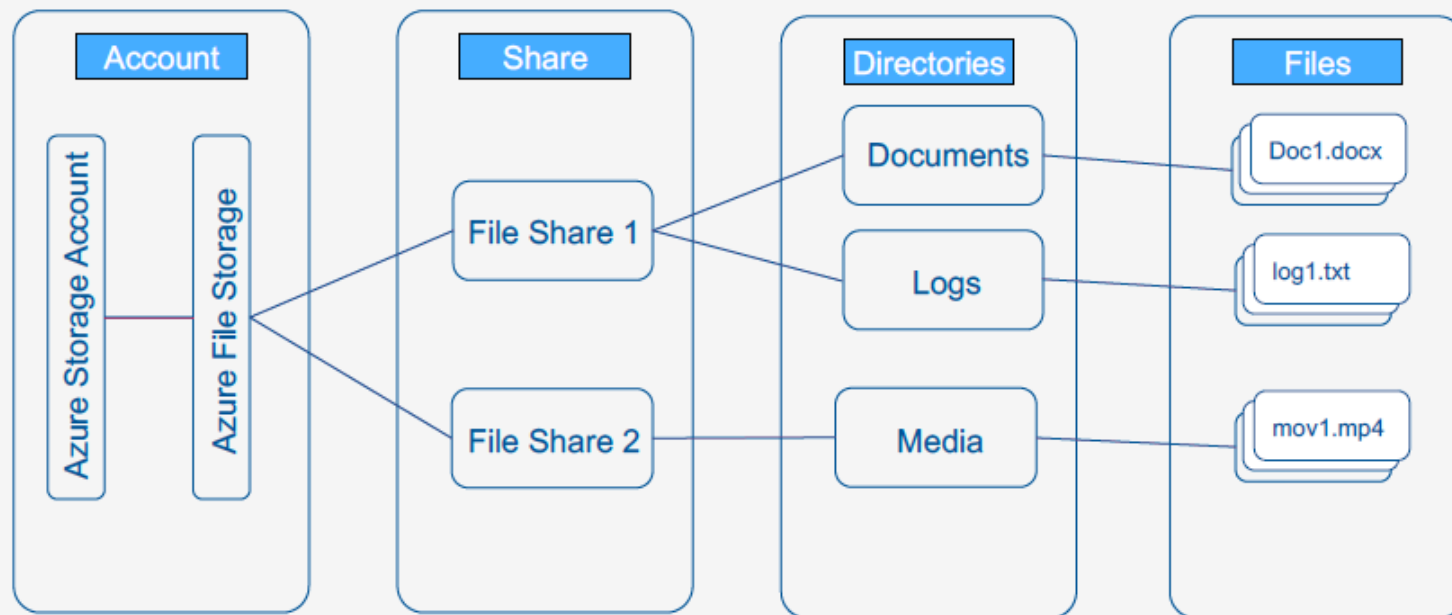


Azure file storage



Azure file storage concepts

- **Storage Account:** All access to Azure Storage is done through a storage account. See Scalability and Performance Targets for details about storage account capacity.
- **Share:** A File Storage share is an SMB file share in Azure. All directories and files must be created in a parent share. An account can contain an unlimited number of shares, and a share can store an unlimited number of files, up to the 5 TiB total capacity of the file share.
- **Directory:** An optional hierarchy of directories.
- **File:** A file in the share. A file may be up to 1 TiB in size.
- **URL format:** For requests to an Azure file share made with the File REST protocol, files are addressable using the following URL format:

`https://<storage account>.file.core.windows.net/<share>/<directory>/directories/<file>`

File storage data access methods

- Azure Files offers two, built-in, convenient data access methods that you can use separately, or in combination with each other, to access your data:
- **Direct cloud access:** Any Azure file share can be mounted by Windows, macOS, and/or Linux with the industry standard Server Message Block (SMB) protocol or via the File REST API. With SMB, reads and writes to files on the share are made directly on the file share in Azure. To mount by a VM in Azure, the SMB client in the OS must support at least SMB 2.1. To mount on-premises, such as on a user's workstation, the SMB client supported by the workstation must support at least SMB 3.0 (with encryption)
- **Azure File Sync:** With Azure File Sync, shares can be replicated to Windows Servers on-premises or in Azure. Your users would access the file share through the Windows Server, such as through an SMB or NFS share. This is useful for scenarios in which data will be accessed and modified far away from an Azure datacenter, such as in a branch office scenario.

Data transfer methods

- **Azure File Sync:** As part of a first sync between an Azure file share (a "Cloud Endpoint") and a Windows directory namespace (a "Server Endpoint"), Azure File Sync will replicate all data from the existing file share to Azure Files.
- **Azure Import/Export:** The Azure Import/Export service allows you to securely transfer large amounts of data into an Azure file share by shipping hard disk drives to an Azure datacenter.
- **Robocopy:** Robocopy is a well known copy tool that ships with Windows and Windows Server. Robocopy may be used to transfer data into Azure Files by mounting the file share locally, and then using the mounted location as the destination in the Robocopy command.
- **AzCopy:** AzCopy is a command-line utility designed for copying data to and from Azure Files, as well as Azure Blob storage, using simple commands with optimal performance. AzCopy is available for Windows and Linux.