

Activate Azure with Application Insights

Lab Guide

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Version 2.0



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1 Introduction

In this lab you will integrate Azure Application Insights into the existing application.

1.1 Objectives

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Deploy Azure Application Insights into the existing ASP.NET Core application
- Implement application Usage Analysis in Azure Application Insights

1.2 Prerequisites

- Microsoft Azure Subscription
- Internet Connectivity
- Visual Studio 2022 / 2019
- Access to Azure Portal
- Hands-on experience developing ASP.NET applications
- Basic understanding of Azure and its application development model

1.3 Estimated Time to Complete

This lab should take up to **two hours** depending on prior Azure knowledge and familiarity with Azure Portal and Visual Studio.

1.4 Scenario

To demonstrate the capabilities of the Azure Application Insights, we will be deploying a number of features that will touch on Azure application monitoring capabilities. This will include integrating sample application with Azure Application Insights. We will then explore application usage analysis features of Azure Application Insights.



2 Exercise 1: Download and run sample application

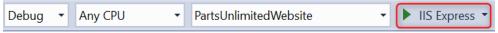
For the first exercise in this lab, we will be reusing an existing application to use as a baseline for Application Insights integration.

2.1 Download the application

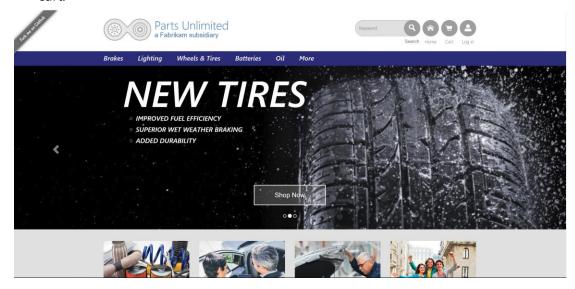
1. Clone the code at https://github.com/cmw2/AppIns-PUL.

2.2 Run the application

- 1. Open the Visual Studio solution of modified Parts Unlimited ASP.NET application supplied with the lab materials (PartsUnlimited.sln)
- 2. Run the application



3. Explore the application, browse the catalog and add some products to the shopping cart.





3 Exercise 2: Integrating with Application Insights

Application Insights is an extensible Application Performance Management service for web developers on multiple platforms and can be used to monitor your live web application and automatically detect performance anomalies.

Azure Application Insights also helps you gain deep understanding into how people use your app. Every time you update your app, you can assess how well it works for users. With this knowledge, you can make data driven decisions about your next development cycles.

3.1 Create Application Insight Azure resource

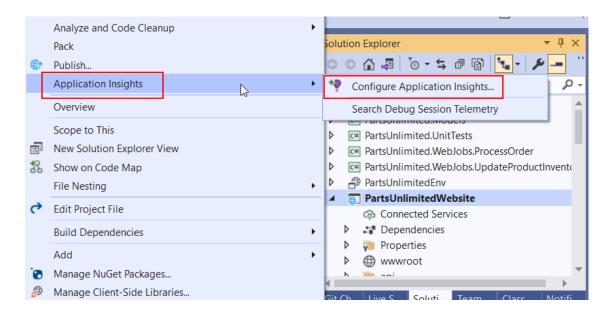
- 1. Log on to the Azure Portal: https://portal.azure.com
- 2. Create a **Resource Group** named "rg-partsunlimited".
- 3. Create a **Log Analytics Workspace** named "law-partsunlimited" in your new resource group.
- 4. Create an **Application Insights** resource named "appins-partsunlimited" in your new resource group, referencing your new log analytics workspace.

3.2 Setup Application Insights for PartUnlimited

For this exercise, we will examine how to update Parts Unlimited application source code to integrate with Application Insights to enable usage analysis data collection.

From Visual Studio solution Explorer tab, right click the PartUnlimitedWebsite project.
 Select "Application Insights | Configure Application Insights ..." option.

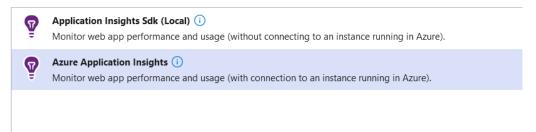




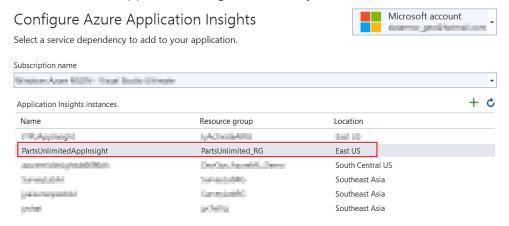
2. Select the Azure Application Insights and click Next.

Configure dependency

Select a service dependency to add to your application.

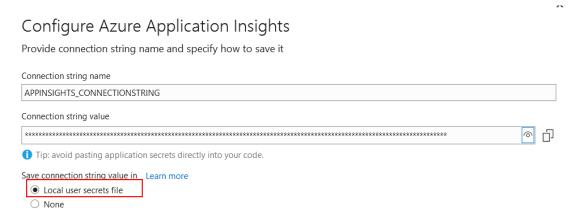


3. Select the Azure subscription where you previously create the Application Insight resource and the Application Insights instance you created. Click **Next**.

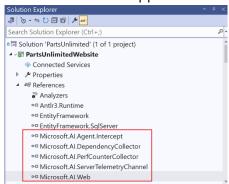




 In the Configure Azure Application Insights dialog, select Local user secrets files, click Next. Click Finish.



- 5. Let's review the modifications that have been done by the Application Insights integration tool
 - Check the "PartsUnlimitedWebsite" for Application Insights Nuget Dependencies



 Right click the project to Manage User Secrets and see the Application Insights connection string.

- Check the ApplicationInsights.config file
- 6. Let's add the additional code to enable Application Insights to capture the telemetry from the client side.
- 7. First let's make the new secret value available as an ApplicationSetting. In **Web.config** add **configBuilders="secrets"** to your AppSettings line.

<appSettings configBuilders="Secrets">

And add a new appsetting:



<add key="APPLICATIONINSIGHTS_CONNECTION_STRING" value=""/>

- 8. Now add in the JavaScript snippet.
 - a. Create a new partial view called _ApplicationInsights.cshtml in the Views/Shared folder.
 - b. Paste in the JS snippet from <u>Microsoft Azure Monitor Application Insights</u>
 <u>JavaScript SDK Azure Monitor | Microsoft Learn.</u>
 - c. There is an @ character that will confuse Razor, so search for it and escape it by adding a second @ symbol.
 - d. Finally, set the value of the connection string by reading from AppSettings:"@System.Web.Configuration.WebConfigurationManager.AppSettings.Get("APPLI CATIONINSIGHTS_CONNECTION_STRING")"
- 9. Now adjust your **Views/Shared/_Layout.cshtml** file to render the above partial view by adding the below line right before the first existing @Scripts.Render element.

@Html.Partial("_ApplicationInsights")

10. Your layout file will look like:

11. Test:

- a. Run the application
- b. Inspect the html and ensure the javascript snippet is in place and the connection string is populated correctly.
- c. In developer tools, open the network tab. Click a link on the site to navigate to a new page. In the network tab, look for successful "track" calls. These are the calls sending browser based telemetry to Application Insights. Inspect their payload to get a feel for what is being sent.
- d. Now check your Application Insights resource for telemetry. Check Transaction Search to see you are receiving requests and page views. (It may take a few minutes for data to show up.)
- e. With Visual Studio running, try Live Metrics and after it connects watch the telemetry come in as you click around the web site.



3.3 Setup Application Insights authenticated users monitoring

For this exercise, we will examine how to update Parts Unlimited application source code to enhance usage analysis data collection for authenticated users.

- 1. Find the file **App_Start/ApplicationInsightsConfig.cs**. This has been pre-filled with the needed code but it's commented out. Uncomment it all. This code sets the authenticated user for any telemetry generated on the server.
- 2. In **Global.asax**, add the below line right after RegisterAllAreas: ApplicationInsightsConfig.Configure();
- 3. The code we un-commented also sets the application insights configuration string via code using app settings, so we can remove the hardcoded value in ApplicationInsights.config. Open that file and comment out the line that sets the connection string. You'll find it near the bottom of the file.
- 4. Next we'll set the authenticated user context in the browser. Open the file Views/Shared/_login.cshtml under the "PartsUnlimitedWebsite" project. Add this code to the end of the authenticated section:

```
<script>
    appInsights.setAuthenticatedUserContext("@User.Identity.Name.Replace("\\",
"\\\")".replace(/[,;=| ]+/g, "_"));
</script>
```

3.4 Running the application

Once the application is integrated with Application Insights, run the solution



1. Browse available product's categories



2. Browse a product description



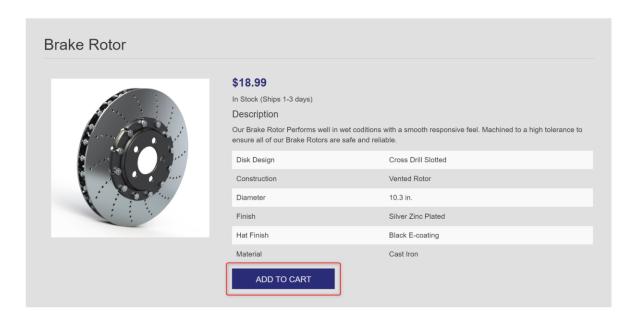






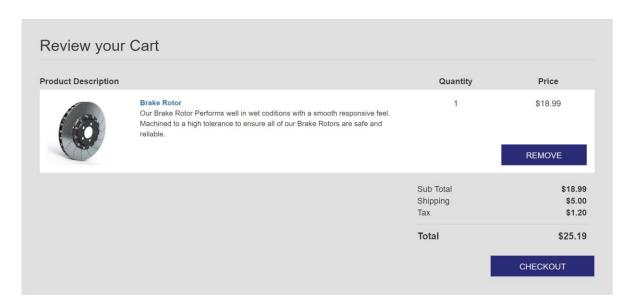


3. click "ADD TO CART" button

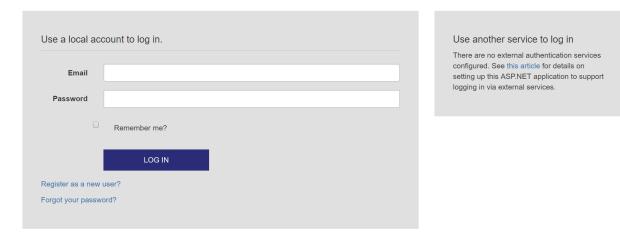


4. Click "Checkout" button



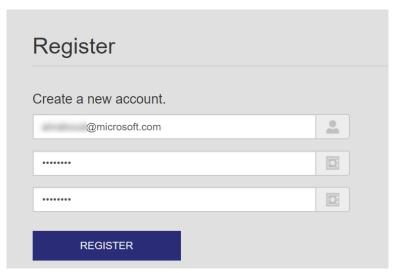


5. Click the "Register as a new user?" link to signup Log in.

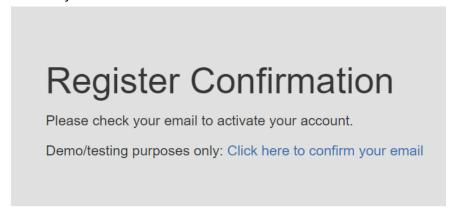


6. Fill your account Email and Password then click "**Register**" button. You don't need to enter a real email since this application is not able to send email, you will not go through a real email confirmation process.

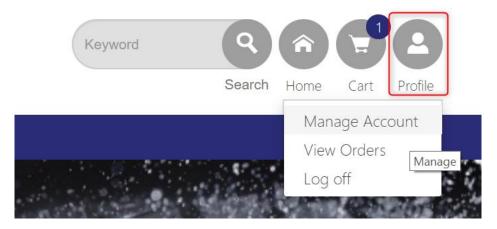




7. Confirm you email

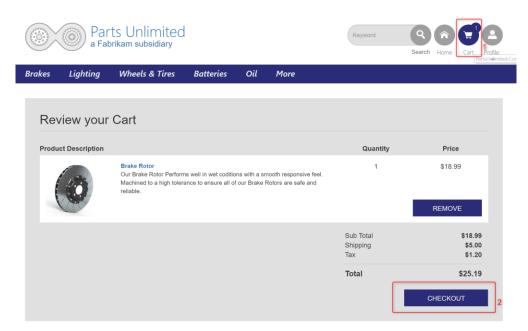


- 8. Now Signin using the newely created account credentials
- 9. Click on your "Profile" link and choose "Manage Account" to visit you profile management page.

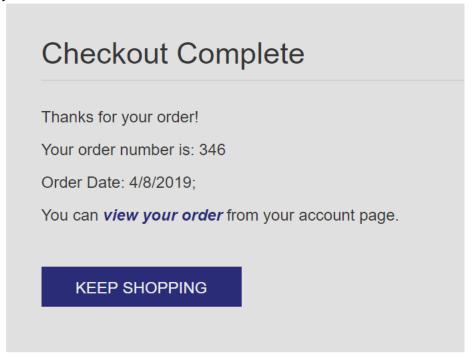


10. Now go back to you Cart summary page and click the "Checkout" button



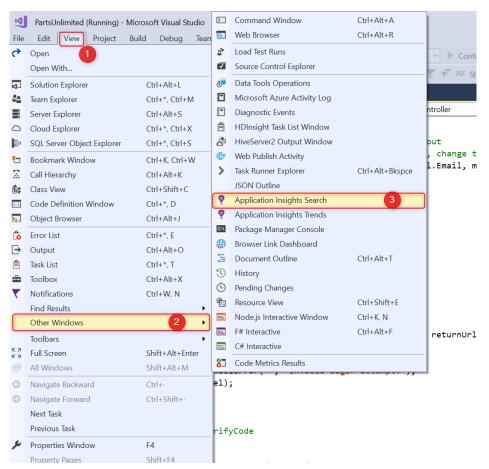


- 11. Enter a shipping address and "FREE" as the promo code. Click "Submit" button.
- 12. Confirm your order

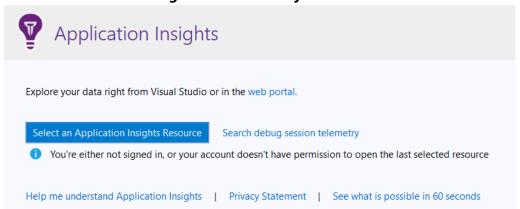


13. Go back to Visual Studio and open the "View | Other Windows | Application Insights Search" View



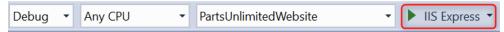


14. Click on the Search debug session telemetry.



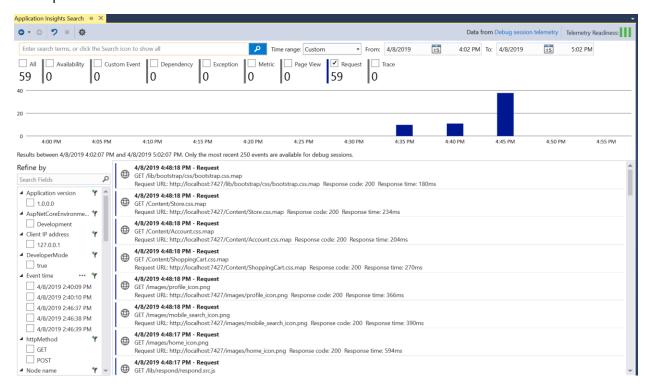
15. Replay steps from 1 to 12 many times using browser private navigation feature to generate more user's related metrics.

Note: If you are not able to use the Private Naviagation feature from your browser you can use a different browser or close your browser each time you finish the test and click again on the Run button from Visual Studio





16. You can browse and search the collected metrics locally using the "Application Insights Search". If you don't what you can search for, just click the Search icon and continue to explore.



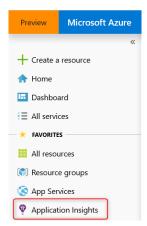
17. You can search for "checkout" and "login". Look at the result of the search.

4 Exercise 3: Examining Application Insights Usage Analysis

In this section, we are going to generate and examine usage analyze data captured while running Parts Unlimited application integrated with Application Insights

- 1. Go to the Azure portal https://portal.azure.com
- 2. Begin by clicking on **Application Insights** in your favorite's menu.





3. Select the "PartsUnlimitedWebsite" Application Insight instance

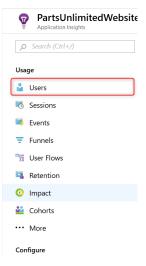
4.1 Examining Users, Sessions and Events

Find out when people use your web app, what pages they're most interested in, where your users are located, and what browsers and operating systems they use. Analyze business and usage telemetry

4.1.1 Users

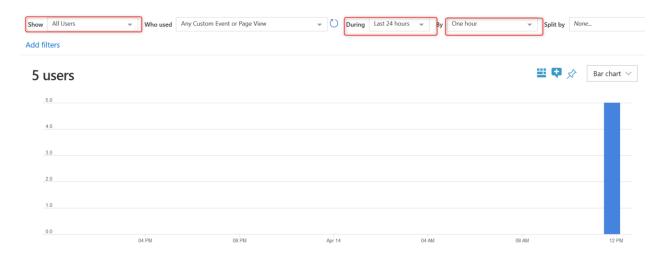
How many people used your app and its features? Users are counted by using anonymous IDs stored in browser cookies. A single person using different browsers or machines will be counted as more than one user.

1. Go to the **Users** Blade

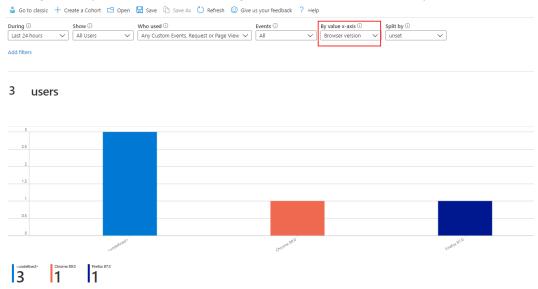


2. As soon as the user blade have been loaded, you have an insight about all users' statistics since the last 24 hours by hour

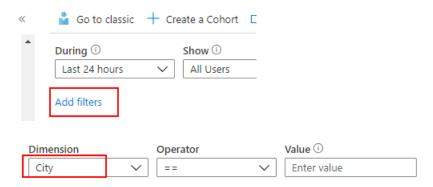




3. Change the By clause to Browser to group metrics on the chart by **Browser Version**

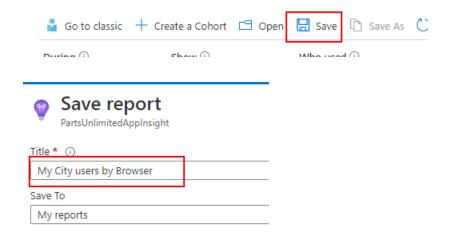


4. Click the "Add filters" link and create a new filter based on the City



5. Now click "Save" to save the report and name it "My City users by Browser" to be able to open it later using the "Open" button





6. Go to the "Meet your users" section

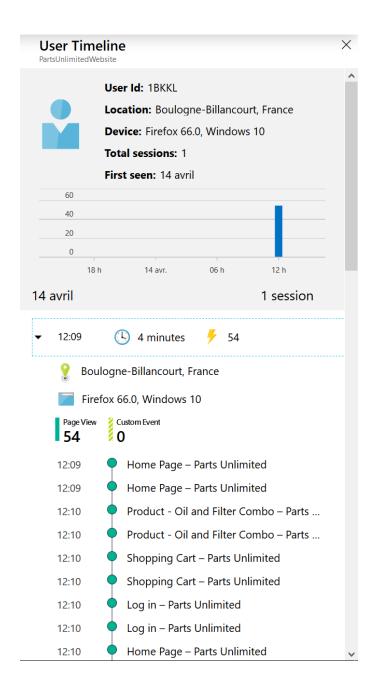


Note: If you don't have a "Meet your users" section click on the "View More Insights" button

View More Insights

7. Click on any user to open the Timeline blade to have an overview about all the user actions over all sessions



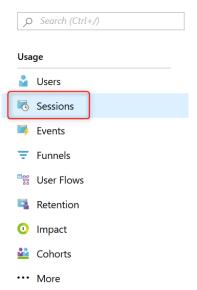


4.1.2 Sessions

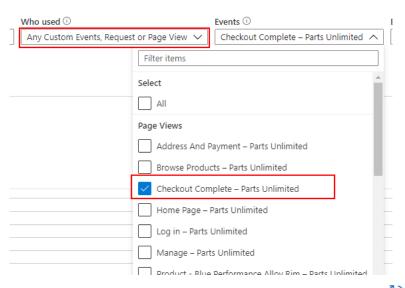
How many sessions of user activity have included certain pages and features of your app? A session is counted after half an hour of user inactivity, or after 24 hours of continuous use.

1. Go to the **Sessions** Blade





- 2. As soon as the session blade have been loaded All users report, you have an insight about all sessions' statistics since the last 24 hours grouped by hour.
- 3. Change the "Events" chart parameter to check sessions that have specific events only



Note: If you don't see the Page Views section click on the refresh button next to the "Who used" chart parameter.

4. Go to the "Active Sessions" section





Note: If you don't have a "Active Sessions" section click on the "View More Insights" button

View More Insights

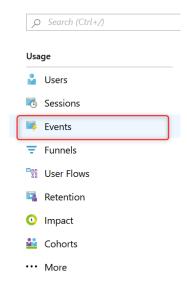
5. Click on any session to open the Timeline blade to have an overview about this session events



4.1.3 Events

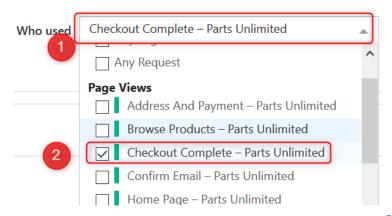
How often certain pages and features of your app are used? A page view is counted when a browser loads a page from your app, provided you have instrumented it. Examining Cohorts

1. Go to the **Events** Blade



- 2. As soon as the Events blade have been loaded All users report, you have an insight about all Events statistics since the last 24 hours grouped by hour.
- 3. Change the "Who Used" chart parameter to get an overview about specific events only





Note: If you don't see the Page Views section click on the refresh button on the refresh button when we have to the "Who used" chart parameter.

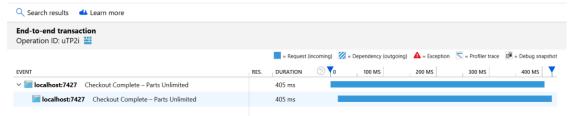
4. Go to the "Event Statistics" section



Note: If you don't have a "Event Statistics" section click on the "View More Insights" button



5. Click on any event to open the "End-to-end transaction details" view to have more details

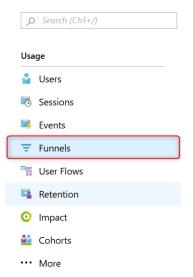


4.2 Examining Funnels

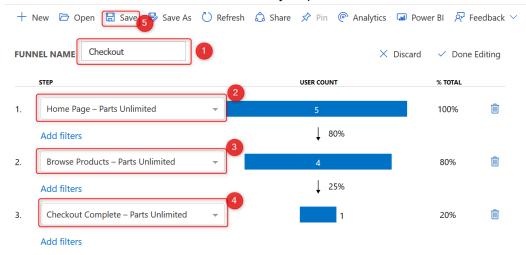
Understanding the customer experience is of the utmost importance to your business. If your application involves multiple stages, you need to know if most customers are progressing through the entire process, or if they are ending the process at some point. The progression through a series of steps in a web application is known as a funnel. You can use Azure Application Insights Funnels to gain insights into your users and monitor step-by-step conversion rates.



1. Go to the Funnels Blade

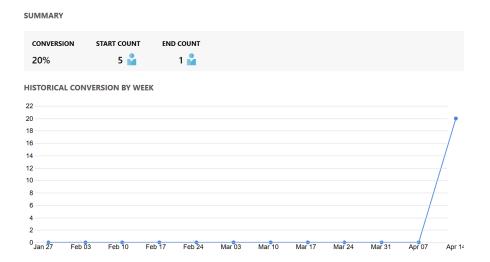


2. Create a new Funnel named "Checkout" to analyze the behavior of users that have been able to make a checkout and save it on "My Reports"



3. Check the "summary" section for conversion rate



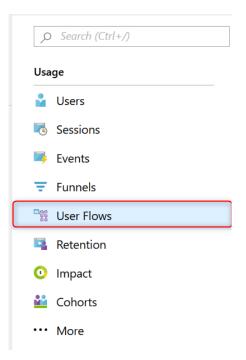


4.3 Examining User Flows

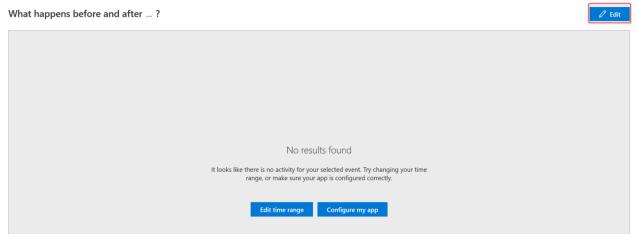
The User Flows tool visualizes how users navigate between the pages and features of your site. It's great for answering questions like:

- How do users navigate away from a page on your site?
- What do users click on a page on your site?
- Where are the places that users churn most from your site?
- Are there places where users repeat the same action over and over?
- 1. Go to the User Flows Blade



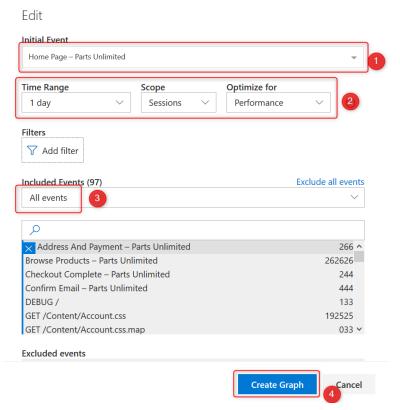


2. Click the "Edit" button

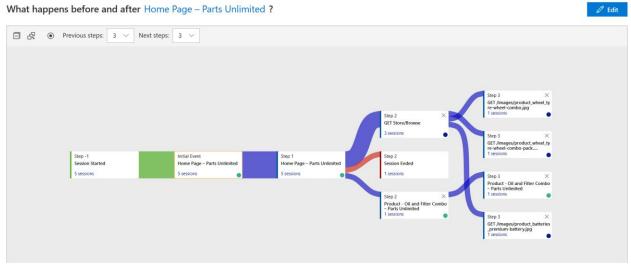


3. Configure the "User Flow as following" and click "Create Graph" button



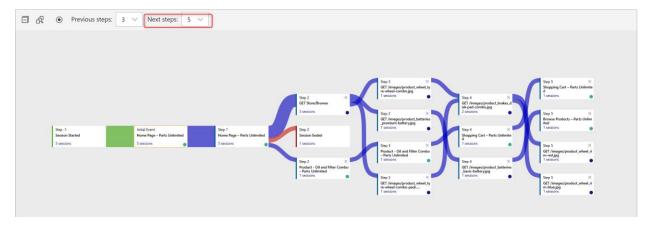


4. Analyze your users flow before and after the home Page

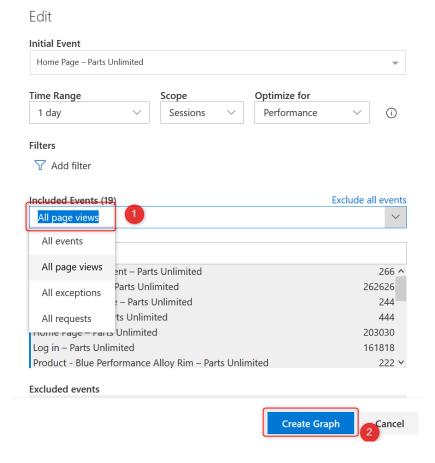


5. Change the Next steps" filter to 9 to see more steps





6. Click on the "Edit" button to filter the displayed events to page view only

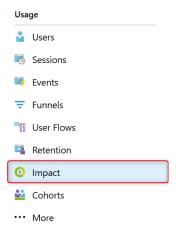


4.4 Examining Impact

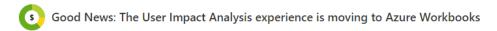
Impact analyzes how load times and other properties influence conversion rates for various parts of your app. To put it more precisely, it discovers how any dimension of a page view, custom event, or request affects the usage of a different page view or custom event.

1. Go to the Impact Blade





2. Click the Impact Analysis Workbook



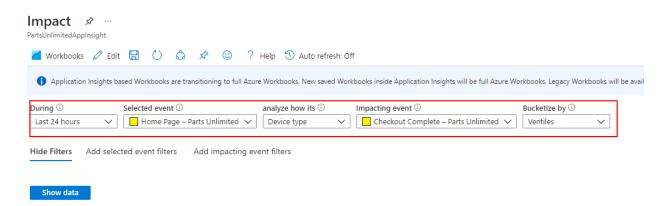
Workbooks let you customize reports using a flexible canvas for data analysis, connect to more data sources, and display your data with r

You can find the new User Impact Analysis workbook in the gallery under the name "User Impact Analysis", or by clicking the "Impact Analysis you can still access the classic User Impact Analysis experience. Classic impact

If you saved any customized classic User Impact Analysis views, we recommend you save your customizations as new custom workbooks.

Impact Analysis Workbook

- 3. Let's analyze the impact of user device type on the Checkout event.
 - For Selected event: Home Page Parts Unlimited
 - For analyze how its: Device type
 - For Impacting event: Checkout Complete Parts Unlimited



4. Click Show data

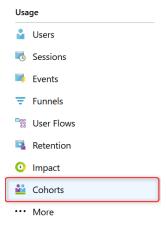


Hide Filters	Add selected event filters Add	impacting event filters
"Checkout Co	mplete – Parts Unlimited" usage bu	icketized by "client_Type" of "Home Page – Parts Unlimited"
Bucket ↑.ı.	"Checkout Complete – Parts Unlimi	ted" Us↑.l. Conversi ↑.l.
	"Checkout Complete – Parts Unlimi	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Bucket ↑↓ Browser	"Checkout Complete – Parts Unlimi 5 events with 3 converted and 2 lost	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

4.5 Creating Cohort

A cohort is a set of users, sessions, events, or operations that have something in common. In Azure Application Insights, cohorts are defined by an analytics query. In cases where you have to analyze a specific set of users or events repeatedly, cohorts can give you more flexibility to express exactly the set you're interested in.

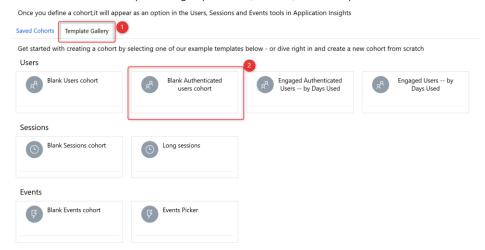
1. Go to the Cohorts Blade



2. Let's create a new cohort that will bookmark your country users



Use cohorts to bookmark particular groups of users, sessions, events or operations.



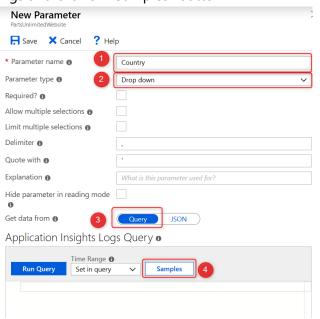
3. Provide a description for the cohort



4. Add a new parameter



5. Fill the parameter settings and click on "Samples" button



6. Pick the Country sample, click 'Use this sample'

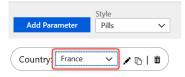




7. Save the parameter



8. Set the country value to your specific country



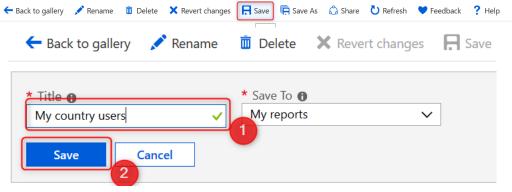
9. Paste the following query in the Application Insights Logs query textbox and click the "Run Query" button to get the result overview

```
union customEvents, pageViews
| where timestamp >= ago(7d)
| where client_CountryOrRegion == "{Country}"
| summarize Count = max(1) by user_AuthenticatedId, bin(timestamp, 1d)
```

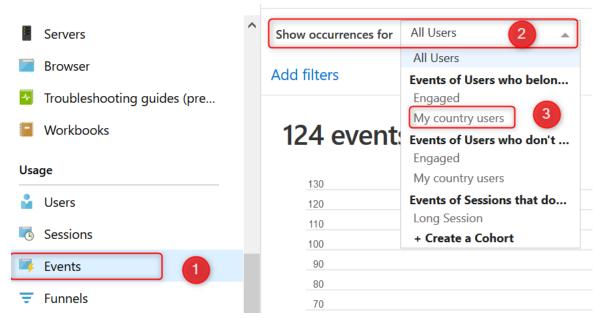




10. Save the cohort



11. Go the Events blade and chose "**Event of users that belong to My country users**" cohort as a filter



Note: The cohort will be available on Users or Session or Events blades

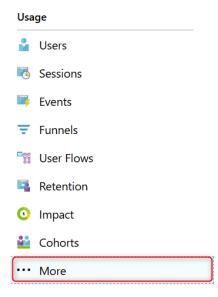


4.6 Viewing Workbook

Workbooks combine text, Analytics queries, Azure Metrics, and parameters into rich interactive reports. Workbooks are editable by any other team members who have access to the same Azure resources.

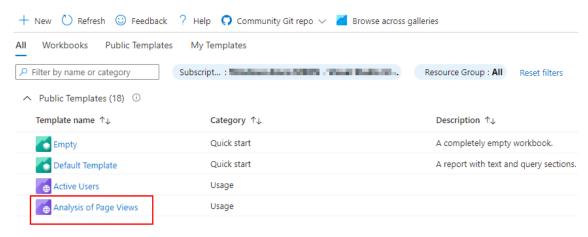
Workbooks are helpful for scenarios like:

- Exploring the usage of your app when you don't know the metrics of interest in advance: numbers of users, retention rates, conversion rates, etc. Unlike other usage analytics tools, workbooks let you combine multiple kinds of visualizations and analyses, making them great for this kind of free-form exploration.
- Explaining to your team how a newly released feature is performing, by showing user counts for key interactions and other metrics.
- Sharing the results of an A/B experiment in your app with other members of your team.
 You can explain the goals for the experiment with text, then show each usage metric and Analytics query used to evaluate the experiment, along with clear call-outs for whether each metric was above- or below-target.
- Reporting the impact of an outage on the usage of your app, combining data, text explanation, and a discussion of next steps to prevent outages in the future.
- 1. Go to the More Blade to open the Workbook view



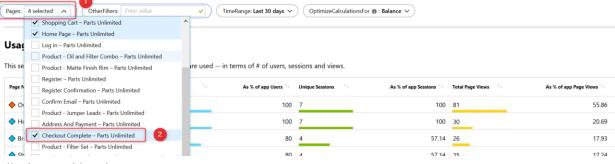
2. Choose the "Analysis of Page Views" Template



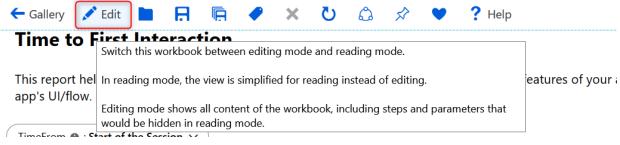


3. Add the Checkout page to "Pages" filter and analyze the "Checkout page" views statistics

Analysis of Page Views Page views correspond to user activity in your app. Understanding how your users interact with your pages will give you good insights into what is working in your app and what aspects need improvements This report will help you understand common page view behaviors like: Usage Time spent on page Time to first interaction Exit rates If your telemetry does not include page views, then follow these instructions to begin collecting -- it is relatively straightforward.

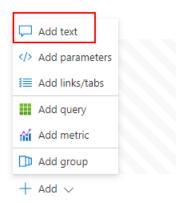


4. Edit the workbook

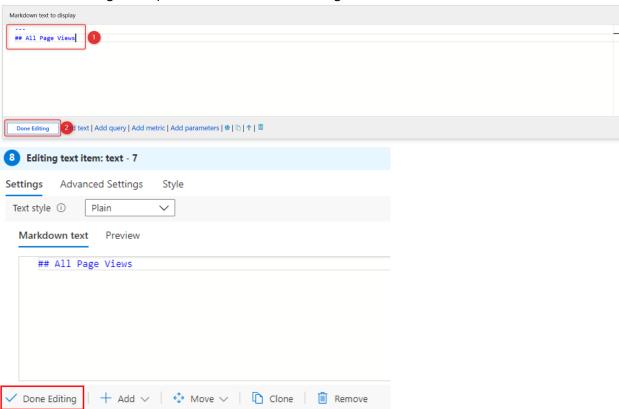


5. Go to the bottom of the workbook and click the "Add text" link

Microsoft

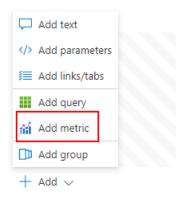


6. Add the following description and click 'Done Editing'.



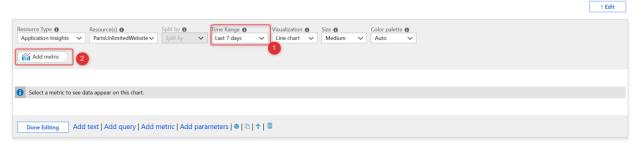
7. Go to the bottom of the workbook and click the "Add metric" link

Microsoft

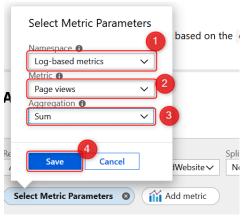


8. Click "Add metric"

All Page Views

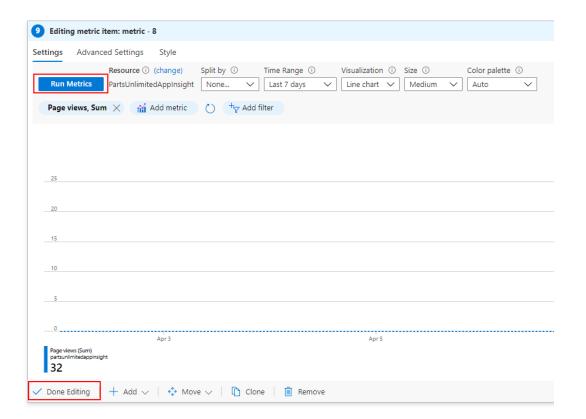


9. Provide the metric parameters, click Save.



10. Click on 'Run Metrics' and Done Editing' button.





11. Click the "Done Editing" button on the top.



12. You should be able to see the chart at the bottom of the page.

