✓   100 XP   ▶

# What is the Azure CLI?

3 minutes

It's quite common for IT departments to manage a large set of Azure resources - ranging from Azure Virtual Machines to managed websites.

While the Azure portal is easy to use for one-off tasks, navigating through the various panes adds time when you have to create, change, or delete multiple things. This is where the command line shines - you can issue commands quickly and efficiently, or even use scripts to run repetitive tasks. With Azure, you have two different command line tools you can work with: Azure PowerShell, and the Azure CLI.

With either of these tools, you can write scripts to check the status of cloud servers, deploy new configurations, open ports in the firewall, or connect to a virtual machine to change a setting. Windows admins tend to prefer Azure PowerShell, while developers and Linux admins often use the Azure CLI.

This module is going to focus on using the Azure CLI to create and manage virtual machines hosted in Azure. If you'd like to get an overview of the Azure CLI, how to install it, and work with your Azure subscriptions, make sure to check out the **Control Azure services with the CLI** training module.

## What is the Azure CLI?

The Azure CLI is Microsoft's cross-platform command-line tool for managing Azure resources. It's available for macOS, Linux, and Windows, or in the browser using Azure Cloud Shell.

The Azure CLI can help you manage Azure resources such as virtual machines and disks from the command line or in scripts. Let's get started and see what it can do with Azure Virtual Machines.

# Learning objectives

In this module, you will:

- Create a virtual machine with the Azure CLI
- Resize virtual machines with the Azure CLI.
- Perform basic management tasks using the Azure CLI.
- Connect to a running VM with SSH and the Azure CLI.

# Prerequisites

- Basic understanding of the Azure CLI tool from the **Control Azure services with the CLI** module.

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**Next unit: Exercise - Create a virtual machine**

Continue  >

✓  200 XP  ▶

# Summary and cleanup

2 minutes

You've created a new Linux virtual machine, changed its size, stopped and started it, and updated the configuration with the Azure CLI.

## Clean up

The sandbox automatically cleans up your resources when you're finished with this module.

When you're working in your own subscription, it's a good idea at the end of a project to identify whether you still need the resources you created. Resources left running can cost you money. You can delete resources individually or delete the resource group to delete the entire set of resources.

## Additional resources

- Azure CLI overview
- Azure CLI command reference

## Check your knowledge

1. Suppose you're an administrator of several Azure virtual machines. You get a text message indicating some problems with your VMs. You are at a friend's house and only have your tablet with you. True or false: you'll still be able to access the Azure CLI using the tablet, even though you can't install the CLI on it.

◉  True                                                            ✓

**The Azure Cloud Shell is available in the browser and runs with the full Azure CLI. If you prefer Powershell, the Azure Cloud Shell has that as well.**

○ False

**2.** Suppose you have a script that creates several VMs with different images. When the script issues the command to create the first VM you do not want to block the script while the VM is created, instead you want the script to immediately move on to the next command. What is the best way to do this?

○ Add the '--async' argument to your create command.

○ Use the ampersand (&) to run the process in the background.

◉ Add the '--no-wait' argument to your create command.    ✓

**Adding '--no-wait' will cause 'azure VM create' to return immediately without waiting for the VM to actually be created.**

**3.** Most Azure commands return JSON by default. Sometimes this data set can be very large which makes it difficult to read and tricky to use the result of one command as input to another command. What can you use with Azure CLI to filter the results to get only the data that you need?

◉ You can use the '--query' argument.    ✓

**All Azure commands support the '--query' argument which lets you select the useful data in any Azure command response.**

○ You can use the '--filter' argument.

○ You can pipe the results to a JSON parsing utility and use filtering capability there.

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## Module complete:

Unlock achievement