

# Introduction

1 minute

Increased use of technology by individuals, companies, and other organizations, together with the proliferation of smart devices and Internet access has led to a massive growth in the volume of data that can be generated, captured, and analyzed. Much of this data can be processed in real-time (or at least, *near* real-time) as a perpetual *stream* of data, enabling the creation of systems that reveal instant insights and trends, or take immediate responsive action to events as they occur.

## Learning objectives

In this module, you'll learn about the basics of stream processing and real-time analytics, and the services in Microsoft Azure that you can use to implement real-time data processing solutions. Specifically, you'll learn how to:

- Compare batch and stream processing
- Describe common elements of streaming data solutions
- Describe features and capabilities of Azure Stream Analytics
- Describe features and capabilities of Spark Structured Streaming on Azure

### Note

This module is designed to present a conceptual overview of real-time processing and describe Azure services that can be used to build real-time analytics solutions. It is not intended to teach implementation details for creating a stream processing solution.

## Next unit: Understand batch and stream processing

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