Configuring and Securing ACR and AKS Report

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MICROSOFT AZURE lab 09

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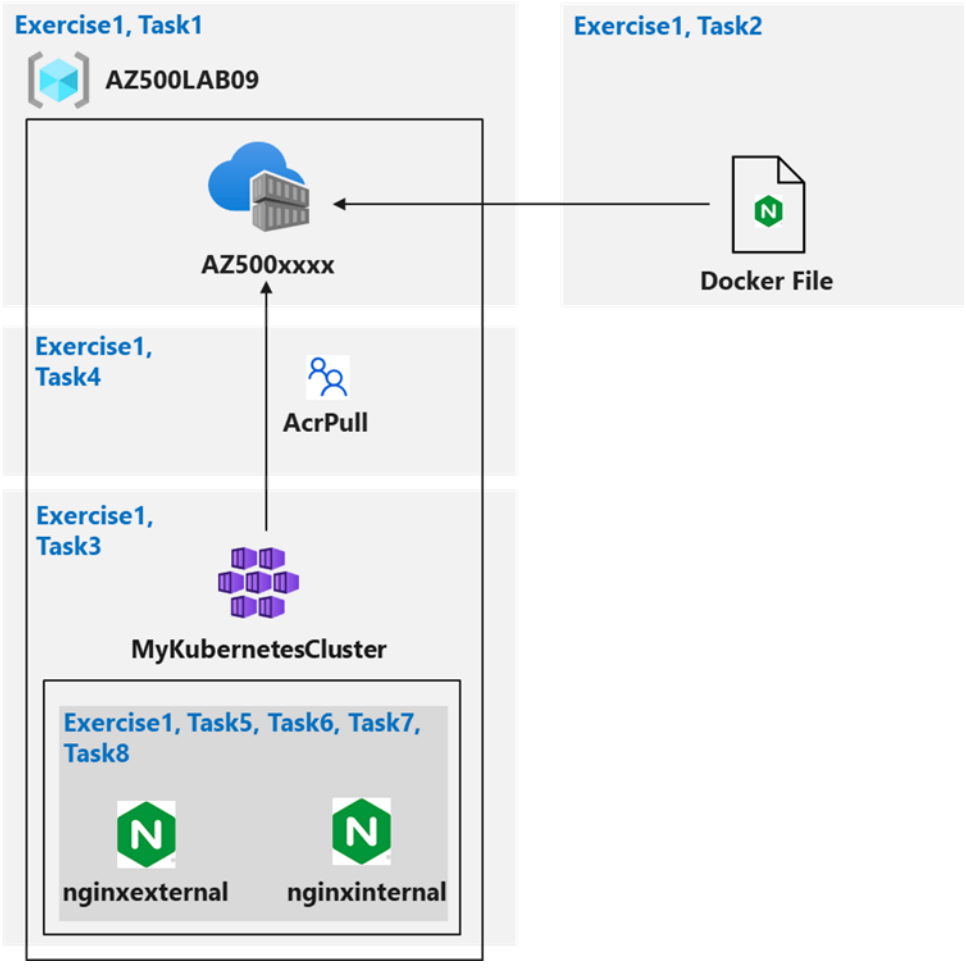
Introduction

This report summarizes the discoveries and knowledge gained from Microsoft Azure Lab 09, which focused on the configuration and security aspects of Azure Container Registry (ACR) and Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS). ACR serves as a trustworthy and secure platform for the storage and management of container images, while AKS provides a scalable and resilient environment for deploying applications in containers. The report emphasizes the important insights and recommended approaches acquired during the lab, particularly regarding efficient configuration techniques and robust security measures for ACR and AKS. Implementing these practices enables organizations to guarantee the best possible performance and protection for their container-based deployments within the Azure platform.

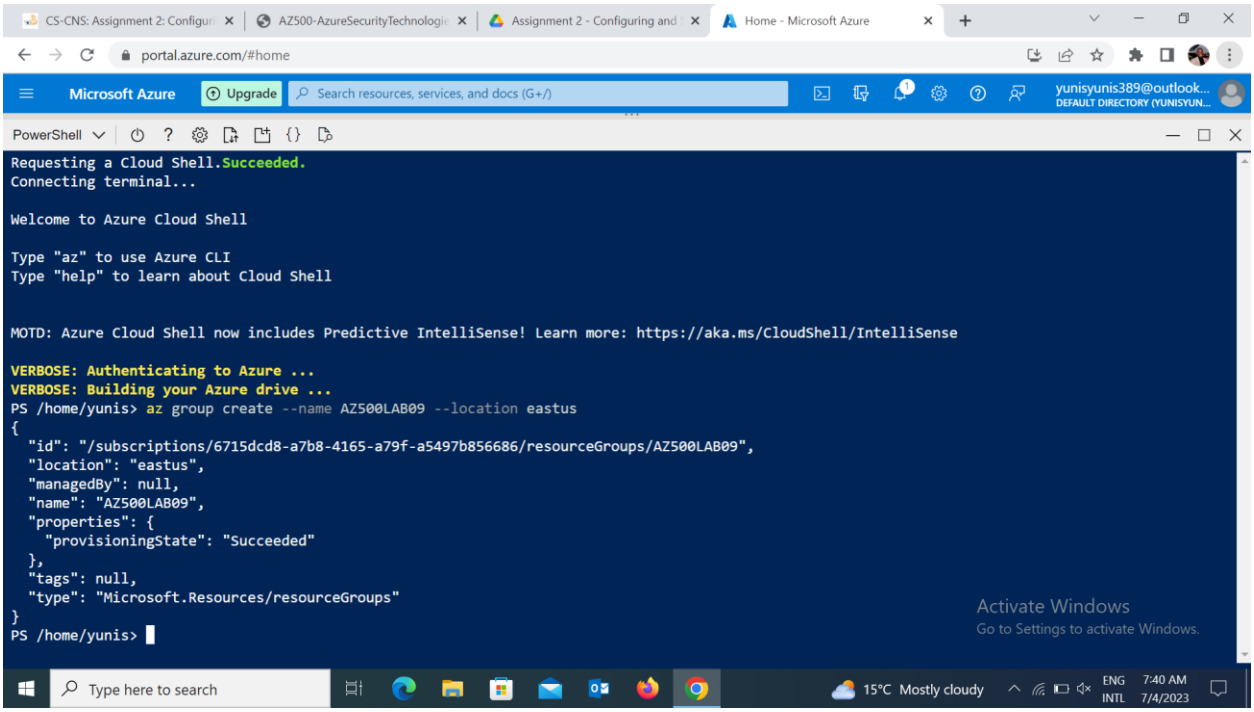
Task 1: Create an Azure Container Registry

Topology



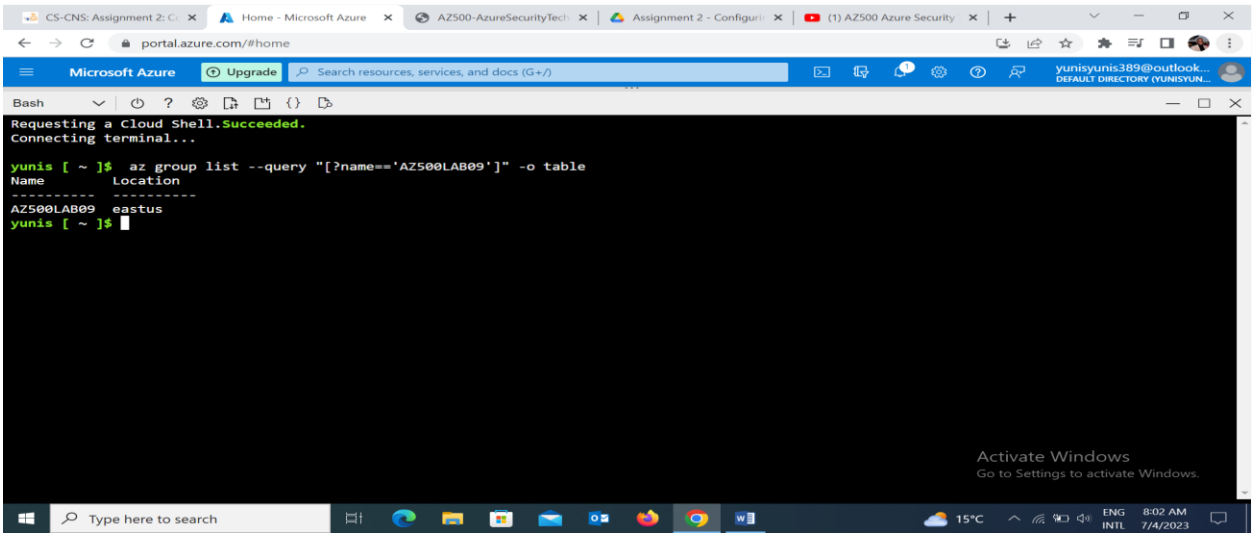
1. Sign-in to the Azure portal **https://portal.azure.com/**.
2. In the Azure portal, open the Cloud Shell by clicking the first icon in the top right of the Azure Portal. If prompted, click **Bash** and **Create storage**.
3. Ensure **Bash** is selected in the drop-down menu in the upper-left corner of the Cloud Shell pane.
4. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to create a new resource group for this lab;

   az group create --name AZ500LAB09 --location eastus



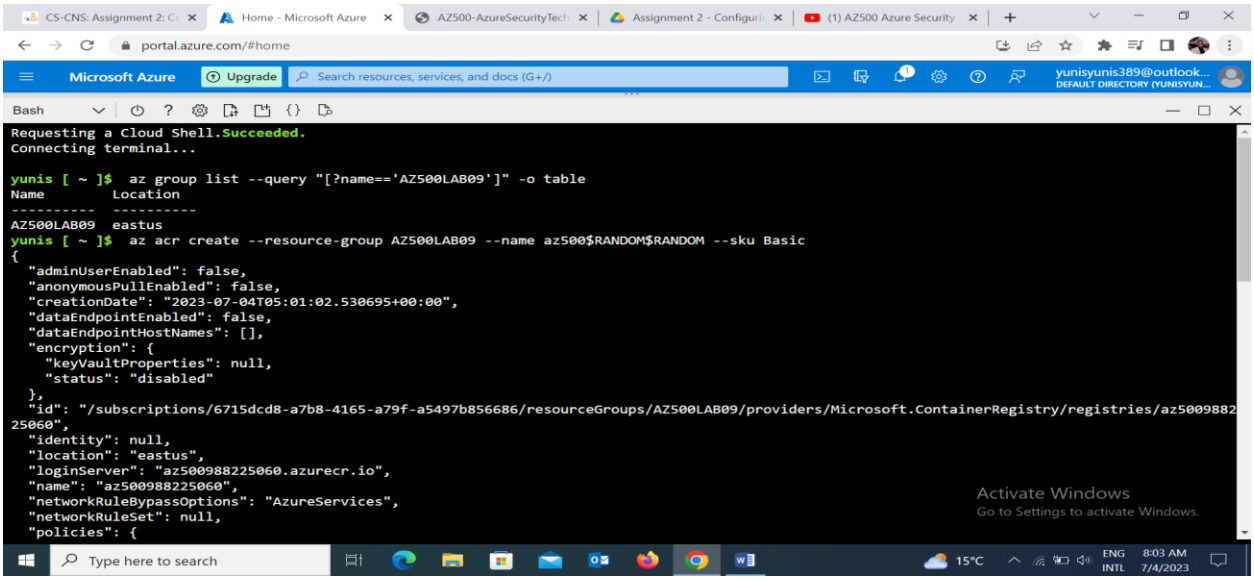
5. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to verify the resource group was created:

   az group list --query "[?name=='AZ500LAB09']" -o table



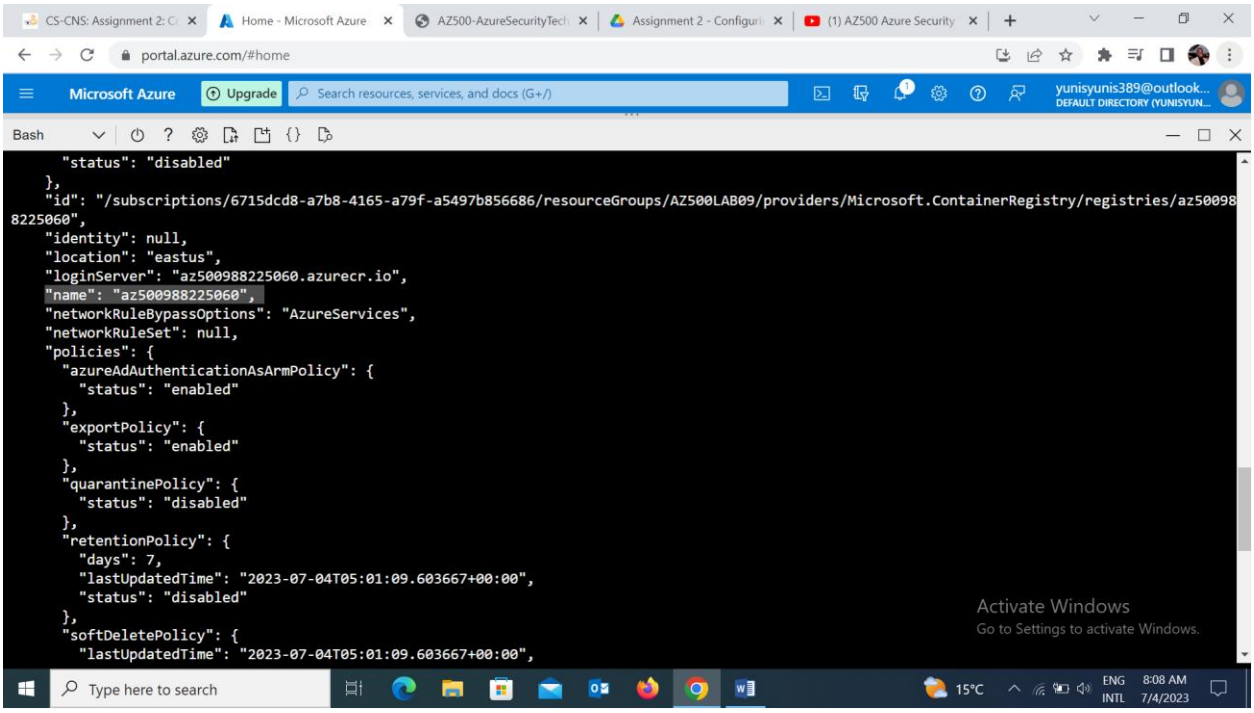
6. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to create a new Azure Container Registry (ACR) instance (The name of the ACR must be globally unique):

   `az acr create --resource-group AZ500LAB09 --name az500$RANDOM$RANDOM --sku Basic`



7. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to confirm that the new ACR was created:

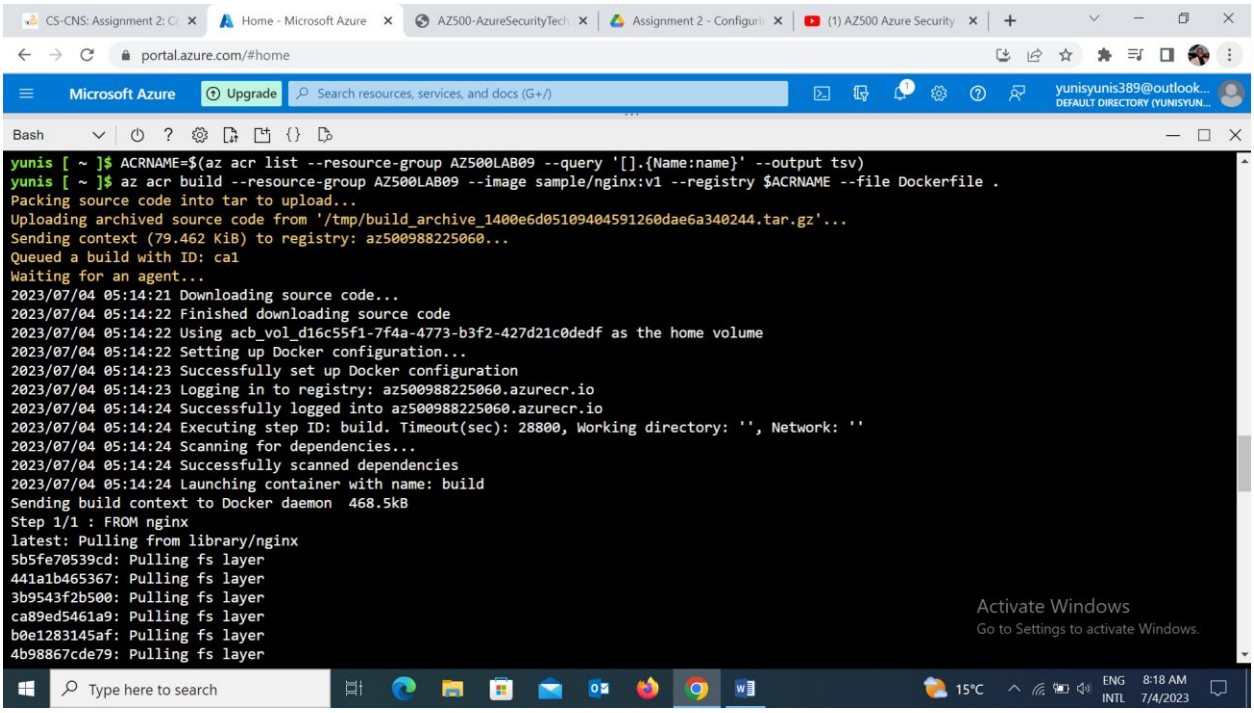
   az acr list --resource-group AZ500LAB09



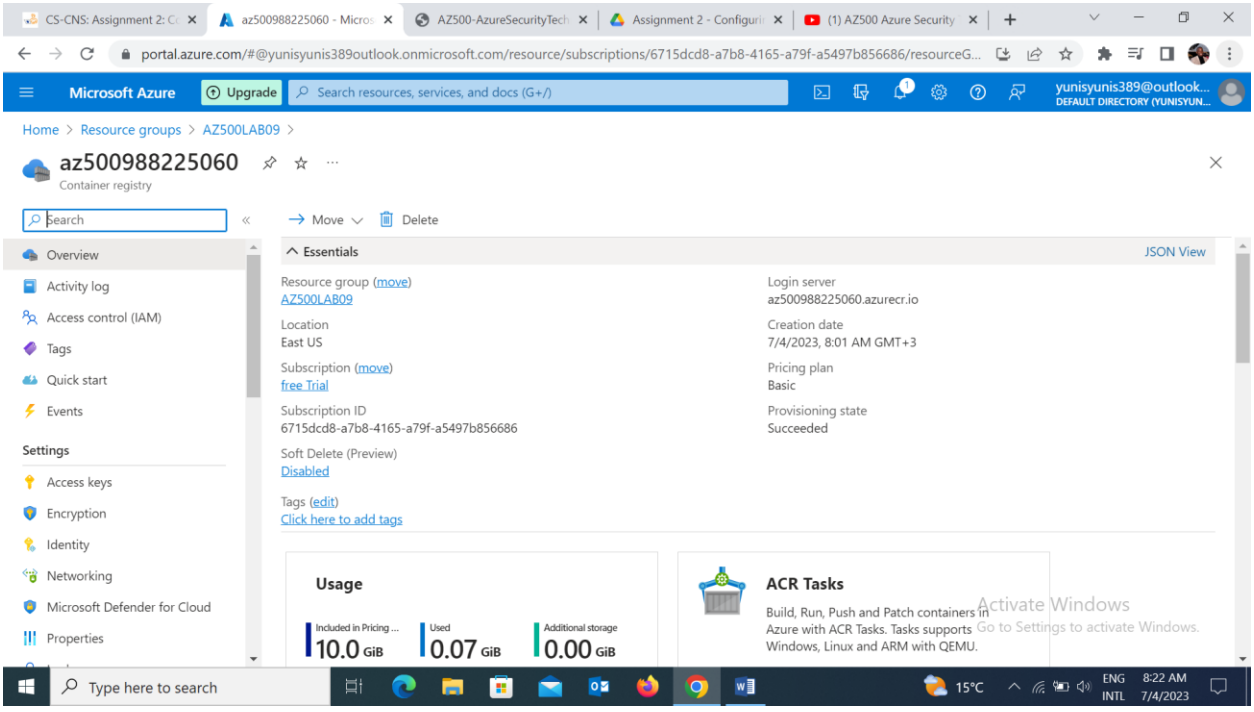
Task 2: Create a Dockerfile, build a container and push it to Azure Container Registry

1. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to create a Dockerfile to create an Nginx-based image:
   `echo FROM nginx > Dockerfile`
2. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to build an image from the Dockerfile and push the image to the new ACR. `ACRNAME=$(az acr list --resource-group AZ500LAB09 --query '[].{Name:name}' --output tsv)`

az acr build --resource-group AZ500LAB09 --image sample/nginx:v1 --registry $ACRNAME --file Dockerfile .

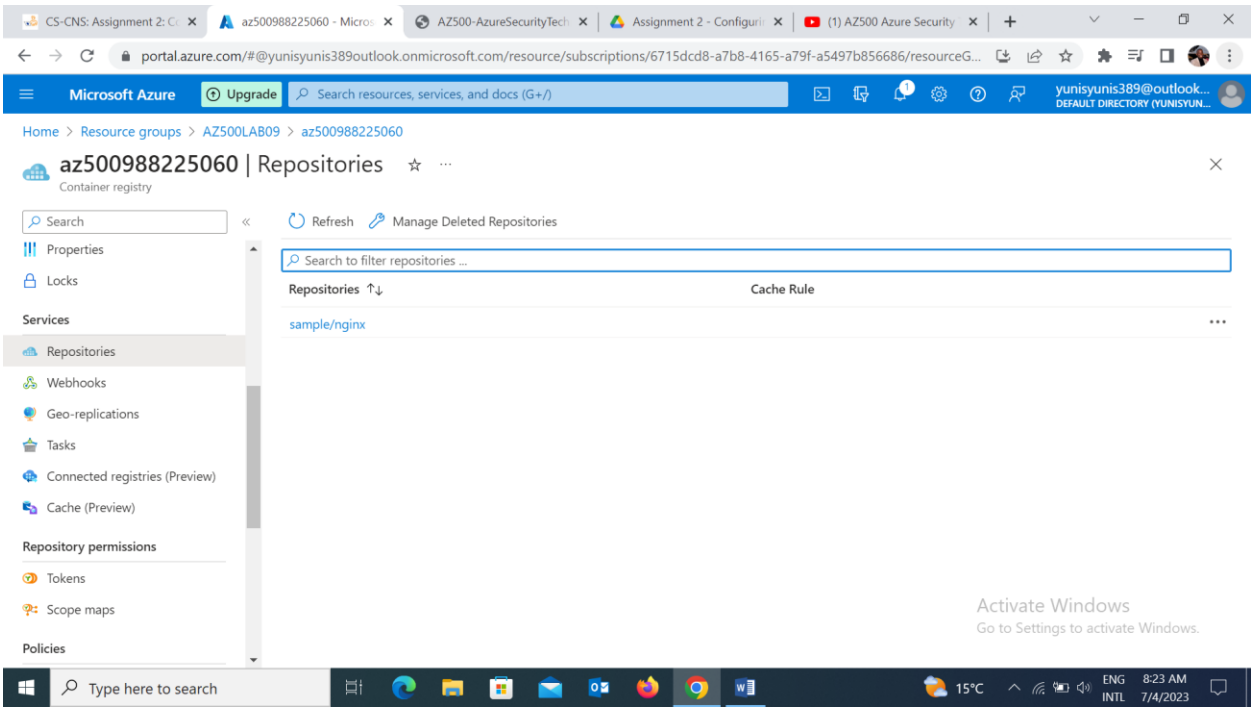


3. Close the Cloud Shell pane.
4. In the Azure portal, navigate to the **AZ500Lab09** resource group and, in the list of resources, click the entry representing the Azure Container Registry instance you provisioned in the previous task.

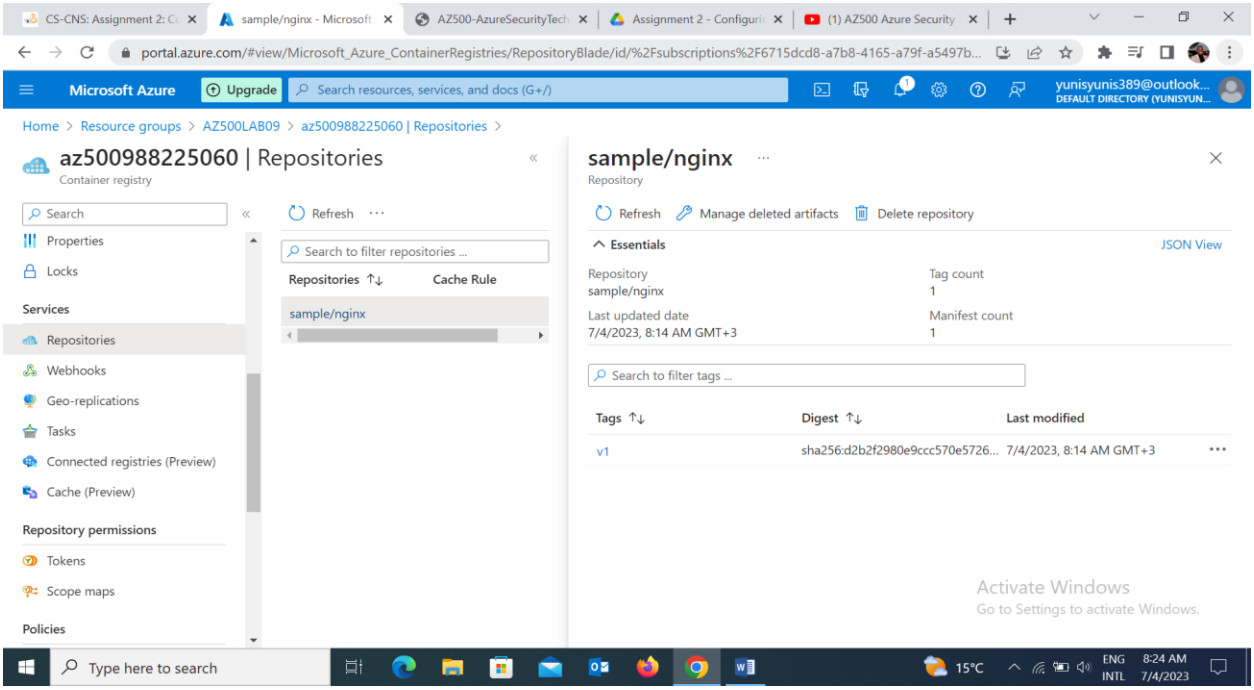


5. On the Container registry blade, in the **Services** section, click **Repositories**.

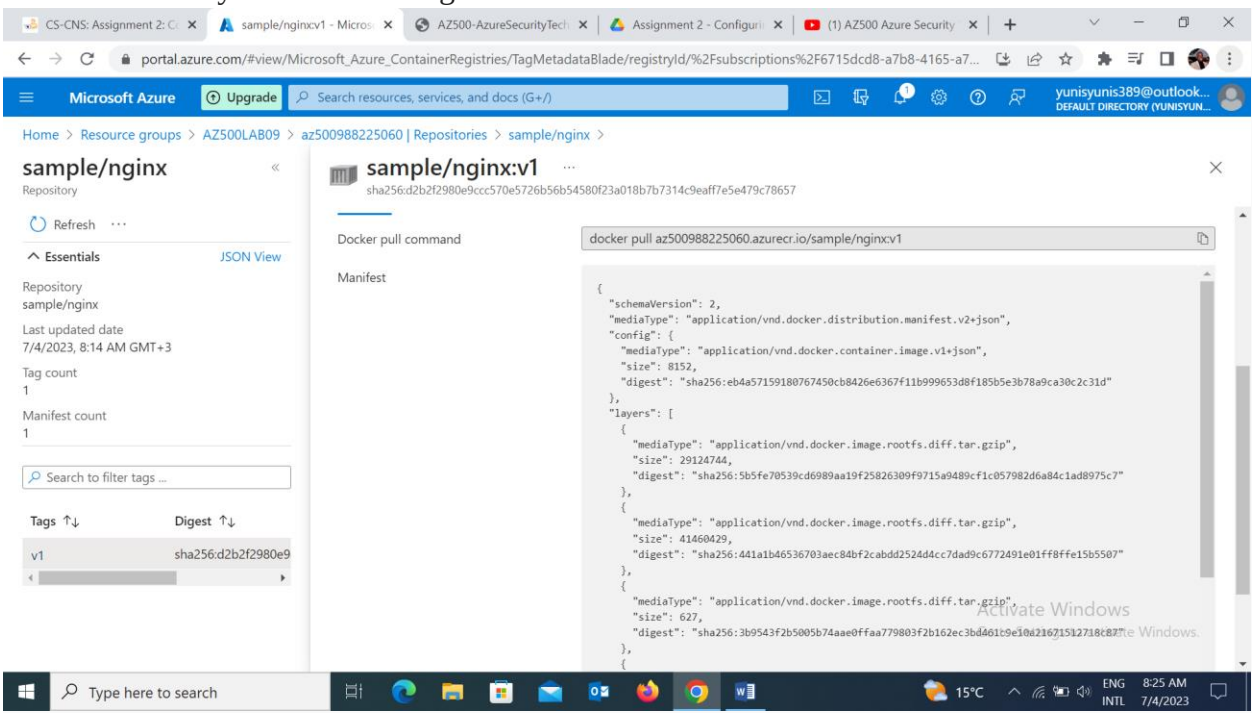
6. Verify that the list of repositories includes the new container image named **sample/nginx**.



7. Click the **sample/nginx** entry and verify presence of the **v1** tag that identifies the image version.



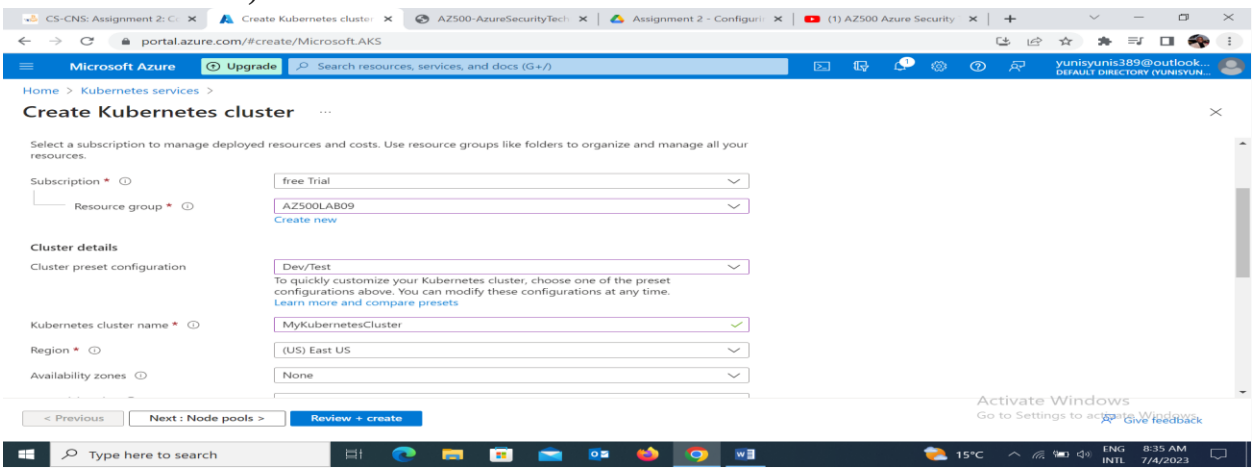
8. Click the **v1** entry to view the image manifest.



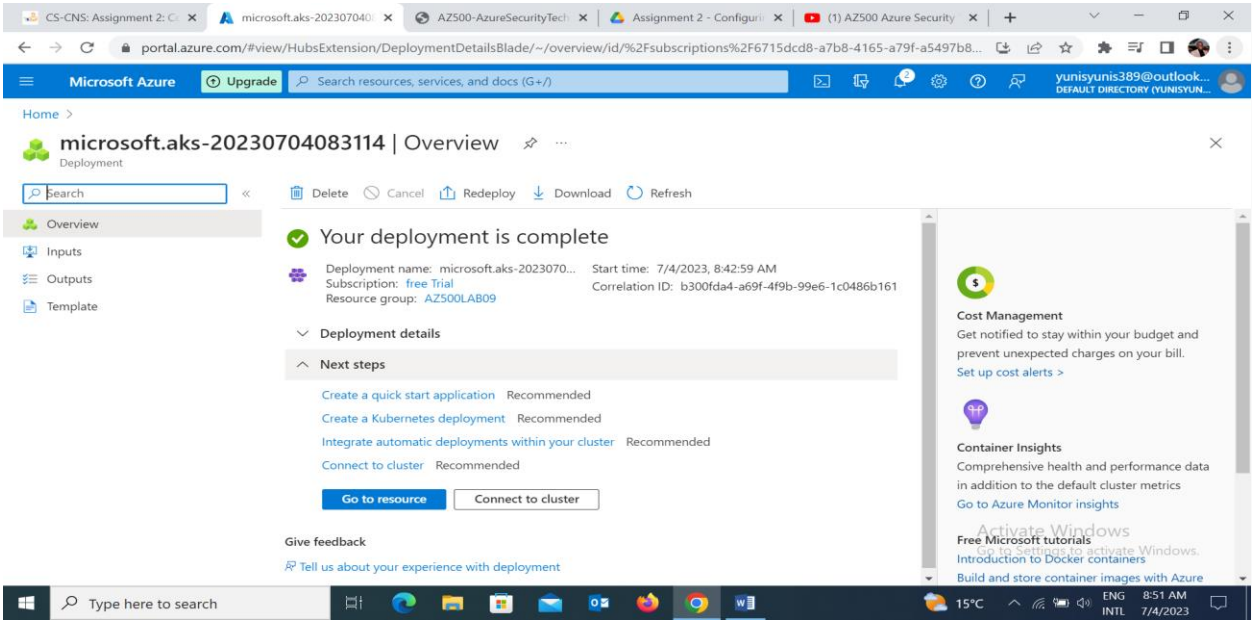
Task 3: Create an Azure Kubernetes Service cluster

In this task, you will create an Azure Kubernetes service and review the deployed resources.

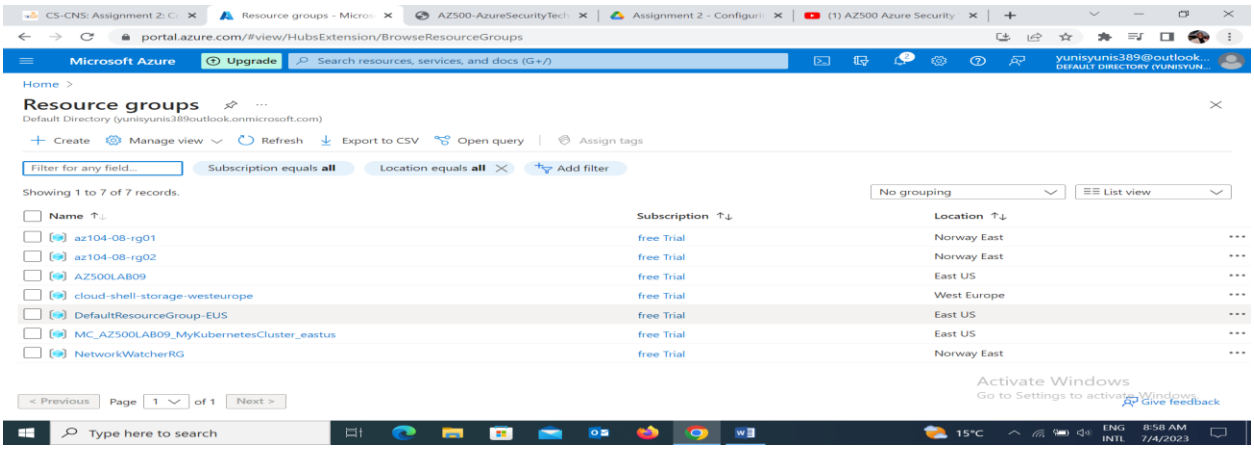
1. In the Azure portal, in the **Search resources, services, and docs** text box at the top of the Azure portal page, type **Kubernetes services** and press the **Enter** key.
2. On the **Kubernetes services** blade, click **+ Create** and, in the drop-down menu, click **+ Create a Kubernetes cluster**
3. On the **Basics** tab of the **Create Kubernetes cluster** blade, select **Cluster preset configuration**, select **Dev/Test ($)**. Now specify the following settings (leave others with their default values):



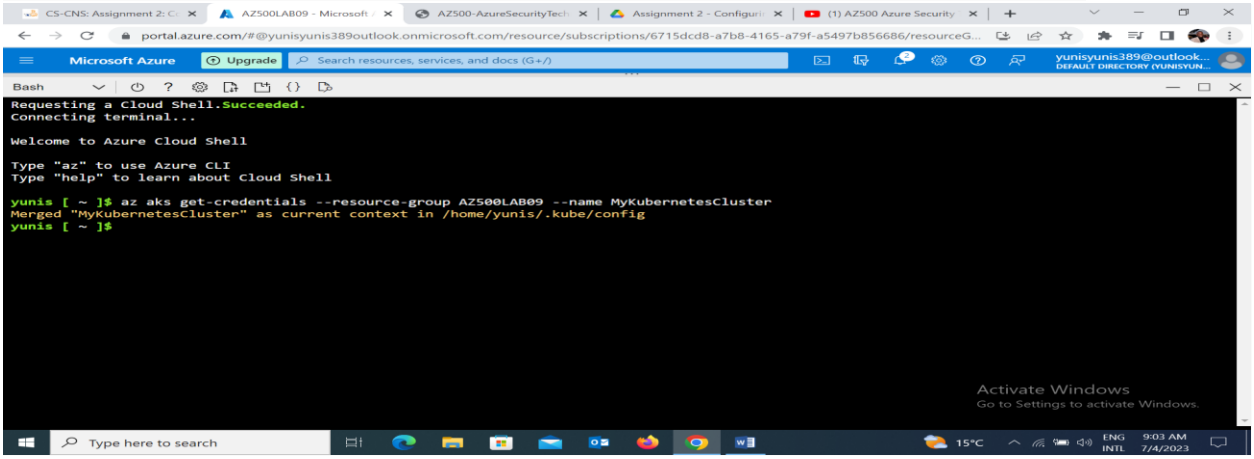
4. Click **Next: Node Pools >** and, on the **Node Pools** tab of the **Create Kubernetes cluster** blade, specify the following settings (leave others with their default values):
5. Click **Next: Access >**, on the **Access** tab of the **Create Kubernetes cluster** blade, accept the defaults, and click **Next: Networking >**.
6. On the **Networking** tab of the **Create Kubernetes cluster** blade, specify the following settings (leave others with their default values):
7. Click **Next: Integrations >** and, on the **Integrations** tab of the **Create Kubernetes cluster** blade, set **Container monitoring** to **Disabled**.
8. Click **Review + Create** and then click **Create**.



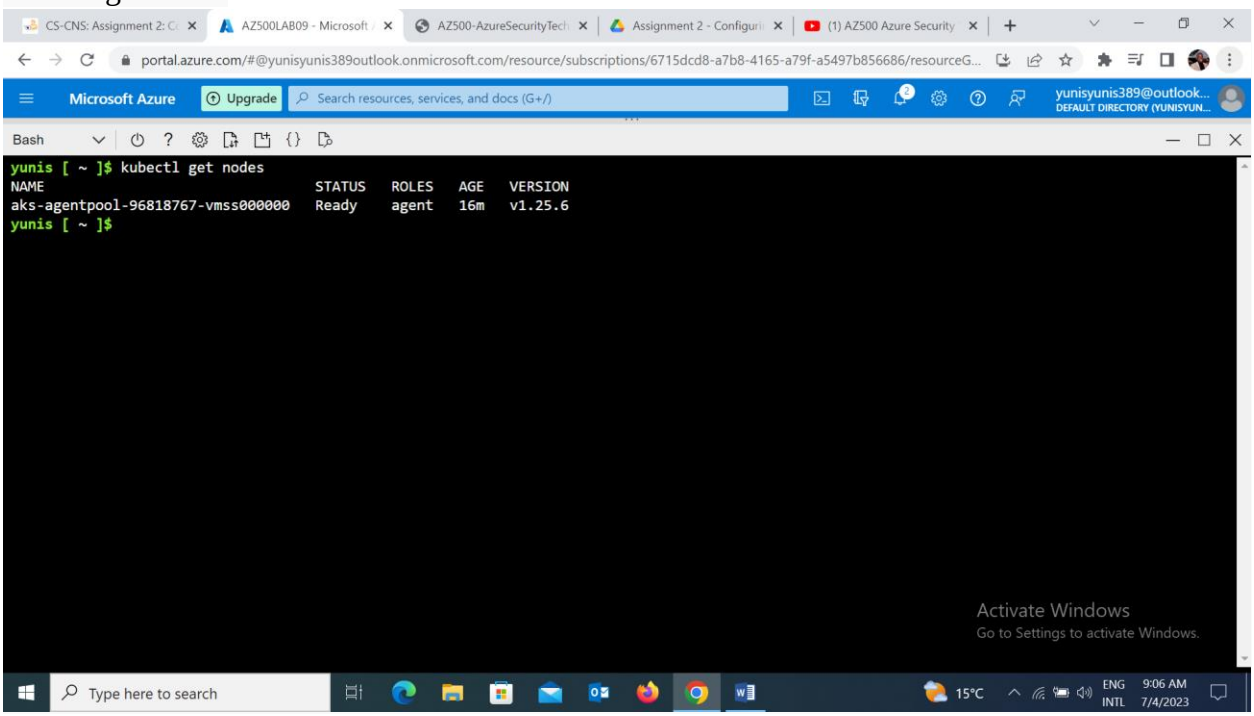
9. Once the deployment completes, in the Azure portal, in the **Search resources, services, and docs** text box at the top of the Azure portal page, type **Resource groups** and press the **Enter** key.
10. On the **Resource groups** blade, in the listing of resource groups, note a new resource group named **MC_AZ500LAB09_MyKubernetesCluster_eastus** that holds components of the AKS Nodes. Review resources in this resource group.



11. Navigate back to the **Resource groups** blade and click the **AZ500LAB09** entry.
12. In the Azure portal, open a Bash session in the Cloud Shell.
13. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to connect to the Kubernetes cluster:
    az aks get-credentials --resource-group AZ500LAB09 --name MyKubernetesCluster



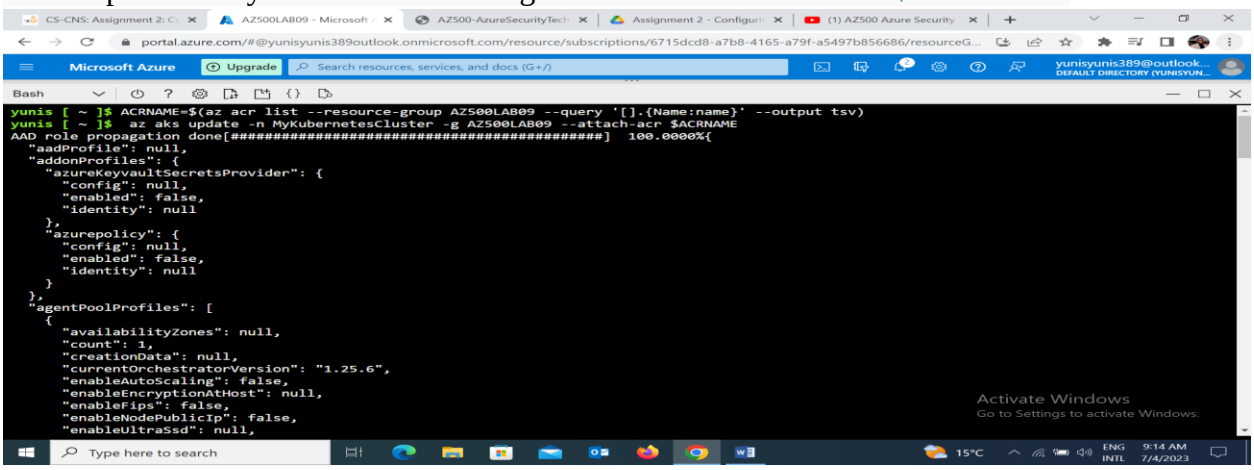
14. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to list nodes of the Kubenetes cluster:
    kubectl get nodes



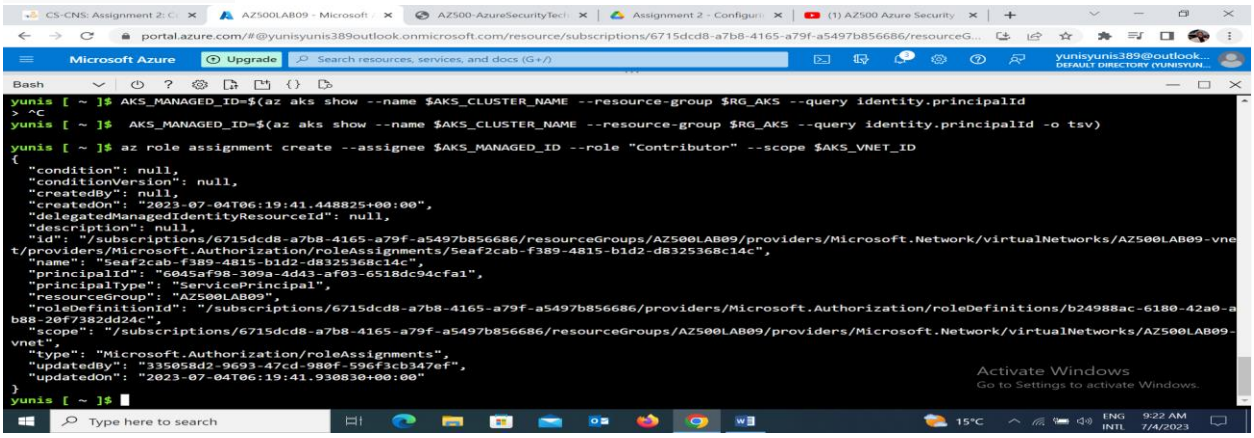
Task 4: Grant the AKS cluster permissions to access the ACR and manage its virtual network

In this task, you will grant the AKS cluster permission to access the ACR and manage its virtual network.

1. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to configure the AKS cluster to use the Azure Container Registry instance you created earlier in this lab.
   ACRNAME=$(az acr list --resource-group AZ500LAB09 --query '[].{Name:name}' --output tsv)
   az aks update -n MyKubernetesCluster -g AZ500LAB09 --attach-acr $ACRNAME



2. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to grant the AKS cluster the Contributor role to its virtual network.
   RG_AKS=AZ500LAB09
   AKS_VNET_NAME=AZ500LAB09-vnet
   AKS_CLUSTER_NAME=MyKubernetesCluster
   AKS_VNET_ID=$(az network vnet show --name $AKS_VNET_NAME --resource-group $RG_AKS --query id -o tsv)
   AKS_MANAGED_ID=$(az aks show --name $AKS_CLUSTER_NAME --resource-group $RG_AKS --query identity.principalId -o tsv)
   az role assignment create --assignee $AKS_MANAGED_ID --role "Contributor" --scope $AKS_VNET_ID

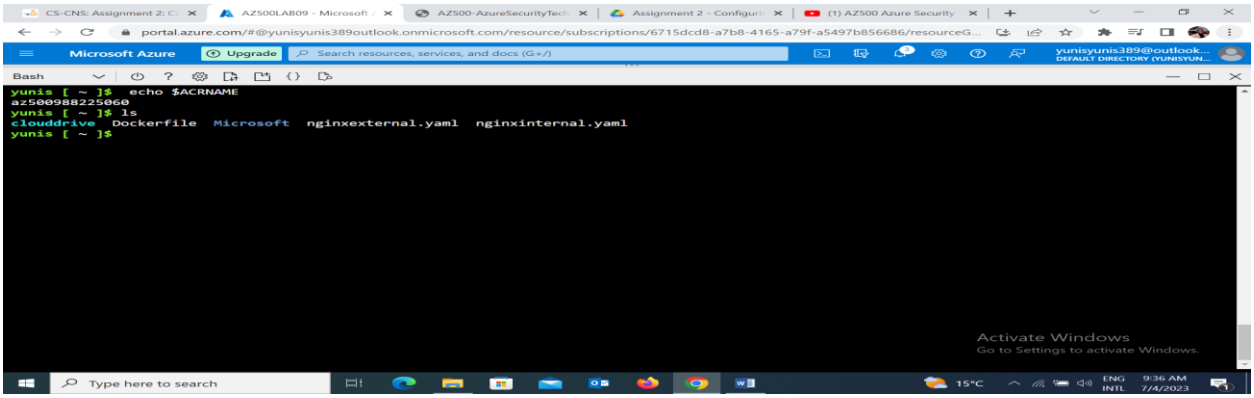


Task 5: Deploy an external service to AKS

In this task, you will download the Manifest files, edit the YAML file, and apply your changes to the cluster.

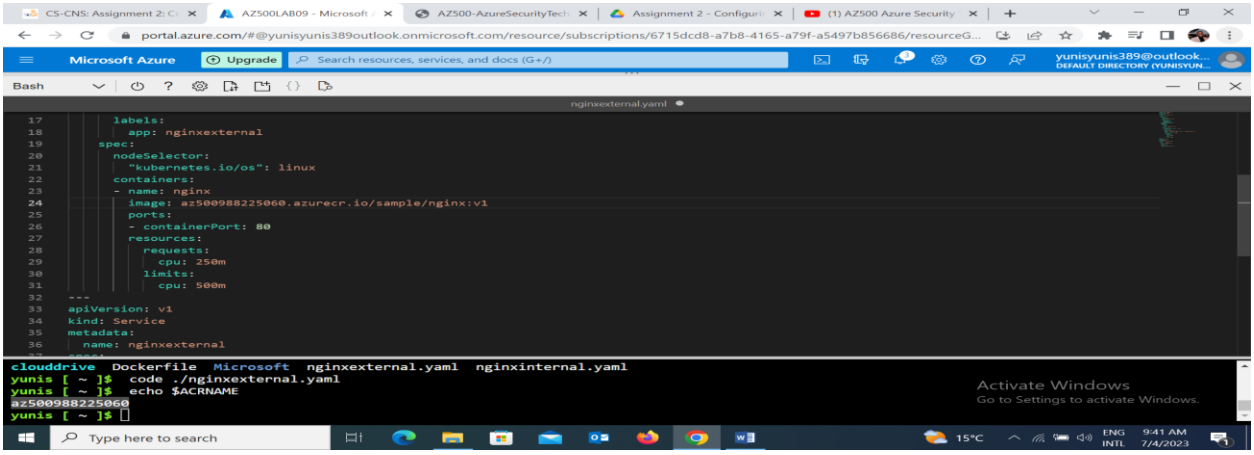
1. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, click the **Upload/Download files** icon, in the drop-down menu, click **Upload**, in the **Open** dialog box, naviate to the location where you downloaded the lab files, select **\Allfiles\Labs\09\nginxexternal.yaml** click **Open**. Next, select **\Allfiles\Labs\09\nginxinternal.yaml**, and click **Open**.
2. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to identify the name of the Azure Container Registry instance:

   ```
   echo $ACRNAME
   ```



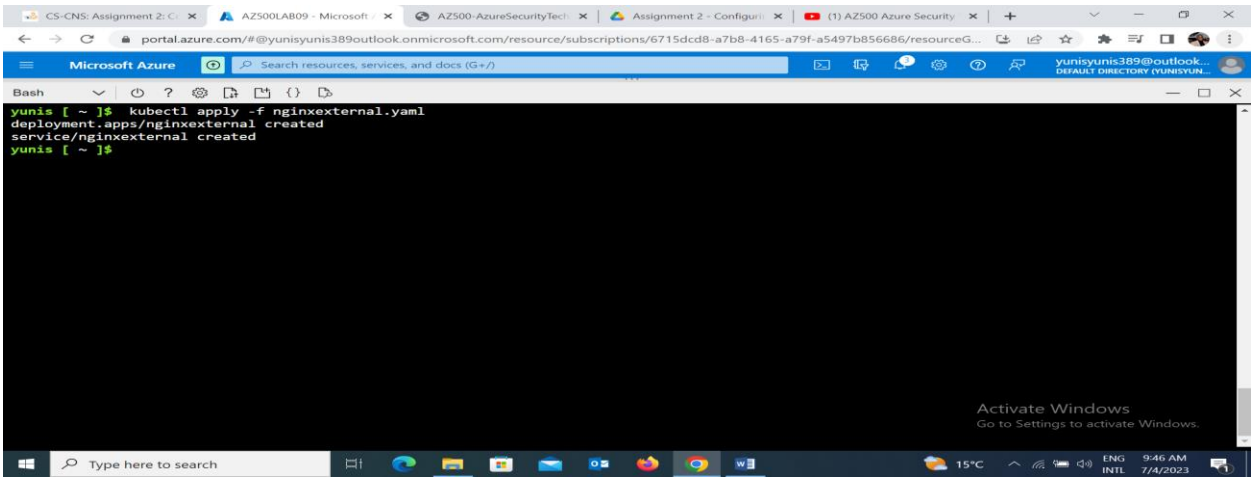
3. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to open the nginxexternal.yaml file, so you can edit its content.
   ```
   code ./nginxexternal.yaml
   ```
4. In the editor pane, scroll down to **line 24** and replace the <ACRUniquename> placeholder with the ACR name. **az500988225060**

5. In the editor pane, in the upper right corner, click the **ellipses** icon, click **Save** and then click **Close editor**.



6. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to apply the change to the cluster:

   `kubectl apply -f nginxexternal.yaml`



7. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, review the output of the command you run in the previous task to verify that the deployment and the corresponding service have been created.

   `deployment.apps/nginxexternal created`

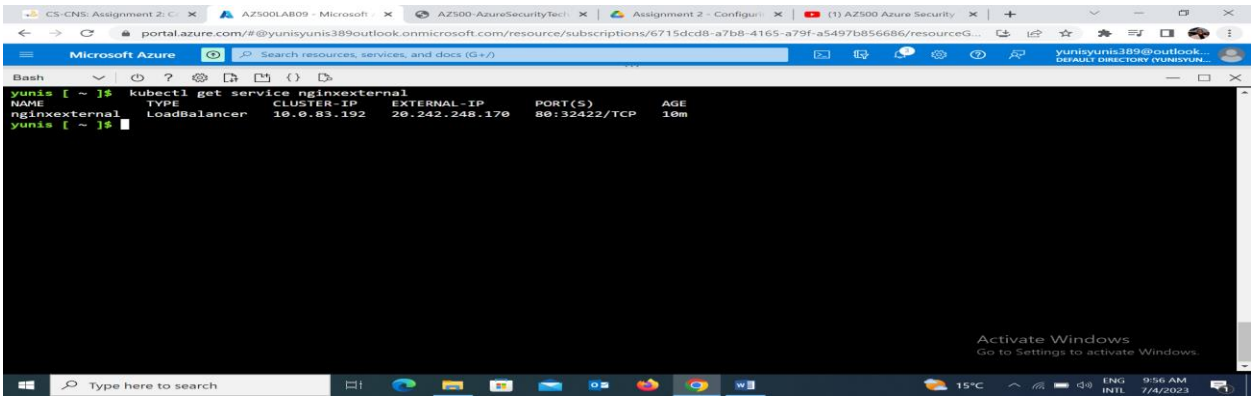
   `service/nginxexternal created`

Task 6: Verify the you can access an external AKS-hosted service

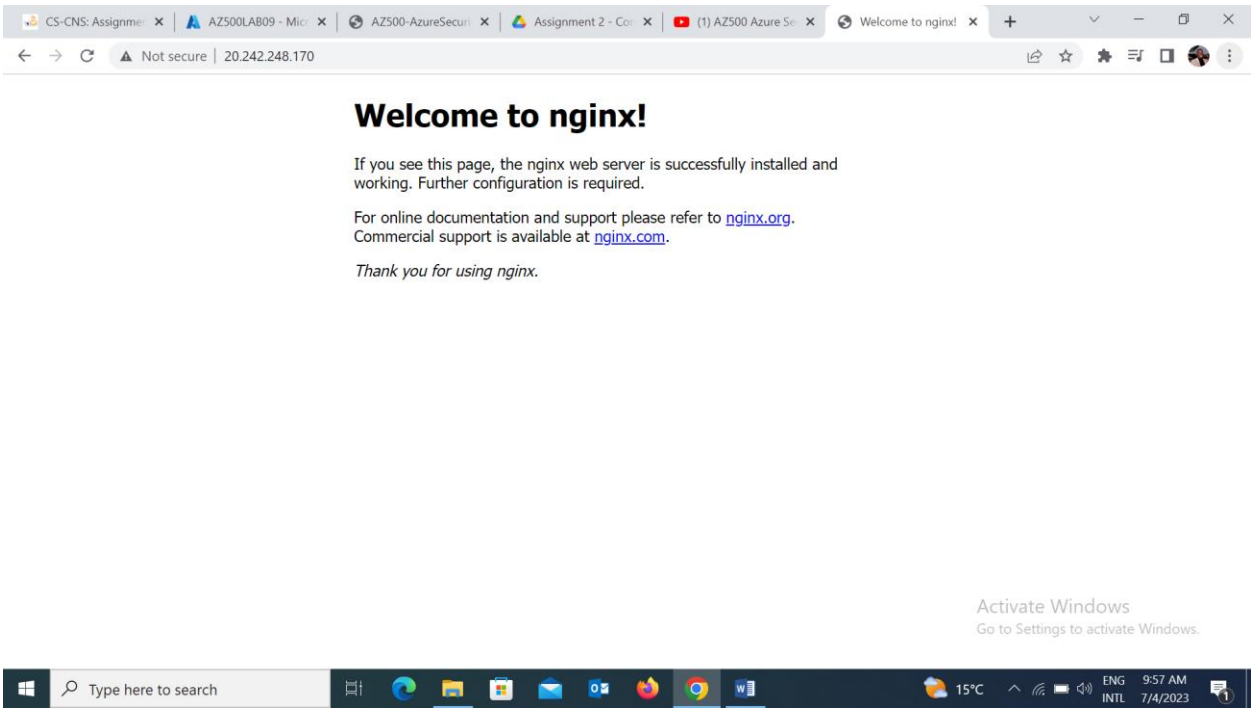
In this task, verify the container can be accessed externally using the public IP address.

1. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to retrieve information about the nginxexternal service including name, type, IP addresses, and ports.

   `kubectl get service nginxexternal`



2. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, review the output and record the value in the External-IP column. You will need it in the next step.
3. Open a new browser tab and browse to the IP address you identified in the previous step.
4. Ensure the **Welcome to nginx!** page displays.



Task 7: Deploy an internal service to AKS

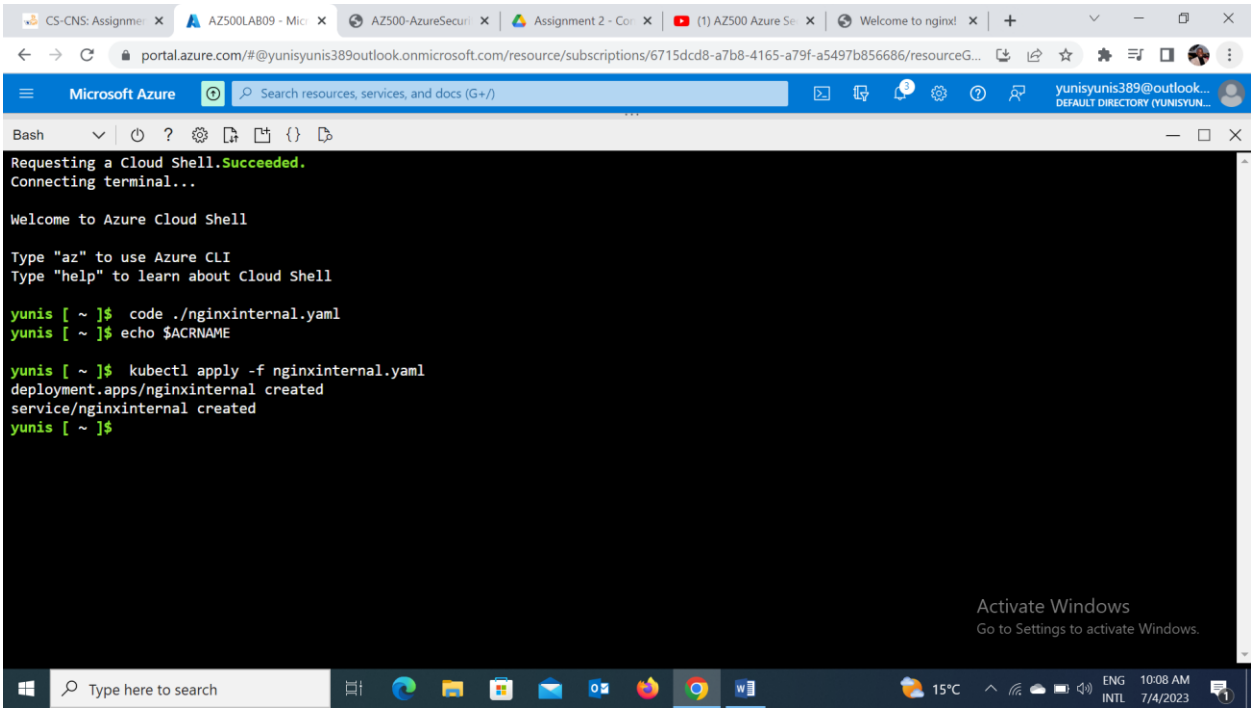
In this task, you will deploy the internal facing service on the AKS.

1. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to open the nginxintenal. yaml file, so you can edit its content.

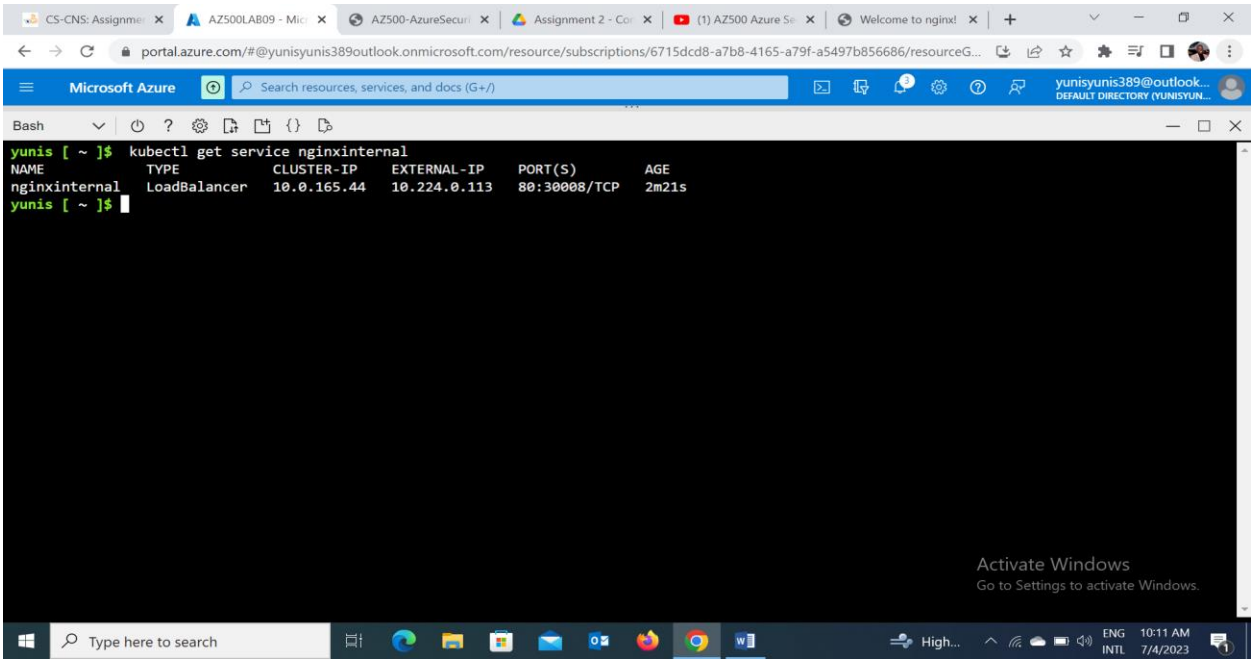
   `code ./nginxinternal.yaml`

2. In the editor pane, scroll down to the line containing the reference to the container image and replace the **<ACRUniquename>** placeholder with the ACR name.
3. In the editor pane, in the upper right corner, click the **ellipses** icon, click **Save** and then click **Close editor**.
4. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to apply the change to the cluster:

   kubectl apply -f nginxinternal.yaml



5. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, review the output to verify your deployment and the service have been created:
6. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to retrieve information about the nginxinternal service including name, type, IP addresses, and ports.
7. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, review the output. The External-IP is, in this case, a private IP address. If it is in a **Pending** state, then run the previous command again.



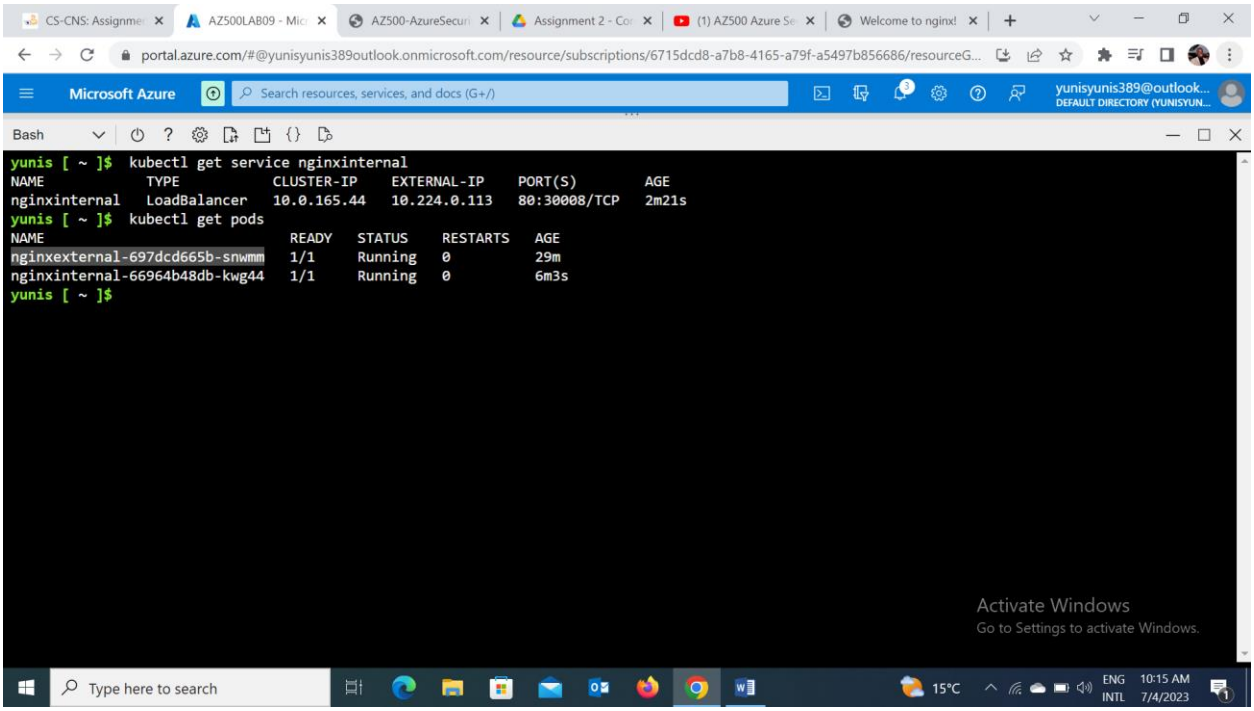
Task 8: Verify the you can access an internal AKS-hosted service

In this task, you will use one of the pods running on the AKS cluster to access the internal service.

1. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to list the pods in the default namespace on the AKS cluster:

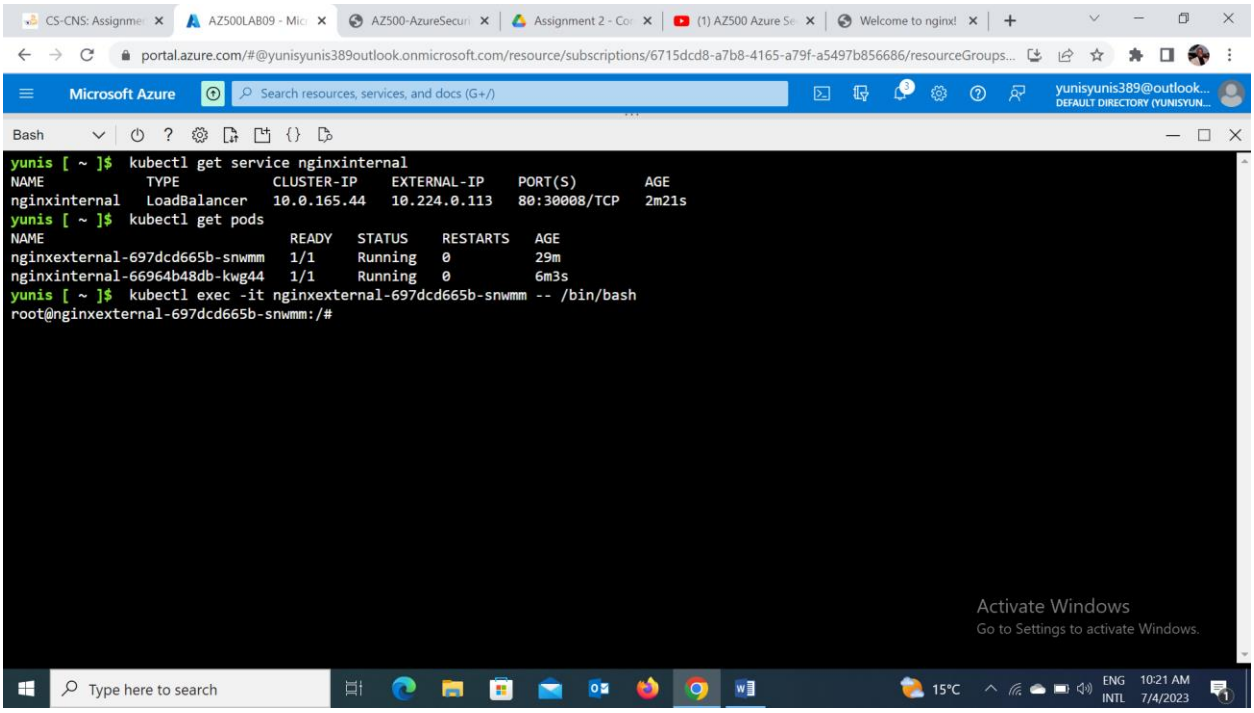
   `kubectl get pods`

2. In the listing of the pods, copy the first entry in the **NAME** column.



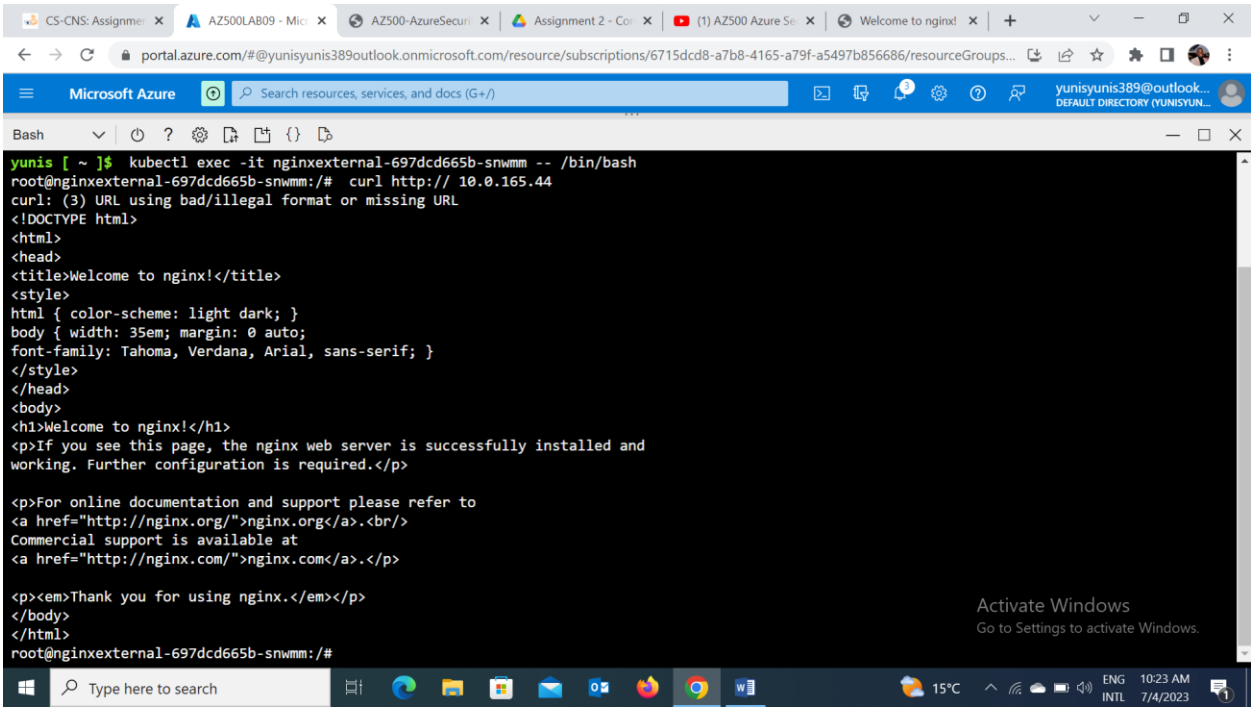
3. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to connect interactively to the first pod (replace the <pod_name> placeholder with the name you copied in the previous step):

   kubectl exec -it <pod_name> -- /bin/bash



4. In the Bash session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to verify that the nginx website is available via the private IP address of the service (replace the <internal_IP> placeholder with the IP address you recorded in the previous task):

   curl http://<internal_IP>

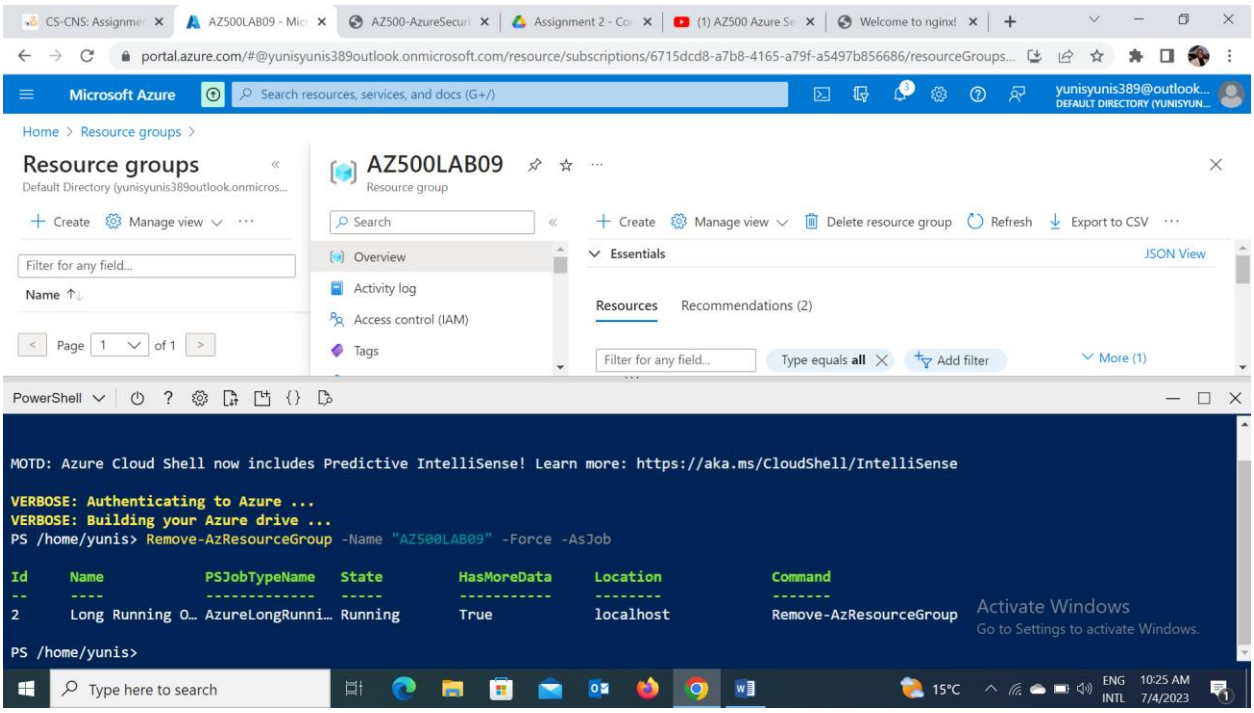


5. Close the Cloud Shell pane.

Clean up resources

1. In the Azure portal, open the Cloud Shell by clicking the first icon in the top right of the Azure Portal.
2. In the upper-left drop-down menu of the Cloud Shell pane, select **PowerShell** and, when prompted, click **Confirm**.
3. In the PowerShell session within the Cloud Shell pane, run the following to remove the resource groups you created in this lab:

   Remove-AzResourceGroup -Name "AZ500LAB09" -Force –AsJob



4. Close the **Cloud Shell** pane.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Microsoft Azure Lab 09 has provided me with valuable insights into the configuration and security aspects of Azure Container Registry (ACR) and Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS). By implementing the best practices learned during the lab, organizations can optimize the performance and enhance the security of their container-based deployments in Azure. Configuring ACR effectively ensures the reliable storage and management of container images, while securing AKS safeguards the environment for deploying and managing containerized applications. By prioritizing effective configuration and robust security measures, organizations can mitigate potential risks and vulnerabilities, enabling them to fully leverage the benefits of ACR and AKS. This lab has equipped me with the necessary knowledge to establish a solid foundation for deploying and securing container workloads in Azure, empowering organizations to drive innovation and achieve success in their cloud-based initiatives.