Microsoft Azure Project By Omer Asraf

This project focuses on designing, deploying, and securing a cloud-based storage and networking infrastructure using Microsoft Azure. It simulates a full IT workflow from cloud storage configuration and virtual machine integration to advanced networking and access control scenarios covering real-world use cases that IT administrators and cloud engineers regularly face.

Part 1 of the project: Azure Storage, Access Management, and File Syncing. Focused on building a secure and redundant Azure Storage solution. I created a RA-GZRS storage account, configured Blob Containers with restricted access, and managed file access using SAS tokens. I tested blob access tiering (hot \rightarrow cool \rightarrow cold) and implemented automatic lifecycle management.

Next, I worked with Azure Files to set up a cloud file share, mapped it as a local network drive, and tested uploading, deleting, and restoring files using snapshots. Two Windows VMs were then deployed and configured to sync with the Azure File Share. I verified that file changes on one VM automatically synced to the other and to the cloud simulating real-time collaboration and hybrid storage.

Part 2 of the project: Virtual Networking, Subnet Security, and Access Control.

Focused on Azure Virtual Networking and Security. After testing latency to Azure regions, I selected one and deployed a VNet with two subnets:

The First subnet hosted a VM with no public access.

The second subnet hosted a VM that allowed RDP from the first subnet and HTTP from the internet.

I assigned static IPs, configured NSGs to enforce subnet isolation and allowed secure connections using Azure Bastion. Then, I installed IIS on the second VM to serve a public web page and tested its accessibility. Finally, I deleted the entire Resource Group to ensure complete cleanup of all deployed resources.

By the end of the project, a secure, scalable, and regionally optimized cloud infrastructure is fully deployed and validated. The solution demonstrates enterprise-grade design principles including high availability, security, backup, hybrid integration, and controlled public exposure all aligned with best practices in Azure cloud architecture.

Part 1: Azure Storage, Access Management, and File Syncing

Create a new RA-GZRS storage account

Home > Storage accounts >

Create a storage account

Basics Advanced Networking Data protection Encryption Tags Review + create Azure Storage is a Microsoft-managed service providing cloud storage that is highly available, secure, durable, scalable, and redundant. Azure Storage includes Azure Blobs (objects), Azure Data Lake Storage Gen2, Azure Files, Azure Queues, and Azure Tables. The cost of your storage account depends on the usage and the options you choose below. Learn more about Azure storage accounts of Project details Select the subscription in which to create the new storage account. Choose a new or existing resource group to organize and manage your storage account together with other resources. Azure subscription 1 Subscription * oayRG Resource group * Create new Instance details Storage account name * (i) oaysa (US) East US Region * (i) Deploy to an Azure Extended Zone Primary service (i) Select a primary service Performance * (i) Standard: Recommended for most scenarios (general-purpose v2 account) Premium: Recommended for scenarios that require low latency. Geo-zone-redundant storage (GZRS) Redundancy * (i) Make read access to data available in the event of regional unavailability. Previous Review + create Next Your deployment is complete

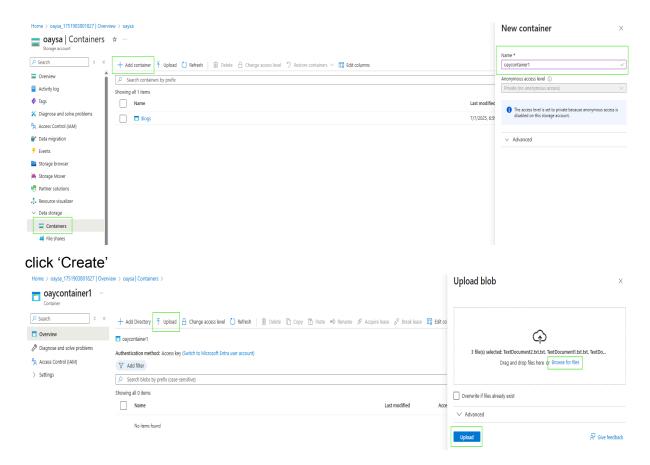
> Deployment name: oaysa_1751903801827 Subscription: Azure subscription 1

Resource group: oayRG

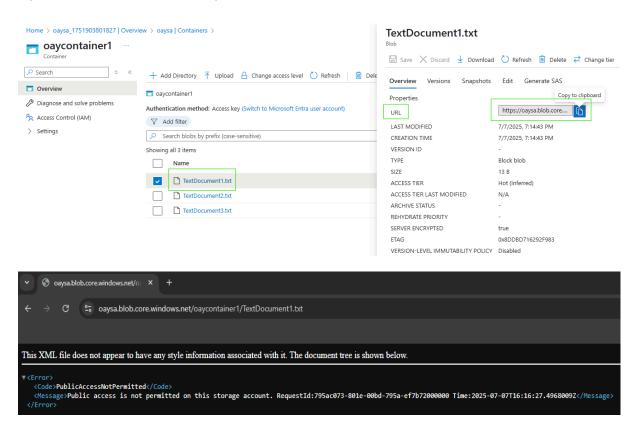
- Deployment details
- Next steps

Go to resource

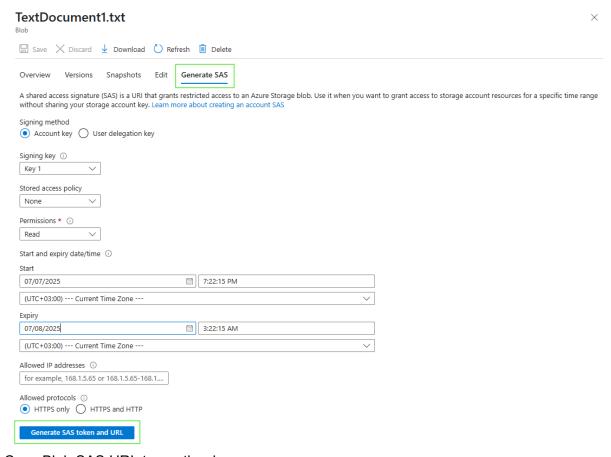
Create a container and upload several files into the container



Try to access one of the files by its link from another browser (shouldn't work)



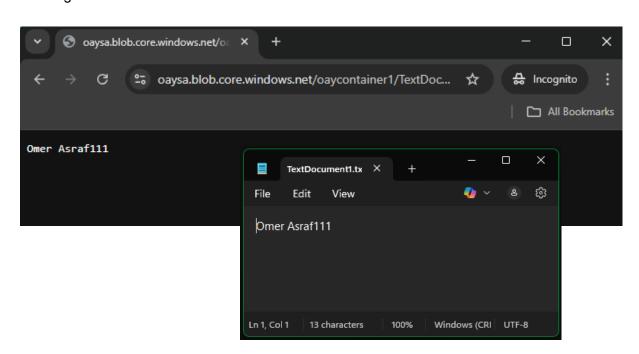
Create an access key to one of the file blobs and try access again from another browser



Copy Blob SAS URL to another browser



The original text document = Blob SAS URL



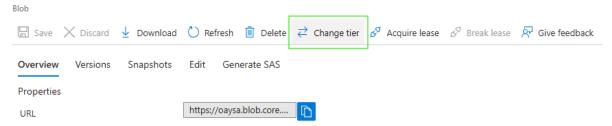
Change the blob access tier to cold

Before



Change

TextDocument1.txt



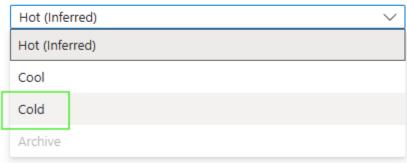
X

Change tier

TextDocument1.txt

Optimize storage costs by placing your data in the appropriate access tier. Archive is not supported for this storage account configuration. Learn more

Access tier

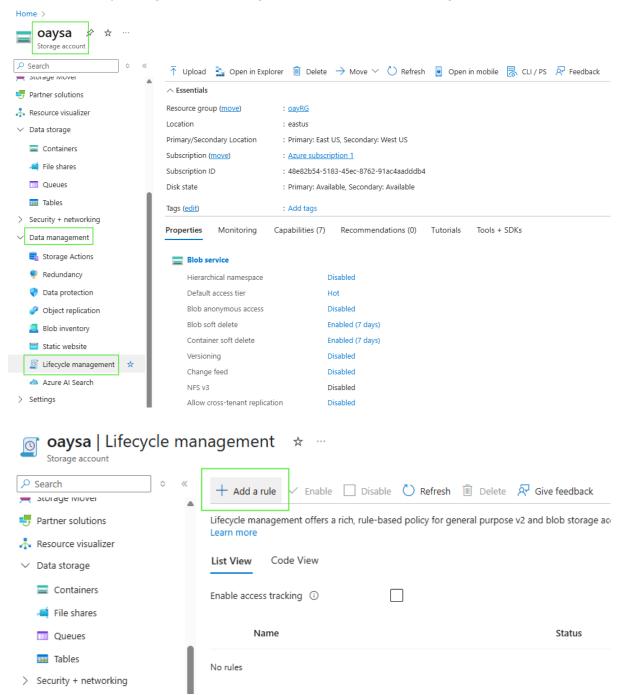


Click 'Save'.

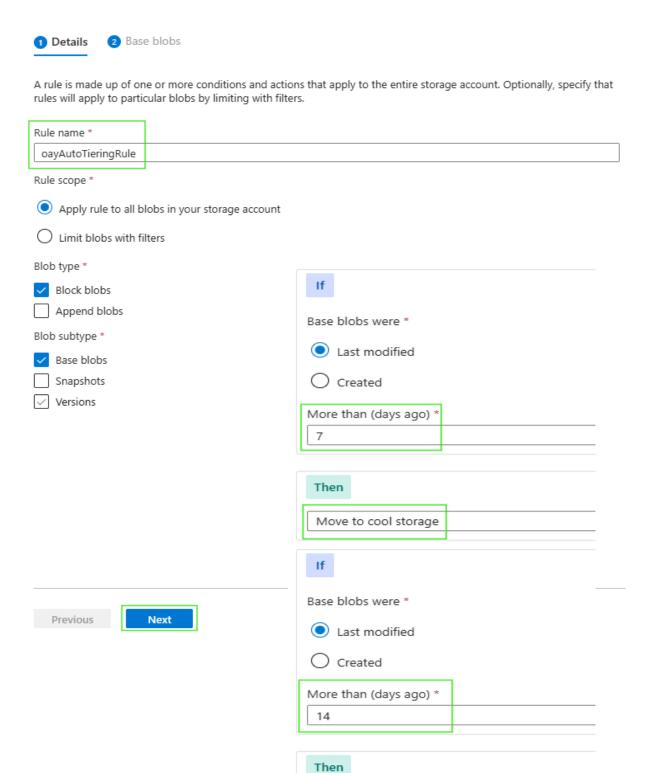
After



Set automatically tiering (7d from change --> cool --> 14d from change cold)



Add a rule ...



Previous Add

Move to cold storage

Create a backup storage account in another region

Home > Storage accounts >

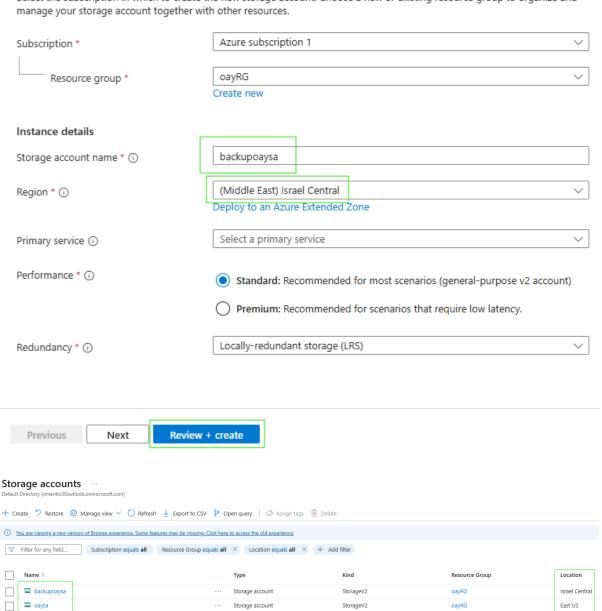
Create a storage account

Advanced Networking Data protection Encryption Tags Review + create Basics

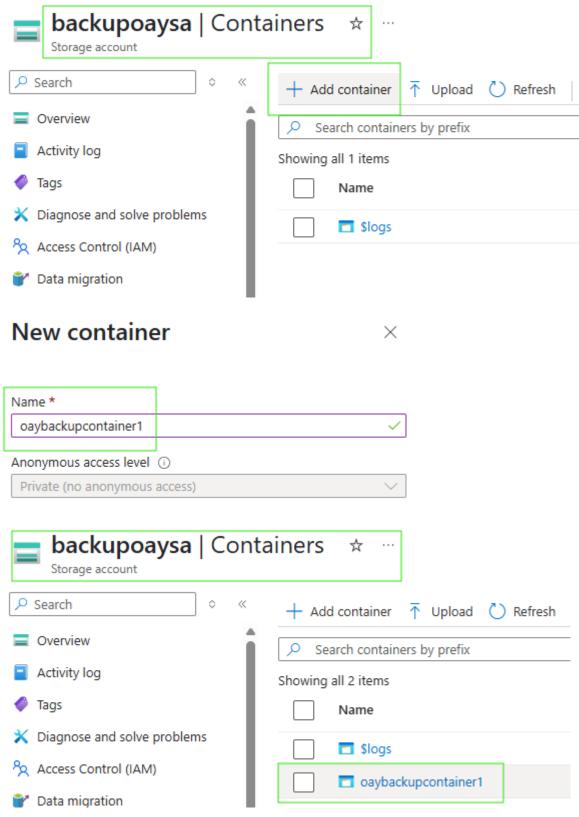
Azure Storage is a Microsoft-managed service providing cloud storage that is highly available, secure, durable, scalable, and redundant. Azure Storage includes Azure Blobs (objects), Azure Data Lake Storage Gen2, Azure Files, Azure Queues, and Azure Tables. The cost of your storage account depends on the usage and the options you choose below. Learn more about Azure storage accounts 🗹

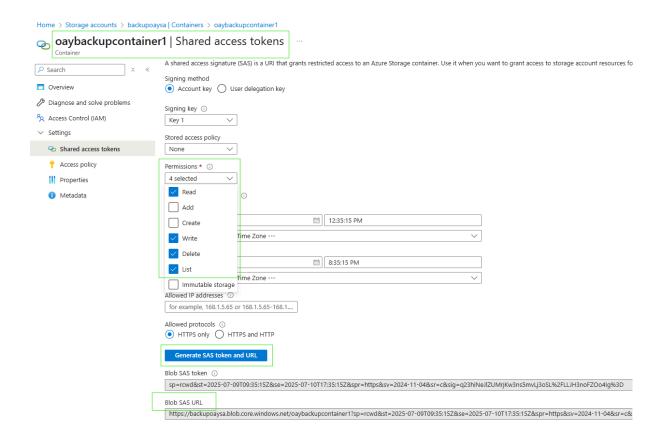
Project details

Select the subscription in which to create the new storage account. Choose a new or existing resource group to organize and



Create a backup container in backup account





Create an 'AzCopy' for coping and syncing files

```
Administrator: Command Prompt

Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26100.4349]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

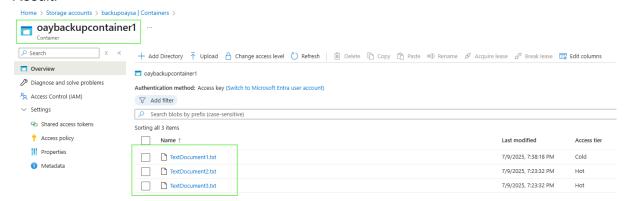
C:\Windows\System32>cd C:\Users\User\Downloads\azcopy_windows_amd64_10.29.1
```

'azcopy copy' command:

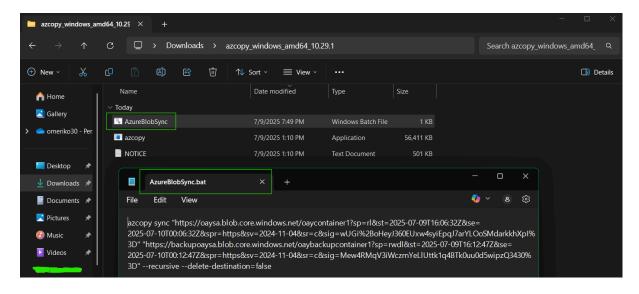
```
Administrator: Command Prompt
C:\Users\User\Downloads\azcopy_windows_amd64_10.29.1>azcopy copy "https://oaysa.blob.core.windows.net/oaycontainer1?sp=rl&st
=2025-07-09T16:06:32Z&se=2025-07-10T00:06:32Z&spr=https&sv=2024-11-04&sr=c&sig=wUGi%2BoHeyJ360EUxw4syiEpqJ7arYL0oSMdarkkhXpI
%3D" "https://backupoaysa.blob.core.windows.net/oaybackupcontainer1?sp=rwdl&st=2025-07-09T16:12:47Z&se=2025-07-10T00:12:47Z&
spr=https&sv=2024-11-04&sr=c&sig=Mew4RMqV3iWczmYeLlUttk1q4BTk0uu0d5wipzQ3430%3D" --recursive
INFO: Scanning..
VARN: Failed to create one or more destination container(s). Your transfers may still succeed if the container already exist
INFO: Any empty folders will not be processed, because source and/or destination doesn't have full folder support
Job c0f8870e-6949-d441-5f8b-fbacde62bf2c has started
Log file is located at: C:\Users\User\.azcopy\c0f8870e-6949-d441-5f8b-fbacde62bf2c.log
100.0 %, 3 Done, 0 Failed, 0 Pending, 0 Skipped, 3 Total, 2-sec Throughput (Mb/s): 0.0002
Job c0f8870e-6949-d441-5f8b-fbacde62bf2c summary
Elapsed Time (Minutes): 0.0334
Number of File Transfers: 3
Number of Folder Property Transfers: 0
Number of Symlink Transfers: 0
Total Number of Transfers: 3
Number of File Transfers Completed: 3
Number of Folder Transfers Completed: 0
Number of File Transfers Failed: 0
Number of Folder Transfers Failed: 0
Number of File Transfers Skipped: 0
Number of Folder Transfers Skipped: 0
Total Number of Bytes Transferred: 39
Final Job Status: Completed
```

'azcopy sync' command:

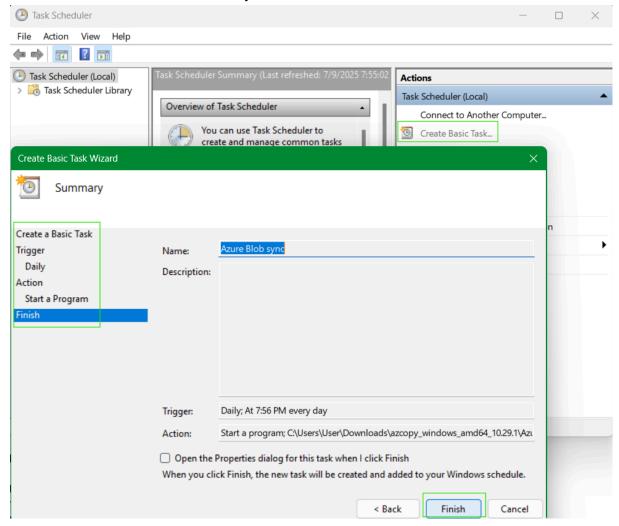
Result:



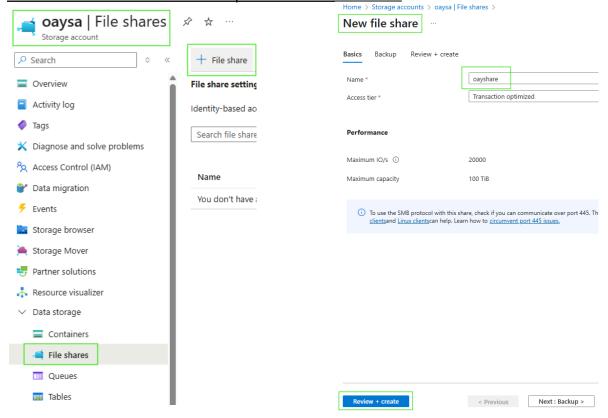
Create a Batch file for blobs sync:

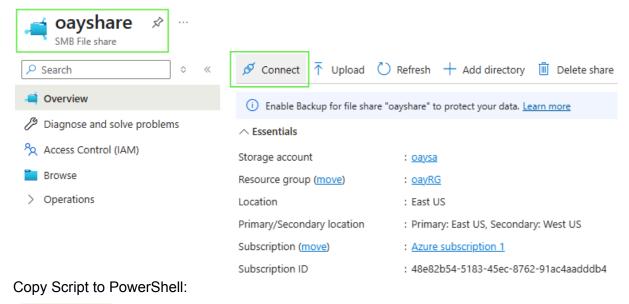


Schedule the command automatically in Windows Task Scheduler:



Create an Azure File share and map to local network drive Z:







Authentication method

- Active Directory or Microsoft Entra
- Storage account key
- Connecting to a share using the storage account key is only appropriate for admin access. Mounting the Azure file share with the Active Directory or Microsoft Entra identity of the user is preferred. <u>Learn more</u>

Hide Script

```
$connectTestResult = Test-NetConnection -ComputerName
oaysa.file.core.windows.net -Port 445
if ($connectTestResult.TcpTestSucceeded) {
  # Save the password so the drive will persist on reboot
  cmd.exe /C "cmdkey /add:`"oaysa.file.core.windows.net`"
/user:`"localhost\oaysa`"
/pass:`"q0Tn9xdBpbRLfnlJzBCq5edeeqgWw7kEUPNvtJ4On8WJG6vXe+ZgUmF
GB8KprAig8G7nQyjmTyqE+ASt6rF36A==`""
  # Mount the drive
  New-PSDrive -Name Z -PSProvider FileSystem -Root
"\\oaysa.file.core.windows.net\oayshare" -Persist
} else {
  Write-Error -Message "Unable to reach the Azure storage account via port
445. Check to make sure your organization or ISP is not blocking port 445, or
use Azure P2S VPN, Azure S2S VPN, or Express Route to tunnel SMB traffic
over a different port."
                                                                     Copy to clipboard
                                                                            0
```

Run the script on PowerShell:

```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell ISE
File Edit View Tools Debug Add-ons Help
 Untitled1.ps1* X
         SconnectTestResult = Test-NetConnection -ComputerName oaysa.file.core.windows.net -Port 445

if (SconnectTestResult.TcpTestSucceeded) {

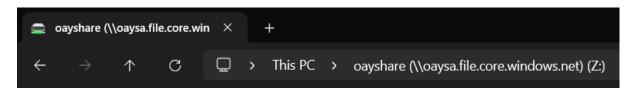
# Save the password so the drive will persist on reboot

cmd.exe /C "cmdkey /add: "oaysa.file.core.windows.net" /user: "localhost\oaysa`" /pass: "qOTn9xdBpbRLfnlJzB

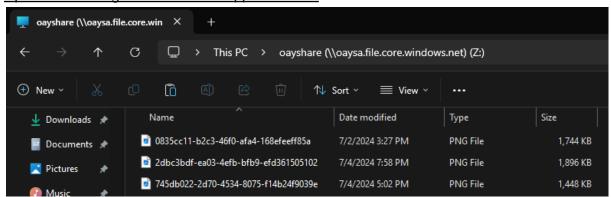
# Mount the drive
                    cmd.exe /C "cmdkey /add:`"oaysa.file.core.windows.net`" /user:`"localhost\oaysa`" /pass:`"qOTn9xdB;
# Mount the drive
New-PSDrive -Name Z -PSProvider FileSystem -Root "\\oaysa.file.core.windows.net\oayshare" -Persist
          ☐} else {

Write-Error -Message "Unable to reach the Azure storage account via port 445. Check to make sure your organi
       C:\WINDOWS\system32> $connectTestResult = Test-NetConnection -ComputerName oaysa.file.core.windows.net -Port 445
($connectTestResult.TcpTestSucceeded) {
    # Save the password so the drive will persist on reboot
    cmd.exe /C "cmdkey /add:`"oaysa.file.core.windows.net`" /user:`"localhost\oaysa`" /pass:`"qOTn9xdBpbRLfn1JzBCq5edec
    # Mount the drive
    New-PSDrive -Name Z -PSProvider FileSystem -Root "\\oaysa.file.core.windows.net\oayshare" -Persist
   } else {
Write-Error -Message "Unable to reach the Azure storage account via port 445. Check to make sure your organization
   CMDKEY: Credential added successfully.
                           Used (GB)
                                                  Free (GB) Provider
                                                                                                                                                                         CurrentLocation
                                    0.00
                                                   102400.00 FileSystem
                                                                                           \\oaysa.file.core.windows.net\oa...
```

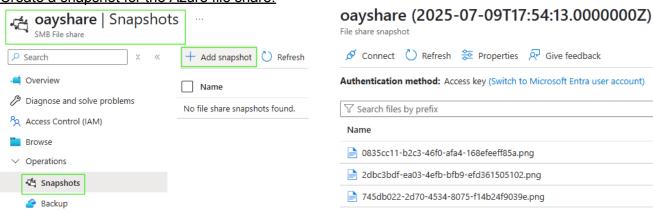
Result:



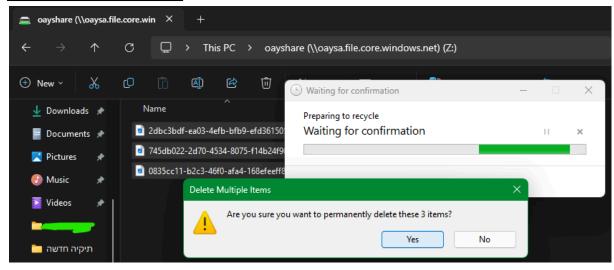
Upload files using the new local mapped drive Z:



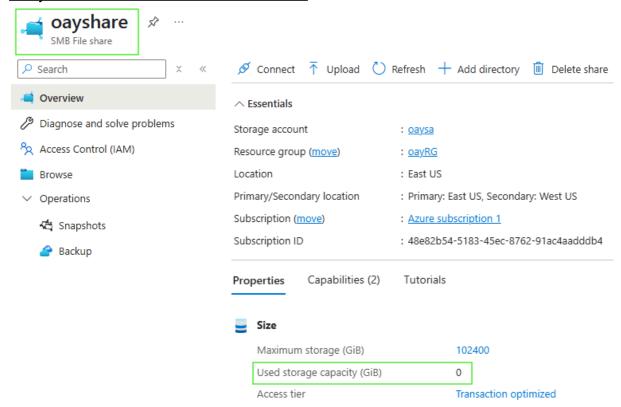
Create a snapshot for the Azure file share:



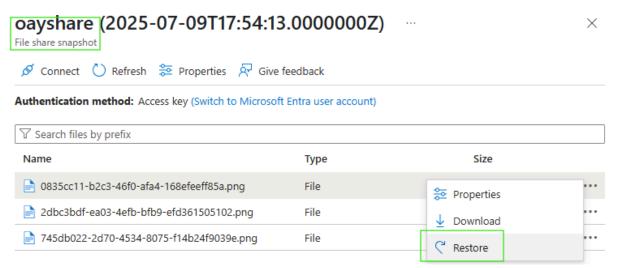
Erase all files from Drive Z:

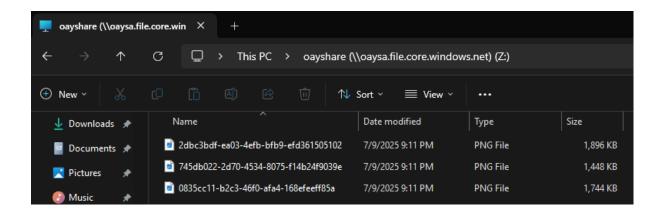


Verify from Azure Portal that files were erased:

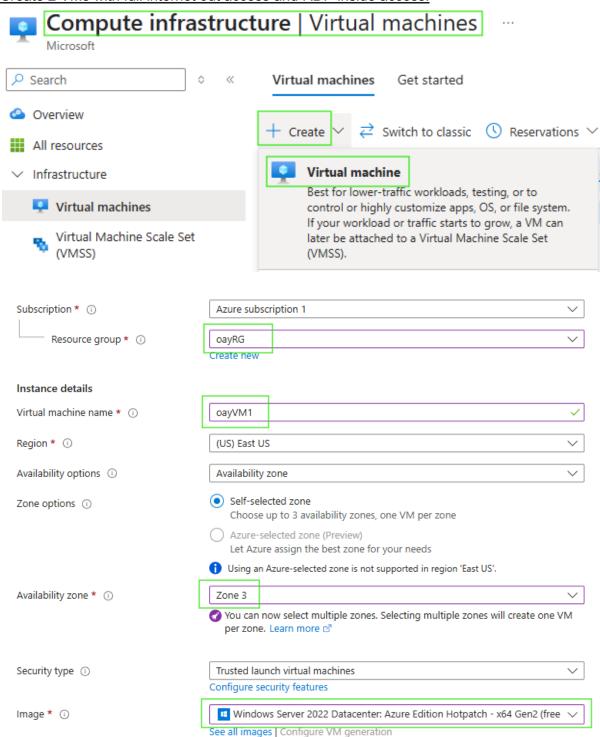


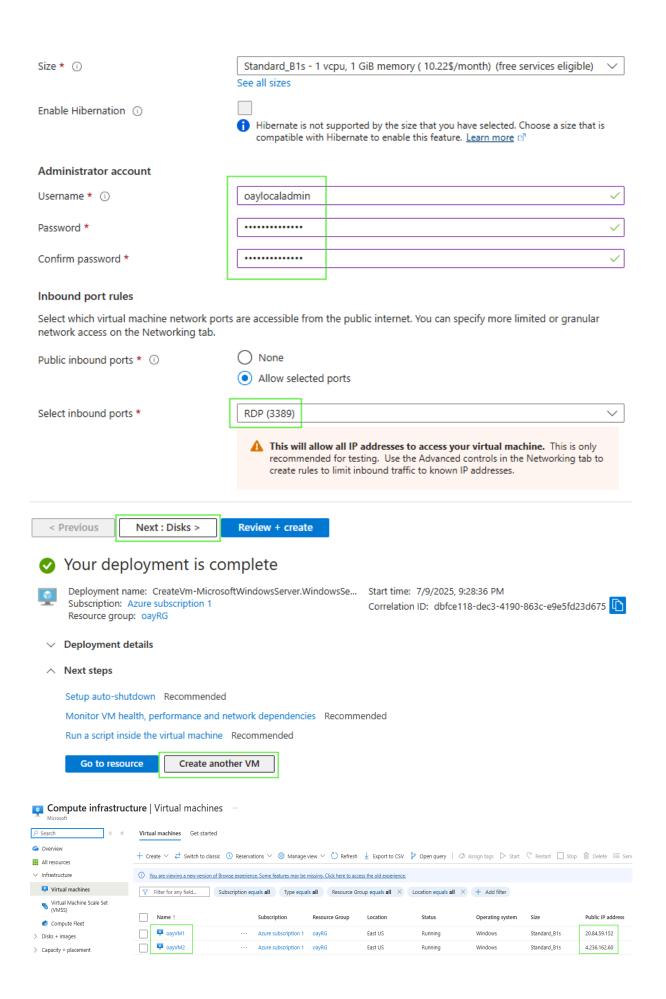
Revert to the snapshot and verify using the local mapped drive that all files were restored:



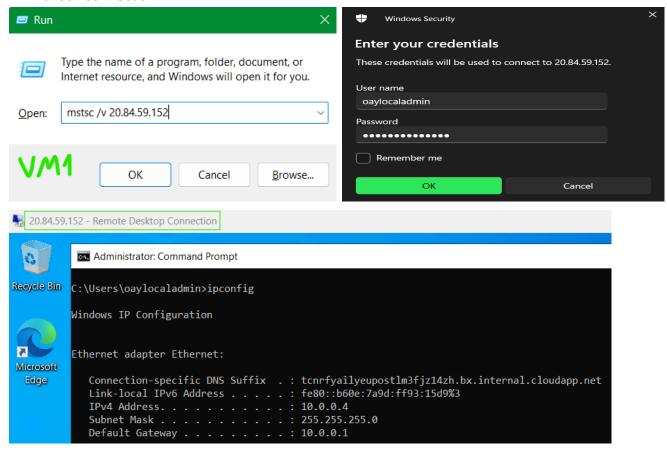


Create 2 VMs with full internet out access and RDP inside access:



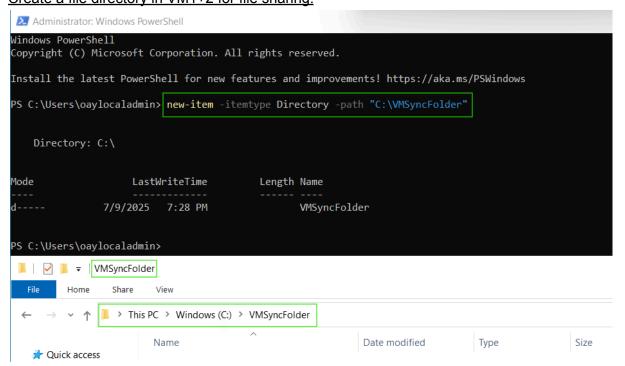


RDP check connection:



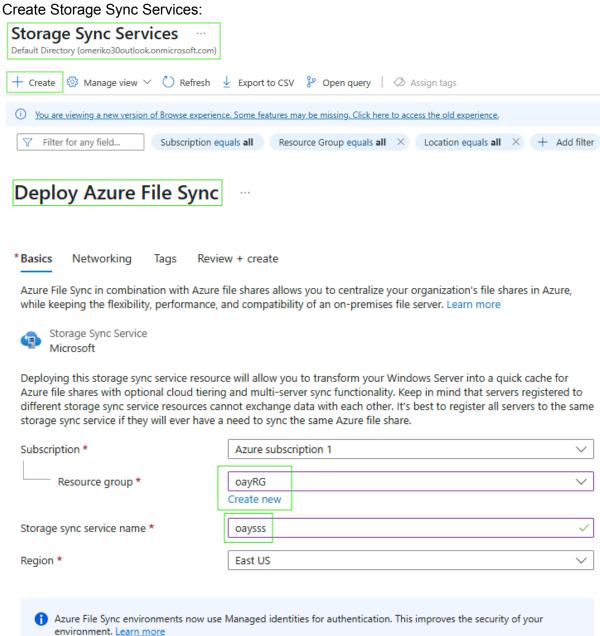
(Same with 'oayVM2')

Create a file directory in VM1+2 for file sharing:



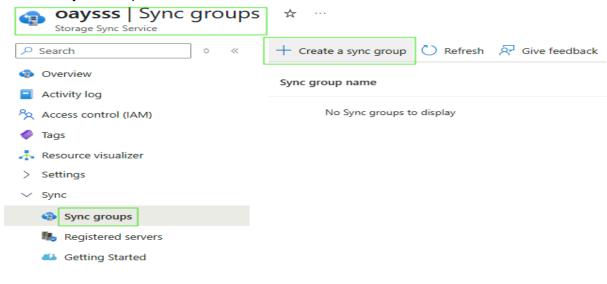
(Same in 'oayVM2')

Sync both directories to the azure file share:





Create a Sync Group:



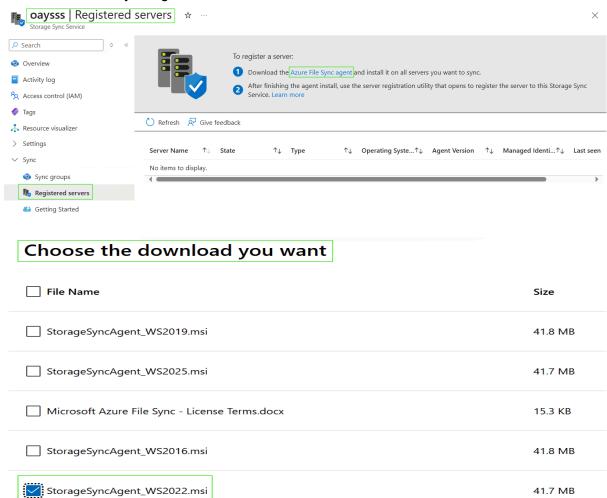
Sync group

Start by specifying an Azure file share to sync with - this is the sync group's cloud endpoint.

You can specify a folder on your servers you want to sync later.

Sync group name * Cloud endpoint Subscription * Storage account * Select storage account /subscriptions/48e82b54-5183-45ec-8762-9... Azure File Share oayshare

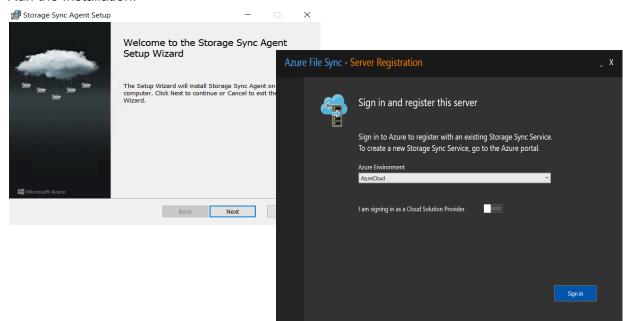
Install Azure File Sync Agent on VM1+2:

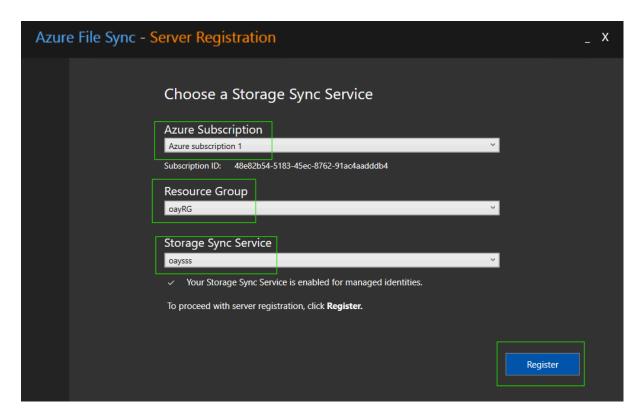


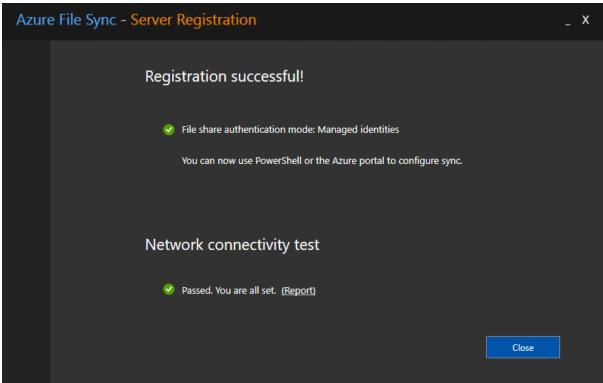
Download

Total size: 41.7 MB

Run the Installation:



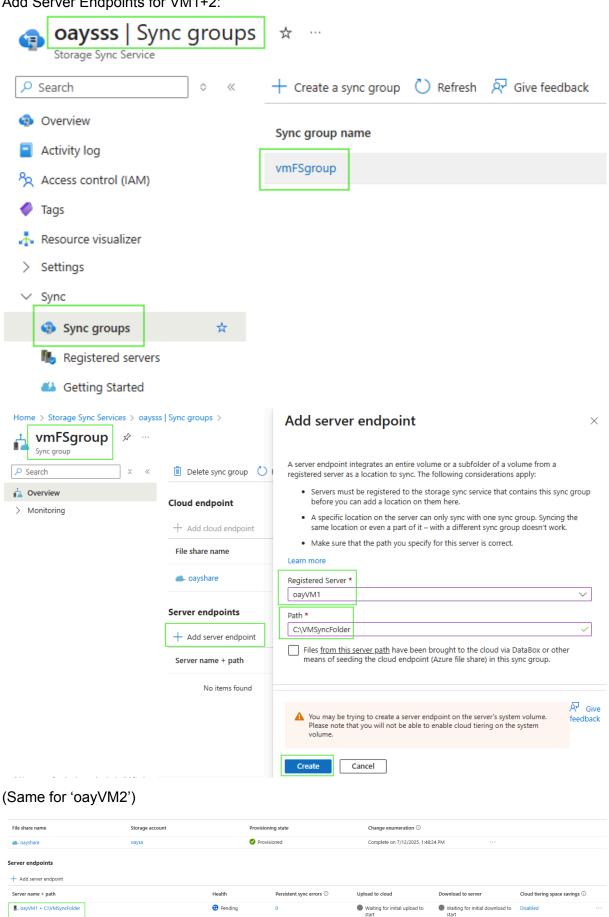




(Same for 'oayVM2')

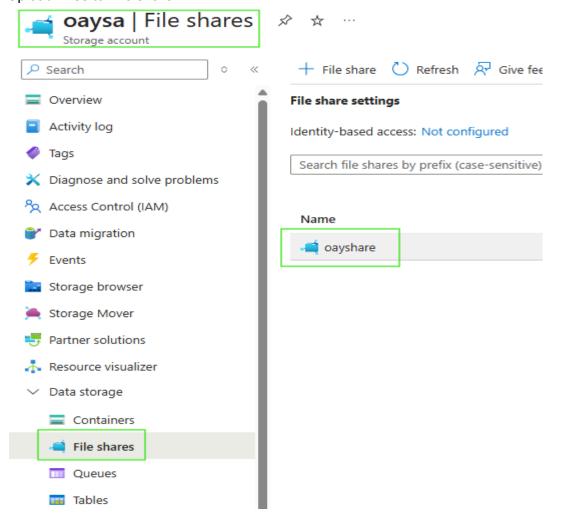
Add Server Endpoints for VM1+2:

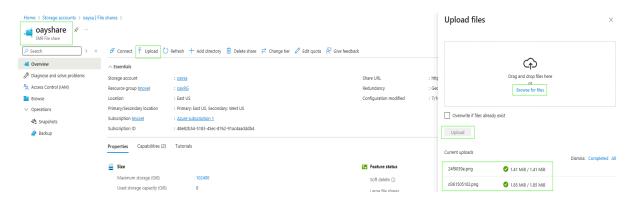
- oayVM2 + C:\VMSyncFolde



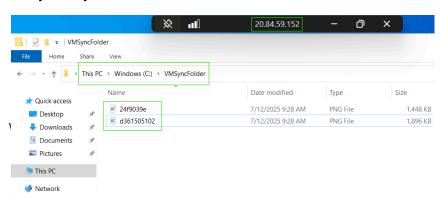
Waiting for initial upload to start
 Waiting for initial download to start

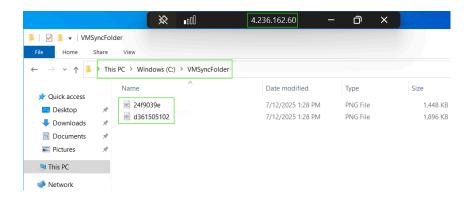
<u>Verify data from the file share was synced to both VMs</u>: Upload Files to File share:



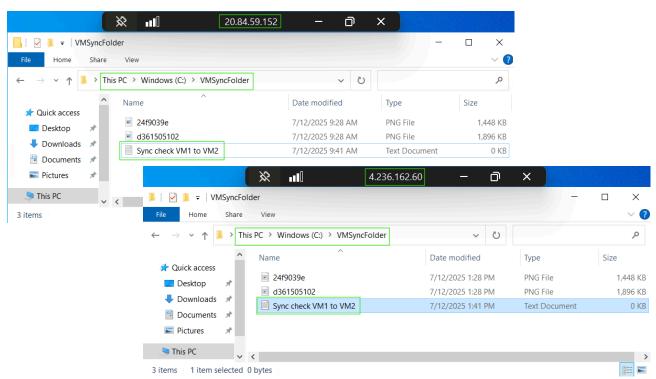


Verify locally on VM1+2:

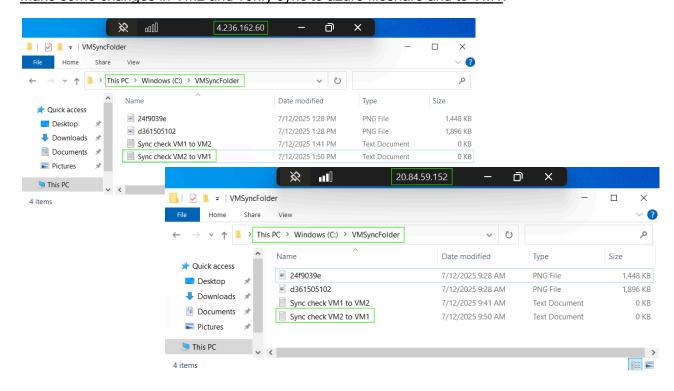




Make some changes in VM1 and verify sync to azure fileshare and to VM2:



Make some changes in VM2 and verify sync to azure fileshare and to VM1:



Part 2: Virtual Networking, Subnet Security, and Access Control

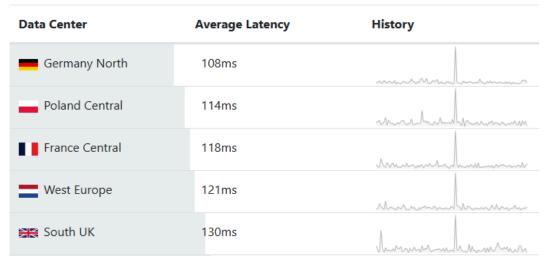
Test pings for all Azure regions:

Azure Speed Test 2.0 (azurespeedtest.azurewebsites.net)

*Higher network latencies because I connected from a mobile hot spot.

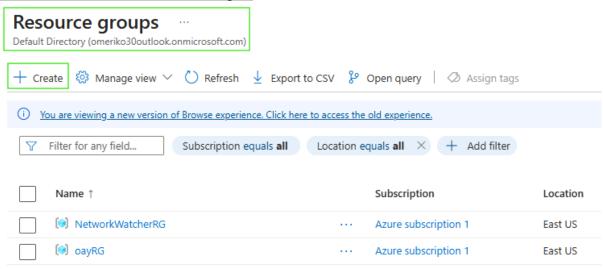
Azure Speed Test 2.0

Measuring the latency from your web browser to the Blob Storage Service in each of the Microsoft Azure Data Centers.



I chose the 'France Central' region.

Create a new RG in the selected region:



Home > Resource groups > Create a resource group Basics Tags Review + create Resource group - A container that holds related resources for an Azure solution. The resource group can include all the resources for the solution, or only those resources that you want to manage as a group. You decide how you want to allocate resources to resource groups based on what makes the most sense for your organization. Learn more Azure subscription 1 Subscription * (i) FRAoayRG Resource group name * ① (Europe) France Central Region * (i) Previous Next Review + create Resource groups Default Directory (omeriko30outlook.onmicrosoft.com) + Create <a> Manage view < <a> Refresh <a> Export to CSV <a> Open query <a> Open query <a> Assign tags E Group by none ∨ (i) You are viewing a new version of Browse experience. Click here to access the old experience. Subscription equals **all** Location equals **all** × + Add filter Filter for any field... Name ↑ Subscription Location FRAoayRG Azure subscription 1 France Central Create a VNet with 172.20.0.0/16 CIDR and 172.20.21.0/24; 172.20.22.0/24 subnets: Create virtual network Basics Security IP addresses Tags Review + create Azure Virtual Network (VNet) is the fundamental building block for your private network in Azure. VNet enables many types of Azure resources, such as Azure Virtual Machines (VM), to securely communicate with each other, the internet, and on-premises networks. VNet is similar to a traditional network that you'd operate in your own data center, but brings with it additional benefits of Azure's infrastructure such as scale, availability, and isolation. Learn more. a **Project details** Select the subscription to manage deployed resources and costs. Use resource groups like folders to organize and manage all vour resources. Azure subscription 1 FRAoavRG Resource group * Create new Instance details Virtual network name * FRAoayVnet (Europe) France Central Region * (i)

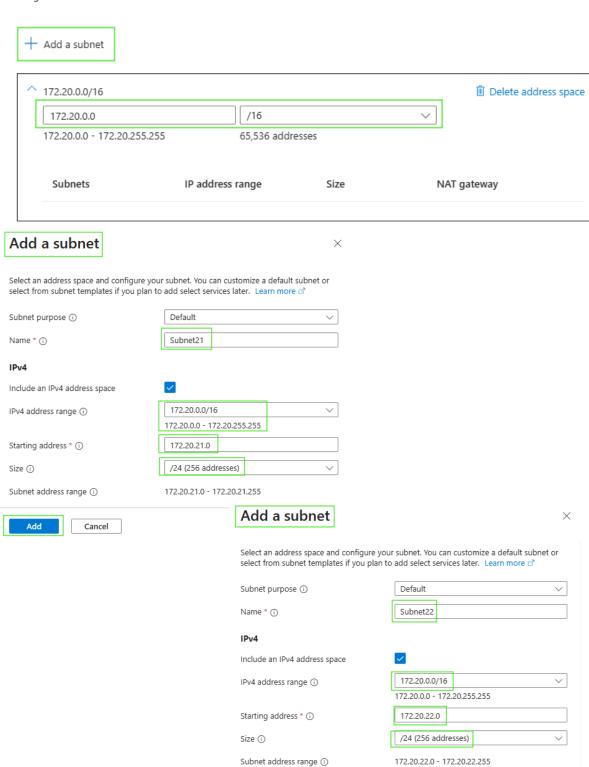
Deploy to an Azure Extended Zone

Create virtual network

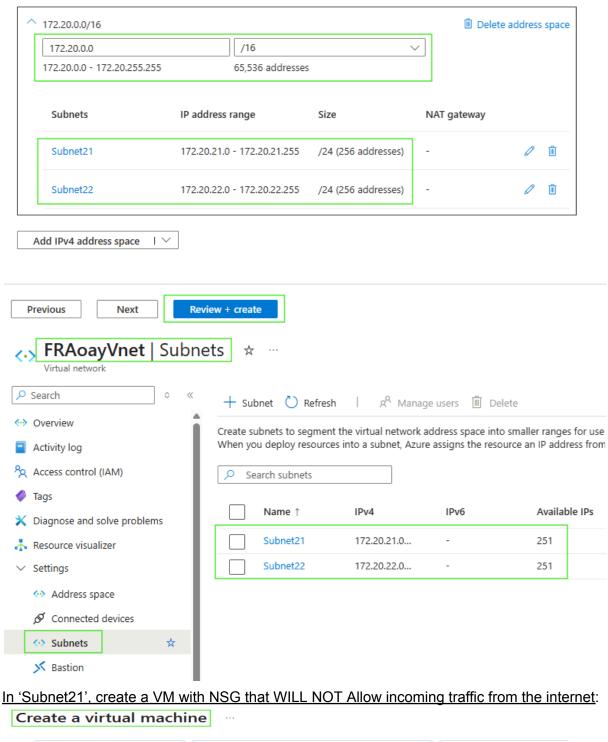
Basics Security IP addresses Tags Review + create

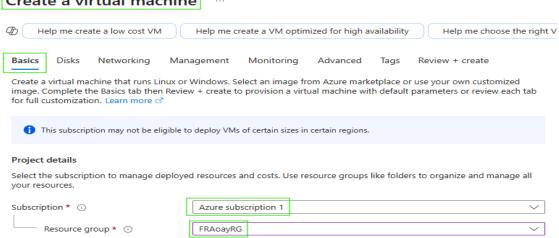
Configure your virtual network address space with the IPv4 and IPv6 addresses and subnets you need. Learn more of

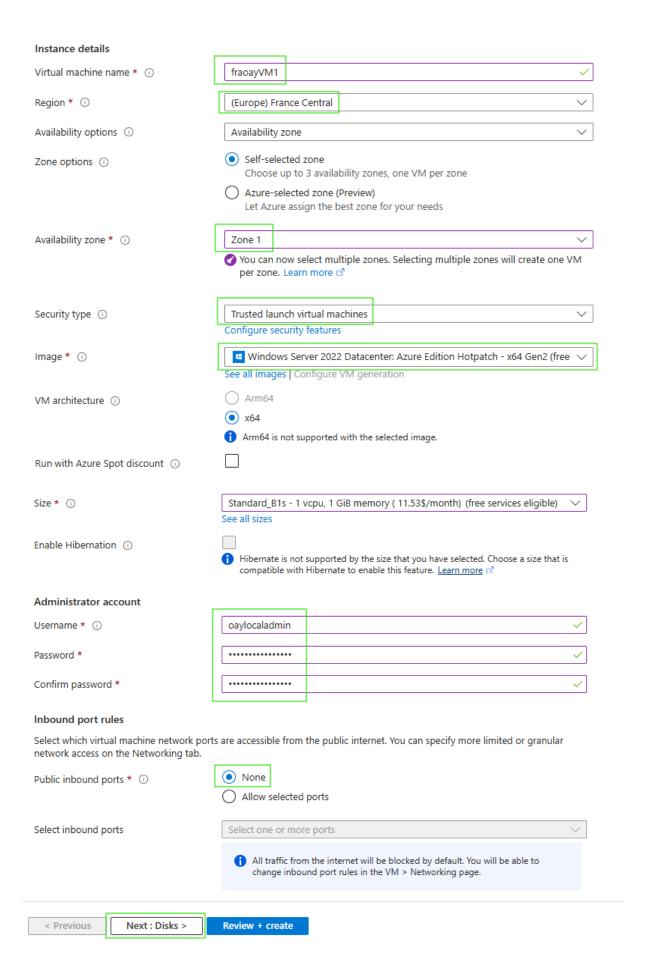
Define the address space of your virtual network with one or more IPv4 or IPv6 address ranges. Create subnets to segment the virtual network address space into smaller ranges for use by your applications. When you deploy resources into a subnet, Azure assigns the resource an IP address from the subnet. Learn more 🗗

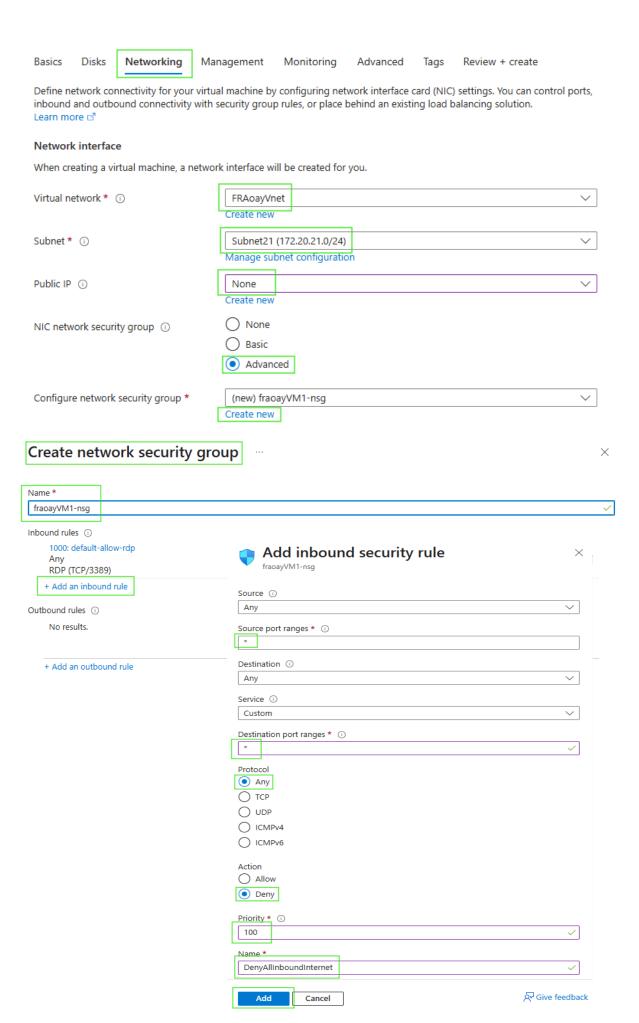


Cancel



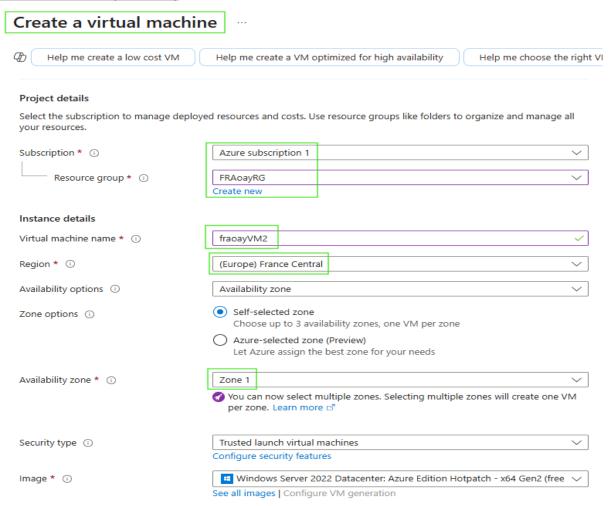


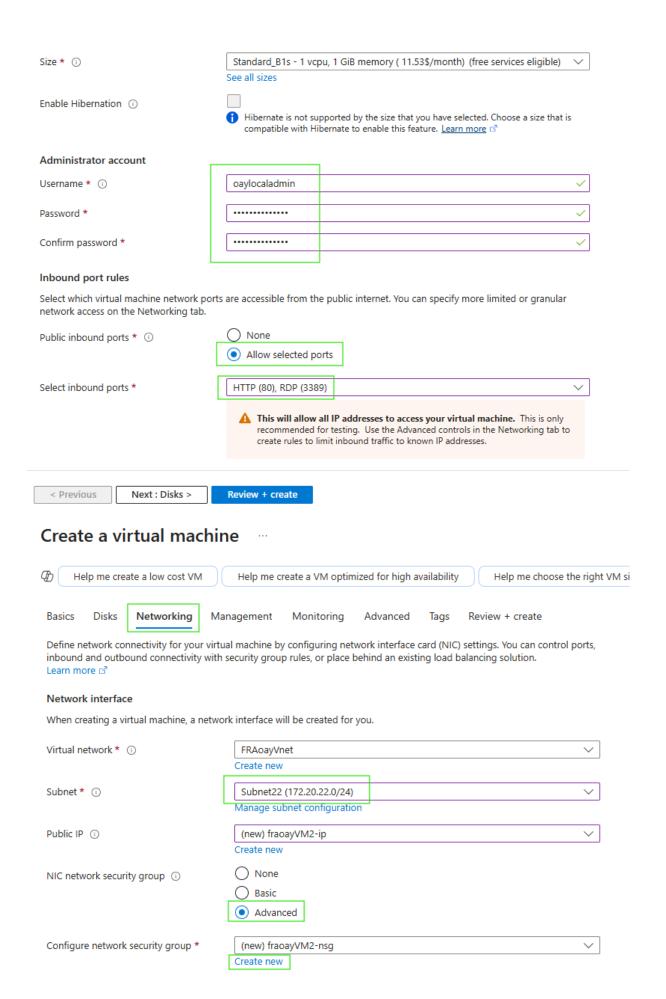




Load balancing You can place this virtual machine in the backend pool of an existing Azure load balancing solution. Learn more 🗗 None Load balancing options ① Azure load balancer Supports all TCP/UDP network traffic, port-forwarding, and outbound flows. Application gateway Web traffic load balancer for HTTP/HTTPS with URL-based routing, SSL termination, session persistence, and web application firewall. Review + create < Previous Next: Management > Compute infrastructure | Virtual machines Virtual machines Get started Overview + Create ∨ ₹ Switch to classic 🕔 Reservations ∨ 🐯 Manage view ∨ 💍 Refresh 🛂 Export to CSV 🐉 Open query | ... All resources ✓ Infrastructure (i) You are viewing a new version of Browse experience. Click here to access the old experience. Virtual machines Subscription equals **all** Type equals **all** Resource Group equals **all** X Location equals **all** X Filter for any field... Virtual Machine Scale Set (VMSS) Name ↑ Subscription Resource Group Location Status Operating syst... Compute Fleet fraoayVM1 Azure subscript... France Central > Disks + images

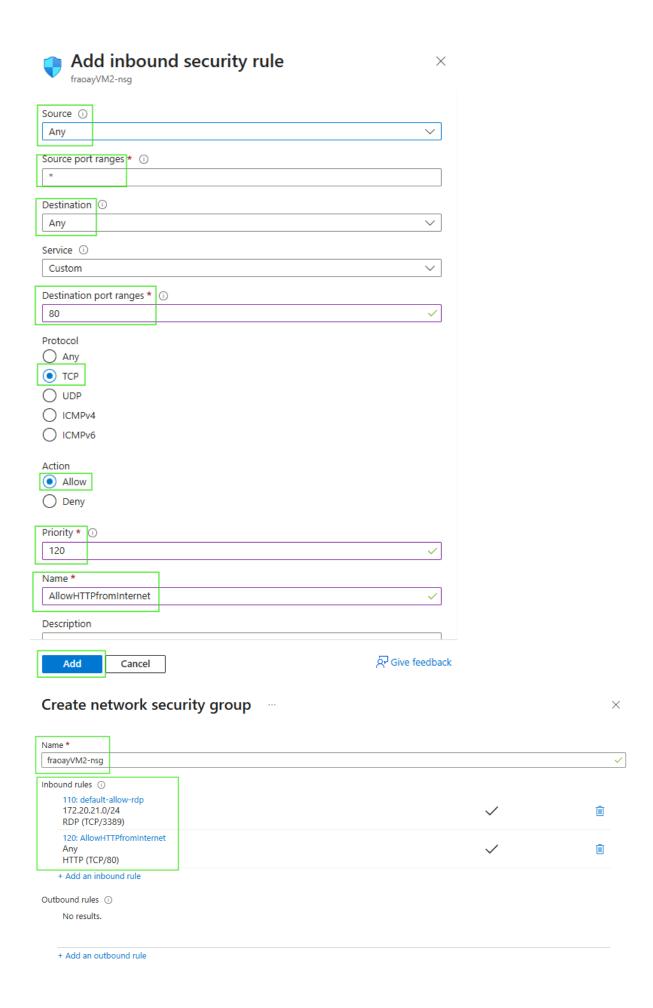
In 'Subnet22', create a VM with SG that will allow RDP from 172.20.21.0/24 and allow HTTP from the Internet (0.0.0.0/0):





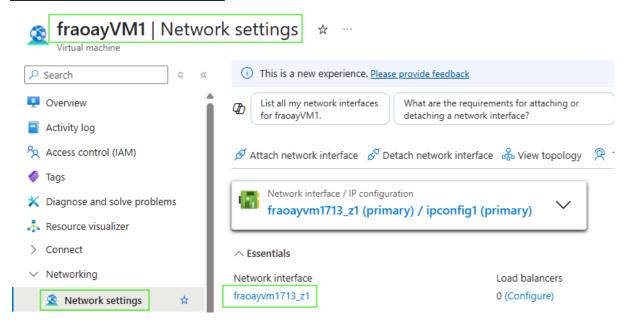
Create network security group

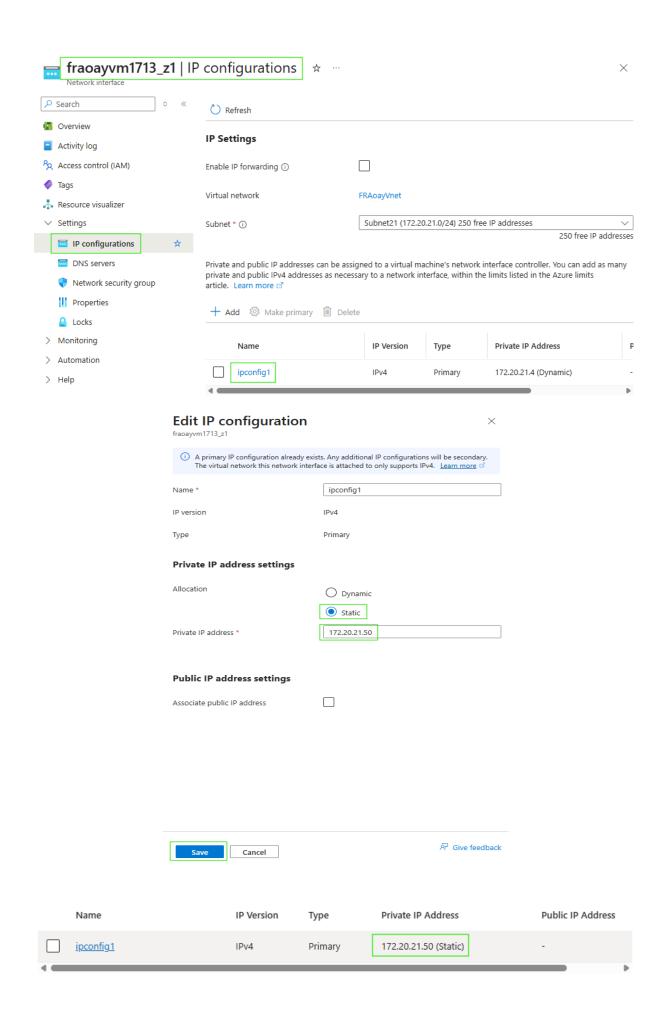
fraoayVM2-nsg	
Inbound rules ①	
1000: default-allow-rdp	
Any RDP (TCP/3389)	default-allow-rdp
+ Add an inbound rule	fraoay/M2-nsg
Add all inbodila falc	
Outbound rules ①	
No results.	Source ①
	IP Addresses V
+ Add an outbound rule	Source IP addresses/CIDR ranges * ①
	172.20.21.0/24
	Source port ranges * ①
	*
	Destination ①
	Any
	Service ① RDP
	Destination port ranges ①
	3389
	Protocol
	O Any
	() TCP
	○ UDP ○ ICMPv4
	○ ICMPv6
	CIVIFYO
	Action
	Allow
	O Deny
	Priority * ①
	110
	Save Cancel Create network security group
	Name *
	fraoayVM2-nsg
	Inbound rules ①
	110: default-allow-rdp 172.20.21.0/24
	RDP (TCP/3389)
	+ Add an inbound rule
	O throat it is C
	Outbound rules ①
	No results.
	+ Add an outbound rule



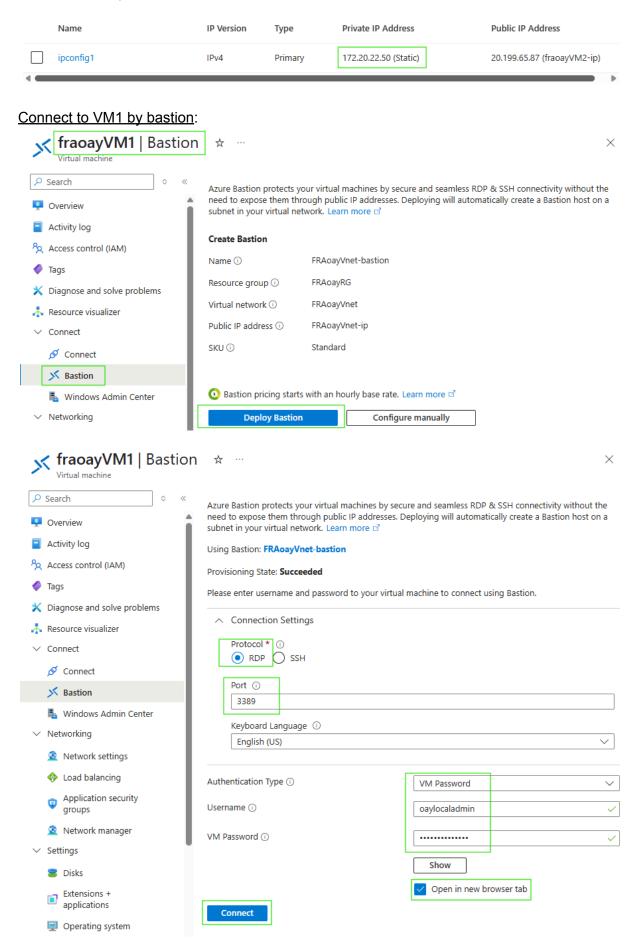
Load balancing You can place this virtual machine in the backend pool of an existing Azure load balancing solution. Learn more 🗗 None Load balancing options ① Azure load balancer Supports all TCP/UDP network traffic, port-forwarding, and outbound flows. Application gateway Web traffic load balancer for HTTP/HTTPS with URL-based routing, SSL termination, session persistence, and web application firewall. < Previous Next: Management > Review + create Compute infrastructure | Virtual machines Search Virtual machines Get started Overview + Create ∨ Z Switch to classic ○ Reservations ∨ ∅ Manage view ∨ ... Group by none ✓ All resources ✓ Infrastructure You are viewing a new version of Browse experience. Click here to access the old experience. Virtual machines ▼ Filter for any field... Virtual Machine Scale Set Subscription equals **all** Type equals **all** Resource Group equals **all** X Location equals **all** X (VMSS) + Add filter Compute Fleet > Disks + images Name ↑ Subscription Resource Group Status > Capacity + placement 🛂 fraoayVM1 Azure subscript... FRAoayRG France Central Running > Related services fraoayVM2 France Central Azure subscript... FRAoayRG Running > Help

Set static IP x.x.x.50 to both VMs:

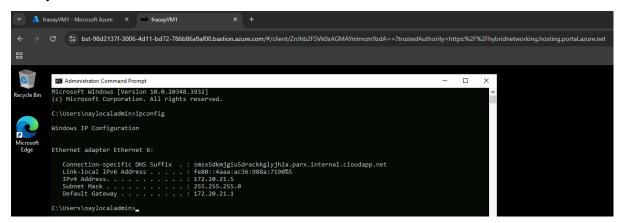




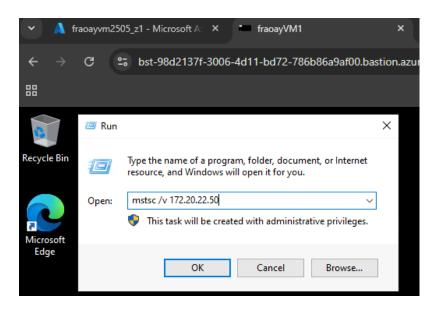
Same for 'fraoayVM2':

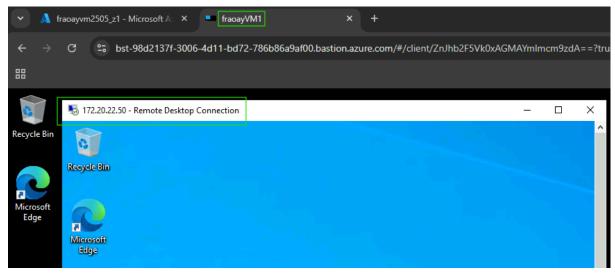


'fraoayVM1' via Bastion:

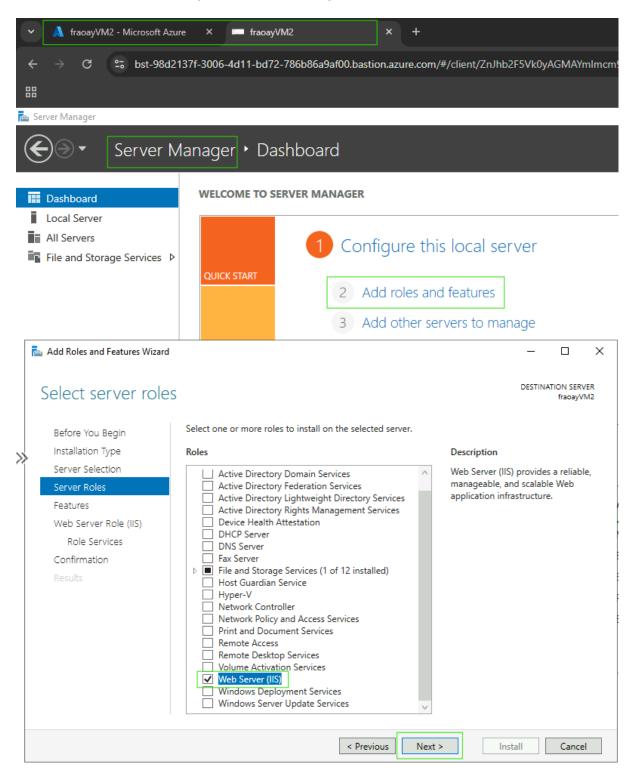


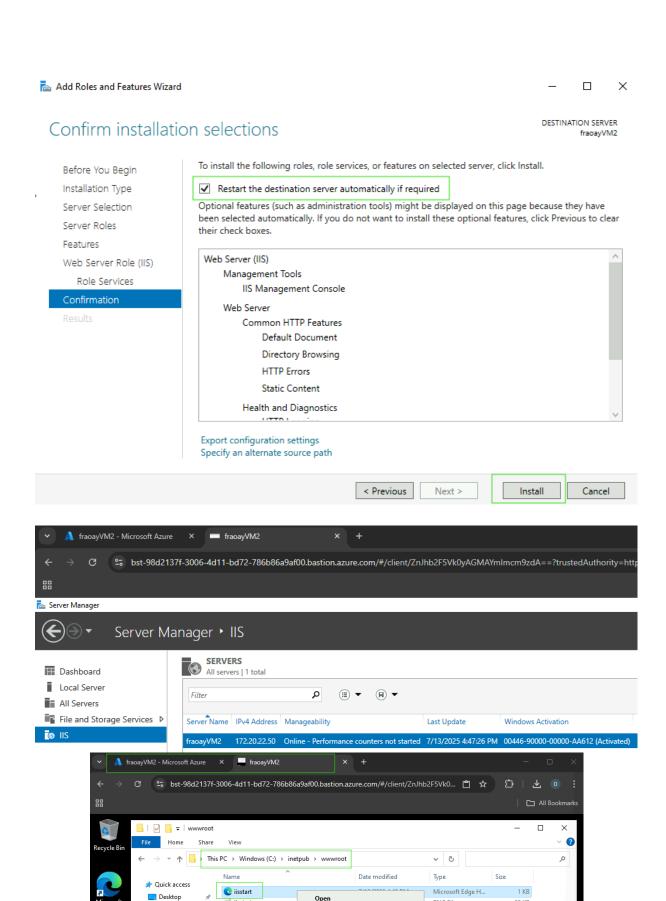
Connect VM2 by RDP from VM1 by RDP to its private IP:





Install VM2 and IIS on change its default webpage:





Open

Open with

Send to

Cut

Сору Create shortcut Delete Rename Properties

Restore previous versions

🖄 Share

PNG File

Internet Explorer

Microsoft Edge Notepad

Search the Microsoft Store

98 KB

iisstart

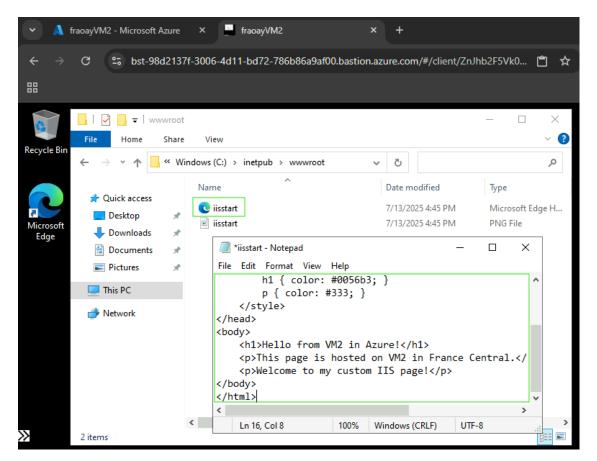
Downloads

Documents

This PC

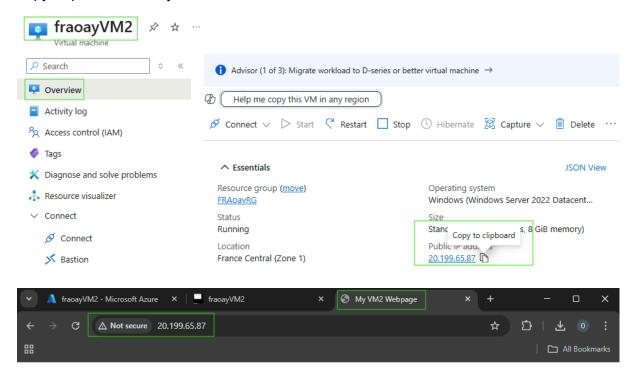
Network

Edit the content inside the html to custom + save:



Connect from your computer to the public website of VM2:

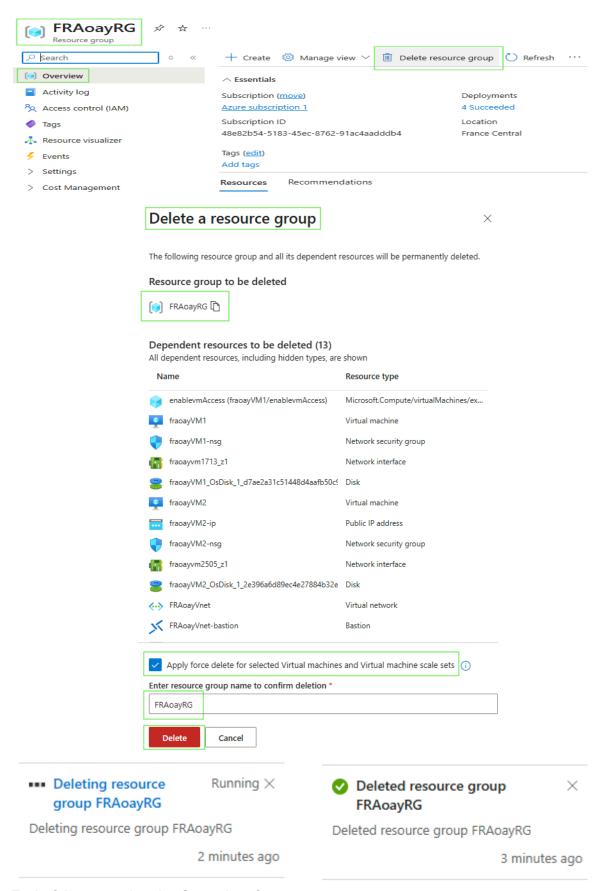
Copy IP public of 'fraoayVM2' to local browser:



Hello from VM2 in Azure!

This page is hosted on VM2 in France Central.

Delete the RG and check that the process deleted all resources:



End of Azure project by Omer Asraf