What Is Azure?

Azure is a cloud computing platform that provides Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), and Software as a Service (SaaS). Azure offers services such as computing, storage, networking, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). You can use Azure as your primary server or as a supplementary service to your on-premises servers. Below you can find some of the benefits of using Azure:

* **Scalability** — Azure enables you to scale up resources to accommodate surges in the demand. You can do this manually or use the auto-scaling feature.
* **Flexibility** — Azure supports almostany operating system, framework, or tool. You can easily add new services to your WordPress site hosted in Azure. For example, you can add a Python project.
* **Reliability** — Microsoft Azure offers a 99.5% availability via its Service Level Agreement (SLA).
* **Global** — One of the key advantages of Azure is its global network of servers. There are currently data centers in the Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, and Africa. Azure also lets you host your website in the region you are serving.
* **Cost-effective** — it has a pay-as-you-go pricing, ensuring you only pay for the services you use.

What Is WordPress?

WordPress is an open-source Content Management System (CMS). A content management system is a software tool to organize and manage content. Its license enables users to use and modify the WP software for free.

Originally, WP was a website for creating blogs. Today you can create any type of website in this CMS. For instance, it is the most popular way to create an [eCommerce store](https://kinsta.com/wordpress-market-share/). Individuals, as well as large organizations and governments, use WordPress to quickly build their websites.

You can build a website in WordPress easily by using the templates and themes the platform provides. You can customize and choose the color palette and the fonts to your liking. The interface is easy to use with drag-and-drop capabilities.

**Benefits of WordPress**

Here are some of the benefits of using WordPress for your website:

* **Free** — The WordPress license is GPL 2. It is free to use and modify. However, you will have to pay for hosting.
* **Extensible** — WordPress has a large library of themes and plugins that help you customize your website. The themes change the layout and appearance of your website. A plugin is a software add-on that provides new functionality for your website. There are over 50,000 plugins to choose from and extend your website’s functionality.

Hosting Your Wordpress site on Azure

Choosing Azure to host your WordPress site provides several benefits:

* **Easy deployment** — you can deploy your website on Azure by searching for WordPress in the marketplace. This method enables you to install WordPress in five minutes.
* **Automated backups** — one of the main advantages of Azure are [automated backups](https://cloud.netapp.com/blog/5-considerations-before-you-backup-on-azure). You can control the backup’s scheduling and plan the backup lifecycle.
* **Available metrics** — you can install different metrics from Azure services. For example, the number of visitors by region or time of the day. You can set up alerts regarding the performance of your website.

How to Host a Wordpress Site in Azure

Hosting a WordPress website on Azure is fairly easy and lets you benefit from advantages such as auto-scaling and load balancing. There are several best practices for optimally running WordPress on Azure:

* **Use a high-performance database** — a MySQL database with a persistent connection is an effective choice.
* **Configure Azure Storage** — use Azure Storage to save your WordPress media library content. Hosting content on Azure will reduce latency when files need to be transferred and ensure availability.
* **Include optimizations** — take advantage of features such as auto-scale, staged publishing and WebJobs. WebJobs enable you to process CRON jobs for WordPress.

If you want to create a WordPress instance on an existing Azure account you can follow the next simple steps to do it.

**Step 1: Creating a WordPress Resource**

1. **Log in** to your Azure account
2. **Click on**“Create a resource”
3. **Search** for WordPress
4. **Select** the configuration that meets your requirements

You will have to add information about your app and other details including:

* **App name** — the name you want to use for the app.
* **Resource group** — which resource group you want to designate for the WordPress instance.
* **App service plan** — which service plan you want to use for the WordPress instance. Azure offers a free trial plan and several paid plans from Basic to Premium.
* **Database** — you need to create a MySQL server in Azure to run WordPress with the Azure Database for MySQL service. This enables you to set the server admin credentials and configure the pricing tier.

Your WordPress instance should be ready after a few minutes. You can check if the installation is correct by typing the URL \*https://yourapp.azurewebsites.net\*. The WordPress installation screen should appear.

**Step 2: Complete the installation**

Once you create your database user, you can skip to the standard WordPress installation. There are a number of factors you should take into account when you start developing the site.

**The user should only have access to the newly created database**

This lets you control the permissions required for the database. In case configuration credentials are compromised, the risks are limited to the particular compromised database instead of the entire MySQL server.

**Only allow access for whitelisted IP addresses**

The default installation allows all IP addresses to connect. You should change this to ensure that only authorized IPs can access the server.