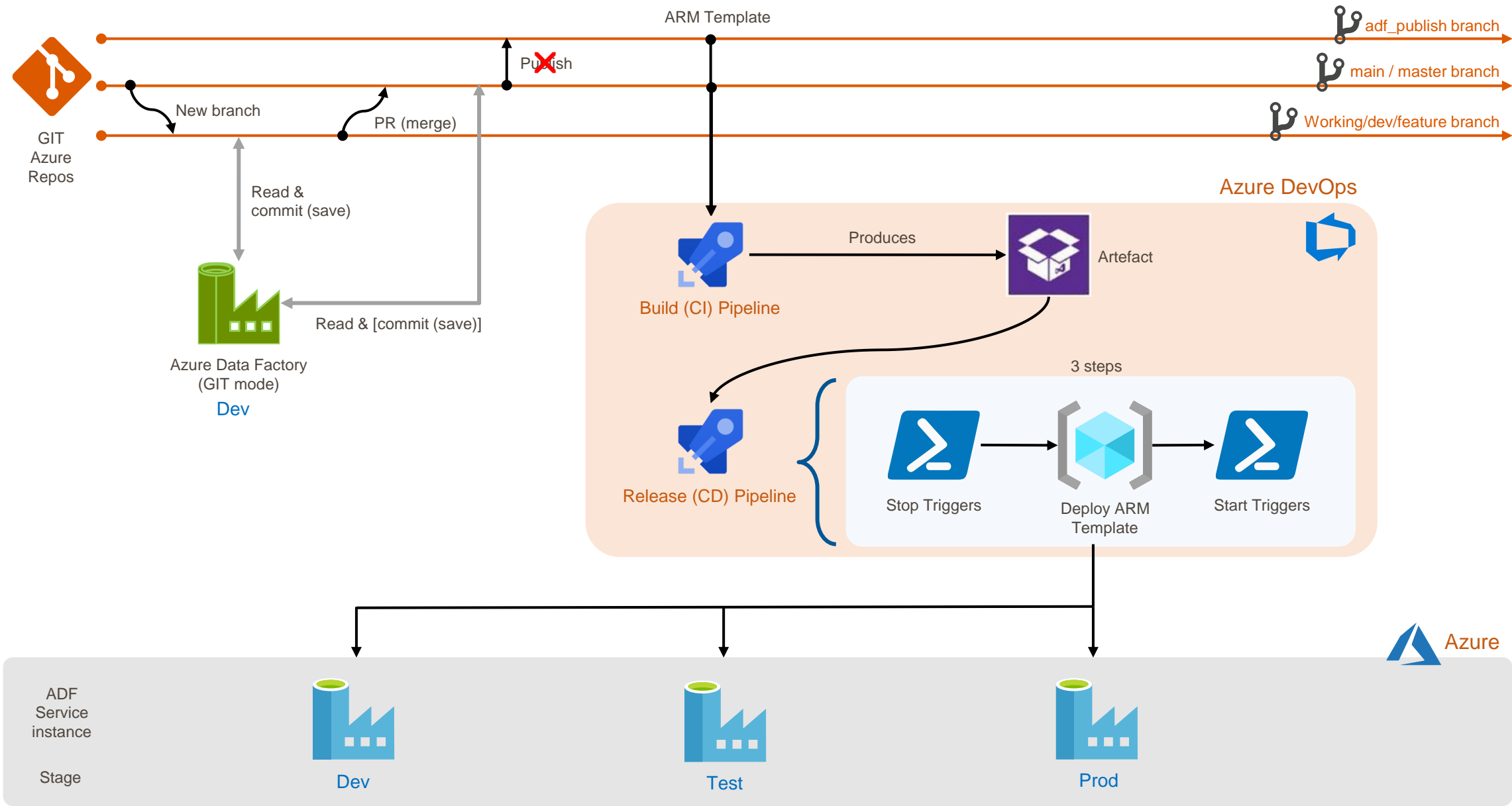


Since 2021

Just a few small things...

- Continuous integration and delivery in Azure Data Factory
- Automated publishing for continuous integration and delivery
- Use custom parameters with the Resource Manager template
- Sample pre- and post-deployment script

Automated publishing via CI/CD within npm & ARM Template

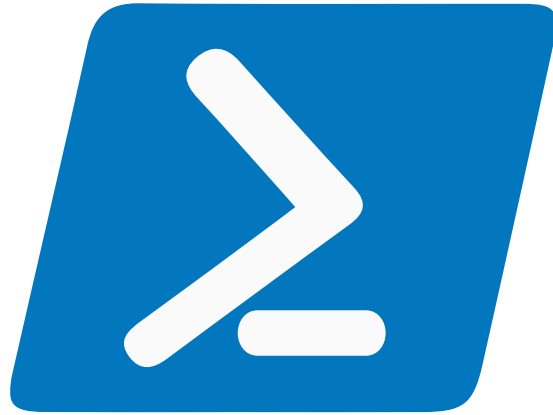


DEMO

... in a minute;
a question first...



What do you prefer?



DEMO #1

ARM Template deployment



#adftools



Two tools:



PowerShell module (azure.datafactory.tools)



Azure DevOps extension (3 tasks)



<https://sqlplayer.net/adftools/>

DEMO #2

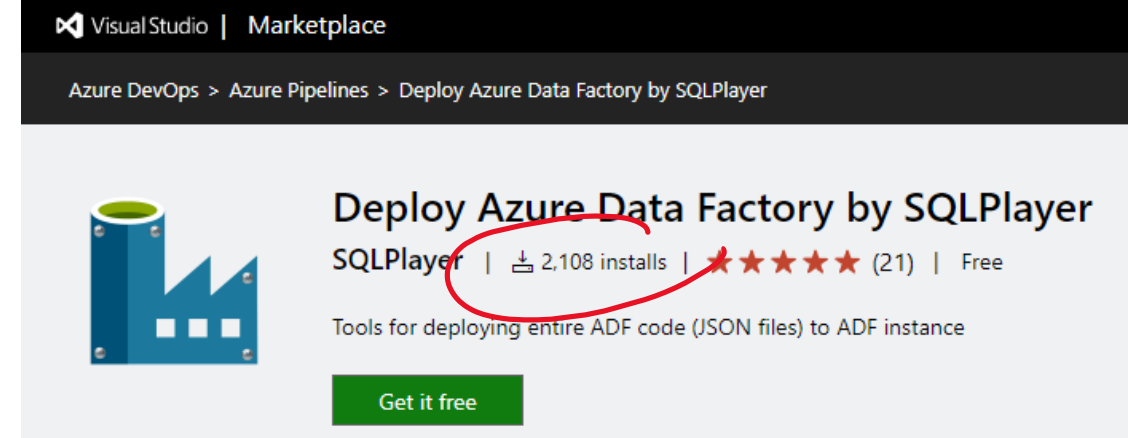
Deployment with PowerShell



Azure DevOps: Custom Tasks

Key concept:

- Free & Open-Source
- One task for everything when it comes to the publishing of ADF
- Basically, it is another (UI) layer on top of „azure.datafactory.tools“ module
- Public Release (GA) since 23/12/2020
- Extension contains 3 tasks that cover full deployment life-cycle for ADF



[Deploy Azure Data Factory](#)



Any ideas or questions? Leave it here:

<https://github.com/SQLPlayer/azure.datafactory.tools/issues>

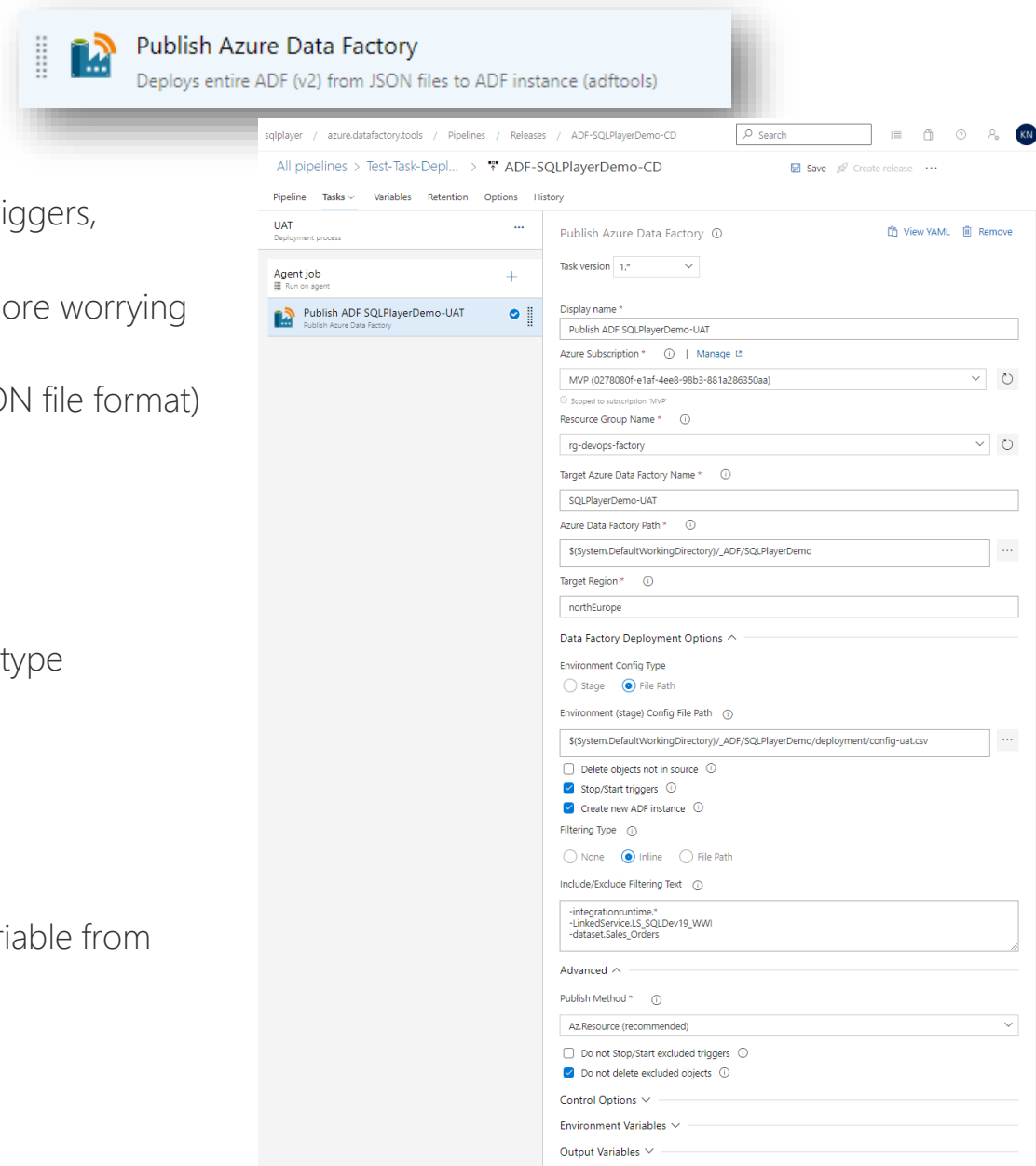
- Fully written in PowerShell, compatible with 5.1
- Uses Microsoft's PS module (Az.DataFactory) for management of ADF objects
- Available in [PowerShell gallery](#)
- **Publish-AdfV2FromJson** function - capabilities:
 - Creation of Azure Data Factory, if not exist (option)
 - Deployment of all type of objects: pipelines, datasets, linked services, data flows & power query, triggers, integration runtimes
 - Copes with dependencies (multiple levels) between objects when deploying (no more worrying about object names)
 - Build-in mechanism to replace the properties with the indicated values (CSV file)
 - Stop/start triggers (option)
 - Dropping objects when not exist in the source (code) (option)
 - Selective deployment: Filtering (include or exclude) objects to be deployed by name and/or type
 - Publish options allow you to control:
 - Whether stop and restarting triggers
 - Whether delete or not objects not in the source
 - Whether create or not a new instance of ADF if it not exist
- Free & Open-Source

Task in Azure DevOps: Publish ADF (CD)



Key capabilities:

- Creation of Azure Data Factory, if not exist (option)
- Deployment of all type of objects: pipelines, datasets, linked services, data flows, triggers, integration runtimes, Managed Virtual Network, Managed Private Endpoint
- Copes with dependencies (multiple levels) between objects when deploying (no more worrying about object names)
- Build-in mechanism to replace the properties with the indicated values (CSV & JSON file format)
- Update, add or remove any property of ADF artefact
- Selective deployment declared in-line or by pointed file
- Stop/start triggers (option)
- Dropping objects when not exist in the source (code) (option)
- Filtering (include or exclude) objects to be deployed by name and/or type and/or type
- Filtering supports wildcards
- Publish options allow you to control:
 - Whether stop and restarting triggers
 - Whether delete or not objects not in the source
 - Whether create or not a new instance of ADF if it not exist
- Tokenisation in config file allows replace any value by Environment Variable or Variable from DevOps Pipeline
- Global Parameters



Selective deployment with PowerShell module

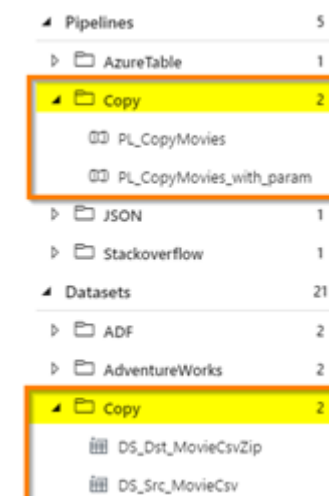


You can select objects by objects types & name using include or exclude option.

Allows to select the objects by belonging to a folder (picture)

Name can be **wildcarded**, so all such variants are possible:

```
trigger.*  
dataset.DS_*  
*.PL_*  
linkedService.???KeyVault*  
pipeline.ScdType[123]  
*.*@testFolder  
managedVirtualNetwork*.*  
*managedPrivateEndpoint.*
```



Selective deployment in Azure DevOps



😊 In Azure DevOps Task – the list can be provided either as (inline) **text** or from **file** in repo.

To simplify user experience – only one field is exposed in order to define include/exclude rules.

Therefore, an extra character should be provided before the name/pattern:

- + **(plus)** – for objects you want to include to a deployment
- **(minus)** - for objects you want to exclude from a deployment

If char is not provided – an inclusion rule would be applied.

Filtering Type ⓘ

☐ None ☒ Inline ☐ File Path

Include/Exclude Filtering Text ⓘ

```
-integrationruntime.*  
-LinkService.LS_SQLDev19_WWI  
-dataset.Sales_Orders
```


DEMO #3

Deployment with Azure DevOps



PowerShell module: Parameters for Stages

How are parameters passed into the deployment? Config CSV File:

```
1 type,name,path,value
2 linkedService,LS_AzureKeyVault,typeProperties.baseUrl,"https://kv-blog-uat.vault.azure.net/"
3 # This is comment - the line will be omitted
4 linkedService,LS_BlobSqlPlayer,typeProperties.connectionString,"DefaultEndpointsProtocol=https;AccountName=sqlplayer;AccountKey=;EndpointSuffix=core.windows.net;"
5 pipeline,PL_CopyMovies,activities[0].outputs[0].parameters.BlobContainer,UAT
6 pipeline,PL_CopyMovies_with_param,parameters.DstBlobContainer.defaultValue,"${$Env:Environment}"
7 pipeline,PL_Wait_Dynamic,parameters.WaitInSec,"{'type': 'int32','defaultValue': 22}"
8 # MINUS means the desired action is to REMOVE encryptedCredential:
9 linkedService,BlobSampleData,-typeProperties.encryptedCredential,
10 # PLUS means the desired action is to ADD new property with associated value:
11 linkedService,BlobSampleData,+typeProperties.accountKey,"${$Env:VARIABLE}"
```

Option 1:

Any variables can come from DevOps Pipeline, either normal as well as sensitive values.

To apply replacement for secret values:

Environment Variables must be mapped (Microsoft recommendation).


Environment Variables ^


Name	Value
SecretFromAKV	\$(SecretFromAKV)

Option 2:

Another option would be reading secrets directly from provided Azure Key Vault.

Therefore, "Replacement" task is still recommended here as an alternative as for now.

 **Azure Key Vault: kv-sqlplayer**
Azure Key Vault

 **Replace tokens in**
Replace Tokens

Bonus capabilities



New task in Azure DevOps: Build ADF (CI)



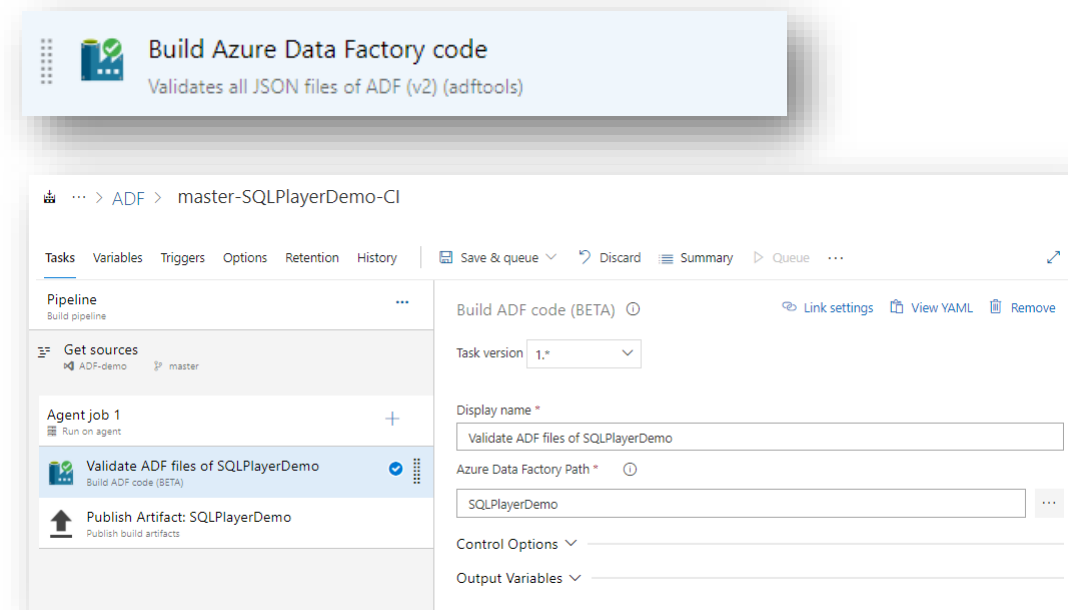
The task has 2 modes:

- **Build only**

- Reads all files and validates its json format
- Checks whether all dependant objects exist
- Checks whether file name equals object name

- **Validate & Export ARM Template**

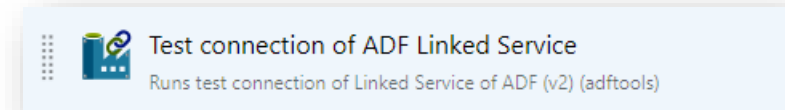
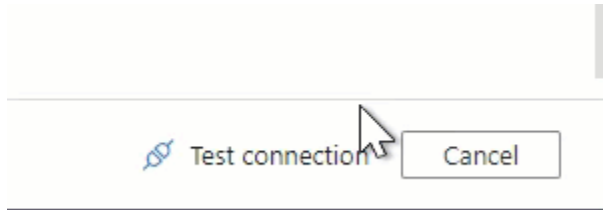
- uses [ADFUtilities NPM package](#) provided by Microsoft
- Counterpart of **Validate all** and **Export ARM Template** in ADF UI



New task in Azure DevOps: Test Connection



- Run „Test connection” for a Linked Service
- Smoke tests of (some) Linked Services
- In preview



Pipeline **Tasks** Variables Retention Options History

UAT-Win
Deployment process

Agent job
Run on agent

Validate ADF files
Build ADF code (BETA)

Run ADF Linked Services connection test
Test connection of ADF Linked Service

Test connection of ADF Linked Service (Preview) ⓘ View YAML Remove

Task version 1.* (preview) ▼

Display name *
Run ADF Linked Services connection test

Azure Subscription * ⓘ | Manage ↗
MVP (0278080f-e1af-4ee8-98b3-881a286350aa) ▼ ↻

ⓘ Scoped to subscription 'MVP'

Resource Group Name * ⓘ
\$(ResourceGroupName) ▼ ↻

Target Azure Data Factory Name * ⓘ
\$(FactoryName)

Linked Service Name(s) * ⓘ
AzureSqlDatabase1,AzureTableStorage,LS_AzureKeyVault

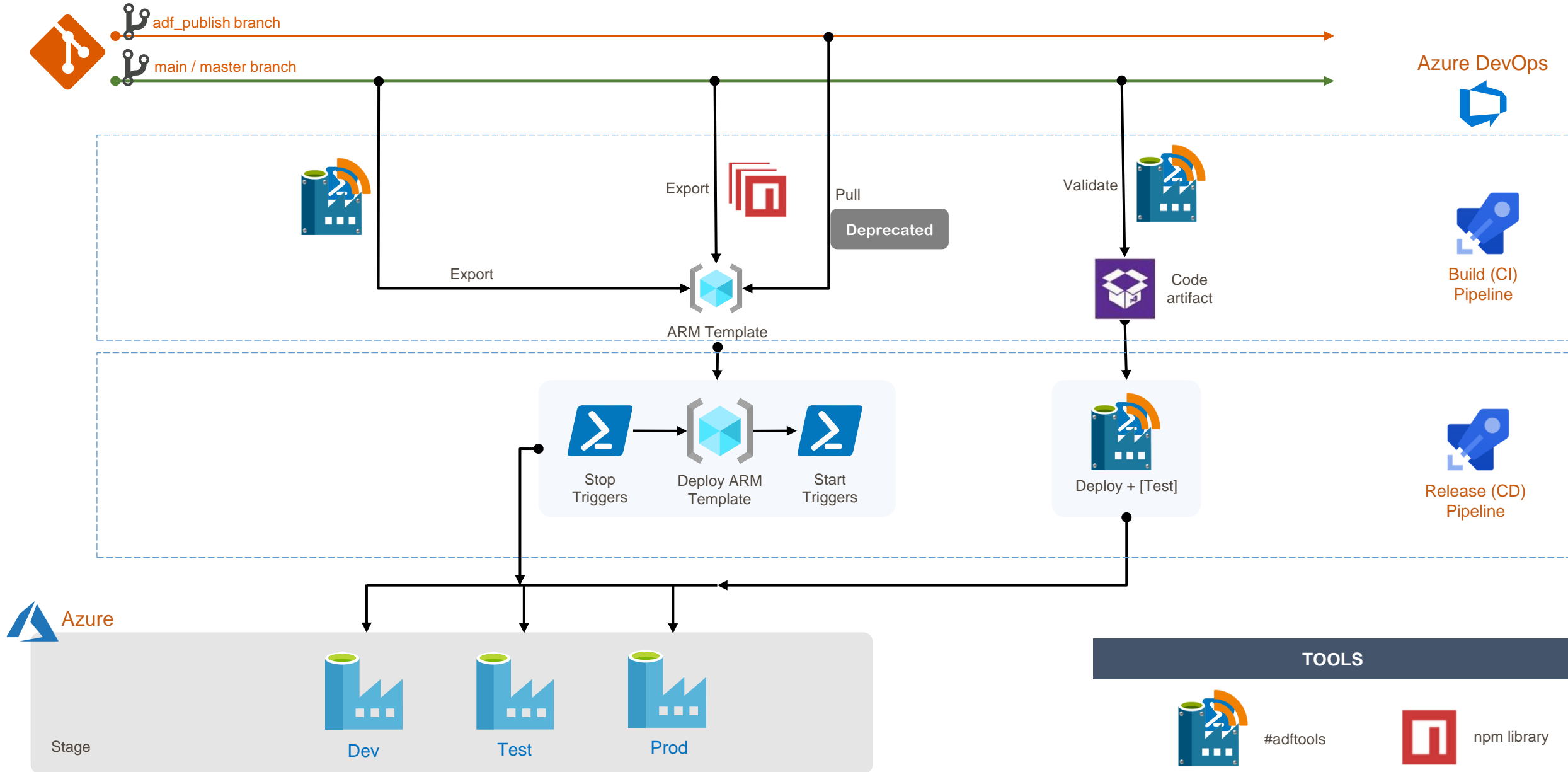
Client ID *
\$(ClientID)

Client Secret *
\$(ClientSecret)

Summary

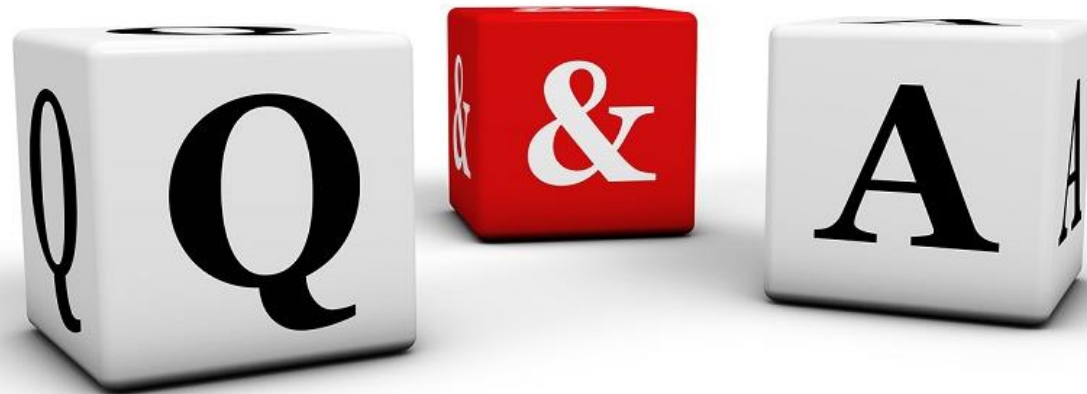


Takeaway: ADF deployment - Possible paths



- <https://sqlplayer.net/adftools>
- <https://github.com/SQLPlayer/azure.datafactory.tools>
 - [Issues](#)
 - [Discussions, FAQ](#)
- [PowerShell Gallery: azure.datafactory.tools](#)
- [Marketplace: Deploy Azure Data Factory \(extension for Azure DevOps\)](#)
- [Microsoft ADF \(npm\) Utilities](#)
- <https://github.com/SQLPlayer/azure.synapse.tools> (preview!)

Questions?



Thank you!



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<https://github.com/NowinskiK/CommunityEvents>

Kamil Nowinski

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Analytics Architect, Azure DevOps Engineer Expert