How to Switch from Azure Public Peering to Azure MS Peering

A step-by-step guide for changing the peering configuration on Azure ExpressRoute

# Introduction

Azure Public Peering is a deprecated feature that allows you to connect to Azure public services such as Azure Storage, Azure SQL Database, and Azure DevOps. Azure MS Peering is the recommended replacement that offers the same functionality with more security and flexibility. In this document, we will show you how to switch from Azure Public Peering to Azure MS Peering using the Azure portal.

# Prerequisites

* An active Azure subscription
* An existing ExpressRoute circuit with Public Peering enabled
* An ExpressRoute partner or provider that supports MS Peering
* A list of the public services and regions that you want to access through MS Peering

# Steps

1. Backup the existing Public Peering details. You will need them to configure MS Peering later. Refer to the screenshot 01 - public peering.png and note down the following information:
   * The ASN number
   * The IPv4 Primary Subnet
   * The IPv4 Secondary Subnet
   * The VLAN ID
   * The Shared Key (only if it is in use)
2. Remove the Public Peering from the ExpressRoute circuit. To do this, go to the Azure portal and navigate to the ExpressRoute circuit blade. Click on the Configuration tab and select Public Peering from the drop-down menu. Click on the Delete button and confirm the action.
3. Verify that the Public Peering traffic has dropped to zero. To do this, go to the Azure portal and navigate to the ExpressRoute circuit blade. Click on the Metrics tab and select Bytes In and Bytes Out from the drop-down menu. You should see a graph that shows the traffic volume for the Public Peering. It should be zero or close to zero after you deleted the Public Peering. See the screenshot 04 - express route metric to 0.jpg for reference.
4. Create MS Peering with the Public Peering details. To do this, go to the Azure portal and navigate to the ExpressRoute circuit blade. Click on the Configuration tab and select Microsoft Peering from the drop-down menu. Click on the Add button and fill in the following information:
   * Peer ASN: 19751 (the one from the Public Peering info)
   * VLAN ID: VLAN 73 (the same as the one from the Public Peering info)
   * IPv4 Primary Subnet: 76.76.26.96/30 (the same as the one from the Public Peering info)
   * IPv4 Secondary Subnet: 76.76.26.100/30 (the same as the one from the Public Peering info)
   * IPv4 Advertised public prefixes: 76.76.26.96/28 (summarized to cover both primary and secondary range)
   * Routing Registry Name: ARIN
   * Shared Key: Create if needed or leave blank
   * Click on the OK button to create the MS Peering. See the screenshot 04 - create ms peering.png for reference.
5. Create a Route Filter for the MS Peering. To do this, go to the Azure portal and navigate to the ExpressRoute circuit blade. Click on the Configuration tab and select Microsoft Peering from the drop-down menu. Click on the Route Filter link and then click on the Create new link. Give the Route Filter a name and select the following services and regions that you want to access through MS Peering:
   * Azure Global Services (for Devops)
   * Azure used regions
   * Click on the Create button to create the Route Filter. See the screenshots 05 - route filter setup.jpg and 06 - route filter add more to filter.jpg for reference.
6. Associate the Route Filter with the MS Peering. To do this, go to the Azure portal and navigate to the ExpressRoute circuit blade. Click on the Configuration tab and select Microsoft Peering from the drop-down menu. Click on the Route Filter link and then select the Route Filter that you created in the previous step. Click on the Save button to associate the Route Filter with the MS Peering. See the screenshot 07 - associate route filter with ms peering.png for reference.

# Conclusion

You have successfully switched from Azure Public Peering to Azure MS Peering. You can now access Azure public services and regions through the MS Peering with more security and flexibility. You can also monitor the MS Peering traffic and status on the Azure portal. For more information, please refer to the following links: